



CITY OF CANADA BAY  
COUNCIL

**Social Infrastructure  
(Open Space and  
Recreation) Strategy  
and Action Plan**

26 September, 2019

Proudly funded by



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Canada Bay acknowledges the Wangal clan, one of the 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of this land.

Council pays respect to Elders past and present and extends this respect to all Aboriginal people living in or visiting the City of Canada Bay.

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# Executive summary

## BACKGROUND

The Canada Bay Local Government Area (LGA) is growing and becoming increasingly socially and culturally diverse, with an additional 32,000 people forecast to live here by 2036. To ensure our diverse community can access the open space and recreation opportunities it needs to live happy and healthy lives, City of Canada Bay Council (Council) has prepared this Social Infrastructure (Open Space and Recreation) Strategy and Action Plan, which provides the evidence to support Council's planning over the short (2021), medium (2026) and longer (2036) term.

For the purposes of this Strategy and Action Plan, open space refers to public land that is used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that we participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing and to connect to our families and communities.

Council, in partnership with other government agencies and the private, community and sporting sectors, is a key provider of open space and recreation facilities that support healthy, connected and resilient communities, urban centres, streets and suburbs.

## OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

YOUR Future 2030, Council's community strategic plan, and regional plans – Resilient Sydney, the Greater Sydney Region Plan, and Eastern City District Plan - have identified the need to deliver a network of diverse, accessible, high quality open spaces that meets a wide range of community needs, connected through the Green Grid.

State, regional and local strategies identify that urban environments should support healthy eating and active living, and there is a need to address barriers for older people, low income groups, migrant groups, women and people with disability. Given the limited developable land to deliver new open space and recreation facilities, changing urban areas such as ours will need to increase the capacity of what they already through enhancements and sharing, and identify opportunities to work in partnership for delivery of new open space and recreation facilities.

In addition to continued growth within our LGA, we are adjacent to Wentworth Point, and Sydney Olympic Park which are also expanding rapidly with an additional 40,000 residents connected to key centres. There are also major infrastructure drivers across our LGA that may impact on increased demand for social infrastructure including Sydney Metro West which may include stations at Five Dock, Burwood North (Concord) and North Strathfield.

## OUR COMMUNITY PROFILE

The continued growth of our LGA can be attributed to significant development occurring in Rhodes and the North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) area as well as redevelopment in Five Dock-Canada Bay and Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point. Key demographic trends for our area include:

- An increasing population and increasing density (however areas with declining/stable population)
- A diversity of age, ethnicity, language and income distributed across the area. The suburbs of Strathfield (Triangle), North Strathfield and Rhodes are dissimilar to the rest of LGA, being younger, more culturally and linguistically diverse and having lower median incomes
- An ageing population that will increase demand for aged services and elderly assistance.

Our LGA's population is forecast to increase from approximately 88,000 in 2016 to approximately 120,000 in 2036, an increase of approximately 32,000 (36%). Increases are forecast across all age groups but most significantly for young people (12 to 24) and older people (60 years+).

Some of the implications of our community profile include:

- Population growth and change will place increased pressure on existing open space and recreation facilities and demand for increased provision, and access to recreation services and programs.
- Open space and recreation facilities can be a place to form cross-cultural relationships as well as new connections for recently arrived residents. Culturally diverse residents may also have different recreation needs, for example for different activities such as

badminton, dancing and walking in the evenings.

- There is a need for open space and recreation facilities to support activities for older people such as gentle exercise and walking. Open space and recreation facilities should be universally designed so they are accessible for all abilities. Accessible connections to open space and recreation facilities are also important.
- Children and families need access to open space and recreation for play, exercise and relaxation. Recreation programs such as school holiday programs and activities for parents and babies will be important, as well as spaces for organised and informal sport.
- Young people aged 12 to 24 will be looking for open space and recreation facilities as a place of play, study, and social development. There will be a need for passive recreation spaces for relaxing, reading, socialising and studying, as well as access to affordable, unstructured and informal recreation facilities such as outdoor courts and gyms.
- In high density areas, open space away from the home is of critical importance to our community's health and wellbeing. Considerations will be providing open space that meets a range of recreation needs in a limited space, that minimises conflict between users and with neighbours, and that functions as a "backyard" for residents living in apartments.
- While generally our residents are employed, educated and moderate to high income earners, there are areas with higher disadvantage where access to open space and recreation facilities and programs should be low cost or free. Additionally, some areas have poor access to public transport to access open space and recreation facilities and programs that are not in walking distance of their homes.

## RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change. The most significant trend in recreation participation in Australia is a move to informal, unstructured recreation activities rather than traditional organised sport (i.e. mid-week training session and weekend match with a formal club). There is a need to plan for the diverse recreation preferences of our community, from older people to children, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, men and women, people with disability and people on lower incomes.

Community engagement for the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) indicated that our residents participate more highly in informal recreation with 71% of residents using open space areas to walk compared to 12% who participate in organised sport.

## WHAT DO WE HAVE CURRENTLY?

Open space has been audited against a number of indicators including: Quantity (per person and as a percentage of land area); Hierarchy and size; Proximity and connectivity, and Diversity of function.

There are 181 parcels of open space totaling 348ha in Canada Bay LGA. Across our LGA, there is 39.5m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person in total. For all Council owned land (including public golf courses), there is 27.2m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person, similar to the provision of open space across the Eastern City (29.7m<sup>2</sup> per person).

This is currently unevenly distributed across the area with a low of 0.9ha per person in North Strathfield – Strathfield

(Triangle) and a high of 76.2m<sup>2</sup> per person in Concord (excluding private land and public golf courses). There are some areas that are not within 400m of local open space, and areas of high density that are not within 200m of open space (Greater Sydney Commission benchmarks).

There are opportunities to provide an increased diversity of recreation opportunities to support passive and informal recreation including:

- Outdoor fitness stations
- More diverse and unique play spaces
- Outdoor multipurpose courts
- Dog off-leash areas
- Community gardens
- Youth recreation areas
- Local swimming opportunities, for example in the Parramatta River
- Indoor recreation courts, and
- Opportunities for recreation on the water.

There is forecast demand, based on benchmarks, for additional sports fields and courts, however there are opportunities to address some of this demand through increasing the capacity and utilisation of existing facilities.

There are also opportunities for Council to provide recreation programs that address the needs of children and parents, young people, and people with disability, and that activate open space and recreation facilities.

## WHAT DOES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TELL US WE NEED?

Community and stakeholder engagement completed to inform the development of this Strategy and Action Plan and to inform other Council plans, indicate that we need:

- More green and open space. Our community has told us that green spaces, local parks and waterways are our areas most valuable assets.
- Continued focus on sustainability and protecting our natural environment and waterways.
- Open spaces that meet the diverse needs and preferences of our community, including activities at night time, accessibility for people with disability and including people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- Increased focus on use of parks and open spaces for informal recreation, such as outdoor basketball courts, walking trails, and Tai Chi.
- More diverse opportunities for recreation including: Outdoor fitness; Outdoor basketball; BBQs and covered picnic tables; Spaces for yoga, group fitness and pilates; Spa, sauna and steam rooms; Swimming pools, and Indoor courts.
- Recreation opportunities for children and families including a diverse range of play equipment to suit various stages of life; nature-based activities.
- Increased activation of parks and open spaces including through provision of a variety of spaces and uses; cafes in parks; and programming of spaces.
- Maintenance of open space and recreation facilities and provision of infrastructure and amenities including parking, seating, toilets, picnic shelters, bins, lighting.
- Council to provide and prioritise community sport over regional and elite sport to support local community; health and wellbeing.

- Opportunities for synthetic fields and lighting, with consideration of local residents.
- Increased collaboration with neighbouring Councils to address regional needs.
- Support for sport and recreation organisations to collaborate around long-term planning.

## PRIORITY NEEDS

Priority open space and recreation facility and program needs are summarised below.

- Increased public foreshore access to engage in recreational activities along the foreshore and in our waterways.
- Increased capacity and utilisation of existing sports fields to “share the load” between spaces and address areas of overuse.
- Increasing participation and benchmarks indicate demand for new sports fields and courts, informal recreational opportunities including walking and cycling trails, improved infrastructure to increase female participation, and specific facilities for young people such as outdoor courts, amphitheatres, and skate parks.
- Increased diversity of recreation opportunities including outdoor fitness stations, outdoor multipurpose courts, community gardens, dog off-leash areas and play spaces.
- Improved connections to open space and recreation facilities in areas with an older population.
- New and embellished open space close to future Metro stations (minimum 0.3ha) to support increased population.
- New open space in growth areas and areas with a current undersupply including Rhodes and North

Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle), including improved connections to open space.

- Green Grid recreation trails from Goddard Park to Massey Park Golf Course, and Concord Oval to Barnwell Park Golf Course in Concord.
- New indoor recreation opportunities including:
  - Delivering 4 new indoor recreation courts through the redevelopment of Concord Oval
  - Expanding provision at Five Dock Leisure Centre, and
  - Delivering a new recreation centre at Rhodes East that can support active recreation such as table tennis and dancing.

Figure 1 (Page 8) is a summary of the future social infrastructure (open space and recreation) needs to 2026 and 2036 by planning catchment and LGA.

## OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PRINCIPLES

The following principles should drive the design, delivery and management of our open space and recreation facilities to 2036:

### 1. Optimise Capacity

Address current and future gaps by realising the capacity of existing open space and recreation facilities.

### 2. Diversity

Deliver open space and recreation facilities, services and programs to cater for the informal and formal recreation needs of the diversity of age groups, cultures and genders.

### 3. Accessibility and connectivity

Improve accessibility and connectivity to open space and recreation facilities, services and programs through green streets, active transport links, affordable access, universal design, and equitable distribution.

### 4. Partnerships & collaboration

Work in partnership and plan collaboratively with the private sector, government agencies, peak bodies and local sporting clubs to share space and deliver new open space and recreation facilities.

### 5. Well-designed

Be adaptable and future-proof open space for growth through co-located, multipurpose, shared use, diverse and flexible spaces. Optimise recurrent asset management and maintenance costs.

### 6. Sustainability

Be environmentally and financially sustainable through the provision of recreation facilities and programs;

- That enhance connections to nature, biodiversity, ecology and mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- That remain fit for purpose through quality maintenance and asset management.

## STRATEGIES

This Strategy and Action Plan includes three strategies:

### Strategy 1 - Existing

Improve existing open space quality and capacity to support a diversity of recreational opportunities.

### Strategy 2 - New

New and connected open spaces, recreation facilities and programs to meet the needs of a growing and changing population.

### Strategy 3 - Activate

Activate open space and recreation facilities and programs to help connect and build an inclusive community.

Strategies and Actions are detailed at Section 11.

Priority open space actions are shown in Figure 1.

# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PRIORITIES TO 2036

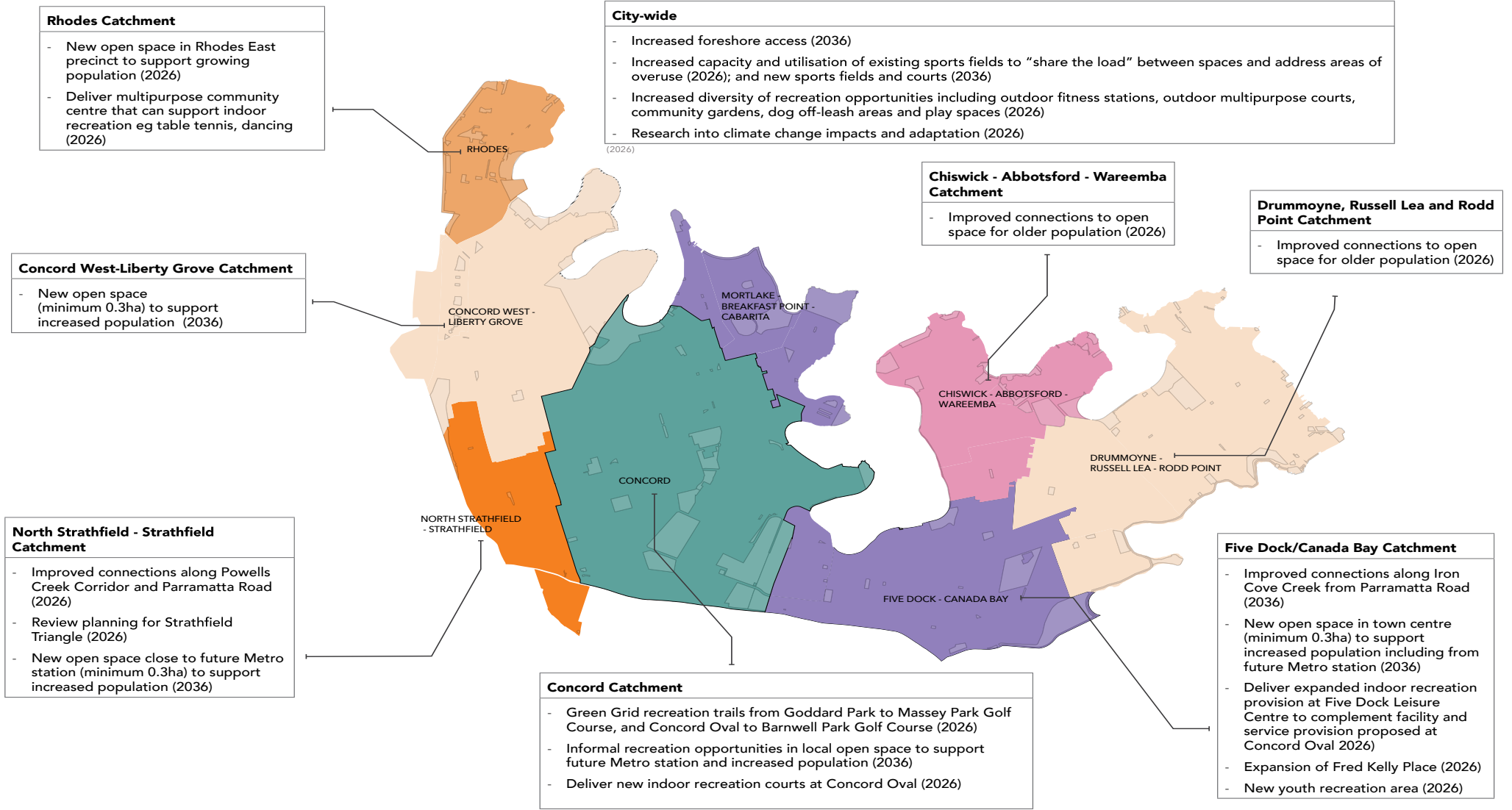


Figure 1 - Priority social infrastructure (open space actions to 2036)





Ben Williams Photography for City of Canada Bay Council

# PART A BACKGROUND

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. BACKGROUND

The City of Canada Bay Local Government Area (LGA) is set alongside the Parramatta River, approximately 6 kilometres west of the Sydney CBD. The traditional owners of this land are the Wangal clan of the Dharug people, who hold a deep connection to the land, landscape and foreshore areas of the City of Canada Bay. Our LGA covers 20 square kilometres and is predominantly residential, also including commercial centres and some industrial areas.

Through urban renewal in areas such as Rhodes West, our community has experienced growth and change over the past five years and is projected to be home to an additional 24,000 people by 2036. We are also adjacent to Wentworth Point, and Sydney Olympic Park which are expanding rapidly with a forecast additional 40,000 residents.

YOUR Future 2030, City of Canada Bay Council's (Councils') community strategic plan, and regional planning for Greater Sydney have identified the need to deliver social infrastructure that will address Sydney's growth, both to service the existing residents and workers but also to respond to the demands of the future community and to address Sydney's declining social cohesion.

To respond to existing and future open space and recreation service and program needs, Council is preparing a Social Infrastructure (Open Space and Recreation) Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy and Action Plan) that provides the evidence to support Council's planning over the short, medium and longer term.

## 1.2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report provides a Strategy and Action Plan for social infrastructure (open space and recreation) to 2019, 2026 and 2036. This work identifies our community's needs, to inform development of a deliverable action plan to inform Council's budgeting process as well as the operational and resourcing plans for open space and recreation facilities, programs and services.

The Strategy and Action Plan has been developed alongside a suite of other focus area strategies - community facilities, housing, economic productivity, biodiversity, traffic and transport - as part of a review of the City's planning framework. This review includes the development of the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), the land use strategy for the next 20 years and implementation through a revised Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP).

This work also provides Council with the information to actively pursue collaborative partnerships to attract funding for new social infrastructure and optimise the use of existing facilities and services. Partnerships with neighbouring councils and other levels of government, the local community and other key stakeholders including the private sector, are critical to achieving regional planning objectives, moving to best practice delivery models and continuing to service the needs of our community.

The Strategy and Action Plan will replace the Recreation Plan (2007) and the Recreation Facilities Strategy (2013) and associated plans. This new approach is an important step for Council towards a coordinated approach to plan and deliver social infrastructure for the local community and at a regional level.

### Objectives of the Strategy and Action Plan

1. Deliver on the community's vision, themes and priorities identified in YOUR Future 2030.
2. Support the vision, objectives and expectations outlined in the various regional strategies, plans and major projects, prioritising the local context and community needs.
3. Provide a coordinated set of realistic actions and recommendations for the future planning of the City, aligned with the other focus area strategies also being developed.
4. Provide a clear and cohesive framework to enable the efficient use of existing facilities and spaces, ensure services and programs respond to the changing needs of the community, and identify opportunities to deliver new open space and recreation facilities, programs and services consistent with best practice trends and models.
5. Position Council, through a robust, evidenced-based approach, to guide future advocacy and aid effective negotiation in the provision and delivery of social infrastructure within the City of Canada Bay.
6. The Strategy will also provide the evidence-base to inform the LSPP.

### 1.3. OUR APPROACH

Our approach to assessing the need for open space and recreation facilities, programs and services takes into consideration multiple indicators including:

- Demographics and research - What are the characteristics of the existing and future community and what social infrastructure needs does this indicate?
- Strategic context - What's the big picture planning and thinking that will shape the character of local areas and the LGA into the future?
- Auditing, utilisation and quality assessment - What social infrastructure currently exists or is planned? What is the existing utilisation of social infrastructure? How do people access it?
- Population, proximity and best practice benchmarking - What do population benchmarks and best practice trends indicate we need in terms of open space and recreation facilities, services and programs for the LGA and each planning catchment area?
- Community/stakeholder engagement - What has the community told us about what they need?

One of the above indicators is not more important than the other, instead all of these five indicators need to be read together to determine the future social infrastructure needs for the Canada Bay LGA.



Figure 2 - Approach to Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment (source: Cred Consulting)

## 1.4. WHAT IS COUNCIL'S ROLE?

Council, in partnership with other government agencies and the private and community sectors, is a key provider of open space and recreation facilities that support services and programs, and builds inclusive, connected and resilient communities, urban centres, streets and suburbs.

Council has a number of roles in relation to the planning, facilitation, delivery, and advocacy for the delivery of social infrastructure for our community as shown in Figure 3 to the right.

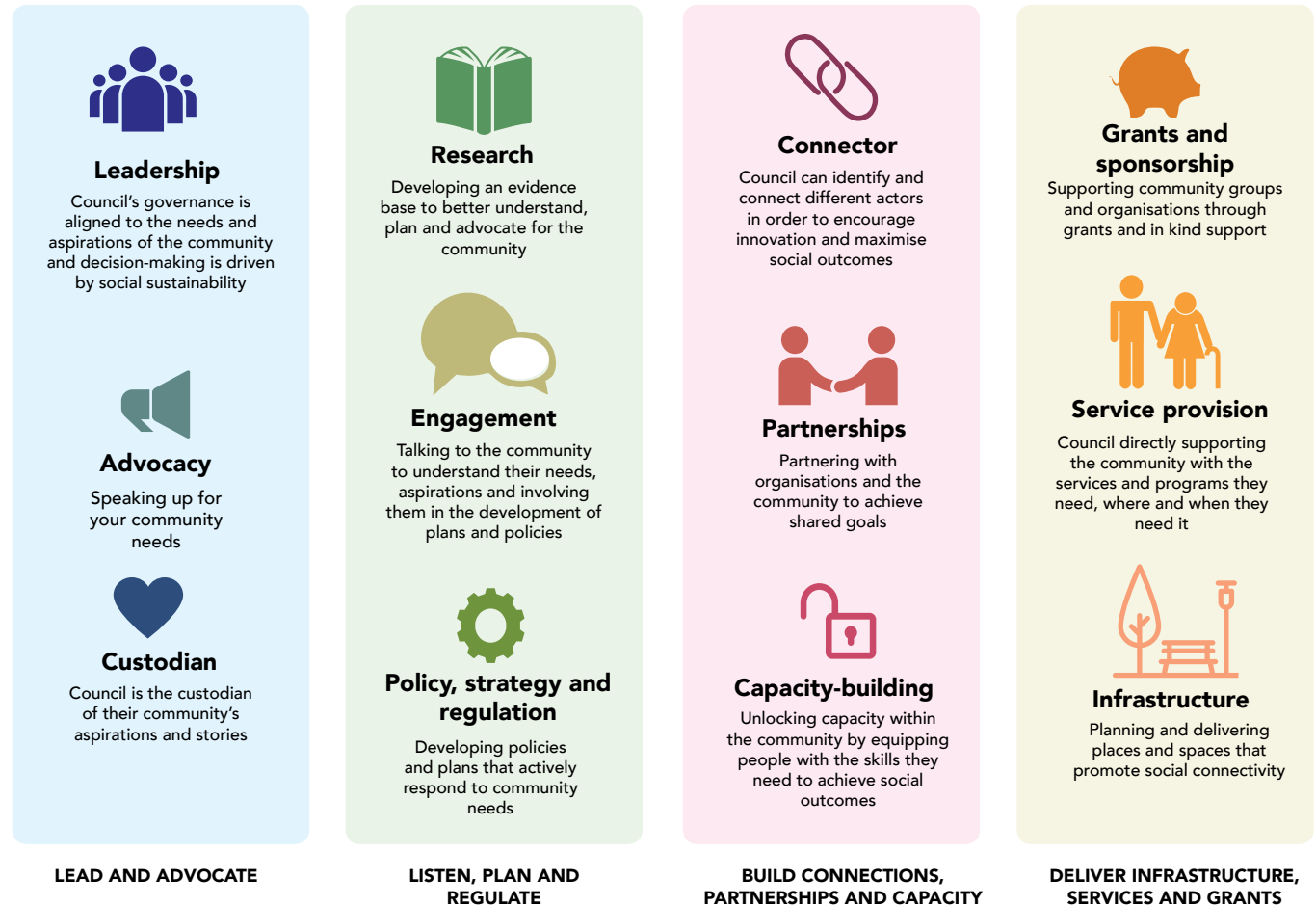


Figure 3 - Council's role in planning for the delivery of social infrastructure (Source: Cred Consulting)

# 2. What is open space and recreation and why is it important?

## 2.1. WHAT IS OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION?

### Open space

Open space is public land that is used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. This includes recreation spaces (such as parks and play spaces), community/civic spaces (such as urban public space and plazas), linkage parks and natural areas.

### Recreation

Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that we participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing and to connect to our families and communities. This includes casual activities like going for a walk or a picnic, play, exercise and fitness activities, and social, organised and elite sporting activities. Recreation includes a spectrum of activities ranging from passive to active, and informal to formal/organised (Figure 4).

### Recreation facilities

Recreation facilities are the built infrastructure that supports recreation activities, such as: Facilities in open space e.g. BBQs, play spaces, furniture; Sports fields and courts; Indoor leisure centres; Aquatic centres; Recreation trails, and Water-based recreation (e.g. sailing clubs).

### Recreation programs and services

Programs and services refers to soft infrastructure generally hosted within the facilities (or in public spaces) which support the community, including but not limited to targeted populations (eg young people, older people, female participation, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, health and wellbeing, and education).



Figure 4 - Recreation spectrum

## 2.2. WHY IS OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION IMPORTANT?

Open space and recreation provides benefits across the triple bottom line – economic, environmental and social.

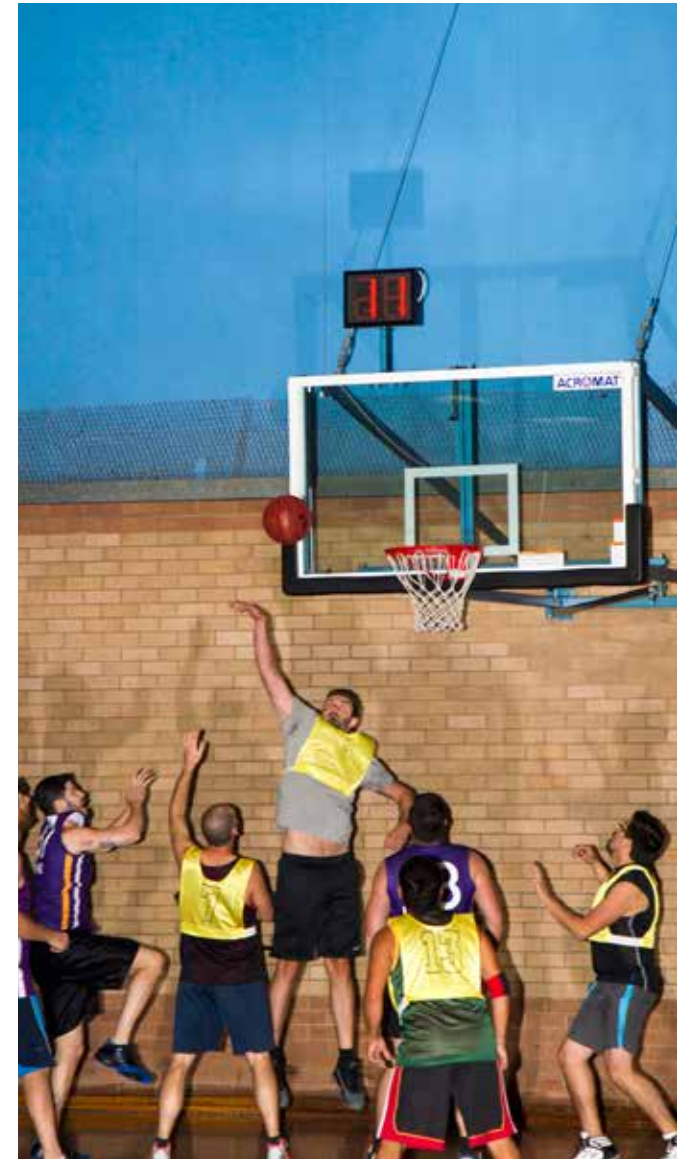
### Social benefits

Open space and recreation facilities are important social connectors which provide a space for the community to meet each other and interact, as well as come together to share and celebrate. For example, a well-designed public domain enables older people and people with disability to get out, be involved in community life, stay fit, and participate in active transport. Open space, and in particular community/civic open space, is also important for creative and cultural expression. These spaces provide opportunities for formal, organised events as well as informal gatherings; performance spaces and spaces to create; and places for the community to come together, meet each other, and build a sense of common identity.

Participation in sport and recreation also reduces the risk of health conditions and improves social and emotional health and wellbeing. Participation in recreation has benefits across the life stages<sup>1</sup>: for children and young people, participation in regular physical activity has benefits for physical and mental development, psychological benefits including improving the symptoms of anxiety and depression, and reduction in youth offending and anti-social behaviour. For older people, participation in physical activity is important for healthy ageing and social connection.

Research is deepening our understanding of the importance of access to quality open space for health and wellbeing outcomes. While living in a city can increase people's risk of mental illness, living close to green space is shown to have positive impacts on mental health<sup>2</sup>. Access to green space is linked to increased physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, stress reduction and mental health benefits across all ages, socio-economic groups and genders. However, it is the quality and variety of green space that is important, rather than the amount or number of spaces<sup>3,4</sup>.

The Australian Clearinghouse for Sport identifies that sport is "widely regarded as a core element of social inclusion in Australian communities". It provides opportunities for diverse groups to meet and interact, and build relationships and understanding. Apart from the health benefits of physical activity, participating in sporting activities or as part of a club can "contribute to an individual's or group's sense of belonging, and promote trust, cooperation and tolerance". The Settlement Council of Australia has also identified that sport can and does contribute to positive settlement outcomes and social inclusion for people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and supports integration into Australian society. Recreation activities can also be a form of cultural expression, for example playing a traditional sport or performing a traditional dance<sup>5</sup>.



Basketball (City of Canada Bay Council)

## Environmental benefits

Open space is an important resource to protect and build biodiversity. Biodiversity in cities is facing a number of human-induced pressures including habitat loss due to urban development, introduction and spread of invasive pest and weed species, greater demand on natural resources and urban runoff from roads, houses and industry. Natural areas include areas of biodiversity importance, and planning for open space and recreation needs to balance the community's recreation needs with fragile conservation areas.

Open space supports resilience to environmental shocks which is increasingly important in a climate changed world. Open space, with permeable surfaces such as grass and soil can help to reduce and manage flooding and the impact of more severe heavy rain events, temporarily storing water and aiding with infiltration. Green spaces with tree cover can act as urban "cool rooms", reducing the ambient temperature and the urban heat island effect. Every 10 per cent increase in tree canopy can reduce land surface temperatures by 1.13°C<sup>6</sup>. Trees and shrubs in open space also remove air pollutants that endanger human health.



Community garden (City of Canada Bay Council)

## Economic benefits

The economic benefits of open space and recreation include increased property values for dwellings located close to open space, increased tourism for example to major parks and events, and reduced health and social costs<sup>7</sup>. The direct use value of parks (the amount residents would pay to use equivalent private facilities) is also significant although hard to quantify. For example in San Francisco the direct use value of park facilities was found to be US\$1.92 per visit for general park use (e.g. dog walking, sitting), US\$5.02 per visit for sports facilities use (e.g. running, team sports) and US\$4.28 for special uses (e.g. fishing, festivals, gardening)<sup>8</sup>.

The benefits of community sport infrastructure in Australia has been quantified by KPMG, and is an example of how all open space provides economic benefits:

Community sport infrastructure is estimated to generate an annual value of more than \$16.2 billion to Australia, with \$6.3 billion worth of economic benefit, \$4.9 billion worth of health benefit and \$5.1 billion worth of social benefit<sup>9</sup>. The \$6.3 billion worth of economic benefit includes the economic activity associated with the construction, maintenance and operation of community sport infrastructure and the increased productivity of those who are physically active as a result of such infrastructure.

The \$4.9 billion worth of health benefit includes personal benefits to those who are less likely to contract a range of health conditions which are known to be associated with physical inactivity and the benefits to the health system.

The \$5.1 billion worth of social benefit includes the increased human capital resulting from the social interactions that are facilitated by community sport infrastructure and the broader community benefits of providing "green space" (e.g. sports fields).



Briars Sports (City of Canada Bay Council)

<sup>1</sup> AIHW for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Physical activity across the life stages, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Myers, Z., Green for wellbeing – Science tells us how to design urban spaces that heal us, The Conversation, 28 August 2017

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, Urban green spaces and health, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Wheeler, et al., Beyond greenspace: An ecological study of population general health and indicators of natural environment type and quality, International Journal of Health Geographics, 2015

<sup>5</sup> Cred Consulting for NSW Office of Sport, Sports Facility Needs in Multicultural

Communities, 2018

<sup>6</sup> NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Technical Guidelines for Urban Green Cover in NSW

<sup>7</sup> The Trust for Public Land, The Economic Benefits of the Public Park and Recreation System in the City of Los Angeles, California, May 2017

<sup>8</sup> The Trust for Public Land, The Economic Benefits of San Francisco's Park and Recreation System, 2014

<sup>9</sup> KPMG for the Australian Sports Commission, The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure: Investigating the Value of Community Sport Facilities to Australia, 2018



# 3. Strategic context

This section provides a summary of the strategic policy context and major projects that will impact on planning for open space and recreational facilities, services and programs within our LGA.

## 3.1. FEDERAL AND NSW GOVERNMENT

### National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011

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

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

### Sport 2030

The vision for Australian sport in 2030 is: Australia is the world's most active, healthy sporting nation, known for its integrity and excellence. The target outcomes of the Strategy are to improve the physical and mental health of Australians, grow personal development, strengthen our communities and grow our economy. Principles include:

- Sport and physical activity for all, for life: every Australian, at all stages of their life, can undertake the exercise they need and want in a safe, fun and inclusive way, whether it is through sport or other types of activity, and
- A diverse sports sector, from the playing field to the boardroom: promote a diverse sector which represents our population. A varied range of sports opportunities has the greatest chance of getting more Australians active and producing better, well-rounded athletes.

### Greener Places, Government Architect NSW

Greener Places guides the design, planning, management and delivery of Green Infrastructure in urban areas. This includes the Draft Urban Tree Canopy Guide, which sets a target of increasing Greater Sydney's tree canopy to 40% (>25% in medium density and >40% in suburban areas).

The Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide recognises the importance of open space for recreation and outlines approaches to planning for open space including benchmarking, hierarchy and functional classifications and criteria for open space and recreation facilities. The benchmarking approach outlined in the Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide is outlined further in the benchmarking section of this report.

### What does strategic context tell us about our future social infrastructure needs?

Regional planning for the area emphasises providing a network of diverse, accessible, high quality open spaces that meets a wide range of community needs, connected through the Green Grid. Urban environments should support healthy eating and active living, and there is a need to address barriers for older people, low income groups, migrant groups, women and people with disability.

The Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities identifies that high density development (over 60 dwellings per hectare) should be located within 200 metres of quality open space, and all dwellings should be within 400 metres of open space.

Major projects will have significant impacts on population growth and densities across the LGA and will require Council to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils and State government agencies to deliver increased recreation opportunities in an innovative way - as the population and density increases, but not the land area.

Council's strategic planning identifies a need for:

- Celebrating the cultural heritage of the area through open space
- Recreation opportunities that are inclusive of different groups including children and families, female participation, older people, young people, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and people with disability, and
- Some new facilities including indoor recreation and gymnastics space.

## Better Placed (Government Architect NSW)

Better Placed is an integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW and seeks to place good design at the centre of all development processes from project definition to concept design through to construction and maintenance. Better Placed is based around seven distinct objectives that together seek to create a 'well-designed built environment that is healthy, responsive, integrated, equitable and resilient':

- Better fit: contextual, local and of its place
- Better performance: sustainable, adaptable and durable
- Better for the community: inclusive, connected and diverse
- Better for people: safe, comfortable and liveable
- Better working: functional, efficient and fit for purpose
- Better value: creating and adding value, and
- Better look and feel: engaging, inviting and attractive.

## Everyone Can Play

Everyone Can Play is a set of design principles and best practice recommendations for play spaces in NSW, focusing on inclusive play spaces. An inclusive play space invites people of all ages, abilities and cultures to come together to socialise and thrive. The principles focus on addressing three questions:

- Can I get there?
- Can I play?
- Can I stay?

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

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

## NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy 2013-2018

The goal of the Strategy is "To keep people healthy and out of hospital", with targets around obesity, increased participation in sport and recreation, and increased mode share of active transport trips. Strategic Directions include:

- Environments to support healthy eating and active living
- State-wide healthy eating and active living support programs
- Healthy eating and active living advice as part of routine service delivery, and
- Education and information to enable informed, healthy choices.

## NSW Ageing Strategy

The Strategy includes relevant priorities around health and wellbeing, getting around, and inclusive communities. Key recreation needs include:

- Limited transport options is a major barrier, including living in an isolated area, cost, physical barriers, poor-quality footpaths and a lack of accessible parking, and
- Caring roles are associated with poor physical and mental health.
- Social isolation and loneliness are growing concerns.



Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway (City of Canada Bay Council)

## 3.2. GREATER SYDNEY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

### Resilient Sydney: A Strategy for City Resilience 2018

The 100 Resilient Cities initiative – pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation - helps cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. Resilient Sydney Strategy recognises that no one organisation can solve our problems and instead looks at how we can work together, across boundaries to protect and champion the needs and interests of communities for metropolitan Sydney. This Strategy sets the direction to strengthen our ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of increasing global uncertainty and local shocks and stresses, and calls for business, government, academia, communities and individuals to lead and work as one city.

### Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities and Eastern City District Plan (Greater Sydney Commission)

The Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities is built on a vision where people live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places. The Plan seeks to transform Greater Sydney into a metropolis of three cities – the Western Parkland City; Central River City and the Eastern Harbour City (of which the City of Canada Bay is located), guided by ten strategic directions. Relevant directions include:

- Nurture quality lifestyles through well-designed housing in neighbourhoods close to transport and other infrastructure
- Create sustainable communities through vibrant public places, walking and cycling, and cultural, artistic and tourism assets
- Align growth with infrastructure, including transport, social and green infrastructure, and delivering sustainable, smart and adaptable solutions, and
- Through collaborative approaches, increase the use of public resources such as social infrastructure.

Relevant planning priorities include:

- Obj. 6 - Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs
- Obj. 7,8 and 9 - Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities
- Obj. 12, 22 - Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage
- Obj. 22 - Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres, which includes Rhodes
- Obj. 31 - Delivering high quality open space

### Office of Sport District Sports Facility Plans

The Office of Sport is working in collaboration with key partners, including councils, to develop a Sport and Recreation Participation Strategy and a Sport and Recreation Facility Plan for each Greater Sydney district. Feedback from the Office of Sport to City of Canada Bay Council staff identifies that common issues include:

- Population growth and changing trends, and demand from the workforce, tourism and adjoining residents
- Areas of high demand and low supply, and no room to expand or provide new facilities
- Increasing female participation and facility requirements
- State sporting organisation facility requirements
- Residential objections to increasing capacity
- Association boundaries
- Obtaining reliable participation data
- Quality of land and open space on constrained parcels
- Transport projects threatening facilities, and
- Funding new facilities and ageing assets.

