INNER WEST COUNCIL

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Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

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Final Draft

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Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Inner West Council (Council) plays an active role in encouraging participation in recreation by providing, planning, facilitating and advocating for recreation spaces and activities. The *Recreation Needs Study – A Healthier Inner West*, provides an analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community. For the purposes of this needs study, recreation is defined across a broad spectrum ranging from unstructured activities like picnics, walking the dog and playing in parks, streets and laneways; to organised sport and everything in between. Participation in, and access to, recreational opportunities brings significant physical and mental health and social benefits to individuals, and improved development outcomes for children and young people.

POPULATION AND DENSITY CHANGE

The Inner West area (the Inner West) is a 3,519ha urban community with an estimated population of 192,000 residents (2016). As a result of major renewal projects (including Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor and the Bays Precinct), over the next ten to twenty years, the area will undergo significant population growth and change, and increasing population density. This growth presents challenges and opportunities for Council to provide for the recreational needs of its community.

2016	2036
192,030 people	231,000 - 241,000 people
51 people / ha	65 - 68 people / ha
3,519 hectares	3,519 hectares

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION

This needs study was based on extensive community and stakeholder engagement (more than 2,000 points of engagement). Similar to national participation trends, engagement indicated that the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West are unstructured and informal including walking (for fun, transport and with dogs), play, fitness, cycling and swimming.

Local participation trends that align with national and international trends include:

- Increased demand for unstructured and informal participation in a more flexible setting
- Declining access for children to unsupervised play, particularly in natural environments
- Lower levels of participation in recreation activities for people with disability, and
- Less access to formal sporting opportunities and concerns about safety restricting womens and girl's participation.

In the Inner West, parks are the most common types of facilities visited (80% of respondents visit parks weekly) followed by footpaths and streets (75%).

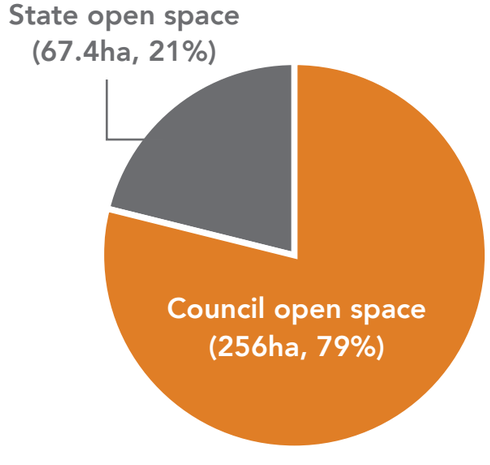
- Walking
- Cycling
- Playing
- Swimming
- Personal fitness/outdoor fitness
- Walking the dog
- Running
- Team sports
- Relaxing in a park
- Tai Chi, table tennis, and badminton were also popular activities amongst the older population of people who speak a language other than English at home.

CURRENT SITUATION AND FUTURE GAPS

Current situation

In total (including non-Council owned land), there is 323.4ha of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m2 per person. There are 276 Council owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds totaling 256ha, making up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West and 13.3m2 per person.

Inner West has 28 sporting grounds, 9 outdoor gyms, 116 play spaces, 18 community gardens, 16 creek corridor parks, 2 indoor recreation facilities, 5 aquatic centres (including 3 with warm water pools).



Current open space provision in the Inner West

Future gaps

If no new open space is provided as the population increases, the amount of open space per person will decline from 13.3m2 to 11.8m2 per person in 2026, and 10.6 to 11.1m2 per person in 2036.

Based on industry benchmarks, by 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- 6 to 8 summer sports fields
- 5 to 8 winter sports fields
- 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 10 to 14 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 1 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 1 indoor leisure centre (aquatic), and
- 1 skate park/facility.

URBAN RECREATION TRENDS

In urban areas like the Inner West, where there is limited land, but residential growth and density are increasing, there are a number of key design and planning trends:

- Multipurpose and flexible design (making what we have work harder)
- Networked and connected recreation places and programs (connecting parks, sporting grounds, and users within a network)
- Sharing the city for recreation (learning to share space for competing needs)
- Inclusion and universality (inclusive and universal design and programming from 8 to 80 years of age)
- Connecting to nature and healthy built environments (biophilic design, nature and adventure play for children, supporting bio-diversity, reducing climate impacts), and
- Co-designing places and programs (working with communities, sporting groups and agencies to co-design future recreational

RECREATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Theme 1: EXISTING gaps in open space and recreation

- Increase the supply of publicly accessible open space in suburbs currently providing below LGA wide benchmark (13.3m2).
- Address the need for 1 new indoor recreation facility (with minimum four courts) in the LGA's north.
- Collaborate with sporting clubs to increase sharing of sporting grounds and facilities.
- Improve recreational amenities in parks including toilets, bbq facilities, seating and shade.

Theme 2: FUTURE demand for open space and recreation

- Retain the current supply of open space per person by setting a benchmark of 13.3m2 per person provision of open space within future masterplanned development sites and major projects. Where this can't be provided onsite, a financial contribution could be required.
- Establish a proximity to quality open space benchmark as part of all future development proposals and develop best practice principles for the design and delivery of open space within future sites.
- Collaborate with developers and major project delivery partners to deliver new recreational spaces to meet future demand, and that are multipurpose and flexible.

Theme 3: Capacity for sports and recreation

- Investigate the feasibility of synthetic surfaces on sports fields at appropriate locations.
- Implement a rolling program of resurfacing natural turf sports fields.
- Deliver upgraded lighting at sporting grounds to improve multipurpose use on weekday evenings.
- Work collaboratively with the sporting community to create a transparent and equitable allocation policy that addresses priority needs including participation of women and girls, people with disability and low-income families.

Theme 4: Inclusion and Sharing

- Improve access to recreation facilities through an accessibility audit of Council's recreation spaces and promote accessible recreation spaces on Council's website.
- Increase unstructured and unprescribed play spaces for children.
- Design and deliver biodiversity programs to promote shared space between community, wildlife and plant communities.
- Increase the representation and visibility of women and girls through a Welcoming Women and Girls Recreation Program.

Theme 5: Connections to nature

- Create new nature based and adventure play spaces for children, young people and adults.
- Futureproof recreation spaces against climate impacts.
- Deliver existing tree strategies and increase tree planting for cooler streets and parks.
- Work in partnership to delivery identified Green Grid projects.
- Collaborate with developers to incorporate biophilic design into new residential developments.
- Incorporate biophilic design principles into public domain projects.

Theme 6: Streets and laneways for walking, cycling and play

- Increase walking opportunities through the creation of more walkable and playful streets that connect communities to recreational space.
- Improve connectivity to existing open space in neighbourhoods that are not within 400m easy access to 0.5ha of open space.
- Adopt a "Streets as recreation places" approach to local streets.
- Collaborate with organisations such as Play Streets to trial a playstreets program.
- Identify laneways to create new recreation spaces and co-design with local communities.
- Encourage increased use of cycleways, improved safety on shared paths, and delivery of a connected cycle path network.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Inner West context

The Inner West Council area (the Inner West) is an urban area with approximately 192,000 residents, covering an area of 36km^2 from Balmain in the north, Newtown in the east, Tempe in the south and Croydon in the west. The traditional custodians of the area are the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora nation. Inner West Council was formed in May 2016 when the former Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils were amalgamated.

The Inner West is an increasingly urbanised, medium density, inner city area that is undergoing rapid change, including:

- Significant residential development with increasing density, high-rise, and apartment dwellings, including in former industrial areas
- Major projects including the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor, Westconnex, the Bays Precinct, Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program, Callan Park and the Greenway, and
- Population change including an increasing resident population, changes in cultural groups, and an increasing proportion of older residents.

Council's role in recreation

Inner West Council (Council) plays an active role in encouraging participation in recreation by providing and planning for recreation settings and facilitating recreation programs and services. Council's recreation spaces include parks, sporting grounds, recreation facilities, community venues, streets and footpaths, cycle paths, aquatic centres, bushland and waterways. There are also numerous privately or State-owned/ operated facilities available to users.

Recreation services and programs are provided directly by Council, by Council engaged service providers, by community organisations and by the private sector. Council plays a key role in facilitating recreation through partnerships with relevant organisations and the provision of funding through grants programs.

There are numerous other providers of recreation facilities, programs and services in the Inner West including private facilities (such as fitness gyms, rockclimbing centres, and private pools), community facilities (such as community centres and church halls), private providers (dance schools, personal trainers), schools, sports clubs, and the NSW State government. The recreation sector as a whole is important in delivering for the recreation needs of the Inner West community.

Scope and aims of this study

This study will provide the evidence base to inform the development of Council policy and strategy in relation to the recreation needs of the Inner West for the next 10 years.

It investigates:

- The Inner West community and implications for recreation
- The current situation and future demand
- Recreation standards and benchmarks
- Urban recreation trends and best practice
- Recommended opportunities to neet future needs, and
- Ideas and applications for the Inner West.

The study area

The study area includes the whole of the Inner West Council Local Government Area (LGA) as shown in Figure 1.

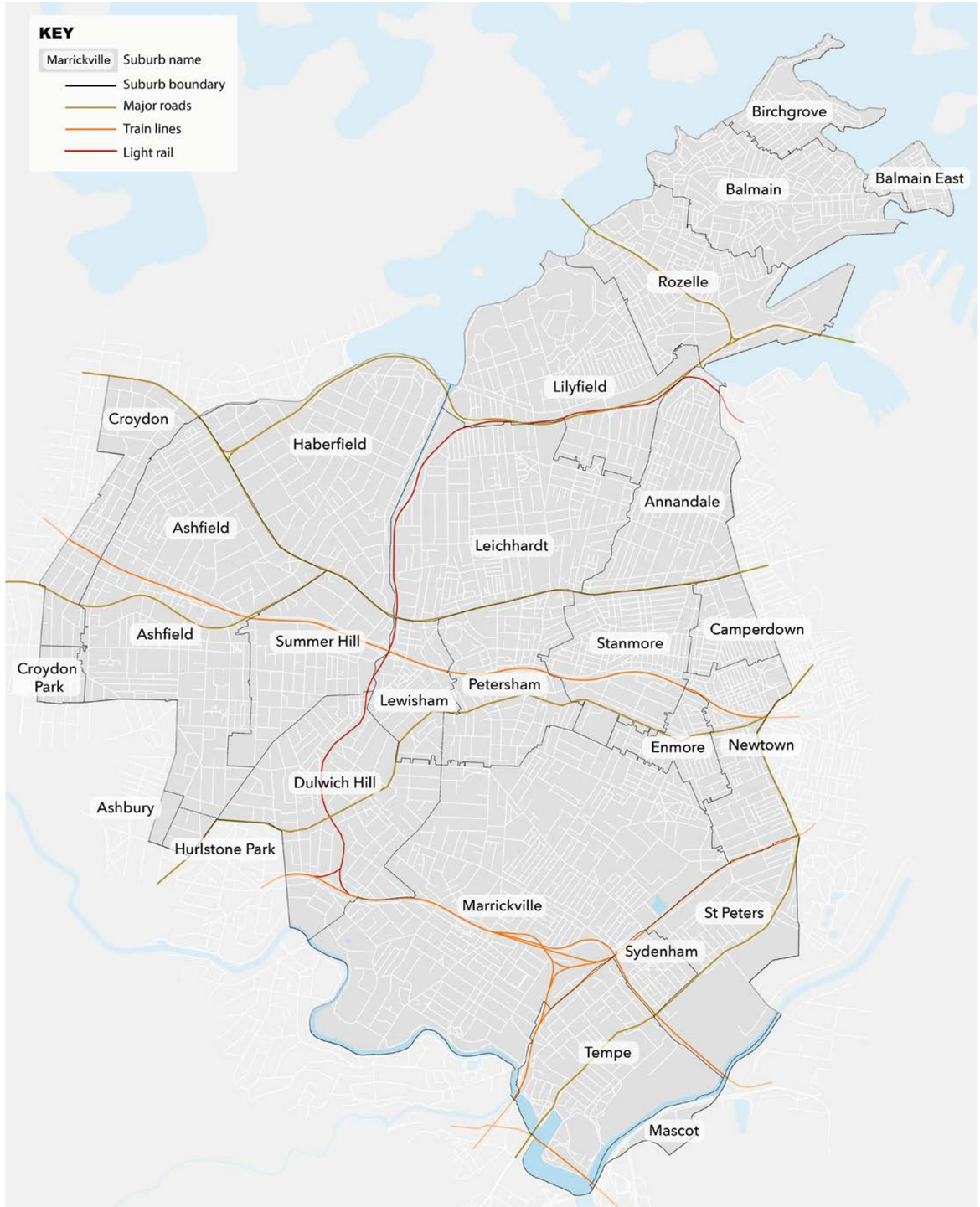


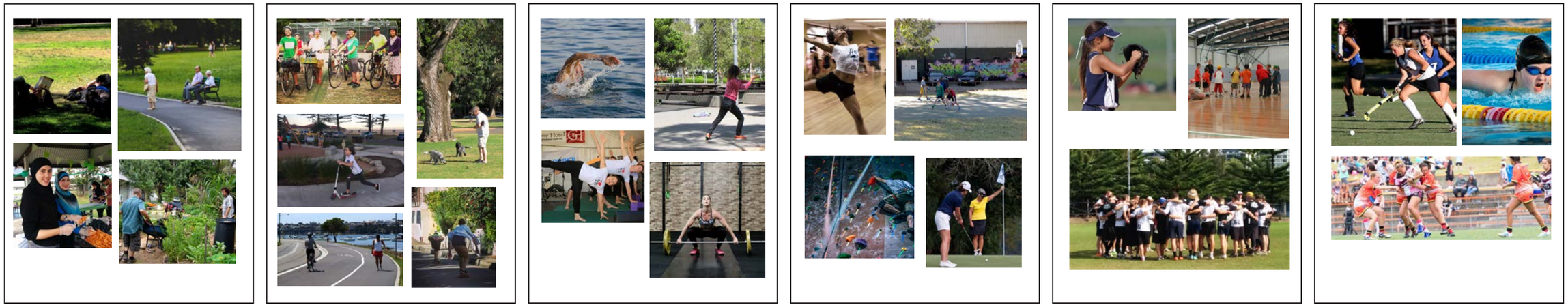
Figure 1 - Inner West Council area and suburbs

THE RECREATION SPECTRUM

As the population of the Inner West grows, and the urban landscape changes, people participate in, and experience, recreation across a broad range of activities and settings.

For the purposes of this study, Council defines recreation as a broad spectrum ranging from unstructured activities like picnics, walking the dog and playing in parks, streets and laneways, to organised sport and everything in between. This spectrum is shown in Figure 2.

Recreation can be undertaken indoors or outdoors, and covers a diverse range of activities that help us to stay physically and emotionally healthy and to connect to our friends and families, our communities, and nature.



Passive	*Active*	*Personal fitness*	*Social sport*	*Organised sport*	*Elite sport*
• Picnics • Reading/studying in parks • Community gardening • Social gatherings	• Active transport • Play with kids in parks/ playgrounds • Walking the dog • Walking for transport	• Gyms • Walking for exercise and health • Organised personal training • Individual fitness	• Social / informal games and sport etc. • Lunchtime sport	• Organised local competitions - all ages • School sport	• High performance competition • Representative sport

Figure 2 - The Inner West Recreation Spectrum

REPORT STRUCTURE

1 - Recreation Benefits and Participation

This section reviews current trends in recreation participation at a national, state and local level, and the benefits of recreation for individuals and the community.

2 - The Inner West Community Now

This section outlines the current community profile of the Inner West LGA by suburb and identifies key challenges and opportunities for recreation.

3 - The Future Inner West Community

This section outlines the forecast future Inner West population and identifies key challenges and opportunities for recreation

4 - Current situation

This section audits existing recreation opportunities in the Inner West including Council and non-Council facilities.

5 - Community Engagement Outcomes

This section summarises the findings from community engagement completed to inform this study. The full community engagement report is provided as an Appendix.

6 - Strategic and Planning Context

This section reviews the national, state, regional and local planning context as well as major infrastructure, urban renewal, and recreation projects.

7 - Recreation Standards

This sections reviews current benchmarking approaches for recreation facilities an open space, proposes a way forward for the Inner West, and assesses current provision against these benchmarks.

8 - Recreation Indicators

This section identifies a number of indicators that Council could employ to track and evaluate recreation provision in the Inner West over time.

9 - Urban recreation best practice trends and case studies

This section identifies key trends in recreation provision in urban areas and provides case studies demonstrating best practice.

10 - Recreation needs and gaps analysis

This section summarises the recreation needs and gaps identified in sections 1 to 9.

11 - Strategic Framework

This section outlines the strategic framework proposed.

12 - Recommended opportunities

This section outlines the recommended opportunities to address identified recreation needs

13 - Applications and Ideas for the Inner West

This section explores ideas for how the 6 Themes of the Recreation Needs Study could be applied across the Inner West through design and programming interventions.

RECREATION BENEFITS AND PARTICIPATION

Participation in recreation has social and health benefits (both mental and physical) to the individual, and also contributes to community cohesion and connection, which is particularly important in dense urban areas. Recreation provides an opportunity for connection to nature, and for children to explore and take risks. The urban environment of the Inner West can support participation in recreation by providing spaces for flexible, informal recreation, such as streets for walking and running, natural spaces, and parks for outdoor fitness, as well as facilities for organised sports.

KEY FINDINGS

- Participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits to individuals, including mental health benefits and improved development outcomes for children and young people.
- Recreation provides benefits at the community level, supporting community cohesion and community development, and public health benefits.
- A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week.
- Nationally, the most popular recreation activities include walking, fitness, swimming, cycling and running, and this is reflected by local participation trends in the Inner West.
- The major change in participation in recreation is a trend to more flexible and non-organised participation.
- Children have declining access to unsupervised participation in recreation activities, with Planet Ark estimating that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago.
- People with disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator.

BENEFITS OF RECREATION

Health & wellbeing

On an individual level, participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits including:

- Physical health benefits including reduced risk of heart disease and stroke; reduced risk of developing high blood pressure; prevention of some cancers; reduced risk of developing diabetes; better bone and muscle development and prevention of osteoporosis; improved muscle flexibility, strength and endurance; reduced risk of dying prematurely; reduced risk of falling, and improved mobility and strength for older adults; and improved quality of sleep[1]
- Social and mental wellbeing benefits including encouraging social interaction; improving concentration and learning; increasing personal confidence and self-awareness; reducing feelings of depression and anxiety; enhancing self-esteem; and improving quality of life[2], and
- For children and young people, regular physical activity also helps to improve health, emotional wellbeing, mental health, concentration skills, social skills, learning outcomes, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour[3].

Stronger communities

Recreation also provides benefits at the community level. As the Inner West community grows and changes, recreation can be an opportunity to support community development and cohesion.

The Clearinghouse for Sport research recognises the role of recreation in community development: it "can contribute to community identity, as a focal point for personal interaction and community engagement. The diversity of sports and sporting activities (including social sport and active recreation) make it an ideal medium to reach men and women from every age-group, culture and socio-economic background. Sport can be used to address social inequities and disadvantage."

Recreation can support increased community capacity building and social, cultural and religious cohesion and sense of belonging, as well as reduction in youth offending, antisocial behaviour, and crime, and improved early childhood development. Public health benefits include a reduced burden of disease, reduced cost of hospitalisation, faster hospital recovery times, and increased workplace productivity[4].

1 Queensland Government, 'Benefits of being active', 2016, https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/health/get-active/benefits

2 Government of Western Australia department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, 'Benefits of Sport and Recreation', 2017, http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/support-and-advice/research-and-policies/policies/benefits-of-sport-and-recreation

3 Queensland Government, 'Benefits of being active', 2016, https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/health/get-active/benefits

4 Cred Consulting for the Greater Sydney Commission, 'Greater Sydney's Social Capital: Its Nature and Value', 2017, https://gsc-public-1.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/social_capital_report_-_cred_-_october_2017.pdf

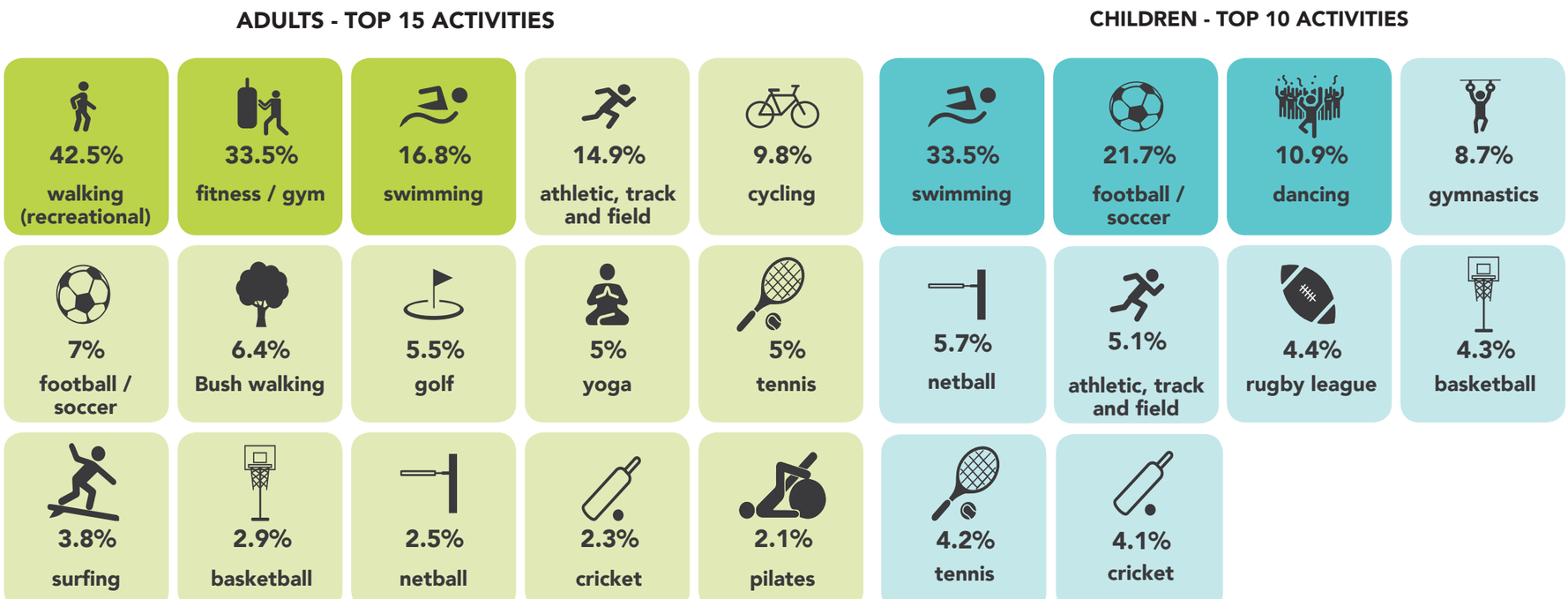
4 NSW Government Office of Sport, 'Participation in sport and active recreation', 2017, https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/participation

NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) AusPlay survey tracks the recreation activities (both sport and non-sport physical activities) Australians participate in. Some key trends are outlined below, for a full analysis see **Appendix 1**.

- A majority of Australians (55%) participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week. The most popular physical recreation activities were recreational walking, fitness/gym, swimming, and athletics
- Over the age of 18, sporting clubs are not the main way Australians participate in physical activity. Of the 89% of adults that participate in physical activity, 20% participate in sport based activity only, 31% in non-sport related physical activity and 38% in both
- Participation declines as age increases
- The major motivation for participation in physical activities is for physical health and fitness, followed by fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, and
- Not enough time, and poor health or injury, are the main barriers to participation.

Figure 3 shows the most popular recreation activities in NSW by participation rates for adults, children, males and females.



FEMALES

1. Walking (recreational) 51.4%
2. Fitness/gym 36.1%
3. Swimming 18.3%
4. Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running) 13.8%
5. Yoga 8.2%
6. Cycling 6.5%
7. Bush walking - 5.4%
8. Tennis 4.4%
9. Netball 4.4%
10. Pilates 4%
11. Football/soccer 2.9%
12. Golf 1.9%
13. Surfing 1.7%
14. Basketball 1.7%
15. Cricket 0.5%

MALES

1. Walking (recreational) 33.4%
2. Fitness/gym 30.0%
3. Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running) 16%
4. Swimming 15.2%
5. Cycling 13.2%
6. Football/soccer 11.2%
7. Golf 9.2%
8. Bush walking 7.3%
9. Surfing 5.9%
10. Tennis 5.7%
11. Cricket 4.3%
12. Basketball 4.1%
13. Yoga 1.8%
14. Netball 0.5%
15. Pilates 0.2%

GIRLS

1. Swimming 35.9%
2. Dancing (recreational) 18.9%
3. Gymnastics 12.9%
4. Netball 11.3%
5. Football/soccer 9.6%
6. Athletics, track and fields (includes jogging and running) 5.4%
7. Basketball 3.6%
8. Tennis 3.2%
9. Rugby League 1%
10. Cricket 0.7%

BOYS

1. Swimming 31.3%
2. Football/soccer 33.9%
3. Rugby League 7.9%
4. Cricket 7.6%
5. Basketball 5%
6. Tennis 5.2%
7. Athletics, track and fields (includes jogging and running) 4.8%
8. Gymnastics 4.4%
9. Dancing (recreational) 2.7%
10. Netball 0%

Figure 3 - Participation rates by recreation activity (Source: AusPlay NSW data tables July 2016 - June 2017)

RECREATION PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Children's participation trends

- In 2010, Planet Ark estimated that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago.
- The ASC AusPlay survey found that 62% of children 0-14 years participate in physical activity, outside school, at least once a week. They are more likely to participate in sporting activities (rather than non-sport physical activity), and in organised sport.
- Active parents are more likely to have active children. 72% of children participate in organised sport or physical activity if their parent also does, compared to just 53% of children whose parents do not.
- Recent research has shown that unsupervised play has declined significantly, and that today's parents are increasingly over-protective which reduces the opportunities for 'risky play' outdoors. Research by the University of British Columbia shows that risky play is associated with increased physical activity, social skills, risk management skills, resilience and self-confidence within children and plays an important role in their self-development.

Participation by culturally diverse communities

- A 2006 survey conducted by the ASC shows that people from culturally diverse backgrounds have slightly higher levels of participation in organised physical activity, but are less likely to do organised physical activity with a sport club. They are more likely to be involved with fitness, leisure or indoor sports centres, recreational clubs or community programs.

Participation by people with disability

- A nationwide survey conducted by the ABS in 2006 found that 64% of people without disability take part in sport or physical activities as a spectator, compared with only 50% of people with disability and 28% of those with a profound or severe core-activity limitation.
- One of the key policy directions of the National Disability Strategy is focused on improving access and increasing the participation of people with disability, in "sporting, recreational, social, religious and cultural activities whether as participants, spectators, organisers, staff or volunteers".

Participation by women and girls

According to the ASC Women and Girls Participation report, adult men and women participate in physical activity at similar levels across life stages. This contradicts the common perception that women and girls are less active than boys and men. However, some differences were that:

- Women do participate less in organised sport and physical activity than men, especially in the childbearing years between 25 and 44. They participate more than males in non-sport related physical activity.
- Women were slightly more likely to participate because of health reasons (and to lose or maintain weight) than men and much less likely to participate for fun and enjoyment. 81% of women over 15 participate in physical activities for health and fitness reasons, including to lose or maintain weight and for psychological reasons.
- The activities women are most likely to participate in are walking (especially in midlife – 45 to 64) and to a lesser extent gym or fitness activities (especially from 18 to 34). Women's participation in sport drops dramatically after they leave school, as does participation in team sport. Whereas 65% of 15 year old girls participate in team sports, only 17% of 25-34 year old women do.

Based on community engagement for this study, in the Inner West, females were more likely than males to participate regularly in passive recreation, active recreation, and personal fitness activities while males were more likely to participate regularly in social sport, organised sport and elite sport.

Unstructured vs structured

The AusPlay survey completed by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) shows that one of the major recreation participation trends is a move to more flexible and non-organised sport, as people:

- "Are increasingly time poor, have limited budgets and are being inundated by new forms of entertainment
- "Have new preferences for greater flexibility, more tailored products and sport that works around peoples' busy lifestyles, [and]
- "Are increasingly favouring more flexible, non-organised forms of physical activity, such as running with headphones on and pursuing new adventure sports"[4].

Major sports are catering to this change in demand with new game formats, such as AFL 9s and 6-a-side soccer. Participants might attend for one game a week, without a training session, and play in a team of friends rather than a club team organised by grade.

Some sporting clubs provide both social and club/competitive leagues; for example Inner West Ultimate has two social leagues and three club teams. There are also emerging community, organisation-based, and private providers of social sport who offer beginner friendly, recreational leagues of adapted sports, with short seasons and social events.

In urban environments such as the Inner West, where people rely on public spaces for recreation, this trend indicates a need for access to recreation activities in the evenings – with lighting, and safe spaces for recreation - as well as access to recreation spaces for informal and social recreation activities such as personal fitness activities and social pick up games.

"Australians are increasingly time poor, have limited budgets and are being inundated by new forms of entertainment. With these changes, new preferences are emerging; Australians want greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them."

- Australian Sports Commission, Corporate Plan 2017-2021

INNER WEST PARTICIPATION

Community engagement completed for this study investigated recreation participation in the Inner West. Local participation in recreation broadly corresponds to national and State participation trends - walking is the most popular activity at a local, State and national level.

Across the spectrum of recreation activities, people participated most often in "active recreation" activities, with 80% of survey respondents participating at least weekly. This was followed by personal fitness with 66% of people participating at least weekly.

In total, 4.5% of people engaged did not participate regularly (at least weekly) in recreation (of any kind), and an additional 1.4% participated regularly in "passive recreation," but not any other kind of recreation.

Figure 4 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.

Walking
(Most popular activity in the survey, 3rd most popular in the community map, 5th in the school workshops, popular in the multicultural focus groups)

Walking for transport
(2nd in the survey)

Playing in a playground/playing in a park/taking children to play
(3rd in the survey, 5th in the community map, 4th in the school workshops, high in multicultural focus groups)

Personal fitness/outdoor fitness
(4th in the survey)

Walking the dog
(5th most popular in the survey, 4th most popular in the community map, 6th in the school workshops)

Cycling
(6th in the survey, 2nd in the community map, 3rd in the school workshops)

Swimming
(7th in the survey, most popular activity in the community map and school workshops)

Running
(8th in the survey)

Relaxing in a park
(9th in the survey)

Hockey
(10th in the survey. It should be noted that the survey was completed by a high number of hockey players.)

Soccer
(11th in the survey, 2nd in the school workshops)

Tai Chi, table tennis, and badminton were also popular activities amongst the older population of people who speak a language other than English at home.

Figure 4 - Most popular recreation activities identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

The most popular recreation spaces in the Inner West identified through a range of consultation activities were:

- Footpaths, streets, and town centres
- Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- Cooks River foreshore path
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Enmore Park, and
- Ashfield Park.

Key differences between different groups were that:

- Females used children's playgrounds, aquatic centres, and footpaths more often, while males used cycle paths, playing fields and courts, and the Greenway more often than females.
- People who speak a language other than English at home used all facilities less regularly than the general community.

The most common *types* of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West were:

Parks (80% of people using them at least weekly)

Footpaths, streets and town centres (75% at least weekly)

Playing fields/courts (38% at least weekly)

Aquatic centres/baths (37% at least weekly), and

Children's playgrounds (36% at least weekly).

Figure 5 - Most common types of facility that people used for recreation in the Inner West identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

THE INNER WEST COMMUNITY NOW

This section outlines the current community profile of the Inner West LGA by suburb and for key areas, using data from the 2016 ABS Census from Profile.id. The Inner West Council area is home to a dense and diverse urban community. Analysis of census data shows changing demographics including an ageing population and new cultural groups. Providing for the varied recreation needs of a diverse community, with limited space, will mean that recreation spaces and activities have to support flexible uses, support sharing and conviviality, and reduce conflict between users.

KEY FINDINGS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INNER WEST POPULATION

- The Inner West population is growing, increasing by 11,729 people, from 2011 - 2016. This means that there are increasing and competing demands for limited open space and recreation facilities.
- The Inner West is already dense with a population of 51 persons per hectare, significantly higher than Greater Sydney at 5 persons per hectare. This means access to open space away from the home is of critical importance to the community's health and wellbeing.
- The Census shows how the 15 suburbs of the Inner West differ in their community makeup, this presents different place-based opportunities and challenges for recreation provision across the Inner West, and may also help Council identify priorities for the provision of accessible and inclusive recreation facilities that meet the needs of the community:
  - **An ageing population:** The Inner West has an increasingly ageing population, indicating a need for access to recreation facilities and programs that increase the health and wellbeing of older residents. This includes focusing on walkable streets, low impact exercise equipment, and senior's programs in Council's indoor recreation and aquatic facilities.
  - **Students and Young People:** There is a higher proportion of students and young people living within the Inner West than Greater Sydney, particularly in the suburbs of Newtown, Camperdown, and Ashfield. This could indicate a need for passive recreation spaces such as relaxing, reading, socialising and studying within these suburbs, as well as access to affordable unstructured and informal recreational facilities such as outdoor courts and gyms.
  - **People with a disability:** 4.5% of the people living within the inner west self-report need for assistance in their day to day lives due to disability. However, there are some suburbs within the Inner West that have higher proportions, including Ashfield (South), Haberfield, Marrickville and Tempe. These areas also generally correspond to higher density, and lower household incomes. While universal access needs to occur across the whole of the Inner West, priorities for accessible upgrades to recreation facilities and spaces should be considered on the western portion of the city to ensure they meet the needs of the existing community.
  - **A culturally and linguistically diverse community:** The Inner West is home to varying levels of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, with a high proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, largely living in the west portion of the LGA. Engaging this diverse community in the design and renovation of recreation spaces is particularly important to ensure these spaces meet the community's needs, particularly within typically 'hard to reach' groups.
  - **High rates of public transport usage:** With a high proportion of households who do not have a private vehicle, particularly around Newtown, Ashfield, Enmore and Camperdown, access to a network of connected open spaces, as well as incidental opportunities for recreation throughout the neighbourhood's networks of streets and parks is important to ensure easy and a walkable access to recreation.
  - **Pockets of disadvantage:** Within the Inner West there is a strong correlation between income and housing density with some of the highest density areas of the LGA also home to some of the lowest income earners. This highlights the spatial inequality that can occur within cities, and the need to focus adequate, affordable and appropriate recreation opportunities within these parts of the Inner West.

CURRENT TOTAL POPULATION

Population change 2011 to 2016

In 2016, the Estimated Resident Population of the Inner West Council area (IWC) was 192,030 people.

As shown by Table 1, the total population of the Inner West increased by 11,729 people,or 6.5% between 2011 and 2016. This was a lower rate of growth than Greater Sydney (9.8%).

While the overall population of the IWC increased by 6.5% between 2011 and 2016, population growth was uneven over the five year period across the Inner West with some suburbs experiencing higher or lower rates of growth than others. The suburbs with the highest growth between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Marrickville (+2,003 people or 8.1%)
- Leichhardt (+1,097 people or 8.1%)
- Ashfield (North) (+1,085 people or 9.0%), and
- Balmain (+1,019 people or 10.5%).

The suburbs with the highest percentage growth between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Camperdown (+718 people or 25.4%)
- Lewisham (+382 people or 13.6%)
- Balmain (+1,019 people or 10.5%)
- St Peters – Sydenham (+403 people or 10.4%), and
- Rozelle (+805 people or 10.1%).

Haberfield was the only suburb that had a decrease in population between 2011 and 2016 (-177 people or -2.7%).

A note on population counts

Profile.id states: "The most comprehensive population count available in Australia is derived from the Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics every five years. However the Census count is generally an under-estimate of the actual population, due to people missed in the Census and people overseas on Census night. To provide a more accurate population figure which is updated more frequently than every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics also produces "Estimated Resident Population" (ERP) numbers for the Inner West Council area.

The Estimated Resident Population is the official Inner West Council population for 2016, based on the usual residence population and includes adjustments for Census undercount. Each year's updates take into account births, deaths and both internal and overseas migration."

However, as the Estimated Resident Population is not broken down into population characteristics such as birthplace, religion, industry or occupation etc., for all demographic information in this report, except for the overall Inner West LGA population, the Usual Residence Population (URP) has been used.

TABLE 1 - TOTAL POPULATION (URP) (SOURCE: PROFILE.ID)

Area	2016	2011	Change #	Change %
Annandale	9,406	8,652	754	8.7%
Ashfield (North)	13,081	11,996	1,085	9.0%
Ashfield (South)	11,389	10,705	684	6.4%
Balmain	10,746	9,727	1,019	10.5%
Balmain East	1,940	1,859	81	4.4%
Birchgrove	3,231	3,129	102	3.3%
Camperdown	3,544	2,826	718	25.4%
Croydon	5,135	4,988	147	3.0%
Dulwich Hill	13,692	13,195	497	3.8%
Enmore	3,867	3,591	276	7.7%
Haberfield	6,471	6,648	-177	-2.7%
Leichhardt	14,623	13,526	1,097	8.1%
Lewisham	3,185	2,803	382	13.6%
Lilyfield	7,611	7,323	288	3.9%
Marrickville	26,602	24,599	2,003	8.1%
Marrickville South	10,213	9,574	639	6.7%
Newtown	7,927	7,281	646	8.9%
Petersham	8,101	7,557	544	7.2%
Rozelle	8,752	7,947	805	10.1%
St Peters - Sydenham	4,267	3,864	403	10.4%
Stanmore	7,858	7,417	441	6.0%
Summer Hill	7,300	6,840	460	6.7%
Tempe	3,552	3,302	250	7.6%
IWC area (URP)	182,043	169,799	12,244	+7.21%
IWC area (ERP)	192,030	180,301	11,729	+6.51%
Greater Sydney (URP)	4,823,991	4,391,636	+432,355	+9.84%

INNER WEST AGE PROFILE

Table 2 shows the age profile for the whole of the Inner West LGA.

The median age in the IWC area is 36, the same as Greater Sydney.

Overall, the IWC age profile is quite similar to the age profile of Greater Sydney, with slightly higher proportions of working age adults and slightly lower proportions of children and young people, in particular:

- A lower proportion of secondary school aged people (12-17 years) (4.6% compared to 6.9%)
- A much higher proportion of young workforce aged people (25-34 years) (20.3% compared to 16.1%), and
- A much higher proportion of parents and homebuilder aged people (35-49 years) (24.8% compared to 21.1%).

TABLE 2 - AGE PROFILE (URP) (SOURCE: PROFILE.ID)

	2016			2011			Change
Age group	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	2011 to 2016
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	10,743	5.9	6.4	11,761	6.9	6.8	-1,018
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	12,872	7.1	8.8	10,777	6.3	8.7	+2,095
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	8,292	4.6	6.9	7,201	4.2	7.4	+1,091
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	15,517	8.5	9.6	14,394	8.5	9.5	+1,123
Young workforce (25 to 34)	36,902	20.3	16.1	34,418	20.3	15.4	+2,484
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	45,205	24.8	21.1	44,528	26.2	21.9	+677
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	21,762	12.0	12.2	19,818	11.7	12.2	+1,944
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	15,636	8.6	9.5	13,352	7.9	9.0	+2,284
Seniors (70 to 84)	11,943	6.6	7.5	10,779	6.3	7.2	+1,164
Elderly aged (85 and over)	3,170	1.7	2.0	2,771	1.6	1.8	+399
Total IWC area (URP)*	182,042	100	100	169,799	100	100	+12,243
Total IWC area (ERP)	192,030			180,301			+11,729

**A note on population counts*

Profile.id states: "The most comprehensive population count available in Australia is derived from the Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics every five years. However the Census count is generally an under-estimate of the actual population, due to people missed in the Census and people overseas on Census night. To provide a more accurate population figure which is updated more frequently than every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics also produces "Estimated Resident Population" (ERP) numbers for the Inner West Council area.

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However, as the Estimated Resident Population is not broken down into population characteristics such as birthplace, religion, industry or occupation etc., for all demographic information in this report, except for the overall Inner West LGA population, the Usual Residence Population (URP) has been used.

INNER WEST POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS BY SUBURB

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate key population characteristics within the Inner West that can influence recreation participation including key age groups (Babies and children, young people and older people), people with a disability, and cultural diversity.

These characteristics shape the recreation needs of a suburb across the full spectrum of life, they also highlight the need for recreation to be inclusive of all cultures, abilities and ages.

Service age groups

Figure 10 shows key age profile characteristics for each suburb within the Inner, highlighting areas with high numbers or above LGA average proportions of children aged 0 to 11, young people aged 12 to 24, and older people 65+.

- Compared to the LGA average, the north of the LGA is characterised by high proportions of children and older people.
- The east of the LGA is characterised by high proportions of young people and working age adults, and low proportions of children and older people.
- In the south of the LGA, there are high proportions of children and young people, while the western LGA has high proportions of children, young people and older people, and corresponding lower proportions of working age adults.

The suburbs with the lowest median age were:

- Ashfield (CBD) (30)
- Newtown (33)
- Camperdown (33), and
- Ashfield (North) (33).

The suburbs with the highest median age were:

- Balmain East (43)
- Haberfield (43), and
- Birchgrove (42).

Student profile

Overall the Inner West has a slightly lower proportion of students than Greater Sydney, with lower proportions of primary and secondary school students and a higher proportion of university students.

- In 2016, 23% of people in the IWC area attended an educational institution (39,268 people), slightly lower compared to 25% in Greater Sydney. The major differences between the IWC area and Greater Sydney were a lower proportion of primary school students (6.5% compared to 8.1%) and secondary school students, (4.2% compared to 6.3%), and a slightly higher proportion of university students (7.6% compared to 6.1%).
- Camperdown had the highest proportion of people attending university in the IWC area (14.2%), followed by Ashfield (North) (10.7%), and Newtown (10%). Ashfield (South) had the highest proportion of people attending TAFE, 2.5%, followed by Tempe (2.2%), and Ashfield (North) (2.2%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents

Overall the Inner West has a low proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, however there some areas with larger populations.

In 2016, 1.1% of the IWC area's population identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2,029 people), a lower proportion compared to 1.5% in Greater Sydney. Tempe (2.3%) and Lewisham (1.9%) had higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents than Greater Sydney.

People with disability

The 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers survey (SDAC) indicated that almost one in five Australians reported living with a disability (18.3%

Figure 6 - Inner West Age and disability profile

or 4.3 million people), and that the majority (78.5%) of people with disability reported a physical condition, such as back problems, as their main long-term health condition. The other 21.5% reported mental and behavioral disorders. This data is not available at a local level, however the ABS census collects information of people who report need for assistance in their day to day lives due to a disability.

The Inner West has a similar proportion of people who identified need for assistance with disability to Greater Sydney, however some suburbs have significantly with higher rates of disability.

- In 2016, 4.5% of the IWC area's population reported a need for assistance with day to day activities due to disability (8,168 people), a slightly lower proportion compared to 4.9% in Greater Sydney. Areas in the south and west of the LGA had higher proportions/numbers of people reporting a need for assistance (Figure 10).
- The four suburbs with the highest proportion of people reporting a need for assistance were:
  - Ashfield (South) (7.3%)
  - Haberfield (6.8%)
  - Marrickville (6.5%), and
  - Tempe (6.1%).
- Marrickville South* also had a high proportion of people reporting a need for assistance (5.8%).

Cultural diversity

Overall the Inner West has a low proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home, however some areas of very high non-English speaking populations. There are decreasing numbers of Italian and Greek speakers, and increasing numbers of Mandarin, Nepali and Thai speakers.

Overall, 28.4% of the population of the IWC area spoke a non-English language, a lower proportion compared with 35.8% for Greater Sydney. In 2016, the most common languages spoken at home were:

- Chinese languages (Mandarin: 3.6%, Cantonese: 1.9%)
- Greek (2.9%)
- Italian (2.8%), and
- Vietnamese (2.0%).

The number of Greek and Italian speakers declined in the Inner West between 2011 and 2016 (Greek: -497 people or an 8.5% decrease; Italian: 506 people or a 9.1% decrease).

The fastest growing language groups in the Inner West were (between 2011 and 2016):

- Mandarin: +1,405 people or 27% increase
- Nepali: +610 people or 34% increase
- Thai: +554 people or 60% increase
- Vietnamese: +349 people or 10% increase, and
- Spanish: +342 people or 15% increase.

Figure 7 shows areas with above LGA average proportions, or high numbers of people speaking a language other than English at home:

- There are higher proportions of people speaking a language other than English in the south and west of the LGA.
- The suburbs with the highest proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home (and the most common languages in those suburbs) were:
  - Ashfield (North) (55%) – Mandarin, Nepali and Cantonese
  - Ashfield (South) (52%) – Mandarain, Cantonese and Nepali
  - Croydon (44%) – Mandarin, Italian and Cantonese, and
  - Marrickville (37%) – Greek, Vietnamese and Arabic.
  - Marrickville South* also had a high proportion speaking a language other than English at home (40%) – Greek, Vietnamese and Arabic.

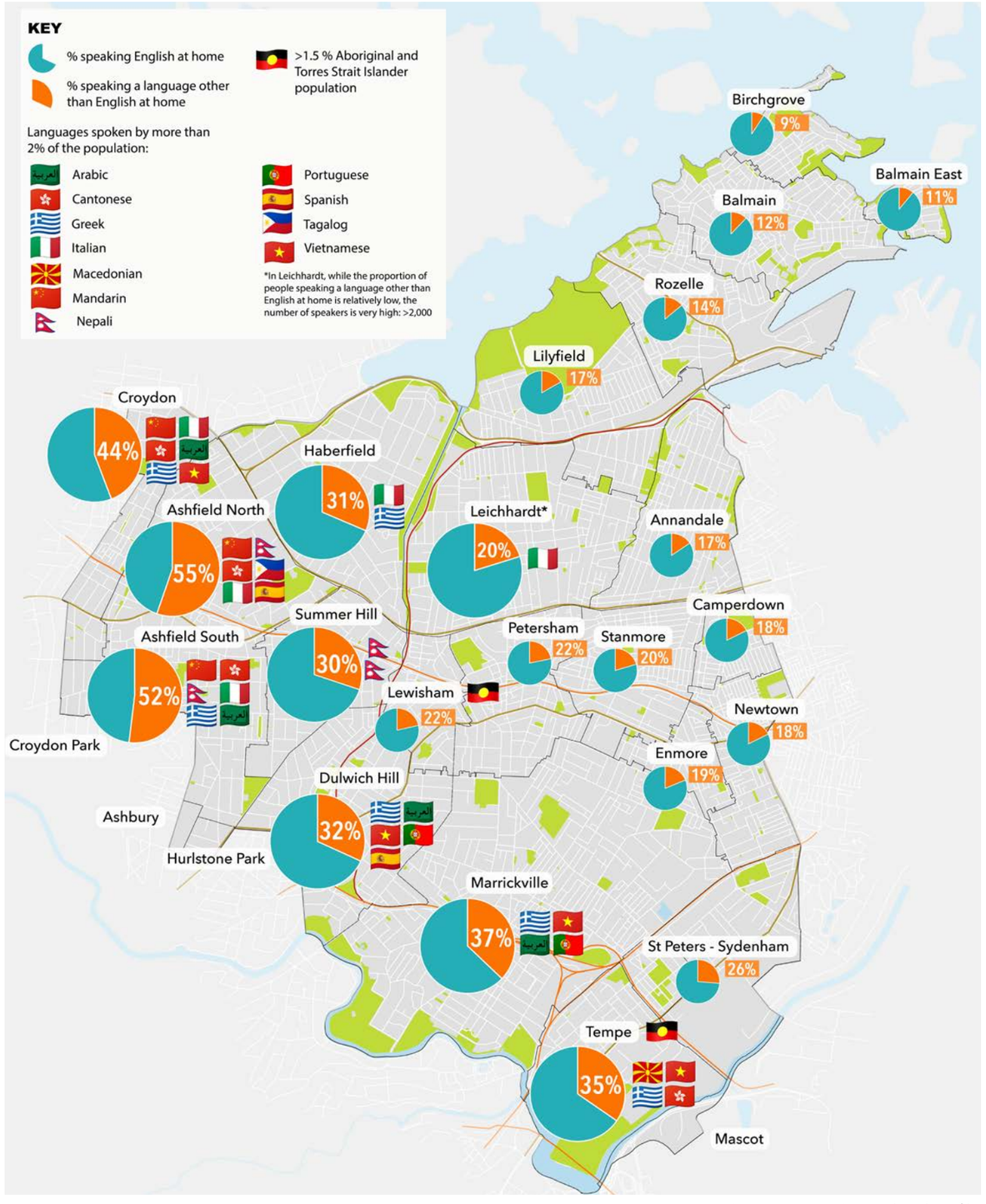


Figure 7 - Inner West cultural profile

* Profile.id provides demographic data for the Marrickville South area (also included as part of Marrickville suburb). This has been highlighted throughout this section where significant.

