



Sydney2030/**Green/Global/Connected**

CITY OF SYDNEY  

# Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016

**Volume 3**  
**Research and Analysis**

*city of villages*

**Adopted 14 November 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 3 - Research and Analysis

<b>1.0/ Open Space Network Classifications</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0/ Key Drivers For The Future Planning of Open Space and Recreation Facilities</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.0/ Open Space Network Needs Assessment</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4.0/ Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>5.0/ Sub Regional Provision and Planning</b>	<b>79</b>



## 1.0

# Open Space Network Classifications

## 1.1 Open Space Hierarchy

Open Space hierarchy classifications have been assigned to reflect the level of facilities/amenities, and population catchment.

Providing hierarchy classifications will determine planning and development factors such as:

- Levels of development and infrastructure expected by the community;
- Service level standards, particularly relating to maintenance;
- Carrying capacity and ability to accommodate various uses;
- Flexibility to meet changing demands;
- Funding priorities.

Proposed hierarchy classifications are outlined in the table below:

Catchment		Description	Typical Scale	Catchment Distance from Home
Regional	REG	Any large or unique area with good links to public transport that attract visitations from the whole of the City of Sydney or broader than the City, including tourists.	Unlimited	Unlimited
District	DIST	Serving more than one Village Area. Are generally large or significant areas that attract visitors from surrounding suburbs and offer a more diverse range of activities. Can cater for a wide cross section of community interests, including informal recreation and sporting opportunities. Provides a diverse range of facilities to encourage longer stays.	1 - 5ha	2-3km
Local	LA	Serving residents within a Village Area. Open space that provides facilities for visitors within walking distance for 30-60 minute stays. Open space areas that are positioned and designed to attract residents living within a 0.5km radius. Cater for informal recreation, relaxation and children's play, and should be within walking distance of all households.	0.3 - 1ha	500m
Neighbourhood	N	Serving residents within immediate locality. Open space in easy walking distance from home to provide for short stay activities, usually children's play.	Less than 0.3ha	400m

