

Imagine

A place for connection & community

Image by Urbis

FACT SHEET 4

BIRKDALE COMMUNITY PRECINCT

Agriculture and rural tradition

Let's plant a thought seed with this question: How do the past productive qualities of the precinct lead us into the future? In other words, how do we reap what past generations have sown?

One of the earlier European families to settle in the Capalaba and Birkdale area were the Willards. Brothers James and Edward Willard, from Sussex in the UK, took up a timber license on the land now included within the Birkdale Community Precinct. Timber clearing was one of the main industries in the area at the time. Later they would use the land for growing crops such as maize, sweet potatoes and pineapples, and for dairy farming, with separate milking and creaming sheds being built.

James Willard operated a cattle dip (to help protect livestock from ticks) on site from 1904 and farmers across the area brought their animals to be dipped. Goats and sheep also grazed on the property and in more recent times its rich soil was used for a small guava orchard.

With its agricultural and rural tradition, there is potential to see part of the property reimaged as a working farm promoting locally grown produce and human-powered farming equipment of days gone by. There could be an education centre focusing on organic/biodynamic farming and gardening practise. Those sorts of uses give rise to ideas such as paddock-to-plate dining, cooking classes, produce sales, possibly even farm stays.

Some sections of the precinct could align with rural enterprise and innovations, such as vertical farming, or

be used for bush tucker production. It could be interesting to try cultivating the food sources that were originally available on site and across Redlands Coast. Could they be regrown or restocked?

Perhaps a microbrewery research facility using crops grown on site could be a possibility. It could involve education and traineeships in areas such as cultivation, crop selection for local conditions, brewing techniques and marketing.

The site also lends itself to ideas around community gardening. Would this be a good area to have a coordinated facility where people have a plot or garden bed where they can grow their own vegetables, fruits or flowers?

Within a framework of 'growing into the future', how do you best feel Birkdale Community Precinct could be used for agricultural and rural purposes?

Visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au

KEEP IN MIND

- One of the oldest surviving farms and residences on Redlands Coast
- Rich, fertile soil
- Farming a better future
- A focus on 'community'



A community legacy for everyone.

We're listening: Tell us your ideas at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au

 Your Say Redlands Coast

Images are concepts only and do not represent final plans for the site.



01725 03/21