Nature Based Recreation Plan
2015 - 2025
A message from the Mayor

Gold Coast 2020 reflects the community’s desire for the Gold Coast to be the best place to live and visit, where our coastline and environment is protected and we can work and play in our local suburban and rural neighbourhoods.

As Mayor of this dynamic and prosperous city, I am committed to encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. Hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games is a unique opportunity to showcase the Gold Coast to the rest of the world and to deliver profound long-term benefits for future generations of Gold Coasters. Our coastal subtropical climate and diversity of natural areas makes the Gold Coast a world class location for residents and visitors to enjoy activities such as picnicking, bushwalking, horse riding and mountain biking.

The Gold Coast is one of Australia’s most biodiverse cities, with more than 13,000 hectares (32,000 acres) of natural areas under City management. Of this, more than 4,200 hectares (10,500 acres) has been acquired through our Open Space Preservation program over the past 15 years. This program has contributed to preserving valuable habitat for native plants and animals while creating some unique nature based recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

This plan seeks to encourage sustainable recreation in our natural areas and at the same time ensure that we protect our remarkable biodiversity.

Tom Tate
MAYOR
1. Introduction

The Gold Coast is one of Australia’s most biodiverse cities, with almost half of the local government area covered by native vegetation. The City of Gold Coast (the City) manages an outstanding network of more than 18,000 hectares of parks including a range of playgrounds, formal parks, sporting fields and community facilities. The majority of this network comprises of 13,000 hectares of natural areas, of which approximately 4,000 hectares has been purchased with the City’s Open Space Preservation Levy. This variety of open space gives residents and visitors a choice of places to enjoy nature based recreation activities including bushwalking, bird watching, mountain biking, horse riding, kayaking, adventure racing, camping – and much more. The City is also afforded some flexibility in selecting locations for nature based recreation facilities. Reserves with high conservation values are appropriate only for very low impact activities. The City manages a number of reserves that have already been heavily impacted by clearing and urbanisation, and higher impact activities can be directed to these reserves.

In addition to City managed land, Gold Coast residents and visitors have access to over 39,000 hectares of state managed land. This includes Hinze Dam (Advancetown Lake), regional parks such as South Stradbroke Island and Pine Ridge, marine parks such as Moreton Bay and national parks such as Springbrook National Park, Nerang National Park, Tamborine National Park and Lamington National Park. The nature based recreation activities available in these areas complement those offered in the City’s natural areas and the City will continue to work with the State to deliver opportunities for residents and visitors.

Many of the City’s mountain biking tracks, waterways and other recreational tracks represent potential training grounds for athletes preparing for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The City also has an unprecedented opportunity to showcase our outstanding natural areas when we host the games.

2. Scope

A summary of the existing, key nature based recreation locations on City managed land is presented in Table 2 and Figure 2. This plan primarily addresses nature based recreation in natural areas owned and/or managed by the City. However, if walking, horse riding or mountain biking tracks on City land continue through adjoining State or other land tenures, these have been included for consistency. The City’s natural areas reserves (Figure 1) vary from large forested hinterland reserves to smaller suburban reserves.

For the purpose of this plan, nature based recreation is defined as outdoor recreation activities that:

- are dependent on the natural environment
- have an appreciation of nature as a key motivational factor
- do not require substantial modification to the natural environment
- are environmentally sustainable, as determined by an ongoing environmental monitoring program.

Although beach activities such as surfing and swimming are a significant part of the Gold Coast lifestyle, these are excluded from the plan, having been included in the Ocean Beaches Strategy 2013-2023: goldcoast.qld.gov.au/documents/bf/ocean-beaches-strategy-2013-2023.pdf. The City also maintains a number of recreational swimming enclosures, where water quality is monitored to ensure it is at an acceptable level for recreational use. Locations include Southport swimming enclosure, Harley Park swimming lagoon, Paradise Point swimming enclosure, Jacobs Well swimming enclosure, Murlong swimming enclosure, Evandale swimming lagoon and Jabiru Island swimming enclosure. These enclosures are not included in the scope of this plan, but further information can be obtained at goldcoast.qld.gov.au/thegoldcoast/swimming-enclosures.html

The Gold Coast Waterways Authority is responsible for inland waterways including rivers, canals, lakes and dams within the City of Gold Coast local government area as well as the areas at the mouth of the Nerang River, Currumbin Creek and Tallebudgera Creek (Gold Coast Waterways Management Strategy 2014 – 2023). These areas are therefore not within the scope of this plan.
There are very few sustainable locations for abseiling and rock climbing in the City’s natural areas estate, so these activities are not considered in this plan. There are some known locations in the City’s formal parks estate (which includes a number of coastal headlands), and these formal parks are also beyond the scope of this plan (see Figure 1).

Whilst some of the following activities can potentially be considered nature based recreation, they are not permitted in City of Gold Coast natural areas due to other factors including their potential impacts on the environment and neighbours, limited land area available to support such activities (which may further exacerbate impacts), inherently high risks and the costs of maintaining the necessary infrastructure.

- Off road driving of motor vehicles including four-wheel-drive vehicles, except where permitted by a commercial use permit.
- Riding off-road motorcycles including trail bikes, motocross bikes, enduro bikes, quads and similar motorised vehicles.
- Electric or self-propelled vehicles (except eco-tourism operators).
- Hang gliding.
- Hunting, archery, shooting.
- Camping (generally only permitted on South Stradbroke Island and the Woonoongoora Walker’s Camp).
- Fossicking, collecting.

Some of these activities (e.g. archery and off-road vehicles) may be permitted in the natural areas estate via appropriate permit, lease or licence conditions.
3. Strategic alignment

This plan has been developed as Strategic Action 24.1 of the City’s Nature Conservation Strategy 2001 – 2019 (NCS): “Develop a city-wide strategic framework for sustainable nature-based recreation. Use it to guide decisions regarding access, recreational use and facilities at the individual natural area reserve and cluster level”. Strategic Action 23.2 of the NCS is to develop and implement reserve management and associated operational plans. Therefore, the City’s Conservation Reserve Management Plans have been developed over many years and with extensive community consultation. The plans are available at goldcoast.qld.gov.au/natural-areas-management-plans-by-location-27778.html. Not only do these plans outline how the natural values of the reserves will be conserved and managed, they also identify appropriate nature based recreation opportunities across the City’s natural areas. The recreational opportunities in these plans have been assessed and prioritised using a City wide network analysis. The results of this analysis formed the foundation of the Nature Based Recreation Plan and have been used to set down the key recreational proposals in the next 5 years (Table 3); in the longer term (Table 4), and beyond (Table 5).

Apart from the NCS and the City’s Conservation Reserve Management Plans, a number of other documents were considered in the preparation of this plan, including:

- Our Natural Playground: A Parks and Recreation Plan for the Gold Coast 2004
- Gold Coast Sports Plan 2013 – 2023
- Gold Coast 2020 (Corporate Plan)
- Gold Coast Destination Tourism Management Plan 2014 – 2020
- Gold Coast Waterways Management Strategy 2014 – 2023
- City of Gold Coast Ocean Beaches Strategy 2013 – 2023

Nature based recreation includes activities that are dependent on the natural environment; have an appreciation of nature as a key motivational factor; do not require substantial modification to the natural environment, and are environmentally sustainable.
4. Community consultation

In December 2014, the City released the Draft Nature Based Recreation Plan 2015 – 2025 (the Draft Plan). This was placed on public display, and community consultation was undertaken. Key points that emerged from the consultation included:

- feedback was generally supportive of the Draft Plan
- there is a lack of knowledge of where nature based recreation trails and facilities are located, and strong support for the provision of maps and promotion of places for nature based recreation
- there is support for the protection of the City's natural areas against the potential impacts of nature based recreation, and for more sensitive areas to be set aside for very low impact recreation only (e.g. bushwalking and nature study)
- bushwalking was voted the most popular form of nature based recreation
- the following locations were voted as favourites for nature based recreation: 1. Springbrook (includes Apple Tree Park)/ Springbrook National Park; 2. Nerang/ Nerang National Park; 3. The Spit/ Philip Park/ Federation Walk Coastal Reserve; and in equal fourth position: Currumbin Beach/ Alley and Estuaries; The Broadwater; and Wavebreak Island.

The results of the consultation are available in full in the City of Gold Coast Draft Nature Based Recreation Plan Community Consultation Report.

Over 2500 plants and animals call the Gold Coast home; 150 species of which are listed as endangered, vulnerable or near threatened. This plan sets down a framework for the management of nature based recreation, aiming to balance the growing demand for nature based recreation with the preservation of the environment on which it is so dependent.
5. Vision

Gold Coast: Embracing sustainable nature based recreation

6. Outcomes and objectives

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7. Strategic action plan

This plan provides a framework to achieve our vision of the Gold Coast embracing sustainable nature based recreation. The outcomes, objectives and strategic initiatives are outlined below. Section 8 discusses each of the main types of nature based recreation activities, and provides activity specific initiatives for improving opportunities for each of these activities.

