

Open Space and Recreation

NEEDS STUDY



2024

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RECOGNITION OF THE CAMMERAYGAL PEOPLE

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of North Sydney local government area (LGA), the Cammeraygal people

We recognise the Cammeraygal as the first owners of the area known today as North Sydney. We acknowledge that the alienation of their country occurred with a land grant in 1794 without consultation, treaty or compensation. Archaeological evidence shows that Aboriginal people have been in North Sydney at least 5,800 years, probably for thousands more. We treasure and seek to preserve the evidence of their presence here. In 1890, when North Sydney Council was formed through the merging of three boroughs, the word Cammeraygal was included on its coat of arms. Today it holds a central position in the Council's logo as a reminder of the long indigenous heritage of this place. In recent years the spelling of Cammeraygal has varied to include Gammaraigal and Gai-maragal as our community has sought to more accurately reflect and honour the heritage of our First Nations people.

Executive summary

This Needs Study will guide Council in the development of its Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

The purpose of the Needs Study is to assess North Sydney's current and future open space and recreation needs. It is based on population and demographic projections, open space audits, and comprehensive engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders. It identifies strategic directions and prioritised actions to inform the future Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The Strategy will provide a road map for how Council will deliver open spaces and recreation facilities that meet the needs of the current and future residents, workers and visitor populations.

With much of it fronting Sydney Harbour, the North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) is blessed with spectacular views, and a stunning backdrop to many of its public open spaces. It must be noted that Council has done a commendable job in utilising its natural assets, and providing quality spaces that make the most of their locations and topographies.

Population characteristics and forecast change

The North Sydney Council population estimate for 2024 is 73,122, and is forecast to grow to 79,442 by 2036. Within North Sydney, a number of catchments have been identified as experiencing high growth, including Crows Nest and St Leonards at 19.9% and North Sydney at 12.4% to 2036.

In addition to the residential population of North Sydney, a large number of workers and students from outside the LGA visit and access North Sydney each week.

North Sydney has a high proportion (66%) of residents living in high density housing when compared to Greater Sydney (30%) and New South Wales (21%). Similarly, North Sydney has a higher proportion of residents living in medium density housing (23%) when compared to Greater Sydney (12.8%) and New South Wales (11.7%).

Supply of open space and recreation facilities

The North Sydney open space network is made up of formal and informal spaces for recreation and sport, natural areas and foreshore, as well as civic spaces. In addition to the open space and recreation network, it is acknowledged that the public realm contributes to the open space network.

North Sydney Council manages 156 ha of open space. This equates to 22.56m² of council managed open space per person. Further, of the 156ha of open space, approximately 73ha can be considered core open space.

This equates to only 10.53m² of council-managed open space per North Sydney resident. When looking at individual planning catchments within the LGA, it is evident that open space is not evenly distributed across the catchment areas. The areas with the lowest provision of open space per person are Crows Nest and St Leonards (3.87m²), Kirribilli (7.27m²) and Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point (9.87m²).

For the purpose of this Needs Study, both public and private open space types have been considered to plan strategically to achieve an integrated public open space network. Privately owned land, such as tennis clubs, bowling clubs and sailing clubs as well as non-government schools and other educational institutions can play an important role in providing benefits and opportunities to the community. However, the Needs Study primarily relates to publicly owned and/or managed open space.

When comparing the current open space provision in North Sydney against the current and projected population growth, the provision of open space remains in deficit for all population growth increments (2024 until 2036). The current deficit of open space is 58.7 hectares and is projected to increase to a deficit of 69.95 hectares by 2036 (without the development of additional open space).

Additionally, in 2023, the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) completed the Review of Supply and Demand for Sports Facilities in the NSROC Region. The comprehensive report identified that the existing (and projected) supply of land for organised sport within the North Sydney LGA was well below industry expectations. With a 2021 provision of 0.21 ha/1,000 residents, Council is well below all other councils within the NSROC. Further, the study indicates that Council would need an additional 53.32ha for playing fields alone to meet projected demand by 2036.

Participation in sport and recreation

Overall, participation in sport and physical activity has increased in the last two decades. More adults participate more frequently compared to 2001.

Notably, more women have constantly participated, more often. Participation in sport-related activities has not increased, while non-sport physical activities have increased significantly (by more than 20 percent from 2001 to 2019). Participation in non-sport recreation activities such as walking and fitness/gym has increased the most.

More children participate in organised (out-of-school) sport than adults. The top activities children participate in changes as children age, with a focus on the life skill of swimming for infants and toddlers and running, fitness/gym, football and walking being the dominant activities by the time children are between 15 and 24 years old.

National participation rates in organised sport have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward more social (drop-in drop-out) sport and informal recreation. It will be important for Council to monitor participation trends into the future to ensure resources are allocated appropriately to support a broad range of both recreation and sport activities.

Key engagement outcomes

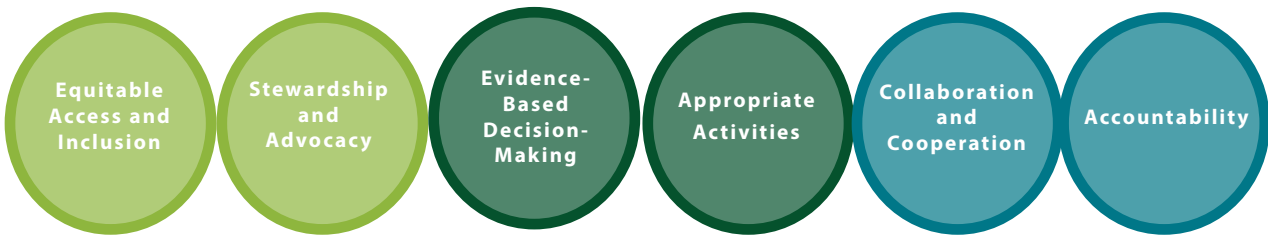
Over 1,000 people were engaged through November 2023 to June 2024 to inform the development of the Discussion Paper and subsequent Needs Study. A comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement program was undertaken during key stages of the project. Input received throughout these engagement activities has been used to inform the development of the the Needs Study.

Key issues were identified by the community and summarised under four themes:

<p>Theme one - dealing with our open space deficit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient open space for recreation • Deficit of sports land • Lack of open space for major infrastructure • Use of golf course 	<p>Theme three - Providing opportunities for organised sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacity within sports sites • Insufficient sites to house some sports • Equitable use of indoor sports centre
<p>Theme two - Management and use of our open space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large community events • School use of open space • Personal trainers • Use of open space for dogs 	<p>Theme four - Increasing participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of recreation for youth • Universal design • Inclusive/accessible playgrounds • Desire for more access to water • Lack of awareness of opportunities • Better provision of facilities for females

Guiding principles

A suite of guiding principles have been proposed within this Needs Study in order to describe the over-arching intentions for the ongoing provision and management of open space and recreation for North Sydney.



Strategic directions

North Sydney's vision for open space and recreation is two-fold:

1. A growing open space and recreation network that meets community needs, and
2. An open space and recreation network that is used and appreciated by all the community.

To achieve these outcomes, 10 strategic directions have been identified. Correlating actions have been assigned to each strategic direction and are outlined in section 6 of this Needs Study.

Outcome 1 - A growing open space and recreation network that meets community needs

Strategic Directions

1	Re-purpose or multi-purpose existing sport and recreation facilities to align with identified needs
2	Increase the capacity of existing sports sites
3	Provide new sports facilities
4	Re-imagine how we use our roads, car parks, civic spaces and 'surplus' public land
5	Seek to provide new open space

Outcome 2 - An open space and recreation network that is used and appreciated by all the community

Strategic Directions

6	Promote access and inclusion in the design and refurbishment of public spaces
7	Provide activated recreational links
8	Provide a variety of spaces and activities to suit our diverse population
9	Provide well maintained public open spaces with high amenity value
10	Manage our public open spaces to ensure they are shared

1

Introduction

The purpose of the Needs Study is to assess North Sydney's current and future open space and recreation needs. The Needs Study will inform the North Sydney Open Space and Recreation Strategy which intends to be a roadmap for Council to deliver open spaces and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the current and future North Sydney residents, workers and visitor populations.

Methodology

Development of the Needs Study involved several steps, detailed in the figure below.



Inclusions

Public open space, sport, and recreation facilities for which the North Sydney Council has either ownership, trustee management, or care control and management responsibility. Public open spaces and recreation facilities managed by other authorities and organisations, including public and independent schools, located within and adjacent to the LGA also need to be considered in determining overall provision, community access and amenity.

For the purposes of the Needs Study, recreation facilities are public or private facilities designed and equipped for the conduct of sports, and other recreation and leisure time activities. Outdoor recreation facilities include play spaces, outdoor fitness stations, outdoor courts (tennis, croquet, basketball, netball etc), skate and youth precincts and sportsgrounds. Indoor recreation facilities are places or buildings used predominantly for indoor recreation, including indoor swimming pools, gymnasiums and courts for sports such as basketball, squash, netball, badminton, pickleball.

Literature review

A detailed literature review has been undertaken to inform the Discussion Paper and is included within the Appendix of this Needs Study.

WHAT DOES THE LITERATURE REVIEW MEAN FOR THE NEEDS STUDY?

These legislative and planning documents provide clear parameters for the need and importance of an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Needs Study. However, opportunity exists for the future Open Space and Recreation Strategy to reflect the current and proposed future unique community demands of the LGA through a tailored approach. Influences guiding this approach and an ultimate framework for delivery are outlined throughout this Needs Study.

Community profile

The way in which a community participates in recreation and sporting activities is largely influenced by age and demographic considerations. Understanding the spatial and demographic variations in communities, such as concentrations of older residents or youth, is fundamental to responding to, and planning for, the future provision of public open space.

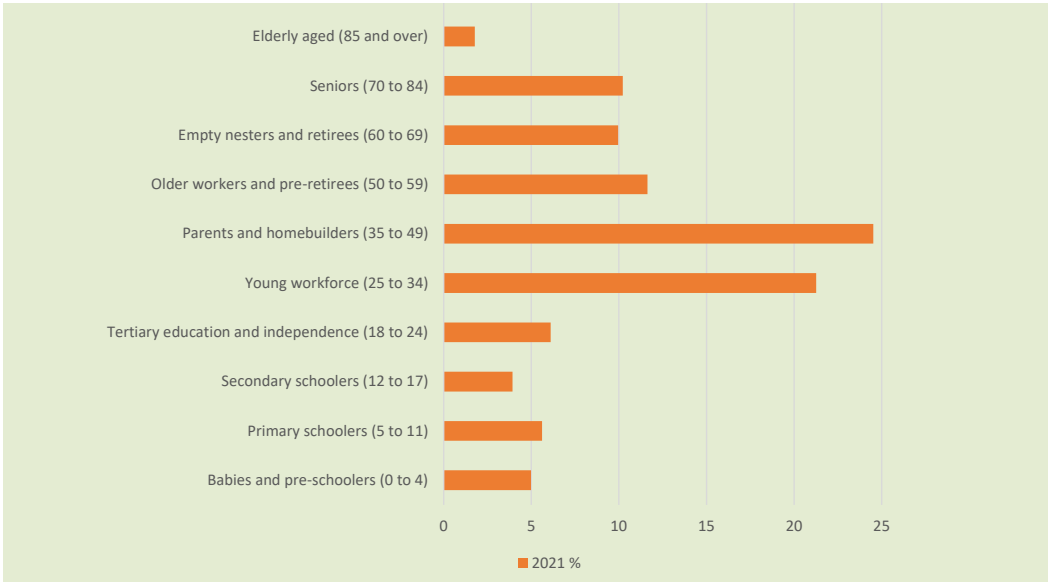
In order to understand the make-up for the users of open space across the LGA, a snapshot of existing and future population and demographic characteristics has been undertaken.

Population considerations

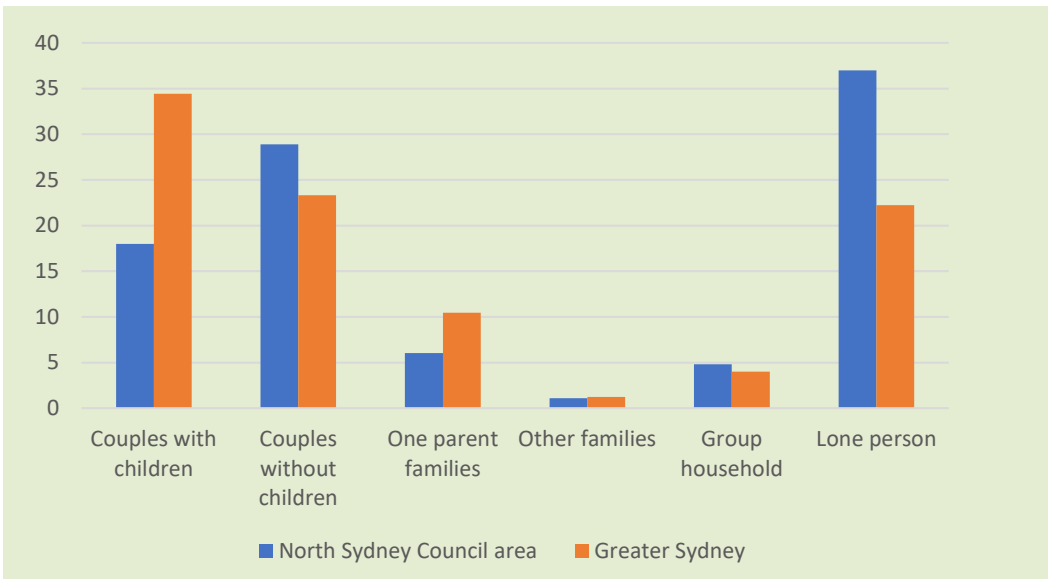
Analysis of North Sydney's population characteristics¹ in comparison to greater Sydney and NSW

Characteristic	North Sydney	Greater Sydney	NSW
Residential population in 2023	72,014	5,231,147	7,480,228
Residential density	6,862 per km ²	429 per km ²	10.2 per km ²
Median age	38	37	39
Percentage of the population living in high density housing (flats and apartments in 3 or more storeys)	66%	30.7%	21.7%
Percentage living in medium density housing (semi-detached, row, terrace, town houses and villa units, plus flats and apartments in blocks of 1 or 2 storeys, and flats attached to houses)	23%	12.8%	11.7%
Percentage living in housing defined as a separate house	10%	55.8%	65.6%
Weekly household income - \$3,000 or more	43.2%	35.9%	31.6%
Weekly household income - \$4,500 - \$7,999	20.2%	21.5%	7.7%
Weekly household income - \$400 - \$799	5.1%	7.6%	11.0%
Access to two or more motor vehicles	23%	48.0%	49%
Access to one motor vehicles	54%	39.5%	36.5%
Households with an internet connection	85%	81%	78%

North Sydney service age groups

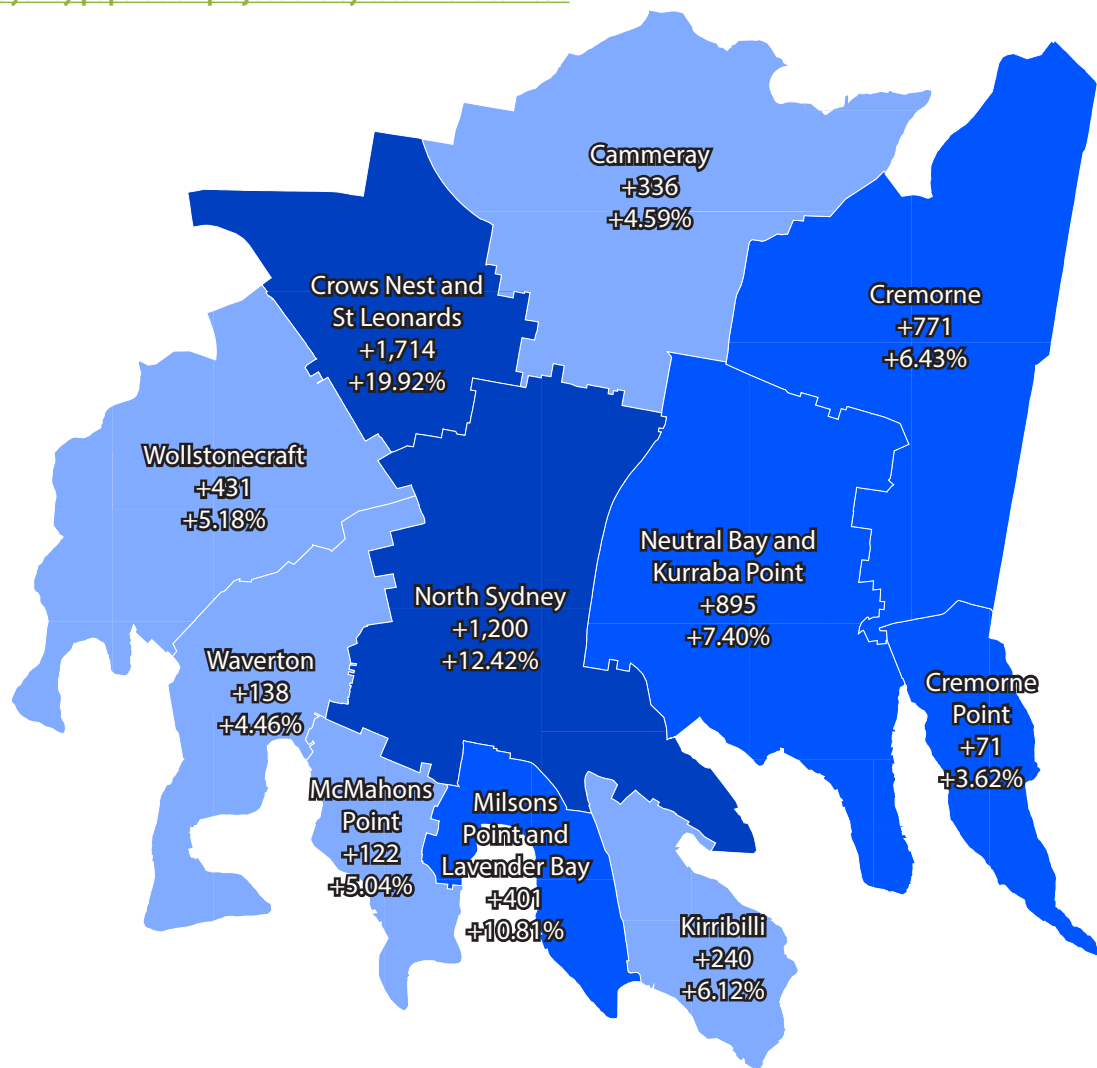


North Sydney household groups



The North Sydney Council population forecast for 2024 is 73,122, and is forecast to grow to 79,442 by 2036. The respective projected increases¹ are expected by 2036 in the following areas.

North Sydney population projections by catchment to 2036



Percentage of population growth by catchment



In addition to the residential population of North Sydney, a large number of workers and students from outside the LGA visit and access North Sydney each week.

Student population

North Sydney is home to a large number of schools, both public and private, primary and secondary. It is estimated that 68% of the students enrolled at the seven private schools were from outside the LGA. Current student population was last counted at approximately 17,000 in 2017, giving an indication of the impact that schools have on the use of the North Sydney open space network.

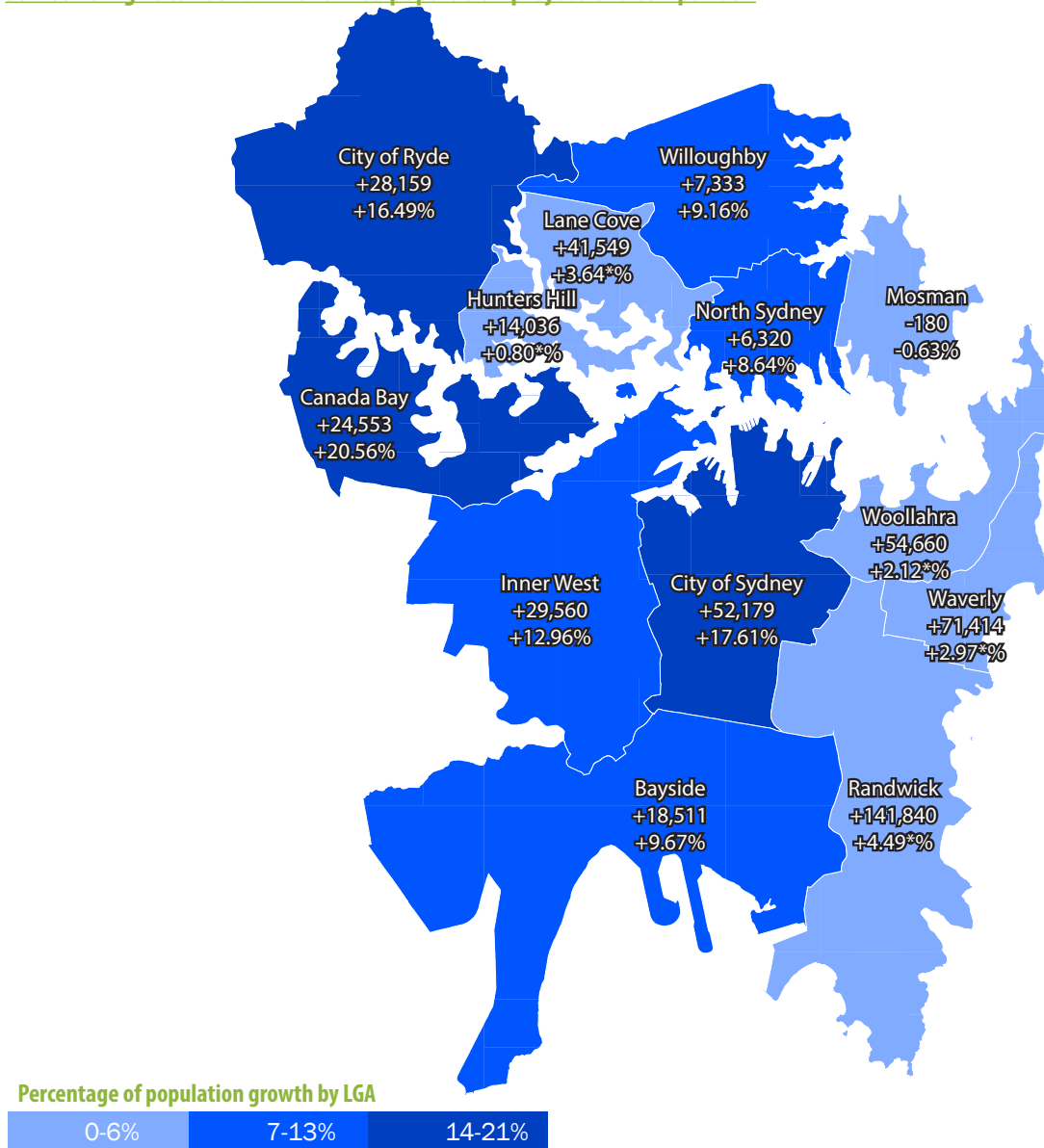
Workers

Similar to student population, it is understood that a large number of workers travel to North Sydney each day from outside of the LGA. Whilst the exact numbers are unknown, the total number of jobs in the LGA was close to 107,754² in 2023.

¹ forecast.id.com.au/north-sydney
² economic.id.com.au/north-sydney

The North Sydney Council population forecast for 2024 is 73,122, and is forecast to grow to 79,442 by 2036. The respective projected increases¹ (provided in descending order) are expected by 2036 in the following areas.

Surrounding Local Government Area population projections comparison



*Historical growth rate used due to current projections not being available

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE NEEDS STUDY?

In terms of impacts for the preparation of the Needs Study, these demographic considerations suggest:

- a high demand for public open space due to the high percentage of residents living in high and medium density housing
- an ability for many residents to pay for open space and recreation opportunities
- the need to maximise the use (and multi-use) of existing spaces to meet the increased demand expected from the projected growth in population
- increased risk of overuse of open space areas and subsequent reduction in quality and experience
- past and current deficiencies in provision of recreation (such as equitable access by women and girls to sporting facilities) will be hard to overcome
- in comparison to the surrounding LGA's, North Sydney has a higher expected population growth (with the exception of Canada Bay).

2

Open space analysis

What is open space?

Public open space

Public open space is land that is set aside for public recreation or as parkland, or for similar purposes. Public open space incorporates active and passive open space.

Passive open space

Passive open space is land that is set aside for parks, gardens, linear corridors, conservation, nature reserves, civic spaces and community gardens that are made available for passive recreation, play and unstructured physical activity.

Active open space

Active open space is land set aside for the primary purpose of organised outdoor sports by the community.

Core open space

Core open space is active and passive open space that meets Council's requirements specified by its Desired Standards of Service (DSS) and Levels of Service (LOS). This is particularly important to ensure equitable distribution and quality open space across planning areas, as well as ensuring development contributions are calculated and captured accurately.

Non-core open space

Non-core open space includes:

- active open space areas that are privately owned or operated and that are not freely available for public use
- passive open space areas where appropriate recreation use is typically a secondary use of the land.

The primary purpose of non-core passive open space can be for a range of uses including bushland for conservation, stormwater management, utility reserves, access and amenity.

Access to experiences

In addition to the network of recreation and sport parks available to residents and visitors, there is also the Sydney Harbour that provides a range of outdoor water-based recreation opportunities. Together, Council-managed, and other natural assets across the LGA, provide an extensive network of recreation, nature-based and ecotourism opportunities for residents and visitors.

The range of activities and experiences considered as key elements in the LGA's open space network include:

- walking and cycling
- access to nature
- escape, break out and recreation areas
- comfort/safety
- dog-friendly areas
- indoor recreation/ community meetings
- sport
- non-sport physical activity
- nature-based recreation
- water-based recreation
- picnics
- playgrounds
- cultural/community events.

Open space provision

There are currently two primary approaches to open space planning for local government - a standards-based approach and a needs-based approach. Both have merit, and together they provide both quantitative and qualitative data to aid analysis and decision making.

1

Standards-based approach

Desired Standards of Service (DSS)

It is important to develop parks that meet the needs of the community and the standards-based approach aims to meet a range of criteria:

- quantity of land for open space
- size of open space park types
- accessibility of the open space to the community
- level of embellishment of the open space
- condition of the park and embellishments.

Land for parks

The quantity standard identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for core open space. Standards are generally presented as hectares/1,000 population.

Park size

The size standard identifies the minimum area for different park hierarchies to ensure parks can be developed to provide the intended service.

Park access

The access standard evaluates the distribution of parkland and whether residents can easily access it. Research indicates that most residents are willing to walk up to 10 minutes to access a destination, including park and recreation facilities. While many residents will drive to facilities, others (including children) will walk or cycle.

Park embellishment

Embellishments are the facilities and services provided at parks to meet various recreation needs. The types of embellishments available in parks can be deliberately chosen to allow the park to function for its intended purpose. For example, competition sport facilities can also be embellished for recreation park use by either children, older youth or for picnicking, walking and nature appreciation.

Park condition

The condition of a park and its embellishments can impact the recreation experience of residents who visit it. The condition standard measures if the park and embellishments are in good, fair or poor condition. Regardless of the quantity and variety of embellishments available, community members may be less likely to visit parks that are in poor condition.

2

Needs-based approach

The standards-based approach to open space planning is most effectively used in greenfield situations where significant population growth is projected and additional land is available. However, this approach is not the only approach for consideration. Alternative approaches are appropriate when:

- infill development (rather than greenfield development) is planned
- limited land is available.

Weight is given to the planning area needs including the social, demographic and environmental characteristics of an area and the type of embellishment required in an open space. Given the needs of the North Sydney LGA, the needs-based approach, supported by the standards-based approach, is proposed for open space planning, provision and development. Both have merit and together they provide both quantitative and qualitative data to aid analysis and decision-making.

The access and quantity standards are traditionally the two primary measures used to assess and plan for core open space parkland demands.

Open space aspects for consideration

Quantity

What is the current North Sydney provision of open space?

The quantity standard identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for core open space. Standards are generally presented as hectares/1,000 population.

Accessibility, connectivity and distribution

The access standard evaluates the distribution of parkland and whether residents can easily access it. Research indicates that most residents are willing to walk up to 10 minutes to access a destination, including park and recreation facilities. While many residents will drive to facilities, others (including children) will walk or cycle.

Size, shape and function

The size standard identifies the minimum area for different park hierarchies to ensure parks can be developed to provide the intended service.

Quality and capacity

Embellishments are the facilities and services provided at parks to meet various recreation needs. The types of embellishments available in parks can be deliberately chosen to allow the park to function for its intended purpose. For example, competition sport facilities can also be embellished for recreation park use by either children, older youth or for picnicking, walking and nature appreciation.

The condition of a park and its embellishments can impact the recreation experience of its users. The condition standard measures if the park and embellishments are in good, fair or poor condition. Regardless of the quantity and variety of embellishments available, community members may be less likely to visit parks that are in poor condition.

Open space aspects for consideration

For the purpose of this Needs Study, both public and private open space types have been considered to plan strategically to achieve an integrated public open space network. Privately owned land, such as a tennis clubs, bowling clubs and sailing clubs as well as non-government schools and other educational institutions can play an important role in providing benefits and opportunities to the community. However, the Needs Study primarily relates to publicly owned and/or managed open space.

Classification and hierarchy

Classification

Various open space types possess different values, functions and settings. Compatible and incompatible uses of open space can result in impacts, changing the nature of open space types over time. To promote appropriate use of open space, a classification framework has been developed for application to the open space network. The classification identifies the primary purpose of the land, the size and scale (hierarchy) of the park and the embellishments required to provide recreation and sport opportunities. The open space classifications are detailed in the table below according to function, purpose, hierarchy, and description.

Hierarchy

Assessment and allocation of parks within a hierarchy provides a useful framework to manage the level and variety of embellishments in a particular park type. The park hierarchy also assists park users' expectations as they can select to visit parks that provide the recreation experience and opportunities they are seeking.

Open space classification framework

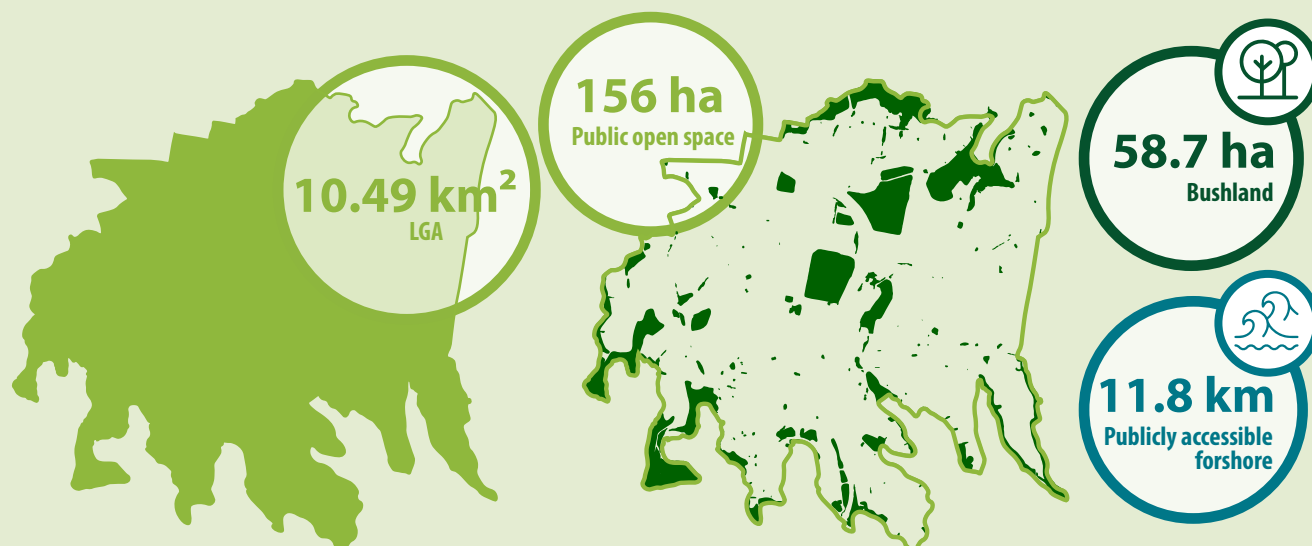
Classification	Purpose	Hierarchy	Description
Recreation park (core)	Provides a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction	Local District Regional	Provides a range of passive recreation activities in predominantly informal settings. The sites can also contribute to the amenity and environmental values of a neighbourhood
Sports Park (core)	Provides a setting for organised structured sporting activities	District Regional	Site predominantly used for active or competitive recreation including grassed or synthetic playing fields and courts.
Specialised sport (non-core)	Provides a setting for organised sporting activities within a purpose-built facility	N/a	Open space provided for sporting activities where the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer to an alternative sport, or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public, or where the land and facility requirements result in high level provision (e.g. indoor courts, lawn bowls, aquatic centres, locked tennis courts and golf courses)
Access and amenity (non-core)	To provide access as well as provide visual amenity	N/a	Open space generally dedicated to provide pedestrian access, or for their attractiveness and to add to or protect the character/history of the area. Often highly landscaped areas such as entrance statements, monuments, set of steps, memorials and lookouts. It also includes land too small, steep or awkwardly shaped to be usable
Bushland (non-core)	Provides a setting where biodiversity is the primary purpose of the reserve	Local Regional	Reserves that contain biodiversity features of local, regional, state or federal significance. As the primary use of open space is for environmental protection, the area is likely to preclude unrestricted public access
Civic (non-core)	To provide a passive rest area or break-out	N/a	Civic spaces may provide opportunities for civic ceremonies, passive recreation, and contribute to the amenity of a place. These areas provide a spot to take a break from work, to eat lunch, enjoy a coffee and socialise
Other (non-core)	Utility	N/a	Encumbered open space is often associated with areas for stormwater, drainage, utility infrastructure and cemeteries

North Sydney's open space and recreation network

North Sydney Council manages 156 ha of open space. The network is made up of formal and informal spaces for recreation and sport, natural areas and foreshore, as well as civic spaces. In addition to the open space and recreation network, it is acknowledged that the public realm contributes to the open space network.

An overview of the network is outlined below.

Our Local Government Area



Our sport and recreation facilities



Recreation parks

Parcels of open space whose primary function is as a space for passive recreation for the local community. They typically consist of landscaping, grassed areas and park furniture. They range from small local parks with minimal infrastructure, to larger district and regional parks with significant infrastructure, catering for residents and visitors through provision of diverse opportunities.

Examples include:



Sports parks

Open space used for organised sporting activities, including playing fields and associated facilities and infrastructure. Examples include:





North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre

Specialised sport

Open space provided for sporting activities where the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer to an alternative sport, or the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public, or where the land and facility requirements result in high level provision (e.g. golf course, lawn bowls, indoor courts, North Sydney Olympic Pool and MacCallum Pool).



Four Figs Park

Access and amenity

Landscaped road closures and sites that provide access to surrounding streets. Also includes nature strips and other small sites in Council's 'Streets Alive' program which are managed and maintained by the community. Small garden areas owned and managed by Council which are not usable due to factors including topography, accessibility and size. These sites nevertheless make an important contribution to the accessibility and visual amenity of the North Sydney area.



Hume Street Park Extension

Civic spaces

Public spaces designed for intensive use in an urban setting, including squares, plazas, and malls. Largely paved, may have some trees. They provide recreational functions such as eating lunch, relaxation and are meeting places for social interaction.



Primrose Park Bushland

Bushland

Land containing remnant indigenous vegetation in the process of restoration often found adjacent to recreation spaces and other parkland.

Primarily for the protection and conservation of native flora and fauna, with some recreation opportunities including education and walking tracks.

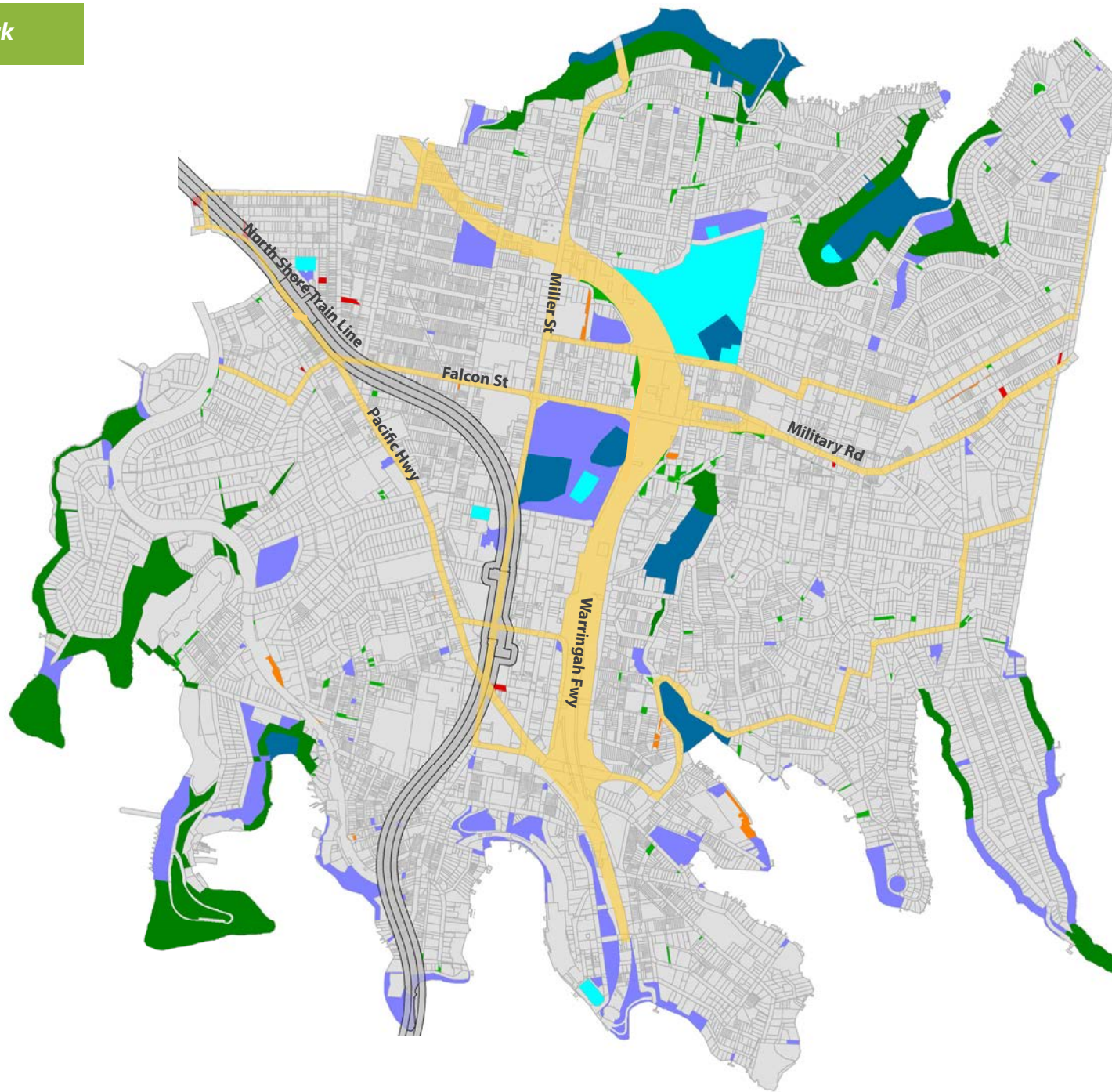
Map: North Sydney open space network

Core open space

Recreation park	Provides a setting for informal play, physical activity, relaxation and social interaction
Sport park	Provides a setting primarily for formal structured sporting activities. Includes grassed or synthetic playing fields and courts

Non-core open space

Specialised sport	Provides a setting for formal sporting activities with a purpose-built facility. Includes indoor courts, swimming pools, lawn bowls, tennis courts and golf courses
Access and amenity	Includes open space generally dedicated to providing pedestrian access or visual amenity, or to protect the character/history of the area. Includes walkways, monuments, memorials and lookouts
Bushland	Reserves that contain biodiversity features of local, regional, state or federal significance. As the primary use of bushland is for environmental protection, the area may not permit unrestricted public access
Civic	Provides a setting for civic ceremonies or passive recreation, and contributes to the amenity of a locality
Other	Encumbered open space that is often associated with areas for stormwater, drainage, utility infrastructure and cemeteries, or is owned and managed by others



Assessing supply and demand for open space in North Sydney

Desired standards of service

Desired Standards of Service (DSS) is the level of open space that Council aims to provide as a minimum to all residents in the LGA. DSS is calculated using quantitative and spatial measures.