HOUSEHOLDS AND DENSITY

Figure 8 (overpage) shows population size, income, car ownership, and dwelling type characteristics for each suburb in the LGA:

- Most suburbs in the LGA are characterised by medium density dwelling types (eg terraces). Ashfield North has a majority of high density dwellings.
- The north of the LGA has higher income areas while incomes are generally lower in the south and west.
- Overall, there is low car ownership in particular in suburbs along the train lines.

High population density

In 2016, the population density in the IWC area was 51 persons per hectare, which is much higher than Greater Sydney (4 persons per hectare).

The suburbs with the highest population density were:

- Enmore (90 persons per hectare)
- Newtown (88 persons per hectare)
- Camperdown (85 persons per hectare), and
- Ashfield (North) (83 persons per hectare).

The suburbs with the lowest population density were:

- Tempe (17 persons per hectare)
- St Peters – Sydenham (24 persons per hectare), and
- Haberfield (27 persons per hectare).

High proportion of medium and high density dwellings

In 2016, 73% of dwellings in the IWC area were medium or high density dwellings, which is much higher compared to 44% in Greater Sydney.

The most dominant dwelling type in the IWC area was medium density dwellings (47%), which includes townhouses, terraces, villa units and semi-detached dwellings, flats in 1 and 2 storey blocks and flats attached to houses.

The second most common dwelling type was high density housing (27%), which includes flats in 3 or more storey blocks.

The areas with the highest proportion of high density dwellings were:

- Ashfield (North) (59%)
- Camperdown (37%)
- Balmain East (37%)
- Dulwich Hill (35%), and
- Marrickville (31%).

Higher than average income overall for the LGA, despite pockets of low income houses

In 2016, households in the IWC area had a median weekly income of $2,042. This is $297 higher compared to Greater Sydney ($1,745). Within the IWC area, median household incomes range from a low of $1,585 in Ashfield (South) to a high of $3,267 in Birchgrove.

In 2016, 13% of the IWC area's total households were low income (receiving less than $650 dollars per week (before tax in 2016), a lower proportion compared to 15% in Greater Sydney.

The four suburbs with the highest proportion of low income households were:

- Ashfield (South) (17%)
- Lilyfield (17%)
- Croydon (16%), and
- Ashfield (North) (15%).
- Marrickville South also had a high proportion of low income households:16%.

Low car ownership in particular in suburbs along the train lines

Car ownership is much lower in the IWC area compared to Greater Sydney. For example:

- A higher proportion of households in the IWC area did not own a car (16%) compared to Greater Sydney (11%).
- A lower proportion of households in the IWC area owned at least one car (74%) compared to Greater Sydney (81%).
- A lower proportion of households in the IWC area had access to two or more motor vehicles (28%) compared to 46% in Greater Sydney.

The five areas with the highest proportions of households without a car were:

- Newtown (26.0%)
- Ashfield (North) (21%)
- Enmore (21%),
- Camperdown (21%), and
- Ashfield (South) (21%).

The five areas with the highest proportions of households with two or more cars were:

- Haberfield (52%)
- Croydon (40%)
- Lilyfield (37%)
- Birchgrove (37%), and
- Tempe (35%).

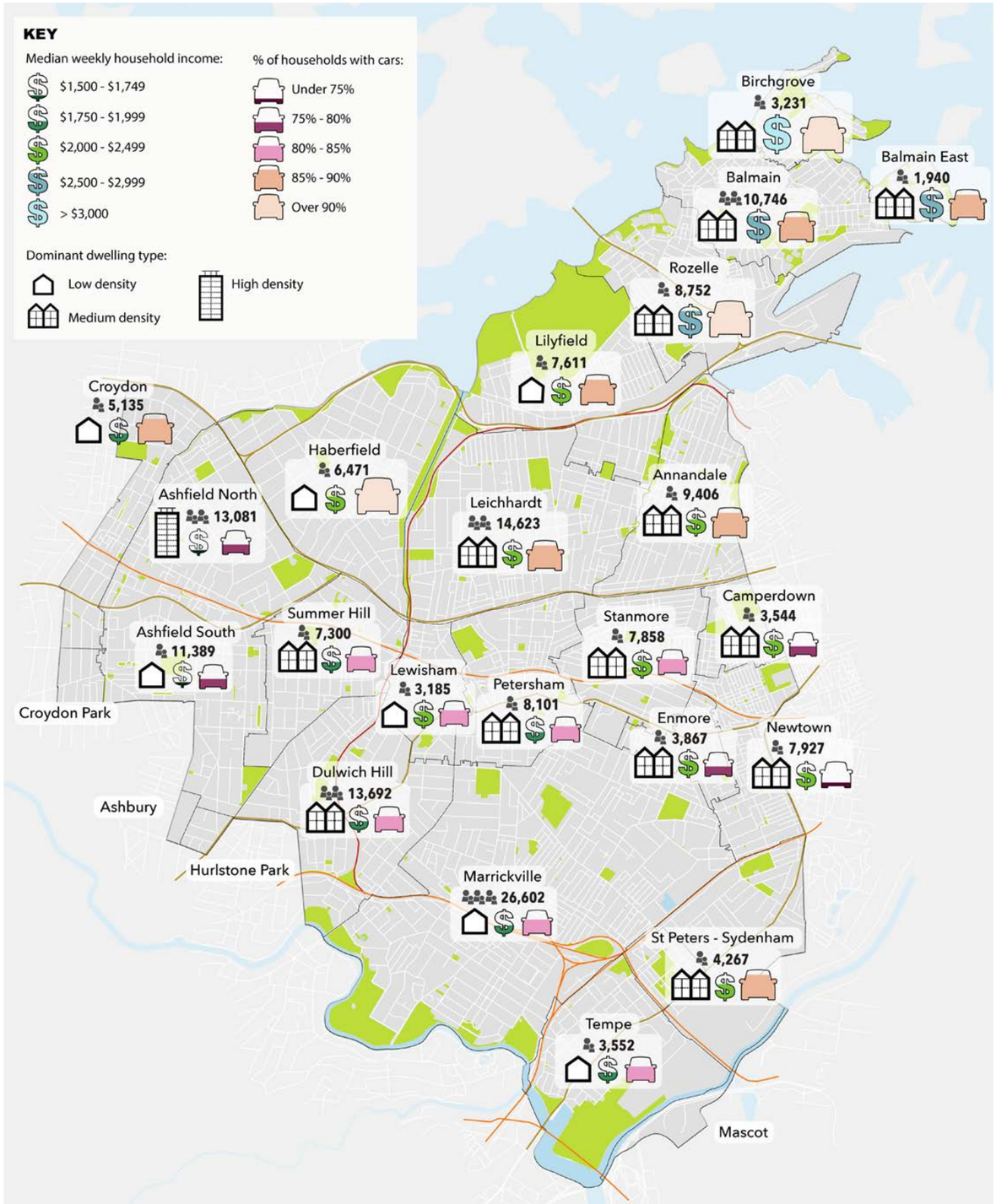


Figure 8 - Inner West density, income and housing profile

THE FUTURE INNER WEST COMMUNITY

Population projections show how the Inner West Council area will change over the next twenty years. Becoming home to more people means that existing and new recreation spaces will need to be innovative in the way that they support the growing community's needs. This section outlines the future total population of the Inner West by suburb, using data from the Inner West Council's internal forecast, as well as from Profile.id.

KEY FINDINGS: FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INNER WEST

As shown by Table 3, the Inner West's increasing population and changing density will mean that open space and recreation facilities will not only be in higher demand, but they will also be increasingly important spaces for people to socialise, recreate and build a sense of community within a finite land supply with meaning competing use demands. While the delivery of recreation for an increased popualation and dense environment is a challenge, it also brings opportunity for innovation in service delievery through the application of multi-use and purpose spaces, universal design, creating networks of open space and sharing spaces - all approaches that allow Council to get more out of their existing and future recreation assets.

An increasing population

There is significant population growth forecast for the Inner West. This section outlines the forecast population of the Inner West, from data based on the current census population and planned development in the area. There are some areas where the development outcomes are as yet undetermined; a forecast range is given for these areas.

The population will increase from 192,030 in 2016 to between 231,009 to 241,001 in 2036 (an increase of between 13,769 to 13,699 people).

As shown in **Table 3**, the suburbs with the largest forecast growth (number of people) are:

- Marrickville (+6,934 to +14,151 people)
- Leichhardt (+6,710 people)
- Ashfield (+5,118 people)
- Lewisham (+2,458 people), and
- Petersham (+2,105 people).

The key age profile change from 2016 to 2026 and beyond to 2036 is an increased proportion of older people 70+ (currently 8.1%, 9.8% in 2026 and 11.2% in 2036).

An increasingly dense urban environment

The Inner west has a land area of 3,519 hectares, that as the population continues to grow will need to be shared amongst more people. Figure 3 shows how the population density of the Inner West will increase from 51 persons per hectare in 2016, to approximately 65 to 68 persons per hectare in 2036.

The suburbs with the greatest projected increase in population density from 2016 to 2036 are:

- Lewisham + 41.3 persons per hectare (53 persons per ha in 2016 to 94.3 in 2036),
- Leichhardt + 30.2 persons per hectare (60.1 persons per ha in 2016 to 90.3 in 2036),
- Camperdown + 24.5 persons per hectare (89.3 persons per ha in 2016, to 113.8 in 2036),
- Marrickville +21.3 persons per hectare (48.7 persons per ha in 2016, to 70.1 - 82.5 in 2036), and
- Croydon + 14.7 persons per hectare (48.4 persons per ha in 2016 to 63.1 in 2036).

With significant increases in the projected population densities within these suburbs, particularly Lewisham which is almost doubling the density, and Leichhardt which is increasing the population by one third, future development must take into account recreation needs and provision.

Table 3 - Inner West forecast population

Area	2016 population (URP)	2026 forecast population	Forecast change 2016 to 2026	2036 forecast population	Forecast change 2026 to 2036
Annandale	9,406	10,281	875	10,776	495
Ashfield	23,908	29,026	5,118	30,818	1,792
Balmain	10,746	11,184	438	11,033	-151
Balmain East	1,940	2,008	68	1,999	-9
Birchgrove	3,231	3,220	-11	3,200	-20
Camperdown	3,544	4,439	895	4,780	341
Croydon - Croydon Park	5,135	6,180	1,045	6,999	819
Dulwich Hill	13,692	16,463 to 18,728	2,168 to 4,433	16,833 to 19,087	370 to 359
Enmore	3,867	4,165	298	4,173	8
Haberfield	6,471	6,569	98	6,780	211
Leichhardt	14,623	21,333	6,710	23,307	1,974
Lewisham	3,185	5,643	2,458	5,940	297
Lilyfield	7,611	8,041	430	8,026	-15
Marrickville	26,602	34,934 to 42,151	6,934 to 14,151	40,213 to 47,381	5,279 to 5,230
Newtown	7,927	8,506	579	8,517	11
Petersham	8,101	10,206	2,105	10,318	112
Rozelle	8,752	9,345	593	9,429	84
St Peters - Sydenham	4,267	4,164 to 4,744	-382 to 198	5,767 to 6,339	1,604 to 1,594
Stanmore	7,858	9,110	1,252	9,221	111
Summer Hill	7,300	8,701	1,401	9,076	375
Tempe	3,552	3,722	170	3,803	81
Inner West (based on ERP)	192,030	217,240 to 227,302	25,218 to 35,280	231,009 to 241,001	13,769 to 13,699

(Source: PROFILE.ID and Inner West Council Internal Forecast)

CURRENT SITUATION

Inner West Council (Council) plays an active role in encouraging participation in recreation by providing settings for recreation and facilitating recreation programs and activities. Council's recreation spaces include parks, sporting grounds, recreation facilities, natural areas and community venues. Increasingly in urban environments streets and laneways are becoming places for recreational participation. There are also numerous privately or State-owned/operated facilities available to users.

Recreation activities within recreation spaces are provided directly by Council, by Council engaged service providers, by community organisations and by the private sector. Council plays a key role in facilitating recreation through partnerships with relevant organisations and the provision of funding through grants programs.

KEY FINDINGS

- In total, there is 323.4ha of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m2 per person. There are 276 Council owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds – 256ha, making up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West and 13.3m2 per person.

- Around half of all open space in the LGA is regional open space. Across the LGA, there is a good provision and distribution of district level parks and small local parks, but a low provision of larger local parks (0.5ha to 2ha).

- Council provides many spaces for recreation including outdoor gyms, play spaces, toilets, community gardens, natural spaces including opportunities for recreation in nature such as bushcare or walking along a foreshore, sporting grounds, indoor recreation, aquatic facilities and tidal baths, cycle paths, and community centres and halls. Council also delivers or provides space for recreation programs.

- Council has 28 sporting grounds which provide for different sports with facilities including sporting grounds catering for different codes, courts, amenities and spectator infrastructure, and supporting facilities such as cricket nets.

- Other providers of recreation spaces in the Inner West include provide facilities such as gyms, yoga studios, dance studios, gymnastics facilities and rockclimbing businesses; schools (who are also regular users of Council's facilities); and providers who lease Council's assets such as bowling clubs.

- Residents of the Inner West may also use neighbouring council's facilities, in the same way as people from around Sydney visit the Inner West for its recreation facilities.

DEFINITIONS

This section provides an audit of the current provision of recreation spaces in the Inner West including:

Parks

A park is an area of open space which facilitates a range of passive and active recreation activities through the provision of recreation facilities.

Sporting ground

A sporting ground is open space which is used primarily for organised sports. Sporting grounds are also available for informal recreation when not in use for organised sport.

Recreation facility

Infrastructure ranging from indoor recreation facilities, aquatic centres, and indoor and outdoor courts that enable participation in recreation activities.

Council community venues

This includes halls, community centres and meeting places where recreation programs can be delivered.

ACCESSIBILITY

Council has not completed an accessibility audit of its parks, sporting grounds or recreation facilities which can create a barrier for inclusion for people with disability. Council has completed an audit of accessibility for its community venues.

To note:

Condition assessments were not within the scope of this study beyond information gathered through community engagement. A summary of engagement findings by facility is provided at **Appendix 2**.

TOTAL OPEN SPACE

In total, there is 323.4ha of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m2 per person. There are:

- 276 Council owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds – 256ha, making up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West and 13.3m2 per person, and
- 4 State government owned parks and sporting grounds, specifically:
  - Ballast Point Park
  - Callan Park
  - Enmore TAFE Park, and
  - Fraser Park.

Open space is not evenly distributed through the LGA, with some areas having up to 22% (eg Birchgrove) of the total land area as Council owned open space (38.5m2 per person) while other areas have as low as 1.1% or 1.2m2 per person (Enmore). Chapter 7: Recreation Needs Benchmarking provides a more detailed review of the provision of open space against benchmarks.

Table 4 shows the m2 of Council owned open space in each suburb, the percentage of land area that this equates to, and m2 of open space per person.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of open space that is Council owned and controlled or State owned.

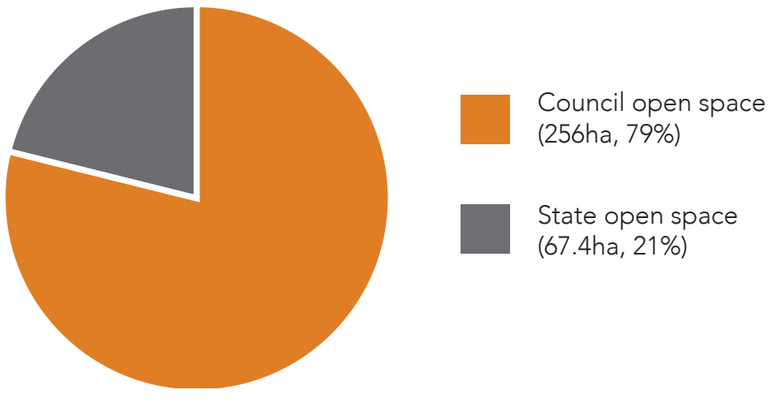


Figure 9 - Current open space provision in the Inner West

TABLE 4 - CURRENT OPEN SPACE PROVISION (COUNCIL OWNED ONLY) (SOURCE: CRED CONSULTING AND INNER WEST COUNCIL)

Area	2016 population (URP)	Area size (ha)	Council open space (ha)	% of land area that is Council owned open space	2016 m2 per person (Council owned open space)
Annandale	9,406	140	10	7%	10.8
Ashfield	23,908	340	19	6%	8.1
Balmain	10,746	155	12	8%	10.8
Balmain East	1,940	27	5	17%	23.3
Birchgrove	3,231	57	12	22%	38.4
Camperdown	3,544	42	7	16%	18.4
Croydon	5,135	111	4	4%	8.7
Dulwich Hill	13,692	208	6	3%	4.5
Enmore	3,867	43	0	1%	1.2
Haberfield	6,471	240	20	8%	30.3
Leichhardt	14,623	258	16	6%	11.6
Lewisham	3,185	63	1	2%	3.8
Lilyfield	7,611	221	15	7%	19.5
Marrickville	26,602	574	59	10%	22.2
Newtown	7,927	90	4	5%	5.2
Petersham	8,101	129	7	5%	8.0
Rozelle	8,752	179	12	7%	14.2
St Peters - Sydenham	4,267	176	9	5%	20.6
Stanmore	7,858	123	2	1%	2.0
Summer Hill	7,300	121	3	3%	4.3
Tempe	3,552	205	6	3%	90.1
Inner West Council area (URP)	182,043	3,519	256	7%	14.1
Inner West Council area (ERP)	192,030	3,519	256	7%	13.3

PARKS

Parks provide the setting for activities across the spectrum of recreation, from quiet reading to social gatherings to active sport. Local parks meet the needs of a local community, such as for play space, space to walk the dog, or relief from the urban environment. Larger parks may meet a district or regional need, providing a range of uses for different groups including space for community gatherings, sporting grounds, iconic spaces and major facilities.

Figure 10 overpage shows existing parks categorised by hierarchy type (for discussion of the proposed hierarchy types, see Recreation Standards section of this report, pp 49 - 69) .

Table 5 shows that overall, around half of all open space in the LGA is regional open space (51%). This is mostly accommodated in Callan Park (61ha). Across the LGA, there is a good provision and distribution of both District (24%) and Level 2 Local (17%) open space, but a low provision of Level 1 Local open space (6%).

When State-owned land is excluded, there is still a good provision and distribution of open space across the hierarchy (Table 6).

Appendix 3 shows all the parks within the Inner West LGA boundary, and nearby parks in adjoining LGAs.

The community engagement completed for this study indicates the most visited parks in the Inner West are:

- Steel Park
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Mackey Park
- Camperdown Memorial Rest Park
- Callan Park
- Ashfield Park
- Enmore Park
- Petersham Park
- Darrell Jackson Gardens, and
- Camperdown Park.

TABLE 5 - CURRENT HIERARCHY INCLUDING STATE OWNED LAND

Type	Number of parks	Ha	% of all parks
Regional (5ha+)	12	165.8ha (including Callan Park (61ha)	51%
District (2ha to 5ha)	22	78.3ha	24%
Level 1 Local (0.5ha to 2ha)	45	20ha	6%
Level 2 Local (0.1ha to 0.5ha)	86	53.8ha	17%
Urban Landscape Amenity (<0.1ha)	114	5.56ha	2%

TABLE 6 - CURRENT HIERARCHY COUNCIL OWNED OPEN SPACE ONLY

Type	Number of parks	Ha	% of all parks
Regional (5ha+)	11	104.8ha	41%
District (2ha to 5ha)	20	72.3ha	28%
Level 1 Local (0.5ha to 2ha)	45	19.5ha	8%
Level 2 Local (0.1ha to 0.5ha)	85	53.8ha	23%
Urban Landscape Amenity (<0.1ha)	114	5.6ha	2%

Outdoor gyms

Council provides 9 outdoor gyms in parks across the LGA, and 2 new stations are currently under construction. These include spaces for personal fitness as well as gentler senior's exercise. Outdoor gyms include:

- Ashfield Park
- Camperdown Park
- Gladstone Park (under development)
- Jarvie Park
- Johnson Park
- King George Park
- Leichhardt Park
- Marrickville Park
- Spindler's Reserve
- Steel Park, and
- Sydenham Green.

Playspaces

A play space refers to recreation spaces with a play focus for younger and older children such as playgrounds, nature play or adventure play.

Inner West has a total of 116 playspaces across the LGA.

There is one seniors play space in Leichhardt Park.

Toilets

There are 46 parks with toilets.

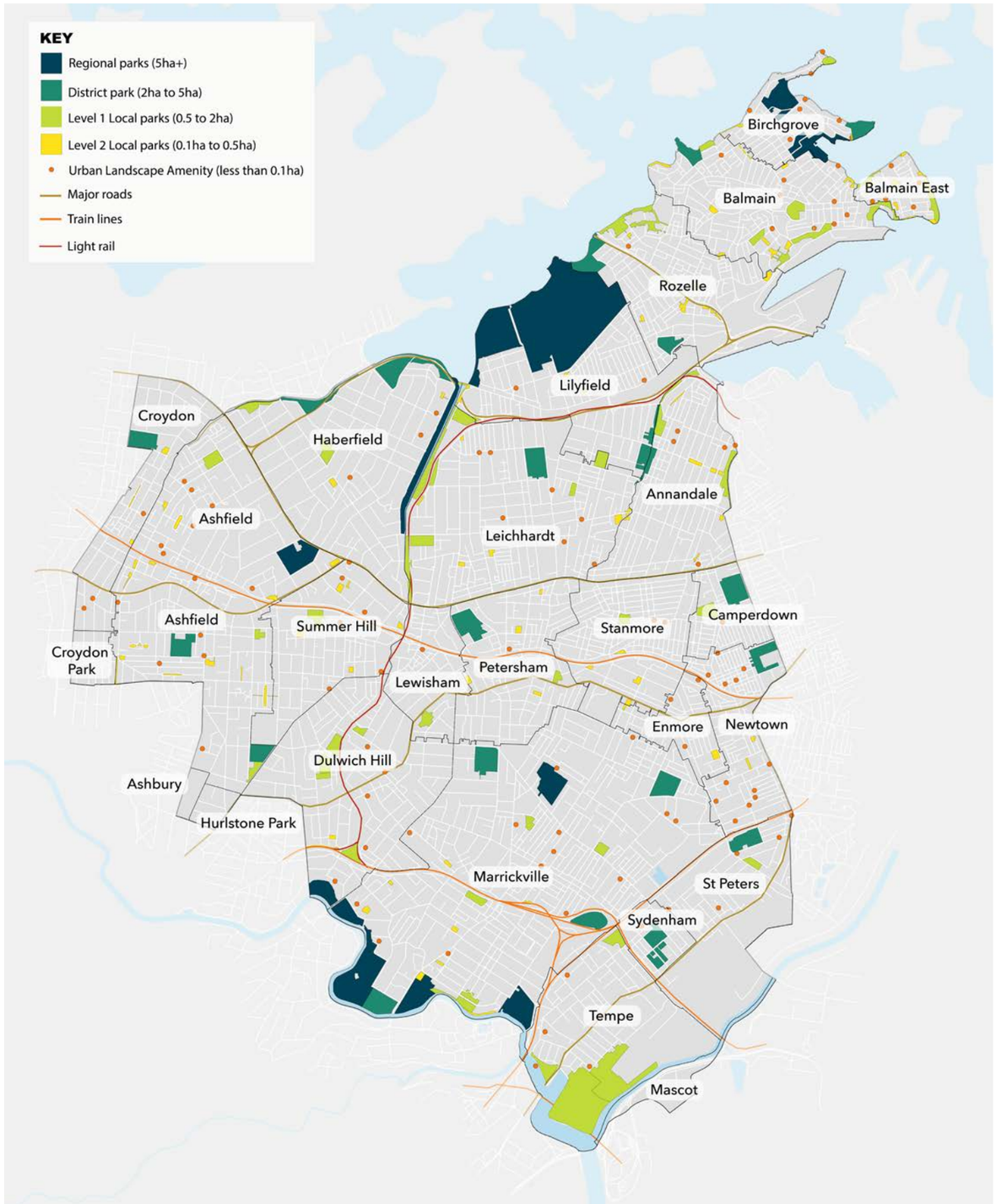


Figure 10 - Current provision by hierarchy type

NATURAL RECREATION SPACES

Best practice planning for recreation in urban environments emphasises finding opportunities to connect and be in nature, to provide relief from the urban environment, support physical and mental health, and contribute to environmental outcomes[1]. Recreation spaces that provide connection to nature include community gardens and bushcare; foreshore, creek and river corridor parks; and the Green Grid. The harbour also provides recreation opportunities in nature such as swimming, kayaking, and sailing.

Green Grid

The Greater Sydney Green Grid is a long-term vision for a network of high quality green spaces that connect communities to the natural landscape. It includes tree-lined streets, waterways, bushland corridors, parks and open spaces linked to centres, public transport and public places.

Key links in the Green Grid in the Inner West are:

- The Cooks River Foreshore path: from Tempe Reserve along the Cooks River, and continuing to Homebush and Botany Bay
- The GreenWay: urban green corridor connecting the Cooks River to Iron Cove, and
- The Bay Run: approximately 7km harbourside walking and cycle route.

Other identified Green Grid links include:

- Sydney Harbour Foreshore
- Parramatta River Walk
- Whites Creek and Whites Creek Lane parkland and recreational trail
- Callan Park
- Johnson Creek and Harold Park parkland and recreational trail, and
- Tom Uren & Balmain Foreshores Heritage Walking Trail.

Community gardens and bushcare

There are 18 community gardens in the Inner West including on Council land and in local non-Council facilities such as schools, community centres and churches.

There are 9 bushcare groups in the Inner West, working at around 15 locations.

Foreshore, creek and river corridor parks

A number of parks have natural waterfront settings, including:

- 16 Creek corridor parks
- 39 Foreshore parks, and
- 18 River corridor parks.

While these parks offer opportunities for connection to nature, water, and cool environments, they are also at risk from climate change including flooding events and rising sea levels.

1 Soderlund and Newman, 'Biophilic architecture: A review of the rationale and outcomes', AIMS Environmental Science, 2015

SPORTING GROUNDS

Sporting grounds are vital social infrastructure for all of the community. They support formal and informal sport and recreation and enable the community to lead healthy active lifestyles. Through sports clubs and organisations, a strong sense of community belonging and social cohesion can be built.

Inner West Council has 28 sporting grounds (places where you go to play organised sport). Within these grounds:

- 1 is used for elite sport (Leichhardt Oval)
- 1 is used for semi-elite sport (Henson Park)
- 2 are synthetic (Arlington Oval – publically accessible and Lambert Park – privately leased)
- 1 is shared with a school/Council maintains (Sydney Secondary College – Leichhardt Campus)
- 2 are for junior sport only (Cohen Park and Leichhardt #3)

In addition to the facilities outlined above, the NSW State government owns Fraser Park in Marrickville which includes 1 synthetic soccer field, 3 6-a-side soccer fields and 2 bowling lawns.

The full audit of Council's sporting grounds is provided at Table 7.

Seasonal sporting facilities

In the 'winter' season – within the sporting grounds - there are 38 senior fields and 5 junior fields.`

In the 'summer' season - within the sporting grounds - there are 29 senior fields and 1 junior field.

TABLE 7 - SPORTING GROUNDS AND COURTS (SOURCE: INNER WEST COUNCIL)

Locations	AFL	Baseball	Cricket Wicket	Cricket Nets	Soccer	Rugby League / Union	Athletics Track	Basketball	Netball	Tennis	Multi-Purpose	Skating	Other
Algie Park					1								
Arlington Oval					1 synthetic								
Ashfield Park			synthetic		1								lawn bowls
Balmain Road					1								
Birchgrove Park	1*		turf	3	2*	2*				7			
Blackmore Oval			synthetic	3		1							
Camdenville Oval					1								
Camperdown Oval			turf			1		2		3	3		
Centenary Park			2 synthetic	2	2			1					
Cohen Park			synthetic (junior)	1	2 mini (junior)						2 x tennis, futsal, netball		
Easton Park			synthetic	2	1								
Darrell Jackson Gardens										2		1	
Gladstone Park											basketball, netball, futsal		Lawn bowls
Glover Street	1 junior only*	1 senior 1 Junior			2*								
Hammond Park			synthetic		1					1			
Henson Park	1*					1*				7			
HJ Mahoney Memorial Reserve	1	1 (grass)											
Jack Shanahan Reserve											1	1	

Locations	AFL	Baseball	Cricket Wicket	Cricket Nets	Soccer	Rugby League / Union	Athletics Track	Basketball	Netball	Tennis	Multi-Purpose	Skating	Other
Jarvie Park								1					
Johnson Park				2				1					
King George Park					1*	1*	1						
Lambert Park					1 synthetic								
Leichhardt Oval					1*	1*							
Leichhardt # 2						1							
Leichhardt # 3					2 mini (junior)								
Mackey Park			synthetic		3								
Marrickville Park			turf			1				8			croquet
Mort Bay Park								1					
Petersham Park		1	turf										
Pratten Park			turf	3	1					6			lawn bowls
Punch Park										1	tennis, 1/2 basketball, netball		
Richard Murden Reserve									6	4			
SSC Leichhardt Campus					1								
Steel Park			synthetic		3								
Sydenham Green								2				1	
Tempe Reserve			2 synthetic	2	4	2			11				
Waterfront Drive			synthetic	3	2								
Whites Creek Valley Park								1				1	
Wicks Park										4			
Total	4	4	15	21	33	11	1	9	17	43	8	4	4

*Only one of these sports can be played at a time at the sporting ground

CAPACITY AND UTILISATION OF EXISTING SPORTS FIELDS

In urban environments where there is limited space for new facilities, increasing the capacity of existing fields is a priority. The current capacity and utilisation of Council's existing sports fields is detailed in Table 8. The table provides an outline of the existing utilisation of sporting grounds in the Inner West, as well as their optimum capacity (the maximum amount of use per week that would still enable a useable surface condition). This table shows that of Council's 25 sports fields, over 50% (13 sports fields) will be at or over capacity in the Winter 2018 season. Two additional sports fields are nearing capacity (above 90%). There are opportunities to increase the capacity of sports fields to better meet recreation needs through for example surface improvements, lighting improvement, maintenance of damage from dogs, engineering for flooding etc.

TABLE 8 - SPORTING FIELDS AND COURTS UTILISATION AND CAPACITY (WINTER 2018) (SOURCE: INNER WEST COUNCIL)

Field	Hours of use*	Capacity (hours)**	% of capacity currently used	Year of last upgrade
Algie Park	35	30	***117***	2016
Arlington Oval	41	41	***100***	2014
Ashfield Park	27.5	30	92	2018
Balmain Road	35	30	***117***	Built in 2013
Birchgrove Oval	46	30	***153***	2014
Blackmore Oval	38	30	***127***	2015
Camdenville Oval	22	25	88	
Camperdown Oval	25	30	83	2016
Centenary Park 1	35	30	***117***	2018
Centenary Park 2	31	30	***103***	2018
Cohen Park	42	30	***140***	2017
Easton Park	38	30	***127***	2000
Glover Street	41	30	***137***	Built in 2013
Hammond Park	18.5	30	62	2016 and 2018
Henson Park	33.25	30	***111***	2016
Hj Mahoney Memorial Reserve	38	30	***127***	2007
King George Park	47	30	***157***	Approx. 20+ years ago
Leichhardt #2	38	30	***127***	2016
Leichhardt #3	28	30	93	2012
Mackey Park 1	27	30	90	2009
Mackey Park 2	27	30	90	2009
Mackey Park 3	27	30	90	2009
Marrickville Park	28	30	93	2009
Petersham Park	31	30	***103***	Approx. 20+ years ago
Pratten Park	40	30	***133***	2016
SSC Leichhardt Campus	64	30	***213***	Built in 2011

Field	Hours of use*	Capacity (hours)**	% of capacity currently used	Year of last upgrade
Steel Park 1	33	30	***110***	2007
Steel Park 2	33	30	***110***	2007
Steel Park minis	25	30	83	2007
Tempe Reserve 1	32	30	***107***	2003
Tempe Reserve 2	29	25	***116***	2003
Tempe Reserve 3	32	25	***128***	2003
Tempe Reserve 4	29	25	***116***	2003
Tempe Reserve 5	29	25	***116***	2003
Tempe Reserve 6	14.5	25	58	2003
Waterfront Drive	16	16	100	2018

Notes:

- *Hours of use include organised sport and schools use, but not fitness trainers and events bookings)
- **Capacity (hours) (considers type of activity, wet weather recovery, quantity of participation, lighting coverage, turf species, level of informal use (including off leash dogs)

RECREATION FACILITIES

Indoor recreation facilities

Council owns two indoor recreation facilities, the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation and Community Centre and Robyn Webster Sports Centre. These are both located in the south of the LGA. There are no Council indoor recreation facilities in the north of the LGA.

The Robyn Webster Sports Centre is operated through an external provider (Sydney University Sport and Fitness and City of Sydney Netball Association). Community engagement indicates that the condition is passable, however court surface improvements could be worthwhile to increase utilisation and support a range of sports such as roller derby.

The Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation and Community Centre is operated by NSW PCYC through as service agreement with Council. In 2017, there were around 168,000 visits to the centre. Community engagement indicates that while the facility was initially built to a high standard in 2003, it has now aged including the court surfaces. A particular issue is the lack of good ventilation or airconditioning.

There are no private/non-Council indoor recreation facilities providing indoor courts in the LGA.

Council's two indoor recreation facilities provide a total of five indoor multipurpose courts. Inner West's current provision of indoor courts is below the Parks and Leisure Australia industry benchmark of 1: 20,000 people which indicates that there should be around 9 indoor courts to support the current population of 190,030 people.

Non-Council recreation facilities

There are other facilities within the area which service residents with varying degrees of public access for the community, including:

- Commercial fitness clubs and gyms
- Commercial recreation spaces, and
- Commercial rehabilitation and wellness businesses.

An indicative audit of dedicated recreation facilities is provided in Table 9 below.

TABLE 9 - NON-COUNCIL RECREATION FACILITIES (SOURCE: GOOGLE.COM)

Facility type	# of private facilities
Fitness gyms	69
Yoga and pilates	33
Martial arts studios	30
Dance studios	19
Lawn bowls	4
Rowing clubs	3
Gymnastics facilities	3
Indoor rockclimbing/bouldering	3
Aquatic facilities	2
Sailing clubs	2
Parkour and circus studios	2

Aquatic facilities

Swimming is one of the most popular recreational activities amongst adults and children both nationally and locally in the Inner West. At least 37% of people consulted for this study visit an aquatic facility weekly. Aquatics facilities form part of a diverse range of recreational opportunities that respond to the modern demands of Australian communities. These facilities provide services which promote physical fitness, water safety skills and confidence. They are a place for competition and play; a place to seek relief from the summer heat.

Figure 11 (overpage), shows the four aquatic centres and one tidal bath within the Inner West. In addition, there are two private aquatic centres in the LGA, the Col Jones Swim Centre in Tempe and JUMP! Swim Schools Leichhardt.

Attendance at Council's aquatic facilities is detailed in Table 10. Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre has the highest attendance in the LGA.

Hydrotherapy pools

As part of these facilities, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, Ashfield Aquatic Centre, and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre have warm water program pools. The redevelopment of the Ashfield Aquatic Centre will also support warm water aquatics therapy, with the current heated indoor pool integrating with a new spa, steam and sauna. This will increase access to aquatics therapy including aqua classes, hydro classes, walking lanes, passive access etc.

Water polo

Council provides two pools for water polo competitions (Ashfield Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Baths), and an additional training pool at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. Private water polo facilities are also available at Newington College. Regionally, public pools for water polo competitions are also available at Sydney University, Lidcombe, and Drummoyne.

There are other aquatic options within the area which service Inner West residents with varying degrees of public access for the community, including:

- Private Learn to Swim operators including Col Jones Swim Centre in Tempe and JUMP! Swim Schools in Leichhardt
- School facilities
- Commercial fitness clubs
- Commercial rehabilitation and wellness businesses, and
- Private / communal swimming pools – backyard or within residential developments.

As shown in Figure 13 (p. 35), there are two aquatic centres located near the Inner West boundary and a number of facilities in neighbouring councils.

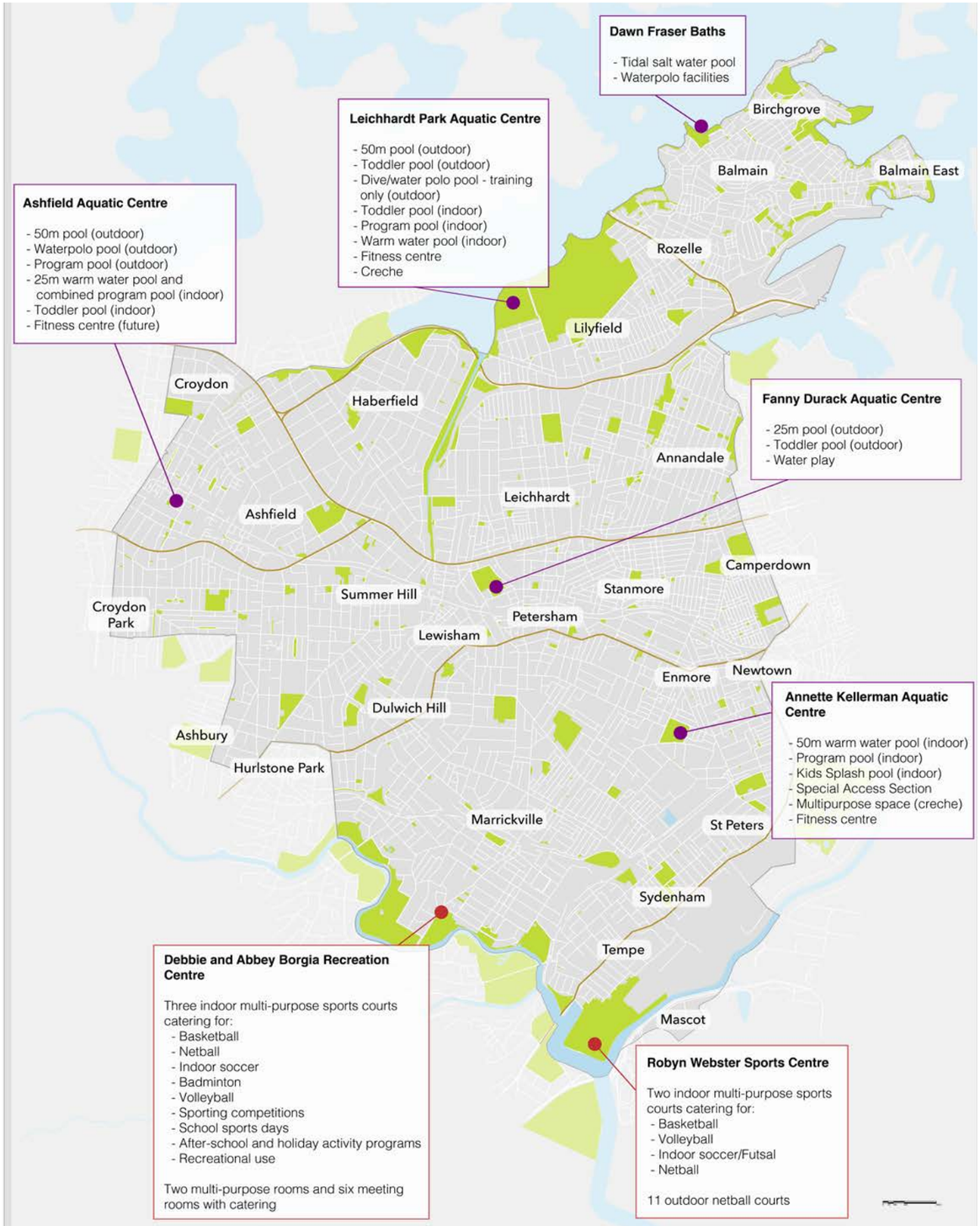


Figure 11 - Council's aquatic centres, baths, and indoor recreation centres

TABLE 10 - AQUATIC CENTRE ATTENDANCE (SOURCE: INNER WEST COUNCIL)

Centre	Total attendance 16/17 financial year	Total average visits per resident per year based on 190,000 residents
Ashfield Aquatic Centre	315,751	1.7
Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre	431,798	2.3
Dawn Fraser Baths	38,102	0.2
Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	55,835	0.3
Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre	699,235	3.7
Total	1,540,721	8.1

Clubs and leased facilities

As detailed in Table 11, Inner West Council owns 14 recreation facilities that are leased out, such as bowling clubs, tennis clubs, sheds and amenities buildings. These facilities may be used for or support recreation activities but also may have other uses such as restaurant and bar uses.

TABLE 11 - LEASED RECREATION FACILITIES

Name	Type of Space	Function
Pratten Park Bowling Club, Tennis Clubhouse, and Ticket-Storage	Bowling club	Recreational
Camperdown Commons (formerly Camperdown Bowling and Recreation Club)	Recreation/cafe/restaurant/bar	Recreational/Restaurant
Gladstone Park Bowling Clubhouse	Bowling club	Recreational
Mackey Park Croquet Club	Shed	Recreational
Mackey Park Canoe Club	Community recreation	Recreational
Ashfield Park Bowling Club	Bowling club	Recreational
Birchgrove Park Pavilion/Referees Room	Venue for hire	Recreational
Marrickville Hardcourt Tennis Association and Henwon Park Tennis Court Shelter One	Tennis courts	Recreational
Apia FC	Football/Soccer stadium	Recreational
Marrickville Lawn Tennis Club House	Tennis courts	Recreational
Marrickville Park Croquet Club	Recreational	Recreational
Punch Park Tennis Amenities/Clubhouse	Recreational/amenities	Recreational
Tempe Reserve Tempe - former Jets Club	Currently under temporary licence for artistic purposes	Recreational
Wicks Park Tennis Building	Tennis courts	Recreational

COUNCIL VENUES FOR RECREATION

Community venues

As shown in Table 12, Council owns 18 community venues that are used for recreation. Council has completed an accessibility audit of these venues. Fifteen of 18 are current accessible for people with disability.

Recreation programs

There are 71 recreation programs delivered in Council venues and facilities. Of these, 40 are targeted to seniors. Recreation programs include:

- Children's activities
- Senior's gentle exercise programs
- Magic Yellow Bus, a free activities and information service for children 0 to 12 and their families
- Cycling courses
- Yoga, Tai Chi and meditation
- Table tennis
- Dancing classes
- Skate clinics, and
- Walking groups.

TABLE 12 - COUNCIL OWNED VENUES FOR RECREATION AND DISABILITY ACCESSIBILITY

Name	Suburb	Facilities and recreation use	Disability access
Annandale Community Centre	Annandale	2 halls and 1 meeting room. Gentle exercise & dance	Yes but not to upstairs hall
Ashfield Civic Centre Activity Rooms	Ashfield	4 activity rooms. Table tennis. Yoga Main Hall - dancing	yes
Balmain Town Hall	Balmain	Hall (not used for recreation as defined by this study)	yes
Bastable St Hall Not available	Croydon	Hall. Dance & Yoga	No
Cadigal Room (at Ashfield Aquatic Centre) No longer available	Ashfield	Room. Gentle exercise	No
Graham Yarroll Room (Haberfield Library)	Haberfield	Suitable for yoga classes	No
Hannaford Community Centre	Rozelle	Main hall, activity room, therapy room and meeting room. Gentle exercise & dance	yes
Herb Greedy Hall	Marrickville	Hall. Dance	yes
Jimmy Little Community Centre	Lilyfield	Hall. Exercise & dance	yes
Leichhardt Town Hall	Leichhardt	Hall (not used for recreation as defined by this study)	yes
Marrickville Town Hall	Marrickville	Hall with stage, used for dance classes	yes
Mervyn Fletcher Hall	Haberfield	Suitable for dance classes, karate, yoga or Tai Chi classes.	yes
Michael Maher Room (Haberfield Library)	Haberfield	Activity room (not used for recreation as defined by this study)	yes
Petersham Town Hall	Petersham	Hall with stage, used for dance classes and recreational dancing	yes
Seaview Street Hall	Dulwich Hill	Hall suitable for yoga, pilates, meditation.	yes
St. Peters Town Hall	Sydenham	Hall (not used for recreation as defined by this study)	yes
Summer Hill Community Centre	Summer Hill	Three halls suitable for martial arts classes, yoga, pilates, meditation etc.	
Tom Foster Community Care	Newtown	Hall suitable for senior's gentle exercise and yoga groups	yes

CYCLE PATHS

Council's cycle paths including on and off road paths are shown in Figure 12. Council is also considering options to make the Lilyfield Road corridor safer for pedestrians, bike riders and motorists, and developing design plans for an east-west route linking Lewisham to Newtown.

Major off-road routes include shared paths on the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path, the GreenWay, and Victoria Road. However, there are no dedicated off-road cycle paths, and much of the network is on streets with mixed or heavy motor vehicle traffic.

Figure 12 - Inner West Council cycle paths

RECREATION SPACES IN SCHOOLS

Schools provide both recreation spaces, and opportunities for recreation within and in addition to the curriculum. There is a move by the NSW Government including the Department of Education and the Department of Planning and Environment to open up recreation facilities in schools, including playgrounds, sporting grounds and courts, and halls, to increase access to recreation for the community. Inner West Council currently works with SSC Leichhardt Campus, sharing a sporting ground, and two local primary schools are involved in the NSW State Government's pilot "Share Our Schools" program over the April 2018 school holidays (Taverner's Hill Infants School and Bridge Road School).

