

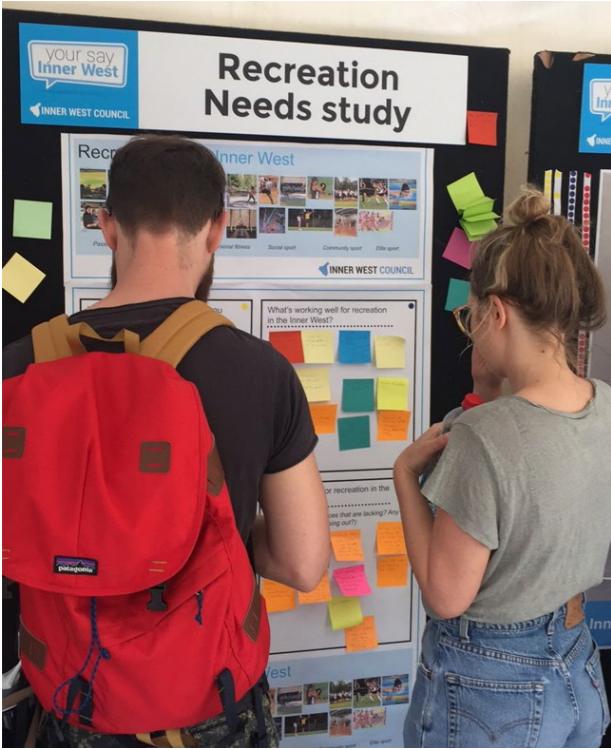
10.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES (2018)

Extensive community engagement was completed to inform this Study. This chapter is reported on as per the Recreational Needs Study 2018 - no more relevant engagement has been undertaken since the original publication. There was a high rate of participation in the community engagement, reflecting local enthusiasm for recreation. The community was positive about current provision, and focused on identifying opportunities to meet recreation needs for a growing and changing community.

This section summarises the findings from community engagement completed to inform this Study. A full community engagement report is available as an appendix to 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
- Face-to-face promotion through 19 pop-ups, intercept surveys, and festival stalls throughout the Inner West.

Figure 41 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 34 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



* 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 41 - Community engagement activities

Table 34 - Age profile of survey respondents

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

In total, 177 survey respondents (17% of total responses) describe themselves as a worker in the Inner West, an 120 survey respondents (11% of total responses) describe themselves as a volunteer for a local sports club.



Figure 42 - Community engagement activities

KEY FINDINGS

Across all engagement types, people identified 10 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 work well, people said 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 per cent of males use cycle ways at least weekly, only 24 per cent 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, is 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 their preferred recreation activities is 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" is one of the things that recreation user groups said is working well, they would like to see better customer service and easier booking processes for sporting grounds.

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 includes 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.

New facilities

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

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

Providing for, and managing recreation with dogs

Walking dogs is one of the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West. People spoke about a need for more facilities 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 among users (like fencing playgrounds or other designs to keep children and dogs 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 is 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. 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.

11.0 URBAN RECREATION BEST PRACTICE TRENDS AND CASE STUDIES

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

1. MULTIPURPOSE AND FLEXIBLE

A key trend in increasingly urban and dense built environments is the design of multipurpose 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 facilities it is important that existing recreation facilities are maximised to their full potential. This can be achieved through the development of multipurpose, flexible and adaptable spaces and facilities.

Hybrid courts and fields allow different sports and activities to use 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. This effectively doubles the amount of playing time per week and increases 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 has its own typology and use, with increased development in the Inner West, it is important that even big parks are people-focused and meet residents' diverse needs. Passive parks are also becoming more active spaces, with people using them as spaces to play informal sports or where there is a shortage of formal fields. 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, 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.

MULTIPURPOSE ACTIVE RECREATION SPACE: BOX HILL GARDENS, MELBOURNE

Box Hill Gardens is an innovative, multipurpose, flexible space that provides for an array of recreation activities and events.

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, football and basketball. There's also the future incorporation of a 1km walking and running track that will start and finish at the multipurpose site.

The dynamic graphic and colours of Box Hill Gardens define the hybrid recreation functions of the space, while also giving 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 has been recycled as seating for the court. These features are important in providing an inclusive space where people can stay and linger for extended periods of time.

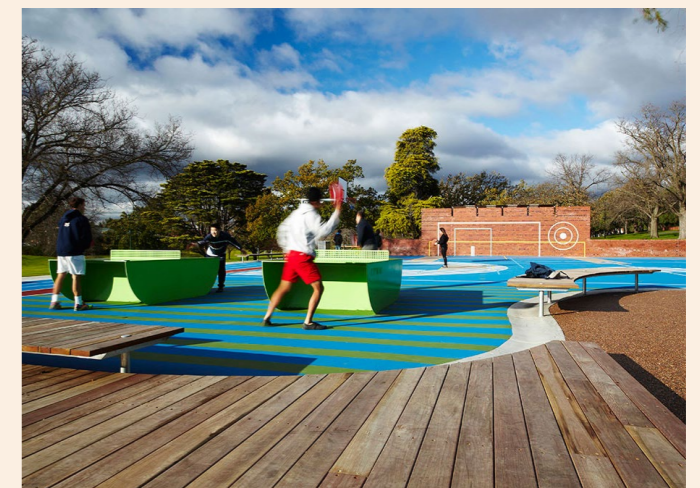


Figure 43 - Box Hill Gardens by ASPECT Studios. Source: Andrew Lloyd

FLEXIBLE FUNCTIONS: ASHFIELD AQUATIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT, INNER WEST COUNCIL

An example of how to obtain greater use of recreation assets through the design of multipurpose spaces, the Ashfield Aquatic Centre redevelopment has a focus on delivering options and functionality for a diverse range of recreation needs.

The redevelopment provides 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 includes 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 also supports warm-water aquatics therapy, with the current heated indoor pool integrated 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 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 PARK, 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 44 - Pocket City Farm at Camperdown Commons (Source: Christine Knight)



Figure 46 - Camperdown Park playground

MULTIPURPOSE SYNTHETIC FIELDS: MOLONG MULTIPURPOSE 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 football.



Figure 45 - Molong multi-purpose hockey and tennis fields (Source: via Glebe District Hockey Association)

ACTIVATED SMALL SPACES: PIGALLE BASKETBALL COURT, PARIS

Wedged between two 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 47 - Pigalle Basketball court, Paris. Source: Dezeen

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.

Civic Spaces

Civic spaces located within town and village centres can provide important recreation functions. They may vary in sizes and form, from larger, sometimes formal spaces associated with important public buildings, such as plazas; malls; and forecourt of a building. They can also be smaller spaces such as street closures and down to widening of the footpath, seating nooks or pedestrianisation of laneways. They are predominantly hard surfaced areas, but may also include pocket- park-like green elements such as lawn areas, landscape plantings, water features, as well tree canopies. Successful plazas encourage people to travel across them by embedding them within the street (pedestrian movement) network.

Civic spaces accommodate a broad variety of activities as nodes of vibrancy, during day and night, bringing people together. They offer opportunities for incidental interactions that help build healthier and less isolated communities. Successful civic spaces encourage lingering and interaction and give the community a space in which everyone is invited to participate and belong. They can also provide the space for special events that further establish place identity, community development and the sharing of culture.

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 available 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 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 each other.

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 48 - 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. (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. The Danish Cabinet Makers Association explored the social potential of outdoor furniture and included two person adult sized swings along streets, and socially connective furniture for a 2017 exhibition.