The open space provision standard for North Sydney, as outlined in Council's Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan (2020) is 1.8ha/1,000 persons.

It is important to note that this provision rate is low when compared to other comparable LGA's as well as traditional open space provision standards assessment. This provision rate does not differentiate between land for recreation versus sport.

Current open space provision

Current open space provision in North Sydney is shown in the following table. This identifies the current area of public open space against the 2021 population (available Census data) and projected population growth in 5-year increments with provision of public open space per 1,000 head of population.

Demand is based on a total DSS of 1.8ha/1,000 population.

Provision of core open space required for current and projected population in 5-year increments

Open Space Classification	Current supply (ha)	Current (2024) 73,112		Future (2026) 75,143		Future (2031) 77,341		Future (2036) 79,442	
		Demand	Gap / Surplus	Demand	Gap / Surplus	Demand	Gap / Surplus	Demand	Gap / Surplus
Total open space (core only)	73.05	131.62	-58.57	135.26	-62.21	139.21	-66.16	143.00	-69.95

As shown in the table above, the provision of open space within North Sydney remains in deficit for all population growth increments.



Berry Island Reserve

Provision of land for sports grounds and courts

In addition to the provision standards for open space discussed on the previous page, it is important to analyse the demand for sports land. Council's ability to meet demand for organised sport will be a key consideration moving forward. Engagement undertaken with sporting clubs identified that existing provision doesn't meet current demand and this deficit is projected to continue.

In 2023, the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) completed the Review of Supply and Demand for Sports Facilities in the NSROC Region. The comprehensive report identified that the existing (and projected) supply of land for organised sport within the North Sydney LGA was well below industry expectations. Indeed, with a 2021 provision of 0.21ha/1,000 residents, Council is well below all other councils within the NSROC. Further, the study indicates that Council would need an additional 53.32ha for playing fields alone to meet projected demand by 2036.

While population growth can often result in additional land for sport becoming available, the nature of North Sydney means that very limited land will be achieved through development initiatives. Further exacerbating this deficit, increased demand is expected to come through a number of channels:

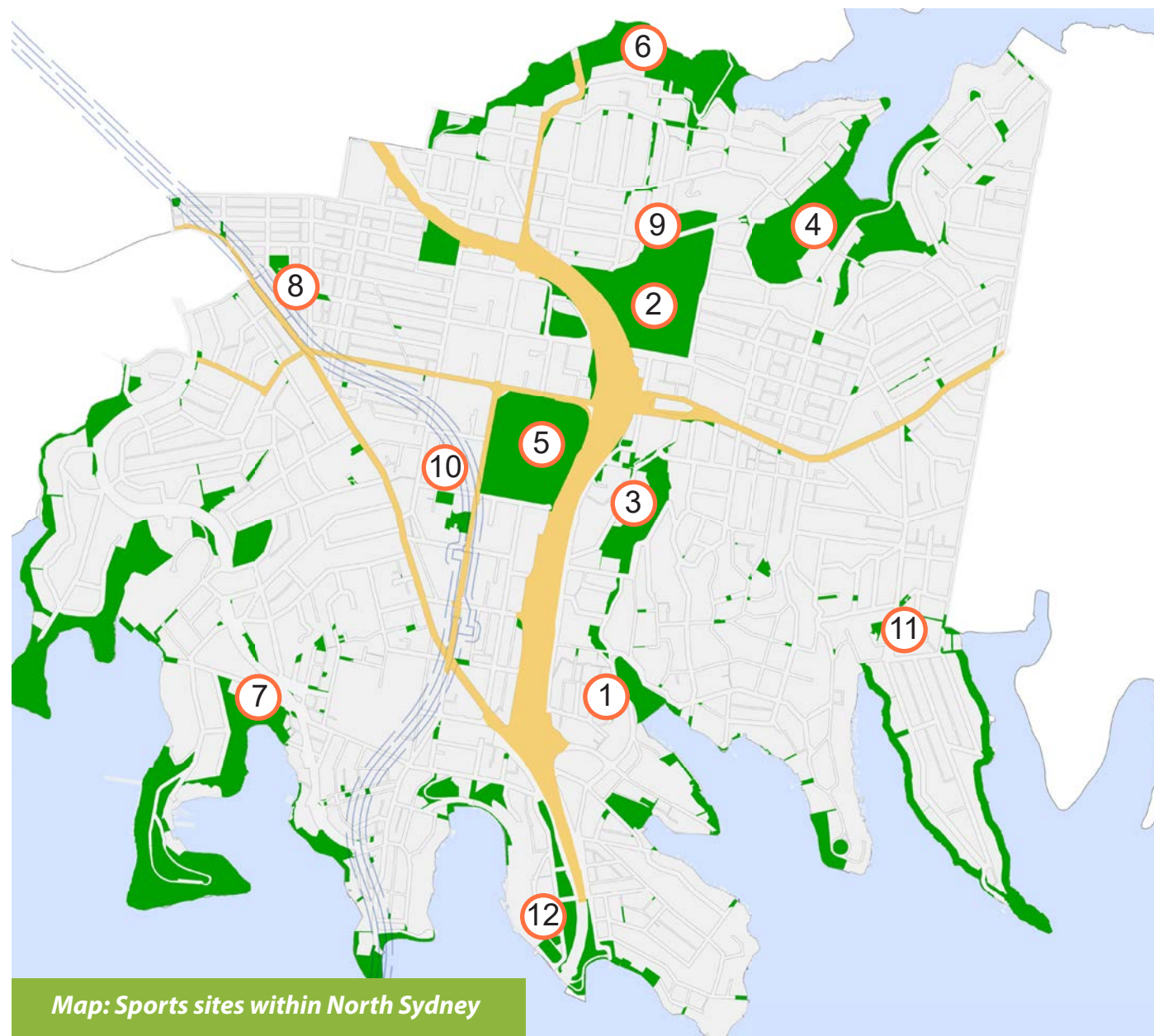
- population increases resulting in more residents looking to participate in organised sport
- increased use from (land poor) schools AND additional schools set to be established in the LGA
- increased facility expectations from peak sporting bodies
- growth in burgeoning sports (e.g. pickleball) and non-traditional delivery (e.g. males playing netball, females participating in the various football codes).

The small size of the North Sydney Council area means that it is reasonable to consider provision of specialist sports facilities such as netball competition courts, AFL fields and the like on a region-wide basis.

Council will need to explore a range of innovative approaches in order to meet future demand for organised sport. For example, increased capacity of existing facilities could be achieved through additional sportsfield lighting, enhanced irrigation and drainage, and careful consideration of some grass fields being converted to synthetic or hybrid surfaces. Additionally, as identified in the NSROC report, opportunity exists to consider provision of organised sport at existing public open spaces where traditional use is not currently available (e.g. golf courses). Other opportunities may include brownfield sites, car park roof tops and leasing land for open space from private landowners. It is important to consider these opportunities and to plan for and commence the implementation of chosen options before demand spikes.

The following section provides a snapshot of Council's existing sporting facilities, including an analysis of each site's capacity to cater for current and future use. National, State and local participation data has also been analysed to develop priority initiatives for Council to consider in order to continue to provide a range of relevant sporting opportunities now and into the future.

Sports sites within North Sydney



Major sporting sites	
1	Anderson Park Sportsfield with lighting and cricket net
2	Cammeray Park Synthetic sportsfield with lighting, 4 lit tennis courts, croquet green, 9 hole golf course
3	Forsyth Park Two sportsfields with lighting
4	Primrose Park Sportsfields with lighting, 4 lit tennis courts and cricket nets
5	St Leonards Park Two sportsfields with lighting (Oval 1 and Bon Andrews Oval), 2 netball courts, cricket nets
6	Tunks Park Sportsfields
7	Waverton Park Sportsfields with lighting
Other sporting sites	
8	North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre Four indoor courts primarily used for basketball
9	Green Park Two tennis courts
10	Ridge Street Tennis Centre Four lit tennis courts
11	Prior Avenue Reserve One tennis court
12	North Sydney Olympic Pool 50m Pool, 25m pool, leisure pool, program pool

Map: Sports sites within North Sydney

Anderson Park

A highly attractive site located on Neutral Harbour, Anderson Park contains two synthetic wickets over two under-sized cricket fields that are suitable for cricket, soccer (one full-sized field) and various football codes, including touch.

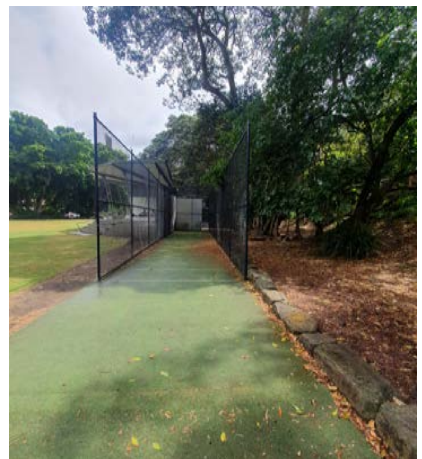
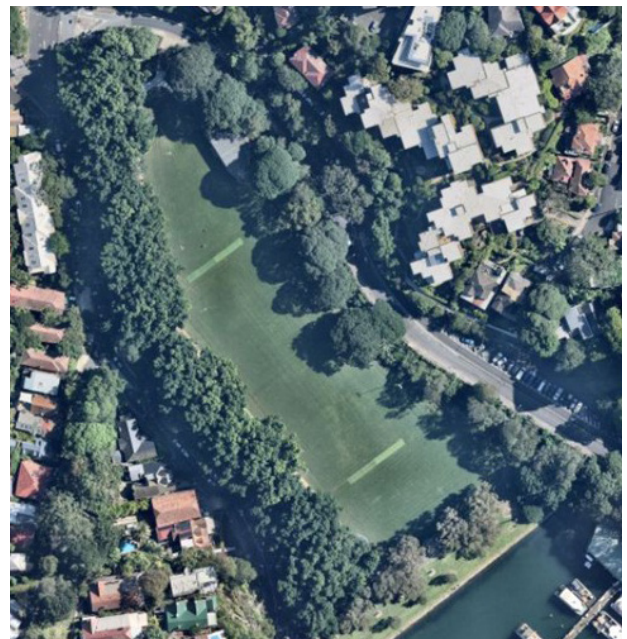
The modern, multi-purpose toilets and change rooms are adjacent to a single cricket practice net in good condition.

The sporting fields are well lit (and buffered well by natural vegetation) and are complemented by outdoor fitness stations, some overlooking the water. Some of these stations also provide play opportunities with well-located bench seats complementing the passive recreation spaces.

Capacity

The condition of the playing fields indicate that they could possibly cater for increased use, especially if the maintenance regime was at least continued or increased to cater for additional use. However, the long, narrow nature of the site greatly limits its ability to provide fields that would meet the minimum size requirements of anything but junior or modified sports/activities.

While the existing toilet and change facilities would also cope with additional use, it is noted that the site lacks any additional space or break out areas that would be necessary to cater for an increased number of spectators or any other additional requirements for increased use.



Cammeray Park

Cammeray Park provides various sport and recreation opportunities through its existing facilities which include a golf course, synthetic playing field, small tennis centre and croquet courts.

The sole synthetic field in the LGA caters for soccer and is well lit and serviced by a small but functional toilet/change room and kiosk building. The synthetic field can also accommodate rugby league and rugby union.

The four lit court tennis courts are adjacent to two lit croquet lawns, all in good condition. To the immediate west of these is the North Sydney skate park.

The predominant current feature of the site is the Cammeray Golf Club. The specialised nature of this facility greatly minimises public access and use of Cammeray Park.

Capacity

Although starting to show the effects of a high level of use, the synthetic playing field has the capacity to cater for a much higher level of use than a natural grass field. If use of the field increased, the surface would need to be replaced more frequently into the future, but the cost associated with such increased maintenance would be balanced by the opportunities provided to the community.

The real opportunity for increased sporting and recreation activities at the site is the vast area currently utilised by the golf course (approximately 8.2ha).



In addition to the highly restrictive nature of the use of such a specialised sporting area, past golf usage numbers outlined in the Golf Market Assessment Report¹ have indicated the area is not highly used for this purpose. By undertaking a detailed review of the use of this valuable community land, greatly increased sport and recreation opportunities could be offered.



¹ Northern Beaches Council, Golf Market Assessment 2016

Forsyth Park

Located below a high quality community garden, school-preschool and lookout area, the two sporting ovals at Forsyth Park cater for cricket, soccer, hockey, touch football and school sports.

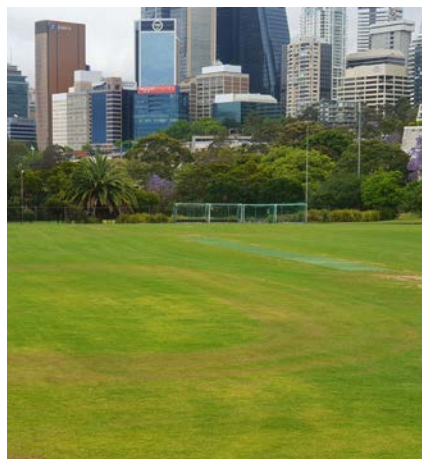
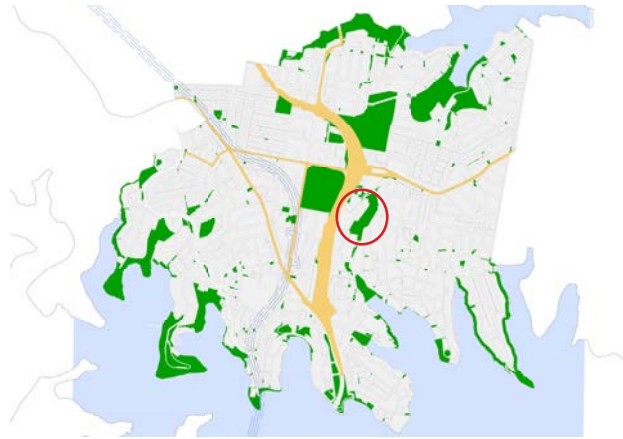
The playing fields are lit and in good condition, each containing a synthetic cricket pitch. There is also an athletics long jump pit located in the south-western aspect of the site.

The fields are serviced by toilets and change rooms adjacent to the school-preschool.

Capacity

Although both fields are oval in shape, their small size (with no extensions possible) make them unable to cater appropriately for a wider range of sporting activities (such as senior Australian football).

The condition of the playing surfaces also indicates that the current level of use could only be increased with additional resources applied to the maintenance of the fields. Further, the car parking requirements of increased use of the site would be difficult to cater for at, or near to, the site.



Primrose Park

Another long and narrow linear sports park, Primrose Park provides four lit tennis courts and three lit sporting fields (although there are four synthetic cricket pitches) that cater for football, rugby union, soccer and cricket. There are also two cricket practice nets and the fields are serviced by toilets and change rooms.

Council have recently installed two additional cricket nets adjacent to the existing nets.

The site is bounded by natural vegetation and the harbour with no opportunities for expansion of facilities/fields.

Capacity

The narrow, linear shape of the site greatly constrains its ability to provide increased sporting opportunities.

While the playing fields are currently in good condition, increased usage would have a negative impact on this and additional resources would again need to be applied.

There are also limited opportunities to make the tennis courts multi purpose without reconfiguring the fencing and the playing surface which would have a negative impact on their current use. Given the unique physical location of the courts, extension of the area is not a viable option.



St Leonards Park

In addition to being the home of the historic and picturesque sporting facility North Sydney Oval, St Leonards Park is also the premier recreation park in the LGA. North Sydney Oval is considered one of the premier sporting facilities in not only North Sydney, but also New South Wales and arguably Australia.

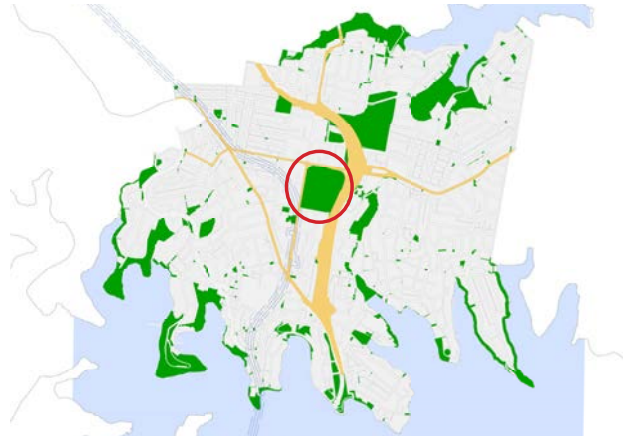
The site also contains Bon Andrews Oval and the Cunningham Pavilion, also both high quality sporting facilities catering predominantly for cricket. Ancillary sporting facilities such as practice nets and toilets/change rooms are also of high quality.

Other sporting facilities within the site include the Greens Bowls Club in the south-eastern aspect, adjacent to the publicly available outdoor basketball/netball courts, as well as a small synthetic cricket wicket and a set of two cricket wickets available for hire.

Capacity

Although a large site, it is highly developed with existing sporting infrastructure and the recreation areas are attractive and highly used by both the general community and schools.

The site was subject to a park master plan in 2018 with a very high level of community and stakeholder input. A key outcome of the master plan was the need to maintain the current balance between organised sports facilities and more passive recreation areas, with no significant increase in the sports facilities.



Given the deficiency of community sports land across the LGA it would be timely to investigate the future role of the North Sydney Oval in accommodating additional community sporting opportunities.

The netball courts provide future opportunity for additional use, through lighting and multi-use.



Tunks Park

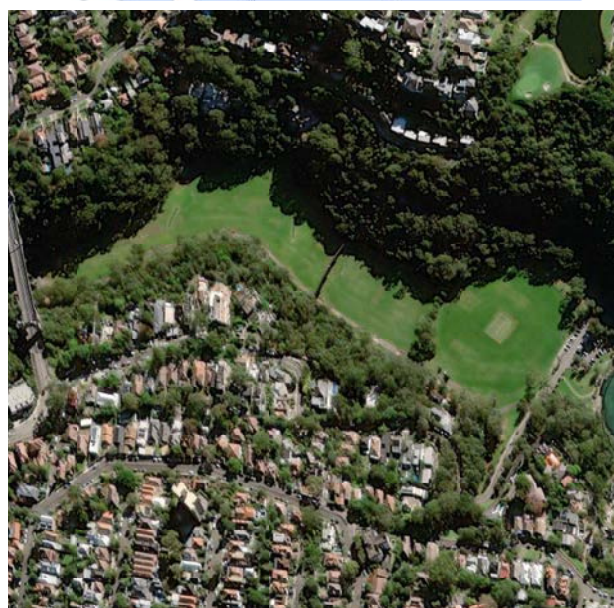
One of the premier sporting facilities in the LGA, Tunks Park is a long, linear site that contains a premier oval (with turf pitch block) and three and a half smaller ovals, each with a synthetic cricket pitch.

The sports fields cater for cricket, AFL and soccer with the ancillary facilities such as toilets and change rooms are high quality. The site could be better utilised through the upgrading of the field lighting and although this has been investigated in the past, it is believed this should be re-visited with consideration given to the new lighting technologies available.

Capacity

The site's capacity to offer increased sporting opportunities is highly limited due to the long, narrow shape of the majority of the area. The smaller fields in this narrow aspect will only ever cater for junior sports, especially those that are able to operate with flexible field configurations (such as small sided soccer). Further, there is a lack of space available for any necessary ancillary facilities/activities required for increased use.

As mentioned above, increased lighting is the only realistic option for increasing the site's capacity for use.



Waverton Park

Containing one lit sports field catering for cricket and soccer, Waverton Park's playing surface shows the impact of its high level of use.

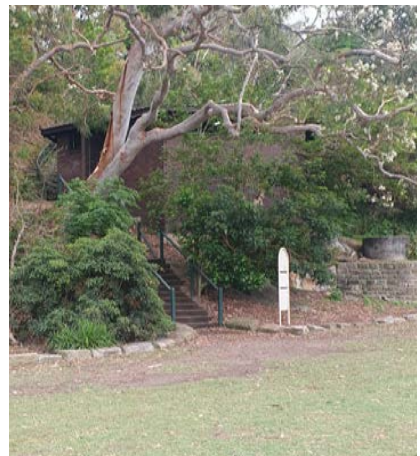
Nestled between Berrys Bay, public recreation areas and the former bowls club, the site contains limited infrastructure including field lighting, a synthetic cricket pitch and public toilets and change rooms.

There is no opportunity for expansion of the sporting field/s.

Capacity

Unless significant additional resources are made available for increased maintenance of the playing surface, the site is currently at full capacity in regard to sporting use. The shape of the playing field area and its proximity to the water also highly constrains its ability to provide additional field configurations.

The open space area immediately to the south of the old bowls club building is too small to cater for any appropriate sporting use and its topography (and use for community recreation) greatly restricts its ability to be developed to do so.



Participation

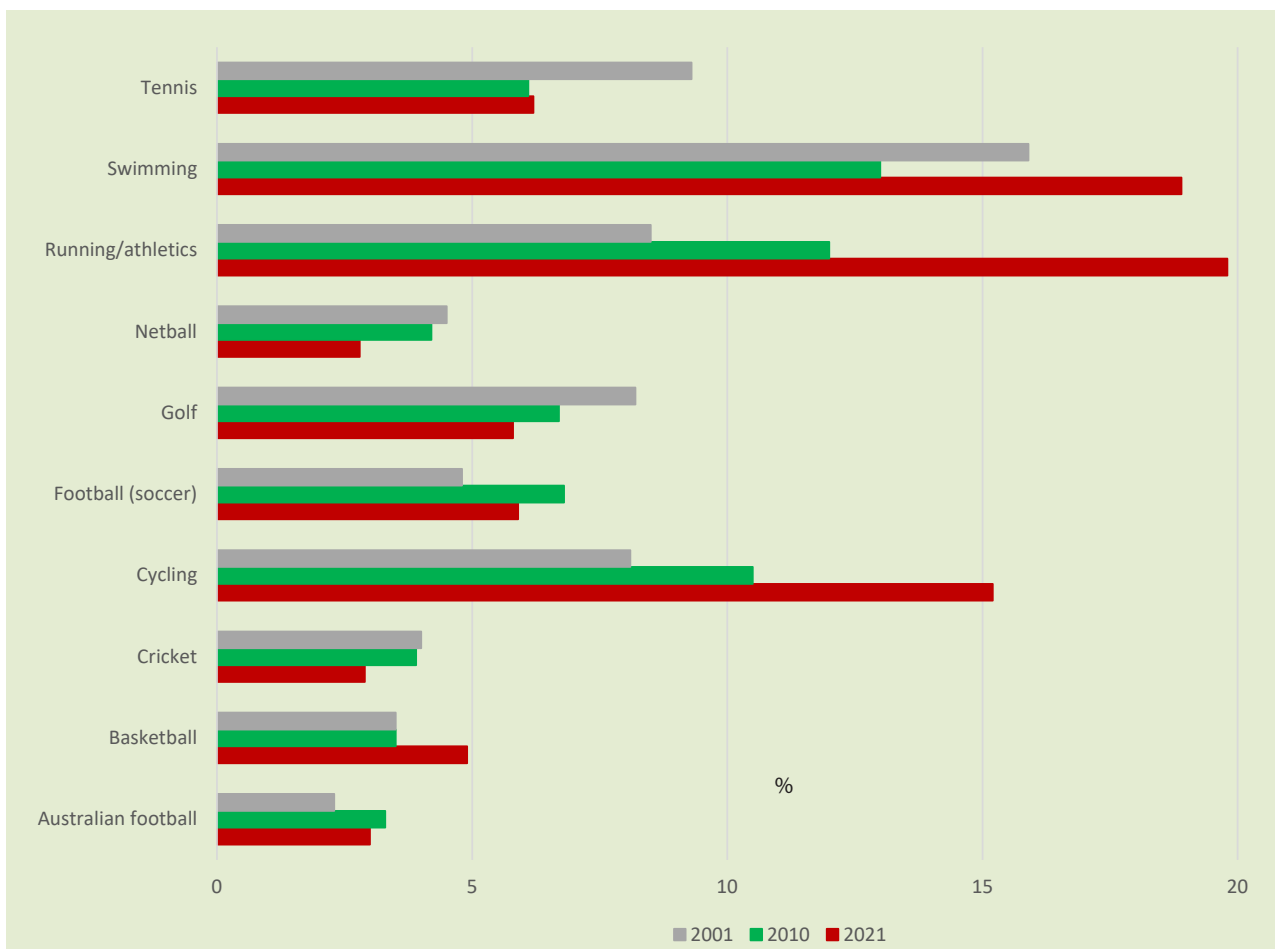
Snapshots of sporting participation levels and trends at a National, State and local level have been undertaken to ensure the Needs Study considers the most relevant and likely demands into the future.

The data utilised to provide the summaries in this section was sourced from AusPlay, a large scale national population tracking survey funded and led by Sport Australia (<https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results>).

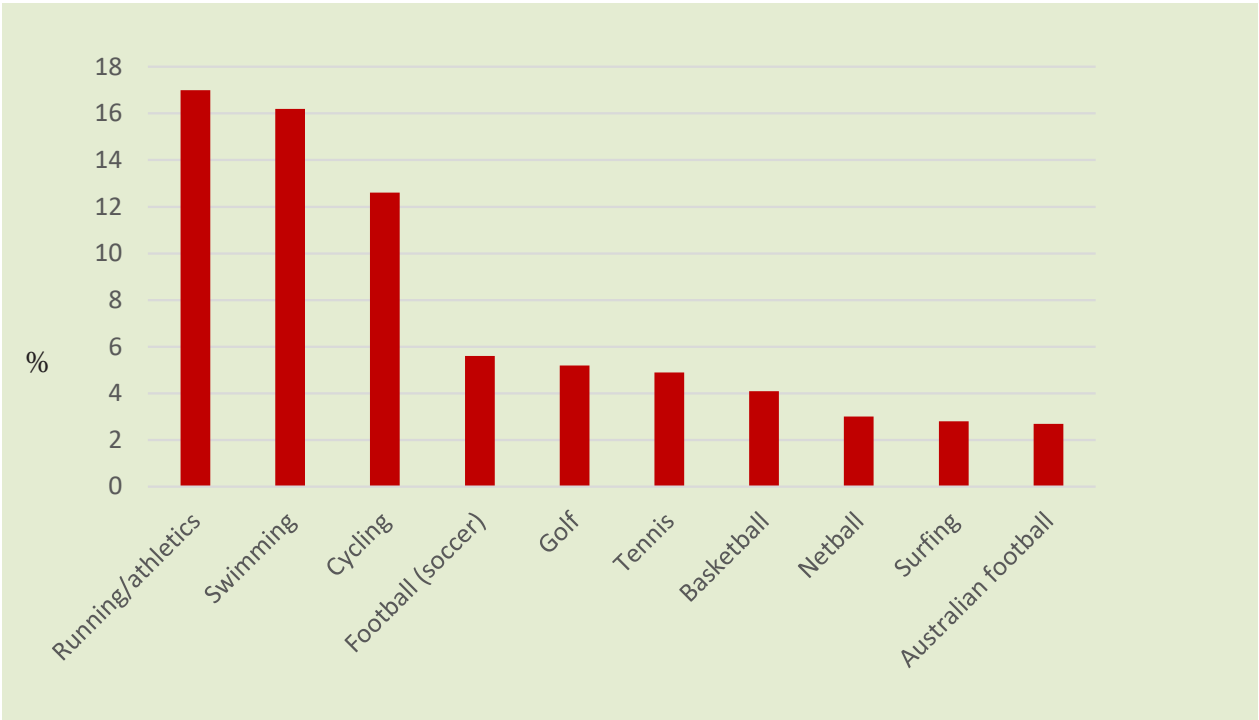
National participation

At a national-level, the reduction in available leisure time has resulted in a trend for adults to move away from organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport. The ABS conducted a nation-wide Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey for adults over 15 years of age in 2005/06, 2009/10 and 2011/12. The survey showed that participation in organised sport reduced slightly while non-organised sport reported increases. This trend has continued to the present and is expected to continue into the future.

The graph below shows a summary of more recent national participation trends for the 10 most popular sports across Australia from 2001 to 2021 (Ausplay 2021 - % of National population).

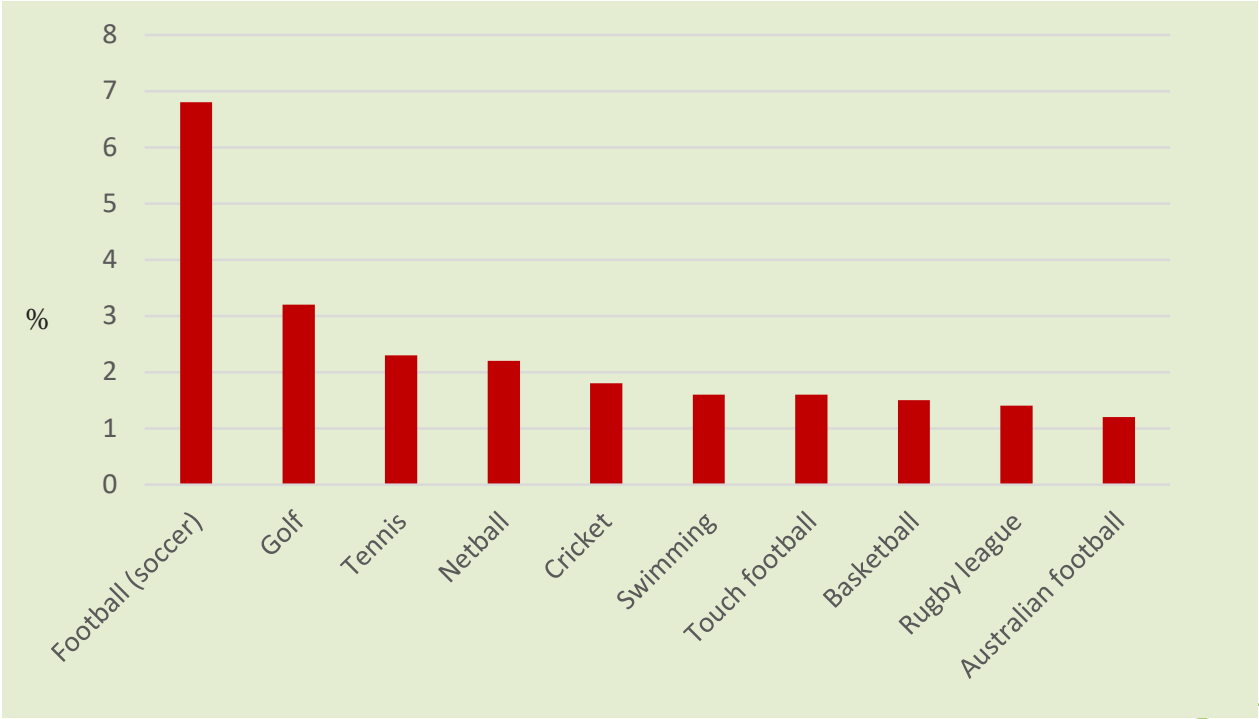


Following the trends previously shown, the top ten most popular sports currently played in Australia are illustrated in the graph below.



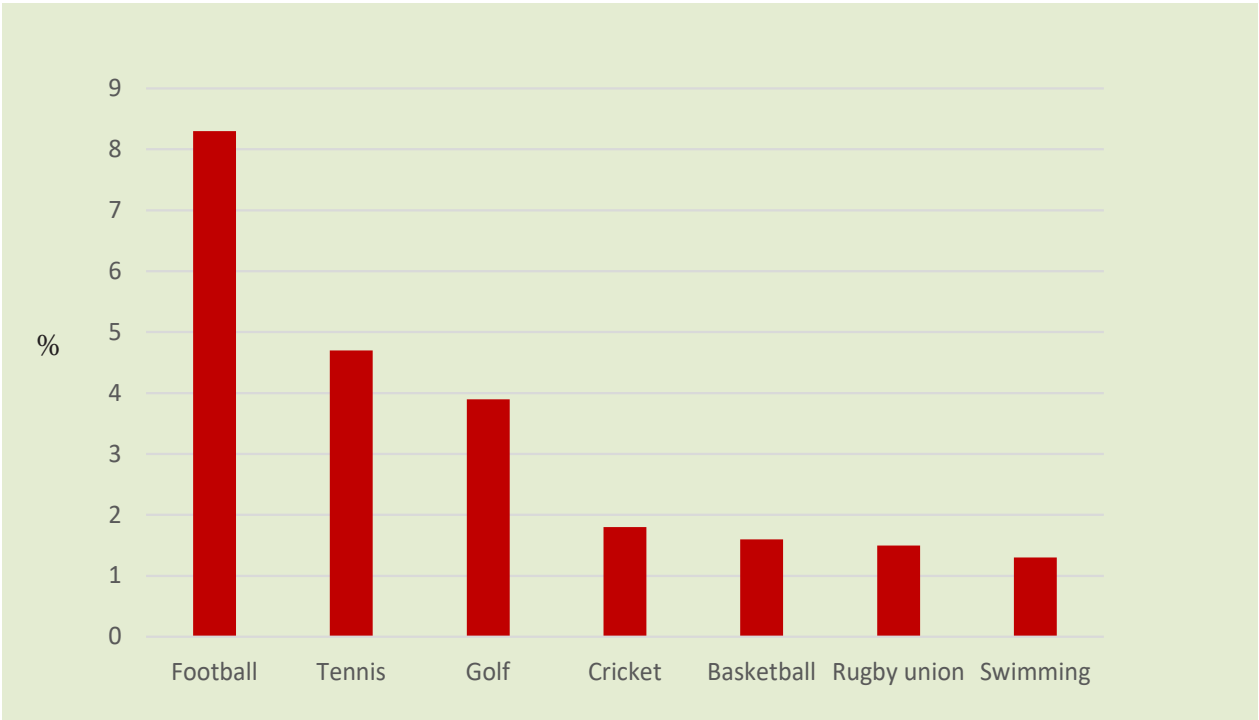
State participation

The following graph represents the 2023 participation rates (% of State population) for the 10 most popular sports for New South Wales.

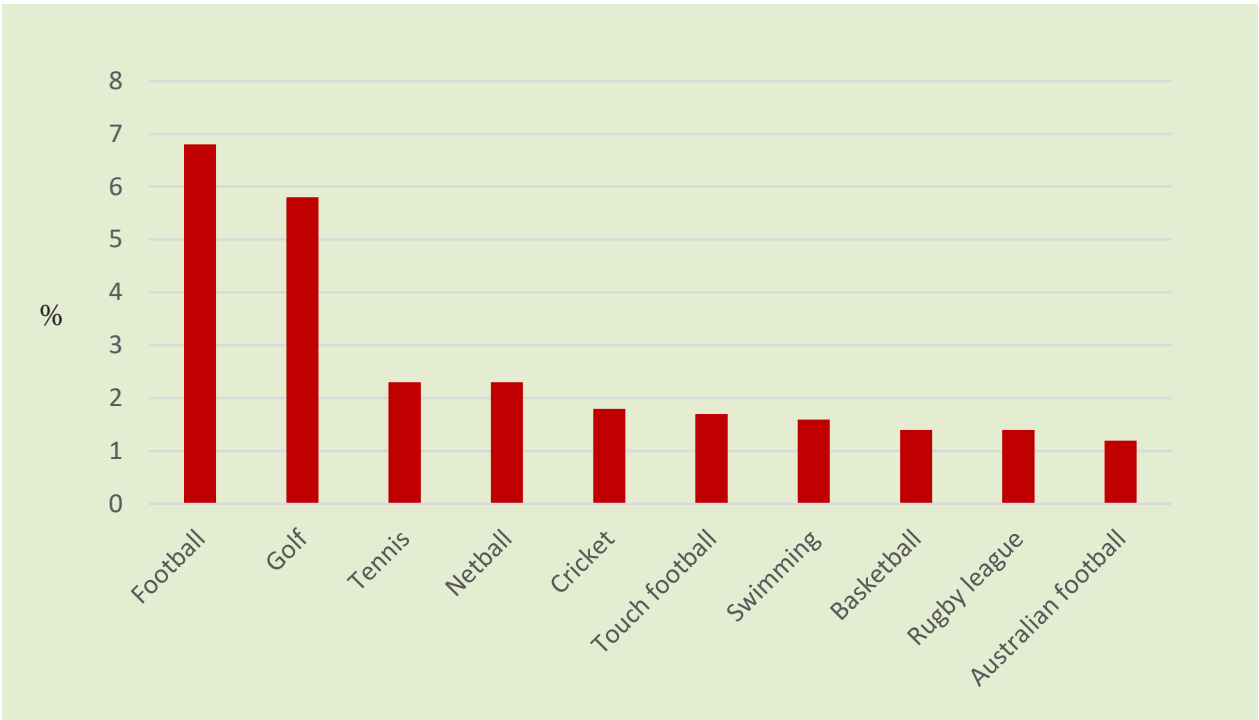


Local participation

The following graph represents the 2023 participation rates (provided by AusPlay) for the most popular sports in the North Sydney LGA. It is noted that data was only available for the top seven sports.



