



## Nomination Form

Categories (Please tick one box)

- Planning
  - Design, Development, Management - Leisure Facilities
  - Design, Development, Management - Parks
  - Design, Development, Management - Open Space
  - Project, Program, Practice - Sustainable Initiatives
  - Project, Program, Practice - Inclusive and Connected Communities
  - Project, Program, Practice - Events
- Throughout the Nomination form, "Projects" means Planning, Design, Development, Management of Leisure Facilities, Parks and Open Space and Project, Program and Practice in Sustainable Initiatives, Inclusive and Connected Communities and Events.
  - Download nomination form, complete and resubmit 'on-line' in word or PDF format (maximum of 5mb / submission)
  - Supporting information and photos to be submitted separately to the Nomination Form; and
  - Please type in Arial 11pt font.

### Section A (all applicants must answer Section A)

<b>A. Award Details</b>		
Title of Project <b>North Sydney Council Open Space Provision Strategy</b>		
Owner of Project <b>North Sydney Council</b>		
Manager of Project <b>Megan White – Landscape Planner</b>		
Location of Project <b>North Sydney Council area</b>		
Suburb: <b>North Sydney and surrounds</b>	State: <b>NSW</b>	Post Code: <b>2060 and surrounds</b>

<b>B. Nominator's Details</b>
Name of Nominator: <b>Penny Holloway</b>





Name of Organisation <b>North Sydney Council</b>	
Postal Address: <b>PO Box 12</b>	
Suburb: <b>North Sydney</b> State: <b>NSW</b>	Post Code: <b>2059</b>
I certify that the information provided in support of this nomination is true and accurate	
Signed	Date <b>03/06/09</b>
(Head of Department)	

C. Photographs

## Section B

- Criteria 1 to 9 will each be rated out of five except 5.1 which will be rated out of 20.
- The questions in Section B are generic for all categories. Please answer the questions most appropriate to your category. You may adapt questions and add any information that will support your nomination.

## Judging Criteria

<b>1. Background / History / Location / Need</b>
<p>Provide an overview of the reason for the project. What issues/ barriers has the project had to overcome? What was the nature and scale of the problem, issue or situation which led to the search for an innovative solution?</p> <p><b><u>Project Background</u></b></p> <p>North Sydney Council currently owns or has care, control and management of 188 open spaces covering approximately 150 hectares. The open spaces range from foreshore parks, natural bushland and sportsgrounds to street closures and civic spaces. The distribution of open space in North Sydney is uneven, with most being located on the foreshores, and the majority of the remainder in a bank down the centre of the Council area.</p> <p>Although the amount of open space within the Council area as a percentage of total area is high relative to other Sydney metropolitan Council areas, residential densities are also high, accounting for the relatively low level of open space provision per one thousand persons. Additionally excluding the numerous small areas of open space in North Sydney not usable for recreation (road closures, extended nature strips, traffic islands etc) reduces the total amount of usable open space considerably.</p>





Council's Recreation Needs Study 2005 determined that the existing open space network does not fully meet the recreation needs of the existing population, and does not have the capacity to absorb the recreation needs and demands of the future anticipated population. North Sydney's network of parks, reserves and civic spaces is under ever-increasing pressure; factors including a lack of undeveloped land and the high cost of land in North Sydney mean that creating new opportunities to cater for the open space and recreational needs of a growing population presents a significant challenge.

The key factors affecting usability of Council's existing open space network include distribution, quality, quantity, diversity, connectivity and accessibility. Analysis revealed a number of deficiencies that need to be addressed if the existing and future recreation and open space needs of the community are to be appropriately planned for.

<b>Finding</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Uneven distribution of parks and reserves throughout the Council area.	Recreational opportunities are not equally available to all.
Low provision of all types of parks in some areas of high population density, particularly in some parts of Cremorne, St Leonards, Crows Nest and Kirribilli.	In the case of Cremorne and St Leonards/Crows Nest, this problem will be exacerbated over time, as these areas are the sites of planned population growth.
Lack of neighbourhood parks in some areas, particularly in some parts of Cremorne, St Leonards, Crows Nest and Kirribilli.	Neighbourhood parks support incidental physical activity and are particularly important in areas of high population density where they can serve as the 'community backyard'.
Insufficient district sporting facilities, particularly in Wollstonecraft and Cremorne (south of Military Road).	Pressure is put on existing sportsgrounds as demand exceeds supply. Many local schools also lack sportsgrounds and rely on Council facilities.
The needs of North Sydney's considerable worker and student populations must be considered.	These groups use parks and reserves at lunchtime and after hours for both informal and organised sport and recreation.
There is a lack of diversity in recreation opportunities provided.	Options for recreation are limited. People need to travel beyond the LGA boundary to participate in some forms of recreation.
Inadequate linkages and connections.	Corridors of open space can link existing parks and reserves into a greater whole. Lack of connections hampers development of district-wide recreation trails as well as wildlife corridors.
The small size of many parks.	Limits the range of recreational uses that these open spaces can be put to. A number of areas zoned 'Public Open Space' are not usable for recreation purposes due to their size, shape and/or topography.





