About Jack Morgan Park

Jack Morgan Park is a 2.6-hectare district-level recreation park bordered by Elizabeth Street, Perry Street, Park Street, the Coolum Bowls Club and private residences in Coolum. The park contains the council-owned and managed Coolum Civic Centre and Coolum Library, a council-owned and privately managed Child Care Centre, and a council-owned and partly state-funded Community Centre.

Jack Morgan Park and the Coolum Village Masterplan

Based on the outcomes of extensive community consultation in 2009 as part of the Coolum Village Centre Masterplan, some key aspirations for the Jack Morgan Park precinct were identified. At the time the community classified Jack Morgan Park as the ‘Civic Heart of the Town’.

The resulting Coolum Village Centre Masterplan (2010) outlined a set of guiding principles to provide a future design and construction direction for development in Coolum Village, consistent with the community’s overall vision.

The Masterplan resulted in a number of staged improvements for Coolum Village including:

**Stage One Completed September 2010**
Construction of new Coolum Surf Club art area south of Surf Club.

**Stage Two Completed August 2011**
Construction of new public amenities building in Tickle Park together with improved pedestrian links and gardens.

**Stage Three Completed December 2011**
Construction of new roundabout at intersection of Birtwill Street and David Low Way and major streetscaping improvements.

**Stage Four Completed December 2012**
Parking and landscape works to the new Park Street extension. David Low Way and Tickle Park works, including Tickle Park car park and road frontage. David Low streetscape improvements including new roundabout at intersection of Elizabeth Street and David Low Way.

**Stage Five WE ARE HERE**
The Jack Morgan Park Upgrade has been formalised as part of Stage Five works.
About the project

Council is planning an upgrade to Jack Morgan Park over the next four years (2015-2019). The upgrade will take place in stages, as funding permits.

The key project outcomes include:

- **Reactivating and revitalising** this underutilised community asset;
- **Increasing the amount of park open space and green space** in order to provide improved opportunities for passive recreation, community events, community projects and activities (for example: public performances, street theatre and community gardens) in accordance with the community’s wishes;
- **Providing additional facilities to service the park** including a public amenities building; pedestrian pathway and car park lighting; a community garden; park furniture including a picnic shelter, bins, public seating, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, bike racks and way-finding directional signage;
- **Additional tree and shrub planting and landscaping** elements including the creation of ‘outdoor spaces’ that bring internal uses outside - such as reading rooms, a poet’s corner and public congregation areas;
- **Improving pedestrian access and connectivity** throughout the park via a series of pathways (boardwalk and footpath elements) which will preserve the open space, provide connections to the buildings within the park and provide access to locations surrounding the park;
- **Reconfiguring the existing access road and car parking areas** to improve functionality and safety for pedestrians and vehicles whilst retaining the same number of car parking bays (including disability compliant bays) throughout the precinct;
- **Improving the Coolum Civic Centre building** – renovating the entry as well as the internal foyer, toilets, kitchen and meeting room areas and providing a community ‘drop off zone’;
- **Allowing provision for the potential future expansion of the Coolum Library** as a recommendation of the Sunshine Coast Council Libraries Plan (2014-2024);
- In conjunction with the State Government and Community Centre Management, **relocating the Coolum Community Centre building** from its current, temporary location to a permanent location - once a suitable, local alternative site has been found;
- **Providing an alternative, open passive recreational area** to provide some relief for Tickle Park;
- **Ensuring the Coolum Civic Centre, Coolum Library and Coolum Community Centre remain open and fully operational during works**;
- **Ensuring any existing access for residents adjoining the park is retained**;
- **Creating a safe and functional public open space** that is of high quality, comfortable, safe, and accessible and visually appealing for the benefit of residents and visitors.
Community consultation

Following on from the Coolum Village Centre Masterplan consultation (in 2009), further community consultation regarding the staged Coolum improvements included:

- **September 2010 – December 2012**
  
  **Stages One, Two, Three and Four**
  
  Various consultation regarding the Coolum Surf Club art area, Tickle Park improvements, new roundabouts at Birtwill Street and Elizabeth Street, Coolum Holiday Park entry statement and David Low Way streetscape improvements.

- **August 2014 – December 2014**
  
  **Stage Five – Jack Morgan Park Upgrade**
  
  **August 2014** - A project newsletter distributed to residents adjoining the park with an invitation to attend a public information session to view the draft Landscape Concept Plan and speak with council.

  **August-September 2014** – Meetings regarding the draft Landscape Concept Plan conducted with key community groups including the Coolum Community Centre, Coolum Bowls Club, Coolum Childcare Centre, Coolum Theatre Players, Coolum Senior Citizens, Project Coolum community group (members of Project Coolum include Stumers Creek Catchment/Coolum Coast Care, Coolum Residents Association, Coolum Beach Lions Club, Coolum High School, Coolum Library, Young People Reference Group, Coolum Cliffs Boardwalk Community Association, Coolum Sports Precinct, Sunshine Coast Council and Coolum Business and Tourism).

