

ATTACHMENT A

**VOLUME 1 DRAFT OPEN
SPACE STRATEGY**



Sydney2030/Green/Global/Connected



Draft Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016

Volume 1
The Strategy

Open Space Strategy 2016

Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016

Volume 1 - The Strategy

Volume 2 - Open Space Delivery Plan

Volume 3 - Research and Analysis

Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016

Volume 5 - Appendices

Volume 1 - The Strategy

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Executive summary

Introduction

The City of Sydney Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study provides a series of directions and recommendations for the future planning, provision, development and management of public open space and recreation facilities located within the City of Sydney.

The City of Sydney Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy 2007 has been a key document informing the City's open space and recreation needs and priorities.

Since 2007 the City and the broader Sydney metropolitan area has undergone rapid change. This 2016 Study provides the opportunity to assess these changes to inform decision making about future open space, sport and recreation facility provision and development.

What is Included?

Public open space, sport and recreation facilities for which the City of Sydney has either ownership, Trustee management, or care control and management responsibility.

However, located within and adjacent to the City are public open space, sport and recreation facility assets managed by other authorities that need to be taken into account in determining overall provision, community access and amenity.

Components of the Study

Volume 1 – The Strategy

Volume 2 – Open Space Delivery Plan (Confidential)

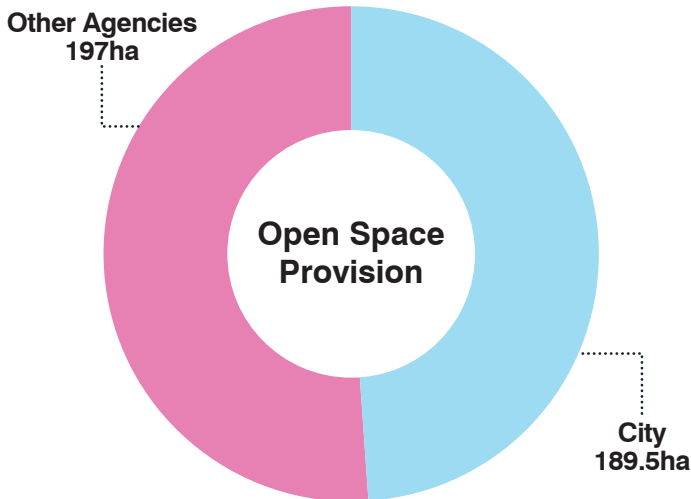
Volume 3 – Research and Analysis

Volume 4 – Sports Facilities Demand Study provides directions for provision of sports fields and indoor / outdoor court spaces

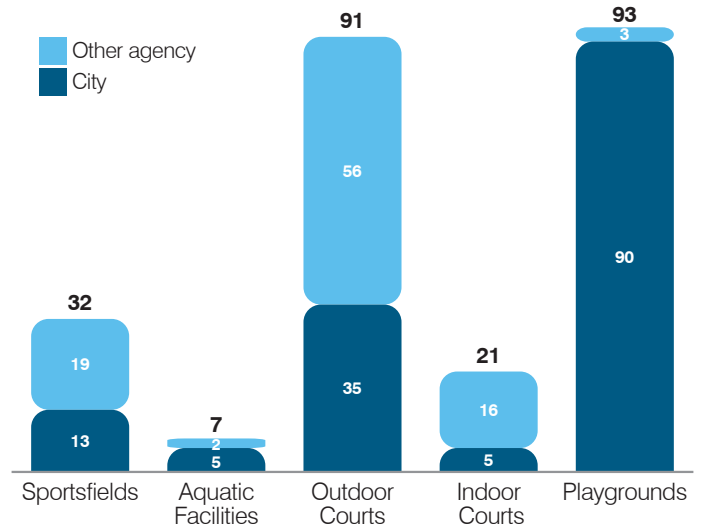
Volume 5 - Appendices

Current Situation

Public Open Space



Recreation Facilities



Open Space Provision

The City owns or manages approximately **189.5ha** of public open space and when combined with the public open space which is managed by other authorities, there is a total of approximately **386ha**.

This represents **14.8% of the City's total land area**.

Since 2004, **18.3ha of additional open space** has been added to the network.

This includes:

- **7.2ha** added to City open space network*
*includes parks developed by SHFA but now under management of City
- **11.1ha** by other Agencies**
**includes Barangaroo Reserve

The State Government's **Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government**. (Department of Planning 2010), provide default standards for open space planning in NSW. These include **9% of site area for local and district** level open space provision and **15% of site area including regional** open space provision.

The projected 36ha of open space to be added to the City's network by 2030 will increase open space site area to **16.2%**.

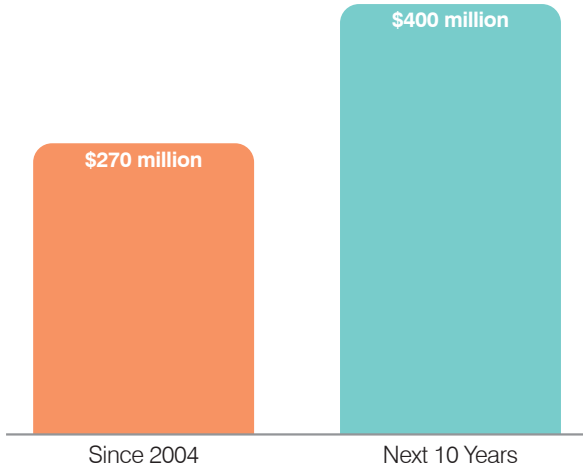
This does not include open space provision projected from State Government urban renewal areas.

Recreation Facilities

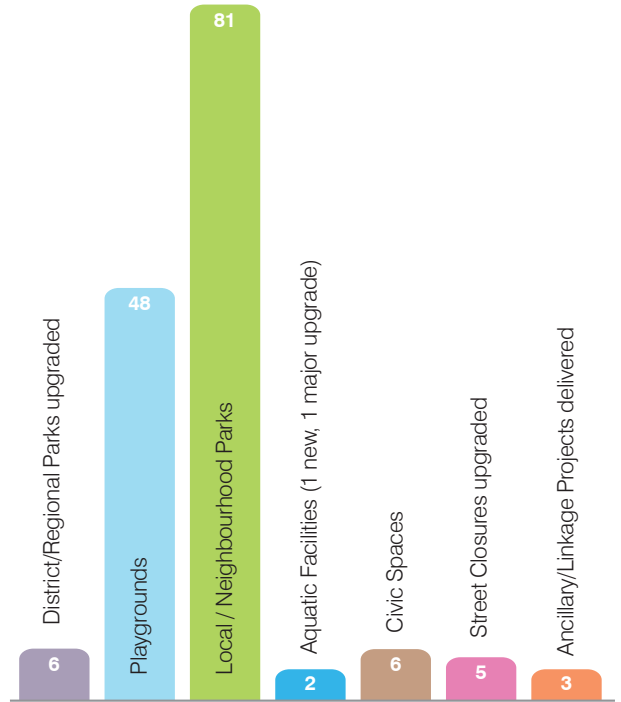
The City's open space network is the venue for many types of recreation for the City's residents, workers and visitors. Whether simply walking for exercise or playing a team sport the demands for recreation is many and varied.

What has been done?

Capital Works Expenditure



Capital Works Improvements

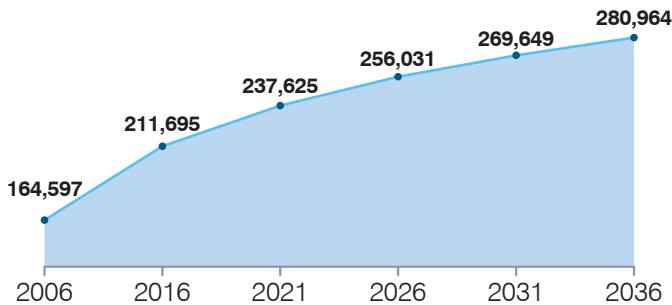


Capital Works Improvements

The City of Sydney has undertaken a major capital works program, with over **\$270 million** spent across its open space network since 2004. This has resulted in substantial improvements and increase in the recreational capacity and quality of the parks, to better meet growing and changing community demand.