*Population density in the suburb of Kirribilli is high; however the current level of provision of public open space is extremely low.*



*Ilbery Reserve in Neutral Bay serves as the community 'backyard' in an area where residential flat buildings are the most common dwelling type.*

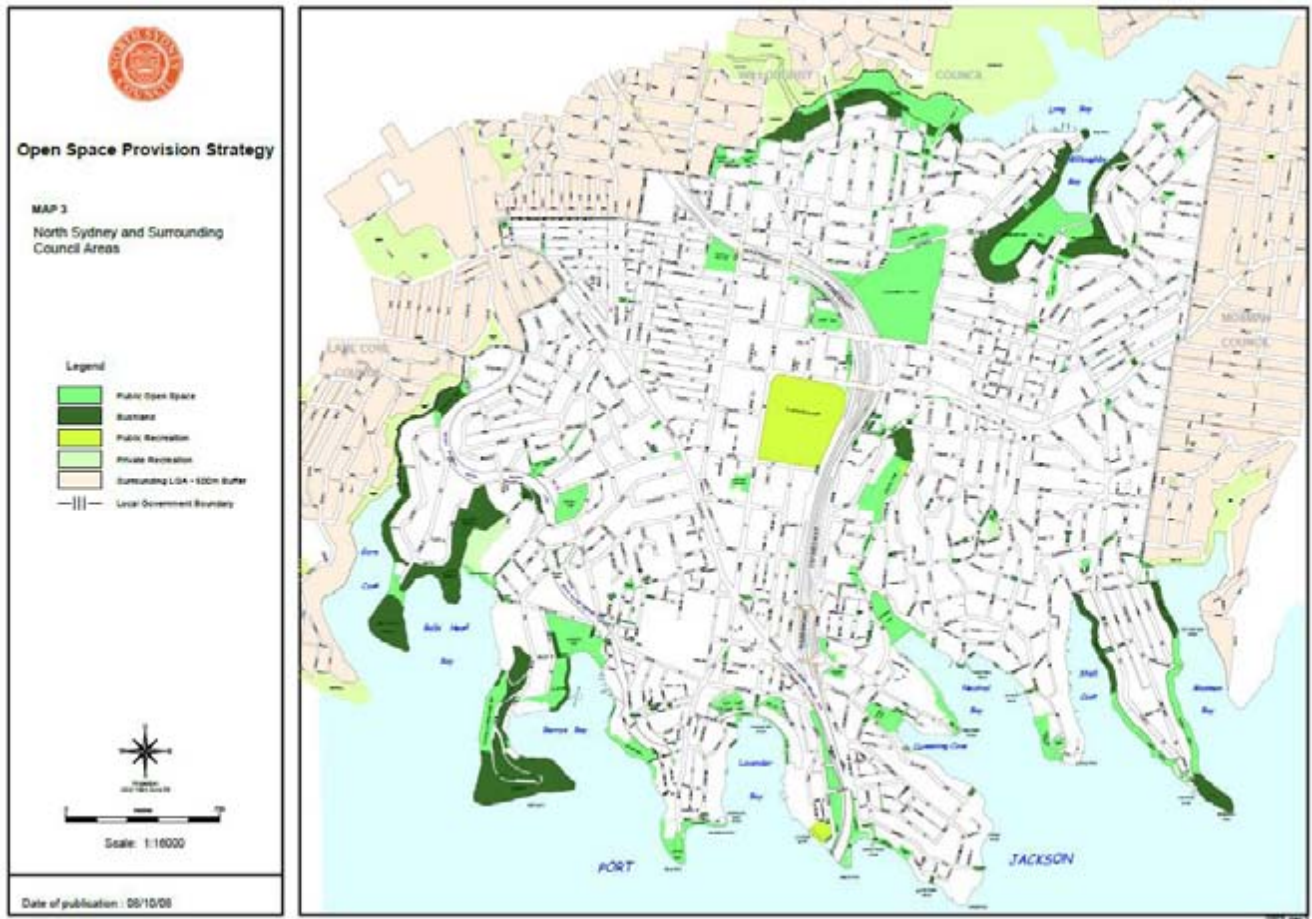
Strategy Purpose

The Open Space Provision Strategy provides a strategic framework within which opportunities to provide new open space and recreation areas can be assessed. It identifies areas where new public open space is most needed to cater for the recreational needs of the North Sydney population (current and future), and allows Council to evaluate the suitability of parcels of land within these areas for acquisition as open space, as opportunities arise. The Strategy will ensure that new land provided for open space meets the needs of the population, providing useful and usable open spaces in areas of population growth and low open space provision, in an economical and financially sustainable manner.





### North Sydney and Surrounding Council Areas



*This Map illustrates the current location and distribution of all areas of public open space in North Sydney. Significant open spaces in neighbouring Council areas are also shown.*





**2. Clarity of Goals/Objectives**

What are/were the goals /objectives of the project?

Project Objectives

- To develop a strategy that Council can use to guide decision making in relation to open space provision
- To analyse open space supply information, and identify existing areas of deficiency
- To assess current and future demand for open space and recreation, based on development trends, anticipated population growth, and information contained in Council planning documents
- To develop a methodology for identifying and prioritising new areas of land suitable for acquisition as open space, based on a series of acquisition principles
- To develop a methodology for assessing and prioritising other opportunities to acquire specific sites for public open space as they arise
- To balance acquisition strategies with Council's current embellishment program to ensure provision of quality open space
- To ensure the acquisition of new open space is financially feasible and economically viable; i.e. that it represents good value for money

It should be noted that the Open Space Provision Strategy does not advocate compulsory acquisition of land for public open space.



*Like most of North Sydney's sportsgrounds, Primrose Park is located on reclaimed foreshore land.*



*Public open space is largely confined to the harbour foreshores in Neutral Bay (foreground) and Cremorne Point (middle ground).*





### 3. Process

Describe the process/ management framework which was followed to implement the project. Describe any alternative strategies which were considered. Describe any difficulties which were experienced and lessons learned during the process.