Table 1



## Catchment Classification Examples



Regional - Sydney Park



District - Rushcutters Bay Park

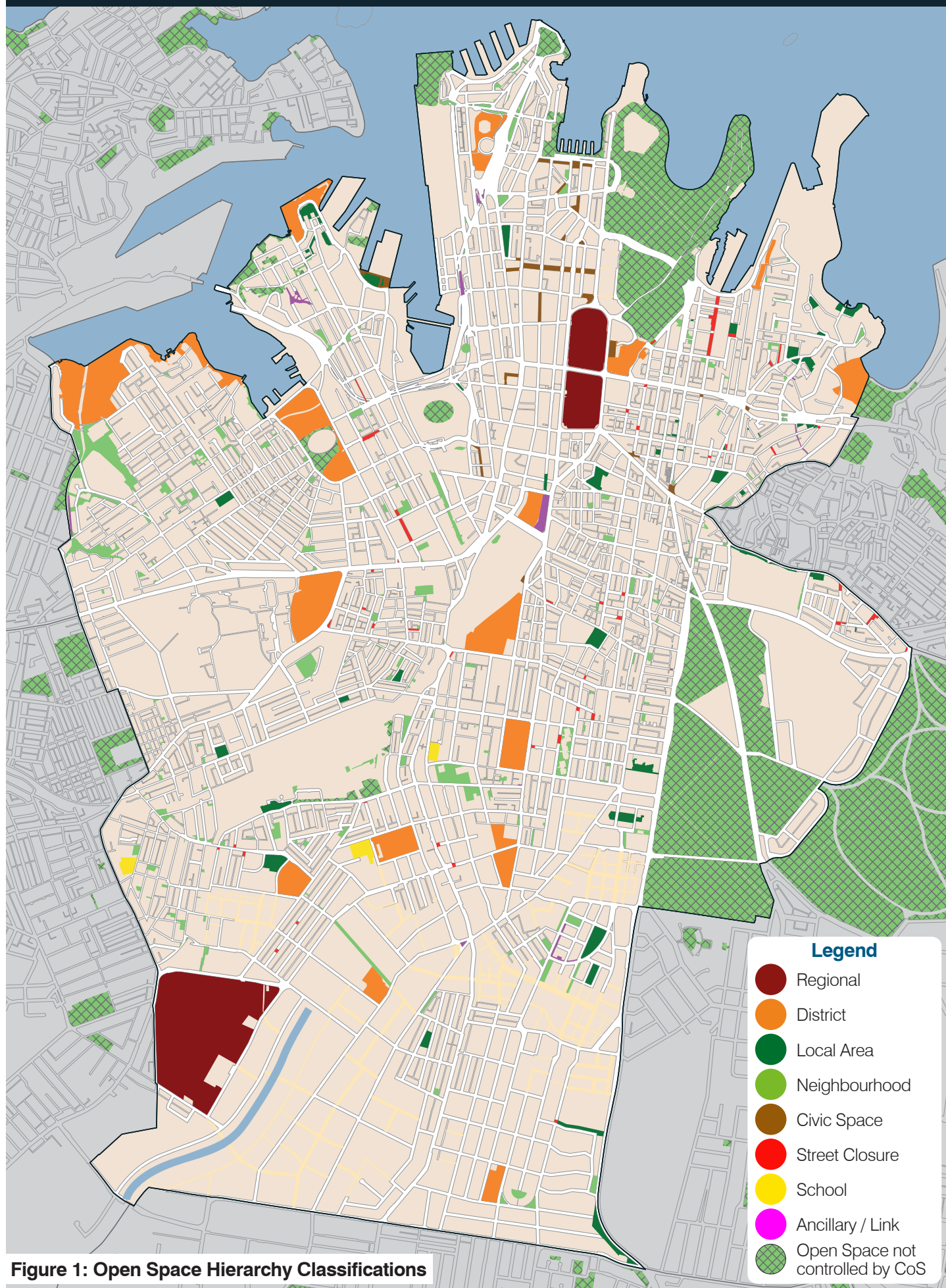


Local - Foley Park



Neighbourhood - Janet Bierre Reserve







## 1.2 Open Space Settings

Broad landscape setting types have been applied to describe the visual character or “look” of the various open space to be found across the City. The open space landscape settings are as set out below.

### Park

Covers the traditional image of open space consisting of areas of turf, trees and garden beds. Depending on size, can support a variety of functions, including unstructured recreation and organised sport. The character of parks can range from Victorian heritage landscapes to parks that have a more contemporary design.

### Pocket Park

Covers smaller parks and reserves <2,000m<sup>2</sup> commonly called pocket parks. Usually only accommodates a single function, such as playground use.

### Foreshore Park / Open Space

Parks and open space providing physical access, views or amenity to Sydney Harbour.

### Civic / Urban

Formal public space usually in an urban setting, including squares, plazas and malls, or spaces associated with the forecourt of a building. Usually hard surfaced and may accommodate passive recreation, depending on size.

### Street Closures

Open space created by the closure of streets to vehicle access. Usually very small in size and may accommodate limited facilities such as seating.

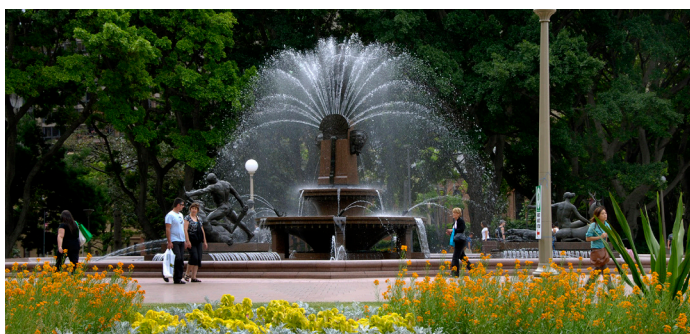
### Ancillary / Link

Describes small or lineal open space areas that primarily serve as visual amenity or means of access rather than as a destination for recreation.

## City of Sydney Open Space Setting Classifications

Figure 2 shows the settings classification of parks and open space areas within the City.

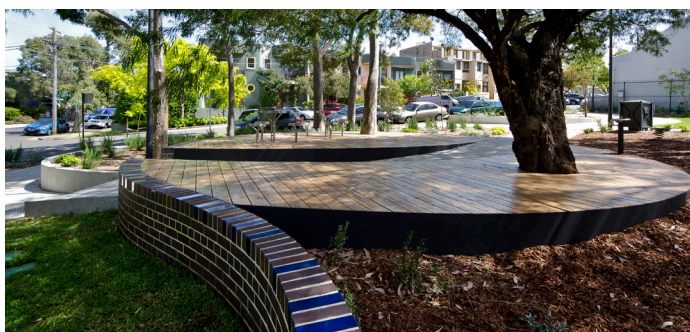
Section 4 provides detail on particular recreation and sporting facilities contained in the open space setting classifications.



