

## 3.9 Open Space Quality

**Recent national and international trends place importance on providing quality public open space rather than a sole fixation on quantity. While in reality the two go hand-in-hand in best practice planning the quality of parks and open spaces is nonetheless a critical factor in the park visitor experience.**

Quality public spaces as opposed to large tracts of land of unembellished land provide numerous benefits to communities with recognition that safe accessible and visually attractive recreation facilities and open spaces encourage and promote more active lifestyles and better community interaction

Determinants of the quality of park experience are design and maintenance/management which directly affect usability, sustainability, safety, and amenity and comfort.

### Completed Capital Works

The City of Sydney has undertaken a major capital works program across its open space network that has resulted in substantial improvements and increase in the recreational capacity and quality of the parks to better meet the growing and changing community demand. Given that even with acquisitions the scale and distribution of the network will not substantially change getting more efficiencies of existing resource has been a sound strategy.

#### **\$270million Capital Works Expenditure since 2004**

Figure 14 on page 40 shows the distribution of parks and recreation capital works projects since 2004. Prior to that period many comprehensive upgrades were undertaken by City of Sydney, South Sydney and Leichhardt Councils although since 2004 the rate of delivery has been significantly faster with additional resourcing.

Majority of projects have been delivered through City's capital works program, however a number of parks have been third party delivery by developers or other agencies:

- **6 District/Regional Parks major upgrades completed**
- **81 Local/Neighbourhood Parks major upgrades completed**
- **6 Civic Spaces upgraded**
- **5 Street Closures upgraded**
- **3 Ancillary / linkage projects delivered**

Section 4 details on recreation facilities and amenities.

\* Includes multiple staging projects for individual parks

\*\* Includes other agencies now under control of City of Sydney

### Ten Year Capital Works Plan

**Over 400 million dollars have been allocated to the parks and recreation facilities in the City's 10 Year Works Program.**

Figure 14 on page 40 shows the distribution of capital works planned programmed over the next ten years.

The future Capital Works Program will continue the comprehensive renewal of the open space and recreation facility network. A substantial component of future parks capital works program devoted to the delivery of new parks. The delivery mechanism for new spaces will vary from council capital works projects and/or third part delivery by developers.

The continuation of a renewal program of key existing district/regional parks be an ongoing focus to ensure current parks adapt to capacity pressures and recreational trends.

City Centre public spaces will also be a focus over the next ten years with upgrades undertaken through capital works and voluntary planning agreement contributions.

### Maintenance and Park Management

Effective park maintenance and management is essential to maximising the recreational, environmental, and social benefits as well as to ensure a project performs to the design intention. Ensuring parks are clean and safe is also key to ongoing use and activation by the community.

The undersupply of larger open space will result in heavy use pressures to cater for diverse range of users. Management practices will need to be undertaken to accommodate this use pressures to maintain park quality and amenity.

### Quality Assessment

Success of these improvements and park management appear to be reflected in levels of satisfaction amongst those park users surveyed for the seven parks in the Park User In-Field Survey.

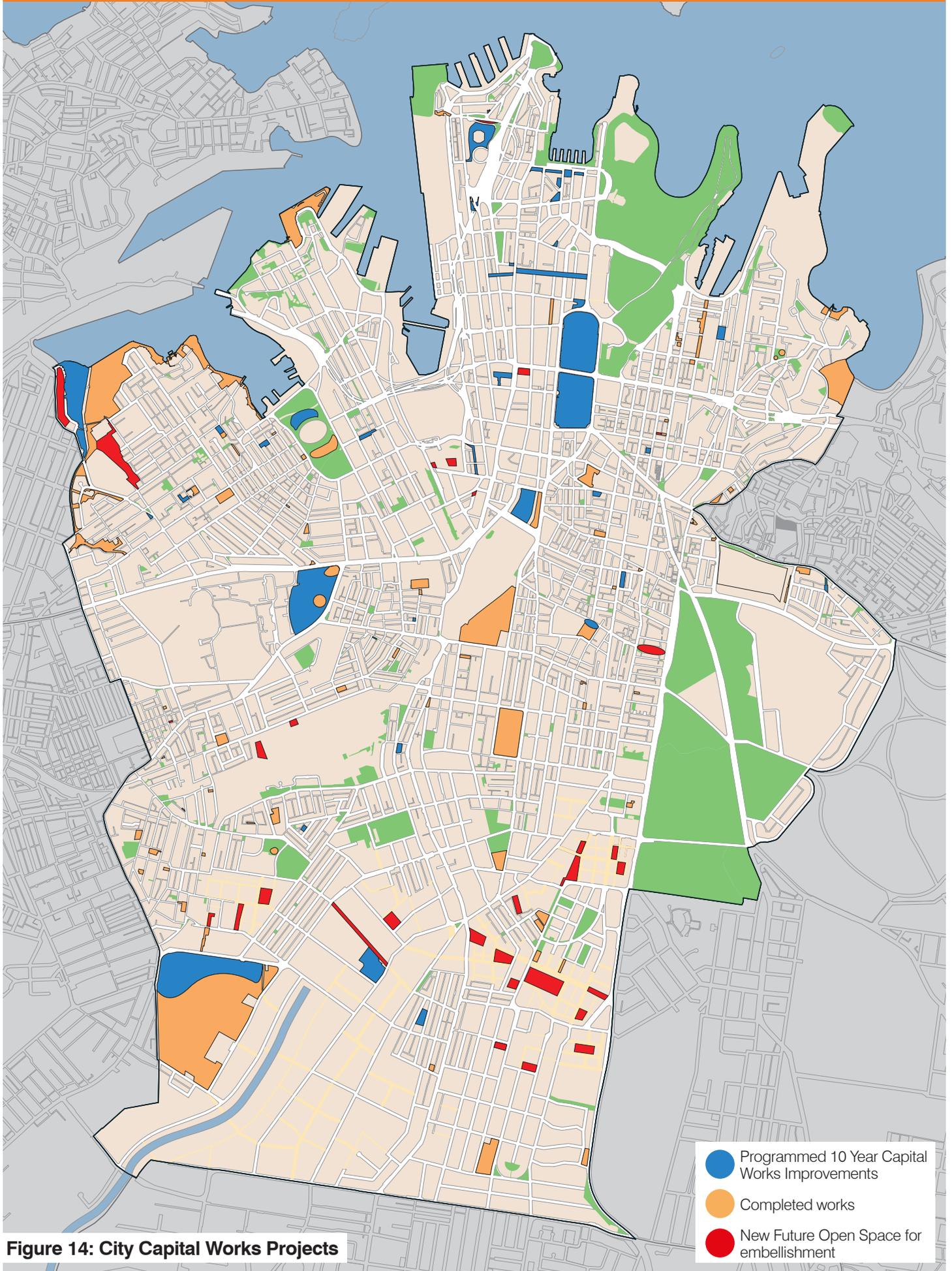


Figure 14: City Capital Works Projects

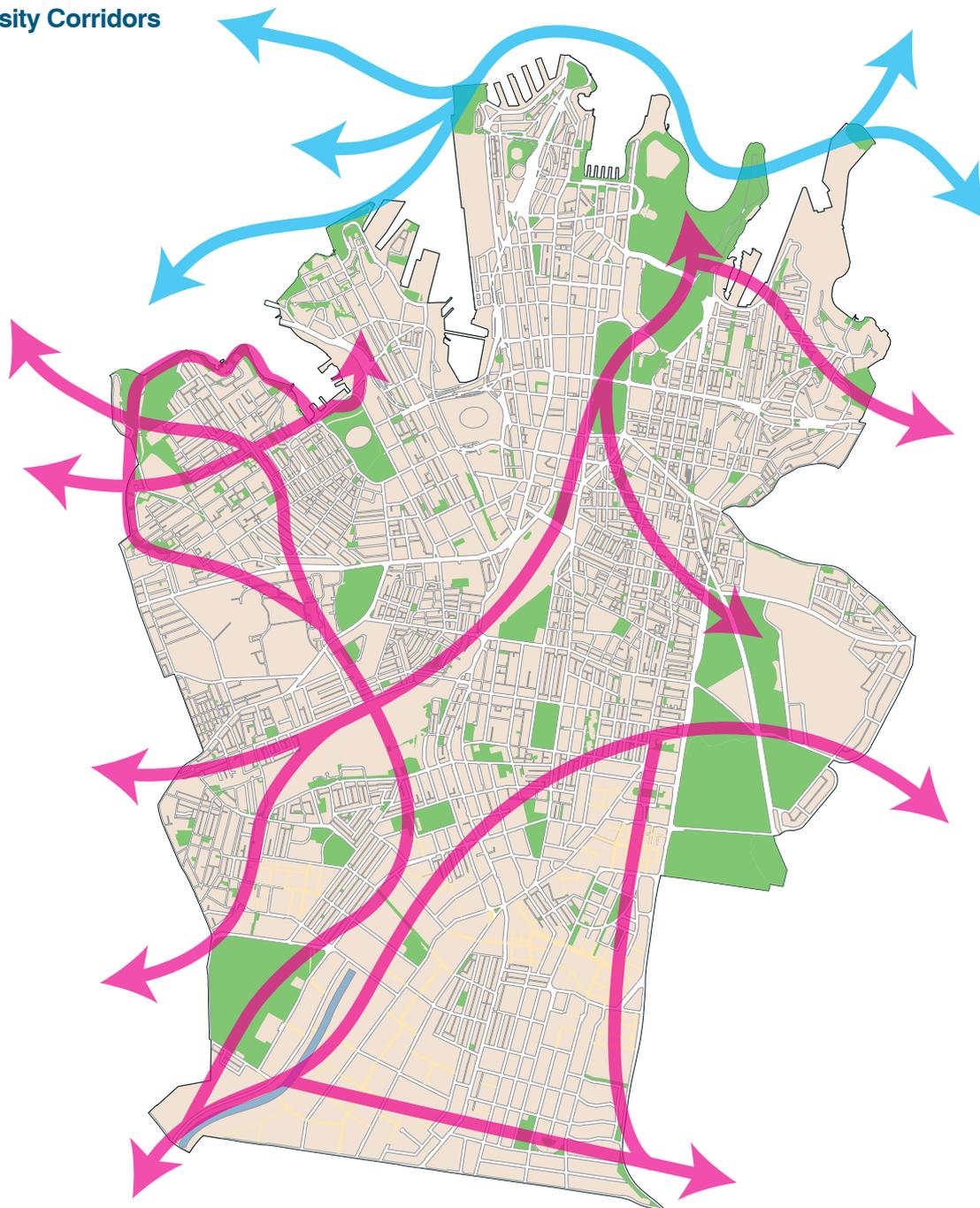
## 3.10 Open Space Environmental

To meet City's Environmental Targets infrastructure to increase the environmental performance and sustainability of the network will be an ongoing feature of the City's capital works program.

The City's **Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan 2014** advocates the creation of environmental links biodiversity corridors. Parks act as an important link in this respect and when combined with improved streetscape tree planting and enhanced native vegetation along infrastructure corridors can provide important native fauna habitat or refuge especially for canopy dwellers.

The locations of potential habitat linkages identified within the LGA and between known or potential habitat areas in adjoining LGAs are indicated in the figure below. While it is unlikely that continuous habitat 'corridors' can be created along their full length, there is considerable potential to at least create 'stepping stones' of habitat along or in the vicinity of these potential habitat linkages to facilitate the movement of more mobile species across the landscape.

### Biodiversity Corridors





Prince Alfred Park Pool

# 4.0

## Recreation and Sport Facilities Needs Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

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

This section provides an assessment of various recreation and sports facilities to inform future directions and priorities.

### 4.2 Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016

The Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016 (Volume 4) has been prepared to provide a more detailed and focussed review of sportsfields, indoor courts and outdoor courts provision, utilization and needs within the City of Sydney. The Study includes assessment of provision in adjoining local government areas to provide a sub-regional perspective on provision. The Study includes interviews with sporting groups, associations and facility managers in the City of Sydney and the sub-regional area.

## Sportsfields

### Now

- **32 fields** (including restricted-use fields) within the City of Sydney, of which **13 are managed by the City**.
- There is generally even distribution of Council sports fields across the City.
- Capacity and amenity improvements completed for Redfern Oval, Reg Bartley Oval, Alan Davidson Oval, Jubilee Oval and Waterloo Oval.

