

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

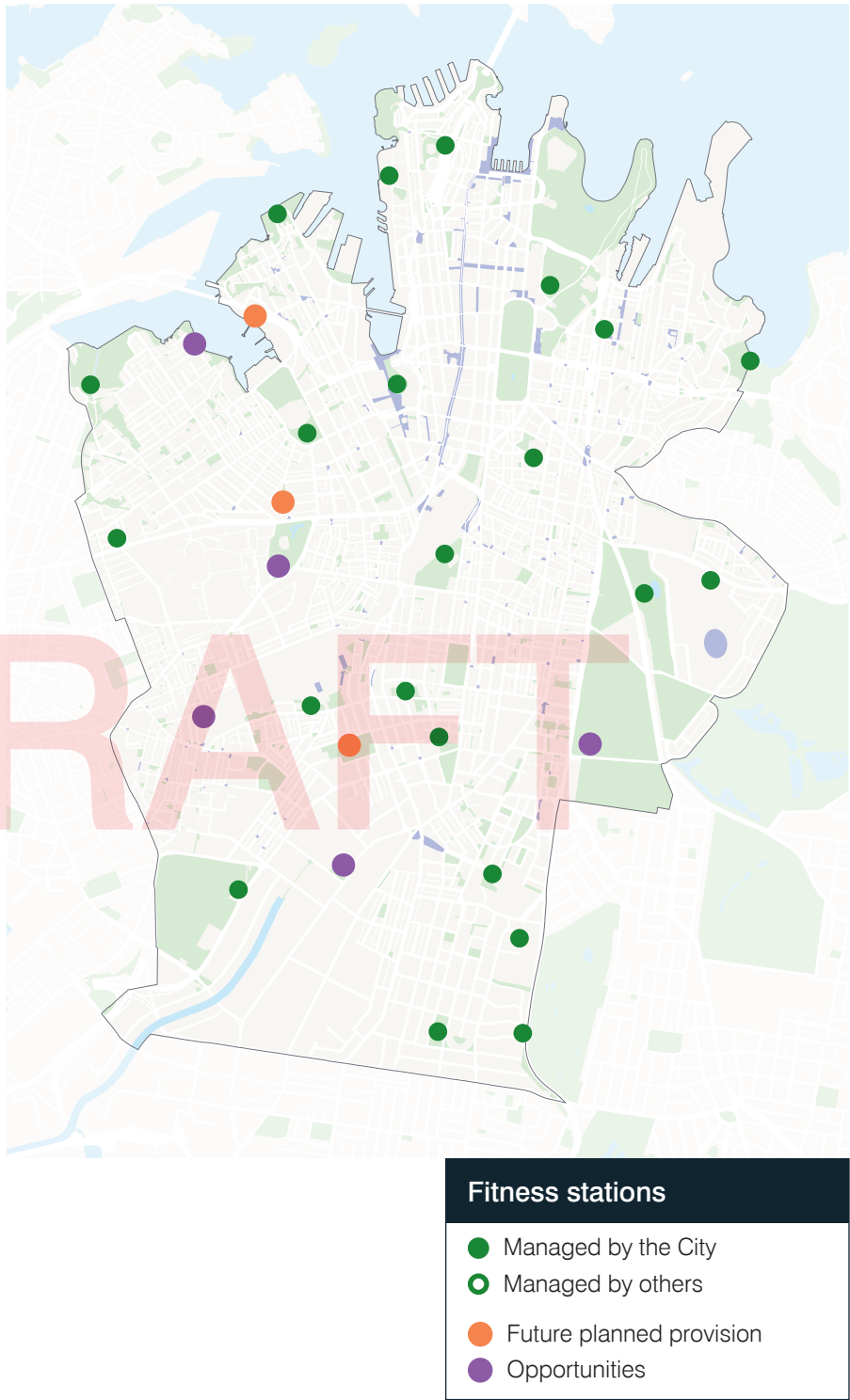
Fitness activities are increasingly popular, with many people seeking opportunities to exercise outdoors.