Common opportunities include:

- Various site-specific opportunities in each LGA
- Partnerships with schools both public and private
- Increasing synthetic fields and multi-use specs
- Using non-traditional facilities for sport use
- Developing a district/regional booking system
- Increasing use at off-peak times
- New and expansion of indoor facilities
- Increasing opportunities at golf courses and private recreation sites, and
- Standardising terminology and benchmarking.

## Greater Sydney Green Grid

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

- The Recreation Grid: Increase access to open space; Encourage sustainable transport connections and promote active living; Create a high quality and active public realm.
- The Ecological Grid: Conserve the natural environment; Adapt to climate extremes, improve air quality, and increase urban greening; Promote green skills, improve management, maintenance and sustainable greenspace design.
- The Hydrological Grid: Utilise the network quality of the hydrological system; Increase environmental quality; Reduce infrastructure risk; Reveal the unique character of Sydney's waterscapes; Reframe waterways as connectors not barriers.
- The Agricultural Grid: The Values of the Metropolitan Rural Area of the Greater Sydney Region Report will form an important part of the Green Grid, particularly in Sydney's west.

Project opportunity clusters identified in the area include:

- Urban greening improvements along major transport corridors that bisect the Inner West including Parramatta Road and rail lines to enhance connectivity.
- Parramatta River and Canada Bay projects should aim to support work already being undertaken in the corridor establishing the Parramatta River as a key active recreation link and regional open space corridor between the city and the west.

The Green Grid Plan presents a preliminary project prioritisation matrix, with projects in the Canada Bay LGA as follows:

- Sydney Harbour Foreshore and Parramatta River Walk
- Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Corridor
- Hen and Chicken Bay Foreshore
- Rhodes and Concord Open Space and Hospital Precincts
- Powells Creek and Mason Park, Strathfield
- Burwood Green Link: Burwood Park to Hen and Chicken Bay
- St Lukes Park and Concord Oval Green Link, and
- Breakfast Point and Cabarita Foreshores.

## Recreation Needs of Greater Sydney, Department of Planning and Environment

The Office of Open Space and Parklands (Department of Planning and Environment) is completing a research project into the recreation needs of Greater Sydney and developing district plans.

## SSROC Liveability Indicator Mapping, 2017

The SSROC completed Liveability Indicator Mapping to baseline and understand the liveability performance of each area of the SSROC region against a range of indicators. Benchmarking identified that the existing provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities within an LGA should be used as the minimum benchmark to determine future supply as population grows. The Study identifies that the open space challenge is very significant in this area and suggests three approaches:

1. More intervention in the way large sites are developed or smaller sites amalgamated for development. A much clearer approach to creating small communal open space areas and pocket parks, to which multiple development sites should contribute, is required. This will involve early structure planning guidance and intervention. The expectation should be that 5 to 10 percent of sites for development is provided for open space.
2. There is a need for the multi-use of school playing fields. This has long been on the agenda but the security, cost and maintenance obligations to allow for greater community use of school and other institutional fields have been a barrier. A concerted effort to resolve these issues is necessary, and
3. The quality of streets and public domain is increasingly important where it is difficult to create new open space. New developments should contribute to quality of these assets, via coordinated guidance and funding obligations.

## Parramatta River Master Plan, Parramatta River Catchment Group

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is an alliance of councils, government agencies and community groups working to transform the Parramatta River and its tributaries into living waterways. A ten-step masterplan was developed to achieve a swimmable Parramatta River by 2025. The ten-steps to a living river include: Get swimming; Keep watch; Create new swimming spots; Standardise the standards; Reduce stormwater runoff; Improve overflows; Involve the community; Bring in nature; Report back regularly; Create clear leadership.



Boating (City of Canada Bay Council)

### 3.3. CITY OF CANADA BAY

#### YOUR Future 2030

The plan reflects the aspirations and priorities of the community through five key themes and their goals and strategies:

- Theme 1: Inclusive, involved and prosperous
  - Goal 1.1: All residents have full access to high-quality services that facilitate inclusion and participation in community life.
  - Goal 1.2: The community has a diverse range of opportunities to engage in recreation and lifelong learning that promotes health and wellbeing.
  - Goal 1.3: Our sense of place and of belonging is strong with our diversity respected and celebrated and local heritage and character promoted in friendly village neighbourhoods and vibrant and prosperous centres.
- Theme 2: Environmentally responsible
  - Goal 2.1: Working together, we adopt practices that sustain our environment.
  - Goal 2.2: Attractive, well maintained and accessible parks and open spaces provide for a range of active and passive recreation uses.
- Theme 3: Easy to get around
  - Goal 3.2: A connected network of quality active and public transport routes and services minimise traffic and make it easier to get around.
- Theme 4: Engaged and future focussed
- Theme 5: Visionary, smart and accountable

#### Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets out the 20-year vision for land use in the local area, the special character and values that are to be preserved and how change will be managed into the future.

#### City of Canada Bay Cultural Plan 2015-2021

The purpose of the plan is to “create stronger and more strategic relationships with people around identifiable activity hubs ... focus on place management for cultural development ... [and] discovering what makes a place distinctive, authentic, and memorable. It is about the experience they have as individuals and communities.

The Plan is structured around the following seven directions: Partnerships, Policy and Protocols; Cultural Infrastructure; Creative Industries; Place Making in town centres and the urban environment; Local Environments and The Foreshore; Cultural Heritage; Community Cultures.

#### City of Canada Bay Positive Ageing Strategy (2010)

The Positive Ageing Strategy 2010, a plan for older people 55+ in the area to remain healthy, active and supported.

Relevant actions include:

- Investigate the possibility of broadening the use of the Hydrotherapy Pool at Lucas Garden’s School to include older people.

#### Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2017 to 2021)

Council recognises that improved access and inclusive practices will benefit all its residents and visitors including people with disability, families with young children, older people, and those experiencing temporary injury or illness. The Plan’s strategies and actions aim to help reduce barriers and provide guidance to those who advocate for equity of access for people of all abilities.

The DIAP has four key actions:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating more liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment, and
- Improving access to services through better systems and processes.

The DIAP recommends that the needs of people with disability should be considered when planning for future places and spaces, and that people with disability should be encouraged to participate in mainstream programs.

## City of Canada Bay Community Harmony Strategy (2010)

The Community Harmony Strategy identifies the way in which Council can assist people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities to access Council's services and facilities. Key actions identified in this Strategy that relate to the Social Infrastructure (Open Space and Recreation) Strategy include:

- Promote and advertise Council's structure, programs, services, facilities and funding opportunities through local and regional CALD groups, forums, network and ethnic media.
- Continue working with multicultural groups and relevant service providers to ensure that newly arrived residents are welcomed and integrated into the community.

## Child and Family Needs Strategy (2013)

The Child and Family Needs Strategy provided the City of Canada Bay (CCB) with an opportunity to ask two fundamental questions:

- How child and family friendly is our community?
- What could be done to improve our City from the perspective of children and families?

Key relevant indicators and strategies include a focus on:

- More affordable programs and services to improve health outcomes and recreation opportunities
- Inclusive recreation opportunities and environment for children with disabilities
- Involving children in community garden participation
- Ensuring that sufficient green open space is provided for children and their families through the DA process and through the design and management of open space
- Safe walking and cycling to schools
- Environmental sustainability programs targeted at children
- Encouraging family friendly events in local parks including through promotion, grants and sponsorship, and
- Involving children in decisions about their city.



Scotering (City of Canada Bay Council)

## Public Art Plan (2014)

The purpose of this plan is to create stronger and more strategic relationships with people around identifiable activity hubs whether they are suburbs, centres, parks or facilities. The focus on place management for cultural development addresses the history and heritage, stories, people, landscape, streetscape, and culture of the place. The strategy includes actions focusing on:

- Integrating public art into all Council and development projects
- A staged public art and cultural program to enhance the foreshore including working with the Aboriginal community on interpreting and managing key sites
- Implementing the Riverside Cultural Scoping Study Opportunities
- Implementing public art projects as part of place planning and collaborate with local friends groups to fundraise for art projects, and
- Reflecting the industrial, social and cultural history in the built and natural environment.

## Let's Play Strategy

The Let's Play Strategy was a 10-year Strategy developed to provide a strategic direction for the future provision and management of playgrounds and environments within the City of Canada Bay in 2007/2008. Let's Play provides four outcomes for our children and families around the following areas:

- Well planned playgrounds that are within reach of everyone in the community.
- Challenging, inviting and well-maintained playgrounds for children and families.
- Sustainable playgrounds through good design, appropriate funding and partnerships.
- Meeting places that provide a variety of opportunities – promoting community connections and interactions.

The Strategy emphasised opportunities for:

- Playgrounds to be perceived as being owned by both the community and council with shared responsibility
- Playground design to promote interaction between children, parents and other families in playgrounds
- Playground design includes provision for exercise by parents and seniors
- Playgrounds are a contributing element in the development of community wellbeing
- Universal design principles to provide for children and adults with disability
- Regular maintenance schedule, and
- Categories of playgrounds with those at the same level sharing the same elements but being differentiated by their character.



Play at Alison Park (City of Canada Bay Council)



## Riverside Cultural Scoping Study (2012)

The Riverside Cultural Scoping Study broadly identifies sites and stories associated with the Parramatta River foreshore that have social, cultural, economic and environmental heritage significance with a view to integrating cultural development and public art in the foreshore.

### Walking the foreshores

The study identifies considerations for walking the foreshores including:

- Identify key and popular trails for action
- Work with existing walking and heritage groups
- Provide better access to the shoreline for appreciation and viewing of cliffs, water and tidal lines
- Allow contemplation and rest for the diversity of users
- Not necessarily aligning all walking trails with bike routes, and
- Diversify appropriate materials, texture and surfaces when constructing or upgrading foreshore trails.

### Public art

The study emphasises the importance of providing public art on the foreshore and proposes a place-based approach based on the place type, cultural layer and site interpretation.

### Cultural and heritage layers

The study identifies five cultural and heritage themes for the foreshore and corresponding key sites: Aboriginal heritage; Colonial and industrial heritage; Boundaries, journeys and connections; Environment, and Place identity and community building in established and new areas.

TABLE 1 - CULTURAL AND HERITAGE KEY SITES (SOURCE: RIVERSIDE CULTURAL SCOPING STUDY, 2012)

Layer	Key sites	Layer	Key sites
Aboriginal heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabarita/Breakfast Point, Rodd Point and the Bay Run</li> <li>• Dame Eadith Walker Estates</li> <li>• Wangal Reserve, Mortlake</li> </ul>	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabarita and the Dame Eadith Walker Estates</li> <li>• The Bay Run</li> <li>• Sisters and Half Moon Bay</li> <li>• Rodd Park</li> <li>• Lysaght Park</li> <li>• Quarantine Reserve</li> <li>• Howley Park and the “Five Docks”</li> <li>• Pelican Reserve/ Alexandra Park</li> <li>• Rhodes</li> </ul>
Colonial and Industrial Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhodes</li> <li>• Lysaght Park</li> <li>• Mortlake</li> <li>• Pelican Reserve</li> <li>• Alexandra Park</li> </ul>	Place Identity and Community Building in both Established and New Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhodes</li> <li>• Mortlake</li> <li>• Cabarita</li> <li>• Five Dock</li> <li>• Howley Park</li> </ul>
Boundaries, Journeys and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhodes</li> <li>• Meadowbank Bridge</li> <li>• John Whitton Bridge</li> <li>• Drummoyne Wharf</li> <li>• Howley Park</li> <li>• Pelican Reserve/Alexandra Park</li> <li>• Parks across Drummoyne, Chiswick and Abbotsford</li> </ul>		

## Five Dock Town Centre Strategy and Urban Design Study

The Five Dock Town Centre Strategy and Urban Design Study recommends:

- Enhancing the economic viability and vibrancy of Five Dock
- Providing a community focus in Five Dock including a community cluster of activity, and
- Identifying opportunities for Council owned land.

The Study recommends seeking opportunities to open up private landholdings for community events and/or public use, such as the forecourt of St Albans Church or the terrace in front of Five Dock Library. The Study identifies opportunities for new civic space through a new public open space opposite Fred Kelly Place, extension of Fred Kelly Place and connection between the two spaces with a raised pedestrian crossing.

## Companion Animal Management Plan (1999)

The Companion Animal Management Plan identifies actions to address the need and impacts of pets on open space and recreation facilities. This includes clear, succinct signage in public open space, dog waste bins, balancing the needs of users of open space, immediate neighbours, and the needs of dog owners, providing off-leash areas, and dog-friendly design that encourages multi-use of open space with design features such as landscaping and topography to separate dogs from uses such as play spaces.

## Sports Field Allocation Policy (2009) and Public Open Space Hire Policy (2006)

Council's core objectives for management of community land categorised as sports grounds are:

- To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- To ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residents.

Key elements of the policy are:

- A summer, winter and pre-season
- School groups are prioritised over other groups during the school day/school term while sporting bodies have priority use on weekends
- Sporting clubs which contain a significant membership of residents from the Canada Bay LGA are granted priority of access
- Field use is restricted to between 7am-9pm
- Lights are only available from 4pm to 9pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. and
- Priority of access is granted to traditional seasonal sports as outlined below:
  - Summer: Cricket, baseball, tennis
  - Winter: Soccer, rugby league, rugby union, AFL, netball, hockey.

A registration system is in place for those performing personal training activities in the City of Canada Bay. The system ensures that trainers can access space to provide opportunities for people to exercise, whilst also making sure commercial fitness activities do not prevent others from enjoying the open space and reserves. Personal training sessions are only permitted in designated areas.

To ensure the equitable use of open space in the City, to maintain an accurate registry of trainers, minimise the impact of users on facilities and to ensure that trainers hold appropriate qualifications and insurance, Council requires that personal trainers renew their registration on an annual basis. An annual registration fee also applies.

## Community Gardens Policy (2012)

The City of Canada Bay recognises community gardening as a valuable recreational activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, community development, environmental education and sustainable principles, protection and use of open space. The policy identifies that Community gardens should be managed and implemented by the community, however this must be undertaken in such a way that the needs of all stakeholders are taken into account.

## Plans of Management

Council has 20 Plans of Management outlining values, issues and management strategies.

## Recreation Plan 2007

The Recreation Plan adopted in 2007 will be superseded by this Social Infrastructure (Open Space and Recreation) Strategy. Key strategies and actions of the 2007 plan included:

- Planning open space and recreation facilities
- Protecting natural and cultural heritage
- Providing and/or enhancing recreation facilities
- Managing recreation and open space resources

## 2013 Recreation Facilities Strategy

The 2013 Recreation Facilities Strategy identified forecast need for recreation facilities. Recognising that there is limited capacity for new facilities, the Strategy proposed seven key options to address demand:

1. Increasing or extended the use of existing sports grounds or open space by:
  - Providing sports lighting
  - Increasing carrying capacity of the field through changing to synthetic surfaces, or
  - Increasing the number of playing fields on an existing site.
2. Changing uses to create greater compatibility between activities. Thereby enabling sharing opportunities and increasing use. This can be achieved by:
  - Swapping facilities around (eg AFL fields created through sharing with cricket)
  - Moving some sports to locations where there are co-location benefits – or so that there can be multiple fields of the same code; side by side
3. Utilising green space not currently used for sport – for sport or fitness activities.
  - (ie some spaces not currently used for sport include those currently classified as “active” open space in the plan of management)
4. Programming/utilising or developing private facilities
5. Purchasing new sites through development contributions etc in areas of need
6. Securing Crown or State government land for additional sports use e.g. Yaralla Estate, and
7. Diverting demand to other sports or sites using new non-recreational sites: e.g. encouraging more water based recreation activities.

## Drummoyne Oval Precinct Business Plan 2016

The Drummoyne Oval Precinct Business Plan guides the efforts of Council and key stakeholders, to enable the Precinct to realise its full potential. The key directions of the Plan are:

1. Maintain the Precinct’s use for active recreation (sport) with a balance between elite events and local sport
2. Cater for passive recreation activities within the

Precinct

3. Promote greater community use of the Precinct
4. Facilitate cultural and place making activities
5. Ensure sustainability through effective governance and



Drummoyne Oval (City of Canada Bay Council)

management

### 3.4. MAJOR REGIONAL PROJECTS

#### Sydney Metro West

The Sydney Metro West project has a concept plan for a new metro station under an existing suburban station on the T1 Northern Line east of Sydney Olympic Park, with both Concord West and North Strathfield noted as potential candidates.

Transport for NSW is also investigating further areas within the LGA – including Burwood North and Five Dock - as potential station sites. A key criterion influencing the final station locations is the urban renewal potential to deliver housing and jobs close to the station and leading to an intensification of land use activities where new stations are constructed.

Sydney Metro West would significantly improve the public transport connectivity but is likely to also significantly increase population growth and alter the existing character in the areas where the stations are located. For example, Five Dock is already anticipated to increase from the current 11,583 to 16,387 in 2036 (or 41.46%). Land value uplift and significant urban development would be anticipated around the new metro station sites similar to that experienced at other metro station developments including Castle Hill and Showground Road. However, while there is in-principle support for the metro project, there has been no detailed plans regarding the social

infrastructure required as a result of this project.

#### WestConnex

The M4 East - The Legacy Project aims to redevelop residual land following the construction of Westconnex to open space and recreational facilities. This project includes areas surrounding the Motorway in Strathfield and Concord which previously were not utilised:

- Powells Creek and Green Links Enhancement Plan, Strathfield - Located west of North Strathfield, the project would provide 3.5 hectares of new park space in the Strathfield area. It will add to an existing 4.5 hectares and connect previously inaccessible lands to create a connected 8 hectare green corridor.
  - The project will provide walking and cycling links through the park, including a bushwalking trail along Powells Creek, recreation facilities including basketball courts and fitness equipment, and children's play facilities.
  - The project includes connections and a playground under the M4 viaduct.
  - Further facilities including a community centre and creek landscaping are visualized but are not within the scope of the legacy project.
- St Lukes Oval, Concord - Westconnex has funded a new state of the art hockey field at St Lukes Oval, Concord, which is connected to a new separated cycle way along the concrete channel connecting to Parramatta River.
- Concord Knolls, Concord - a new 1.5 hectare park which will provide improved pedestrian connectivity and park frontage to Sydney Street, Edward Street and Alexandra Street
  - It will provide a large central mound to capitalize on views and provide open space to nearby dwellings



St Lukes Oval (City of Canada Bay Council)

## Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (Landcom)

The Transformation Strategy sets out the vision and land use and transport principles to accommodate 40,000 new homes and 50,000 new jobs in a range of industries across the Parramatta Road Corridor over the next 30 years. However, the Strategy does not detail where these targets would be allocated along the corridor or how they might be achieved. The Strategy aims to provide more housing, including the provision of diverse and affordable housing, a series of well-serviced and well-connected communities, a diverse range of spaces, places and links, and coordinate and deliver land use change in an orderly and efficient manner.

Eight 'precincts' have been identified along the Corridor. Two precincts, Kings Bay and Burwood-Concord Precincts are within the Canada Bay LGA while another precinct, Homebush falls into both Strathfield and Canada Bay LGAs.

### Kings Bay Precinct

Kings Bay Precinct will be "a new residential and mixed use urban village on Parramatta Road, with an active main street and strong links to the open space network along Sydney Harbour". The Strategy includes actions to

- Leverage development to provide new open space, a north-south plaza between Spencer Street and Queens Road, and green corridors between Parramatta Road and the foreshore
- Deliver new cycle links along William Street and through Barnwell Park Golf Course and Walker Street, and
- Construct the new, separated, regional cycle path along Queens Road, connecting Concord in the west to Iron Cove in the east.

The infrastructure schedule identifies an urban plaza at Spencer St, new local open space on land bounded by Parramatta Rd, Harris Rd, Queens Rd and Courland St, and a linear park on William St between Parramatta Rd and Queens Rd. The schedule also identifies 1 new sportsground (2 playing fields), new playing fields on Charles Heath Reserve and a contribution towards the Redevelopment of Concord Oval.

### Burwood-Concord Precinct

The Burwood-Concord Precinct will be a gateway to Burwood Town Centre based around the enlivened spine of Burwood Road strengthening existing amenity for new residents. No new open space is designated for this area however the Strategy. The infrastructure schedule identifies 4 new playing fields, 1 multipurpose court and 2 tennis courts, as well as new passive open space on land on land at the corner of Ada St and Lloyd George Ave.

### Homebush Precinct

"Sitting between Sydney's two CBDs, the Homebush Precinct (with one area in Strathfield LGA and one area in Canada Bay LGA) will be transformed into an active and varied hub, blending higher density housing and a mix of different uses, supported by a network of green links and open spaces with walking access to four train stations." Open space planned for this area includes:

- Reinforce the Powells Creek corridor as a linear north-south greenway with active transport links to Mason Park Wetlands, Sydney Olympic Park and Bicentennial Park to the north
- Provide a new 4,500m<sup>2</sup> urban plaza adjacent to the Concord West rail station
- Provide new public open space areas on larger sites to increase the overall quantum of local open space in the Precinct

- Enhance east-west connections, particularly across the Northern Rail Line, Powells Creek, the M4 Motorway, George Street and Pomeroy Street
- Create two new active transport linkages across Powells Creek at Hamilton Street and Lorraine Street, and
- Reinforce George Street, Lorraine Street, and Hamilton Street as key streets prioritised for pedestrians.

The infrastructure schedule identifies 8 tennis courts, 4 multipurpose courts, 6 playing fields, an urban plaza at Concord West station, two new local open spaces including a linear park at Bedford Road to Underwood Road, upgrade and embellishment of Powells Creek.

## Rhodes Planned Precinct

### Rhodes Revised Draft Precinct Plan (Rhodes East)

Rhodes was identified as a Planned Precinct in 2015 by the Department of Planning and Environment focusing on the existing opportunities and future potential of the peninsula.

In 2017, Council and the Department released a draft precinct plan, which established a vision and objectives for land east of the railway line (Rhodes East). The plan also included an implementation framework including a draft Special Infrastructure Contributions as a mechanism to fund infrastructure. The draft Rhodes Precinct Plan has since been revised following the public exhibition in 2017 and the subsequent release of the Eastern City District Plan.

The overarching planning principles, that provide the framework to achieve the desired local character relate to five key themes: Place; Landscape; Built Form; Landuse; and Movement.

Relevant objectives of the Plan for the redevelopment of Rhodes (East) include:

- Integrate infrastructure and landuse
- Create great public spaces
- Enhanced waterfront access
- Better east to west connections

A new local school for 1,000 students is identified on a self-contained one-hectare corner site near Leeds Street. The school site has been chosen in consultation with the NSW Department of Education. The 1,000 pupil local school will provide adequate play space on site in accordance with School Infrastructure NSW standards.

## Precinct Character Areas

The draft Plan divides the Precinct into four sub-precinct-character areas: Leeds Street; Cavell Avenue; Station Gateway East, and Station Gateway West. The sub-precinct character areas are defined by both existing and likely future character, as well as the location of key infrastructure items.

The draft Plan notes that the masterplan for each character area needs to consider location and delivery of infrastructure. To ensure infrastructure delivery is tied to the rollout of development, a 'Satisfactory Arrangements' clause is to be inserted in the LEP.

Although outside of the Rhodes East Precinct, Mcllwaine Park is to be upgraded with funding allocated by the State Government's \$5 million Precinct Support Scheme.

## Developer Contributions

Contributions collected in the Rhodes Precinct may be leveraged by the NSW Government and by Council via a combination of Special Infrastructure Contributions, Local Infrastructure Contributions and Voluntary Planning Agreements.

A Special Infrastructure Contribution (SIC) is a contribution paid by developers to share the cost of delivering the regional and state infrastructure required to support new development and growth within a special contributions area (SCA).

As the precinct has been expanded and revised character areas have been defined the Department is currently investigating the capacity of future development to pay a SIC contribution. A potential SIC rate will be determined through an analysis of the value uplift of the different character areas, infrastructure needs and costs and development feasibility to ensure any change does not impact on the ability of the development to be delivered.

## Open Space and recreation proposed

The following open space and recreation facilities have been identified in the Draft Plan to be provided to support the proposed growth in Rhodes:

- Leeds Street: New foreshore open space and public promenade which improves access to the Parramatta River foreshore. The open space should include a single, regularly-shaped consolidated space with a minimum area of 7,500m<sup>2</sup>. The promenade should have an average width from the foreshore to the building line.
- Leeds Street: Upgrade existing open space at Uhrs Point Reserve.
- Station Gateway West. Any increase in dwelling yield to be supported by well located, publicly accessible open space.
- Station Gateway East. Provide a wide pedestrian bridge between the station concourse and Mcllwaine Park that delivers active frontages to adjoining developments to create a high quality attractive environment for people to use.
- Cavell Avenue. A high quality pedestrian link is to be provided between Blaxland Road and Cavell Avenue, generally near the alignment of Denham Street.

### Rhodes Recreation Centre

The Rhodes Recreation Centre is a community project identified in the Rhodes West Station Precinct – Marquet and Walker Streets. In December 2012 The City of Canada Bay Council resolved to endorse the Concept Plan for this Precinct and issued instructions for commencement of work related to an expected Planning Proposal. Subsequently, Council and Walker Street Development Pty Limited (“The Developer”) executed a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) in December 2014.

The VPA proposed to provide Council cash to fund development for a Recreation Centre in their proposed Rhodes development: the Rhodes Recreation Centre. The VPA noted (in Schedule 5) that this translates to a childcare centre, retail space, commercial space, café, car-parking, community facilities and a leisure centre. The leisure centre design includes a gymnasium, basketball courts, general exercise areas and relevant plant and amenities. The Developer is required to fit-out these spaces including insulation, sound-proofing, multi-purpose court fixtures and basic café fixtures. Retail spaces will be delivered as a cold shell. The VPA also bound Council to entering into a Design and Construct (D&C) contract, with the Developer, to build the Rhodes Recreation Centre. The indicative design of the Rhodes Recreation Centre has been costed at approximately \$60 Million, in 2017 dollars.

### Sydney Olympic Park Masterplan

Sydney Olympic Park has been identified as a “lifestyle precinct” as part of the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Park growth area identified by the Greater Sydney Commission. The Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030 (2018 Review) is a comprehensive plan guiding the long-term development of Sydney Olympic Park. It is a plan for the revitalisation of Sydney Olympic Park with a vibrant new town centre, educational facilities, shopping precinct, new homes, more jobs and increased open space and community facilities.

The plan identifies 10,700 new dwellings in the Sydney Olympic Park Town Centre by 2030. The Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030 proposes to provide social infrastructure in accordance with the recommendations of the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan Community Facilities Strategy, including new open space in the town centre, new sports courts and public access to minimum one outdoor playing field and one indoor sports court.

## 4. Our people and places now

In order to plan for and deliver social infrastructure in our areas, we need to understand our community, how it is growing and changing, and what are our unique needs. By assessing current and future trends around how we live, we are better equipped to deliver services that will enhance social cohesion, inclusiveness and community harmony. This section provides an overview of our community and neighbourhood now. Population data in this section reflects 2016 ABS Census data sourced from profile.id.

### 4.1. ABOUT THE CANADA BAY AREA

Our LGA covers 20 square kilometres that is predominantly residential, including both established, low density and new, high density suburbs, as well as commercial centres and some industrial areas. We are a vibrant and interesting City in the heart of the inner west of Sydney.

Our LGA is located on the banks of the Parramatta River, approximately 6 kilometres from the Sydney Central Business District (CBD) and is bound by the neighbouring LGAs of the Inner West; Burwood, Strathfield and Parramatta. The 36 kilometres of Parramatta River defines the LGA which includes the suburbs of Abbotsford, Breakfast Point, Cabarita, Chiswick, Concord, Concord West, Drummoyne, Five Dock, Liberty Grove, Mortlake, North Strathfield, Rhodes (East and West), Rodd Point, Russell Lea, Strathfield (Triangle) and Wareemba.



Aerial photography of Canada Bay (City of Canada Bay Council)



## 4.2. GROWTH AND CHANGE

In 2016, the Usual Resident Population of Canada Bay LGA was 88,015, an increase of 12,253 people from 2011. The average household size was 2.5 with a population density of 47 people per hectare. As shown in Figure 5, the recent growth of our area can be attributed to the significant urban development occurring in Rhodes West.

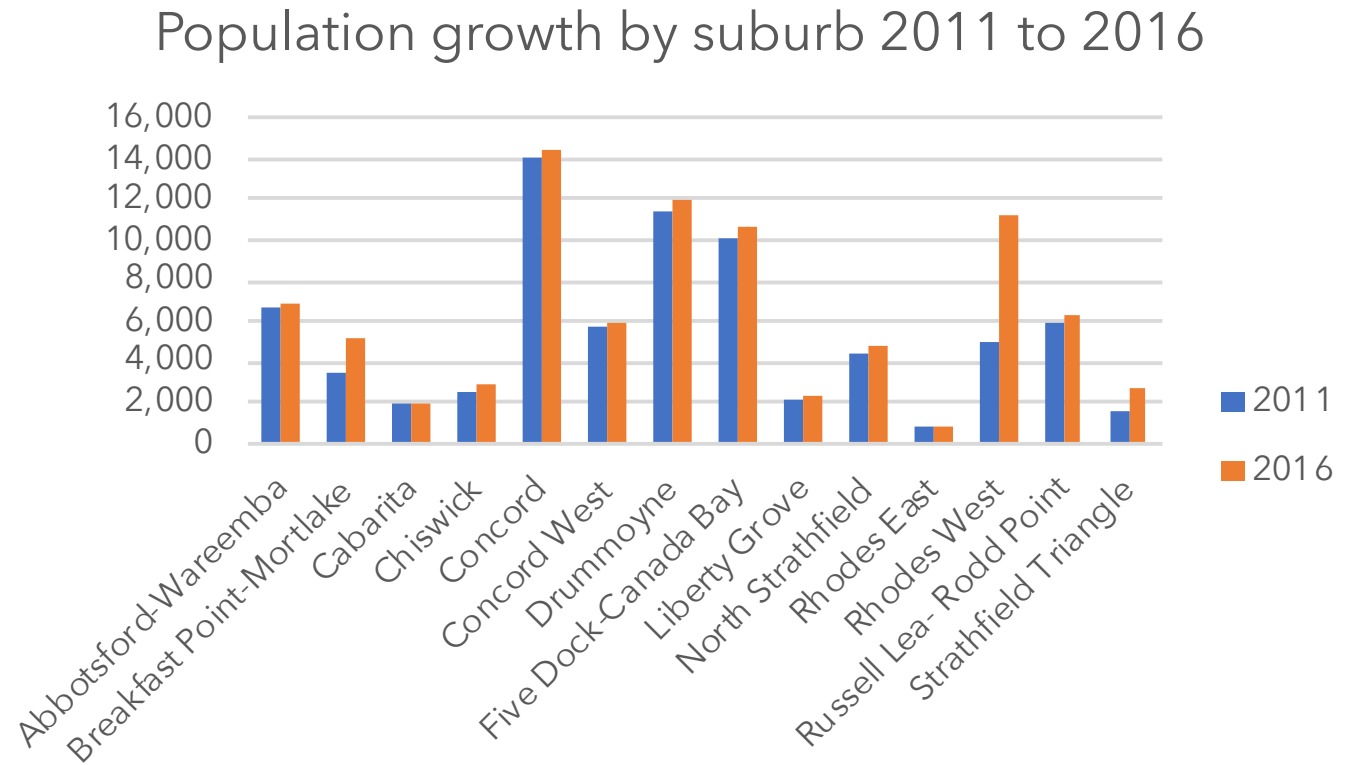


Figure 5 - Population growth by suburb 2011 to 2016

### 4.3. OUR SERVICE GROUP AGE PROFILE

Table 2 shows a service group age profile and shows that between 2011 and 2016 our largest increase by service age group (with both a population and proportional increase) was:

- Children aged 5 to 11 years +1,156
- Young people aged 18 to 24 years +1,434
- Working age people aged 25 to 34 years +3,389
- Older people 60 to 69 years +1,389
- Older people 85 and over +512.

**TABLE 2 - CANADA BAY AGE PROFILE 2011-2016 (SOURCE: PROFILE.ID)**

Age	2016		2011		Change
	#	%	#	%	
0 to 4	5,463	6.2	5,198	6.9	+265
5 to 11	6,551	7.4	5,395	7.1	+1,156
12 to 17	4,459	5.1	4,294	5.7	+165
18 to 24	8,106	9.2	6,672	8.8	+1,434
25 to 34	16,685	19	13,296	17.5	+3,389
35 to 49	19,143	21.8	17,502	23.1	+1,641
50 to 59	10,416	11.8	9,014	11.9	+1,402
60 to 69	8,221	9.3	6,832	9.0	+1,389
70 to 84	6,948	7.9	6,051	8.0	+897
85 and over	2,020	2.3	1,508	2.0	+512

### 4.4. OUR DIVERSE NEIGHBOURHOODS

There is a diversity of age, ethnicity, language, and income distributed across our suburbs. While overall, we are a relatively advantaged community, there are also pockets of disadvantage within some of our suburbs such as Wareemba, North Strathfield, Strathfield Triangle, Five Dock and Concord.

The spatial distribution of age groups across the LGA is extreme with high density suburbs such as North Strathfield and Rhodes containing much younger populations than lower density suburbs such as Abbotsford and Chiswick with much older populations.

Figure 6 over page provides a snapshot of each of our unique neighbourhoods.

Figure 7 over page provides more details demographic and place characteristics of each of our neighbourhoods and planning catchments.



Five Dock Italian Festival (Ben Williams Photography for City of Canada Bay Council)

## OUR DIVERSE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Our neighbourhoods are socially, culturally and geographically diverse. These factors influence how our communities connect with each other and access open space and recreation facilities and services.



### RHODES

Very high density mixed use residential and commercial precinct based around Rhodes Station. Very highly culturally diverse (Mandarin, Korean, and Cantonese languages) and younger median age of 29 year. Forecast growth in Rhodes East precinct.

### BREAKFAST POINT-MORTLAKE-CABARITA

Riverfront higher density suburbs with extensive frontage to the Parramatta River. Cabarita has a much older population (median age of 48) and much higher incomes than our LGA, but Breakfast Point/Mortlake is younger (median age of 40). Sydney Ferry stop at Mortlake but there are limited public transport connections to regional centres.

### ABBOTSFORD-WAREEMBA-CHISWICK

Riverfront suburbs with a mix of housing densities. Served by 2 ferrys and the Bayrider community bus shuttle, but lacking fast public transport to regional centres. Chiswick has a younger population as compared to Abbotsford-Wareemba which has more older residents, and an older median age of 44. Some small pockets of disadvantage.

### DRUMMOYNE, RUSSELL LEA - RODD POINT

Established residential area with a diverse population of families, languages, and age groups. Higher household incomes with households living in mostly low to medium density housing. Ferry stops and buses to CBD, but poor local connections for residents to other areas.

### FIVE DOCK - CANADA BAY

Currently low density but with high density zoning in the area's south likely to increase the population by around 9,000 new residents with a potential metro station. Family area with higher proportions of children and young people, pockets of disadvantage and high non-English speaking population.

### CONCORD

Currently low density suburb but the southern end zoned for future high density residential as part of PRCUTS with resulting forecast population growth. A family area with a higher proportion of people from non-English speaking backgrounds than LGA, and small pockets of disadvantage.

### CONCORD WEST AND LIBERTY GROVE

High income area with a higher proportion of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds, and a high proportion of families with children households. Liberty Grove is a higher density community. Concord West is currently lower density but with land around the Concord West station zoned for future high density and forecast population growth.





### NORTH STRATHFIELD/STRATHFIELD TRIANGLE

High density area located near Strathfield and North Strathfield stations. Young (young professionals, students, children and families), very highly culturally diverse residents with lower median household incomes. High forecast population growth will increase density.

