

Parks and Recreation

Recreation strategy

# An active and connected Inner West

## Forward

Endorsed in 2018, Council’s recreation needs study *A healthier Inner West* 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. Importantly the study highlights that physical activity, leisure and sport are critical elements in promoting good health and community well-being. The study provides evidence base that informs the development of this strategy.

An active and healthy life provides for improved quality of life supporting and promoting health benefits as well as well as mental well-being and community cohesion. Being physically active and involved in sport and programs which support recreation can also reduce social exclusion and isolation.

Inner West Council is committed to ensuring that the opportunity to be active within our community is more accessible and inclusive than ever before. Following on from the endorsement of the recreation needs study, Council has developed a draft Recreation strategy. This strategy has a key aim of tackling the problems associated with inactivity and has an integrated approach to encouraging active lives through partnerships with schools, evidence based recreation infrastructure and community based strategic planning. Strategic planning which is focussed on excellence in design and place making. In addition, the strategy is committed to encouraging recreation across the age spectrum and ensuring residents and key workers have access to quality open space. Open space which is inclusive, offers a diverse range of affordable recreational opportunities, is linked to green spaces and connects communities.

This strategy provides the strategic direction for the next ten years and importantly includes measurable and defined outcomes which provide direction to Council on key deliverables for activating Our Inner West 2036 – Community Strategic Plan (CSP). At the end of a ten-year period this strategy will be reviewed to assess key achievements and evaluate challenges moving forward. Council is acutely aware of the challenges which lie ahead in terms maintaining an active community and promoting and providing for sport and recreation at the local level. Changes in population growth, the need for improved open space provision, changes in recreation trends, neighbourhood connectivity as well as an assessment of local community recreation needs are all key indicators which will provide for future measurable outcomes in the health and wellbeing of Our Inner West 2036 (CSP).

## Key themes

## An active and connected Inner West

Three main themes have been developed to support this strategy. These themes which are centred around a central objective of encouraging, promoting and providing for recreation experiences have been developed to direct this recreation strategy.

These three themes recognise that the community at large require diversity in recreation provision and that residents and visitors to our Local Government Area (LGA) have different skills, abilities and preferences for keeping healthy, active and connected.

**These three strategic themes are:**

1. An active Inner West - activating + enabling a healthy caring and connected Inner West
2. Active lives - promoting and facilitating opportunities and developing partnerships for a diverse range of indoor and outdoor recreation experiences
3. Active neighbourhoods - promoting social connections and providing a diverse range of opportunities for recreation, leisure and neighbourhood cohesion

With the adoption of this strategy Inner West Council will continue to advocate, plan and work in partnership to drive forward a program of works which support and deliver An Active Inner West.

### **How will the strategy be delivered and what has been delivered to date?**

The Inner West Recreation strategy “An active Inner West” will be delivered by Council’s Sport and Recreation Division with overall responsibility sitting within the Parks Planning, Community Recreation and Engagement Team. This team is primarily focussed on delivering excellence in customer service, strategic recreation planning, place making, open space planning infrastructure investment and improvements in the utilisation of existing parks and open space areas. The Parks Planning, Community Recreation and Engagement Team will work collaboratively with teams across Council to deliver this strategy.

It is important to recognise that Council is already investing significantly in the development of improved recreation services and facilities as well as investing in partnerships and future open space provision.

