

Attachment A2

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

Strategic directions



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

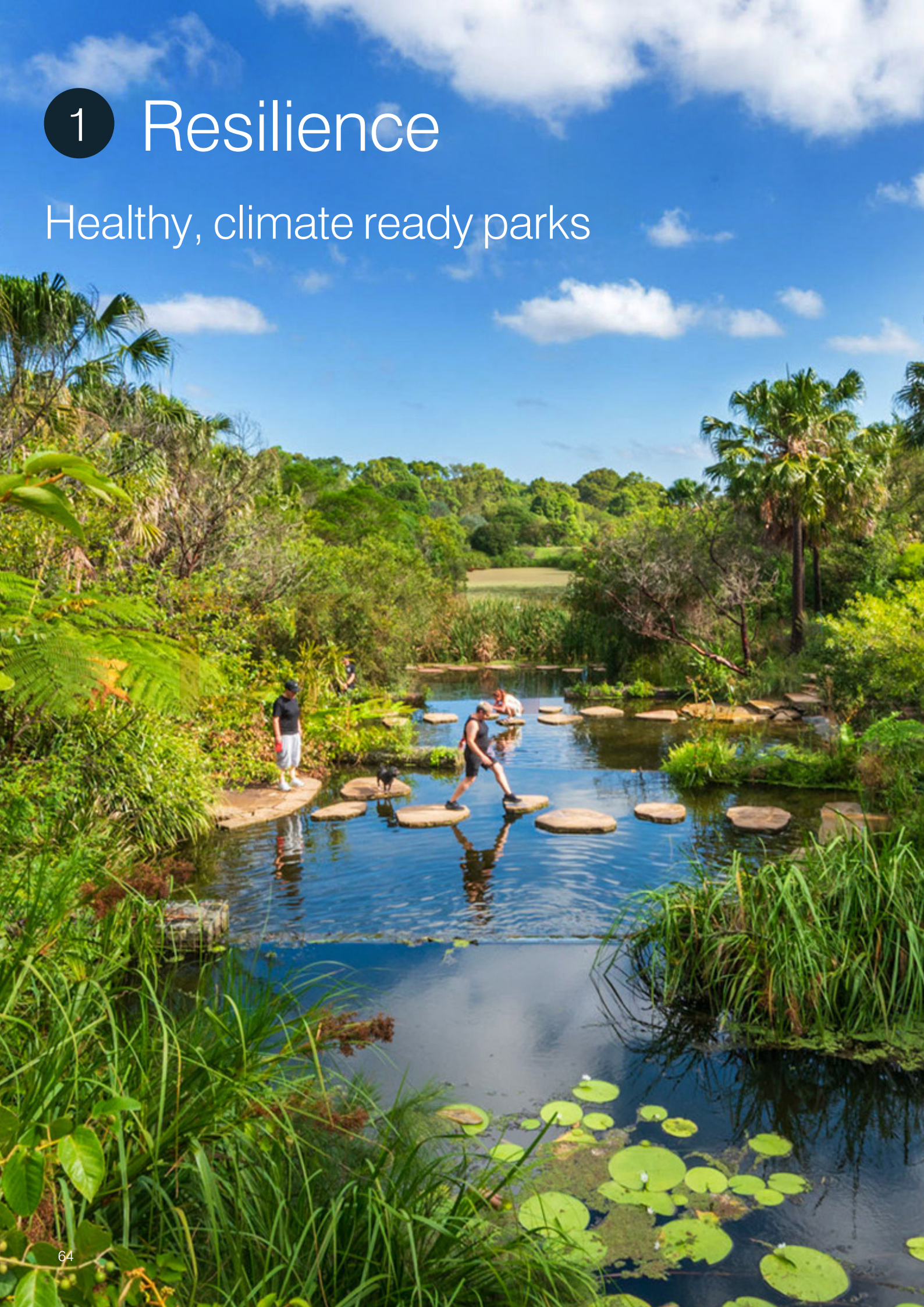
A network of adaptable and multi-functional spaces that supports changing recreation patterns and community needs.

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.
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.

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.