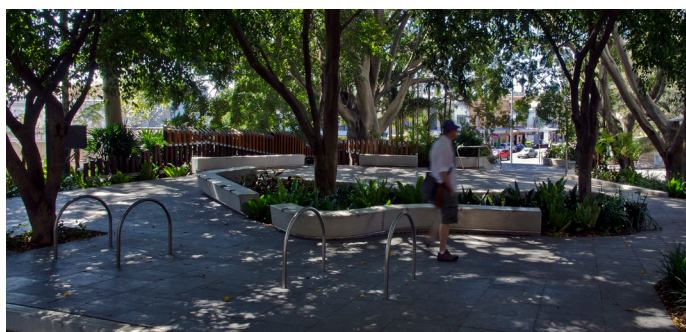
Park



Civic / Urban



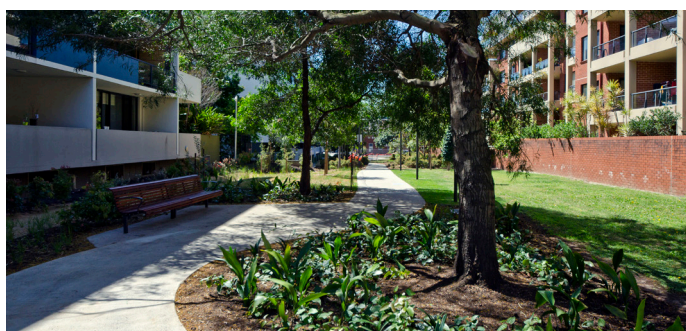
Pocket Park



Street Closures



Foreshore Park



Ancillary / Link





**Figure 2: Open Space Setting Classifications**





Chippendale Green



# 2.0

## Key Drivers For The Future Planning of Open Space and Recreation Facilities

To determine the degree to which provision of public open space and recreation facilities is serving the City of Sydney, it is essential to understand the strategic context, current and future status of the City's population, demographic trends, recreation trends and other influencing factors to ensure targeted future planning.

The In Your Village planning precincts as per Figure 3 are used for the purposes of additional analysis and breakdown beyond an overall LGA planning perspective.

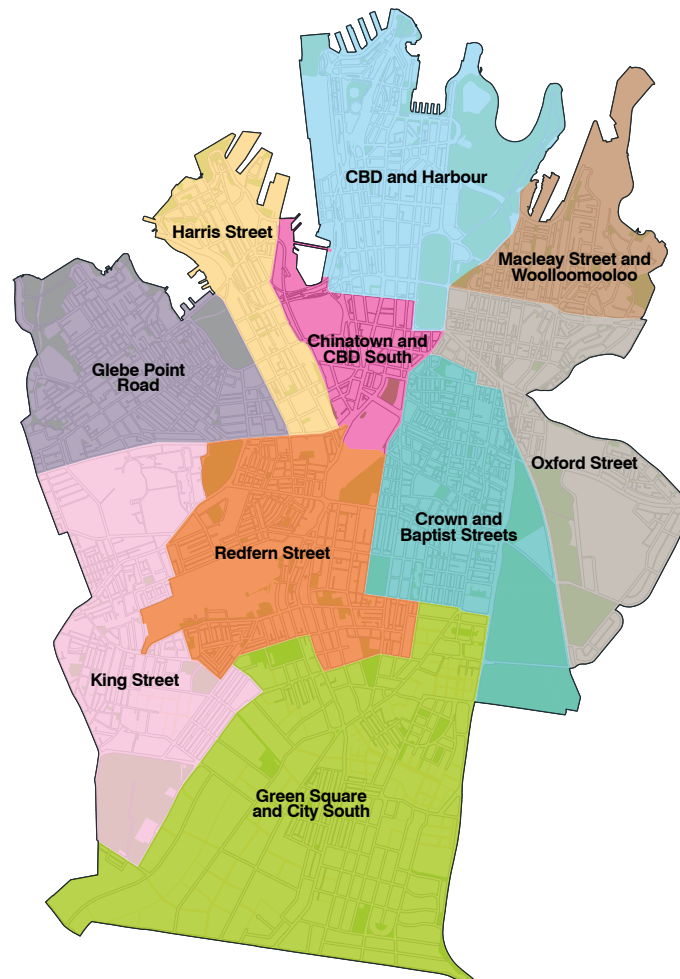
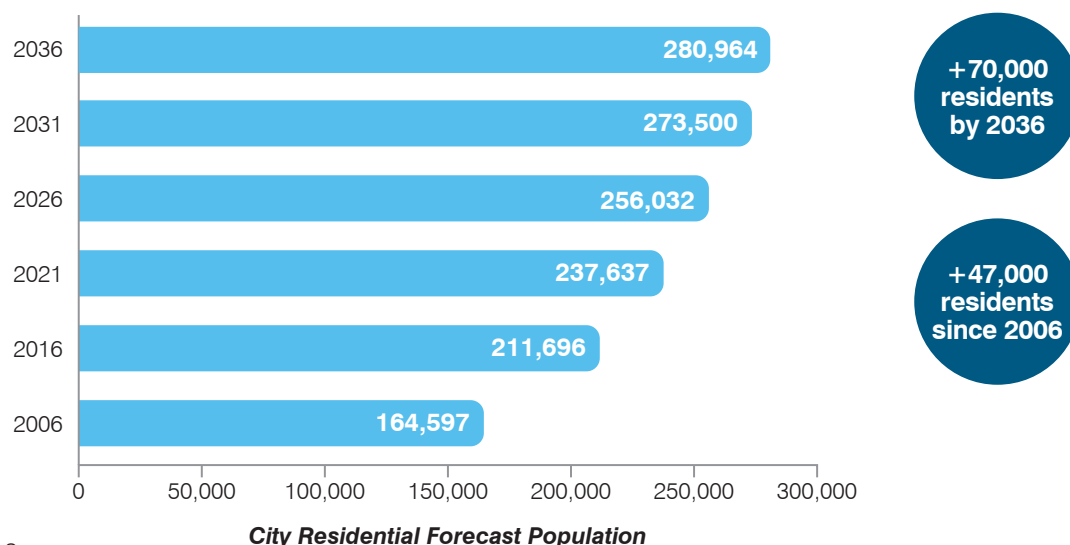


Figure 3

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



## 2.1 More Residents



## Population

The City's residential population was **183,300** at time of the 2011 census and is estimated in 2015 to have recently passed **200,000** people.