Figure 49 - Social furniture in Copenhagen (Source: Cred Consulting)

MORE PLACES TO MEET AND STAY: 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 the City of Sydney area'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 50 - Meeting at the Parklet, Glebe (Source: Cred Consulting)

CIVIC SPACES: ENMORE ROAD PLAZA, ENMORE

This small plaza on Enmore Road is the result of footpath widening for traffic calming. The small space includes colourful public art, garden beds, seating, water bubbler, bin and a small tree. The plaza is popular with the local community, from people eating icecreams purchased across the road to older men gathering to chat. The plaza is also a space for cultural expression through street art.

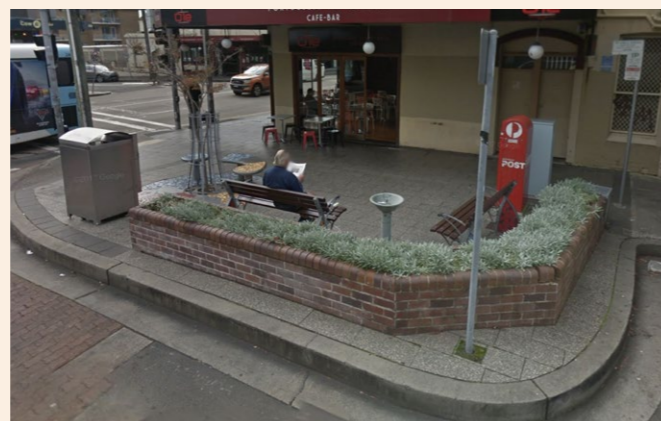


Figure 51 - Enmore Road Plaza (Source: Google Street View)

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 52 - Lonsdale St Dandenong (Source: TCL/ John Gollings)

URBAN PLAZAS: MELBOURNE CITY SQUARE, MELBOURNE

Melbourne City Square is an excellent example of an urban plaza, a 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 53 - Areas of green used as places to sit and rest in Melbourne City Square (Source: Dianna Snape)

STREET LIBRARIES

Street Libraries are, essentially, a box of books, accessible from the street and are an invitation to share the joy of reading. They are often installed on people's front fences - on key pedestrian routes - adding to the interest of the street and creating opportunities for building social capital. Various councils have supported street library uptake in their area by purchasing the street library council reverse grant pack. There are examples where councils have included them in parks and at recreation facilities.



Figure 54 - Street library (Source: Street Libraries Australia)

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

Many schools have recreation facilities such as fields, courts and halls that can be underutilised outside of school 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 implemented a pilot program in 2018 called Share Our Schools, which opened up 81 playgrounds to the community in the school holidays. With an increasing population, multiple sporting codes also need to share a limited number of sporting grounds.

Private provision

Trampolining, parkour classes, squash courts, pop-up football 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 into parks is an emerging trend across the globe. Building parks above or amongst roads, overpasses, tunnels or railways opens up spaces for recreation within the city that were previously inaccessible to the community.

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 leftover and underutilised spaces. Simple and small design interventions to these spaces, such as the installation of mirrors for residents to practice dance, or the installation of a pop-up park can turn these spaces 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 55 - Rooftop running track and futsal courts, Osaka (Source: Spoon & Tamago)

RECREATION IN LEFTOVER SPACES: TAIPEI METRO

In Taipei, street dancing is a popular 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 a 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.

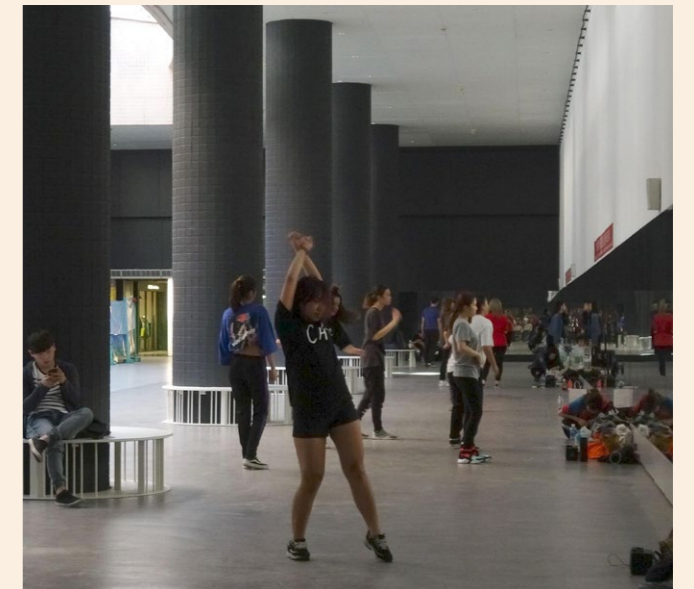


Figure 56 - Mirrors in a tunnel between metro stations in Taipei transform a leftover space into an informal recreation space for dancing (Source: Julia Suh)

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 on *Gardening Australia*. The building's residents are also connected with the broader community, including through hosting a FoodConnect drop-off point.



Figure 58 - Communal gardens at Signature Apartments, Redfern (Source: greenvillages.com)

1 FRESHWATER PLACE, SOUTHBANK, MELBOURNE

The green roof at Freshwater Place is part of the communal facilities that 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 and firepits, a grilling area and outdoor kitchen, Zen garden, and outdoor dog run. Divercity includes landscaped podium top space with cabanas, barbeques, pizza ovens and outdoor yoga studio.



Figure 59 - Communal dog run at Nic on Fifth, Minneapolis (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. The bright red space is located 24m above sea level on the roof of a car park and 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.

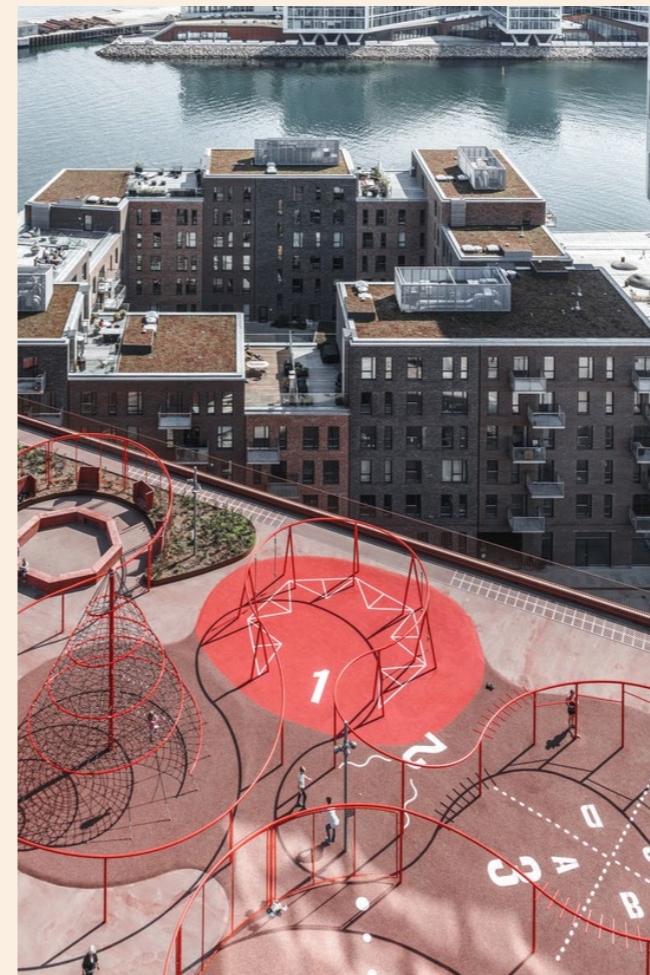


Figure 57 - Playspace on a carpark rooftop in Copenhagen (Source: JAJA Architects)

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 60 - Artist impression of Hume Park (Source: via Sydney Morning Herald)

ROOFTOP RECREATION: ULTIMO COMMUNITY CENTRE, SYDNEY

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

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



Figure 61 - Ultimo Community Centre (Source: City of Sydney)

OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS: FORMER MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL

Walking with dogs is the second most popular recreation activity in the former Marrickville Council area, and dog parks can be important social connectors. However, new off-leash dog parks can also create conflict or be concerning to local residents and other park users. New off-leash dog parks have been trialled for 6 months, including promoting shared use of the areas and awareness and education of dog owners of the presence of bandicoots. The trials were evaluated after 6 months, with some changes made and most parks continuing to operate with off-leash areas.