### Issues

- Demand for sporting facilities exceeds supply which is underscored by a high population of young people (18-39) Whilst user expectation is to experience high quality facilities, demand is currently outweighing supply and as a result the quality is compromised.
- Currently all sporting fields are booked at 10% of capacity and there is increasing unmet demand;
- Unauthorised use of sporting fields and damage caused, particularly when sporting fields are closed due to wet weather;
- Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016 estimates that by 2021 an additional **14 fields** are required, and that by 2031 the number of additional fields compared to current provision could be as high as **20 fields**;
- There is very little capacity across all outdoor sporting fields to absorb not only the current demand for field sports but also expected future demand;
- With the majority of the open space network providing relatively small site areas the large parks that accommodate sports fields also receive significant use from casual users for active recreation due to the lack of other parks that could accommodate this use;
- Competing demands on available open space to accommodate various functions ranging from informal recreation, biodiversity, social spaces that can limit available area for sport.
- Sportsfield use for club/ competition can generate resident impacts through noise, parking and lighting. Increasing and expanding residential densities places a constraint on site planning for new fields.

### Trends

- People are time poor so increasing trend for small sided modified games for juniors and for social field sport (soccer, Oztag, 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



Reg Bartley Oval, Rushcutters Bay

## Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

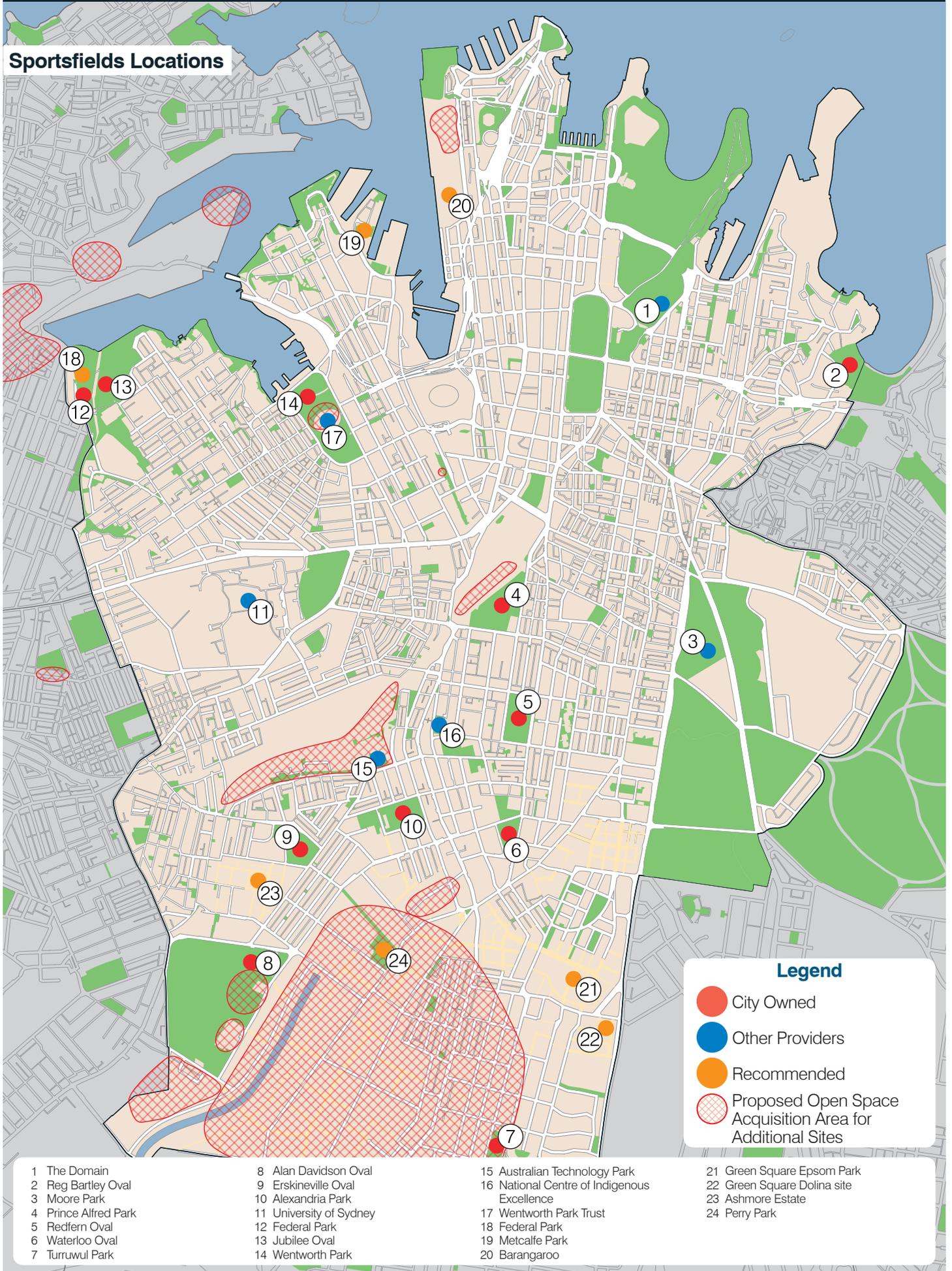
The **Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016 (Volume 4)** provides a comprehensive assessment of sports field provision and makes recommendations to improve provision, use and management.

Strategies in the Study to respond to future demand include enhancement of existing resources, increased use of synthetic fields on existing fields, using suitable spaces for half and three quarter sized fields and partnerships with other entities to allow community access to open space not currently available.

Sportsfields		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
Increase the provision of sports fields in the open space network	<b>Open Space Acquisition Plan</b> to prioritise sites able to accommodate sports field recreation	Volume 2 - Open Space Delivery Plan City of Sydney s.94 Plan Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
	<b>Planned New Provision:</b> - Gunyama Park, Green Square; - Johnston Creek Parklands - (non-standard size field); - Perry Park, Alexandria	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
	<b>Urban Renewal Areas</b> Advocate to State Government for provision of open space to accommodate active recreation. - Barangaroo Central - Central to Eveleigh - Bays Precinct  <b>Green Square</b> Ensure future large open space dedications are flexible to accommodate casual active recreation. - McPherson Park - Ashmore Estate - Garraway Park, Green Square	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
Multi- Purpose Use of Sports Fields	Ensure field sizes and configuration allow for flexible use of field resources.	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
Increase capacity of existing larger parks to accommodate casual active recreation	Existing parks: - Metcalfe Park, Pyrmont (SHFA) - Prince Alfred Park - Crystal Park, Waterloo	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
Undertake capacity improvements to existing fields  "Increase hours not hectares"	Use of synthetic surfaces: - Moore Park – construction late 2015 (by Centennial Parklands) - Gunyama Park, Green Square - Perry Park - Wentworth Park and other fields assessed to be suitable.	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
Amenity improvements  Upgrade lighting, change rooms, toilets and supporting amenities	Sites for assessment and scoping: - Alexandra Park - Waterloo Park - Wentworth Park	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016

Sportsfields (Continued)		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
<p><b>Partnerships</b></p> <p>Increase community access to existing open space managed by other institutions such as schools that can accommodate sports field recreation after hours or on weekends through the introduction of formal agreements</p>	<p>Negotiate public access to sporting fields according to the NSW Department of education Community Use of school Facilities Policy (2009, updated 2013).</p> <p>Potential school sites to approach include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alexandra Park Community School</li> <li>- Sydney Secondary College, Glebe</li> <li>- Newtown Performing Arts School</li> </ul> <p>Other Partnership opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase access to field inside Wentworth Park racing track</li> <li>- National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern</li> </ul>	<p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p>

## Sportsfields Locations



## Aquatic Facilities

### Now

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- **5 City Facilities**
- **Over 1.4 million visits to City aquatic facilities annually.**
- **New City facility at Green Square** under planning; this facility will address a gap in provision for the southern part of the City with a rapidly growing population.
- **Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre** opened in 2006
- Major upgrade of existing **Prince Alfred Park Pool**, completed in 2013.
- There are at least 25 outdoor or indoor 50 metre pools within a 10 kilometre radius of the City of Sydney. This level of provision reinforces the view that the region is well catered for.
- There is generally even distribution of City aquatic facilities across the City.
- NSW sports and leisure participation trends rate swimming second only to walking as the most popular sport and leisure activity.
- Many recent and future apartment developments include pool facilities as part of resident amenity.

### Issues

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- Programming of facilities critical to ensure a diversity of activities is provided.
- Asset management planning to program maintenance works to enhance or update the physical condition of assets, to ensure continued service to the community and be responsive to the current aquatic needs.
- While there are a significant level of aquatic facilities located within inner metropolitan Sydney, there are gaps in the pools capable of better meeting health, relaxation, exercise, learn to swim, water play, social/family and hydrotherapy facilities.
- **City Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy 2005.** Requires update and review to ensure consideration of current aquatic recreation trends and use.
- Aquatic facilities are significant energy consumers. Opportunity to incorporate energy efficient infrastructure to contribute to City environmental targets.

### Trends

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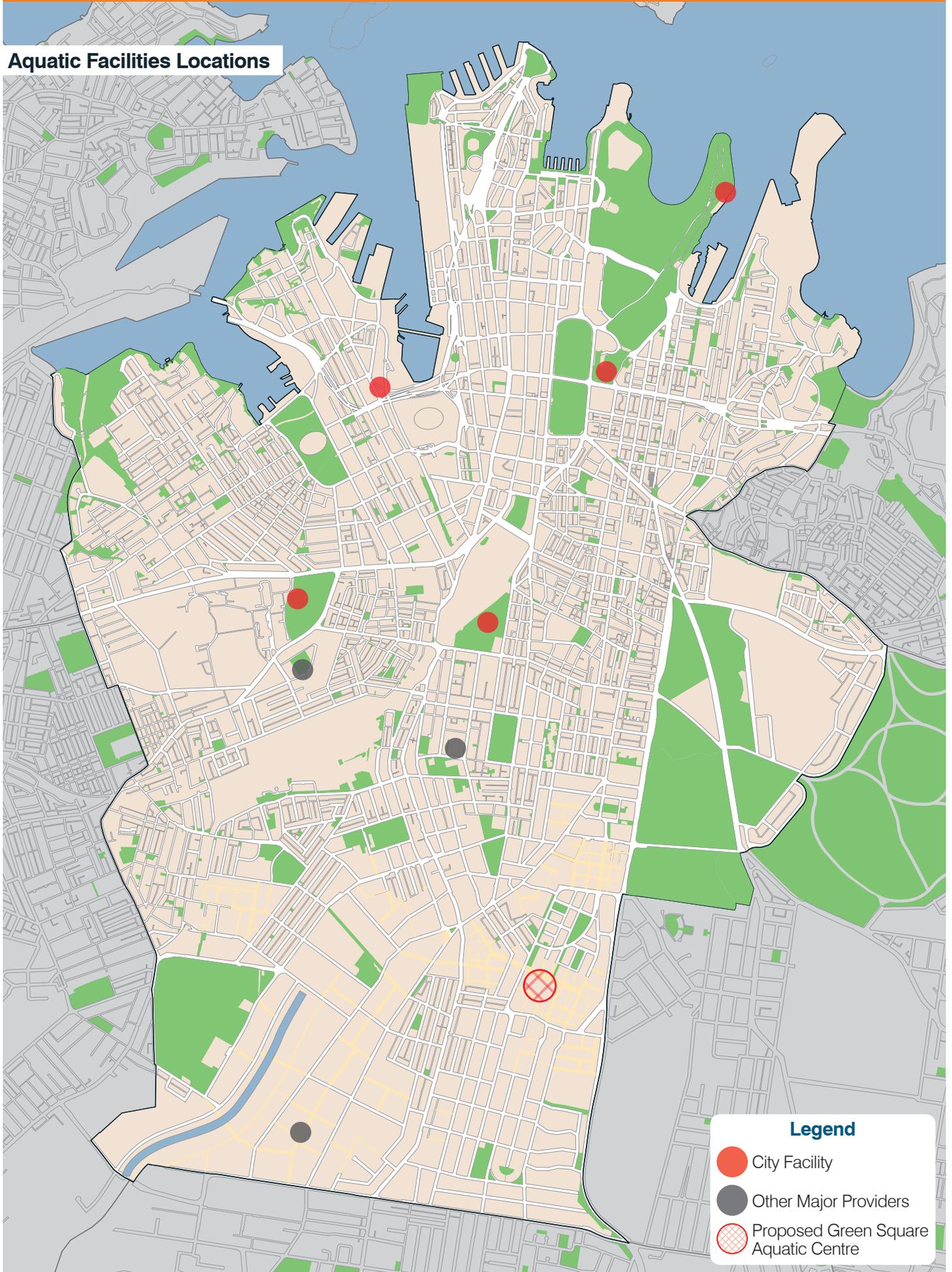
- Current market focus trends:
  - Recreation and leisure market;
  - Competitive, training and fitness market;
  - Health and therapy markets.
- Leisure pool facilities such as slides and water spouts for fun / play very popular with children/families.
- Aquatic facilities co-located with dry facilities such as gyms, exercise rooms, court spaces are popular and heavily used.
- Demand for hydrotherapy/ warm water pools from people with sports injuries, older residents, accident rehabilitees, and people with a disability.
- Program related pools that meet health, relaxation, 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.
- Trend to provide specialist pools for learn to swim, child water safety, rehabilitation, school programs, squads, and unstructured family activities.