The City of Sydney population is forecast to grow to **280,964** by **2036**.

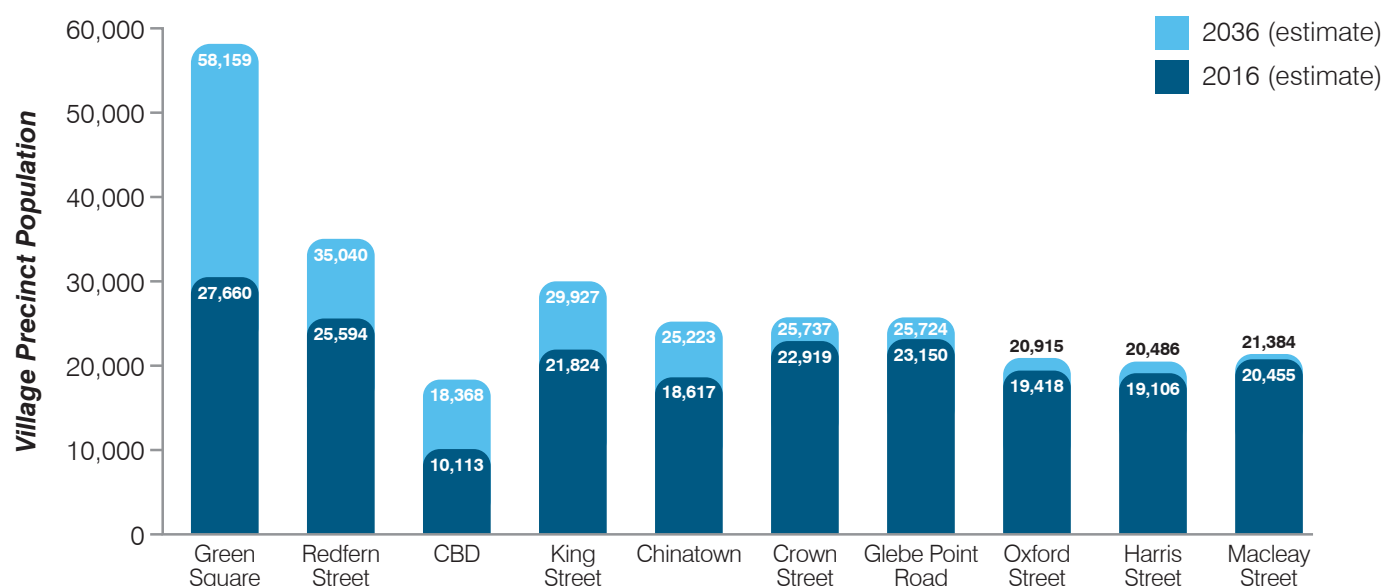
The State Government Plan for a Growing Sydney 2014 anticipates the population of the Sydney Metropolitan Region will increase by **1.6 million people**.

Although this Plan is not specific where this growth will occur it is expected that the urban renewal areas of Bays Precinct, Central to Eveleigh and Parramatta Road Corridor will be planned to accommodate significant residential populations.

This does not include anticipated population increases from urban renewal areas under masterplanning by State Government.

