



**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**PLAYGROUNDS METHODOLOGY 2011**

*Amended with revised Works Program  
December 2015*

# PLAYGROUNDS METHODOLOGY 2011

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## **Introduction**

North Sydney Council manages and maintains 32 playgrounds within an area of 10 square kilometers. Since our current upgrading program commenced in 1996, all 32 playgrounds have been upgraded.

Council's new playgrounds are safe, fun, accessible and challenging, and they respond to and complement the character of the park in which they are located. North Sydney takes a holistic approach to playground design and management; rather than creating a few big-budget playgrounds, we are establishing a network of unique, custom-designed playgrounds evenly distributed throughout the Council area. For our many apartment dwellers, our parks are their backyard and we want to provide them with facilities that they will enjoy using on a daily basis.

We aim to meet the identified needs of the local community and to provide a range of playgrounds that represent excellent value for money. Budgets have ranged from \$20-60,000 for our 21 local facilities, \$60-120,000 for our 9 district playgrounds and \$180-250,000 for our 2 regional playgrounds. For less than \$2 million over 20 years, Council has upgraded its entire playground stock. The successful completion of these playgrounds for such modest budgets has been largely due to our committed and highly skilled in-house team.

## Review of Current Playgrounds Methodology 1996 (revised 2001)

Council's original Playgrounds Plan of Management 1995 identified the need to upgrade North Sydney's playground stock, and in 1996 a methodology document entitled 'Selecting and Upgrading Playgrounds' was prepared. Using this document, priorities for upgrading all playgrounds were determined in a consistent and accountable manner, and an ongoing implementation program was developed. The Methodology was further refined in 2001.

Factors considered in the original Playgrounds Methodology documents (1996 and 2001) to determine a priority order for upgrading existing playgrounds in North Sydney were:

- (1) Level of equipment and facilities  
The amount and quality of playground equipment and associated facilities such as seats, picnic tables and shady areas is an important factor influencing the amount of use a playground receives.
- (2) Existence of relevant associated landuses  
The use of a playground is likely to be significantly greater if it is associated with complementary facilities such as sportsgrounds, walking tracks, shops or other community facilities.
- (3) Population  
The use of playgrounds is likely to be greater in areas where there is a relatively high population density, and where a significant proportion of the population is made up of couple families with children.
- (4) Access  
The use of a playground is likely to be greater if it is in an easily accessible location. Potential impediments include lack of parking facilities, distance from public transport, barriers such as railway lines and physical barriers to strollers and users with mobility impairments such as steps.
- (5) Aesthetic appeal  
Playgrounds which are attractively landscaped and/or have pleasant views are likely to be more popular with people supervising children's play.

**Table 1 Current Playgrounds Upgrading Program (1996 – 2015)**

Year	Name of Playgrounds Upgraded	Location (by suburb)
1996/97	Tunks Park	Cammeray
1997/98	Watt Park Sirius Street Playground Ilbery Reserve Berry Island Reserve	Lavender Bay Cremorne Point Neutral Bay Wollstonecraft
1998/99	Hodgson's Lookout Brennan Park Green Park (senior)	Neutral Bay Wollstonecraft Cammeray
1999/2000	Fred Hutley Reserve Prior Avenue Reserve	Cammeray Cremorne
2000/01	Lodge Road Playground Victoria Street Playground Warringa Park	Cremorne McMahons Point North Sydney

Year	Name of Playgrounds Upgraded	Location (by suburb)
2001/02	St Leonards Park Grasmere Children's Park	North Sydney Cremorne
2002/03	WH Brothers Memorial Reserve Merrett Playground (Waverton Park)	Cremorne Waverton
2003/04	St. Thomas' Rest Park Primrose Park Grasmere Reserve	Crows Nest Cremorne Cremorne
2004/05	Kesterton Park North Sydney Leisure Centre	Neutral Bay North Sydney
2005/06	Milson Park Phillips Street Playground	North Sydney Neutral Bay
2006/07	Bradfield Park Mary French Reserve	Milsons Point McMahons Point
2007/08	Cahill Park Euroka Street Playground	Crows Nest Waverton
2008/09	Blues Point Reserve	McMahons Point
2011/12	Tunks Park	Cammeray
2012/13	Cremorne Reserve	Cremorne Point
2013/14	Berry Island Reserve Green Park (junior) Wollstonecraft Railway Station	Wollstonecraft Cammeray Wollstonecraft
2014/15	Ilbery Reserve Brightmore Reserve	Neutral Bay Cremorne
2015/16	Forsyth Park (DA stage only)* Watt Park*	Neutral Bay Lavender Bay

\* Scheduled but not yet complete

Following the preparation of the original Playgrounds Methodology, 4 of Council's existing playgrounds were identified for removal:

- Balls Head Reserve  
A set of swings in this Reserve was incompatible with the Reserve's 'Bushland' zoning. The swings were removed and the area was regenerated.
- Doris Street Reserve and Willow Tree Park  
Following the upgrading of neighbouring Warringa Park in 2000/01, these 2 small playgrounds were no longer being used (indicated by the lack of wear patterns under the equipment). Community surveys supported the conversion of both these areas to passive parks.
- Clark Park  
A set of swings was removed from Clark Park following the upgrading of the playground in adjacent Watt Park in 2007/08. The new playground in Watt Park included replacement swings.

The need to retain several other smaller play spaces was assessed when the original Playgrounds Methodology was implemented. The relevant local communities were canvassed, and found to be strongly in support of retaining these facilities including a swing set in Tye Park, Waverton, and play equipment in Grasmere Reserve, Cremorne.

## **New Playgrounds Methodology 2011**

The life expectancy of a playground is generally between 10 and 15 years, depending upon level of use, coastal exposure etc. As the current upgrading program is almost complete, it is now planned to review the current Playgrounds Methodology, and to create a new Methodology document to guide future development in North Sydney's playgrounds.