Signage in the off-leash parks is strengths-based rather than regulation- and punishment-focused, and encourages shared use of the areas.

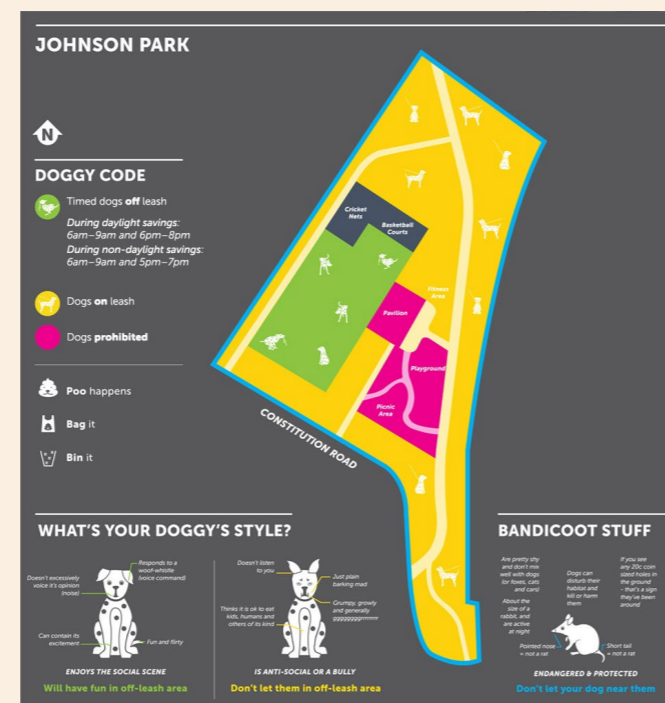


Figure 62 - Johnson Park off-leash signage (Source: Inner West Council)

4. INCLUSION AND UNIVERSALITY

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

Inclusion of people with disability

Dimensions of inclusion include:

- Being heard and valued
- Meaningful participation
- Connection and belonging
- Opportunity to access supports
- 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 beyond the removal of 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 per cent 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 formally participate in sport. 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 such as 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 the importance 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 with 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 try out basketball, securing a grant from the 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 per cent 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, through engaging with local schools and with young girls and their families.



Figure 63 - Auburn Giants Women's AFL
(Source: Harvey Norman)

SENIORS' PLAYGROUNDS

Dubbed London's first "pensioners playground", Hyde Park Senior Playground is a space for older people 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 64 - Hyde Park Senior's Playground
(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 dramatically, while the number of boys held steady. Researchers found that girls were less assertive than boys. If boys and girls were 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 participating in recreation 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 recreation 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 take part in recreational activities and stay safe in the heat. 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°C - 84°C when summer temperatures are in the low 30s. Trees and tree canopy within parks and streets also play an important role in providing necessary shade, reducing local temperatures, improving air quality and providing 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 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 rooftop 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 65 - Cool Streets planting crew (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 - using natural materials, sounds of nature, pets
- Non-rhythmic sensory stimuli - 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 - 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 nature - use of natural materials
- Complexity and order - fractal geometries
- Prospect - unimpeded view over a distance
- Refuge - place for withdrawal from the main flow of activity or environmental conditions, in which individuals are 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 69 - Melton Library and Learning Hub (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.

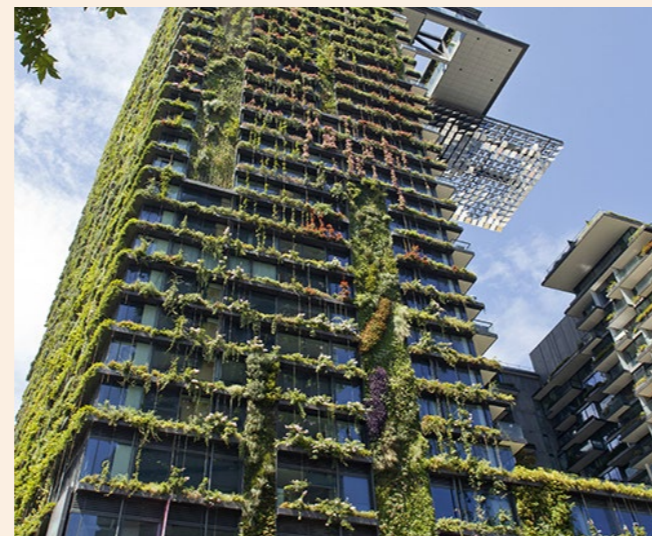


Figure 68 - One Central Park's green facade (Source: Tensile)

BICYCLE PLAYGROUNDS, COPENHAGEN

In the centre of Copenhagen, a 2,500m² space was temporarily turned into a bicycle obstacle course for children by the Danish Cyclist's Federation. The course allowed kids to practice their coordination, timing, speed and balance while having fun. After the project's success, 10 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: 9 out of 10 Danes owns a bike, and 45 per cent of children cycle to school.



Figure 67 - Pop-up bicycle playground, Copenhagen (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 Public 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 66 - Bourke St Cycleway (Source: GSA)

6. CO-DESIGN

Community-led change

People 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 over positive social, recreational and urban change in their neighbourhoods, Bayswater Council in Perth is opening up their public parks and street verges to resident food planting. Red tape is significantly reduced in an effort to create a healthy built environment and community led change, particularly in their urban areas.



Figure 70 - Bayswater Council resident with his verge garden (Source: Bunbury Mail)

COMMUNITY 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, recreation, multipurpose, and intergenerational space. There’s a boxing ring and coal barbeques for large family gatherings, and places (as throughout Copenhagen) for adults to play.

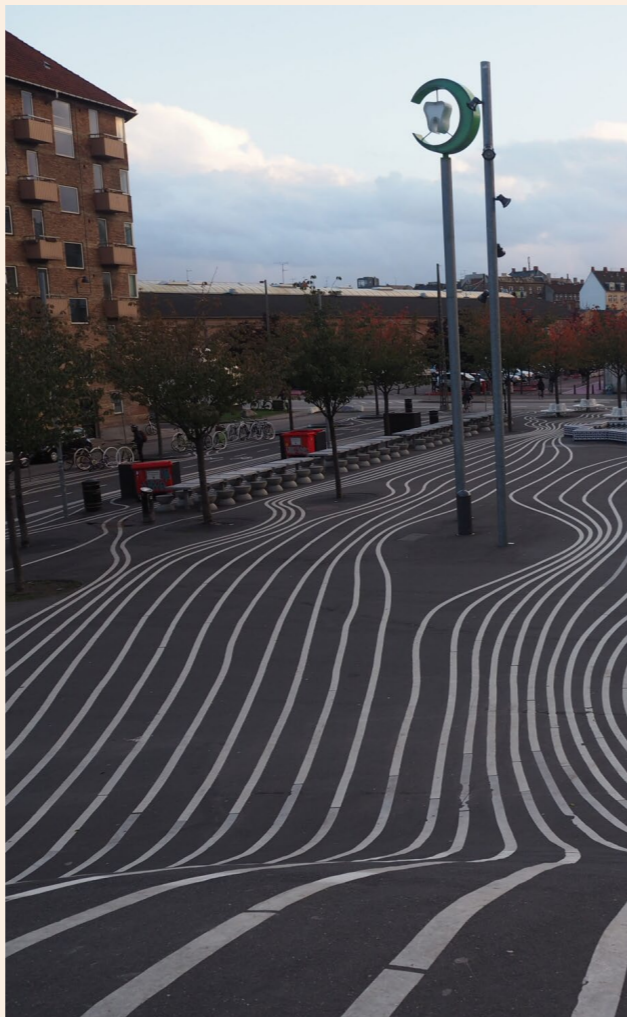


Figure 71 - Superkilen Park (Source: Sarah Reilly)

7. RISK AND ADVENTURE; CHILD-DIRECTED PLAY

Wild play and adventure play

Children are spending less time outside, and in free, unsupervised play than a generation ago. In 2010 Planet Ark estimated that only 35 per cent of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72 per cent a generation ago.