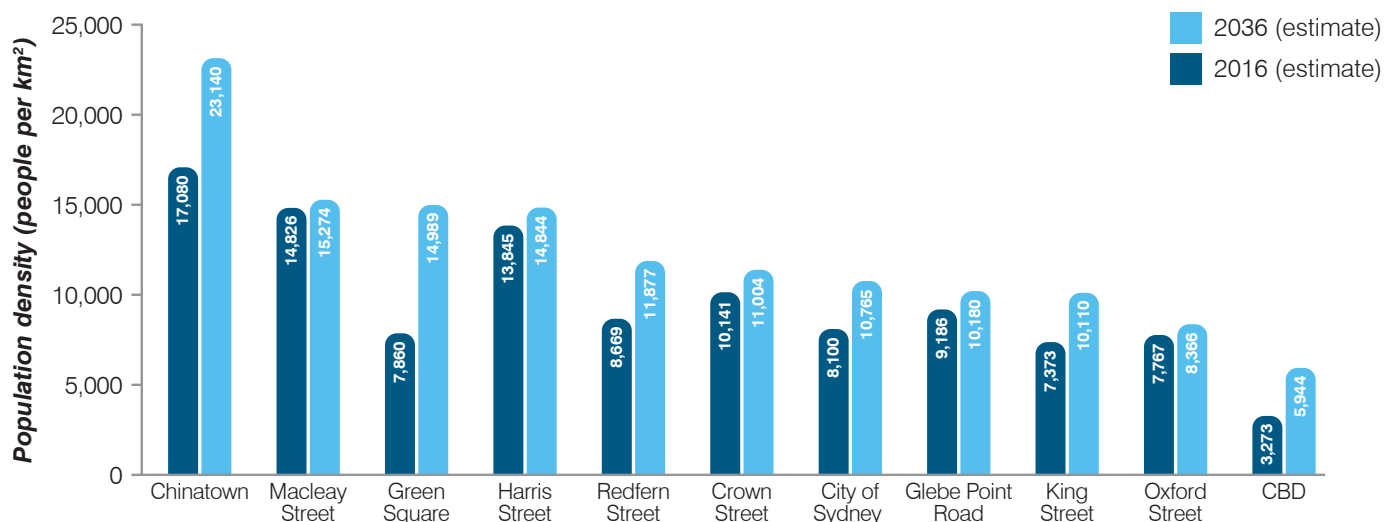
## Population Growth By Village

The graph below provides estimated breakdown population across the In Your Village precincts.



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

# Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016



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

## Density

The overall city wide projected 2016 residential population density within the City will be 8,110 people/km<sup>2</sup>. Between June 2004 and June 2014, the population density of the City increased by 1,695 persons per square kilometre, or 29.7%.

This positioned the City as having the:

- Largest increase in population density in NSW
- Fourth fastest growing population density in metropolitan Sydney

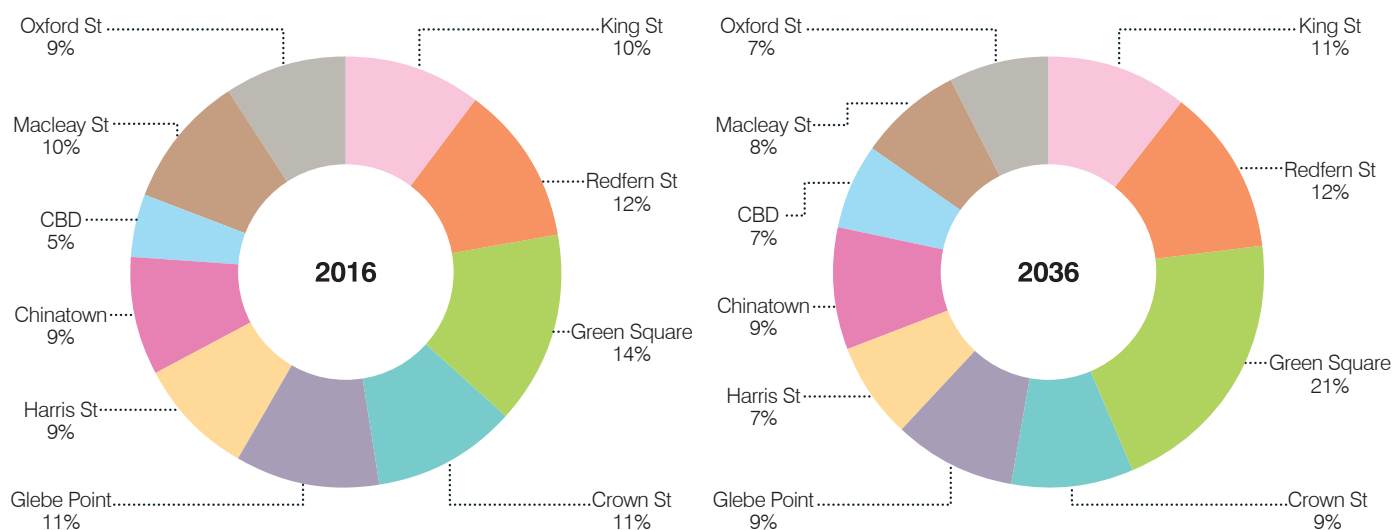
At present, the population is relatively evenly distributed, with nine of the ten Villages having between 9% and 12% of the population, with only the CBD and Harbour village outside this range at 5%.

By 2036 however, more than one-fifth (20.7%) of the residents in the City of Sydney will live in the Green Square Village, with Redfern Street the next most populous with 12%.

**Within Village Precinct areas, population density can vary significantly. The Green Square urban renewal area (278 Ha) is expected to reach a population density of over 22,000 people per km<sup>2</sup>.**

This does not include anticipated density increases from urban renewal areas under masterplanning by State Government.

## City Residential Population Per Village (%)



This does not include anticipated population increases from urban renewal areas under masterplanning by State Government.



## Urban Renewal Areas

The majority of population growth will be accommodated in various urban renewal areas. This trend will continue over the next 10-15 years. Key areas include:

### Green Square

The Green Square urban renewal area is 278 hectares and is the largest urban renewal project in southern hemisphere. With nearly 10,000 apartments due for completion over the next 4 years Green Square's population could increase by 19,000 by 2019. When fully completed after 2030, Green Square's total population may reach up to 61,000.

### Ashmore

Located in Erskineville, Ashmore Estate will eventually be home to approximately 6,000 residents in a development scenario staged over the next 10 years.