Aquatic Facilities		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
<b>New Facilities for a Growing Population</b>	Green Square Aquatic Centre Completion – 2018 Includes hydrotherapy pool facility (action underway)	
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>Review</b> City Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy 2005 to provide direction on future programming and facility improvements.	
<b>Asset Renewal</b>	<b>Victoria Park Pool</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope / program asset renewal opportunities for Victoria Park Pool</li> </ul>	
<b>Sustainability</b>	City Aquatic Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable and Low Carbon energy supply</li> </ul>	



Prince Alfred Park Pool

**Aquatic Facilities Locations**





*Future Green Square Aquatic Centre*

## Outdoor Court Facilities

The City of Sydney Sport Facilities Demand Study 2016 provides an assessment of outdoor court provision, utilisation and needs within the City of Sydney.

### Now

- **91 outdoor publicly full sized sports courts** in the City of Sydney. These comprise of:
  - **35 full sized courts** managed by the City of Sydney;
  - **56 full sized courts** managed by other organisations.

These courts are supplemented with **16 practice** (half or undersized) basketball courts and **2** informal grass netball courts.

#### • Dedicated Sports Courts

- **53 tennis** only courts
- **6 full size basketball** only courts
- **4 sealed netball** only courts

- **Multi-purpose** - numerous outdoor courts are marked to accommodate multiple court sports. These include:

- **66 courts marked for tennis**
- **28 courts marked for basketball**
- **20 courts marked for netball**

**Appendix 3, Volume 4** – City of Sydney Sport Facilities Demand Study 2016 provides a detailed inventory of outdoor sports courts in the City of Sydney.

- City has completed major upgrades of tennis court facilities at **Rushcutters Bay Park, Prince Alfred Park** and **St James Park**.

### Issues

- The current supply of sports courts in the City is insufficient for tennis, basketball and netball.
- Location of basketball/ practice courts can cause amenity impacts such as noise for neighbouring residential areas.
- In late 2015 ten grass netball courts in Moore Park will be replaced by a synthetic sports field.
- Finding locations for outdoor courts will be difficult with land constraints and competing uses for other open spaces and recreation uses will be a challenge.
- For tennis the preferred mode of 4 court complexes will be difficult to locate due to land size requirements and competing open space demands.
- The **Sports Facility Demand Study 2016** estimates around **17-18 additional outdoor multi-use courts** and **4 tennis complexes** (4 court) are recommended by 2031.

## Trends

- There is a continuing trend for court sports to move **indoors**. Sports such as futsal and basketball are becoming increasingly provided indoors.
- **Tennis Courts** are well used. The Prince Alfred Park and Rushcutters Bay Park courts are at 60% occupancy, more than twice the national average.
- **Basketball** hoops and less than full sized basketball courts are popular and well used for informal sport particularly for youth and young adults. Outdoor courts are mostly used for social and informal games with some training use. Demand for competition use by basketball is focussed on indoor courts.
- **Netball** - Single / double multi-use courts throughout the City are used for training and practice. Competition netball competitions are held outside the City of Sydney at the Robyn Webster Centre, Tempe and Heffron Park, Maroubra.
- **Netball** and **tennis** remain the major formal users of full sized outdoor courts.
- **Multi-purpose courts** rather than courts marked for one sport are more effective in meeting needs.
- Recreation demand for multi-purpose court space for informal/ casual use by young people is expected to increase with population growth.
- Futsal, roller skate games are also a growing use for some court spaces.
- **Tennis** management practices is encouraging less provision of 1 and 2 court facilities and prefers minimum 4 court complexes for running competitions, coaching, efficient management and financial feasibility.

## Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

**Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016** recommends that planning for increasing demand for outdoor sports courts should seek to provide tennis courts and multi- use courts as a means of providing for local social sport and informal active recreation for a range of court sports.

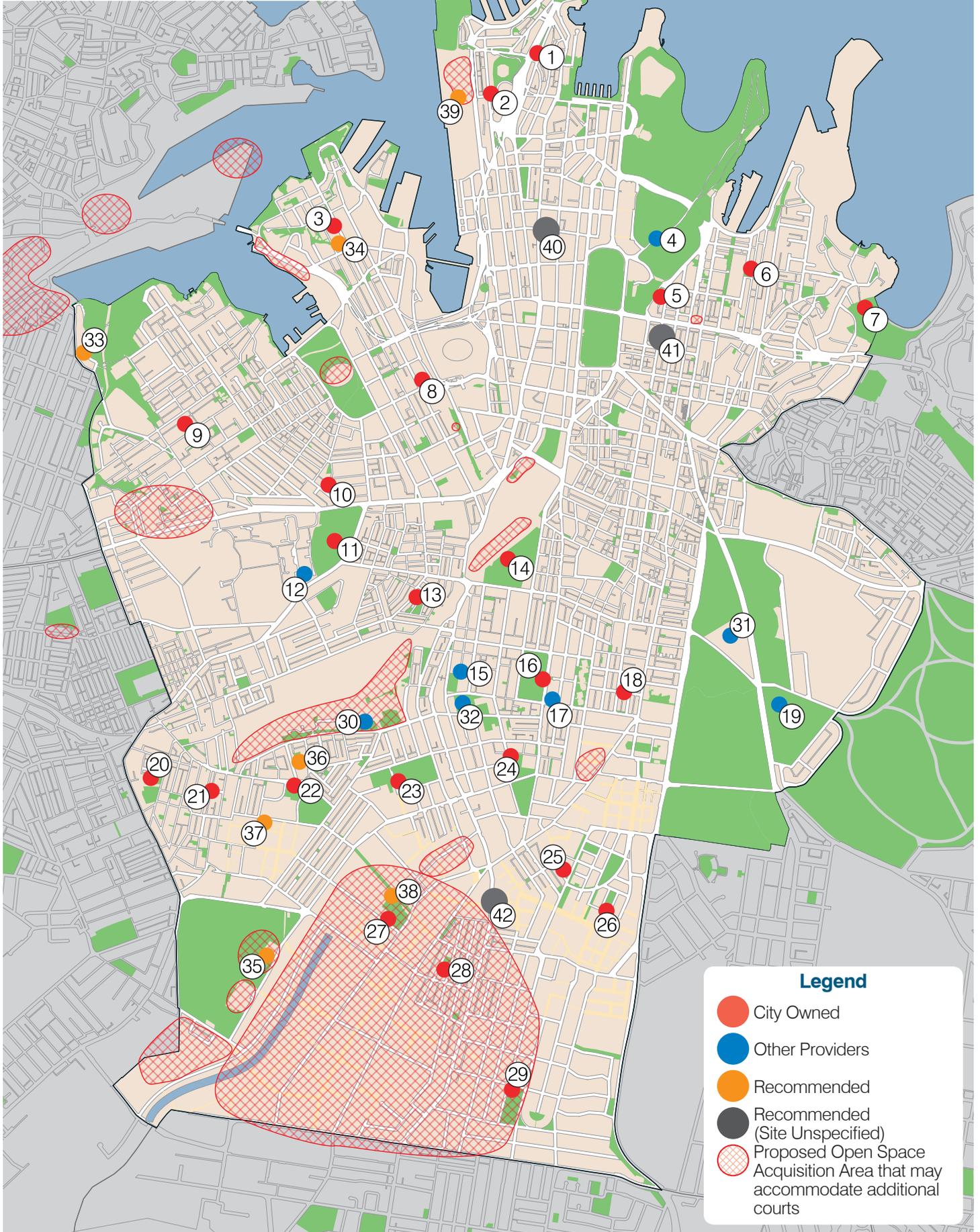
Outdoor Court Facilities		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
<b>Increase Provision</b>	<p>The Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016 recommends around 17-18 additional outdoor multi-use courts and 4 tennis complexes (4 court) to 2031.</p> <p>Meeting this provision will be subject to available land and compatibility with existing parks and land uses.</p>	<p>Volume 2 – Open Space Delivery Plan</p> <p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p>
<b>Planned Full Size Outdoor Court Provision</b>	<p>Perry Park – two additional outdoor courts.</p> <p>For scoping and assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandria Park – expand existing tennis courts to four court facility (option could be in partnership with School)</li> </ul>	<p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p>
<b>Planned Outdoor Half Court / Practice Court Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Sydney Hospital Site</li> <li>• Garraway Park , Green Square</li> <li>• Johnstons Creek Parklands, Annandale</li> <li>• Victoria Park, Camperdown</li> </ul> <p>Additional sites for assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney Water site 903 Bourke Street, Waterloo</li> </ul> <p>Planning for outdoor recreation in commercial / employment areas should continue to include multi-purpose hard court facilities for lunch time and after work recreation.</p>	<p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p>

Outdoor Court Facilities (Continued)		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
<b>Urban Renewal</b>	<p>Advocate to State Government for provision of sports courts for social recreation at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barangaroo Central</li> <li>• Central to Eveleigh</li> <li>• Bays Precinct</li> </ul>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Multi-Purpose Use</b>	<p>Majority of outdoor courts should be multi- function courts with some dedicated provision for a single code suitable where a number of courts are co-located.</p> <p>Provide multi- purpose courts ( which require larger footprint than a basketball court) of around 38x22 metre which can accommodate a range of uses.</p> <p>Mark courts for multiple sports to provide the potential to maximise use of courts for various sports.</p> <p>Encourage use of full size tennis courts for junior “Hot Shots”</p>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Improve capacity of existing courts</b>	<p>Improved surfacing, lighting and support amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybanke Centre Pyrmont (completed)</li> <li>• Peter Forsyth Auditorium</li> </ul> <p>Assess option to install all weather fabric roof structure above sports courts at Ultimo Community Centre</p>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>Explore partnerships to provide new multi – purpose courts, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands,</li> <li>• Alexandria Community School,</li> <li>• Newtown High School of Performing Arts</li> <li>• National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern</li> </ul>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Promotion / Awareness of facilities</b>	<p>In conjunction with facility managers promote availability of tennis courts at Moore Park, Parklands Tennis Centre, Sydney University and Australian Technology Park for community hire.</p>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016

Map key:

1 King George V Rec. Centre	15 National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	29 Turruwul Park
2 Kent St Tennis Court	16 Redfern Park	30 Australian Technology Park
3 Maybanke Community Centre	17 South Sydney PCYC	31 Sydney Boys High School
4 The Domain	18 Elizabeth McRae Playground	32 Waterloo Green
5 Cook & Phillip Park	19 Moore Park	33 Federal Park
6 Woolloomoolo Playground	20 Lilian Fowler Reserve	34 Maybanke Community Centre
7 Rushcutters Bay Park	21 Joseph Sargeant Centre	35 Sydney Park
8 Ultimo Community Centre	22 Harry Noble Reserve	36 Erskineville Park / Solander Park
9 St James Park	23 Alexandria Park	37 Ashmore Estate
10 Minogue Reserve	24 Waterloo Park	38 Perry Park
11 Victoria Park	25 Mary O'Brien Reserve	39 Barangaroo
12 University of Sydney	26 Nuffield Park	40 CBD
13 Hugo Street	27 Perry Park	41 Darlinghurst / East Sydney
14 Prince Alfred Park	28 Beaconsfield Park	42 Green Square

## Outdoor Court Facilities Locations



## Indoor Courts and Recreation

The City of Sydney Sport Facilities Demand Study 2016 provides a comprehensive assessment of indoor court provision and makes recommendations to improve provision.

Diverse recreation needs can be met by provision of indoor sports halls which have the advantage that they can be operated over a long span of hours and not subject to variable weather conditions

### **Now**

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- 21 indoor basketball or equivalent sized multi- purpose indoor courts in the City of Sydney. Sports catered for include badminton, basketball, handball, netball, roller derby, table tennis, volley ball. Some of the courts are constrained in use hours or limited in use due to design issues.
- 5 indoor courts owned / managed by City of Sydney.
- 16 courts owned / managed by other organisations

### **Issues**

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- Overall supply of indoor sports courts is assessed as inadequate particularly when considering impact of weekday population on facility demand.
- Limitations of single court facilities in supporting competitive sport, most existing courts reported at capacity.
- Limited provision of multi-court (2 or more courts) facilities which is a more sustainable commercial model.
- The Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016 estimates an additional **11 indoor multi-purpose courts** will be required by 2031
- Private sector gym provision has seen significant increase in the City area within the last 5 years.