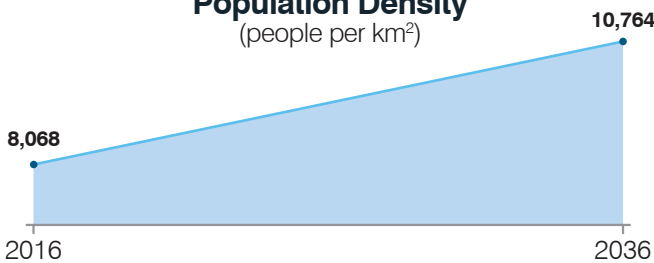
Future Challenges

City of Sydney Population



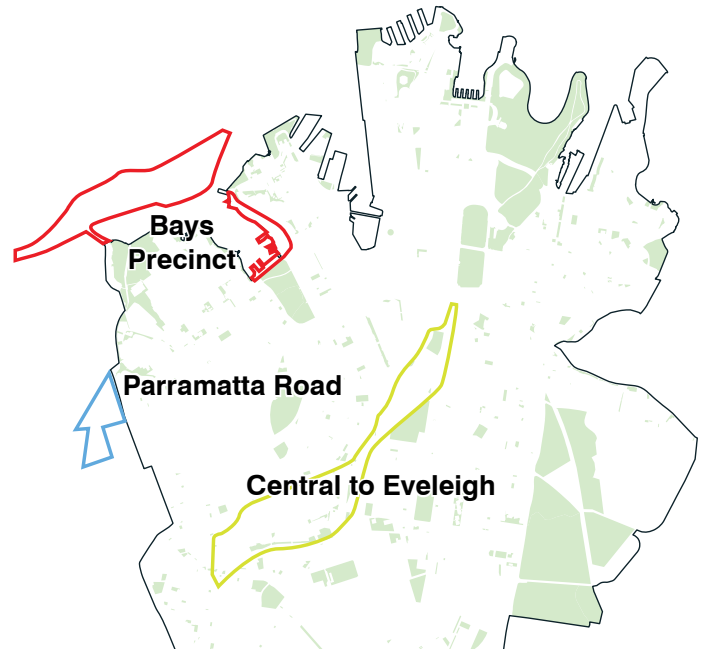
Source: Population and household forecasts, 2011 to 2036, prepared by .id, the population experts, April 2013

Population Density
(people per km²)



Source: Population and household forecasts, 2011 to 2036, prepared by .id, the population experts, April 2013

Urban Development under Masterplanning by State Government



Population and Density

The projected rate of population growth of **281,000 residents** by 2036 will place increasing pressure on existing open space resources and facilities to meet demand. This does not include additional population projected for urban renewal areas under masterplanning by State Government.

74.5% of the City's population live in **high density** accommodation with city wide residential density projected to increase from 8,068 people/km² to 10,764 people/km² by 2036. In the Green Square urban renewal area, future density will be around 22,000 people/km².

Open space provision, connectivity, quality and amenity will be critical to support increased density by fostering community well-being, physical activity and social interaction.

More open space and recreation facilities will be required for people to recreate and socialise

More open space is required through planned dedications and an open space acquisition strategy in order to meet the growing demand.

The challenge is how to increase open space provision with a finite land supply that has many competing use demands.

Urban Development under Masterplanning by State Government

There is a need and opportunity to dedicate open space provision in the urban development currently under masterplanning – Bays Precinct, Central to Eveleigh and Parramatta Road to serve the new residential and worker populations that will be accommodated in these areas.

District Planning

Open space outside the City boundary and at a broader district level plays an important role in overall opportunities for people to access quality and diverse open space and recreation opportunities.

A district approach to open space and recreation facility planning is required. The shortage of available land, high use of current sports grounds and continuing pressure for more and better facilities cannot be met by one council or agency alone.

Small Park Sizes

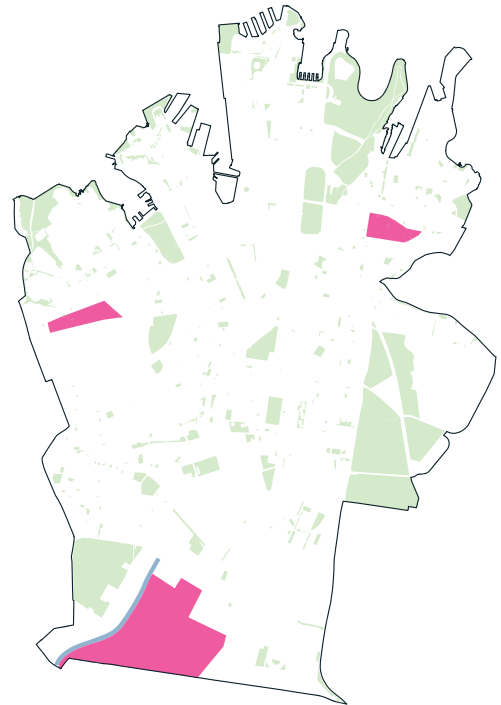
72% of the City's parks are **less than 3,000m²** in area which limits the range and diversity of facilities able to be accommodated. Undersupply of larger open space has resulted in heavy use pressures on existing fields and parks to cater for active recreation and sport.

The limited amount of large space available means that open space has to be flexible and multi-purpose to cater for a wide range of needs.

Recreation Trends



Open Space Distribution Shortfall



Sports Facilities Demand Study Findings

Demand for sporting facilities often exceeds supply, which is underscored by a high population of young people (18-39 years) in the City of Sydney and 74.5% of residents living in high density housing.

City Centre sport and recreation opportunities such as lunch time field and court sports are under pressure with Domain parklands and recreation centres such as KGV at over capacity to accommodate demand.

The City is experiencing changes to the way sport is played and the way sports fields are used. The casualisation of sport to “show up and play” has seen an increase in the popularity of small team, half-size field sports such as 6-a-side soccer, touch football and Oztag.

By 2031 the number of additional fields required compared to current provision could be as high as 20 fields. This provision will only be possible through the use of synthetic fields to increase current sports field capacity, partnerships with other sports field providers and allowing some areas of passive open space to be converted to active sports fields. A subregional approach is also required to sports field planning and management.

There are currently 91 full-sized outdoor sports courts in the City of Sydney catering for tennis, basketball, netball and other sports. Demand for an additional 17-18 multi-purpose courts will be required by 2031.

There are currently 21 full sized indoor sports courts in the City of Sydney catering for basketball, netball, volleyball and other sports. Demand for an additional 11 indoor multi-purpose courts will be required by 2031.

Open Space Benchmarks

This Study has referenced the State Government's **Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government**. (Department of Planning 2010) default standards for open space planning in NSW. (Appendix 2 page 135).

These **default standards** include 9% of site area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision.

The current open space provision of 386 hectares represents **14.8%** of the total land area in the City LGA.

The projected 36ha of open space to be added to the City's network by 2030 will increase open space site area to 16.2%.

Additional criteria beyond open space area provision such as population/ density and demographic profile, open space distribution, barriers, size, connectivity, and quality of visitor experience also need to be considered.

When considering these factors **more open space will be required** through planned dedications and an open space acquisition strategy. However, the challenge is how to increase open space provision with a finite land supply that has many competing use demands.

Distribution

Assessments were undertaken to identify open space distribution gaps. Generally the majority of the resident population is within a **400m walk to a local neighbourhood park** with provision gaps identified in the Alexandria, Camperdown and Darlinghurst areas.

Response - Strategy Directions

From issues raised and research conducted, the City of Sydney Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Strategy has developed the following strategic directions:

1. More Open Space for a Growing Population

Open space acquisition to address community demand and needs.

2. Better Parks, Sport and Recreation Facilities

Improving the quality and capacity of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

3. Improve the Provision and Diversity of Sport and Recreation Facilities

Providing an appropriate range and distribution of recreation and sporting opportunities.

4. Access to Recreation in the City will be Inclusive and Accessible for All

Providing barrier free opportunities for all of the community to use and enjoy our parks, sport and recreation facilities.

5. Linking the Network

Achieving a linked open space, sport and recreation facility network.

6. Involving the Community

Facilitate and encourage participation in open space, sport and recreation facility development and use.