Beree-Badalla boardwalk is a popular location for locals and visitors alike to walk, jog or wheel their way through mangrove habitat on Currumbin Creek.

Outcome 1: Diverse nature based recreation opportunities are available and accessible.

Objective 1.1

Provide a diversity of nature based recreation opportunities appropriate to the natural environment.

**Strategic Initiative 1.1.A** Prioritise and implement the key nature based recreation actions from adopted Conservation Reserve Management Plans.

**Strategic Initiative 1.1.B** Audit existing and potential recreational trails and kayak routes for signage requirements, infrastructure repairs, current usage level, mapping requirements, and waterway access requirements.

**Strategic Initiative 1.1.C** Consolidate nature based recreation opportunities by repairing, signing and mapping existing tracks and recreational locations prior to expanding into new areas.

**Strategic Initiative 1.1.D** Develop and implement a recreational track classification system for the city, keeping this consistent with existing classification systems if appropriate.
Objective 1.2

Provide nature based recreation opportunities appropriate to the level of demand, and at locations convenient to the City’s population centres.

Strategic Initiative 1.2.A Liaise and develop formal agreements with clubs, recreation groups, environmental groups, residents and tourists to ensure this plan is providing desired opportunities for our community.

Strategic Initiative 1.2.B Utilise track counters and other data capture methods to determine the level of use of a variety of nature based recreation locations across the city, especially where usage levels are unknown.

Strategic Initiative 1.2.C Review the needs of the Gold Coast community to determine the gaps in nature based recreation activities and locations.

Strategic Initiative 1.2.D When newly emerging nature based recreation activities are identified, ensure user groups are recognised early to allow their needs to be assessed and managed in a timely and environmentally sensitive manner.

Mountain biking is growing in popularity in the City’s natural areas.

Objective 1.3

Ensure the City’s natural areas are as safe and accessible as possible to people of varying ages, cultures and abilities.

Strategic Initiative 1.3.A Update nature based recreation opportunities on the Gold Coast Access website (goldcoast.qld.gov.au/community/gold-coast-access-2978.html).

Strategic Initiative 1.3.B Deliver nature based recreation opportunities that comply with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and equal access specifications wherever possible.
Objective 1.4

Collaborate with external groups and providers to maximise sustainable nature based recreation opportunities in the natural areas estate.

Strategic Initiative 1.4.A Develop a commercial use/ ecotourism permitting system for the natural areas estate.

Strategic Initiative 1.4.B Where external providers such as ecotourism operators, private landholders and cultural heritage tourism operators can increase the range of sustainable nature based recreation activities available, work collaboratively to deliver on such opportunities, e.g. guided cycling tours, ecotours, bush food tours, trail running, etc.

Outcome 2: The community connects with nature through participation in sustainable nature based recreation.

Objective 2.1

Actively promote existing nature based recreation opportunities and provide information about these opportunities to residents and visitors.

Strategic Initiative 2.1.A Use digital technology (e.g. online track maps, phone apps, and QR (Quick Reference) codes) to show the locations of nature based recreation opportunities; including State managed lands where possible.
Strategic Initiative 2.1.B Develop a promotion and communication plan that considers signage, maps, digital media, etc as ways to promote the best existing locations for bushwalking (with and without dogs), mountain biking, horse riding and other nature based recreation opportunities before promoting newly emerging locations.

**Naturally GC** is a fantastic program that connects the Gold Coast community with the environment through free or low cost educational activities including reptile awareness, geology walks, gardening workshops and bush tucker tours as well as recreation activities such as bushwalking, trail running, responsible runners events and dune walks. The program allows people of varying ages and abilities to explore the City’s outstanding natural areas. The Nature Based Recreation Plan advocates for the incorporation of more physically active recreation (e.g. mountain bike tours) and cultural heritage information (e.g. bush tucker walks) into the Naturally GC program. For more information on Naturally GC, telephone 07 5581 6984 or go to: goldcoast.qld.gov.au/council/naturallygc-program-24575.html

**Objective 2.2**

Foster an appreciation of our natural areas, not only as places of natural value, but as places to stay active and healthy.

**Strategic Initiative 2.2.A** Promote nature conservation and sustainable visitation through improved interpretative signage, park events, online information and other forms of community engagement.

**Strategic Initiative 2.2.B** Use digital media such as photographs, maps and video footage to showcase the values of the Gold Coast natural areas estate and to encourage people to connect with these places as nature based recreation destinations.

**Strategic Initiative 2.2.C** Continue to expand the Naturally GC program, incorporating activities not only for environmental education, but also for nature based recreation as a way to stay active and healthy.

**Outcome 3: The environment is protected through well managed nature based recreation.**

**Objective 3.1**

Assess, minimise, mitigate and monitor the impacts of nature based recreation activities in natural areas.

**Strategic Initiative 3.1.A** Utilise the City’s Natural Areas Reserve Classification System (Strategic Outcome 22.1 of the City’s Nature Conservation Strategy) during the planning process to broadly identify high value conservation areas that are only appropriate for no or low impact recreation activities, and lower value areas that potentially could support other types of recreation.

**Strategic Initiative 3.1.B** Locate any high impact activities in lower conservation value areas that are able to sustain such activities without an unacceptable loss of environmental values.
Strategic Initiative 3.1.C With assistance from the City's environmental planning officers, undertake site specific environmental assessments to minimise environmental impacts of nature based recreation activities across the reserves.

Strategic Initiative 3.1.D Monitor the impacts of nature based recreation to continually adapt and improve management practices.

Objective 3.2

Participate in regional partnerships for nature based recreation planning and management.

Strategic Initiative 3.2.A Plan for nature based recreation on a regional scale by working with regional nature based recreation partners including other local governments, the State Government and non-government organisations, e.g. Queensland Outdoor Recreation Foundation (QORF).

Strategic Initiative 3.2.B Where possible, link tracks with other existing tracks, including those on adjoining state and local government lands.

Outcome 4: There is community awareness of the cultural heritage significance of the City's natural areas.

Objective 4.1

Build public understanding and awareness of the cultural heritage of the natural areas estate.

Strategic Initiative 4.1.A Where reserves have cultural heritage significance, celebrate this heritage by incorporating appropriate cultural heritage information into place names, educational materials and interpretive information, having sought advice from the City's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Liaison Officer and Heritage Planning Team.
Strategic Initiative 4.1.B Increase the amount of cultural heritage information and activities in educational and promotional materials, e.g. the Naturally GC program.

Strategic Initiative 4.1.C Protect cultural heritage from the impacts of nature based recreation by conducting cultural heritage assessments with advice from the City’s Indigenous Cultural Heritage Liaison Officer and Heritage Planning Team.

Strategic Initiative 4.1.D To ensure Indigenous people’s rights and aspirations are appropriately considered and sensitively represented, consult the Indigenous community via the local Cultural Heritage Body (Jabree Ltd) regarding the use and delivery of any Indigenous cultural materials or programs.
8. Key nature based recreation activities

In this plan, nature based recreation has been categorised into the following key activities:

1. Bushwalking
2. Mountain biking
3. Horse riding
4. Day use including picnicking
5. Nature study including birdwatching
6. Canoeing, kayaking and fishing
7. Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing
8. Ecotourism and commercial use
9. Camping

8.1 Bushwalking

Whilst bushwalking trends indicate that whilst people now prefer shorter bushwalks, they are increasingly looking for more natural settings in which to walk.

Bushwalking trends indicate that there is a growing preference for shorter walks that provide nature experiences without demanding too much time or fitness (EDAW, 2000). There was a major decrease in walking activity rates in South East Queensland between 1997 and 2007 (Queensland Government, 2007). Interestingly however, it appears that people are opting for increasingly natural settings in which to walk and despite the decline walking still remains one of the most popular activities. For example, of 1,244 people surveyed at various locations in the Hinterland, the 2002 Hinterland Sustainable Tourism Development Study found that “about three-quarters of the sample used toilet facilities at the site while short trails were also
heavily utilised.” Community consultation on the Draft Nature Based Recreation Plan saw respondents vote bushwalking as the most popular form of nature based recreation in a public survey (City of Gold Coast, 2015).

The Gold Coast has a range of bushwalking opportunities available, from short neighbourhood walks through to multi-day experiences such as The Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk. There are a number of longer trails and linkages that are accessible to experienced, self-reliant walkers with local knowledge. There are however, fewer shorter, well signed trails suitable for inexperienced walkers.