The local data available through Ausplay above is generally consistent with the findings of the on-line survey undertaken as part of the development of this Needs Study which provided a further insight into local sports participation as illustrated by the below graph.



Implications for sport

Although it has been identified that Council is highly limited in its ability to provide additional new sporting facilities across the LGA, there are some initiatives that could be undertaken to enable existing facilities to provide improved sporting opportunities. Further, it is suggested that Council 'think outside the box' for the development of non-traditional spaces as possible sport and recreation facilities (e.g. car parking areas for sports courts, roof-top facilities where appropriate).

While the limited number of sporting opportunities in North Sydney has been noted, a positive outcome of the analysis of existing facilities and user surveys is the reasonably well-spread distribution of those facilities across the LGA. Also, the generally high quality of facilities and user satisfaction levels also suggest that Council is performing well, especially when considering the level of constraints faced.

Priorities for North Sydney

Following a thorough analysis of the information collated, it is proposed that Council focus on the following initiatives that are relevant to the future provision of sporting opportunities across the LGA. It should be noted that they take special consideration of the sports demonstrating not only a local demand, but also those growing in popularity across New South Wales and Australia.

Given the National and State participation trends and the existing local situation, it is suggested that Council focuses on the following proposed directions for the most relevant sports:

Sport	Direction	Priority
Football (soccer)	Consider inclusion of at least modified fields (smaller and multi-purpose) where possible across the LGA to increase participation opportunities	High
Tennis	No new tennis courts proposed but investigate alternative uses of under-utilised courts at Green Park	High
Golf	No new facilities or improvements proposed but investigate alternative uses of golf course	High
Netball	Review current usage of tennis courts with appropriate surfaces (not synthetic grass) for future predominate use by netball (with the option of dual use through the inclusion of hidden sleeves for tennis posts)	High
Swimming	Continue development of North Sydney Olympic Pool	High
Netball	Consider the needs of local netball in any indoor sport courts developments/upgrades	Medium
Hockey	Review current usage of tennis courts with appropriate surfaces (not synthetic grass) for future possible use by hockey for training purposes	Medium
Hockey	Subject to the development of a new synthetic playing field consider hockey as a user	Medium
Cricket	Adequate number of sites but look at installing additional practice nets across the LGA	Medium
Basketball	In addition to investigating additional indoor courts, consider the inclusion of outdoor courts/half-courts when opportunities arise	Medium
Swimming	Consider the development of additional harbour swimming opportunities	Medium
Rugby league/union	If future demand is demonstrated, look at including appropriate rectangular fields where possible	Low
Australian football	Consider the use of existing cricket ovals to accommodate, if a future demand is demonstrated	Low
Athletics	No future developments proposed	Low

Open space comparison

Surrounding Local Government Areas

A comparison of open space per population has been undertaken with other Local Government Areas in the greater Sydney area.

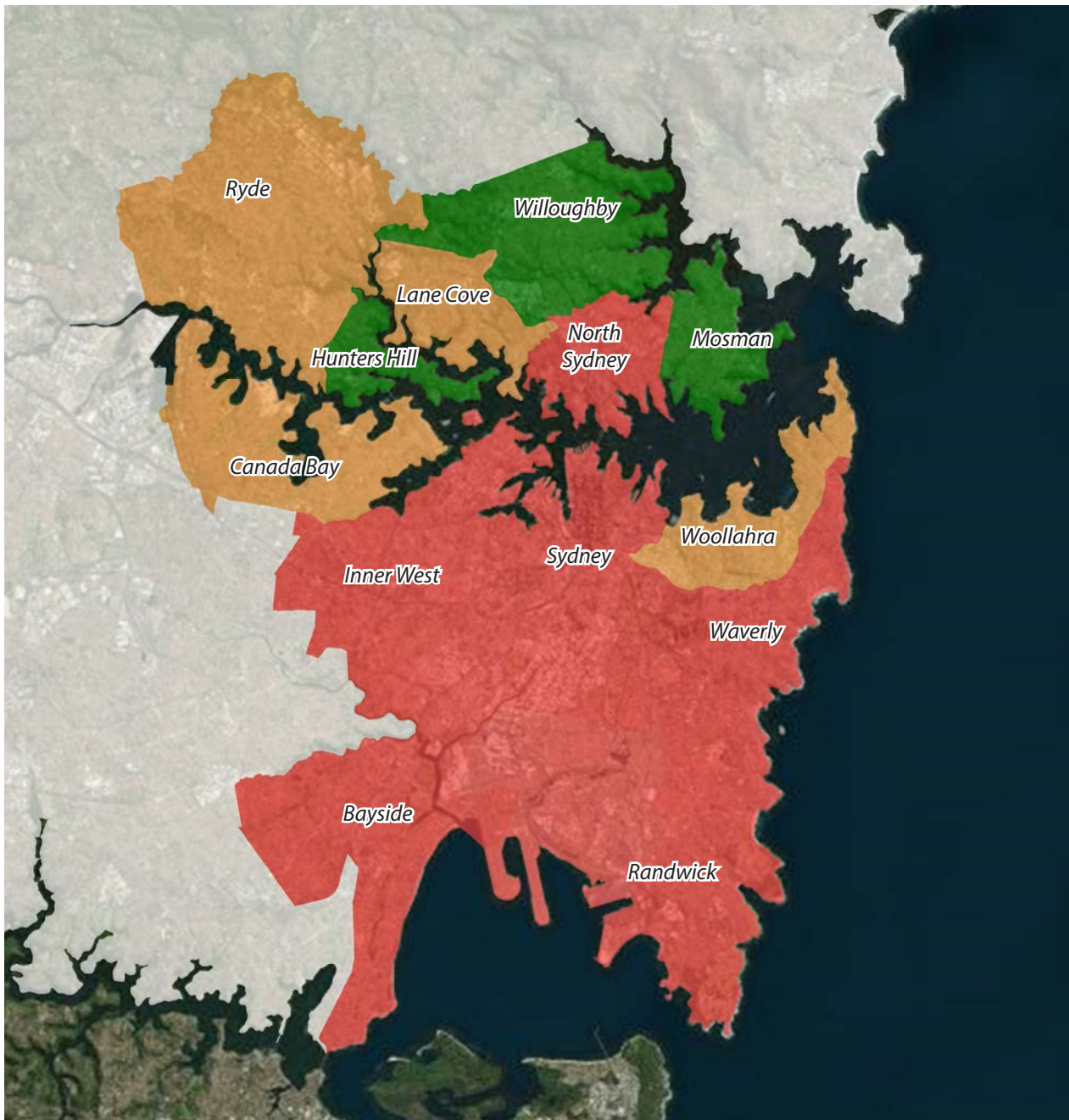
Local Government comparison of open space provision per person

<i>Local Government Area</i>	<i>Hectares (ha) of Council-managed open space</i>	<i>Population (2022)</i>	<i>m² per resident</i>
North Sydney	156 ha	70,833	22.09 m²
Mosman	220 ha	28,329	77.66 m ²
Willoughby City	400 ha	75,613	52.90 m ²
Lane Cove	151 ha	39,438	38.29 m ²
Northern Beaches	14,126 ha	263,554	536 m ²
City of Ryde	351 ha	129,123	27.18 m ²
City of Canada Bay	348 ha	89,177	39.5 m ²
Inner West	321.6 ha	182,818	17.59 m ²
Randwick City	284 ha	148,922	19.1 m ²
Hunters Hill	67.80 ha	13,559	50 m ²
Woollahra	224 ha	57,530	38.94 m ²
Waverley	113.3 ha	68,605	16.51 m ²
City of Sydney	282 ha	211,632	18.24 m ²

As shown in the table above, Inner West, Randwick City, Waverley and City of Sydney Council's share a low provision of open space per person with North Sydney.

Local Government comparison of open space per person

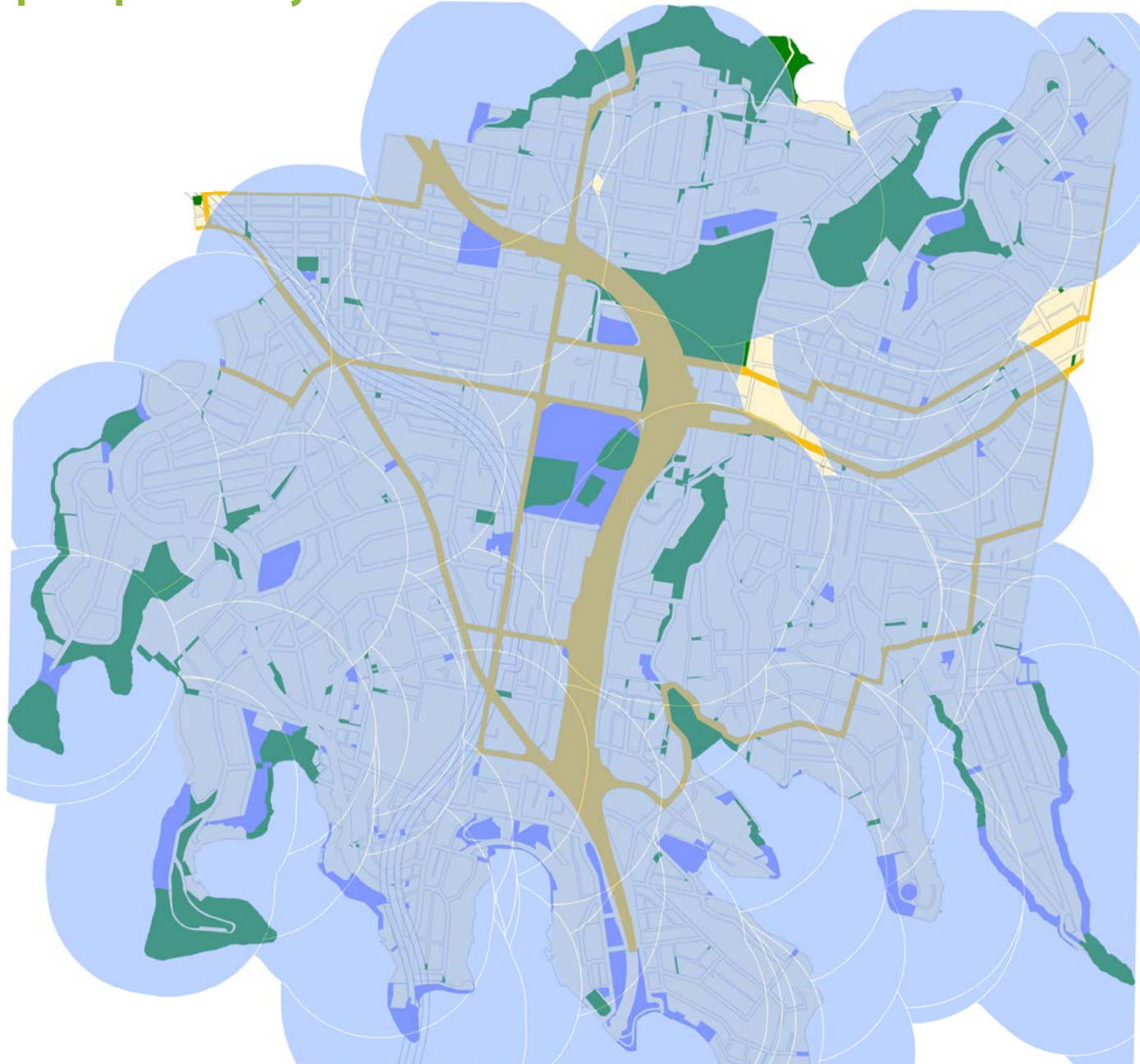
Further to the previous table, the comparison of open space per population has been mapped with other Local Government Areas in the greater Sydney area. LGA's shown in red have a low provision of open space per population, orange LGA's have a moderate provision, and green LGA's have a comparatively high provision.



Legend

- Good provision - 50-80m²/person
- Moderate provision - 27-49m²/person
- Low provision - 16-26m²/person

Open space analysis - Recreation



Catchment analysis - all recreation parks

In addition to the open space provision standards, Council has a prescribed accessibility standard of 400m i.e. residents have access to a local park within 400m of their place of residence.

The adjacent map shows a 400m buffer of recreation parks as one tool in assessing the community's accessibility to open space.

As shown in the accompanying map, there appears to be only minimal areas with an access deficiency i.e. they are not within 400m of a local park. This however, does not take into consideration the quality or size of the parks, topography and street layout, nor the physical barriers that may prevent access to parks, including major roads and rail.

Legend

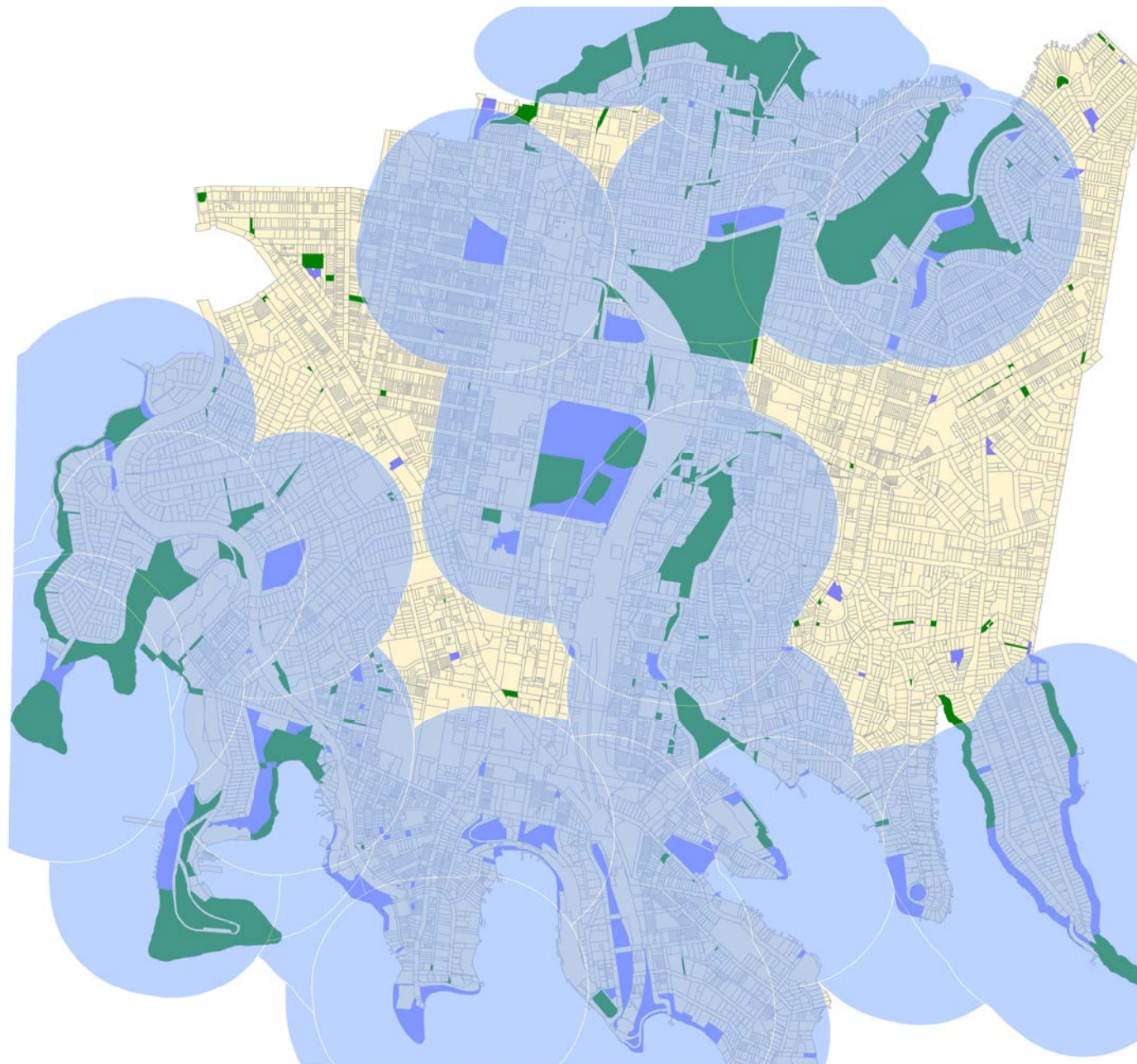
- Recreation park
- All other open space
- 400m accessibility catchment

Map: North Sydney open space accessibility 400m - all recreation parks

Catchment analysis - major recreation parks




As shown in the adjacent map, when quality and size of parks are considered, a more accurate view of the community's access to open space becomes apparent. The major areas identified as being deficient are St Leonards/Crows Nest/Wollstonecraft, North Sydney, Cremorne, Neutral Bay and parts of Cremorne and Kurraba Points.

The most problematic areas are those with low open space provision, high levels of medium density housing and projected future population growth.



Map: North Sydney open space accessibility 400m - major parks only

Legend

-  Recreation park
-  All other open space
-  400m accessibility catchment

North Sydney open space catchments

For the purpose of analysing open space provision at a local level, North Sydney has been broken down into the following catchments.



Map: North Sydney open space catchments

Open space provision per person per catchment

The provision of open space per person is one indicator used to determine how equitable North Sydney Council's open space network is distributed across the catchment areas, as well as how it is performing in line with population growth.

Overall, within the LGA, there is 156ha of council-managed open space. This equates to 22.56m² of council-managed open space per person. Further, of the 156ha of open space, approximately 73ha can be considered core open space. This equates to only 10.53m² of council-managed open space per North Sydney resident.

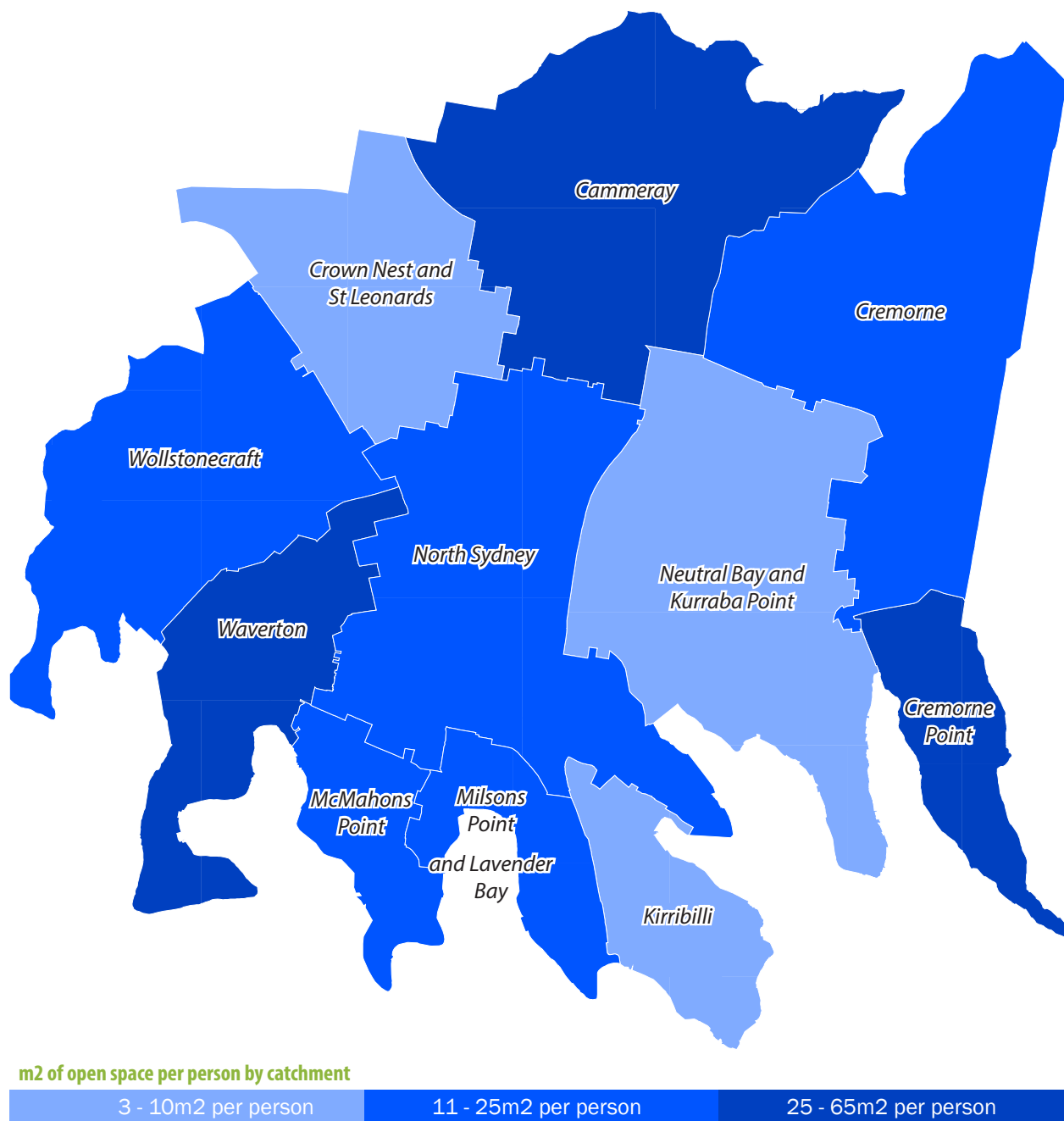
Open space per person by catchment

Catchment	Open space total (ha)	Core open space total (ha)	2022 m² per person	2024 m² per person	2036 m² per person	Change 2022-2036 (m²)
Cammeray	43.34	12.82	61.23 m ²	59.18 m ²	56.59 m ²	- 4.64
Cremorne	20.04	8.01	17.77 m ²	16.70 m ²	15.69 m ²	-2.08
Cremorne Point	8.75	4.55	38.51 m ²	44.71 m ²	43.15 m ²	4.63
Crows Nest and St Leonards	2.94	2.11	3.87 m ²	3.42 m ²	2.85 m ²	-1.02
Kirribilli	2.66	2.53	7.27 m ²	6.78 m ²	6.39 m ²	- 0.88
Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point	11.32	8.35	9.87 m ²	9.35 m ²	8.71 m ²	- 1.16
North Sydney	17.41	14.76	19.20 m ²	18.03 m ²	16.04 m ²	- 3.16
McMahons Point	3.80	3.62	15.99 m ²	15.65 m ²	14.90 m ²	- 1.09
Milsons Point and Lavender Bay	6.71	6.24	19.31 m ²	18.05 m ²	16.29 m ²	- 3.02
Waverton	19.22	6.51	64.65 m ²	62.24 m ²	59.78 m ²	- 4.87
Wollstonecraft	20.26	3.55	25.02 m ²	24.32 m ²	23.13 m ²	- 1.89
TOTAL	156.45 ha	73.05 ha				

As shown in the table above, open space is not evenly distributed across the catchment areas. The areas with the lowest provision of open space per person within North Sydney Council are:

- Crows Nest and St Leonards - 3.87m² per person
- Kirribilli - 7.27m² per person
- Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point - 9.87m² per person
- McMahon's Point - 15.99m² per person
- Cremorne - 17.77m² per person.

Map: North Sydney open space provision per person m2 by catchment



Cammeray

The Cammeray catchment is predominately zoned Low Density Residential, with pockets of Medium and High Density Residential. It shares a border with Willoughby City Council

The catchment has a land area of 1.56sqkm and a current population density 4,550 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Cammeray is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	7,078
2024	7,323
2026	7,475
2031	7,571
2036	7,659

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in Cammeray is:

Cammeray open space network

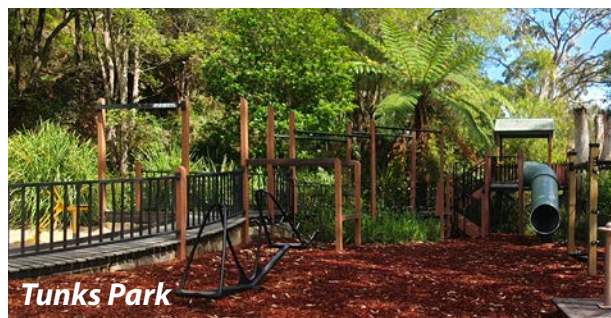
Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	3.40ha	7.84%
Sports Park	9.42ha	21.74%
Specialised sport	13.70ha	31.62%
Access and amenity	1.61ha	3.71%
Bushland	14.99ha	34.58%
Civic	0ha	0%
Other	0.22ha	0.52%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	2.95ha	

Cammeray currently has 58.93m² of open space per person. This is the second highest provision within North Sydney LGA, however, 32% of this is specialised sport and not publicly available for the community. When considering core open spaces only, the provision of open space per person in Cammeray is closer to 17.43m².

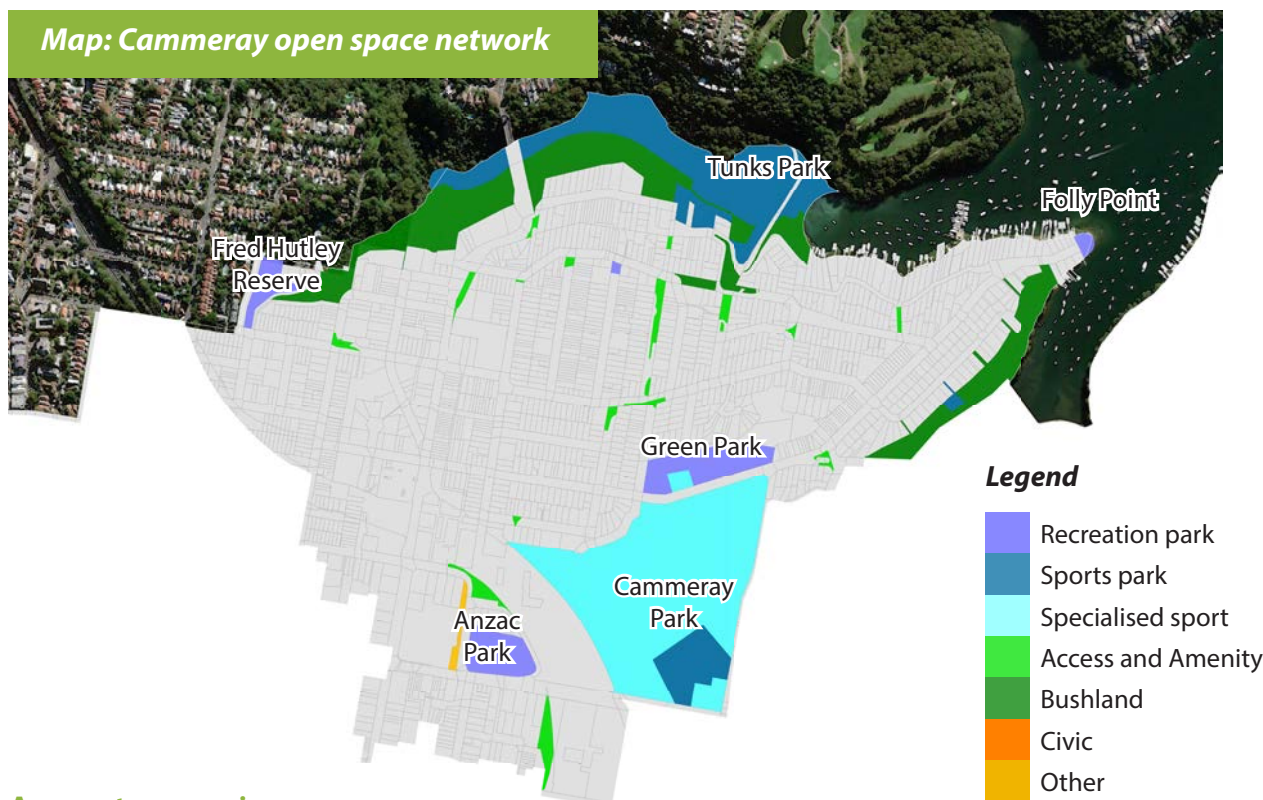
Open space highlights

Cammeray has a good supply of open spaces, consisting of recreation parks, specialised sport, bushland and access/amenity. The key open spaces in the catchment include:

- Tunks Park - sports park, bushland park
- Folly Point - bushland
- Green Park - recreation park
- Cammeray Park - sports park, specialised
- Anzac Park - recreation park
- Fred Hutley Reserve - bushland and recreation park.



Map: Cammeray open space network



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Cammeray has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Cammeray

Experience	Current provision within Cammeray	Experience	Current provision within Cammeray
Play	There are a number of opportunities for play within the catchment. Tunks Park provides play for toddlers and young children, Green Park provides two play opportunities: one caters for young children, the other for primary school-aged children, and Fred Hutley Reserve provides for young children	Adventure and challenge	Cammeray Skate Park provides opportunities for adventure and challenge. Additionally, Tunks Park, Folly Point Reserve and Primrose Park provide access to the water for non-motorised water craft including storage for small water craft. The Tunks Park boat ramp provides access to Middle Harbour for motorised and non-motorised water craft
Exercise, training and competition	Cammeray Park provides a number of opportunities for exercise, training and competition with its synthetic sports field. Additionally it provides a number of specialised sport opportunities with tennis, croquet and golf. Tunks Park provides for organised sport as well as for exercise. with the outdoor gym equipment. Further, the Green Park tennis courts and basketball hoop, outdoor exercise equipment and tennis courts provide free to use opportunities for exercise and training	Escape, break-out and relaxation	A number of opportunities exist for escape, break-out and relaxation including Tunks Park water front, Anzac Park, Green Park and Folly Point Reserve
Nature	The catchment provides a number of opportunities to experience nature, with bushland parks including Tunks Park, Primrose Park (part of), Fred Hutley Reserve, Mortlock Reserve and Suspension Bridge Reserve	Socialisation	There is a lack of places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment
		Activity and hobby	Anzac Park's community garden provides a good opportunity to undertake a hobby within the catchment
		Connectivity	The majority of streets have footpaths. Additionally, parts of the catchment are well serviced by the North Sydney Bikeway. The Warringah Freeway severs a part of the catchment, creating a barrier to access for residents in the north-west
		Amenity and views	Folly Point Reserve and Tunks Park provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment
		Events, programs and community building	There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities. Opportunities exist within Anzac Park and Green Park due to their large size

Accessibility and barriers to open space

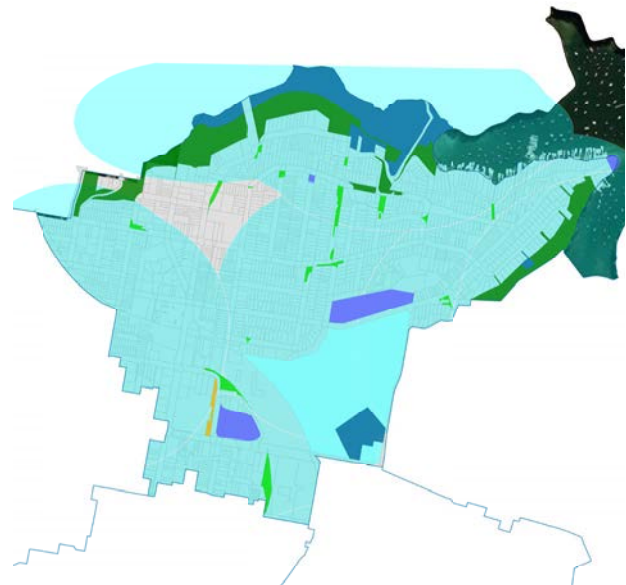
Only a small area within the Cammeray catchment is without direct access to a local park within 400m. This area is in the vicinity of Cammeray Public School.

Open space issues/deficiencies

The Cammeray catchment has the second highest provision of open space within the LGA.

The catchment has a good range of experiences within its open space network, with the exception of socialisation and events, programs and community building.

At an LGA level, there is a significant deficiency in land for formal sports. An identified issue for the Cammeray catchment is the large amount of open space land locked up from the community in its current form as the Cammeray Golf Course.



Legend

 400m Buffer

Open space opportunities

A number of opportunities exist to enhance the existing open space network within the catchment, as well as to enhance the land available for formal sports within the LGA. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Anzac Park

- increase capacity through the opportunity to develop a small sports field or courts, as well as an open space element for youth
- additional seating.

Green Park

- opportunity to develop a social, meeting node with seating, shade and a focal point such as a rotunda
- opportunity to redevelop the under-utilised tennis courts as a multi-purpose facility accommodating tennis as well as other courts sports such as netball and/or hockey training.

Cammeray Golf Course

- opportunity to master plan and re-develop the site for greater community use based on the demand for sport and recreation.

Cremorne

The Cremorne catchment is predominately zoned Low Density Residential, with pockets of Medium and High Density Residential. It shares a border with Mosman Council.

The catchment has a land area of 1.64sqkm and a current population density 6,897 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Cremorne is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	11,278
2024	12,003
2026	12,287
2031	12,528
2036	12,774

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Cremorne open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	2.69ha	13.40%
Sports Park	5.33ha	26.58%
Specialised sport	0.39ha	1.92%
Access and amenity	0.52ha	2.62%
Bushland	10.94ha	54.58%
Civic	0.12ha	0.58%
Other	0.06ha	0.32%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	20.04ha	

Cremorne currently has 17.77m2 of open space per person. This is the fifth lowest provision within North Sydney LGA.

Open space highlights

Cremorne has a small open space network. The key open spaces are:

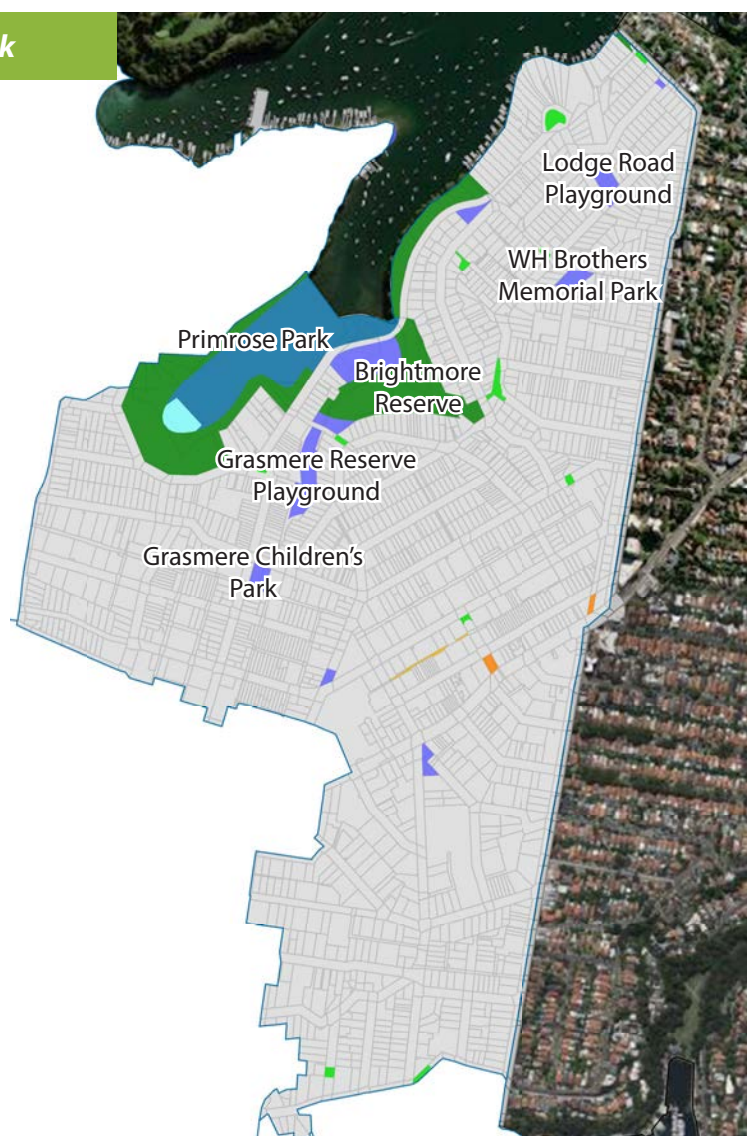
- Primrose Park - sports park
- Brightmore Reserve - recreation park
- Grasmere Children's Park - recreation park
- Grasmere Reserve Playground - recreation park
- Lodge Road Playground - recreation park
- WH Brothers Memorial Park - recreation park.