### **Trends**

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- Private sector provision of gyms and health clubs has grown significantly over the past 7 years and fulfils the increasing demand for such facilities.
- These range from small boutique gym establishment to larger facilities such as the All Sorts Recreation centre at Sydney Corporate Park, Alexandria.
- Indoor sports courts are highly used at peak times (lunchtime, late afternoon, evening)
- Anticipated demand for indoor sports courts will increase over time due to the younger age profile in the City, as sports such as futsal grow in popularity and as more modified rules / social competitions develop.
- Indoor court spaces popular people with disabilities in being able to cater for a wide variety of wheelchair sports.
- Indoor sports courts in the City are highly used at peak times (lunch, late afternoons)
- Among young people aged 5-14 years, rates in participation at the national level in gymnastics and martial arts have risen substantially.
- Increasingly successful models of provision involve indoor sports, gym and fitness facilities offering a range of social sports and casual participation options, along with resident sports or clubs operating training and competition.

### **Considerations to inform Strategy Directions**

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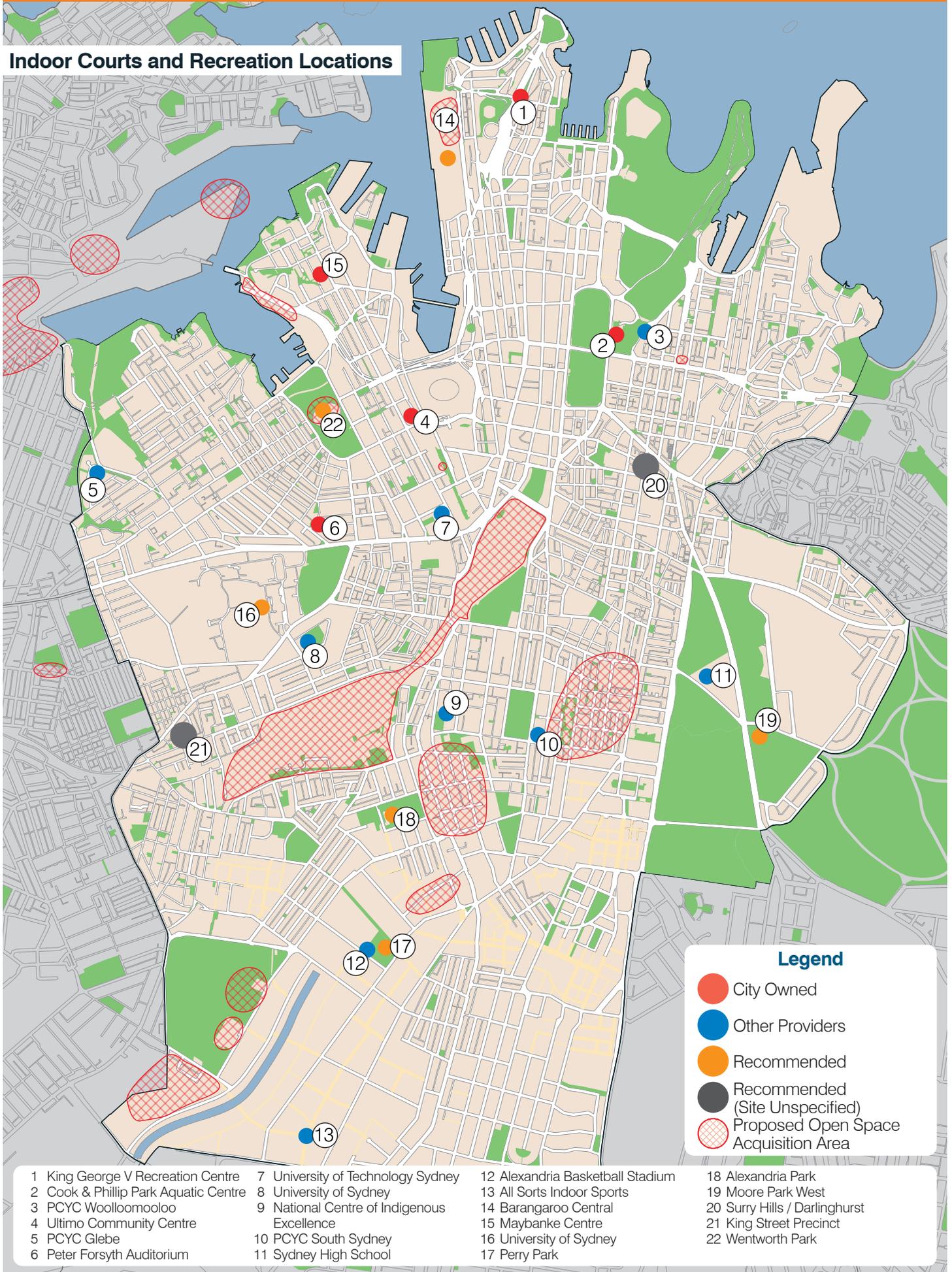
The City of Sydney Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016 (Volume 4) provides a comprehensive assessment of indoor court provision and makes recommendations to improve provision, use and management.

The Study concludes that the overall supply of indoor sports courts is assessed as inadequate, particularly when considering the impact of weekday population on facility demand, the limitations of single court facilities in supporting competitive sport, most existing courts reported at capacity and reported shortage of court space / hours from user groups.

Indoor Courts and Recreation		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
<b>Increase Provision of Indoor Courts</b>	<p>The <b>Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</b> recommends that based on current population growth estimates and a 10% demand from weekday (worker) population, an additional <b>11 indoor sports courts should be provided by 2031</b>.</p> <p>Study recommends additional indoor courts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyrmont</li> <li>• Green Square</li> <li>• Surry Hills/ Darlinghurst</li> <li>• Newtown</li> <li>• Urban Renewal Areas - Bays Precinct, Central to Eveleigh</li> </ul> <p>Meeting this provision will be subject to available land and compatibility with existing parks and land uses provide.</p>	<p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p> <p>City of Sydney s.94 Plan</p> <p>Volume 2 - Open Space Delivery Plan</p>
<b>Planned Provision</b>	<p><b>Perry Park</b></p> <p>Provide additional two indoor courts with capability of extending for a further two courts subject to future funding.</p> <p>Support Centennial Parklands to develop indoor sports courts in Moore Park (ES Marks / Horden Pavillion)</p>	<p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p>
<b>Upgrade Existing Indoor Court / Recreation Facilities</b>	<p>Upgrade quality of Peter Forsyth Auditorium and Maybanke Centre</p> <p>Upgrade Cook and Phillip Park indoor court</p> <p>Assess option of expanding programs run by City indoor recreation centres into adjacent park space e.g. aerobic classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KGV Centre - assess option to increase capacity of centre, including use of roof space</li> </ul>	<p>Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016</p>
<b>Indoor Community Spaces</b>	<p>Ensure new City community spaces have flexibility to accommodate indoor recreation programs such as yoga, dance, martial arts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harold Park Tramshed Community Space;</li> <li>• South Sydney Hospital Site, Green Square.</li> </ul>	



Indoor Courts and Recreation Locations





KGV Centre

# Childrens Play

## Now

The City of Sydney has **90 playgrounds** under its care, control and management. As well as City facilities, the **Darling Quarter** playground at Darling Harbour (SHFA) is extremely popular for city visitors and residents and highlights the need and demand for child friendly city centre spaces.

Improvements to playground network by the City have focused on design approaches that offer better play value for range age groups.

A network approach has been taken with upgrades of local / neighbourhood playgrounds that provide short stay playground opportunities while district / regional level parks provide a greater diversity of play spaces that include support facilities such as toilets to promote longer stays.

### Since 2006

- 48 Playground upgrade/new projects completed
- Award winning facilities at **Sydney Park** and **Jubilee Park** feature as part of the network

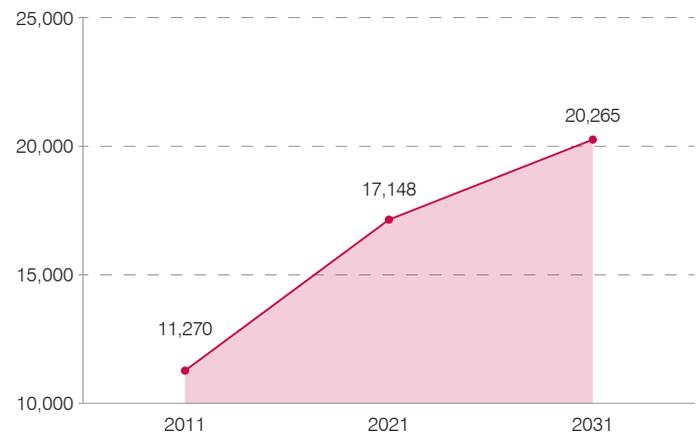


Figure 15: Population Growth of 0-11 year olds in the City of Sydney

## Demographic Profile

While there have always been children and families living in the City's LGA, population forecasts indicate that the number of children will increase significantly over the coming years (Figure 15). The number of children aged 0-11 years-old is expected to increase by 52% in 2021 and 80% in 2031 from its 2011 base.

City Villages where high density urban renewal developments are planned or underway will experience a significant growth in the number of children. The population of primary school aged children (5-11 years) in the Green Square and City South Village Group for example is forecast to more than triple from 775 children to 2,680 children between 2011 and 2031. (Green Square Infrastructure Strategy and Plan, 2015)

## Trends

The provision of children's play is rapidly expanding beyond the notion of traditional, fixed play equipment in a park. Considerations include:

### Inclusive Play

Playgrounds that are fully accessible and integrated for children of all ability levels.

### 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.

The provision of flexible spaces for ball games and active play

### Nature

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

### Imaginative, Exploratory and Social Play

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.

## Programming

Programming parks and open spaces can increase activation by attracting a range of users. Programming could include community theatre, play vans and temporary 'pop up' play equipment that could be rotated across the LGA similar to Marrickville Council's Magic Yellow Bus service which activates parks in Marrickville Council with equipment and structured programming.

Activating parks with programming will diversify the use of a park and ensure there are a changing range of experiences for children of different ages, abilities and cultures

## The Street as a Play Space

### **Copenhagen Play Streets and Play Yards**

In Copenhagen childrens needs are designed into the streetscape through play streets and play yards.

### **Play Trails**

Integration of play spaces into pathway networks provide opportunities for playing 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 anything from leaves and trees to spiders and ants.

### **Play streets, New York**

In New York, New York (and other cities such as London) with limited public space, streets are temporarily closed to traffic to create new places for play. Play Streets offer a low-cost way for neighborhoods and schools to create more space for active recreation.

<http://centerforactivedesign.org/playstreets/>

1. Streets are converted to temporary recreation spaces for children and families.
2. Programming by local organizations builds a sense of community and encourages more vigorous physical activity

## Child Friendly Cities

In 2009 UNICEF named Bendigo Australia's first Child Friendly City in recognition of significant action Bendigo City Council had taken to realise children's rights in its community. However since this time no other Australian city has been named as a Child Friendly City and UNICEF Australia do not have an accreditation process to become one officially. Nevertheless many local councils have used the framework to guide how they make their cities more child friendly and some councils, like Penrith City Council, have developed their own Child Friendly City Strategies.

UNICEF has partnered with the South Australian government to pilot an implementation model for the Child Friendly Cities initiative in Australia. The pilot has been developed across three local government sites for the past two years and UNICEF expect that the pilot program will be completed by the end of 2015. They hope that it will lead to a model that can be shared with councils across Australia that demonstrates what actions and initiatives they can undertake to become a child friendly city.

The City should monitor the progression of the Child Friendly Cities implementation model, and when it is made available, it should consider using the model to develop its own strategy to make the City of Sydney a child friendly city

## Issues

- As more people will be choosing to raise a family in high-rise buildings, the City must consider how it can reduce the impacts of high density living for families and children, and how the City can provide play and leisure experiences for a diverse range of ages, abilities and cultures.
- With many children living in high density environments there are fewer opportunities to play in natural settings, and increased urbanisation in the future could make this more of a challenge.
- There is a lack of play opportunities for children living in or visiting the **City Centre**, and the restricted availability of open and green space in the City Centre makes it challenging for the City to provide these. There is a significant older population living in the City Centre, and these residents are potential regular caretakers for their grandchildren that would be users of play spaces.

