

Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Study

December 2020





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Acknowledgement of Country

Randwick City Council acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Australians of this land, and the Bidjigal and Gadigal people who traditionally occupied the land we now call Randwick City.

Randwick City has a rich and unique Aboriginal cultural history, with La Perouse being the only area in Sydney where the local Aboriginal community have had an unbroken connection to the land.

We recognise and celebrate the spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land which long pre-dates European settlement and continues today.

Building on our Statement of Recognition and commitment to Reconciliation, Council wishes to support the vision and plans of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait community in order to close the gap on disadvantage, build stronger local and regional economies and support culturally rich and healthy communities.

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Executive summary

Background and purpose

This Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (the Needs Study) provides the evidence-base to help set the framework for the future planning of Randwick City Council's (Council's) open space and recreation network; and the development of Council's informing Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy.

Population growth and change

Randwick City is on the land of the Bidjigal and Gadigal people, and has a rich and unique Aboriginal cultural history, with La Perouse being the only area in Sydney where the local Aboriginal community have had an unbroken connection to the land.

At the time of the 2016 census, there were approximately 148,922 people (Estimated Resident Population/ERP) living in Randwick City. Population characteristics differ significantly across the Randwick City area, with much higher cultural diversity, higher density living and a high proportion of students living in the north of the LGA, including in Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick requiring access to spaces outside the home for recreation.

While the Randwick City population has relatively low levels of disadvantage and is highly educated with a high median household weekly income, there are pockets of disadvantage across the LGA, including low-income households, people living in social housing and boarding houses and people living with disability and carers. These diverse groups will require access to free, affordable and accessible recreation opportunities.

Forecast population growth and change

According to population projections from the NSW Department of Planning, Environment and Industry (DPIE), Randwick City is forecast to grow to a community of 179,400 people by 2031 (ERP). This is an estimated additional 21,619 people (+15%, +1% annual growth rate) placing pressure on the capacity of existing open space and recreation facilities.

Forecast growth 2016-2031

**+21,619 people
or 15%**

Source: NSW DPIE Population Projections 2019

The highest proportional growth to 2031 will occur in areas that are already characterised by relatively higher density living, including Kensington (+27%) and Randwick-South (+23%). These areas will increase further in density with more people living in apartments, with a need for open space and recreation away from the home, providing a shared backyard in the form of public parks within walking distance of apartments.

What the community said they need

Over 700 community members and stakeholders were engaged to inform this Needs Study with detailed findings available within a separate Engagement Outcomes Report.

Consultation with the community told us there is a need to:

- Increase tree canopy and shade cover to provide cooling and amenity, including in parks, playgrounds, along the coast and active transport routes.
- Increase active transport links to support recreation, access and safety, including improved footpaths, streets and cyclepaths.
- Increase the amenity of existing open spaces, including upgrades and maintenance as well as provision of shade, seating, picnic tables, bubblers and toilets.
- Upgrade and provide more diverse play spaces for a range of ages and abilities, including with shade, bubblers and toilets.
- Continue to provide access to natural areas for connection to nature and preservation of biodiversity.
- Provide and plan for recreation with dogs, including desire for upgrades to existing dog spaces, more fenced spaces and beach access.
- Increase diversity and quantity of public outdoor recreation spaces, including outdoor gyms and outdoor courts.

Consultation with sporting groups and peak bodies told us that there is a need to:

- Increase the capacity, flexibility and amenity of sporting spaces to optimise use.
- Improve facilities and amenities at sporting facilities to increase female participation in sports traditionally participated in by men, for example through additional separated change rooms and showers.
- Respond to the increasing casualisation of sports participation, for example there is a reported high demand for social games and opportunities to participate on weeknights rather than the traditional Saturday/Sunday competition games.
- Support community groups to increase their volunteers. Decreasing levels of volunteering is reported as one of the main challenges faced by sports and recreation groups as people are increasingly time-poor.

Participation in sport and recreation

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as lifestyles, communities, and urban environments change.

Aligning with National, State and Greater Sydney trends, participation in Randwick City is mostly in individualised and informal recreation activities such as walking, running and swimming. At the same time, engagement with local sporting clubs and peak bodies indicated that participation in organised sport in Randwick City remains popular. Rising organised sport participation in Randwick City may be due to a number of factors including population growth, good access to a broad range of high quality, regional sporting facilities and grounds in Randwick City, increasing female participation, and sports introducing new and more accessible formats to appeal to a wider demographic.

Table 1 - Top recreation activities in Randwick City (513 survey respondents)

Rank	Activity	#	%
1	Walking for recreation or exercise	445	87%
2	Swim in public beaches, ocean baths, rivers or creeks	406	80%
3	Relaxing in open spaces	362	71%
4	Walking for transport	302	59%
5	Swimming in a pool	261	51%
6	Outdoor personal fitness	233	46%
7	Gathering in open spaces	215	42%
8	Indoor personal fitness/gym	206	40%
9	Riding a bike	202	40%
10	Running/jogging	188	37%
11	Walking the dog	158	31%
12	Yoga/Pilates	153	30%
13	Visiting a play space	129	25%
14	Surfing and other surf sports	99	19%
15	Play self-organised ball games	82	16%

Survey question: "Which of the following recreation activities have you participated in over the past 6 months? Please select all that apply."

Current supply

Randwick City has a diverse open space and recreation network that is highly valued by residents, and includes recreation focal points that attract visitors from across Sydney. In particular, Randwick City's coastline and popular beaches, including Clovelly, Coogee and Maroubra, provide unique opportunities for recreation. The LGA also has a strong history of iconic sports clubs and Heffron Park is a destination regional sporting hub.

In total, Randwick City takes in over 626ha of open space, including:

- 284ha of Council owned and managed open space, including more than 220 parks and reserves, and
- 342ha of open space managed by other landholders, including Centennial Parklands, two National Parks, golf courses and a rifle range on Crown land, the Royal Randwick Racecourse and open space at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

Across all open space types and ownership as outlined above, this results in a provision rate of 42.5m² of open space per person. However, the provision rate is lower for Council owned and managed open space only at 19.1m² per person.

Council-managed open space and recreation facilities in Randwick City include:

- 10 beaches, 8 ocean pools, 13 coastal reserves
- More than 220 parks, including 17 regional, 20 district, 68 local, 47 neighbourhood and 68 pocket parks
- 1 aquatic facility, the Des Renford Leisure Centre
- 1 planned indoor recreation centre, the Heffron Centre
- 38 full-sized sports fields, including fields suitable for rugby (19), soccer (13), cricket (9), oztag (6), touch (4), baseball (2), AFL (2) and archery (1)*
- 53 outdoor courts, including netball (34), tennis (13) and basketball half-court (5) and multipurpose (1)
- 58 play spaces, including 7 district and 51 local
- 7 outdoor fitness stations
- 14 dog off-leash areas, or 1 per 11,000 residents
- 3 community gardens
- 2 skate parks, and
- 1 criterium cycle track.

In addition, residents access open spaces and recreation facilities just outside of the Randwick City boundaries, including Queens Park in the Waverley Council area and Moore Park in the City of Sydney.

*Note that these add up to more than 38 fields as summer and winter season sports may overlap within the same area.

What is needed by 2031

The future provision of open space and recreation facilities in Randwick City by 2031 includes a need for:

New and enhanced open spaces and connections

- While overall Randwick City has a comparably high provision of open space per person, this is not equitably distributed and there is a need to increase the amount of open space in areas with existing low provision, limited walking access, and which have forecast high population growth and increasing density (Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick).
- Increased tree canopy coverage to provide shade and cooling, mitigate the impacts of urban heat and support biodiversity.
- Connected and enhanced shady footpaths and streets for walking and cycling, including connections to key recreation spaces and a connected Coastal Walk.

New and enhanced sporting and recreation facilities

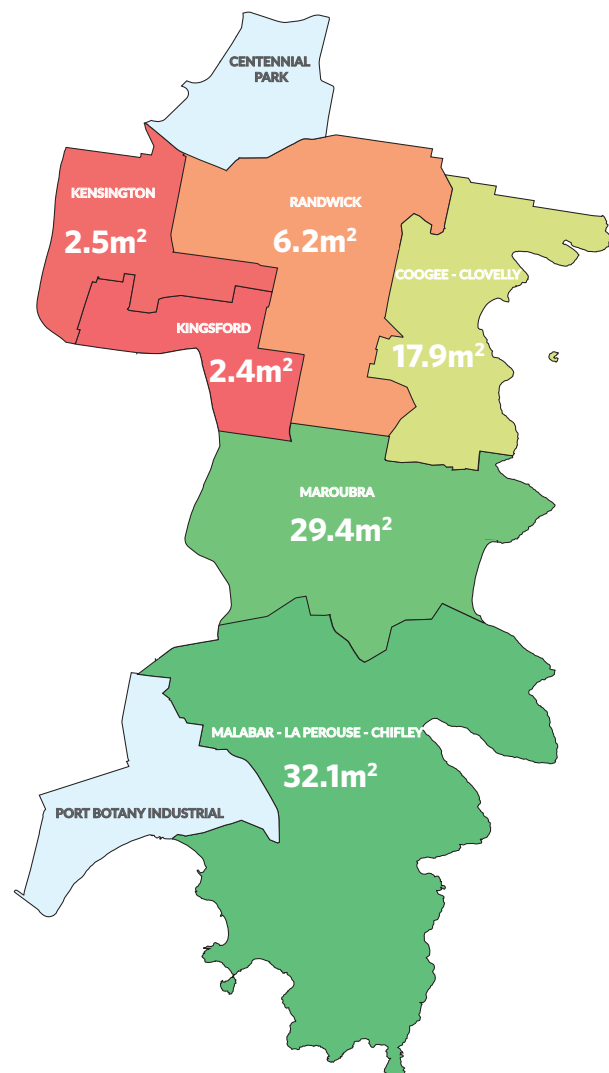
- Access to free, informal outdoor recreation opportunities to support participation including multipurpose outdoor courts and outdoor gyms.
- New indoor multipurpose courts, with opportunity to incorporate these within the planned Heffron Centre.
- New and enhanced play spaces including destination and inclusive play, as well as increased amenity and shade at existing play spaces.

Improved amenity and flexibility of open spaces and recreation facilities

- Open spaces and recreation facilities that are multipurpose and flexible to accommodate growing and changing community needs.
- Open spaces and recreation facilities that are inclusive and accessible for people of all abilities, including increased accessibility of beaches and ocean pools.
- Open spaces and recreation facilities that support sharing by diverse user groups.
- Need for female-friendly sporting amenities to support increased female participation in organised sport.
- Increased amenity including access to shade, bubblers and seating as well as lighting for use at night.

Sustainable management and collaboration

- Ongoing focus on sustainability and climate resilience including opportunities to incorporate water-sensitive urban design and use of renewable energy in design of new and upgrades to existing recreation facilities, as well as biodiversity conservation.
- Ongoing and increased collaboration across levels of government to support a coordinated understanding and approach to open space and recreation planning.



Council owned/managed open space m² per person based on population projections to 2031

Strategic directions and key recommendations

Based on these needs, the following strategic directions and key recommendations have been identified. Please see Part 2 (page 159) for detailed strategic directions and actions.

Strategic direction 1. Connect and enhance open spaces and public places

- Close the broken links in the Coastal Walkway and prepare a wayfinding strategy.
- Continue to advocate for public access to the remaining Federal land at Malabar Headland.
- Improve access to open spaces & recreation facilities for people of all abilities.
- Improve pedestrian and cycling connections across the LGA, including in Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick to increase access to open space.

Strategic direction 2. Deliver new quality and diverse open space and recreation facilities in Randwick City's high growth areas and areas with undersupply

- Deliver new open space in high demand areas of Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick.
- In high density areas with low open space provision and high land values, explore opportunities for share recreation spaces including on rooftops and communal areas.
- Increase capacity of existing fields including consideration of replacing with multipurpose synthetic fields where feasible.
- Investigate opportunities to activate Anzac Parade corridor with recreation spaces such as half courts.
- Plan for delivery of more multipurpose recreation facilities for informal social sports including for students and young people.
- Incorporate multipurpose and flexible facilities into the new Heffron Centre.
- Identify potential sites for a BMX and/or mountain bike course or outdoor bouldering in existing parks.
- Strengthen Development Control Plan (DCP) controls to ensure new developments address demand resulting from population growth.

Strategic direction 3. Activate and improve the amenity and flexibility of open and sporting spaces, parks, streets, and beaches for all to share

- Implement open space projects that celebrate local Aboriginal culture, traditions and connection to country.
- Develop a Playground Plan aligning with the NSW Government's Everyone Can Play guidelines.
- Develop a Dog Recreation Plan to support and manage recreation with dogs across Randwick City.
- Improve sporting grounds, including provision of female amenities (e.g. separated showers and change rooms), and improved playing surfaces, drainage, maintenance, shade, amenities and storage.
- Incorporate social and informal recreation spaces into existing parks and laneways.
- Increase lighting of parks and sporting grounds at night to increase use and safety.
- Incorporate a multipurpose youth recreation precinct at Maroubra Beach building on existing facilities.
- Install additional outdoor fitness stations in appropriate locations to provide for a diversity of uses.
- Upgrade amenity blocks prioritising high use destinations along the coastline.
- Increase awareness and participation in community gardens and bushcare.

Strategic direction 4. Manage and deliver the open space and recreation network collaboratively, efficiently and sustainably

- Increase collaboration with adjoining councils, State Government and major local landholders to improve coordination of open space and recreation planning.
- Review all existing Plans of Management to ensure management and use reflects community needs.
- Liaise with local sporting groups to identify ways to assist them with promoting volunteering opportunities.
- Implement smart city technologies and extend the existing Coogee Smart Beaches project to other beaches.
- Improve the efficiency and consistency of the collection and management of open space and recreation facility data.
- Investigate and implement sustainability initiatives (e.g. solar panels, water sensitive urban design etc).



Part 1: Needs Assessment



1. Introduction

Randwick City has a unique and diverse open space and recreation network that includes a range of beautiful spaces including beaches, ocean pools, coastal walks, parks and national parks that are highly valued by the community, as well as local and major regional recreation and sporting facilities that are used by locals and attract visitors from across Sydney.

This Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (the Needs Study) provides the evidence-based to help set the framework for the future planning of Randwick City's open space and recreation network; and the development of Randwick City Council's Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy.

1.1 About the Needs Study

This Needs Study assesses current and future open space and recreation needs for the Randwick City Council Local Government Area (Randwick City/LGA). This Needs Study supersedes the previous Randwick City Recreation Needs Study (2008).

The purpose of this Needs Study is to inform Randwick City Council's (Council's) future Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy, which will provide a roadmap for how Council will deliver open spaces and recreation facilities that meet the needs of the current and future Randwick City resident, worker and visitor populations.

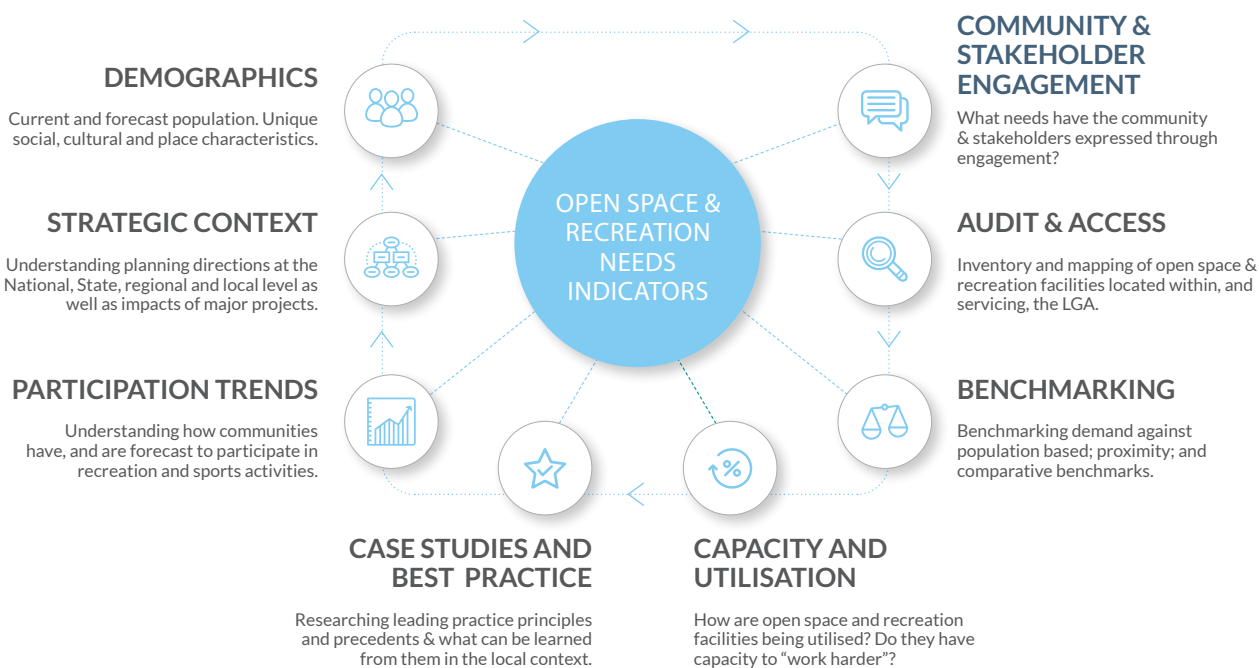
The Needs Study will provide the evidence base to inform the development of Council policy and strategy in relation to the open space and recreation needs of Randwick City in the future. This Needs Study will use population projections for both 2031 and 2041. The three key elements of this work were to:

- Undertake community and stakeholder consultation to gain an understanding of open space and recreation needs to inform the Study;
- Prepare an open space recreation needs study that aligns with Randwick City Council and State Government objectives, priorities and actions; and
- Identify strategic directions and priorities to inform the Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Strategy to be prepared by Council.



1.2 Methodology

Our approach to undertaking this Needs Study is an analysis of a range of indicators as shown below:



1.3 Defining open space and recreation

For the purposes of this Needs Study, open space is broadly defined as:

Open space is land that is publicly accessible and used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. This includes parks, beaches, sports grounds, civic and urban plazas as well as natural areas across Randwick City.

When measuring and analysing open space in Randwick City, the following types of open space have been included:

- Council owned and/or managed parks zoned RE1
- Council managed beaches, and
- Significant road reserves greater than 1,000m² that have recreation potential (such as along the Anzac Parade Corridor).

Randwick City also benefits from open space and recreation assets that are managed by other agencies and entities including National Parks, Centennial Parklands, golf courses and Randwick Racecourse as well as assets managed by schools and the University of New South Wales. We understand that these open spaces are important recreation spaces used by the community. However, they have not been included in this Needs Study's benchmarking calculations as they are not managed by Council.

Recreation is defined as:

Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that we participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing and to connect with our families and communities. This includes casual activities like going for a walk or a picnic with friends as well as fitness activities and social, organised, competition and elite sporting activities.

It is important to approach recreation planning as a spectrum ranging from passive recreation such as visiting the beach or enjoying nature, through to personal fitness and wellbeing such as using outdoor gym equipment though to organised, representative and elite sport. The figure below shows the diverse spectrum of recreation activities that take place in Randwick City.

Recreation facilities are defined as:

Recreation facilities are the built infrastructure that supports recreation activities, such as: sports fields, aquatic facilities, outdoor courts, indoor recreation centres, play spaces, water-based recreation (e.g. scuba diving, life saving clubs), outdoor fitness stations, off-leash dog areas, recreation trails, civic event spaces, golf courses, lawn bowling clubs and community gardens.



Figure 1 - Randwick City recreation spectrum

1.4 About the study area

About Randwick City

Randwick City is located in Sydney's eastern suburbs. With a land area of 37.4 square km, the LGA is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the east, Centennial Parklands to the north, Botany Bay to the south and Bayside LGA and City of Sydney LGA to the west.

As shown overpage, Randwick City has a diverse open space and recreation network, including parks, beaches and bays and two national parks, as well as major sporting and recreation facilities that attract visitors from across the region.

Randwick City's open spaces and recreation facilities, and in particular its beaches, are also a destination for residents of neighbouring local government areas, including Waverley Council, Municipality of Woollahra, City of Sydney, Bayside Council, and beyond.

Council's role

Council plays an active role in supporting participation in recreation by providing and planning for open space and recreation infrastructure and facilitating recreation programs and services. Council's spaces include parks, sporting grounds, recreation facilities, community venues, streets and footpaths, cycle paths, aquatic centres, bushland and beaches.

Council also plays a key role in facilitating recreation through partnerships with relevant organisations and the provision of funding through grants programs.

There are numerous other providers of open space and recreation facilities in Randwick City including private facilities (such as fitness gyms), schools, educational institutions (UNSW and TAFE), sports clubs, and the NSW State Government. The recreation sector as a whole is important in delivering the open space and recreation needs of the Randwick City community.

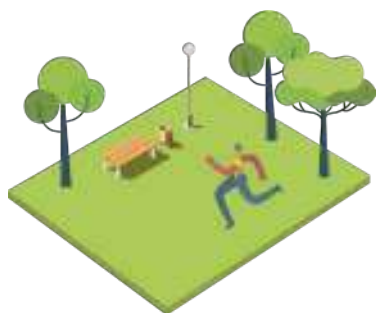


Figure 2 - Jack Vanny Reserve Maroubra

1.5 Randwick City's open space and recreation network now

The following provides an summary of Randwick City's existing open space and recreation facilities network.

Open space network



626ha
open space

This is inclusive of all open space ownership, including Council, National Parks, Centennial Parklands, golf courses, UNSW village green and the Royal Randwick Racecourse.

40.9m²
per person

This provision rate includes public open space managed by Council, National Parks and Centennial Parklands. It excludes provision by other landholders such as golf courses, Royal Randwick Racecourse and UNSW village Green. The provision rate for Council-managed open space only is 19.1m² per person.

17 regional parks

20 district parks

68 local parks

47 neighbourhood parks

68 pocket parks

284ha are managed by Council

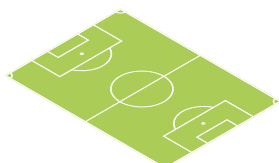
189ha by Centennial Parklands

120ha by National Parks

32ha by other major landholders (Golf courses on Crown land, Racecourse)

Randwick City also has two National Parks including Malabar Headland National Park and Kamay Botany Bay National Park at La Perouse.

Recreation facilities



38
full-sized sportsfields

15 regional fields located at Heffron Park

18 district fields

5 local fields

Randwick City also has 17 junior and mini fields. There are also 24 sportsfields not owned by Council at Centennial Park, UNSW and on local school grounds.



Coastal recreation

13 coastal reserves

10 beaches

8 ocean pools

4 surf live saving clubs

1 coastal walk

1 boat ramp

1 underwater nature trail

Randwick City's coastline is highly valued by the community, attracts visitors from interstate and internationally and provides access to a diverse range of recreation activities in the ocean and along the coast.



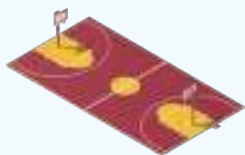
1
Aquatic facility

The Des Renford Leisure Centre is Council owned and managed, and includes a 50 metre outdoor heated pool, 25 metre indoor competition pool, 25 metre indoor program pool, 1 enclosed outdoor dome pool and an outdoor toddler pool. There is also an aquatic facility at UNSW.



1
Planned indoor recreation centre

The planned Heffron Centre will replace the current Matraville Indoor Sports Centre and Bunnerong Gymnastics facility, and is planned to include two multipurpose sports halls, a gymnastics facility and a South Sydney Rabbitohs' community and high-performance centre.



53 Outdoor courts

- 34 netball courts
- 13 tennis courts
- 5 basketball half-courts
- 1 multipurpose court

There are also 33 outdoor courts not owned by Council including at UNSW and on local school grounds.



58 Play spaces

- 51 local play spaces
- 7 district play spaces

12.4% of the population aged under 12 years, play spaces support social connection for families as well as childhood development.



14 Dog off-leash areas

- 1 dog off-leash area per
11,000 residents

Randwick City has five off-leash areas in Coogee but none in Kensington and Kingsford.



5 Golf courses

The 5 golf courses are located on Crown land, including a cluster of 4 adjoining courses along the south-east coastline, each with varying degrees of public access.



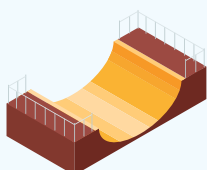
7 Outdoor fitness

The 7 current or planned outdoor fitness stations are located at Maroubra Beach, Burrows Park, Chifley Reserve, Kensington Park, Neptune Park, Malabar Beach and Frenchman's Bay.



3 Community gardens

There are three community gardens, including the Permaculture Interpretive Garden at Randwick Sustainability Hub.



2 Skate parks

Skate parks are located at Maroubra Beach and Chifley Reserve.



Equestrian

Randwick City is a national focal point for equestrian sports with the Royal Randwick Racecourse located in Randwick. Additional equestrian facilities include the Bunnerong Equestrian Park and the South East Equestrian Club facility at Malabar Headland.



Shooting

The ANZAC Rifle Range at Malabar Headland is home to the NSW Rifle Association. There is also the NSW Pistol Club at La Perouse in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park.

1.6 What the community told us

Cred Consulting engaged with over 700 people through March to May 2020 to inform the development of the Needs Study.

Community and stakeholder engagement included a range of activities, including online surveys, an interactive online map, pop-up stalls, stakeholder interviews and online workshops, as well as internal engagement with Randwick City Council staff and Councillors.

The following high level themes emerged from community and stakeholder engagement.

Who was engaged?



531 online survey participants

including a community survey, online interactive map, young people's survey and online conversation guide.



60 participants at two pop-up stalls

at Maroubra Beach and Coogee Beach.



63 open space and recreation stakeholders

from sporting peak bodies and local groups and landowners via online survey, telephone interviews and workshops.



50 government stakeholders

from neighbouring councils, state government and internally with Randwick City Council staff and Councillors.



Open spaces and recreation facilities are highly valued by the Randwick City community

Randwick City has a unique open space and recreation facilities offering including a range of beautiful spaces along the coastline including beaches, ocean pools, parks, national parks and walking trails that are highly visited and highly valued by the community.

The majority of online survey respondents agree that open spaces and recreation facilities in Randwick City play an important role in their lifestyle (93%), and think they are a great way to bring the community together (80%). Many also commented on the importance of these spaces in supporting individual and community health and wellbeing.

Survey respondents identified the need to retain and increase access to open spaces and recreation opportunities as the Randwick City population continues to grow, as urban density increases, and as visitation from outside the LGA continues. 97% of survey respondents would like to see more open spaces and recreation facilities in the area where they live.



Walking, swimming and relaxing in open spaces are the top recreation activities

Walking (87%), swimming in beaches or ocean pools (80%) and relaxing in open spaces (71%) are the most common recreation activities in Randwick City amongst survey respondents. These top activities have remained consistent since Council's previous Recreation Needs Study in 2008, and align with a broader trend towards more informal and individualised participation in recreation activities as people are increasingly time poor and choose to participate when works for them. Respondents participate in recreation for a range of reasons, including for fitness (90%) and health benefits (87%), as well as for relaxation (85%) and fun (81%).



Increasing tree canopy and shade cover to provide cooling and comfort

Across engagement activities, participants identified the need for increased shade and trees to provide cooling and comfort during hot summer months, reflecting Randwick City's relatively low tree canopy. Increased tree canopy and shade was the top suggestion to improve existing open spaces amongst survey respondents.

Priority areas for shading were footpaths and streets to support recreation activities such as walking and jogging, as well as in parks, play spaces and along the coastline at beaches, ocean pools and coastal walking trails. A submission from Cancer Council to Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement process also highlighted the need for increased shading from a health perspective.



Providing active transport links to support recreation, access and safety

A need for improved safe and connected cycle paths and walking paths was identified across community engagement activities. 20% of survey respondents said that poor cycling/walking access is a barrier to recreation participation in Randwick City.

While walking is the most popular recreation activity, 18% rated the quality of footpaths and streets as low or very low and there was a strong desire for improved walking infrastructure. However, the Coastal Walk received the highest quality rating (85% said high or very high quality) and completing the Coastal Walk was a high priority.

Cycle paths received the lowest quality rating in the online survey (32% said low or very low quality) and improving cycle paths was the top suggested priority for future open space and recreation planning. However, as seen through recent community concerns regarding Bundock street cycleway upgrades, there is an expressed desire to minimise removal of trees when constructing and upgrading bike paths.



Increasing the amenity of open spaces, including upgrades and maintenance

One in four survey respondents indicated that a lack of amenities such as seating, shade and picnic tables is a barrier to participating in recreation in Randwick City and improving amenities was a common suggested improvement through the interactive map.

Engagement participants highlighted the importance of having well-maintained amenities in open spaces including toilets, change rooms, bubblers, shaded seating areas and lighting at night, including in proximity to playgrounds and convenient to other activity areas.

There was particular appetite for increased maintenance of amenities and reduced littering at beaches and coastal parks and walks, corresponding to high visitation and use of these spaces.



Upgrading and providing more diverse play spaces for a range of ages and abilities

Across engagement activities, participants wanted to see play spaces in Randwick City be upgraded to include more exciting and adventurous equipment suitable for a range of ages (including younger children and older children) and abilities. Maintenance of play equipment was a priority, as well as increased shaded seating areas, water bubblers and toilets to provide comfort and amenity. Participants indicated that some play spaces are at capacity and want to see these expanded.



Natural areas and habitat and connection to nature

In the online survey, respondents rated natural areas and habitat as the most important type of space for Randwick City to have (93% said important or very important) and the second most important by pop-up stall participants. Participants value having access to natural areas for recreation as well as preservation of biodiversity.



Providing for and managing recreation with dogs

Community engagement participants spoke about dogs in open spaces, with many respondents indicating a need for increased fenced off-leash dog areas with shade, seating and bubblers and beach access. However, there are some conflicts between dogs and other users of parks and recreation facilities, with others highlighting a need for increased enforcement of dog on-lead regulations and increased cleaning of dog feces.



Increasing access to public outdoor recreation spaces, including gyms and courts

Survey respondents indicated a desire for more public outdoor recreation spaces, including outdoor courts and gyms, to meet increasing demand. However, a number of respondents also highlighted the need for outdoor public recreation spaces to not infringe on opportunities for passive, quiet recreation and local residences.



Increasing capacity, flexibility and amenity of sporting spaces to optimise use

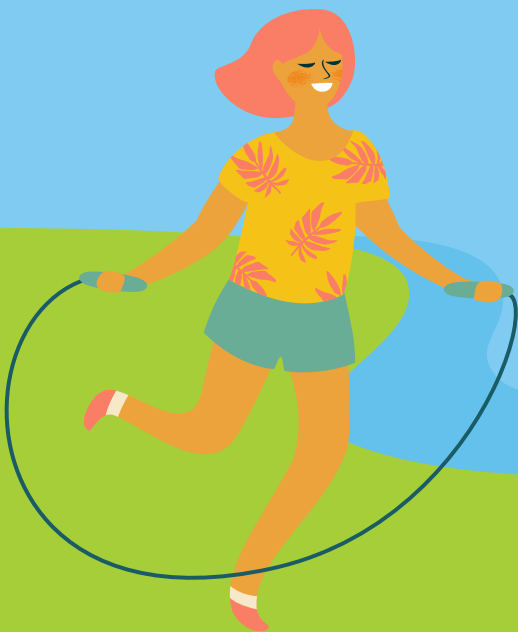
Recreation user groups and sporting peak bodies indicated that formal sports participation in Randwick City is increasing and placing pressure on existing sporting spaces, in many cases driven by growing female participation, as well as growth in juniors and seniors. They identified priorities for sporting spaces including:

- Improving and upgrading amenities including toilets, change rooms and storage facilities and a need for female-friendly facilities
- Improving lighting for use at night
- Increased shade, seating, toilets and bubblers
- Improved playing surfaces including drainage
- Improving booking processes and transparency
- Need for more flexible and multipurpose facilities that can cater to a range of uses, including synthetic fields
- Need for additional facilities, including indoor facilities and increased grounds.

CHAPTER TWO

Community profile

This chapter summarises key findings from demographic analysis and implications for planning for open space and recreation facilities to meet current and forecast community needs.



2. Community profile

Future planning for open space and recreational facilities in Randwick City is driven by the unique demographic and place characteristics of the LGA and its suburbs. Demographic data in this chapter reflects the 2016 ABS Census sourced via .id community.

2.1 Randwick City's community now

Current population (2016)

At the time of the 2016 census, Randwick City's population was 148,922 (Estimated Resident Population/ERP), and in 2019 was estimated to be 155,649. The LGA's population grew by 8% or 11,130 persons from 2011 to 2016, a lower growth rate than Greater Sydney (9.8%).

Density

Population density in Randwick City varies across the LGA from a high of 80 persons per hectare (pp/ha) in Coogee to a low of 2.82 pp/ha in La Perouse - Phillip Bay.

As a well-established inner city area, Randwick City is also characterised by higher housing density compared to Greater Sydney, with 74% of households living in medium or high density dwellings compared to 44%. Housing density varies across the LGA with highest proportion high density dwellings in Kensington, Kingsford and Coogee.

Age profile

The median age of Randwick City residents is 34 years.

As shown in Table 2, Randwick City has a similar age profile compared to Greater Sydney, however with key differences including:

- Much higher proportion of young adults aged 18 to 24 years (14% vs 10%)
- Much higher proportion of young workforce aged 18 to 25 (19% vs 16%), and
- Much lower proportion of children and teenagers aged under 18 years (17% vs 22%).

Randwick City age profile, 2016

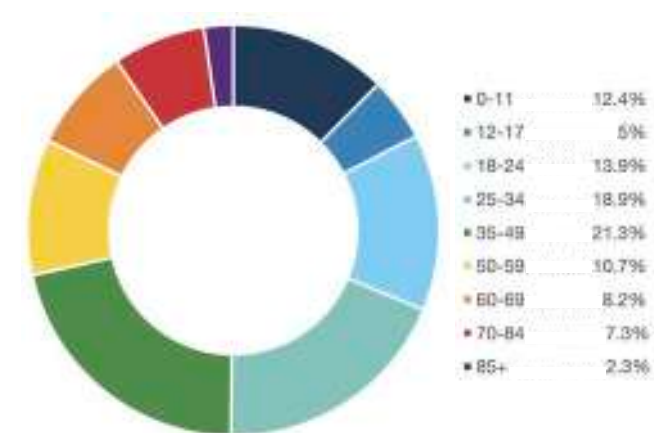


Figure 3 - Randwick City age profile 2016 Source: Profile.id

Table 2 - Randwick City age profile compared to Greater Sydney (Usual Resident Population) (Source: Profile.id)

Service age group	2016		Change	
	#	%	Greater Sydney	2011 to 2016
0-4 years	7,645	5.4	6.4	-53
5-11 years	9,792	7	8.8	+1,293
12-17 years	7,091	5	6.9	+572
18-24 years	19,558	13.9	9.6	+2,656
25-34 years	26,573	18.9	16.1	+2,239
35-49 years	29,932	21.3	21.1	+1,491
50-59 years	15,095	10.7	12.2	+1,284
60-69 years	11,501	8.2	9.5	+1,095
70-84 years	10,292	7.3	7.5	+699
85+ years	3,181	2.3	2.0	+395
TOTAL	140,660	100	100	+11,671

Recreation facilities and open space should reflect the community's needs and aspirations, a lot of which are shaped by the demographic characteristics of the community. This profile of the Randwick community is based on the most recent (2016) Census of Population and Housing data (and rounded to the nearest number).

IF RANDWICK CITY WAS 100 PEOPLE...

2 

people are
Aboriginal or Torres
Strait Islander

34

is the
median age

17 

people are aged
under 18 years

14 

people are aged
18 to 24 years

14 

people are aged
over 65 years

41 

people were
born overseas

32 

people speak a language
other than English at home

Mandarin (7)
Greek (3)
Cantonese (3)

would speak these
languages

4 

people in need assistance
due to disability

18 

people volunteer

13 

people are studying
at University

38 

people have a
university degree

IF RANDWICK CITY WAS 100 HOUSEHOLDS...

24 

lone person
households

10 

group households

27 

couples with children
households

21 

couples without
children households

8 

one parent
households

46 

households live in high
density dwellings



\$1,910

median weekly
household income

17 low-income households
earning <\$650 a week

32 high-income households
earning >\$2,500 a week

38 

households are renting
privately, while 6 are
renting social housing

25 

households owned
outright

17 

households don't
own a motor vehicle

2 

people cycle to
work

6 

people walk
to work

2.2 How is the Randwick City community going to change?

Understanding how the Randwick City community will change and grow into the future will drive planning for future open space, sporting and recreation needs. Population forecasts in this section are based on projections from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) at the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) from the dataset issued in 2019*.

Forecast population growth

Randwick City is forecast to grow to a community of 170,541 people by 2031 and of 179,423 people by 2041.

From 2016 to 2031, this is an estimated additional 21,619 people, or about 15% growth (annual growth rate of 1%). This is a much lower growth than Greater Sydney over the same period (+33%).

From 2016 to 2041, this is an estimated additional 30,500 people, or about 20% growth (annual growth rate of 0.7%). This is a much lower growth than Greater Sydney over the same period (+52%).

As shown in Table 3 and Figure 5 overpage, population growth in Randwick City will vary across SA2 areas. The most significant projected increase is in Kensington, with +27% growth forecast to 2031 and +39% growth forecast to 2041. Other high growth areas to 2031 include Randwick-South (+23%), Maroubra-West (+15%), Maroubra-South (14%) and Kingsford (+13%).

The lowest growth is forecast to be in Centennial Park (no growth) and Port Botany Industrial (+1 person).

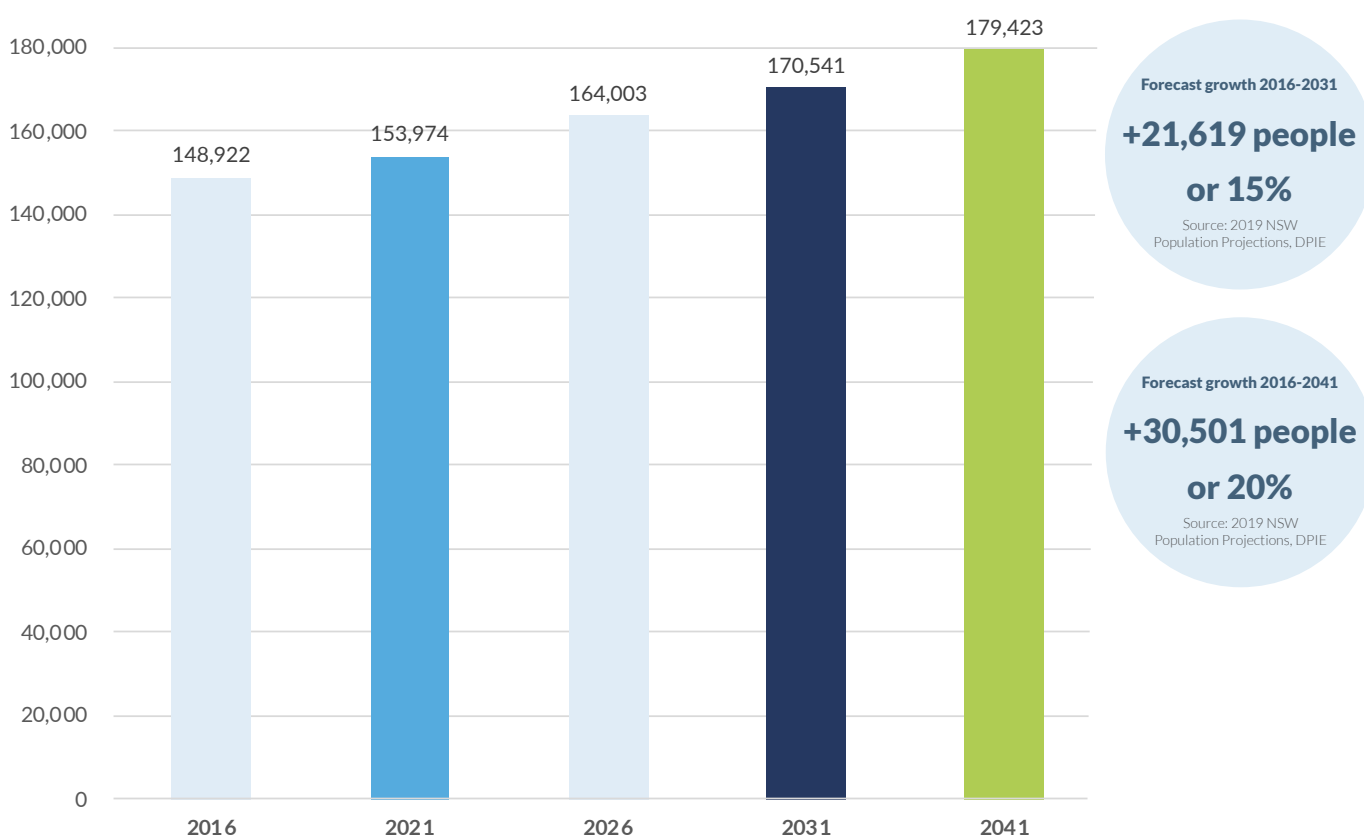


Figure 4 - Randwick City forecast population growth (ERP) 2016-2021-2031-2041 (Source: DPIE)

*Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s) are designed to maximise the spatial detail available for Census population data. They are designed to reflect functional areas that represent a community that interacts together socially and economically. In major urban areas SA2s often reflect one or more related suburbs.

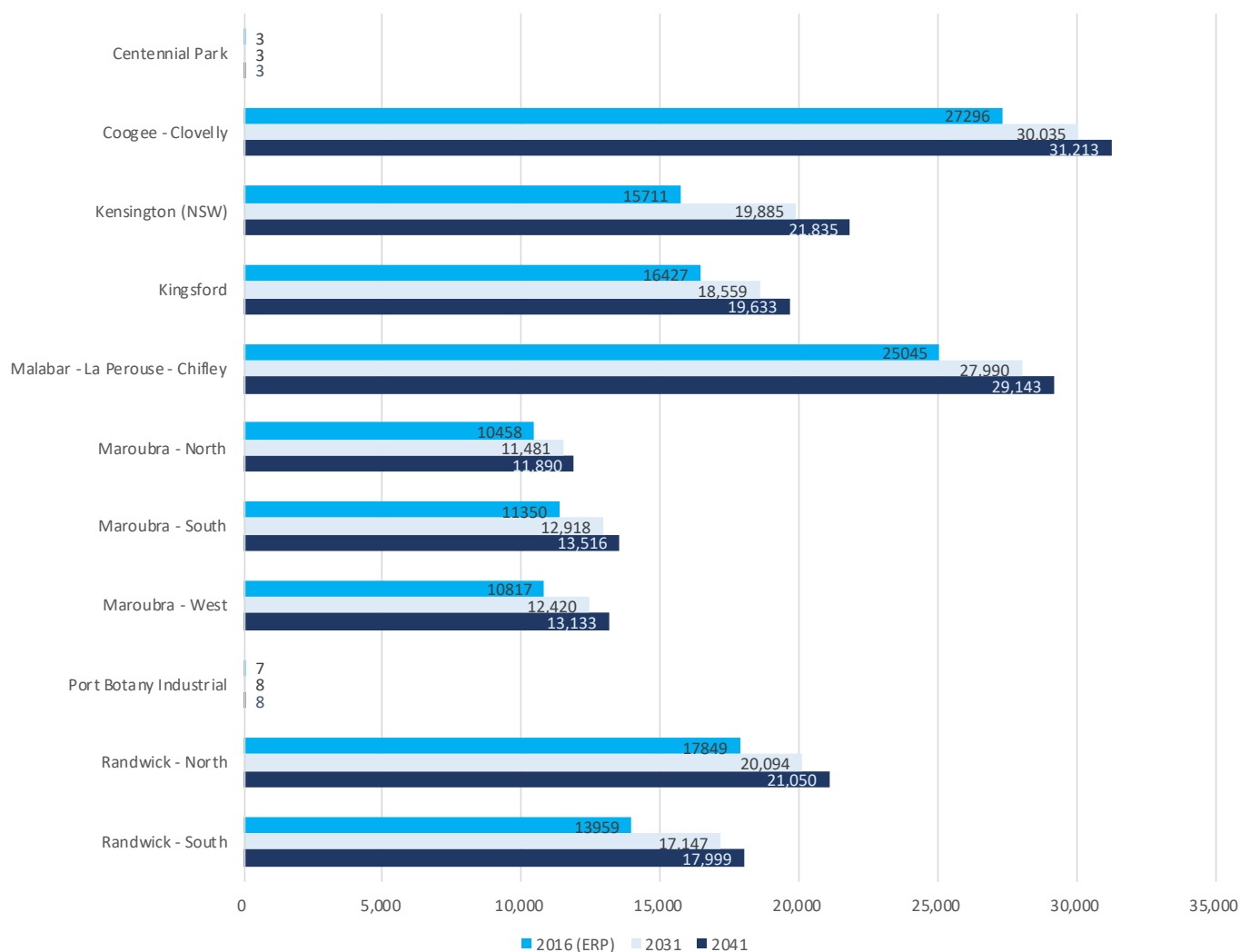


Figure 5 - Randwick City population growth by SA2 2016-2031-2041

Table 3 - Randwick City SA2 population projections (Source: DPIE, issued December 2019)

SA2	2016 (ERP)	2031 (Forecast)	2041 (Forecast)	Change 2016-31		Change 2016-41	
	#	#	#	#	%	#	%
Centennial Park	3	3	3	0	0%	0	0%
Coogee - Clovelly	27,296	30,035	31,213	+2,739	10%	+3,917	14%
Kensington (NSW)	15,711	19,885	21,835	+4,174	27%	+6,124	39%
Kingsford	16,427	18,559	19,633	+2,132	13%	+3,206	20%
Malabar - La Perouse - Chifley	25,045	27,990	29,143	+2,945	12%	+4,098	16%
Maroubra - North	10,458	11,481	11,890	+1,023	10%	+1,432	14%
Maroubra - South	11,350	12,918	13,516	+1,568	14%	+2,166	19%
Maroubra - West	10,817	12,420	13,133	+1,603	15%	+2,316	21%
Port Botany Industrial	7	8	8	+1	14%	+1	14%
Randwick - North	17,849	20,094	21,050	+2,245	13%	+3,201	18%
Randwick - South	13,959	17,147	17,999	+3,188	23%	+4,040	29%
Randwick City TOTAL	148,922	170,541	179,423	+21,619	15%	+30,501	20%
Greater Sydney	4,688,255	6,211,970	7,103,091	1,523,715	33%	+2,414,836	52%

Randwick City population growth by SA2, 2016-2031

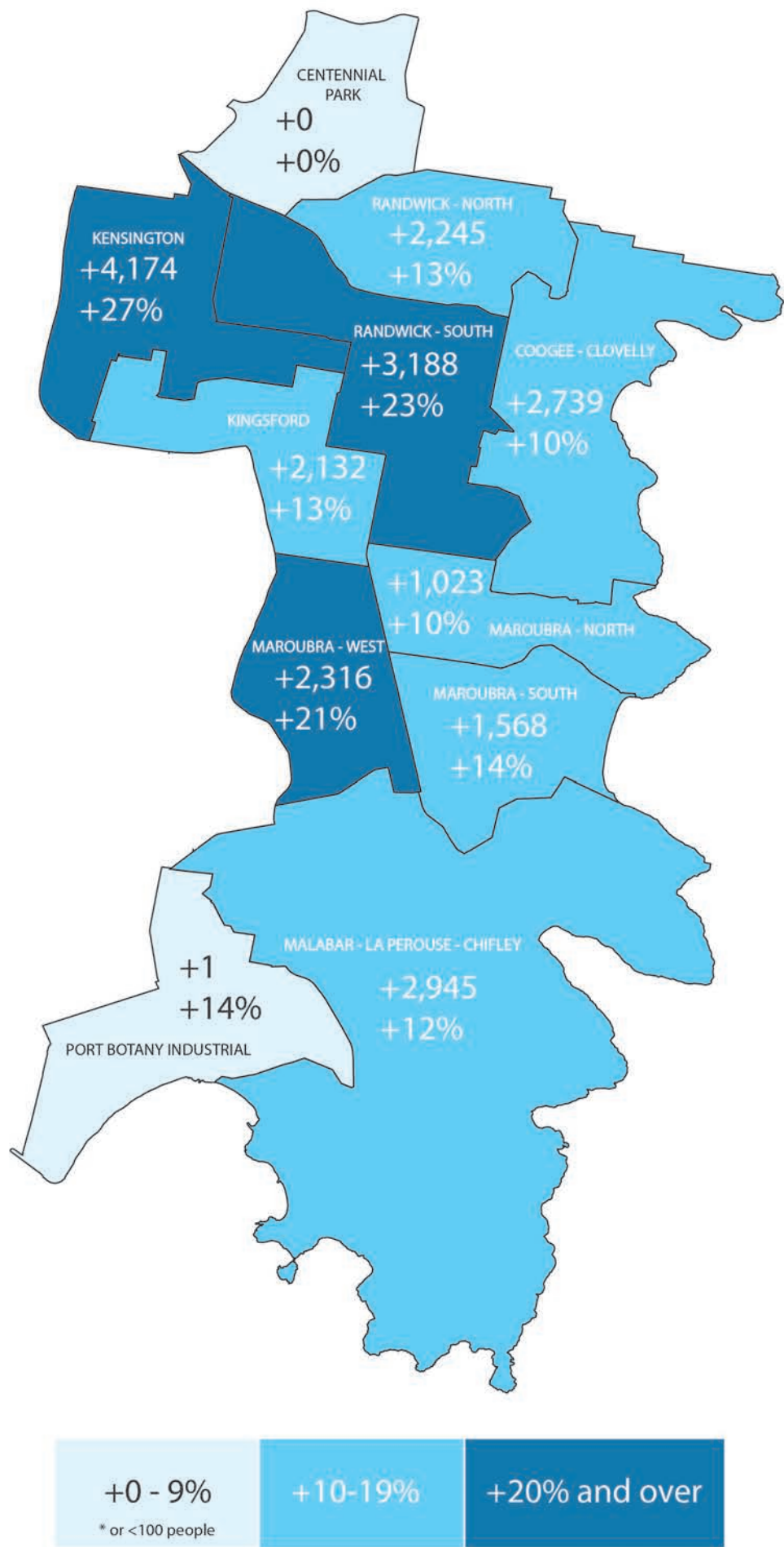


Figure 6 - Randwick City Population Growth 2016-2041 (Source: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Jan 2020)

Forecast growth in neighbouring areas

Forecast population growth in neighbouring council areas will mean more people from outside the LGA accessing open spaces and recreational facilities in Randwick City.