Map: Cremorne open space network

Legend

	Recreation park
	Sports park
	Specialised sport
	Access and Amenity
	Bushland
	Civic
	Other



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Cremorne has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Cremorne

Experience	Current provision within Cremorne	Experience	Current provision within Cremorne
Play	There are a number of opportunities for play within the catchment, with all of the parks providing play for toddlers and young children only. Lodge Road playground is suitable for primary school-aged children, and Brightmore Reserve also has a learners trike track.	Escape, break-out and relaxation	Primrose Park provides areas for escape, break-out and relaxation as well as parts of Brightmore Reserve
Exercise, training and competition	Primrose Park provides a number of opportunities for exercise, training and competition with its three lit fields. Additionally it provides specialised sport opportunities with tennis	Socialisation	There is a lack of places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment
Nature	The catchment provides opportunities to experience nature, with bushland parks including Brightmore Reserve and Primrose Park	Activity and hobby	The Little Young St garden in Brightmore Reserve provides opportunity for activity and hobby with its community garden
Adventure and challenge	The catchment has no opportunities for adventure and challenge. Primrose Park provides access to the water for non-motorised water craft	Connectivity	The majority of streets have footpaths and the catchment is well serviced by the North Sydney Bikeway
		Amenity and views	Primrose Park, Lodge Road Playground and WH Brothers Memorial Park provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment
		Events, programs and community building	There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities

Accessibility and barriers to open space

The Cremorne catchment has two areas of access deficiencies, one in the north and the other adjoining the busy Military Road.

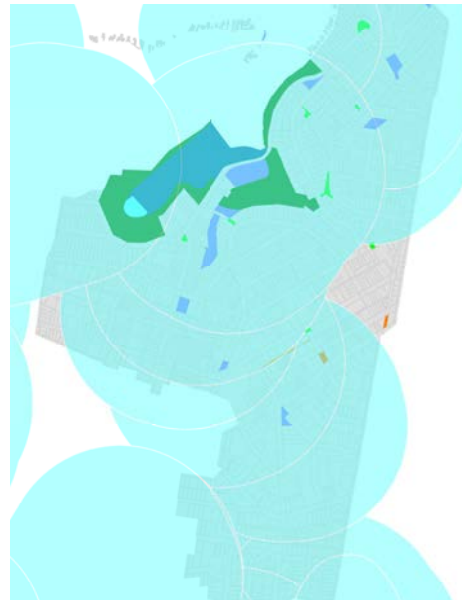
Open space issues/deficiencies

Cremorne catchment has a relatively low provision of open space per person with 17.77m².


The catchment has a lack of opportunities for adventure and challenge, with no provision of play for older children. Socialisation and activity and hobby are also lacking within the catchment.

Open space opportunities

Opportunities exist to diversify play opportunities to cater for a wider range of ages.



Legend

 400m Buffer

Brightmore Reserve

- consider the development of play opportunities for older children and young people within Brightmore Reserve, outside the footprint of the existing younger childrens playground.

Primrose Park

- continue to promote the Primrose Park Arts Centre for activity and hobby
- consider the provision of additional seating that caters for groups along the water front to enhance the opportunity for socialisation.

Weaver Park

- consider the provision of seating that caters for groups within Weaver Park to promote opportunities for socialisation.

Cremorne Point

The Cremorne Point catchment is predominately zoned Low Density Residential. The peninsula borders Sydney Harbour.

The catchment has a land area of 0.425sqkm and a current population density 5,452 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Cremorne Point is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	1,919
2024	1,957
2026	1,966
2031	2,001
2036	2,028

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Cremorne Point open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	4.55ha	51.99%
Sports Park	0ha	0
Specialised sport	0ha	0
Access and amenity	0.15ha	1.72%
Bushland	4.05ha	46.29%
Civic	0ha	0
Other	0ha	0
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	8.75ha	

Cremorne currently has 38.51m2 of open space per person. This is the third highest provision within North Sydney LGA. The open space network of the catchment is predominately recreation parks and bushland that adjoining the Harbour.

Open space highlights

Cremorne Point has a reasonable open space network consisting of recreation parks, bushland and access/amenity. The key open spaces are:

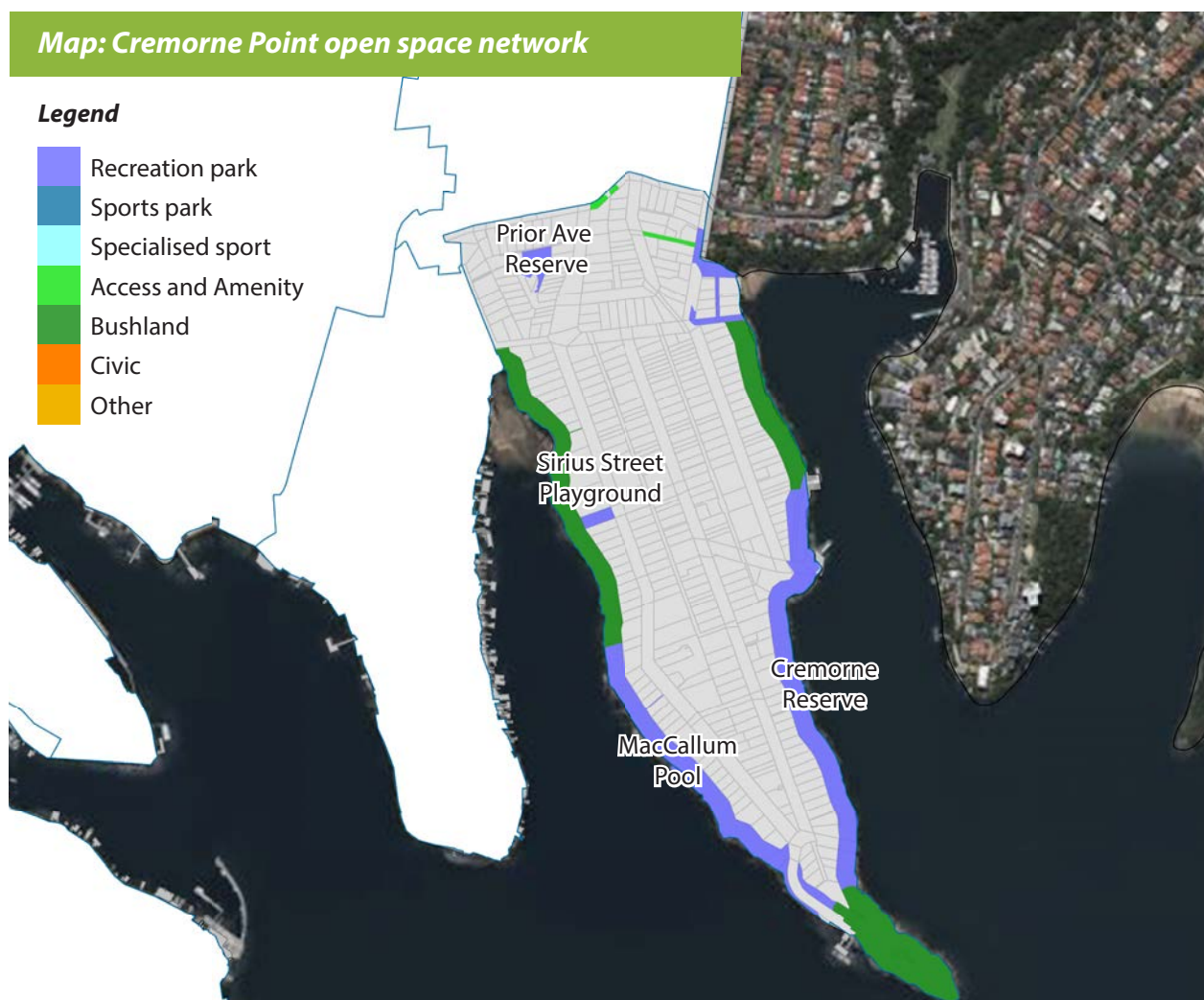
- Cremorne Reserve - recreation park
- MacCallum Pool - specialised
- Sirius Street Playground - recreation park
- Prior Avenue Reserve - recreation park.



Map: Cremorne Point open space network

Legend

- Recreation park
- Sports park
- Specialised sport
- Access and Amenity
- Bushland
- Civic
- Other



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Cremorne Point has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Cremorne Point

Experience Current provision

Play There are four opportunities for play within the catchment, with Sirius Street and Prior Avenue Reserve providing play for toddlers and young children, while Cremorne Reserve and Sirius Street Playground providing play opportunities for primary school aged children

Exercise, training and competition Whilst there are no formal sports facilities within the catchment, Prior Avenue Reserve provides an open tennis court and MaCallum Pool provides free swimming. Cremorne Point Walk provides an additional opportunity for exercise and training

Nature The catchment provides opportunities to experience nature, with Cremorne Point providing regional level bushland

Adventure and challenge Two locations on the western side of Cremorne Reserve provide storage for small water craft and access to the Harbour.

Experience Current provision

Escape, break-out and relaxation A large number of opportunities exist for escape, break-out and relaxation. The natural-ness of the open space network provides the setting for this experience

Socialisation There are limited places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment

Activity and hobby The Sydney Amateur Sailing Club provides an opportunity for activity and hobby

Connectivity Cremorne Point is well-catered for with the Cremorne Point Foreshore Walk, Jasmine Walk as well as the North Sydney Bikeway. There are multiple access points to the open space that lines the Harbour

Amenity and views The open space network of the catchment provides a significant level of amenity and opportunities for views

Events, programs and community building There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities within the catchment, mostly due to the linear nature of the open space network building

Accessibility and barriers to open space

Because of the linear nature of the catchment and the open space network that lines the Harbour, there are no access deficiencies.

Open space issues/deficiencies

The catchment has one of the LGA's highest open space provisions per population.

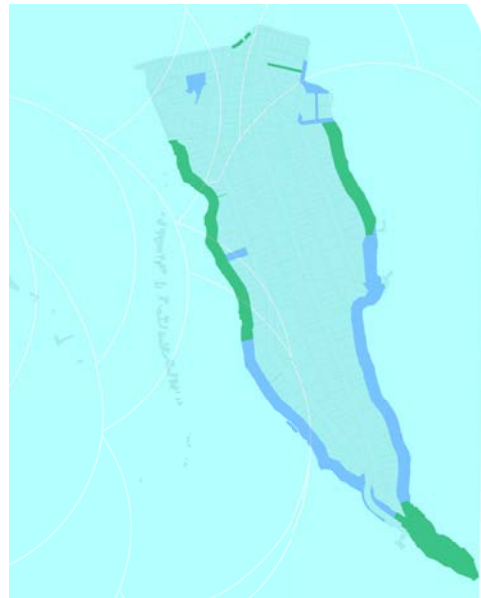
Whilst the catchment has no formal sporting opportunities or opportunities for adventure and challenge, a wealth of other open space experiences are available.

Open space opportunities

Opportunities for the catchment to expand on the experiences available include:

Cremorne Reserve

- consider the provision of additional seating that caters for groups within Cremorne Reserve to promote opportunities for socialisation.



Legend

 400m Buffer

Crows Nest and St Leonards

The Crows Nest and St Leonards area is predominately made up of Mixed Use Zones and Low Density Residential with areas of medium and high residential. It shares a border with both Lane Cove and Willoughby City Councils.. The area is subject to the St Leonards and Crows Nest Plan 2036 which expects to see a population growth of 2,730 people by 2036. The catchment has a land area of 0.84sqkm and a current population density of 8,983 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Crows Nest and St Leonards is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	7,589
2024	8,605
2026	9,073
2031	9,734
2036	10,319

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in Crows Nest and St Leonards is:

Crows Nest and St Leonards open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	2.11ha	71.73%
Sports Park	0ha	0
Specialised sport	0.40ha	13.55%
Access and amenity	0.04ha	1.44%
Bushland	0ha	0
Civic	0.39ha	13.29%
Other	0ha	0
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	2.95ha	100%

Crows Nest and St Leonards currently has 3.87m2 of open space per person. This is the lowest provision within North Sydney LGA and is expected to reduce to 2.85m2 in 2036 with the projected population growth.

Open space highlights

Crows Nest and St Leonards has a limited open space network consisting of recreation parks, specialised sport (indoor), civic spaces and access/amenity. The key open spaces are:

- St Thomas Rest Park - recreation
- North Sydney Indoor Centre - specialised
- Hume Street Park - recreation
- Cahill Playground - recreation.



St Thomas Rest Park

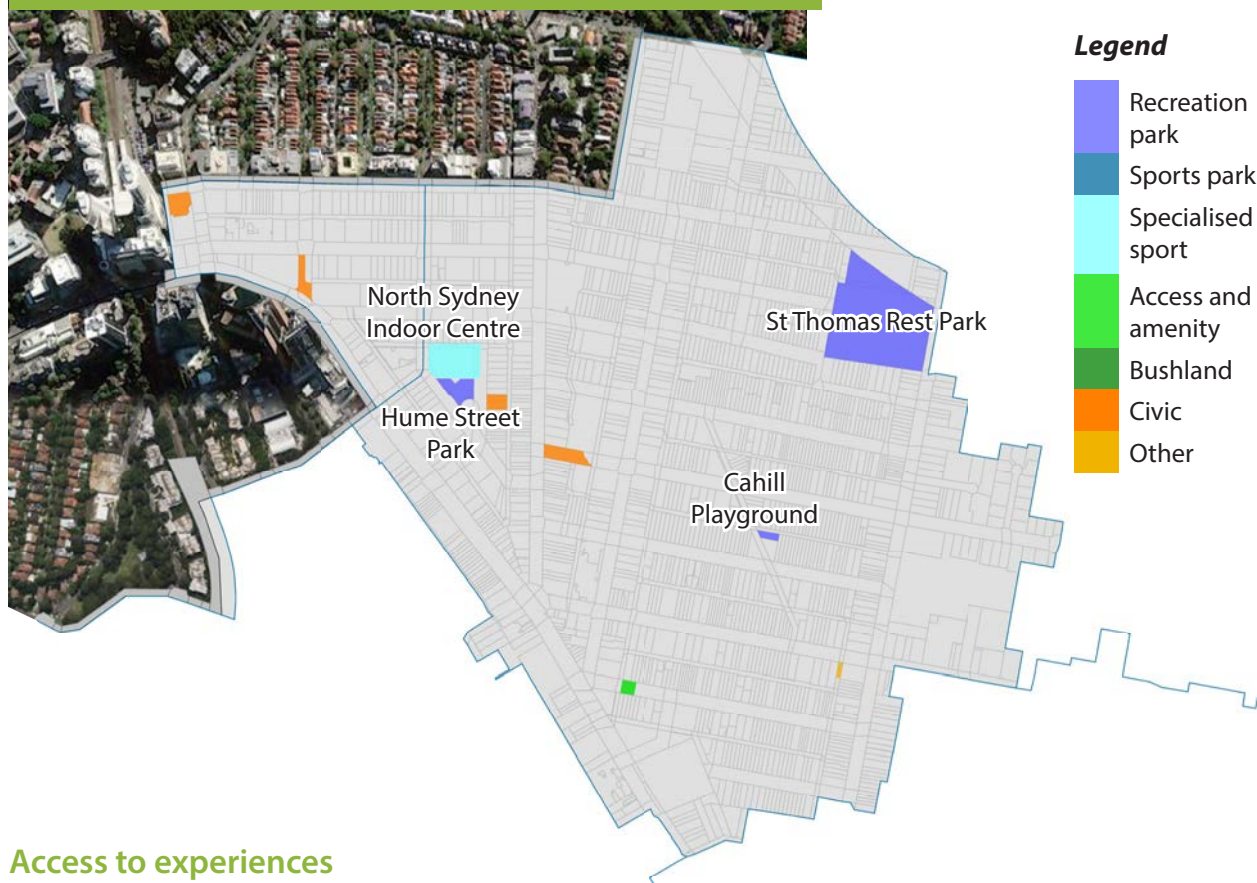


North Sydney Indoor Centre



Cahill Playground

Map: Crows Nest and St Leonards open space network



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Crows Nest and St Leonards has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Crows Nest and St Leonards

Experience	Current provisions
Play	There are two opportunities for play within the catchment. Cahill Playground provides basic play opportunities for toddlers, whilst St Thomas Rest Park provides play for primary school aged children
Exercise, training and competition	The North Sydney Indoor Centre provides courts for organised sports (both training and competition). There are no opportunities for informal exercise or outdoor sports (training or competition)
Nature	Whilst there are no bushland sites, St Thomas Rest Park provides elements of nature
Adventure and challenge	There are no challenging play elements within the catchment, including facilities for youth or older children
Escape, break-out and relaxation	Hume Street Park and Mitchell Street Reserve provide landscaped areas for rest and relaxation. St Thomas Rest Park provides some opportunities for this experience with the shaded trees and picnic table
Socialisation	The civic spaces within the catchment (Christie Street Reserve, Mitchell Street Plaza, Hume Street Park and Ernest Place) provide opportunities for socialisation with small groups
Activity and hobby	Whilst there are no formal community gardens or other activity/hobby spaces within the catchment, a number of access and amenity sites are home to Council's Streets Alive program which allow the community to maintain and manage small garden areas
Connectivity	The catchment is relatively well connected via the bike network, however the Pacific Hwy and Warringah Fwy restrict connectivity
Amenity and views	The street network contains high levels of amenity with purposeful street tree planting in a number of streets, however, no specific open spaces that provide a high level of amenity or views
Events, programs and community building	There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities. Opportunities exist within St Thomas Rest Park due to its large size - consideration and careful planning to be given to the heritage of the site as a former cemetery in any future planning and development

Accessibility and barriers to open space

Almost half of the catchment is further than 400m from a local park. A large part of this deficiency area is zoned Mixed Use, however, of concern is an area of high density residential (zoned R4).

The Pacific Highway and Warringah Freeway act as barriers to accessibility within the catchment.

Open space issues/deficiencies

The Crows Nest and St Leonards catchment has the lowest provision of open space within the LGA. The catchment also has issues with accessibility to open space.

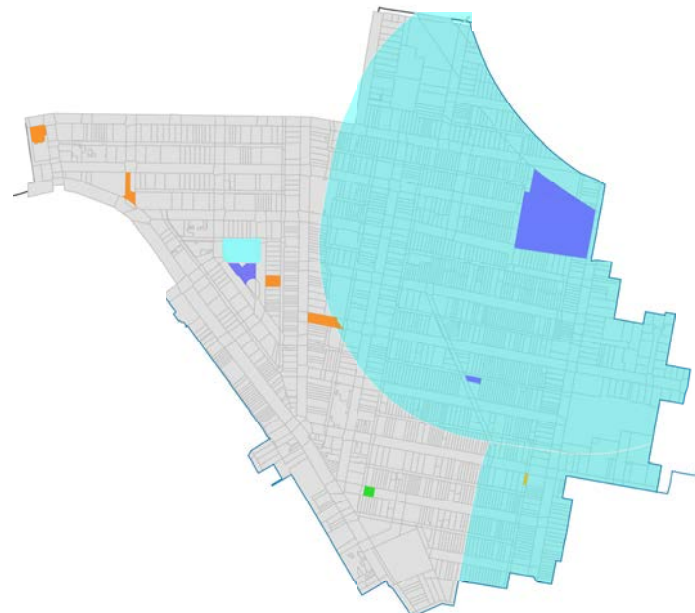
The catchment has a lack of experiences within its open space network, including play for older children and youth, informal exercise and outdoor sports, community gardens or other hobby/activities.

The population growth and densification of this catchment will only exasperate these issues.

Open space opportunities

Opportunities to secure land for additional open space is extremely limited. Re-development of alternate land uses as well as increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

- Visionary plans exist for Hume Street Park to increase the size and quality of the open space and to redevelop the indoor sports centre. This project will require significant level of investment from other levels of government to proceed
- Holtermann Street Car Park - visionary plans exist to redevelop into a public park including an all-abilities children's playground
- St Thomas Rest Park - potential to enhance the amenity within the large cleared area for passive recreation. Consideration and careful planning to be given to the heritage nature of the site as a former cemetery in any future planning and development.



Legend

400m Buffer

Kirribilli

The Kirribilli area is predominately made up of High Density Residential and Low Density Residential with areas of Medium Density Residential and Infrastructure. It is a Harbour-side catchment, bordering the Harbour on three sides. The catchment has a land area of 0.44sqkm and a current population density of 8,356 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Kirribilli is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	3,658
2024	3,921
2026	3,990
2031	4,056
2036	4,161

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Kirribilli open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	2.53ha	95.06%
Sports Park	0ha	0
Specialised sport	0ha	0
Access and amenity	0.13ha	4.91%
Bushland	0ha	0
Civic	0ha	0
Other	0ha	0
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	2.66ha	

Kirribilli currently has 7.27m² of open space per person. This is the second lowest provision within North Sydney LGA and is expected to reduce to 6.39m² in 2036 with the projected population growth.

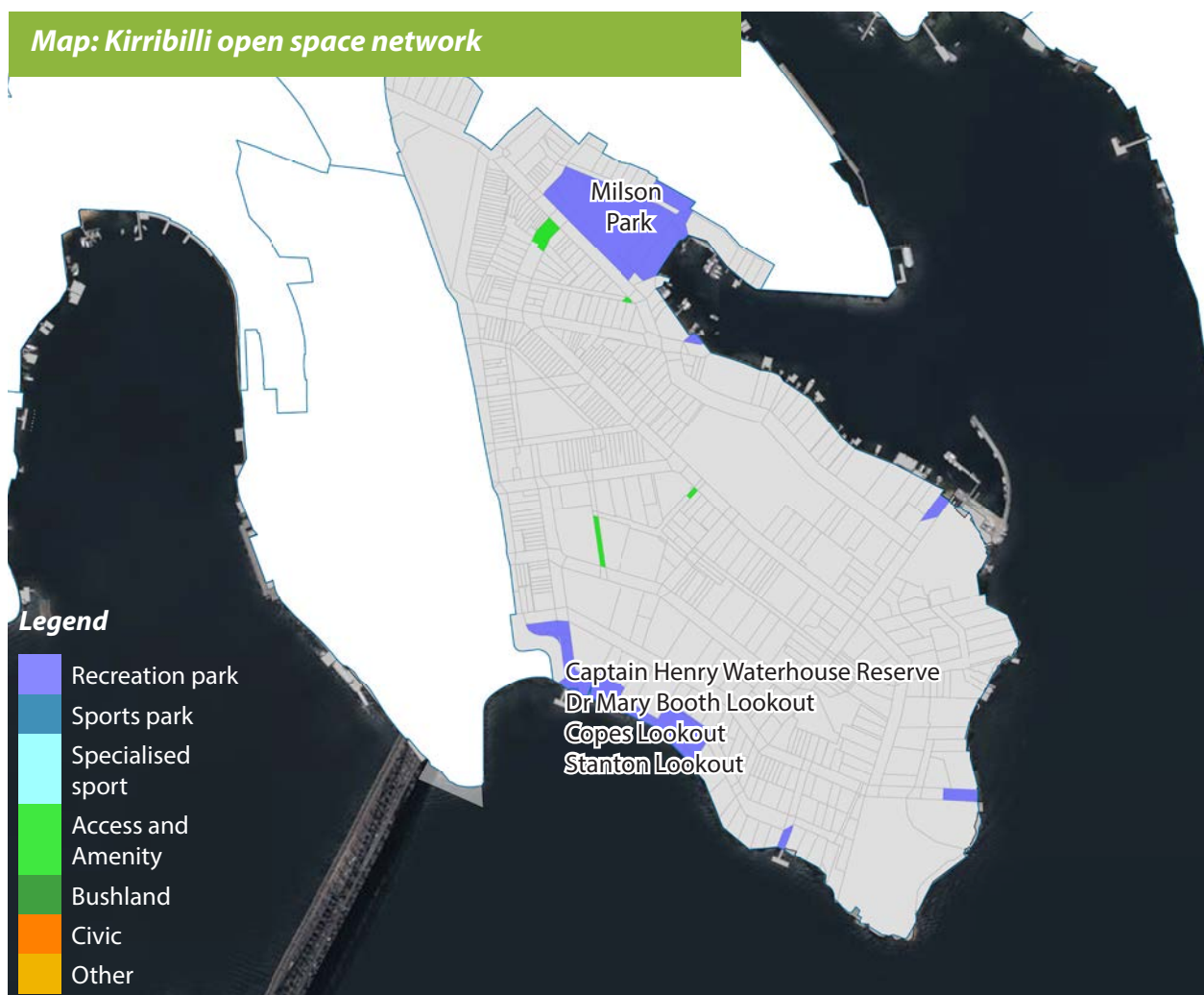
Open space highlights

Kirribilli has a limited open space network consisting only of recreation parks and access/amenity. The key open spaces are:

- Milson Park - recreation park
- Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve - recreation park
- Stanton Lookout - recreation park
- Copes Lookout - recreation park
- Dr Mary Booth Lookout - recreation park .



Map: Kirribilli open space network



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Kirribilli has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Kirribilli

Experience	Current provision within Kirribilli	Experience	Current provision within Kirribilli
Play	Milson Park provides play opportunities for primary school aged children	Socialisation	Milson Park provides informal opportunities for socialisation with the community garden and group seating areas
Exercise, training and competition	There are no formal opportunities for exercise, training and competition. Milson Park provides access to the water as well as space for informal games and kick-about	Activity and hobby	Milson Park community garden provides a good opportunity to undertake a hobby within the catchment
Nature	The catchment provides little opportunity to experience nature, with the exception of the Harbour as a natural feature	Connectivity	The majority of streets have footpaths. Additionally, the North Sydney Bikeway connects part of the catchment
Adventure and challenge	Milson Park provides some opportunity for adventure and challenge with the boat ramp and the Kayak Share Club, and access to the water for non-motorised water craft	Amenity and views	Due to the Harbour-side setting, the catchment provides a high level of amenity and opportunities for views
Escape, break-out and relaxation	A number of opportunities exist for escape, break-out and relaxation including Dr Mary Booth Lookout, Copes Lookout, Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve and Milson Park	Events, programs and community building	Milson Park provides a venue for regular markets, celebrations and organised activities

Accessibility and barriers to open space

The catchment is well-served in regards to accessibility to open space. The Warringah Freeway provides a physical barrier on the western edge of the catchment.

Open space issues/deficiencies

The Kirribilli catchment has a low provision of open space per person, the second lowest in the LGA.

The open space network is dominated by recreation parks, with the only other open space type being access and amenity.

The catchment has no spaces for formal sport and provides no opportunities for older children to play.

Open space opportunities

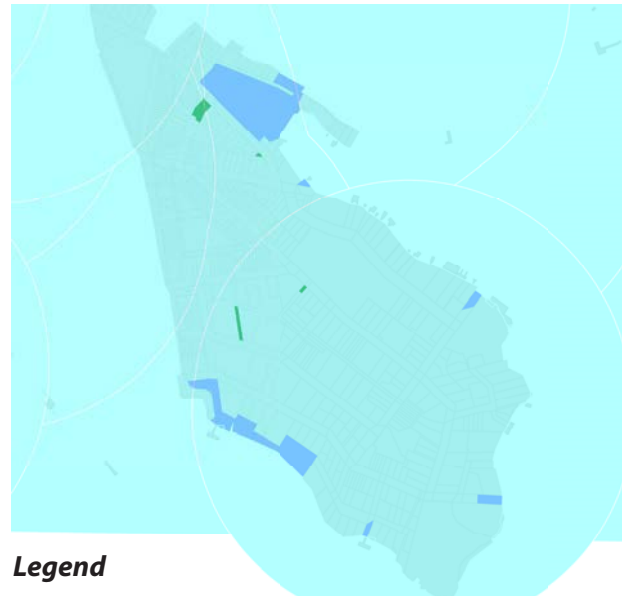
Opportunities to secure land for additional open space is extremely limited. Re-development of alternate land uses as well as increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Milson Park

- at the end of its useful life, consider up-grading the existing playground with more diverse play opportunities for toddlers, primary schoolers and older children
- this park provides a lot of experiences. Ensure this park doesn't become 'loved to death' by limiting the events and bookings and ensuring suitable rest periods in between.

Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve and Dr Mary Booth Reserve

- due to the significant views over the Harbour, it is important to ensure that these parks (and others in the catchment) aren't just used for events and private functions such as weddings, curated picnics and photo-shoots. but are also available for local residents to enjoy.



Legend

400m Buffer

Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point

The Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point area is predominately made up of Low Density Residential with areas of medium and high density residential. The catchment has a land area of 1.52sqkm and a current population density of 7,868 (Neutral Bay) and 5,847 (Kurraba Point) per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	11,465
2024	12,105
2026	12,364
2031	12,632
2036	13,000

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Neutral Bay - Kurraba Point open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	2.49ha	21.96%
Sports Park	5.87ha	51.84%
Specialised sport	0ha	could add bowls club
Access and amenity	1.19ha	10.53%
Bushland	1.63ha	14.44%
Civic	0.02ha	0.20%
Other	0.12ha	1.06%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	11.32ha	

The Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point catchment currently has 9.87m2 of open space per person. This is the third lowest provision within North Sydney LGA and is expected to reduce to 8.71m2 in 2036 with the projected population growth.

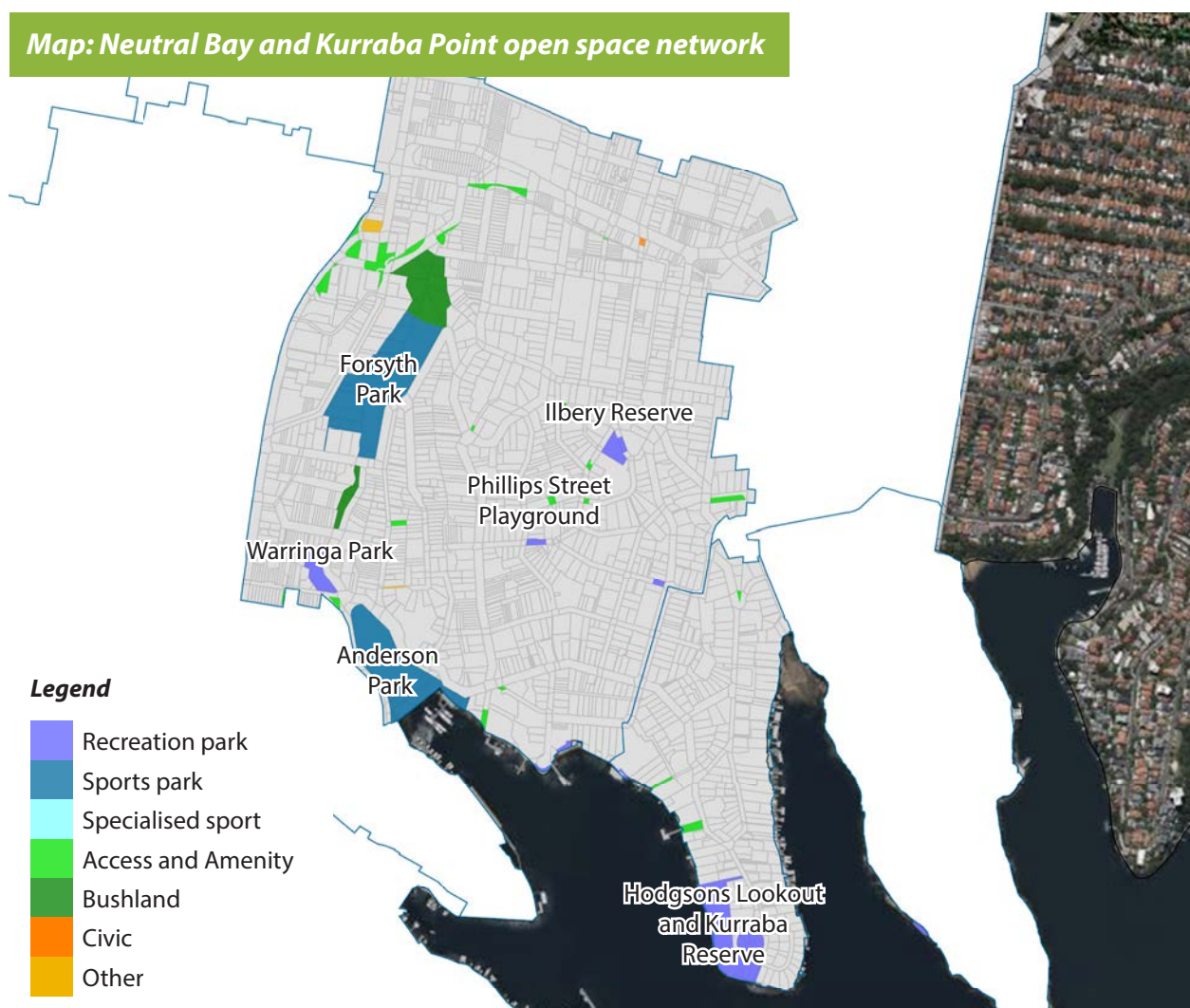
Open space highlights

The key open spaces of Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point include:

- Forsyth Park - sport park
- Anderson Park - sport park
- Warringa Park - recreation park
- Hodgsons Lookout and Kurraba Reserve - recreation park
- Ilbery Reserve - recreation park
- Phillips Street Playground - recreation park.



Map: Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point open space network



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point

Experience	Current provision within Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point	Experience	Current provision within Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point
Play	There are four main opportunities for play within the catchment, with Ilbery, Philips Street, Hodgsons Lookout and Warringa Parks providing play for toddlers and young children. Forsyth Park provides a playground for older children	Adventure and challenge	Ther catchment provides a number of opportunities for adventure and challenge with Kurraba Reserve providing a boat ramp as well as storage for non-motorised water craft. There is also a kayak share facility located on private land adjoining Hayes Street Beach
Exercise, training and competition	Forsyth and Anderson Parks provide a number of opportunities for exercise, training and competition with four ovals between them. Anderson Park provides for exercise with the outdoor gym equipment as well as access to the water for non-motorised water craft. Whilst a private facility, the Neutral Bay Club provides tennis and lawn bowls	Escape, break-out and relaxation	Opportunities for escape, break-out and relaxation exist including Anderson Park water front and Hodgsons Lookout and Kurraba Reserve
Nature	While the catchment has a small amount of formal bushland, there are a number of sites that provide opportunities to experience nature including Forsyth and Anderson Parks	Socialisation	There is a lack of places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment
		Activity and hobby	Forsyth Park and Kurraba Reserve community gardens both provide opportunities to undertake a hobby within the catchment
		Connectivity	The majority of streets have footpaths and parts of the catchment are well serviced by the North Sydney Bikeway

Experience *Current provision within Neutral Bay and Kurraba Point*

Amenity and views	A number of open spaces provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment including Kurraba Reserve, Anderson Park, Forsyth Park and Hodgson Lookout
Events, programs and community building	There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities. Opportunities exist within the two sports site if they can be accommodated within regular sport fixtures

Accessibility and barriers to open space

The part of this catchment located on the northern side of Military Road has a deficiency of access to recreation parks.

Open space issues/deficiencies

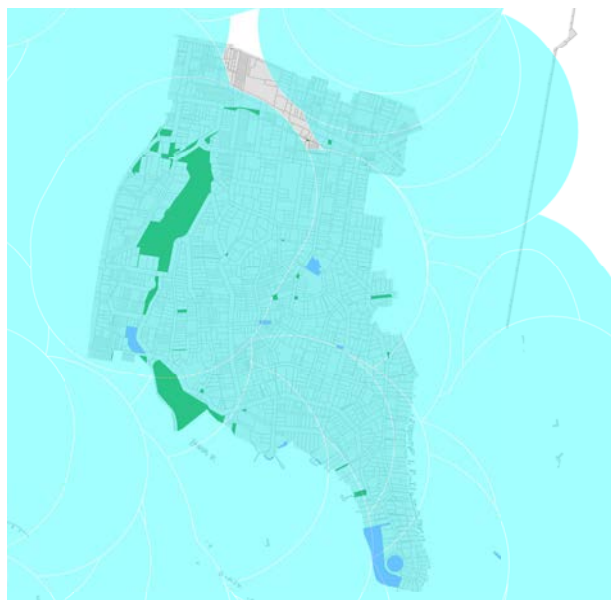
The catchment has one of the lowest provisions of open space in the LGA. When considering the experiences available, there is a lack of opportunities for adventure and challenge, socialisation and events, programs and community building.

Open space opportunities

Opportunities to secure land for additional open space are extremely limited. Re-development of alternate land uses as well as increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Anderson Park

- Investigate the feasibility of utilising Anderson Park irregularly for community events including markets (not at the expense of regular sporting fixtures and training).



Legend

400m Buffer

North Sydney

The North Sydney area is predominately made up of Commercial Centre, Mixed Use Zones, Infrastructure and High Density Residential. The catchment is home to seven existing schools, with an additional school planned to be developed in the near future. The catchment has a land area of 1.47sqkm and a current population density of 6,158 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of North Sydney is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	9,067
2024	9,656
2026	10,007
2031	10,480
2036	10,856

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

North Sydney open space network

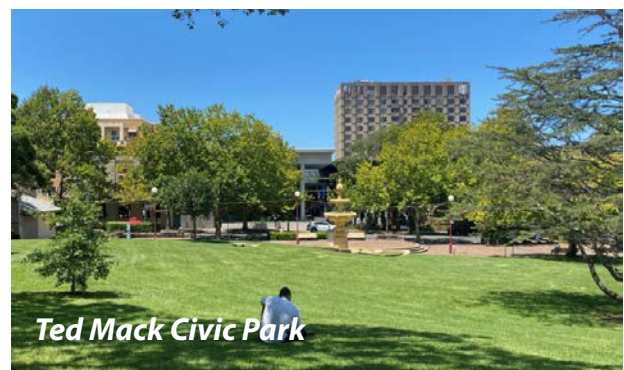
Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	10.28ha	59.04%
Sports Park	4.49ha	25.77%
Specialised sport	1.05ha	6.01%
Access and amenity	0.27ha	1.54%
Bushland	0ha	0%
Civic	0.74ha	4.28%
Other	0.58ha	3.35%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	17.41ha	

The North Sydney catchment currently has 19.20m2 of open space per person. This is a reasonable supply and is bolstered by the expansive St Leonards Park.