**LEGEND**

-  More than 10.2% of population aged over 70 years old
-  More than 4.3% of population need assistance due to disability
-  More than 14.3% of population aged under 12 to 24 years old
-  More than 9.1% of the population studying at University or TAFE
-  More than 24.7% of population has recently arrived to Australia
-  More than 40.8% of population speaks a language other than English at home
-  More than 39.6% of households are households with children
-  More than 20.7% of households are lone person households
-  More than 41.2% of dwellings are high density
-  More than 35.3% of households are high income households (>\$2,500 a week)
-  More than 13.9% of households are low income households (<\$650 a week)
-  More than 9.7% of households don't have a car

**Population growth 2016 - 2036**

-  > 50% population growth
-  20% - 49% population growth
-  1% - 19% population growth
-  < 0% population decline

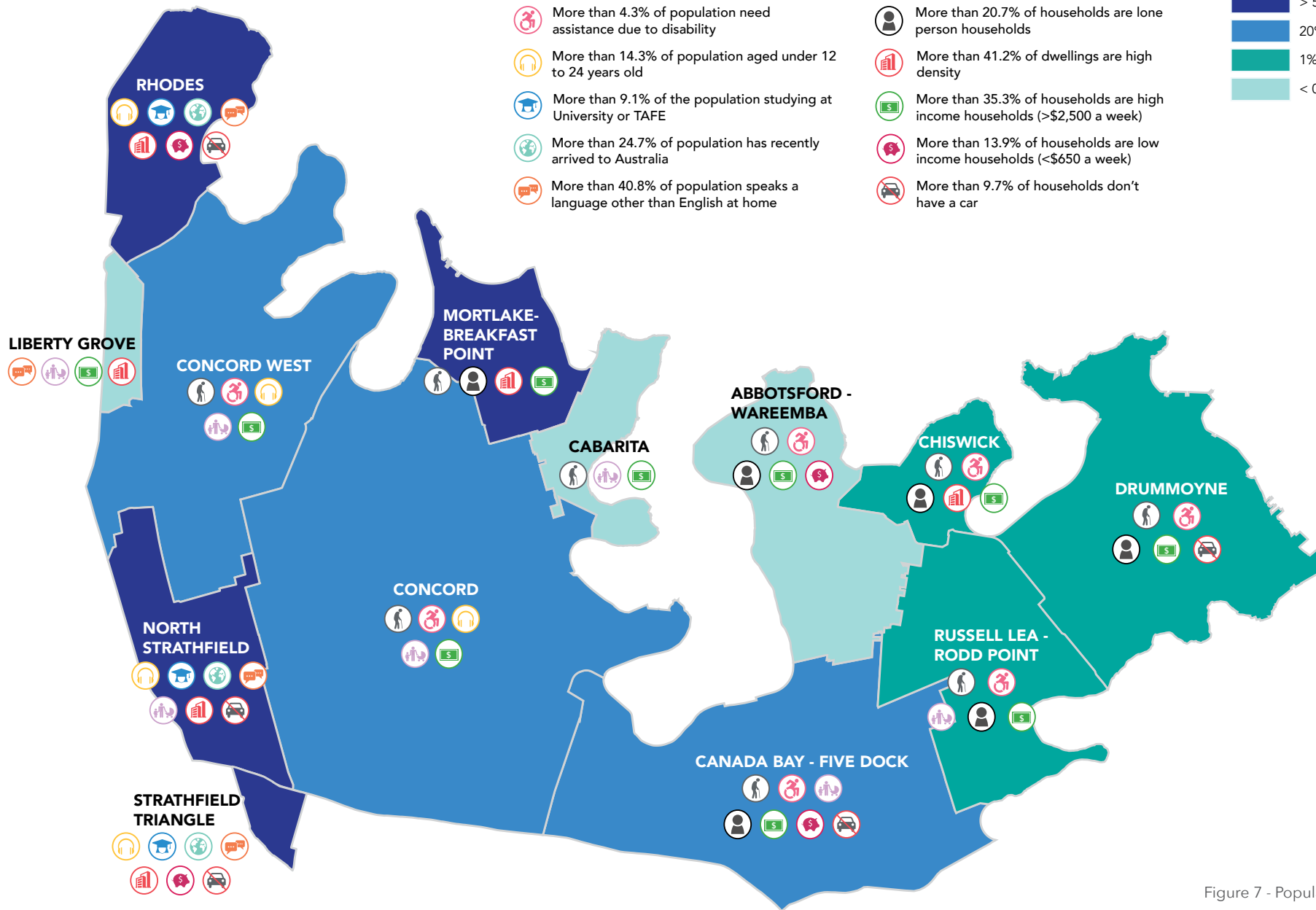


Figure 7 - Population snapshot by suburb

## 4.5. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### An increasing proportion of people born overseas, particularly from China, Italy and South Korea

Our area continues to be increasingly culturally diverse, encompassing older migrant populations from Italy alongside newer migrant populations from China and Korea. 40.5% of the population was born overseas, 38.2% in non-English speaking countries. The number of people born overseas from non-English speaking backgrounds increased by 35.3% (+8,691 people) between 2011 and 2016. During this period, the number of people born in China doubled and there was a significant increase in people from South Korea and India moving into the area. The five areas with the highest percentages of people who were born overseas were:

- Strathfield (Triangle) (77.9%)
- Rhodes (West) (77.6%)
- Rhodes (75.5%)
- Liberty Grove (56.4%), and
- North Strathfield (50.7%).

Of people who were born overseas, around a quarter arrived in Australia between 2011 and 2016: 24.7% or 8,806 people. The areas with the highest proportion of people who recently arrived in Australia (as a proportion of total overseas born population) were:

- Strathfield (Triangle) (52.2%)
- Rhodes (West) (46.2%)
- Rhodes (45.2%)
- North Strathfield (25.9%), and
- Liberty Grove (22%).



Ben Williams Photography for City of Canada Bay Council

### An increasing proportion of residents who speak a language other than English, particularly Chinese languages, Italian and Korean

In 2016, 40.8% of the population spoke a language other than English in comparison to 35.8% in Greater Sydney. Chinese languages, Korean and Italian are the most prevalent languages spoken in the LGA. Table 3 shows the main five non-English languages and shows a significant increase in the number of people speaking Mandarin between 2011 and 2016.

Proportions of non-English speaking residents varied across the LGA ranging from a low of 21.1% in Drummoyne to a high of 79.2% in Strathfield (Triangle). The five areas with the highest percentages of people speaking a language other than English at home were:

- Strathfield (Triangle) (79.2%)

- Rhodes (West) (78.7%)
- Rhodes (76.3%)
- Liberty Grove (59.1%), and
- North Strathfield (51.9%).

Some suburbs have high numbers of residents identifying as not fluent in English, with 16.8% of Strathfield Triangle residents and 15.4% of Rhodes residents not fluent in English. This aligns with numbers of recent overseas arrivals in the City of Canada Bay, where these people also tend to be located in Strathfield Triangle and Rhodes, 52.2% and 45.2% respectively.

While Chinese languages are our emerging commonly spoken language, we also have a high number of residents who were born in Italy. 6.7% of residents in Abbotsford-Wareemba, 4.1% in Chiswick, 6.4% in Concord, 4.1% in Concord West, 8.1% in Five Dock-Canada Bay, and 7.3% in Russel Lea Rodd Point were born in Italy (compared to 0.8% in Greater Sydney).

### Highly educated population, with areas with high proportions of students

The proportion of people with a tertiary qualification was significantly higher than Greater Sydney (38% v 28.3%) and the LGA had a lower proportion of people with no qualification than Greater Sydney (31.5% v 37.7%).

In 2016, 7.5% of the LGA's population were attending a University compared to 6.1% in Greater Sydney. While the LGA had a higher proportion of people attending a University, it is important to note that this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 4.6% in Chiswick to a high of 19.2% in Rhodes (West). The five areas with the highest proportions of students were:

- Rhodes (West) (19.2%)
- Rhodes (18.4%)
- Strathfield (Triangle) (17.3%)
- North Strathfield (8.9%), and
- Rhodes (East) (7.6%).

TABLE 3 - TOP 5 NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING LANGUAGES (SOURCE: PROFILE.ID)

LANGUAGE (EXCLUDES ENGLISH)	2016		2011		CHANGE		
	NUMBER	%	GREATER SYDNEY %	NUMBER	%	GREATER SYDNEY %	2011 TO 2016
Mandarin	8,657	9.8	4.7	3,831	5.1	3.0	+4,826
Italian	6,207	7.1	1.3	6,671	8.8	1.6	-464
Korean	3,546	4.0	1.2	2,384	3.1	1.1	+1,162
Cantonese	3,466	3.9	2.9	2,803	3.7	3.0	+663
Greek	1,948	2.2	1.6	2,113	2.8	1.8	-165

### High and increasing median household incomes, however some income inequality

The median weekly household income of residents was \$2,058, which increased by \$242 since 2011 and is higher than the Greater Sydney median income of \$1,745. However, there is some income inequality throughout the LGA. The areas with the highest median weekly household incomes are:

- Cabarita: \$2,660
- Drummoyne: \$2,358, and
- Chiswick: \$2,278.

The areas with the lowest median weekly household income are:

- Strathfield (Triangle): \$1,605
- Rhodes (West): \$1,677, and
- Rhodes: \$1,695.

Some areas also have a high proportion of low income households (median weekly income lower than \$650 per week), specifically:

- Rhodes (West) (19.4%)
- Rhodes (19.1%)
- Strathfield (Triangle) (18.2%)
- Five Dock – Canada Bay (15.4%), and
- Abbotsford – Wareemba (14.9%)

### Lower than average unemployment

In 2016, 5.0% of the City of Canada Bay's labour force was classed as unemployed compared to 6.0% in Greater Sydney. However, proportions ranged from a low of 2.6% in Cabarita to a high of 9.5% in Rhodes (West) which may be due to the high numbers of newly arrived residents living in the area. The five areas with the highest unemployment rates were:

- Rhodes (West) (9.5%)
- Rhodes (9.3%)
- Strathfield (Triangle) (9.1%)
- Rhodes (East) (6.4%), and
- North Strathfield (5.8%).

### Relatively advantaged, however with pockets of disadvantage

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of data including income, education level, unemployment and jobs in unskilled occupants. The lower the score, the higher the disadvantage.

The LGA's SEIFA Index in 2016 was 1,068, indicating that the area as a whole has a low level of relative disadvantage. All suburbs are less relatively disadvantaged compared to Greater Sydney (1,018) and the Inner West area (1,032.5), apart from Strathfield (Triangle) which is significantly relatively disadvantaged with a SEIFA index of 982.8.

### Lower rates of disability, however some areas with high proportions of people needing assistance

The LGA reported a lower proportion of people who reported needing assistance with core activities compared to Greater Sydney, 4.2% as opposed to 4.9% for Greater Sydney. As is expected, disability increases with age and the highest rates of disability were in the older age groups: 85 and over and 80 to 84. Some areas had very high rates of disability and this corresponds to areas with older populations:

- Rhodes (East) (9.6%) (this likely reflects people completing the Census while in hospital)
- Concord (5.9%)
- Five Dock – Canada Bay (5.6%)
- Abbotsford – Wareemba (5.5%), and
- Chiswick (5.5%).

### Varying levels of housing stress

Residents are predominantly homeowners with 57% of households either purchasing or fully owning their home. 32% were renting privately and a very low proportion (2.7%) were in social housing.

Across the LGA, 9.7% of households are in housing stress, lower than Greater Sydney at 12%. However, some areas were in higher than average housing stress, and these areas also have higher than average (more than 43% of residents) who rent:

- Strathfield (Triangle) (24%)
- Rhodes (West) (23%)
- Rhodes (22%), and
- North Strathfield (12.4%).

### Increasing group and couples without children households

Given its previously low density housing, our area has traditionally been a family household area. However, increasing density in some areas means that in 2016 there was a lower proportion of couples with children households than Greater Sydney (31% compared to 35%). However, Concord West (46%), Concord (43%), Liberty Grove (43%), Russell-Lea-Rodd Point (41%), and Cabarita (37%) had higher than average couple with children households. In terms of household type, we have:

- A higher proportion of couples without children  
Couples without children made up 26% of all households and experienced highest proportional increase between 2011 and 2016
- A higher proportion of group households (6% compared to 5% in Greater Sydney) with a high of 23% in Strathfield (Triangle) and 14% in Rhodes/Rhodes West, and
- A similar proportion of lone person households (20%) with a high of 28% in Cabarita, 26% in Drummoyne, and 25% Abbotsford/Wareemba (where there more residents aged 70 years and over), 24% in Rhodes East (with higher proportions of students).

### Internet access at home

In 2016, 83.1% of the City of Canada Bay's households had an internet connection compared to 81.4% in Greater Sydney, however this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 79.6% in Abbotsford - Wareemba to a high of 89.3% in Cabarita. The five areas with the lowest percentages were:

- Abbotsford-Wareemba - 79.6%
- Five Dock-Canada Bay - 79.7%, and

- Russel Lea-Rodd Point - 79.8%.

### 4.6. ACCESS TO TRANSPORT

#### Slightly higher proportion of people traveling by public transport to work

Compared to Greater Sydney 28.7% used public transport to travel to work, while 53% used a private vehicle, compared with 22.7% and 58.1% respectively in Greater Sydney. 1,722 people rode their bike or walked to work in 2016.

#### Some areas with high proportions of households without a car

In 2016, 42% of households in the LGA had access to two or more motor vehicles, compared to 46% in Greater Sydney.

9.7% of households did not have a car (compared to 10.7% Greater Sydney). Households located along the western and northern railway including Strathfield Triangle, North Strathfield and Rhodes were most likely to not have a car as opposed to households located closer to Parramatta River, including Cabarita (1%) and Liberty Grove (4%). This is perhaps due to these suburbs' level of access to Sydney's railway network and the prevalence of lower income residents, students, and people who have recently arrived in Australia. The five areas with the highest percentages of households without a car were:

- Strathfield (Triangle) (24.7%)
- Rhodes (West) (17.8%)
- Rhodes (17.3%)
- North Strathfield (11.8%), and
- Five Dock - Canada Bay (9.9%).



Bay Link Shuttle Bus (Source: Cred Consulting)



# 5. How are we going to change?

Canada Bay is one of Sydney's fastest growing areas. This is due to population growth, urban renewal initiatives, infrastructure projects and the flow on effect from similar growth in our neighbouring areas. These forces will ultimately change the way we live and the needs we have in relation to open space and recreation facilities, services and programs.

## 5.1 POPULATION GROWTH TO 2036

Internal Council forecasting indicates that our LGAs population is forecast to increase from 88,015 in 2016 to 120,164 in 2036, an increase of 32,149 people.

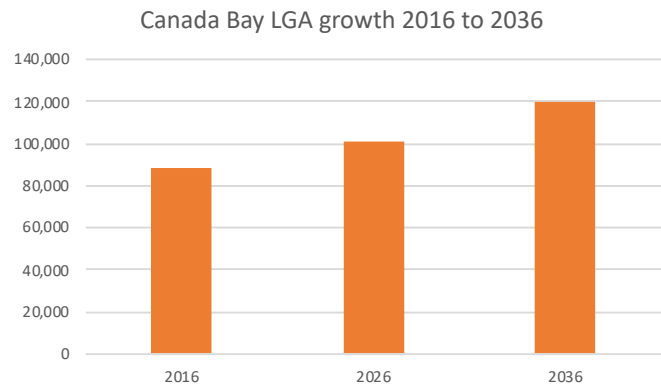


Figure 8 - Canada Bay LGA Growth 2016 to 2036



Boys playing soccer (City of Canada Bay Council)

## 5.2 POPULATION FORECASTS BY PLANNING CATCHMENT

Planning for social infrastructure is based on local (neighbourhood), district (planning catchment area) and sub-regional (LGA) needs and a place-based approach to the design of local neighbourhoods and centres. As supported by the Greater Sydney Commission and Government Architect's Office, place-based planning reflects an appreciation of cultural and environmental diversity and a sense of belonging.

For the purpose of this study, place-based planning is across seven 'planning catchment areas.'

Detailed population characteristics of each of these planning catchments is provided in Appendix 1.

As shown in Table 4 and Figure 9, the planning catchment areas forecast to have the greatest increase to 2036 are:

- Rhodes (East and West) +8,784
- Five Dock and Canada Bay +8,472
- Concord +5,744, and
- North Strathfield/Strathfield Triangle +3,297.

While the majority of growth is concentrated in these catchments, other catchments such as Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point and Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba remain static.

TABLE 4 - POPULATION FORECASTS BY PLANNING CATCHMENT (SOURCE: SGS, 2019)

CATCHMENT	2016	2026	CHANGE 2016-2026 (#)	2036	CHANGE 2016-2036 (#)
Abbotsford - Wareemba - Chiswick	10,376	11,330	954	11,812	1,436
Breakfast Point - Mortlake - Cabarita	7,700	8,023	323	8,291	591
Concord	13,718	15,222	1,504	19,462	5,744
Concord West - Liberty Grove	7,379	8,436	1,057	9,584	2,204
Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point	19,563	20,441	878	21,184	1,621
Five Dock - Canada Bay	10,978	14,324	3,346	19,449	8,472
North Strathfield - Strathfield	6,471	7,988	1,517	9,768	3,297
Rhodes (East/West)	11,830	15,371	3,542	20,614	8,784
LGA	88,015	101,135	13,120	120,164	32,149

## Population change by planning catchment 2016 to 2036

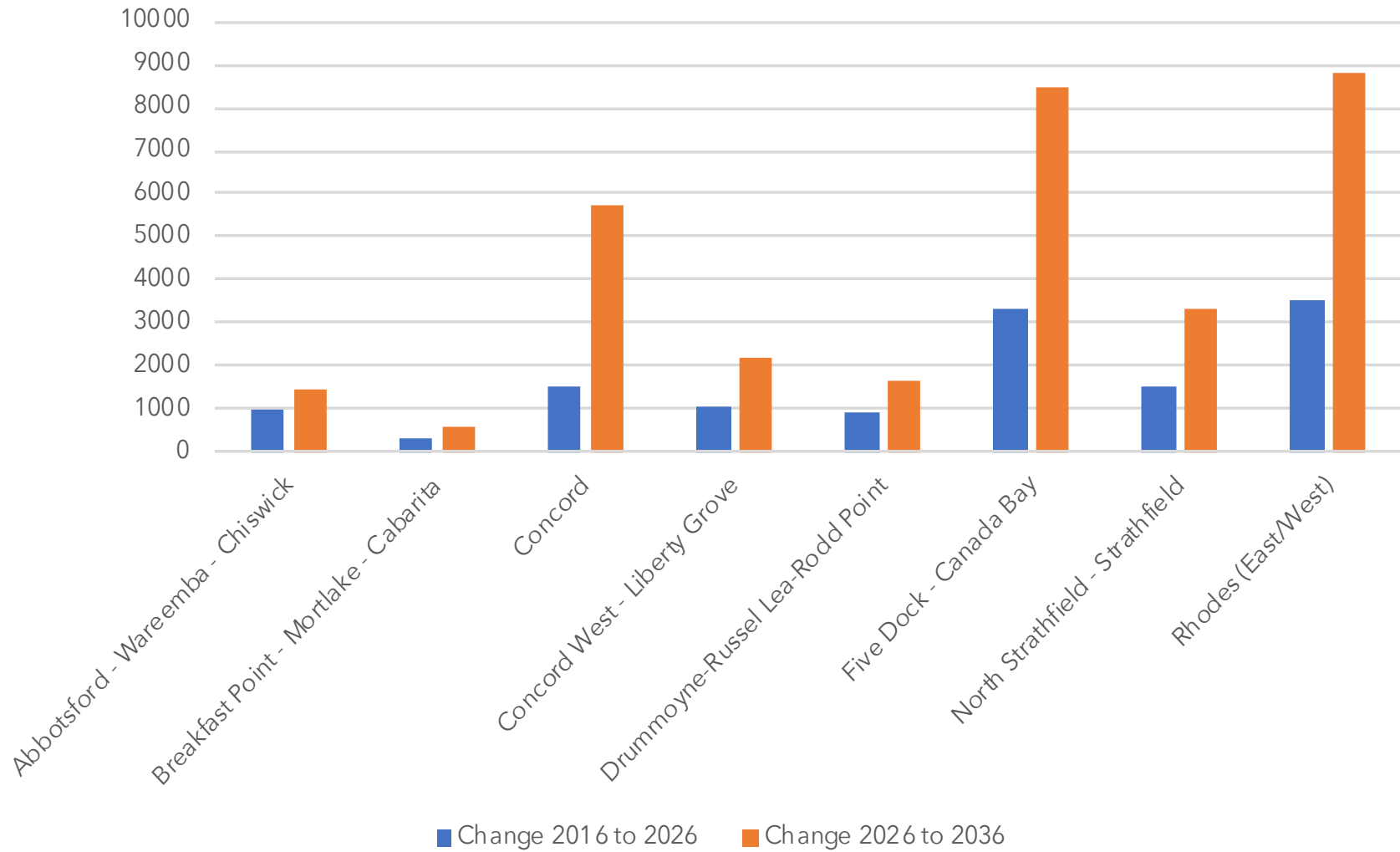


Figure 9 - Population growth by planning catchment 2016 to 2026 and 2026 to 2036.

### 5.3. POPULATION FORECASTS BY SERVICE AGE GROUP

As shown in Table 5, between 2016 and 2036, increases are forecast across all service age groups but most significantly for young people (12 to 24) and older people (60 years and over):

- Seniors 85 and over (68% growth) from 1,936 to 3,227
- Seniors 70 to 84 (84% growth) from 6,777 to 12,412 residents
- Empty nesters and retirees 60 to 69 (42%) increasing from 8,097 to 11,514
- Secondary school 12 to 17 years (42%) increasing from 4,313 to 6,169
- Tertiary aged 18 to 24 (42%) increasing from 8,449 to 11,182.

TABLE 5 - CITY OF CANADA BAY POPULATION FORECASTS BY SERVICE GROUPS (SOURCE: FORECAST.ID 2019)

AGE GROUP	2016	% POP.	2026	% POP.	2036	% POP.	CHANGE 2016-36 #
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	5,633	6.4%	6,068	6%	7,170	6%	1,577
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	6,425	7.3%	6,574	6.5%	7,615	6.4%	1,265
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	4,313	4.9%	5,461	5.4%	6,169	5.1%	1,815
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	8,449	9.6%	9,406	9.3%	11,182	9.3%	2,726
Young workforce (25 to 34)	17,163	19.5%	18,407	18.2%	22,329	18.6%	5,188
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	18,923	21.5%	21,137	20.9%	24,744	20.6%	5,831
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	10,298	11.7%	11,934	11.8%	13,496	11.3%	3,281
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	8,097	9.2%	9,911	9.8%	11,514	9.6%	3,439
Seniors (70 to 84)	6,777	7.7%	9,810	9.7%	12,412	10.4%	5,720
Elderly aged (85 and over)	1,936	2.2%	2,427	2.4%	3,227	2.7%	1,308

## Children

The number of 0 to 4 year olds will increase from 5,633 in 2016 to 7,170 in 2036. Five Dock-Canada Bay (336), Concord (314), and North Strathfield/Strathfield Triangle (224) will experience the greatest growth in the number of children aged 0 to 4 to 2036.

The number of 5 to 11 year olds will increase from 6,767 in 2016 to 7,615 in 2036. Rhodes (336), Concord (264), and Five Dock-Canada Bay (194) will experience the greatest growth in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years to 2036.

## Young people

The number of 12 to 17 year olds will increase from 4,313 in 2016 to 6,169 in 2036. The areas with the highest number of 12 to 17 year olds in 2016 were:

- Concord – 1,176
- Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point – 1,082, and
- Five Dock-Canada Bay (734).

Rhodes (348), North Strathfield, Strathfield Triangle (230) and Five Dock-Canada Bay (+190) will experience the greatest growth in the number of young people to 2036.

## Seniors 70+

The number of older people 70 years and over will increase from 8,713 in 2016 to 15,741 in 2036. Rhodes (1,192), Concord (875), and Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point (756) and Mortlake-Breakfast Point-Cabarita (+749) will experience the greatest growth in the number of seniors aged 70 + years to 2036.



Concord Community Centre (Source: Cred Consulting)

## What does the current and future population growth and change tell us about our future social infrastructure needs?

### Growth

Growth and change of Canada Bay's population will place increased pressure on existing open space and recreation facilities and demand for increased provision, and access to recreation services and programs. Based on population forecasts this pressure will be felt the most in Rhodes (East and West), Five Dock-Canada Bay, Concord, and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) planning catchments.

### Cultural diversity

North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle), Rhodes (East and West) and Liberty Grove (suburb) have the most highly culturally diverse residents, many who are recent arrivals, and with an increasing proportion speaking Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean. Open space and recreation facilities can be a place to form cross-cultural relationships as well as new connections for recently arrived residents. Culturally diverse residents may also have different recreation needs, for example for different activities such as badminton, swimming, dancing and walking in the evenings.

### Seniors

The proportion of older people will increase significantly to 2036. Participation in recreation brings many benefits as people age. There will be a need for open space and recreation facilities that support activities for older people such as gentle exercise and walking. Open space and recreation facilities should be universally designed so that they are accessible as people become more frail. Accessible connections to open space and

recreation facilities are also important. The areas with the highest priority needs based on current population of seniors aged 70 years and over are Drummoyne-Russell Lea- Rodd Point, Concord, and Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba. Future high growth areas are Rhodes, Concord, Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point, and Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point.

### Children and families

Children and families need access to open space and recreation for play, exercise and relaxation. Recreation programs such as school holiday programs and activities for parents and babies will be important, as well as spaces for organised and informal sport. Five Dock-Canada Bay, Concord, and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) will experience the greatest growth in the number of children aged 0 to 4 to 2036, and Rhodes, Concord, and Five Dock-Canada Bay will experience the greatest growth in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years to 2036. Increasing recreational opportunities in open space that include natural play facilities will be important for high growth areas.

### Young people and students

There is high forecast growth of young people aged 12 to 24 to 2036. Young people aged 12 to 24 will be looking for open space and recreation facilities as a place of play, study, and social development. There will be a need for passive recreation spaces for relaxing, reading, socialising and studying, as well as access to affordable, unstructured and informal recreation facilities such as outdoor courts and gyms. Concord, Drummoyne-Russell Lea- Rodd Point, and Five Dock-Canada Bay have the highest number of young people currently who need access to these facilities and services. Rhodes, North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) and Five Dock-Canada

Bay will experience the greatest growth in the number of young people to 2036.

### Density & household change

Areas such as Rhodes West (241 persons per hectare), Strathfield (Triangle) (167 persons per hectare), Mortlake-Breakfast Point (102 persons per hectare), have significantly higher population densities than the LGA (44 persons per hectare) and Greater Sydney (3.9 persons per hectare). Open space away from the home is of critical importance to the community's health and wellbeing. Considerations will be providing open space that meets a range of recreation needs in a limited space, that minimise conflict between users and with neighbours, and that also functions as a "backyard" for residents living in apartments. Areas such as Rhodes East and Strathfield (Triangle) will see increasing density to 2036.

### Accessibility to social infrastructure (open space)

While generally residents of Canada Bay are employed, educated and moderate to high income earners, there are areas with higher disadvantage where access to open space and recreation facilities and programs needs to be low cost or free. These areas include Rhodes and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle). Additionally, some areas have poor access to public transport to access open space and recreation facilities and programs that are not in walking distance of their homes, including: Drummoyne (where there are also higher proportions of older residents) and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle).

# 6. Recreation participation trends

As our communities, cities and lifestyles change so does our participation in recreation – from the kinds of activities that we prefer, to when and how often we participate and the places that we use. This section explores current trends in participation in recreation activities and assesses current participation in recreation in Canada Bay.

## 6.1. KEY TRENDS AND CHANGES

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change. The most significant trend in recreation participation in Australia in recent years is a move to informal, unstructured recreation activities rather than traditional organised sport (i.e. mid-week training session and weekend match games with a formal club).

*“Today more than ever Australians are time poor, have limited budgets, are being inundated by new forms of entertainment and face increasing barriers to participation. As society changes new preferences are emerging; Australians desire greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them.” – Australian Sports Commission*

Other “megatrends” influencing how sport is provided and played have been identified by the CSIRO :

- Increasing individualised sport and fitness activities, with increasing participation in aerobics, running, walking and gym membership. People are fitting fitness activities into their busy lives rather than committing to regular organised sport
- “Extreme” lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports are becoming more mainstream, particularly with younger generations. Examples include hiking, skateboarding, BMXing and rockclimbing
- Our ageing and increasingly multicultural community will have changing preferences and recreation habits, and
- Market pressures and new business models - Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport, with loosely organised community sports associations replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.

The motivations for participation in sport versus non-sport physical activity vary. The key reasons that people participate in sport are for physical health and fitness, fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, while the main reason that people participate in non-sport physical activity is for physical health and fitness. Barriers to participation include time pressure and poor health or injury .

The Recreation Needs of Greater Sydney study being completed by the Office for Open Space and Parklands (Department of Planning and Environment) identified some general recreation trends in Greater Sydney, including:

- Linear travel: Activities done on paths and trails are popular such as walking, bushwalking and running
- Personal choice: Popular recreation activities include walking, relaxing and casual ball sports – all activities performed solo or in small social groups
- Diverse expression: Recreational activities range from mountain biking to Tai Chi, due to a diversifying population with unique hobbies and interests
- Accessible recreation: Universal access is an increasingly important issue, so everyone regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability can collectively enjoy activities, and
- Competing priorities: People in general are spending less time recreating, but they are expecting more from their physical activity.

## 6.2. INFORMAL RECREATION

Engagement with the Canada Bay community, and State and National recreation participation trends, tells us that the nature of sport and recreation is changing, and that it is important to move away from a perception of recreation as only about organised club sport.

Across all Districts of Greater Sydney, the most popular recreation activities in parks as identified in the Recreation Needs of Greater Sydney study of the general community are:

- Walking, hiking jogging or running (85%)
- Relaxing in public spaces (77%)
- Gatherings in public spaces (64%)
- Swimming (53%)
- Visiting play spaces (49%)
- Walking the dog (34%)
- Informal group sports (27%), and
- Cycling (26%) .

The research has also investigated case studies of large urban redevelopment projects since the 1960s. This has identified that there has been a reduction in the provision of private open space in new housing in the last three decades when compared to the 1960s-1980s. While the provision of public open space in new developments increased, this was at a lesser rate so that in total we have less open space today than in previous years. Activities that were previously enjoyed in private open space are now placing pressures on the public open space network.



Tai Chi at the Connection (Cred Consulting)



## Informal participation in Canada Bay

Community engagement and observational data can help us to understand how our community participates in informal recreation. We can expect the general trends of participation to be reflected here, including high participation in walking, personal fitness, running, swimming, cycling, playing, relaxing and gathering in public spaces, large family gatherings, walking the dog and informal group sports.

The high cultural diversity in parts of the LGA suggests that passive and informal recreation will be popular, including in the evenings. For example, head counts of users of open space at The Connection in Rhodes in winter 2018 show very high use of this area. Anecdotally we know that this space is popular for choir practice and dancing.

Early stage findings from community consultation completed for the Let's All Play Strategy identified that people visit parks and recreation spaces in City of Canada Bay for:

- Spending time with family and friends (78%)
- Being active (78%), and
- Relaxing/leisure (69%).

People undertake the following activities in City of Canada Bay parks:

- Exercising (82%)
- Playgrounds (74%), and
- Picnics and BBQs (46%).



Dog walking along the river (City of Canada Bay Council)

### 6.3. PARTICIPATION IN CANADA BAY

Engagement for the Canada Bay Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) with over 400 residents tells us that informal recreational activities are the most highly valued in parks and open space areas over formal sports.

As shown in Figure 10:

- 71% of survey respondents go for a walk/run in the park
- 46% enjoy the scenery
- 26% walk the dog, and
- 12% participate in organised sport.

Canada Bay residents would like to engage in more social and cultural activities in parks and open space area. As shown in Figure 11:

- 36% would like to attend more events
- 36% would like to sit and have a coffee, and
- 25% would like to have a picnic or BBQ.

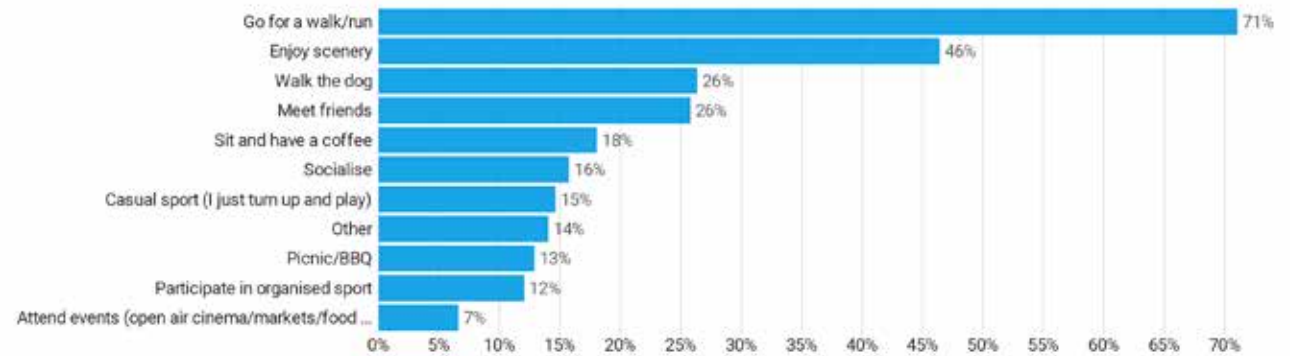


Figure 10 - What Canada Bay residents currently do in parks, LSPS Community Survey, 2019

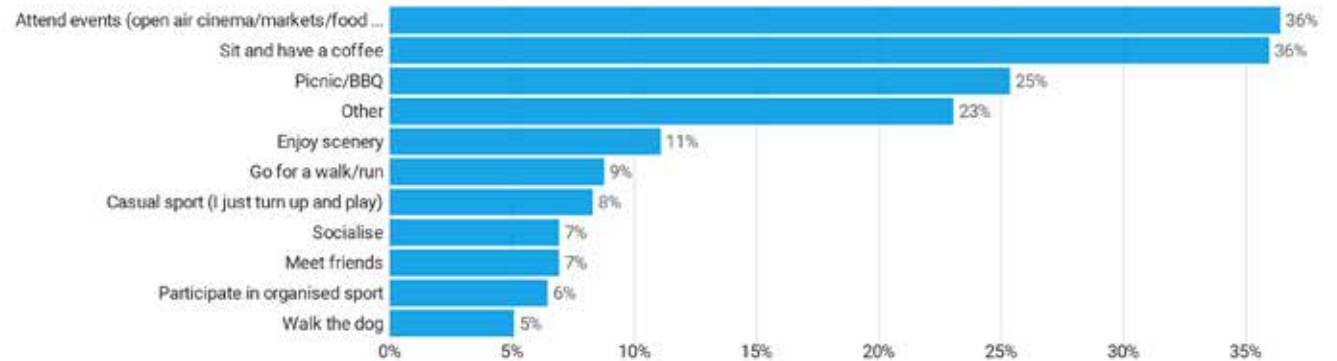


Figure 11 - What Canada Bay residents would like to do in parks, LSPS Community Survey, 2019

## 6.4. FORMAL ORGANISED SPORT PARTICIPATION

The NSW Office of Sport has provided information on how residents of the Eastern City participate in formal organised sport (where the players are registered to a State Sporting Organisation (SSO)). The most popular sports are:

- Football (soccer)
- Tennis (competition)
- Golf
- Basketball (SSO competition)
- Oztag
- Netball
- Rugby League
- Sailing (competition)
- Cricket
- Rugby Union, and
- AFL.

Through the stakeholder interviews and surveys completed for this Strategy, it was identified that

- The majority of survey respondents indicated that their organisation has seen increased numbers of participants over the past years (72%), and expect to see this trend continue in to the future (77%)
- Peak bodies identified that participants are keen for modified versions of sports and 'turn up and play' opportunities, for seniors, juniors and social players, and
- Increasing female participation is one of the most significant trends. For example, the participation of women in football in Australia is increasing by 8% each year.

TABLE 6 - PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL ORGANISED SPORT IN THE EASTERN CITY (SOURCE: NSW OFFICE OF SPORT)

SPORT	PARTICIPATION #	PARTICIPATION %
Football	26,484	2.61%
Tennis (Competition)	17,827	1.76%
Golf	15,747	1.55%
Basketball (SSO Competition)	11,112	1.10%
Oztag	8,928	0.88%
Netball	8,912	0.88%
Rugby League	6,030	0.60%
Sailing (Competition)	6,029	0.60%
Cricket	5,728	0.57%
Rugby Union	5,683	0.64%
AFL	4,956	0.49%
Gymnastics	4,549	0.45%
Little Athletics	2,762	0.28%
Swimming (Competition)	2,214	0.22%
Water Polo	2,184	0.22%
Hockey	1,622	0.16%
Cycling (Competition)	1,488	0.08%
Futsal	1,256	0.12%
Baseball	1,000	0.11%
Athletics	756	0.07%
Dragon Boating	609	0.06%
Rowing	561	0.06%

## 6.5. PARTICIPATION BY DEMOGRAPHICS

Recreation participation also differs between demographic groups such as women, children, older people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with disability (Table 7).