As shown in Table 4, there is high population growth forecast in:

- Bayside Council (+64,150 people, or 39%)
- City of Sydney (+58,900 people, or 26%), including in areas bordering the Randwick LGA such as Green Square.

Table 4 - Randwick City and neighbouring LGA Population Forecast (Source: DPIE)

Suburb	Change 2016-31	
	#	%
Randwick City	+21,619	+15%
Waverley Council	+2,200	+3%
Woollahra Council	+850	+1%
City of Sydney	+58,900	+26%
Bayside Council	+64,150	+39%

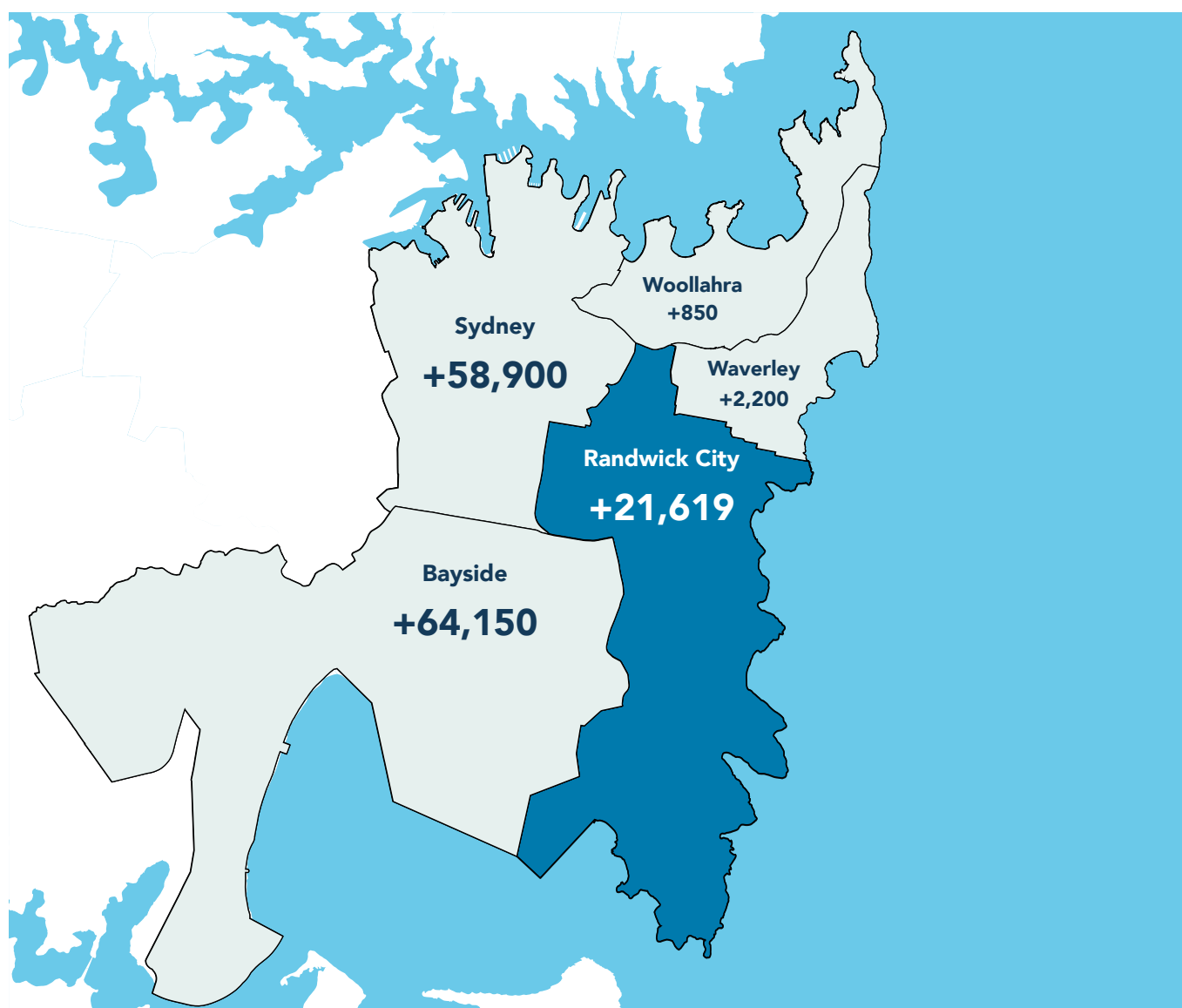


Figure 7 - Regional population growth map, 2016-2031

2.3 Workers and visitors

Worker profile

Local workers are likely to use Randwick City's open spaces and recreation facilities, for example eating lunch in the local park, or for recreational purposes before or after work.

In 2016, a total of 45,900 people worked in Randwick City, with 39.5% (or 18,115) of local workers also residing in the LGA.

Health Care and Social assistance was the largest industry, in 2018/2019, followed closely by Education and Training. This industry focus reflects the significance of the Randwick Health and Education Precinct located in Randwick, Kingsford and Kensington, which comprises children's, women's and adult hospitals, a private hospital, medical research institutes and University of New South Wales.

Residential location of Randwick City workers

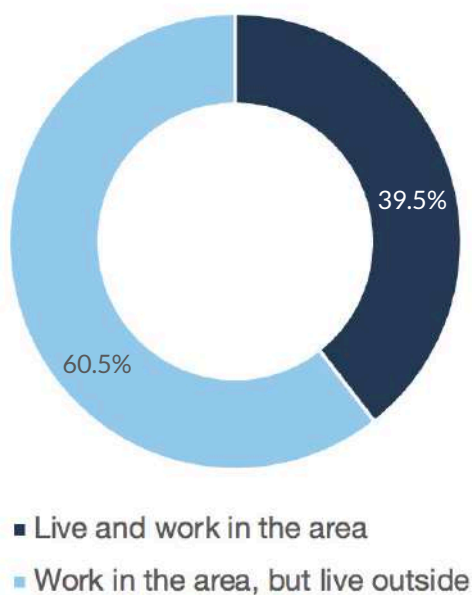


Figure 8 - Residential location of Randwick City workers
(Source: Economy.id)

Visitors to Randwick City

Randwick City's beaches, open spaces and recreation facilities are a destination focal point for visitors from overseas, and across Sydney and Australia.

Tourism Research Australia collects data about international and domestic overnight visitors and domestic day trips through an annual visitor survey, presented by Economy.id. This may include overseas visitors in the country for a holiday, business or education, Australian visitors staying overnight, or local day trippers visiting the area. This gives us a sense of visitors to the Randwick City area that may be accessing open spaces and recreation facilities.

In the 5 years up to 2018/19, there was an annual average of:

- 105,205 international visitors to Randwick City, with an average stay of 44 days
- 232,687 domestic overnight visitors to Randwick City
- 467,003 domestic day trip visitors to Randwick City.

The Royal Randwick Racecourse also attracts over 1.2 million visitors (including non-race day events) per year.



What does the community profile mean for open space and recreation in Randwick City?



First Nations people

Randwick City has a rich and unique Aboriginal cultural history, with La Perouse being the only area in Sydney where the local Aboriginal community have had an unbroken connection to the land. Open spaces and recreation facilities in Randwick City provide opportunities to recognise, celebrate and learn from Aboriginal connection to country.



Population growth will put more pressure on Randwick City's open spaces and recreation facilities

Based on DPIE forecasts, Randwick City's population is forecast to grow by around 21,619 people or 15% from 2016 to 2031. This will place increased pressure on existing open space and recreation facilities and drive demand for increased provision or improved capacity.

Where? Kensington, Randwick-South and Maroubra-West and Kingsford SA2 areas will experience the highest proportional population growth.



More residents living in high density

Open space away from the home is of critical importance to community health and wellbeing in higher density areas. Considerations will be providing open space that meets a range of recreation needs, is within easy walking distance and that also functions as a "backyard" for residents living in apartments that have little or no private open space.

Where? Areas such as Coogee (80 persons per hectare) and Kingsford (78 persons per hectare), have significantly higher population densities than the Randwick City LGA (39 persons per hectare) and Greater Sydney (3.9 persons per hectare).



Families with children

Families with children make up 35% of Randwick City households. Families and children need access to open space and recreation facilities for play, exercise and relaxation. Future planning should consider the needs of families with children including: open spaces that can host family celebrations; accessible facilities located near public transport or accessible parking spaces; accessible play spaces suitable for different age groups and abilities; and dedicated parents rooms.

Where? Little Bay and Clovelly have the highest proportion of babies aged 0 to 4 years (7%). South Coogee, Clovelly and Chifley have the highest proportion of children aged 5 to 11 years (10%).



Young people and tertiary students

Nearly one in five (19%) Randwick City residents are aged 12 to 24 years, including many students attending UNSW. While there is a spectrum of interests across this age group, common implications for future open space and recreation planning include:

- Access to open spaces that provide opportunities for socialising, relaxing, reading and studying
- Access to affordable, unstructured and informal recreation facilities such as outdoor courts and gyms, and
- Integrated technology, such as charging stations and power outlets and free Wi-Fi areas, located near transport and shops.

Where? Kensington (37%) and Kingsford (32%) have the highest proportion of young people.



Working aged people

The significant proportion of residents in the workforce indicates a demand for increased hours in which they can access open spaces and recreation facilities outside of work hours, particularly in the evenings and on weekends. Considerations for future planning include: extending opening hours at leisure centres and sporting grounds to accommodate people who work, providing lighting for use at night time and providing online, centralised booking systems. Local workers who do not live in the area may also access Randwick City's open spaces and recreation facilities, thereby increasing demand.



Accessible open spaces and recreation facilities for older people to stay healthy and happy

Nearly one in five (19%) Randwick City residents are aged 60 years or over. Participation in recreation brings many benefits as people age, including improved health and wellbeing and social connection. 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.

Where? Little Bay (20%), Matraville (18%) and South Coogee (18%) have the highest proportion of older residents aged 60 years or over.



People in need of assistance due to disability

Randwick City has a lower proportion of people in need of assistance due to disability (3.8%), compared to Greater Sydney (4.9%). However, in some suburbs across the LGA there are higher proportions of people in need of assistance indicating a need for open spaces and recreation facilities to include universally accessible design principles.

Where? South Coogee (6.5%), Little Bay (6.2%) and La Perouse - Philip Bay (5.6%) have a higher proportion of residents reporting a need for assistance due to disability.



Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

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, fishing, dancing and walking in the evenings.

Where? Kensington, Kingsford, Maroubra and Randwick suburb have the most highly culturally diverse residents, with the main non-English languages across the LGA being Mandarin, Greek and Cantonese.



Vulnerable community members

While generally Randwick City residents have higher workforce participation, high levels of education and moderate to higher incomes, there are areas with higher disadvantage by comparison to greater Sydney, access to open space and a range of recreation facilities and programs needs to be low cost or free, including areas with a higher proportion of households renting social housing or experiencing relatively higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage. Randwick City also has more than 900 boarding rooms with minimal outdoor private space for residents that require access to space away from the home (concentrated in the north of the LGA surrounding the UNSW and Hospital campuses).

Where? Suburbs with relatively higher socio-economic disadvantage include South Coogee (which has 32% social housing), Malabar and Kingsford.

CHAPTER THREE

Strategic drivers

This chapter summarises key findings from strategic context analysis and implications for planning for open space and recreation facilities in Randwick City.



3. Strategic drivers

Federal, NSW, regional and local strategy and policy will influence future planning for open space and recreational facilities in Randwick City. This chapter provides a summary and implications of this strategic context.

3.1 Federal

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.

3.2 NSW

Premier's Priorities

- The Premier sets two priorities relating to open space and recreation:
- Greening Our City seeking to increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by one million trees by 2022.
- Greener Public Spaces aiming to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open, and public spaces by 10% by 2023.

Draft Greener Places Design Guide, Government Architect NSW

The Draft Greener Places Design Guide framework provides information on how to design, plan, and implement green infrastructure in urban areas throughout NSW. The draft guide provides a consistent methodology to help State and local government, and industry create a network of green infrastructure.

Greener Places explains green infrastructure, why we need it, and the benefits of providing it. The major components that make up the green infrastructure network fall into three categories:

- Open space for recreation: green infrastructure for people
- Urban tree canopy: green infrastructure for climate adaptation and resilience
- Bushland and waterways: green infrastructure for habitat and ecological health.

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

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

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 centred 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?

Women in Sport Strategy, Office of Sport

The Women in Sport Strategy focus areas include participation; places and spaces; leveraging investment; and leadership. 'Places and spaces' acknowledges that facilities influence participation.

The Strategy encourages facility providers to apply a gender lens to the design of regionally significant facilities. Appropriate facilities are those that exhibit universal design principles, prioritise safety, have family friendly social spaces and are clean and easy to access.

Improving the quality of existing surfaces, lighting and amenities is identified as the minimal critical strategy to reduce immediate barriers for women and girls.

Equitable allocation of playing spaces, training venues and other resources was also identified as a key need.

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
- Caring roles are associated with poor physical and mental health, and
- Social isolation and loneliness are growing concerns.

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

Randwick City has a large number of public and private schools with high quality recreation facilities including outdoor and indoor courts and sportsfields.

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

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

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

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

Draft NSW Public Spaces Charter

The Draft NSW Public Spaces Charter has been developed by the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment (the department) to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW. The Charter defines public spaces as: “all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive”. It identifies ten principles for quality public space, developed through evidence-based research and discussions with a diverse range of public space experts. The Charter supports the delivery of the Premier’s Priorities. The Charter acknowledges that public spaces - the streets we walk or cycle in, the plazas we socialise in, libraries we learn in, community halls we gather in and parks, playgrounds and sportsfields where we relax or play - are where public life happens.

The department has developed 10 draft principles for a NSW public spaces charter that can be used to help ensure everyone has access to high- quality public space that allows them to enjoy and participate in public life (subject to change post exhibition in early 2021). The quality of a public space is just as important as its availability, because it’s what makes people feel safe, welcome and included—a place where they want to keep coming back. The quality of a public space is reflected not only in its physical form—how its designed, maintained and integrated with its environment—but also through the activities it supports and the meaning it holds.

The NSW Public Spaces Charter principles are:

- 1 | Open and welcoming**
Public space belongs to everyone.
- 2 | Community-focused**
Public spaces are where communities forge the ties that bind them.
- 3 | Culture and creativity**
Public space is where we share our stories and values.
- 4 | Local character and identity**
Public spaces make us proud of where we live.
- 5 | Green and resilient**
Public space can help us adapt and thrive in a changing climate.
- 6 | Healthy and active**
Public space supports healthy lifestyles and refreshes our spirits.
- 7 | Local business and economies**
Public space supports more dynamic and exciting local economies.
- 8 | Safe and secure**
Everyone should feel safe using public space at all times of the day.
- 9 | Designed for people**
Public space that’s flexible can meet the needs of our diverse population.
- 10 | Well managed**
Public space is more inviting when it’s well cared for.

3.3 Greater Sydney and region

Resilient Sydney, 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 (in which Randwick City 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:

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

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.

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

Green Grid Principles include:

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

Project opportunity clusters identified in the area include:

- Opportunity to complete missing links in the Eastern Suburbs Coastal Walk from South Coogee to North Maroubra and Pioneers Park to La Perouse
- Opportunity to improve existing public domain, enhance open space and pedestrian/cycle connections to the transport corridor around the Anzac Parade urban renewal corridor.

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

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

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (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 the SSROC and suggests three approaches:

- 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.
- 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.

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.

Randwick Place Strategy, Greater Sydney Commission

The Randwick Collaboration Area Place Strategy establishes a vision for the Randwick Collaboration Area, which includes parts of Kensington and Kingsford suburbs and is anchored by major health and education institutions including the University of NSW Kensington Campus and the Randwick Hospitals' Campus.

The Strategy sets priorities and defines actions to achieve this vision which the Collaboration Area stakeholder group are working on implementing, including the following relevant priorities and actions:

- Priority 3: Improve walking and cycling connections
 - Action 5: Enhance accessibility and permeability within the Collaboration Area for walking and cycling
 - Action 6: Prioritise key cycling routes for the delivery of high quality separated cycling connections
 - Action 7: Improve cycling connections to key destinations surrounding the Collaboration Area
- Priority 7: Provide social and civic infrastructure for current and future generations
 - Action 14: Investigate opportunities to share space at Randwick Racecourse, as well as primary, secondary, TAFE and tertiary education establishments
 - Action 15: Develop a public domain plan for the area that creates great places for people, and coordinates projects to match growth
- Priority 9: Protect environmental assets and open space to a high standard
 - Action 20: Increase street tree canopy across the Collaboration Area with redevelopment and public domain improvements
 - Action 21: Implement opportunities for Green grid connections, including east-west connections from the coast to the Mill Stream and Botany Wetlands Open Space Corridor

Furthermore, the Strategy highlights that while the Collaboration Area is surrounded by open space and recreation opportunities at Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park, there are limited open spaces within the Randwick Hospitals and UNSW Campuses, with opportunities for future shared use of Randwick Racecourse's open space. The Strategy also notes opportunities for shared open space through the upgrades to Randwick Boys' High School and Randwick Girls' High School.

With regards to sustainability outcomes, the Strategy notes opportunities to increase tree canopy across the Collaboration Area and for increased connectivity of open spaces and ecological corridors, and to reduce heat island effects.

3.4 Randwick City

Randwick City Plan, 2017

The Randwick City Plan (the Plan) is a 20-year strategic plan reflecting the Randwick community's vision and long term goals for the health and wellbeing of people, economy and the natural and built environment.

The Plan outlines themes and relevant outcomes, directions and three year delivery program actions, with relevant directions for open space and recreation outlined in the table below.

Table 5 - Randwick City Plan outcomes and relevant directions for open space and recreation

THEME / OUTCOME	DIRECTIONS
Theme 2: A sense of community	
Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2a: Meet the needs of our diverse community and provide equitable access to social services and infrastructure. - 2b: Strong partnerships between the Council, community groups and government agencies. - 2c: New and upgraded community facilities that are multipurpose and in accessible locations. - 2d: Our cultural diversity is appreciated and respected.
Outcome 5: Excellence in recreation and lifestyle opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5a: Maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy both active and passive open space uses. - 5b: Facilitate a range of sporting and leisure activities. - 5c: Create new open space as opportunities arise.
Outcome 6: A liveable city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6b: Our centres, beaches, streets and other public places are safe, inviting, clean and support a recognisable image of our City. - 6c: The safety of our community is paramount and is acknowledged and supported through proactive policies, programs and strategies. - 6d: A strategic land use framework provides for our lifestyle changes and for a continuing, yet steady rate of growth across our City.
Theme 5: Moving around	
Outcome 9: Integrated and accessible transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9a: A network of safe and convenient walking paths and cycle ways linking major land uses and recreation opportunities.
Theme 6: Looking after our environment	
Outcome 10: A healthy environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10b: Policies and programs are developed and implemented in response to environmental risks and their potential impacts. - 10c: Bushland, open spaces and biodiversity are protected and enhanced for future generations. - 10e: A total water cycle management approach including water conservation, re-use and water quality improvements is adopted. - 10f: Energy conservation and efficiency programs are implemented.

Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Randwick City Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), or Vision 2040, provides the framework for land use planning and decision making over the next 20 years. The LSPS outlines the following vision for 2040:

“In 2040 Randwick City will continue to have a strong sense of community. Our culturally diverse community will have access to quality housing, beautiful open spaces and our unique coastline. Our thriving economy will provide for lively town centres and emerging work opportunities in knowledge based industries.

Our urban environment will be adaptable and resilient to climate change through increased tree canopy and sustainable development. Mobility across our City will allow active transport options and an integrated network.

A diverse range of social infrastructure will meet the social and cultural needs of our community, fostering greater connectedness and well-being.”

The development of a new Recreation Needs Study and Open Space Strategy, which will be informed by this Needs Study, is identified as a short-term action within the LSPS (Action 14.1).

Other relevant action areas include the continued upgrade and extension of the coastal walkway (14.2); development of an Environmental Strategy (19.1); collaborating with Waverley and Woollahra Councils to prepare an Eastern Beaches Coastal Management Plan (19.2). The LSPS also prioritises actions around investigating developer contributions schemes to deliver community infrastructure (21.1).

Table 6 - Randwick City LSPS Planning Priorities

Relevant LSPS Planning Priorities

5: Safeguard and celebrate our indigenous cultural heritage
7: Provide greater access and opportunities for walking and cycling
12: Manage and enhance the tourism and visitor economy
14: Provide high quality open space and recreational facilities
15: Implement the green grid
16: Increase tree canopy cover
17: Protect areas of bushland and biodiversity
18: Reduce carbon emissions and manage waste efficiently
19: Better manage our water and coastal environments
20: Develop an integrated approach to more sustainable transport
21: Align planned growth with infrastructure delivery
22: A collaborative approach to guide and manage future growth in Randwick city

Housing Strategy, 2020

The Randwick City Housing Strategy establishes the strategic framework for residential growth within Randwick City to 2040. Under Priority 8 ‘Support housing growth with appropriate infrastructure,’ the Strategy highlights the importance of ensuring that future redevelopment generates public benefit and that Council can continue to provide for the needs of current and future residents. It actions the development of this Needs Study, and identifies opportunities to investigate developer contribution schemes to support Council’s provision of social infrastructure.

Smart City Strategy, 2018

The Randwick City Smart City Strategy establishes a 10 year roadmap to guide and accelerate smart city action in Randwick City. The Strategy includes a strong focus on environmental sustainability, and outlines relevant objectives around making it easier for people to access Council facilities; utilising technology and data to improve asset management and maintenance; improving access and mobility for a diverse community; and utilising smart city data to monitor and improve management of the City’s natural environment.

An Inclusive Randwick City, 2010-2020

An Inclusive Randwick City is a 10 year plan to enhance opportunities for people living within Randwick City to be able to participate and be actively involved in community life. As relevant to this Needs Study, the Plan notes the emerging issue of rising food costs and the impacts on the health and wellbeing of low to moderate income households, and the role that community gardens can play in addressing food security, in addition to promoting community wellbeing and friendship building across cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

Draft Randwick City Environment Strategy 2020

Randwick City Council is developing an Environmental Strategy focusing on biodiversity conservation, managing climate change impacts, protecting natural resources, and coastal protection. The principles and outcomes of the draft Strategy are relevant for this Needs Study, as open space and recreation include the use and care of natural reserves, coastal walkways, marine reserves, parks, and other activities that involve contact with nature.

Community feedback has been completed. The next stage is reporting back to Council on the final draft Strategy.

Draft Night time Economy Study, 2019

The draft Night Time Economy Study outlines opportunities to support and enhance the night time economy in areas across the Randwick LGA, with opportunities to capitalise on its unique coastal environment, open space and parklands, including opportunities within town centres. Other initiatives include:

- Opportunities for creative lighting along the coastal walk around Coojee that are sympathetic to the unique natural environment
- Utilising open spaces for events and activities to draw people into the town centre during the winter months.
- Unique opportunities provided within open spaces such as La Perouse Museum, Bare Island and surrounding open space to activate the local night time economy through carefully curated temporary or seasonal events such as night markets, lighting shows and walking tours.

Other relevant strategies, policies and plans

Other relevant strategies and plans that have informed the development of this Needs Study include:

- All relevant Park Plans of Management
- Randwick Local Environmental Plan 2012
- Randwick Development Control Plan, 2013
- Open Space Asset Management Plan, 2018-28
- Kensington & Kingsford Planning Strategy, 2017
- Sustaining our City – 5 year Environment Program, 2014-2019
- Policy on the Use of Council Reserves by Commercial Fitness Groups and Personal Trainers, 2010
- Climate Change Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Management Plan
- City Open Space & Recreation Strategic Plan, 1996, and
- Planning Agreements Policy, 2007.



Figure 9 - Woman cycling on the street in Randwick City (Mark Bond Photography)

3.5 Major projects

Major infrastructure projects in Randwick City will influence future planning for open space and recreation.

CBD and South East Light Rail Project

The CBD and South East Light Rail project was completed in 2020 and has introduced a high capacity and high frequency service connecting Randwick City to Central Station and Sydney CBD.

The Coastal Walkway

The completion of a continuous Coastal Walkway from Clovelly to La Perouse is a key priority for Council, and is identified as a key opportunity in the Green Grid. While many sections of the Walkway are completed, the remaining sections which are located on land managed by third parties, are at different stages of planning and construction.

Heffron Park Upgrade Works

Heffron Park is located in Maroubra and at 44 hectares it is the largest sporting reserve in Randwick City. Completed upgrade works include two new handball courts, a new half basketball court, and upgrades to the Heffron Park Tennis Centre, and Heffron Cycling clubhouse and amenities building. Council is also planning to build a new sporting facility known as The Heffron Centre. Initial plans are to provide a gymnastics centre, two indoor sports courts suitable for basketball, volleyball, badminton, netball and futsal, a new home for the South Sydney Rabbitohs, including their headquarters, training facilities and community outreach arm Souths Cares, and a public cafe.

Kensington and Kingsford Town Centres Planning Strategy

Kensington and Kingsford Town Centres Planning Strategy sets out the vision, strategies and actions to guide planning for Kensington and Kingsford town centres over the next 15 years. The Planning Proposal outlines strategies to increase the amount of open space in the town centres and establish an open space network connecting the town centres with local open spaces.

The Planning Proposal identifies that while there are limited opportunities to increase the quantum of open space in town centres, there are opportunities to:

- Address open space needs “by increasing the diversity, quality and accessibility of what already exists”
- Support increased and diversified use by residents/workers by improve quality, capacity and usability of existing open space assets
- Improve access to existing local parks beyond the town centres by establishing high quality green linear links (for example Kokoda Park and Kensington Park)
- Increase utilisation of a portion of land on the south-western corridor of the Royal Randwick Racecourse

- Explore the potential expansion of Kokoda Memorial Park in Kensington to increase its footprint and capacity, and
- Includes increased developer contributions and a new community infrastructure scheme to help deliver public domain improvements.

Other Randwick Council projects

Other Council projects at February 2020 include:

- La Perouse Museum – ongoing (completion date TBC)
- Blenheim House – ongoing (completion date TBC)
- Malabar Junction Amenities – completed by early 2021
- Yarra Bicentennial Amenities – completed in 2021
- Coogee Surf Life Saving Club – completed end of 2020
- Malabar (coastal walk) Amenities – completion TBC
- South Maroubra Amenities – completion TBC
- In addition, Council is upgrading playgrounds at Frenchmans Bay, Kokoda Park and Bundock Park.

NSW Government

La Perouse and Kurnell Ferry Wharves

Transport for NSW is investigating the potential to re-establish ferry wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell. A feasibility study commissioned in 2016 identified that a ferry service is expected to provide numerous indirect social, economic and tourism benefits for La Perouse, Kurnell and wider Sydney, with opportunity for complementary measures to maximise patronage potential, including improving intermodal links to the wharves.

Significant residential development projects

Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP) requires large developments to prepare a site specific Development Control Plan (DCP) which requires the provision of open space and recreation opportunities.

Newmarket Randwick development, CBUS

The Newmarket development in Randwick suburb, located on Barker Street just south of the hospital on the former Inglis site, is due to be completed in 2020. Besides residential, the approved concept plans provide for a new dining precinct plaza as well as 5,000m² of public open space, Inglis Park, which includes a playground, bbq areas and arbors with outdoor seating.

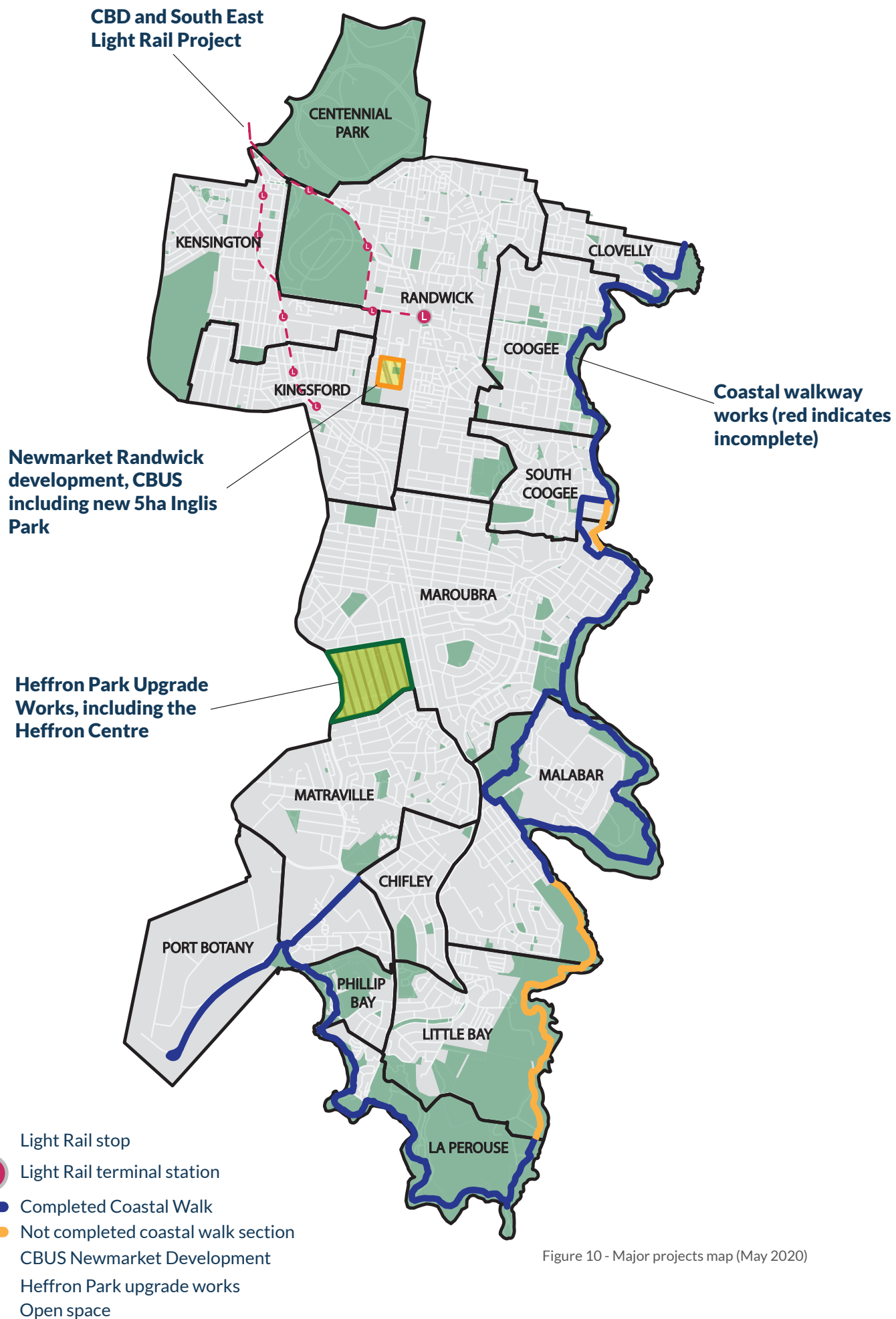


Figure 10 - Major projects map (May 2020)



What does the strategic context mean for open space and recreation in Randwick City?

- » Create a network of diverse, accessible, high quality open spaces that meet a range of community needs, connected through the Green Grid.
- » Realise strategic opportunities identified in the Green Grid for the Randwick LGA, including completing missing links along the Coastal Walk and improving public domain and pedestrian/cycling connections around the Anzac Parade.
- » Address barriers to participation for older people, children, youth, low income groups, migrants, women and people with disability.
- » Ensure the provision of new or embellished open spaces and recreation facilities within proximity to new development and higher density living, and forecast growth areas.
- » Maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy active and passive open space uses; facilitate sporting and leisure activities; create new open space as opportunities arise, aligning with the Randwick City Plan.
- » Seek opportunities to (in alignment with the Randwick LSPS): provide access and opportunities for walking and cycling; provide high quality open space and recreation facilities; implement the green grid; increase tree canopy cover; and protect areas of biodiversity.
- » In areas with low provision of open space or recreation facilities gaps, there may be opportunities for partnership and sharing, including the sharing of school spaces such as open spaces and recreation facilities with benefits including cost-sharing.
- » Consider opportunities (in alignment with the Office of Sport's Women in Sport Strategy) for new and upgraded regional sporting facilities in Randwick City by applying a gender lens, with female-friendly amenities and upgrades to lighting some of the key strategies to support participation for girls and women.
- » Consider opportunities to create interesting open spaces that are usable day and night including through creative lighting.
- » Increase the amount of open space within and around Kingsford and Kensington town centres and establish an open space network connecting residents to local parks.
- » Recent upgrades to Heffron Park sporting facilities and the forthcoming Heffron Centre will provide increased amenity and a regional sporting focal point.
- » Continue to explore opportunities for new public domain/open space and plazas in town centre planning strategies and major redevelopment sites.

CHAPTER FOUR

Open space and recreation trends

This chapter outlines the benefits of open space and recreation as well as trends in participation and delivery.



4. Open space and recreation trends

4.1 The benefits of open space and recreation

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 where the community can 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: 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 behaviour¹. 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 health². 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^{3,4}.

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". Competition can also invoke a sense of pride and accomplishment. The Settlement Council of Australia (a settlement services network) 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 dance⁵.



Figure 12 - Rock pool recreation (Mark Bond Photography)

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 costs⁷. 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)⁸.

The benefits of community sport infrastructure in Australia has been quantified by KPMG⁹, 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 benefit⁹. 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).



Figure 13 - Soccer match at Heffron Park (Matthew Duchesne©/FancyBoy Photography)

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

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

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

⁴ 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

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.

For example, in Randwick City, the 13 hectare Randwick Environment Park is an example of a Council-managed open space with biodiversity conservation significance, comprising bushland, including vegetation of National conservation significance such as the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an ephemeral wetland and open space area. Its Plan of Management (PoM) ensures the protection, conservation and enhancement of this significant natural heritage site while providing for the community's recreation, social and educational enjoyment of the park.

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, which are predicted to increase in intensity with climate change, 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 percent increase in tree canopy can reduce land surface temperatures by 1 degrees Celsius⁶. Trees and shrubs in open space also remove air pollutants that endanger human health.



Figure 14 - Randwick Permaculture Interpretive Garden (Matthew Duchesne©/ FancyBoy Photography)

⁵ Cred Consulting for NSW Office of Sport, Sports Facility Needs in Multicultural Communities, 2018

⁶ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Technical Guidelines for Urban Green Cover in NSW

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

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

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

4.2 Recreation participation trends

The impact of COVID19

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly intensified use of open space for recreation and relaxation across the world, including in Randwick City. A recent survey by the NSW DPIE shows a dramatic increase in activities in public spaces and local neighbourhoods with 71 per cent of respondents appreciating local parks more¹. This has highlighted the importance of having to access to open space in proximity to all residents within their local area.

As a result of this intensified use, Randwick City sought creative ways to increase access to open space for residents, including through trialling pop-up pedal parks at Clovelly Beach and Chifley Sports Reserve car parks to provide safe, open recreational spaces for local families.

Australia and NSW

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. The following identifies national and local sports and recreation trends that need to be considered in future planning for Randwick City.

Key trends and changes

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change.

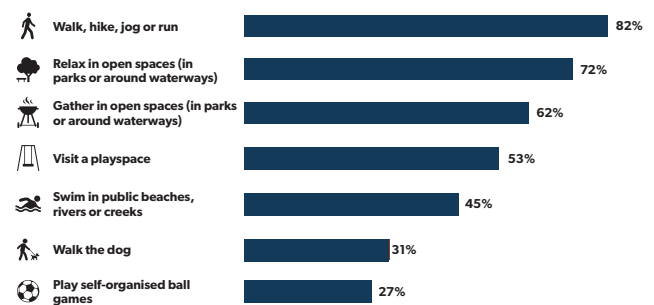
Nationally, the most significant trend in recreation participation in recent years is an increase in participation in informal, flexible and unstructured recreation activities such as walking, running or personal fitness, while research from the Office of Sport shows that participation rates for many organised sports have held constant or are declining.

“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

Findings from community and stakeholder engagement conducted for this Study indicate that participation in individualised recreation activities such as walking, running and swimming is indeed high in Randwick City. However, interviews and surveys with local clubs and sporting peak bodies also indicate that participation in organised sport remains popular and there is increasing demand. Rising organised sport participation in Randwick City may be due to a number of factors including population growth, good access to a broad range of high quality, regional sporting facilities and grounds in Randwick City, increasing female participation, and sports introducing new and more accessible formats to appeal to a wider demographic.

CASUALISATION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION

Popular recreation activities include walking, going to a play space, relaxing in parks and casual ball sports – all activities performed solo or in small social groups².



POPULARITY OF WALKING ON THE RISE

Activities done on paths and trails are popular such as walking, bushwalking and running is the top recreation activity in Greater Sydney³.

INDIVIDUALISATION OF SPORTS AND FITNESS



Increasing individualised sport and fitness activities, with increasing participation in aerobics, running, walking and gym membership. while participation rates for many organised sports have held constant or declined⁴.

INCREASINGLY TIME POOR

People are generally spending less time recreating, and need to fit activities into their busy schedules⁵.



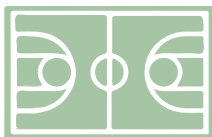
1. Greater use of public, open and shared space. Greater Sydney Commission. <https://www.greater.syddney/greater-use-of-public-open-and-shared-space>.

2, 3. The Greater Sydney Outdoor Survey, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

4, 5. The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION

Climate change and increased days of extreme weather conditions is also driving up demand for indoor recreation facilities. On hot days, the use of outdoor sport and recreation facilities is limited. Whereas indoor facilities are often air conditioned, and can still support participation in sports and recreation regardless of weather (heat and rain).



CULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION

Recreational activities range from mountain biking to Tai Chi, due to a diversifying population with unique hobbies and interests⁶.

Research completed for the Office of Sport identified that the following formal and informal sports are popular with people culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds:

- Football/soccer
- Cricket
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Cycling
- Tennis.

INCREASING DEMAND FOR INDOOR RECREATION

Demand for indoor recreation is increasing for a number of reasons. One of those is increasing multi cultural communities and their sporting preferences that often can be catered for in indoor recreation facilities (e.g. basketball, badminton, table tennis, futsal). Other reasons include climate comfort, safety at night and co-location with other facilities.



INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women and girls' decisions to engage and participate in sport, recreation and physical activity fluctuates according to age and the life stage⁷. Against the trends of participation, the number of women participating formal sports, particularly all football codes, is increasing.

ADVENTURE SPORTS

"Extreme" lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports are becoming more mainstream, particularly with younger generations. Examples include hiking, skateboarding, BMXing and rockclimbing⁸.



ACCESSIBLE RECREATION



Universal access is an increasingly important issue, so everyone regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability can collectively enjoy activities⁹.

Australia has an ageing population. Providing recreation and fitness opportunities that are attractive and safe for older people will become increasingly important.

NEW BUSINESS MODELS FOR SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

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 systems¹⁰.



6. Sports facility needs in multicultural communities, by Cred Consulting for the NSW Office of Sport

7, 8, 9, 10. The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission.

As shown in Table 7, 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 - Recreation participation by demographic group (Source: Ausplay Survey - NSW July 2018 to June 2019 unless noted otherwise)

Group	% Participating at least 3x per week	Key trends	Popular sports
NSW	62%	Informal, unstructured recreation activities are becoming more popular**	Walking, fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (including running/jogging), cycling
Children (Organised participation outside of school)	24.1%	Only one in three Aussie kids today play outside every day compared to around three in four children a generation ago*. Parent's activity has an influence on children's activity: active parents are more likely to have active children.	Boys; Swimming, soccer, rugby league, cricket, basketball Girls; Swimming, dancing, gymnastics, netball, soccer
People with disability	53.7%	There are fewer accessible opportunities to participate in physical activity 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	60.4%	Men participate in more organised activities than women.	Walking, fitness/gym, athletics (including running and jogging), swimming, cycling
Women	65.2%	Women participate less in organised activities than men, particularly during childbearing years (25 to 44), however there has been an overall increase in women's participation in organised sports such as football, AFL and cricket. 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 65+	63.5%	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. People who participated in physical activity throughout their lives are more likely to continue to participate as they get older.	Older men: Walking, fitness/gym, golf, bowls, swimming Older women: Walking, fitness/gym, swimming, bowls, golf
People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	58%	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 opportunities.	Soccer, swimming, basketball, badminton, cricket (from Cred Consulting for the Office of Sport)
Lower income households (Earning \$650 weekly or less)	56.5%	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.

*Planet Ark, Annual Review 2013-2014

** This is a state-wide trend and may differ from Randwick City where organised sports are popular.

National participation

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) AusPlay survey tracks the recreation activities (both sport and non-sport physical activities) Australians participate in.

- A majority of Australians (55%) participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week. The most popular physical recreation activities were recreational walking, fitness/gym, swimming, and athletics
- Over the age of 18, sporting clubs are not the main way Australians participate in physical activity. Of the 89% of adults that participate in physical activity, 20% participate in sport based activity only, 31% in non-sport related physical activity and 38% in both
- Participation declines as age increases
- The major motivation for participation in physical activities is for physical health and fitness, followed by fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, and
- Not enough time, and poor health or injury, are the main barriers to participation.

Table 8 and Table 9 (overpage) show the most popular recreation activities in NSW by participation rates for adults, children, males and females.



Figure 17 - Basketball court recreation in Randwick (Mark Bond Photography)

Research from the AusPlay Survey for the year 2018-2019 shows that the most popular recreation activities in New South Wales are:

ADULTS - TOP 15 ACTIVITIES

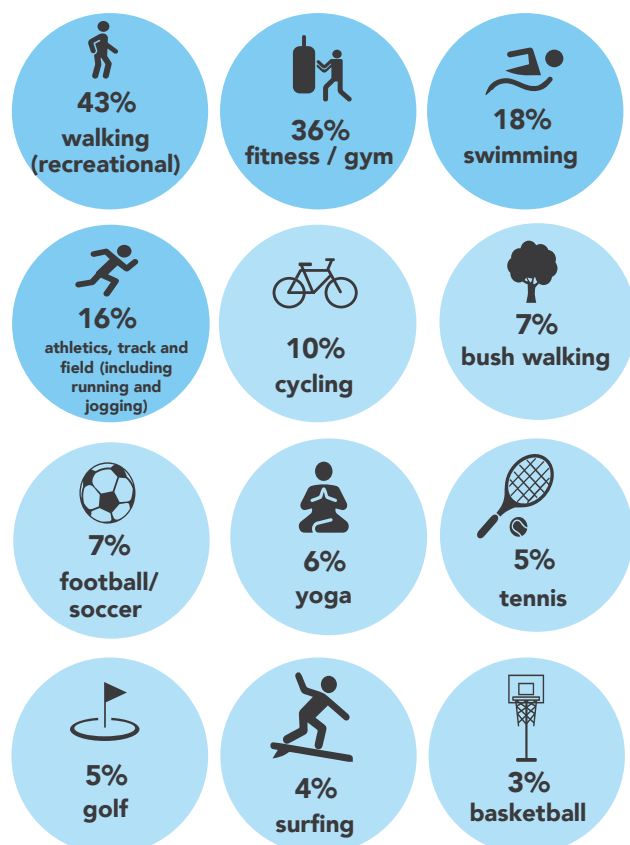


Table 8 - Most popular recreation activities in NSW (Adults)
(Source: AusPlay Survey Results January - December 2019)

Activity	Total	Males	Females
Walking (Recreational)	42.6%	33.9%	51.2%
Fitness/Gym	36.4%	33.6%	39.2%
Swimming	17.7%	16.5%	18.9%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	16.2%	18.6%	13.9%
Cycling	9.9%	12.9%	7.0%
Bush walking	6.7%	6.3%	7.2%
Football/soccer	6.7%	9.8%	3.6%
Yoga	6.1%	1.5%	10.5%
Tennis	5.0%	5.8%	4.1%
Golf	4.6%	7.2%	2.0%
Surfing	3.5%	5.6%	1.4%
Basketball	2.9%	4.0%	1.7%
Pilates	2.7%	0.7%	4.7%
Netball	2.7%	0.5%	4.8%
Touch football	1.8%	2.6%	1.1%

CHILDREN - TOP 10 ACTIVITIES

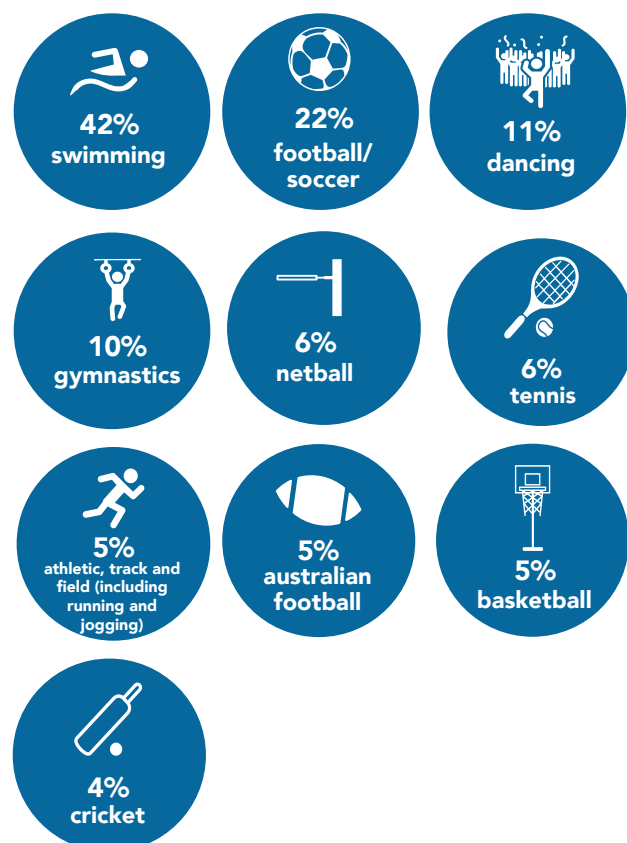


Table 9 - Most popular recreation activities in NSW (Children)
(Source: AusPlay Survey Results January - December 2019)

Activity	Total	Boys	Girls
Swimming	42.0%	39.1%	45.3%
Football/soccer	22.2%	32.3%	10.6%
Dancing (recreational)	11.4%	2.1%	22.2%
Gymnastics	10.0%	4.0%	16.9%
Netball	6.0%	0.2%	12.7%
Tennis	5.6%	7.2%	3.9%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	5.3%	6.3%	4.0%
Australian football	5.0%	7.3%	2.3%
Basketball	4.9%	6.2%	3.3%
Cricket	4.1%	6.0%	1.9%

Figure 18 - Top activities (Source: AusPlay Survey)

Regional participation

NSW Office of Sport - Formal organised sport participation

The NSW Office of Sport has provided information on how residents of the Eastern City District (in which Randwick City is located) participate in formal organised sport, reflecting the number of participants that are registered to a State Sporting Organisation (SSO). The sports with the most registered participants are shown in the table below.