  **September 2014** – An open public information session was held at the Coolum Civic Centre on 1 September for interested parties to view the draft Landscape Concept Plan and speak with council.

  **September 2014** – a project newsletter inviting interested parties to provide further comment on the draft Landscape Concept Plan.

  **December 2014** – A Community Update project newsletter detailing information regarding the final draft Landscape Concept Plan. Newsletter and plan to be available for viewing in the Coolum Library, Coolum Civic Centre and Community Centre.

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Artist's impression of new garden arbour with vines
Tree removal and replanting

As well as the proposed Community Garden, the current final draft Landscape Concept Plan provides for approximately 50 additional shade trees to be planted within the precinct. In order to reconfigure the existing access road and car parking areas and retain the same number of car parking bays throughout the precinct, two trees are proposed for removal as part of Stage One Jack Morgan Park works. A further two trees are proposed for removal as part of future staged works (2016-2019).

Please refer to the final draft Landscape Concept Plan on the back page of this newsletter for the location of these trees.

The Community Centre

The Coolum Village Centre Masterplan (2010) identified the community’s aspirations to relocate the Centre and its services from its temporary location in Jack Morgan Park to a permanent home. The Community Centre building was originally an old movie theatre and was relocated in 1997 from the corner of Elizabeth Street and David Low Way (now the McDonalds building) to the park.

Council supports the future relocation of the building in order to help to improve the access, open space, recreational use, visual amenity and passive surveillance opportunities in Jack Morgan Park.

It is council’s intention to retain the centre’s building and its services as part of Jack Morgan Park until a suitable, alternative, permanent, local site can be found.

The relocation will take place in conjunction with Community Centre Management and the State Government with the community notified well in advance.
Project stages and timing

The Jack Morgan Upgrade Project including the Coolum Civic Centre improvements will be delivered in stages and over a number of years, subject to available funding.

The Coolum Civic Centre, Coolum Library and Coolum Community Centre will remain open and fully operational during all works with traffic control in place where required.

The current timetable includes:

**Stage One 2015**

Refer blue shaded area on final draft Landscape Concept Plan below and expanded landscaped Concept Plan on last page.

- **Coolum Civic Centre building**
  - February 2015 – May 2015
    - External improvements – new entry statement and signage.
    - Internal improvements - internal foyer, toilets, kitchen and meeting room areas.

- **Jack Morgan Park**
  - December 2015 – January 2015
    - Detailed design for final Landscape Concept Plan completed (design and construction budget approximately $1million).
  - April 2015 – August 2015
    - Reconfiguring the existing access road and car parking area including community ‘drop off’ zone.
    - New footpaths linking Coolum Library to the Coolum Civic Centre and park.
    - New tree planting and new seating areas installed.
    - Civil works including stormwater improvements and kerbing.
    - Installation of new bike racks.
    - New car park lighting and way finding signage.

**Stage Two, Three and Four 2016-2019**

Extent of works to be confirmed and subject to available funding.
Keeping you informed

It is Council’s intention to share with local residents, businesses and stakeholders the progress of Jack Morgan Park Upgrade construction works via regular Project Update newsletters and emails (e-blasts).

We encourage you to discuss this project with your fellow business owners, colleagues or community group. Feel free to send us the full contact details (including email addresses) of anyone who wishes to be added to the project database.

To assist local Coolum residents and businesses with any enquiries or concerns that you may have about the project, Council has appointed an Independent Community Liaison Consultant, Trena-Louise Lyons. Trena can be contacted via coolum@newsroompr.com.au or if you prefer, by mobile telephone on 0423 764 260 at any time.

Council will continue to manage the information exchange with the broader community via its regular communication channels including the council website and local media.

For more information

To learn more about the Jack Morgan Park Upgrade Project:

Visit Council’s website at www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au and search for ‘Jack Morgan Park’

If you are a Coolum resident, business or project stakeholder with questions about the project or wish to be added to the project database, please contact:

Trena-Louise Lyons
coolum@newsroompr.com.au or phone: 0423 764 260

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A note from your local councillor

I thank the community for your input to date in helping council to arrive at the final draft Landscape Concept Plan for Jack Morgan Park.

I see great potential to reactivate this underutilised community asset as the ‘Civic Heart’ of Coolum. As well as relaxing in the park, I look forward to participating in community events, activities and projects, such as the Community Garden, in accordance with the outcomes of the Coolum Village Masterplan.

Following on from the recent streetscape improvements, Coolum has never looked better. We look forward to delivering the Jack Morgan Park Upgrade project to further enhance this valuable community asset.

Cr Stephen Robinson - Division 9

DISCLAIMER:

NB: all information contained in this communication is accurate at the time of distribution however works and dates are subject to change due to circumstances outside of Council’s and contractor’s control.
Note: Possible library expansion and proposed western pathway subject to Library Facility Development Plan 14/15FY

Note: Relocation of community centre building and services once a suitable location is found in consultation with the building’s management.