#### Project Process

The Open Space Provision Strategy uses Council's existing open space supply and demand information as the basis for establishing principles and strategies for open space acquisition. A series of maps chart factors including proximity to existing areas of high quality open space (including those located in adjoining Council areas) and anticipated level of population growth, and a final map identifies areas where new public open space is most needed. The Strategy was developed in consultation with the North Sydney community to provide guidance for provision of new land for open space through a variety of means, over the short, medium and long-term.

Selection of land suitable for acquisition for open space is based on the acquisition principles and strategies set out in the Strategy. A methodology that assesses the potential suitability of sites for use as open space and sets out priorities for acquisition is detailed in the Strategy. Priority acquisitions will be those that offer the greatest returns on Council's limited acquisition funds. To be categorised as high priority for acquisition, sites will be located in areas of greatest need, will be usable, accessible and free of site constraints, and their acquisition will be economically viable.

Possible acquisitions come and go for a variety of reasons, and in many cases it may not be possible to acquire a site within the highest-priority area. Striking the right balance between opportunity and overall program goals will be a constant challenge facing Council as it seeks to provide more open space. The Strategy is flexible enough to deal with opportunities as they arise, as well as with priorities that may change over time for a variety of reasons.

#### Implementing the Strategy

New land for open space may be acquired via either planned or opportunistic acquisition. Planned acquisition involves the prioritisation of areas of land that Council has previously identified as desirable as public open space. Examples of planned acquisition include:

- Local Open Space Reservations (LEP 2001)
- Vacant areas of SRA or RTA land (Negotiating leasehold title)
- Targeting and lobbying re high profile sites (eg Graythwaite)

Opportunistic acquisition involves the detailed and rigorous evaluation of individual parcels of land for possible acquisition as they become available. Priority sites will be those with the highest potential to meet the open space and recreation needs of the new population, while also being consistent with the parallel needs of the existing population. Acquisition can take several forms, including purchase at market price (the most likely), land swap, donation or bequest.





#### 4. Value for Money

What was the overall cost of the project? How was this spent? Why do you think the project has been value for money?

Council staff had the knowledge and expertise to undertake all necessary strategic, planning and consultative work, and the Open Space Provision Strategy was developed in-house without incurring any significant costs.