Council's new Playgrounds Methodology is divided into 4 sections:

- (1) **Assessing the need for the Existing Playgrounds**  
This involves assessing the need to retain Council's existing 32 playgrounds.
- (2) **Overview and Assessment of Council's Existing Playgrounds**  
Each playground is assessed to determine what (if any) work is required to refurbish or upgrade it.
- (3) **Identifying Potential Locations for new Playgrounds**  
Opportunities to construct new playgrounds in parts of the Council area currently not well served by playgrounds will be investigated.
- (4) **Developing a new Playgrounds Works Program**  
Generating a new Playgrounds Works Program will ensure that the existing playgrounds are refurbished appropriately and further developed where required and that new playgrounds are constructed, all in appropriate order of priority.

## (1) **Verifying the Need for Council's Existing Playgrounds**

The need to retain each of Council's existing playgrounds has been assessed by considering the relative locations and the distribution of all playgrounds in North Sydney.

**Map 1** illustrates the location and distribution of Council's existing playgrounds. Note that playgrounds that appear to be relatively close to each other may actually serve quite different local catchments due to topographical variations that are not apparent on the map or the presence of other barriers such as major roads or railway lines.

**Map 1** shows that North Sydney's playgrounds are reasonably well-distributed throughout the Council area, and there is no obvious duplication of facilities. However the map also clearly illustrates that there are some areas (particularly in Neutral Bay and Cremorne, along the Military Road corridor where population density is high) that are relatively poorly served by playgrounds.

Following this assessment, investigations were carried out to determine whether each playground is well-used.

Council's playgrounds maintenance staff observe levels of playground use first hand, and their regular maintenance inspections record displacement of softfall material and general wear and tear on play equipment and ancillary facilities, providing an excellent and ongoing indication of level of use. Whether the playground is a local, district or regional facility is also taken into account, as it is reasonable to expect local playgrounds will receive less use and exhibit fewer signs of wear and tear than district or regional playgrounds.

Discussions with Council's playgrounds maintenance staff and analysis of the information contained in the maintenance inspection records confirmed that all of the existing Council playgrounds are being well-used, and that all are required to meet the needs of the North Sydney community.

## (2) **Assessing Council's Existing Playgrounds**

This assessment determines the current condition of all Council's existing playgrounds, and considers the need to refurbish and/or further upgrade each playground.

Each playground has been assessed and given a score out of 10 for the following factors:

- (a) Appropriate amount of equipment and ancillary facilities
- (b) Condition of equipment and ancillary facilities
- (c) Recent development
- (d) Proximity to other playgrounds

### **(a) Appropriate amount of equipment and ancillary facilities**

The amount of play activities and ancillary facilities should relate to whether the park is of local, district or regional significance. (Refer Appendix 1 - 'Hierarchy of Parks and Reserves' for further information.) Generally, the greater the significance, the greater the level of equipment and ancillary facilities required.

Ancillary facilities are those that aid the users' enjoyment of the playgrounds, including seats, picnic tables, shady areas, bubblers and toilets.

The score assigned for equipment and ancillary facilities therefore takes into consideration the status of the park or reserve in which the playground is located. A small, neighbourhood park would generally be expected to contain less equipment and facilities than a larger park that serves a wider catchment of users.

#### Score (out of 10)

- 1 Level of equipment and ancillaries provided is not commensurate with the status of the park in which they are located.
- 10 Level of equipment and ancillary facilities is commensurate with the status of the park in which they are located.

### **(b) Condition of equipment and ancillary facilities**

All playgrounds are inspected regularly, and maintenance and safety issues are attended to as they are identified. However in some instances, equipment may be safe but it may have deteriorated to a point where it no longer serves its intended function, or is no longer attractive to users. The condition of equipment determines the level of need for refurbishment.

#### Score (out of 10)

- 1 Many items require significant work or should be replaced altogether (although all meet Australian safety standards).
- 10 All equipment and ancillary facilities are in excellent condition, requiring only scheduled maintenance to stay this way for the next 5-10 years.

**(c)** Recent Development

New developments, either in the park containing the playground, or in the surrounding area, can change the significance and potential level of use of a playground.

Upgrading complementary facilities within a park such as sportsgrounds or bushland walking tracks, or constructing new facilities such as picnic tables, BBQs or exercise stations will attract more people to a park, while development or upgrading of nearby facilities that attract adults with children such as shops and community centres will attract people to the general area.

Score (out of 10)

- 1 Development works either in or close to the park where the playground is located have led to greater use.
- 10 No significant change has occurred.

**(d)** Proximity to other Playgrounds

Council's existing playgrounds are generally well-distributed throughout North Sydney. Council aims to provide playgrounds within a safe walking distance (approximately 500 metres) of all residents; however, this is not always possible due to North Sydney's hilly topography, and the presence of physical barriers such as major roads or railway lines. In Kirribilli and Crows Nest, lack of parks generally is an issue. Parks capable of accommodating playgrounds must be of an appropriate size, shape and must be on appropriately zoned land.

Playgrounds in relatively isolated parks (such as Berry Island Reserve, Hodgson's Lookout and Tunks Park) need to provide excellent facilities for both younger and older children due to the lack of easily accessible alternative playgrounds.

Score (out of 10)

- 1 Playground is the only facility serving the residential catchment.
- 10 Playground is located within easy walking distance of another playground.

The results of the assessment of Council's existing playgrounds are shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 2 Assessment of Council's Existing Playgrounds (Updated October 2015)**

**Note:** This Table was amended in October 2015 to reflect the current state of all playgrounds, and to enable a revised Works Program to be developed. The condition and amount of equipment in playgrounds upgraded between 2011 and 2015 has changed (for the better), while the condition of equipment in several other playgrounds has deteriorated further, reflecting that they are nearing the end of their lifespan, and will require upgrading sooner rather than later.