Table 10 - Participation in formal organised sport in the Eastern City (Source: NSW Office of Sport, issued January 2019)

Sport	Participation #	Participation of total Eastern City District residents %
Soccer	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 (including running and jogging)	756	0.07%
Dragon Boating	609	0.06%
Rowing	561	0.06%

*It is noted that while tennis is a high participation sport in the Eastern City District, tennis participation has decreased over the past decades across Australia and New South Wales.

**This data has been self-reported by the SSOs. It is noted that no data has been reported for Touch Football.

Greater Sydney Outdoors survey, 2019

The Greater Sydney Outdoors survey 2019 asked the people of Greater Sydney about their personal outdoor recreation needs and interests outside of sport. It found that Sydney-siders:

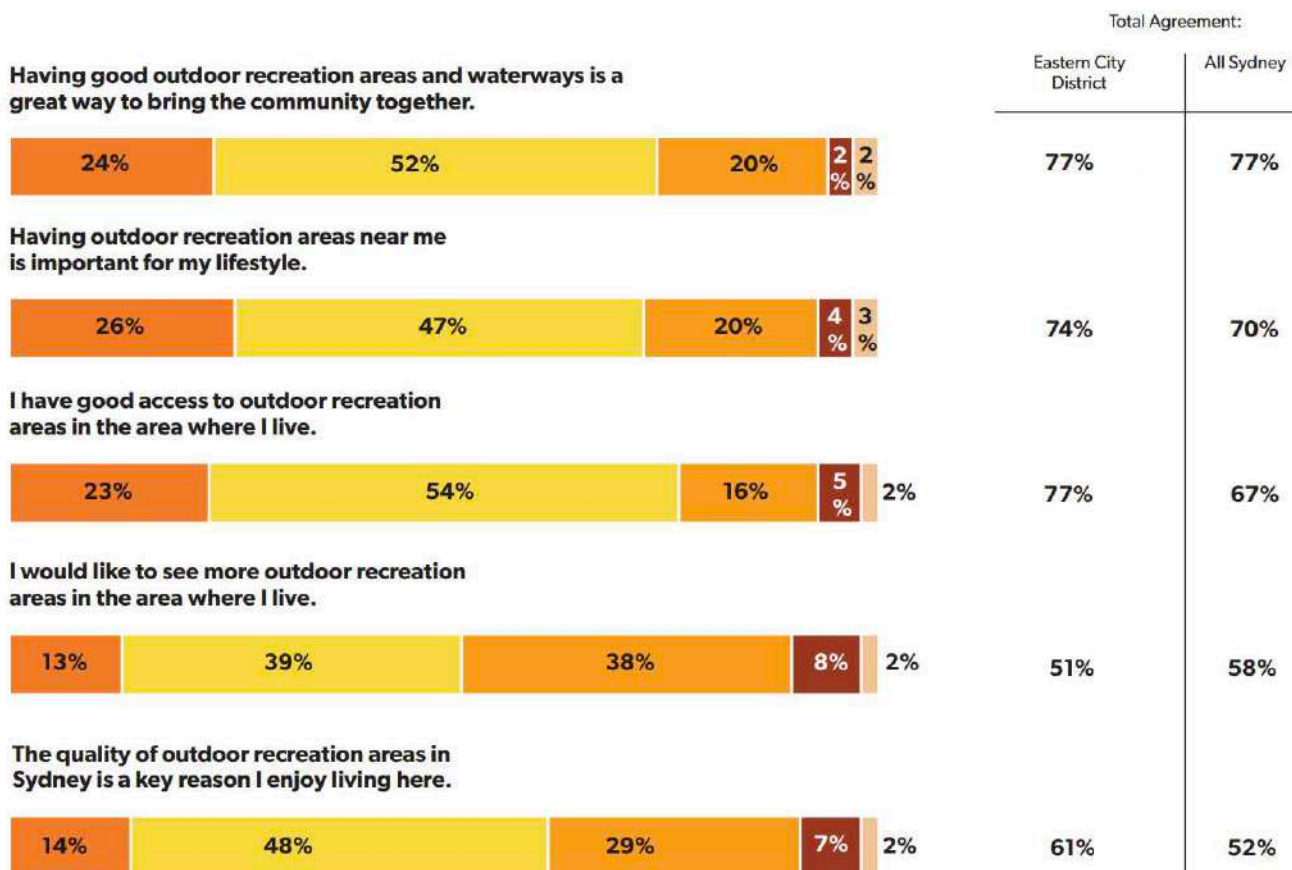
- Prefer to enjoy experiences on foot, visiting destinations, exercising and exploring
- Prefer spaces that require no membership or schedule for use. This provides flexibility for people to organise activities as they please
- They look for spaces that provide opportunity for diverse recreation activities
- Need places where everyone can collectively enjoy the outdoors, regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability, and
- Need to know when opportunity for recreation arises.

Participation findings for the Eastern City District:

- The most popular activity in the Eastern city district were walking, hiking, jogging or running (88%), relax in open spaces (83%) and gather in open space (66%)
- Walking the dog was slightly less popular in the Eastern City District (33%) than Greater Sydney (34%), and
- Swimming in public beaches, rivers or creeks was higher than Greater Sydney (59% compared to 53%).

ATTITUDES TOWARDS OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS AND WATERWAYS

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree Disagree Strongly disagree



(Note: these numbers have been rounded for simplicity)

Source: Greater Sydney Outdoors Survey 2019

Randwick City participation

Ausplay

AusPlay provides national data on the number of people participating in sport and physical activity and how they participate. On 31 October 2019, Sport Australia released the latest AusPlay results covering data collected in the 2018/19 financial year (AusPlay National Results 2019 by The Clearinghouse for Sport).

The key findings for sport and recreation participation in Randwick City are summarised below:

The top 6 activities in Randwick City include:

- Fitness/Gym (37%)
- Walking (Recreational) (34%)
- Swimming (27%)
- Jogging, running and athletics (21%)
- Soccer (11%)
- Yoga (8%).

The top 4 sporting activities for males in Randwick City include: Swimming (31%), Fitness/gym (29%), Walking (recreational) (26%) and Jogging, running and athletics (22%).

The top 4 sporting activities for females in Randwick City include: Fitness/gym (45%), Walking (recreational) (42%), Swimming (23%), and Jogging, running and athletics (21%).

Active Kids program

Launched in 2018, the Active Kids program aims to increase participation of school-enrolled children in sport and physical activity by providing parents with vouchers to help cover the cost of registration and membership fees.

In Randwick City, 62% of eligible participants (school-attending children), or 19,424 vouchers, were utilised.

Top sports for girls

Of the 49% of vouchers utilised by girls, the top sporting activities were swimming, dance, netball, soccer, gymnastics, surf life saving, oztag, martial arts and tennis.

Top sports for boys

Of the 51% of vouchers utilised by males, the top sporting activities were swimming, soccer, basketball, rugby union, surf life saving, cricket, AFL, oztag, martial arts and tennis.



Figure 20 - Child playing tennis (Source: Randwick City Council)

Community survey findings

As part of the community survey to inform this Needs Study, we asked the Randwick City community to tell us about the spaces they currently use or visit for recreation, the activities that they do there and why they do these activities. A total of 513 responses were received. Note that the respondent profile comprised more females than males (63% vs. 35%) and was on average older than the Randwick City age profile. An Engagement Report is available separate to this Needs Analysis.

Walking, swimming and relaxing in open spaces are the top recreation activities in Randwick City

Participants were asked to indicate which recreation activities they had participated in, in the six months prior to taking the survey. Response options included a broad range of passive and informal recreation activities such as relaxing and gathering in open spaces, not just sports participation.

Walking (87%), swimming in public beaches, ocean baths, rivers or creeks (80%) and relaxing in open spaces (71%) were the most popular recreation activities.

This aligns with a trend towards more individualised participation in recreation activities such as walking and personal fitness as people are increasingly time poor and choose to participate when works for them.

Differences between the top recreation activities between men and women include:

- Men are more likely to participate in outdoor personal fitness (48%) compared to women (45%)
- Women are less likely to ride a bike (37%) compared to men (46%)

Respondents participate for fitness and health benefits, as well as relaxation, fun and social connection

Respondents participate in recreation for a range of reasons, with some of the most common reasons including for fitness and health benefits, as well as for relaxation, fun and social connection.

A lack of amenities such as seating, shade and picnic tables is the main barrier to participating in recreation

23% of respondents indicated that they experience no barriers to participating in recreation in Randwick City. The majority who did experience barriers, indicated that the top barrier is a lack of amenities such as seating, shade and picnic tables (24%). Another common barrier was poor cycling/walking access (20%), which was also one of the top suggestions for improvement in the survey.

Table 11 - Top recreation activities in Randwick City (number of respondents = 513)

Rank	Activity	#	%
1	Walking for recreation or exercise	445	87%
2	Swim in public beaches, ocean baths, rivers or creeks	406	80%
3	Relaxing in open spaces	362	71%
4	Walking for transport	302	59%
5	Swimming in a pool	261	51%
6	Outdoor personal fitness	233	46%
7	Gathering in open spaces	215	42%
8	Indoor personal fitness / gym	206	40%
9	Riding a bike	202	40%
10	Running/jogging	188	37%
11	Walking the dog	158	31%
12	Yoga/Pilates	153	30%
13	Visiting a play space	129	25%
14	Surfing and other surf sports	99	19%
15	Play self-organised ball games	82	16%

Table 12 - Top 5 recreation activities by gender in Randwick City

Rank	All respondents	Women	Men
1	Walking for recreation or exercise	Walking for recreation or exercise	Walking for recreation or exercise
2	Swimming in public beaches, ocean baths, rivers or creeks	Swimming in public beaches, ocean baths, rivers or creeks	Swimming in public beaches, ocean baths, rivers or creeks
3	Relaxing in open spaces	Relaxing in open spaces	Relaxing in open spaces
4	Walking for transport	Walking for transport	Walking for transport
5	Swimming in a pool	Swimming in a pool	Outdoor personal fitness

Findings from consultation with local sports groups and sporting peak bodies

Consultation to inform the development of this Needs Study included a sports group survey and interviews with sporting peak bodies and other government organisations and agencies.

Key findings from interviews with sporting peak bodies relating to participation in Randwick City include:

- Increasing female participation is driving growth in participation across sports that were traditionally dominated by men, with sports introducing new formats that may be more attractive to women, and need for additional female-friendly and accessible facilities (e.g. men and women's change rooms).
- Stakeholders are seeing increasing casualisation of sports participation, with high demand for social games and opportunities to participate on weeknights rather than the traditional Saturday/Sunday games.
- Peak bodies have seen increasing focus on inclusion programs and formats to support participation, for example catering to children, older people, people with disability or migrants who may not be familiar with formats.
- Many sports have introduced new formats of their sport to appeal to a wider demographic and respond to community demand (e.g. examples include more casual and social games, less contact, more night time games, quicker games).
- Some stakeholders identified they are experiencing 'season creep' (or the lengthening of the playing season) due to high demand for their sport.
- Peak bodies are driving participation through a range of strategies, including partnerships with local schools, introduction of new formats, age-specific programs (e.g. both for younger and older people), female-friendly formats, try out days, mentorship etc.

Key findings from a survey of local sporting groups relating to participation in Randwick City include:

- The majority of respondents (83% of 21 responses) indicated that participation levels in their organisation had increased over the past five years, while 10% said it had stayed the same and only 6% indicated it had decreased.
- Respondents commented that a strong increase in female participation; more participants from local schools, improved marketing, and government support including the active kids vouchers are some of the drivers of growth. Some also indicated they had introduced new, more accessible formats which appeal to a wider demographic (i.e. non-contact sport, juniors formats etc).
- The majority of respondents indicated that they think participation in their sport will increase over the next five years (60%), with many citing increased female participation and government support as drivers. Those that thought participation will stay relatively the same (30%) or decrease (6%) indicated they do not have the capacity or lack the budget to grow or that there is increasing competition from other sports.
- The majority of respondents (83%) said that participation has increased over the past 5 years, and the majority think it will continue to grow over the next 5 years (50%).
- Decreasing levels of volunteering is one of the main challenges faced by sports and recreation groups (61%) as people are increasingly time-poor. Other common challenges include limited availability of fields (44%) and cost of facility hire (39%).
- Respondents indicated priority needs for the future of open space and recreation in Randwick City, including upgrading and maintaining existing facilities including playing surfaces, providing additional facilities including indoor recreation centres and synthetic fields, amongst other priorities.

4.3 Open spaces and recreation facilities trends

There are a range of global trends and best practice precedents that can inform how Randwick City plans for and manages open space and recreation facilities. Key trends are detailed in this section.

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 existing assets

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, there is a need to maximise existing assets to their 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 25 hours a week (natural grass) to around 40 hours of playing time which increases the number of usage hours.

While synthetic turf can be useful for getting more out of existing recreation facilities and fields, considerations such as impacts on local use, higher rate of lower extremity injury 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 Randwick City 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 the diverse community.

Networked and connected

Ensuring recreation facilities within Randwick City 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 Randwick City, 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.

Randwick City Council has allocated funding in 2020/2021 to trial a number of ‘Play Streets’ within Randwick City. This trial, and the long-term support for regular, temporary, short-term street closures (e.g. 2 hours every Wednesday afternoon) for play will support recreation and gathering for the community.

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 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 Randwick City. 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 continuing to implement the popular Share Our Schools program, and since 2017, 875 hectares of open space, 958 sports courts, 292 ovals and 368 play equipment areas have been shared in the holidays across NSW public schools. In Summer 2019, over 300 schools participated in the program.

Private provision

Personal training, yoga, pilates, martial arts, boxing, dancing, indoor cricket, UNSW and Randwick Racecourse are some examples of privately provided recreation spaces and activities that are available to residents of Randwick City, 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 rooftop recreation

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

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 support, 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 and systemic disadvantage based on disability, current legislation and practice recognises that this 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% of young women in Sydney feel unsafe in public at night. Additionally, local government sporting grounds are often dominated by male sports teams, 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. Applying a gender lens to planning, by putting decision makers in diverse women's shoes and engaging women deliberately in design and development will help make more inclusive spaces for women.

Connection to nature and healthy built environments

Opportunities for connection to nature can support mental and physical health, and provide relief from the built environment, particularly 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 and relaxation.

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 (Sydney Water & UNSW, 2017, *Cooling Western Sydney: A Strategic Study on the role of water in mitigating urban heat in Western Sydney*).

Integrating water into urban environments through design features such as water play, mists, green walls and roofs 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. Strategic green grid connections help to link residents from their homes to work, school and play as well as to each other. It is also important to facilitate improved active transport connections to open spaces with ongoing benefits for reduced traffic connection and resident health and wellbeing.

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.



This rooftop garden uses patterns, including spider web-like shading structures and gardens, to connect residents with the order and chaos of the natural world. Source: Di Snape, renew.org.au

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 Randwick City to experience and develop a strong connection to nature.



Figure 21 - Heffron Park Peddle Park (Matthew Duchesne©/ FancyBoy Photography)



What do these trends mean for open space and recreation in Randwick City?

- » The most significant trend in recreation participation in Australia in recent years is an increase in more informal, unstructured recreation activities such as walking for recreation. While stakeholder interviews indicate that organised sporting participation in Randwick City is increasing, the trend towards individualised recreation participation is demonstrated by high participation in activities such as walking, swimming, running, cycling and personal fitness.
- » Interviews with sporting peak bodies and a survey of local sporting groups suggest that there is increasing participation in organised formal sport overall. Respondents commented that a strong increase in female participation; more participants from local schools, improved marketing, and government support including the active kids vouchers are some of the drivers of growth.
- » While overall women participate less in organised sport than men, a strong increase in women's participation in sporting groups is driving demand for female facilities and change rooms. Interviews with sporting peak bodies and a survey of local sporting groups confirmed this is the case in Randwick City, including for cricket, soccer, touch, AFL and rugby union.
- » People participate in different ways for different reasons correlated to factors such as age, gender, income, ability and access. Considering these varying participation behaviours is key to planning for the diverse needs of the community.
- » Findings from the community survey conducted to inform this Needs Study indicate that a lack of amenities such as seating, shade and picnic tables is the main barrier to participating in recreation. Another common barrier is poor cycling/walking access (20%), which was also one of the top suggestions for improvement in the survey.
- » There is a trend for delivery of multipurpose, connected, inclusive open spaces that are shared with the community, provide connections to nature, opportunities to be healthy, the environment to be cooler and for children to have access to adventure and risky play.
- » We need to share our streets and other spaces for recreational outcomes as our population grows and land is limited to delivering new parkland. This will be increasingly important in times of pandemics such as COVID-19 and existing initiatives such as play streets and improved cycling and pedestrian links will lend to improvements in this area.
- » As our populations become more dense and our climate hotter, we need to ensure our open spaces are places for respite from the heat through increased planting and water in the landscape and are places for children to play in nature.
- » With a trend for rooftop recreation, there is opportunity to encourage new mixed use developments in town centres to include higher proportion of green infrastructure including roof top open space.

CHAPTER FIVE

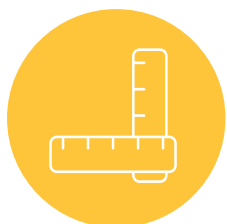
Open space needs assessment

This chapter assesses the open space needs within Randwick City based on analysis of quantity; proximity and access; quality and capacity; hierarchy, size and function.



5. Approach to open space analysis

Drawing on current approaches to open space and recreation planning, this section analyses the open space provision in Randwick City based on:



Quantity

- How much open space does Randwick City have now?
- How much open space is there per person?
- How will this change as the population grows?



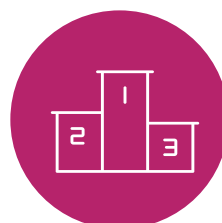
Size, shape and function

- How do different open spaces service different needs?
- Are there diverse types of open space available to cater for different activities and functions?



Accessibility, connectivity and distribution

- Can residents access open space?
- Can residents easily walk to an open space?



Quality

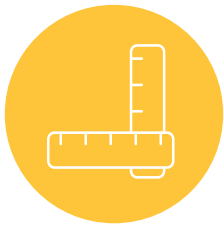
- What are resident's experience of open space and recreation facilities?
- Does the quality of open space and recreation facilities vary?
- Are there needs for improvements to increase capacity?

The above approach seeks to think about open space planning and provision more holistically, moving away from a quantity-only based approach and instead towards a performance-based approach that encourages identifying opportunities and solutions based on a range of factors included above such as accessibility, connectivity and distribution, size, shape and function, quality of recreation opportunities.

We know that with increasing densities and declining land supply, the typical approach of setting aside a quantum of land as part of every development is no longer effective. Rather than focusing on quantity only, we need to consider what recreation opportunities are required and what are the strategies available to achieve them in innovative and efficient ways.

This section seeks to unpack key performance criteria at the LGA scale, and provides a baseline to measure changes over time.





5.1 Quantity of open space

This section is about measuring how much open space residents have access to within Randwick City, what proportion of this open space Council is responsible for, as well as changes to provision over time.

Overall provision of open space in Randwick LGA

Randwick City residents have access to a wide range of open spaces within the LGA. This includes open spaces owned and managed by Council as well as open spaces owned and managed by different landholders, including State and National government agencies and private bodies and trusts.

When measuring the quantity of open space within Randwick City, it is important to distinguish between the total amount of open space across all landholders and the amount that Council owns and manages.

In total, across all landholders, Randwick City has 626 hectares (ha) of public open space, including:

- 284ha of Council owned and managed open space, and
- 342ha of open space owned and managed by other landholders, including Centennial Parklands, two National Parks, golf courses and a rifle range on Crown land, the Royal Randwick Racecourse and open space at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

As Table 13 and Figure 23 show, Council manages 45% of the open space in the LGA. Centennial Parklands makes up 30% of open space in the LGA, followed by National Parks (19%), golf courses (4%), Randwick Racecourse (1%) and UNSW Village Green 0.2%.

While Council doesn't manage all of the open space in the LGA, it still has an important role to play as an advocate, stakeholder and point of liaison for all of these areas. There may also be opportunities to enhance the open space network by creating links and improving access between open spaces within the LGA particularly in areas experiencing a low provision or limited accessibility.

Table 13 - Total open space in Randwick LGA

Type/Owner/Manager	Total open space (ha)*	% of total open space*
Council	284	45%
Centennial Parklands	189	30%
National Parks	120	19%
Golf	23	4%
Royal Randwick Racecourse	8	1%
UNSW	2	0.2%
Total	626	100%

**Numbers rounded to nearest whole number*

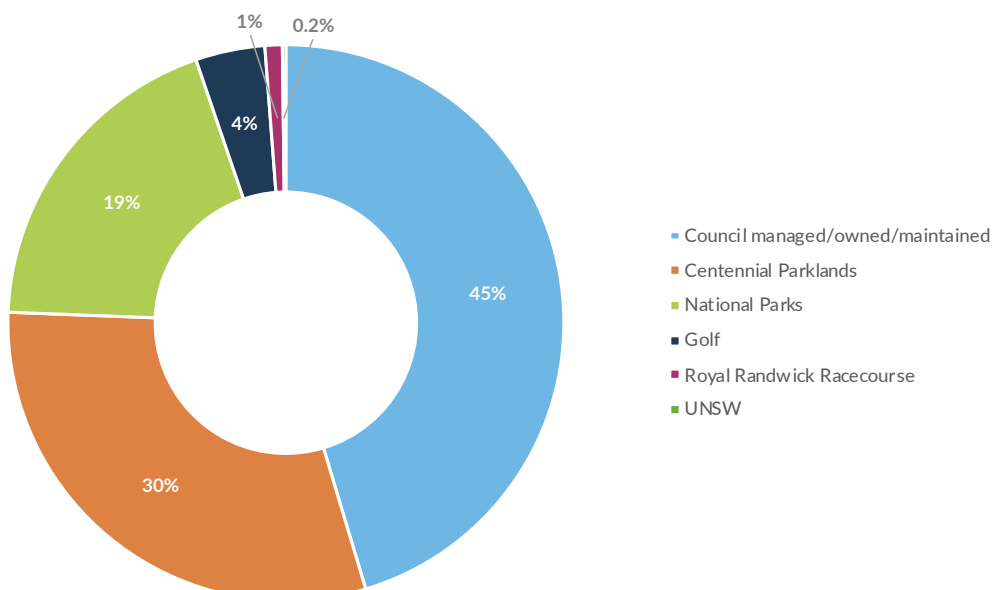


Figure 23 - Open space ownership in Randwick LGA

Provision per person

Understanding the provision of open space per person is a high level indicator of how Randwick City's open space network is performing now and into the future. Quantum is a tool to establish minimum benchmarks for retaining open space as future development occurs.

Approach

Quantity is calculated per person and the amount of functional Council owned and managed open space. In Randwick City, this includes parks as well as beaches and reserves.

Provision per person summary

Overall, within Randwick City there is approximately 284ha of Council-managed open space (this excludes Centennial Parklands and National Parks). This equates to 19.1m² of Council-managed open space per Randwick City resident.

However as Figure 24 shows, open space is not distributed evenly across all SA2s in the LGA. As Table 14 shows, the high need areas that currently experience the lowest provision of open space per person include:

- Kingsford (2.7m² per person)
- Kensington (3.1m² per person), and
- Randwick (7.2m² per person).

With Randwick City forecast to grow over the next 10 years, the provision of open space per person will also change unless new open space areas are delivered. This is a challenge, especially in areas that already have a low provision of open space.

As Table 14 shows, by 2031, the provision of open space is forecast to fall to 16.7m² per Randwick City resident overall, with the SA2s with the forecast lowest provision being:

- Kingsford (2.4m² per person)
- Kensington (2.5m² per person), and
- Randwick (6.2m² per person).

Table 14 - Open space per person over time in Randwick City (DPIE population projections 2019)

CATCHMENT	SUM OF OPEN SPACE (m ²)	2016 m ² PP	2021 m ² PP	2026m ² PP	2031 m ² PP	2036 m ² PP	2041 m ² PP	Change 2016 - 2041
Coogee-Clovelly	538,868	19.74	19.24	18.45	17.94	17.90	17.26	- 2.48
Kensington	49,093	3.12	2.93	2.66	2.47	2.37	2.25	- 0.88
Kingsford	44,844	2.73	2.67	2.52	2.42	2.38	2.28	- 0.45
La Perouse-Malabar-Chifley	900,143	35.94	35.25	33.33	32.16	31.82	30.89	- 5.05
Maroubra	1,081,133	33.14	31.97	30.34	29.36	29.13	28.05	- 5.09
Randwick	230,380	7.24	6.98	6.42	6.19	6.11	5.90	-1.34
Randwick LGA (Council owned/ managed only)	2,844,460	19.10	18.47	17.34	16.68	16.46	15.85	-3.25
Randwick LGA (Council owned/ managed + Centennial Parklands + National Parklands)	6,085,360	40.86	39.52	37.11	35.68	35.22	33.92	-6.95
Randwick LGA (Council owned/ managed + Centennial Parklands + National Parklands + Golf courses + UNSW village Green + Royal Randwick Racecourse)	6,326,320	42.48	41.09	38.57	37.10	36.61	35.26	-7.22

*Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s) are designed to maximise the spatial detail available for Census population data. They are designed to reflect functional areas that represent a community that interacts together socially and economically. In major urban areas SA2s often reflect one or more related suburbs.

2016 open space provision per person

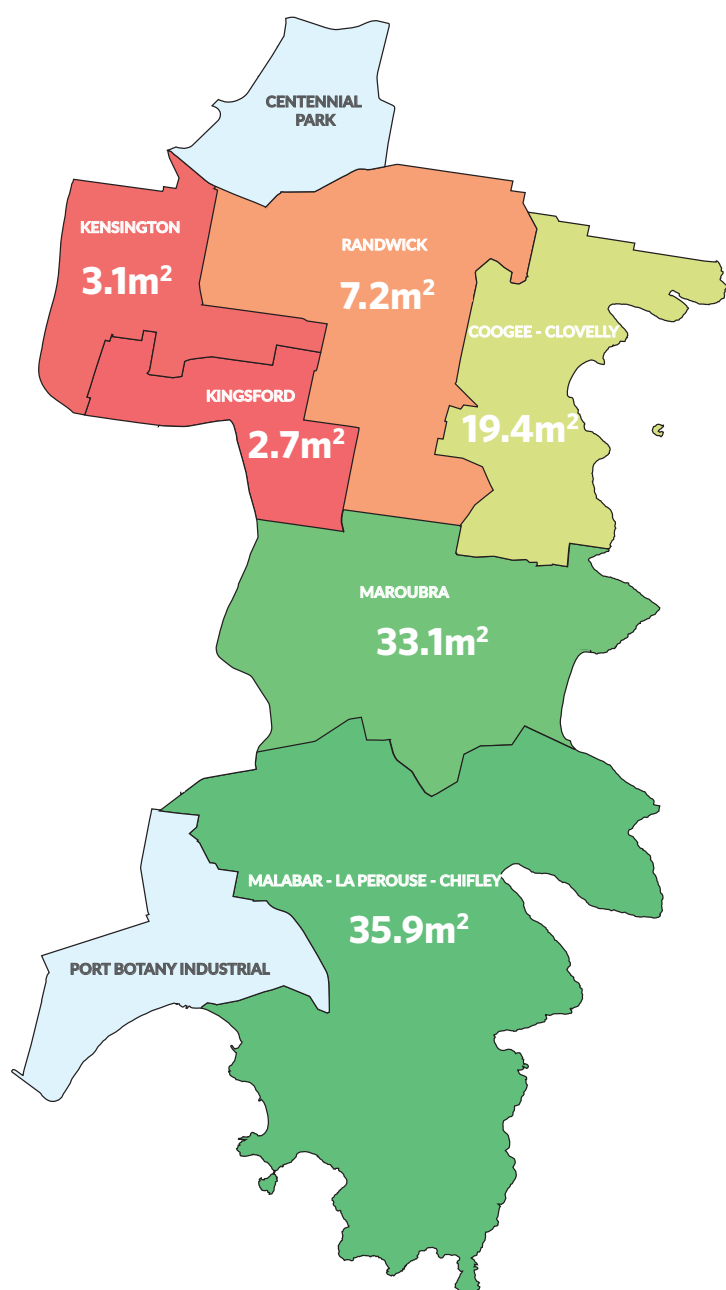


Figure 24 - 2016 Council owned/managed open space provision per person

2031 open space provision per person

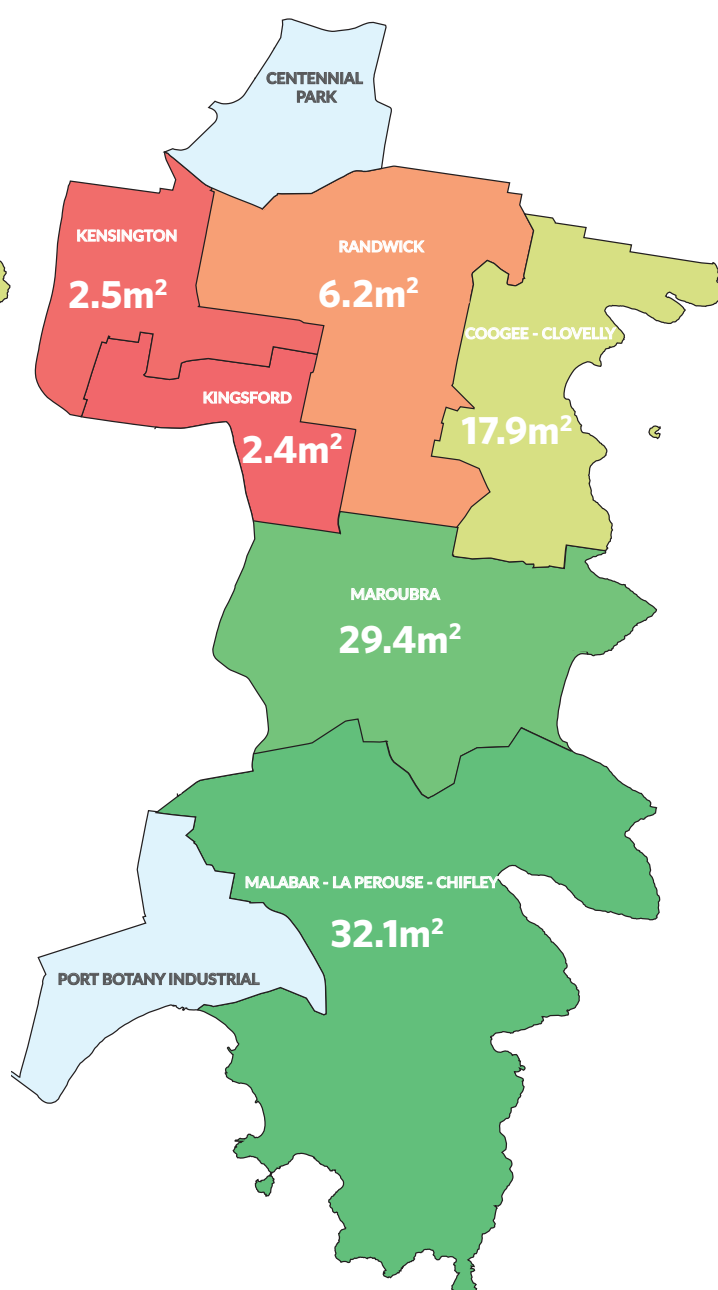
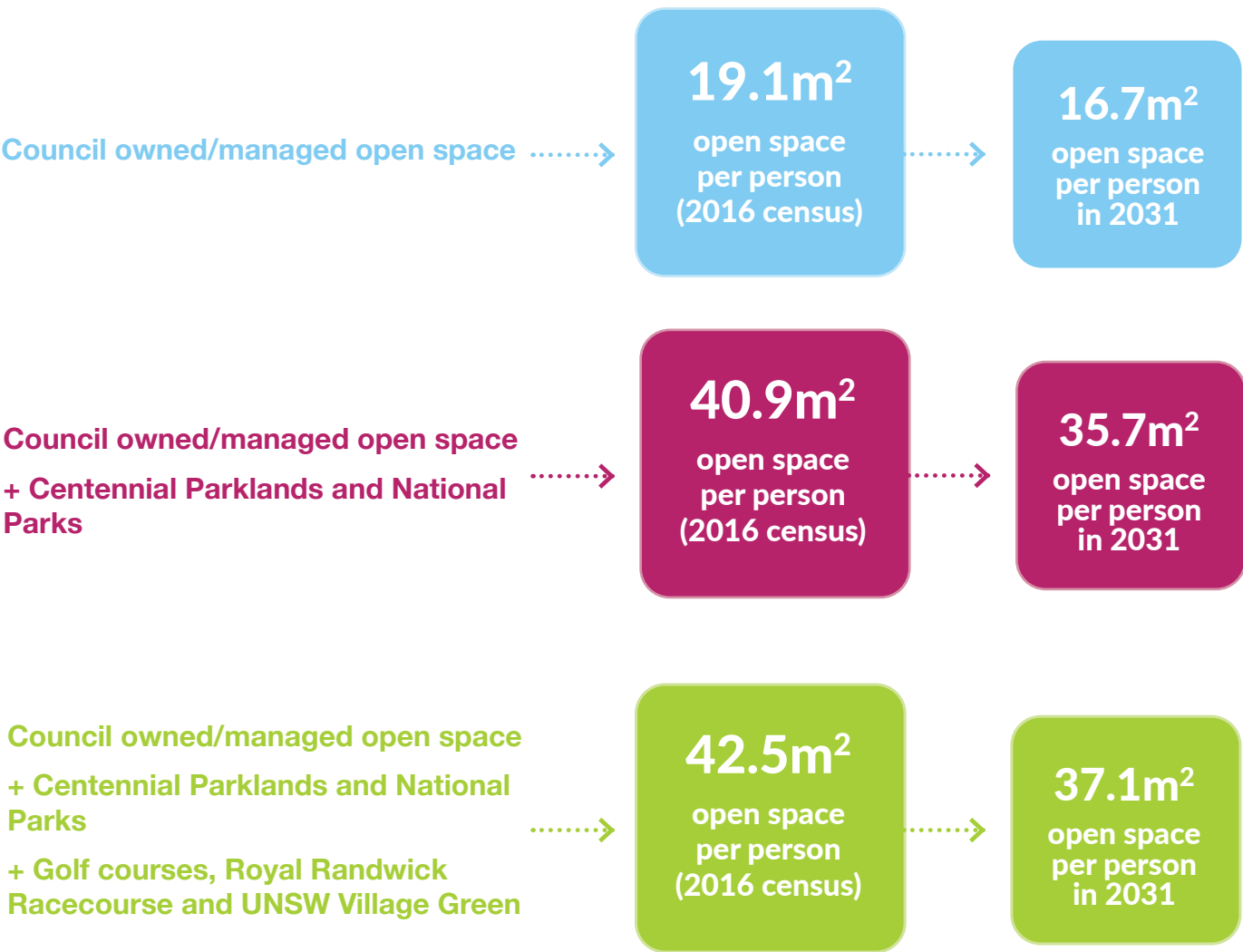


Figure 25 - 2031 Council owned/managed open space provision per person based on projected population growth

Open space provision per person across Randwick LGA



Key findings and needs

Our analysis shows that overall, if we measure provision based on Council provision of open space alone, Randwick City has 19.1m² of open space per person falling to 16.7m² in 2031 if there are no new open spaces delivered.

While overall Randwick City has a good provision of open space, this isn't distributed evenly. Figure 24 and Figure 25 show that while some areas of Randwick City benefit from access to Council owned open space like Maroubra and La Perouse-Malabar-Chifley, others like Kingsford, Kensington and Randwick have a comparatively low provision*.

These areas with comparatively lower provision also have relatively higher density housing typologies already (including apartments), and are expected to cater for further growth. It's critical that Council looks for ways to increase open space access for these residents, even if land is limited, this includes strategies such as:

- Making existing open spaces within these areas work harder, and increasing their quality and capacity by providing additional recreation facilities (such as fitness, play, water and shade) to improve the quality and diversity of recreation offerings;
- Creating easy, clearer and safer pedestrian and cycle connections from Kensington, Randwick and Kingsford to Centennial Parklands;
- Creating stronger links from residential developments to existing open space by ensuring the public domain and streetscape is a comfortable experience, well shaded, and encourages walking and cycling through paths of an appropriate width with interesting features along the way such as high quality public domain treatments, public art and landscaping;

- Council investigate planning mechanisms to address the capacity of existing public open space to meet existing and new demand. Where an existing park is at capacity, consideration could be given to achieving on-site opportunities or upgrade of existing open space opportunities within 400m of the site. Other opportunities may include communal private open space (can be provided at the podium or rooftop level) and landscaped areas for the entire public to enjoy (typically on the ground floor, best provided on the corner of developments or walk through public boulevard/eat street style); and
- In the areas of highest need (Kingsford, Kensington and Randwick) semi-public spaces like the Australian Golf Course, and Moore Park Golf and Randwick Racecourse provide the potential for partially available public use such as walking, jogging kicking a ball around etc would provide potential.

**While some parts of Randwick and Kensington have access to Centennial Park, Anzac Parade can also act as a barrier to access.*



5.2 Proximity and access

Regardless of the amount of open space there may be in a particular area, if it's not easy to get to, it's not likely to be used. This is why it's important to plan for open space by considering both the amount of open space, as well as how people can access it.

Approach

The Greater Sydney Commission indicates that all residents should have access to regional open space within 5km, district open space within 2km and that all dwellings should be within 400m of quality open space of at least 0.3ha.

The Draft Greener Places Guide proposes 0.15ha to 0.3ha as the minimum size for a quality local park. However, 0.1ha is commonly used as the minimum size for a quality local park. As the Greener Places Guide is in draft and currently under review, the assessment undertaken for this Needs Study has adopted the 0.1ha baseline.

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 5 to 10 minutes walk 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 there a main road or rail line obstructing access? In Randwick City, some barriers identified include the light rail corridor, Anzac Parade and Bunnerong Road.

Walkable catchments analysis maps indicate walking distance from existing parks measured along the road network, taking into account major barriers such as light rail and major roads.

Key findings and needs

Figure 26 overpage shows which areas in Randwick City are within 200m or 400m walking distance of open space that is accessible to the public at all times above 0.1ha within the Randwick LGA and neighbouring LGAs.

The map also indicates barriers to walking to open space, such as the Light Rail Corridor and sections of Anzac Parade with significant vehicular activity.

The map shows:

- The majority of residents within the Randwick City LGA have access to open space larger than 0.1ha within 400m walking distance, and areas along the coastline generally have better access to open space.
- However, the walkable catchment analysis identified specific pockets across the LGA that have limited access to open space. These include areas around Kensington, Kingsford, the southern part of Randwick suburb and around Maroubra Junction. These are also higher-density centre areas along the Anzac Road Parade spine where people are less likely to have access to private open space.
- A significant portion of Kensington has no open space within 400m walking distance, with opportunity to provide public access to open space along the edge of Royal Randwick Racecourse to improve this.
- While the southern part of the LGA has significant open space areas that are not under Council control and have limited public access, including golf courses and Crown land, most residents have adequate access to open space within 400m walking distance.
- Residents in the northern area of the LGA have greater access to the coastline than those in the southern area.
- There are areas in the suburbs of Matraville and Chifley with limited walking access due to large industrial landholdings.

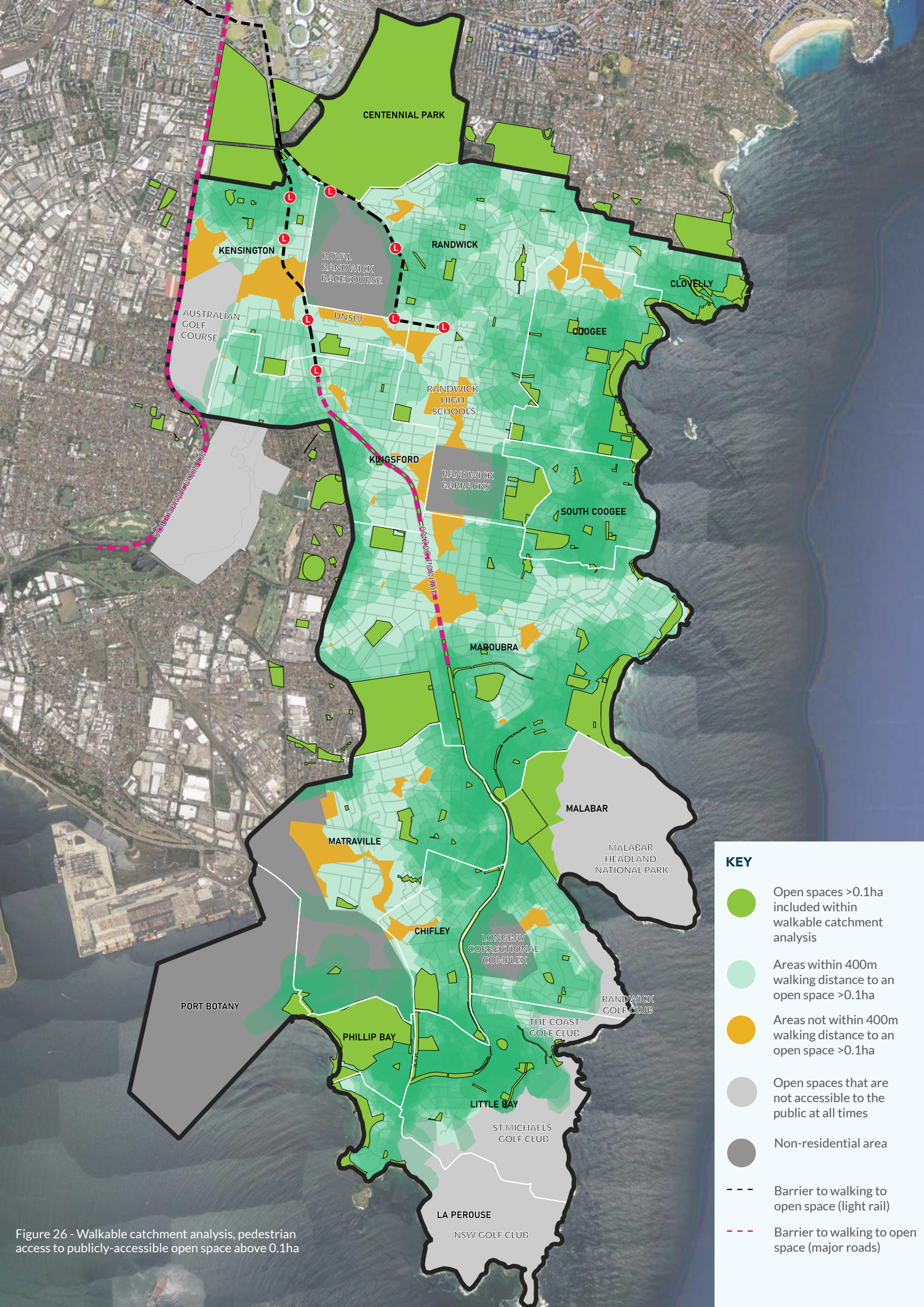


Figure 26 - Walkable catchment analysis, pedestrian access to publicly-accessible open space above 0.1ha



5.3 Hierarchy, size and function

Having a diversity of open spaces that range in hierarchy and size (from regional to local) and functions (sports spaces through to natural areas) are important to ensure an area can meet the needs of a diverse population. Understanding hierarchy and function gives an understanding of the types and sizes of parks within the Study Area in order to assess whether a diversity of recreation needs are being met.

Approach

Hierarchy

Hierarchy and size gives an indication of the scale of open space within Randwick City. Hierarchy can range from regional parks that are unlimited in size and service the whole of the Randwick City and beyond, to local parks that service locals and are usually between 0.1ha and 0.3ha.

A hierarchy for open space in Randwick City has been applied to assessing open space as shown in Table 15 below.

Size

Size is another element that can shape what a park can offer to the community. Assessment of size is important to get an idea of the capacity of Randwick City's open space network to support a diversity of recreation functions. This is because typically larger parks (over 0.5ha) can offer more facilities and therefore recreation opportunities - whereas small open spaces are constrained in the number of facilities and types of uses on offer.

Function

Function indicates how an open space functions and what it is primarily used for. Our approach to assessing function takes into account Government Architect's *Greener Places* definitions as described in Table 15.

Understanding the primary function of a space gives an indication if the diverse open space needs of the community (from sports through to protecting natural bushland and biodiversity) are being met through the network.

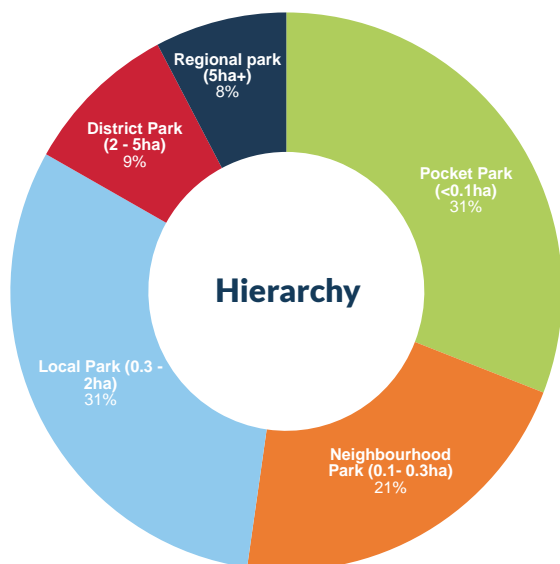
Table 15 - Randwick City Open Space Hierarchy (defined for the purposes of this study based on Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, Department of Planning 2010)

Catchment	Description	Typical Scale	Catchment from home
Regional	Any large or unique area with good links to public transport that attract visitations from the whole of the Randwick City or wider, including tourists	Unlimited	Unlimited
District	A large or significant open space that serves more than one suburb. Can cater for a wide cross section of community interests, including both informal recreation and sporting opportunities. Generally provides a diverse range of facilities including toilets to encourage longer stays.	1-5ha	2-5km
Local	Serving residents within a suburb. Usually support shorter 30min - 60mins stays by catering for informal recreation, relaxation and children's play. Should be located within 400m walking distance.	0.3 - 1ha	400m
Neighbourhood	Smaller open spaces that serve residents within immediate locality and within in easy walking distance (400m or less) from home to provide for short stay activities, usually children's play.	0.1ha - 0.3	400m
Pocket	Usually pocket or small parks that include a small rest area or very small play for passersby to stop and rest.	Less than 0.1ha	NA

Table 16 - Government Architect NSW Greener Places function typology

Function	
Sports space	Primary function is to support formal/organised sporting activities
Park	Primary function is to support informal recreation activities
Natural space	Primary function is to support biodiversity
Linkage (green grid)	Primary function is to connect one open space area to another with recreational green links
Waterways	Primary function to connect and support water-based recreation
Civic/urban public space	Public space in urban, developed areas, includes elements of the public domain such as streets and plazas, often hard surface and event ready spaces.