**Key highlights include:**

* Investing a record $44.7 million in an integrated suite of staffing, aquatic and leisure facilities to deliver a diverse suite of community-based aquatic and fitness facilities and programs. Significantly, this investment will deliver the new Ashfield Aquatic and Leisure Centre due to open in October 2020.
* Investing $7.7 million dollars annually in open space management and maintenance. Committing to $104 million dollars in funding in 2020-2021 for park capital infrastructure improvement projects to support and promote community wellbeing and outdoor recreation.
* Investing in the provision of new synthetic surfaces to improve sporting capability at Tempe Recreation Reserve and exploring opportunities for additional synthetic surfaces within Inner West LGA through consultation with key stakeholders and developing investment partnerships with future users. Works to commence in late 2020.
* Formed the Inner West Sporting Forum which consists of 48 local clubs and eight major sporting associations which meets a minimum of twice yearly to address local club needs with respect to sporting and recreation needs and access to sporting facilities.
* Investing in the development of park plans of management and Master Plans for 45 major parks with a key emphasis on community engagement and Master Planning park improvements over a ten-year period which are reflective of local community needs.
* Commenced the development of a play strategy for Inner West *Everyone Can Play* with a key emphasis on inclusiveness and diversity in play experiences across the age spectrum.
* Supporting community and neighbourhood events within parks and community spaces, including the Annual Bay Run, Back to Balmain, Norton Street Festa, Marrickville Festival and localised neighbourhood events which promote neighbourhood connections and encourage outdoor play. The first neighbourhood event, “Our Street” was held in 2020 in Cary Street Leichhardt with 80 local residents in attendance.
* Developed and adopted a Sporting Ground Allocations policy which focusses on transparency and equity in seasonal sporting ground allocations for local sporting clubs.
* Collaborating with the NSW Government to ensure that the community is provided with 10 hectares of quality and accessible open space within the former Rozelle Good Yards.
* Commenced development of plans of management and Master Plans for 59 specific individual parks and 210 neighborhood and pocket parks.
* Actively managing 189 Watercraft permits with a waiting list of 70 applicants.
* Delivering nine weekly community recreation activities, with another 11 activities delivered weekly by Council’s partners.
* In 2020 Funding $32,000 worth of community recreation grants.

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| **Theme 1** | **An active Inner West**  | **Activating + enabling a healthy, caring and connected Inner West** |
| **No.** | **Priority** | **Actions/initiative** |
| 1.0 | Increasing open space supply in areas deficient in open space | Increase the supply of publicly accessible open space in suburbs currently providing below the LGA wide minimum benchmark (13.3m2 per person). A special emphasis will be placed on increasing publicly accessible open space in the following four areas: 1. Enmore (currently at 1.2%)
2. Stanmore (currently at 2.0%)
3. Lewisham (currently at 3.8%)
4. Dulwich Hill (currently at 4.5%)

Council will actively seek to increase supply through new spaces on rooftops, carparks, street upgrades, laneways and through partnerships with developers, schools and state government agencies. Where acquisition is affordable this will also be a considered option. Recognising that some operational land can offer recreational value, Council will investigate supplementing existing open space using operational land where available and appropriate for improved and increased recreation opportunities.Where suburbs cannot be provided with adequate open space Council should consider reviewing the public domain and plan for improvements which include key considerations such as:* street trees
* play elements
* skate elements
* rest stops
* social street furniture
* universal design
* traffic calming and limited speed areas e.g. 40km speed zones

Through the development of a new Development and Control Plan (DCP) an emphasis will be placed on increasing opportunities for open space in the top four deficient areas of the Inner West Local Government Area. This will include a key future strategic aim that 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. Council will also set a benchmark of 13.3m2 of high quality new public open space per person to be provided within future Master Planned development sites and major projects in order to maintain existing supply per person of open space. Where it is not possible to provide this amount of open space onsite, a financial contribution toward the gap will be required to deliver additional open space off site or improve the quality and capacity of existing open space where appropriate. As part of the development of Council’s DCP, 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. The Local Environmental Plan (LEP) will also promote a planning principle that where possible 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. Council will also develop best practice principles for use with developers for the delivery of open space within future medium to high density redevelopments including:* Locating new local and district parks on the edge of the development site so they are accessible to the broader community.
* 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.
* Best practice trends in shared and multipurpose spaces.