Open space highlights

North Sydney's key open spaces include:

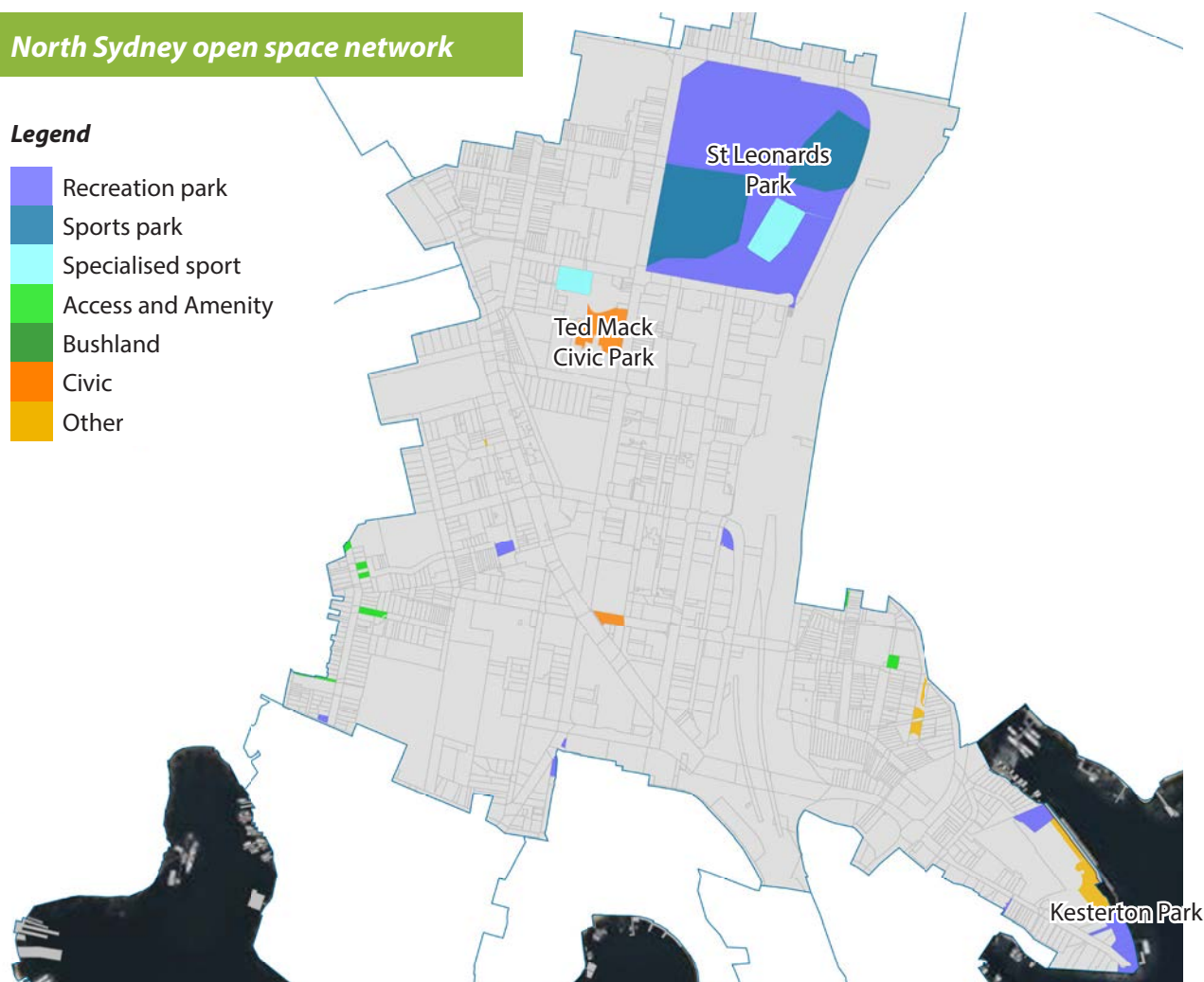
- St Leonards Park - recreation park, sport park and specialised
- Kesterton Park - recreation park
- Ted Mack Civic Park - civic park.



North Sydney open space network

Legend

- Recreation park
- Sports park
- Specialised sport
- Access and Amenity
- Bushland
- Civic
- Other



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in North Sydney has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within North Sydney

Experience Current provision within North Sydney

Play There are two opportunities for play within the catchment, with St Leonards Park providing Regional level play for toddlers, young children and older children. Kesterton Park provides play opportunities for primary school aged children

Exercise, training and competition St Leonards Park provides a number of opportunities for exercise, training and competition with its two ovals. Additionally it provides specialised sport opportunities with tennis and lawn bowls. St Leonards also has two multi-purpose courts for netball and basketball.

Additional exercise and training opportunities are provided for at Ridge Street Tennis Centre with four tennis courts, and Ted Mack Civic Park and Kesterton Park provide outdoor gym equipment

Nature There is no formal provision of bushland within the catchment and the nature of the catchment as a commercial centre restricts the provision

Experience Current provision within North Sydney

Adventure and challenge Adventure and challenge opportunities are not provided for within the catchment, however, St Leonards playground is one of the best playgrounds for older children in the LGA

Escape, break-out and relaxation The formal gardens of St Leonards, Don Bank Museum Gardens and Ted Mack Civic Park provide opportunities for escape, break-out and relaxation

Socialisation Ted Mack Civic Park and St Leonards Park provide places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment

Activity and hobby There are no formal opportunities to undertake a hobby within the catchment

Connectivity North Sydney catchment is highly connected, with a number of streets serviced by the North Sydney Bikeway. The Warringah Freeway and Cahill Expressway severs a part of the catchment

Experience **Current provision within North Sydney**

Amenity and views	Kesterton and Oberon Parks, as well as parts of St Leonards Park provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment
Events, programs and community building	Ted Mack Civic Park and St Leonards Park provides spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities

Accessibility and barriers to open space

There are no identified accessibility deficiencies in the North Sydney catchment.

Open space issues/deficiencies

North Sydney has a reasonable provision of open space per person. This ratio does not consider however, the population of students and workers who travel to North Sydney from outside of the LGA each day. Key open spaces such as Ted Mack Civic Park and St Leonards get used informally and formally by these groups.

The catchment has a reasonable diversity of experiences.

Open space opportunities

The opportunity for North Sydney's open space network lies in the re-development of alternate land uses as well as increasing the capacity of existing open spaces. These actions will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences within the catchment. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Ridge Street Tennis Centre

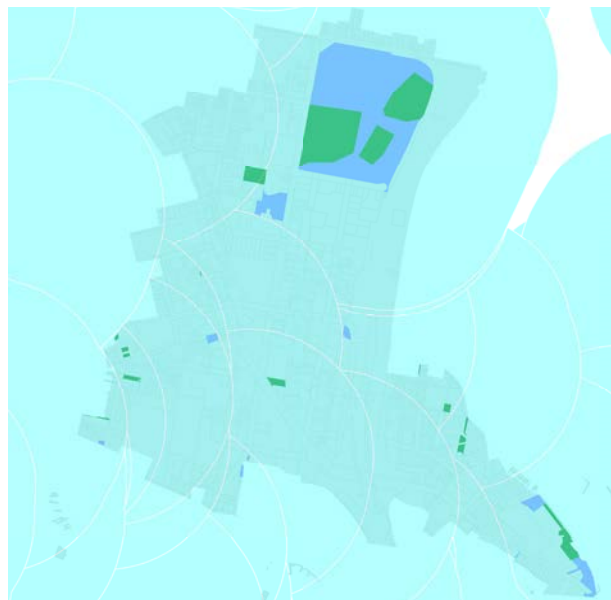
- Continue to pursue Council's visionary plan to redevelop this facility, incorporating additional sporting capacity (deficiency identified at an LGA level).

Sub Base Platypus

- Whilst this facility is not Council owned or managed, it is noted that it is currently under-utilised for community uses. Continue to lobby for the use of this space for activity and hobby, indoor recreation and active sporting opportunities.

St Leonards Park

- Investigate the potential contribution towards maintenance for this open space by the regular school groups who utilise the park
- Investigate opportunities for additional community use of North Sydney Oval.



Legend

400m Buffer

McMahons Point

The McMahon's Point area is predominately made up of Medium Density Residential and High Density Residential. The catchment has a land area of 0.35sqkm and a current population density of 6,741 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of McMahon's Point is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	2,376
2024	2,428
2026	2,463
2031	2,505
2036	2,550

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

McMahon's Point open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	3.62ha	95.25%
Sports Park	0ha	0
Specialised sport	0ha	0
Access and amenity	0.11 ha	2.00%
Bushland	0ha	0
Civic	0ha	0
Other	0.7ha	1.76%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	3.80ha	

The McMahon's Point catchment currently has 15.99m² of open space per person. This is low provision when compared to the LGA.

Open space highlights

McMahon's Point has a small open space network consisting of recreation parks and access/amenity. The key open spaces are:

- O'Brien Gardens - recreation park
- Victoria Street Playground - recreation park
- Sawmillers Reserve - recreation park
- Henry Lawson Reserve - recreation park
- Blues Point Reserve - recreation park.



Map: McMahon's Point open space network



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in McMahon's Point has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within McMahon's Point

Experience	Current provision within McMahon's Point	Experience	Current provision within McMahon's Point
Play	There are two main opportunities for play within the catchment. Victoria Street Playground caters for toddlers and young children, while Blues Point Reserve caters for primary school aged children	Socialisation	There is a lack of places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment
Exercise, training and competition	There are no formal sport sites within the catchment. The catchment has a good network of walking tracks	Activity and hobby	There is a lack of opportunity to undertake activity and hobby within the catchment
Nature	The catchment provides a number of opportunities to experience nature, including Sawmillers Reserve	Connectivity	The majority of streets within the catchment have footpaths. Additionally, the North Sydney Bikeway runs through the centre of the catchment
Adventure and challenge	Sawmillers Reserve provided opportunities for adventure and challenge with water access for small water craft and small water craft storage	Amenity and views	Sawmillers Reserve, Blues Point Reserve and Henry Lawson Reserve provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views
Escape, break-out and relaxation	A number of sites provide opportunity for escape, break-out and relaxation including O'Briens Gardens, Sawmillers Reserve and Blues Point Reserve	Events, programs and community building	There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities within the catchment. Sawmillers Reserve hosts an annual sculpture event

Accessibility and barriers to open space

There are no identified accessibility shortfalls within the catchment.

Open space issues/deficiencies

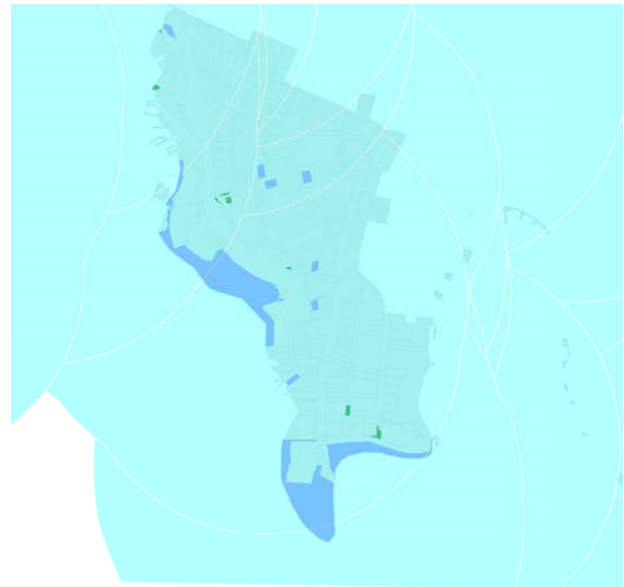
The McMahon's Point catchment has a low provision of open space per person. The catchment has a lack of experiences within its open space network, no provision for adventure and challenge, socialisation, activity and hobby or events, programs and community building.

Open space opportunities


Opportunities to secure land for additional open space is extremely limited. Re-development of alternate land uses as well as increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Re-development of alternate land

- Investigate opportunities to re-develop an under-utilised commercial site for future provision of additional open space - provision of opportunities for adventure and challenge such as BMX/skate/scooter park, multi-purpose court.



Legend

 400m Buffer

Milsons Point and Lavender Bay

The Milsons Point and Lavender Bay area is predominately made up of Medium Density Residential with areas of Special Use Activities (Luna Park) and Mixed Use. The catchment has a land area of 0.36sqkm and a current population density of 9,648 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Milsons Point and Lavender Bay is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	3,475
2024	3,718
2026	3,835
2031	3,999
2036	4,119

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Milsons Point and Lavender Bay open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	6.24ha	92.98%
Sports Park	0ha	0
Specialised sport	0.47ha	7.02%
Access and amenity	0ha	0
Bushland	0ha	0
Civic	0ha	0
Other	0ha	0
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	6.71ha	

The Milsons Point and Lavender Bay catchment currently has 19.31m2 of open space per person. This is good provision when compared to the LGA.

Open space highlights

Milsons Point and Lavender Bay has a reasonable open space network, however consisting of just recreation parks and specialised sport (aquatics). The key open spaces are:

- Watt Park - recreation park
- Wendy's Secret Garden - recreation park
- Clark Park - recreation park
- Quibaree Park - recreation park
- Bradfield Park - recreation park
- North Sydney Olympic Pool - specialised.



Map: Milsons Point and Lavender Bay open space network

Legend

- Recreation park
- Sports park
- Specialised sport
- Access and Amenity
- Bushland
- Civic
- Other



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Milsons Point and Lavender Bay has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Milsons Point and Lavender Bay

Experience Current provision within Milsons Point and Lavender Bay

Play	Watt Park provides play opportunities for toddlers and young children, while Bradfield Park caters for primary school-aged children
Exercise, training and competition	The Sydney Olympic Pool (currently under re-development) provides opportunity for exercise, training and competition. Additionally, Bradfield Park has an outdoor table tennis table. Quibaree Park provides access to the water
Nature	The catchment provides a number of opportunities to experience nature, with Wendy's Secret Garden and Watt Park
Adventure and challenge	Quibaree Park provides oppoportunity for adventure and challenge with boat ramp and small water craft storage facility
Escape, break-out and relaxation	A number of opportunities exist for escape, break-out and relaxation including Wendy's Secret Garden, Clark Park and Watt Park

Experience Current provision within Milsons Point and Lavender Bay

Socialisation	There is a lack of places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment
Activity and hobby	There are no open spaces that provide opportunity for hobby and activity within the catchment
Connectivity	The catchment has footpaths on a number of streets and parts of the catchment are well serviced by the North Sydney Bikeway
Amenity and views	Watt Park, Wendy's Secret Garden, Bradfield Park, Clark Park and Lavender Bay Foreshore provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment
Events, programs and community building	Bradfield Park provides spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities

Accessibility and barriers to open space

The Milsons Point and Lavender Bay catchment has no identified accessibility deficit.

Open space issues/deficiencies

The Milsons Point and Lavender Bay catchment has a reasonable provision of open space per person. The catchment has a lack of experiences within its open space network, no provision for socialisation or activity and hobby.

Open space opportunities

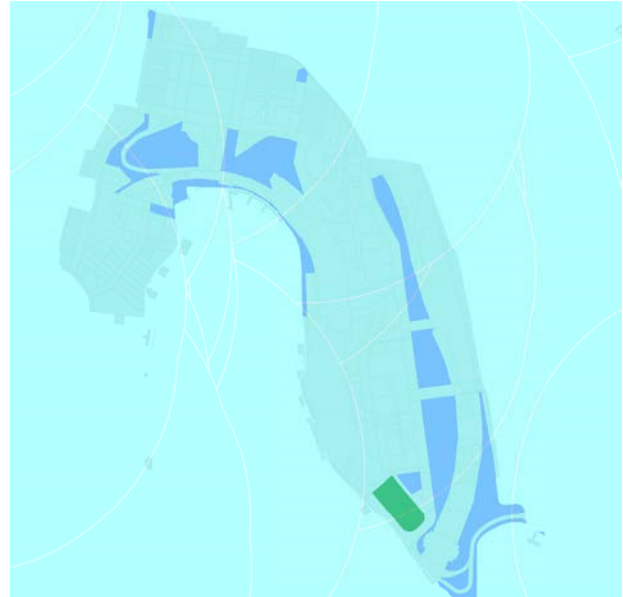
Increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Bradfield Park

- Investigate opportunities to accommodate adventure and challenge into Bradfield Park, for example, adventure play, skate/scooter facilities, multi-purpose court.

Wendy's Secret Garden

- Protect and enhance this valued asset and passive recreation area.



Legend

 400m Buffer

Waverton

The Waverton area is a mix of Low, Medium and High Density Residential. The catchment also has areas of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Living and Infrastructure (Defence). The catchment has a land area of 0.71sqkm and a current population density of 4,180 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Waverton is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	2,973
2024	3,077
2026	3,123
2031	3,155
2036	3,215

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Waverton open space network

Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	5.59ha	29.10%
Sports Park	0.92ha	4.79%
Specialised sport	0ha	0
Access and amenity	0.24ha	1.24%
Bushland	12.21ha	63.55%
Civic	0ha	0
Other	0.25ha	1.32%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	19.22ha	

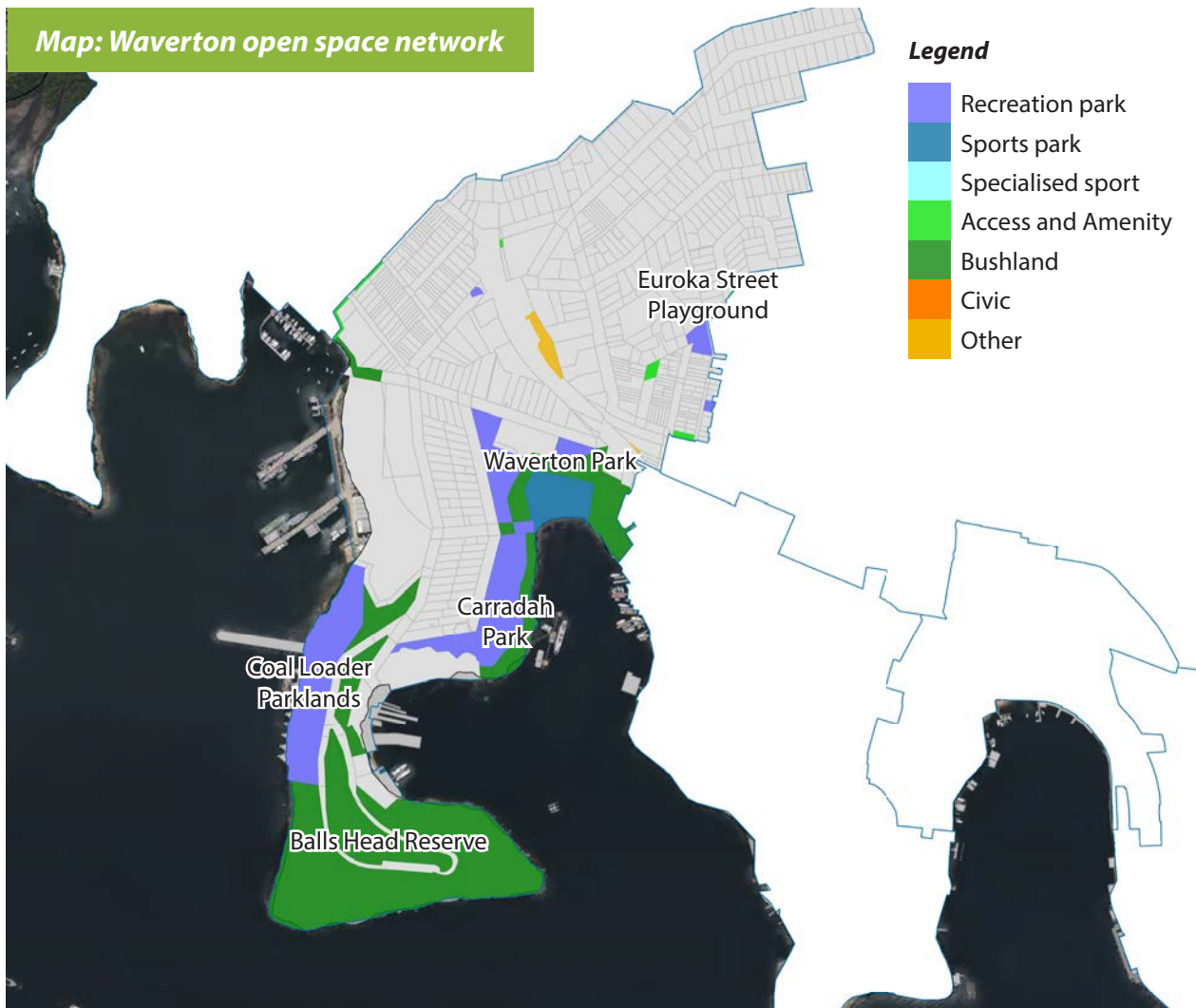
The Waverton catchment currently has 64.65m2 of open space per person. This is the highest provision within the LGA. The large parcels of bushland contribute to this high open space provision.

Open space highlights

Waverton has a good supply of open space consisting of recreation parks, sports park, bushland and access/amenity. The key open spaces are:

- Euroka Street Playground - recreation park
- Waverton Park - sport park, recreation park, bushland
- Carradah Park - recreation park
- Coal Loader Parklands - recreation park
- Balls Head Reserve - bushland.





Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Waverton has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Waverton

Experience	Current provision within Waverton	Experience	Current provision within Waverton
Play	There are two opportunities for play within the catchment, with Merrett Playground providing play for toddlers and young children, and Euroka Street Playground provides play opportunities for primary school aged children	Socialisation	Bay Road Reserve provides a civic hub with opportunities for socialisation
Exercise, training and competition	Waverton Park provides one field for exercise, training and competition and three outdoor fitness stations	Activity and hobby	The Coal Loader provides community programs and activities including several community gardens
Nature	Balls Head Reserve provides a great opportunity to experience nature	Connectivity	The catchment is severed by the rail corridor. The majority of streets have footpaths and a number of roads are connected by the North Sydney Bikeway
Adventure and challenge	Waverton Park provides access to the water for non-motorised water craft and informal storage for small water craft	Amenity and views	Waverton Park, Balls Head and the Coal Loader Parklands provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment
Escape, break-out and relaxation	A number of opportunities exist for escape, break-out and relaxation including Balls Head Reserve, Carradah Park, Coal Loader Parklands and Waverton Park	Events, programs and community building	The Coal Loader Parklands provide opportunities for markets, celebrations and organised activities with a focus on sustainability

Accessibility and barriers to open space

The Waverton catchment has no identified accessibility deficit, and whilst the north-east area is bisected by the rail corridor, this area has direct access to other open spaces including Brennan Park.

Open space issues/deficiencies

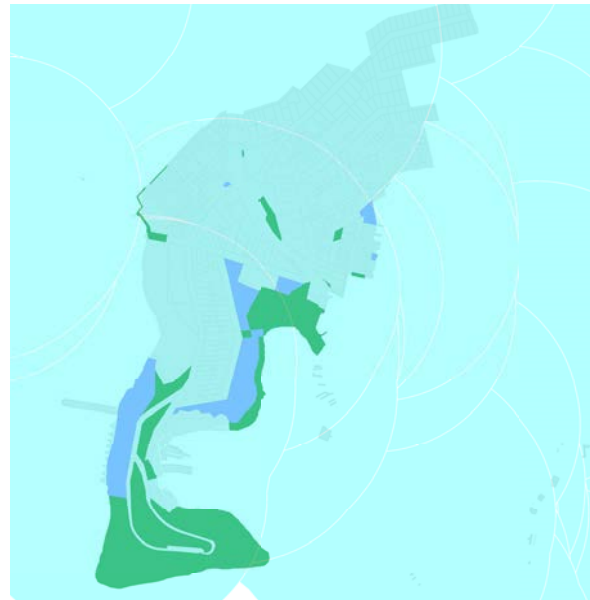
The Waverton catchment has a high provision of open space per person and a diverse range of experiences within its open space network.

Open space opportunities


Increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Waverton Park

- Investigate opportunities to install play equipment suitable for older children and elements of adventure and challenge such as climbing walls/nets, flying foxes, scooter park or multi-purpose court.



Legend

 400m Buffer

Wollstonecraft

The Waverton area is predominately made up of High Density Residential and Low Density Residential with areas of Environmental Living and Environmental Protection. The catchment has a land area of 1.18sqkm and a current population density of 6,838 persons per Sqkm.

Population

The population growth of Wollstonecraft is outlined in the table below:

Population projections for the catchment

Year	Population
2022	8,098
2024	8,330
2026	8,559
2031	8,680
2036	8,761

Open space provision

The breakdown of the open space network in the catchment is as follows:

Wollstonecraft open space network

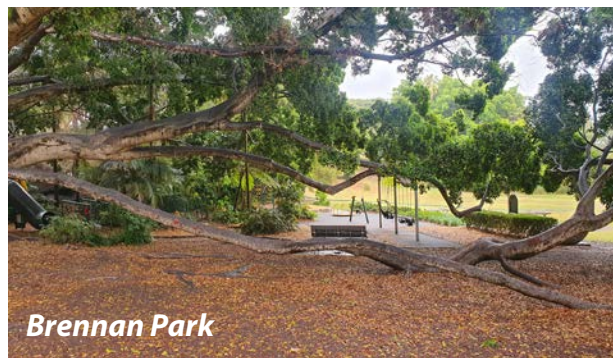
Classification	Provision in ha	Breakdown of open space network %
Recreation Park	3.55ha	17.50%
Sports Park	0ha	0%
Specialised sport	0.25ha	1.24%
Access and amenity	0.17ha	0.82%
Bushland	16.29ha	80.36%
Civic	0.02ha	0.08%
Other	0ha	0%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	20.26ha	

The Wollstonecraft catchment currently has 25.02m2 of open space per person. This is a reasonable provision when compared to the LGA.

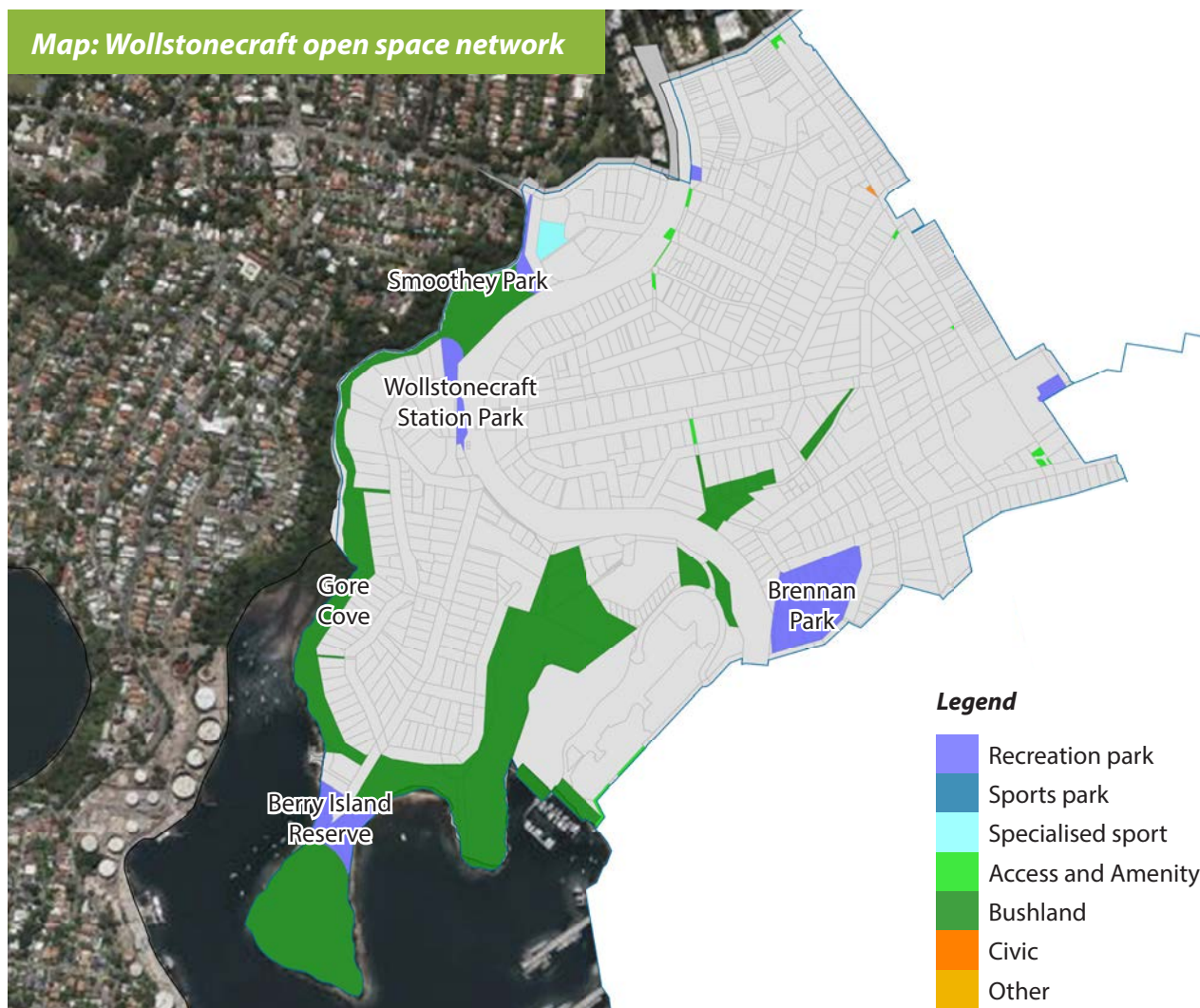
Open space highlights

Wollstonecraft's key open spaces include:

- Smoothey Park - recreation park, bushland
- Berry Island Reserve - recreation park, bushland
- Brennan Park - recreation park
- Wollstonecraft Station Park - recreation park.



Map: Wollstonecraft open space network



Access to experiences

An assessment of open spaces in Wollstonecraft has been undertaken to determine what experiences are currently available to the community.

Provision of experiences within Wollstonecraft

Experience Current provision within Wollstonecraft

Play	There are three opportunities for play within the catchment. Brennan Park and Wollstonecraft Railway Park provide play for toddlers and young children, while Berry Island Reserve has senior and junior playspaces; providing play opportunities for children of all ages
Exercise, training and competition	Brennan Park outdoor gym equipment as well as a large space for informal games and kick-about
Nature	Bushland is the largest component of the open space network, with opportunities to experience nature including Berry Island Reserve, Smoothey Park and Badangi Reserve
Adventure and challenge	Berry Island Reserve and Gore Cove provide access to the water for non-motorised water craft, with Gore Cove providing storage for small water craft

Experience Current provision within Wollstonecraft

Escape, break-out and relaxation	Escape, break-out and relaxation are provided for within Berry Island Reserve and Brennan Park
Socialisation	There is a lack of places for people to meet and socialise within the catchment
Activity and hobby	There is a lack of places for activity and hobby
Connectivity	The catchment is severed by the rail corridor. It is well serviced by the North Sydney Bikeway and local footpaths
Amenity and views	Berry Island Reserve provide a high level of amenity and opportunities for views within the catchment
Events, programs and community building	There are limited spaces for markets, celebrations and organised activities. Opportunities exist within Brennan Park due to its relatively large size

Accessibility and barriers to open space

The Wollstonecraft catchment has no identified accessibility deficit, and whilst the north-east area is bisected by the rail corridor, this area has direct access to a reasonable supply of open spaces.

Open space issues/deficiencies

The Wollstonecraft catchment has a reasonable provision of open space per person and a diverse range of experiences within its open space network, albeit lacking in places for socialisation and activity/hobby.

Open space opportunities

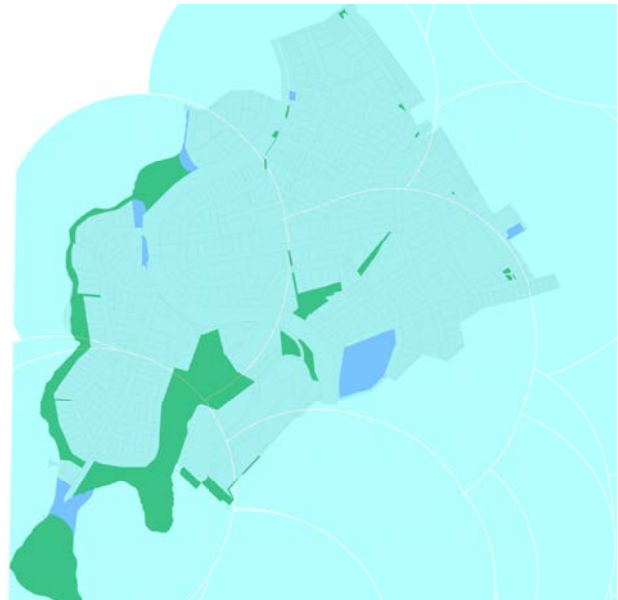
Increasing the capacity of existing open spaces will contribute to a better provision of open space as well as a more diverse network of experiences. Opportunities for the catchment include:

Brennan Park

- Investigate opportunities to install play equipment suitable for older children.

Berry Island/Badangi Reserve

- Investigate opportunities to provide a harbour swimming site.



Legend

400m Buffer

Current supply

Analysis of North Sydney's current supply of open space and recreation facilities has highlighted a number of issues that need to be prioritised. These can be summarised as:

- North Sydney has a current deficiency of 45.36ha of core open space
- This deficiency reaches 55.96ha by 2036
- According to a standards-based approach, an additional 55.32ha of playing fields would be required to meet projected demand by 2036
- A number of accessibility deficiencies exist when using a walkable catchment of 400m. The biggest areas of deficiency are St Leonards/Crows Nest/Wollstonecraft, North Sydney, Cremorne, Neutral Bay and parts of Cremorne and Kurraba Points.



3

Current trends and research

Trends

Participation patterns in recreation and sport are changing at a community level. Factors such as a move toward non-organised or social sport, increased outdoor nature-based recreation and increased use of technology have all had a significant impact on how people recreate and use public open space. Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important as Council looks to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to engage in activities in public open spaces.

Participation trends

Since 2015, Sport Australia has conducted a national sport and physical activity participation survey, Ausplay. The most recent results of the survey were released in April 2020. In 2011-12 and 2013-14, a similar survey, the Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation Survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Overall, participation in sport and physical activity has increased in the last two decades. More adults participate more frequently compared to 2001.

However, more women have constantly participated, more often. Participation in sport-related activities has not increased, while non-sport physical activities have increased significantly (by more than 20 percent from 2001 to 2019). Participation in non-sport recreation activities such as walking and fitness/gym have increased the most.

More children participate in organised (out-of-school) sport than adults. The top activities children participate in changes as children age, with a focus on the life skill of swimming for infants and toddlers and running, fitness/gym, football and walking being the dominant activities by the time children are between 15 and 24 years old.

National participation rates in organised sport have been declining for a number of years as participants move toward more social (drop-in drop-out) sport and informal recreation. It will be important for Council to monitor participation trends into the future to ensure resources are allocated appropriately to support a broad range of both recreation and sport activities.



COVID-Normal participation

How Australians' participation in sport and physical activity is adapting to COVID-normal. In July 2022, AusPlay data was reported showing further evidence of how participation in sport and recreation is changing for Australians. In summary:

- compared with 2019, the average mix of activities per person is increasing, with fewer people relying solely on sporting clubs or organised venues for exercise
- physically-distanced (COVIDsafe) or home-based activities are increasingly popular, including walking, bush walking, tennis, pilates, mountain biking, and canoeing/kayaking
- "exergaming" is now one of the top 20 activities for Australians aged 15+
- participation by children in sport is lower than 2019, however there are indications that children are returning to regular (1+ per week) participation.

Walking

Walking continues to be the most popular physical activity across age groups in Australia. Further refinement and implementation of Council's strategic planning for infrastructure that supports walking and cycling for transport and recreation will continue to increase in importance in future years.

Walking the dog

Australia has one of the highest rates of dog ownership in the world with 36% of households owning a dog. Responsible dog ownership includes regularly walking the dog to provide exercise and stimulation as they explore the sights and smells and interact with their owners and other people, as well as socialising with other dogs. Regular walks prevent dogs from becoming bored or destructive.

Research indicates that dog owners enjoy many health and social benefits including improved cardiovascular fitness, lower blood pressure, stronger muscles and bones and decreased stress. Walking with a dog can promote social interaction as well, with the dog providing a neutral and generally positive talking point.

Increasing health and environmental awareness

People are becoming increasingly concerned about their health, with conditions such as obesity and stress-related illness on the rise. Surveys conducted in Melbourne and Sydney indicated that residents with easy access to the natural environment reported a higher quality of life.

These city-based surveys showed steady increases in people's preference for large, managed and accessible natural areas. This, combined with a growing awareness of the environment and its challenges (global warming, pollution and urbanisation), has led to a growth in visitation to natural areas. A term referred to as 'returning to nature' has emerged where people feel the desire to become reconnected to their natural environment.

On Your Bike

In Australia in 2005, 13% of the population (or 2.1 million people) cycled regularly or occasionally. By 2019 this figure reached 19% (or 3.7 million people). Cycling has been reported as one of the top five sport and physical activities from results of the AusPlay survey released in 2020. Over 90% of participation in cycling is non-organised, with only 8% of cyclists participating in organised competitions.

Mountain bike riding includes a number of off-road biking styles, including cross-country, downhill, observed trials, cross-country marathon and cyclocross. In November 2020, Mountain Bike Australia, BMX Australia and Cycling Australia amalgamated to form AusCycling. AusCycling has over 54,000 members and 400 affiliated clubs nationwide across different forms of cycling. There are many mountain bikers who are not registered with AusCycling.

It is estimated that over half of mountain bike riders are neither club or group members.

The past decade has seen a steady increase in registered BMX club members with over 17,000 active members (excluding volunteers) nationwide in 2018. BMX bikes are also popular for non-competition recreation and skate parks are popular locations for BMX bikes, as well as other wheeled recreation devices, such as scooters.

Pump tracks are also becoming one of the more popular recreation facilities for all ages. In Australia, larger pump tracks tend to be made of asphalt or dirt, with smaller plywood composite and pre-cast concrete tracks also popular.

The various forms of cycling and the growing popularity of all types of bike riding supports evidence of a shift away from structured sport to unstructured recreation. Cycling is also growing in popularity as an active transport method.

Technology

In just one generation, there has been a dramatic shift in childhood activity from outdoors to indoors. This has been driven in part by increased use of technology. Technology remains one of the main contributors towards decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour.