Note: Playgrounds are listed in order from the oldest to the most recently upgraded

\* Number in brackets is the total score in 2011.

Playground Name	Equip Amount	Equip Condition	Develop ment	Proximity	Total Score*	Other Relevant Factors/Comments (added Oct 2015)
<b>Watt Park</b> Upgraded: 1997/8 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	5	3	3	5	16 (21)	Playground is scheduled for upgrading in 2015/16.
<b>Sirius Street Playground</b> Upgraded: 1997/8 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	7	4	9	3	23 (30)	This playground is 18 years old, and nearing the end of its lifespan.
<b>Hodgson's Lookout</b> Upgraded: 1998/9 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	8	2	5	2	15 (24)	There is deterioration of the timber on the main play structure.
<b>Green Park (senior)</b> Upgraded: 1998/9 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	7	5	5	6	23 (26)	Although playground is close to the recently completed Green Park (junior) playground, these playgrounds cater for different age groups.
<b>Brennan Park</b> Upgraded: 1998/9 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	7	4	7	4	22 (28)	This would make a good 'social family recreation space' with the addition of facilities for teens, older adults etc. Gardens are currently looking fantastic. Several items of play equipment have been replaced (spinner, spring rocker). Swings a bit old and there have been several requests from the community for upgrading.
<b>Fred Hutley Reserve</b> Upgraded: 1999/2000 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	7	4	8	5	24 (29)	Roundabout needs to be replaced in the near future. Several other play items have been replaced in the last 8 years. (Seesaw and climber).

Playground Name	Equip Amount	Equip Condition	Development	Proximity	Total Score*	Other Relevant Factors/Comments (added Oct 2015)
<b>Prior Ave Reserve</b> Upgraded: 1999/2000 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	6	4	5	24 (26)	Playground is in reasonable condition for its age.
<b>Victoria Street Playground</b> Upgraded: 2000/01 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	6	7	7	29 (31)	Playground is in reasonable condition for its age.
<b>Lodge Road Playground</b> Upgraded: 2000/01 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	6	7	5	27 (30)	Playground is in reasonable condition for its age.
<b>Warringa Park</b> Upgraded: 2000/01 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	8	5	3	6	22 (30)	This playground is heavily used and the condition of the timber structure is deteriorating. Development of new facilities in nearby Anderson Park (new amenities building and forthcoming synthetic sportsground) will lead to even higher levels of use.
<b>St Leonards Park</b> Upgraded: 2001/02 Park status: <u>Regional</u> Playground status: <u>Regional</u>	7	8	6	3	24 (23)	Several play items are being replaced (spring rocker and roundabout). Possibility of constructing an 'extension' to the playground outside the walled area, with equipment for older children/teens/fitness. This should wait until a Masterplan is developed for the entire Park. (This is currently in the early planning stages).
<b>Grasmere Children's Park</b> Upgraded: 2001/02 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	5	7	4	7	23 (24)	Existing equipment still in reasonable condition. In the future there is an opportunity to expand playground and provide play facilities for older children (eg handball area) and an outdoor gym for adults and older kids.
<b>WH Brothers Memorial Reserve</b> Upgraded: 2002/03 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	7	8	8	32 (32)	Currently a major Waterboard construction site for next 12 months. On departure they are replacing spinner and swings and redoing the rubber undersurfacing. Condition will then be considerably improved.

Playground Name	Equip Amount	Equip Condition	Development	Proximity	Total Score*	Other Relevant Factors/Comments (added Oct 2015)
<b>Merrett Playground</b> Upgraded: 2002/03 Park status: <u>District</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	6	7	4	6	23 (25)	New fitness equipment catering to older children and adults recently installed nearby.
<b>Grasmere Reserve</b> Upgraded: 2003/04 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	6	6	7	9	28 (32)	Not a high use facility. Playground is very close to Grasmere Children's Park and Brightmore Reserve tricycle track & playground.
<b>St Thomas' Rest Park</b> Upgraded: 2003/4 Park status: <u>District</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	9	3	8	3	23 (31)	Roundabout is in poor condition and needs to be replaced ASAP. There are some significant rust issues with main structure.
<b>Kesterton Park</b> Upgraded: 2004/5 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	9	4	3	7	22 (28)	Work currently scheduled to repair undersurfacing which is in poor condition with trip hazards etc. Other equipment has rust and general condition is poor. A future link through Kesterton Park to HMAS Playtpus is planned – this will increase visitation and use of the Park.
<b>North Sydney Leisure Centre</b> Upgraded: 2004/5 Park status: <u>District</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	9	7	6	7	29 (30)	Parks Department is not responsible for upgrading this playground, but can provide advice and assistance upon request.
<b>Milson Park</b> Upgraded: 2005/06 Status: <u>District</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	6	8	7	30 (34)	Roundabout is in poor condition and needs to be replaced ASAP
<b>Phillips Street Playground</b> Upgraded: 2005/06 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	7	8	6	30 (33)	
<b>Mary French Reserve</b> Upgraded: 2006/07 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	8	9	8	34 (35)	