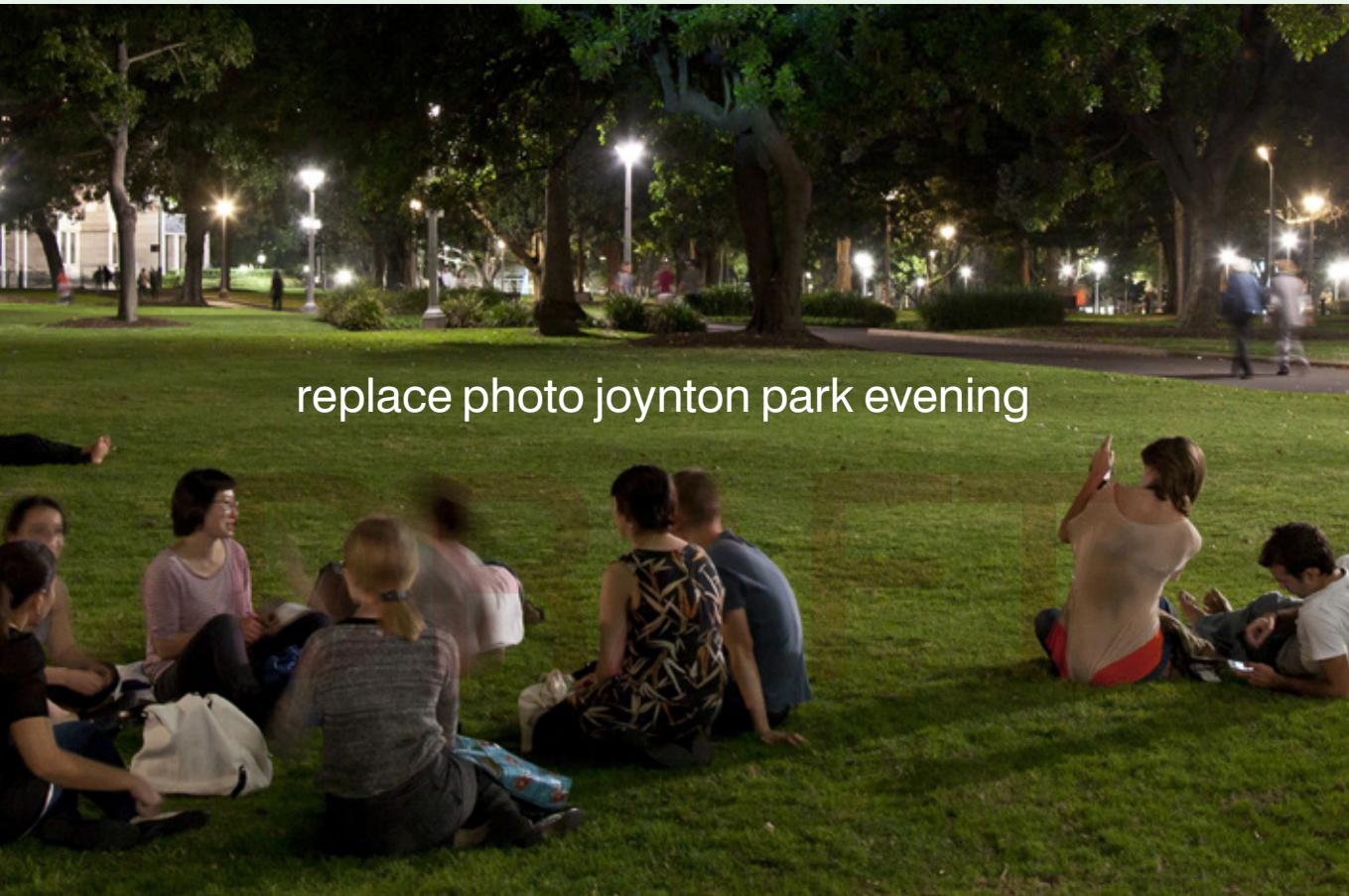
What we will do

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

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. Embed 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	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
STRATEGIC MOVES	STRATEGIC MOVES	STRATEGIC MOVES	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.	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.	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.	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.

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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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.

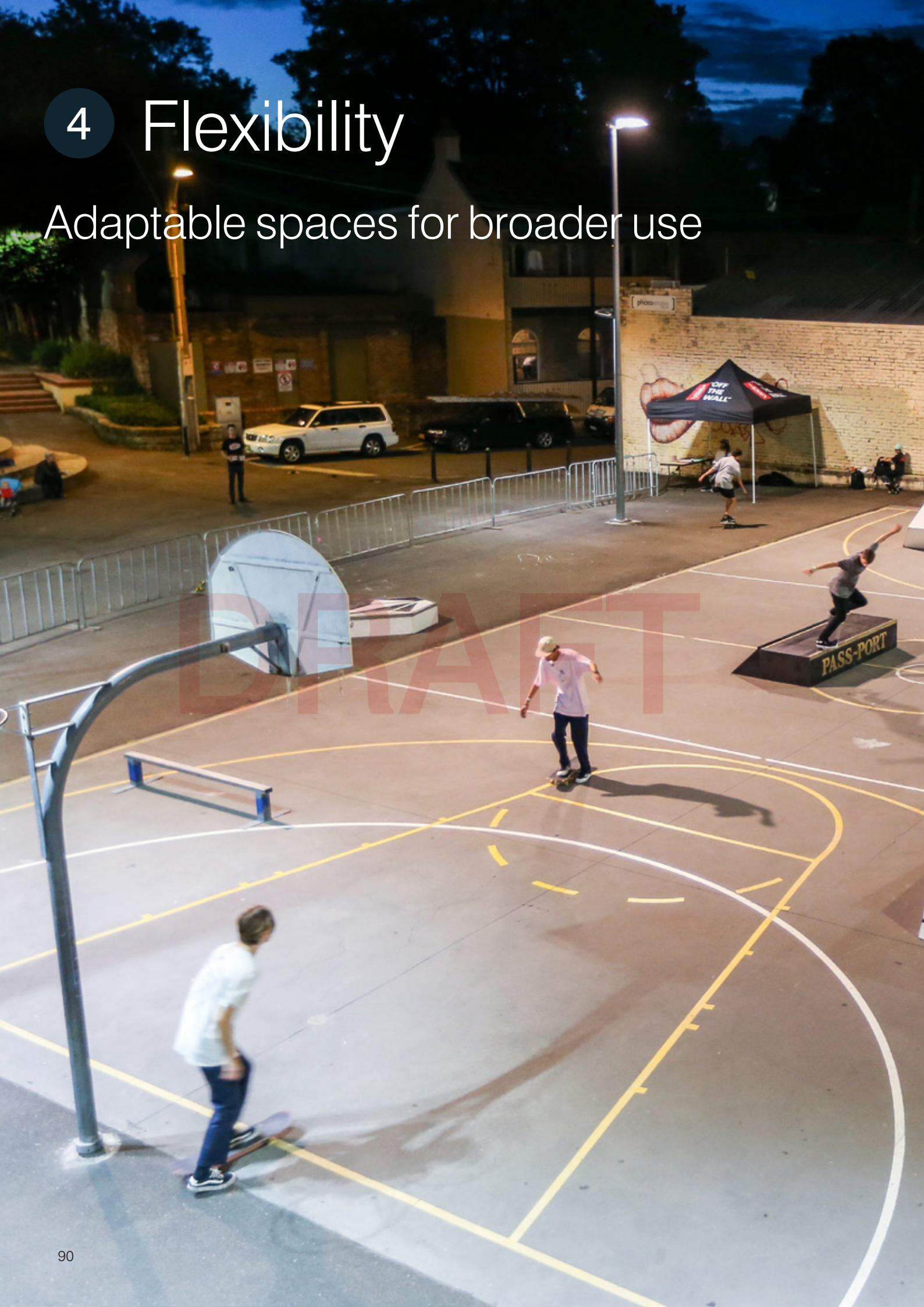
Envisioned as Sydney's new living room, Town Hall Square will be a place for gathering, celebration and everyday use, supporting social and cultural life in an inclusive and accessible public space.