Figure 27 - Hierarchy analysis

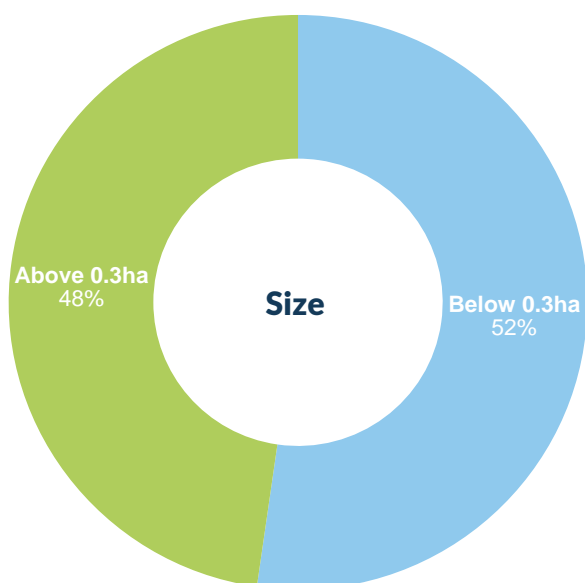


Key findings

Hierarchy

Figure 27 breaks down Council owned open space within Randwick City by its hierarchy. It shows that Randwick City's open spaces are mostly pocket (31%), local (31%) or neighbourhood parks (21%). There is a good mix of small and larger open spaces, with local parks making up 31% of open space and 17% of district or regional.

Figure 28 - Size analysis

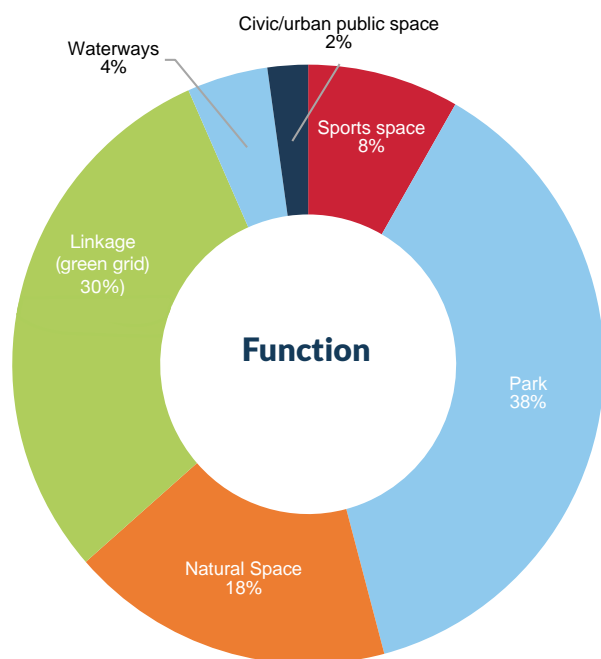


Size

Figure 28 illustrates that the majority (52%) of Council owned/managed open spaces within Randwick City are less than 0.3ha or 3,000m². This means that some parks may be constrained in terms of the diversity of uses they can offer the community. Opportunities to enhance connections to the larger regional parks, while strengthening connections between small neighbourhood and pocket parks should be explored within the Strategy.

While no benchmarks exist to determine the ideal split of parks over/under 0.3ha in an open space network, the City of Sydney's Open Space Strategy notes that they have 72% of parks less than 0.3ha which restricts the capability of their network to accommodate a variety of recreational needs, particularly active sport.

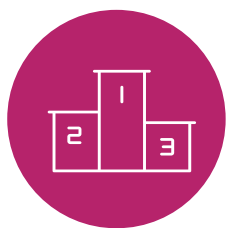
Figure 29 - Function analysis



Function

Figure 29 shows that Randwick City's open space functions can be described as:

- Informal park - the majority of open spaces (38%) within Randwick City function as 'parks', which are typically places for informal, social recreation activities.
- Linkage - this is closely followed by Linkage (green grid) (30%) which corresponds with the above hierarchy and size analysis that shows many of Randwick City's parks are road closures/things that form important linkages across the open space network. These linkage open spaces are important to continue developing to ensure that people can both access recreation opportunities, as well as use open space as a safe and enjoyable way to move across Randwick City on foot or bike.
- Natural - 18% of the network has been classified as natural space.
- Sports - 8% is sports space.
- Waterways - 4% of the open space network is waterways which is relatively high because of Randwick City's coastal location and several beaches that are important and unique places for recreation within the LGA.



5.4 Quality

In addition to increasing the amount of open space, increasing the quality is another way to enhance community use of open space, and ensure that a park's potential is being fully realised.

Current quality

Expressed satisfaction

Community engagement suggests that Randwick City residents are relatively satisfied with the quality of open spaces. A Community Satisfaction Survey conducted in 2012 saw participants rate their satisfaction with 'beaches, coastal open spaces and walkway' as very high, and satisfaction with 'playgrounds and parks' as high.

These high levels of satisfaction were reaffirmed through community engagement to inform this Needs Study. When asked to rate the quality of existing open spaces, survey participants rated the following as 'high quality' or 'very high quality':



Coastal walk

85% or 416 people



Beaches and ocean pools

84% or 411 people



Parks

65% or 306 people



Natural and bushland

56% or 274 people

Survey participants rated the following as 'low quality' or 'very low quality':



Cycle paths

32% or 155 people



Footpaths and streets

16% or 78 people



Off-leash dog areas

14% or 68 people

Expressed need for improvements

Community engagement participants suggested a range of improvements for existing open spaces, including:

Increased tree planting for shade and cooling

17% of respondents (57 comments) would like to see existing spaces in Randwick City improved through more trees and shade to provide comfort and cooling in hot summer months. Respondents want to see more trees along streets and footpaths to provide shade for activities such as walking, as well as in play spaces, parks and at beaches.

Upgraded and maintained amenities

11% of respondents (38 comments) would like to see amenities in open spaces be upgraded and/or better maintained, including toilets, change rooms and bubblers. Respondents wanted to see more amenities in open spaces including along coastal walkways, in parks and playgrounds, that are accessible for all abilities and parents with prams.

Improved cycling infrastructure (35 comments)

10% of respondents (35 comments) would like to see improved cycling infrastructure in Randwick City, including separated pathways and more connections to increase active transport usage, decrease road congestion and make cycling safer. Cycleways for recreational purposes were also a priority for respondents.

Improved footpaths and walkways (20 comments)

6% of respondents (20 comments) would like to see improvements to walking infrastructure in Randwick City, including footpaths and walkways with safe and accessible surfaces for walking and jogging, as well as being inclusive for all users including parents with prams and wheelchair accessibility.

Environmental factors

Environmental drivers including climate change and tree canopy cover will influence the quality of Randwick City's open space network.

Climate

The climate of Australian cities is changing due to a combination of factors. Increased urban development, less space to provide parks, gardens and trees that cool us, and climate change which will see more intense and longer heat-waves which will have a negative impact on residents of Randwick City.

Council has previously prepared a Climate Change Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Management Plan (2009) which indicated the risks of future impacts of climate change in Randwick City are more likely to result in increased storm damage to infrastructure or property, or flooding following extreme storm events, and less likely from coastal impacts such as sea level rise. Other outcomes predicted include decreased water availability and heat stress across the community.

Biodiversity

Randwick is home to two National Parks, Malabar Headland National Park and Kamay Botany Bay National Park, which are under care of the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service and support biodiversity in the area, including the last known population of the once extensive Port Jackson mallee in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Council owns and manages a large number of sites that contain remnant vegetation including the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) with the support of community Bushcare volunteers. For example, the Randwick Environment Park contains approximately 3.6 hectares, making it the largest population of ESBS in a Council owned and managed area in the wider Sydney region. As such, it is a significant ecological, natural and educational resource.

It is critical to continue to work with NSW Parks and Wildlife Service to protect biodiversity.

Tree canopy

Council has identified increasing tree canopy as priority in its draft Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Tree canopy data from DPIE highlights how areas with low levels of tree canopy are at heightened risk of negatively being impacted by urban heat.

As per 2018, suburbs with lower tree canopy (between 11%-15%) included Chifley, Clovelly, Kingsford, Little Bay, Malabar, Maroubra and Matraville.

Suburbs with higher tree canopy (between 16%-25%) include Coogee, Kensington, La Perouse - Phillip Bay, Randwick and South Coogee.

5.5 Summary of open space needs

Table 17 - Identified needs for open space

Needs	Indicators
<p>There is a need for new open space to address growth in areas of existing under-supply, particularly in Kingsford, Kensington and Randwick due to existing low provision and limited walking access to existing parks (see Figures 21 and 22 for areas with low provision and Figures 23 and 24 for areas with limited walking access)*.</p> <p>Planning for growth should consider availability of open space that is at least 0.15ha and within 400m of a park greater than 0.3ha to support healthy and active residents. Planning proposals considered by Council should take into account proximity to and capacity of existing open space.</p> <p><i>*It is noted that northern parts of Kensington and Randwick have good access to Centennial Park and northern part of Randwick has good access to Queens park.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walkable catchment analysis indicates limited access to Council owned/managed open space within walking distance in areas in Randwick, Kensington and Kingsford. - Significant growth forecast in Kensington and Kingsford indicates forecast increased demand for access to open space, including for people living in high density dwellings requiring access to space outside the home for recreation, relaxation and socialising. - Existing low levels of open space provision per person, forecast to decrease further to 2031. - Greater Sydney Commission District Plan goal is to ensure that all high density developments are located within 200m of a park greater than 0.15ha.
<p>Our streets are also places for recreation, and need to be improved through more shade, wider footpaths, playful elements to increase their attractiveness for walking and running, particularly in areas where there is higher density living.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17% of respondents (57 comments) would like to see existing spaces in Randwick City improved by increased trees and shade, to provide comfort and cooling in hot summer months. - Council's LSPS and the Draft Environment Strategy aims to increase tree canopy. - Preparation of street scape master plans in and around town centres that aim to improve amenity, connectivity, vitality and safety.
<p>There is a need for future high density developments to provide adequate private communal open space to support future residents (this can include rooftop or podium opportunities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will help to reduce the potential impact of associated population growth on existing public open spaces.
<p>In areas with existing shortfalls, there is a need to make existing open spaces work harder, and increase their quality and capacity by providing additional recreation facilities (such as fitness, play, water and shade) to improve the quality and diversity of recreation offerings; particularly Heffron Park, Snape Park and Kensington Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited opportunities for new open space within urban areas of Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick indicating increased quality and amenity is needed in existing parks, as well as the provision of smaller public domain improvements such as new public plazas created by closing roads and enhancing streetscapes.
<p>There is a need to enhance connections to the larger regional parks (Centennial Park, Heffron Park, Kensington Park, Snape Park, beaches and national parks), while strengthening connections between small neighbourhood and pocket parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best practice indicates recreational green links are required to create improved open space networks in areas where there is a lower provision of larger parks. - 32% of survey respondents indicated cycle paths were of low quality.

CHAPTER SIX

Recreational facilities needs assessment

This chapter provides an assessment of Randwick City's recreational facilities and current and future needs.



6. Approach to recreation facilities needs assessment

Our approach used to assess sport and recreation facilities is as follows:



6.1 Coastal recreation

Randwick City's coastline offers its residents, workers and visitors unique opportunities for recreation in and alongside the ocean.

What are beaches?

A beach is a narrow, gently sloping strip of land that lies along the edge of an ocean, lake, or river. Materials such as sand, pebbles, rocks, and seashell fragments cover beaches.

What are ocean pools?

Ocean pools, ocean baths or rock pools are defined as public seawater pools sited on a rocky surf coast, so that waves can wash into the pool. The width, length and depth of ocean pools varies and often depends on their location on the coastline.

What are water sports?

Water sports include the use of motorised and non-motorised watercraft such as boats, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, canoes and dragon boats. Facilities that support watersports include boat ramps, sheds, and launch points for passive watercraft.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

Beaches and ocean pools are one of Randwick City's strengths and these spaces are highly valued by the community. As shown by Table 18 overpage, there are 13 coastal reserves, 10 beaches and 8 ocean pools in Randwick City.

Clovelly, Coogee and Maroubra beaches are patrolled by 4 volunteer-run surf life saving clubs, in addition to Council's Lifeguard Services.

To the east, Randwick City borders on the Tasman Sea, making it a popular location for, and providing access to, a range of coastal and water sports. Randwick City has 1 public boat ramps available at Malabar beach. Randwick City also has a 600-metre underwater nature trail at Gordon's Bay for scuba diving and snorkeling.



Figure 30 - Little Bay Beach

Table 18 - Overview of coastal recreation locations and features in Randwick City

Location	Suburb	Recreation features	Beach Patrol Times	Beach Wheelchair?	Other Facilities
Clovelly Beach	Clovelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Geoff James Pool (Clovelly Ocean Pool) - Clovelly Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) - Aquatic Reserve 	Summer (daylight saving): 8:30 am to 6:00 pm Summer (non-daylight saving): 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Winter (late April - late September): No patrol	Yes	Coastal walkway; Toilets; Showers; Changing facilities; Litter bins; Wi-Fi
Gordons Bay	Coogee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gordons Bay Underwater Nature Trail (600m trail) and Aquatic Reserve 	Unpatrolled	No	Coastal walkway
Coogee Beach	Coogee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coogee SLSC - Giles Bath - McIver's Ladies Baths - Ross Jones Memorial Pool - Wylies Baths - Ivor Rowe Rockpool 	Summer (daylight saving): 7am to 7pm Winter Period (non-daylight saving): 7am to 5pm	No	Coastal walkway; Toilets, including disabled toilets; Showers; Changing facilities; Litter bins; WiFi; Seating; Fenced playground; and Monument or memorial
Maroubra Beach	Maroubra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club - South Maroubra SLSC - Maroubra SLSC - Mahon Pool - South Maroubra rockpools 	Summer (daylight saving): 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Summer (non-daylight saving): 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Winter Period (late April to late September): 7:00 am to 5:00 pm	No	Coastal walkway; Toilets, including disabled toilets; Showers; Changing facilities; Car park, Outdoor gym; Seating; Playground; Litter bins; and WiFi
Malabar Beach	Malabar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malabar Ocean Pool - Malabar Boat Ramp - Intertidal Protection Area 	Unpatrolled	No	Boat ramp; and playground
Little Bay Beach	La Perouse		Unpatrolled	No	Toilets, and WiFi
Little Congwong Beach	La Perouse		Unpatrolled	No	Coastal walkway, and National Park
Congwong Beach	La Perouse		Unpatrolled	No	Coastal walkway; and National Park
Frenchmans Bay	La Perouse		Unpatrolled	No	Coastal walkway; playground; and toilets
Yarra Bay Beach	Phillip Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sailing club 	Unpatrolled	No	Toilets, including disabled toilets; and Car park

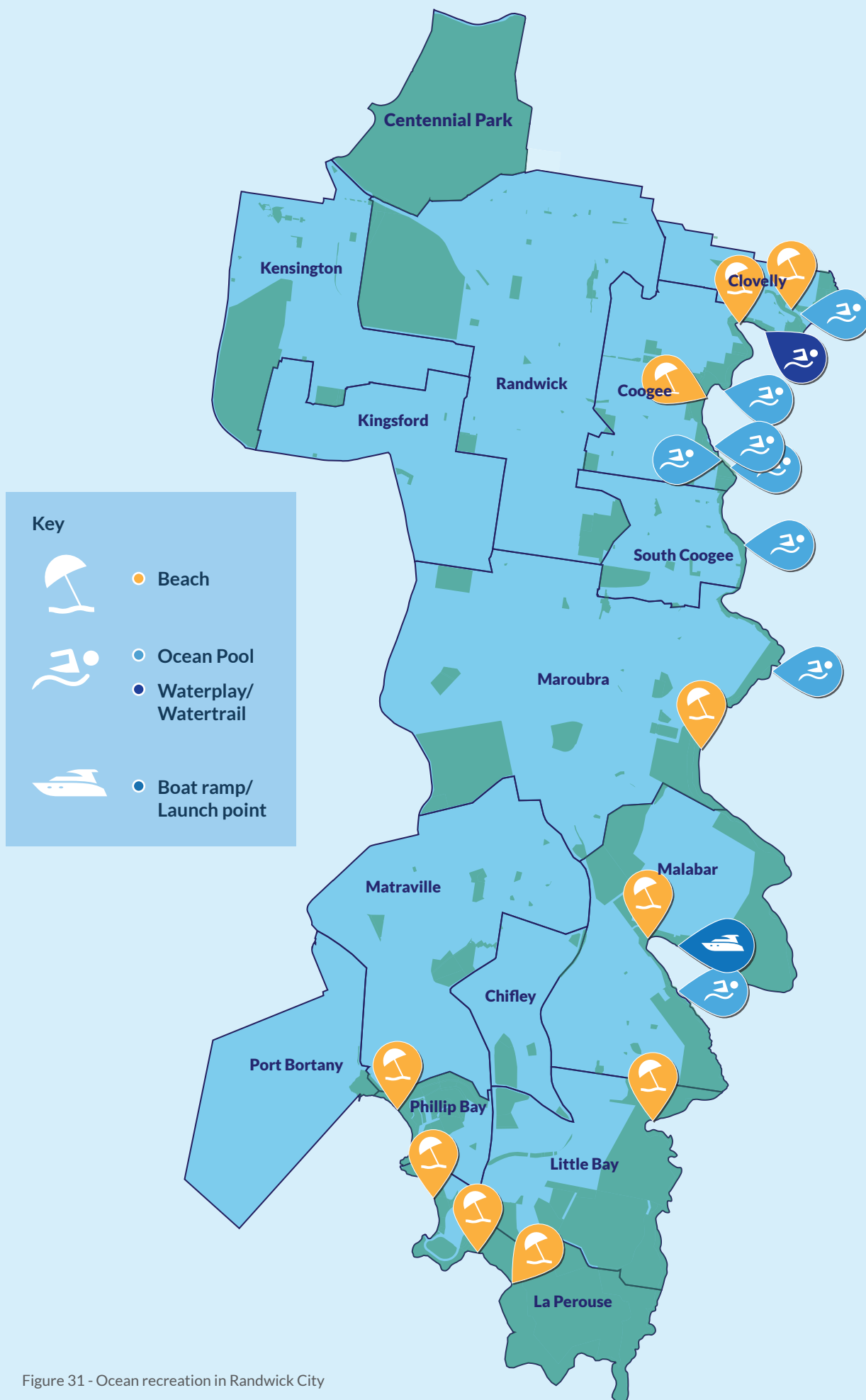


Figure 31 - Ocean recreation in Randwick City

2

Utilisation

Beaches are some of the most visited open spaces in Randwick City, with users including Randwick City residents as well as people visiting from outside the LGA. High regional visitation places significant pressure on beaches and ocean pools, particularly in peak seasons.

Beaches are incredibly versatile recreation and open spaces, at any one time there can be over 20 activities with many people enjoying the beach for different recreation activities as shown by the snapshot below (Figure 32).



Figure 32 - Beach recreation activity snapshot. Image of Coogee Beach. Source: Randwick City Council.

Accommodating so many uses in the one space sometimes means that there is pressure on both sand and water space to cater for many diverse needs. Council staff has indicated that conflicts can occur between different user groups, including between motorised and passive water craft/swimmers (such as at Yarra Bay/Malabar between boats/jet skis and swimmers/snorkelers). Similarly, the sand can also have pressure to accommodate multiple uses from play and sports, through to sunbathing and picnics.



84%

of survey respondents were satisfied with the beaches and ocean pools in Randwick City.

93%

of survey respondents swim in beaches or ocean pools, making it one of the most popular activities in Randwick City.

“Walking at Maroubra Beach is great but it would be terrific to have more shade trees in the park... I know it is a harsh environment but for sun safety and enjoyment of the beautiful coastal views and walks it would be great.”

- Survey respondent

3

What are the community needs for beaches and ocean pools?

Community engagement (expressed needs)

According to the survey results, swimming in beaches or ocean pools (93%) was one of the most common recreation activity in Randwick City. Overall, 84% of survey respondents were satisfied with the provision of beaches and ocean pools, rating them as high or very high quality.

Community engagement findings indicated an expressed need for:

- Strong focus on cleanliness and maintenance of the communities natural assets, particularly the water quality of beaches and ocean pools
- Retention of the natural state of beaches and ocean pools
- Reducing littering of the surrounding environment by increasing rubbish collection during peak seasons
- Regulatory actions to ensure smoke and alcohol prohibited zones along the beaches
- Increased beach amenities including more rubbish bins, shade for sun protection, and toilets, showering and change room facilities
- Potentially sharing certain beach areas during different times to accommodate dogs (e.g. before 8am or after 5pm)
- Increased events at the beaches
- Patrolling smaller, less visited beaches like Little Bay, and
- More shade through planting and shade sails.

Furthermore, anecdotally from Council staff, we know that there is some conflict between motorised and passive water craft/swimmers (for example at Yarra Bay/ Malabar between boats/jet skis and swimmers/snorkelers).

Benchmarking needs

There is no standard for the provision of beaches or ocean pools because they are a topographical feature in limited supply, however there is opportunity to continue to monitor water quality through the NSW Government Beachwatch water quality monitoring program for forecasts and water quality alerts, with monitored sites in Randwick City including Maroubra Beach, Malabar Beach, Little Bay Beach, Frenchmans Beach and Congwong Beach. Furthermore, Council has installed 13 storm-water harvesting and treatment systems to improve water quality at beaches, and is currently installing one at south Maroubra.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

BONDI UNWRAPPED PROJECT, Waverley, NSW

Each summer, Waverley Council implements a litter prevention program to target top litter items identified through their annual beach audits.

The Bondi Unwrapped Project is a litter prevention program implemented in the summer of 2016/17 and includes aspects education and awareness, infrastructure, enforcement, and evaluation and monitoring. The program resulted in an overall 50% reduction in take-away packaging and won the 2017 Keep NSW Beautiful Hey Tosser Litter Award.

Council engaged businesses that sell take-away items and people who purchase take-away items. Council partnered with businesses to adopt sustainable packaging, while promoting product responsibility. Council also conducted packaging audits at 40 business to assist with advice for reducing packaging both internally and for take-away items.

New bin infrastructure was also installed to encourage the proper disposal of waste and recycling and dissuade litter behaviour. Bin wraps using the NSW Environment Protection Authority Hey Tosser messaging were affixed to bins at litter hotspots, while solar compacting bins were installed at Bondi Beach and Bondi Junction. A Ranger Program was established to patrol the litter hotspots, where rangers undertook 10 education blitzes where they spoke to people about littering offences, and a Public Cleansing Program was implemented that included sweeping, bin maintenance and litter removal at the hotspots.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

MALABAR BEACH, Randwick City Council, NSW

Malabar Beach is the first beach in Sydney with permanent wheelchair access as part of a project by Randwick City Council, the Lions Club and the Rainbow Club Australia.

The 60-metre long specially designed mat has been installed over the sand providing easier access for wheelchair users to reach the water's edge. The matting is a permanent fixture available seven days a week, all year 'round. The beach is also home to an Ocean Pool which is fully wheelchair accessible.

To see opportunities for additional accessible beach features, see Williamstown Beach case study below.



Local using the accessible beach mat at Malabar Beach.
Source: havewheelchairwilltravel.net



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH, Hobsons Bay City Council, VIC

Williamstown Beach has one of Australia's only 24/7 accessible beach matting facilities. With support from Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club, Hobsons Bay City Council provides beach matting seven days a week, and free to hire beach wheelchairs and beach walking frames available on Saturdays and Sundays during surf lifesaving club patrol hours.

Williamstown Beach accessible features include:

- Accessible beach mat extending to the shoreline
- Two types of beach wheelchairs, including the Sandpiper, designed for children to travel on the sand along the beach; and the MobiChair, designed to enter the water to the waist
- Accessible walking frames
- Accessible bathrooms, showers and changerooms, and
- Accessible parking.



Local using Williamstown beach mat. Source: Theage.com

5

Key needs

Table 19 - Identified needs for ocean recreation

Needs	Indicators
Provide up-to-date information about surf safety to beach-goers across all our beaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with Council staff and surf life saving clubs indicated the Coogee Beach Smart Beaches project has been successful, and that expanding the program will help to efficiently inform the public of surf conditions, transport access and other safety information.
Improve access and safety to our beaches and ocean pools, particularly for people with disability and limited mobility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed need (community survey) for improved access to ocean pools and key snorkeling and diving locations including stairs and railings to enable safe entry for all ages. Stakeholder engagement with surf life saving clubs highlighted the need for increased disability access to beaches and ocean pools.
Keep our beaches and public spaces clean and well maintained to support recreational enjoyment and decrease impact on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed need (community survey, interactive map) for improved cleanliness and reduced littering at beaches.
Improve the quality and quantity of amenities blocks in parks and beaches to respond to community concerns around cleanliness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed need for improved and maintained amenity blocks.
Address significant safety issues around rock fishing to reduce injuries and fatalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Randwick City coastline is the most dangerous rockfishing location in NSW, with a need for continued awareness raising about risks and the importance of wearing a lifejacket.
Upgraded boat ramp access at Malabar Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The improved water quality in Long Bay has seen the Malabar Boat Ramp become more popular for aquatic activities, including swimming, fishing, snorkeling diving, kayaking and paddle boarding. Council has previously identified the need to upgrade the boat ramp, however has not yet been successful in acquiring grant funding to do so.

6.2 Sportsfields

What are sportsfields?

Sportsfields are important places for competition and social sports. They cater for a variety of sports ranging from soccer, AFL, athletics, cricket, softball and baseball through to rugby league and rugby union. A multipurpose sportsfield is one field that caters for multiple different types of sport rather than just one type of sport.

1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 20, there are currently a total of 55 Council owned/managed formal sportsfields available in Randwick City. It is noted that, to maximise sportsfield capacity of our open spaces, there are sportsfields for winter sports and summer sports that may be located over the same area.

As shown by Table 21, there are also at least 24 non-Council owned sportsfields located within Randwick City, including sportsfields located at Centennial Park, the Village Green at UNSW and sportsfields owned by local schools.

Hierarchy

Randwick City plays an important role in the provision of regional level sportsfields at Heffron Park, where a total of 20 sportsfields are provided. District sportsfields include Chifley Sports Reserve, Pioneers Park, Coral Sea Park, Nagle Park, Snape Park, Yarra Oval and Latham Park.

Distribution

As Figure 33 shows, the majority of sportsfields within Randwick City are clustered in Maroubra at Heffron Park, Coral Sea Park, Nagle Park and Snape Park, as well as in Coogee at Bardon Park and Coogee Oval.

Provision in neighbouring local government areas

Figure 34 shows the provision of sportsfields in neighbouring local government areas, including a cluster located at Moore Park in the City of Sydney.



Children playing soccer

Table 20 - Overview of Council-managed sportsfields in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of park/fields	Hierarchy	# full-size fields	# junior fields	# mini fields	Seasonal sports available		
						Year-round	Winter sports	Summer sports
CHIFLEY	Chifley Sports Reserve	District	4			- 2 x Baseball	- 2 x Soccer	
CLOVELLY	Burrows Park	Local	1				- 1 x Rugby	
COOGEE	Bardon Park	Local		1			- 1 x Junior Rugby	
	Coogee Oval	Local	1				- 1 x Rugby	- 1 x Cricket
KENSINGTON	Kensington Park	Local	1				- 1 x Soccer - 1 x Rugby	- 1 x Cricket
LITTLE BAY	Woomera Reserve	Local	1					- 1 x Cricket
MALABAR	Pioneers Park	District	3		2		- 2 x Rugby - 1 x AFL - 2 x Mini rugby	- 2 x Cricket
MAROUBRA	Coral Sea Park	District	3	1	6		- 3 x Soccer - 1 x Junior Soccer - 6 x Mini soccer	- 1 x Cricket - Cricket nets
	Heffron Park	Regional	15		5	- 4 x Touch - 6 x Oztag	- 7 x Rugby - 5 x Soccer - 5 x Mini Soccer - 1 x AFL	- Cricket nets
	Nagle Park	District	2		1		- 2 x Rugby - 1 x Mini Rugby	- 1 x Cricket
	Snape Park	District	2		1		- 1 x Rugby - 1 x Mini rugby - 1 x Soccer	- 2 x Cricket - Cricket nets
PHILLIP BAY	Yarra Oval	District	2				- 2 x Rugby	
RANDWICK	Paine Reserve	Local	1				- 1 x Soccer	
SOUTH COOGEE	Latham Park	District	2			- 1 x Archery	- 2 x Rugby	
Total 55 Council owned/managed sportsfields, including 38 full-sized fields, 2 junior fields and 15 mini fields								

Note: In addition, there are a number of Council owned parks with capacity for informal sports uses including Alison Park and Grant Reserve (which is used for school sports).

Table 21 - Overview of sportsfields in Randwick City not owned/managed by Randwick City Council

Suburb	Name of park/fields	# fields*	Hierarchy	Sports available	Ownership/Management
Kensington	Village Green*	1	District	- Cricket	UNSW
Centennial Park	Centennial Park sportsfield including Mission Fields, Brazilian Fields, Parade Grounds and Reservoir Fields	13	Regional	- Soccer, Rugby, Touch, Gaelic, Cricket, Oztag, Frisbee	Centennial Park Trust
Randwick	Our Lady of The Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	1	NA	- Multisports	
	Randwick Boys' High School	1	NA	- Multisports	
	Randwick Girls' High School	1	NA	- Multisports	
	Randwick Public School	1	NA	- Multisports	
Maroubra	South Sydney High School	1	NA	- Soccer	
Chifley	Matraville Sports High School	1	NA	- Multisports	
	Chifley Public School	1	NA	- Multisports	
South Coogee	South Coogee Public School	1	NA	- Multisports	
Maroubra	Maroubra Junction Public School	1	NA	- Multisports	
Malabar	Malabar Public School	1	NA	- Soccer	
Total sportsfields not owned by Council:		24			

*Note: UNSW is planning for the redevelopment of the Village Green to include a competition-standard multipurpose pitch with work expected to commence in 2022.

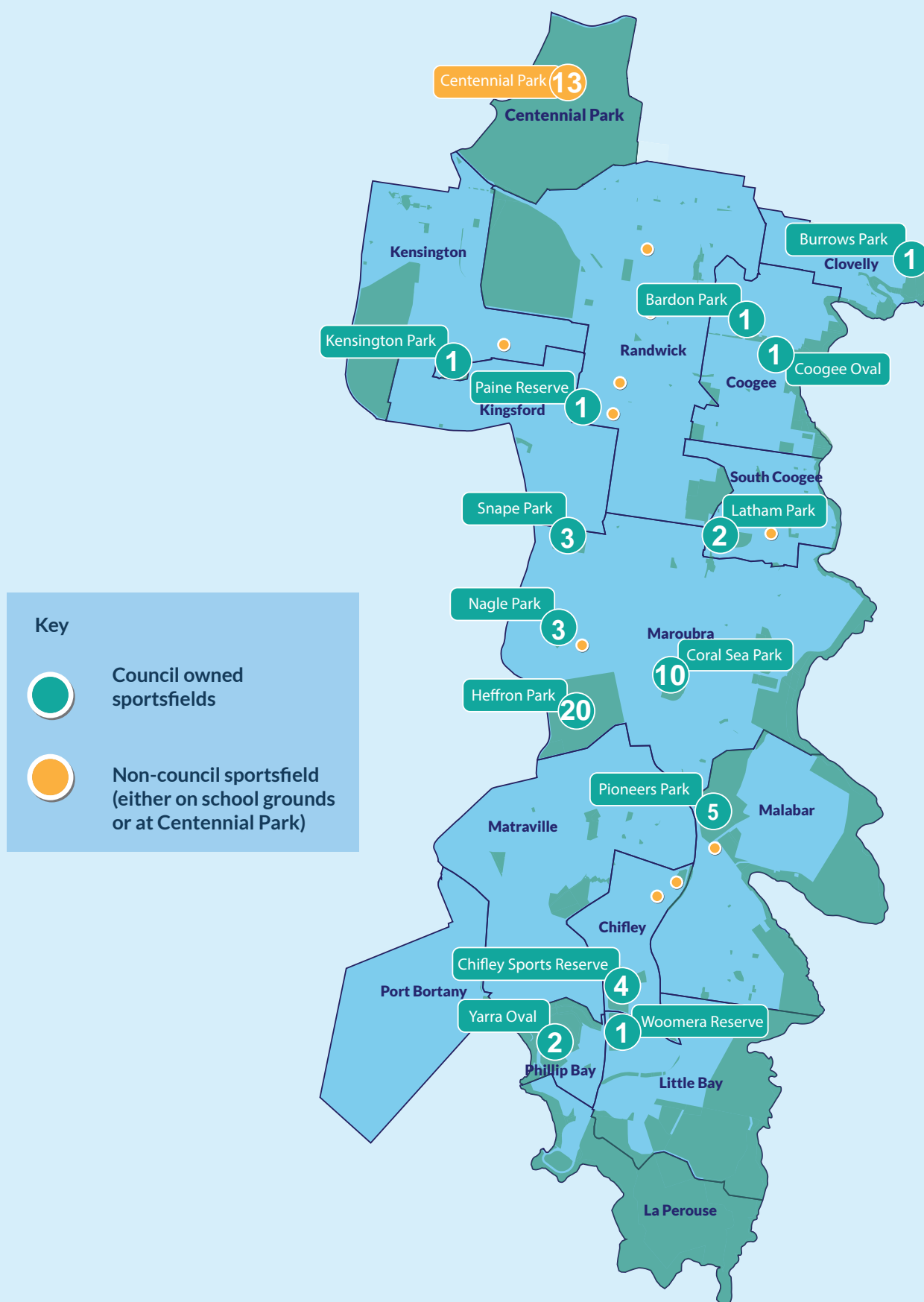


Figure 33 - Sportsfields in Randwick City



Figure 34 - Sportsfields in the Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)

2 Utilisation

Utilisation and capacity

The capacity of a sports ground is the maximum level of traffic/usage that the site can sustain without resulting in a major decline in the turf and surface condition that renders the site unfit for use.

The current capacity and utilisation of Council-managed sportsfields in Randwick City for each calendar month is detailed in Table 22. This is based on an assessment of bookings listings for July 2018 to June 2019.

Please note that a limitation of this review was the inability to break down the “booked” time to “actual usage” time for those user groups which have licenses to use fields on a seasonal basis. This is why some fields (e.g. Coogee Oval, Kensington Oval and Snape Park) have very high utilisation in summer months - not reflecting actual usage time.

Utilisation of sportsfields has been assessed based on the assumption that sportsfields have capacity for 25 hours of use weekly, and that synthetic sportsfields have capacity for 40 hours of use weekly. Please note synthetic fields are highlighted in green.

As shown in Table 22 sportsfields that may be operating *above* carrying capacity in the winter months include:

- Burrows Park sportsfield
- Chifley Reserve soccer field 1
- Coral Sea Park soccer fields 1, 2 and 3
- Heffron Park fields 4, 53, 54, 58-59, 60-63
- Kensington Oval
- Latham Park Synthetic Field, and
- Pioneer Park sportsfields.

As shown in Table 22, sportsfields that may be operating *below* carrying capacity in the winter months with opportunity for activation include:

- Coogee Oval
- Heffron Park fields 55-57, 64, 68-71
- Nagle Park sportsfields
- Paine Reserve sportsfields
- Snape Park sportsfields, and
- Yarra Bay Oval sportsfields.

There is also opportunity to increase utilisation of the Heffron Park synthetic soccer field.

Table 22 - Average weekly utilisation of Council-managed sportsfields - based on 2018-2019 booking data. Please note this may not reflect actual playing times. Synthetic fields are shown in green.

Name of sportsfield	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burrows Park sportsfield												
Burrows Park sportsfield	0%	5%	67%	112%	117%	115%	114%	96%	0%	12%	7%	2%
Chifley Reserve sportsfields												
Baseball - Field 1	16%	101%	49%	32%	51%	60%	72%	57%	105%	81%	115%	72%
Baseball - Field 2	11%	79%	31%	0%	5%	4%	4%	24%	77%	65%	83%	42%
Soccer - Field 1	0%	0%	51%	89%	107%	111%	107%	99%	40%	57%	25%	3%
Soccer - Field 2	0%	0%	51%	81%	95%	96%	82%	96%	32%	46%	18%	4%
Coogee Oval sportsfield												
Coogee Oval (noted that this is an elite field with lower capacity)	Full-time booking		0%	42%	55%	62%	59%	42%	Full-time booking			
Coral Sea Park sportsfields												
Soccer Field 1	0%	15%	62%	58%	114%	127%	47%	99%	8%	3%	16%	3%
Soccer Field 2	0%	15%	62%	47%	114%	127%	47%	99%	8%	3%	16%	3%
Soccer Field 3	0%	15%	62%	47%	114%	127%	60%	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Summer Cricket	0%	61%	42%	0%	0%	0%	5%	8%	63%	40%	84%	47%
Mini Soccer 01	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	8%	8%	3%	16%	3%
Mini Soccer 02	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	8%	8%	3%	16%	3%
Junior Soccer Field	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	0%	5%	8%	8%	3%	16%	3%

Table 22 - Average weekly utilisation of Council-managed sportsfields - based on 2018-2019 booking data. Please note this may not reflect actual playing times. Synthetic fields are shown in green.

Name of sportsfield	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Grant Reserve informal sportsfield												
Grant Reserve	8%	12%	28%	6%	23%	19%	16%	40%	19%	14%	21%	7%
Heffron Park sportsfields												
Soccer field 1 - Synthetic	24%	34%	45%	53%	53%	65%	64%	62%	21%	38%	45%	16%
Heffron 3-9 Summer	23%	116%	72%	7%	5%	11%	3%	13%	67%	84%	128%	72%
Field 4	16%	0%	57%	156%	131%	148%	126%	114%	18%	21%	12%	5%
Field 5	0%	0%	33%	76%	82%	96%	84%	90%	15%	5%	12%	5%
Fields 44-49	9%	44%	52%	83%	89%	100%	86%	88%	30%	46%	87%	45%
Field 53	0%	4%	63%	122%	123%	140%	135%	145%	35%	27%	56%	14%
Field 54	0%	16%	54%	92%	99%	102%	98%	99%	27%	24%	40%	11%
Fields 55-57	7%	78%	71%	56%	61%	70%	29%	61%	85%	63%	99%	69%
Fields 58-59	12%	27%	73%	68%	94%	75%	134%	129%	38%	39%	72%	31%
Fields 60-63	12%	25%	62%	111%	149%	144%	119%	123%	34%	33%	64%	26%
Fields 64	0%	66%	98%	63%	83%	89%	67%	60%	68%	47%	86%	50%
Fields 68-71	0%	3%	14%	27%	47%	55%	65%	48%	8%	4%	20%	4%
Kensington Oval												
Kensington Oval	Full-time booking		61%	88%	102%	94%	74%	63%	Full-time booking			
Latham Park sportsfields												
Upper field	0%	0%	40%	33%	78%	71%	52%	75%	8%	3%	0%	0%
Lower Field - Synthetic	43%	69%	60%	83%	103%	101%	99%	83%	62%	68%	60%	42%
Nagle Park sportsfields												
Cricket	0%	65%	47%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	46%	74%	45%
Field 1	2%	25%	53%	53%	79%	78%	84%	94%	20%	20%	37%	15%
Field 2	2%	25%	51%	67%	86%	80%	81%	90%	20%	17%	37%	15%
Paine Reserve sportsfields												
Paine Reserve	0%	14%	35%	76%	87%	78%	72%	83%	27%	7%	19%	7%
Pioneer Park sportsfields												
Lower field	0%	21%	65%	58%	98%	92%	111%	102%	0%	22%	20%	9%
Upper field	0%	91%	127%	73%	101%	92%	126%	121%	77%	53%	107%	57%
Snape Park sportsfields												
Lower field	5%	100%	111%	51%	63%	54%	42%	51%	93%	51%	95%	63%
Upper field	Full-time booking		49%	74%	85%	80%	68%	69%	Full-time booking			
Yarra Oval sportsfields												
Upper field	0%	0%	34%	50%	56%	55%	74%	75%	22%	2%	11%	3%

Sportsfields condition assessments

An audit of sportsfield areas was completed by Living Turf and IVM Group for Council in April 2017. The audit included an assessment of 26 of the Council's sports fields areas with a focus on turf cover, weed cover, turf vigour, root depth, surface levels, thatch depth, surface hardness and soil compaction.

The results of the assessments suggest that the condition of the sports field areas was generally quite good. This is reflected in the ratings assigned to each ground and the overall average of 81.4 (out of 100).

The assessment concluded that: "Overall, all surfaces are of a very high standard for council sports field areas and the quality of the turf surfaces appears to be a direct result of successful management practices."

As a result of the assessment, it was recommended that Council undertake an aeration program to reduce soil compaction in those fields that were most affected, including at Bardon Park, Coral Sea Park, Chifley Reserve and Yarra Oval.

Demographic needs and recreation trends

Sportsfields play an important role in Randwick City, including in bringing people together around shared interests thereby fostering community cohesion and in promoting physical and mental wellbeing. Randwick City is home to a number of iconic sporting clubs including South Sydney Rabbitohs and Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club.

For many Randwick City families and children, sportsfields provide a focal point for weekend sporting and social activities and need to provide amenities such as bathrooms, shade and seating in proximity. For Randwick City's working aged adults, sportsfields need to be available at night and on weekends to support participation. For Randwick City's lower income residents, sportsfields need to be affordable to support equitable access.

Engagement with sporting peak bodies and the NSW Office of Sport to inform this Needs Study indicate that formal sports participation in Randwick City is increasing and placing pressure on existing sporting spaces including sportsfields, in many cases driven by growing female participation, as well as growth in juniors and seniors. This underscores the importance of sportsfields provision for the Randwick City population, and the need to maintain and service existing fields, as well as potentially review field allocation management to match fields with sports in highest demand, noting that this may change over time.

According to findings from the Ausplay survey, some of the most popular sports that are played on sportsfields in the Eastern City District include soccer (2.6%), followed by Oztag, Rugby League, Cricket and Rugby Union (<1%) (note percentage indicates percentage of Eastern City District's 1.3 million residents).

Moreover, stakeholders from sporting peak bodies indicated that Randwick City plays an important role in providing sportsfields and facilities for a regional population beyond local residents. Considering the additional pressure placed on Randwick City sportsfields due to use from outside the LGA is important to accurately plan for use and need.



Figure 35 - Heffron Park. Source: Randwick City Council

Community engagement (expressed needs)

Findings from community and stakeholder engagement indicate there is an expressed need for:

- Continued improvement and upgrades to sportsfield amenities including toilets, change rooms and storage facilities and a need for female-friendly facilities
- Improving lighting of fields for use at night
- Increased shade, seating, toilets and bubblers in proximity to sports fields where appropriate
- Improved and well-maintained playing surfaces including drainage
- Improving booking processes and transparency
- Need for more flexible and multipurpose facilities that can cater to a range of uses, including synthetic fields, and
- Need for additional facilities, including increased sportsfields.

Benchmarking needs

Maintaining current provision rate of Council owned sportsfields

As shown in Table 20, with 38 Council owned full-sized sportsfields, Randwick City has a current provision rate of 1 full-sized sportsfield per 3,919 residents. With population growth to 2031, this provision rate would decrease to 1 sportsfield per 4,487 residents.

In order to maintain the current provision rate of Council owned sportsfields to 2031, an additional 5 full-sized sportsfields would be required.

Comparison to Eastern City District and Greater Sydney

The Office of Sport has provided provision rates for the Eastern City District (1:3,823 persons) and Greater Sydney (1:2,553 persons). However, these provision rates take into account the 13 sportsfields at Centennial Park which are located within Randwick City but not Council-managed.

This indicates that compared to the Eastern City District, Randwick City is doing relatively very well in terms of sportsfield provision, and only slightly less well compared to Greater Sydney.

There is a growing trend for the use of half and non-standard sized fields

With people becoming more time poor, the formal and large scale use of sportsfields has decreased. However this has led to a surging trend for small sided modified games for juniors and for social field sport, including soccer, Oztag, and touch football, characterised by reduced numbers of players and smaller field size enables more players to utilise available field space. Half field, non-standard size fields are also valuable for casual active recreation.

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.

Note: While tennis is a high participation sport in the Eastern City District, tennis participation has decreased over the past decades.

Increasing the capacity of existing fields

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 (e.g. light spill or noise impacting on neighbours may mean that a field cannot be used at night), irrigation and drainage, 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 a trend towards synthetic fields, and these should be considered in light of increased heat and potential increased injury risk. Further discussion on synthetic fields is provided below.

Synthetic fields

The use of synthetic turf playing surfaces is becoming more widespread in Australia and internationally. Synthetic turf provides opportunity for year-round activity without the wear and tear that may occur on highly utilised natural turf. Other benefits of synthetic turf include that it requires less water for maintenance and reduces the need for potentially harmful pesticides and fertilisers while decreasing maintenance costs. Potential downsides to installing synthetic fields include that synthetic surfaces can be up to 40% hotter than a natural field, although this can also be affected by other environmental considerations such as wind and humidity. Council should consider cost/benefits of synthetic fields to inform future provision and prioritisation on a case by case basis.

Smarter configuration

Sports fields are generally provided at a city-wide level, for example across one LGA rather than a group of suburbs. Best practice is to provide sports fields in a double field format (e.g. 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.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

MULTIPURPOSE SYNTHETIC FIELDS: MOLONG MULTIPURPOSE FIELD, MOLONG

The new synthetic field in Molong in regional NSW provides benefits including increased flexibility of use for multiple types of sports as well as year-round and all-weather use.

The Federal Government contributed \$225,000 towards the upgrade, which includes four tennis courts, two netball courts, one full-sized hockey field and one full-sized soccer field on a synthetic surface.



Molong multipurpose synthetic grass field.
Source: Grassports.com.au



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

SHARED USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Schools are a valuable asset that provide the opportunity for shared and accessible use of open space and recreation facilities to schools and the community.

Rosemeadow Public School, Rosemeadow, NSW

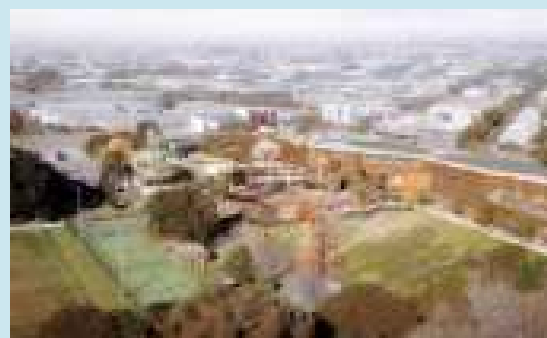
Rosemeadow Public School is very proactive in sharing its facilities with the community. The School has offered a range of facilities for shared use, including the school hall, an outside school hours care (OSHC) facility, canteen, offices, as well as the school gym to run community fitness sessions. Private, not-for-profit, religious groups and individuals use the facilities.

In 2016, the Rosemeadow Public School collected around \$80,000 from the shared use of school facilities, although this figure does not account for costs involved in arranging and managing the shared use agreements.

Alexandria Park Community School and new Inner Sydney High School, Sydney, NSW

Under a joint-use agreement negotiated between the NSW Government and the City of Sydney, Alexandria Park Community School and Inner Sydney High School will share the community indoor and outdoor sports fields. High school students will gain exclusive access to part of Prince Alfred Park between 10am and 2pm on school days, and a road in Alexandria will be closed to build a new synthetic sports field that will be shared by the local school and community.

The community will be permitted to use the school play area outside of the designated hours during school weeks, and will also be able to hire out the school's multipurpose indoor sports facility and performance spaces outside school hours through the Department of Education.



