



Shire of Corrigin

Youth Action Plan 2023-2026

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Executive Summary

The Shire of Corrigin, like numerous other regional Local Government areas, is witnessing a significant trend of young individuals relocating to metropolitan areas in pursuit of educational and employment opportunities. While it is crucial for young people to seize opportunities to enrich their knowledge, skills, and experience, there remains a considerable number of youth who choose to stay or return to reside in the Shire.

The presence of young people is vital for the ongoing sustainability of the Corrigin community. Their participation contributes to the enthusiasm, social dynamics, viability, and prospects of the region. However, it is noteworthy that youth also constitute a potentially vulnerable segment of our community, relying on the support of others. The saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' underscores the communal responsibilities required to nurture our young population, ensuring their safety, and fostering an environment conducive to their growth.

The Shire of Corrigin's Youth Action Plan has been undertaken with the aim to answer the overarching questions:

1. What are the issues and needs of young people in our community?
2. What strategies can we implement to address the areas the Youth have identified as being crucial to their wellbeing and resilience?

The Shire of Corrigin is dedicated to implementing the Youth Action Plan by delivering services and facilities that cater to the needs of our youth. Additionally, we are committed to advocating for and collaborating with external stakeholders to successfully realize the fundamental objectives outlined in the plan.

“Corrigin- strengthening our community now to grow and prosper into the future.”

Purpose of this Plan

The Shire of Corrigin Youth Action Plan 2023-2026 guides the development and implementation of key youth programs and services being delivered or proposed by the Shire of Corrigin.

Our young people have unique perspectives, aspirations and needs requiring specific approaches to engaging and supporting them.

There are several different factors which, when combined, increase the likelihood of young people being happy, healthy contributors to their communities.

The Shire’s role implementing the Plan ensures appropriate facilities and services are provided to meet the needs of youth in the region.

It is also the responsibility of the Shire to advocate for, and in some instances, partner with, stakeholders to ensure core objectives of the plan are achieved.





Summary of Youth Engagement

The Shire commenced a consultation and review process in 2022 to develop the Corrigin Youth Action Plan 2023-2026.

This process included several methods to gain an understanding of the concerns and priorities of the community in relation to youth development in Corrigin.

Community Surveying

The Shire of Corrigin conducted a Youth Survey in late 2022 and early 2023. This was disseminated at the Corrigin Park Party, to all students at Corrigin District High School and shared via the Shire's website, newsletter, and social media. The survey focused on the priority for youth in Corrigin, a review of current youth facilities and a review of current youth programs and events. The survey got a total of 38 responses.

The survey results identified Services and facilities for young people as a high community priority; and comments and feedback were provided on this.

Informal Engagement

The Corrigin Community Resource centre runs numerous community events that involve our youth over the course of the year. During these events and workshops the Community Resource Centre staff conduct informal surveying and engagement with youth about the quality of their programs and what sorts of things youth see as the most important.

2021 Census Data Analysis

203 Young People Living in Corrigin between the ages of 0- 19 years of age, which represents about 20% of the general population in Corrigin.

What did our young people tell us?

Key Outcomes Young People Identified

- Upgraded skate park – Over half the responses
- Outdoor pump track
- Maintain the current parks and gardens
- More sporting community events
- Green movement = Looking at ways to reduce carbon footprint and bring the community together
- Public Gym
- Events and Shows on the oval
- WAFL event in Corrigin
- Activities for all ages run at the Swimming Pool
- Water play area at the Swimming Pool

How Young People can contribute?

- Attend and support local activities and events
- Volunteer time and help execute ideas
- Get involved in sporting and recreational activities
- Have fun in our public spaces
- Join a community group or committee
- Keep our town clean and tidy
- Report infrastructure damage and vandalism
- Fundraising to help execute ideas
- Working with Councillors
- Donation of money
- Start a youth group



Facilities Review – Comments

CREC, Skate Park, and Swimming Pool were the most used youth facilities.

The least used facilities were the BMX Track and the open spaces near Railway/Dam Track and on the corner of Hill/Goyder Street.

Popular facilities for youth continue to be Miss B's Park and Adventure Playground. Overall the community are happy with the current parks however would like to see them well maintained and in good condition.

A common comment was that current facilities do not cater well to babies and toddlers or older teenagers and young adults.

Please note that when this survey was undertaken Rotary Park will still under construction.

CREC

One of the most used and popular facilities for youth.

Recommendations

1. Multiple suggestions to make the facility more accessible for prams and wheelchairs, specifically a ramp from the building to the playground area.
2. Extension to the hockey fence.
3. Multiple suggestions for a gym.
4. Make use of the facilities more affordable.
5. Eradicate swallows.
6. Lighting for outside netball courts. Also fix up outside netball courts.

Adventure Playground

Recommendations

1. Improve maintenance to the grounds – remove sticks from sand, maintain lawn, maintain wood on playground equipment.
2. Water fountain.
3. Dog water dish.
4. Multiple comments about a section that is safe for younger kids/ babies.
5. More seating for picnics.



Miss B's Park

Miss B's is a popular park as it is nice and central to the main street businesses in town.

Recommendations

1. More seating and more shaded areas to sit, particularly closer to the playground.
2. The most common recommendation for the park was more equipment for toddlers and babies.

BMX Track – Seimons Ave

This is one of the least used facilities in town, perhaps because of the lack of maintenance on it over the years. Some respondents to the survey were not aware that the park existed. Many survey respondents thought it would be a great space if it was maintained with a few upgrades but in its current state is unusable and an unappealing area for kids to go.