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.

DRAFT

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.

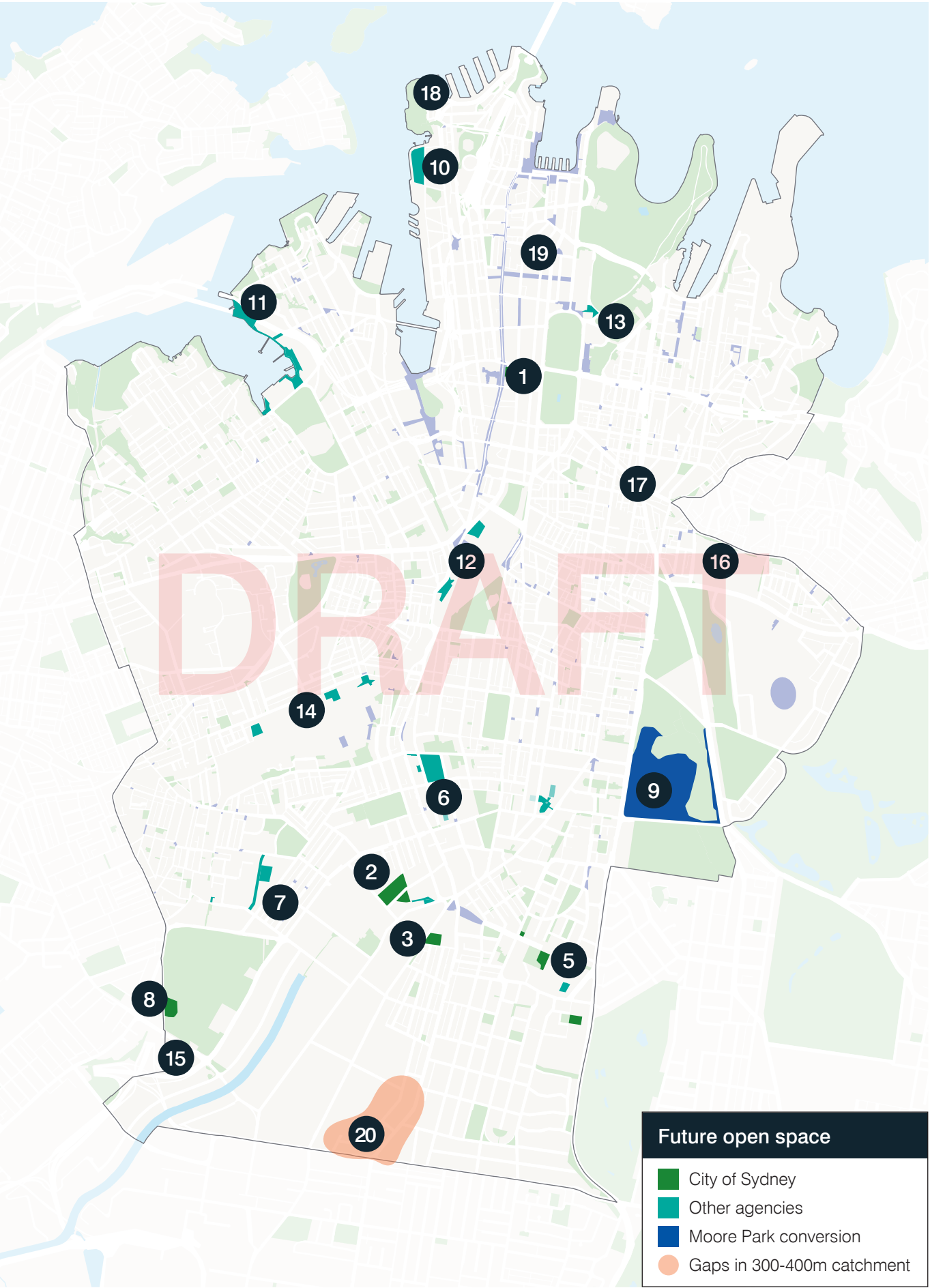
- 22.7 Ha new public space*
- 20 Ha Moore Park south conversion*
- 21 new parks and spaces*
- 5 new civic spaces*

*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.