Council's Landscape Planner managed the project, with assistance from GIS Mapping staff and input from the Strategic Planning Department. Apart from staff wages, costs were limited to ancillary items including public advertising, catering for public workshops and briefings and printing costs. Only a limited number of hard copies were printed as the document is available on Council's website.

The Strategy was developed over a 7-month period. Public exhibition occurred during October and November 2008, and Council adopted the Strategy unanimously in February 2009.

#### 5. Features

##### 5.1 Innovation

What are the innovative features of the project?

The Open Space Provision Strategy's **Site Assessment Procedure** provides an innovative and user-friendly means of assessing the suitability of sites for acquisition as public open space. It is the key feature and the key outcome of the Strategy.

The Strategy's Site Assessment Procedure is set out on the following pages.





## Determining the Suitability of Sites for Acquisition as Public Open Space

### Step 1 – Site Selection

Choose a site for assessment

Location of selected site	
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### Step 2 – Determine whether the site is located in a Priority area

Determine the site's priority for acquisition as open space in the first instance by plotting its location on Map 11. Highest priority locations are those within areas of planned population growth, and over 400 metres from a higher quality park or reserve. (*Map 11 'Priority Areas for Planned Provision' shown on following page*).

Tick the appropriate box below.

<b>Priority 1</b> – proceed with assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Priority 2</b> – proceed with assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Priority 3</b> – proceed with assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Priority 4 or above</b> – discontinue assessment *	<input type="checkbox"/>

*If the site is located in a Priority 1, 2 or 3 area, proceed to Step 3.*

\*If the site is located in a Priority 4 or above area, discontinue evaluation unless there are exceptional reasons to proceed (For example the site will be leased, limiting Council's financial outlay, or the site will complete a crucial link). **If relevant, explain below:**

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### Step 3 – Site Assessment – Level 1

Carry out the Level 1 Site Assessment, assigning a score for each of the criteria listed.

**Refer Table 1.**

*If the site scores 35 points or more (out of a potential 50 points – refer Table below) it is categorised 'Priority A' – proceed to Step 4.*

*If the site scores less than 35 points, the assessment should be discontinued.*

Score	Priority for Acquisition as Open Space
35 – 50	Priority A (Site is highly desirable)
25 – 35	Priority B
15 – 25	Priority C
0 - 15	Priority D (Site is undesirable)

Total score (Out of 50)		Proceed to Level 2 Assessment (Yes/ No)	
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### Step 4 – Site Assessment – Level 2

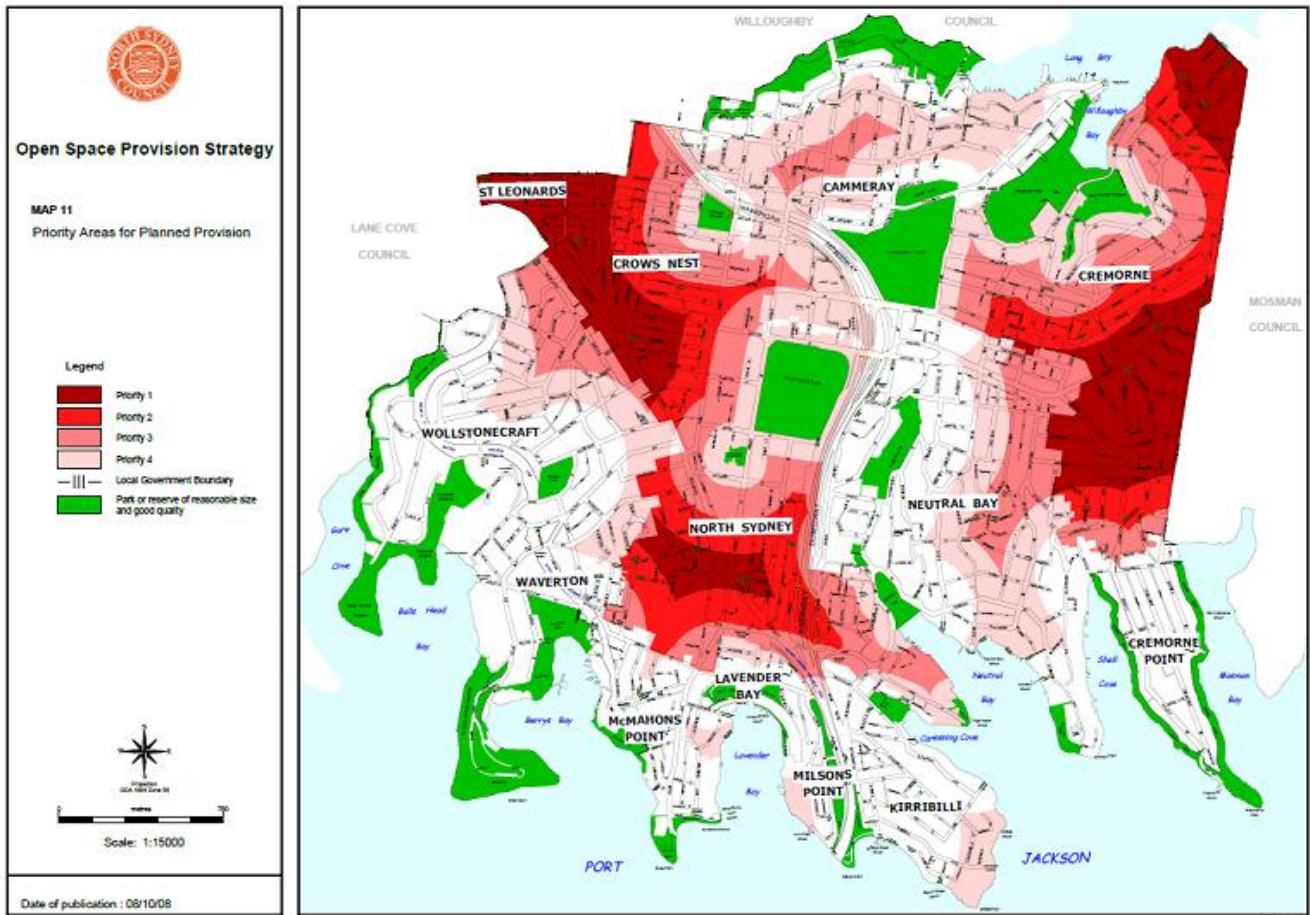
Carry out the detailed Level 2 Site Assessment.