The City has a number of tracks that require mapping, signage and relatively minor works to allow the public to fully utilise them. The focus will be on improving, mapping and maintaining existing tracks (particularly loop tracks), and providing shorter trails that still offer a genuine nature based recreation experience. Where short lengths of trail can be established and/or improved to link existing trails, these will be prioritised above completely new works.

Where can I take my dog for a walk?

Public consultation showed that people do like to be able to walk with their dogs. The City has a number of dog exercise areas where dogs may be exercised off-leash but under effective control. There are some dog prohibited areas including selected high conservation value reserves, all children’s playground areas and within 200 metres of all flagged bathing areas. As a general rule, all city parks and nature reserves are dog on-leash areas unless otherwise signed.

You can also walk your dog on most Gold coast beaches (where signposted) provided your dog is on a leash. Remember that dogs aren’t permitted within 200 metres of flagged areas, and you must pick up their droppings. There are also dog off-leash beach areas at The Spit, Tallebudgera Beach and Palm Beach.

For downloadable maps of dog friendly areas and further information (including the GC Dog Parks app), go to:

Activity Specific Initiatives: Bushwalking

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to bushwalking. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiatives apply:

Activity Specific Initiative 8.1.1 Prioritise walking tracks that provide for a short return walk (e.g. 20-30 minutes) to a specific destination.
8.2 Mountain biking

Mountain biking has become a popular nature based recreation activity since its development in the 1980s. The Outdoor Recreation Trends in South East Queensland Trends Analysis (1997–2007) found that bicycling was becoming more common over time. This is probably due to increased participation by older age groups. Whilst bicycling is occurring in somewhat natural settings, it was increasingly occurring in very natural settings. This suggests that a significant proportion of cycling is mountain bike riding on unsealed tracks.

There are a number of different styles of mountain biking including cross country, track riding, dirt jumping, 4X, dual slalom, freeriding, all-mountain and downhill riding. Historically, riding opportunities have been limited in Australia including in Queensland (QPWS, 2010; IMBA, 2004), although this is changing with recent legislative and policy changes.

The most common type of mountain biking is cross country (QORF, 2013). Cross country mountain bikers will typically utilise a combination of off road trails including fire trails and ‘single track’ (a narrow, flowing track following natural surface levels). Cross country riders already utilise parts of the City’s natural areas estate, although the number of cross country type trails on City land is limited. Given its lower impacts, and the fact that there is a much larger proportion of cross country style riders compared to other genres, the City will make it a priority to provide further cross country type opportunities.

Wherever possible, the City will provide multi use trails to allow more than one user group to utilise the area. Shared use trails can be successful provided they are designed appropriately, and the appropriate codes of conduct and guidelines are adhered to. At locations where demand is high or the activity is not appropriate for a shared use trail, the City will consider dedicated single track for activities such as downhill riding. This must be undertaken in such a way that the environment is protected.

Unauthorised trail building is relatively common in the City’s natural areas. City staff are working with mountain bike groups to try to provide sustainable trails and so reduce the number of environmentally damaging unauthorised trails.

Valmont Bike Park is a 42-acre facility which opened in the city of Boulder, USA in 2011. Bike parks are seen by some as the future of mountain biking, and this park features a network of single track, learners and children’s areas, a terrain park, cyclocross and events facilities. In its first year of operation, an estimated 50,000 riders visited the park. The park is designed to have something for everyone, from beginners through to advanced riders – and from cross country riders through to freestylers. The park was funded jointly by the City of Boulder, community fundraising and grants. It is now an international attraction that brings many economic benefits to the city. The City of Gold Coast will investigate the feasibility of a dedicated bike park here on the Gold Coast. It is anticipated that such a park would follow Valmont Bike Park’s lead and be located outside of the conservation areas, and in an urban area to increase accessibility.
The economic value of mountain biking

Cycling is now the fourth most popular physical activity for adult Australians, with 18% of Queenslanders riding a bike each week. Mountain biking is of considerable economic value, for example:

- Western Australia’s Munda Biddi Trail consists of 1000 km of multi-use track through 7 towns. An estimated 42,000 users of this trail create annual revenue of $5 million (Tablelands Integrated Mountain Bike Alliance, 2012).

- 2-3% of tourists in Tasmania participate in off-road cycling, contributing around $4 million dollars to the economy annually (Tablelands Integrated Mountain Bike Alliance, 2012).

- Total visitor spending in Whistler, Canada attributable to mountain biking exceeded $34.3 million CAD over the period June 4 to September 17, 2006 supporting an estimated $39.1 million in new economic activity (Western Canada Mountain Bike Association, 2006).

- Rotorua, New Zealand is a popular mountain bike destination, which has a population of 67,000 and annual visitors numbering 2.5 million. In 2014, Rotorua’s Associate Tourism Minister Todd McClay stated “Cycling alone is worth about $15 million to our local economy.”

The City of Gold Coast will continue to work with the local mountain biking community to progress feasibility studies for new tracks in the City’s natural areas, particularly where there are sustainable economic benefits to the Gold Coast community.

Activity Specific Initiatives: Mountain biking

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to mountain biking. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiatives apply:

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.2.1** Continue to progress feasibility, planning and design work for all-mountain or cross country tracks with downhill single track to be incorporated subject to funding availability.

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.2.2** Investigate the feasibility of building a dedicated bike park in the City, designed to cater for a range of riding styles and abilities.

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.2.3** Prioritise tracks and facilities for types of mountain biking for which there is high demand and low environmental impacts.
A mountain biker gets some air at Old Tambo mountain bike track in Eagle Heights Conservation Area. The City plans to investigate establishing a mountain bike park, designed to cater for riders of varying ages and abilities.
8.3 Horse riding

Horse riders utilise a number of the City’s Hinterland reserves and surrounding semi-rural areas. Ruffles Road Reserve West/Crystal Creek Reserve, Chesters Road (through Numinbah Conservation Area), Lower Beechmont Conservation Area and Schusters Park offer trails for use by horse riders, and there are many other informal trails and horse riding destinations. There are also other opportunities within South East Queensland, with a large number of trails on State managed land including Nerang Regional Park, Plunkett Regional Park, Wickham Regional Park and many parks in other adjoining Local Government Areas.

A number of horse riding trail improvements have been completed in recent years including the installation and upgrade of many horse step-overs to allow horse riders access to trails. The popular ‘Barcoo Court to Bellis Road’ trail which traverses part of Lower Beechmont Conservation Area, and links with trails in Nerang Conservation Park has recently been upgraded. Where the trail once crossed private land, this has been resolved so the trail is now wholly in public land. In the coming years, there are a number of proposed and potential upgrades to horse riding trails including Davenport Park, Bally Mountain Conservation Area (Upper Bonogin Section), Wyangan Valley Park, Ruffles Road Reserve East and Gladrose Reserve (See Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5).

Photo by Fotomedia

Horse riders utilise a number of the City’s Hinterland reserves.
8.4 Day use including picnicking

The Gold Coast’s natural areas provide a range of picnicking opportunities from local suburban and rural bushland reserves to the more iconic picnic areas such as Springbrook, Lower Beechmont, Numinbah Valley and the Currumbin and Tallebudgera Valleys.

According to *Outdoor Recreation Trends in South East Queensland 2007*, picnicking was then the most popular outdoor recreation activity, with 57% of the Gold Coast population having had a picnic in a natural area at least once in the year of the survey. Interestingly, it was also found that whilst picnicking was common in ‘somewhat natural’ settings people would actually prefer to be picnicking in ‘very natural’ settings. This indicates that there might be considerable demand for picnicking opportunities in very natural settings within the City's natural areas.

As the city grows and our beaches and foreshore parks become busier it will be important to provide alternative picnic destinations in the natural areas of our suburbs and hinterland. There are many potential picnic sites at pleasant, creek-side destinations in the lower foothills and valleys of the hinterland that are within 15 to 20 minutes’ drive of highly urbanised areas.

*Picnicking in Eddie Kornhauser Recreational Reserve: a fabulous, family friendly natural area in Elanora/Tallebudgera.*

**Activity Specific Initiatives: Day use including picnicking**

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to day use. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiative applies:

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.4.1** Develop a network of day use areas that will provide alternative destinations to our heavily used foreshore parks as the city continues to grow.
8.5 Nature study including bird watching

A birdwatcher snaps a couple of the locals at Apple Tree Park picnic ground in Springbrook. This park is a delight for nature appreciation, accessible not only by car but a welcome rest stop on The Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk.