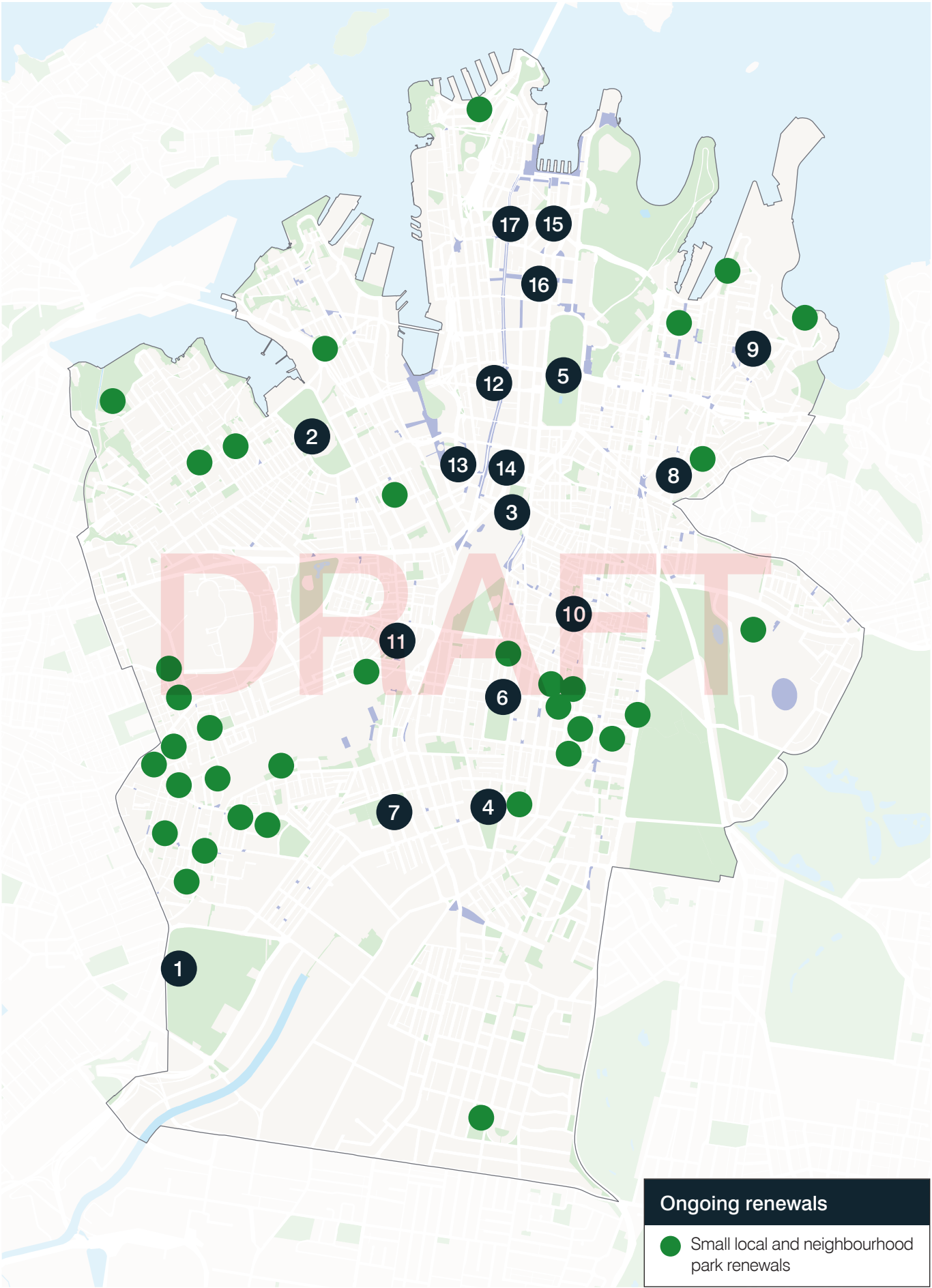
- 10 district and large neighbourhood parks
- Over 30 small local and neighbourhood parks in construction, design or planning with more to be added in coming years.

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

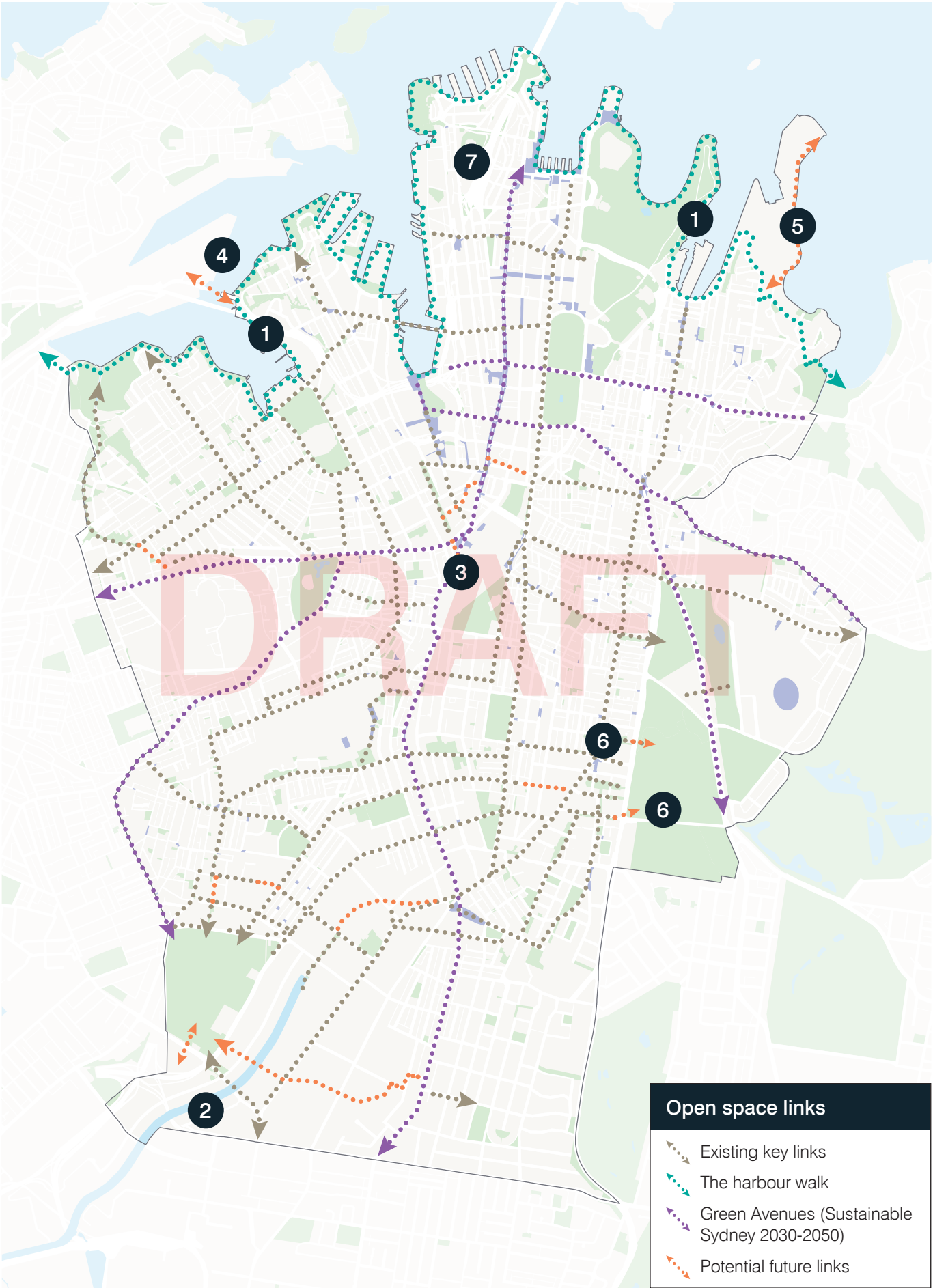
These corridors are identified as long-term strategic opportunities only. The Green Avenues concept is subject to further planning, detailed feasibility assessment, partnership arrangements and funding availability.