Schools in the area, both public and private, are also very high users of Council's recreation facilities including using parks as playgrounds on a regular basis, sporting grounds and courts for school and extra curricular sport, and aquatic centres for swimming carnivals and programs. Table 13 shows the regular hire of Council's sporting grounds by schools. Currently, 8 out of 13 regular hirers of Council's sporting grounds are private or Catholic schools. Some of these schools also have their own recreation facilities including sporting grounds.

Schools in the Inner West LGA include:

Public primary schools

- Annandale North Public School
- Annandale Public School
- Ashfield Public School
- Yeo Park Infants School
- Nicholson Street Public School
- Balmain Public School
- Birchgrove Public School
- Bridge Road School
- Dulwich Hill Public School
- Dobroyd Point Public School
- Haberfield Public School
- Kegworth Public School
- Leichhardt Public School
- Orange Grove Public School
- Lewisham Public School
- Ferncourt Public School
- Marrickville Public School
- Marrickville West Public School
- Wilkins Public School
- Australia Street Infants School
- Camdenville Public School
- Newtown North Public School
- Petersham Public School
- Taverners Hill Infants School
- Rozelle Public School
- St Peters Public School
- Stanmore Public School
- Summer Hill Public School, Summer Hill
- Tempe Public School, Tempe

Croydon Public School is also located close to the LGA and is a regular hirer of Council's sporting grounds.

Public high schools

- Ashfield Boys High School
- Dulwich High School of Visual Arts and Design
- Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus
- Marrickville High School
- Fort Street High School
- Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus
- Tempe High School

Catholic/private schools

- St Brendan's Catholic Primary School
- Bethlehem College
- De La Salle College
- St Vincent's Catholic Primary School
- Fr John Therry Catholic Primary School
- Inner Sydney Montessori School
- St Maroun's College
- St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School
- St Pius' Catholic Primary School
- St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School
- St Columba's Catholic Primary School
- St Fiacre's Catholic Primary School
- Christian Brothers High School
- Eileen O'connor Catholic College
- The John Berne School
- Casimir Catholic College
- St Brigid's Catholic Primary School
- The Waranara Centre
- The Athena School
- Newington College
- St Michael's Catholic Primary School

Trinity Grammar and Presbyterian Ladies' College Croydon are also located close the the Inner West LGA, and are regular hirers of Council's sporting grounds.

TABLE 13 - SCHOOL'S REGULAR HIRE OF COUNCIL SPORTING GROUNDS

School	# venues hired	Hours per week
Trinity Grammar	2	19.5
Christian Brothers High School	5	18.5
Annandale North Public School	2	17.1
Father John Therry Catholic Primary School	3	17
Newington College	2	16
St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School	1	15
Inner Sydney Montessori School	1	12
SSC – Leichhardt Campus	7	10
Ashfield Boy's High School	3	8
SSC – Balmain Campus	4	6.2
De La Salle College	3	6
Croydon Public School	1	3.25
PLC Croydon	1	3

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL FACILITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNCIL AREAS

Residents of the Inner West travel to other areas to participate in recreation, and visitors come to the Inner West to use local facilities. There is a need to work with neighbouring Councils to plan regionally for the provision of major recreation facilities, to avoid duplication, meet gaps, and provide increased access to recreation facilities.

There are a number of regional level facilities located within 30 minutes drive of the Inner West, in neighbouring councils. This includes:

- 2 aquatic centres
- 18 sporting grounds providing over 75 fields, 21 tennis courts, 87 netball courts, and
- 5 indoor recreation centres.

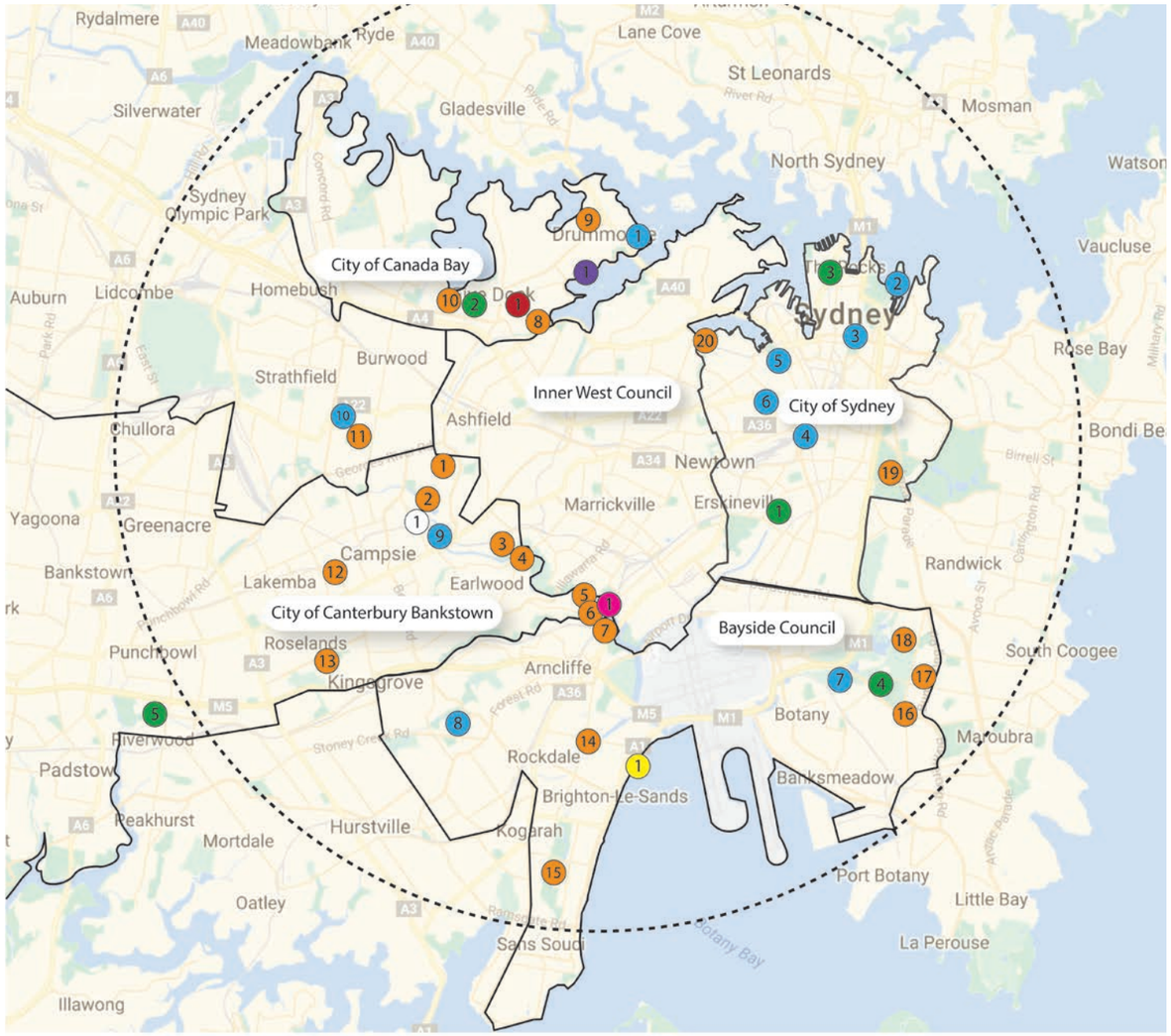


Figure 13 - District and regional facilities in neighbouring council areas

Sportsgrounds
1. Wagener Oval
Oval x1
2. Canterbury Park
Horse-racing course
3. Ewen Park
Tennis courts x6, cricket pitch, soccer fields x2
4. Beaman Park
Tennis courts x4, grass fields x6, cricket pitch x2
5. Gough Whitlam Park
Oval x1, cricket net x1, basketball court x1
6. Waterworth Park
Multipurpose fields x3
7. Cahill Park
Cricket/rugby field x1
8. Timbrell Park
Baseball fields x 2, touch fields x 5, cricket/soccer fields x2
9. Drummoyne Oval
Cricket/AFL field x1
10. Cintra Park / St Lukes Park
Netball courts x 34, hockey field x1
11. Henley Park
Cricket pitch and practice nets x 1, multipurpse fields x 3
12. Belmore Park
Rugby League, football
13. Clemton Park
Netball courts x12
14. Womens Sports fields
Netball courts x31
15. Scarborough Park
Summer: cricket x11 Winter: rugby league x3, soccer x4
16. Hensley Athletic field
Synthetic athletics track x1, synthetic multipurpose field x1
17. Jellicoe Park
Soccer fields x6, cricket pitch x1
18. David Phillips Sports Complex
Synthetic hockey pitch x1, multiuse football pitch, grass fields x3, tennis courts x4
19. Centennial Parklands
Athletics field x1, netball courts x10, tennis courts x7, various other fields x29
20. Jubilee Park
Hockey/AFL/cricket oval x1

Indoor recreation
1. Perry Park Recreation Centre [to be completed mid-2018]
Multipurpose courts: indoor x2, outdoor x2
2. Five Dock Leisure Centre
Olympic standard gymnastics hall, multipurpose stadium
3. King George V Recreation Centre
Multipurpose courts: indoor x2, outdoor x1
4. Mutch Park Tennis & Squash Centre
Indoor squash courts x4, outdoor tennis courts x6, cricket nets
5. Morris Iemma Indoor Sports Centre
Indoor multipurpose courts x2

Ice rink
1. Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink

Velodrome
1. Canterbury Velodrome

Aquatic Centre
1. Drummoyne Swimming Centre
2. Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool
3. Cook and Phillip Park Aquatic Centre
4. Prince Alfred Park Pool
5. Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre
6. Victoria Park Pool
7. Botany Aquatic Centre
8. Angelo Anestis Aquatic Centre
9. Canterbury Leisure and Aquatics Centre
10. Enfield Aquatic Centre

Skate Park
1. Five Dock Park

Beach
1. Lady Robinsons beach

Other
1. The Bay Run
Running, walking and cycling path

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Extensive community engagement was completed to inform this study. There was a high rate of participation in the community engagement reflecting local enthusiasm for recreation opportunities. The community was positive about current provision, and focused on identifying opportunities to meet recreation needs for a growing and changing community in the future.

This section summarises the findings from community engagement completed to inform this Study. A full community engagement report is provided as part 2 of this study.

Community engagement was completed for the Study between 27 October 2017 and 6 March 2018.

Promotion of the project reached over 17,000 people through multiple communication channels including emails to 8,200 people, Your Say Inner West, social media, local media, and posters and flyers in Council venues. In total, around 2,000 people participated in community engagement activities - 1% of the Inner West population.

Promotion of the project included:

- Postcards and posters at Council facilities (all libraries, service centres, Council-run childcare and out of school hours care centres, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, Dawn Fraser Baths, Ashfield Aquatic Centre)
- Email promotion through Council's databases and e-news (8,199 people reached)
- Facebook Instagram and Twitter posts on Council's social media (9,077 people reached)
- Your Say Inner West web page
- Inner West Courier Council Page Your Say section, and
- Face to face promotion through 19 popups, intercept surveys, and festival stalls throughout the Inner West.

Figure 14 shows community engagement activities completed for the Study.

The community engagement was broadly representative of the Inner West community, with residents, workers and visitors from a range of ages, suburbs, genders, and cultures participating. For example, Table 9 below details the age profile of survey respondents, compared to the age profile of the Inner West LGA. Targeted engagement was also completed with young people, culturally diverse groups etc to ensure community engagement was representative of the community.

ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED

- 1,063 community surveys*
- 1 Sports Forum
- 42 Recreation User Group surveys
- 4 primary school and 2 high school workshops
- 1,019 community map comments from around 500 people
- 3 staff workshops
- 1 workshop with recreation planning staff from 5 neighbouring Councils
- 34 Instagram posts
- *#urbanplaygoundiwc*
- 7 focus groups with people who speak a language other than English
- 17 pop-ups and intercept surveys
- 2 festival stalls

* Over 12% (126 responses) of survey responses were received from hockey players, after promotion of the study by local hockey organisations. While this response is welcomed, the high occurrence of hockey uses and needs may not be reflective of actual participation rates and needs across the general Inner West community.

Figure 14 - Community engagement activities

TABLE 14 - AGE PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Age group	Survey (%)	Inner West (%)
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	n/a	5.9
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	1.5	7.1
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	6.9	4.6
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	5.9	8.5
Young workforce (25 to 34)	18	20.3
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	34	24.8
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	15.2	12.0
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	12.8	8.6
Seniors (70 to 84)	5.4	6.6
Elderly aged (85 and over)	0.3	1.7

Figure 15 - Community engagement activities

KEY FINDINGS

Across all engagement types, people identified ten key needs for recreation in the Inner West:

Improved footpath and active street network for walking

Walking is the most popular recreation activity in the Inner West. While footpaths in some areas are working well, people said that they would like to see better surfaces, less cluttered and wider footpaths, more pram ramps, and more lights. This was particularly important for older people, people with disability, parents with prams, and people who speak a language other than English at home.

- Well-maintained and connected footpaths to enable people to go for walks, safer walking and inclusion of older people, people with prams, and people with disability.
- Improved walking access to recreation opportunities such as wider pathways and more trees and seating on streets, lighting, and better pedestrian safety.
- Improving wayfinding and signage.

Connected cycling networks and facilities, and safer shared paths for pedestrians

Cycling, and cycle paths, were among the most popular activities and facilities. While people said that they appreciate having long, connected paths such as the Bay Run and Cooks River foreshore path, there were suggestions for improvements including more separate, designated cycle ways that are wider, better connected, and better surfaced, and safer shared paths including more signage, more separate cycle/pedestrian paths, and better cyclist behaviour. There is also a need to encourage more use of cycle paths by women and girls, and older people. While 34% of males use cycle ways at least weekly, only 24% of females do. Older people including in the culturally diverse focus groups also commented that they avoid cycling as it seems unsafe on the roads.

- More well-connected and well-maintained cycling infrastructure and facilities to expand opportunities for active transport, support cyclist/pedestrian safety, and improve connectivity throughout the area and to other areas.
- Safer shared paths and encouraging better sharing by users: some people spoke about conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists on shared paths.

Places to play for all ages and abilities

Playing in parks and playgrounds, and taking children to play, was among the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West. People would like to see playgrounds and spaces for older children / young people, with new equipment and different types of playgrounds like water play. Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities, such as older people's play, sensory play, and play for adults with disability.

Information and promotion of recreation opportunities, and better communication

One of the major barriers to people participating in the recreation activities that they would like to was that they don't know about opportunities, particularly people who speak a language other than English at home, and women and girls. There is a need for more information about opportunities for recreation including in different languages.

While "communication with Council" was one of the things that recreation user groups said was working well, they would like to see better customer service and easier booking processes for sporting grounds.

New facilities

A key priority in the community engagement was retaining and creating new green spaces, particularly with an increasing population and increasing density.

Other new facilities suggested included access to the Cooks River for swimming and water-based activities, table tennis tables and outdoor gyms in parks, more community gardens, and a multi-purpose, community level synthetic hockey field.

Addressing heat and providing shade

Across all engagement and for a range of different facilities, people spoke about the need for shelter and shade so that people can continue to be active and social in the heat. This included more trees on streets and in parks, shade in playgrounds, over pools, on the streets and at recreation facilities, and air conditioning and ventilation in indoor centres.

Providing for and managing recreation with dogs

Walking dogs was one of the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West. People spoke about a need for more facilities for recreation with dogs such as more fenced, off-leash, well-maintained dog areas with shade, seating and bubblers and more dog bag dispensers. Some people suggested more places for dogs to swim.

There are some conflicts between dogs and other users of parks and recreation facilities. There is a need for better dog control, and better design of spaces to encourage better sharing between users (like fencing playgrounds or other design to keep children and dogs more separate). More resources for enforcement, more signage, and resources for maintenance could be required. Some submissions suggested awards and training to encourage better responsibility from dog owners.

Increasing the capacity of existing sporting grounds to optimise use

Recreation user groups and sporting peak bodies identified improving sporting grounds as a priority, including better surfaces, lighting and amenities. This was also important for player safety, and to allow people to play at night reflecting trends to more casual participation.

- Improving lighting to expand opportunities for activities including competitions to take place at night.
- Improving playing surfaces eg different types of grass, synthetic fields, and drainage improvements.
- Improving amenities including amenities blocks, club houses and storage facilities.
- Improving maintenance of sporting grounds including strategies to reduce wear and tear.

Safety

This issue was particularly important for women and girls, young people, older people, and people who speak a language other than English at home. People would like to see improved lighting and design of parks, paths, streets and town centres in order to increase (feelings of) safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the evening and at night. For example, some people spoke about avoiding going for walks in the evening in winter.

People also spoke about improved pedestrian safety including on shared paths and at pedestrian crossings, particularly crossings on the Cooks River walkway.

Improving park amenities for social and passive uses, and connection to nature

Passive recreation activities such as picnics and BBQs, reading or studying in parks, relaxing in parks, community gardening and bushcare were all popular in the community engagement. People spoke about visiting parks and gardens as respite from the urban environment, to look at nature, to relax, to be social, and for mental wellbeing. There is a need for:

- Parks that provide space for social and passive recreation, like relaxing, barbecues, reading, studying and meditating, and support mental wellbeing.
- Public toilets and water bubblers that are well-maintained and located in convenient locations to make them easy to use and to support inclusion of older people and people with disability.
- More picnic/BBQ facilities with seating and shade to increase opportunities for formal and informal social gatherings in parks.
- Green and natural spaces for connection to nature, respite from the urban environment, and mental and environmental wellbeing.

STRATEGIC AND PLANNING CONTEXT

This section reviews the key strategic drivers influencing recreation needs and planning in the Inner West including strategic context at a local, regional, State and Commonwealth level. Commonwealth, NSW, regional and local planning all impact on current and future recreation needs in the Inner West. The Inner West is part of the "Eastern City" as detailed in Greater Sydney Commission plans. There are multiple significant recreation, infrastructure and urban renewal projects in the area which will impact on density, population and access to recreation opportunities

KEY FINDINGS

- Regional planning for the area emphasises providing a network of diverse, accessible, high quality open spaces that meets a wide range of community needs, connected through the Green Grid. Urban environments should support healthy eating and active living, and there is a need to address barriers for older people, low income groups, migrant groups, women and people with disability.

- The Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities identifies that high density development (over 60 dwellings per hectare) should be located within 200 metres of quality open space, and all dwellings should be within 400 metres of open space.

- Major projects will have significant impacts on population growth and densities across the LGA and will require Council to work collaboratively with neighbouring Councils and State government agencies to deliver increased recreational opportunities in an innovative way - as the population and density increases, but not the land area.

- Council's strategic planning identifies a need for:
  - Planning for recreation and environmental outcomes together
  - A connected cycling network
  - Walkable neighbourhoods, and using the public domain for recreation
  - Increasing the capacity and amenity of existing facilities
  - Recreation opportunities that are welcoming and meet the needs of the community, and
  - Some new facilities including indoor recreation, skate facilities, and community gardens.

COMMONWEALTH AND NSW STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Commonwealth and NSW Government strategic documents and programs include:

- Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport 2017 (Commonwealth)
- National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011
  Active Kids Rebate 2017-2018 (NSW)
- NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy 2013-2018
- NSW Ageing Strategy, and
- NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, 2016-2019

Needs and opportunities identified in these strategies include:

- Making sport more affordable for low income families, more accessible to migrant groups, and more attractive to women
- Addressing barriers for older people including not having transport options, trouble walking about, physical barriers and the built environment, poor-quality or scarce footpaths and a lack of accessible parking. Caring roles (including ageing carers and carers of older people) are associated with poor physical and mental health
- Supporting children and young people in their local areas, including creating integrated and well connected open space, sporting facilities and recreation opportunities.
- More flexible, social sports and new low time-commitment offerings
- Introducing incentives to encourage sports participation
- Ensuring green spaces appropriate for sport, keeping facilities open later, and increasing the walking, running and cycling friendliness of cities
- Urban environments that support healthy eating and active living
- Open up school, university and TAFE facilities for public use during non-core hours and developing facility partnerships between schools, clubs and local government to increase facility utilisation and lower operating costs
- Partnering with State and territory governments on program delivery, and
- Supporting and partnering with NGOs that enable sport and active recreation participation.

REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

A Plan for Growing Sydney

The NSW Government's plan for the future of the Sydney Metropolitan Area over the next 20 years provides key directions and actions to guide Sydney's productivity, environmental management, and liveability – including the delivery of housing, employment, infrastructure and open space. The plan includes directions to:

- Create a network of green and open spaces across Sydney
- Create healthy built environments, including providing access to the Harbour and its foreshores, and
- Matching population growth with the delivery of social infrastructure including recreational facilities, providing separated footpaths and cycleways and cycle infrastructure, creative attractive public spaces to support physical activity and connect and strengthen communities.

Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities

The *Greater Sydney Region Plan* is built on a vision where the people of Greater Sydney live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places. The Plan includes a focus on universal design; healthy, resilient and socially connected communities with walkable streets, great places that bring people together, conserving environmental heritage, increasing the urban tree canopy cover, access, protected and enhanced open space, and delivering the green grid.

Objective 31 of the plan is that "Public open space is accessible, protected and enhanced". The plan also highlights that the key considerations for planning open spaces are quantity, quality and distribution and provides the following insights:

- Access to high quality open space is becoming increasingly important as higher housing densities, more compact housing and changing work environments develop
- Where land for additional open space is difficult to provide, innovative solutions will be needed, as well as a strong focus on achieving the right quality and diversity of open space
- Enhancing open space so it can meet a wider range of community needs is important in areas where it is difficult to provide additional open space. This can include better landscaping, more durable and high quality facilities, better lighting and multi-use playing fields and courts,
- Open spaces within school grounds are a potential asset that could be shared by the wider community outside of school hours
- The use of golf courses may also be examined to provide a wider range of sport and recreational facilities for local communities
- There may be opportunities to use surplus government-owned land as open space including for sport and recreational facilities
- Urban renewal needs to begin with a plan to deliver new, improved and accessible open spaces that will meet the needs of the growing community, particularly where density increases, and
- High density development (over 60 dwellings per hectare) should be located within 200 metres of quality open space, and all dwellings should be within 400 metres of open space.

Objective 32 of the Plan is that "The Green Grid links parks, open spaces, bushland and walking and cycling paths". The Green Grid is a long-term vision for a network of high quality green areas – from regional parks to local parks and playgrounds – that connect centres, public transport and public spaces to green infrastructure and landscape features. Within the public realm it includes enhanced waterway corridors, transport routes, suburban streets, footpaths and cycleways.

Eastern City District Plan

The Plan aims to achieve the Vision for Greater Sydney in the Eastern City through:

- Nurturing quality lifestyles through well-designed housing in neighbourhoods close to transport and other infrastructure
- Sustaining communities through vibrant public places, walking and cycling, and cultural, artistic and tourism assets
- Aligning growth with infrastructure, including transport, social and green infrastructure, and delivering sustainable, smart and adaptable solutions
- Being innovative in providing recreational and open space areas, and increasing urban tree canopy, and
- Building effective responses to climate change and natural and urban hazards.

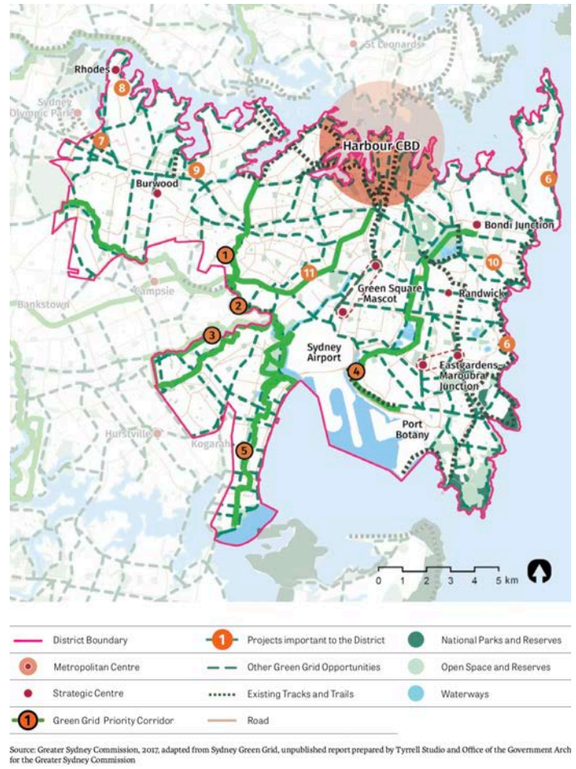
In terms of recreation infrastructure, the Plan identifies Green Grid priority projects including the Iron Cove Greenway and the Hawthorne Canal, and the Cooks River open space corridor.

Office of Sport Strategies

The Office of Sport is working in collaboration with key partners, including councils, to develop a Sport and Recreation Participation Strategy and a Sport and Recreation Facility Plan for each district during 2018 and 2019. The plans will include local and regional sport facilities that provide a strong foundation for participation in sport and active recreation.

Department of Planning and Environment Recreation Needs Study

The DPE is also working on a Recreation Needs Study for the Eastern City.



Source: Greater Sydney Commission, 2017, adapted from Sydney Green Grid, unpublished report prepared by Tyrrell Studio and Office of the Government Arch for the Greater Sydney Commission

Figure 16 - Eastern City Green Grid (Source: Greater Sydney Commision)

The Plan also details Action 73, to meet Planning Priority E18 "Delivering high quality open space":

- Action 73. Maximise the use of existing open space and protect, enhance and expand public open space by:
  - Providing opportunities to expand a network of diverse, accessible, high quality open spaces that respond to the needs and values of communities as populations grow
  - Investigating opportunities to provide new open space so that all residential areas are within 400 metres of open space and all high density residential areas (over 60 dwellings per hectare) are within 200 metres of open space
  - Requiring large urban renewal initiatives to demonstrate how the quantity of, or access to, high quality and diverse local open space is maintained or improved
  - Planning new neighbourhoods with a sufficent quantity and quality of new open space
  - Delivering shared and co-located sports and recreational facilities including shared school grounds and repurposed golf courses
  - Delivering or complementing the Greater Sydney Green Grid, and
  - Providing walking and cycling links for transport as well as leisure and recreation.

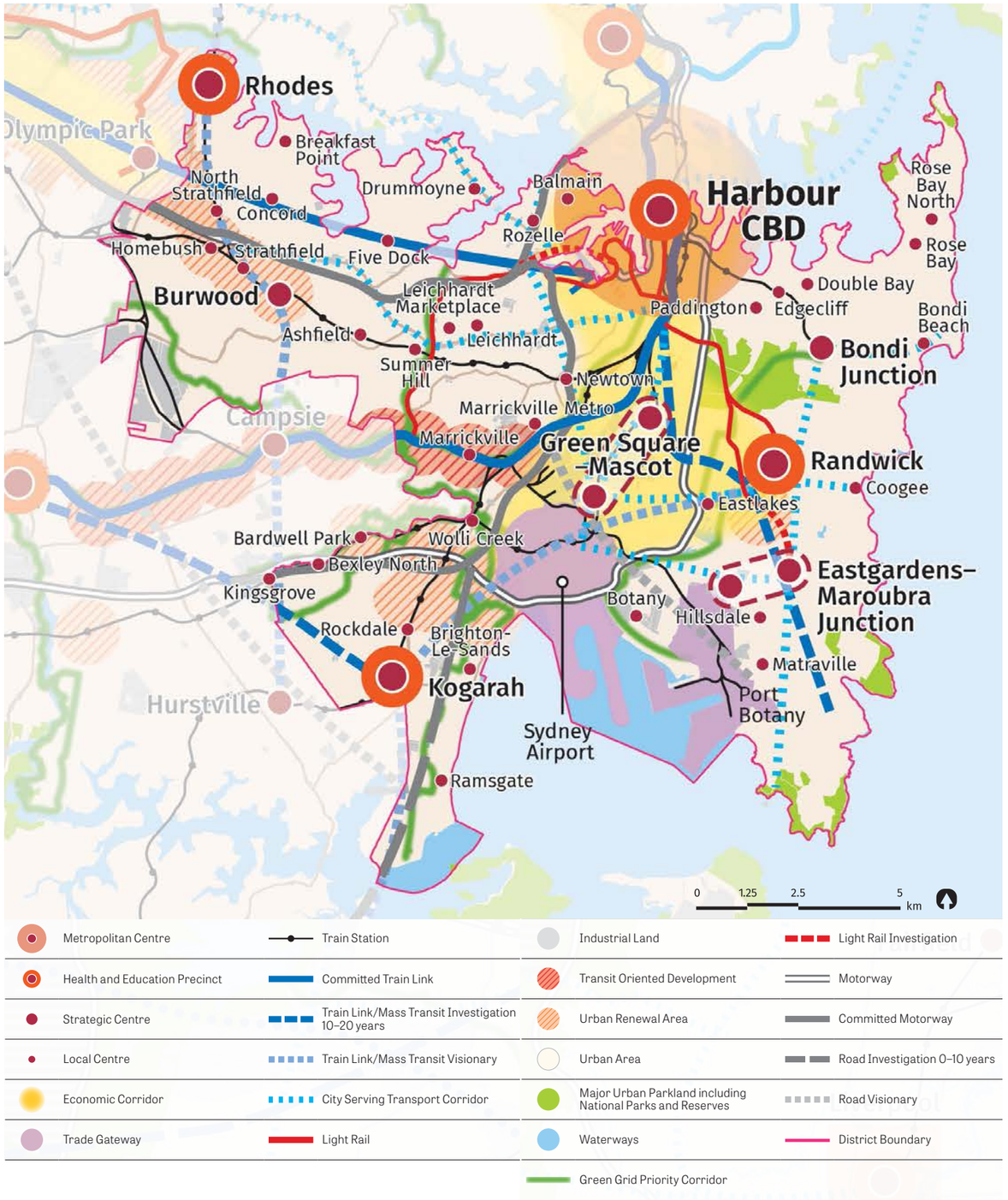


Figure 17 - "The Eastern City District Plan on a Page" (Source: Greater Sydney Commission)

SSROC Liveability Indicator Mapping, 2017

The SSROC completed Liveability Indicator Mapping to baseline and understand the liveability performance of each area of the SSROC region against a range of indicators. Benchmarking identified that the existing provision of open space and sporting and recreation facilities within an LGA should be used as the minimum benchmark to determine future supply as population grows. The Study identifies that the open space challenge is very significant in this area and suggests three approaches:

1. More intervention in the way large sites are developed or smaller sites amalgamated for development. A much clearer approach to creating small communal open space areas and pocket parks, to which multiple development sites should contribute, is required. This will involve early structure planning guidance and intervention. The expectation should be that 5 to 10 percent of sites for development is provided for open space
2. There is a need for the multi-use of school playing fields. This has long been on the agenda but the security, cost and maintenance obligations to allow for greater community use of school and other institutional fields have been a barrier. A concerted effort to resolve these issues is necessary, and
3. The quality of streets and public domain is increasingly important where it is difficult to create new open space. New developments should contribute to quality of these assets, via coordinated guidance and funding obligations.

INNER WEST COUNCIL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This section summarises the recreation needs identified in the strategic planning documents of Inner West Council as well as the former Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville Councils.

Documents reviewed include:

- Inner West Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2017-2027)
- Ashfield Council Community Garden Policy (2012)
- Ashfield Council Cycling Map and Guide (2012)
- Ashfield Council Reconciliation Action Plan (2010-2012)
- Ashfield Council Social Plan (2010)
- Ashfield Council Stormwater Management Policy (2013)
- Ashfield Council Street Tree Strategy (2015)
- Leichhardt Community and Cultural Plan (2011-2021)
- Leichhardt Council Bike Plan (2016)
- Leichhardt Council Community Garden Policy (2011)
- Leichhardt Council Healthy Ageing Plan (2015-2024)
- Leichhardt Council Recreation and Open Space Needs Study (2005)
- Marrickville Bicycle Strategy (2007)
- Marrickville Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2021)
- Marrickville Council Ageing Strategy (2008-2011)
- Marrickville Council Community Garden Policy Directions (2007)
- Marrickville Council Cultural Policy
- Marrickville Council Facilities Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville (2012)
- Marrickville Council Public Domain Design Guide (2016)
- Marrickville Council Public Toilet Strategy (2015)
- Marrickville Council Recreation Needs Research - Strategic Directions for Marrickville (2011)
- Marrickville Council Sports Ground Allocation Policy (2013)
- Marrickville Council Street Tree Master Plan (2014)
- Marrickville Council Sustainable Streets program
- Marrickville Council Urban Forest Strategy (2011)
- Marrickville Strategy for a Water Sensitive Community (2012 - 2021)

Planning for recreation and environmental outcomes together

- Recreation planning intersects with planning for a sustainable environment, including protecting natural spaces and biodiversity, and managing stormwater.
- Street trees increase the recreational opportunities of private and public spaces including helping to mitigate the urban heat island effect, and providing shade. Trees also support improved mental health and relaxation, and contribute to local character.

A connected cycling network

- There is a need for a connected cycling network including high quality regional routes, local routes, and traffic calmed local streets, signage and network mapping, end of trip and parking facilities, and integration with public transport. Separating cyclists and cars, and cyclists and pedestrians, is a priority for the community, as is increasing education for cyclists and non-cyclists.

Walkable neighbourhoods, and using the public domain for recreation

- Walkable neighbourhoods (where the physical infrastructure encourages walking and cycling, where the streets are safe from traffic and well connected, and where public spaces are fun to be in) provide access to recreation (eg walking), as well as improving access to recreation opportunities such as in open space and other facilities.
- Walkable neighbourhoods are important for older people's recreation. There is a need to maximise safety through natural surveillance, traffic calming measures, and the provision of adequate street lighting.
- Laneways are an opportunity to deliver new public places that can support a diversity of uses including recreation uses eg improved pedestrian amenity and green spaces.
- Develop village centre plaza/park space linked to streets that are usable for recreation and community events.
- Use open space for community events and activities.

Increasing capacity and amenity of existing facilities

- General upgrades to parks with priority to areas with a low supply and areas within walking distance of growth areas. Increase the capacity of parks for recreation through lighting, recreation facilities for different age groups including play for older children, young people, and older people, and outdoor exercise stations.
- Night and weekend activities in community places and spaces for working people
- Seating and shelter from the wind and sun is important for older people and allows people to maximise their use of public open space to congregate and socialise. For example, there are many informal meeting spaces for older people throughout the council area including Alex Trevillion Plaza in Marrickville and small plazas on Enmore Rd.
- Safe public toilets including in parks. The Marrickville Public Toilet Strategy aims to provide resident and visitors to the area access to a public toilet within 400m of their position during daylight hours
- Upgrades to sporting ground surfaces and new sporting grounds including synthetic fields possibly at Tempe Reserve.

Recreation opportunities that are welcoming and meet the needs of a diverse community

- Equitable access to public spaces as the range and intensity of uses increases eg walkers, dog walkers, café users, cyclists and families with young children.
- Allocations of sports fields should provide equitable access to sporting facilities, including prioritising not for profit sport and recreation organisations, and organisations who provide activities for a range of age and user groups (Aboriginal communities, CALD communities, LGBTQI people, older people, people with disability, time poor 30-50 year olds, women and girls).
- Targeted information and promotion of recreation. Appropriate information and promotional material on leisure opportunities in Marrickville for older people, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, and young people.
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*
  - Council parks, venues and facilities could be more friendly and inviting to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including interpretive signage, naming, and public art.
- *Young people*
  - Improving park safety, amenity and quality to encourage use by young people. Increase provision of multi-purpose, unstructured and social recreational facilities for young people in parks and public spaces.
- *People on low incomes*
  - Affordable recreation opportunities including mechanisms to enable people on low incomes to participate in Council sponsored leisure activities.
- *Older people*
  - Diverse range of recreation opportunities for older people, including promoting mainstream recreation activities to older people, and increasing the range of health and fitness programs that focus on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural communities. There is a need for improved transport access for older people in the area including to recreation facilities eg Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre. There is a need for intergenerational recreation opportunities.
- *People from culturally diverse backgrounds*
  - More volunteering opportunities including for people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- *People with disability*
  - Parks, programs and recreation are important to the wellbeing and health of adults and children with disabilities along with information on the accessibility of parks, community facilities, services and programs. Recreation opportunities should be inclusive including aquatic centres, parks, play spaces and related facilities. There is a need for inclusive organised sports including eg opportunities for local sporting associations to learn about inclusive practices in sport and promote inclusive sports in the community; inquiring about inclusive practices of the potential lease of Council owned premises and sporting grounds.
- *Women and girls*
  - To facilitate access to recreation opportunities for women there is a need for women's programs with child care, and recreational programs for mothers of young children eg pram walking groups.

Some new facilities are needed

- There is a need for indoor community facilities including spaces for dance, exercise and other activities; medium sized meeting spaces for 20 to 50 people, space for night basketball, indoor soccer, yoga and pilates, and new indoor courts.
- Improve skate facilities and skate/blade/wheeled opportunities.
- Community gardens to provide and facilitate a range of social, recreational and environmental benefits, including access to outdoor space for recreation, improved mental health through passive recreation, learning opportunities, access for older people who may have had land and now live in apartments, breaking down cultural barriers, developing a sense of community, and physical exercise.

MAJOR PROJECTS

In addition to ongoing infill residential development at a range of scales, there are four major NSW government development and infrastructure projects that will impact on recreation in the Inner West, and two current master plans for open space. The current understanding of these projects is outlined below. The implications of these projects for recreation is likely to become clearer as more information is made available by the NSW State Government.

Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy and Planning and design Guidelines (Urban Growth)

This Strategy is the NSW Government's 30-year plan setting out how the Parramatta Road Corridor will "grow and bring new life to local communities living and working along the Corridor". The Parramatta Road Corridor spans 20 kilometres from Granville in the west to Camperdown in the east. It is the land adjoining and at least one block back from Parramatta Road, as well as Precincts that have been identified as a focus for future growth based on their different functions and character. The Inner West Council includes part of the "Corridor East" section of Parramatta Rd, and three precincts - Taverners Hill, Leichhardt and Camperdown. (Figure 18)

UrbanGrowth NSW is responsible for the development of the Strategy. Agencies responsible for the delivery of the Program include the Department of Planning and Environment, the Greater Sydney Commission, Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, Sydney Motorway Corporation, Department of Education, Local Health Districts and local councils along the Corridor.

The forecast population increase from the Strategy has been included in the population forecasting for this study. This population growth is concentrated in the three precincts including:

- Taverners Hill, where Tebbutt St will be reinforced as the main retail street with business enterprises on Parramatta Road. Key actions include leveraging new development to provide new open space and high quality and active public domains, completing missing links along the Greenway, providing a new urban plaza or park midway along Tebbutt Street to Flood Street, and investigating shared use of the Kegworth Public School playground
- Leichhardt, which has a focus on improving pedestrian amenity and active transport options including the Dot Lane cycle link and a new cycling link from Tebbutt St to the Greenway, and enhancing side streets as public spaces. Leveraging new development to provide new open space. Convert the northern end of Petersham St into a 300m2 pocket park. Provide a new urban plaza or park midway along Norton St. Provide a new public open space area in the eastern Frame Area that connects Hay Street, Dot Lane and Balmain Road by repurposing existing at grade car parks. Investigating shared use of the Leichhardt Public School playground
- Camperdown, including a focus on affordable housing for key workers and students, increased pedestrian amenity, cycle routes, and open space specifically:
  - New spaces in the Hordern Place Industrial Area
  - Prioritise work to complete the Johnstons Creek green corridor, connecting the precinct to the Bicentennial Parklands and the harbour foreshore walks, and
  - Provide new cycle routes along Johnston's Creek, Mathieson Street, Chester Street and Guihen Street to improve connections with other cycleways.

Bays Precinct

Sitting just two kilometres west of the Sydney CBD, The Bays Precinct comprises 5.5 kilometres of harbourfront, 95 hectares of largely government-owned land and 94 hectares of waterways in Sydney Harbour. The Transformation Plan: The Bays Precinct, Sydney (2015) represents a blueprint to transform The Bays Precinct into a bustling hub of enterprise, activity and beautiful spaces over the next 20 to 30 years."

The areas of the Bays Precinct that fall within the Inner West are medium term projects (works commencing 2019-2022 - Rozelle Bay and Bays Waterways) and longer term (commencing 2022 and beyond - Rozelle Rail Yards, Glebe Island, White Bay).

Recreation implications of the Bays Precinct include:

- A continuous waterfront promenade from Balmain to Pyrmont (Bays Waterfront Promenade) and the adaptive re-use of Glebe Island bridge. Stage 1 is the link from the Fish Markets to Pyrmont however future stages will include links in the Inner West area (Figure 19)
- Increased population living in high density requiring access to recreation opportunities including onsite open space, communal open space, and sporting facilities
- Upgrades to regional open space at Wentworth Park in the City of Sydney
- Rozelle Rail Yards provides an opportunity for new open space and nature reserves linking to the harbour, and new pedestrian and cycle links between Lilyfield and Rozelle.

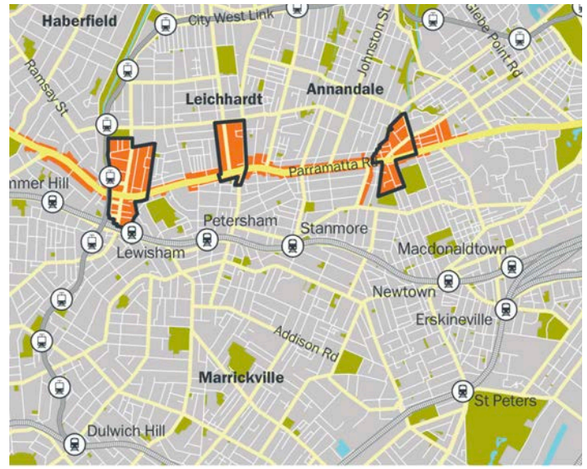


Figure 18 - Parramatta Road Corridor showing corridor and precincts in the Inner West Council area (source: UrbanGrowth)

Figure 19 - Bays Waterfront Promenade showing existing (aqua), Stage 1 (blue), and future (orange) sections (Source:thebayssydney.nsw.gov.au)

Westconnex

Westconnex is an ongoing road infrastructure project delivered by the NSW State Government. The project includes:

- Stage 1 - M4 tunnel portal at Haberfield (expected to open mid 2019)
- Stage 2 - M5 tunnel portal at St Peters (expected to open early 2020), and
- M4/M5 link (not currently approved).

Impacts of Westconnex on recreation in the Inner West, as currently known by Council, include:

- Acquisition and lease of Council land for the project including Reg Coady Reserve, Camdenville Park
- Possible funding for the upgrade of Camdenville Park in line with Council's adopted master plan once Stage 2 is completed
- Geotechnical drilling in parks in preparation for Stage 3,4 and 5
- Possible new uses of construction sites when construction is finished including in Haberfield, Rozelle and St Peters
  - St Peters Interchange Recreation Area and associated land bridge (however possibly delayed into Stage 3)
  - Rozelle Rail Yards recreation area is currently included in Stage 3 concept design. However there is a need to improve the design of this space to retain heritage items in situ, protect native fauna, and include more north/south walk and cycle connections of a higher standard than currently planned, and
  - Signage proposed for the front of Ashfield Park.

Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy

This Strategy, currently in draft form and awaiting revision after community consultation, builds on the Sydney Metro City and Southwest project and "provides a coordinated approach to infrastructure delivery and development across the Corridor". The Strategy includes Marrickville, Dulwich Hill, Hurlstone Park and Sydenham.

The forecast population of the Corridor, as currently known by Council, has been included in the population forecasts for this study.

Actions to deliver open space in the Strategy include (Figure 20):

- Provide public open spaces as part of large redevelopment sites including the Carrington Road Precinct
- Improved open space along the Cooks River
- New open space along light rail line as development occurs in Dulwich Hill
- Public access through Marrickville Golf Course
- Provide after-hours community access to school facilities and open space at Dulwich Hill Public School
- There are also opportunities for:
  - Improved cycle connections to Sydney Park in the City of Sydney from Sydenham
  - A bridge link between Carrington Rd, Tillman Park and Fraser Park
  - The GreenWay South West, a pedestrian and cycle link and linear park should surplus rail land become available
  - Back street pedestrian link from Marrickville Station to the Cooks River through a new pedestrian link from Esk Lane to Schwebel St, and
  - Two new urban plazas at the station entrances and improvements to the streetscape along Leofrene Avenue could contribute to an improved public domain in the Marrickville Station Precinct.

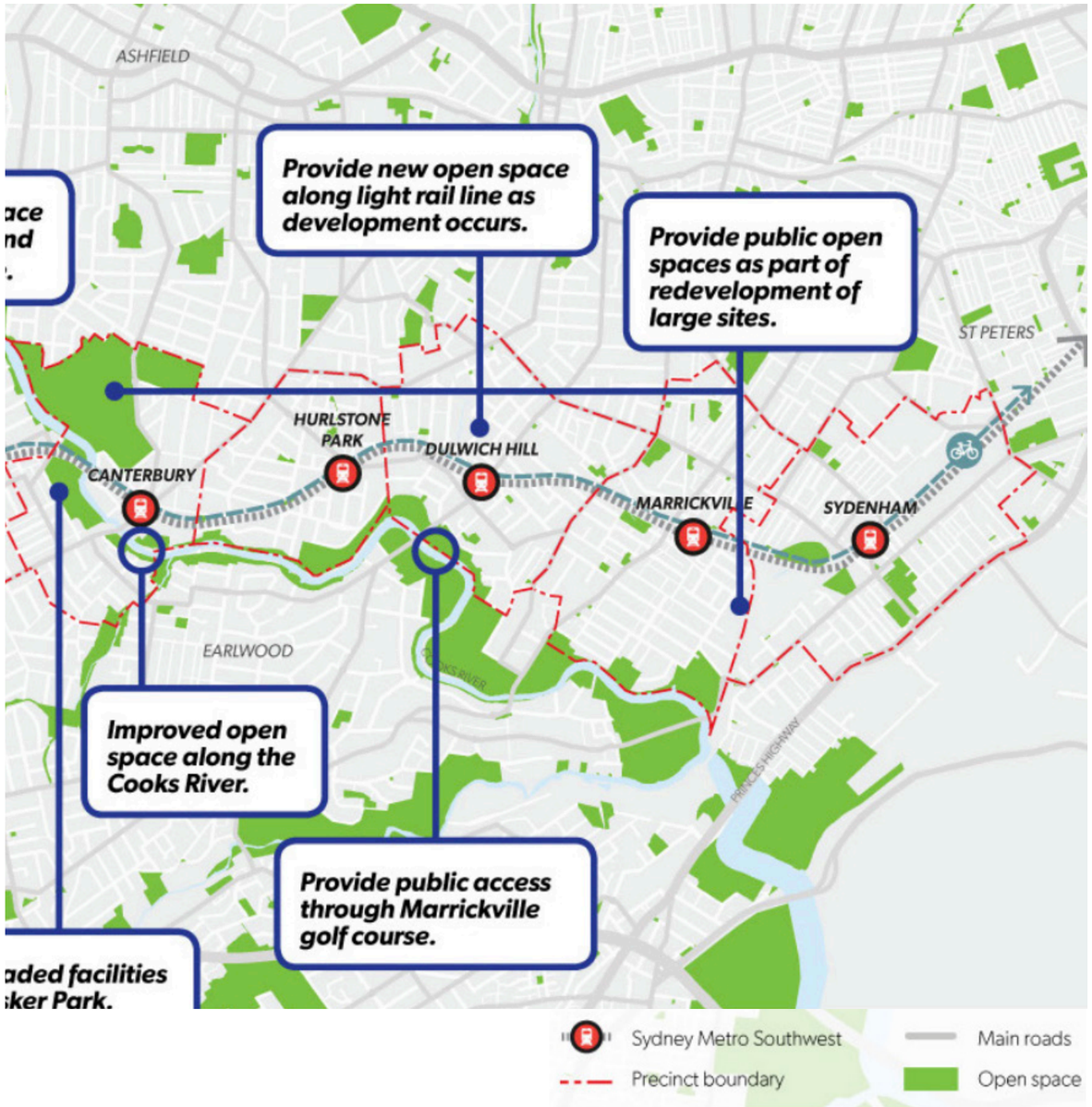


Figure 20 - Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal open space in the Inner West LGA (Source: Department of Planning and Environment)

Callan Park Master Plan

On 19 July 2011 Leichhardt Council approved the Callan Park Master Plan (Figure 21), the Callan Park Conservation Management Plan and the Callan Park Plan of Management. The Master Plan includes natural spaces, gardens, sporting grounds, and a regional skate park. This is a major opportunity to realise new recreation facilities for the Inner West community. These plans have not been adopted by the Office of Environment and Heritage, who are currently undertaking a new Landscape Structure Planning process. While some elements of the plan have been implemented, advocacy to support the delivery of other facilities continues.