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.**Key measurable outcomes**Council will develop and adopt a new DCP with key open space objectives and best practise principles by 2023.Council will increase open space provision either through the acquisition of new open space or through external partnership arrangements in the top four identified ward areas by 2031.  |
| 1.1 | Child Safe facilities and services | Child Safe StandardsCouncil manages several community facilities and services in the open space and recreation remit. This includes parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, indoor sports facilities, sporting grounds and skate parks. Council recognises that it has a legal obligation to ensure that Council provides a safe environment for children and young people whilst on Council premises and utilising Council services. Council will develop an overarching Child Protection policy and procedures which will mandate the professional and legal obligations of Council staff in relation to child protection and ensure that staff are fully trained in ensuring that Council provides a safe environment for children and young people whilst on Council premises and utilising Council services. This policy will be based on the Office of the Children’s Guardian’s *Principles for Child-Safe Organisations (2017)* and the *Royal Commission Final Report Recommendations (2017)* relevant to Local Government including the *Child Safe Standards*. Council will also implement procedures and requirements for working with children in the sporting community for both volunteers, contractors, service providers and develop key requirements around sporting and facility hire which will promote the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people. **Key measurable outcomes**Council will develop an overarching Child Protection policy by second quarter of 2021. This policy will include specific recommendations pertaining to improving the safety of children and young people using Council parks and recreation facilities. As part of its Allocations policy review in 2020 Council will develop key requirements for all volunteers and contractors wishing to deliver sport and recreation services.  |
| 1.2 | Enabling success: strategic service alignment | Council will undertake a strategic service alignment of its Parks and Recreation Unit to ensure the key strategic outcomes of the recreation strategy can be delivered by reviewing key deliverables with the aim of improving performance, removing duplication and aligning key deliverables adopted by Council. This review will also have the aim of ensuring that the right skills and resources are in place to deliver the strategy.**Key measurable outcomes**A strategic alignment of the Parks and Recreation Unit will be completed within six months after the adoption of the Recreation strategy.  |
| **Theme 2** | **Active lives**  | **Promoting, facilitating opportunities and developing partnerships for a diverse range of indoor/outdoor recreation experiences, creating new spaces and maintaining quality open space** |
| 2.0 | Rozelle Parkland vision | Council will work in partnership to assist the NSW Government with the planning and design of the new 10 hectare Rozelle Parkland and actively lobby the NSW Government to secure Rozelle Goods Yard as a future open space which will include:* An indigenous name which will acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and support Council’s efforts to promote reconciliation and the cultural identity of our local area.
* A wetland environment which will support ecology and biodiversity.
* 500 trees to provide shade, amenity and habitat
* A multi-purpose sporting ground that meets the needs of Little Athletics, hockey, and other sports.
* Community facilities to provide for cultural and community needs.
* Heritage and artistic interpretation.
* An accessible and well lit path network which will link with key facilities and the outer public domain.

**Key measurable outcomes**The new Rozelle Parkland will be opened for community use by 2025 with the key deliverables above secured.  |
| 2.1 | Iron Cove Bay Run Master Plan and improving safety on shared paths | In partnership with Canada Bay Council, Inner West Council will develop a Master Plan for the Iron Cove Bay Run which will focus on connectivity, accessibility, identification of missing gaps, consistency in signage and wayfinding. The Master Planning project will also identify the opportunities and constraints associated with use and enjoyment of the Bay Run including event planning and addressing recreational conflict. Future marketing of the Bay Run as a regional recreation trail will also be a key consideration. Through plans of management Council will improve safety on shared paths through design and signage improvements and community education programs, for the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path, and future GreenWay paths.**Key measurable outcomes**A joint draft Master Plan for the Iron Cove Bay Run will be prepared and developed in 2023 for public exhibition. Parks plans of management will include a key focus on improving shared path safety through embedding of safety by design standards.  |
| 2.2 | Delivering state and local priority greenspace and cycling projects  | Council will work independently and with partner organisations such as the Greater Sydney Commission to deliver key state and local priority greenspace projects including: * Implementing the GreenWay Master Plan.
* Implementing the Inner West green grid projects.
* Linkages and connections to Sydney Harbourincluding extension of the Tom Uren Trail and opening up Whites Bay to community access.
* 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.
* Partnering with the Department of Planning for the development of a Master Plan for Callan Park.
* Lilyfield Road cycleway.
* Provide an off-road cycle path on Illawarra Road.
* Improved cycleways through major urban renewal projects including the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal, Bays Precinct and the Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor.
* Alexandria Canal Master Plan.