Shared community area between two schools.
Source: NSW Department of Education

5

Key needs

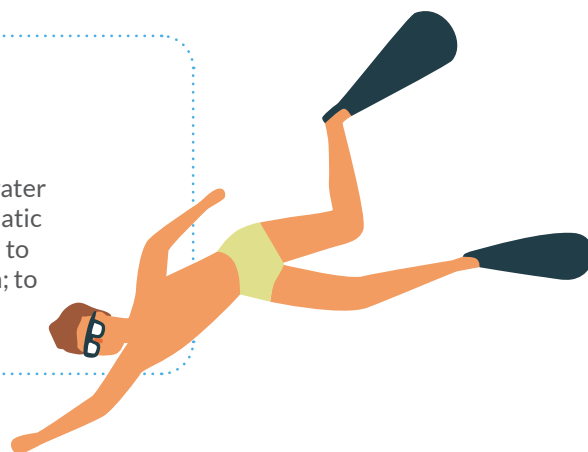
Table 24 - Identified needs for sportsfields

Needs	Indicators
Optimise existing layouts to increase the provision of sportsfields where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to maintain the current provision rate of Council owned full-sized sportsfields to 2031, an additional 5 sportsfields would be required. However, while sportsfield layout optimisation is best practice, Randwick City residents already have good access to sportsfields, including 13 non-Council fields at Centennial Park.
Improve sportsfield playing surfaces to increase the capacity and playing quality to address demand and under provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall, according to 2017 audit, playing surfaces are of a very high standard for council sports field areas. - Expressed need (community survey, sports and recreation survey) to improve playing surface, drainage and maintenance of fields to increase capacity, including at Snape Park (Upper), Coral Sea Park, and Heffron Park.
Improve sportsfield amenities including toilets, change rooms and storage facilities and a need for female-friendly facilities to increase participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed need (Interviews with sporting peak bodies, sports and recreation survey) for increased provision of female-friendly facilities and change rooms. - Expressed need for upgrade and maintenance of amenities including at Coogee Oval, Burrows Park, Coral Sea Park, Snape Park, and Heffron Park. - Expressed need for increased access to storage at Heffron Park, Coogee Oval, Snape Park, and Kensington Park.
Improve lighting of fields for use at night to enhance the use and capacity - more people can use it for longer periods of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed need for improved lighting to enable use at night, including at Snape Park (including lighting of path between the two fields) and Paine Reserve. - Expressed need for additional hours for training at night at Latham Park and Chifley Sports Reserve.
Increase shade, seating, toilets and bubblers in proximity to sportsfields to support the comfort of players and spectators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed need for increased shaded seating at Snape Park. - Expressed need for additional bubblers /water bottle refill stations close to playing fields at Coral Sea Park and Heffron Park.

6.3 Aquatic facilities

What are aquatic facilities?

Public aquatic facilities include swimming pools, spa pools and interactive water features. They can be indoor or outdoor, in public or private ownership. Aquatic facilities play many roles: from learn to swim classes for adults and children; to gentle exercise for older people, people with disability and pregnant women; to social recreation on hot days; to more intense exercise and lap swimming.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 25 there is a total of two aquatic facilities in Randwick City.

Randwick City Council owns and manages one aquatic facility, the Des Renford Leisure Centre (DRLC) located at Heffron Park. One other aquatic facility is owned/managed by UNSW/YMCA.

It is noted that Randwick City residents also have access to ample recreational swimming opportunities at 10 beaches and 8 ocean pools.

Distribution

Figure 36 shows the distribution of aquatic leisure centres within Randwick City. It shows that the Council owned aquatic centre is located in the centre of the LGA clustered with other sporting and recreation facilities at Heffron Park.

Provision in neighbouring local government areas

As shown in Figure 36, the following aquatic facilities are located within close proximity to Randwick City, in neighbouring local government areas:

- Future Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre providing a 50m outdoor pool, 25m indoor program pool, indoor leisure pool and heated hydrotherapy pool, City of Sydney, within 500m walking distance of Randwick border (under construction due to open in 2021), and
- Botany Aquatic Centre, Bayside Council providing 50m outdoor pool, 22m indoor program pool, within 3km of the Randwick City border in Botany.

There are no aquatic facilities available in Waverley or Woollahra local government areas.

Table 25 - Aquatic facilities in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of facility	# of pools	Description	Ownership/Management
RANDWICK	YMCA - UNSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre	1	50m indoor heated pool	University of New South Wales
MAROUBRA	Des Renford Leisure Centre	5	50 metre outdoor heated pool, 25 metre indoor competition pool, 25 metre indoor program pool, 1 enclosed outdoor dome pool, outdoor toddler pool (seasonal)	Randwick City Council

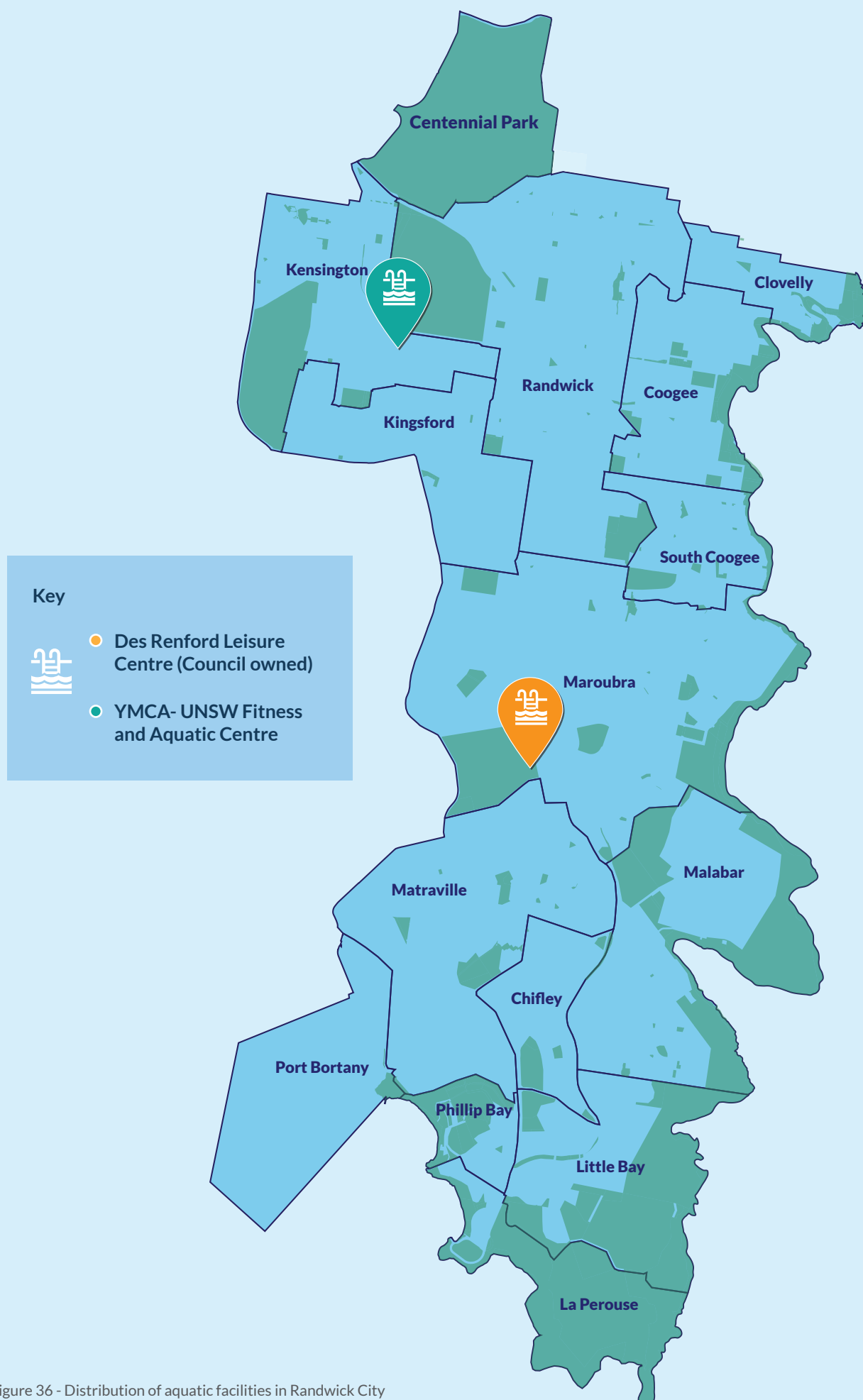
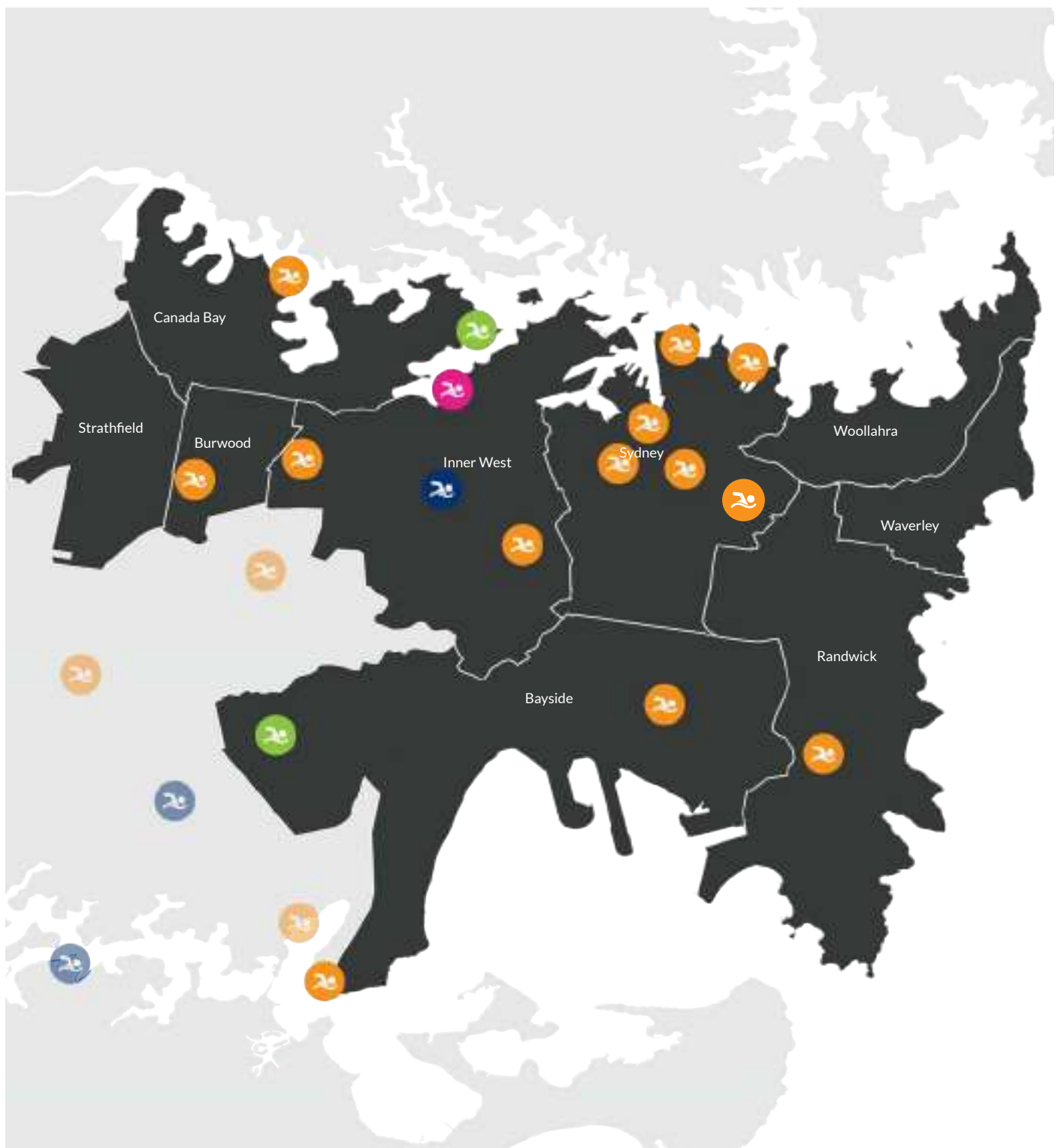


Figure 36 - Distribution of aquatic facilities in Randwick City







-  Aquatic/ Leisure Centre with 50m pool
-  Aquatic/ Leisure Centre with 50m pool & water polo facilities
-  Aquatic/ Leisure Centre with 50m pool, water polo & diving facilities
-  Aquatic/ Leisure Centre

Figure 37 - Public aquatic facilities in the Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)

2

Utilisation

Des Renford Leisure Centre utilisation

Opening hours

DRLC swimming pools are open to the public as follows:

- Monday to Thursday, 6am to 9pm
- Friday, 6am to 8pm
- Saturday & Sunday, 7am to 6pm.

Visitation

As shown in Table 26, the number of annual visitors to the DRLC has increased significantly by 257,708 or 35% between 2013/14 and 2018/19.

Table 26 - Des Renford Leisure Centre visitation

Financial year	Total number of visitors (including learn to swim)	Increase since previous year	
		#	%
2013/14	730,092		
2014/15	852,091	+121,999,	17%
2015/16	906,228	+54,137	6%
2016/17	929,770	+23,542	3%
2017/18	985,640	+55,870	6%
2018/19	987,800	+2,160	0.2%
Total		+257,708	+35%

Bookings 2018/19

Analysis of DRLC booking data for 2018/2019 shows that the Competition pool, the Olympic Pool, the Training Pool and the Wading Pool were booked for a total of 4,177 hours, with the busiest months being November (827 hours), October (670 hours) and December (570 hours).

The Competition Pool saw the most bookings with 1,523 hours, followed by the Olympic Pool (1,234 hours), the Training Pool (1,213 hours) and the Wading Pool (75 hours).

In addition, there were 228 hours of birthday parties booked.

Learn to swim enrolments

As shown in Table 27 below, the annual number of learn to swim enrolments fluctuated between 2014 and 2020, with an increase between 2014 and 2017 and a decline in 2018 and 2019. Note that 2020 enrolments were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the DRLC.

Table 27 - Des Renford Leisure Centre learn to swim enrolments

Term	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Term 1	4,163	4,700	4,826	5,080	4,925	4,702	4,428
Term 2	4,015	4,611	4,594	4,775	4,678	4,500	1,667
Term 3	4,303	4,474	4,327	4,577	4,461	4,011	2,960
Term 4	4,602	4,601	4,820	4,910	4,811	4,584	3,779
Annual total	17,083	18,386	18,567	19,342	18,875	17,797	12,834

3

What are the community needs for aquatic facilities?

Recreation trends

Swimming is one of the most popular recreation activities in Randwick City, with Ausplay survey findings (2017-18) indicating swimming was the third most popular activity. The community survey conducted to inform this Needs Study found that 42% of respondents had visited an aquatic facility in the six months prior to taking the survey.

Demographic needs

While overall the Randwick City area is characterised by a higher socio-economic profile, there are also pockets of disadvantage and suburbs with a higher proportion of low income households (including South Coogee, Kingsford, Malabar and Kensington). Ensuring affordability of aquatic facilities will enable equitable access for all residents.

Randwick City has areas with a higher proportion of people from culturally diverse backgrounds, including in Kensington and Kingsford suburbs, including international students attending UNSW. There may be greater demand for learn to swim programs for adults, particularly in the north of the LGA.

While overall Randwick City has a lower average rate of people reporting need for assistance in their day-to-day life due to disability than Greater Sydney, six out of 14 suburbs have a higher proportion of people with a disability. Aquatic activities are often a great way for people with both physical and attitudinal barriers to engage in sport and recreation, providing experiences and opportunities that other sporting activities do not including:

- Relaxing in a stress-free, weightless environment
- Exploring and experiencing new and different movement
- Developing confidence, and
- Meeting and interacting with others in a non-threatening environment.

There are currently two not for profit organisations running disability programs for children at DRLC, including the Rainbow Club and Special Olympics. The DRLC includes wheelchair accessible ramps and bathrooms.

Community engagement (expressed needs)

Overall, survey respondents were satisfied with the provision of aquatic facilities, with 52% rating them as high or very high quality. 42% of survey respondents had visited an aquatic facility in the six months prior to taking the survey.

Community engagement findings indicated an expressed need for the following at the DRLC:

- Additional water play facilities
- Upgrades and maintenance of change rooms
- Increased parking
- Upgraded facilities, including additional pools
- Improved public transport access, and
- Increased shade cover and seating.

Through open-ended comments, some survey respondents indicated they would like to see additional indoor and outdoor swimming pools in Randwick City, indicating that the DRLC is already at capacity.



Swimming is one of the most popular recreation activities in Randwick City.

52%

of survey respondents rated Randwick City's aquatic facility as high or very high quality.

42%

of survey respondents had visited an aquatic facility in the six months prior to taking the survey.

Benchmarking needs

Benchmarks from the Growth Centres Commission are detailed below:

- Aquatic centre: 1:30,000-60,000 people
- 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).

Applying these benchmarks, based on current provision of one Council owned aquatic facility, there is a current gap (2016) of 1.5 and a forecast gap (2031) of 1.8 aquatic centres, as well as demand for 3.7 additional local indoor program pools.

While the availability of beaches and ocean pools is a great strength for the Randwick City community and may help to meet local demand for recreation-focussed swimming, the provision of aquatic facilities is important as ocean (pool) swimming can not provide for a range of activities such as competition, training, learn to swim and other programs including disability or special needs programs and may be less suitable in cold winter months.

Table 28 - Swimming pool provision and needs in Randwick City

Category	Benchmark	Current provision	2016 (Current)		2026		2031		2041	
			NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP
Aquatic centre	1:30,000-60,000	1	2.5	1.5	2.7	1.7	2.8	1.8	3	2.0
*Regional 50m competition pool	1: 150,000	1	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	1.1	0.1	1	0.2
*District 25m/50m outdoor recreation pool	1:75,000	1	2.0	1.0	2.2	1.2	2.3	1.3	2	1.4
Local 25m indoor program pool	1:30,000	2	5.0	3.0	5.5	3.5	5.7	3.7	6	4.0

*Note: DRLC 50m pool has been double-counted as both a regional competition pool and an outdoor recreation pool

There is a need for increased waterplay to support recreation for children and families.



With increasing high density living and smaller backyards, higher temperatures, and an ageing and increasingly 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.

There are three current market focus trends for aquatic facilities including the recreation and leisure market; competitive, training and fitness market and health and therapy markets.

- Aquatic facilities that can adapt for family fun through the inclusion of slides and water spouts are very popular with children/families. This is also indicated by the high demand for such activities at the Des Renford Leisure Centre
- Aquatic facilities are typically co-located with dry facilities such as gyms, exercise rooms, court spaces
- There is an increased demand for hydro-therapy/ warm water pools from older residents, people with a disability, people with need for rehabilitation. In Randwick City, there is a hydro-therapy pool at Prince of Wales Hospital however this is accessible by referral only.
- There will be a continued demand for program related pools that meet health, relation, exercise, learn to swim and other activities.
- High quality wet and dry lounge areas that encourage people to sit down and relax – for outdoor pools includes tables seats and umbrellas to allow people to stay close to water in comfort.
- The current trend is to provide specialist pools for learn to swim, child water safety, rehabilitation, schools programs, squads, and unstructured family activities rather than standardised provision of 50/25m pools which are only suited to competition.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

PRINCE ALFRED PARK POOL, City of Sydney, NSW



Located at the edge of central Sydney, the redevelopment of the Prince Alfred Park Pool project was part of the plan to reinvigorate the underutilised Prince Alfred Park (7.5ha).

The redevelopment of the public pool included a focus on environmental sustainability and the interface between the pool, the park and the street. The design preferences the landscape over the built form, including a rolling green roof that activates the surrounds rather than merely producing a building within a park.

One of the pools most successful features has been the sloping grandstand and grassy area which is popular for sitting, relaxing, sunbathing and social interaction.

The pool offers four lanes for public swimming at all times, as well as special access features for people with a disability.

Size

1,000m²

Cost

It was part of the \$9 million renovations for Prince Alfred Park

Facilities

- 50m, 9-lane heated pool
- Grandstand
- Toddlers splash deck
- Access ramp into the pool
- Cafe, and
- A swim shop.

5

Key needs

Based on the current provision of one Council owned aquatic facility (Des Renford Leisure Centre), an additional aquatic facility at UNSW and provision in close proximity within neighbouring City of Sydney and Bayside LGAs, as well as beach and ocean pool access, this study finds there is sufficient provision of aquatic centres in Randwick City, however there may be a need for additional indoor program pools to cater for forecast increased Randwick City population to 2031. There are also opportunities to improve the existing aquatic facilities, including through improved maintenance, amenity, and access via public and active transport.

Table 29 - Identified need for aquatic facilities

Needs	Indicators
Improve amenity around outdoor pools at DRLC to enable people to stay longer.	– Expressed need for increased shade and seating around pools at DRLC to enable people to stay longer (community survey).
Improve access to DRLC via improved public and active transport connections.	– Expressed need (community survey) for improved public transport access to DRLC.
Increase waterplay to support recreation for children and families.	– Expressed need for additional waterplay areas at DRLC (community survey) with expressed opportunities along the coastline in proximity to existing beaches and reserves.

6.5 Off-leash dog areas

What are off-leash dog areas?

Off-leash dog areas are either dedicated parks, or sections of parks where dogs are permitted to run off-leash. Dog parks can be fenced or unfenced.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 30, there are currently 14 off-leash dog areas in Randwick City (1 dog off-leash area to 11,000 residents). All off-leash dog areas are owned and managed by Council.

Distribution

As Figure 38 shows, the off-leash dog areas in Randwick City are distributed across the LGA, with a concentration of five off-leash areas in the Coogee suburb.

There are no dog off-leash areas in the Kensington and Kingsford where there is high forecast population growth and density, meaning residents of these suburbs currently have to drive to off-leash areas or may be accessing Paine Reserve in Randwick suburb. There is also no dog off-leash area in South Coogee.

2

Utilisation

There is currently no quantitative data available about the utilisation of Randwick City dog off-leash areas.

Table 30 - Overview of off-leash areas in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of park
CLOVELLY	Burrows Park
COOGEE	Baker Park
	Bardon Park
	Bangor Park
	Blenheim Park
	Trennery Reserve
LITTLE BAY	Woomera Reserve
MALABAR	Ella Reserve
MAROUBRA	Broadarrow Reserve
	Coral Sea Park
	Heffron Park
	Nagle Park
MALABAR	Pioneer Park
RANDWICK	Paine Reserve
Total:	14 dog off-leash areas

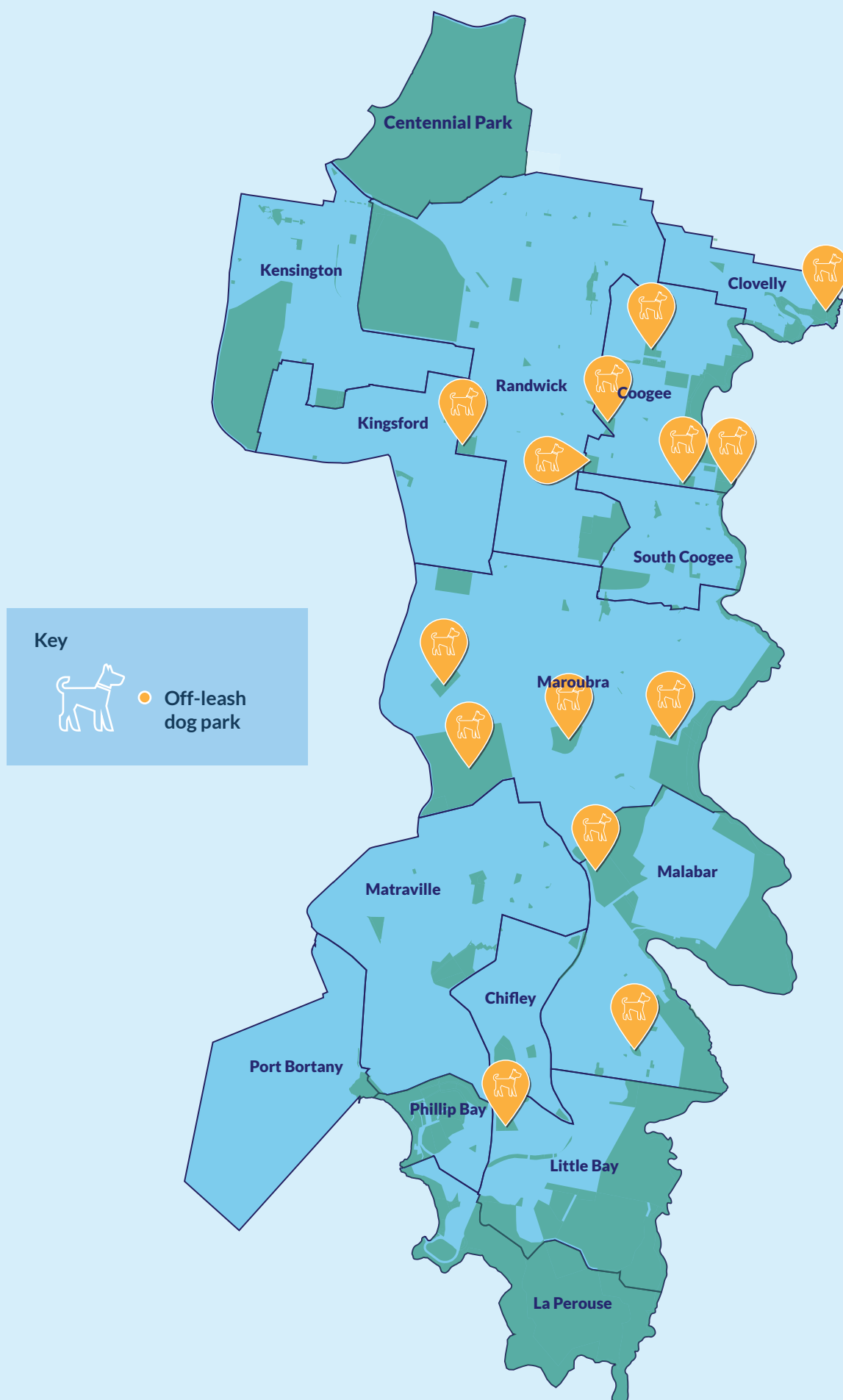


Figure 38 - Distribution of dog off-leash areas in Randwick City



40%

of Australian households own a dog, making them the most popular pet in Australia.

31%

of survey respondents indicated they had participated in 'walking the dog' in the six months prior to taking the survey.

2

additional off-leash areas needed by 2031.

3

What are the community needs for off-leash dog areas?

Demographic needs and recreation trends

Around 40% of Australian households own a dog, making them the most popular pet in Australia (Animal Medicines Australia, National Survey of Pets and People, 2019). Applying this to Randwick City's 54,160 households (2016 census) would suggest there may be 21,664 dogs living here.

Canine companions play an important role in our lives by providing companionships and supporting physical and mental health, including reducing the effects of stress. As the Randwick City population continues to grow, it's important that areas with high density, that don't provide a place for dogs to exercise freely in a backyard setting, have a public place to exercise.

Ensuring there is a dog park within walking distance of a larger proportion of homes is likely to result in increased number of people walking with their dogs, to also get their dogs to a place they can exercise.

Community engagement (expressed needs)

Community engagement participants spoke about dogs in open spaces, with many respondents indicating a need for increased fenced off-leash dog areas, as well as increased amenity of existing areas with shade, seating and bubblers. There is also an indication from the community to allow access to beaches for dogs.

However, there are also conflicts between dogs and other users of parks and recreation facilities, with non-dog owners highlighting a need for increase education of dog owner responsibilities and increased cleaning of dog feces. Council staff has also indicated that there are some conflicts in the community about use of sporting fields by dogs, impacting on cleanliness and capacity of fields.

Benchmarking needs

The New South Wales Companion Animals Act (1998) requires local government to have at least one dog off-leash area, however there are no industry best practice benchmarks for the provision of dog parks.

Therefore, a benchmark of maintaining the current provision of dog off-leash areas into the future has been used (1 dog off-leash area to 11,000 residents). We have also applied a benchmark of 1 per suburb with greater than 25% of housing type as high density (e.g. higher than the average across Greater Sydney).

As shown in Table 31, applying a benchmark of 1 dog off-leash area per 11,000 persons to maintain the current provision rate across the LGA, there would be a gap of at least 1 dog off-leash areas by 2031 across the LGA.

However, dog parks aren't distributed evenly across the LGA. When benchmarking by SA2 area, there is a current undersupply of off-leash dog areas across Randwick, Kingsford and Kensington.

As shown in Table 32, applying a benchmark of 1 dog off-leash area per suburb with greater than 25% high density housing (the Greater Sydney average), there are currently no dog parks in Kensington and Kingsford, already high density areas with significant forecast growth. With very limited opportunities to deliver new open space or off-leash areas in these suburbs, there will be a need to improve walking access to existing spaces and may be opportunity to advocate for the provision of communal off-leash areas within new developments.

There is also no off-leash dog area in South Coogee, however it is noted that neighbouring suburb Coogee has 5 off-leash dog areas that South Coogee residents may access.

It is also noted that there is high provision of off-leash dog areas in the Coogee suburb, however it is likely that residents of neighbouring suburbs are also accessing these spaces. Council staff has indicated that there is an existing issue with commercial dog walkers utilising off-leash spaces which is placing increased pressure on these spaces.

There may also be regional use of Randwick City areas by people from outside the LGA, particularly of waterfront spaces at Clovelly, Coogee, and Maroubra.

Table 31 - Population-based benchmarked need for off-leash dog areas (1:11,000 residents)

SA2 area	# off-leash areas	2016 Needs	2016 Gaps	2026 Needs	2026 Gaps	2031 Needs	2031 Gaps	2041 Needs	2041 Gaps
COOGEE-CLOVELLY	6	2.5	-3.5	2.7	-3.3	2.7	-3.3	2.8	-3.2
KENSINGTON	0	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0
KINGSFORD	0	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
LA PEROUSE-MALABAR-CHIFLEY	3	2.3	-0.7	2.5	-0.5	2.5	-0.5	2.6	-0.4
MAROUBRA	4	3.0	-1.0	3.2	-0.8	3.3	-0.7	3.5	-0.5
RANDWICK	1	2.9	1.9	3.3	2.3	3.4	2.4	3.5	2.5
Total	14	13.5	-0.5	14.9	0.9	15.5	1.5	16.3	2.3

Table 32 - Benchmarked need for at least one off-leash dog areas in suburbs with greater than 25% high density dwellings

SUBURB	% HIGH DENSITY DWELLINGS	CURRENT OFF LEASH AREAS	GAP IN OFF-LEASH AREAS
KENSINGTON	66%	0	1
COOGEE	62%	5	None
RANDWICK	57%	1	None
KINGSFORD	45%	0	1
LITTLE BAY	41%	1	None
MAROUBRA	39%	4	None
SOUTH COOGEE	35%	0	1
CLOVELLY	31%	1	None.
MALABAR	20%	2	None

Note: Northern Kensington is within walking distance to Centennial Park which is a large dog off-leash area. Northern Randwick is also within close proximity to Centennial Park dog off-leash area and Queens Park (in Waverley LGA) which is also dog off-leash. South Coogee has good access to dog off-leash parks in Coogee, including within walking distance at Trenerry Reserve. Residents of Kensington are likely accessing the off-leash area at Paine Reserve and Centennial Park, and population growth will see increased pressure on this off-leash space.

Benchmarking indicates a potential need for off-leash dog areas in Randwick, Kensington and Kingsford.



4

What is current best practice?

Good design and management of dog off-leash areas can play an important role in managing the interactions between dogs and other users. Features of good off-leash dog areas include: prominent signage, bins, bags, seating, shade, and drinking fountains.

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 high density areas, multipurpose spaces are particularly important and fenced off-leash dog parks should be reconsidered.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY COMMUNAL DOG OFF-LEASH SPACES WITHIN HIGH DENSITY DEVELOPMENTS

In high density area with limited open space, there is opportunity to advocate for the provision of communal dog off-leash areas within new developments.

The Nic on Fifth, Minneapolis

Nic of Fifth in Minneapolis is a residential apartment building with extensive community spaces, including an outdoor dog run (picture below).



Dog at the rooftop dog run
Source: opus-group.com



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS WITH AMENITY FOR OWNERS

Dog parks offer an opportunity to socialise and exercise in open spaces for pets and their owners.

Cafe Bones, Leichhardt, NSW

Cafe Bones is a dog-friendly cafe located within the suburb of Leichhardt, in Sydney's Inner West. Located along Hawthorne Canal Reserve, an off-leash and exercise area for dogs, Cafe Bones is a vibrant meeting place for people and dogs, a place to exercise, relax, and enjoy a coffee or Puppacino™.



Visitors at Cafe Bones.
Source: flickr.com



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS IN UNDERUTILISED OPEN SPACES

Bede Spillane Reserve, Croydon, Inner West

Bede Spillane Reserve is a fully fenced off leash dog park on busy Croydon Road near the Wests Sports car park is available for leash-free dog exercise any time of the day. Utilises unused park on corner of two busy roads and has double gates on both entrances, dog drinking fountain, seating and dog poo bins at both entrances.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY DOG PARKS IN THE CITY OF SYDNEY

City of Sydney welcomes dogs in more than 400 of its open spaces, and manages 45 dog off-leash areas. At all of these locations, off-leash areas are clearly signposted and dog litter bag dispensers are provided so owners can clean up after their pets.

5

Key needs

Table 33 - Identified needs for dog off-leash areas

Need	Indicators
Deliver 2 additional dog-off leash areas to 2031 to maintain current provision level across the LGA, and address community demand, with highest need in Randwick, Kensington, Kingsford, and South Coogee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Randwick City currently has 1 dog off-leash area per 11,000 population. Applying a benchmark of maintaining the current provision rate of dog off-leash areas into the future indicates a forecast need for at least 2 additional dog off-leash areas by 2031 across the LGA, with highest need in Randwick, Kensington and Kingsford SA2 areas. - Applying a benchmark of one dog off-leash area per suburb with greater than 25% high density dwellings, indicates a need for additional dog off-leash areas in Kensington, Kingsford and South Coogee suburbs. - Expressed need for additional dog off-leash areas and beach access for dogs (community survey, interactive map).
Increase amenity of existing dog off-leash areas to improve the management of dogs in public spaces and comfort for people to connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed need (community survey, interactive map, pop-ups) for more dog off-leash areas that are fenced, with increased shade, seating, dog bags, bins and maintenance.
To address identified conflict between dogs and other open space users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is some conflict between dogs and other open space users, including on sporting fields and in proximity to playgrounds, with expressed need (community survey) for increased regulation of dogs including fines for owners who do not leash or clean up after their dogs. - Interview with National Parks and Wildlife Service identified that particularly along the Coastal Walk, there are some issues with dogs illegally off-leash. It is noted that dog off-leash is prohibited in all National Parks including along the coastal walk sections that pass through the National Parks.

At least 2 additional dog off-leash areas required by 2031 to maintain current provision rate across Randwick City



6.6 Playspaces

What are play spaces?

As outlined in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's guidelines 'Everyone Can Play,' a playspace is defined as a place within a park that has playground equipment and is immediately adjacent to supporting amenities, such as toilets, car parking, bike paths, picnic facilities, and open space or landscape areas.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 34, there are currently 58 play spaces in Randwick City, of which seven are district level play spaces. These play spaces vary in quality, size and equipment offered. Some are targeted to babies and small children, while others offer more challenging experiences for a wider age range.

In addition, there are non-Council-managed playgrounds within Centennial Park, including the Ian Potter Wildplay playground and the Learner's Cycleway Playground, and there is also a publicly-accessible playground within the private Raleigh Park Estate that is maintained by the Raleigh Park Community Association.

Distribution

As Figure 39 shows, play spaces are fairly well distributed across Randwick City.

2

Utilisation

There is no current data on the utilisation of play spaces across Randwick City.



Flying fox at Chifley Reserve Inclusive Playground

Randwick City Council currently does not have an existing hierarchy for play spaces. This hierarchy has been determined based on a qualitative assessment adapted from the NSW Government Everyone Can Play guidelines. A district level playground is defined as being easily accessible by car or public transport, highly utilised and destinational, drawing people from a larger catchment than the surrounding area. It provides a play experience and accessible multi-user equipment for a variety of age groups, co-located with district sporting and recreation spaces.

Table 34 - Overview of Council-managed play spaces in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of park / playground	Hierarchy*
CHIFLEY	Chifley Reserve Inclusive Playground	District
	Dr Walters Park	Local
CLOVELLY	Burnie Reserve	Local
	Bundock Park	Local
COOGEE	Alby Smith Memorial Playground	Local
	Baker Park	Local
	Bangor Park	District
	Blenheim Park	Local
	Coogee Oval Playground	Local
	Stan Windon Memorial Playground at Grant Reserve	District
KENSINGTON	Fitzpatrick Park	Local
	Ingram Street Reserve	Local
	Kensington Park	Local
	Kokoda Memorial Park	Local
	Les Bridges Playground	Local
	Wills Playground	Local
KINGSFORD	Shaw Reserve	Local
LA PEROUSE	Frenchman's Bay Reserve	Local
LITTLE BAY	Pine Avenue Park	Local
	Woomera Reserve	Local
MALABAR	Boulevard Reserve	Local
	Cromwell Park South	District
	Ella Reserve	Local
	Gabee Place Reserve	Local
	Rubie Reserve	Local
MAROUBRA	Arthur Byrne Reserve	District
	Central Park (Walter Williamson Park)	Local
	Coral Sea Park	Local
	Heffron Park Playground	Local
	Heffron Park Pedal Park	District
	Hereward Reserve	Local

Table 34 - Overview of Council-managed play spaces in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of park / playground	Hierarchy*
MAROUBRA	Murraburra Park	Local
	Nagle Park	Local
	Ocean View Reserve	Local
	Quarry Reserve	Local
	South Maroubra Village Green 1	Local
	Snape Park	Local
MATRAVILLE	Baird Avenue Reserve	Local
	Barwon Park	Local
	Blaxland Reserve	Local
	Finucane Reserve	Local
	Hurley Reserve	Local
	Purcel Park	Local
	Rabaul Reserve	Local
	Wassell Street Reserve	Local
PHILLIP BAY	Fred Williams Reserve	Local
RANDWICK	Alison Park	Local
	Bieler Reserve Playground	Local
	Frank Doyle Park	Local
	Govett Reserve	Local
	Paine Reserve	Local
	Randwick Peace Park	Local
	Writtle Park	Local
	Inglis Park	District
SOUTH COOGEE	Munda Street Reserve (Randwick Community Centre)	Local
	Gollan Park	Local
	Jacaranda Playground	Local
	Popplewell Park	Local
Total play spaces:		58

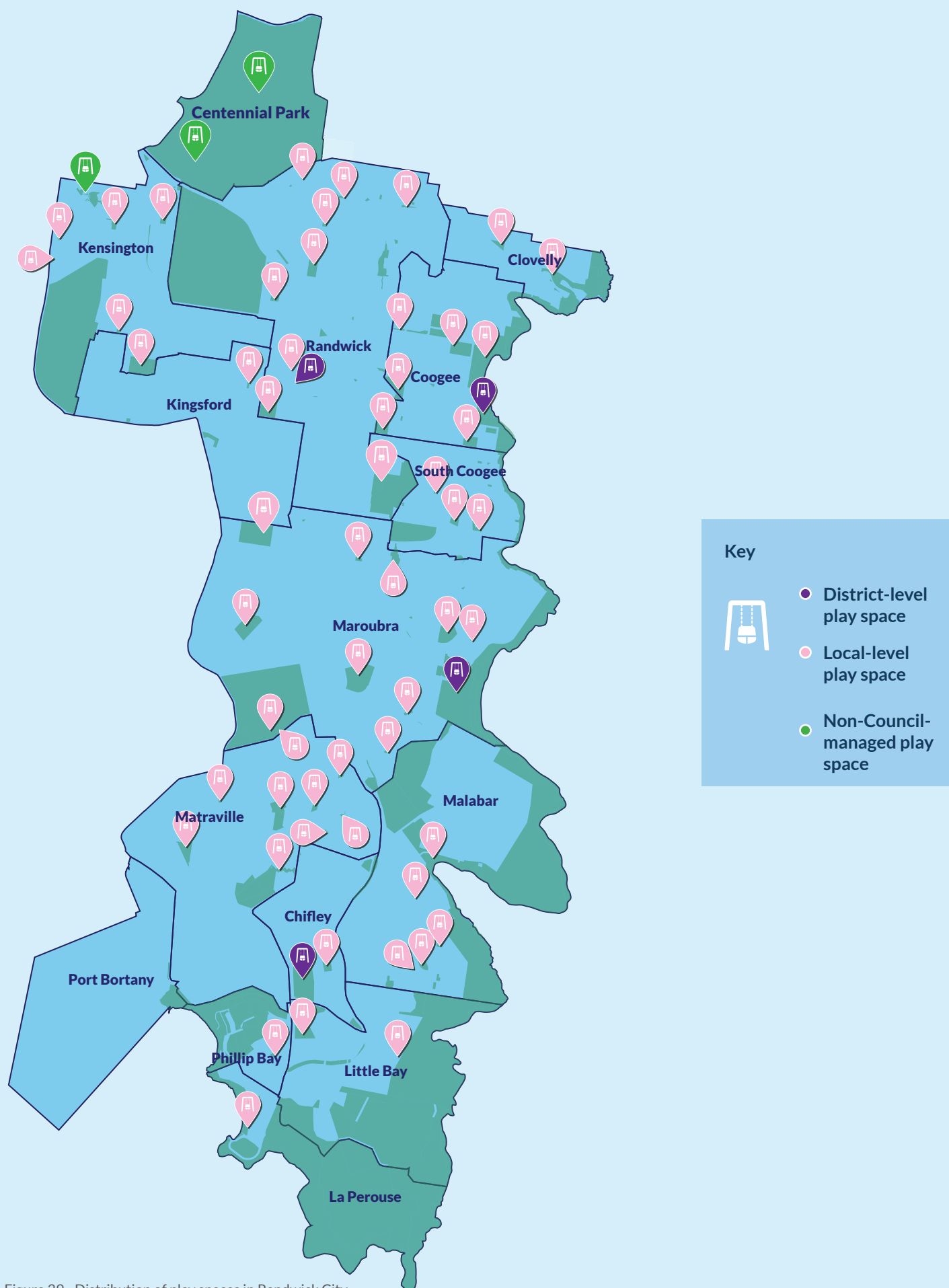


Figure 39 - Distribution of play spaces in Randwick City



79%

of survey respondents said playgrounds are important or very important.

43%

of survey respondents were satisfied with the provision of play spaces, rating them as high or very high quality.

Benchmarking indicates a significant gap of play spaces in Randwick City with a potential need for

27

additional play spaces by 2031.

3

What are the community needs for play spaces?

Demographic needs

Local play spaces are important for the Randwick City community. Not only do they bring enjoyment and fun, they also positively promote a child's social, emotional, intellectual and physical development and provide a free public space for families to gather and play.

Overall, Randwick City has a lower proportion of children aged 0-11 years (12.4%) compared to Greater Sydney (15.2%). However, this average is lower due to the very low proportion in Kingsford and Kensington suburbs, with three northern suburbs in Randwick City having a higher proportion of 0-11 year olds compared to Greater Sydney, including Clovelly (17%), South Coogee (17%) and Chifley (15%).

The DPIE guidelines 'Everyone Can Play' highlights that "playspaces exist at the heart of our neighborhoods and should cater for everyone – young and old, families and carers, and people of all abilities."

The provision of play spaces that are suitable for a range of ages as well as for those in need of assistance due to disability or people who may have mobility, sensory, sight or hearing issues is a priority to ensure equitable access.

Community engagement (expressed demand)

Overall, 79% of survey respondents said playgrounds and play spaces are important or very important, as well as play for babies and young children (74%).

43% of survey respondents were satisfied with the provision of play spaces, rating them as high or very high quality.

Community engagement findings indicated an expressed need for:

- Diversified and creative play spaces, particularly nature and adventure play
- More inclusive play for all ages and abilities, particularly children and young people
- Upgrades and maintenance of playground equipment
- Increased trees and shade cover, and
- Increased amenity near play spaces including seating, toilets, and bubbler and water stations.

Benchmarking needs

Parks and Leisure Australia recommends a benchmark of 1 play space for every 2,000 people, with all residents within 400m of a play space. The Greater Sydney Commission recommends that residents in high density within 200m of a play space.

Table 35 applies this benchmark to Randwick City, it shows that based on the 2016 population there is a current undersupply of 16.5 play spaces, with the highest need in Randwick SA2 (need for 7 play spaces) and Kingsford SA2 (need for 7 play spaces). The only SA2 with current and forecast sufficient provision is La Perouse - Malabar - Chifley.

With regards to Kingsford, it is noted that this area has a much lower proportion of children aged 0-11 years (9.3%) compared to Randwick City (12.4%) and Greater Sydney (15.2%) indicating need may not be as high here although still required. As this is a high density area with significant forecast population growth, access to play spaces outside the home will be important for children living in apartments.

Table 35 - Benchmarking Council-managed play spaces within Randwick City (1:2,000)

SA2	Current provision	2016 pop. 148,922		2026 pop. 164,003		2031 pop. 170,541		2041 pop. 179,423	
		NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP
COOGEE-CLOVELLY	11	13.6	2.6	14.6	3.6	15.0	4.0	15.6	4.6
KENSINGTON	6	7.9	1.9	9.2	3.2	9.9	3.9	10.9	4.9
KINGSFORD	1	8.2	7.2	8.9	7.9	9.3	8.3	9.8	8.8
LA PEROUSE- MALABAR-CHIFLEY	19	12.5	-6.5	13.5	-5.5	14.0	-5.0	14.6	-4.4
MAROUBRA	12	16.3	4.3	17.8	5.8	18.4	6.4	19.3	7.3
RANDWICK	9	15.9	6.9	17.9	8.9	18.6	9.6	19.5	10.5
TOTAL RANDWICK CITY	58	74.5	16.5	82.0	24.0	85.3	27.3	89.7	31.7

Note that this benchmarking reflects Council-managed play spaces within Randwick City only, and does not include non-Council-managed play spaces at Centennial Parklands or Raleigh Park playground.



Inglis Park Playground in Randwick Source: rydedistrictmums.com.au

4

What is current best practice?

Best practice in the provision of play spaces 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. The provision of play is rapidly expanding beyond the notion of traditional, fixed play equipment in a park. Considerations include:

The value of free play

Playgrounds should promote free play to build social skills, confidence, and self-esteem. As children's schedules fill up with activities, the free play opportunities provided by playgrounds become more important.

Nature

Playground design is increasingly integrating play equipment and the living landscape that stimulate contact with nature. Designing nature back into children's lives not only benefits children's play but also creates a richer play experience for all users.

In addition to physical activities like running, jumping, climbing and swinging, playgrounds should promote fantasy and dramatic play, as research suggests that the latter types of play improve children's cognitive development, peer relationships and emotional well-being. Encouraging exploratory play allows children to navigate and manage risks and which encourages independent mobility, particularly as children get older.

Support amenities

The provision of accessible toilets, seating, shade, bubblers provide a comfortable environment both for children and carers to stay and enjoy the facilities.

The street as a play space

There is a growing trend to integrate children's needs into the streetscape through play streets. Play trails incorporate play spaces into pathway networks providing opportunities for play along the way and encourage use by children and families. Examples might include small areas along a trail that encourage parents and kids to interact and learn about their environment from leaves and trees to spiders and ants. Playful public art can also be an example of public domain features that cater for children.

Inclusive play

Approaches to designing inclusive play spaces are changing. More than just installing a wheelchair accessible swing, or installing an accessible toilet, inclusive play strives to remove obstacles and barriers that prevent people of all ages, abilities (both physical and mental) and cultural backgrounds from being invited to play.

DPIE has recently released 'Everyone Can Play,' a best

practice toolkit for local government to use as a reference guide to ensure that anyone regardless of age, ability or cultural background can play. Applying universal design theory, the principles behind the toolkit are the three questions: 'Can I get there?', 'Can I play?', and 'Can I stay?'

The six design principles behind Everyone can Play are as follows:

- **1. Find:** Communicate the purpose and location of play elements, facilities and amenities - a play space needs to be legible regardless of ability, age or language spoken.
- **2. Fit:** Provide a range of play opportunities for people of all abilities and sizes - a universal approach would be to ensure where possible and appropriate, that play equipment is large enough for adults as well as children.
- **3. Choose:** Enable exciting individual experiences and social interaction by providing a variety of play options for a variety of levels.
- **4. Join in:** Create opportunities for everyone to connect - if there is only a small play piece is it engaging and accessible for all people?
- **5. Thrive:** Challenge and involve people of all capabilities - beyond play equipment are there imaginative and unique play opportunities such as different scents and textures through plants, sand or water? Are there different zones for different ages, levels and abilities?
- **6. Belong:** Create a place that is welcoming and comfortable - is the play space comfortable for family and carers to stay? Is there seating and shade to promote social interaction?

