

14 September 2026

At the conclusion of the Corporate, Finance, Properties
and Tenders Committee

Environment and Climate Change Committee

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes**
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
- 3. Public Exhibition - Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Strategy 2026**

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1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10:00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a 3 minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at 2 minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate 3 representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as City staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Committee reports are available at <https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/>

Item 1.
Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Environment and Climate Change Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 17 August 2026

Item 2.**Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.

Public Exhibition - Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Strategy 2026

File No: S127007.018

Summary

The draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026 (the Strategy) provides a strategic framework to guide the planning, provision, management and renewal of the City's open space, sport and recreation network over the next 20 years. The Strategy responds to population growth, increasing urban density, climate change, changing recreation trends and the need to provide equitable and inclusive access to open space and recreation opportunities.

The Strategy updates the Open space and recreation needs study adopted by Council in 2016. It evaluates changes in population, recreation participation, policy settings and community needs since that time, and establishes strategic directions, priorities and actions to inform future planning, investment, advocacy and partnerships.

The Strategy identifies 4 strategic directions:

- Resilience: Healthy, climate-ready parks
- Equity and Inclusion: Open space, sport and recreation for all
- Quality: Better parks and facilities
- Flexibility: Adaptable spaces for broader use.

The Strategy builds on over 2 decades of investment by the City in parks, public spaces and recreation facilities, including the delivery of new parks and recreation infrastructure, upgrades to existing parks and facilities, increased opportunities for walking, cycling and informal recreation, and initiatives that improve environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

It is recommended that Council approve the public exhibition of the draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026 for a minimum period of 6 weeks.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve for public exhibition the draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026, as shown at Attachments A and B to the subject report
- (B) Council note that the draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026 will be place on public exhibition for a minimum period of 6 weeks
- (C) Council note that the draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to exhibition of the draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026.

Attachments

Attachment A. Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Strategy 2026 - Volume 1

Attachment B. Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Strategy 2026 - Volume 2

Background

1. The City's current Open space and recreation needs study was adopted by Council in 2016.
2. Since that time many of the programs and projects have been delivered or are being implemented. In addition, changing demographics and recreation trends, increasing population growth, and density arising from urban renewal has increased demand for the City's open space, sport and recreation facilities.
3. While the City has continued to invest in parks and recreation facilities since 2016, ongoing population growth, urban renewal and increasing densities continue to place pressure on the network. Climate change, changing recreation trends and the need to improve equitable access for diverse communities require a refreshed strategic approach to the planning, provision and management of open space, sport and recreation facilities.
4. The 2026 draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy (the Strategy) provides the opportunity to assess these changes to inform decision making about open space, sport and recreation facility provision, use, design, distribution and management.
5. In August 2026, the NSW Government released the Sydney Plan, which establishes a 20-year framework for housing, infrastructure, liveability and environmental sustainability across Greater Sydney.
6. The NSW Governments' Sydney Plan identifies a benchmark that residents should generally be within a 400m walk of a park more than 3,000sqm in size, with residents in medium and high-density areas within 200m of public open space of at least 1,500sqm in size or greater. The draft Strategy assesses existing provision against these accessibility measures and identifies priorities to improve access where gaps exist.
7. The Sydney Plan promotes the delivery of a metropolitan Blue-Green Grid, connecting parks, waterways, biodiversity corridors and active transport routes. The draft Strategy supports this objective through recommendations to strengthen connections between parks, public spaces, walking and cycling networks within the City and beyond local government boundaries. This was a key project idea in Sustainable Sydney 2030 known as the Liveable Green Network.

Strategy scope

8. The draft Strategy focuses on public open space, sport and recreation facilities that are owned, managed or controlled by the City of Sydney, including parks, sports fields, playgrounds, indoor recreation facilities, aquatic facilities, outdoor courts and other recreation infrastructure.
9. The draft Strategy also considers open space and recreation assets managed by other government agencies, institutions and landowners where they contribute to the overall network, community access and recreation opportunities available to City residents, workers and visitors. Any recommendations relating to these assets would require the agreement of the relevant landowner or managing authority.

10. The draft Strategy recognises the important role that streets, walking and cycling networks play in supporting recreation, physical activity and access to parks and facilities and includes recommendations to strengthen these connections as part of a broader open space and recreation network.

Document format

11. The Strategy document structure is as follows:
 - (a) Volume 1: Draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026, containing the strategic directions, priorities and recommendations.
 - (b) Volume 2: Technical and research report, containing the evidence base, analysis and supporting research that informs the draft Strategy.

Current status

Open space, sport and recreation facility provision

12. The City owns or manages approximately 207ha of public open space. When combined with parks and open spaces managed by other government agencies and institutions, there is a total of approximately 411ha of public open space across the local government area, representing approximately 15.4% of the City's land area.
13. The open space and recreation network supports residents, workers and visitors through a diverse range of parks, sports fields, playgrounds, aquatic facilities, recreation centres, outdoor courts, fitness stations, skate facilities, walking and cycling infrastructure and public spaces.
14. Population growth, increasing urban density and changing recreation patterns continue to place increasing pressure on the network, particularly in higher-density urban renewal areas. The residential population is projected to exceed 300,000 people by 2046, increasing demand for open space, recreation facilities and opportunities for physical activity, social connection and community wellbeing.
15. The draft Strategy identifies that while the network performs well overall, ongoing investment will be required to respond to growth, improve equitable access, increase recreation capacity, address climate change impacts and meet evolving community expectations.

Improvements to the network

16. Since 2004 the City has undertaken a significant capital works program to expand and improve the open space, sport and recreation network, delivering new parks, recreation facilities and public spaces while upgrading existing assets. This has included:
 - (a) 29.5 ha of new open space and established 54 new parks and public spaces. Major new park provision includes Pirrama Park, Harmony Park, Gunyama Park, Harold Park, The Drying Green, Wimbo Park, and Butterscotch Park. Other government agencies have also contributed to the expansion of open space and the delivery of new parks, providing additional benefits to our community.

- (b) Recreation infrastructure improvements have included Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre, Prince Alfred Park pool renewal, Gunyama Park aquatic centre, 4 additional sports fields, Perry Park Recreation Centre and Huntley Street Recreation Centre (soon to open).
 - (c) In addition, the City has constructed a significant number of new playgrounds, outdoor courts, outdoor fitness facilities, skate facilities and expanded opportunities for walking and cycling.
 - (d) The City has also completed extensive renewal and upgrade programs across the network, with more than 200 park renewal and improvement projects undertaken over the past two decades to improve quality, accessibility, functionality and environmental performance. Key projects include Sydney Park, Victoria Park, Glebe foreshore parklands, Prince Alfred Park and Redfern Park and Oval.
 - (e) Environmental sustainability initiatives have been incorporated into open space and recreation projects, including increased tree canopy, habitat creation, stormwater harvesting, water recycling, energy-efficient lighting and renewable energy initiatives. This includes transitioning to energy efficient heat pump technology powered by 100% renewable electricity at Victoria Park Pool and Andrew Boy Charlton Pool, with Prince Alfred Park Pool to be fully electric by November 2026.
 - (f) Partnerships with schools have expanded access to playing fields, outdoor courts and indoor recreation facilities through shared-use arrangements. These partnerships provide valuable recreation opportunities for the wider community outside school hours, such as access to the court facility at Green Square Primary School. Approximately 35 educational institutions (schools and universities) access City parks and recreational facilities for sport and recreation programs.
17. The success of these investments has provided a strong foundation for future planning and has informed the directions, priorities and actions contained within the Draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026.

Key directions and outcomes

18. The draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026 establishes a framework to guide the future planning, provision, management and renewal of the City's open space, sport and recreation network. The Strategy responds to the challenges of population growth, increasing urban density, climate change, changing recreation trends and the need to provide equitable access to open space and recreation opportunities.
19. The Strategy identifies 4 strategic directions:
- (a) Resilience: Healthy, climate-ready parks that support urban cooling, biodiversity, environmental sustainability and community resilience.
 - (b) Equity and inclusion: Open space, sport and recreation opportunities that are welcoming, accessible and inclusive and support equitable participation for all members of the community.

- (c) Quality: A high-performing network of parks, public spaces and recreation facilities that meets the needs of a growing city through new provision, upgrades and improved connectivity.
 - (d) Flexibility: Adaptable and multi-functional spaces that respond to changing recreation trends, community needs and patterns of use.
20. Key outcomes include:
- (a) Approximately 22ha of additional open space is planned for delivery comprising of 14.5ha managed by the City and 8.32ha managed by other agencies.
 - (b) Key new open space priorities include the progression of the square at Town Hall, transformation of Wentworth Park into a unified 14ha public recreation destination, delivery of the Mandible Street Sports Precinct, O'Riordan Street Park, Waterloo South parks, and advocacy for major projects by other agencies including Barangaroo Central Park, Blackwattle Bay urban renewal public spaces and Central Square.
 - (c) A further 20ha has recently been delivered with the Moore Park south park conversion by Greater Sydney Parklands.
 - (d) Continue the City's park renewal program to improve the quality, accessibility, resilience and amenity of the open space network, including major upgrades to Belmore Park, Alexandria Park, Waterloo Park and Oval, and Fitzroy Gardens.
 - (e) Increase the recreation capacity across the network through the delivery of new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities including additional sports fields, indoor courts, outdoor courts, playgrounds and outdoor fitness stations.
21. Key recreation initiatives include:
- (a) Delivery of the Mandible Street Sports Precinct, including a sports field, multi-purpose courts, recreation facilities, playground and supporting amenities.
 - (b) Transformation of Wentworth Park to provide sports fields, playgrounds, courts, fitness facilities and expanded passive recreation opportunities.
 - (c) Establishment of an inclusive playground network across the City.
 - (d) Investigation of a mountain bike facility at the St Peters Interchange open space.
 - (e) Expansion and renewal of indoor recreation facilities.
 - (f) Continued improvement of existing aquatic, sports field and outdoor court infrastructure.
22. The Strategy also identifies priorities to improve access and connectivity through expanded walking and cycling networks and by supporting the delivery of the Sydney Plan Blue-Green Grid, linking parks, recreation facilities, waterways and neighbourhoods.

23. Implementation of the Strategy will occur through targeted capital investment, planning and development processes, developer contributions, partnerships with government and community stakeholders, ongoing asset management, and advocacy to secure additional open space and recreation opportunities for the City's growing communities.
24. The draft Strategy establishes service level targets and accessibility standards to identify gaps in the provision of open space and recreation facilities, inform future investment and planning priorities, and improve the equitable distribution of open space and recreation opportunities across the local government area.

Key implications

Strategic alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

25. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - the Strategy supports climate resilience, urban greening, biodiversity and environmental sustainability through the planning, design and management of parks and recreation facilities, including actions to increase tree canopy, urban cooling and environmental performance.
 - (b) Direction 3 - Public places for all:
 - (i) The Strategy provides a framework to expand and improve the City's open space and recreation network and identifies priorities to improve equitable access to parks, sport and recreation opportunities. It recognises the needs of a diverse community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women and girls, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, children, young people and older persons
 - (ii) The Strategy identifies several priority groups whose needs must be addressed in open space and recreation planning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, women and girls, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, children and families, young adults and students, older adults, low-income and social housing residents. It guides the provision and management of open space and recreation facilities to ensure that equitable access is maintained in the face of growing demand.
 - (c) Direction 4 - Design excellence and sustainable development:
 - (i) The Strategy promotes a high-quality network of parks, public spaces and recreation facilities that support liveability, health, wellbeing and sustainability. It establishes service level targets to improve access to open space and recreation opportunities and guides the delivery of new and upgraded public spaces.

- (d) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - the Strategy recognises walking, running and cycling as important recreation activities and supports improved connectivity between parks, public spaces, recreation facilities and the City's walking and cycling networks.
- (e) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - A core focus of the Strategy is improving equity, inclusion and accessibility through the provision of welcoming, affordable and inclusive open space, sport and recreation opportunities for all members of the community.
- (f) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - The Strategy supports the City to deliver climate-ready parks that provide cooling, biodiversity and environmental sustainability, as well as enabling opportunities for social connections and cohesion. The Strategy supports community health, wellbeing and social cohesion through the delivery of climate-ready parks, recreation facilities and public spaces that encourage participation, community connection and active lifestyles.
- (g) Direction 10 - Housing for all - The Strategy supports growing and higher-density communities by planning for additional open space and recreation opportunities and establishing service-level targets to improve access to parks and recreation facilities across the local government area.

Risks

- 26. The draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026 fits within the City's risk appetite.
- 27. The strategy provides an evidence-based framework to guide future planning, investment and decision-making for the City's open space, sport and recreation network. Public exhibition will provide an opportunity for the community, stakeholders and government agencies to review the draft Strategy and inform its finalisation prior to consideration by Council.
- 28. The City's risk appetite seeks to manage public spaces and recreation infrastructure for the benefit of the community, while embracing innovation and responding to changing circumstances. The strategy supports this approach through recommendations that improve access to parks, recreation facilities and public spaces, increase climate resilience, and promote more equitable and inclusive outcomes.
- 29. Future projects identified in the strategy will be subject to detailed planning, design, funding and approval processes that will consider specific project risks.
- 30. The strategy also recognises the ongoing risks associated with maintaining and renewing an expanded network of open space and recreation assets, including the need for adequate operational funding and lifecycle asset management to ensure long term sustainability.

Social / cultural / community

31. Open space, sport and recreation facilities are important community infrastructure that support physical and mental health, social connection, community cohesion and overall wellbeing. The draft Strategy seeks to improve access to these opportunities across the local government area and support the needs of current and future communities.

Environmental

32. The draft Strategy includes actions to improve climate resilience, urban greening, biodiversity, urban cooling and environmental sustainability across the City's open space and recreation network. While future recreation and facility provision may increase resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, impacts will be managed through environmentally sustainable design, renewable energy initiatives, water-sensitive urban design, urban canopy expansion and implementation of the City's environmental strategies and targets.

Economic

33. Investment in open space, sport and recreation infrastructure supports community health and wellbeing and contributes to broader economic benefits through improved population health outcomes, reduced health costs and enhanced liveability.
34. The City's network of parks, public spaces and recreation facilities provides affordable and accessible opportunities for recreation, physical activity and social connection, including a range of facilities and spaces that are available to the community free of charge.
35. The provision of sports facilities also provides local economic benefit through sports and leisure jobs, and expenditure related to supporting sports training, competition, participation and maintenance of facilities.

Financial implications

36. The draft Strategy includes projects and initiatives that are currently funded and programmed within the City's approved capital works program.
37. The Strategy also identifies additional long-term opportunities and priorities for consideration through future strategic planning, asset management, budgeting and capital works processes. Inclusion in the draft Strategy does not constitute a funding commitment for any projects which are not currently included in the long-term financial plan.
38. Any future projects arising from the Strategy that are not currently funded will be subject to further investigation, prioritisation, business case assessment and consideration through future budget and works program processes. Where appropriate, the City will also pursue alternative funding opportunities, including State and Commonwealth grants and partnerships with other organisations and government agencies.

39. Ongoing management, renewal and maintenance of the City's open space, sport and recreation network including any future assets transferred to City ownership or management, will continue to be considered through the City's operational and long-term financial planning processes. Any future asset transfers may result in additional operational, maintenance, renewal and lifecycle costs, which will be assessed through future business cases and budget processes to ensure long term sustainability.

Relevant legislation

40. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
41. Local Government Act 1993.

Public consultation

42. This report seeks to publicly exhibit the draft Open space, sport and recreation needs strategy 2026 for 6 weeks commencing in October 2026.
43. The public exhibition will include:
- a Sydney Your Say page
 - stakeholder briefings
 - an online survey and other activities to gather feedback from individuals and groups who use our open spaces and facilities
 - promotion through City of Sydney channels
 - letters to key sporting and recreation bodies and relevant State agencies advising them of the Strategy and offering a briefing.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Bridget Smyth, City Architect/Executive Manager City Design and Public Art

Laurence Johnson, Program Manager Public Domain Strategy

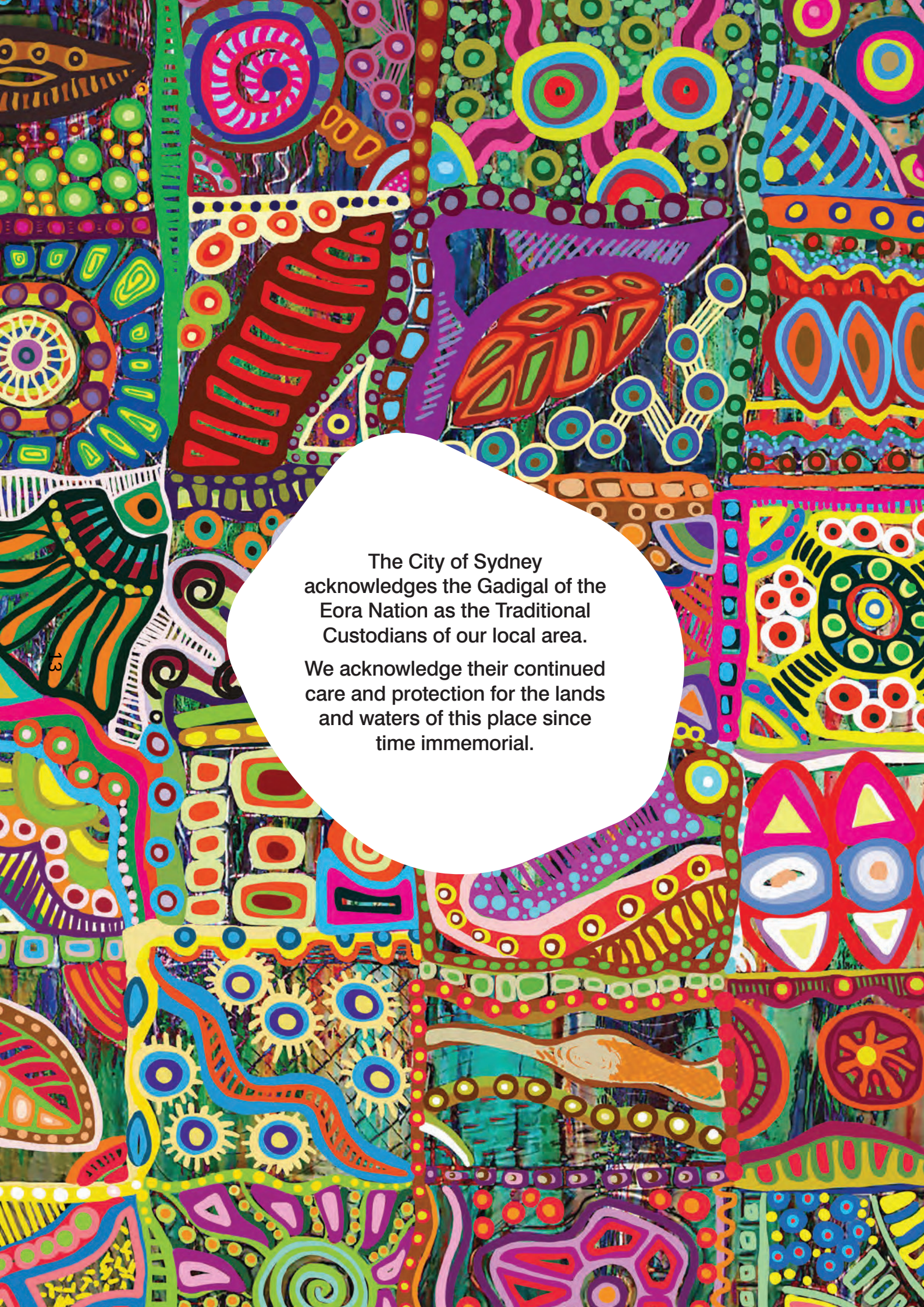
Attachment A1

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 1, p1-61**

Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Strategy 2026

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The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area. We acknowledge their continued care and protection for the lands and waters of this place since time immemorial.

We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

Images on the front cover (left to right):

Two women looking out at Sydney Park wetlands

Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Volleyball players at Perry Park

Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

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Message from the Lord Mayor



Sydney is a city that takes great pride in its open spaces – the parks, gardens, playing fields, recreation facilities and waterfront places that give our city its unique character and provide opportunities for people to come together, play, relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Since 2004, we have transformed Sydney's public spaces and delivered an extraordinary program of investment in our parks, open spaces, sport and recreation facilities. We have created new parks, revitalised existing spaces, expanded opportunities for sport and play, and opened up more of our city for people to enjoy. These achievements have helped make Sydney a greener, healthier and more liveable city, and we should be proud of what we have accomplished together.

But our work does not stop here.

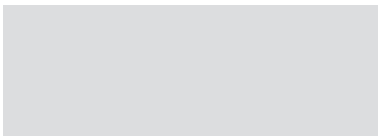
As Sydney continues to grow and change, we need to make sure our open spaces and recreation facilities keep pace with the needs of our residents, workers and visitors. Our *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Strategy* sets out our vision for the next decade – ensuring that everyone can access high-quality places to play sport, exercise, connect with nature, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy Sydney's wonderful outdoor lifestyle.

Over the next 10 years, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. We will continue to invest in new and improved open spaces and recreation facilities, make better use of the spaces we already have, and explore innovative ways to create more opportunities for people to be active and enjoy the outdoors in a growing global city.

This Strategy is about more than providing parks and sporting facilities. It is about creating a city where people can thrive – where children can play, communities can connect, people can be active and everyone can enjoy the extraordinary natural and public spaces that make Sydney such a special place to live, work and visit.

We have achieved so much since 2004. Now, with this Strategy, we have an exciting opportunity to build on that legacy and deliver an even better open space, sport and recreation offering for Sydney over the next 10 years.

I look forward to seeing our city continue to grow, play and flourish.



Clover Moore AO
Lord Mayor of Sydney



Sydney Park
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney



Glebe Foreshore Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Executive summary

The City of Sydney’s open space, sport and recreation network provides essential infrastructure by supporting health, wellbeing, social connection, environmental sustainability and quality of life.

Population growth, increasing density and changing recreation patterns and climate change are placing greater pressure on the network, while opportunities for new open space are becoming increasingly scarce. This strategy provides a framework to respond to these challenges and meet the needs of current and future communities.

Purpose

This Strategy updates the City’s 2016 *Open Space and Recreation Needs Study* and builds on more than 20 years of investment in parks, public spaces and recreation facilities.

It is intended to guide the future planning, provision and management of the City’s open space, sport and recreation network.

The Strategy sets out the directions, priorities and actions required to respond to a growing, denser and more diverse city, addressing identified gaps and ensuring public spaces continue to support community wellbeing, liveability and environmental resilience.

Volume 2 presents the research, analysis and technical assessment that informs the strategic directions and recommendations contained in Volume 1.

The challenge

The City’s open space and recreation network is under increasing pressure:

Growing demand

The residential population is projected to exceed 300,000 people by 2046. More residents, workers and visitors will increase demand for parks, recreation facilities and public spaces for a diverse range of recreational activities.

Limited space

Opportunities to acquire land for new parks are increasingly scarce in a dense urban environment. Most existing parks are relatively small, limiting their capacity to accommodate diverse activities and increasing levels of use.

Climate pressures

Rising temperatures, extreme heat and changing weather patterns are affecting how parks and recreation facilities are designed, managed and used. Parks play a critical role in cooling the city, supporting biodiversity and improving environmental resilience.

Equity and inclusion

Parks and facilities must be inclusive, accessible and welcoming for all people.

The City's response

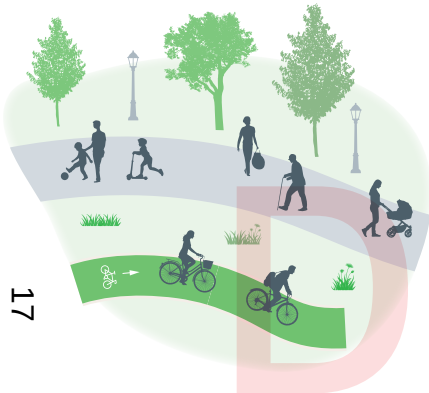
Strategic directions



1 Resilience

Deliver climate-ready parks that support cooling, biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

- increase tree canopy and shade.
- Improve environmental performance and biodiversity.
- Deliver climate responsive park design.
- Support cooling and recreation in a warmer climate including extended park use into the evening.



2 Equity and inclusion

Provide parks, sport and recreation opportunities that enable all people to participate with dignity, inclusion and accessibility.

- First Nations recognition and community involvement
- Accessible and inclusive spaces for people with disability
- Safe and welcoming spaces
- Free and affordable recreation opportunities



3 Quality

Grow, improve and connect the network to meet the needs of a growing city.

- Deliver new parks and public spaces.
- Expand recreation infrastructure and facilities.
- Upgrade existing parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities
- Improve connections between parks, neighbourhoods and key destinations



4 Flexibility

Create adaptable and multi-functional spaces that respond to changing recreation trends and community needs.

- Provide multi-purpose spaces that support a range of activities.
- Increase opportunities for informal and social recreation
- Recognise streets as a recreation resource for walking, running and cycling.
- Support changing participation patterns and emerging recreation trends.

Service levels

We will work towards a consistent level of access across the network for open space and recreation facilities. This includes:

Access to open space

- A park close to home within 5-minute walk (300–400m)
- Neighbourhood parks within 10-minute walk (600–800m)
- District parks and sports fields within 15-minute walk (900–1,200m)

Access to recreation facilities

- Outdoor fitness and recreation within 10-minute walk (600–800m) of most residents
- Multi purpose courts within 10-minute walk (600–800m walk) of most residents
- Sportsfields within a 900–1,200m walk
- Playgrounds - at least one playground with 5minute walk (300–400m) of most residents
- Dog off-leash areas within 10-minute walk, (600–800m walk) including access to larger spaces
- Evening parks - 10-minute walk, (600–800m) of most residents.

These service levels will be used to guide planning, identify gaps and support equitable provision across the City.

The Sydney Plan

The Sydney Plan introduces new metropolitan benchmarks for access to open space and establishes the Blue-Green Grid as a strategic framework for a connected network of parks, waterways and active recreation corridors across Sydney. The City will continue to assess the accessibility, distribution and adequacy of open space and recreation infrastructure to identify gaps and inform future planning and investment priorities. The Plan also foreshadows the development of local government area-specific provision benchmarks, which the City will help shape and apply in collaboration with the NSW Government.

Outcomes

This strategy will deliver:

- More parks and public spaces;
- Increased recreation capacity across the network;
- More equitable access to open space and recreation opportunities;
- Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable parks;
- Better connections to improve access;
- Inclusive and welcoming public spaces; and
- An adaptable network that responds to changing community needs.

How this strategy will be delivered

Delivery will be achieved through:

- Targeted capital investment and renewal programs;
- Planning controls and developer contributions;
- Partnerships with State Government, institutions and private providers;
- Improved asset management and defined service levels; and
- Ongoing advocacy and collaboration.

Supporting evidence

This strategy is informed by detailed analysis of:

- population growth and demographics;
- open space and recreation facility provision, utilisation and distribution;
- recreation trends;
- community feedback and priorities.

Detailed evidence, data and technical analysis are provided in Volume 2.

The City's response

Key projects and initiatives

- 22.7ha to be added to the open space network that will include 21 new parks and spaces*.
- A new Town Hall square;
- Transformation of Wentworth Park;
- A new sports precinct in Alexandria;
- Huntley Street indoor recreation centre - 4 indoor courts; (completed);
- Renewal of 10 existing large parks including Belmore Park;
- ongoing renewal program of small local and neighbourhood parks with over 30 parks currently listed with more to be added in coming years
- new tennis courts and amenities at Alexandria Park;
- Develop an inclusive playground network;
- Progress delivery of new mountain bike facility at St Peters;
- Establish an evening park network;
- Deliver stage 2 City Farm;
- Continue environmental initiatives for climate resilient parks; and
- More seating and amenities across the network;

Increase sports facility provision including:

- 3 additional sportsfields*;
- 7 indoor courts;
- 9 outdoor courts
- 8 additional playgrounds;
- 4 additional outdoor fitness stations;
- Aquatic facilities renewal program;
- Sportsfield amenity building upgrades at Jubilee Oval, Waterloo Oval, Alexandria Park; and
- Continue rolling out the cycle network and street pedestrian improvements to support walking, running and cycling.

* includes other providers



Artist impression of the new square at Town Hall showing everyday activity - indicative only subject design development and approval.
Image: Artist / City of Sydney



Artist impression of Wentworth Park - indicative only subject to design development and approval.
Image: Artist / City of Sydney



Building on 20 years of transformation

The City of Sydney has transformed its open space and recreation network over the past two decades but continued population growth means further investment is needed to meet future community needs.

A strong foundation

For more than two decades we have worked alongside its community to transform the open space and recreation network, responding to the needs of a growing and diverse population.

Through capital works, park management, and advocacy, we've delivered new parks, transformed streets, upgraded existing facilities, and embedded sustainability measures that provide lasting environmental and social benefits.

Key transformation areas

- More open space
- Existing park renewals and improvements
- More recreation and sport facilities
- More support facilities
- Streets for recreation
- Environmental initiatives
- Community involvement
- Park management

Continuing the transformation

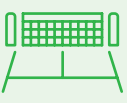
This Strategy builds on these achievements and provides a framework for the next phase of investment. Its focus is not only on creating new parks and recreation facilities, but also on protecting what has been achieved, improving existing assets, increasing capacity, and ensuring the network continues to meet the needs of future communities.

Image (previous page): **Sydney Park water re-use**
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

What has been delivered since 2004

20		New open space 42.6ha added to the open space network over 70 new parks and spaces* - Open space area increased from 14.8% (2016) to 15.4 % of our area
		Existing parks and spaces over 200 park renewals and improvement projects
		Aquatics 2 new facilities – Gunyama Park and Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre - Full replacement Prince Alfred Park pool - Renewal of Andrew Boy Charlton Pool
		Indoor recreation 2 new indoor recreation centres providing 8 indoor multi purpose courts - Gym facilities at Juanita Nielsen Centre and Pymont Community Centre
		Sportsfields 4 new sportsfields
		Playgrounds 16 additional playgrounds - ongoing renewal of existing playgrounds
		Skate 2 destination facilities - Sydney Park childrens bike track

* includes other providers

	Outdoor gyms 13 outdoor gyms
	Outdoor courts 7 outdoor courts
	Streets for recreation - cycle network rollout - streets improvements for better walking and running
	Environmental - increase in tree canopy - increase in habitat - park lighting converted to LED - water and energy saving infrastructure - City farm established at Sydney Park
	Support facilities - new public toilets and amenties - more seating, shelters, bbqs and picnic facilities
	Park management ongoing delivery of a comprehensive park and recreation facility management and maintenance program that supports safe, accessible and welcoming environments for community use.

New open space

Selected delivered projects include:



The Drying Green
Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney



North Rosebery Park
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney



Harold Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney



Wimbo Park
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

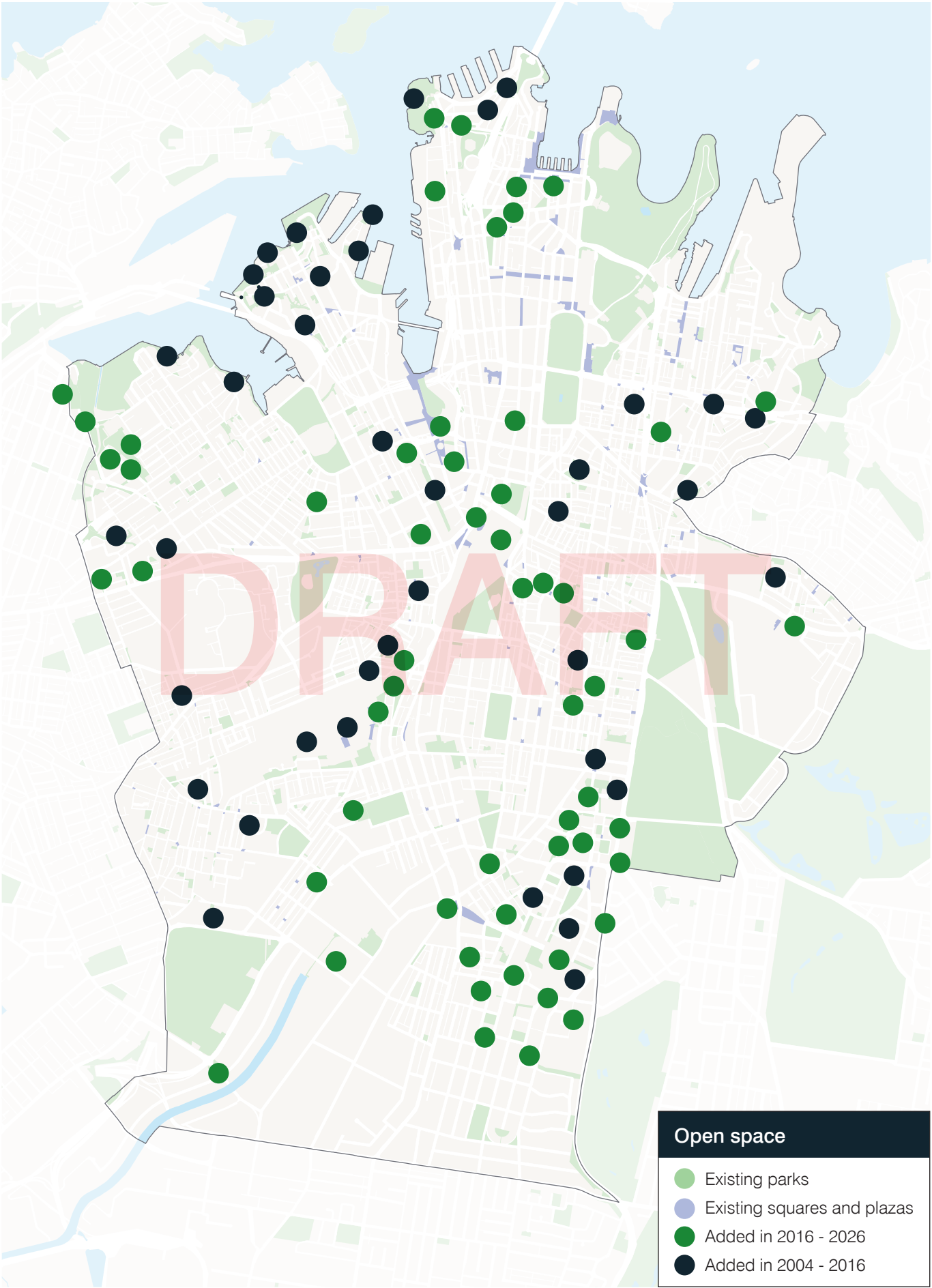


Wulaba Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Pirrama Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Figure 1: New open space added between 2004 and 2026



Existing park renewals

Selected delivered projects include:



Sydney Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney



Glebe Foreshore
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney



Prince Alfred Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney



Victoria Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

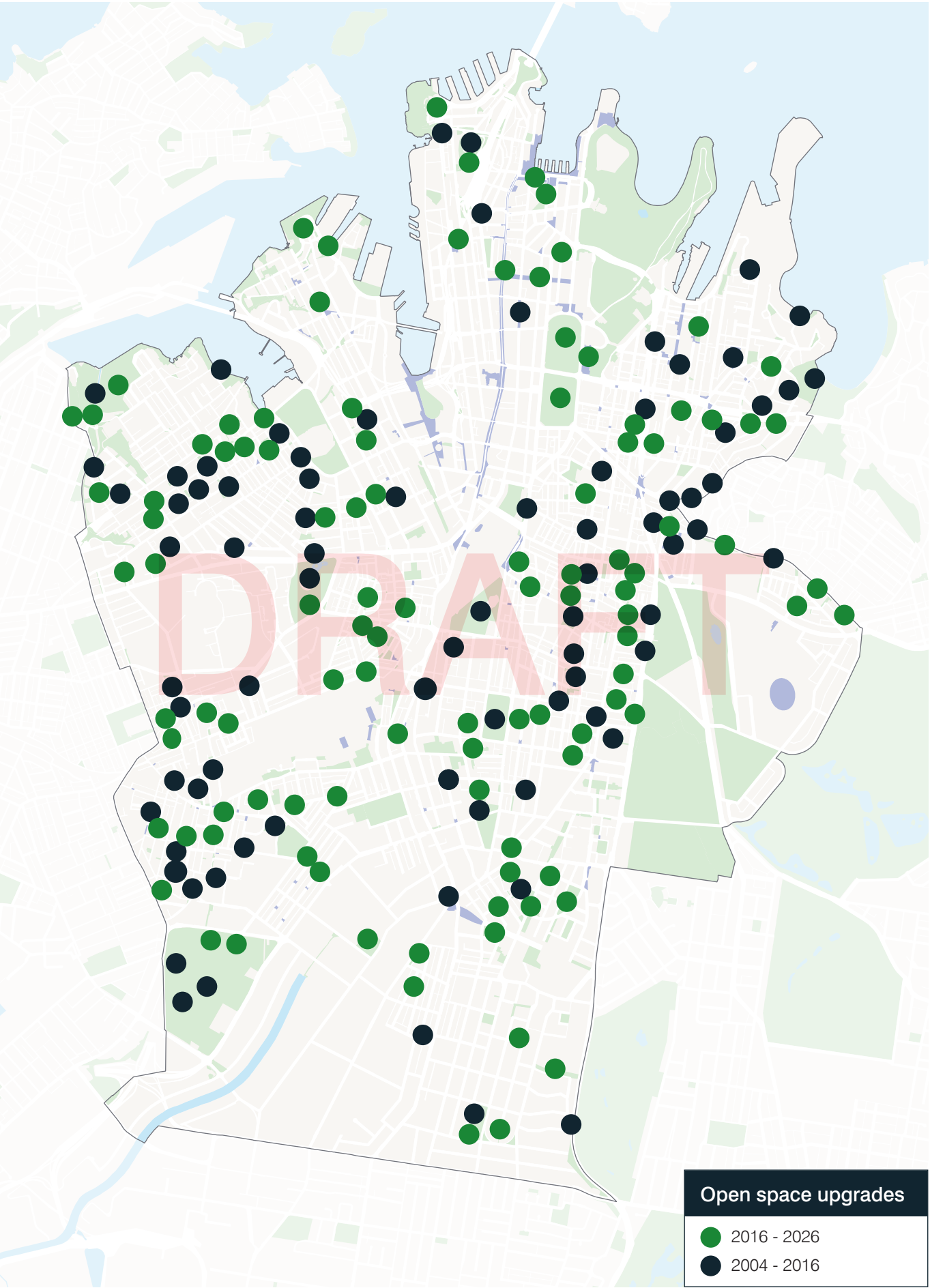


Rushcutters Bay Park
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney



Clyne Reserve
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Figure 2: Open space renewals between 2004 and 2026



New sport and recreation facilities

Selected delivered projects include:



Gunyama Park Aquatic Centre
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney



Perry Park Indoor Recreation Centre
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Sydney Park Skate Facility
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney



Observatory Park outdoor gym
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

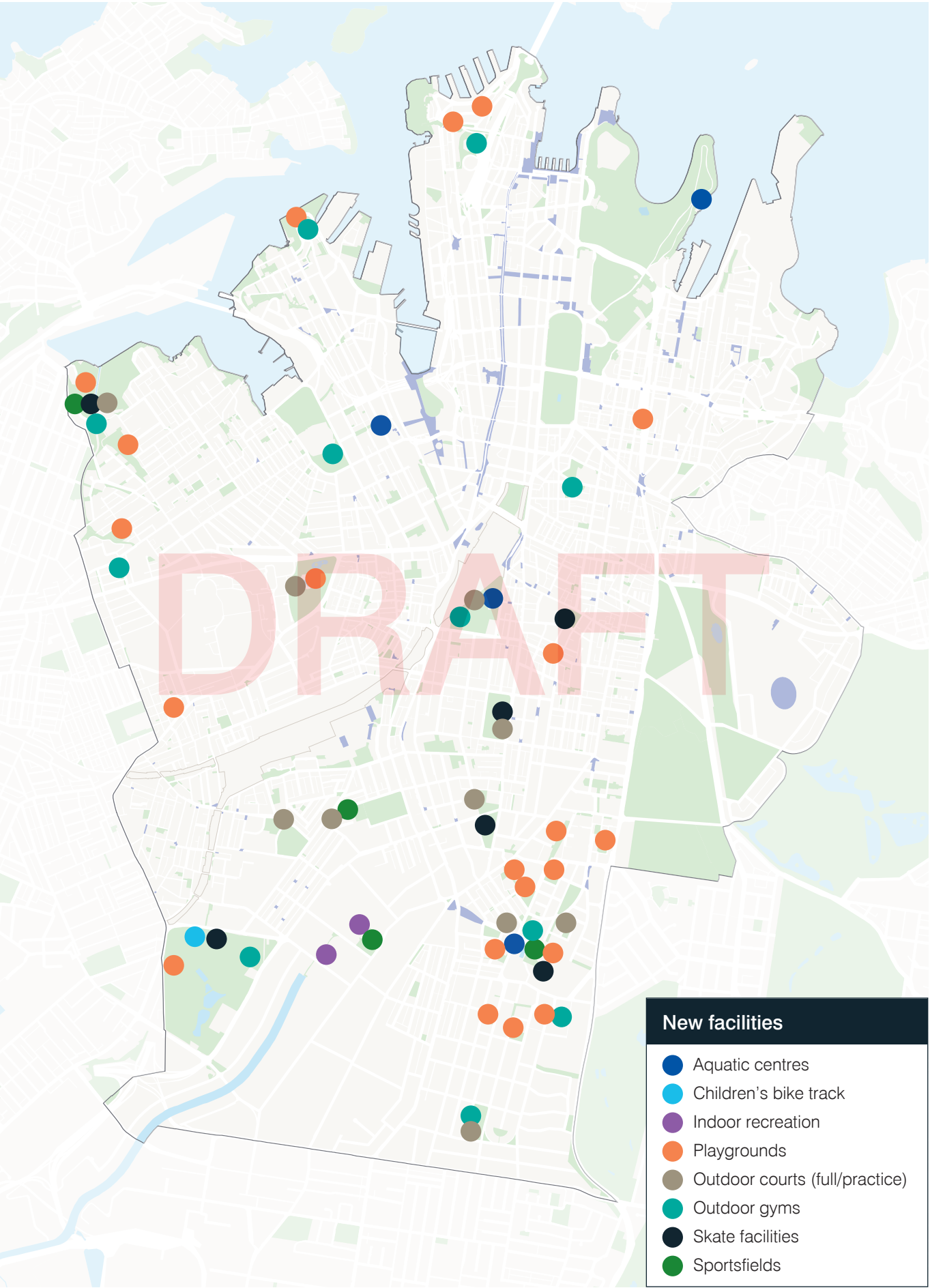


Gunyama Park playground
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney



Perry Park synthetic field
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Figure 3: New sport and recreation facilities added between 2004 and 2026



Green Square

Green Square is one of Australia’s largest urban renewal projects and is planned to accommodate around 60,000 residents within a high-density urban environment.

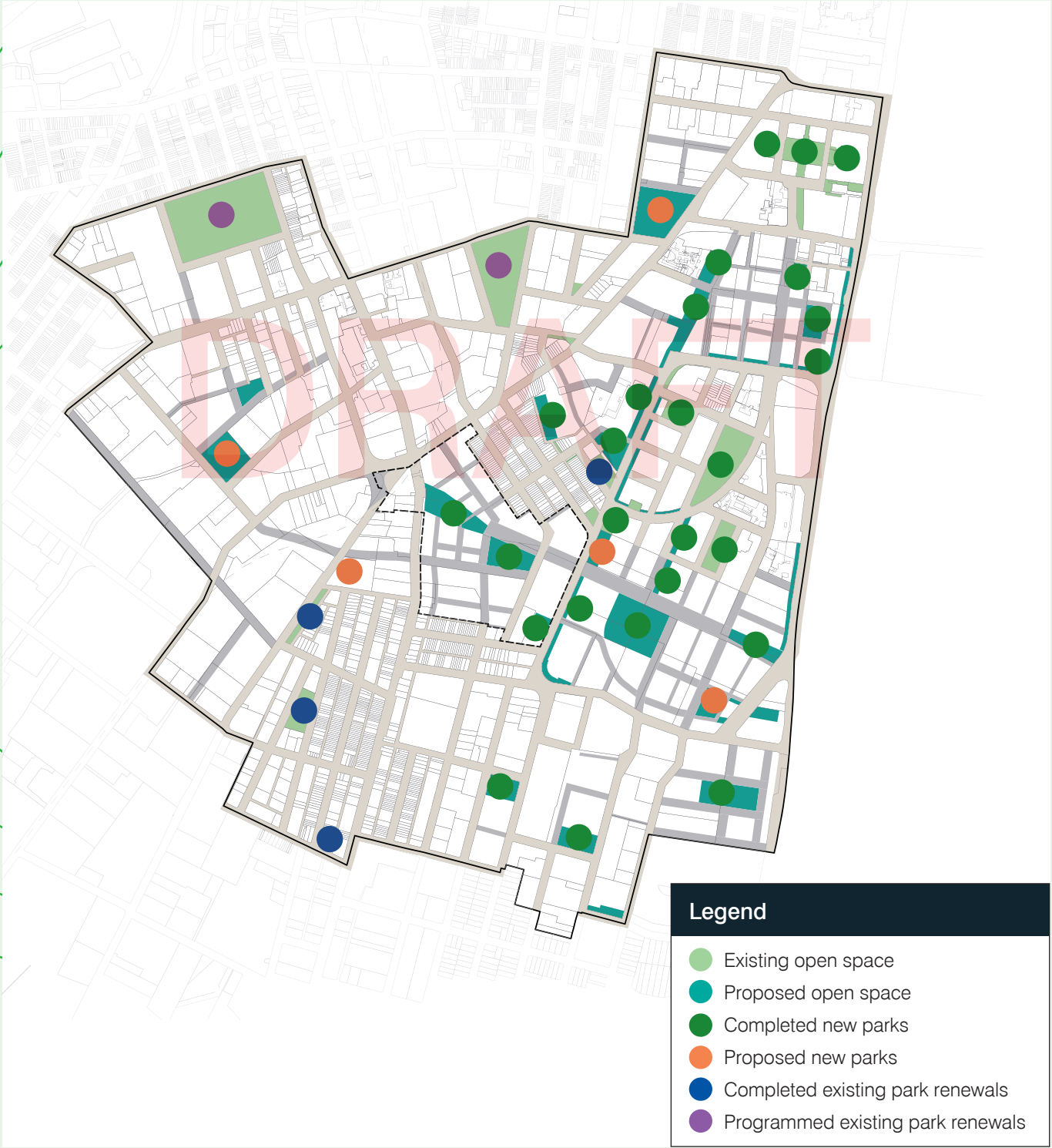


In response to population growth, the City has adopted a dual approach of delivering new parks and public spaces and renewing existing parks and recreation facilities across Green Square. As a result, more than 30 of the 40 parks and public spaces have been delivered, supported by major community infrastructure such as Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre and Green Square Library and Plaza.

Together, these investments provide the essential social, recreational and environmental infrastructure needed to support healthy, liveable and connected high-density neighbourhoods. The delivery parks and recreation facilities has been critical in ensuring residents have access to places for recreation, play, social connection and everyday wellbeing, despite limited private open space associated with apartment living.

Green Square
Photo: Adam Hollingworth / City of Sydney

Figure 4: Green Square renewals



Introduction

This open space sport and recreation needs strategy builds on *Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision* by providing a framework to guide the planning, delivery and enhancement of open space, sport and recreation opportunities for current and future communities.

Why update?

Since the previous study was completed in 2016, the City of Sydney has continued to grow and change. We need to consider and respond to those changes.

Population growth and demographic change

Growth, increasing density and changing community characteristics will influence future demand for parks and recreation facilities

An evolving strategic context

New City and State planning strategies require review to ensure future provision aligns with policy directions.

Climate change

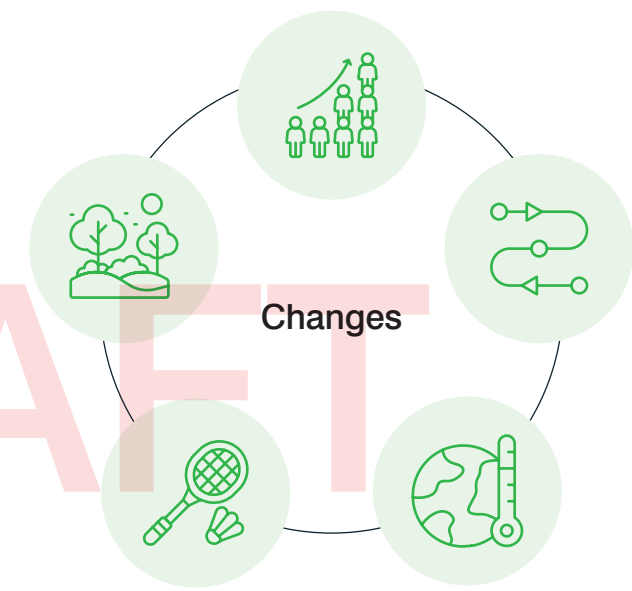
Increasing temperatures and climate risks are influencing how parks and recreation facilities are planned, designed and managed.

Changing recreation trends

Participation is becoming more diverse, with growing demand for informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities.

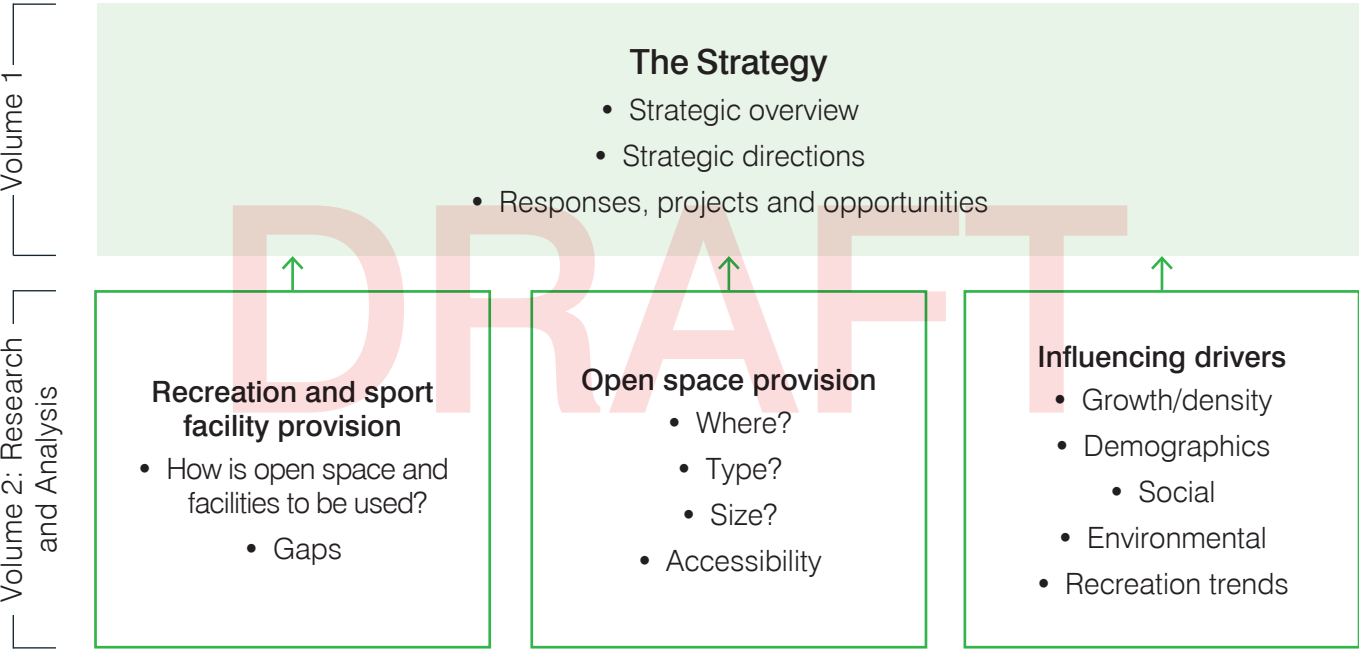
Investment in the network

Significant new parks, public spaces and recreation facilities have been delivered since 2016 and require consideration as part of future planning.



This Strategy responds to the changes that have occurred since 2016 and provides a framework for the next 20 years to guide future planning, investment and decision-making for open space, sport and recreation across the City of Sydney.

Methodology



Objectives

- 1 Protect and enhance the City’s open space and recreation network.
- 2 Respond to population growth, urban density and changing community needs.
- 3 Improve equitable access to open space and recreation opportunities.
- 4 Strengthen climate resilience, biodiversity and environmental outcomes.
- 5 Increase the capacity, quality and flexibility of parks and recreation facilities.
- 6 Guide future planning, investment, advocacy and partnerships.

Strategic context

Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050



Our vision and community strategic plan *Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision* was shaped following extensive consultation with residents, workers, and visitors. It reflects a shared ambition to be green, global and connected

Our vision, supporting policies, strategies and plans all recognise the essential role open space, parks, sport and recreation infrastructure plays in dense urban areas. Our environmental, social planning, and land-use planning strategies and policies have been instrumental in guiding the long-term development and enhancement of our parks and facility networks to ensure Sydney liveability.

By aligning with these broader strategic frameworks, the strategy provides a coordinated approach to protecting, improving and expanding our open space and recreation network for current and future communities.

State Government

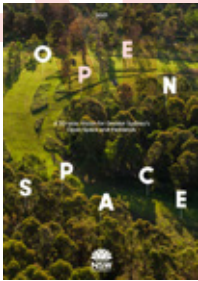


At a State level, the *Sydney Plan* is the NSW Government's new 20-year regional land-use strategy guiding housing, jobs, infrastructure, sustainability and liveability across 33 local government areas.

The Sydney Plan treats open space as essential social and environmental infrastructure and it introduces an access-based approach focused on ensuring most residents can walk to usable public open space, while also retaining quantitative requirements for major redevelopment sites. It advances a regional blue-green grid to connect parks, ecological corridors and active-transport links.



The NSW Government has also stated 'well-planned green infrastructure is fundamental in fostering healthy, happy communities that are sustainable now and into the future' (*Greener Places*, 2020).



It has also reinforced the critical role parks and recreation play through its 50-year *Open Space vision* and *Greener Places* framework as well as the establishment of the Greater Sydney Parklands.



The NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028 focuses on increasing participation in sport and active recreation for all people through inclusive, accessible opportunities across the life course. It emphasises fit-for-purpose and sustainable facilities, sector capability and resilience, and strong partnerships and investment to maximise social, health and economic outcomes across NSW.

Social sustainability and public space

Well designed inclusive and accessible public spaces play a critical role in social sustainability by fostering everyday interactions, supporting community connection, and helping reduce loneliness and isolation.



Free, safe, and inclusive public spaces are vital social infrastructure. They bring people together, supporting everyday interaction, community life, and a sense of belonging. Parks act as urban “living rooms”—welcoming environments for socialising, recreation, and cultural exchange.

As loneliness becomes a growing public health concern parks and public spaces are increasingly important to facilitate social connections.

In the City of Sydney, where nearly 40% of residents live alone and many reside in high-density housing, social isolation is intensified by factors such as a transient population, linguistic diversity, and single-person households. Despite living in close proximity, many residents lack meaningful connection.

Both the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Loneliness

(2024) and the NSW Mental Health Commission's *Loneliness in Focus* report (2023) highlight the importance of parks as key social infrastructure. They call for expanded access to quality green spaces as a protective factor against loneliness and a means to foster community cohesion.

The City's *Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan (2018-2028)* and *Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Vision* offer a comprehensive framework to address these pressures.

Targets include increasing community cohesion and social interaction will have increased in the local area. This is based on at least 75% of the local resident population feeling part of the community, 65% agreeing most people can be trusted and 90% saying they can get help from their neighbours.

People enjoying Hyde Park by sitting and walking
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Our City

In a high-density city, public open space functions as a shared backyard for residents, workers and visitors.

A growing city

The residential population is projected to exceed 300,000 people by 2046, with significant growth occurring in Green Square, Redfern-Waterloo, Pyrmont and other urban renewal areas. Growth in employment, education and tourism will also increase pressure on the City's open space and recreation network.

A high-density city

Almost all residents live in medium or high-density housing. For many people, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, recreation centres and public spaces function as an extension of the home—providing places to exercise, relax, socialise and connect with nature.

Diverse communities

The City is home to people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, household types and life stages. Nearly half of residents were born overseas and more than one-third speak a language other than English at home. Recreation preferences and patterns of participation reflect this diversity and continue to evolve.

A city for all ages

While young adults remain the largest age group, growth is forecast across all age groups, including children, families and older residents. This creates demand for parks, recreation opportunities and facilities that are inclusive, accessible and adaptable throughout different stages of life.

More than a residential population

The City's open space and recreation network serves more than residents alone. Workers, students and visitors contribute significantly to daily demand for parks, public spaces and recreation facilities, particularly in the city centre and major employment precincts.

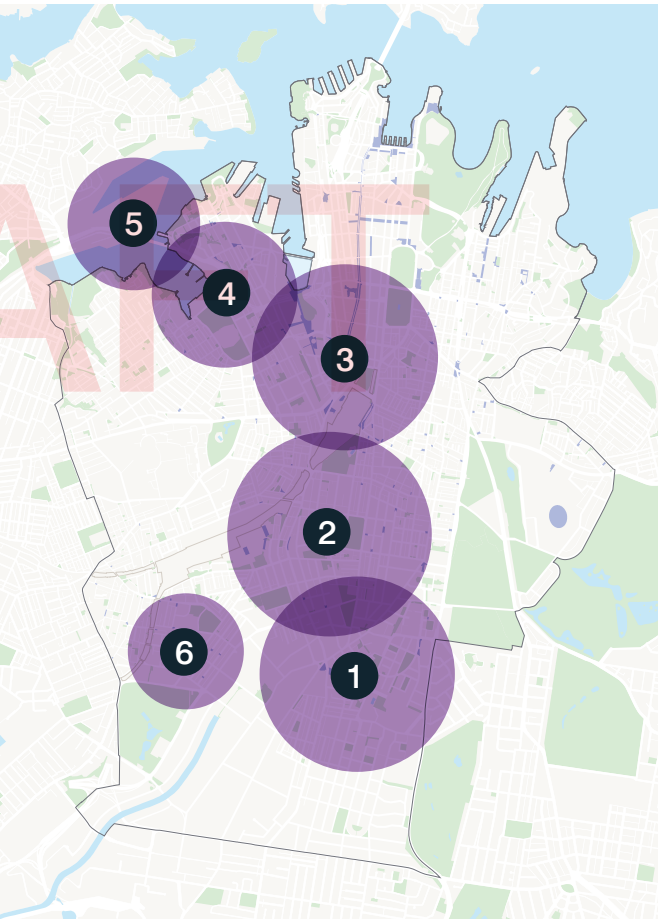
As Sydney grows and becomes more diverse, the demand for high-quality parks, public spaces and recreation facilities will continue to increase. Future planning will need to balance population growth, changing recreation trends, environmental sustainability and equitable access to ensure the network continues to meet the needs of current and future communities.

The City of Sydney is one of Australia's most densely populated local government areas and a major centre for employment, education, tourism and culture.

Over the next two decades, the city will continue to grow and change. More residents, workers and visitors will increase demand for parks, public spaces, sport and recreation facilities. At the same time, high-density living means many people rely on public open space for recreation, exercise, social connection and everyday wellbeing.

Our communities are diverse, active and increasingly reliant on shared public spaces. These characteristics shape how parks and recreation facilities are used today and influence the types of spaces and experiences that will be needed in the future.

Figure 5: Major urban renewal areas of increased population density



- 1 Green Square Urban Renewal
- 2 Redfern-Waterloo Renewal (Central to Eveleigh)
- 3 Central Sydney and Central Station Precinct
- 4 Pyrmont and Blackwattle Bay
- 5 Bays Precinct
- 6 Ashmore Estate

The role of large parks in a growing city

Large parks are fundamental to a well-connected open space network.

28

The City's network of local and neighbourhood parks provides many residents with convenient access to open space close to home, supporting everyday recreation and relaxation.

Large parks are essential to the liveability of a dense city. While smaller local parks provide convenient places for everyday recreation and relaxation, larger parks offer something different: space to escape the intensity of urban life, stride out for a long walk or ride, and reconnect with nature.

These parks accommodate a wide range of activities and experiences in a single setting, from walking and cycling loops, sports fields and playgrounds, to picnic areas, quiet gardens and natural habitats. They provide opportunities for exercise, social connection, relaxation and wellbeing that cannot be replicated in smaller spaces.

Large parks are particularly important for residents living in apartments and higher-density neighbourhoods, where private outdoor space is limited. They serve as the community's shared backyard and provide access to nature, fresh air and open landscapes that support both physical and mental health.

As the city continues to grow, the City will remain focused on improving and enhancing the large parks we already have, including Sydney Park and the Glebe Foreshore Parklands. The cessation of greyhound racing will allow transformation of Wentworth Park into a unified 14ha park, creating a significant new destination for recreation, wellbeing and connection with nature.

With Moore Park South now established, we will continue advocating to the NSW Government for the delivery of high-quality facilities, amenities and landscape improvements that enable people to play, exercise, picnic and enjoy nature, ensuring this significant park fulfils its role as a place to escape the city and connect with the outdoors.



Various visitors walking through Sydney Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Communities at a glance

As the City’s population continues to grow, demand on the open space and recreation network will intensify, placing greater capacity pressures across all facilities especially larger parks that provide greater opportunities for active recreation.

	Our residential population will increase by 30.81% from 241,797 in 2025 to 304,049 in 2046.
	Almost half of our residents were born overseas .
	The majority of our residents are young with 56.5% aged between 25 and 49 years of age.
	Around 1 in 5 Australians are living with a disability . Increasing to 50% for people aged over 65. (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
	Our local area is home to one of Sydney’s largest communities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples .
	97% of residents of residents live in medium or high-density housing .

	The City’s 2023 Community Wellbeing Survey showed: 25% of young people aged 16–29 years, 21% of people aged 30–39 years, and 22% of people aged 40–49 years, unwillingly limited spending on sports and recreation due to their household financial situation in the past 12 months.
	38% of households are lone-households and 28% are couples without children .
	The number of older residents (65 years and over) will grow by 34.68% from 31,089 in 2025 to 41,807 in 2046.
	The number of children (14 years and under) will grow by 30.35% from 21,477 in 2025 to 27,995 in 2046.

Priority communities

The City identifies several priority groups whose needs must be addressed in open space and recreation planning:

Children and families

Inclusive play spaces, nature-based recreation, shaded seating, picnic facilities and amenities

Older adults

Gentle walking paths, seating, shaded rest areas, low-impact fitness equipment

People with disability

Universal design principles that support accessible and inclusive public spaces

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Culturally inclusive spaces and recreation offer.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Recognition of community and cultural heritage, places to gather and play.

Women and girls

Safe, welcoming spaces with good lighting, visibility, amenities and opportunities for active and social recreation.

Low-income and social housing residents

Free or low-cost recreation, close proximity to facilities.

Young adults and students

As a high proportion of our community young adults will drive demand for active recreation, fitness and social use of parks.

People of diverse sexualities and genders

Safe, inclusive public spaces for social connection.

People experiencing homelessness

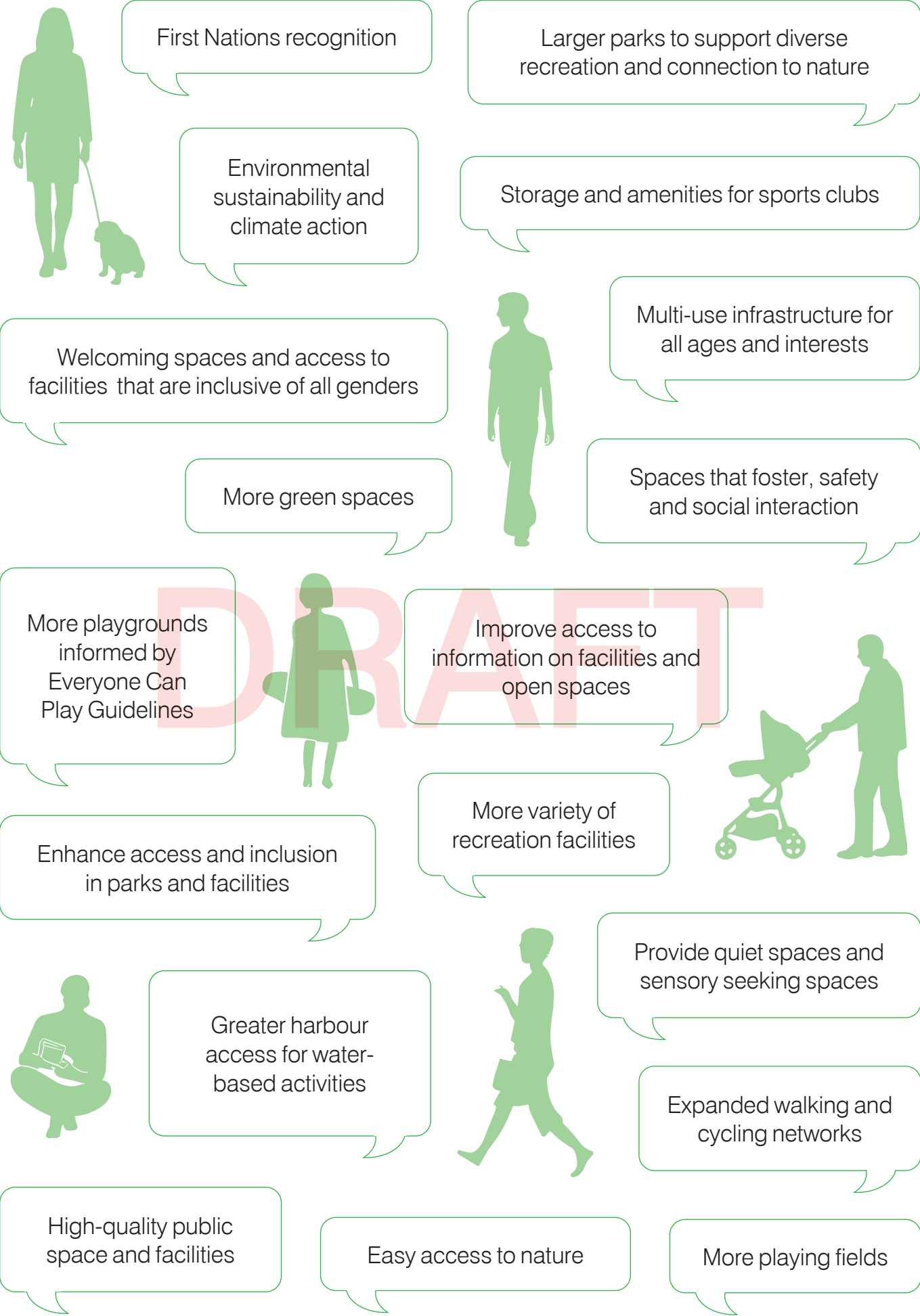
Access to welcoming public spaces with seating, shade, drinking water, and amenities

Key values

Our communities appreciate and understand the value of our open space, sport and recreation networks.

- Community priorities remain focussed on a liveable sustainable and inclusive city that supports diverse communities, offers accessible public spaces and actively addresses the issues of climate change.
- Feedback gathered through major strategic initiatives—including *Sustainable Sydney 2030 - 2050 Continuing the Vision, Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan, Resilient Sydney Synthesis Report 2024, Greater Sydney Outdoors Study, Committee for Sydney Life in Sydney* report and insights from the COVID-19 period, consistently highlights the deep value residents place on parks and public spaces.

Opposite: Feedback from major strategic initiatives including *Sustainable Sydney 2030 - 2050 Continuing the Vision* and other sources



Our open space and recreation network

A diverse network of parks, public spaces and recreation facilities supports health, wellbeing and community life across the city.

The open space network

The City of Sydney is supported by a diverse network of parks, public spaces that contribute to health, wellbeing, social connection, biodiversity and climate resilience.

The network includes parks, sports fields, civic spaces, street closures, ancillary/ links, habitat, and public space associated with the light rail corridor. Together, these spaces support a wide range of organised and informal recreation activities, social interaction, environmental education for residents, workers and visitors.

- 411.4ha or 15.4% of our LGA is open space.
- 50.4% of open space area in 456 spaces are managed by the City, and 49.6% in 62 spaces are managed by other agencies and other institutions.

Ancillary/links



Bushland

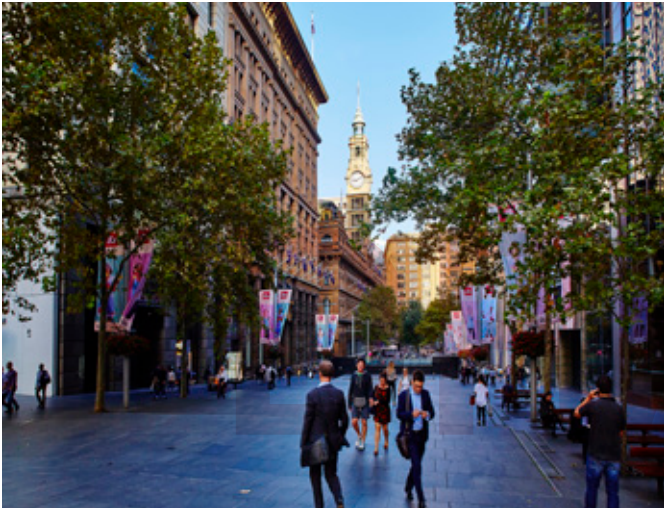


Types of open space (left to right)

Bamal Way Link
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Bushcare
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Civic squares and spaces



Foreshore parkland



Parks



Street closures



Martin Place
Photo: Tyrone Branigan / City of Sydney
Bicentennial Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Hyde Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney
Arthur Street closure
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney

Recreation facility provision

The City provides facilities in parks and recreation and community centre buildings to support a wide range of recreational activities for residents, workers, and visitors.

In addition, other agencies such as Greater Sydney Parklands and Place NSW play a key role in providing recreation facilities. These include:

Facility	City	Others	Total
Aquatic facilities	6	4	10
Cricket pitches	5	8	13
Outdoor courts (full size)	16	17	33
Outdoor fitness	15	7	22
Playgrounds	107	7	114
Indoor courts	13	12	25
Skate park	5	1	6
Sports fields and ovals	17	19	36
Tennis courts	18	35	53

Refer to Volume 2 Part 4 for further details on facility provision refer to Volume 2.

Types of sport and recreation facilities (left to right)

Andrew Boy Charlton Pool
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Wentworth Park cricket nets
Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney

Perry Park Recreation Centre
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Perry Park basketball court
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Observatory Park outdoor gym
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Redfern Community Centre playground
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Sydney Park skatepark
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Gunyama Park synthetic field
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Inclusive Tennis Festival
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

A family bicycle ride
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Whether simply walking for exercise or playing a team sport the demands for recreation is many and varied.

Aquatic facilities



Cricket and baseball



Outdoor courts



Outdoor fitness



Playgrounds



Indoor courts



Skate park



Sportsfields and ovals



Tennis courts



Cycling and street network



Some of the sports and recreation activities our residents, workers and visitors participate in



includes City of Sydney, other agencies and private sector providers.

Private providers

Whether it's the rise of high-intensity interval training (HIIT), the growing popularity of pickleball, badminton or wellness programs, private businesses are well-positioned to adapt quickly and tailor their services to meet evolving consumer demand.

Private providers deliver a broad array of sport and recreation activities across the City's local government area and neighbouring suburbs. Their services complement public provision, expanding access and offering communities a wider and more diverse range of opportunities.

Facilities include gyms, courts, wellness centres, or more niche offerings, such as indoor climbing walls, indoor golf driving ranges, indoor ski simulators and trampoline parks.

	Over 200 gyms
	Pickle and paddle ball
	Martial arts
	Badminton
	Pilates
	Yoga
	Indoor rock climbing
	Virtual golf
	Billiards



ProPickle courts , Alexandria Photo: Photographer / City of Sydney

Streets as recreation spaces

The City's largest recreation network.

Streets are one of the largest and most accessible recreation resources in our area, supporting walking, running, cycling, social connection as well as access to parks, recreation facilities and the Harbour Foreshore.

Well-designed streets do more than move people between destinations. They provide spaces for exercise, recreation, social interaction and everyday wellbeing, while connecting residents to the broader open space network.

For many people, recreation does not begin at the park entrance. The street network is where everyday recreation happens through:

- recreational cycling
- dog walking
- walking and running circuits
- family bike rides
- access to the Harbour Foreshore
- access to parks and open spaces
- active recreation as part of daily life

Walking, running and cycling are among Australia's most popular recreation pursuits, highlighting the importance of safe, attractive and accessible streets that support everyday movement and recreation.

Research demonstrates that connected movement networks encourage higher levels of walking and cycling, while dedicated cycling infrastructure increases participation by making riding safer and more attractive for people of all ages and abilities.

What we are doing

Through the *Cycling Strategy and Action Plan*, *A City for Walking Strategy and Action Plan*, and ongoing greening and public domain improvement initiatives, the City is creating safer, greener and more attractive environments for walking, running and cycling.

Together, these initiatives recognise streets, parks and public spaces as integral components of the City's recreation network and support the objectives of the *Sydney Plan's Blue-Green Grid*, which seeks to create a connected network of open spaces, waterways, active transport corridors and green infrastructure across Sydney.

Recreation should begin at people's front doors. By investing in walkable neighbourhoods, cycling infrastructure, greener streets and improved public spaces, we are creating a network of everyday recreation opportunities that connect residents to parks, destinations and the broader Blue-Green Grid.



Cyclists on a guided bike ride
Photo: Adam Hollingworth / City of Sydney

Recreation trends

Changing lifestyles and participation patterns are reshaping how people use parks, public spaces and recreation facilities.

Becoming more informal

Walking, running, fitness training, cycling and swimming are now among the most popular recreation activities. People increasingly seek recreation opportunities that are flexible, convenient, free or low cost and close to home. Public spaces, trails, parks and waterways are becoming as important as traditional sporting facilities.

Becoming more social

While organised sport remains important particular at junior level, many people are choosing social and modified versions of sport that emphasise fun, flexibility and connection. Running clubs, social competitions and activities such as pickleball are attracting new participants and broadening recreation opportunities.

Climate is influencing how people recreate

Hotter conditions are changing when and where people recreate. Demand for shade, cooling, evening recreation opportunities and climate-resilient facilities will continue to increase.

Demand for adaptive spaces is increasing

Communities increasingly value multi-purpose facilities that can support a range of activities rather than infrastructure designed for a single use. Flexible courts, shared spaces and adaptable public spaces can respond more effectively to changing community needs.

Becoming more inclusive

Participation by women and girls continues to grow and there is increasing demand for recreation opportunities that support older adults, young people, people with disabilities and culturally diversity.

Nature and water-based recreation are growing

Harbour swimming, paddle sports, outdoor fitness and nature-based recreation are increasingly popular. Access to waterways, green space and shady outdoor environments is becoming more important as Sydney's climate changes.

Future recreation planning should:

- Support both organised sport, informal and passive recreation.
- Prioritise adaptable and multi-purpose facilities.
- Improve access to recreation opportunities for all communities.
- Respond to changing participation trends.
- Provide climate-resilient recreation spaces.
- Expand partnerships to maximise increase availability.



A picnic at Hyde Park
Photo: Mark Metcalfe / City of Sydney

For further detail recreation participation and trends refer to Volume 2 Part 2

Growing and emerging activities



Pickleball and paddle



Swimming in the harbour



Oz-tag, flag gridiron and ultimate frisbee



Running clubs



BMX and mountain biking



Martial arts



Urban sports



Dog exercise



Futsal



Roller derby



Badminton and volleyball



Basketball



Exer-gaming and technology



Gym



Watercraft sports and recreation



Pilates/yoga

AusPlay data

Top 5 activities (sport and recreation combined)		
Adults	Men	Women
1. Walking	1. Walking	1. Walking
2. Fitness/gym	2. Fitness/gym	2. Fitness/gym
3. Swimming	3. Running/jogging	3. Swimming
4. Running/jogging	4. Swimming	4. Running/jogging
5. Cycling	5. Cycling	5. Yoga
Children	Boys	Girls
1. Swimming	1. Football/soccer	1. Swimming
2. Football/soccer	2. Swimming	2. Dancing
3. Gymnastics	3. Basketball	3. Gymnastics
4. Dancing	4. Cricket	4. Football/soccer
5. Basketball	5. Rugby league	5. Netball

Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities		
Adults	Men	Women
1. Fitness gym	1. Fitness/gym	1. Fitness/gym
2. Running/jogging	2. Football/soccer	2. Pilates
3. Football/soccer	3. Running	3. Walking
4. Pilates	4. Golf	4. Yoga
5. Walking	5. Walking	5. Running
Children	Boys	Girls
1. Swimming	1. Football/soccer	1. Swimming
2. Football/soccer	2. Swimming	2. Dancing
3. Gymnastics	3. Basketball	3. Gymnastics
4. Dancing	4. Cricket	4. Football/soccer
5. Netball	5. Rugby league	5. Netball

Challenges

A growing population, changing recreation needs and climate pressures are creating new demands on the City’s open space and recreation network.

The City’s open space and recreation network is performing well and has benefited from significant investment over the past two decades. However, population growth, increasing density, changing recreation patterns and climate change will further increase pressures that require a strategic response.

Five key challenges will shape the future of open space, sport and recreation planning.

A growing city with limited space

Demand for open space and recreation opportunities is increasing as the city grows. At the same time, opportunities to acquire new land are becoming increasingly limited. Existing parks and facilities will need to accommodate more users while continuing to provide a high-quality experience.

Key implications

- Increasing demand on parks and recreation facilities.
- Declining open space provision per resident.
- Limited opportunities for new large parks.
- Greater need to increase network capacity.

A changing climate

We face increased risks to our parks, recreation facilities from the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures, increased extreme weather events, and shifting rainfall patterns threaten habitats, damage infrastructure and reduce the availability of sports fields.

Key implications

- Greater demand for shade and cooling.
- Increased importance of tree canopy and biodiversity.
- Need for climate-resilient facilities and landscapes.
- Growing demand for evening and all-season recreation.

Changing recreation needs

Participation is becoming more diverse, flexible and informal. Walking, running, cycling, fitness activities and social recreation are increasingly important alongside traditional organised sport.

Key implications

- Increased use of parks for informal recreation.
- Growing participation in emerging recreation activities.
- Need for adaptable spaces that can respond to future trends.

Equity inclusion and access

Not everyone experiences the same access to parks and recreation opportunities. As the community becomes more diverse, public spaces and facilities must better respond to different ages, abilities, cultures, income and recreation preferences.

Key implications

- Uneven access to some parks and facilities.
- Barriers to participation for some communities.
- Growing expectation for inclusive and accessible design.
- Need to ensure benefits are shared across the city.
- Many young people experience social isolation and limited opportunities for meaningful community connection, highlighting the need for recreation spaces that foster belonging, inclusion and positive social networks.

Declining youth participation

Increasing screen-based recreation and a decline in participation is contributing to more sedentary lifestyles among young people.

Key implications

- Provide flexible and informal recreation opportunities that appeal to young people beyond organised sport.
- Improve access to outdoor social spaces that support gathering, connection and active lifestyles
- Design parks and recreation spaces that are safe, welcoming and inclusive for women and girls and gender diverse young people.

Social cohesion and community connection

Why this matters

Social cohesion and connection are fundamental to community wellbeing, resilience and quality of life. Communities with strong social networks are more likely to foster belonging, trust, inclusion and mutual support. However, barriers such as racism, sexism, homophobia, loneliness and social isolation continue to affect participation and community life for some people.

38 Sport and recreation can play an important role in addressing these challenges by creating opportunities for shared experiences, friendships, confidence-building and community connection. Participation in sport and recreation can strengthen social bonds across different ages, cultures and backgrounds, helping people feel connected to their local community.

At the same time, participation patterns are evolving. More people are choosing flexible and informal forms of recreation alongside traditional club-based sport. While this shift can make participation more accessible and appealing to a broader range of people, it may not always provide the same depth of social connection, mentoring and support networks often associated with organised activities.

What we will do

Sport and recreation infrastructure should be planned, designed and activated as a community asset that supports both physical activity and social connection.

By fostering welcoming and inclusive environments, recreation settings can strengthen community cohesion, reduce social isolation and create positive pathways for young people through role modelling, mentoring and leadership opportunities.

While we cannot directly influence every sport, recreation and fitness provider across the municipality, we can play an important leadership role.

This includes setting expectations for the facilities it manages, supporting partners who create inclusive and welcoming environments, and working collaboratively with clubs, schools, businesses and community organisations through advocacy, partnerships to advance shared community outcomes.

Through inclusive and accessible recreation spaces and programs, Council can help more people participate, connect and belong.



Gym facilities at Victoria Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Considering gender in parks and recreation

Research consistently shows that girls’ participation in public space drops sharply in early adolescence.

Why this matters

From around ages 8–14, many teenage girls feel they do not belong in parks, with facilities perceived as catering primarily to boys.

In 2022, research commissioned by the Yorkshire Sport Foundation found that only 34% of teenage girls enjoy exercising in their local park, compared with 63% of boys. 73% of girls reported that feeling watched discourages them from exercising in parks and makes them feel vulnerable. Participation in organised sport also differs significantly, with four times as many boys as girls using parks for organised activity (29% compared to 7%).

Many park environments are dominated by facilities that favour boys and young men—such as sports pitches, skateparks, and basketball courts—and these spaces are often socially occupied by male users. In Australia, 95% of skate park users are male, with females more likely to attend as spectators or parents. Teenage girls also report feeling “aged out” of traditional play spaces, including equipment such as swings that they would still like to use.

Research highlights that improving park use by teenage girls requires

intentional design that both caters to their preferences and gives them clear “permission” to occupy space.

Key findings from international studies and projects show that teenage girls tend to prefer:

- Places to sit together face to face, with shelter from wind and weather
- Spaces that feel intimate and safe, with the ability to see out without being the focus of attention
- Visually engaging environments they can adapt or personalise
- Informal, fun based physical activity (e.g. dancing, swinging, trampolines) rather than formal sport
- Spaces to sit, lie, hang, jump, or swing together

What we will do

Co designing with teenage girls

Engaging teenage girls directly in the design process is critical to rebalancing how parks are experienced and used. Less formal engagement methods—such as walk and talk sessions or creative workshops—are particularly effective in surfacing insights about safety, comfort, and social dynamics.



Co-ed netball players at Perry Park
Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney

Future recreation and open space needs

This strategy is informed by an assessment of current and future open space and recreation needs across the City. While the key findings are summarised below, Volume 2 provides a detailed assessment of open space provision, recreation facilities, demand, accessibility and future infrastructure requirements.

Assessing future demand

Population-based benchmarks are a useful indicator of future need, but provision cannot be assessed by quantity alone. Accessibility, distribution, quality, functionality, connectivity and local context are equally important.

Reflecting this approach, the value of open space is determined not only by how much exists, but by how easily people can access and use it.

Despite their limitations, population growth and participation trends indicate a need for additional recreation infrastructure. Applying the 2016 recreation facility benchmarks suggests a future requirement for up to 19 turf sports fields, 7 indoor courts and 26 outdoor multi-purpose courts.

The Sydney Plan complements this approach with access benchmarks, including a 400m walk to a park of at least 3,000m² and, in medium and high-density areas, a 200m walk to open space of at least 1,500m².

Open space distribution

Using the Sydney Plan access benchmarks (Figure XX and XX) most residents have access to a park within a short walk of home, with the majority living within 200-400 metres of a public open space. While overall accessibility is high, some gaps remain with high priority area being south-western residential area around Botany Road.

Open space per resident

As population growth continues, the amount of open space available per resident will decline. However, the total area of public open space is also expected to increase, reaching approximately 15.8% of the local government area.

This highlights the importance of maximising the quality, functionality and carrying capacity of existing open spaces, alongside opportunities to secure additional open space where feasible.

Year	Open space per resident (m ²)
2016	18.5m ²
2026	17.34m ²
2046	14.35m ²

Park size

Parks smaller than 3,000m² account for around 67% of all parks by number, but collectively comprise only 7% of the City's total open space area.

Smaller parks are an important local amenity, helping to distribute open space throughout the City and ensuring most residents can access a park within a short walk, consistent with Sydney Plan objectives. However larger parks offer the scale needed for diverse recreation experiences, organised sport and connection with nature, making them increasingly important as population and density increase.

What this means

We have made significant investments in new parks, recreation facilities, open space upgrades and environmental sustainability initiatives across the network. As the community continues to grow, changing needs and environmental pressures will place increasing demands on our facilities.

Continued planning and investment will be needed to ensure the network remains accessible, high quality, resilient and able to meet future community needs.

To build on the strong foundation already established and ensure the network continues to meet future needs, this Strategy is guided by four strategic directions:

Resilience, Equity, Quality, Flexibility.

Figure 6: 400m catchment area served by parks 3,000m² or greater

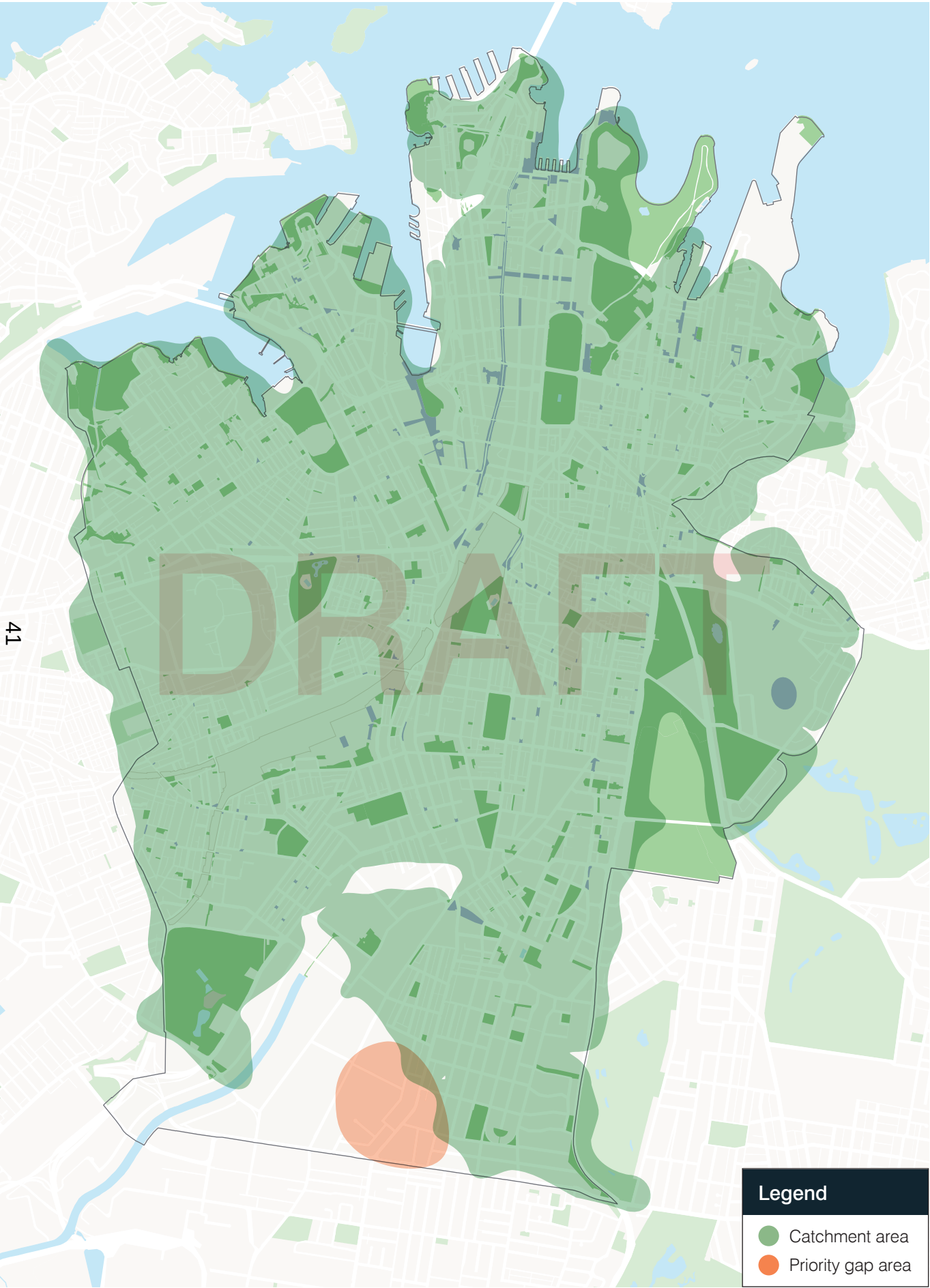
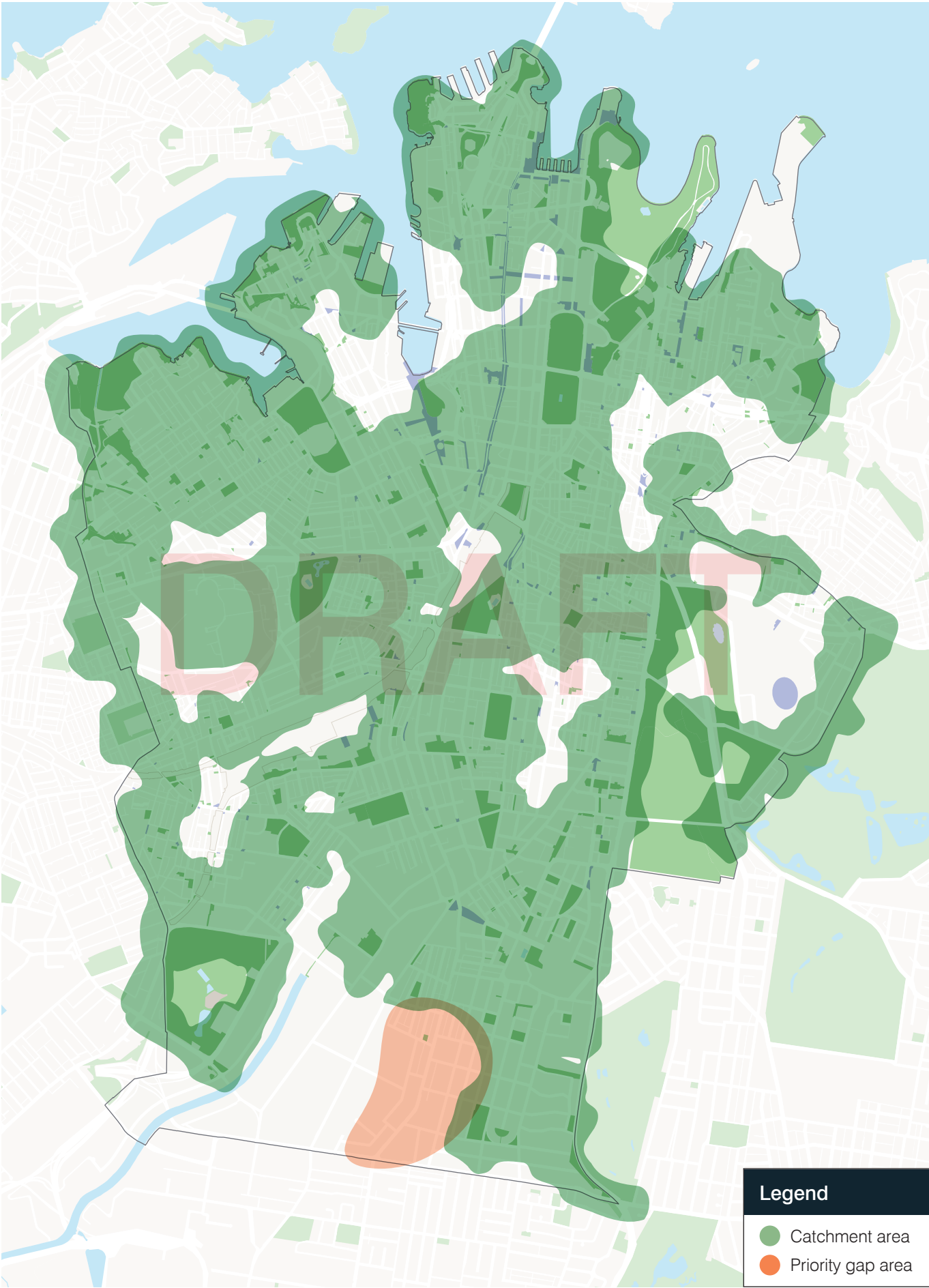


Figure 7: 200m catchment area served by parks 1,500m² or greater



Strategic framework

The strategic framework provides a clear and coordinated response to the challenges facing the City’s open space and recreation network.



A framework for action

The City’s approach to open space, sport and recreation is guided by four integrated strategic directions.

Together, these directions respond to the challenges of population growth, increasing density, changing recreation patterns, climate change and the need for more inclusive, equitable access to open space and recreation opportunities.

They provide a framework for future planning, investment and delivery, guiding how the network will grow, improve and adapt over time.

The directions work together to:

- Strengthen climate resilience and environmental outcomes.
- Improve inclusive access and equity across communities.
- Expand and improve the open space network.
- Increase capacity for sport and recreation.
- Deliver flexible and adaptable spaces that respond to changing needs.

The following sections outline the outcomes, guiding principles and actions for each strategic direction.

Image (opposite page):
A family enjoying Joynton Avenue Creative Centre
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Attachment A2

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 1, p62-119**

Strategic directions



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1 Resilience

Healthy, climate ready parks

A climate-responsive network that supports urban cooling, biodiversity and long-term environmental performance.

Guiding principles

- 1.1 Design parks and facilities to respond to climate conditions and urban heat
- 1.2 Strengthen biodiversity and integrate water-sensitive design to improve environmental resilience
- 1.3 Improve the resilience and long-term performance of park assets
- 1.4 Support environmental education and stewardship



2 Equity and inclusion

Open space, sport and recreation for all

Provide parks, sport and recreation opportunities that enable all people to participate with dignity, inclusion and accessibility.

Guiding principles

- 2.1 First Nations recognition and community involvement
- 2.2 Accessible and inclusive spaces for people with disability
- 2.3 Safe and welcoming spaces
- 2.4 Free and affordable recreation opportunities



3 Quality

Excellence in parks and facilities

A high-performing network with capacity to meet the needs of a growing city.

Guiding principles

- 3.1 Grow and expand the open space network to support future recreation needs
- 3.2 Improve the quality, durability and usability of existing parks and facilities
- 3.3 Increase recreation capacity across the network with new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities
- 3.4 Strengthen connections between parks, public spaces and neighbourhoods
- 3.5 Apply consistent service levels and asset management practices



4 Flexibility

Adaptable spaces for broader use

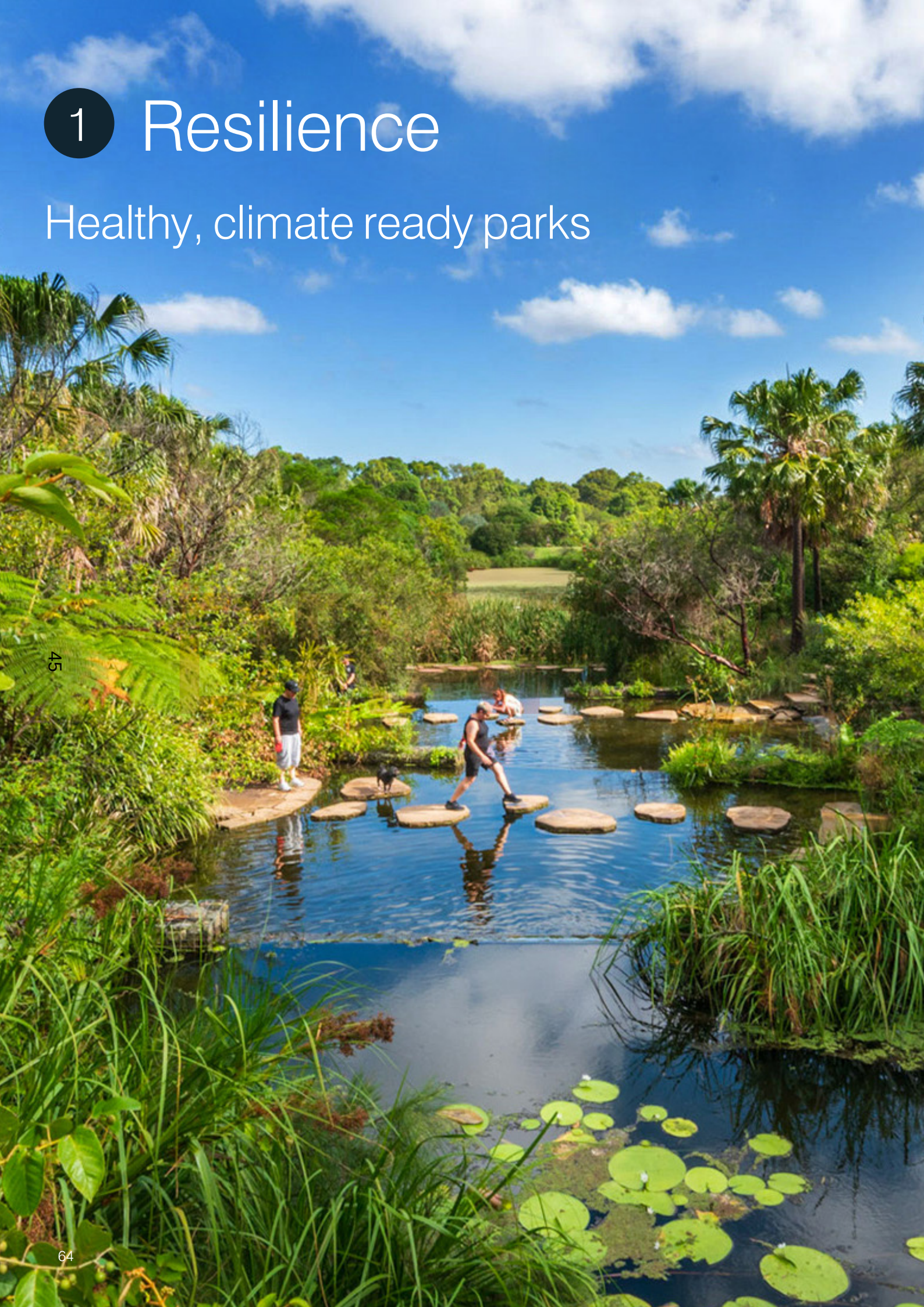
A network of adaptable and multi-functional spaces that supports changing recreation patterns and community needs.

Guiding principles

- 4.1 Design parks and facilities to support and adapt to multiple uses and changing community needs over time
- 4.2 Support informal, social and unstructured recreation across the network
- 4.3 Support community events, activation and flexible programming where appropriate
- 4.4 Integrate recreation opportunities into streets, public spaces and the everyday urban environment

1 Resilience

Healthy, climate ready parks



Our parks and public spaces are essential to help cool the city, support nature, and create healthier places for everyone.

Why this is important

As climate change intensifies, parks have evolved beyond recreational spaces to become essential urban infrastructure, helping cool cities, improve air quality, manage stormwater, and support biodiversity. Accessible green spaces also provide cooler places for communities during periods of extreme heat.

What we want in the future

Building on current initiatives and achievements, we want parks to play an increasingly important role in delivering a healthier, more climate resilient city through greening, cooling, biodiversity support and sustainable water management.

How we will get there

The City's *Environmental Strategy* is already delivering key programs to meet our environmental targets and make our City more sustainable and greener by increasing our tree canopy, cutting energy and water use, reducing emissions, and phasing out fossil gas by 2030. Our *Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy* sets out the importance of circular design principles for our assets reducing waste, lowering embodied carbon and maximising the value of materials throughout their lifecycle.

Guiding principles

- 1.1 Design parks and facilities to respond to climate conditions and urban heat
- 1.2 Strengthen biodiversity and integrate water-sensitive design to improve environmental resilience
- 1.3 Improve the resilience and long-term performance of park and recreation facility assets
- 1.4 Support environmental education and stewardship

Informing strategies and plans

- *Environmental Strategy 2025-2030*
- *Greening Sydney Strategy 2021*
- *Resilience Strategy 2023-2028*
- *Urban Forestry Strategy*
- *Urban ecology strategic action plan*
- *Waste reduction and circular materials strategy 2025-2035*

Image (previous page): **Sydney Park wetlands**
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Guiding principles

1.1 Design parks and facilities to respond to climate conditions and urban heat	1.2 Strengthen biodiversity and integrate water-sensitive design to improve environmental resilience	1.3 Improve the resilience and long-term performance of park and recreation facility assets	1.4 Support environmental education and stewardship
STRATEGIC MOVES	STRATEGIC MOVES	STRATEGIC MOVES	STRATEGIC MOVES
Continue to progress Greening Sydney canopy and greening targets across the park network, to support cooling, biodiversity and climate resilience outcomes.	Build on existing initiatives to strengthen ecological connectivity and habitat corridors across the city through improved links between parks, waterways, and streets.	Continue the transition to fossil fuel free operations for parks and recreation facilities, building on progress already underway through our commitment to eliminate fossil gas from City assets and operations by 2030.	Implement the next stage of City Farm at Sydney Park to expand environmental education opportunities, supporting community learning in sustainable food systems, urban agriculture and circular practices, bushcare groups.
Incorporate shade provision across the park network through tree canopy and built shade structures to improve thermal comfort and enable safe use during hotter conditions.	Maximise the biodiversity and habitat value of residual and under utilised land with limited recreation or park potential, including drainage corridors, rail edges and infrastructure interfaces.	Continue embedding water-sensitive urban design in park and facility upgrades where appropriate, to improve stormwater management, and support City water targets.	Provide ongoing support to bushcare groups through resourcing, training and coordination to strengthen community stewardship, ecological health and environmental education outcomes.
Establish a network of evening parks with appropriate lighting, amenity and passive surveillance to support safe recreation and social use during cooler hours.	Work collaboratively with Greater Sydney Parklands and neighbouring councils to embed and deliver the Sydney Blue-Green Grid, strengthening ecological connectivity across parks, streets, and supporting infrastructure.	Maintain leadership in energy-efficient lighting by incorporating the latest LED technologies and smart controls into parks and recreation facility renewals, maximising energy savings and reducing emissions and operating costs.	Continue support for community gardens to promote sustainable food growing and community learning.
46 Assess potential to provide additional naturalised wetland or billabong features where they align with park character.		Apply circular design and asset management principles across park planning, materials selection and maintenance practices to minimise the use of new materials, extend asset life, and enable reuse, recovery or re-purposing at end of life, in alignment with the City's <i>Waste Reduction and Circular Materials Strategy 2025–2035</i>.	Install interpretive signage, where applicable, to support community understanding, care and stewardship of the natural environment.

Parks and climate change

Parks are both vulnerable to and vital in addressing climate change.

Why this matters

Rising temperatures, sea-level rise, extreme weather, and shifting rainfall patterns threaten habitats, damage infrastructure, and reduce the availability of sports fields. At the same time, green spaces help mitigate these impacts by providing shade, reducing urban heat, absorbing carbon, and supporting biodiversity. Parks are critical civic infrastructure that supports health, social connection and climate readiness.

47 The City of Sydney's action on climate is set out in its *Environmental Strategy*, *Greening Sydney Strategy*, and *Resilience Strategy* with actions to cool the city, improve resilience and enhance liveability. Adapting to a changing climate is essential to ensure long term resilience and sustainability as our park and recreation network grows and changes.

What we will do

- **Tree canopy targets:** increase canopy cover in our area from 19% to 27% and overall green cover to 40% by 2050 to reduce urban heat and improve biodiversity.
- **Water management:** implement irrigation system, and stormwater harvesting programs to manage rainfall variability and support drought resilience.
- **Shade and comfort:** ensure natural and built shading in parks for user safety and comfort.
- **Evening park lighting:** park evening lighting to allow people to exercise and socialise when temperatures are cooler.
- **Water to cool off:** providing opportunities for people, wildlife and vegetation to access water

These measures are part of a broader climate resilience framework, ensuring parks and recreation spaces remain viable under changing conditions while contributing to liveability, sustainability and biodiversity.



Families at playground at Tote Park, Zetland
Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney

Urban billabongs

Urban billabongs can support cooling, biodiversity and broader environmental outcomes in response a hotter climate.



Why this matters

Urban billabongs are best suited to naturalised park settings, where they function as habitat, landscape elements and informal cooling spaces rather than formal swimming destinations.

Within the City’s open space network, Sydney Park offers the primary opportunity for naturalised water bodies, with existing wetlands supporting biodiversity, stormwater management and passive recreation. However, upgrading these systems to meet public swimming standards presents significant challenges, including water quality, public health risks and operational complexity. As a result, wetlands and billabongs are generally more appropriate for visual amenity, habitat and non immersive play rather than swimming.

The City currently provides formal water play facilities at Pirrama Park and Redfern Park, with a new facility under construction at Gunyama Playground. These offer safe, accessible and well managed cooling opportunities that meet contemporary health and safety standards.

What we will do

Looking ahead, there is potential to provide additional naturalised wetland or billabong features where they align with park character. In particular, Wentworth Park presents an opportunity to reference the historic Blackwattle Bay Creek line, strengthening ecological connections while contributing to cooling, education and placemaking outcomes. Any proposal would need to balance environmental, safety, cultural and maintenance considerations.

BioBlitz at Sydney Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Evening park lighting

Joynton Park in Zetland is the City’s first park to be formally established as an evening lit park, following a successful trial and strong community support.



Why this matters

Evening access to parks is becoming increasingly important to support walking, exercise and social activity when hot and extreme heat days make daytime conditions less comfortable.

Evening park lighting also responds to contemporary work patterns, enabling residents who work standard hours to access local open space close to home.

What we will do

The City will progress establishing a network of evening lit parks to ensure all residents have convenient walking access to at least one appropriately lit park in their local area. Any future provision would be subject to site suitability, environmental considerations and community consultation, with lighting carefully designed to balance safety, equity, park character and impacts on nearby homes and ecology.

Joynton Park in evening
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney

2 Equity and inclusion

Open space, sport and recreation for all

Body

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Provide parks, sport and recreation opportunities that enable all people to participate with dignity, inclusion and accessibility.

Why this is important

Parks, sport and recreation facilities need to be welcoming to everyone. While quality public spaces support health, connection and cultural expression, barriers to access and participation remain for some community members. Removing these barriers is essential to creating a more inclusive, resilient and healthy city.

What we want in the future

A future of inclusive parks and recreation facilities means ensuring everyone, including people with disability and people of all ages, background and locations and participate in recreation. Equity goes beyond equal distribution; it includes recognising First Nations peoples, designing for people with disability, and neurodiversity, supporting gender equity, ensuring affordability, and reflecting the cultural diversity of our communities..

How we will get there

Achieving equity and inclusion in parks and recreation requires deliberate action. This includes removing physical, social and attitudinal barriers that may limit participation. We're working towards our vision for a just, inclusive and socially sustainable city through our social sustainability policy and action plan, a city for all.

We will prioritise areas of greatest need using data and community input, invest in inclusive and accessible design, and ensure spaces reflect the voices of those who use them.

Through the *Eora Journey* we recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and communities. Engagement with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is essential to guide our approach.

Image (previous page): **Inclusive tennis festival**
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Guiding principles

- 2.1 First Nations recognition and community involvement
- 2.2 Equitable and inclusive spaces
- 2.3 Safe and welcoming spaces for all
- 2.4 Free and affordable recreation opportunities

Informing strategies and plans

- *First Nations strategic framework 2026-2030*
- *A City for All: Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan*
- *Eora Journey Recognition in the public domain*
- *Reconciliation Action Plan*
- *Inclusion (Disability) action plan (2025-2029)*
- *A city for all - Homelessness Action Plan*
- *A city for all - Community Safety Action Plan*
- *Community Engagement Strategy*

Guiding principles

2.1 First Nations recognition and community involvement STRATEGIC MOVES Cultural expression - Ensure open spaces and recreation facilities reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and continuing connections to Country through meaningful engagement, participation, employment and design outcomes. - Our First Nations strategic framework 2026–2030 will guide how these outcomes are planned, delivered and embedded across projects. Apply Caring for Country principles to enhance biodiversity, ecological health and climate resilience across parks and open spaces. 5Embed Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) principles in the planning and delivery of open space and recreation projects	2.2 Equitable and inclusive access STRATEGIC MOVES Facility allocation and programming Use facility allocation and programming to broaden access, support diverse community needs and maximise participation opportunities. Disability inclusion - Increase accessibility, inclusion and participation of people with disability, including individuals with sensory and cognitive access needs. - Progress delivery of an inclusive playground network. Gender equity Reduce barriers to participation by women, girls and people of diverse genders through consultation, co-design, equitable facility provision, fair allocation and booking processes, and programs that support participation across all life stages. Equitable distribution of parks and facilities - Improve equitable distribution to parks, recreation facilities and opportunities across the city. - Prioritise investment in areas experiencing high population growth, increasing density and lower levels of provision, and work towards equitable access to local open space and recreation opportunities for all communities. Community participation and engagement Continue to engage with our communities through the City's community engagement framework to ensure parks, open spaces and recreation facilities reflect community needs, and priorities.	2.3 Safe and welcoming public spaces for all STRATEGIC MOVES Establish and manage an evening park network of selected well-lit and accessible parks to support safe use after dark welcoming public spaces. Ensure parks are welcoming and safe for people of all genders and cultural backgrounds through inclusive design, activation, and community-led engagement. Support inclusive park environments through compassionate and coordinated responses addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness, in line with the City's <i>Homelessness Action Plan</i>. Continue promote and support community involvement through community gardens; City Farm, and bushcare volunteers. Increase seating opportunities to create comfortable and welcoming public spaces for people of all ages and people with disability. Create opportunities for young people particularly young men to develop confidence, leadership skills and community connection through sport and recreation programs that combine participation with mentoring, volunteering and personal development to foster positive community participation.	2.4 Free and affordable recreation STRATEGIC MOVES Affordability Maintain a consistent and equitable fees and charges policy for use of Council's recreation facilities. Equitable participation Reduce barriers to recreation participation to our priority groups, including low income and social housing residents and young adults and students, through fair and equitable distribution of programs. Free recreation opportunities Provide and maintain free-to-access recreation facilities, including outdoor gyms, courts, skate parks, trails and play spaces to support participation for all community members.
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Inclusive playgrounds

Inclusive playgrounds ensure play opportunities are welcoming and accessible for all, supporting healthier and more connected communities.

Why this matters

Inclusive playgrounds ensure that children and adults of all ages and abilities can participate in play which is fundamental activity for physical health, cognitive development, and social interaction. These spaces are about more than accessibility. They foster belonging, dignity and the right for everyone to experience the joy and benefits of play.

What we will do

The City manages over **100** playgrounds, ranging from small spaces with one or two pieces of equipment to larger facilities catering for both younger and older children.

We take a network planning approach to increase inclusive play opportunities are available across all parks. While smaller parks incorporate selected inclusive elements, our larger parks provide the greatest opportunity to deliver inclusive playgrounds that are comprehensive spaces where people of all ages can learn, grow, connect, and thrive.

Our approach is guided by the NSW Government **Everyone Can Play** framework, which promotes universal design and asks the core questions:

Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay? as well as additional principles —**Connect, Discover, Celebrate**— that emphasise nature, culture, and community as integral to play.

