

RANDWICK CITY

Open Space and Recreation Strategy



Introduction

Access to good-quality, well-maintained public open spaces is important to maintain or improve our physical and mental health and wellbeing. Open spaces encourage us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment.

In addition to health benefits that open spaces provide, they also provide environmental and economic benefits. Open spaces provide cooler environments that mitigate the impacts of higher temperatures in urban environments.

Parks strengthen communities by providing venues for festivals, events and sporting activities. Natural environments are pleasant places to visit, relax and can provide solitude.

Randwick Council has 626ha of open space including 284ha of council owned and managed open space. There are numerous open space types that cater for diverse community needs. These include beaches, coastal reserve, parks, sportsfields, bushland and natural areas.

The Open Space and Recreation Strategy provides a vision for the next 10 years on how Randwick City Council will deliver the variety of open space and recreational facilities for its community. The Strategy sets objectives, strategic approach and the intended outcomes.



NSW Public Spaces Charter Principles

Equitable

Consideration is given to all ages, abilities and passive/active open space needs.

Safe

Everyone feels safe using public space at all times of the day.

Healthy

Providing open space that promotes and supports a healthy lifestyle.

Local Character

Open space that makes the community proud of where they live and play.

Sustainable

Open space that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Open Space and Recreation Strategy

At a glance

OUTCOME 1

Open space grows and changes with the community.

Objective

- 📍 Every home in Randwick City will have open space of 1000m² within 800m by 2031.

OUTCOME 2

Our community is healthy and active.

Objective

- 📍 Maintain a community satisfaction rating for coastal open spaces, coastal walkway, playgrounds and parks of 97%.

OUTCOME 3

Everyone has the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation.

Objective

- 📍 75% or above satisfaction with new open space and recreation facilities within 2 years of implementation.



OUTCOME 1

Open space grows and changes with the community.

Objective

- ✦ Every home in Randwick City will have open space of 1000m² within 800m by 2031.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 1.1** Acquire and repurpose identified strategic land parcels within Kensington and Kingsford town centres and the Randwick Junction town centre as public open space.
- 1.2** 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.
- 1.3** Continue to advocate for public access to the remaining Federal land at Malabar Headland including the ANZAC Rifle Range.
- 1.4** Identify opportunities for acquisition or repurposing of land for open space.
- 1.5** Planning Proposals and major redevelopment sites should address the proximity to adequate capacity of existing open space for the population increase due to the development.
- 1.6** Explore partnership opportunities to achieve additional open space and recreation areas to meet community demand.



OUTCOME 2

Our community is healthy and active.

Objective

- ✦ **Maintain a community satisfaction rating for coastal open spaces, coastal walkway, playgrounds and parks of 97%.**



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 2.1** 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 heritage, flora and fauna interpretation.
- 2.2** 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.
- 2.3** Create a green grid plan providing avenue tree planting and landscape, including prioritising projects that connect areas with lower open space provision per person including areas in Kensington, Kingsford and Randwick with existing open spaces.
- 2.4** Optimise existing sportsfield layouts to increase number of fields provided and diversity of codes catered for.
- 2.5** Subject to quadrupal bottom line assessment, provide additional multipurpose synthetic fields in appropriate locations to increase capacity of existing fields in high demand.
- 2.6** 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 naturebased and adventure play.
- 2.7** 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.
- 2.8** Activate appropriate regional parks at night with creative and smart lighting, to increase use and safety [identified in Night Time Economy Study].
- 2.9** Upgrade amenity blocks in open spaces with priority along the coast line based on high use destinations and deliver amenities block at Malabar Ocean Pool, to increase amenity and cater for increased demand.
- 2.10** Upgrade the Northern Malabar Boat Ramp, subject to funding from TfNSW - Maritime Services.
- 2.11** 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.
- 2.12** Continue to collaborate with Waverley and Woollahra Councils to prepare an Eastern Beaches Coastal Management Program (source: LSPS Action 20.2).
- 2.13** Actively engage and collaborate with neighbouring councils, State Government and major local land holders to deliver regional open space Green Grid connections.
- 2.14** Expand the existing Coogee Smart Beaches Project to Maroubra and Clovelly Beaches to make visiting the beach easier and safer, including trialling digital signage, real-time transport information and smart parking technology.
- 2.15** Install water tanks, water harvesting, and water sensitive urban design in the future upgrade of major sporting spaces and park upgrades.
- 2.16** Continue to integrate solar panels and water tanks on sporting amenities blocks and clubhouses to help power our fields and parks.
- 2.17** Undertake business case analysis to explore increasing swimming pool capacity at Des Renford Leisure Centre.

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OUTCOME 3

Everyone has the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation.

Objective

- 🎯 **75% or above satisfaction with new open space and recreation facilities within 2 years of implementation.**



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** Investigate opportunities to safely activate Anzac Parade Corridor with recreation spaces such as half courts.
- 3.3** Investigate opportunities to incorporate 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.
- 3.4** Identify potential temporary and/or permanent sites for active informal sports including BMX track, BMX jumps course and/or mountain bike course, or outdoor bouldering for children / young people in existing or new open space.
- 3.5** 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 through open space (i.e. interpretive signage for the bush tucker trail).
- 3.6** Undertake an investigation on the introduction of fenced off-leash dog facilities and identify off-leash dog areas for suburbs with greater than 25% high density dwellings including South Coogee, Kensington and Kingsford and one beach location (limited hours).
- 3.7** Identify an appropriate location and implement a trial on a beach location for dog off leash times.
- 3.8** Provide female amenities, prioritising high-use sporting grounds (Heffron Park, Pioneers Park, Coogee Oval, Latham Park, Nagle Park, Snape Park.)
- 3.9** Collaborate with local sporting codes to identify opportunities and initiatives to increase female participation in sport by 2023.
- 3.10** Incorporate social recreation spaces for older people into existing parks, such as bocce or chess or dynamic outdoor fitness equipment.
- 3.11** 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.
- 3.12** Identify laneways and incorporate infrastructure that support use for recreation activities (i.e. mirrors for dancing, play spaces, half courts etc) [identified in Kensington and Kingsford Town Centres Strategy].
- 3.13** 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.
- 3.14** Provide additional splash and play facilities at Des Renford Leisure Centre to support recreation for children and families.
- 3.15** 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.
- 3.16** 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.
- 3.17** Review all existing Plans of Management to comply with legislation and ensure the parks management and use reflects current and future community needs.



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Stay in touch