Playground Name	Equip Amount	Equip Condition	Development	Proximity	Total Score*	Other Relevant Factors/Comments (added Oct 2015)
<b>Bradfield Park</b> Upgraded: 2006/7 Park status: <u>Regional</u> Playground status: <u>Regional</u>	9	7	3	6	25 (26)	
<b>Euroka Street Playground</b> Upgraded: 2007/08 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	7	9	7	32 (34)	
<b>Cahill Playground</b> Upgraded: 2007/08 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	6	8	7	30 (34)	
<b>Blues Point Reserve</b> Upgraded: 2008/9 Park status: <u>Regional</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	9	9	9	7	34 (34)	Boat rocker is currently being replaced.
<b>Tunks Park</b> Upgraded: 2011/12 Park status: <u>District</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	10	9	10	1	30 (10)	
<b>Cremorne Reserve</b> Upgraded: 2012/13 Park status: <u>Regional</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	9	9	8	2	30 (N/A)	<i>This playground was due for upgrading at the time of the 2011 review, and was therefore not scored.</i>
<b>Berry Island</b> Upgraded: 2013/14 Park status: <u>Regional</u> Playground status: <u>District</u>	10	9	9	1	29 (13)	
<b>Green Park (junior)</b> Upgraded: 2013/14 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	9	9	4	31 (N/A)	<i>This playground was due for upgrading at the time of the 2011 review, and was therefore not scored.</i>

Playground Name	Equip Amount	Equip Condition	Development	Proximity	Total Score*	Other Relevant Factors/Comments (added Oct 2015)
<b>Wollstonecraft Railway Station Park</b> Upgraded: 2013/14 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	9	9	2	29 (17)	
<b>Ilbery Reserve</b> Upgraded: 2014/15 Park status: <u>Local</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	10	8	3	30 (22)	
<b>Brightmore Reserve/ Primrose Park</b> Upgraded: 2014/15 Park status: <u>District</u> Playground status: <u>Local</u>	9	10	9	4	32 (N/A)	Amenities block to be installed in conjunction with this facility. <i>This facility was previously limited to a tricycle track and was therefore not scored under this methodology.</i>

**Note:** The lower the total score, the greater the need for refurbishment/upgrading works.

## Results of the Assessment of Existing Playgrounds

**Table 3** below lists the results of the Assessment of Existing Playgrounds in order of priority for refurbishment and/or upgrading as of October 2015. Standard ongoing maintenance activities and other unscheduled repairs (eg as a result of vandalism) are excluded. This list should be reviewed and updated every 5 years.

**Table 3 Existing Playgrounds – Need for further Upgrading/Refurbishment**

Score	Playground Name	Upgrading Refurbishment Required (over next 10 years)
15	Hodgson's Lookout	Yes
16	Watt Park	Yes
22	Kesterton Park	Yes
22	Brennan Park	Yes
22	Warringa Park	Yes
23	St Thomas' Rest Park	Yes
23	Sirius Street Playground	Yes
23	Green Park (senior)	<i>Required work will be carried out as part of scheduled maintenance</i>
23	Grasmere Children's Park	Yes
23	Merrett Playground	Yes
24	Fred Hutley Reserve	Yes
24	Prior Ave Reserve	Yes
24	St Leonards Park	Timing dependant on Masterplan
25	Bradfield Park	Not currently required
27	Lodge Road Playground	Not currently required
28	Grasmere Reserve	Not currently required
29	Victoria Street Playground	Not currently required
29	Wollstonecraft Railway Station Park	Not currently required
29	North Sydney Leisure Centre	Not currently required
30	Cahill Playground	Not currently required
30	Phillips Street Playground	Not currently required
30	Milson Park	Not currently required
30	Tunks Park	Not currently required
30	Ilbery Reserve	Not currently required
30	Cremorne Reserve	Not currently required
30	Berry Island	Not currently required
31	Green Park (junior)	Not currently required
32	WH Brothers Memorial Reserve	Not currently required
32	Primrose Park/ Brightmore Reserve	Not currently required
32	Euroka Street Playground	Not currently required
34	Blues Point Reserve	Not currently required
34	Mary French Reserve	Not currently required

### (3) Identifying Suitable Locations for New Playgrounds

#### Need for New Playgrounds

**Map 1** clearly shows that there are several areas in North Sydney that are relatively poorly served by playgrounds. Of these, the Military Road corridor is the most deficient in playgrounds.

The lack of playgrounds along the Military Road corridor in Neutral Bay and Cremorne is compounded by the fact that most of the playgrounds on the eastern side of the Warringah freeway are of only local significance. The only district facilities are on the foreshores of either Middle Harbour or Sydney Harbour – a long way from the Military Road ridgeline. Additionally, the current population density in the Military Road corridor is high, and it is expected to increase (Census 2006).

In order to identify potential sites for new playgrounds, all North Sydney's parks and reserves were initially considered. However a number of parks and reserves were eliminated in the first instance due to their obvious lack of suitability. Excluded were:

- All parks and reserves zoned 'Bushland'
- Parks and reserves smaller than 400m<sup>2</sup> (including nature strips, garden plots, pedestrian linkages and small civic spaces)
- Parks from which playgrounds have recently been removed (as a result of implementing the previous Playgrounds Methodology)
- Parks that already contain a playground

The following factors were used to determine the most suitable locations for new playgrounds:

- (a) Location and distribution of Council's existing playgrounds
- (b) New demographic information and trends
- (c) Other relevant factors

#### (a) Location and distribution of Council's existing Playgrounds

Score (out of 10)

- 10 There are no playgrounds (particularly district or regional playgrounds) in the vicinity of the potential site.
- 1 The potential site is located close to existing regional, district or local playgrounds.

Refer **Map 1** – Location and distribution of all Playgrounds in North Sydney

**(b) New demographic information and trends**

According to Census 2006, over the next 10 years population growth in the North Sydney Council area is predicted to be greatest in the suburbs of Cremorne, North Sydney, St Leonards/Crows Nest and Cammeray. The number of couple families with children is predicted to be greatest in the suburbs of Cremorne, Neutral Bay, Cammeray and Wollstonecraft.