7. Recreation will be Environmentally Sustainable

Contributing to the City and Local Government Area's environmental targets.

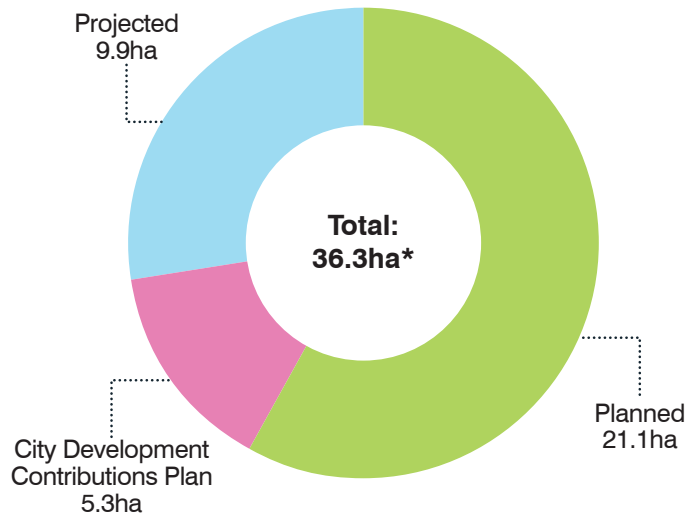
8. Looking After Our Parks, Sport and Recreation Facilities

Efficient and effective planning, management and maintenance of our resources.

9. Beyond the Boundary

Sub Regional Open Space, Sport and Recreational Planning and Co-ordination.

Estimated New Open Space Provision by 2030



* Includes open space provision by other agencies. This does not include open space provision projected from State Government urban renewal areas.

1. More Open Space for a Growing Population

- Key outcomes include:
 - **Land acquisition criteria** to ensure that land acquired or dedicated for open space meets identified priorities and will be suitable for intended use;
 - **Priority** given to acquisition of open space large enough to **accommodate field sports**;
 - **Targeted acquisition** to address shortfalls in local open space provision in Alexandria, Camperdown and Darlinghurst to **ensure all residents** are at a minimum **within 400m walk of a local park**;
 - Including new open space by other agencies it is estimated that an additional **36.3 ha could be added to the open space network**. This total includes **5.3 ha** allocated in the City's Draft Contributions Plan for open space acquisition, **21.1 ha** of open space under planning or clearly articulated in the City's planning controls for dedication and **9.9 ha** of provision identified in various planning controls or strategic documents that will require certain development scenarios and financial assessment to provide certainty of delivery.

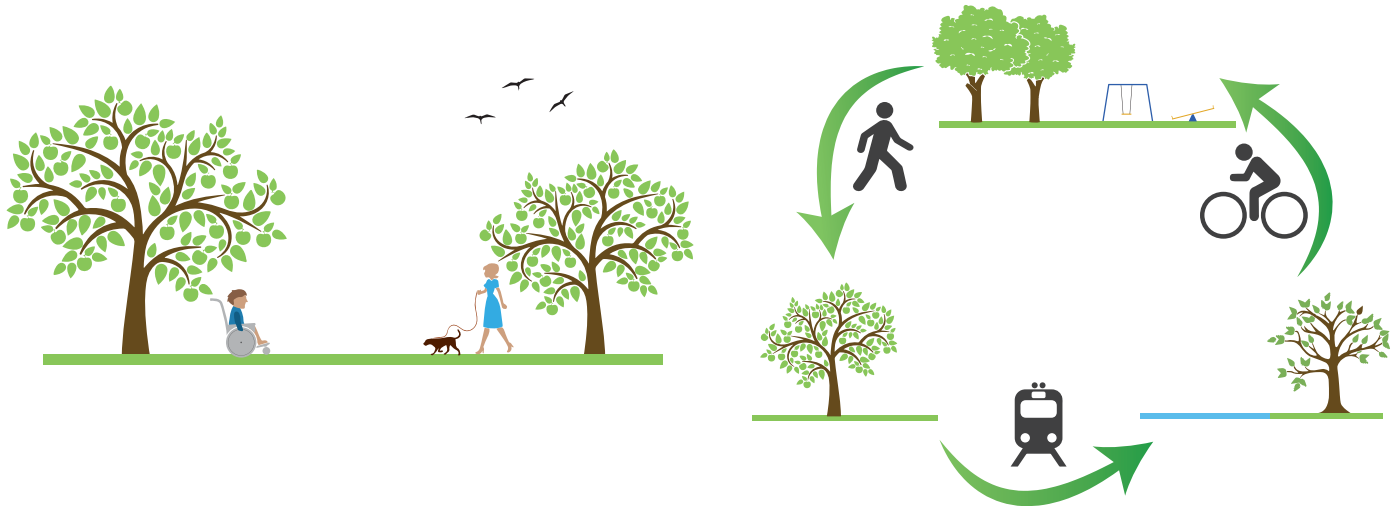


2. Better Parks, Sport and Recreation Facilities

- With limited opportunity to dramatically increase the quantity of available open space to keep pace with anticipated population growth, qualitative improvements are central considerations with significant increases in capacity, quality, diversity, usability and accessibility able to be achieved through in better planning and design of the existing network.
- Key outcomes include:
 - **Over \$400 million** allocated to parks, sport and recreation facilities in the City's 10 Year Capital Works Program;
 - Upgrades planned for Hyde Park, Victoria Park Camperdown, Observatory Hill Park. Recommended programming of improvements to Alexandra Park and Waterloo Park/Oval;
 - Ongoing rollout of **small parks renewal program**;
 - **Capacity improvements to sports fields** through use of synthetic surfaces to increase available hours for use;
 - **Support facilities** such as signage, park furniture and accessible toilets.

3. Improve the Provision and Diversity of Sport and Recreation Facilities

- An appropriate range and distribution of recreation and sporting opportunities is critical to address identified needs and demand.
- Key outcomes include:
 - The limited amount of open space available means that **flexibility and multi-purpose use** need to be a **key principle** when planning sport and recreation facilities;
 - **5 new sports fields** are estimated to the provided consisting of Gunyama Park, Green Square, Perry Park, Alexandria and 2-3 fields through s.94 open space acquisition plan funding.
 - **1 non-standard size sports field** at Federal Park, Annandale.
 - **3 casual active recreation spaces** proposed for Garraway Park, Green Square, McPherson Park, Ashmore Estate and Harold Park, Forest Lodge.
 - **Develop partnerships** with schools and other agencies to increase public access to sport field facilities.
 - **2 indoor and 2 outdoor courts** at Perry Park, Alexandria.
 - **Provision of half / non-standard size courts** in new and upgrade park projects when feasible.
 - **new aquatic centre** at Green Square;
 - **new district level playground** at Federal Park;
 - recommendation to assess feasibility to provide **City Centre play space**;
 - **additional skate facilities** at Federal Park, Sydney Park and Green Square; and
 - increasing **diversity of recreation facilities** such as outdoor gyms, walking paths, chess boards and amenity to support companion animal exercise.



4. Access to Recreation in the City will be Inclusive and Accessible for All

- Inclusion and accessibility will be a priority through a focus on physical access, the provision of inclusive experiences and information in appropriate formats.
- Key outcomes include:
 - **Inclusive district level play** facilities at Federal Park and Gunyama Park;
 - Development of a network in accordance with draft Public Domain Access Policy that is currently under development.

5. Linking the Network

- The City's **Liveable Green Network** and at a wider sub regional level the State Governments **Sydney Green Grid** will make walking and cycling a viable option to access the open space, sport and recreation network as well as be part of a greater recreation fitness network.
- Improving access to open space, sport and recreation facilities will alleviate open space deficits by providing better connections and crossing points to create a large catchment area.
- Key outcomes include:
 - **Liveable Green Network Implementation Program** to facilitate links along Alexandra Canal and Harbour Foreshore;
 - Advocate for linkages in Central to Eveleigh;
 - Support and collaboration to implement Sydney Green Grid linkages;
 - Advocate for pedestrian link to Garden Island parkland.