Iron Cove to Cooks River GreenWay

The GreenWay is a 5.8km environmental and active travel corridor linking the Iron Cove to the Cooks River. Following the route of the Inner West Light Rail, the GreenWay features bike paths and foreshore walks, cultural and historical sites, cafes, bushcare sites and a range of parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities.

The Inner West community and local councils have been campaigning for over 10 years to complete the GreenWay. The NSW Government and the new Inner West Council have announced a joint commitment of $14.5 million towards the cost of completing the GreenWay missing links. A further $8.8 million has been committed by the NSW State government under the Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program. This will unlock approximately 3ha of open space not currently accessible to the community.

Council is developing a Master Plan for the whole 5.8km GreenWay corridor. The GreenWay Master Plan will guide the delivery of landscaping and infrastructure within the GreenWay corridor over the next 10 years. The master planning process is currently underway but will likely include new open space, naturalised spaces, shared and separated bike paths, and upgrades to existing parks.

Figure 21 - Callan Park Master Plan

MASTER PLAN FEATURES

Public Access to Callan Park

1 Manning Street pedestrian access
2 Car access at Cecily Street
3 Alberto Street pedestrian access
4 Existing parking area
5 Existing Bay Run
6 Wharf Road vehicular access
7 Bike hire kiosk
8 Existing drop off to child care centre retained
9 New board walk for pedestrian access to the Callan Point beach
10 No vehicular access to the waterfront

Mental Health Related Facilities and Services

11 Kalouan sub-acute mental health accommodation
12 Vocational skills centre and education services for people recovering from mental illness [TAFE link]
13 Callan Park Mental Health related facility
14 Sustain - Cafe and restaurant
15 Wharf Road Apartments Medium support accommodation & Bootmakers Cafe
16 Bootmakers Cafe
17 Wharf Road Cottages [B214] Low support accommodation
18 Wharf Road House Families accommodation
19 Community spaces in the Cane Room [B512] and Building 504
20 Playground

Callan Park Farm/ Glovers Community Garden

21 Callan Park Farm
22 Glovers Community Garden
23 Expanded Glovers Community Garden

Memorials

24 Spanish War Memorial
25 Harbour Bridge Memorial

Cultural Cluster

26 Cultural Cluster Plaza
27 Sydney College of the Arts
28 Performance and rehearsal space
29 NSW Writers Centre [B213] - Main building
30 Extension to NSW Writers Centre
31 Studio and exhibition space, Sydney College of the Art and others
32 Art therapy and studio space

Callan Point and Bush Regeneration

33 Summer House heritage building [B494] retained for an Aboriginal Exhibition Space
34 Board walk through bushland
35 Bush regeneration
36 Bush regeneration around Glover Street Oval

Active and Passive recreation

37 Existing pool facility
38 Existing Waterfront Drive fields
39 New pavilion and amenities
40 Regional skatepark
41 Sports field
42 Realigned Bay Run, seating & level change
43 Glover Street Oval
44 Existing parking area on Glover Street
45 Tennis & basketball court
46 Investigate potential for kayak and rowing boat launching jetty
47 Indoor yoga & pilates

Foreshore

48 Reinstated salt marsh and new sea wall
49 Creek restoration
50 Wetland

Existing Providers

51 NSW Ambulance Headquarters [B1046]
52 NSW Ambulance expansion into Linen store [B296]
53 Existing parking with native flora screening
54 University of Tasmania
55 Existing buildings retained for future use

Heritage Landscape and Buildings

56 Moodie Street Cottage [B399] site maintenance administration and Bush Care Group facilities
57 Pleasure Gardens restored
58 Existing trees screening the Convalescent Cottages [B401- B404] pruned and replaced overtime with tall trunked Eucalyptus
59 Callan Park Museum located in Bonny View Cottage [B205]
60 Callan Park administration headquarters in Broughton Hall [B130]
61 Port Jackson fig integrated with native planting - brick wall retained
62 Cove garden

NGO Incubators

63 NGO opportunities within the cultural cluster
64 NGO opportunities in the mental health facilities
65 Rose Cottage [Building 402]
66 Ward 12/13 [Building B488]

Sustainability

67 Recycled black water for non-potable reuse to all buildings
68 Irrigate sports field with recycled water
69 Treated stormwater stored on site for reuse - Wetland area treats stormwater prior to storage
70 Wetland filter storm water from central subcatchment
71 Non potable reuse pumping station

RECREATION STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKING

This section reviews possible benchmarking approaches for recreation in the Inner West, and outlines a proposed methodology.

Benchmarking is just one of the indicators that we can use to understand the needs of a community - alongside other indicators such as community engagement, analysis of the community profile, best practice, and an understanding of the existing facilities and opportunities. Benchmarks should be applied with caution to ensure that they are relevant to the local context. For example, a more disadvantaged area may have a higher need for open space than benchmarking alone would indicate.

Benchmarks have the advantage of providing a standardised measure for comparison within and between the Inner West and other areas. In development contexts, benchmarks can be employed as a minimum requirement – helping to facilitate a positive outcome for the community. Benchmarks are necessary to be able to identify the land needed to meet needs, and to assess capacity of existing assets.

KEY FINDINGS

- Current best practice is to use a range of benchmarks to understand demand for open space and benchmarking facilities, as one of a range of indicators which should also include community engagement, analysis of the community profile, best practice, and an understanding of the existing facilities and opportunities. Benchmarks could include quantity per person or as a percentage of land area; proximity; quality; diversity; hierarchy and size etc. There is also a move to including a specific benchmarking for the proximity to open space in high density areas.

- Currently the Inner West has 13.3m2 of Council owned open space per person, however if no new open space is provided, this will decline to 11.3 to 11.8m2 per person in 2026, and 10.6 to 11.1m2 per person in 2036. Currently, some suburbs have far below this amount of open space per person. For example, Enmore has only 1.2m2 of open space per person.

- Based on industry benchmarks from Parks and Leisure Australia, and on the current provision of recreation facilities per person in the Inner West LGA, there is a current gap in the LGA of:
  - 5 indoor (multipurpose) courts
  - 0.6 indoor leisure centres (dry)

  By 2026 there will be a total gap of:

  - 6 to 8 summer sports fields
  - 5 to 8 winter sports fields
  - 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
  - 10 to 14 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
  - 1 indoor leisure centre (dry)
  - 1 indoor leisure centre (aquatic), and
  - 1 skate park/facility.

CURRENT APPROACHES TO OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING

Previously, benchmarking for open space was often based only on the quantity of open space per person. However, population growth, increasing density, and decreasing access to land has meant that the planning industry is now looking at a range of different ways to benchmark demand for open space and recreation facilities.

Proximity

Proximity benchmarks can assess the geographic distribution of open space: how far from home, work, or school do people need to travel to access open space. There may be different proximity benchmarks for different types of open space: for example, local open space should be within walking distance of most people, but regional open space could be further away. When applying proximity benchmarks, connectivity and access should be considered – for example, how well connected is the open space to the surrounding area, and how walkable are the main access routes?

Quantity

Quantity can be looked at per person, or by land area.

Per person

Previously, the planning industry has generally taken a quantity per person benchmark. This approach can give a good idea of the provision needed to adequately meet the community's needs, and of the capacity of assets.

Land Area

A new approach is looking at the percentage of total land area that is used for open space. However, this approach does not consider the capacity of the open space provided – this approach would indicate the same land area for a small population as for a larger one, as it looks only at the total land area and not how many people are living there.

Quality

The quality of open space is key to its usability and attractiveness. Quality indicators can include for example amenity (eg maintenance, noise, facilities and equipment, aesthetics); access (visual and physical access, disability access); safety; size, shape and topography; vegetation and setting. A large amount of poor quality open space may not meet a community's needs as well as a smaller, high quality provision.

Diversity

The range of open space types within an area determines the diversity of recreation opportunities for a community. Co-locating different uses in one space can support activation and create a space for the whole community to come together. Benchmarking can look at the number of different types of recreation opportunities available in an area.

Hierarchy and size

Hierarchy approaches recognise that different parcels of open space should provide different levels of service, and is a useful approach to ensure different needs (eg for local community space vs major regional space) are met efficiently. Generally, public open space is classified into some form of a local, district and regional hierarchy, based on size and uses.

Density and vulnerable communities

With an acknowledgement of the different recreation and open space needs of people living in high density, there is a move towards planning benchmarks specifically for the provision of open space in high density areas. Best practice research also recommends a benchmark specifically for the provision of open space in vulnerable areas eg areas with ageing populations, and low income areas.

Catchment approaches

There is a move in some councils towards a catchment approach for open space and social infrastructure planning. Some councils have defined district catchments, ie based on the distribution and location of key urban centres, movement and travel patterns, community preferences and existing/future population size and distribution, or areas bounded by major roads and rail lines; others also have local area catchments.

COMPARISON OF OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING APPROACHES

Current benchmarking approaches vary between local government areas and levels of government. This section reviews some current local, regional, State and international benchmarking approaches.

TABLE 15 - SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING APPROACHES

Organisation	Approach
Inner West Council	• The Inner West is a recently amalgamated council, and there is no current consistent benchmarking approach across the three former council areas
City of Sydney	• Proximity: All residents are at a minimum within 400m walk of a local park (0.5-2ha) • Quantity (land area): 9% of land area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision • Hierarchy: Following the Department of Planning Guidelines
City of Canterbury Bankstown	• Proximity: All residents should be within 400m of Regional and District open space or within 300m of Neighbourhood and Local open space • Quantity (per person): 1 – 1.5ha of parks and recreation areas per 1,000 people, based on industry benchmarks. Sporting grounds and natural areas are in addition to this • Hierarchy: Hierarchy approach: State – Regional / City wide – District – Neighbourhood – Local • Catchment: Catchment approach for playground planning: 17 Districts defined by major roads and rail lines, 96 Local catchments
City of Canada Bay	• Proximity: 400m to open space over 0.4ha, 300m to any open space. • Quantity (per person): Benchmarking of current provision (2013) at 2.6ha per population, however recognition that this will decline as the population grows, and that the council cannot afford to acquire new land. • Quality: Recognising that the council cannot afford to acquire enough new land, the focus is on increasing the carrying capacity of existing facilities. • Density: There is a specific Open Space Master Plan for the Rhodes Peninsula, a high density development area in the City of Canada Bay
Burwood Council	• Benchmarking approach not available
Bayside Council	• Bayside Council is newly amalgamated council and does not currently have a consistent benchmarking approach
City of Parramatta	• Proximity: Walkable catchments of 400m • Quantity (per person): 1 ha/1,000 people for parks, with sporting grounds and natural areas in addition. Total = 3ha/1,000 people. • Quantity (land area): 15% of the land area for all open space of which: 6% is formal sport, 5% is informal and passive recreation, 4% is natural area. • Hierarchy: Hierarchy and category (character) principles (not publicly available) • Density: 20% of land for high density areas. Walkable catchments of 250m for higher density. Design principles specifically for high density. • Catchment: Six catchment areas across the local government area
SSROC	• Quantity: Existing level of provision and usage represent the minimum benchmark due to council advice that usage is already at capacity across the district.
Greater Sydney Commision	• Proximity: All dwellings should be within 400m of open space • Density: All dwellings in high density areas (greater than 60 dwellings per hectare) should be within 200m of open space
NSW Department of Planning	• Proximity: 400m to local open space • Quantity (land area): 9% of land area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision • Hierarchy: Local (0.5-2ha); District (2-5ha); Regional (5+ha)
World Health Organisation	• Quantity (per person): 9m2 per person

PROPOSED OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING APPROACH

The recommended approach is to use a range of benchmarks that can, together, build a more holistic understanding of open space needs. This reflects the planning industry move away from a single quantity per person benchmark.

Proximity

The proximity benchmarks proposed align with NSW planning guidelines and neighbouring councils. There will be a need to consider connectivity and access when applying these benchmarks – for example whether the access routes are walkable, or if there are barriers such as major roads and train lines.

Quantity (per person)

The quantity per person benchmark proposed is the current average provision of open space per person across the LGA. Overall the LGA has an average of 16.8m2 of open space per person. However, the current provision of Council-owned open space in the LGA is 13.3m2 of open space per person. The SSROC has identified the current level of provision as the minimum benchmark for the area.

Hierarchy and size

The hierarchy proposed aligns with NSW planning guidelines, including a minimum size of 0.5ha for local open space, aligning with neighbouring councils. Acknowledging the high number of pocket parks in the area, a fourth level - "Urban Landscape amenity" – includes parks which are less than 0.5ha in size.

Density and vulnerability

The density benchmark proposed reflects best practice planning approaches and the Greater Sydney Commission approach. These benchmarks could also be applied for areas with vulnerable communities such as areas with ageing populations or low average incomes, as identified in needs assessments.

Quality

While the proposed approach does not set out quality criteria, the quality of open space should be considered in recreation planning including in assessing proposed new open space, for example provided as part of high density developments. This includes amenity (eg maintenance, noise, facilities and equipment, aesthetics); access (visual and physical access, disability access); safety; size, shape and topography; vegetation and setting.

TABLE 16 - PROPOSED OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING APPROACH

Hierarchy	Proximity	Quantity
Regional (5+ha)	5-10km	13.3m2 per person
District (2-5ha)	2km	
Level 1 Local (0.5-2ha)	All residents should be within 400m of an area of high quality open space of at least 0.5ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers	
Level 2 Local (0.1-0.5ha) (High density))	In addition to the above, all residents living in high density should ALSO be within 200m of an area of high quality open space of at least 0.1ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers	
Urban Landscape Amenity (less than 0.5ha)	n/a	

TABLE 18 - EXAMPLES OF PARKS ACCORDING TO HIERARCHY AND SIZE BENCHMARK

Urban Landscape Amenity (less than 0.5ha)	Darley St Playground, Newtown 235m2	(image source: Kid Size Living)	Ashford St Reserve, Ashfield, 802m2	
Level 2 Local park (0.1 to 0.5ha)	Federation Plaza Reserve, Haberfield, 3,203m2		Wangal Nura Park, Leichhardt 1,961m2	
Level 1 Local park (0.5-2ha)	McNeilly Park, Marrickville, 11,400m2		Punch Park, Balmain, 8,677m2	
District (2ha-5ha)	Easton Park, Rozelle, 20,400m2		Marrickville Park, Marrickville, 44,900m2	
Regional (5ha+)	Henson Park, Marrickville, 58,500m2		Ashfield Park, Ashfield, 61,700m2	

HOW IS COUNCIL DOING?

Proximity benchmark

Figure 22 shows the catchment areas of existing open space throughout the Inner West to identify areas that have below benchmark access to open space, based on the proximity benchmark (all residents within 400m of at least Level 1 Local open space). The catchment areas exclude areas that are across access barriers such as major roads and above ground train lines.

This map highlights that there are some key areas with below benchmark access to open space, in particular:

- Glebe Island, White Bay Power Station and parts of Rozelle north of Victoria Road
- Parts of Leichhardt and Annandale, close to Parramatta Road
- Parts of Croydon, Croydon Park, and the centre of Ashfield. There is a concentration of smaller Level 2 Local parks and pocket parks in this area.
- Parts of Lewisham to the south of the rail line
- Parts of Enmore, Newtown and Stanmore between Enmore Road and the train line. There is a concentration of smaller Level 2 Local parks and Urban Landscape Amenity parks in this area
- Industrial area in St Peters
- Parts of central Tempe, and
- Parts of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, in a band along the northern side of the train line.

Areas of Lewisham south of the train line, and Marrickville north of the train line, are particularly impacted by pedestrian barriers. These locations are within 400m of at least Level 1 Local open space, but the train line forms a significant pedestrian barrier reducing access.

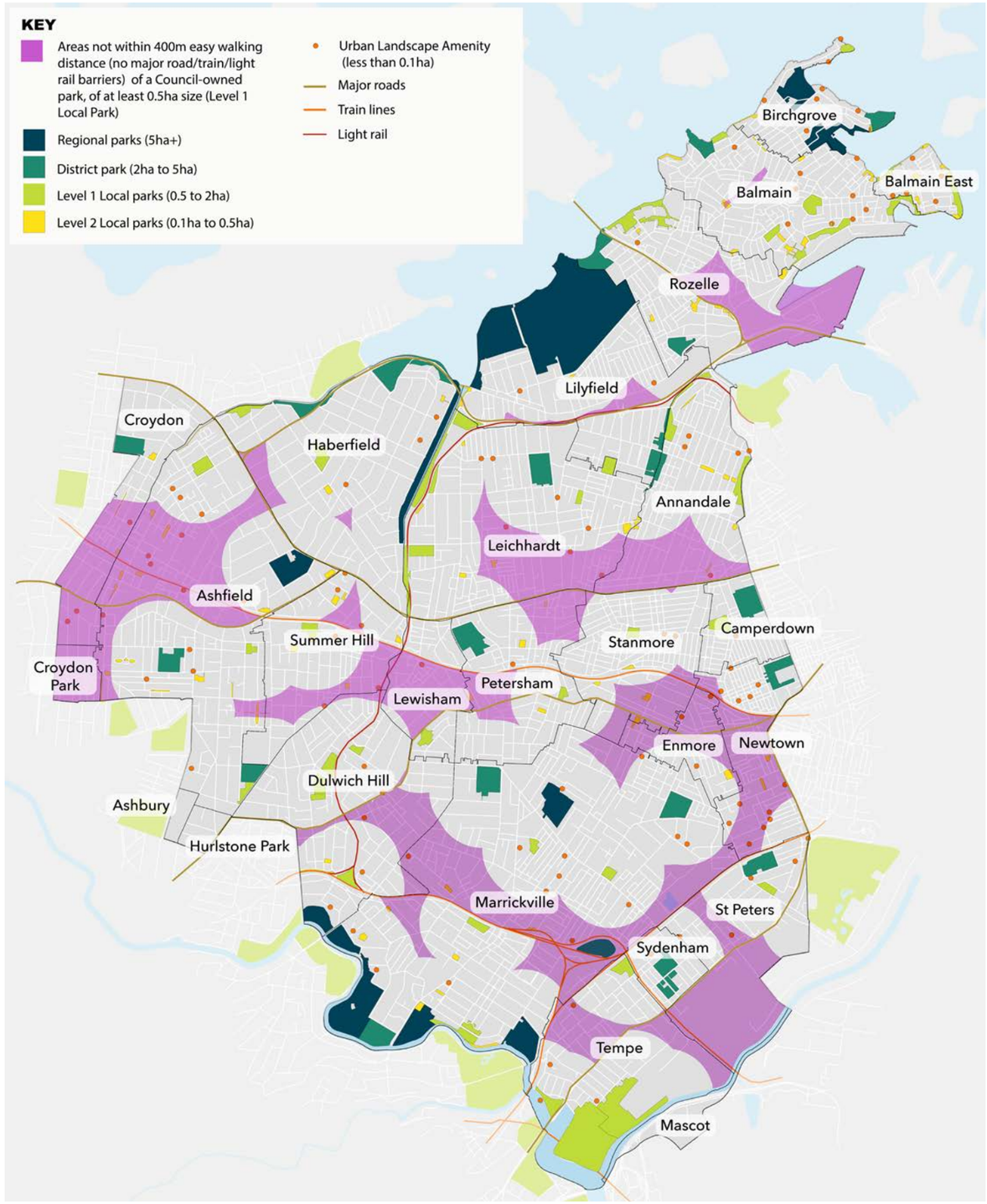


Figure 22 - Areas with below proximity benchmark access to open space

Provision per person

Overall the LGA has an average of 16.8m2 of open space per person. However, excluding State-owned land (which is not guaranteed to remain publicly available), the current provision of publicly accessible open space in the LGA is 13.3m2 of open space per person.

Currently, there is a band of suburbs with below benchmark provision across the centre of the LGA, along the train line and along Canterbury Road. Specifically, suburbs with below benchmark provision per person (below 13.3m2 per person) are:

- Enmore (1.2m2)
- Stanmore (2.0m2)
- Lewisham (3.8m2)
- Summer Hill (4.3m2)
- Dulwich Hill (4.5m2)
- Newtown (5.2m2)
- Petersham (8.0m2)
- Ashfield (8.1m2)
- Croydon - Croydon Park (8.7m2)
- Annandale (10.8m2)
- Balmain (10.8m2), and
- Leichhardt (11.6m2).

Future provision per person

Based on the forecast populations outlined in Section 3, the suburbs that currently have a deficit of open space will continue to do so in 2026.

Overall, the average provision per person across the LGA will drop to 11.3 to 11.8m2 per person in 2026, and 10.6 to 11.1m2 per person in 2036. To maintain the current provision, there would be a need for 33.6ha to 47.0ha of new open space to 2026, and an additional 18.2ha to 18.4ha between 2026 and 2036 (total of 52ha to 65.3ha by 2036).

The suburbs with the largest forecast decrease in open space per person between 2016 and 2026 are:

- Marrickville (5.3m2 to 8.2m2 less open space per person, or 24-37% less open space per person)
- Tempe (-4.1m2 per person or -5%)
- Camperdown (-3.7m2 per person or -20%), and
- Leichhardt (-3.6m2 per person or -31%).

Importantly, in Lewisham, an area with very low existing open space, residents will have 44% less open space per person in 2026 than in 2016 (-1.6m2 per person).

Figures 23, 24 and 25 show the provision of open space per person in each suburb in 2016, 2026 and 2036.

Table 19 (overpage) shows the current and forecast provision per person of Council-owned, publicly accessible open space.

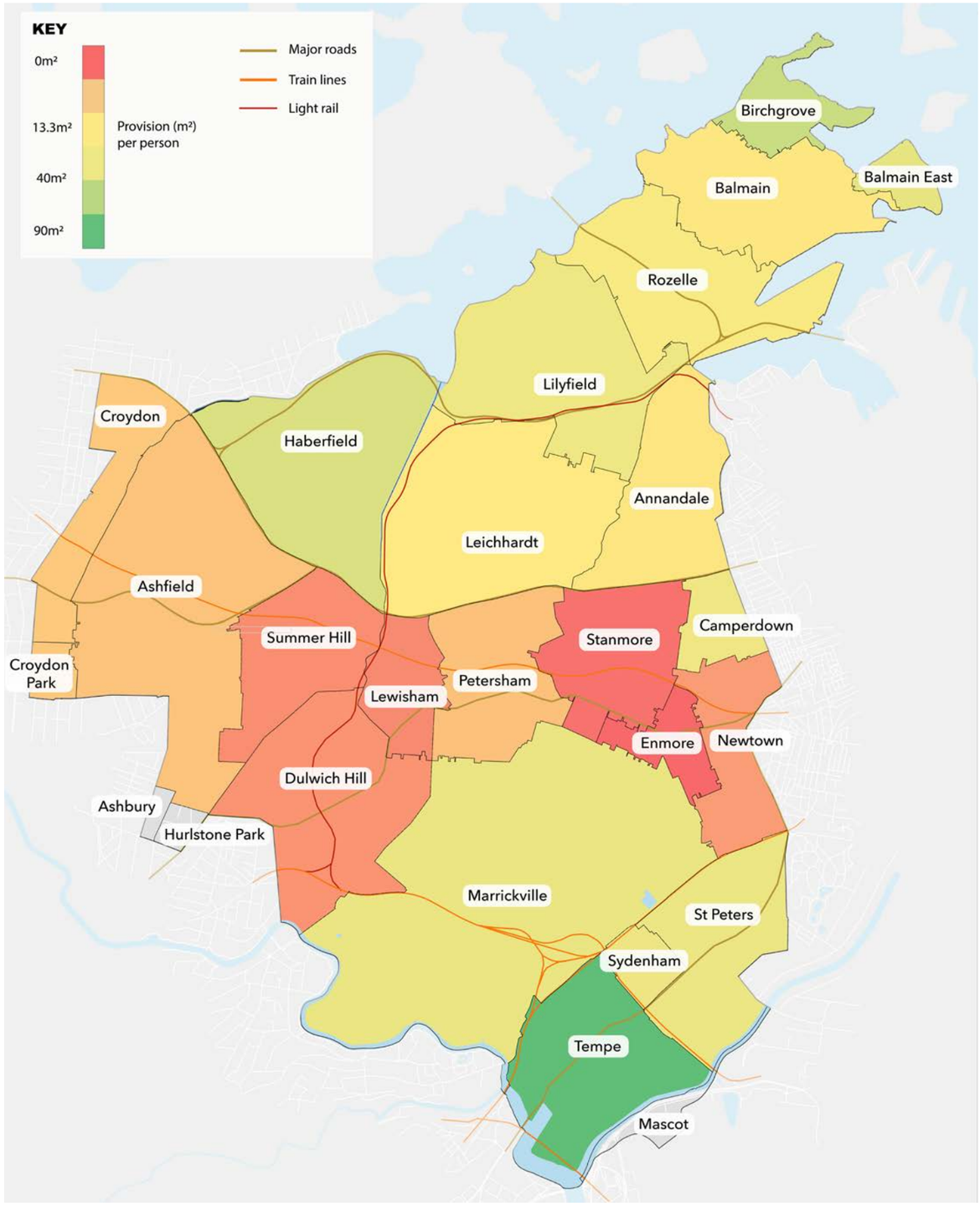


Figure 23 - Current provision per person

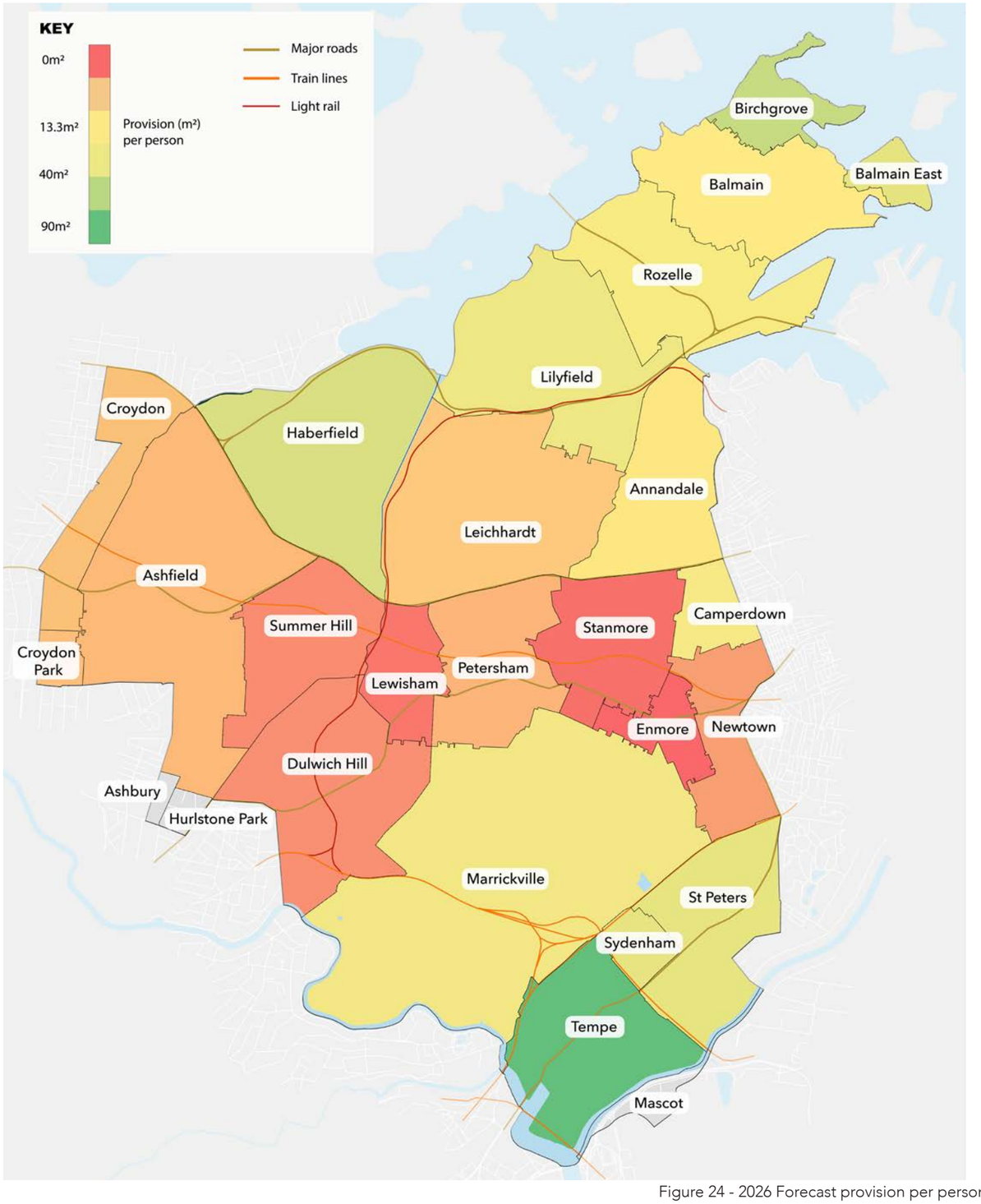


Figure 24 - 2026 Forecast provision per person

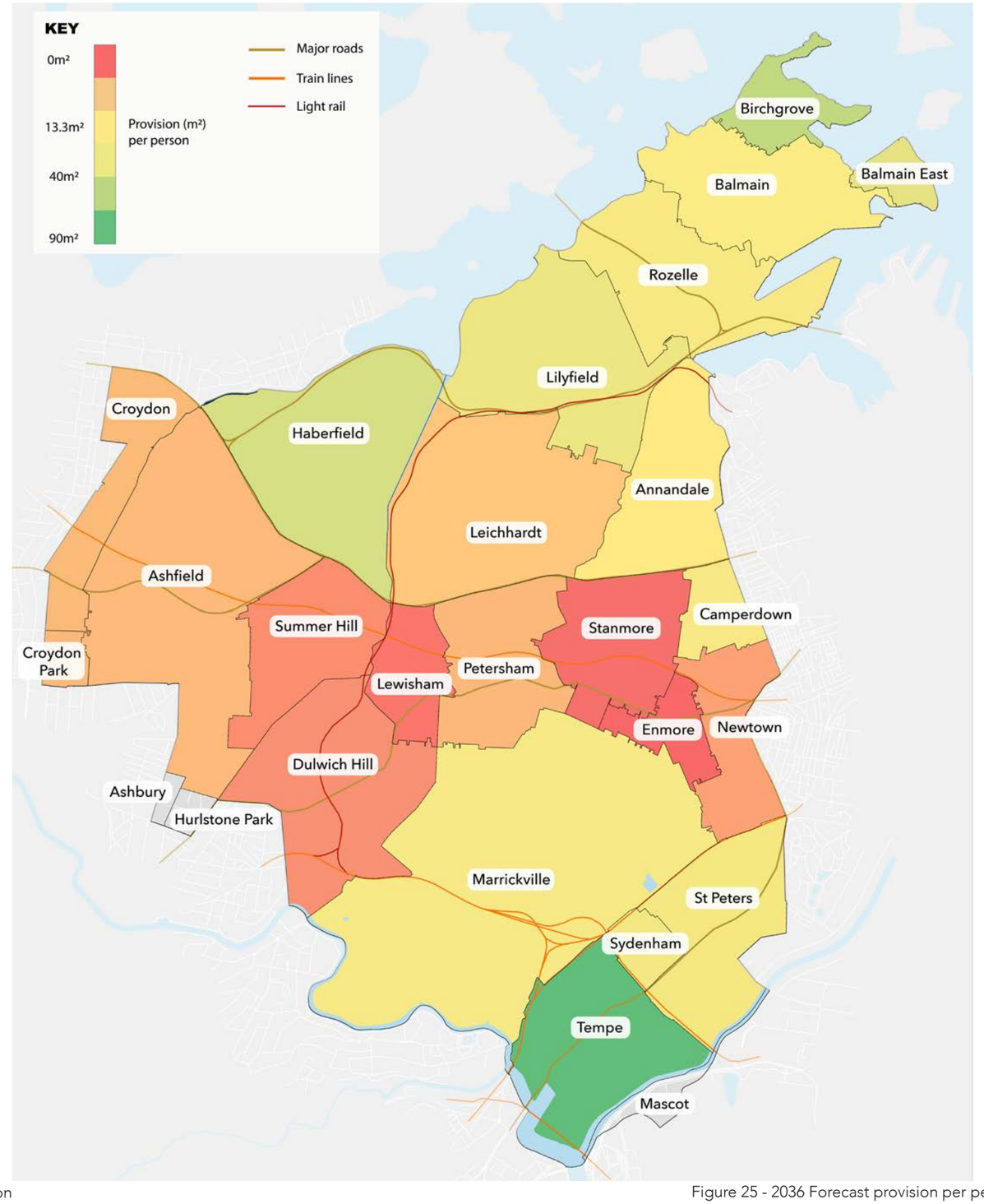


Figure 25 - 2036 Forecast provision per person

TABLE 19 - CURRENT AND FORECAST PROVISION PER PERSON (COUNCIL OWNED OPEN SPACE)

Area	2016 population (URP)	Council-owned open space (m2)	2016 m2 per person	2026 population	2026 m2 per person	2036 population	2036 m2 per person
Annandale	9,406	101,305	10.8	10,281	9.9	10,776	9.4
Ashfield	23,908	194,804	8.1	29,026	6.7	30,818	6.3
Balmain	10,746	116,233	10.8	11,184	10.4	11,033	10.5
Balmain East	1,940	45,273	23.3	2,008	22.5	1,999	22.6
Birchgrove	3,231	124,173	38.4	3,220	38.6	3,200	38.8
Camperdown	3,544	65,135	18.4	4,439	14.7	4,780	13.6
Croydon - Croydon Park	5,135	44,426	8.7	6,180	7.2	6,999	6.3
Dulwich Hill	13,692	61,934	4.5	16,463 to 18,728	3.3 to 3.8	16,833 to 19,087	3.2 to 3.7
Enmore	3,867	4,651	1.2	4,165	1.1	4,173	1.1
Haberfield	6,471	196,190	30.3	6,569	29.9	6,780	28.9
Leichhardt	14,623	169,042	11.6	21,333	7.9	23,307	7.3
Lewisham	3,185	12,022	3.8	5,643	2.1	5,940	2.0
Lilyfield	7,611	148,297	19.5	8,041	18.4	8,026	18.5
Marrickville	26,602	590,477	22.2	34,934 to 42,151	14.0 to 16.9	40,213 to 47,381	12.5 to 14.7
Newtown	7,927	41,420	5.2	8,506	4.9	8,517	4.9
Petersham	8,101	65,108	8.0	10,206	6.4	10,318	6.3
Rozelle	8,752	124,446	14.2	9,345	13.3	9,429	13.2
St Peters - Sydenham	4,267	87,852	20.6	4,164 to 4,744	18.5 to 21.1	5,767 to 6,339	13.9 to 15.2
Stanmore	7,858	15,852	2.0	9,110	1.7	9,221	1.7
Summer Hill	7,300	31,224	4.3	8,701	3.6	9,076	3.4
Tempe	3,552	320,114	90.1	3,722	86.0	3,803	84.2
Inner West (ERP)	192,030 (ERP)	2,559,976	13.3	217,240 to 227,302	11.3 to 11.8	231,009 to 241,001	10.6 to 11.1

Current hierarchy

As outlined in part 4 of the report 'Current Situation' (pp. 22 - 36), there is a good provision and distribution of both District (24%) and Level 2 Local (17%) open space, but a low provision of Level 1 Local open space (6%).

When State-owned land is excluded, there is still a good provision and distribution of open space across the hierarchy (Table 6).

Four suburbs have relatively high proportions of Urban Landscape Amenity parks, which can struggle to deliver recreation benefits of space for social gathering, active recreation, relief from the urban environment and connection to nature, and space for community gatherings:

- Enmore (15% when Enmore TAFE Park is included, 29% when only Council-owned land is included)
- Newtown (10%)
- Stanmore (9%), and
- Summer Hill (13%).

Current provision in high density zoned areas

Figure 25 shows a 200m catchment area around parks that are at minimum 0.1ha, and areas that are currently zoned for high density residential areas (R4 High Density Residential).

The map indicates that there are areas currently zoned for high density residential dwellings, that are not within 200m of at least 0.1ha of open space (shown in pink).

In particular, areas of:

- Lewisham
- Petersham, and
- Dulwich Hill

do not meet the benchmark requirement for access to open space in high density and should be considered a priority for future planning.

While the former Ashfield and Leichhardt Council areas do not currently have any areas zoned R4 High Density Residential, there are areas and developments that could be considered high density (eg more than 60 dwellings per hectare). The high density benchmark should be applied to all new high density residential developments.

Figure 26 - Current provision in high density zoned areas

BENCHMARKING FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The SSROC Liveability Benchmark study recommends that local governments should plan for the supply of future recreation facilities based on maintaining the current provision of recreation facilities per person. However, in the Inner West, the current provision of some types of recreation facilities is not meeting demand, and industry benchmarks are more appropriate.

Table 20 shows the proposed benchmarks for recreation facilities, based on industry benchmarks from Parks and Leisure Australia, and on the current provision of recreation facilities per person in the Inner West LGA. Table 20 shows that there is a current gap in the LGA of:

- 5 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 0.6 indoor leisure centres (dry)

By 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- 6 to 8 summer sports fields
- 5 to 8 winter sports fields
- 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 10 to 14 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 1 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 1 indoor leisure centre (aquatic), and
- 1 skate park/facility.

TABLE 20 - RECREATION FACILITY BENCHMARKS (CURRENT PROVISION) AND FUTURE NEED (SOURCE: BASED ON DATA PROVIDED BY INNER WEST COUNCIL)

Type	Benchmark: Current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia	Current provision	Current GAP	Required for 2026 population low estimate (217,240)	Required for 2026 population high estimate (227,302)	2026 GAP
Summer sports field (located in sporting grounds)	1:6,500 people	30	0	33	50	6 to 8
Winter sports field (located in sporting grounds)	1:4,500 people	43	0	48	51	5 to 8
Indoor (multipurpose) courts (# of courts)	1:20,000	5	5	11	11	6
Outdoor (multipurpose) courts	1:2,500	77	0	87	24	10 to 14
Indoor leisure centre (dry)	1:75,000 (middle range of Parks and Leisure Australia benchmark: 1:50,000 to 100,000	2	0.6	0.9	1	1
Indoor leisure centre (aquatic)	1:38,500	5	0	6	6	1
Skate park/facility	1:48,000	4	0	5	5	1
Play space (including district and regional provision)	1:2,000	116	0	109	114	0

RECREATION INDICATORS

There are a number of possible indicators that could be used to measure and record how well the recreation needs of the Inner West community are being met. These include objective measures as well as qualitative approaches. Recreation indicators should be simple to gather, record changes over time, and provide a basis for assessment and future planning for the provision of recreation spaces and programs.

Recommended recreation indicators are:

Indicator	Source
Resident satisfaction with recreation opportunities.	Community Satisfaction Survey - Satisfaction with opportunities to participate in recreation.
Resident access to recreation opportunities (affordability, disability inclusion).	Community Satisfaction Survey - Access to recreation opportunities.
Maintained or improved quality of life ratings.	Community Wellbeing Survey / Community Capacity Survey - Quality of life rating.
Maintaining current provision per person (13.3m2).	Council mapping data - m2 of open space per person.
Maintaining current provision per person.	Council mapping data - Recreation facilities per person.
Increased proportion of dwellings within benchmark proximity of open space.	Council mapping data - all dwellings within 400m of open space of minimum 0.5ha. All high density dwellings also within 200m of open space of minimum 0.1ha.
Increasing capacity of sports fields to address increased demand and reduce over.	Council booking system - Capacity of sports fields vs Utilisation.
Securing new open space through development.	Development Assessment data - % of new developments delivering minimum 13.3m2 per person of open space.
Number of people using recreation facilities.	Entrance and booking data at aquatic centres and parks.

URBAN RECREATION BEST PRACTICE TRENDS AND CASE STUDIES

Emerging trends for the delivery of recreation in urban environments addresses the need for innovative approaches to deliver recreation facilities where space is limited, including getting more out of existing and new recreation facilities through the design of multi-purpose and flexible spaces, ensuring recreation facilities and spaces are networked and connected, sharing existing and underutilised spaces of the city for recreaction, and the role recreation can play in building more resilient communities and cities.

1. MULTI-PURPOSE AND FLEXIBLE

A key trend in increasingly urban and dense built environments is the design of multi-purpose and flexible spaces that both maximise usage and meet a greater diversity of recreation needs within the same space.

Getting more out of existing recreation facilities

With an increase in high density living, more Inner West residents will be seeking a greater variety of spaces for recreation. With limited space to build more courts, fields or recreation facilities it is important that existing recreation facilities are maximised to their full potential. This can be achieved through the development of multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable spaces and facilities.

Hybrid courts and fields allow different sports and activities to occur in the same space. Design interventions such as the installation of synthetic turf can also increase the capacity of fields from 30 hours a week (natural grass) to around 60 hours of playing time, effectively doubling the amount of playing time per week and increasing the time and number of teams that can play across the year.

While synthetic turf can be useful for getting more out of existing recreation facilities and fields, considerations such as impacts on local use, parking, and heat are important when deciding where synthetic fields are best located.

Making big parks work harder

As the population grows, regional and district parks need to take on a variety of roles. While traditionally the hierarchy of regional, district and local parks have their own particular typology and use, with increased development in the Inner West, it is important that even big parks are people-focused and meet resident's diverse needs. On the flip-side due to shortages of sporting facilities, passive parks are becoming more active spaces with people using them as spaces to play informal sports. Regardless of the park hierarchy, every open space needs to function as backyard, should have a purpose as well as versatility, and include spaces that provide a 'heart' for communities and developments.

Parks as 'living rooms'

Increasing high density development in the Inner West means that parks and open spaces must function as 'living rooms,' providing residents with a place to connect with each other, a place to play, relax, exercise, meet friends and family, host events, or walk their dog. Imagining parks as living rooms means that they are adaptable spaces suited to the different uses and needs of the Inner West's diverse community.

MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVE RECREATION SPACE: BOX HILL GARDENS, MELBOURNE

Box Hill Gardens is an innovative, multi-purpose, flexible space providing for a diverse array of recreation activities and events within the one site

Designed by Aspect Studios for the Whitehorse City Council in Victoria, the site functions as both community space and courts for multiple sports and recreation activities including table tennis, soccer, as well as the future incorporation of a 1km walking and running track that will start and finish at the multi-purpose site.

The dynamic graphic and colours used defines the hybrid recreational functions of the space, while also giving the place a strong, engaging and playful identity for the growing community.

Public toilets, bubblers and seating are integrated into the space, forming a rebound wall for ball sports, while the previous tennis court building was recycled to function as seating looking over the court. These features are important in providing an inclusive space where people can stay and linger for extended periods of time.

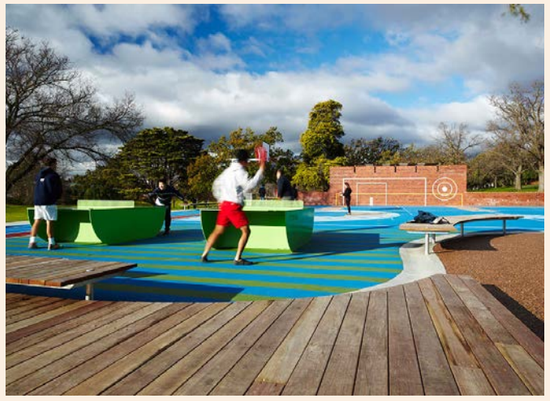


Figure 27 - Box Hill Gardens by ASPECT Studios. Image Source: Andrew Lloyd < <www.aspect-studios.com>.

FLEXIBLE FUNCTIONS: ASHFIELD AQUATIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT, INNER WEST COUNCIL

An example of how to get greater use out of recreation assets through the design of multi-purpose spaces, the Ashfield Aquatic Centre redevelopment expected to open in early 2020 will focus on delivering options and functionality for a diverse range of recreation needs.

The redevelopment will provide an outdoor pool with a movable floor, opening it up for a wide range of uses. Competitions, learn to swim, rehab/therapy activity, wheelchair access, and water polo are among the activities that require different water depths. The movable floor also allows for events such as whole pool kids splash areas or splash in movies, and increases safety by enabling the whole pool to be closed off. The indoor 50m pool will include a movable boom, allowing combinations of 50m and 25m pools. Together, this allows for a large variety of combinations and functionality to support a range of uses and meet the needs of a diverse community.

The redevelopment will also support warm water aquatics therapy, with the current heated indoor pool integrating with a new spa, steam and sauna. This will increase access to aquatics therapy including aqua classes, hydro classes, walking lanes, passive access etc. Overall, these combined features will greatly enhance the warm water access available at AAC and will complement the broad goals listed above of functionality and diversity within the design of the centre.

MULTI-USE PARKS WITH SUPPORTING AMENITIES: CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN, INNER WEST COUNCIL

Camperdown Park is a large, leafy park offering a range of facilities and activities. The park received a $3.1 million upgrade in 2016 with a new playground for younger and older children, youth space with removable art walls and table tennis tables, a refurbishment of the basketball courts, a new accessible amenities building, new pathways and lighting, and new trees and gardens. Sustainable design including LED lighting, water tanks, and recycled materials were included. The former Camperdown Bowling Club was reopened in 2016 as Camperdown Commons and features an urban farm, restaurant, community lawn, kids' play space, and spaces for hire. Council's own Chrissie Cotter Gallery is situated on Pidcock Street (underneath the tennis courts) and hosts artist exhibitions and cultural events.

Figure 28 - Pocket City Farm at Camperdown Commons (Image source: Christine Knight)

Figure 30 - Camperdown Park playground

MULTI-PURPOSE SYNTHETIC FIELDS: MOLONG MULTI-PURPOSE PITCH, MOLONG

The new synthetic field in Molong, in regional NSW, provides a synthetic hockey field with tennis courts. Other large format sports can also be co-located on synthetic surfaces including hockey and soccer.

Figure 29 - Molong multi-purpose hockey and tennis fields (Image source: via Glebe District Hockey Association)

ACTIVATED SMALL SPACES: PIGALLE BASKETBALL COURT, PARIS

Wedged between a pair of apartment buildings in Paris, the pigalle basketball court's electric pink and blue hues with pops of yellow is an inviting and attractive example of how recreation spaces can elevate and enliven leftover spaces within the city.