**Refer Table 2.**





### Priority Areas for Planned Provision



Map 11 – Priority Areas for Planned Provision of Public Open Space





**Table 1 – Site Assessment - Level 1**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Acquisition Principle (Refer Section 4.0)</b>	<b>Relevant Considerations</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Proximity to areas of development and increasing population	1 - Equitably distributed open space system	Census data and future predictions.	1 - Low proximity 5 - High proximity
Proximity to existing areas of open space	1 - Equitably distributed open space system	Map 2 – Land zoned ‘Public Open Space’, ‘Bushland’, ‘Public Recreation & ‘Private Recreation’ in North Sydney Map 3 – Open Space in North Sydney & Adjoining Council Areas Map 4 – Open Space Categories - Revised Map 5 – Local, District & Regional Open Spaces	1 - High proximity 5 - Low proximity
Accessibility	1 - Equitably distributed open space system 3 - Well-connected and integrated open space system	Presence of barrier such as major roads, topography Presence of existing pedestrian and/or cycle paths. Accessibility for mobility impaired users. Visually accessibility – by day or by night. Access for maintenance & emergency vehicles.	1 - Difficult 5 - Easy
Could form part of a critical linkage	3 - Well-connected and integrated open space system	Land either adjoins an area of existing open space, or may become part of a linkage if further land is acquired in the future. A parcel of land that complements adjacent uses is desirable – eg acquiring the land will allow trails to be extended or facilitate access to other recreation areas.	1 - Little opportunity to form part of linkage 5 - Will connect existing open spaces usefully
Is of usable size, shape & topography to cater for appropriate rec activities	2 - Functionally diverse open space system 4 - Offers a range of activities to meet community needs	The recreational purpose for which new open space is required varies from area to area. Consider how the relevant parcel of land will be used (based on identified need), and whether it is suitable for this intended use.	*1 - Land unsuitable for recreation 10 = Land very suitable for recreation
The land contains a feature/s of natural or cultural significance	5 - Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural features	Site may contain bushland and/or creek lines, wildlife habitat or other unique natural attributes, or have Aboriginal or European historical significance. Significant features may be assets or drawbacks that restrict or prohibit development of the site.	1 - Features restrict site development 5 - Features do not restrict site /no features





<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Acquisition Principle</b> (Refer Section 4.0)	<b>Relevant Considerations</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Is likely to be financially feasible and is economically viable	6 - Economic viability and efficiency of land acquisition	Council considers that acquisition will significantly meet existing and future community needs for open space and recreation, and that acquisition of the land will not place an unreasonable financial burden on the existing or future community.	<b>*1</b> - Low feasibility/ viability <b>10</b> - High feasibility/ viability
Adjoining landuses	7 - Contextual appropriateness	The site is not impacted by adjoining land use and activities, such as noise or visual pollution. Complementary uses include other recreation facilities. Neighbouring landowners may be unhappy about increases in visitation near their land.	<b>1</b> - Will negatively impact the site <b>5</b> - Will complement the site

Ratings are from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest and best.