Increasing use of smart phones and apps allows people to obtain information, communicate with each other very quickly, and provide feedback on their recreation experience at any time of the day or night. Many people using parks, playgrounds, paths and trails make the decision on where to recreate based on the information available via the internet, blogs, forums and social media.

A number of mobile phone apps are aiding the community in tracking, recording and mapping their activities including walking, running and mountain bike riding. They can also be a useful tool for managing authorities in determining where the community is currently participating in activities (whether authorised or not).

There are also increasing community expectations of access to technology in recreation areas including WiFi access in key parks, and use of digital tools for information and marketing on tracks and signage.

Increasing 'screen time' during leisure time is hard to avoid in many workplaces and schools. More of our leisure time is also being spent looking at screens, at the cost of active leisure activities including socialising, reading, writing, arts and crafts, sports, exercise and recreation.

A study conducted using data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics found a clear trend of adult Americans participating in increased screen time (for leisure) and decreasing active leisure over a 13-year period ending in 2015. It is believed that a similar trend applies to adults in Australia. Excessive screen time has been associated with negative health outcomes as people have less time available to participate in physical activity.

Social media

The rise of social media over the past 15 years has provided new ways for people to engage with parks and public places and share their experiences on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.

In some cases, this process of sharing and promoting locations has increased visitation. A recent study conducted in the United States identified that millennials are seeking 'brag-worthy' experiences and locations to share on social media. A local example is the high level of regional, national and international visitation that McDougall Street, Kirribilli (adjoining Milson Park) receives during 'Jacaranda season'.

Given the iconic harbour-side location of North Sydney, its foreshore open spaces are regularly used for curated picnics, wedding proposals as well as small events and wedding ceremonies. These locations are widely shared on social media, increasing visitation and promoting these open spaces as 'brag-worthy' locations, often at the expense of locals enjoyment.

Micromobility

Micromobility is the term used to describe transportation using lightweight vehicles such as bicycles or scooters, including electric scooters available through borrow or self-service schemes in some cities. An estimated 250,000 electric scooters and personal mobility devices have been sold and are being used across Australia.

Rental scooters have been legalised in all states except New South Wales, where a trial is currently underway. Privately-owned electric scooters are not yet legal in Victoria, however the outcomes of a trial of commercial e-scooters will potentially influence changes in legislation that accommodate private e-scooter use.

Indicators show that it is likely e-scooters and e-bikes will become increasingly popular forms of transportation in the future.

Declining number of volunteers

The rate of volunteering in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. Often, the responsibility for running clubs falls to a small group of key personnel. To address this issue, there is a move toward amalgamations, with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs, that take over some or all of the volunteers' roles, as well as asset management responsibilities.

Play space planning

Planning for the needs of specific age groups can be difficult because investment in parks infrastructure needs to have a shelf life of many years, during which time children grow up and their interests change.

Information about age groups is therefore used with caution and while larger numbers of children may indicate the need for more play provision, a lack of children in other areas should not be used to justify the disposal of play opportunities. Although communities may be planned with a particular demographic group in mind, times will change and there will always be blended families with multiple age groups, visitors and exceptions to the main predicted demographic group, whose needs still must be met.

Communities dominated by older adults and retirees still need a good framework of parks and play spaces. Grandparents have taken on an increasing role as child care providers, and play spaces which are accessible and inclusive are increasingly useful for this group, as well as for the general social and recreation activities of multi-age families and groups.

For these reasons, a basic and adaptable framework of public open space, parks and play spaces will always be required.

Adventure and imagination play

New terms are increasingly being used to describe different forms of play that contribute to healthy child-development outcomes.

These terms are used to broaden the concept of play beyond the primary-coloured, plastic, off-the shelf play equipment used in many playgrounds historically.

Adventurous play refers to unstructured and free outdoor physical play activities that push boundaries and involve an element of risk.

In response to a growing body of research, play opportunities are being designed and created that encourage children to use their imaginations, learn social skills, build their self-confidence and test their physical skills through adventure and exploration.

Challenge parks are another emerging type of park. They generally feature multiple play nodes to cater for different ages, gardens, water play areas, large open grassy spaces, shady picnic spots with quality facilities, water features, areas of natural woodland and vegetation and kilometres of shared paths and boardwalks to explore.

High tree house structures, sky walks and natural elements are introducing risk back into play, enabling children to develop an awareness of limits and boundaries.

Research

ParkWatch Report

During May 2023, Make Space for Girls in the United Kingdom asked people to count the number of teenagers using local park facilities, and their gender, to collect data for a citizen science project.

Youth parks or facilities designed for teenagers often include skateparks, BMX tracks or multi-use games areas (MUGAs) such as basketball half-courts or similar modified sport facilities. These types of facilities are anecdotally known to be primarily used by boys, however this project sought to collect data to test this notion. The results are enlightening:

“Our research reveals that overall 88% of the ‘teenagers using these facilities were boys, and for MUGAs, the most common facilities, this was 92%”

Some additional findings:

- Where different types of facilities were provided, including shelters, swings, tennis courts and play areas designed for older children, girls were more than three times more likely to use them
- Facilities dominated by boys, can also be the dominant facility provided, effectively ‘designing girls out’ of public parks and places
- The impact on girls is that they do not feel that parks are for them, potentially causing them to miss out on the mental and physical health benefits of park use.

Recommendations from the report include:

- When new facilities for teenagers are being provided, councils and developers should consider a far wider range of facilities than skate parks, BMX tracks and MUGAs
- Councils should evaluate what they currently provide for teenagers and whether it meets the needs of girls
- Councils and other bodies should also examine their policies to ensure that these do not result in the same limited provision
- Every piece of current and future provision should be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment using data or observation
- Most importantly, we need better engagement.

Teenage girls need to be at the centre of the decision making process, in order to create parks and other spaces which really meet their needs.

The full report, including the methodology, provides insights into relatively simple processes that Council may be able to apply to gather data specific to park and facility use across North Sydney to support gender equity in park development and use.

Meeting the need for a rational basis for open space and recreation planning in new high density residential areas: the Recreational Activity Benchmark Model

Published in 2022, the paper by Veal and Piracha proposes a new model, the ‘Recreation Activity Benchmark’ (RAB,) to plan for recreation in new high density residential areas (NHDA). The new model is proposed as an alternative to approaches using standards-based and demand studies, currently used to guide provision of public open space.

The RAB methodology seeks to ensure the availability of a quantity, quality and distribution of recreational facilities such that the level of recreational activity in the NHDA is at least at the overall level of the rest of the community.

A theoretical model that is yet to be ground truthed, the RAB proposes using data points based on average recreation participation and AusPlay results, a benchmark measure of participation is determined and applied to an estimate of the age profile of the NHDA residential population. The land and facilities required to meet the recreation and open space requirements of the NHDA residents can then be calculated, providing a benchmark for provision.

A rebuttal to the paper authored by Marriott (2022) detailed current recreation planning methodologies and shortcomings of the proposed RAB methodology.

The primary points in the rebuttal include:

- the proposed RAB criticises the standards-based planning approach, however effectively establishes a standard for provision, referred to as a benchmark in the paper
- lack of a stated policy or philosophical basis to guide decision-making
- lack of quality and distribution measures
- use of 'average recreation participation' metrics applied to small catchments (NHDA) whilst ignoring the subject planning area's physical attributes and characteristics and the unique demographic profile of the planning area
- use of the current National and State average participation rates (which is considered below the desired level) disregarding National and State Government policies to increase physical activity and recreation participation
- lack of local community engagement in the planning process.

The rebuttal concludes by stating that:

"Using the approach would thus be a serious retrograde step in terms of effectiveness, equity, community engagement and provision outputs and outcomes".

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE NEEDS STUDY?

- Consideration of current trends when analysing local recreation participation data is essential when planning for recreation and open space provision to determine current, latent and future demand for land and facilities
- A range of primary and secondary sources of data are necessary to allow analysis and determination of strategy and action plans for the provision of recreation opportunities and public open space land
- Both standards-based and needs-based planning approaches have merit and provide both quantitative and qualitative data for analysis and decision-making
- Existing finite open space land resources require preservation as green space, and strong protection from being fully or partially converted into brownfield development, or fragmented, for example by cycleways.

4 Engagement outcomes and themes

Council and the consultants engaged with over 1,000 people through November 2023 to June 2024 to inform the development of the Discussion Paper and subsequent Needs Study.

Engagement activities

A comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement program was undertaken during key stages of the project. The key engagement activities undertaken are outlined below. Input received throughout these engagement activities has been used to inform the development of the Discussion Paper and the Needs Study. Further details of the engagement outcomes are included within the Appendix of this report.

Respondents to Council's various engagement activities provided Council with comprehensive feedback that has been used to inform the development of the Needs Study, along with other factors including the open space facility audit findings, background research, analysis of demographic information and trends, and on-ground observations.

Community survey

November - December 2023

An information-gathering online survey was undertaken for the community to seek input on the community's usage and preference for open space, sport and recreation spaces and facilities. 438 responses were received.



Sport and Recreation Reference Group

November 2023 - March 2024

Council's Sport and Recreation Reference Group was utilised as part of the engagement process. Presentation of project goals and objectives led to discussions with the Group about issues and opportunities for sport and recreation within North Sydney.



User group survey

November - December 2023

Sport and recreation user groups were invited to participate in an online survey about their current usage of facilities and spaces, as well as their current and future needs. 14 clubs and user groups responded to the survey.



User group drop-in

November 2023

Sport and recreation user groups were invited to attend a drop-in session to discuss the current and future needs of their group/club/association including their participation numbers and facilities used.



Council's Combined Precinct Committee

November 2023

Council's combined Precinct Committee was utilised as part of the engagement process. Presentation of project goals and objectives led to discussions with the Group about issues and opportunities for open space, sport and recreation within North Sydney.

Community survey - Discussion Paper

May - June 2024

The Open Space and Recreation Discussion Paper was placed on public exhibition, with an online survey provided for the community and user-groups to provide their input, with 240 responses received.

Schools Workshop

March 2024

Workshops were held with a group of both primary and high school students in order to understand their usage of and needs for open space, sport and recreation spaces and facilities. 45 students were engaged as part of the workshop.

Community Forum

June 2024

A community forum was held in relation to the Discussion Paper to engage community members on the relevant topics raised in the Discussion paper. Panel members raised topics that were then discussed in the forum. The forum was recorded and received approximately 290 views.

Demographically selected workshop

June 2024

In order to ensure that a broad selection of the community was represented in the engagement process, a demographically selected group attended a workshop to provide input on the Discussion paper. The 60 attendees worked through key questions in relation to the content of the Discussion paper.

Pop-up stalls

May - June 2024

Council staffed a number of pop-up stalls and markets during the engagement on the Discussion Paper. Staff discussed the content of the Paper and collated feedback.

First Nations Engagement Workshop

June 2024

The First Nations Engagement Workshop was held following the invitation of a number of well-connected First Nations people in the North Sydney LGA in order to gain input and guide the development of Council's ten year Community Strategic Plan, including the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study.

Internal Council engagement

Project duration

In addition to these specific engagement activities, internal engagement with Council staff and Councillors via Councillor Briefings and Workshops, presentations to ELT and one-on-one discussions were held at multiple stages throughout the project.

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS

- 692 total survey participants
 - 438 community survey
 - 14 user group survey
 - 240 Discussion paper community survey
- 290 views of community forum
- 60 attendees at the demographically selected Workshop
- 10 user groups attended drop-in session
- Over 250 known stakeholders were informed about the project and invited to participate in the online surveys and other engagement activities
- All Council Precinct Committees were informed about the project and invited to participate in the online surveys and other engagement activities.

Emerging themes

Based on research (including the results of early community and stakeholder engagement), consideration of demographic information, a review of relevant literature and an analysis of supply and demand, four broad themes relating to open space and recreation emerged. These themes provide a framework within which to address relevant issues, and to identify opportunities for community consideration and discussion.







1

Dealing with our open space deficit

What is this theme about?

North Sydney has a current estimated open space deficit of approximately 45ha. This deficit is expected to increase as our population grows. The greatest areas of deficit are in St Leonards and Crows Nest. There is also a high reliance on public open space due to 89% of our community living in high and medium density housing. In the North Sydney area, Council's network of parks and reserves are very much our community's backyard. Unfortunately, high land prices makes purchasing additional land for open space cost-prohibitive.

Issues and opportunities

Insufficient open space for recreation

Current provision of open space in North Sydney is low per head of population, but given the lack of opportunities for the acquisition of significant new open space, this issue must be addressed creatively. The Review of Supply and Demand for Sports Facilities in the NSROC Region 2023 identified a current undersupply of land for organised sport of approx. 51ha.

Council's aspirational Hume Street and Holtermann Street Park projects highlight the extreme financial challenges that transformational upgrading of such facilities pose in efforts to create new open space.

Lack of open space for major infrastructure

As is the case for open space for recreation and sports fields, the LGA lacks the available public open space for the development of major recreation and sporting infrastructure (such as indoor sports centres, aquatic centres).

This results in the need to not only review the viability of existing uses of open space (such as golf courses), but the need to look at commercial/private and State/ Federal Government land and facilities that may accommodate the development of such infrastructure.

Loss of open space to major infrastructure

Given the physical location of the LGA, there is no obvious solution to this issue, except lobbying for the retention of open space in any such developments.

Engagement outcomes

67% of community survey respondents reported a lack of open space as an issue. The highest ranked open space type that is missing was recreation parks (25%). The demographically selected workshop outlined the types of open space that are thought to be missing. While the quality of existing open spaces was recognised, attendees noted a range of open space types and facilities they felt would benefit the community.

By far the most popular facilities/improvements noted were improved lighting, more barbecue areas and increased shaded seating areas. Other responses included:

- improved public toilet access and cleanliness
- utilising rooftops of buildings and car parks
- better access through improvements to the condition of stairs
- spaces should be more multi-use in nature
- more community gardens and outdoor exercise equipment are needed
- increased options for teens are needed
- improved access to water is needed.

A variety of non-council facilities were suggested as possible alternatives for the provision of open space and recreation opportunities.

Using school facilities was easily the most common suggestion while demographic workshop participants suggested facilities including:

- corporate spaces
- car parks in general
- increased utilisation of the Sub Base Platypus (not Council owned or managed)
- Cammeray golf course
- Church halls and community centres
- amphitheatre stages
- roads for use as temporary open space
- pedestrian only zones in Crows Nest and Neutral Bay.

Creation of a high-line park along the railway line in Lavender Bay/Waverton was discussed as a 'big idea' by panelists at the community forum.

The following table provides a summary of key issues (in no particular order) resulting from the open space audit and community consultation, and provides context for the strategic framework and focus areas applied to development of the Needs Study.

Ref	Issue / opportunity	Observation
Theme one - Dealing with our open space deficit		
1.1	Insufficient open space for recreation	Current provision is below the recommended provision and given the lack of opportunities for the acquisition of significant open space, this issue needs to be addressed by implementing a variety of other strategies. There may be opportunities to accommodate some less 'space-intensive' recreation activities in North Sydney such as climbing and abseiling. Consider recreation opportunities that use the harbour and are not land-based, such as kayaking and sailing, and pursue opportunities to partner with organisations such as sea scouts and sailing clubs.
1.2	Deficit of sports land	There is currently an under-supply of land for sport of approximately 51ha. As in the case for open space for recreation, this will need to be addressed via innovative initiatives.
1.3	Lack of open space for major infrastructure	As is the case for open space for recreation and sports fields, the LGA lacks the available public open space for the development of major recreation and sporting infrastructure (such as indoor sports centres, aquatic centres). This results in the need to not only review the viability of existing uses of open space (such as golf courses), but the need to look at commercial/private and State/Federal Government land and facilities that may accommodate the development of such infrastructure.
1.4	Use of golf course	Better use of the Cammeray Golf Course by other sports/activities and the community could be achieved. A detailed master plan of the site (once the exact available footprint is finalised) should be undertaken, including the ongoing feasibility of any proposed elements (including golf).



2

Management and use of our open space

What is this theme about?

The gap between supply and demand for open space is expected to increase as our populations grows.

High land prices in the LGA make purchase of land for additional open space generally prohibitive, therefore, we need to carefully consider other ways to meet current needs and the increased future demand expected from the projected growth in population.

Issues and opportunities

Large community events

The current permissible size for events taking place within Council's parks without a permit (up to 60 people) is resulting in conflicts in their use by other parts of the community, especially in some prime, harbour foreshore locations.

Although 62% of community survey respondents did not support reducing the number of people who can gather in a park without a booking, this result does not reflect Council's research and on-ground observations. It is also not consistent with the feedback received when a proposal to reduce the number of people who can gather in a park in North Sydney without a booking from 60-40 was reported to Council in 2021, following a Mayoral Minute aimed at ensuring parks, particularly prime harbour foreshore parks, were available for all. The majority of the 193 submissions received in response to public exhibition of this proposal supported the proposal, however changes have not yet been implemented.

School use of open space

The high number of schools and their level of use of Council parks and reserves is impacting on the use of selected open spaces by the community. This use is set to increase with more schools planned in the area. Discussions with the schools will be needed to investigate possible solutions to the issue, with the possible development of an appropriate 'model for use'. This model should reflect feedback from the engagement processes indicating a desire for school contributions (or alternative arrangements).

Use of Cammeray Golf Course

One of the most significant opportunities in the LGA is the more flexible, alternative use of the Cammeray Golf Course. A detailed master plan of Cammeray Park (once the exact available footprint is finalised) should be undertaken, including the ongoing feasibility of any proposed elements (including golf). The majority of responses from the demographically selected workshop felt strongly that the golf course could be better utilised for community purposes.

The most common alternate use suggested was a recreation park providing a wider range of activities including those for children, sports fields, and barbecue/picnic facilities.

There was also strong support to increase trees over the site and provide general open spaces with walking/cycling paths.

Other suggestions included an indoor sport/recreation building, outdoor gyms and market space.

Personal trainers and other commercial use of open space

The regulation of the use of open space by personal trainers is an issue at several sites across the LGA. While it is recognised that a uniform regulation process needs to be applied across the LGA, the enforcement of this will be the key to its success.

It is noted that this process will need to be included in a 'Commercial Use of Open Space' (or similar) policy.

43% of community survey respondents agreed to a policy needing to be formed around personal trainer use of open space. The majority of demographic workshop participants expressed a desire to seek contributions from those using open space as a business, especially personal trainers and commercial operators.

Use of open space for dogs

Council is quite generous in its use of open space by dogs, and although this can cause conflict in some instances, it has not been identified as a major issue. If Council were to harden or review its current stance, this would inevitably result in conflict, so it is recommended that the current practices remain.

61% of community survey responses said no to increasing the number of parks requiring dogs to be on leash.

Other issues

There was strong support (69%) through the community survey to restrict/prohibit access to Balls Head Reserve for New Year's Eve in response to recent vandalism. Council has also recently adopted a recommendation to close the Reserve on New Years Eve.

Engagement outcomes

The following table provides a summary of key issues (in no particular order) resulting from the open space audit and community consultation, and provides context for the strategic framework and focus areas applied to development of the Needs Study.

Ref	Issue / opportunity	Observation
Theme two -Management and use of our open space		
2.1	Large community events	The current permissible size of events within Council's parks is resulting in conflicts in their use by other parts of the community. The current maximum of 60 people may no longer be suitable .
2.2	School use of open space	The high number of schools and their level of use of Council parks and reserves is impacting on the use of the spaces by the community. This use is set to increase with more schools planned in the area. Discussions with the schools will be needed to investigate possible solutions to the issue, with the possible development of an appropriate 'model for use'.
2.3	Personal trainers	The regulation of the use of open space by personal trainers is an issue at several sites across the LGA. While it is recognised that a uniform regulation process needs to be applied across the LGA, the enforcement of this will be the key to its success. It is noted that this process will need to be included in a 'Commercial Use of Open Space' (or similar) policy.
2.4	Use of open space for dogs	Council is quite generous in its use of open space by dogs, which can cause conflict in some instances. There may be a case to consider further restrictions in some of Council's most sensitive bushland reserves, to further protect native flora and fauna.



3

Providing opportunities for organised sport

What is this theme about?

According to the 'Review of Supply and Demand for Sports Facilities in the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) 2023', the supply of land for organised sports in the North Sydney LGA is low. The Study suggests that by 2036, an additional 53.32ha of playing fields would be needed to meet demand if a standards based approach were taken. This gap highlights the need to explore innovative ways to meet current and future demand for organised sports.

Opportunities to increase the capacity and extend hours of use of existing facilities could include additional or improved lighting using the latest technologies, improved irrigation and drainage, increased maintenance regimes and consideration of synthetic or hybrid playing surfaces.

Consideration should also be given to re-purposing or multi-purposing land (such as the Cammeray Park golf course), increasing the availability of North Sydney Oval no. 1 for community use, and use of public places such as car parks on weekends.

Issues and opportunities

Deficit of sports land

There is currently an under-supply of land for sport of approximately 51 ha. As in the case for open space for recreation, this will need to be addressed via innovative initiatives.

An exception to the undersupply of sports fields and courts identified in the sports site audits, and confirmed by on-ground investigations is the relative over-supply of tennis courts. This oversupply presents opportunities for redevelopment or multi-use of select sites to cater for activities identified as being in high-demand (such as netball training facilities and basketball ½ courts) and for emerging sports currently lacking a place to play (such as pickleball and paddle tennis).

Lack of capacity within sports sites

The majority of sports sites are embellished to capacity and have limited opportunities for increasing their use without the development of relevant infrastructure (such as field lighting, carrying capacity improvements including improved irrigation/drainage, and increased maintenance regimes).

The lighting of unlit sites (for example the sportsfields at Tunks Park) and improving the existing lighting at other relevant sites is an achievable and effective manner to increase the use of sporting fields across the LGA.

Where environment issues or community resistance exists, lighting technologies that may address these issues should be fully explored. It is noted that 78% of community survey responses supported increased field and court lighting.

The development of a new synthetic field would increase capacity within the sportsfield network. The development of a master plan for Cammeray Park will provide the opportunity to explore an additional synthetic field. Through the community survey, 55% of respondents indicated their support for the installation of synthetic sporting fields.

Equitable use of indoor sports centre

The lack of available indoor courts in the LGA results in many indoor sports/participants being unable to access court time. The inclusion of indoor sports courts in future developments should be considered.

Insufficient sites to house some sports

There are also opportunities to provide additional smaller fields. 57% of community survey respondents indicated they would consider using a smaller field format. Sports they would like to try were listed as pickleball/paddle tennis, basketball (including ½ court) and futsal.

There is an opportunity to repurpose under-utilised spaces within the LGA in order to provide training opportunities for identified sports such as netball and hockey.

North Sydney Oval

In regard to increasing the community use of North Sydney Oval, opinion was divided with concerns raised that this increased access and use could result in the site losing its ability and appeal to host larger, more elite events. It is noted that 61% of respondents to the community survey supported increased community use while the opinions of the workshop attendees was split evenly.

Engagement outcomes

While user group survey respondents indicated a very high level of satisfaction with North Sydney's sporting facilities and related infrastructure, respondents to the community survey provided detailed feedback on what can be improved. 55% supported the installation of further synthetic fields, 78% supported additional lighting of sports fields and courts and 57% said they would consider trying a small field format sport. In order of priority, sports the community would like to try were pickleball/paddle tennis (60 respondents), basketball and ½ court basketball, futsal, and badminton (6 people). Demographically selected workshop participants supported new and improved lighting at sports sites and synthetic fields, as well as identifying the need for improved drainage at sports fields, more indoor sports and the use of carpark rooftops.

The following table provides a summary of key issues (in no particular order) resulting from the open space audit and community consultation, and provides context for the strategic framework and focus areas applied to development of the Needs Study.

Ref	Issue / opportunity	Observation
Theme three- Providing opportunities for organised sport		
3.1	Lack of capacity within sport sites	<p>The majority of sports sites are embellished to capacity and have limited opportunities for increasing their use without the development of relevant infrastructure (such as field lighting, carrying capacity improvements (improved irrigation/drainage), and increased maintenance regimes).</p> <p>While field/court lighting is usually the most achievable and effective manner to increase the use of sporting fields across the LGA, all the relative sites are currently lit, except for Tunks Park and the courts in St Leonards Park. Therefore lighting initiatives will mainly be focused on improving the existing lighting. Where environment issues or community resistance exists, lighting technologies that may address these issues should be fully explored.</p> <p>Additionally, through the master planning of Cammeray Park, investigation into the development of an additional synthetic field to increase sports field capacity within the LGA.</p>
3.2	Insufficient sites to house some sports	There is an opportunity to re-purpose under-utilised spaces within the LGA in order to provide these sports a venue to train for example, the Green Park Tennis Courts could be re-developed to cater for netball and hockey.
3.3	New opportunities for smaller-scale sports	There are opportunities for multi-use of sites such as tennis courts and to repurpose under-utilised brownfields sites such as car parks to accommodate small scale sports including pickleball, paddle tennis, basketball 1/2 courts and the like.
3.4	Equitable use of indoor sports centre	The lack of available indoor courts in the LGA results in many indoor sports/activities being unable to access court time (including Badminton).



4

Increasing participation

What is this theme about?

Public open space is essential for the wellbeing of everyone in a community. Open space provides the opportunity for relaxation, recreation, socialising, sport and experiencing nature, and they contribute to North Sydney's character and sense of place.

Participation in organised sport provides the community with physical and mental health benefits and with social benefits, encouraging the development of team spirit and bringing the community together.

Issues and opportunities

Universal design

Meeting the needs of a diverse community including older aged and people requiring assistance requires deliberate planning and design to ensure inclusion, rather than exclusion. Universal design allows everyone, to the greatest extent possible, and regardless of age or disability, to use buildings, transport, products and services without the need for specialised or adapted features.

The North Sydney Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2022-2026 states that Council "will incorporate the Principles of Universal Design into our planning".

The DIAP includes a number of actions which focus on creating livable communities which should be implemented to meet this objective.

Provision of gender-neutral ancillary facilities at key sporting sites to cater for the growing participation of females in organised sport is consistent with current State government initiatives.

Inclusive/accessible playgrounds

There are only a small number of playgrounds that could be truly called inclusive. While it is understood that the topography of the LGA and other physical constraints limit many sites for all inclusive access, those that allow it should be appropriately developed to include accessible features.

Desire for more access to water

There is strong community desire for further access to water and the foreshore for small non-motorised craft as well as for beach areas and harbour pools.

Improved connectivity

When asked what could be done to make our open space areas more accessible to everyone, a range of responses were given by the demographically selected workshop participants. The most popular being:

- improved steps/access points
- increased seats, shade and water bubblers
- improved walking paths (with disability access)
- improved public toilets.

In addition, other suggestions included better promotion of what's available, outdoor fitness equipment, the involvement of community groups/ volunteers and improved public transport.

Responses to the community survey, discussing parks and recreation facilities outside the North Sydney LGA, indicate that people were unaware of LGA boundaries, but were interested in improving connections not only within the North Sydney LGA but to the wider open space network that they utilise.

Engagement outcomes

The community survey asked respondents to identify barriers to using parks and sports facilities in North Sydney. Of the 65% of people who answered this question, almost ½ reported experiencing no barriers. In order from most to least respondents, barriers identified were 'too many dogs off leash', 'not enough parking', 'lack of seating', 'no water bubblers', 'no shade', 'too crowded' and 'limited range of sporting fields/courts/facilities'.

Demographic workshop participants identified several barriers to participation. The most common were lack of time, too expensive, lack of transport (including active transport) and lack of awareness of what's available. Panel discussion at the community forum identified accessibility and promotion as key issues in the creation of inclusive places and spaces.

The following table provides a summary of key issues (in no particular order) resulting from the open space audit and community consultation, and provides context for the strategic framework and focus areas applied to development of the Needs Study.

Ref	Issue / opportunity	Observation
Theme four - Increasing participation		
4.1	Lack of recreation opportunities for youth	The open space audit undertaken as part of this Needs Study identified a limited number and range of recreation opportunities across the LGA for youth-specific activities (such as BMX, skate, basketball, multi-use games areas).
4.2	Universal design	Meeting the needs of a diverse community including older aged and people requiring assistance requires deliberate planning and design to ensure inclusion, rather than exclusion.
4.3	Inclusive/accessible playgrounds	There are only a small number of playgrounds that could be truly called inclusive. While it is understood that the topography of the LGA and other physical constraints limit many sites for all inclusive access, those that allow it should be appropriately developed to include accessible features.
4.3	Desire for more access to water	There is strong community desire for further access to water and the foreshore for small non-motorised craft as well as beach areas and harbour swimming opportunities.
4.4	Lack of awareness of opportunities	Many responses received during the engagement processes suggested that a lack of awareness of the recreation opportunities available in the LGA is an issue.
4.5	Better provision of facilities for females	There is a need to better cater for girls within the open space network. This includes gender neutral amenities blocks and changing rooms at sportsfields, as well as gathering places for socialisation in selected open spaces (such as in close proximity to shops and town centres).

Providing additional connectivity

Demographically selected workshop participants echoed open space audit findings that existing parks could be made more desirable with upgraded lighting, increased shade and accessible features including seating for groups and more BBQ areas.

5

Guiding principles

The following guiding principles are proposed in order to describe the over-arching intentions for the ongoing provision and management of open space and recreation for North Sydney Council.

Equitable Access and Inclusion

North Sydney Council will ensure that access and inclusion are key drivers underpinning the planning, design, and management of public open space, walk and cycle connections, and community engagement practices informing recreation and open space provision

Stewardship and Advocacy

North Sydney Council will understand and enact its role as steward for public open space for current and future generations, and advocate for its protection and enhancement to contribute to residents and visitors' quality of life and wellbeing

Evidence-Based Decision-Making

North Sydney Council bases its decisions on the best available knowledge, supported by a wide range of research, including demographic profiling, recreation participation trends, and the impacts of climate change

Appropriate Activities

Recreation opportunities are provided to public open space users that enhance public understanding, appreciation, enjoyment, and protection of the public open space network and that are appropriate to the purpose of each park. Essential services are provided while maintaining ecological and cultural heritage integrity and recognising the effects of incremental and cumulative impacts

Collaboration and Cooperation

North Sydney Council works with a broad range of state and local government authorities and agencies, the private sector, community groups, individuals, and First Nation Peoples' interests to achieve mutually compatible goals and objectives. These relationships support regional integration, partnerships, cooperative arrangements, formal agreements, and open dialogue with other interested parties, including adjacent or surrounding districts and communities

Accountability

North Sydney Council is accountable for the application of, and adherence to, these principles, for the development of the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study and for the development and implementation of the subsequent Open Space and Recreation Strategy. This accountability will be formally reviewed through Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.



6

Strategic directions and actions

North Sydney has an established network of public open spaces that provide diverse benefits to its community. It is undisputed that population growth, changing demographic profiles, increasing urban density, and the impacts of climate change are dynamic challenges that will demand focused and innovative solutions for public open space planning and provision.

The Study includes a range of recommendations to meet identified community demand. Implementation of the recommendations will require a firm commitment to address challenging issues and appropriate resourcing.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A high priority recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow while medium (in the next 5-10 years) and low priorities (in the next 10-15 years) are not as urgent.

While this Study provides Council with strategic direction for the provision of recreation and sport over the next 10 years, further information sharing, consultation and involvement of the community in decision making will be necessary.

Recommendations that do not directly reflect the outcomes of one or more engagement activities differ because the engagement outcomes were outweighed by other factors considered in developing the Needs Study including open space facility audit findings, background research, analysis of demographic information and trends, and on-ground observations.

Implementing the Study recommendations will enable North Sydney to make the most of its existing public open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and to explore opportunities to provide new open space. This will in turn improve our community's health and well-being, resilience and sense of connection, and assist in realising our desired outcomes for open space and recreation in North Sydney:

- A growing open space and recreation network that meets community needs, and
- An open space and recreation network that is used and appreciated by all the community.



Desired outcomes

North Sydney's vision for open space and recreation is twofold:

- A growing open space and recreation network that meets community needs, and
- An open space and recreation network that is used and appreciated by all the community.

To achieve these outcomes, 10 strategic directions have been identified.

OUTCOME 1

A growing open space and recreation network that meets community needs

Strategic Directions

- 1 Re-purpose or multi-purpose existing sport and recreation facilities to align with identified needs
- 2 Increase the capacity of existing sports sites
- 3 Provide new sports facilities
- 4 Re-imagine how we use our roads, car parks, civic spaces and 'surplus' public land
- 5 Seek to provide new open space

OUTCOME 2

An open space and recreation network that is used and appreciated by all the community

Strategic Directions

- 6 Promote access and inclusion in the design and refurbishment of public spaces
- 7 Provide activated recreational links
- 8 Provide a variety of spaces and activities to suit our diverse population
- 9 Provide well maintained public open spaces with high amenity value
- 10 Manage our public open spaces to ensure they are shared

OUTCOME 1

A growing open space and recreation network that meets community needs

Strategic Direction 1

Re-purpose or multi-purpose existing sport and recreation facilities to align with identified needs

ACTIONS

		Priorities
1.1	Prepare a feasibility study for the redevelopment of the tennis courts in Green Park as a multi-use facility accommodating hockey and/or netball matches and training	High
1.2	Investigate alternative uses of underused tennis courts in Green Park for netball and hockey training and emerging sports such as pickleball and paddle tennis	High
1.3	Carry out a detailed feasibility study at North Sydney Oval (including financial modeling) to determine whether the oval complex could accommodate additional community uses without significantly compromising its role as a venue for the playing and watching elite sport	High
1.4	Pursue opportunities to expand the size of Hume Street Park and to increase the quality and amenity offered by this open space to meet identified recreation needs	High/ Medium
1.5	Review future leasing terms and conditions of the North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre are flexible enough to allow multi-use of the Centre and to ensure equitable use	High/ Medium
1.6	Seek to provide additional sport and recreational facilities to meet identified community needs by developing a Masterplan for Cammeray Park including the golf course. Investigate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Providing a recreation park that offers a wider range of activities, particularly for children and youth including adventure and challenge playgrounds– Providing recreation facilities including BBQ and picnic areas, outdoor fitness equipment and space for events such as markets– Providing additional sports fields and courts to accommodate sports that have been identified as in demand and lacking fields and courts– Providing a new synthetic field to help maximise usage– Re-purposing or multi-purposing the golf course– Providing an indoor sport centre– Providing increased amenity for users including more tree cover and paths for walking, dog-walking and cycling	High
1.7	Explore opportunities to accommodate AFL (as a growing sport) in the North Sydney area	Medium

Strategic Direction 2

Increase the capacity of existing sports sites

ACTIONS

	Priorities
2.1 Investigate installation of new lighting at key, unlit sports sites (considering the latest technology to minimise light spill and environmental impacts), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Tunks Park sports fields– St Leonards Park netball courts	High/ Medium
2.2 Investigate additional capacity-building projects at selected sport sites, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Court and field redesign/re-marking at Primrose Park tennis courts and Green Park tennis courts– Improving drainage and irrigation and maintenance regimes at sports fields	High/ Medium
2.3 Continue the existing tenancy practices for sporting club use of open space such that Council retains control of sportsfields and courts and associated infrastructure	Ongoing
2.4 Continue to investigate non-traditional usage models at sports sites such as reducing game times and training off-site to increase capacity	High
2.5 Manage the hire and use of the North Sydney Oval and Mollie Drive Function Centre	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 3

Provide new sports facilities

ACTIONS

	Priorities
3.1 Investigate provision of additional active recreation facilities such as basketball ½ courts, outdoor table tennis tables and multi-use games areas in selected larger parks, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Anzac Park– Waverton Park– Bradfield Park– Brightmore Reserve	Medium
3.2 Consider potential locations for additional netball courts to address the lack of facilities for training and meet needs identified in open space analysis and engagement activities	Medium
3.3 Identify suitable locations to provide additional cricket practice nets around the LGA	Medium
3.4 Explore opportunities to transform suitable Council-owned land for community sport and recreation. Identified opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Redeveloping the Ridge Street car park to incorporate additional multiuse sport and recreation facilities	Medium/ Low
3.5 Continue to collaborate with neighbouring councils and NSROC to collectively plan for and deliver additional sports fields and courts	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 4

Re-imagine how we use our roads, car parks, civic spaces and 'surplus' public land

ACTIONS

		Priorities
4.1	Explore opportunities to transform suitable Council-owned land or facilities (for example car parks) for recreational purposes	Medium
4.2	Identify suitable local streets that could be closed off to vehicular traffic and transform them to offer a range of recreational activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pursue temporary road closures to create play streets, and act as venues for 'one-off' music and market events 	Medium
4.3	Investigate the design and cost feasibility of consolidating a new community centre, underground carparking and a significant new area of open space for Crows Nest on the site which currently accommodates the Holtermann Street carpark, Crows Nest Community Centre and plaza space	Medium
4.4	Continue negotiations with NSW Government agencies to deliver Miller Place in the North Sydney CBD	High
4.5	Commence negotiations with TfNSW to enable a 'highline' to be designed and delivered within the existing rail corridor along Lavender Bay	Medium
4.6	Design and deliver the North Sydney Post Office Plaza	Medium
4.7	Investigate opportunities to create more 'pedestrian-only' zones across the LGA, particularly in Crows Nest and Neutral Bay	Medium
4.8	Continue to lease land adjacent to the North Shore Railway line from Transport for NSW to provide low-key public open space	Ongoing
4.9	Pursue public/private partnerships to expand and create new public spaces, publicly accessible private spaces and through-site links through mechanisms like Planning Proposals and Voluntary Planning Agreements	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 5

Seek to provide new open space

ACTIONS

		Priorities
5.1	Lobby for appropriate commercial/private and government sites to accommodate new open space and recreation facilities. Opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Sub Base Platypus	Ongoing
5.2	Continue to collaborate with other government agencies to create, expand and activate public spaces. Recent examples of collaboration include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Transformation of Berrys Bay from working waterfront to public foreshore parklands– Acquisition of 1 Henry Lawson Avenue for public open space	Ongoing
5.3	Continue to collaborate with neighbouring councils and NSROC to collectively plan for and deliver additional open space and recreation facilities	Ongoing
5.4	Continue working in partnership with local schools and Schools Infrastructure NSW to enable community use of school facilities, after hours	Ongoing
5.5	Investigate funding options including developer contributions (local and State), voluntary planning agreements and special rate variations to assist to fund the gap in open space provision	Ongoing
5.6	When opportunities to acquire new land for open space arise, prioritise identified areas of greatest deficit, particularly Crows Nest, St Leonards, North Sydney and Wollstonecraft	Ongoing