### Central Park Broadway

Central Park occupies nearly 6 hectares on the site of the former Carlton and United Brewery on Broadway. It is an urban development project that will be a residential area, with some offices, shops and cafés.

A local population of 3,500 residents and 5,000 workers is expected within Central Park over the next 5 years.

### Harold Park

The redevelopment of the former Harold Park Paceway at Glebe / Forest Lodge includes 1,250 new residences that will be home to around 2,500 people.

### Barangaroo

The 22 hectare Barangaroo precinct will provide space for over 24,000 workers and 2,000 residents.

### Darling Harbour Live

Redevelopment of the southern end of the precinct will accommodate 4,000 residents and 1,000 students.

### Mascot Station Town Centre Precinct

Located in Botany City Council near the south boundary of the LGA the Mascot Station Town Centre Precinct will have an estimated resident population of between 9,800 and 11,000.

The precinct masterplan indicates minimal provision of additional open space and public recreation provision which could result in additional use of City facilities given the Airport railway line will provide convenient access to recreational facilities to be provided at Green Square.

## Future Renewal Areas

Urban Growth NSW is charged by the State Government with the responsibility of delivering significant urban renewal. Over the next 10 – 20 years the Urban Growth will develop the following areas located within or adjacent to the City of Sydney (Figure 4).

### Bays Precinct

The Bays Precinct consists of 80 hectares of government owned land and 94 hectares of harbour waterways, and sits within 2km of the Sydney CBD. It includes White Bay Power Station, Glebe Island Rozelle Rail Yards, Sydney Fish Market and Bank Street Pyrmont foreshore.

### Central to Eveleigh

The Central to Eveleigh Transformation Program is a 30-year project that aims to gradually transform 80 hectares of largely under-used government owned land in and around the rail corridor from Central to Macdonaldtown and Erskineville stations.

Growth scenarios range from 28,000 new dwellings and 25,000 new jobs with up to 56,000 residents.

### Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Renewal Corridor

The corridor extends along Parramatta Road from the CBD to the City of Parramatta and runs through 10 local government areas. The NSW Government is aiming for 50,000 new dwellings and 50,000 jobs in the Parramatta Road corridor. The Camperdown precinct of the corridor lies within the City of Sydney, Leichhardt and Marrickville local government areas. The Camperdown Precinct's long term evolution (2050+) would accommodate 1,500 to 2,100 new dwellings.