However the anticipated population growth is likely to occur only in specific areas of the listed suburbs. Greatest population growth is anticipated:

- In the Military Road corridor of Cremorne and Neutral Bay
- Adjacent to the Pacific Highway in St Leonards and Crows Nest
- Adjacent to the Pacific Highway near Victoria Cross in North Sydney

Score (out of 10)

- 10 Potential playground is located in an area of anticipated general population growth, and where the number of couple families with children is expected to increase.
- 1 Potential playground is located in an area not expected to experience population growth, and where the number of couple families with children is not expected to increase.

**(c) Other Relevant Considerations**

These will vary from location to location, but may include:

- Likely ease of construction (consider drainage, slope, rock outcrops etc)
- Safety of site (proximity to major roads, proximity to water, need for fencing)
- Presence of mature trees for shade
- Available space (size and shape)
- Accessibility (ease of getting to the park, and landform in the park itself)
- Zoning constraints

Score (out of 10)

- 10 Potential site is likely to be physically suitable and accessible.
- 1 Potential site is unlikely to be physically suitable and accessible.

**Table 4 Potential Locations for New Playgrounds**

The following Table looks at all parks and reserves in North Sydney that have the capacity to accommodate a new playground, and assesses their suitability for this purpose. The higher the total score, the more suitable the park.

*Text in italics in Table 4 denotes new or revised information, added in October 2015.*

- \* A. Relative anticipated population growth (by suburb)
- B. Relative anticipated increase in couple families with children (by suburb)

Park Name	Distribution	Score	Demographics*	Score	Other Relevant Considerations	Score	Total Out of 30
<b>Ancrum Street Reserve,</b> Waverton	Euroka Street Playground and Merrett Playground (Waverton Park) are both close by.	2	A. Low B. Medium	4		5	11
<b>Anderson Park,</b> Neutral Bay	Warringa Park is adjacent to Anderson Park.	2	A. Medium B. Medium	6	The sportsfield occupies the majority of this Park.	4	12
<b>Anzac Park,</b> Camberay	St Leonards Park Playground is relatively close, and a flat walk.	4	A. Medium - high B. Medium - high	7	<i>This Park should be removed from the list due to development of a new state primary school.</i>	5	16
<b>Brightmore Reserve,</b> Cremorne	The adjacent Primrose Park has a swing set. To the south is Grasmere Reserve, a local park that caters for older children.	8	A. High B. High	9	Brightmore Reserve and Primrose Park read as one open space; Primrose Park currently contains a swing set, however there is more room for future development in Brightmore Reserve. The existing tricycle track in Brightmore Reserve is a very popular destination with children up to 10. It would benefit from enhancement and expansion with further 'township' elements such as child-scale picnic tables, shelters, shops, petrol stations etc. Off-street parking is available. There is a lack of playgrounds of either regional or district significance in this general area.	9	26

Park Name	Distribution	Score	Demographics*	Score	Other Relevant Considerations	Score	Total Out of 30
<b>Cammeray Park,</b> Cammeray	Green Park is nearby; however, the most appropriate location for a playground would be on the far side of Cammeray Park north of the tennis courts, away from Green Park. The Warringah Expressway separates the Park from St Leonards Park.	7	A. Medium - high B. Medium - high	7	This district park contains a golf course, croquet lawn, sportsfield, tennis courts and a skate plaza. The eastern side of the Park could accommodate a small playground.	8	22
<b>Carradah Park,</b> Waverton	Closest playground is in adjacent Waverton Park.	4	A. Low B. Medium	4	High level of community consultation during the development of this site did not identify a need for a playground.	5	13
<b>Clark Park,</b> Lavender Bay	Adjoins Watt Park, which has a playground.	2	A. Medium B. Low	4	Park has formal plantings and an important commemorative function. <i>This Park should not be on the list as a set of swings was previously removed from it.</i>	3	9
<b>Doris Fitton Park,</b> North Sydney	Closest playgrounds are St Leonards Park and North Sydney Leisure Centre.	6	A. High B. Medium	7	This park provides valuable passive open space for the North Sydney CBD.	4	17
<b>Dr Mary Booth Lookout,</b> Kirribilli	Closest playground is in Bradfield Park.	6	A. None B. Low	1	Site is relatively flat.	5	12
<b>Ex Coal Loader/Caltex Site,</b> Waverton	Closest playground is in Waverton Park.	6	A. Low B. Medium	4	Site is not currently accessible to the public.	2	12
<b>Forsyth Park,</b> Neutral Bay	Closest playground is Ilbery Reserve	8	A. Medium B. Medium	6	This park previously contained 'koppers log' play equipment that was removed for safety reasons. Park has a sportsground and is a district facility. New playground could be located at the northern end, near Military Road. This locality lacks playgrounds of either regional or district significance. <i>The new community garden attracts families to the northern end of the Park.</i>	9	23
<b>Harry Howard Reserve,</b> Wollstonecraft	Closest playground is Brennan Park.	5	A. Low - medium B. Medium - high	5	Site is currently managed as bushland although it is not zoned as such.	4	14

