

Sport, Parks, Active Recreation and Community (SPARC) Strategy CONSULTATION SUMMARY



Igniting the SPARC

Over the last few months Rockhampton Regional Council and investigating the facilities that are currently available to the community. These activities have included:

- ◆ A community survey
- ◆ Sport and recreation groups survey
- ◆ Survey of schools
- ◆ Focus groups for sporting organisations
- ◆ Community meetings in Rockhampton, Gracemere and Mount Morgan
- ◆ Discussions with stakeholder groups and government agencies
- ◆ Analysis of parks, sport and recreation facilities.



This summary highlights findings from consultation and the surveys. It is a way of reporting back to the community and confirming the findings.

PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS SUMMARY.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT, CHANGE OR INCLUDE ADDITIONAL NEEDS,
PLEASE SEND YOUR RESPONSE TO:**

rockysparc@otiumplanning.com.au

What did the Community say?

Along with the community workshops and focus groups we received 105 survey responses (53% female and 47% male). 68% of respondents were between the ages of 30-50, and those living in Frenchville and Norman Gardens made up 33%.

Most important sport and recreation facilities (top 10)

1. Walking Paths (91)
2. Cycling Paths (85)
3. Local Parks (95)
4. Large Parks/ Destination Parks (93)
5. Swimming pools
6. Sports Fields
7. Health and Fitness Facilities
8. Facilities for Indoor Sports
9. Playing areas for Court Sports
10. Facilities for Indoor Recreation (e.g. Community Halls)

Satisfaction with Facilities



Scores of 3 or more indicate satisfied or very satisfied.

Getting to the park: 64% of users drove to their last park visit and 32% rode a bike or walked.

What new facilities are important?

1. Tracks and facilities in Natural areas
2. Improve facilities in existing parks
3. More entertainment events and festivals
4. More walking paths
5. Better amenities at sports grounds
6. More cycling paths
7. Activities for older people
8. Better Playgrounds in parks
9. More night use of sporting fields
10. More parks with playground equipment

Active recreation participation:

The top ten activities for residents were:

1. Walking
2. Swimming in a pool
3. Cycling on roads and pathways
4. Aerobics and fitness activities
5. Running and jogging
6. Cycling on tracks and trails
7. Golf
8. Fishing
9. Cycling sports
10. Outdoor netball

Main reason for visiting Rockhampton Parks:

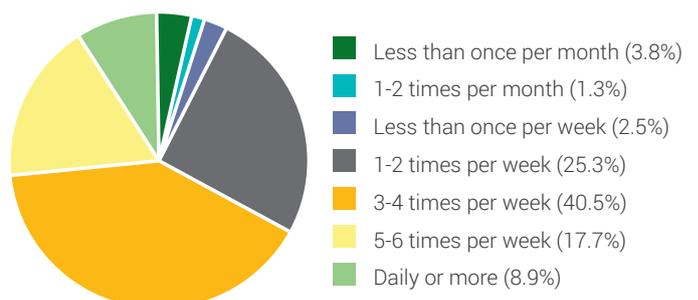
Exercise	36.36%
Family Time	24.68%
Recreation	16.88%
Leisure	16.88%

Spending time outdoors:

More than 68% spend an hour or more in their local park

Less than 30 minutes	12.99%
30mins -1 hr	7.79%
1 Hour	28.57%
2+ hours	40.26%

Sport and recreation participation frequency



More than 67% of people were active 3 or more times a week.

What did Sport and Recreation Clubs say?