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.

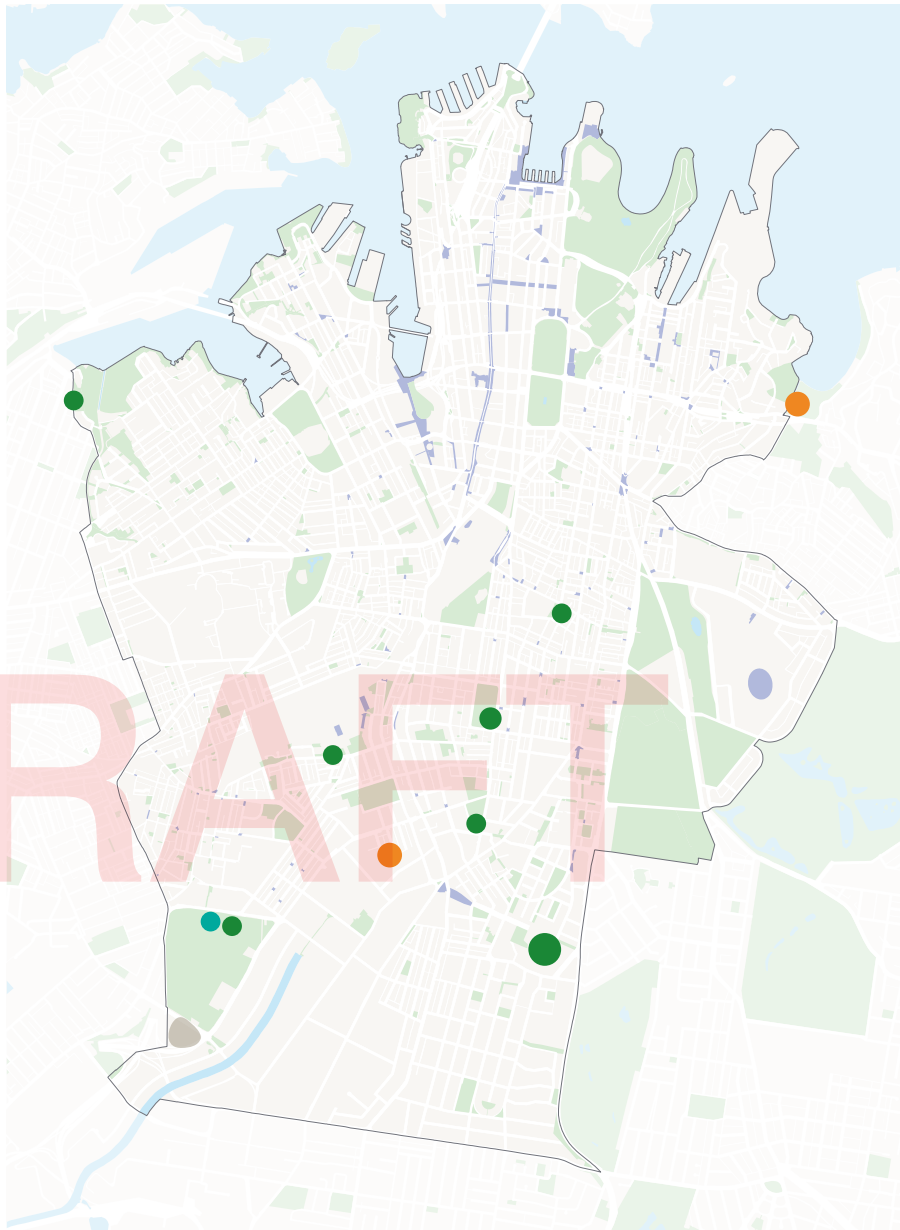
Future demand

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.