The *City of Sydney's Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan (2025-2029)* addresses the diverse experiences of people with disability, aiming to create a more inclusive and accessible city. The plan is a legislative requirement under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and extends beyond compliance to embed inclusion into all aspects of city life.

The plan acknowledges the diversity of disability and intersectionality. When we use the term disability, we include people with mental health conditions or psychosocial disability, people who are neurodiverse, and people with long term or chronic health conditions. We also recognise that disability can be short term or permanent, and that it can be visible and nonvisible. (*Inclusion [Disability] Action Plan 2025-2029* p.14)

Case study: Stuart Park, Wollongong

Stuart Park is a regional playground featuring the **All Ages All Abilities Playground**, opened in December 2023. Key features include:

- Large wheelchair-capable trampoline
- Accessible carousel
- Sensory garden
- Human-sized mouse wheel
- Upgraded accessible parking and picnic facilities
- Visual Communication Boards that support non-verbal communication, reduce anxiety, and foster inclusive play.



Stuart Park All Ages All Abilities Playground
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney

Perry Park recreation hub

A multi-purpose recreation destination supporting sport, inclusion and community wellbeing.

Perry Park demonstrates how contemporary recreation infrastructure can deliver far more than sporting outcomes. Through the integration of a sports field, indoor recreation centre with four multi-purpose courts, community programming and inclusive access policies, the hub has become a very used recreation facility.

Across both the recreation centre and sports field, the City's allocation framework has increased participation opportunities for children, women, schools and diverse community groups, while supporting equitable access for a diverse mix of sporting clubs, community organisations and recreational users.

The sportsfield supports a diverse range of users including schools, junior sport, women's football, community clubs and emerging sports such as ultimate frisbee and Gaelic football.

Across its four indoor courts, the centre accommodates a wide variety of activities including basketball, volleyball, futsal, netball, pickleball, badminton, roller sports, social competitions, casual court hire and community recreation programs. The facility supports both structured competition and informal participation, attracting users throughout the day and evening.

The facility is regularly used by more than eight schools and education providers from across the inner city, with school bookings occupying significant daytime periods throughout the week.

Beyond organised and casual sport, Perry Park hosts a wide range of community programs and events that contribute to broader social outcomes, including:

- Mardi Gras Volleyball Tournament (32 teams and more than 250 participants)
- Seniors Week activities, including walking football
- International Women's Day sport activations;
- Youth Week programs;
- Community mental health football initiatives;
- Social football competitions and casual participation opportunities

Perry Park demonstrates how recreation infrastructure can support much more than physical activity, fostering wellbeing, social inclusion, mental health, intercultural connection and lifelong participation in recreation.



Facilities at Perry Park (top to bottom)
Netball players at Perry Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney
Football players on a synthetic field at Perry Park
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney



3 Quality

Excellence in parks and facilities

Welcoming spaces for play, connection, and wellbeing.

Why this is important

High-quality parks and recreation facilities provide spaces for physical activity, sporting competition, social connection, and cultural expression.

As our population grows, demand on parks and recreation facilities is increasing. With more people using a limited amount of space, our parks must support a wider range of uses and serve more diverse communities. To meet current and future needs, we must invest in both new parks and the renewal of existing facilities to improve diversity, use capacity, and accessibility .

What we want in the future

A network of open spaces and facilities that is well connected, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of a growing and diverse community.

How we will get there

The City of Sydney will continue to invest in its parks and recreation network by delivering new parks, upgrading existing spaces, improving facilities, and strengthening connections. This investment supported by ongoing maintenance and asset management planning.

Guiding principles

- 3.1 Grow and expand the open space network to support future recreation needs
- 3.2 Improve the quality, durability and usability of existing parks and facilities
- 3.3 Increase recreation capacity across the network with new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities
- 3.4 Strengthen connections between parks, public spaces and centres
- 3.5 Apply consistent service levels and asset management practices

Image (previous page): **Gunyama Park Stage 2**
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Guiding principles

3.1 Grow and expand the open space network to support future recreation needs STRATEGIC MOVES Deliver new public open space and parks by City and other agencies Address gaps and shortfalls in open space provision, ensuring where feasible that every resident has access to a local or neighbourhood park within a 200-400 metre walking distance. Establish clear priorities for future open space delivery guided by a Open Space Delivery Plan (Refer Volume 2) Ensure future open space acquisitions and dedications are fit for purpose, using the <i>Open Space Acquisition Land Capability Guidelines</i> (Refer Volume 2, Chapter 3). Ongoing feasibility assessment, collaboration and advocacy to identify, secure and deliver future open space opportunities across the City either through partnerships or other mechanisms. Increase the provision of public open space within the city centre to support recreation, social connection and a vibrant public life.	3.2 Improve the quality, durability and usability of existing parks and facilities STRATEGIC MOVES Deliver City capital works program for public space and recreation facility upgrades and renewals to: - Better respond to changing community needs, supporting a wider range of recreation, sport and social activities. - Make more accessible and adaptable public spaces designed to be inclusive of people of all ages and cultural uses. - Enhance environmental performance of parks and open spaces, including increased tree canopy, shade, biodiversity and climate resilience. - Prioritise investment where it delivers greatest community benefit, guided by asset condition, use, user experience and equity.	3.3 Increase recreation capacity across the network with new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities STRATEGIC MOVES Address identified gaps in the sport and recreation facility network to meet current and future community needs. Increase facility capacity through new and expanded sport and recreation infrastructure. Increase recreation capacity of new sporting fields and facilities,through consideration of synthetic surfaces. Upgrade amenities and supporting infrastructure, including lighting, toilets,change rooms, storage, and spectator facilities, to support safe, adaptable, and extended use.	3.4 Strengthen connections between parks, public spaces and neighbourhoods STRATEGIC MOVES Continue program of walking and cycling improvements to support everyday recreation and active transport. Reduce gaps and remove physical and perceptual barriers to improve connections between open spaces and surrounding neighbourhoods. Collaborate with State Government agencies and neighbouring councils to deliver cross-boundary open space connections, including the Sydney Blue-Green Grid, to create a connected regional open space network beyond the City of Sydney. Recognise streets, and footpaths as recreation assets that support walking, running, cycling and connections between parks, public spaces and neighbourhoods.
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Guiding principles

3.5

Apply consistent service levels and asset management practices

STRATEGIC MOVES

- Use park service levels to ensure consistent facility provision standards across the park network, guided by each park's classification.
- Implement an asset management system that prioritises investment where it delivers the greatest community benefit, guided by asset condition, utilisation, risk, and equity.
- Use data and monitoring to drive evidence-based asset management and facility provision decision making.

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DRAFT

Mountain biking

Mountain biking and BMX are increasingly popular forms of informal recreation, with most purpose built facilities located in western, northern and southern metropolitan Sydney.



Why this matters

Participation has grown steadily over the past decade, supported by changing recreation preferences and increased visibility through recent Olympic competitions, contributing to rising interest among women and girls.

In inner Sydney, the limited availability of dedicated facilities has resulted in informal and unauthorised use of parklands, particularly in Sydney Park and Centennial Parklands, leading to track wear, damage to turf and planting, and conflicts with other park users. Similar pressures are evident across the metropolitan area, with

councils increasingly responding by investigating or providing authorised facilities to better manage demand and reduce environmental impacts.

What we will do

The proposed St Peters Interchange Recreation Area presents a key opportunity to investigate the provision of an authorised mountain bike facility in inner Sydney. The site's strategic location along the southern edge of Sydney Park offers potential to integrate off road cycling with urban forest outcomes complementing Sydney Park's existing recreation and environmental functions.

Mountain biking
Photo: Greater Sydney Parklands

High capacity surfaces

Demand for sports fields is rising due to population growth, increased participation in a variety of club and social sports.

However, opportunities to add new fields are limited in the City’s dense urban environment and land availability. Existing turf fields are subject to closures during wet weather as well as closures for repairs and re-establishment due to lower wear capacity.

High capacity surfaces such as synthetic turf offers a practical solution, allowing high-intensity use without rapid deterioration, reduce wet-weather closures, and support multi-use programming.

Environmental and health concerns

Recent studies raised concerns associated with synthetic turf, including microplastics migration, impacts on soil and water health and contribution to urban heat island effects as well as need for better end of life recycling measures.

State Government guidance

In response to these concerns, the NSW Government has published two key documents:

- *Synthetic Turf Sports Fields in Public Open Space: Guideline for Decision-Makers* (May 2025)
- *Division 5.1 Assessments – Addendum for Synthetic Sports Fields* (effective August 2025)

These guidelines require comprehensive environmental assessment, alternatives analysis

(natural, hybrid, synthetic), lifecycle planning including end-of-life disposal, and ongoing monitoring with open-data reporting.

City of Sydney approach

The City considers synthetic turf a complementary recreation solution that may be appropriate in specific circumstances. Any proposal will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, informed by comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments, legislative requirements, contemporary research and latest innovation and best-practice approaches to minimise impacts.

Existing turf fields will be retained, with drainage and surface profile improvements implemented to increase field capacity and usability.

In addition opportunities for providing additional sporting fields through land acquisition and partnerships will be pursued if feasible.

When synthetics are considered projects must prepare a Review of Environmental Factors aligned with NSW guidelines, incorporate heat mitigation and microplastic containment measures, and implement a monitoring and reporting plan covering heat, drainage, and material migration as well as end of life recycling measures.

This approach combines targeted investment in both natural turf and synthetic capacity to meet community needs.



Synthetic sportsfield at Gunyama Park
Photo: Jessica Lindsay / City of Sydney

Transforming the city centre

Sydney's city centre is undergoing a long term transformation to place people, public life and civic meaning at the heart of the public domain.

This shift is informed by the internationally recognised Public Space Public Life (PSPL) methodology developed by Gehl Architects, which has guided the City of Sydney's approach to streets and public spaces for more than two decades.

The City of Sydney's Public Domain Plan for the city centre provides the strategic framework for this change, focusing on the rebalancing of space by reducing the dominance of vehicles and reallocating space to pedestrians, cyclists, trees, seating, outdoor dining and public transport. This framework informs investment in streets, laneways and public spaces across the city centre, including Dixon Street, Loftus Street, Martin Place and Hyde Park.

George Street is central to the transformation of the city centre. With the delivery of light rail, the long held vision for George Street is being realised through the creation of a

pedestrian focused boulevard with significantly more space for public life.

A defining element of the Gehl vision for the city centre is the creation of three major civic squares at Circular Quay, Town Hall and Central Station, linked by the transformed George Street boulevard. Together, these spaces form a connected sequence of public places through the heart of the city.

Town Hall Square is a cornerstone of this vision, reimagining Sydney's civic heart through the creation of a new major public square. To realise this long term vision, we have progressively acquired key properties over several decades.

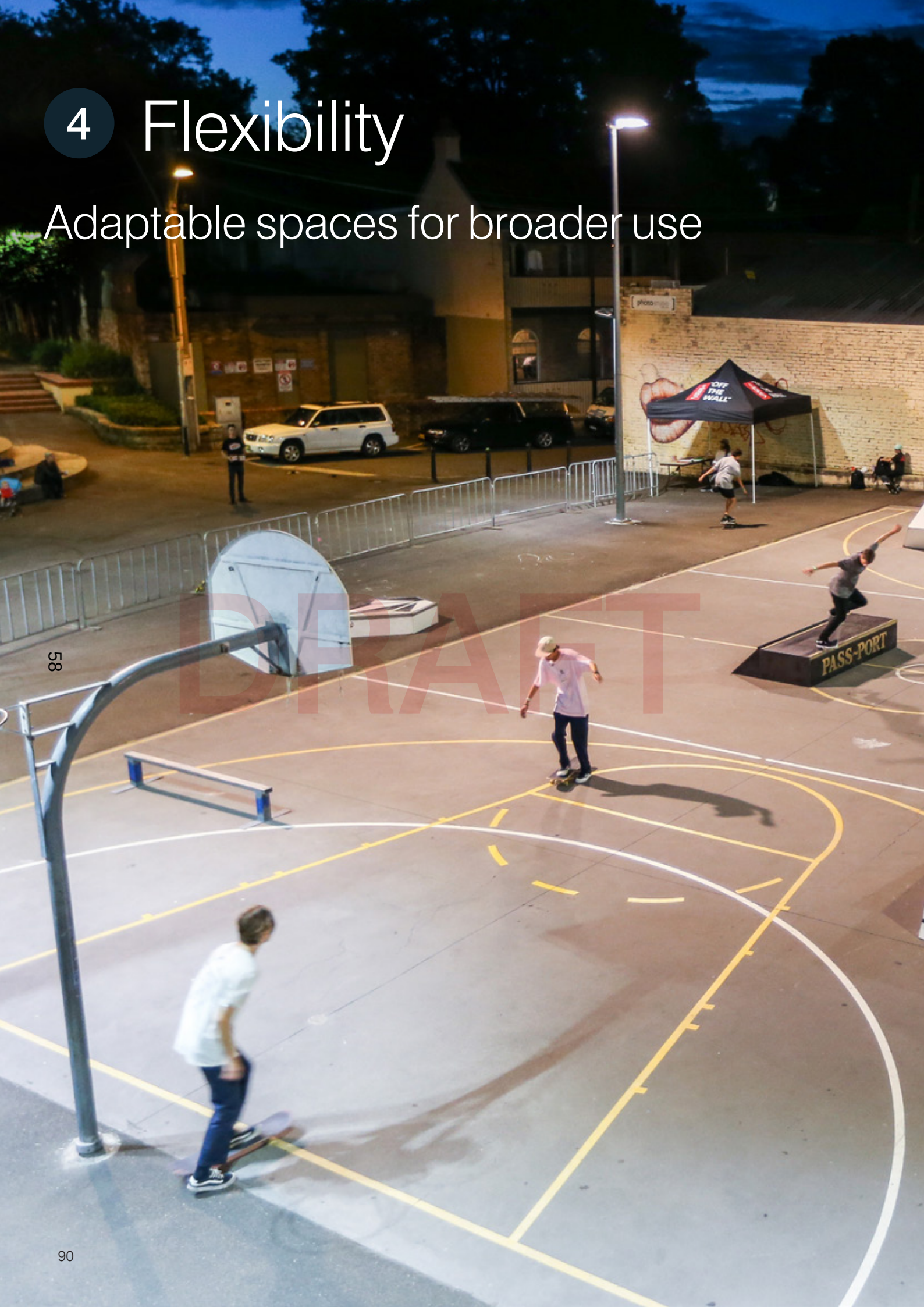
Envisioned as Sydney's new living room, Town Hall Square will be a place for gathering, celebration and everyday use, supporting social and cultural life in an inclusive and accessible public space.



Artist impression of the new square at Town Hall showing everyday activity
- indicative only subject design development and approval.
Image: Artist / City of Sydney

4 Flexibility

Adaptable spaces for broader use



Our parks and facilities will be adaptable to support a range of community and recreation and sporting uses.

Why this is important

As the city becomes denser and more diverse, the way people use parks and recreation facilities is changing. These spaces are no longer single-purpose or stand-alone assets competing for limited land. Instead, they function as shared community backyards that support organised sport, casual recreation, and everyday social activity within flexible, multi-use environments. In a city with limited space and growing demand, parks and recreation facilities must be adaptable and shared, supporting a range of uses across different times of the day and week.

Guiding principles

- 4.1 Design parks and facilities to support multiple uses and adapt to changing community needs over time
- 4.2 Support informal, social and unstructured recreation across the network
- 4.3 Support community events activation and flexible programming where appropriate
- 4.4 Integrate recreation opportunities into streets, public spaces and the everyday urban environment

What we want in the future

Parks and recreation facilities that are adaptable and welcoming spaces that support organised and casual sport, spontaneous play, and everyday use.

How we will get there

We will design and manage parks and facilities with flexibility in mind using adaptable infrastructure, multi-use spaces, and smart scheduling to support diverse uses. By embedding flexibility into planning, design, and operations, we'll ensure our parks and facilities remain inclusive, and responsive to changing community needs.

Image (previous page):
Outdoor court being used as a skate park
Photo: Photographer / City of Sydney

Guiding principles

4.1

Design parks and facilities to support multiple uses and adapt to changing community needs over time

STRATEGIC MOVES

Deliver flexible, multi-use parks and recreation facilities to accommodate a range of activities within limited space with consideration to:

- application of time-based and adaptable design to balance programmed and informal use and reduce conflict.
- flexible layouts and infrastructure (such as multi use surfaces, adaptable furniture and shared amenities) that can accommodate changing needs over time.

To maximise adaptability and long-term value, future multipurpose courts should be developed as standardised units of 40m x 22m

4.2

Support informal, social and unstructured recreation across the network

STRATEGIC MOVES

Enable large parks to function as city-wide and district-level destinations that accommodate a broad range of sport, recreation, cultural, and social activities. Consideration to:

- Co location of compatible sport and recreation activities, maximising efficient use of land and infrastructure within larger park settings.
- Balance activation with environmental values,protecting significant landscapes, trees and natural systems while supporting increased use.

Design and management approaches that allow large parks to evolve over time, responding to changing community needs and participation trends.

4.3

Support community events and temporary activation where appropriate

STRATEGIC MOVES

Provide adaptable spaces and supporting infrastructure in suitable parks to accommodate a range of event types, scales, and durations, from community-led activities to city-wide events

Prioritise where possible the use of hardstand areas, pathways, streets, and civic spaces for events to reduce impacts on park turf.

4.4

Support flexible and adaptable programming

STRATEGIC MOVES

Apply an allocation model that supports a mix of uses including organised sport, informal / social recreation, community activities, and events—without any one use dominating shared facilities

Allocation approaches to respond to changing participation trends, including growth in casual, social and non traditional activities.

Rise of social and informal sport

The growth of social sport is increasing demand for flexible and adaptable recreation spaces that can respond to changing participation trends, community preferences and emerging activities.

Why this matters

According to the latest Australian Sports Commission AusPlay survey, participation in social and informal sport is growing two-thirds adults prefer flexible options like walking, running, swimming, cycling, gym workouts, or casual games.

Modified traditional sports like oztag, futsal, AFL 9s and basketball 3x3 use smaller teams and fields, are increasing in popularity by offering more accessible, social formats with mixed-gender and non-contact options.

Running clubs have transformed from niche groups into dynamic social hubs that blend fitness, friendship, and community engagement. Their rapid growth in Australia and globally reflects a broader trend toward social fitness, where staying active is closely tied to social connection and mental wellbeing.

Key drivers of participation include a focus on social connection—people value making friends and building community over intense fitness goals; a shift toward sustainable exercise that prioritizes health and avoids burnout; and growing demand for flexible, low-commitment activities that fit busy lifestyles without the constraints of traditional clubs or teams.

Public spaces are key, with 61% of adults exercising outdoors. Activities

such as parkrun, social leagues, fitness meetups, and adventure sports foster participation, mental health, and community connection.

The Australian Sports Commission’s Play Well Strategy promotes diverse formats and access to public spaces, while councils and health agencies are urged to invest in free facilities like multi-use courts, outdoor gyms, and inclusive programs.

Digital platforms are also transforming the landscape, allowing for both in-person engagement and the creation of online communities around shared sporting interests.

What we are doing

The City of Sydney is responding to this shift lunchtime and after-work programs such as volleyball, 7-a-side soccer, futsal, pickleball, basketball and walking groups that provide flexible, inclusive opportunities for residents to stay active and socially connected.

We also partner with various digital platforms such as Just Play that connects individuals to social sports leagues at City venues. Through the app or website, players without a team can join competitions in futsal, netball, basketball, and more.



Volleyball players at Perry Park
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Key outcomes



Artist impression of Wentworth Park - indicative only subject to design development and approval.
Image: Artist / City of Sydney

What we will deliver	
1.	More new parks and spaces New parks and public spaces to meet increasing demand and improve access.
2.	Renewing existing parks and spaces The City has made significant investments in parks, public spaces and recreation facilities over the past two decades. Ongoing renewal and upgrade programs will continue through the City's capital works program.
3.	New and improved sport and recreation facilities Providing a diverse and well-distributed network of sport and recreation facilities that meets current and future community needs.
4.	Linking the network Build a network of connected parks, public spaces and recreation destinations that encourages walking, running, cycling and everyday physical activity.

1. More new parks and spaces

Future new open space priorities

- Expansion of existing parks to increase capacity and functionality.
- New community parks prioritising areas with identified distribution gaps and high density populations
- Sports fields and facilities for active recreation to meet current and future demand.
- Open space linkages to improve connectivity across the open space network.

Where will future new open space come from?

- Land dedication with development and acquisition to secure new sites and expand the open space network
- Rethinking existing open space to reimagine current public green space to increase community access and recreation offer.
- Partnerships and shared use arrangements to maximise access to public and community spaces.
- Improvement and embellishment of existing parks and open spaces through better design to unlock their full potential.
- Streets as public space reallocating street space where appropriate to create accessible public places and improve network connectivity.
- Open space opportunities through renewal of existing government sites.

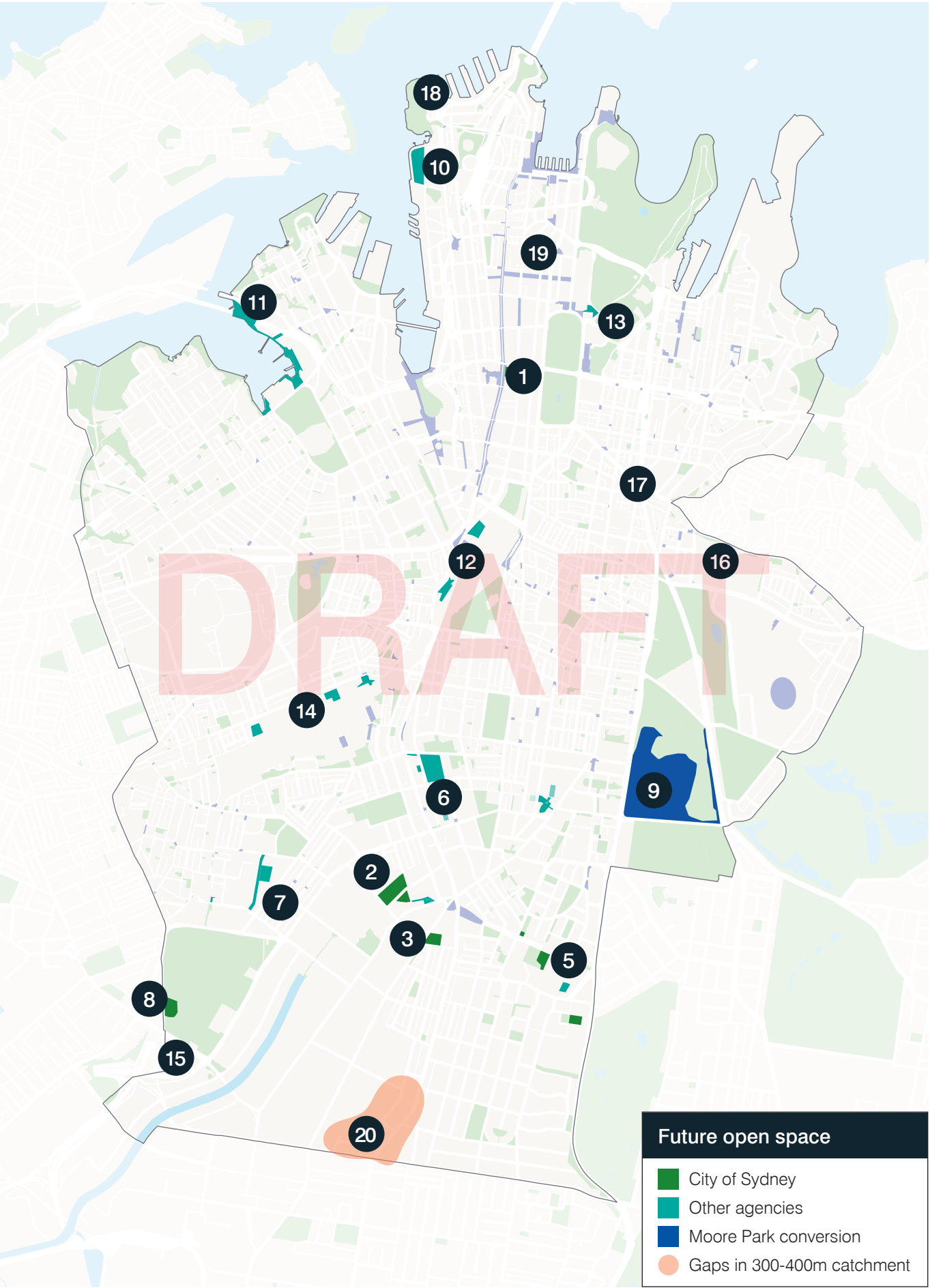
- 22.7 Ha new public space*
- 20 Ha Moore Park south conversion*
- 21 new parks and spaces*
- 5 new civic spaces*

*includes provision other providers

Planned increases in open space (Figure 8)	
1	Town Hall Square
2	Mandible sports precinct
3	O’Riordan Street community park
4	Wentworth Park
5	Green Square urban renewal - new parks
6	Waterloo South urban renewal - new parks
7	Ashmore Precinct - McPherson Park/Kooka Walk
8	Sydney Park nursery park conversion
9	Moore Park south (Greater Sydney Parklands)
10	Barangaroo Central Park (Place NSW)
11	Blackwattle Bay - new parks and spaces (Place NSW)
12	Central precinct (State Government)
13	Queen Elizabeth Square (State Government)
14	North Eveleigh urban renewal (State Government)
Future advocacy /opportunities	
15	Campbell Street, St Peters
16	Victoria Barracks urban renewal
17	Taylor Square courthouse frontage
18	Moores Wharf - Marrinawi Cove
19	City centre public domain planning - Hunter Street precinct
Distribution gaps	
20	Priority area out of 200-400m access to a park

For more information, refer to Volume 2 Open Space Delivery Plan

Figure 8: Planned open space provisions and future opportunities



2. Renewing existing parks and spaces

The importance of park renewal

While the provision of new open space remains important, renewing existing parks and recreation spaces is often the most effective way to enhance the community’s open space network. Renewal improves usability, accessibility and overall amenity, ensuring these valued community assets remain relevant, welcoming and fit for purpose. It also provides opportunities to respond to evolving recreation preferences, changing community expectations and contemporary design standards.

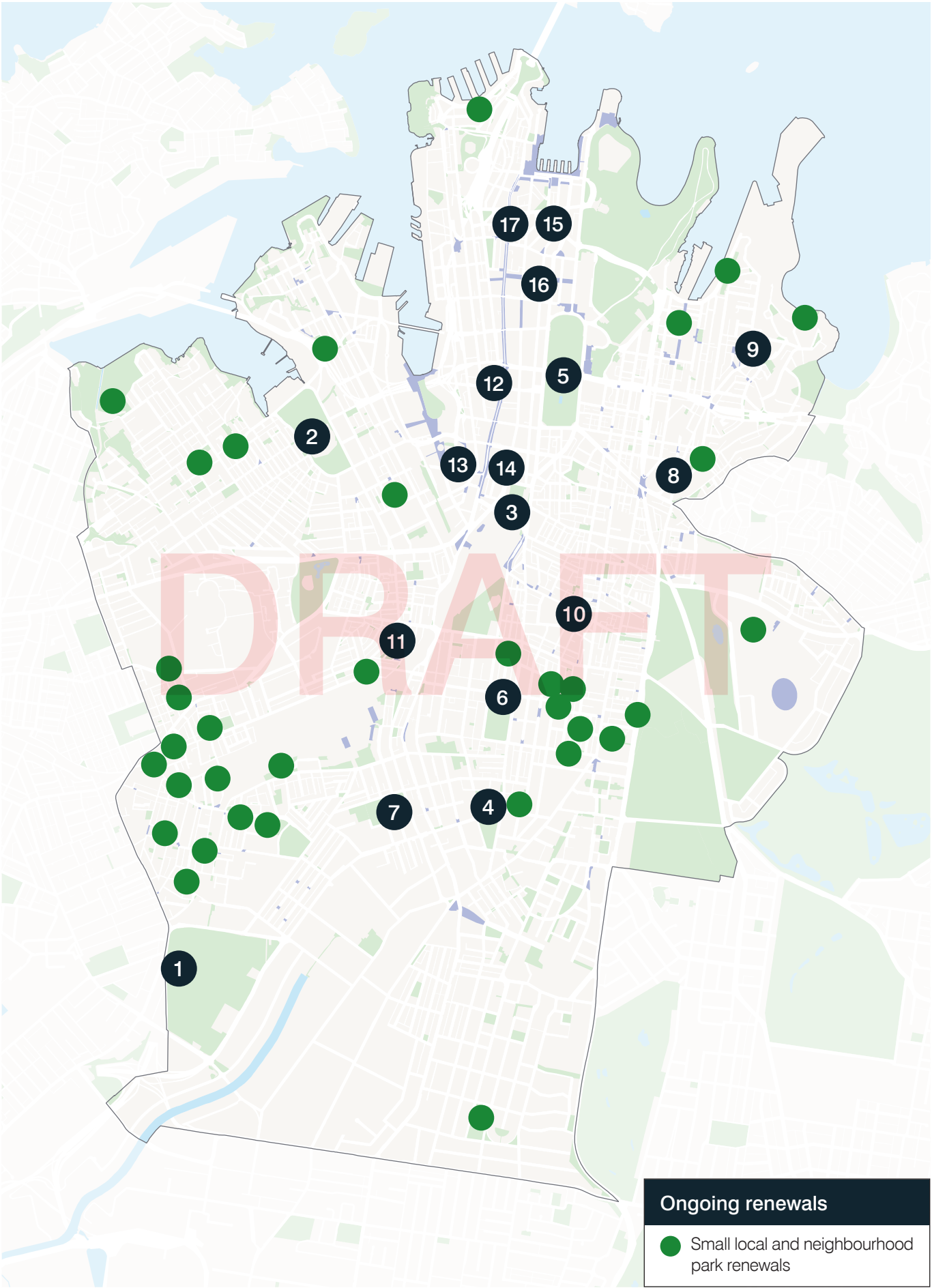
- 10 district and large neighbourhood parks
- Over 30 small local and neighbourhood parks in construction, design or planning with more to be added in coming years.

Better support facilities

Renewal projects may include additional seating, drinking bubblers, shade, and public toilets to enhance comfort, accessibility and user experience, with investment guided by community needs, park service levels and the condition of existing infrastructure.

Open space renewals (Figure 9)	
1	Sydney Park
2	Wentworth Park
3	Belmore Park
4	Waterloo Park
5	Hyde Park
6	Redfern Park
7	Alexandria Park
8	Green Park
9	Fitzroy Gardens
10	Ward Park
11	Redfern neighbourhood parks
City centre spaces	
12	Sydney Square
13	Dixon street
14	Campbell Street
15	Macquarie Place Park
16	Martin Place
17	George Street North

Figure 9: Planned renewals on existing open space



3. New and improved sport and recreation facilities

Key recreation facility projects*

Mandible Sports Precinct

- 1 sportsfield
- 4 multipurpose courts
- an exercise loop
- a new public amenity building
- spectator seating
- lighting
- covered multipurpose courts and public amenities
- playground
- skate opportunities

A local scale playground, basketball hoop and table tennis rts

Wentworth Park transformation

- 5 sports oval with cricket pitches
- regional scale playground
- perimeter path loops
- tween social space
- picnic facilities
- park amenities and change rooms
- outdoor fitness
- cricket practice nets
- multi purpose courts/basketball hoops
- wetland / biodiversity areas

Huntley Street Recreation centre

Recently completed indoor recreation centre includes:

- 4 indoor multi-purpose courts for basketball, netball, futsal, volleyball, gymnastics and badminton
- Recreation/fitness space (suitable for a range of uses including gym, fitness classes, physiotherapy)
- Outdoor practice half-court area

Moore Park South

To be delivered by Greater Sydney Parklands. Proposed to be a community-focused recreation space providing a balanced mix of formal and informal facilities.

- community sports field
- pump track/multi purpose courts
- playground
- loop pathways
- outdoor fitness stations

The following table provides a high-level summary of the recommended outcomes and planned facility provision across the recreation network.

Detailed directions, priorities and project recommendations are provided in the following Network Priorities for Recreation Facilities section.

Facility	Summary recommendation	Planned provision/future considerations*
Sportsfields and ovals	Increase capacity and improve quality of sports field infrastructure.	3 new sports fields and upgrades to existing fields, lighting and amenities.
Aquatic facilities	Maintain high-quality aquatic facilities and support harbour based recreation.	Aquatic renewal program that improves environmental performance and access and advocacy for improved harbour swimming access.
Indoor recreation	Expand opportunities for indoor sport and recreation.	3 additional indoor courts planned (plus Huntley Street recently delivered with 4 courts).
Outdoor courts	Increase access to flexible court-based recreation	9 new full-size courts and 6 half/practice courts
Tennis courts	Improve existing facilities and support emerging racquet sports such as pickleball and padel.	Tennis court and amenity upgrades and investigation of pickleball and multi-use court opportunities.
Playgrounds	Improve access to quality and inclusive play opportunities.	8 additional playgrounds planned, ongoing renewal program existing playgrounds and establish an inclusive playground network.
Outdoor gyms	Expand the outdoor fitness network to address access gaps and support everyday recreation.	5 new outdoor fitness stations planned and further sites identified for investigation
Skate	Expand and enhance the skate facility network to improve access, address distribution gaps and support informal recreation	3 skate facility projects planned and additional opportunities under investigation.
Mountain biking	Investigate the provision of dedicated mountain bike facilities to meet emerging recreation demand and reduce pressure on informal riding areas.	Feasibility assessment for a regional mountain bike facility at St Peters Interchange.
Paddlecraft	Improve access to Sydney Harbour through better launch, storage and supporting infrastructure.	New paddlecraft facilities at Bank Street Park and investigation of additional harbour access points
Walking and cycling	Continue expanding walking and cycling networks that connect people to parks, facilities and destinations.	Continued delivery of cycling network, Green Avenues and Blue-Green Grid connections
Companion animals	Maintain an equitable network of dog exercise areas and improve supporting amenities.	Expanded dog exercise opportunities in growth areas and improvements to amenities at popular parks

* subject to design development and approval

* includes provision by other agencies

4. Linking the network

Strengthening links between open spaces improves access to parks and facilities, encourages physical activity, and supports ecological connections such as wildlife corridors.

Blue Green Grid

The Blue-Green Grid is a major strategic initiative of the Sydney Plan, expanding on the earlier Sydney Green Grid (2017). It identifies a metropolitan network of parks, waterways, recreation corridors and active transport links that will help support Sydney's long-term growth, liveability and resilience.

While none of the Sydney Plan's priority Blue-Green Grid corridors are located within the City of Sydney local government area, several identified linkages connect to or pass through our area.

These present opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring councils and agencies to improve recreation, active transport and ecological connections.



Potential corridors for further investigation include:

- Sydney Park to the Inner West Greenway;
- Centennial Parklands to the Botany Wetlands;
- Alexandria Canal to the Cooks River; and
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore

Green Avenues

The *Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 Green Avenues* project proposes transforming street corridors into greener, more walkable streets that improve connectivity between open spaces. Proposed corridors include:

- Botany Road;
- Park Street; and
- Broadway

These corridors are identified as long-term strategic opportunities only. The Green Avenues concept is subject to further planning, detailed feasibility assessment, partnership arrangements and funding availability.

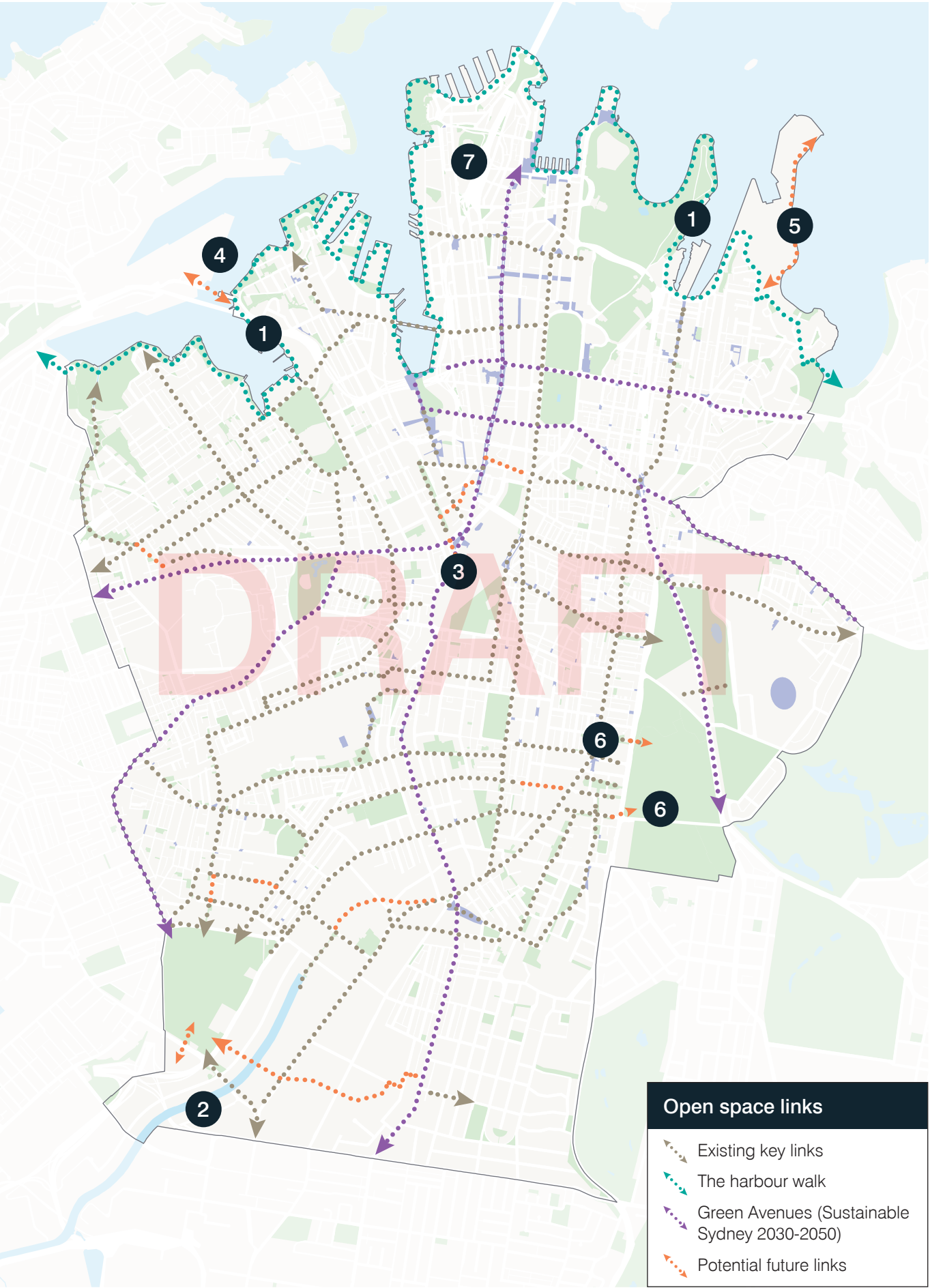
Open space links

Develop and strengthen open space links between major parklands as well as expand additional opportunities for recreational cycling, walking and active transport. Key links include the following:

Link (refer Figure 10)	
1	Harbour foreshore / Manly to Bondi Walk
2	Alexandria Canal corridor
3	Goods Line extension to Mortuary Station
4	Glebe Island Bridge pedestrian cycle link
5	Garden Island to foreshore parkland
6	Moore Park south, Dacey Avenue
7	Southern Harbour Bridge cycle link

For more information, refer to Volume 2

Figure 10: Open space links





Soccer players at Gunyama Park
 Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Network priorities for recreation facilities

The City’s recreation network must respond to population growth, increasing participation and changing recreation trends. Future investment will focus on improving capacity, quality, accessibility and flexibility across the recreation network.

List of facilities

	Sportsfields and ovals		Youth recreation
	Aquatic facilities		Paddle craft
	Outdoor court and facilities		Walking and cycle infrastructure
	Indoor court and recreation facilities		Companion animals
	Playgrounds		Events
	Outdoor fitness stations		Other facilities
	Skate and bike facilities		

Sports fields and ovals

Current provision

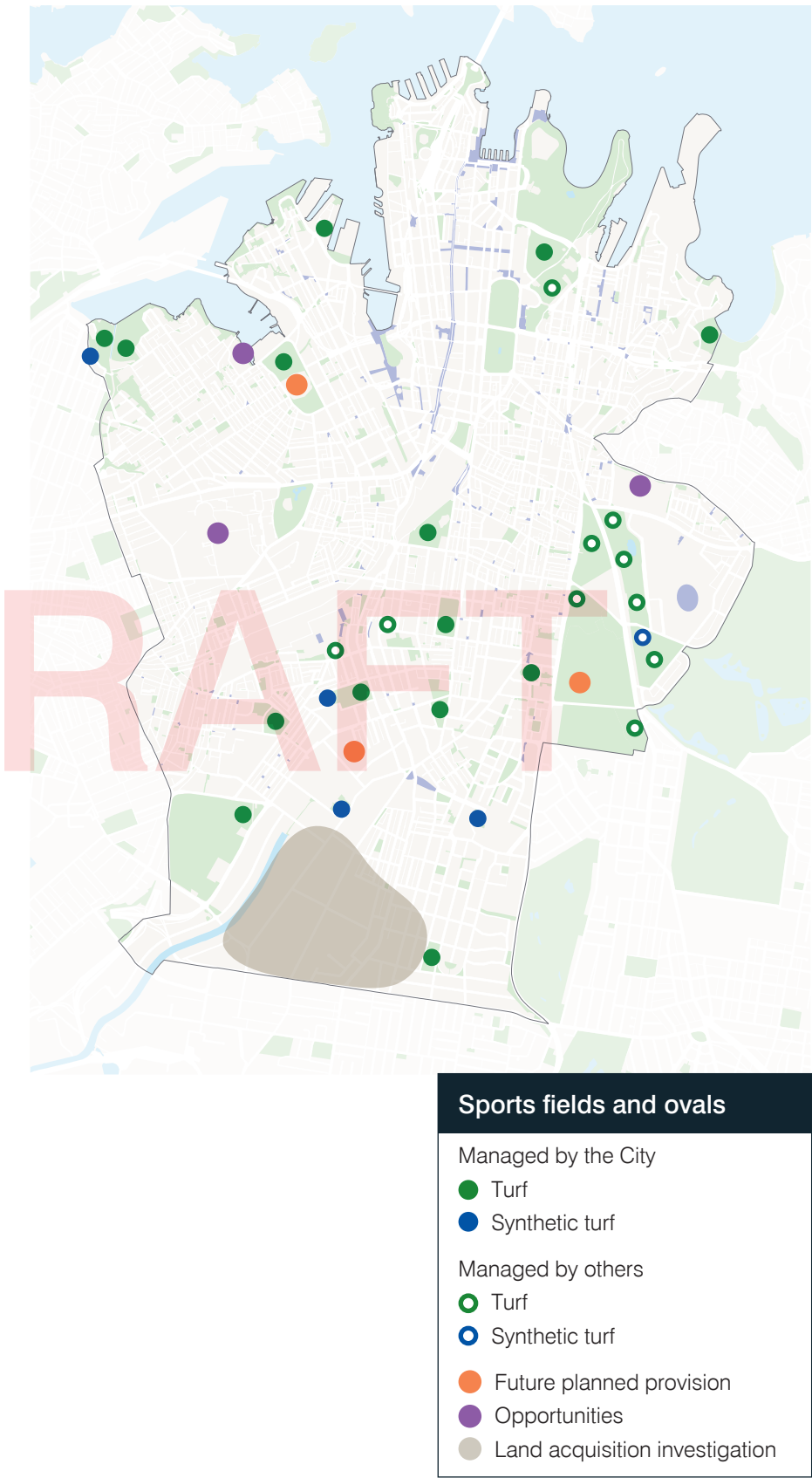
17 sports fields and ovals are managed by the City of Sydney. The other 19 are managed by other government agencies/ education campuses.

Future demand

Based on 2016 bench marks provision and 2046 population projection and planned provision an additional 19 turf fields is estimated to be required.

Strategic considerations

Meeting future demand for sports fields will be challenging due to limited land availability and population growth. Future provision will largely depend on maximising the capacity and efficiency of existing facilities through upgrades, improved lighting, optimised scheduling, selective use of synthetic surfaces, and partnerships with schools and other landowners to support shared use



Strategic response

Direction	Response	Reference
Increase the provision of sports fields and ovals	Planned increase - Mandible Sports Precinct - 1 new field - Moore Park South - 1 new field (Greater Sydney Parklands) - Wentworth Park - 1 new field,	
	Urban renewal Victoria Barracks - any future renewal recommend to retain existing field for community sport;	
Potential opportunities to increase provision	Partnerships and shared use Assess opportunity for after-hours and shared weekend public access on fields currently controlled by institutions such as universities and schools where community use is restricted through formal agreements. Potential partners include the University of Sydney, Sydney Secondary College, Glebe	
	Land acquisition Where opportunities arise and subject to funding availability, future land acquisition should prioritise co-location with existing recreation facilities. Co-located fields can enable more efficient programming, shared infrastructure, improved accessibility and better use of limited land resources.	
Increase field capacity and playable hours	- Use of synthetic surfaces will be considered case-by-case that is balanced with the environment and sustainability, planning assessment and appropriate site selection. Existing turf fields to remain turf. - Upgrade of existing turf fields to improve performance including Alexandria Park, Federal Park	
	Upgrade existing field lighting, change rooms, toilets and supporting amenity to facilitate the extension of playable hours into the evening, where appropriate. - Jubilee Oval (underway) - Alexandria Park - Waterloo Oval - Wentworth Park	
Amenity improvements	Lighting: Implement lighting infrastructure and scheduling strategies to support increased evening and night-time use of sports fields. Provide inclusive and accessible change rooms and toilets for all genders and people with disability.	
Equity of use	City continue and expand annual expressions of interest processes to ensure allocations support diversity, gender equity, and a broad range of sports able to access City fields.	
Evening / night time use	Prioritise field lighting for training and casual recreation purposes. Undertake further investigation before providing competition-standard lighting, particularly for hard-ball sports, to assess impacts on neighbouring amenity, light spill, operating hours, native fauna and biodiversity values.	

For more information, refer to Volume 2 Part 4.

Aquatic facilities and swimming in the Harbour

Current provision

There are 9 aquatic facilities in our local area. 6 are managed by the City. Most residents are 2-3km from an aquatic facility.

In addition, 1 harbour swimming facility - Marrinawi Cove at the northern end of Barangaroo Reserve.

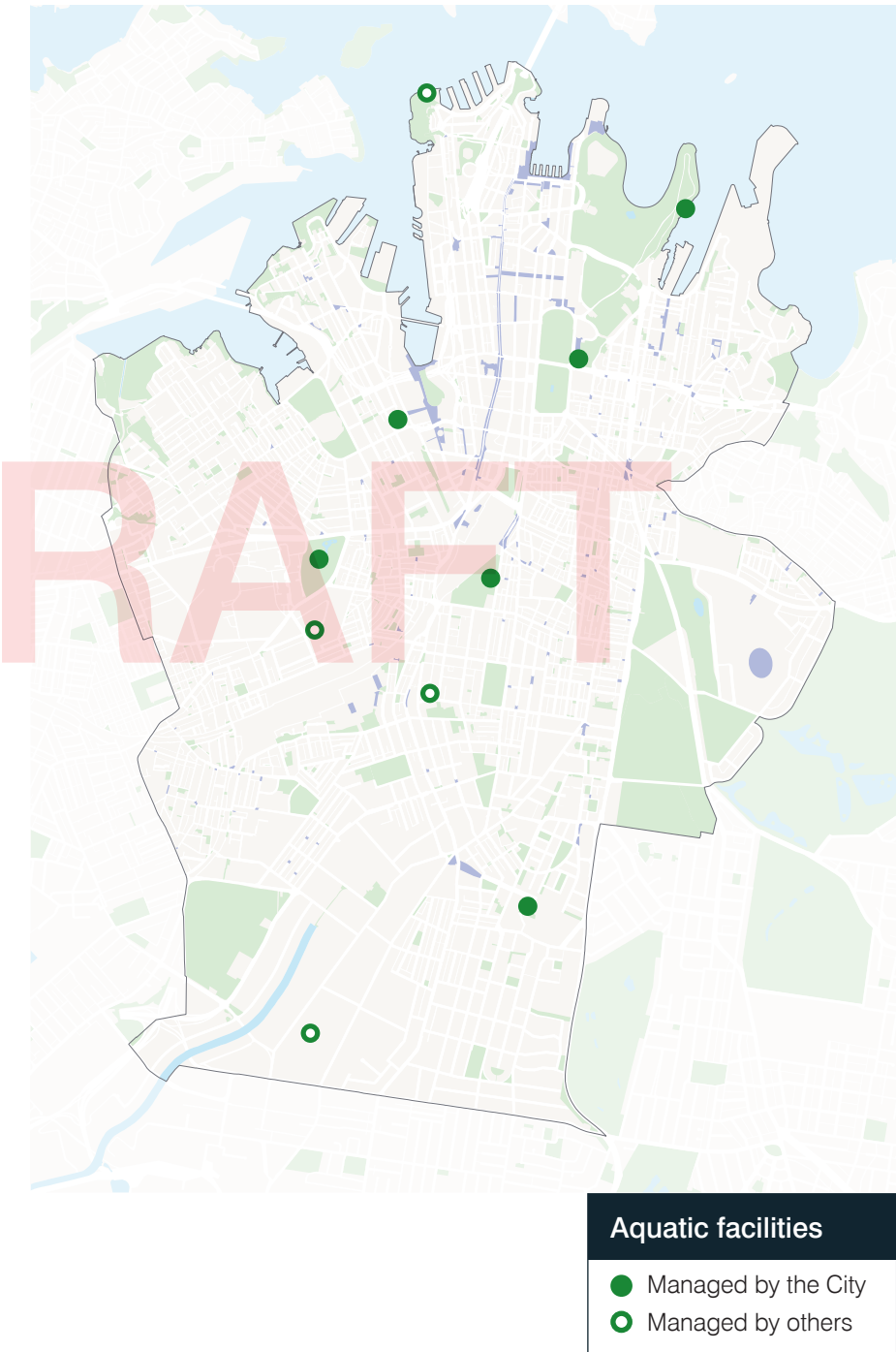
Future demand

The City of Sydney is currently well-served by aquatic facilities.

Future planning should prioritise timely asset renewal to maintain high standards of service and accessibility.

Strategic considerations

Aquatic facilities should continue to support the City's net zero objectives through sustainable design and operations. The City should also continue advocating for improved water quality and greater foreshore swimming access to meet growing demand for harbour-based recreation.



Aquatic facilities must evolve to reflect changing recreation trends and community expectations, with flexible programming, inclusive design, and stronger integration with health and wellbeing initiatives.

Strategic response

Direction	Response	Reference
Provision	The City of Sydney is currently well-served by aquatic facilities. Future planning should prioritise programmed asset renewal to maintain high standards of service and accessibility.	
Asset renewal: upgrade and maintain existing assets as required	Programmed upgrades to the City's aquatic facilities to ensure infrastructure remains fit-for-purpose, improve accessibility and integrates energy- and water-efficient technologies. Priorities include: - Victoria Park Pool - Prince Alfred Park Pool electrification	
Sustainability	Net zero program for emissions reduction through sustainable design and operations.	
Ongoing advocacy to increase opportunities for swimming in the harbour	Continue working with key stakeholders to progress swimming in the harbour. Access and safety considerations require further investigation and coordination with Sydney Water and relevant NSW Government agencies before implementation. Advocacy to expand and improve facilities for Marrinawi Cove, Barangaroo	
Strategic planning	Review City Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy 2005 to provide direction on future programming and facility improvements of City facilities.	

Outdoor courts

Current provision

There are 33 full size outdoor courts with 16 managed by the City of Sydney. 8 additional courts are currently planned.

Provision includes consists of mainly free of charge park based courts and some bookable courts associated with community centres.

Formats include full size multipurpose courts and dedicated basketball and netball courts.

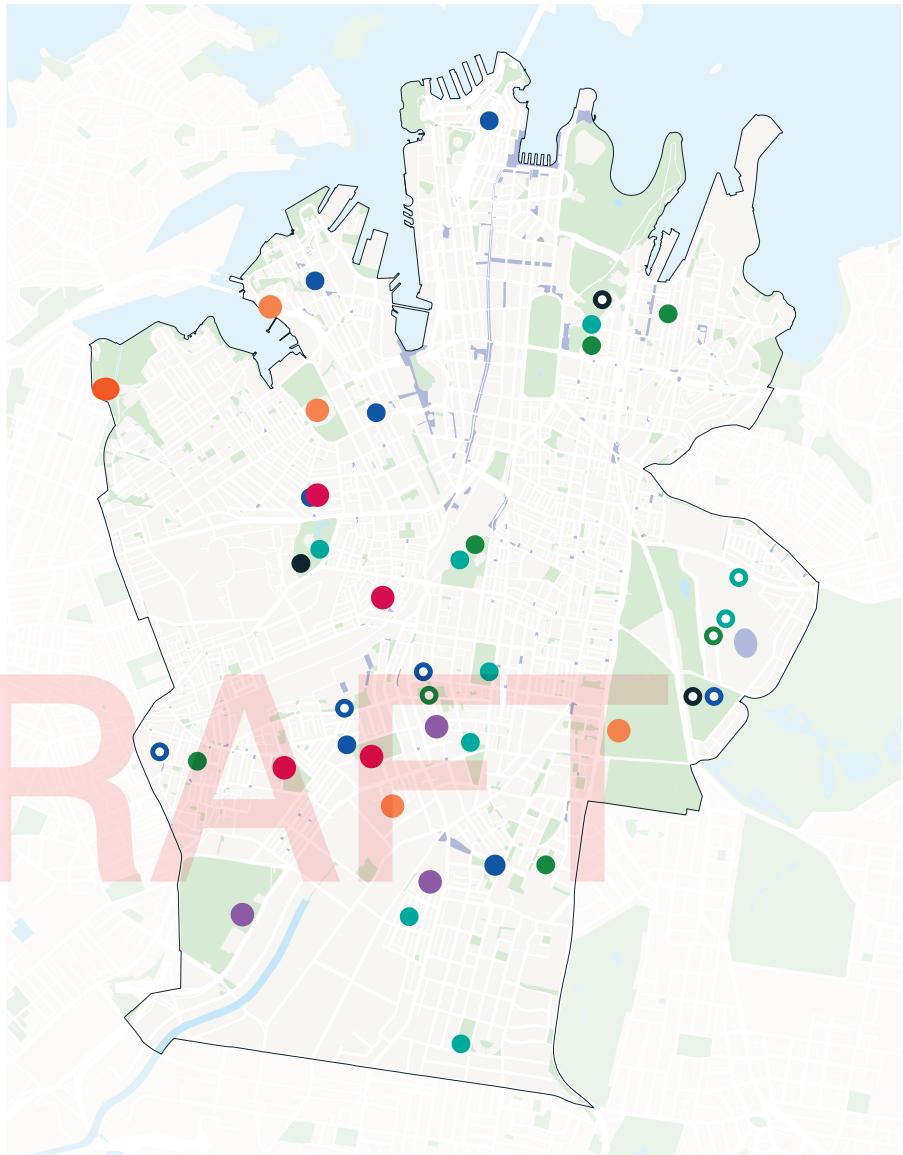
In addition there are 13 various half court, practice rings as part of the network with 11 managed by the City of Sydney. An additional 5 half courts are currently planned.

Future demand

Multi-use courts support organised sport and informal recreation. To meet projected population growth, up to 26 additional outdoor courts may be required by 2046.

Strategic considerations

Given the growing popularity of basketball and other informal court-based activities, protecting existing courts and providing additional multi-purpose courts in growth areas should remain a priority. Industrial and mixed-use precincts may offer opportunities to expand provision while minimising residential impacts. Future planning should prioritise free-to-use, accessible and well-distributed courts.



Outdoor courts

Managed by the City

Basketball (full)

Basketball (half/practice)

Multi-purpose

Netball (practice)

Managed by others

Basketball (full)

Basketball (half/practice)

Multi-purpose

Netball (full)

Renewals

Future planned provision

Opportunities

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Increasing provision	Planned new full multi purpose court provision recommendations: - Mandible Sports Precinct (x4) - Moore Park South x1 (Greater Sydney Parklands) - Bank Street Park x1 (Place NSW) - Wentworth Park x2	
Planned outdoor half/practice court provision	- Harry Noble Reserve x3 - Mandible Sports Precinct x1 - Federal Park / Crescent x1	
Future considerations for provision	Parks for feasibility assessment include: - Waterloo Estate South Park - Sydney Park	
Improve amenity and quality of existing courts	- Hugo Street Reserve multi purpose court; - Ongoing asset renewal program works for courts as required	
Multi-purpose use	Majority of outdoor courts should be multi-purpose courts with some dedicated provision for a single code suitable where a number of courts are co-located. Future full size multipurpose courts to be units of 40 x 22m to be adaptable for wide range of recreation uses..	
Partnerships	Explore partnerships to provide new shared access multi-purpose courts, with: - Newtown High School of Performing Arts - National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern	

Tennis courts/racquet sports

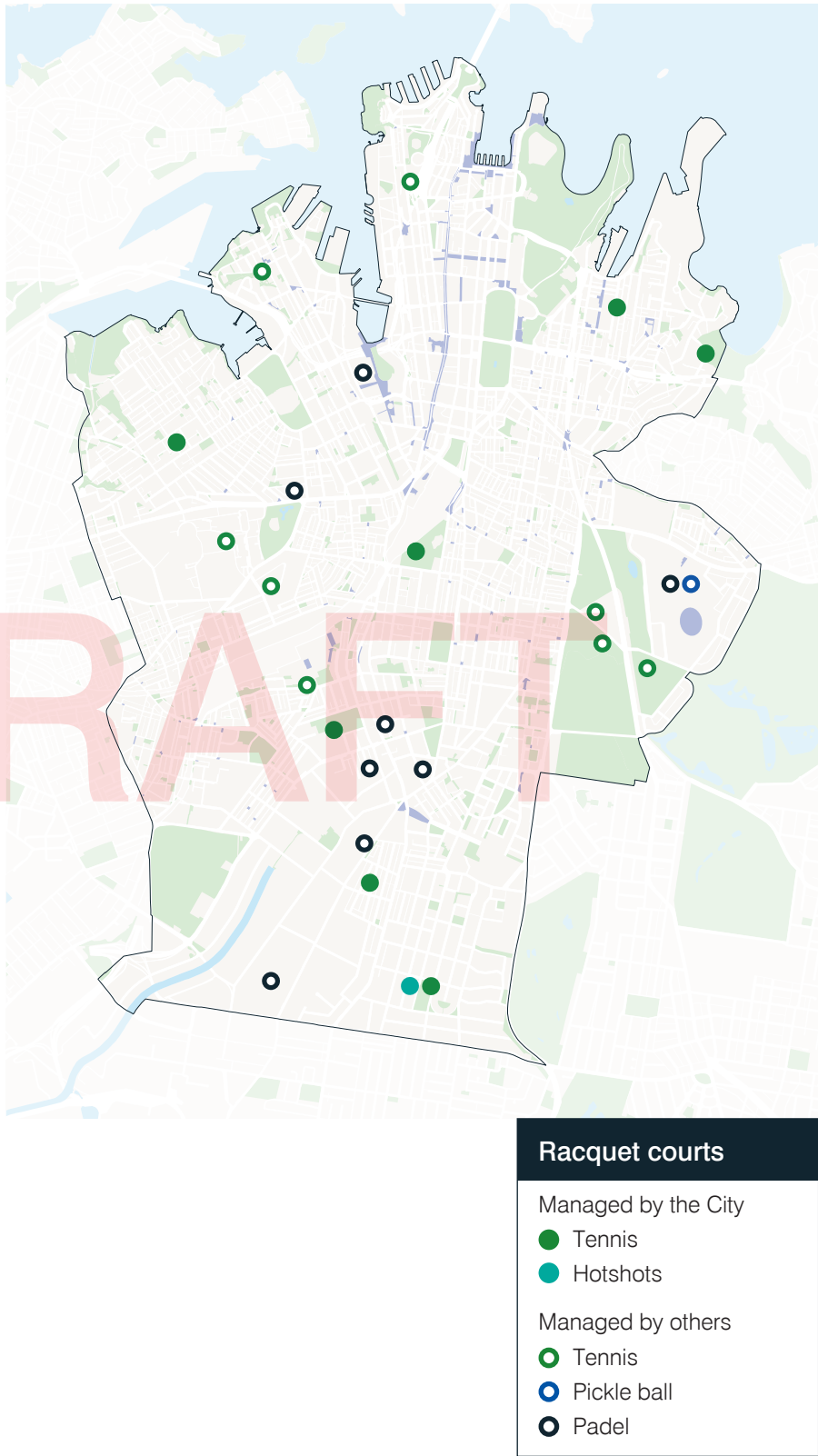
Current provision

Facility	City	Other	Total
Tennis	18	35	
Hotshots	4		

Future demand

Based on 2016 bench marks and 2046 population projection and planned provision an additional 20 tennis courts estimated will be required. However this needs to be considered in context with growing demand for pickleball and paddle ball and the growing private sector provision particularly for these sports.

Growing demand for alternative racquet sports such as pickleball and padel (paddle ball). Private sector provision is increasing particularly for pickleball. Courts can meet diverse community needs while maximising land efficiency.



Strategic considerations

Accommodating preferred 4-court complex arrangements for tennis will be difficult due to land size requirements needed and other competing open space recreation demand.

Smaller-format racquet sports such as pickle ball are growing rapidly and offer opportunities to expand recreation options within a small land footprint. Providing outdoor courts adaptable for these emerging sports can meet diverse community needs while maximising land efficiency.

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Increasing provision	Investigate option to accommodate tennis at Mandible Sports Precinct	
Improve amenity and quality of existing courts	Programmed upgrades include: - Alexandria Park tennis courts and amenities ; - Ongoing asset renewal program works for courts as required	
Tennis court provision	Prioritise activating and improving existing tennis facilities to support casual use, coaching, and competition, and increase awareness of available court time during off-peak hours.	
Alternative racquet sports	Investigate the feasibility of introducing multi-line marking on selected tennis courts to accommodate pickleball, enabling more flexible and efficient use of existing court infrastructure. This assessment should consider court demand, user needs, operational impacts, line-marking standards, and potential conflicts between activities to maximise recreational opportunities and participation Assess merit of providing pickleball courts for new parks capable of accommodating outdoor court space.	

For more information

Indoor courts

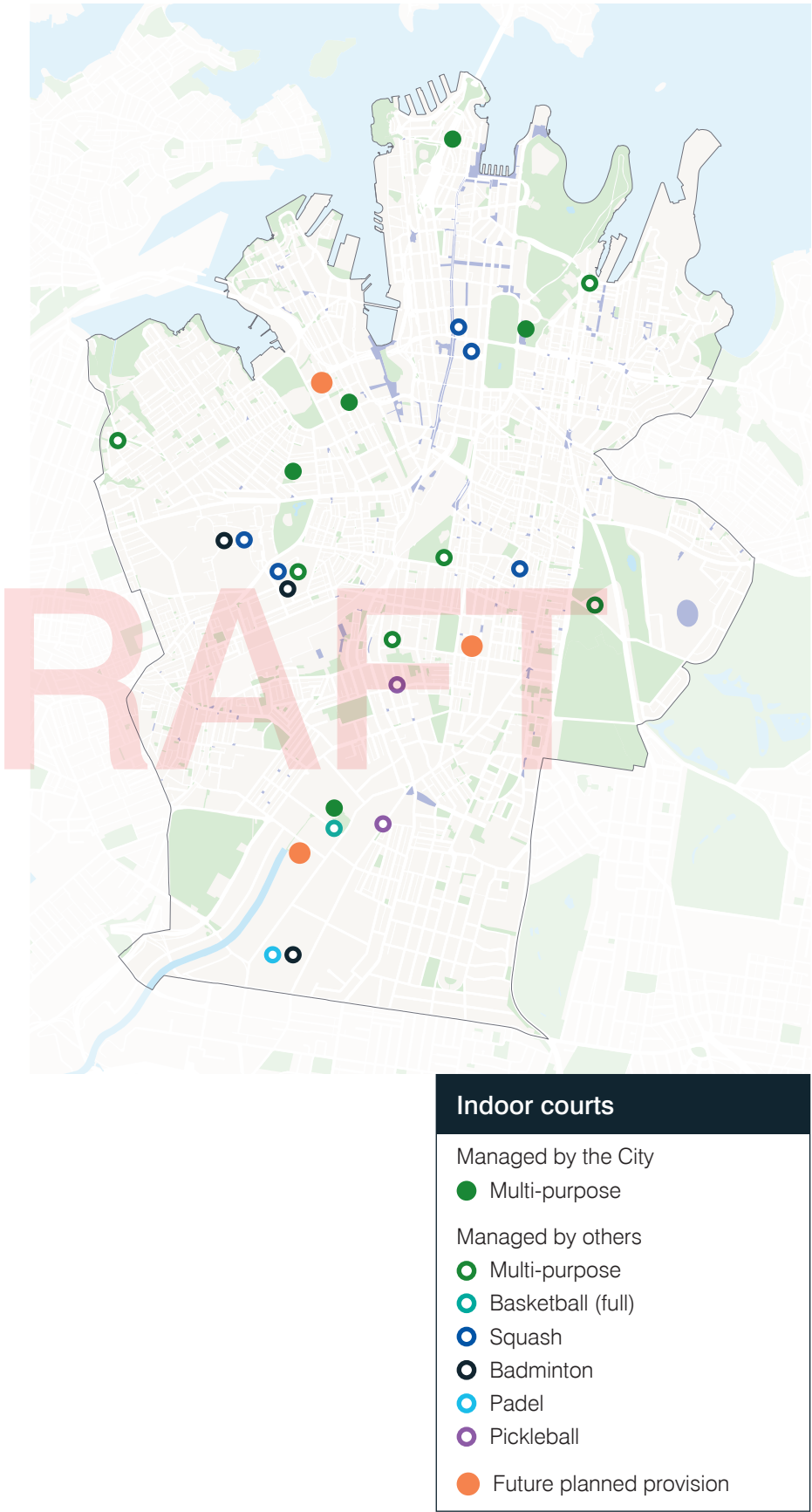
Current provision

There are 25 indoor multi purpose court recreation facilities in our local area. These facilities include 13 indoor multipurpose courts managed by the City.

Private sector provision of indoor courts is increasing, driven by growing demand for pickleball, padel, and badminton facilities.

Future demand

Indoor recreation facilities experience high demand and operate at or near capacity during peak periods, particularly for club sport, training and community programs. Based on population growth projections and planned provision to 2046, an additional seven indoor courts will be required. While recent private sector investment has increased provision for some activities, such as pickleball and badminton, additional multi-purpose indoor court capacity will still be needed to meet future demand.



Strategic considerations

Multi-use flexibility

Design courts and spaces to accommodate multiple sports and activities, including modified rules and community programs.

Accessibility and inclusion

Ensure universal design to support people with disabilities, including wheelchair sports and inclusive programming.

Partnerships

Continue to pursue opportunities with schools to establish shared-use arrangements for indoor court provision.

Private provision

As supply continues to grow, consider the role of private sector operators in delivering indoor sports while directing public investment toward addressing gaps in access and equity.

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Increase provision of indoor courts	- Planned provision - Huntley Street Indoor Sports Centre - 4 x indoor courts (completed) - Fig and Wattle Street Developer agreement - 2 x indoor courts - PCYC Redfern - 1 indoor court	
Asset upgrade and renewal	Programmed upgrade and renewal to existing indoor court/indoor recreation facilities as required. Future considerations - enclose KGV roof terrace above gym to increase floor space for exercise classes/multi-purpose use.	
City booking allocation	Continue annual Expressions of Interest (EOI) processes to transparently and equitably allocate indoor court use, with priority given to allocations that promote a diverse mix of genders, age groups, ability levels, and cultural backgrounds. Monitor and adjust allocations regularly to respond to changing demand and participation trends across the City.	
City programming	Continue City-led programming of indoor courts and recreation spaces to deliver a broad range of social recreation activities and competitive opportunities	
Indoor community spaces	Ensure any future new or upgraded City community centre projects include flexible, multi-purpose spaces capable of accommodating indoor recreation programs such as yoga, dance, and martial arts	

Playgrounds

City	Other	Total
107	7	114

Current provision

Playgrounds range from small local play spaces serving neighbourhood catchments through to larger destination playgrounds that attract visitors from across the City and beyond.

Future demand

The 300–400 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that access to playgrounds varies across the local government area.

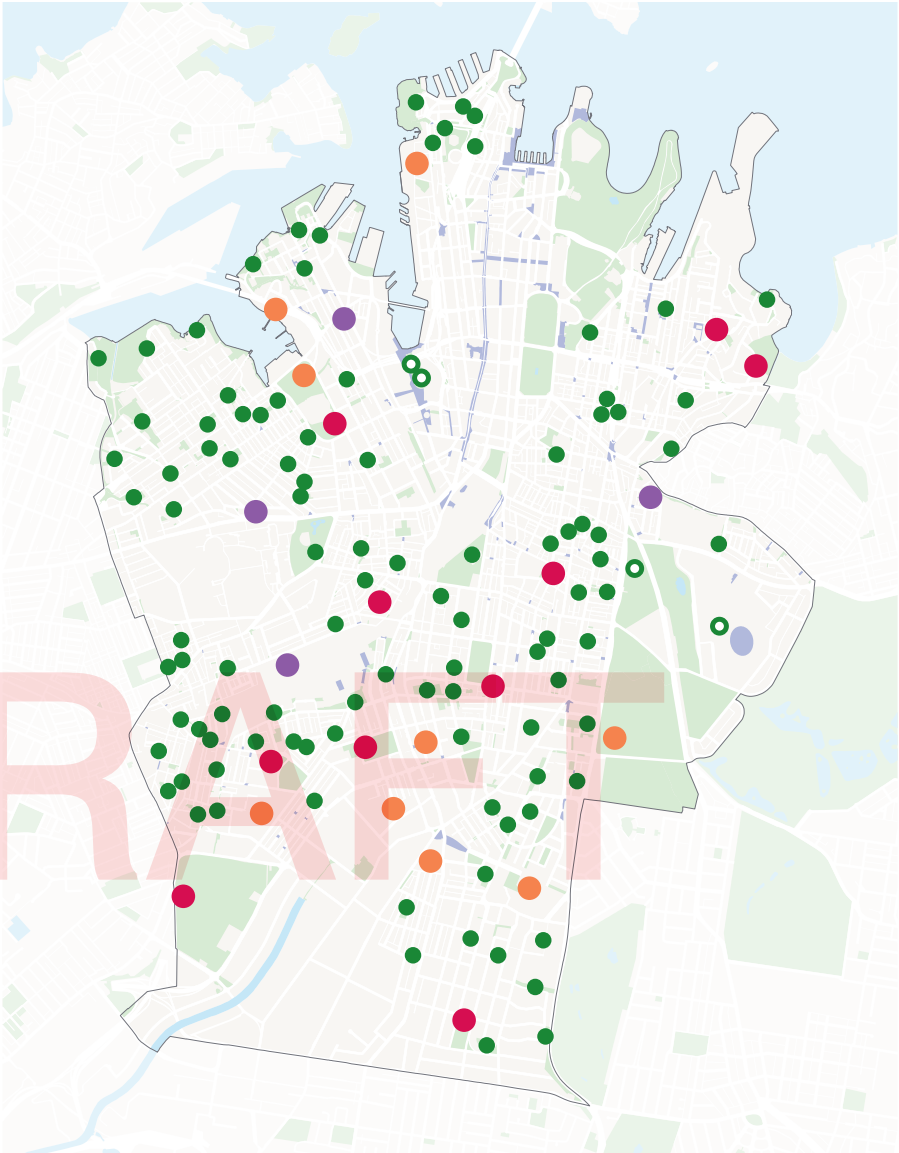
While many residential areas are located within a short walk of a playground, the mapping identifies several gaps in coverage, particularly within the city centre, and southern city centre.

Strategic considerations

The City’s playground network is generally well developed and provides an extensive range of play opportunities across the local government area.

Future planning should focus on delivering new playgrounds in growth areas and renewing existing facilities.

While inclusive play principles incorporated are into playground upgrades and new play spaces, there is an opportunity to establish a more strategic network of inclusive playgrounds across the City.



Playgrounds
● Managed by the City
○ Managed by others
● Renewals
● Future planned provision
● Opportunities

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Establish network of all inclusive playgrounds	Under take feasibility assessment, option testing to establish up to three inclusive playground facilities across the City area. Potential locations for assessment include: • Sydney Park - incorporated as part of renewal of existing playground • Wentworth Park north • other sites identified through feasibility assessment	
New provision	• Gunyama Park (completed) • McPherson Park • 22 O’Riordan Street • Mandible Sports Precinct • Waterloo South Park • Moore Park south • Bank Street park (by others) • Wentworth Park	
	Support Greater Sydney Parklands to provide additional play facilities in Kippax Lake area of Moore Park as per Moore Park East Masterplan	
Future considerations new playgrounds to address distribution gaps	• Elizabeth Healy Reserve, Pyrmont • Selwyn Street, Paddington Streetscape • North Eveleigh urban renewal • New playground near Arundel Street, Forest Lodge	
Address city centre playground gaps	Investigate the feasibility of additional play opportunities in city centre public spaces. Advocate that future Barangaroo Central Park provides a destination play experience that complements the offer at Tumbalong Park. Assess merit of small scale play opportunities in city centre street closures and other civic public domain.	
Key playground renewal and upgrade	• Redfern Park • Alexandria Park • Harry Noble Reserve • Redfern Community Park • Ward Park • Wentworth Park (South)	
Strengthen destination play opportunities in large parks	Ensure larger parks and district recreation destinations provide a level and diversity of play commensurate with their size,catchment and role within the open space network. Review the play provision within major parks to expand or enhance play experiences to create destination-level facilities. Key opportunities: • Prince Alfred Park • Turruwul Park • Waterloo Park/Oval	
Shade	Shade provision for playgrounds will be considered on a site-by-site basis, with shade structures prioritised at larger neighbourhood and district/regional playgrounds. Where possible, playground design and siting will maximise the use of existing shade trees or incorporate new tree planting to enhance shade and thermal comfort.	

Attachment A3

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 1, p120-145**

Fitness stations

Current provision

The City has established a network of outdoor fitness stations distributed throughout parks and recreation spaces.

There are currently 22 outdoor gyms across the local government area, of which 15 are managed by the City.

Future demand

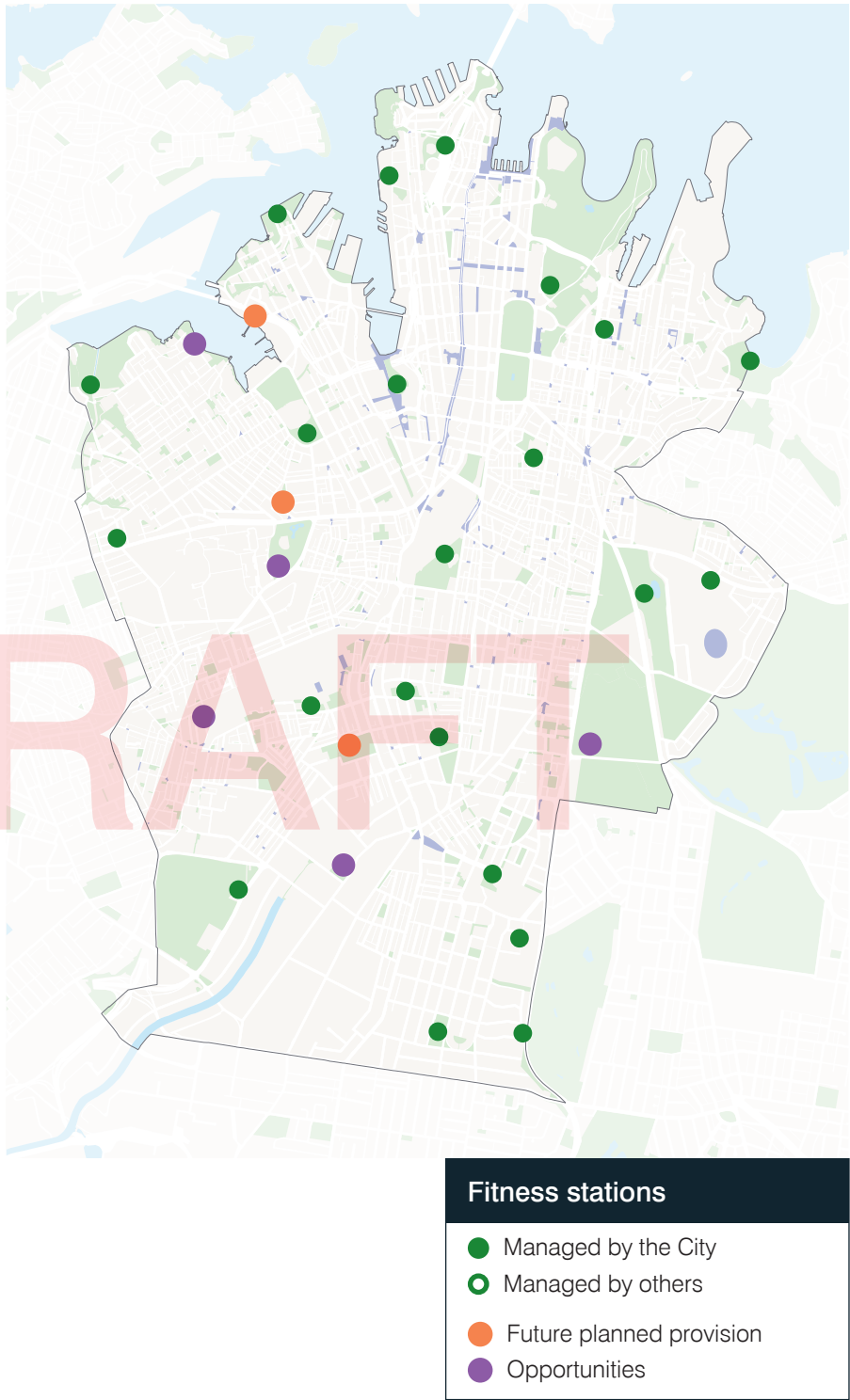
Fitness activities are increasingly popular, with many people seeking opportunities to exercise outdoors.

While the City's network of outdoor fitness stations is generally well established and accessible to many residents, gaps remain in the city centre, Erskineville/Newtown, east Redfern, and parts of Alexandria and Beaconsfield.

Future provision should focus on addressing these gaps to improve equitable access to outdoor fitness opportunities.

Strategic considerations

The assessment indicates that the City is generally well served by outdoor fitness infrastructure. However, future population growth and increasing participation in outdoor exercise will continue to generate demand for additional facilities and upgrades.



Future priorities include:

- Expanding the network in growth areas.
- Addressing identified gaps in provision.
- Delivering more inclusive and accessible facilities.
- Integrating fitness equipment with walking and cycling routes.
- Design layouts and equipment selection to encourage participation by women through the provision of safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces, while also supporting opportunities for older adults and people with disability.

Strategic response

Response	Action
Level of service and accessibility	Increase provision so that most residential properties are located within 10 minute walk (600-800m) to an outdoor gym;
New provision planned to address service gaps	• Minogue Reserve, Glebe (2026) • Ward Park (2028) • Alexandria Park, Alexandria (planned for 2028). • Bank Street Park (Place NSW) • Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)
Upgrade/replacement existing facilities	Observatory Park, Millers Point (completed))
Recommended future sites for feasibility assessment to improve access and distribution	Sites where new fitness equipment could be located to improve equitable these areas. Proposed sites include: • Albert Street Pocket Park, Newtown • Victoria Park, Camperdown • Blackwattle Bay Park, Glebe Foreshore Walk, Glebe • Perry Park, Alexandria • Mandible Sports Precinct, Alexandria

Skate and off street bike facilities

Current provision

The network provides a combination of neighbourhood and district-level skate opportunities. The Sydney Park bike track provides playful learn to ride circuit for children. There are 7 skate facilities in the City, 6 managed by the City, with 1 skate facility additional planned by the City.

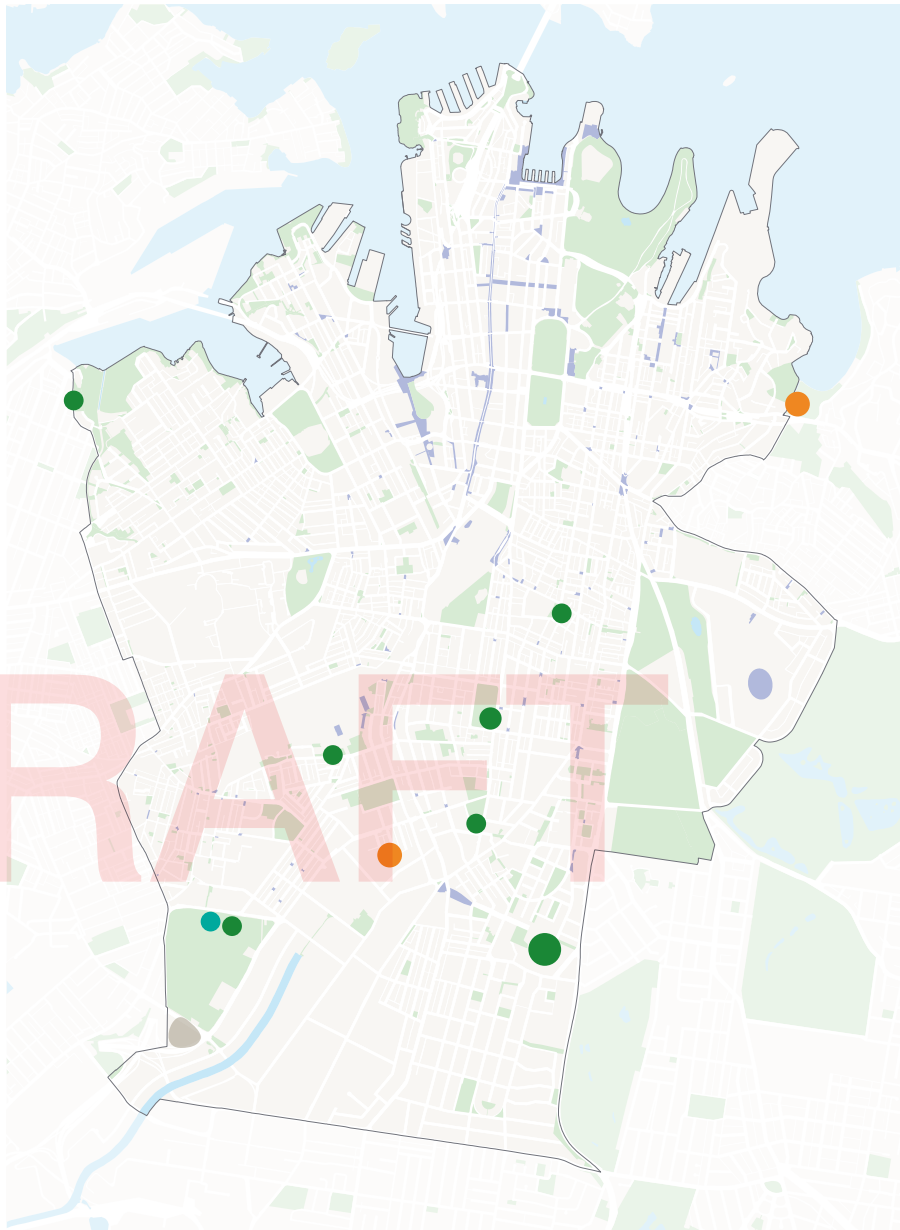
Future demand

The skate facility network provides good coverage across the central, western and north-western parts of the City, with major destination facilities at Sydney Park, Waterloo Oval and Federal Park attracting users from across Sydney due to strong public transport access.

In contrast, dedicated mountain bike facilities are largely concentrated in the Northern Beaches and Western Sydney, highlighting a significant gap in provision across Eastern Sydney. Pump tracks, a cycle facility track with rollers and banked turns.

Strategic considerations

Demand for skate facilities, pump tracks and mountain bike trails continues to grow, reflecting increasing participation in informal and active recreation. Future planning should focus on renewing and enhancing existing facilities, expanding access to



wheeled sports opportunities such as roller derby and investigating dedicated off-street cycling mountain bike environments.

Purpose-built facilities can accommodate growing demand, reduce pressure on parks and bushland from unauthorised riding, and help protect environmental and open space values.

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Mountain bike facility feasibility assessment	Undertake a feasibility assessment to investigate the potential for mountain bike facilities within the Campbell Street / St Peters Interchange area. The assessment should consider site suitability, access, safety, noise and environmental impacts, integration with Sydney Park.	
Skate facilities	Planned additional skate facilities • Gunyama Stage 2 (completed) • Mandible Sports Precinct - skateable moment facilities located with court spaces. • Rushcutters Bay Park - junior level facility (Woollahra Council)	
Skate facilities to address gaps	Future consideration/ assessment skate facility at Wentworth Park	
Pump track facility	Support inclusion of pump track at Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)	Moore Park South Establishment Plan
Roller derby/ skating	Consider opportunities for roller derby, roller skating and similar wheeled recreation activities within future facility planning, upgrades and programming. Prioritise flexible, multi-use spaces that can accommodate a range of formal and informal recreation activities while maximising the use of existing infrastructure	
Engagement	Implement youth-led placemaking to better reflect youth preferences and foster ownership of recreational spaces	

Youth recreation spaces

Current provision

The City and other agencies provides a range of recreation facilities that cater to young people, including skate facilities, multipurpose courts, indoor courts, and skate and off street cycle facilities

Woollahra Council is planning a youth space at Rushcutters Bay Park (section managed by Woollahra Council) that includes a junior scooter and skate facility, which is designed for beginner and intermediate level skaters and a mini basketball court.

Strategic considerations

Future youth recreation provision should extend beyond traditional sport to include flexible, informal and social activities. Facilities should be designed through youth-led co-design processes, with a focus on creating safe, inclusive and appealing spaces that encourage participation by teenage girls, young women and gender-diverse young people, supporting lifelong physical activity, social connection and equitable access.

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Youth Recreation Area (by others)	Support Woollahra Council establishment youth recreation area at Rushcutters Bay Park.	
Spaces for teenage girls	Investigate feasibility incorporating spaces and amenities welcoming to teenage girls. Parks for consideration to include: - Belmore Park - Wentworth Park - Mandible Sports Precinct	
Engagement	Implement youth-led placemaking to better reflect youth preferences and foster ownership of recreational spaces	

Image (opposite page):
Boys playing basketball during Youth Week
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Paddlecraft

Current provision

Paddlecraft activities are supported by a range of facilities provided by the City and other agencies, including seawall steps, pontoons and foreshore access points for launching and retrieval, along with both formal and informal storage facilities.

There are 12 locations that support paddle craft in our area, 8 managed by the City the City, with 1 additional planned.

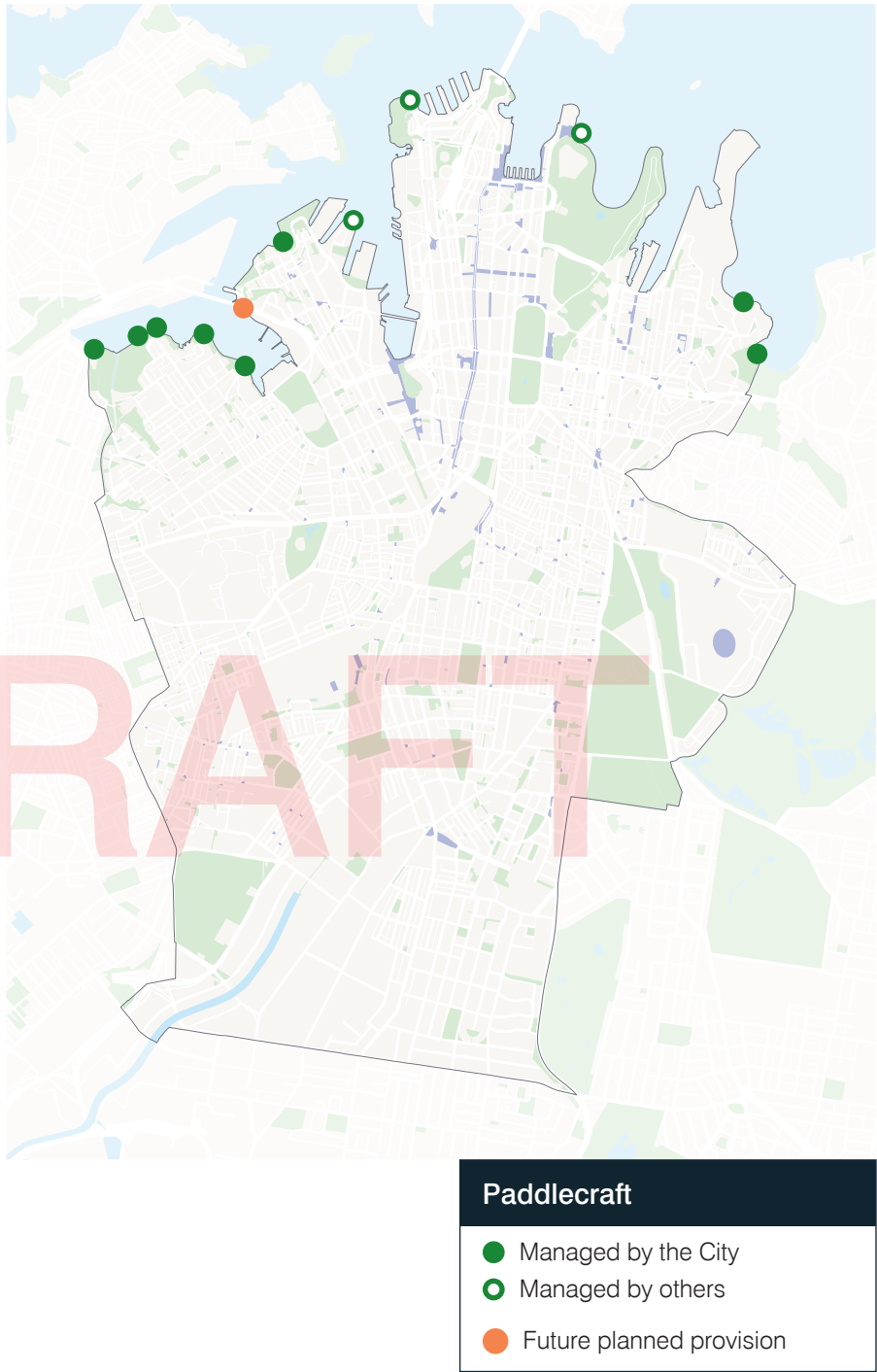
Future demand

Kayaking and canoeing have become increasingly popular recreational activities on Sydney Harbour, offering residents and visitors a low-impact, nature-connected way to explore the city's iconic waterways.

Strategic considerations

Sydney Harbour is a major recreation asset, offering opportunities for kayaking, paddleboarding and other paddlecraft activities. As demand for water-based recreation grows, future planning should improve water access and supporting infrastructure while balancing competing demands on limited foreshore space.

A coordinated approach between Council, state agencies and other stakeholders will be needed to provide safe, sustainable access, launch and storage facilities while protecting foreshore amenity, environmental values and other open space functions.



Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Increase the provision and availability of storage and water access	Planned new facilities include: Bank Street Park (Infrastructure NSW) to include a new public pontoon and launch jetty and storage for paddle craft and dragon boats	
Foreshore sites for assessment to improve paddlecraft recreation	City parks for feasibility assessment and consultation for storage rack for kayaks and paddleboards, enhanced water access stairs and, shower points for: - Bicentennial Park, Annandale - Pirrama Park, Pyrmont - Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay; and - Rushcutters Bay Park.	



Dragon boat racing during Chinese New Year
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Walking and cycling

Current provision

The City has made substantial investments in walking and cycling infrastructure, enhancing both recreation and transport options. This includes upgrades to pedestrian and cycling networks. Since 2007, Council has delivered 29 km of separated cycleways, 66 km of shared paths and 61 km of other cycling infrastructure, supporting increased cycling participation, for both commuter and recreation trips.

These improvements are complemented by pedestrian improvements and streetscape enhancements such as tree planting, greening, seating, drinking fountains, and wayfinding.

Together, these initiatives encourage walking, running and cycling for recreation and well as active transport.

Strategic considerations

Walking, running and cycling are key components of the City's recreation network, supporting active lifestyles, social connection and access to open space and community facilities.

Continued investment in a connected cycling network and improved pedestrian amenity will further strengthen streets as recreation assets. Larger parks should also incorporate pathway loops to support walking, running and fitness activities.

Strategic response

Response	Action	Reference
Cycle network implementation	Progressively deliver the City's planned cycling network as per the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan.	
Pedestrian amenity street improvements	Continue program for pedestrian street upgrades to improve footpath quality and continuity, enhance pedestrian crossing safety and accessibility, and expand tree canopy and greening to increase shade and comfort.	
Park walking loops in larger parks	Provide and enhance dedicated walking loops within larger parks to support casual walking, jogging, and inclusive fitness activities.	
Wayfinding signage	Continue rollout of coordinated wayfinding signage across the pedestrian and cycling network to improve legibility, navigation, and user confidence.	
Amenities to support walking and cycling	Provide and upgrade supporting amenities including lighting, seating, bubblers, and public toilets, to improve comfort, accessibility, and usability for recreational users of all ages. Integrate delivery with the Greening Sydney planting and greening for shade and amenity.	
Regional approach	Coordinate with the NSW Government and neighbouring councils on the planning and implementation of the Sydney Blue Green Grid to strengthen regional walking and cycling connections. Continue support Manly to Bondi Walk with attendance on Manly to Bondi Supporters Steering Committee.	
Gaps and missing links in network	Progress advocacy to address connectivity improvements including: - Glebe Island Bridge - Alexandria Canal - Southern Harbour Bridge separated cycle link - improved access to Moore Park South	



Mary Ann Street Cycleway
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Companion animals

Current provision

It is estimated that over 34,000 dogs are registered in the City of Sydney.

The City currently has 50 off leash parks. These parks range from off leash exercise available at all times to parks that have restrictions for off leash exercise limited to evening and night time hours.

Sydney Park provides extensive off leash areas with a paddling pool.

Future demand

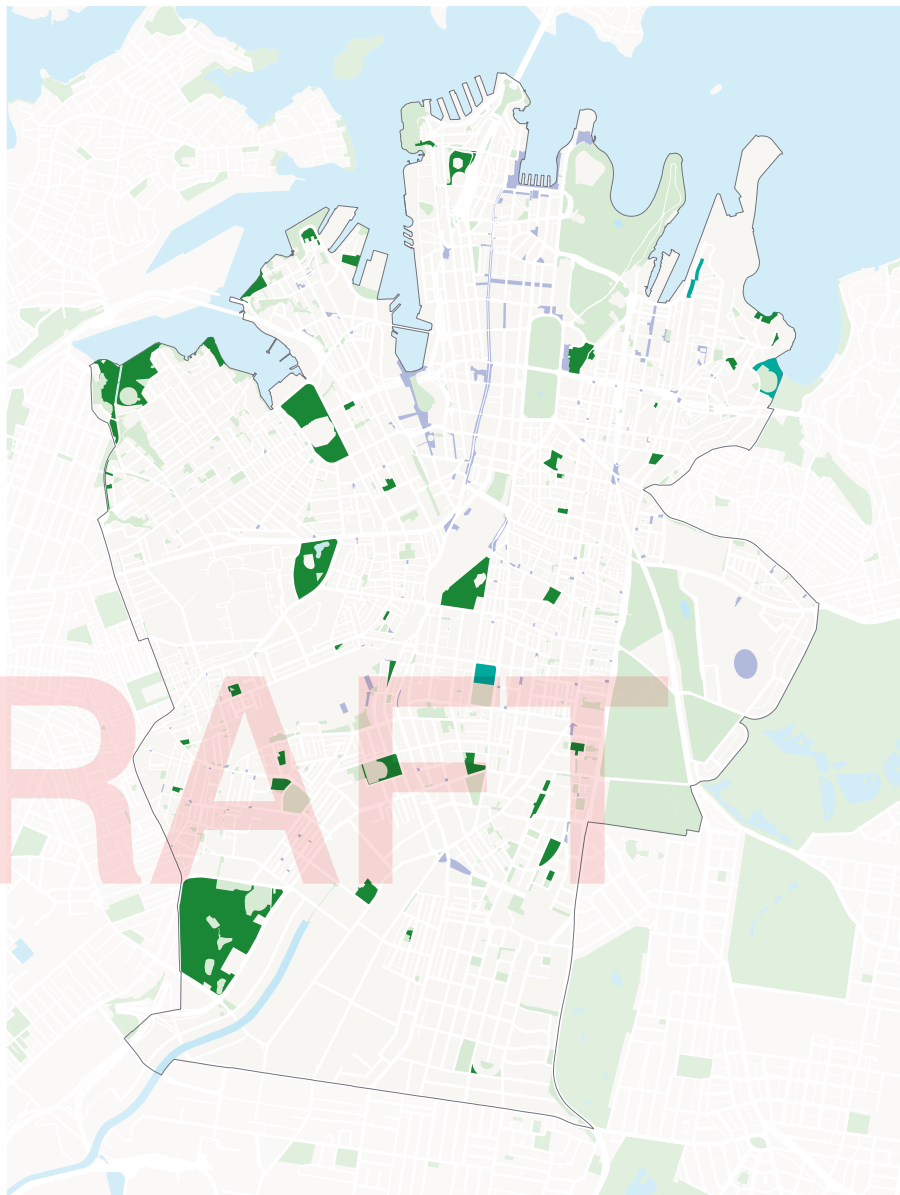
The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates coverage is strongest in the central, northern and eastern parts of the City where a number of established parks provide multiple off-leash opportunities. However, parts of city centre and the southern urban renewal precincts have access to fewer off leash parks.

Strategic considerations

Continue to provide an equitable distribution of well-located on- and off-leash areas and ensuring facilities are designed to minimise environmental impacts and maintenance demands.

Future planning should seek to balance the needs of dog owners with those of other park users.

While dog exercise areas are highly valued, it is also important to maintain dog-free spaces and protect areas intended for nature conservation, children’s play, organised recreation and passive enjoyment.



Achieving the right balance helps minimise user conflict and ensures parks can accommodate a diverse range of community needs.

Legend

■ Access not timed

■ Timed access

Strategic response

Response	Action
Provide facilities and amenities at popular dog exercise parks to increase enjoyment for owners and dogs	Facility provision includes : • Provision of dog water bowls. • Evening parks program – extend access hours at nominated parks to allow dog exercise in the evening particularly during winter. • Seating and social areas for owners to congregate.
New provision	• Support provision of off leash areas in the new Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands) • Assess merit of Zetland Open Space being off leash to increase provision in Green Square • Assess merit for Kimberley Grove Reserve for off leash provisions
Balance dog activity with other users	Plan and manage dog access to parks in a way that supports dog exercise while maintaining safety, amenity, and enjoyment for all park users.
Suitability for new off leash areas	Key criteria to assess suitability include • size of turf area • safety for dogs to run freely • compatibility with other recreational uses • proximity to existing off leash areas • support of local community
Advocacy	Continue to support the campaign to allow companion animals on public transport, recognising the growing need for equitable access to parks and recreational facilities across Sydney.
Responsible dog ownership	Continue to support responsible dog ownership through education, compliance, and enforcement measures that encourage appropriate behaviour and rule compliance.



Dogs at Sydney Park
Photo: City of Sydney

Events

Current provision

The City’s parks and spaces accommodates a wide range of event activities, from small-scale private gatherings such as weddings and children’s birthday parties to large-scale festivals and cultural events that attract thousands of attendees in the City’s larger parks.

Events increasing using streets for temporary events and place-based activations (e.g. Sydney Streets).

Strategic considerations

Support community events through investment in event infrastructure and a progressive shift to hardstand and street-based venues where appropriate, reducing pressure on heavily used parks in order to protect environmental and recreation assets.



???
Photo: Joseph Mayers / City of Sydney

Strategic response

Response	Action
Events in City parks	The City continues to support major cultural events in public parks, including Mardi Gras Fair Day, Yabun Festival, and Pyrmont Food and Wine Festival
Event Infrastructure	Progressive installation of supporting infrastructure in key parks and spaces accommodating community events: • Victoria Park, Camperdown • Dixon Street Chinatown • Wentworth Park • Belmore Park
Event spaces on hard stand areas	To reduce the impact of events on parkland and natural turf prioritise the use of hardstand areas, streets, and paved civic spaces for public events and activations. Key spaces include: • Martin Place • New Town Hall Square • use of temporary street closures
Advocacy	Advocacy to state government about making State-controlled public spaces like Darling Harbour and The Domain more available and affordable for events. Advocacy to Sydney University about investigating the potential for outdoor spaces within Sydney University Campus to be used for more live music and cultural events.

Informal recreation amenities

Current provision

Across the City park network contains various unique recreation offerings including chess tables, hit up walls, and ping pong tables.

Future demand

Participation trends indicate increasing demand for flexible, informal and self-directed recreation opportunities. Many emerging recreation activities rely on relatively small-scale infrastructure that can be integrated into parks, plazas, streets and public spaces.

Strategic considerations

Future planning should continue to incorporate smaller recreation opportunities within parks, streets, plazas and public spaces to support evolving recreation trends and maximise the recreational value of existing assets.

Future park capital works projects should assess opportunities to incorporate a range of small-scale recreation amenities that appeal to diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds.

Design and placement should prioritise accessibility, inclusivity, and universal design.

Infrastructure should be durable, low-maintenance, and adaptable to changing community needs.

Strategic response

Response	Action
Integrate small scale recreation amenities into future park upgrades	Future park capital works projects should assess opportunities to incorporate a range of small-scale recreation amenities that appeal to diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds • Table tennis tables • Chess tables • Rebound walls • Bocce court



???
Photo: Joseph Mayers / City of Sydney

Summary of facilities

Facility	Existing*	Planned*	Potential/future considerations*	Total
Sportsfields	36	3	3	42
Outdoor courts (full)	33	8	2-3	43
Outdoor courts (half/ practice)	13	5		18
Indoor courts (multipurpose/ basketball)	25 (incl Huntley St)	3	-	28
Outdoor gyms	22	5	5	32
Playgrounds	114	7	4	125
Skate facilities	7	2	2	11
Mountain bike facility	0	0	1	1
81				

* includes other providers

DRAFT

Spatial priorities

Where we will focus

The City’s villages vary in access to open space, recreation facilities and capacity.

Spatial analysis identifies where the network is under pressure and where investment is needed to meet service levels and support growth.

