

Perfect parks and picnic spots



Enjoying the sunshine in the Mary River Parklands

Image: Jan Rolston

The weather on the Fraser Coast is just made for long, lazy days in the great outdoors. So grab the family and friends, fill the picnic basket with goodies and start working your way around the region's fantastic collection of parks, gardens, playgrounds and nature reserves.

Here are a few local favourites to get you started.



Maryborough

Queens Park

One of Australia's earliest botanic gardens, heritage-listed Queens Park covering 5.2 hectares in the heart of Maryborough, with river views, ornamental flower beds, towering trees and unique heritage features. The park has a playground, wedding chapel, electric BBQ, picnic tables and toilets.

Mary River Parklands

This stunning riverside park is built on the site of the original Port of Maryborough and forms part of the Portside Precinct. The 500 square-metres of landscaped parkland offer natural terracing, community forecourt, outstanding public art works, winding pathways, gardens, magnificent royal palms and advanced shade trees.

Anzac Park / Uluah Lagoon, Alice Street

Once the site of Maryborough's first water supply, the area is now a beautiful park bordered by a walk and cycle path. The park is Maryborough's major playground, with a space net, flying fox, skate bowl and a Liberty Swing for people in wheelchairs. It has picnic tables, BBQ facilities, exercise stations and disabled toilet blocks.

Elizabeth Park Rose Gardens, Kent Street

Take time out to smell the roses at these beautiful ornamental gardens, established on the site of Maryborough's original cemetery. It is a wonderful place for relaxation and reflection. There are picnic tables, a gazebo and toilets.

Teddington Weir, Teddington Road

Just over 10km from the city, Teddington Weir is a lovely secluded spot for a picnic, with a vine forest trail taking you through remnant vine forest scrub. Facilities include a small swimming pool, picnic tables, BBQ, playground and toilets.

Prickett Aquatic Centre, South Street and Ferry Street

The main access point to the Mary River for water activities, a pond within the centre is also used for canoeing. It has picnic tables, shelter and toilets.

Brendan Hansen Park, Odessa Street, Granville

Features a cricket pitch, picnic tables, BBQ, toilet facilities, rubbish bins, climbing fort and other play equipment.

Original Maryborough Site, Aldridge Street, Maryborough

Located on the banks of the Mary River about 4km from the centre of the city, the 30-hectare site has interpretive signage and markers identifying the original settlement, trails along the creek frontage and pioneer graves. Other facilities include picnic tables, BBQs, rubbish bins and toilets.

Pioneer Country Park, Serenity Drive, Sunrise Drive

Set on 36 acres of reserve land on the banks of the Mary River, it has several walking trails, many with river frontage. An important historical site as the region's first large scale sugarcane plantation, while the main park area was once part of an extensive Chinese market garden.

Fay Smith Wetlands, Neptune Street

One of the last remaining wetlands in the area with a series of boardwalks and walking trails.

Hervey Bay and surrounds

Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens, Urangan

Situated on 26-hectares in Elizabeth Street, the gardens display plants of the Wide Bay and Great Sandy Strait regions. It incorporates the Orchid House, with a collection of around 20,000 orchids. Facilities include seating, toilets, tables, shelters and BBQs. The Bush Chapel provides an open air cathedral surrounded by rainforest trees for weddings.

Arkarra Lagoons, Panorama Drive, Dundowran

Walk along timber boardwalks through one of the last remaining remnants of littoral vine forest, watch the ducks, fish and turtles in the lagoon and view a variety of bird life.

Dayman Park, Dayman Street, Urangan

This beachside park with great views of Fraser Island and the marina offers BBQ and picnic facilities, a playground with space net and includes memorials to Matthew Flinders, who landed at Dayman Point in 1799, and the WWII Z-Force. A hall is available for hire for private functions. Contact 4125 9700 for bookings.

Pines Park, Pialba

Named after the cypress pines within the park, the Pines is located at the end of Beach Road on the

Esplanade. Close to the CBD, the park has BBQ and toilet facilities and a playground, all with a fantastic outlook over Hervey Bay.

Pier Park, Urangan

Located next to the iconic Urangan Pier and close to restaurants and cafés, the park has been landscaped to reflect the natural environment and a backdrop for public artwork. Toilets, seating, shelters and shade are available.

Ernie Organ Park, Torquay

Known as the 'Train' Park, younger kids can have fun on the play train and other playground equipment while the adults relax in the shaded grassed areas. You can walk along the boardwalk or swim in the ocean. Facilities include BBQs, tables and seating.

ESA Park and Turtle Rookery, Point Vernon

Located between Aplin and Flinders Streets on the Esplanade, it has easy access to the beach and tidal rock pools. ESA Park features turtle friendly lighting to protect the small but established turtle rookery adjacent to the park. Toilet, playground, BBQ facilities and off street parking available.