By combining art with recreation, the courts have become a destination, increasing the likelihood of use, and encouraging people to be active and engage with the recreation opportunities within the city.

Figure 31 - Pigalle Basketball court, Paris. Image Source: Dezeen <www.dezeen.com>.

2. NETWORKED AND CONNECTED

Ensuring recreation facilities within the Inner West operate as a network will become increasingly important as the population continues to grow. Improving linkages both across and within parks and recreation facilities will ensure both communities and recreation spaces remain connected, and the availability and catchment of existing and new spaces will be expanded to their full potential.

A network of sporting grounds

Sporting grounds have the potential to be managed and planned for as a network, meaning that frequent users, including sports clubs and organisations, can utilise different sporting grounds and clubs for training and competition purposes, as well as sharing the use of sporting grounds and club buildings by different sports clubs, organisations and codes (where appropriate) to maximise their utilisation, and reduce competition for spaces. Technology can play a key role in organising existing sporting grounds as a network of spaces, with an app or website able to inform teams which fields are avaliable for their sport during what times, as well as allow them to book the fields easily and efficiently.

Streets as recreation places and connections to open space

In the increasingly urban environment of the Inner West, the network of streets themselves are critical public spaces that lend richness to the social, civic, and economic fabric of the community. Active, green, walkable streets extend opportunities for recreation beyond the boundaries of parks, and improve connections to parks in areas with low provision.

Like few other places in cities, streets are public places of encounter where everyday life takes place. Through verge planting, traffic calming, wide footpaths, seating, shade, and places to stop such as parklets or skate and play features, streets can provide places for existing and future residents to recreate and come together with neighbours.

COMMUNITY-LED RECLAIMING STREETS: LEEFSTRAAT (LIVING STREETS), GHENT

Leefstraat or living street, is an experiment where residents take over their street by temporarily banning, or partially banning cars from the street, and finding another place to park. By considering the challenges faced in their street or neighborhood, the intervention gives them the opportunity to find a solution and realise their own ideas and aspirations. The absence of cars means children can play safely on the streets, while new activities also provide a space for adults to meet eachother.

After completing their experiment, Lab van Troje passed on the results to the local council. Lessons that were learnt included the issue that arose from late-night noise that was sometimes found to disturb residents nearby, as well as the necessity to maintain accessible access by vehicle for people living in the street with a disability, as well as for emergency vehicles.

Figure 32 - By removing cars and delivering a streetscape envisioned by local residents, local government and residents were able to test what life could be like if streets were turned into places for recreation, socialising and play. (Image source: Trojan Lab)

PLAYFUL AND SOCIAL STREET FURNITURE, COPENHAGEN

Collaboration is at the core of the great urban design outcomes in Copenhagen. Collaboration with local communities about park/neighbourhood renewal or redesign is a core part of all planning processes. Designers, planners, sociologists and other city builders also regularly collaborate on solutions for improved urban and social outcomes. Like the Danish Cabinet Makers Association who for their 2017 Exhibition explored the social potential of outdoor furniture and included two person adult sized swings along streets, and socially connective furniture.

Figure 33 - Social furniture in Copenhagen (Image source: Cred Consulting)

RECLAIMING STREETS FOR PLACES TO MEET: GLEBE PARKLETS, SYDNEY

Parklets re-imagine and reclaim on street car parking spaces and bring parks to town-centres. The typical design of a parklet is a platform that extends the sidewalks and provides amenities like seats, tables, bike racks and landscaping.

In March 2015, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce was awarded a $10,000 Community Matching Grant to deliver Sydney LGA's first moveable parklet trial. The Glebe Point Road Trial Parklet Program ran for a 6 month period between September 2015 - March 2016, and moved three times along Glebe Point Road. The project aimed to enliven street life, create a place to meet and gather, provide a space for creative expression, and increase dwelling times

Despite the success of the parklet in Glebe and documented community and business support to make it a permanent feature of Glebe Point Road, there were many challenges in moving the project forward at both the state and local levels of government. Many of the barriers in the approval process were related to existing policy and laws around car parking, metered / timed parking spaces and permitted use of roads.

Figure 35 - Meeting at the Parklet, Glebe (Image source: Elise O'Ryan)

PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY PUBLIC DOMAIN: LONSDALE ST, DANDENONG

The plaza on Lonsdale St, Dandenong has a protected edge providing psychological comfort and a sense of safety from passing vehicular traffic. There is integrated seating and sittable edges, and iconic paving to support a sense of identity. Pathways along the street include colourful lighting at night, trees for shade, and lots of seating. The extension of the patterned paving onto the quieter parking area/side street creates a pedestrian and cyclist priority environment This project won the 2014 AILA National Award for Excellence in Urban Design.

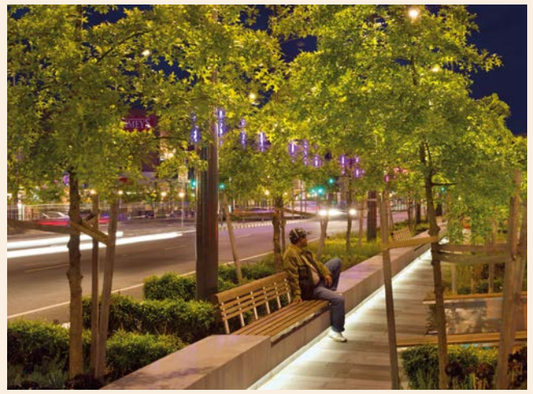


Figure 34 - Lonsdale St Dandenong (Image source: TCL/ John Gollings)

URBAN PLAZAS: MELBOURNE CITY SQUARE, MELBOURNE

Melbourne City Square is an excellent example of an urban plaza, vibrant meeting place in the city centre where people can meet, hold events, or simply take time out from the city and relax. The square has an activated building ground floor, suitable edges to the main road, and relaxing landscaping including sunny areas, raised turf, large trees, and water features. Other features include public art and bike racks. There is a great café that helps to activate the place.

Figure 36 - Areas of genuine grass used as places to sit and rest in Melbourne City Square (Image source: Dianna Snape)

3. SHARING THE CITY FOR RECREATION

From schools, sports clubs, roofs or unused and underutilised pockets or parking spaces, sharing the city for recreation is an emerging trend within cities where available land at street level is increasingly scarce, and more innovative approaches to recreation provision are needed.

Sharing spaces

With an increasing population, multiple sporting codes are needing to share a limited number of sporting grounds. Many schools have recreation facilities including fields, courts and hall which can be underutilised outside of school or club hours. Conversely, schools are very high users of Council's sporting grounds. Unlocking these assets and integrating them into the network of places available for recreation will increase the opportunities and options for play within the Inner West. However it is important to acknowledge the variety of challenges that arise when securing these spaces for community use, including the uncertainty of long-term tenure and child protection concerns. The NSW Government is implementing a pilot program, Share Our Schools, opening up playgrounds to the community in the school holidays at 81 schools.

Private provision

Trampolining, parkour classes, squash courts, pop-up soccer training and indoor rock-climbing are some examples of privately provided recreation spaces and activities that are available to residents of the Inner West, outside the bounds of traditional recreation provision. These market-led recreation services and spaces play an important role in providing different recreation options for residents living in increasingly urbanised places.

New life to old infrastructure

Converting redundant road or rail infrastructure to parks is an emerging trend across the globe. Building parks above, or amongst decommissioned roads, overpasses, tunnels or railway opens up spaces within the city for recreation that were previously inaccessible to people.

Communal and public rooftop recreation

In built up areas like the Inner West, where there is little available land at street level for new recreation facilities, both private and public rooftops and podiums can be utilised as recreation spaces. From the provision of communal rooftop gardens or pools, to publicly accessible basketball courts, there is potential for future and existing, public and private roofs to create opportunities for recreation in the sky and provide additional recreation spaces for a growing Inner West population.

Giving life to leftover spaces

Pedestrian tunnels, laneways, transport hubs and irregular or vacant parcels of land in the Inner West often contain left-over and under-utilised spaces. Simple and small design interventions to these spaces, such as the installation of mirrors for residents to practice their dance moves, or the installation of a pop-up park can turn these spaces around from an unused and often unsafe place, to lively spaces for recreation and fun in the Inner West.

ROOFTOP RECREATION: MORINOMIYA MALL RUNNING TRACK, OSAKA

Morinomiya Mall's rooftop 300m running track is an example of provision of a public recreation asset. In addition to the running track that circles the rooftop, and levitates over the building, the mall also supports two futsal courts, a children's climbing wall, and privately run gyms and indoor climbing facilities.

Figure 37 - Rooftop running track and futsal courts, Osaka (Image source: Spoon & Tamago)

RECREATION IN LEFTOVER SPACES: TAIPEI METRO

In Taipei, street dancing is a popular recreation activity and young people meet up in places where there are mirrors to dance together. This underground path between two subway stations, has been panelled with mirrors and groups of young people use the path to practice K-pop dance. The space has been designed with great dance floor finish and acoustics and includes free WiFi, seating and drinking fountains on site. By serving a dual purpose as a train station/underground passageway, and recreation space, the area is activated and entertaining for the passers-by. Underground spaces can be more than retail and paths and there are opportunities through development processes to work with communities to identify and claim spaces.

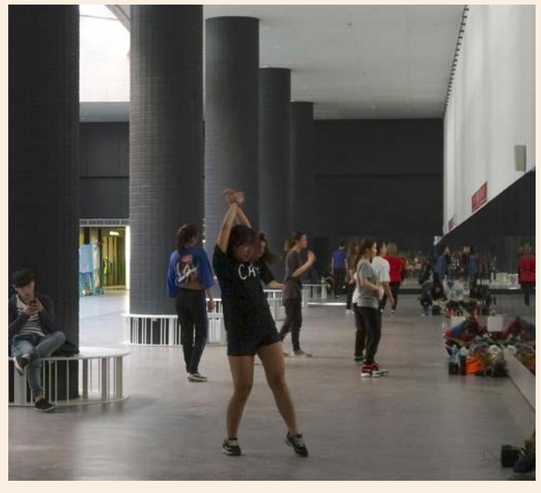


Figure 38 - Mirrors in a tunnel between metro stations in Taipei transform a leftover space into an informal recreation space for dancing (Image source: Julia Suh)

COMMUNAL SPACE IN HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENTS:

SIGNATURE APARTMENTS, REDFERN

Signature Apartments in Redfern is a great example of communal spaces helping to build community in high density areas. A group of residents converted the rooftop garden beds into a community garden, which has since expanded into common areas on the lower levels. The Strata runs events like Christmas parties and Earth Hour board games by candlelight on the roof, and a community swap room has been set up in the bin room. Residents can follow the building's Facebook group, managed by the Strata, and ask advice, post about events, and welcome new people moving in. The community garden has even been featured with Costa on Gardening Australia. The building's residents are also connected with the broader community, including through hosting a FoodConnect drop off point.

Figure 40 - Communal gardens at Signature Apartments, Redfern (Image source: greenvillages.com

1 FRESHWATER PLACE, SOUTHBANK, MELBOURNE

The green roof at Freshwater Place is part of the communal facilities, which include barbeque areas, pool, gym and function spaces. The green roof is an elevated landscape located on top of the nine-storey car park. It is made up of a series of garden mounds, a grass lawn, storage sheds and planter boxes for growing vegetables. A windbreak wall was added to protect the site from the strong southerly wind. Residents and their guests have full access to the level 10 roof and it can be seen from most of the apartments as they extend many floors higher than the car park.

NIC ON FIFTH, MINNEAPOLIS and DIVERCITY, WOOLLOOMOOLOO

Amenities at Nic on Fifth include a rooftop garden with lounge areas with firepits, a grilling area and outdoor kitchen, Zen garden, and outdoor dog run. Divercity includes landscaped podium top space with cabanas, BBQs, pizza ovens and outdoor yoga studio.

Figure 41 - Communal dog run at Nic on Fifth, Minneapolis (Image source: The Star Tribune)

ROOFTOP RECREATION: PARK 'N' PLAY, NORDHAVEN, DENMARK

A new playground called 'Park 'n' Play' has been built above Copenhagen's harbour scenery in bright red. It is located 24m above sea level on the roof of a car park and it has set new standards in the way people think about designing public spaces. This project's challenge was to create centrally located parking facilities that would optimally integrate into the surroundings of the modern Nordhavn city district. Nordhavn is a rapidly growing urban city which will have thousands of new residents. Such an ambitious urban renewal required ambitious approaches to recreation spaces addressed by this playground.

Figure 39 - Playspace on a carpark rooftop in Copenhagen (Image source: JAJA Architects)

SHARING SPACE WITH SCHOOLS: SSC LEICHARDT CAMPUS, INNER WEST COUNCIL

Inner West Council worked with Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus and the NSW Department of Education to deliver one of the first examples of sharing school facilities with the community. Inner West Council built, maintained, enhanced, refurbished and manages a field on the school grounds (land owned by the Department of Education), which can be booked for community sport outside of school hours, and is also used by the school for school sport and lessons.

UNDERGROUND SPACES: HUME PARK, CROWS NEST

On a small site in an urban renewal area, the Hume Park upgrade and expansion will provide an underground indoor sports centre with natural light, cinema, carpark, and 8,000m2 of ground level open space. A plaza and pedestrian link will connect the site into the urban fabric.

Figure 42 - Artist impression of Hume Park (Image source: via Sydney Morning Herald)

ROOFTOP RECREATION: ULTIMO COMMUNITY CENTRE, SYDNEY

Ultimo Community Centre is an example of an innovative and compact multi-purpose community and recreation facility. Hosting a library, multi-purpose hall (community hall and indoor courts), childcare, seniors centre, art & craft room, and two multi-purpose outdoor courts on the building's rooftop, Ultimo community centre is a successful example of how in dense urban areas where space for recreation on the ground is sparse, rooftops can be used to provide for community sport and recreation. The rooftop is suitable for basketball, netball, soccer and tennis and can be set up to include:

- 2 basketball courts: 15m x 28m each
- 2 tennis courts: 15m x 28m each, and
- 1 netball court 15m x 18m.

Figure 43 - Ultimo Community Centre (Source: City of Sydney

4. INCLUSION AND UNIVERSALITY

The Inner West is home to a unique and diverse community, with a range of age groups, cultures and abilities. As identified within this plan, inclusion happens when every person who wishes to (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or cultural heritage) can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.

Inclusion of people with disability

Dimensions of inclusion include:

- Being heard and valued
- Meaningful participation
- Connection and belonging
- Opportunity to access supports, and
- Choice and control in your life.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs are important to the wellbeing and health of adults and children with disabilities. Universal design is an approach that ensures that recreation options and programs are inclusive of everyone. Where implemented, it is also important that universal and accessible design features within existing and new facilities and parks are communicated to the community.

8 to 80 approach to design

In terms of access to open space and recreation, inclusion can mean taking an 8 to 80 approach to design and management of spaces. By asking "how do we create cities in which both 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds can move about safely and enjoyably?" parks and recreation spaces will be able to accommodate all ages, needs and abilities.

Inclusion is about going the next step beyond a removal of the barriers. While previous disability action planning has focused on addressing discrimination based on disability and responding to systemic disadvantage as a consequence of a disability, current legislation and practice recognises that this, while still necessary, is only a foundation part of the wider issues people face. Inclusion planning means that agencies need to be proactive in creating the opportunities that facilitate inclusion, while ensuring their business considers and accommodates everyone.

Gender inclusion

Women and girls can often feel less welcome or safe in public parks or streets – an Australian study found that 70% of girls believe it's not safe to share public parks already occupied by older boys. A recent PLAN Australia survey indicated that 90 per cent of young women in Sydney feel unsafe in public at night. Additionally, local government sporting grounds are often dominated by male sports teams and competitions, making it harder for girls and women to participate in sports formally. The safe and inclusive design and management of public parks, streets and places has also been linked to creating more equitable communities increasing women's empowerment and reducing crime including domestic violence.

SPORT FOR CULTURAL INCLUSION:

GAME PLAN RESOURCE KIT - CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH, VICTORIA

More than simply producing promotional material for sports and activities in community languages other than English, The Centre for Multicultural Youth's 'Game Plan Resource Kit' acknowledges how important it is for a sports club's leadership - including committees, coaches and team managers - to take the lead in promoting cultural inclusion. The Game Plan Resource Kit provides comprehensive information and ideas on how sports clubs and associations can build a culture of inclusiveness that is aware and respectful of different cultures and religions in the community, and is a safe and welcoming place.

COLLINGWOOD BASKETBALL CLUB, MELBOURNE

Collingwood Basketball Club is located in a community in a high density, high-rise public housing flats with many young people from low socio-economic, migrant and refugee backgrounds. The club overcame barriers to participation including financial burdens, the standard process of requesting permission from parents, and competing priorities - particularly for young women. They did this by providing informal, after-school 'come and play' allowing kids to experience basketball, securing a grant from local Council to subsidise costs and building formal relationships with parents to communicate the importance of sport. Certain changes in approach such as calling parents after school when players are home and able to help translate, has allowed the club to build a relationship with parents who speak English as a second language, and helped parents feel more comfortable about the activity. Since adopting these approaches more than 80 children and young people from this cohort have joined the club.

SAVANNAH PRIDE, BLACKTOWN

Savannah Pride is a youth organisation dedicated to inspiring young people through basketball, education and mentoring. The organisation started in the South-Sudanese community in Blacktown and now attracts young people from all backgrounds across NSW. Much like the Savannah Tree, basketball has grown into something that brings all walks of life together: families, students, mentors, educators and outsiders.

AUBURN GIANTS WOMEN'S AFL TEAM

The Auburn Giants Women's AFL Team was the first women's AFL team in Western Sydney. The club was founded in 2011, and formed by a partnership with Greater Western Sydney Giants in 2014. Team members come from many backgrounds, with about 80% Muslim players. The club seeks to create pathways for women to start playing football and to continue playing, including at an elite level. The club uses sport as a vehicle for social inclusion, engaging with local schools, and with young girls and their families.

Figure 44 - Auburn Giants Women's AFL (Image source: Harvey Norman)

SENIORS PLAYGROUNDS

Dubbed London's first 'pensioners' playground,' Hyde Park Senior Playground is a space for seniors located amongst existing sports facilities and cafes, surrounded by trees and shrubs and close to public transport and accessible parking spaces. The recreation facility includes six pieces of exercise equipment that provide twisting, cycling and cross training motions to help users improve core strength, flexibility and balance. The equipment chosen was specifically selected to ensure that a high level of accessibility, ease of use and enjoyment can be ensured for all users, although is not suitable for use by people under the age of 15 years. As a space designed for older people, the playground also allows older people to meet new people while getting active, acting as an important social connector and helping to minimise the high levels of social isolation often felt by older residents.

Figure 45 - Hyde Park Senior's Playground (Image source: Sourceable.com)

WELCOMING WOMEN: GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN URBAN PLANNING, VIENNA

Over the past 17 years, Vienna has completed projects large and small to address how the city works for women and girls. Projects have ranged from redesigning playgrounds to boost the participation of girls in active play, to making cemeteries more accessible for older women who are the most common visitors, to affordable apartments designed with childcare, access to work and access to open space in mind.

The urban planning group's gender expert, Eva Kail, says "For me, it's a political approach to planning, it's about bringing people into spaces where they didn't exist before or felt they had no right to exist."

In a 1996 to 1997 study, city planners in Vienna, found that after the age of nine, the number of girls in public parks dropped off dramatically, while the number of boys held steady. Researchers found that girls were less assertive than boys. If boys and girls would up in competition for park space, the boys were more likely to win out.

City planners wanted to see if they could reverse this trend by changing the parks themselves. In 1999, the city began a redesign of two parks in Vienna's fifth district. Footpaths were added to make the parks more accessible and volleyball and badminton courts were installed to allow for a wider variety of activities. Landscaping was also used to subdivide large, open areas into semi-enclosed pockets of park space. Almost immediately, city officials noticed a change. Different groups of people -- girls and boys -- began to use the parks without any one group overrunning the other.

5. CONNECTION TO NATURE AND HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

Opportunities for connection to nature support mental and physical health, and provide relief from the built environment, particularly important in urban areas and for people living in high density. Making space for nature also helps to cool the city, create healthy built environments, and provide opportunities for free and unstructured play.

Cooler urban environments

Sydney is getting hotter which can restrict people from recreating in their local areas. Research from UNSW and Sydney Water shows that the strategic inclusion of water in public places can reduce the ambient temperature by 2.5 degrees, increasing potential for recreational activities in our streets and public places.

Integrating water into urban environments through design features such as water play, mists, green walls or water curtains in conjunction with street planting and the use of lighter and reflective building materials is important to enable people to recreate and stay safe in the heat during summer. The use of natural materials is also critical in designing outdoor recreation equipment.

Research by Western Sydney University has found that artificial materials commonly used in playgrounds such as 'soft fall' surfaces can become dangerously hot in full sun, reaching 71 - 84 degrees Celsius when summer temperatures were in the low 30s. Trees and tree canopy within parks and streets also play an important role in providing needed shade, reduce local temperatures, improve air quality and provide habitat.

Healthy built environments

Health NSW recognises that creating healthy built environments is more than providing spaces for people to get active - it is also about developing built environment interventions that support human health more holistically including connecting and strengthening communities, and thinking about ways the built environment can provide access to healthy food options. Access to fresh food can be provided through communal vegetable and fruit gardens, a particularly important trend in high density and increasingly urban environments.

Green Grid

Acknowledging that green space is key to Greater Sydney's liveability, the NSW Government Architect's Green Grid is a long term vision for a network of high-quality green spaces that connects people with transport hubs, homes and town centres. This vision for an interconnected network of open space will cool down the city, encourage physical activity and healthy living, provide habitat for biodiversity and strengthen ecological resilience. As development in the Inner West increases, strategic green grid connections help to link residents from their homes to work, school and play as well as to each other.

Biophilic design

Biophilic design, championed by Professor Peter Newman of Curtin University, brings nature into the urban fabric of the city, to meet our innate need for connection with nature and support mental and physical health in urban environments. Through roof-top gardens, green walls and the incorporation of natural materials into the built environment, biophilic design can provide residents with access to nature in unexpected places. This form of landscape diversity in urban environments can activate fascination and interest in residents, encouraging people to linger longer and enjoy passing through these well-designed spaces of the city. Connection to nature and natural forms is also linked to improved mental health and reduced stress.

COMMUNITY-LED TREE PLANTING: COOL STREETS, BLACKTOWN

A pilot project developed by Gallagher Studio, Cool Streets™ is a model of urban street planting, that empowers residents to take the lead in the layout of their street.

In Blacktown, the Cool Streets Model™ analysed streetscape components, including types of trees, layouts, kerbs and pavements, to determine the best environmental and urban design outcome. This data was then used to start a conversation with residents about what kind of look and feel they want for their street.

By coming together to talk about their street, the new residents were able to get to know each other, understand each other's preferences and shape an appropriate design for their street. Having approved the final design for their street themselves, residents felt a sense of ownership over the trees, and will continue look after them as they grow.

Figure 46 - Cool Streets planting crew (Image source: Cool Streets)

BIOPHILIC DESIGN: 14 PATTERNS OF BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Biophilic design doesn't have to be large scale or expensive. Simple design interventions can be very effective in meeting the human need for connection to nature. Terrapin Bright Green identifies the 14 patterns of biophilic design:

- Visual connection to nature - views to natural spaces
- Non-visual connection to nature - eg using natural materials, sounds of nature, pets
- Non-rhythmic sensory stimuli - eg reflections of water on a surface, billowy fabric, shadows that change with movement or time
- Thermal airflow and variability - natural ventilation
- Presence of water
- Dynamic and diffuse light - natural light, variety of light sources for different spaces
- Connection with natural systems - eg seasonal patterns, night/day changes
- Biomorphic forms and patterns - symbolic references to coloured, patterned, textures, numerical arrangements from nature eg spirals, curves
- Material connection with natures - use of natural materials
- Complexity and order - eg fractal geometries
- Prospect - unimpeded view over a distance
- Refuge - place for withdrawal from the main flow of activity or environmental conditions, in which individual is protected from behind and overhead
- Mystery - a sense of anticipation, compelling one to investigate the space
- Risk/peril - an identifiable threat coupled with a safeguard eg infinity edges, passing over, under or through water, life size photos of predatory animals or snakes

Melton Library and Learning Hub in Melbourne features natural patterns, views to nature, natural light, natural materials, and replication of local natural features such as this sculptural wattle flower.

Figure 50 - Melton Library and Learning Hub (Image source: FJMT))

One Central Park proved that green walls can work on towers too. One of the first examples in the world, over 2,500 climbers and vines span the building, having a positive, cooling effect on the city, as well as connecting people back to nature right in the middle of the city.

Figure 49 - One Central Park's green facade. (Image source: Tensile)

BICYCLE PLAYGROUNDS, COPENHAGEN

In the centre of Copenhagen, a 2,500sqm space was temporarily turned into a bicycle obstacle course for children by the Danish Cyclist's Federation. The course let kids practice their coordination, timing, speed and balance while having fun. After the projects success, ten cities in Denmark will now build permanent, dedicated spaces for children to safely practice their cycling skills. The playgrounds are fully enclosed and feature ramps and different surfaces. "Experience has shown that bike playgrounds are a great way to get children to move and be safe in traffic," according to the head of the Federation, Klaus Bondam. Denmark is one of the most cycle-friendly countries in the world: nine out of ten Danes owns a bike, and 45% of children cycle to school.

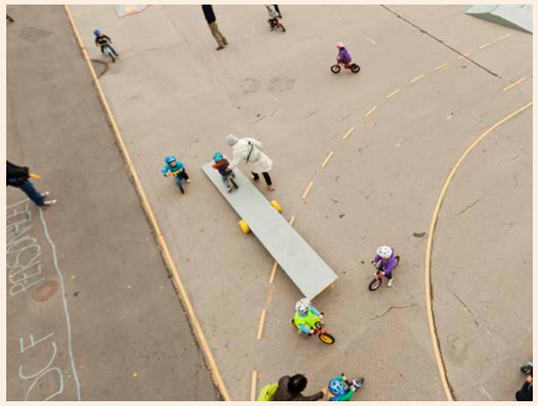


Figure 48 - Pop-up bicycle playground, Copenhagen. (Image source: Eltis)

BOURKE STREET CYCLEWAY, SYDNEY

Dedicated cycle paths make riding on the road feel safer for different groups including kids and parents riding to school, work or other recreation spaces. In addition to the existing path, the planned 1.5km upgrade between Phillip St, Redfern and Botany Rd, Green Square will include wider footpaths allowing pedestrians and bikes to share the space off-road, improved street lighting, and signage to remind cyclists to ride slowly. By providing dedicated space for riding off-road, these design changes will increase the ridership of children, young people and women. The cycleway already has been successful getting kids riding to school. The Bourke Street Cycleway Bourke Street School principal, Peter Johnston said: "About 80 per cent of the school's pupils already walk, ride or scooter every day. The kids enjoy it because they can ride along the bike lane to the school gate." Lilyfield Road is an important commuter corridor in the Inner West where similar treatments could work well.

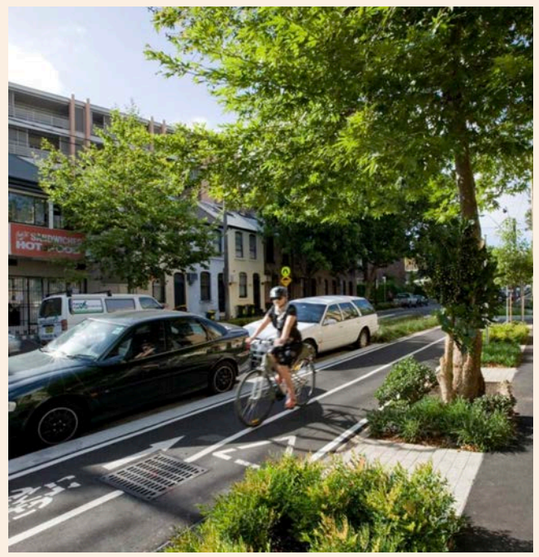


Figure 47 - Bourke St Cycleway (Image Source: GSA)

6. CO-DESIGN

Community-led change

People are experts in their own lives and know what's needed, and what will and won't work in their area. Involving the community - in all its diversity - in the design of recreation spaces and activities at an early stage is important to secure positive recreation and community outcomes.

Beyond community engagement, Councils can also support communities to deliver on their own recreation needs, for example by connecting people to resources and also by 'getting out of the way' and removing regulation to make it easier to carry out community projects like verge gardens.

COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE: RESIDENT FOOD PLANTING IN PUBLIC SPACE, BAYSWATER COUNCIL, PERTH

At a time where communities are wanting more control and less regulation, over positive social, recreational and urban change in their neighbourhoods, Bayswater Council in Perth is opening up their public parks to resident food planting with significantly reduced red tape in an effort to create a healthy built environment and community led change, particularly in their urban areas

Figure 51 - Bayswater Council resident with his verge garden (Image source: Bunbury Mail)

COMMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN PARK DESIGN: SUPERKILEN PARK, COPENHAGEN

Superkilen Park is a 30,000m2 park in Copenhagen designed to enable "extreme participation" and engagement by the local residents, the most diverse in Denmark with more than 50 nationalities. Residents nominated different objects to include in this incredible social, cultural, physical, multi-purpose, and intergenerational space. There's even a boxing ring and coal BBQs for large family gatherings, and places (as throughout Copenhagen) for adults to play.

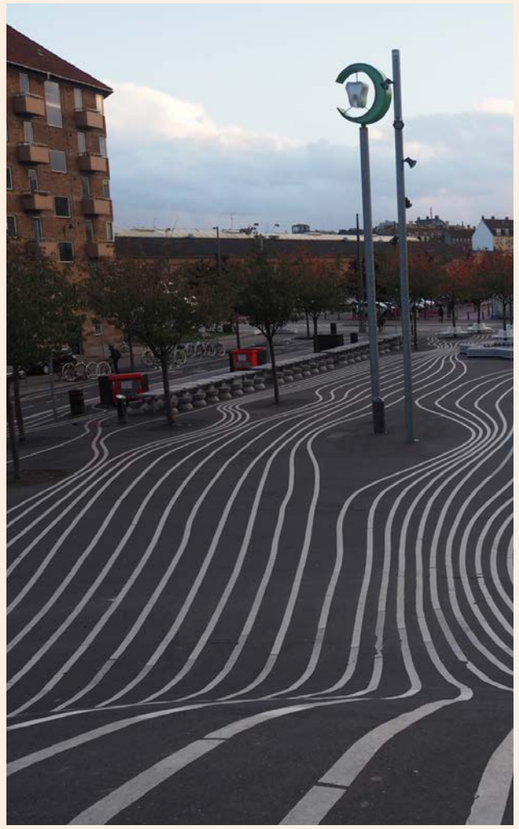


Figure 52 - Superkilen Park (Image source: Sarah Reilly)

7. RISK AND ADVENTURE; CHILD-DIRECTED PLAY

Wild play and adventure play

Anecdotally, we know that children spend less time outside, and in free, unsupervised play today than even a generation ago. In 2010 Planet Ark estimated that only 35 percent Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72 percent a generation ago.

Adventure and nature parks embrace the theory that free and unstructured play is essential to kids' growth and development. Providing an antidote to digital distractions, wild or adventure playgrounds allow children to create their own spaces in a hands on way, empowering kids to self-organise and learn by doing. These formative opportunities for growth and creativity are being lost due to either a lack of access to nature, fear of risk or over-scheduling of children's free time. In an increasingly developed and more densely populated environment, giving agency and space to children to invent their own games and play spaces is important, encouraging kids growing up in the Inner West to experience and develop a strong connection to nature.

ADVENTURE PLAY: THE LAND, PLAS MADOC, WALES and TOKYO PLAY PARKS

In a highly disadvantaged housing estate in Wales, The Land is a 55m2 "junk" playground, a fenced-off grassy area with scrounged and donated items - pallets, wheelbarrows, tyres, ropes, shopping trolleys, upside down boats. A resident opened the playground two years ago, with funding from the Welsh government to establish an adventure playground. The focus is on child-directed play, with two playworkers on site who observe the play but step in only when needed. The space is an opportunity for children to engage in risky, adventurous play; to build, make fires, and construct hiding space; to imagine. While cheap to build and stock, barriers to this kind of play space can be the staffing resource (which is where volunteers come in), as well as community perceptions that it is an ugly space.

There are more than 80 play parks (adventure playgrounds) in Tokyo, ranging from pop-ups and gatherings in local neighbourhoods to expansive play-worker staffed spaces like Yume Park, which has hand built zip-lines, towers, fire pits and a pizza oven.

Figure 54 - Tokyo Play Parks (Image source: Sarah Reilly)

Figure 53 - The Land (Image source: Erin Davis)

WILD PLAY: SYDNEY PARK, ST PETERS

Containing sporting grounds, a village green, shared paths through rolling hills, barbeque areas, wetlands and a large children's inclusive, universal playground, Sydney Park is a regional-scaled park that also functions as a local park, with plenty of zones for both passive and active recreation. The wetland provides space for nature play, interacting with flora and fauna, hopping over stepping stones, and hide and seek in natural spaces.

Figure 55 - Sydney Park wetlands. (Image source: Destination NSW)

RECREATION NEEDS AND GAPS ANALYSIS

This section outlines the recreation needs and gaps identified in this Study, and opportunities to address these. Needs are grouped under six themes:

Theme 1

EXISTING gaps in open space and recreation

Theme 2

FUTURE demand for open space and recreation

Theme 3

Capacity for sports and recreation

Theme 4

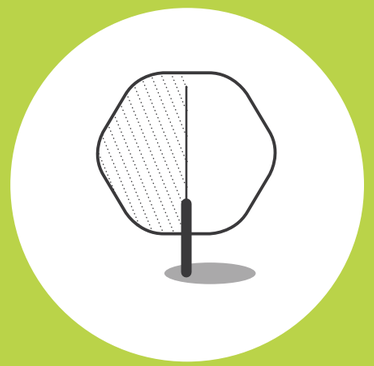
Inclusion and Sharing

Theme 5

Connections with nature

Theme 6

Streets and laneways for walking, cycling and play



Theme 1

EXISTING gaps in open space and recreation

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Based on a benchmark of 13.3m2 of open space per person, new open space is needed in areas of low provision to address current gaps. The following areas have below the LGA wide benchmark of 13.3m2 per person: • Enmore (1.2m2) • Stanmore (2.0m2) • Lewisham (3.8m2) • Summer Hill (4.3m2) • Dulwich Hill (4.5m2) • Newtown (5.2m2) • Petersham (8.0m2) • Ashfield (8.1m2) • Croydon - Croydon Park (8.7m2) • Annandale (10.8m2) • Balmain (10.8m2), and • Leichhardt (11.6m2)	• Currently, these suburbs all have below 13.3m^2 of open space per person (2016 population).	• Acquiring properties adjacent to existing open space areas to increase their size • Investigate working with local schools in particular high schools to share their onsite recreation spaces • Using operational and unused land for recreation purposes • Innovative approaches to open space in developed areas for example open space on top of carparks, and • Where it is not possible to obtain new open space areas, provide recreation opportunities that may traditionally take place in parks, in new locations for example in active streets and laneways and enhancing existing open space to accommodate a range of uses and users.
Industry benchmarks and Council's strategic planning indicate a current undersupply of 5 indoor courts.	• Based on Parks and Leisure Australia benchmark of 1 indoor court for 20,000 people. • Council's existing strategic planning identifies a need for new indoor recreation facilities in the north of the LGA.	• Work collaboratively with neighbouring councils, State government and developers to deliver an indoor recreation centre located in the north of the LGA, potentially as part of the Rozelle Rail Yards recreation area in residual land from Westconnex.

Theme 2

FUTURE demand for open space and recreation

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Based on a benchmark of 13.3m2 of open space per person, there will be a need for new open space to address future gaps from increasing development in the area including major renewal projects. In total, there is a forecast 315,972m2 to 439,738m2 gap across the LGA.	• These areas will have a below 13.3m2 of open space per person in 2026, exacerbated by forecast population growth, and • Community engagement identified new open space/ not losing open space to development was a priority recreation need.	• Require 13.3m2 per person of public open space as a minimum in new developments, located either onsite or in new open space • Include principles for open space for provision as part of new developments, to ensure quality open space is provided onsite, and • Require high density developments to provide communal open space to support social cohesion and passive/active recreation opportunities in high density developments, and alleviate pressure on local public open space.

New open space will be required as part of major renewal projects, including the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal, Bays Precinct and Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor (including Carrington Road).	• Strategic planning for NSW government major renewal projects identifies new open space projects but without mechanisms or commitments to providing them, and
	• Major renewal projects in areas of existing low provision of open space.
		• Parramatta Road Urban Renewal
		  ◦ Petersham St 300m2 pocket park
		  ◦ New plaza or park on Norton St
		  ◦ New plaza or park on Tebbutt St
		  ◦ Provide a new public open space area in the eastern Frame Area that connects Hay Street, Dot Lane and Balmain Road by repurposing existing at grade car parks
		  ◦ New spaces in the Hordern Park Industrial Area
		  ◦ Johnstons Creek Corridor
		• Bays Precinct
		  ◦ New open space and linking parks in Rozelle Rail Yards
		• Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor
		  ◦ New public open space as part of large redevelopment sites in the Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor eg Carrington Road site, and
		  ◦ Advocate for the GreenWay South West linear park.

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Additional sports fields to cater for the forecast 2026 increased population, based on benchmarking against Council's current provision per person: • 6 to 8 summer sports fields • 5 to 8 winter sports fields	• Based on maintaining the current provision per person of sports fields.	• Synthetic fields, possibly at Tempe Reserve or Leichhardt #2 and #3 could reduce the need for additional sports fields • Provide new sports fields in areas returned to Council from Westconnex, and • Provide a multi-purpose, community level synthetic hockey field that also provides for other large format sports.

One additional aquatic centre to cater for the forecast 2026 increased population, based on benchmarking against Council's current provision per person.	• Based on maintaining the current provision per person of aquatic centres.	• As Council already has a high provision of aquatic centres, a new centre may not be viable in terms of space and ongoing costs. Therefore, opportunities are:
		  ◦ Work regionally with neighbouring Councils to deliver new and upgraded facilities, and
		  ◦ Increase capacity at existing facilities through the Ashfield Aquatic Centre upgrade and planned Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre upgrade.

New outdoor multipurpose courts to cater for the forecast 2026 increased population, based on benchmarking against Council's current provision per person: • 10 to 14 outdoor (multipurpose) courts	• Based on maintaining the current provision per person of courts. • Community engagement indicated demand for outdoor public multipurpose courts.	• New indoor recreation centre in the north of the LGA, and • Multi-purpose courts provided in onsite open space in new developments.
One new skate/blade/wheeled facility to cater for the forecast 2026 increased population, based on benchmarking against Council's current provision per person.	• Based on maintaining the current provision per person of skate facilities.	• Skateable public domain throughout the LGA • Proposed regional skate park at Callan Park, and • Working with City of Sydney to deliver a skate facility in Annandale.
Based on industry benchmarks, there will be a need for one new indoor recreation centre providing minimum 4 indoor courts as well as space for dance, yoga, pilates to meet the needs of the 2026 forecast population. The total gap for indoor courts will be 6 courts for the forecast 2026 population, as there is a current shortfall of 5 courts.	• Need identified in previous Council strategic planning • Emerged as an idea for new facilities in community engagement • High utilisation of existing indoor recreation centres in neighbouring councils and the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre • Low provision of indoor recreation centres in the LGA (there is currently no private or Council-owned indoor recreation centre in the north of the LGA) and in neighbouring council areas, • Benchmarking based on industry benchmark.	• Work collaboratively with neighbouring councils, State government and developers to deliver an indoor recreation centre located in the north of the LGA, potentially as part of the Rozelle Rail Yards recreation area in residual land from Westconnex.

Theme 3

Capacity for sports and recreation

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Increased quality of open space to optimuse use and address demand in areas with a low provision of open space. Including enhancing open space to meet higher and more diverse needs.	• There are existing areas with a low provision of open space per person, and areas without access to open space in close proximity. • As the Inner West is a developed area, it is difficult to secure new open space to address increasing demand, and • Increased population and changing community profile will increase pressure on open space, including the range of uses which may come in to conflict with one another. Some of these are identified in community engagement: between organised sport and passive uses, between dogs and children, and between cyclists and people walking.	• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users, and • Enhancing small parks including landscape/urban amenity size parks in a network to provide quality open space connected by green streets in areas with a low provision of open space and a high proportion of smaller spaces: Enmore, Newtown, Stanmore and Summer Hill.
Open space areas that allow for passive recreation including relaxing, reading, studying and socialising.	• These passive recreation uses were a popular activity in the community engagement, for all groups . Green open space was identified in the community engagement as important for mental health, and • Areas with high proportions of students (Camperdown, Ashfield, Newtown).	• In particular, parks in Camperdown, Ashfield and Newtown where there is a high proportion of university students.
Well maintained, clean public toilets, including toilets located close to playgrounds. Water bubblers and bins in parks.	• Commonly identified by all groups in the community engagement as a needed improvement • Identified as a priority in Council's strategic planning, and • Identified as important for older people's access to recreation in Council's strategic planning.	• Extend the Marrickville Public Toilet Strategy recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.
Picnic and BBQ facilities, seating and shade for informal social gatherings, as well as informal grassed passive recreation areas.	• Socialising in parks was a popular activity in the community engagement, for all groups.	• In particular local parks in high density areas to provide space for social gatherings outside of the home.
New facilities in parks including: • Table tennis tables • Outdoor gyms including for seniors, and • Hard surfaces with shelter for tai chi.	• Ideas from culturally diverse groups and young people in the community engagement.	• In particular local parks in high density areas to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for residents, and • Council is currently working with Balmain Hospital on a rehabilitation focused public outdoor gym, and constructing two new outdoor gyms.

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
New community and verge gardens.	• Council's strategic planning identifies community and verge gardening as important social and recreation activities with multiple wellbeing benefits Gardening and 'looking at gardens' were popular recreation activities in the community engagement.	• Continue actions from Council's community garden strategies, and • Relax regulation for verge gardens to encourage more verge gardening.
Improved maintenance of aquatic centres.	• Identified as a need in community engagement by all groups, particularly at Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Baths.	• Review of maintenance processes at these centres.
Improved waste management and maintenance in parks.	• Identified as a need in the community engagement by all groups, and • Staff commented that with upgraded parks and facilities, and higher community expectations, there is a need for more resources for maintenance.	• Increased maintenance resourcing • Consider ongoing maintenance costs at the design stage of new/upgraded open space • Consultation with outdoors staff at the design stage to identify possible future maintenance issues, and • Self-cleaning BBQs.
Lighting and design of parks, paths, streets and town centres in order to increase (feelings of) safety for pedestrians and cyclists particularly in the evening and at night.	• Trend to participating in recreation in the evenings and nights, and • Community engagement identified safety as a concern particularly for older people, CALD groups, young people and women and girls.	• Lighting on streets including connections to open space and linear parks/shared paths, and Ashfield Town Centre to Ashfield Park, and • Lighting in parks for informal night time use eg at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport.
Access and storage for water sports at Iron Cove (eg canoeing) and Cooks River (swimming and water sports).	• In the community engagement, people in the survey, community map and school workshops said that they want to be able to swim in the Cooks River. Storage for water sports was also an idea in the community survey and community map.	• Aspirational approach to swimming in the Cooks River as per Council's existing planning • Opportunities for inclusive access to kayaking, and • Opportunities for kayak launching and storage as part of the GreenWay masterplan.
Improved car parking.	• Identified as a need in the community engagement survey and user group survey.	• Coordination of LPAC and Leichhardt Oval programming to address parking concerns.

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Update booking processes for recreation facilities to improve customer service (eg showing what's been booked/paid for/invoices online) and to allow sporting organisation to plan their seasons earlier.	• This was a priority need in the recreation user group survey.	• New booking system and allocations policy.

Improved sports field playing surfaces through upgrades to drainage, turf, soil.	• Recreation user groups identified sports field surface improvements as a need at a number of locations
	• Recreation benchmarking indicates that there will be significant demand for new sports fields in 2026, however securing new large open space areas in an already developed area may not be possible
	• Current allocation data (Winter 2018 season) indicates that some fields are over capacity, but there is potential to increase the carrying capacity of the field through surface improvements, and
	• Council's strategic planning also identifies sports field surface improvements.
		• Review sports field condition and capacity across the LGA and continue / implement a rolling program of sports field upgrades. Locations with low capacity due to poor quality surfaces currently are:
		  ◦ Camdenville Oval, and
		  ◦ Tempe Reserve.
		• Locations identified in Council's strategic planning
		  ◦ Leichhardt Park No. 3
		  ◦ Marrickville Oval
		  ◦ Camperdown Oval
		  ◦ Steel Park
		  ◦ HJ Mahoney Memorial Reserve, and
		  ◦ Tempe Reserve.

Improved courts surfaces.	• Recreation user groups identified sports court surface improvements as a need at two locations.	• Sporting grounds throughout the LGA
Improved lighting to support evening and night time use of sports fields and provide recreation opportunities after work hours, and to support better maintenance of playing surfaces through reducing wear and tear.	• Trend to participating in recreation in the evenings and nights, and social sport (rather than club sport with week night training and weekend games), requiring match lighting in the evenings, and • Improved lighting identified as a need by recreation user groups and peak bodies, for safety, to enable games in the evenings rather than only weekends, and to support maintenance of the field (by distributing use more evenly rather than concentrated on sections that are well lit).	• Sporting grounds throughout the LGA

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Allocations strategies and maintenance strategies that support equitable use, sharing of sports facilities and reduce wear and tear.	• Recreation user groups identified maintenance improvements as a need at a number of locations, and • Council's strategic planning identifies equitable allocations as a goal.	• Strategy could include policies to facilitate shared use of facilities between sports codes (eg not using football studs during pre-season training to preserve surfaces for cricket)
Improving amenities blocks and other sporting building infrastructure to increase usability, support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport.	• Identified as a need in the community engagement by recreation user groups and peak bodies.	• Sporting grounds throughout the LGA
Improved spectator infrastructure, water bubblers at sportsgrounds, and provide sports fields uses such as cricket nets and soccer goals.	• Identified as a need by all groups in particular recreation user groups, children and young people in the communtiy engagement.	• Sporting grounds throughout the LGA

Theme 4

Inclusion and sharing

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Play spaces for older children / young people, with new equipment and different types of playgrounds like water play. Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities, such as older people's play, sensory play, and play for adults with intellectual disability.	• Playing (including playing in parks, taking children to play, and playing in playgrounds) was one of the most popular recreation activities in the community engagement. Primary school and high school children identified play for older children and young people as a need in the area. Other groups also identified different types of play, water play, inclusive play and play for adults and older people as needs. • Recreation participation trends identified that children play outdoors far less than in previous generations, and participation is important for children's social and physical development. In particular, unstructured and free play.	• Include inclusive play equipment in all playgrounds, rather than only in some dedicated inclusive playgrounds • Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes • Recreation activities for young people at the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre, and • Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/junk play.

Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.	• While older people 60+ were among the most satisfied with their participation in recreation, many older people suggested new programs and improvements to recreation activities, and
	• Council's strategic planning also identifies needs for older people's recreation including transport and walking access to recreation, and affordable programs
		• Increased Strong Seniors classes at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Fitness Centre and extend to other centres,
		• Footpath improvements
		  ◦ More affordable recreation opportunities for older people, and
		  ◦ Support with transport to recreation opportunities.

Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.	• Recreation participation trends identified by AusPlay and the Australian Sports Commission include a trend to more informal participation • "Lack of time" was one of the top barriers to participating in recreation in the community engagement, and • The AusPlay survey also found that the children of active parents are more active. There is a need to provide recreation opportunities that meet adult's needs.	• Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable nighttime use including for organised and informal activities • Encourage recreation providers (eg sports clubs, fitness providers) to provide recreation opportunities in the evening eg social versions of sport, and • Extended hours of recreation facilities and more classes in the evenings (eg at Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre Wellness Centre).
Increased opportunities for recreation for women and girls.	• In the community engagement, while women and girls were more likely to participate regularly in passive recreation, active recreation, and personal fitness activities, they were less likely than males to participate in social, organised or elite sport. This reflects recreation participation trends at a national level, and • Young people identified safety as a barrier to their participation in recreation, and overall it was a higher barrier for women and girls than males.	• Roller derby markings at Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre • Skate spaces that are welcoming of women and girls • The Australian Sports Commission, and community engagement, identified opportunities such as recreation programs with child care and recreational programs for parents with young children eg pram walking groups.

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
More affordable recreation opportunities.	• The community profile shows that while overall the LGA is a high income area there are pockets of disadvantage. Cost of entry/participation was a barrier to participation for 12% of survey respondents.	• Concession pricing/carer prices for Council's indoor recreation and aquatic centres.
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with disability including organised sport and aquatic centres.	• People with disability and carers identified improvements to recreation facilities and programs in the community engagement, and • Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan identifies recreation needs of people with disability.	• Disability awareness training for staff at Council's recreation and aquatic centres • Audit of Council's recreation facilities and parks and whether they are accessible • Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities and parks eg new amenities buildings, and • Inclusive organised sport as identified in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
Information about recreation opportunities available in a range of languages, and targeted to women and girls, older people, and young people. Information about the inclusiveness of recreation opportunities.	• "Don't know about opportunities" was one of the key barriers to recreation in the community engagement (22% of respondents), in particular for young people and women and girls. This was also identified in the CALD focus groups, by older residents, and • Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan identifies this as a recreation need for people with disability.	• Multimedia information about recreation opportunities including online and print, and • Targeted promotion of recreation activities for different demographic groups, for example some local sports clubs feature women and girls on their promotional material.
New off leash dog parks, including dog swimming and water play.	• There are currently no off leash dog parks in the western part of the LGA (former Ashfield Council) • Walking with dogs was one of the most popular recreation activities in the community engagement, and • Increased population, living in high density will require access to areas to exercise pets, including in Ashfield suburb where there is currently no off leash dog park.	• In particular, in the former Ashfield Council area eg in Algie Park.
Ongoing provision and maintenance of existing dog off leash areas.	• Identified as a need in the community engagement particularly in the community survey and staff workshops.	

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Managing and preventing conflicts between users of parks, particularly children and dogs.	• Engagement with staff identified that the design of some parks and playgrounds can bring users into conflict (eg paths going directly past playgrounds rather than 10m away), and that dog behaviour in some parks has become an issue for other users, and • Previously identified as a need in the Marrickville Recreation Needs Study.	• Increasing resources for enforcement • Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement • Programs to encourage responsibility from dog owners eg training credits, and • Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict eg planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.

Theme 5

Connections with nature

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
More tree planting and shade in streets, parks and facilities to mitigate heat and facilitate recreation on hot days.	• Increasing heat due to climate change will impact on the usability of recreation facilities on hot days • Across all types of community engagement, increased shade and trees was identified as a needed improvement, and • Some areas have high rates of tree poisoning.	• Community education on the role of trees in street cooling • Resources for enforcement of tree poisoning, and • As per Council's existing tree strategies.
Improved airconditioning and/ or ventilation at community and recreation facilities.	• Community engagement identified airconditioning and ventilation as a need for indoor recreation centres and community centres.	• Review provision of airconditioning and natural ventilation at indoor recreation centres and community centres.
Recreation opportunities in and alongside natural environments and preserve natural environments and biodiversity in the areas.	• Community engagement identified connecting to nature as a popular activity, including looking at and observing wildlife such as birds, bushcare, bushwalking etc, and • With increasing density and population, there will be a need for opportunities to connect to nature including for natural play for children.	• Cooks River foreshore path and Cooks River foreshore • Continue bush care programs • Continue work on the GreenWay master plan, and • Open space and streetscape design that incorporates natural elements and delivers on environmental outcomes, such as understorey planting and native plants.
Understanding and planning for climate impacts on recreation opportunities in the council area.	• Climate change including flooding, sea level rise, and heat events could impact on recreation opportunities in the Inner West. Some recreation opportunities (eg foreshore parks and paths, parks along the Cooks River) are particularly at risk and could be lost. This was identified as an issue in consultation with neighbouring Councils.	• Undertake a study of the impacts of climate change on Council's recreation facilities incdluing in particular sea level rise impacts on foreshore parks and paths.

Managing flooding and storm events.	• Community engagement identified some locations where flooding or stormwater damage occurs.	• In particular:
		  ◦ Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
		  ◦ Marrickville Croquet Club clubhouse and lawns, and
		  ◦ Stormwater and flooding damage at Weekley Park.

Clean waterways to reduce smell and rubbish, and to provide new recreation opportunities such as swimming and kayaking.	• Identified in the community engagement by users of the Cooks River area and the Hawthorne Canal area. Young people in particularly would like to be able to swim in the Cooks River.	• In particular:
		  ◦ Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve, and
		  ◦ Cooks River.

Theme 6

Streets and laneways for walking, cycling and play

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*

Walkable connections to open space and recreation opportunities, particularly in areas not within 400m of open space.
 	
Areas not within 400m of open space include:
• Glebe Island, White Bay Power Station and parts of Rozelle north of Victoria Road
• Parts of Leichhardt and Annandale, close to Parramatta Road
• Parts of Croydon, Croydon Park, and the centre of Ashfield.
• Parts of Lewisham to the south of the rail line
• Parts of Enmore, Newtown and Stanmore between Enmore Road and the train line.
• Industrial area in St Peters
• Parts of central Tempe, and
• Parts of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, in a band along the northern side of the train line.
	• Recreation benchmarking indicates that there are a number of areas not within easy walking distance of open space. It is difficult in a built up area to provide new open space and therefore improving connections to existing space will be important
	• The community profile shows that there is low car ownership throughout the LGA, and
	• Council's strategic planning (eg the Marrickville Recreation Needs Study 2011) identifies this as a need.
		• Improved connections to the Cooks River foreshore path
		• Improved connections to Ashfield Park from the Ashfield town centre
		• Connecting existing open space and linear parks to the Green Grid
		  • Continuing the GreenWay master plan
		  • Sydney Harbour Foreshore
		  • Parramatta River Walk
		  • Whites Creek and Whites Creek Lane parkland and recreational trail
		  • Callan Park
		  • Alexandria Canal
		  • Lilyfield Road Active Transport Corridor
		  • Johnson Creek and Harold Park parkland and recreational trail
		  • Tom Uren & Balmain Foreshores Heritage Walking Trail, and
		  • Advocating for the GreenWay South West/Sydenham to Bankstown Open Space Corridor as part of the Sydney Metro City to Southwest project, and the Sydney Harbour Bays Green Links: Balmain and Rozelle.

Well-maintained and connected footpaths to enable people to go walking and running in the street, safer walking and inclusion of older people, people with prams, and people with disability.	• The community profile indicates an aging population to 2026, and areas with high proportions of older people and people with disability currently • Improving footpaths was a key need identified in the community engagement. Footpaths were the second most regularly used type of recreation facility, and walking for recreation and transport were the most common activities, and • Council's strategic planning including the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 identified footpath improvements as a need.	• Provide wider footpaths with less clutter, improved footpath surfaces, and safer shared paths and /or separated cycle paths.

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Public domain that provides recreation opportunities including for walking and play, including traffic calming, seating, shade and shelter to increase walkability, and play opportunities in the public domain.	• Recreation benchmarking indicates that there are a number of areas not within easy walking distance of open space. The public domain can provide recreation opportunities in these areas • Council's strategic planning (eg the Marrickville Recreation Needs Study 2011) identifies this as a need.	• Public domain improvements including seating, trees and shade, traffic calming, shelter, footpath improvements, and • "Play streets" approach incorporating play elements into streets and laneways which can also create opportunities for unsupervised and unstructured play for children.

Village centre plaza/park space linked to streets that are usable for recreation and community events.	• Council's strategic planning (eg the Marrickville Recreation Needs Study 2011) identifies this as a need. Also identified in planning for the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal as an opportunity to support local town centre economies and activation.	• As part of the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal
		  ◦ New plaza or park on Norton St, and
		  ◦ New plaza or park on Tebbutt St.

Improved pedestrian crossings on the Cooks River foreshore path.	• Identified as a needed improvement in community engagement.	• Safety improvements to Wardell Road bridge through the Greenway masterplan, and • Bayview Avenue and Illawarra Road improvement through redevelopment in the area including the Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor major sites eg Carrington Rd.

Connected cycle paths with improved surfaces, integrated with public transport.	• Priority recreation need identified in the community engagement. Poor cycling access was also a major barrier to participating in recreation. Low car ownership throughout the LGA.	• Improved cycle ways as part of the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal, Bays Precinct and Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor
		  ◦ Dot Lane cycle link
		  ◦ Cycling link from Tebbutt St to the Greenway
		  ◦ Cycling links on Johnstons Creek, Mathieson St, Chester St and Guihen St
		  ◦ Lilyfield to Balmain cycle links
		• Continue to advance off road cycle path on Lilyfield Road
		• Continue to improve North-South cycling connections through the GreenWay master plan and off road cycle path on Illawarra Road.

Cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities and bike parking.	• Identified as a need in Council's existing bike plans, and • Identified as a needed improvement to cycleways in the community engagement.	• Cycling infrastructure at connections to public transport and recreation facilities.
Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes.	• In the community engagement, signage on shared paths was identified as a needed improvement for example signage indicating where cyclists and pedestrians should ride/walk, and encouraging good cyclist behaviour, and • Signage and wayfinding for cyclists was identified as a need in Council's strategic planning.	• Review throughout the LGA, in particular for the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path and the GreenWay.

Need	*Evidence*	*Opportunities*
Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.	• This emerged as a major issue in the community engagement relating to shared paths eg the Bay Run and the Cooks River foreshore path.	• Continuing good cyclist education programs • Continuing to widen and possibly separating the Bay Run paths • Widening and possibly separating paths on the Cooks River foreshore path, and • Providing safe shared and/or separated paths as part of the GreenWay masterplan.
Cycle infrastructure and programs that supports use by women and girls, older people and culturally diverse people.	• Women and girls used cycle paths significantly less than males in the community engagement. Older people and culturally diverse people also identified that they don't feel safe cycling on the road in the Inner West.	• Continuing existing cyclist education programs, and • Improving cycling infrastructure and providing off road cycle paths.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The strategic framework includes:

- Six themes identifying priority areas for recreation planning
- An action framework providing a levels of intervention approach to ensure efficient use of Council's resources, and
- Recommended actions for Council, addressing the recreation needs identified in the previous section, Council's role in meeting these needs, and their place in the action framework.

SIX KEY THEMES

- Existing gaps in open space and recreation
- Future demand for open space and recreation
- Capacity for sports and leisure
- Inclusion and sharing
- Connections with nature
- Streets and laneways for walking, cycling and play

COUNCIL'S ROLE IN RECREATION PLANNING

A whole of community approach is required to meet the recreation needs of the Inner West community. Council cannot go it alone, but must work with partners such as sports clubs, State government, developers and the community. Council can work to meet recreation needs through:

- Direct service delivery

such as maintenance of parks, developing new facilities, and delivering programs and services

- Funding and procurement

such as a grant to a community organisation, outsourcing the management of an aquatic centre, or funding a program

- Facilitation and partnerships

such as partnering with a school for shared use of their recreation facilities, or brokering public access to non-Council facilities

- Planner

such as identifying opportunities for new recreation spaces through future development projects

- Advocate

such as advocating to the State government for new recreation spaces through major projects

ACTION FRAMEWORK

To address demand for increased provision of facilities, a "levels of intervention" approach is recommended, to ensure efficient use of Council's resources. This approach asks:

1) Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities

Encouraging use of existing spaces and activities through providing access, programming, promotion, maintenance, management and facilitation.

2) Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities

Working with non-Council providers to increase the use of existing recreation spaces, for example by securing community access.

3) Increasing the capacity of Council spaces and activities

The capacity of existing recreation spaces can be increased by improving what's there already, and adding amenity.

4) Providing new spaces

Providing new spaces to meet needs. Working regionally and with partners to plan and advocate for new spaces.

RECOMMENDED OPPORTUNITIES

	THEME 1 EXISTING gaps in open space and recreation					
			Level of intervention			
	Recommendation	Council's Role	Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities	Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities	Increasing the capacity of Council spaces	Providing new spaces
1.1	Increase the supply of publicly accessible recreational open space in suburbs currently providing below the LGA wide minimum benchmark (13.3m2 per person). The following areas have below the LGA wide benchmark of 13.3m2 per person: • Enmore (1.2m2) • Stanmore (2.0m2) • Lewisham (3.8m2) • Summer Hill (4.3m2) • Dulwich Hill (4.5m2) • Newtown (5.2m2) • Petersham (8.0m2) • Ashfield (8.1m2) • Croydon - Croydon Park (8.7m2) • Annandale (10.8m2) • Balmain (10.8m2), and • Leichhardt (11.6m2). Increase supply through new spaces on rooftops, carparks, street upgrades, laneways, and through acquisition. Recognising that operational lands offers recreational value, investigate supplementing existing open space through the use of operational land where available for improved and increased recreational opportunities.	Plan Deliver Fund Facilitate Advocate	x	x		x

1.2	Enhance existing Urban Landscape Amenity parks, to provide a network of connected passive and informal recreational open space areas, in areas with a concentration of smaller parks and below benchmark access to larger parks including: • Newtown • Enmore • Stanmore • Summer Hill • Croydon • Camperdown • Dulwich Hill • Lewisham • Croydon Park, and • Ashfield. This includes in areas with a high proportion of students (Newtown, Camperdown, Ashfield).	Fund Deliver	x		x	
1.3	Population benchmarks and Council's strategic planning indicates an existing gap of 5 indoor courts and 0.6 indoor recreation centres in the LGA's north. This will be exacerbated by future population increases including through the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal, with the gap reaching 1 indoor recreation centre and 6 indoor courts. A high quality facility would include 4 indoor courts, fitness equipment, and culturally appropriate recreation program spaces. Potential sites include: • Leichhardt/Ashfield areas, and • Rozelle Railyards in residual land from Westconnex or through the Bays Precinct. Siting considerations include traffic and parking impacts, proximity to public transport, and walkable connections.	Deliver Fund				x
1.4	Explore opportunities for shared use of recreation facilities, including shared use arrangements of sporting grounds and courts within local private and public schools and review of the existing use of Council sporting grounds by schools.	Plan Advocate Fund		x		
1.5	Work with local sporting clubs and regular hirers of Council's sporting grounds to encourage the accommodation of different ways of playing and organising junior and senior competitions. This could include: • Sharing the use of sporting grounds and club buildings by multiple sports clubs and organisations • Sporting clubs using different sporting ground for training and competition purposes, and • Supporting complementary use of fields for formal and informal sports.	Facilitate	x		x	
1.6	Council currently has water polo pools for competitions and training at three aquatic centres, and there are a number of competition water polo pools regionally. While some stakeholders indicated a need for access to additional pools for water polo in the Inner West, participants are from across Sydney and this need could be addressed regionally.	Facilitate Advocate				x

1.7	Work regionally to identify an appropriate location for a new community level, multipurpose synthetic hockey field to service Sydney's inner city areas. Possible locations to include a synthetic multipurpose large format field at Tempe Reserve or in the St Peters recreation area returned to Council from WestConnex, which will be shared with the City of Sydney.	Facilitate Advocate				x
1.8	The Disability Inclusion Action Plan identified a need for a hydrotherapy pool in the Inner West. Inner West currently has three warm water multipurpose program pools (which can be used for hydrotherapy programs) and the Ashfield Aquatic Centre will provide spa, steam and sauna facilities to extend the warm water therapy offering.	Facilitate				x
1.9	Community engagement identified a need to improve recreational amenities in parks to support passive and informal recreation. Council could review park amenities including new and well-maintained toilets, water bubblers and bins, picnic and BBQ facilities, seating and shade for informal social gatherings.	Plan Deliver Fund	x		x	
1.10	Increase staffing resources to support improved waste management and cleanliness in open space and facilities with a particular focus on: • Camperdown Memorial Rest • Cooks River foreshore path • Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve • Maintenance and cleanliness in skate parks • Weekley Park playground, and • Dawn Fraser Baths.	Deliver Fund	x		x	
1.11	Continue to provide and expand public storage for water-based recreation activities (eg kayaking, canoeing storage) in foreshore parks particularly on the Balmain peninsula and in Iron Cove to support informal recreation on the Harbour.	Deliver Fund	x		x	

	THEME 2 FUTURE demand for open space and recreation					
			Level of intervention			
	Recommendation	Council's Role	Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities	Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities	Increasing the capacity of Council spaces	Providing new spaces
2.1	Take a partnerships approach to addressing future demand for open space and recreation opportunities, including with local sporting groups, State Government agencies, neighbouring councils, and commercial operators.	Facilitate	x		x	
2.2	Based on current supply rates, there will be a gap of 31.2ha to 44ha of open space across the LGA to support future population growth. To maintain existing supply per person of open space, Council could set a benchmark of 13.3m2 of high quality new public open space per person to be provided within future masterplanned development sites and major projects. Where it is not possible to provide this amount of open space onsite, a financial contribution toward the gap could be required to deliver additional open space off site or improve the quality and capacity of existing open space where appropriate.	Plan Advocate			x	x
2.3	Establish a proximity to open space benchmark that aligns with the Greater Sydney Commission recommendations including: • All residents should be within 400m of an area of high quality open space of at least 0.5ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers, and • All residents living in high density should also be within 200m of an area of high quality open space of at least 0.1ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers. Review Council's LEP to ensure areas zoned for medium to high density residential uses meet these proximity benchmarks, and plan and advocate for new developments and major projects to deliver high quality open space that meets these proximity benchmarks.	Plan Facilitate	x		x	x
2.4	Develop best practice principles for use with developers for the delivery of open space within future medium to high density redevelopments including: • Per person and proximity standards for the Inner West • Locating new local and district parks on the edge of the site so they are accessible to the broader community • Providing smaller local public parks within the site with activated edges • Inclusion of biophilic design considerations including non-visual and visual connections to nature, green walls and communal parks on rooftops • Inclusion of nature based and adventure play spaces, and • Best practice trends in shared and multipurpose spaces.	Plan				x
2.5	In areas with limited land, work collaboratively with delivery partners of future major projects to realise the provision of new open space, parks and recreational facilities on rooftops (of residential, commercial and retail buildings and carparks), industrial areas, laneways and tunnels, and other non-traditional locations.	Plan Advocate				x

2.6	Through the Development Application process encourage the provision of high quality communal (for use by residents of the development only) open space and recreational facilities in medium and high density residential development to reduce pressure on existing and future public open space areas and recreational facilities and build more resilient and connected communities.	Plan				x
2.7	Set the following future benchmarks for provision of recreational facilities to support population growth, based on current supply (where supply is currently meeting demand) and industry benchmarks from Parks and Leisure Australia, where current supply is below demand: • Summer sporting ground - 1 field per 6,500 residents • Winter sporting ground - 1 field per 4,500 residents • Indoor multipurpose courts – 1 court per 20,000 residents • Outdoor multipurpose courts - 1 court per 2,500 residents • Indoor leisure centre (dry) - 1 facility per 75,000 people • Indoor Leisure Centre Aquatic - 1 facility per 38,500 people • Skate park/facilities - 1 facility per 48,000 people, and • Play spaces – 1 playspace per 2,000 people (including district and regional provision).	Plan				x
2.8	Based on the recreation facility benchmarks, collaborate with developers and major project delivery partners for the delivery of new recreational spaces that are multipurpose and flexible in design including: • 6 to 8 summer sports fields • 5 to 8 winter sports fields • 10 to 14 outdoor multipurpose courts, and • 1 skate facility in the northern half of the LGA. Where these facilities cannot be provided as part of the development site, a financial contribution could be required to deliver these facilities off site.	Plan Facilitate			x	x
2.9	Collaborate regionally with neighbouring councils to address the benchmarked future gap of one aquatic centre. Inner West owns four aquatic centres and one tidal bath and, upgrades of existing facilities will increase capacity and functionality. Moreover, there is additional capacity at the Dawn Fraser Baths (20% - 25%) and also at FDAC (10% - 15%) which could contribute to servicing the needs of the future population through midweek programming.	Plan Advocate				x
2.10	Develop a prioritised schedule to review plans of management and Master Plans for community and Crown land to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with the local community about their needs and aspirations for the use of parks and open space and to satisfy Council's obligations under the Local Government Act (1993).	Plan	x	x	x	

	THEME 3 Capacity for sports and recreation					
			Level of intervention			
	Recommendation	Council's Role	Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities	Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities	Increasing the capacity of Council spaces	Providing new spaces
3.1	In order to serve the growing and diverse needs of the community, sporting grounds could be managed and planned for as a network. Local, district and regional sporting grounds must work together to deliver a range of opportunities for activity and recreation throughout the LGA that cater for varied skill levels and needs, and informal and formal uses. This could include a review of the design and use of big parks including Tempe Reserve and Marrickville Golf Course to increased shared access, and multipurpose use including a range of local, district and regional uses.	Plan Fund	x			x
3.2	Investigate the feasibility of synthetic surfaces on sports fields at appropriate locations giving consideration to: • Community and social benefits – accommodating a broad range of uses including informal recreation and play; • Sporting and recreation provision – options for multi-sports and flexibility of use; • Environmental investment – best practice environmental design, water harvesting and recycling, and • Economic affordability, value and viability.	Deliver Fund	x		x	
3.3	Collaborate on programming between Leichhardt Oval, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre and Childcare Centre to avoid parking conflicts.	Plan	x		x	
3.4	Implement a rolling program of resurfacing sports fields, based on the lifetime of a playing surface, to maintain quality over time and future proof existing fields. Investigate which sports fields are currently below optimum capacity and are capable of supporting increased use through improvements to drainage, soil profile, and re-turfing. In particular, consider at Waterfront Drive, Camdenville Oval, and Tempe Reserve as identified by Council staff.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
3.5	Deliver upgraded lighting at sporting grounds, to increase capacity, enable match games on weekday evenings and to spread the wear and tear across the whole field. In particular at King George Park, Easton Park, and Birchgrove Oval as identified by Council staff.	Deliver Fund	x		x	

3.6	Work collaboratively with regular hirers and sporting groups to review sporting ground infrastructure that can be upgraded to increase usability and safety including: • Improving amenities blocks and other sporting building infrastructure to increase accessibility, usability, support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport • Upgraded spectator infrastructure at sporting grounds • Co-locate outdoor fitness gyms • Water bubblers at sporting grounds, and • Ancillary recreation facilities such as cricket nets and soccer goals in parks and sporting grounds for informal recreation use.	Deliver Fund	x		x	
3.7	Work collaboratively within Council and the sports community to create a transparent and equitable allocation policy for Council's sporting grounds, focusing on inclusive and equitable allocation, sharing, managing wear and tear of surface, and increasing ease of use by sports groups.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
3.8	Work collaboratively across Council to initiate a new, centralised booking system for Council's parks and community venues for events booking, fitness training, and recreation programs.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
3.9	Review tennis, basketball and netball courts to identify surface improvement or conversion to multipurpose courts to increase use (eg at Wicks Park and Richard Murden Reserve).	Plan Deliver	x		x	
3.10	Develop strong partnerships with local sporting groups to address priority needs, including participation of women's and girls, people with disabilities, and low income families and help clubs adapt to changing recreation participation trends in the community.	Plan Facilitate	x			

	THEME 4 Inclusion and Sharing					
			Level of intervention			
	Recommendation	Council's Role	Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities	Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities	Increasing the capacity of Council spaces	Providing new spaces
4.1	Make access to parks and recreation facilities more inclusive by: • Multimedia promotion of Council's recreation spaces and activities, including inclusive sports and programs locally, targeted promotion in community languages, and targeted promotion to women and girls • Affordable access to recreation programs through a range of fees or low income residents (including concession prices, reduced prices, carer fee waivers) at Council's recreation and aquatic centres • Provision of recreation programs for young people at the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation and Community Centre, and • Collaboration with community transport providers for connections to recreation spaces and activities for older people and people with disability.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
4.2	Continue to address the recreational needs of young people by implementing the following principles in all new and upgraded parks and recreation facilities: • Locate recreation facilities for young people in walking distance to public transport, schools and shops • Co-design youth spaces with local young people • Deliver public domain and park spaces with seating in groups and a range of types; shade and shelter; free WiFi, tables, and power points for studying and playing music • Provide a skateable public domain/skate features throughout the LGA • Colour and greenery, and • Safety is very important for young people in particular young women. Provide quality lighting and locate youth areas close to activity centres to provide "eyes on the street."	Facilitate Plan Deliver	x	x	x	x
4.3	Address the health and wellbeing needs of the increasing older population through: • Use of accessible town halls and community venues as important places for delivery of recreation programs for older people • Seniors fitness/play equipment in areas with high proportions of older residents • Additional Strong Seniors classes at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, and redeveloped Ashfield Aquatic Centre, including for culturally diverse older people, and • A walkable and safe public domain in and around Ashfield Town Centre including after daylight hours.	Facilitate Plan Deliver	x	x	x	x

4.4	Increase the representation and visibility of women and girls in recreation spaces, and create a safer Inner West for women, through a "Welcoming Women and Girls" Program aimed at: • Increasing women and girls use of parks and sporting grounds through delivery of recreation programs for women and girls in parks • Equitable allocations policy for regular hire of Council's sports fields to increase representation of women's sports • Assessment of parks and park amenities ensure they are female appropriate and safe (change rooms, lighting, active edges, universal design, connected to public transport) • Providing roller derby marking at Robyn Webster Sports Centre or elsewhere in the LGA, and • Increasing child care/creche opportunities at Council's recreation facilities to support participation in recreation by parents in particular women.	Plan Deliver Facilitate	x	x	x	x
4.5	A lack of information on accessibility of open space and recreation facilities can be a barrier to participation for people with disability. Council could complete an accessibility audit of all existing Council owned recreation spaces and promote accessibility and inclusion features of parks and playgrounds on their website and other promotional materials. Council could prioritise works that achieve the highest inclusive outcomes (eg. toilets) and ensure that new projects fully scope access needs.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
4.6	Improve inclusive access to recreation activities and settings for people with disability including: • Delivery of disability awareness training for staff at Council's recreation and aquatic centres • Collaboration with sports clubs and the NSW Sport Disability Inclusion Program, to deliver inclusive sport activities • Provision of inclusive and sensory play equipment as part of new playground upgrades, including play equipment for adults with disability • Provision of inclusive access to kayaking and canoeing through inclusive launching equipment • Provision of a movable hoist and inclusive access at the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, and • Increased inclusively designed recreation options including a range of inclusive and accessible programs and activities at Council's aquatic and recreation centres for people with a disability.	Plan Deliver Facilitate	x		x	
4.7	To support the high proportion of working residents and students improve access to safe participation in recreation opportunities at night including: • Extend opening hours and provide classes in the late evening at aquatic and wellness centres • Encourage recreation providers to deliver programs and activities in Council facilities in the late evenings (eg sports clubs, fitness providers), and • Provide lighting in parks and streets to support safety and use after dark.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
4.8	Increase unstructured and unprescribed play opportunities in parks including varied and innovative play such as adventure/junk playgrounds, nature play, multigenerational play, and play for older children. Build community capacity through co-design processes for future play and recreational spaces.	Plan Deliver Facilitate	x		x	x

4.9	Design and deliver biodiversity programs to promote shared space between community, wildlife and plant communities. This could be delivered in large parks such as the Marrickville Golf Course.	Plan Deliver	x			x
4.10	Review Council policies to reduce barriers and encourage community led recreational programs and projects including verge gardens, laneway improvements and walking school buses.	Plan Advocate	x		x	
4.11	Address the cultural and social diversity of the Inner West community through provision of new recreation facilities that support informal and unstructured recreation participation, particularly in the culturally and socially diverse South and West of the LGA, including: • Shaded tai chi spaces • Badminton courts, and • Table tennis tables.	Deliver Fund Facilitate	x			x
4.12	Recognising that recreation with dogs is one of the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West, maintain and support use of Council's off-leash parks through continuing to provide and maintain off leash dog areas, in particular: • A dog water play park • Maintenance of dog parks in particular co-located with sporting grounds eg King George Park • Provision of water, seating, bags etc and promotion to spread use more evenly across parks • Review of requirements for dog parks to support education and enforcement by rangers including high visibility signage in problem areas, and • Increasing of resources for rangers to educate dog owners and enforce dog regulations.	Deliver Facilitate Plan	x		x	x
4.13	Encourage sharing of recreational spaces and deliver good dog management programs such as providing credits for training.	Facilitate	x		x	

THEME 5 Connections to nature						
			Level of intervention			
	Recommendation	Council's Role	Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities	Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities	Increasing the capacity of Council spaces	Providing new spaces
5.1	Create new nature based play spaces (at local and district scales) that provide opportunities for children to take risks, explore, be creative, get messy, and connect to wild nature. This is particularly important for children living in medium to high density environments who have limited access to unstructured nature based play opportunities. Opportunities exist along the Cooks River, Tempe Reserve, The GreenWay, Whites Creek, Hawthorne Canal and within new development.	Planning Delivery Funding				x
5.2	Reflect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and stories in Council parks including interpretive signage, naming and public art.	Plan Deliver	x		x	
5.3	Futureproof recreation spaces through an investigation of the impacts of climate change, including the impact of sea level rise on foreshore and riverfront open space.	Plan	X		x	
5.4	Deliver existing tree strategies and investigate opportunities for more tree planting and shade in parks, playgrounds and connecting streets to encourage recreation on hot days including in streets and parks.	Plan Fund Deliver	X		x	
5.5	Upgrade ventilation and/or air conditioning at community centres and indoor recreation centres to encourage recreation on hot days.	Deliver Fund	X		x	
5.6	To maintain the biodiversity of our natural environments, and to maximise habitats, future park upgrades, consider inclusion of recreation in natural areas such as nature play, walks in natural areas and naturalising spaces such as creek/river foreshores and continuing the GreenWay Master Plan. Include natural surfaces in playgrounds over artificial surfaces which are more impacted by heat.	Plan Fund Deliver	X		x	
5.7	Work with partners such as the Greater Sydney Commission to continue to deliver identified Green Grid projects including: • Continuing the GreenWay master plan • Sydney Harbour Foreshore • Parramatta River Walk • Whites Creek and Whites Creek Lane parkland and recreational trail • Callan Park • Alexandria Canal • Lilyfield Road Active Transport Corridor • Johnson Creek and Harold Park parkland and recreational trail • Tom Uren & Balmain Foreshores Heritage Walking Trail, and • Advocating for the GreenWay South West/Sydenham to Bankstown Open Space Corridor as part of the Sydney Metro City to Southwest project, and the Sydney Harbour Bays Green Links: Balmain and Rozelle.	Advocate	X		X	x

5.8	Collaborate with developers and major project delivery partners for the incorporation of biophilic design in new residential, commercial and retail buildings to improve mental and physical health outcomes of residents.	Plan				x
5.9	Incorporate biophilic design considerations in master planning the public domain to improve mental and physical health outcomes of residents.	Plan Deliver	x			

	THEME 6 Streets and laneways for walking, cycling and play					
			Level of intervention			
	Recommendation	Council's Role	Increasing use of existing Council spaces and activities	Increasing use of non-Council spaces and activities	Increasing the capacity of Council spaces	Providing new spaces
6.1	Walking is the most popular recreational activity locally and nationally. Increase recreational opportunities throughout the LGA by creating more walkable streets through well maintained and connected footpaths with traffic calming, lighting, shade, wayfinding, and safe intersections. In particular improve connections to the Cooks River foreshore paths, the Bay Run, the GreenWay, and from Ashfield town centre to Ashfield Park. Leverage funding through new developments and major projects through VPAs for improvements to create walkable local streets connecting open space and nearby development sites.	Plan Deliver Fund	x		x	x
	Through improved public domain, and green and active streets, improve connectivity to existing open space in neighbourhoods that are not within 400m of 0.5ha of open space or are disconnected by major barriers (eg. roads and rail lines). This includes future proofing connectivity in areas that may be impacted by major projects. Priority areas include: • Glebe Island, White Bay Power Station and parts of Rozelle north of Victoria Road • Parts of Leichhardt and Annandale, close to Parramatta Road • Parts of Croydon, Croydon Park, and the centre of Ashfield, focusing on connecting up the smaller parks in this area • Parts of Lewisham, south of the rail line • Parts of Enmore, Newtown and Stanmore between Enmore Road and the train line, focusing on connecting up the smaller parks in this area, and • Parts of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, north of the train line.	Plan Deliver Advocate	x		x	
6.2	Adopt a "Streets as Recreational Places" approach to local streets including street trees, playful elements, skate elements, rest stops for seniors, universal design, parklets and social street furniture to create recreation opportunities in non-traditional recreation spaces, particularly in areas with low access to open space and to create more healthy and socially cohesive communities. This approach can also educate the community that some streets can be safe places for children's unstructured play.	Plan Deliver Fund	x		x	x
6.3	In urban areas, unsupervised and unstructured safe places to play are declining. Collaborate with organisations such as Play Streets Australia to trial a Play Streets Program throughout the Inner West to encourage children to participate in unsupervised and safe play in their streets.	Plan Deliver Fund	x		x	x
6.4	Identify laneways in areas with low provision of open space (such as Petersham, Newtown Enmore, and Stanmore) to reimagine as recreational spaces including recreational facilities such as basketball hoops and coloured markings. Work collaboratively with local communities to co-design the laneways as recreational spaces and announce the space as a "Play Priority Area."	Plan Deliver Fund	x		x	x

6.5	Improve safety on shared paths through design and signage improvements and community education programs, in particular for the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path, and future GreenWay paths.	Facilitate Fund	x		x	
6.6	Encourage increased use of cycling infrastructure through: • Continuing existing cyclist education programs, and targeted programs for older people, women, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds • Improved wayfinding on cycle paths • Advocate for bicycle storage at public transport, and • Provide end of trip facilities and bicycle storage throughout the cycle path network, such as bike storage at the Cooks River foreshore path.	Facilitate Fund	x	x	x	
6.7	Continue to create a connected cycle path network through: • Delivery of Council's cycling strategies • Improving North-South cycle links through the GreenWay master plan • Providing an off-road cycle path on Illawarra Road • Work on a Lilyfield Road cycle route, and • Advocating for improved cycleways through major urban renewal projects including the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal, Bays Precinct and Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor.	Plan Facilitate Fund	x	x	x	x

APPLICATIONS AND IDEAS FOR THE INNER WEST

This section explores 10 ideas for how the 6 Themes of the Recreation Needs Study could be applied across the Inner West through design and programming interventions.

For each of the 10 ideas, relevent design considerations are provided to apply each case study to possible recreation areas in the Inner West. A supporting study has also been included that shows how each principle could be incorporated into design strategies.

This section considers not only how to improve the recreational value of parks but other elements of the public domain including streets, laneways, paths and trails. The recommendations identify a wide range of opportunities, from the broad to the detail. Consideration has been given to principles that support the key drivers of sharing, generosity, co-design and quality.

The ideas in this report are intended to illustrate the needs outlined in this study and are not intended as specific master plans. A specific master planning process including community engagement would be undertaken to identify proposals most suited to individual parks.

1. GETTING MORE FROM BIG PARKS

Where should this be applied to?

- Large parks such as Tempe Recreation Reserve, Leichhardt Park, Marrickville Golf Course, Birchgrove Park and Ashfield Park.

Why is this important?

- To increase the capacity of existing parks and sports grounds to address the forecast gap in provision and competing local and district access to recreation opportunities
- To create multifunctional spaces that cater for a wider range of activities, day and night.
- To create safe, inviting and ecologically sustainable parks.

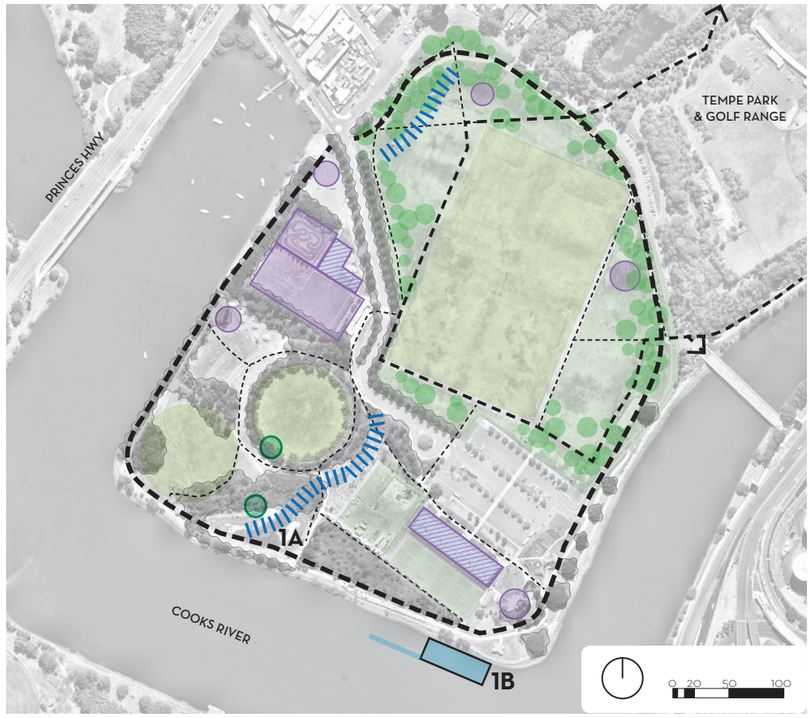
Design Considerations:

- Develop park master plans that provide a balance of active and passive spaces.
- Consider opportunities to amplify and enhance landscape assets- i.e. river frontage, natural and heritage features, drainage lines and creeks.
- Design facilities for night time use.
- Consider incorporating destination facilities such as unique playgrounds, skate parks, nature play and water-based facilities.
- Provide safe destinations that provide multiple functions (such as kiosk/ cafe collocated with public toilets).
- Provide new types of play such as climbing walls, circuit trails, biking tracks, nature play etc.
- Design ecological improvements such as storm water treatment, energy generation, and habitat creation that can provide new recreational opportunities.
- Incorporate cycleway facilities such as bike trails, bike repair and storage.
- Incorporate access to water and provide water-based activities (such as boat and kayak hire).

(1) Use of inventive elements such as play walls and climbing structures to appeal to older children and teenagers in Queen Elizabeth Park, London. (2) Incorporation of multipurpose recreation facilities aligned to key pedestrian routes to improve safety and provide recreational night time use at Prince Alfred Park, Sydney. (3) Destination regional playground at Bungarribee Park. (4) Water based activities provide a new range of recreation opportunities in Queen Elizabeth Park, London. (5) Storm water treatment can become a defining park feature, creating opportunities for habitat and nature play such as in Sydney Park, Enmore. (6) Kiosk co-located with toilets at Pirrama Park, Sydney.

1. GETTING MORE FROM BIG PARKS

CASE STUDY: TEMPE RECREATION RESERVE



KEY

PATH NETWORK: Connect park spaces with a network of well-lit and well-designed paths. Consider designing diverse paths such as bridges, boardwalks etc.

DESTINATION RECREATION FACILITIES: Provide facilities such as playground, skate park, kiosk.

FLEXIBLE SPACE: design for active and informal park play that can accommodate occasional sports use.

DESTINATION COMMUNITY FACILITIES: provide new multipurpose facilities for sport, recreation, and community.

WATER TREATMENT/WSUD / NATURE PLAY: design sustainable spaces that allow for exploration and play.

WATER BASED RECREATION: Provide access to river and facilities such as kayak hire.

1A: Water treatment and recreation

Above: Design drainage lines and creeks for improved habitat, ecological health and for nature education and play.

1B: Water Recreation

Above: Opportunity for water based recreation on creeks and waterfronts.

(1) Nature Play Wonderland at Centenary Lakes, Melbourne. (2) Lighting for night time activities at Alfred Park, Sydney. (3) Kiosk co-located with toilets at Sydney Park, Enmore. (4) Opportunities for observing wildlife and (5) interacting with water.

2. MULTIPURPOSE DESIGN FOR ACTIVE SPORTS

Where should this be applied to?

- All current and future sports grounds, and indoor recreation facilities.

Why is this important?

- To address increasing demand for courts, fields, and other recreation facilities.
- To explore how existing parks can be desined as multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable spaces and facilities.
- To explore solutions that allow for flexible use and address ongoing maintenance.

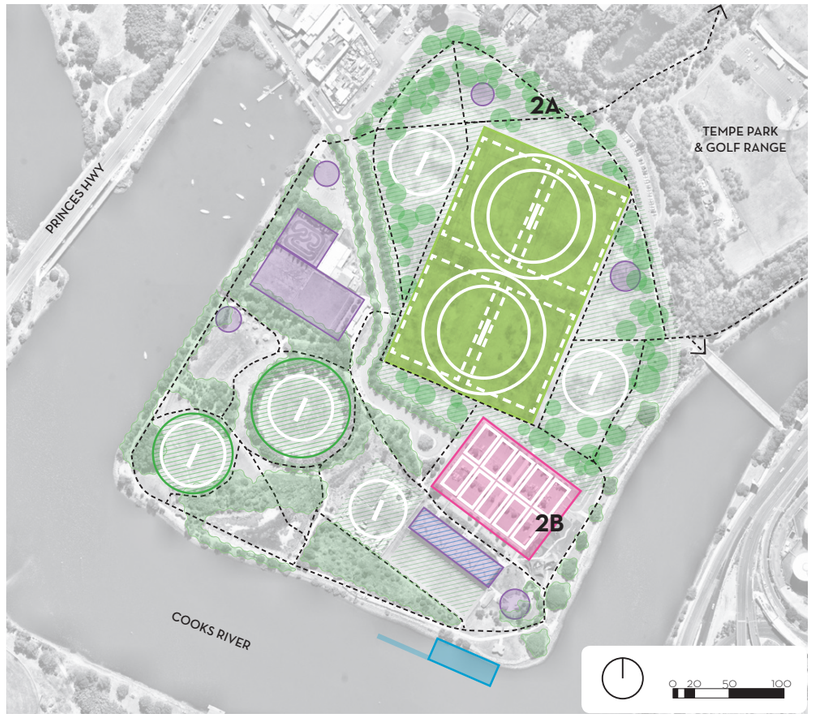
Design Considerations:

- Provide hybrid courts and fields that allow different sports to share space.
- Explore use of synthetic turf to increase capacity and use. If considering synthetic surfaces, ensure it's configured with well-defined edges and the proportion of synthetic surfacing does not exceed 50% of the total park to maintain local microclimate and amenity.
- Carefully design sports fields to maximise informal parkland spaces. Incorporate additional recreational facilities such as outdoor gym equipment, table tennis tables and climbing walls.
- Promote opportunities for sports building to operate for other recreation uses such as community exhibitions and performances.
- Consider reclaiming left-over spaces such as roof tops or on grade carparks with on grade or above ground courts.
- Design open lawns for flexible recreational use, such as for occasional seasonal sports and informal kick about space.
- Consider providing facilities for water-based sports and recreation such as such as kayak hire, alongside cafes / public toilets.
- Provide lighting for night time use where there will be minimal impact on adjacent residents, such as adjacent to the rail corridors, freeways, river edges, industrial/commercial areas.

(1) Synthetic surfaces such as in Cadman Plaza New York, can increase year-round and intensive use. (2) Providing lighting can maximise active recreation in evenings such as at Prince Alfred Park. (3) Temporary sports events in squares and streets can provide additional recreational amenity. (4) & (5) Sports fields can be designed over on ground carparks such as at the University of Queensland (6) Smaller scale sports facilities such as table tennis tables provide sporting diversity, such as at Navy Yards, NY.

2. MULTIPURPOSE DESIGN FOR ACTIVE SPORTS

CASE STUDY: TEMPE RECREATION RESERVE



KEY

1. SYNTHETIC MULTI-SPORT FIELDS: Define zone for synthetic surfaces. Provide line markings for mutiple sports.

2. PARK WITH CAPACITY FOR ACTIVE RECREATION: Incorporate park around edges of synthetic areas to allow passive uses to occur alongside regional sports.

3. FLEXIBLE SPACE: Design spaces for multi-purpose sports and other recreation such as kids play, exhibitions and performances.

4. HYBRID FACILITIES: Design sports facilities to incorporate other park uses (such as cafes)

5. ROOFTOP SPORTS: Design courts above on-grade carparks

6. KAYAK HIRE: Activate the waterfont and provide additonal active sport uses with a cafe / kayak hire

2A: Sports fields and Parkland Interace

Above: There is an opportunity to design attractive park spaces with capacity for sports, as well as additional facilities such as outdoor exercise equipment.

2B: FLEXIBLE SPACE

Above: Incorporating night lighting and multipurpose courts can improve use.

(1) Multi purpose netball/basketball courts at Castle Hill School, NSW. (2) Lighting for night time activities at Alfred Park, Sydney. (3) Synthetic Sports Ovals at University of Queensland. (4) Line markings on a multi-purpose sports field

3. RECLAIMING LANES & LEFT OVER SPACES FOR PLAY

Where should this be applied to?

- Areas with current low provision of parks such as Enmore, Stanmore, Newtown, Petersham

Why is this important?

- To address increased recreational demand in neighbourhoods with limited public open space.
- To increase recreational opportunities in areas with high numbers of young people and students.
- To provide unique, safe, and unstructured public play opportunities.
- To improve community interaction.
- To enhance local character and identity.

Design Considerations:

- Consider designing lanes as “Play Streets”.
- Explore public domain design interventions for left-over and under-utilised spaces such as lane-ways, tunnels, and transport corridor edges.
- Identify locations appropriate for daytime use, such as lanes in residential zones, and locations appropriate for night time uses such as lanes within light industrial zones.
- Collaborate with local landowners/ residents to gather ideas and identify appropriate locations. Develop a database of keen landowners willing to transform adjoining walls and fences.
- Consider simple low cost and simple design interventions such as basketball hoops, stencils to pavements, temporary furniture, pot plants and lighting.
- Explore developing temporary events in lanes such as art shows, outdoor movies etc.
- Consider temporary arts/ cultural program focused on inner west lanes.

1

2

3

4

5

6

(1) Art installations can provide amenity and delight in lanes such as Birdsong Installation at Angel Place in Wynyard.
(2) Temporary events such as outdoor movies can active leftover spaces such as at Hackney in London.
(3,4,5 and 6) Low cost temporary interventions such as chalk, stencils, paint, streamers and flags can transform urban lanes and streets.