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

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

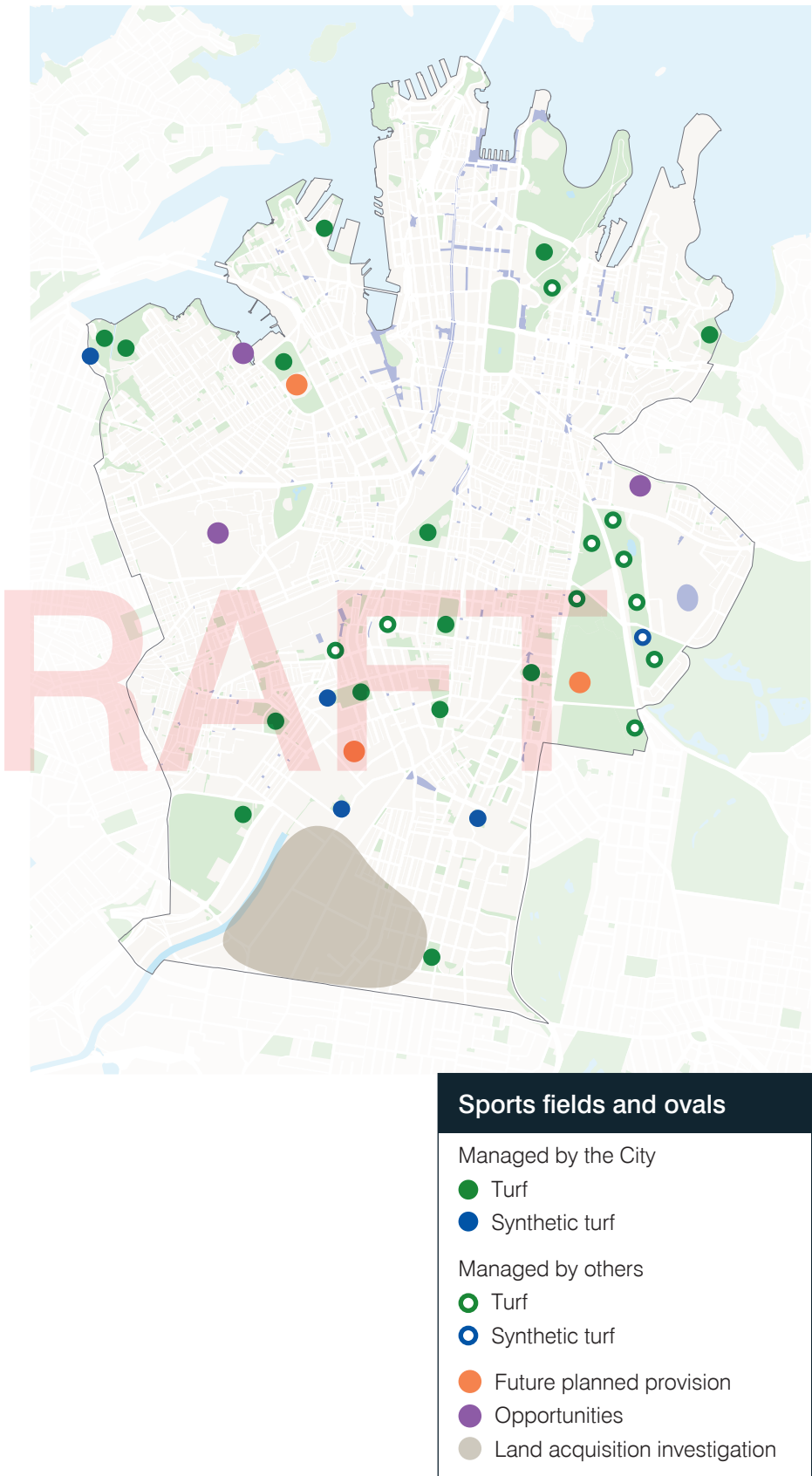
17 sports fields and ovals are managed by the City of Sydney. The other 19 are managed by other government agencies/ education campuses.

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.