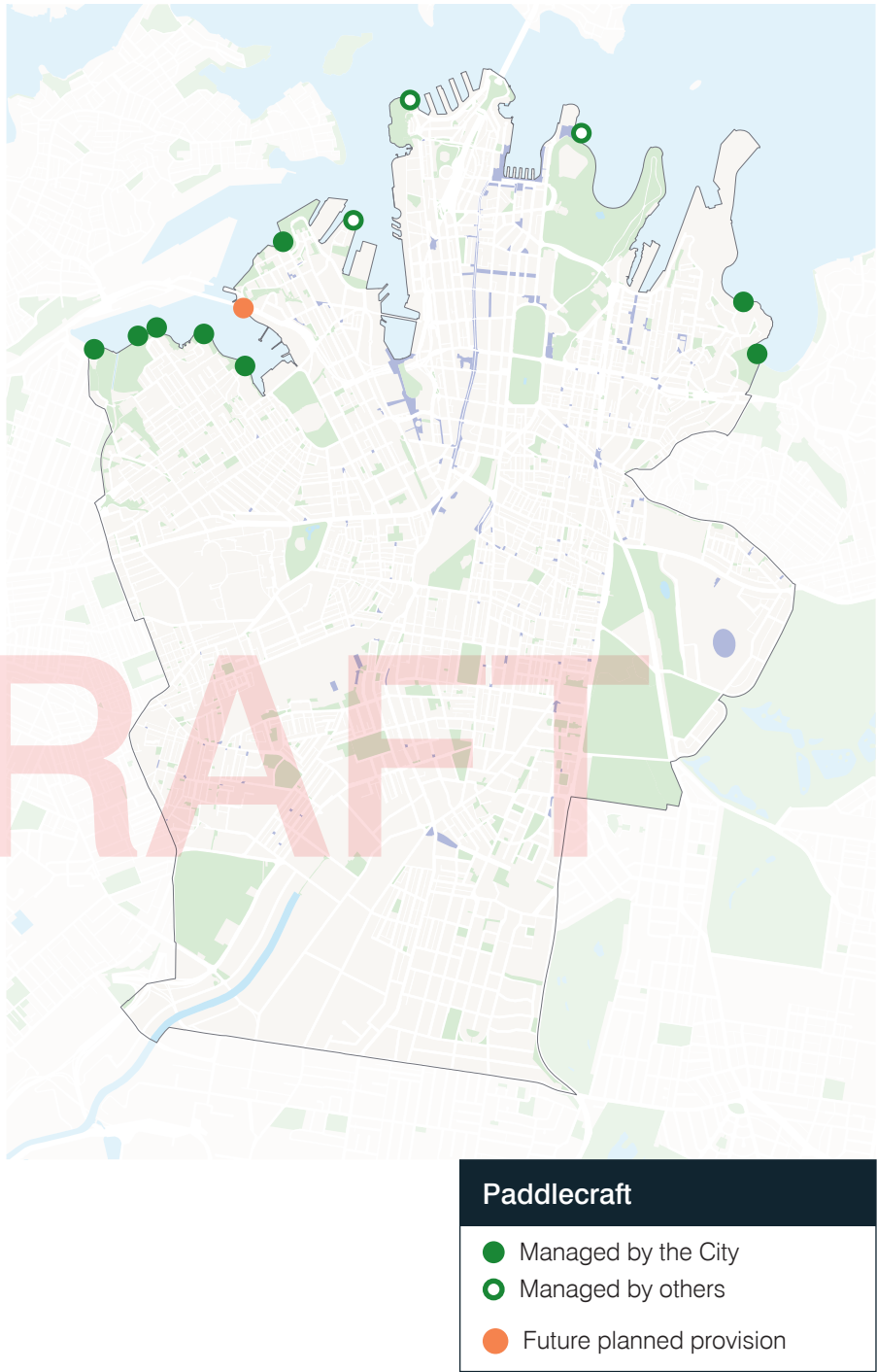
Future demand

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

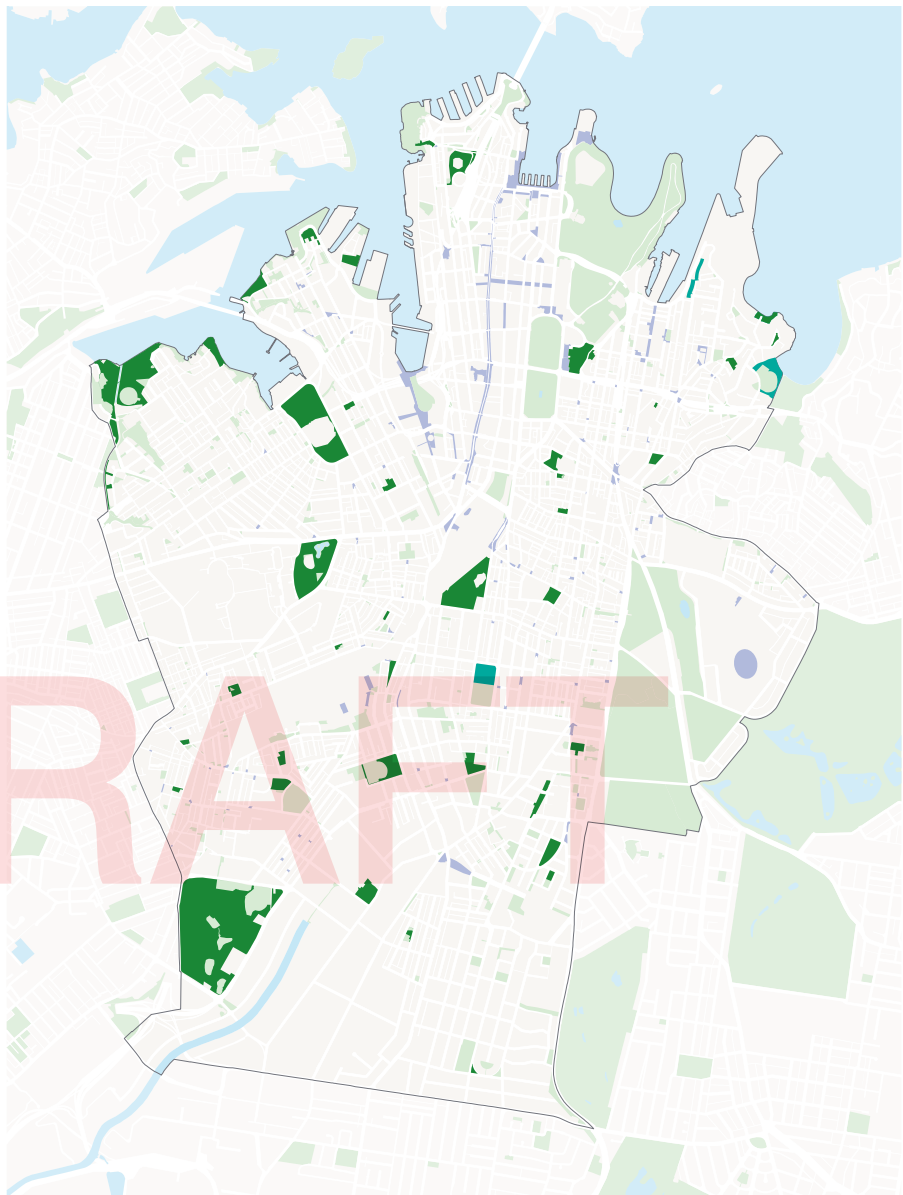
The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates coverage is strongest in the central, northern and eastern parts of the City where a number of established parks provide multiple off-leash opportunities. However, parts of city centre and the southern urban renewal precincts have access to fewer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



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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



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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

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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.