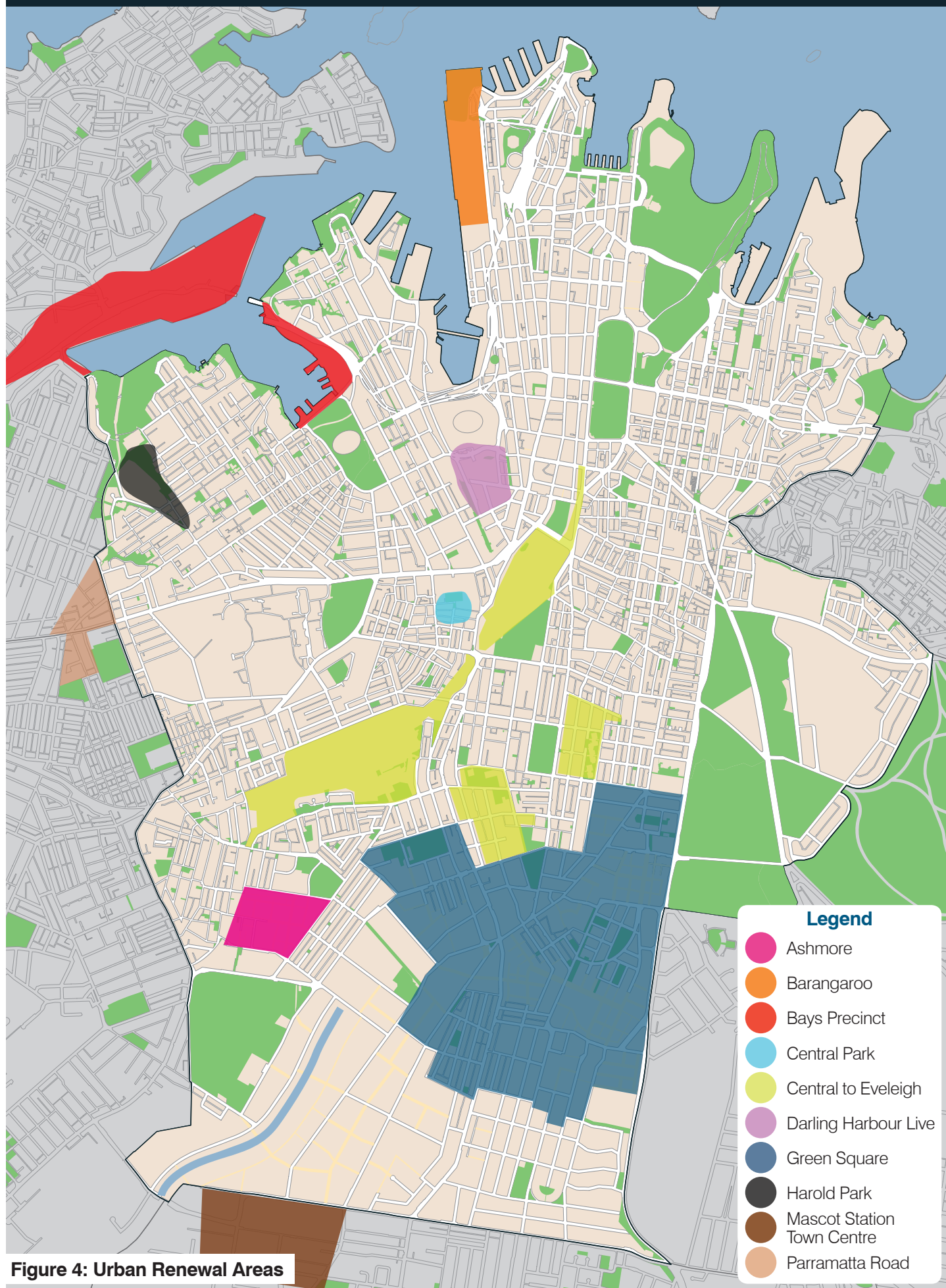


Figure 4: Urban Renewal Areas

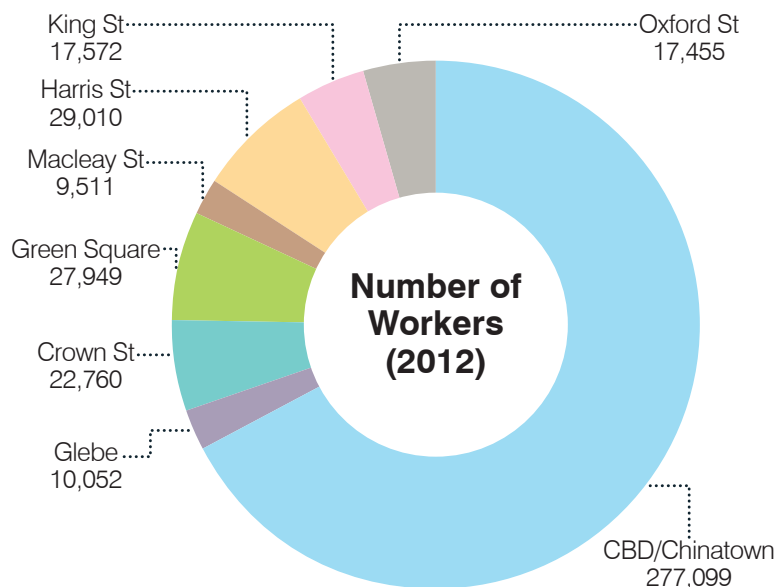


## 2.2 More Workers, Visitors and Students

The 2012 City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey revealed a total of **437,727 workers** in LGA. It is estimated that by 2030 an additional 80,000 workers will be located in The City.

On any given day, an estimated **480,000 day visitors** also access the City on a daily basis and it is expected that these groups would use our parks, particularly those located in the City Centre and Harbour foreshore areas. This includes many overseas and interstate visitors with over 60% of metropolitan hotel rooms located in City LGA.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of the workforce population across the LGA. For this graph the CBD and Haymarket Village precincts are combined.



The main concentrations of workers are: **CBD / Chinatown, Harris Street, Crown St and Green Square Village Precincts.**

Open space that provides amenity to **socialise, eat lunch and play lunch time sport** needs to be a key consideration.

Figure 5

Source:  
City of Sydney Floor Space and Employment Survey 2012





## 2.3 Demographics

Key demographic trends evident within the City of Sydney that will influence open space and recreation facility provision are:

### Young Adults

Almost half of the City's residents are between 18 and 34 years of age. The median age of City residents is 32 years in contrast to 36 years for Greater Sydney.

This age group has high participation rates in active sports and recreation and many reside in new high density urban renewal areas which suggests higher density communities could potentially be very active communities and will require opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.

### Families with young children

Remaining in the City as children grow up, play / recreation facilities catering for young children through to youth need to continue as a feature of the network.

### Cosmopolitan

Overall, 42.4% of the population was born overseas, and 30.0% were from a non-English speaking background, compared with 34.2% and 26.3% respectively for Greater Sydney.

The largest non-English speaking country of birth in the City of Sydney was China, where 5.4% of the population, or 9,113 people, were born. Further diversity of the network with facilities attractive to various ethnic groups need to be considered.

### Growing older population

Expectations many residents continue to live in the area and will age in place. In addition based on national and international trends it is expected more older people "empty nesters" will relocate to the city to enjoy convenient access to City amenities and services.