Adventure and nature parks embrace the theory that free and unstructured play is essential to children's 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 play spaces for children to invent their own games is important, encouraging them 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 73 - Tokyo Play Parks (Source: Sarah Reilly)



Figure 72 - The Land (Source: Erin Davis)

WILD PLAY: SYDNEY PARK, ST PETERS

Containing sporting fields, 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 74 - Sydney Park wetlands. (Source: Destination NSW)

12.0 LGA-WIDE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter provides a summary of LGA-wide needs and opportunities, based on analysis of needs across a range of indicators. These include population growth and characteristics, strategic context, best-practice trends, participation trends, community engagement, and comprehensive auditing and benchmarking against industry standards having consideration for proximity, population and comparative benchmarks. Needs and opportunities by Planning Catchment are detailed in Chapter 14.

Overview of needs and opportunities

Overall, this Needs Study 2021 has identified that Council aspires to continue to deliver increased and improved open space and recreation facilities to meet growth and change, and to maintain, where possible, the current provision rates for open space and recreation facilities. It aims to ensure that its community can lead a healthy lifestyle and be socially connected and resilient. COVID-19 has highlighted the basic need of all residents to access adequately sized, high-quality public open space near their homes.

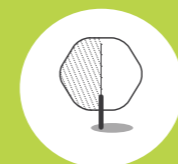
This Study is based on analysis of needs across a range of indicators, from population growth and characteristics, strategic context, best-practice trends, participation trends, community engagement, and comprehensive auditing and benchmarking against industry standards having consideration for proximity, population and comparative benchmarks.

It is important that this Needs Study responds to this aspiration and that it should not be discarded, despite the high likelihood that even with a suite of strategies some needs are unlikely to be fulfilled because the opportunities to add to the existing open space network are very limited. This is primarily due the scarcity and extremely high cost of land areas suitable for open space and recreation facilities.

If Council would like to meet its growth target and at the same time, have a greater quantity and quality of open space and recreation facilities for both the existing and new residents, then a multi-pronged approach to address these needs is required.

Council also aspires to be led by best practice approaches and participation trends to support a holistic approach to meet recreational needs. These include improving our streets as shared spaces and playful recreational links, partnering with landowners for shared and multi-use of their facilities. It also includes ensuring that our increasingly high-density population, including our children, have access to nature for their health and wellbeing.

Priority recreation needs for the Inner West:



Need 1

Plan to increase provision of open space and recreation facilities in areas with current and forecast gaps



Need 2

Increase the capacity of what we have, to handle increased, multipurpose and diverse use



Need 3

Re-imagine our streets and laneways for open space and recreation including for walking, running, cycling and play



Need 4

Partner with other agencies to share spaces that are inclusive to all



Need 5

Increase opportunities for our population to connect to nature

Opportunities to address needs

The following pages provide a summary of each need at the LGA level. In summary the broad opportunities include:

- Maximising use of current public and private open space and recreation facilities through partnerships and agreements
- Requiring planning proposals to be supported by evidence-based open space and recreation studies, based on minimum set benchmarking requirements
- Identifying any underutilised parcels of land that are well located for public open space (including NSW Government sites)
- Including open space and public squares in redevelopments of under-capitalised Council-owned land
- Targeted embellishment such as improved surfaces, improved amenities, synthetics and multi-use of existing open space areas funded by developer contributions
- Prepare plans to create 'linear green linkages' between existing significant parks (i.e. parks with an area >1ha). This may include reclaiming road space for pedestrians, cyclists and street trees/furniture, and strategic land purchases so that more direct links can be provided.
- Open space minimum benchmarks in terms of open-space size and proximity being applied to sites the subject of rezonings for increased density/intensity of development
- Re-development and masterplanned sites to facilitate the provision of functional and high-quality new open spaces – the size, shape and area of parkland being informed by the site size and the community needs
- Re-imagining single use recreation areas as multipurpose spaces
- Where development sites are too small to accommodate both development and parkland, the Council and developer would negotiate a contribution extra to s7.11 that would enable delivery of high quality linear open space/shared zones that connect to existing open spaces (i.e. linear green linkages)
- Re-thinking what open space is through activation of laneways, streets and roads as recreational spaces for informal recreation
- Better connections to district and regional open space and recreation facilities via linear parks

Chapter 14 provides a summary of needs and opportunities at a catchment level.



Image: Since publishing the 2018 Recreation Needs Study, Council successfully trialled a Play Street in Cary Street in Leichhardt where a single pilot event was held in March 2020. Using streets as shared spaces and play spaces is part of Inner West Council's approach to think differently about how to meet the recreation needs of their community.



Need 1

Increase the provision of open space and recreation facilities in areas with current and forecast gaps

Across the LGA there is currently an average of 16.4m² of open space per person, that is forecast to decline to 14.3m² per person by 2036. While limited land availability and high land values will make it difficult to maintain this provision rate, Council still needs to remain aspirational and plan for the delivery of increased open space and recreation facilities in areas where there are identified proximity and provision gaps.

If Council would like to facilitate alignment between population growth and have a greater quantity and quality of open space and recreation facilities for existing and new residents, then we need to take a multi-pronged approach to address this need. This includes delivery of new open space through planning proposals, town centre renewal, and use of underutilised Council and Government land. Opportunities need to be assessed to provide new civic space in town and village centres and the dual-use of existing assets.

OPPORTUNITIES

Increased quantity and access to open space

Overall, the Recreation Needs Study has identified that Council aspires to continue to deliver increased and improved open space and recreation facilities to meet growth and change, and to maintain where possible the current provision rates for open space and recreation facilities. It aims to ensure that its community can lead a healthy lifestyle and be socially connected and resilient. COVID-19 has particularly highlighted the high priority of access to public open space for the community.

Proximity benchmarking indicates that there is a latent need to address open space gaps in some areas along the Parramatta Road Corridor (through the middle of the LGA) as well as in parts of Marrickville, Newtown, Enmore and Lewisham - which have large areas that are further than a 400m walk from open space.

Population-based benchmarking indicates that to maintain the current provision of 16.4m² of open space per person, by 2026 an additional 28.1 hectares will be needed, and a total of 58.6 hectares by 2036.

Delivering this quantum of open space in an inner city, densely populated and high land value location such as the Inner West is acknowledged to be an unrealistic goal to aim to deliver, but still an important measure to be aware of.

Opportunities to address this need could include the following:

- Council aspires to be led by best practice approaches and participation trends to support a holistic approach to meet recreational needs. This includes improving our streets as shared spaces and playful recreational links, partnering with other landowners for shared and multi-use of their

facilities, and ensuring that our increasingly high density population, including our children, have access to nature for their health and wellbeing.