Scarness Foreshore Park, Scarness

Located on the Esplanade and close to cafés and restaurants the park has a raised, covered stage area making it popular for community events such as Sunday Music in the Park. Playground, picnic tables, seating, shade and BBQ facilities.

Apex Park, Pialba

Fencing gives protection from the busy Esplanade road at Apex Park, home to a pirate ship and climbing whale. It includes other playground equipment, toilets and picnic tables.

Hervey Bay Skate Park, Pialba

The Hervey Bay Skate Park in Torquay Road has been designed to cater for beginners to advanced enthusiasts. A hotspot for the youth, facilities include ramps, shade, seating and toilets.

Burrum Heads, Lions Park, Burrum Street

Home of the Burrum Heads Easter Fishing Classic, this shaded park has toilets, fish cleaning tables, BBQ and picnic facilities and access to the mouth of the Burrum River.

Howard Skate Park, Steley Street, Howard

Offers a skate ramp for the thrill seeker and smaller playground areas for kids who want to "chill". The park

has toilets, BBQ facilities and is adjacent to the Howard oval and Burrum and District Community Centre.

Torbanlea, Robertson Street

Located next to the Torbanlea Community Hall, the park has a playground, half basketball court, toilets and shelter with table and seats.

Aldershot, Murray Street

Playground, shelter, table and seating.

Tiaro, Woocoo and surrounds

Wook-koo Park, Woocoo Drive

The highlight at this park is the Wook-koo Story Walk, which features lifelike sculptures of animals and first settlers, all created by local artists, along a 135m coloured path which represents the Mary River. Also includes two tennis courts, playground, electric BBQs and covered picnic areas. Located 9km west of Maryborough on the Maryborough-Biggenden Road.

Owanyilla Riverside Park, Off Bruce Highway

The perfect place to enjoy the Mary River, the park is just off the Bruce Highway near the Glenorchy straight and has BBQ and picnic facilities on the river bank and a jetty for swimming and canoeing.

Little Tinana Recreation Reserve, Langers Road

A lovely cricket oval, complete with a white picket fence, basketball courts, playground and BBQ and toilet facilities make this an ideal place for social gatherings.

Petrie Park, Van Doorn Road, Tiaro

A blissful, shady oasis, Petrie Park is the only access point to the Mary River in the Tiaro area. Facilities include toilets, a boat ramp and wood BBQ. The park is also home to the Tiaro Lions Raft Race.

Tiaro Memorial Park, Mayne Street, Tiaro

Tiaro Memorial Park is located on the Bruce Highway in the centre of the town. Facilities include toilets, showers, shelters, bins, electric BBQs and a playground. Overnight camping permitted nearby.

Tiaro Recreation Grounds, Inman Street, Tiaro

Recreation building, exercise equipment and toilets. Bookings made via Council.

Bauple Recreation Grounds, Forestry Road, Bauple

Facilities at the grounds include a covered stage, recreation building, playground, cricket nets and pitch, exercise stations and sports oval. The Recreation Ground can be used by prior arrangement by phoning 4129 2559.

Gundiah Community Place, Netherby Road, Gundiah

This meeting place for the local community has a club house and recreation grounds including exercise stations and cricket pitch, with plans for a croquet court. To use the facilities phone 4129 2504.

Glenwood Park, Pepper Road, Glenwood

A variety of wildlife visits Glenwood Park, which is bordered by Gootchie Creek. The grounds are often used for social games and annual fun days including the annual Glenwood Swap Meet on the 3rd Saturday of August. Facilities include a BBQ area, shelter, playground, sports oval and a community hall.

Munna Hall, Bauple/Woolooga Road, Paterson

A lovely quiet area that permits two nights of free camping.

Rosendale Park, Bauple Drive, Bauple

This quiet spot with covered picnic tables can be found ½ km from the southern entrance to Bauple from the Highway.

Brian Talman Park, Darwin Road, Bauple

A peaceful spot, with electric BBQs and covered picnic area.

Tinnanbar Park, Cnr Boat Ramp Drive and Orchid Avenue

Located on the foreshore of Tinnanbar, the park has BBQs, toilets, picnic tables, exercise stations, swings and a boat ramp.

The Fraser Coast has hundreds of parks, playgrounds and sporting grounds to enjoy. For a comprehensive list contact a Visitor Information Centre or go to www.ourfrasercoast.com.au



Tour and accommodation bookings
Local advice, information and maps
Souvenirs, gifts and books
Warm welcome

Hervey Bay Airport

Don Adams Drive
ph (07) 4197 4730
OPEN Mon–Fri 8am–4pm
Sat & Sun 8am–3pm

Maryborough

City Hall, Kent Street
ph 1800 214 789
OPEN Mon–Fri 9am–5pm
Sat & Sun 9am–3pm

Hervey Bay

227 Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road
ph 1800 811 728
OPEN daily 9am–5pm

Tiaro

Mayne Street
ph (07) 4129 2599
OPEN daily 9am–4.30pm