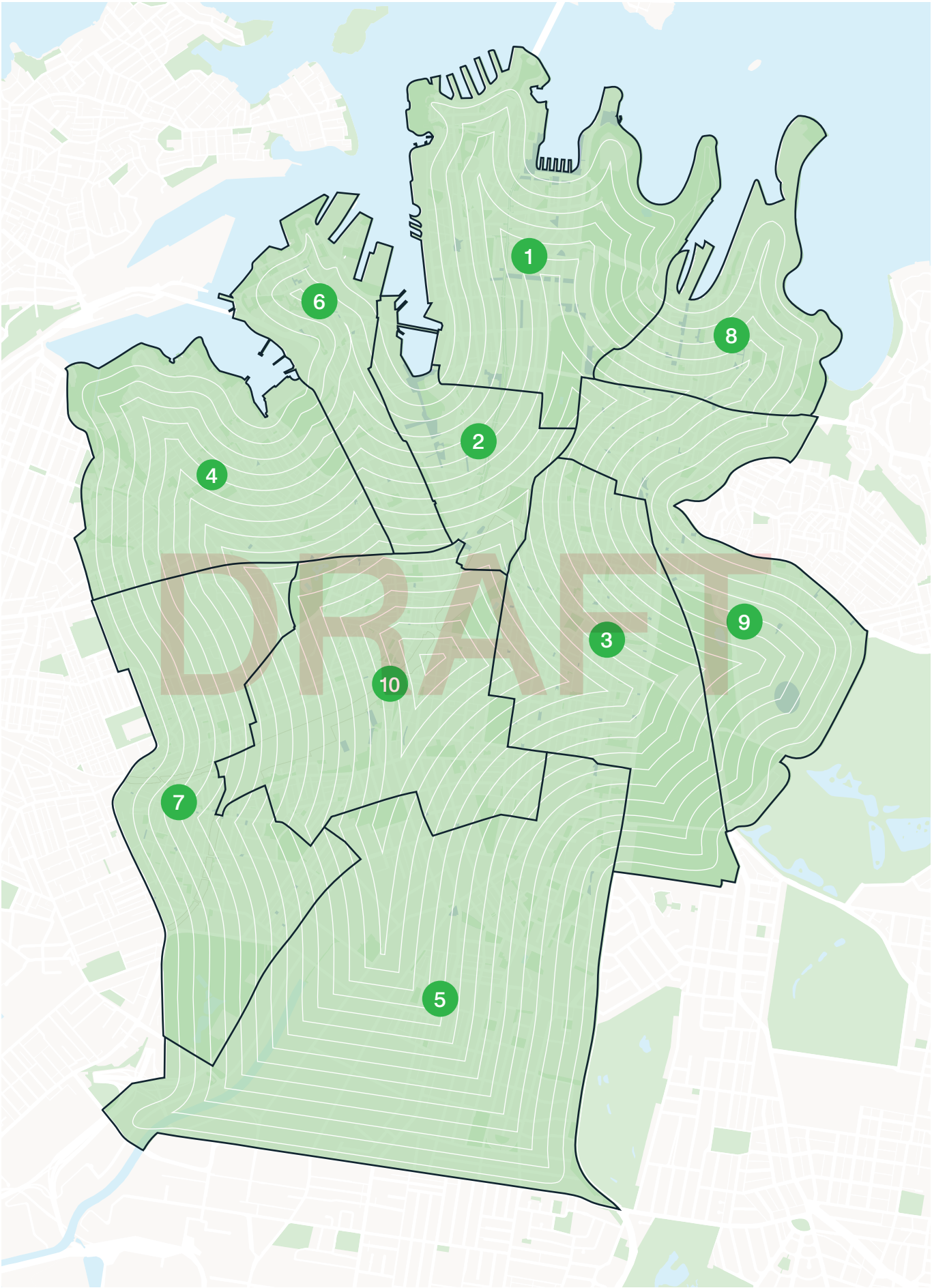
These priorities guide how and where the strategic directions will be delivered,