- Developers to directly provide new parks on land on rezoned land – the size, shape and area of parkland being a function of site size and maximum building heights
- Require planning proposals to be supported by evidence-based open space and recreation studies, based on minimum set benchmarking requirements including:
 - Access to a local park of a minimum 0.3 hectares to 0.5h hectares within 200m
 - Access to a district park of a minimum 2 hectares within 2km
 - Access to a regional park within 5km
- Set requirements for future new parks are that they must be located on edge of site and publicly accessible and usable. Where possible they must be connected to other open space or recreation facilities
- Identify any underutilised parcels of land that are well located for public open space (including NSW Government sites)
- Include open space and public squares in redevelopments of under-capitalised Council-owned land.
- Council to undertake a land dedication and acquisition strategy
- Encourage high-density developments to provide publicly accessible communal open space in appropriate locations to support social cohesion and passive/active recreation opportunities in high-density developments, and alleviate pressure on local public open space.

Sportsfields

Currently there is good benchmarked provision of sportsfields in the LGA

However, by 2036, benchmarking indicates that there will be a need for an additional 6 summer sportsfields and 9 winter sporting fields.

There is also a need to 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, and residual land WestConnex in St Peters and/or Rozelle.

Opportunities to address this need could include the following:

- Partnerships with educational institutions and establishment of joint use agreements
- 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 grounds for training and competition purposes
 - Supporting complementary use of fields for formal and informal sports
- Ensuring that sports fields are multipurpose where possible, and can be used for both summer and winter sports

A new indoor leisure centre (aquatics)

Inner West owns 4 aquatic centres and 1 tidal bath that was recently upgraded.

The application of the aquatic centre benchmark indicates demand for 1 new aquatic centre by 2036.

Council has identified Catchment 4 – South as the catchment area that would benefit most from the provision of a new aquatic centre as no council-owned indoor recreation facilities exist in this catchment area currently.

This study recommends Council undertake a future feasibility study to investigate opportunity sites and potential for co-location with indoor recreation centre (dry).

Playspaces

With an increasing number of children living in apartments, playspaces are needed for play outside the home.

Currently there is a good benchmarked provision of playground in all catchments, except for Catchment 4, which by 2036, there will need an additional 2 playspaces.

Proximity benchmarking indicates that some areas in the catchment are further than a 400m walk from a playground. Therefore, priority areas for future provision should include:

- Ashfield Town Centre
- Parts of Ashfield (north) and Haberfield
- Parts of Dulwich Hill
- Bays West

Increased opportunities for indoor recreation

The application of benchmarks indicates that there is demand for an additional indoor recreation centre in the LGA.

The former Leichhardt section 94 Plan included provisions for a feasibility study to be undertaken for a new indoor recreational facility in the north of the LGA.

This study supports the actioning of this feasibility study and identifies that the redevelopment of the Bays West Precinct by the NSW Government provides a major opportunity site for the delivery of this item.

Other opportunity areas for the provision of a new indoor recreation centre in Catchments 2 & 3. It is suggested that this feasibility study also examine the ageing nature of the existing indoor centres in the south of the LGA to determine their potential renewal and upgrade to cater for the future population, particularly as the Tempe Park Plan of Management (2020) has identified an indicated a need to upgrade the Robyn Webster Centre. This feasibility study could be combined with the recommended future aquatic centre feasibility study to enable considerations of an integrated recreation hub model.

The future indoor recreation feasibility study should investigate multipurpose uses including multipurpose courts, program space and activity space (eg dance, yoga, Pilates) and also consider opportunities to provide for gymnastics uses in the north and south of the LGA.¹

¹ Note: the reference to additional gyms is intended to address the loss of Inner West Gymnastics in Marrickville due to the Sydney Metro Project in the south, and also facilitate facilities in the north with the new recreational facility recommendation.

Best practice is to locate indoor recreation centres with other sporting uses in a precinct. Siting considerations include traffic and parking impacts, proximity to public transport, and walkable connections.

Indoor courts

Benchmarking indicates there is a latent demand for 4.8 indoor multipurpose courts across the LGA, with a demand for an additional 2 by 2036, due to an increasing population. This demand could be met through the provision of a new indoor recreation centre (with multipurpose indoor courts), or via joint use agreements with educational institutions.

Increased access to number of multipurpose outdoor courts

Multipurpose outdoor courts can provide informal and free recreation opportunities for all age groups, as well as a hard surface for markets and cultural activities such as tai chi and dance. Currently there is a latent need for 1.1 outdoor courts. By 2036, there will be a need for an additional 16 outdoor courts.

Opportunities for provision include:

- Encourage provision of multipurpose courts as part of new open space delivered through planning proposals and town centre renewal or existing park embellishments
- As part of the design of new community facilities or public buildings, consider inclusion of rooftop multipurpose courts similar to those provided at Ultimo Community Centre

Skate parks

LGA-wide benchmarking indicates that a new skatepark should be facilitated by 2036. Council is currently actioning plans for the delivery of a new skate park facility in Lilyfield over the next 1-5 years. However based on benchmarking at a catchment level and looking at proximity mapping, there remains a need for a new skatepark is in catchment 3 in the future. Further opportunities to provide this type of recreation facility in catchment 3 should be further explored.

Partnerships with schools

As part of future body of work, Council could identify existing recreational assets held in private/public agency ownership and develop a prioritised advocacy program that seeks to establish and maintain partnerships to enable community use of such assets either after hours, on weekends, or during holiday periods. This should prioritise areas that have existing low levels of open-space provision and/or areas that are experiencing high rates of growth. Comprehensive engagement with regional and local sporting associations, surrounding local government organisations, and educational providers within the LGA, should be undertaken as part of this project to ascertain future needs and collaborative investment opportunities.



Need 2

Increasing the capacity of what we have, to handle increased, multipurpose and diverse use

Maintaining the existing benchmark provision of open space and recreation facilities as the LGA grows will be challenging for an area like Inner West where land is limited and high value. Council needs to be creative in how we increase people's access and growing numbers of residents use our open space areas. We can embellish and improve open space and recreation facilities through higher-quality surfaces and use of new technology such as synthetic fields, multi-functionality for a range of recreation and for both day and night use, and increased amenity so more people can use them more often.

This includes all open space and recreation types such as sportsfields, indoor recreation, play spaces, golf courses, and access to water for water recreation

Where new open space and recreation facilities are not able to be provided through growth, we need to leverage contributions through development proposals to embellish open space in areas where new open space is not feasible.

OPPORTUNITIES

Increased quality and capacity of open space

In areas where additional new open space and recreation facilities are not able to be facilitated, Council will need to leverage contributions through development proposals to embellish nearby open spaces to increase their capacity, diversity of use, hours of usability and quality.

Opportunities and considerations:

- Targeted embellishment of existing parks, informed by a comprehensive review of all plans of management in the LGA, a resulting consolidated schedule of work for the consideration of future local infrastructure contribution plans
- Enhancing a network of small parks including landscape/urban amenity size parks 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
- Activations of laneways as public open space or recreational facilities
- Comfortable and playful linear parks linking residents to district and regional parks
- Ensure that embellishments align with universal design principles, are inclusive of all abilities and genders, and can be enjoyed by all
- NSW Office of Sport has developed Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2020-24 aimed at increasing people's activity levels. It will be releasing its Sydney District Sport Infrastructure Plan that will guide future facility provision both at local and regional level and may identify opportunities that will need to be reflected in open space and recreation planning in the LGA

Sportsfields

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.