3. RECLAIMING LANES & LEFT OVER SPACES FOR PLAY

CASE STUDY: MARRICKVILLE + STANMORE

KEY

AFTER-HOURS LANEWAY: Laneways located within industrial areas can support after-hours activation. Lighting, ground and wall treatments, pop up events with temporary furniture, movie screenings, art installations etc can transform underutilised space after hours.

INDUSTRIAL LAND USES

PLAY LANEWAY: Laneways surrounded by residences can be activated through permanent play fixtures such as basketball hoops and painted ground treatments.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

3A: After-Hours Laneway: Industrial Lanes

Above: Lanes in industrial areas can be transformed for temporary night time events.

3B: Play laneway: Residential Lanes

Above: Low speed lanes in residential areas can incorporate temporary play on walls and road surfacing.
(1) Playful interventions such as colourful surfacing and (2) and (3) Basketball hoops such as in Ally-Oop, Vancouver.
(4) Temporary events can activate left over spaces.

4. WALKING THE INNER WEST: URBAN WALKS

Where should this be applied to?

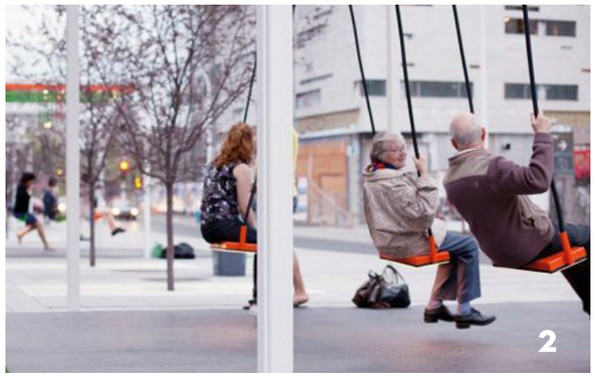
- Across the inner west but in particular around Ashfield town centre, Marrickville south and along the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor.

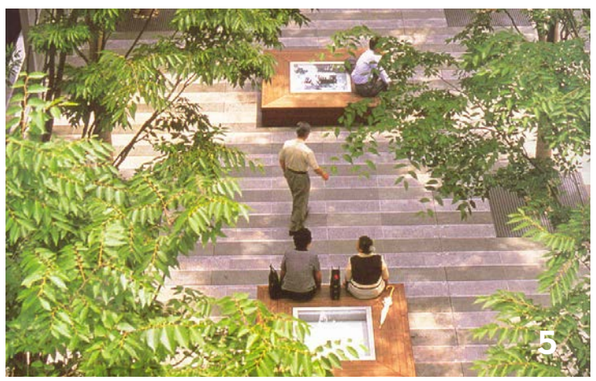
Why is this important?

- To recognise walking as the most popular activity in the Inner West, and the most significant recreational activity in Australia[1].
- To redesign streets as attractive public places.
- To maximise recreational opportunities in high density locations.
- To create inclusive, safe and attractive routes through civic centres and retail streets and linking to public transport, particularly important for women, girls and older residents.
- To provide attractive walking routes, To increase shade and improve local microclimates by providing more street trees.
- To improve environmental outcomes and enhance active transport.

Design Considerations:

- Consider streetscape improvements in locations with limited public open space.
- Develop priority routes for streetscape upgrades that link town centres to parks, schools, churches, and other civic spaces.
- Incorporate seating, public lighting, drinking fountains and public art.
- Reconsider road alignments and reduce excess carriageways to maximise space for pedestrians, and provide new opportunities for street trees, benches and lighting.
- Prioritise shade tree planting and canopy cover.
- Consider incorporating fitness signage and information into route designs.
- Explore opportunities for improved traffic signals and pedestrian countdown timers.
- Explore improving landscape space in front community facilities to provide opportunities for new public seating and gardens.



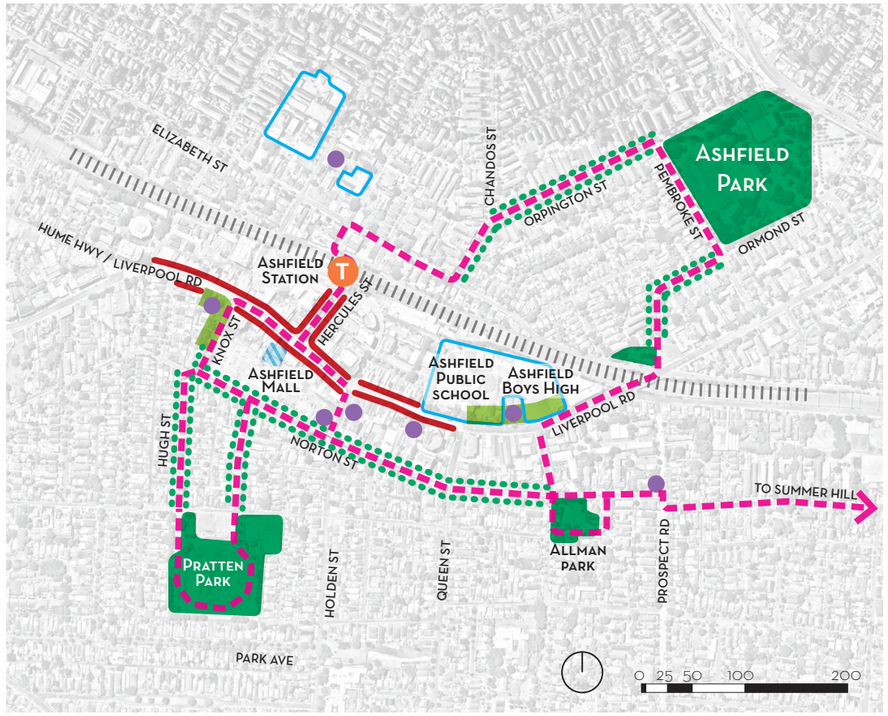


(1) Trees provide shade for pedestrians on urban streets. (2) Playful elements such as swings can provide moments of delight. (3) Tree planting and gardens improve the pedestrian experience. (4) Accessibility across roads is critical, and crossings can be made into memorable features. (5) Designing comfortable public seating along urban walking routes can improve amenity.

1. (OECD 2017 Better life index)

4. WALKING THE INNER WEST: URBAN WALKS

CASE STUDY: ASHFIELD TOWN CENTRE



KEY

ASHFIELD URBAN WALK: Priority pedestrian link with improved streetscape linking key public spaces. Improvements include expanded footpaths, new trees, new furniture, lighting and signage.

SHADY, TREE LINED STREETS : New tree planting on priority streets

PUBLIC SPACE INTERFACE: Create public spaces with seating, gardens and trees for shade in front of community buildings, such as schools and churches

- Train Station
- Rail Line
- Parks
- Civic Facilities
- Active Retail Frontages
- Schools
- Churches

4A: Tree planting and gardens in leftover carriageway

Above: expand tree planting in underutilised carriageways and no stopping zones

4B: Opportunities to improve amenity

Above: Consider providing landscape improvements to civic facilities, such as church surrounds, providing gardens with public seating.

(1) Drinking fountains encourage walking. (2) Comfortable and well-located seating is critical, particularly for older residents (3) Shaded, tree-lined streets improve walkability. (4) Public seating in an attractive setting with shade and garden plantings can transform urban areas.

5. WALKING THE INNER WEST: BRIDGING THE GAP

CONNECTING ACROSS INFRASTRUCTURE

Where should this be applied to?

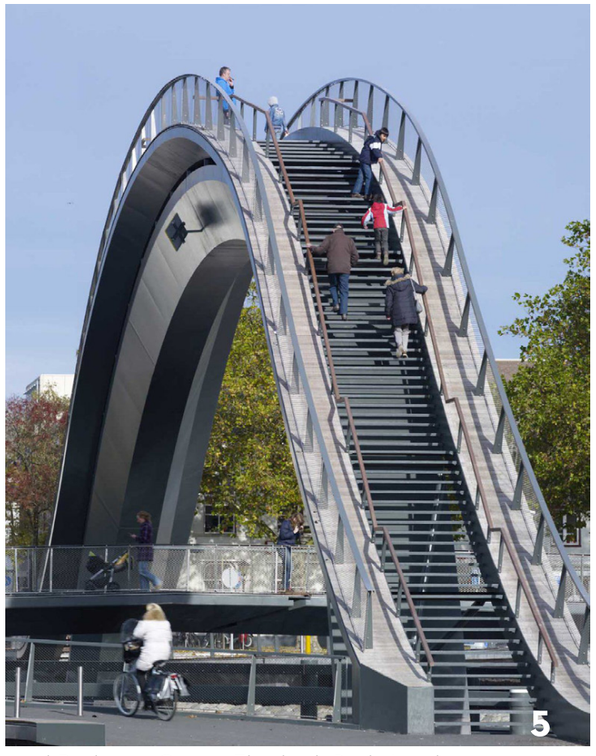
- Balmain peninsula foreshore and other foreshore locations, along rail lines, and infrastructure corridors such as Parramatta road.

Why is this important?

- To "future proof" the Inner West for major projects such as The Bays Precinct, and the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy.
- To improve access to public parks, foreshores and riverfronts, bushland reserves, civic and cultural landmarks.
- To address physical barriers such as rail corridors, arterial roads, and escarpments.
- To maximise recreational opportunities in high density locations.
- To provide attractive walking routes, the most significant recreational activity in Australia[1].
- To improve environmental outcomes by encouraging active transport.

Design Considerations:

- Develop priority routes linking open space corridors, waterfronts, and parks through existing neighbourhoods.
- Design links to maximise amenity, by providing generous paths and seating with views, and incorporating shade trees, lighting, drinking fountains etc.
- Consider incorporating fitness signage and information into route designs.
- Explore inventive solutions to barriers such as iconic stairs, bridges and tunnels.
- Negotiate with landowners to provide multiple public access points. Ensure landowners design interconnected street networks that link to existing neighbourhoods.
- Avoid privatisation of key routes and negotiate access with landowners and allow for public right of way.
- Reconsider road alignments and reduce excess carriageways to maximise space for pedestrians.
- Explore opportunities for improved signals at arterial roads and provide pedestrian countdown timers.
- Consider equitable access where possible, and that sensitively addresses the local conditions, landform, heritage and context.

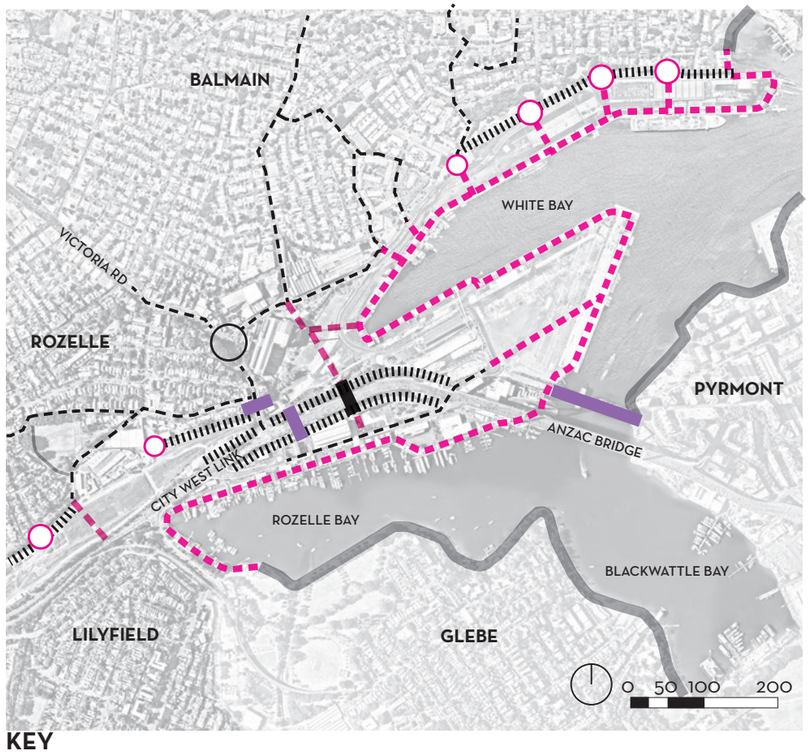


(1) Bridge infrastructure can be beautiful, such as the Diamond Bridge at Queen Elizabeth Park, London. (2) Bridges can be unique destinations such as the concept behind the ArcelorMittal Orbit - a sculpture and observation tower in London (3) (4) (5) Sculptural pedestrian bridges in Copenhagen and Amsterdam and at Tram Square Pumerend, Netherlands.

1. (OECD 2017 Better life index)

5. WALKING THE INNER WEST: URBAN WALKS

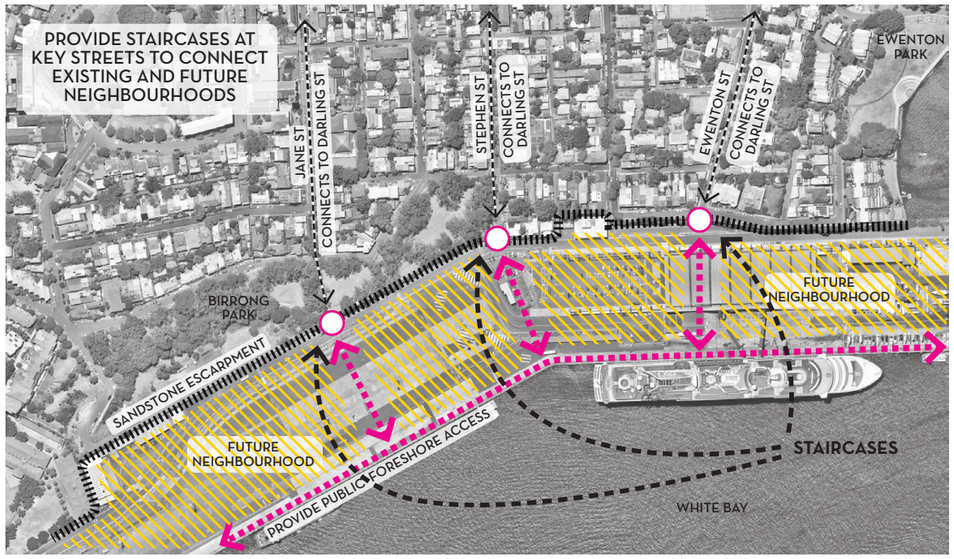
CASE STUDY: WHITE BAY



KEY

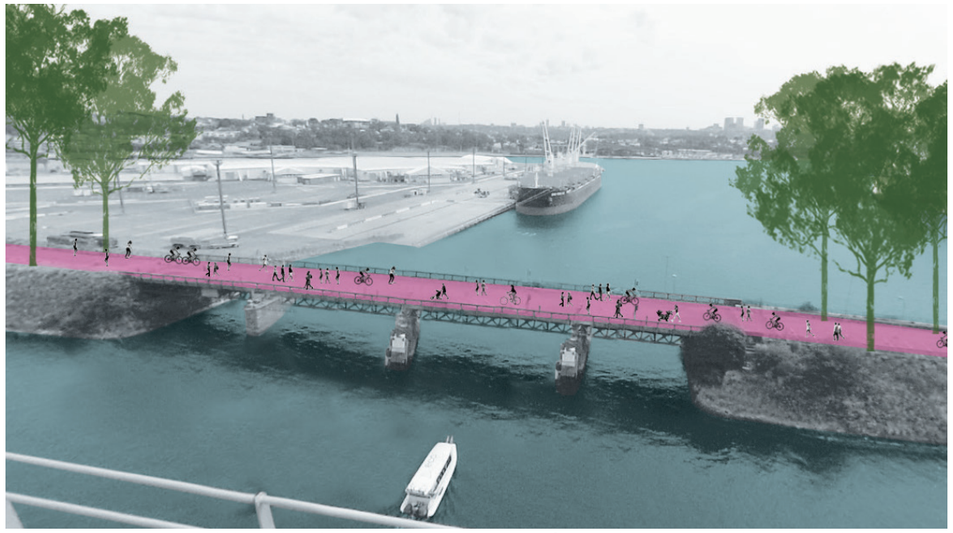
- EXISTING FORESHORE WALK
- PROPOSED FORESHORE ACCESS: Provide public access to foreshore within future development area
- EXISTING STREETS: Potential to connect to wider network
- BRIDGES: Reinstate Glebe Island Bridge and upgrade existing pedestrian bridges over busy roads
- CRITICAL INTERSECTIONS: Improve crossings and signals
- EXISTING ESCARPMENTS
- STAIRCASES: linking across steep topography
- UNDERPASS: provide new on grade link connecting north-south

5A: Navigating Escarpments



Above: Staircases can provide pedestrian access at escarpments, and connect existing and future neighbourhoods to the harbour foreshore.

5B: Reinstate Glebe Island Bridge



Above: Reconnect Glebe Island peninsula to Pyrmont for pedestrians and cyclists through reinstating the Glebe Island Bridge

(1) (2) Staircases allow pedestrian movement at escarpments, such as the cantilevered staircase at Pirrama Park. (3) Pedestrian and cycle bridges can be sculptural, such as the Cirkelbroen Bridge in Copenhagen. (4) Shaded, tree-lined streets provide pedestrian links throughout neighbourhoods. (5) Underpasses with art/lighting provide movement through challenging topography.

6. SHARING SPACE: CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

Where should this be applied to?

- Across the inner west in particular the bay run, Cooks River foreshore path, and the greenway

Why is this important?

- Cycling is one of the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West and nationally.
- Conflict between cyclists and pedestrians was a key concern throughout community engagement.
- To address conflict and collision risks between cyclists and pedestrians on shared paths.
- To ensure equitable access to shared space for older people and visually impaired people[1].
- To improve park amenity and safety.
- To alter user perception of shared paths.

Design Considerations:

- Design separated cycleways where space permits. Recognise that commuter and sports recreation cyclists operate at high speeds and may cause conflict with other users particularly the elderly or vision impaired.
- Consider separation as a priority in locations where there are 50 cyclists or 100 pedestrians per hour in peak periods[2] during the day.
- Prioritise delivery of separated facilities in road infrastructure budgets and explore methods to offset costs.
- Consider path alignments that are more flexible and less standardised, to allow for variation to accommodate local conditions such as rocks, trees and waterfront edges.
- Consider trial of a new kind of shared path, with limited segregation signage and directional signage. Remove clear division between pedestrian and cyclists so that cyclists are required to slow down and use caution.
- Develop a "share the share way" arts program to change perception of shared paths.

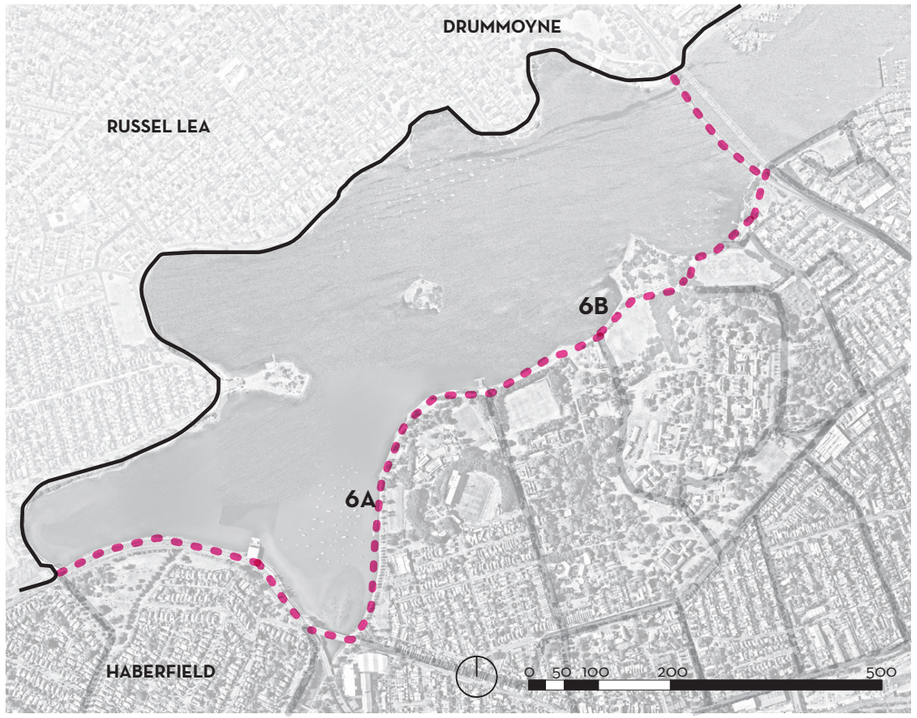
(1) Separated pedestrian and cyclist bridge in Copenhagen. (2) Pathway alignments can allow for variation to accommodate local conditions such as trees eg. Hyde park in London. (3) (4) Separated pathways in New York City and in La Fontaine Park, Montreal clearly separate cyclists and pedestrians. (5) (6) Well designed paths do not segregate use and create unified space such as Dordrecht, Netherlands and at New Road in Brighton, UK.

1. Victoria Walks (2015). Shared paths – the issues, Melbourne, Victoria Walks.

2. Austroads, Norwegian and Dutch guidance as cited in Victoria Walks (2015). Shared paths – the issues, Melbourne, Victoria Walks

6. SHARING SPACE: CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

CASE STUDY: THE BAY RUN

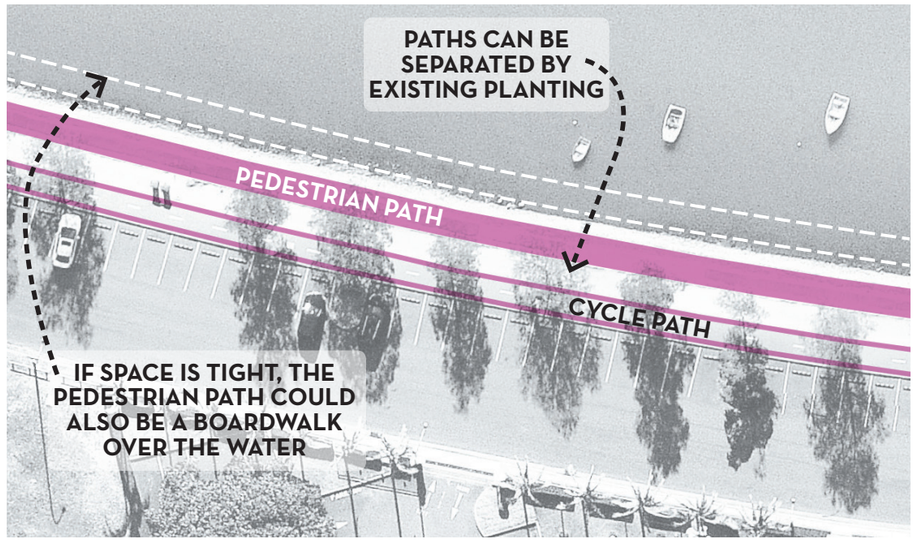


KEY

THE BAY RUN: Consider the path design as incorporating separated pedestrian and cyclist pathways where space permits, or in locations where this is not possible, a shared pathway.

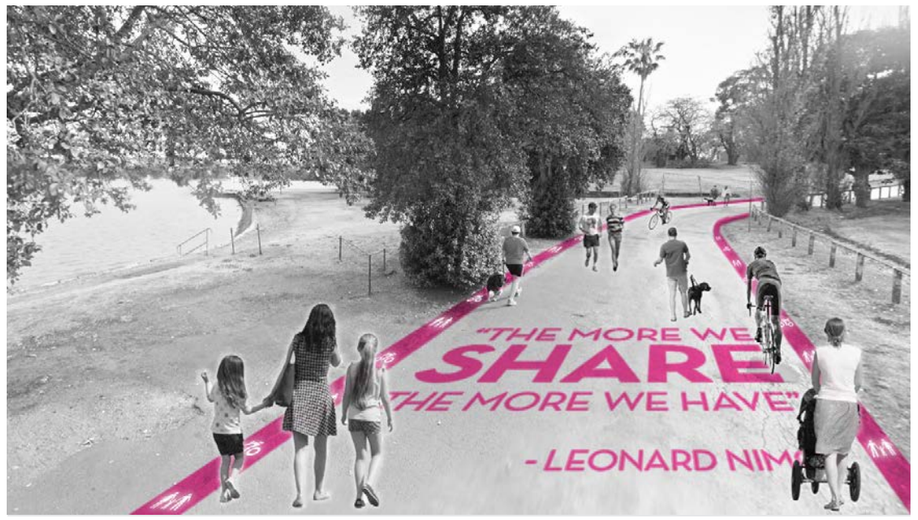
LGA Boundary

6A. Separated pedestrian and cycle paths



Above: Separated pedestrian and cycle paths can reduce conflict issues

6B. 'Share the Shareway'



Above: Education and branding campaign

(1) (2) Vegetation can provide separation between bikes and pedestrians in Sydney or in Maisonneuve Park, Montreal. (3) Unified shareway treatment with no signage on paving - New Road in Brighton, UK.

7. SHARING SPACE: NATIVE WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

Where should this be applied to?

- All current and future parks in the inner west, in particular linear parks, the greenway and the cooks river foreshore park.

Why is this important?

- To provide connections with nature in an increasingly dense urban city supporting improved mental health outcomes.
- To maintain the biodiversity of our urban environments.
- To maximise habitat within existing parks and public open space.
- To create habitat 'stepping stones', which link larger habitat areas and provide movement corridors for species.
- To protect threatened fauna and flora species[1].
- To provide access to natural environments thereby improving human wellbeing.

Design Considerations:

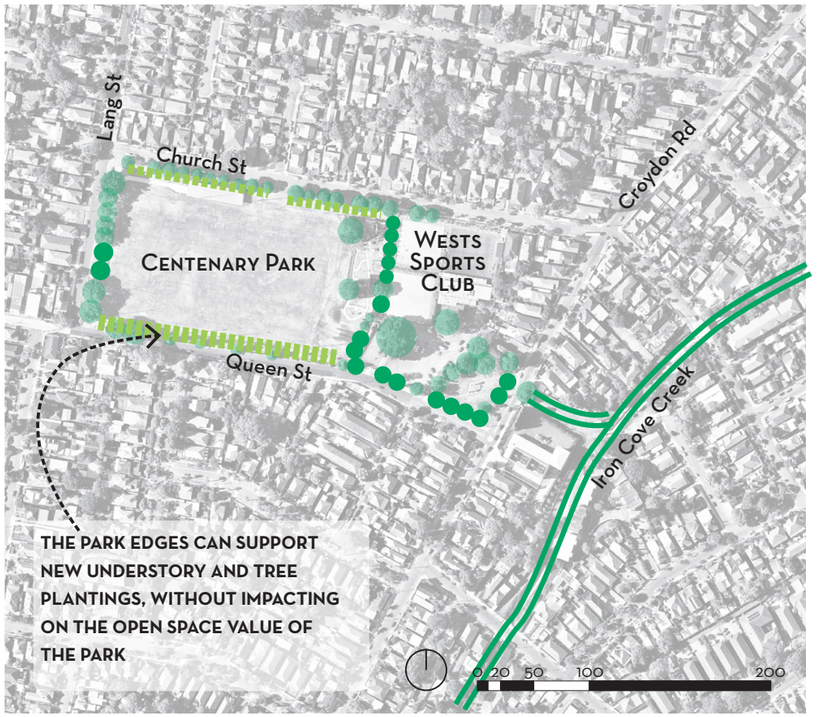
- Develop native revegetation and reconstruction programs that provide an interconnected network across the LGA.
- Provide structural diversity into parks including a variety of native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Where possible prioritise shrubs, grasses and herbs to provide suitable conditions for species but with a lesser degree of connectivity.
- Prioritise habitat for threatened and endangered fauna and flora species such as the the Long-nosed Bandicoot, Grey-headed Flying-fox and Eastern Bentwing Bat.
- Incorporate logs, rock and brush piles and leaf litter for insects and small animals.
- Install built structures, including rockeries, log piles, stormwater pipes and nesting boxes to provide habitat and protection for wildlife.
- Maintain old/ dead trees with hollows in parks where possible for nesting animals.
- Provide interconnected tree canopy for certain fauna species to overcome spatial barriers such as roads.
- Investigate naturalising creek channels and waterfront edges to improve aquatic habitat.
- Consider WSUD initiatives to provide water for native animals.

(1) Designing wetlands and storm water treatment can improve habitat in urban areas such as at Qunli National Urban Wetland by Turenscape in Haerbin, China. (2) Logs and rocks provide habitat in Sydney Park wetland. (3) Tree hollows provide nesting areas for native animals, such as in this retained tree trunk in St Leonards Park, Sydney. (4) & (5) Parks can provide habitat for local species such as the Long-nosed Bandicoot and the Fairy Wren. (5) Water treatment can provide opportunities for nature play such as at Bottiere Chenaie Ecodistrict in France.

1. www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au

7. SHARING SPACE: NATIVE WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

CASE STUDY: IRON COVE CREEK, CROYDON



KEY

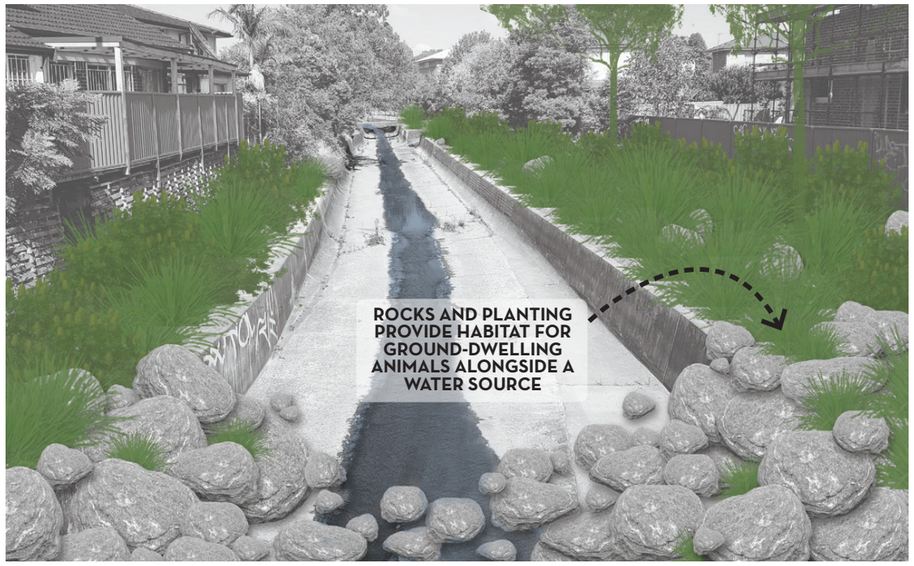
IRON COVE CREEK CHANNEL: Plant channel edges with shrubs and groundcovers. Naturalise priority sections of the creek. Understory vegetation and rock piles can provide habitat for smaller, ground-dwelling animals such as frogs and lizards, which in turn supports larger fauna in the area.

TREE CANOPY: Provide a continuous canopy link from Creek to Park. Trees provide important habitat for larger animals. Nesting boxes located in tall trees can also provide instant 'homes' for animals such as possums and birds.

UNDERSTORY PLANTING: Understory planting is particularly important for small, ground-dwelling animals such as insects and lizards. The combination of groundcovers, shrubs, rock piles and logs can provide both habitat and sources of food for local fauna.

EXISTING TREE CANOPY

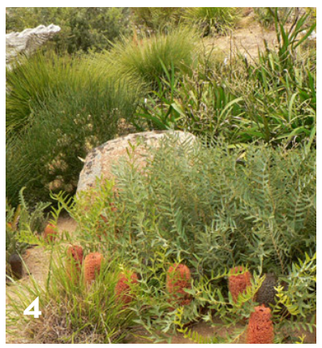
7A: Providing habitat alongside Iron Cove Creek



Above: Rocks naturalise the creek, whilst planting on the channel edges creates habitat alongside a water source.

7B: Providing habitat in Centenary Park

Above: Planting in areas with limited recreational value, such as slopes and fenced-off spaces, can improve fauna habitat.



(1) Cooks River naturalisation project, 2015. (2) Sydney Water creek naturalisation project. (3) Martin Luther King Park, New York. (4) Plants, such as Banskia, provide habitat for birds and insects.

8. SHARING SPACE: WELCOMING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Where should this be applied to?

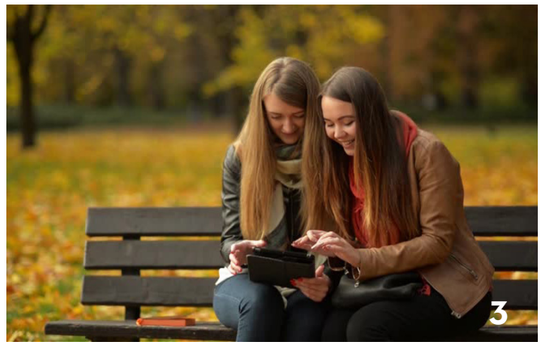
- Streets, laneways, parks and sportsgrounds in the inner west

Why is this important?

- Only % of Council's sports grounds are hired to clubs that include women's sport.
- Men playing sports formally and informally often dominate parks and playing fields.
- Women and girls don't often feel welcome or safe in public parks – an Australian study found that 70% of girls believe it's not safe to share public parks already occupied by older boys.
- While walking has been identified as the primary recreational activity among teenage girls[1] and women, concerns around personal safety particularly for young women, restrict independent mobility and participation in in public life.
- Safe links to public transport are critical so that women get safely to recreational facilities.
- As domestic violence is increasing[2] designing safe and welcoming urban spaces can increase women's empowerment and reduce crime.

Design Considerations:

- Design active frontages to key streets and public spaces.
- Locate new public open space in highly visible locations, adjacent to main streets and with good passive surveillance.
- Priorities safe walking routes linking civic centres and retail streets to public transport.
- Consider locating park rangers / advocates Park wardens.
- Consider a calendar of programs that prioritise activities and events for women day and night–film festivals, reading groups, outdoor libraries, childcare and mobile play, repairs and DIY and walking groups / tours.
- Develop multipurpose parks with well-designed paths, and a mix of spaces and functions. Provide small-structured common areas, which can be used by several groups at the same time, motivate girls increasingly to spend their time in parks. Clear arrangement and lighting of paths increase safety and encourage girls, young women, and elderly visitors to come and spend time in the park.
- Provide multi-functional play areas to encourage girls to be physically active
- Collocate public toilets within civic facilities such as libraries, or actives uses such as cafes.
- Appoint a Welcoming Women and Girls project officer for the LGA. This role could:
  - Change the perceptionof active recreation spaces as being the domain as boys & men.
  - Design a program of parks and public activities that appeal to women and girls.
  - Develop consultation strategies to engage with women and girls.
  - Provide input on public domain design proposals.
  - Identify problem locations and identify strategies for improvement.

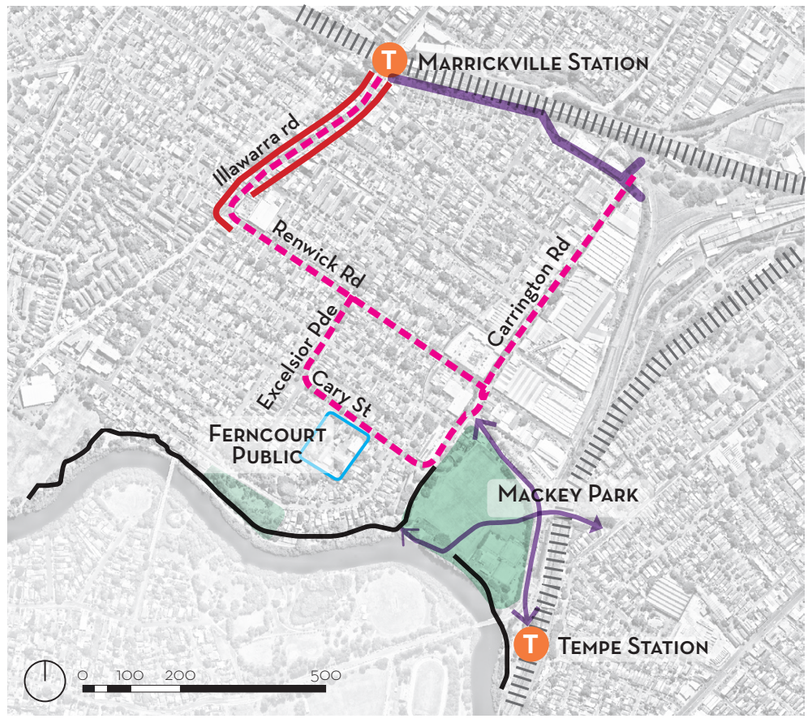


(1) Designing safe spaces, with a range of facilities can encourage girls and older women (2) to be physically active. (3) Small-structured common areas and seating can provide opportunities for girls to occupy parks. (4) Developing a program of park activities that appeal to women and girls can change the dynamics of parks. (5) Iconic art celebrates women's presence in public space (such as Fearless Girl by Kristen Visbal in New York).

1. Garrard J, (2017). Young people and walking. Victoria Walks, Melbourne.
2. Resilient Sydney (2016) Preliminary Resilience Assessment 2016

8. SHARING SPACE: WELCOMING WOMEN AND GIRLS

CASE STUDY: MARRICKVILLE SOUTH



KEY

EQUITABLE PARKS:Design safe circulation and sightlines, co-locate toilets with kiosks to improve safety. Design smaller, well defined spaces for smaller group gathering and children's play. Explore capacity for female dominated sports such as hockey and netball. Provide diverse and comfortable seating.

PRIORITY STREETS: Design safe well lit streets with improved seating, lighting and circulation. Prioritise links to key civic facilities such as to schools, train stations and town centres. Provide diverse and comfortable seating.

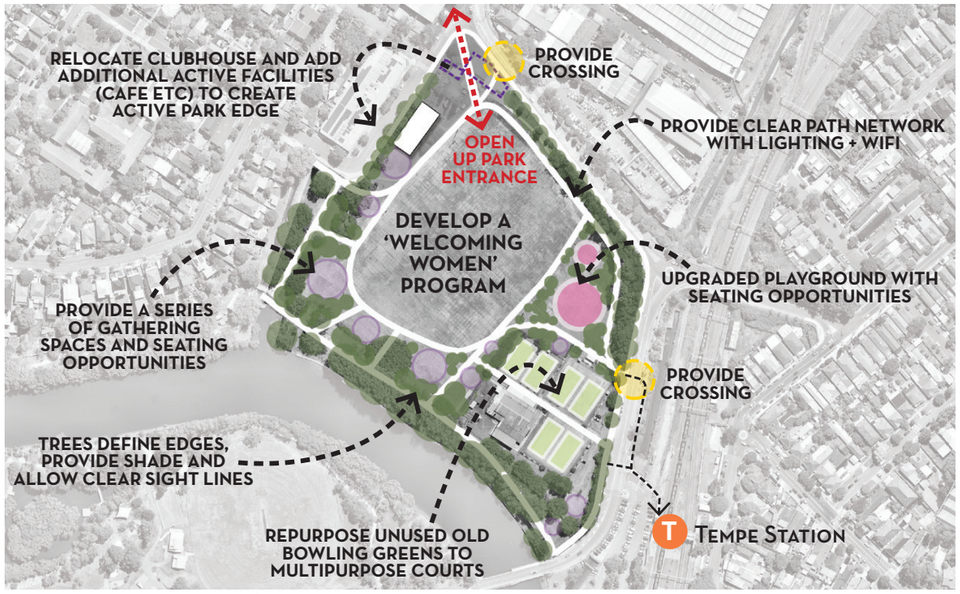
SAFE LINKS: Design new links that are safe and secure. prioritse lighting and good sight lines.

- Train Station
- Rail Line
- Parks
- Active Retail Frontages
- Schools

8A: Illawarra Rd: Expanded Footpaths, Seating and Street Trees

Above: Generous streets with lots of public seating provides space gathering and walking.

8B: Mackey Park: Design Considerations



Above: Holistic design of parks that embed design initiatives that welcome women and girls can improve overall park amenity.

(1) & (2) Providing paths with comfortable seating allows women and girls to feel comfortable. (3) A program of activities such as yoga classes for mothers can make parks more hospitable. (4) Providing facilities for different kinds of recreation can be appealing for women of all ages.

9. SHARING SPACE: DOGS & PEOPLE

Where should this be applied to?

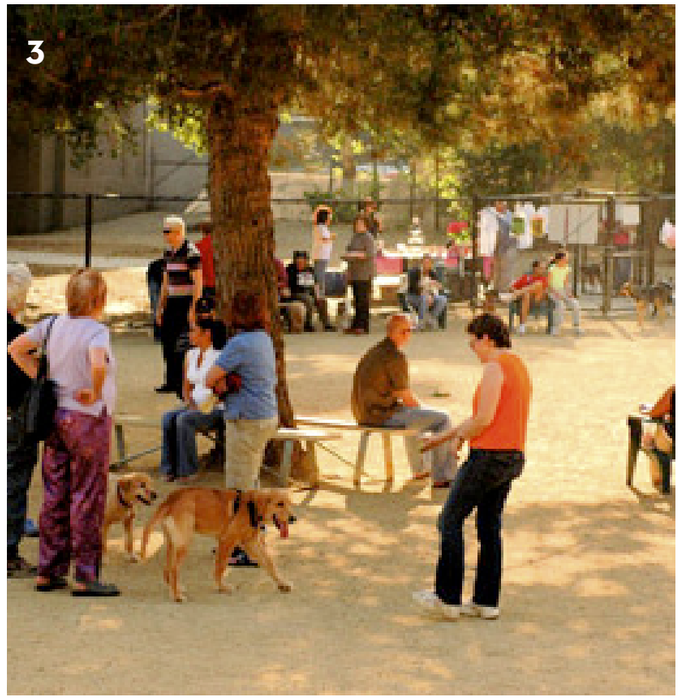
- All parks but the west of the LGA is a priority.

Why is this important?

- Dogs are an important part of people's lives, including lone person households, families, and people living in apartments. Walking with dogs is one of the most popular recreation activities in the LGA.
- To reduce conflicts between dogs and dog owners and other members of the public.
- To improve park use and safety.
- To provide opportunities for all residents to enjoy parks and public spaces.
- As density increases, more space is needed for dogs.

Design Considerations:

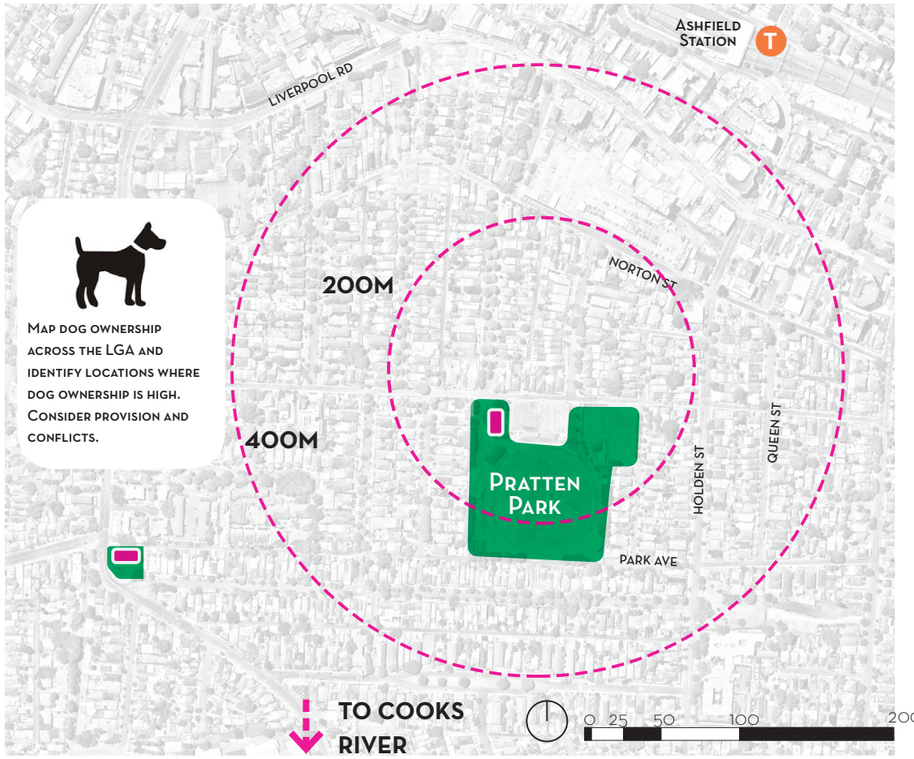
- Map dog ownership across the LGA and identify locations where there is dog ownership is high and consider provision and conflicts.
- In high density areas with limited public open space consider design of small dog parks within existing parks. Design with perimeter fencing with 2 gates (doggy airlock).
- Provide bin and bag dispensers, signage, and notice boards.
- Consider use of soft surfaces such as lawn, sand, gravel and mulch alongside paved paths.
- Provide fresh water including drinking fountains or interactive water feature where dogs can trigger jets with their paws.
- Consider plant selection and eliminate toxic plants.
- Design as comfortable spaces for dog owners with seating and planting.
- Consider providing activity elements such as climbing rocks, tunnels, ponds, or agility courses.
- Consider locating dog parks clear of activities that may cause potential conflict such as BMX tracks, ball play areas or unfenced children's playgrounds.
- Consider designing irregular spaces to provide more opportunities for dogs to get out of the main flow of traffic and take breaks.
- Design barrier planting and signage to designate that playgrounds are nearby (within 10m).



(1) Walking with dogs is in the top 10 most popular recreation activities in the LGA. (2) Water play for dog can provide a wider range of activities. (3) Dog parks within public parks are common in high density cities such as New York. (4) Agility play furniture for dogs can improve use. (5) Fenced spaces for dogs can limit conflicts with other park users.

9. SHARING SPACE: DOGS & PEOPLE

CASE STUDY: ASHFIELD



KEY

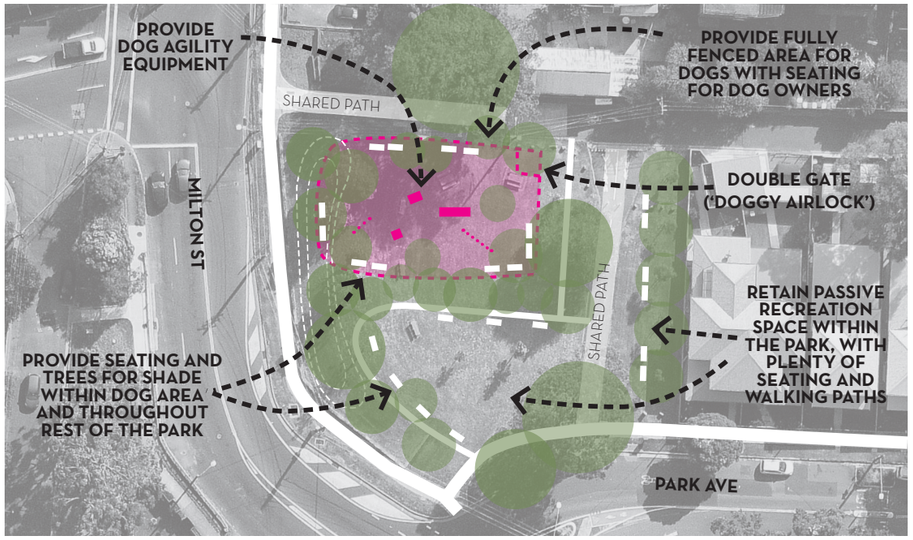
WALKING DISTANCE

DOG PARK: In high density locations consider providing small fenced dog parks within existing parks. Design with perimeter fencing with 2 gates (doggy airlock). Provide bin and bag dispensers, signage, and notice boards. Consider seating and shade as well as other facilities such as dog obstacle courses, fountains and ladders.