### Recommended Directions and Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

- Ensure diverse approaches and provision of interesting and stimulating environments, and fun play value. (Refer to Childrens Play Trends)
- Ensure amenities, such as seats, paths, shade trees and drinking fountains appropriate to facility hierarchy level. Awareness of carer’s needs that will allow easy supervision as well as providing a degree of comfort and amenity appropriate to the hierarchy of the playground.
- Design for inclusive access to play experiences for children with disabilities and their carers.
- Consider quality of distribution of playground facilities throughout the City in accessible and inviting settings with local / neighbourhood level facilities within 5 - 10 minute walk of all households.
- Opportunities for explorative / creative play should be provided through landscape design, innovative and thoughtful plant selection, and art work to encourage children’s intellectual and imaginative development.
- The design of the whole park should be considered when designing new, relocating or upgrading playgrounds. Ideally, a master plan would be developed for each park prior to or in conjunction with the installation or upgrade of playgrounds.
- Where possible, the design and siting of playgrounds will be undertaken with a view to locating facilities near existing shade trees, or to planting new trees.
- Installation of shade structures over playgrounds to be considered on a site-by-site basis at larger Local and District / Regional playgrounds.

Playground Assessment						
Planning Area / Suburb	Suburb	Current Provision			Assessment	Proposed Recommendations
		N'hood	Local	District		
CBD	Millers Point, Dawes Point, The Rocks	2	1		Good distribution and access to Local / Neighbourhood playground facilities.	Maintain current facility level and types. Argyle Street Playground
	City Centre	1			City Centre does not have a prominent playground facility catering for City visitors and residents. Existing Cook and Phillip Park playground (Phillip Centre) lacks connection to City Centre activities and is not of a scale to attract visitors from a wider catchment.	Assess feasibility for a major City Centre inclusive playspace. Investigate potential of locating facility in Cook and Phillip Park.
Chinatown	Haymarket	0	0	1	Demographic snapshot indicates that Haymarket has a growing population of young children. Upgraded playground facilities at Darling Quarter (SHFA) are very well used.	Opportunity to provide playground facilities is limited – Belmore Park is a potential location to provide play experiences that is beyond the notion of traditional play equipment.
Macleay Street	W'loo	1				Woolloomooloo Playground to be maintained at high end Local level facility
	Elizabeth Bay Potts Point		2		Fitzroy Gardens playground improvements completed	Investigate options for additional play opportunities in Lawrence Hargrave Park. Provide shade amenity at Fitzroy Gardens Playground
	Rushcutters Bay		1		Rushcutters Bay Park (City controlled) provides Local level playground facility. Close proximity to residential limits scope to expand facility. Existing Woollahra play facility is well sited and has near support amenities – toilets and kiosk	Opportunity to partner with Woollahra Council to upgrade existing playground in Woollahra managed side Rushcutters Bay Park to a district level facility.
	Darlinghurst	3				Continue to maintain and improve existing Neighbourhood level facilities.

Playground Assessment (Continued)						
Planning Area / Suburb	Suburb	Current Provision			Assessment	Proposed Recommendations
		N'hood	Local	District		
<b>Harris Street</b>	Pymont	1		1	<b>Pirrama Park</b> - district level playground that provides water play and inclusive play facilities and support amenities	
	Ultimo	1	2		<b>Fig Street Playground</b> is a high quality facility within 100m of the Ada Street site.	<b>Ada Street Playground</b> to provide play experience that doesn't necessarily rely on structured equipment provision.
<b>Crown Street</b>	Surry Hills	5	3		<b>Prince Alfred Park</b> new playground facilities. <b>Eddie Ward Park</b> provides junior and senior play facilities.	Shannon Reserve Playground - upgrade
	East Redfern	4			Good distribution of local playground facilities, i.e. James Street and Marriot Reserve playgrounds	Elizabeth McCrea Playground to be upgraded
<b>Oxford Street</b>	Paddington Moore Park / Centennial Park	1			Increasing population of young children in area. Only one Local facility (Oatley Road) Residents in Centennial Park and Oxford Street Gates Playground provides a District / Regional level play facilities.	Investigate potential for additional neighbourhood / local play facility for East Paddington area. Ensure ease of pedestrian / pram access to Centennial Park. Support Centennial Parklands to provide additional play facilities in Kippax Lake area of Moore Park.
<b>Redfern</b>	Redfern	3	2		Redfern Park	Continue to maintain and improve existing Neighbourhood/local level facilities. Upgrade priorities include:
	Waterloo	2			Maintain current provision and upkeep of facility at Waterloo Park.	
	Chippendale	2			Victoria Park upgraded	Investigate feasibility of improved links to Victoria Park playground at Myrtle St / City Road.
	Darlington	1	1		Charles Kiernan Reserve recently upgraded	
	Eveleigh	1			Rotary Park Playground is in poor condition / amenity level.	Assess future play provision as part of Central to Eveleigh public domain/ open space planning.
					Victoria Park upgraded	
<b>King street</b>	Erskineville Newtown	9	3		Well provided for with Neighbourhood playgrounds.	Due to close proximity of Neighbourhood park play facilities equipment types and themes, the smaller playgrounds should be diverse so as to create an integrated Neighbourhood playground network.
	Camperdown	1				Assess option to improve play facilities in Larkin Street Park.
<b>Green Square</b>	Rosebery	3	1		<b>Turrwul Park</b> developed to District level facility.	<b>Crete Reserve</b> develop to Neighbourhood level facility to cater for 0-7 years age group.
	Alexandria					<b>Perry Park</b> - as part of park upgrade provide play amenity that targets older children 8-12 years <b>Alexandra Park</b> - improve play facility for both young and 8-11 year old children, as part of park masterplan review.

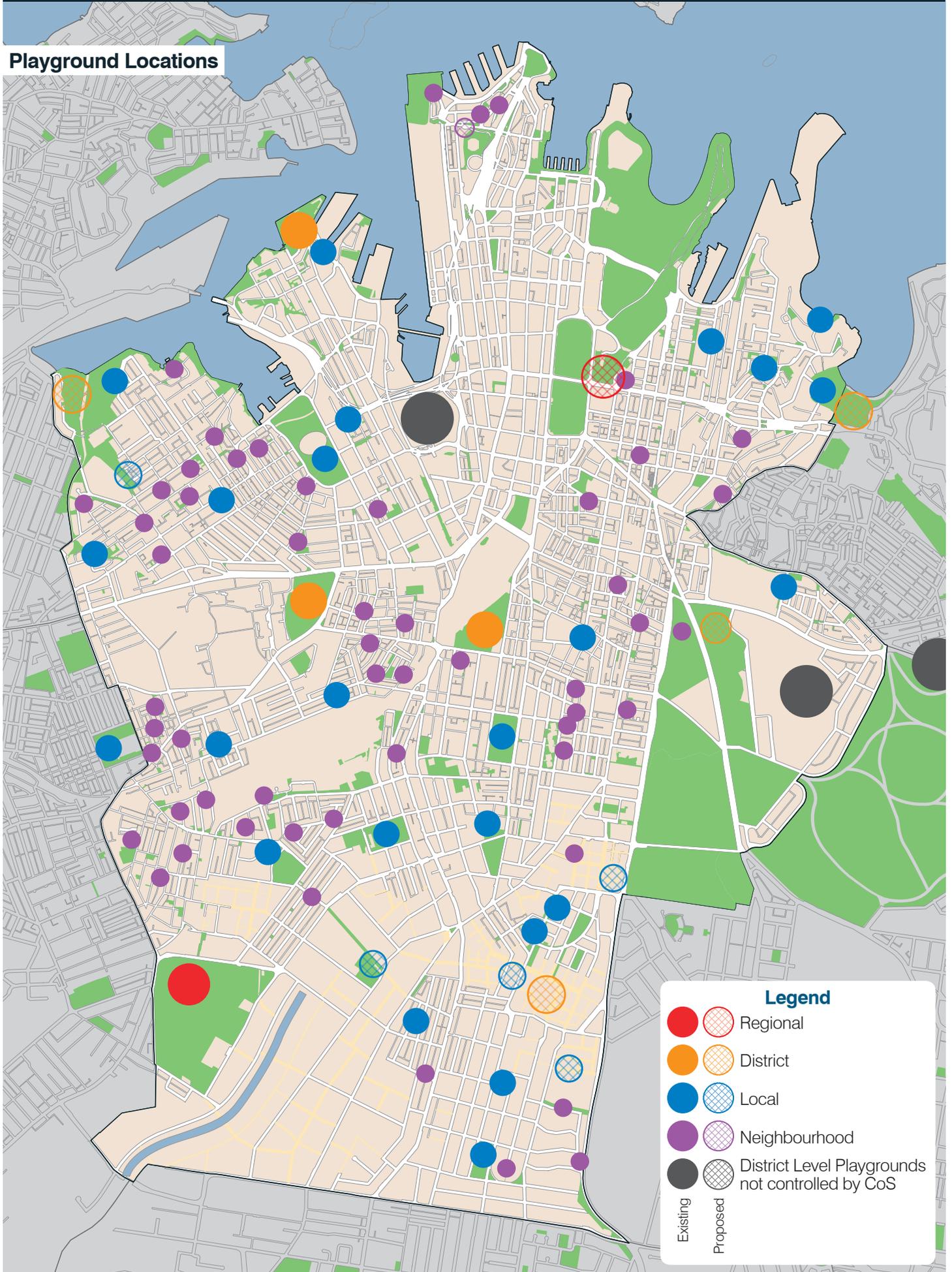
Playground Assessment (Continued)						
Planning Area / Suburb	Suburb	Current Provision			Assessment	Proposed Recommendations
		N'hood	Local	District		
Green Square	Beaconsfield	1	1		<b>Janet Bierne Reserve</b> upgraded for 0-7 years age group play and social recreation.	Review <b>Beaconsfield Park</b> Playground to scope improvements to play provision and amenity.
	Zetland Waterloo	1	1		Demographic projections indicate an increased population of young children in area. Tote Park playground provides high quality Local facility.	Green Square new open space need to accommodate play facilities. <b>Gunyama Park</b> – District level play facility. Local play facilities at: <b>Waluba Park</b> <b>Sweetacres Park</b> (completed) <b>Mary O'Brien Reserve</b> (completed)
King Street	Alexandria St Peters	8	1		Sydney Park Regional facility has All Ability Access with a network of play spaces throughout the park.	<b>Sydney Park</b> – expand range of facilities with children's bike circuit, toilets and shelters amenities. Neighbourhood facilities for upgrade include: <b>Bowden/Lawrence Street Playground</b> <b>Dibbs Street Playground</b> <b>Renwick Street Playground</b>
Glebe Point Road	Glebe	11	2	1	Local / Neighbourhood Park level playgrounds have undergone extensive upgrades in 2004-2006. <b>Jubilee Park</b> facility offers different play themes and experience that provides diversity in the network.	<b>Federal Park</b> - district playground that provides inclusive and accessible play experiences.
	Forest Lodge	2			Orphan School Creek corridor parklands local playground facility – with contact with nature as part of play experience.	<b>Harold Park</b> - new local level play facility.

Reference: Children and Families in the City of Sydney (Draft)



Sydney Park Playground

## Playground Locations



## Youth Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities and public spaces attractive to youth and young people can include the following:

- **Physical Spaces** - skate, court sports, climbing walls, biking, field sports, outdoor ping pong;
- **Social Spaces** - spaces that encourage social interaction, event, performance, art and music;

### Now

- Waterloo Park Youth Facility - Completed
- Skate Facilities - Waterloo Park and Ward Park, plaza style skate space at Redfern Park.
- Outdoor Court Facilities
- Indoor Recreation Facilities
- Youth sport participation programs

### Issues

- Young people feel marginalised from public space and often “designed out” to discourage use by young people.
- Awareness of rising mental health, depression and obesity rates in young people and the role of public space and recreation can positively contribute to address these issues.
- Lack of skate facility in vicinity of the City Centre.
- Damage to City spaces cause by inappropriate skate activity.

### Trends

The major trend both nationally and internationally is a move toward the provision of holistic youth inclusive public spaces which can provide a multitude of opportunities and challenges for a wider demographic of young people. The provision of skate parks/ramps is now considered to be just one part of a youth outdoor recreation space, rather than the sole component. Youth precincts and intergenerational spaces are now being considered in broader urban design and city planning to cater for the needs of younger generations.