**Key measurable outcomes**Council will consider a report on key state and local greenspace priorities in 2021 with key recommendations on priority partnerships and actions.  |
| 2.2 | Share our space-opportunities  | *Share Our Space*Council will review and renew the current license agreement with the Department of Education for community sporting access to Leichhardt Secondary College (Leichhardt Campus) for shared access to open space for community sporting use. Council will investigate feasibility of share spaces for upgraded sports fields or play space at Fort Street High School, Marrickville High School, and Wilkins Primary School. Council will renew the license agreement with the Department of Education at Graham Green. Council will enter into a license agreement with the Department of education to secure long-term open space access at Yeo Park. **Key measurable outcomes**Feasibility reports for Council consideration on *Share our Space* Opportunities completed by 2023.Yeo Park License agreement will be finalised and signed with the Department of Education by second quarter of 2021. |
| 2.3 | Rationalising sporting grounds, reassessing sporting competition opportunities and fair and equitable allocation | In consultation with local sporting clubs, Council will undertake a strategic review (*Sporting Ground Rationalisation Study*) on the use of sporting grounds for training and competition within the LGA to further assess the distribution of sporting grounds and opportunities for emerging sports and equitable provision. Key components of the strategic review will include:* Assessment of shared use of sporting grounds and club buildings by multiple sports clubs and organisations, identification of key gaps.
* Opportunities for sporting clubs using different sporting ground for training and competition purposes.
* Greater utilisation of sporting grounds in summer months for sports such as ultimate frisbee, touch football where training needs are low in numbers. This will require a consolidation of some sports for training needs.
* Opportunities presented by new and emerging sports and/or new formats and ways of playing for existing sports (e.g. *Rock Up* Netball).
* Fair and equitable allocation of sporting grounds.

**Key measurable outcomes**A draft Sporting Ground Rationalisation Study will be completed by 2026.Council will review and update its adopted Allocations policy to ensure fairness and equity in provision of sporting grounds and transparency in appeals governing sporting ground access. Review to be completed by fourth quarter of 2021.  |
| 2.4 | Developing a long-term Master Plan and funding vision for Leichhardt Oval | Council will develop a long-term Master Plan, operational and marketing strategy for Leichhardt Oval, with focus on attracting a long-term tenant/s for the oval. This vision will include consideration of a redevelopment plan which will minimise future costs to rate payers. Special emphasis will be applied to the cultural and historical significance of Leichhardt Oval to the Inner West community and existing activities within the Leichhardt Park precinct. **Key measurable outcomes**A draft Master Plan and long-term financial plan for Leichhardt Oval will be completed by 2027. |
| 2.5 | Pathways -diversity in sports and recreation, increasing participation and promoting social cohesion | Work in partnership with State sporting organisations and local sporting clubs to deliver a diversity of sporting formats that encourage participation from under represented groups including refugees, those with disabilities, lower income families and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. In working with local and state sporting bodies Council will initiate a fundamental commitment and ongoing investment to increasing women and girls’ participation in sport and recreation activities.Where Council has built standalone facilities in parks such as kiosks or buildings which can be repurposed to support park and sporting facility activation, Council will develop an expression of interest process which supports social enterprise and employment opportunities for those with a disability or with recognised refugee status. **Key measurable outcomes**Council will develop a *Pathways to Success* program for refugees in sport and work closely with local sporting clubs to support participation and the promotion of cultural diversity in sport. The *Pathways to Success* program will be developed in 2022.Council will assess all its sporting grounds to ensure they meet accessibility codes and as part of future facility audits buildings requiring accessibility improvements will be ranked as a high priority. Sporting clubs which demonstrate a measurable commitment to disability inclusion will also rank higher in allocation preference to those clubs which do not provide such pathways. Through an amendment to Sporting Allocations policy Council will make it a fundamental requirement that all Inner West sporting clubs must have clearly defined and developed pathways for girls and women in their chosen sport by 2023. All clubs must have a registered girls/woman sporting team. Those clubs which fail to develop such a program will be ineligible for sporting ground allocations from 2024. As part of its master planning (park plans of management and facility upgrades) for new and improved facilities Council will adopt a key principle of supporting high performance outcomes for girls’ and women’s sport by investing in quality and universal design standards which prioritise safety by design and family focussed, cleanliness and accessibility. Council will also undertake an assessment of parks and park amenities to ensure they are female appropriate and safe including change rooms, lighting, active edges, universal design, connected to public transport. Council will undertake an asset audit of underutilised facilities in parks and develop a discussion paper for Council consideration on which facilities can be repurposed in the medium to longer term to bring about tangible benefits for social enterprise activities for park and sporting ground activation. A discussion paper will be completed by 2025.  |
| 2.6 | Recognising the role of sporting volunteers | In consultation with Council’s Community Services Division develop an annual Sporting Club Volunteer of the Year award which recognises dedicated services from sporting volunteers within the Inner West Community.**Key measurable outcomes**Council will initiate a Sporting Club Volunteer of the Year award by 2023.  |
| 2.7 | Addressing the health and wellbeing needs of the increasing older population | Council will develop a Healthy Ageing Strategy. With regards to recreation the strategy will focus on the following: * Use of accessible town halls and community venues as important places for delivery of recreation programs for older people.
* Installation of senior’s fitness/play equipment in parks and open space in areas with high proportions of older residents.
* Continue delivery of health, fitness, and recreation programs for older adults at Council's aquatic and indoor recreation facilities.
* Reviewing safe public domain in and around Ashfield and Town Centre including after daylight hours.