\*Ratings are from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest and best.

This weighting takes into account the level of impact these factors may have on the suitability of a site.





**Table 2 – Site Assessment – Level 2**

**Site visit**

At least one comprehensive site visit is essential to allow Council to investigate the condition of the land and its potential suitability for open space and recreation purposes. The following checklist lists some of the issues that may affect the suitability of the land for open space.

<b>Relevant Issues</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Comment/Explanation</b>
Is the site in a prominent and visible location?		
Is the site easily accessible to the public?		
Does the topography and shape of the site provide maximum recreational opportunity without the need for significant earthworks?		
Are there any structures/buildings on the land?		
Is the site in a Conservation area? (If yes, what are the implications)?		
Are there potential site constraints such as power lines, easements or utilities?		
Is the land likely to be affected by unacceptable risks eg traffic hazard or traffic noise?		
Are there any ecological resources and/or sensitive habitat?		
Consider the cost of any clean up, reshaping or dealing with existing site constraints.		
Any other relevant issues? (Concerning either the site or its surroundings)		

**Documentation review**

Review reports and any specialist information relevant to the site, eg flora and fauna surveys, contamination reports, Aboriginal and European heritage inventories, a historic review of the property, including a chain of title review and research regarding current and past uses on the subject and neighbouring properties.

**Comprehensive cost – benefit assessment**

**Stakeholder consultation**

Community consultation can provide valuable insight into community perspectives and preferences, both generally, and with regard to specific parcels of land. Community workshops allow nearby property owners and others in the community to raise questions and concerns about how the land will be used, the costs and benefits to the community of acquiring the land and the effect the acquisition will have on surrounding land values. Notifying adjacent landowners of Council's interest in a parcel of land may encourage them into selling an easement that may add considerable value to the land purchase.





*Innovation continued.*

Provision of a workable implementation model was an essential part of developing the Open Space Provision Strategy. For a number of years Council has been levying funds from new developments for open space acquisition and embellishment through its Section 94 development contributions plan, however the rate of accumulation has slowed in recent years and existing funds are unlikely to cover the purchase of more than a few open space areas given the value of land in North Sydney. One of the greatest challenges for the Open Space Provision Strategy was to identify realistic, alternative strategies for open space provision, particularly in areas where there might be difficulty in establishing a nexus between the new development and the need for open space.

While the acquisition of land to create new parks and reserves or civic spaces is important, it is not the only way to provide the community with new opportunities for recreation. In many instances acquisition may be economically unfeasible or impractical due to the amount of space required to support a desired recreation activity. The Open Space Provision Strategy provides a number of realistic alternative strategies for providing new public open space that do not involve significant financial outlay.

Innovative and co-operative ways in which land may be provided for public open space at little financial cost to Council include:

- Land swap arrangements
- Leasing land from Government instrumentalities such as Rail Corp or other landowners such as schools
- Donations/bequests
- Grants
- Naming rights/sponsorship
- Partnering with neighbouring Councils
- Working with developers to obtain contributions of open space in desirable locations
- Dual use of land not dedicated as public open space

Ways in which the acquisition of small areas of land can create significant benefits include:

- *Linkages* – connecting existing areas of open space extends the open space network
- *Extension* - acquiring land adjoining existing open space can make it more usable

Alternatively, Council has the opportunity to make better use of its existing open spaces. Parks and reserves can be embellished and sportsgrounds can be upgraded (for example by installing floodlights) to increase their carrying capacity. Undertaking works to improve accessibility (both to and within open spaces) can also increase use of open space areas.

Opportunities to acquire and/or provide land by innovative and co-operative methods should be identified early and discussed openly with relevant stakeholders as a potentially mutually beneficial option.





### 5.2 Sustainability

What are the sustainable features of the project and how have they been evaluated?

Sustainability principles generally are an integral part of the Open Space Provision Strategy, and environmental, social and economic considerations are all incorporated into the decision-making process set out in the Site Assessment Procedure.

Additionally, a number of the Strategy's Acquisition Principles relate to sustainability. These include:

#### *Protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural environment*

- Conserve and enhance the natural environment by extending existing areas and/or establishing new areas of indigenous vegetation.
- Consider the potential for new open spaces to provide biodiversity linkages to and between bushland areas
- Consider the potential to incorporate nature-based play opportunities
- Recognise the limitations of sites with areas or artefacts of Aboriginal or European heritage significant to accommodate recreation opportunities.