Nature Play QLD is inspired by the ideas of American social commentator Richard Louv who directly links the lack of nature (or nature-deficit) in the lives of today’s wired generation to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. Nature Play Qld acknowledges the importance of, and actively promotes unstructured outdoor play. It supports parents, educators, community groups and carers to increase the time that Queensland kids spend in unstructured play outdoors. Resources and ideas include Nature Play passports, classroom resources, Licenses to Play (outdoors), Nature Play clubs and more. The variety of nature play activities is limited only by your imagination and can include things like star watching, grass whistling, bike riding, bug catching, rock skipping and mud play. For more information go to natureplayqld.org.au
The Gold Coast is one of Australia’s most biodiverse cities and home to a superb variety of native flora and fauna. There is a myriad of nature appreciation opportunities in the City’s conservation areas. Nature enthusiasts can view wader birds from a purpose built bird hide at Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area; observe wild koalas at Colman Road Reserve; admire endangered blackbutt forest at Tugun Hill Conservation Area, marvel at the cliffs of the Mt Warning Caldera from Bochow Park and delight at fish and other marine creatures in the mangroves whilst strolling along Beree-Badalla boardwalk. For those who would rather have company, there are many organised nature and environmental groups such as birdwatchers, responsible runners, Landcare and Beachcare who will welcome you along on Arbor day, Bird Week or Threatened species Day for example. If you’re a nature lover, the City’s conservation estate is brimming with opportunities. This plan will deliver better mapping of tracks and reserves, making it easier for nature enthusiasts to get out and into nature.

The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens showcases the region’s flora including mountain, valley, alluvial plains and coastal environments. The Gardens living botanic collection includes the celebrated ‘Mangroves to Mountains Walk’ and is a valuable resource for research, education and conservation. The Gardens are an accessible outdoor classroom for people of varying ages, cultures and abilities. They have an interesting cultural history and provide a place to escape, learn and be inspired. The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens are located at 232 Ashmore Rd, Benowa and are open 7 days per week.

8.6 Canoeing, kayaking and fishing

A number of Queensland Government agencies manage water-based outdoor recreation and the City is not directly responsible for the regulation of activities such as fishing or boating. The City does however provide a number of fish cleaning facilities and manages many of the access points to waterways from City-owned/managed boat ramps and natural areas.

The Gold Coast’s Broadwater and many tidal and freshwater waterways provide a variety of opportunities for nature based recreation including canoeing, kayaking, fishing from kayaks (‘yak’ fishing) and conventional fishing. The following are popular canoe and kayak routes.

- Tallebudgera Beach (Palm Beach/ Tallebudgera) to David Fleay Wildlife Park (West Burleigh) to Schusters Park sandy beach (Tallebudgera) via Tallebudgera Creek.
- Currumbin Creek Estuary (Currumbin) upstream to Coastal Meadows Park (Currumbin Valley) adjacent to the weir beneath Currumbin Creek Road.
- Cecil Zipf Park (Woongoolba) south from the Logan River mouth past Cabbage Tree Point and Jacobs Well then south via the Pimpama River to Colman Road Reserve (Coomera).
- Colman Road Reserve (Coomera) to Jumpinpin Point (South Stradbroke Island) via the Broadwater.
- Jabiru Island Park (Paradise Point) to River Downs Park (Helensvale) via Saltwater Creek.
- Colman Road Reserve (Coomera) east along the Pimpama River then south along the Broadwater into the Coomera River then upstream to Coomera River Causeway Parkland (Oxenford).
- Jabiru Island Park (Paradise Point) upstream along Coombabah Creek to Coombabah Lake (return trip).
- Jacobs Well Conservation Area/Lions Park (Jacobs Well) via Logan River to South Stradbroke Island – Pimpama or Colman Road Reserve (Coomera) via the Broadwater, Pimpama River.
The Gold Coast’s Broadwater and many tidal and freshwater waterways provide a superb variety of opportunities for kayaking.

**Activity Specific Initiatives: Canoeing, kayaking and fishing**

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to canoeing, kayaking and fishing. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiatives apply:

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.6.1** Provide sustainable access (including kayak/ canoe friendly launch points) to creeks and water bodies where there is sufficient demand for water based recreation.

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.6.2** Provide fishing platforms at a number of natural areas and support the increasing popularity of yak (or kayak) fishing.

### 8.7 Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing

Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing all occur on a small scale throughout the City’s formal parks and natural areas estate. Orienteering is generally undertaken through clubs and groups, and geocaching is undertaken by small groups or individuals. Trail running is undertaken on an individual basis, as well as through a small number of organised events. Various forms of adventure racing and endurance challenges take place in the City’s reserves, although these are usually organised events such as the Kokoda Challenge.

There are some constraints in accommodating these kinds of activities in natural areas. This is due not only to the difficulty in managing the impacts of activities that may involve off-track use but also to the relatively small size and steepness of our natural areas, which makes them susceptible to overuse. It is recognised, however that these activities are growing in popularity and that they may also present future tourism opportunities. It is important that uses are consistent with the environmental values of the specific site, and that high impact activities are kept away from sensitive environmental areas. With a well-coordinated
management approach, impacts can be minimised. The City will work together with the relevant organisations to cater for appropriate activities.

The City is committed to working together with the various orienteering, geocaching, adventure racing and trail running groups to ensure that sustainable opportunities are provided for these activities in the City’s natural areas.

Activity Specific Initiatives: Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiatives apply:

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.7.1** Develop guidelines to coordinate, support and manage group and club activities and events to ensure successful, sustainable outcomes.

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.7.2** Where the level of use is sufficient, develop agreements with the various peak organisations for nature based recreational activities.
8.8 Ecotourism and other commercial uses

This plan uses the *Queensland Ecotourism Plan 2013-2020* definition of ecotourism: ‘ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation’. Ecotourism is an important growth sector for local, domestic and international visitors to the Gold Coast. One of the City’s *Gold Coast 2020* key programs is to ‘capitalise on emerging trends in the tourism market by driving the development of active and eco-tourism experiences in the hinterland and other natural areas’.

![Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area offers wildlife viewing opportunities (including koalas and kangaroos) just minutes from Surfers Paradise](Photo by Fotomedia)

A number of the City’s natural areas are of interest to visitors to the City. For example, some of the City’s natural areas in Springbrook, Numinbah and Austinville neighbour the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area. This listing includes ‘the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest in the world… and nearly all of the Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforest’ (Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2008). Natural areas in the southern section of the City are part of Australia’s Green Cauldron. The Green Cauldron is a ‘National Landscape’, as is The Great Barrier Reef, The Wet Tropics and Australia’s Red Centre (Tourism Australia and Australian Government Director of National Parks, 2008). Gold Coast tourists can also explore the Moreton Bay Marine Park, which has its numerous islands and internationally significant RAMSAR wetlands.

The small size and environmental sensitivity of some City reserves does necessarily limit opportunities somewhat; however there are many larger reserves that can support low level ecotourism. For example, Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area provides many wildlife viewing opportunities just minutes from the heart of Surfers Paradise. Four wheel drive tours and a small number of guided walking tour operators already utilise this, and other reserves.

To ensure that the volume and type of commercial uses is regulated and is environmentally sustainable, a commercial use policy will be developed. Commercial use is defined as ‘an activity in the City’s natural
areas for which fees are charged to a third party by an entity other than the City. A fee can be a required payment, the purchase of goods or services, or a required donation for a service.’

Community consultation has shown that there is good support for the provision of low impact commercial activities, so these activities will be prioritised. When asked to select activities to be provided commercially, consultation shows that the top three activities selected were canoeing/kayaking, ecotourism and mountain biking. When asked to select activities that could be provided through a City program, the top three activities were bushwalking, canoeing/kayaking and nature study.

The Gold Coast’s tourism industry generates more than $4.5 billion in visitor expenditure annually (City of Gold Coast, 2013), and an important part of this is nature tourism. In 2009, international nature tourists spent $19.5 billion on their trips, whilst domestic tourists spent approximately $13.8 billion. Visiting national parks/state parks was the most popular activity for international nature tourists, whilst bushwalking/rainforest walks was the most popular activity for domestic visitors (Tourism Research Australia, 2010).

The natural environment is a key motivator for international visitors to travel to Queensland, with 73% of international visitors participating in nature based activities (Tourism and Transport Forum, 2014). For example, in 2003, 23% of international visitors and 12% of domestic overnight visitors staying on the Gold Coast made a daytrip visit to national parks or natural bushland in the Gold Coast Hinterland (Gold Coast City Council, 2003).

The Queensland Ecotourism Plan 2013-2020 aims to make Queensland the number one ecotourism destination in Australia, and acknowledges that ‘world-leading ecotourism is wholly dependent upon the conservation of Queensland’s rich biodiversity and environmental and cultural resources’. Similarly, the City must protect the natural areas it manages in order to ensure residents and visitors the best possible settings for nature based recreation.

**Activity Specific Initiatives: Ecotourism and commercial use**

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to ecotourism and commercial use. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiatives apply:

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.8.1** Continue to progress and monitor trials of existing commercial operators in natural areas.

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.8.2** Support appropriate, sustainable ecotourism and commercial nature based recreational and cultural heritage events in the Gold Coast natural areas estate with a focus on low impact activities.