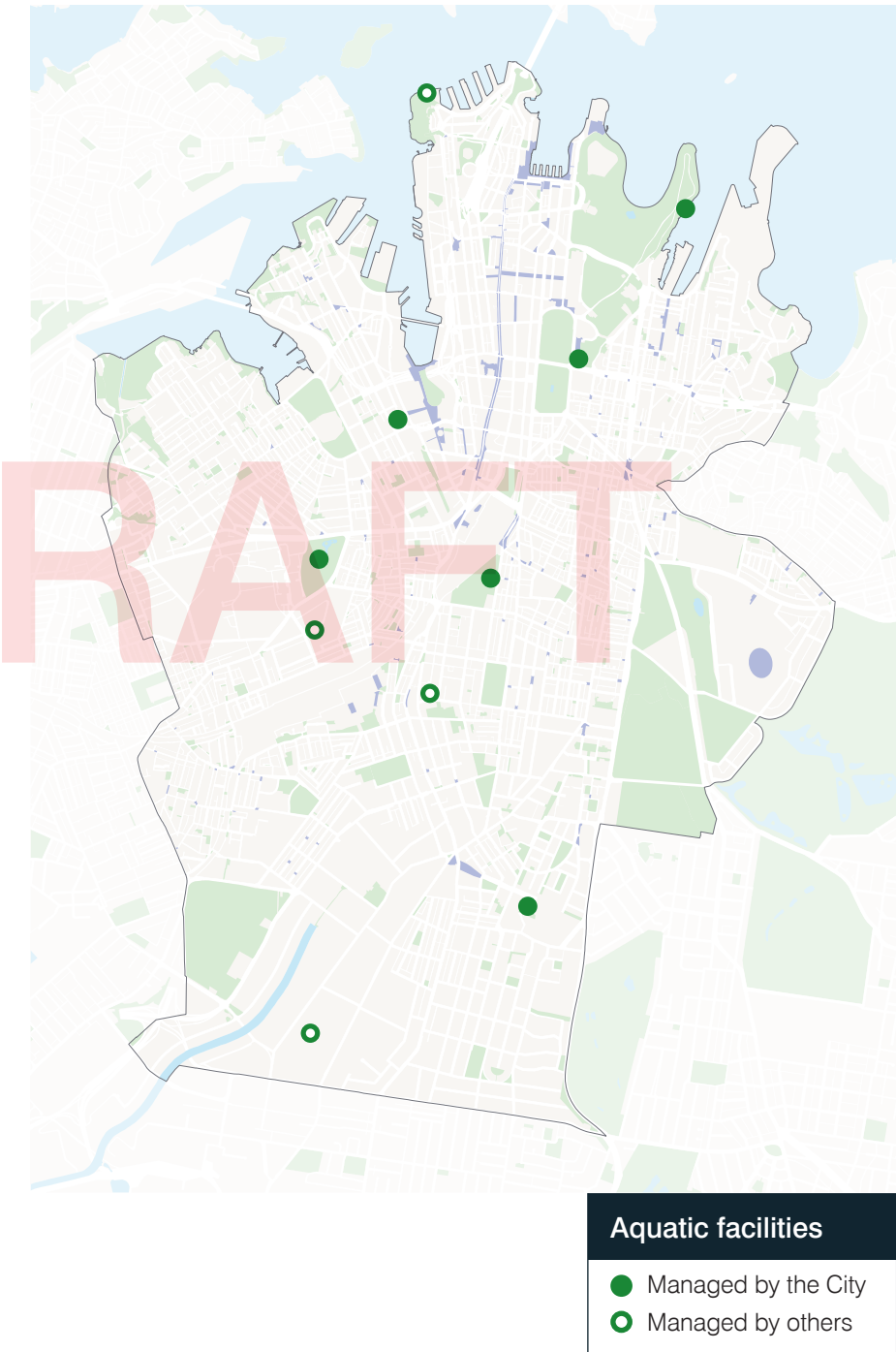
Future demand

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.

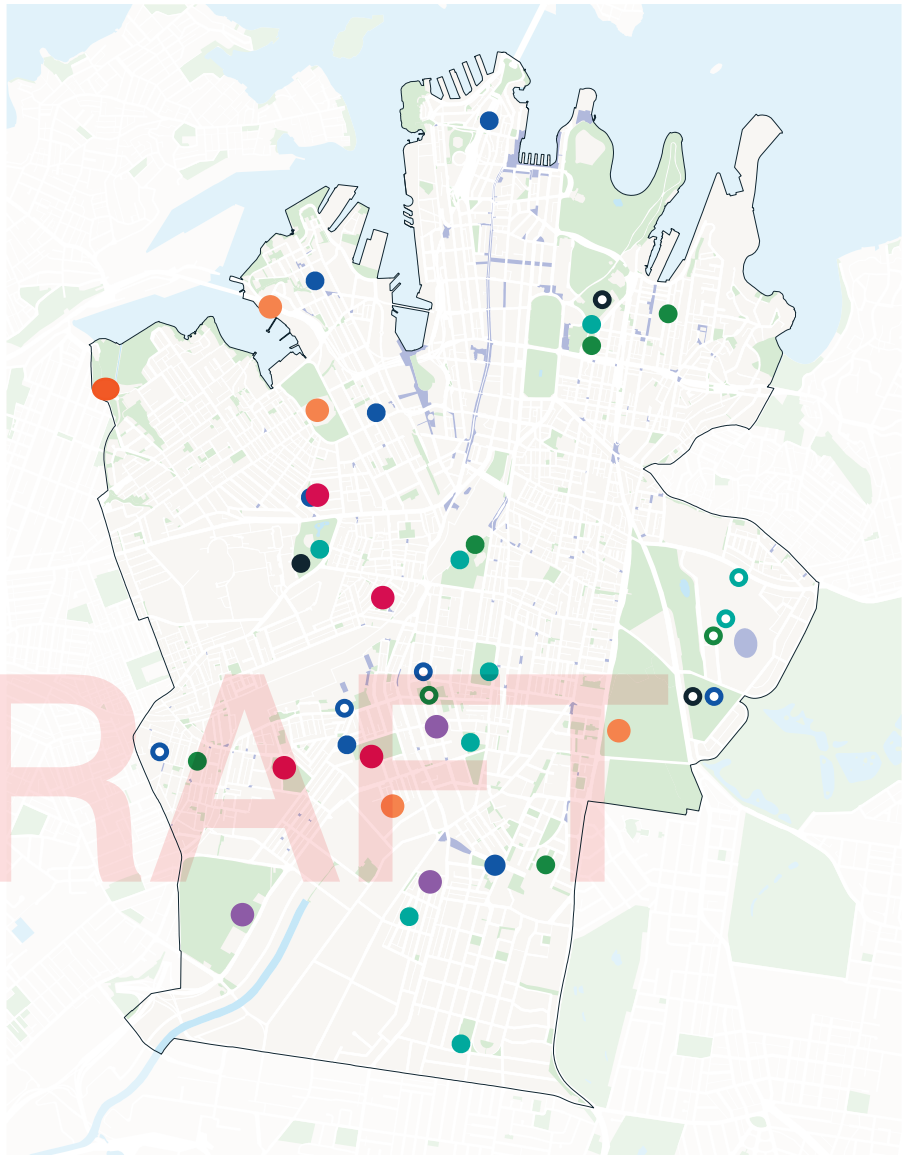
In addition there are 13 various half court, practice rings as part of the network with 11 managed by the City of Sydney. An additional 5 half courts are currently planned.