Applying these principles to the upgrade of strategic play spaces, and the design of new ones is particularly important in Randwick City, considering it has a significantly higher proportion of people reporting need for assistance due to disability than Greater Sydney.

A universal design approach would be to design play equipment to be large enough for both adults and children to ensure all ages can use them, or to either fence, or create clear barriers through landscaping in all parks to decrease the likelihood of children running into traffic. Randwick LGA also has a policy that all playgrounds are fenced. Additionally the use of sensory elements is important for people with all abilities, with one space set to include disability-accessible gardening activities in 2019.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

IAN POTTER WILD PLAY, Centennial Parklands, NSW



Child playing at Ian Potter Wild Play. Source: ASPECT Studios

WILD PLAY in Centennial Park is designed as a learning experience for kids of all abilities aged 2-12. It has tracks and trails winding through densely planted mounds of shrubs and trees, with existing fig trees and 50% native Australian species incorporated for seating and shade.

WILD PLAY lets kids adventure through an artesian water basin of creek beds and fountains, tunnel their way through thick bamboo, navigate a balancing course in the form of an 'eel', snaking its way around fig trees, or cross a swing bridge and test their mettle climbing a treehouse.

Anecdotally, we know that children's relationship to the outdoors has been steadily slipping since the dawn of the digital age. Parents and educators call it 'nature deficit disorder', and its effects are detrimental... the benefits of exposure to natural environments can't be underestimated.

"Unstructured play is essential for healthy development of children because in it, they 'explore', and are driven by their own interests and imagination. Through trial and error, children teach themselves how to navigate a pathway, take manageable risks and help others along the way. These formative opportunities are being lost for a variety of reasons – a lack of access to nature, fear of risk, and over-scheduling of children's free time." (Dunsford, 2017) .



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

PLAY STREETS PILOT PROJECT, Inner West Council, NSW



Visitors at the play street pilot project in the Inner West. Source: Inner West Council

The Play Streets Pilot Project is an action in the Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West. The aim of the program is for communities to be empowered to run self-managed play streets events in their neighbourhood with support and advice from Council.

Play Streets involves the temporary closure of a quiet local street to enable children (and adults) to use the street as an urban playground. The closure typically happens on a weekend, and on other occasions agreed by local residents (weekly/monthly etc). Suitable locations are on streets where the temporary closure has limited impact on local traffic, support of the residents, and on streets with limited access to nearby open space.

Each Play Street is unique based on its local residents and what they enjoy doing. Residents may play handball or ride their bikes on the streets, while others might create an artwork on the pavement with chalk. Others may simply use the opportunity to meet and socialise with neighbours.

In the lead up to each pilot Play Street, a volunteer(s) from the street will liaise with Council to ensure approval for the street closure is obtained, and that barriers closing the street are placed in accordance with the approved Traffic Management Plan during the event. This volunteer(s) will also liaise with other local residents in the lead up, and request cars to be parked in other areas (where practical) during the event in order to maximise space.

5 Key needs

Table 36 - Identified needs for play spaces

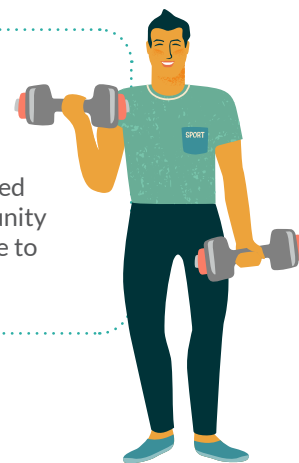
Needs	Indicators
To deliver new playspaces within future new open space areas in Kingsford that responds to a wide age group including children to students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kingsford is a high density growth area, with limited existing play spaces and access to play spaces. Play outside the home will be important for children and families living in apartments.
Increase the amenity of playspaces across Randwick City including well-maintained and increased shade, seating, water bubblers and toilets to enable families and children to stay longer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While benchmarking indicates up to 27 play spaces would be required by 2031, the area is well serviced, and Council's focus should be on improving existing assets. - Community engagement indicated a need for existing play spaces to be better maintained, including Coral Sea Park, Walter Williamson Park, Baird Reserve Playground, and Coast Hospital Memorial Park Playground. - Community engagement indicated a need for existing play spaces to be upgraded with increased shade, seating and water bubblers and toilets in proximity.
Increase diversity of playspaces, including more challenging and adventure-focussed play spaces, more destinational play spaces, for a range of ages and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone Can Play by DPIE indicates the importance of inclusive play. - There are no Council owned regional play spaces within Randwick City. - Community engagement indicated demand for play spaces for a range of ages, including babies and toddlers and older children and upgrades to Kokoda Memorial Park Playground, Coral Sea park Playground, Bundock Park Playground, Walter Williamson Park Playground, Coast Hospital Memorial Playground, and Baird Reserve Playground.



6.7 Outdoor fitness stations

What are outdoor fitness stations?

Outdoor fitness stations comprise of one or more pieces of fitness equipment, and are located in an outdoor environment, generally in a park setting, along walking paths or in other community activity points such as sporting precincts. Outdoor fitness stations are also free and accessible to the whole community.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 37, there are currently seven existing or planned outdoor fitness stations in Randwick City. All outdoor fitness stations are owned and managed by Council.

Table 37 - Overview of outdoor fitness stations in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of outdoor gym	Style
CHIFLEY	Chifley Outdoor Gym	Static
CLOVELLY	Clovelly Outdoor Gym	Static & Dynamic
COOGEE	Neptune Park Outdoor Gym	<i>Planned</i>
MALABAR	Cromwell Park Outdoor Gym	<i>Planned</i>
MAROUBRA	Maroubra Beach Outdoor Gym	Static & Dynamic
KENSINGTON	Kensington Outdoor Gym	Static & Dynamic
LA PEROUSE	Frenchman's Bay Outdoor Gym	Static & Dynamic

Distribution

As Figure 40 shows, the outdoor fitness stations in Randwick City are distributed across the LGA and mostly along the coast. Areas where there may be a gap include the centre of the LGA servicing Kingsford, Randwick, Coogee and South Coogee suburbs.

2

Utilisation

There is no current data on the utilisation of outdoor fitness stations across Randwick City.

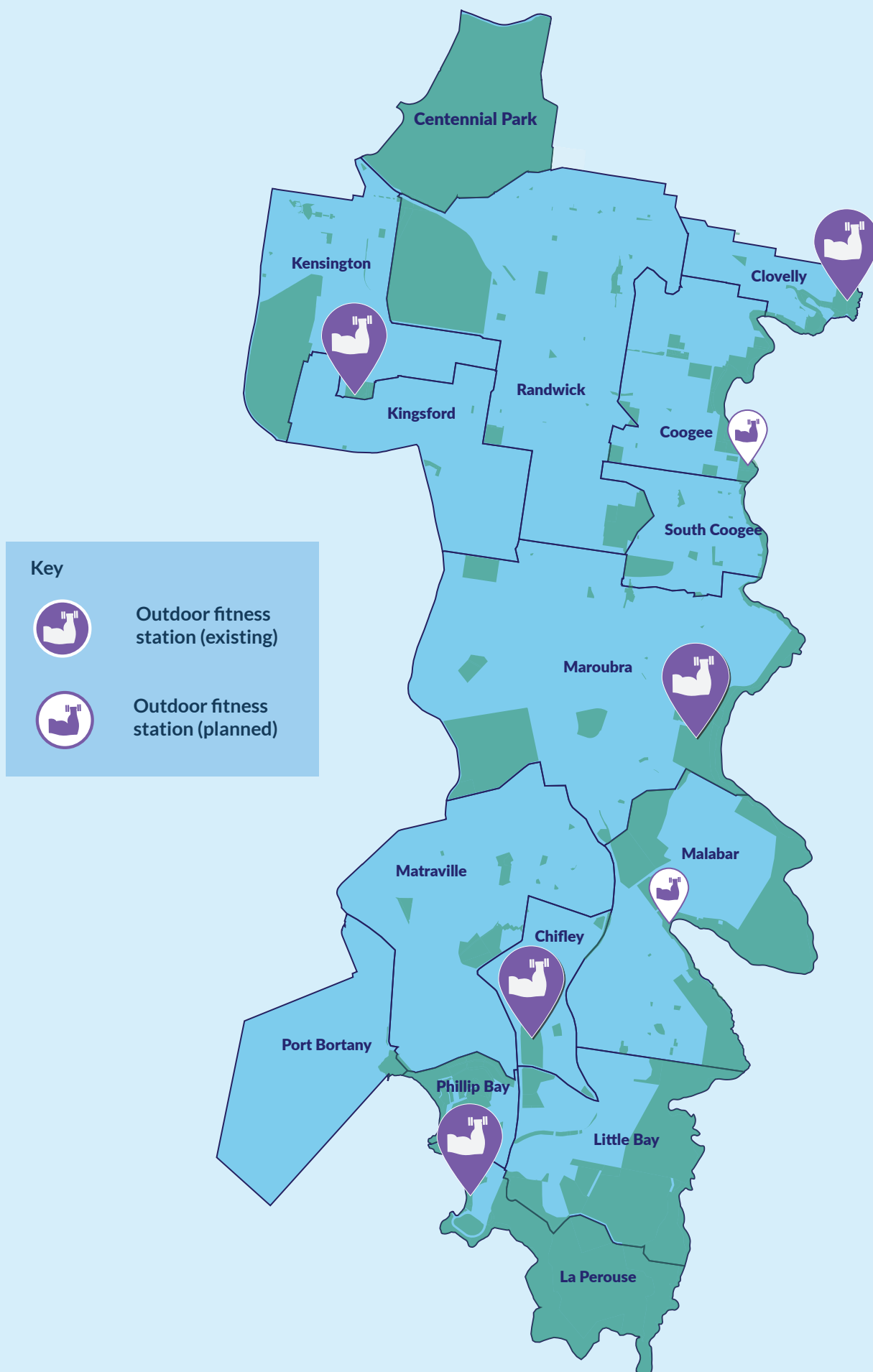


Figure 40 - Distribution of outdoor fitness stations in Randwick City



57%
of survey
respondents said
outdoor fitness
stations are
important or very
important.

46%
of survey
respondents had
used outdoor fitness
equipment in the last
six months.

32%
of survey
respondents rated
the quality of
outdoor fitness
equipment as high.

3

What are the community needs for outdoor fitness stations?

Demographic needs and recreation trends

Outdoor fitness stations help support community recreation needs, health and wellbeing by providing free and accessible spaces for exercise, which can be particularly important for people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. As people are increasingly opting for individualised and informal forms of recreation, rather than organised sport, outdoor fitness stations can support people who want to exercise when works for them.

Community engagement findings indicate that outdoor personal fitness is popular with the Randwick City community, with 46% having participated in the six months prior to taking the survey, and more men participating than women and more younger people participating. It is noted that this does not necessarily indicate use of outdoor fitness stations.

Moreover, it is likely that ocean-side outdoor fitness stations (such as Clovelly Outdoor Gym and Maroubra Outdoor Gym) in particular may experience high use by people who are not residents of the Randwick LGA which will impact on demand.

Community engagement (expressed demand)

- Overall, 57% of survey respondents said outdoor exercise equipment is important or very important for the Randwick City area
- 46% of survey respondents had participated in outdoor fitness in the six months prior to taking the online survey
- Community engagement participants identified a need for more and expanded outdoor fitness stations as some existing spaces such as the Maroubra Beach Outdoor Gym
- People would like to see outdoor fitness stations be well-maintained and with increased amenity including shaded areas, seating and water bubblers, and
- 7% of survey respondents rated the quality of existing outdoor gyms as low or very low, and 32% rated them as high or very high.

Benchmarking needs

There are multiple approaches to outdoor fitness station provision. At a minimum, Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1 outdoor fitness station per 15,000 people.

Based on this benchmark (see Table 38) in 2016 there is an existing gap of 3 fitness stations and by 2031 there will be a need for a total of 4 additional fitness stations in the following SA2 areas (numbers rounded to the nearest whole number):

- Randwick (+3) (however, there is an outdoor fitness station in Queens Park in Waverley local government area)
- Maroubra (+2), and
- Kingsford (+1).

Table 38 - Benchmarking outdoor gyms in Randwick City against Parks and Leisure standards (1:15,000)

SA2	Current provis.	2016 pop. 148,922		2026 pop. 164,003		2031 pop. 170,541		2041 pop. 179,423	
		Need	Gap	Need	Gap	Need	Gap	Need	Gap
COOGEE-CLOVELLY	2	1.8	-0.2	1.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	2.1	0.1
KENSINGTON	1	1.0	0.0	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.3	1.5	0.5
KINGSFORD	0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
LA PEROUSE-MALABAR-CHIFLEY	3	1.7	-1.3	1.8	-1.2	1.9	-1.1	1.9	-1.1
MAROUBRA	1	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.4	2.5	1.5	2.6	1.6
RANDWICK	0	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6
TOTAL	7	9.9	2.9	10.9	3.9	11.4	4.4	12.0	5.0

4

What is current best practice?

Current best practice in the delivery of outdoor fitness stations 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 e.g. pedestrian routes with good passive surveillance.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

BRISBANE RIVER OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION CIRCUIT, Brisbane City Council, QLD

More than 170 of Brisbane City Council parks have exercise equipment installed in them as part of Council's commitment to providing opportunities for residents to exercise and get fit outside for free.

In 2015, Council installed a series of outdoor fitness stations along the southern bank of the Brisbane River between Orleigh Park and Davies Park. These provide points of interest and opportunity for exercise along an important water-side active transport trail.

Each fitness station in the circuit is different, with some including simple, static equipment for chin-ups, sit-ups and step-ups as well as a larger area with interactive and movable equipment with cardio and resistance, particularly popular amongst older residents. Many pieces of equipment have instructions for use.



Outdoor fitness users at Brisbane River. Source: Ausleisure.com.au



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

MAROUBRA BEACH OUTDOOR GYM, Randwick City Council, NSW

Maroubra Beach Outdoor Gym is located next to the Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club overlooking Maroubra Beach, within close proximity to Marine Parade promenade and Maroubra Skate Park.

Built in 2013, It is a free facility that contains a wide range of strength and cardio equipment and is ideal for those wanting low impact exercise. It is especially well suited to older residents. The equipment includes parallel bars, aerobic cycle, leg press, stretch stations, an elliptical trainer and a zig-zag balance beam.

Information on using the equipment is located on site, with instructions on pieces of gyms equipment, or visitors can download an instructional booklet produced by the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.



Outdoor fitness users at Maroubra Beach outdoor gym. All images above sourced from Randwick City Council

Table 39 - Identified needs for outdoor fitness stations

Needs	Indicators
To address community demand for outdoor fitness deliver 4 additional outdoor fitness stations. Areas of priority need include Randwick, Maroubra and Kingsford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applying the Parks and Leisure Australia benchmark of 1 outdoor fitness station per 15,000 persons, there is a current (2016) need for 3 new outdoor fitness stations in Randwick City, and by 2031 there will be a need for at least 4 additional outdoor fitness stations. - Outdoor personal fitness was one of the most popular recreation activities in the community survey (46% had participated) and 25% had used an outdoor gym. Through engagement, an additional outdoor fitness station was identified as needed at Heffron Park and Maroubra Beach.
Provide for a mix of static and dynamic fitness equipment to enable a diversity of fitness abilities to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best practice is to provide a mix of static and dynamic equipment to cater for different fitness levels. - Expressed need for pull up bars at Maroubra Outdoor gym.

6.8 Indoor recreation centres and courts

What are indoor recreation centres?

Indoor recreation facilities are dry multipurpose facilities that support group and individual indoor active sports and recreation ranging from play and fitness activities as well as sporting competition and training. They typically contain indoor sports courts as well as indoor gyms and other amenities such as change rooms, toilets, canteens and other spectator areas.

What are indoor courts?

To ensure the sporting needs of the community are being met, it's also important to understand the provision of courts within indoor recreation facilities. Indoor courts provide an efficient sports playing solution throughout every season. They offer a comfortable, safe and climate-controlled environments, allowing for sporting use all year round. Apart from providing an appropriate indoor space for various sports activities, a modern indoor athletic complex serves as a multipurpose recreational facility and lively community centre as well. They have the ability to be highly versatile and easy to maintain, also providing adequate sporting amenities such as lockers, change rooms, comfortable spectator seating and in some cases canteen facilities.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 40, there is currently one Council owned indoor recreation centre in Randwick City, as well as one Council owned gymnastics centre. Both are located at Heffron Park in Maroubra and leased to external associations. In addition, the UNSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre provides indoor courts and facilities.

Distribution

Indoor recreation facilities are clustered, along with a range of other sporting uses, with a hub at Heffron Park in Maroubra, with additional non-council facilities available at UNSW.

What is planned for the future?

Council is currently planning to replace both Council managed indoor facilities, which are at the end of their usable life, with a new multipurpose sports facility, the Heffron Centre. Following lodgment of development application (DA) and public exhibition late 2020, construction is planned to commence in 2021. The Heffron Centre is planned to include:

- Indoor multipurpose facility with two indoor sports halls to accommodate sports such as netball, basketball, badminton, volleyball and indoor futsal
- Gymnastics facility
- South Sydney Rabbitohs' community and high-performance centre
- Landscaping to integrate the centre with Heffron Park
- A rugby league standard training field to NRL requirements, and
- Upgrade of lighting to adjacent south west sports fields.

It is noted that the new Heffron Centre would not replace the squash courts or indoor cricket net areas currently provided within the Matraville Indoor Sports Centre.

Table 40 - Summary of Council owned indoor recreation centres and indoor courts within Randwick City

Suburb	Name of facility	# courts (total)	Ownership	Management
Maroubra	Matraville Indoor Sports Centre	10 total, including 6 squash, 1 indoor netball, 2 indoor half basketball, 1 soccer/cricket.	Randwick City Council	Eastern Suburbs Tennis Association
Maroubra	Bunnerong Gymnastics	There are no indoor courts at Bunnerong Gymnastics. The centre caters for gymnastics with vault, bars, beams and floor equipment.	Randwick City Council	Bunnerong Gymnastics Association
Maroubra	*Planned Heffron Centre (Construction due to commence 2021)	Two indoor multipurpose sports halls, with 2 courts to accommodate sports such as netball, basketball, badminton, volleyball and indoor futsal.	Randwick City Council	Randwick City Council

Table 41 - Summary of indoor courts not owned by Council

Suburb	Name of facility	# courts	Ownership/management
Chifley	Matraville Sports High School	1 x Multipurpose	Matraville Sports High School
	YMCA - UNSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre	4 x Multipurpose	UNSW
	Marcellin College	1 x Multipurpose	Marcellin College
Randwick	Brigidine College	1 x Multipurpose	Brigidine College
	Randwick Boys' High School	1 x Basketball	Randwick Boys' High School
	Randwick Girls' High School	2 x Basketball	Randwick Girls' High School
Maroubra	South Sydney High School	1 x Multipurpose	South Sydney High School
	Champagnat Catholic College	1 x Basketball	Champagnat Catholic College

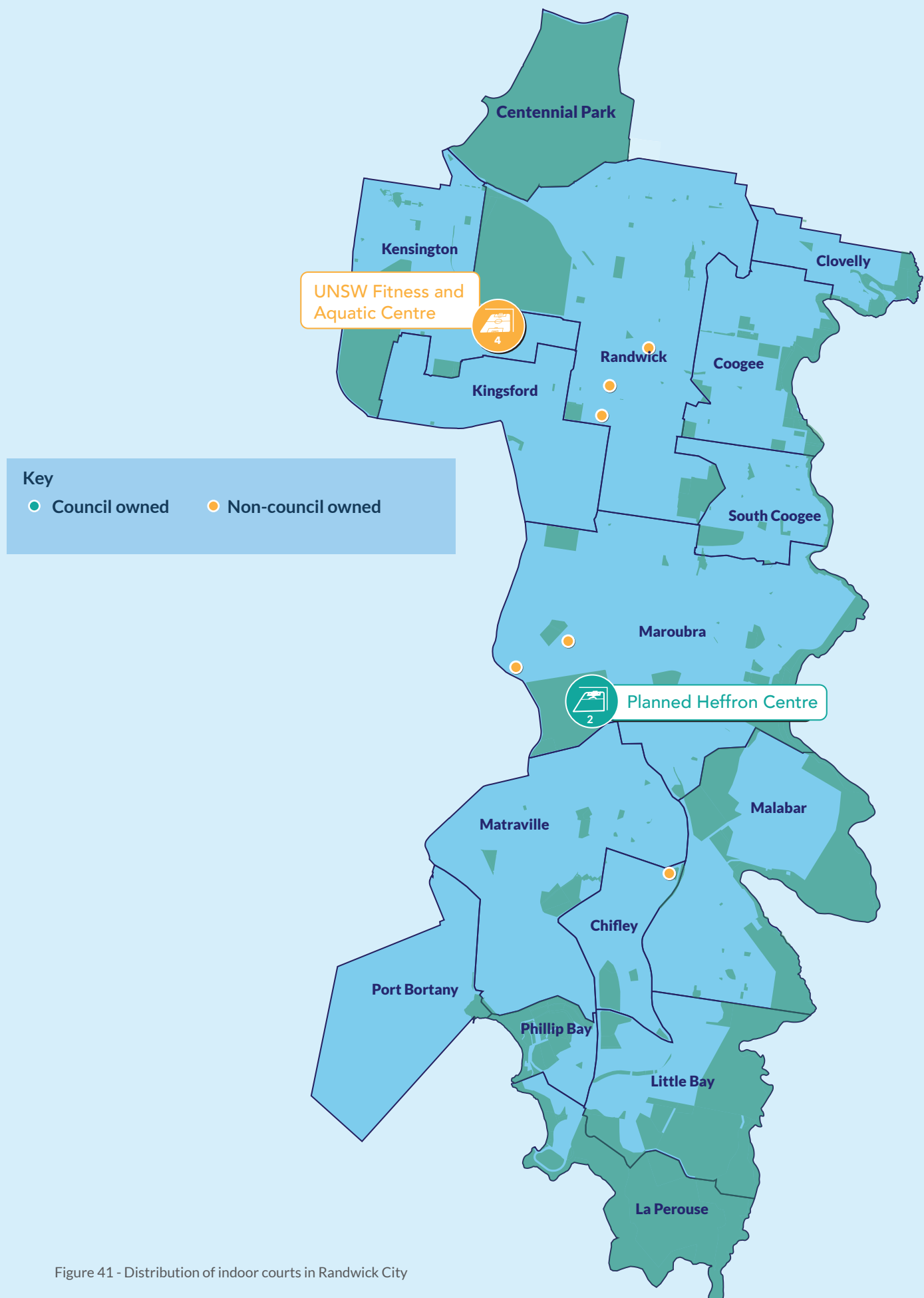


Figure 41 - Distribution of indoor courts in Randwick City



Figure 42 - Distribution of indoor courts (all types) in the Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)



 **Gymnastics**

Figure 43 - Distribution of gymnastics facilities in the Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)

2

Utilisation

Current indoor recreation facilities are not managed by Randwick City Council. Both facilities will be replaced by the new Heffron Centre.

A 2017 review of sports participation research in relation to the new Heffron Centre conducted by Optium Planning Group for Randwick City Council indicates that the Matraville Sports Centre is used for indoor netball, indoor soccer, indoor cricket and squash.

3

What are the community needs for indoor recreation centres and courts?

Demographic needs and recreation trends

Across Australia, the climate is getting hotter and people increasingly need access to indoor, air conditioned spaces to participate in recreation. There is a trend for indoor facilities to be flexible and multipurpose where possible in order to cater for changing community needs and preferences.

Ausplay 2018/2019 results show that, nationally, basketball and netball have high participation rates compared to badminton, squash and volleyball which have relatively low participation rates.

Community engagement (expressed demand)

Half of survey respondents said they don't know about the quality of indoor sporting facilities, with only 25% rating them as high or very high quality, potentially indicating lower utilisation.

Some people indicated they value the Bunnerong Gymnastics facility as a great place for children, young people and families to participate.

Benchmarking needs

Parks and Leisure Australia provide the following industry benchmark for provision of indoor courts:

Indoor Courts: 1:20,000

Indoor Sports Centre: 1:50,000.

Indoor recreation facility benchmarking findings

Benchmarking indicates a current (based on 2016 population) gap of 2 indoor recreation centres in 2016 and 2.4 indoor recreation centres in 2031.

Indoor courts benchmarking findings

Benchmarking indicates a current need for 7 indoor courts (based on 2016 population), growing to 8.5 courts by 2031. In part these needs will be met by the new Heffron Centre which will provide two multipurpose sports halls as well as non-Council owned facilities at UNSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre. However, any non-Council courts cannot be guaranteed into the future. Joint use and shared arrangements with schools also offer opportunities to increase access to indoor courts across the LGA.



50%

of survey respondents were unsure about the quality of indoor sporting facilities.

25%

of survey respondents rated the quality of indoor recreation centres as high.

7

benchmarking indicates a current need for 7 indoor courts, growing to 9 courts by 2031.

Table 42 - Benchmarking of Council owned indoor recreation centres within Randwick City against Parks and Leisure Australia standards

Type	Current provision at Matraville sports centre	Future provision at Heffron Centre	2016 pop. 148,922		2026 pop. 164,003		2031 pop. 170,541		2041 pop. 179,423	
			Need	Gap	Need	Gap	Need	Gap	Need	Gap
Indoor courts (1:20,000)	10*	2*	7	None.	8	6	9	7	9	7
Indoor sports centre (1:50,000)	1	1	3.0	2.0	3.3	2.3	3.4	2.4	3.6	2.6

*It is noted that current provision of courts at Matraville Indoor Sports Centre are mostly single-use courts while the future Heffron Centre would provide multipurpose courts suitable for a range of sports.

Indoor courts at UNSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre have not been included within this assessment.

4

What is current best practice?

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. In addition, indoor recreation centres and courts should:

- Be flexible and multipurpose to cater for diverse preferences and skill levels (e.g. cater to both competition level and casual/social sport).
- Be co-located with other community uses such as libraries, community centres, etc (to create a community hub), or with other services such as retail precincts and town centres.
- Joint use and shared arrangements with schools and other bodies also provide the opportunity to increase provision of courts. This could include sharing existing facilities, or jointly funding facilities that would be used by schools and the broader community. It also allows the potential to share upgrade and maintenance costs while still meeting recreation needs of the community.
- The optimum provision of indoor courts is 4 courts within an indoor leisure centre.



5

Key needs

Table 43 - Identified needs for indoor recreation centres and indoor courts

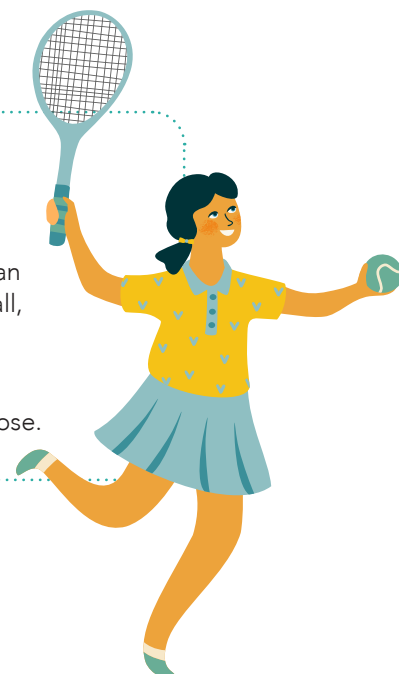
Needs	Indicators	Early opportunities for discussion
<p>There is a need to increase the provision of multipurpose indoor courts to address a benchmarked current and forecast undersupply, and high demand from an increasingly culturally diverse community and increasing number of workers and students.</p> <p>This may require working collaboratively with neighbouring councils as there is an undersupply across the Eastern City District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benchmarking indicates a need for an additional 7 indoor courts by 2031, with best practice being the delivery of multipurpose courts. - There is low provision across the Eastern City including neighbouring Waverley and Woollahra LGAs with no provision. - Randwick City is currently planning for the Heffron Centre which will provide two multipurpose sports halls. 	

6.9 Outdoor court facilities

What are outdoor court facilities?

Outdoor courts are important for both competitive and social sport. Outdoor courts can cater for a variety of sports including: Badminton, basketball, handball, 5-a-side football, netball, tennis, and volleyball.

Outdoor courts may be single-purpose marked for one sport only, multipurpose and provide a space for multiple sports, half or full size depending on their need and purpose.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 44, there is a total of 53 Council-managed outdoor courts (both full and half) in Randwick City. In addition, there are also beach volleyball courts on the sand at Maroubra Beach (South) and Coogee Beach. There is also an outdoor basketball court at UNSW within the Randwick City LGA.

Distribution

Figure 44 shows the distribution of outdoor courts within Randwick City, with courts distributed across the LGA and clustered in Heffron Park and higher provision in the northern suburbs including in Kensington where high density, cultural diversity and a high proportion of students are drivers of demand.

Provision in neighbouring local government areas

It is noted that there is also a large number of regional outdoor courts available just outside the Randwick City LGA border at Centennial Park (section within City of Sydney LGA) and Moore Park. With 34 courts, Randwick City has the largest cluster of netball courts in the Eastern City District at Heffron Park.

Table 44 - Overview of Council owned or managed outdoor hard courts

Suburb	Number of courts (total)	Name of park or facility	Sports marked
CHIFLEY	1	Dr Walters Park	1 x Basketball court (half)
COOGEE	2	Baker Park	2 x Tennis courts
KENSINGTON	2	Kensington park	2 x Basketball court (half)
LITTLE BAY	1	Woomera Reserve	1 x Basketball court (half)
MAROUBRA	45	Heffron Park	1 x Multipurpose court, 10 x Tennis courts, 34 x Netball courts
SOUTH COOGEE	2	Elphinstone Road Reserve	1 x Basketball court (half), 1 x Tennis court
TOTAL	53		

Table 45 - Overview of non-Council-managed outdoor courts

Suburb	Number of courts (total)	Type of courts	Facility
CHIFLEY	5	1 x Basketball	Matraville Sports High School
		2 x Netball	
		1 x Basketball	Chifley Public School
		1 x Netball	
CLOVELLY	1	1 x Basketball	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
COOGEE	1	1 x Netball	Coogee Public School
		5 x Tennis	Eastern Suburbs Tennis Club
KENSINGTON	2	1 x Basketball	UNSW
		1 x Basketball	Kensington Public School
KINGSFORD	10	8 x Tennis	Eastcourts Tennis Club
		1 x Futsal	UNSW
		1 x Basketball (half)	
LA PEROUSE	1	1 x Basketball	La Perouse Public School
MALABAR	2	1 x Basketball	Malabar Public School
		1 x Netball	
MAROUBRA	13	6 x Tennis	Snape Park Tennis Centre
		2 x Basketball	South Sydney High School
		1 x Basketball	Maroubra Bay High School
		1 x Netball	
		1 x Basketball	Champagnat Catholic College
		1 x Multipurpose	Maroubra Junction Public School
		1 x Netball	St Aidan's Catholic Primary School
RANDWICK	12	2 x Basketball	Randwick Boys High School
		1 x Basketball	St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School
		1 x Basketball	Emanuel School
		1 x Multipurpose	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
		2 x Tennis	
		1 x Multipurpose	Claremont College
		2 x Multipurpose	Randwick Girls High School
		2 x Netball	
SOUTH COOGEE	3	2 x Basketball	South Coogee Public School
		1 x Netball	

*There are also a large number of tennis, netball and basketball courts located outside the Randwick LGA in Centennial Parklands (not within Randwick LGA boundaries), at Moore Park and Queens Park.

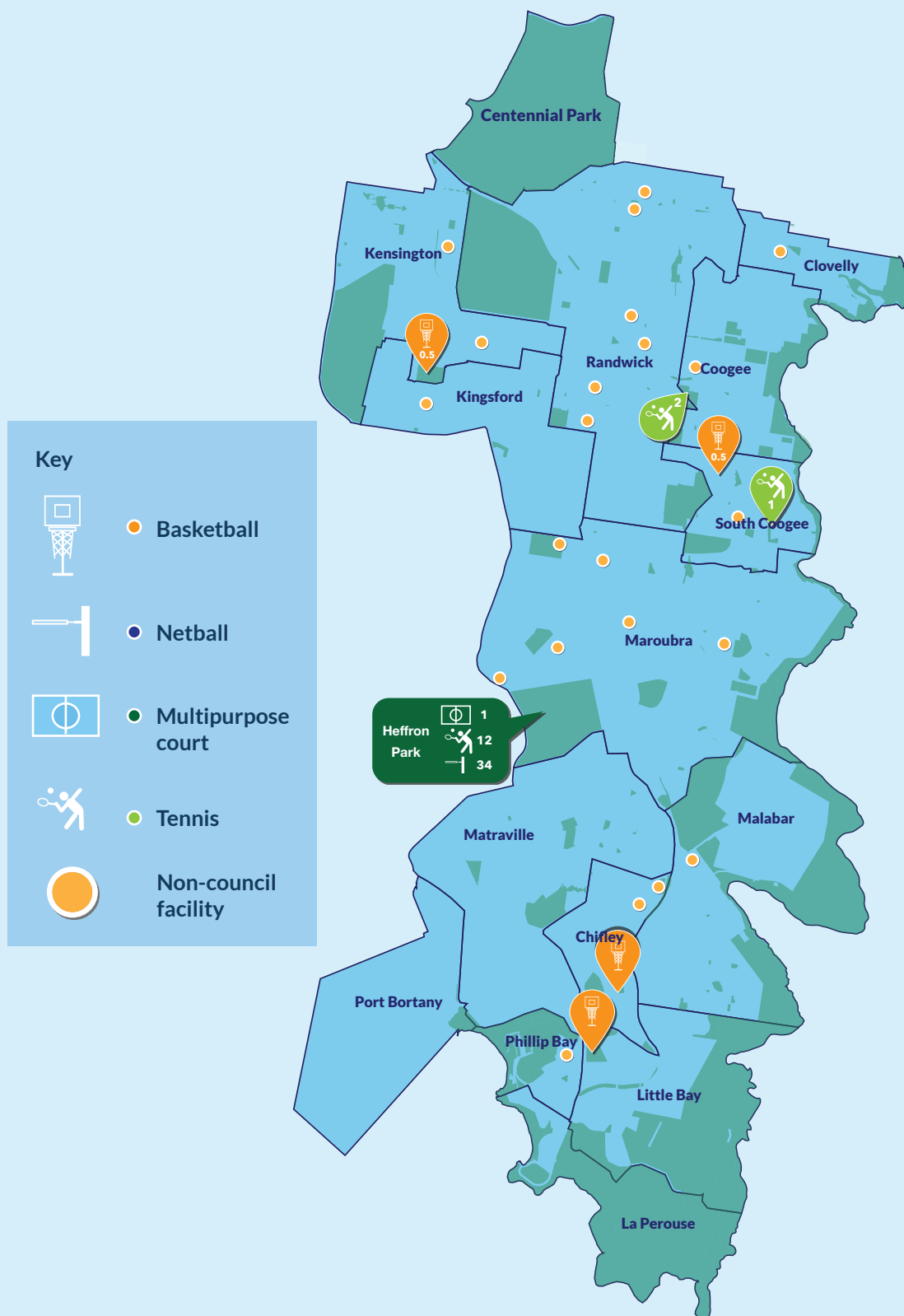


Figure 44 - Distribution of Council-managed outdoor courts in Randwick City

2

Utilisation

Heffron Park netball courts utilisation

Heffron Park netball courts provide 34 courts and is home to the Randwick Netball Association. This is the largest cluster of netball courts in the Eastern City District. Courts are used primarily by the Randwick Netball Association for training and competitions, as well as for school sports.

Netball courts are available for booking between 8am-8pm. An assessment of bookings listings from 2017/2018, indicates that:

- Utilisation of netball courts is very low in summer months during netball off-season (less than 7% of available hours are booked between September and March, with 0% utilisation in January)
- Utilisation of netball courts is highest during winter months during the netball season, with some courts seeing up to 40% use during bookable hours in May. On average across all courts, utilisation does not exceed 30% of bookable hours.

Heffron Park Tennis Centre utilisation

The Heffron Park Tennis Centre was opened to the public following the construction of a new facility in late 2019. This limits analysis of utilisation.

Other courts utilisation

There is no quantitative data available about how other Council owned outdoor courts such as basketball courts are used.

3

What are the community needs for outdoor courts?

Demographic needs and recreation trends

There is an increasing demand for informal opportunities for participation such as those offered by outdoor courts. Outdoor courts are particularly in demand in areas with a higher proportion of people from culturally diverse backgrounds, such as in Kensington, Kingsford and Maroubra.

Community engagement (expressed demand)

Overall, 66% of survey respondents indicated outdoor courts are important or very important in Randwick City.

Community engagement findings indicated an expressed need for:

- More public outdoor courts and in particular more basketball courts was a top priority for survey respondents through open-ended responses (9% or 27 comments).
- Increased access to courts for a range of sporting activities including basketball, tennis, netball, and handball.
- Increased access to affordable and accessible outdoor courts.

Benchmarking needs

Parks and Leisure Australia suggests a benchmark of 1 hard outdoor court per 10,000 people. Applying this benchmark to Randwick City indicates a 2016 need for 15 hard courts and 17 hard courts in 2031.

This indicates that, based on current provision of 53 outdoor courts, there is currently a large oversupply of 38 courts. However, it is noted that a large proportion of these courts are single-purpose tennis and netball courts. There is opportunity to provide increased multipurpose courts to increase utilisation and meet broader community needs.

4

What is current best practice?

Recreation demand for multipurpose court space for informal/casual use by young people is expected to increase with population growth.

Multipurpose courts: 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, so long as potential noise is considered so as not to impact on local residents living in the area. They should provide for a range of sports popular in the local area which in Randwick City may include futsal, basketball, netball, volleyball and tennis. Providing courts in a cluster (e.g. 4 courts) can support use by schools and for social/low level competitions or training. Grouping courts (e.g. 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).

Different types of courts also have different trends including:

Basketball: Hoops and half courts are popular and well used for informal sport particularly for young adults. Outdoor courts are mostly used for social and informal games with some training use. Demand for competition use by basketball is focused on indoor courts.

Tennis: Tennis management practices are encouraging less provision of 1 and 2 court facilities and prefers minimum 4 court complexes for running competitions, coaching, efficient management and financial feasibility.

Netball: Netball remains one of the biggest team sports in Australia across all genders and ages, and best practice multipurpose courts generally incorporate netball functionality.

Shared spaces: Providing high quality sports facilities in schools can be shared with the community to deliver programs to support vulnerable groups, in particular newly arrived young people (rather than for increased use by club sport).



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

BOX HILL GARDENS, CITY OF WHITEHORSE, VIC

Box Hill Gardens is an innovative, multipurpose, 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 multipurpose 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. Source: Andrew Lloyd

5

Key needs

Table 46 - Identified needs and opportunities for outdoor courts

Needs	Indicators
Increased provision of outdoor courts for informal use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong expressed demand for additional public outdoor basketball courts including for use by children, young people and families. - There are no full-size competition basketball courts in Randwick City run by Council. - Areas with many students and culturally diverse population like Kensington and Kingsford - basketball and outdoor courts are social spaces.
Increased multipurpose outdoor courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a trend to provide public multipurpose outdoor courts to enable free access to outdoor exercise. - Netball courts have very low utilisation during off-season, with close to 0% use in January, February and March.

6.10 Recreation walkways, loops and trails

What are recreation walkways, loops and trails?

Recreation walkways, loops and trails are pathways through, along or between natural areas and trails along waterways or vegetation corridors. Usually these trails are used for non-motorised recreational activities including walking, running, cycling, and mountain biking. They range from short leisurely experiences for all fitness levels to more strenuous longer trails. They can range from unsigned, unsealed dirt trails, through to signed, formal, paved and accessible pathways.



1

Current supply

Overview of provision

As shown by Table 47, there are currently a number of recreation loops, walkways and trails in Randwick City, most notably the Coastal Walk which extends along the coast line with a number of incomplete sections as shown in the map overpage. Other notable trails on Council land include the Heffron Park Criterium Cycle Track and smaller loops in the Randwick Environment Park and Fred Hollows Reserve.

In addition, there are a number of trails managed by other landholders, including the popular Grand Drive Loop at Centennial Park and multiple trails through the Malabar Headland National Park as well as the Kamay Botany Bay National Park. In Malabar Headland National Park, the eastern section and the western section has formal trails constructed by Council as missing links to the coastal walkway.

Table 47 - Overview of recreation loops and trails in Randwick City

Name of loop or trail	Type	Length	Suburb
Coastal Walk	Walking trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clovelly to South Coogee, 4.5km - Maroubra to Malabar, 2.4km - Malabar to La Perouse - uncompleted - La Perouse to NSW Golf Course - 2.8km 	Extends along the coastline, however with gaps as shown in the map overpage
Randwick Environment Park Scenic Wetlands Walk	Walking trail	1.3km	Randwick
Fred Hollows Reserve boardwalk	Walking trail	20-30minute walk (approx 0.5 km)	Randwick
Heffron Park Criterium Cycle Track	Cycle track	2.5km	Maroubra
Boora Point Walking Track within Malabar Headland National Park	Walking trail	3.7km	Malabar
Western Escarpment Walking track in Malabar Headland National Park	Walking trail	1km	Malabar
Kamay Botany Bay National Park walking tracks	Walking trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cape Banks walking track (7km return) - Henry Head walking track (4km return) - Jennifer Street boardwalk (0.7km return) - Additional informal walking trails through the National Park 	La Perouse
Centennial Park Grand Drive Loop	Separated walking/cycling loop	3.7km	Centennial Park

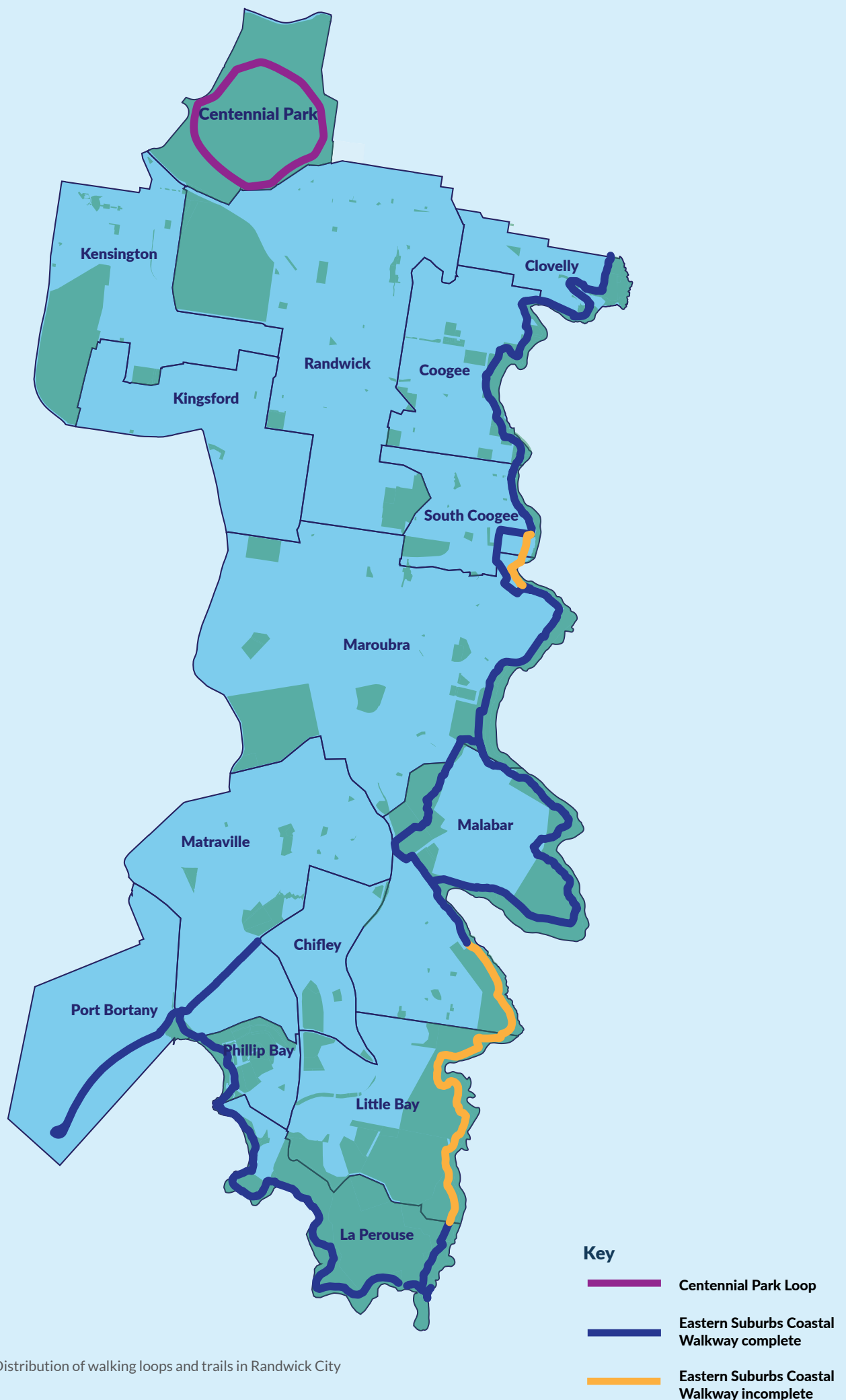


Figure 45 - Distribution of walking loops and trails in Randwick City



87%

of survey respondents said they had used the coastal walk in the last 6 months.

94%

of survey respondents said that walking paths and trails were important or very important to Randwick City.

The coastal walk was the best rated recreation space in Randwick City in the online survey.

2

Utilisation

While counter data for number of walkers along the Coastal Walk, or any other recreational trails throughout Randwick is not available, various sources of recreation data including Ausplay and the Greater Sydney Outdoor Survey indicates that walking is the most common recreation activity. This is reinforced by findings from the community survey, which indicated that footpaths and streets (90%) and coastal walks (87%) were some of the most popular recreation spaces that respondents had visited in the six months prior. Based on this data we can assume that Randwick City's recreation trails are heavily used.

3

What are the community needs for recreation trails?

Demographic needs

Walking and cycling are effective low-cost ways of exercising. The Heart Foundation has published that walking for an average of 30 minutes a day can lower the risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes by 30 to 40 per cent. The physical benefits of exercise are well known, and now a large body of research has compellingly shown that "nature" in its many forms and contexts can have direct benefits on mental health.

Community engagement (expressed demand)

Overall, survey respondents were satisfied with the provision of walking paths and trails, with 85% or 411 people rating them as high or very high quality. 94% of respondents indicating walking trails are important or very important across Randwick City. The Coastal Walk was also found to be one of Randwick City's greatest open space assets with an expressed need to expand and link it.

Walking for recreation was the most popular recreation activity participated in by survey respondents (87%), aligning with footpaths and streets (90%) and coastal walks (87%) being some of the most popular recreation spaces that respondents had visited in the six months prior.

Community engagement findings indicated an expressed need for:

- More walking tracks, particularly for coastal and bush walking
- Increased safety of footpaths and walkways, including improved surfacing of pavements and trails
- Increased accessibility of walking infrastructure, as well as being inclusive for all users including parents with prams and wheelchair accessibility.
- Increased amenity along walking paths, including rest stops, bubblers and water stations, toilets, and signage.

Recreation trends

The demand for recreational trails is growing. National physical activity trends indicate that participation in unstructured recreational activities is increasing.

In addition, trail research undertaken by Market Equity in 2004 found that trails provide a strong incentive to exercise (up to 85% of users) and were used by many as a means to spend time with family and friends (up to 89%).

Australian Sports Commission *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey* (ERASS) data shows that there has been an increase in participation in physical activity (sport and recreation) from 2000 to 2010. In particular there is an increased proportion of people walking and cycling for fitness and participation in most sports has increased or remained stable.

As more and more people live in apartments, the need to have places to escape to green spaces and nature will become increasingly important.

Benchmarking needs

There are no benchmarks for recreation and fitness trails. The Sunshine Coast Council has adopted a benchmark of 1,000m of trails per 1000 people.

4

What is current best practice?

Signage and amenities

Interpretive signs provide an important tool for enhancing visitor knowledge and understanding during a natural area experience. Signs or digital maps/interfaces can provide opportunities to highlight flora and fauna, heritage and culturally significant sites.