**Activity Specific Initiative 8.8.3** Investigate the demand for additional sustainable commercial activities in natural areas, e.g. abseiling, adventure sports, mountain bike tours, etc.
8.9 Camping

Gold Coast residents and visitors have access to a number of camp grounds in Gold Coast National Parks (including Springbrook and Lamington), City managed tourist parks and also on privately owned land. South Currigee, North Currigee and Tipplers camp grounds are managed by the City, and are located in natural areas on South Stradbroke Island.

One of the campgrounds on the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk; the Woonoongoora walker’s camp is located in the City’s Numinbah Conservation Area and is a good example of a successful partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). This campground is a ‘walk in’ only campground, and is used by walkers hiking between The Settlement campground in Springbrook National Park and a private campground in Binna Burra. The Woonoongoora walker’s camp is located in a City managed reserve, but must be booked via the QPWS website.

Permanent camp grounds in natural areas are expensive to build, operate and maintain and the City heavily subsidises the existing South Stradbroke Island campgrounds. The City does not plan to build any further camp ground facilities.

The City does permits camping to be carried out on land that is leased by a number of different private organisations. For example, there are several City owned properties leased to Scouts Australia and Girl Guides Australia where camping is permitted within the lease agreement.

The City also permits ‘one off’ low impact camping opportunities for nature based recreation clubs and other organisations at a few limited locations in the natural areas estate. These arrangements are negotiated directly with the City, and this practice will continue.

Activity Specific Initiatives: Camping

See Appendix A for the Strategic Initiatives that apply to camping. In addition, the following Activity Specific Initiative applies:

Activity Specific Initiative 8.9.1 Continue to allow for ‘one off’ low impact camping opportunities for nature based recreation clubs and other organisations as negotiated on a case by case basis with the City.
## 9. Key nature based recreation locations on City managed land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cane-lands, Broadwater and South Stradbroke Island</th>
<th>Coast and Suburbs</th>
<th>Hinterland Valleys</th>
<th>Hinterland Mountains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. South Stradbroke Island campsgrounds at (a) North Currimine</td>
<td>8. Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area, including (i) Myola Court Boardwalk (ii) Melaleuca Boardwalk (iii) Birdhide Boardwalk (iii) Arundel Section Boardwalk</td>
<td>22. Crystal Creek Reserve/ Ruffles Road Reserve West (Willowvale)</td>
<td>32. Apple Tree Park, (Springbrook) Popular for: day use, nature study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) South Currimine; and (c)Tipper</td>
<td>Popular for: camping, day use, nature study</td>
<td>Popular for: horse riding, bushwalking</td>
<td>33. Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk (Numinbah/ Springbrook – passes through City land as well as National Park) Popular for: multi-day walk with walk-in camp ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Lions Park boat ramp (Jacobs Well Road, Jacobs Well) Popular for: boat ramp access, day use, swimming (in enclosure)</td>
<td>10. Miami Bushland Reserve (Miami) Popular for: bushwalking, nature study</td>
<td>24. Davenport Park (Bonogin) Popular for: day use, walking</td>
<td>35. Lower Beechmont Conservation Area (Freemans Lookout Section) (Lower Beechmont/ Mt Nathan); and Barcoo Court to Bellis Road horse trail Freemans Lookout Section is popular for: day use, nature study. Barcoo Court to Bellis Road trail is popular for: horse riding and bushwalking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Colman Road Reserve (Coomera) Popular for: boat ramp access, informal kayak/ canoe waterway access, koala spotting</td>
<td>12. Palm Beach Parklands/ Tarrabora Reserve/ Beree Badalla/ Salk Oval Parklands (Palm Beach/ Currumbin) Popular for: Boardwalks and bushwalking, swimming, day use, nature study, Thrower Drive boat ramp, kayak/ canoe waterway access</td>
<td>26. Little Clagiraba Reserve (Clagiraba) Popular for: day use, short walks, creek access</td>
<td>37. Darwalla Road Reserve (Mount Nathan) Popular for: day use, horse riding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Phil Hill Environmental Park (Jabiri Island, Paradise Point) and Jabiri Island Park boat ramp (Paradise Point) Popular for: boardwalk and short walking paths, boat ramp access, kayak/ canoe waterway access, day use</td>
<td>13. Murlong Park boat ramp (Murlong Crescent, Palm Beach) Popular for: boat ramp access, kayak/ canoe waterway access, day use, swimming (in enclosure)</td>
<td>27. Robert Neumann Park (Currumbin Creek) Popular for: day use, short walking path, boat ramp (access to small area above weir only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The Spit, including Philip Park, Federation Walk Coastal reserve and Doug Jennings Park (Main Beach). Popular for: coast walks and beach access, day use, boat ramp access, kayak/ canoe waterway access</td>
<td>14. Tugun Hill Conservation Area (Tugun) Popular for: bushwalking, mountain biking on firetrails, nature study</td>
<td>28. Currumbin Rock Pools (Currumbin Valley) Popular for: day use, rock pool access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15. Schusters Park (Elianora/Tallebudgerra) Popular for: day use, walking, horse riding, kayak/ canoe waterway access</td>
<td>29. Harley Smith Park (Tallebudgerra Valley) Popular for: day use, creek access, nature study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16. Eddie Kornhauser Recreational Reserve (Elianora/ Tallebudgerra) Popular for: day use, walking, family friendly push biking/ mountain biking</td>
<td>30. Tallebudgerra Creek Bend Reserves (currently signed as Lions Park), Tallebudgerra Valley Popular for: day use, creek access, nature study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17. Gold Coast Oceanway including Federation Walk (from The Spit to Coolangatta) Popular for: coast walks, push biking, beach access, day use</td>
<td>31. Lakeview Downs Parklands (Maudsland) Popular for: day use, short walk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18. Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens (Benowa) Popular for: day use, walking, boardwalks, nature study, education and interpretation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19. Upper Coomera Adventure Parklands (Upper Coomera) Popular for: cross country mountain bike riding, BMX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20. Gold Coast Cycle Centre (Nerang velodrome) Popular for: mountain bike trail head for Nerang National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21. Nerang riverside parks including Arthur Earle Park, Swift Park and Kamholtz Family Park (Nerang) Popular for: riverside walking, river access, day use, boat ramp access, skate ramp</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is one of the City’s lesser known bushwalking tracks close to Apple Tree Park in Springbrook. The City will focus on mapping and signposting existing tracks like this to consolidate recreation opportunities prior to spending money on new tracks and facilities.
## 10. Key nature based recreation locations potentially to be developed in the next five years

**Table 3. Key nature based recreation locations potentially to be developed in the next five years (See Figure 3 for a map of Tables 3 and 4)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coast and Suburbs</th>
<th>Hinterland Valleys</th>
<th>Hinterland Mountains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38. Schusters Park (Elanora/Tallebudgera)</td>
<td>46. Numinbah Conservation Area (Numinbah Valley)</td>
<td>53. Lower Beechmont Conservation Area (Freemans Lookout Section) (Lower Beechmont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: walking track repairs and signage</td>
<td>Proposal: directional and interpretive signage on multi-purpose tracks</td>
<td>Proposal: interpretive and directional signage on walking track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. A park in the Mudgeeraba/ Reedy Creek/ Bonogin area</td>
<td>47. Bally Mountain Conservation Area (Rosegum Section)</td>
<td>54. Apple Tree Park (Springbrook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.g. Tourmaline Reserve or Glossy Black Reserve</td>
<td>Proposal: walking track signage on closed section of Bonogin Road and adjacent</td>
<td>Proposal: directional walking track signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: mountain bike track</td>
<td>firetrail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Linkages between Tugun Hill Conservation Area and other parks in the area</td>
<td>48. Davenport Park (Bonogin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including Hidden Valley Reserve, Toolona Park, Littleford Family Park, Alex</td>
<td>Proposal: horse riding trail improvement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffiths Park and Len Wort Park</td>
<td>49. Wallaby Drive Reserve (Mudgeeraba)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: signage and trails to form linkages for walking and cycling</td>
<td>Proposal: repairs to trail between Adios Court and Hardys Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Elanora Wetlands Reserve (Elanora)</td>
<td>50. Bochow Park (Numinbah Valley)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: walking track signage</td>
<td>Proposal: interpretive signage and carpark upgrade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area</td>
<td>51. Oval Drive Parklands to Mt Nathan Reserve (Mt Nathan)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: a walking/ push bike track between Mildura Drive and Helensvale Road</td>
<td>Proposal: directional signage and access filter (horses/pedestrians)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Adjacent to David Fleay Wildlife Park in Tallebudgera Creek (West Burleigh)</td>
<td>52. The Currumbin Border Track along NSW/QLD border</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: kayak/canoe/fishing friendly launch point</td>
<td>Proposal: investigate potential for ongoing multi-purpose use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Hinterland Regional Park (Mudgeeraba)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: footbridge over Mudgeeraba or Bonogin Creek to allow access across</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinterland Regional Park from west to east</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Green Heart Reserve (Robina/ Merrimac)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal: Bridges and recreation tracks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Key nature based recreation locations potentially to be developed in the longer term