TABLE 7 - RECREATION PARTICIPATION BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP (SOURCE: AUSPLAY SURVEY - NSW JULY 2017 TO JUNE 2018 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

GROUP	% PARTICIPATING AT LEAST 3X PER WEEK		KEY TRENDS	POPULAR SPORTS	
NSW	64.6%		Informal, unstructured recreation activities are becoming more popular while organised activities are becoming less popular.	Walking, fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (including running/jogging), cycling	
Children (organised participation outside of school)	Overall - 22.6%		Only one in three Aussie kids today play outside every day compared to around three in four children a generation ago <sup>11</sup> . Parent's activity has an influence on children's activity: active parents are more likely to have active children.	Boys; Swimming, football/soccer, rugby league, cricket, basketball	Girls; Swimming, dancing, gymnastics, netball, football/soccer
	Boys - 23.8%	Girls - 21.3%			
People with disability	53.7%		Participation in physical activity is much lower for people with disability than without. Barriers to participation include external constraints such as cost, supervision, access to venues, and transport options.	Information not available.	
Men	60.8%		-	Walking, fitness/gym, athletics (including running and jogging), swimming, cycling	
Women	68.3%		Women participate less in organised activities than men, particularly during childbearing years (25 to 44). Women are also more likely to participate for health and fitness reasons, and less likely to participate for fun and enjoyment.	Walking, fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (including running and jogging), yoga	
Older people 75+	57%		Participation in physical activity declines as people get older, and non-sport physical activity becomes more popular. Barriers to participation include poor health or injury, and ageing. People who participated in physical activity throughout their lives are more likely to continue to participate as they get older.	Males: Walking, fitness/gym, golf, bowls, swimming	Females: Walking, fitness/gym, swimming, bowls, golf
People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	59.7%		Participation in physical activity is lower for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Informal, unstructured and social sports are popular. Barriers to participation include language, transport and cost barriers; family/caring commitments; lack of awareness of Australian sporting structures and participation opportunities.	Football/soccer, swimming, basketball, badminton, cricket (from Cred Consulting for the Office of Sport)	
Lower income households (<\$40,000)	60.2%		A barrier to participation for low income groups is a lack of environmental access to green spaces and active living facilities. People on lower incomes are at a higher risk of adverse health outcomes associated with decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviours.	Information not available.	

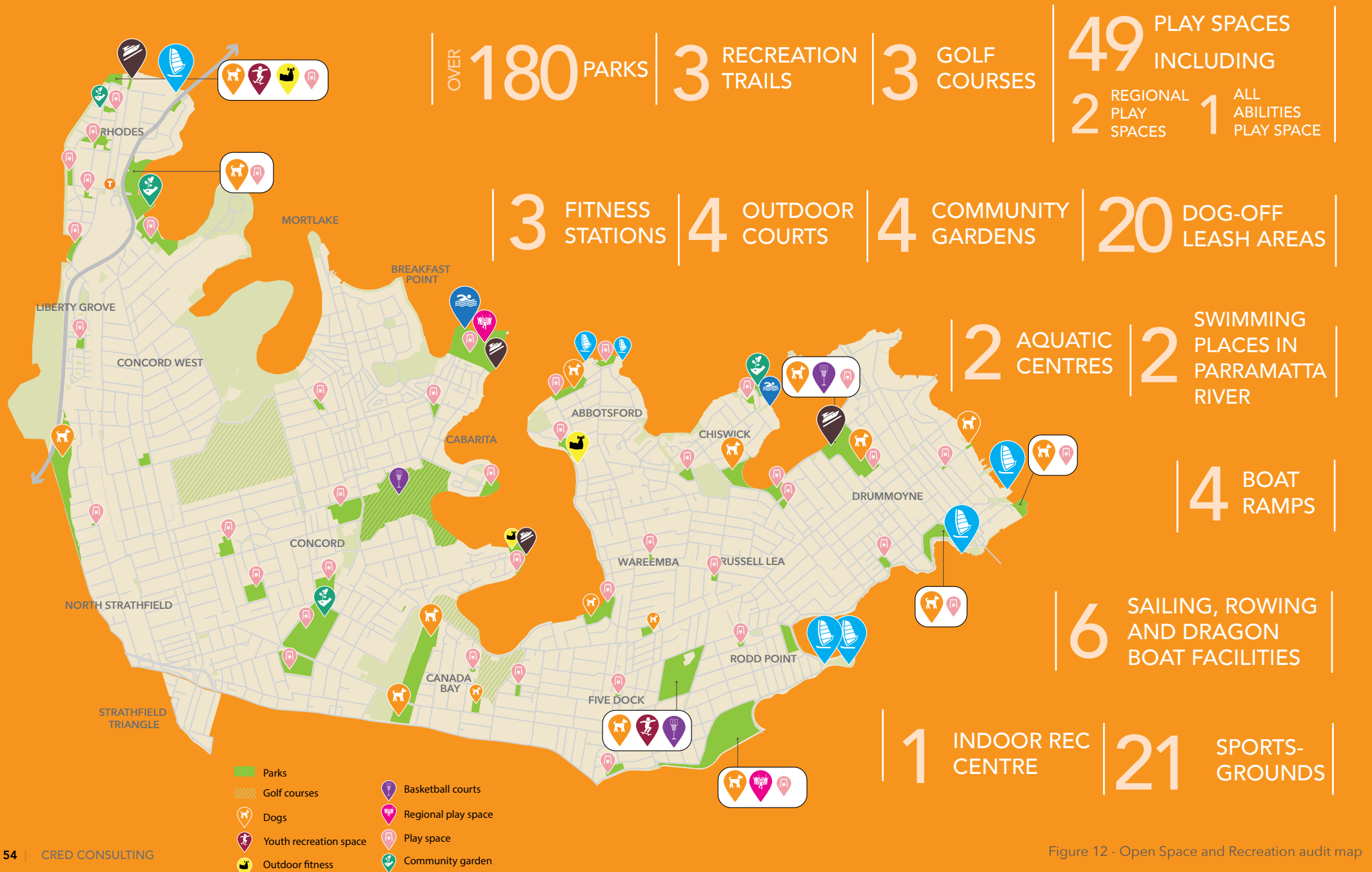
<sup>10</sup>Planet Ark, Annual Review 2013-2014



Five Dock Leisure Centre (City of Canada Bay Council)

# PART B WHAT DO HAVE & WHAT DO WE NEED?

# 7. What do we currently have?



# 8. What our community told us we need

This section provides a summary of engagement with the community and stakeholders that has been referenced to inform this Strategy and Action Plan including:

- Stakeholder engagement (completed by Cred) with local sporting clubs, peak bodies and schools. This included interviews and an online survey (with follow up and reminder emails)
- Community engagement (completed by Place Design Group) to inform the LSPS - over 400 residents completed the survey, and
- Community engagement (completed by Council) to inform the Let's All Play Strategy and Community Strategic Plan.

## 8.1. WHAT DOES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TELL US WE NEED?

Community and stakeholder engagement completed to inform the development of this Strategy and Action Plan and to inform other Council plans, including the Community Strategic Plan indicate that we need:

- The community thinks that green spaces, local parks and opportunities to be near the water are our area's most valuable assets and would like to see more green and open space
- Continued focus on sustainability and protecting our natural environment and waterways
- Open spaces that meet the diverse needs and preferences of our community, including activities at night time, accessibility for people with disability and including people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- Increased focus on use of parks and open spaces for informal recreation, such as outdoor basketball courts, walking trails, and Tai Chi
- More diverse opportunities for recreation including: Outdoor fitness; Outdoor basketball; BBQs and covered picnic tables; Spaces for yoga, group fitness and pilates; Spa, sauna and steam rooms; Swimming pools, and Indoor courts.
- Recreation opportunities for children and families including a diverse range of play equipment to suit various stages of life; nature-based activities.
- Increased activation of parks and open spaces including through provision of a variety of spaces and uses; cafes in parks; programming of spaces.
- Maintenance of open space and recreation facilities and provision of infrastructure and amenities including parking, seating, toilets, picnic shelters, bins, lighting.
- Council to provide and prioritise community sport over regional and elite sport to support local community; health and wellbeing
- Opportunities for synthetic fields and lighting, with consideration of local residents
- Increased collaboration with neighbouring Councils to address regional needs
- Opportunity for open space to address impacts of increasing heat through provision of cool, shaded spaces
- Support for sport and recreation organisations to collaborate around long-term planning

## 8.2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO INFORM OTHER COUNCIL PLANS

Additionally, Council has undertaken engagement to inform planning for open space and recreation including:

- YOUR Future 2030, 2018
- Rhodes Recreation Centre (September 2017)
- Redevelopment of Concord Oval (2018), and
- Let's All Play Strategy, engagement to inform 2019 plan.

### Green space, the foreshore, and being a sustainable city are important to the community

- The community thinks that green spaces, local parks and opportunities to be near the water are the area's most valuable assets, and providing more 'green and open' space is considered critical
- A continued focus on being a sustainable city through endeavours like maintaining green open space and protecting our natural environment is important to the community.
- People visit parks and recreation spaces in City of Canada Bay for:
  - Spending time with family and friends (78%)
  - Being active (78%), and
  - Relaxing/leisure (69%).

### People enjoy open space and recreation to spend time with family and friends and be active

Early stage findings from community consultation completed for the Let's All Play Strategy identified that:

- People visit parks and recreation spaces in City of Canada Bay for:
  - Spending time with family and friends (78%)
  - Being active (78%), and
  - Relaxing/leisure (69%).
- People undertake the following activities in City of Canada Bay parks (in order)
  - Exercising (82%)
  - Playgrounds (74%), and
  - Picnics and BBQs (46%).

### There is a desire for more diverse recreation opportunities, for all of the community to enjoy

- Recreation opportunities for a diverse community are important, including activities at night time, accessibility for people with disability and including people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
- The community would like to see more diverse opportunities for recreation including: Outdoor fitness; Outdoor basketball; BBQs and covered picnic tables; Spaces for yoga, group fitness and pilates; Spa, sauna and steam rooms; Swimming pools, and Indoor courts.
- Barriers to using parks identified in the Let's All Play survey include: Lack of supporting infrastructure eg seats, toilets, bins, cafes; Lack of play equipment for my household/stage of life/gender; Not enough personal time, and Lack of activities which I am interested in.



Play at Alison Park (City of Canada Bay Council)



### 8.3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO INFORM THE LSPS

Community engagement to inform the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) indicated that the community highly values new open space and parks as part of their future neighbourhoods; they value opening up the foreshore for public access; and the main activities that they would like to do more of in parks includes attend events (36%), sit and have a coffee (36%), and picnic/BBQ (25%).

Figure 13 shows:

- 63% of residents use parks/green space in the LGA either every day or a few times a week.
- Only 8% use parks/green space very rarely/never.

Figure 14 shows that 73% of residents would like to see more parks and open space in their neighbourhood, the third highest priority for future planning.

When asked what would be their preference, 79% of respondents chose open space and natural habitats as their preference over more fields to support organised sport and recreation (21%).

How often do you use parks/greenspace in the City of Canada Bay area?

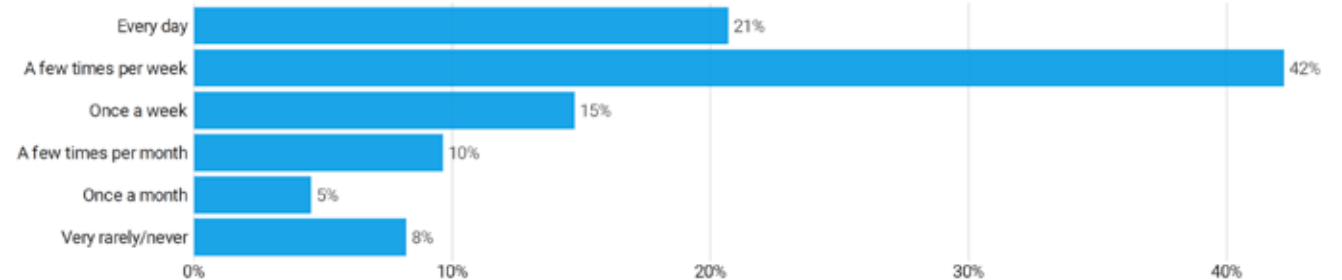


Figure 13 - How often Canada Bay residents use parks/greenspace in the LGA, LSPS Community Survey, 2019

As Canada Bay changes, what would you like to see in your neighbourhood?

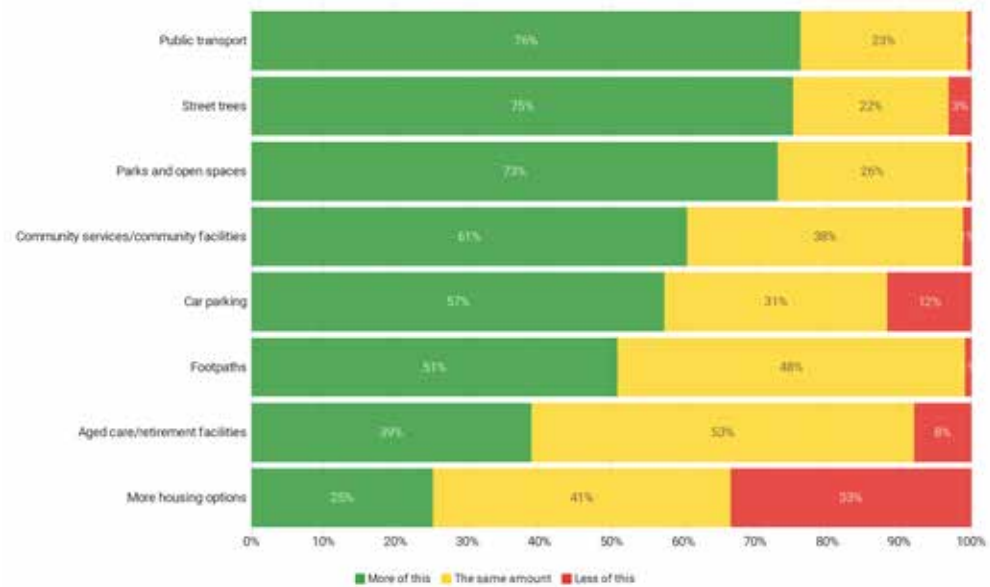


Figure 14 - Open space and parks as a priority, LSPS Community Survey, 2019

## 8.4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement activities to inform the development of this Strategy and Action Plan took place in December 2018 and January 2019, and included:

- Online stakeholder survey (44 respondents in December 2018 and January 2019)
- 16 Stakeholder interviews, and
- Staff workshops.

Key findings from the stakeholder engagement included:

**Recreation participation is changing with growing numbers participating in organised sport, while passive recreation and non-traditional sports are emerging**

- Neighbouring councils agreed that the nature of sport and recreation is changing, and that it is important to move away from a perception of recreation as only about organised club sport.
- The majority of survey respondents indicated that their organisation has seen increased numbers of participants over the past years (72%), and expect to see this trend continue in to the future (77%).
- Peak bodies identified that participants are keen for modified versions of sports and 'turn up and play' opportunities. For individual sports such as swimming, casual rather than club-affiliated participation is increasing.
- Staff identified that there are opportunities to improve access to informal recreation such as outdoor basketball courts and foreshore walking paths.



Cycling, jogging and walking along the Bay Run (City of Canada Bay Council)

### Sports fields and courts are at or near capacity

- Most interview respondents agreed that Council has a role to play in providing for (and prioritising) community sport over regional and elite sport, to support the local community's health and wellbeing as well as getting value for their rates
- Staff and neighbouring councils indicated that sports fields are already at capacity, and there are opportunities to investigate opportunities for synthetic fields and lighting - however being mindful of impacts on local residents and environmental outcomes.
- The majority of survey respondents identified that limited facility capacity is a key pressure on their organisation (53%).
- Peak bodies identified opportunities to increase capacity of fields and courts, share facilities, and use new land such as half courts for training where space for a full court cannot be accommodated.
- Survey respondents indicated that the top priority needs for open space and recreation in relation to sporting grounds and fields that should be addressed in the LGA are:
  - Maintenance of sporting field surfaces
  - Provision of parking at sporting grounds
  - Lighting for use at night, and
  - Improved amenities (e.g. toilets, change rooms, canteens, storage).

### There are opportunities for more diverse recreation experiences

- Staff identified a need for more walking routes with shade and safety, including along the foreshore.
- Staff identified opportunities for nature-based and nature play activities (e.g. programmed spaces for education, creativity and community; wild play)
- Staff identified opportunities for improved activation including through provision of a variety of spaces and uses; cafes in parks; programming of spaces.
- Social spaces are important including indoor/outdoor spaces, places to study or work outside.

### Open space and recreation provides opportunities to address environmental and cultural outcomes

- Staff identified a need to address impacts of increasing heat with "cool places."
- There are opportunities for cultural activation in open space, use of outdoor spaces for events.

### Sharing and collaboration is a priority for community engagement participants

- Survey respondents that share facilities, services or resources indicated mostly positive experiences in doing so.
- Survey respondents indicated that they would like Council to collaborate and engage more with organisations in long-term strategic planning.
- Peak bodies are pursuing sharing arrangements, but shared facilities come with program limitations.
- Neighbouring councils see value in working with City of Canada Bay Council more. However, it is also important to meet the needs of the growing Canada Bay community within the LGA where possible.



Playground (City of Canada Bay Council)

# 9. What do the benchmarks tell us we need?

## 9.1. OPEN SPACE SUPPLY & BENCHMARKING

### Approach to benchmarking

Previously, benchmarking for open space was often based only on the quantity of open space per person, using an historical benchmark of 28.3m<sup>2</sup> per person. However, population growth, increasing density, and decreasing access to land has meant that the planning industry is now looking at a range of different ways to benchmark demand for open space and recreation facilities. Benchmarking open space demand now needs to be considered through a number of indicators, particularly for an LGA such as Canada Bay with such inequitable distribution of open space from East to West.

Benchmarking current supply and future demand for open space has therefore been completed against a range of indicators.

Benchmarking approaches by nearby Councils (where available) and NSW planning agencies are provided in Table 8 for comparative purposes.

The following benchmarking indicators have been used to inform current supply and future demand for open space. The benchmark applied is provided within each section.

### Proximity

Proximity benchmarks can assess the geographic distribution of open space: how far from home, work, or school do people need to travel to access open space. There may be different proximity benchmarks for different types of open space: for example, local open space should be within walking distance of most people, but regional open space could be further away. When applying proximity benchmarks, connectivity and access should be considered – for example, how connected is the space to the surroundings, and how walkable are the access routes?

### Quantity by land area

The amount of open space currently supplied across the whole LGA and by planning catchment including ownership.

### Per person by LGA and by planning catchment

A per person approach can give a good idea of the provision needed to adequately meet the community's needs and the capacity of assets, and inform contributions planning in high growth areas. The standard of 2.83ha/1,000 people, 28.3 m<sup>2</sup> per person has historically been used in Australia to benchmark demand for open space as it is easy to apply. However use of this standard gives no consideration to the condition of the land provided for open space or its physical suitability for use as open space. Nor does it consider whether the facilities currently developed are useful to the community or what state these facilities are in.

Canada Bay currently has 26m<sup>2</sup> per person of Council owned open space across the LGA and the approach of some councils is to maintain current levels of provision through growth. However, this can be difficult in already

built up and high density areas with limited available land and high land values.

### Quality

The quality of open space is key to its usability and attractiveness. Quality indicators can include for example amenity (eg maintenance, noise, facilities and equipment, aesthetics); access (visual and physical access, disability access); safety; size, shape and topography; vegetation and setting. A large amount of poor quality open space may not meet a community's needs as well as a smaller, high quality provision.

### Diversity, hierarchy and size

The range of open space types within an area determines the diversity of recreation opportunities for a community. Co-locating different uses in one space can support activation and create a space for the whole community to come together. Benchmarking can look at the number of different types of recreation opportunities available in an area. Hierarchy approaches recognise that different parcels of open space should provide different levels of service, and is a useful approach to ensure different needs (e.g. for local community versus attracting visitors from the region).

### Density and vulnerable communities

With an acknowledgement of the different recreation and open space needs of people living in high density, there is a move towards planning benchmarks specifically for the provision of open space in high density areas. Best practice research also recommends a benchmark specifically for the provision of open space in vulnerable areas e.g. areas with ageing populations, and low income areas.

**TABLE 8 - COMPARATIVE BENCHMARKING APPROACHES - NEARBY COUNCILS AND NSW GOVERNMENT PLANNING AGENCIES**

ORGANISATION	APPROACH
Inner West Council	<p>Proximity: All residents should be within 400m of an area of high quality open space of at least 0.5ha (Local Level 1), with walkable connections and no major barriers, and 200m from a park of 0.1 to 0.5 ha (Local Level 2) in high density areas</p> <p>Quantity: Maintain current LGA-wide provision of Council owned open space of 13.3m2</p> <p>Hierarchy: Regional 5+ha, District 2 to 5 ha, Local Level 1 (0.5ha to 2ha), Local Level 2 (0.1 to 0.5ha),</p>
City of Sydney	<p>Proximity: All residents are at a minimum within 400m walk of a local park (0.5-2ha).</p> <p>Quantity (land area): 9% of land area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision.</p> <p>Hierarchy: Following the Department of Planning Guidelines.</p>
City of Canterbury Bankstown	<p>Proximity: All residents should be within 400m of Regional and District open space or within 300m of Neighbourhood and Local open space.</p> <p>Quantity (per person): 1 to 1.5ha of parks and recreation areas per 1,000 people, based on industry benchmarks. Sporting grounds and natural areas are in addition to this.</p> <p>Hierarchy: Hierarchy approach: State – Regional/City wide – District – Neighbourhood – Local.</p> <p>Catchment: Catchment approach for playground planning: 17 Districts defined by major roads and rail lines, 96 Local catchments.</p>
City of Parramatta	<p>Proximity: Walkable catchments of 400m.</p> <p>Quantity (per person): 1 ha/1,000 people for parks, with sporting grounds and natural areas in addition. Total = 3ha/1,000 people.</p> <p>Quantity (land area): 15% of the land area for all open space of which: 6% is formal sport, 5% is informal and passive recreation, 4% is natural area.</p> <p>Hierarchy: Hierarchy and category (character) principles (not publicly available).</p> <p>Density: 20% of land for high density areas. Walkable catchments of 250m for higher density. Design principles specifically for high density.</p> <p>Catchment: Six catchment areas across the local government area.</p>
SSROC	<p>Quantity: Existing level of provision and usage represent the minimum benchmark due to council advice that usage is already at capacity across the district.</p>
Greater Sydney Commission	<p>Proximity: All dwellings should be within 400m of open space.</p> <p>Density: All dwellings in high density areas (greater than 60 dwellings per hectare) should be within 200m of open space.</p>
NSW Department of Planning	<p>Proximity: 400m to local open space.</p> <p>Quantity (land area): 9% of land area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision.</p> <p>Hierarchy: Local (0.3-2ha); District (2-5ha); Regional (5+ha).</p>

## Quantity of open space

### Approach

Quantity can be calculated per person and by land area.

### Audit

There are 181 parcels of open space totalling 348ha in Canada Bay LGA, including:

- 1 private golf course (Concord Golf Course – 43.9ha) and 2 public golf courses (Massey Park Golf Course – 25.9ha and Barnwell Park Golf Course – 14.1ha)
- 15 parcels of “community title” land which is managed by a Community Association - 12.1ha, and
- 3 parcels of State government owned land - 52.5ha.

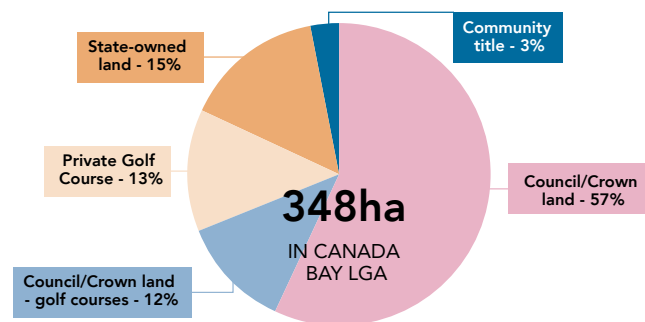


Figure 15 - Overview of open space by type

## Open space by land area

As shown in Table 9, across the Canada Bay LGA, open space (including private golf courses and State land used for open space and recreation) makes up 17% of the total land area. Excluding private and State-owned land, 13% of the Canada Bay LGA is Council, Crown, or Community Title open space, including two public golf courses.

Excluding all golf courses, 10% of the Canada Bay LGA is Council or Crown owned open space. There is currently a total of 348ha of open space in Canada Bay LGA which includes all Council, privately owned land, and golf courses. However:

- Excluding golf courses there is 264ha
- All Council owned open space (including golf courses) is 239ha, and
- Council owned open space (excluding golf courses) is 199ha.

TABLE 9 - TOTAL OPEN SPACE IN THE CITY OF CANADA BAY BY OWNERSHIP

	ALL OPEN SPACE	ALL COUNCIL/CROWN AND COMMUNITY TITLE OPEN SPACE, EXCLUDING GOLF COURSES	ALL COUNCIL OWNED OPEN SPACE	ALL COUNCIL OWNED OPEN SPACE, EXCLUDING GOLF COURSES
Ha of open space	348ha	264ha	239ha	199ha
% of land area	17%	13%	12%	10%

### Open space m2 per person 2016 to 2036

As shown in Table 10, across Canada Bay LGA, there is a total of 39.5m2 per person of open space including all private, Council and Government land. This is higher than the provision of open space across the Eastern City of 29.7m2 per person.

When only Council owned land (including public golf courses) are included, there is 27.2m2 per person (Table 11). However, this is unevenly distributed across the LGA. In terms of Council owned land only (Table 11):

- There is a low of 0.9m2 per person in North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) declining to 0.6m2 by 2036 (or 16m2 per person below LGA average).
- There is a high of 57.2m2 in Concord declining to 40.3m2 by 2036.

Based on the SSROC Liveability Benchmarks Study, Council should aim to maintain the current level of provision of open space per person across the LGA. This would include increasing the provision in areas that currently have a below average supply of open space. However, given the built-up nature of the area, there are limited opportunities to provide a significant amount of new open space and this benchmark is not seen as achievable. An alternative, commonly used benchmark which is attributed to the World Health Organisation identifies 9m2 as an appropriate level of provision per person. To achieve this benchmark, there would be a need for new open space in some areas as shown in Table 11.

Figures 16-18 show the provision of open space over time per person in each planning catchment.

**TABLE 10 - M2 OF OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (ALL OPEN SPACE) 2016 TO 2026 AND 2036**

CATCHMENT	TOTAL OPEN SPACE (M2)	2016 M2 PER PERSON	2026 M2 PER PERSON	2036 M2 PER PERSON	TOTAL CHANGE IN OPEN SPACE PER PERSON 2016-2036
Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba	208,284	20.1	18.4	17.6	-2.4
Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point	255,751	33.2	31.9	30.9	-2.4
Concord	1,488,358	108.5	97.8	76.5	-32.0
Concord West-Liberty Grove	685,504	92.9	81.3	71.5	-21.4
Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point	271,797	13.9	13.3	12.8	-1.1
Five Dock-Canada Bay	395,069	36.0	27.6	20.3	-15.7
North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle)	5,743	0.9	0.7	0.6	-0.3
Rhodes (East and West)	169,312	14.3	11.0	8.2	-6.1
LGA	3,479,818	39.5	34.4	29.0	-10.6

**TABLE 11 - M2 OF OPEN SPACE PER PERSON (COUNCIL ONLY INC. PUBLIC GOLF COURSES) 2016 TO 2026 AND 2036**

CATCHMENT	TOTAL OPEN SPACE (M2)	2016 M2 PER PERSON	2026 M2 PER PERSON	2036 M2 PER PERSON	TOTAL CHANGE IN OPEN SPACE PER PERSON 2016-2036
Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba	201554	19.4	17.8	17.1	-2.4
Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point	164124	21.3	20.5	19.8	-1.5
Concord	1043601	76.1	68.6	53.6	-22.5
Concord West-Liberty Grove	143111	19.4	17.0	14.9	-4.5
Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point	271797	13.9	13.3	12.8	-1.1
Five Dock-Canada Bay	394795	36.0	27.6	20.3	-15.7
North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle)	5743	0.9	0.7	0.6	-0.3
Rhodes (East and West)	169312	14.3	11.0	8.2	-6.1
LGA	2394037	27.2	23.7	19.9	-7.2

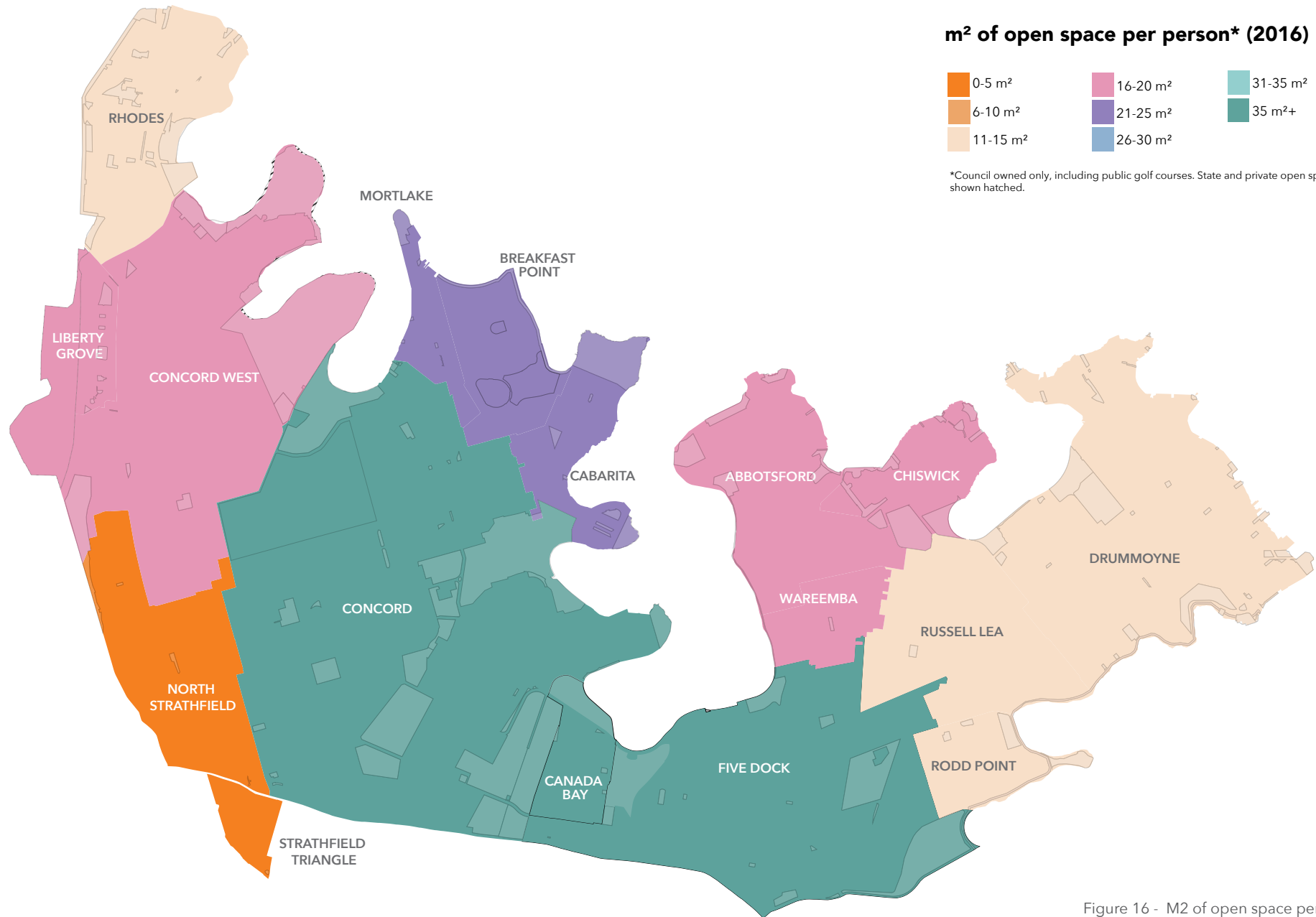


Figure 16 - M2 of open space per person (2016)



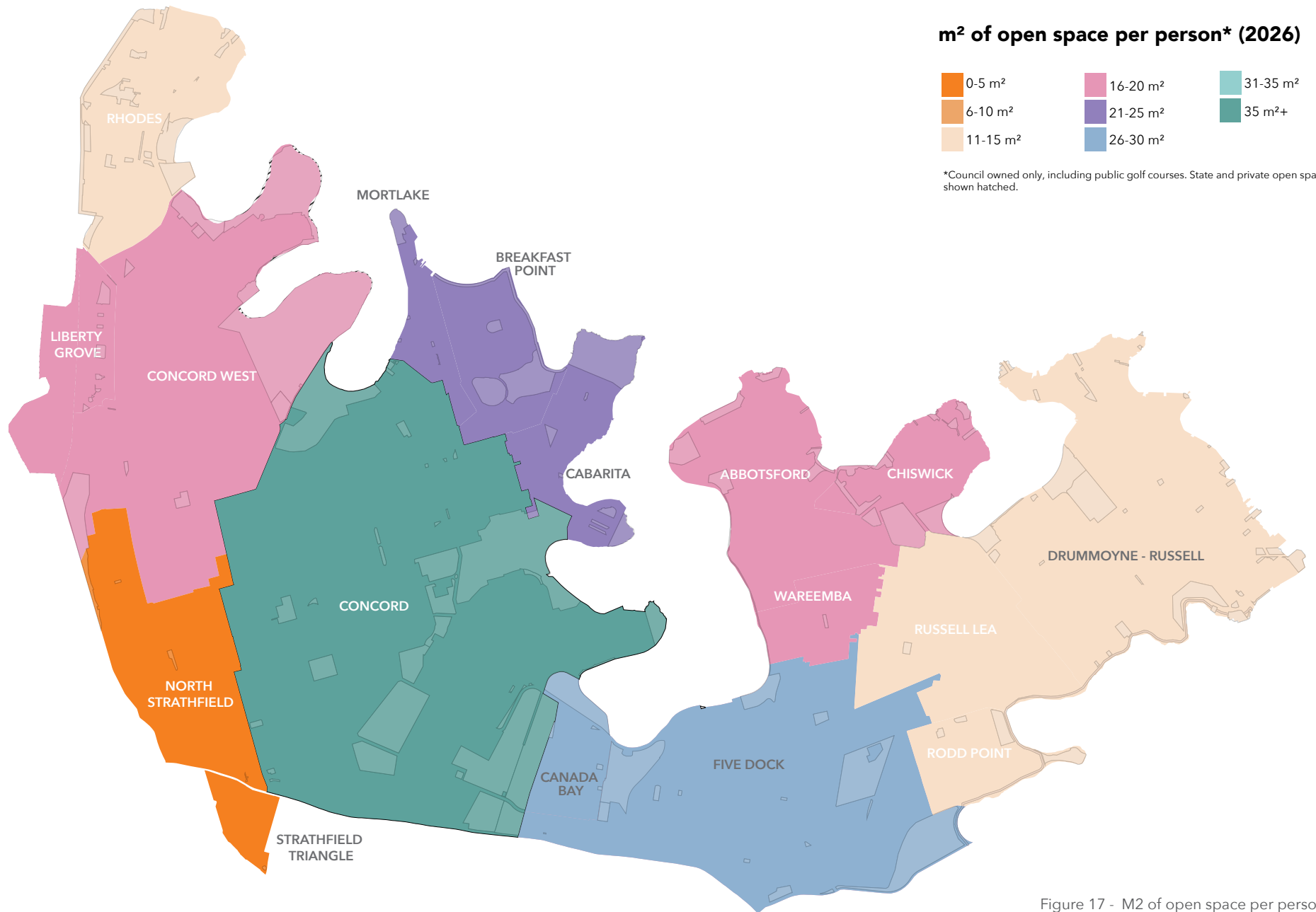


Figure 17 - M2 of open space per person (2026)

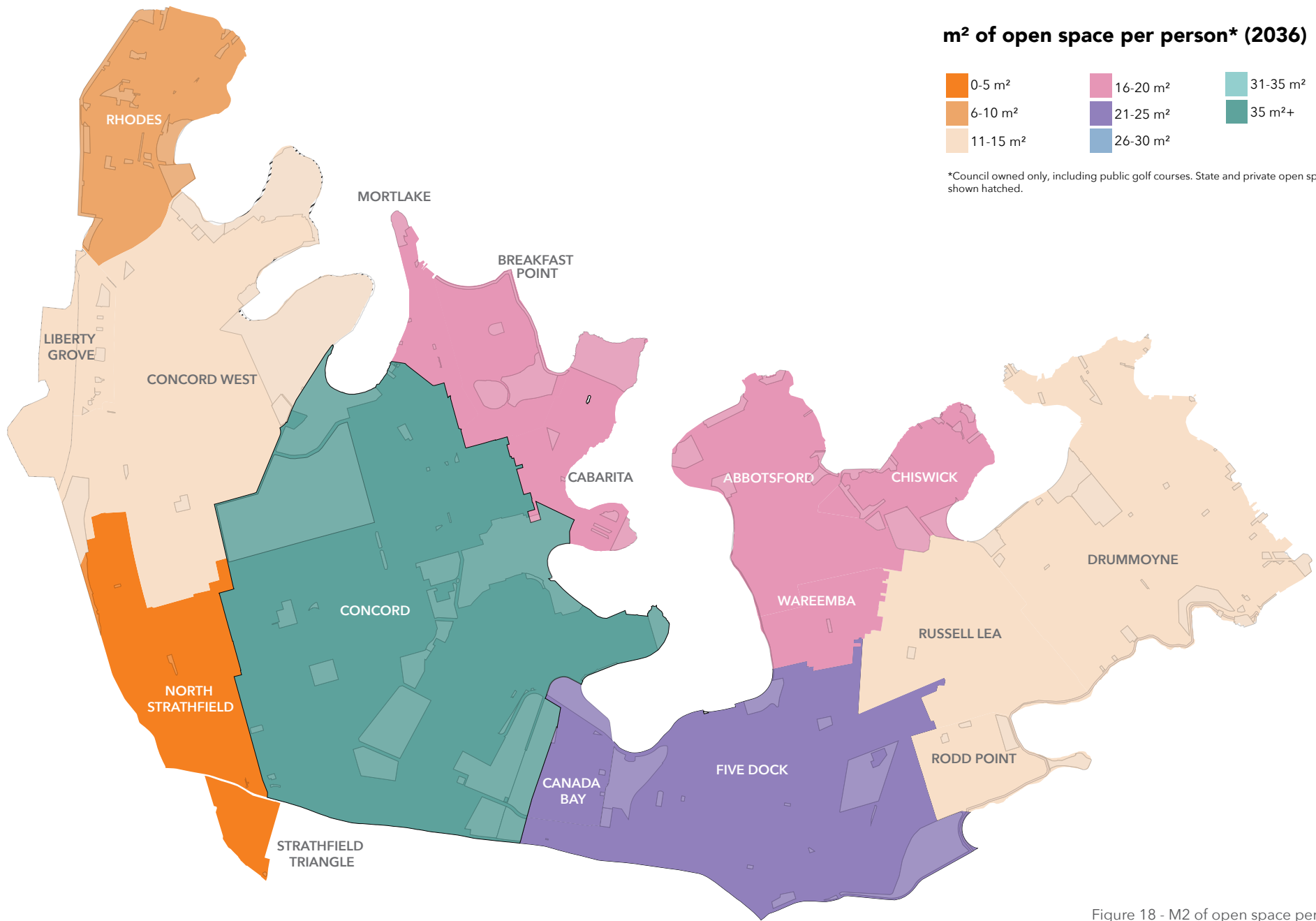


Figure 18 - M2 of open space per person (2036)

## Open space hierarchy

### Approach

Hierarchy approaches recognise that not all parcels of open space areas are the same in terms of use and importance to the community. The open space hierarchy includes local open space to meet neighbourhood needs while larger parks with a more diverse range of recreation opportunities service district and regional catchments. Higher order parks will generally also fulfill lower order opportunities for the immediate neighbourhood (i.e. a district-level park also provides local-level opportunities).