OUTCOME 2

An open space and recreation network that is used and appreciated by all the community

Strategic Direction 6

Promote access and inclusion in the design and refurbishment of public spaces

ACTIONS

		Priorities
6.1	Ensure that all new playground, park and other open space area designs consider universal design principles	High
6.2	Increase the number of playgrounds and other recreational spaces and facilities that are fully inclusive or have numerous inclusive features and can be accessed and enjoyed by all members of our community	High/ Ongoing
6.3	Investigate opportunities for community expression in public spaces such as art works and other community based identity initiatives/projects	High/ Ongoing
6.4	Explore provision of gender-neutral ancillary facilities at key sports sites to encourage and cater for the growth in female participation in sports offered in the LGA. Identified sports sites include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Primrose Park- Tunks Park- Waverton Park- North Sydney Oval Complex	High/ Medium

Strategic Direction 7

Provide activated recreational links between public spaces within the North Sydney LGA and beyond

ACTIONS

		Priorities
7.1	Investigate ways to improve the visibility and public awareness of existing recreation links (eg clear and consistent signage, online interactive maps)	High/ Ongoing
7.2	Identify key locations along recreational routes that can provide additional opportunities for recreation such as outdoor fitness equipment, play equipment, table tennis tables, group seating areas etc	Medium
7.3	Explore ways to improve amenity along recreational routes by adding more seating and bottle refill stations, as well as public art and interpretive information	Medium
7.4	Identify key locations along recreational routes where new and/or upgraded lighting can be provided for pedestrians and cyclists	Medium
7.5	Identify key locations along recreational routes where additional landscaping (tree, shrub and groundcover planting) can create 'park streets' to enhance North Sydney's a green character, provide shade and a corridor for wildlife	Medium
7.6	Identify key locations along recreational routes where improvements to footpaths, walkways, flights of steps and cycleways will improve overall accessibility and connectivity	High
7.7	Investigate opportunities to use recreational routes for park runs, guided walks and other programmable activities through promotion	Medium
7.8	Identify and assess opportunities to extend public open space along the North Sydney harbour foreshore as they arise	Ongoing

Strategic Direction 8

Provide a variety of spaces and activities to suit our diverse population

ACTIONS

		Priorities
8.1	Upgrade Milson Park playground and provide more diverse play opportunities for children of all ages	High
8.2	Increase the number of adventure and challenge playgrounds in North Sydney that cater for older children. Potential identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bradfield Park – Brightmore Reserve – Waverton Park – Anzac Park 	Medium
8.3	Investigate provision of additional facilities in parks and reserves including shelter, shade, water fountains, and seating for groups to gather to increase amenity and usability. Potential identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weaver Park – Hume Street Park – Green Park – Anzac Park – Primrose Park – Cremorne Reserve 	High/ Ongoing
8.4	Investigate provision of an additional harbour swimming site in the North Sydney LGA. Identified opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A waterfront site on the border of Badangi and Berry Island Reserves, however, other potential sites should also be investigated to determine the most suitable site 	Low
8.5	Increase provision of small water craft storage sites. Identified potential locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Waverton Park – Berry Island Reserve – Cremorne Reserve (east) – Hayes Street Boardwalk (western end) – Kurraba Reserve (additional) – Anderson Park 	High/ Medium
8.6	Maintain pool facilities and provide a range of swimming and recreational programs at the North Sydney Olympic Pool (NSOP) facility	High
8.7	Provide a range of gym and fitness services at the North Sydney Olympic Pool (NSOP) facility	High
8.8	Engage appropriately with the First Nations community during planning, design, and construction of significant new work in public open spaces	Ongoing
8.9	Increase community awareness of sport and recreation facilities and opportunities in North Sydney by providing up-to-date, easy to find and user-friendly information	High

Strategic Direction 9

Provide well-maintained public open spaces with high amenity value

ACTIONS

		Priorities
9.1	Manage and maintain Council's parks, gardens, reserves, streetscapes and foreshore areas including MacCallum Pool and Hayes Street Beach	Ongoing
9.2	Manage tree planning, planting, maintenance, and preservation	Ongoing
9.3	Manage Council's bushland areas. This includes developing and implementing bush care plans and projects, as well as managing the community nursery	Ongoing
9.4	Maintain Council's playing fields and turf within Milson Park, Civic Park, St Leonards Park, Clark Park and Bradfield Park	Ongoing
9.5	Upgrade high use parks through the provision of improved drainage and irrigation to improve resilience	Ongoing
9.6	Refurbish facilities at the North Sydney Oval complex for the benefit of all users (clubs and the community)	High/ Medium

Strategic Direction 10

Manage our public spaces to ensure they are shared

ACTIONS

		Priorities
10.1	Manage the hire and use of Council spaces and places, including buildings, facilities, civic spaces, parks, reserves and sports fields	Ongoing
10.2	<p>Prepare a policy to ensure that commercial use of public open space, particularly prime harbour foreshore parks, does not preclude general recreational use by the community</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – use of open space by commercial operators staging events and activities of various sizes and levels of complexity – Appropriate numbers of people who can gather in a park without a permit (current limit is 60) – Limiting the number of bookings in each park. Particularly consider the prime harbour foreshore parks that receive extremely high levels of visitation due to their location. Blues Point Reserve, Lavender Bay Parklands, Dr Mary Booth Lookout and Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve are examples of parks often overrun with multiple events – Ensuring relevant parks are 'rested' as needed to allow time for maintenance and recovery. – Enforcement requirements 	High
10.3	Prepare a policy for use of public open space in North Sydney by personal trainers	High
10.4	Investigate developing an appropriate model for use and individual user agreements with schools who use North Sydney's parks for general recreation and informal sports and games	High
10.5	Maintain current arrangements regarding dog off-leash areas in North Sydney and review enforcement as required, particularly in bushland areas	Ongoing
10.6	Investigate the feasibility of on-site signage or a web-based application to indicate when sports facilities are booked, facilitating the identification of available spaces for casual sports/users	High
10.7	Assess opportunities to simplify sport facility bookings through user friendly digital platforms, so groups can book and use these spaces easily	High

Appendix A

North Sydney open space inventory

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Suburb</i>	<i>Open Space Type</i>	<i>Core / Non-core</i>	<i>Ownership</i>
Anzac Avenue Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Anzac Park	Cammeray	Recreation	Core	Crown
Bellevue Park	Cammeray	Other	Non-core	NSC
Bellevue Street Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Cammeray Park	Cammeray	Sport	Core	Crown
Cammeray Park	Cammeray	Specialised sport	Non-core	Crown
Colin Street Road Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Darby Gardens	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
East Avenue Road Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Echo Street Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Ellis Lookout	Cammeray	Recreation	Core	NSC
Folly Point Reserve	Cammeray	Recreation	Core	NSC
Four Figs Park	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Fred Hutley Reserve	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Green Park	Cammeray	Recreation	Core	NSC
Hamilton Reserve	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Jeaffreson Jackson Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Johnstone Avenue Road Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Judith Ambler Reserve	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Lambert Street Gardens	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Miller Street Gardens	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Mortlock Reserve	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
North Avenue Road Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Pine Street/Arkland Street Reserve	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Primrose Park	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Suspension Bridge Reserve	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Tiley Street Road Closure	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Tunks Park	Cammeray	Sport	Core	Crown
Tunks Park	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Tunks Park	Cammeray	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Warringa Road Road Closure	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Weringa Avenue Road Reserve	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Wilson Street	Cammeray	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Brightmore Reserve	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	Crown
Brightmore Reserve	Cremorne	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Brothers Memorial Reserve	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Cremorne Garden Plaza	Cremorne	Civic	Non-core	NSC
Grasmere Children's Park	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC

Park Name	Suburb	Open Space Type	Core / Non-core	Ownership
Grasmere Reserve	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Guthrie Avenue Road Reserve	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Langley Place	Cremorne	Civic	Non-core	NSC
Little Young Street Road Closure	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Lloyd Avenue Reserve	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Lodge Road Island	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Lodge Road Playground	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Lodge Road Road Reserve	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Paling Street Road Closure	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Primrose Park	Cremorne	Sport	Core	Crown
Primrose Park	Cremorne	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Primrose Park Tennis	Cremorne	Specialised sport	Non-core	Crown
Prospect Avenue Road Reserve	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Richmond/Tobruk Pedestrian Link	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Ryries Parade Road Closure	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Samora Avenue Road Closure	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Shellbank Reserve	Cremorne	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Tobruk Avenue Lookout	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Watersleigh Park	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Weaver Park	Cremorne	Recreation	Core	NSC
Winnie Street Laneway Reserve	Cremorne	Other	Non-core	NSC
Wonga Road Reserve	Cremorne	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Wyong Road Open Space	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Young Street/Earle Street Island	Cremorne	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Boyle Street Road Closure	Cremorne Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Bromley Avenue Road Reserve	Cremorne Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Cremorne Reserve	Cremorne Point	Recreation	Core	Crown
Cremorne Reserve	Cremorne Point	Recreation	Core	Crown
Cremorne Reserve	Cremorne Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	Crown
Cremorne Reserve	Cremorne Point	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Cremorne Reserve	Cremorne Point	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Glenferrie Avenue Road Reserve	Cremorne Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Lower Spofforth Walk (& Hunts Lookout)	Cremorne Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Prior Avenue Reserve	Cremorne Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Sirius Street Playground	Cremorne Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Bernard Lane Road Closure	Crows Nest	Other	Non-core	NSC
Cahill Playground	Crows Nest	Recreation	Core	NSC
Ernest Place	Crows Nest	Civic	Non-core	NSC
Hayberry Street Road Closure	Crows Nest	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Hume Street Park	Crows Nest	Recreation	Core	NSC
Hume Street Park Extension	Crows Nest	Civic	Non-core	NSC
North Sydney Indoor Centre	Crows Nest	Specialised sport	Non-core	NSC
St Thomas' Rest Park	Crows Nest	Recreation	Core	NSC
Beulah Street Reserve	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Colindia Reserve	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Copes Lookout	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Dr Mary Booth Lookout	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC

Park Name	Suburb	Open Space Type	Core / Non-core	Ownership
Lady Gowrie Lookout	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Milson Park	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	Crown
Miss Gladys Carey Reserve	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Robertson Lane Road Closure	Kirribilli	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Stanton Lookout	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Upper Pitt Street Pedestrian Link	Kirribilli	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Winslow Lane Road Closure	Kirribilli	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Winslow Street Road Closure	Kirribilli	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Wrixton Park	Kirribilli	Recreation	Core	NSC
Hodgson Lookout	Kurraba Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Honda Road Reserve	Kurraba Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Kurraba Reserve	Kurraba Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Kurraba Wharf Reserve	Kurraba Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Neutral Bay Foreshore	Kurraba Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Spains Wharf Road Reserve	Kurraba Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Arthur Street	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Bob Gordon Reserve	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Clark Park	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	Crown/NSC
Lavender Bay Foreshore	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	Crown
Quibaree Park	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
St Peters Park	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Walker Street Road Reserve	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Watt Park	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Wendys Garden	Lavender Bay	Recreation	Core	SRA/Lease to NSC
Blues Point Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	Crown
Boatbuilders Walk	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
David Earle Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Dowling Street Road Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
East Crescent Street Lookout	McMahons Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
French Street Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Henry Lawson Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
John Street Open Space	McMahons Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Lloyd Rees Lookout	McMahons Point	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Mary French Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Mil Mil Street Road Reserve	McMahons Point	Other	Non-core	NSC
Mitchell Street Park	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Nottingham Street Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
O'Briens Gardens	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Sawmillers Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Victoria Street Playground	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Victoria/Mitchell Street Junction	McMahons Point	Other	Non-core	NSC
West Crescent Street Road Reserve	McMahons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
Bradfield Park	Milsons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC/RTA
Hopkins Park	Milsons Point	Recreation	Core	NSC
North Sydney Olympic Pool	Milsons Point	Specialised sport	Non-core	Crown
Olympic Park	Milsons Point	Specialised sport	Non-core	Crown
Anderson Park	Neutral Bay	Sport	Core	Crown
Anderson Street Road Closure	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Barry Street Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC

Park Name	Suburb	Open Space Type	Core / Non-core	Ownership
Ben Boyd Road Park	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Bydown Street Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Cheal Park	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Clark Road Island	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Colindia Avenue Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Other	Non-core	NSC
Forsyth Park	Neutral Bay	Sport	Core	NSC
Forsyth Park	Neutral Bay	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Harriette Street Road Closure	Neutral Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Hayes Street Foreshore	Neutral Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Highview Avenue Pedestrian Link	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Holdsworth Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Ilbery Park	Neutral Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Kenneth Bolton Lookout	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Manns Avenue Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
May Gibbs Place	Neutral Bay	Civic	Non-core	NSC
McIntosh Lane Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Merlin Street Reserve	Neutral Bay	Other	Non-core	NSC
Neutral Street Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Phillips Street Playground	Neutral Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Powell Street Open Space	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Reserve Street Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Rose Avenue Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Spruson Street Road Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Warringa Park	Neutral Bay	Recreation	Core	NSC
Westleigh Lane Road Closure	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Westleigh Street Road Closure	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Willow Tree Park	Neutral Bay	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Wyagdon Street Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Wyagdon/Alfred Street North Reserve	Neutral Bay	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Ancrum Street Reserve	North Sydney	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Bank Reserve	North Sydney	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Browns Lane Road Reserve	North Sydney	Other	Non-core	NSC
Don Bank Museum Gardens	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	NSC
Doris Fitton Park	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	NSC
Doris Street Reserve	North Sydney	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Gannura Reserve	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	NSC
Kesterton Park	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	NSC
Lord Street Road Reserve	North Sydney	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Margaret Street Road Reserve	North Sydney	Other	Non-core	NSC
Mount Street Plaza	North Sydney	Civic	Non-core	NSC
Oberon Park	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	Crown
Ridge Street Road Closure	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	NSC
Ridge Street Tennis Centre	North Sydney	Specialised sport	Non-core	NSC
Riley Street Road Closure	North Sydney	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
St Leonards Bowls Club	North Sydney	Specialised sport	Non-core	Crown
St Leonards Park	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	Crown
St Leonards Park	North Sydney	Sport	Core	Crown
Sub Base Platypus Site Open Space	North Sydney	Other	Non-core	Harbour Trust

Park Name	Suburb	Open Space Type	Core / Non-core	Ownership
Ted Mack Civic Park	North Sydney	Recreation	Core	NSC
Toongarah Road Road Reserve	North Sydney	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Christie Street Reserve	St Leonards	Civic	Non-core	Private/Lease to NSC
Mitchell Street Plaza	St Leonards	Civic	Non-core	NSC
Balls Head Reserve	Waverton	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Bay Road Reserve	Waverton	Recreation	Core	NSC
Carradah Park	Waverton	Recreation	Core	NSC
Carradah Park	Waverton	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Clifton Street Road Reserve	Waverton	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Coal Loader Parklands	Waverton	Recreation	Core	Crown
Euroka Street Playground	Waverton	Recreation	Core	NSC
King Street Road Reserve	Waverton	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Sugar Works Reserve	Waverton	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Sugar Works Reserve	Waverton	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Tye Park	Waverton	Recreation	Core	NSC
Wakelin Reserve	Waverton	Other	Non-core	SRA/Lease to NSC
Waverton Park	Waverton	Recreation	Core	Crown
Waverton Park	Waverton	Recreation	Core	Crown
Waverton Park	Waverton	Sport	Core	Crown
Waverton Park	Waverton	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Waverton Park (includes Merrett Playground)	Waverton	Recreation	Core	Crown
Whatmore Lane Reserve	Waverton	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Will Ashton Lookout	Waverton	Recreation	Core	NSC
Will Ashton Lookout	Waverton	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Woolcott Street Open Space	Waverton	Other	Non-core	NSC
Badangi Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Balfour Street Park	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	SRA/Lease to NSC
Berry Island Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	Crown
Berry Island Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	Crown
Berry Island Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Brennan Park	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	NSC
Crows Nest Uniting Church Park	Wollstonecraft	Civic	Non-core	Private/Lease to NSC
Gore Cove Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	Crown
Harry Howard Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Lithgow Street Road Closure	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	NSC
Mater Gardens	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	NSC
Morton Lane Road Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Nicholson Street Road Closure	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Oyster Cove Reserve	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
River Road Pedestrian Link	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Shirley Road Pedestrian Link	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Sinclair Street Pedestrian Link	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Sinclair Street Rose Garden	Wollstonecraft	Access and amenity	Non-core	NSC
Smoothey Park	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	NSC
Smoothey Park	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Walumetta Park	Wollstonecraft	Bushland	Non-core	NSC
Wollstonecraft Railway Station Park	Wollstonecraft	Recreation	Core	SRA/Lease to NSC

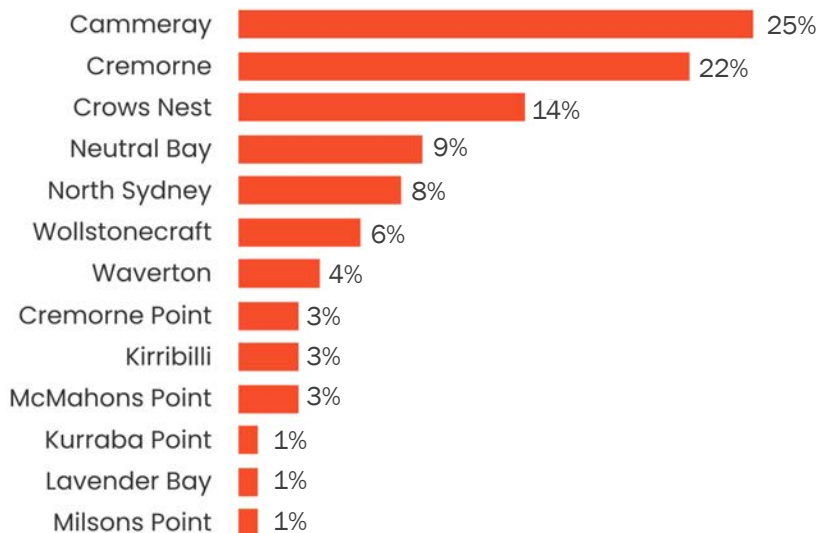
Appendix B

Engagement outcomes

To inform the development of the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study, community and user group views were sought through various methods, including a community survey, a user group survey, and user group drop-in sessions. A summary of the consultation feedback is provided below.

Community survey

A link to the online survey was distributed via Council's Your Say website as well as emailed directly to all known clubs, organisation and user groups of open space within North Sydney. Survey responses were received from a cross-section of residents living in:

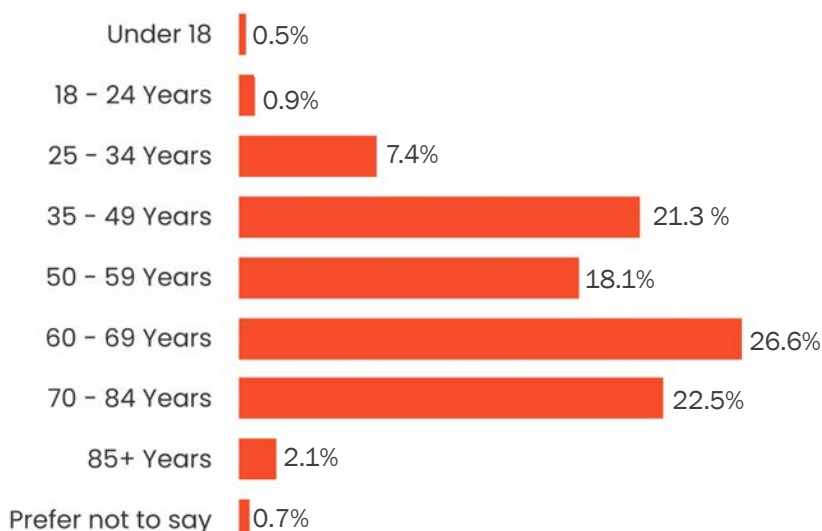


This is a reasonable distribution of responses across the LGA.

Please note that the Cammeray figures were likely influenced by the large number of golf club respondents.

Profile of respondents

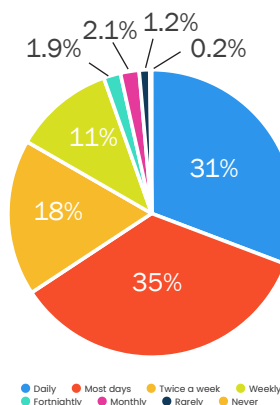
The survey was voluntarily answered by approximately 432 residents, just over 57% of respondents were male and 43% were female. The remainder either preferred not to say, or were indeterminate. The age distribution of respondents is provided in the graph below:



It is common for community survey respondents to be dominated by older age groups, however this sample is largely representative of the North Sydney community.

Frequency of visitation

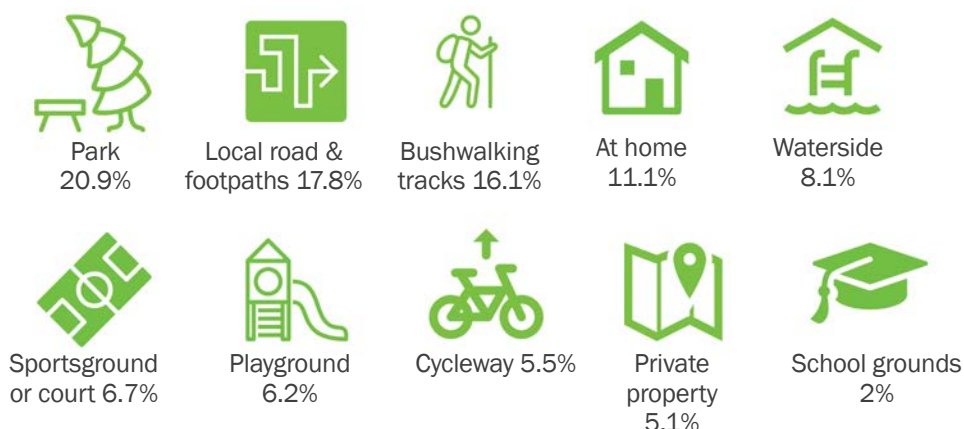
Survey respondents were asked how often they visited open space and recreation facilities.



The high frequency of visitation (two thirds (66%) daily/most days) demonstrates an active community and further reinforces the importance of open space and recreation to residents.

Popular open spaces and recreation facilities used (outdoor)

When asked about the open spaces and facilities where they liked to recreate, survey respondents identified the following:



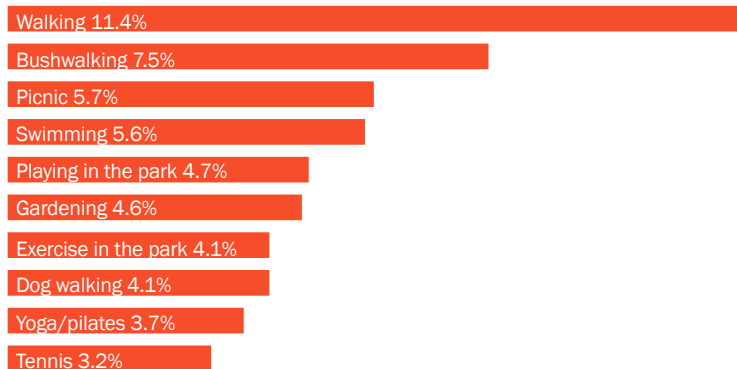
Given the location of North Sydney and its natural features, not surprising there is a good spread of popularity across parks, bushwalking, footpaths and waterside. Interestingly low cycling number, but possibly a reflection on traffic, topography and physical barriers (highways, tunnels, etc).

Golf considerations

Of the 432 community survey responses received, approximately 260 were completed by golf club members. We are aware of the pressures faced by the Cammeray Golf Course and there appears to be a concerted effort by the club to participate in this survey. This large number of responses by golf club members provides an inflated picture of participation in the sport compared to all other sports provided within the LGA. Whilst the needs of Golf participants is acknowledged, the numbers provided for in the following section have been taken from the NSW State participation in the sport (AusPlay October 2023) to provide a more realistic picture of participation in the sport.

Participation in recreation activities (other than sport)

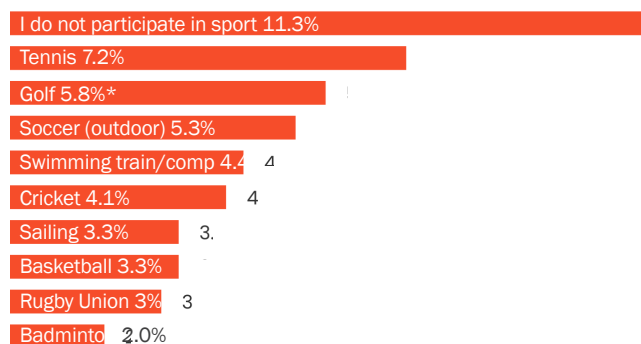
The figure below shows the top ten most popular recreation activities (not organised sport) selected by survey respondents.



These results are consistent with state and national participation in the most popular activities.

Participation in Sport

The figure below shows the top ten most popular organised sports participated in by survey respondents.



Other sports participated in by respondents included:

- ☐ Netball 1.7%
- ☐ AFL 1.5%
- ☐ Rugby League 1.2%.

These are quite different from the State participation figures in the 10 most popular sports, with most notable differences being in tennis (5% higher than state average), swimming (3% higher than state average).

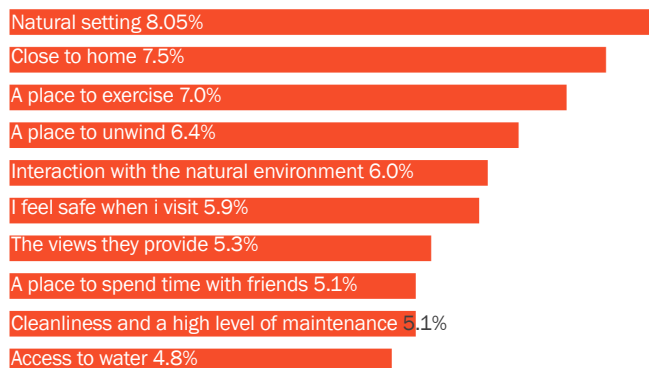
<input type="checkbox"/> Football (soccer)	6.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf	5.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis	2.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Netball	2.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Cricket	1.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Touch football	1.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	1.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball	1.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Rugby league	1.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Australian football	1.2

Dog ownership

When asked about if they owned a dog, 36% of survey respondents said yes, with 64% reporting they do not own a dog. This figure is surprisingly lower than expected following observations during facility audit and the higher number of dogs visible.

Top ten open space values

A comprehensive list of open space values were provided and respondents were asked to select all that applied to them. The results are provided in the 10 below and reflect broad trends from research across Australia, particularly appreciation of nature and the opportunity to connect with other people, that use of public open space can provide. The top ten responses are provided in the graph below:

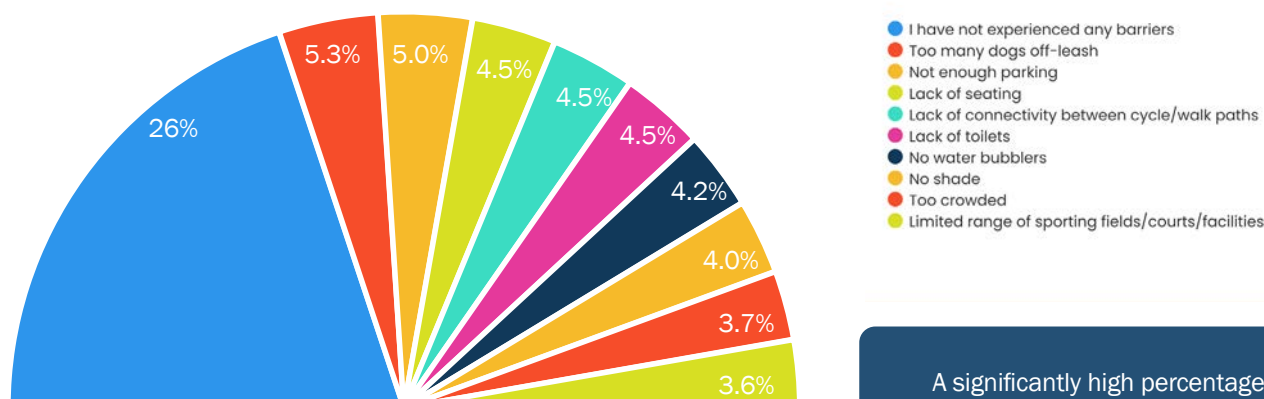


Facility audits confirmed that Council is doing very well catering for all of the top ten open space values of the community, especially the top four:

- ☐ Natural setting (trees, turf, etc)
- ☐ Close to home (distribution)
- ☐ A place to exercise (features in parks)
- ☐ A place to unwind (passive recreation settings).

Barriers to using parks and sport facilities

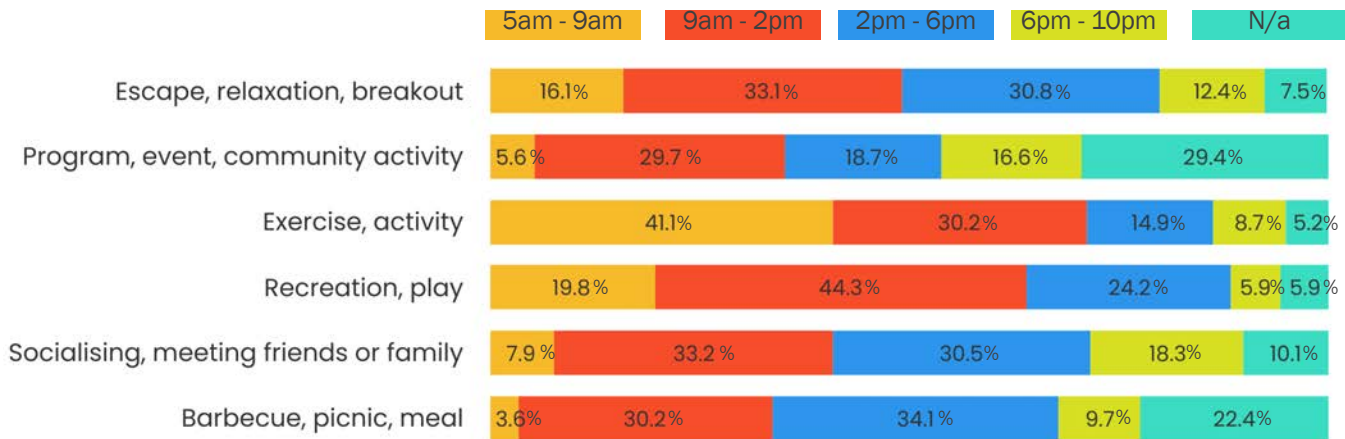
The question was posed relating to potential barriers to using parks and sport facilities within the North Sydney LGA. The top ten barriers identified are provided in the graph below. Overwhelmingly, survey respondents reported not experiencing any barriers (26%).



A significantly high percentage indicating that they experienced no barriers. This is quite rare for such community surveys across Australia, especially in metropolitan areas - a great result!

Time of visits to open space for various activities

When asked about the time users visited open spaces for various activities, the survey respondents reported the following:



While the peak use times are expected (9am-2pm and 2pm-6pm), the significantly lower use after 6pm may reflect the need to investigate the installation of appropriate lighting within parks and surrounds.

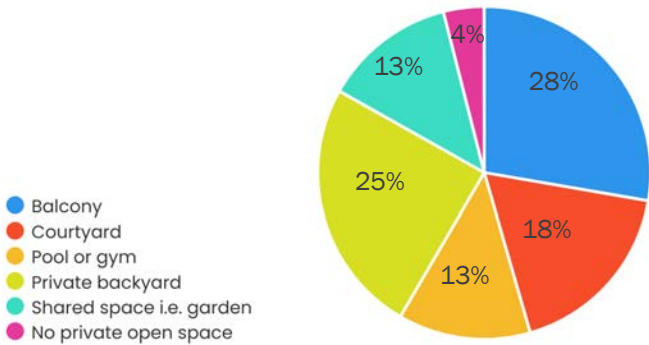
Housing type

Survey respondents were asked about the type of housing they lived in, in order to assess their access to private open space.



Private open space

In addition to the housing type they live in, respondents provided details on the private open spaces available to them:



Again, as expected, the majority of residents live in high density housing with very limited private open space (e.g. back or front yards). This results in a significant reliance on public open space, reflected by previous responses to the survey.

Favourite places to play and relax in the North Sydney LGA

Survey respondents were asked about their favourite places to play and relax. The most popular answers are listed below:

- ☐ Berry Island Track
- ☐ Primrose Park
- ☐ North Sydney Olympic Pool
- ☐ Cremorne Point
- ☐ St Thomas Rest Park
- ☐ Balls Head including the Coal Loader
- ☐ St Leonards Park
- ☐ Brennan Park
- ☐ Green Park
- ☐ Anderson Park
- ☐ Harbourside Walk
- ☐ Waverton Park
- ☐ Bush walking tracks
- ☐ Milsons Park
- ☐ Wendy Whiteleys Secret Garden.

Open spaces to be upgraded within the North Sydney LGA

Survey respondents were asked to identify any open spaces that they would like to see upgraded within the LGA. A number of respondents answers are listed below:

- ☐ St Thomas Rest Park - ground maintenance (new turf), planting, seating and tables. Its looking tired
- ☐ St Leonards Park - lighting and pathways
- ☐ Cycling infrastructure
 - connectivity to the north
 - connection from Neutral Bay / Cammeray to Harbour Bridge for both for recreation and commuting
 - ramp to Harbour bridge on Milsons Point side
- ☐ Primrose Park - female friendly change facilities, all-weather pitch
- ☐ Open spaces to host events and bring the community together
- ☐ Improvement of pathways, lighting, seating and picnic tables generally
- ☐ Like to see another synthetic sports ground
- ☐ Cremorne Point - more access to waters edge
- ☐ More native bushland
- ☐ Waverton - clean up of the harbour and an area to be open to the public for swimming
- ☐ Better access to indoor courts
- ☐ Green Park - playground to be more accessible
- ☐ Lighting at Tunks Park
- ☐ Kayak launch facility at Primrose Park
- ☐ Spaces that are dog free
- ☐ Expand basketball courts at St Leonards
- ☐ Additional cricket nets
- ☐ Land Bridge and green space canopy over the Warringah Freeway to reconnect ANZAC Park with Cammeray Park
- ☐ Fenced dog off-leash area.

User group survey

A link to the user group survey was emailed to all known sport, recreation and community clubs and organisations, as well as all known formal user groups of North Sydney open space. Whilst 14 responses were received from user groups, some of these were duplicate from the same club. A summary of the responses are provided below. The section of responses that relate to individual improvement of individual facilities has been kept for use in the Discussion Paper as not entirely relevant here.

Do you use any sports or recreation venues outside of the North Sydney LGA?

Overwhelmingly a high percentage (10 out of 14 or 71%) reported to using facilities outside of the LGA. This is no surprise given the manner with which inner-Sydney Councils provide sport and recreation facilities as well as the close proximity of neighbouring council's and their facilities.

In the next 3 years, do you expect your membership to increase/decrease?

8 out of 14 (57%) expect membership to increase. If this does occur (even to a lesser extent than club's expect), the maintenance and management of facilities may need to be reviewed in order to cater for increased use. This is due to the fact that it is highly unlikely that any additional sports reserves will become available for such use.

Please indicate if the home facilities used by your organisation are suitable for your requirements.

7 of the 9 (applicable) responses (78%) indicated that the facilities they utilised were suitable for their requirements.

Condition of outdoor playing fields

Every applicable response indicated that the condition of playing fields was suitable for their needs, with none indicating that they were not.

Lighting

6 out of 7 applicable responses (87%) indicated lighting was suitable at their facility.

Other facilities deemed suitable (in addition to the above):

- ☐ public toilets, gender appropriate facilities, canteen/kiosk facilities, site accessibility, car parking, maintenance of buildings, seating/shade/water, access to public transport,

Facilities with lower satisfaction levels (but still not significant):

- ☐ change facilities - 3 out of 9 applicable responses (33%) said change facilities were not suitable
- ☐ storage facilities - 4 out of 10 applicable responses (40%) said storage was not suitable
- ☐ disability accessibility - 4 out of 12 responses ((33%) said disability accessibility was not suitable.

The only issue showing any level of concern (but still low at 21% of responses) was:

- ☐ "the lack of facilities to accommodate the needs of the club (lack of fields/courts for existing members)".

Summary of survey outcomes:

- ☐ generally there is a very high level of satisfaction with sporting facilities
- ☐ there is a very high level of satisfaction with the range of sporting infrastructure available and its suitability for the delivery of their respective sports
- ☐ even in those areas where a slightly lower level of satisfaction was indicated, it wasn't significantly lower
- ☐ all of these satisfaction levels are generally higher than usually indicated by sports clubs in similar surveys, especially in metropolitan LGA's where expectations are usually higher.

User group drop-in sessions

In order to provide additional opportunities for user groups to provide input into the Study, a drop-in session was held with all known user groups of open space invited to attend. There were eight representatives from clubs, groups and organisations who attended the drop-in sessions. Whilst the majority of the input received related to individual open spaces or facilities, a summary is provided below.

User groups represented at the drop-in were:

- ☐ Waverton Hub
- ☐ North Sydney Junior Rugby (Pirates)
- ☐ North Sydney Badminton Club
- ☐ Cammeray Golf Club
- ☐ Northern Suburbs Football Association
- ☐ Kirribilli Boules Club
- ☐ North Sydney District Cricket Club
- ☐ North Sydney Cricket.