Table 4. Key nature based recreation locations potentially to be developed in the longer term (See Figure 3 for a map of Tables 3 and 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cane-lands, Broadwater and South Stradbroke Island</th>
<th>Coast and Suburbs</th>
<th>Hinterland Valleys</th>
<th>Hinterland Mountains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 55. Pimpama River Conservation Area | 56. Wyangan Valley Park (Bonogin)  
 Proposal: walking/ mountain biking/ horse riding track realignment and repair | 62. Austinville Conservation Area (Mudgeeraba Creek Section)  
 Proposal: day use area and shared use trail improvement | 67. Cedar Creek Conservation Area:  
 Proposal: low impact nature based recreation location |
|  | | 63. Bally Mountain Conservation Area (Upper Bonogin Section)  
 Proposal: shared use trail improvements | 68. Wongawallan Conservation Area (Wongawallan):  
 Proposal: low impact nature based recreation location |
|  | 57. Coomera River Causeway Parkland, (Upper Coomera)  
 Proposal: future Nature Based Recreation Node | | |
|  | 58. Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area  
 Proposal: Myola Creek crossing | | |
|  | 59. Colman Road Reserve (Colman Road, Coomera)  
 Proposal: possible day use infrastructure/ interpretive signage to accompany already approved boat ramp upgrade (provided there are no negative impacts on koala habitat) | | |
|  | 60. Burleigh Head National Park to David Fleay Wildlife Park walking track.  
 Proposal: footbridge over Oyster Creek to extend the walking track | | |
|  | 61. Gold Coast Cycle Centre (Nerang velodrome)  
 Proposal: cross country mountain bike and/ or other bike facilities | | |
|  | 56. Wyangan Valley Park (Bonogin)  
 Proposal: walking/ mountain biking/ horse riding track realignment and repair | | |
|  | 57. Coomera River Causeway Parkland, (Upper Coomera)  
 Proposal: future Nature Based Recreation Node | 62. Austinville Conservation Area (Mudgeeraba Creek Section)  
 Proposal: day use area and shared use trail improvement | |
|  | 58. Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area  
 Proposal: Myola Creek crossing | 63. Bally Mountain Conservation Area (Upper Bonogin Section)  
 Proposal: shared use trail improvements | |
|  | 59. Colman Road Reserve (Colman Road, Coomera)  
 Proposal: possible day use infrastructure/ interpretive signage to accompany already approved boat ramp upgrade (provided there are no negative impacts on koala habitat) | 64. Guanaba Reserve (Guanaba)  
 Proposal: replace day use infrastructure and investigate sustainable creek access for horse trail | |
|  | 60. Burleigh Head National Park to David Fleay Wildlife Park walking track.  
 Proposal: footbridge over Oyster Creek to extend the walking track | 65. Tallebudgera Creek adjacent to Tallebudgera Connection Road (Tallebudgera)  
 Proposal: kayak/ canoe friendly launch point | |
|  | 61. Gold Coast Cycle Centre (Nerang velodrome)  
 Proposal: cross country mountain bike and/ or other bike facilities | 66. Currumbin Creek, downstream of the weir adjacent to Currumbin Creek Road and in Robert Neumann Park, (Currumbin Valley)  
 Proposal: a kayak/ canoe friendly launch point | |
|  | 56. Wyangan Valley Park (Bonogin)  
 Proposal: walking/ mountain biking/ horse riding track realignment and repair | 62. Austinville Conservation Area (Mudgeeraba Creek Section)  
 Proposal: day use area and shared use trail improvement | |
|  | 57. Coomera River Causeway Parkland, (Upper Coomera)  
 Proposal: future Nature Based Recreation Node | 63. Bally Mountain Conservation Area (Upper Bonogin Section)  
 Proposal: shared use trail improvements | |
|  | 58. Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area  
 Proposal: Myola Creek crossing | 64. Guanaba Reserve (Guanaba)  
 Proposal: replace day use infrastructure and investigate sustainable creek access for horse trail | |
|  | 59. Colman Road Reserve (Colman Road, Coomera)  
 Proposal: possible day use infrastructure/ interpretive signage to accompany already approved boat ramp upgrade (provided there are no negative impacts on koala habitat) | 65. Tallebudgera Creek adjacent to Tallebudgera Connection Road (Tallebudgera)  
 Proposal: kayak/ canoe friendly launch point | |
|  | 60. Burleigh Head National Park to David Fleay Wildlife Park walking track.  
 Proposal: footbridge over Oyster Creek to extend the walking track | 66. Currumbin Creek, downstream of the weir adjacent to Currumbin Creek Road and in Robert Neumann Park, (Currumbin Valley)  
 Proposal: a kayak/ canoe friendly launch point | |
|  | 61. Gold Coast Cycle Centre (Nerang velodrome)  
 Proposal: cross country mountain bike and/ or other bike facilities | 62. Austinville Conservation Area (Mudgeeraba Creek Section)  
 Proposal: day use area and shared use trail improvement | 67. Cedar Creek Conservation Area:  
 Proposal: low impact nature based recreation location |
|  | | 63. Bally Mountain Conservation Area (Upper Bonogin Section)  
 Proposal: shared use trail improvements | 68. Wongawallan Conservation Area (Wongawallan):  
 Proposal: low impact nature based recreation location |
|  | | 64. Guanaba Reserve (Guanaba)  
 Proposal: replace day use infrastructure and investigate sustainable creek access for horse trail | 69. Lower Beechmont Conservation Area (Lower Beechmont):  
 Proposal: low impact nature based recreation location |
|  | | 65. Tallebudgera Creek adjacent to Tallebudgera Connection Road (Tallebudgera)  
 Proposal: kayak/ canoe friendly launch point | |
|  | | 66. Currumbin Creek, downstream of the weir adjacent to Currumbin Creek Road and in Robert Neumann Park, (Currumbin Valley)  
 Proposal: a kayak/ canoe friendly launch point | 70. Bonogin Conservation Area (Bonogin)  
 Proposal: low impact nature based recreation location |
Key

(a) Locations potentially to be developed in the next 5 years (See Table 3)
1. Suttor Park (Shoalwater Saltsponds)
   Proposed: walkway link to Shoalwater
2. A Park in the Middleset Rd Reserve (Bongi) Reserve area e.g. Straddie Road Reserve
   Proposed: increased bike tracks
3. Tugun hill Conservation Area and other parks in the area including: Hidden Valley Reserve, Tugun Park, Uhlmann Park, South Galleon Park and South Galleon Park
   Proposed: increased bike tracks
4. Evans Weir Reserves (Evans)
   Proposed: walking trail signage
5. Coolabunia Lake Conservation Area
   Proposed: walking trail signage
6. Springwood Conservation Area (Springwood)
   Proposed: increased bike tracks
7. Nambour Conservation Area (Nambour Valley)
   Proposed: increased bike tracks
8. Bald Mountain Conservation Area (Bald Mountain Section)
   Proposed: walking trail signage on south west sector of Bald Mountain Trail and adjacent the trail
9. Davos Park (Davos)
   Proposed: improved walking trail signage
10. Araluen Drive Reserve (Araluen)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
11. One Mile Reserve in Mt Mawson Reserve (Mt Mawson)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
12. The Condon Reserve Refurbishment Area
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
13. Lower Beaches Conservation Area (Ferringham's Lookout Section)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
14. Apple Tree Park (Appletree)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks

(b) Locations potentially to be developed in the longer term (See Table 4)
15. Pines River Conservation Area (Pines)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
16. Manager Valley Park (Manager)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
17. Corroboree Conservation Area (Corroboree)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
18. Coolibah Reserve (Coolibah)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
19. South Galleon Reserve (South Galleon)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
20. Captain Cook Reserve (Captain Cook)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
21. Bribie Island Conservation Area (Bribie Island)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
22. Stradbroke Island Conservation Area (Stradbroke Island)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks
23. Lower Beaches Conservation Area (Lower Beaches)
    Proposed: increased bike tracks

Figure 3
Key nature based recreation locations potentially to be developed in (i) the next 5 years and (ii) in the longer term
12. Other nature based recreation locations for strategic long term consideration