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

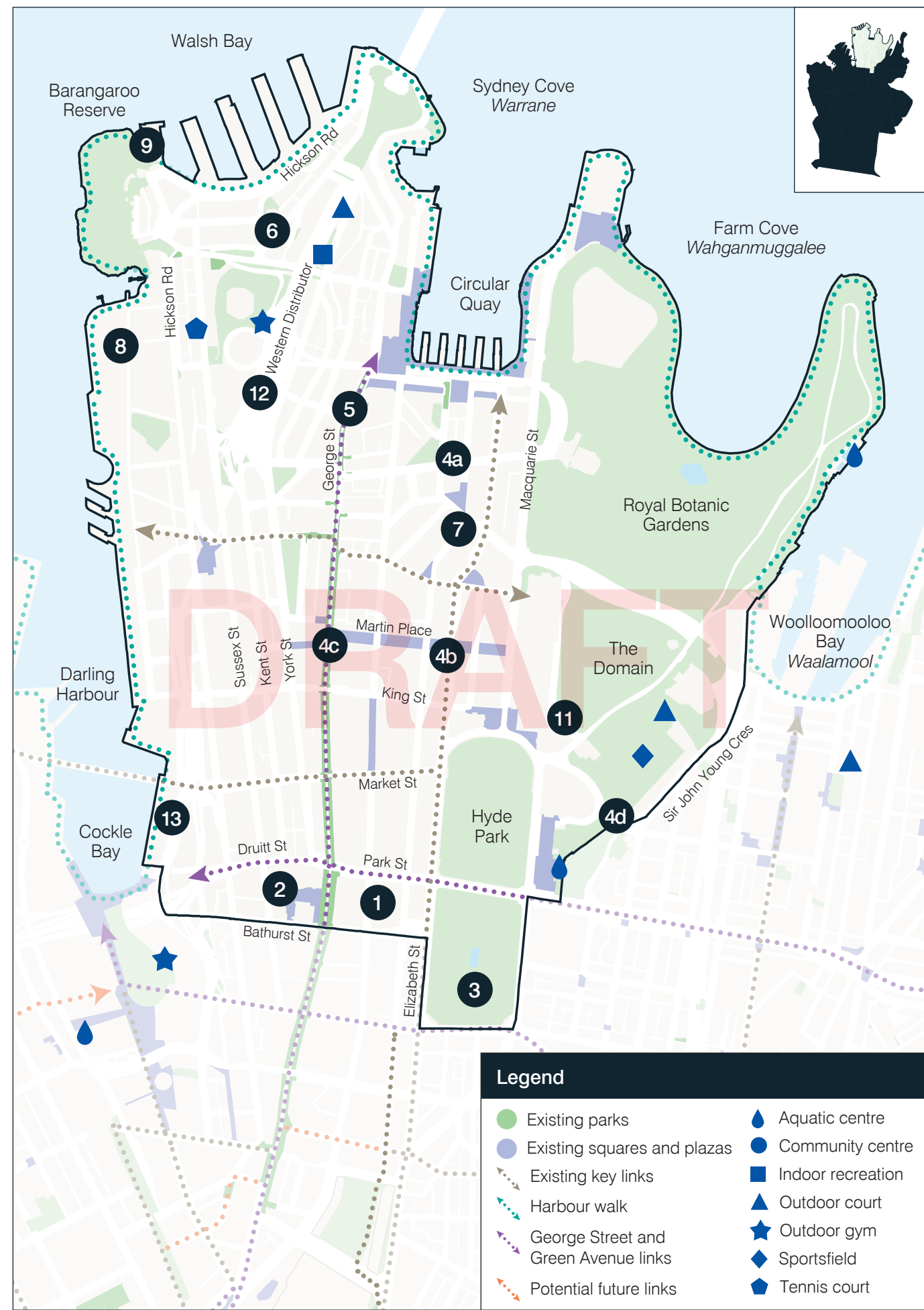
Our villages	
1	CBD and Harbour Sydney (part), The Rocks, Millers Point, Barangaroo
2	Chinatown and CBD South Sydney (part), Haymarket
3	Crown and Baptist Streets Surry Hills (part), Redfern (part), Moore Park (part)
4	Glebe Point Road Glebe, Forest Lodge, Annandale (part), Camperdown (part), Ultimo (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