Opportunities and considerations:

- Re-imagine single-use recreation spaces as multipurpose spaces including golf courses and non-Council open space and facilities
- Investigate the feasibility of synthetic surfaces on sporting 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 heat management
 - Economic affordability, value and viability.
- Implement a rolling program of resurfacing sporting fields, based on the lifetime of a playing surface, to maintain quality over time and future-proof existing fields. Investigate which sporting fields are currently below optimum capacity and are capable of supporting increased use

through improvements to drainage, soil profile, and re-turfing.

- 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
 - Ancillary recreation facilities such as cricket nets and football goals in parks and sporting grounds for informal recreation use

Multipurpose courts

Review tennis and basketball courts to identify surface improvements, conversion to multipurpose courts to increase use (eg at Wicks Park and Richard Murden Reserve).

Review netball courts to either convert to multipurpose courts for increased community use, or surface improvements and co-location of additional courts and amenities to increase suitability for netball training and competition use.

Water sports

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 along Iron Cove (eg canoeing) and Cooks River (swimming and water sports).



Need 3

Streets and laneways as recreation facilities for walking, running, cycling and play

We need to respond to our community's recreational interests and participation trends. We know that walking is the most popular recreation activity locally and nationally, and that this has increased significantly during COVID-19 lockdowns. Running is also popular. We can increase recreation opportunities throughout the LGA by creating more walkable streets through inclusive design, well-maintained and connected footpaths with traffic calming, lighting, shade, wayfinding, and safe intersections.

By re-imagining our streets and laneways as recreation facilities, we can increase access to open space and recreational participation in areas with existing proximity and provision gaps, and in high-growth areas where new open space is not feasible. We need to make the most of our streets and laneways and improve them with shade, wayfinding, playful elements and improved safety.

In line with the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces program, we need to see our streets and laneways as important recreational spaces.

OPPORTUNITIES

Green streets and links

Opportunities to facilitate the creation of more green streets and links include:

- Creating 'linear green linkages' between existing and future planned parks. This may include increasing front setback requirements to allow for additional open space and urban tree canopy cover as part of future masterplanning studies, reclaiming road space for pedestrians, cyclists and street trees/furniture, and strategic land purchases
- Increased tree canopy and inclusion of Water Sensitive Urban Design elements for heat reduction
- Modification of existing roads to linear open space/shared zones that connect to existing open spaces (i.e. linear green linkages)
- Through town centre masterplanning processes - investigate opportunities to provide civic and green spaces, street widenings and pedestrianised laneways

Through improved public domain, and green and active streets, improve connectivity to existing open space in neighbourhoods that are not within 400m of 0.5 hectares of open space or are disconnected by major barriers (eg. roads and rail lines). Priority areas include:

- Glebe Island, White Bay Power Station and parts of Rozelle north of Victoria Road
- Parts of Leichhardt, Haberfield 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
- Parts of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, north of the train line

Safety

Lighting and design of parks (including signage improvements and community education programs), paths, streets and town centres in order to increase (feelings of) safety for pedestrians and cyclists particularly in the evening and at night. Lighting should be fauna-friendly and use sustainable technologies to support environmental outcomes.

- Lighting on streets including connections to open space and linear parks/shared paths, and Ashfield Town Centre to Ashfield Park
- Lighting on the Bay Run, Cooks River, and along the Greenway
- Lighting in parks for informal night time use eg at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport

Streets for play

In urban areas, unsupervised and unstructured safe places to play are declining. Collaborate with organisations such as Play Streets Australia to continue to trial a Play Streets Program throughout the Inner West to encourage children to participate in unsupervised and safe play in their streets.

Identify laneways in areas with low provision of open space (such as Petersham, Newtown Enmore, and Stanmore) to reimagine as recreation spaces including recreation facilities such as basketball hoops and coloured markings. Work collaboratively with local communities and relevant Council teams to co-design the laneways as safe recreation spaces and announce the space as a "Play Priority Area." Also continue and expand Council's "Love Your Lanes" program.

Cycling

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
- Provide end-of-trip facilities and bicycle storage throughout the cycle path network, such as bike storage at the Cooks River foreshore path

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
- Advocating for improved cycleways through major urban renewal projects including the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy, Bays West Precinct and upgrades to the T3 Bankstown Metro Line in Sydenham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill



Need 4

Inclusion, SHARING and PARTNERSHIP

Our community is socially and culturally diverse with a range of needs in relation to access recreational opportunities. We also have a number of community, sporting and government partners who own recreational spaces or deliver recreational programs. We need to work in partnership with these groups to provide inclusive recreational opportunities for all and to share our existing recreational spaces to increase access. This also means we need to promote recreational opportunities in a range of ways for our diverse community. As more people use the same open spaces we also need to establish programs that support sharing by different groups including dogs, bikes, pedestrian, children young people, and older people.

Community engagement also tells us that we need to increase the representation and visibility of women and girls in recreation spaces through recreation programs and the design of our public open space to be safe and inclusive for all genders.

There are also opportunities to reflect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and stories in open space.

The health and wellbeing needs of older residents can be better addressed through welcoming and inclusive programs and facilities and increase unstructured and unprescribed play spaces for children; play for young people; and create welcoming, accessible and inclusive recreation opportunities for people with disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and LGBTQI+ people.

OPPORTUNITIES

Designing with Country

Reflect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and stories in Council parks including interpretive signage, naming and public art (eg the We Are Cooks River People schools program).

Inclusive

Make access to parks and recreation facilities more inclusive through programs and initiatives including:

- Assessment of parks and park amenities ensure they are female appropriate and safe (change rooms, lighting, active edges, universal design, connected to public transport)
- 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 for 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
- Collaboration with community transport providers for connections to recreation spaces and activities for older people and people with disability

Universal design principles

A lack of information on accessibility of open space and recreation facilities can be a barrier to participation for people with disability.

It is recommended that Council considers a future accessibility and inclusion audit of all recreational facilities and park plans of management, that considers accessibility, disadvantaged populations, gender and multicultural diversity to promote Council's strategic objective of facilitating a welcoming and inclusive community.

- Improve 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 access to kayaking and canoeing through inclusive launching equipment
 - Provision of a movable hoist and inclusive access at the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- Increased specially designed recreation options including a range of inclusive and accessible programs and activities at Council's aquatic and recreation centres for people with disability.

Young people

Continue to address the recreation needs of young people by implementing the following principles in all new and upgraded parks and recreation facilities:

- Locate recreation facilities for young people within 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/ skateable features throughout the LGA
- Colour and greenery, and
- Safety is important for young people, particularly young women. Provide quality lighting and locate youth areas close to activity centres to provide "eyes on the street."

Children

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 recreation spaces.

Culturally diverse

Address the cultural and social diversity of the Inner West community through 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
- Table tennis tables

Inclusive spaces and facilities and programs

- Create inclusive recreation facilities and open space for gender diverse and LGBTQI+ people including:
 - 'Pride in Diversity' training for staff at all recreation and aquatic facilities
 - Subscribe all recreation and aquatic facilities to the ACON network to create welcoming spaces for LGBTQI+ people
 - Deliver inclusive toilet and change room facilities in recreation facilities and open space consistent with directions proposed in previous planning in this area.
- Increasing child care/creche opportunities at Council's recreation facilities to support participation in recreation by parents, particularly women.

Continue to address the recreation needs of older people

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
- Supporting older people to participate in bushcare programs
- A walkable and safe public domain in and around Ashfield Town Centre including after daylight hours
- Inclusive design of links to public transport to support access for older people.