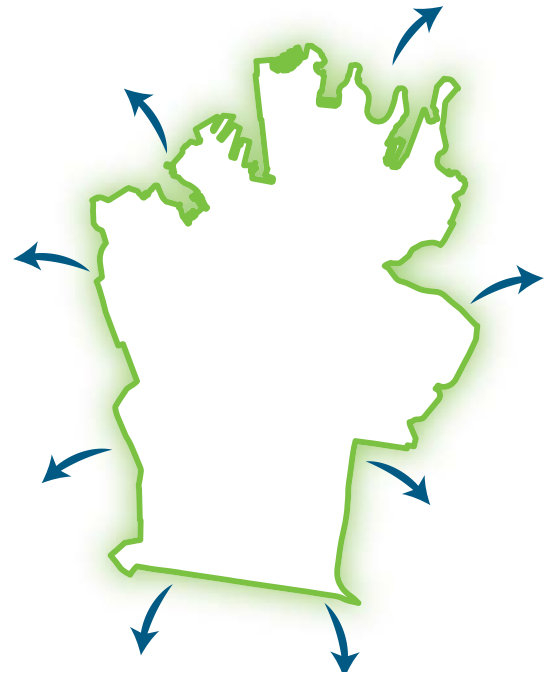


6. Involving the Community

- Involving the community includes both the continuance of the City's extensive consultation processes when developing the open space, sport and recreation network as well as promoting and programming activities to encourage participation and use of the network. This includes the use of parks for events which promote social interaction and a sense of community.
- Key outcomes include:
 - Ongoing support for **community gardens network** and **bushcare volunteer programs**;
 - Development of **City Farm** at Sydney Park;
 - Increased **community involvement** in the management of parks;
 - Use of parks and open spaces for **community run events**;
 - **Enhanced interpretation** of parks and open space.

7. Recreation will be Environmentally Sustainable

- To meet City's environmental targets infrastructure to increase the environmental performance and sustainability of the network will be an ongoing feature of the open space, sport and recreation facility improvements.
- Water is the main resource used maintaining open space and facilities. Use of potable water will continue to be reduced and alternative sources identified and utilised.
- Key outcomes include:
 - **Sustainable water management projects** at Harold Park, Hyde Park, Sydney Park, Drying Green Park and Gunyama Park;
 - **Continue energy use reduction** through ongoing rollout park LED lighting program;
 - Feasibility planning and design of renewable and **low carbon energy supply** for City's aquatic facilities;
 - Promotion of **environmental education** Sydney Park City Farm;
 - Continue the increase in biodiversity through implementation of **Bush Restoration Implementation Plan**.



8. Looking After Our Parks, Sport and Recreation Facilities

- This direction highlights the importance of consolidating the capital works program with a commitment to **ongoing maintenance and asset management** to maintain quality and amenity into the future.
- Key outcomes include:
 - Continuous improvement in **asset management**, maintenance service levels, tree management and ongoing commitment to quality benchmarking programs and user surveys.

9. Beyond the Boundary

- Planning aligned to the Greater Sydney Commission planning districts is required to strategically identify, plan, develop and manage open space, sport and recreation opportunities.
- While the City is a key provider of open space, sport and recreation facilities, it is not the only provider and that it will require **effective partnering** with relevant stakeholders including neighbouring councils to maximise the opportunities to provide facilities to meet a growing community need.
- Key outcomes include:
 - Advocate and collaborate to undertake **co-ordinated strategic Central District planning** between local councils and relevant agencies to develop a clear hierarchy of open space, sport and recreation facilities, and extend the range and diversity of facilities available to the community;
 - Advocate and support the **Sydney Green Grid** to deliver sub regional linkages to open space, sport and recreation facilities as well as deliver a recreation asset for walking and cycling.

Review of the Study



The City will review the Study as required.

It is recommended that the Study review be coordinated with a review of the City's Development Contributions Plan to ensure population projections, community demand, capital works priorities, and recreation trends are accurately reflected in both documents and City's capital works program.



1.0

Introduction

The **City of Sydney Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study** provides a series of objectives, directions and recommendations for the future planning, provision, development and management of public open space and recreation facilities located within the City of Sydney.

1.1 Why Update the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Strategy 2007?

The City of Sydney Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy 2007 has been a key document informing the City's open space and recreation needs and priorities.

Since 2007 the City and the broader Sydney metropolitan area has undergone rapid change that requires review to assess implications on open space and recreation planning.

These changes include:

Capital Works / Parks Management

- The City has undertaken a significant open space capital works program and management initiatives that has substantially improved the quality, usability and access of the network.

Population Growth and Demographic

- Changes to the City's population density, distribution, demographic profile and future urban renewal require assessment of implications on open space and recreation facilities provision.

Strategic Context

- Recent City and State Government strategic planning directions developed require review to assess impact on open space and recreation needs.

Recreation Trends

- The open space network needs to respond to changing trends on how people use parks and participate in recreation.

This 2016 Strategy provides the opportunity to assess these changes to inform decision making about future open space and recreation facility provision and development to:

- **Ensure open space acquisition** is targeted to address identified distribution gaps and recreation needs.
- **Ensure that the quality** of open space and recreation facilities is sustained and enhanced into the future.
- **Respond to forecast increases** and changes in the population distribution, density and profile.
- **Ensure** that the range of open space and recreation facility related **planning documents, policies and strategies** that affect Council are integrated into one plan.
- **Ensure trends** in the community's use of open space and recreation are considered to inform open space and recreation provision.
- **Ensure "best practice" planning and management** of open space and recreation facilities.

1.2 Study Scope

The study is primarily focussed on **public open space larger than 50m²** in area for which the City of Sydney has either ownership, Trustee management, or care control and management responsibility.

However, located within and directly adjacent to the City are public open space and recreation facility assets managed by other authorities and the private sector, that need to be taken into account in determining overall provision, community access and amenity. The City has limited jurisdiction on the management of many of these lands, and any strategic directions in this Strategy that implicate these lands will need the concurrence of the managing authority.

Streetscapes in the form of footpath widenings and landscape treatments are an important part of the public domain, however, are not considered by this Strategy in the quantum of available open space. For this Strategy, only street closures larger than 50m² that provide tangible recreational or amenity value are considered in the assessment of open space provision and amenity.

1.3 Study Methodology

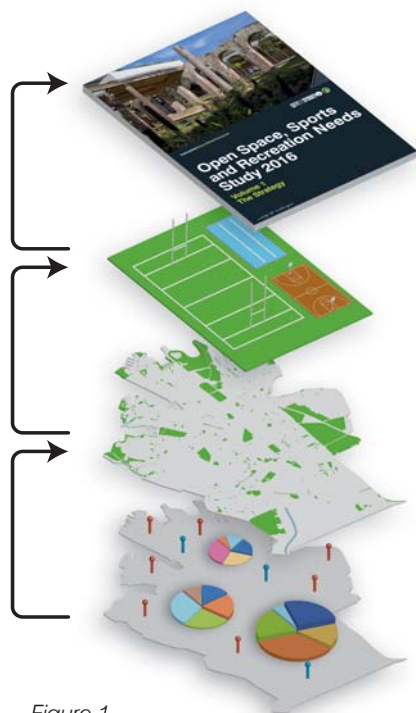
To inform the development of recommendations and future directions the study will:

- **Assess the City's progress and achievements** in developing and managing its open space and recreation facility network;
- **Assess impact of population growth, distribution, density and demographic profile** on future open space and recreation facility provision;
- **Assess current recreation and open space trends** and participation patterns use in meeting current and likely future recreation needs;
- **Review** current City of Sydney and State Government plans and strategies to assess strategic context and implications for open space and recreation provision;
- **Assess impact and opportunities provided by urban renewal areas** to deliver open space and recreation facilities;
- **Review current and proposed provision, distribution, diversity, quality and accessibility** of open space and recreation facilities at a City and regional level and provide assessment on gaps and shortfalls.

These assessments then identify:

- **Directions** for a strategic approach to **open space acquisition and recreation facility provision** based on identified recreation need and geographic demand;
- **Opportunities** for improving linkages and accessibility between and open space areas and recreation facilities;
- **Improvements** for existing parks and reserves in order to improve their usability and to better meet the needs of the City's population;
- **Opportunities** for regional partnerships to improve provision and linkages.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the key components of the Study:



The Strategy

Recommended Directions and Actions

Recreation and Sport Facility Provision

How is open space to be used?