Train Station

Parks

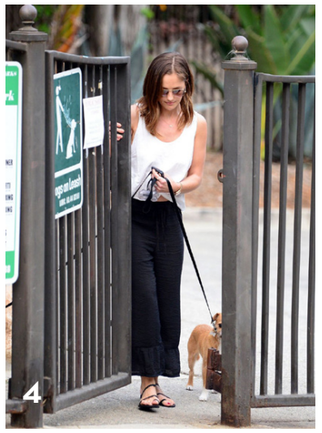
9A. FENCED SMALL DOG PARK: ASHFIELD (PLAN).



Above: Consider designing small fenced dog parks in high density locations. residents.

9A. FENCED SMALL DOG PARK: ASHFIELD (VIEW).

Above: Ensure parks are designed as multifunctional with capacity for passive recreation



(1) Water for play and drinking (2) & (3) Agility and obstacle courses for dogs can provide mental and physical stimulation
(4) Fencing and signage is important to manage conflicts.

10. EXPLORATORY PLAY, FREE PLAY

Where should this be applied to?

- Current and future medium and high-density areas of the inner west

Why is this important?

- Children have declining opportunities to participate in unsupervised and unstructured play, and declining access to risk taking, explorative, and messy play.
- Independent play is an important element in learning and growth.
- Children, particularly those living in urban areas and high density apartments, don't have back yards and natural areas for exploratory play.
- Nature and wild play is not only good for physical health, but also children's development cognitively, socially and emotionally. Playing outdoors independently grows resilience, self confidence, initiative and creativity.

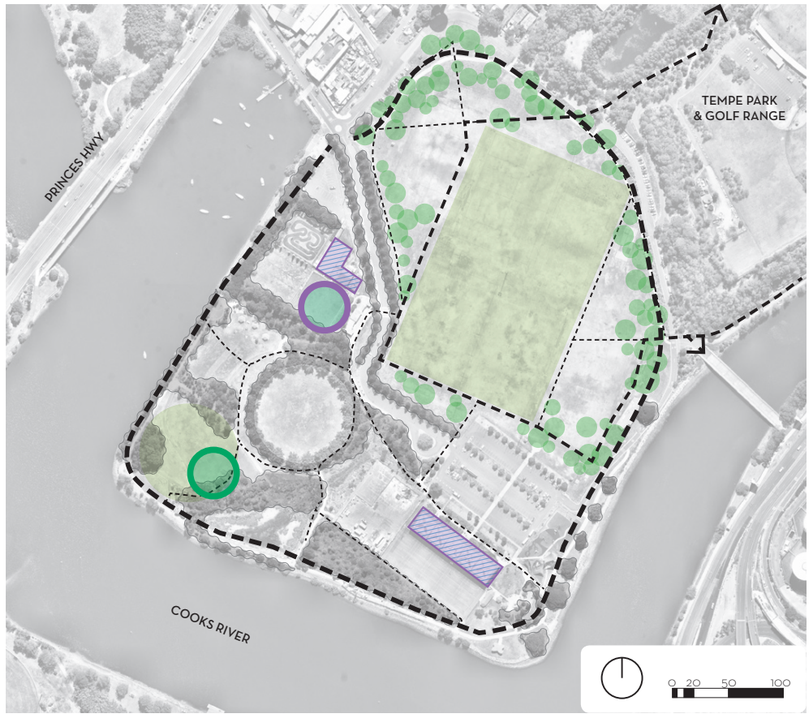
Design Considerations:

- Provide free play spaces in medium or large parks that provide a place for unstructured play that allows for freedom to be creative through defining areas and creating elements.
- Employ the international play yard model of supervision where staff manage general wellbeing but are not responsible to supervision of individual children. This could be paid staff or community volunteers.
- Create a defined boundary (preferably planting with gates and concealed fences).
- Provide loose natural objects, such as branches, rocks and sticks. Consider providing simple recycled materials such as old pots and pans or ropes.
- Provide simple structures and facilities for storage of provisions such as sheds and lockable boxes.
- Allow for 'mess'.
- Provide free building materials and tools and allow children to experiment. Provide lessons in tool use.
- Provide access to water, sandpits and mud. Allow space for children to dig, construct and create.
- Consider providing fire circles for eating lunch with friends and group activities
- Locate close to toilets and nappy changing facilities

(1) Natural elements such as sticks and branches can provide opportunities for children to build and define their own play spaces. (2) Timber off cuts and rope can facilitate exploration and enhance creative play. (3,4,5 and 6) Providing access to tools, coupled with simple how to classes can provide new opportunities to build skills and enjoy creating spaces.

10. EXPLORATORY PLAY, FREE PLAY

CASE STUDY: TEMPE RECREATION RESERVE



KEY

PATH NETWORK

TYPE 1: EXPLORATORY NATURE PLAY: provide space for exploratory play using natural elements such as sticks, rocks, etc

TYPE 2. : FREE PLAY; WORKSHOPS AND BUILDING : Provide capacity for free play associated with mulipurpose buildings/ shed with temporary equipment.

STORAGE IN DESTINATION COMMUNITY FACILITIES: design new multipurpose facilities with space to store free play elements.

10A. TYPE 1: EXPLORATORY NATURE PLAY: TEMPE RESERVE

Above: Provide dedicated space for informal and imaginative play using natural elements.

B. TYPE 2. : FREE PLAY; WORKSHOPS AND BUILDING: TEMPE RESERVE

Above: provide a supervised place for children to play with building and construction.

(1) Exploratory nature play at Mercer Island (2,3 and 4) Exploratory and free play using construction materials at Tokyo Play Yard.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 NATIONAL PARTICIPATION TRENDS

The Australian Sports Commission has been undertaking a continuous national population tracking survey since 2015 to determine which recreation activities (both sport and non-sport physical activities) Australians participate in. This data shows us the following trends.

A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week. The most popular physical recreation activities were recreational walking, fitness/gym, swimming, and athletics.

Over 88.9% of Australians over 15 participated in sport or other physical activities in the last 12 months and this figure is growing (87% for the previous year).

The activities that were the most popular physical activities for Australians in 2016-2017 were:

- Recreational walking (42.5% of the population)
- Fitness/gym (33.5%)
- Swimming (16.8%)
- Athletics (track and field plus jogging and running — 14.9%), and
- Cycling (9.8%).

Between 2015 and 2017 there was minimal change in the popularity of activities with the exception of swimming which grew slightly in popularity (2.3% more of the population engaged) and cycling which 1.9% less of the population engaged in.

59% of adults over 15 participated in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week and 15% of children 0-14 participated at least once a week. 14.8% of all adults (17% of men and 12.6% of women report that they do not participate in sporting or other physical activities.

TABLE 21 - CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL (AGED 0-14) (SOURCE: AUSPLAY NSW DATA TABLES JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017)

Top 10 Activities	Overall	Boys	Girls
Swimming	33.5% (477)	31.3% (219.7)	35.9% (257.4)
Football/soccer	21.7% (308.5)	33.9% (239.7)	9.6% (68.8)
Dancing (recreational)	10.9% (154.6)	2.7% (19.2)	18.9% (135.5)
Gymnastics	8.7% (123.9)	4.4% (31.3)	12.9% (92.6)
Netball	5.7% (81.2)	0% (0)	11.3% (81.2)
Athletics, track and fields (includes jogging and running)	5.1% (72.3)	4.8% (33.6)	5.4% (38.7)
Rugby League	4.4% (62.9)	7.9% (55.6)	1% (7.3)
Basketball	4.3% (60.8)	5% (35)	3.6% (25.7)
Tennis	4.2% (59.5)	5.2% (36.4)	3.2% 23.1)
Cricket	4.1% (58.6)	7.6% (53.4)	0.7% (5.2)

TABLE 22 - ADULT PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND NON-SPORT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Top 15 Activities	Overall	Men	Women
Walking (recreational)	42.5% (2,679.4)	33.4% (1036)	51.4% (1643.4)
Fitness/gym	33.5% (2,112.7)	30.9% 957.3)	36.1% (1155.5)
Swimming	16.8% (1,057.9)	15.2% (471.3)	18.3% (586.7)
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	14.9% (938.5)	16% (496.7)	13.8% (441.9)
Cycling	9.8% (619.4)	13.2% (410.2)	6.5% (209.2)
Football/soccer	7% (440.9)	11.2% (346.6)	2.9% (94.3)
Bush walking	6.4% (401.3)	7.3% (227.3)	5.4% (174)
Golf	5.5% (348.2)	9.2% (286.8)	1.9% (61.4)
Yoga	5% (317)	1.8% (55.9)	8.2% (261)
Tennis	5% (315.2)	5.7% (175.8)	4.4% (139.4)
Surfing	3.8% (238.9)	5.9% (184.4)	1.7% (54.5)
Basketball	2.9% (181.9)	4.1% (128.5)	1.7% (53.3)
Netball	2.5% (155.9)	0.5% (15.1)	4.4% (140.8)
Cricket	2.3% (147.6)	4.3% (132)	0.5% (15.6)
Pilates	2.1% (133.8)	0.2% (7.2)	4% (126.6)

A majority of Australian participate in non-sport related physical activity, and physical activity outside of formal sporting venues.

Over the age of 18, sporting clubs are not the main way Australians participate in physical activity. Of the 88.9% of adults that participate in physical activity, 20% participate in sport based activity only, 30.5% in non-sport related physical activity and 38.4% in both. This aligns with the fact that the most popular physical activities of walking, fitness and swimming tend to be more individualised activities. In 2015/16 55% of adults reported that they undertook some physical activity via an organisation / through a physical venue compared to 68.2% who undertook some activity not in a venue. A large 31.5% said they only participated in physical activity outside of formal sporting venues. The venues adults are likely to access for physical activities are fitness centres or gyms (28%), swimming pools (9.3%), golf courses(4.9%), football fields (5.4%) and yoga centres (3.7%). Children are most likely to use pools, football fields, gymnastics halls, and netball courts.

Declining participation as age increases

Adult participation in an organised sport is more likely to occur at younger ages and decreases as adults age. Children are more likely to participate in sporting clubs than adults are but boys tend to remain as sport participants as they move into adulthood.

The major motivation for participation in physical activities is for physical health and fitness, followed by fun and enjoyment, and social reasons.

The major motivations for participation in physical activities are for physical health and fitness (78.6% of respondents) and fun and enjoyment (45.8%) followed by social reasons. Reasons for participation has remained steady for both years of the survey. Participation for older adults 45+ is more likely to be for health and fitness reasons whereas for those between 15 and 17 participation is more likely to be for fun and enjoyment. Females were slightly more likely to participate because of health reasons (and to lose or maintain weight) than men (79.6% compared to 77.5%)and less likely to participate for fun and enjoyment (39.4% compared to 52.2%).

Not enough time, and poor health or injury, are the main barriers to participation.

The major barriers to participation in physical activities were not enough time or too many other commitments (37.1%) or poor health or injury (28.4%). As would be expected health and injury was the major reason for lack of participation in over 65 year olds (48.1%).

Participation by age

Over age, Australians are likely to decrease their participation in sport related activity (88% at 15 down to 37% at 65 and increase their participation in non-sport related activity (from 39% to 72%). Adults tend to report time pressure as a barrier to participating in physical activities around middle age. Whereas sporting clubs are the main way that children up to the age of 14 participate in sports, this is not true for adults above 18. By the age of 25 only 22% of adults are participating in sport via sporting clubs.

Children's participation

Children's participation in organised sport peaks at around the age of 9-11 and children are much more likely to participate in sporting activities as opposed to non-sport physical activity. 33.5% of children participate in swimming, 21.7% in football or soccer, 10.9% in recreational dancing, 8.7% in gymnastics and 5.7% in netball (organised participation outside of school hours). Although participation in swimming is fairly equal amongst girls and boys, 33.9% of boys play football or soccer compared to just 9.6% of girls. 11.3% of girls play netball and 18.9% participate in dancing.

Research from the Australian Sports Commission shows that active parents are more likely to have active children. 72% of children participate in organised sport or physical activity if their parent also does, compared to just 53% of children whose parents do not participate.

Women's participation

According to the Australian Sport's Commission Women and Girls Participation report, adult men and women participate in physical activity at similar levels across life stages . This contradicts the common false perception that women and girls are less active than boys and men. 82% of women participate in physical activities weekly, 63% participate 3 times a week and 41% participate 5 times a week. This translates to 4.2 hours of non-sport physical activities per week and 4.1 hours of sport per week. 81% of women over 15 participate in physical activities for health and fitness reasons – 21% of these to lose or maintain weight and 19% for psychological reasons. 16% participate to be outdoors and enjoy nature.

Women do participate less in organised sport and physical activity than men, especially in the childbearing years between 25 and 44. They participate more than men in non-sport related physical activity (For example 78 -79% % of women 25-44 participate in non-sport related physical activity compared to 56% of men, 84-85% of women 45-64 years do compared to 62-68% of men.)

The activities women are most likely to participate in are walking (especially in midlife – 45 -64) and to a lesser extent gym or fitness activities (especially from 18-34). Women's participated in sport drops dramatically after they leave school (85% between 15 and 17 years to 62% in 18-24 years old). Similarly participation in team sport drops. Whereas 65% of 15 year olds are likely to participate in team sports, only 17% of 25-34 year old women are. 26% of all women participate in physical activity 7 times or over per week and just over half of all women participate over 4 times per week.

Participation in culturally diverse communities

A 2006 survey conducted by the Australian Sports Commission shows that Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Australians have slightly higher levels of participation in organised physical activity but are less likely to do organised physical activity with a sport club. They are more likely to be involved with fitness, leisure or indoor sports centres, recreational clubs or community programs.

NSW participation trends

NSW residents participate in physical activity at the same frequency as those in the rest of Australia (88.9%). 80.5% of people in NSW engage in physical activity 1 or more times per week, 71% 2 or more times and 39% 5 or more times.

NSW residents participate in sport at the same frequency as those in the rest of Australia, (58% for NSW, 59% for Australia). The most popular club sports for NSW residents are Football, Golf, Tennis, Cricket and Netball. 79% of those in NSW participating in organised sport do so 1+ times a week, 69% - 2+ times and 58% 3+ times.

APPENDIX 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS BY PARK/FACILITY

PARKS

Parks	Working well	Improve
Algie Park		*User group survey* • Improved lighting and another light pole
Arlington Oval	*User group survey* • Playing surface	*School workshops* • People would like water bubblers.
Ashfield Park	*Survey* • Generally happy (3 comments) • Maintenance/ cleanliness (3 comments) • Playground (fenced, has a shade cloth) (2 comments)	*Survey* • Parking is increasingly difficult (2 comments) • Playground needs an update (2 comments) • Maintenance/cleanliness (including toilets/outdoor gym equipment) (3 comments) *User group survey* • Need for a new canteen block • Need for more angled parking *CALD focus groups* • Ashfield Park should be designed for safety to increase use by seniors • Better lighting in Ashfield town centre and along streets connected to Ashfield Park so that older people feel safe walking at night • The gym equipment in Ashfield Park is good, but need more of it • Need for a space for Tai Chi in Ashfield Park *School workshops* • People would like Ashfield Park to have more sports grounds (including tennis, basketball, cricket, pinpong tables), a swimming pool, more playground equipment (including for older children), more bubblers, picnic tables and water play
Balmain Road playing field		*User group survey* • Need for improved lighting • Need for improved surface conditions

Parks	Working well	Improve
Bay Run	*Survey* • Generally happy (36 comments) • Beautiful / scenic (36 comments) • Proximity/location (34 comments) • Separated paths (30 comments) • Long, continuous path (27 comments) • Path surfaces (22 comments) • Width of paths (21 comments) • Upgrades have been good (18 comments) *Community map (7 comments)* • Good for running, walking and cycling due to the long, continuous path and scenic environment • Good place for social connection • The upgrades to the pathways have been working well	*Survey* • Separation of and education around shared-use paths (40 comments) • Widening of paths (29 comments) • More shade (27 comments) • It is too busy (25 comments) • Improved lighting (19 comments • More trees /greenery (18 comments) • Reduce cyclists speeding on paths (16 comments) • More water bubblers (14 comments) • Improve signage and wayfinding (13 comments) • Path is confusing and uses swap sides (12 comments) • Better separation from the road (eg near Henley Marine Drive) (11 comments) • More public toilets (10 comments) *Community map (12 comments)* • Better lighting • Separation of shared-use paths • Wider lanes • More public toilets
Birchgrove Park	*User group survey* • Accessibility of the grounds and staff • Turf / synthetics quality • Booking process	*User group survey* • Upgrades to changing rooms and seating needed

Parks	Working well	Improve
Callan Park	*Survey* • Atmosphere (2 comment)	*Survey* • General upgrade and activation needed (including to buildings, gardens) (4 comments) • Amenities needed (including toilets, bins) (3 comments) *Community map (6 comments)* • Needs something going on/activation • Needs refurbishing (eg cricket pitch) • Public toilets should be closer to the playground • More fenced off leash dog parks *Staff workshops* • Callan Park presents a major opportunity for improved open space and open space uses for the LGA
Camperdown Park	*User group survey* • The new pavilion • The cricket grounds and wicket area • Playing surface • Lighting • Public transport	*User group survey* • Parking • Lack of control over when lights are turned on
Camperdown Memorial Rest Park	*Survey* • Atmosphere (3 comments) • Allowed to drink in the park (3 comments) • Dog-friendly (3 comments) • Shade (3 comments)	*Survey* • Needs public toilets (18 comments) • Needs recycling bns (11 comments) • Unsafe at night / needs better lighting (7 comments)
Centenary Park		*User group survey* • Separation of the soccer field and the cricket pitches. • Draining of the fields is not working well • More angled parking needed • More tall fencing needed on the Queen St side. • More lighting poles needed

Parks	Working well	Improve
Cooks River and Cooks River foreshore path	*Survey* • Generally happy (48 comments) • Natural environment (including trees, renaturalisation, revegetation of native plants) (32 comments) • Well-maintained and clean (25 comments) • Cycling facilities and infrastructure (23 comments) • Accessibility (17 comments) • Location/proximity (13 comments) • Long, continuous path (12 comments) • Atmosphere (11 comments) • Connectivity to many different parks (11 comments) • Shade (10 comments) • Varied scenery (10 comments)	*Survey* • Clean the river (eg improve water quality) so people can swim in it (24 comments) • Widening of paths (19 comments) • Separation of uses on paths (18 comments) • Improved waste management (eg litter control, more bins, more regular cleaning) (18 comments) • Improve connectivity (15 comments) • More trees / improved biodiversity (15 comments) • Improve lighting (14 comments) • Speeding cyclists (13 comments) • Naturalise the river edge (12 comments) • Improve signage and wayfinding (11 comments) • Improve the Canterbury Road underpass (10 comments) • More public toilets (10 comments) *CALD focus groups* • Better lighting on routes to the Cooks River. Some people walk to the river every day in Summer, but not in Winter as it is too dark *Community map (14 comments, 6 likes)* • Public toilets • Footpaths • Bike paths & racks • Clean the river so people can swim in it • Illawarra Road – Cooks River crossing is really hard. School kids and it is really busy but dangerous *School workshops* • People would like to be able to swim in the Cooks River. *Staff workshops* • The Cooks River could be improved and utilised for recreation. Are there opportunities for public canoeing/ rowing / sailing jetties / facilities? • Inclusive access to Cooks River is needed eg wheelchair accessible canoeing entry

Parks	Working well	Improve
Darrell Jackson Gardens	*Survey* • Maintenance/ cleanliness (3 comments) • Playground is good (2 comments)	*Survey* • Playground improvements (including shade, bigger / more natural playground) (3 comments)
Enmore Park		*Survey* • Improvements to the dog park (better lighting, access to water, better maintenance) (3 comments) • More grass needed (2 comments) *School workshops* • Drawings of Enmore Park would like to be able to go to the top of the Rocket, would like the cubby house to be bigger, a taller monkey bar, an ice-cream stand, a climbing wall, more space for sports like soccer and basketball courts, more shade and toilets.
Gladstone Park	*Survey* • Playground (2 comments)	*Survey* • Shade (2 comments) *Staff workshops* • Gladstone Park experiences high levels of pressure from overuse
Hawthorne Canal / Richard Murden Reserve	*Survey* • Generally happy (4 comments) • Pathways (2 comments) • Playground (2 comments) *User group survey* • Booking process / Council communication is working well • Lighting is great	*Survey* • Improved management of flooding (3 comments) • Waste management (too much rubbish) (2 comments) *Community map (5 comments)* • Improved lighting along bush paths • The dog park needs improved maintenance • Pollution of the canal water • Fix the basketball courts • Upgrade surface of netball courts • Playgrounds for older children *User group survey* • More parking needed • Too much traffic in the area • More courts needed

Parks	Working well	Improve
Henson Park	*User group survey* • All-weather availability	*User group survey* • Cost of hire of Henson park • Playing surface
HJ Mahoney Memorial Reserve	*User group survey* • Availability after rain / during winter season	*User group survey* • Fencing • Upgrades needed
Jarvie Park		*School workshops* • Young people would like to see bubblers, light, toilets, outdoor table tennis, and more basketball courts.
Johnson Park		*Survey* • Needs a dog off-leash section (3 comments)
King George Park	*User group survey* • Canteen is great • Booking and coordination with council staff is working well	*User group survey* • Dog excrement on the fields • Ground maintenance is not working well
Leichhardt Oval	*User group survey* • Lighting • Booking process • Playing surface	*User group survey* • Accessibility (ie LPAC gate is locked • Availability *School workshops* • People would like bigger, more comfortable grandstands for watching games; water bubblers; netted soccer goals; and public toilets.

Parks	Working well	Improve
Mackey Park	*User group survey* • Accessibility • Lighting	*Survey* • Cricket nets needed (3 comments) • Playground needs upgrading (2 comments) *User group surveys* • Playing surface is below standard *School workshops* • Drawings of Mackey Park depict more bubblers in the park, more sports equipment including cricket nets, soccer goal posts and nets, and a basketball court, more playground equipment (including a basket swing, trampoline, slides, a climbing wall, a merry go round, a spinning see-saw, a flying fox), more tables and seats under cover, a new skate park with a ramp and a bowl, a ping pong table, cycling and scootering paths.
Marrickville Croquet Club		*User group surveys* • Club house and lawns flood in heavy rain • Maintenance needed (eg lawns)

Parks	Working well	Improve
Marrickville Oval	*Survey* • Upgrades are working well (3 comments) • Proximity/location (3 comments) • Playground (2 comments) *Community map (7 comments)* • Great playground equipment • Well-maintained and clean • The rose garden is nice • The croquet lawn, tennis courts and oval work well	*Survey* • Needs more toilets / toilets are locked too early (3 comments) *Community map (9 comments)* • More BBQs and tables • Need for a fenced playground • More shade • Playground doesn't have equipment for bigger kids *User group surveys* • Lack of accessibility • Lack of storage • Poor lighting *Staff workshops* • Design should support shared use: for example, in Marrickville Park, the slide leads down to the path. Although dog walkers try not to take their dogs in the playground restriction area, its not possible to walk on the path and not be in the area
McNeilly Park		*CALD focus groups* • Stoves are broken *School workshops* • People would like McNeilly Park to have a bigger trampoline, a swimming pool, new playground equipment including a slide, a swing, see-saws, a spinner, a flying fox, and more shade. Young people would like to see better toilets, footy posts, and a volleyball court.
Mort Bay Park		*Survey* • Needs a toilet closer to the playground (4 comments) • Shade (2 comments)

Parks	Working well	Improve
Petersham Park	*Survey* • Generally happy (3 comments) *Community map (4 comments)* • Upgrades and footpath repairs • The dog off-leash area • Shade and shelter *User group surveys* • Council support via annual grant is appreciated • Canteen facilities / spectator facilities • Protective netting • Playing surface improvements	*Survey* • Shade needed at the playground (2 comments) • Improve amenities (include cleanliness of toilets) (2 comments) *User group surveys* • Facilities need to be upgraded
Pratten Park	*User group surveys* • Tennis courts: Playing surface is excellent, accessibility is great • Cricket: Playing surface, lighting, scoreboard, ground accessibility, parking is all very good • Cooperation / community spirit in the Pratten Park precinct (Soccer, Tennis, Bowling Club, Thirning Villa, Historical group, etc.) is working well	*CALD focus groups* • Pratten Park is not big enough for the area and very busy *User group surveys* • Lighting on tennis courts could be improved to accommodate night games for people who work during the day

Parks	Working well	Improve
Pioneers Memorial Park	*Community map (4 comments)* • Beautiful and relaxing • The outdoor gym equipment is working well • Events in the park are great	*School workshops* • Drawings of Pioneers Memorial Park depict cleaner public toilets that are closer to the playground; shelters with shade and seating; better play equipment with taller monkey bars for older children; basketball, netball and tennis courts; and a waterfall with flowers.
Steel park	*Survey* • Playground (3 comments) *User group survey* • Accessibility • Playing surfaces	*Survey* • Water pressure in the water play park (3 comments) *Community map (4 comments)* • Need space for unstructured, passive recreation in Steel Park • More facilities needed • The condition of the sports fields could be improved • Upgrades needed (general) *User group survey* • Poor lighting
Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus		*User group survey* • Lack of facilities • Field is not full-sized and only suitable for people under 15 years old
Tempe Reserve	*User group survey* • Playing surface upgrades *Staff workshops* • Tempe Dog park is successfully trialling sand instead of grass.	*Survey* • Improvements to playground (including shade) (4 comments) *User group survey* • Lack of storage • Poor lighting • Lack of maintenance at public toilets • Lack of hot water

Parks	Working well	Improve

Weekley Park		*Survey*
		• Increased amenities (including public toilets, water bubblers, bins) (3 comments)
		
		Community map (5 comments)
		• Better maintenance of the park overall, and specifically of:
		  ◦ Play equipment
		  ◦ Dog park, and
		  ◦ Stormwater / flooding damage.

Wicks Park	*Survey* • Proximity/location (3 comments) *User group survey* • Council is responsive to issues	*User group survey* • Surface / shelter upgrades needed • Lighting needs to be improved *CALD focus groups* • Good location for a hard surface with shelter for Tai Chi

AQUATIC CENTRES

Facility	Working well	Improve

Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre	*Survey*
	• General
	  ◦ Generally happy (23 comments)
	  ◦ Maintenance/ cleanliness (9 comments)
	  ◦ Proximity (7 comments)
	  ◦ Creche (4 comments)
	• Swimming pool:
	  ◦ Suitable for families and children (10 comments)
	  ◦ Classes (9 comments)
	  ◦ Heated pool (5 comments)
	• Gym:
	  ◦ Proximity (4 comments)
		Survey
		• General
		  ◦ Disability awareness training for staff
		  ◦ Parking (7 comments)
		• Swimming pool:
		  ◦ Overcrowding (13 comments)
		  ◦ Maintenance/cleanliness (9 comments)
		  ◦ More classes needed (including on the weekend) (6 comments)
		  ◦ Cost of entry / classes is prohibitive (5 comments)
		  ◦ Upgrade needed (5 comments)
		  ◦ More/better play equipment for children needed (4 comments)
		• Wellness centre:
		  ◦ Airconditioning needed (4 comments)
		  ◦ More classes needed (3 comments)
		Community map (8 comments)
		• Needs upgrade
		• Needs more lap lanes at peak hours
		• Needs better parking access
		• Needs more family-friendly water play features
		• Need for inclusive access (eg movable hoist for people with disability)
		• Cost
		School workshops
		• AKAC could be cleaner, with more slides, more lanes for children, a diving board, toys for in the pool, a bigger baby pool, children's section to be separated because it gets too crowded when adults come in the pool.

Facility	Working well	Improve
Ashfield Aquatic Centre	*Survey* • Proximity / location (11 comments) • Good swim school and classes (8 comments) • Friendly staff (8 comments) • Accessibility, including parking (5 comments) • Clean (4 comments)	*Survey* • Pool is run down / general upgrade needed (15 comments) • Play area / equipment needed for families (5 comments) • Less concrete and more grass/greenery needed (4 comments) • More shade needed (3 comments) *School workshops* • Ashfield Aquatic Centre is very small and could do with an upgrade *Peak bodies* • Need for lighting and spectator improvements *CALD focus groups* • Ashfield Park needs to be bigger, it is too full particularly during school holidays, and one whole pool is dominated by waterpolo. An indoor pool would be better

Facility	Working well	Improve
Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	*Survey* • Generally happy (10 comments) • Co-location with Petersham Park / playground (4 comments) • Family-friendly (4 comments) • The upgrades have been good (3 comments) • Maintenance/ cleanliness (3 comments) • Proximity/location (3 comments)	*Survey* • More shade needed, both for the pool and for the seating areas (6 comments) • Less concrete and more grass/greenery needed (4 comments) • The length of the pool is too short (4 comments) • Overcrowding (3 comments) *School workshops* • People would like Fanny Durack Aquatic to be cleaner, the seating to be more comfortable, more rubbish bins, and more water slides.
Dawn Fraser Baths	*Survey* • Atmosphere (unique, heritage) (6 comments) • Proximity/location (3 comments) • Well-maintained/ cleanliness of amenities (3 comments)	*Survey* • General upgrade needed (including changing rooms, toilets, paths) (9 comments) • Parking (4 comments) • Accessibility needs to be improved (eg path improvements, lift needed) • Limited opening hours (2 comments) • Improved maintenance (2 comments)

Facility	Working well	Improve

Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre & Gym	*Survey*
	• General
	  ◦ Generally happy (19 comments)
	  ◦ Proximity / location (10 comments)
	  ◦ Maintenance/ cleanliness (7 comments)
	• Swimming pool:
	  ◦ Classes and activities are working well (including aquarobics, learn to swim) (13 comments)
	  ◦ Upgrades have been good (6 comments)
	• Gym:
	  ◦ Well equipped (3 comments)
	  ◦ Friendly/helpful staff (3 comments)
	
	Community map (7 comments)
	• Well-managed and well-maintained
	• Classes are working well
	• Good place for social connection.
		Survey
		• General
		  ◦ Parking (14 comments)
		  ◦ Improved public transport links needed (4 comments)
		  ◦ Overcrowding (4 comments)
		• Swimming pool:
		  ◦ Cost of entry / classes is prohibitive (including for families (8 comments)
		  ◦ Shade needed (4 comments)
		• Gym:
		  ◦ More classes needed (including Strong Seniors classes) (3 comments)
		
		Community map (5 comments)
		• Availability of parking
		• Condition of car park
		• Not affordable
		• The outdoor gym equip-ment is difficult to use
		• Playground doesn't have equipment for bigger kids
		
		School workshops
		• Drawings of Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre depict water slides; later opening hours; pool toys and balls to play with and a less noisy environment.
		
		Staff workshops
		• There is a need for improved connectivity between LPAC and the surrounding ovals and the Bay Run.

INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES/HALLS

Indoor recreation centres	Working well	Improve
Addison Road Community Centre	*Survey* • Cost (2 comments)	*Survey* • Upgrades needed (toilet maintenance, roof leaking)
Balmain Town Hall	*Survey* • Easy to get there (public transport and parking) (2 comments) *User group surveys* • Booking process and customer service are great • Location and accessibility is working well	*User group surveys* • Lighting needs improvement • Air conditioning / heating system could be improved • Need for toilet amenities
Clontarf Cottage	*User group surveys* • Booking and maintenance is working well.	
Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre (Marrickville PCYC)	*Survey* • Location / proximity (8 comments) • Friendly staff (5 comments) • Accessible (parking) (5 comments) • Generally happy (3 comments) • Cost (3 comments) • Size (3 comments)	*Survey* • More activities for young people (including holiday care) (3 comments) • Bring back the cafe (3 comments) • Upgrade needed (2 comments) • More ventilation or airconditioning • Parking (2 comments) *User group survey* • (Communication around) hiring is not working well
Hannaford Centre	*Survey* • Clean (2 comments) *User group survey* • Booking and availability • Generally happy	*User group survey* • Lack of storage space
Herb Greedy Hall	*Survey* • Atmosphere (community feel) (3 comments) • Heritage character (2 comments) • Clean (2 comments)	*Survey* • Upgrades needed (sound system, blinds, locking system)
Marrickville Town Hall	*Survey* • Well set up for range of activities (2 comments)	*Survey* • Airconditioning / fans (2 comments)
Robyn Webster Centre	*Survey* • Location (2 comments) • Allows Roller Derby (2 comments	*Survey* • Surface improvements needed (including for Roller Derby) (2 comments)

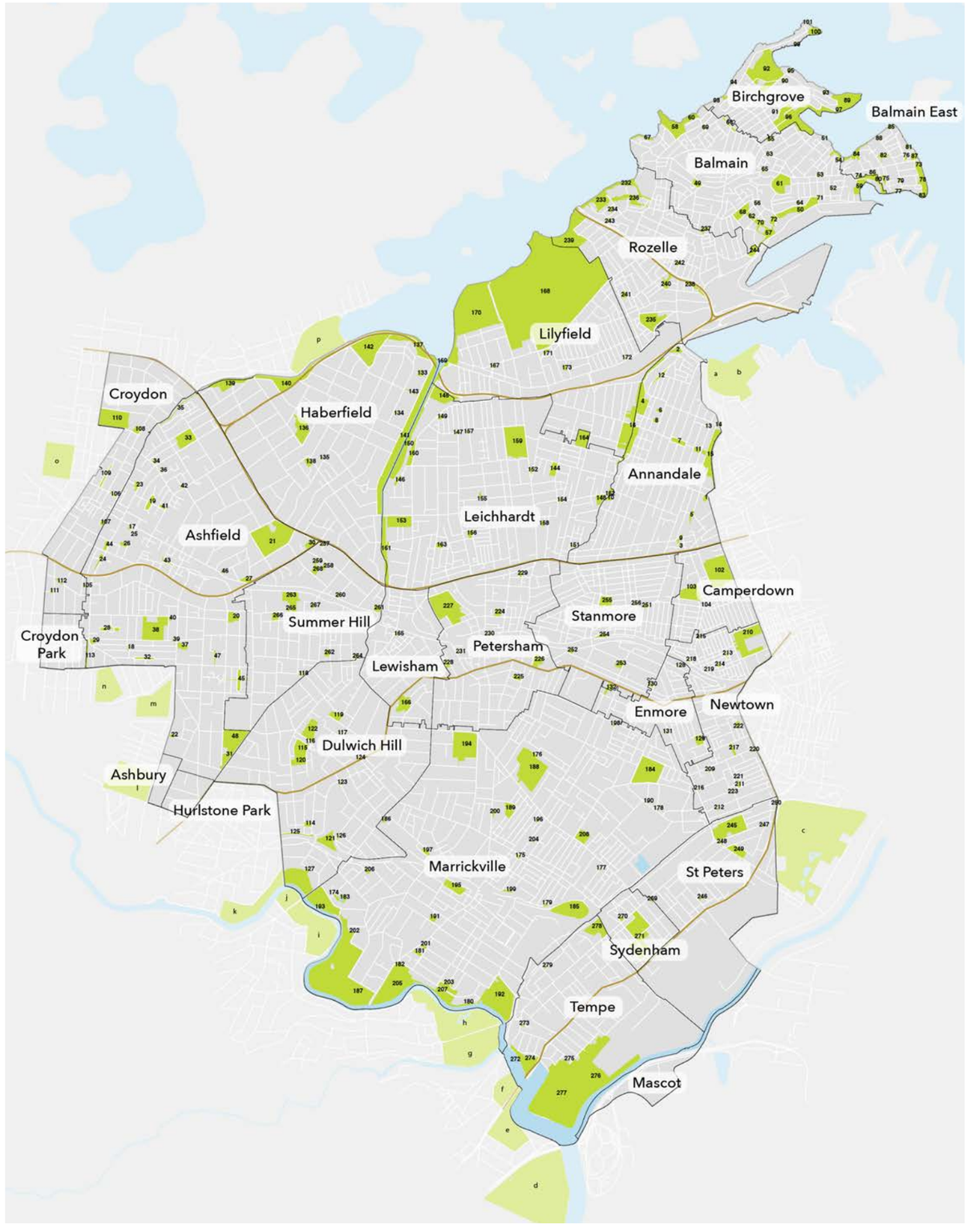
TENNIS COURTS

Tennis Courts	Working well	Improve
Birchgrove Park tennis courts	*Survey* • Generally happy (2 comments) • Proximity/location (2 comments) • Ease of booking (2 comments)	
Cohen Park tennis courts	*Survey* • Generally happy (4 comments) • Maintenance/ cleanliness (1 comment) • Lighting (2 comments) • New (2 comments) • Availability (2 comments)	*Survey* • Could do with some shade (1 comment) • Needs guidelines around how long you can use them (1 comment)
Hawthorne Park tennis courts	*Survey* • Free (5 comments)	*Survey* • Not always available / busy (2 comments) • Flooding of courts (1 comment) • Sometimes rubbish is left (1 comment)
Marrickville Park tennis courts	*Survey* • Generally happy (1 comment)	*Survey* • Hard to book (1 comment)
Pratten Park tennis courts	*User group surveys* • Playing surface • Accessibility	*User group surveys* • Lighting on tennis courts could be improved to accommodate night games for people who work during the day
Punch Park tennis courts	*Survey* • Availability (2 comments) • Good	*Survey* • Booking system isn't practical / it is hard to get a court (2 comments)

SKATE PARKS

Skate parks	Working well	Improve
Annandale mini ramp	*Survey* • Atmosphere (3 comments) • Accessible to all ages and abilities (3 comments) • Proximity/location (2 comments)	*Survey* • Upgrade needed (in consultation with users) (4 comments) • Needs to be bigger (2 comments) • Maintenance/cleanliness (2 comments) • Environment for girls and women (1 comments)
Dulwich Hill Skate Park	*Survey* • Generally happy (7 comments) • Accessible to all ages and abilities (7 comments) • Atmosphere (5 comments) • Location (5 comments) • Maintenance/ cleanliness (3 comments)	*Survey* • Shade needed (5 comments) • Upgrade needed (in consultation with users) (4 comments) • Cleanliness of public toilets (4 comments) • More obstacles needed (3 comments) • Would be good to have classes / spaces for beginners / Some conflict between different age groups / ability levels (3 comments) • Environment for girls and women (2 comments)
Summer Hill Skate Park	*Survey* • Accessible to all ages and abilities (9 comments) • Generally happy (6 comments) • Atmosphere (5 comments) • Design of skate ramps (4 comments) • Maintenance/ cleanliness (3 comments)	*Survey* • Maintenance/cleanliness (5 comments) • Upgrade needed (in consultation with users) (4 comments) • Cleanliness of public toilets (4 comments) • More seating (3 comments) • Environment for girls and women (1 comments)
Sydenham Green Skate Park (opened after community engagegment was completed)	*Survey* • Happy that a new facility is being built (1 comment)	• No comments recieved

APPENDIX 3 PARKS IN THE INNER WEST COUNCIL AREA AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS



1	Badu Park
2	Buruwan Park
3	Cahill Street Playground
4	Cohen Park
5	Douglas Grant Memorial Park
6	Gray Street Reserve
7	Hinsby Park
8	Hudson Street Reserve
9	Mathieson Street Reserve
10	Mayes Street Reserve
11	Piper Street Reserve
12	Pritchard Street Reserve
13	Rose Lane Reserve
14	Rose Street Reserve
15	Smith Hogan Spindlers Park
16	Whites Creek Valley Park
17	132a Elizabeth Street Reserve
18	88 Park Avenue
19	Albert Parade Reserve
20	Allman Park
21	Ashfield Park
22	Ashford Street Reserve
23	Banks Street Reserve
24	Beatrice Street Reserve
25	Benalla Avenue Reserve
26	Bill Peters Reserve
27	Bruce Street Reserve
28	Brunswick Parade Reserve
29	Cecile Herman Park
30	Explorers Park
31	Gough Reserve
32	Graham Reserve
33	Hammond Park
34	J G Mccartney Reserve
35	John Pope Reserve
36	John Street Reserve
37	Lewis Herman Reserve
38	Pratten Park
39	Robert St Reserve
40	Rose St Playground Reserve
41	Rotary Park
42	Taringa Street Reserve
43	The Esplanade Reserve
44	Thomas Street Reserve
45	Victoria St Reserve
46	Wallace St Reserve
47	William Street Reserve
48	Yeo Park
49	Ann Cashman Reserve
50	Birrung Park
51	Campbell Street Reserve
52	Clontarf Cottage
53	Colgate Avenue Reserve
54	Colgate Reserve
55	College Street Playground
56	Dick Street Reserve
57	Dockside
58	Elkington Park
59	Ewenton Park
60	Fitzroy Avenue Reserve
61	Gladstone Park
62	Hyam Street Reserve
63	Issy Wyner Reserve
64	Jane Street Reserve
65	Loyalty Square
66	Macquarie Terrace
67	Paringa Reserve
68	Punch Park
69	Punch Street Reserve
70	Somerset Mews
71	Stephen Street Reserve
72	Vanardi Green
73	2-8 Weston Street
74	Broadside Street Reserve
75	Datchett Street Reserve
76	Gallimore Reserve
77	Hoskins Street Reserve
78	Illoura Reserve
79	Johnston Street Reserve
80	Jubillee Place (Water Police) Park
81	Lookes Avenue Reserve
82	Origlass Park
83	Peacock Point
84	Propeller Park
85	Simmons Point Reserve
86	Ternan Street Reserve
87	Thornton Park
88	Zig Zag Reserve
89	Ballast Point Park - Walama
90	Ballast Point Reserve
91	Bay Street Reserve
92	Birchgrove Park
93	Brownlee Reserve
94	Cove Street Reserve
95	Miklouho Maclay Park
96	Mort Bay Park
97	Ronald Street Reserve
98	Water Street Reserve
99	Yerroulbin Street Reserve
100	Yurulbin Park
101	Yurulbin Point Reserve
102	Camperdown Park
103	O'dea Reserve
104	Peter Cotter Reserve
105	10 Lion Street Reserve
106	Anthony Street Reserve
107	Bailey Park
108	Bede Spillane Gardens Reserve
109	Bridges Reserve
110	Centenary Sportsground Reserve
111	Mills St Reserve
112	Sutherland Reserve
113	Watson Ave Reserve
114	Allison Playground
115	Arlington Oval
116	Constitution Reserve
117	Denison Playground
118	Herbert St Reserve
119	Hoskins Park
120	J.F. Laxton Reserve
121	Jack Shanahan Park
122	Johnson Park
123	Kintore Street Closure
124	Mallam Reserve
125	Parade Playground
126	Rowe Playground
127	Tennyson Street Reserve
128	Bugler Playground
129	Enmore Tafe Park
130	Eve Sharpe Reserve
131	Francis Street Playground
132	Ryan Park
133	284 Hawthorne Parade Reserve
134	7 Tillock Street Reserve
135	78-80 Dalhousie Street Reserve
136	Algie Park
137	Dobroyd Parade Reserve
138	Federation Plaza Reserve
139	Jegarow Reserve
140	Reg Cody Reserve
141	Richard Murden Reserve
142	Robson Park
143	Tillock Street Reserve
144	36th Battalion Park
145	Blackmore Park
146	Darley Road Reserve
147	Elswick Street Reserve
148	Evan Jones Playground
149	Falls Street Reserve
150	Hawthorne Canal Reserve
151	Hearn Street Reserve
152	Ibrox Park
153	Lambert Park
154	Leichhardt Street Reserve
155	Marlborough Street Playground
156	Marr Reserve
157	North Street Playground
158	Pine Square Reserve
159	Pioneers Memorial Park
160	Shields Playground
161	SRA Lease
162	Styles Street Reserve
163	Wangal Nura Park
164	War Memorial Park
165	Jubilee Street Reserve
166	Morton Park
167	Atkins Square
168	Callan Park
169	Canal Road Reserve
170	Leichhardt Park
171	Orange Grove Plaza
172	Ryan Street Reserve
173	Trevor Street Reserve
174	A.b. Crofts Playground
175	Alex Trevallion Plaza
176	Amy Street Playground
177	Barclay Street Reserve
178	Bourne Street Closure
179	Braddock Playground
180	Cooks River Foreshore
181	Day Street Reserve
182	Debbie And Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre
183	Dibble Avenue Waterhole
184	Enmore Park
185	Fraser Park
186	Gilbert Barry Reserve
187	H.j. Mahoney Memorial Reserve
188	Henson Park
189	Jarvie Park
190	Leicester Street Closure
191	Louisa Lawson Reserve
192	Mackey Park
193	Marrickville Golf Course
194	Marrickville Park
195	McNeilly Park
196	Murdoch Playground
197	Ness Park
198	Newington Rd Playground
199	O'hara Street Playground
200	Petersham Rest Area
201	Premier Street Reserve
202	Princes Street Playground
203	Richardson Lookout
204	Silver Street Playground

205	Steel Park
206	Tom Kenny Reserve
207	Warren Park
208	Wicks Park
209	Alice Street Playground
210	Camperdown Memorial Rest Park
211	Collyer Playground
212	Darley Street Playground
213	Fleming Playground
214	Garavel Playground
215	George Smith Playground
216	Laura Street Closure
217	Matt Hogan Reserve
218	Norton Russel Playground
219	Oxford Street Reserve
220	Peace Reserve
221	Pearl Street Playground
222	Salmon Playground
223	Wells Street Closure
224	Brighton Street Park
225	Marr Playground
226	Maundrell Park
227	Petersham Park
228	Petersham Public School
229	Quinn Playground
230	Terminus Street Reserve
231	Trafalger Street Reserve
232	Balmain Cove
233	Bridgewater Park
234	Dickson Green
235	Easton Park
236	Elliott Park
237	Goodsir Street Reserve
238	Hannan Reserve
239	King George Park
240	O'Connor Reserve
241	Rozelle Common
242	Stimson Reserve
243	Terry Street Park
244	Waterdale Reserve
245	Camdenville Park

246	Mary Street Playground
247	May Street Playground
248	May Street Reserve
249	Simpson Park
250	St Peters Plaza
251	Bain Playground
252	Crammond Park
253	Montague Gardens
254	Stanmore Reserve
255	Weekley Park
256	Whitely Reserve
257	4 Liverpool Road Reserve
258	64 Kensington Road Reserve
259	78 Kensington Road Reserve
260	Bogan Street Reserve
261	Cadigal Reserve
262	Carrington Street Playground
263	D J Gardens
264	Edward St Reserve
265	Eora Gardens
266	John Paton Reserve
267	Summer Hill Plaza Car Park
268	Underwood Reserve
269	Francis Playground
270	Memory Reserve
271	Sydenham Green
272	Fatima Island
273	Green Street Playground
274	Kendrick Park
275	Station Street Reserve
276	Tempe Lands
277	Tempe Reserve
278	Tillman Park
279	Toyer Street Reserve

Parks in neighbouring council areas

a	Glebe Foreshore Parks (City of Sydney)
b	Jubilee Park (City of Sydney)
c	Sydney Park (City of Sydney)
d	Kogarah Golf Course (Bayside Council)
e	Cahill Park (Bayside COuncil)
f	Discovery Park (Bayside Council)
g	Waterworth Park (City of Canterbury Bankstown)
h	Gough Whitlam Park (City of Canterbury Bankstown)
i	Wanstead Reserve
j	Beaman Park
k	Wills Ground
j	Ewen Park
l	Blick Oval
m	Peace Park
n	W H Wagener Oval
o	??
p	Timbrell Reserve (City of Canada Bay)