*Table 5. Other nature based recreation locations for strategic long term consideration (See Figure 4 for a map of Table 5)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cane-lands, Broadwater and South Stradbroke Island</th>
<th>Coast and Suburbs</th>
<th>Hinterland Valleys</th>
<th>Hinterland Mountains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 71. Intersection of Kerkin Road and the Pimpama River (Pimpama) | 72. Finnegan Environmental Reserve (Coomera)  
Proposal: walking track | 76. Mango Tree Park (Clagiraba)  
Proposal: day use area | 78. Gladrose Reserve (Wongawallan)  
Proposal: horse trail improvements |
| 73. Elanora Conservation Area (Elanora) linking with Eddie Kornhauser Recreational Reserve (Elanora/Tallebudgera)  
Proposal: cross country mountain bike track/ walking track | 77. Nerang/Mt Nathan  
Proposal: connection from Mt Nathan Reserve to Nerang National Park via Nathan Homestead Road, Mt Nathan Road and Nerang State Forest Access Park. | | 79. Tallebudgera Creek (Tallebudgera)  
Proposal: bridge over Tallebudgera Creek to connect tracks in Schusters Park with tracks in Elanora Wetlands |
| 74. Intersection of Pacific Highway and Tallebudgera Creek (Palm Beach) at southern end of Tallebudgera Regional Park  
Proposal: formalisation of the informal kayak/ canoe launch point | 75. Foxwell Road Reserve (Coomera)  
Proposal: day use area | | |
| | | | |
Figure 4. Other nature based recreation locations for strategic long term consideration

Legend:
- City Managed National Areas
- BGQ Water and State Managed Land (including National Parks)
- Other City Managed Parks

Key (See Table 2):
1. Intersection of Mooloolaba and the Prestige Tour (Prestige)
   Proposed: car park/entry/exit point
2. Forest Environmental Reserve (Closed)
   Proposed: walking track
3. Elora Conservation Area (Elora) (Linking with Edith Cowan Reserve)
   Proposed: cross country mountain bike track/walking track
4. Intersection of Pacific Highway and Nambucca Creek
   Proposed: construction of the northern cap; firebreak point
5. Forests Road Reserve (Closed)
   Proposed: Devil car park
6. Wingoona Forest Park (Vigilante)
   Proposed: Devil car park
7. Nanga Mill Nature Reserve
   Proposed: construction from Mill Nature Reserve to Nanga National Park via Nanga Mountain bush track, Mill Nanga Road and Nanga State Forest Access Track
8. Okondo Reserve (Wongawallan)
   Proposed: fauna trail improvements
9. Tallebudgera Creek (Tallebudgera)
   Proposed: high level Tallebudgera Creek to connect trails in Slade Park with trails in Enoggera Wetlands
13. Sustainable management: putting the plan into action

The development of this plan is a Strategic Action of the City's Nature Conservation Strategy 2009 – 2019. This plan provides a framework for the management of nature based recreation in the City’s natural areas, aiming to balance the growing demand for nature based recreation with the preservation of the environment upon which it depends.

Preserving natural values is of primary importance, as it is these values that attract people to the City's conservation reserves to participate in nature based recreation. Over 2,500 native plants and animals call the City home, and 150 of these are listed as endangered, vulnerable or near threatened. These significant environmental values need to be preserved so that the City's growing population of residents and visitors will be able to access outstanding locations for nature based recreation for generations to come.

The City’s management of nature based recreation will be adaptive. A monitoring program will be established specifically to measure the impacts of nature based recreation activities on the natural areas estate. The results of this program will be used to continually adapt and improve the management of nature based recreation to ensure the environment is protected.

The implementation of the Nature Based Recreation Plan will require the development of capital and operational expenditure programs including budget estimates to maintain existing nature based recreation opportunities and to provide sustainable new facilities. This implementation will primarily be led by the City’s Parks and Recreational Services Branch. In order for the plan to be successful however, various sections of the City will need to work together including the Natural Areas Management Unit, Catchment Management Unit, Pest Management Unit, Animal Management Unit, City Planning Branch (Environmental Planning team), City Development Branch, Economic Development & Major Projects Directorate, Engineering Services Directorate and other sections as appropriate.

To ensure a triple bottom line approach, this plan will be implemented in accordance with the Corporate Plan, the City’s Nature Conservation Strategy 2009 - 2019, the City’s various Catchment Management Plans and Conservation Reserve Management Plans and the very latest industry information as it becomes available.

This plan has a ten year lifespan, and it is intended that it will be reviewed at the five year mark.
## 14. Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Baseline 2015</th>
<th>2020 checkpoint</th>
<th>2025 checkpoint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 1: Diverse nature based recreation opportunities are available and accessible.</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of nature based recreation tracks with way finding and directional signage.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of nature based recreation tracks with way finding and directional signage).</td>
<td>The City’s key existing and some future nature based recreation locations (see Tables 2 and 3) have way finding and directional signage.</td>
<td>Further increase in the number of key nature based recreation locations that have directional signage and online maps, including further locations listed in Table 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of new unauthorised tracks reported in the conservation reserves.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of new unauthorised tracks reported in a 12 month period).</td>
<td>10% decrease on the baseline figure.</td>
<td>Decrease of 10% on the 2020 checkpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 2: The community connects with nature through participation in sustainable nature based recreation.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of park bookings for nature based recreation activities and events, e.g. birdwatching, orienteering, bushwalking.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of park bookings for nature based events within a 12 month period).</td>
<td>Increase on baseline.</td>
<td>Increase from 2020 checkpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of day use areas\ nature based recreation locations requiring special litter clean ups.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of special clean ups required in a 12 month period).</td>
<td>Decrease on baseline.</td>
<td>Decrease on 2020 checkpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 3: The environment is protected through well managed nature based recreation.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of recreation tracks requiring erosion maintenance.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of recreation tracks requiring erosion maintenance in a 12 month period).</td>
<td>Decrease on baseline.</td>
<td>Decrease on 2020 checkpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No change or net improvement of vegetation condition at photo points adjacent to recreation tracks, access points and day use areas.</td>
<td>Establish baseline vegetation condition at selected photo points adjacent to recreation tracks, access points and day use areas.</td>
<td>Improvement on baseline condition.</td>
<td>Improvement on 2020 checkpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 4. There is community awareness of the cultural heritage significance of the City’s natural areas.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of park bookings for cultural heritage events.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of park bookings for cultural heritage events).</td>
<td>Increase on baseline</td>
<td>Increase on 2020 checkpoint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people participating in cultural heritage activities offered under the Naturally GC program.</td>
<td>Establish baseline (number of park bookings for cultural heritage events).</td>
<td>10% increase in the number of cultural heritage activities offered in the Naturally GC program.</td>
<td>A further 10% increase in the number of cultural heritage activities offered in the Naturally GC program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definitions

**Bushwalking**: Includes walking on and off track in natural settings. The term ‘bushwalking’ is appropriately applied to long (multi-day) as well as short (an hour or two) walks.

**Canoeing**: Canoeing involves single-blade paddling of water craft (typically open craft) in flat or open water environments. In contrast, kayaking involves double-blade paddling of water craft (typically closed craft) in flat, open or white water environments.

**Commercial use**: An activity in the City’s natural areas for which fees are charged to a third party by an entity other than the City. A fee can be a required payment, the purchase of goods or services, or a required donation for a service.

**Cultural heritage significance**, of a place or feature of a place, means it aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social or other significance, to the present generation or past or future generations (*The Queensland Heritage Act 1992*).

**Cycling**: Includes riding of bicycles for touring and/or riding of mountain bikes for touring and cross country riding.

**Ecotourism**: Ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation.

**Fishing**: Only includes line fishing.

**Geocaching**: A handheld GPS receiver unit is used to find a hidden container (or "cache"). Once found, participants log their visit in an included logbook. There are many variations on the theme of geocaching.

**Kayaking**: See canoeing.

**Mountain bike riding**: Generally involves riding on unsealed surfaces such as gravel roads, fire trails, single track, or open or rocky ground, and can involve manoeuvring through or around obstacles such as fallen or narrowly spaced trees, creeks, mud, rocks, built structures and other technical trail features. There are many different types of mountain bike riding including cross country, downhill riding, freeriding, all mountain, and 4 X, dual slalom. All vary in speed, the type of terrain, type of equipment needed and rider demographic. Whilst freeriding and other extreme genres may not always be consistent with the definition of nature based recreation, they can bring people into semi-natural settings where they can still connect with nature and engage in physical activity.

**Natural areas**: Land managed by the City’s natural areas management unit, and mapped by the City as the ‘conservation estate’. This is approximately 13 000 hectares of land managed for biodiversity conservation as well as sustainable recreation.

**Nature based recreation**: Sustainable outdoor activities for which the natural environment is critical to participants, and which foster an appreciation of natural resources and do not require substantial modification of the natural environment.

**Nature study**: Studying elements of nature in a natural setting.

**Orienteering**: A sport in which competitors use a compass and map navigate across unfamiliar terrain to locate a series of checkpoints.

**Picnicking**: The act of eating a meal outdoors, generally in a pleasant natural or semi natural setting.

**RAMSAR**: The RAMSAR convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The treaty was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and the Convention's member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet.