**Key measurable outcomes**Council will complete its Inner West Healthy Ageing Strategy by fourth quarter of 2022.  |
| 2.8 | Planning for the futureUnderstanding participation trends | To assist with best evidence planning Council will undertake conceptual modelling of recreational trends to enable Council to record, track, and understand participation trends in sport and active recreation within the Inner West LGA.**Key measurable outcomes**Council will undertake conceptual modelling and research to assist with planning for future community recreation needs and understanding participation trends. Develop partnership by fourth quarter of 2023.  |
| 2.9 | Wayfinding, promotion and accessibility of recreation and open space facilities within Inner West  | Council will develop a comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Wayfinding Strategy which will focus on the creation of a consistent signage policy and palette of signage within parks and open space areas. This strategy will provide the guidance for park wayfinding, promotion, compliance and interpretation including heritage. Council will review its website content annually to ensure that the public have up to date and comprehensive information on access to open space, recreation programs, events and access to information. Council will deliver an integrated online booking system for access to parks and open space areas in 2020. Consolidated fees and charges will be adopted by Council by first quarter of 2021. **Key measurable outcomes**Council will develop a draft Recreation and Open Space Wayfinding Strategy to be drafted by fourth quarter of 2025. Council will review its website content annually to ensure that content is up to date and readily accessible. An integrated online booking system for community access to parks and open space areas will be launched in 2020 and consolidated fees and charges for Inner West sporting ground access will be adopted by 2021.  |
| 2.10 | Inclusive recreation facilities and open space for gender diverse and LGBTIQ people | Council will continue to work proactively with local sporting clubs, sporting associations and ACON to promote diversity and inclusion for LGBTIQ people. In recognising the importance of sport in promoting inclusion, acceptance and supporting mental health Council will work with clubs and sporting associations to embed a sport of champions program which will mandate and promote inclusion and allied participation. **Key measurable outcomes**Councils Allocations Policy will be reviewed and updated by fourth quarter of 2020 to reflect Council’s commitment to LGBTIQ people. |
| 2.11 | Active lives grants  | Council will review its current recreation grants scheme with the aim of increasing financial support in this area in recognition that the former grant program was a Marrickville Council legacy program. A funding program which did not account for an increased Inner West population with a wide range of diverse recreation needs. A new grant program will be developed which supports local sport and recreation sector organisations in their efforts to inspire and encourage Inner West residents to be more active, more often. This new grant program will have a primarily focus on enabling children and young people to participate in sport and recreation and on providing affordable access to sport and recreation to groups with low participation numbers.**Key Measurable Outcome**A new Active Lives Grants Program will be drafted for Council consideration as part of the budget preparations for 2021.  |
| **Theme 3**  | **Active neighbourhoods** | **Promoting social connections and providing a diverse range of opportunities for recreation, leisure and neighbourhood cohesion. Maintaining facilities to a high standard**.  |
| 3.0 | Addressing the undersupply of indoor sports courts/facilities and recreation opportunities | Council will commence in 2021 a feasibility study to examine and review the provision of indoor sporting provision within Inner West LGA. Where current service provision is in place a full review will be undertaken on management services, current service levels, gaps in provision where present and key community needs moving forward. A special emphasis will be placed on the provision of health and fitness service provision, girls’ and women’s sport, recreation programs which are focussed on community wellbeing and inclusivity and addressing provisional gaps through planning for new recreational opportunities including gymnastics, indoor netball and basketball. This study will also focus on preferred future locations (south and north) for indoor recreation centres and the key priority of addressing the forecast gap of one indoor recreation centre, which can provide 6 indoor courts. Key priorities for investigation will include:* addressing the undersupply of girls’ and women’s sporting opportunities
* provision of a minimum of 4 indoor courts
* increasing health and fitness opportunities
* gymnastics, indoor netball and basketball
* multipurpose sports flooring
* culturally appropriate recreation program spaces
* management models