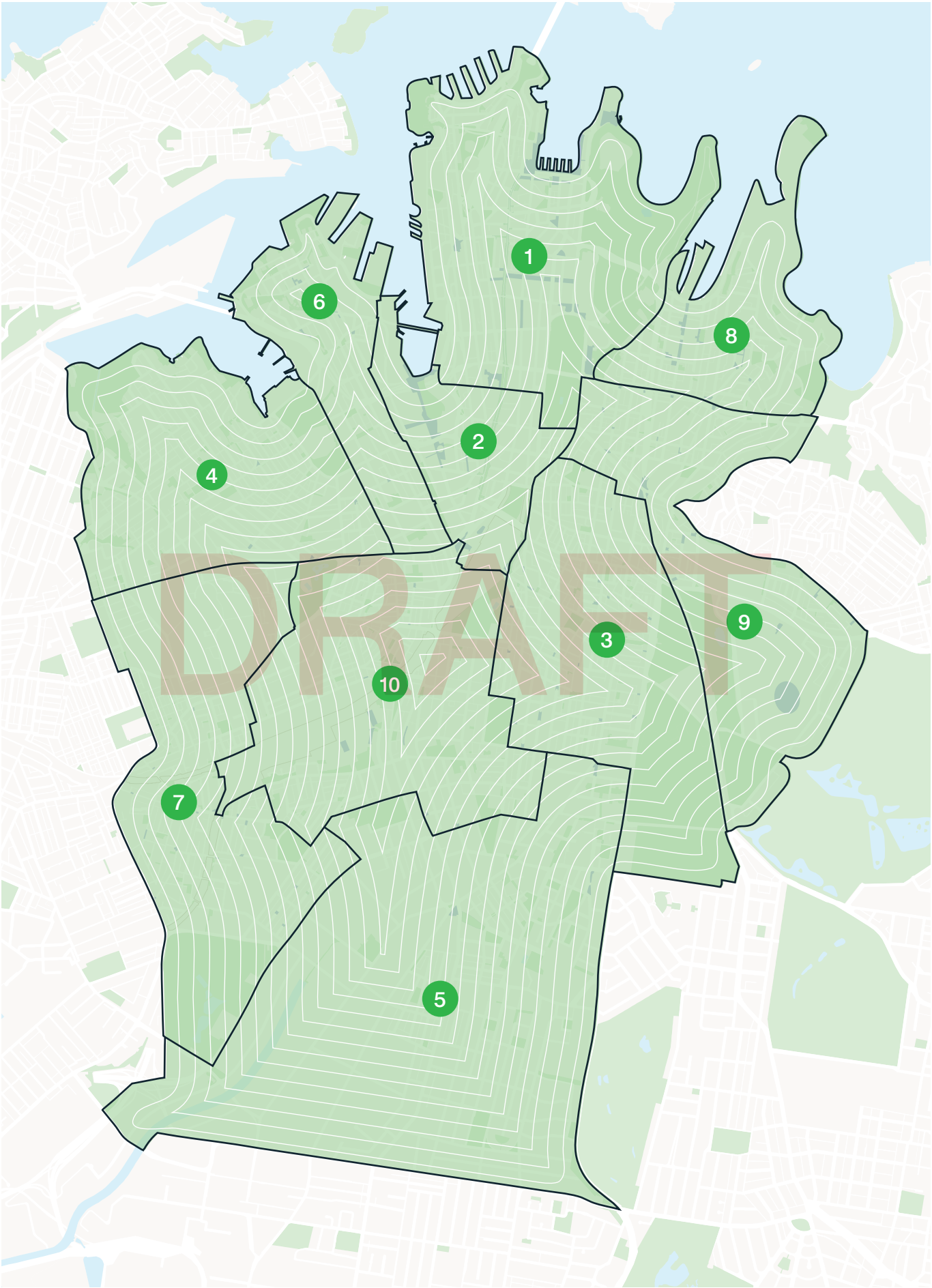
These priorities guide how and where the strategic directions will be delivered,

Each map includes:

- Projects endorsed in the City’s 10-year capital works program
- Projects recommended for funding consideration and future capital works planning
- Opportunities for City advocacy to increase availability of open space and recreation facilities
- Projects that will be delivered by other government agencies or the private sector via planning agreements, and

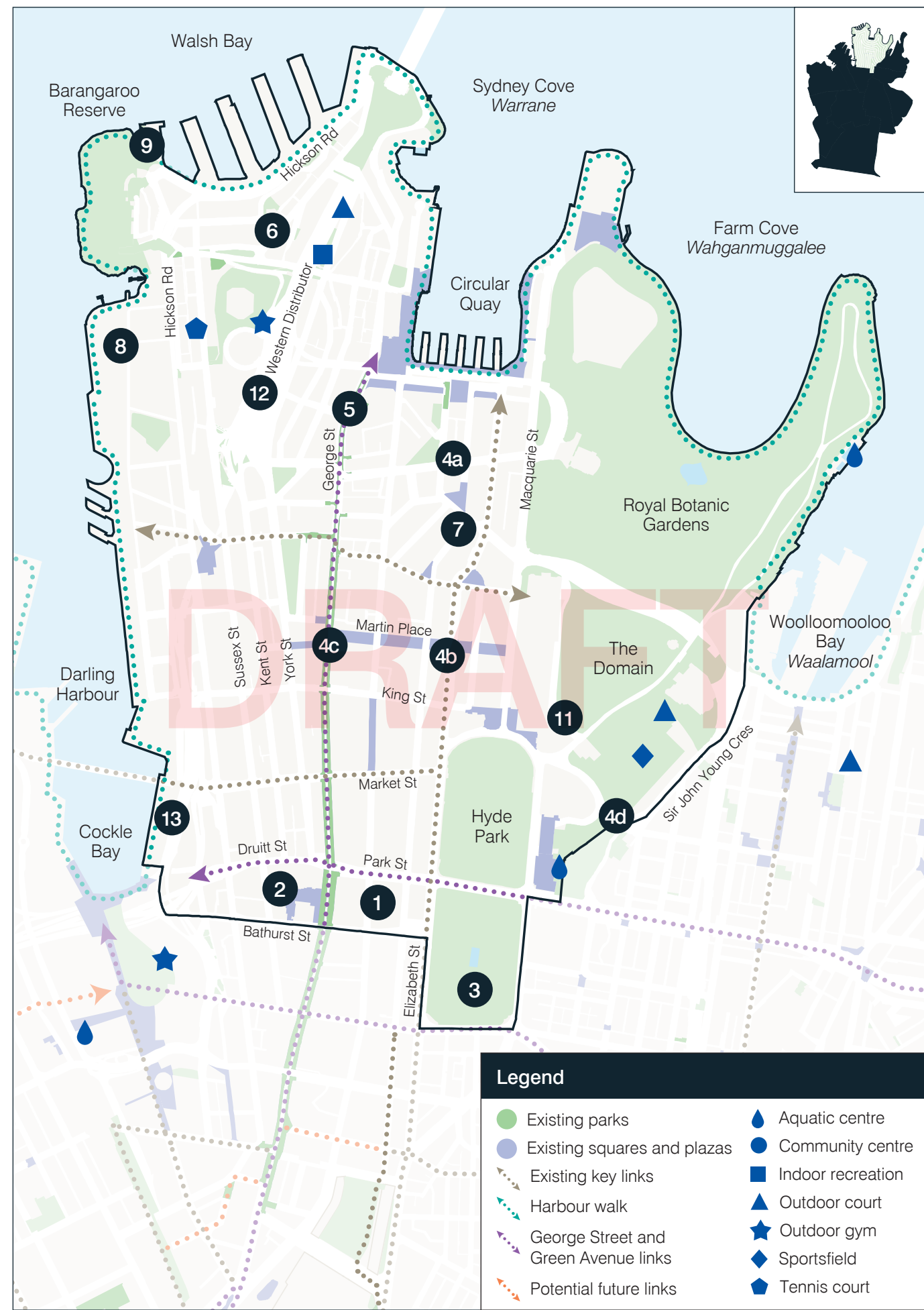
Our villages	
1	CBD and Harbour Sydney (part), The Rocks, Millers Point, Barangaroo
2	Chinatown and CBD South Sydney (part), Haymarket
3	Crown and Baptist Streets Surry Hills (part), Redfern (part), Moore Park (part)
4	Glebe Point Road Glebe, Forest Lodge, Annandale (part), Camperdown (part), Ultimo (part)
5	Green Square and City South Zetland, Beaconsfield, Waterloo (part), Rosebery, Alexandria (part), St Peters (part)
6	Harris Street Pyrmont, Ultimo (part)
7	King Street Camperdown (part), Newtown, Erskineville, Alexandria (part)
8	Macleay Street and Woolloomooloo Woolloomooloo, Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay, Rushcutters Bay
9	Oxford Street Darlinghurst, Paddington, Centennial Park (part), Moore Park (part), Surry Hills (part)
10	Redfern Street Redfern (part), Chippendale, Darlington, Eveleigh, Alexandria (part), Waterloo (part)

Figure 11: The City of Sydney villages



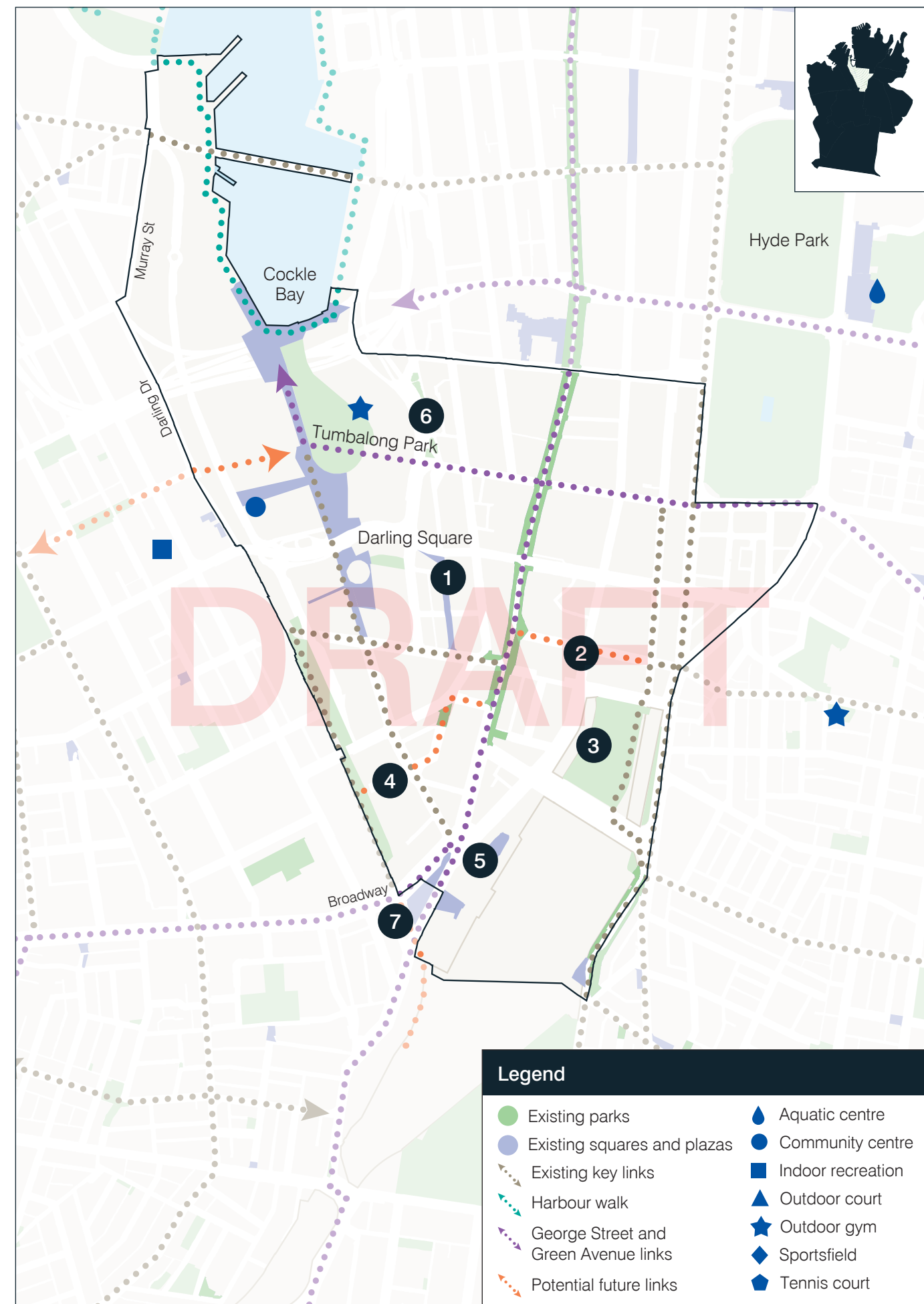
CBD and Harbour

City of Sydney projects	
1	Town Hall Square New public square at intersection of George and Park Streets
2	Sydney Square upgrades Paving, lighting, greening and accessibility
3	Hyde Park masterplan works Ongoing renewal program per the Hyde Park master plan
City centre public space - capital work renewal	
4	- Upgrades to Macquarie Place Park (4a) - Martin Place (4b) - Barrack Street - Sesquicentenary Square (4c) - Cathedral Square (4d)
5	George Street north Extend the pedestrian boulevard of George Street from Hunter Street, Wynyard to Circular Quay. New spaces at Hunter, Margaret, Bond and Jamison Streets
6	Park renewal program Pottinger Street Park, Trinity Playground
Other agency projects / City advocacy	
7	City centre public domain upgrades City North Public Domain Plan (2023) - develop and advocate for public space creation opportunities around Hunter Street metro precinct
8	Barangaroo Central Park New 1.85ha foreshore park
9	Moore's Wharf and Stores public space Advocate for transformation of Wharf car park into more public space next to Marrinawi Cove
11	Macquarie Street revitalisation State Library frontage/Shakespeare Place renewal, new public space (Queen Elizabeth II Square)
12	Observatory Hill Harbour Bridge southern cycle link - advocate for separated cycleway along Observatory Hill Park
13	Darling Harbour Redevelopment of 241-249 Sussex Street (Darling Park) will include a 5500m² rooftop park
Projects for consideration	
Investigate options to increase play and skate opportunities in the city centre	



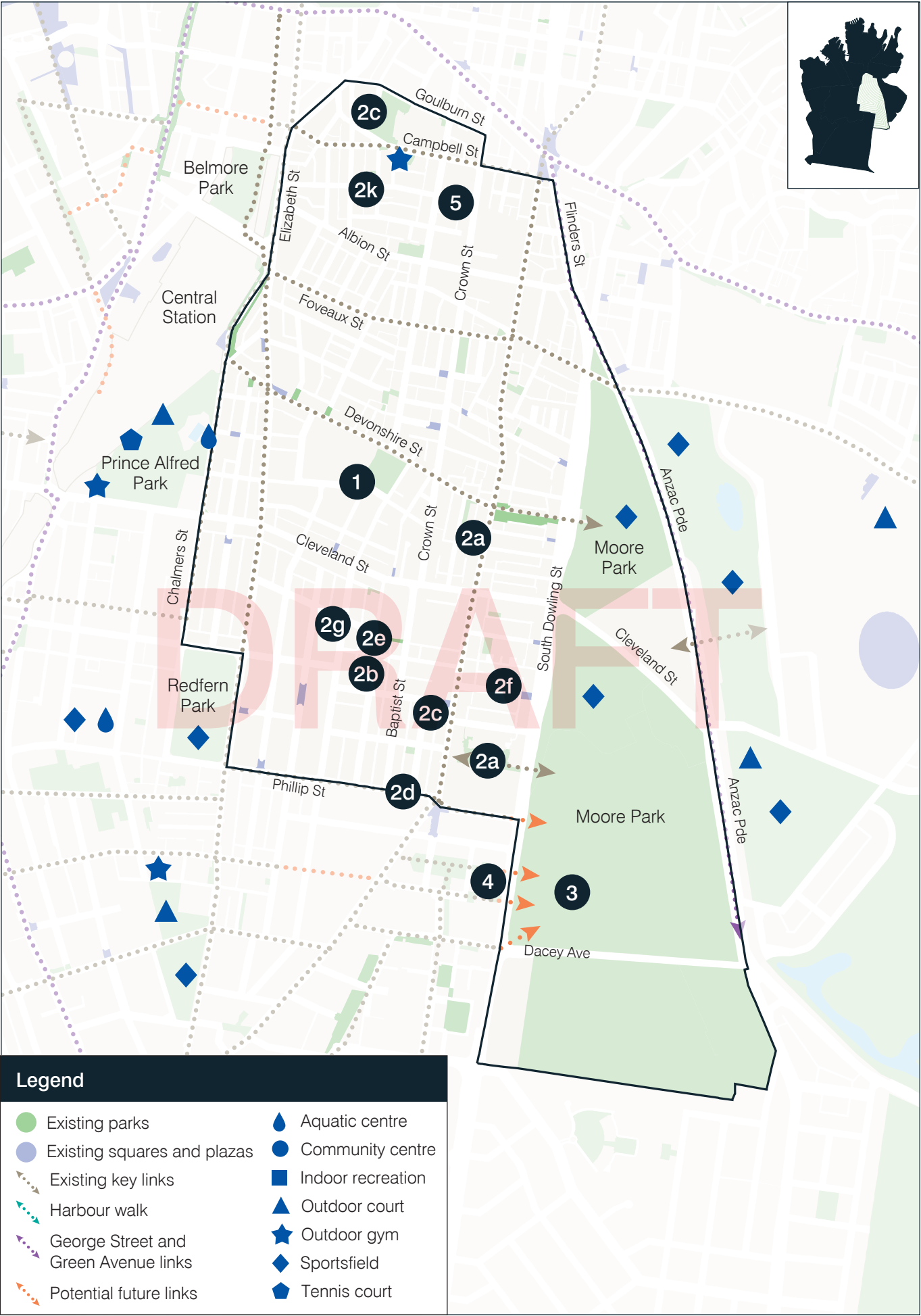
Chinatown and CBD South

City of Sydney projects	
1	Dixon Street South improvements Haymarket and Chinatown public domain plan
2	Campbell Street and Harbour Street improvements Haymarket and Chinatown public domain plan
3	Belmore Park renewal Park upgrade creating better spaces for play, events and public life.
4	Ultimo and Campbell Street link New east/west bicycle link and pedestrian upgrades
Other agency projects/ advocacy	
5	Central Precinct Renewal New civic square at the western entry to Central Station
6	Dixon Street North advocate to Placemaking NSW for public domain improvements to unify with Dixon Street South
7	Goods Line extension advocate to extend public access along the Goods Line from Mortuary Station Gardens to provide a new connection to Darling Harbour
Projects for consideration	
Investigate options to increase play opportunities in city south	



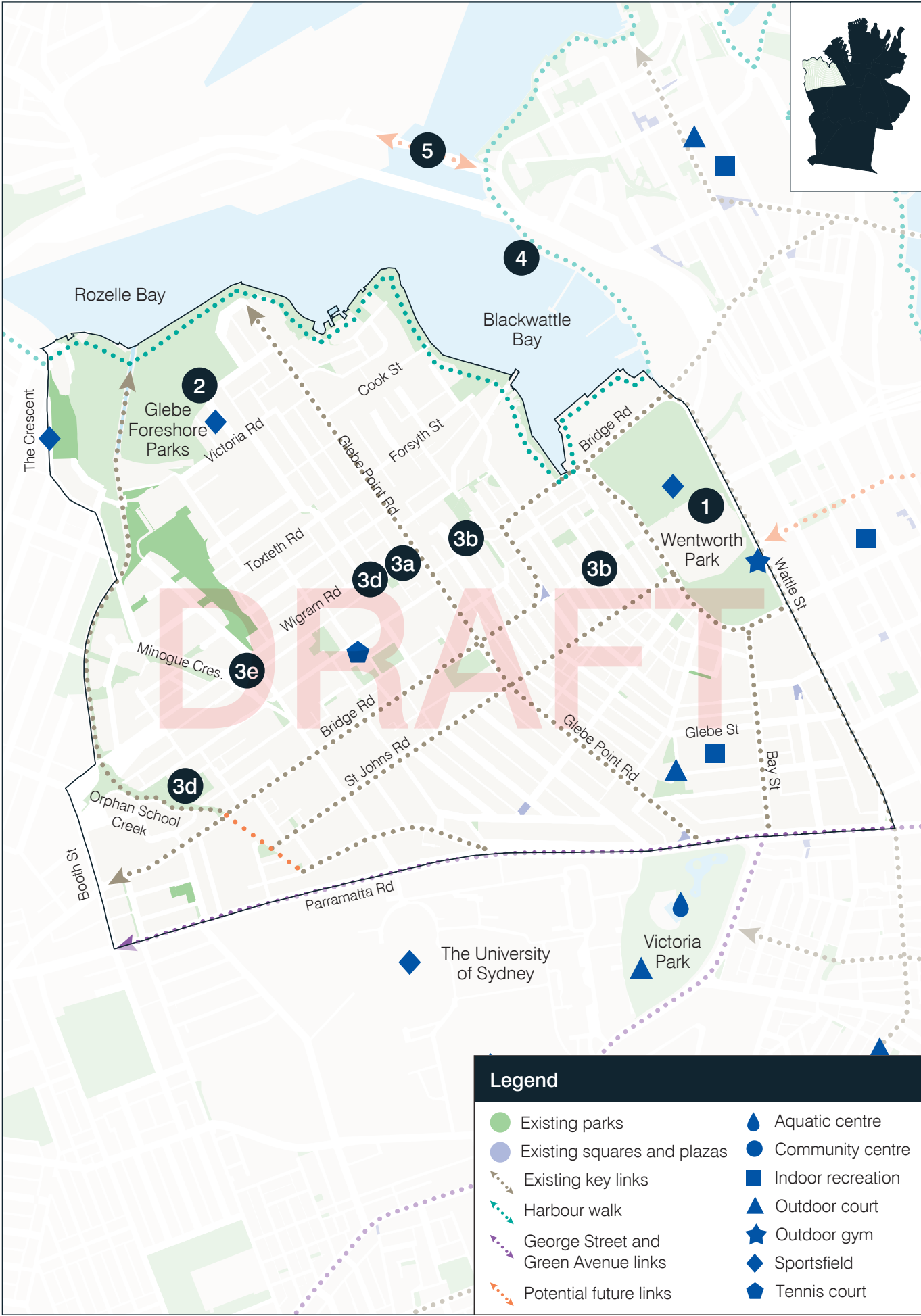
Crown and Baptist Streets

City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Eddie Ward Park renewal New playgrounds, furniture , fitness station and signage refurbishment, lighting upgrade, turf and irrigation improvements and pathway enhancements.	
2	Open space and park renewal program - Edmund Resch Reserve (2a) - Hansom Cab Place (2b) - Teloepa Street closure (2c) - Jack O'Brien Reserve (2d) - Marriott Street Reserve (2e) - Thurlow Street closure (2f) - Young Street closure (2g) - Reservoir Street Gardens (2k)	
	Other agency projects/ advocacy	
3	Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands) 20ha community park - district-level recreation destination that caters for a diverse range of informal recreation, sport and community activities	
4	Better links to Moore Park Advocate for better connections to Moore Park South across South Dowling Street	



Glebe Point Road

City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Wentworth Park Transformation of Wentworth Park into a major multifunctional park—supporting both passive recreation and organised sport Include district level playground facility	
2	Glebe Foreshore Park - Jubilee Oval amenity upgrades and basketball practice ring addition to the Crescent Lands. - Jubilee Park playgrounds - Bicentennial Park path upgrades	
3	Open space and park renewal program - Glebe Library grounds (3a) - Glebe St Playground (3b) - Sarah Peninton Reserve (3c) - Kirsova Playground (3d) - Alfred Road Reserve (3e)	
Other agency projects/ advocacy		
4	Blackwattle Bay redevelopment - New parks and waterfront promenade - Bank Street Park - playground, court space, paddle craft facilities	Refer XX
5	Glebe Island Bridge Advocate for bridge restoration to create active transport link	
Projects for consideration		
Skatepark and courts at Wentworth Park south		
New playground near Arundel Street Forest Lodge		

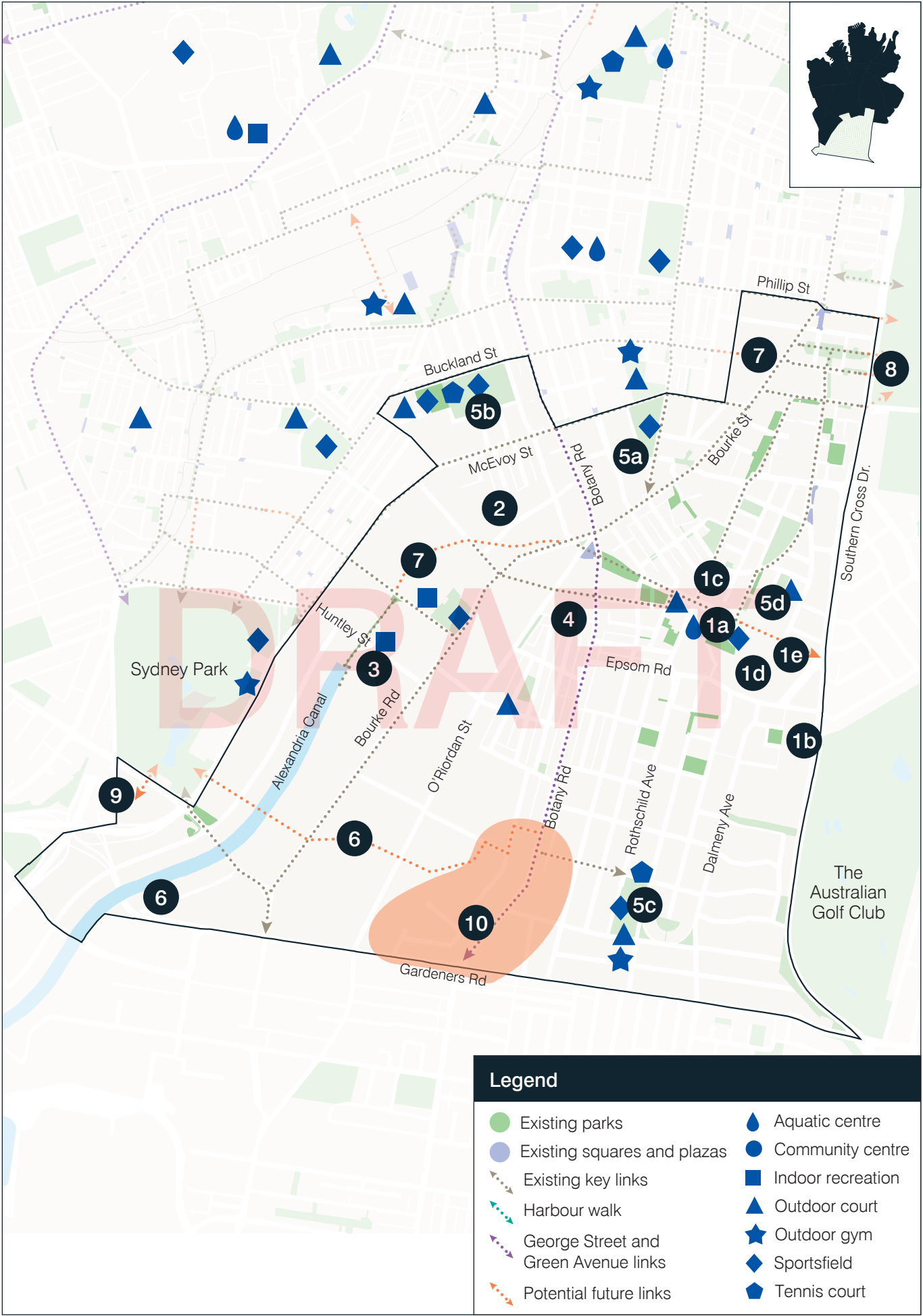


Attachment A4

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 1, p146-189**

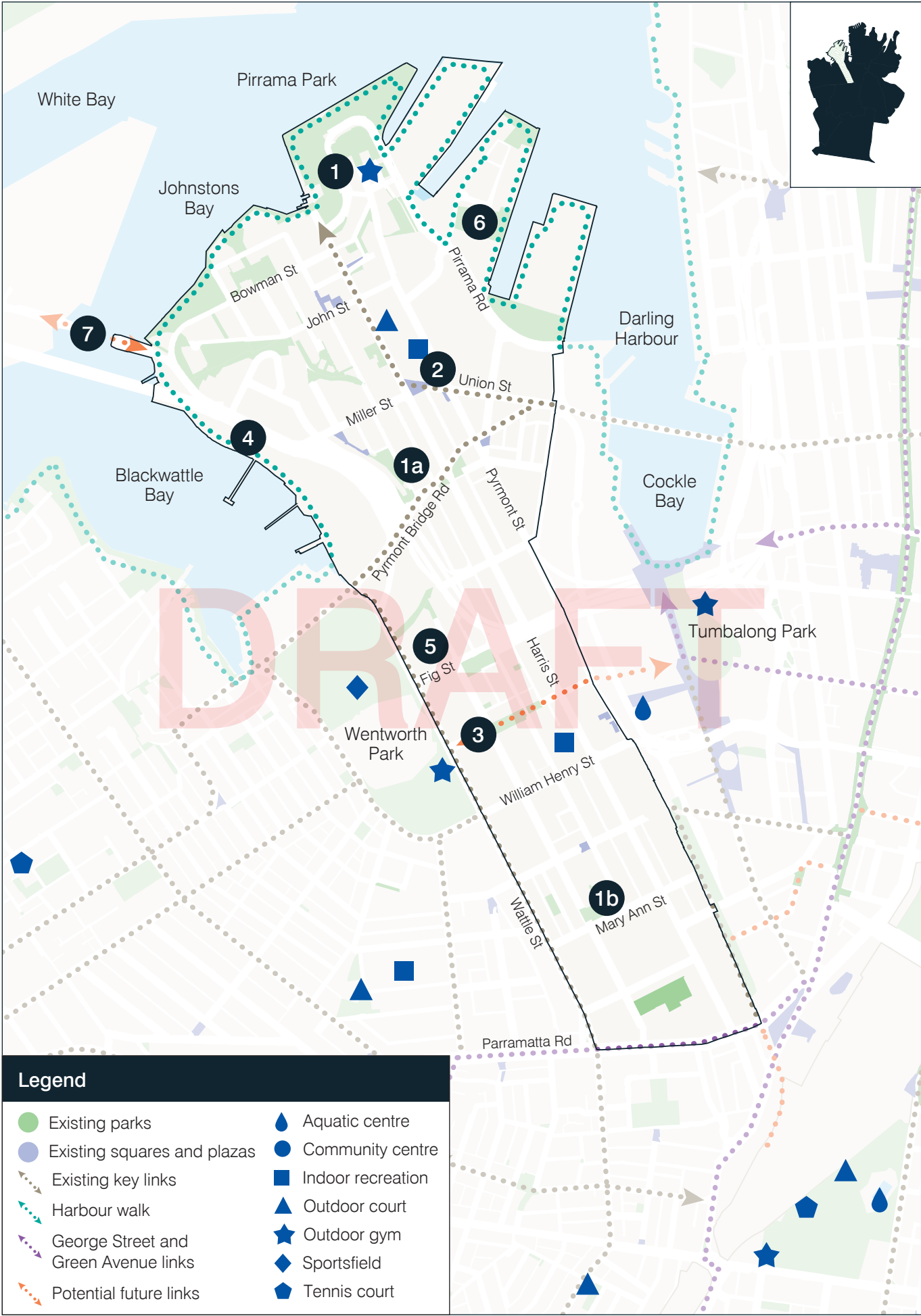
Green Square and City South

Key City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Green Square urban renewal new public open space provision	
	• Gunyama Park (stage 2 - completed) (1a)	
	• Garraway Park (stage 2) (1b)	
	• Woolwash park extension (1c)	
	• Mulgu Park (1d)	
	• Zetland open space (1e)	
2	Mandible Street Sports Precinct	New sports field, multi-purpose courts, skate moments and supporting amenities
3	Huntley Street Indoor Recreation Centre (complete)	4 multi-purpose courts and outdoor practice basketball hoops.
4	22 O’Riordan Street	new community park - support higher-density residential development west of Botany Road.
5	Open space and park renewal program	
	• Waterloo Park and Oval (5a)	
	• Alexandria Park (5b)	
	• Turruwul Park playground (5c)	
	• Biyanbing Park (5d)	
6	Alexandria Canal link	Advocate cycleway and pedestrian link extension to facilitate access to Cooks River and beyond
7	Dank Street South precinct public open space provision	New civic spaces and pocket parks
Other agency projects/ advocacy		
8	Links to Moore Park	Improve links to Moore Park across Southern Cross Dr
9	St Peters Interchange	Advocate for open space to be re-mediated, opened up for public use with links to Sydney Park - recommended Mountain Bike track and urban forest
Projects for consideration		
10	Additional land acquisition to address open space distribution gaps	



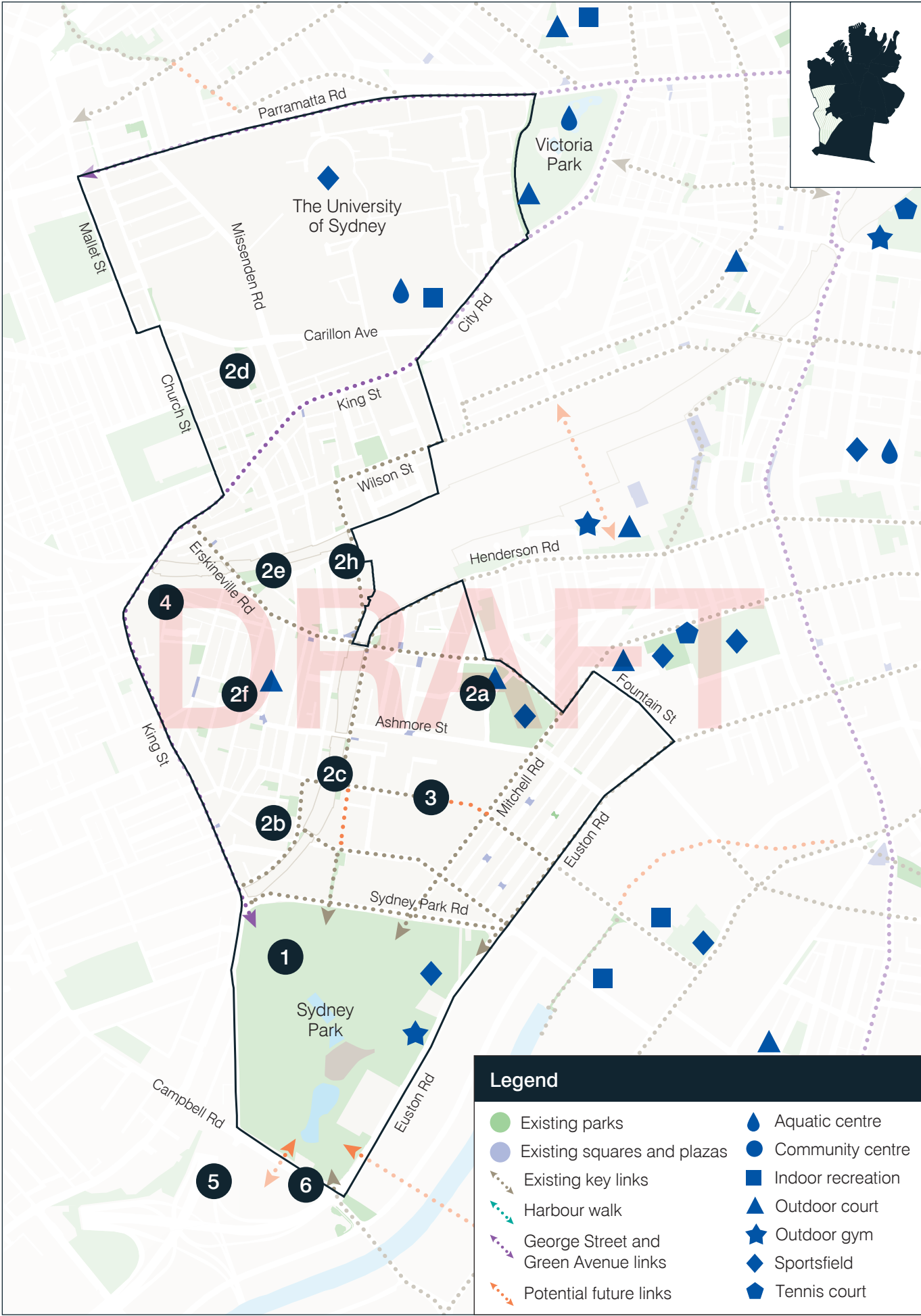
Harris Street

Key City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Open space and park renewal program - Paradise Reserve (1a) - Mary Anne St Park (1b)	
2	Pymont Public Domain Planning Advocate and develop public space opportunities arising from development of Pymont Metro, the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy and associated planning control changes	
3	Better east/west links Improved connections between Darling Harbour, Blackwattle Bay and Wentworth Park.	
Other agency projects/advocacy		
4	Blackwattle Bay urban renewal New open spaces which include Bank Street Park (with paddle craft facilities), Miller Street Reserve, Waterside Park and the Waterfront Promenade.	
5	Fig Street development New multi-purpose indoor court facilities	
6	Metcalf Park Advocate for infrastructure improvements to better accommodate lunch time sports (e.g. touch football)	
7	Glebe Island Bridge Advocate for the restoration of Glebe Island Bridge as a pedestrian/cycle link to linkage to White Bay	
Projects for consideration		
New playground at Elizabeth Healy Reserve		
Paddlecraft facilities at Pirrama Park		



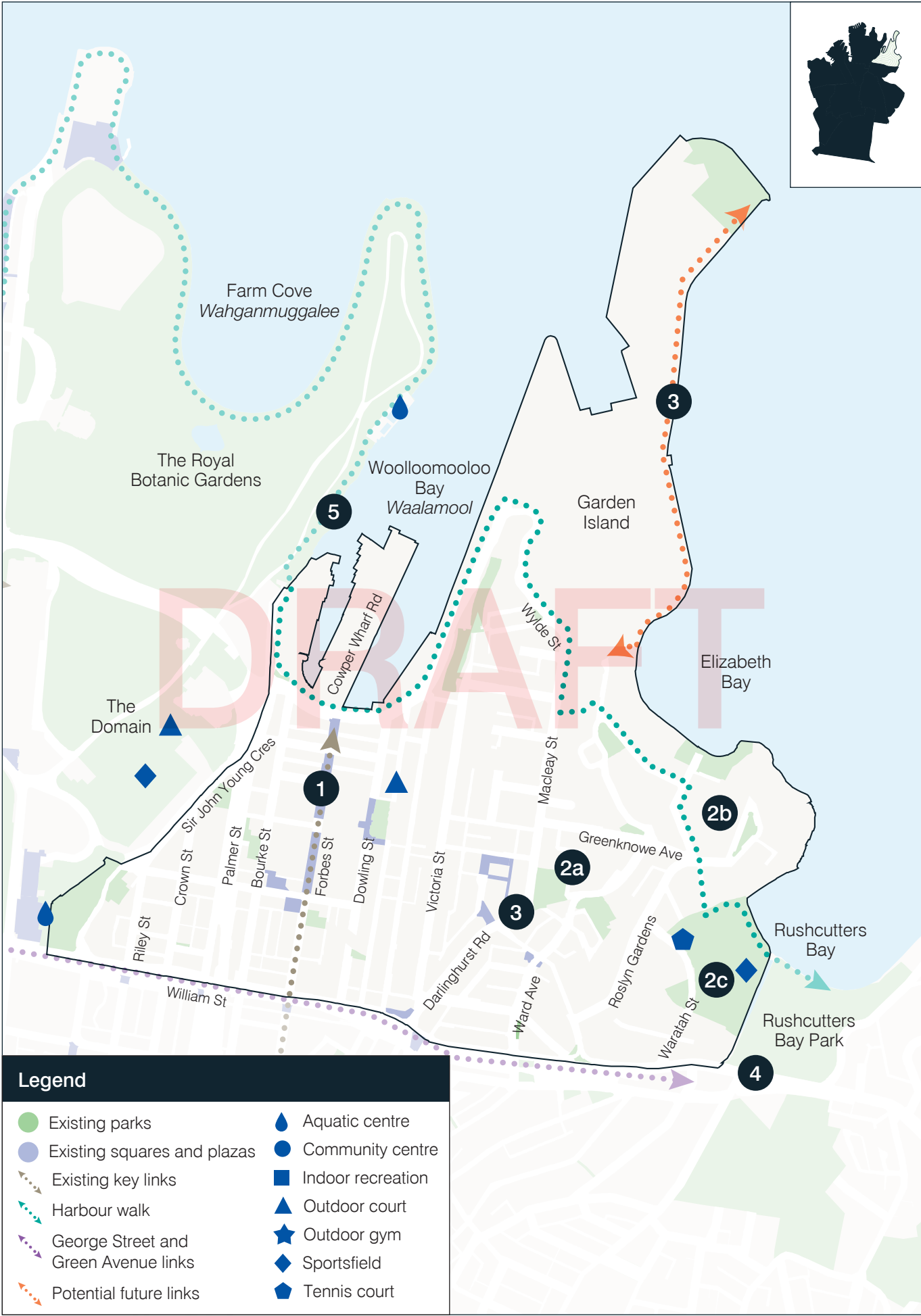
King Street

Key City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Sydney Park upgrades Kiln precinct upgrades, Sydney Park plant nursery depot site park conversion and additional City Farm facilities.	
2	Open space and park renewal program - Harry Noble Reserve (2a) - Flora and Knight Reserve (2b) - Kirsova 1 Playground (2c) - Goddard Reserve (2d) - Green Bans Park (2e) - Mrs Isabella Hill rest Area (2f) - Erskineville Oval and surrounds (2g) - Albert Street pocket park (2h)	
3	Ashmore Estate urban renewal New parks - McPherson Park, Carter Park and Kooka Walk.	
Other agency projects		
4	Newtown Performing Arts School Investigate feasibility of shared access to multi-purpose court on Whitehorse Street	
5	WestConnex St Peters Interchange Advocate for 5ha open space, suitable for mountain bike circuit and urban forest.	
6	WestConnex St Peters Interchange link Advocate better connection between Sydney Park and WestConnex Interchange park lands	
Projects for consideration		
Albert Street pocket park - option for outdoor gym		



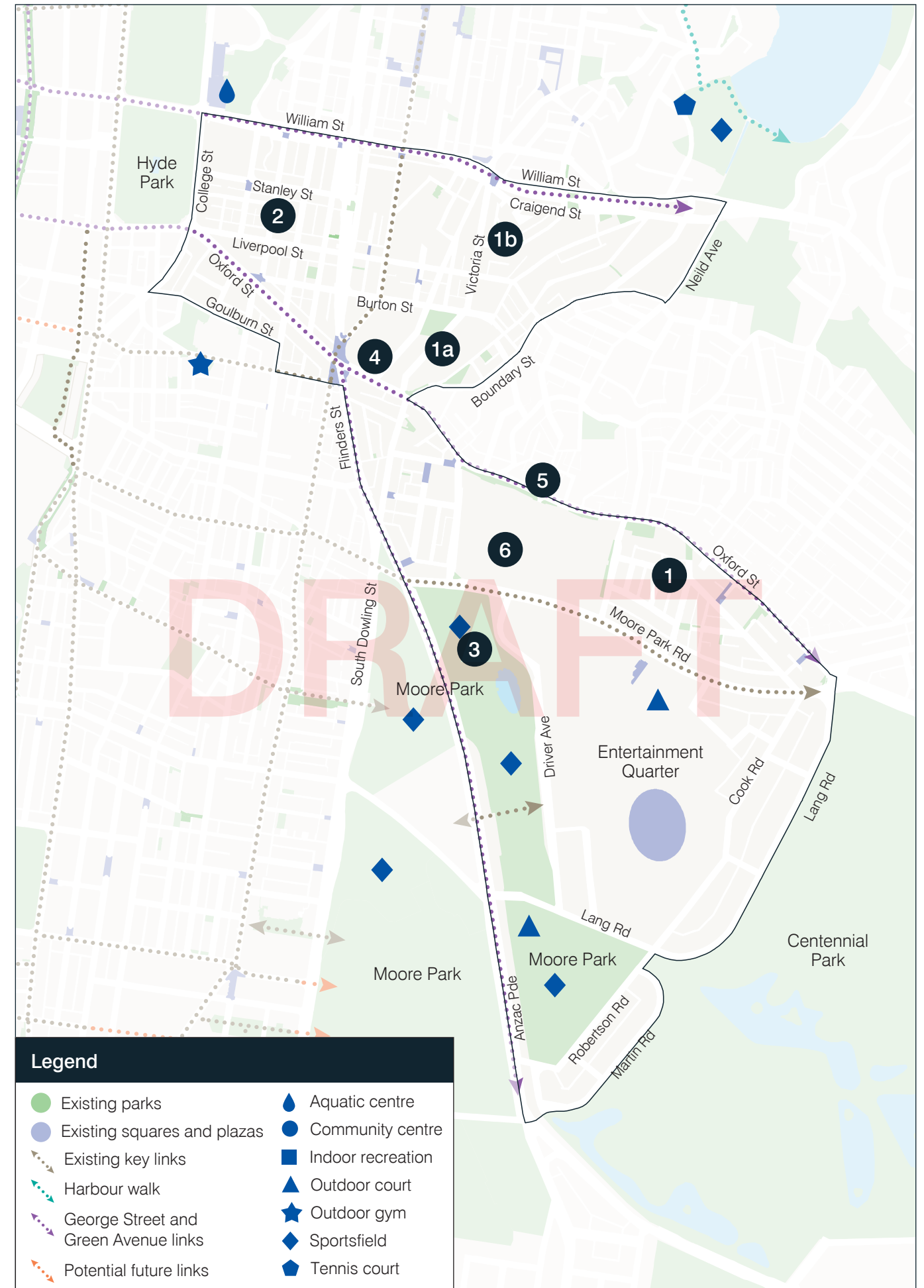
Macleay Street and Woolloomooloo

Key City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Woolloomooloo public domain planning Improvements to Forbes Street Reserve surrounding street interfaces.	
Open space and park renewal program		
2	- Fitzroy Gardens (2a) - Beare and Rotary Parks (2b) - Waratah Park - playground upgrade (2c) - Embarkation Park (2d)	
Other agency projects/advocacy		
3	Garden Island Reserve Link Advocate for pedestrian/ cycle link from Elizabeth Bay to Garden Island Reserve	
4	Rushcutters Bay Park youth space (Woollahra Council)	
5	Access to Harbour foreshore from Woolloomooloo Advocate for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust to progress an investigation into a new route from Woolloomooloo to the foreshore path that meets accessibility guidelines, in partnership with the community and the City of Sydney.	
Projects for consideration		
Open space renewal considerations Consider future improvements to Embarkation Park and Springfield Gardens. Cook and Phillip Park		



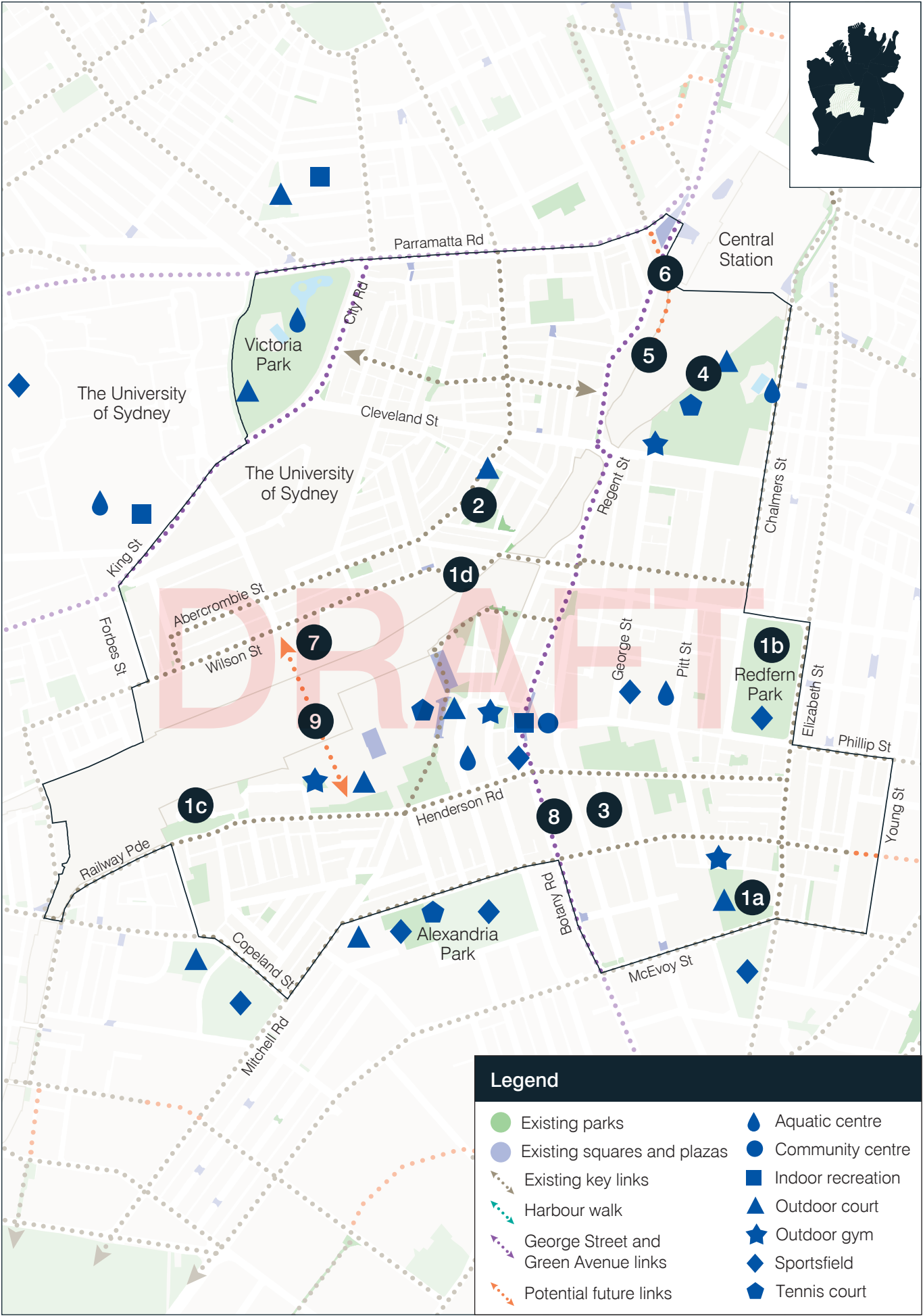
Oxford Street

Key City of Sydney projects		Reference
1	Open space and park renewal program - Green Park (1a) - Surrey Street Playground (1b)	
2	Stanley Street public domain upgrade Streetscape improvements to support outdoor dining	
Other agency projects/advocacy		
3	Moore Park East Advocate for the completion of Moore Park East master plan, the cessation of car parking on sports fields and turf.	
4	Taylor Square Advocate for the transformation of Darlinghurst Courthouse forecourt into a publicly accessible open space	
5	Oxford Street Revitalisation Collaborate and co-ordinate with Transport for NSW for improvement opportunities including Taylor Square, Victoria Barracks Reserve, and Strong Memorial Reserve .	
6	Victoria Barracks Advocate for retention of playing field in any future urban renewal scheme for Victoria Barracks	



Redfern Street

Key City of Sydney projects	
1	Open space and park renewal program - Waterloo Park/Oval (1a) - Redfern Park Playground (1b) - South Sydney Rotary Parks (1c) - Little Eveleigh Street Reserve (1d)
2	Redfern Neighbourhood Parks Redfern Community Centre open space, Yellomundee Park and Hugo Street Reserve.
3	Waterloo Estate South urban renewal Two new parks - Main Park (2ha) and smaller local park within the precinct.
Other agency projects/ advocacy	
4	Central Station Precinct Renewal The interface with Prince Alfred Park presents opportunities for additional sport and recreation facilities to complement the park. Connections across the railway reserve to link Redfern and Chippendale should be considered in any future stage of urban renewal.
5	Central Station Precinct Renewal Over 4,000 square metre public park at Mortuary Station, forming a key interface between Chippendale and the surrounding development
6	Central Station Precinct Renewal advocate for extension of public access along the Goods Line from Mortuary Station Gardens to provide a new connection to Darling Harbour
7	North Eveleigh urban renewal opportunities for future open space provision as part of masterplan process
8	Waterloo Metro Quarter Cope Street and Raglan Street plazas (underway)
9	North and South Eveleigh Railway Bridge Advocate for a pedestrian connection over the rail corridor connecting North and South Eveleigh
Projects for consideration	
Skate opportunities Victoria Park	
Upgrade to Prince Alfred Park playground	



Selected projects and opportunities

The following projects and opportunities demonstrate how the Strategy can be delivered over time. They include planned investments, future opportunities and initiatives that will help expand capacity, improve access, enhance quality and respond to changing community needs.

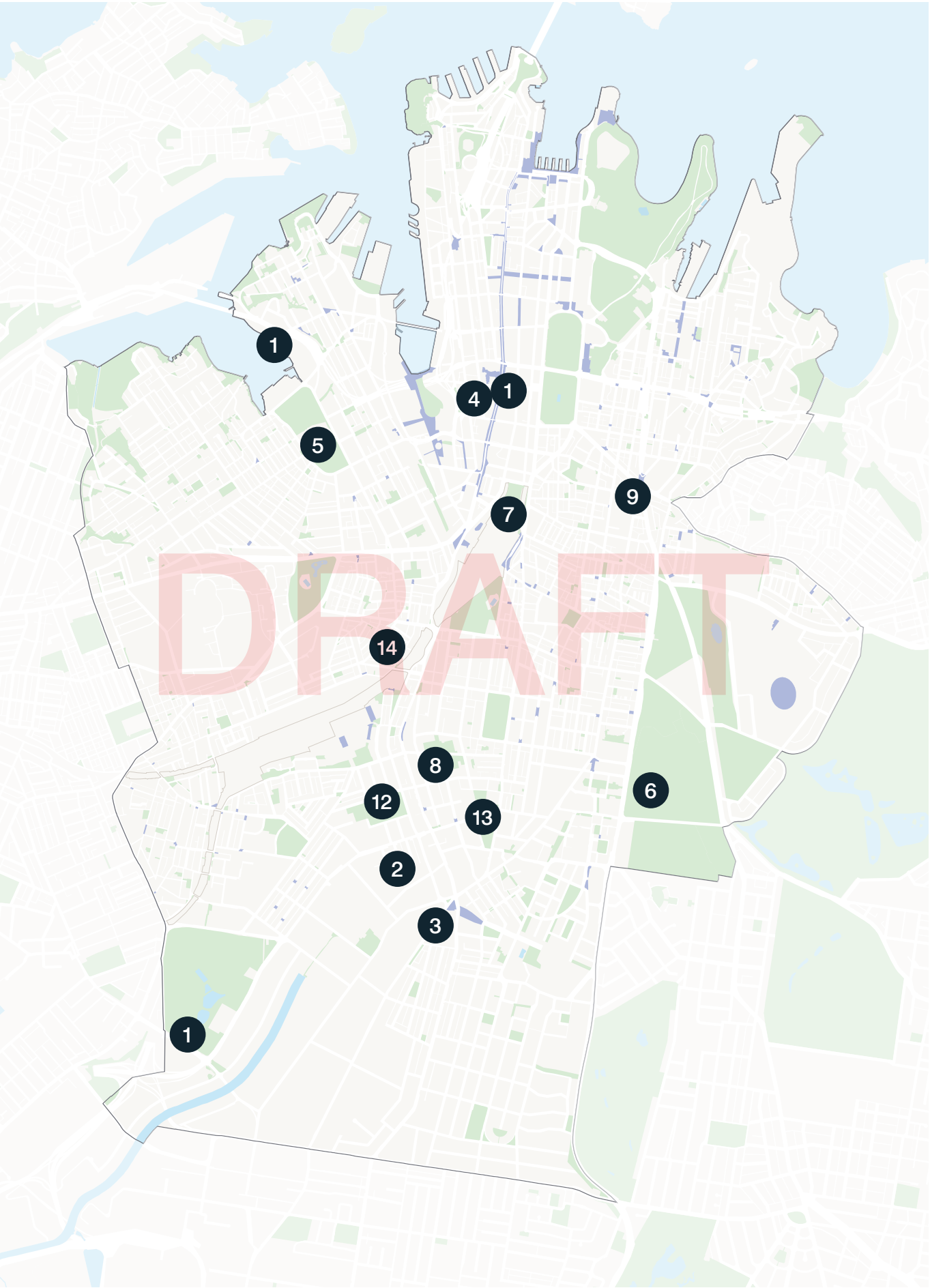
The following consist of:

- City of Sydney 10-year capital Works Program and third party delivery projects. The final projects scope is subject to design assessment, community consultation and council approval.
- Projects by State government agencies
- Project opportunities for consideration by relevant landowners and agencies

Project
1 Town Hall Square
2 Mandible Street Sports Precinct
3 O’Riordan Street Park
4 Sydney Square
5 Wentworth Park
6 Moore Park South
7 Belmore Park

Project
8 Waterloo South, Main Park
9 Darlinghurst Courthouse Forecourt Squares and Parks
10 St Peters Interchange Open Space
11 Bank Street Park
12 Alexandria Park
13 Waterloo Park and Oval
14 Redfern neighbourhood parks upgrades

Figure 12: Selected open space projects



1. Town Hall Square

Village: CBD and Harbour
Suburb: Sydney

Background

Town Hall Square is a new public space proposed opposite Sydney Town Hall. It is bounded by George Street, Pitt Street, and Park Street, and is part of a broader urban renewal plan to create more public spaces for walking, gathering, and events in the city centre.

The vision for the square was developed in Sustainable Sydney 2030 vision and was further refined in *Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050: Continuing the Vision*.

Why it matters

Town Hall Square is envisioned as the civic heart of Sydney, a vibrant and inclusive public space that connects key cultural and civic landmarks. The square is intended to serve as “Sydney’s living room,” a place for all ages to meet, relax, and engage with the city’s cultural life.

What will be delivered

More than 4,500 square metres of accessible open space anchored by a circular water element and paving pattern, framed by a curved grove of more than 30 distinctly Australian trees. Shaded seating beneath the trees, along with fixed and movable chairs and tables, provides room for people to sit, connect and enjoy the space. The square is designed to easily transform from an everyday meeting place into a lively outdoor events space.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

References

City of Sydney. (2023). *Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050: Continuing the Vision*.



Artist impression of the new square at Town Hall showing everyday activity - indicative only subject design development and approval.
Image: Artist / City of Sydney

2. Mandible Street Sports Precinct

Village: Green Square and City South
Suburb: Zetland

Background

Mandible Street Sports Precinct, approximately 2.7 hectares in area, is bounded by Bowden St to the southwest, and various industrial premises to the north, east and south.

Why it matters

Dedicated sports precinct that will meet the growing demand for sports fields, play spaces and recreation facilities in the Green Square and Alexandria area.

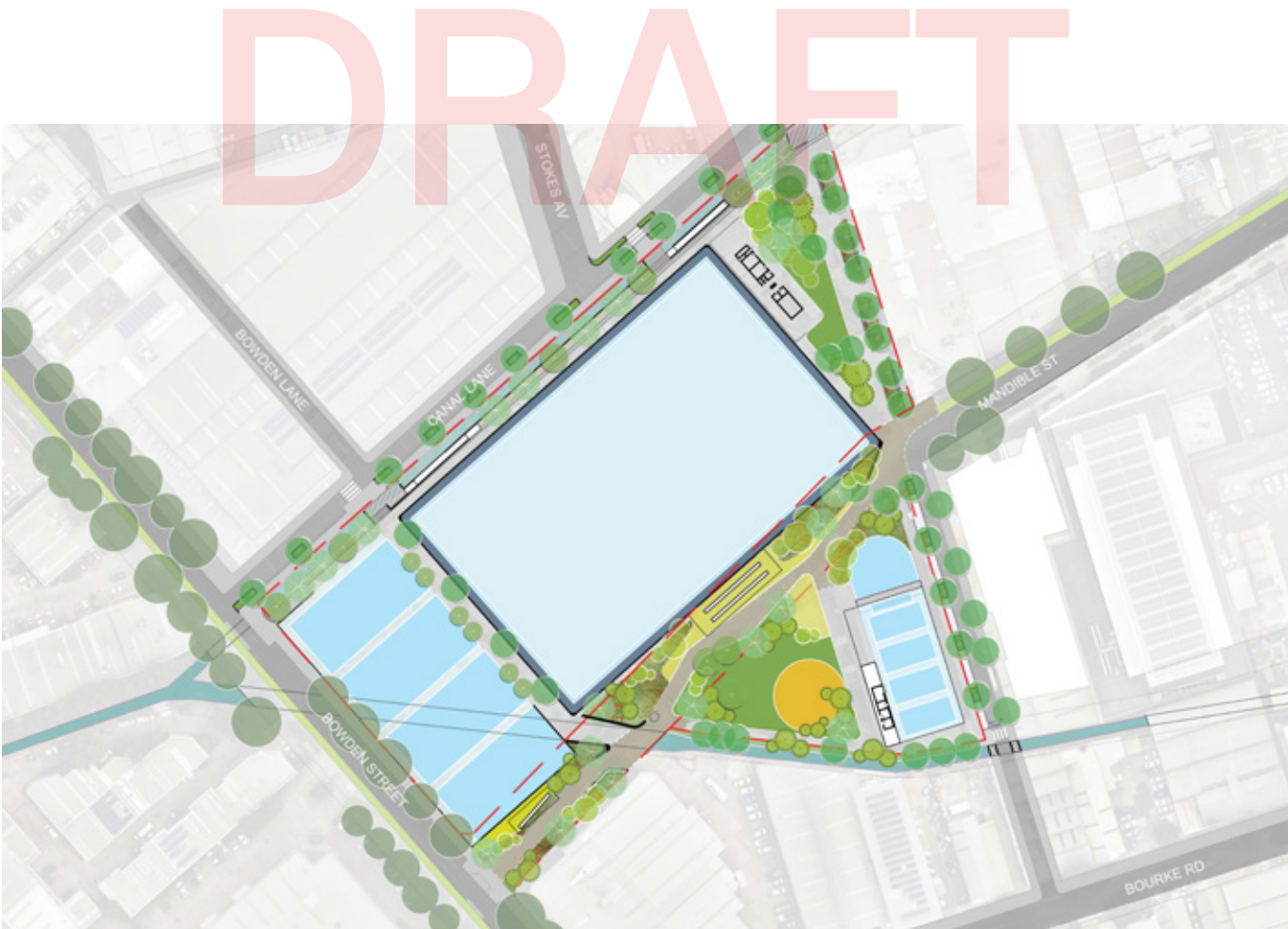
What this will deliver

Subject to design and council approval the proposal will include a multipurpose sports field, 4 multipurpose courts, an exercise loop, a new public amenity building, spectator seating, lighting, covered multipurpose courts and public amenities.

A local scale playground, basketball hoop and table tennis are proposed alongside new tree planting.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility



Indicative site plan Mandible Street - image indicative only subject design development, consultation and council approval
Image: Artist / City of Sydney

3. O’Riordan Street Park

Village: Green Square and City South
Suburb: Zetland

Background

The City acquired 22 O’Riordan Street, Alexandria in December 2024 to deliver a future public park as part of its long-term commitment to increasing open space provision within the Green Square urban renewal area. The 7,436m² site presents a significant opportunity to transform former industrial land into a new community open space serving existing and future residents.

Why it matters

Green Square continues to experience substantial population growth and increasing demand for accessible open space, recreation opportunities and urban greening. The future park will help address local open space needs, improve access to informal recreation opportunities, strengthen connections to McConville Reserve.

What this will deliver

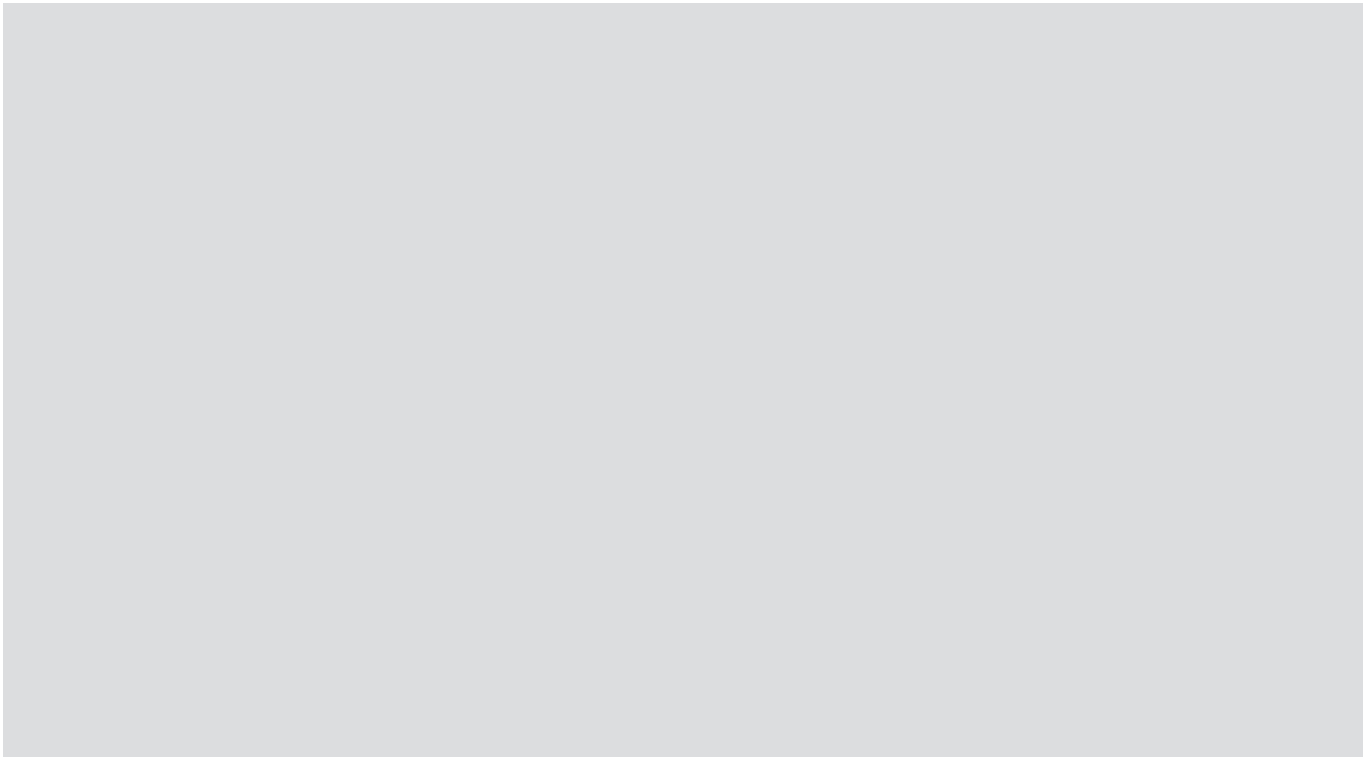
A new community park providing valuable open space for current and future residents.

Subject to design and development and council approval;

- A large flexible kickabout area for informal sport, recreation and community use.
- Play opportunities for children and families.
- Urban greening, tree canopy and landscape enhancements to improve amenity and environmental outcomes.
- Improved connectivity with McConville Reserve and the broader open space network.
- Additional opportunities for social interaction, recreation and community wellbeing.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility



4. Sydney Square

Village: CBD and Harbour
Suburb: Sydney

Background

Sydney Square is public space located between Sydney Town Hall, St Andrew’s Cathedral, George Street, and St Andrew’s House. Originally constructed in the 1970s, the square is jointly owned by the City of Sydney and Sydney Anglican Property.

A vision for Sydney Square, as part of a new public space at Town Hall was proposed in the Sustainable Sydney 2030.

Why this matters

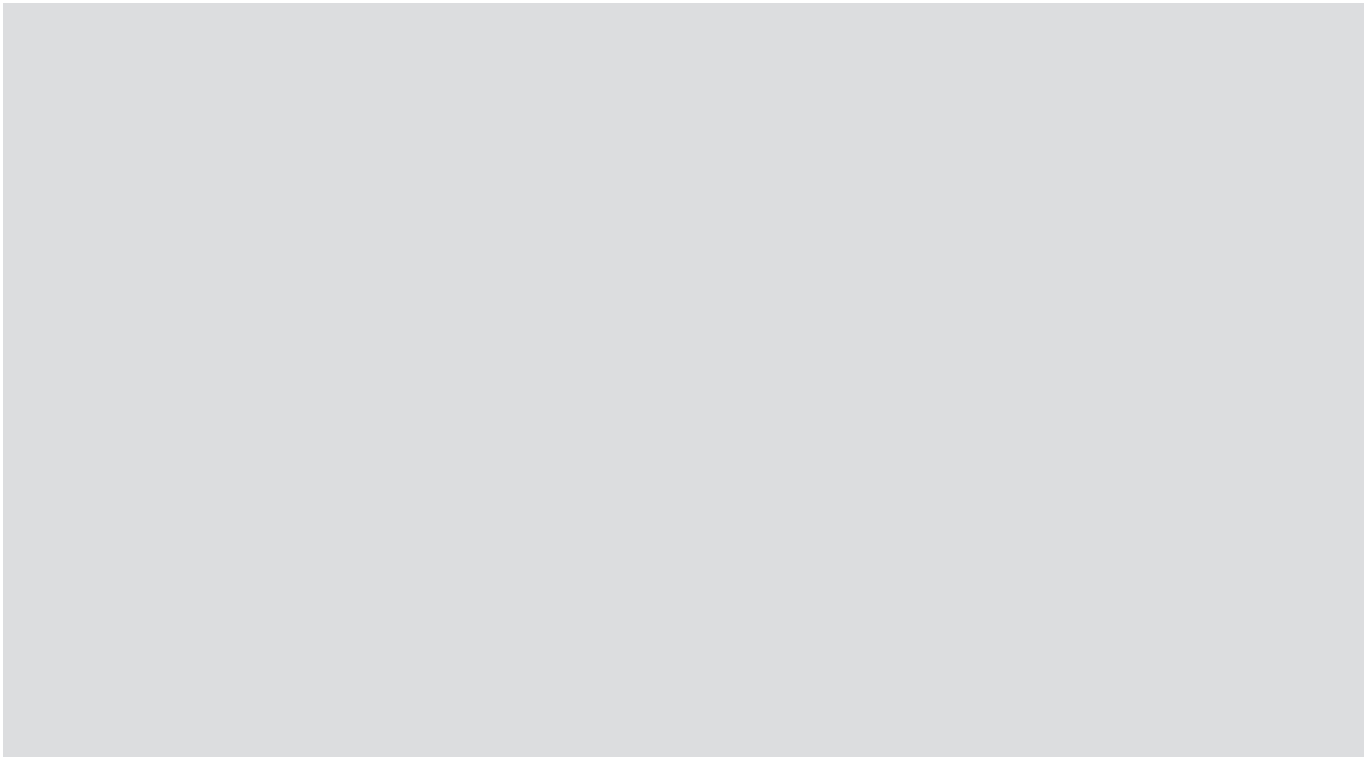
The renewal aims to transform Sydney Square into a civic space that connects George Street with the future Town Hall Square, a welcoming area where people can sit, relax, and enjoy the city and a flexible venue for events.

What will be delivered

The Sydney Square upgrade is to be delivered in two stages. Stage 1 includes new paving, lighting, street furniture, and additional greening. Stage 2 is planned for future years, around 2032.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility



5. Wentworth Park

Village: Harris Street
Suburb: Glebe

Background

Wentworth Park is a 13-hectare park is currently divided into 3 portions. The City of Sydney manages the northern and southern park areas, and The Wentworth Park Sporting Complex is the Crown Land manager for the central portion which restricts public access.

In December 2025, the NSW Government announced that when the current greyhound lease that encompasses the central part of the park expires in September 2027, the existing facilities will be demolished and the land transferred to the City of Sydney to be converted into community sports fields.

Why it matters

The removal of the greyhound racing facilities at Wentworth Park presents a significant opportunity to increase green space and reunify the park as a single, cohesive open space. This project would deliver much-needed recreation facilities and additional passive open space, helping to meet the growing needs of the community and support planned population growth in the surrounding area. The enhanced park would improve accessibility, recreational opportunities, and the overall quality of the public domain

What this will deliver

Subject to design development and approval:

- regional scale playground
- perimeter path loops
- tween social space
- picnic facilities
- 5 sports oval with cricket pitches
- park amenities and change rooms
- skateable moments
- exercise stations
- cricket practice nets
- multi purpose courts/ basketball hoops
- wetland / biodiversity areas

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility



Wentworth Park visualisation
Image: Artist / City of Sydney

6. Moore Park South

Village: Crown and Baptist Streets

Suburb: Moore Park

Delivery - NSW Government / Greater Sydney Parklands

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

Background

Moore Park Golf Course is located adjacent to one of the most densely populated communities in Australia. The City of Sydney has long advocated for a new park at Moore Park, with the concept included as a project idea in *Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050: Continuing the Vision*.

In 2023, the NSW Government announced plans to transform 20 hectares of the Moore Park Golf Course into a new public park. The parkland is now open for public use with the next stages being provision of park facilities and amenities.

Why it matters

The project will create a major new recreational destination serving a rapidly growing population, significantly increasing access to open space, sporting facilities and everyday recreation opportunities in a highly urbanised part of Sydney.

What this will deliver

- new 20-hectare public park
- full-size community sports field
- multi-purpose sports courts
- walking, running and cycling paths
- outdoor fitness equipment
- nature playground
- parkland for informal recreation, picnics and relaxation
- amenities building
- extensive tree planting and habitat

References

- *Moore Park South Establishment Plan*
- *Sustainable Sydney 2030 – 2050: Continuing the Vision*



Visualisation of Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)
Image: Artist / City of Sydney

7. Belmore Park

Village: Chinatown and CBD South
Suburb: Haymarket

Background

Belmore Park is a 2.1-hectare park, located in the City South, adjacent to Central Station.

Why it matters

With a projected increase in residents including families living in apartments close by, Belmore Park will be an important space for people of all ages to gather, relax and experience nature.

What will be delivered

Subject to design development and approval:

- Increased green space through the simplification of the existing path network and expansion of usable lawn areas.
- New lighting throughout the park to improve safety, visibility and the night-time visitor experience.
- Additional seating, including flexible and accessible seating opportunities.
- A re-imagined bandstand, transformed into an all-ages play space
- A new universally accessible gathering and event space with amphitheatre-style seating for performances, community events, markets and other public activities
- Wider and clearer pathways to improve movement through the park for pedestrians and cyclists
- Retention of mature healthy trees while improving the overall landscape quality of the park

Future considerations

- long-term considerations
- Improvements to Eddy Avenue and Hay Street through footpath expansion and vehicle lane removal.
- Long term tree succession and layout to allow for improved sight lines and visual permeability, alongside achieving City's greening targets.
- Improvements to rail owned land to the western and eastern park edges including Railway Colonnade Drive.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

References

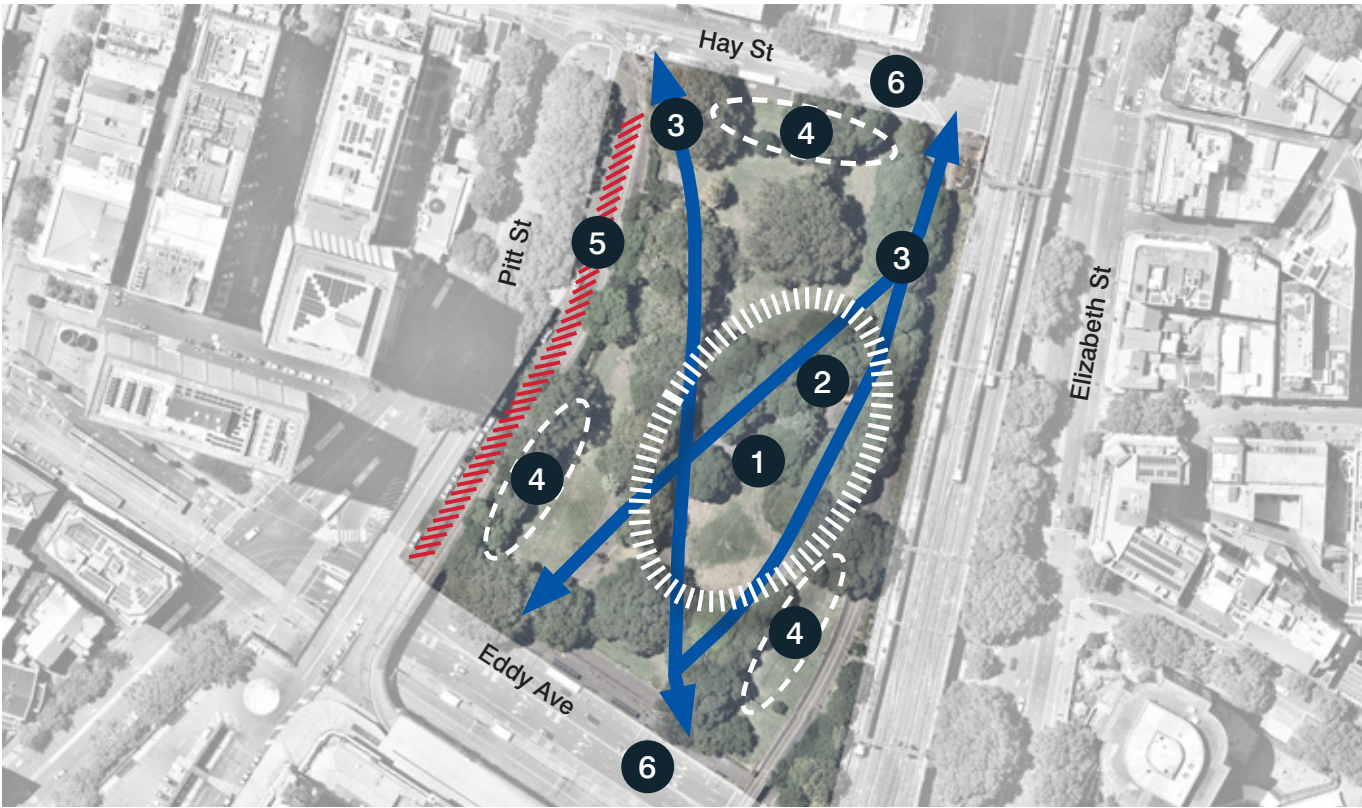
Belmore Park Plan of Management 2022

Key	
1	Increase activities in the centre of the park.
2	Renew/reinterpret the bandstand as an accessible welcoming park feature.
3	Improve path layout and circulation.
4	Provide more park seating.
5	Review western interface and provide better park access.



Visualisation of Belmore Park - image indicative only subject design development, consultation and council approval
Image: Mark Gerada / City of Sydney

Figure 13: Belmore Park renewal



8. Waterloo South, Main Park

Village: Redfern Street
Suburb: Waterloo
Project status: In planning stage

Background

Redevelopment of the Waterloo Estate by the NSW Government. Will include new housing, community facilities, shops and streets. The main park is part of Waterloo South and is located close to the Waterloo Metro Station .

Why it matters

This park will become the central green space for the local community, designed to be inclusive, accessible, and welcoming to all.

Recommended project considerations

- Generous village green for casual recreation
- Diverse spaces for children that allow for access to nature, discovery and imaginative play.
- Multipurpose court facilities;
- Picnic and BBQ facilities, including toilet facility
- Variety of comfortable and inviting seating and park amenities to support relaxation and social interaction.
- Perimeter paths allows walking / running
- Retain existing significant trees and incorporate new tree planting in accordance with the City's greening targets.
- Develop a park design that is heat resilient, optimises biodiversity, water and soil health, minimises waste and reduces carbon emissions.
- Provide lighting for night-time casual use.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

References

dpie.nsw.gov.au/land-and-housing-corporation/greater-Sydney/Waterloo

Figure 14: St Peters Interchange Open Space



9. Darlinghurst Courthouse Forecourt

Village: Oxford Street
Suburb: Darlinghurst

Background

The Darlinghurst Courthouse is an 1880's heritage-listed building located at 138 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, adjacent to Taylor Square. This proposal is a project idea initiative in the Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 vision.

As the site is not owned or managed by the City of Sydney, any improvements would be subject to State Government support, funding and delivery.

Why it matters

The Darlinghurst courthouse proposal aimed to improve public access and amenity to East Sydney.

Overview and recommendations

- The key measures in project idea proposal include:
- Rearranging the courthouse's eastern wing to allow access from Oxford Street into the National Art School.

- Opening the service land that runs from Forbes Street to Darlinghurst Road between the National Art School and the courthouse complex to improve public access.
- Providing more pedestrian space by reducing road widths on Oxford and Flinders Streets.
- Modifying the courthouse's front fence to open the forecourt lawn for public use.
- Introducing a canopy at the junction of Forbes and Oxford streets to provide protection for cultural events.
- Locating an urban marker over the Taylor Square toilets to demarcate the cultural precinct.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

References

City of Sydney. (2023). *Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050: Continuing the Vision*



Proposals for the National Art School in East Sydney's cultural precinct
Image: JMD Design and Tonkin Zulaikha Greer

10. St Peters Interchange open space

Village: Green Square and City South
Suburb: St Peters

Background

The WestConnex project identified an opportunity to deliver approximately five hectares of new parkland on residual land surrounding the St Peters Interchange.

While this open space has not yet been realised, the land remains a significant strategic opportunity to increase tree canopy, improve urban greening outcomes and provide additional recreation space for a growing population.

Council endorsed a Notice of Motion in November 2021 to investigate suitable permanent locations for a mountain biking facility. The St Peters Interchange Open Space presents an opportunity to address this gap while delivering broader greening and recreation outcomes.

Why it matters

- The site offers the opportunity to:
- Respond to demonstrated demand for mountain bike and BMX facilities.
 - Increases active recreation and physical activity opportunities.

- Provide youth-focused recreation infrastructure.
- Creates a unique regional recreation destination.
- Supports urban greening, biodiversity and habitat restoration.
- Activates an underutilised open space asset.
- Reduce environmental impacts associated with informal, unmanaged riding areas by providing a purpose-designed facility

Overview and recommendations

Investigate opportunities to establish an urban mountain bike facility within the St Peters Interchange Open Space, integrated with urban forest planting and habitat restoration

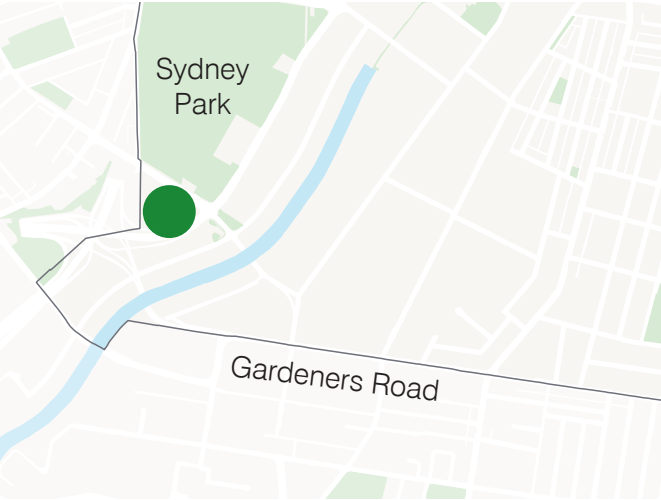
Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

References

City of Sydney. (2021). *Creating Space for Recreational Mountain Biking in the City of Sydney* (Council Notice of Motion, 15 November 2021).

Figure 15: St Peters Interchange Open Space



11. Bank Street Park

Village: Harris Street
Suburb: Pyrmont

Background

Bank Street Park, approximately 1 hectare in size, is located at 1A-19 Bank Street, Pyrmont. This park is within the Blackwattle Bay Precinct, a mixed-use redevelopment on the western edge of the Pyrmont Peninsula. The park is to be delivered by Infrastructure NSW.

Why it matters

Bank Street Park will create a new waterfront open space within the Blackwattle Bay precinct, improving public access to the harbour foreshore and helping meet the recreation needs of a growing residential population.

What will be delivered

- multipurpose community building
- a dragon boat storage building
- a kayak jetty.
- new paths, lawns, gardens and trees, picnic shelters, a multipurpose court, fitness station and a playground.
- seawall improvements.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

References

Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct Study



Bank Street Concept Plan
Image: Oculus

12. Alexandria Park

Village: Green Square and City South
Suburb: Alexandria

Background

Alexandria Park is a 4-hectare park located in Alexandria. The park is bounded by Wyndham Street, Buckland Street, Power Avenue and Park Street and is adjacent to Alexandria Park Community School.

Why it matters

Alexandria Park is a key neighbourhood park that serves local residents, families, school students, sporting groups and visitors. The renewal will upgrade ageing infrastructure and improve the quality, accessibility and functionality of the park to better meet current and future community needs

What will be delivered

- new inclusive playground.
- refurbished sports field
- youth space
- outdoor gym
- upgraded tennis courts and amenities
- new fitness equipment.
- improved pathways and accessibility.
- new park furniture and signage.
- improved lighting infrastructure.
- retention of existing trees and improved irrigation.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

13. Waterloo Park and Oval

Village: Green Square and City South
Suburb: Waterloo

Background

Waterloo Park and Oval is located in a rapidly evolving suburb, near the Waterloo Estate redevelopment.

Waterloo Oval and Park is divided into two distinct areas. To the north of McEvoy Street the park includes the unique Mt Carmel landscape of steep slopes, mature fig trees, and a playground.

South of McEvoy Street includes Waterloo Oval, a popular sporting destination for cricket and rugby league, Fernside Skate Park, and the South Sydney Youth Services building.

Why it matters

With increasing residential density in the area, the park and oval must serve dual purposes- as a welcoming community space for casual recreation and as well as a venue for sport

Overview and recommendations

Develop a masterplan that considers:

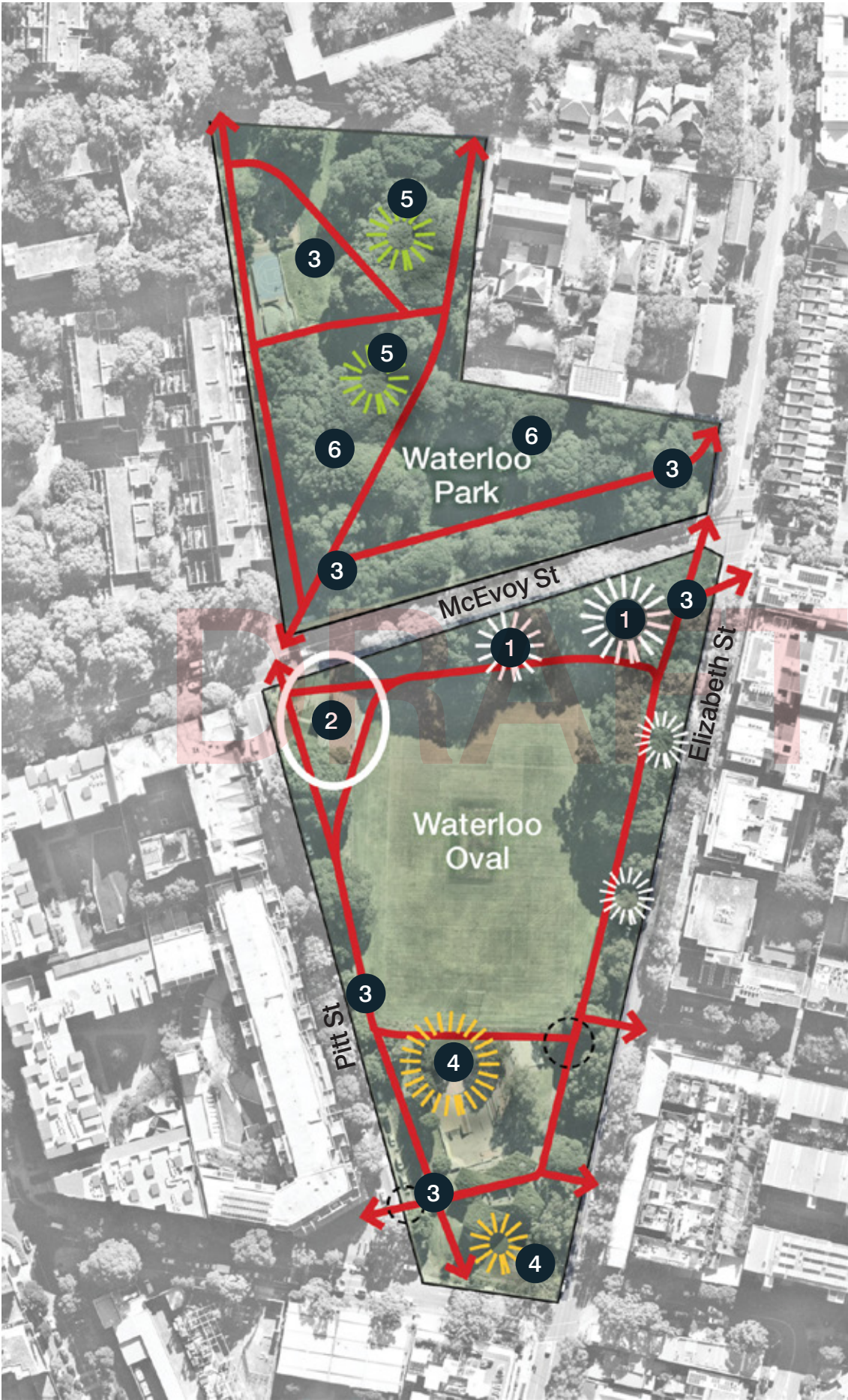
- A more diverse range of passive recreational uses and informal play, whilst retaining space for sport.
- Utilise the park's boundary for passive recreation. This may include providing improved connected paths seating and lighting to encourage walking, relaxation, and safe use during evening hours.
- Upgrade the grandstand, toilets, and change rooms, and provide shade for spectators.
- Maintain existing mature fig trees and introduce new plantings in line with the City's greening targets.
- Explore opportunities to co-locate additional youth facilities near the skate park, with a focus on creating spaces that are welcoming and engaging for girls and young women.
- Ensure the park contributes to the City and LGA's environmental sustainability goals. Develop a park design that is heat resilient, optimises biodiversity, water and soil health, minimises waste and reduces carbon emissions.

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility

Key	
1	Increase informal passive recreational spaces and seating
2	Improve the grandstand and amenities
3	Provide new paths and stairs to improve access
4	Explore opportunities for more youth facilities
5	Consider new nature play spaces
6	Explore opportunities for habitat plantings

Figure 16: Waterloo Park and Oval opportunities



14. Redfern neighbourhood parks upgrades

Village: Redfern Street
Suburb: Redfern

Background

This project is for the renewal of 3 parks in Redfern; Redfern Community Centre Open Space, Yellomundee Park and Hugo Street Reserve. This is informed by the Redfern Waterloo Public Domain Plan which provides a coordinated response for improvements for streets and public spaces in the precinct.

Overview and recommendations

The scope of works includes expanding turf areas to support informal play and community events, creating a new playground that caters to a wide range of age groups, and enhancing spaces for seating and social gatherings.

The basketball court will be upgraded with noise mitigation measures, and plans include a future community garden along with increased greenery and tree planting throughout the park.

The renewal and upgrade works are strongly guided by the City’s Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, with ongoing community engagement and co-creation continuing as the design progresses. The project will also be informed by and respond to the broader Redfern Terrace development

Strategic alignment

- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Equity and inclusion
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Flexibility



Visualisation of Redfern Community Centre Open Space - image indicative only subject design development, consultation and council approval
Image: ??? / City of Sydney

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Other projects for delivery

Project by village		Existing and future ownership
CBD and Harbour		
1	George Street North	City of Sydney
2	Macquarie Place Park renewal	City of Sydney
3	Hyde Park masterplan implementation	City of Sydney
4	State Library of NSW public domain renewal	State Government
Chinatown		
5	Central Square	State Government (Transport Asset Manager)
6	Campbell Street	City of Sydney
Green Square and City South		
7	Dank Street Precinct - new parks	City of Sydney (Dedication)
8	Mulgu Park - new park	City of Sydney (Dedication)
9	Zetland Avenue Park - park extension	City of Sydney (incl dedication)
10	Woolwash Park Expansion and renewal	City of Sydney (incl dedication)
11	Biyanning Park Expansion and Upgrade	City of Sydney (incl dedication)
12	Garraway Park Stage 2 (subject to development proposal)	City of Sydney (Dedication)
13	Alexandria Park renewal	City of Sydney
King Street		
14	McPherson Park and Kooka Walk - new parks and spaces	City of Sydney (Dedication)
Harris Street		
15	Blackwattle Bay Parks and Public domain - new parks and spaces	Place NSW
Redfern Street		
16	North Eveleigh urban renewal - new parks and spaces	State Government
17	Redfern Park Playground renewal	City of Sydney
Oxford Street		
18	Green Park renewal	City of Sydney

Project by village		Existing and future ownership
Surry Hills		
19	Eddie Ward Park Upgrade	City of Sydney
Macleay Street and Woolloomooloo		
20	Fitzroy Gardens renewal	City of Sydney
21	Forbes Street Reserve renewal	City of Sydney

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Service standards and targets

Service standards and targets provide a framework for guiding future investment and monitoring the provision of open space and recreation infrastructure across the City.

Spatial priorities will guide investments

- Deliver new parks in areas of limited access.
- Prioritise large, multi-purpose parks.
- 106Expand sport and recreation facilities where provision gaps exist.
- Increase capacity within existing parks.
- Strengthen connections between parks, streets and public spaces.

These priorities will:

- Guide the allocation of future investment.
- Address gaps in access and provision.
- Support achievement of service standards and targets.
- Align planning, infrastructure and open space outcomes.

Detailed park service standards, mapping and analysis are provided in Volume 2: Technical and Research Study.

Delivery and implementation

Implementation of this Strategy will require a coordinated approach across capital works, planning and development, partnerships, and asset management.

The delivery framework provides a basis for prioritising actions, allocating resources and integrating open space and recreation outcomes into Council's planning and operational activities.

Planning and development

The planning and development process plays an important role in securing and enhancing open space outcomes as communities change and grow. Open space and recreation objectives should be embedded within strategic land use planning, structure planning, precinct planning and development assessment processes to ensure that future development contributes to a open space and recreation outcomes.

Capital works

The City's Capital works program will deliver new and upgraded open space, recreation and sporting infrastructure in response to community needs, population growth, participation trends and asset renewal priorities. Investment should be prioritised based on strategic need, community benefit and available funding opportunities.

Partnerships and advocacy

The successful delivery of many recommendations will rely on advocacy and collaboration between Council, government agencies, sporting clubs, community organisations, educational institutions, Traditional Owners and the private sector.

Asset management

Effective asset management is essential to maintaining safe, functional and financially sustainable open space and recreation assets and will help ensure community facilities continue to meet user expectations while supporting long-term financial sustainability.

Monitoring and review

The implementation of this study should be monitored regularly to assess progress, respond to emerging needs and maintain alignment with changing community priorities. Periodic review of actions, participation trends, population forecasts and service provision will help ensure the strategy remains relevant and continues to guide informed decision-making over time.

Supporting information

The Open Space and Recreation Needs Study is supported by *Volume 2: Technical and Research Study*, which presents the background research, policy review, community and stakeholder input, demographic analysis and technical investigations that form the evidence base for the Strategy's directions and recommendations.



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NSW Government

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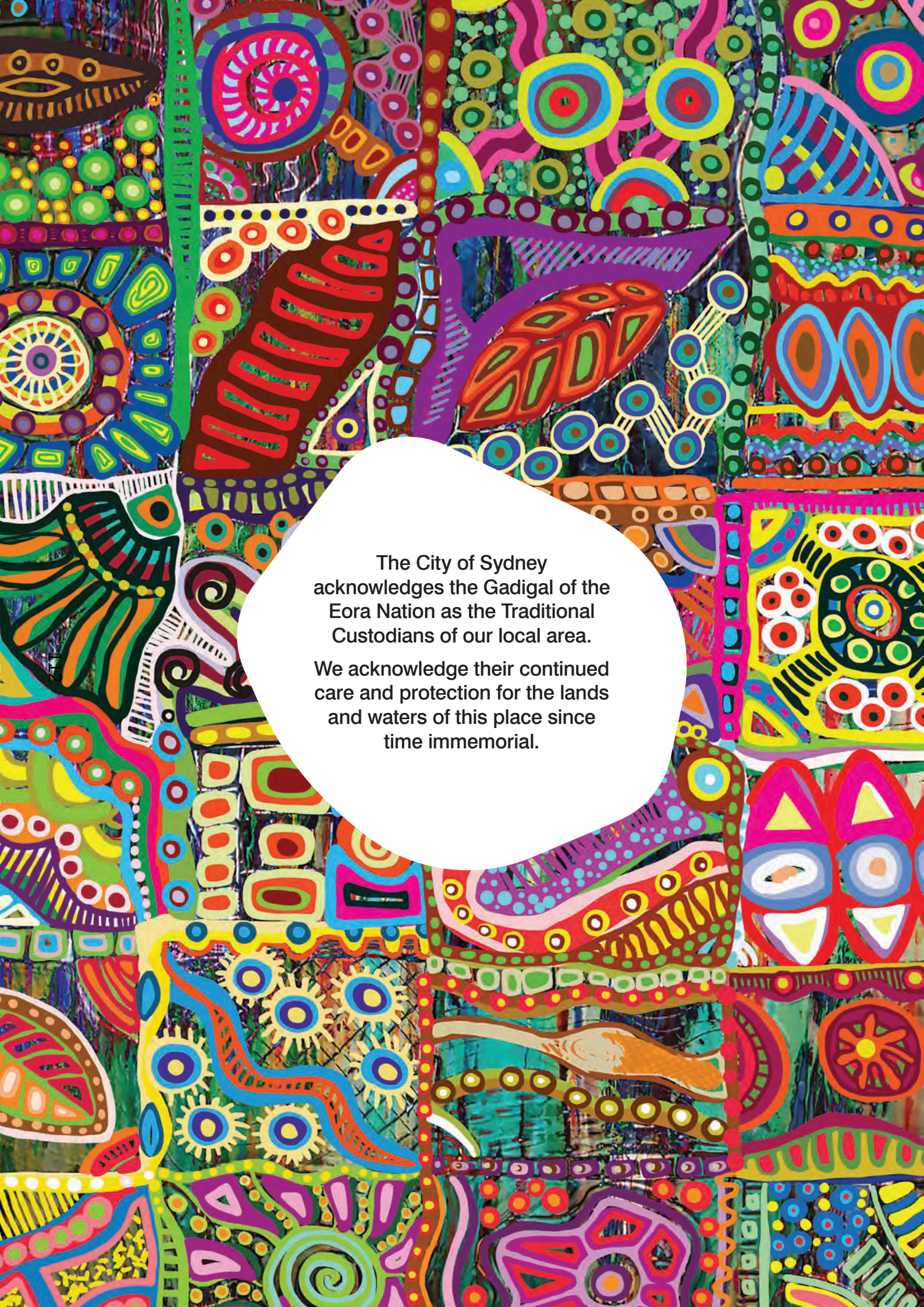
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Attachment B1

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 2, p1-73**

Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Technical and Research Study 2026

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The City of Sydney
acknowledges the Gadigal of the
Eora Nation as the Traditional
Custodians of our local area.
We acknowledge their continued
care and protection for the lands
and waters of this place since
time immemorial.

We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation
as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

Images on the front cover:

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Executive summary

Purpose of the study

This Study provides the strategic evidence base to guide future planning, investment and decision-making for open space, sport and recreation infrastructure across the local government area.

The study provides the technical evidence base and assessment that informs the strategic recommendations presented in Volume 1.

It has been undertaken in response to significant population growth, increasing residential density, evolving recreation trends and growing community expectations for high-quality public spaces. It examines current provision, assesses future demand and identifies opportunities to ensure the City's open space and recreation network continues to support a healthy, liveable, inclusive and resilient city.

The study considers the full spectrum of open space and recreation infrastructure, including parks, civic spaces, sports fields, aquatic facilities, recreation centres, courts, playgrounds, active transport networks and informal recreation opportunities. It also examines the broader social, environmental, demographic and urban development factors that will influence future needs.



Victoria Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Key findings

The City's population will continue to grow

The City of Sydney is expected to accommodate substantial population growth and increased density over the next two decades. There will be greater reliance on public open space and recreation facilities as private open space becomes more limited.

Open space is essential city infrastructure

Open space plays a vital role in supporting recreation, health and wellbeing, social interaction, environmental sustainability, urban cooling, biodiversity and climate resilience.

The open space network is performing well but is under increasing pressure

Population growth is increasing demand across the network, and opportunities to acquire large new parks are becoming increasingly constrained. Existing spaces will need to accommodate more users and perform a wider range of functions in the future.

Recreation demand is increasing and changing. Participation patterns continue to evolve. Walking, running, cycling, swimming and fitness activities are among the most popular recreation pursuits, while demand for informal, flexible and self-directed recreation continues to grow.

Traditional organised sport remains important, but future recreation planning must support a broader and more diverse range of activities, users and participation models.

Recreation facilities are highly utilised

Sports fields, aquatic facilities, indoor courts and outdoor courts are generally well used and in many cases experiencing increasing levels of demand. Meeting future needs will require a combination of facility upgrades, increased capacity, improved utilisation, shared-use agreements and targeted expansion where opportunities arise.

Climate resilience is becoming increasingly important

Open space will play an increasingly important role in responding to climate change through urban cooling, biodiversity protection, stormwater management and provision of shaded recreation opportunities. Recreation facilities and public spaces will need to be designed and managed to respond to increasing temperatures, extreme weather events and changing patterns of use.

Partnerships will be critical

Future demand cannot be met through City-owned assets alone. Schools, universities, state agencies, sporting organisations and private providers all play an important role in delivering recreation opportunities. Partnerships and shared-use arrangements will become increasingly important in maximising access to recreation infrastructure and meeting future community needs.

Strategic challenges

The study identifies seven key challenges that will shape future open space and recreation planning:

- 1 Growing population, employment and visitor demand
- 2 Declining open space provision per resident.
- 3 Limited opportunities to acquire new land.
- 4 Increasing pressure on existing recreation facilities.
- 5 Changing participation trends and recreation preferences.
- 6 The need to improve climate resilience and environmental outcomes.
- 7 The need to ensure equitable and inclusive access across a growing and increasingly diverse community.

Strategic response

To address these challenges, the study proposes a multi-faceted approach focused on both increasing open space provision and optimising existing assets.

Key directions include:

- Acquiring and dedicating additional open space where opportunities arise.
- Protecting existing public open space from incremental loss.
- Expanding and enhancing larger parks to support recreation demand.
- Improving open space accessibility, connectivity and active transport links.
- Reimagining streets as part of the City's recreation and open space network.
- Increasing the capacity and utilisation of recreation facilities through upgrades, shared-use arrangements and improved management.
- Supporting both organised sport and informal recreation opportunities.
- Delivering inclusive, accessible and welcoming public spaces for people of all ages and abilities.
- Strengthening partnerships with State agencies, schools, universities and private providers.
- Embedding climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainability outcomes across all open space and recreation planning.





Introduction

Open space, sport and recreation play an important role in supporting the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people and communities.

Parks, public spaces, sporting facilities and recreation opportunities provide places for exercise, relaxation, social interaction, community events and connection with nature. They also contribute to climate adaptation, biodiversity, urban cooling and the overall character and identity of the city.

Since the City's previous *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study* was endorsed in 2016, Sydney has continued to grow and change. Additional residents, workers and visitors have increased demand on parks, sporting facilities and public spaces, while changing recreation patterns, increasing urban density and emerging environmental challenges have altered how these spaces are used and valued. At the same time, opportunities to acquire new open space have become increasingly constrained, requiring a more strategic approach to planning and managing the City's open space and recreation network.

This study provides the evidence base to guide future planning, investment and decision-making for open space, sport and recreation infrastructure across the City of Sydney. It assesses current provision, examines emerging trends and future demand, identifies gaps and opportunities, and establishes priorities for future acquisition, improvement and management of public open space and recreation facilities.

This Study is organised into sections covering the strategic context, key drivers of change, analysis of the open space network, assessment of recreation and sport facilities, current trends, future open space provision planning, district-level planning, park management service levels, and supporting appendices.

The study recognises that open space and recreation infrastructure are essential community assets. In a highly urbanised and increasingly dense environment, public open space functions as shared community infrastructure that supports physical activity, mental health, social connection, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

This role will become increasingly important as the city continues to grow.

Relationship to Volume 1

This report forms the technical and research foundation for the open space, sport and recreation needs strategy.

Volume 1 presents the strategic directions, recommendations and actions that will guide future decision-making.

Volume 2 provides the supporting evidence, analysis and assessment that underpin those directions.

Together, the two documents establish a framework for protecting, improving and expanding the City's open space and recreation network to meet the needs of current and future communities.

Image (previous page): **description**
Photo: Jamie Williams / City of Sydney

Our area

Covering approximately 26 square kilometres, the City of Sydney is one of Australia’s most significant urban centres and includes the Sydney CBD, the state’s primary commercial and employment hub.

The City of Sydney is also the most densely populated local government area in Australia.

Our area is organised into ten distinct villages (Figure XX), each with its own character and sense of place. These villages are anchored by neighbourhood hubs and activity centres that weave together residential life, commerce, and culture.

This study draws on data from the entire local government area while also examining village-level insights.

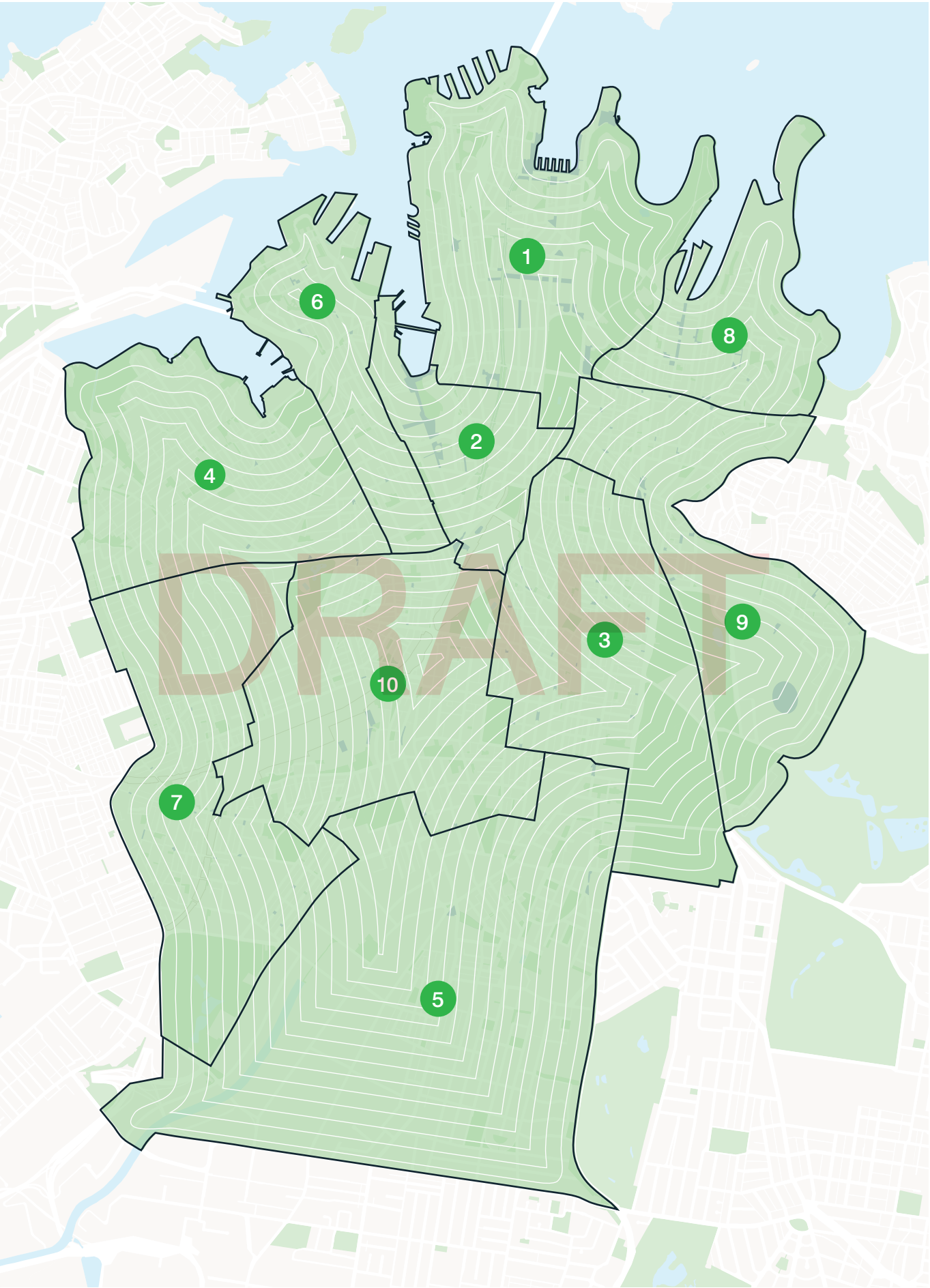
Footnotes

- 1. eiu.com/n/campaigns/global-liveability-index-2025/
- 2. profile.id.com.au/sydney/about

Our villages

- 1 CBD and Harbour**
Sydney (part), The Rocks, Millers Point, Barangaroo
- 2 Chinatown and CBD South**
Sydney (part), Haymarket
- 3 Crown and Baptist Streets**
Surry Hills (part), Redfern (part), Moore Park (part)
- 4 Glebe Point Road**
Glebe, Forest Lodge, Annandale (part), Camperdown (part), Ultimo (part)
- 5 Green Square and City South**
Zetland, Beaconsfield, Waterloo (part), Rosebery, Alexandria (part), St Peters (part)
- 6 Harris Street**
Pyrmont, Ultimo (part)
- 7 King Street**
Camperdown (part), Newtown, Erskineville, Alexandria (part)
- 8 Macleay Street and Woolloomooloo**
Woolloomooloo, Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay, Rushcutters Bay
- 9 Oxford Street**
Darlinghurst, Paddington, Centennial Park (part), Moore Park (part), Surry Hills (part)
- 10 Redfern Street**
Redfern (part), Chippendale, Darlington, Eveleigh, Alexandria (part), Waterloo (part)

Figure 1: The City of Sydney villages



City of Sydney villages

1 CBD and Harbour



2 Chinatown and CBD South



6 Harris Street



7 King Street



3 Crown and Baptist Streets



4 Glebe Point Road



8 Macleay Street and Woolloomooloo



5 Green Square and City South



9 Oxford Street



10 Redfern Street





Aerial view of Woolloomooloo
Photo: Lucinda Varney / City of Sydney

Part 1

Drivers of change

- Strategic context
- Population growth
- Our community
- Community aspirations
- Recreation participation
- Infrastructure
- Social
- Environmental

Strategic context

The broader strategic and policy framework at both the City of Sydney and NSW State Government levels guide the planning, design and management of open space to support higher urban density, encourage healthy lifestyles, and address the impacts of climate change.

The City's *Sustainable Sydney 2050 – Continuing the Vision*, supported by initiatives such as *Environmental Strategy*, *Greening Sydney* and *A City for All*, provides overarching direction to ensure open spaces contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and liveable city. These strategies and their associated targets reinforce our commitment to environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and social equity.

They also highlight the importance of delivering high-quality, well-designed public spaces that can support and enrich the lives of a growing population.

At a State level, the *Sydney Plan* is the NSW Government's new 20-year regional land-use strategy guiding housing, jobs, infrastructure, sustainability and liveability across 33 LGAs. It replaces the former Greater Sydney Region Plan and introduces a more flexible, dynamic planning framework with strong alignment to statewide priorities, including liveability, resilience and connected communities.

The *Sydney Plan* shifts the focus of open space planning from traditional land-area provision measures toward access and liveability outcomes. The Plan introduces Sydney-wide benchmarks aimed at improving equitable access to parks and recreation spaces, including a target that residents should be within a 400-metre walk of a local park and, in medium and high-density areas, within 200 metres of an open space. For large rezoning sites (greater than 2 hectares), the Plan also introduces an interim benchmark that 15% of the effective development area should be provided as public open space. The Plan also signals the future development of local government area-specific open space provision benchmarks.

The Plan also introduces the concept of a Blue-Green Grid, a connected network of parks, waterways, recreation corridors and active transport links intended to improve access to nature, support climate resilience and enhance recreational opportunities across Sydney

The *Public Open Space Strategy for NSW* provides a coordinated long-term approach to planning and delivering open space as essential community infrastructure, while the *Greener Places Framework* sets design principles for integrated, connected and multifunctional green infrastructure. Together with the Sydney Blue-Green Grid, which links waterways, green corridors and public spaces into a unified network, these frameworks support a more connected, sustainable and liveable urban environment.

The establishment of Greater Sydney Parklands also provides a strategic approach to managing and enhancing key regional parklands, including Centennial Parklands, Western Sydney Parklands, and Parramatta Park.

The strategic context calls for open space networks that respond to climate change, provide high-quality, accessible spaces to support growing density and population, promote health and social well-being, and enhance local ecologies through connected biodiversity corridors.

Strategic planning frameworks

NSW Government plans and frameworks



City of Sydney plans and frameworks



Population growth and density

Population growth and increasing residential density are the primary drivers of future demand for open space and recreation infrastructure.

The City’s population is expected to grow from 237,241 in 2026 to 304,049 by 2046, placing increasing pressure on housing, infrastructure, and public space.

Population growth is a metropolitan Sydney-wide trend rather than one unique to the City of Sydney. The NSW Government’s Draft Sydney Plan projects Sydney’s population will reach 6.5 million by 2045.

Within the City of Sydney growth is focussed in Green Square, which is projected to accommodate up to 70,000 residents in approximately 32,000 dwellings by 2036, alongside continued growth in Central Sydney, Redfern–Waterloo, Pyrmont and Blackwattle Bay.

+14,524 residents since 2016

+66,808 residents by 2046

As the City’s population continues to grow, demand on the open space and recreation network will intensify, placing greater capacity pressures across all facilities—especially larger parks that provide greater opportunities for active recreation.

Figure 2: Residential population (%) by village (ERP)

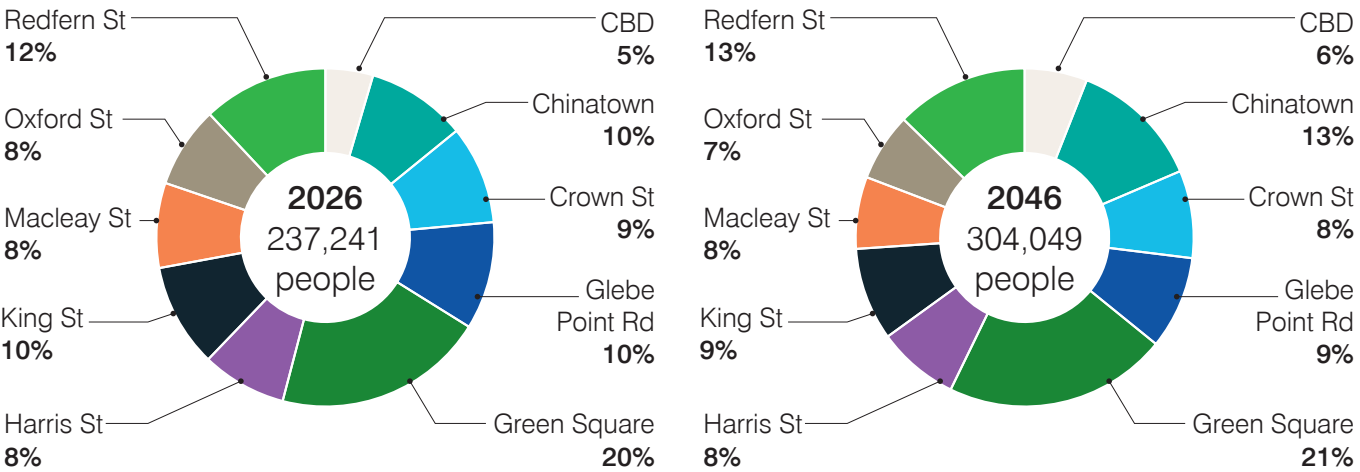


Figure 3: City of Sydney residential population over time (Estimated residential population)

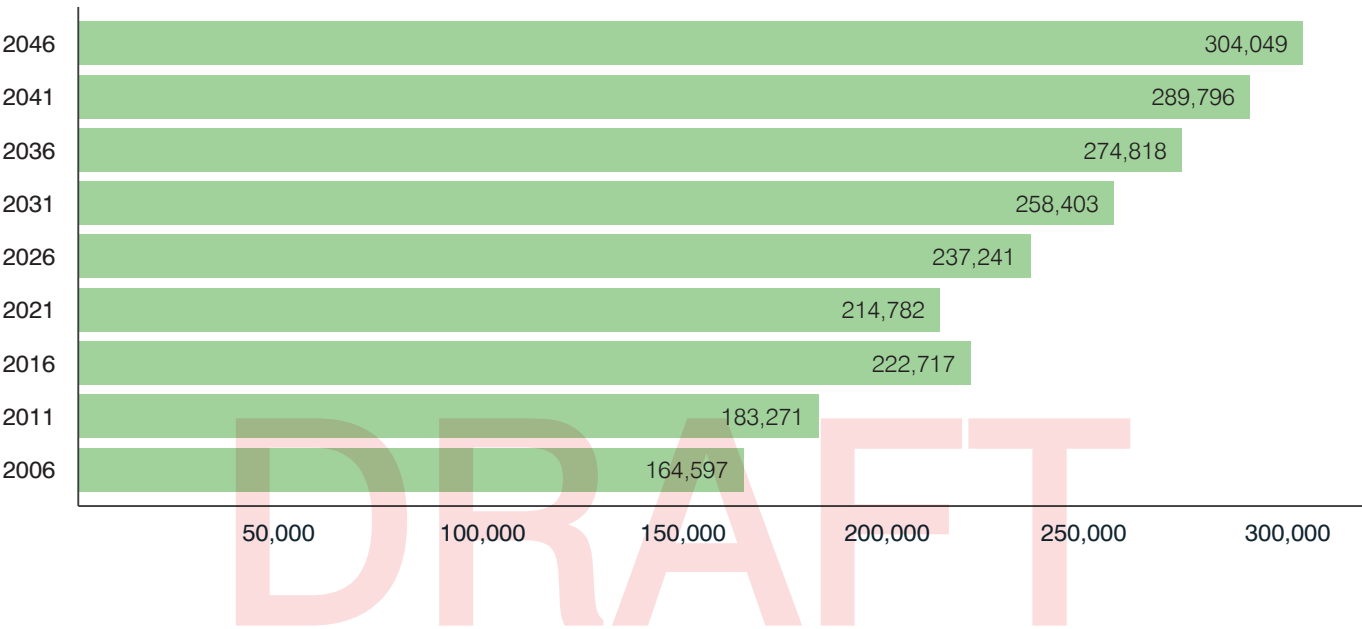
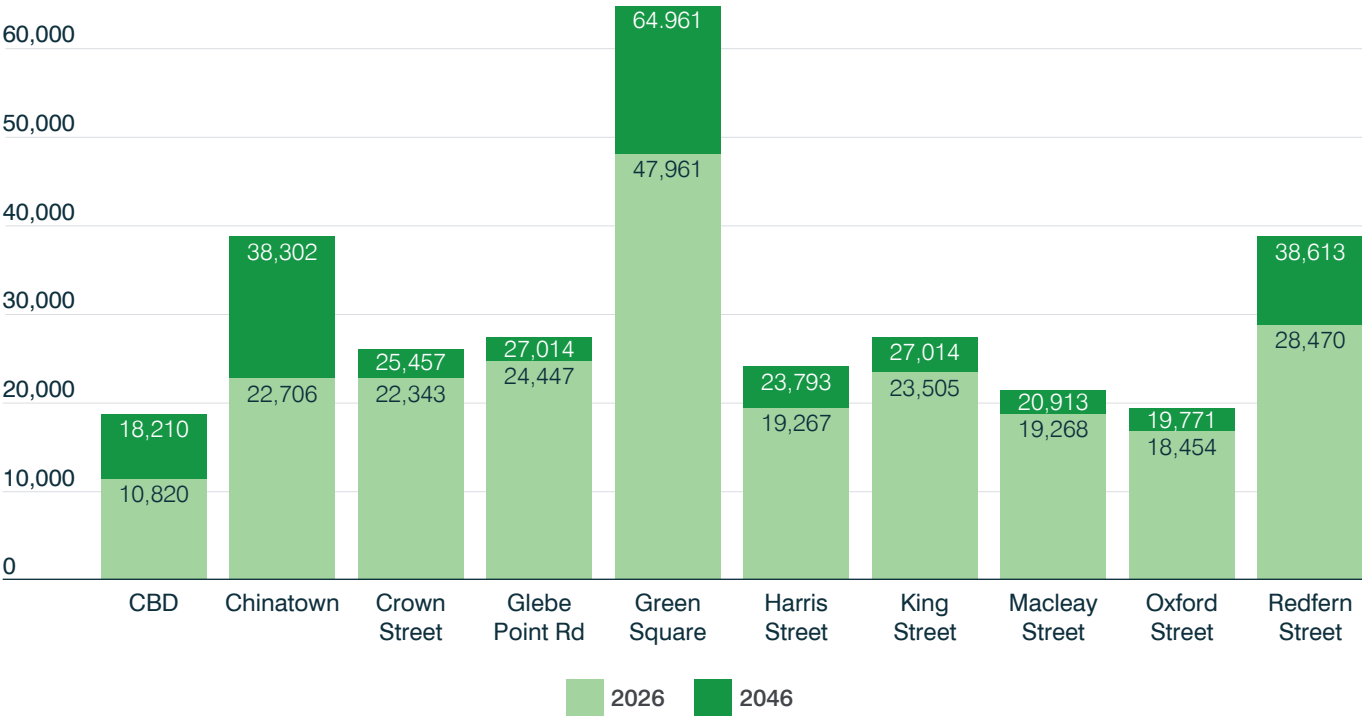


Figure 4: Residential population (No.) by village



Increased density

Currently the City of Sydney has a residential population density of 8,892 people per km²—the highest of any local government area in Australia. This continues a steady upward trend from 8,348 people per km² in 2016 and 6,169 people per km² in 2006. By 2046 it will rise to over 11,000 people per square km.