The Tree Top Walk in Western Australia reported that after installing trail-side interpretive signs, there appeared to be a positive increase in the perception of the site as providing a learning experience.

Wayfinding and directional signage and surface markers can help ensure the safety of trail users and encourage higher levels of use as a result.

Linear play trails

An idea emerging from America - Play Trails integrate play opportunities for children along linear trail systems. The Acorn Group have defined "Play Pockets" as stepping stones along the trail that are often themed with nature inspired play elements such as leaves, trees, mushrooms, dragonflies, frogs, turtles, spiders, bees, birds, and ants. Play Trails activity books help increase environmental literacy, reconnect children to nature, and encourage creativity, imagination, and physical activity as families play along the way.

Circuits

Circuits or walking loops often have higher levels of use than a one way linear trail. By creating a circuit, people are able to come back to the same start/finish point without doubling back along the same route, making the walk/run/cycle more interesting and attractive.

Greenways

A greenway is a long, narrow piece of land, often balancing environmental and social priorities such as recreation and pedestrian and bicycle traffic and sometimes including multiple transportation (streetcar, light rail) or community uses. Some greenways include community gardens, bush care sites, natural areas, heritage items and outdoor gyms.

Accessibility

Ensuring footpaths and walkways are accessible for people of all abilities is a priority to enable everyone to get around, access open spaces and recreation facilities and participate in a range of recreation activities. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) includes compliance regulations that require a minimum 2.5m width for footpaths and walkways.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

THE COOKS RIVER TO IRON COVE GREENWAY, Inner West Council, NSW

The Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay is an urban green corridor in Sydney's Inner West, following the route of the Rozelle to Dulwich Hill freight rail corridor and connecting two of Sydney's most important waterways, the Cooks River and Iron Cove Bay, part of Sydney Harbour.

The key elements of the Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay are:

- The GreenWay Trail, a shared, off-road pedestrian and cycling path linking the Cooks River Cycleway at Earlwood to the Iron Cove Bay Run at Haberfield.
- Creating a north/south "bush link", including community bushcare sites which provide valuable habitat and "stepping stones" for native flora and fauna
- The "GreenWay Trellis" aims to extend the GreenWay through neighbouring parks, reserves, and private properties, with quiet "green" streets for walking and cycling, and native plantings in parks, reserves and backyards to provide habitat for native flora and fauna.



Cyclists along the GreenWay. Source: Heart Foundation - Healthy Active by Design.

5

Key needs

Table 48 - Identified needs for recreation trails

Needs	Indicators
The Coastal Walk is one of the most popular recreation spaces in Randwick City and is highly valued by the community and there is a need to complete the Eastern Suburbs Coastal Walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The completion of the Coastal Walk has been identified as a priority project in the Green Grid by the Government Architects Office. - Community engagement indicated a high demand for the Coastal Walk to be completed. - The community survey indicated the significant popularity of the Coastal Walk. Councillor and staff workshops also indicated the need for Council to continue advocating for its completion.
There is a need to gather evidence to increase Council's understanding of how our community and visitors use recreation trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counters or smart technology will help Council to understand the number of users, providing some evidence base that will justify the expansion of the walk, and need to prioritise walkers.

6.11 Community gardens

What are community gardens?

Community gardens are a unique form of open space that is self-managed by the community primarily for the production of food, and to contribute to a sustainable urban environment. Community gardens, as defined sites, highlight the importance of the connections between people (the community) and place (the garden).

What are bush care groups?

Bush and park care involves community volunteers working with Council to protect and regenerate natural bushland or local parks.



1

Current supply

As shown by Table 49, there are currently three community gardens in Randwick City.

As Figure 46 shows, community gardens are concentrated in the northern end of the LGA, with two community gardens located in Randwick suburb, and another in Coogee.

In addition, Randwick Council has 11 bush care groups who work with Council's Bushcare Officer as part of a bush regeneration program removing weeds, planting indigenous plants and installing soil erosion controls. There are also at least three non-Council-run bush care groups.

There are also four park care groups volunteering at Alison Road in Coogee, Clyde Street and the Old Tramline in Randwick and Tramway Park in Coogee.

Table 49 - Overview of community gardens in Randwick City

Name of community garden	Suburb
Coogee Community Garden	Coogee
Permaculture Interpretive Garden at Randwick Sustainability Hub	Randwick
Randwick Community Organic Garden, Paine Reserve	Randwick

2

Utilisation

There is currently no data available about the utilisation of Randwick City community gardens.

3

What are the community needs for community gardens?

Community engagement (expressed demand)

Community gardening was by far the most popular activity that survey respondents would like to participate in the future regularly (20%, 95 people), indicating a desire for more opportunities to do so within Randwick City.

Demographic needs

Community gardens not only allow members to grow fresh, organic, familiar vegetables to be able to cook traditional meals and save money; but also contribute to reducing social isolation and feelings of worthlessness, and increased feelings of safety, belonging, confidence and motivation.

As the population of Randwick continues to grow, with an increase in higher density living and smaller blocks with smaller backyards, it is becoming increasingly important to provide space where the community can grow fresh produce, and have access to a public space to enjoy.

Recreation trends

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.

Benchmarking needs

There are no industry benchmarks for the provision of community gardens.

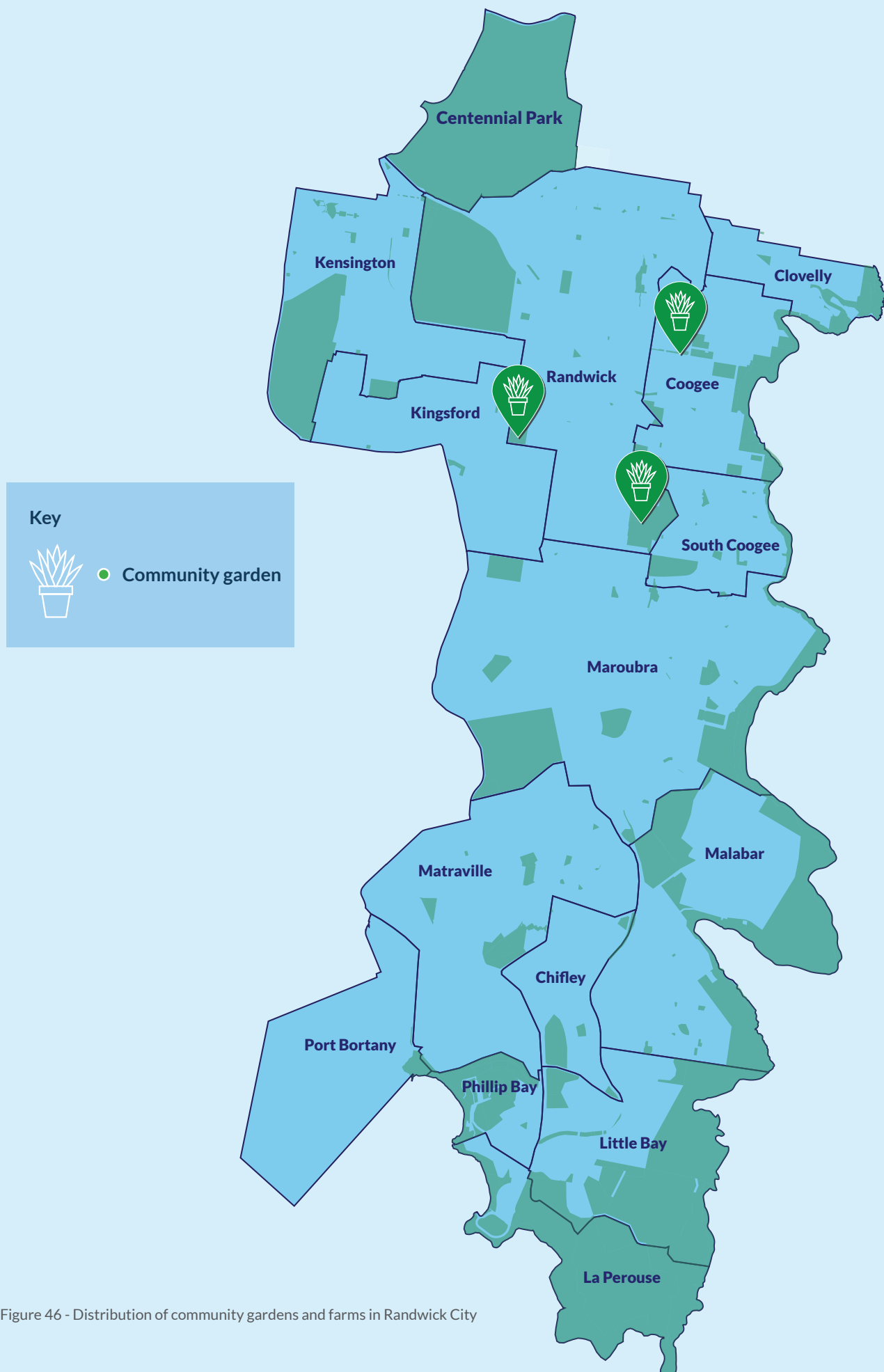


Figure 46 - Distribution of community gardens and farms in Randwick City

4

What is current best practice?

Best practice community garden spaces include the following features:

- **Location:** Linking community gardens to community spaces or centres, or within high density housing areas has become increasingly important. Locating gardens near community spaces and facilities provides opportunities to support and partner gardening projects. Sites in high density housing areas that are appropriately designed and managed for high productivity in a small area, will contribute to urban greening. These sites also provide appealing outdoor settings for residents.
- **Design:** A mixed use design of community gardens including communal areas and individual spaces is considered good practice in a community garden. Large, family sized allotments, along with smaller plots will encourage a diverse range of users. It is also important to consider all-abilities access design for a community garden, by integrating raised garden beds, particularly giving people with a disability access to the garden bed.
- **Amenities:** A wide range of amenities such as seating, tables, shade and storage are important inclusions in a community garden, as well as considerations for a meeting space, rain water tanks and solar panels are also important. Access to cooking facilities and kitchens can broaden the use and scope of the community garden.
- **Environment:** Community gardens should include a well built and managed composting system. Community gardens should be designed to respond to climate change and have a positive impact on global warming. This includes various initiatives such as managed water use, drought tolerant plants, reduced use of chemicals, organic methods and energy efficiency.
- **Access:** Community gardens should offer regular and consistent access to the garden and support broad community access. Opportunities for establishing low vandalism unfenced gardens should be considered. Approaches to security within a community garden should be included in management plans.
- **Partnerships:** Links and partnerships with local schools and community groups should be encouraged and fostered¹.

5

What are the key opportunities to inform future planning?

Opportunities

- Identify potential future sites for additional community gardens responding to expressed need from community.
- Promote existing community gardens and bushcare and parkcare volunteering groups.



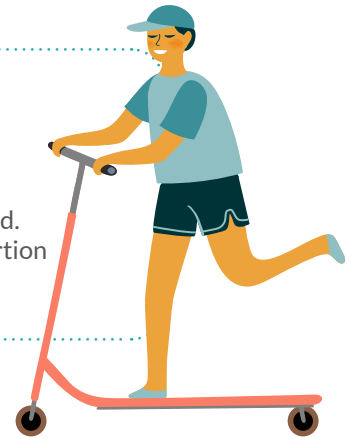
Figure 47 - Randwick Community Organic Garden (Source: Randwick City Council)

¹ See: <https://cdn.marion.sa.gov.au/sp/Documents-Policies/Documents/City-of-Marion-Community-Garden-Framework.pdf?mtime=20180215141034>

6.12 Adventure sports

What are adventure sports?

Adventure sports are typically activities that are perceived to have a higher level of risk involved. There are a range of activities that can often involved speed, height, a high level of physical exertion and highly specialised gear.



Current provision

As shown by Table 50, there are currently two adventure sports facilities in Randwick City, both of which are skate parks (at Chifley and Maroubra Beach). There is also a small park with skateable elements in Solander Park in South Coogee, however this area is very small.

Recreation trends

Research from CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission indicates that “extreme,” adventure and alternative sports are becoming more mainstream, particularly with younger generations. Examples include hiking, skateboarding, BMXing and rockclimbing. There is a trend to deliver adventure sporting facilities in unused spaces, such as climbing walls and BMX tracks under viaducts.

There is also informal use of sea cliffs for rockclimbing and bouldering along the coastline.

Community engagement (expressed needs)

Community engagement participants indicated that they would like to see Maroubra Skate Park facilities upgraded and expanded due to high demand.

With regards to other adventure sports, some community engagement participants expressed desire for increased facilities for adventure sports, including parkour, rock climbing, BMX and mountain biking tracks for recreational use.

Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service indicated that there is currently use of informal trails for mountain biking, which presents a challenge for biodiversity management.

Benchmarking

There are no industry benchmarks for the provision of adventure sports facilities.

Needs

- Increase the capacity of Maroubra skate park to reflect community demand.
- Identify suitable underutilised Council owned/managed spaces for the creation of an adventure recreation track such as a pump park.
- Work with National Parks and Wildlife Service to formalise appropriate spaces for adventure sports (mountain biking, rock climbing etc) within National Parks.
- Respond to community interest to participate in activities such as parkour, by integrating parkour elements into existing parks and open spaces.

Table 50 - Overview of adventure sports in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of adventure sport facility	Type
Chifley	Chifley Skate Park	Skate park
Maroubra	Maroubra Skate Park	Skate park

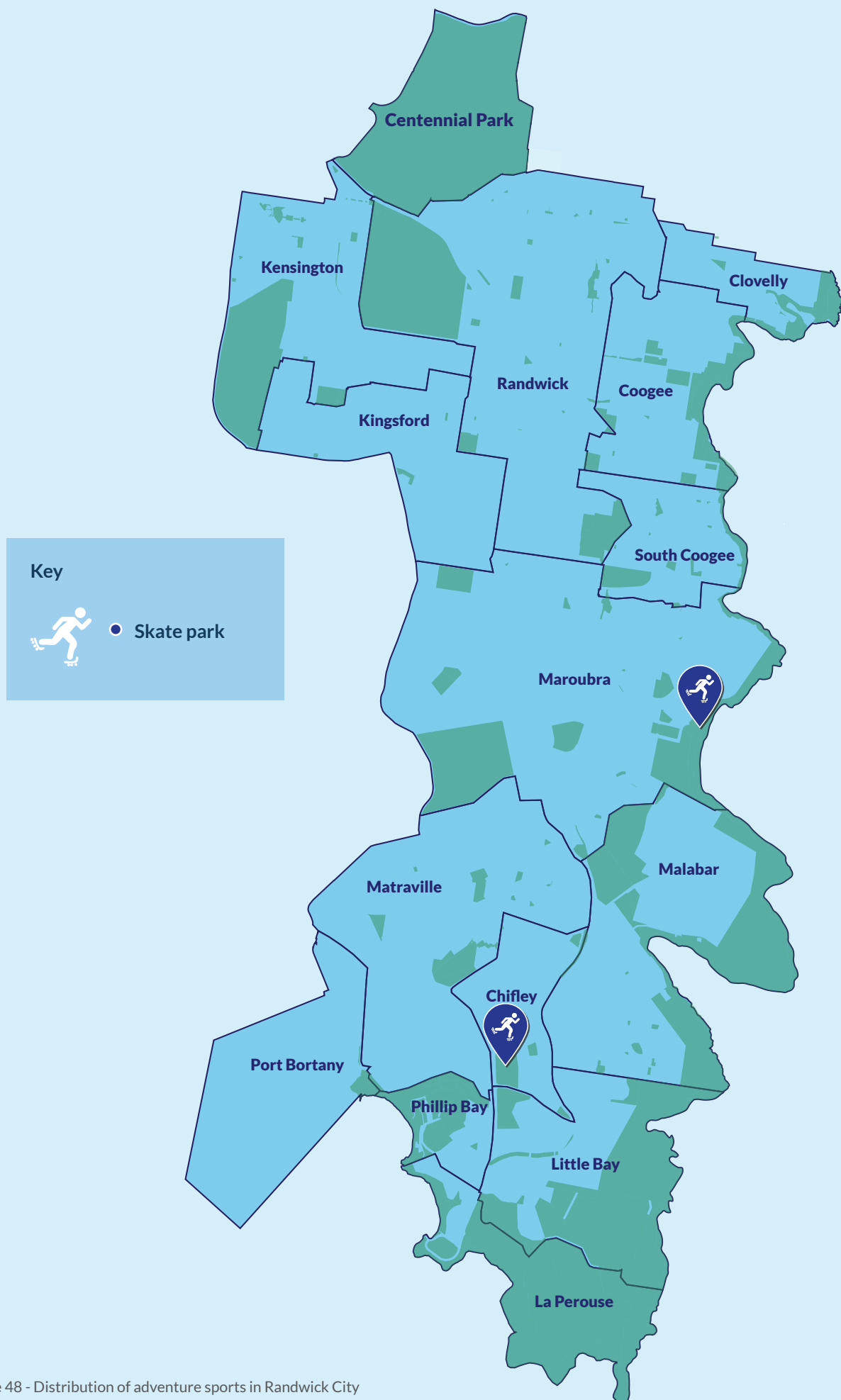


Figure 48 - Distribution of adventure sports in Randwick City



 Skate Parks

Figure 49 - Distribution of skate parks in the Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)

6.13 Golf courses

What are golf courses?

Golf courses are generally single-use, large parcels of land. 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.

Current provision

As shown by Table 51, there are currently five golf courses in Randwick City, all of which are 18-hole courses and four are located on Crown land.

In addition, as shown in Figure 49 (page 151), there is good provision of golf courses across the Eastern City District and in close proximity to Randwick City.

Randwick Council manages the Randwick Golf Club. Other Golf Clubs in the area are not managed by Council.

Distribution

As Figure 49 shows, there is a cluster of four golf courses located along the south-eastern coastline in Malabar, Little Bay and La Perouse, as well as one located in Kensington.



From La Perouse to Malabar, there are four golf courses on Crown land: New South Wales Golf Club, Coast Golf Club, St Michaels Golf Club, Randwick Golf Club. Source: Robert Pearce.

Table 51 - Overview of golf courses in Randwick City

Suburb	Name of golf course	Area m2	Ownership	Membership	Public access?
La Perouse	St Michaels Golf Club	50,860	Crown land	1,000+	Yes, public access to grounds and play for non-members at \$100 per game outside of member's only hours on weekends before 3pm. Consultation indicated approximately 250 non-member participants weekly.
La Perouse	New South Wales Golf Club	44,810	Crown land	1,100+	Limited, as this is a Private Club and subject to special events, the club provides for limited guest access during weekdays. No weekend times are available unless invited by a member.
Little Bay	The Coast Golf and Recreation Club	25,320	Crown land	800+	Yes, public play is permitted on the course 7 days per week outside of member's competition times, fee \$60-\$100.
Malabar	Randwick Golf Club	40,680	Crown land	1,500+	Yes, public access including social play at \$30 and reduced prices for juniors and pensioners
Kensington	Australian Golf Club	61,510	Privately owned	1,200+	No, private members club, guests may be invited to play by a member.

Strong community advocacy for access to public land

Randwick City's four south-eastern golf courses boast stunning views to the ocean. Three out of four provide public access for non-members (St Michaels Golf Club, Coast Golf Club and Randwick Golf Club), while the NSW Golf Club offers limited public access on weekdays subject to special events. Randwick City's fifth golf course located in the north-west is a private members club only.

A key priority for Randwick City Council is completing the Coastal Walkway between Malabar and La Perouse, however the section that adjoins the four coastal golf courses and the Kamay Botany Bay National Park is of yet not formalised and incomplete.

The completion of the Coastal Walkway, whilst ensuring the safety of walkers and without disturbing golf course users, presents a significant challenge. Council has funded and completed a section of the Coastal Walkway across NSW Golf Course and is working with the Club to finalise access. Also Council is working with National Parks to improve informal walking tracks in the National Park in Kamay Botany Bay National Park.

Community and stakeholder engagement (expressed needs)

Consultation with community members indicated an expressed need for the Coastal Walk to be completed along incomplete sections crossing the golf courses, and for increased public access to the golf courses.

Consultation with golf courses indicated that generally:

- St Michaels Golf Club has submitted a strategic planning proposal to rezone parcel of land at 27 Jennifer Street (located between driving range and club house) with opportunity to redirect Coastal Walkway behind golf courses and into the National Park. Council has recommended they write to the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment to consider incorporating the land within the National Park.
- The Randwick Golf Course has indicated that public foot traffic along the golf course has increased substantially because of the development of a coastal walk stretching from the northern side of Malabar, with a need for proper and adequate signage to inform the public of dangers and emergency contact information, installing 'doggie bag' stations to encourage people to pick up after their dogs, regular maintenance of walking tracks to clear debris.

Benchmarking

Compared to the Eastern City District, Randwick City has a very high provision of golf courses (Office of Sport). Whereas the Eastern City District has 1 golf course per 46,055 people, Randwick City has 1 golf course per 29,784 people.

Recreation trends

Results from the AusPlay survey 2018-2019 indicate that:

- The annual population estimate for Adults 15+ participating in golf was 986,479 (or 4.9% of the Adult 15+ population).
- There has been an overall downward trend in golf participation over a three-year period (-1.4%), however "net growth market opportunity is fairly healthy as there are many adults, especially older males (mirroring current participation), considering taking up golf".
- Golf participants are on average older, with more than half of all Adult 15+ golf participants aged 55 and over (59%). One reason that interest may be limited to older age groups is golf's typically longer duration.
- Adults 15+ who participated in golf had a median frequency of 40 sessions per annum (less than once per week) and the median session duration was 240 minutes. Only 21% of all golf sessions lasted less than 180 minutes.

Research from Golf Australia indicates that golf club memberships declined by 1.6% between 2017-2018, and that club membership has seen an average annual decline of 0.8% over the five years prior.

Needs

There is increasing pressure on local open space with population growth. In this context there is a need to consider how golf courses, which constitute a large proportion of open space within the LGA and limit public access to the coastline, can be shared to increase access for recreation. A detailed analysis of golf courses is suggested to assess suitable opportunities for community access, including reducing courses to 9 holes, making the courses available for public use at certain times, and enabling public use at the edges of the courses. These decisions should be on a case by case basis and consider partnership approach with golf club operators, including:

- Benefits of the golf course to the community including ecological, tree canopy, flood mitigation and, for publically-accessible golf courses, access to community space
- Public safety and damage from golf balls (e.g. to walkers)
- Maintaining or increasing health and access to recreation opportunities and social networks for older people and any other vulnerable groups supported by the golf course
- Balancing equity and access to publicly owned open space with golf usage, and
- Equity of access for the broader community and changing.

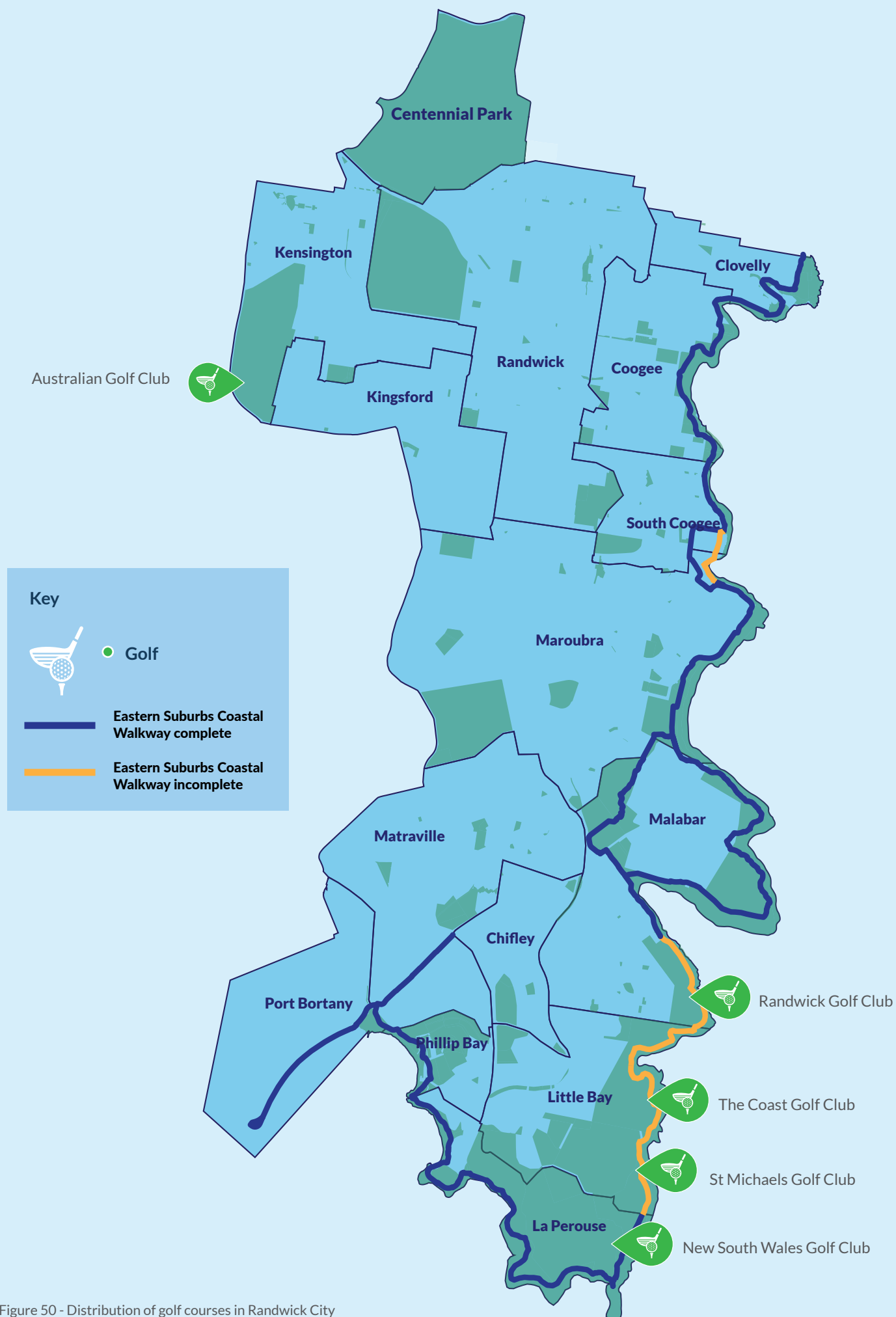


Figure 50 - Distribution of golf courses in Randwick City



Figure 51 - Distribution of golf courses in the Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)

6.14 Lawn bowls, croquet and bocce

What are lawn bowls, croquet and bocce?

Lawn bowls, croquet and bocce are European games that can be played on almost any flat, open space. They can be played indoor or outdoor, and for social or competitive purposes.

Current provision

As shown by Table 52, there are currently five lawn bowling greens in Randwick City, all of which are owned and operated by private clubs. There is also one croquet club at Coogee.

As shown in Figure 52, with limited provision in the City of Sydney and Bayside Council areas residents of these areas may be accessing lawn bowling clubs in Randwick City.

Demographic needs

As Randwick City is an ageing population, it is important for the community to be able to access and participate in low-impact, therapeutic exercises like lawns bowls, croquet and bocce, that can improve fitness, coordination and confidence, and facilitate social interaction.

Recreation trends

The 2017 National Bowls Census identified a significant growth rate in social participation of lawn bowls between 2010 and 2017, with the highest concentration in NSW (23.8%). This was a significantly higher proportion compared to Australia (15.6%). The Census also identified a decrease in traditional memberships in NSW (-5.5%), and pennant/other league competitions (-10.1%), indicating casual use is on the rise.

According to the Census, between 2010-2017 the highest proportion of male participants in NSW were aged 75 years and older (16.3%), which was closely followed by males aged 60-74 years (15.1%). Interestingly in NSW, the highest proportion of female participants were aged 60-74 years (16.6%), followed by females aged 75 years and over (16.3%).

Needs

Lawn bowls, croquet and bocce provide important recreation activities for seniors. With all lawn bowling clubs in Randwick City in private ownership, it's important for Council to monitor any changes to this form of provision, with the opportunity to potentially leverage alternate recreation opportunities.

Table 52 - Overview of lawn bowls, croquet and bocce areas in Randwick City

SUBURB	Name of park	Ownership	Sports
Clovelly	Clovelly Bowling and Recreation Club	Clovelly Bowling and Recreation Club	Lawn bowls and bocce
Coogee	Coogee Croquet Club at Bardon Park	Coogee Croquet Club	Croquet
South Coogee	South Coogee Bowling Club	South Coogee Bowling Club Ltd	Lawns bowls
Randwick	Randwick Bowling Club	Randwick Bowling Club	Lawns bowls
Coogee	Coogee Beach Club	Coogee Beach Hotel	Lawn bowls
Matraville	Club Matto	Club Matto	Lawn bowls



Figure 52 - Distribution of lawn bowls and bocce in Randwick City

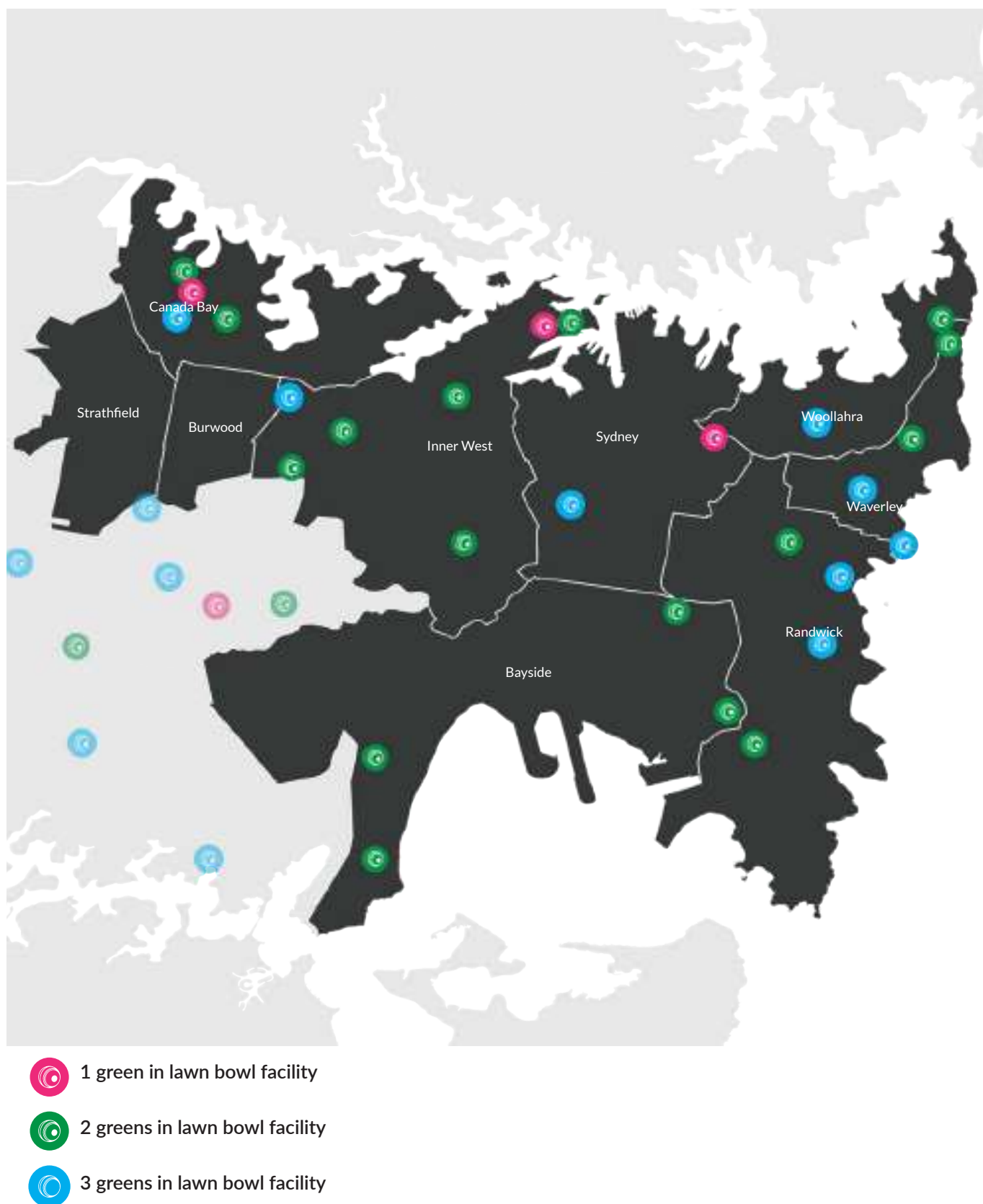


Figure 53 - Distribution of lawn bowls and bocce in Eastern City District (Source: Office of Sport)

6.15 Outdoor commercial fitness groups and personal trainers

What is outdoor commercial fitness?

Commercial fitness may refer to a range of outdoor fitness activities conducted by commercial enterprises and may include group sessions such as HIIT, boxing, aerobic activity or one on one training with a personal trainer.

Current provision

In 2011, Council introduced a Policy for the use of Council Reserves by Commercial Fitness Groups and Personal Trainers.

As of 2017/2018, there were a total of 25 temporary licenses at parks and beaches in Coogee and Maroubra, with the majority clustered along the coastline.

Council policy

Council's Policy on the use of Randwick Council Reserves by commercial fitness groups and personal trainers states that: "Personal fitness training is one of the strongest growth segments in the fitness industry. An increase in the number of commercial fitness trainers using public reserves has raised various issues including:

a) Equity of access:

- potential conflict between general park users and commercial fitness groups
- level of demand of a particular location e.g. beaches
- monopolisation of areas and exploitation of public land by commercial operators

b) Impacts on the parks, reserves and facilities: trainers and fitness groups (especially large groups) are causing wear-and-tear to parks and recreational facilities.

c) Public liability concerns: some trainers have insufficient or no insurance to cover client injuries".

Council has indicated that this Policy has been successful in assisting to control size and frequency of groups using public reserves.

Opportunities

Continue to monitor the implementation of Council's policy, and, if appropriate, update the policy.

Table 53 - Overview of licensed outdoor fitness training companies in Randwick City, 2017-2018

Suburb	Park / beach	Number of groups	Designated days	Times
Coogee	Goldstein Reserve	5	Weekdays	6-8am, 5.30-7.30pm
	Coogee Beach North	2	Weekdays	6-8am, 5.30-7.30pm
	Coogee Beach Central	5	Weekdays	6-8am, 5.30-7.30pm
	Coogee Beach South	1	Weekdays and Saturday	6-8am, 5-7pm
	Baker Park	2	Weekdays	6.30-11am, 5.30-7.30pm
Maroubra	Maroubra Beach North	1	Weekdays and Saturday	6-10am
	Maroubra Beach Central	3	Weekdays and Saturday	6-10am
	Arthur Byrne Reserve	5	Weekdays and Saturday	6am-1pm
	Quarry Reserve	1	Tuesday	6-10am

6.16 Equestrian sports

What are equestrian sports?

Equestrian sports are sports that use horses as a main part of the sport. This usually takes the form of the rider being on the horse's back, or the horses pulling some sort of horse-drawn vehicle.

Current provision

There are three facilities that cater to equestrian sports in Randwick City, none of which are Council owned. These are shown in Table 54 and include the Royal Randwick Racecourse, which is a national focal point for horse racing, as well as Bunnerong Equestrian Park in Matraville, and the South East Equestrian Club at Malabar Headland. In addition, Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre is located just outside the Randwick LGA border in Moore Park and uses Centennial Parklands for trail rides and lessons.

Community engagement (expressed needs)

There was limited community response regarding equestrian sport facilities, however some expressed desire for increased public access to Bunnerong Equestrian Park and South East Equestrian Club. Engagement with the Australian Turf Club indicated they are considering opportunities to provide improved public access to their site, including discussion around using part of the site along High St as a public park, while the Kensington to Kingsford Strategy identifies opportunities to create an urban forest along Anzac Parade. However, daily horse training schedule limits further public access in-field.

Opportunities

Continue to engage with the Australian Turf Club through the Greater Sydney Commission collaboration group around opportunities to identify suitable land for a public park and enhance connections between UNSW and Kensington.

Table 54 - Overview of Equestrian facilities in Randwick City

Suburb	Facility name	Ownership / management	Public access?
Malabar	South East Equestrian Club	South East Equestrian Club	No, however not-for-profit organisation has a public health focus on equine therapy including opportunities for people with a disability to learn to ride.
Matraville	Bunnerong Equestrian Park	La Perouse Pony Club	Available to the general public for personal horse riding and approved activities when Pony Club events are not taking place.
Randwick	Royal Randwick Racecourse	Australian Turf Club	Not available to the general public, however opportunity for public access is plausible for non-race days. Opportunity to collaborate with Australian Turf Club to identify suitable land for a public park and enhance connections between UNSW and Kensington town centre.

6.17 Shooting sports

What are shooting sports?

Shooting sports is a collective group of competitive and recreational sporting activities involving proficiency tests of accuracy, precision and speed in shooting.

Current provision

There are two shooting sports facilities in Randwick City, including the ANZAC Rifle Range at Malabar Headland National Park and the Sydney Pistol Club at La Perouse.

Opportunities

There is opportunity for increased public access to the eastern Malabar Headland section of the Coastal Walk. Current access is significantly restricted when the ANZAC Rifle Range is in use every Saturday and every first and

third Sunday of the month. Access is also often restricted on weekdays when the rifle range is in use. The western Malabar Headland section of the Coastal Walk remains open 24/7 even when shooting is underway.

Survey respondents indicated that this is a significant barrier to use of the Coastal Walk, which is one of the most highly visited and valued recreation spaces in Randwick City.

6.18 Youth plazas

What are youth plazas?

Youth plazas are purpose-built recreation facilities and public spaces that are designed for and with young people. They often include the following features:

- Physical spaces – skate, court sports (basketball, netball, futsal), climbing walls, biking, field sports, outdoor ping pong, pools and water play.
- Social Spaces – spaces that encourage social interaction, event, performance, art and music.



Current provision

There are currently no youth plazas in Randwick City.

Benchmarking needs

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 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 Randwick City and Greater Sydney.

The minimum size of a youth recreation space is 2,000m², and this may be part of a larger park. Chifley Skate Park and Maroubra Skate Park are both larger than 2,000m².

Applying the benchmark of one youth recreation space larger than 2,000m² per 50,000 persons, there is a current need for 2 youth recreation space and this will increase to 3 by 2031.

Opportunities

Investigate opportunities to create multipurpose youth plazas which could provide a range of recreational experiences including sporting facilities, community activities/events, all facilitated through innovative design.



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

GEELONG YOUTH ACTIVITIES AREA, GEELONG, VIC

The Geelong Youth Activities Area is a dedicated outdoor plaza-style park, located at the high value Waterfront in Geelong. Containing an array of cutting edge design features, young people can participate in a range of physical activities or relax at this award-winning arena. One of the main objectives of the project was to help young people feel more connected and involved in the community and an important part of achieving this is to provide them with quality activity areas and facilities throughout the region, not just in the outer suburbs where land is cheap and plentiful.



Overview of the Geelong Youth Activities Area.
Source: Convic.com



Young people at the Geelong Youth Activities Area.
Source: Convic.com



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

JULIA RESERVE YOUTH PRECINCT, Camden Council, NSW

Julia Reserve is a new recreational park and community space aimed at providing a mix of activities for the youth of Oran Park in Sydney's west. The design caters for a mix of active, passive and programmed uses to compliment the broader network of open spaces within the Oran Park community.

The 5.2ha park includes a range of features and facilities including:

- Skate areas that cater for intermediate to advanced skaters, as well as areas for beginners to safely develop their skills
- Parkour facility
- Multi-use courts
- Kick-about areas
- Ping-pong tables, and
- Recreational amenities such as shelters, shared-use pathways, and seating.

The design of the park also incorporates significant bio-detention basins to detain and treat stormwater runoff from the surrounding community prior to discharging into local waterways.



Julia Reserve Community Centre and Youth Precinct
Source: Camdenadvertiser.com.au



Julia Reserve Community Centre and Youth Precinct
Source: Modedesigncorp.com



BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY

CAULFIELD TO DANDENONG LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL, Melbourne, VIC

The Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal project transformed nine dangerous and congested level crossings into 22 hectares of green linear park and enhanced opportunity for community sport, retail, cross-corridor connectivity and social interaction.

The removal of nine level crossings along the rail corridor opens up space for a public realm that was previously unavailable, and provides more opportunities for community use under the rail line.

The elevation creates more than 11 football fields (225,000 m²/22.5ha) of open space, parklands and new community areas, as well as 17km of pedestrian and cyclist paths.

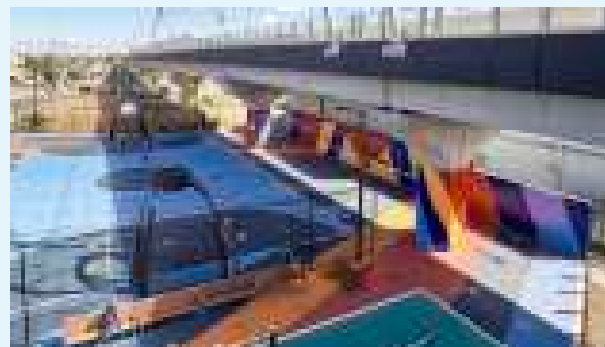
The underline features a basketball court, futsal field, sports wall, fitness equipment, ping pong tables, seating, water stations



Signage located at Dandenong Underpass
Source: Aspect-studios.com/au



Outdoor futsal field located at Dandenong Underpass. Source: Aspect-studios.com/au



Outdoor courts located at Dandenong Underpass.
Source: Camdenadvertiser.com.au



Part 2: Strategic Directions + Actions



Introduction

The strategic framework for the Randwick Open Space and Recreation Needs Study is a starting point for the development of the Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy. The strategic framework identifies opportunities to positively respond to the local and regional identified needs, strengths and challenges of the Randwick City open space and recreation network now, and to 2031.

Under each of the four strategic directions are actions and associated locations, timeframes and strategic partnerships. This action plan is based on the needs assessment and should be reviewed and costed in the context of the Randwick Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Strategic directions

Based on the needs identified in this Needs Study, the following strategic directions, have been identified:

SD1. Connect and enhance open spaces and public places

SD2. Deliver new quality and diverse open space and recreation facilities in Randwick City's high growth areas and areas with undersupply

SD3. Activate and improve the amenity and flexibility of open and sporting spaces, parks, streets, and beaches for all to share

SD4. Manage and deliver the open space and recreation network collaboratively, efficiently and sustainably

Strengths and challenges for Randwick City's open space and recreation network

Strengths

- A stunning **coastline** and beaches including opportunities for recreation in the ocean such as surfing, swimming, diving, boating and fishing, and in open spaces on the water such as walking on the Coastal Walk, outdoor fitness and whale watching
- A range of quality **sporting spaces**, including regional facilities at Heffron Park and the future Heffron Centre, and strong relationships with sporting clubs
- Opportunities to **connect with nature and nurture biodiversity** including at two National Parks, Centennial Park, coastal reserves and at Council owned parks
- Good open space **linkages**, including along the coastal reserves and Anzac Parade with opportunities to create more active transport and recreation networks
- Strong **Aboriginal/Indigenous** community and connection to country
- **Wide variety** of land and water based indoor and outdoor recreation activities and spaces for all ages and abilities
- **Large, regional focal points** for open space and recreation at our doorsteps including Coogee, Clovelly and Maroubra beaches, Centennial Park and two National Parks
- Lots of **schools with recreation facilities** and potential for sharing
- A strong history of **iconic sporting clubs** including Australian Turf Club, the South Sydney Rabbitohs and Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club

Challenges

- **High visitation** from regional and neighbouring council areas, places pressure on Randwick City beaches, open spaces and sports spaces and is a management and maintenance demand to Council
- Forecast **population growth** within Randwick LGA and neighbouring suburbs will place pressure on the capacity of our existing open space network
- **Urban renewal areas** in Randwick City (including Kensington and Kingsford) have an existing low provision of open space and recreational infrastructure and limited land available to support new residents
- A **changing climate** impacting on drought, rising water levels and beach erosion presents challenges for Council in how to manage and maintain its open spaces and recreational infrastructure sustainably
- Managing **conflicts between users** of open spaces, including dogs, commercial fitness groups, pedestrians and cyclists
- Addressing the community's strong desire for increased **cycling** linkages and connections throughout the LGA
- Room to improve **public and active transport** linkages to open spaces and recreation facilities
- Large areas of non-Council managed open space with **restricted public access (such as golf courses) or shared use** that may prevent the realisation of green grid projects such as the Coastal Walk or improved connectivity within the open space and recreation network
- The **relatively low tree canopy** in Randwick City makes it less desirable for residents to walk for recreational purposes (the most popular recreation activity), and play and stay in their open spaces
- Address the **recreational needs of our changing and increasingly diverse community** including across ages, cultures and abilities



Strategic Direction 1:

Connect and enhance open spaces and public places



Randwick City sits alongside a stunning coastline with beaches providing opportunities for water recreation such as swimming, surfing, diving, boating and fishing.

Aboriginal people have inhabited the Randwick area for tens of thousands of years and La Perouse continues to be a significant place with an unbroken connection to country and cultural connection to the coastal Sydney region for the La Perouse Aboriginal Community.

Randwick City has large, regional focal points for open space and recreation at our doorstep including Coogee, Clovelly and Maroubra beaches, as well as spots favoured by locals, including Little Bay and Malabar. Centennial Park and National Parks also provide a destination for metropolitan Sydney.

Natural areas and habitat are the most important type of space for Randwick City to have for the community. Residents value having access to natural areas for recreation as well as preservation of biodiversity. A key directive of the Sydney Green Grid is also to improve connectivity to key regional destinations, foreshores, beaches and bays and continue to invest in the improvements of major parks and infrastructure.

Key initiatives

- Randwick City Council is preparing an Integrated Transport Strategy to guide future plans for transport and movement across the city
- Green Grid Priority Projects to increase walking and cycling connectivity to, from and throughout the Randwick LGA and to the coastline (Projects 2; 19; 23; 41; 34; & 40 as identified in the Green Grid document)
- Kensington and Kingsford Town Centres Strategy outlines a number of walking and cycling path upgrades to increase active transport options to, from and within the Randwick LGA
- Draft Randwick Junction Planning Strategy endorsed by Council incorporates public domain improvements to enhance connectivity between existing parks, laneways and streets. The draft Strategy includes the creation of a new plaza at Waratah Avenue that links to the light rail terminus and hospitals campus.

Why is this important?

- While currently there are a range of good open space linkages, including along the coastal reserves and Anzac Parade, there are opportunities to create more active transport and recreation networks.
- Walking is the most popular recreation activity in Randwick City, followed by swimming in beaches or ocean pools, and creating a continuous Coastal Walkway is one of the highest priorities for our community.
- Opportunity to improve active transport connections to and between open spaces and the beautiful coastline and beaches to support people to walk or ride within a recreation network. This is particularly important to support access for residents who live in high density areas with less access to open space within walking distance.
- The relatively low tree canopy in Randwick City makes it less desirable for residents to walk for recreational purposes (the most popular recreation activity), and play and stay in their open spaces.
- The NSW Government has identified Green Grid Projects for the Randwick City area including the completion of the Coastal Walk and improved connectivity within the open space and recreation network. However there are some obstacles to realising these projects, including large areas of non-Council-managed open space with restricted public access (such as golf courses, the Royal Randwick Racecourse and the Anzac Rifle Range at Malabar Headland).
- A need for improved safe and connected cycle paths and walking paths was identified across community engagement activities as a high priority for residents.