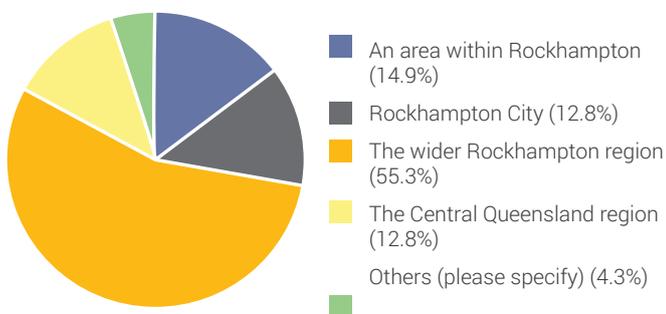
A total of 44 clubs responded to the survey. Just over 50% of clubs had experienced growth over the last five years. In general, team based sports saw more increases than individual based sports but the key reasons for growth were:

- ◆ Increased marketing and promotion/ better customer service
- ◆ Diversity of programs and membership types
- ◆ Accommodating female participation and increased social programs for women

Servicing the region

More than 55% of clubs serviced the overall Rockhampton region.

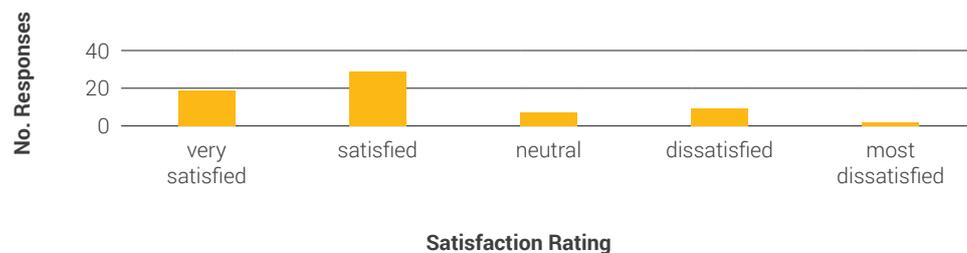
Does your Club service catchment?



Major challenges for sport

- ◆ Rising costs of maintaining, operating and upgrading facilities
- ◆ Aging facilities and insufficient capacity for growth
- ◆ Increasing costs of competition and sports participation
- ◆ Changing participation patterns
- ◆ Attracting and retaining members and volunteers
- ◆ Lack of facilities or access to playing areas

Club satisfaction with facilities



Key Themes Emerging From Consultation

The community, sport and recreation organisations and other community stakeholders have identified the following areas to be considered in preparing the SPARC Strategy

Active Infrastructure

There was strong desire for additional bikeways, pathways and linkages to increase the length of available routes. Responses suggested further trails through parks and natural areas (including for horse riding, walking and cycling). There was also interest in enhancing parks and public spaces with outdoor gyms and spaces for fitness. Other suggestions included working with sporting groups to improve opportunities for non-competitive participation in activities.

Improving our Sporting Infrastructure

Responses indicated an increasing preference for night-time activities and social sports participation. Suggestions included investing in more lighting of fields and courts along with upgrading facilities to meet new standards. Improving amenity for players and spectators and enabling more participation by women and girls was also highlighted.

Building on Success

Key precincts should be master planned to develop long term investment plans and address issues such as parking, flooding, enabling multiple use and enhancing event capacity. Dominant suggestions were:

- ♦ Victoria Park/ Wandal/ Showgrounds
- ♦ The Common
- ♦ Ski Gardens- Rowing Events Area

Planning for Growth

Many people highlighted the desire for new parks, recreation and sporting facilities in growth areas. This included planning for new parks and a large sports precinct in Parkhurst, as well as the future planning of Olive Street. In Gracemere, key suggestions included the integration of sports planning with the proposed high school site. There was also strong demand for bikeways to connect growth areas to services and community facilities.

Rockhampton's Regional Role

Responses indicated that the community recognise Rockhampton as a regional centre with a range of opportunities to host events and regional competitions. There were a range of requests for a planned and considered strategy that builds on the competitive edge the area has for some sports or event types. The community was also interested in establishing partnerships with key sports to grow capacity and benefit both sporting participants and the local economy.

Communication and Collaboration

Many of the clubs and community members who participated in the consultation, identified that communication could be improved (not just between the Council and stakeholders, but between the groups themselves). It was suggested that improving communication could provide opportunities for further collaboration as well as sharing of resources, expertise and information.



Please send your comments to: rockysparc@otiumplanning.com.au
BEFORE MARCH 1 2017