Location considerations will include:* traffic and parking impacts
* proximity to public transport
* walkable connections
* supporting infrastructure including outdoor open space

**Key measurable outcomes**A completed feasibility study with key recommendations will be reported to Council no later than fourth quarter of 2021.  |
| 3.1 | Increasing sporting ground capacity | Prioritise the delivery of an artificial all weather sports surface and new amenities for rugby union and soccer at Leichhardt 2 and continue to work with local sporting clubs on opportunities for synthetics to increase capacity. Continue to work with external partners including schools, state government agencies and where possible developers on opportunities for synthetic surfaces. Undertake a sporting ground lighting audit with the aim of improving lighting on sporting grounds to 200 lux to increase capacity and allow night competition at parks where residential conflict is low and surface conditions support such use e.g. synthetic competition use up to 10pm. **Key measurable outcomes**Council will work towards delivering an artificial all weather sporting facility and amenities at Leichhardt 2 by 2028.Sporting ground lighting review to be undertaken and completed for Council adoption by 2025.   |
| 3.2 | Systematic resurfacing of natural turf sporting fields and managing wear and tear | Council will adopt a rolling renewal program for turf sporting grounds on a ten-year rotational basis, which maintains the integrity and quality of sports surfaces. To manage wear and tear from sports training needs Council will review all sports lighting to address areas where lighting is below standard. In addition, Council will harmonise lighting control systems for sporting grounds. **Key measurable outcomes**A Turf Management Asset Management plan which is focussed on a rolling renewal program for turf surfaces and addressing areas where lighting is insufficient or not to Australian standard (A 2560.2.3-2007) will be completed by 2022 for Council consideration. Council will implement and complete a harmonised lighting program by fourth quarter 2021.  |
| 3.3 | Inner West playground strategy  | Council will develop a playground strategy *Let’s Play* by February 2021 which will focus on the enhancement of existing pocket parks with a special emphasis on access, nature play and inclusion. Areas within the LGA which are below the benchmark standard for open space will be a key focus in terms of future priority improvements. The playground strategy will consider ways to 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.**Key measurable outcomes**A draft Inner West *Let’s Play* strategy will be presented to Council in 2021 for the purposes of public exhibition.  |
| 3.4 | Generic plan of management for neighbourhood and pocket parks  | Council will complete a generic Plan of Management in 2020 for pocket parks and engage the community on key improvements for these parks. A 15 year implementation plan for park improvements will be initiated and included for future consideration in Councils capital works program. **Key measurable outcomes**A draft generic Plan of Management for pocket parks and neighbourhood reserves will be presented to Council in 2020 for the purposes of public exhibition. |
| 3.5 | Development of site-specific plans of management for larger parks and open space areas  | Council will complete the drafting of plans of management and master plans for all its major parks by 2028. This planning will include extensive community engagement to ensure that the plans are reflective of local recreational needs and community aspirations as well as compliant with key government legislative requirements. Through the plan of management and master planning process special consideration will be given to proving quality recreation experiences in parks. This will include considering the provision of future recreation facilities in parks that reflect trends towards informal, unstructured participation including outdoor fitness facilities, outdoor table tennis tables and Tai Chi/yoga surfaces. **Key measurable outcomes**Plans of management and master plans for site specific parks will be completed by 2030.  |
| 3.6 | Safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment | Council will continue to resource and support bushcare programs across the LGA to support recreation in nature. Council will minimise the impact of recreation on sensitive ecological restoration and biodiversity areas in the design of new or upgraded recreation facilities. Council will also ensure that bushcare and biodiversity improvement include educational interpretation. **Key measurable outcomes**All Plans of Management will include embedded key objectives and design initiatives which include bushcare creation, maintenance and biodiversity promotion. Council will develop a practical bushcare schools program for primary and secondary schools which will include an adopt a habitat program which will encourage young people toactively participate in bushcare work and promote environmental outcomes. A bushcare schools program will be established and running by 2026. |