A common suggestion for youth was a BMX or pump style track and an area where kids could safely ride on their bikes.

Skate Park

An upgraded skate park has been the most common suggestion for youth facilities. The current skate park is one of the most popular facilities with over half of respondents saying they use it regularly and that is a popular meeting place for youth in town.

Overall, the feedback was the current skatepark is outdated and parts of the skate park are damaged and not safe for use. It is recommended that a new skate park is built, with a better layout, more jumps, smooth surface and safe to use.

A new skate park was also the topic of discussion when a group of 20 children attended a Council Meeting.

Swimming Pool

The Corrigin Swimming Pool is a very popular facility for youth in Corrigin. It is regularly used by most respondents to the survey and overall, most are happy with the current facility, particularly having the 50m pool.

Recommendations

1. Beach entrance for kids' areas
2. Water umbrellas, more shaded areas.
3. Cricket nets.
4. Water play or splash pad area for kids.
5. Fix the basketball area.
6. More water-based classes – for all age children.



Respondents were also asked about two areas of undeveloped space that have the potential to be utilised in the future.

Open Space near Railway/Dam Track

Previously this was a well maintained and sign posted trail however has been left to deteriorate over many years. The trails still somewhat exist and are currently used by walkers, horse riders and dirt bike riders. The space is a good development opportunity for a bike trail for youth. Feedback also included it would be great to see the water tower preserved.

Hill/Goyder Street Open Space

This is currently an empty block that could be utilised for a community space in the future. It is currently unused.

- Park or playground area
- Community BBQ Area
- Veggie patch
- New skatepark



Youth Programs & Activities – Comments

The Park Party is the best Shire run local event on the calendar. Overall, the community are very happy with the event with the most popular aspect being the rides, games, and food trucks. The only feedback was to have more activities for teens, as most of the rides and games are focused on younger kids.

The community also are very supportive of the CRC's School Holiday Program's.

Feedback on the School Holiday Program included having more activities for older children, as much of the activities are focused for younger children. Some suggestions for novelty school holiday activities included cardio tennis, mini golf, or a gym program. There were also suggestions to do activities that a related to the annual Corrigin show exhibits.

The Shire of Corrigin is also committed to working with other organisations in town to provide youth activities and programs.

Our Actions/ Shire Priorities

We have consolidated a list of actions in four key areas to focus the Shire's efforts over the life of this plan.

- Youth Services Coordination – Programs and Events
- Youth Facilities
- Youth Communications
- Youth Development

Action – Youth Services Coordination – Programs and Events

Sport, recreation, and leisure opportunities are a high priority for young people.

Young people need access to a range of regular physical, cultural, educational, and artistic activities to keep them engaged and stimulated.

The Shire of Corrigin provides numerous programs and events for Youth currently, however it will be a goal to develop better programs and events for young people.

Young people told us:

- Run more activities suited to teens
- Run activities at the local Swimming Pool
- Run more novelty activities during school holidays – cardio tennis, mini golf etc.

Deliverables	Timeframe			
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Consult with local teens on activities they would like to see	X	X	X	X
Run at least 2 activities per annum suited to teens		X	X	X
Swimming Pool Manager to coordinate free youth activities during summer season		X	X	X
Access Youth Week Funding to bring novelty activities to youth during school holiday programs		X	X	X



Action - Youth Facilities

Overall current youth facilities are well used and enjoyed by young people. There is a high demand for a new skatepark as the current one is over 20 years old. Our young people expect our current parks to be well maintained so they can continue to hang out in those places.

Deliverables	Timeframe			
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Design and Consultation for new skate park	X			
Seek funding to build new skate park		X	X	
Construct new skate park				X
Current parks undertake 4 inspections a year to ensure equipment and grounds are maintained to a high standard	X	X	X	X
Seek grant funding to install equipment for babies/toddlers at Miss B's or Rotary Park				X
Undertake further consultation for		X		

improvements to Corrigin Swimming Pool				
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Action – Youth Communications

The Shire of Corrigin needs to work towards improving how we communicate and talk with our young people.

Deliverables	Timeframe			
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Promote positive youth stories and achievements via communications channels	X	X	X	X
Encourage young people to have a say on local plans by seeking them out	X	X	X	X

Action – Youth Development

The Shire of Corrigin is committed to providing opportunities for young people to develop their skills.

Deliverables	Timeframe			
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Shire of Corrigin to offer useful traineeships to young people	X	X	X	X
Reinstate the Junior Councillor Program to give them a better understanding on Local Government processes		X	X	X
Continue to administer Stevenson Scholarships for education and further promote to community	X	X	X	X



Acknowledgements

The Youth Action Plan was developed with input from the local school, youth services and community groups. The Shire of Corrigin would like to thank the following stakeholders for their promotion, contribution, and assistance.

- Corrigin District High School
- Corrigin Community Resource Centre

Disclaimer

The information provided in this document has been obtained by consulting with youth from within the Shire of Corrigin from late 2022 to early 2023.

The key findings and information in this Youth Action Plan have been extracted from the Youth survey results, which includes the collation of feedback from the engagement participants and detailed research data.

While every effort has gone in to presenting an accurate understanding of the key points of information, there may be some areas where interpretation may differ.

The Youth Action Plan analysis conducted may have limitations involving quality and quantity of data collected and should be taken into consideration when viewing this report.

The Shire of Corrigin disclaims all liability to any person in respect of anything, and of the consequences of anything, done or omitted to be done by any such person in reliance, whether wholly or partially, upon any information presented in this publication.

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