Park Name	Distribution	Score	Demographics*	Score	Other Relevant Considerations	Score	Total Out of 30
<b>Hayberry Street Road Closure,</b> Crows Nest	Closest playground is Cahill Park.	6	A. High B. Medium	7	There is room for a small playground in this small open space. Road closure is adjacent to the Pacific Highway and is close to a number of small terrace houses.	7	20
<b>Henry Lawson Reserve,</b> McMahons Point	Located adjacent to Blues Point Reserve where there is a playground.	1	A. Very low B. Low	2	Exposed, linear site.	5	8
<b>Kenneth Bolton Lookout,</b> Neutral Bay	Closest playground is Ilbery Reserve.	8	A. Medium B. Medium	6	Site is relatively small and there are other, more suitable options for a new playground nearby.	4	18
<b>Kurraba Point Reserve,</b> Neutral Bay	Adjoins Hodgson's Lookout which contains a playground.	2	A. Medium B. Medium	6	Site is large and could accommodate a playground; however, there is already a playground on the upper level (at Hodgson's Lookout), where access is much easier.	3	11
<b>Lavender Bay Foreshore,</b> Lavender Bay	Located close to Watt Park where there is a playground.	2	A. Medium B. Low	4	This park mainly acts as an access corridor.	3	9
<b>Lord Street Road Reserve,</b> Waverton	Located close to Euroka Street Playground.	3	A. Low B. Medium	4	Site is relatively small and there are other, more suitable options for a new playground in the vicinity.	4	11
<b>Mater Gardens,</b> Crows Nest	Closest playgrounds are in Brennan Park and North Sydney Leisure Centre.	6	A. High B. Medium	7	Site has a formal landscape design. It is located on the Pacific Highway.	5	18
<b>Merlin Street Reserve,</b> Neutral Bay	No playgrounds in this area.	9	A. Medium B. Medium	6	Site is small but could accommodate a local playground. <i>Site is relatively flat and surrounded by high density residential.</i>	6	21
<b>Quibaree Park,</b> Lavender Bay	Adjoins Watt Park which has a playground.	3	A. Medium B. Low	4	Park has heritage significance.	4	11
<b>Sawmillers Reserve,</b> McMahons Point	Closest playgrounds are in Blues Point Reserve and Victoria Street.	8	A. Very low B. Low	2	Site is large and could accommodate a playground, however access is awkward.	8	18
<b>Shellbank Parade,</b> Cremorne	Closest playground is Lodge Road Playground.	4	A. High B. High	9	Smallish, sloping site. Primary function is dinghy storage and providing access to the harbour.	2	15

Park Name	Distribution	Score	Demographics*	Score	Other Relevant Considerations	Score	Total Out of 30
<b>Smoothey Park,</b> Wollstonecraft	Closest playground is in Greendale Park, in the adjacent Lane Cove Council area. <i>Upgrading the neighbouring Wollstonecraft Railway Station Park from a set of swings to a new, custom-designed playground means there is no longer a need for a playground in Smoothey Park.</i>	6	A. Low - med B. Med - high	6	A playground at the north-eastern end of this park would cater for residents in the Balfour Street area who have requested play equipment in their area. Most of this park is zoned 'Bushland', limiting where a new playground could be located.	6	18
<b>St Peters Park,</b> McMahons Point	Closest playground is in Watt Park.	6	A. Very low B. Low	2	This small park provides valuable passive open space for the North Sydney CBD.	4	12
<b>Watersleigh Park,</b> Cremorne	Closest playground is Grasmere Children's Park.	5	A. High B. High	9	Site is small but could accommodate a local playground.	6	20
<b>Weaver Park,</b> Cremorne	No playgrounds in this area.	10	A. High B. High	9	Located in the Military Road corridor. Could install a playground and still retain areas for passive recreation. Requires fencing due to proximity of Military Road. Mature palms give this park a tropical theme.	7	26
<b>Will Ashton Lookout,</b> Waverton	Site reads as part of Waverton Park which has a playground.	2	A. Low B. Medium	4	Site functions as part of Waverton Park. Site is narrow and sloping. The flattest portion of the site is zoned 'Bushland'.	4	10
<b>Wyagdon/Alfred St North Reserve,</b> Neutral Bay	No playgrounds in this area.	9	A. Medium B. Medium	6	Shape of site is not conducive to accommodating a playground.	3	18
<b>Wyagdon Street Reserve,</b> Neutral Bay	No playgrounds in this area.	9	A. Medium B. Medium	6	Shape of site is not conducive to accommodating a playground.	3	18
<b>Parraween Street,</b> Cremorne	No playgrounds in this area.	9	A. High B. High	9	<i>Although this site is not currently public open space, a Council proposal to redevelop the existing car park and to provide community facilities (including a small play space) as part of the redevelopment is currently under development. There is no timeframe for this project and no guarantee it will proceed.</i>	7	25

**Table 5** lists all parks that were assessed for their potential to accommodate a new playground, in order of suitability. The anticipated status of the new playground is also indicated.

**Table 5 Priority List of Parks suitable to accommodate a New Playground**

Priority	Name of Park	Score	Status	Comments
1=	Brightmore Reserve, Cremorne	26	D	Complete.
1=	Weaver Park, Cremorne	26	L	<i>Remove from list – current problems with vandalism, drinking etc in this location make it unsuitable for a playground.</i>
3	Parraween Street, Cremorne	25	L	Will be done as part of car park redevelopment if this project proceeds. As such there is no time frame for this project.
4	Forsyth Park, Neutral Bay	23	D	Preparation of DA scheduled for 2015/16.
5	Cammeray Park, Cammeray	22	L	
6	Merlin Street Reserve, Neutral Bay	21	L	
7=	Hayberry St Road Closure, Crows Nest	20	L	
7=	Watersleigh Park, Cremorne	20	L	
9=	Sawmillers Reserve, McMahons Point	18	L	
9=	Smoothy Park, Wollstonecraft	18	N/A	<i>Remove from list – not required following the redevelopment of the adjacent Wollstonecraft Railway Station Park Playground.</i>
9=	Mater Gardens, Crows Nest	18	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
9=	Wyagdon/Alfred St North Reserve, Neutral Bay	18	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
9=	Wyagdon Street Reserve, Neutral Bay	18	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
9=	Kenneth Bolton Lookout, Neutral Bay	18	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
15	Doris Fitton Park, North Sydney	17	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
16	Anzac Park, Cammeray	16	N/A	<i>Remove from list due to development of primary school.</i>
17	Shellbank Parade, Cremorne	15	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
18	Harry Howard Reserve, Wollstonecraft	14	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
19	Carradah Park, Waverton	13	N/A	<i>The current Berrys Bay marina proposal shows a small playground as part of the development.</i>

Priority	Name of Park	Score	Status	Comments
20=	St Peters Park, McMahons Point	12	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
20=	Anderson Park, Neutral Bay	12	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
20=	Dr Mary Booth Lookout, Kirribilli	12	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
20=	Ex Coal Loader/Caltex Site, Waverton	12	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
24=	Kurraba Reserve, Neutral Bay	11	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
24=	Lord Street Road Reserve, Waverton	11	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
24=	Quibaree Park, Lavender Bay	11	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
24=	Ancrum Street Reserve, Waverton	11	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
28=	Will Ashton Lookout, Waverton	10	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
28=	Clark Park, Lavender Bay	9	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
30	Lavender Bay Foreshore, Lavender Bay	9	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.
31	Henry Lawson Reserve, McMahons Point	8	N/A	Not under consideration at this time.