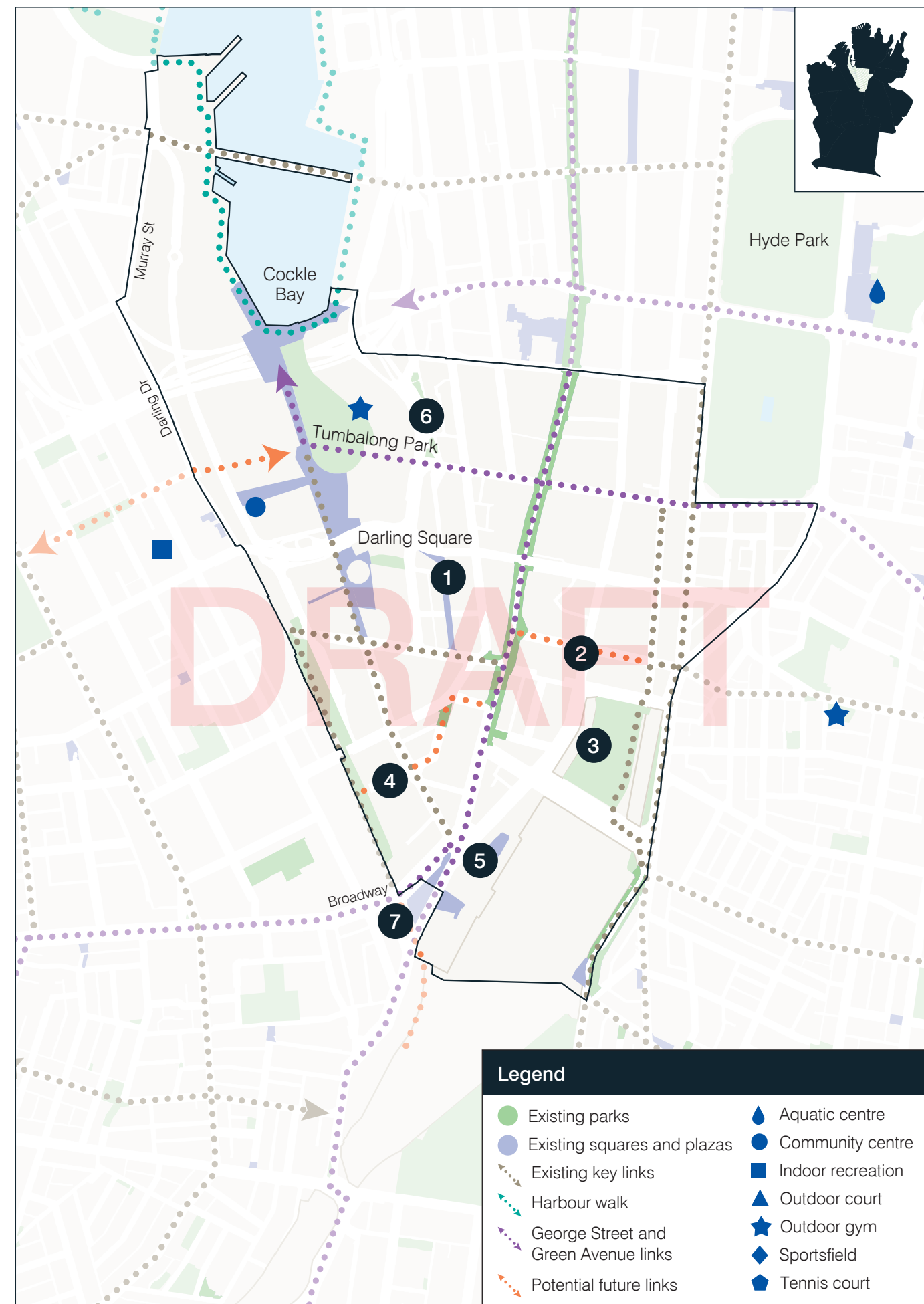
CBD and Harbour

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	