Pocket parks and small parks can meet some of the recreation needs of a small area if they are well located and of a high quality. This can include passive spaces to sit; community gardens, play spaces and other recreation opportunities; or connections in an active street network. However, some small parks have limited capacity to accommodate a range of recreation activities and needs due to their size, shape or location. These spaces can provide other benefits such as increased tree canopy or biodiversity areas.

The hierarchy in Table 12 reflects a modified version of the Government Architect NSW 'Greener Spaces' Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide. It includes a hierarchy level of "special" parks which regardless of their size have unique characteristics that may justify higher service levels.

TABLE 12 - OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

HIERARCHY	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Regional open space	Services at least one local government area. Users will be prepared to travel significant distances to access regional open space and may stay for an extended period of time. Provides unique features or facilities. Typical size: 5+ ha Typical distance to most houses: 5-10km	Cabarita Park
District open space	Typically service catchments of less than one local government area, or several neighbourhoods. Typical size: 2-5ha Typical distance to most houses: 2km	Edwards Park
Local open space	Caters to a local neighbourhood area where users predominately walk or cycle to the facility. Typical size: 0.3-2ha Typical distance to most houses: 400m In high density areas: Typical size: 0.1 - 0.3ha Typical distance to most	Henley Park
Pocket parks	Small parcels of open space such as single blocks of land designed to increase open space in developed areas or "leftover" land such as from road closures or development on irregular blocks. Typical size: 0-1,000m <sup>2</sup>	Peppercorn Park
Special	Unique characteristics, features or facilities of significance, for example high density population, heritage, environmental, cultural, and high visitation.	Rodd Park

## Open space proximity and connectivity

### Approach

Proximity and connectivity benchmarks can assess the geographic distribution and accessibility of open space in terms of how far people need to travel to access open space. There may be different proximity benchmarks for different types of open space: for example, local open space should be within walking distance of most people, but regional open space could be further away. When applying proximity benchmarks, connectivity and access should be considered – for example, how walkable are the main access routes, is their a main road or rail line obstructing access?

With an acknowledgment of the different recreation and open space needs of people living in high density, there is a move towards planning benchmarks specifically for the provision of open space in high density areas. Best practice research also recommends a benchmark specifically for the provision of open space in vulnerable areas such as areas with ageing populations, low income areas.

Council has adopted the following proximity based benchmarks based on The Government Architect NSW 'Greener Spaces' Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide (2018) and local needs:

- All dwellings should be within 400m easy walking distance of quality open space of at least 0.3ha
- All high density dwellings (more than 60 dwellings per ha) should be within 200m easy walking distance of quality open space of at least 0.1ha.

Proximity to open space areas of 0.3ha for all residents and 0.1ha for high density areas have been applied given the trend toward provision of high quality parks rather than large open space areas, and the many precedents of quality parks of this size across Sydney. In some high density areas (such as North Strathfield, it is also unrealistic to achieve parks any larger than 0.3ha given limited land available)

### Audit and benchmarking

In the Canada Bay LGA there are a number of areas that are not within 400m easy walking distance, with no major road or rail barriers, of open space of at least 0.3ha as shown in Figure 19. This includes:

- Rhodes East
- Parts of Concord West and Liberty Grove close to the rail line
- North Strathfield and Strathfield (Triangle)
- Part of Five Dock
- Part of Russell Lea, and
- The north-east part of Drummoyne.

Figure 20 shows areas that are within 200m walking distance of open space of at least 0.1ha, and highlights those areas that are currently zoned for high density residential living (R3, R4 and B4 zones) that do not meet this benchmark. This includes in particular

- Parts of North Strathfield
- Part of central Five Dock
- Part of Wareemba, and
- The north-east and central parts of Drummoyne.

While the maps show that the catchment around the golf courses are within proximity to open space, this is fenced off and/or not available for public and informal use.



Cabarita Park (City of Canada Bay Council)

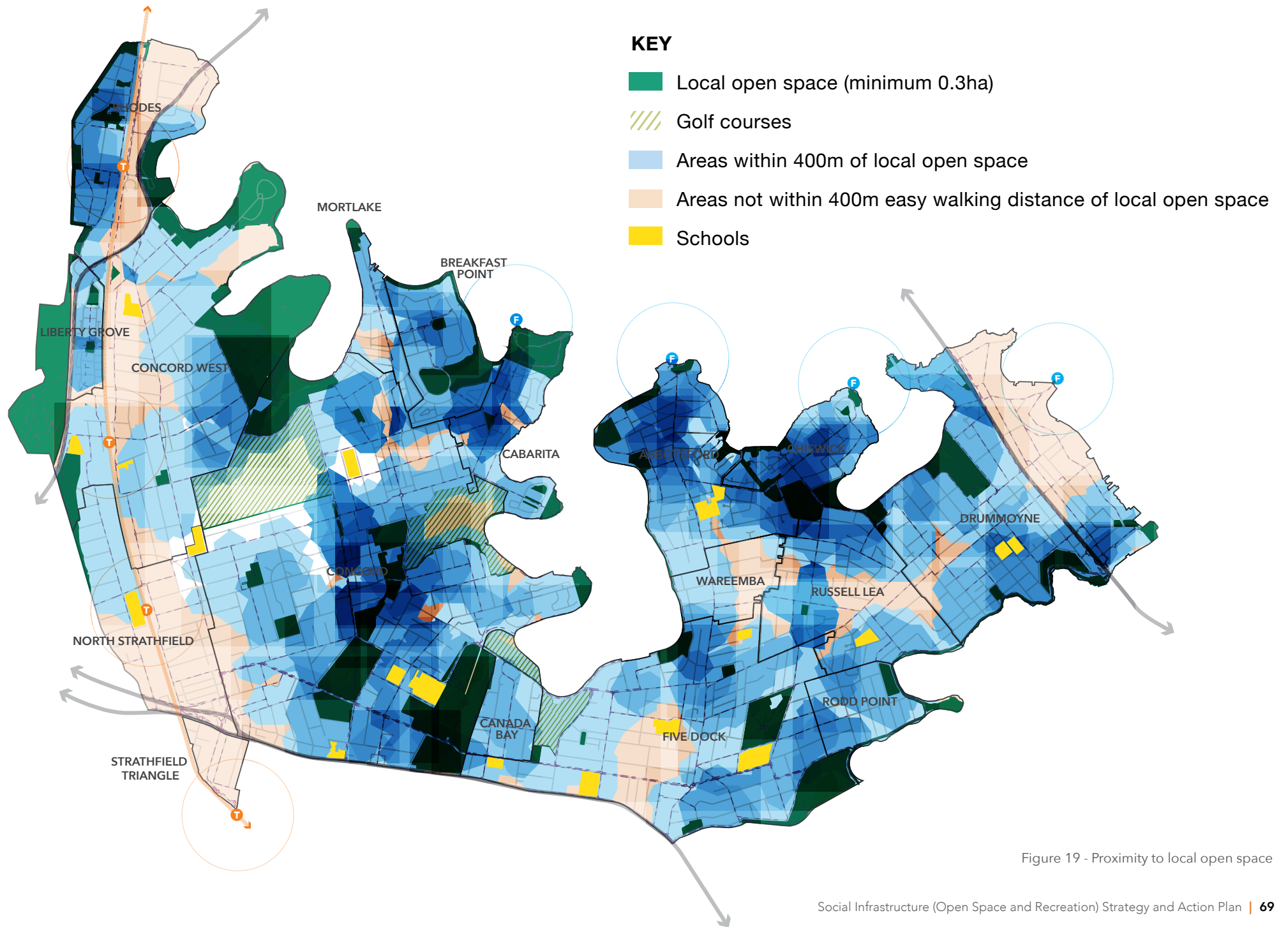


Figure 19 - Proximity to local open space

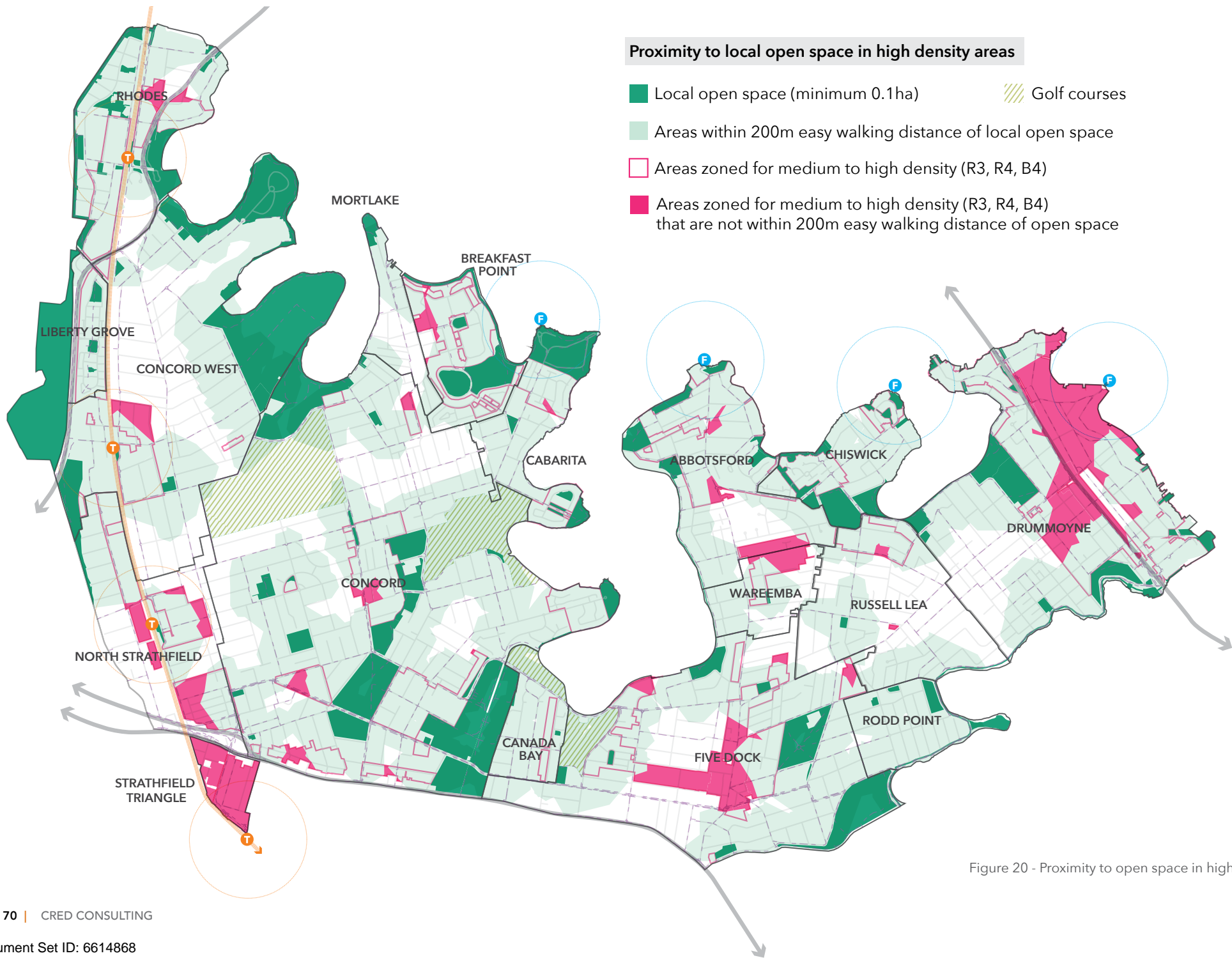


Figure 20 - Proximity to open space in high density areas

## Range of open space types

### Approach

The range of open space types within an area determines the diversity of recreation opportunities available for a community. This section applies the recommended approach from the Government Architect NSW 'Greener Spaces' Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide, with one additional category for "foreshore parks" (Table 13). Functions are not mutually exclusive, for example one park may include both natural areas and sports functions.

### Audit

As shown in Table 14, the majority of open space areas in Canada Bay LGA are recreation spaces (142 open space areas, 78% of all open space areas). There are sportsgrounds in 24 parks (including three golf courses). There are 6 open space areas that provide recreation trails and linkages (3%) and 12 community/civic spaces (7%). There are also 27 natural areas supporting critical habitat (15%) of which all but two are foreshore areas. In total, there are 71 foreshore areas (39%). While this audit shows some diversity of function, it also highlights some issues and opportunities:

- There are opportunities to provide recreation trails through open space corridors to increase the provision of linkage parks
- There is an opportunity to provide more community and civic spaces
- There is a lack of natural areas that are not located on the foreshore, and
- There are a large number of foreshore parks which provide an opportunity for recreation on the foreshore and connection to Parramatta River. However, these areas may be at risk from sea level rise.

TABLE 13 - RANGE OF OPEN SPACE TYPES

FUNCTION	DESCRIPTION
Sports grounds	Provides sporting facilities including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as play spaces, seating, clubhouses and amenities.
Recreation spaces	Provides space active or passive recreation including parks with social areas like BBQs, gardens, play spaces for young and old, walking tracks and fitness equipment, dog exercise areas. Most parks fall into this category, including unembellished parks.
Community/ civic spaces	Provides a community or civic function such as space for events, plaza space in a town centre, or with a co-located community facility such as a library or community centre.
Linkage parks	Includes cycle or pedestrian paths that provide recreation trails or connect to other areas of open space or destinations such as town centres and schools.
Natural areas	Natural areas including spaces managed to protect and enhance environments with ecological and biodiversity values, opportunities to explore and contemplate nature.

TABLE 14 - PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE IN CANADA BAY LGA BY TYPE

FUNCTION	NUMBER	% OF ALL PARKS
Parks with sports grounds	24	13%
Recreation spaces	142	78%
Community/civic spaces	12	7%
Linkage parks	6	3%
Natural areas	27	15%
Foreshore areas	71	39%

## 9.6. RECREATION TRAILS

### Approach

The Government Architect NSW proposes the following benchmarks for recreation trails:

- Within 10 minutes safe walking or within 800 m of 100% of houses .
- In high-density areas, multi-user path networks with linking access to extended trail or path opportunities should be provided within 400m.
- Host space/linear open space must be a minimum of 20m wide.

### Audit and benchmarking

There are three high profile recreational trails in the Canada Bay LGA:

- The Bay Run is a 7km trail traveling along the western foreshore of Iron Cove in City of Canada Bay and passing through Inner West Council and Callan Park (owned by NSW Department of Health) on the southern and eastern foreshore.
- The Homebush Bay Circuit is a walking and cycling circuit that is currently being developed around Homebush Bay, connecting Wentworth Point and Rhodes as increasing residential development takes place. The project encompasses the jurisdictions of City of Canada Bay, City of Parramatta and Sydney Olympic Park Authority.
- The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway consists of 800 metres of pathway and runs between Concord Repatriation General Hospital and Rhodes Railway

Station. The Walkway is a tribute to the Australian troops who fought in the World War II Papua-New Guinea campaign of 1942-1943, and features 22 information stations of plaques describing significant places or engagements of the campaign. An Educational Resource Centre is also located on the route of the walkway.

There are also recreational trails along the foreshore. The provision of foreshore access will be assessed in the Foreshore Access Strategy being completed concurrently to this Strategy.

There are opportunities to improve recreation trails in the Canada Bay LGA through creating Green Grid links, with priority projects:

- Sydney Harbour Foreshore and Parramatta River Walk
- Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Corridor
- Hen and Chicken Bay Foreshore
- Rhodes and Concord Open Space and Hospital Precincts
- Powells Creek and Mason Park, Strathfield
- Burwood Green Link: Burwood Park to Hen and Chicken Bay
- St Lukes Park and Concord Oval Green Link, and
- Breakfast Point and Cabarita Foreshores.

There are opportunities to improve links from the future high density areas along Parramatta Road to the foreshore through a linear path along a restored Iron Cove Creek.

The development of the Biodiversity Framework has also identified priority links to connect habitat areas, including connecting the corridors of open space in Concord and Five Dock.



Walking the dog along the Bay Run (City of Canada Bay Council)



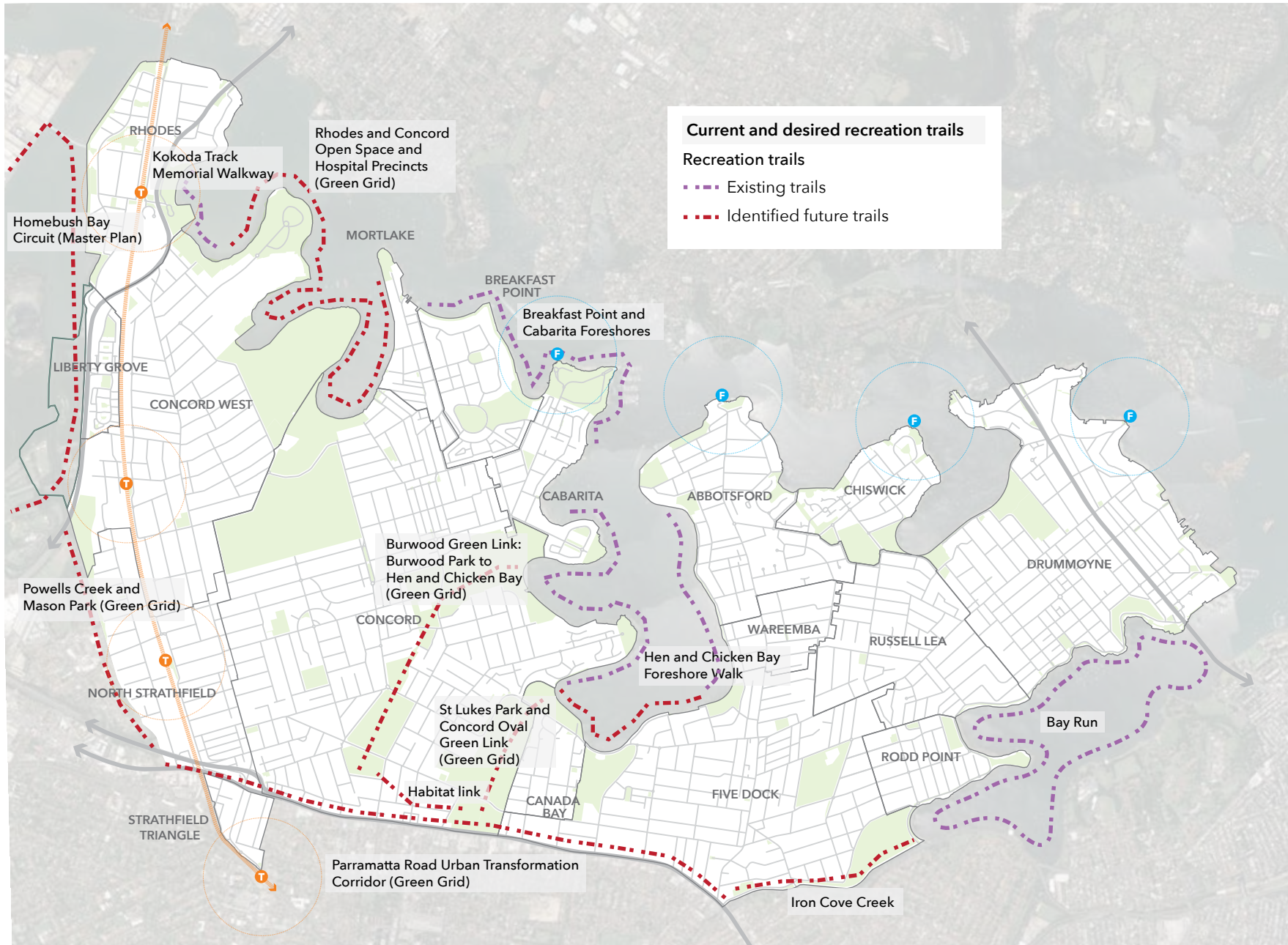


Figure 21 - Current and desired recreation trails  
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## 9.7. RECREATION FACILITIES

### Play spaces

#### Approach

As outlined in the Department of Planning's draft guidelines 'Everyone Can Play,' a play space is defined as a place within a park that has playground equipment and is immediately adjacent supporting amenities, such as toilets, car parking, bike paths, picnic facilities, and open space or landscape areas. Best practice is to provide a diverse range of play opportunities which include play spaces for different age groups, risky and adventure play spaces to support healthy development, places to play and interact with nature, and inclusive play for all abilities.

City of Canada Bay's Let's Play Strategy 2008 values playgrounds for the contribution they make to our community as a meeting place and also a means of providing our children with opportunities to have fun, experience joy and learn. It classifies play spaces into 3 categories as shown in Table 15.

The more recent Government Architect NSW Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide (2018) proposes the benchmarks shown in Table 16. The Growth Centres Commission (GCC) provides a benchmark of 1 play space per 500 children aged 0 to 4 and 1 play space per 500 children aged 5 to 11.

#### Audit and benchmarking

Currently there are 49 play spaces in Canada Bay LGA. This includes two regional play spaces including Livvi's Place, Australia's first all abilities playground, which was named the best play space in the country by Parks and Leisure Australia in 2010 and services a regional catchment.

Based on the Growth Centres Commission benchmark

there is a sufficient supply of play spaces to meet current and forecast population needs to 2036. However, there is a lack of play spaces in North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) (current gap of 1 space, forecast to grow to a gap of 2 spaces by 2036).

There is also a need for larger district and iconic play

spaces catering to a larger catchment and providing a range of play opportunities including play in nature, adventure play, play for older children and water play.

Council is currently developing a new Let's All Play Strategy which will further investigate the need for future play spaces.

TABLE 15 - CLASSIFICATION OF PLAY SPACES (EVERYONE CAN PLAY, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING)

CATEGORY	DISTRIBUTION PREFERENCE
Neighbourhood	Caters for a highly localized catchments within a 500m - 750m or < 10 minute walk from residences
District	Services a wider catchments for residents within the suburb and visitors from neighbouring suburbs >10minutewalk <10minutedrive
Iconic	Has catchments that extends beyond the City of Canada Bay LGA. Services the local community, residents from the City of Canada Bay and visitors predominantly from adjacent LGAs. > 10 minute drive

TABLE 16 - GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NSW DRAFT OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION GUIDE (2018) BENCHMARKS

PLAY SPACE TYPE	LOW-MEDIUM DENSITY	HIGH DENSITY
Local play for very young (0-5)	80% of dwellings within 400m safe walking distance 100% of dwellings within 500m	80% of dwellings within 200m safe walking distance 100% of dwellings within 300m
Local children's play (5-12)	80% of dwellings within 400m safe walking distance 100% of dwellings within 500m	80% of dwellings within 300m safe walking distance 100% of dwellings within 400m
Older children's activity space (10-15)	80% of dwellings within 800m safe walking distance 100% of dwellings within 1,500m	

## Outdoor fitness stations

### Approach

Outdoor exercise equipment provides an opportunity to participate in one of the most popular recreation activities (fitness/gym) in an affordable and informal way. Physical activity in a natural or green environment has additional health and wellbeing benefits above participating indoors; while outdoor fitness stations also provide an opportunity for social connections and encourage physical recreation. Targeted areas for fitness activities also relieve pressure on other areas of open space. Outdoor exercise equipment can provide specific equipment to allow for gentle exercise for older people.

Best practice is to provide a mix of static and dynamic equipment for a range of users made of robust materials to handle exposed locations. Stations should provide for aerobic, anaerobic, stability and flexibility exercises. Where possible, duplicates should be provided of equipment that is likely to be popular. Signage, shade, seating and drinking fountains should be provided and charging stations could be included. Stations should be located in active areas eg pedestrian routes with good passive surveillance.

Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a commonly used benchmark of 1 outdoor fitness station per 15,000 people.

### Audit and benchmarking

Currently, outdoor fitness stations are provided at:

- Mill Park, Rhodes (new station)
- Henry Lawson Park, Abbotsford (smaller, older-style equipment), and
- Bayview Park, Rhodes (smaller, older-style equipment).

There is a current undersupply of 3 outdoor fitness stations (2019) and a forecast undersupply of 5 stations by 2036.

TABLE 17 - PROVISION OF OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS IN CANADA BAY LGA

	CURRENT SUPPLY	GAP 2019	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point	0	1	1	1
Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba	1	0	0	0
Concord	1	0	0	0
Concord West-Liberty Grove	0	1	1	1
Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point	0	1	1	1
Five Dock-Canada Bay	0	1	1	1
North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle)	0	1	1	1
Rhodes (East and West)	1	0	0	0
Canada Bay LGA*	3	3	4	5

\* Benchmark provision for the LGA population. This is not necessarily equivalent to the sum total of benchmarked demand for each catchment area, which may be over- or undersupplied independent of the overall provision.

## Multi-purpose outdoor courts

### Approach

Multipurpose outdoor courts provide space for informal and social sport, and are increasingly popular in particular in areas with young populations and high cultural diversity. Multipurpose outdoor courts should be designed for safety including lighting for use at night. They should provide for a range of sports popular in the local area which in Canada Bay may include basketball, netball, volleyball and tennis. Providing courts in a cluster (eg 4 courts) can support use by schools and for social/low level competitions or training. Grouping courts (eg minimum 2 courts together) enables better sharing of space, with enough space and hoops/goals for a number of groups of people to play at once. Consideration should also be given to creating a space that is welcoming for different groups including children and families as well as women and girls, rather than becoming a space dominated by one group (for example through signage, use of colour, or using non-competition standard markings to highlight the informality of the space).

Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1 multipurpose outdoor court per 10,000 people.

### Audit and benchmarking

Currently, there is one publicly accessible multipurpose outdoor court provided in the City of Canada Bay LGA and three part basketball courts:

- Victoria Avenue Public School multipurpose court, Concord West
- Five Dock Park, Five Dock (poor condition)
- Sanders Reserve, Concord (recently built), and
- Taplin Park, Drummoyne.

There is a current undersupply of 6 outdoor multipurpose courts (2019) and a forecast undersupply of 8 courts by 2036. There are currently 21 multi-purpose courts in local schools.

The most recent Concept Plans for the Redevelopment of Concord Oval include an outdoor multipurpose court.

TABLE 18 - PROVISION OF MULTI-PURPOSE OUTDOOR COURTS IN CANADA BAY LGA

	CURRENT SUPPLY	GAP 2019	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point	0	1	1	1
Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba	0	1	1	1
Concord	1	1	1	1
Concord West-Liberty Grove	1	0	0	0
Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point	1	1	1	1
Five Dock-Canada Bay	1	0	0	1
North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle)	0	1	1	1
Rhodes (East and West)	0	1	2	2
Canada Bay LGA*	4	6	6	8

\* Benchmark provision for the LGA population. This is not necessarily equivalent to the sum total of benchmarked demand for each catchment area, which may be over- or undersupplied independent of the overall provision.

## Off-leash dog areas

### Approach

Around one in three households in Australia own a dog, and these canine companions play an important role in our lives including helping to improve physical and mental health and reducing the effects of stress. Increasing density and decreasing backyard sizes mean that in urban environments there is a growing trend to exercising dogs out of the home with an increased need for off-leash dog parks. Off-leash dog parks can be a social connector, facilitating connections between people walking their dogs and helping to build social capital and a sense of community. However, they can also be spaces of conflict as users, particularly dogs and children, have different needs and may sometimes interact negatively.

Good design and management of dog off-leash areas can play an important role in managing the interactions between dogs and other users. Prominent signage, bins, bags, seating, shade and drinking fountains should be provided in all dog off-leash areas. Some organisations advocate fencing dog parks to reduce conflict between dogs and other users. Others note that this can concentrate use in one area, increasing wear and tear and maintenance costs; and that it is challenging to design fenced areas to be multipurpose spaces available for a range of users and uses. Appropriate solutions should be designed based on the location and in consultation with the community. In Canada Bay LGA, staff consultation has identified that existing fenced off-leash dog parks have caused behavioural issues. In high density areas, multipurpose spaces are particularly important and fenced off-leash dog parks should be reconsidered.

The Mayor has indicated the intent for Canada Bay to be one of the most dog friendly Council areas. A draft 'Dogs in Public Places Strategy' is nearing completion and states

the strategic intent to provide an off leash area within 800m of all residents in keeping with the draft Open Space for Recreation Guide developed by the Government Architect NSW.

### Audit and benchmarking

Council currently provides off-leash dog parks at 20 parks, including 6 parks where dog off-leash is allowed before 9am and after 5pm only. This equates to 1 dog off-leash park to 4,780 residents. The benchmark from Council's draft Dogs in Public Places Strategy is to provide 1 off leash dog park within 800m of all residences.

The map in Figure 22 shows the portion of Canada Bay LGA that falls within an 800m radius of an existing off leash dog exercise area. It shows a high supply of dog parks in high density areas such as Rhodes and Drummoyne. It identifies the Concord/North Strathfield suburbs as a priority site for a future off-leash dog exercise area if the above performance criteria is to be achieved. This Strategy identifies an opportunity to explore options for the establishment of a dog off-leash exercise area to address this need. Council also encourages community associations such as those in Breakfast Point and Liberty Grove to consider opportunities to provide dog off-leash exercise areas for their resident.



Dog walking (City of Canada Bay Council)



Figure 22 - Map showing areas within an 800m radius of an existing off leash dog exercise area.

## Community gardens

### Approach

Community gardens provide and facilitate a range of social, recreation and environmental benefits for individuals and communities, including providing a focal point for building social connections between community members, cultures, ages and income groups, and community partnerships.

Community gardens play a role in access to food, especially among lower-income and under-served communities, as well as connecting people with the sources of their food. Importantly, they provide access for older people who may have downsized from homes with gardens, and for communities living in high density.

Community gardens provide access to outdoor space including opportunities for gentle physical exercise; passive recreation with benefits for mental health; and opportunities for learning in nature, including for children and young people and intergenerational skill-sharing. Furthermore, they may provide opportunities to break down cultural barriers, including through learning about other cultural food traditions.

Community gardens work best when championed and self-managed by motivated local community groups. Consideration of soil contamination is important when deciding a location. There are no industry benchmarks for the provision of community gardens.

### Audit

Currently there are 4 community gardens in Canada Bay including one under construction:

- Concord Community Centre
- Chiswick Community Garden (Blackwall Point Reserve)
- Rhodes Community Garden (Hoskins Reserve), and
- Rhodes Park 5 Senses Garden.

There is also a mobile community garden used to host gardening workshops around the LGA.

In the future, Council should work with motivated local community groups to find locations for community gardens, in particular in high density areas.



Neighbour Aid (City of Canada Bay Council)

## Youth recreation spaces

### Approach

Youth recreation spaces are larger, youth-focused areas that provide for both active recreation and space to gather and interact. This includes skate parks, BMX tracks, and youth plazas. Best practice youth recreation spaces are designed for safety including lighting; located close to public transport, shops, schools and other facilities; include amenities such as seating, shelter, shade and bins; are visible from the public domain; involve young people in the design and management; and consider the needs of a range of young people including girls and culturally diverse young people.

Industry benchmarks indicate that one regional level youth recreation space should be provided per 50,000 people as a minimum (Growth Centres Commission and City of Parramatta). The Government Architect NSW proposes a benchmark that all 80% of houses should be within 800m safe walking distance of a (neighbourhood level) youth recreation space and 1,500m for 100% of houses, however this benchmark is not seen as realistic given the current undersupply of youth recreation spaces across Canada Bay and Greater Sydney. The minimum size of a youth recreation space is 2,000m<sup>2</sup>, and this may be part of a larger park. The NSW Office of Sport is also currently reviewing the provision of skate facilities in Greater Sydney, which may alter these recommendations.

### Audit and benchmarking

Currently there are two youth recreation spaces provided in Canada Bay:

- Five Dock Skate Park, a regional level skate park in Five Dock Park, Five Dock, and
- John Whitton Reserve, a local level skate park in Rhodes.

Based on benchmarks this is sufficient to meet current demand however there is a forecast gap of 0.4 youth recreation areas by 2036, which could be provided as a second local space such as John Whitton Reserve.

TABLE 19 - PROVISION OF YOUTH RECREATION SPACES IN CANADA BAY LGA

	CURRENT SUPPLY	GAP 2019	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Canada Bay LGA	2	0	0	0.4



King of Concrete (City of Canada Bay Council)



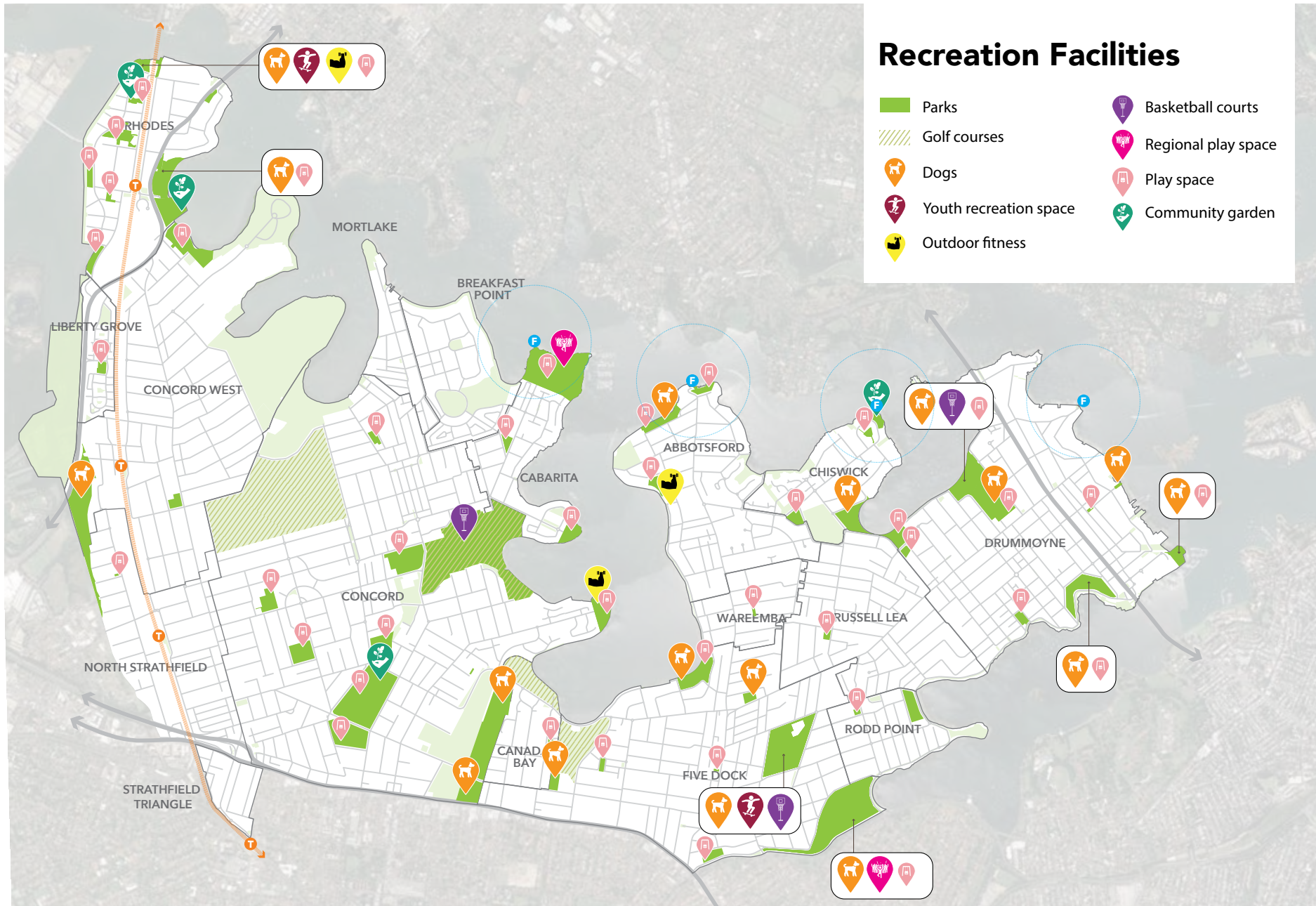


Figure 23 - Recreation facilities

## AQUATIC FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Aquatic centres and swimming locations

#### Approach

Swimming is amongst the most popular recreation activities for all demographics. Swimming facilities play many roles: from learn to swim classes for adults and children; to gentle exercise for older people, people with injuries and pregnant women; to social recreation on hot days; to more intense exercise and lap swimming. With increasing high density living and smaller backyards, higher temperatures, and an ageing and culturally diverse population, swimming facilities are increasingly in demand. However, many Councils across Australia face increasing costs of maintaining older facilities that are reaching end of life. Some strata developments may include a communal pool.