\* Anticipated Status of New Playground is based on the distribution of the existing network of regional, district and local playgrounds (refer Map 1), and the capacity of the individual park or reserve.

(4) **Developing a New Playgrounds Works Program**

Council's planned New Playgrounds Works Program is set out in **Table 6**. The Program combines the refurbishment and upgrading of Council's existing playgrounds (refer **Table 3**) with the construction of new playgrounds (refer **Table 5**).

**Table 6** also provides a general idea of the work required at each playground, and gives a preliminary budget estimate. It is anticipated that the new playground works program will run for approximately 10-15 years, however it should be reviewed every 5 years to take account of unforeseen events and circumstances.

**Table 6 New Playgrounds Works Program (listed in priority order, Oct 2015)**

<b>Playground Name/ Location</b>	<b>Required Refurbishment/New Work</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Watt Park	Upgrade existing slide structure together with associated steps and landscaping. Install new free-standing play items in existing softfall. <i>(See also Roundabout program below for additional work)</i>	<b>A</b>
Forsyth Park	The large flat grassed areas on top of the former oil storage tanks could accommodate a large playground. Would complement adjacent community garden.	<b>C/D</b>
Roundabout Program	Replacement of roundabouts in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Milson Park</li> <li>- Fred Hutley Reserve</li> <li>- St Thomas' Rest Park, and</li> <li>- Watt Park</li> </ul> <p>Roundabouts can accommodate many users at one time and are often the most popular item in a playground. Due to high levels of use and many moving parts, they often wear out ahead of the rest of the playground. Their popularity and capacity warrants timely replacement or refurbishment. Roundabouts are expensive, big-ticket items so a dedicated roundabout replacement program is appropriate.</p>	<b>B</b>
Hodgson's Lookout	Significant deterioration of timber in the main structure.	<b>C</b>
Kesterton Park	Needs a major refurbishment due to poor condition of equipment (including rust) and future prominence of site due to link to HMAS Playtpus.	<b>C</b>
Brennan Park	Swings are a bit old and there have been several community requests to upgrade them. This is a good location for a 'social family recreation space' and new items should cater for all sectors of the community including teens and older adults.	<b>B</b>
Cammeray Park	Community requests for swings. Opportunity to install play items in association with skate plaza and/or sportsfield to accommodate younger visitors.	<b>B</b>
Warringa Park	Proximity to Anderson Park (and lack of other nearby playgrounds) means this playground gets a lot of use and wear and tear. Condition of main timber structure is deteriorating.	

Playground Name/ Location	Required Refurbishment/New Work	Cost
St Thomas' Rest Park		<b>C</b>
Sirius Street Playground	Playground is 'off the shelf' and currently 18 years old.	<b>B</b>
<i>Green Park (senior)</i>	<i>Required work will be undertaken as part of scheduled maintenance.</i>	<b>N/A</b>
Grasmere Children's Park	Install new equipment suitable for older children.	<b>B</b>
Merrett Playground	Install play items suitable for older children in the fenced area.	<b>B</b>
Fred Hutley Reserve		
Prior Ave Reserve		
<i>Parraween Street</i>	<i>Timing is dependant upon larger car park redevelopment project. Funding and construction by others.</i>	<b>N/A</b>
<i>St Leonards Park</i>	<i>Timing is dependant upon development of a Park Masterplan</i> Install new 'adventurous' equipment for older children outside the existing walled playground area. (Existing equipment for younger children is in reasonably good condition).	<b>C</b>

#### Estimated Cost

A <\$50,000    B \$50,000 - \$80,000    C \$80,000 - \$120,000  
D >\$120,000

#### Conclusion

A new Playground Works Program was the key outcome of the Playgrounds Methodology 2011. The 2015 amended Works Program will ensure that existing playgrounds with a high level of need continue to be suitably refurbished or upgraded, and that new playgrounds are constructed in suitable locations, all in appropriate order of priority.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 - Hierarchy of Parks and Reserves

The status of parks and reserves in North Sydney as 'local', 'district' or 'regional' is determined by:

- Amount and diversity of facilities (including sportsgrounds, bushland and other natural features, playgrounds, seats, picnic tables, toilets, BBQs etc).
- Size of the park
- Proximity to other people-attracting landuses (eg foreshore areas, walking tracks, shops and other community facilities).
- Accessibility. Consider factors including proximity to public transport, availability of parking, presence of physical barriers such as railway lines or freeways, presence of physical barriers to strollers and users with mobility impairments such as steps and uneven topography.

Generally, but not always, the status of a playground will reflect the status of the park in which it is located.

#### Local Playgrounds

Playgrounds located in local parks provide recreation opportunities closest to home. They serve the people of a residential neighbourhood, usually within 500m safe walking distance. They generally consist of a small amount of play equipment in a landscaped setting. Ancillary facilities are usually limited to seating and bubblers.