Open Space Provision

Where? Type? Size?

Influencing Drivers

Density; Demographics; Recreation trends

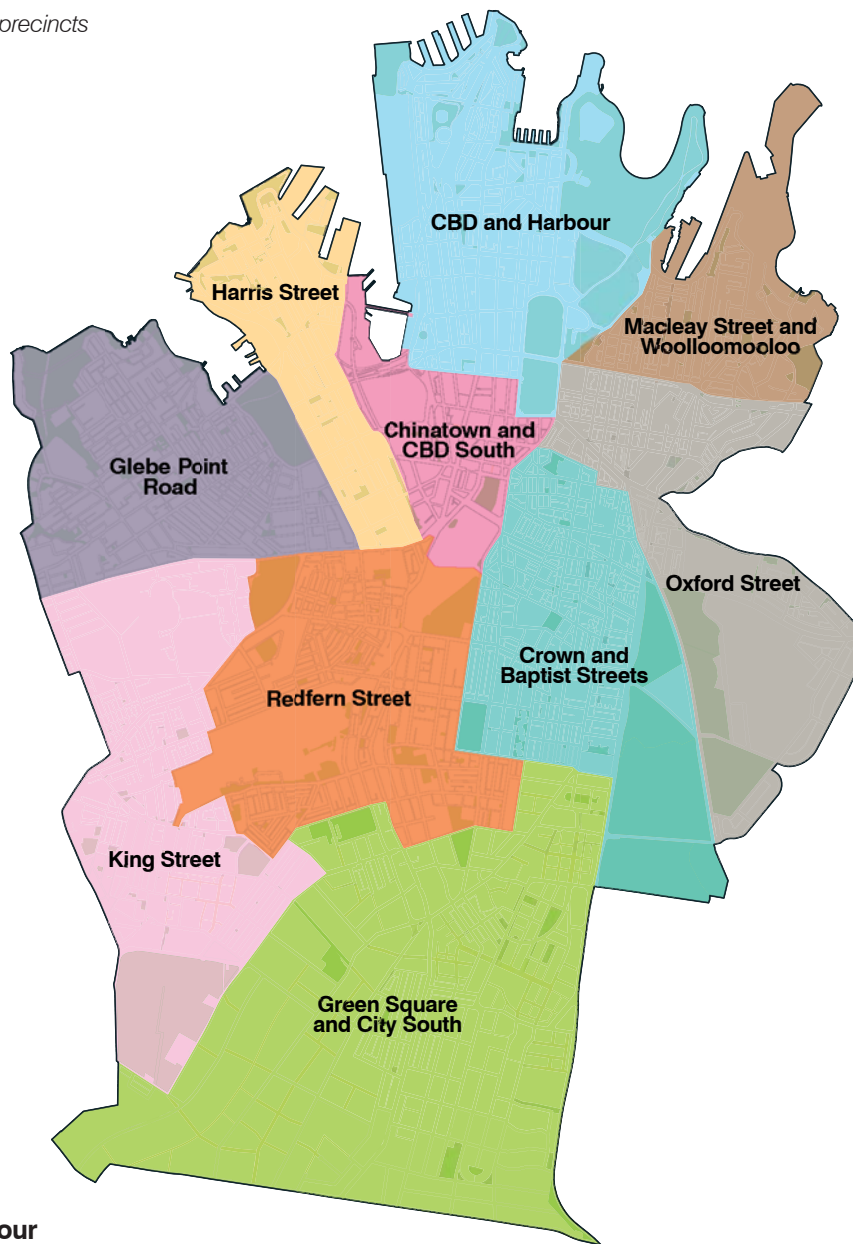
Figure 1

1.4 Definitions

The following definitions are used in this Study:

- Public Open Space** - land in public ownership or public management that provides recreation and amenity benefits.
- Recreation Facilities** - infrastructure ranging from aquatic centres, playgrounds, sports fields and indoor and outdoor courts that enable people to partake in a recreation or sporting activity.
- Sport** - The Australian Sports Commission define a sport for their purposes as: a human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill which by its nature and organisation is competitive and generally accepted as being a sport
- City Open Space Network** - parks and public spaces managed and controlled by the City of Sydney.
- Village Area** - City's *In Your Village* precinct boundaries as identified below.

Figure 2 - In Your Village precincts



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ● CBD and Harbour
City Centre, Millers Point, Barangaroo | ● Crown and Baptist Streets
Surry Hills, East Redfern | ● Glebe Point Road
Glebe, Forest Lodge |
| ● Chinatown and CBD South
Haymarket, Darling Harbour | ● Redfern Street
Redfern, Chippendale, Darlington, Eveleigh, Alexandria (part), Waterloo (part) | ● Harris Street
Pyrmont, Ultimo |
| ● Macleay St and Woolloomooloo
Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay, Rushcutters Bay, Woolloomooloo | ● King Street
Newtown, Camperdown, Alexandria (part) | ● Green Square and City South
Zetland, Beaconsfield, Waterloo Rosebery, Alexandria (part) |
| ● Oxford Street
Paddington, Darlinghurst, Centennial Park | | |

1.5 Document Structure

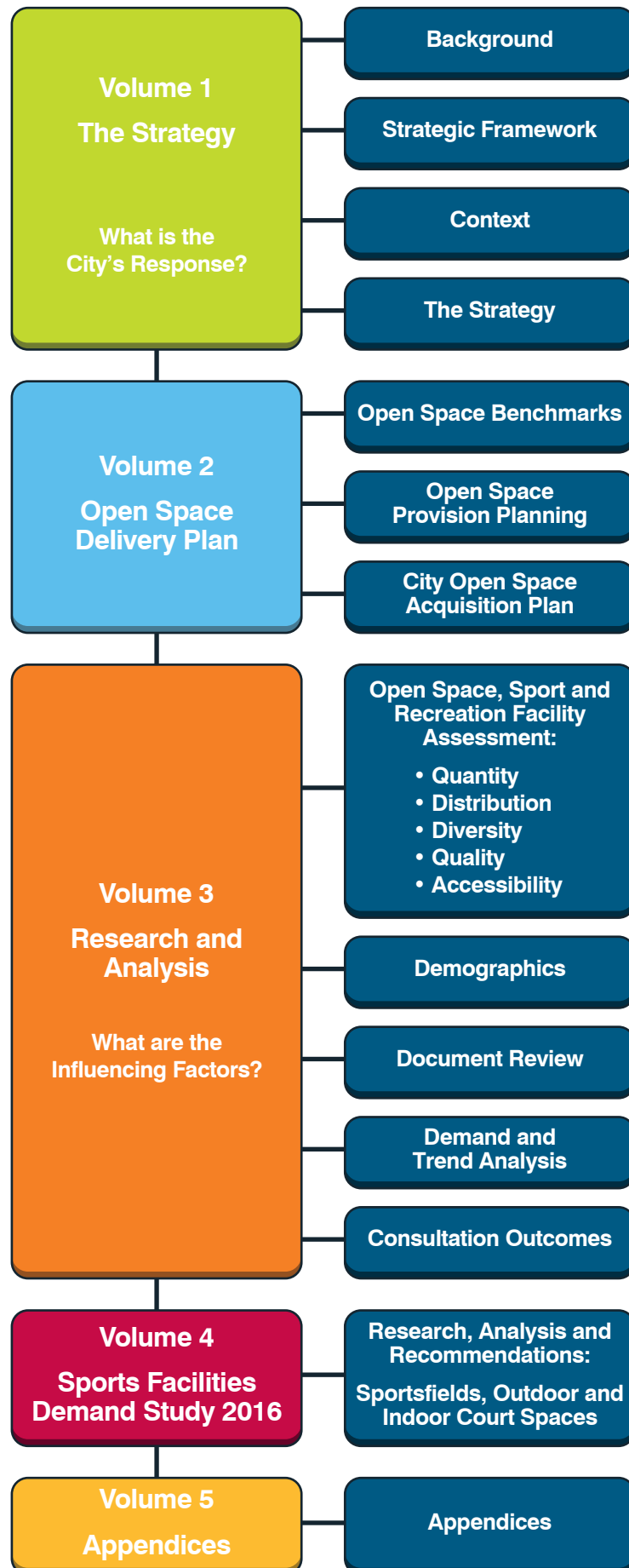


Figure 3

1.6 Why are Public Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Important?

“Open space is not only for recreation and conservation of environmental and cultural values - it is the foundation of urban liveability. It underpins many social, ecological and economic benefits that are essential to the healthy functioning of the urban environment”

Source: *Linking People and Spaces, Parks Victoria (2002)*

Research by the Sydney Urban Parks Education Research (SUPER) group suggests that there is a strong link between good parks and open space systems, and a healthy and vibrant society. Identified benefits include:

- Promote physical exercise
- Foster social connectedness
- Provide space for people to enjoy recreational and sporting activities
- Provide escape from urban environment
- Provide areas for children to safely explore the natural environment and develop physical and social abilities
- Provide environmental corridors / connection with nature
- Provide places to celebrate a city’s sense of place, culture and heritage

The following figure outlines the key social, environmental and economic benefits to be gained from open space.