Population distribution across the City’s villages is relatively balanced: eight of ten villages each contain between 8–12% of residents. The exceptions are the CBD (5%) and Green Square (20%), which sit outside this range.

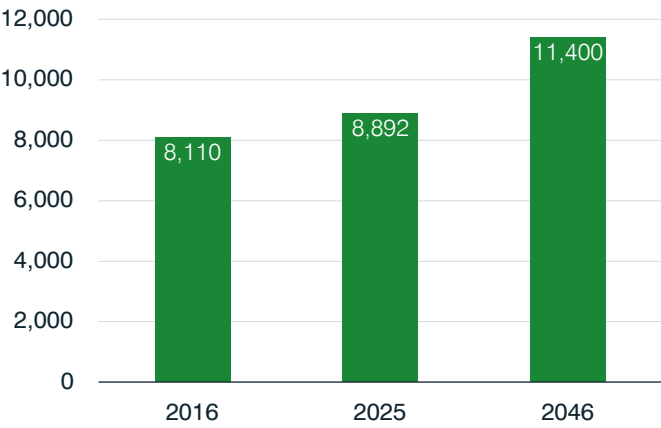
The most densely populated village is Chinatown & CBD South, recording 22,000 people per km² in 2023–24. Within it lies Haymarket, Australia’s third most densely populated suburb and the most densely populated in New South Wales. Chippendale follows closely with 20,400 people per km².

The Green Square urban renewal precinct, located within the Green Square and City South village, currently has a density of 13,297 people per km². By 2036, it is expected to accommodate around 63,000 residents and up to 22,000 workers, driving density to approximately 22,000 people per km².

The City already has a highly dense urban form, with over 97 per cent of dwellings medium or high density, compared to 46 per cent across Greater Sydney.

By 2036, around 80 per cent of residents are expected to live in apartments.

Figure 5: Residential density (people per km²) in City of Sydney from 2016 to 2046



Green Square urban renewal area
22,000 people/km2

The City has prepared a Housing Discussion Paper to support a place-based approach to housing delivery, emphasising the need to align density growth with timely investment in open space and park upgrades to support population growth.

Implications for open space and recreation

As private open space decreases, a growing residential and worker population will increasingly rely on public open space, sport and recreation networks for daily activity, wellbeing and social connection. Workers—particularly in central and traditional employment precincts—also depend on these spaces for lunchtime use and informal exercise.

Increasing density also means that the quality, accessibility and capacity of existing open space will become just as important as the provision of new parks. Future planning will therefore need to focus on both expanding the network where opportunities arise and improving the performance of existing assets.



Aerial of Green Square and Waterloo
Photo: Lucinda Varney / City of Sydney

Several major urban renewal projects will continue to reshape the City and accommodate a significant proportion of future population growth. These include:

- Green Square Urban Renewal
- Redfern-Waterloo Renewal (Central to Eveleigh)
- Central Sydney and Central Station Precinct
- Pymont and Blackwattle Bay
- Bays Precinct
- Ashmore Estate

Figure 7: Major urban renewal areas of increased population density

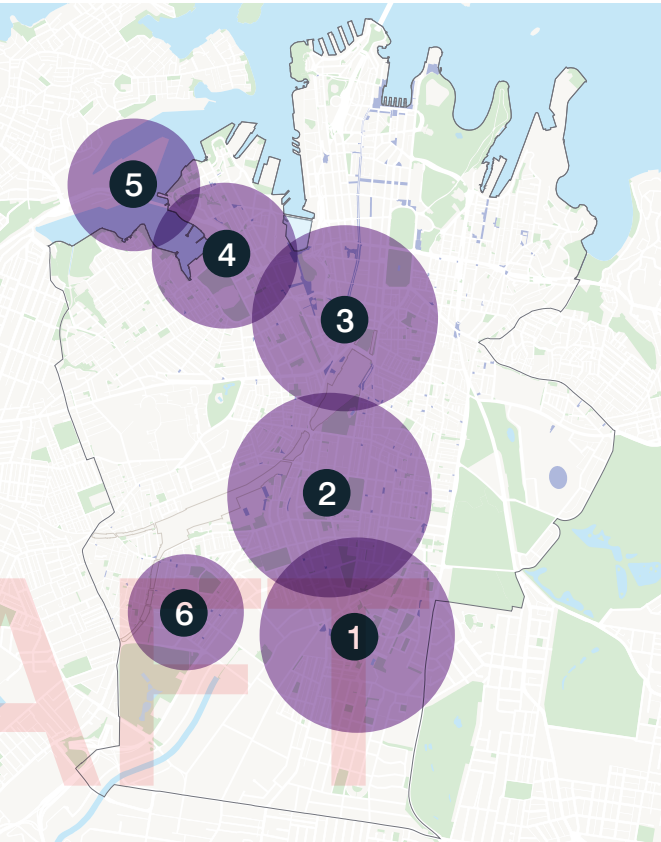
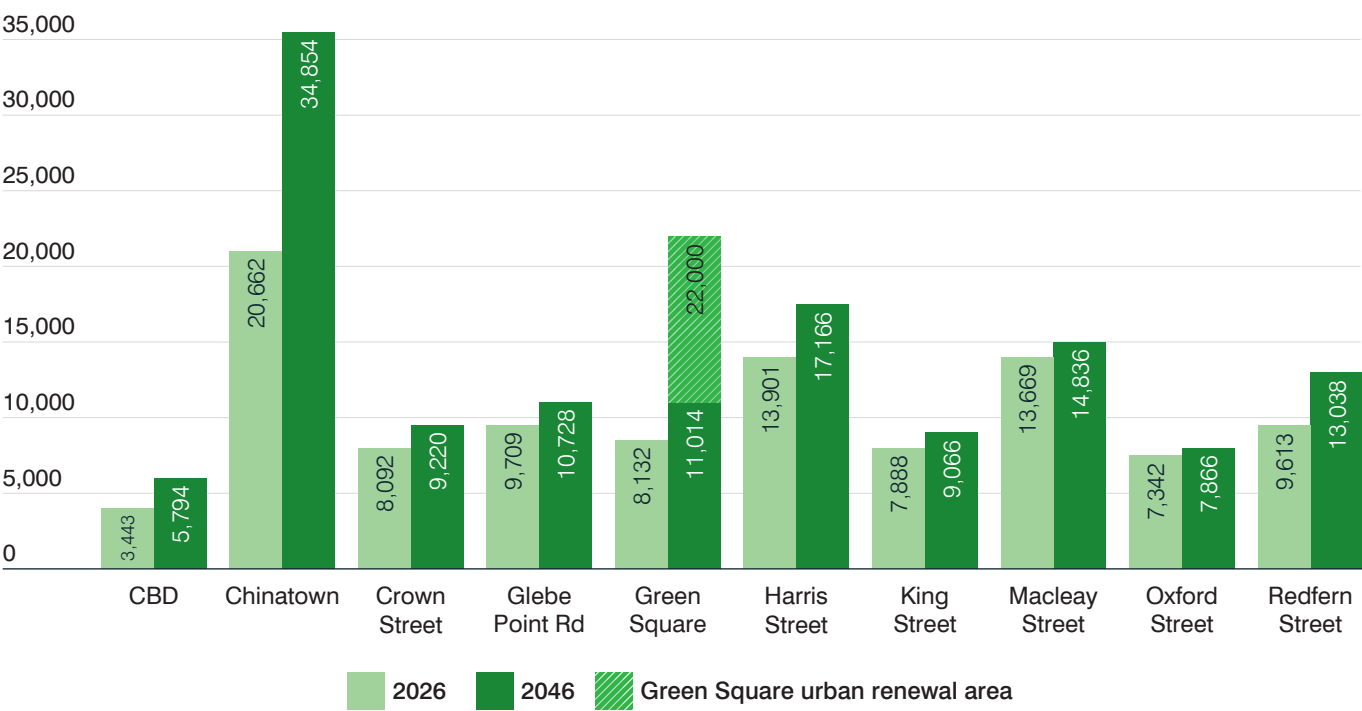


Figure 6: Residential density (people per km2) per village from 2026 to 2046



Our community

The City’s demographics point towards more diverse, more intensive and more varied use of open space and recreation facilities in the future.

Overview

Understanding the demographic characteristics of the community is essential for planning open space, sport and recreation infrastructure.

The City of Sydney has a distinctive demographic profile compared with Greater Sydney and New South Wales. The population is younger, more culturally diverse, highly educated and more likely to live in medium and high-density housing. At the same time, the community is becoming increasingly diverse, with growth projected across almost all age groups over the next two decades. These trends have important implications for the future planning and provision of open space and recreation infrastructure.

A young active population

The City is characterised by a large working-age population. In 2021, approximately 56.5% of residents were aged between 25 and 49 years, significantly higher than metropolitan and state averages. This reflects the City’s role as a major employment, education and lifestyle destination that attracts young professionals, students and working adults. Young adults and working-age residents are generally among the most active recreation participants. As a result, demand for active recreation infrastructure, indoor and outdoor courts, sports fields, aquatic facilities and active transport networks is expected to remain strong.

Growth across all age groups

While young adults will remain the dominant age cohort, future population growth is forecast across all age groups, creating demand for a broader range of recreation opportunities and facilities.

The number of children aged 0–17 years is projected to increase significantly over the next two decades, particularly within growth areas such as Green Square and Redfern-Waterloo. At the same time, the number of residents aged 60 years and over is projected to increase by more than one-third by 2046. This trend will increase demand for recreation opportunities that support healthy ageing.

The diversity of age groups reinforces the importance of providing a recreation network that supports participation across all life stages.

Cultural diversity

The City of Sydney is one of Australia’s most culturally diverse communities. Almost half of all residents were born overseas and more than one-third speak a language other than English at home.

The largest overseas-born communities include people from China, the United Kingdom, Thailand, Indonesia and New Zealand. The City is also home to one of Sydney’s largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Cultural diversity influences how recreation is undertaken and how public spaces are used. Different cultural groups may participate in different sports, social activities and forms of recreation. In many cases, informal recreation, social gatherings and family-based activities are preferred over organised club sport.

Workers, students and visitors

While residential population growth is an important consideration, demand on the City’s open space and recreation network extends well beyond resident populations.

The City is Australia’s largest employment centre, accommodating approximately 683,472 jobs in 2024. Millions of visitors also travel to the City each year for work, education, tourism and entertainment. These users contribute significantly to demand for parks, public spaces, recreation facilities and active transport networks throughout the day. In 2023–24 the City received:

- 2.07 million international visitors
- 4.59 million domestic overnight visitors
- 5.20 million domestic day visitors

Students attending universities and educational institutions also generate demand for sports fields, courts, open space and active transport facilities.

The resulting daytime population significantly increases demand on the public domain, particularly within Central Sydney, Pyrmont and other employment precincts.

Many workers and visitors rely on parks and public spaces for lunchtime recreation, exercise, relaxation and social interaction. Consequently, planning for open space and recreation infrastructure must consider both residential populations and the broader population that uses the city on a daily basis.

Living in high density

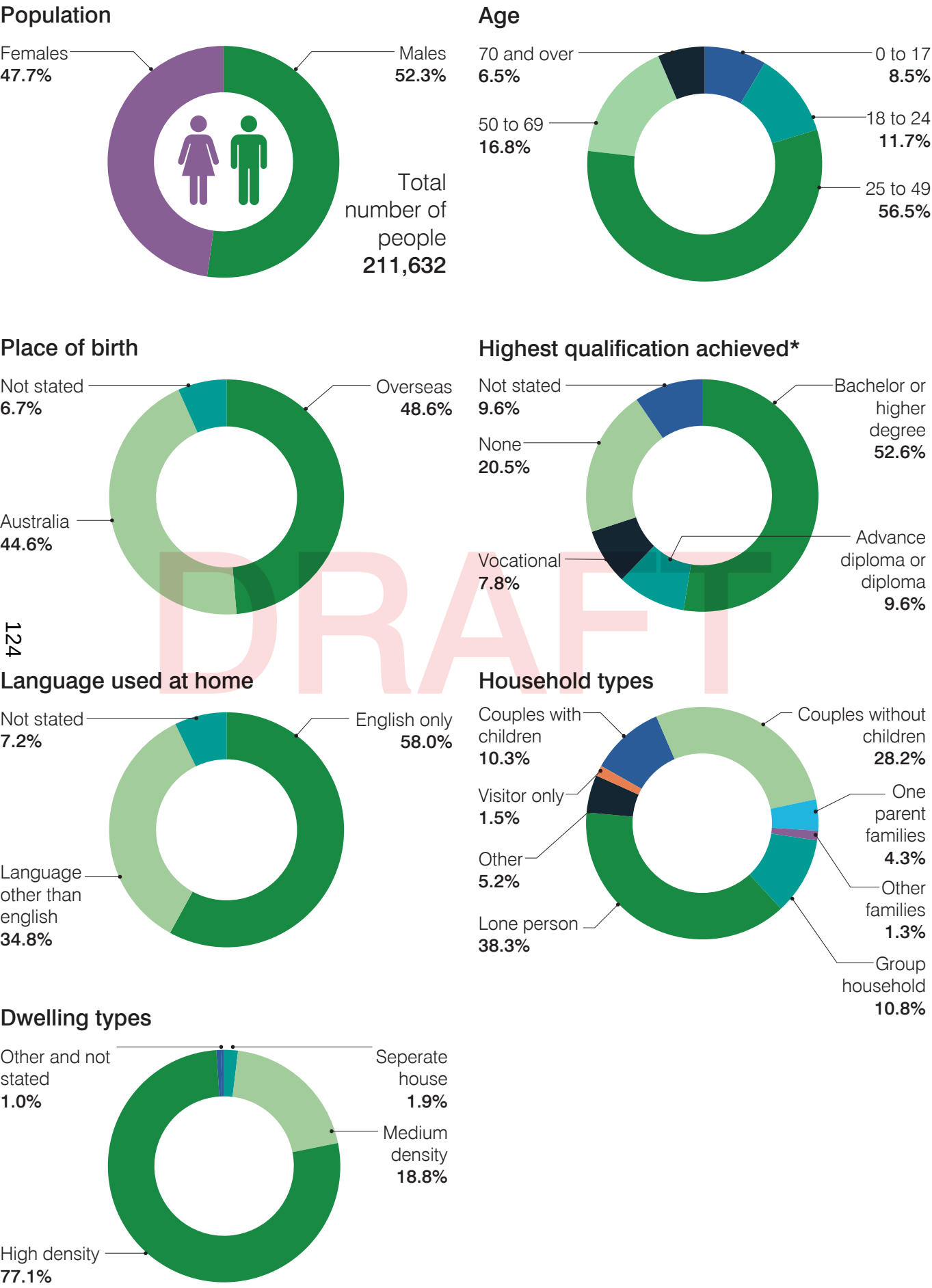
The City’s residents are highly reliant on public open space due to the prevalence of medium and high-density housing. Approximately 97% of residents live in medium or high-density dwellings, with only a small proportion of households occupying detached housing.

Education

The City has one of the most highly educated populations in Australia. More than half of residents hold a bachelor degree or higher qualification, and over two-thirds have undertaken education beyond secondary school.

Highly educated populations are generally associated with strong participation in healthy lifestyle behaviours, including physical activity, active transport and informal recreation. Walking, running, cycling and fitness activities are already among the City’s most popular recreation pursuits and are expected to remain important components of community life.

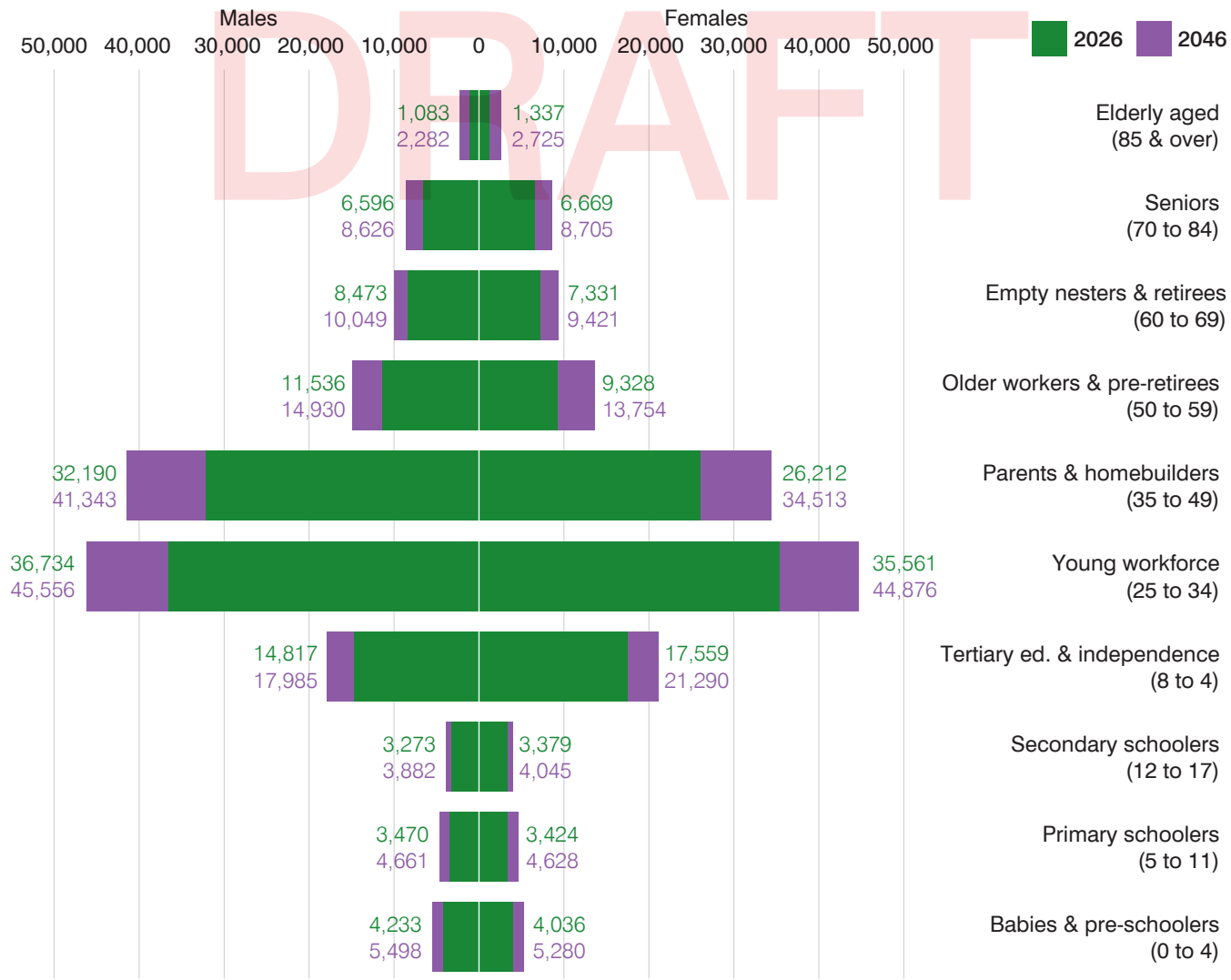
Figure 8: Demographic characteristics - source: profile.id.com.au/sydney



Key takeaways

- The City will continue to be dominated by a large and active working-age population.
- Growth is forecast across all age groups, including children, families and older adults.
- Cultural diversity will continue to influence recreation preferences and patterns of participation.
- High-density living will increase reliance on public parks and recreation facilities.
- Lone-person households highlight the importance of public spaces in supporting social connection and wellbeing.
- The recreation network must be flexible, inclusive and accessible to support a growing and increasingly diverse community.

Figure 9: Population projection to 2046 by age groups



Our communities at a glance

As the City’s population continues to grow, demand on the open space and recreation network will intensify, placing greater capacity pressures across all facilities especially larger parks that provide greater opportunities for active recreation.

	Our residential population will increase by 30.81% from 241,797 in 2025 to 304,049 in 2046.
	Almost half of our residents were born overseas .
	The majority of our residents are young with 56.5% aged between 25 and 49 years of age.
	Around 1 in 5 Australians are living with a disability . Increasing to 50% for people aged over 65. (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
	Our local area is home to one of Sydney’s largest communities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples .
	97% of residents of residents live in medium or high-density housing .

	The City’s 2023 Community Wellbeing Survey showed: 25% of young people aged 16–29 years, 21% of people aged 30–39 years, and 22% of people aged 40–49 years, unwillingly limited spending on sports and recreation due to their household financial situation in the past 12 months.
	38% of households are lone-households and 28% are couples without children .
	The number of older residents (65 years and over) will grow by 34.68% from 31,089 in 2025 to 41,807 in 2046.
	The number of children (14 years and under) will grow by 30.35% from 21,477 in 2025 to 27,995 in 2046.

What the community wants and needs

Our communities appreciate and understand the value of our open space, sport and recreation networks.

Feedback gathered through major strategic initiatives—including Sustainable Sydney 2030 - 2050 Continuing the Vision, Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan, the Resilient Sydney Synthesis Report 2024, the Greater Sydney Outdoors Study, Committee for Sydney Life in Sydney report and insights from the COVID-19 period, consistently highlights the deep value residents place on parks and public spaces.

Sport and recreation demand reflects broader metropolitan and national trends identified through AusPlay and similar participation data, with a shift from exclusively traditional club-based sport toward a broader mix of informal and emerging recreation activities.

Given the City’s demographic profile which is characterised by higher densities, a large working-age population, cultural diversity, and smaller households activities such as walking, running, swimming, cycling, gym-based fitness, and informal recreation are among the most popular forms of participation.

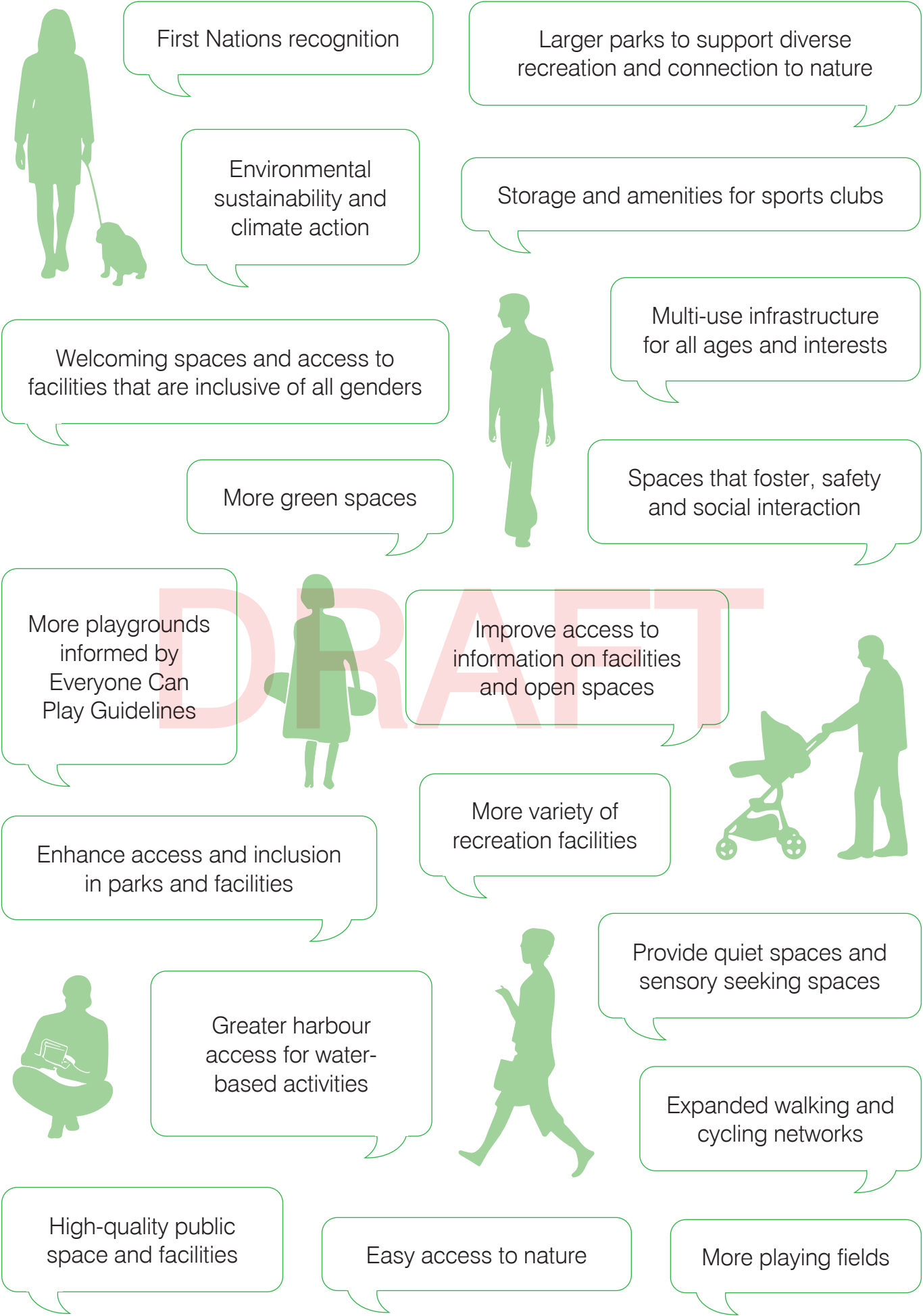
There is also an a growing emphasis on social sport and small-format participation models that respond to changing lifestyles and participation preferences.

As population and employment continue to grow, demand is expected to intensify, placing pressure on capacity, and reinforcing the need for flexible, multi-use facilities that can accommodate a diverse and evolving range of recreation activities.

The community values open space, sport and recreation infrastructure as essential contributors to health, wellbeing, liveability and social connection.



Basketball players at a Youth Week event
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Greater Sydney outdoors survey

In 2019, the Department of Planning and Environment conducted a broad survey of Sydneysiders to develop the Greater Sydney Outdoor Study. Proponents of the study received over 6,800 responses to their 15-minute online questionnaire and met with focus groups of representatives from Greater Sydney’s five districts.

The study goals include:

- To understand how Sydneysiders use and value open spaces for recreation.
- To identify which recreation activities Sydneysiders would like their open spaces to provide.
- To understand the different requirements communities have for current and future recreation needs.
- To develop a clear picture of what Sydneysiders would like to see, to ensure recreation needs are met across Greater Sydney.

An updated survey was undertaken in 2025. At the time of writing, survey submissions have closed and the findings are not yet available.

The Eastern City District

The City of Sydney is located in Greater Sydney’s Eastern City District. The 2019 survey found that most people in this district love to walk, hike, jog or run; relax and gather in open spaces; swim in public beaches; visit play spaces; view, create or perform public art; walk the dog; and cycle.

Over three quarters of survey respondents thought having good outdoor recreation areas and waterways is a good way to bring communities together, important for lifestyle and indicated that they have good access to outdoor recreation. Over half indicated that the quality of outdoor recreation in Sydney is a key reason why they chose to live where they do. However just over half also indicated that they would like to see more outdoor recreation in their own residential areas.

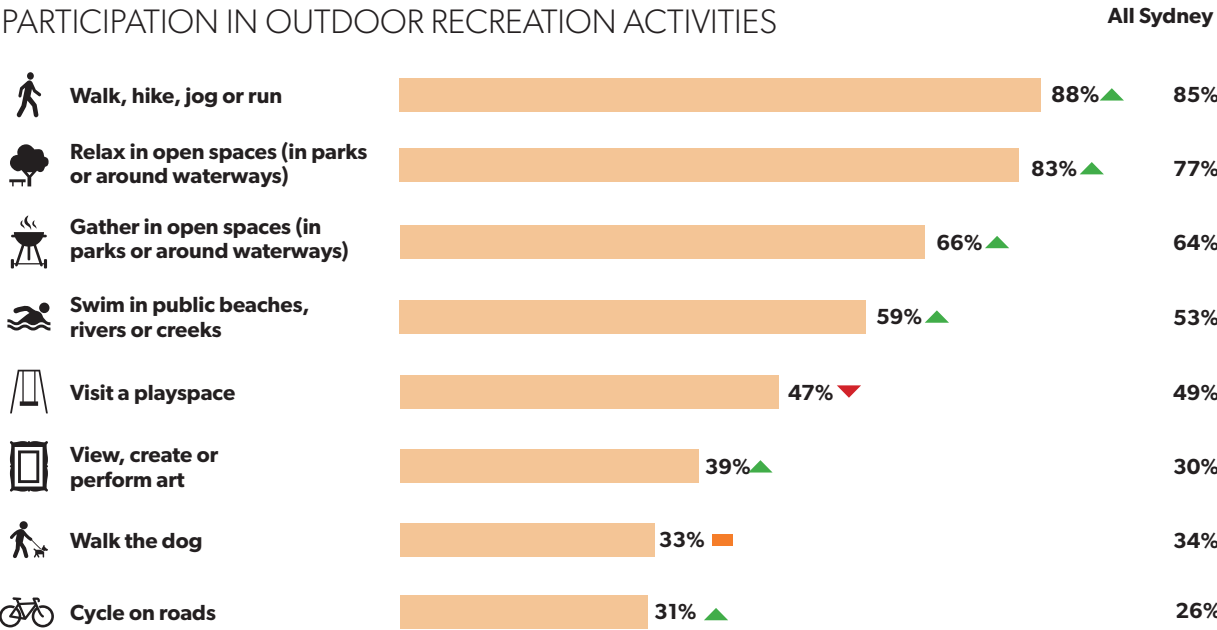
Key survey takeouts

- Better and more walking and cycling networks to help get to outdoor recreation areas without a car.
- Open spaces that feel safe and provide for multiple uses.
- More high quality, open spaces supported by good facilities (especially for areas of high development).
- More opportunities for swimming and water-based activities in the local area, especially on the Parramatta River and Cooks River.
- Improvements to existing parks, to ensure they’re being well utilised.

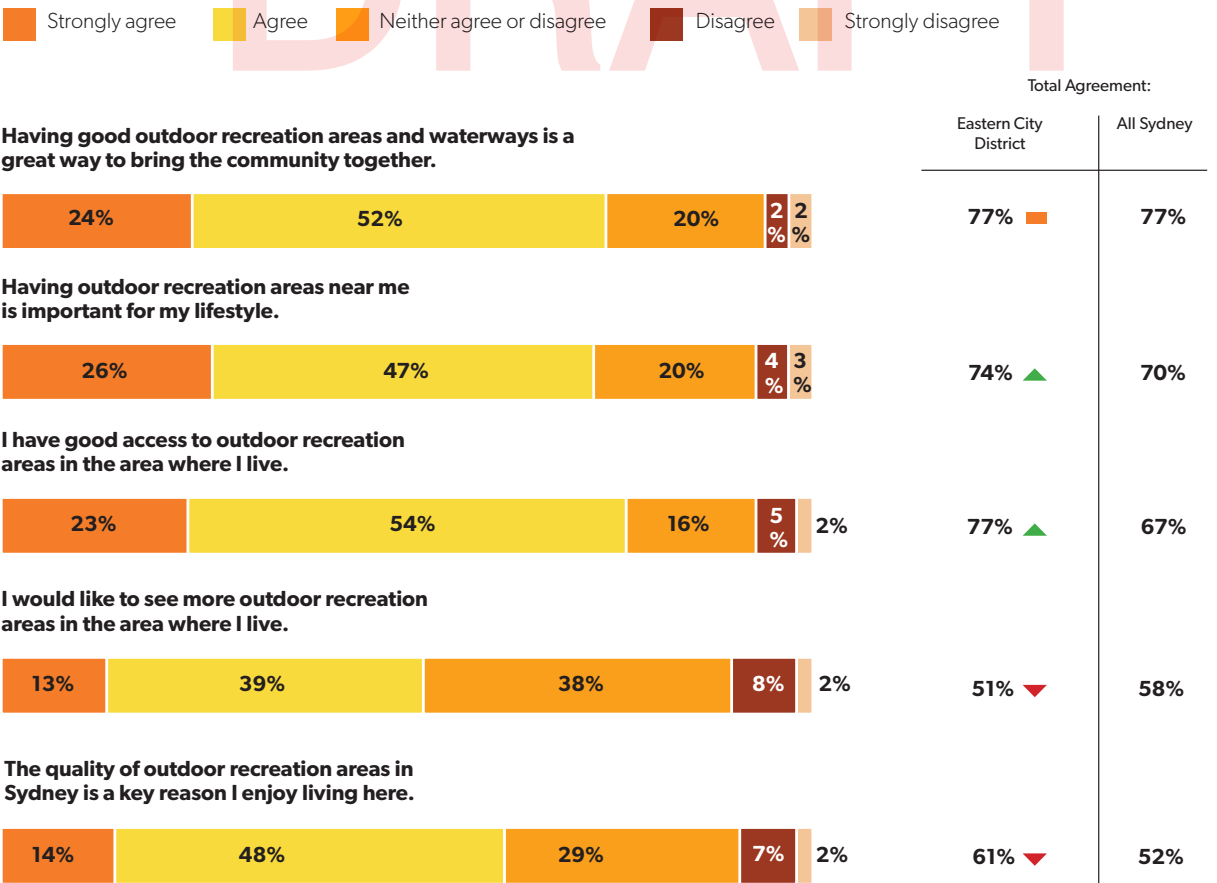
Greater Sydney Outdoor Study extract - What do Eastern City District Residents love to do? (opposite)
Source: planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/open-space/the-greater-sydney-outdoors-study

Figure 10: Excerpt from Greater Sydney Outdoors Study

What do Eastern City District residents love to do?



ATTITUDES TOWARDS OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS AND WATERWAYS



(Note: These numbers have been rounded for simplicity)

Recreation participation

Participation is increasingly characterised by flexible, informal and diverse recreation activities.

Overview

Understanding how people participate in sport and recreation is fundamental to planning future open space and recreation infrastructure. Participation trends help identify which activities are growing, where demand is increasing, how facilities are being used, and the types of infrastructure required to support future communities. They also provide insight into changing lifestyles, recreation preferences and emerging opportunities that may influence future investment priorities.

Ausplay 2025

AusPlay is a publicly funded national survey that collects data on sport and physical participation activity across Australia, its states and territories. Participation numbers and rates are estimates based on survey data collected between July 2024 and June 2025.

A new baseline was established for data collected between 2023 and 2025, meaning data collected between 2015 and 2023 cannot be directly compared.

Recreation participation in NSW

Participation in sport and physical activity remains high across New South Wales. AusPlay estimates that approximately 85% of adults participate in some form of sport or physical activity at least once annually.

Participation remains strong across both men and women and across all age groups. While organised sport remains important, participation is increasingly characterised by informal, flexible and self-directed activities.

Walking, fitness, swimming, running and cycling are attracting broader participation than many traditional organised sports, while social and modified versions of sport are becoming increasingly popular.

These trends are particularly relevant to the City of Sydney. High residential density, limited private open space, a large working-age population and a highly walkable urban environment create strong demand for informal recreation opportunities that can be undertaken close to home, work or study

This highlights the importance of providing recreation infrastructure that supports both organised and informal activities.

Public spaces matter

Outdoor environments play a vital role in supporting active lifestyles, with 61% of Australian adults engaging in physical activity in public spaces such as parks, streets and beaches—more than any other setting.

Most popular recreation activities

AusPlay data identifies recreational walking as Australia’s most popular recreation activity, followed by fitness and gym-based exercise. Swimming, running, bushwalking and cycling also attract substantial participation.

These activities all depend heavily on access to public open space, pathways, trails, aquatic facilities and recreation infrastructure

Participation in organised sport remains particularly important for children and young people. Swimming, football (soccer), gymnastics, dancing and basketball are among the most popular organised recreation activities for children.

However, participation rates generally decline as children move into adolescence, reflecting broader national trends. This decline highlights the importance of providing recreation opportunities that appeal to teenagers and young adults, including informal recreation, social sport and youth-oriented facilities.

Emerging sports and recreation

Participation trends increasingly reflect changing lifestyles and broader social and cultural influences. While traditional sports remain important, a range of emerging activities are experiencing strong growth.

Social sport

Many people are moving towards social and modified forms of sport that prioritise enjoyment, flexibility and social interaction rather than formal competition. Activities such as social basketball, futsal, touch football and social volleyball continue to attract growing participation.

Pickleball and padel

Modified racquet sports such as pickleball and padel are among the fastest-growing recreation activities internationally and are increasingly attracting participants within Sydney. These

activities place additional demand on both indoor and outdoor court infrastructure.

Running groups and outdoor fitness

Running clubs, park-based fitness programs and informal fitness communities have experienced substantial growth. These activities utilise parks, paths, streets and public spaces and require relatively little dedicated infrastructure beyond quality public environments.

Water based recreation

Participation in swimming, kayaking, paddlecraft and other water-based activities is increasing. Sydney Harbour and the City’s waterways are becoming increasingly valuable recreation assets that support both organised and informal participation.

Urban sports

including skateboarding, parkour, 3x3 basketball, and climbing—are experiencing significant growth in participation, driven by their accessible, non-organized, and lifestyle-oriented nature.

Mountain biking is a highly popular and growing recreation activity, attracting a broad age range and strong repeat participation, with increasing demand for well-designed trail networks that support beginner to advanced skill levels, nature-based experiences, and regional tourism.

Roller derby is an inclusive, predominantly women-led sport with a strong emphasis on community, empowerment, and participation, maintaining steady popularity through grassroots leagues.

Recreation user groups

The City’s recreation facilities support a broad and diverse range of users including organised sporting clubs, schools, community groups, social sporting competitions, casual participants and individuals undertaking informal recreation.

The diversity of recreation users highlights the need for a network that is flexible, adaptable and capable of accommodating multiple forms of participation.

Providing facilities that support multiple user groups and varying patterns of participation will be essential to maximising community benefit and meeting future recreation demand.

Recreation activities

The recreation facility network supports an extensive and diverse range of recreation activities that reflect the needs and preferences of a growing, highly urbanised and culturally diverse community.

Recreation opportunities occur across parks, recreation centres, aquatic facilities, sports fields, courts, streets, plazas, cycleways and waterfront locations, supporting both organised and informal participation.

While traditional organised sports remain an important component of the recreation network, participation is increasingly characterised by informal, flexible and self-directed activities.

Key takeaways

The City’s recreation network supports approximately 96 unique organisations.

This includes 35 education providers comprising:

- 17 primary schools
- 14 secondary schools
- 4 universities/tertiary providers

The network also supports 61 community sport and recreation organisations.

Football/soccer is the largest user group (16 organisations), followed by cricket (9) and rugby league (8).

Some of the sports and recreation activities our residents, workers and visitors participate in



includes City of Sydney, other agencies and private sector providers.

Ausplay survey data

Top 5 activities (sport and recreation combined)		
Adults	Men	Women
1. Walking	1. Walking	1. Walking
2. Fitness/gym	2. Fitness/gym	2. Fitness/gym
3. Swimming	3. Running/jogging	3. Swimming
4. Running/jogging	4. Swimming	4. Running/jogging
5. Cycling	5. Cycling	5. Yoga
Children	Boys	Girls
1. Swimming	1. Football/soccer	1. Swimming
2. Football/soccer	2. Swimming	2. Dancing
3. Gymnastics	3. Basketball	3. Gymnastics
4. Dancing	4. Cricket	4. Football/soccer
5. Basketball	5. Rugby league	5. Netball

Emerging activities

- Pickleball and paddle
- Oz-tag, flag gridiron and ultimate frisbee
- BMX and mountain biking
- Urban sports
- Futsul
- Badminton and volleyball
- Exer-gaming and technology
- Watercraft sports and recreation
- Swimming in the harbour



Wentworth Park cricket nets
Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney



Volleyball players at Perry Park
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

AusPlay survey

(demographic and participation insights)

Female participation

Female participation in sport and recreation continues to grow and has reached historically high levels. Participation by women and girls has increased across both traditional organised sports and informal recreation activities.

Several factors have contributed to this growth:

- Improved facility design
- More inclusive programming
- Increased visibility of women's sport
- Greater investment in female participation pathways
- Growth in informal recreation opportunities.

These trends reinforce the importance of ensuring recreation facilities are designed and managed to provide equitable access and inclusive participation opportunities.

Older adults

As the population ages, participation by older adults is becoming increasingly important. Many older residents are actively seeking opportunities to maintain health, mobility and social connection through recreation and physical activity. Popular activities among older adults include:

- Walking
- Swimming
- Low-impact fitness
- Group exercise
- Social recreation programs

Future recreation infrastructure will need to support active ageing through accessible design, comfortable environments and opportunities for low-impact participation.

Cultural diversity

Evidence from AusPlay and related sport participation research indicates that people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are more likely to participate in informal recreation activities such as walking, fitness, swimming and cycling, while soccer, basketball, volleyball and racquet sports are among the most popular organised sports. However Australians who speak a language other than English at home are generally less likely to participate regularly in sport and physical activity than those who speak only English at home.

Barriers to participation

While participation rates are generally high, barriers continue to prevent some people from participating as often as they would like. Common barriers include:

- Age and life-stage factors
- Health conditions
- Disability
- Cost
- Time constraints
- Lack of convenient opportunities
- Lack of confidence or social support.

The provision of affordable, accessible and welcoming public recreation facilities can help reduce many of these barriers and encourage greater participation across all sections of the community.

Participation motivations

Understanding why people participate in recreation is as important as understanding what activities they undertake.

The strongest participation motivations include:

- Physical health
- Enjoyment and fun
- Weight management
- Being outdoors and experiencing nature
- Social interaction and connection.

These motivations highlight the broad role of recreation infrastructure in supporting wellbeing and people do not participate solely for sport or competition.

What this means for the City

The City’s recreation network will need to support a growing and increasingly diverse range of recreation activities. While organised sport will remain important, future demand will increasingly be driven by flexible, informal and self-directed recreation.

Several key themes emerge from the participation data:

Greater demand for informal recreation

Walking, fitness, running, cycling and swimming will continue to generate strong demand for parks, streets, pathways, aquatic facilities and public spaces.

Flexible infrastructure

Facilities must support multiple activities and adapt to changing participation trends over time.

Social recreation

Increasing demand for social sport and informal recreation requires infrastructure that supports both organised and casual participation.

Inclusive participation

Facilities must accommodate people of different ages, abilities, genders and cultural backgrounds.

Recreation beyond sport

Future recreation planning must recognise the importance of informal recreation and social interaction alongside traditional sporting activities.

Infrastructure drivers

Major infrastructure projects are transforming the City’s open space and recreation network. While some open space has been lost, these developments have also created new public open space, expanded cycleways, and enhanced access to key sporting and recreational facilities.

The Sydney Light Rail

has reshaped key parts of the City, transforming Alfred and George Streets into vibrant pedestrian boulevards. Footpaths along Chalmers and Devonshire Streets were widened, while new pocket parks were introduced through street closures at Devonshire Street near Holt, Waterloo, and High Holbourne streets. Wimbo Park was also expanded, creating additional green space. Beyond these urban design improvements, the Light Rail provides a high-capacity public transport link to Moore Park, the Entertainment Quarter, the Sydney Cricket Ground and Allianz Stadium and supports future public open space initiatives that may emerge.

Sydney Metro

is Australia’s largest public transport project, comprising four lines that connect Sydney’s north-west, west, south-west, and greater west. The M1 line, opened in May 2019, and Sydney Metro West, currently under construction, both run beneath the City. These metro lines will significantly improve access for workers and visitors, while also driving higher residential densities around stations outside the city centre. To accommodate these growing populations, additional or enhanced public open spaces and recreational facilities will be essential.

WestConnex

This project delivered new and improved shared pedestrian and cycle paths at S Peters as well new connection over Alexandra Canal allowing access for Mascot residents to access Sydney Park. Plans initially anticipated that residual land surrounding the St Peters Interchange would be remediated and converted into open space and parkland, with a land bridge linking the area to Sydney Park over Campbell Street. However, this transformation has not yet happened.

Figure 11: Three city squares project idea



Social drivers

Social trends such as rising loneliness, increasing cultural diversity, and the growth of lone-person households underscore the need for inclusive and welcoming public spaces that foster social interaction and strengthen community connections.

Open space and recreation infrastructure are increasingly recognised as essential social infrastructure that supports community wellbeing, inclusion, health and quality of life. While parks and recreation facilities have traditionally been planned to support sport and physical activity, their role has expanded significantly in recent decades. Public spaces now contribute to social connection, community resilience, cultural expression, mental health, equity and social cohesion.

For the City of Sydney, these social functions are particularly important. The City's growing population, high levels of urban density, diverse communities and changing household structures are increasing reliance on public spaces as places for everyday interaction, recreation and community life. As cities become denser and lifestyles more complex, the social value of open space will continue to grow.

Health and wellbeing

Health and wellbeing are among the most important drivers of open space and recreation demand. Regular physical activity contributes to improved physical health, reduced risk of chronic disease, improved mental wellbeing and enhanced quality of life.

The increasingly sedentary nature of modern lifestyles reinforces the importance of accessible recreation opportunities that encourage people to be physically active as part of their daily routines. As awareness of health and wellbeing continues to increase, demand for recreation infrastructure that supports active lifestyles is expected to grow.

Mental health and contact with nature

The relationship between public open space and mental wellbeing is becoming increasingly important. Access to parks, green spaces and natural environments has been linked to reduced stress, improved mood, enhanced cognitive function and greater overall life satisfaction. In highly urbanised environments, public open spaces often provide the primary opportunity for residents to experience greenery, natural landscapes and respite from the built environment. Benefits associated with access to nature include:

- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Improved mental wellbeing
- Enhanced concentration and productivity
- Opportunities for relaxation and reflection
- Improved social and emotional health

As urban density increases and private open space becomes less common, the role of parks in supporting mental wellbeing will become increasingly significant.

Social connection

Public spaces provide important opportunities for people to come together, interact and build social relationships. Parks, plazas, recreation facilities and community spaces support both organised and informal social interaction and help foster a sense of belonging within neighbourhoods.

The equitable distribution of open space in high density neighbourhoods is vital to ensure residents have convenient access to parks that function as shared “backyards” fostering social interaction and providing opportunities for recreation.

Loneliness and social isolation

Loneliness and social isolation are increasingly recognised as important public health and social issues. Although the City is highly populated, many residents experience limited social interaction due to factors such as living alone, flexible working arrangements, lifestyle pressures and changing family structures.

The NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the prevalence, causes and impacts of loneliness identified access to quality public spaces, green space, community facilities and local amenities as important protective factors against loneliness, highlighting the role of the built environment in supporting social connection and wellbeing.

In this context, parks, plazas and other public spaces perform a critical social function beyond recreation. They provide accessible and inclusive settings for everyday social interactions, informal gatherings, and community events.

Equity and inclusion

Equitable access to open space and recreation opportunities is an important social objective. Not all residents have the same ability to access, use or benefit from parks and recreation facilities. Factors that can influence participation include:

- income
- age
- disability
- cultural background
- gender
- diverse sexualities

- housing circumstances
- access to transport

Open space has a unique role in supporting equity because it provides low-cost or free opportunities for recreation, exercise and social interaction. Future planning should continue to focus on ensuring that all communities have access to high-quality open space, regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections

The City of Sydney is located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have maintained deep cultural, spiritual and environmental connections to Country for thousands of years. Open space planning provides opportunities to:

- celebrate Aboriginal culture and heritage
- support caring for Country
- incorporate community involvement knowledge
- recognise significant cultural sites and stories
- strengthen opportunities for employment ,cultural learning and interpretation

Embedding Aboriginal perspectives within open space planning contributes to cultural recognition, reconciliation and a stronger sense of place.

Environmental drivers

Open space is becoming increasingly important as environmental infrastructure, supporting climate resilience, urban cooling, biodiversity and sustainability alongside recreation and community wellbeing

Open space and recreation infrastructure play an increasingly important role in helping cities respond to environmental challenges. Parks, streets, waterways, trees and public spaces are no longer viewed solely as recreation assets; they are essential components of urban green infrastructure that contribute to climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, urban cooling, water management and community wellbeing.

As the City of Sydney continues to grow and urbanise, pressure on the natural environment will increase. At the same time, climate change is expected to result in hotter temperatures, more frequent heatwaves, changing rainfall patterns and increasing pressure on urban ecosystems. These environmental changes will directly influence how open space is planned, designed, managed and used.

Future open space and recreation planning must therefore balance community recreation needs with broader environmental objectives, ensuring parks and public spaces deliver both social and ecological outcomes.

Climate change and urban resilience

Climate change represents one of the most significant long-term challenges facing cities worldwide. Rising temperatures, increasing heatwave frequency, changing rainfall patterns and more extreme weather events are expected to affect both the function and use of public open space. Within highly urbanised environments such as the City of Sydney, the impacts of climate change are often amplified by the urban heat island effect, where large areas of hard surfaces and built form

absorb and retain heat. Public open spaces provide important opportunities to moderate these impacts through vegetation, tree canopy, permeable surfaces and water-sensitive landscape design.

Parks and green spaces will increasingly function as climate adaptation infrastructure by:

- Providing urban cooling.
- Reducing heat stress.
- Managing stormwater.
- Increasing resilience to extreme weather.
- Supporting biodiversity.
- Providing refuge during heat events.

As climate conditions continue to change, the environmental performance of parks and recreation spaces will become as important as their recreational function.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation must remain central to the planning and management of the City’s open space network. Meeting the City’s environmental targets will require ongoing infrastructure upgrades and management practices to increase canopy and greening, and improve water and energy use.

Urban heat and cooling

Urban heat is one of the most immediate environmental challenges affecting residents, workers and visitors. Dense urban environments typically experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas due to the concentration of buildings, roads and other heat-absorbing surfaces. Access to shaded and vegetated public spaces becomes increasingly important during periods of extreme heat. Trees, parks and green corridors help reduce ambient temperatures and create more comfortable outdoor environments for recreation and everyday use.

For recreation infrastructure, this has several implications:

- Greater demand for shade in parks and playgrounds.
- Increased importance of tree canopy.
- Growing reliance on aquatic facilities during hot weather.
- Increased demand for evening recreation opportunities.
- Need for heat-resilient recreation facilities and materials.

Future park design will need to prioritise user comfort through increased canopy cover, water-sensitive landscapes, shelter and climate-responsive design.

By connecting parks with expanded tree canopy and native vegetation along streets and pathways, we can create green corridors that provide habitat for wildlife support biodiversity, and strengthen ecological resilience.

Tree canopy and urban greening

Urban greening is a key environmental priority for the City of Sydney. Trees and vegetation contribute significantly to environmental sustainability by improving air quality, reducing temperatures, managing stormwater and enhancing biodiversity. They also improve the visual quality and amenity of public spaces.

The City’s environmental strategies identify ambitious targets for increasing urban canopy and greening across the local government area. Achieving these outcomes will require continued integration of greening initiatives into parks, streets, plazas, recreation facilities and public domain projects.

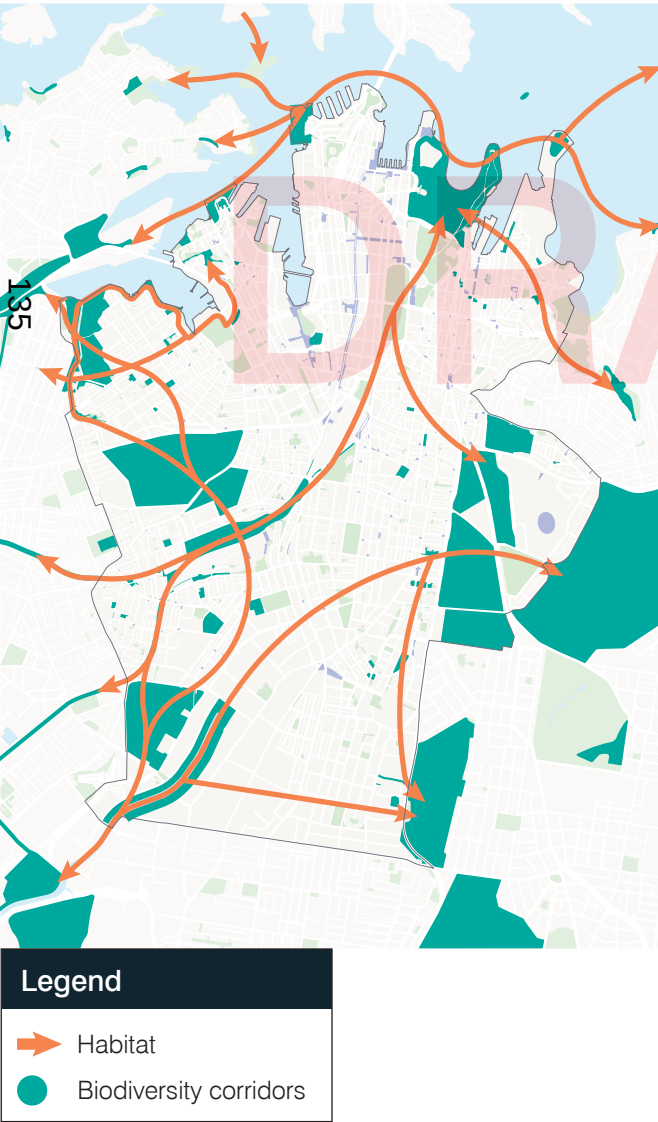
Future recreation planning will need to balance greening objectives with active recreation requirements, particularly on larger sports and recreation sites where both functions compete for space.

Biodiversity and habitat protection

Despite its highly urbanised character, the City supports a range of native flora and fauna and contributes to broader regional ecological networks. Parks, bushland remnants, waterways, street trees and foreshore landscapes all play an important role in supporting urban biodiversity.

The City’s Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan seeks to expand indigenous vegetation, improve habitat quality and strengthen habitat connectivity across the local government area. A key objective is the creation of biodiversity corridors and habitat stepping stones that allow species to move through the urban environment.

Figure 12: Ecological networks in the LGA



Water management

Increasing attention to water management is influencing the provision and design of open space and recreation infrastructure. Stormwater management, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) and water reuse initiatives can help improve water quality, support urban cooling, reduce flood impacts and contribute to more sustainable and resilient public spaces.

Sustainability and resource use

Parks and recreation facilities consume water, energy and maintenance resources throughout their lifecycle.

The City has had a long standing commitment to ensure infrastructure will operate more efficiently and minimise environmental impacts. In particular:

- Water-efficient irrigation systems.
- Renewable energy infrastructure.
- Sustainable materials.
- Resource-efficient facility design.
- Reduced carbon emissions from operations and maintenance.

The City’s commitment to achieving net-zero emissions creates opportunities for recreation infrastructure to contribute positively to broader environmental objectives.

Balancing recreation and environmental outcomes

Future open space planning will increasingly require balancing recreation demands with environmental objectives. As population growth drives demand for additional sports fields, courts, playgrounds and other facilities, environmental considerations must remain an integral part of planning and design. Key tensions may include:

- Recreation facilities versus tree canopy expansion
- Active use areas versus biodiversity outcomes.
- Public access versus ecosystem protection.
- Facility development versus stormwater management objectives.

These challenges highlight the importance of designing multifunctional open spaces capable of delivering environmental, social and recreation benefits simultaneously.

Image (opposite page): **Sydney Park**
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Summary

This part has examined the demographic, social, environmental, recreation and infrastructure trends that are shaping future demand for open space, sport and recreation infrastructure across the City of Sydney.

Importance of public space

The strategic context highlights a growing reliance on public open space and recreation facilities to support health, wellbeing, and social connection in an increasingly urban environment. As private open space decreases, demand for high-quality, accessible parks, sports facilities, and informal recreation networks will continue to rise, requiring both expansion and more efficient use of existing assets.

Climate resilience and cooling

Open space will play an increasingly critical role in responding to climate change. Parks, green corridors, and tree canopy are essential for urban cooling, heat-refuge provision, stormwater management, and biodiversity protection. Future facility provision should prioritise shaded spaces, water-sensitive design, and resilient landscapes that can withstand heat, drought, and extreme weather events.

Population growth

Population growth and increasing residential density will place sustained pressure on public open space to accommodate everyday recreation, social interaction, and respite. This will require a greater quantity of well-distributed, high-quality open spaces that are accessible, multifunctional, and capable of supporting intensified use within compact urban environments.

Demographic change

Demographic change will also drive more diverse facility requirements. While young adults will remain the dominant demographic, increased numbers

of children, older adults, and retirees will require universally accessible spaces that support different abilities, life stages, and activity preferences.

Lone person households

With lone-person households increasing, public open spaces play a crucial role in bringing people together. Well-designed open spaces provide safe, inclusive places that support social connection, visibility and a sense of belonging, helping reduce isolation and strengthening community ties.

Workers and visitors

The City of Sydney is a major employment centre that attracts a large daily influx of workers from across metropolitan Sydney, resulting in high daytime population densities and increased demand on public open spaces. With around 120,000 people both living and working locally, and the City serving as a key destination for visitors and tourists, accessible and high-quality open spaces are essential to support diverse everyday recreational needs. covid / wfh

Cultural diversity

Cultural diversity will continue to shape how open space is used. As not all communities engage with formal sporting clubs, recreation provision must remain adaptable, supporting informal, social, and culturally diverse activities. Flexible spaces that can accommodate multiple uses will be increasingly important.

Health and wellbeing

Open space and recreation facilities function as essential preventative health infrastructure, supporting physical activity, mental wellbeing, social connection, and everyday contact with nature. Accessible, free or low-cost spaces play a critical role in strengthening social cohesion and delivering significant health, social, and environmental benefits in high-density urban areas.

Recreation patterns are changing

Recreation participation is becoming increasingly diverse and flexible. While organised sport remains important, a growing proportion of recreation activity occurs through informal, self-directed and social forms of participation. Walking, running, cycling, swimming, fitness training and outdoor recreation are now among the most popular recreation activities. Emerging activities such as pickleball, padel, social basketball and outdoor fitness programs are also creating new demands on facilities and public spaces.

Access and connectivity matter as much as provision

The value of open space is influenced not only by how much exists but also by how easily people can access and move between spaces. Walking and cycling are among the most popular recreation activities in the City and are also critical means of accessing parks and recreation facilities

Inclusion and equity must remain central

The City's population is becoming increasingly diverse in terms of age, culture, household composition and lifestyle. Providing equitable access is not simply about facility distribution; it also requires consideration of accessibility, affordability, safety, comfort and cultural relevance. Inclusive design should therefore remain a core principle across all future investment and planning decisions.

Conclusion

The City of Sydney is entering a period of significant change. Population growth, increasing density, evolving recreation preferences and environmental pressures will continue to reshape how people use parks, public spaces and recreation facilities.

These trends reinforce the importance of a strategic and integrated approach to planning open space and recreation infrastructure.

Future success will depend on protecting and enhancing the existing network, increasing capacity where possible, embracing innovation and ensuring facilities remain accessible, inclusive and resilient.



Rainbow Path at Prince Alfred Pool
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Part 2

Open space network and assessment

- Open space network
- Open space assessment

DRAFT

Open space network

The City of Sydney contains a diverse network of public open spaces that contribute significantly to the health, wellbeing, liveability and environmental performance of the city.

Historical context

Prior to European settlement, the City of Sydney was part of the traditional Country of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, who have maintained a deep connection to the land, waterways and harbour for thousands of years.

The City of Sydney is home to some of Australia's most significant public parks and open spaces. Hyde Park, dedicated in 1810, was Australia's first public park, while The Domain, established in 1788, was opened to the public in the 1830s. Centennial Park, opened in 1888 as the largest urban park in the Southern Hemisphere, was the site of Australia's Federation inauguration in 1901.

Parks including Redfern Park, Rushcutters Bay Park, Alexandria Park, Belmore Park and Prince Alfred Park emerged from the 19th-century parks movement, which promoted public recreation, health and social wellbeing. More recently, Sydney Park was created through the rehabilitation of the former Bedford Brickworks site, while urban renewal in Pyrmont and Green Square has delivered new open space networks through public domain planning and redevelopment initiatives.

Open space inventory

An inventory of publicly accessible open space was undertaken to establish the baseline for assessment. The inventory identifies:

- Park name and location.
- Ownership and management arrangements.
- Park classification.
- Size and area.

- Recreation facilities.
- Sports infrastructure.
- Play opportunities.
- Environmental features.
- Accessibility characteristics.

The inventory provides a comprehensive understanding of the quantity and distribution of open space throughout the local government area and forms the basis for subsequent analysis.

Detailed schedules are provided in Appendix 2.

Open space ownership and management

Open space within the City is owned and managed by a range of public agencies and organisations. This shared management structure means that recreation outcomes are influenced by decisions made across multiple organisations.

Partnerships and collaboration therefore play an important role in protecting, enhancing and expanding access to open space throughout the city.

For the purposes of this study, the assessment considers both City-managed open space and the broader publicly accessible network available to residents, workers and visitors.

Open space settings

To support a high level assessment, this study groups open spaces into broad setting types based on their overall character or "look" of the various open space to be found across the City.

Collectively these spaces support a wide range of activities including recreation, sport, relaxation, social interaction, cultural events, active transport, environmental education and biodiversity conservation.

Habitat



Foreshore parks



Parks



Types of open space (left to right)

Bamal Way Link
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Bushcare
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Chifley Square
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Bicentennial Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Ancillary/links



Civic/urban spaces



Light rail corridors



Street closures



George Street South
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Hyde Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

???
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney

Figure 13: Open space settings

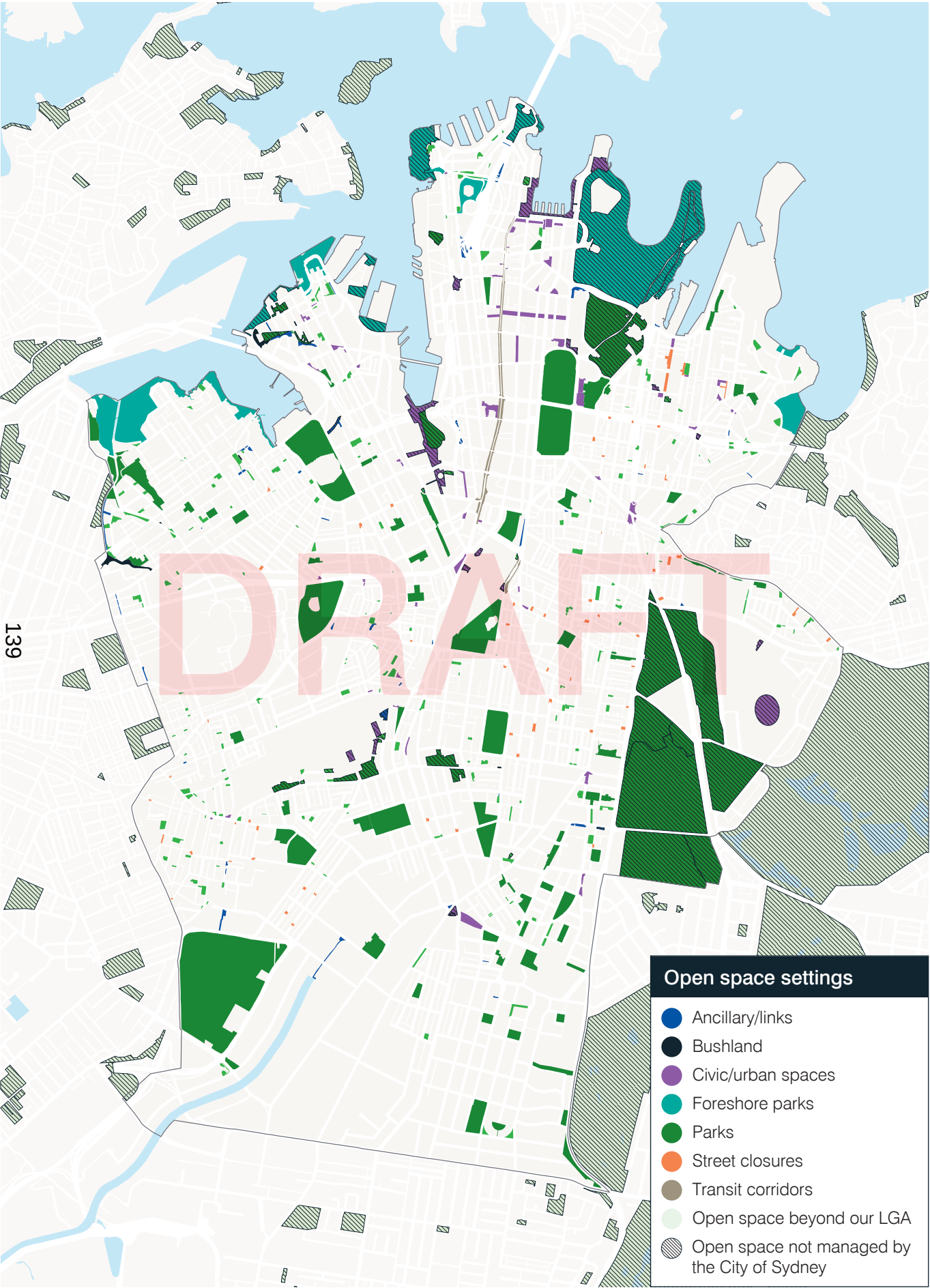


Figure 14: Open space setting types

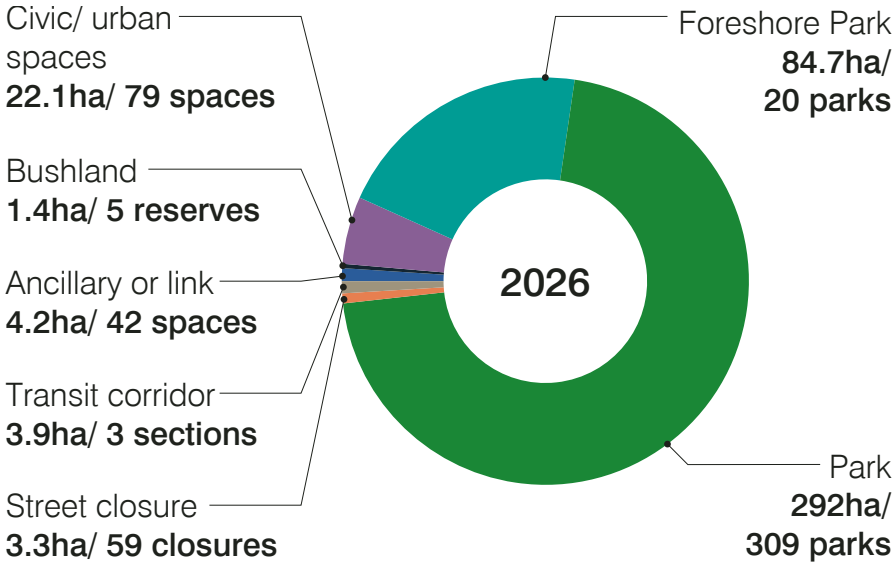


Figure 15: Open space provision (m²) by setting type - managed by the City

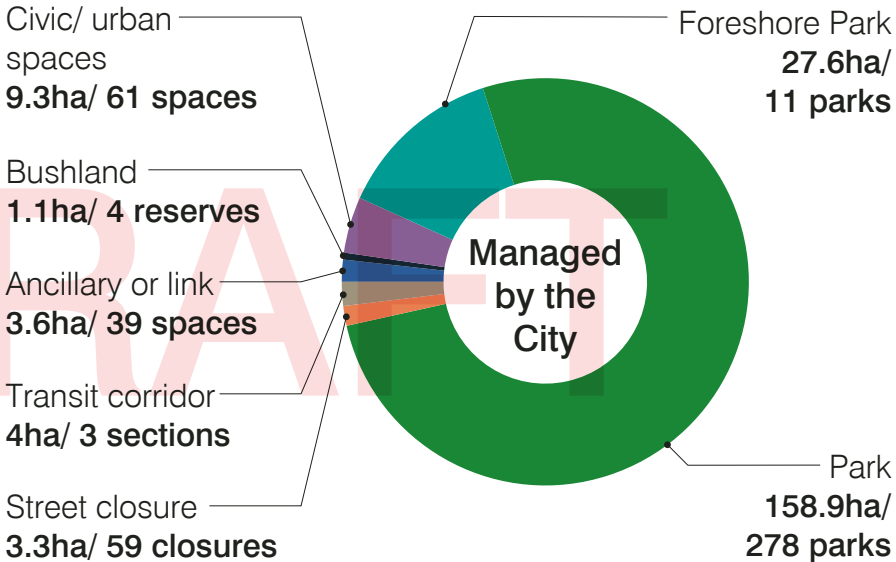
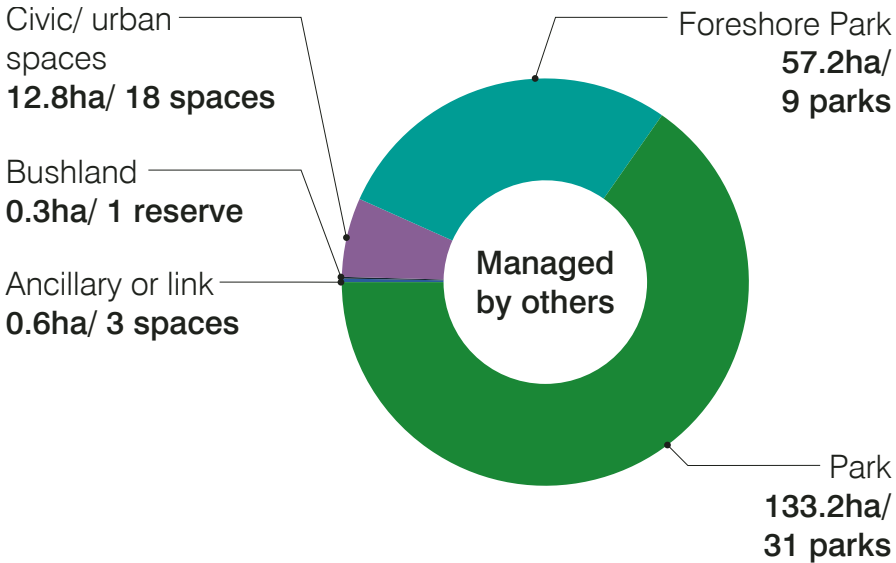


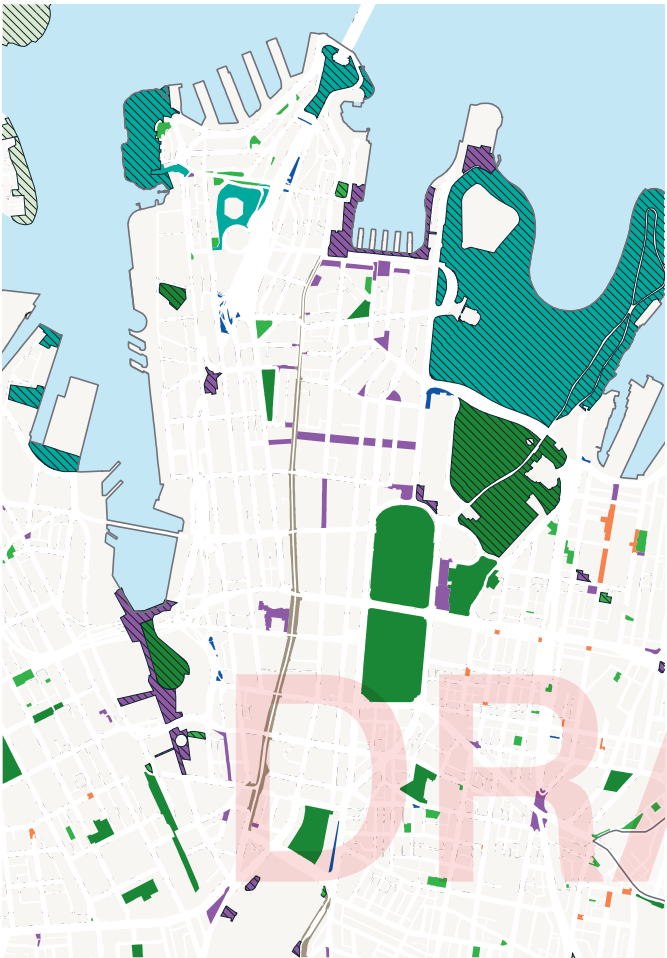
Figure 16: Open space provision (m²) by setting type - managed by others





Pedestrians crossing George Street behind the Light Rail
 Photo: ??? / City of Sydney

City centre public space



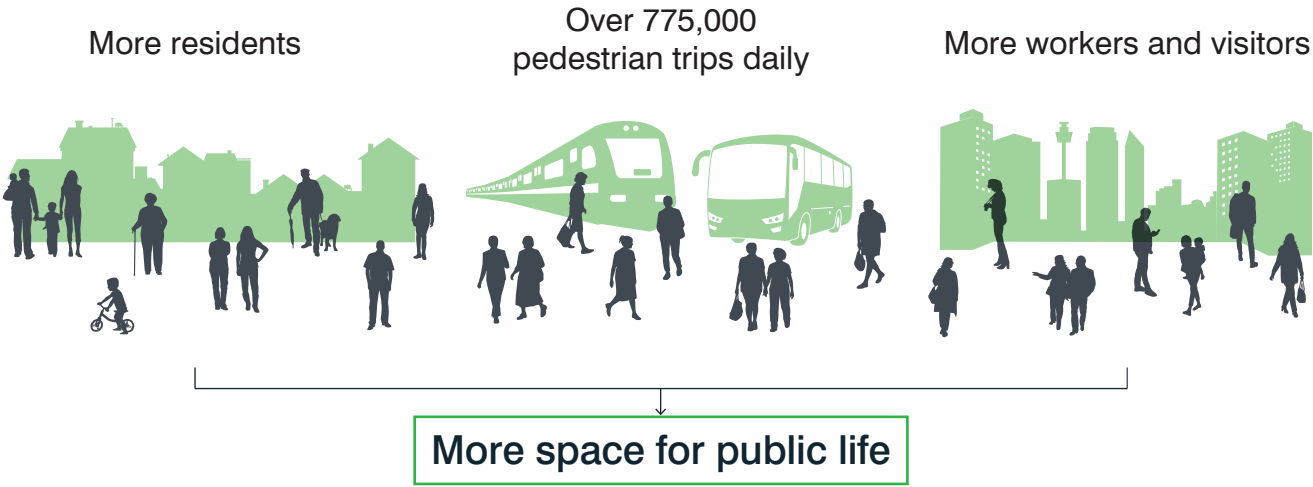
The City of Sydney's Public Domain Plan for the city centre provides the strategic framework for this change, focusing on the rebalancing of space by reducing the dominance of vehicles and reallocating space to pedestrians, cyclists, trees, seating, outdoor dining and public transport. This framework informs investment in streets, laneways and public spaces across the city centre, including Dixon Street, Loftus Street, Martin Place and Hyde Park.

George Street is central to the transformation of the city centre. With the delivery of light rail, the long held vision for George Street is being realised through the creation of a pedestrian focused boulevard with significantly more space for public life.

A defining element of the Gehl vision for the city centre is the creation of three major civic squares at Circular Quay, Town Hall and Central Station, linked by the transformed George Street boulevard. Together, these spaces form a connected sequence of public places through the heart of the city.

Town Hall Square is a cornerstone of this vision, reimagining Sydney's civic heart through the creation of a new major public square. To realise this long term vision, the City of Sydney has progressively acquired key properties over several decades.

Envisioned as Sydney's new living room, Town Hall Square will be a place for gathering, celebration and everyday use, supporting social and cultural life in an inclusive and accessible public space.



Open space assessment

An open space network assessment evaluates how effectively public spaces meet community needs. It considers whether spaces are fit for purpose, accessible, and suitable for both current and future recreation.

The findings help identify gaps, guide investment priorities, and shape improvements that align with demographic trends and community expectations.

Use of benchmarks

Traditional population-based benchmarks, such as the standard of 2.83 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents, have notable limitations in high-density urban environments. Developed for the low-density cities of the early 20th century, these measures are increasingly impractical because the amount of land required to meet benchmark targets grows in direct proportion to population increases. In dense urban areas, where opportunities to acquire new open space are limited, achieving these standards is often unrealistic.

As a result, reliance on fixed per-capita benchmarks can underestimate the recreation needs of rapidly growing, vertically living communities and fail to reflect the importance of accessibility, quality, and capacity of open space.

In this study, benchmarks are used as flexible indicators rather than strict targets. They serve as a ‘health check’ to:

- compare provision across different cities and contexts;
- help prevent the net loss of open space; and highlight instances where supply is falling below acceptable levels and may require intervention.

Applied in this way, benchmarks support a more nuanced assessment that accounts for density, demographics, urban form and the experience of residents that are often overlooked in conventional, per-capita standards.

The Sydney Plan

The Sydney Plan introduces a new benchmark framework for public open space that focuses on accessibility, equity and liveability.

- 95% existing and planned residents should be within 400m (5-minute walk) of a local park of 3,000sqm or greater;
- in medium- and high-density areas, residents; should be within 200m of an open space (minimum size 1,500sqm);
- no reduction in the total area of public open space;

The Department will also prepare, consult with each Council specific provision benchmarks respond to existing and planned urban typologies and anticipated growth.

What other cities and agencies are doing

Melbourne’s 2024 review of its 2012 Open Space Strategy found no consistent best practice population or land area ratios across global cities. It now adopts a needs based, performance led approach. A key objective is ensuring all residents and workers are within 300 metres or a 10 minute walk of open space, particularly in growth areas.

Many international cities and NSW councils also use quantity and proximity benchmarks to evaluate the performance, distribution, and accessibility of their open space networks. Benchmarks include ensuring residents live within 300–400 metres of public open space, and per-capita open space measures, which range from 6–10m² of open space per resident. Refer to Appendix 1.

Assessment framework

Understanding how effectively this network is meeting community needs requires more than a simple assessment of the amount of land available.

Contemporary open space planning recognises that successful open space networks are characterised not only by quantity, but also by accessibility, distribution, diversity, quality and their ability to accommodate future growth and changing patterns of use.

This part establishes the assessment framework that has been used throughout this study to evaluate the performance of the City’s existing open space network and identify future opportunities, constraints and priorities.

The framework is designed to answer six key questions:

Provision

- How much open space is available?

Accessibility

- Can people easily reach open space?

Distribution

- Is open space equitably distributed?

Connectivity/ linkages

- How well connected is the network?

Size

- Do parks provide the scale and functionality required?

Quality

- Are parks and public spaces attractive, functional and fit for purpose?

Together, these assessment dimensions provide a comprehensive understanding of network performance and help identify the actions required to ensure the City’s open space network continues to support a growing and increasingly diverse community.

In this study, benchmarks are interpreted as guiding indicators rather than absolute standards.

Their purpose is not to determine whether a community has “enough” open space, but to inform a broader assessment that also considers accessibility, quality, functionality, and local context.

Open space provision

Why quantity matters

Quantity is the most traditional measure of open space provision and provides an indication of the overall supply of public open space available to support residents, workers and visitors.

As population increases, open space provision can decline unless new parks and public spaces are secured. Monitoring quantity therefore provides an important indicator of whether provision is keeping pace with growth.

While quantity provides a useful measure of supply, it does not indicate whether parks are accessible, fit for purpose or capable of meeting community needs. These factors are explored in subsequent sections.

Currently 15.3% of our local area or 411.7ha is dedicated to public open space.

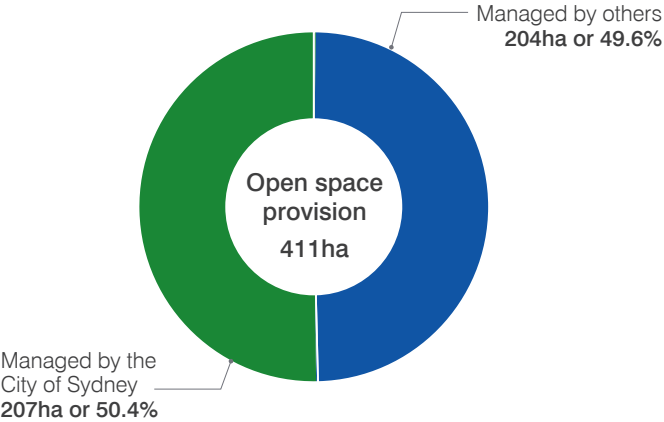
Current provision

We own or manage 207 ha. with a further 204 ha managed by other government authorities, agencies or institutions.

Consisting of parks, pocket parks, urban spaces, street closures, small pockets of bushland, gardens, and links, our open spaces provide our communities places for play, sport, socialisation, celebration, protest, respite, greening and habitat.

Ownership / management

Figure 17: Proportion of open space managed by the City of Sydney and others



Open spaces are owned, managed, and maintained by three main categories of landholders:

City of Sydney

Spaces owned or under the care, control, and management of the City.

Other authorities and institutions

Areas managed by government agencies, trusts, institutions, or private owners. Nearly half of the City's open space is managed by external entities primarily state agencies highlighting the need for sustained collaboration and partnership.

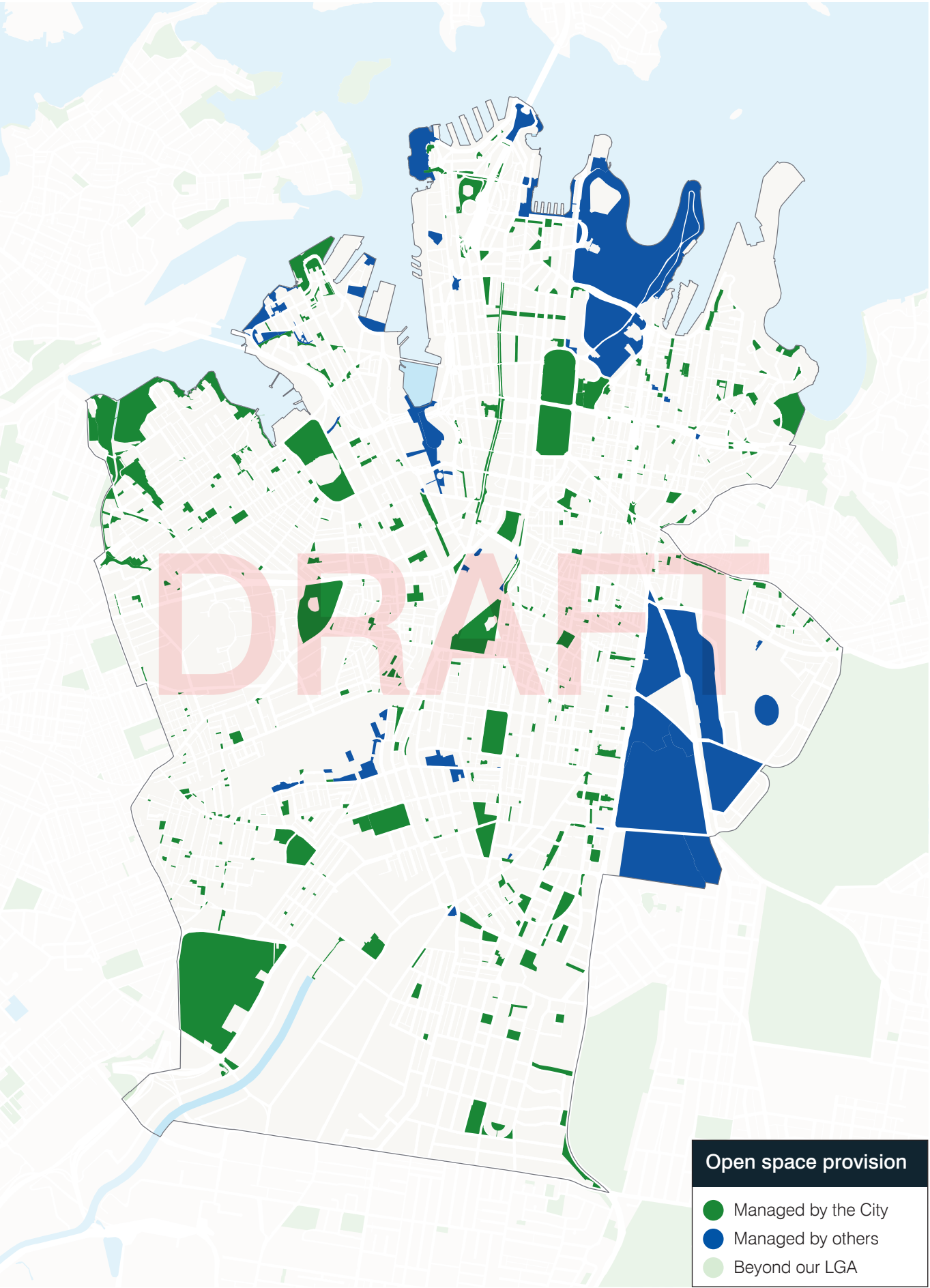
Adjoining local government areas

Open spaces outside the City's boundaries that are regularly accessed by Sydney residents and workers.

Critical role of other agencies and providers

The ability to meet future open space needs will increasingly depend on the contribution of state agencies, neighbouring councils, and other providers. These spaces will play a vital role in supporting the recreational needs of City residents as local supply becomes more constrained.

Figure 18: Open space provision



Additions and losses

The City of Sydney’s open space network has steadily expanded through contributions from both the City and other government agencies. Since 2004, growth has been driven by land dedications, acquisitions, and the transformation of streets into public spaces. Delivery of open space has been through land acquisitions . dedications through development or partnerships with other agencies.

Many of the newly created parks exceed 5,000m², with Harold Park standing out as the largest at 3.8 hectares. These larger parks are increasingly critical in supporting higher urban densities, offering space for diverse recreational facilities and community activities.

Street conversions have also become a vital strategy, most prominently demonstrated along George Street with the light rail project. As land availability becomes more constrained, streets will play an ever-growing role in delivering accessible public open space and enhancing the city’s urban character.

Despite these gains, the network has also experienced losses of more than 5.0 hectares of public open space, primarily due to infrastructure projects by state government agencies. Such reductions must be acknowledged, as they diminish efforts to expand and strengthen the network. With demand for open space rising alongside urban density, it is essential that infrastructure planning does not default to re-purposing public open space as the most expedient option.

Ultimately, protecting existing open space is fundamental to accommodating Sydney’s growing population.

A balanced approach—expanding where possible while safeguarding what already exists—will ensure the city continues to provide equitable, sustainable, and accessible environments for all.

Between 2004 - 2015 over 22ha was added consisting of:

- 11 hectares added to the open space network managed directly by the City
- 11.2 hectares added to the open space network managed by other agencies

Since 2016 over 20 hectares of public open space to the network, increasing its capacity to meet community needs (Figure XX). This includes:

- 18.5 hectares added to the open space network managed directly by the City
- 1.82 hectares added to the open space network managed by other agencies

During the same period, there has been a loss of 5.0 hectares of open space, primarily due to the introduction of new transport infrastructure and the expansion of the NSW Art Gallery.

DRAFT



Gunyama Park, Green Square
Photo: Jessica Lindsay / City of Sydney



Drying Green, Green Square
Photo: Jessica Lindsay / City of Sydney



Wulaba Park, Green Square
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Crescent Lands, Annandale
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney



Harold Park
Photo: Adam Hollingworth / City of Sydney



Butterscotch Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Wimbo Park
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney



Margaret Street closure at George Street
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Refer Appendix 3 for further details on open space additions 2004-2015.

Figure 19: New open space added (2016 - 2026)

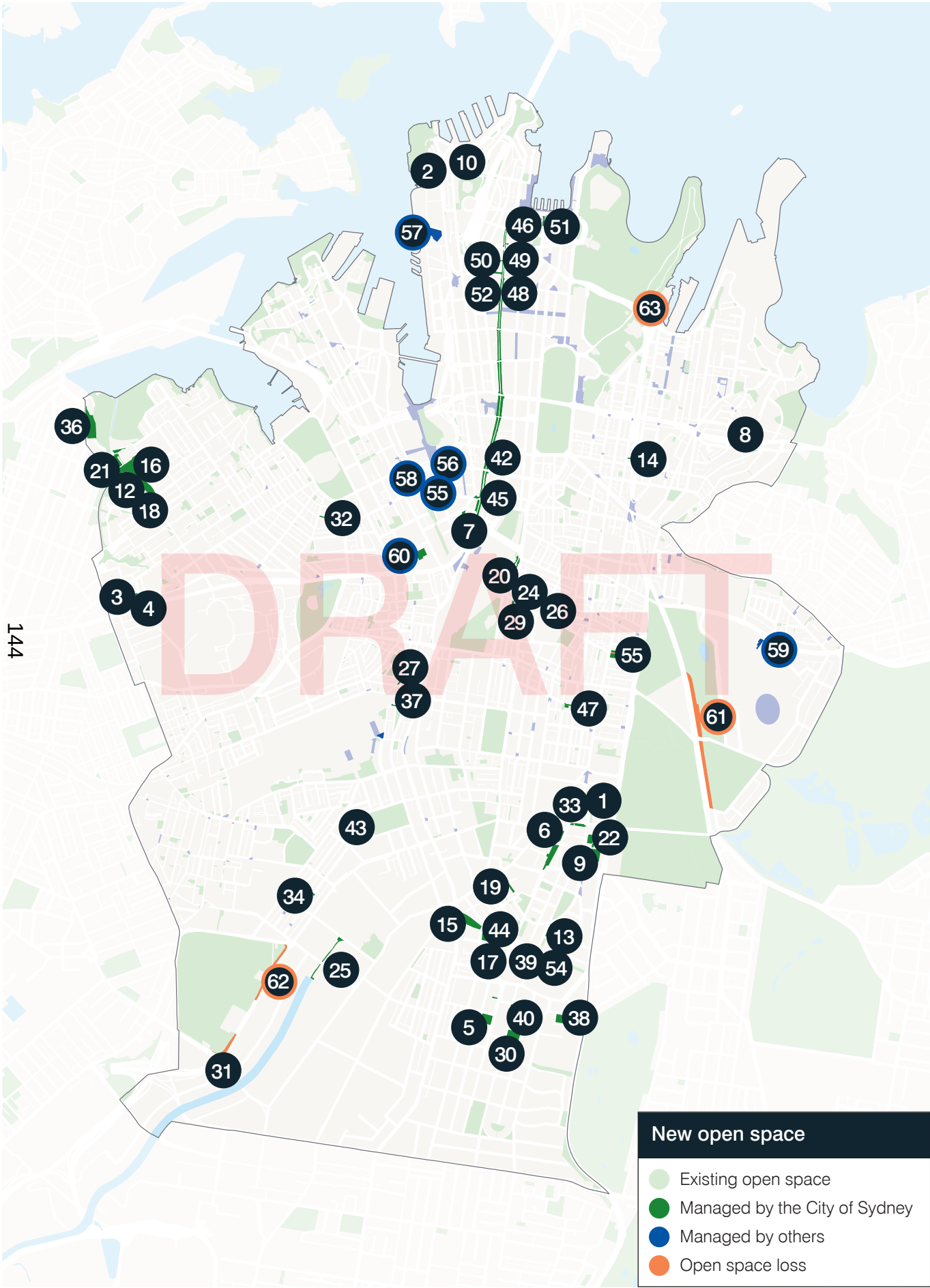


Table 1: New open space (2016 - 2026) managed by the City

Open space		Village/ activity hub	Setting	Area (m²)	Date created
1	Amelia Street Road Closure	Green Sq & City Sth	Street closure	307	2016
2	Argyle Place 4010 Streetscape	CBD & Harbour	Civic	241	2016
3	Booler Community Centre	Glebe Point Rd	Park	401	2016
4	Daranggara Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,618	2016
5	Sweetacres Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	4,997	2016
6	The Ropes Walk	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	2,527	2016
7	Thomas Street Road Closure	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	818	2016
8	Ward Avenue 5040 Streetscape	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Ancillary or link	298	2016
9	Wulaba Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	5,544	2016
10	Nita McCrae Park	CBD & Harbour	Park	922	2017
11	Public Path Way 5010 Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	305	2017
12	Arcadia Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	462	2018
13	Burning Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	1,351	2018
14	Frances Newton Reserve	Oxford St	Park	281	2018
15	Green Square Library and Plaza Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	8,411	2018
16	Harold Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	36,542	2018
17	Matron Ruby Grant Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,699	2018
18	Toxteth Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	577	2018
19	906 Bourke Street (Hyperion Park & Kingsborough Way)	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,547	2019
20	Chalmers Street pedestrian area	Crown & Baptist Sts	Transit corridor	4,437	2019
21	Cullen Close Closure	Glebe Point Rd	Park	793	2019
22	Dyuralya Square	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	2,322	2019
23	George Street pedestrian area - central	CBD & Harbour	Transit corridor	16,718	2019
24	Holt Street 5020 Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	502	2019
25	Sheas Creek Shared Path	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	3,035	2019
26	Waterloo Street 5070 Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	376	2019
27	10A Caroline Street Streetscape	Redfern St	Civic	722	2020
28	53-57 Campbell Road Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	ancilliary or links	1,838	2020
29	Buckingham Street 5010 Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	320	2020
30	Butterscotch Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	5,556	2020
31	Campbell Road 5040 Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	3,775	2020
32	Elger Street Community Garden	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	472	2020
33	Lachlan Street 5010 Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	1,633	2020
34	Lawrence Street 5020 Traffic Treatment	King St	Street closure	241	2020

Table 1: (Continued)

Open space		Village/ activity hub	Setting	Area (m²)	Date created
35	The Ropes Walk	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	6,345	2020
36	Glebe Foreshore Parks - Crescent lands	Glebe Point Rd	Park	11,066	2021
37	125 Eveleigh Street Streetscape	Redfern St	Ancillary or link	257	2021
38	Garraway Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,260	2021
39	Gunyama Park - Stage 1 and Gunyama Park Synthetic Field	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	11,425	2021
40	Honeykiss Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	2,913	2021
41	Tosh Lane 5020 Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	270	2021
42	George Street pedestrian area - south	Chinatown & CBD South	Transit corridor	15,127	2022
43	Getiela Sports Courts and Surrounds and Getiela Synthetic Sportsfield (Alexandria Park Community School)	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	9,727	2022
44	The Drying Green	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	6,210	2022
45	Barlow Street Forest	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	385	2023
46	Ngana gili Plaza	CBD & Harbour	Civic	1,094	2023
47	Surry Hills Village Pocket Park	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	519	2024
48	City North - Bond Street closure	CBD & Harbour	Civic	89	2025
49	City North - Dalley Street closure	CBD & Harbour	Civic	123	2025
50	City North - Jamison Street closure	CBD & Harbour	Civic	177	2025
51	City North - Loftus Street closure	CBD & Harbour	Civic	863	2025
52	City North - Margaret Street closure	CBD & Harbour	Civic	873	2025
53	George Street pedestrian area - north	CBD & Harbour	Transit corridor	3,167	2025
54	Gunyama Park Stage 2	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	6300	2026
55	Wimbo Park extension	Crown Street	Park	3100	2024
Total				185,135	

Table 2: New open space (2016 - 2026) managed by others

Open space		Village/ activity hub	Setting	Area (m²)	Date created
55	Darling Drive Reserve/ Scape forecourt	Chinatown & CBD South	Park	482	2017
56	Darling Square	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	2,134	2020
57	Hickson Park	CBD & Harbour	Park	6,200	2020
58	Reflection Park	Chinatown & CBD South	Park	1,435	2020
59	Sydney Football Stadium outdoor gym and court	Oxford St	Civic	1,565	2022
60	UTS Alumni Green	Harris St	Park	6,422	2016
Total				18,238	

Table 3: Open space lost (2016 - 2026)

Open space		Village/ activity hub	Setting	Area (m2)	Date lost
61	Moore Park - light rail works	Crown & Baptist Sts and Oxford St	Park	27,004	2019
62	Sydney Park - WestConnex road works	King St	Park	10,641	2019
63	The Domain - Art Gallery of NSW extension	CBD & Harbour	Park	13,153	2020
Total				50,798	

Adjacent open space

Figure 15 shows open spaces outside the City of Sydney that remain easily accessible to nearby residents. While not counted in the City’s formal open-space provision, major regional parks such as Centennial Park and neighbouring parks like Rushcutters Bay Park and Camperdown Park and Rest Park provide valuable additional capacity for recreation and significantly complement the City’s network.

In the same way, parks situated along the City’s edges offer amenity and facilities to neighbouring communities, reinforcing the shared benefits of open space across local government boundaries.

Sydney Park already attracts strong visitation from the Inner West, and the new WestConnex pedestrian and cycling link over Alexandria Canal at Bourke Street has further increased visitation from Mascot urban renewal area by giving residents a direct, link to the park.

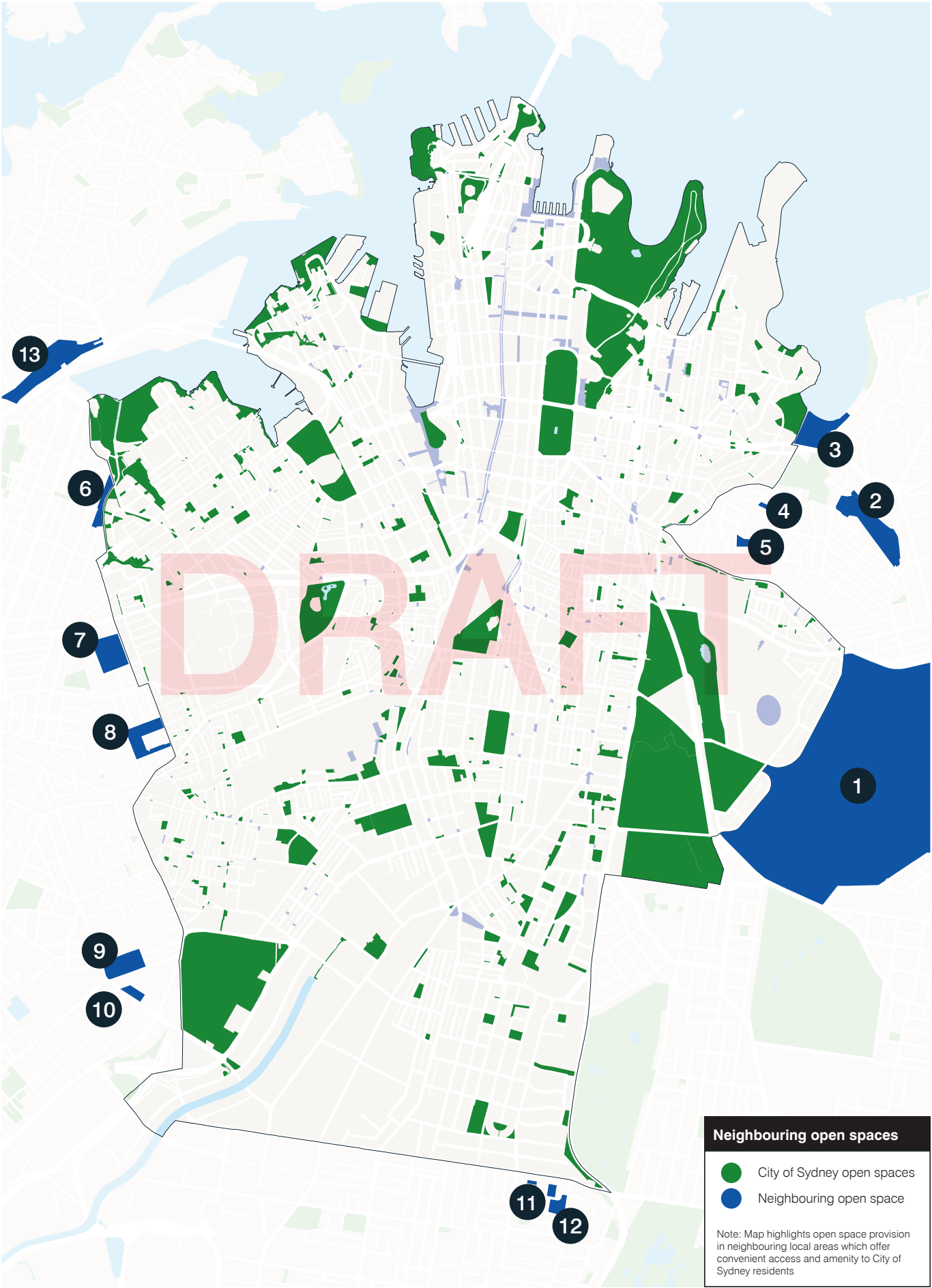
Evaluating open space provision outside our boundary is necessary to recognise that, for certain sections of the City, neighbouring council areas may offer the most accessible parkland.

228ha
adjacent
parkland

Table 4: Open space provision in adjacent local government areas

Adjacent open space		Local government area	Area (m2)
1	Centennial Park	Randwick and Woollahra	1,890,000
2	Trumper Park	Woollahra	79,000
3	Rushcutters Bay Park (Woollahra Council)	Woollahra	52,600
4	Dillon Street Playground	Woollahra	5,500
5	Paddington Women's Hospital Park	Woollahra	5,500
6	Smith Hogan & Spindlers Park	Inner West	15,935
7	Camperdown Park	Inner West	45,875
8	Camperdown Memorial Rest Park	Inner West	39,271
9	Camdenville Park	Inner West	37,074
10	Simpson Park	Inner West	8,880
11	Bridget Tight Reserve	Bayside	5,000
12	Jack Munday Reserve	Bayside	12,840
13	Rozelle Interchange Parklands	Inner West	9,0000

Figure 20: Neighbouring open space



Residential open space provision

Open space per resident is a key measure for assessing whether communities have adequate access to a park within a defined location. This measure becomes especially critical in places experiencing higher residential densities, where opportunities to secure additional land for open space are limited.

Table 5 illustrates past, current, and projected open space provision per resident. It accounts for both confirmed new open spaces awaiting delivery and planned areas already approved. The figure also presents the current and future residential populations of each village alongside the total open space area and the corresponding rate of provision per resident.

Open space area per resident

Year	Open space per resident (m²)
2016	18.5m²
2026	18.1m²
2046	14.8m²

Despite planned open space dedications, acquisitions and the conversion of Moore Park South to parkland, the amount of open space available per resident is projected to decline over coming decades. Strong population growth is expected to outpace the delivery of new open space, resulting in increased pressure on existing parks and recreation areas.

Open space provision is also uneven across the City’s village areas. By 2046, Green Square, City South and Macleay Street villages are projected to have less than 6m² of open space per resident, highlighting significant disparities in access across the local government area.

This level of provision is below several commonly referenced international and local benchmarks, including Singapore (8m² per person), Paris (10m²), Chile (10m²), Parramatta City Council (10m²) and Inner West Council (13.3m² per person). For more information refer to Appendix 1.

Despite planned open space dedications and acquisitions, population growth is expected to outpace the delivery of new open space, reducing the amount of open space available per resident. This will place increasing demand on existing parks and recreation areas, particularly larger destinations that accommodate both informal recreation and organised sport..

Table 5: City of Sydney and village residential densities and open space provision (m² and per person)

Village	Area (km²)	Estimated residential population		Residential population density (persons/km²)		Open space provision * (m²)		Open space per person	
		2026	2046	2026	2046	2026	2046	2026	2046
City of Sydney	26.67	237,241	304,048	8,896	11,401	4,314,354	4,514,354	18.1	14.8
CBD & Harbour	3.14	10,820	18,210	3,443	5,794	1,034,718	1,061,346	95.63	58.28
Chinatown & CBD South	1.10	22,706	38,302	20,662	34,854	122,344	137,695	5.39	3.59
Crown & Baptist Streets	2.76	22,343	25,457	8,092	9,220	850,973	850,973	38.09	33.43
Glebe Point Road	2.52	24,447	27,014	9,709	10,728	388,033	436,010	15.87	16.14
Green Square & City South	5.90	47,961	64,961	8,132	11,014	295,695	353,709	6.17	5.44
Harris Street	1.39	19,267	23,793	13,901	17,166	148,913	173,514	7.73	7.29
King Street	2.98	23,505	27,014	7,888	9,066	483,463	509,375	20.57	18.86
Macleay Street & Woolloomooloo	1.41	19,268	20,913	13,669	14,836	96,300	96,300	5.00	4.60
Oxford Street	2.51	18,454	19,771	7,342	7,866	364,836	364,836	19.77	18.45
Redfern Street	2.96	28,470	38,613	9,613	13,038	329,079	378,295	11.56	9.80

* includes Moore Park South park conversion

Attachment B2

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 2, p74-125**

Accessibility

Why accessibility matters

Access to open space is often more important than overall provision levels.

Residents derive the greatest benefit from open space when it is conveniently located and easily reached by walking, cycling or public transport. In a highly urbanised environment such as the City of Sydney, the usability of open space is strongly influenced by its accessibility.

How far from home

Equitable access to public open space needs to be a key consideration, as the location of parks and recreation areas plays a key role in supporting health, wellbeing, and social connection.

Key factors affecting access

- Walking distance: How close residents and workers are to a park.
- Access barriers: Physical or social obstacles that limit use, such as busy roads or lack of safe crossings.

Distribution gaps

Analysis was undertaken to assess distribution of open space and identify areas not within reasonable walking distance of residents.

Access to a park

Figure 21 indicates that a substantial majority of residents have access to a park of any size (min 200m²) within a short walking distance (300- 400 metres -5 minute walk)

While coverage is not universal, park accessibility is generally high across the City, with notable gaps largely limited to parts of the south-western area around Botany Road and Ralph Street.

Access to a local park (200m² - 3000m²)

The mapping indicates that a substantial majority of residents have access to a local park within a short walking distance. While coverage is not universal, park accessibility is generally high across the City,

with notable gaps largely limited to parts of the south-western area around Botany Road and Ralph Street. Coverage is particularly strong in established residential neighbourhoods where local parks are distributed throughout the urban area.

Access to a neighbourhood park (3000m² - 5ha)

Most residential areas are located within a 600–800 metre walk of a neighbourhood park. The network is supported by an even distribution of parks across the City, supplemented by larger district parks and parks in adjoining local government areas, such as Camperdown Park and Camperdown Memorial Rest Park. Areas of lower accessibility are generally concentrated within industrial and urban renewal precincts in the south-west of the City.

Access to a district park park (more than 5ha)

Access to district parks is supported by a combination of City-managed parks and regionally significant open spaces including Sydney Park, Moore Park, Centennial Park, The Domain and the Royal Botanic Garden. Coverage is strongest in the central, eastern and northern parts of the City. The gap identified in the south west is especially important given the expected high growth in this area.