#### *Consider economic viability and efficiency of land acquisition*

- Acquire and develop open spaces only if they have the capacity to achieve operational viability objectives and provide net community benefits given the financial investment.
- Consider acquiring open space adjoining existing parks and sports facilities to maximise management and maintenance efficiencies.

#### *Contextual appropriateness*

- Ensure compatibility between open space uses and the uses of neighbouring land. Uses of new open space should be appropriate to the nature, sustainable capacity and characteristics of their surrounds.

### 5.3 Accessibility and Inclusiveness

How has the project been made accessible and inclusive?

N/A





## 6. Outcomes

### 6.1 Evidence of User Satisfaction and Usage Levels

How is customer satisfaction assessed and what are the results? What are the usage levels?

#### Project Consultation Process

Mar – May 2008	The first draft of the document, known as the ' <i>Open Space Acquisition Strategy</i> ' was circulated for information and comment to other relevant Council departments. Feedback received was incorporated into the draft document.
June '08	The amended document was presented at a Councillor Briefing and discussion session. Feedback received was incorporated into the draft document, and the name of the document was amended to the ' <i>Open Space Expansion Strategy</i> '.
July '08	A workshop with representatives from each of Council's 20 Precincts was held in July 2008. The workshop focussed on the Strategy's methodology, and a number of sample cases (including some chosen by the community representatives) were trialled. Using the Site Assessment Procedure, the group assessed a variety of sites to determine their potential suitability for acquisition as public open space. Again, feedback received was incorporated in to the draft document.
Sept – Oct '08	The draft ' <i>Open Space Provision Strategy</i> ' was then placed on general public exhibition. It was widely advertised, and available on Council's website for viewing and comment.
Nov – Dec '08	Comments made in the resultant public submissions were incorporated into the final Strategy, where appropriate, to create a better and more inclusive document.*
February 2009	Council unanimously adopted the draft Open Space Provision Strategy on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2009. (Refer Attachment 1).

\*Following general public exhibition of the draft Strategy only 2 formal submissions were received, a fact indicative of the degree to which the community had already been consulted and were satisfied with the way their previous feedback had been incorporated into the final draft Strategy.





**6.2 Staffing Satisfaction and Performance**

What are the implications for the staff?

Implications for Council Staff

The Site Assessment Procedure set out in the Open Space Provision Strategy is a tool that can be used by staff in relevant Council departments including Parks, Engineering, Strategic Planning, Development and Property to assess the suitability and desirability of an area of land for open space and recreation in an informed and accountable manner.

The Level 1 Site Assessment is designed to be completed relatively quickly. Only sites that are rated 'Priority A' proceed to the more thorough and rigorous Level 2 Site Assessment unless there are exceptional reasons (for example the site will be leased, limiting Council's financial obligations).

Since the adoption of the Open Space Provision Strategy in February this year, the Site Assessment Procedure has already been successfully used to make informed decisions.

- Staff from Council's Engineering Department used the Site Assessment Procedure to determine the suitability of an area of land close to the commercial centre of Cremorne for use as a civic space (as part of the redevelopment of an existing car park).
- Staff from Council's Parks Department used the Site Assessment Procedure to determine the desirability of a parcel of privately-owned land on the harbour foreshore at Neutral Bay being offered to Council in a land-swap arrangement in exchange for an area of adjoining, non-foreshore Council-owned land.

Being able to use the Site Assessment Procedure to test the suitability of diverse parcels of land that become available from time to time in a clear and accountable manner is one of the Open Space Provision Strategy's most tangible benefits.

**6.3 Other Stakeholder Input/ Satisfaction**

What other stakeholders have been involved and how is their satisfaction assessed and what are the results?

N/A

**6.4 Financial Dimensions and Operating Costs**

Provide information on the annual operating costs and cost recovery. Provide information on how ongoing efficiency of program will be assessed.

N/A





#### 6.5 Other Outcomes

Provide any new, significant outcomes not covered by the above.

##### Production of a Comprehensive Open Space Inventory

As part of the open space provision analysis, a detailed inventory of all open space areas owned by North Sydney Council or under Council's care, control and management was produced. The inventory is linked to a 'Map of all Parks' that is available on Council's website. The following information is provided for each of Council's 188 public open spaces:

- Name
- Location
- Size (m2)
- Ownership
- Zoning
- Hierarchy
- Facilities/use

This is the first time all this information has been collected and compiled in the one place, in an easy-to-understand format, and it has proved extremely useful already with staff including parks and reserve managers, garden maintenance staff, engineers, planners and customer service staff all referencing it for a variety of purposes.