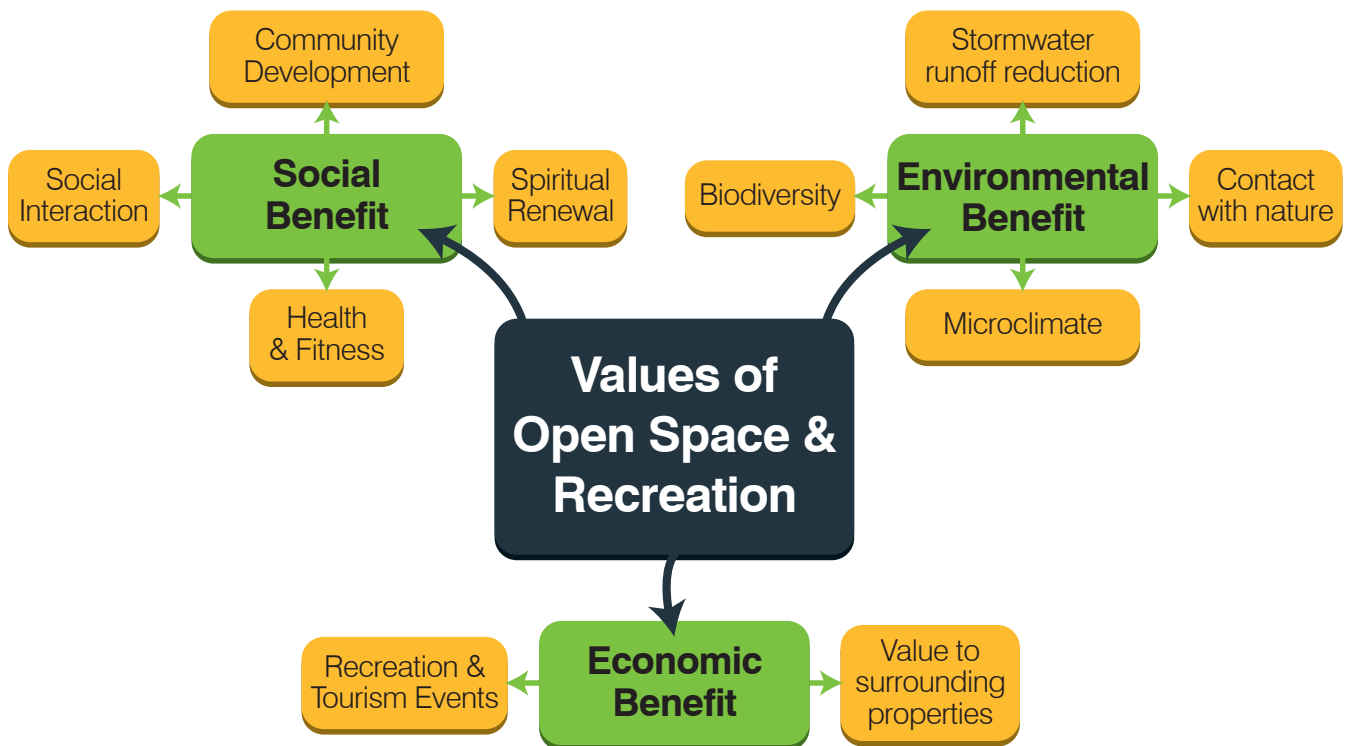


Figure 4
Source: Modified SUPER model

From the perspective of financial values, public open space represents a substantial real estate asset for the City of Sydney with an estimated total asset value of **\$1.5 Billion**.

Many millions of dollars are also expended in acquiring, improving and maintaining these areas.



2.0

The Existing Open Space & Recreation Facility Network

2.1 Introduction

The City of Sydney covers an area of 26.15 square kilometres (or 2,615 hectares) with a population of approximately 200,000 people. The City owns or manages approximately **189.5ha** of public open space and when combined with the public open space which is managed by other authorities, there is a total of approximately **386ha**. This represents **14.8% of the City's total land area**.

Public open space used by the residents of the City of Sydney are owned, managed and controlled by three broad categories of landholders and managers:

- **Owned** or under care control and management of the City of Sydney;
- **Managed** by other authorities, agencies, trusts or institutions;
- **Located** in adjoining local government areas that is accessed by City of Sydney residents.

2.2 History of Development

The City Centre features some of the most iconic and beautiful parks within Sydney City, most of which are a legacy of the foresight of past civic and community leaders.

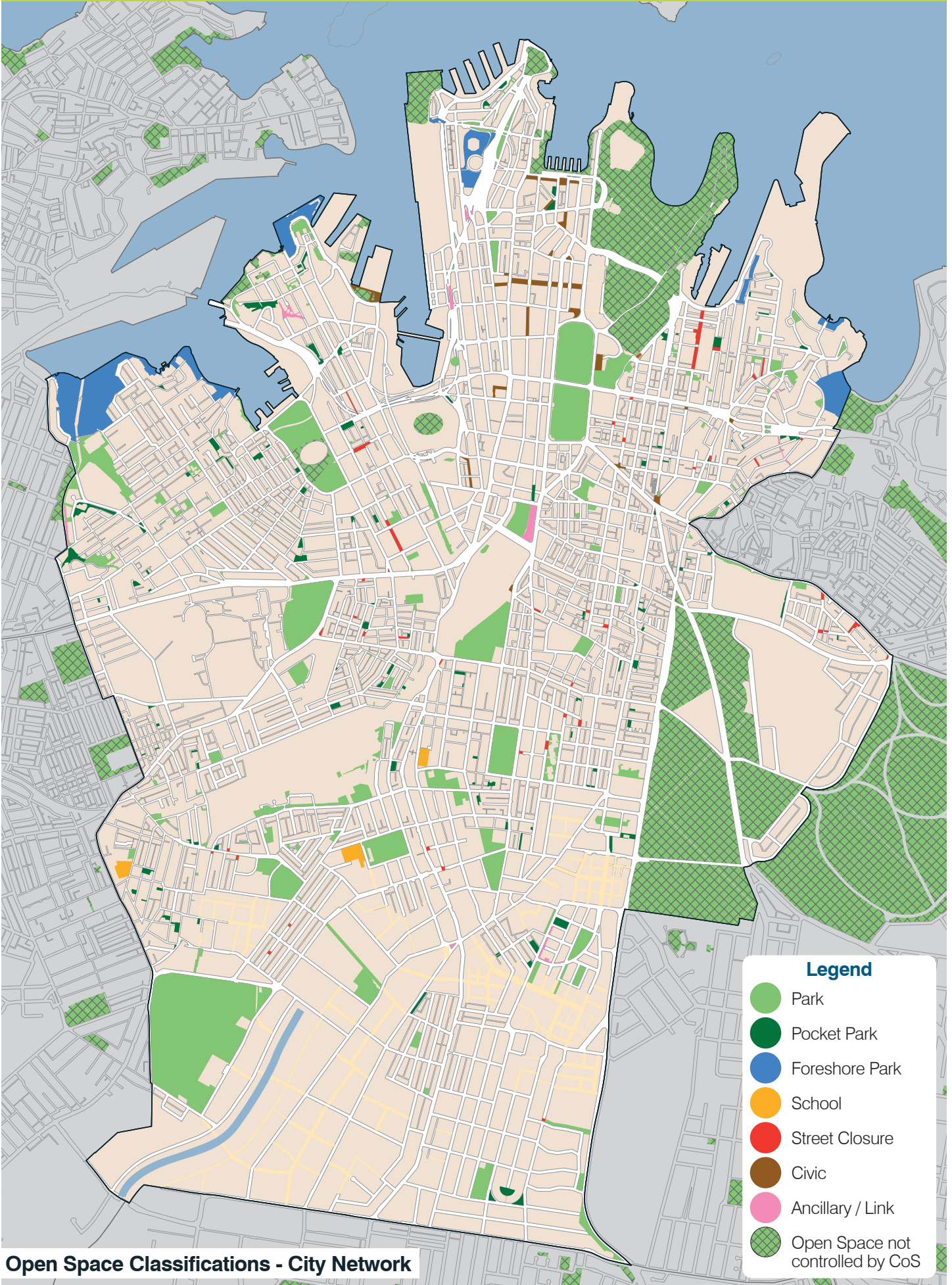
Hyde Park was Australia's first public park dedicated by Governor Macquarie in 1810. The Domain was set aside in 1788 as the Governor's private domain and was later opened to the public in the 1830's.