Figure 21: All parks in 300-400m catchment

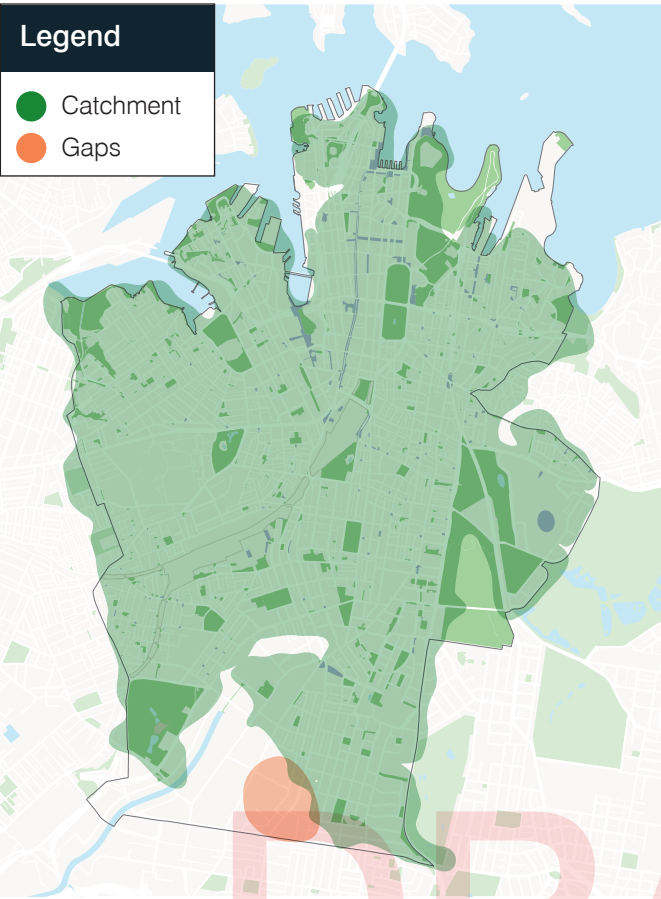


Figure 22: Local parks in 300-400m catchment

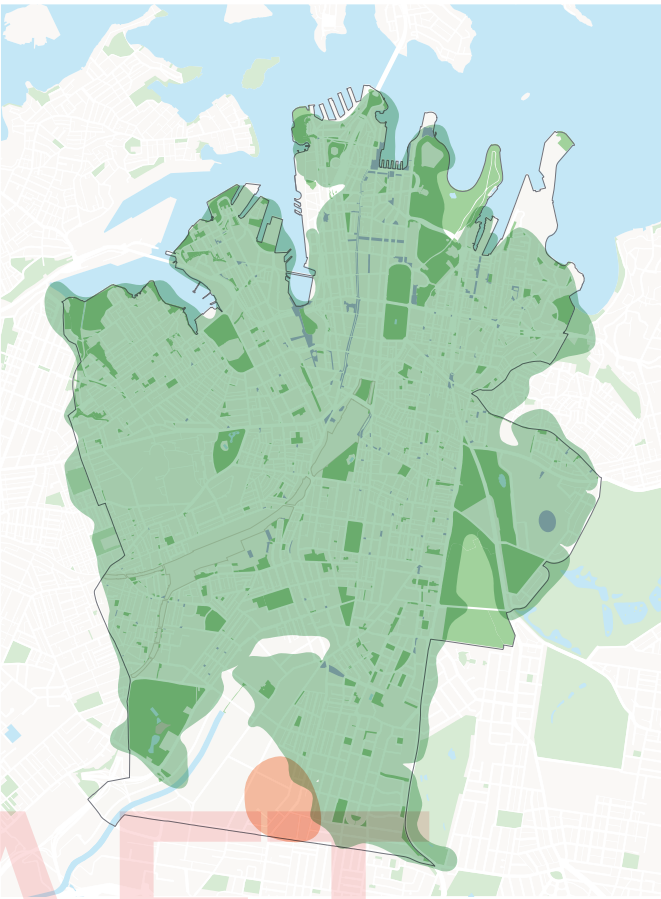


Figure 23: Neighbourhood parks 600-800m catchment

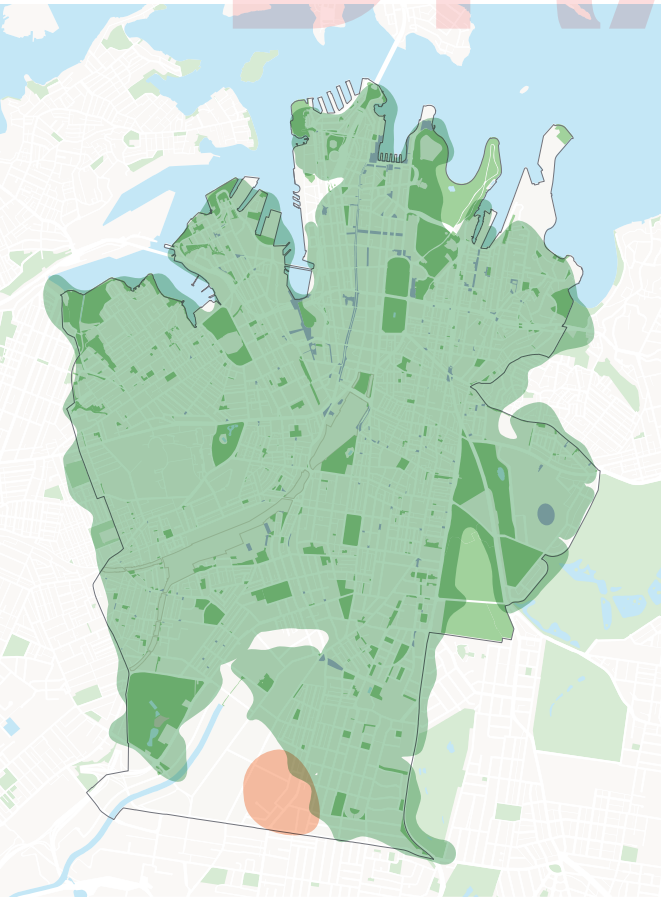
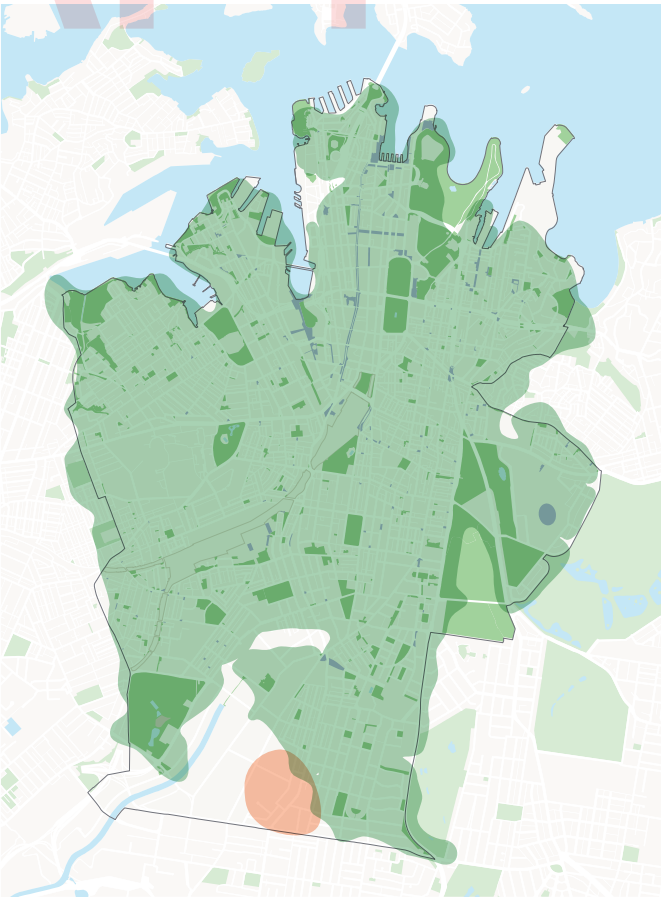


Figure 24: District parks 900-1200m catchment



Inclusive access

At the individual park level, layout, design, and maintenance practices are critical to ensuring accessibility and inclusive enjoyment for all users—particularly people with disabilities, older adults, and families with prams. As the City’s population ages, these considerations become increasingly important.

Compliance with the Australian Standards suite AS 1428 provides a framework for equitable access across public and private domains, aligning with the objectives of the Disability Discrimination Act. Beyond compliance, inclusive design fosters participation, wellbeing, and a sense of belonging in community life.

For people with disabilities and their carers, decisions to visit a park are often shaped by the availability and quality of amenities, including:

- Accessible pathway network
- Accessible toilets
- Comfortable seating
- Shade and shelter
- Smooth, well-connected pathways

These features not only support inclusive access but also benefit a wide range of users, such as families with prams, cyclists, and older adults.

Over the past decade, all park upgrades in the City have consistently incorporated universal access features—including toilet facilities, ramps, handrails, seating, and at least one on-grade entry point wherever gradients allow. This demonstrates the City’s ongoing commitment to inclusive design and equitable access.



City of Sydney’s Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2025–2029

The City’s Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan sets out objectives

directly relevant to open space and recreation, including:

- Improving access to public spaces and infrastructure to ensure usability by people with disability
- Creating more liveable communities through enhanced design and functionality of open spaces
- Providing equitable access to services, facilities, and recreational programs via inclusive design and accessible communication
- Celebrating diversity and visibility by showcasing stories and images of people with disability in public spaces and City communications
- Addressing non-visible and intersectional experiences of disability, ensuring planning considers a broad spectrum of needs.



Inclusive Tennis Festival
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Links

Why links matter

The effectiveness of an open space network is influenced not only by the quantity, quality and distribution of parks, but also by how well spaces are connected to one another.

Proximity alone does not guarantee meaningful access to open space. Providing convenient links through the street network and other measures is essential to enable residents to reach larger parks, recreation facilities and nature-based experiences, even when these lie beyond standard walking catchments.

From an environmental perspective, linkages contribute to urban greening outcomes and can strengthen connections between habitat areas, waterways and ecological corridors. Street upgrades and the expanded cycle network have strengthened connectivity, though several major barriers remain.

Barriers

While many residents in the City of Sydney live near a park, proximity alone does not ensure easy access. A park or recreation facility may be geographically close, however, barriers such as major roads, rail corridors, steep topography, or poor-quality crossings can disrupt these connections and limit accessibility.

Improving connections between destinations also creates valuable recreational routes, as walking, jogging and cycling are among the City's most popular activities.

Key pedestrian crossing barriers will require future assessment include:

- connections at South Dowling Street to Moore Park South park
- busy state classified roads, topographic, railway reserve
- Chippendale - bounded by busy roads – needs safe accessible links to Victoria Park;
- Cowper Wharf Steps - pedestrian access to Garden Island Reserve.
- Alexandria Canal - key missing link between Coward Street and Campbell Road leaves a major gap that prevents a fully continuous regional cycling route and limits broader network integration.

Key linkage opportunities

- Green Avenues is a Sustainable Sydney 2050 initiative to enhance tree canopy, urban greening and active transport connections along key streets, including Park Street and Botany Road.
- Alexandria Canal – cycle and pedestrian connections.
- Glebe Island Bridge restoration for pedestrian and cycling.
- Connections from Chippendale to Prince Alfred Park facilitated by any future Central overstation development;
- Harbour foreshore - Blackwattle Bay and City West will provide ooportunities to extend public foreshore access.

Regional/metropolitan links

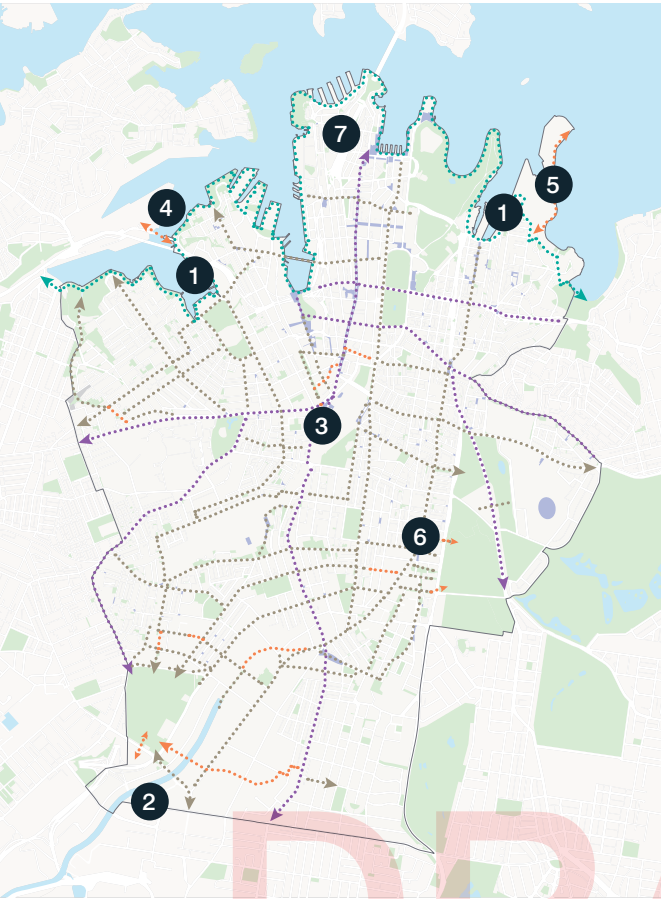
The opportunity to link parks extends beyond the City. The Sydney Green Grid identifies a metropolitan network of high quality open spaces and green corridors that connect town centres, transport hubs and residential areas across the city.

The Sydney Blue-Green Grid creates opportunities for the City of Sydney to coordinate local green infrastructure and connectivity so it integrates into the broader metropolitan blue-green network.

Blue Green opportunities for the City of Sydney include strengthening green corridor links along Alexandria Canal, enhancing harbour foreshore access, and improving walking and cycling connections to major regional open spaces such as Centennial Parklands and routes toward Botany Bay.



Figure 25: Open space links



Link	
1	Harbour foreshore / Manly to Bondi Walk
2	Alexandria Canal corridor
3	Goods Line extension to Mortuary Station
4	Glebe Island Bridge pedestrian cycle link
5	Garden Island to foreshore parkland
6	Moore Park south, Dacey Avenue
7	Southern Harbour Bridge cycle link

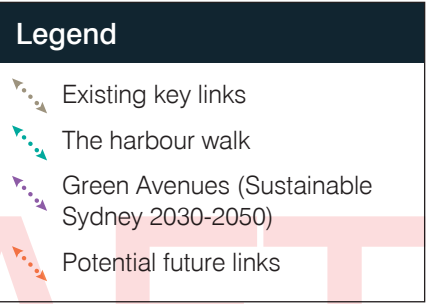
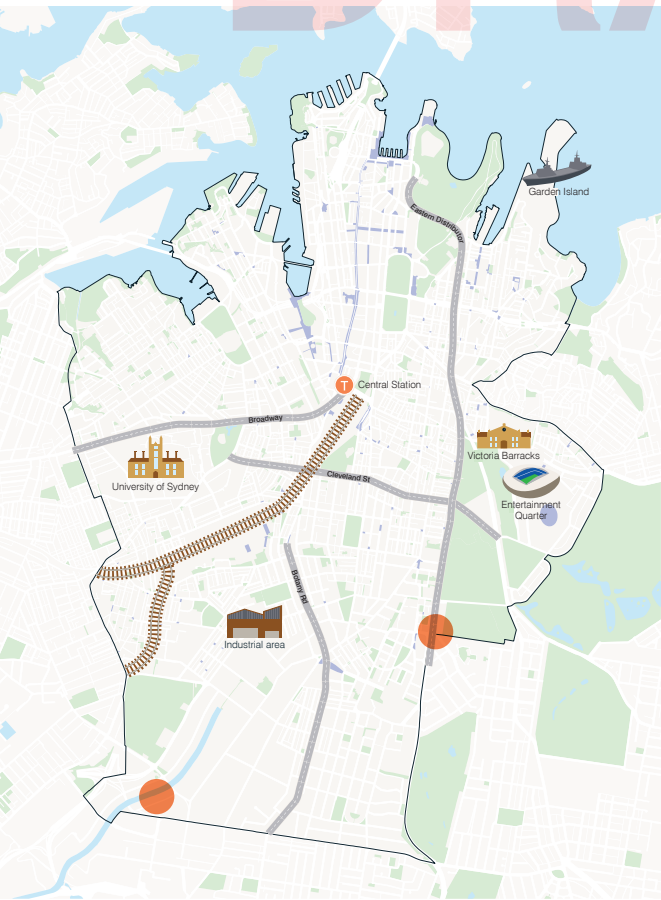
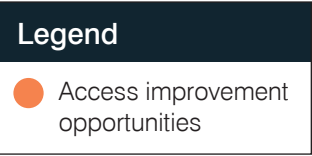


Figure 26: Open space barriers



Strengthening linkages between open spaces not only enhances access to parks and community facilities, but also encourages physical activity, enriches the visual character of the urban environment, and supports vital ecological functions such as wildlife corridors.



Distribution

Why distribution matters

The distribution of open space across the local government area influences both equity and access.

Even where city-wide provision appears adequate, uneven distribution can result in some neighbourhoods experiencing significantly lower levels of service.

This is particularly important in areas experiencing rapid population growth or increases in residential density.

The following graphs show how open space is distributed across villages and the range of settings available across the local area. Together, they paint a picture of how our open spaces support community life today—and where we can grow in the future.

Figure 27: Proportion of total open space area in each village (%)

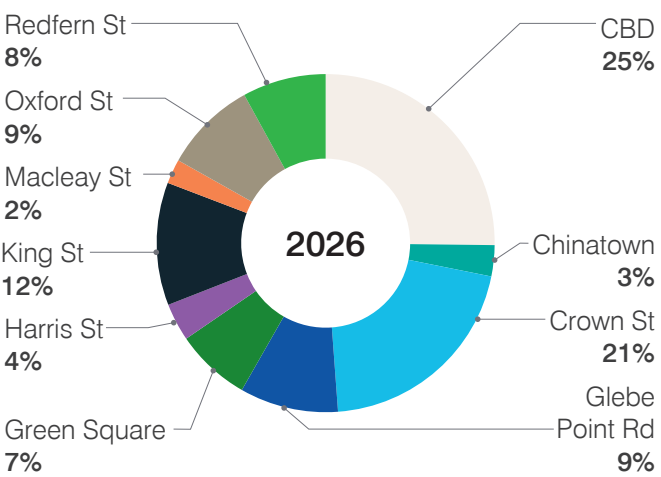


Figure 28: Proportion of total open space area in each village (Ha)

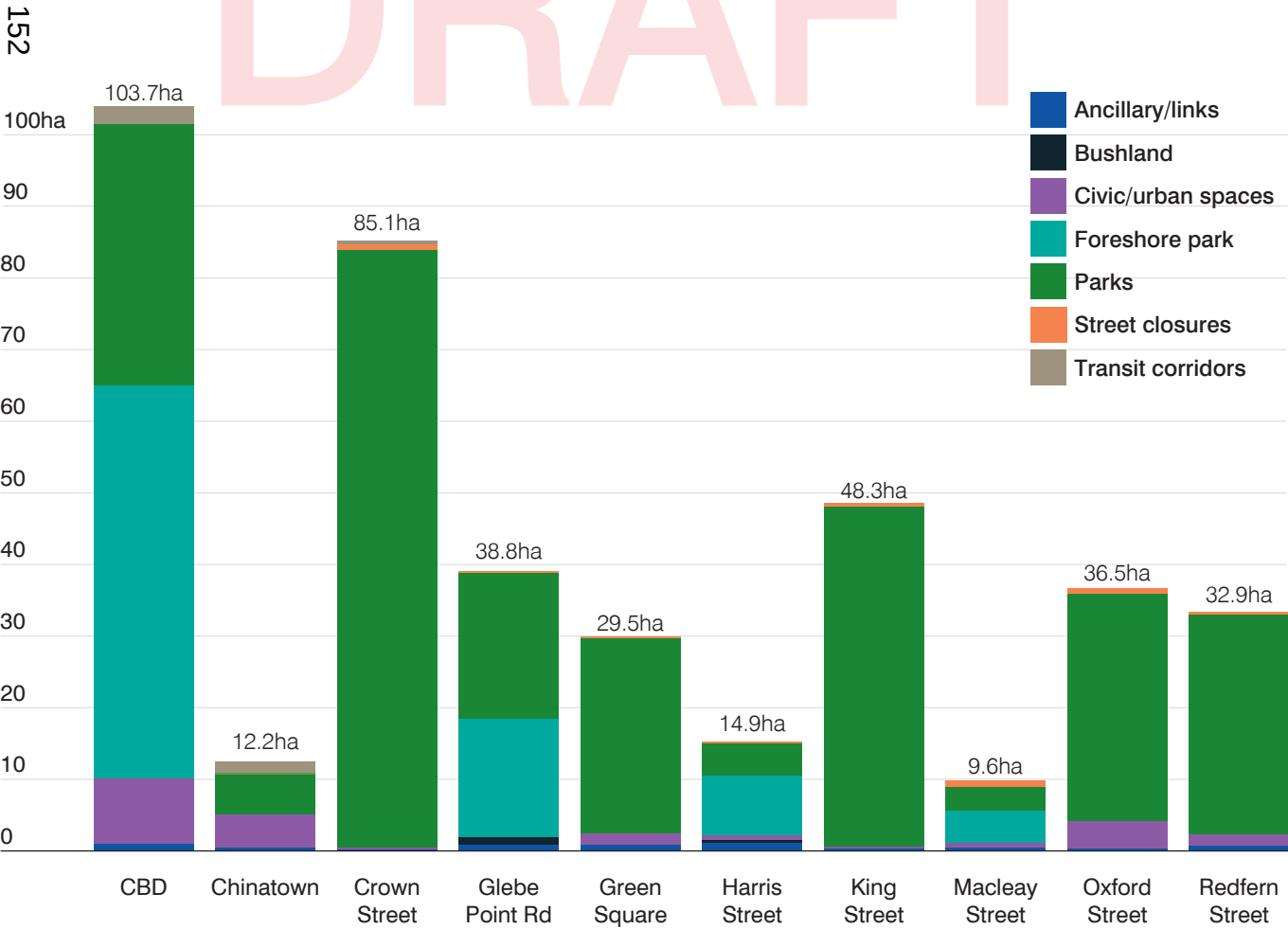


Figure 29: Open space provision in each village (Ha) City and other managed

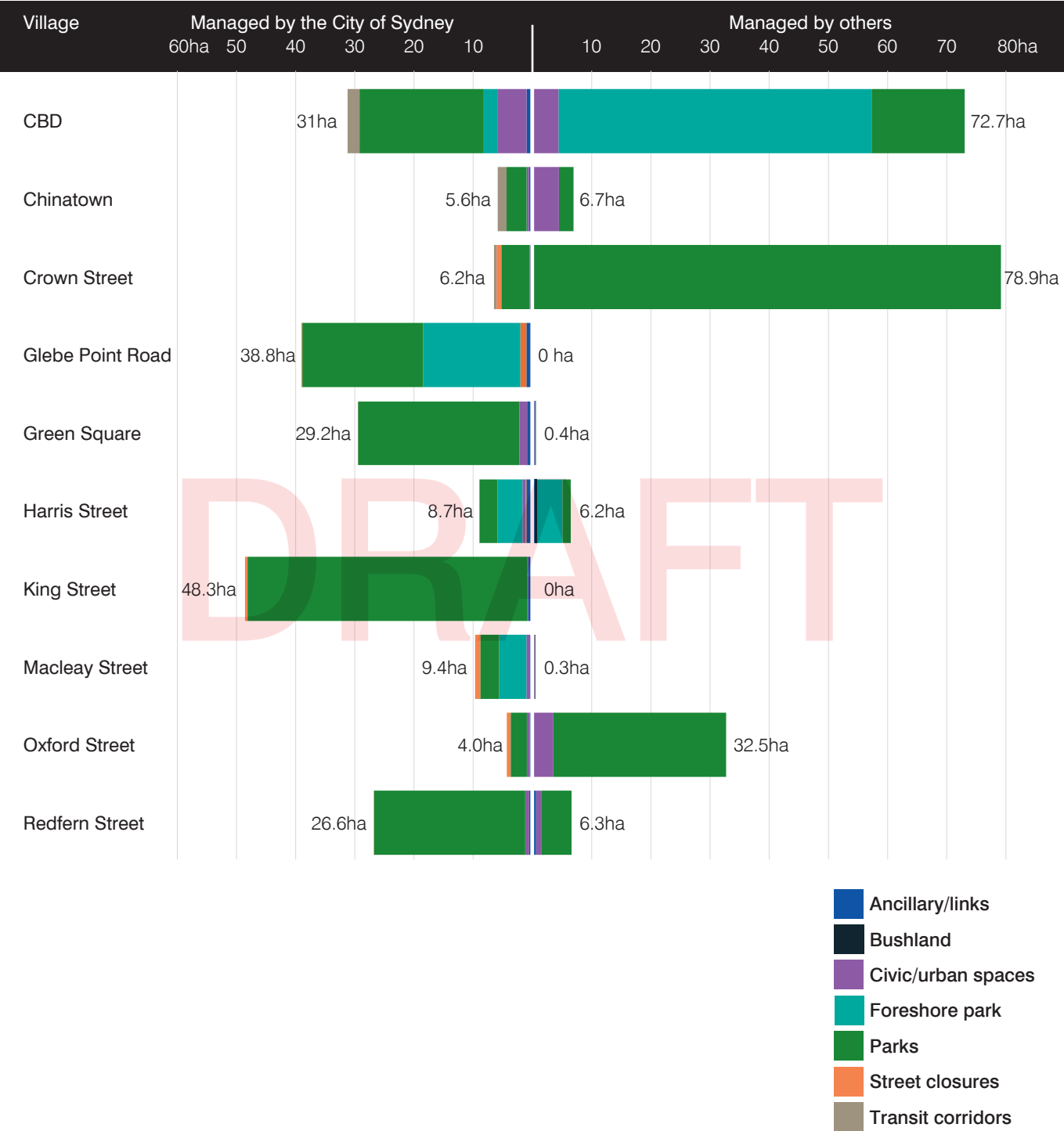
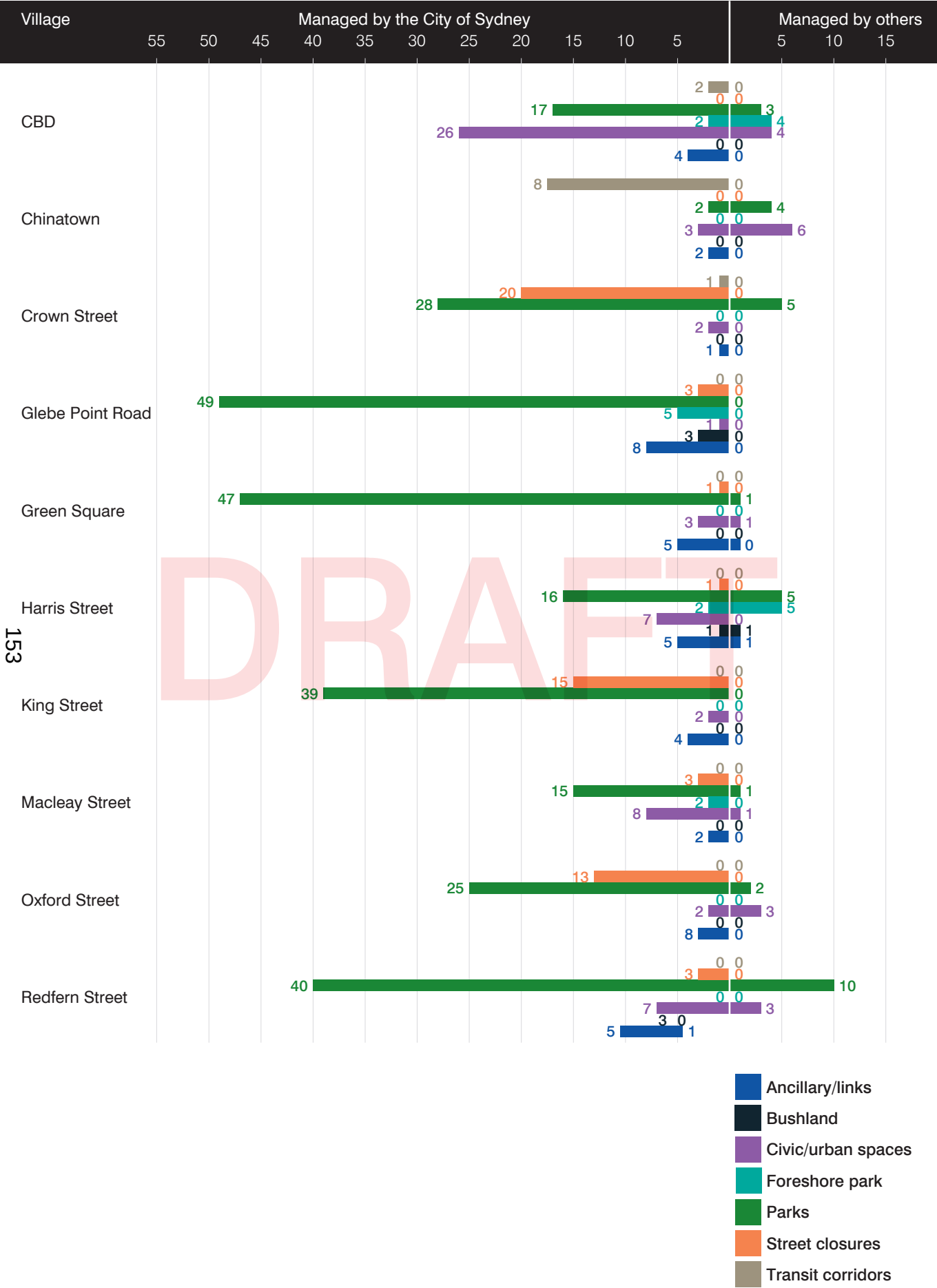


Figure 30: Open space provision in each village (number)



Hyde Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Park size

Why size matters

The size of open space is a significant factor influencing its functionality, capacity and ability to meet community needs. While small local and neighbourhood parks play an important role in providing local access to open space, larger parks are typically capable of supporting a broader range of recreational, environmental and social outcomes.

As population density increases, the role of larger parks becomes increasingly important. Larger spaces are generally more flexible, can accommodate a greater diversity of activities and are more capable of supporting growing numbers of users without compromising functionality or user experience.

Assessment

Parks less than 3,000 m² make up the majority of park types by number (67%), but collectively account for only 7% of the City’s total open space area.

In contrast, larger parks comprise a smaller share of park types (32%) yet contribute a significantly greater proportion of parks (95%). Sydney Park—the City’s largest at 41 hectares—illustrates this point clearly, accounting for nearly 11% of the entire park area.

There is a shortfall in larger parks capable of supporting sport, active recreation, and broader community use, making their provision or expansion critical to meeting growing demand.

Valuable amenity

While the network is dominated by smaller parks, their broad distribution is a significant strength.

These parks ensure that most residents have convenient access to open space within a short walk of home, supporting everyday recreation, relaxation, social interaction and contact with nature.

In a high-density urban environment, small local parks function as important extensions of private living space, providing opportunities for regular outdoor activity and community connection close to where people live.

154

Figure 31: Number of parks by size

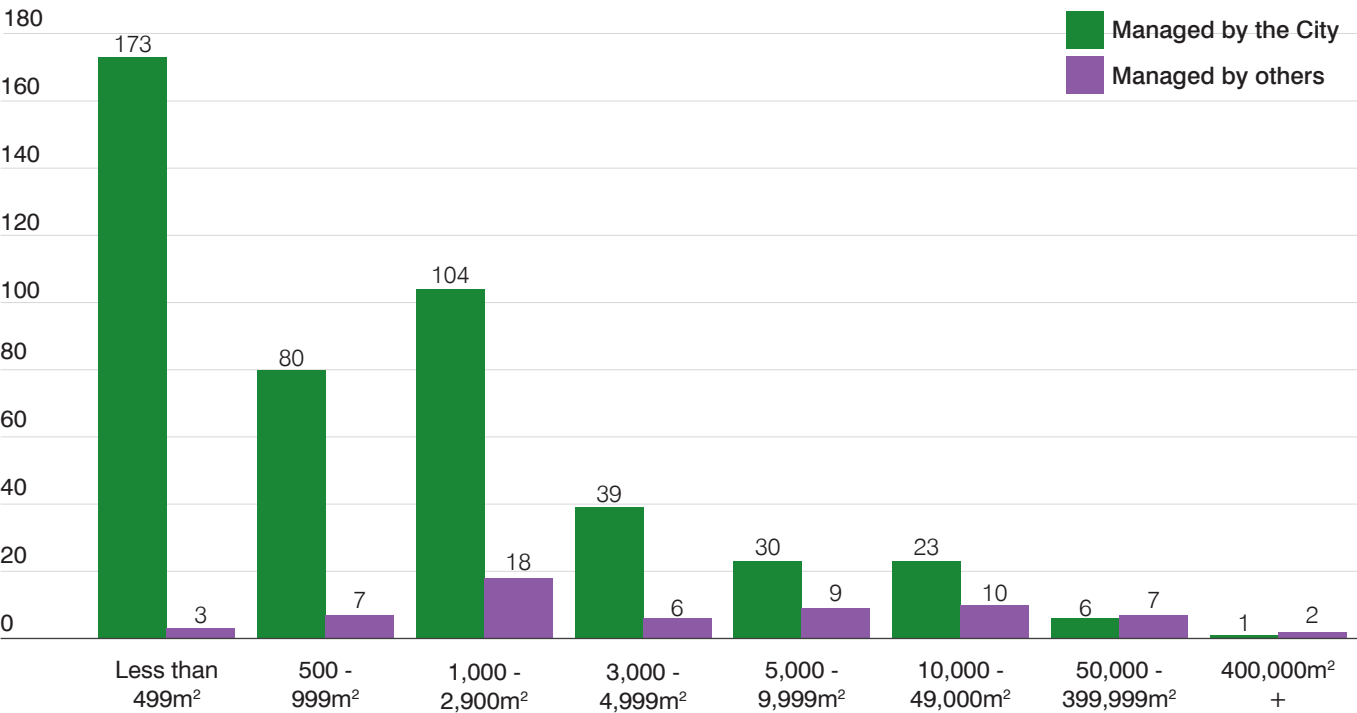
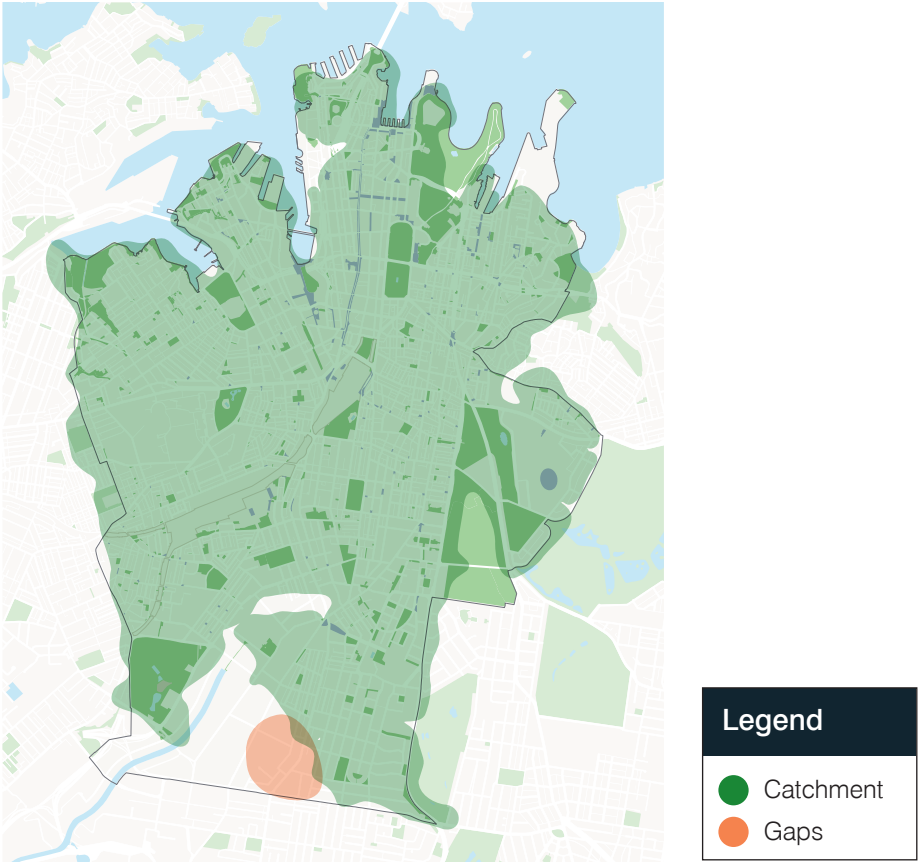


Figure 32: 300-400m catchment of parks less than 3000m² in size



Quality

Why quality matters

With limited options to dramatically increase open space provision is the importance of quality in public open space provision, not just quantity.

The quality of open space strongly influences how frequently parks are used and the benefits they provide to the community.

High-quality parks encourage visitation, support a broader range of activities and contribute positively to community wellbeing and place identity. Poor-quality spaces may be underutilised regardless of their size or locations.

While both are essential, the quality of parks and open spaces plays a decisive role in shaping visitor experiences and delivering meaningful community benefits.

High-quality public spaces that are safe, accessible, and visually appealing encourage active lifestyles, foster social interaction, and contribute to overall well-being.

Quality assessment and assurance

Key factors influencing park quality include:

- Design excellence – ensuring spaces are functional, inclusive, and visually engaging
- Consistent maintenance – keeping facilities clean, safe, and welcoming
- Effective management – balancing usability, safety, comfort, and sustainability

Completed capital works

The City has undertaken a significant capital works program across its open space network, resulting in substantial improvements and increased recreational capacity to meet growing and changing community needs.

- Figure XXX illustrates the distribution of projects delivered since 2004-2015 and 2016 -2026
- While most projects have been delivered through the City's capital works program, a number have

also been undertaken by developers and handed over to the City of Sydney.

- In addition there have been parks managed by other agencies management undergone upgrades particularly at Darling Harbour.

Ten year capital works plan

Looking ahead, over \$XXXX million has been allocated to future open space improvements in the City's 10-year capital works program.

Planned works include:

- renewal of existing assets
- new parks
- new facilities

Determinants of quality

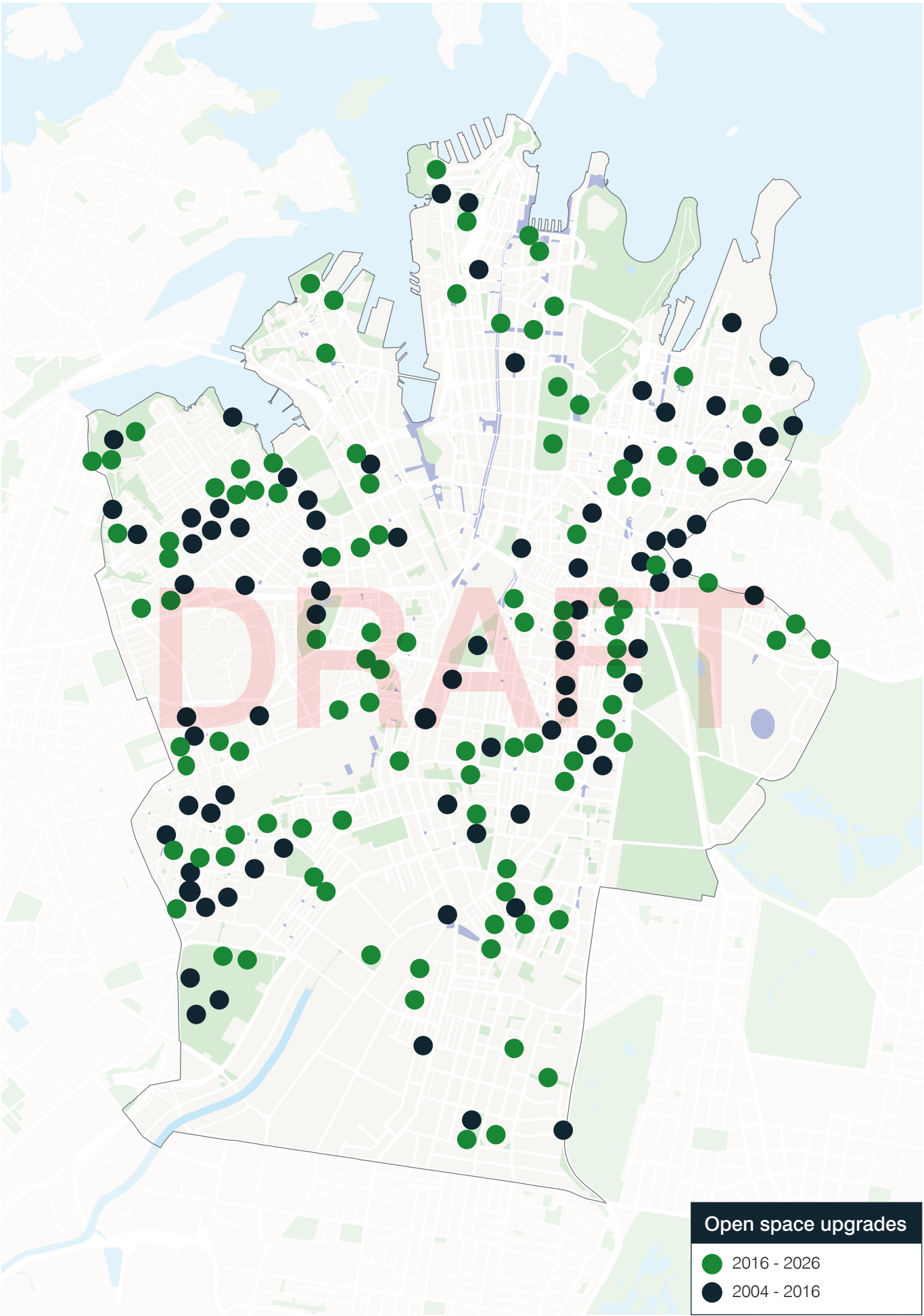
Open space quality is measured by:

- How well facilities age and perform over time
- Frequency and diversity of community use
- Community perceptions, captured through park user in-field surveys

These assessments provide valuable insights into how effectively open spaces meet community expectations and guide future improvements.

The City's capital works program has significantly enhanced the quality, usability, and sustainability of the open space network that better serve the needs of the community. Since 2016:

- 31 new parks and spaces
- 110 park improvement projects



Summary

The City of Sydney benefits from a diverse, highly valued and generally well-performing open space network that supports recreation, community wellbeing, environmental sustainability and urban liveability.

Significant investment over recent decades has improved the quality, accessibility and functionality of parks and public spaces throughout our area.

However, continued population growth, increasing residential density and changing community expectations are placing increasing pressure on the network. While the overall system continues to perform strongly, future provision will need to respond to growing demand within a highly constrained urban environment.

The assessment identified eight key findings:

1. The network provides a strong foundation

The City contains a diverse range of neighbourhood parks, district parks, civic spaces, waterfront reserves, sporting facilities and green links that collectively provide opportunities for recreation, social interaction, active transport and connection with nature.

The network delivers significant community benefits and represents one of the City's most important public assets.

2. Open space provision per resident is declining

Although additional open space has been delivered and more parks are planned, population growth is occurring at a faster rate than open space acquisition.

As a result, open space provision per resident is expected to continue declining over time.

This trend reinforces the importance of protecting existing open space and identifying opportunities for future acquisition wherever possible.

3. Access is generally good, but local gaps remain

Access is generally good, but local gaps remain. Most residents have access to open space within walking distance of their home. However, access to larger district and regional parks varies across the local government area.

Several villages experience lower levels of provision and are expected to face increasing pressure as population growth continues.

Addressing local access gaps will remain an important consideration in future planning and investment decisions.

4. Larger parks are increasingly important

The open space network contains a large number of smaller parks which play an essential role in supporting everyday recreation and community life. However, larger parks are increasingly important because they:

- accommodate a broader range of recreation opportunities.
- support larger numbers of users.
- provide greater environmental benefits.
- offer opportunities for organised and informal recreation.

Future planning should prioritise the protection, expansion and creation of larger multifunctional open spaces wherever opportunities arise.

5. Quality is a major strength of the network

The quality of the City's parks and public spaces is generally high and is a significant contributor to overall network performance.

Well-designed and well-maintained parks help maximise community benefit, support higher levels of use and improve the capacity of the network to accommodate growing demand.

Continued investment in renewal, upgrades and maintenance will be essential to maintaining these outcomes.

6. Future growth will increase pressure on the network

Population growth, increasing density, changing recreation patterns and climate change will continue to place pressure on existing open space. Future planning will need to focus on both increasing supply and improving the performance of existing assets.

Given the limited availability of land, future success will depend on a combination of:

- Strategic acquisition.
- Park expansion.
- Improved connectivity.
- Use of street space
- Enhanced park functionality.
- Partnerships and shared-use opportunities.

7. Partnerships will be critical

The City cannot meet future recreation demand through municipal assets alone. A significant proportion of open space and recreation infrastructure is owned or managed by State Government agencies, schools, universities and private providers. Partnerships will become an increasingly important mechanism for delivering recreation.

8. Optimisation will become increasingly important

The City's future needs cannot be addressed solely through acquiring additional land or constructing new facilities. The network must also become more efficient, adaptable and capable of accommodating increased demand. Maximising the value of existing assets will be one of the most important strategies available to the City.

Assessment summary

Overall, the City's open space network is performing well and provides substantial recreational, environmental and social benefits. However, maintaining these outcomes in the future will both providing open space to strategically managing, enhancing and optimising the entire network.

The following section examines future open space needs, identifies areas of greatest demand and outlines opportunities to protect, expand and strengthen the open space network to support Sydney's growth over the coming decades.



Pirrama Park
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney

Part 3

Future open space provision plan

- Meeting the needs of a growing city
- Future priorities
- Opportunities for future open space

DRAFT

Meeting the needs of a growing city

The challenges identified in the 2016 Study remain highly relevant today and have been further intensified by projected population growth and increasing urban density. These pressures are driving greater demand across all levels of the open space network, with large parks experiencing a significant rise in use for both active recreation and community gatherings.

Even smaller parks that provide convenient access for large populations experience intense levels of use, as evidenced by ongoing turf wear.

As the population continues to grow, additional open space will be essential to support recreation, social interaction, and community well-being.

The City’s approach to increasing public open space

As Sydney’s population continues to grow, additional open space will be required. However, land supply is constrained, and acquisition costs increasingly expensive.

The City’s strategy focuses on both acquiring new land and maximising the value of existing public land. This includes:

Land acquisition and dedications

Securing new sites to expand the open space network.

Improvement and embellishment

Applying better design to existing parks and open spaces to unlock their full potential.

Streets as public space

Transforming streets into vibrant, accessible public spaces and linkages to parks and recreation.

Rethinking open space current uses

to increase flexibility and availability for diverse recreational needs.

Improving access

strengthening connections to existing open spaces to expand catchment areas and link neighbourhoods to large parks.

Multi-purpose uses

co-locating and integrating diverse, complementary recreation activities to maximise the utility of limited space.

Partnerships

collaborating with government agencies, schools, universities, private landowners, and community organisations to enable shared access and co-investment opportunities.

Sub-regional planning

coordinating open space strategies across local government boundaries to ensure cohesive and equitable provision.

Future open space provision

What is planned?

Table 6 and 7 illustrates the spatial distribution of these sites, which are either:

- planned for dedication for open space through planning controls
- already owned by the City or other public agencies for future open space use or
- associated with infrastructure and urban renewal projects earmarked for public space

These sites have progressed to a stage—through master planning, approved development applications, landscape concept planning, or confirmed City or other government ownership where there is a reasonable level of certainty that they will be delivered as open space in the future.

Approximately 22 hectares of future open space is planned for delivery, comprising 14.5 hectares to be managed by the City and 8.32 hectares managed by other agencies.

A further 20ha park conversion area associated with Moore Park South will be delivered by Greater Sydney Parklands.

- 22.7ha new open space*
- 20ha park conversion (Moore Park south)
- over 20 new parks and spaces

Over 42ha increase in accessible public parkland

* City of Sydney and other agencies

Figure 33: Future open space planned for and confirmed

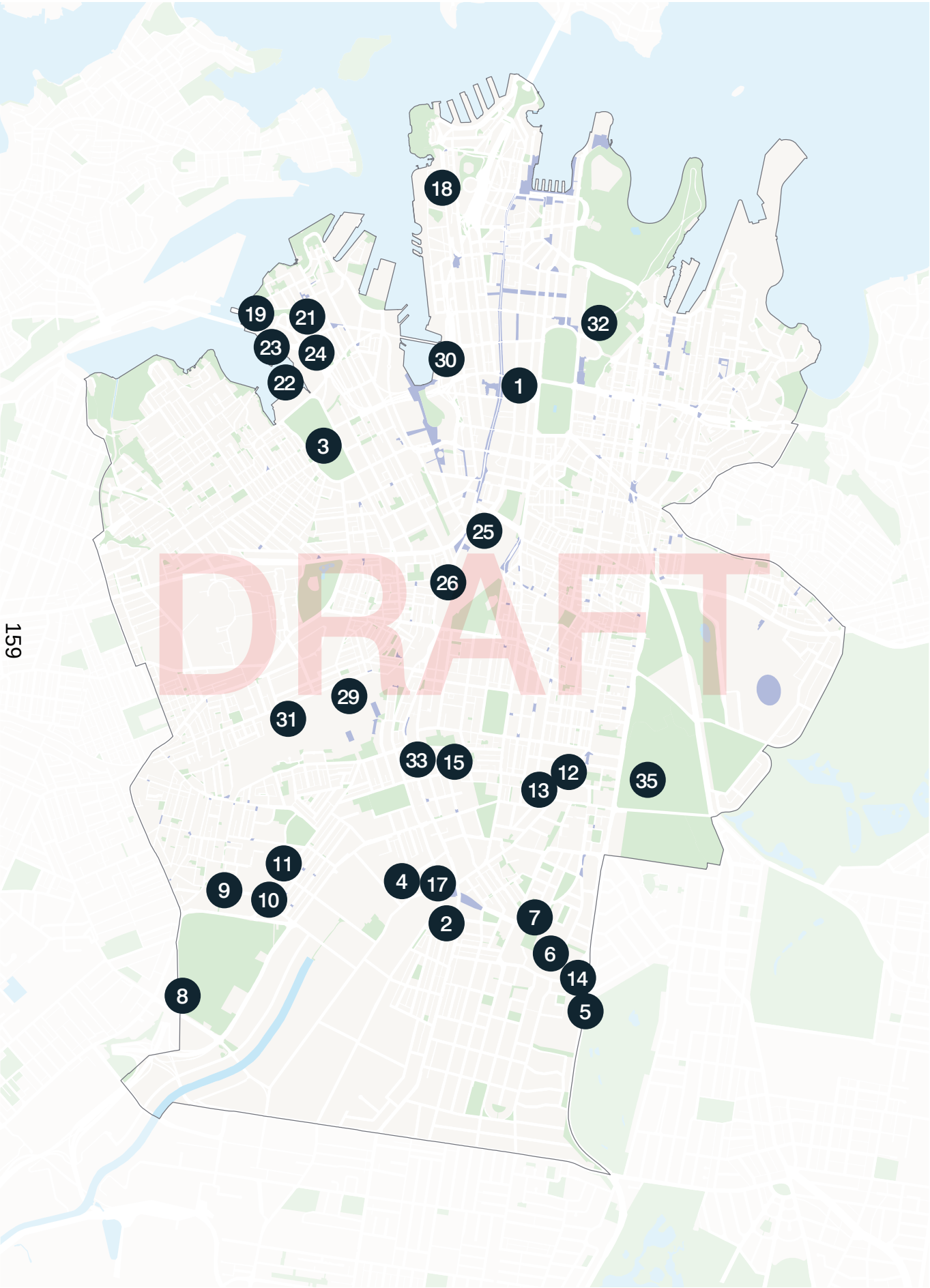


Table 6: Future open space managed by the City

Future open space managed by the City		Village	Setting	Area (m²)
1	Town Hall Square	CBD & Harbour	Civic	4,657
2	22 O'Riordan Street	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	7,397
3	Wentworth Park	Glebe Point Road	Park extension	38,115
4	North Alexandria Employment Lands - Mandible Street Sports Precinct	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	22,989
5	Green Square - Garraway Park Stage 2	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	4,851
6	Green Square - Gunyama Park - Stage 2	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	6,389
7	Green Square - Woolwash Park extension	Green Sq & City Sth	Park extension	856
8	Sydney Park Nursery park conversion	King Street	Park extension	10,305
9	Ashmore Estate - Carter Park	King Street	Park	556
10	Ashmore Estate - Kooka Walk	King Street	Ancillary/ Link	7,396
11	Ashmore Estate - McPherson Park	King Street	Park	7,655
12	Dank Street South - Central Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	2,799
13	Dank Street South - Small Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	1,510
14	Green Square - Mulgu Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,027
15	Waterloo Estate South - Main park	Redfern Street	Park	22,575
16	Waterloo Estate South - Small park	Redfern Street	Park	1,466
17	North Alexandria Employment Lands - Green Link	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary/ Link	1,992
Total				144,535

Table 7: Future open space managed by others

Future open space managed by others		Village	Setting	Area (m²)
18	Barangaroo Central Park	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	18,506
19	Blackwattle Bay - Bank Street Open Space	Harris Street	Foreshore Park	11,447
20	Blackwattle Bay - Local Park	Glebe Point Road	Foreshore Park	3,129
21	Blackwattle Bay - Miller Street Reserve	Harris Street	Park	1,339
22	Blackwattle Bay - Urban Park	Glebe Point Road	Foreshore Park	6,733
23	Blackwattle Bay - Waterfront Promenade	Harris Street	Ancillary/ Link	5,145
24	Blackwattle Bay - Waterside Park	Harris Street	Foreshore Park	6,670
25	Central Station - Central Square	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	7,310
26	Central Station - Mortuary Station Gardens	Redfern Street	Park	6,706
27	Dank Street South - Plaza	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	5,021
28	North Alexandria Employment Lands - Local Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	1,183
29	North Eveleigh -parks	Redfern Street	Park	TBA

Table 8: (Continued)

Future open space managed by others		Village	Setting	Area (m²)
30	Darling Harbour podium park	CBD & Harbour	Park	TBA
31	North Eveleigh - Western Park	Redfern Street	Park	4,839
32	Queen Elizabeth II Square	CBD & Harbour	Civic	3,465
33	Waterloo Metro Qtr - Cope Street Plaza (completed)	Redfern Street	Civic	1,024
34	Waterloo Metro Qtr - Raglan Street Plaza (completed)	Redfern Street	Civic	684
Total				83,201

Existing green space to community park		Village	Setting	Area (m²)
35	Moore Park South -park conversion	Crown Street	Park	200,000



Aerial view of Green Square and Moore Park South
Photo: Lucinda Varney / City of Sydney

Future priorities

Beyond planned and projected open space dedications, additional opportunities may arise through targeted City land acquisitions voluntary planning agreements or partnership opportunities.

Key principles for open space acquisition and dedications

All land acquired or dedicated for open space must be fit for purpose, with properties assessed against acquisition criteria to confirm their suitability and ability to meet identified recreation and open space needs (see Land Capability Assessment).

Acquisition priorities

Over the past decade, acquisition has focused on expanding active recreation—sports fields, indoor facilities, and outdoor courts. Looking forward recommended priorities are:

Addressing distribution gaps

Prioritise acquisitions in areas with identified distribution gaps to improve equitable 5minute walk access for a resident to a park or to meet growing demand in high density area through new or expanded existing parks.

Large parks for community recreation

The current network is dominated by small parks, limiting recreational opportunities. The City will prioritise acquiring large sites suitable for a wide mix of community uses, particularly in areas with distribution gaps and high-density populations. Figure XX identifies current open space distribution gaps.

Expansion of existing open space

Strategic expansion of current parks can significantly improve their capacity and function. Expansions that create parks of 3,000 m² or more can substantially enhance local open space quality.

Properties adjoining City-owned parks will be assessed for their potential to:

- increase parkland
- improve recreational diversity
- boost capacity for active uses
- consolidate fragmented spaces or remove encroachments

Sportsfields and active recreation

There is a shortfall of open space suitable for organised sport and casual active recreation.

- Acquisition of sites for sports fields will be driven by opportunity rather than distribution alone, with the aim of increasing the overall supply of active recreation space. Site assessments must consider local context, including potential amenity impacts where fields adjoin residential areas. Opportunities that enable close co-location with existing fields are preferred, as they improve programming and management efficiency.

Acquisition for open space linkages

- Improving connectivity is essential for a functional open space network. Most linkages will come from enhanced pedestrian and cycling routes along streets, but strategic acquisitions or dedications such as in the Alexandria Canal Precinct can provide safe, convenient off-street connections.
- Linking parks and recreation facilities strengthens access to individual parks and to the wider network.

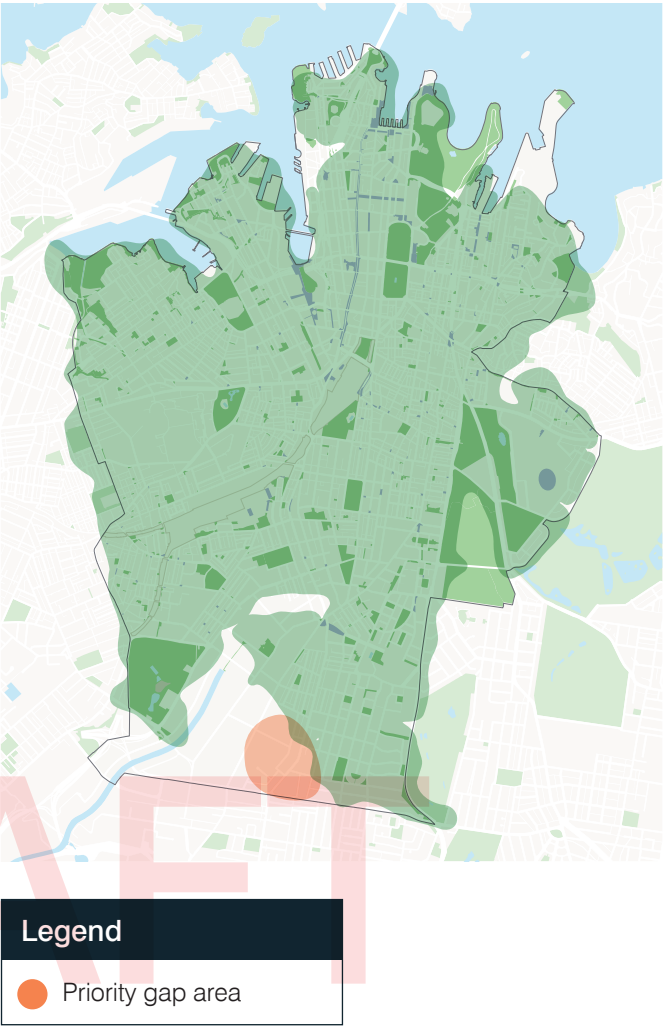
Distribution gaps

Catchment mapping based on the Sydney Plan benchmark of access to open space within a 300 to 400 metre walk shows that most residential areas in the City are well served by parks and open space. The existing network provides broad coverage across the local government area, supporting everyday recreation, relaxation and social activity close to where people live.

The primary gap in access is located in the south-western part of the City. While much of this area consists of industrial and commercial land uses, reducing demand for nearby open space, some residential communities along Botany Road and around Ralph Street have comparatively limited access to parks within the preferred walking catchment. As residential development and population growth continue in these areas, opportunities to improve local access to open space should be explored.

The analysis also demonstrates that access to open space is influenced not only by proximity, but by the size and function of parks. Residents in some parts of the City benefit from convenient access to major destination parks, including Sydney Park, Moore Park and the Glebe Foreshore, which provide a broader range of recreation opportunities and serve catchments extending beyond the local area. Parks outside the City boundary, such as Camperdown Park and Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, also contribute to the open space network and are important for residents in the City's western neighbourhood.

Figure 34: Catchment area for all parks within 300-400m



Access to a district parks

Access to district-scale parks (more than 5ha) within the City is supported by a combination of Council-managed open spaces and a number of significant regional parks managed by other agencies. Large parks including Sydney Park, Moore Park, Centennial Park, The Domain and the Royal Botanic Garden provide important opportunities for recreation, sport, social activities and contact with nature, serving residents from across the City and the broader metropolitan area.

The catchment mapping indicates that access to district parks is generally strongest in the central, eastern and northern parts of the City, reflecting the presence of these major regional open spaces. However, there is a relative gap in access to large district parks in the southern part of the LGA.

Addressing this gap through the provision of new district parks is likely to be challenging given the limited availability of large land parcels and the high cost of land acquisition in established urban areas. As a result expansion of existing parks, acquisition opportunities when feasible, improving access to existing parks represent most practical strategy for meeting future needs.

Acquisition criteria and rationale

Land capability assessment

In the future opportunities may arise for either acquisition or dedication of land for public open space.

It is essential that land acquired or dedicated for open space purposes must be appropriate for its intended use and capable of meeting identified priorities.

Potential properties should be screened against the following acquisition criteria to confirm viability and ensure they address open space and recreation needs.

- suitability of land -appropriate size, location, and physical characteristics for intended recreational or ecological functions - refer to the following Table XX acquisition criteria and priorities
- accessibility -proximity to residential areas, transport, and existing open space networks.
- environmental value -potential to support biodiversity, urban cooling, or ecological restoration.
- financial and risk considerations -assessment of acquisition costs, ownership status, contamination risks, and development feasibility.
- community benefit -capacity to meet identified gaps, provide equitable access, and support diverse recreational needs.



Green Square

Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney

Table 9: Land suitability criteria for open space acquisitions and dedications

Criteria	Provision	Notes
Size / dimension suitable for intended recreation uses	Sports fields (Full field) – 120 x 75m field dimension – Allow 20,000 to 25,000m²	The upper end of the minimum size range is preferred, as it supports a wider variety of open-space uses and amenities.
	Sports fields (Half field) – 68 x 50m field dimension – Allow 5,000 to 8,000m²	
	Local parks – Preference is to be given to new local parks with a minimum area that ranges between 3,000 and 5,000m², unless the acquisition expands an adjoining open-space parcel to create a larger, more functional park.	Areas should be large enough to provide a sense of openness and enable the creation of meaningful green spaces.
	Existing open space expansion – Preference for sites that adjoin existing, heavily used open-space areas. The acquisition should relieve use pressures while extending or diversifying the recreational opportunities available.	
	Linkages – Acquisitions should create connections between open-space areas that support a diverse range of recreational opportunities. – Linkages and access corridors must have a minimum width of 10m. – These linkages are intended to facilitate access and movement, and their provision does not replace the requirement to deliver adequate open-space and recreational opportunities within the overall network	For sports fields, larger sites are encouraged to support flexible, multi-purpose layouts rather than facilities tailored to a single sporting code.
Site shape and orientation 162	Sports fields – Land should preferably be of a regular shape—such as square or rectangular—to maximise flexibility for active recreation and to accommodate sports fields. A north–south orientation is preferred to support optimal field layout and usability	
	Local parks – Land should preferably be a regular shape—such as square or rectangular—to maximise flexibility and ensure the creation of functional, usable open space.	
	Existing open space expansion – Land should be a regular shape—such as square or rectangular—and should adjoin existing open space to create a contiguous area that maximises recreational use and development opportunities.	
	Linkages – Linear spaces area acceptable	
Site boundary	Sports fields, local parks and existing open space expansion – Sites should be clearly identifiable as public open space. – A minimum of 50% street frontage is required, increasing to 100% in new development areas. – Corner frontages are preferred, as they enhance visibility, reinforce the site's identity as a public place, and improve passive surveillance and overall safety.	
	Linkages – Active edges along the link are preferred to enhance visibility and support effective passive surveillance.	
Site gradient	– Site gradients should generally be flat, fit-for-purpose, and be able to accommodate access for people of all abilities. – The maximum acceptable slope sports fields, local parks and park expansion is 1:20	

Table 9: (Continued)

Criteria	Provision	Notes
Comfort/ amenity/ micro-climate	– Site should provide good solar access and incorporate measures that reduce wind exposure and traffic noise. – At least 50% of the park area should receive a minimum of three hours of direct sunlight during mid-winter. – The site should have the capacity to deliver a visually attractive, comfortable, and enjoyable environment for users.	
Access to users/ population	– Sites must provide for safe and convenient access. Land not separated from catchment by physical barriers, such as busy roads.	
	Sports fields – The location of sports fields does not need to meet proximity benchmarks for all residents; however, achieving an approximate 2 km distribution across the community is considered optimal.	
	Local parks – All residents should be located less than a ten-minute walk (approximately 250- 300m) of local open space.	
Accessibility	The location and park landscape should maximise accessibility and support safe, independent use by people with mobility impairments.	
Connectivity	Sites should be located along key pedestrian and cycling routes and provide opportunities to connect with adjoining open-space areas.	
Assessment of potential negative amenity impacts arising from intended use	– Suitability of co-locating a park with adjacent land-uses needs to be considered, including but not limited to noise and lighting impacts generated by sport field and park use. – Ecology of the site and impacts to existing ecologies must also be considered.	
Land quality and tenure	Sites should not be constrained by onerous / cost prohibitive contaminated land restrictions, property easements and/ or strata titles.	Assessing the land quality will minimise development and maintenance costs and ensure long term flexibility in use of the park.

Opportunities to increase open space provision

Beyond land acquisition

In addition to acquiring and dedicating new land to expand the open space network, meaningful gains in availability, capacity, recreational diversity, and accessibility can be achieved by making better use of existing public land.

Streets as public space

Reimagining streets for recreation and community use presents an underutilised opportunity to expand public space by enabling greening and social activity, prioritising pedestrians and cyclists, and improving access to parks.

This is achieved through measures such as footpath widening, street closures, shared zone conversion, and traffic-calming interventions.

The City’s 2050 projects demonstrate the long-term potential of streets as public space. Initiatives such as Green Streets along Botany Road and Park Street, together with the transformation of George Street into a pedestrian-focused boulevard, reallocate road space to greening, walking, cycling, and social activity. These projects illustrate how streets can function as linear public spaces that support recreation, climate resilience, and stronger connections across the open space network.

Enhancing and unlocking existing spaces is critical to increasing capacity, improving amenity, and meeting the needs of a growing community.

Rethinking existing open space functions

Transforming green areas that currently offer limited public access into community recreation space can significantly expand the size and usefulness of the park network.

Through sustained City advocacy, significant open space gains have been secured at Moore Park South through the reallocation of golf course land to community parkland, and at Wentworth Park through the conversion of the former greyhound track area to support broader public recreation and sporting use.

The State Government has confirmed its commitment to progressing the implementation of these proposals.

The removal of event car parking from grassed areas in Moore Park East unlocks the potential to establish higher-quality parkland and community facilities, significantly enhancing the park’s usability and recreational value.

Design review

Some parks and public spaces are constrained by legacy design, outdated infrastructure, or limited capacity to support diverse activities. A structured design review allows these spaces to be reassessed against contemporary community needs and best-practice design, enabling targeted upgrades that improve functionality, inclusivity, and usability without the cost of land acquisition.

Partnerships/shared use

Meeting more diverse recreation demands and providing additional open space and facilities requires new relationships and partnerships.

Seeking agreements with educational or other institutions to expand available open space resources for community use after hours/ weekends could create “win-win” partnerships with a school having use of an improved recreation facility and the community having access to an additional recreation offer.

The City has successfully delivered shared-use arrangements at Alexandria Community School and Green Square Primary School, enabling school open spaces to support broader community recreation outside school hours.

Protecting what we have

Existing open space is a finite and highly valued community resource that must be protected from incremental loss. Open space is sometimes assumed to be the most expedient land option for infrastructure or other development; however, strong protection mechanisms, appropriate zoning, and ongoing vigilance are essential to ensure these spaces are retained for public benefit.

Potential sites for future open space

A range of additional sites across the City have potential to contribute to future open space provision.

These include land already in public ownership, sites subject to future redevelopment or master planning, and areas where potential open space dedications have been identified through planning controls and strategic documents. (Figure XX)

Realisation of these opportunities is subject to a number of considerations, including:

- advocacy to relevant agencies
- development scenarios and planning dedication outcomes
- landowner negotiations and partnership arrangements
- financial feasibility and risk assessment including contaminated land investigations and remediation requirements
- design development feasibility testing and planning approvals.

These steps are required to provide greater certainty regarding the feasibility, timing, and delivery of future open space outcomes.

1. City centre public domain

The City Centre Public Domain Plan has expanded open space through projects such as the pedestrianisation of George Street and the creation of new public spaces in Chinatown and Haymarket. Future opportunities identified in the City North Public Domain Plan include new civic spaces around Hunter Street linked to the Sydney Metro, leveraging major infrastructure and redevelopment investment.

2. Darlinghurst Courthouse

The site is identified as a 2050 project opportunity, with potential to be reimaged as public open space and integrated with the Taylor Square public domain, subject to future operational and land use requirements.

3. WestConnex St Peters Interchange

Residual land associated with the WestConnex project presents a significant opportunity to expand the City’s open space network. Originally identified for around five hectares of new parkland, these sites could increase tree canopy, enhance biodiversity and urban cooling, and provide additional recreation space for a growing population.

4. Victoria Barracks, Paddington

The site represents a significant long-term opportunity, subject to future Federal Government decisions. The 15-hectare heritage-listed site includes historic buildings, a playing field and a former parade ground. Renewal proposals should retain the playing field for community use.

5. Moore’s Wharf

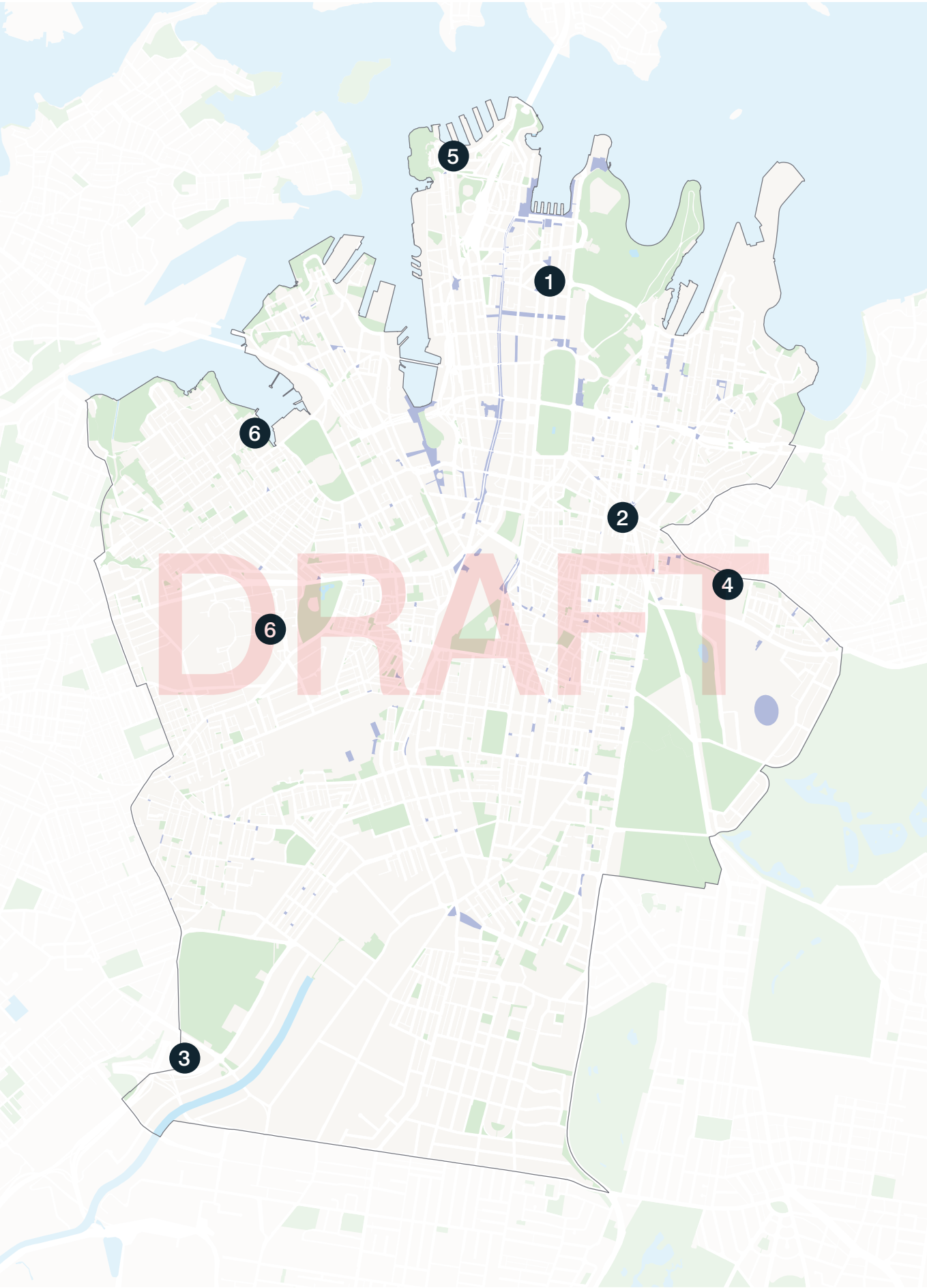
There is an opportunity to expand public space at Marrinawi Cove by repurposing part of the adjacent Moore’s Wharf car park to improve waterfront access and swimming amenity, subject to feasibility and ongoing port operations..

6. Education campuses

Educational campuses should be considered as potential contributors to the local open space network. While these sites are not public open space, shared use agreements can facilitate community access to sporting fields, courts and other outdoor recreation facilities outside operational hours.

Successful implementation at Alexandria Park Community School and Green Square Public School demonstrates the potential for educational land to supplement local open space provision. Similar opportunities should be explored with major educational institutions, including The University of Sydney and Sydney Secondary College, to improve recreational access and optimise the use of existing land assets.

Figure 35: Future open space opportunities



Streets as public spaces

Well-designed streets support more than movement, functioning as vibrant public spaces for social interaction, recreation and civic life.



As the largest share of public space in cities, streets can be reimagined as shared spaces for walking, running cycling, sitting, and play, and as green corridors linking parks and neighbourhoods.

This reflects a shift toward viewing the entire public domain — streets, parks, public spaces, and foreshores — as an interconnected recreational network rather than isolated amenities. Such an approach promotes active lifestyles, strengthens climate resilience, and fosters social inclusion.

Case study: George Street

George Street is central to the transformation of Sydney’s city centre. The delivery of light rail has realised a long held vision for a pedestrian focused boulevard, shifting the street from a traffic dominated corridor to a vibrant public space and public transport spine. Progressive public domain improvements to complement light rail including widened footpaths, extensive tree planting, new seating and civic spaces created from street closures are increasing space for public life. On completion, more than 15,000m² of former roadway will be reclaimed as new places for public life.

Busy George Street
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney

Moore Park South

The NSW Government will transform 20 hectares of Moore Park Golf Course into a new public park, right next to one of Sydney’s most densely populated areas.



This park will meet the needs of rapidly growing communities while retaining a minimum 9-hole public golf course.

A \$50 million investment has been committed to establish the park and reconfigure the golf course over the next three years, starting mid-2026 when the current operating agreement ends.

The City of Sydney has long advocated for this change. The idea was included in *Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050: Continuing the Vision* under the Green City initiative to unlock Crown Land for broader community recreation.

Moore Park borders Green Square, one of Australia’s densest residential precincts. By 2040, up to 80,000 additional residents will live within

2km in Zetland, Redfern, and Waterloo. Expanding parkland here is a vital response to population growth and community needs.

In established urban areas, where opportunities to acquire land for new parks are limited, making better use of existing green space is an important strategy for meeting community needs. Repurposing green space can expand access to recreation, support health and wellbeing outcomes, and improve equitable access to nature while maximising the value of scarce land resources. The proposed conversion of Moore Park South illustrates how existing open space assets can be adapted to respond to changing community needs and growing demand for publicly accessible recreation space.

Moore Park
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney

Summary

The City’s future open space needs cannot be met through acquisition alone.

While delivering new parks will remain important, future success will depend on a balanced approach that combines:

Strategic acquisition

Opportunities to acquire large new open spaces are increasingly limited by urban development and land values. Future acquisition efforts should focus on addressing distribution gaps, securing land for active recreation, expanding existing parks, and improving access to open space in growth areas.

Park expansion and renewal

Expanding and improving existing parks will be critical to meeting future demand. Enhancing the quality, functionality and capacity of current open spaces can often deliver significant community benefits where new land acquisition is not feasible..

Improved connectivity

Strengthening connections between parks, recreation facilities and open space destinations will improve accessibility and help residents access a broader range of recreation opportunities. Walking, cycling and green corridor connections are important components of the future network.

Streets as public space

As opportunities for new parkland become increasingly constrained, streets represent one of the City’s most significant opportunities to expand public space. Reallocating street space for walking, cycling, greening and public life can increase recreation opportunities and strengthen connections across the open space network.

Partnerships and shared-use opportunities

Partnerships with state agencies, schools, universities and other landowners will play an increasingly important role in meeting future open space and recreation needs. Shared-use arrangements can expand community access to land and facilities that would otherwise be unavailable.

Protecting existing open space

Protecting existing public open space from incremental loss remains a fundamental priority. As population growth increases reliance on parks and recreation spaces, retaining and enhancing the current network is as important as delivering new open space opportunities.



Shared court at Green Square Primary School
Photo: ??? / City of Sydney



Two boys playing soccer at Perry Park
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Part 4

Sport and recreation analysis

- Introduction
- Existing provision
- Facility utilisation
- Facility assessment

Introduction

The City’s open space and recreation network supports a wide range of activities enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors. These include providing opportunities for physical activity, sport, informal recreation, social connection and community participation.

The network includes sports fields, aquatic facilities, indoor and outdoor courts, playgrounds, fitness infrastructure, walking and cycling networks, youth recreation facilities and spaces for companion animals.

As the City continues to grow and evolve, recreation infrastructure must respond to increasing demand, changing participation patterns and the challenges associated with delivering facilities in a highly urbanised environment.

While many facilities are already highly utilised, opportunities for expansion are limited by land availability, competing land uses and rising development pressures.

The purpose of this section is to assess the performance of the City’s recreation network and identify future priorities for investment, renewal and provision.

Recreation planning challenges

Population growth, increasing residential density and employment growth will continue to increase demand for recreation opportunities across the City. In higher-density environments, public recreation infrastructure performs an increasingly important role by providing opportunities that are often unavailable within private dwellings.

Key recreation planning challenges include:

- Growing demand for facilities ;
- limited opportunities for major new infrastructure.;
- high utilisation of existing facilities.;
- changing participation preferences;
- providing equitable access across the City.;
- responding to climate change ; and
- maintaining affordability and accessibility.

What this means for recreation planning

The City’s recreation network must respond to changing patterns of participation while accommodating growth within a constrained urban environment. Future planning should focus on:

Increasing capacity

Maximise the performance and utilisation of existing recreation infrastructure through upgrades, renewal and improved management.

Supporting informal recreation

Recognise the growing importance of walking, cycling, fitness and self-directed recreation.

Providing flexible, adaptable infrastructure

Ensure facilities can adapt to changing recreation trends and accommodate multiple activities.

Delivering inclusive recreation

Provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Strengthening partnerships

Leverage schools, universities, state agencies and private providers to expand recreation opportunities.

Planning for climate resilience

Ensure facilities remain comfortable, accessible and functional under future climate conditions.



City of Sydney Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016

The 2016 Sports Facilities Demand Study assessed current and future needs for sports facilities across the City of

Sydney and provided a framework to guide strategic planning for provision, access, and management.

Key findings

1. High demand versus limited supply

Demand for sports facilities significantly exceeds supply, driven by a young, active population (18–39 years) and high residential density, with 95% of residents living in medium to high-density housing.

2. Limited land availability

Competing land uses and constraints—including heritage, biodiversity, and informal recreation—restrict the amount of land available for sport.

3. Projected growth

By 2031, the Study estimated the City will require:

- 20 additional sports fields
- 18 outdoor multi-purpose courts
- Four tennis complexes (each with four courts - total 16 courts)
- 11 indoor multi-purpose courts

4. Equity and inclusion

Facilities must better cater to women and girls, culturally diverse communities, people with disabilities, youth, and seniors to ensure equitable access and participation.

5. District-level planning

A coordinated approach across districts is essential to meet demand, share resources, and respond effectively to land constraints.

Strategic directions

The Study recommended the following directions to address demand and improve provision:

- Optimise existing spaces through better design, scheduling, and management.
- Create multi-purpose facilities that serve diverse

recreational and sporting needs.

- Improve access and equity in facility bookings, design, and programming.
- Collaborate across agencies to deliver shared outcomes and maximise efficiency.

Response

Since 2016, the City has focused on improving the provision and amenity of sports facilities.

Improvements include:

- 1 new aquatic facility - Gunyama Aquatic Centre;
- full replacement of Prince Alfred Park Pool
- Perry Park indoor recreation centre - 4 indoor courts
- Huntley Street Recreation Centre - 4 indoor courts
- 4 new sports fields
- existing field and amenity improvements
- outdoor door gym rollout program
- 3 additional full size outdoor courts
- additional practise half courts across the network
- partnerships with schools to increase provision of playing fields, outdoor courts and indoor courts
- street and cycle improvement to encourage recreational walking , running and cycling across our city

Other state agency providers, including Place Management and Greater Sydney Parklands, have also increased the supply of playing fields, courts, playgrounds and other facilities across their networks, improving the overall availability and accessibility of recreational facilities.

Private providers have also expanded the range and diversity of recreational activities in response to changing trends and demand, including indoor courts for badminton, padel and pickleball, boxing and martial arts facilities, and activities such as indoor rock climbing.



Perry Park indoor recreation centre
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney



Gunyama Park sportsfield
Photo: Jessica Lindsay / City of Sydney



Prince Alfred Park Pool
Photo: Abril Felman / City of Sydney

Existing provision

The City contains a diverse network of recreation infrastructure that supports sport, fitness, play and informal recreation. Provision is delivered through a combination of City-owned assets and facilities managed by government agencies, educational institutions and private operators.

Provision distribution

The distribution of recreation facilities varies across the City, reflecting historical development patterns, available land and differing community needs.

Some villages contain major recreation destinations and regional facilities, while others rely on smaller neighbourhood-scale infrastructure.

Regional recreation assets

Several facilities serve catchments extending beyond the local government area and play a regional role in meeting recreation demand.

These facilities are particularly important given the limited availability of land for future recreation infrastructure.

Key nearby facilities include:

- Centennial Parklands (Greater Sydney Parklands)
- Hefferon Park (Randwick City Council)
- Tempe Park (Inner West Council)

Recreation providers

Recreation opportunities are delivered by a range of providers, including:

- City of Sydney
- NSW Government agencies
- Schools and universities
- Sporting organisations
- Community groups
- Private operators

Partnerships between these providers will be increasingly important in meeting future demand.

The private sector plays a vital role in the provision of sport and recreation facilities. Private operators can be agile and responsive to emerging trends in fitness and recreation, and promote markets as well as offering extended operating hours.

Private providers

Facilities include gyms, courts, wellness centres, or more niche offerings, such as indoor climbing walls, indoor golf driving ranges, indoor ski simulators and trampoline parks.

Whether it's the rise of high-intensity interval training (HIIT), the growing popularity of pickleball, badminton or wellness programs, private businesses are well-positioned to adapt quickly and tailor their services to meet evolving consumer demand.

Private providers deliver a broad array of sport and recreation activities across the City's local government area and neighbouring suburbs. Their services complement public provision, expanding access and offering communities a wider and more diverse range of opportunities.

	Managed by the City	Managed by others
Aquatic facilities	6 facilities	3 facilities 1 harbour swimming location
Cricket and baseball	5 cricket pitches 14 practice wickets	8 cricket pitches (Moore Park)
Outdoor courts	16 full size (various formats) 11 half size / practice rings	17 full size (various formats) 2 half courts
Outdoor fitness stations and gyms	15	7
Playgrounds	107	7
Indoor courts (multipurpose/basketball)	13	12
Skate park destinations and moments	3 destination locations 2 skate moments	1
Sports fields and ovals	17 – 13 turf fields and ovals – 4 synthetic fields	19 – 18 turf fields and ovals – 1 synthetic fields
Tennis courts	18 courts 4 hotshot courts	35 courts

Refer to Part 4 Volume 2 for further details on distribution of various recreation facilities.

Facility utilisation

The City of Sydney’s outdoor sporting facilities are highly utilised due to their quality, diverse offerings, convenient locations, and accessible booking systems.

Utilisation and demand

The City’s sports and recreation network supports a diverse range of users including schools, universities, sporting clubs, community organisations, social recreation providers and individual participants.

Across the sportsfield network alone, facilities support approximately 35 education organisations and more than 60 community sport and recreation organisations, representing a broad cross-section of local and regional users. Major user groups include football (soccer), cricket, rugby league, AFL, rugby union, hockey, touch football, ultimate frisbee, Gaelic football, softball and social sport providers.

The education sector represents a significant component of demand, comprising approximately 17 primary schools, 14 secondary schools and four tertiary education providers, reflecting the important role City facilities play in supporting school sport, physical education and community participation pathways.

Assessing demand

Demand is best understood through peak occupancy and booking pressure rather than average annual utilisation rates.

While overall utilisation statistics provide useful context, they can mask the periods when facilities experience the greatest demand and capacity constraints. For most sporting facilities, participation is heavily concentrated during weekday evenings and weekends when people are available outside work and school commitments.

Importantly, lower utilisation during summer months, school terms breaks, or weekday daytime periods should not be interpreted as evidence of surplus capacity. These periods are generally not substitutable for the highly sought-after timeslots that clubs, associations and casual users prefer. As a result, facilities can appear to have spare capacity when viewed across the entire year, while still experiencing significant unmet demand during peak periods.

Accordingly, assessments of sportsfield, indoor court and recreation facility provision should place greater emphasis on peak-period occupancy, booking requests, waitlists, competition growth constraints and the ability of venues to accommodate users at preferred times. These indicators provide a more realistic measure of service levels and future infrastructure requirements than average utilisation figures alone.

Turf fields over 30 hours of bookings per field



Synthetic fields 40-60 hours weekly booked use



Wentworth Park over 4,000 Oztag players weekly summer competition



Over 1.9 million visits annually at aquatic facilities



Perry Park indoor recreation peak time 90% utilisation



Utilisation statistics for various facilities (left to right)

- Turruwul Park sportsfield**
Photo: Paul Patterson / City of Sydney
- The Crescent sportsfield**
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney
- Football competition on Perry Park synthetic sportsfield**
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney
- Andrew Boy Charlton Pool**
Photo: Will Jones / City of Sydney
- Volleyball players at Perry Park Recreation Centre**
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Sportsfields

Demand for sportsfield access remains strongly concentrated during preferred participation periods, particularly weekday evenings and weekends. While average annual utilisation varies across facilities and seasons, peak-time utilisation demonstrates ongoing capacity pressures across the network.

Synthetic sportsfields experience particularly strong winter demand. Peak occupancy across Gunyama, Getiela and Perry Park averaged approximately 78–81 per cent during Winter 2025, indicating that most available evening and weekend capacity is already in use. Peak occupancy decreases during summer, ranging from 33–54 per cent, although Perry Park maintains comparatively strong year-round demand.

The City’s natural turf fields also experience strong seasonal demand. During winter, major turf fields such as Wentworth Park, Reg Bartley Oval, Alexandria Oval and Jubilee Oval typically accommodate between 30 and 44 hours of organised bookings per week, reflecting strong demand from winter sporting codes.

Summer utilisation reduces but remains significant, particularly at Wentworth Park, which maintains strong year-round use. These patterns indicate that demand for field space remains high across both synthetic and natural turf facilities.

The City has also experienced increasing demand for synthetic field allocations. The 2025 seasonal allocation process for Perry Park and Getiela received a record 25 applications, with 20 organisations ultimately allocated access. Successful applicants included schools, football clubs, Gaelic football and ultimate frisbee organisations.

Allocation priorities focused on junior participation, women and girls’ sport, diversity and inclusion. This process resulted in almost half of all winter bookings being allocated to children’s sport and a substantial increase in allocations supporting women and girls.



Gunyama Park synthetic field
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

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Figure 36: Average weekly turf field bookings (hours)

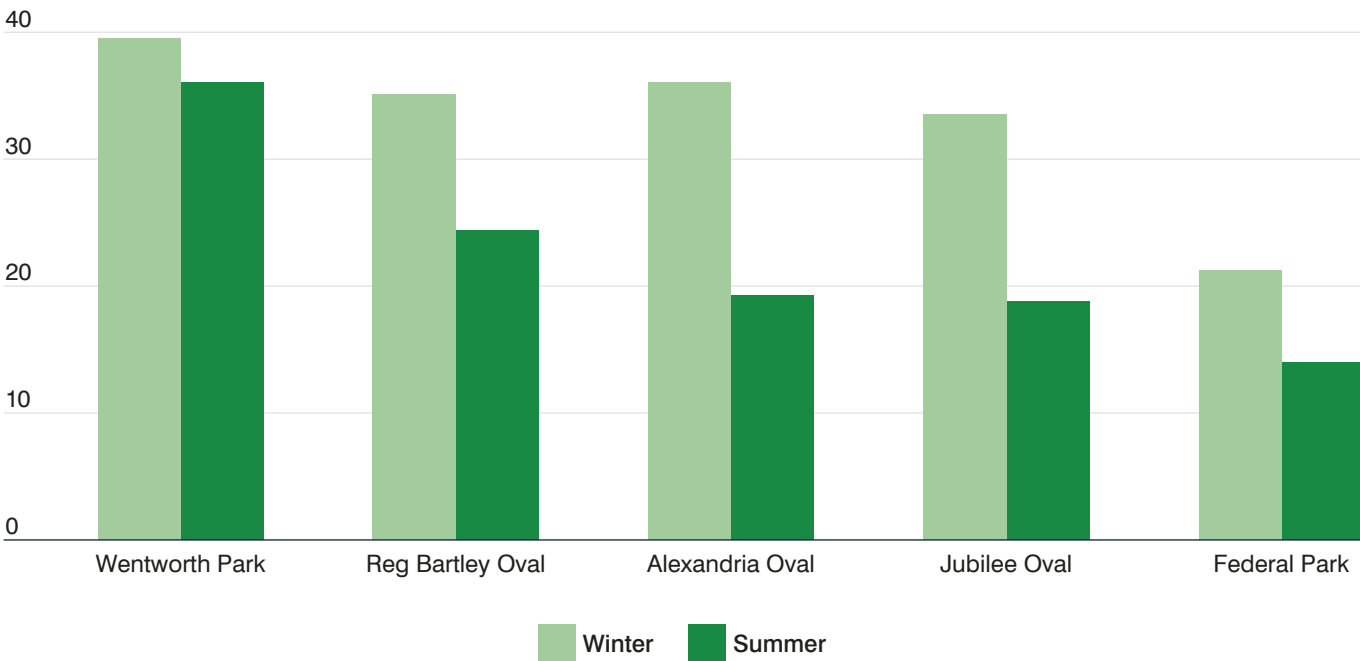
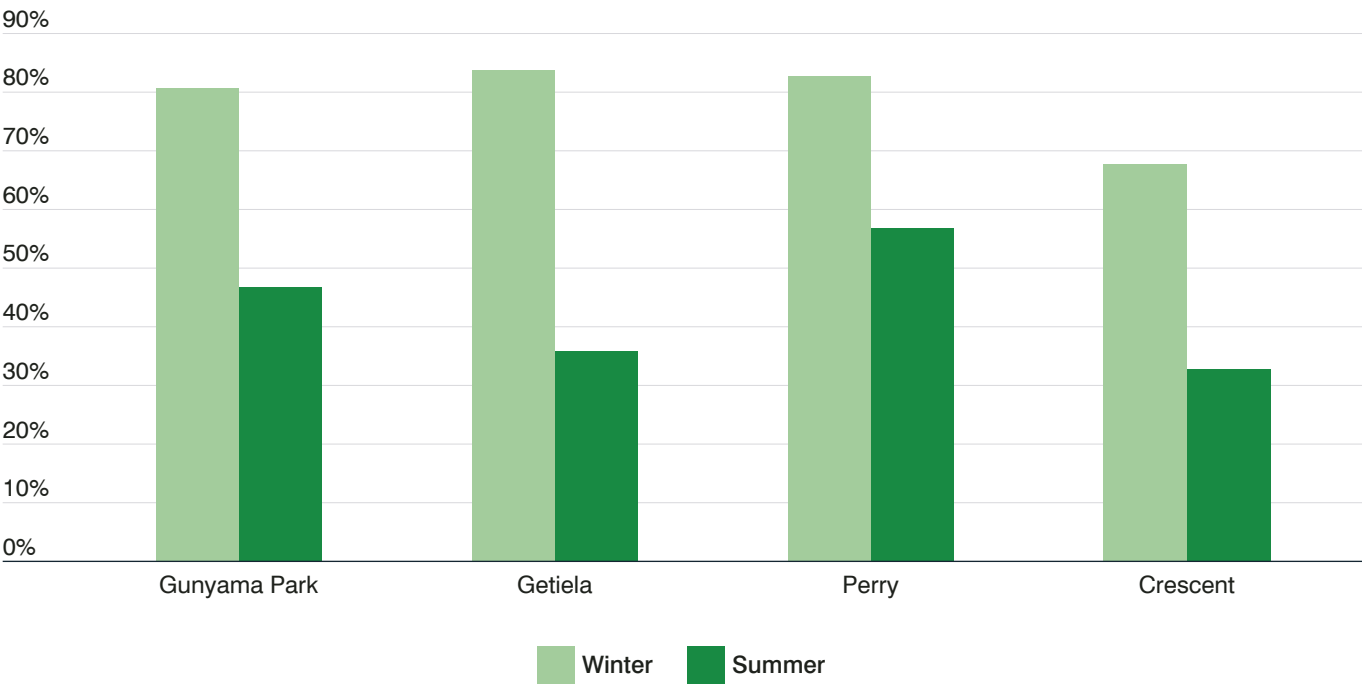


Figure 37: Synthetic field peak time utilisation in 2025



Indoor recreation

The City’s indoor recreation facilities support a broad mix of organised sport, social recreation, fitness, physical activity programs and community participation. Key venues include KGV Recreation Centre, Perry Park Recreation Centre, Ultimo Community Centre, Maybanke Centre and Peter Forsythe Auditorium.

The City’s indoor recreation facilities that provide multi-purpose courts, gyms and space for exercises program like yoga.

Indoor recreation facilities exhibit varying levels of utilisation across the network. Peter Forsythe Auditorium (90%), KGV Recreation Centre (89%) and the indoor courts at Perry Park Recreation Centre (approximately 90% peak occupancy) are operating at very high utilisation levels, indicating strong demand and limited spare booking capacity during preferred times.

Aquatics

The City’s aquatic centres are among the most heavily used recreation assets in the portfolio, attracting approximately 1.93 million visits annually. This level of visitation highlights the significant role aquatic facilities play in supporting health, wellbeing, recreation and physical activity across the community.

Aquatic facilities serve a diverse range of users, including learn-to-swim participants, lap swimmers, fitness and rehabilitation users, school groups, families, recreational swimmers and aquatic sport participants. These facilities provide participation opportunities across all ages, abilities and life stages.

The scale of visitation demonstrates the importance of aquatic facilities as key pieces of community infrastructure. With almost 1.93 million visits annually, the aquatic portfolio supports a level of participation significantly greater than any individual sportsfield or recreation facility and makes a substantial contribution to public health, wellbeing and active recreation outcomes across the local government area.

What this means for planning

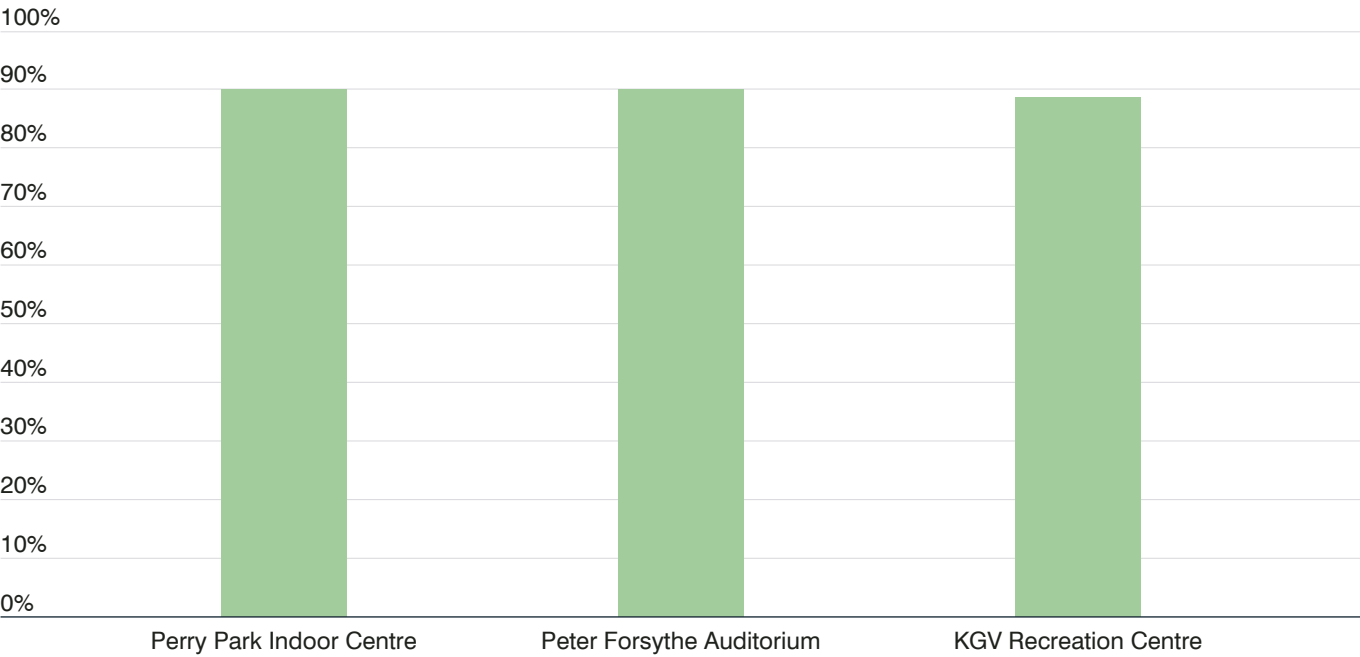
The City's recreation network is performing strongly and supporting high levels of participation across a diverse range of activities. However, many facilities are already operating at or near capacity in peak times, and future population growth will place increasing pressure on sports fields, aquatic facilities, courts and other recreation infrastructure.

Meeting future demand will require a focus on:

- optimising existing assets;
- prioritising investment in high-demand facilities;
- supporting informal recreation;
- delivering flexible and multi-purpose infrastructure; and
- strengthening partnerships and shared-use arrangements

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Figure 38: Peak utilisation of indoor recreation centres (%)



High school students playing basketball at Perry Park
Photo: Katherine Griffiths / City of Sydney

Recreation and sport facility needs assessment

The City's recreation network comprises a diverse range of facilities that collectively support organised sport, informal recreation, physical activity, social interaction and community wellbeing. These facilities serve residents, workers, students and visitors, and accommodate a broad spectrum of activities ranging from organised competition and training through to casual recreation and everyday exercise.

While recreation participation is increasingly diverse, different facility types perform distinct roles within the network and experience varying levels of demand, utilisation and capacity pressure.

Understanding how individual facility types are performing is therefore an important step in identifying current gaps, future needs and investment priorities.

Population-based recreation and sport provision ratios are only one factor in assessing need. They provide a useful high-level indicator but must be balanced with local context, demand patterns, accessibility, land availability, and facility performance to determine appropriate provision.

Assessing future demand

The City of Sydney Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (2016) established quantitative benchmarks based on resident and worker population for sportsfields, indoor courts and outdoor courts.

When assessed against both existing supply and planned future facilities, the metrics show that unmet demand will persist.

However per head provision metrics is just one factor of consideration. A multi-factor approach is recommended, recognising that demand is influenced by:

- Current utilisation and capacity of existing facilities
- Population growth and demographic change;
- Changes in sports participation and recreation trends;
- Distribution and accessibility of facilities;
- Quality and functionality of existing infrastructure;
- School and private sector facility availability; and
- Emerging sports and modified forms of play

The following assessment examines the City's key recreation infrastructure categories. these include:

- sports fields and ovals
- aquatic facilities
- outdoor court facilities
- indoor court and recreation facilities
- playgrounds
- outdoor fitness stations
- skate and bike facilities
- youth
- paddle craft
- walking and cycle infrastructure
- companion animals
- athletics
- cricket
- events
- Other facilities

While recreation participation is increasingly diverse, different facility types perform distinct roles within the network and experience varying levels of demand, utilisation and capacity pressure. Understanding how individual facility types are performing is therefore an important step in identifying current gaps, future needs and investment priorities.

Attachment B3

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 2, p126-181**

Sports fields and ovals

Sports fields are among the most heavily utilised recreation assets in the City and will experience increasing pressure as the population grows.

Current provision

There are 36 public sports fields and ovals in our local area.

- 17 sports fields and ovals are managed by the City of Sydney. The other 19 are managed by other government agencies.
- There are also fields adjacent to our area including Camperdown Oval and multiple fields in Centennial Park.

At the University of Sydney, University Oval 1 and University Oval 2 are included in the assessment as they provide a degree of public access, although they are not available for community bookings. Other sporting fields associated with the University's residential colleges have not been included due to their restricted access. Similarly, the sports field within the Wentworth Park Greyhound Racing Complex has been excluded from the assessment as it is not available for general community use.

Since 2016, the City has delivered four synthetic turf fields, while Greater Sydney Parklands has added one synthetic sports field and a community turf sports field at Moore Park East following the removal of event car parking.

Assessing future demand

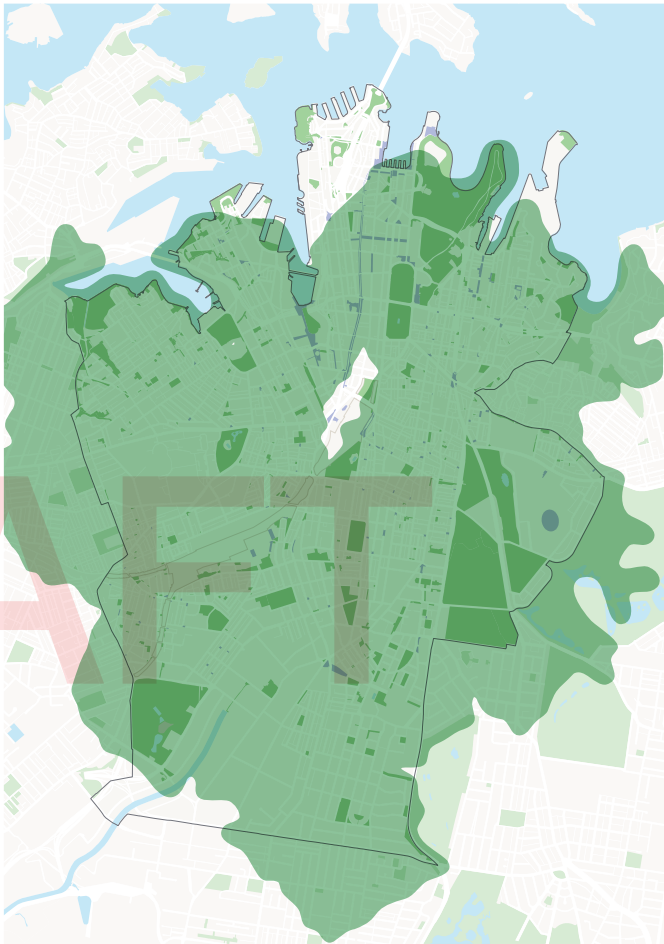
Based on 2016 bench marks of 1 field per 5,600 residents and allowance 1 field per 120,000 workers and 2046 population projection potentially 20 turf fields will be required. If synthetic playing surfaces are considered, the overall field requirement could be reduced to around 11 fields.

Demand for sporting fields currently exceeds supply, with all fields operating at high booking levels at peak times. Turf fields are typically used for more than 30 hours per week, while synthetic fields are used for up to 50-60 hours per week.

The 900–1200 metre walking catchment fields and ovals are generally well distributed across the local area and recognises the Moore Park, which

provides a significant concentration of fields serving residents, sporting clubs and visitors from across the local government area and beyond. (Figure XX)

Figure 39: 900–1200m catchment



Issues

- As participation continues to grow and populations increase, sports fields will remain a critical component of the City's recreation network. However, the availability of suitable land for new facilities remains limited, creating challenges in meeting future demand
- Environmental and health concerns such as end-of-life disposal, microplastic runoff, and increased urban heat—remain significant issues associated with synthetic surfaces.
- Turf fields and ovals are regularly required to close for rehabilitation due to high levels of use,

as well as during wet weather events, which further reduces the number of hours available for sport and recreation.

- Turf fields also receive significant casual use in addition to booked hours resulting in additional wear and pressure on turf surfaces particularly where access to or provision to large open space is limited.
- Demand for evening training and competition continues to increase. Lighting upgrades will become increasingly important to maximise the usable capacity of existing fields, particularly as hotter temperatures encourage greater evening participation.
- storage provision for clubs ongoing issue.

The City is committed to increasing tree canopy cover across the local area to mitigate impacts of a hotter climate, Given the large footprints of sports fields and ovals, balancing tree canopy cover and field provision will be an ongoing challenge.

Trends

The use of synthetic sports fields is increasing to expand playing capacity, particularly where opportunities for new field development are limited. While synthetic surfaces can accommodate significantly more use than natural turf, considerations relating to disposal, microplastics and urban heat remain important.

Increased evening and night-time participation is also driving demand for sports lighting, reflecting both climate adaptation and changing recreation patterns.

Planned provision

A number of projects are planned or proposed that will increase sports field capacity across the City.

- Mandible Street x 1 field
- Wentworth Park - additional field available wider use with cessation greyhound racing.
- Moore Park South x 1 field

While these projects will make an important contribution to the network, they are unlikely to

fully meet future demand, reinforcing the need to optimise existing facilities and continue advocating for additional opportunities.

Future opportunities to increase provision

- School shared use: Explore partnerships with schools to increase community access to existing sports fields and ovals outside school hours, particularly in areas where demand exceeds available capacity
- Victoria Barracks: Subject to Defence requirements and any future land-use changes, Victoria Barracks may present a long-term opportunity to increase the provision of open space and sporting facilities within the local area
- Land acquisition: Investigate strategic land acquisition opportunities should suitable sites become available, particularly co-locating with existing fields.
- Sydney University ovals: Continue discussions with the University of Sydney regarding opportunities to expand community access to existing sports fields and ovals through shared-use arrangements and partnership agreements.

Strategic considerations

Meeting future demand for sports fields and ovals will be increasingly challenging given limited opportunities for new field development and ongoing population growth.

Future provision should focus on maximising the capacity of the existing network through upgrades, improved lighting, enhanced supporting infrastructure, selective use of synthetic surfaces, and flexible field design. Expanding shared-use partnerships with schools, universities government agencies and other landowners will also be important in accommodating future demand.

Strategic responses

Direction	Response	Reference
Increase the provision of sports field and oval provision	Future planned provision – Mandible Sports Precinct - 1 field – Moore Park South -1 field (Greater Sydney Parklands) – Wentworth Park -1 additional field available wider use with cessation greyhound racing.	
Provision - potential opportunities	Victoria Barracks - any future renewal recommend to retain existing field for community sport	
Future acquisition opportunities	– Future land acquisition should prioritise co-location with existing sports fields – Co-located fields enable more efficient programming, shared infrastructure, improved accessibility and better use of limited land	
Encourage multi-purpose use of sport fields and ovals	Ensure future sport field and oval sizes and configurations (new and future upgrades) allow for multi-purpose and flexible uses.	
Synthetic surfaces	– Use synthetic surfaces to considered on case by case basis to balanced with environmental and sustainability considerations, planning assessment and appropriate site selection. – Existing natural fields to remain natural turf.	
Create space for casual sports and recreation	Increase capacity of existing parks with large turf/ lawn areas to better accommodate casual active recreation. Existing parks may include (but not limited to reduce pressure on formal competition playing fields	
177 Amenity improvements - Increase field capacity and playable hours	Upgrade existing field lighting, change rooms, storage ,toilets and supporting amenity to facilitate the extension of playable hours into the evening, where appropriate. – Jubilee Oval (underway) – Alexandria Park (underway) – Waterloo Oval – Wentworth Park	
	Sport field amenities should provide inclusive and accessible change rooms and toilets for all genders and people with disability.	
Evening / night time use	– Prioritise sportsfield lighting for training and casual recreation purposes. – Undertake further investigation before providing competition-standard lighting, particularly for hard-ball sports, to assess impacts on neighbouring amenity, light spill, operating hours, native fauna and biodiversity values.	
Equity of use	City continue and expand annual expressions of interest processes to ensure field allocations support diversity, gender equity, and a broad range of sports able to access City fields.	
Encourage partnerships and shared use	– Assess opportunity for after-hours and shared weekend public access to sports fields and ovals currently controlled by institutions—such as universities and schools—where community use is restricted through formal agreements. – Potential partners include the University of Sydney, Sydney Secondary College, Glebe	

Figure 40: Sportsfields and ovals

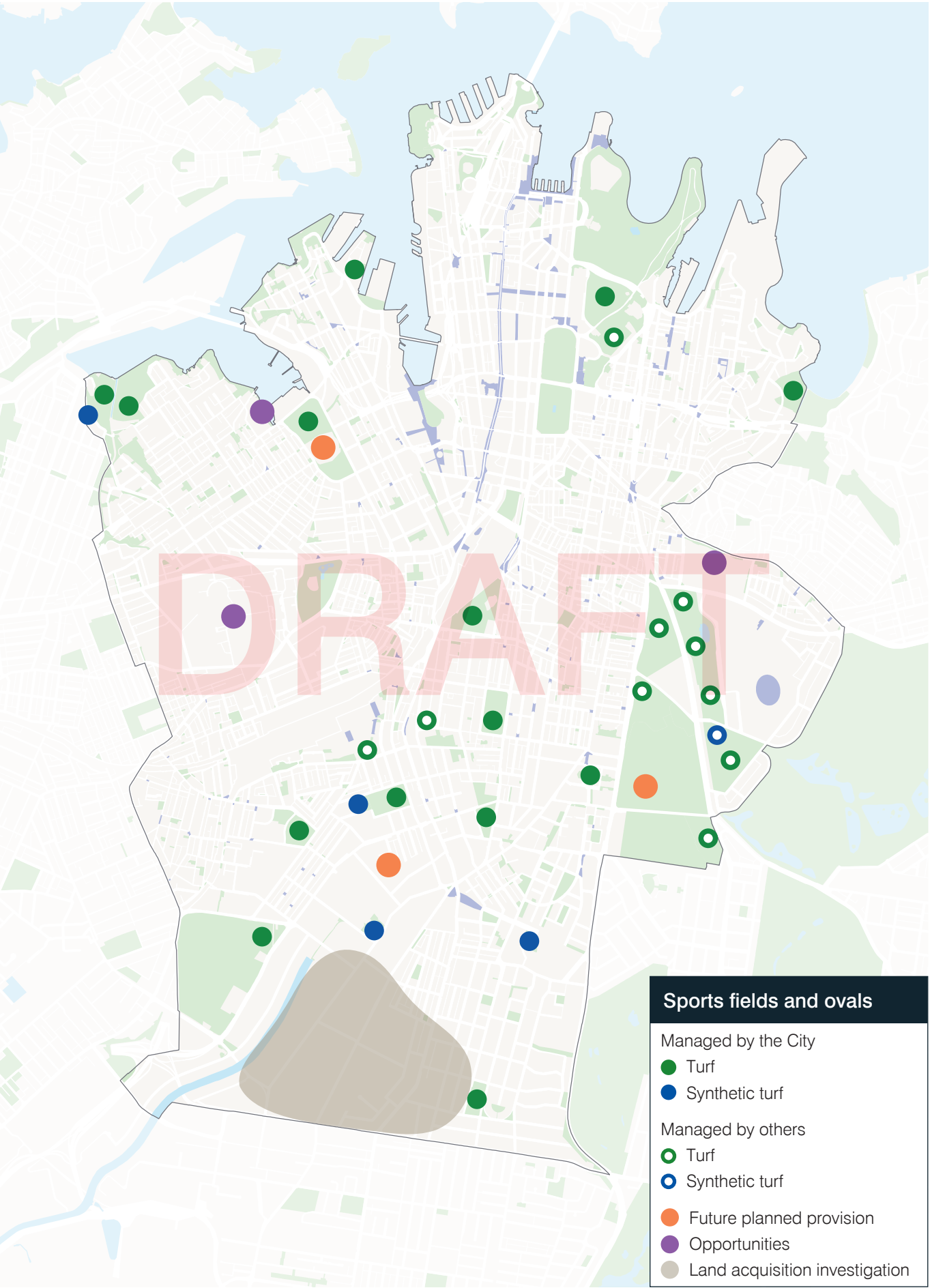


Table 10: Existing sports field and ovals

Existing sports field or oval		Field type	Qty	Managed by
1	Alan Davidson Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
2	Alexandria Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
4	Erskineville Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
6	Federal Park	Field - turf	1	City of Sydney
7	Getiela Sports field	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney & Minister of Education Training & Youth Affairs
8	Gunyama Park	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney
9	Jublee Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
10	Perry Park	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney
11	Redfern Oval	Field - turf	1	City of Sydney
12	Reg Bartley Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
13	The Crescent Synthetic Sports Field	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney
14	Turruwul Park	Field - turf	1	City of Sydney
15	Waterloo Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
16	Wentworth Park	Field - turf	4	City of Sydney
17	Moore Park - Bat and Ball Field	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
18	Moore Park - Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	Field - Synthetic turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
19	Moore Park - ES Marks Athletics Field	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
20	Moore Park - Kippax Lake Field	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
21	Moore Park - Moore Park West	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
22	Moore Park - Robertson Road Fields	Field (cricket) - turf	4	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
23	Moore Park - Tramway Oval	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
24	Moore Park - Upper Kippax	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
25	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Field - turf	1	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
26	The Domain Crescent Fields	Field - turf	3	Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust
27	The Domain Phillip Precinct	Informal field - turf	2	Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust
28	Sydney University Oval 1 and 2	Field - turf	2	Sydney University
Total			36	

Table 11: Planned sports field and ovals

Planned sports field or oval	Qty	Managed by
Mandible sports precinct	1	City of Sydney
Moore Park South	1	Greater Sydney Parklands
Wentworth Park	1	City of Sydney

Table 12: Potential future sports fields and ovals

Potential sports field or oval	Qty
Victoria Barracks	1
Glebe Secondary School	1
Land acquisition investigation area	1

DRAFT

Aquatic facilities and swimming in Harbour

Aquatic facilities are among the City's most important recreation assets, supporting a wide range of activities including lap swimming, leisure swimming, learn-to-swim programs, aquatic fitness, rehabilitation, water play and social recreation

Current provision

There are 9 aquatic facilities in our local area. 6 are managed by the City. They are generally evenly distributed across the local area.