Points expressed by the club representatives include:

- ☐ Need for access to community facilities to run programs
- ☐ Need for female-friendly change facilities
- ☐ Desire for new synthetic field
- ☐ Lack of lighting is restricting use of some fields
- ☐ Need for alternate fields or change in game scheduling to accommodate play whilst fields are being renovated
- ☐ Access to indoor courts for sports other than basketball
- ☐ Boules require use of a temporary (and maybe a longer-term) space due to the loss of their piste for the cycleway construction
- ☐ Improvements required to some facilities - master planning needed at Anderson Park, Tunks Park and St Leonards
- ☐ Desire for synthetic nets
- ☐ Moveable nets for training
- ☐ Additional field space to accommodate female teams.

Sport and Recreation Reference Group

Key discussions at the Sport and Recreation Reference Group were as follows:

- ☐ Hockey is in need of a home within the North Sydney LGA. They currently train indoors and on tennis courts where available
- ☐ Netball is also in need of a home within the LGA
- ☐ Drainage at Primrose Park is an issue
- ☐ Discussions were held around the availability of the clubrooms at the North Sydney Oval for local clubs use
- ☐ Additional use of Bon Andrews Oval and North Sydney Oval by Juniors is sought (lower impact) to accommodate demand
- ☐ There is a conflict with users of watercraft during peak times including the weekends
- ☐ There is a lack of launching facilities for small watercraft at Waverton
- ☐ Consideration of lighting is important within this Needs Study as an opportunity to increase hours of use
- ☐ Tunks Park offers the opportunity for additional use in Winter (not just for junior soccer)
- ☐ Green Park/Cammeray Tennis courts may provide an opportunity for conversion to meet the needs to hockey or netball
- ☐ Need to consider roof tops, what opportunities exist?

Councillor workshop

A briefing/workshop was held with Councillors on the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study in early December 2023. A summary of the key discussion points are provided below.

- ☐ It will important to define open space as 'useable' open space. Other areas that are technically open space (e.g small street closures etc) add to the visual amenity of North Sydney but do not provide an option for recreation and use
- ☐ School use of parks has a huge impact on other park users and the condition of these parks
- ☐ Youth facilities can be contentious - it was noted that the existing skate park was extremely divisive when built 10+ years ago, despite being well away from most residences
- ☐ The distribution of open space is limited in certain areas such as Crows Nest, St Leonards and Neutral Bay
- ☐ The current limit of gatherings of up to 60 people not requiring a permit/booking can greatly restrict access by the general public
- ☐ We are a generous Council, but we are going to have to become less generous
- ☐ Private operators making a profit from the use of open space is an issue (e.g. kayaking businesses)
- ☐ Personal trainers are also an issue - tying up fitness stations, excluding casual and using amplified music, shouting, grunting. None of this activity is consistent with Council's Code of Conduct for fitness trainers, but that is not really enforced – it is hard to do this
- ☐ Private school use of public parks is a growing problem through their use of parks as their playground at lunch and recess. This will only get worse with another school opening (with an expected 1,500 students)
- ☐ The value of Cammeray Park's open space to the existing and future population must be considered
- ☐ 'Single use' sport facilities are hard to accept these days. Courts (including tennis courts, not just basketball/netball courts) and fields should be used for multiple purposes
- ☐ There is general acceptance that there is a high level of use of North Sydney parks by people from outside North Sydney
- ☐ The community would love another Harbour Pool
- ☐ Lighting will make land more useable. Consider night lighting of sports fields (Tunks is currently unlit). There are associated problems with noise at nightt ime generated by people playing sport/training, but it may be time to test night lighting again with the community as an option
- ☐ The Study should consider non-traditional options such as utilising Council-owned car parks for recreation uses (such as pickleball or other courts)
- ☐ Some 'out-of-the-box' ideas for sites on the Waverton Peninsula at Berry's Bay were devised by University students and these should be reviewed.

Demographically selected workshop

A group of 60 demographically selected residents participated in a facilitated workshop on topics derived from the Open Space Discussion Paper.

Theme one - dealing with our open space deficit

1.1 Does the quality and/or location of the available open space compensate somewhat for the deficiency in quantity? If not, what types of open space are you missing?

While the quality of existing open spaces was recognised, attendees noted a range of open space types and facilities they felt would benefit the community.

By far the most popular facilities/improvements noted were improved lighting, more barbecue areas and increased shaded seating areas.

Other responses included:

- ☐ improved public toilet access and cleanliness
- ☐ utilising rooftops of buildings and car parks
- ☐ better access through improvements to the condition of stairs
- ☐ spaces should be more multi-use in nature
- ☐ more community gardens and outdoor exercise equipment are needed
- ☐ increased options for teens are needed
- ☐ improved access to water is needed.

1.2 Do you know of any non-council owned facilities (e.g. schools, commercial venues) or under-utilised community spaces (e.g. large indoor spaces, car parks) that could be used or re-purposed for open space and recreation?

A variety of non-council facilities were suggested as possible alternatives for the provision of open space and recreation opportunities.

Using school facilities was easily the most common suggestion while other suggested facilities included:

- ☐ corporate spaces
- ☐ car parks in general
- ☐ increased utilisation of the Platypus Centre
- ☐ Cammeray golf course
- ☐ Church halls and community centres
- ☐ amphitheatre stages.

1.3 Would you be open to using some of our roads and/or carparks as additional open space either temporarily (e.g. for play streets) or permanently?

While the majority of attendees indicated they would be happy for roads and/or car parks to be utilised for open space, some concerns/possible issues (such as the noise created) were identified.

Other relevant thoughts included that this initiative

would best be for temporary use and only in spaces where such a use 'makes sense'. More pedestrian-only zones across the LGA was also suggested.

Particular areas where it was thought the most benefit would be achieved included Crows Nest and Neutral Bay.

Community and neighbourhood events (including music and markets) were activities that were suggested for closed roads/cul de sacs.

Theme two - Management and use of our open space

2.1 Should Council seek more contributions (fees, permits, restrictions on use) from the following users:

- personal trainers
- commercial operators e.g. curated picnics
- schools
- large groups
- commercial dog walkers

There was an over-whelming response to seek contributions from those using open space as a business, especially personal trainers and commercial operators.

However, it was noted by some that fees should only apply to those based outside the LGA, and that a tiered system could be applied (from small businesses to large corporations).

It was believed by most that fees and the application of a permit/licence system would also address issues such as cleaning and maintenance of the sites being used. Large group numbers being capped to a smaller number was also identified as a possible solution.

Some also suggested that schools should also contribute for their use, and this could take the form of contra arrangements where the schools made their facilities available for community use outside normal school use hours.

2.2 Should we consider re-purposing or multi-purposing Cammeray Park to allow greater community use and/or other forms of recreation?

The majority of responses felt strongly that the golf course be better utilised for community purposes.

The most common alternate use suggested was a recreation park providing a wider range of activities including those for children, sports fields, and barbecue/picnic facilities.

There was also strong support to increase trees over the site and provide general open spaces with walking/cycling paths.

Other suggestions included an indoor sport/recreation building, outdoor gyms and market space.

There was one note that the course provided low cost golf.

Theme three - providing opportunities for organised sport

3.1 What options would you support to increase the capacity of existing sporting fields? I.e.

- lighting
- synthetic playing surfaces
- any other ideas

The most common suggestion provided here was improved lighting to the sporting fields.

Other popular ideas included use of synthetic and multi-purpose fields, improved field drainage, more indoor sport courts and the use of car park rooftops.

3.2 Should Council consider re-purposing the North Sydney Oval from an elite facility to wider community sporting use? Why?

Opinion was evenly split between leaving the site as it is and allowing more community use, albeit with that community use focussed on other areas than the actual North Sydney Oval.

While many thought it could be both, concerns were raised that the site would lose its quality and 'special' nature of over-used and not be suitable for elite sport if used more for community activities.

The historic and iconic nature of the site was also noted.

Theme three - Increasing participation

4.1 What prevents you, or someone you know, from participating more regularly in sport and recreation activities? I.e. mobility, gender, age, cost etc

The most common reasons preventing participation were:

- ☐ lack of time
- ☐ too expensive
- ☐ lack of transport (including active transport access)
- ☐ lack of awareness of what's available.

Other responses of note included activities not available in the LGA, safety concerns and being too old.

4.2 What do you think can be done to make our open space areas (including the foreshore) more accessible to everyone?

A wide variety responses were recorded with the most popular suggestions being:

- ☐ improved steps/access points
- ☐ increased seats, shade and water bubblers
- ☐ improved walking paths (with disability access)
- ☐ improved public toilets.

In addition, other suggestions included better promotion of what's available, outdoor fitness equipment, the involvement of community groups/ volunteers and improved public transport.

Community survey - Discussion Paper

A community survey was developed in order to gain input on the Discussion paper. 240 responses were received by interested community members.

A high proportion of responses were received from the pickleball and badminton communities due to their lack of current venues to play in.

A summary of the survey outcomes are included below:

66.7% of responses found lack of open space an issue

With a ranking of the number one type of open space that is missing:

- ☐ 59 recreational parks (25%)
- ☐ 38 specialised sports parks (16%)
- ☐ 24 bushland (10%)
- ☐ 19 civic space (8%)
- ☐ 14 mentioned sports parks (6%)

The vast majority though large groups (including schools) should contribute to ongoing maintenance.

146 (61%) said no to increasing number of parks requiring dogs to be on leash, 76 (32%) saying yes

148 (62%) said max number of 60 for events without a permit should NOT be lowered, 74 (31%) said it should be lowered (with the number reduced to 20-30 being most common suggestion)

79 (33%) said no to PT policy being formed, 42 (18%) unsure, 102 (43%) saying yes

Other activities that people would like to see in North Sydney:

- ☐ Badminton 5
- ☐ basketball 5
- ☐ pickleball 15
- ☐ walking 10

Should North Sydney Oval be re-purposed to allow greater community use - 63 (26%) said no, 147 (61%) said yes

Should NYE funding (\$1mil) increase to allow for increased access to Bradfield Park - 154 (64%) said no, 57 (24%) said yes

Restrict/prohibit access to Balls head Reserve (due to vandalism) - 43 (18%) said no, 166 (69%) said yes

Support installation of synthetic sporting fields - 105 (44%) said no, 125 (52%) said yes

Support for more sports field/court lighting - 45 (19%) said no, 188 (78%) said yes. Sites that were mentioned included:

- ☐ All/any that need 30
- ☐ St Leonards 10
- ☐ Tunks 7

Would you consider using a smaller field format sport - 72 (30%) said no, 137 (57%) said yes

Sports you'd like to try:

- ☐ pickleball/paddle tennis 60,
- ☐ basketball (inc half-court) 12,
- ☐ Futsal 11
- ☐ Badminton 6.

Voices of Youth Workshop

A facilitated workshop was held with 45 participants from local Primary and High schools in order to gain input into the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study from young people.

Both of the workshops focussed on three key parks in order to see what participants liked and didn't like as well as seeking ideas on how these parks could be improved for young people.

The three parks selected for the workshops were St Leonards Park and Hume Street Park. When asked, the children's thoughts on these three parks were as follows:

St Leonards Park

- Generally very happy – good variety of facilities and a great playground
- Good paths and open spaces
- Large size
- Popular for sport, riding bikes and general playing
- Overwhelmingly the most popular park in North Sydney.

Prior Ave Reserve

- Trees and playground.

Hume Street Park

- Sculpture.

Primary school

The primary school children were asked what their 'dream elements' of a park were. Their responses included :

- Trees, greenery hugely popular
- Play equipment
- Adventure play (trampolines/ziplines/ climbing towers)
- Clean toilets
- Sports courts
- Seating and picnic tables, bubblers.

High School

The High School students noted what they liked about each park as well as what was missing for young people:

St Leonards Park

- Good location
- Great open spaces, playground, and overall variety
- Extension of school playground for students
- Needs more bubblers, courts and better access to shops
- Needs additional seating
- Most popular park.

Prior Ave Reserve

- Natural setting, playground
- Good, simple design
- Well-maintained
- Good space for games, kids can be creative
- Needs more seating, tables and paths.

Hume Street Park

- Sculpture is nice
- Needs more play equipment and seating.

The elements that high school students mentioned that would enhance their use of open spaces were:

- Desire for power outlets, wifi connections
- Table space
- Merge artwork with play equipment, dont make them seperate elements
- Places for live music, entertainment, teen events.

First Nations Engagement Workshop

The First Nations Engagement Workshop was held following the invitation of forty two well-connected First Nations people in the North Sydney LGA in order to gain input from the Cammeraygal people and guide the development of Council's ten year Community Strategic Plan, including the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study.

Following the workshop, an engagement report was provided. The outcome of the workshop identified several overarching themes as paramount considerations for the future planning of North Sydney Council. These include:

- Connection to place
- Significance of naming
- Truth telling
- Storytelling/totems
- Connection and custodianship (creation of spaces)
- Education and cultural knowledge
- Communication and consultation.

Relevant recommendations specific to the open space and recreation network include:

- Highlighting and honouring that Land is spiritual - 'Mother Earth and Father Sky'
- Conducting Walks on Country and guided walks in key nature spaces
- Highlighting places to tell the stories – e.g. Share the First Nations history of a park, Berry Island Reserve
- Providing opportunities to 'touch land, feel land'. 'Gal' means people and land -Cammeraygal
- Creating dual signage – Naming on headlands, train stations, Council/library, Coal loader, major walkways such as Miller St which used to be a major walkway between two creeks
- Considering the use of renaming landmarks e.g. Patyegarang station or Milson's point to Birthplace of Barangaroo
- Featuring QR Codes with First Nations stories in key areas with a high volume of traffic to share and educate the wider community e.g. station, parks, key landmarks- Milson's Point
- Highlighting the totems of the eel, whale and shark dreaming and boomerang on Berry Island

- Sharing cultural stories which highlight Indigenous flora e.g. Indigenous bush on the riverbank used to numb fish as an ancient fishing practice
- Sharing tribal stories of land, water and sky – 'We are the energy in the middle. We have Mother Earth and Father Sky'
- Creating areas for a Sand Circle for smoking ceremonies and cultural fire for First Nations to perform
- Designing spaces for Yarning Circles in different areas e.g. Under the Harbour Bridge
- Creating a Soundgarden – highlighting old and new cultures.

Appendix C

Literature review

Macro environment

Future planning for the provision of public open space will be influenced and impacted by a range of external factors, and a summary of the most relevant of these for the North Sydney Council is provided here.

United Nations Sustainable development Goals

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals establishing a global partnership between developed and developing countries to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce race inequality, support economic growth, while tackling climate change.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, includes Target 11.7:

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities."

Public and green spaces contribute to the health and quality of life for people living in cities. Benefits include improving our physical and psychological health, strengthening communities, and making cities and neighbourhoods more attractive places to live and work are just some of the benefits.

Despite the recognition that public open space and green spaces is essential to liveability and social cohesion, adequate provision can be threatened by rapid urban growth. As finite land is developed, particularly to meet the housing, transport, and employment needs of growing populations, provision of sufficient green and public spaces can be diminished by competing pressures.

Climate Change

"Climate change is a global problem, felt on local scales."

Climate change is causing more severe and frequent heatwaves, drought, rainfall, storms and intense wind. Over recent years, significant data has been compiled relating to the immediate impacts of climate change on human health, property, infrastructure, agriculture and biodiversity.

Through the Paris Agreement, Governments have agreed to work together to limit global warming to 1.5°C, as warming beyond this threshold presents extensive danger to human life. Nearly 200 countries agreed to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels, at the COP28 United Nations climate talks held in December 2023. Government's response to climate change includes a two-pronged approach of mitigation and adaptation:

- reducing emissions and stabilising the levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (mitigation)
- adapting to the climate change already occurring (adaptation).

Both the NSW State Government and Council have developed climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Adapt NSW is the NSW Government's agency to provide information relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It recognises the important contribution of green cover and open spaces to people's health, wellbeing and the environment. Extreme weather events will impact the ability of green cover and open space to mitigate against future impacts of climate change. Despite this, increasing the amount of green cover and open spaces contribute to mitigating the effects by natural cooling of air and surfaces, sustainable water management, and carbon dioxide capture.

In 2023 the Australian Government released the sixth Intergenerational Report. The Report projects the outlook of the economy and the budget to 2062-63 and focuses on five major forces that will shape the Australian economy over the next four decades. These forces are "...population ageing, expanded use of digital and data technology, climate change and the net zero transformation, rising demand for care and support services, and increased geopolitical risk and fragmentation".

By 2062-63, Australia's economy is projected to be approximately two and a half times larger, with real incomes forecast to be 50 per cent higher. A slower rate of growth of 2.2 per cent a year on average is projected.

Population growth will continue for the next 40 years and is projected to reach 40.5 million in 2062-63. The rate of growth is expected to slow to 1.1 per cent a year on average, compared with 1.4 per cent over the previous 40 years.

Australians are expected to live longer, healthy lives, and the population will continue to age with the number of people aged 65 and over more than doubling and the number of people over 85 more than tripling.

Despite this, Australia's population is projected to be younger than most advanced economies. While migration will continue to contribute to population growth, it is forecast to reduce as a proportion of the population. Participation in paid work is forecast to decline gradually over the next 40 years, as the overall population ages.

In addition, a decline in the average hours worked is also expected. The trend toward a services-based economy, particularly the care and support sector, is expected to potentially double over the next 40 years, in part reflecting the requirements of the ageing population.

Climate change will profoundly impact the economy and society influencing and impacting where and how Australian's work and live, as well as food and energy security, and the environment. Decarbonisation of the transport industry and consumer preferences, including the increasing uptake of electric vehicles will impact national revenues as well as influence infrastructure provision and use.

Sport 2030 National Sport Plan

The Australian Government has a clear vision for sport in Australia:

'to ensure we are the world's most active and healthy nation, known for our integrity and sporting success.'

The document highlights that fewer Australians are playing sport and engaging in physical activity, a trend needing to be reversed.

Informed by a comprehensive consultation process, Sport 2030 is Australia's first national sport plan representing the Australian Government's long-term commitment to seeing Australian sport thrive. Relevant to the Needs Study, the National Sports Plan has the following principle for action:

- sport and physical activity for all, for life: every Australian, at all stages of their life, can undertake the exercise they need and want in a safe, fun and inclusive way, whether it is through sport or other types of activity.

Sport Australia will have a primary focus on sport and the sports sector. However it will be able to use the reach and influence of the sport and physical activity sectors, local, state and federal government agencies, as well as the community and private sectors as partners, to drive awareness, inspiration and behaviour change.

Sport Australia is also currently responsible for delivering the Sporting Schools Program for the Australian Government.

National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011

The Framework provides a mechanism for the achievement of national goals for sport and active recreation. The Framework identifies the roles of Regional/Local Government as:

- Facilitating a strategic approach to the provision of sporting and active recreation infrastructure including open space, and other needs
- Establishing local management and access policies to sport and recreation facilities
- Supporting and coordinating local and regional service providers (venues and programs)
- Liaising and partnering with state and territory governments on targeted program delivery
- Supporting and partnering with non-government organisations that enable sport and active recreation participation
- Incorporating sport and recreation development and participation opportunities in Council plans
- Collaborating, engaging and partnering across government departments on shared policy agendas, and
- Investment in sport and active recreation infrastructure.

NSW

Public Open Space Strategy for NSW (2022)

The aspiration of the Public Open Space Strategy for NSW is captured in the Vision:

“Thriving and resilient open spaces across NSW, enabled by the NSW Government through leadership, coordinated direction and support.”

The Strategy recognises that public open space is infrastructure that is essential for liveable communities with lifestyle, health, cultural, social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Five broad objectives underpin the Vision:

- Better recognition for public open space
- Stronger First Nations involvement
- Coordinated planning, governance, policy and funding
- Greater social, environmental and economic value
- Better outcomes for regional NSW.

Specific, defined and targeted directions and actions to achieve the objectives are detailed in the Strategy. The vision, objectives, directions and actions should be reviewed when Council is developing guiding principles for its future Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

An implementation plan for the Public Open Space Strategy for NSW is currently under development by the NSW Open Space Team and is likely to provide context for North Sydney planning processes.

Greener Places Design Guide - Government Architect New South Wales

The Draft Greener Places Design Guide focuses its efforts on multifunctional design where each green infrastructure space or route provides a range of benefits for a diversity of users. It aims to achieve this through four main principles.

1. Integration – Combine Green Infrastructure with urban development and grey infrastructure
2. Connectivity – Create an interconnected network of open space
3. Multi-functionality – Deliver multiple ecosystem services simultaneously
4. Participation – Involve stakeholders in development and implementation.

It presents a holistic view of Green Infrastructure which includes residential gardens, local parks, housing estates, streetscapes, highway verges, service and communication corridors, waterways and recreation areas. It also encourages existing assets to work harder while also creating new assets to meet public spaces demands on an increasing urban population.

Key outcomes:

- Conservation of the natural environment and natural resources, as well as promoting social, cultural, recreational and educational opportunities within city landscapes
- Increased access to public open space by improving connections, continued investment, allocation within new developments and infrastructure projects, aiming for an equitable distribution of public open space and provision of a diverse range of public open space types
- Improved connectivity to promote active living by improving the public realm to promote active modes of transport, protecting and creating green connections that create a network of walking trails, cycle paths and public open spaces
- Increased urban greening to ameliorate climate extremes including creating resilient built environments which have co-ordinated green infrastructure planning and design, increasing green cover to keep our cities cool and promoting under-utilised open space corridors and areas for community uses.

The Greener Places Design Guide recommends a performance-based approach to assessing open space for recreation demand based on six core criteria that can help guide performance outcomes. All criteria are subject to local precinct considerations:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Distribution
- Size and shape
- Quantity
- Quality
- Diversity.

Everyone can play

The Everyone Can Play Guideline aims to support the design and delivery of play spaces that can be used by everyone in a community regardless of age, ability, or cultural background. The goals of accessibility and inclusiveness are captured in the responses to the questions:

- Can I get there? considers the location, layout, signage, wayfinding and accessibility elements
- Can I play? considers the play experience: equipment and surfacing, as well as challenging and engaging play opportunities
- Can I stay? considers safety, facilities, landscape and the wider environment to allow people to stay as long as they need.

The Guideline aims to support councils to:

- inform design briefs
- audit and identify improvements to existing play spaces to support inclusivity
- support adequate budgeting for play spaces
- increase awareness of barriers and mitigation measures to enhance inclusivity
- influence policy relating to play space provision.

Places to Swim

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment published this guideline in 2023.

This best practice guide identifies the various benefits and types of places to swim and provides various scenarios and case studies.

The guide should be used to assist with the strategic planning and delivery of places to swim, scoping out work, informing design briefs, identifying the specialist knowledge required, informing ongoing management plans and setting budgets for delivery and management.

Adventurous Spaces

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure published Adventurous Spaces in 2024.

This document will be a valuable guide for Council when implementing the development of adventure/ youth spaces as recommended in this Study.

The Guide's primary focus lies in cultivating environments conducive to skating, scooting, BMX, and mountain biking. It should be used as a reference throughout a project from planning to management and covers:

- Outline of the benefits of adventurous play
- Guidance on the technical aspects of creating adventurous spaces and where specialist knowledge is required
- Guidance on best practice when creating new adventurous spaces from planning to delivery.

Her Sport, Her Way Women in sport Strategy, Office of Sport

The Strategy affirms the NSW Government's commitment to empower women and girls to have full access to opportunity and choice, be valued for their diversity, be recognised for their contribution, and be able to participate in all aspects of life freely and safely.

Comprising a framework of initiatives across four strategic pillars of Participation, Places and Spaces, Leveraging Investment and Leadership, Her Sport Her Way aims to remove barriers and improve participation of women and girls across all levels and roles in sport in NSW.

The Strategy has a focus across four key pillars:

- Participation - Increase the number of women and girls playing sport
- Places and spaces - Lead, guide, inform and invest in the provision of sport facilities that support women and girls
- Leveraging investment - Maximise investment in women's sport across the sporting sector, corporate sector, media, social media and government
- Leadership - Support the sector to increase the number of women in leadership positions on and off the field, and develop inclusive sporting cultures

NSW Public Spaces Charter

The Draft NSW Public Spaces Charter has been developed by the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW. The Charter defines public spaces as:

"all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive".

It identifies ten principles for quality public space, developed through evidence-based research and discussions with a diverse range of public space experts. The Charter supports the delivery of the Premier's Priorities. The Charter acknowledges that public spaces - the streets we walk or cycle in, the plazas we socialise in, community halls we gather in and parks, playgrounds and sportsfields where we relax or play - are where public life happens.

The department has developed 10 draft principles for a NSW public spaces charter that can be used to help ensure everyone has access to high-quality public space that allows them to enjoy and participate in public life. The quality of a public space is just as important as its availability, because it's what makes people feel safe, welcome and included—a place where they want to keep coming back. The quality of a public space is reflected not only in its physical form—how it's designed, maintained and integrated with its environment—but also through the activities it supports and the meaning it holds.

Practitioners Guide to Movement and Place 2023, NSW Government

The Practitioner's Guide to Movement and Place was developed in order to detail how to collaborate on strategies, plans, and projects, across all stages of design and delivery of our street environments, transport projects, and the places they serve, to create a better built environment.

It explains how built environment practitioners can apply a Movement and Place approach to projects and plans. The guide outlines:

- a collaborative method for practitioners, stakeholders, and the community to work together
- a shared responsibility and a shared language to support collaboration across disciplines, agencies, and levels of government
- a process for implementing this approach across a range of decisions and project types, at various scales, and throughout the life cycle of a plan, project, or asset
- criteria for measuring and evaluating the alignment of movement and place in existing contexts and when comparing future options.

Joint Use of Schools Facilities and Land Policy, Department of Education

North Sydney has a large number of public and private schools within the LGA, some with high quality recreation facilities including swimming pools, outdoor and indoor courts and sportsfields.

The Department of Education's Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy encourages shared use of school facilities (such as open space and sporting facilities), with investment in new, upgraded or maintained facilities.

'Joint use' is where the Department and other parties make significant investments (land and/or capital) in new facilities, upgrading facilities or maintaining facilities. The asset is typically shared between the school and the other parties over an extended period of time, or the lifetime of the asset. These projects are voluntary and intended to be of mutual benefit to all parties.

The Department recognises that all parties to a Joint Use Program Agreement must have mutually beneficial outcomes that meet their requirements in ways that build trust and openness.

Benefits of joint use agreements may include cost-sharing for maintenance of school grounds and buildings, and improved access to places to be physically active for families and individual community members.

Greater Sydney/Northern Sydney

A 50-year Vision for Greater Sydney's Open Space and Parklands (2021)

Sydney Green Grid establishes an aspirational vision and strategic directions for Greater Sydney's open space and parklands. Implementation to achieve the vision is dependent on additional consultation and planning processes, resulting in the strategies and plans summarised in this section.

The Vision aspires that Greater Sydney will be a City in Park and will be:

- a living and breathing city with a protected, celebrated and embraced natural environment
- a city of community-focused parks and open spaces that are connected through the Greater Sydney Green and Blue Grid
- a place that reflects the value and stories of the past, nurtures the present and sets the stage for stories yet to be told, including its rich First Nations culture
- a city within its landscape, where open spaces and parklands are accessible, meaningful, sustainable and part of everyday life
- as much a parkland city as it is a harbour city and river city, where people can easily access diverse types of high quality open space and parklands
- a place where people are custodians and wholeheartedly embrace and care for open space and parklands.

Four strategic directions and case studies underpin the meaning behind the vision.

Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities

The Metropolis of Three Cities strategy has evolved into the Six Cities Vision "to create good jobs closer to where people live, attracting world-class industry and talent, and delivering the infrastructure to connect cities together".

Since the 2018 Greater Sydney Region Plan was published, the impacts of housing affordability, housing supply, climate change, the COVID 19 pandemic, and essential infrastructure provision have impacted and influenced planning to achieve the aspirations of the Plan. The Six Cities Region aims to raise the standard of living by:

- responding to population and urban growth and how people work, live and play
- scaling economically to compete globally
- focusing on equity of opportunity
- building environmental and climate change resilience.

North District Plan - Our Greater Sydney 2056

The Plan outlines the strategic vision for the North District under the core themes of: Infrastructure and collaboration; Liveability; Productivity; and Sustainability. In relation to recreation and open space the Plan's focus is on walkable places, and an integrated approach to green spaces that support walking, cycling, and community access to open space.

Greater Sydney Green Grid

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

The Green Grid Project aims to enhance access to open space, provide routes for walking and cycling, conserve natural areas and provide opportunities for active and passive recreation. It also aims to support the management of stormwater, flood risk and water quality, while improving Sydney's landscape value and urban amenity.

Relevant Green Grid Principles include:

- the Recreation Grid: Increase access to open space; Encourage sustainable transport connections and promote active living; Create a high quality and active public realm
- the Ecological Grid: Conserve the natural environment; Adapt to climate extremes, improve air quality, and increase urban greening; Promote green skills, improve management, maintenance and sustainable green space design
- the Hydrological Grid: Utilise the network quality of the hydrological system; Increase environmental quality; Reduce infrastructure risk; Reveal the unique character of Sydney's waterscapes; Reframe waterways as connectors not barriers.

Review of Supply and Demand for Sports Facilities in the NSROC Region 2023

The Council's included within the NSROC Region are: Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde, Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Willoughby, Mosman and North Sydney.

With the purpose of addressing the existing limited capacity of sports facilities to meet the needs of the Region's (including North Sydney LGA) growing population, this recently completed Review contains a range of complementary information to this Study, with the most relevant outlined below.

- the identified influencing trend of maximising the yield of playing fields, through potential solutions such as:
 - Increased supply of sports grounds with lighting
 - Increased maintenance regime/ grass species
 - Improved natural grass design
 - Use of hybrid grass/ synthetic surfaces
- an identified over-supply of tennis and netball courts
- an identified under-supply of sports grounds, indoor courts and indoor specialty facilities
- the identification of the opportunity to undertake an assessment of council-owned golf courses to identify opportunities to enhance golf courses to retain golf, yet introduce alternative uses such as:
 - specialised indoor sport activities within clubhouses
 - shared use of the golf course area for fitness, active recreation and emerging sports activities.
- A range of opportunities to address demand, particularly:
 - investigate opportunities at publicly owned golf courses, to retain golf, yet introduce alternative uses for specialised indoor sport, fitness, active recreation and emerging sports activities
 - continue to enhance the capacity of sports grounds through improved design and lighting, synthetic surface conversion and expanded maintenance regimes
 - investigate opportunities for alternative locations for active recreation and community sport
 - continue to review supply against demand to ensure the network responds to changing demand.

North Sydney Council

North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 sets out its land use vision, planning principles, priorities, and actions until 2040. It also outlines the desired future direction for housing, employment, transport, recreation, environment and infrastructure for North Sydney LGA.

The LSPS guides the content of the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (NSLEP) and Council's consideration and determination of any proposed changes to the development standards under the NSLEP (via Planning Proposals). It also guides our Development Control Plan.

Community Strategic Plan - North Sydney Vision 2040

North Sydney's Strategic Plan sets out Council's over-arching and long-term vision, priorities and aspirations for the Local Government Area. The Plan acknowledges the major changes in North Sydney over the past decade. The continued population growth, increasing demand on parks, sporting fields, playgrounds, open spaces and pathways - essential infrastructure to leading healthy and connected lives. Further, open space - how its created and managed is a priority in the Plan.

The community vision:

North Sydney is a welcoming, connected and resourceful community which acknowledges its past, enjoys the present and plans for our future. We respect our beautiful harbourside locale, its unique villages and much valued bushland and open spaces. We lead the way in sustainability.

Three of the five Strategic Directions of the plan provide the most relevant outcomes as follows:

1. Our Living Environment - climate change, the natural environment, recreation facilities and an active lifestyle:

- Well utilised open space and recreational facilities
 - Protect, enhance and expand public open space and foreshore access
 - Provide infrastructure to encourage and support participation in healthy, physical activity and recreation for all
 - Attract a variety of sporting and community events to North Sydney, including North Sydney Oval
 - Advocate for new visionary and quality open and green spaces
 - Advocate on behalf of the community at all levels of government against negative impacts on our environment arising from development and major infrastructure projects.
- Infrastructure and assets meet diverse community needs
 - Expand and adapt our community's infrastructure to meet future needs
 - Advocate for and increase community access to public and private infrastructure.

3. Our Innovative City - innovation, entrepreneurship and tourism in conjunction with protection of historic buildings and places:

- Distinctive sense of place and design excellence
 - Improve urban design, amenity, accessibility, liveability and public domain.

2. Our Built Infrastructure - unique character, sustainable design principles and walking, cycling and public transport:

North Sydney Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2020

Council's Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan acknowledges that the existing network does not currently meet the recreation needs of existing resident, worker and student population in North Sydney and does not have the capacity to absorb the recreation needs and demand of new populations. Both indoor and outdoor facilities are at capacity.

The Plan outlines a provision rate of 1.8ha per 1,000 persons and shows commitment to providing the new residents with the same level of open space as existing residents. It estimates a further 22ha of open space would need to be provided in line with growth over the next 16 years, albeit the financial cost is unachievable. In lieu of this, a more realistic approach is proposed:

- Acquiring or negotiating with developers to provide a limited number of local open space areas, and
- increasing the recreation carrying capacity of existing Council and other public land i.e. making existing assets work more effectively.

The Plan has set a priority to promote and encourage connectivity and upgrade and increase public open spaces. Council intends to increase the amount of developed open space in the areas of highest projected population growth. Council will do this by doing one or more of the following:

- acquiring and embellishing new open space in strategic locations;
- facilitating or directly providing linkages between existing and new public open space areas;
- embellishing existing open space areas in a way that increases their carrying capacity.

Council will apply the following efficiency principles in its infrastructure planning:

- Better planning and design of the existing network so that increases in capacity, quality, diversity, usability and accessibility of open space can be achieved
- Providing flexible and multi-purpose use arrangements wherever possible
- Improving access to existing open space assets both within and outside the LGA through better connections and crossing points, upgrading or providing new linear linkages and access paths (such as footpaths and cycleways), and implementing the metropolitan strategy's 'Green Grid' where funds allow
- Providing greater opportunities for walking and passive recreation through new and upgraded

paths through publicly owned lands

- Increasing the weekly time available for active recreation pursuits by upgrading sports fields and sports courts surfaces
- Endeavouring to secure joint use arrangements with schools and other institutions to make available open space and sporting facilities on their lands for public use; and
- Exploring the opportunities to convert existing public-owned land to parkland or to accommodate recreation facilities.

St Leonards and Crows Nest Plan 2036

The Plan has been developed to facilitate the urban renewal of St Leonards and Crows Nest for an expanding employment centre and residential growth. Relevant to this Needs Study, the precinct has been planned to provide:

- Funding for open space and infrastructure upgrades through a new State infrastructure levy
- Collaboration with North Sydney Council to bring forward development contributions to develop a new park with underground parking at Holtermann Street carpark, and working with Lane Cove and Willoughby City Councils on open space opportunities.

Draft Crows Nest TOD Rezoning Proposal

The State government has just publicised a draft Transport Orientated Development proposal for Crows Nest. It is currently on exhibition, for public comment - google Crows Nest TOD Rezoning Proposal. Council is preparing a submission.

The TOD will over-ride relevant sections of the 2036 Plan.

It will see significant uplift and density increases in the Crows Nest area and there is no explicit funding for additional open space in North Sydney.

Hume/Holtermann are listed as existing/future open space but no provision mechanism for these hugely expensive projects

North Sydney Council Property Strategic Review November 2014

The purpose of the Review was to analyse Council's current property portfolio in terms of its overall performance and strategic alignment with Council's Community Strategic Plan.

The key objectives were:

- to gain a high level understanding of the overall performance of North Sydney Council's Property Portfolio
- establish a set of performance criteria and Key recommendations for each Property in Council's Portfolio
- provide an assessment of each asset in Council's Property Portfolio against a set of established performance criteria – rating each asset in terms of its overall Financial and Non Financial performance
- identify and rank the alignment of Council's Property Portfolio against the strategic priorities of the organisation and its policies
- identify properties that are under performing and recommend a course of action to improve any under-performance
- develop a clear acquisition and disposal plan for North Sydney Council's current property portfolio which aligns with the performance ranking of individual assets in the portfolio as well as the high level strategic priorities of the organisation and its policies.

The review allowed the development of an overall Performance Management Plan for Council's property portfolio to be prepared.

Council and Crown Land Plans of Management

The role, function and general use of public open space in North Sydney is documented in and protected through the Plans of Management. The Plans of Management cover a range of sites or park types. Many of the actions advocated in the Plans are derived from other documents (such as the 2015 Recreation Needs Study). The Plans of Management are reviewed and updated every 5–6 years.

Protecting land for recreation and balancing and managing uses on the land is a common thread in all plans.

North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015

Developed in 2015, the objectives of the Recreation Needs Study are to:

- determine the current supply of sport and recreation facilities and services, along with the current and projected demands
- engage stakeholders (including local residents, workers, schools, sporting groups etc.) in order to produce a meaningful Study with a high level of acceptance
- provide directions on capital works priorities and actions, and ensure "best practice" planning and management of open space and recreation facilities
- ensure the best allocation of resources possible in the provision of appropriate sport and recreation facilities and services that meet the identified needs
- identify potential funding options for the provision and/or improvement of identified facilities and services
- encourage and facilitate partnerships with community and other public and private stakeholders for the planning, provision, development and management of open space and recreation facilities.

Strategies were developed to achieve the main goals of the Study:

- increased participation in physical and social opportunities
- enhanced use of existing resources, whilst minimising overuse
- a diversity of recreation opportunities for the widest range of the population, now and in future
- maintenance of the green nature and character of the North Sydney
- co-operative, effective and sustainable service delivery.

North Sydney Open Space Provision Strategy 2008

Council's Open Space Provision Strategy, adopted in 2008, establishes a series of principles for acquisition of land for open space within North Sydney.

It was prepared to ensure 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 economically viable manner. The Strategy establishes a series of principles for acquisition of open space within North Sydney, from which strategies for provision and priorities for acquisition can then be identified.

This Open Space and Recreation Needs Study has reviewed the Provision Strategy and will replace this document with current engagement, trends and open space analysis.



Appendix D

Open Space and Recreation Discussion Paper