Developed as a parkland since the early days of European settlement, Centennial Park is the largest urban park in the southern hemisphere, covering 220 hectares.

Parks such as Redfern Park, Rushcutters Bay Park, Alexandria Park, Belmore Park and Prince Alfred Park were born out of Nineteenth Century Parks Movement. Urbanisation increased the need to maintain public health for City residents by providing spaces people could gain fresh air, contact with nature, exercise, rest and relaxation. Public Parks were also seen as symbols of modern democracy where people of all levels of society could freely mix.

In the late twentieth century the cessation of landfill operations saw the dedication of Sydney Park, the City's largest park.

Major urban renewal at Pymont and Green Square has resulted in the conversion of previous industrial uses into medium and high density residential areas. These areas have provided the opportunity to create a new open space network as part of the public domain planning and development consent process.



Open Space Classifications - City Network

2.3 Open Space Classifications

Open Space hierarchy classifications have been assigned to reflect the level of facilities / amenities, and population catchment. Broad **landscape setting type classifications** have also been applied to describe the visual character or “look” of the various open space to be found across the City. These classifications are detailed in Volume 3 Section 1.0.

2.4 Summary of the Open Space Network (2016)

- 189.5 ha City managed
- 197 ha managed by Other Agencies
- 14.8% of City LGA land area
- 402 City Managed Public Open Spaces in a variety of landscape settings

Total Open Space Area
386 ha



Parks



Foreshore Parks



Local/Neighbourhood Parks



Civic/Urban Spaces



Street Closures



Ancillary/Links

A Diversity of City Managed Recreation Facilities



Aquatic Centres



Playing Fields



Court Spaces



Indoor Recreation



Playgrounds



Skate

2.5 Other Providers

Public open space under the control of other agencies largely comprise of regional amenities managed by Centennial Parklands, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) and Barangaroo Delivery Authority. Other providers include Sydney University and UTS and other state agencies.

Centennial Parklands, SHFA, the Royal Botanic Gardens, University of Sydney, and UTS are also key agencies providing recreation facilities which are available for public use.

In addition, a range of private and commercial organisations are also providing facilities such as fitness gyms to which the public has access on a fee paying basis.

Within many strata developments, common property provide private recreation facilities, gyms and pools for the exclusive use of residents.

It is noted that the City has no jurisdiction on the management of these lands and recreation facilities, and any strategic directions in this Strategy that implicate these lands will need the concurrence of the managing authority.

3.0

Improving the Network

To better meet growing and changing community needs the City of Sydney has undertaken a major capital works program over the last ten years that has resulted in substantial improvements to the diversity and quality of the open space and recreation facility network.

3.1 Capital Works Program

Improvements have focussed on getting the best from existing parks and recreation facilities, and increasing quantity when the opportunity arose. This has included:

Major park improvements providing a variety of recreation facilities have been carried out to the City's parks creating hubs of public life and activity.

- **Providing new open space and recreation facilities**
- **Freeing up poorly used or unused existing space**
- **New facilities and amenities to encourage social interaction and provide activities to do and enjoy**
- **Improving layout, legibility circulation and function**
- **Increasing public safety**
- **Sustainability considerations including reducing potable water demand and the use of native vegetation to increase biodiversity and expand and improve bush regeneration sites**
- **Achieving greater aesthetic appeal**

- **\$270 million** spent on Parks and Recreation Capital works since 2004
- **Over \$400m budgeted for the next 10 years**
- **6 District/Regional Parks major upgrades** completed
- **81 Local/Neighbourhood Parks upgrades** completed
- **6 Civic Spaces** upgraded
- **5 Street Closures** upgraded
- **3 Ancillary / linkage projects** delivered

This section provides a snapshot of network improvements undertaken by the City and other agencies since 2004.

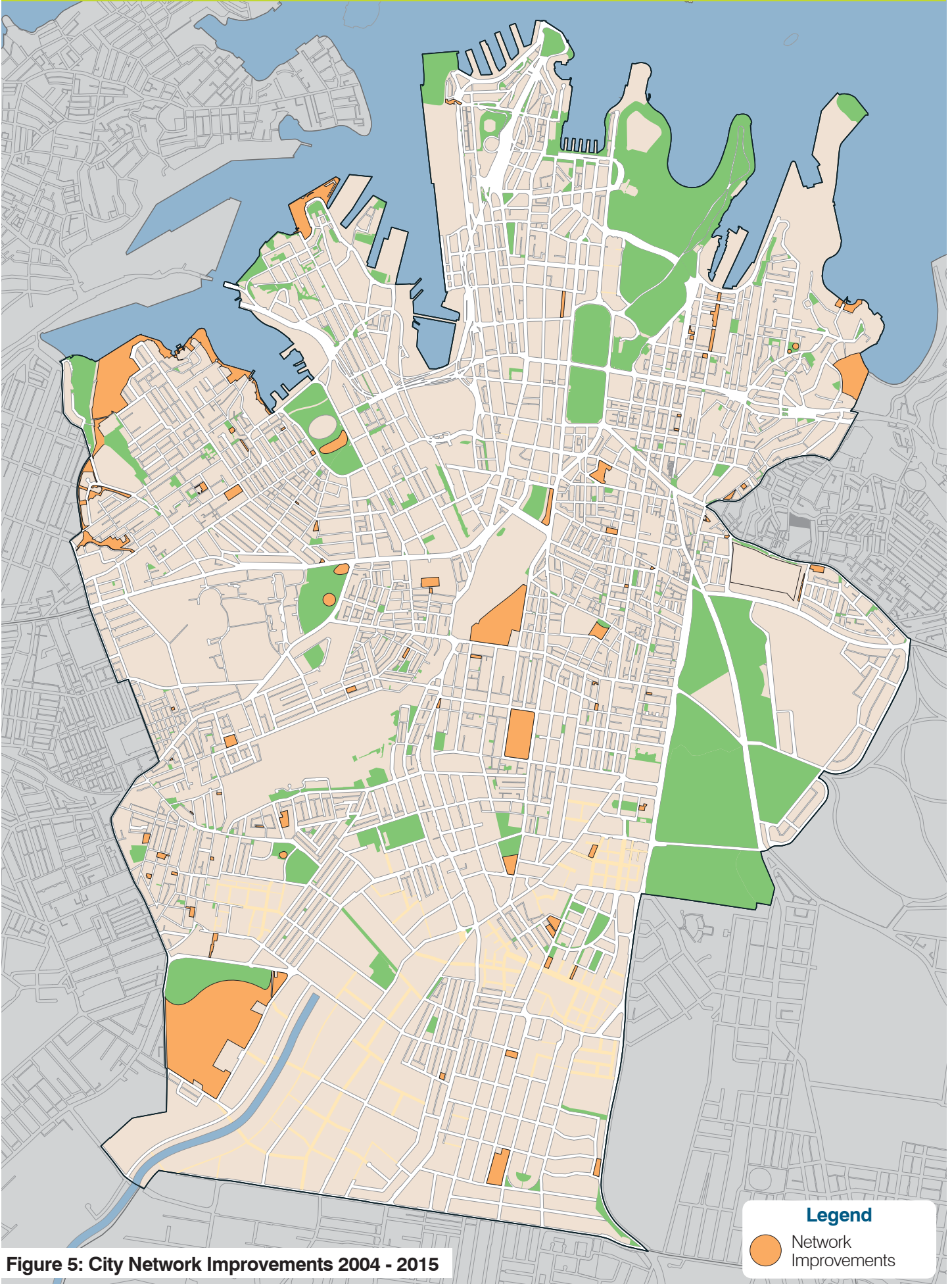


Figure 5: City Network Improvements 2004 - 2015

3.2 Recreation Facility Improvements

Capital works improvements have provided new and improved recreation facilities that have significantly increased the diversity of available recreation opportunities and activation of the open space network (see Figure 5).