In addition, 1 harbour swimming facility - Marrinawi Cove, a sheltered 700m2 enclosure at the northern end of Barangaroo Reserve was open to the public in 2023 offering swimming in Sydney Harbour. (Infrastructure NSW)

Since 2016, the City has delivered one additional aquatic facility at Green Square and completed the replacement of the existing Prince Alfred Park Pool.

Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool has undergone significant renewal works, delivering improvements to sustainability, asset condition, amenity and accessibility.

The City also continues an ongoing program of upgrades and maintenance across its aquatic facilities, with a strong focus on improving water and energy sustainability outcomes.

Outside our area there are 4 public pools within 10km of our local area. Many of these pools have undergone, have underway or programmed for upgrades.

Many recent and future apartment developments include pool facilities. The region is also has convenient access to eastern suburbs beaches and ocean pools.

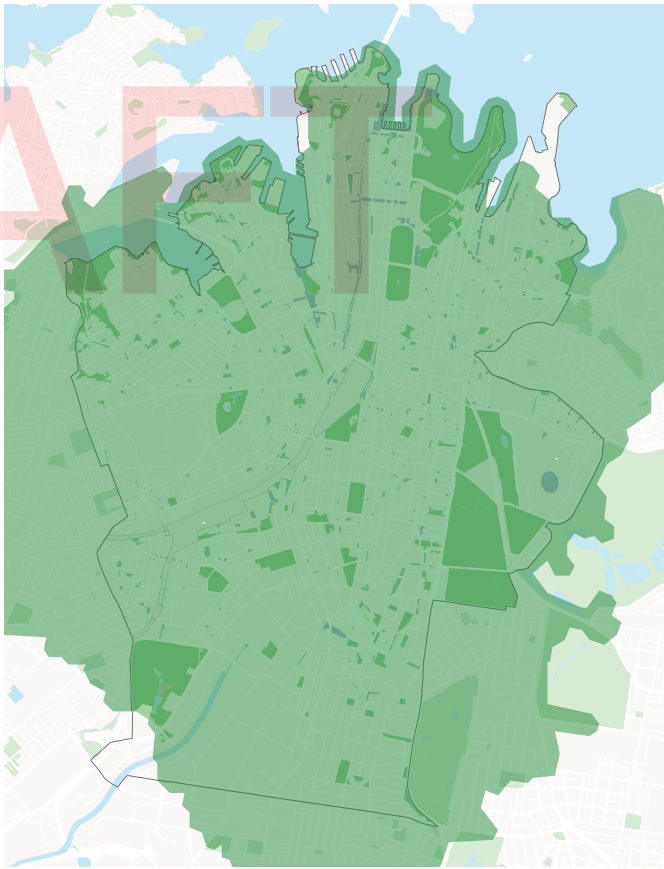
Trends

Swimming remains one of the most popular recreation activities in Australia, reflecting its broad appeal across age groups and abilities. Over 1 million people visit the City's aquatic facilities annually.

- Leisure pool facilities such as beach/waddling pools, slides and water spouts for fun and play are popular with children and families.

- Inclusivity and universal access are key priorities for communities, ensuring people of all ages and abilities can access the facilities.
- Demand for hydrotherapy/ warm water pools for older residents, rehabilitation and water therapy remains high.
- Demand for learn-to-swim, child safety, school and squad programs will continue.
- Harbour cities across the world are increasingly utilising their urban waterways for swimming and recreation through water quality improvements and amenity provision.

Figure 41: 2km catchment for aquatic pool facilities (City and other providers)



Assessing future demand

The City is well served by aquatic infrastructure with most residents within 2km of a facilities and all within a 3km catchment. This includes facilities by other entities such as Sydney University.

While there is good access to general aquatic facilities in Sydney's inner metropolitan area, there is demand with regard to health (hydrotherapy), relaxation and water play infrastructure.

Issues

As Sydney's residential and working populations grow, demand for facilities will increase for exercise, health and well being programs and swimming lessons, as well as for refuge during extreme heat days driven by climate change.

Aquatic facilities require ongoing investment, renewal and upgrading to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose, accessible and environmentally sustainable.

Sydney Harbour is a significant natural asset and aquatic recreation facility that is currently under-utilised. The main cause for its underutilisation for is water quality and sediment issues. However there are also limited access points or locations that facilitate recreational swimming.

Strategic considerations

The City of Sydney is currently well-served by aquatic facilities. Future planning should prioritise timely asset renewal to maintain high standards of service, energy efficiency and accessibility.

Facilities also need to evolve with changing recreation trends and community expectations, incorporating flexible programming, inclusive design, and integration with broader health and wellbeing initiatives.

In line with the City's commitment to net zero emissions by 2035, aquatic facilities are incorporated into the Net Zero program, contributing to emissions reduction through sustainable design and operations across energy, buildings, transport, and waste.

Given the popularity of Marrinawi Cove the City should continue advocating for and working with the NSW Government and Sydney Water to improve water quality and make more edges along the foreshore accessible for swimming.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Provision: currently well-served by aquatic facilities.	Future planning should prioritise programmed asset renewal to maintain high standards of service , environmental sustainability and accessibility.	
Asset renewal: Upgrade and maintain existing assets as required	- Programmed upgrades to the City's aquatic facilities to ensure infrastructure remains fit-for-purpose, improve accessibility and integrates energy- and water-efficient technologies. - Priorities include Victoria Park Pool - Prince Alfred Park Pool electrification	
Ongoing advocacy to increase opportunities for swimming in the harbour	- Continue advocacy and collaboration on harbour swimming initiatives; however, access and safety require further investigation in partnership with Sydney Water and other NSW Government agencies. - Advocacy to expand and improve facilities for Marrinawi Cove.	
Strategic planning	Review City Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy 2005 to provide direction on future programming and facility improvements of City facilities.	

Figure 42: Aquatic facilities

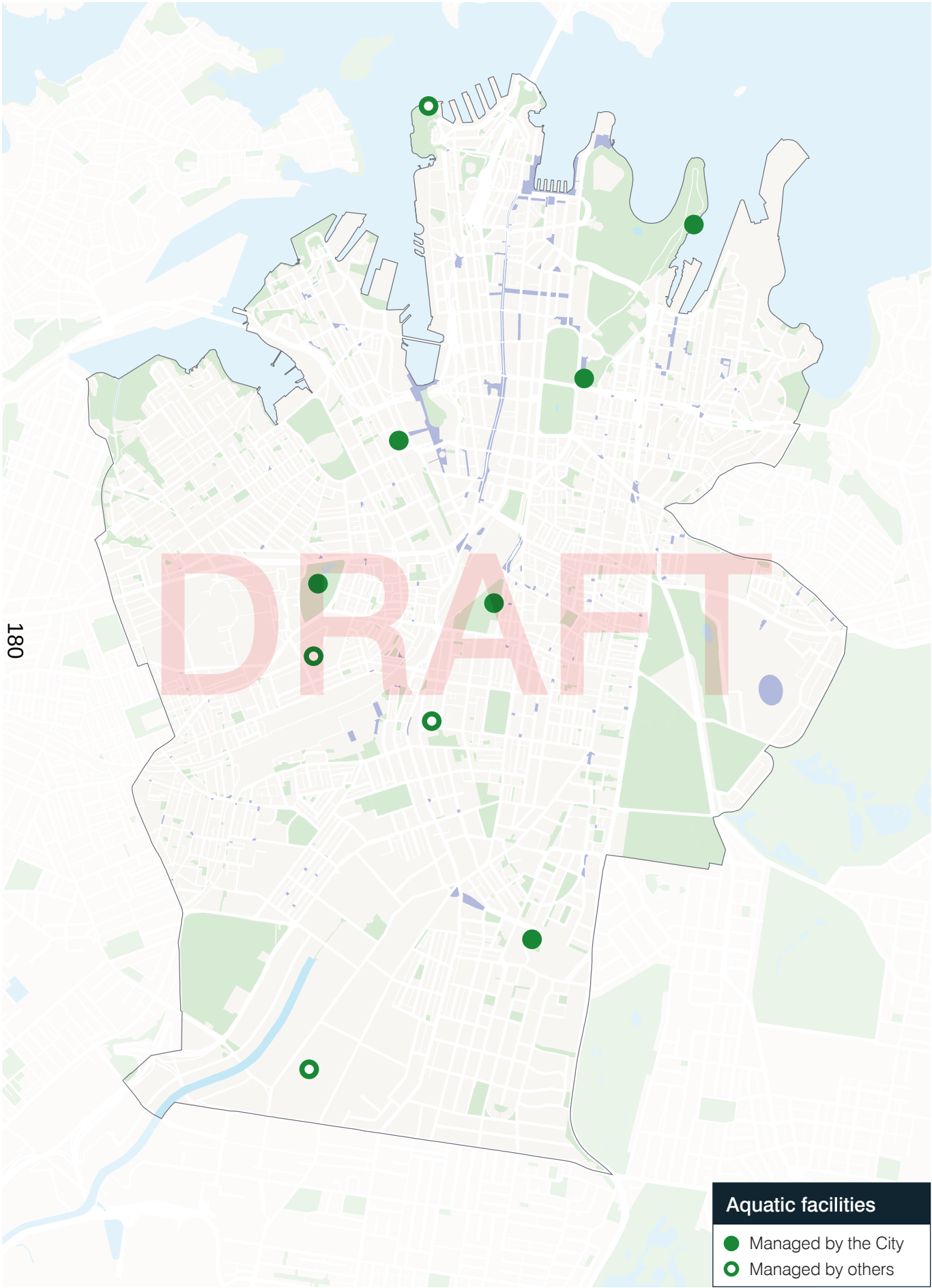


Table 13: Existing aquatic centre/facility

Aquatic centre/facility		Facility type	Managed by	Village
1	Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool	– 50m outdoor pool – 20m outdoor (shaded) pool	City of Sydney	CBD & Harbour
2	Aquatic Achievers Swim School Alexandria	– 25m indoor pool	Aquatic Achievers Swim School	Green Sq & City Sth
3	Cook & Phillip Park Aquatic Centre	– 50m indoor pool – Indoor leisure pool – Indoor hydro-therapy pool	City of Sydney	Green Sq & City Sth
4	Gunyama Park Aquatic Centre	– 50m outdoor pool – Outdoor beach pool – 25m indoor pool – Indoor leisure pool – Indoor hydro-therapy pool	City of Sydney	Green Sq & City Sth
5	Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre	– 50m outdoor pool	City of Sydney	Harris St
6	Marrinawi Cove	– Ocean bath	Infrastructure NSW	CBD & Harbour
7	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	– 25m indoor pool	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Redfern St
8	Prince Alfred Park Pool	– 50m outdoor pool – Outdoor splash deck	City of Sydney	Redfern St
9	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic Centre	– 50m indoor pool	City of Sydney	Redfern St
10	Victoria Park Pool	– 50m outdoor pool – Outdoor splash pool	City of Sydney	Redfern St

Outdoor court facilities

Outdoor multi-purpose court facilities provide free, accessible recreation opportunities for the community.

Full, half and practice courts support a wide range of activities including basketball, netball and informal games on hard-stand surfaces catering to different ages, skill levels and styles of play.

Outdoor courts also include dedicated bookable tennis facilities, which are designed to support a single sport that provide opportunities for both social and competitive play and coaching.

Current provision

There are 104 outdoor court facilities in our local area. 49 are managed by the City. They include:

- 6 basketballs courts
- 5 basketball half-courts
- 3 basketball practice/ free throw rings
- 13 netball practice rings
- 10 multi-purpose courts
- 18 tennis courts
- 4 hot shot/junior tennis courts

55 are managed by other government agencies or private providers. They include:

- 2 basketball courts
- 2 basketball half courts
- 5 netball courts
- 10 multi-purpose courts
- 35 tennis courts

Issues

In some locations, increasing use can create operational challenges associated with noise, lighting and nearby residential development.

Accommodating preferred 4-court complex arrangements for tennis will be difficult due to land size requirements needed and other competing open space recreation demand.

Trends

- Basketball hoops and smaller courts are heavily used for informal youth play, while organised competition demand is primarily met through indoor courts.
- Recreation demand for multi-purpose court space for informal/ casual use by young people is expected to increase with population growth and popularity of modified formats such a 3 x 3 basketball.
- Netball training and practice take place on single and double multi-use courts across the City, while competition matches are hosted at dedicated multi court centres such as Heffron Park, Maroubra.
- Tennis participation still strong will City facilities over 60% booking use.
- Growing growing demand for alternative racquet sports such as pickleball and padel (paddle ball). Private sector provision is increasing particularly for pickleball.

Assessing future demand

Based on 2016 bench mark of maintaining the year 2015 supply ratio of 1:2179 and 2046 population projection an additional 40-46 outdoor courts will be required consisting of 26 multi-use courts and 20 tennis courts.

The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that multi use courts courts are accessible from many parts of the City, although coverage is not universal. Given the limited number of facilities available to serve the wider community, some areas may experience reduced convenience of access and competition for court availability.

The mapping identifies opportunities to expand the network through the provision of additional courts in areas with lower levels of accessibility. These include:

- southern employment lands
- East Glebe, Camperdown
- City south
- East Sydney, Surry Hills and Redfern areas

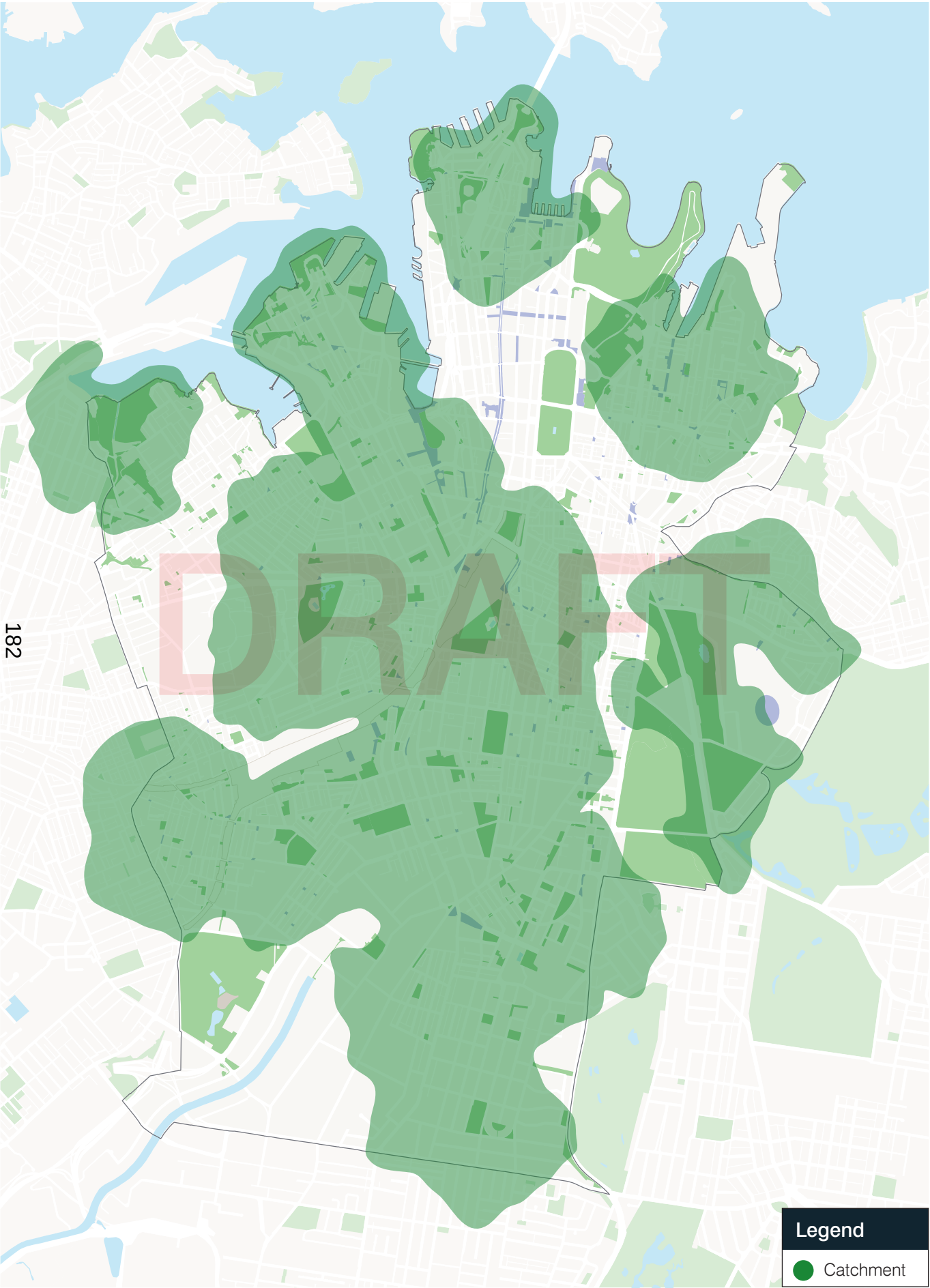
Courts provide access to recreation opportunities across many parts of the City, although coverage is not uniform and some areas remain outside the preferred walking catchment.

However, the development of new courts needs to carefully consider site planning and design requirements, particularly where facilities are located near residential areas. Noise, evening use, lighting, ball impacts and increased activity levels can create amenity impacts if not appropriately managed.

Strategic considerations

- Protect existing courts from removal and identify opportunities for additional multi-purpose courts to meet increasing demand.
- Locate courts to minimise potential amenity impacts through appropriate site selection, buffers, operating hours and lighting design.
- Prioritise free-to-use, well-distributed facilities to support equitable access across neighbourhoods and age groups.
- Maximise shared use and flexible court design to support a range of recreation activities, including emerging sports such as pickleball, and make efficient use of limited urban land.

Figure 43: 600-800m catchment of multi-purpose courts



Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Increasing provision to address gaps	Planned new full multi purpose court provision recommendations: – Mandible Sports Precinct x 4 – Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands) x 1 – Bank Street Park (Place NSW) x 1 – Wentworth Park x 2	
Planned outdoor half / practice court provision	Planned new half/practice courts for: – Harry Noble Reserve x 3 – Mandible Sports Precinct x 1 – Wentworth Park x 2	
Future considerations for provision	Parks for feasibility assessment include: – Waterloo Estate South Park – Sydney Park	
Improve amenity and quality of existing courts	Programmed upgrades include: – Hugo Street Reserve multi purpose court; – Alexandria Park tennis courts; – Minogue Reserve – ongoing asset renewal program works for courts as required	
Tennis court provision	Prioritise activating and improving existing tennis facilities to support casual use, coaching, and competition, and increase awareness of available court time during off-peak hours.	
Pickleball	Ongoing asset upgrade of tennis court facilities as required.	
	Investigate opportunities to convert selected courts to include pickleball line marking, subject to operational requirements, stakeholder consultation and demonstrated demand.	
Adaptable multi-purpose use	Majority of outdoor courts should be multi- purpose courts with some dedicated provision for a single code suitable where a number of courts are co-located. future full size multipurpose courts to be units of 40 x 22m to be adaptable for wide range of recreation court uses.	
Partnerships	Explore partnerships to provide new shared access multi – purpose courts, with: – Newtown High School of Performing Arts – National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern	

Figure 44: Outdoor courts

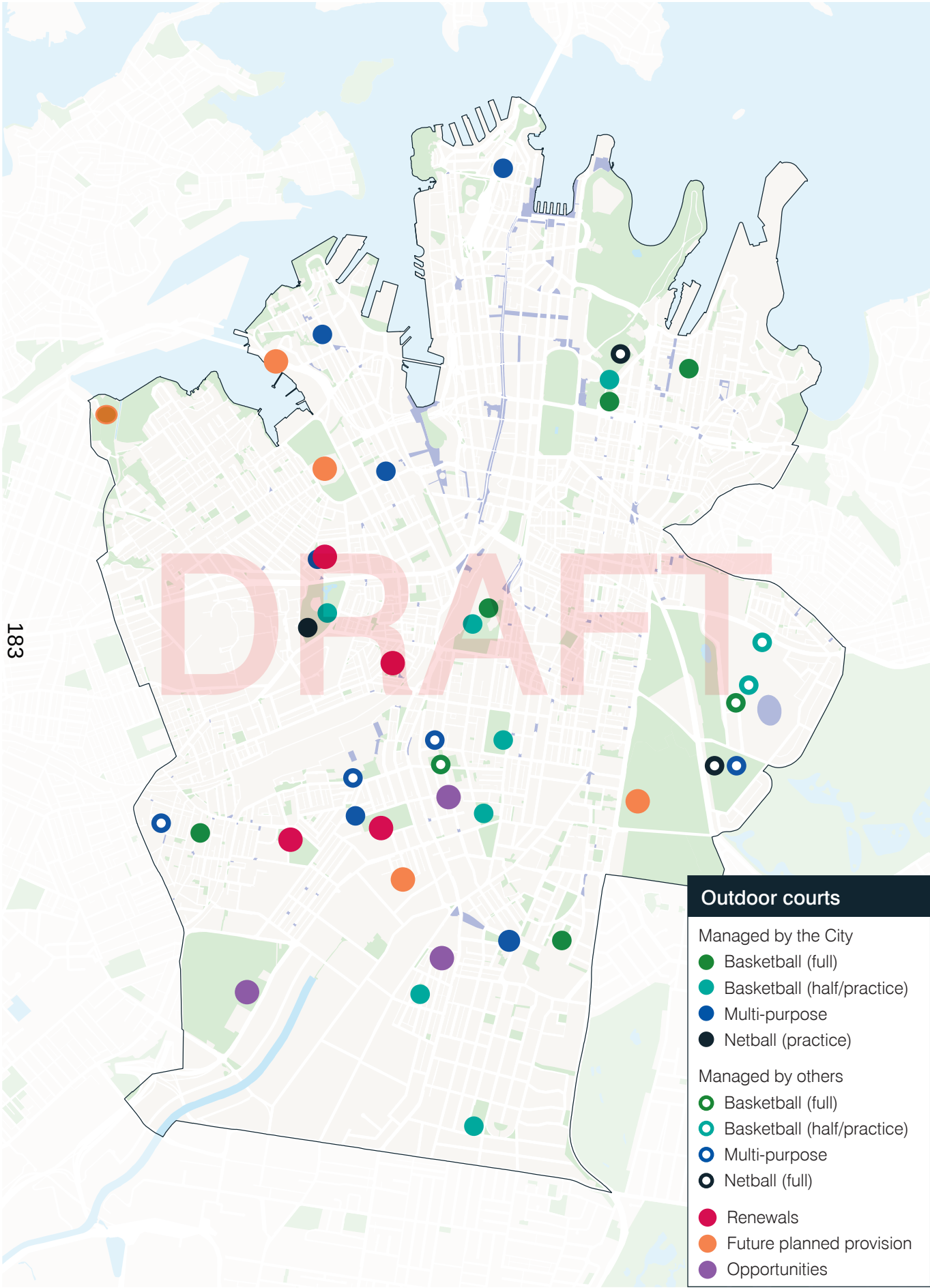


Table 14: Outdoor court provision

Outdoor court		Type of court	Qty	Managed by
1	Alexandria Park	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
2	Beaconsfield Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
3	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	Multipurpose	8	By others
4	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	Netball	4	By others
5	Cook & Phillip Park	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
6	Cook & Phillip Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
7	Getiela Sportsfield (Alexandria Park Community School)	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
8	Harry Noble Reserve	Basketball - Practice hoop	1	City of Sydney
9	Harry Noble Reserve	Netball - Practice hoop	2	City of Sydney
10	Hugo & Vine St Reserve	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
11	Joseph Sargeant Centre	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
12	King George V Recreation Centre	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
13	Lillian Fowler Reserve (Newtown Public School)	Multipurpose	1	By others
14	Maybanke Community Centre	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
15	Minogue Reserve	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
16	Green Square Primary School	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
17	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (fmr Eora Sports, Art and Recreation Centre)	Multipurpose	1	By others
18	Nuffield Park (Zetland Basketball Court)	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
19	Prince Alfred Park	Basketball	2	City of Sydney
20	Prince Alfred Park	Basketball - Practice hoop	1	City of Sydney
21	Redfern Park	Basketball - Practice hoop	2	City of Sydney
22	South Eveleigh Sports Courts (fmr Australian Technology Park)	Multipurpose	2	By others
23	Sydney Football Stadium forecourt	Basketball - Practice hoop	1	Venues NSW
24	The Domain Sports Fields (DC1)	Netball	1	By others
25	Turruwul Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
26	Ultimo Community Centre	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
27	Victoria Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
28	Victoria Park	Netball - Practice hoop	1	City of Sydney
29	Waterloo Green - Raglan Street	Basketball	1	By others
30	Waterloo Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
31	Woolloomooloo Playground	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
32	Hoops Park - EQ Moore Park	Basketball Basketball - half	1 4	by others
Total			47	

Figure 45: Tennis courts/racquet sports

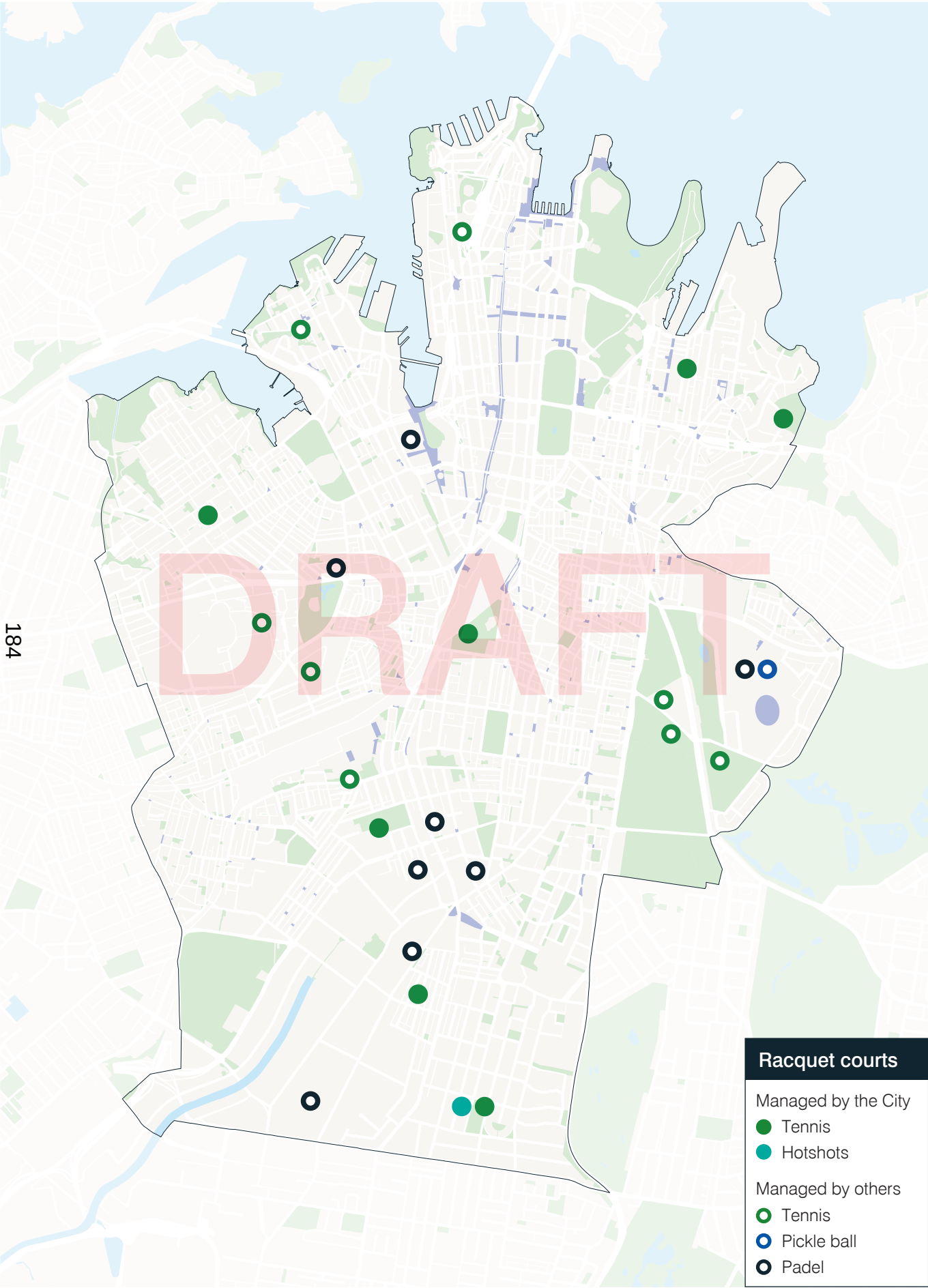


Table 15: Racquet sport courts provision

Tennis court		Qty	Type of court	Managed by
1	Alexandria Park	2	Tennis	City of Sydney
2	Beaconsfield Park	2	Tennis	City of Sydney
3	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	9	Tennis	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
4	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre (Moore Park Golf Course)	4	Tennis	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
8	Jacksons Landing Tennis Courts	2	Tennis	Place Management NSW
9	Kent Street Tennis Court (Millers Point Tennis Centre)	1	Tennis	The Langham
10	Prince Alfred Park	5	Tennis	City of Sydney
11	Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre	5	Tennis	City of Sydney
12	South Eveleigh Sports Courts (fmr Australian Technology Park)	1	Tennis	Eveleigh Precinct Pty Ltd
13	St James Park Tennis Courts	2	Tennis	City of Sydney
14	Sydney Boys High School - Tennis courts	4	Tennis	NSW Department of Education
15	Sydney Uni - Sports and Aquatic Centre	6	Tennis	The University of Sydney
16	Sydney University Lawn Tennis Club	8	Tennis	The University of Sydney
17	Turruwul Park	1	Tennis	City of Sydney
18	Turruwul	4	Tennis-hotshots	City of Sydney
Total				

Table 16: Racquet sport courts provision

Other racquet courts	Qty	Type of court	Managed by
Entertainment Quarter - Moore Park Racquet Club	5	Pickel ball	Other
Entertainment Quarter - Moore Park Racquet Club	3	Padel	Other
ProPickle (indoor)	6	Pickleball	Other
House of Pickle	7	Pickleball	Other
Pickleball Island	2	Pickleball	Other
Broadway Pickle	4	Pickleball	Other

Indoor recreation

Indoor recreation facilities also play an important role in climate change adaptation by providing safe and comfortable spaces for physical activity during extreme heat or weather events.

Indoor court facilities are particularly valuable for people with disabilities, as they accommodate a variety of wheelchair sports in accessible environments.

Beyond traditional courts, indoor recreation facilities may include community centres with gyms and flexible studios for yoga, Pilates, martial arts and group exercise, enabling adaptable programming for diverse users.

Current provision

There are 25 indoor multi purpose court recreation facilities in our local area. These facilities include 13 indoor multipurpose courts managed by the City.

- Private sector provision of indoor courts is increasing, driven by growing demand for pickleball, padel, and badminton facilities.

Since 2016, the City has delivered the Perry Park Recreation Centre with four indoor courts, as well as the Pymont Community Centre, which includes gym facilities and flexible spaces for recreation programs.

Huntley Street Recreation Centre, a four court facility is completed and will be opening later in 2026.

The City’s community centres also support recreational programs through flexible spaces, with some centres such as Pymont Community Centre and Juanita Nielsen providing on-site gym facilities. Similarly, our aquatic facilities also incorporate gym facilities as part of their broader recreation offering.

Trends

- Indoor courts are in high demand due to their versatility, supporting activities such as basketball, badminton, futsal, and other indoor sports.
- Private sector provision of gyms, health clubs, and indoor courts has grown significantly over the past seven years, responding to increased demand particularly for pickleball, padel, and badminton facilities.

- Demand for indoor sports courts is expected to grow over time, driven by the City’s younger population, increased participation in modified and social sport formats, and the need for climate-resilient facilities in hotter conditions.

Assessing future demand

Indoor recreation facilities experience consistently high levels of utilisation Demand is particularly strong during afternoons, evenings and weekends, when facilities are used for club training, competitions, community programs and social sport.

Utilisation data indicates that some facilities operate at or near capacity during peak periods. Perry Park Recreation Centre, KGV and Peter Forsyth Centres for example, experience utilisation rates approaching 90 per cent at peak times, highlighting the significant demand for indoor court space across the City.

Based on 2016 bench marks , future planned provision and 2046 population projection an additional 7 indoor courts will be required. This calculation does not consider private court provision which tends on recent provision to be one format only such as for pickleball and badminton.However this increased supply for some sports needs to be acknowledged.

Strategic considerations

- **Adaptability:** design courts and spaces to accommodate multiple sports and activities, including modified rules and community programs.
- **Accessibility and inclusion:** ensure universal design to support people with disabilities, including wheelchair sports and inclusive programming.
- **Partnerships:** continue to pursue opportunities with schools to establish shared-use arrangements for indoor court provision.

- **Private provision:** as supply continues to grow, consider the role of private sector operators in deliverng indoor sports while directing public investment toward addressing gaps in access and equity. Experiences utilisation rates approaching 90 per cent at peak times, highlighting the significant demand for indoor court space across the City.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Increase provision of indoor courts	Planned provision – Huntley Street Indoor Sports Centre - 4x indoor courts - completed – Fig and Wattle Street Developer agreement - 2x indoor courts – PCYC Redfern - 1 court	
Asset upgrade and renewal	– Programmed upgrade and renewal to existing indoor court/ indoor recreation facilities as required. – Future considerations - enclose KGV roof terrace above gym to increase floor space for exercise classes/multi-purpose use	
City booking allocation	– Continue annual Expressions of Interest (EOI) processes to transparently and equitably allocate indoor court use, with priority given to allocations that promote a diverse mix of genders, age groups, ability levels, and cultural backgrounds – Monitor and adjust allocations regularly to respond to changing demand and participation trends across the City.	
City programming	Continue City-led programming of indoor courts and recreation spaces to deliver a broad range of social recreation activities and competitive opportunities	
Indoor community spaces	Ensure any future new or upgraded City community centre projects include flexible, multi-purpose spaces capable of accommodating indoor recreation programs such as yoga, dance, and martial arts	

Figure 46: Indoor courts

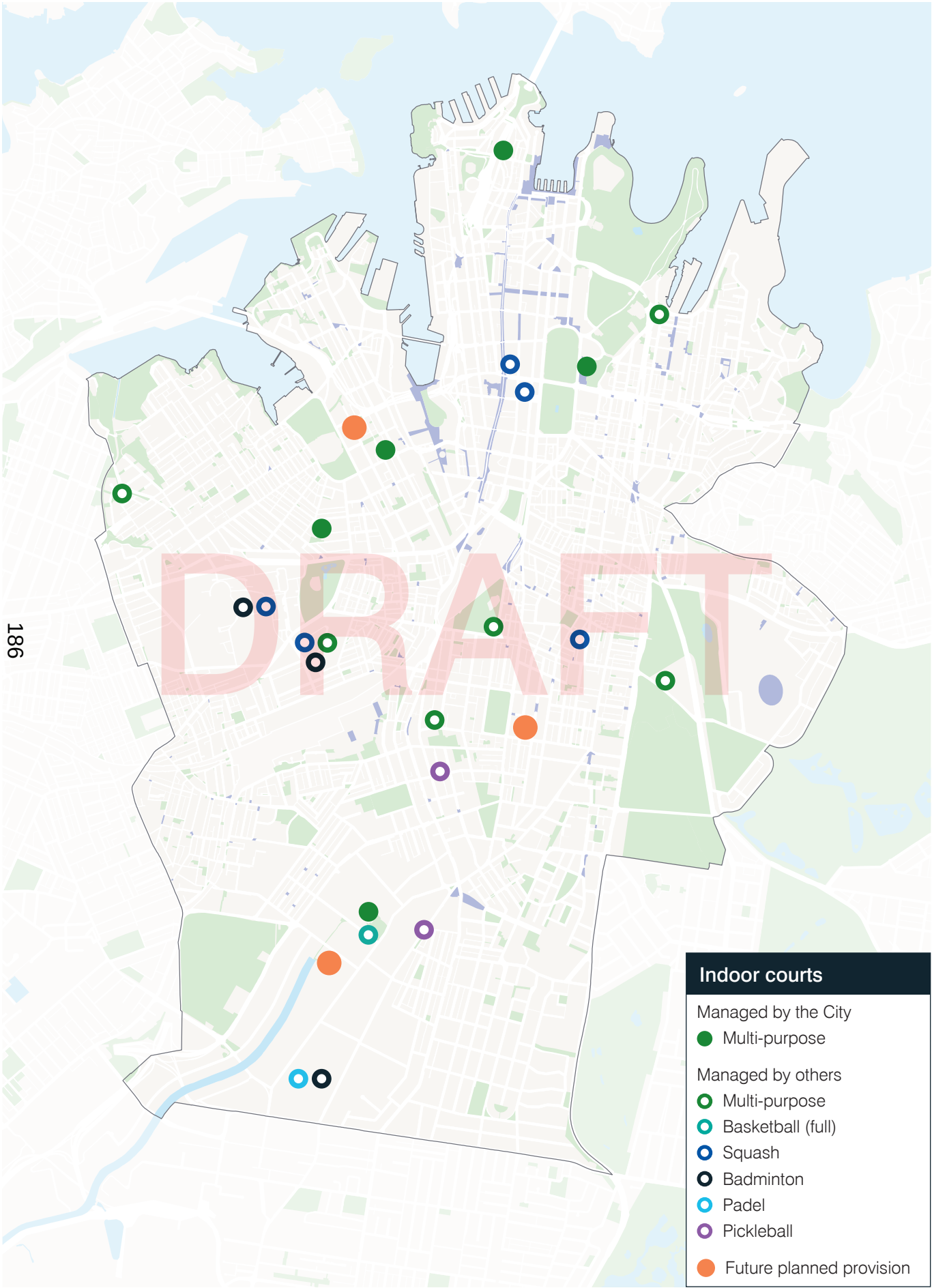


Table 17: Indoor courts

Indoor courts		Court type	Qty	Managed by
1	Huntley Street Recreation Centre	Multipurpose	4	City of Sydney
2	Cook & Phillip Park	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
3	King George V Recreation Centre	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
4	Perry Park Recreational Centre	Multipurpose	4	City of Sydney
5	Peter Forsyth Auditorium	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
6	Ultimo Community Centre	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
7	Inner Sydney High School	Multipurpose	1	Others
8	Alexandria Basketball Stadium	Basketball	2	Others
9	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Multipurpose	1	Others
10	PCYC - City of Sydney, Woolloomooloo	Multipurpose	1	Others
11	PCYC - Glebe, Leichhardt	Multipurpose	1	Others
12	Sydney Boys High School - UTS Gymnasium	Multipurpose	2	Others
13	Sydney CBD Squash Club, Castlereagh St	Squash - limited access	2	Others
14	Sydney CBD Squash Club, Dexs Building on Pitt St	Squash - limited access	1	Others
15	Sydney Uni Arena Sports centre	Badminton	3	Others
16	Sydney Uni Arena Sports centre	Squash	2	Others
17	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Multipurpose	4	Others
18	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Squash	3	Others
19	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Badminton	6	Others

Table 18: Indoor courts

Indoor courts - Private providers		Court type	Qty	Managed by
20	Hiscoes Gym	Squash	4	Others
21	Hoops Capital - EQ Moore Park	Basketball	1	Others
22	Indoor Padel Australia, Alexandria	Padel	8	Others
23	NBC Badminton, Alexandria	Badminton	18	Others
24	Propickle	pickleball	5	Others
25	House of Picklball	pickleball	2	Others
26	Pickleball Island			

● Future provision	Qty
27 Huntley Street (completed)	4 multi purpose courts
28 Fig and Wattle	2 multi purpose courts
29 Redfern PCYC	1 multi purpose courts

Figure 47: Community and recreation centres

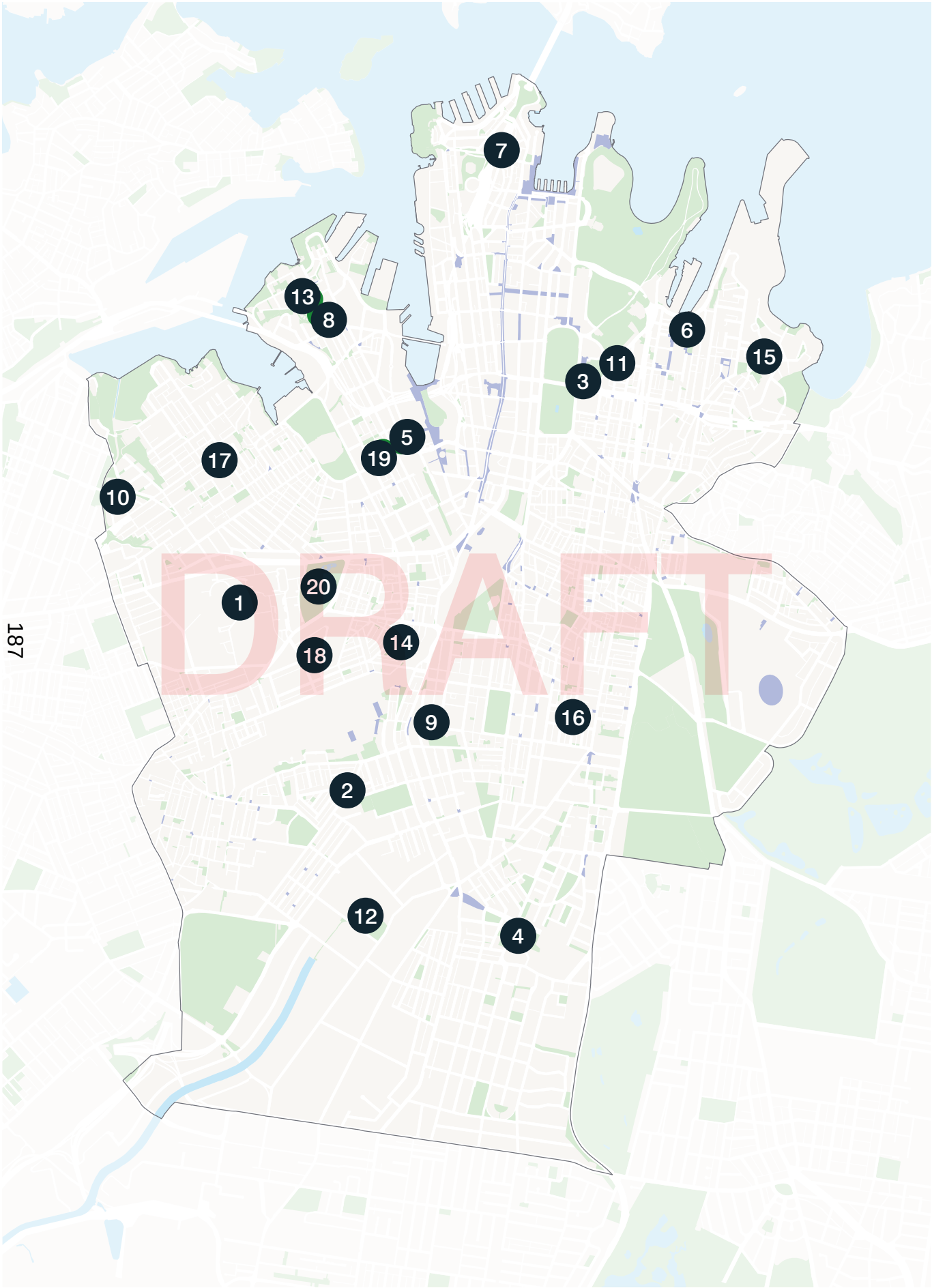


Table 19: Community and recreation centres

Community and recreation centres		Facilities	Managed by
1	Arena Sports Centre	Gym Rock climbing wall	Others
2	Cliff Noble Community Centre	Exercise classes	City of Sydney
4	Gunyama Park Aquatic Centre	Gym	City of Sydney
5	Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre	Gym and fitness centre	City of Sydney
6	Juanita Neilson Community Centre	Gym Activity rooms	City of Sydney
8	Maybanke Community Centre	Exercise classes	City of Sydney
9	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Private facility open to the public	Others
10	PCYC - Glebe Leichhardt	Gym Boxing/Martial arts Gymnastics	Others
11	PCYC - City of Sydney, Woolloomooloo	Gym Boxing/Martial arts Gymnastics	Others
13	Pymont Community Centre	Gym/other programs	City of Sydney
14	Redfern Community Centre	Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
15	Reginald Murphy Community Centre	Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
16	Ron Williams Community Centre	Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
17	St Helen's Community Centre	Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
18	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Gym and fitness classes	Others
19	Ultimo Community Centre	1 multipurpose indoor court 2 multipurpose outdoor court 1 Community courtyard	City of Sydney
20	Victoria Park Recreation Center	Gym and fitness centre	City of Sydney

Playgrounds

Playgrounds provide opportunities for play, learning and connection, supporting children’s development and family wellbeing.

Overview

Playgrounds are a fundamental component of the City’s recreation network, supporting children’s physical, social, emotional and cognitive development while providing important opportunities for family recreation, social connection and community interaction.

Current provision

106 City-managed playgrounds and a further 7 playgrounds managed by other providers

Playgrounds range from small local play spaces serving neighbourhood catchments through to larger destination playgrounds that attract visitors from across the City and beyond. The network includes a variety of play experiences designed to cater for different age groups, abilities and recreation preferences.

The Darling Quarter Playground at Darling Harbour (managed by Placemaking NSW) is extremely popular with both residents and visitors, highlighting the strong demand for high-quality, child-friendly spaces within the city centre.

A network-based approach to playground provision has been adopted, with local playgrounds providing convenient opportunities for everyday play close to home, while neighbourhood and district parks offer larger and more diverse play experiences supported by amenities such as toilets, picnic facilities and seating that encourage extended stays.

Since 2016

- over 16 new playgrounds added to the network

Assessing future demand

Demand for playgrounds is influenced by population growth, family demographics and changing expectations regarding play and recreation.

The City’s projected growth in children and families will continue to increase demand for high-quality play spaces, particularly within urban renewal areas such as Green Square, Redfern-Waterloo and Pyrmont.

Community expectations regarding playgrounds have also evolved.

Families increasingly seek play spaces that provide:

- Diverse and imaginative play experiences.
- Nature-based play opportunities.
- Inclusive and accessible design.
- Opportunities for social interaction.
- Facilities that support multiple age groups.
- Integration with broader park amenities.

Guided by the Everyone Can Play principles and universal design, contemporary play spaces seek to remove physical, social and sensory barriers and provide equitable play opportunities for diverse users.

There is growing recognition of the needs of neurodiverse children, with playgrounds incorporating features such as quiet spaces, sensory play opportunities and predictable layouts that support different play preferences and experiences.

Inclusive and accessible play

Playgrounds are increasingly designed to be inclusive, accessible and welcoming to children and families of all abilities. Guided by the Everyone Can Play principles and universal design, contemporary play spaces seek to remove physical, social and sensory barriers and provide equitable play opportunities for diverse users.

There is growing recognition of the needs of neurodiverse children, with playgrounds incorporating features such as quiet spaces, sensory play opportunities and predictable layouts that support different play preferences and experiences.

Inclusive play environments may also include communication supports, such as communication boards, to assist children and adults with communication access needs to participate more fully in play and social interaction.



Gunyama Park stage 2
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Distribution

The 300–400 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that access to playgrounds varies across the local government area,

While many residential areas are located within a short walk of a playground, the mapping identifies several gaps in coverage, particularly within the city centre and southern city centre. Residents and visitors in in the city centre benefit from access to regional destinations such as Tumbalong Park at Darling Harbour, which provides significant play opportunities and attracts users from across Sydney.

However, reliance on destination facilities does not fully address the need for local, walkable play opportunities for families living in higher-density neighbourhoods.

With residential populations continuing to increase in the city centre and southern city centre, opportunities to increase play experiences need to be considered.

The mapping also identifies other areas across the City where access to playgrounds is more limited. These gaps present opportunities to incorporate playgrounds within proposed new parks and open space improvements, including future parks such as Bank Street Park in Pyrmont.

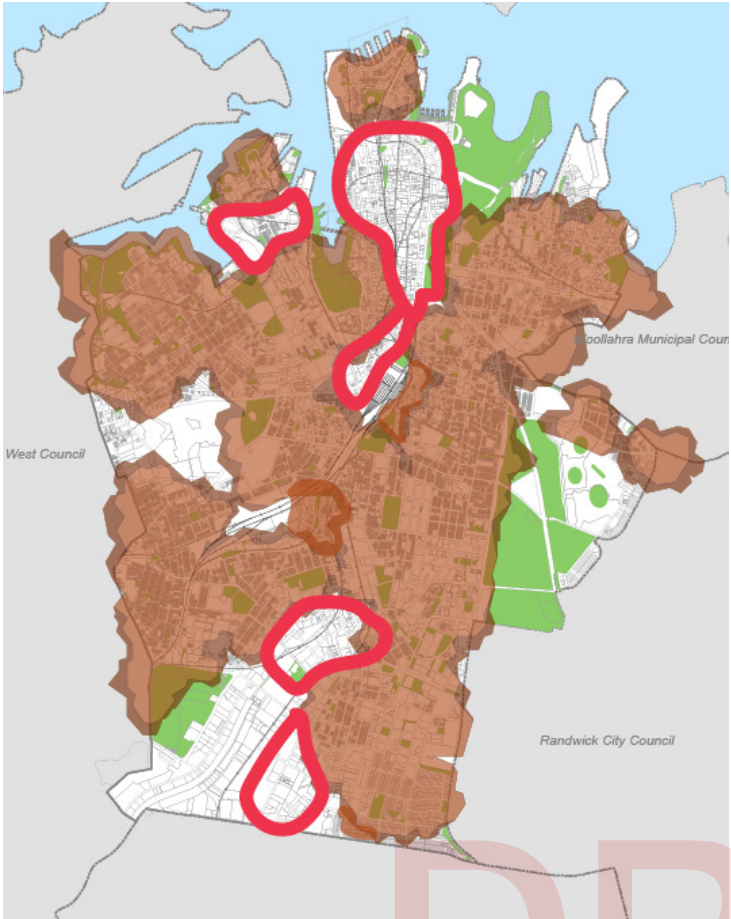
In addition to addressing gaps in playground distribution, there is an opportunity to review the scale and diversity of play provision within larger parks.

District parks such as Prince Alfred Park have the potential to accommodate a more enhanced play experiences that serve a broader catchment provide a wider range of experiences and provide for different age groups and help meet the needs of a growing residential population.

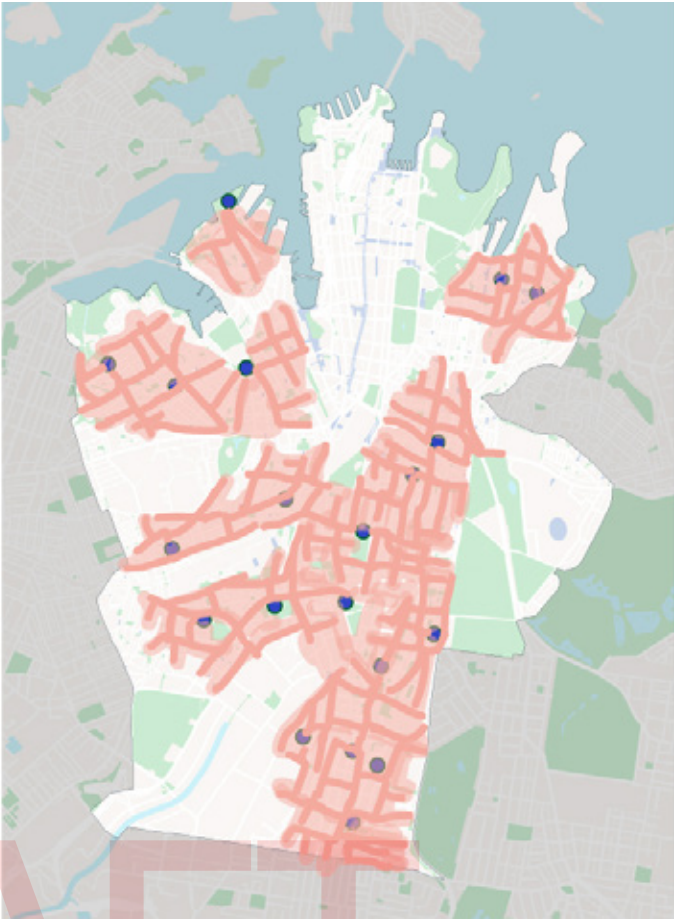
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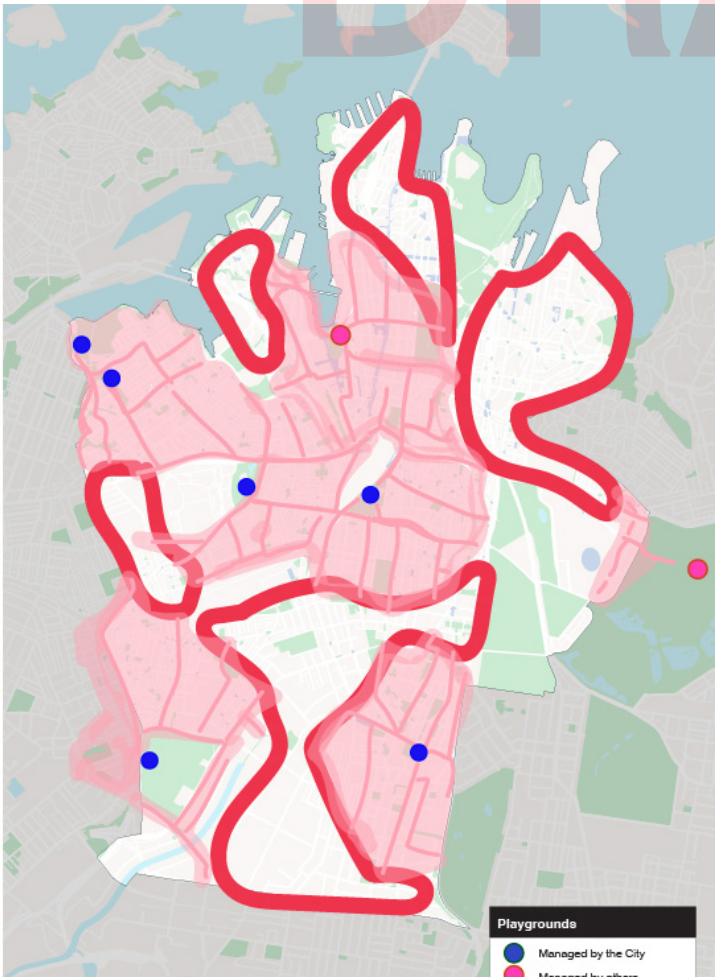
Gunyama Park stage 2
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney



300-400m catchment to a playground



600-800m catchment to a neighbourhood park playground



900-1200m catchment to a district level park playground

Assessing future needs

The City’s existing playground network provides a strong foundation for meeting current demand.

However, continued population growth and increasing residential density will place additional pressure on existing facilities

Future considerations:

- new playground provision within urban rennewal areas
- expansion of destination playground opportunities.
- continued renewal of existing assets as required;
- increased provision of inclusive play experiences
- improved shade and climate responsive design

Large district and destination playgrounds will become increasingly important as population densities increase and demand grows for family recreation opportunities that cannot be accommodated within smaller local parks.

Strategic considerations

The City’s playground network is generally well developed and provides an extensive range of play opportunities across the local government area.

However, future population growth, increasing residential density and changing expectations regarding play will continue to drive demand for high-quality, inclusive and destination-focused play spaces.

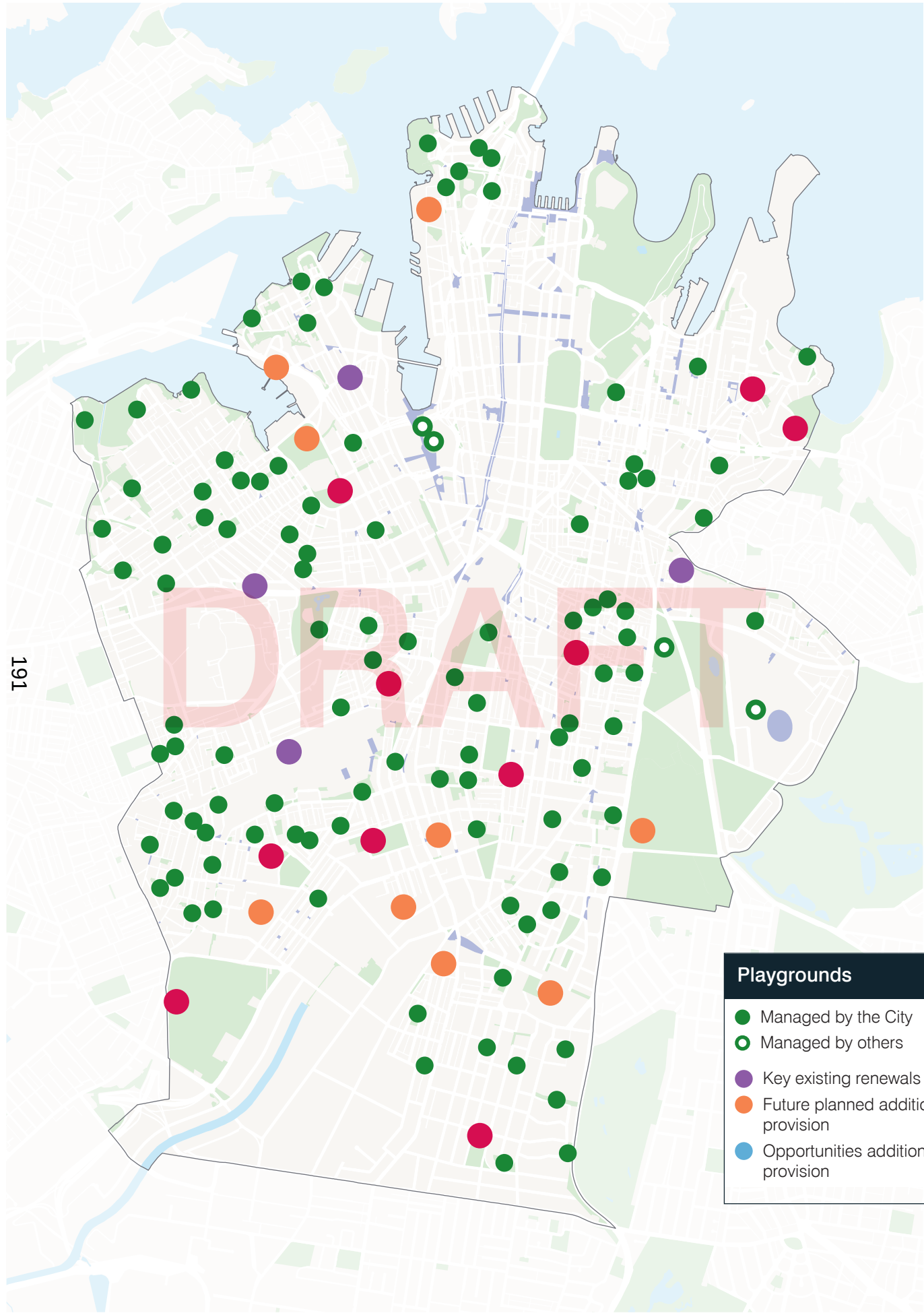
Future planning should focus on delivering new playgrounds in growth areas, renewing existing facilities, improving access to inclusive play opportunities and ensuring play spaces are integrated with broader park and family recreation experiences.

While inclusive play principles incorporated into playground upgrades and new play spaces, there is an opportunity to establish a more strategic network of inclusive playgrounds across the City.

The City has a strong and well-distributed playground network. Future investment should focus on inclusive play, destination playgrounds, climate-responsive design and ensuring play opportunities keep pace with population growth.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action
Establish network of inclusive playgrounds	Undertake feasibility assessment, option testing to establish up to three inclusive playground facilities across the City area. Potential locations for assessment include: – Sydney Park - incorporated as part of renewal of existing playground – Wentworth Park north – others identified through feasibility assessment
New planned Provision to address distribution gaps	New playground provision: – Gunyama Park (completed) – Moore Park south (Greater Sydney Parklands) – Bank Street park (by others) – Wentworth Park – McPherson Park – Mandible Street sports precinct – 22 O’Riordan Street Waterloo South Park
Future considerations new playgrounds to address distribution gaps	– Elizabeth Healy Reserve, Pyrmont – Selwyn Street, Paddington Streetscape – North Eveleigh urban renewal – New playground near Arundel Street, Forest Lodge
Address city centre playground gaps	Support Greater Sydney Parklands to provide additional play opportunities in Kippax Lake area of Moore Park as per Moore Park East Masterplan – Investigate the feasibility of of additional play opportunities in city centre public spaces; – Advocate that future Barangaroo Central Park provides a destination play experience that complements the offer at Tumbalong Park – Assess merit of small scale play opportunities in city centre street closures and other civic public domain
Playground renewal and upgrade	Key existing playgrounds programmed include: – Redfern Park – Alexandria Park – Harry Noble Reserve – Redfern Community Park – Ward Park – Wentworth Park south
Shade	All playgrounds to develop a shade strategy as an integral component of the design process, ensuring shade structures are planned and delivered as part of initial construction rather than added retrospectively. Playground siting and design should maximise the use of existing tree canopy, with additional tree planting incorporated where appropriate to increase shade coverage, improve thermal comfort and enhance the overall user experience.
Strengthen destination play opportunities in major parks	Ensure larger neighbourhood parks and district recreation destinations provide a level and diversity of play commensurate with their size, catchment and role within the open space network. Review the play provision within major parks to expand or enhance play experiences to create destination-level facilities. Key opportunities: – Prince Alfred Park – Turruwul Park – Waterloo Park/Oval



DRAFT

Playground		Managed by
1	Albert Sloss Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
2	Arthur Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
3	Bannerman Crescent Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
4	Beaconsfield Park Playground	City of Sydney
5	Beare Park Playground	City of Sydney
6	Blackwattle Bay Playground	City of Sydney
7	Bowden Playground	City of Sydney
9	Bujari Gamarruwa Park Playground	City of Sydney
10	Burren Street Playground	City of Sydney
11	Butterscotch Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
12	Charles Kernan Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
13	Chelsea Street Playground	City of Sydney
15	Clyne Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
16	Cook & Phillip Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
17	Corning Park Playground	City of Sydney
18	Crete Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
19	Daniel Dawson Playground	City of Sydney
20	Dibbs Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
21	Douglas Street People Park Playground	City of Sydney
22	Douglas Street Playground	City of Sydney
23	Dr H J Foley Rest Park Playground	City of Sydney
24	Eddie Ward Park Playground A & B	City of Sydney
25	Edgley Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
26	Elizabeth McCrea Playground	City of Sydney
27	Ernest Pederson Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
28	Ernest Wright Playground	City of Sydney
29	Ethel Street Playground	City of Sydney
30	Ethel Turner Park Playground	City of Sydney
32	Fanny Place Playground	City of Sydney
33	Federal Park Playground	City of Sydney

Playground		Managed by
34	Fig Lane Park Playground	City of Sydney
35	Fitzroy Gardens Playground	City of Sydney
36	Flora & Knight Sts Reserve Playground A, B, C & D	City of Sydney
37	Frances Newton Playground	City of Sydney
38	Garraway Park Playground	City of Sydney
39	Glebe Street Playground	City of Sydney
40	Goddard Playground	City of Sydney
42	Green Ban Park Playground	City of Sydney
43	Hansom Cab Place Playground	City of Sydney
44	Harold Park Playground	City of Sydney
45	Harry Noble Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
46	Hollis Park Playground	City of Sydney
47	Jack Shuttlesworth Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
48	James Hilder Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
49	James Watkinson Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
50	Janet Beirne Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
51	Jubilee Park Playground	City of Sydney
52	Kimberly Grove Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
53	King George V Recreation Centre Playground	City of Sydney
54	Kirsova Playground #1	City of Sydney
55	Kirsova Playground #2	City of Sydney
56	Kirsova Playground #3	City of Sydney
57	Lacrozia Playground	City of Sydney
58	Lillian Fowler Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
59	M J (Paddy) Dougherty Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
60	Marriott Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
61	Mary O'Brien Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
62	Matron Ruby Grant Park Playground	City of Sydney
63	Maureen Oliver Reserve Playground	City of Sydney

Playground		Managed by
64	May Pitt Playground	City of Sydney
65	McKell Playground A & B	City of Sydney
66	Minogue Crescent Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
67	Minogue Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
68	Moore Park West Rotunda Playground	Others
69	MJ Hayes Playground	City of Sydney
70	Nita McCrae Park Playground	City of Sydney
71	Peace Park Playground	City of Sydney
72	Pinkstone Playground	City of Sydney
73	Pirrama Park Playground	City of Sydney
74	Pottinger Park (West) The Paddock Playground	City of Sydney
75	Prince Alfred Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
76	Pymont Community Centre Playground	City of Sydney
77	Reconciliation Park Playground	City of Sydney
78	Redfern Community Centre Playground	City of Sydney
79	Redfern Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
80	Renwick Street Playground	City of Sydney
81	Robyn Kemmis Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
82	Rochford Street Playground	City of Sydney
83	Ross Street Playground	City of Sydney
84	Sandpit Park Playground - Eveleigh Green	Others
85	Sarah Peninton Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
86	Shannon Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
87	South Sydney Rotary Park No1 Playground	City of Sydney
88	St James Park Playground	City of Sydney
89	Strickland Park Playground	City of Sydney
90	Surrey Street Playground	City of Sydney
91	Sweet Acres Playground	City of Sydney
92	Sydney Park Playground	City of Sydney

Playground		Managed by
93	The Entertainment Quarter Kids Park	Others
94	The Ribbon Playground	Others
95	The Rope Walk Playground	City of Sydney
96	Thomas Portley Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
97	TJ Hickey Park Playground	Others
98	Tote Park Playground	City of Sydney
99	Trinity Avenue Playground	City of Sydney
100	Tumbalong Park Playground	Others
101	Turruwul Park Playground	City of Sydney
102	Union Street Playground	City of Sydney
103	Victoria Park Playground	City of Sydney
104	Vine Street Playground	City of Sydney
105	Waratah Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
106	Waterfront Park Playground	Others
107	Waterloo Green Playground	City of Sydney
108	Waterloo Park & Mount Carmel Playground	City of Sydney
109	Wattle Lane Park Playground	City of Sydney
110	Wentworth Park Playground	City of Sydney
111	Wimbo Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
112	Wood Street Playground	City of Sydney
113	Woolloomooloo Playground	City of Sydney
114	Wulaba Park Playground	City of Sydney

Fitness stations

Outdoor fitness stations in parks offer free, accessible opportunities for physical activity, encouraging social connection, group workouts, and participation across all age groups.

Current provision

The City has established a network of outdoor fitness stations distributed throughout parks and recreation spaces.

There are currently 22 outdoor gyms across the local government area, of which 15 are managed by the City.

The outdoor gyms managed by City of Sydney are typically comprised of static equipment suitable for bodyweight strength, mobility, and balance training. Dynamic equipment is also installed at several locations.

Demand and utilisation

Unlike booked recreation facilities, fitness stations are freely accessible and available for use. While utilisation is difficult to quantify, community feedback and participation trends indicate that outdoor fitness infrastructure is well used and plays an increasingly important role in supporting everyday physical activity. Outdoor gyms are particularly well used during the early mornings, lunch time and evenings. Facilities in residential areas are more popular on weekends.

Issues

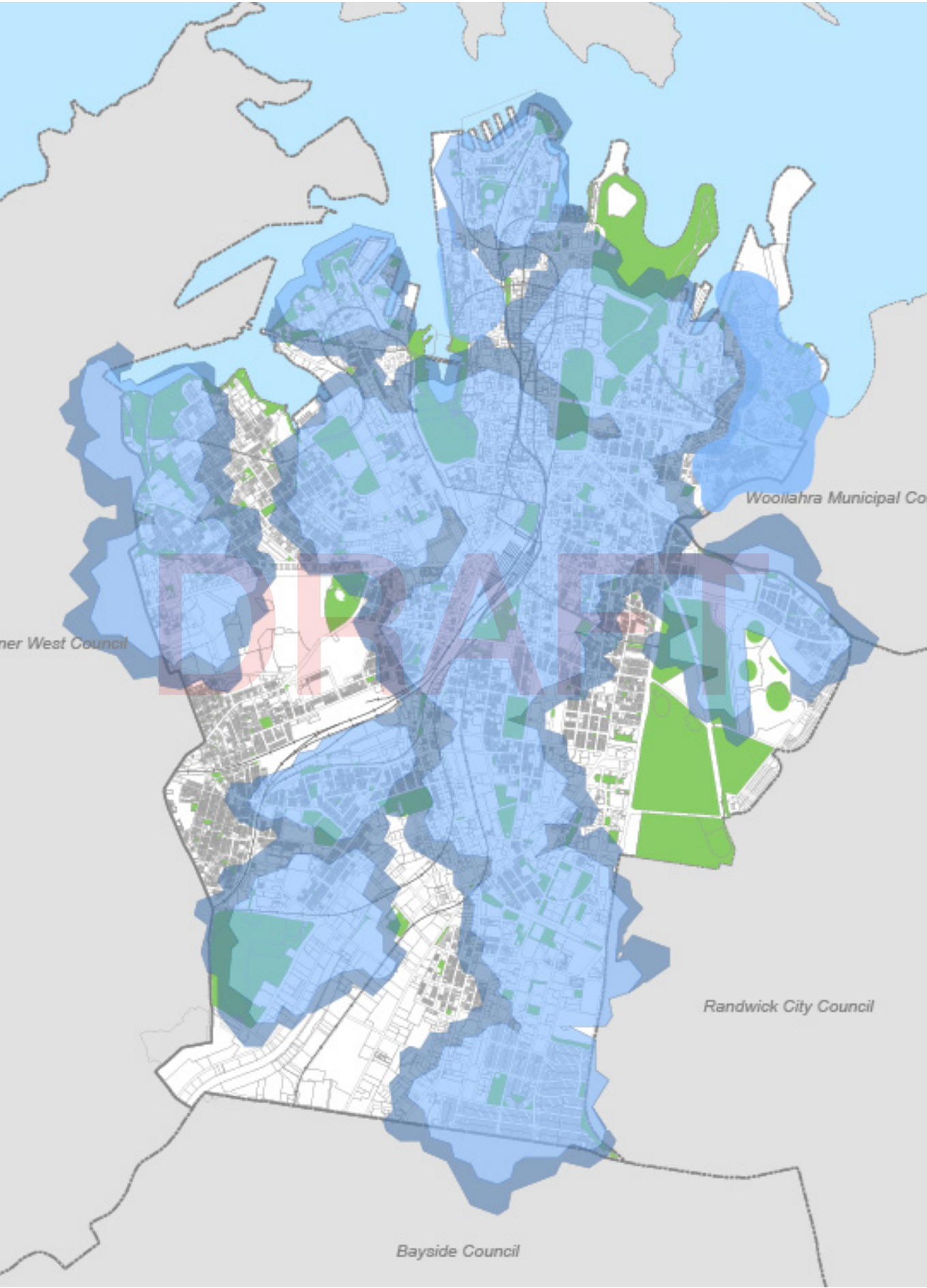
Outdoor gyms, especially those with muscle-focused equipment (e.g. calisthenics rigs, weight-based stations), can feel intimidating or unwelcoming to women. These spaces often reflect a culture of performance and strength that aligns more closely with male participation norms, leading to lower female engagement.

Assessing future demand

Fitness and gym activities remain among the most popular recreation pursuits nationally, with many participants increasingly seeking opportunities to exercise outdoors. Outdoor fitness stations provide accessible alternatives to traditional indoor facilities and support flexible participation.

While the network is generally well established, gaps remain in some areas. The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that outdoor fitness stations are distributed across many parts of the City, providing convenient access for a significant proportion of residents. However a number of areas remain outside the preferred walking catchment. These include central city centre, Erskineville/ Newtown area, East Redfern, and parts of Alexandria and Beaconsfield.

Figure 48: 600-800m catchment outdoor fitness stations



Strategic considerations

The assessment indicates that the City is generally well served by outdoor fitness infrastructure however distribution gaps require a response. Future population growth and increasing participation in outdoor exercise will continue to generate demand for additional facilities and upgrades.

Future priorities include:

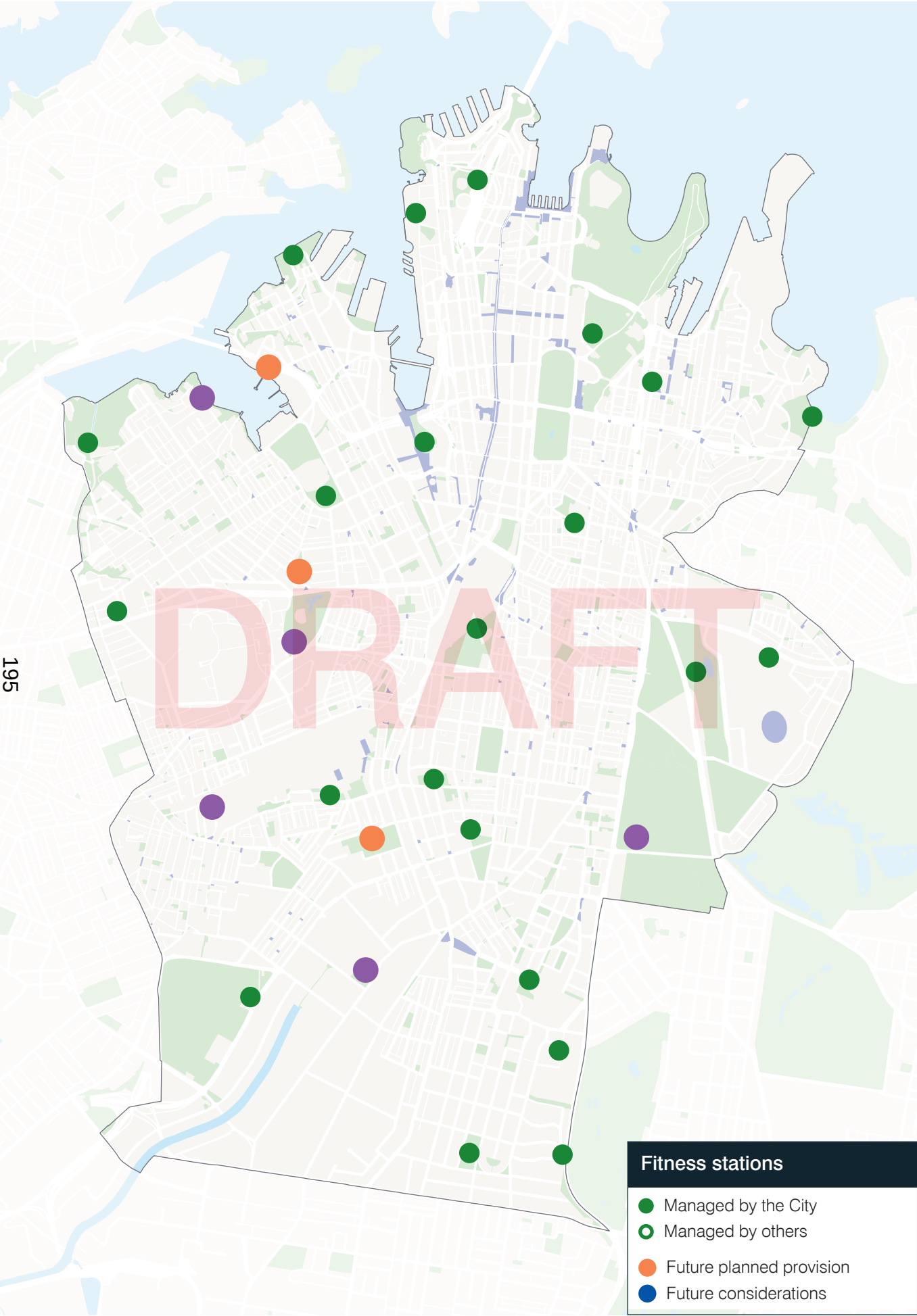
- expanding the network to address identified gaps in provision.
- delivering more inclusive and accessible facilities.
- integrating fitness equipment with walking and cycling routes.
- design layouts and equipment selection to encourage participation by women, including spaces that feel safe, inclusive,welcoming, and socially supportive.
- supporting exercise opportunities for older adults and people with disability

194 Strategic responses

Direction	Action
Level of service and accessibility	Increase provision so that most residential properties are located within 10 minute walk(600-800m) to an outdoor gym;
New provision planned to address service gaps	– Minogue Reserve, Glebe (2026) – Ward Park (2028) – Alexandria Park, Alexandria (planned for 2028). – Bank Street Park (Place NSW)
Upgrade/replacement existing facilities	Observatory Park, Millers Point (completed)
Provision by others - advocacy	Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)
Recommended future sites for feasibility assessment to improve access and distribution	Sites where new fitness equipment could be located to improve equitable these areas. Site for consideration include: – Albert Street Pocket Park , Newtown. – Victoria Park, Camperdown – Blackwattle Bay Park, Glebe Foreshore Walk, Glebe – Perry Park, Alexandria – Mandible Sports Precinct , Alexandria.



XXX Turruwul Park fitness station



Fitness station		Managed by
1	Bannerman Crescent Reserve Fitness Station	City of Sydney
2	Bourke Street Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
3	Federal Park 1 Fitness Station	City of Sydney
4	Garraway Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
5	Gunyama Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
6	Harbour Park community recreation space	Others
7	James Hilder Reserve Fitness Station	City of Sydney
8	Moore Park - Kippaz lake Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Others
9	Observatory Hill Fitness Station	City of Sydney
10	Pirrama Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
11	Prince Alfred Park Fitness Station A, B, C, D & E	City of Sydney
12	Rushcutters Bay Park	City of Sydney
13	Sydney Football Stadium forecourt outdoor gym	By others
14	Eveleigh Green	Others
15	Sydney Park Fitness Station Group A, B & C	City of Sydney
16	The Domain	Others
17	The Western Block/ Lyons Road Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
18	Tumbalong Park	Others
19	Turruwul Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
20	Waterloo Green	by others
21	Waterloo Park & Mount Carmel Fitness Station	City of Sydney
22	Wentworth Park Fitness Station - Group A, B, C & D	City of Sydney
● Future provision		
23	– Minogue Reserve, Glebe	
24	– Bank Street Park (Place NSW)	
25	– Ward Park	
26	– Alexandria Park	
27	– Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)	
	– Alexandria Park, Alexandria (planned for 2026).	
● Future considerations		
28	Albert Street Pocket Park, Newtown	
29	Victoria Park, Camperdown	
30	Blackwattle Bay Park	
31	Perry Park, Alexandria	
32	Mandible Sports Precinct	
Total		

Skate and off street bike facilities

Skate and wheeled recreation facilities are an important part of the City’s recreation network, providing flexible spaces for informal recreation, skill development and youth participation.

Overview

Skate and off-street cycling facilities provide support informal recreation, physical activity, skill development and social interaction and are particularly important for user groups that may not participate in traditional organised sports.

Current provision

The City currently provides a range of skate and wheeled recreation opportunities across the local government area, including skate facilities. These facilities support skateboarding, BMX riding, scooter use and other wheeled recreation activities.

Woollahra Council is planning a youth space at Rushcutters Bay Park (section managed by Woollahra Council) that includes a junior scooter and skate facility, which is designed for beginner and intermediate level skaters and a mini basketball court.

Assessing future demand

Skating, roller skating ,BMX and mountain bike riding are experiencing strong growth in popularity including participation rising among girls and women driven by factors like Olympic inclusion, social media visibility, and an expanding group of prominent female role models.

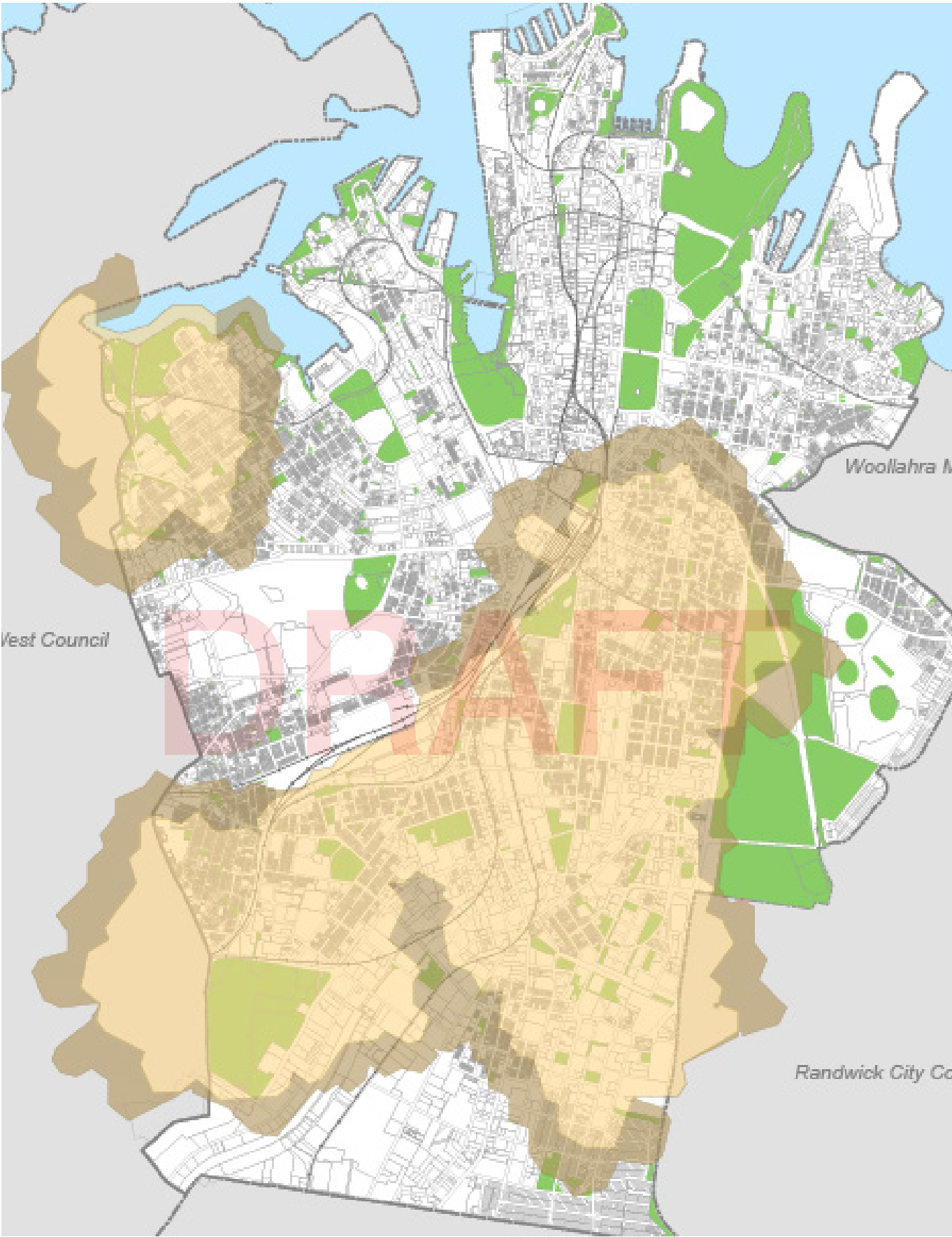
Demand for mountain bike trails and off-street cycling facilities continues to grow. The presence of unauthorised riding within areas such as Sydney Park and Centennial Parklands has created management challenges and impacts on environmental and park values, with visible wear and erosion occurring in some locations.

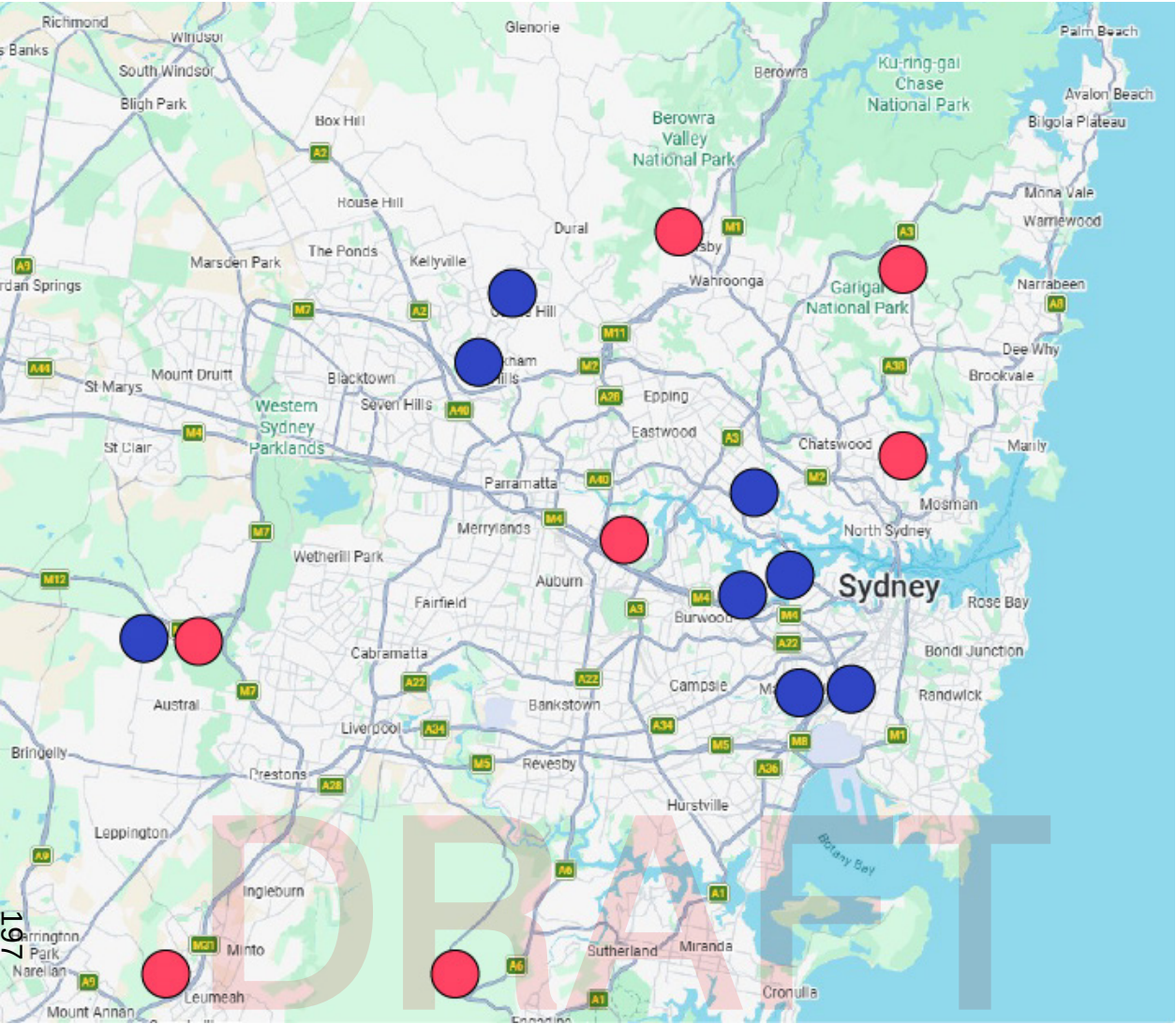
The popularity of these informal riding areas highlights both increasing participation and the unmet demand for purpose-built facilities.

The skate facility network provides good coverage across the central, western and north-western parts of the City through a series of overlapping 900–1200 metre walking catchments. Major facilities at Sydney Park, Waterloo Oval (Fernside Skate Park) and Federal Park function as destination skate parks, attracting users from a broader catchment due to their accessibility by public transport. Together, the network provides a combination of neighbourhood and district-level skate opportunities.

Key gaps are city west/ Pyrmont / Ultimo, city centre and city east areas.

Wollahra Council's proposal for Rushcutters Bay Park will contribute to addressing this gap for junior/ intermediate skaters.





-  mountain bike facilities Sydney metropolitan area
-  pump bike track- Sydney metropolitan area

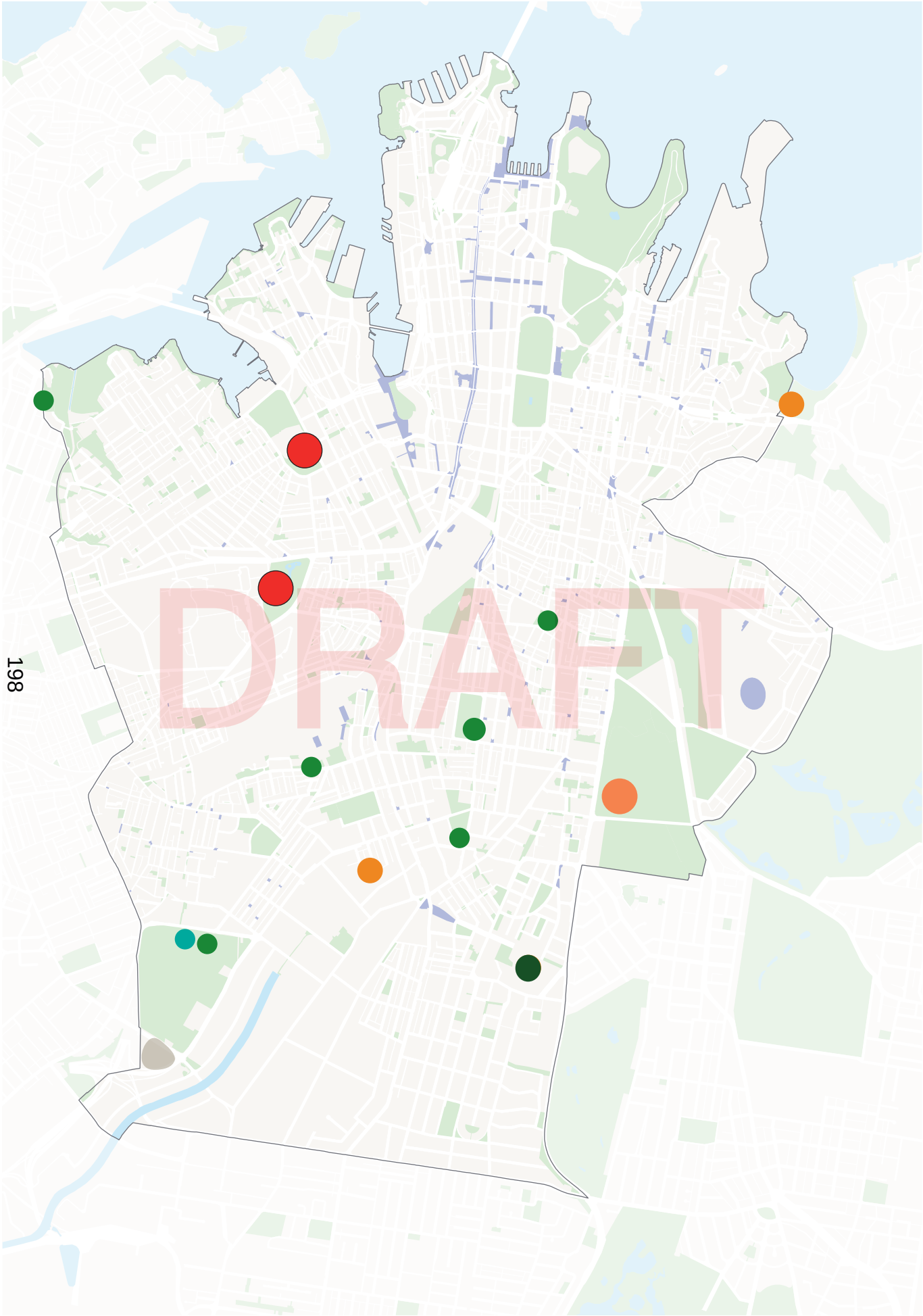
In metropolitan Sydney mountain bike (MTB) facilities in Sydney are largely concentrated in the Northern Beaches, which offers well-developed infrastructure such as Manly Dam, Bare Creek, Oxford Falls, and Deep Creek. Significant purpose-built MTB facilities are also located in Western Sydney, including the major Wylde MTB hub. In contrast, Eastern Sydney has notably few dedicated MTB facilities, highlighting a clear geographic gap in provision.

Strategic considerations

While the existing network supports a range of activities, demand remains for additional purpose-built off-street cycling facilities. Future planning should focus on maintaining and upgrading existing facilities, seek opportunities to increase skate opportunities in the northern part of the city and investigating opportunities to provide dedicated mountain bike cycling environments that reduce damage on parks and natural areas.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Mountain bike facility feasibility assessment	Undertake a feasibility assessment to investigate the potential for BMX and mountain bike facilities within the Campbell Street / St Peters Interchange area. The assessment should consider site suitability, access, safety, noise and environmental impacts, integration with Sydney Park.	
Skate facilities future provision	- Planned additional skate facilities - Gunyama Stage 2 (completed) - Mandible Sports Precinct - skateable moment facilities located with court spaces. - Rushcutters Bay Park - junior level facility (Woollahra Council)	
skate facilities to adress gaps	- Future consideration/ assessment to facility facility at Wentworth Park co-located with court facilities - other site for investigation include Victoria Park Camperdown	
Roller derby/ skating	Consider opportunities for roller derby, roller skating and similar wheeled recreation activities within future facility planning, upgrades and programming. Prioritise flexible, multi-use spaces that can accommodate a range of formal and informal recreation activities while maximising the use of existing infrastructure.	
Engagement	Implement youth-led placemaking to better reflect youth preferences and foster ownership of recreational spaces	



Skate and bike facilities		Managed by
1	Ward Park	City of Sydney
2	Federal Park	City of Sydney
3	Gunyama Park	City of Sydney
4	Redfern Park - Russell Crowe Skate Park	City of Sydney
5	South Eveleigh Skate Plaza	Others
6	Sydney Park bike track	City of Sydney
7	Sydney Park skate park	City of Sydney
8	Waterloo Oval - Fernside Skate Park	City of Sydney

Future provision		Managed by
9	Mandible Street Sports Precinct - skate	City of Sydney
10	Gunyama Park - skate (completed)	City of Sydney
11	Rushcutters Bay Park (Woollahra Council) - skate	Woollahra Council

Future considerations		Managed by
12	Mountain bike facility feasibilty investigation - Campbell St , St Peters	City of Sydney
13	Wentworth Park - skate facility	City of Sydney
14	Victoria Park, Camperdown - skate	City of Sydney

Youth recreation spaces

Youth facilities and spaces provide environments that support physical activity, social interaction, and emotional wellbeing.

Overview

Young people are significant users of the City's recreation network and have distinct recreation needs that differ from those of children and adults. Recreation opportunities for young people are typically characterised by informal participation, social interaction, physical activity and opportunities for independence.

As a result, youth recreation facilities play an important role in supporting health, wellbeing, community connection and positive activation of public spaces.

Unlike traditional organised sport, much youth recreation occurs informally and is often self-directed. Parks, courts, skate facilities, public spaces, walking and cycling routes and recreation destinations all contribute to the youth recreation network and support a wide range of activities undertaken independently or with friends. As the population grows and recreation preferences continue to evolve, providing diverse and flexible recreation opportunities for young people will become increasingly important

Current provision

The City and other agencies provides a range of recreation facilities that cater to young people, including skate facilities, multipurpose courts, indoor courts, and skate and off street cycle facilities for BMX.

Woollahra Council is planning a youth space at Rushcutters Bay Park (section managed by Woollahra Council) that includes a junior scooter and skate facility, which is designed for beginner and intermediate level skaters and a mini basketball court.

The Darling Harbour Mirror Wall is a popular space for dance and social gathering, particularly among young people, supporting informal recreation and creative expression.

Issues

Young people who experience social isolation, limited social connection or a lack of belonging can be vulnerable to harmful influences that offer identity, purpose, status and community. Sport, recreation and fitness settings can play an important protective role by providing positive role models, mentoring, leadership opportunities and inclusive social networks that strengthen resilience, belonging and community cohesion.

Research indicates that teenage girls are significantly underrepresented in the use of public recreational spaces. Creating welcoming, safe and inclusive environments that support social connection, informal recreation and participation can help improve equitable access and use.

Trends

There is a shift toward multi-functional youth spaces that combine recreation, socialising, and creative expression. Young people are blending physical activity with digital platforms, using fitness apps, social media, and online communities to engage with public spaces. This trend is influencing how spaces are programmed and promoted.

The growing popularity of social basketball, futsal and other informal court-based activities highlights the importance of flexible recreation spaces that can accommodate a variety of recreation experiences and changing participation trends.

Youth-Led Design and Engagement - Councils are increasingly involving young people in the co-design of public spaces particularly teenage girls.

These include:

- Skate and scooter parks
- Pump tracks and mountain bike trails
- Hangout zones with seating, shade, and Wi-Fi
- Outdoor performance or art spaces

Strategic considerations

Sport and recreation infrastructure should be planned and activated as community resilience assets. By fostering inclusion, positive role models,

mentoring and community connection, recreation settings can help reduce social isolation and provide positive pathways for young people.

Future youth recreation provision should extend beyond traditional sport to include flexible, informal and social recreation opportunities. Particular attention should be given to creating environments that encourage participation by teenage girls, recognising the importance of social connection, safety, fitness and self-directed recreation in supporting lifelong physical activity.

Embed youth-led planning and co-design approaches to ensure recreation facilities reflect the needs, preferences and lived experiences of young people, fostering ownership, participation and inclusion.

Strategic response

Direction	Action	Reference
Provision Youth Recreation Area (by others)	Support Woollahra Council establishment youth recreation area at Rushcutters Bay Park.	
Recognise sport and recreation facilities that support belonging, social connection, positive role models and healthy pathways for young people.	Plan and activate recreation facilities to support mentoring, youth leadership, inclusive participation and community-building programs, with a focus on reducing social isolation and strengthening social cohesion.	
Spaces for teenage girls	Investigate feasibility incorporating spaces and amenities welcoming to teenage girls. Parks for consideration to include: – Belmore Park – Wentworth Park	
Skate facilities	– Refer to previous section	
Engagement	Implement youth-led placemaking to better reflect youth preferences and foster ownership of recreational spaces	

Paddlecraft

The City of Sydney includes more than 12 kilometres of publicly accessible harbour foreshore, increasingly valued by residents as everyday recreational space.

Overview

Sydney Harbour provide unique opportunities for paddlecraft and water-based recreation. Activities such as kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding and dragon boating are becoming increasingly popular and contribute to the diversity of recreation opportunities available within the City.

Unlike many other recreation activities, paddlecraft recreation relies on specialised infrastructure including launch points, storage facilities, waterfront access and supporting amenities. The availability of this infrastructure directly influences participation and future growth opportunities.

Current provision

Paddlecraft activities are currently supported through a range of facilities provided by the City and other public agencies. These include seawall steps, pontoons, and other foreshore access points that enable the launching and retrieval of craft, as well as a mix of formal and informal storage facilities.

Trends

Kayaking and canoeing have become increasingly popular recreational activities on Sydney Harbour, offering residents and visitors a low-impact, nature-connected way to explore the city’s iconic waterways.

Issues

Councils are increasingly requested to cater for the growing demand for watercraft storage and convenient harbour access.

However public land along the foreshore is limited and subject to high and competing demand. Foreshore parkland is particularly constrained and valued for a wide range of active and passive recreational uses, placing pressure on its capacity to accommodate additional infrastructure.

Strategic considerations

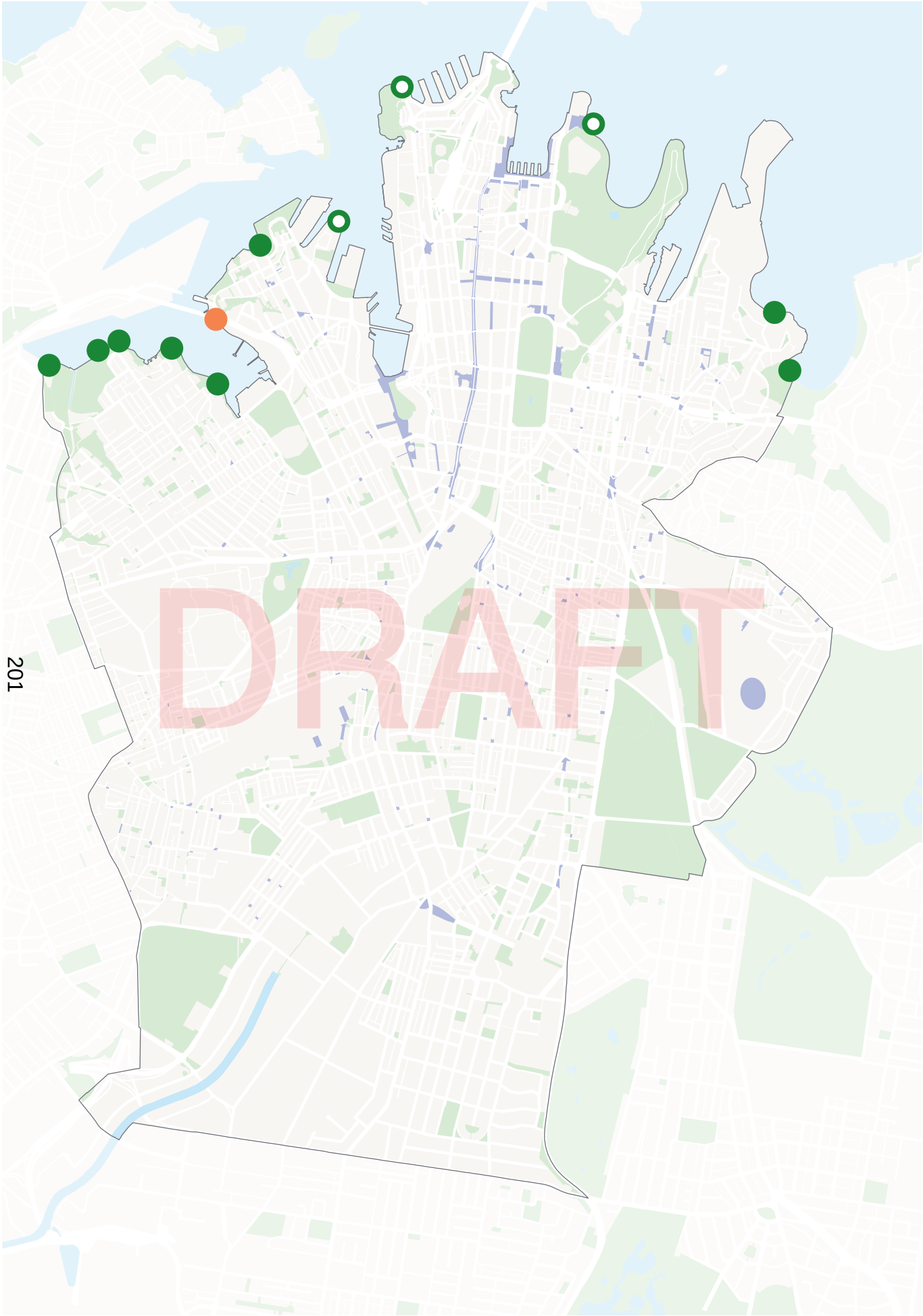
Sydney Harbour represents one of the City’s most significant recreation assets and provides unique opportunities for paddlecraft and water-based recreation. Demand for kayaking, paddleboarding and other paddlecraft activities is expected to continue growing as interest in outdoor and nature-based recreation increases.

Future planning should focus on improving access to waterways, expanding supporting infrastructure and ensuring water-based recreation forms an integrated component of the City’s broader recreation network.

A coordinated, cross-agency approach is required to integrate storage, launch, and access infrastructure with broader open space, transport, and waterways planning, while supporting safe use, adaptability to changing recreational trends, and long-term asset management.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Increase the provision and availability of storage and water access	Planned new facilities include: – Bank Street Park (Infrastructure NSW) to include a new public pontoon and launch jetty and storage for paddle craft and dragon boats	
Foreshore sites for assessment to improve paddlecraft recreation	City parks for feasibility assessment and consultation for storage rack for kayaks and paddleboards, enhanced water access stairs and, shower points for: – Bicentennial Park, Annandale – Pirrama Park, Pyrmont – Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay; and – Rushcutters Bay Park.	



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Water and paddlecraft		Facilities	Managed by
1	Barangaroo Promenade - Barangaroo Headland Park	Public boating pontoon Sheltered bay for swimming	Infrastructure NSW
2	Beare Park & Rotary Park	Commercial Marina with kayak storage Water access ramp within marina complex Water access stairs Off-shore moorings	City of Sydney
3	Darling Island - Ballarat Park	Public ferry wharf	Place Management NSW
4	Glebe Foreshore - Bicentennial Park East	Water access stairs	City of Sydney
5	Glebe Foreshore - Bicentennial Park West	Public boating pontoon Water access stairs Temporary dragonboat storage	City of Sydney
6	Glebe Foreshore - Blackwattle Bay Park East	Public boating pontoon Water access stairs	City of Sydney
7	Glebe Foreshore - Blackwattle Bay Park West	Public boating pontoon Water access stairs Storage rack for outrigger canoes	City of Sydney
8	Glebe Foreshore - Pope Paul Reserve	Water access stairs	City of Sydney
9	Opera House and Botanic Gardens Precinct	Public boating pontoon Commercial kayak rental	Transport for NSW
10	Pymont Foreshore North - Pirrama Park	Water access stairs Sheltered bay Public boating pontoon.	City of Sydney
11	Rushcutters Bay Park West	Water access stairs Off-shore moorings	City of Sydney

● Future provision

12	Blackwattle Bay - Bank Street Park Precinct	Future water access ramp for boats Future storage for dragon boats Future commercial marina	Others
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● Future considerations

Sites for feasibility assessment		Bicentennial Park west , Annandale - upgrade facility Pirrama Park, Pymont Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay; and Rushcutters Bay Park
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Walking and cycling

Walking and cycling for recreation are among the most popular activities across all age groups in the community.

Overview

Walking and cycling are embedded in everyday life and support recreation, exercise, social interaction and active transport. Rather than relying on dedicated recreation facilities, these activities are supported by an extensive network of parks, streets, foreshore paths, public spaces, shared paths and cycleways.

While the City’s cycling program is primarily focused on active transport, the expansion of separated cycleways also supports recreational cycling by creating safer and more attractive environments for people of all ages and abilities. As participation continues to grow, demand for well-connected walking and cycling routes will increase, reinforcing the importance of streets and active transport corridors as key components of the City’s recreation network.

Current provision

The City has invested significantly in walking and cycling infrastructure over recent years, improving both recreation and transport opportunities delivering pedestrian upgrades and cycle network improvements. Since 2007, we have delivered a network comprising of 29km of separated cycleways, 66km of shared paths and another 61km of other cycling infrastructure.

Together, these initiatives encourage walking, running and cycling for recreation and transport while creating more welcoming, accessible public spaces for all.

Participation and demand

Walking is the most popular recreation activity in Australia, with almost half of NSW adults participating in recreational walking. Running, jogging and cycling also attract substantial participation and are among the most common forms of informal recreation undertaken within the City. Participation data from Ausplay indicates:

- Recreational walking is the most popular activity (48.2%).
- Running and jogging attract 15.6% participation.
- Cycling attracts 7.1% participation.

These activities are particularly significant because they can be undertaken independently, require relatively little infrastructure and appeal to people across all ages and life stages. Their popularity reflects broader recreation trends towards flexible, informal and self-directed participation.

Strategic considerations

The Cycle Strategy and Action Plan will deliver a connected cycle network. Together with ongoing pedestrian amenity improvements the street will be an important recreation asset in its own right.

Larger parks should be considered for pathway loops for walking and running, supporting recreation, fitness and active lifestyles

Direction	Action	Reference
Cycle network implementation	Progressively deliver the City’s planned cycling network as per the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan.	
Pedestrian amenity street improvements	Continue program for pedestrian street upgrades to improve footpath quality and continuity, enhance pedestrian crossing safety and accessibility, and expand tree canopy and greening to increase shade and comfort.	
Park walking loops in larger parks	Provide and enhance dedicated walking loops within larger parks to support casual walking, jogging, and inclusive fitness activities.	
Wayfinding signage	Continue rollout of coordinated wayfinding signage across the pedestrian and cycling network to improve legibility, navigation, and user confidence.	
Amenities to support walking and cycling	Provide and upgrade supporting amenities including lighting, seating, bubblers, and public toilets, to improve comfort, accessibility, and usability for recreational users of all ages. Integrate delivery with the Greening Sydcanopy planting and greening for shade and amenity	
Regional approach	Coordinate with the NSW Government and neighbouring councils on the planning and implementation of the Sydney Blue Green Grid to strengthen regional walking and cycling connections. Continue support Manly to Bondi Walk with membership, attendance on Manly to Bondi Supporters Steering Committee.	
Gaps and missing links in network	Progress advocacy to address connectivity improvements including: – Glebe Island Bridge – Alexandria Canal – Harbour Bridge south separated cycle link	

Companion animals

Dog exercise is one of the most commonly reported recreational activities in the City’s parks, reflecting the important role companion animals play in everyday life.

Overview

Off-leash dog exercise areas are an important component of the City’s open space network, supporting the needs of a growing dog-owning population.

Off-leash areas provide benefits for both dogs and their owners, encouraging physical activity, supporting social interaction and helping to strengthen community connections.

Current provision

The City currently has 50 off leash parks. These parks range from off leash exercise available at all times to parks that have restrictions for off leash exercise limited to evening and night time hours.

Dog recreation opportunities are distributed throughout the City and vary in size and function from local, neighbourhood parks and larger district parks. Sydney Park provides extensive off leash areas with a paddling pool.

Issues

- Managing dog access to open space presents ongoing challenges in balancing the needs of dog owners with the enjoyment, safety, and amenity of parks for other users.
- Overcrowding and capacity pressures: High-use dog areas can become congested, particularly in dense urban areas, reducing amenity for both dogs and other park users and accelerating wear on turf.