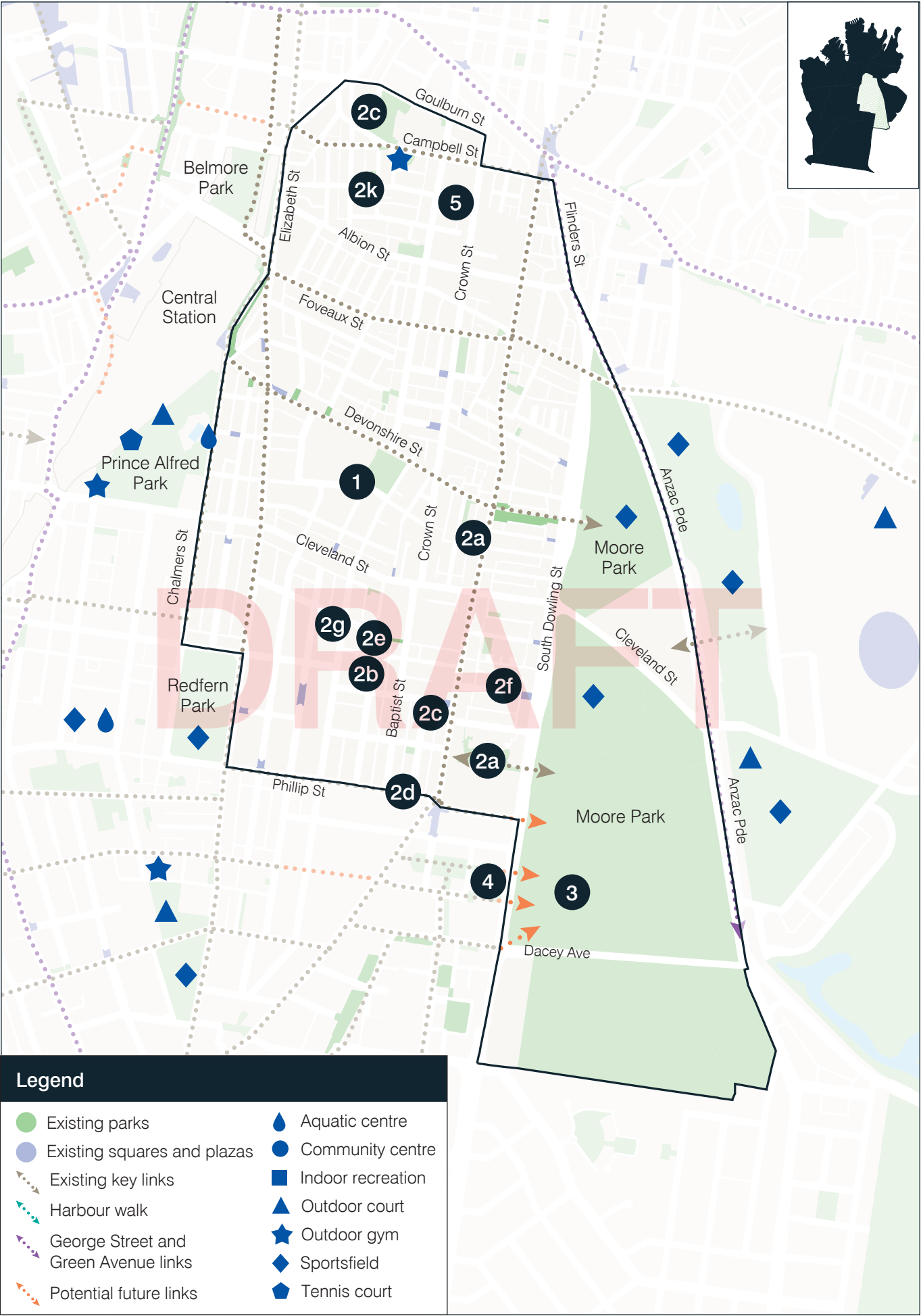
Chinatown and CBD South

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		