One of City of Canada Bay's great assets is 36km of river foreshore. While swimming in the Parramatta River was possible throughout history, the waterway became too polluted for safe swimming in the 20th Century. With significant clean up efforts since the Clean Waters Act 1970, swimming in some locations is now possible. The river also continues to be used for recreation including sailing, motor boats, rowing and dragon boating.

Benchmarks from the Growth Centres Commission are detailed below:

- Regional: 50m competition pool (1:150,000 people).
- District: 25m or 50m pool for recreation, club, water polo, diving, competitive swimming (1:75,000 people).
- Local: 25m and leisure pool (1:30,000 people).



Drummoyne Swim Centre (City of Canada Bay Council)

### Audit and benchmarking

As shown in Figure 24, there are two aquatic centres in City of Canada Bay, providing two 50m competition standard pools:

- Drummoyne Swimming Centre, built in 1902 and cut from solid rock and upgraded in 2018 with an accessible pool hoist
  - 50m competition and water polo pool
  - Toddler pool, and
- Cabarita Swimming Centre (upgraded in 2008)
  - 50m pool and accessible hoist facility
  - Program pool
  - Toddler pool.

Based on the GCC benchmarks, there is a sufficient provision of competition and district pools in the Canada Bay LGA now and to 2036. However, there may be demand for additional smaller local pools, particularly in the high growth, highly culturally diverse west of the LGA. There are also two private pools providing classes only, in Five Dock and North Strathfield.

Additional swimming places in the Parramatta River supplement this provision in particular for recreational swimming. Currently, swimming is possible at:

- Chiswick Steps, Chiswick, and
- Cabarita Beach, Cabarita.

Planned locations for future swimming in the Parramatta River (2025) are:

- Bayview Park, and
- Mcllwaine Park.

It should also be noted that in addition to aquatic facilities within Canada Bay LGA, there are a number of facilities in neighbouring LGAs which also service the needs of the Canada Bay community (Figure 25), including:

- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (this centre is operating at capacity for the Ryde community with high demand from schools and learn to swim)
- Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (this centre is not easily accessible to the general community with high use for competition and regional needs as well as servicing a large and growing catchment outside of Canada Bay)
- Enfield Aquatic Centre, and
- Ashfield Aquatic Centre (this centre is being significantly refurbished and will re-open in late 2020).

Figure 25 shows aquatic facility provision in the Eastern City. The Canada Bay LGA has a relatively high provision of aquatic facilities per person compared to other LGAs in the Eastern City.

As shown in Table 20 and 21 (over page), and applying Growth Centre Commission benchmarks:

- There is no current or forecast demand for new aquatic facilities over 50m in the Canada Bay LGA .
- However, benchmarks indicate there may be a gap of up to 2 local pools of 25m by 2036. This demand is mostly resulting from population growth in Rhodes, Concord and Five Dock and could be provided through private development, existing local private pools and swimming spaces in the Parramatta River.

### Water-based recreation

There are 4 boat ramps in Canada Bay, managed by Roads and Maritime Services:

- Taplin Park Boat Ramp (Bayswater St, Drummoyne)
- Bayview Park Boat Ramp (Burwood Rd, Concord)
- Kendall Bay Boat Ramp (Cabarita Park, Cabarita Road, Concord), and
- Blaxland Road Boat Ramp (Blaxland Rd, Rhodes).

These are regional/metropolitan level facilities attracting users from across Sydney.

There are 6 facilities with associated clubs providing sailing, rowing and dragon boating facilities:

- Abbotsford Sailing Club
- Dobroyd Aquatic Club
- Drummoyne Sailing Club
- Drummoyne Rowing Club
- Sydney Rowing Club, and
- Sydney Dragon Boat Association.

While there are other boat ramps (for non-motorised craft) as well as places where residents and visitors store dinghys and other water craft, there is not consistently available public information on these facilities and there may be opportunities to increase water access.

TABLE 20 - PROVISION OF POOLS (OVER 25M)

	CURRENT SUPPLY (POOLS OVER 25M)	GAP 2019	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point	2	0	0	0
Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba	0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Concord	0	0.5	0.5	0.6
Concord West-Liberty Grove	0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point	1	0	0	0
Five Dock-Canada Bay	0	0.4	0.5	0.6
North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle)	0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Rhodes (East and West)	0	0.4	0.5	0.7
Canada Bay LGA*	2	1.2	1.4	2.0

TABLE 21 - PROVISION OF POOLS (OVER 50M)

	CURRENT SUPPLY (POOLS OVER 50M)	GAP 2019	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Canada Bay LGA	2	0	0	0

\* Benchmark provision for the LGA population. This is not necessarily equivalent to the sum total of benchmarked demand for each catchment area, which may be over- or undersupplied independent of the overall provision.



Figure 24 - Aquatic facilities

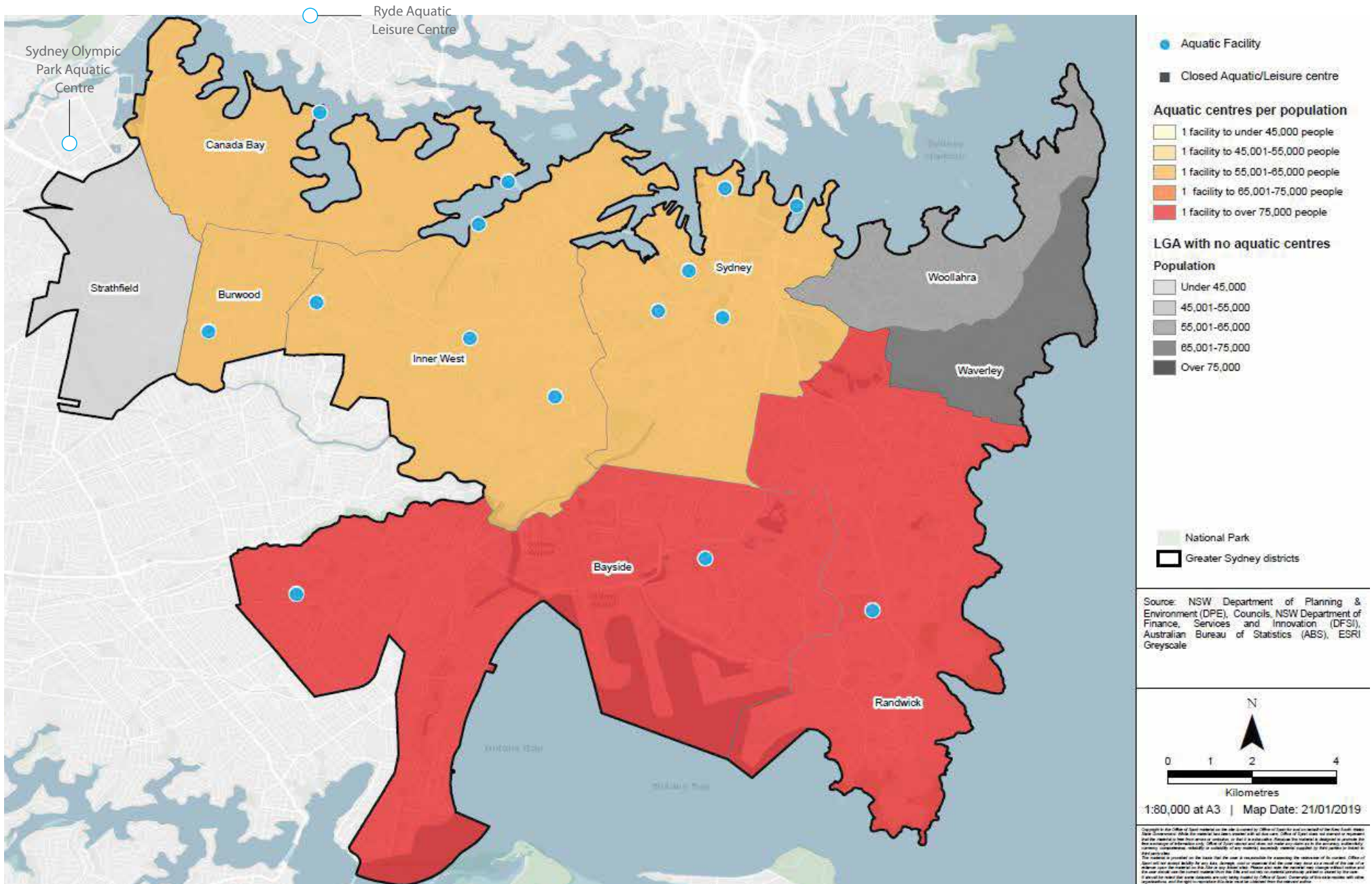


Figure 25 - Provision of Aquatic Centres in GSC Eastern City (Source: NSW Office of Sport, 2019)

## INDOOR RECREATION CENTRES

### Approach

Indoor recreation centres provide an all-weather venue for recreation, as well as being essential for some sports (e.g. gymnastics, squash, badminton and table tennis) and ideal for others (e.g. high level basketball and netball competitions). In culturally diverse communities, indoor recreation is particularly popular while indoor spaces are also appropriate for working age populations who may be recreating later at night.

Indoor recreation centres should be provided close to public transport, and in areas of higher density, employment, or high cultural diversity. There are also opportunities to provide space for indoor recreation in other facilities such as community centres, in particular for activities such as table tennis, gymnastics and dance.

Parks and Leisure Australia suggests a benchmark of 1 indoor court for every 20,000 people.

### Audit

City of Canada Bay provides one indoor recreation centre, Five Dock Leisure Centre which includes:

- Fitness gym with outdoor training area and group fitness rooms
- Gymnastics centre, and
- Two multipurpose indoor courts providing futsal, netball, badminton, basketball and table tennis

As shown in Figure 26, there is a low provision of indoor courts in the Canada Bay LGA and surrounding areas, and in comparison to other LGAs in the Eastern City.

The most recent Concept Plans for the Redevelopment of Concord Oval (February 2019) include four indoor courts and a health and fitness centre. The Business Plan completed for the Redevelopment of Concord Oval project identifies that there is exceptionally high demand for additional indoor courts and at least 50% more gymnastics space. Benchmarking indicates that there is a current gap of 3 courts and there will be demand for 4 additional indoor courts by 2036.

A new Rhodes Recreation Centre is proposed in Rhodes West, with 2 multipurpose courts, a gymnasium and other flexible and multipurpose recreational spaces.

TABLE 22 - PROVISION OF INDOOR RECREATION COURTS IN CANADA BAY LGA

	CURRENT SUPPLY	GAP 2019	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Canada Bay LGA	2	3	3	4



Five Dock Leisure Centre (City of Canada Bay Council)



Figure 26 - Provision of indoor courts in GSC Eastern City (Source: NSW Office of Sport, 2019)



## NON-COUNCIL RECREATION FACILITIES

### Approach

Council is not the only provider of recreation facilities. Other providers include private business, clubs, schools and community organisations. Communal recreation facilities may also be provided in strata developments, including communal open space, pools, gyms and tennis courts. Council may have a role in providing affordable facilities, or addressing gaps in the private sector.

### Audit

There are at least 61 purpose-built recreation facilities in Canada Bay LGA. This includes two indoor cricket centres and two private swimming pools (offering classes only). There are no fitness gyms or yoga/pilates studios in Rhodes and Concord West-Liberty Grove.

TABLE 23 - PROVISION OF NON-COUNCIL RECREATION FACILITIES IN CANADA BAY LGA

TYPE OF FACILITY	NUMBER
Fitness Gym	21
Yoga and/or pilates studio	14
Dance school	8
Martial arts	8
Indoor cricket	2
Bowling club	3
Boxing gym	2
Swimming pool	2
Paintball and Go Karts	1
Total	61

## SPORTS GROUNDS

### Approach

Sports fields are generally provided at a district level, for example across one LGA rather than a group of suburbs. Best practice is to provide sports fields in a double field format (eg two rectangular fields with a cricket pitch in the middle) to support summer and winter sports as well as senior and junior club-based sport. Associated infrastructure can include club houses (with storage, canteen, toilet and change facilities), spectator areas, play spaces, parking, and other recreation facilities such as multipurpose outdoor courts.

The SSROC completed Liveability Indicator Mapping to baseline and understand the liveability performance of each area of the SSROC region against a range of indicators. Benchmarking identified that the existing provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities within an LGA should be used as the minimum benchmark to determine future supply as population grows. The NSW Office of Sport is also completing a District Sports Facility Plan for the Eastern District which will identify future needs and may influence the findings of this Strategy.

State and local sporting organisations have identified an undersupply of sports facilities across Canada Bay LGA and the inner west of Sydney. However, as a built up area it is difficult to provide new sporting grounds which require a large area. There are opportunities to increase the capacity and utilisation of existing fields to meet demand, reducing demand for new facilities. The capacity and utilisation of sports fields is an important influence on the availability and quality of recreation opportunities. Capacity is impacted by turf type and quality, location (eg light spill or noise impacting on neighbours may mean that a field cannot be used at night), flooding, and usage

patterns. Increasing the capacity and use of existing fields can help to avoid or reduce the need for new fields.

There is also growing demand for modified/mini fields such as futsal fields. There is a trend to the conversion of underutilised tennis courts and bowling greens to futsal fields which can be run as a commercial enterprise, generating revenue for clubs and Councils. Consideration should be given to the benefits of State Sporting Organisation affiliated competitions as opposed to private enterprise in this process.

### Audit and benchmarking

There are 21 sports grounds (excluding golf courses) across Canada Bay which can be configured to provide:

- 1 athletics track
- 4 baseball diamonds
- 26 tennis courts
- 1 hockey field (synthetic)
- 38 netball courts (14 grass, 24 hard courts)
- 20 cricket pitches (15 synthetic, 5 turf)
- 31 fields (multi-purpose, full size)
- 9 fields (multi-purpose, mini/half-size).

These facilities may overlap, for example, St Luke's Oval provides a turf cricket wicket, AFL field and athletics track.

Both Concord Oval and Drummoyne Oval support first-class competition and training.

There are also two privately operated indoor cricket practice centres. As shown in Figure 27, the Canada Bay LGA has relatively high provision of sports fields compared to other LGAs in the Eastern City.

Based on maintaining the current Council provision per person, there will be demand for new sporting facilities by 2036 as shown in Table 24.

Local schools have onsite sports facilities, and are also users of Council open space and recreation facilities. Working in partnership with local schools to provide community access to school sporting facilities could address demand for new sporting facilities.

There are no sports fields or courts provided in the Rhodes peninsula high growth area. There may be opportunities for new sports fields through the redevelopment of Rhodes East, or improved connections to sports fields at Majors Bay Reserve to support active transport access.

A new synthetic football field is being installed at Majors Bay Reserve which will increase the capacity of that field.

## Utilisation of sports fields

Utilisation data provided by Council (Winter 2018 and Summer 2018/2019) indicates that at any one time up to half the fields in Canada Bay are not being used, generally due to one or more of the following reasons:

- Field size (e.g. too small for a senior match)
- Lighting (i.e. none provided, so night training not possible)
- Amenities absence (e.g. no changerooms)
- Seasonal workload (e.g. resting during summer, to be playable during following winter pre-season, including Nield, Taplin)
- Total capacity (e.g. irrigation or drainage relatively poor, reducing capacity to fewer than nominal 25 hours/week)
- Seasonal hirer's lesser needs (e.g. Goddard, Rothwell), or
- Used as a back-up ground only (e.g. Five Dock, Taplin 1).

There is a need to review underutilised fields to identify the reasons for lack of use and opportunities to increase use. This may include facilities and infrastructure improvements, conversion into multipurpose/other format fields, or new approaches to sharing fields between codes.

For example, netball courts are intensively used on a Saturday during winter, however there is excess capacity midweek, Sundays, and limited use in summer.

Synthetic surfaces are an option to increase the capacity of highly utilised fields as well as level of play catered for. Synthetic surfaces should be planned in consideration of:

- Community and social benefits – including avoiding excessive impacts on informal recreation areas

- Sporting and recreation provision – options for multi-sports and flexibility of use
- Maximising use of new surfaces across all days of the week
- Economic affordability, value and viability,
- Potential social impact on neighbours.
- Environmental investment – best practice environmental design, water harvesting and recycling and heat management, and
- Optimising existing capacity on synthetic surfaces.

TABLE 24 - PROVISION OF SPORTS FIELDS AND COURTS

	CURRENT SUPPLY	PERSONS PER FACILITY	GAP 2026	GAP 2036
Athletics	1	95,618	0	0
Baseball	4	23,905	0	1
Tennis	26	3,678	2	7
Hockey	1	95,618	0	0
Netball	38	2,516	2	10
Cricket	20	4,781	1	5
Fields (all)	40	2,390	2	11
Fields (excluding mini/half-size)	31	3,084	2	7



Rothwell Park (Ben Williams Photography for City of Canada Bay Council)

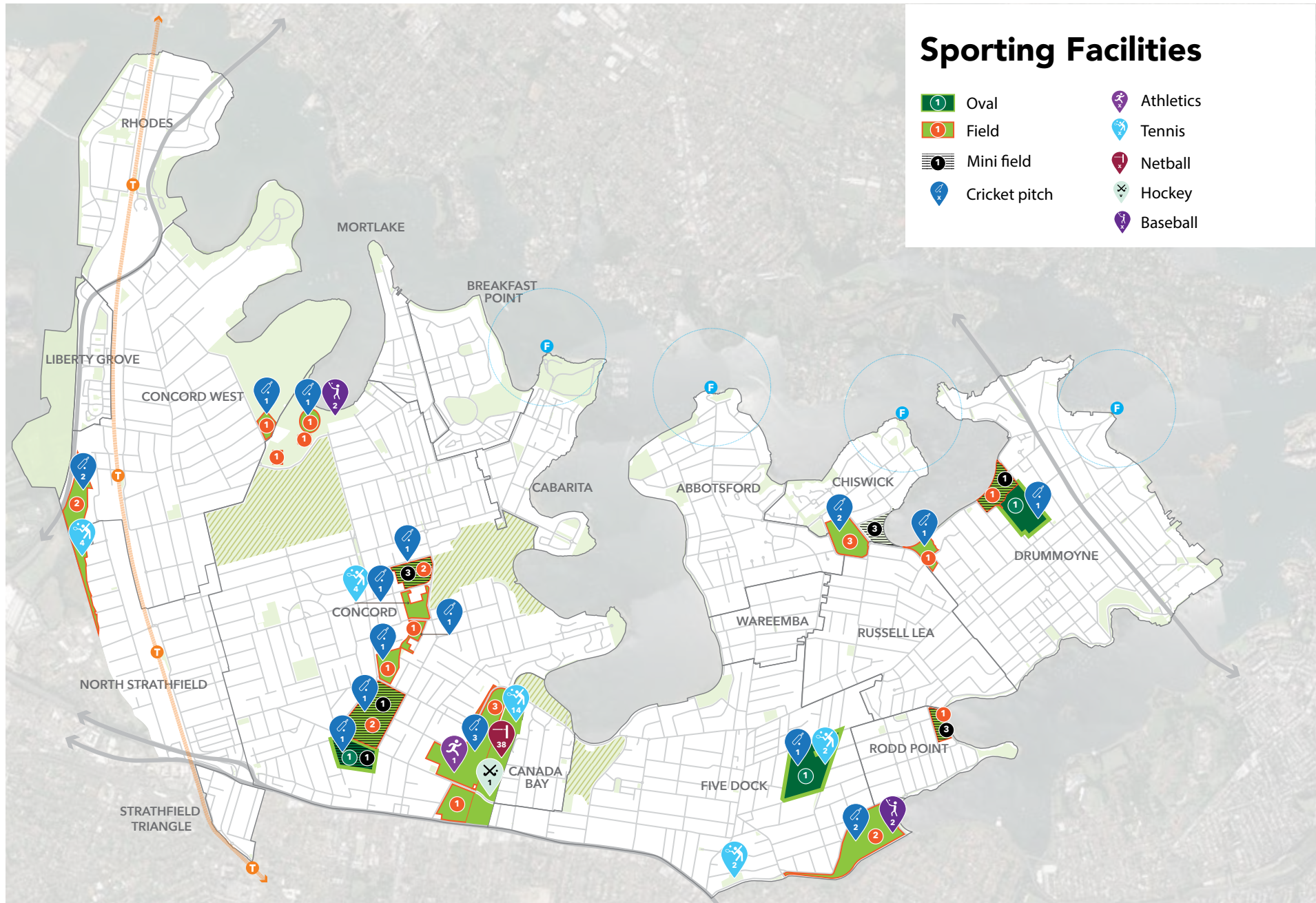


Figure 27 - Sporting facilities

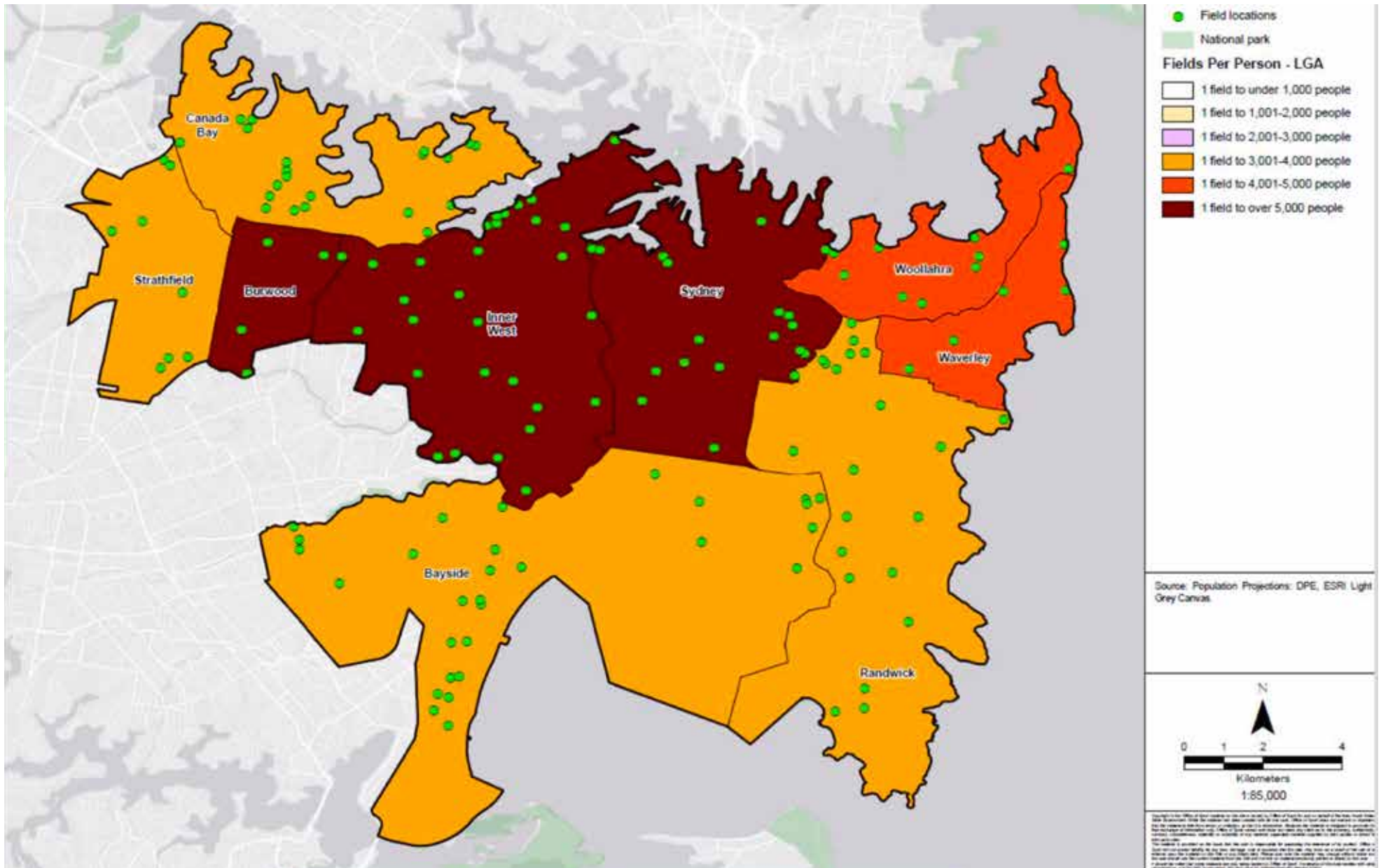


Figure 28 - Fields per population 2036 (if no new fields are developed) - Provision of sports fields in GSC Eastern City (Source: NSW Office of Sport, 2019)

## GOLF COURSES

### Approach

Golf courses are generally single-use, large parcels of land. In Australia, 4.9% of adults 15+ play golf at least occasionally. Participation is most popular among males (81% of participants) and older people (59% of participants aged over 65). However, there is evidence of declining participation including overall participation and club membership. Most golf courses provide 18 holes however there is increasing demand for 9 and 12 hole courses as people look for less time-intensive recreation activities.

Golf courses include both private courses and public courses which may be partially or fully located on Crown land. Many golf courses have restricted access while others may provide informal access particularly for walking. Some golf courses may include ecological areas and support increased tree canopy, while many are located on flood-prone land and assist in flood mitigation. Golf club houses can provide additional community benefits as a low cost community venue.



Playing golf (Ben Williams Photography for City of Canada Bay Council)

Across Sydney there is increasing pressure on local open space with population growth and increasing participation in some sports. In this context, many golf courses on public land are being considered for opportunities to increase access to recreation opportunities including passive and active open space and playing fields, for example by reducing courses to 9 holes. These decisions should take into account:

- The value of the land and the revenue generated for the LGA
- Benefits of the golf course to the community including ecological, tree canopy, flood mitigation and community space
- Public safety and damage from golf balls (e.g. to vehicles)
- Maintaining or increasing access to recreation opportunities and social networks for older people and any other vulnerable groups supported by the golf course
- Maximising community access to community open space, and
- Participation levels.

### Audit and benchmarking

There are three golf courses in the Canada Bay LGA, each providing 18 holes. In total, golf courses compose 24% of all open space in the Canada Bay LGA.

As shown in Figure 28, in the map produced by Office of Sport, Canada Bay is providing most of the golf courses to support demand from neighbouring councils of Burwood, Inner West and Strathfield. Note that since the map in Figure 29 was produced by Office of Sport, Hudson Park golf course (in Strathfield) has closed.

TABLE 25 - PROVISION OF GOLF COURSES

NAME	PUBLIC/PRIVATE	COMMUNITY ACCESS	TOTAL AREA
Concord Golf Course	Private-members only	Fenced course	43.9ha
Massey Park Golf Course	Public - recreational and membership based	Fenced course with pedestrian access points Walking and cycle path along fore-shore	25.9ha
Barnwell Park Golf Course	Public - recreational and membership based (clubhouse on private land)	Fenced course Supports foot golf and disc golf	14.1ha



Golf (City of Canada Bay Council)

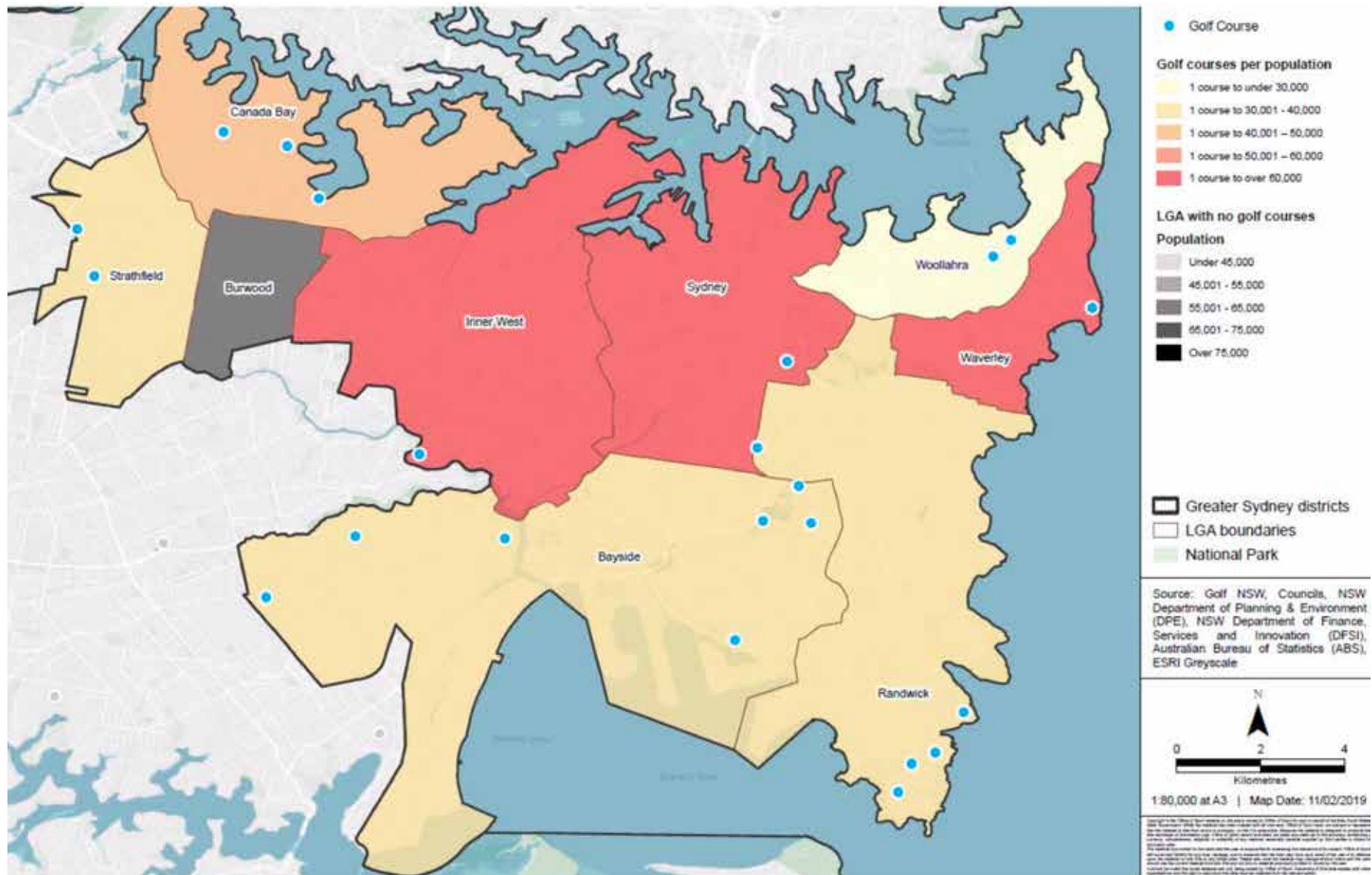


Figure 29 - Golf course provision per population 2036 in GSC Eastern City (Source: NSW Office of Sport, 2019)



## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### Approach

Recreation programs include services and activities that support the community to live healthy and active lives. They may be delivered by Council, community providers or private organisations, and in recreation facilities, public spaces, community facilities or private centres. They may be targeted to certain populations, such as young people, older people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability or people on low incomes. Council's role may be to provide programs that meet the needs of target groups, particularly those with lower participation in recreation, and to deliver programs that increase the utilisation of Council's open space and recreation facilities.

### Audit

City of Canada Bay Council provides dedicated recreation programs through the Five Dock Leisure Centre, including:

- Programs within the centre:
  - Group fitness
  - Senior's fitness (Fit for Life)
  - Stadium sports competitions include futsal, netball and basketball
  - School holiday programs
- Programs outside the centre:
  - Outdoor group training in Rhodes and Chiswick
  - Outdoor yoga in Rhodes, and
  - Council also support recreation programs and events at the Five Dock Skate Park.

Community providers deliver 24 programs in the LGA. These are mostly targeted to the general community (eg running clubs) and older people. There is one community provider targeting the multicultural community, with three programs, and one provider targeting people with disability (one program).

Key gaps and opportunities for Council to support recreation programs include:

- Play groups and children's programs in open space and recreation facilities
- Programs for young people
- Programs for people with disability
- Walking groups, and
- Programs to support women's participation in recreation such as programs for parents and their children.



Campbell Park Amenities opening day (City of Canada Bay Council)

# 10. What do global trends and best practice tell us?

There are a range of global trends and best practice precedents that can inform how we plan for and manage our open space and recreation facilities. Key trends are detailed in this section.

Best practice trends tell us we need open space and recreation facilities that are:

- Multipurpose and flexible,
- Networked and connected
- Designed and managed so that they can be shared between user groups, at different times of the day and night, and for a diversity of recreation activities
- Inclusive and universally designed to be accessible for all age groups and abilities
- Able to connect us to nature and health and wellbeing outcomes
- Co-designed with our community, and
- Able to provide children with access to nature based and risky play.

## 10.1. MULTIPURPOSE & FLEXIBLE

In increasingly urban and dense built environments the design of multipurpose and flexible spaces that both maximise usage and meet a greater diversity of recreation needs within the same space is a common trend.

### Getting more out of what we have

With an increase in high density living, more residents will need a greater variety of spaces for recreation. With limited space to build more facilities, we will need to maximise what we have to its full potential. Hybrid courts and fields allow different sports and activities to occur in the same space. Design interventions such as the installation of synthetic turf can also increase the capacity of fields from 30 hours a week (natural grass) to around 60 hours of playing time, effectively doubling the amount of playing time per week and increasing the time and number of teams that can play across the year.

While synthetic turf can be useful for getting more out of existing recreation facilities and fields, considerations such as impacts on local use, parking, and heat are important when deciding where synthetic fields are best located.

### Making big parks work harder

Regional and district parks will need to take on a variety of roles. While traditionally, a hierarchy of parks have dedicated uses, even big parks will need to service multiple roles including at the local level for neighbouring residents. On the flip-side, due to shortages of sporting facilities, passive parks are becoming more active spaces with people using them for informal sports.

### Parks as living rooms

Increasing high density development in our LGA means that parks may need to function as “living rooms” providing residents with a place to connect with each other, to relax, exercise, meet friends and host events. Imagining parks as living rooms means that they are adaptable spaces suited to the different uses and needs of our diverse community.

#### CASE STUDY - MULTI-PURPOSE SYNTHETIC FIELDS: MOLONG MULTI-PURPOSE PITCH, MOLONG

The new synthetic field in Molong, in regional NSW, provides a synthetic hockey field with tennis courts. Other large format sports can also be co-located on synthetic surfaces including hockey and soccer.



Molong multi-purpose hockey and tennis fields (Image source: via Glebe District Hockey Association)

### CASE STUDY - MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVE RECREATION SPACE: BOX HILL GARDENS, MELBOURNE

Box Hill Gardens is an innovative, multi-purpose, flexible space providing for a diverse array of recreation activities and events within the one site

Designed by Aspect Studios for the Whitehorse City Council in Victoria, the site functions as both community space and courts for multiple sports and recreation activities including table tennis, soccer, as well as the future incorporation of a 1km walking and running track that will start and finish at the multi-purpose site.

The dynamic graphic and colours used define the hybrid recreation functions of the space, while also giving the place a strong, engaging and playful identity for the growing community.

Public toilets, bubblers and seating are integrated into the space, forming a rebound wall for ball sports, while the previous tennis court building was recycled to function as seating looking over the court. These features are important in providing an inclusive space where people can stay and linger for extended periods of time.



Box Hill Gardens by ASPECT Studios. (Image Source: Andrew Lloyd <[www.aspect-studios.com](http://www.aspect-studios.com)>)

### CASE STUDY - MULTI-USE PARKS WITH SUPPORTING AMENITIES: CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN, INNER WEST COUNCIL

Camperdown Park is a large, leafy park offering a range of facilities and activities. The park received a \$3.1 million upgrade in 2016 with a new playground for younger and older children, youth space with removable art walls and table tennis tables, a refurbishment of the basketball courts, a new accessible amenities building, new pathways and lighting, and new trees and gardens. Sustainable design including LED lighting, water tanks, and recycled materials were included.

The former Camperdown Bowling Club was reopened in 2016 as Camperdown Commons and features an urban farm, restaurant, community lawn, kids' play space, and spaces for hire. Inner West Council's Chrissie Cotter Gallery is situated on Pidcock Street (underneath the tennis courts) and hosts artist exhibitions and cultural events.



Pocket City Farm at Camperdown Commons (Image source: Christine Knight)

### CASE STUDY - ACTIVATED SMALL SPACES: PIGALLE BASKETBALL COURT, PARIS

Wedged between a pair of apartment buildings in Paris, the pigalle basketball court's electric pink and blue hues with pops of yellow is an inviting and attractive example of how recreation spaces can elevate and enliven leftover spaces within the city.