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

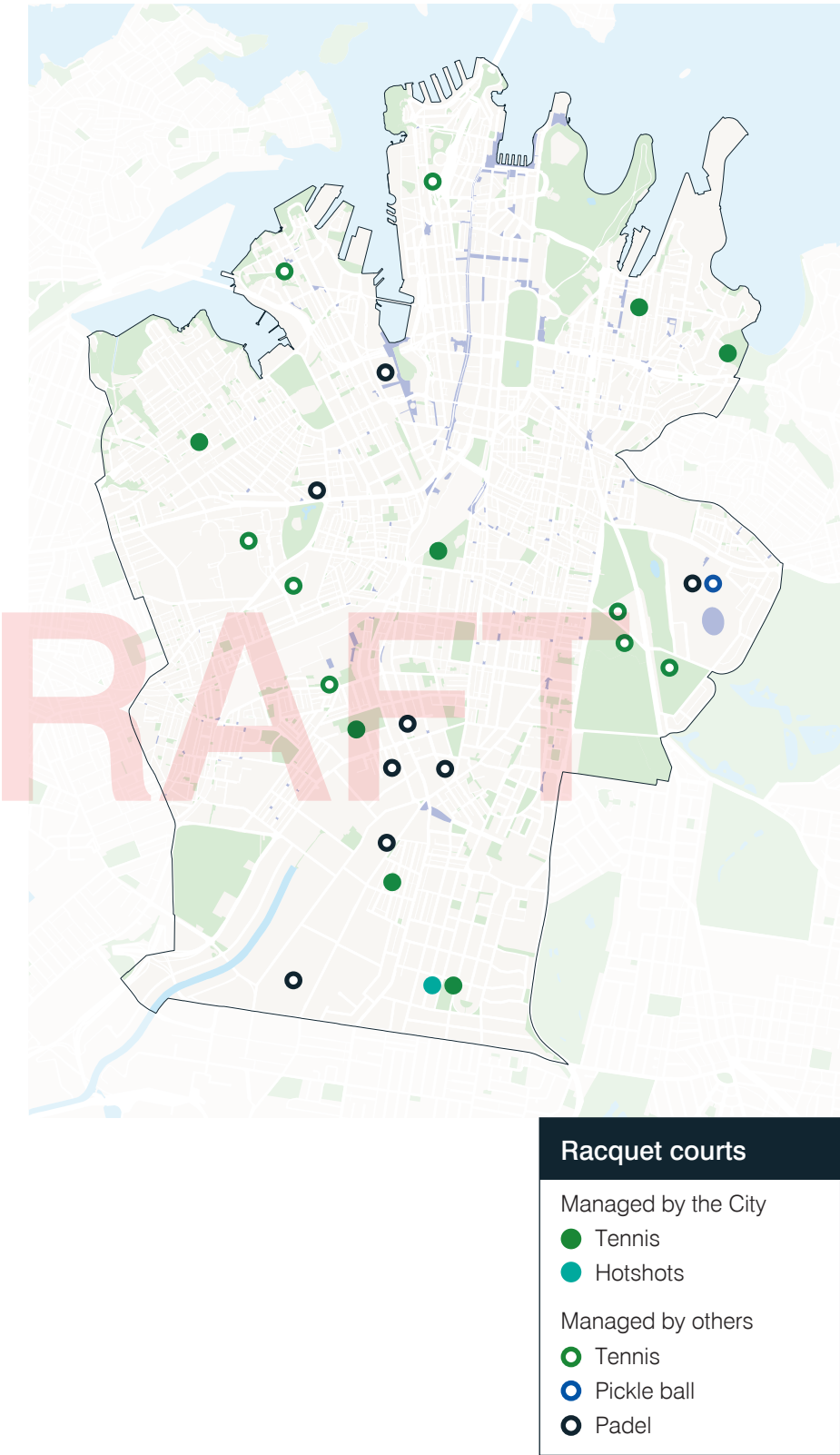
Current provision

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 growing demand for alternative racquet sports such as pickleball and padel (paddle ball). Private sector provision is increasing particularly for pickleball. orts 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