Women and girls

Increase the representation and visibility of women and girls in recreation spaces, and create a safer Inner West for women, through:

- Recreation program designed with reference to local needs and in collaboration with local groups
- Equitable allocations policy for regular hire of Council's sporting grounds to increase representation of women's sports

Recreation after dark

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)
- Provide lighting in parks and streets to support safety and use after dark

Shared use agreements

Maximise use of current public and private open space and recreation facilities through partnerships and agreements.

Develop strong partnerships with local sporting groups to address priority needs, including participation of women and girls, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, members of the LGBTQI+ community, people with disability, and low-income families and help clubs adapt to changing recreation participation trends in the community.

Dog recreation areas

Recognising that recreation with dogs is one of the most popular 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, particularly co-located with sporting grounds such as 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
- Increasing of resources for rangers to educate dog owners and enforce dog regulations
- Investigate opportunities to provide new off-leash dog space in the Ashfield area



Need 5

Connections with nature

Increasingly our residents are living in apartments including children. Research tells us that connection with nature improves our health and wellbeing and can support happier communities. Council can facilitate opportunities to connect more with nature, improve health and wellbeing and address climate and heat impacts.

We need to:

- 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 deliver identified Green Grid projects
- Collaborate with developers to incorporate biophilic design into new residential developments
- Incorporate biophilic design principles into public domain projects
- Minimise impact of recreation on sensitive ecological restoration and biodiversity areas

OPPORTUNITIES

More nature-based play

Providing opportunities to connect with nature, improve health and wellbeing and addressing climate and heat impacts.

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. Spatial opportunities that could be explored include along the Cooks River, Tempe Reserve, The GreenWay, Whites Creek, Hawthorne Canal and within new development.

Planning for climate impacts

Future-proof recreation spaces through an investigation of the impacts of climate change, including the impact of sea level rise and increased rainfall intensity on foreshore and riverfront open space.

Investigate opportunities to create cooler environments at community centres and indoor recreation centres to encourage and enable recreation on hot days. This can include natural ventilation and shading from tree planting. Air conditioning is maladaptive to climate change as it increases emissions, however may be appropriate as a last resort in some locations.

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.

Work in partnership to deliver identified Green Grid projects.

Work with partners such as the Greater Sydney Commission and neighbouring councils to continue to deliver identified Green Grid projects including:

- Continuing the GreenWay master plan
- 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, Rozelle Foreshores Heritage Walking Trail

Deliver existing tree strategies and increase tree planting for cooler streets and parks

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. Continue existing strategies such as the Sustainable Streets program and Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Future urban planning studies should aim to increase tree canopy and biodiversity along streetscapes to offset localised urban heat island effects. These studies should examine the potential for incremental increases of open space along pedestrian corridors. For example, this could be achieved through increasing streetfront setback requirements to facilitate safer pedestrian corridors, improved streetscape amenity, and potentially obtain additional open space for deep soil plantings and passive rest stops.

Minimise impact of recreation on sensitive ecological restoration and biodiversity areas

Continue to resource and support bushcare programs across the LGA to support recreation in nature and improved environmental outcomes, including supporting older people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate.

Minimise impact of recreation on sensitive ecological restoration and biodiversity areas in the design of new or upgraded recreation facilities.

Increase natural areas and native planting in open space and on streets to provide opportunities for recreation in and alongside nature. Provide interpretive signage to increase understanding of local biodiversity.

Review Council policies to reduce barriers and encourage community-led recreation programs and projects, including verge gardens, community gardens and laneway improvements.

Biophilic design principles

Incorporate biophilic design considerations in master planning the public domain to improve mental and physical health outcomes of residents.

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.

13.0 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This section summarises how Council intends to treat outstanding items from previous contribution plans (that responded to historical needs) as well as a suite of strategies that might be needed to work towards meeting the current and future community's needs.

ALIGNING ITEMS IN PREVIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEDULES

The infrastructure schedule associated with this Study includes transferring land acquisitions identified by the former Ashfield, Leichhardt, and Marrickville section 94 Plans that have not yet been acquired, as well as new open space that has been expressed by other adopted masterplanning policies, such as the NSW State Government's Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy.

These sites are listed below and illustrated in Figure 75:

- **C2-1** - The Ashfield Section 94 Plan (2014) included an infrastructure item for the delivery of 7,500m² of additional open space in North Ashfield.
- **C3-1** - The Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy and Greenway Masterplan identified the delivery of 8,000m² of new open space in the Taverners Hill Precinct and Hawthorne Canal Precinct, Leichhardt.
The area shown is a proximity area for further planning investigation to examine opportunity sites for the delivery of new open space, or initiatives that seek to intensify use of existing open space
- **C3-2** - The partial acquisition of land at 23-45 Susan Street, Annandale, along the Johnston

Creek Corridor, as identified by the former Leichhardt Contribution Plan No.1 – Open Space and Recreation (2005) that equates to a total of approximate 1,100m² of new open space surrounding the Camperdown Precinct identified by the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (2016).

- **C3-3** - The land acquisition of 15 & 15A Hearn Street, Leichhardt, as identified by the former Leichhardt Contribution Plan No.1 – Open Space and Recreation (2005) that equates to a total of approximate 1,180m² of new open space, and is in proximity to the Leichhardt Precinct identified under the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy.
- **C3-4** - The land acquisition of 1 Cahill Street, Annandale, as identified by the former Leichhardt Contribution Plan No.1 – Open Space and Recreation (2005) that equates to a total of approximate 379m² of new open space, and is within the Camperdown Precinct identified under the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy.
- **C3-5** - Land acquisition or agreement with public agency land owner of 30 Brighton Street, Petersham, to deliver approximately 1,700m² of new open space, as identified by the former Marrickville Section 94 Contribution Plan (2014).
- **C3-6** - Conversion of 2 Hay St, Leichhardt, carpark to open space.

The catchment summaries in the following chapter provide more detail on these items.

Legend

- Greenway boundary
- PRCUTS
- Areas outside 400m walk to a park
- New open space identified by previous section 94 plans, and proximity areas for new open space delivery
- Town Centre masterplans – priority for future open space and recreation to 2036
- Priority areas for increased open space provision to be associated with long-term investigation areas for increased density (LHS, 2021)
- Priority areas for increased open space provision to be associated with short-term investigation areas for increased density (LHS, 2021)
- Dulwich Hill Town Centre uplift area