Examples include:

#### Geelong Youth Activity Area

The Youth Activities Area is a dedicated outdoor plaza-style park, located at the Waterfront in Geelong. Amenities include:

- Open-air performance areas
- Artworks
- Stages for performance
- Basketball hoop practice area
- Skate/BMX/Scooter areas
- Bench seating
- Stereo music playing most days

Events are also held at the Youth Activities Area throughout the year. These are often free, and are aimed at young people aged 12-25 years old.

#### Merida Youth Factory, Spain

Organised between the regional government, local community and professional designers. Located in Merida, Spain. This space is a modern, new and multifaceted approach to creating public youth spaces. Youth Factory acknowledges the wide variety of activities that kids actually want to participate in – skatepark, rock climbing, hip hop dancing, graffiti art, circus training and wireless internet. The space also has meeting rooms where kids can go for counselling and education programs. The Youth Factory forms one of seven youth facilities in the region.

## Multipurpose space, Box Hill Victoria

This space in Box Hill Victoria caters to the multiple interests of kids and young people, and the wider growing community. The site functions as both community space and courts for multiple sport and recreation activities. A dynamic and engaging super graphic defines the play areas and creates an iconic and playful destination for the growing community. There's cycling, ball courts, rebound walls, ping pong tables, walking tracks.

## Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

The overall direction is to create a network of youth inclusive public spaces that co-locate an array of youth facilities and social spaces.

Spaces should offer a diversity of activities including flexible spaces for performance and art.

Establish new skate destination parks at:

- **Federal Park**
- **Sydney Park**
- **41 Mandible Street, Green Square**

Skateable moments at:

- **Gunyama Park, Green Square**

Assess the feasibility and suitability of using portable skate elements as temporary pop up sites for 1-4 week duration across the City such as Prince Alfred Park, Peter Forsyth Auditorium, Victoria Park, Nuffield Park, Woolloomooloo Playground.

Undertake feasibility assessment to provide skate facility with good public transport links close / or within the **City Centre**

Bank Street Foreshore - Assess feasibility of locating court/skate facilities under Anzac Bridge co-located with passive watercraft facility.

**Bank Street Foreshore** - Assess feasibility of locating court/skate facilities under Anzac Bridge co-located with passive watercraft facility;

**Rushcutters Bay Park** – support Woollahra Council in development of skate facility in Woollahra managed side of Rushcutters Bay Park;

### Indoor Recreation

Youth needs to be considered for programmed improvements/development of indoor recreation facilities.

- Perry Park Indoor Court Facilities;
- Maybank Centre, Pyrmont;
- Peter Forsyth Centre, Glebe.

### Youth Sport and Recreation Programs

City to continue to support / and or facilities youth sport and recreation programs particularly for disadvantaged groups.

### Indoor and Outdoor Court Facilities

(refer to pages 52 - 59)



Geelong Youth Activity Area

## Companion Animals

Dog exercise is one of the most popular reported activities that people undertake in the City's parks.

The provision of dog-friendly spaces is important, especially in inner-city areas with high-density dwellings where dogs don't have much space to exercise.

Regular off-leash exercise in designated parks helps dogs relieve boredom and release pent-up energy. It may also reduce unwanted behaviour such as excessive barking.

Apart from exercise benefits for owners dog exercising foster connections and social interaction between dog owners.

### **Now**

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It is estimated that over 18,000 dogs reside in the City of Sydney.

The City currently has 44 off leash parks. These parks range from off leash exercise available at all times to parks that have restrictions for off leash exercise limited to evening and night time hours.

### **Issues**

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Managing dog access to open space without diminishing enjoyment of parks by others.

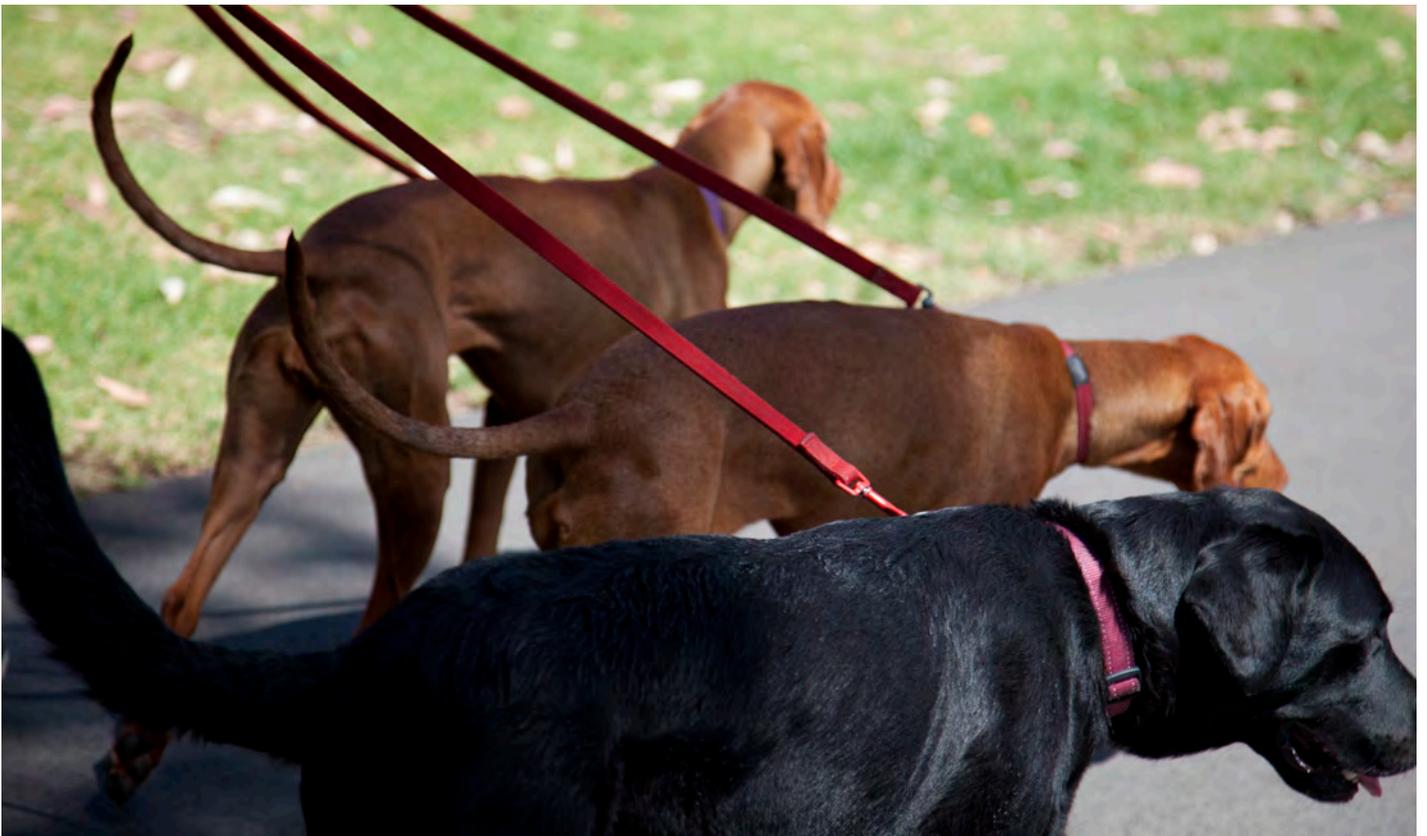
Strata laws allowing residents to own companion animals will result in need for public space to allow people to exercise their dogs close to home.

### **Considerations to inform Strategy Directions**

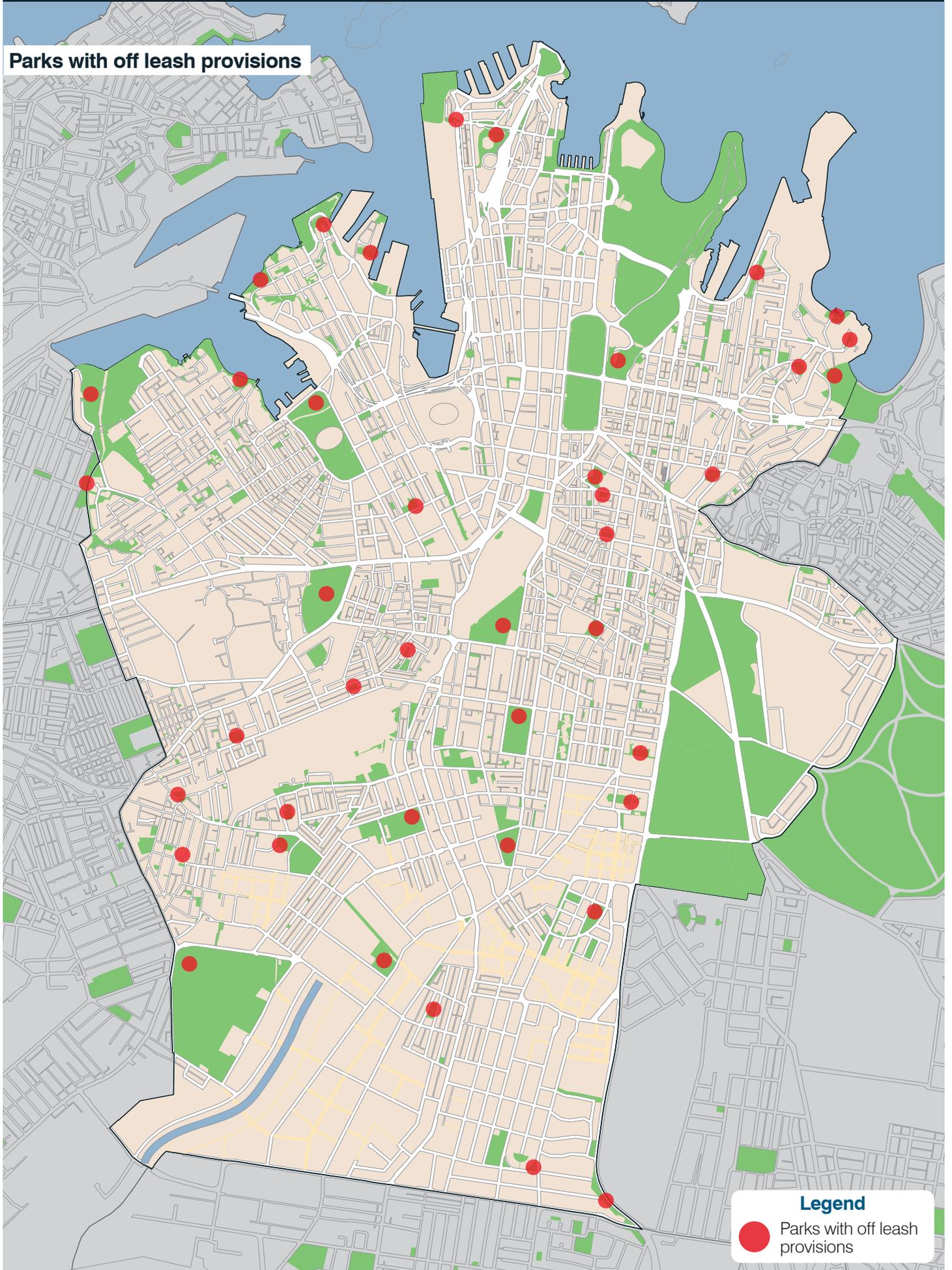
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Increase facilities and amenities at popular dog exercise parks to increase enjoyment for owners and dogs.

- Provision of Dog water bowls.
- Adequate lighting for parks attracting evening night time use for dog exercise.
- Seating and social areas for owners to congregate.



Parks with off leash provisions



## Events

Events in public spaces are an important part of a vibrant and lively city. Events can activate public space, bring people together to celebrate and connect by providing an invitation for people to stay and enjoy City's public spaces, and rethink how streets and spaces can be used.

Events can also be a key strategy to invite people to access the city in the evening and night time.

Events in the City range from major festivals such as Sydney Festival, community fairs, Christmas concerts, Night Noodle Markets, to smaller community based events.

### Now

In 2014/15 there were 734 events in the City's parks and open spaces, excluding Customs House Square.

The City's Cultural Policy Live Music Taskforce recommend increased use of the public domain for events.

### Issues

The key issues include:

- Escalation in the commercialisation of parks and open spaces as events are becoming increasingly reliant on sponsorships and the sponsor partners and increasingly wanting to "activate" space in parks as part of the event with commercial promotions. The challenge is how to limit this commercial activity while allowing the events to take place.
- Sustainability - need to ensure that increased use of the public domain for events can be managed to maintain adequate access for passive recreation and other uses taking account of restricted public access during events and post-event returfing.
- Increasing demand for the most popular spaces – Martin Place, Hyde Park, Wynyard Park.
- Services - need to provide suitable services to support event activity, including power, water, vehicle access, sewer connection.

### Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

Figure 16 shows the major event spaces.

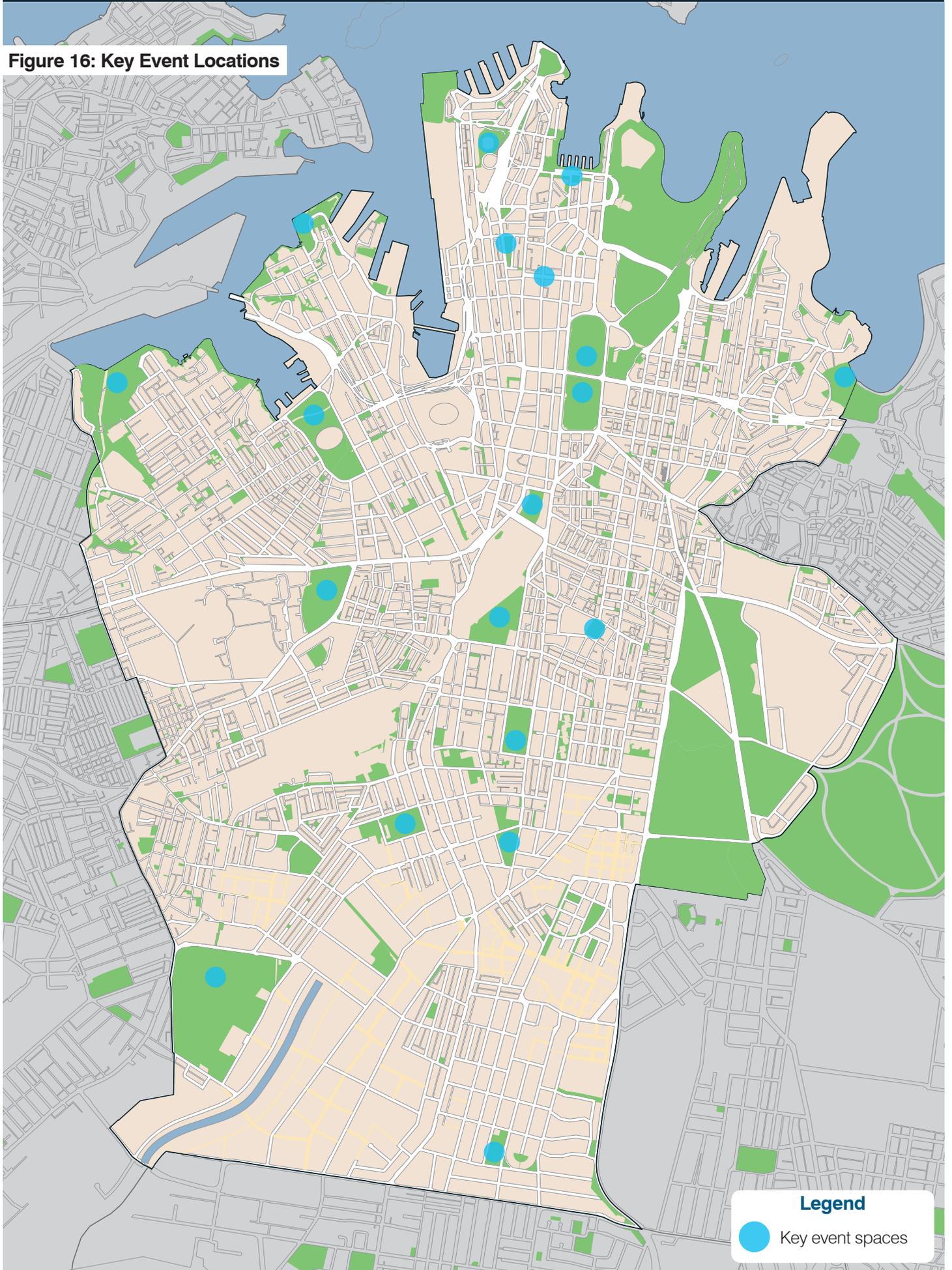
Develop Event Management Guidelines to regulate the use of designated open space areas for varied outdoor events and activities, such as markets, busking, and public meetings. Guidelines to give clear direction on allowable commercial/ sponsorship content.

Ensure that event spaces are provided with appropriate infrastructure to support ongoing usage including:

- Three phase power.
- Water.
- Temporary connections to sewer, if available.
- Flexible spaces to support ongoing event usage.



Figure 16: Key Event Locations



## Walking & Cycling

Walking and cycling for pleasure are one of the most popular recreational activities across all age groups in the community. They will continue to increase in popularity with the trend in a shift in focus from competitive sport to family and social leisure and as people recognise health benefits associated with these activities. With high participation rates the demand for the provision of more and higher quality walking and cycling facilities will increase.

### **Now**

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- The **Liveable Green Network** is a part of the City's plans to make the local area as green, global and connected as possible. It aims to create a pedestrian and cycling network that connects people with the city and village centres as well as major transport and entertainment hubs, cultural precincts, parks and open spaces.
- The focus is an active transport network however infrastructure provided also supports recreational walking and expands the notion of the street as a recreational and social resource and not be limited to a commuter function.
- The routes laid out for the Liveable Green Network will encourage cycling and walking. Improvements will include separated cycleways, lower speed limits, widened footpaths and improved crossings. Cycling routes will be clearly marked with easy-to-read maps and signage. More seats, bubblers and bike parking will be built along major pedestrian and cycling routes.
- The City is working towards building a 200km cycling network including 55km of separated cycleways.
- Extensive cycling paths have already been put in place. More cycleway projects are currently being constructed or designed.
- Many of the Liveable Green Network routes traverse the open space network forming convenient cross connections. These include Johnstons Creek Canal, Orphan School Creek and Prince Alfred Park. Many of the City's larger parks have walking loops that are well used for recreation and exercise. These include Sydney Park, Redfern Park, Turruwul Park and Rushcutters Bay Park. In addition the Harbour Foreshore provides a great opportunity to develop and promote an iconic recreation experience for locals and visitors.

### **Issues**

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- Topography / Gradients;
- Traffic Speed / Busy Roads;
- Lack of Cycling Infrastructure and connected Network;
- Poor Crossing Facilities / Excessive Waiting Times;
- Infrastructure Barriers;
- Narrow Footpath and Barriers / Obstacles;
- Public Domain Quality / Safety;
- Lighting;
- Poor Connectivity / Coarse Grain Street Networks;
- Land Tenure and Urban Renewal;
- Lack of Mid Journey and End of Trip Facilities;
- Lack of Information / Signage / Maps.

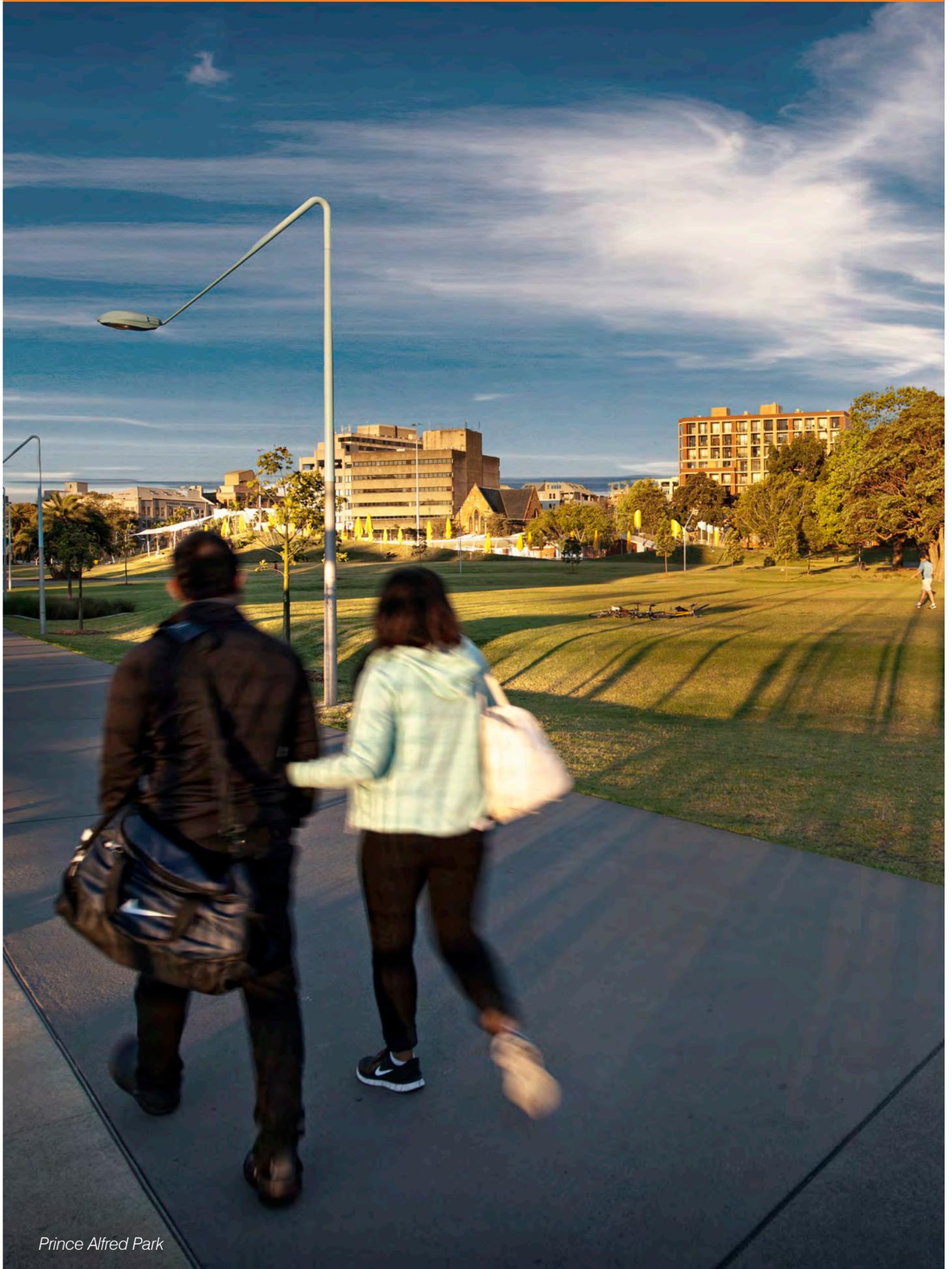
### **Trends**

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- Walking consistently nominated as the number one recreational activity participated by adults;
- High walking participation rates by older people;
- Recreational cycling also on the increase with provision of infrastructure to allow safer participation across all age groups.

## Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

		Reference
<b>Liveable Green Network Implementation</b>	<p>The current and proposed project directions undertaken by the City will contribute to the delivery of the Liveable Green Network by addressing network gaps and improving public domain quality.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycleway Program</li> <li>• Park and Open Space upgrades</li> <li>• Streetscape Upgrade Program</li> <li>• Public Domain Planning projects</li> <li>• Pedestrian Cycle Traffic Calming (PCTC) Program</li> <li>• Footpath Reconstruction Program</li> <li>• Urban Renewal project planning</li> <li>• Climate change mitigation through additional street tree planting</li> </ul>	<p>Liveable Green Network Implementation Plan 2013</p> <p>City of Sydney Walking Strategy 2014</p>
<b>Park Walking Loops in larger parks to be provided</b>	<p>Provide pathway loops at :</p> <p>Waterloo Park</p> <p>Alexandra Park</p> <p>Observatory Hill Park</p> <p>Belmore Park</p>	
<b>Wayfinding Signage</b>	Rollout of Legible Sydney wayfinding signage	Legible Sydney Implementation Plan 2013
<b>Childrens recreation cycling</b>	Sydney Park childrens cycle facility (completed)	Sydney Park Plan of Management 2014
<b>Amenities to support walking and Cycling</b>	<p>Liveable Green Network implementation to include support amenities such as seats, bubblers, and toilets.</p> <p>Greening Sydney implementation to provide tree planting for shade.</p>	
<b>Lighting</b>	Footpath Lighting Implementation Plan to improve lighting amenity of footpaths and cycleways with back of pole fixtures.	Sydney Lights Design Code 2015
<b>Regional Approach</b>	Co-ordinate with State Government and neighbouring councils on implementation of the <b>Sydney Green Grid</b> to provide regional walking and cycle connections.	Plan for a Growing Sydney 2014



Prince Alfred Park

Figure 17: Livable Green Network



## Passive Boating

Passive boating is defined as non-motorised water craft such as kayaks, canoes and dragon boats.