| 3.7 | Recognising the important of cultural and social heritage. Encouraging recreation and promoting conservation interpretation in parks  | Council recognises that it has a number of heritage listed parks which are either heritage listed or contain items of local or state heritage significance. Council will proactively work to develop conservation management plans for heritage listed parks and undertake adaptive re-use and heritage protection of these items to encourage recreational use, education and public appreciation. Council will reflect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and stories in Council parks including interpretive signage, naming and public art.**Key measurable outcomes**Key heritage items in parks and open space areas will be accurately recorded in an asset register which will be reported to Council no later than fourth quarter of 2023. Key recommendations pertaining to conservation protection, restoration and use will form part of the asset register reporting process.  |
| 3.8 | Local sporting grounds -weekday use | Continue to promote the use of sporting grounds for weekday community recreational use including through commercial fitness providers. **Key measurable outcomes**Achieve a minimum of 20 commercial fitness training permits across the LGA per year.  |
| 3.9 | Sufficient water polo facilities | Continue with upgrades at Dawn Fraser Baths and Ashfield Aquatic Centre, which will increase capacity for water polo competition and training. Council will advocate to NSW Office of Sport for a regional approach to addressing any future water polo needs across the wider region.**Key measurable outcomes**Completion of the Ashfield Aquatic Centre in fourth quarter of 2020. Completion of upgrades to Dawn Fraser Baths in fourth quarter 2020.  |
| 3.10 | Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) Master Plan | Council will deliver the LPAC Master Plan within 10 years of adoption. **Key measurable outcomes**Council deliver the key components of the LPAC Master Plan by 2031.  |
| 3.11 | Enhanced inclusivity at aquatic centres | Implementation of actions identified in the inclusion plans for LPAC and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre (AKAC). Completion of inclusion plans for the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre and Robyn Webster Sports Centre. **Key measurable outcomes**Implementation of inclusion plans by 2023. |
| 3.12 | Public domain -recreation opportunities and economic development  | In recognition of the importance of key shopping precincts as social, recreation and cultural destinations, Council will undertake the development of public domain master plans for each of its main street areas. Such planning will include the promotion of such spaces for cultural recreation and at a minimum will include planning for heritage interpretation, water bubblers, bicycle racks and spaces for street entertainment and busking. Good design will include compliance with accessibility standards, lighting for night time economy use and a greater emphasis on the needs and promotion of pedestrians and cyclists ahead of cars. **Key measurable outcomes**Council will develop draft mainstreet master plans for each of its main street areas by fourth quarter of 2030.  |
| 3.13 | Connected and healthy neighbourhoods  | Council will develop *Discovering Your Neighbourhood-connected communities program*. The primary focus will be on promoting walkable recreational trails including the Cooks River walking trail, The Tom Uren walking trail and the GreenWay. As part of this work Council will develop a walking app called *Neighbourhood Connection* which will promote parks and open space connections and walkable neighbourhoods within Inner West.Council will continue to promote *Our Street* as a recreational and community cohesion opportunity for neighbourhoods to come together on an annual basis and celebrate and connect with community life. This will be extended to include laneways as opportunities for enabling community cohesion. **Key measurable outcomes**Council’s *Neighbourhood Connection* app will be developed and rolled out with Inner West walking trails by fourth quarter of 2023.*Our Street* will be promoted on Council’s website as a valuable opportunity to get to know your neighbours and promote community cohesion and neighbourhood support. Website to be updated by fourth quarter of 2021.  |