Assessing future demand

With more than 34,000 registered dogs across the City, demand for accessible spaces where dogs can exercise, socialise and play continues to increase.

With rising dog ownership in high-density areas, demand for dog-friendly open space is increasing, particularly where private outdoor space is limited and parks become essential for dog exercise.

Future investment should focus on improving the quality, accessibility and distribution of dog recreation opportunities while maintaining a balanced and inclusive open space network that accommodates the needs of all users

Assessing future demand

The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that many residential areas have access to an off-leash dog exercise area within a reasonable walking distance. Coverage is strongest in the central, northern and eastern parts of the City where a number of established parks provide off-leash opportunities.

Although many residents have access to an off-leash park within a 10-minute walk, increasing residential density and urban renewal growth are intensifying demand on existing facilities.

Future provision should consider both accessibility and capacity to ensure off-leash areas remain functional, attractive and capable of accommodating growing numbers of users and dogs.

Increasing population densities is likely to render smaller dog off leash areas unworkable and rationalisation of the existing network is needed to ensure dog off leash activity is limited to parks where this activity can be managed sustainably.

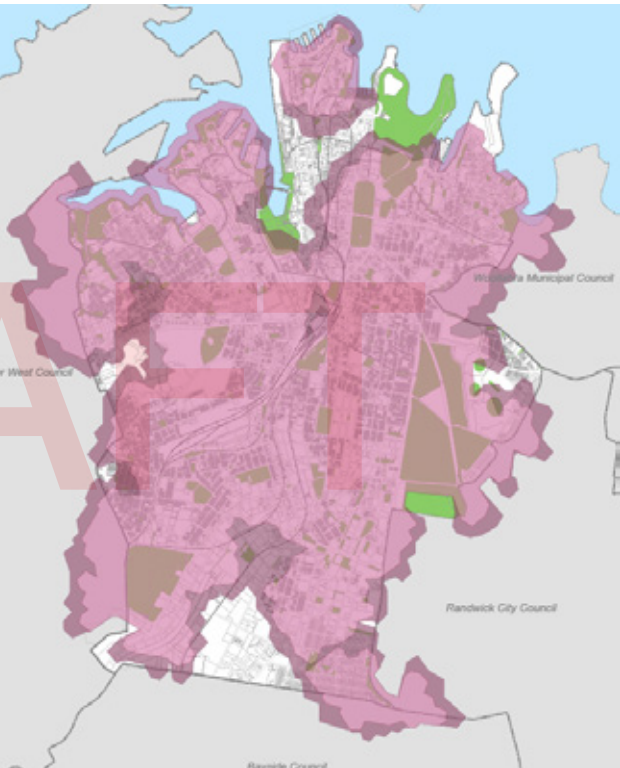
Gaps in access are evident in parts of the southern and south-western areas of the local government area, particularly within urban renewal precincts.

Strategic considerations

Continue to provide an equitable distribution of well-located on- and off-leash areas and ensuring facilities are designed to minimise environmental impacts and maintenance demands.

Future planning should seek to balance the needs of dog owners with those of other park users. While dog exercise areas are highly valued, it is also important to maintain dog-free spaces and protect areas intended for nature conservation, children’s play, organised recreation and passive enjoyment.

Achieving the right balance helps minimise user conflict and ensures parks can accommodate a diverse range of community needs.



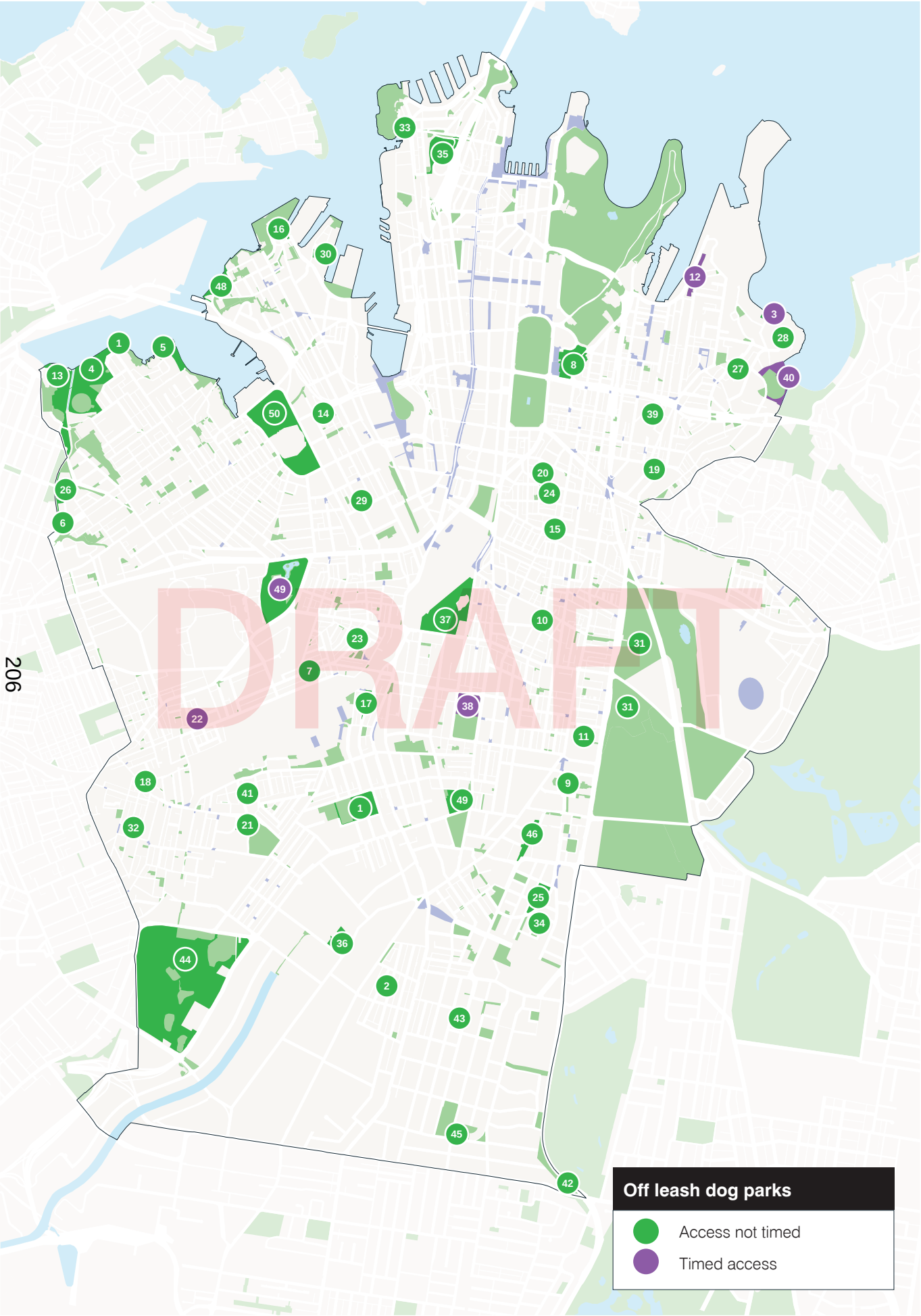
Attachment B4

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 2, p182-293**

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Provide facilities and amenities at popular dog exercise parks to increase enjoyment for owners and dogs	Facility provision includes : – Provision of dog water bowls. – Evening parks program – extend access hours at nominated parks to allow dog exercise in the evening particularly during winter. – Seating and social areas for owners to congregate.	
New provision	– <u>Support provision of off leash areas in the new Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)</u> – <u>Assess merit of Zetland Open Space being off leash to increase provision in Green Square</u> – <u>assess merit for Kimberley Grove Reserve for off leash provisions.</u>	
Balance dog activity with other users	Plan and manage dog access to parks in a way that supports dog exercise while maintaining safety, amenity, and enjoyment for all park users.	
Suitability for new off leash areas	Key criteria to assess suitability include – size of turf area – safety for dogs to run freely – compatibility with other recreational uses – proximity to existing off leash areas – support of local community	
Advocacy	Continue to support the campaign to allow companion animals on public transport, recognising the growing need for equitable access to parks and recreational facilities across Sydney;	
Responsible dog ownership	Continue to support responsible dog ownership through education, compliance, and enforcement measures that encourage appropriate behaviour and rule compliance.	





Dog off-leash parks		Access
1	Alexandria Park	Not timed
2	Beaconsfield Park	Not timed
3	Beare Park	Timed
4	Bicentennial Park	Not timed
5	Blackwattle Bay Park	Not timed
6	Canal Reserve	Not timed
7	Charles Kernan Reserve	Not timed
8	Cook + Phillip Park	Not timed
9	Crown Park	Not timed
10	Eddie Ward Park	Not timed
11	Edmund Resch Reserve	Not timed
12	Embarkation Park	Timed
13	Federal Park	Not timed
14	Fig Lane Park	Not timed
15	Frog Hollow Reserve	Not timed
16	Giba Park	Not timed
17	Gibbons Street Reserve	Not timed
18	Green Bans Park	Not timed
19	Green Park	Not timed
20	Harmony Park	Not timed
21	Harry Noble Reserve	Not timed
22	Hollis Park	Timed
23	Hugo Street Reserve	Not timed
24	James Hilder Reserve	Not timed
25	Joynton Park	Not timed
26	JV McMahon Reserve	Not timed
27	Lawrence Hargrave Reserve	Not timed
28	Macleay Reserve	Not timed
29	Mary Ann Street Park	Not timed
30	Metcalfe Park	Not timed
31	Moore Park	Not timed
32	Mrs Isabella Hills Rest Area	Not timed
33	Munn Reserve	Not timed
34	Nuffield Park	Not timed
35	Observatory Park	Not timed

Dog off-leash parks		Access
36	Perry Park	Not timed
37	Prince Alfred Park	Not timed
38	Redfern Park and Oval	Timed
39	Rosebank Park	Not timed
40	Rushcutters Bay Park	Timed
41	Solander Park	Not timed
42	Southern Cross Drive Reserve	Not timed
43	Sweetacres Park	Not timed
44	Sydney Park	Not timed
45	Tarakan Reserve	Not timed
46	The Ropes Walk	Not timed
47	Victoria Park	Timed
48	Waterfront Park	Not timed
49	Waterloo Park and Oval	Not timed
50	Wentworth Park	Not timed

Events

Events in public parks and spaces bring people together to celebrate and connect, and encourage people to stay and experience parks, streets, and civic spaces in new ways.

Overview

Events also play an important role in supporting evening and night-time use of the city, contributing to safety, vitality, and economic activity after dark.

The City supports events and cultural activities while ensuring parks are protected from damage and that any access restrictions during restoration are minimised. The City also works with event organisers to identify suitable hard-stand alternatives rather than use of parks.

Current provision

The City’s parks and spaces accommodates a wide range of event activities, from small-scale private gatherings such as weddings and children’s birthday parties to large-scale festivals and cultural events that attract thousands of attendees in the City’s larger parks.

Issues

While events in parks and public spaces contribute to community vibrancy and cultural life, they can also lead to significant challenges in park management and maintenance.

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, with higher rainfall before and during outdoor events contributing to park damage, increased rehabilitation costs, and extended restrictions on public access.

Trends

Increasing demand for outdoor community and cultural events in parks and public spaces.

Events are increasingly using streets for temporary activations and place-based programming (e.g. Sydney Streets), expanding public space beyond traditional parks.

Shift toward permanent or semi-permanent infrastructure (e.g. power, water, hardstand areas) to reduce repeat ground disturbance.

Strategic considerations

Public events, cultural activities and civic recreation are becoming increasingly important in supporting social connection, community wellbeing and urban liveability

Events should be supported where they deliver social, cultural and economic benefits to the community, while ensuring that sensitive landscapes, ecological areas and high-value park assets are protected from excessive wear and degradation. Designated event areas should be identified and managed to ensure activities occur in suitable locations and minimise impacts on more sensitive parts of the open space network.

Investment in event-supporting infrastructure, such as permanent power and hardstand areas, is essential to enable events in parks while protecting turf, reducing rehabilitation costs, and maintaining public access.

Progress shift for events suitable to be on hardstand and streets where appropriate to reduce pressure on heavily used parks.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Events in City parks	The City continues to support major one day cultural events in public parks, including Mardi Gras Fair Day, Yabun Festival, and Pyrmont Food and Wine Festival.	
Event infrastructure	Progressive installation of supporting infrastructure in key parks and spaces accommodating community events: – Victoria Park, Camperdown – Dixon Street Chinatown – Belmore Park	
Event spaces on hard stand areas	To reduce the impact of events on parkland and natural turf prioritise the use of hardstand areas, streets, and paved civic spaces for public events and activations. Key spaces include: – Martin Place – Town Hall Square – use of temporary street closures	
Advocacy	Advocacy to state government about making State-controlled public spaces like Darling Harbour and The Domain more available and affordable for events. Advocacy to Sydney University about investigating the potential for outdoor spaces within Sydney University Campus to be used for more live music and cultural events.	

Athletics

The rise of recreational running and run clubs is reshaping demand for athletics infrastructure.

overview

Athletics is one of NSW's most accessible and widely participated sports, connecting children, families, schools, clubs and elite athletes through a shared pathway from grassroots participation to international competition. More than 51,500 registered members and over 1 million school students participate in athletics activities across New South Wales each year.

The NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy sets out a vision to strengthen the sport's infrastructure network, ensuring communities across the state have access to quality facilities that support participation, development and performance

current provision

ES Marks field (managed by Greater Sydney Parklands is the only dedicated facility with a synthetic track in the City LGA. Erskineville Oval is marked out for athletics on a turf track to facilitate school sports carnivals.

In the eastern suburbs Hensley Athletic field located at Pagewood also provided a dedicate facility with synthetic track.

issues

Despite being one of NSW's most participated sports, athletics remains heavily reliant on grass tracks, which make up 89% of the state's facility network. Weather impacts, increasing maintenance costs and limited synthetic track provision are placing pressure on participation, event delivery and athlete development.

The growing popularity of recreational running, run clubs and endurance events is creating increased demand for access to athletics facilities. Many running groups are seeking access to synthetic tracks for structured training activities such as interval sessions, repetition training, speed work and coached programs

strategic considerations

The NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy outlines a long-term investment program focused on facility renewal, synthetic track development, regional hub delivery and improved access to quality athletics facilities across NSW. This will include greater collaboration with schools, councils and government to meet future demand.

While the City of Sydney is not well placed to deliver a dedicated athletics facility, it can continue to support athletics through temporary track line marking for school and junior programs, shared-use training spaces, and investigating the feasibility of distance-marked running loops within parks and open space networks.

These initiatives can support community running groups, provide training opportunities for athletes, and reduce pressure on dedicated athletics facilities elsewhere in the region.



Cricket

Cricket remains one of Australia’s most popular participation sports with participation continuing to diversify, with strong growth in women’s cricket, multicultural communities, junior programs and social cricket formats.

Overview

Cricket NSW's vision is to provide a sustainable and innovative facility network that enables everyone to play and enjoy the game.

The City of Sydney sits within a broader Sydney South East cricket catchment, where participation is supported by a network of community grounds, training facilities and school sports fields. However, increasing population density, competing demands for open space and changing participation patterns are creating growing pressure on the existing facility network

current provision

City of Sydney

- 5 cricket pitches
- 14 practise wickets/nets

Other agencies

- 8 cricket pitches (Moore Park)

Issues

Cricket shares many of its venues with winter sporting codes, creating ongoing seasonal conflicts and limiting access to grounds for preseason training and early-season competition. Increasing year-round use of sports fields is placing additional pressure on playing surfaces.

One of the most consistent issues identified by Cricket NSW is the shortage of quality practice facilities. Existing nets are heavily used and many require renewal or upgrading to meet current demand.

Female participation continues to grow rapidly, creating demand for facilities that provide equitable access to playing fields, training facilities and contemporary amenities.

Strategic considerations

The City of Sydney has limited opportunity to develop new dedicated cricket grounds due to competing land uses and the scarcity of large open spaces. Maximising the capacity and efficiency of existing facilities is therefore critical.

Hotter summer temperatures, increasing participation and limited field availability will drive greater demand in the future for evening cricket. While extended playing hours can improve facility utilisation and help participants avoid extreme heat, hard-ball cricket requires high-quality lighting that can be costly to provide and may create amenity impacts for neighbouring residents. Balancing access, safety, climate resilience and neighbourhood amenity will be an important consideration for future facility planning.

Given the limited availability of playing fields within the City of Sydney, increasing training capacity may provide one of the most effective ways to support participation growth.

Strategic directions

Upgrade amenities and supporting infrastructure

Prioritise upgrades to ageing amenity buildings to provide contemporary, inclusive and accessible facilities that support growing participation, particularly by women and girls. Improvements should focus on change rooms, toilets, storage, spectator areas and social spaces that enhance the overall participant experience.

Expand cricket training capacity

investigate the feasibility of additional practice nets at existing sporting grounds, schools and other suitable locations. Given the limited availability of playing fields within the City of Sydney, increasing training capacity may provide one of the most effective ways to support participation growth.

Strengthen school partnerships

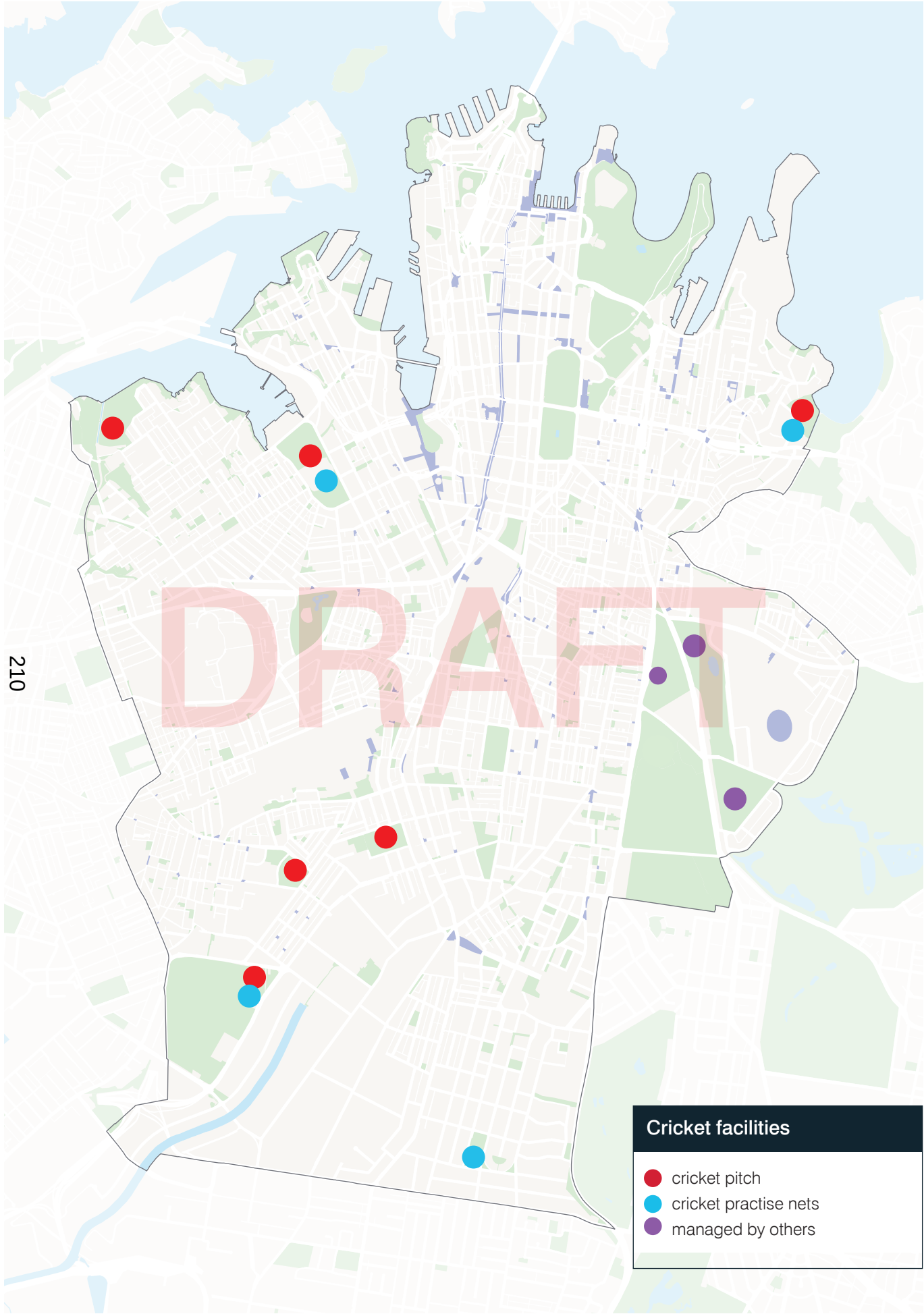
Work with schools to improve access to existing playing fields and practice facilities through shared-use arrangements, helping to address capacity constraints within the community facility network.

Support female and inclusive participation

Ensure future facility upgrades incorporate female-friendly, gender-inclusive and universally accessible design principles, reflecting the continued growth in women's and girls' cricket and the increasingly diverse cricket community.

Improve playing surface resilience

Continue to invest in drainage, irrigation and turf management improvements to increase field availability, reduce weather-related closures and improve resilience to hotter temperatures and extreme weather events.



Other facilities

The City’s open space network is predominantly composed of small parks, with nearly 70 per cent measuring less than 3,000 square metres.

Overview

The City’s recreation network extends beyond major facility categories such as sports fields, aquatic centres, courts and playgrounds.

A range of smaller recreation facilities and supporting infrastructure contribute to the diversity, accessibility and overall performance of the network.

While these facilities typically occupy a smaller footprint, they often provide important opportunities for informal recreation, social interaction, skill development and community participation. Collectively, they help ensure the recreation network can respond to a broad range of interests, life stages and participation preferences.

Current provision

Across the City park network contains various unique recreation offerings including chess tables, and ping pong tables.

Recreation diversity and emerging needs

Participation trends indicate increasing demand for flexible, informal and self-directed recreation opportunities. Many emerging recreation activities rely on relatively small-scale infrastructure that can be integrated into parks, plazas, streets and public spaces.

Examples include:

- Table tennis tables.

- chess tables.
- Practice courts and rebound walls
- bocce courts

These amenities respond to rising demand for informal recreation and the needs of culturally diverse communities, offering appeal across age groups and supporting social interaction and community connection.

Strategic considerations

Future planning should continue to incorporate smaller recreation opportunities within parks, streets, plazas and public spaces to support evolving recreation trends and maximise the recreational value of existing assets.

Future park capital works projects should assess opportunities to incorporate a range of small-scale recreation amenities that appeal to diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds.

Design and placement should prioritise accessibility, inclusivity, and universal design. Infrastructure should be durable, low-maintenance, and adaptable to changing community needs.



Assessment findings

The network-wide assessment identified several common themes that influence the future planning of recreation infrastructure across the City.

High utilisation

Many recreation facilities are operating at high levels of use and continue to attract strong participation from a growing and diverse community.

Increasing demand

Population growth, increasing density and changing participation patterns are expected to place additional pressure on most facility types over coming decades.

Growing importance of informal recreation

Walking, running, cycling, swimming and fitness activities are becoming increasingly significant contributors to recreation demand and require continued investment alongside traditional organised sporting facilities.

Limited expansion opportunities

The highly urbanised nature of the City creates challenges for the delivery of major new recreation facilities, increasing the importance of optimisation, renewal and shared-use arrangements.

Need for flexible infrastructure

Facilities that support multiple activities and user groups are becoming increasingly important as recreation preferences continue to evolve.

Partnerships are critical

Meeting future demand will require collaboration with schools, universities, state agencies, sporting organisations and private providers to maximise community access and utilisation.

Facility	Existing*	Planned*	Potential/future considerations*	Total
Sportsfields	36	3	3	42
Outdoor courts (full)	33	8	2-3	43
Outdoor courts (half/practice)	13	5		18
Indoor courts (multipurpose/basketball)	25 (incl Huntley St)	3	-	28
Outdoor gyms	22	5	5	32
Playgrounds	114	7	4	125
Skate facilities	6	3	2	11
Mountain bike facility	0	0	1	1

Table 20 summary of planned and potential considerations for future recreation facility provision

* City of Sydney and other agencies

Part 5

Park service levels

DRAFT



Park service levels

In the park planning and design process ongoing asset management and maintenance requirements is a prime consideration.

Increasing population and limited availability of large open spaces are placing greater pressure on existing parks to accommodate a diverse range of users and activities.

Effective park management is essential to maximising the recreational, environmental, and social benefits of parks and facilities, ensuring they perform as intended and support ongoing community use and activation.

Park hierarchy

The city has established a park hierarchy to inform facility and amenity provision for its park network. Parks are classified into the following categories:

- District
- Neighbourhood
- Local

These categories are based on a parks size and role within the parks network:

- Setting clear expectations for development and infrastructure
- Establishing consistent service level standards
- Assessing carrying capacity and suitability for different uses
- Ensuring adaptability to meet evolving community needs
- Prioritizing funding and investment decisions

Service standards vary by park type, with larger parks offering more and higher-quality amenities.

These tailored levels guide infrastructure and maintenance decisions based on each park's function, scale, and catchment.

Benefits of a park hierarchy and service level framework

Adopting a structured hierarchy and service level framework supports:

- Consistency and equity in park facility provision across the City
- Targeted investment that avoids duplication and maximises community value
- Operational efficiency in maintenance and management
- Predictability in budgeting for upgrades and improvements

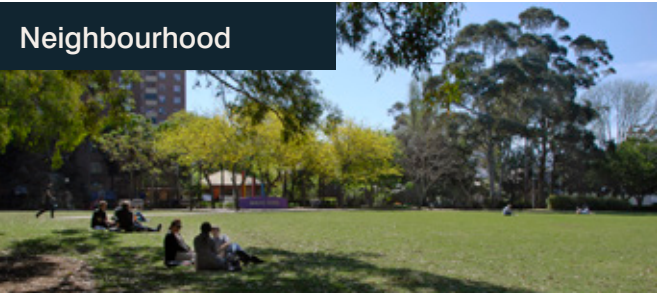
Facility and amenity allocation principles

- **Equitable distribution:** provide key facilities fairly across the City so all residents, regardless of location, can access a diverse range of recreation opportunities.
- **Park classification and function:** align facilities with each park's role, user focus

District



Neighbourhood



Local



Table 20:

Park hierarchy	Size	Catchment distance	Primary purpose and uses
Local park	200m2 – 3000m2	300-400m (5min walk)	– Within walking distance from homes – Short-stay activities (playgrounds, lawn space, gardens, small courts) – Provides respite and single-use recreation
Neighbourhood park	3000m2 – 50,000m2	600-800m (10min walk)	– Serves village areas or dense neighbourhoods – 30–60 minute stays – Informal recreation, relaxation, sport and play – Multi-use spaces
District park	50000m2 +	900-1200m (15min walk)	– Serves multiple villages and suburbs – Attracts both local and surrounding residents – Diverse uses: informal recreation, passive leisure, formal sports, competitions

Park hierarchy service levels - overview

The following Tables provide service levels for the following park and recreation facilities and items. For more detail of specific facilities and items refer to separate service level requirements.

- ✔ Recommended depending on specific site
- ✔ Potential depending on specific site
- ✘ Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Description	Destination parks with high quality features, assets, and facilities to support passive or active recreation or sport.	Destination parks with a variety of facilities and features that support passive and active recreation or sport	Park with facilities to support passive recreation, respite or children’s play for local communities
Distribution			
Recreation facility provision	At least one park within 15 mins walk (typically 900 to 1200m) of all residents	At least one park within 10 mins walk (typically 600 to 800m) of all residents	At least one park within 5 mins walk (typically 300 to 400m) of all residents
Minimum area	>50,000m2	3000m2 – 50,000m2	200m2 – 3000m2
Transport	– Close to multiple modes of public transport. – On site or substantial street parking adjacent. – Connected to active transport network	– Close to at least one mode of public transport. – No parking requirement – Connected to active transport network	– Close to residential areas. – No parking requirement – No active transport network requirements
Access and inclusion	Inclusive access to main park uses and inclusive facilities	Inclusive access to main park uses and inclusive facilities	Inclusive access where feasible
Shade	The City aims to provide quality shade, especially in playgrounds and other highly used park areas. Parks should be comfortable in all seasons, with shade protection from direct and indirect UV radiation in summer. Natural or built shade solutions will be practical, sustainable and in keeping with the park’s character.		
Active recreation			
Sports field / oval	✓	✓	✗
Childrens playground	✓	✓	✓
Inclusive play apparatus	✓	✓	✓
Youth recreation space	✓	✓	✓
Multipurpose courts	✓	✓	✗
Off leash area	✓	✓	✓
Cricket nets or hit up walls	✓	✓	✗
Outdoor fitness	✓	✓	✓

Park infrastructure	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Seating	✓	✓	✓
Water bubbler	✓	✓	✓
Waste bins	✓	✓	✓
Cycle racks	✓	✓	✓
Lighting	✓	✓	✓
Picnic table/communal seating	✓	✓	✗
BBQ facilities / shelter			
Playground shade sail or structure	✓	✓	✓
Park signage	✓	✓	✓
Irrigation	✓	✓	✓
Public art	in accordance with City Public Art Strategy		
Supporting facilities / features			
Public toilets	✓	✓	✗
Cafe kiosk	✓	✓	✗
Community building	✓	✓	✗
Public art	in accordance with City Public Art Strategy		
Water features	✓	✓	✗
Creative lighting	in accordance with City Lights Code		
Parking	✓	✓	✗
Environmental			
Canopy cover / shade provision	in accordance with City Greening Sydney Strategy		
Bushland / habitat	✓	✓	✓
Wetlands/natural water	✓	✓	✓
Park irrigation	✓	✓	✓
Community gardens	✓	✓	✓
Open lawns			
Natural areas			

Playgrounds

Playgrounds provide structured and unstructured play opportunities for children of varying ages and abilities, supported by amenities that encourage family and community use.

✓

Recommended depending on specific site

✓

Potential depending on specific site

✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Description	Destination or long-stay play spaces - premium quality, inclusive, multi-featured and catering to a range of age groups	Destination or long-stay play spaces - high quality, inclusive, multi-featured and catering to a range of age groups	Basic quality, shortstay playgrounds or landscape play spaces with a focus on very young or young children. Primarily cater for people living and working within short walking distance
Distribution	– At least one playground within 5 mins walk (typically 300 to 400m) of all residents – Neighbourhood park facility -10 min walk (typically 600-800m) of all residents – District park facility - 15 min walk (typically 900-1200		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to playground.	Provide accessible path of travel to playground.	Provide accessible path of travel to playground where reasonably practicable.
Inclusive play			
Siting considerations			
– Locate play space away from roads and conflicting uses where possible; – Where possible locate proximate to open lawn areas; – Where possible locate proximate to picnic facilities and amenities in neighbourhood or district parks; – Site in areas which provide, or will provide, natural shade where possible;			
Facilities level provision			
Play elements are to be certified to meet all relevant Australian Standards and can support ongoing servicing and maintenance with availability of parts and required replacements. Ongoing asset maintenance requirements will be factors of consideration for the level of bespoke play elements proposed for a project.			
Age group	Large scale multi age-group, with all-abilities play opportunities	Large scale multi age-group, with all-abilities play opportunities	Focus on single age group at least one inclusive play element
Bespoke /unique play elements			
Supplier standard playground elements			
Sandpits			
Nature play			
Water play			
Synthetic softfall surface			

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Natural softfall surface	✓	✓	✓
Playground fencing	✓	✓	✓
unstructured lawn areas	✓	✓	✓
Lighting			
	✓	✓	✗
Shade provision			
Shade structure	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade	✓	✓	Natural shade where available to key play space activity zones and central seating areas.
Supporting infrastructure			
Park seating	✓	✓	✓
Drinking fountain	✓	✓	✓
Lawn area			
Regulatory signage	✓	✓	✓
Communication boards	✓	✓	✓
Bike parking	✓	✓	✓
Co-located facilities			
Toilets	✓	✓	✗
Kiosk	✓	✓	✗
Multipurpose courts	✓	✓	✗
Picnic tables and communal seating	✓	✓	
BBQ facilities/shelters		✓	
Accessible parking	✓	✓	

Outdoor fitness

Outdoor fitness facilities provide accessible opportunities for physical activity, featuring exercise spaces with bodyweight fitness equipment, and synthetic surfacing for floor exercises.

- ✔

Recommended depending on specific site
- ✔

Potential depending on specific site
- ✘

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✓
Distribution	At least one outdoor fitness area within 10 mins walk (typically 600 to 800m) of all residents		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility where reasonably practicable.
Wheelchair accessible surface	✓	✓	✓
Siting considerations			
DRAFT			
Facilities level provision			
Diversity of apparatus to meet the exercise needs of all people including provisions for wheelchair transfer where appropriate.	✓	✓	✓
Lighting			
	✓	✓	✗
Shade provision			
Shade structure			✓
Natural shade			
Supporting infrastructure			
Park seating/ seating walls	✓	✓	✓
Drinking fountain	✓	✓	✓
Lawn area	✓	✓	✓
Regulatory signage	✓	✓	✓

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Co-located facilities			
Hit up walls	✔	✔	✘
Multi purpose courts	✔	✔	✘
BBQ facilities/shelters	✔	✔	✘

Multi purpose courts

Outdoor multi-purpose courts are flexible, hard-surface play areas designed to support a variety of sports and recreational activities, such as basketball, netball, and futsal.

- ✓

Recommended depending on specific site
- ✓

Potential depending on specific site
- ✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✓
Distribution	At least one outdoor fitness area within 10 mins walk (typically 600 to 800m) of all residents		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility where reasonably practicable.
Siting considerations			
Facilities level provision			
full size multi purpose court	✓	✓	✓
optimal size 40 x 22m to maximise multipurpose use potential			
Half/ practice court	✓	✓	✓
Lighting			
	✓	✓	✗
Shade provision			
Shade structure			✓
Natural shade			
Supporting infrastructure			
Park seating/ seating walls	✓	✓	✓
Drinking fountain	✓	✓	✓
Lawn area			
Regulatory signage	✓	✓	✓

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Co-located facilities			
Hit up walls	✓	✓	✗
BBQ facilities/shelters	✓	✓	

Sports fields and ovals

Sportsfields and ovals provide spaces for organised sport, training, informal recreation and community events.

- ✓

Recommended depending on specific site
- ✓

Potential depending on specific site
- ✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✗
Distribution	At least one sports field within 15 mins walk (typically 900 to 1200m) of most residents		
Size - rectangular field	8,000m2 rectangular sports field		
Size - oval	15,000m2 oval		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility where reasonably practicable.
Siting considerations			
–	Site within district or large (>25,000m2) neighbourhood parks		
	Locate sportsfield away from residential properties; 25m minimum and 100m desirable.		
Facilities level provision			
Playing surface - turf	✓	✓	n/a
Playing surface - synthetic	✓	✓	n/a
Linemarking	✓	✓	n/a
Irrigation	✓	✓	n/a
Fencing	✓	✓	n/a
Behind goal netting/screens	✓	✓	n/a
Lighting			
Training standard	✓	✓	
Competition standard	✓	✓	
Lighting level	Refer to Sydney Lights Design Code - Lighting to be in line with the requirements of AS 2560		
Hours of operation			
Hours of operation: Night-time use of sports fields is generally permitted until 10.00 pm, subject to relevant approvals, management plans and operational requirements.			
Shade			

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Supporting infrastructure			
Sports field amenity building	✓	✓	
Sports field amenity buildings are primarily provided to support community, and junior sporting activities and local sporting clubs for both training and competition.			
Drinking fountain	✓	✓	
Regulatory signage	✓	✓	
Co-located facilities			
Hit up walls	✓	✓	
Multi purpose courts	✓	✓	
BBQ facilities/shelters	✓	✓	

Skate facility

Hard surface with combination of skateable and /or rideable elements, ramps, half-pipes or bowls

- ✓

Recommended depending on specific site
- ✓

Potential depending on specific site
- ✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✗
Distribution	At least one park within 15 mins walk (typically 900 to 1200m) of most residents		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	n/a
Siting considerations			
Skate facilities should be located to maximise accessibility, safety and activation while minimising potential conflicts with surrounding land uses. Locate skatepark away from residential properties; 25m minimum and 100m desirable.			
Facilities level provision			
District			
Neighbourhood			
Skateable moments			
Lighting			
Evening lighting till 9pm recommended			
Shade			
Supporting infrastructure			
Seating/seating walls	✓	✓	n/a
Drinking fountains	✓	✓	n/a
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	n/a
Regulatory signage	✓	✓	n/a

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Co-located facilities			
hit up walls	✓	✓	n/a
multi purpose courts	✓	✓	n/a
BBQ facilities/shelters	✓	✓	n/a
toilets	✓	✓	n/a

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Paddlecraft facility

Paddlecraft facilities are provided to support recreational paddling activities, including kayaking, canoeing and other non-motorised watercraft.

✓

Recommended depending on specific site

✓

Potential depending on specific site

✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✗
Distribution	At least one dedicated facility in the east, central and western foreshore areas of the City.		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	
Siting considerations			
- Provide in foreshore parks outside paddle craft exclusion zones - Provide facilities within 50m of on-street or dedicated car parking to allow unloading of kayaks			
Facilities level provision			
Paddlecraft launch and retrieval areas	✓	✓	✗
Access points	✓	✓	✗
Storage facilities	✓	✗	✗
Lighting			
Lighting recommended for facility including ramp and pontoon Path lighting to park entrances and paths linking to facility			
Shade			
Supporting infrastructure			
Public shower and water outlet	✓	✓	✗
Seating/seating walls	✓	✓	✗
Drinking fountains			
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	✗
Regulatory signage	✓	✓	✗
Co-located facilities			
BBQ facilities/shelters	✓	✓	✗
Toilets	✓	✓	✗

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Dog off leash

Designated areas to support off-leash activity and minimise disturbance of other park uses and activities as well as protect environmental values.

- ✓

Recommended depending on specific site
- ✓

Potential depending on specific site
- ✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✗
Distribution	Access to at least one dog off leash areas within 10 mins walk (typically 600 to 800m) of residents Access to at least one large dog off leash area >5000m2 within 10 mins walk (typically 600 to 800m) of all residents.		
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility where reasonably practicable.
Siting considerations			
The City aims to provide an equitable mix of off-leash and on-leash parks. Off-leash areas should be located away from prohibited areas such as playgrounds , sportsfields and clear of conflicting uses such as picnic areas, busy roads, cycle paths etc			
Minimum area			
	5000m2	5000m2	
Facilities level provision			
dog tidy bags	✓	✓	n/a
dog water bowls	✓	✓	n/a
regulatory signage	✓	✓	n/a
fencing	✓	✓	n/a
water access for dogs	✓	✗	n/a
Lighting			
For designated evening lighting parks - lighting till 9pm			
Shade			
Supporting infrastructure			
Seating/seating walls	✓	✓	n/a
Drinking fountains	✓		n/a
Rubbish bins	✓	✓	n/a

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Co-located facilities			
BBQ facilities/shelters	✓	✓	n/a
toilets	✓	✓	n/a
car parking	✓	✓	n/a
kiosk	✓	✓	n/a

Community gardens

A community garden is a shared, publicly accessible space where individuals and groups can grow food, herbs, and plants, supporting local food production, social connection, and environmental education.

- ✓

Recommended depending on specific site
- ✓

Potential depending on specific site
- ✗

Not recommended

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Location	✓	✓	✓
Distribution			
Accessibility			
Pathways	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility	Provide accessible path of travel to facility where reasonably practicable.
Raised beds for people with mobility impairment			
Siting considerations			
Community gardens should be located to maximise accessibility and community benefit while protecting existing park functions and environmental values.			
Facilities level provision			
raised garden beds	✓		
potting benches / workstations	✓		
fencing			
garden shed/tool storage area			
composting area			
worm farm			
potable water supply			
rainwater tank			
irrigaton system			
site signage			
Lighting			
Shade			
covered shelter/ pergola			

	District	Neighbourhood park	Local
Supporting infrastructure			
seating/seating walls			
picnic tables			
drinking fountains			
rubbish bins			
bike parking			
Co-located facilities			
BBQ facilities/shelters			
toilets			
car parking			

Appendix 1

Park trends and benchmarking research

Trends & Case studies

Benchmarking standards

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Trends & Case studies

London

The London Plan 2021 Overview

London is grappling with a lack of affordable housing, increased car dependency, low levels of physical activity, congestion, and air pollution. This strategic plan sets out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of London over the next 20-25 years to 2041. The plan is focused on good growth – sustainable growth that works for everyone -

to improve the health and quality of life, to reduce inequalities and to make the city a better place to live, work and visit .

The plan nominates six key objectives, one of which is to create a healthy city, by improving access to green spaces. Intertwined with this is the aim of deliver more than 50% green cover across London, to help London become a National Park City. Open space in this plan, is seen not only as a recreational or social resource, but as part of critical environmental infrastructure that provides urban greening and habitat, improves air quality and reduces urban heat.

Key requirements for open space planning in the plan include:

- Minimum provision of open space based on walking distances from homes along roads and paths.
- Providing publicly accessible open space in areas of deficiency.
- Requiring boroughs to develop an open space needs assessment that considers the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, and green infrastructure.

Observations & Lessons

- The London Plan proposes a unified approach to open space and green infrastructure – they are envisioned as working together rather than independently.
- The plan calculates access based on the walking distances on the street network rather than radius circles. This ensures the actual experience of walking to parks for residents is considered in the strategic planning for open space.



View of Tower Hamlets, London. Source_ <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/implementing-london-plan>

London National Park City Overview

This is an independent charity that seeks to make London the world's first National Park City, a city where people, places and nature are better connected. Launched in 2019, the goal is

to help people see and do the city differently – to create a city where people, places and nature are better connected. A city that offers so much potential to contribute positively to addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis via nature-based solutions and everyday actions in every neighbourhood.

The organisation has established a charter which sets out the ambitions, goals and aims of the movement. Signatories include Mayor of London, politicians and over 300 organisations including the National Trust, Crown Estate, City of London, Greater London Authority.

The charity incorporates volunteer rangers, who initiate environmental initiatives across the city such as establishing local allotments, green roofs, community gardens and education programs.

Observations & Lessons

- London as a National Park City is an evocative vision for the city, centred on nature.
- Although not specifically focused on parks, many of the projects are involved in park revegetation and habitat projects.
- This is a model for community engagement. Volunteer rangers not only undertake action on the ground but improve community appreciation of parks and natural environments. This approach shows how to harness a wider group of people, to care for open spaces and parks across the city.



Above: London National Park City Rangers in the field. Source: <https://nationalparkcity.londonrangers.org>

Green Spaces Commission Overview

In April 2019 the Mayor of London established a Green Spaces Commission. Its role was to identify new models for the delivery and management of London's green spaces to help boroughs alter how their parks services are managed and funded in the context of ongoing constraints on public sector funding.

The commission made two key recommendations. The first was to establish and resource a Centre for Excellence for London's public parks and green spaces, within an existing organisation -Parks for London. The second was to establish a Future Greenspace skills programme bringing together providers and employers, as part of the wider ambition to develop green skills in London.

Of note was the commission's statement on the critical importance of the City's parks to future human and climate health. This is illustrated in their objective that by 2030 London's 3,000 plus public parks and green spaces should truly be acknowledged and valued for their critical role in helping fight the climate and ecological emergency as well as reducing the social and health inequalities that threaten the wellbeing of our great city.

Observations & Lessons

- London, like Sydney is also grappling with challenges to parks funding and management.
- This report highlights the importance of cross sector commitments to open space. This is particularly relevant for the City where large portions of public open space within the LGA are managed by other authorities.
- This report recognises parks as critical factors in adapting to climate change and mitigating urban heat, improving air quality in cities and providing socially inclusive space for people.

Singapore

Singapore Green Plan Overview

The Singapore Government, in its Green Plan 2030 policy, has established a comprehensive vision for the city to be transformed into “a City in Nature.” . Five key goals for the City in Nature vision are to expand the nature park network, naturalise gardens and parks, restore nature into urban areas, connect green spaces and enhance animal management.

The plan outlines specific targets to be achieved by 2030. These are to:

- Create 200 hectares of new nature parks. Nature parks are located adjacent to existing nature reserves and are to provide alternative spaces for recreation.
- Plant 1 million more trees including at least 170,000 more trees in industrial areas.
- Create 30 therapeutic gardens for people with conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and dementia.
- Create 200 hectares of skyrise greenery.
- Provide 300 km of Nature Ways and 500 km of park connectors so that every household will be

within a 10-minute walk from a park.

In the interim the plan aims to naturalise over 300 hectares of such urban gardens and parks by 2026. This includes reestablishing mangroves, converting concrete channels into creeks, and restoring fauna habitat.

Observations & Lessons

- The plan positions parks as core to human and ecological health. The target of creating 30 therapeutic gardens demonstrates how the plan regards open space as places for healing.
- The plan nominates specific metric targets, which are easy to understand and to measure progress.
- It aims to improve natural systems within parks (such as stormwater treatment, mangrove restoration, habitat creation).
- The plan includes ambitious targets to connect green spaces by retrofitting streets “to make every road in Singapore a Nature Way”.



Above: Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park Source: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/city-in-nature>

Paris

Bioclimatic Local Urban Plan 2023 Overview

The Paris City Council local bioclimatic urban plan defines development across the city for the next 15 years. It reconciles “responses to the climate emergency with improving the environment of Parisians ”. The plan is multifaceted and addresses housing, sustainability, heritage, urban greening, and landscape and includes specific goals to protect and increase green space, parks, trees and gardens.

Specific goals include:

- Increasing green space per inhabitant from 8.6m2 to 10m2.
- Providing ten new metropolitan parks.
- Creating a 25-hectare park in the north of Paris.
- Creating a green and sports belt around the ring road in working-class neighbourhoods.
- Planting 200,000 trees in the city including tree planting to embankments of the Paris ring road (Boulevard Périphérique).
- Protecting all green spaces.
- Redefining public spaces such as former roads and hardstand as green spaces – including on banks of the Seine, and spaces under the elevated metro.
- Transforming existing streets to reduce traffic lanes and parking and increase space for pedestrians, tree canopy, and bikes.
- Requiring protection of open ground on all lots greater than 150 m².
- Creating a “plant deficit” zone where open ground targets and tree canopy is increased by 5% per lot.
- Creating a permit to plant scheme - a system that allows residents to request permission to plant a garden in the street.

Observations & Lessons

- The plan places climate and biodiversity at the core of city planning and design. Public open space is identified as critical to the city's climate resilience, and the health and quality of life for Parisians.
- The plan nominates a target of minimum area of green space per person. This measurable target while ambitious appears achievable based on other goals outlined. A target can also communicate priorities and assist in advocacy.
- The plan prioritises new parks in lower socioeconomic districts, areas identified in the research as vulnerable to poor health outcomes.
- The plan reclassifies key streets as green spaces. This transforms the way these spaces are managed and designed.
- Goals for tree canopy, gardens, and streetscape changes/ reclamations are embedded in the plan. These are not seen as secondary, but as core features of the Paris urban plan.

Reclaiming Streets as Public Green Spaces

This includes a range of initiatives to transform streets into pedestrian friendly, and green public spaces. This includes the Rues aux Ecoles (Streets to Schools) program, Paris Respire (Paris Breathes) program and specific proposals for street closures and modifications. Examples includes closing the Pompidou Expressway on the banks of the Seine and replacing it with a 3 km pedestrian zone. The city also has a plan to make the city 100% bikeable by 2026.

Rues aux Ecoles

The Rues aux Ecoles or the Streets to Schools program aims to pedestrianize the roads around nursery and primary schools. They are intended to make the home-school route safer for children, combat pollution, increase greenery and reduce local temperatures. Existing streets around schools are either closed to vehicle access or have significantly reduced vehicle access. New trees, gardens, paving and furniture are provided. The goal is to have 300 streets calmed by 2026. As

of 2024, 218 streets have been calmed, and 70 landscaped streets developed.

Paris Respire/ Paris Breathes

This program nominates car free streets in certain areas of the city on Sundays and public holidays, to allow for more space for pedestrians. During summer months, additional streets are included. The Champs-Élysées and the centre of Paris are pedestrianized one Sunday a month.

“Code de la Rue”

This “Street Code” clarifies the rules for sharing Parisian public space by prioritizing pedestrians, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The code emphasizes the importance of expanding sidewalks, repurposing parking spaces, and redesigning service lanes to create safe pedestrian spaces. By 2026, 70,000 parking spaces will be removed. In addition, the plan aims to eliminate cycle paths on the sidewalks and accelerate implementation of the bicycle plan and cycleways.



Crossbow St, one of the Rue de Ecole projects undertaken by the City of Paris. Image by Christophe Beline Source://www.paris.fr/



Above: Belzunce Street (10th), one of the Rue de Ecole projects undertaken by the City of Paris. Image by Christophe Beline Source://www.paris.fr/



Above: Champs Elysees, closed to cars as part of the Paris Respire program. Image by Guillaume Bontemps Source://www.paris.fr/

Champs-Élysées

This is a renovation of the Champs-Élysées to be completed by 2030. This will expand pedestrian areas, by reducing or removing vehicle lanes, adding new tree planting, gardens, and seating. Works include an overall redevelopment of the avenue, including the Place de la Concorde and Place de l'Étoile, the Champs-Élysées gardens, Avenue Montaigne and Avenue de la Grande Armée. This will turn 7,700 m² of road surface into gardens and paths, add 15,000 m of additional planting beds, 107 trees and 146 repaired heritage benches.

Eiffel Tower.

The plans, released in 2019, transforms areas in the vicinity of the Eiffel Tower. It creates a series on linked spaces with the Eiffel Tower at the central point between the Palais de Chaillot at the Place du

Trocadéro and the École Militaire at the Place Joffre.

The design reduces or closes streets to extend public parklands - at the Trocadéro, Varsovie Fountains, and Champ de Mars and proposes transforming the vehicular bridge at Pont d'Iéna into a landscape space.

Observations & Lessons

- This suite of examples shows how programs, large proposals and small interventions, can be employed to maximise public park space across a city.
- Streets are redesigned as key public green spaces – akin to parks.
- Major parks are expanded and extended through street closures.



Above: Proposed works at the Arc De Triomphe, as part of the City of Paris upgrade to the Champs-Élysées. Source: //www.paris.fr/

New York

NYC Parks: Framework for an Equitable Future

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation in 2014 developed a framework of immediate steps and long-term initiatives to support equitable park improvements. The focus of the work was on upgrading existing parks with the goal of “greener and greater, more inclusive, and more forward-looking park system”. The framework focused on equity, access and inclusion. It describes in detail the Community Parks Initiative.

Community Parks Initiative

This program is focused on improving existing smaller public parks in New York City’s densely populated and growing neighbourhoods where there are higher-than-average concentrations of poverty. High need was defined as areas with above average density, evidence of recent population growth, and an above-average percentage of residents living below the federal poverty line.

Thirty-five parks were identified for upgrades. Upgrades included repainting and repairing play equipment; resurfacing ball courts and play areas; repairing benches, and fences and making parks greener with more plantings, trees and restored lawns. Focus was given to:

- Simple interventions such as new pavements in vibrant colours.
- Providing every park with spray features to cool off during summer.
- Ensuring that all parks are accessible – and spaces were free of barriers.
- Providing multigenerational social seating or “outdoor living rooms”.
- Providing facilities for teenagers.
- Incorporating the adjacent footpath as part of the park.

The program also included initiatives such as providing staff to deliver regular events in the parks, including games and sports for kids, fitness classes for adults, and mobile libraries. The NYC Parks division employed 70 seasonal and full-time staff, to provide maintenance and run programs in these high-need communities.

Observations & Lessons

- The Initiative focuses on equity – particularly the importance of open space in economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- The upgrades included simple retrofits, which can change the use and perception of these spaces.
- This initiative included programs that were run in parks – this reduces need for fixed facilities that can become outdated and require expensive upkeep.



Above: Betsy Head Park Source: www.nycgovparks.org



Above: Lt. Joseph Petrosino Playground Source: www.nycgovparks.org

Park Trends

Covid19 & Parks

Overview

Park use increased with the COVID-19 pandemic. The requirements for social distancing and home isolation, resulted in more people participating in unstructured daily exercise—that can be done alone, when, where and how you want to do it. In 2021, in the middle of the pandemic, 74% of Australians participated in activities such as walking, running, cycling and gym-based fitness¹. There was also a rise in the popularity of fitness apps, technologies and activities such as ‘Exergaming’ (video games requiring partial- or full-body movements to participate) which are often used in public open space.

During the pandemic parks were also sought out for their natural qualities, their social and mental health benefits. People met and socialised in parks during the pandemic. The desire to be outdoors while participating in sport increased from 15% in 2019 to 21% in 2021². In 2021³, over a quarter of Australians said that they exercised for the mental health benefits and 35% for social reasons.

Recreation trends

Currently walking is the most popular non-sport activity among Australian adults, with over 9 million estimated participants. A survey conducted by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment⁴ found that walking, hiking, jogging or running (88%) and relaxing (83%) were the most popular activity in open spaces for residents of eastern Sydney. People valued and sought out safe local park spaces that had multiple uses and had good walking and cycling networks.

There has been an increase in popularity of social sports such as informal sports competitions, events and leagues. An example of this is Parkrun, a weekly 5km walk, run or jog which now occurs in 3 parks in the City of Sydney (at Sydney Park, Centennial Park and Pirrama Park). Hybrid sports are also more popular. These are modified games which allow people of varying abilities such as older people to play, and examples include walking football, netball and basketball.

New sports include Futsal, a football-based sport played on a hardcourt and Pickle ball, similar to tennis but played on a badminton-sized court, indoors or outdoors. These types of sport can be accommodated in smaller facilities and require less outdoor area.

Observations & Lessons

- The COVID 19 pandemic increased the demand for public open space. It also reinforced the critical role of public open space and parks for physical and mental wellbeing.
- Walking, jogging and running and relaxing are the most popular activities in parks in eastern Sydney.
- The shift to new technologies such as Fitness apps and hybrid sports, is changing the way people use parks. The amount of open space required to accommodate sporting activities may be reduced.

1 The Future of Australian Sport. Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission.

2 The Future of Australian Sport. Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission, 2022.

3 Ausplay National Sport and Physical Activity Participation Report 2023.

4 Greater Sydney Outdoors Study 2019.NSW Department of Planning



Above: Due to Sydney Covid-19 lockdown and gym closures, people exercise equipment in local parks and public spaces. Sydney Park Alexandria, 8 October 2021, Photographer: Katherine Griffiths Source: City of Sydney Archives

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Park Trends

Women in parks and public open spaces.



Above: This Girl Can Campaign, UK Source: <https://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/>

Overview

Women face barriers when using parks and open space. The NSW Government’s Safer Cities Survey⁵ 2023 found that women are twice as likely to feel unsafe in public spaces compared to men and most women do not feel safe in public spaces after dark. Of the women surveyed 61% felt unsafe or only somewhat safe in parks during the day compared to 44% of men and 95% of women feel unsafe in parks at night.

Exercise is also constrained, and many women feel exposed or ‘watched’ in public spaces. A study of Victorian women⁶ found that 41% feel too embarrassed to exercise in public compared with 26% of men. There are also concerns about exercising at night. A UK study⁷ found that 48% of women prefer not to be active outside after dark and that six in 10 worry about the risk of sexual harassment or intimidation when exercising in the evenings. A survey of women using Parramatta Park by Greater Sydney Parklands⁸ found that they are nervous and scared accessing the park at night.

The type of facilities provided in parks can also skew towards men. Australian women are 11 times much more likely to walk than to participate in field sports such as soccer/ football⁹ whereas the highest users of sports fields are men playing soccer /football (1.24 m) and cricket (512,000). Playing fields, with limited shade are less comfortable to use for walking, particularly for carers who may have young children and prams. Proportionally playing fields take up large areas of space.

Improvement measures

Strategies to address this are being tested. The Safer Cities program developed by the NSW Government has a range of research and trial projects to improve women’s perception of and experience in public spaces. The Safer Cities Parramatta Park project is trialling new lighting with motion sensors to increase brightness upon approach, and timers for early and later evening mode. Benchmark NSW, a pilot project in the program, tested if moveable benches improved women’s use of green spaces. The project found that the number of women and girls staying on site increased eight times with the benches, and 85% of women said the benches helped facilitate social activities.

5 Safer Cities Survey Report, Transport for NSW July 2023.
6 TNS 2016, Physical Activity Behavioural Change Formative Research, A Marketing Research Report, VicHealth, Melbourne.
7 Lets Lift the Curfew 2024, This Girl Can UK Campaign sourced at <https://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/about>.
8 Safer Cities Parramatta Park What we heard Report 2024, Greater Sydney Parklands .
9 Ausplay 2023



Above: Co design workshop at part of the Parramatta Park Safer Cities Her Way project. Source: <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/industry/cities-and-active-transport/cities-revitalisation-and-place/festival-of-place-0/safer-0>

Walking is popular with girls and women. Interconnected circuit paths¹⁰, preferably around the perimeter have been demonstrated to make women feel safer and encourage greater activity levels. Clean safe and accessible toilets with change rooms are important for attracting and retaining women and girls in sport.

A City of Sydney¹¹ study on active transport through the gender lens found that while lighting and CCTV were important, other factors such as the surrounding land use mix helped women to feel safer.

Underpinning this is a reframing of public space that considers space through the lens of autonomy ¹²- feeling free to go wherever you want. This approach goes beyond lighting, to consider a holistic design approach. Estelle Grech, in her 2024 research on how to design better cities for women and girls sees feeling unsafe as the symptom, not the cause - the cause stems from a lack of signals that tell women and girls they belong, *and have a right to be, in public space*¹³.

Observations and Lessons

- Develop designs strategies that promote autonomy – the feeling of being free to go wherever you want.
- Consider flexibility – i.e. seating that can be moved, motion activated lighting.
- Balance park spaces to ensure that an equal the proportion of space is dedicated to passive spaces and active sport areas.
- Design exercise spaces that are safe, and comfortable to use – for example well-lit loop paths, equipment that is more comfortable for women to use in public (i.e. stationary bikes, cross trainers).

10 Kathryn P. Derose, The Mediating Role of Perceived Crime in Gender and Built Environment Associations with Park Use and Park-based Physical Activity among Park Users in High Poverty Neighborhoods
11 City of Sydney and C40 Cities 2020, On the Go: How women Travel around our city - Case study on active transport across Sydney Through a Gender Lens.
12 Blai Martí Plademunt from the Directorate of Gender Services, Barcelona Municipal council, as quoted in Grech, E 2024 How to design better cities for women and girls, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.
13 Grech, E 2024 How to design better cities for women and girls, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust p83.

Park Trends

Teenage girls in parks and public open spaces.

Research has shown that from the age of 8¹⁴, girl's participation in public spaces drops dramatically. Teenage girls often feel that they don't belong in parks and that park facilities mainly cater to boys. Research commissioned by Yorkshire Sport Foundation¹⁵ in 2022, found that 34% of teenage girls enjoy exercising in their local park compared to 63% of boys, and 73% of girls say feeling watched puts them off exercising in the park and makes them feel vulnerable. Four times as many boys as girls play organised sports in parks (29% compared with 7%).

Facilities often skew towards equipment for boys (pitches, skateparks, basketball courts) and tend to be dominated by boys and young men. In Australia, 95% of those who attended a skate park were male, and those females which did were either spectators or parents¹⁶ Teenage girls also feel that they have been 'aged out' of the play equipment they'd like to use, such as swings.

Improvement Measures

Key to improving girls use of park spaces is providing facilities that cater for them and provides them with 'permission' to occupy the space. Places for Girls¹⁷ project in Sweden aimed to develop practical methods to making the city more equitable by giving girls an opportunity to design their ideal public space. The projects reveal girls prefer sitting together face to face, protected from weather and wind, to see without necessarily being seen, and for a space with a sense of intimacy and outlook.

Designers from Copenhagen¹⁸ found that teenage girls liked places that were highly visual, and places that they could modify to their liking. They wanted to exercise for fun e.g. dancing or moving in synchronicity on trampolines or swings and loved places where they could sit, lie, hang, jump or swing together. Girls surveyed from the UK wanted more playful elements such as swings (72%), in ground trampolines (70%), as well as Wi-Fi and phone charging points (66%) and music dance spaces (30%).

Examples of this include the Reumannplatz, Vienna which included a covered outdoor platform - Mädchenbühne or girls' stage that was requested by the girls of the nearby school. It is an important community facility, used by anyone. Other measures include incorporating girls only activities, and exercise sessions. This Girl Can campaign developed in the UK encourages women to be active and aims to tackle the gender activity gap. Their initiatives include organised night runs, online walking apps and outdoor exercise groups.

Codesign with Teenage Girls

Allowing designs to be shaped by teenage girls can help to rebalance the experience of parks for girls. Collaborative engagement process, such as walk and talk sessions that engage with girls in less formal ways can be particularly helpful in understanding their specific needs and challenges.

Waterden Green is a new public space for teenage girls and young women on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, UK. The project is pioneering in that it positioned teenage girls as the clients. The brief was developed by a group of young girls from the LLDC youth panel. The Greater London Authority (GLA) in partnership with Dr Ellie Cosgrave (Publica) and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) developed a process that trained the girls on how to write a brief and how to be a client for the design of a new public space. Park designers were appointed to the project in late 2024.

14 White Arkitekter, Places for Girls Sweden 2015.
15 Making space for Us, Insight Report 2022. Yorkshire Sport Foundation & Women in Sport
16 18 Make Space for Girls Report 2023
17 <https://whitearkitekter.com/project/places-for-girls/>
18 Grech, E 2024 How to design better cities for women and girls, The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust p87

Teenage girls in parks and public open spaces.

Observations & Lessons

- Recognise the specific challenges that teenage girls experience in parks, feeling unsafe, unwelcome or not belonging.
- Consider developing a co-client process with teenage girls on key projects, to embed their needs into every aspect of the design.
- Develop specific engagement processes for teenage girls. These may use less conventional processes such as walk and talk sessions to capture their experiences and desires for open space.
- Create park designs that feel comfortable and have a sense of belonging for girls. This includes creating comfortable spaces, incorporating ergonomically designed seats for teenage girls with shade and a sense of intimacy and outlook.
- Utilise elements that are changeable –that can move and clustered seating, artwork or installations that can be customised.
- Consider play rather than sport–elements that that facilitate fun, sociable spaces that allow for girls to sit, lie, hang, jump or swing together.
- Focus on designs that are visually striking places.



Above: Frizon project, Sweden codesigned with teenage girls. Source: <https://www.tyrens.se/projekt/samhaellsplanering/frizon/>

Women & Girls

Waterden Green, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Stratford, UK.

Waterden Green is a new public space for teenage girls and young women within Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. The project is pioneering because it positions teenage girls as the clients.

The initial designs for Waterden Green, developed in 2021 followed more traditional engagement processes with young people. In early 2022, LLDC worked with the charity Make Space for Girls to explore teenage girls' responses to these designs. While they liked the designs, they did not see the spaces as ones that they would use. This prompted a rethinking of the design approach based on the question "what would a place designed to be welcoming to teenage girls look like?".

A 'co-clienting' process was developed between a group of teenage girls from the LLDC youth panel and the local authority. The objective was to create a project brief and principles, prepare a tender request and evaluate the tenderer's submissions for the site.

The Greater London Authority (GLA in partnership with Dr Ellie Cosgrave (Publica) and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)



Above: A workshop with the LLDC and GLA/MDA's at the LLDC offices. Source Bringing Local Girls and Young Women into a Co-Client Team: Waterden Green, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

developed a process that trained the seven teenagers on how to write a brief, develop design principles and how to be a client for the design of the new public space. The teenagers also participated in interviews with design teams. Designers were appointed to the project in late 2024. The teenagers will continue to be involved in the design development of the project

The collaboration was meaningful for both parties – according to one participant "We weren't just like a consultation body. We were active participants."

Observations & Lessons

- This innovative project shows how centring teenage girls can inform the foundation of the project, including the design brief and the selection of a design team.
- This process places the teenage girls as clients and ensures their needs are considered through every aspect of the design.
- The project provides broader equity benefits – through training and skill development for the participants.

This Girl Can Campaign UK

Overview

This Girl Can campaign, funded by the UK National Lottery, aims to celebrate a realistic vision of women and exercise and to tackle the gender activity gap. The goal of the campaign is to change how women think and feel about exercise - and encourage women to be active in ways that work for them, regardless of age, background or ability. There are multiple elements to the campaign, targeting specific groups and challenges. These include.

- The Fit Got Real campaign to tackle the inequalities in activity levels found among women from different backgrounds.
- Studio You platform, a resource for teachers to get more teenage girls active through enjoyable PE lessons.
- This Girl Can classes – group exercise classes for women who don't feel comfortable in other environments.

- Let's Lift the Curfew launched in 2023; a parliamentary roundtable discussion on women's safety while being active outdoors, and a 5K evening run.

Of note is the emphasis on outdoor activity, particularly in parks and public open spaces. The campaign includes collaboration with Our Parks, an initiative to give everyone access to free or affordable, high quality group exercise. The Let's Get Out There 2024 campaign is designed to inspire more women to enjoy being active outdoors, particularly those from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Observations & Lessons

- Barriers for women and girls (such as fear of harassment and embarrassment) in using public parks are prevalent and ongoing. A multifaceted approach to park design and programming is required.
- Organising regular group activities in parks can help women and girls to use parks more regularly for exercise.



Above: Outdoor exercise class organised as part of the This Girl Can Campaign, UK Source: <https://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/>

Women & Girls

Bredang Park Stockholm, Sweden

Located in the suburb of Bredäng, the designers developed the scheme in collaboration with a group of teenage girls living in the neighbourhood. The site is presently dominated by a football pitch, used mainly for organized sports events for boys and men.

The teenage girls wanted a safe and vibrant space for gathering. The park is designed for spontaneous dance, play and free sports with a pergola and stage with stepped seating and play elements including trampolines and swings.

Observations & Lessons

- The design is developed from targeted engagement with teenage girls.
- This illustrates how an engagement process can re balance park activities, from a place dominated by a football pitch to a place with connected and intimate spaces for play, and socialising.



Above: Bredäng Park source: <https://landezine.com/bredang-park-dance-and-play-by-niva/>



Above: Bredäng Park from above source: <https://landezine.com/bredang-park-dance-and-play-by-niva/>

Frizon, Umeå, Sweden

The project located in northern Sweden, is focused specifically on providing space for teenage girls. This project is part of a wider initiative by the City of Umeå to improve gender equity in the city. Since 1992 a gender equality committee has been a mandatory part of municipality decision-making.

The project is located in a central park in Umeå and was designed by Tyrens architects and artist Kerstin Bergendal in collaboration with local teenage girls. Workshops were held at the project outset and with the design team. Teenage girls were asked to define the qualities of a good meeting place and draw their ideas in the snow.

The design incorporates an oval perforated roof with glass insets that wraps around an existing lime

tree. Seating, scaled to comfortably accommodate teenager girls, hangs under the ceiling, with integrated lighting for evening and winter use. The design includes WIFI connections that allow people to connect phones and play music.

Observations & Lessons

- The design includes comfortable seating that allows girls to gather, face one another and socialise in small groups.
- The space is sheltered but also provides outlook, an important characteristic of a safe space.
- Elements of play and delight (swinging benches, lighting) is very appealing to teenage girls.



Above: Frizon project in winter. Source: <https://www.tyrens.se/projekt/samhaellsplanering/frizon/>

Local identity

Songzhuang Micro Community Park, Songzhuang, Beijing, China

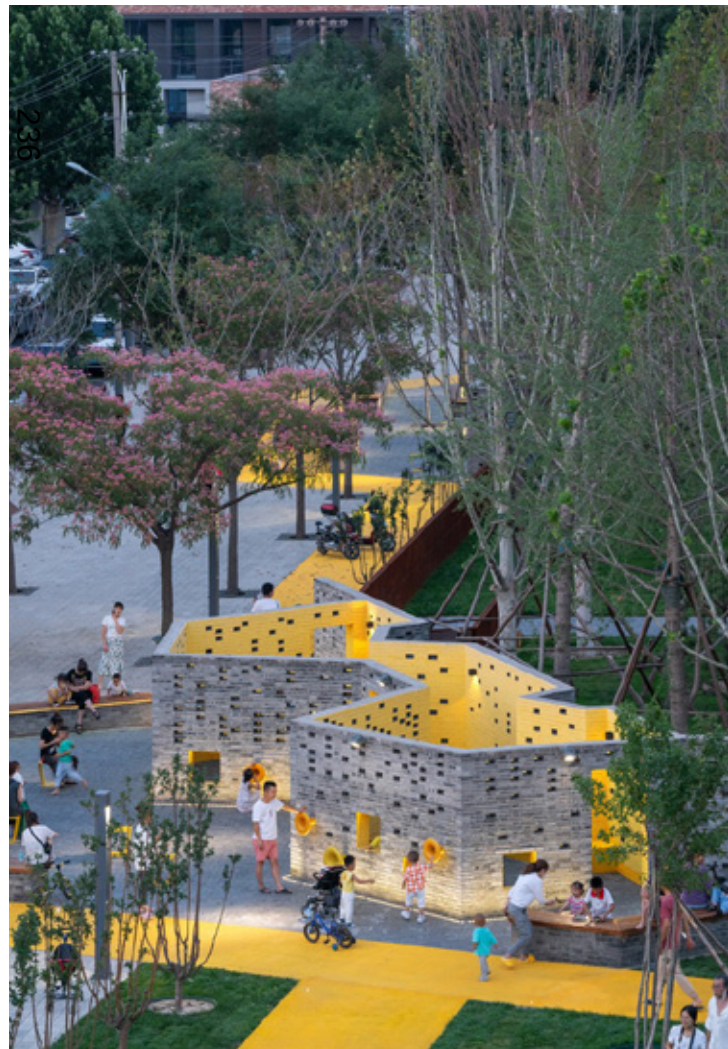
The park, located in village in Songzhuang Town is an art district, where there are 35 large and medium-sized fine arts galleries and more than 5,000 artists live. The park was designed for the local residents, many of whom are aging, as well as art visitors.

The main component of the park is series of outdoor rooms created by a perforated grey brick wall. The rooms facilitate different uses. A semicircular space defined by angular brick walls and large mirror surfaces, is used for tai chi, fan and rhythmic dance. A bright yellow room inside a room; incorporates differently sized openings for hide-and-seek and with connecting speaking tubes. A room with long

benches provides space for gathering and chess. A loop yellow track connects the spaces, and a garden filled with Southern Chinese pine trees and low bushes is located along the boundary

Observations & Lessons

- The park's inventive use of colour and simple use of materials creates playful spaces for people of all ages, without relying on standard play equipment.
- The design speaks to the town's unique art focus.



Above: Songzhuang Micro Community Park. Source: <https://landezine-award.com/songzhuang-micro-community-park/>



Above: View of generous seating and gathering areas behind the loop track. Source: <https://landezine-award.com/songzhuang-micro-community-park/>



Above: Incorporation of mirrors creates spaces that are popular for dancing and play. Source: <https://landezine-award.com/songzhuang-micro-community-park/>

Local identity

Pico Playground Lugano, Switzerland

Located in a densely populated neighbourhood of Lugano, Switzerland, the playground was conceived to reflect the local Ticino landscape – its topography, biodiversity, and seasonal cycles.

The design modified an existing lawn hill to create a series of hills centred around a curved canyon. The canyon, constructed of reclaimed concrete slabs, recalls the exposed geology present on Monte Bré, directly above the site. The recycled slabs create a wall for urban bouldering on one side, and informal seating and garden on the other.

Bridges, play towers, and slides provide additional play opportunities. New planting reflects the water-rich Alpine region and local flora.

Observations & Lessons

- The design uses recycled materials as core design feature, not only to provide a sustainable approach to construction but evokes a sense of place.
- The use of varying levels creates dramatic play areas that enhance the sense of discovery.



Above: View of the curved canyon created from recycled concrete blocks, with lightweight bridge. Source: <https://landezine-award.com/pico-playground/>.



Above: Natural play elements including timber logs and rocks, are incorporated alongside play towers and slides. Source: <https://landezine-award.com/pico-playground/>

Adaptive Reuse

Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York, USA

Completed in 2021, Brooklyn Bridge Park is a 1.3-mile-long waterfront park located on the East River in Brooklyn, New York. The park is divided into several piers, each with unique features and functions, including parklands, field and sports courts, all connected by a continuous promenade. Pier 2 incorporates basketball courts, handball courts, and ping pong tables. Pier 5 has playing fields that can be configured for soccer, lacrosse, rugby, flag football, and ultimate frisbee.

Key elements of the park include a planted landform berm that significantly reduces noise from the adjacent Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. A new flood-tolerant stone rip-rap shoreline has replaced

degraded seawalls. Of note is the use of recycled materials, such as reclaimed granite and milled long-leaf yellow pine, for park elements and furniture. Many of these raw materials were reclaimed from historic New York City infrastructure, including salvaged stone from the Roosevelt Island Bridge.

Observations & Lessons

- The reuse of the working piers as new sports facilities. This is particularly relevant for dense cities where available land is limited, and highly contested.
- The use of recycled and repurposed materials and site infrastructure including warehouses as part of sports facilities.



Above: Aerial view of Brooklyn Bridge Park, including piers with sports fields, parklands and sports courts. Source: <https://landezine.com/brooklyn-bridge-park-by-mvva/>



Above: Adaptive reuse of warehouse structures for multipurpose sports courts on Pier 2. Source: <https://landezine.com/brooklyn-bridge-park-by-mvva/> and <https://brooklynbridgepark.org/things-to-do/basketball/>



Above: The sports fields on Pier 5. Source: <https://landezine.com/brooklyn-bridge-park-by-mvva/>

Adaptive Reuse

Transforming the Aproz Wastewater Treatment System into a Playground, Switzerland

Located along the Rhône River in a growing residential area, this playground is built around an above-ground sedimentation basin—an industrial remnant from a 1960s wastewater treatment plant, decommissioned in 1994.

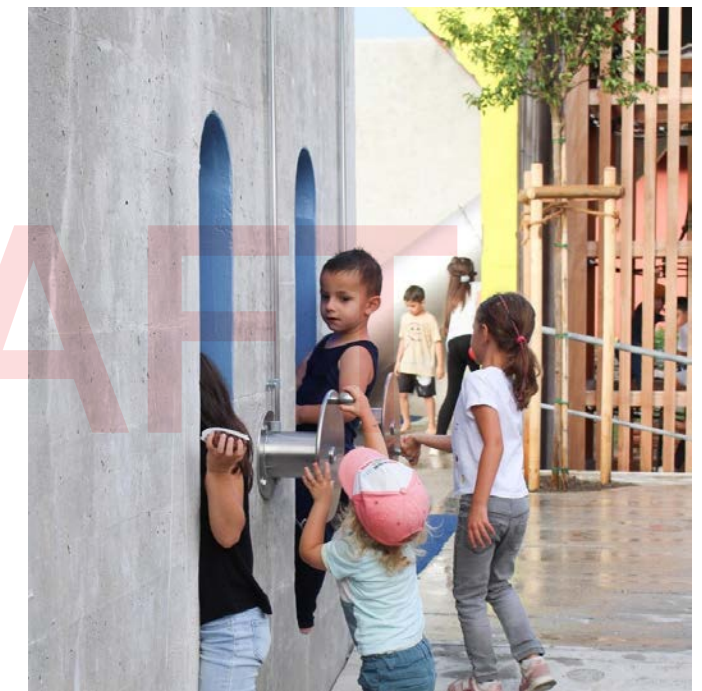
Instead of demolishing the basin, the designers transformed it into a vibrant and inviting play space. The southern façade and railings were removed and creatively repurposed into unique play elements. The base of the tank was cut open to allow for the planting of trees and shrubs. The playground features interactive water play components such as taps and sluices, alongside climbing walls and a slide. Reused concrete slabs serve as informal seating. Bold, colourful paint is incorporated to create a playful, welcoming atmosphere.

Observations & Lessons

- The adaptive reuse of former wastewater infrastructure demonstrates a resource-efficient and environmentally conscious approach, reducing the need for demolition and new materials.
- Reusing existing concrete elements led to the creation of a unique and imaginative playscape. This constraint fostered cognitive engagement and inventive design, resulting in a space that is both playful and thought-provoking.



Above: View of the playspace created from the redundant concrete tank. Source: <https://landezine.com/transforming-the-aproz-wastewater-treatment-system-into-a-playground-by-en-dehors/>



Above: The playspace incorporates interactive play elements including water play sluices, wheels and climbing walls. <https://landezine.com/transforming-the-aproz-wastewater-treatment-system-into-a-playground-by-en-dehors/>



Above: The existing 1960s wastewater treatment plant, was modified and structures cut and reused. <https://landezine.com/transforming-the-aproz-wastewater-treatment-system-into-a-playground-by-en-dehors/>

Nature & Culture

Station Mue, Champ de la Confluence, Lyon, France

The Champ de la Confluence is a major urban renewal project in the southern part of Lyon's Confluence district. This 6 hectare site, envisioned as an urban woodland integrates cultural institutions, technology hubs, and sustainable green infrastructure.

At the heart of the precinct is Station Mue, a cultural and experimental space centred around the "Giant Nest"—a 750 m² modular wooden structure designed for flexible use, including exhibitions, performances, and community gatherings. Each season, from May to October, Station Mue hosts over 60 free open air events, ranging from festivals, concerts, and theatre to workshops in nature, storytelling, circus arts, and gastronomy.

The precinct also includes a playground, gardens, and informal spaces for relaxation, urban gardening and nature-based activities.

Observations & Lessons

- **Design Flexibility:** The robust and adaptable physical elements of Station Mue allow for inventive, temporary installations and a wide range of uses. The integration of nature-based features supports hands-on workshops and creative programming.
- **Diverse Programming Model:** The outdoor space hosts a rich variety of events, supported by both public and private funding. Each season, Station Mue issues open calls for project proposals, inviting artists, performers, and educators to contribute. These initiatives are often backed by micro-grants or stipends from SPL Lyon Confluence, and through partnerships with cultural institutions and NGOs, ensuring inclusive and dynamic programming.



Above: View of an event at the Birds Nest - the open-air architectural installation, a 750 m² of space for play and performances. Source: <https://landezine.com/champ-de-la-confluence-lyon-by-base/>



Above and right :The timber structure at Station Mue provides places for events including spaces for plays, concerts and exhibitions.



Above and left :Outdoor flexible spaces provide areas for performance as well as green places for relaxation.



Above: Native gardens and recycled materials are incorporated into the precinct. <https://landezine.com/champ-de-la-confluence-lyon-by-base/>

Ecology & Climate

Grønningen-Bispeparken Copenhagen, Denmark.

The project was a redesign for an existing 2 hectare park in Copenhagen's Nordvest neighbourhood. The existing park, a large open lawn with established trees, is located in a residential neighbourhood, that is increasingly impacted by floods. The design – described as Copenhagen's most radical nature-based climate adaptation project, was structured around 18 interconnected bioswales that can collect, contain, and absorb more than 3,000m3 of rainwater.

The park developed in collaboration with the local community, includes mass planted wet and dry basins, areas of larger, common lawns, and gathering places. A meandering gravel and tile path of varying widths links the park's different areas, and in some instances dissolves into gardens. The bioswales double as 'social swales', places where elements and artworks provide play and exercise

opportunities. Existing buckthorn trees were retained and 149 native trees and over 4 million seeds were planted. A maintenance plan was developed for the park that focuses on retaining wildlife and ecology processes.

When the park opened in August 2024, five days later a major thunderstorm hit Copenhagen flooding several major highways and infrastructures. The park protected surrounding houses from floodwaters.

Observations & Lessons

- This radical transformation demonstrates how an ecological approach can create a new kind of urban park, where open lawn is not the status quo.
- The community has embraced a wilder, less structured and more eclectic park.



Above: The meandering path and dry basin at Grønningen-Bispeparken, 2024 Source: <https://www.sla.dk/cases/gronningen/>



Above: View across Grønningen-Bispeparken before works, showing open lawns and established trees.



Above: View across Grønningen-Bispeparken, 2024 after works, showing the meadow, basins, play elements and paths.

Ecology & Climate

Søndre Havn— Køge Kyst, Køge Denmark.

This project is a new mixed-use development located in a former industrial port and railway area. The coastal areas near Køge are at high risk of flooding during storm surges.

Central to the design is a series on linear open space corridors, linking across the neighbourhood. These corridors provide recreational space and pedestrian links, as well as providing space for habitat and stormwater treatment and flood protection systems. These spaces include elevated boardwalks, gardens, playgrounds, picnics and fitness areas. Terminating these corridors is a 1.4 km long promenade. This promenade has a dual purpose, as a location to access the adjoining salt meadow, harbor, and beach, as well as barrier protection for storm surges. These design measures protect the neighbourhood based on a projected

100-year rainfall event in 2100 (or a 500-year rainfall event today).

The planting strategy incorporates endemic vegetation communities. Planting on the promenade draws its inspiration from the salt meadow and the coastal planting, while plantings in the corridors is inspired by the forests located on Denmark's east-facing coasts.

Observations & Lessons

- The precinct wide network of parks and promenade are designed to addresses the climate risks posed by increased storms, flooding and changes to rainfall.
- The design incorporates bespoke and inventive elements, including planting and materials to increase biodiversity across the site.



Above: Meandering paths, gardens between the buildings provide space for relaxation as well as providing capacity for stormwater treatment. . Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/996753/the-south-harbor-of-koge-sla>



Above:View of the promenade and interface to the adjoining salt meadow. The promenade provides flood protection for the development. Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/996753/the-south-harbor-of-koge-sla>



Above: View of the promenade and adjacent salt meadow. Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/996753/the-south-harbor-of-koge-sla>

Flexible parks for sport & play

Tenstadalen, Stockholm, Sweden

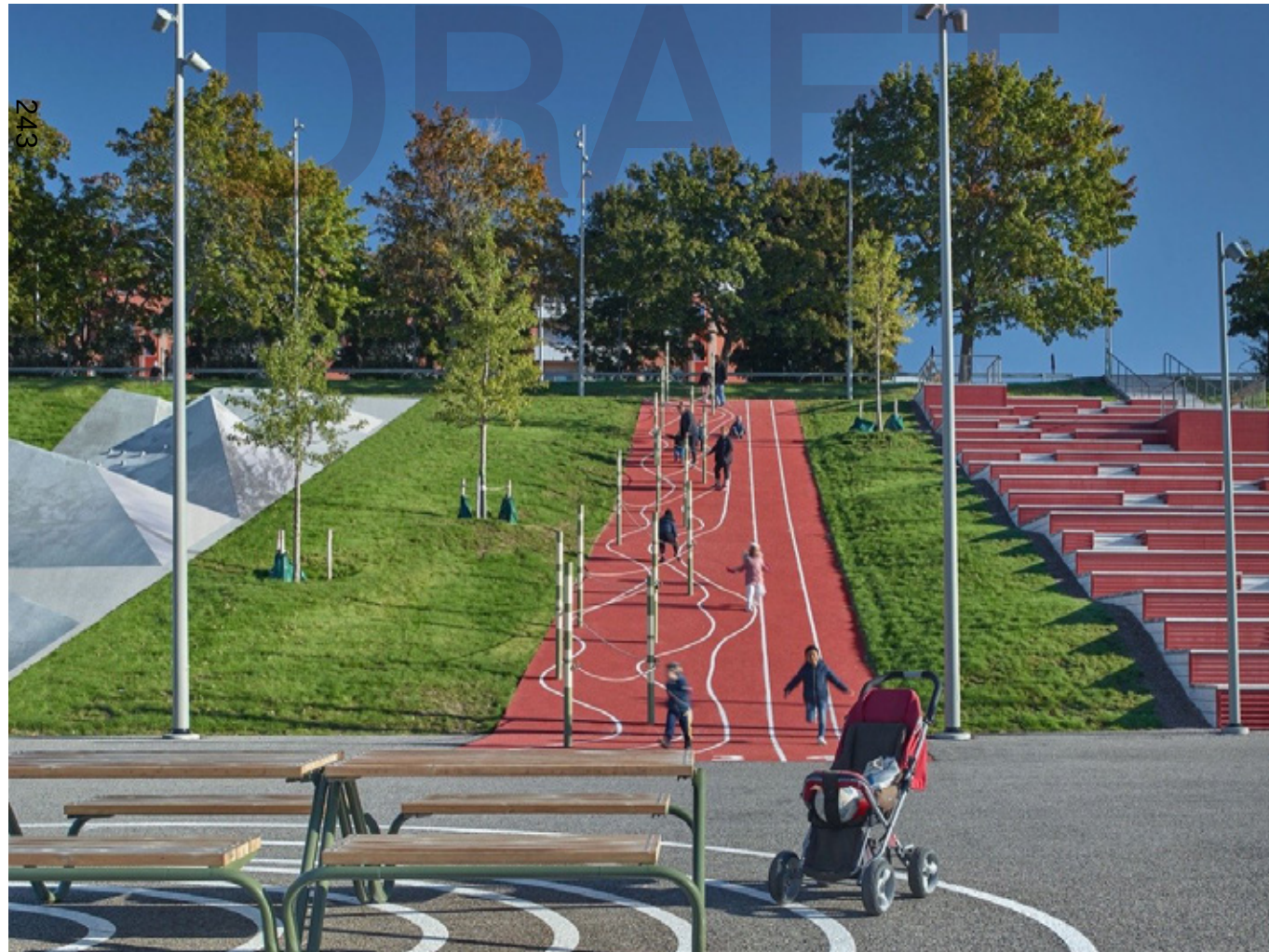
This large existing park is located in the valley between Tensta and Spånga in Stockholm. The project objective was to provide a more diverse range of park facilities and activities within the park for the local community.

The main focus of the park is the creation of a new destination on a steep hillside. This space incorporates a range of multifunctional play and exercise elements, including seating platforms, climbing walls, a slide and a steep running /obstacle

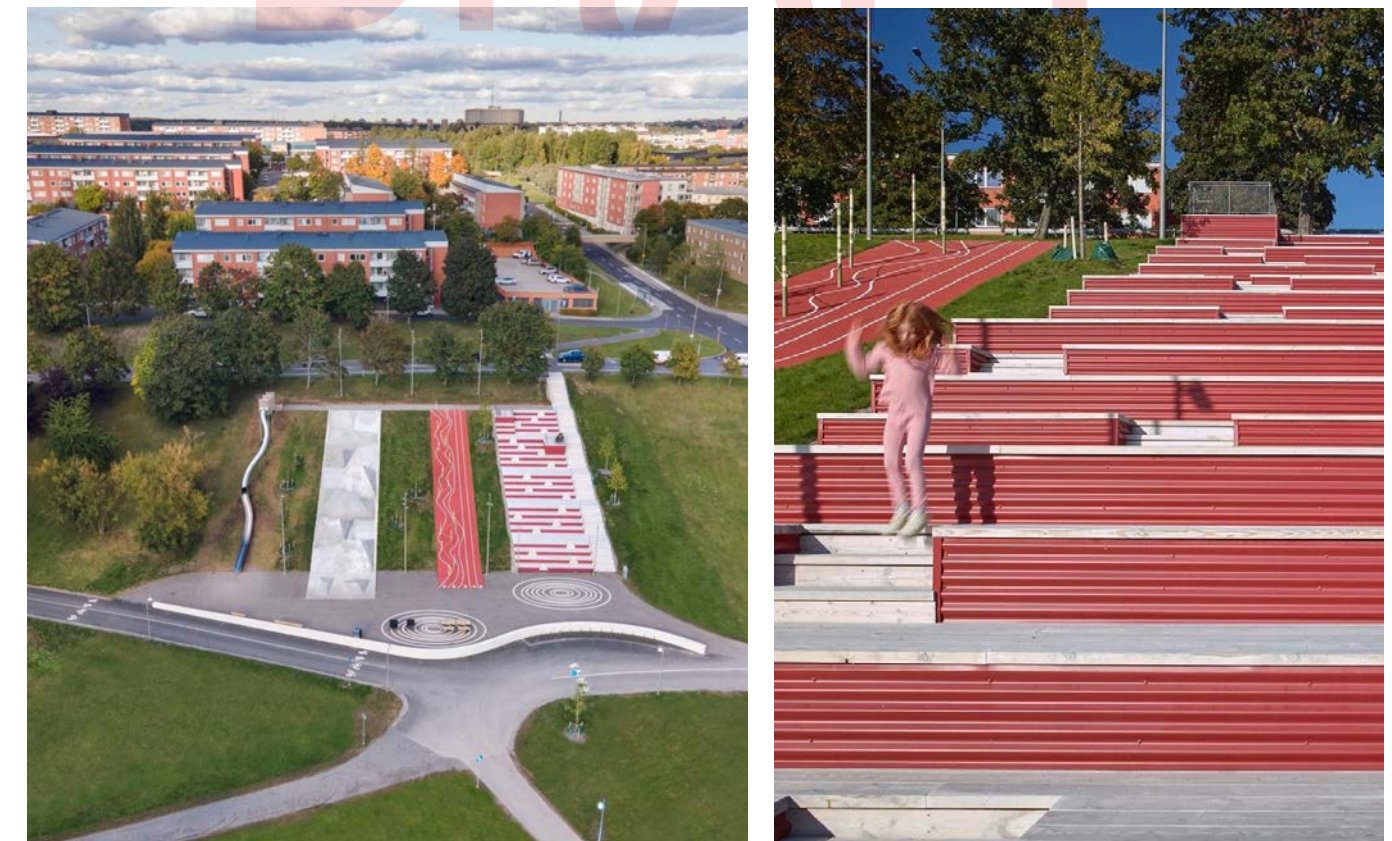
course. The park also has shaded seating areas, barbeque facilities and toddler play. The upgrade for the park was completed in 2022.

Observations & Lessons

- The design of the hybrid park features cleverly combine informal sport (running, climbing) and play.
- Incorporating the steep embankment creates a unique, memorable place.



Above: Embankment incorporating bleacher seating, a running/ climbing slope Source: <https://landezine.com/tenstadalen-by-niva/>



Above: A range of elements for sport and play have been incorporated into the space including a slide, climbing walls, running track, obstacle course and bleacher seating.

Flexible parks for sport & play

Parco della Costituzione, Italy

This park constructed in 2021 is located in Albignasego, in Padua, Italy. This park is positioned adjacent to a main road and close to residential areas.

The park comprises open lawns, shade trees and multifunctional areas for informal sports and play. A shared path for pedestrians and cyclist's links through the park and connects to a wider city-wide path network. A range of play and informal sports facilities are located in the park, including a sports zone with basketball hoops, climbing walls and hit up wall, a playground and a pump track.

Observations & Lessons

- The innovative hybrid sport facilities support informal activities for individuals and small groups of all ages.
- By combining sport and play areas, the space caters to a diverse range of users.
- The shared path connecting to the pump track enables children of different ages to participate safely and actively



Above: Street pollinator verge as part of the Melbourne Pollinator Project, Source:

Above: The timber artwork/ play element at Grønningen-Bispeparken, 2024

International Urban Green Space Planning Standards

Location	Type	Public Open Space Requirement	Source
Singapore	Population	8m² per person of green space. - Green space is defined as publicly accessible green spaces, including gardens, nature parks, parks and park connectors.	https://www.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/city-in-nature
Paris	Population	10m² per person of publicly accessible green space.	https://www.bclplaw.com/en-US/events-insights-news/paris-future-bioclimatic-local-urban-planning-scheme-where-do-we-stand.html
London	Proximity	- Access to based on actual walking distances from homes along roads /paths. Targets are: - Regional Parks - 400ha: 3.2 to 8km - Metropolitan Parks - 60ha: 3.2km - District Parks - 20ha: 1.2km - Local Parks - at least 2 hectares: 400m - Small Open Spaces - 0.4 to 2 ha: less than 400m - Pocket Parks - under 0.4ha: less than 400m	https://www.gigl.org.uk/our-data-holdings/keyfigures/
World Health Organisation	Proximity	0.5–1ha. within 300 m linear distance (around 5 mins walk) of homes.	https://iris.who.int
UK Gov. Natural England	Population Proximity	- Min. 3 ha. of publicly accessible greenspace per 1,000 population (30m² per person). - Either an Accessible Greenspace of at least 0.5ha within 200m from dwellings or a Local Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m from dwellings. AND A medium sized Neighbourhood Accessible Natural Greenspace (10ha) within 1km (15 mins walk from home) based on actual walking distances.	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/downloads/Green%20Infrastructure%20Standards%20for%20England%20Summary%20v1.1.pdf
Berlin	Population Proximity	- Min 6m² of Urban Green Space per person - Minimum of 0.5ha Green space within 500m from home.	(Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt, 2013)
Chile	Population	10m² per inhabitant	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S161886672200334X
Glasgow	Population Proximity	- Homes within the City Centre to be within a 400m actual walking distance of a good quality, publicly usable open space of min. 0.3 ha. 19m² /person - Inner Urban Area, 55m²/ person- Outer Urban Area.	https://citizen.glascc1-prd.gosshosted.com/media/1376/Glasgow-Open-Space-Strategy-2020/pdf/Glasgow_Open_Space_Strategy_2020.pdf?m=638025593095370000

I Summary of Open Space Benchmarking Approaches: NSW

Location	Type	Public Open Space Requirement
Inner West Council	Population Proximity Density	- Quantity: 13.3m² per person - All residents should be within 400m of an area of high-quality open space of at least 0.5ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers. - In addition to the above, all residents living in high density or senior's housing should also be within 200m of an area of high-quality open space of at least 0.1ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers.
City of Canterbury Bankstown	Population Proximity	- Quantity: 10 – 15m² per person parks and recreation areas. Sporting grounds and natural areas are in addition to this. - Proximity: All residents should be within 400m of Regional and District open space or within 300m of Neighbourhood and Local open space. - Catchment: Catchment approach for playground planning: 17 Districts defined by major roads and rail lines, 96 Local catchments.
City of Parramatta	Population Proximity Density	- Quantity: 10m² per person parks, with sporting grounds and natural areas in addition. 30m² per person total. - Proximity: Walkable catchments of 400m. - Density: 20% of land for high density areas. Walkable catchments of 250m for higher density.
Penrith	Population Density Proximity	- High Density defined as (60-100 dwellings/h) 46m²/ per person. 200m walking distance to local, district, citywide or regional park for a high-density area >60 – 100 dwellings/ha - For a medium to low density neighbourhood 20-40 dwellings/ha, 500m to local district citywide or regional park. - Workplaces and schools within 500m of open space, 2km to any district park. - Minimum size of a local park: 0.5ha – 2ha. - Minimum size of park in high density area: 0.3 – 0.5ha. - Minimum size district open space: 2-5ha. - Minimum size of city-wide open space: >20ha.
Ku-ring-gai	Population Proximity	- Quantity (per person): 10m² per person Parks. 800m distance from parks over 0.3ha., 800m from local sports space, 2km from district sports space, and 5km from regional sports space.