Table 55 - Strategic Direction 1 - Actions

Action		Location opportunities/ priorities	Partners	Timeframe <small>Quick wins (<1), Short (1-3), Medium (4-8), Long (8+)</small>
SD1.1	Develop options to close the broken links in the Coastal Walkway, to realise the long-term vision of a continuous pedestrian link between Clovelly and Botany Bay.	Seaside Parade area (South Coogee) and coastal golf courses.	Golf courses on Crown Lands, NSW Parks and Wildlife Service	Medium
SD1.2	Prepare a wayfinding strategy for the Coastal Walk with a focus on activation opportunities by creating points of interest along appropriate sections of the Coastal Walk including public art and heritage interpretation.	Coastal Walk	NSW Parks and Wildlife Service; LALC	Medium
SD1.3	Continue to advocate for public access to the remaining Federal land at Malabar Headland including the ANZAC Rifle Range.	Malabar Headland	Federal Government, ANZAC Rifle Range	Ongoing
SD1.4	Conduct an access audit for Randwick City beaches, reserves and ocean pools to improve accessibility (e.g. beach wheelchair, beach matting, stairs and railings), particularly at entry points at ocean pools and key snorkeling and diving locations.	All beaches and coastal reserves	Council lifeguards	Short
SD1.5	Improve pedestrian and cycling access to Centennial Parklands and Queens Park across barriers / major roads including Anzac Parade and Alison Road. <i>[Green Grid project opportunity cluster 1.6].</i>	City-wide	Transport for NSW; Centennial Parklands; adjoining Councils; BikEast	Short
SD1.6	Improve pedestrian and cycling transport connections along Anzac Parade from south of Kingsford to La Perouse, with opportunities for recreation opportunities along the Anzac Parade Corridor.	Kensington, Kingsford, Maroubra, Malabar, Chifley, Little Bay, La Perouse, Moore Park	Transport for NSW	Short
SD1.7	Create a green grid through avenue tree planting and landscape, including prioritising projects that connect areas with lower open space provision per person (e.g. areas in Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick) with existing open spaces.	City-wide	Government agencies and departments including DPIE; and Transport for NSW; other key stakeholders	Medium

Strategic Direction 2: Deliver new quality and diverse open space and recreation facilities in Randwick's high growth areas and areas with undersupply



Open spaces and recreation facilities in Randwick City play an important role in the community's quality of life by supporting health and wellbeing and providing places for the community to come together and connect.

While Randwick City has a great range of open space across the LGA, this varies depending on where people live. As the expected higher growth in areas such as Kingsford (2.73m²), Kensington (3.12m²) and Randwick (7.24m²) occurs, the provision of open space is forecast to decline relative to current provision.

To support access to quality and diverse open space for the whole community, there is a need to enable the delivery of better quality, easily accessible open space for recreation that keeps pace with expected population growth and increased density in urban areas.

In high growth areas within increasing densities and declining land supply, the typical approach of setting aside a generic quantum of land as part of every development is no longer effective and a performance based approach which focusses on the quality of the outcome rather than just the quantity will deliver better outcomes for the community.

The Draft Greener Places Design Guide provides performance based indicators that should be embedded by Council in its planning processes that relate to access, distribution, size, quantity, quality and diversity. Opportunities to deliver new and improved open space opportunities should be a focus of new strategic and infrastructure projects.

To respond to the changing needs of the Randwick City community now and into the future, delivery of multipurpose, shared, connected and inclusive open spaces and facilities is critical to enable a diversity of activities and experiences.

Providing connections to the natural environment - the green and blue - opportunities to be healthy, the environment to be cooler and for children to learn, go on adventures and engage in 'risky' play should all be considered when planning new spaces and facilities.

Why is this important?

- While overall Randwick City has a high provision of open space, (on average around 19.1m² per person of Council-managed open space (and 42.5m² per person of all open space), urban renewal areas such as Kensington and Kingsford have an existing lower provision of open space and recreational infrastructure, higher densities, and limited land available to provide new parks to support new residents (although some areas are in proximity to non-Council-managed open space at Centennial Parklands and Queens Park). These suburbs are also forecast to see strong population growth, people living in higher density and workers and students accessing open spaces and recreation facilities.
- The Premier's Priority is to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open, and public spaces by 10 per cent by 2023.
- Randwick City's community has said that they would like more public outdoor recreation spaces, including outdoor courts and gyms to meet increasing demand, and places to unwind, relax and socially gather.
- Population based benchmarking also tells us that Randwick City has a need for new recreation facilities including play grounds, indoor program pools, indoor courts and outdoor fitness stations to address existing undersupply and forecast growth.

Key initiatives

- Council is planning for a state of the art, indoor sports centre at Heffron Park, known as the Heffron Centre, that will support the future needs of our community including a new indoor sporting facilities and gymnastics facility.
- Council is creating new public plazas in Randwick, Kensington and Kingsford town centres.
- Council is continuing to implement streetscape and open space improvements through area-specific master plans and town centre strategies.

Table 56 - Strategic Direction 2 - Actions

Action		Location opportunities/ priorities	Partners	Timeframe Quick wins (<1), Short (1-3), Medium (4-8), Long (8+)
SD2.1	Acquire and repurpose strategic land parcels within Kensington and Kingsford town centres and the Randwick Junction town centre as public open space.	As identified in the Kensington and Kingsford Town Centres Strategy		Medium-Long
SD2.2	Review Council owned land and road reserves to identify opportunities for new parks and open space, prioritising areas that have undersupply or limited walking access to open space.	City-wide		Short
SD2.3	Update Council's Social Impact Assessment (SIA) guidelines to require developers to undertake an open space and recreation needs analysis respond to Council's performance criteria of the delivery of new public open space within high density areas of 0.15 to 0.5ha within 200m from most houses (where there is an identified gap) and new local open space of between 0.3ha and 2ha within 400m of most houses (where there is an identified gap).	The needs analysis should refer to Randwick Council's open space performance criteria (see below)		Short
SD2.4	Optimise existing sportsfield layouts to increase number of fields provided and diversity of codes catered for, through the development of master plans for high-use sportsgrounds.	Heffron Park; Chifley Reserve; Snape Park		Long
SD2.5	Prioritising areas with existing and/or forecast undersupply of open space and recreation facilities, work with Department of Education to increase public access outside of school hours through the joint used agreement framework.	City-wide State schools	Department of Education and Communities Local Schools	Long
SD2.6	Subject to cost-benefit analysis, provide additional multipurpose synthetic fields in appropriate locations to increase capacity of existing fields in high demand.	Coral Sea Park; Pioneers Park		Short
SD2.7	Investigate opportunities to safely activate Anzac Parade Corridor with recreation spaces such as half courts.	Anzac Parade Corridor		Short
SD2.8	Encourage rooftop landscaping for private open space and recreation opportunities, particularly in high density areas where land is limited through planning controls.	City-wide		Medium
SD2.9	Investigate opportunities to incorporate multipurpose outdoor courts into appropriate public spaces or parks for informal social sport in particular in areas with many students and culturally diverse population, or as part of new developments if not at ground level than on rooftops.	Paine Reserve (north end); Latham Park; Coral Sea Park; Heffron Park; Bardon Park; Yarra Oval Precinct; Coogee Oval; Randwick Environment Park		Short
SD2.10	Incorporate multipurpose and flexible facilities into the new Heffron Centre to accommodate changing sporting and recreation needs.	Heffron Centre		Short
SD2.11	Identify potential temporary and/or permanent sites for a BMX track, BMX jumps course and/or mountain bike course, or outdoor bouldering for children / young people in existing parks.	City-wide		Medium
SD2.12	In collaboration with the Australian Turf Club, design and deliver a new public park at corner of Anzac Parade and High Street, with opportunities for a potential 'urban forest' [source: Kingsford Urban Structure Plan].	Randwick/Kensington	Australian Turf Club	Short
SD2.13	Planning Proposals and major redevelopment sites should address the proximity to existing open space and capacity.	City-wide		Short

Strategic Direction 3: Activate and improve the amenity and flexibility of open and sporting spaces, parks, streets, and beaches for all to share



Randwick City's open spaces and recreation facilities are important places where our community comes together to relax, socialise, compete and exercise. There are opportunities to make open spaces and recreation facilities to increase their capacity, use and to work harder.

Planning new spaces and improving our existing spaces through increased amenities, embellishment and programming, will create more comfortable, enjoyable and useable places and strengthen community wellbeing and connection. Our residential population is increasing and becoming more culturally diverse. Many of us are living in smaller dwellings which results in an increase in demand for our open spaces, and potentially conflict of uses within them. We will need to ensure our open space areas are of an adequate size and designed with appropriate infrastructure and amenity to support sharing and multiple uses.

Activating the open space network, including streets and underutilised public places (including civic plazas), through public domain embellishment, tree canopy, public infrastructure, public art, temporary interventions, and programs will support a greater diversity of activities and experiences and expand the open space and recreation for current and future communities.

Recreation user groups and sporting peak bodies indicated that formal sports participation in Randwick City is increasing and placing pressure on existing sporting spaces. In many cases this increase is being driven by growing female participation, in addition to juniors and seniors. They identified the priorities for sporting spaces are to:

- Improve and upgrade amenities including toilets, change rooms and storage facilities and a need for female-friendly facilities
- Improve lighting for use at night
- Increase shade, seating, toilets and bubblers
- Improve playing surfaces including drainage
- Improve booking processes and transparency
- Have more flexible and multipurpose facilities that can cater to a range of uses, including synthetic fields, and
- Respond to the need for additional facilities, including indoor facilities and increased grounds.

Why is this important?

- Forecast population growth within Randwick LGA and neighbouring suburbs will place pressure on the capacity of the existing open space network, requiring improved access to what we already have.
- One in four survey respondents indicated that a lack of amenities such as seating, shade and picnic tables is a barrier to participating in recreation.
- Community members indicated demand for more exciting and adventurous equipment suitable for a range of ages (including younger children and older children) and abilities.
- Community engagement participants spoke about dogs in open spaces, with many indicating a need for increased fenced off-leash dog areas with seating and shade and dog off leash beach areas, and others indicating some conflicts between dogs and other uses in parks.
- Nearly 46% of the Randwick City population living in apartments with a need for places for dogs and kids and an increasingly diverse community including across ages, cultures and abilities requiring amenity to support a range of interests.
- Need for more flexible and multipurpose facilities that can cater to a range of uses, including synthetic fields.

Key initiatives

- The NSW Government has set a target of 40% for increasing tree canopy cover across Greater Sydney by 2030. To align with the NSW Government target, Council has endorsed a tree canopy target of a 50% increase in total tree canopy coverage by 2030 from the current 2018 baseline.
- Through the Our Community Our Future Program, Council is undertaking a program of major projects that will improve open spaces, recreation facilities and active transport connections, including upgrades to amenities and the footpath network, master planning for open spaces such as Maroubra Beach and Snape Park and the construction of the new Heffron Centre.
- Planned outdoor gym at Neptune Park in Coogee, and Malabar Beach.

Table 57 - Strategic Direction 3 - Actions

Action		Location opportunities/ priorities	Partners	Time frame Quick wins (<1), Short (1-3), Medium (4-8), Long (8+)
SD3.1	Work with the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Elders to develop and implement projects to increase knowledge and awareness of the local Aboriginal culture, traditions and connection to country (i.e. interpretive signage for the bush tucker trail).	La Perouse and Yarra Bay	Local Aboriginal Land Council	Short
SD3.2	Develop a Playground Plan that aligns with the NSW Government's Everyone Can Play guidelines, focusing on diversifying and expanding play spaces to include provision for all abilities play; equipment for a range of ages and nature-based and adventure play.	City-wide		Short
SD3.3	Prioritise the provision of shade structures and additional tree canopy to provide cooling and increased enjoyment for users at high demand locations.	City-wide; Heffron Park; Des Renford Leisure Centre; Snape Park		Short
SD3.4	Prepare and implement a Dog Recreation Plan to guide planning of both existing and potential future dog facilities to meet community needs.	City-wide. Priority areas are Randwick, Kensington, Kingsford and South Coogee	Key stakeholders and community	Short- medium
SD3.5	Upgrade playing surfaces, drainage and improved maintenance of high demand and used sporting fields.	Latham Park (Upper), Coral Sea Park and Heffron Park (in the winter months)		Medium
SD3.6	Review and strengthen the rock fishing safety campaign and on-site infrastructure (i.e. signage) to raise awareness and increase rock fishing safety including in multiple community languages, working with NSW Parks and Wildlife Service.	Coastal rockfishing locations, including Malabar, Little Bay and La Perouse	NSW NPWS; Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and NSW Fisheries	Medium
SD3.7	Upgrade and install new shade, seating, toilets and bubblers in proximity to sports fields, prioritising particular at regional and district parks.	Snape Park, Heffron Park, Coral Sea Park		Medium
SD3.8	Conduct a sporting amenity blocks quality audit, including assessment of storage capacity and capacity to cater for female users.	City-wide		Short
SD3.9	Provide female amenities (e.g. separated showers and change rooms), prioritising high-use sporting grounds.	Heffron Park, Pioneers Park, Coogee Oval, Latham Park, Nagle Park, Snape Park.		Short
SD3.11	Investigate the viability of converting some existing outdoor netball courts at Heffron Park to multipurpose basketball courts to enable informal use during netball off-season.	Heffron Park	Netball associations	Medium
SD3.12	Incorporate social recreation spaces for older people into existing parks, such as bocce or chess or dynamic outdoor fitness equipment.	City-wide		Medium
SD3.13	Identify suitable locations for 'play trails' to nearby playgrounds through playful features such as footpaths painted with games, colourful pots and benches and climbable features or public art.	City-wide		Quick win
SD3.14	Activate appropriate regional parks at night with creative and smart lighting, to increase use and safety [<i>identified in Night Time Economy Study</i>].	City-wide		Medium

Table 57 - Strategic Direction 3 - Actions

Action		Location opportunities/ priorities	Partners	Time frame Quick wins (<1), Short (1-3), Medium (4-8), Long (8+)
SD3.15	Identify laneways and incorporate infrastructure that support use for recreation activities (i.e. mirrors for dancing, play spaces, half courts etc) <i>[identified in Kensington and Kingsford Town Centres Strategy]</i> .	Kensington & Kingsford Town Centre		Short
SD3.16	Through the preparation of the Maroubra Beach master plan, incorporate a multipurpose youth recreation precinct, expanding on existing skate park, playground and outdoor fitness station, in consultation with community and young people.	Maroubra Beach		Short
SD3.17	Provide additional splash and play facilities at Des Renford Leisure Centre to support recreation for children and families.	Des Renford Leisure Centre		Short
SD3.18	Upgrade amenity blocks along the coast line prioritising high use destinations and deliver amenities block at Malabar Ocean Pool, to increase enjoyment and cater for increased demand.	Malabar Ocean Pool; South Maroubra; Yarra Bay; Bicentennial Park; Little Bay.		Medium
SD3.19	Upgrade the Malabar Boat Ramp, subject to funding from Roads and Maritime Services.	Malabar boat ramp	RMS; Transport for NSW	Long
SD3.20	Conduct an audit and assessment and works program to improve the lighting of sporting grounds to improve safety at night and allow for additional night time training hours.	City-wide		Short
SD3.21	Install additional outdoor fitness stations in appropriate locations to provide for a diversity of uses (both dynamic and static) and ensure that all future designs of fitness equipment installation and upgrades consider amenity (i.e. shade, lighting, drinking fountain etc).	City-wide		Medium
SD3.22	Develop a communications campaign to increase awareness and participation in existing community gardens and bushcare and parkcare volunteering opportunities, as well as Council's existing community gardening policy.	City-wide		Short
SD3.23	Assess the ability of integrating skateable elements into existing and future parks and public spaces where appropriate. Location opportunities include areas with high youth and student populations.	Kensington, Kingsford, Maroubra		Ongoing

Strategic Direction 4: Manage and deliver the open space and recreation network collaboratively, efficiently and sustainably



Randwick City is a regional destination for sport and recreation. Randwick City has a long association with sporting institutions and clubs such as Australian Turf Club, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Randwick District Rugby Union Football Club and local Surf Lifesaving Clubs.

Randwick City is recognised as being a significant provider of quality sporting spaces, including regional facilities at Heffron Park and the future Heffron Centre and people come from all parts of Greater Sydney and beyond to visit beaches. High visitation from regional and neighbouring council areas, places pressure on Randwick City beaches, open spaces and sports spaces.

The delivery and management of the open space and recreation network needs to be financially, environmentally and socially sustainable and meet the needs of the community. This means having strong governance around the planning, maintenance and management of open space, considering opportunities for dual purpose, fair fees, affordable use and equity of access. It also relies on regular and systematic collaboration with neighbouring councils, local schools and sporting clubs, major landowners (i.e. UNSW and Australian Turf Club) and state government (i.e. National Parks NSW and Centennial and Moore Park Trust).

As identified in the GANSW Draft Greener Places Design Guide, planning needs to consider “life-cycle” costs including the community’s return on the investment. The development cost of public open space should be considered as part of the up-front cost of the infrastructure.

This means that sometimes the cost of developing suboptimal land should be balanced against a lower development cost for better quality land for open space, and these considerations tempered with the likely maintenance costs of alternative options.

New technologies such as smart sensors, water recycling and installation of solar energy can help to reduce running costs for Council while improving service and maintenance of the open space network.

Why is this important?

- Ensuring transparent prioritisation, strong collaboration will ensure efficient and sustainable management.
- Strong collaboration with neighbouring Councils to understand the role each LGA plays in the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities to the residents of the Eastern City District.
- A changing climate impacts on drought, rising water levels and beach erosion presents challenges for Council in how to manage and maintain its open spaces and recreational infrastructure sustainably.
- Randwick City attracts people from across the Eastern Suburbs and Sydney to visit which puts increased pressure on open spaces and sporting facilities, with a need to plan for regional use.
- High visitation from regional and neighbouring council areas places pressure on Randwick City beaches, open spaces and sports spaces and is a management and maintenance will continue to be a challenge to Council. There are few opportunities to deliver more sporting fields, so synthetics may in some instances provide a viable solution.
- Community members said they would like increased maintenance of amenities and reduced littering at beaches and coastal parks and walks, corresponding to high visitation and use of these spaces.

Key initiatives

- Prepare an Open Space and Recreation Needs Informing Strategy which identifies directions, priorities and measurable outcomes.
- Establish an internal open space and recreation working group.
- Various sustainability initiatives including storm water harvesting and remediation projects.

Table 58 - Strategic Direction 4 - Actions

Action		Location opportunities/ priorities	Partners	Priority
SD4.1	Explore the opportunity to establish a cross-council working group, to improve the coordination of open space and recreation planning across the district.	Eastern City District	City of Sydney; Woollahra; Waverley; and Bayside Councils	Short
SD4.2	Continue to collaborate with Waverley and Woollahra Councils to prepare an Eastern Beaches Coastal Management Program (<i>source: LSPS Action 20.2</i>).	Coastal areas	Woollahra; and Waverley Councils; Surf lifesaving clubs; Community groups	Ongoing
SD4.3	Actively engage and collaborate with neighbouring councils, State Government and major local land holders to deliver regional open space Green Grid connections.	City-wide	City of Sydney; Woollahra; Waverley; and Bayside Councils; Centennial & Moore Park Trust; UNSW, Local golf courses, Australian Turf Club	Ongoing
SD4.4	Collect sports field utilisation data based on actual hours used rather than total booking time to ensure spaces are being used to their full capacity.	Sporting spaces	Sports clubs	Medium
SD4.5	Install smart city technologies (e.g. counters) to track walking and cycling data to have better baseline and understand about the number of users at key locations and trails across the LGA.	Coastal Walk and other links across the LGA	National Parks NSW; Transport for NSW	Medium
SD4.6	Expand the existing Coogee Smart Beaches Project to Maroubra Beach and Clovelly Beach to make visiting the beach easier and safer, including trialling digital signage, real-time transport information and smart parking technology.	Maroubra Beach; Clovelly Beach		Medium
SD4.7	Review all existing Plans of Management to comply with legislation and ensure the parks management and use reflects current and future community needs.	City-wide		Short
SD4.8	Liaise with sporting groups to identify ways to assist local sporting groups with promoting volunteering opportunities with the clubs. (<i>This was identified as significant challenge for sporting groups</i>).	City-wide	Local sporting and recreation clubs	Ongoing
SD4.9	Review internal data management systems and improve the efficiency and consistency of the collection and management of open space data in the Randwick LGA.	City-wide		Medium
SD4.10	Implement behaviour change programs around littering at beaches and coastal reserves, in collaboration with local community, schools and businesses.	High use coastal areas.	Local Schools; Local Business; Community groups	Medium
SD4.11	Review Council's current maintenance schedules at Des Renford Leisure Centre change rooms to ensure appropriate levels of cleanliness.	Des Renford Leisure Centre		Quick win
SD4.12	Install water tanks, water harvesting, and water sensitive urban design in the future upgrade of major sporting spaces and park upgrades	City-wide		Ongoing
SD4.13	Continue to integrate solar panels and water tanks on sporting amenities blocks and clubhouses to help power our fields and parks.	City-wide		Ongoing



Appendix:

A: Population Characteristics

B: Open Space & Use Audit



Appendix A - Detailed population characteristics

Key population characteristics that will influence open space and recreation facility provision include:

Age profile

LGA-wide

The median age of Randwick City residents is 34 years.

As shown in Table 59 below, Randwick City has a similar age profile compared to Greater Sydney, however with key differences including:

- Much higher proportion of young adults aged 18 to 24 years (14% vs 10%),
- Much higher proportion of young workforce aged 25 to 34 (19% vs 16%), and
- Much lower proportion of children and teenagers aged under 18 years (17% vs. 22%).

Suburbs

Figure 56 shows key age profile characteristics for each suburb within Randwick City, highlighting areas with high numbers or above the LGA area average proportions of children aged 0 to 11, young people aged 12 to 17, young adults aged 18 to 24 and older people 65+.

There are some differences across suburbs including:

- Little Bay, Clovelly and South Coogee have higher proportions of pre-schoolers aged 0 to 4 years
- South Coogee, Clovelly and Chifley have higher proportions of children aged 5 to 11 years
- Unsurprisingly, Kensington and Kingsford suburbs around the UNSW campus have a much higher proportion of young people aged 18 to 24 years, and
- Little Bay, Matraville, Malabar and Chifley have a much higher proportion of older residents aged 65+ years.

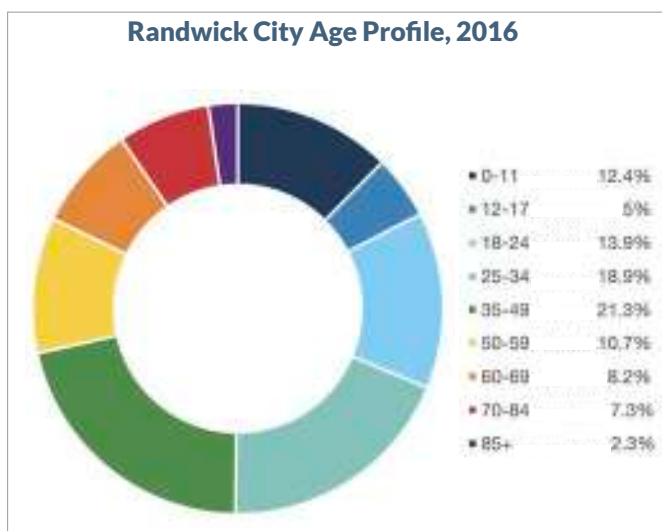


Figure 54 - Randwick City Age Profile 2016 Source: Profile.id

Table 59 - Randwick City age profile compared to Greater Sydney (Usual Resident Population/URP) (Source: Profile.id)

Service age group	2016		Change	
	#	%	Greater Sydney	2011 to 2016
0-4 years	7,645	5.4	6.4	-53
5-11 years	9,792	7	8.8	+1,293
12-17 years	7,091	5	6.9	+572
18-24 years	19,558	13.9	9.6	+2,656
25-34 years	26,573	18.9	16.1	+2,239
35-49 years	29,932	21.3	21.1	+1,491
50-59 years	15,095	10.7	12.2	+1,284
60-69 years	11,501	8.2	9.5	+1,095
70-84 years	10,292	7.3	7.5	+699
85+ years	3,181	2.3	2.0	+395
TOTAL	140,660	100	100	+11,671

Cultural diversity

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents

1.5% (2,143) of Randwick City residents identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which is the same proportion as Greater Sydney. However, some suburbs have a much higher proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents, including:

- La Perouse - Phillip Bay (22%, 244 people)
- Malabar (6%, 349)
- Chifley (4%, 125), and
- Matraville (3%, 322).

2 in 5 residents born overseas

Randwick City has a higher proportion of overseas born residents (41%) compared to Greater Sydney (37%). The suburbs with the highest proportion of overseas born residents were:

- Kingsford (59%, 9,058 people)
- Kensington (51%, 7,592)
- Maroubra (43%, 12,851), and
- Randwick (39%, 11,907).

The main overseas birthplaces are: China (7%), United Kingdom (5%), Ireland (2%), New Zealand (2%) and Indonesia (2%).

14% of overseas-born residents arrived to Australia within the 5 years prior to the census (2011-2016), a significantly higher proportion compared to Greater Sydney (8%). The suburbs with the highest proportion of recent arrivals were Kingsford (30%) and Kensington (26%).

1 in 3 residents speak a non-English language at home

Randwick City has a lower proportion of residents speaking a language other than English at home (32%) compared to Greater Sydney (36%). The main non-English languages are: Mandarin (7%), Greek (3%) and Cantonese (3%). The suburbs with the highest proportion of residents speaking a non-English language at home were Kingsford (58%), Kensington (46%) and Maroubra (39%).

Students

1 in 10 residents attending University

Randwick City is home to the University of New South Wales, which is located in Kensington and attracts a large number of students to live, work and play in the area.

Randwick City has more than double the proportion of students attending University compared to Greater Sydney (13% vs. 6%). The vast majority of Randwick City's student population live in:

- Kensington (34%, 5,101 people)
- Kingsford (30%, 4,720)
- Randwick (10%, 2,880), and
- Maroubra (9.3%, 2,867).

Households

Fewer couple with children households

While the dominant household type in Randwick City is couples with children, comprising 27% of all households, the LGA has a much lower proportion than Greater Sydney (35%).

Compared to Greater Sydney, Randwick City has a much higher proportion of group households (10% vs. 5%) and lone person households (24% vs. 20%).

High proportion of medium and high density dwellings

Randwick City has a much higher proportion of high density dwellings (46%) and medium density dwellings (28%) compared to Greater Sydney (24% and 20% respectively). Suburbs with the highest proportion of high density dwellings are:

- Kensington (66%)
- Coogee (62%), and
- Kingsford.

High proportion of households renting

Randwick City has a much higher proportion of households renting their home than Greater Sydney (44% vs. 33%), including a higher proportion renting social housing (6.4% vs. 4.6%).

Fewer households in Randwick City own or are buying their home than Greater Sydney (46% vs. 59%).

Boarding houses

As of April 2020, there were 82 registered boarding houses with more than 900 boarding rooms in Randwick with little or no private space for residents. These are mainly concentrated to the north of the LGA surrounding the university and hospitals complex.

Income

Median household income varies across the LGA

Overall, the average median household income in Randwick City is higher compared to Greater Sydney (\$1,910 vs. \$1,745).

However, median household incomes vary across the LGA ranging from a high of \$2,758 in Clovelly to a low of \$1,373 in Kingsford, and with half of Randwick City suburbs earning on average less than the Greater Sydney average.

Relative disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage has “been constructed so that relatively disadvantaged areas have low index values”.

Overall, Randwick City has a slightly higher SEIFA index than Greater Sydney (1052 vs. 2018) indicating relatively lower levels of disadvantage. Suburbs with the relative highest disadvantage include South Coogee (982) and Malabar (993).

Disability

People in need of assistance due to disability

While overall Randwick City has a lower proportion of residents in need of assistance due to disability than Greater Sydney (3.8% vs. 4.9%), half of all suburbs have a higher proportion than Greater Sydney.

Suburbs with the highest proportions of people in need of assistance include South Coogee (6.5%, 357 people) and Little Bay (6.2%, 279).

Suburbs with the largest number of people in need of assistance due to disability are Maroubra (1,519 people, 5%) and Randwick suburb (1,027 people, 3.4%).

Employment

Workers

In 2016, a total of 45,900 people worked in Randwick City, with 39.5% (or 18,115) of local workers also residing in the LGA.

Lower unemployment

Randwick City has a lower unemployment rate than Greater Sydney (5.6% vs. 6.1%) with higher proportions of unemployed residents in Kensington (11%) and Kingsford (10%), likely due to high student population attending UNSW.

Getting around

Lower car ownership

Randwick City has a much higher proportion of households without a car than Greater Sydney (17% vs. 11%), with highest proportions in Kingsford (29%) and Kingsford (26%) and lowest proportions in Little Bay (6%) and Clovelly (9.5%).

Higher active transport

Randwick City has a higher proportion of residents who cycle to work than Greater Sydney (2.1% vs. 0.7%), with highest proportions in Clovelly (3.3%), Randwick (3%) and Kensington (2.8%).

The LGA also has a higher proportion of residents who walked to work than Greater Sydney (6.3% vs. 4%), with highest proportions in Kingsford (11%), Kensington (10%) and Randwick (10%).

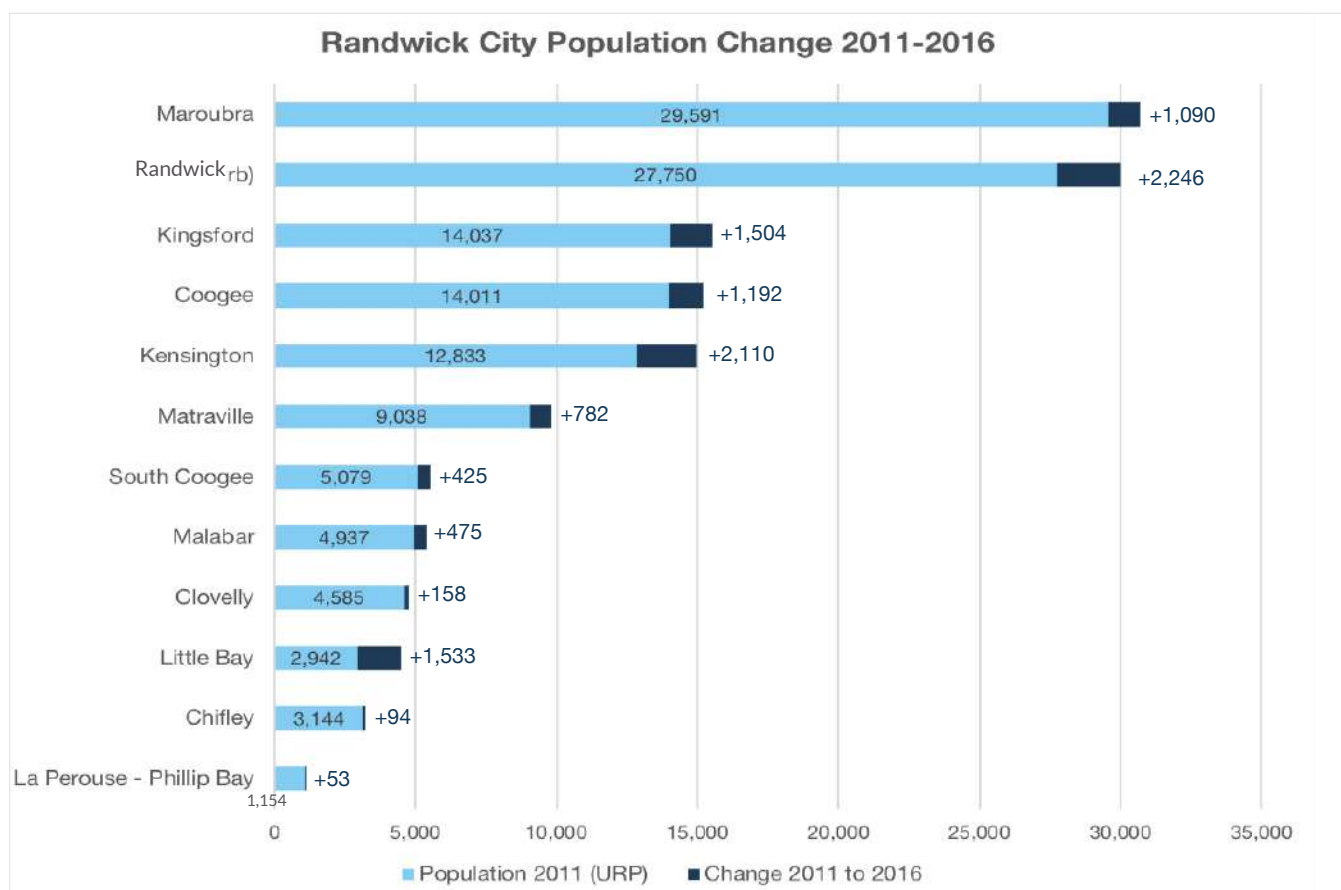


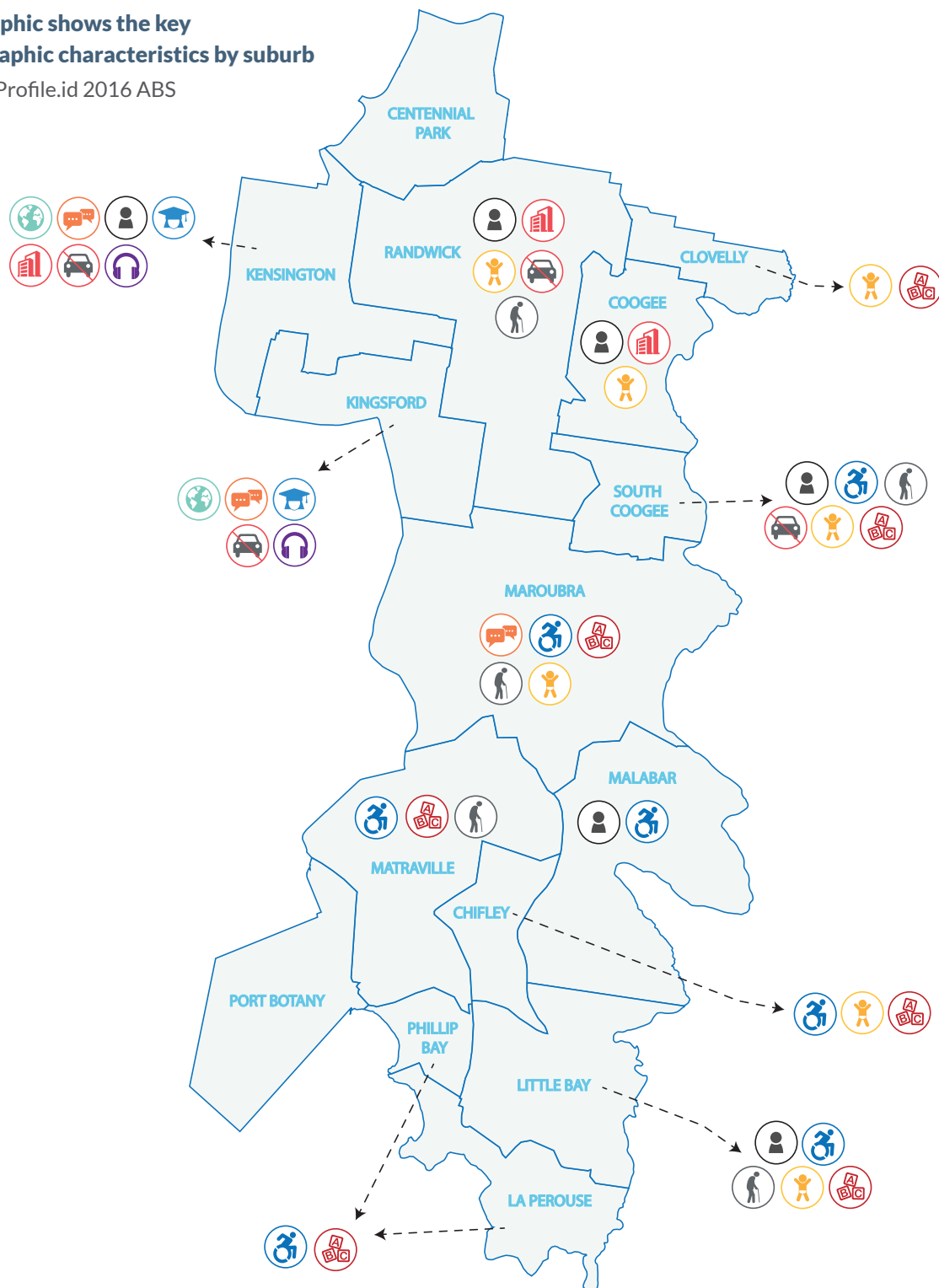
Figure 55 - Randwick City Population Suburb Change 2011-2016 (URP)
Source: Profile.id

Table 60 - Population change 2011 to 2016 by Suburb (URP) (Source: Profile.id)

Suburb	2016 #
Chifley	3,238
Clovelly	4,743
Coogee	15,203
Kensington	14,943
Kingsford	15,541
La Perouse - Phillip Bay	1,108
Little Bay	4,475
Malabar	5,412
Maroubra	30,681
Matraville	9,820
Randwick	29,996
South Coogee	5,504
Randwick City TOTAL	140,660
Greater Sydney	4,823,991

This graphic shows the key demographic characteristics by suburb

Source: Profile.id 2016 ABS



Key

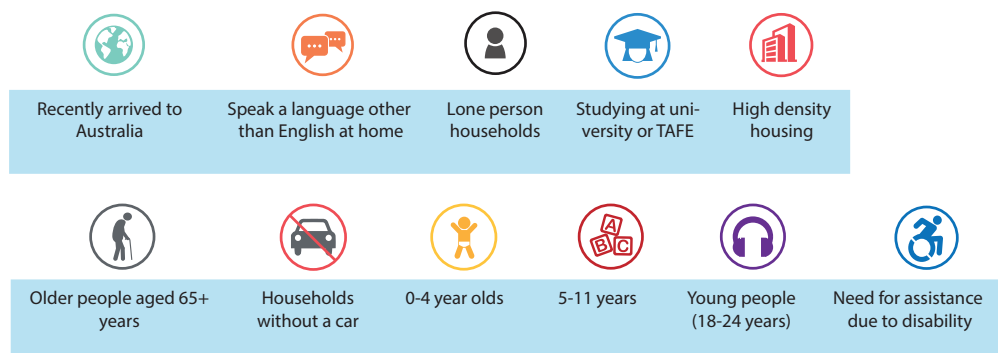


Figure 56 - Randwick City Population Characteristics by suburb

Appendix B - Open space hierarchy and use audit

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
Regional/City-wide (5ha+)								
CHIFLEY	Chifley Sports Reserve	Y			Y			
COOGEE	Coogee Beach					Y		Y
COOGEE	Dunningham Reserve		Y	Y	Y			
LA PEROUSE	Anzac Parade Public Reserve			Y				
MALABAR	Pioneer Park							
MAROUBRA	Arthur Byrne Reserve		Y		Y			
MAROUBRA	Coral Sea Park	Y	Y					
MAROUBRA	Heffron Park	Y	Y	Y	Y			
MAROUBRA	Snape Park				Y			
PHILLIP BAY	Yarra Bay Bicentennial Park	Y	Y	Y	Y			
RANDWICK	Randwick Environmental Park			Y	Y			
District (2-5ha)								
CHIFLEY	Anzac Parade Central Road Reserve							Y
CLOVELLY	Burrows Park	Y	Y		Y			
CLOVELLY	Clovelly Bay Park		Y	Y		Y		
CLOVELLY	Coastal reserve and road closure, Cliffbrook Parade			Y				
CLOVELLY	Donellan Circuit Reserve		Y	Y	Y			
COOGEE	Coogee Oval Playground	Y	Y					
COOGEE	Goldstein Reserve				Y		Y	
COOGEE	Grant Reserve		Y					
COOGEE	Trennery Reserve		Y					
KENSINGTON	Kensington Park	Y	Y				Y	

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
MALABAR	Cromwell Park		Y	Y	Y			
MAROUBRA	Jack Vanny Reserve			Y		Y		
MAROUBRA	Nagle Park	Y	Y					
MATRAVILLE	Barwon Park		Y		Y			
MATRAVILLE	Gwea Reserve		Y	Y	Y			
RANDWICK	Glebe Gully Reserve/ Fred Hollows Reserve			Y	Y			
RANDWICK	Paine Reserve	Y	Y					
SOUTH COOGEE	Latham Park	Y	Y					
Local level Y (0.3-2ha)								
COOGEE	Baker Park		Y					
COOGEE	Bangor Park							Y
COOGEE	Bardon Park Mount Street Entrance		Y					
COOGEE	Bardon Park Smithfield Avenue Entrance		Y					
COOGEE	Blenheim Park		Y					
CLOVELLY	Burnie Reserve		Y					
SOUTH COOGEE	Emily McCarthy Park	Y	Y					
SOUTH COOGEE	Gollan Park	Y						
COOGEE	Gordons Bay Reserve	Y	Y					
SOUTH COOGEE	Lower Popplewel Reserve			Y	Y			
COOGEE	Neptune Park				Y			
SOUTH COOGEE	Solander park							Y
SOUTH COOGEE	Upper Popplewell Reserve		Y					
COOGEE	Neptune street linkage		Y					
CLOVELLY	Bundock Park Reserve			Y				
KENSINGTON	Kokoda Memorial Park							Y
KENSINGTON	Wills Playground				Y		Y	
LITTLE BAY	Bob A Day Park		Y					
CHIFLEY	Dr Walters Park			Y	Y	Y		

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
MALABAR	Ella Reserve							Y
MATRAVILLE	Finucane Reserve			Y	Y			
LITTLE BAY	Little Bay Beach			Y	Y			
LITTLE BAY	McCartney Oval		Y					
LITTLE BAY	Pine Avenue Park							Y
LITTLE BAY	Bunnerong Road Roadside Reserve				Y			
LITTLE BAY	Grose Street Public Reserve		Y					
CHIFLEY	Little Bay Road Public Reserve							Y
MATRAVILLE	Botany Road Public Reserve				Y			
LITTLE BAY	Coast Hospital Road Public Reserve			Y				
MATRAVILLE	Military Road Public Reserve		Y		Y			
LITTLE BAY	Pine Avenue Public Reserve					Y		Y
MALABAR	Bob Clarke Memorial Reserve		Y					
MATRAVILLE	Wassell Street Reserve		Y					
MAROUBRA	Broadarrow Reserve			Y	Y			
MAROUBRA	Central Park							Y
MAROUBRA	Fitzgerald Avenue Closure		Y	Y	Y			
MAROUBRA	John Shore Park		Y					
MAROUBRA	Malabar Wetland							Y
MAROUBRA	Murraburra Park				Y			
MAROUBRA	Waterside Avenue Public Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Walter Williamson Park		Y		Y			
RANDWICK	Alison Park		Y		Y			
RANDWICK	Munda Street Bushland		Y					
RANDWICK	Kynaston Avenue Reserve							Y
RANDWICK	Randwick Community Centre		Y					
RANDWICK	Writtle Park							Y
Local level 2 (0.1-0.3ha)								

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
CHIFLEY	Bligh Street Public Reserve - Island							Y
COOGEE	Alby Smith Memorial Playground		Y					
COOGEE	Carrington Road Reserve				Y			
KENSINGTON	Fitzpatrick Park		Y					
KENSINGTON	Ingram Street Reserve		Y					
KENSINGTON	Alison Road Public Reserve							Y
KINGSFORD	Kensington Rotary Reserve		Y					Y
KINGSFORD	Shaw Avenue Public Reserve							Y
KINGSFORD	Shaw Reserve		Y		Y			
LA PEROUSE	Frenchmans Bay Reserve		Y		Y			
LA PEROUSE	Snake Pit, Part Cann Park			Y	Y			
LITTLE BAY	Harvey Street Reserve							Y
LITTLE BAY	Bunnerong Road Public Reserve							Y
LITTLE BAY	Woomera Reserve		Y					
MALABAR	Duri Reserve							Y
MALABAR	Eucla Reserve				Y			
MALABAR	Rubie Reserve		Y					
MAROUBRA	Beatty St Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Malabar Road Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Marcellin College playing fields	Y						
MAROUBRA	Ocean View Reserve		Y					
MAROUBRA	Quarry Reserve		Y		Y			
MAROUBRA	South Maroubra Village Green		Y					Y
MAROUBRA	Waterside Avenue Cliffside Reserve							Y
MATRAVILLE	Baird Avenue Reserve		Y					
MATRAVILLE	Blaxland Reserve		Y					
MATRAVILLE	Cunningham Reserve							Y
MATRAVILLE	Rabaul Reserve		Y					

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
PHILLIP BAY	Fred Williams Reserve		Y					
PHILLIP BAY	Yarra Road Public Reserve			Y				
RANDWICK	Bieler Reserve Playground		Y					
RANDWICK	Carrington Road Reserve				Y			
RANDWICK	Frank Doyle Park		Y					
RANDWICK	High Cross Park		Y				Y	
RANDWICK	Alison Road Vacant Lot							Y
RANDWICK	Leete Park							Y
RANDWICK	Randwick Peace Park		Y		Y			
RANDWICK	Dolphin Street Public Reserve				Y			
SOUTH COOGEE	Denning Street Closure							
SOUTH COOGEE	Elphinstone Road Park		Y					
SOUTH COOGEE	Fowler Reserve							Y
SOUTH COOGEE	Bloomfield St Closure							Y
Pocket park (<0.1ha)								
CHIFLEY	Wassell Street Rockery							Y
CLOVELLY	Lowe Street Closure				Y			
CLOVELLY	Manson Place Park							Y
CLOVELLY	Clifton Road Vacant Lot							Y
COOGEE	Bay Street Closure		Y					
COOGEE	Coogee Ladies Bath (Mclvers)					Y		
COOGEE	Ernest Collins Reserve				Y			
COOGEE	Mount Street Closure							Y
COOGEE	Ross Jones Memorial Pool					Y		
COOGEE	Gordon Avenue Vacant lot			Y	Y			
COOGEE	Melody St Vacant Lot							Y
KENSINGTON	Les Bridges Playground		Y					
KENSINGTON	Sherwood Street Closure							Y

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
KINGSFORD	Bevenue Street Reserve				Y			
KINGSFORD	Holmes St Park							Y
KINGSFORD	Paton Street Public Reserve							Y
KINGSFORD	Barker Street Public Walkway							Y
LA PEROUSE	Anzac Parade Boat Ramp					Y		Y
LITTLE BAY	Jennifer Street Open Space							Y
LITTLE BAY	Gubbutteh Road Public Reserve			Y				
LITTLE BAY	Mayo Street Public Reserve			Y				
MALABAR	Gabee Place Reserve		Y					
MALABAR	Lucas Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Curtin Crescent Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Hereward Reserve		Y					
MAROUBRA	Foots Place Public Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Little Lane Closure				Y			
MAROUBRA	Manwaring Avenue Reserve			Y	Y			
MAROUBRA	Paine Street Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Lexington Place Public Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Manwaring Avenue Public Reserve							Y
MAROUBRA	Ryan Ave Park							
MAROUBRA	Malabar Road Vacant Lot							Y
MAROUBRA	Boyce Road Closure				Y			
MATRAVILLE	Hurley Reserve		Y					
MATRAVILLE	Pillars Place Closure							Y
MATRAVILLE	Franklin Street Public Reserve							Y
MATRAVILLE	Purcel Park		Y		Y			
MATRAVILLE	Beauchamp Road Public Walkway							Y
MATRAVILLE	Lawson Street Vacant Lot							Y
MATRAVILLE	Solander Street Vacant Lot							Y

Table 61 - Randwick City open space hierarchy and use audit

Suburb	Name	Function						
		Sports space	Park	Natural Space	Linkage (green grid)	Waterways	Civic/urban public space	Other
MATRAVILLE	Johnston Parade Vacant lot							Y
RANDWICK	Govett Reserve		Y					
RANDWICK	Castle Lane Vacant Lots							Y
RANDWICK	Albi Place Public Reserve							Y
RANDWICK	Rae Street Reserve							Y
RANDWICK	Rear lane							Y
RANDWICK	Simeon Pearce Park		Y					
RANDWICK	Figtree Ave Closure				Y			Y
RANDWICK	Glebe St Closure				Y			
RANDWICK	Avoca Street Closure							Y
RANDWICK	St Marks Road Closure				Y			Y
RANDWICK	Bella Street Closure				Y			Y
RANDWICK	Clyde St Vacant lot				Y			Y
RANDWICK	Milford Street Vacant Lot			Y				
SOUTH COOGEE	Byrne Avenue Reserve							Y
SOUTH COOGEE	Jacaranda Playground		Y					
SOUTH COOGEE	Bunya Parade Park- Cuzco Street Entrance							Y
SOUTH COOGEE	Ash Place Vacant lot							Y
SOUTH COOGEE	Cnr Moverly & Roper Road Vacant Lot							Y