| 3.14 | Water based recreation | Council will actively continue to provide and expand public storage for water-based recreation activities e.g. kayaking, canoeing and dragon boating. Where opportunities exist in foreshore park such as Tempe Reserve and the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Club, Council will support and provide infrastructure to support water-based access. **Key measurable outcomes**Council will assist the River Canoe Club with grant applications and digital promotion to support club growth, building maintenance and improvement, and the ongoing promotion of canoe and kayaking opportunities along the Cooks River. Council will seek expressions of interest for the establishment of a Girls’ and Women’s Dragon Boat Club at Tempe Reserve.Council will advocate and support through grant application administration for improved disability access for para rowing at established rowing clubs in the Leichhardt and Balmain wards.  |
| 3.15 | Maximising the usage of outdoor courts | Council will undertake a service review of tennis, basketball and netball courts to identify surface improvement or conversion to multipurpose courts to increase use e.g. at Tempe Reserve, Wicks Park and Richard Murden Reserve. A key emphasis will be placed on increasing capacity and participation. New tennis courts will be planned at Tempe Reserve as part of the master planning for the Tempe Reserve Plan of Management (former bowling Green) **Key measurable outcomes**A formal review of all courts will be completed by fourth quarter of 2021 and a program of upgrades will be included in the capital works program with upgrades completed by 2030. This review will also include an analysis of coaching partnerships present and future which can promote and support ball sports such as tennis and provide a small revenue income for Council to offset future court upgrades. New tennis courts will be constructed at Tempe Reserve by 2028.  |
| 3.16 | Recognising global warming and future proofing recreation and open space facilities  | Council will continue to undertake flood studies, ensuring they investigate the impact of sea level rise on foreshore and riverfront open space.Council will continue to deliver tree strategies and investigate opportunities for more tree planting and shade in parks, playgrounds and connecting streets to encourage recreation on hot days and cool the built environment. As part of its master planning for parks Council will continue to provide interpretive signage to increase understanding of local biodiversity. In future park upgrades Council will consider inclusion of recreation in natural areas such as nature play, walks in natural areas and working with partner organisations to advocate for the naturalising of spaces such as creek/river foreshores.Council will investigate opportunities to create cooler environments at community centres and indoor recreation centres through good design practise. This can include natural ventilation and shading from tree planting. Air conditioning increases emissions and is maladaptive to climate change however may be appropriate as a last resort in some locations. **Key measurable outcomes**In reviewing the management of its existing built facilities Council will develop a green building strategy for improving sustainability for its existing recreation and community facilities for Council consideration by 2026.All park plans of management will include clear and specific biodiversity aims and objectives and key deliverables.  |
| 3.17 | Public toilet facility provision in parks and open spaces | Council will develop and integrated and inclusive public toilet strategy which will review current provision, adequacy and standard of provision and plan for the future through development of a public toilet strategy. **Key measurable outcomes**A draft Public Toilet Strategy will be developed for consideration for Council adoption in 2020.  |
| 3.18 | Companion animals - access to open space | Council will work closely with the community to encourage the sharing of recreation spaces and deliver good dog management programs including the provision of open space for training needs. **Key measurable outcomes**In addition to its plans of management process which focusses on individual parks, Council will also undertake a public review of companion animal access to open space in 2028. This review will assess the current provision of off leash areas as well as dog owner education, signage and enforcement activities. As part of the draft master planning and community engagement for Lewis Herman Reserve in 2020 in the Ashfield ward, Council will consider opportunities to provide a new off leash area within a part of this new park.  |