By combining art with recreation, the courts have become a destination, increasing the likelihood of use, and encouraging people to be active and engage with the recreation opportunities within the city.



Pigalle Basketball court, Paris. (Image Source: Dezeen <[www.dezeen.com](http://www.dezeen.com)>)

## 10.2. NETWORKED AND CONNECTED

Ensuring recreation facilities within Canada Bay operate as a network will become increasingly important as the population grows. Improving linkages both across and within parks and recreation facilities will ensure both communities and recreation spaces remain connected.

### A network of sporting grounds

Sporting grounds have the potential to be managed and planned for as a network, meaning that frequent users, including sports clubs and organisations, can utilise different sporting grounds and clubs for training and competition purposes, as well as sharing the use of sporting grounds and club buildings by different sports clubs, organisations and codes (where appropriate) to maximise their utilisation, and reduce competition for spaces. Technology can play a key role in organising existing sporting grounds as a network of spaces.

### Streets as recreation places and connections to open space

In the increasingly urban environment of Canada Bay, the network of streets themselves are critical public spaces that lend richness to the social, civic, and economic fabric of the community. Active, green, walkable streets extend opportunities for recreation beyond the boundaries of parks, and improve connections to parks in areas with low provision.

Like few other places in cities, streets are public places of encounter where everyday life takes place. Through verge planting, traffic calming, wide footpaths, seating, shade, and places to stop such as parklets or skate and play features, streets can provide places for existing and future residents to recreate and come together with neighbours.

### CASE STUDY - COMMUNITY-LED RECLAIMING STREETS: LEEFSTRAAT (LIVING STREETS), GHENT

Leefstraat or living street, is an experiment where residents take over their street by temporarily banning, or partially banning cars from the street, and finding another place to park. By considering the challenges faced in their street or neighborhood, the intervention gives them the opportunity to find a solution and realise their own ideas and aspirations. The absence of cars means children can play safely on the streets, while new activities also provide a space for adults to meet each other.

After completing their experiment, Lab van Troje passed on the results to the local council. Lessons that were learnt included the issue that arose from late-night noise that was sometimes found to disturb residents nearby, as well as the necessity to maintain accessible access by vehicle for people living in the street with a disability, as well as for emergency vehicles.



Leefstraat in Ghent (Image source: Trojan Lab)

### CASE STUDY - PLAYFUL AND SOCIAL STREET FURNITURE, COPENHAGEN

Collaboration is at the core of the great urban design outcomes in Copenhagen. Collaboration with local communities about park/neighbourhood renewal or redesign is a core part of all planning processes. Designers, planners, sociologists and other city builders also regularly collaborate on solutions for improved urban and social outcomes. For their 2017 exhibition, the Danish Cabinet Makers Association explored the social potential of outdoor furniture and included two person adult sized swings along streets, and socially connective furniture.



Social furniture in Copenhagen (Image source: Cred Consulting)

### CASE STUDY - RECLAIMING STREETS FOR PLACES TO MEET: GLEBE PARKLETS, SYDNEY

Parklets re-imagine and reclaim on street car parking spaces and bring parks to town-centres. The typical design of a parklet is a platform that extends the sidewalks and provides amenities like seats, tables, bike racks and landscaping. In March 2015, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce was awarded a \$10,000 Community Matching Grant to deliver Sydney LGA's first moveable parklet trial. The Glebe Point Road Trial Parklet Program ran for a 6 month period between September 2015 - March 2016, and moved three times along Glebe Point Road. The project aimed to enliven street life, create a place to meet and gather, provide a space for creative expression, and increase dwelling times.



Meeting at the Parklet, Glebe (Image source: Elise O’Ryan)

### CASE STUDY - PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY PUBLIC DOMAIN: LONSDALE ST, DANDENONG

The plaza on Lonsdale St, Dandenong has a protected edge providing psychological comfort and a sense of safety from passing vehicular traffic. There is integrated seating and sittable edges, and iconic paving to support a sense of identity. Pathways along the street include colourful lighting at night, trees for shade, and lots of seating. The extension of the patterned paving onto the quieter parking area/side street creates a pedestrian and cyclist priority environment. This project won the 2014 AILA National Award for Excellence in Urban Design.



Lonsdale St Dandenong (Image source: TCL/John Gollings)

### CASE STUDY - URBAN PLAZAS: MELBOURNE CITY SQUARE, MELBOURNE

Melbourne City Square is an excellent example of an urban plaza, vibrant meeting place in the city centre where people can meet, hold events, or simply take time out from the city and relax. The square has an activated building ground floor, suitable edges to the main road, and relaxing landscaping including sunny areas, raised turf, large trees, and water features. Other features include public art and bike racks. There is a great café that helps to activate the place.



Areas of genuine grass used as places to sit and rest in Melbourne City Square (Image source: Dianna Snape)

### 10.3. SHARING THE CITY FOR RECREATION

From schools and sports clubs to roofs and unused and underutilised pockets or parking spaces, sharing the city for recreation is an emerging trend within cities where available land at street level is increasingly scarce, and more innovative approaches to recreation provision are needed.

#### Sharing spaces

With an increasing population, multiple sporting codes are needing to share a limited number of sporting grounds. Many schools have recreation facilities including fields, courts and hall which can be underutilised outside of school or club hours. Conversely, schools are very high users of Council's sporting grounds. Unlocking these assets and integrating them into the network of places available for recreation will increase the opportunities and options for play within Canada Bay. However it is important to acknowledge the variety of challenges that arise when securing these spaces for community use, including the uncertainty of long-term tenure and child protection concerns. The NSW Government is implementing a pilot program, Share Our Schools, opening up playgrounds to the community in the school holidays at 81 schools.

#### Private provision

Personal training, yoga, pilates, martial arts, boxing, pole dancing and indoor cricket are some examples of privately provided recreation spaces and activities that are available to residents of Canada Bay, outside the bounds of traditional recreation provision. These market-led recreation services and spaces play an important role in providing different recreation options for residents living in increasingly urbanised places.

#### New life to old infrastructure

Converting redundant road or rail infrastructure to parks is an emerging trend across the globe. Building parks above, or amongst decommissioned roads, overpasses, tunnels or railway opens up spaces within the city for recreation that were previously inaccessible to people.

#### Communal and public rooftop recreation

In built up areas like Canada Bay, where there is little available land at street level for new recreation facilities, both private and public rooftops and podiums can be utilised as recreation spaces. From the provision of communal rooftop gardens or pools, to publicly accessible basketball courts, there is potential for future and existing public and private roofs to create opportunities for recreation in the sky and provide additional recreation spaces for a growing Canada Bay population.

#### Giving life to leftover spaces

Pedestrian tunnels, laneways, transport hubs and irregular or vacant parcels of land in Canada Bay often contain left-over and under-utilised spaces. Simple and small design interventions to these spaces, such as the installation of mirrors for residents to practice their dance moves, or the installation of a pop-up park can turn these spaces around from an unused and often unsafe place, to lively spaces for recreation and fun.

#### CASE STUDY - RECREATION IN LEFTOVER SPACES: TAIPEI METRO

In Taipei, street dancing is a popular recreation activity and young people meet up in places where there are mirrors to dance together. This underground path between two subway stations has been panelled with mirrors and groups of young people use the path to practice K-pop dance. The space has been designed with a dance floor finish and great acoustics and includes free WiFi, seating and drinking fountains on site. By serving a dual purpose as a train station/underground passageway, and recreation space, the area is activated and entertaining for the passers-by. Underground spaces can be more than retail and paths and there are opportunities through development processes to work with communities to identify and claim spaces.



Mirrors in a tunnel between metro stations in Taipei create an informal recreation space for dancing (Image source: Julia Suh)

**CASE STUDY - COMMUNAL SPACE IN HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENTS: SIGNATURE APARTMENTS, REDFERN**

Signature Apartments in Redfern is a great example of communal spaces helping to build community in high density areas. A group of residents converted the rooftop garden beds into a community garden, which has since expanded into common areas on the lower levels. The Strata runs events like Christmas parties and Earth Hour board games by candlelight on the roof, and a community swap room has been set up in the bin room. Residents can follow the building's Facebook group, managed by the Strata, and ask advice, post about events, and welcome new people moving in. The community garden has even been featured with Costa on Gardening Australia. The building's residents are also connected with the broader community, including through hosting a FoodConnect drop off point.



Communal gardens at Signature Apartments, Redfern (Image source: greenvillages.com)

**CASE STUDY - COMMUNAL SPACE IN HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENTS: NIC ON FIFTH, MINNEAPOLIS**

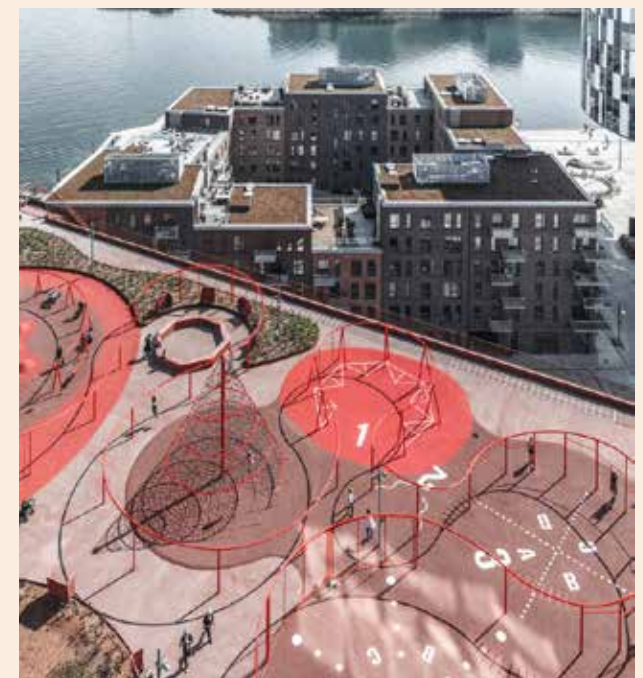
Amenities at Nic on Fifth include a rooftop garden with lounge areas with firepits, a grilling area and outdoor kitchen, Zen garden, and outdoor dog run.



Communal gardens at Signature Apartments, Redfern (Image source: greenvillages.com)

**CASE STUDY - ROOFTOP RECREATION: PARK 'N' PLAY, NORDHAVEN, DENMARK**

Playground 'Park 'n' Play' has been built above Copenhagen's harbour scenery in bright red. It is located 24m above sea level on the roof of a car park and it has set new standards in the way people think about designing public spaces. This project's challenge was to create centrally located parking facilities that would optimally integrate into the surroundings of the modern Nordhavn city district. Nordhavn is a rapidly growing urban city which will have thousands of new residents. Such an ambitious urban renewal required ambitious approaches to recreation spaces addressed by this playground.



Playspace on a carpark rooftop in Copenhagen (Image source: JAJA Architects)

### CASE STUDY - ROOFTOP RECREATION: MORINOMIYA MALL RUNNING TRACK, OSAKA

Morinomiya Mall's rooftop 300m running track is an example of provision of a public recreation asset. In addition to the running track that circles the rooftop and levitates over the building, the mall also supports two futsal courts, a children's climbing wall, and privately run gyms and indoor climbing facilities.



Rooftop running track and futsal courts, Osaka (Image source: Wikipedia Commons)

### SHARING SPACE WITH SCHOOLS: SSC LEICHARDT CAMPUS, INNER WEST COUNCIL

Inner West Council worked with Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus and the NSW Department of Education to deliver one of the first examples of sharing school facilities with the community. Inner West Council built, maintained, enhanced, refurbished and manages a field on the school grounds (land owned by the Department of Education), which can be booked for community sport outside of school hours, and is also used by the school for school sport and lessons.

### CASE STUDY - UNDERGROUND SPACES: HUME PARK, CROWS NEST

On a small site in an urban renewal area, the Hume Park upgrade and expansion will provide an underground indoor sports centre with natural light, cinema, carpark, and 8,000m<sup>2</sup> of ground level open space. A plaza and pedestrian link will connect the site into the urban fabric.



Artist impression of Hume Park (Image source: via Sydney Morning Herald)



## 10.4. INCLUSION AND UNIVERSALITY

Inclusion happens when every person who wishes to (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or cultural heritage) can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.

### Inclusion of people with disability

Dimensions of inclusion include:

- Being heard and valued
- Meaningful participation
- Connection and belonging
- Opportunity to access supports, and
- Choice and control in your life.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs are important to the wellbeing and health of adults and children with disabilities. Universal design is an approach that ensures that recreation options and programs are inclusive of everyone. Where implemented, it is also important that universal and accessible design features within existing and new facilities and parks are communicated to the community.

### 8 to 80 approach to design

In terms of access to open space and recreation, inclusion can mean taking an 8 to 80 approach to design and management of spaces. By asking “how do we create cities in which both 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds can move about safely and enjoyably?” parks and recreation spaces will be able to accommodate all ages, needs and abilities.

Inclusion is about going the next step beyond a removal

of the barriers. While previous disability action planning has focused on addressing discrimination based on disability and responding to systemic disadvantage as a consequence of a disability, current legislation and practice recognises that this, while still necessary, is only a foundation part of the wider issues people face. Inclusion planning means that agencies need to be proactive in creating the opportunities that facilitate inclusion, while ensuring their business considers and accommodates everyone.

### Gender inclusion

Women and girls can often feel less welcome or safe in public parks or streets – an Australian study found that 70% of girls believe it's not safe to share public parks already occupied by older boys. A recent PLAN Australia survey indicated that 90 per cent of young women in Sydney feel unsafe in public at night. Additionally, local government sporting grounds are often dominated by male sports teams and competitions, making it harder for girls and women to participate in sports formally. The safe and inclusive design and management of public parks, streets and places has also been linked to creating more equitable communities increasing women's empowerment and reducing crime including domestic violence.

### CASE STUDY - SENIORS PLAYGROUNDS

Dubbed London's first 'pensioners' playground, Hyde Park Senior Playground is a space for seniors located amongst existing sports facilities and cafes, surrounded by trees and shrubs and close to public transport and accessible parking spaces.

The recreation facility includes six pieces of exercise equipment that provide twisting, cycling and cross training motions to help users improve core strength, flexibility and balance. The equipment chosen was specifically selected to ensure that a high level of accessibility, ease of use and enjoyment can be ensured for all users, although is not suitable for use by people under the age of 15 years. As a space designed for older people, the playground also allows older people to meet new people while getting active, acting as an important social connector and helping to minimise the high levels of social isolation often felt by older residents.



Hyde Park Senior's Playground (Image source: Sourceable.com)

### CASE STUDY - SPORT FOR CULTURAL INCLUSION: GAME PLAN RESOURCE KIT - CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH, VICTORIA

More than simply producing promotional material for sports and activities in community languages other than English, The Centre for Multicultural Youth's 'Game Plan Resource Kit' acknowledges how important it is for a sports club's leadership - including committees, coaches and team managers - to take the lead in promoting cultural inclusion. The Game Plan Resource Kit provides comprehensive information and ideas on how sports clubs and associations can build a culture of inclusiveness that is aware and respectful of different cultures and religions in the community, and is a safe and welcoming place.



Auburn Giants Women's AFL (Image source: Harvey Norman)

### CASE STUDY - SPORT FOR CULTURAL INCLUSION: COLLINGWOOD BASKETBALL CLUB, MELBOURNE

Collingwood Basketball Club is located in a high density, high-rise public housing community with many young people from low socio-economic, migrant and refugee backgrounds. The club overcame barriers to participation including financial burdens, the standard process of requesting permission from parents, and competing priorities - particularly for young women. They did this by providing informal, after-school 'come and play' sessions allowing kids to experience basketball, securing a grant from local Council to subsidise costs, and building formal relationships with parents to communicate the importance of sport. Certain changes in approach such as calling parents after school when players are home and able to help translate, has allowed the club to build a relationship with parents who speak English as a second language, and helped parents feel more comfortable about the activity. Since adopting these approaches more than 80 children and young people from this cohort have joined the club.

### AUBURN GIANTS WOMEN'S AFL TEAM

The Auburn Giants Women's AFL Team was founded in 2011, and formed a partnership with Greater Western Sydney Giants in 2014. Team members come from many backgrounds, with about 80% Muslim players. The club seeks to create pathways for women to start playing football and to continue playing, including at an elite level. The club uses sport as a vehicle for social inclusion, engaging with local schools, and with young girls and their families.

### CASE STUDY - WELCOMING WOMEN: GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN URBAN PLANNING, VIENNA

Over the past 17 years, Vienna has completed projects large and small to address how the city works for women and girls. Projects have ranged from redesigning playgrounds to boost the participation of girls in active play, to making cemeteries more accessible for older women who are the most common visitors, to affordable apartments designed with childcare, access to work and access to open space in mind.

The urban planning group's gender expert, Eva Kail, says "For me, it's a political approach to planning, it's about bringing people into spaces where they didn't exist before or felt they had no right to exist."

In a 1996 to 1997 study, city planners in Vienna, found that after the age of nine, the number of girls in public parks dropped off dramatically, while the number of boys held steady. Researchers found that girls were less assertive than boys. If boys and girls would up in competition for park space, the boys were more likely to win out.

City planners wanted to see if they could reverse this trend by changing the parks themselves. In 1999, the city began a redesign of two parks in Vienna's fifth district. Footpaths were added to make the parks more accessible and volleyball and badminton courts were installed to allow for a wider variety of activities. Landscaping was also used to subdivide large, open areas into semi-enclosed pockets of park space. Almost immediately, city officials noticed a change. Different groups of people - girls and boys - began to use the parks without any one group overrunning the other.

## 10.5. CONNECTION TO NATURE AND HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

Opportunities for connection to nature support mental and physical health, and provide relief from the built environment, particularly important in urban areas and for people living in high density. Making space for nature also helps to cool the city, create healthy built environments, and provide opportunities for free and unstructured play.

### Cooler urban environments

Sydney is getting hotter which can restrict people from recreating in their local areas. Research from UNSW and Sydney Water shows that the strategic inclusion of water in public places can reduce the ambient temperature by 2.5 degrees, increasing potential for recreational activities in our streets and public places.

Integrating water into urban environments through design features such as water play, mists, green walls or water curtains in conjunction with street planting and the use of lighter and reflective building materials is important to enable people to recreate and stay safe in the heat during summer. The use of natural materials is also critical in designing outdoor recreation equipment.

Research by Western Sydney University has found that artificial materials commonly used in playgrounds such as 'soft fall' surfaces can become dangerously hot in full sun, reaching 71 - 84 degrees Celsius when summer temperatures were in the low 30s. Trees and tree canopy within parks and streets also play an important role in providing needed shade, reduce local temperatures, improve air quality and provide habitat.

### Healthy built environments

Health NSW recognises that creating healthy built environments is more than providing spaces for people to get active - it is also about developing built environment interventions that support human health more holistically including connecting and strengthening communities, and thinking about ways the built environment can provide access to healthy food options. Access to fresh food can be provided through communal vegetable and fruit gardens, a particularly important trend in high density and increasingly urban environments.

### Green Grid

Acknowledging that green space is key to Greater Sydney's livability, the NSW Government Architect's Green Grid is a long term vision for a network of high-quality green spaces that connects people with transport hubs, homes and town centres. This vision for an interconnected network of open space will cool down the city, encourage physical activity and healthy living, provide habitat for biodiversity and strengthen ecological resilience. As development in Canada Bay increases, strategic green grid connections help to link residents from their homes to work, school and play as well as to each other.

### Biophilic design

Biophilic design, championed by Professor Peter Newman of Curtin University, brings nature into the urban fabric of the city, to meet our innate need for connection with nature and support mental and physical health in urban environments. Through roof-top gardens, green walls and the incorporation of natural materials into the built environment, biophilic design can provide residents with access to nature in unexpected places. This form of landscape diversity in urban environments can activate fascination and interest in residents, encouraging people to linger longer and enjoy passing through these well-designed spaces of the city. Connection to nature and natural forms is also linked to improved mental health and reduced stress.



One Central Park's green facade. (Image source: Tensile)

## BIOPHILIC DESIGN: 14 PATTERNS OF BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Biophilic design doesn't have to be large scale or expensive. Simple design interventions can be very effective in meeting the human need for connection to nature. Terrapin Bright Green identifies the 14 patterns of biophilic design:

- Visual connection to nature - views to natural spaces
- Non-visual connection to nature - e.g. using natural materials, sounds of nature, pets
- Non-rhythmic sensory stimuli - e.g. reflections of water on a surface, billowy fabric, shadows that change with movement or time
- Thermal airflow and variability - natural ventilation
- Presence of water
- Dynamic and diffuse light - natural light, variety of light sources for different spaces
- Connection with natural systems - e.g. seasonal patterns, night/day changes
- Biomorphic forms and patterns - symbolic references to coloured, patterned, textures, numerical arrangements from nature e.g. spirals, curves
- Material connection with natures - use of natural materials
- Complexity and order - e.g. fractal geometries
- Prospect - unimpeded view over a distance
- Refuge - place for withdrawal from the main flow of activity or environmental conditions, in which individual is protected from behind and overhead
- Mystery - a sense of anticipation, compelling one to investigate the space
- Risk/peril - an identifiable threat coupled with a safeguard e.g. infinity edges, passing over, under or through water, life size photos of predatory animals or snakes

## BICYCLE PLAYGROUNDS, COPENHAGEN

In the centre of Copenhagen, a 2,500sqm space was temporarily turned into a bicycle obstacle course for children by the Danish Cyclist's Federation. The course let kids practice their coordination, timing, speed and balance while having fun. After the project's success, ten cities in Denmark will now build permanent, dedicated spaces for children to safely practice their cycling skills. The playgrounds are fully enclosed and feature ramps and different surfaces. "Experience has shown that bike playgrounds are a great way to get children to move and be safe in traffic," according to the head of the Federation, Klaus Bondam. Denmark is one of the most cycle-friendly countries in the world: nine out of ten Danes owns a bike, and 45% of children cycle to school.



Pop-up bicycle playground, Copenhagen. (Image source: Eltis)

## BOURKE STREET CYCLEWAY, SYDNEY

Dedicated cycle paths make riding on the road feel safer for different groups including kids and parents riding to school, work or other recreation spaces. In addition to the existing path, the planned 1.5km upgrade between Phillip St, Redfern and Botany Rd, Green Square will include wider footpaths allowing pedestrians and bikes to share the space off-road, improved street lighting, and signage to remind cyclists to ride slowly. By providing dedicated space for riding off-road, these design changes will increase the ridership of children, young people and women. The cycleway already has been successful getting kids riding to school. The Bourke Street Cycleway Bourke Street School principal, Peter Johnston said: "About 80 per cent of the school's pupils already walk, ride or scooter every day. The kids enjoy it because they can ride along the bike lane to the school gate."



Bourke St Cycleway (Image Source: GSA)

## 10.6. CO-DESIGN

### Community-led change

People are experts in their own lives and know what's needed, and what will and won't work in their area. Involving the community - in all its diversity - in the design of recreation spaces and activities at an early stage is important to secure positive recreation and community outcomes.

Beyond community engagement, Councils can also support communities to deliver on their own recreation needs, for example by connecting people to resources and also by 'getting out of the way' and removing regulation to make it easier to carry out community projects like verge gardens.

### COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE: RESIDENT FOOD PLANTING IN PUBLIC SPACE, BAYSWATER COUNCIL, PERTH

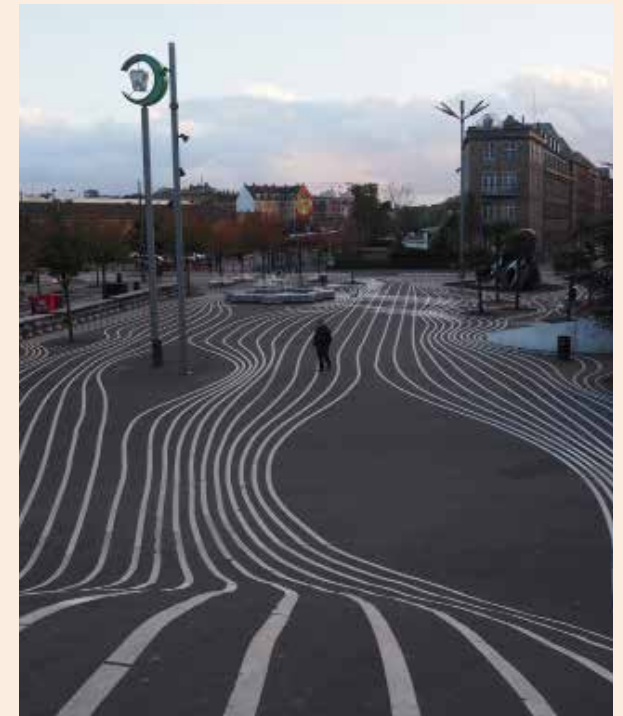
At a time where communities are wanting more control and less regulation over positive social, recreational and urban change in their neighbourhoods, Bayswater Council in Perth is opening up their public parks to resident food planting with significantly reduced red tape in an effort to create a healthy built environment and community led change, particularly in their urban areas.



Bayswater Council resident with his verge garden (Image source: Bunbury Mail)

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN PARK DESIGN: SUPERKILEN PARK, COPENHAGEN

Superkilen Park is a 30,000m<sup>2</sup> park in Copenhagen designed to enable "extreme participation" and engagement by the local residents, the most diverse in Denmark with more than 50 nationalities. Residents nominated different objects to include in this incredible social, cultural, physical, multi-purpose, and intergenerational space. There's even a boxing ring and coal BBQs for large family gatherings, and places (as throughout Copenhagen) for adults to play.



Superkilen Park (Image source: Sarah Reilly)

## 10.7. RISK AND ADVENTURE: CHILD-DIRECTED PLAY

### Wild play and adventure play

Anecdotally, we know that children spend less time outside, and in free, unsupervised play today than even a generation ago. In 2010 Planet Ark estimated that only 35 percent Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72 percent a generation ago.

Adventure and nature parks embrace the theory that free and unstructured play is essential to kids' growth and development. Providing an antidote to digital distractions, wild or adventure playgrounds allow children to create their own spaces in a hands on way, empowering kids to self-organise and learn by doing. These formative opportunities for growth and creativity are being lost due to either a lack of access to nature, fear of risk or over-scheduling of children's free time. In an increasingly developed and more densely populated environment, giving agency and space to children to invent their own games and play spaces is important, encouraging kids growing up in Canada Bay to experience and develop a strong connection to nature.

### WILD PLAY: SYDNEY PARK, ST PETERS

Containing sporting grounds, a village green, shared paths through rolling hills, barbecue areas, wetlands and a large children's inclusive, universal playground, Sydney Park is a regional-scaled park that also functions as a local park, with plenty of zones for both passive and active recreation. The wetland provides space for nature play, interacting with flora and fauna, hopping over stepping stones, and hide and seek in natural spaces.



Sydney Park wetlands. (Image source: Destination NSW)

### ADVENTURE PLAY: THE LAND, PLAS MADOC, WALES and TOKYO PLAY PARKS

In a highly disadvantaged housing estate in Wales, The Land is a 55m<sup>2</sup> "junk" playground, a fenced-off grassy area with scrounged and donated items - pallets, wheelbarrows, tyres, ropes, shopping trolleys, upside down boats. A resident opened the playground in 2011 with funding from the Welsh government to establish an adventure playground. The focus is on child-directed play, with two playworkers on site who observe the play but step in only when needed. The space is an opportunity for children to engage in risky, adventurous play; to build, make fires, and construct hiding spaces; to imagine. While cheap to build and stock, barriers to this kind of play space can be the staffing resource (which is where volunteers come in), as well as community perceptions that it is an ugly space.

There are more than 80 play parks (adventure playgrounds) in Tokyo, ranging from pop-ups and gatherings in local neighbourhoods to expansive play-worker staffed spaces like Yume Park, which has hand built zip-lines, towers, fire pits and a pizza oven.



Superkilen Park (Image source: Sarah Reilly)



Ben Williams Photography for Canada Bay Council

# PART C STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

# 11. Strategy and Action Plan

This section provides a Strategy and Action Plan driven by 5 principles and 3 strategies and a time-frame for delivery to 2036.

The Strategy and Action Plan should be delivered in partnership with a range of Government and community providers, as well as the private sector.

Council has a range of roles to play in realising the Strategy and Action Plan including advocacy, facilitation, planning and direct delivery.

There are a range of pathways for funding and resourcing the recommended actions as shown over page.

## OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PRINCIPLES

The following principles should drive the design, delivery and management of our open space and recreation facilities to 2036:

### 1. Optimise Capacity

Address current and future gaps by realising the capacity of existing open space and recreation facilities.

### 2. Diversity

Deliver open space and recreation facilities, services and programs to cater for the informal and formal recreation needs of the diversity of age groups, cultures and genders.

### 3. Accessibility and connectivity

Improve accessibility and connectivity to open space and recreation facilities, services and programs through green streets, active transport links, affordable access, universal design, and equitable distribution.

### 4. Partnerships & collaboration

Work in partnership and plan collaboratively with the private sector, government agencies, peak bodies and local sporting clubs to share space and deliver new open space and recreation facilities.

### 5. Well-designed

Be adaptable and future-proof open space for growth through co-located, multipurpose, shared use, diverse and flexible spaces. Optimise recurrent asset management and maintenance costs.

## 6. Sustainability

Be environmentally and financially sustainable through the provision of recreation facilities and programs;

- That enhance connections to nature, biodiversity, ecology and mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- That remain fit for purpose through quality maintenance and asset management.

## STRATEGIES

This Strategy and Action Plan includes three strategies:

### Strategy 1 - Existing

Improve existing open space quality and capacity to support a diversity of recreational opportunities.

### Strategy 2 - New

New and connected open spaces, recreation facilities and programs to meet the needs of a growing and changing population.

### Strategy 3 - Activate

Activate open space and recreation facilities and programs to help connect and build an inclusive community.



## TIMEFRAME

Actions will be delivered within the following time frame:

- **Short term:** 2019 to 2021
- **Medium term:** 2021 to 2026
- **Long term:** 2026 to 2036

## MEASURES

Recommended recreation indicators are:

Indicator	Source
Level of satisfaction with recreation opportunities	Community Satisfaction Survey
Increased provision of open space in high density growth areas	Council mapping data - m2 of open space per person
Increased proportion of dwellings within benchmark proximity of open space	Council mapping data - all dwellings with 400m & high density dwellings within 200m
Increasing capacity of sporting fields	Council booking system - capacity of sporting fields v utilisation

## PATHWAYS TO DELIVERING ACTION

**This Strategy and Action Plan acknowledges the challenges of delivering new open space within limited resources.**

It recommends a range of actions based on local and State strategic directions, research of local demographics (both now and into the future), existing provision (strengths and challenges), and ideas for capital works projects. Using a range of funding pathways available to Council, will support the delivery of positive social, economic and cultural outcomes for the Canada Bay community. There are a number of ways that open space and recreation facilities can be delivered either on their own or in combination.



## STRATEGY 1 IMPROVE EXISTING OPEN SPACE QUALITY AND CAPACITY TO SUPPORT A DIVERSITY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Our population will increase by 32,000 people by 2036. We will also see increasing high density living, and more residents will require a greater variety of spaces for recreation. With limited space to create more open space and build more facilities, we will need to maximise what we have to its full potential.

From schools and sports clubs to roofs and unused and underutilised pockets or parking spaces, sharing our city for recreation, and improving its capacity, is an emerging trend within cities where available land at street level is increasingly scarce, and more innovative approaches to recreation provision are needed.

Improving the quality and capacity of our existing open space and recreation facilities, and utilising what we have better, will help to meet additional demand.

This will include a focus on opportunities to share our underutilised assets, for example working with local schools to facilitate access to informal open space on school grounds, or revising the Sports Fields Allocation Policy to support the sharing of fields between clubs and codes.

### WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITY NEEDS?

Our priority needs as identified through a range of indicators include:

- Ongoing provision of maintenance services for open space and recreation facilities in line with an increasing population and increased pressure on open space and recreation facilities.
- Redefining how we categorise and prioritise our parks to ensure that those “special” parks that are used for a range of local, district and regional uses, are maintained to a standard to support intense uses.
- Increasing the capacity of sports fields to support higher use and increased utilisation of underutilised sports fields to “share the load.”
- Prioritising areas where growth and change of our population will place increased pressure on existing open space and recreation facilities and demand for increased provision, and access to recreation services and programs. Based on population forecasts this pressure will be felt the most in Rhodes (East and West), Five Dock-Canada Bay, Concord, and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) planning catchments.
- Increasing our public foreshore access to support our whole community to engage in public foreshore access to engage in recreational activities along the foreshore and in our waterways.
- New and embellished open space close to future Metro stations (minimum 0.3ha) to support increased population.
- There is a need to review underutilised fields to identify the reasons for lack of use and opportunities to increase use. This may include facilities and infrastructure improvements, conversion into multipurpose/other format fields, or new approaches to sharing fields between codes. For example, netball courts are intensively used on a Saturday during winter, however there is excess capacity midweek, Sundays, and limited use in summer.
- Synthetic surfaces are an option to increase the capacity of highly utilised fields as well as level of play catered for. Synthetic surfaces should be planned in consideration of:
- Many golf courses on public land are being considered for opportunities to increase access to recreation opportunities including passive and active open space and playing fields, for example by reducing courses to 9 holes.

STRATEGY 1: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Action 1.1:</b> Work with the local schools to facilitate access to informal open space on school grounds.	LGA	Build connections, partnerships and capacity	Department of Education Catholic Education Office Independent Schools	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 1.2:</b> Work with the Sydney Local Health District and Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee to investigate opportunities to deliver increased public access and informal recreation on the Walker Estates.	Concord	Build connections, partnerships and capacity	Sydney Local Health District Yaralla Estate Community Advisory Committee	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 1.3:</b> Develop and implement service standards for open space and recreation facilities.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate		2019 - 2021
<b>Action 1.4:</b> Maintain an appropriate standard of asset management in accordance with Asset Management Framework.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants		2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 1.5:</b> Investigate opportunities to redevelop underutilised outdoor recreational facilities (e.g. tennis courts, bowling clubs / greens) to provide multipurpose courts/facilities to support social sport, potentially managed by a non-Council provider.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Private providers	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 1.6:</b> Revise the Sports Fields Allocation Policy to support the sustainable management and sharing of fields between clubs and codes especially where fields are underutilised, and to provide more information to Council about how fields are being used (as this may differ to how they are booked), incentives for co-development and encourage participation from under-represented demographic groups.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate	Local sporting bodies	2019 - 2021
<b>Action 1.7:</b> Develop a Sports Field Surfaces Plan to increase the capacity of sports fields through surfaces improvements including investigating opportunities for, and the feasibility of, additional synthetic surfaces, and the upgrade of natural turf surfaces including sinking funds to ensure ongoing sustainability.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	External consultant	2019 - 2021

STRATEGY 1: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Action 1.8:</b> Develop a program for the review and preparation of new Plans of Management for all Council and Crown Land, including community engagement, and the development of associated Master Plans to deliver the recreation needs and priorities identified in the planning process.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2019 - 2021
<b>Action 1.9:</b> Investigate opportunities to utilise golf courses for increased access to public open space and recreation facilities and deliver identified needs.	Five Dock-Canada Bay Concord	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Barnwell Park Massey Park	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 1.10:</b> Continue flood management planning across the LGA, including identifying opportunities for recreation outcomes such as water sensitive urban design to improve pedestrian amenity or new open space opportunities.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate, and design	-	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 1.11:</b> Aligned with the ecological framework, deliver streetscape improvements connecting the south of the Burwood Green Link corridor and St Lukes Park/Concord Oval corridor to support habitat connections as well as improved pedestrian and cycle connections.	Concord	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Sydney Water	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 1.12:</b> Protect existing trees and natural bushland areas throughout open space and streets, in particular in small open space areas without other recreation functions.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2019 and ongoing

## STRATEGY 2 NEW AND CONNECTED OPEN SPACES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING AND CHANGING COMMUNITY

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

As our area grows and changes, ensuring access to a network of connected open spaces, recreational facilities and programs will be vital to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our residents. Providing new open spaces and recreation facilities and programs is a priority, particularly for people living in high density who will need to access to spaces outside the home to exercise, gather with friends and family and relax. Open spaces in high density areas need to meet a range of recreation needs in a limited space, minimising conflict between users and neighbours, and also functioning as a “backyard” for residents living in apartments.

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change, with a significant trend towards more informal, unstructured participation. Responding to this trend, and ensuring open spaces and recreation facilities and programs meet the needs of our socially and culturally diverse community, will ensure parity of participation, including for people of all ages, abilities genders, cultural backgrounds and income levels.

Improving active transport connections to our existing open spaces and recreation facilities is a priority to support our community to access and enjoy these unique and highly valued spaces.

### WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITY NEEDS?

Our priority needs as identified through a range of indicators include:

- Provision of new sporting fields and courts to address growth including 4 indoor courts, 11 fields and 10 netball courts by 2036.
- New open space and improved connections to open space in areas with no open space in proximity, particularly in high density areas and areas with a current undersupply such as North Strathfield and growth areas of Five Dock, is a high priority are for a new open space of at least 0.3ha within 200m of high density.
- Increased diversity of recreation opportunities across the LGA, including walking/cycling, outdoor fitness stations, youth spaces, and other informal recreation opportunities.
- Open space and recreation facilities to support an increased population resulting from possible Metro Stations.
- Open space and recreation facilities to support an increased population resulting from Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy.
- New open space in growth areas and areas with a current undersupply including Rhodes and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle), including improved connections to open space.
- Green Grid recreation trails from Goddard Park to Massey Park Golf Course, and Concord Oval to Barnwell Park Golf Course in Concord.
- New playspaces in high density areas such as North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) (current gap of 1 space, forecast to grow to a gap of 2 spaces by 2036).
- Future larger district and iconic play spaces catering to a larger catchment and providing a range of play opportunities including play in nature, adventure play, play for older children and water play.
- Open space and recreation facilities to support an increased population resulting from the Rhodes East development, in a location with low existing provision and proximity to open space.
- Open space and recreation facilities to support civic and community uses close to Concord Town Centre and Five Dock Town Centre.
- Improving our street network, to deliver additional recreational green streets that support walking and play for all on our community.

STRATEGY 2: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Action 2.1:</b> Deliver streetscape improvements connecting from residential areas along the train line in Concord, and Concord West, to Henley Park, Central Park and the Walker Estates	Concord Concord West	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 2.2:</b> Identify opportunities for streetscape improvements to improve walkability to village centres e.g. Five Dock Town Centre to Timbrell Park, Five Dock Park.	Five Dock	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants		2021 - 2026
<b>Action 2.3:</b> Embellish Wymston Parade Walkway as a connection to local open space for residents of Wareemba.	Wareemba	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants		2021 - 2026
<b>Action 2.4:</b> Implement the actions in the adopted Foreshore Access Strategy to improve access to open space on the foreshore.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants		2021 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.5:</b> Working with relevant adjoining councils, develop a master plan for connections from Parramatta Road along Powell's Creek to Victoria Avenue Public School and the Homebush Bay Circuit.	North Strathfield Rhodes Concord West	Listen, plan and regulate	Strathfield Council Sydney Water Parramatta Council Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA)	2026 - 2036
<b>Action 2.6:</b> Plan for the delivery of Green Grid connections as part of the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy and deliver improved connections from Parramatta Road: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along Iron Cove Creek to open space at Timbrell Park and the Bay Run</li> <li>Along Parramatta Road to open space in the Powell's Creek corridor, in particular for residents of Strathfield Triangle.</li> </ul>	Five Dock – Canada Bay Concord North Strathfield	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants/ Listen, plan and regulate	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) Developers Sydney Water Adjoining councils	2026 - 2036

STRATEGY 2: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<p><b>Action 2.7:</b> Investigate opportunities for improved open space connections in these areas: Burwood Green Link - Burwood Park to Hen and Chicken Bay, St Lukes Park and Concord Oval corridor, Bicentennial Park/Sydney Olympic Park</p>		<p>Deliver infrastructure, services and grants</p>	<p>Government Architect NSW GSC SOPA Burwood Council</p>	<p>2026 - 2036</p>
<p><b>Action 2.8:</b> Require new residential developments to include onsite accessible communal open space, in particular including ground floor open space.</p>	<p>LGA</p>	<p>Listen, plan and regulate</p>	<p>Developers</p>	<p>2019 and ongoing</p>
<p><b>Action 2.9:</b> Develop a set of best practice principles for the provision of onsite public open space in new residential developments, including desired size and shape, quality, solar access, location etc</p>	<p>LGA</p>	<p>Listen, plan and regulate</p>	<p>Developers</p>	<p>2019 - 2021</p>
<p><b>Action 2.10:</b> Advocate to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment for the early and quality delivery of open space in Rhodes East including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New civic open space/public plaza</li> <li>• Early delivery of the planned Leeds St Foreshore Park, including links to the foreshore path in Rhodes West and underneath Uhrs Point Reserve</li> <li>• Green streets that have a recreation function, with high pedestrian and cycle amenity, incorporating play opportunities, civic open space, and landscaping, in particular connecting from the Leeds St Foreshore Park to Mcllwaine Park</li> <li>• Delivery of the planned pedestrian bridge over Concord Road to a high quality that is appealing and accessible to users</li> </ul>	<p>Rhodes</p>	<p>Deliver infrastructure, services and grants/ Lead and advocate</p>	<p>DPIE</p>	<p>2019 and ongoing</p>

STRATEGY 2: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<p><b>Action 2.11:</b> Advocate and plan to ensure that planned open space in the Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy is delivered to a high quality and provides a range of recreation opportunities including achieving benchmarks of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All dwellings should be within 400m of public or communal open space of at least 0.3ha</li> <li>All high density dwellings should also be within 200m of open space of at least 0.1ha</li> </ul> <p>If future development is not within proximity, then open space should be delivered onsite in the new development</p>	<p>Five Dock-Canada Bay Concord North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle) Five Dock</p>	<p>Lead and advocate</p>	<p>DPIE GSC</p>	<p>2019 and ongoing</p>
<p><b>Action 2.12:</b> Deliver new open space in Five Dock Town Centre through the expansion of Fred Kelly Place as per the Town Centre Strategy for Five Dock Town Centre.</p>		<p>Deliver infrastructure, services and grants</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>2026 - 2036</p>
<p><b>Action 2.13:</b> Review planning for Strathfield Triangle to identify opportunities to deliver new, high quality green open space of a minimum 0.3ha to address current and forecast undersupply (currently there is 0.9m<sup>2</sup> per person declining to 0.6m<sup>2</sup> by 2036). Opportunities exist as part of the master plan for a future metro station, potentially on the eastern side of the train line in North Strathfield, connected to the town centre and any future community facility.</p>	<p>Strathfield (Triangle)</p>	<p>Listen, plan and regulate</p>		<p>2019 - 2021</p>
<p><b>Action 2.14:</b> Explore opportunities to deliver youth and skate facilities in John Whitton Bridge Reserve.</p>	<p>Rhodes</p>	<p>Deliver infrastructure, services and grants</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>2021 - 2026</p>
<p><b>Action 2.15:</b> As part of a master plan for future Metro station at Five Dock and North Strathfield, identify locations for future local parks of minimum 0.3ha with a range of recreation opportunities, located close to public transport, community facilities and shops and services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the area bounded by Garfield St, School Lane, Lancelot St, West St, Henry St and East St in Five Dock, to enable an open space area connected to Five Dock Public School, Fred Kelly Place and Five Dock Library.</li> </ul>	<p>Five Dock-Canada Bay North Strathfield</p>	<p>Lead and advocate/ Listen, plan and regulate</p>	<p>DPIE Transport for NSW</p>	<p>2026 - 2036</p>



STRATEGY 2: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<p><b>Action 2.16:</b> An increasing population and new open space and recreation facilities will increase the maintenance required. Council should ensure that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate planning for the ongoing maintenance of open space and recreation facilities in the early stages of new projects</li> <li>• Increase maintenance resourcing as the population grows</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to work with the community to maintain local open space to build community connections and reduce the maintenance load to Council</li> </ul>	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2019 and ongoing
<p><b>Action 2.17:</b> Investigate opportunities to provide new sports fields and courts throughout the LGA through new development as projects arise.</p>	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Developers	2019 and ongoing
<p><b>Action 2.18:</b> Work with the NSW Department of Education with a view to providing a multi-purpose field at the future school site in Rhodes East (including the potential for synthetic surfaces) and to facilitate access to it.</p>	LGA	Lead and advocate Department of Education	NSW Department of Education DPIE	2019 and ongoing
<p><b>Action 2.19:</b> To increase the provision of indoor recreation in specific precincts and across the LGA, deliver expanded indoor recreation provision at Five Dock Leisure Centre and new indoor courts at Concord Oval and Rhodes Recreation Centre.</p>	Five Dock-Canada Bay Rhodes Concord	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2021 - 2026
<p><b>Action 2.20:</b> Continue to implement the Parramatta River Masterplan actions including river activation at Mcllwaine Park and swimsite activation at Bayview Park.</p>	Concord Rhodes	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants	Parramatta River Catchment Group Sydney Water	2019 and ongoing
<p><b>Action 2.21:</b> Support increased access to swimming pools through public access to communal pools in private developments.</p>	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate	Strata	2019 and ongoing

STRATEGY 2: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Action 2.22:</b> Continue to work with motivated local community groups to find locations for community gardens, in particular in high density areas.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate	Community groups	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.23:</b> Deliver the actions included in the adopted Dogs in Public Places Strategy.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 2.24:</b> Transform Five Dock Skate Park into a youth recreation area e.g. seating, shade, power points, free Wi-Fi, parkour and play elements and multipurpose outdoor courts	Five Dock-Canada Bay	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants/ Build connections, partnerships and capacity	-	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 2.25:</b> Deliver the actions included in the adopted Let's All Play Strategy to provide a diverse range of play opportunities.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate	-	2021 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.26:</b> Liaise with relevant adjoining councils to deliver new recreation facilities in adjoining open space areas. (e.g. outdoor courts and outdoor fitness stations along the Powells Creek Corridor, Bay Run).	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Adjoining councils	2021 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.27:</b> Increase opportunities for water-based recreation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider developing and implementing a canoe/kayak storage policy and process in the area</li> <li>• Continue to liaise with sailing and rowing clubs around promotion and community access.</li> </ul>	LGA	Build connections, partnerships and capacity	Parramatta River Catchment Group  Local clubs	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 2.28:</b> Deliver increased walking and passive recreation through the Homebush Bay Circuit Wayfinding Strategy.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	SOPA  Parramatta Council	2021 - 2026

STRATEGY 2: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Action 2.29:</b> Deliver outdoor fitness stations in areas where there are current and forecast gaps including Cabarita, Mortlake Concord West, Five Dock-Canada Bay, North Strathfield-Strathfield Triangle.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2021 and ongoing
<p><b>Action 2.30:</b> Investigate opportunities to deliver new multipurpose courts in areas where there are current and forecast gaps including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabarita-Mortlake-Breakfast Point</li> <li>• Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba</li> <li>• North Strathfield</li> <li>• Drummoyne</li> <li>• Concord (within Green Grid recreation trails)</li> <li>• Rhodes (2 courts) through shared courts at the future Rhodes East Public School; reconfiguration of carparking at the Rhodes Community Centre, or rooftop courts</li> </ul>	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Developers NSW Department of Education	2021 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.31:</b> Investigate opportunities for native and understorey planting is included in open space and on green streets to provide habitat connections.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate and design	-	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.32:</b> Investigate opportunities for recreation, quiet contemplation and play in natural areas, particularly for people living in high density.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate	-	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 2.33:</b> Deliver a Park Tree Master Plan to identify opportunities to increase tree canopy in public open space to deliver on 2030 tree canopy targets.	LGA	Listen, plan and regulate	-	2019 and ongoing

## STRATEGY 3 ACTIVATE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO HELP CONNECT AND BUILD AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Our open spaces and recreation facilities are important to building connections and cohesion within our community. This is particularly important for residents living in increasingly high density areas, culturally diverse residents, people living alone, people with disability and our children and young people. Inclusion happens when every person who wishes to can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.

We also know that informal recreation is increasingly the main form of recreational participation, particularly walking, and we can activate our streets and parks with a diverse range of facilities and functions to support our residents to keep fit and healthy outside of formal sports and programmed activities. Additionally, we know that our community wants more access to the river for water-based recreation such as swimming, canoeing/kayaking and rowing.

Activating our open spaces and recreation facilities through increased opportunities for informal active and passive recreation, and through programs that respond to diverse needs and interests, will support participation, improved health and wellbeing, and a more cohesive community as we grow.

### WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITY NEEDS?

Our priority needs based on a range of indicators are:

- Celebrating and enhancing our local culture and heritage through open space and recreation, including opportunities for community and cultural activities and public art.
- Increasing access to informal active and passive recreation opportunities.
- Promoting and improving access to water-based recreation opportunities, and public access to our foreshore parks, given our significant foreshore and a strong desire from our community for increased access.
- Improving accessible recreation opportunities for older people, including in the Chiswick-Abbotsford-Wareemba; Drummoyne-Russell Lea-Rodd Point catchment.
- Addressing lack of recreation programs including:
  - Play groups and children's programs in open space and recreation facilities
  - Programs for young people
  - Programs for people with disability
  - Walking groups, and
  - Programs to support women's participation in recreation such as programs for parents and their children.
- Addressing needs of our more disadvantaged residents through low or free access to recreation participation opportunities. These areas include Rhodes and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle). Additionally, some areas have poor access to public transport to access open space and recreation facilities and programs that are not in walking distance of their homes, including: Drummoyne (where there are also higher proportions of older residents) and North Strathfield-Strathfield (Triangle).

STRATEGY 3: ACTIONS	LOCATION	COUNCIL'S ROLE	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Action 3.1:</b> Promote existing recreation facilities, activities and programs, including outdoor gyms and courts through Council's website and other communication methods.	LGA	Build connections, partnerships and capacity	-	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 3.2:</b> Promote existing water-based facilities, activities and programs, including the location of swimming areas along the Parramatta River and dinghy/canoe/kayak storage and launching sites through Council's website and other communication methods	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	-	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 3.3:</b> Continue to deliver public art in open space, recreation facilities and playgrounds including interactive and functional art (i.e. artworks that can be climbed or sat on) and seek opportunities to collaborate with the local community to design pieces.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants  Build connections, partnerships and capacity	Community	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 3.4:</b> In new open space or open space improvements, consider spaces for community and cultural activities such as pavement surfaces that allow dancing, amphitheatre and stage spaces, and event-ready spaces with power points.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants  Build connections, partnerships and capacity	Community Developers	2019 and ongoing
<b>Action 3.5:</b> Provide an event-ready civic space (hard surface with Wi-Fi and power) at Central Park, connected to Concord Library for uses including outdoor library space and community events.	Concord	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants  Build connections, partnerships and capacity	-	2026 - 2036
<b>Action 3.6:</b> Work with local sporting and community organisations to increase the provision of inclusive opportunities e.g. for people with disability, older people, young people, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs and grants  Sporting organisations  Local services	Local sporting groups  Local community groups	2021 and ongoing
<b>Action 3.7:</b> Investigate opportunities to support increased social sport provision in the LGA (after work, on weekends) through new competitions or services, for example at underutilised fields and courts.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs and grants	Local sporting clubs	2021 - 2026

<b>Action 3.8:</b> Continue to deliver outdoor bootcamps, parkrun, yoga and similar activities through the Five Dock Leisure Centre, and expand in other priority areas.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants	Local sporting clubs Private providers Parkrun	2019 - 2021
<b>Action 3.9:</b> Deliver recreation programming for children and their parents (particularly women) to encourage women's participation in recreation and support children's health, wellbeing and development.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 3.10:</b> Work with local community service providers to deliver walking groups throughout the LGA in particular in areas with culturally diverse and older populations.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants  Local services	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants  Local services	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 3.11:</b> Deliver recreation programming for young people including in parks, Five Dock Skate Park, and at the FDLC and any new youth recreation areas, including targeting young women.	Five Dock-Canada Bay Concord Concord West-Liberty Grove North Strathfield Rhodes	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	Deliver infrastructure, services and grants	2021 - 2026
<b>Action 3.12:</b> Continue to support organisations providing recreation programming for older people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds for e.g. the Chiswick Activities Group.	LGA	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants  Local services	Deliver infrastructure, services, programs, and grants  Local services	2019 and ongoing



Ben Williams Photography for City of Canada Bay Council

# PART D APPENDICES

# Appendix 1 - Catchment profiles

## CHISWICK-ABBOTSFORD-WAREEMBA

Chiswick, Abbotsford and Wareemba are riverfront suburbs, home to 10,400 residents in 2019.

The catchment area is a high-income area, with a median household income of \$2,278 in Chiswick and \$2,038 in Abbotsford-Wareemba. This is higher than the median income across the LGA (\$2,058) and significantly higher when compared to Greater Sydney (\$1,745).

The age profile characteristics differ significantly across suburbs within the catchment. Chiswick is primarily a suburb of young professionals, with almost half (47.5%) of Chiswick residents aged 25 to 49 years old and lone person households (28.5%) making up the largest proportion of households, closely followed by couples without children (28.1%). Abbotsford-Wareemba, on the other hand, has a high proportion of residents post retirement age, being 60+ years (27%) compared to the LGA (19.5%), and a lower proportion of 18 to 24 year olds (6% vs 9.2%) and 25 to 34 year olds (11.7% vs 19%).

The catchment is serviced by two Sydney Ferries stop at Chiswick and Abbotsford wharves. However, access to quality, frequent public transport services is lacking, reflecting the modest number of households without a car (6.8% in Chiswick and 7.9% in Abbotsford – Wareemba compared to 9.8% across the LGA). However, the 'Bayrider' community bus shuttle does service this area. Overall, the area lacks effective public transport connections to other centres and services, especially outside peak hour.

The Chiswick suburb is home to Chiswick Community Centre, a council run multi-function space with a high occupancy rate (81.92%). However, there are no Council-

owned community facilities located within Abbotsford – Wareemba suburb, while non-council facilities including Abbotsford Sea Scouts Building, St Andrews Anglican Church and Woodworkers Association of NSW may provide alternate local hubs for meeting spaces and services.

### Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	10,376	11,330	11,812
Median Age	37 years old (Chiswick), 44 years old (Abbotsford-Wareemba)		
Household	- Couples with children 27.1% - Couples without children 27.8% - Lone person 26%		
Types of dwellings	- Separate house 28.1% - Medium density 27.6% - High density 43.2%		
Language other than English at home (28.9% total residents)	Chiswick - Italian 7.6% - Mandarin 5.5% - Cantonese 2.7%	Abbotsford-Wareemba - Italian 10.9% - Mandarin 2.5% - Greek 2.0%	
Median weekly household income	\$2,278 (Chiswick), \$2,038 (Abbotsford-Wareemba)		
Low income households	13.6%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1092 (Chiswick), 1059 (Abbotsford-Wareemba)		



## CABARITA-MORTLAKE-BREAKFAST POINT

Cabarita, Mortlake and Breakfast Point are riverfront suburbs, with extensive frontage to the Parramatta River. In 2019, the Cabarita & Mortlake-Breakfast Point Catchment Area population was 8,944. The area is forecast to grow from 8,944 in 2019 to 10,468 in 2026 and 10,768 in 2036.

With a median age of 40 years in Mortlake-Breakfast Point and 48 years in Cabarita, residents of this catchment are older compared to the LGA-wide median age of 36 years. The area has a significantly higher median weekly household income (\$2,660 in Cabarita and 2,166 in Mortlake-Breakfast Point) compared to Greater Sydney (\$1,745) and the LGA (\$2,058).

While overall the catchment has a much higher proportion of high-density dwellings (70.5% compared to 41.2% across the LGA and 23.5% in Greater Sydney) this is primarily concentrated in Mortlake-Breakfast Point (80.4%), with Cabarita having only 39.1% high-density dwellings. The catchment has a much higher proportion of households without children (35.7%) compared to the LGA (26.2%), however Cabarita has a much higher proportion (36.7%) compared to Mortlake-Breakfast Point (24.1%).

Overall, the catchment lacks high frequency public transport connections to regional centres and services, especially outside peak hour, although the location of a Sydney Ferries stop at Cabarita offers direct access to Sydney CBD. The lack of accessibility to effective public transport along with the high median weekly income of households, may be a contributing factor to the catchment having a low proportion of households without a car (1.1% in Cabarita and 3.8% in Mortlake – Breakfast Point) when compared to the LGA (42%). Mortlake Ferry crosses Parramatta River from Hilly Street, Mortlake to Pellissier Road, Putney and is capable of carrying 18 cars.

There are three key parks along the river foreshore – Cabarita Park, Prince Edward Park and Wangal Park. Cabarita Park is a large waterfront park with children’s play facilities and is the backdrop to Cabarita Park Beach. Prince Edward Park is a small local park with play equipment and BBQs and is a popular wedding location in the area. Wangal Reserve is a peninsula bushland feature, located north of the Mortlake Ferry wharf. The Breakfast Point Community Hall and Village Green are a dominant feature of the southern end of the Wangal Reserve area. There is a significant provision in Breakfast Point of privately-owned open space and recreation facilities.

### Population snapshot 2016 to 2036

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	7,700	8,023	8,291
Median Age	48 years old (Cabarita), 40 years old (Mortlake-Breakfast Point)		
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Couples with children 27.1%</li> <li>- Couples without children 35.7%</li> <li>- Lone person 20.6%</li> </ul>		
Types of dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate house 14.1%</li> <li>- Medium density 14.9%</li> <li>- High density 70.5%</li> </ul>		
Language other than English at home (35.4% of total residents)	<b>Cabarita</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italian 6.3%</li> <li>- Cantonese 4.9%</li> <li>- Mandarin 4.8%</li> </ul>	<b>Mortlake-Breakfast Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandarin 10.7%</li> <li>- Cantonese 4.5%</li> <li>- Korean 3.6%</li> </ul>	
Median weekly household income	\$2,660 (Cabarita), \$2,166 (Mortlake-Breakfast Point)		
Low income households	9%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1116 (Cabarita), 1100 (Mortlake-Breakfast Point)		

## CONCORD

The Concord catchment area was home to 15,223 people in 2019, and has been forecast for strong population growth of 3,933 residents to 19,156 by 2036.

Concord residents have a median household income of \$2,093 which is similar to the median for the LGA (\$2,058) but higher than Greater Sydney (\$1,745). The catchment has a lower proportion of residents speaking a language other than English at home (30.6%) compared to Greater Sydney (35.8%), with the most common languages being Italian (11.1%, down from 12.3% in 2011), Chinese Languages (Mandarin: 5.8% and Cantonese 3.4%), and Greek (3.4%, down from 4.1% in 2011).

The majority of Concord is zoned low density residential however a significant portion of land at the southern boundary of Concord has been zoned high density residential as part of the Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Precinct. Significant change to urban form is likely in this area however the character of the suburb is likely to remain low density suburban. Phase 1 or PRCUTS Homebush Precinct is located at Concord Station.

Concord has a moderate rate for households without a car (8.2%). The suburb lacks high frequency public transport connections to Sydney CBD and other regional centres, however residents in the south west area of Concord can access Sydney Trains stations at North Strathfield and Strathfield (Triangle). Public transport connectivity would dramatically improve with the anticipated delivery of the Metro West project through the suburb.

Concord has a large amount of open space within the catchment containing large parks including St Lukes Park, Ron Routley Oval and Concord Oval.

Concord is the service hub for the LGA with a large municipal library and function centre with numerous council and non-council community facilities including Concord Uniting Church, Concord Scout Hall. The Meeting Room within the Concord Community Centre has an occupancy rate of 93.42% and the auditorium in the Concord Senior Citizen's Centre was used 360 days in 2017/18 with an occupancy rate of 98.63% which suggests facilities in Concord are used by residents and groups across the LGA.

### Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	13,718	15,222	19,462
Median Age	41 years old		
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Couples with children 43.2%</li> <li>- Couples without children 23%</li> <li>- Lone person 16.5%</li> </ul>		
Types of dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate house 68.9%</li> <li>- Medium density 18.1%</li> <li>- High density 10.1%</li> </ul>		
Language other than English at home (30.62% total residents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italian 11.1%</li> <li>- Mandarin 5.8%</li> <li>- Cantonese 3.4%</li> </ul>		
Median weekly household income	\$2,093		
Low income households (earning less than \$650 a week)	12.3%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1064		

## CONCORD WEST AND LIBERTY GROVE

In 2016, the Concord West and Liberty Grove Catchment Area was home to 8,699 residents. The area is forecast to grow by 1,983 residents to 2036 to 10,682, with growth forecast primarily in Concord West suburb.

The catchment is a high-income area, with a median average weekly household income of \$2,110 in Concord West and \$2,230 in Liberty Grove, compared to \$2,058 across the LGA. The age profile differs across the catchment, with a median average age of 41 years in Concord West and 33 years in Liberty Grove (compared to 36 across the LGA).

While the Liberty Grove suburb is predominantly zoned medium and high density residential, the majority of the Concord West suburb is zoned low density residential however a significant portion of land around Concord West Station is zoned high density residential.

The majority of residents in the catchment are located within walking distance of Concord West Station which is located on the Northern Line with fast connections to Sydney CBD and other regional centres.

Open space in Concord West and Liberty Grove includes a significant number of private open spaces and recreation facilities in Liberty Grove, and large areas of State government land in the Yaralla Estates.

## Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	7,379	8,436	9,584
Median Age	41 years old (Concord West), 33 years old (Liberty Grove)		
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Couples with children 45.8%</li> <li>- Couples without children 20.4%</li> <li>- Lone person 15.5%</li> </ul>		
Types of dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate house 59.9%</li> <li>- Medium density 18.2%</li> <li>- High density 21.4%</li> </ul>		
Language other than English at home (41.6% total residents)	Concord		Liberty Grove
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italian 7.8%</li> <li>- Mandarin 4.8%</li> <li>- Cantonese 3.8%</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Korean 13.1%</li> <li>- Mandarin 10.39%</li> <li>- Cantonese 8.3%</li> </ul>
Median weekly household income	\$2,110 (Concord West), \$2,230 (Liberty Grove)		
Low income households	11.7%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1061 (Concord West), 1085 (Liberty Grove)		

## DRUMMOYNE, RUSSELL LEA, AND RODD POINT

The Drummoyne, Russell Lea and Rodd Point catchment area was home to 20,028 residents in 2019, and is forecast to grow by 329 residents to 20,357 by 2036. While the majority of Drummoyne is zoned medium-density residential, Russell Lea – Rodd Point is predominantly low density residential.

The catchment is home to a high-income population, with a median weekly household income of \$2,358 in Drummoyne and \$2,161 in Russell Lea – Rodd Point, compared to \$2,038 across the LGA. The population is on average older, with a median age of 40 years in Drummoyne and 41 years in Russell Lea - Rodd Point.

There are a number of community facilities located in Drummoyne (including the City of Canada Bay Civic Hall, Girl Guides Hall and Drummoyne Community Centre), however there are no council facilities in Russell Lea and Rodd Point.

The catchment is well serviced in terms of public transport, with a Sydney Ferries stop located at Drummoyne Wharf and Victoria Rd providing frequent bus connections to

Sydney CBD and other regional centres.

### Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	19,563	20,441	21,184
Median Age	40 years old (Drummoyne), 41 years old (Russell Lea-Rodd Point)		
Household	Couples with children 33% - Couples without children 27% - Lone person 28%		
Types of dwellings	- Separate house 40% (72% Russell Lea & 29% Drummoyne) - Medium density 26% - High density 21% (Drummoyne 36% & Russell Lea 7.6%)		
Language other than English at home (41.6% total residents)	Drummoyne - Italian 3.8% - Greek 3.0% - Mandarin 1.9%	Russell Lea - Rodd Point - Italian 11.7% - Greek 3.8% - Cantonese 2.2%	
Median weekly household income	\$2,358 (Drummoyne), \$2,161 (Russell Lea-Rodd Point)		
Low income households	10.8%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1096 (Drummoyne), 1078 (Russell Lea-Rodd Point)		

## FIVE DOCK-CANADA BAY

In 2019, the Five Dock-Canada Bay Catchment Area had a population of 11,605, and it is forecast to grow significantly to 2036 with an anticipated population increase of 4,782 residents to 16,387. In 2016, 13.4 % of Five Dock-Canada Bay residents spoke Italian at home (down from 15.6% in 2011).

The southern boundary of the catchment is zoned high density residential as part of the Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Precinct. Significant change to urban form including the development of high density residential is likely in this area.

Transport for NSW is investigating areas within Five Dock-Canada Bay as potential sites for a Sydney West Metro station. A key factor governing the locations will be the potential for urban renewal and the delivery of housing and employment close to the station. If a station is realised, it is likely that the area will undergo significant urban change, including potential for high density residential and new commercial development.

There are a number of regionally significant community resources located in Five Dock, including Five Dock Leisure Centre. The catchment accommodates three primary schools and 13 childcare centres. The Draft Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy designates new social infrastructure for Kings Bay as part of the project which would be located in close proximity to Five Dock residents. This includes 1 new long day care centre, 1 community centre, and the provision of new primary and secondary school facilities. These facilities could be used by residents in Five Dock.

## Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	10,978	14,324	19,449
Median Age	40 years old		
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Couples with children 35.6%</li> <li>- Couples without children 22.1%</li> <li>- Lone person 22.4%</li> </ul>		
Types of dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate house 48.1%</li> <li>- Medium density 31%</li> <li>- High density 19.5%</li> </ul>		
Language other than English at home (41.6% total residents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italian 13.4%</li> <li>- Mandarin 3.4%</li> <li>- Cantonese 2.4%</li> </ul>		
Median weekly household income	\$2,096		
Low income households	15.4%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1051		

## NORTH STRATHFIELD & STRATHFIELD (TRIANGLE)

The North Strathfield & Strathfield (Triangle) Catchment Area was home to 7,991 residents in 2019, and is forecast to grow by 3,926 residents to 11,917 by 2036. While Strathfield (Triangle) is a medium to high-density residential precinct located near Strathfield Train Station, the North Strathfield suburb is a medium-density mixed used residential and commercial precinct based around North Strathfield Train Station.

Residents of the catchment are young, highly diverse and highly educated. A high proportion of residents speak a language other than English at home (62.9% compared to 35.9% in Greater Sydney). The catchment has a low median weekly household income (\$1,988 in North Strathfield and \$1,605 in Strathfield (Triangle)) compared to the LGA at \$2,058. The majority of residents are located within walking distance of a train station, with fast connections to Sydney CBD and other regional centres. The potential connection of North Strathfield Station to the Sydney Metro West project would dramatically increase transport connectivity in the suburb and is likely to lead to increased high-density development in the suburb.

The Draft Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy designates new social infrastructure for Homebush as part of the project which would be located in close proximity to catchment residents. This includes 5 new long day care centres, 3 community meeting spaces of a min 300m<sup>2</sup>, provision of primary and secondary school facilities and a Community Health Centre. These facilities could be used by residents in the Catchment.

### Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	2016	2026	2036
	6,471	7,988	9,768
Median Age	31 years old (North Strathfield), 28 years old (Strathfield (Triangle))		
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Couples with children 43.1%</li> <li>- Couples without children 21.3%</li> <li>- Lone person 16.5%</li> </ul>		
Types of dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate house 24.9%</li> <li>- Medium density 13.9%</li> <li>- High density 59.6%</li> </ul>		
Language other than English at home (62.9% total residents)	North Strathfield <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandarin 11.9%</li> <li>- Korean 9.2%</li> <li>- Cantonese 5.6%</li> </ul>	Strathfield (Triangle)	
Median weekly household income	\$1,988 (North Strathfield), \$1,605 (Strathfield (Triangle))		
Low income households	13.5%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1052 (North Strathfield), 983 (Strathfield (Triangle))		

## RHODES (EAST AND WEST)

The Rhodes Catchment Area is a high density mixed used residential and commercial precinct based around Rhodes Train Station. In 2019, Rhodes had a population of 12,728 with the suburb forecast to grow by 7,303 residents (mostly in Rhodes East) to 20,031 residents by 2036. The population is highly diverse and highly tertiary educated. Across the catchment, 78.7% of residents speaking a language other than English at home (compared to 35.8% in Greater Sydney) with 46.4% speaking a Chinese language. On average, residents are young with a median age of 29 years, compared to 36 years across Canada Bay.

A very high proportion of households in Rhodes do not own a car (17.3%) compared to 9.8% across the LGA. The majority of residents are located within walking distance of Rhodes Train Station which is located on the Northern Line with fast connections to Sydney CBD and other regional centres. A new pedestrian/ cycling connection across Parramatta River would increase access for residents to the Meadowbank and Parramatta River trails.

There are six childcare centres in Rhodes but no schools. A new primary school is proposed for Rhodes however a timeframe has not yet been set with the closest facilities being located in Concord West.

Rhodes Community Centre and The Connection are new multi-function spaces in Rhodes. Bennelong Bridge opened in 2016 connected Rhodes and Wentworth Point enabling pedestrian and public transport access across Homebush Bay. This may see increased use of Rhodes facilities by residents of Wentworth Point.

The NSW Government has earmarked Rhodes East as a Priority Precinct with up to 3,600 new homes to be delivered east of Concord Rd. This would see increased use of community facilities and services in Rhodes in the future.

## Population snapshot

Actual and projected population	201	2026	2036
	11,830	15,371	20,614
Median Age	29		
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Couples with children 20.6%</li> <li>- Couples without children 33.6%</li> <li>- Lone person 18.7%</li> </ul>		
Types of dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate house 3.8%</li> <li>- Medium density 3.6%</li> <li>- High density 92.6%</li> </ul>		
Language other than English at home (76.4% total residents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandarin (36.6%)</li> <li>- Korean (11.8%)</li> <li>- Cantonese (8.2%)</li> </ul>		
Median weekly household income	\$1,695		
Low income households	19.1%		
SEIFA Index of disadvantage	1,058		

## Appendix 2 - Sportsfield configuration (summer and winter)

PARK	SPORTSFIELD	2018/19 SUMMER CONFIGURATION	2019 WINTER CONFIGURATION	IRRIGATION	LIGHTING	DRAINAGE
Arthur Walker Reserve	Arthur Walker	Cricket Synthetic	Soccer training/cricket synthetic	X	X	
Campbell Park	Campbell 1	Cricket synthetic	Soccer	X	X	
	Campbell 2	Cricket synthetic	Soccer	X	X	
	Campbell 3		Soccer	X	X	
Concord Oval	Concord Oval	Rugby league training	Rugby league training/rugby union/soccer	X		X
Croker Park	Croker Park	Tennis (2 courts)	Tennis (2 courts)		X	
Drummoyne Oval	Drummoyne Oval	Cricket turf	Rugby union/AFL	X	X	
Edwards Park	Edwards 1	Cricket synthetic	Soccer	X	X	
	Edwards 2		Soccer	X	X	
	Edwards 3		Soccer mini	X	X	
	Edwards 4		Soccer mini	X	X	
	Edwards 5		Soccer mini	X	X	
Five Dock Park	Five Dock Oval	Cricket synthetic	Rugby League/AFL	X	X	
	Five Dock Tennis	Tennis (2 courts)	Tennis (2 courts)		X	
Goddard Park	Goddard Oval	Cricket Turf	Rugby league	X	X	X
	Goddard 2		Rugby league mini	X	X	
Greenlees Park	Greenlees Park	Touch football/cricket synthetic	Soccer training	X	X	
	Greenlees Tennis	Tennis (4 courts)	Tennis (4 courts)		X	
Jessie Stewart Park	Jessie Stewart Park	Cricket synthetic	Soccer training/ cricket synthetic		X	



PARK	SPORTSFIELD	2018/19 SUMMER CONFIGURATION	2019 WINTER CONFIGURATION	IRRIGATION	LIGHTING	DRAINAGE
Lysaght Park	Lysaght Park		Soccer	X	X	
Majors Bay Reserve	Sid Richards 1	Baseball	Soccer Training	X	X	
	Sid Richards 2	Baseball	Baseball	X	X	
	Sid Richards 3	Soccer synthetic	Soccer synthetic	X	X	
	Ron Routley Oval	Cricket turf	Soccer	X	X	X
Nield Park	Nield 1		Soccer	X	X	
	Nield 2		Soccer half	X	X	
	Nield 3		Soccer mini	X	X	
	Nield 4		Soccer mini	X	X	
Powells Creek Reserve	Powells Creek 1	Cricket synthetic / archery	Archery / soccer	X	X	
	Powells Creek 2	Cricket synthetic	Soccer	X	X	
	Powells Creek Tennis	Tennis (4 courts)	Tennis (4 courts)		X	
Queen Elizabeth Park	Queen Elizabeth 1	Cricket synthetic	Soccer	X	X	X
	Queen Elizabeth 2		Soccer	X	X	X
	Queen Elizabeth 3		Soccer mini	X	X	X
Rothwell Park	Rothwell Oval	Cricket turf	Rugby union	X	X	
Russell Park	Russell Park	Cricket synthetic	Cricket synthetic			

PARK	SPORTSFIELD	2018/19 SUMMER CONFIGURATION	2019 WINTER CONFIGURATION	IRRIGATION	LIGHTING	DRAINAGE
St Lukes Park & Cintra Precinct	St Lukes Hockey	Hockey (synthetic)	Hockey (synthetic)	X	X	X
	St Lukes Oval	Cricket turf / athletics	AFL / Athletics	X	X	
	St Lukes 1	Cricket synthetic	Rugby training / soccer	X	X	
	St Lukes 2	Cricket synthetic	Rugby union	X	X	X
	St Lukes 3		Rugby union	X	X	
	St Lukes North	Rugby league training	Rugby union	X	X	X
	Cintra Tennis	Tennis (14 courts)	Tennis (14 courts)		X	
	Cintra Netball		Netball (24 hard courts)	Netball (24 hard courts)		X
		Netball (14 grass courts)	Netball (14 grass courts)			
Taplin Park	Taplin 1		Rugby union	X	X	
	Taplin 2		Rugby union training half	X	X	
Timbrell Park	Timbrell 1	Touch football / cricket synthetic	Touch football / soccer		X	
	Timbrell 2	Touch football / cricket synthetic	Touch football / soccer		X	
	Timbrell Baseball	Baseball	Baseball			
	Timbrell Baseball	Baseball mini	Baseball mini			