#### District Playgrounds

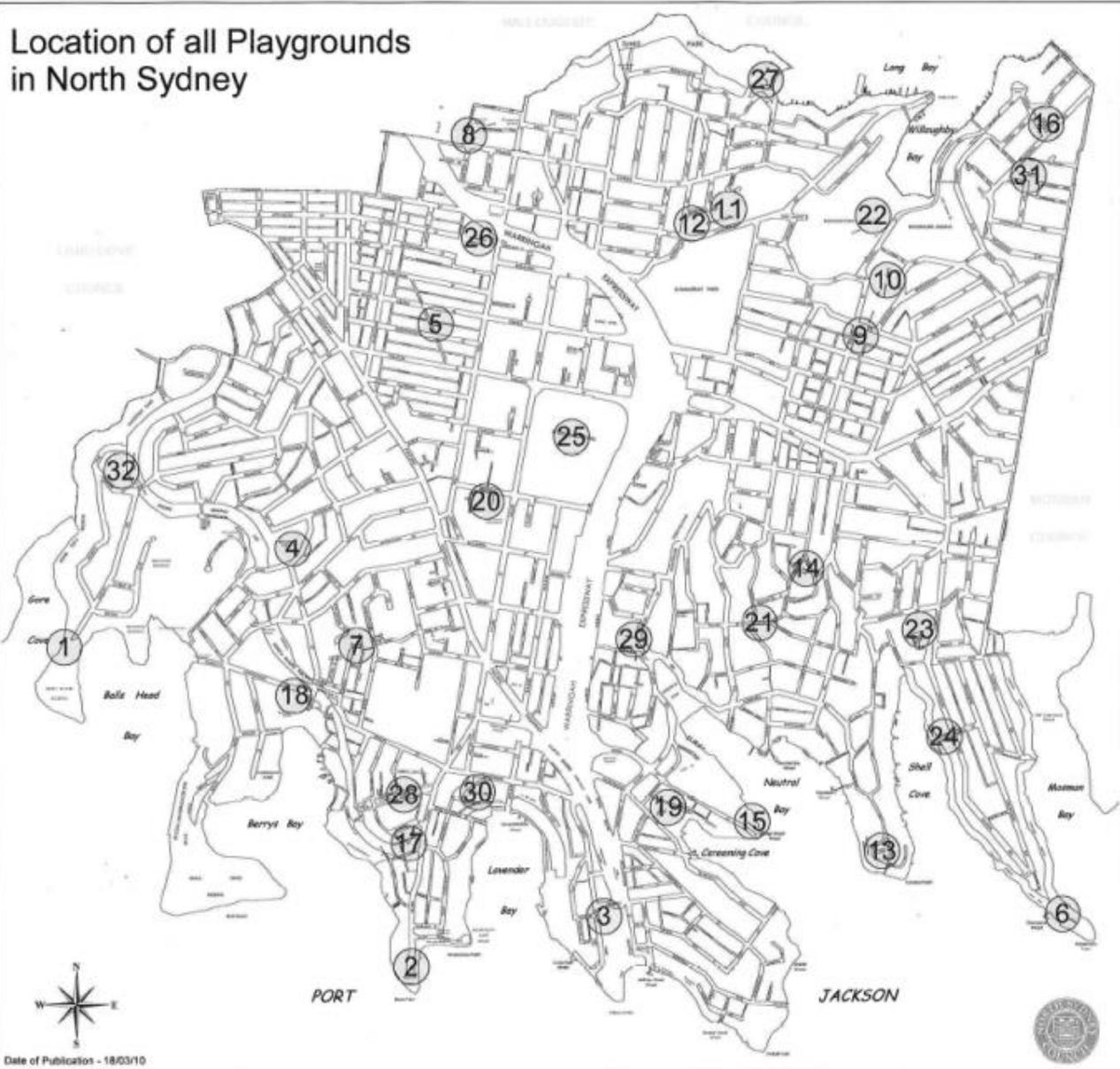
Playgrounds located in a district park should serve several adjoining neighbourhoods within a 5km radius. People generally drive to a district park and stay longer due to the variety of activities that can be undertaken. These are great parks for events, gatherings, family parties and celebrations. A district playground typically provides a number of different play elements as well as ancillary facilities such as picnic tables, seating and bubblers.

#### Regional Playgrounds

Regional parks serve the entire North Sydney Local Government Area, and adjacent communities who live within a 10km range. The recreation, leisure and visual amenity of these parks is high, and they are destination sites capable of supporting many return visits. Regional playgrounds are large playgrounds with a diversity of play opportunities. Ancillary facilities may include toilets, shelters, picnic tables and BBQs. The quality and quantity of facilities provided should reflect the high visitation numbers.

# Map 1 – Location and Distribution of Playgrounds in North Sydney

Location of all Playgrounds in North Sydney



- 1 Berry Island Reserve
- 2 Blues Point Reserve
- 3 Bradfield Park
- 4 Brennan Park
- 5 Cahill Playground
- 6 Cremorne Reserve
- 7 Eureka Street Playground
- 8 Fred Hutley Reserve
- 9 Grasmere Children's Park
- 10 Grasmere Reserve
- 11 Green Park (senior)
- 12 Green Park (junior)
- 13 Hodgson's Lookout
- 14 Ilbery Reserve
- 15 Kesterton Park
- 16 Lodge Road Playground
- 17 Mary French Reserve
- 18 Merrett Playground (Waverton Park)
- 19 Milson Park
- 20 North Sydney Civic Centre Park
- 21 Phillips Street Playground
- 22 Primrose Park/Brightmore Reserve
- 23 Prior Avenue Reserve
- 24 Sirius Street Playground
- 25 St Leonards Park
- 26 St Thomas' Rest Park
- 27 Tunks Park
- 28 Victoria Street Playground
- 29 Warringa Park
- 30 Watt Park
- 31 W H Brothers Memorial Reserve
- 32 Wollstonecraft Railway Station Park