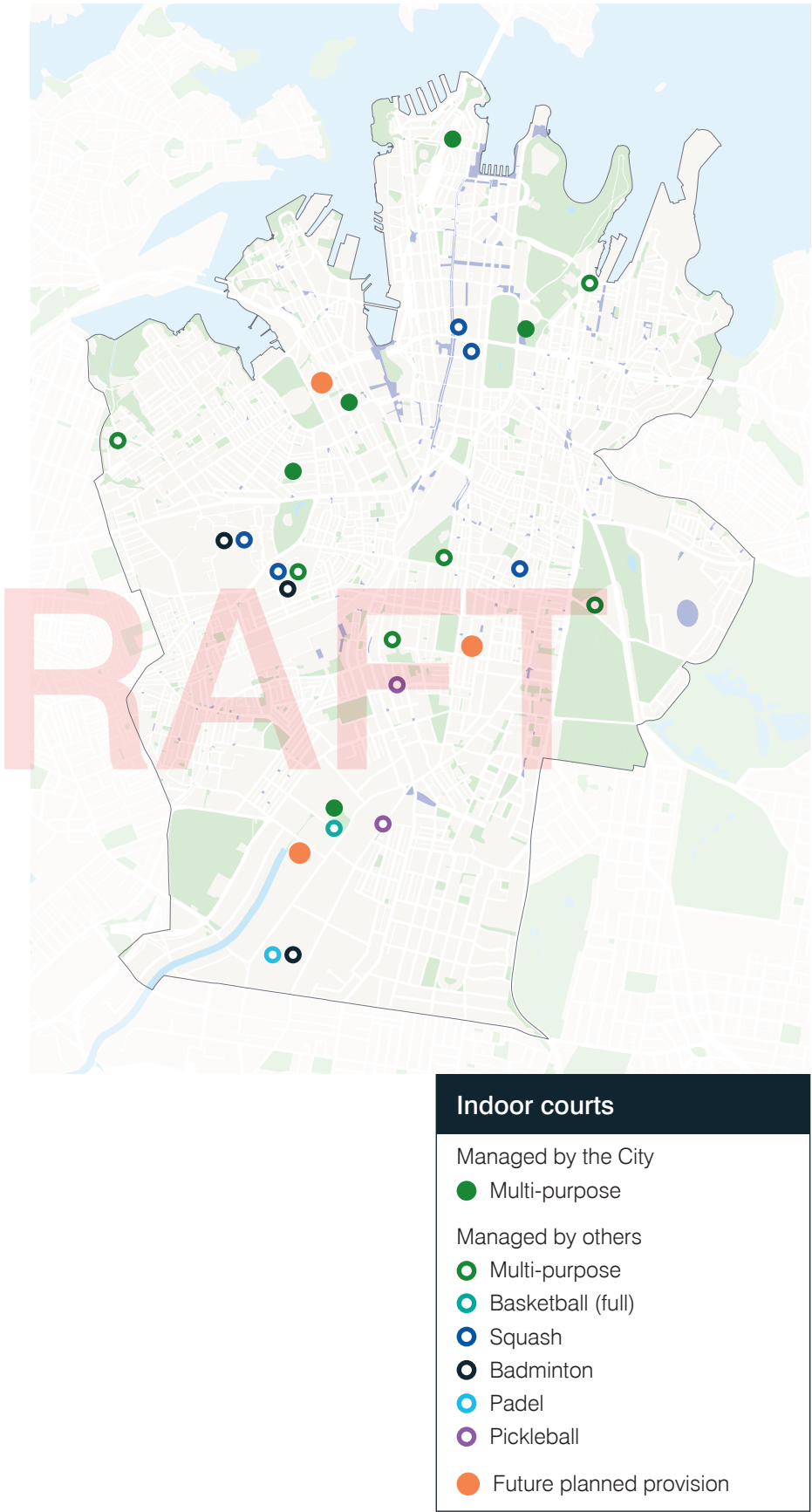
Current provision

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.

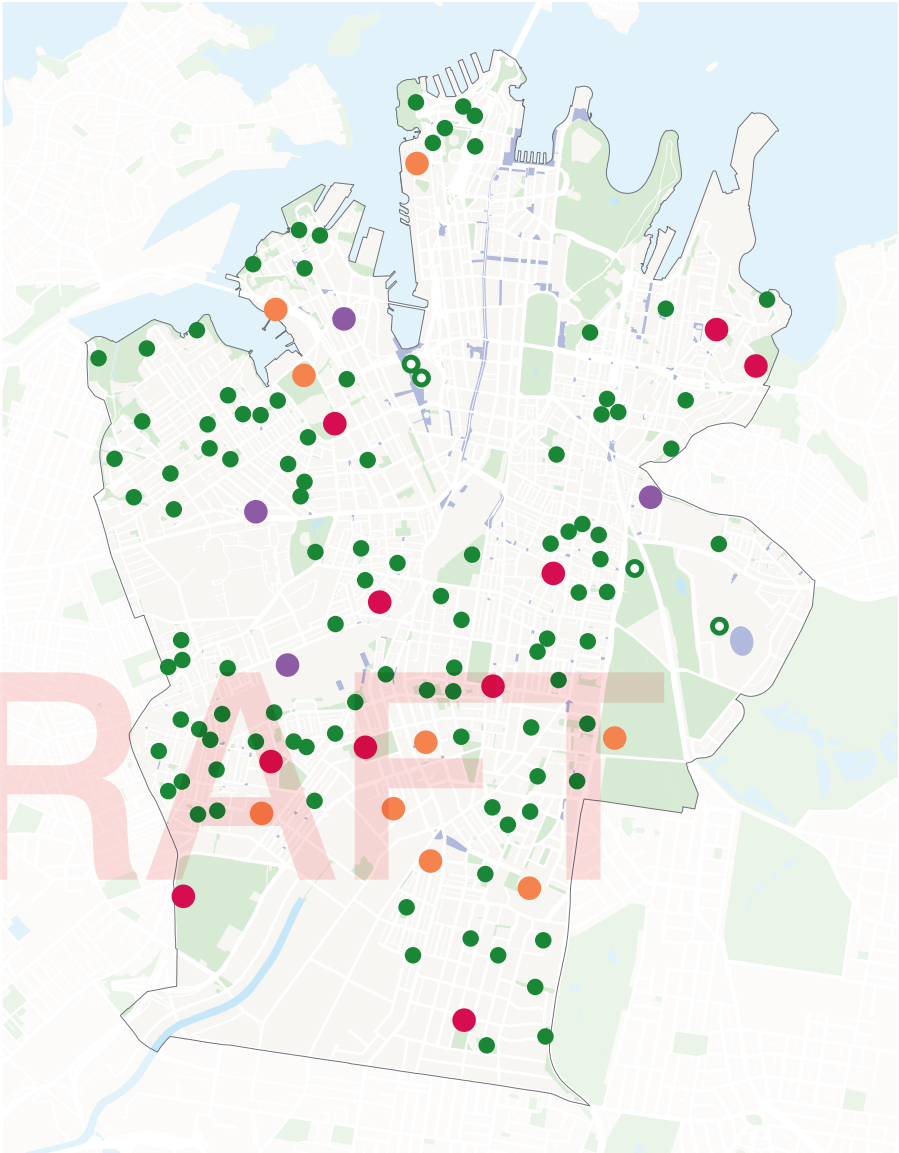
While many residential areas are located within a short walk of a playground, the mapping identifies several gaps in coverage, particularly within the city centre, and southern city centre.

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.	