Appendix 2

Open space schedule

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Appendix 2: City of Sydney open space list

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
10A Caroline Street Streetscape	PK2397	Redfern St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	722	City of Sydney
125 Eveleigh Street Streetscape	PK2398	Redfern St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	257	City of Sydney
53-57 Campbell Road Streetscape	PK2421	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Streetscape	1,838	City of Sydney
906 Bourke Street (Hyperion Park & Kingsborough Way)	PK1973	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3,547	City of Sydney
Ada Place Park	PK62	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	228	City of Sydney
Ada Villa Terrace	PK383	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	136	City of Sydney
Adelaide Street Reserve	PK239	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	168	City of Sydney
Albert Sloss Reserve	PK81	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,003	City of Sydney
Albert Street Pocket Park	PK207	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	377	City of Sydney
Albert Street Reserve	PK258	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	279	City of Sydney
Albion Avenue Streetscape	PK15	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	410	City of Sydney
Alexander Street Reserve	PK2191	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	769	City of Sydney
Alexandria Park Alexandria Park Oval Alexandria Sports Courts	PK213 PK1750	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Neighbourhood	42,746	City of Sydney
Amesbury Road Reserve	PK342	Glebe Point Rd	Bushland	Other	Pocket	129	City of Sydney
Amice Lee Reserve	PK438	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	257	City of Sydney
Amelia Street Road Closure		Green Sq & City Sth	Street closure	Other		307	City of Sydney
Amy Street Reserve	PK179	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,108	City of Sydney
Angel Street 5040 Streetscape	PK390	King St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	642	City of Sydney
Arcadia Park	PK1632	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	462	City of Sydney
Argyle Place 4010 Streetscape	PK1441	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Streetscape	241	City of Sydney
Argyle Place Park	PK454	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	1,406	City of Sydney
Arthur (Paddy) Gray Reserve	PK203	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,576	City of Sydney
Arthur McElhone Reserve	PK64	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Iconic	2,303	City of Sydney
Arthur Reserve	PK347	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	543	City of Sydney
Arthur St Garden	PK996	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	265	City of Sydney
Arthur Street Closure	PK324	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	362	City of Sydney
Arthur Street Reserve	PK240	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	326	City of Sydney
Arundel Street Reserve	PK117	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	218	City of Sydney
Ashmore Street 5030 Streetscape	PK480	King St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	359	City of Sydney
Australian Technology Park Courts & South Eveleigh Skatepark		Redfern St	Park	Neighbourhood		5,503	By others
AV Henry Reserve	PK340	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,665	City of Sydney
Avenue Road 5020 Streetscape	PK1051	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Streetscape	173	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Balfour Street 5070 Streetscape	PK485	Redfern St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	184	City of Sydney
Balfour Street Park	PK1040	Redfern St	Civic	Other	Pocket	482	City of Sydney
Ballaarat Park	PK642	Harris St	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4,271	By others
Bamal Way	PK647	King St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	2,387	City of Sydney
Bank Street Reserve	PK487	Harris St	Bushland	Other	Pocket	1,524	City of Sydney
Bannerman Cres Reserve	PK345	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,788	City of Sydney
Baptist Street Reserve	PK498	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	227	City of Sydney
Barangaroo Headland Parks		CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	District		53,269	By others
Barcom Avenue Park	PK108	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,889	City of Sydney
Barlow Street Forest		Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other		385	City of Sydney
Barney and Bligh Reserve	PK46	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	2,238	By others
Barrack Street (Sesquicentenary Square)	PK144	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	1,544	City of Sydney
Barracks Reserve	PK253	Oxford St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	4,000	City of Sydney
Barracks Square Streetscape	PK817	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Streetscape	2,785	By others
Bayswater Road Streetscape	PK875	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Streetscape	208	City of Sydney
Beaconsfield Park	PK274	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4,537	City of Sydney
Beare Park Rotary Park	PK66 PK65	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	6,524	City of Sydney
Beaumont Street Streetscape	PK404	Redfern St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	899	City of Sydney
Bedford Street Closure	PK180	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	378	City of Sydney
Belmont Street 5030 Reserve	PK331	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	405	City of Sydney
Belmont Street 5040 Streetscape	PK320	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	424	City of Sydney
Belmore Park	PK356	Chinatown & CBD South	Park	District	Iconic	21,079	City of Sydney
Binning Street Reserve	PK448	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	499	City of Sydney
Bianbing Park	PK1191	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	997	City of Sydney
Blackwattle Bay Park	PK397	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	District	Neighbourhood	12,600	City of Sydney
Blackwattle Playground	PK726	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,526	City of Sydney
Booler Community Centre	PK114	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	401	City of Sydney
Bowden Playground	PK220	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	229	City of Sydney
Bridge Road Pocket Park	PK1630	Glebe Point Rd	Street closure	Other	Pocket	433	City of Sydney
Bridge Street 5030 Streetscape	PK1487	King St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	626	City of Sydney
Brown Street Reserve	PK359	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	268	City of Sydney
Buckingham Street 5010 Streetscape	PK2167	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	320	City of Sydney
Bucknell Street 5010 Streetscape	PK158	King St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	185	City of Sydney
Buming Park	PK1328	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,351	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Burren Street Reserve	PK264	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	376	City of Sydney
Burren Street Reserve Playground	PK284	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	400	City of Sydney
Butterscotch Park	PK2085	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	5,556	City of Sydney
Cadigal Avenue Reserve	PK807	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	119	By others
Campbell Road 5040 Streetscape	PK2403	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Streetscape	3,775	City of Sydney
Canal (Water Board) Reserve	PK346	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	3,310	City of Sydney
Cardigan Street Park	PK488	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,713	City of Sydney
Cathedral Square	PK37	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	3,641	City of Sydney
Central Avenue Reserve		Redfern St	Park	Local		1,403	By others
Central Station eastern Lawn		Chinatown & CBD South	Park	Local		510	By others
Central Station Forecourt	PK422	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Civic	1,640	By others
Chalmers Street 4060 Streetscape	PK1123	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Streetscape	48	City of Sydney
Chalmers Street pedestrian area		Crown & Baptist Sts	Transit corridor	Other		4,437	City of Sydney
Chard Stairs Streetscape	PK319	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Civic	323	City of Sydney
Charles Kernan Reserve	PK231	Redfern St	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	1,815	City of Sydney
Chelsea Street 5010 Streetscape	PK174	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	248	City of Sydney
Chelsea Street Playground	PK266	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	1,063	City of Sydney
Chifley Square	PK10	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	1,503	City of Sydney
Chippendale Green	PK1147	Redfern St	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	9,033	City of Sydney
Chisholm Street Reserve	PK248	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	136	City of Sydney
Church Street Streetscape	PK797	King St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	912	City of Sydney
Circular Quay & First Fleet Park	PK364 PK436	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Pocket	25,398	By others
City North - Bond Street closure		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other		89	City of Sydney
City North - Dalley Street closure		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other		123	City of Sydney
City North - Jamison Street closure		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other		177	City of Sydney
City North - Loftus Street closure		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other		863	City of Sydney
City North - Margaret Street closure		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other		873	City of Sydney
City Road Reserve	PK474	Redfern St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	502	City of Sydney
Clyne Reserve	PK166	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	2,147	City of Sydney
Collins Street 5020 Streetscape	PK998	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	479	City of Sydney
Cook & Phillip Park (Landscape)	PK392	CBD & Harbour	Park	District	Iconic	26,728	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Cook + Phillip Park (Roofscape)	PK392	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Iconic	4,998	City of Sydney
Cooper Street Reserve	PK302	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	1,077	City of Sydney
Coppersmith Lane 5010 Streetscape	PK1601	King St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	160	City of Sydney
Corning Park & Grissell Building Plaza	PK132	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,054	City of Sydney
Coulson Street Reserve	PK315	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	181	City of Sydney
Cowper Wharf Roadway 5010 Streetscape	PK2593	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	337	City of Sydney
Creek Street Reserve	PK113	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,265	City of Sydney
Crete Reserve	PK277	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	4,020	City of Sydney
Crown Park	PK186	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	6,395	City of Sydney
Crown Street Reserve	PK73	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	165	City of Sydney
Crystal Park	PK185	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	1,949	City of Sydney
Crystal Street 5010 Streetscape	PK2355 PK1473	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	Other	Streetscape	2,328	City of Sydney
Cullen Close Closure	PK1791	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	793	City of Sydney
Customs House Square	PK137	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	2,600	City of Sydney
Daffodil Park	PK463	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	452	City of Sydney
Daniel Dawson Playground	PK337	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,899	City of Sydney
Daniels Street Reserve	PK358	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	164	City of Sydney
Daranggara Park	PK1652	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,618	City of Sydney
Darley Street 5020 Streetscape	PK493	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	448	City of Sydney
Darling Drive Reserve/ Scape forecourt		Chinatown & CBD South	Park	Local		482	By others
Darling Square		Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Civic	2,134	By others
Dawes Point Fountain Streetscape	PK355	CBD & Harbour	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	298	City of Sydney
Dawes Point Park Cnr, East & West	PK6 PK13 PK47	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	District	Pocket	20,682	By others
Dawes Point Reserve	PK367	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,365	By others
Day Street Streetscape	PK746	Chinatown & CBD South	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	1,140	City of Sydney
Devine Street Reserve	PK295	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	147	City of Sydney
Devonshire Street 5030 Streetscape	PK177	Crown & Baptist Sts	Civic	Other	Streetscape	603	City of Sydney
Dibbs Street Reserve	PK268	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	894	City of Sydney
Distillery Drive Pedestrian Walk	PK1815	Harris St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	626	City of Sydney
Distillery Park	PK803	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,102	By others
Dixon Streetscape 1 and 2	PK127 PK128	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Civic	2,591	City of Sydney
Douglas Street Peoples Park	PK206	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	483	City of Sydney
Douglas Street Playground	PK142	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	235	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Dowling Street 5030 Streetscape	PK2091	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	1,476	City of Sydney
Dr H J Foley Rest Park	PK82	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Iconic	5,959	City of Sydney
Dyuralya Square	PK1915	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	2,322	City of Sydney
Eddie Ward Park	PK288	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	9,176	City of Sydney
Edgely Street Reserve	PK323	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	1,132	City of Sydney
Edmund Resch Reserve	PK387	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	7,256	City of Sydney
El Alamein Reserve	PK322	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,793	City of Sydney
Elger Street Community Garden	PK2098	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	472	City of Sydney
Elizabeth McCrea Playground	PK182	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	484	City of Sydney
Elizabeth Street 5040 Streetscape	PK500	Redfern St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	92	City of Sydney
Elizabeth Street 5120 Streetscape	PK1046	Chinatown & CBD South	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	1,591	City of Sydney
Elizabeth Street 5150 Streetscape	PK1117	Crown & Baptist Sts	Civic	Other	Streetscape	425	City of Sydney
Elizabeth Street Reserve	PK244	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	889	City of Sydney
Ellen Lawman Rest Area	PK293	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	419	City of Sydney
Embarkation Park	PK400	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	8,297	City of Sydney
Entertainment Quarter	PK314	Oxford St	Civic	Other	Iconic	29,833	By others
Ernest Pedersen Reserve	PK86	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,031	City of Sydney
Ernest Wright Playground	PK210	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	214	City of Sydney
Erskineville Oval and surrounds	PK412 PK413	King St	Park	District	Sportsfield	31,261	City of Sydney
Erskineville Square	PK197	King St	Civic	Other	Civic	609	City of Sydney
Ethel Street Playground	PK433	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	126	City of Sydney
Ethel Turner Park	PK249	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,452	City of Sydney
Eveleigh Green		Redfern St	Park	District		12,212	By others
Fanny Place Playground	PK204	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	209	City of Sydney
Farrer Place Streetscape	PK854	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Streetscape	2,182	City of Sydney
Fig Lane Park	PK366	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	2,924	City of Sydney
Fitzroy Gardens	PK70	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	5,234	City of Sydney
Flora & Knight Reserve	PK376	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	2,138	City of Sydney
Footbridge Streetscape	PK870	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Streetscape	274	City of Sydney
Forbes Street Reserve #3	PK1116	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	743	City of Sydney
Forbes Street Reserve 2	PK462	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Street closure	Other	Pocket	6,479	City of Sydney
Forbes Street Reserve Streetscape	PK199	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Streetscape	1,283	City of Sydney
Foveaux Street Reserve	PK170	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	336	City of Sydney

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Frances Newton Reserve	PK1871	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	281	City of Sydney
Fred Miller Reserve	PK242	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	932	City of Sydney
Frog Hollow Reserve	PK14	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	2,421	City of Sydney
Gadigal Avenue 5010 Streetscape	PK1731	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	Other	Streetscape	2,202	City of Sydney
Gadigal Avenue Reserve	PK187	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,540	City of Sydney
Garraway Park	PK2222	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3,260	City of Sydney
Gateway Building Reserve	PK145	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	1,717	City of Sydney
George Street 1982 Streetscape	PK1982	Redfern St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	431	City of Sydney
George Street pedestrian area - central		CBD & Harbour	Transit corridor	Other		16,718	City of Sydney
George Street pedestrian area - north		CBD & Harbour	Transit corridor	Other		3,167	City of Sydney
George Street pedestrian area - south		Chinatown & CBD South	Transit corridor	Other		15,127	City of Sydney
George Street Reserve	PK215	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	179	City of Sydney
"Getiela Sports Courts and Surrounds							
Getiela Synthetic Sportsfield"	PK2409 PK2410	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	9,727	City of Sydney
Giba Park	PK443	Harris St	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	7,267	City of Sydney
Gibbons Street Reserve	PK292	Redfern St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	4,453	City of Sydney
"Gipps Street Streetscape							
Elizabeth Healey Reserve"	PK418 PK52	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,056	City of Sydney
Glebe Foreshore Parks - Bicentennial Parks 1 & 2, Jubilee Park & Oval, Federal Park 1 & Sportsfield, Pope Paul VI Reserve	PK78 PK79 PK381 PKPK1064 PK380 PK1063 PK377	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	District	Iconic	128,222	City of Sydney
Glebe Foreshore Parks - Crescent lands		Glebe Point Rd	Park	District		11,066	City of Sydney
Glebe Foreshore Parks - Federal Park 2	PK379	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Iconic	6,411	City of Sydney
Glebe Foreshore Walk East	PK55	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	9,722	City of Sydney
Glebe Foreshore Walk Stage 5	PK1184	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3,957	City of Sydney
Glebe Foreshore Walk West	PK202	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	District	Neighbourhood	10,001	City of Sydney
Glebe Library	PK84	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,484	City of Sydney
Glebe Street Playground	PK97	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	206	City of Sydney
Goddard Reserve	PK250	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	361	City of Sydney
Goulbourne Street Streetscape	PK532	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Streetscape	266	City of Sydney
Gowrie Street Reserve	PK217	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	848	City of Sydney

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Grattan Close Park	PK1638	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	749	City of Sydney
Great Buckingham Street Reserve	PK147	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	330	City of Sydney
Green Ban Park	PK178	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,986	City of Sydney
Green Bans Park	PK352	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,067	City of Sydney
Green Park	PK98	Oxford St	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	5,416	City of Sydney
Green Square	PK424	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	418	City of Sydney
Green Square Library and Plaza Park	PK1887	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	Other	Pocket	8,411	City of Sydney
Green Square Station forecourt		Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	Other		2,217	By others
Gunyama Park - Stage 1 and Gunyama Park Synthetic Field	PK2241 PK2242	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Neighbourhood	11,425	City of Sydney
Hansom Cab Place	PK232	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	414	City of Sydney
Harmony Park	PK458	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	9,197	City of Sydney
Harold Park	PK328	Glebe Point Rd	Park	District	Iconic	36,542	City of Sydney
Harry Noble Reserve	PK301	King St	Park	District	Neighbourhood	11,164	City of Sydney
Hegarty Street Steps	PK100	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	63	City of Sydney
Henry Dean Plaza		Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other		1,716	By others
Herald Square	PK51	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	1,697	City of Sydney
Hickson Park		CBD & Harbour	Park	Neighbourhood		6,200	By others
High Holborn Street 5010 Streetscape	PK162	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Civic	184	City of Sydney
High Street Gardens	PK721	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	168	City of Sydney
Hillis Park	PK300	King St	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	6,165	City of Sydney
Holt Street 5020 Streetscape	PK834	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	502	City of Sydney
Honeykiss Park	PK2260	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	2,913	City of Sydney
Hugo & Vine Reserve	PK272	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,349	City of Sydney
Hunt Street 4040 Streetscape	PK1158	Crown & Baptist Sts	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	237	City of Sydney
Hyde Park North	PK478	CBD & Harbour	Park	District	Iconic	83,545	City of Sydney
Hyde Park South	PK193	CBD & Harbour	Park	District	Iconic	77,220	City of Sydney
Ibero American Plaza	PK181	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Streetscape	940	By others
Indigenous Cultural Landscape Garden		Redfern St	Park	Local		1,302	By others
Innovation Plaza		Redfern St	Civic	Other	Civic	3,966	By others
International Square	PK484	Oxford St	Civic	Other	Civic	865	By others
ITAC Streetscape	PK658	Harris St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	709	City of Sydney
Jack Floyd Reserve	PK388	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,469	City of Sydney
Jack Haynes Rest Area	PK282	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	543	City of Sydney
Jack O'Brien Reserve	PK183	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	235	City of Sydney
Jack Shuttleworth Reserve	PK273	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	950	City of Sydney
Jacksons Landing Promenade	PK805	Harris St	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	5,534	By others
James Cahill Kindergarten Reserve	PK275	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	141	By others
James Henry Deacon Reserve	PK296	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	243	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
James Hilder Reserve	PK241	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	1,498	City of Sydney
James Street Community Garden	PK219	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	218	City of Sydney
James Street Reserve	PK161	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	185	City of Sydney
James Watkinson Reserve	PK426	Harris St	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	2,907	City of Sydney
Janet Beirne Reserve	PK280	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,220	City of Sydney
Jean Cawley Reserve	PK104	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	221	City of Sydney
Jessie Street Gardens	PK43	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	1,379	City of Sydney
John Armstrong Reserve	PK68	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	734	City of Sydney
John Street 5010 Streetscape	PK481	Redfern St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	431	City of Sydney
John Street Reserve	PK107	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,669	City of Sydney
John Street Rest Area	PK1042	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	43	City of Sydney
John Street Square	PK444	Harris St	Civic	Other	Pocket	1,386	City of Sydney
Jones & John Street Reserve	PK192	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	221	City of Sydney
Jones Street closure		Harris St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	573	City of Sydney
Jones Street Pocket Park	PK57	Harris St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	2,055	City of Sydney
Jones Street Terraces	PK35	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	218	City of Sydney
Josephson Street 5010 Streetscape	PK18	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Civic	693	City of Sydney
Joynton Park	PK309	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Neighbourhood	13,759	City of Sydney
Jubilee Fountain Plaza	PK473	Glebe Point Rd	Civic	Other	Civic	452	City of Sydney
JV McMahon Reserve	PK109	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,155	City of Sydney
Kellett Place Streetscape	PK83	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Streetscape	331	City of Sydney
Kensington Street Reserve	PK326	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,031	City of Sydney
Kent Street Underpass (Western Distributor Gardens)	PK351	CBD & Harbour	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	2,033	City of Sydney
Kettle Street Reserve	PK131	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	404	City of Sydney
Kimberley Grove Reserve	PK344	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	8,660	City of Sydney
King George V Memorial Park	PK41	CBD & Harbour	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	1,477	City of Sydney
Kings Lane Reserve	PK130	Oxford St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	225	City of Sydney
Kirsova 1 Playground	PK233	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	567	City of Sydney
Kirsova 2 Playground	PK211	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	400	City of Sydney
Kirsova Playground 3	PK95	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	608	City of Sydney
Lachlan Street 5010 Streetscape	PK1062	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	1,633	City of Sydney
Lachlan Street 5030 Streetscape		Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	Other		628	By others
Lacrozia Playground	PK106	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	758	City of Sydney
Lang Park	PK45	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	2,777	City of Sydney
Larkin Street Park	PK644	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,123	City of Sydney
Lawrence Hargrave Reserve	PK365	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,898	City of Sydney

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Lawrence Street 5020 Traffic Treatment	PK905	King St	Street closure	Other		241	City of Sydney
Lawrence Street Closure	PK350	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	310	City of Sydney
Layton Street 5010 Streetscape	PK1056	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	707	City of Sydney
Les White Reserve	PK234	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	277	City of Sydney
Lewis Hoad Reserve	PK371	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	2,480	City of Sydney
Lillian Fowler Reserve	PK260	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	2,287	City of Sydney
Little Cleveland Street Reserve	PK221	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	443	City of Sydney
Little Dowling Street Reserve	PK212	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	163	City of Sydney
Little Eveleigh Street Reserve	PK222	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	204	City of Sydney
Lower Avon Street Streetscape	PK1139	Glebe Point Rd	Bushland	Other	Streetscape	435	City of Sydney
Lyndhurst Street Reserve	PK489	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	92	City of Sydney
Lyndhurst Street Steps	PK439	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	329	City of Sydney
Lyons Rd Reserve	PK118	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	215	City of Sydney
Macarthur Street Rest Area	PK476	Harris St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	436	City of Sydney
Macleay Reserve	PK354	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	1,581	City of Sydney
Macquarie Place Park	PK39	CBD & Harbour	Park	Neighbourhood	Iconic	3,362	City of Sydney
Macquarie Street & Shakespeare Place Streetscape	PK506	CBD & Harbour	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	2,681	City of Sydney
Marriott Street Reserve	PK148	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	868	City of Sydney
Martin Place (Stage 1)	LND486	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	3,290	City of Sydney
Martin Place (Stage 2)	LND479	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	3,338	City of Sydney
Martin Place (Stage 3)	LND437	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	1,381	City of Sydney
Martin Place (Stage 4)	LND428	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	1,164	City of Sydney
Martin Place (Stage 5)	LND011	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	2,159	City of Sydney
Mary Ann Street Park	PK9	Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	5,308	City of Sydney
Mary O'Brien Reserve	PK237	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	7,042	City of Sydney
Matron Ruby Grant Park	PK1830	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3,699	City of Sydney
Maureen Oliver Reserve	PK230	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	417	City of Sydney
May Pitt Playground	PK115	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	350	City of Sydney
Maybank Park & Community Centre	PK790	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,555	City of Sydney
McCaffreys Cliff Walk	PK804	Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,030	By others
McCartney Square Streetscape	PK269	King St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	198	City of Sydney
McConville Reserve	PK218	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,922	City of Sydney
McCredie Reserve	PK59	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,161	City of Sydney
McEvoy Street Pocket Park	PK1763	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	762	City of Sydney
McKee Street Reserve	PK417	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,001	City of Sydney
McLachlan Way Streetscape	PK129	Oxford St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	305	City of Sydney

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Merton Street Streetscape	PK1110	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Streetscape	212	City of Sydney
Metcalfe Park	PK641	Harris St	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	8,432	By others
Michael Kelly Rest Area	PK262	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	388	City of Sydney
Millard Reserve	PK94	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	713	City of Sydney
Miller Street Civic Space	PK653	Harris St	Civic	Other	Civic	861	City of Sydney
Millers Point Tennis Court		CBD & Harbour	Park	Local		895	City of Sydney
Minogue Crescent Reserve	PK373	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	2,060	City of Sydney
Minogue Reserve	PK112	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,053	City of Sydney
Mitchell Road Reserve	PK223	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	128	City of Sydney
Mitchell Street Park	PK472	Glebe Point Rd	Street closure	Other	Pocket	646	City of Sydney
Mitchell Way		Redfern St	Civic	Other	Civic	2,341	By others
Mitchell Way Reserve		Redfern St	Park	Local		504	By others
MJ (Paddy) Doherty Reserve	PK102	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,024	City of Sydney
MJ Hayes Playground	PK205	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	234	City of Sydney
Mollie Swift Reserve	PK214	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	163	City of Sydney
Moore Park - Bat & Ball Field	PK289	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	District	Iconic	77,927	By others
Moore Park - E.S. Marks Athletics Field	PK289	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	District	Iconic	54,955	By others
Moore Park Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	PK289	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	District		21,361	By others
Moore Park Centennial Parklands Sports Centre, Robertson Road Fields & Federation Way	PK289	Oxford St	Park	District	Iconic	120,635	By others
Moore Park East	PK289	Oxford St	Park	District	Iconic	171,802	By others
Moore Park Golf Course	PK289	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Regional	Iconic	516,806	By others
Moore Park Road Streetscape	PK866	Oxford St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	305	City of Sydney
Moore Park West	PK289	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	District	Iconic	118,052	By others
Morehead Street Closure	PK135	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	1,192	City of Sydney
Mountain Street Reserve	PK475	Glebe Point Rd	Street closure	Other	Pocket	643	City of Sydney
Mrs Isabella Hill Rest Area	PK216	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,962	City of Sydney
Munn Reserve	PK167	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,604	City of Sydney
Napier Street 5020 Streetscape	PK865	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	771	City of Sydney
Napoleon Plaza		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	3,652	By others
Newcombe Street Streetscape	PK194	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	961	City of Sydney
Newman Street 4020 Streetscape	PK329	King St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	205	City of Sydney
Ngana gili Plaza		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other		1,094	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Nimrod Street Rest Area	PK56	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	96	City of Sydney
Nita McCrae Park	PK1778	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	922	City of Sydney
North South Setback 1	PK335	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	649	City of Sydney
Nuffield Park	PK330	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	5,136	City of Sydney
O'Brien Lane Reserve	PK92	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	578	City of Sydney
Observatory Hill Park	PK456	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	District	Iconic	19,408	City of Sydney
O'Connell Street Park	PK1942	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	167	City of Sydney
Orphan School Creek	PK111	Glebe Point Rd	Bushland	Other	Pocket	9,352	City of Sydney
Orwell Street Reserve	PK408	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Civic	1,541	City of Sydney
Oxford Square and Streetscape	PK134 PK1615	Oxford St	Civic	Other	Civic	654	City of Sydney
Paddington Reservoir Gardens	PK254	Oxford St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,072	City of Sydney
Paints Lane Garden Reserve	PK120	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	86	City of Sydney
Palmer Street 5030 Streetscape	PK771	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	216	City of Sydney
Palmerston Avenue Steps	PK195	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	789	City of Sydney
Paradise Reserve	PK60	Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,338	City of Sydney
Parbury Lane Park	PK648	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	177	City of Sydney
Parkham Street Reserve	PK165	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	245	City of Sydney
Peace Park	PK121	Redfern St	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	1,632	City of Sydney
Perry Park Perry park Synthetic Field"	PK311 PK1073	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Neighbourhood	16,509	City of Sydney
Pinkstone Playground	PK225	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	159	City of Sydney
Pirrama Park	PK49	Harris St	Foreshore park	District	Iconic	34,968	City of Sydney
Pirrama Road 5010 Streetscape	PK660	Harris St	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	565	City of Sydney
Pitt Street Mall	LND143	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	3,495	City of Sydney
Pottinger Park East	PK391	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	618	City of Sydney
Pottinger Park West	PK368	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	1,054	City of Sydney
Prince Alfred Park	PK386	Redfern St	Park	District	Iconic	67,290	City of Sydney
Public Path Way 5010 Streetscape	PK1954	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	305	City of Sydney
Pymont Bay Park	PK446	Harris St	Foreshore park	District	Iconic	12,451	By others
Pymont Bridge Road Pocket Park	PK832	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	323	City of Sydney
Pymont Street 5030 Streetscape	PK1939	Harris St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	210	City of Sydney
Pymont Street Civic Space	PK445	Harris St	Civic	Other	Civic	440	City of Sydney
Quarry Green	PK416	Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,051	City of Sydney
Quarry St Streetscape & Steps	PK198	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	608	City of Sydney
Queens Square Streetscape	PK714	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Streetscape	3,210	City of Sydney
Railway Square		Redfern St	Civic	Other		3,174	City of Sydney
Reconciliation Park	PK290	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,258	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Redfern Community Centre	PK184	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	2,277	City of Sydney
Redfern Park Redfern Oval	PK297 PK298	Redfern St	Park	District	Iconic	46,363	City of Sydney
Redfern Station Concourse entry/ Marian Street 5010 Streetscape	PK1725	Redfern St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	405	City of Sydney
Refinery Square	PK808	Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	5,163	By others
Reflection Park		Chinatown & CBD South	Park	Local		1,435	By others
Regent Street 5040 Streetscape Botany Road 5010 Streetscape	PK1578 PK1579	Redfern St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	1,240	City of Sydney
Regent Street Corner Streetscape	PK490	Redfern St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	209	City of Sydney
Regent Street Reserve	PK255	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	839	City of Sydney
Regimental Square	PK48	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	518	City of Sydney
Renwick Street Playground	PK276	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	428	City of Sydney
Reservoir Street 4100 Streetscape	PK495	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	77	City of Sydney
Reservoir Street Reserve	PK303	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Pocket	897	City of Sydney
Rest Area - Bridge Street	PK447	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	133	City of Sydney
Richard Johnson Square	PK140	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	650	City of Sydney
Riley Street 5050 Streetscape	PK423	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	307	City of Sydney
Riley Street 5080 Streetscape	PK459	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	242	City of Sydney
Riley Street Closure	PK382	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	352	City of Sydney
Robyn Kemmis Reserve	PK362	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,331	City of Sydney
Rochford Street Closure	PK316	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	404	City of Sydney
Rochford Street Playground	PK209	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	648	City of Sydney
Rochford Street Streetscape	PK1052	King St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	139	City of Sydney
Ronald Shores Reserve	PK646	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,086	City of Sydney
Rose Terrace	PK286	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	677	City of Sydney
Rosebank Park	PK497	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	649	City of Sydney
Ross Street Playground	PK110	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	693	City of Sydney
Ross Street Reserve	PK103	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	391	City of Sydney
Rushcutters Bay Park & Reg Bartley Oval	PK76 PK1074	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Foreshore park	District	Iconic	39,446	City of Sydney
Sarah Peninton Reserve	PK442	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	862	City of Sydney
Saunders St Open Space, Cliff Face & Ramp Area	PK53 PK441	Harris St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	2,888	City of Sydney
Scott Street Plaza	PK419	Harris St	Civic	Other	Civic	255	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Scott Street Plaza Bank Area	PK201	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	245	City of Sydney
Scout Place	PK360	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	998	City of Sydney
Seamer Street Reserve	PK116	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	239	City of Sydney
Selwyn Street 5010 Streetscape	PK16	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	1,223	City of Sydney
Shannon Reserve	PK243	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local	Neighbourhood	2,673	City of Sydney
Sheas Creek Shared Path	PK2211	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	3,035	City of Sydney
Shepherd Street 5010 Streetscape	PK449	Redfern St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	485	City of Sydney
Shepherd Street Reserve	PK236	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	226	City of Sydney
Short Street Pocket Park	PK238	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,700	City of Sydney
Smithers Street Pocket Park	PK860	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	67	City of Sydney
Solander Park	PK287	Redfern St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	4,748	City of Sydney
South Eveleigh Town Centre		Redfern St	Civic	Other	Civic	2,972	By others
South Sydney Rotary Park #1	PK432	Redfern St	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	7,081	By others
South Sydney Rotary Park #2	PK431	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	549	By others
South Sydney Rotary Park #3	PK310	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	732	City of Sydney
Southern Cross Drive Reserve	PK285	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Pocket	11,460	City of Sydney
Springfield Gardens	PK152	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Civic	945	City of Sydney
Springfield Mall	PK884	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	1,213	City of Sydney
Streetscape, Llanckelly Place extension & Orwell Street Civic Space	PK885 PK409						
St Bartholomews Park	PK425	Harris St	Park	Local	Pocket	482	City of Sydney
St James Park	PK105	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,545	City of Sydney
St Neot Reserve	PK63	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	317	City of Sydney
Stewart Place Reserve	PK21	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	232	City of Sydney
Stewart Street Glebe Reserve	PK72	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	478	City of Sydney
Stewart Street Pocket Park	PK20	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	624	City of Sydney
Stewart Street Reserve	PK1080	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	158	City of Sydney
Stirling Street Park	PK338	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	171	City of Sydney
Strickland Park	PK122	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	380	City of Sydney
Strong Memorial Reserve	PK27	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,424	City of Sydney
Surrey Street Playground	PK91	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	178	City of Sydney
Surry Hills Village Laneway		Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local		609	City of Sydney
Surry Hills Village Pocket Park		Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Local		519	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Swanson Street Reserve	PK279	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	730	City of Sydney
Sweetacres Park	PK1291	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	4,997	City of Sydney
Sydney Football Stadium outdoor gym and court	PK305	Oxford St	Civic	Other	Sportsfield	1,565	By others
Sydney Opera House Forecourt		CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	9,454	By others
Sydney Park & Alan Davidson Oval	PK141 PK529	King St	Park	Regional	Iconic	405,189	City of Sydney
Sydney Place Civic Space	PK151	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Civic	348	City of Sydney
Sydney Square	PK440	CBD & Harbour	Civic	Other	Civic	6,094	City of Sydney
Sydney Street Reserve	PK434	King St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	311	City of Sydney
Tarakan Reserve	PK321	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,301	City of Sydney
Taylor Square & Gilligan's Island	PK7 PK196	Oxford St	Civic	Other	Civic	4,680	City of Sydney
Taylor Street 5030 Streetscape	PK1559	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	613	City of Sydney
Taylor's College Park		Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	671	By others
Telopea Street Closure	PK171	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	441	City of Sydney
The Bakery	PK136	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,010	City of Sydney
The Domain	PK421	CBD & Harbour	Park	District	Iconic	148,841	By others
The Drying Green	PK2374	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Iconic	6,210	City of Sydney
The Entry Garden		Redfern St	Ancillary or link	Other		2,931	By others
The Goods Line		Chinatown & CBD South	Park	District		12,786	City of Sydney
The Green	PK24	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	435	City of Sydney
The Knoll Park	PK1723	Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	5,151	By others
The Ropes Walk	PK719	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2,527	City of Sydney
The Ropes Walk	PK719	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	6,345	City of Sydney
The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney	PK394	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	Regional	Iconic	451,457	By others
Thomas Portley Reserve	PK87	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	318	City of Sydney
Thomas Street Road Closure		Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Streetscape	818	City of Sydney
Thomson Street 5010 Streetscape	PK126	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	246	City of Sydney
Three Saints Square	PK718	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	542	City of Sydney
Thurlow Street Closure	PK172	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	612	City of Sydney
Tilford Street Reserve	PK227	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	268	City of Sydney
Tobruk Reserve	PK246	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	714	City of Sydney
Tom Uren Place	PK1983	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Civic	1,293	By others
Tosh Lane 5020 Streetscape	PK2308	Green Sq & City Sth	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	270	City of Sydney
Tote Park	PK307	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4,113	City of Sydney
Toxteth Park	PK1631	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	577	City of Sydney
Tram Stop Reserve	PK90	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	580	City of Sydney
Trinity Avenue Playground	PK42	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	194	City of Sydney
Tudor Street Reserve	PK163	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	670	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Tumalong Boulevard North		Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Civic	31,304	By others
Tumalong Boulevard South		Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	Other	Civic	4,088	By others
Tumalong Park	PK361	Chinatown & CBD South	Park	District	Civic	22,578	By others
Turruwul Park	PK278 PK1087	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Neighbourhood	23,431	City of Sydney
Ulster Street 5020 Streetscape	PK327	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	536	City of Sydney
Union Square	PK713	Harris St	Civic	Other	Streetscape	1,550	City of Sydney
Union Street Playground	PK228	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	273	City of Sydney
UTS Alumni Green		Harris St	Park	Neighbourhood		6,422	City of Sydney
Vescey Reserve	PK291	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	1,212	City of Sydney
Viaduct Area #2 Bourke Street Park	PK461 PK69	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	1,742	City of Sydney
Viaduct Area #4 Wash Away	PK54	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	1,317	By others
Viaduct Area 1	PK67	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	1,472	City of Sydney
Victoria Park	PK357	Redfern St	Park	District	Iconic	84,938	City of Sydney
Vine Street Playground	PK226	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	190	City of Sydney
Vine Street Reserve	PK229	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	113	City of Sydney
Walker Street 5040 Streetscape	PK133	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Streetscape	475	City of Sydney
Malla Mulla Reserve #4	PK77	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Pocket	1,038	City of Sydney
Waratah Street Reserve	PK75	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	2,027	City of Sydney
Waratah Street Reserve Playground	PK1101	Woolloomooloo					
Ward Avenue 5040 Streetscape	PK1807	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Ancillary or link	Other	Streetscape	298	City of Sydney
Ward Avenue Civic Space	PK873	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Civic	93	City of Sydney
Watchful Harry Square	PK188	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Local	Pocket	1,684	City of Sydney
Waterfront Park	PK643	Harris St	Foreshore park	District	Neighbourhood	12,046	By others
Waterloo Green & James Cook Community Garden		Redfern St	Park	Neighbourhood		6,487	By others
Waterloo Green, TJ Hickey Park & Raglan Street Basketball Courts		Redfern St	Park	District		16,078	By others
Waterloo Park & Mount Carmel	PK245	Redfern St	Park	District	Neighbourhood	14,567	City of Sydney
Waterloo Park Waterloo Oval"	PK336 PK1090	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	District	Neighbourhood	20,669	City of Sydney
Waterloo Street 5070 Streetscape		Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other		376	City of Sydney
Watson Road Reserve	PK455	CBD & Harbour	Park	Local	Pocket	975	City of Sydney
Wattle & Broadway Rest Area	PK465	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	48	City of Sydney

Open space asset	CoS asset ID	Village/ activity hub	Open space setting	Park hierarchy	Service category	Area (m2)	Management
Wentworth Park light rail stop accessway		Harris St	Ancillary or link	Other		2,151	By others
Wentworth Park	PK191	Glebe Point Rd	Park	District	Iconic	93,335	City of Sydney
Wentworth Park Field 1	PK681						
Wentworth Park Field 2	PK682						
Wentworth Park Field 3	PK683						
Wentworth Park Field 4	PK684						
Western Escarpment	PK1722	Harris St	Bushland	Other	Pocket	2,710	By others
Whelan Reserve	PK28	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	301	City of Sydney
Wigram Road Reserve	PK96	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	466	City of Sydney
William Carlton Gardens	PK339	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	1,820	City of Sydney
William Street 5100 Streetscape	PK874	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	Other	Streetscape	805	City of Sydney
Wilson Street Open Space	PK403	Redfern St	Civic	Other	Civic	338	City of Sydney
Wilson Street Reserve #1	PK281	King St	Ancillary or link	Other	Pocket	233	City of Sydney
Wilson Street Reserve #2	PK283	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	94	City of Sydney
Wimbo Reserve	PK299	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	4,871	City of Sydney
WJ Thurbon Reserve	PK1	King St	Park	Local	Pocket	205	City of Sydney
Womerah Gardens	PK348	Oxford St	Park	Local	Pocket	951	City of Sydney
Wood Street Lands Wood Street Playground	PK667 PK707	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	5,689	City of Sydney
Woolloomooloo Playground	PK457	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	Local	Pocket	2,829	City of Sydney
Woolwash Park	PK256	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,322	City of Sydney
Wulaba Park	PK1522	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	5,544	City of Sydney
Wynyard Park	PK44	CBD & Harbour	Park	Neighbourhood	Iconic	6,910	City of Sydney
Yellomundee Park	PK265	Redfern St	Park	Local	Pocket	638	City of Sydney
York Street Reserve	PK99	Glebe Point Rd	Park	Local	Pocket	300	City of Sydney
Young Street Closure	PK325	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	Other	Pocket	510	City of Sydney
Yurong Street Reserve	PK12	Oxford St	Street closure	Other	Pocket	543	City of Sydney
Zetland Park	PK1314	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	Neighbourhood	Pocket	3,034	City of Sydney

Appendix 3

New open space
schedule 2004-2016

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New open space (2004 - 2015)

New open space 2004 - 2016		Village/ activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date created
1	Glebe Foreshore Walk East	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	9,722	2004
2	Redfern Community Centre	Redfern St	Park	2,277	2004
3	William Street 5100 Streetscape	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	805	2005
4	Palmer Street 5030 Streetscape	Oxford St	Street closure	216	2006
5	Parbury Lane Park	CBD & Harbour	Park	177	2006
6	Pottinger Park East	CBD & Harbour	Park	618	2006
7	Pottinger Park West	CBD & Harbour	Park	1,054	2006
8	Ronald Shores Reserve	Oxford St	Park	1,086	2006
9	Harmony Park	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	9,197	2007
10	ITAC Streetscape	Harris St	Civic	709	2007
11	Nuffield Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	5,136	2007
12	Wilson Street Open Space	Redfern St	Civic	338	2007
13	Barcom Avenue Park	Oxford St	Park	1,889	2008
14	Corning Park & Grissell Building Plaza	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,054	2008
15	Glebe Foreshore Walk West	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	10,001	2008
16	Jones Street Pocket Park	Harris St	Ancillary or link	2,055	2008
17	Reservoir Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	897	2008
18	Scott Street Plaza Bank Area	Harris St	Park	245	2008
19	Larkin Street Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,123	2009
20	Pirrama Park	Harris St	Foreshore park	34,968	2009
21	Pymont Bridge Road Pocket Park	Harris St	Park	323	2009
22	Wood Street Lands and Wood Street Playground	Glebe Point Rd	Park	5,689	2009
23	Balfour Street Park	Redfern St	Park	482	2010
24	Ethel Turner Park	Oxford St	Park	1,452	2010
25	James Street Community Garden	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	218	2010
26	Crystal Street 5010 Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	2,328	2011
27	Chippendale Green	Redfern St	Park	5000	2012
28	Distillery Drive Pedestrian Walk	Harris St	Ancillary or link	626	2012
29	Pinkstone Playground	King St	Park	159	2012
30	Bamal Way	King St	Ancillary or link	2,387	2014
31	Biyانبing Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	997	2014
32	Glebe Foreshore Walk Stage 5	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park	3,957	2014
33	Bridge Road Pocket Park	Glebe Point Rd	Street closure	433	2015
34	Bridge Street 5030 Streetscape	King St	Ancillary or link	626	2015
35	Coppersmith Lane 5010 Streetscape	King St	Street closure	160	2015
36	Gadigal Avenue 5010 Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Civic	2,202	2015
37	Grattan Close Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	749	2015
38	Hunt Street 4040 Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Ancillary or link	237	2015
39	O'Connell Street Park	King St	Park	167	2015
40	Zetland Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,034	2015
Total				112669	

New open space 2004 - 2016 Managed by others		Village/ activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date created
42	Ballaarat Park	Harris St	Foreshore park	4,271	2005
43	Barangaroo Headland Parks	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	53,269	2015
44	Central Avenue Reserve	Redfern St	Park	1,403	2008
45	Distillery Park	Harris St	Park	1,102	2005
46	Jacksons Landing Promenade	Harris St	Foreshore park	5,534	2006
47	Metcalfe Park	Harris St	Foreshore park	8,432	2005
48	Mitchell Way Reserve	Redfern St	Park	504	2008
49	South Eveleigh Town Centre	Redfern St	Civic	2,972	2008
50	The Knoll Park	Harris St	Park	5,151	2013
51	Waterfront Park	Harris St	Foreshore park	12,046	2012
52	Western Escarpment	Harris St	Bushland	2,710	2013
53	The Goods Line	Chinatown & CBD South	Park	12,786	2015
Total				110180	

Between 2004 and 2016, approximately 22.8 ha was added to the network

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Appendix 4

Open space improvements schedule

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Open space improvements (2004 - 2015)

Open space comprehensive upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date upgraded
1	Arthur (Paddy) Gray Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	3,576	2005
2	AV Henry Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	3,665	2005
3	Hansom Cab Place	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	414	2005
4	Kirsova Playground 3	Glebe Point Rd	Park	608	2005
5	Robyn Kemmis Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,331	2005
6	Springfield Gardens	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	945	2005
7	Thomas Portley Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	318	2005
8	Waratah Street Reserve and Playground	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	2,027	2005
9	James Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	185	2006
10	Lacrozia Playground	Oxford St	Park	758	2006
11	Lang Park	CBD & Harbour	Park	2,777	2006
12	Marriott Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	868	2006
13	Dibbs Street Reserve	Redfern St	Park	894	2007
14	James Henry Deacon Reserve	Redfern St	Park	243	2007
15	Jubilee Fountain Plaza	Glebe Point Rd	Civic	452	2007
16	Lewis Hoad Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	2,480	2007
17	Surrey Street Playground	Oxford St	Park	178	2007
18	Bannerman Cres Reserve	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	3,788	2008
19	Barcom Avenue Park	Oxford St	Park	1,889	2008
20	Burren Street Reserve	King St	Park	376	2008
21	Frog Hollow Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	2,421	2008
22	Jack Floyd Reserve	Redfern St	Park	1,469	2008
23	May Pitt Playground	Glebe Point Rd	Park	350	2008
24	Telopea Street Closure	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	441	2008
25	Beare Park & Rotary Park	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Foreshore park	6,524	2009
26	Collins Street 5020 Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	479	2009
27	Millard Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	713	2009
28	MJ (Paddy) Doherty Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,024	2009
29	Redfern Park & Redfern Oval	Redfern St	Park	46,363	2009
30	Turruwul Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	23,431	2009
31	WJ Thurbon Reserve	King St	Park	205	2009
32	Little Dowling Street Reserve	Oxford St	Park	163	2010
33	Flora & Knight Reserve	King St	Park	2,138	2011

Open space comprehensive upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date upgraded
34	Green Bans Park	King St	Park	1,067	2011
35	Kirsova 1 Playground	King St	Park	567	2011
36	Lillian Fowler Reserve	King St	Park	2,287	2011
37	Pitt Street Mall	CBD & Harbour	Civic	3,495	2011
38	Rochford Street Playground	King St	Park	648	2011
39	Three Saints Square	Oxford St	Park	542	2011
40	Union Street Playground	King St	Park	273	2011
41	Viaduct Area #2 & Bourke Street Park	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	1,742	2011
42	Walla Mulla Reserve	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Civic	1,038	2011
43	Goddard Reserve	King St	Park	361	2012
44	MJ Hayes Playground	King St	Park	234	2012
45	Arthur Street Closure	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	362	2013
46	Parkham Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	245	2013
47	Prince Alfred Park	Redfern St	Park	67,290	2013
48	Bayswater Road Streetscape	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	208	2014
49	Dr H J Foley Rest Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	5,959	2014
50	Edmund Resch Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	7,256	2014
51	Footbridge Streetscape	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	274	2014
52	Janet Beirne Reserve	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	1,220	2014
53	Mary Ann Street Park	Harris St	Park	5,308	2014
54	Napier Street 5020 Streetscape	Oxford St	Street closure	771	2014
55	St James Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	3,545	2014
56	Forbes Street Reserve #3	Redfern St	Park	743	2015
57	Goulbourne Street Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	266	2015
58	John Street Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,669	2015
59	Mary O'Brien Reserve	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	7,042	2015
60	Munn Reserve	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park	3,604	2015
61	O'Brien Lane Reserve	Oxford St	Park	578	2015
62	Pinkstone Playground	King St	Park	159	2015
63	Reconciliation Park	Redfern St	Park	1,258	2015

Table 21: Open space improvements (2004 - 2015)

Open space comprehensive upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Year improved
64	Ada Place Park	Harris St	Park	2008
65	Arundel Street Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	2008
66	Belmore Park East	Chinatown & CBD South	Park	2008
67	Eddie Ward Park	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	2019 2009 2007
68	Paddington Reservoir Gardens	Oxford St	Park	2009
69	Rose Terrace	Oxford St	Park	2009
70	St Neot Reserve	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	2013
71	Rushcutters Bay Park and Reg Bartley Oval	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Foreshore park	2014 2010
72	Harry Noble Reserve	King St	Park	2015
73	James Watkinson Reserve	Harris St	Park	2015
74	Sydney Park	King Street	Park	2010-2015
75	Parkham Reserve	Harris St	Park	2013
76	Glebe foreshore parklands	Glebe Point Rd	Park	2015
77	Alexandria Park	Green Sq	Park	2015
78	Ada Place	Harris St	Park	2008
79	Rose Terrace	Oxford St	Park	2009
80	Victoria Park	Redfern St	Park	2010
81	Waterloo Park	Redfern St	Park	2006
82	Waterloo Oval	Green Sq	Park	2006
83	Edmund Resch Reserve	Crown st	Park	2014
84	Observatory Hill Park	CBD	Park	2015
85	Chelsea Street Playground	Redfern St	Park	2015

update latest

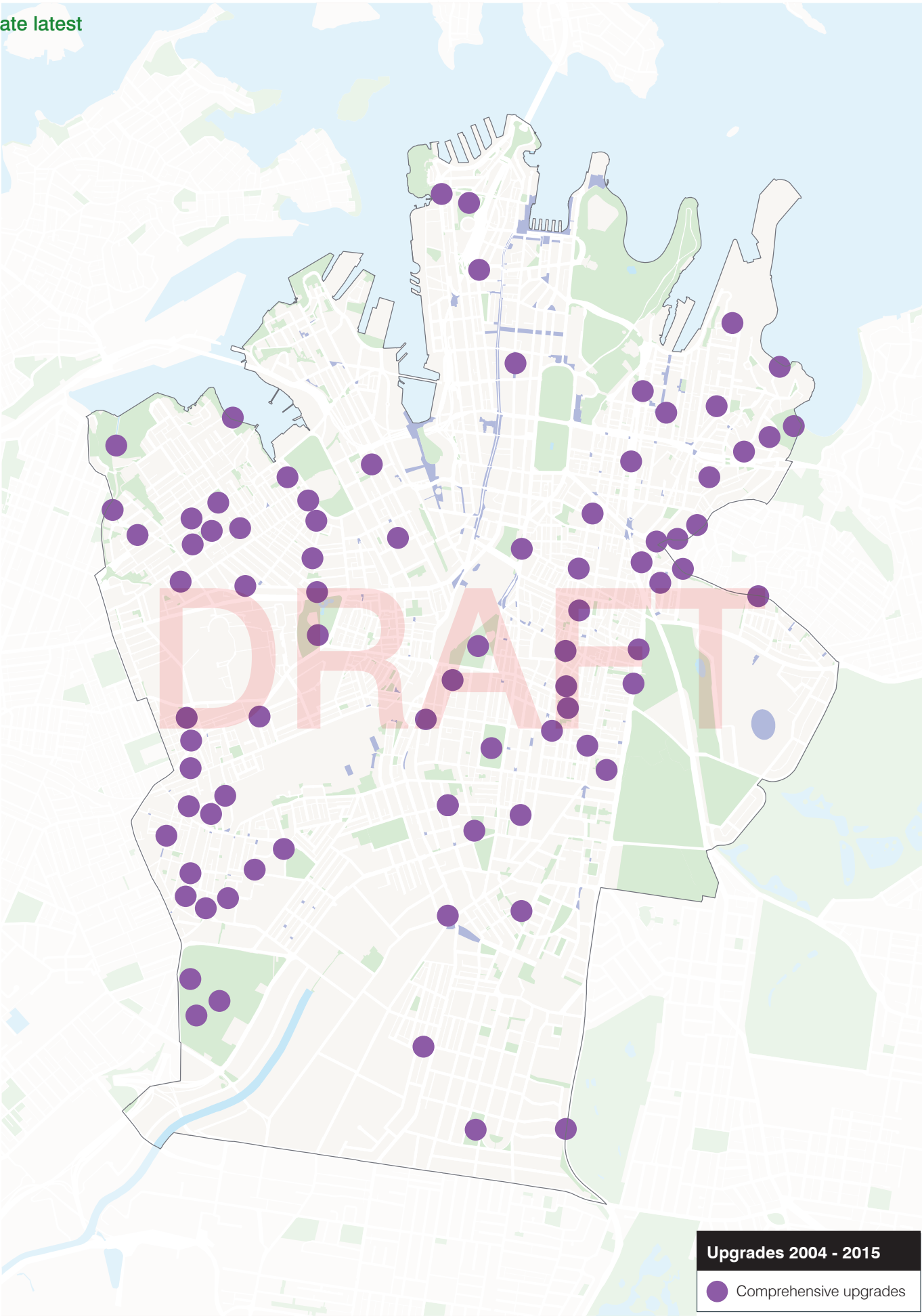


Table 22: Open space improvements (2016 - 2026)

Open space - upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date upgraded
1	Newcombe Street Streetscape	Oxford St	Street closure	961	2016
2	Quarry Green	Harris St	Park	3,051	2016
3	Renwick Street Playground	Redfern St	Park	428	2016
4	Rosebank Park	Oxford St	Park	649	2016
5	Albert Sloss Reserve	Oxford St	Park	1,003	2017
6	Amy Street Reserve	King St	Park	1,108	2017
7	Bowden Playground	King St	Park	229	2017
8	Elizabeth McCrea Playground	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	484	2017
9	Foveaux Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	336	2017
10	Jack Shuttleworth Reserve	Redfern St	Park	950	2017
11	Jessie Street Gardens	CBD & Harbour	Park	1,379	2017
12	Regimental Square	CBD & Harbour	Civic	518	2017
13	Chelsea Street Playground	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	1,063	2018
14	Kimberley Grove Reserve	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	8,660	2018
15	Kirsova 2 Playground	King St	Park	400	2018
16	North South Setback 1	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	649	2018
17	Devonshire Street 5030 Streetscape	Crown & Baptist Sts	Civic	603	2019
18	Ibero American Plaza	Chinatown & CBD South	Civic	940	2019
19	Les White Reserve	King St	Park	277	2019
20	Napoleon Plaza	CBD & Harbour	Civic	3,652	2019
21	Chisholm Street Reserve	Oxford St	Park	136	2020
22	Cook + Phillip Park (Roofscape)	CBD & Harbour	Civic	4,998	2020
23	Crete Reserve	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	4,020	2020
24	Fig Lane Park	Harris St	Park	2,924	2020
25	Hollis Park	King St	Park	6,165	2020
26	Kings Lane Reserve	Oxford St	Ancillary or link	225	2020
27	Maybanke Park and Community Centre	Harris St	Park	1,555	2020
28	Merton Street Streetscape	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	212	2020
29	Ross Street Playground	Glebe Point Rd	Park	693	2020
30	Ross Street Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	391	2020
31	Strickland Park	Redfern St	Park	380	2020
32	Daniel Dawson Playground	Redfern St	Park	1,899	2021
33	Ernest Pedersen Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,031	2021
34	James Hilder Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	1,498	2021

Open space - upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date upgraded
35	Lawrence Hargrave Reserve	MacLeay St & Woolloomooloo	Park	3,898	2021
36	Palmerston Avenue Steps	Glebe Point Rd	Ancillary or link	789	2021
37	Sarah Peninton Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	862	2021
38	Farrer Place Streetscape	CBD & Harbour	Civic	2,182	2022
39	Nimrod Street Rest Area	Oxford St	Park	96	2022
40	Rest Area - Bridge Street	King St	Street closure	133	2022
41	Short Street Pocket Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	1,700	2022
42	Vine Street Playground	Redfern St	Park	190	2022
44	Vine Street Reserve	Redfern St	Park	113	2022
45	Blackwattle Playground	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,526	2023
46	Daranggara Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park	1,618	2023
47	Ernest Wright Playground	King St	Park	214	2023
48	Ethel Street Playground	King St	Park	126	2023
49	Kettle Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	404	2023
50	Little Cleveland Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	443	2023
51	Michael Kelly Rest Area	King St	Park	388	2023
52	Minogue Crescent Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Park	2,060	2023
53	Morehead Street Closure	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure	1,192	2023
54	Peace Park	Redfern St	Park	1,632	2023
55	Rochford Street Closure	King St	Street closure	404	2023
56	Rochford Street Streetscape	King St	Street closure	139	2023
57	Stewart Street Reserve	Oxford St	Park	158	2023
58	Arthur Reserve	Oxford St	Park	543	2024
59	Arthur Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	326	2024
60	Douglas Street Peoples Park	Redfern St	Park	483	2024
61	Fanny Place Playground	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	209	2024
62	Frances Newton Reserve	Oxford St	Park	281	2024
63	Fred Miller Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	932	2024
64	James Watkinson Reserve	Harris St	Park	2,907	2024
65	Martin Place (Stage 3)	CBD & Harbour	Civic	1,381	2024
66	McConville Reserve	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	1,922	2024
67	McKee Street Reserve	Harris St	Park	1,001	2024
68	Perry Park & Perry Park synthetic field	Green Sq & City Sth	Park	16,509	2024
69	Wimbo Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park	4,871	2024
70	Douglas Street Playground	Redfern St	Park	235	2025
71	Wilson Street Open Space	Redfern St	Civic	338	2025

Attachment B5

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
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Open space - upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date upgraded
72	Joynton Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park		2017
73	Gateway Building Reserve	CBD & Harbour	Civic		2018
74	Martin Place (Stage 1)	CBD & Harbour	Civic		2018
75	Parkham Street Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Street closure		2018
76	Victoria Park	Redfern St	Park		2018 2012 2010
77	Waterloo Park & Mount Carmel	Green Sq & City Sth	Park		2016 2006
78	Observatory Hill Park	CBD & Harbour	Foreshore park		2025 2015 2015
79	Glebe Foreshore Parks - Crescent lands NEW	Glebe Point Rd	Park		2024 2021
80	Barracks Reserve	Oxford St	Park		2020
81	Cardigan Street Park	Glebe Point Rd	Park		2020
82	Charles Kernan Reserve	Redfern St	Park		2020 2010
83	Pirrama Park	Harris St	Foreshore park		2020
84	WJ Thurbon Reserve	King St	Park		2020 2009
85	Womerah Gardens	Oxford St	Park		2020
86	Beaconsfield Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park		2021
87	Glebe Foreshore Parks - Bicentennial Parks 1 & 2, Jubilee Park & Oval, Federal Park 1 & Sportsfield, Pope Paul VI Reserve	Glebe Point Rd	Foreshore park		2021 2013
88	Hyde Park South	CBD & Harbour	Park		2021 2019 2016
89	Clyne Reserve	CBD & Harbour	Park		2022

Open space - comprehensive upgrade		Village/activity hub	Setting	Open space area (m²)	Date upgraded
90	Hyde Park North	CBD & Harbour	Park		2023 2016
91	The Green	Green Sq & City Sth	Park		2023
92	Tote Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park		2023
93	Mrs Isabella Hill Rest Area	King St	Park		2024
94	Edmund Resch Reserve	Crown & Baptist Sts	Park		2025
95	Turruwul Park	Green Sq & City Sth	Park		2016
96	Glebe Street Playground				2026
97	Wimbo Park				2024
98	Robyn Kemmis Reserve				2026
99	Kirsova 3 playground				2026
100	May Pitt Reserve				2026
101	Mountain Street reserve				2026
102	Thomas Portley Reserve				2026
103	Adelaide Street reserve				2026
104	Baptist Street Reserve				2026
105	Cooper Street Reserve				2026
106	Edgely Street Reserve				2026
107	Gunyama Park Playground				2026
108	Harry Noble Reserve				2026
109	Minogue Reserve				2026
110	Ada Villa Terrace				2026
111	Hyde Park lighting and power				2026

116projects -- multiple projects with larger parks such as Sydney park

Appendix 5

Sport and recreation participation data

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Participation rates in NSW

An estimated 5,955,004 individuals or 85% of people aged over 15 in NSW participated in some type of sport or physical activity at least once between July 2025 and June 2025.

Higher participation rates were recorded for both informal and non-sport related activities than those recorded for recreational and organised sports.

It is also estimated that 4,633,501 or 66.2% of people aged over 15 participated at least once a week and 3,293,869 or 47% participated at least three times a week.

Figure 49: No of adult participants and participation rates in NSW (July 2024/ June 2025)

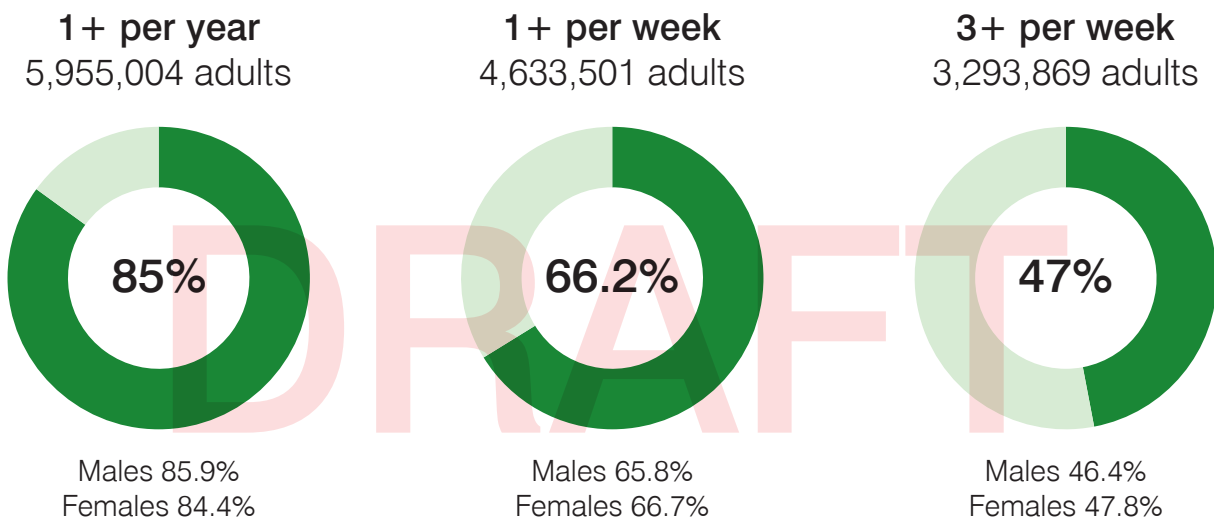


Figure 50: No of child participants and participation rates in NSW (July 2024/ June 2025)

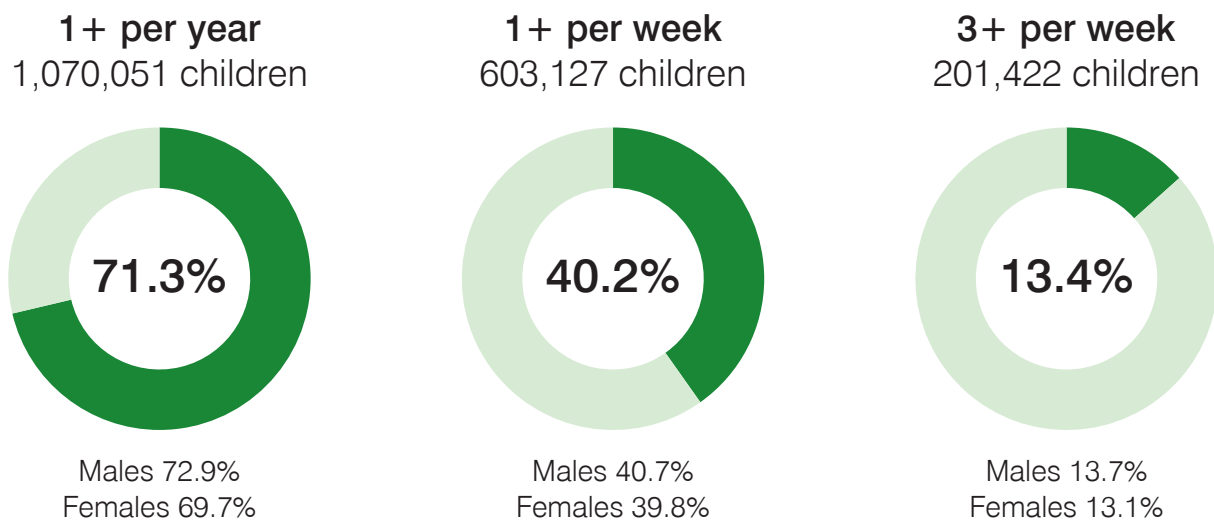
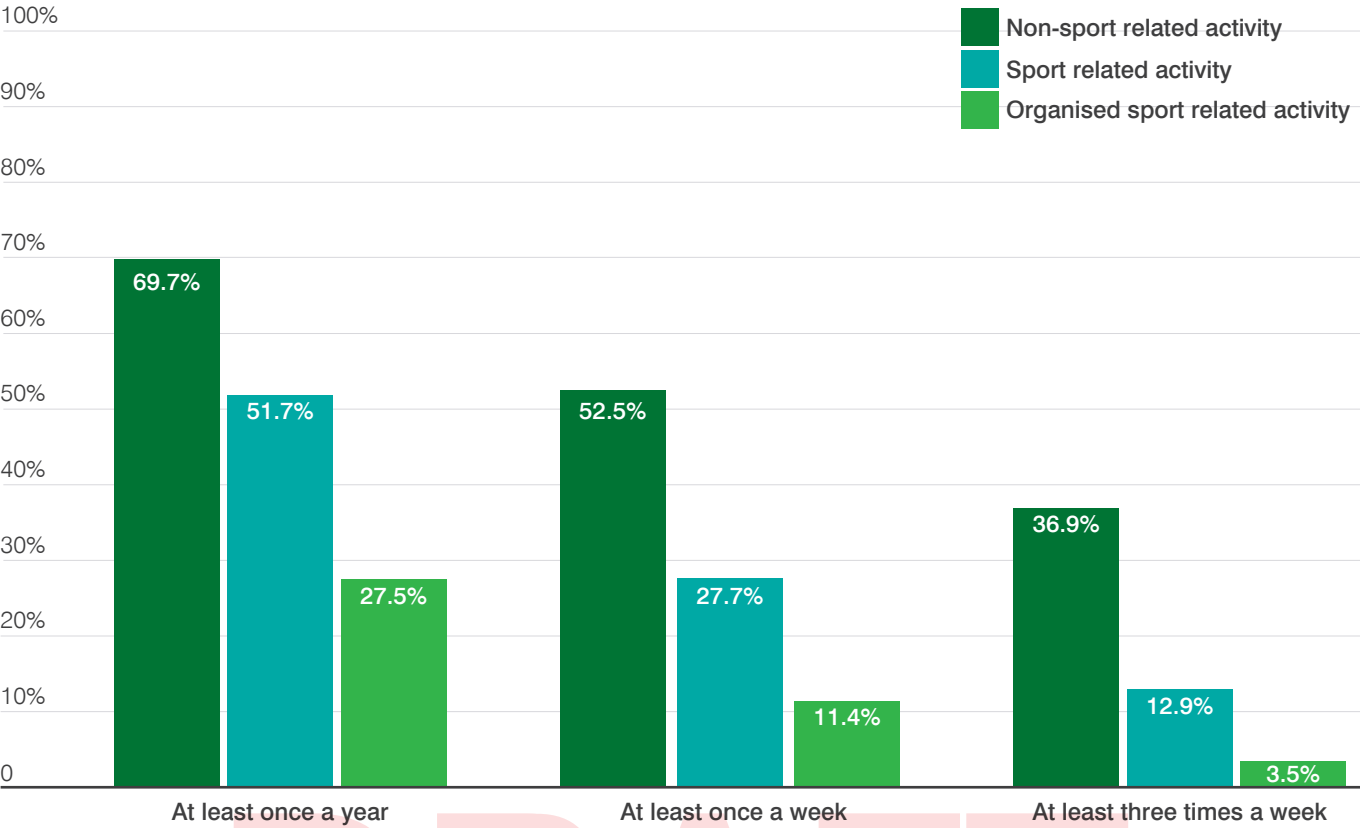
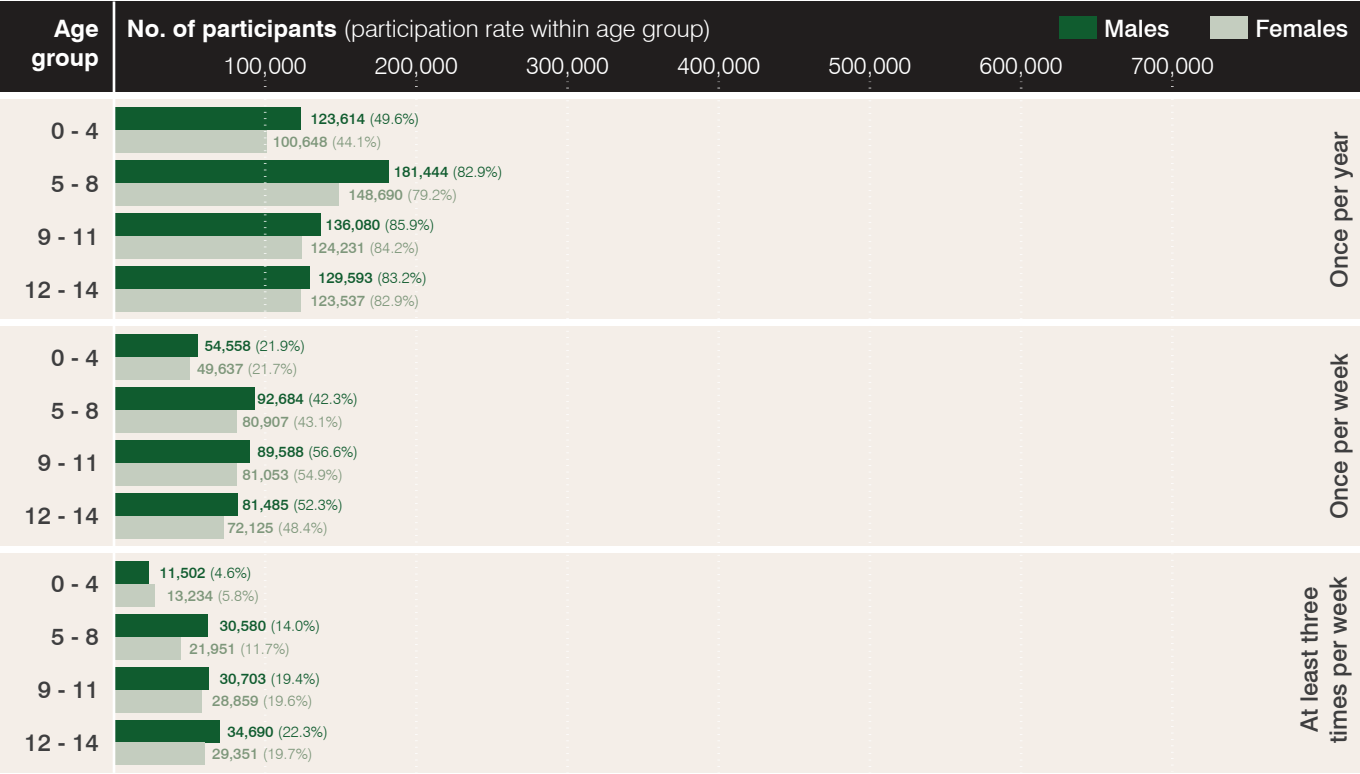


Figure 51: Participation rates for adults in NSW by activity type (July 2024/ June 2025)



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Figure 52: No of participants and participation rates for children in NSW by gender and age group (July 2024/ June 2025)



Top places for sport and recreation

Table 23: Top places for sport and recreation for adults (aged 15+)

Top places of participation for adults	% of adults
Public spaces	61.0%
Home/friend or family member’s home	29.2%
Gym/fitness club/sports or leisure or aquatic centres	28.5%
Free community facilities	21.9%
Sports club or association facilities	18.5%
Private or commercial premises	16.3%
Recreational club or associated facilities	9.6%
Educational institutional facilities	6.6%
Workplace	6.6%
Other	2.9%

Table 24: Top places for sport and recreation for children (aged 0 to 14)

Top places of participation for children	% of children
Sports club or association facilities	26.2%
Gym/fitness club/sports or leisure or aquatic centres	19.6%
Private or commercial premises	19.0%
Public spaces	16.8%
Free community facilities	16.5%
Educational institutional facilities	13.2%
Home/friend or family member’s home	11.2%
Recreational club or associated facilities	10.5%
Other	1.0%

Top recreation activities for adults

Table 25: Top sport and recreation activities for adults (aged 15+)

Top 5 activities for adults	Number	Participation rate
Walking (recreational)	3,377,412	48.2%
Fitness/ gym	2,072,040	29.6%
Bushwalking	1,206,958	17.2%
Swimming	1,181,365	16.9%
Running/ jogging	1,094,691	15.6%

Table 26: Top 5 recreation activities for men

Top 5 activities for men	Number	Participation rate
Walking (recreational)	1,388,321	40.3%
Fitness/ gym	969,503	28.2%
Running/ jogging	627,239	18.2%
Swimming	562,066	16.3%
Bushwalking	552,264	16.0%

Table 27: Top 5 recreation activities for women

Top 5 activities for women	Number	Participation rate
Walking (recreational)	1,975,606	56.0%
Fitness/ gym	1,098,461	31.1%
Bushwalking	652,182	18.5%
Swimming	611,835	17.3%
Running/ jogging	464,841	13.2%

Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities

Table 28: Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities for adults (aged 15+)

Top 5 organised activities for adults	Number	Participation rate
Fitness/ gym	854,060	12.2%
Running/ jogging	338,248	4.8%
Football/ soccer	332,395	4.7%
Pilates	323,299	4.6%
Walking (recreational)	288,601	4.1%

Table 29: Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities for men

Top 5 organised activities for men	Number	Participation rate
Fitness/ gym	330,593	9.6%
Football/ soccer	241,230	7.0%
Running/ jogging	188,159	5.5%
Golf	156,370	4.5%
Walking (recreational)	106,922	3.1%

Table 30: Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities for women

Top 5 organised activities for women	Number	Participation rate
Fitness/ gym	522,896	14.8%
Pilates	291,193	8.3%
Walking (recreational)	180,744	5.1%
Yoga	166,369	4.7%
Running/ jogging	149,604	4.2%

Table 31: Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities for children (aged 0 to 14)

Top 5 organised activities for children	Number	Participation rate
Swimming	373,104	24.9%
Football/ soccer	274,896	18.3%
Gymnastics	96,621	6.4%
Dancing (recreational)	94,503	6.3%
Basketball	82,691	5.5%

Table 32: Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities for boys

Top 5 organised activities for boys	Number	Participation rate
Football/ soccer	198,779	25.4%
Swimming	187,709	24.0%
Basketball	61,195	7.8%
Cricket	38,091	4.9%
Rugby league	35,593	4.5%

Table 33: Top 5 organised sport and recreation activities for girls

Top 5 organised activities for girls	Number	Participation rate
Swimming	184,305	25.9%
Dancing (recreational)	82,443	11.6%
Gymnastics	77,612	10.9%
Football/ soccer	76,117	10.7%
Netball	56,030	7.9%

Top 5 motivations for sport and recreation participation

Table 34: Top 5 motivations for sport and recreation participation for adults (aged 15+)

Top 5 motivations for participation for adults	Number	Participation rate
Physical health	3,874,600	65.1%
Fun/ enjoyment	3,451,465	58.0%
To lose weight/ keep weight off/ tone	3,075,727	51.6%
To be outdoors/ to enjoy nature	3,057,680	51.3%
To socialise with friends/ other people	2,395,439	40.2%

Note: Participation motivation for children under 15 years of age not collected

Top 5 barriers for sport and recreation participation

Top 5 barriers to participation for adults	Number	Participation rate
Age - too old/ too young	258,234	24.7%
Poor health	197,342	18.9%
Too lazy	158,180	15.1%
Disability	148,007	14.1%
No reason in particular	129,673	12.4%

Figure 53: For 5 barriers to sport and recreation participation for adults (aged 15+)

Top 5 barriers to participation for children	Number	Participation rate
Age - too young	197,387	45.8%
Can't afford it/ can't afford transport costs	38,537	8.9%
Don't like sport/ physical activity	36,185	8.4%
No reason in particular	33,222	7.7%
Already does enough physical activity	28,338	6.6%

Figure 54: Top 5 barriers to sport and recreation participation for children (aged 0 to 14)

Activity	Persons		Males		Females	
	Number	Participation rate (%)	Number	Participation rate (%)	Number	Participation rate (%)
eSports	23,109	0.3%	15,814	0.5%	6,868 *	0.2% *
Fencing	5,056 *	0.1% *	2,697 **	0.1% **	2,359 **	0.1% **
Fishing (recreational)	90,057	1.3%	66,370	1.9%	23,129	0.7%
Fitness/Gym	2,072,040	29.6%	969,503	28.2%	1,098,461	31.1%
Floorball	501 **	0.0% **	501 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Flying disc	21,246	0.3%	11,867	0.3%	9,379 *	0.3% *
Football/soccer	497,814	7.1%	376,529	10.9%	119,700	3.4%
Gaelic football	3,811 *	0.1% *	3,315 *	0.1% *	496 **	0.0% **
Geocaching	1,061 **	0.0% **	1,061 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Goalball	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Golf	346,908	5.0%	275,633	8.0%	70,698	2.0%
Gridiron	3,511 *	0.1% *	2,671 **	0.1% **	840 **	0.0% **
Guides	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Gymnastics	31,973	0.5%	13,174	0.4%	18,314	0.5%
Handball	16,579	0.2%	9,523 *	0.3% *	7,055 *	0.2% *
Harness racing	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Hockey	31,856	0.5%	15,266	0.4%	16,590	0.5%
Horse racing	1,294 **	0.0% **	348 **	0.0% **	946 **	0.0% **
Ice hockey	6,564 *	0.1% *	3,875 *	0.1% *	2,689 **	0.1% **
Ice racing/speed skating	1,079 **	0.0% **	1,079 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Ice skating	24,064	0.3%	11,415	0.3%	12,649	0.4%
Jet skiing	2,663 **	0.0% **	1,053 **	0.0% **	1,610 **	0.0% **
Judo	4,588 *	0.1% *	1,123 **	0.0% **	3,465 *	0.1% *
Jujitsu	15,957	0.2%	12,807	0.4%	3,149 *	0.1% *
Karate	14,735	0.2%	8,226 *	0.2% *	5,980 *	0.2% *
Kendo	683 **	0.0% **	683 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Kitesurfing/ kiteboarding	1,114 **	0.0% **	529 **	0.0% **	586 **	0.0% **
Korfball	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Kung fu wushu	1,089 **	0.0% **	1,089 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Lacrosse	566 **	0.0% **	566 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Lifesaving royal	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Lifesaving surf	14,280	0.2%	13,033	0.4%	1,246 **	0.0% **
Luging	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Marching	1,106 **	0.0% **	525 **	0.0% **	580 **	0.0% **
Martial arts	33,516	0.5%	13,310	0.4%	20,206	0.6%
Mixed martial arts	3,742 *	0.1% *	3,269 *	0.1% *	473 **	0.0% **
Modern pentathlon	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Motor cycling	86,887	1.2%	59,798	1.7%	27,090	0.8%
Motor sport	17,825	0.3%	14,075	0.4%	3,750 *	0.1% *
Mountain biking	42,043	0.6%	31,176	0.9%	9,711 *	0.3% *
Mountain climbing	6,236 *	0.1% *	2,747 *	0.1% *	3,489 *	0.1% *

Activity	Persons		Males		Females	
	Number	Participation rate (%)	Number	Participation rate (%)	Number	Participation rate (%)
Muay Thai	7,785 *	0.1% *	3,244 *	0.1% *	4,541 *	0.1% *
Netball	141,644	2.0%	19,094	0.6%	122,550	3.5%
Obstacle	2,729 **	0.0% **	1,106 **	0.0% **	1,623 **	0.0% **
Orienteering	2,109 **	0.0% **	1,567 **	0.0% **	542 **	0.0% **
Outrigger canoe	3,880 *	0.1% *	3,332 *	0.1% *	547 **	0.0% **
Oztag	47,017	0.7%	25,983	0.8%	21,035	0.6%
Paddle sports	17,303	0.2%	9,405 *	0.3% *	7,898 *	0.2% *
Paintball	3,102 *	0.0% *	2,597 **	0.1% **	505 **	0.0% **
Parkour	501 **	0.0% **	501 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Petanque	876 **	0.0% **	536 **	0.0% **	340 **	0.0% **
Physical Culture	7,056 *	0.1% *	1,046 **	0.0% **	6,010 *	0.2% *
Pickleball/padel	81,367	1.2%	44,833	1.3%	36,081	1.0%
Pilates	418,064	6.0%	35,361	1.0%	381,683	10.8%
Polo	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Polocrosse	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Pony Club	1,772 **	0.0% **	867 **	0.0% **	905 **	0.0% **
Powerlifting	1,535 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	1,535 **	0.0% **
Ready Steady Go Kids	1,777 **	0.0% **	1,256 **	0.0% **	521 **	0.0% **
Rock climbing/ Abseiling/Caving	39,167	0.6%	21,284	0.6%	16,791	0.5%
Rodeo	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Rogaining	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Roller Derby	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Rope skipping	11,306	0.2%	5,595 *	0.2% *	5,711 *	0.2% *
Rowing	40,992	0.6%	22,731	0.7%	18,261	0.5%
Rugby league	77,217	1.1%	62,747	1.8%	14,470	0.4%
Rugby union	29,666	0.4%	25,306	0.7%	4,360 *	0.1% *
Running/jogging	1,094,691	15.6%	627,239	18.2%	464,841	13.2%
Sailing	26,414	0.4%	18,591	0.5%	7,823 *	0.2% *
Scootering	9,999 *	0.1% *	2,587 **	0.1% **	7,412 *	0.2% *
Scouts	1,726 **	0.0% **	1,726 **	0.1% **	0 **	0.0% **
Sepak takraw	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Shooting/field	15,136	0.2%	14,272	0.4%	864 **	0.0% **
Shooting/range	10,171 *	0.1% *	7,590 *	0.2% *	2,581 **	0.1% **
Skate	26,905	0.4%	11,267	0.3%	15,638	0.4%
Skeleton	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Ski & snowboard	90,829	1.3%	53,548	1.6%	37,281	1.1%
Skirmish	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Softball	10,737 *	0.2% *	3,272 *	0.1% *	7,465 *	0.2% *
Sport climbing	41,612	0.6%	23,485	0.7%	18,127	0.5%
Squash	32,778	0.5%	25,257	0.7%	7,014 *	0.2% *
Surfing	117,695	1.7%	72,447	2.1%	44,763	1.3%
Swimming	1,181,365	16.9%	562,066	16.3%	611,835	17.3%
Sword fighting	505 **	0.0% **	505 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **

Activity	Persons				Males				Females			
	Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)	
Synchronised swimming	2,812	*	0.0%	*	1,491	**	0.0%	**	1,321	**	0.0%	**
Table tennis	125,682		1.8%		86,017		2.5%		39,665		1.1%	
Taekwondo/ Taekwon-do	7,072	*	0.1%	*	3,687	*	0.1%	*	3,385	*	0.1%	*
Tee ball	3,671	*	0.1%	*	3,671	*	0.1%	*	0	**	0.0%	**
Tennis	419,369		6.0%		238,832		6.9%		180,537		5.1%	
Tenpin bowling	42,964		0.6%		23,865		0.7%		19,099		0.5%	
Tobogganing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Touch football	75,833		1.1%		51,146		1.5%		24,687		0.7%	
Triathlon	4,795	*	0.1%	*	2,651	**	0.1%	**	2,145	**	0.1%	**
Underwater sports	56,992		0.8%		27,507		0.8%		28,899		0.8%	
Virtual based physical activity	59,319		0.8%		30,836		0.9%		27,545		0.8%	
Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)	87,419		1.2%		51,951		1.5%		35,469		1.0%	
Walking (Recreational)	3,377,412		48.2%		1,388,329		40.3%		1,975,606		56.0%	
Water polo	9,081	*	0.1%	*	5,447	*	0.2%	*	3,634	*	0.1%	*
Waterskiing/ Wakeboarding	11,148		0.2%		6,896	*	0.2%	*	4,252	*	0.1%	*
Weight lifting	102,149		1.5%		52,130		1.5%		50,019		1.4%	
Wheelchair rugby	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Wood chopping	1,183	**	0.0%	**	1,183	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Wrestling	1,988	**	0.0%	**	1,988	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Yoga	348,249		5.0%		49,839		1.4%		296,960		8.4%	

Notes:

Estimated participant numbers have not been rounded but users must remember that they are estimates and are subject to margins of error.

AusPlay collects data on gender, including non-binary and self-described. Non-binary and self-described gender are included in Total columns but not reported separately due to sample size. The sum of male and female estimates is not therefore equal to the total.

* Estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution.

** Estimate has relative margin of error greater than 100% and is considered too unreliable to use.

Figure 56: Table XX. AusPlay survey results January 20024 - December 2024: Participation by organised activity (adults)

Activity	Persons				Males				Females			
	Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)	
Adventure racing	8,722	*	0.1%	*	6,630	*	0.2%	*	1,603	**	0.0%	**
Air sports	17,312		0.2%		11,041		0.3%		6,271	*	0.2%	*
Archery	9,724	*	0.1%	*	3,681	*	0.1%	*	6,043	*	0.2%	*
Athletics, track and field	55,209		0.8%		38,969		1.1%		16,240		0.5%	
Australian football	62,775		0.9%		42,741		1.2%		19,532		0.6%	
Badminton	60,316		0.9%		34,963		1.0%		25,352		0.7%	
Baseball	20,094		0.3%		12,638		0.4%		7,456	*	0.2%	*
Basketball	148,145		2.1%		105,002		3.1%		43,143		1.2%	
Baton twirling	927	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	927	**	0.0%	**
Biathlon	2,073	**	0.0%	**	1,436	**	0.0%	**	636	**	0.0%	**
Billiards/Snooker/ Pool	5,753	*	0.1%	*	4,768	*	0.1%	*	986	**	0.0%	**
BMX	2,076	**	0.0%	**	1,124	**	0.0%	**	952	**	0.0%	**
Bobsledding	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Bocce/Boules	1,265	**	0.0%	**	936	**	0.0%	**	328	**	0.0%	**
Boccia	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Body building	933	**	0.0%	**	509	**	0.0%	**	424	**	0.0%	**
Boomerang throwing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Bowls	60,380		0.9%		38,537		1.1%		21,844		0.6%	
Boxing	38,618		0.6%		22,477		0.7%		16,141		0.5%	
Broomball	542	**	0.0%	**	542	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Bush walking	177,492		2.5%		71,650		2.1%		105,842		3.0%	
Calisthenics	3,083	**	0.0%	**	2,586	**	0.1%	**	497	**	0.0%	**
Campdrafting	1,018	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	1,018	**	0.0%	**
Canoeing/ Kayaking	19,773		0.3%		7,828	*	0.2%	*	11,944		0.3%	
Circus	1,612	**	0.0%	**	596	**	0.0%	**	1,016	**	0.0%	**
Cricket	115,099		1.6%		99,032		2.9%		16,067		0.5%	
Croquet	3,548	**	0.1%	**	2,702	**	0.1%	**	846	**	0.0%	**
Crossfit	37,033		0.5%		15,639		0.5%		21,395		0.6%	
Curling	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Cycling	69,573		1.0%		40,807		1.2%		28,259		0.8%	
DanceSport	58,186		0.8%		10,213	*	0.3%	*	47,973		1.4%	
Dancing (recreational)	78,693		1.1%		17,930		0.5%		58,777		1.7%	
Darts	1,525	**	0.0%	**	1,178	**	0.0%	**	347	**	0.0%	**
Diving	1,321	**	0.0%	**	520	**	0.0%	**	801	**	0.0%	**
Dodgeball	6,927	*	0.1%	*	3,064	*	0.1%	*	3,863	*	0.1%	*
Dragon boat racing	7,376	*	0.1%	*	3,220	*	0.1%	*	4,156	*	0.1%	*
Eight ball	1,444	**	0.0%	**	528	**	0.0%	**	916	**	0.0%	**
Equestrian	17,570		0.3%		2,373	**	0.1%	**	14,683		0.4%	

Activity	Persons			Males			Females		
	Number	Participation rate (%)		Number	Participation rate (%)		Number	Participation rate (%)	
eSports	10,892	*	0.2%	*	7,906	*	0.2%	*	2,985
Fencing	5,056	*	0.1%	*	2,697	**	0.1%	**	2,359
Fishing (recreational)	6,381	*	0.1%	*	4,914	*	0.1%	*	1,468
Fitness/Gym	854,060		12.2%		330,593		9.6%		522,896
Floorball	501	**	0.0%	**	501	**	0.0%	**	0
Flying disc	11,642		0.2%		7,192	*	0.2%	*	4,450
Football/soccer	332,395		4.7%		241,230		7.0%		89,580
Gaelic football	3,289	**	0.0%	**	2,793	*	0.1%	*	496
Geocaching	544	**	0.0%	**	544	**	0.0%	**	0
Goalball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Golf	195,135		2.8%		156,370		4.5%		38,765
Gridiron	1,973	**	0.0%	**	1,133	**	0.0%	**	840
Guides	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Gymnastics	18,212		0.3%		3,311	*	0.1%	*	14,416
Handball	6,541	*	0.1%	*	2,341	**	0.1%	**	4,200
Harness racing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Hockey	29,281		0.4%		13,205		0.4%		16,076
Horse racing	946	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	946
Ice hockey	5,983	*	0.1%	*	3,875	*	0.1%	*	2,109
Ice racing/speed skating	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Ice skating	9,139	*	0.1%	*	5,090	*	0.1%	*	4,050
Jet skiing	1,105	**	0.0%	**	528	**	0.0%	**	578
Judo	4,588	*	0.1%	*	1,123	**	0.0%	**	3,465
Jujitsu	15,024		0.2%		12,299		0.4%		2,725
Karate	12,703		0.2%		6,195	*	0.2%	*	5,980
Kendo	683	**	0.0%	**	683	**	0.0%	**	0
Kitesurfing/ kiteboarding	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Korfball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Kung fu wushu	1,089	**	0.0%	**	1,089	**	0.0%	**	0
Lacrosse	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Lifesaving royal	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Lifesaving surf	11,314		0.2%		10,068	*	0.3%	*	1,246
Luging	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Marching	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Martial arts	23,337		0.3%		8,644	*	0.3%	*	14,694
Mixed martial arts	3,214	**	0.0%	**	2,741	*	0.1%	*	473
Modern pentathlon	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Motor cycling	27,301		0.4%		19,457		0.6%		7,844
Motor sport	12,411		0.2%		9,693	*	0.3%	*	2,718
Mountain biking	4,193	**	0.1%	**	2,144	**	0.1%	**	2,048
Mountain climbing	3,324	**	0.0%	**	1,124	**	0.0%	**	2,200

Activity	Persons			Males			Females		
	Number	Participation rate (%)		Number	Participation rate (%)		Number	Participation rate (%)	
Muay Thai	6,721	*	0.1%	*	2,680	**	0.1%	**	4,042
Netball	119,977		1.7%		12,589		0.4%		107,388
Obstacle	2,193	**	0.0%	**	571	**	0.0%	**	1,623
Orienteering	1,552	**	0.0%	**	1,010	**	0.0%	**	542
Outrigger canoe	3,880	**	0.1%	**	3,332	*	0.1%	*	547
Oztag	38,890		0.6%		22,218		0.6%		16,673
Paddle sports	6,593	*	0.1%	*	3,623	*	0.1%	*	2,970
Paintball	2,601	**	0.0%	**	2,096	**	0.1%	**	505
Parkour	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Petanque	340	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	340
Physical Culture	6,218	*	0.1%	*	546	**	0.0%	**	5,672
Pickleball/padel	47,802		0.7%		23,966		0.7%		23,382
Pilates	323,299		4.6%		31,636		0.9%		291,193
Polo	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Polocrosse	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Pony Club	1,244	**	0.0%	**	867	**	0.0%	**	376
Powerlifting	1,016	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	1,016
Ready Steady Go Kids	1,777	**	0.0%	**	1,256	**	0.0%	**	521
Rock climbing/ Abseiling/Caving	10,136	*	0.1%	*	4,607	*	0.1%	*	5,529
Rodeo	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Rogaining	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Roller Derby	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Rope skipping	2,464	**	0.0%	**	1,894	**	0.1%	**	571
Rowing	12,146		0.2%		7,159	*	0.2%	*	4,987
Rugby league	55,996		0.8%		44,112		1.3%		11,884
Rugby union	27,484		0.4%		23,124		0.7%		4,360
Running/jogging	338,248		4.8%		188,159		5.5%		149,604
Sailing	10,191	*	0.1%	*	8,279	*	0.2%	*	1,912
Scootering	502	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	502
Scouts	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Sepak takraw	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Shooting/field	6,840	*	0.1%	*	6,440	*	0.2%	*	400
Shooting/range	8,136	*	0.1%	*	6,192	*	0.2%	*	1,945
Skate	4,550	*	0.1%	*	1,082	**	0.0%	**	3,468
Skeleton	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Ski & snowboard	17,892		0.3%		11,599		0.3%		6,293
Skirmish	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0
Softball	10,737	*	0.2%	*	3,272	*	0.1%	*	7,465
Sport climbing	8,187	*	0.1%	*	4,348	*	0.1%	*	3,838
Squash	13,395		0.2%		10,375	*	0.3%	*	3,020
Surfing	14,219		0.2%		6,390	*	0.2%	*	7,829
Swimming	214,206		3.1%		100,162		2.9%		113,590
Sword fighting	505	**	0.0%	**	505	**	0.0%	**	0

Activity	Persons				Males				Females			
	Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)	
Synchronised swimming	1,872	**	0.0%	**	976	**	0.0%	**	897	**	0.0%	**
Table tennis	40,904		0.6%		27,355		0.8%		13,549		0.4%	
Taekwondo/ Taekwon-do	7,072	*	0.1%	*	3,687	*	0.1%	*	3,385	*	0.1%	*
Tee ball	2,107	**	0.0%	**	2,107	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Tennis	162,052		2.3%		89,667		2.6%		72,385		2.1%	
Tenpin bowling	12,578		0.2%		8,827	*	0.3%	*	3,751	*	0.1%	*
Tobogganing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Touch football	52,537		0.8%		33,711		1.0%		18,826		0.5%	
Triathlon	4,795	*	0.1%	*	2,651	**	0.1%	**	2,145	**	0.1%	**
Underwater sports	26,630		0.4%		12,715		0.4%		13,330		0.4%	
Virtual based physical activity	15,483		0.2%		11,013		0.3%		3,959	*	0.1%	*
Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)	51,375		0.7%		31,282		0.9%		20,093		0.6%	
Walking (Recreational)	288,601		4.1%		106,922		3.1%		180,744		5.1%	
Water polo	7,634	*	0.1%	*	4,882	*	0.1%	*	2,752	*	0.1%	*
Waterskiing/ Wakeboarding	2,105	**	0.0%	**	1,553	**	0.0%	**	552	**	0.0%	**
Weight lifting	23,410		0.3%		8,292	*	0.2%	*	15,118		0.4%	
Wheelchair rugby	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Wood chopping	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Wrestling	515	**	0.0%	**	515	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Yoga	197,657		2.8%		30,839		0.9%		166,369		4.7%	

Notes:

Organised participation (adults): Activity is carried out on a formal or semi-formal basis, organised by an entity such as a sports or recreation club/association, a gym/fitness club/sports/aquatic centre, a private or commercial business, a personal trainer/coach, an event, work, educational institution, community organisation or social group.

Estimated participant numbers have not been rounded but users must remember that they are estimates and are subject to margins of error.

AusPlay collects data on gender, including non-binary and self-described. Non-binary and self-described gender are included in Total columns but not reported separately due to sample size. The sum of male and female estimates is not therefore equal to the total.

* Estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution.

** Estimate has relative margin of error greater than 100% and is considered too unreliable to use.

Figure 57: Table XX. AusPlay survey results January 20024 - December 2024: Participation by activity (children) (organised outside of school hours)

Activity	Persons				Males				Females			
	Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)	
Adventure racing	3,195	*	0.2%	*	2,760	*	0.4%	*	435	**	0.1%	**
Air sports	5,428	*	0.4%	*	3,636	*	0.5%	*	1,792	**	0.3%	**
Archery	2,942	*	0.2%	*	2,942	*	0.4%	*	0	**	0.0%	**
Athletics, track and field	58,581		3.9%		32,150		4.1%		26,431		3.7%	
Australian football	43,560		2.9%		30,202		3.9%		12,570		1.8%	
Badminton	9,331		0.6%		4,743	*	0.6%	*	4,588	*	0.6%	*
Baseball	11,819		0.8%		9,027		1.2%		2,792	*	0.4%	*
Basketball	82,691		5.5%		61,195		7.8%		21,159		3.0%	
Baton twirling	1,650	**	0.1%	**	1,650	**	0.2%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Biathlon	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Billiards/Snooker/ Pool	535	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	535	**	0.1%	**
BMX	2,871	*	0.2%	*	2,871	*	0.4%	*	0	**	0.0%	**
Bobsledding	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Bocce/Boules	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Boccia	556	**	0.0%	**	556	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Body building	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Boomerang throwing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Bowls	539	**	0.0%	**	539	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Boxing	3,056	*	0.2%	*	3,056	*	0.4%	*	0	**	0.0%	**
Broomball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Bush walking	14,917		1.0%		7,403	*	0.9%	*	7,514	*	1.1%	*
Calisthenics	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Campdrafting	575	**	0.0%	**	575	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Canoeing/ Kayaking	797	**	0.1%	**	337	**	0.0%	**	460	**	0.1%	**
Circus	1,892	**	0.1%	**	475	**	0.1%	**	1,417	**	0.2%	**
Cricket	45,769		3.0%		38,091		4.9%		7,679	*	1.1%	*
Croquet	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Crossfit	1,955	**	0.1%	**	1,955	**	0.2%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Curling	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Cycling	28,669		1.9%		17,374		2.2%		11,296		1.6%	
DanceSport	35,783		2.4%		6,717	*	0.9%	*	29,067		4.1%	
Dancing (recreational)	94,503		6.3%		12,059		1.5%		82,443		11.6%	
Darts	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Diving	377	**	0.0%	**	377	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Dodgeball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Dragon boat racing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Eight ball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**

Activity	Persons				Males				Females			
	Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)	
Equestrian	4,012	*	0.3%	*	1,583	**	0.2%	**	2,428	*	0.3%	*
eSports	337	**	0.0%	**	337	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Fencing	801	**	0.1%	**	337	**	0.0%	**	464	**	0.1%	**
Fishing (recreational)	3,437	*	0.2%	*	2,914	*	0.4%	*	523	**	0.1%	**
Fitness/Gym	24,635		1.6%		9,152		1.2%		15,484		2.2%	
Floorball	521	**	0.0%	**	521	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Flying disc	1,371	**	0.1%	**	836	**	0.1%	**	535	**	0.1%	**
Football/soccer	274,896		18.3%		198,779		25.4%		76,117		10.7%	
Gaelic football	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Geocaching	716	**	0.0%	**	716	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Goalball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Golf	5,750	*	0.4%	*	4,376	*	0.6%	*	1,373	**	0.2%	**
Gridiron	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Guides	2,581	*	0.2%	*	0	**	0.0%	**	2,581	*	0.4%	*
Gymnastics	96,621		6.4%		18,457		2.4%		77,612		10.9%	
Handball	1,565	**	0.1%	**	1,117	**	0.1%	**	447	**	0.1%	**
Harness racing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Hockey	8,016	*	0.5%	*	4,454	*	0.6%	*	3,562	*	0.5%	*
Horse racing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Ice hockey	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Ice racing/speed skating	632	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	632	**	0.1%	**
Ice skating	3,535	*	0.2%	*	1,481	**	0.2%	**	2,054	**	0.3%	**
Jet skiing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Judo	2,237	*	0.1%	*	1,129	**	0.1%	**	1,109	**	0.2%	**
Jujitsu	18,616		1.2%		13,611		1.7%		5,005	*	0.7%	*
Karate	27,755		1.8%		18,375		2.3%		9,380		1.3%	
Kendo	327	**	0.0%	**	327	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Kitesurfing/ kiteboarding	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Korfball	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Kung fu wushu	1,190	**	0.1%	**	1,190	**	0.2%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Lacrosse	1,470	**	0.1%	**	579	**	0.1%	**	891	**	0.1%	**
Lifesaving royal	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Lifesaving surf	16,398		1.1%		7,624	*	1.0%	*	8,774		1.2%	
Luging	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Marching	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Martial arts	7,412	*	0.5%	*	4,260	*	0.5%	*	3,152	*	0.4%	*
Mixed martial arts	3,370	*	0.2%	*	2,175	**	0.3%	**	1,195	**	0.2%	**
Modern pentathlon	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Motor cycling	6,326	*	0.4%	*	3,671	*	0.5%	*	2,655	*	0.4%	*
Motor sport	770	**	0.1%	**	770	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Mountain biking	2,724	*	0.2%	*	2,074	**	0.3%	**	650	**	0.1%	**

Activity	Persons				Males				Females			
	Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)		Number		Participation rate (%)	
Mountain climbing	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Muay Thai	1,501	**	0.1%	**	1,501	**	0.2%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Netball	58,233		3.9%		2,203	*	0.3%	*	56,030		7.9%	
Obstacle	1,146	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	1,146	**	0.2%	**
Orienteering	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Outrigger canoe	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Oztag	17,584		1.2%		11,633		1.5%		5,951	*	0.8%	*
Paddle sports	337	**	0.0%	**	337	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Paintball	481	**	0.0%	**	481	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Parkour	1,285	**	0.1%	**	1,285	**	0.2%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Petanque	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Physical Culture	2,184	**	0.1%	**	616	**	0.1%	**	1,569	**	0.2%	**
Pickleball/padel	481	**	0.0%	**	481	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Pilates	447	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	447	**	0.1%	**
Polo	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Polocrosse	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Pony Club	2,169	**	0.1%	**	616	**	0.1%	**	1,553	**	0.2%	**
Powerlifting	616	**	0.0%	**	616	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Ready Steady Go Kids	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Rock climbing/ Abseiling/Caving	2,233	*	0.1%	*	1,773	**	0.2%	**	460	**	0.1%	**
Rodeo	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Rogaining	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Roller Derby	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Rope skipping	2,250	*	0.1%	*	0	**	0.0%	**	2,250	*	0.3%	*
Rowing	1,196	**	0.1%	**	732	**	0.1%	**	464	**	0.1%	**
Rugby league	45,945		3.1%		35,593		4.5%		10,351		1.5%	
Rugby union	11,416		0.8%		9,379		1.2%		2,037	**	0.3%	**
Running/jogging	43,091		2.9%		23,410		3.0%		19,681		2.8%	
Sailing	1,039	**	0.1%	**	1,039	**	0.1%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Scootering	5,604	*	0.4%	*	3,898	*	0.5%	*	1,706	**	0.2%	**
Scouts	2,413	*	0.2%	*	972	**	0.1%	**	1,441	**	0.2%	**
Sepak takraw	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Shooting/field	377	**	0.0%	**	377	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Shooting/range	427	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	427	**	0.1%	**
Skate	4,467	*	0.3%	*	2,186	**	0.3%	**	2,281	*	0.3%	*
Skeleton	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Ski & snowboard	4,230	*	0.3%	*	2,215	*	0.3%	*	2,016	**	0.3%	**
Skirmish	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**	0	**	0.0%	**
Softball	2,804	*	0.2%	*	992	**	0.1%	**	1,811	**	0.3%	**
Sport climbing	2,829	*	0.2%	*	2,197	*	0.3%	*	632	**	0.1%	**
Squash	1,388	**	0.1%	**	952	**	0.1%	**	435	**	0.1%	**
Surfing	9,206		0.6%		4,613	*	0.6%	*	4,593	*	0.6%	*
Swimming	373,104		24.9%		187,709		24.0%		184,305		25.9%	

Activity	Persons		Males		Females	
	Number	Participation rate (%)	Number	Participation rate (%)	Number	Participation rate (%)
Sword fighting	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Synchronised swimming	1,293 **	0.1% **	571 **	0.1% **	722 **	0.1% **
Table tennis	4,955 *	0.3% *	3,567 *	0.5% *	1,387 **	0.2% **
Taekwondo/ Taekwon-do	7,415 *	0.5% *	4,161 *	0.5% *	3,255 *	0.5% *
Tee ball	3,466 *	0.2% *	1,577 **	0.2% **	1,889 **	0.3% **
Tennis	52,005	3.5%	27,956	3.6%	24,049	3.4%
Tenpin bowling	2,111 **	0.1% **	377 **	0.0% **	1,734 **	0.2% **
Tobogganing	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Touch football	20,690	1.4%	13,365	1.7%	7,325 *	1.0% *
Triathlon	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Underwater sports	1,305 **	0.1% **	770 **	0.1% **	535 **	0.1% **
Virtual based physical activity	5,542 *	0.4% *	3,140 *	0.4% *	2,402 *	0.3% *
Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)	7,594 *	0.5% *	2,961 *	0.4% *	4,633 *	0.7% *
Walking (Recreational)	40,874	2.7%	18,926	2.4%	21,947	3.1%
Water polo	3,005 *	0.2% *	1,730 **	0.2% **	1,275 **	0.2% **
Waterskiing/ Wakeboarding	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Weight lifting	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Wheelchair rugby	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Wood chopping	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Wrestling	337 **	0.0% **	337 **	0.0% **	0 **	0.0% **
Yoga	4,137 *	0.3% *	653 **	0.1% **	3,484 *	0.5% *

Notes:

Please note that for children 0-14 years, data was collected via the child's parent/guardian for organised participation outside of school hours.

Estimated participant numbers have not been rounded but users must remember that they are estimates and are subject to margins of error.

AusPlay collects data on gender, including non-binary and self-described. Non-binary and self-described gender are included in Total columns but not reported separately due to sample size. The sum of male and female estimates is not therefore equal to the total.

* Estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution.

** Estimate has relative margin of error greater than 100% and is considered too unreliable to use.

Figure 59: Participation rates for children in NSW by activity type (July 2024/ June 2025)

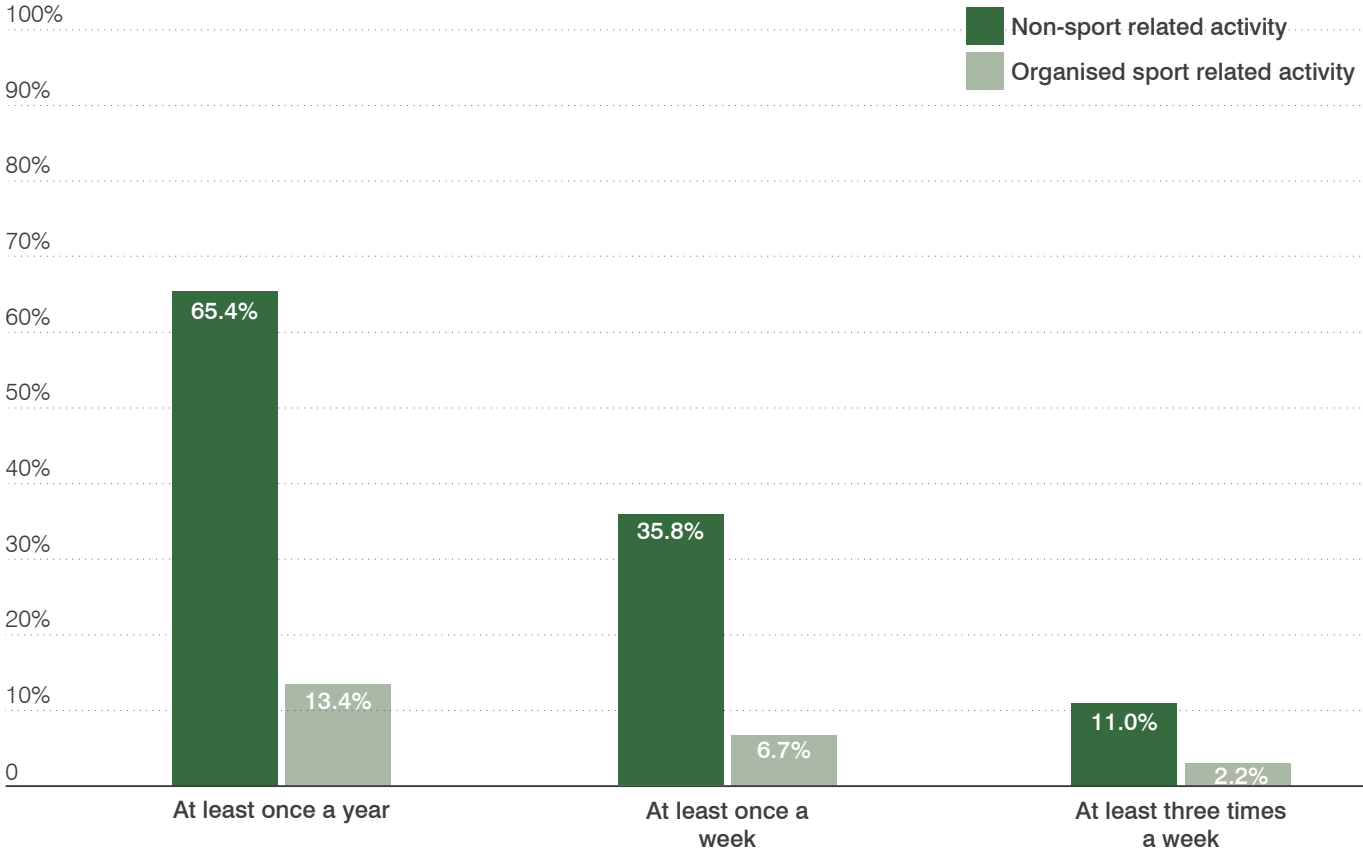
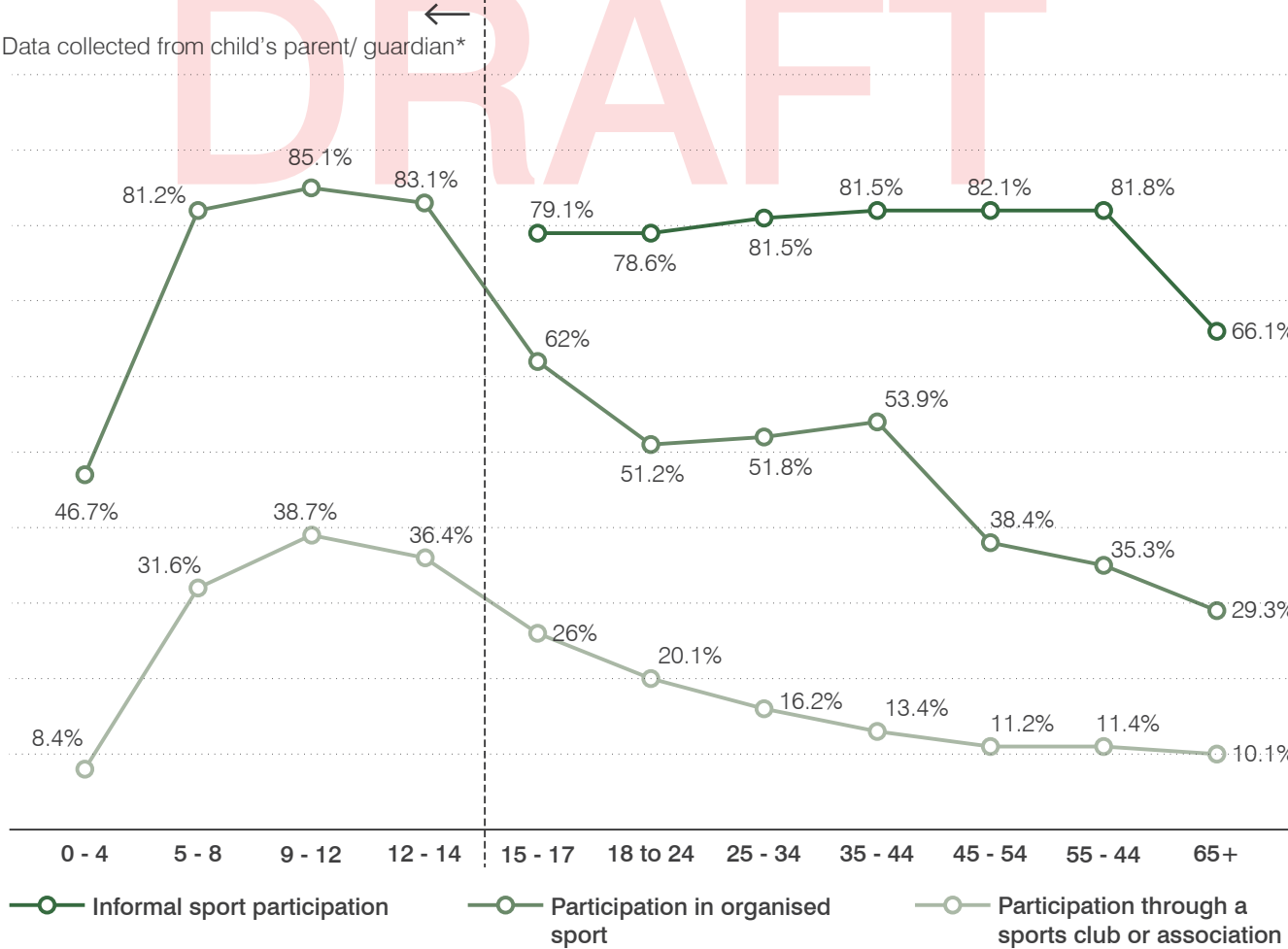


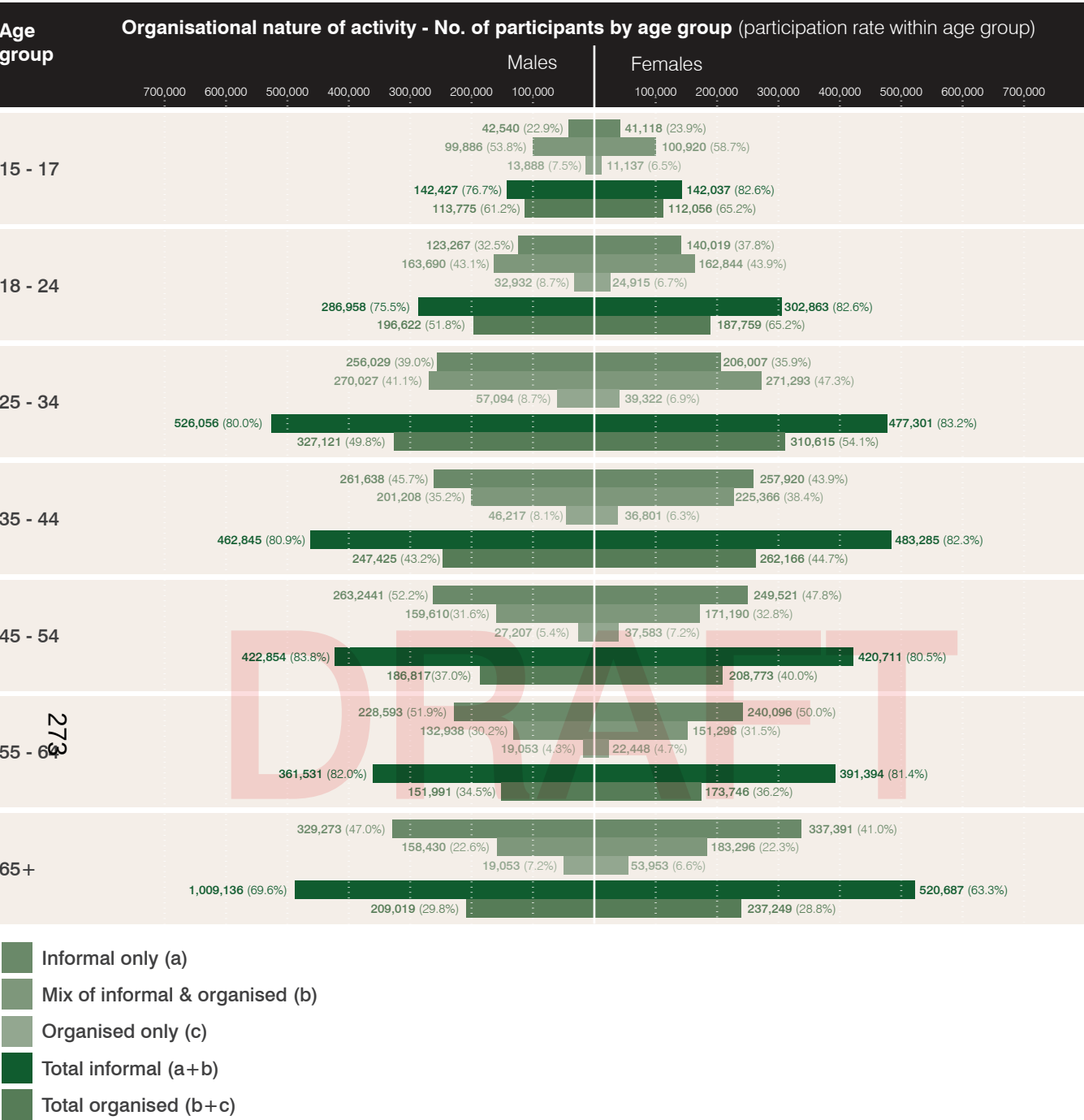
Figure 58: Participation rates in NSW by age group (July 2024/ June 2025)



Notes:

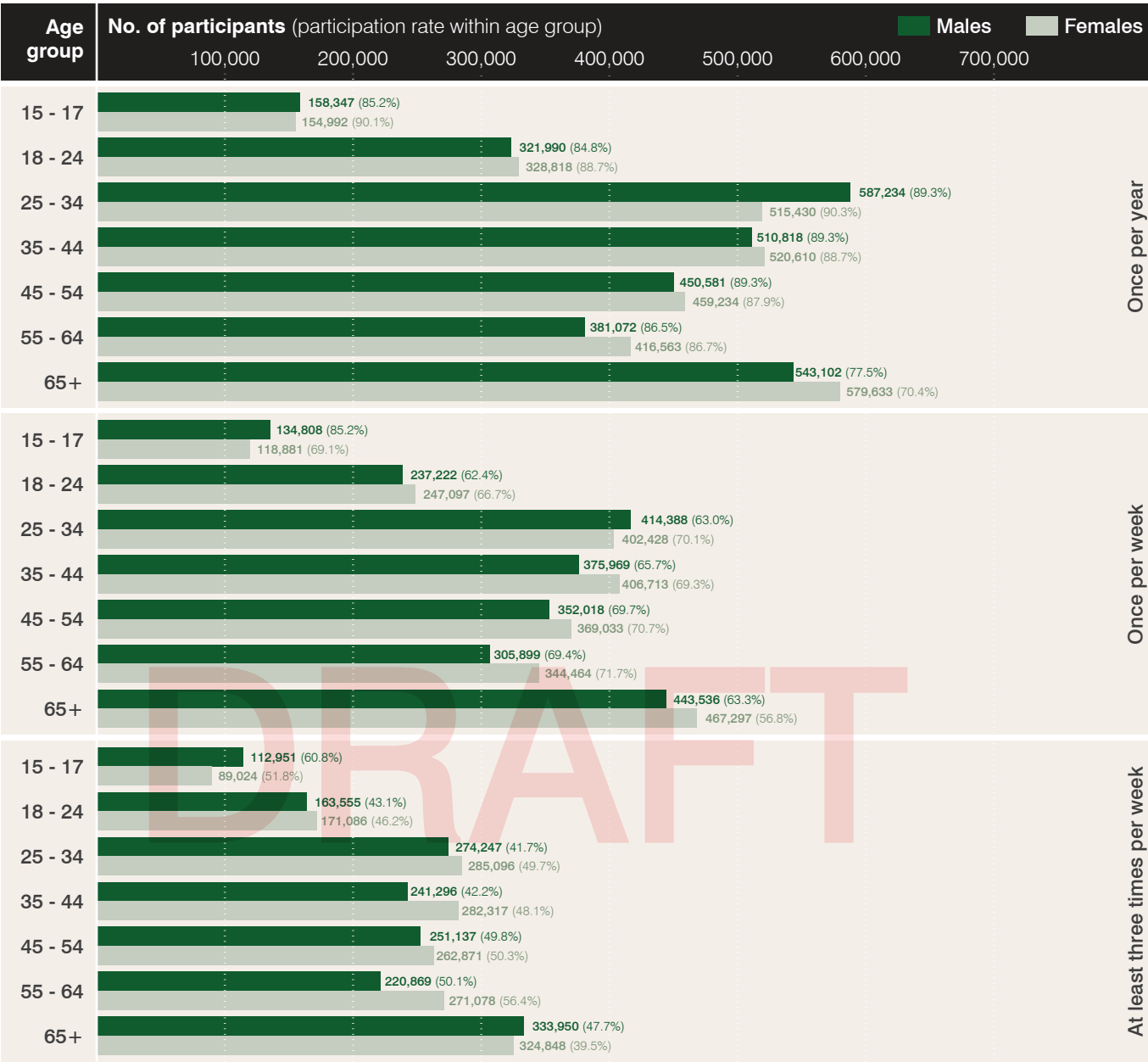
* Only organised out-of-school hours activities are included in AusPlay's child data collection.

Figure 60: No of participants and participation rates for adults in NSW by activity type, gender and age group (July 2024/ June 2025)



For children aged 0 to 14, AusPlay relies on data collected via the child's parent/ guardian for organised participation outside of school hours. 1,070,051 or 71.3% of children in NSW participate in organised sport or physical activity outside of school hours at least once a year. 603,127 or 40.2% participate once a week and 20,422 or 13.4% participate at least 3 times a week. The predominant type of activity for children outside school hours is sport related.

Figure 61: No of participants and participation rates for adults in NSW by gender and age group (July 2024/ June 2025)



Appendix 6

Urban renewal

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Green Square Plaza
Photo: Katherine Griffiths

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Since the 2016 Study, the City of Sydney's population growth has largely been absorbed within designated urban renewal areas, with only limited infill development in established neighbourhoods. This pattern is expected to continue through to 2046.

Major redevelopments have already taken place in Central Park, Harold Park, and Darling Harbour Live, alongside significant progress in Green Square, the Ashmore Estate, and Barangaroo. Looking ahead, the following precincts will be the primary focus of population growth and increased residential density:

- 1. Green Square
- 2. Ashmore Precinct
- 3. Barangaroo
- 4. Bays Precinct
- 5. Central to Eveleigh

1. Green Square

spans 278 hectares, encompassing Zetland and Beaconsfield, and parts of Waterloo, Alexandria, and Rosebery. Its population has surged from 2,500 in 2016 to an estimated 41,900 in June 2024. By 2022, the precinct supported 13,830 jobs (FES 2022).

By 2041, Green Square is projected to deliver 33,000 dwellings, accommodate 63,400 residents, and support up to 22,000 workers. This equates to a residential density of approximately 22,800 people per square kilometre—among the highest in Australia. For comparison, Manhattan averages 27,400, while Greater Sydney averages just 440.



McPherson Park proposal in the Ashmore Estate
Source: arcadiala.com.au/projects/residential/park-sydney/

2. The Ashmore precinct

is located in Erskineville. The 17-hectare precinct is bounded by Ashmore Street, Mitchell Road, Coulson Street, and the Bankstown rail line. The masterplan proposed up to 3,785 new homes for around 6,300 residents, supported by 15,500 square metres of open space.

As of 2025, most of the precinct has been completed, with the Coronation Property site (including McPherson Park) and Brightwell Transport sites still under development.



Barangaroo Harbour Park Image: AKIN
Source: yerrabingin.com.au/projectlist/barangaroo-harbour-park

3. Barangaroo

is a 22ha precinct on the north-western edge of Sydney's city centre, combining commercial and residential buildings with extensive public open space. It is planned to support up to 23,000 jobs and house approximately 3,500 residents.

While much of Barangaroo has been delivered, Central Barangaroo remains under construction. This final stage will add 104,000 square metres of gross floor area, including up to 75,000 square metres of residential space and a new harbour park.

4. The Bays Precinct

comprises 80 hectares of government-owned land and 94 hectares of harbour waterways, located just 2km west of the city centre. It includes Blackwattle Bay, Wentworth Park, Glebe Island, White Bay, Rozelle Railyards, and the White Bay Power Station.

At Bays Precinct urban renewal is progressing across three key sites:

Sydney Fish Market

recently completed, delivering over 6,000m² of new public open space, including a waterfront promenade, park, and plaza.

Blackwattle Bay

rezoning allows for 97,500m² of residential GFA (housing 2,400 residents), 100,000m² of commercial/retail GFA (supporting 5,600 jobs), and 34,000m² of public space, including a foreshore promenade and a 1.1-hectare waterfront park near the Anzac Bridge.

Bays West

supported by the future Bays Metro station (opening 2032), the precinct is forecast to accommodate 8,500 dwellings and 12,351 workers. Stage 1 will provide about 4.16 hectares of new public open space, including 2 hectares of green parkland such as the future White Bay Park. The precinct will feature a growing pedestrian and cycling network, with proposal to reinstate Glebe Island Bridge Crossing to create an active travel link between Bays West and Pyrmont, as well as additional connections planned to Rozelle, Balmain and Glebe.



Bays Market District Masterplan Illustration: Mark Gerad
Source: fjcstudio.com/urban/

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5. The Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation Strategy (2016)

outlines renewal across 50 hectares of government-owned land, including the Waterloo Estate, Central Station precinct, and North and South Eveleigh.

Waterloo Estate South

will deliver around 3,000 new homes, including 1,000 social housing dwellings, 600 affordable homes, and 1,400 private residences. Half of all housing will be dedicated to social and affordable tenures, with specific allocations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents. The redevelopment will accommodate 6,000–7,000 people and provide over 2 hectares of new parkland.

North Eveleigh

a 10-hectare redevelopment delivering 320 dwellings, with at least 15% allocated to affordable housing and 15% to diverse housing types. The precinct will support up to 6,400 jobs in innovation, commercial, and creative industries, alongside 1.12 hectares of public open space and 3,700m²

of community and cultural facilities, including a dedicated Aboriginal community space.

Central Precinct

in August 2025, a revised rezoning proposal was approved for the 24-hectare Central Precinct. The renewal will transform the area around Central Station into a vibrant urban hub, delivering 13,500m² of new public open space across sub-precincts such as Regent Street Sidings, Goulburn Street Carpark, Mortuary Gardens, and Prince Alfred Sidings. The Prince Alfred Park Sidings sub-precinct will require careful integration with the park and surrounding development.

The Entertainment Quarter (EQ)

at Moore Park is currently undergoing a tender process for revitalisation, supported by a long-term lease. Proposals under consideration include a 15,000–20,000 seat indoor arena. Key outcomes for the site will include enhanced open space, improved community recreation facilities, and stronger connections through to Centennial and Moore Park.

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Appendix 7

Other projects for delivery

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Other projects for delivery (refer to Volume 2)

Village			Existing and Future Ownership	
CBD and Harbour				
2	George Street North	X	City of Sydney	
3	Hunter St Public Domain		City of Sydney	
4	Macquarie Place Park		City of Sydney	
5	Richard Johnson Square		City of Sydney	
6	State Library of NSW public domain upgrade	X	Government Property NSW	
Chinatown				
	Central Square	X	TAHE NSW	
Green Square and City South				
	Dank Street Precinct	X	City of Sydney (Dedication)	
	Mulgu Park	X	City of Sydney (Dedication)	
278	Zetland Avenue Park	X	City of Sydney (incl dedication)	
	Woolwash Park Expansion and Upgrade	X	X	City of Sydney (incl dedication)
	Biyanbing Park Expansion and Upgrade	X		City of Sydney (incl dedication)
	Garraway Park Stage 2		X	City of Sydney (Dedication)
	Alexandria Park Upgrade	X		City of Sydney

King Street			
	McPherson Park	X	City of Sydney (Dedication)
Harris Street			
	Blackwattle Bay Parks and Public domain	X	Transport for NSW
Oxford Street			
	Green Park Upgrade	X	City of Sydney
Redfern Street			
	North Eveleigh Squares and Parks	X	TAHE NSW
	Redfern Park Playground Upgrade	X	City of Sydney
Surry Hills			
	Eddie Ward Park Upgrade	X	City of Sydney