Sydney Harbour is one of the world's busiest waterways on which cargo, commuters, tourist leisure and passive craft share an increasingly congested space.

The calm waters west of the Harbour Bridge have been extensively used by passive boating including rowing clubs, kayaks, canoes and dragon boats.

### **Now**

- The City of Sydney includes over 12km of publicly accessible Harbour Foreshore.
- The City has provided passive boating facilities at Glebe Foreshore parklands in the form of a pontoon, storage racks and seawall steps.
- Seawall steps suitable to launch passive water craft are located at Beare Park, Rushcutters Bay Park and Pirrama Park.

### **Trends**

The rise in popularity of passive boating is consistent with the trend.

### **Issues**

Ensure protection of park values with anticipated demand for:

- Passive watercraft storage areas;
- Convenient access/ launch points for passive watercraft.
- Water quality issues.

### **Considerations to inform Strategy Directions**

		Reference
<b>Increase provision of passive boating facilities</b>	<b>Bank Street Foreshore, Pyrmont</b> Advocate to State Government to progress provision of passive boating facility at Bank Street that supports dragon boat activities.	-

Figure 18: Passive Boating Locations



## Other Facilities

The City's open space network is characterised by small park areas with 70% of parks being less than 3,000m<sup>2</sup>. This limits the available space for formal organised recreation. The City needs to consider additional recreation opportunities and facilities that do not take up much space but add to the recreation diversity and is attractive to a broad range of age groups and cultural backgrounds.

### Now

Recent park projects have responded to the trend of individualised, casual recreation use with the provision of outdoor gyms, outdoor ping pong tables, walking path networks and passive boating opportunities.

### Trends

- Changing trends in sport and recreation participation and increased demand for non-organised recreational facilities
- Trend towards individual and personalised recreational pursuits has seen growth of personal fitness trainers in the open space network. Outdoor gym equipment are popular amenities for individual or circuit training.
- Chessboard in Hyde Park is extremely popular as a social gathering space.
- Many cities around the world are responding to recreation needs of culturally diverse communities with the provision of chessboards, and bocce / pentanque courts.
- Brisbane City Council introduced Australia's first reflexology path. The pathway consists of stones ranging from smooth river pebbles to large stepping stones - walking along it in bare feet is designed to stimulate the reflexes of the feet and enhance well being.

### Considerations to inform Strategy Directions

For future park capital works projects assess the opportunity and appropriateness to consider a range of recreation amenities that will appeal to a range of age groups and cultural backgrounds.

These facilities should not take up a large space but be effective adding to diversity of the network. These include:

- Outdoor gyms
- Park tables with chessboards
- Outdoor ping pong
- Bocce / Pentanque courts
- Reflexology Paths
- Circuit Walking Loops

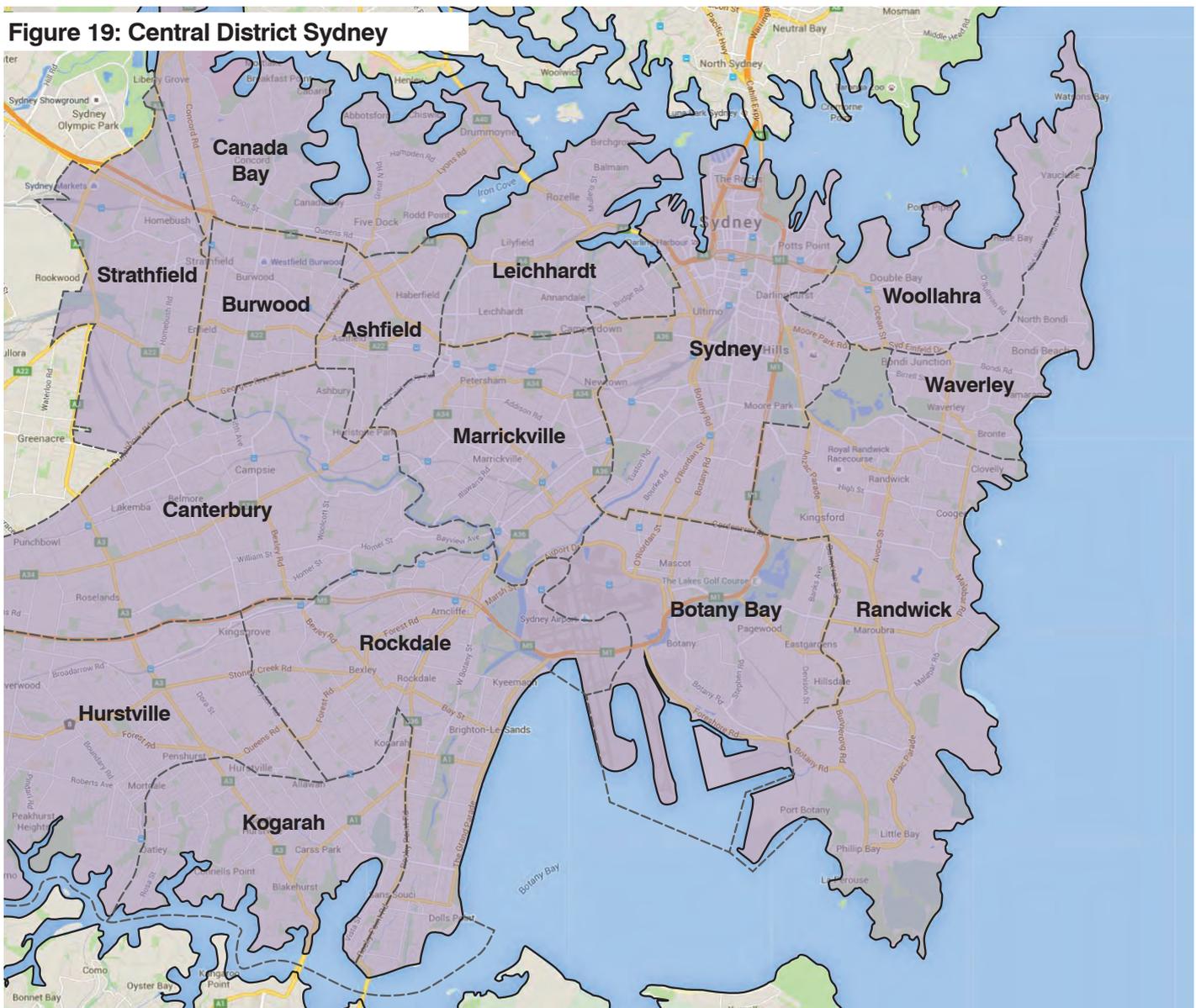


Hyde Park

# 5.0

# District Provision and Planning

A district approach to open space planning is required, particularly in relation to avoiding duplication of facilities and co-ordinating pedestrian and cycle links to regional destinations. Extending the range and diversity of open space and recreation facilities available to the City of Sydney's residential population is also a requirement.



## Now

The *Plan for a Growing Sydney* Central District spans central Sydney, the eastern suburbs and the inner west of Sydney.

The following open space areas and population data has been sourced from various Council reports and strategic documents:

- Central District area - 18,100ha approx
- Central District Open Space Provision - 2,457.09ha = 13.6% overall site area
- Central District Population (2014) - 865,971 residents = 28m<sup>2</sup> per resident

The Central District offers a variety of open space that cannot be offered within the City of Sydney LGA, including:

- Bushland
- Beaches – coastal walk links
- River frontage
- Natural harbour foreshore

Distribution of open space is varied with Randwick City possessing the largest share of overall open space with an extensive range of publicly accessible open space that covers in excess of 1,352 hectares and incorporates over 26% of the local government area (LGA). This includes numerous golf courses and bushland reserves on the coastline.

Some Inner west councils such as Strathfield 5.6% and Leichhardt is around 7.8% have less provision.

Population in the Central District is projected to grow significantly particularly in the urban renewal areas under planning (Bays, Central to Eveleigh and Parramatta Road) which will decrease available open space provision even with open space additions.

At a Central District level key open space and recreation facility moves that are underway or proposed by State and council strategic documents are:

Key Move	Description	Reference
<b>Sydney Green Grid Project</b>	Plan to connect Sydney’s parks and open spaces into a “Green Grid” of walkways and cycle paths.  Key links in Central District include Alexandra Canal corridor and Eastern Suburbs Coastal Walk	Plan for a Growing Sydney 2014
<b>Green Square Aquatic Centre and Gunyama Park</b>	New aquatic centre and sports field park in Green Square	City of Sydney
<b>Perry Park</b>	New indoor sports courts and outdoor synthetic sports field.	City of Sydney
<b>Golf Course reconversion</b>	New parkland creation at Eastlakes Golf Course and reuse of Botany Golf course for sports field and parkland	Botany Council 2040 Vision
<b>Heffron Park Redevelopment</b>	Largest sporting reserve in Randwick City (4ha) that provides numerous sports fields, netball courts, aquatic centre and cycling loops. Future works include handball courts, tennis facilities and upgrade of existing gymnasium facility building.  Proposed to be headquarters of South Sydney Rabbitohs.	Randwick City Council
<b>Bunnerong Park</b>	7.7ha reserve opened in 2015. Provides two dedicated baseball fields, one large multi- purpose field, cycleway and pedestrian paths.	Randwick City Council
<b>Cooks River Corridor</b>	Cycle link from Rookwood Cemetery / Sydney Olympic Park to Botany Bay at Tempe. Ongoing park upgrades by various Councils that adjoin the river corridor.	Marrickville Council - Cooks River Parklands - 10 year plan
<b>Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay</b>	Proposal for 5km corridor extending from Cooks River at Earlwood to Iron Cove in the north passing through four local government areas.	Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway - Masterplan and Co-ordination Strategy 2009
<b>Eastern Suburbs Coastal Walk</b>	Pedestrian link walk from Watsons Bay to La Perouse	Sydney Green Grid

## Issues

- Single councils cannot meet all recreation needs within their boundary.
- Recreation planning tends to be uncoordinated between councils and other agencies resulting in data that lack compatibility and continuity.
- Council planning for within own boundaries creation local / district facilities that can be overused due to overall regional demand.
- Lack of a district approach may result in ad hoc and reactive planning to meet recreation demand rather than a strategic approach at the local and regional level.
- Lack of adequate data to allow informed decision making.
- Need planning to avoid overprovision and duplication of facilities and shortfall in others, competition between facilities reduce sustainability.
- Limited capacity for some councils to plan at a regional level.

## Central District Planning - Key Considerations

### Develop a District Open Space and Recreation Facility Plan

Need to plan sport at a district as well as at a local level. Adjoining local government and State Government need to work together to regionally better understand recreation needs, avoid duplication and achieve more targeted outcomes.

Seek cross boundary district co-ordination to undertake jointly prepared strategies to consider supply at a sub- regional level.

Plan to consider:

- Creation of a clear hierarchy adopted by councils of sports facilities ranging from sports hubs or precincts that cater to high level sports at regional/district level through district facilities provide sport within a LGA to local suitable training / kick-about provision;
- Consider supply at a district level;
- Land acquisition requirements;
- Partnerships to allow access and sharing of facilities.

### Linkages

District approach require partnerships between state government, councils, agencies co-ordinate and deliver new pedestrian and cycle connections.

#### Sydney Green Grid Project

The Sydney Green Grid identifies important regional trails across Metropolitan Sydney, many linking to the City. Of particular relevance to the City of Sydney would be:

- Botany Bay to Homebush Bay and Kurnell to La Perouse - (linked to the City via the Alexandria Canal).
- Links from City to Botany Bay;
- Coastal Walk (linked to the City via Centennial Parklands).

### Data Collection

Good planning for recreation facilities depends on sound information. The development of an information database to allow district access to compatible information generated by consistent methodologies will allow for a more informative basis for sound decision making.



Key		
1	Sydney Olympic Park	7 Perry Park
2	Centennial Parklands	8 Heffron Park Redevelopment
3	Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain	9 Bunnerong Park
4	Sydney Park	10 Glebe Foreshore Parklands
5	Sir Joseph Banks Park	11 Callan Park
6	Tempe Park	12 Kyeemagh Parklands
		13 Cooks River Sportsfields
		14 Waverley Park
		15 Botany Bay National Park
		16 Redfern Park
		17 Hensley Athletic and Sports Field
		18 The David Phillips Sports Complex





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