(a) Aquatic Facilities



1 New Aquatic Facility



1 Major Aquatic Facility Upgrade

(b) Playgrounds



48 Playground Projects



(c) Skate Facilities



3 Skate Facility Projects



(d) Facilities Responding to Recreation Trends

A diversity of amenities provided across the open space network that adds to the available recreation offer:



Community Gardens



Outdoor Ping Pong



Outdoor Gyms



Passive boating opportunities



Circuit Pathways for walking



Sydney Park Bush Restoration Volunteer Program

(e) Improving the Capacity of Sportsfields

Since 2004 the City has focussed on improvements to the amenity and carrying capacity of existing sports fields through facility upgrades, drainage, irrigation and lighting improvements, including:



Redfern Oval



Jubilee Oval



Waterloo Oval



Reg Bartley Oval



Erskineville Oval



Turruwul Park

(f) Open Space Linkages

Improvements to open space linkages have allowed better access **to recreation facilities to a wider population catchment.**

Liveable Green Network

The City's Liveable Green Network Masterplan 2011 provides the framework of the pedestrian and cycle network that connects people to parks and recreation amenity.



Bourke Street cycleway

Green Streets Program

The Greening Sydney Plan 2012 includes a Green Streets Program to improve landscape amenity and biodiversity of City streets that form part of the Liveable Green Network.



Greening Streets

Better Linkages Between Parks



Orphan School Creek / Johnston Creek



Balmal Way

Improving Harbour Foreshore Access



Pirrama Park



Glebe Foreshore – continuous 2km foreshore access achieved

(g) Better Information and Support Facilities

Support facilities such as toilets and kiosks allow longer stays in parks and increase access and enjoyment of recreation offered.



Park Signage Program



Toilets



New Park Furniture and BBQ's



Digital - My Park free Smartphone app providing users with up-to-date information, interactive maps, and personal guide around selected City parks



Park Kiosks



3.3 New Open Space Provision

Since 2004:

7.2ha added to City open space network*

**includes parks developed by SHFA but now under management of City*

11.1ha by other Agencies



New Open Space Provision - Pirrama Park

Capital works projects have also expanded provision by unlocking previously inaccessible open space from existing City and other Agency property assets. These projects include **Paddington Reservoir Gardens**, **Redfern Park**, **Wentworth Park** and the removal of numerous depot buildings and other structures across the network (refer Figure 6).



Paddington Reservoir Gardens



Figure 6: Open Space Additions 2004 - 2015

3.4 Recognition in Design Excellence

Completed projects have been recognised for design excellence and innovation through the receipt of numerous awards.

Over 30 awards received for City park and recreation facility projects.

Award Winning Projects



Prince Alfred Park and Pool



Paddington Reservoir Gardens



Pirrama Park



Redfern Park



Jubilee Park Playground



Sydney Park

3.5 Open Space Accessibility Improvements

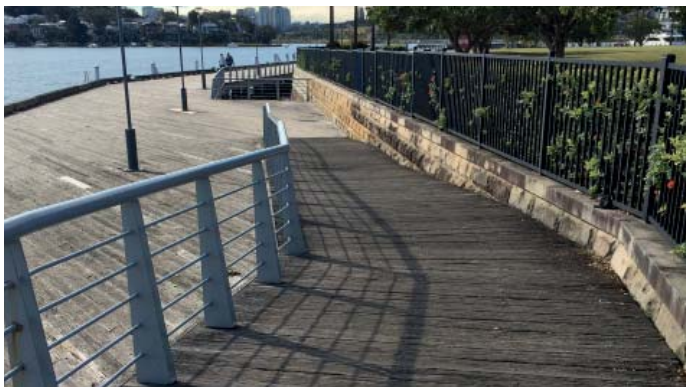
All City park upgrades over the last 10 years have addressed universal access through use of ramps, rails and compliant seats and toilet facilities. Play facilities have been designed to consider children with a range of abilities.



Inclusive Play Facilities



Accessible Toilets



Inclusive Park Access



Inclusive Recreation Facility Access

3.6 Environmental Initiatives

The role of open space network now extends beyond the traditional recreation and amenity provision to also supporting essential green infrastructure such as flood mitigation, habitat creation, renewable energy production, stormwater management, water recycling and environmental education.

The City and Local Government Area has adopted ambitious environmental targets for greenhouse gas emissions, energy, potable water reduction for city operations



Water Reuse - Stormwater Management



Energy Efficiency



LED Lighting



Biodiversity



Water Reuse - Efficient Irrigation Systems



City Farm - Environmental Education

3.7 Community Involvement

The City develops consultation processes that are tailored to the scale of complexity of each project, community interest and expectations. The **Sydney Your Say** website provides a dedicated channel to gather feedback and input.



**Help shape the future of Sydney.
Have your say at
SydneyYourSay.com.au**



Consultation



20 Community Gardens Supported by the City



Volunteer Programs



Events

3.8 Park Management

Over **\$9 million dollars** spent annually maintaining the City's open space and recreation facility network.

The **Green Flag Award** is an internationally recognized hallmark of excellence for public parks that meet defined high standards of management and maintenance.

Hyde Park, Redfern Park, Sydney Park and Pirrama Park have been awarded a Green Flag in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

The City of Sydney has also been ranked as the top performing organisation within the annual customer satisfaction intercept surveys. In 2014 the City achieved the highest ever score of 8.6.



3.9 Conclusion

The City's capital works program and parks management initiatives has delivered significant network improvements characterised by:



Capital works program providing a more diverse network creating hubs of public life and activity.



The City is recognised as a leader in design excellence and park management delivering high quality open spaces that cater for a range of uses and activities.



New infrastructure contributes to City's environmental targets for water, energy and biodiversity and enables the network to cope with increasing use pressures.

Figure 7

4.0

Strategic Framework

The Study sits within a broader policy framework that includes open space policies, adopted by State Government as well as documents adopted by the City of Sydney that influence the way in which open space is planned, managed and maintained.

National	Federal Government Sport Planning	State of Australian Cities Report	Active Living	202020 Vision	
NSW	Plans NSW State Plan	Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government 2010	Parliamentary Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW	Premiers Council for Active Living	
Metropolitan Sydney	A Plan for a Growing Sydney 2014				
City of Sydney Corporate	Sustainable Sydney 2030				
City of Sydney Strategies and Planning Controls	Land Use LEP, DCP, Urban Renewal Frameworks s.94 Plan	Liveable Green Network Walking Strategy Public Domain Planning Cycling Strategy	Greening Sydney Plan Urban Forest Strategy Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan	Community Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan Community Facilities Planning Draft Social Sustainability Policy Cultural Policy	Environmental Decentralised Water Masterplan Water Savings Action Plan Adapting for Climate Change
City of Sydney Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016					
City of Sydney Implementation	Plans of Management and Masterplans		Capital Works Program 10 year Works Program		
Open Space and Recreation Facility Management and Maintenance					

Key messages from the strategic context review include:

Increased Density

Planning directions to allow for more people to live in Sydney and in increasing densities.

Healthy Living

Promotion of health and fitness to reduce rates of obesity and chronic disease in the community, provide mental health benefits and foster individual and community wellbeing.

Liveable Urban Environments

Recognition that quality urban design and provision of parks, sport and recreation facilities is essential to support increased density, encourage healthy lifestyles and support local ecologies.