**Sustainable**: Able to be carried out without damaging consequences in the long term.
**World Heritage listed**: To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten (natural and cultural) selection criteria.
References


Balmford James Beresford, Robin Naidoo, Jonathan Green Matt Walpole Andrea Manica, *A Global Perspective on Trends in Nature-Based Tourism*

Accessed on 20 June 2014


City of Gold Coast 2015. *City of Gold Coast Draft Nature Based Recreation Plan Community Consultation Report*. City of Gold Coast, Queensland

EDAW, 2000. *Cross Border Recreation Tracks and Trails Study: A report commissioned by the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) Coordinating Committee*. QPWS Australia

Gold Coast City Council, 2003. (Economic Development and Major Projects Directorate) *Nature Based Tourism Information Factsheet for External Stakeholders*


Accessed on 20 June 2014


Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF), 2013 *Mountain Bike Survey Interim Report of Findings 2013*


Appendix A. Summary of nature based recreation activities and corresponding strategic initiatives

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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.1.A</strong> Prioritise and implement the key nature based recreation actions from adopted Conservation Reserve Management Plans.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.1.B</strong> Audit existing and potential recreational trails and kayak routes for signage requirements, infrastructure repairs, current usage level, mapping requirements, and waterway access requirements.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.1.C</strong> Consolidate nature based recreation opportunities by repairing, signing and mapping existing tracks and recreational locations prior to expanding into new areas.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.1.D</strong> Develop and implement a recreational track classification system for the city, keeping this consistent with existing classification systems if appropriate.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.2.A</strong> Liaise and develop formal agreements with clubs, recreation groups, environmental groups, residents and tourists to ensure this plan is providing desired opportunities for our community.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.2.B</strong> Utilise track counters and other data capture methods to determine the level of use of a variety of nature based recreation locations across the city, especially where usage levels are unknown.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.2.C</strong> Review the needs of the Gold Coast community to</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Strategic Initiatives (See Appendix B for Activity Specific Initiatives)

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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.2.D</strong></td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>When newly emerging nature based recreation activities are identified, ensure user groups are recognised early to allow their needs to be assessed and managed in a timely and environmentally sensitive manner.</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.3.A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Update nature based recreation opportunities on the Gold Coast Access website (goldcoast.qld.gov.au/community/gold-coast-access-2978.html).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.3.B</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deliver nature based recreation opportunities that comply with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) and equal access specifications wherever possible.</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.4.A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a commercial use/ ecotourism permitting system for the natural areas estate.</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 1.4.B</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where external providers such as ecotourism operators and cultural heritage tourism operators can increase the range of sustainable nature based recreation activities available, work collaboratively to deliver on such opportunities, e.g. guided cycling tours, ecotours, bush food tours, trail running, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use digital technology (e.g. online track maps, phone apps, and QR (Quick Reference) codes) to show the locations of nature based recreation opportunities; including State managed lands where possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a promotion and communication plan that considers signage, maps, digital media, etc as ways to promote the best existing</td>
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### Strategic Initiatives (See Appendix B for Activity Specific Initiatives)

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<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 2.2.A</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote nature conservation and sustainable visitation through improved interpretative signage, park events, online information and other forms of community engagement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use digital media such as photographs, maps and video footage to showcase the values of the Gold Coast natural areas estate and to encourage people to connect with these places as nature based recreation destinations.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 2.2.C</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continue to expand the Naturally GC program, incorporating activities not only for environmental education, but also for nature based recreation as a way to stay active and healthy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilise the City’s Natural Areas Reserve Classification System (Strategic Outcome 22.1 of the City’s Nature Conservation Strategy) during the planning process to broadly identify high value conservation areas that are only appropriate for no or low impact recreation activities, and lower value areas that potentially could support other types of recreation.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Initiative 3.1.B</strong></td>
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<td>Locate any high impact activities in lower conservation value areas that are able to sustain such activities without an unacceptable loss of environmental values.</td>
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## Strategic Initiatives (See Appendix B for Activity Specific Initiatives)

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<tr>
<th>Strategic Initiative 3.1.C</th>
<th>With assistance from the City’s environmental planning officers, undertake site specific environmental assessments to minimise environmental impacts of nature based recreation activities across the reserves.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative 3.1.D</td>
<td>Monitor the impacts of nature based recreation to continually adapt and improve management practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative 3.2.A</td>
<td>Plan for nature based recreation on a regional scale by working with regional nature based recreation partners including other local governments, the State Government and non-government organisations, e.g. Queensland Outdoor Recreation Foundation (QORF).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative 3.2.B</td>
<td>Where possible, link tracks with other existing tracks, including those on adjoining state and local government lands.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative 4.1.A</td>
<td>Where reserves have cultural heritage significance, celebrate this heritage by incorporating appropriate cultural heritage information into place names, educational materials and interpretive information, having sought advice from the City’s Indigenous Cultural Heritage Liaison Officer and Heritage Planning Team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative 4.1.B</td>
<td>Increase the amount of cultural heritage information and activities in educational and promotional materials, e.g. the Naturally GC program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Initiative 4.1.C</td>
<td>Protect cultural heritage from the impacts of nature based recreation by conducting cultural heritage assessments with advice from the City’s Indigenous Cultural Heritage Liaison Officer and Heritage Planning Team.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Bushwalking</th>
<th>Mountain biking</th>
<th>Horse riding</th>
<th>Day use including picnicning</th>
<th>Nature study including bird watching</th>
<th>Canoeing, kayaking and fishing</th>
<th>Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing</th>
<th>Ecotourism and commercial use</th>
<th>Camping</th>
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</table>
Strategic Initiatives (See Appendix B for Activity Specific Initiatives)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Horse riding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Day use including picnicking</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nature study including bird watching</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Canoeing, kayaking and fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ecotourism and commercial use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Camping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Initiative 4.1.D** To ensure Indigenous people’s rights and aspirations are appropriately considered and sensitively represented, consult the Indigenous community via the local Cultural Heritage Body (Jabree Ltd) regarding the use and delivery of any Indigenous cultural materials or programs.
### Appendix B. Summary of Activity Specific Initiatives for key nature based recreation activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key nature based recreation activity</th>
<th>Activity Specific Initiatives (see Appendix 1 for Strategic Initiatives)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bushwalking</td>
<td><strong>Activity Specific Initiative 8.1.1</strong> Prioritise walking tracks that provide for a short return walk (e.g. 20-30 minutes) to a specific destination.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. Mountain biking                   | **Activity Specific Initiative 8.2.1** Continue to progress feasibility, planning and design work for all-mountain or cross country tracks with downhill single track to be incorporated subject to funding availability.  
**Activity Specific Initiative 8.2.2** Investigate the feasibility of building a dedicated bike park in the City, designed to cater for a range of riding styles and abilities.  
**Activity Specific Initiative 8.2.3** Prioritise tracks and facilities for types of mountain biking for which there is high demand and low environmental impacts. |
| 3. Horse riding                      | Nil                                                                    |
| 4. Day use including picnicking      | **Activity Specific Initiative 8.4.1** Develop a network of day use areas that will provide alternative destinations to our heavily used foreshore parks as the city continues to grow. |
| 5. Nature study including bird watching | Nil                                                                  |
| 6. Canoeing, kayaking and fishing    | **Activity Specific Initiative 8.6.1** Provide sustainable access (including kayak/ canoe friendly launch points) to creeks and water bodies where there is sufficient demand for water based recreation.  
**Activity Specific Initiative 8.6.2** Provide fishing platforms at a number of natural areas and support the increasing popularity of yak (or kayak) fishing. |
| 7. Orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing | **Activity Specific Initiative 8.7.1** Develop guidelines to coordinate, support and manage group and club activities and events to ensure successful, sustainable outcomes  
**Activity Specific Initiative 8.7.2** Where the level of use is sufficient, develop agreements with the various peak organisations for nature based recreational activities. |
| 8. Ecotourism and commercial use     | **Activity Specific Initiative 8.8.1** Continue to progress and monitor trials of existing commercial operators in natural areas. |
### Key nature based recreation activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Specific Initiatives (see Appendix 1 for Strategic Initiatives)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity Specific Initiative 8.8.2</strong> Support appropriate, sustainable ecotourism and commercial nature based recreational and cultural heritage events in the Gold Coast natural areas estate with a focus on low impact activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity Specific Initiative 8.8.3</strong> Investigate the demand for additional sustainable commercial activities in natural areas, e.g. abseiling, adventure sports, mountain bike tours, etc.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9. Camping</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity Specific Initiative 8.9.1</strong> Continue to allow for ‘one off’ low impact camping opportunities for nature based recreation clubs and other organisations as negotiated on a case by case basis with the City.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>