#### 7. Future

How will future developments and progress of the project be monitored?

##### Implementation

The Open Space Provision Strategy will be used by North Sydney Council on an 'as needs' basis. Since its adoption in February 2009, it has already been used for a number of purposes.

- Running the Graythwaite site (a former nursing home located near the North Sydney CBD) through the Site Assessment Procedure confirmed its desirability and justifies Council's support for a part of this significant site becoming publicly accessible open space (whether by purchase, dedication or another method).
- The owner of a parcel on land in Neutral Bay approached Council with a proposal to exchange a portion of Council-owned land at the southern end of Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay, for a portion of his land situated on the harbour foreshore. The Site Assessment Procedure confirmed the suitability and desirability of the privately-owned land for public open space and recreation. As a result of the assessment, Council agreed in principle to the land swap, and detailed negotiations to facilitate the swap are currently taking place.

Use of the Strategy's Site Assessment Procedure will increase as the numerous Council departments involved with the various aspects of land (including acquisition, valuation, rezoning, strategic planning, development or embellishment), become familiar with the assessment process and the credibility it confers.





### Priorities for Acquisition

Sites to be assessed for acquisition in the first instance will be:

- Sites identified as desirable for open space in previous Council studies (a list of these is contained in Section 3.4 of the Open Space Provision Strategy).
- Sites that become available on the real estate market and are located in a 'Priority' area will be assessed using the Site Assessment Procedure.
- The community, Councillors or Council staff or other interested parties may nominate other sites from time to time. These will be assessed using the Site Assessment Procedure.

### 8. What are the Significant Qualities of the Project? Why should it be recognised?

Why do you think it has been successful?

North Sydney Council's Open Space Provision Strategy is a clear, lucid and accountable method of assessing the desirability and suitability of sites for public open space and recreation. It is credible and it has the support of Councillors, Council staff and the North Sydney community. The Strategy has the flexibility to be applied either pro-actively, or as opportunities arise. It is financially responsible at a time when economic prudence is of the utmost importance. Without the inclusion of 'non-acquisition' provision strategies, implementation of the document would most likely be unfeasible.

Factors that contributed to the success of the project include:

- Adequate and appropriate allocation of resources
- Good advance planning
- A clear brief and project objectives
- A well-defined goal
- Clear leadership and direction
- A high level of community involvement
- Ownership of the project (by the community) was encouraged
- Excellent communication between relevant Council staff

The Open Space Provision Strategy was completed within the set timeframe, for less than the approved budget, and it meets a need that has long been recognised but that has not previously been satisfactorily addressed. Support for the publicly exhibited draft Strategy indicated a high level of community satisfaction with the project process as well as with the Strategy outcomes.





## 9. Resources

Is the project information available on your website? What other resources do you have to substantiate your nomination?

The Open Space Provision Strategy is available on North Sydney Council's website:  
<http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/2805-open-space.asp> (Context information)  
<http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/OSPS.pdf> (Strategy document)

The Strategy was compiled using information from Council strategic and policy documents:

- The North Sydney Council Management Plan\*
- 2020 Vision\*
- North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2001\*
- Recreation Needs Study 2005\*
- Section 94 Contributions Plan 2004\*
- Foreshore Access Strategy 2007\*
- Community Land Plans of Management (set of 12 documents)\*
- Water-Based Recreation Needs Study 2006
- North Sydney Foreshore Open Space Study 2001
- Community profiles and forecasts based on 2006 Census data (as analysed interpreted by ForecastID)\*

\* Document is available on Council's website.

## 10. Other comments

### Acquisition Principles

As a basis for identifying criteria for acquisition of more land for public open space, the Open Space Provision Strategy develops key principles for open space acquisition. Briefly, these are:

- Creation of an equitably distributed open space system
- Creation of a functionally diverse open space system
- Creation of a well-connected open space system
- Provision of an open space system that offers a range of recreational activities to meet current and future identified community needs
- Protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural environment
- Consider economic viability and efficiency of land acquisition
- Contextual appropriateness

These acquisition principles informed the resolution of the Strategy's acquisition strategies, and were used to identify and support the criteria for acquisition of land as open space as set out in the Strategy's Site Assessment Procedure.

