

Get in the Game

2018-2020



Get Playing Places and Spaces (Round 4) Case Study

Brisbane Women's Hockey Association Inc.

Funding of \$73,614 for the upgrade of existing playing surfaces and installation of irrigation systems to support hockey at Downey Park, Herston.

Project Partners

- Department of National Parks Sport and Racing
- Brisbane City Council
- Brisbane Women's Hockey Association Inc.

Project Background

Downey Park is the largest female sporting precinct in Queensland at approximately 14 hectares.

Downey Park was designated as a female sporting reserve in 1959 and is currently zoned for Sport and Recreation.

Downey Park is used regularly for training and competition by Brisbane Women's Hockey Association (BWHA), Brisbane Softball Association (BSA) and Downey Park Netball Association (DPNA). These associations are the three largest regional sporting associations for their respective sports in the state.

BWHA has a playing membership of over 3,000 women and girls.

Facilities at Downey Park are outdated, being over 30 years old, and have not been keeping up with developments of the sport.

Downey Park is a unique venue, providing an array of sport and recreation opportunities, that is in desperate need of modern facilities equal to that of current and future participation levels.

The three associations that call Downey Park home were seeking to develop the infrastructure and facilities on the Park to ensure it is a sporting precinct of international standard.



The Approach

BWHA identified a need to upgrade and irrigate their fields.

The surface cover on grass fields is dependent on weather conditions. The constant pounding on grass fields does not allow for ongoing regular use so competitions are restricted to one day per week and no training on weekdays. Installing Irrigation systems to the fields means that grass cover can be improved to increase the usage of the fields and provide a safer playing environment.

BWHA contacted the Brisbane Region Sport and Recreation office to discuss their proposed project and the possibility of making an application under the Get Playing Places and Spaces Program.

Advisors from the Brisbane Region met with BWHA and provided advice and feedback regarding the proposed project.

BWHA submitted a draft application and Advisors from the Brisbane Region provided advice and feedback on how the draft could be improved prior to submittal.

BWHA's application under the Get Playing Program was successful and the club were approved \$73,614.00 to upgrade playing surfaces and install an irrigation system to the grass pitches.

The Minister visited Downey Park to congratulate BWHA and present them with a cheque.

BWHA continued to work closely with Advisors from the Brisbane Region during the construction of the project to ensure milestones were met and the project was delivered in a timely manner and to budget.

Project Strengths

- Downey Park is the largest female sporting precinct in Queensland at approximately 14 ha.
- Downey Park is a unique venue offering sport and recreation opportunity to a vast number of females.
- Downey Park showcases a prime example of multiple sporting codes sharing a venue and collaborating to improve their shared facilities.
- BWHA has a playing membership of over 3,000 women and girls.
- Women and girls' participation in sport and physical activity is a priority of the Department.
- BWHA worked closely with Advisors from the Brisbane Region from inception to completion of the project.

Challenges

- Downey Park is on contaminated land.
- The site is prone to flooding.
- Parking at the site remains an issue.

Project Outcomes

Irrigating the fields means that grass cover can be improved, increasing the use of the fields, in turn providing a safer playing environment.

Key Lessons

It is important for Clubs to contact the Department and speak to an advisor regarding their proposed project prior to making a funding application.

Where possible Clubs should submit a draft application prior to submitting their final application so Advisors can provide advice and feedback on how the draft could be improved.

It is important for Clubs and Advisors to work closely and maintain regular contact from inception to completion of the project.

Budget Implications

- Total Eligible Project Cost \$92,017.00
- Total Approved Amount \$73,614.00

Seeking infrastructure development support?

Departmental offices are located across the state and can offer advice and assistance for your project. Please direct enquiries to your nearest [Sport and Recreation office](#) or alternatively phone 1300 656 191.