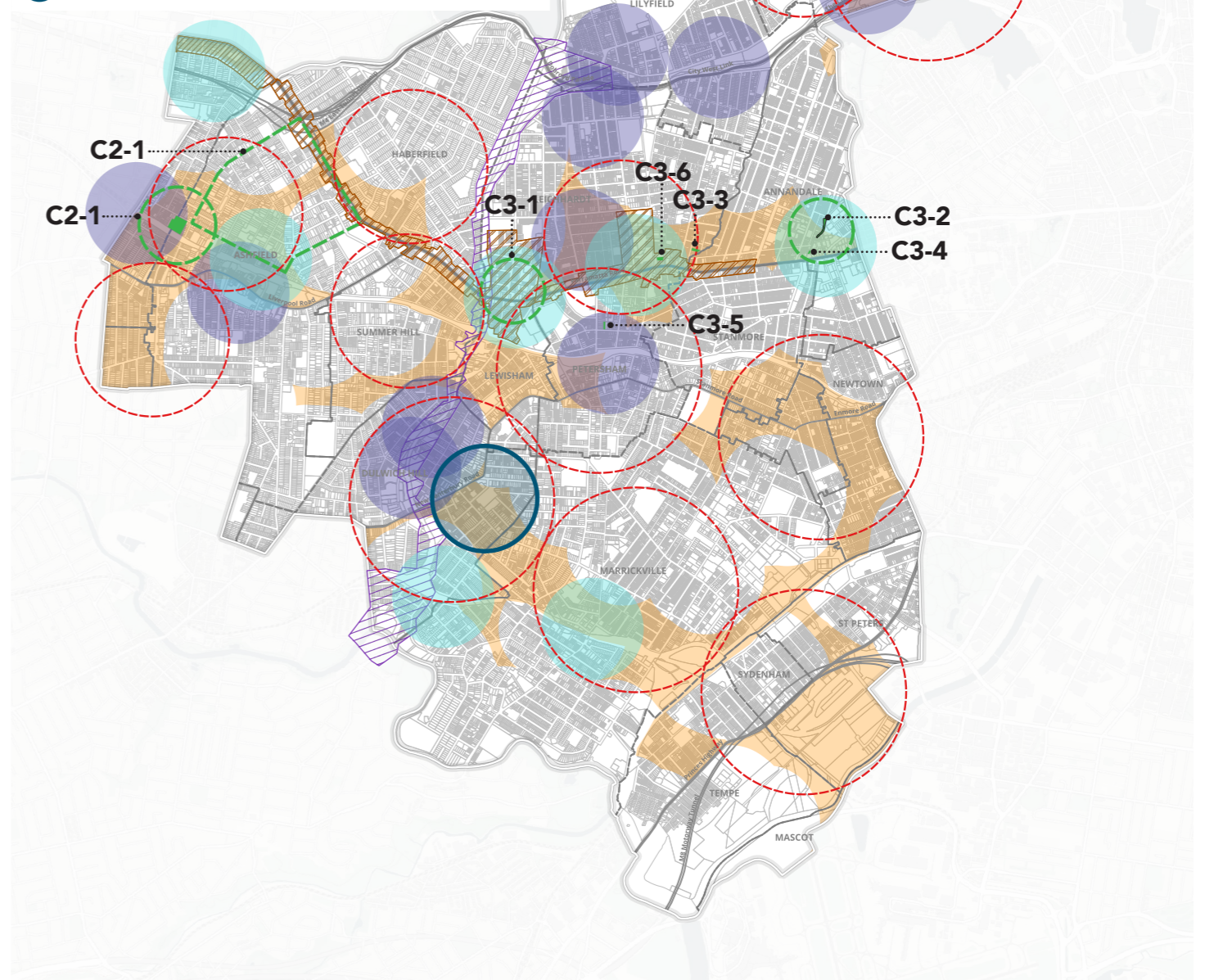


Figure 75 - LGA infrastructure schedule map and areas for priority open space

A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO DELIVERING ON IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Assuming all infrastructure items from previous infrastructure schedules are actioned by 2036, this would deliver 22,862m² (2.2 hectares) of additional new open space. Benchmarking indicates that the new population alone to 2036 will generate a demand for 58.6 hectares of open space (based on the current provision rate of 16.4m² per person).

It is Council's aspiration to seek to maintain prevailing rates of provision of open space, however also acknowledge that there high likelihood that even with a suite of strategies - fulfilling this aspiration is unlikely.

The primary limitation is the availability and extremely high cost of land areas that are suitable for open space in the LGA.

A suite of strategies

A multi-pronged strategy is required to address the need for additional open space. The following list of potential strategies that could be adopted by Council to work towards the provision of additional open space are suggestions only, and do not reflect the intentions of Council:

- **Partnerships and agreements:** Maximise use of current public and private open space & recreation facilities through partnerships and agreements
- **Maximise open space and recreation opportunities on Council-owned land:** Including open space and public squares in redevelopments of under-capitalised Council-owned land.
- **Embellishment to improve quality, capacity and useability of existing spaces:** Targeted embellishment of existing open space areas funded by developer contributions
- **Expansion of smaller parks:** Smaller sites next to existing open spaces to increase their size (aiming for more parks above 0.1-0.5 hectares);

- **Improved linkages to and between significant open spaces:** Create 'linear green linkages' between existing and future planned parks. This may include increasing front setback requirements to allow for additional open space and urban tree canopy cover as part of future masterplanning studies, reclaiming road space for pedestrians, cyclists and street trees / furniture, and strategic land purchases
- **Town Centre Masterplans:** As Council undertakes town centre master plans or any re-zoning activities, prioritise providing additional civic and open space recreational space of a minimum size of 0.1 hectare, aiming for 0.5 hectare that is within easy walking distance of 200m from all residents living in high density. Ideally public spaces should be provided as the heart of town centres, for social, recreational and health and wellbeing outcomes.
- **Community Benefit Analysis studies required at DA phase:** Require large redevelopment sites to provide an independent assessment of social infrastructure and open space needs (also know as a Community Benefit Analysis).
- **Developers to directly provide new public parks on land on rezoned land:**
 - The size, shape and area of parkland being a function of site size and maximum building heights
 - Where development sites are too small to accommodate both development and parkland, the Council and developer would negotiate a contribution extra to s7.11 that would enable conversion of existing roads to linear open space/shared zones that connect to existing open spaces (i.e. linear green linkages)
 - Future contribution plans should examine this recommendation to avoid 'double dipping' complexities, as is further explained in Chapter 15 – Funding and Delivery
- **Creative ways to provide more space:** Council's Street Play Program or under-utilised laneways could provide additional recreational space, as too could the provision of open space on Council owned carpark rooftops.

Land dedication and acquisition strategy

- This RNS highlights that it would be advantageous if Council were to consider undertaking further studies to define an "open space land dedication strategy/land acquisition strategy" for the Inner West LGA that identifies areas where future open space is desirable to achieve the maintenance of the open space provision rates. The strategy should consider prioritising:
 - Sites of at least 10,000m² to 20,000m² to accommodate active sports and recreation
 - Finding opportunities to provide additional open space in locations where residents do not have high-quality open space within 400 metres of their homes
 - Aligning with the Town Centre Master Planning processes to identify appropriate sites for additional open space
 - A review of Council's existing assets to ascertain where new open space could be provided, or where the dual use of existing assets could be facilitated

Amendment of Council's Planning Agreement Policy:

To facilitate this Study's recommendation - that where development sites are too small to accommodate both new density and parkland, Council and the developer should negotiate a contribution that is in addition to s7.11 contributions that would enable the delivery of high-quality linear open space/shared zones that connect to existing open spaces (i.e. linear green linkages). It is recommended a future amendment to Council's Planning Agreement Policy should occur that seeks to implement this recommendation and further examines framework considerations, methodology, and template of terms of agreements for such negotiations to occur.

Notes

It is important to note that this needs Study is not able to make new recommendations for land acquisitions in the absence of extensive cost/benefit analyses and wider consultation for such proposals. That isn't to say that additional space isn't urgently needed.

Should Council opt to move forward with the recommendation of developing an "open space land dedication strategy/land acquisition strategy", this Study should be mindful to the financial costs imposed via land dedications and acquisition. This may be best coupled with future urban design studies that explore LEP/DCP incentives to ensure delivery costs are borne by developers. It is important for Council to consider operational maintenance costs associated with land dedications as part of this work.

The completion of such work would be greatly beneficial for future recreational needs studies. as the provision of open space provided on private land, and potential new open space to be delivered on land owned by Council or other public agencies, would be known. This would allow for its calculation into Council meeting the objective of this Study – to maintain the current provision rate of 16.4m² per person over time.

Additionally, at the time of writing this update (September 2021) it is also noted that the Apartment Design Guide is undergoing a review, and is expected to provide more guidance about communal open space provision on site (and potentially publicly accessible communal open space).