## 2.4 Open Space and Recreation Needs Trends

The below table provides an overview of open space and recreation trends that need to be considered when planning the City's open space network. In summary these include:

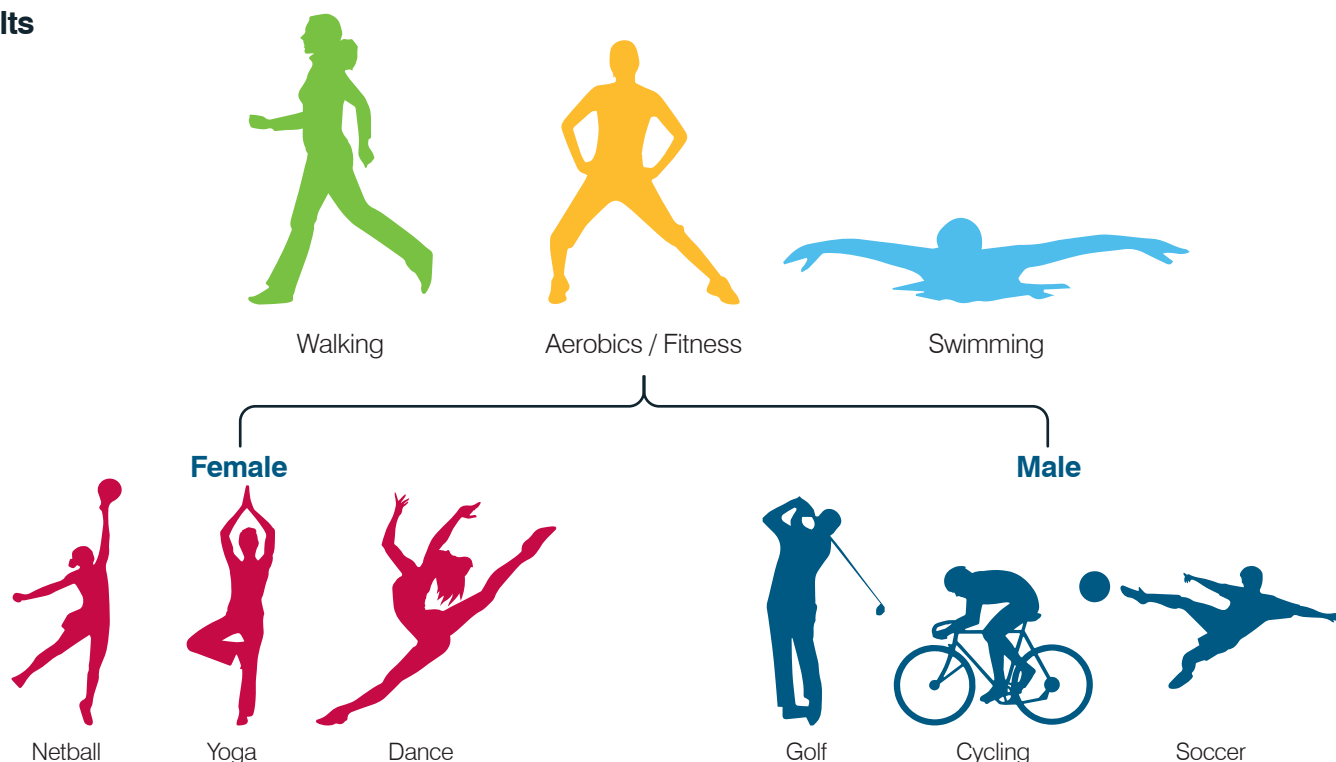
Trend	Implications for City's Open Space and Recreation Facility Provision	Reference Document
<b>1 Individualised Sport and Fitness Activities</b> People are increasingly time poor and fit personal health goals with non organised sport and physical activity rather than commit to structured sporting activities.	Non organised physical activity has a much higher participation particularly walking, outdoor training, swimming, running, cycling and gym memberships. Pathway and cycle network and linkages important part of recreation provision. Consider the street as part of the recreation resource. Personal trainers more prevalent in park network.	The Future of Australian Sport – Australian Sports Commission CSIRO April 2013
<b>2 Rise of Alternative Sports Cultures</b> Lifestyle and adventure sports are particularly popular with younger generations that obtain cultural self identity and self expression through these sports. In particular skateboarding has surge in popularity	Skateboard and court facilities important recreation need for young people. Spaces for young people to hang out and socialise need to be provided. Passive boating also growing in population as lifestyle recreation	The Future of Australian Sport – Australian Sports Commission CSIRO April 2013
<b>3 Preventative Health Benefits of sport and recreation recognised by governments, employers and communities</b> Sport and recreation to achieve physical and mental health outcomes particularly reducing rates of childhood obesity/ diabetes, crime prevention, promote social development.	Sport and recreation key to preventative health strategies require venues and facilities to host these programs. Increasing demand for sport without adequate sportsfield provision could result in potential overuse of existing facilities.	Premiers Council Active Living
<b>4 Broader Participation in Sport and Recreation</b> Highest participation among young people however there is increasing participation amongst older people, multicultural groups and people with disability.	Need to provide sport and recreation opportunities for diverse cultural, age groups and all levels of ability.	The Future of Australian Sport – Australian Sports Commission CSIRO April 2013

Table 2

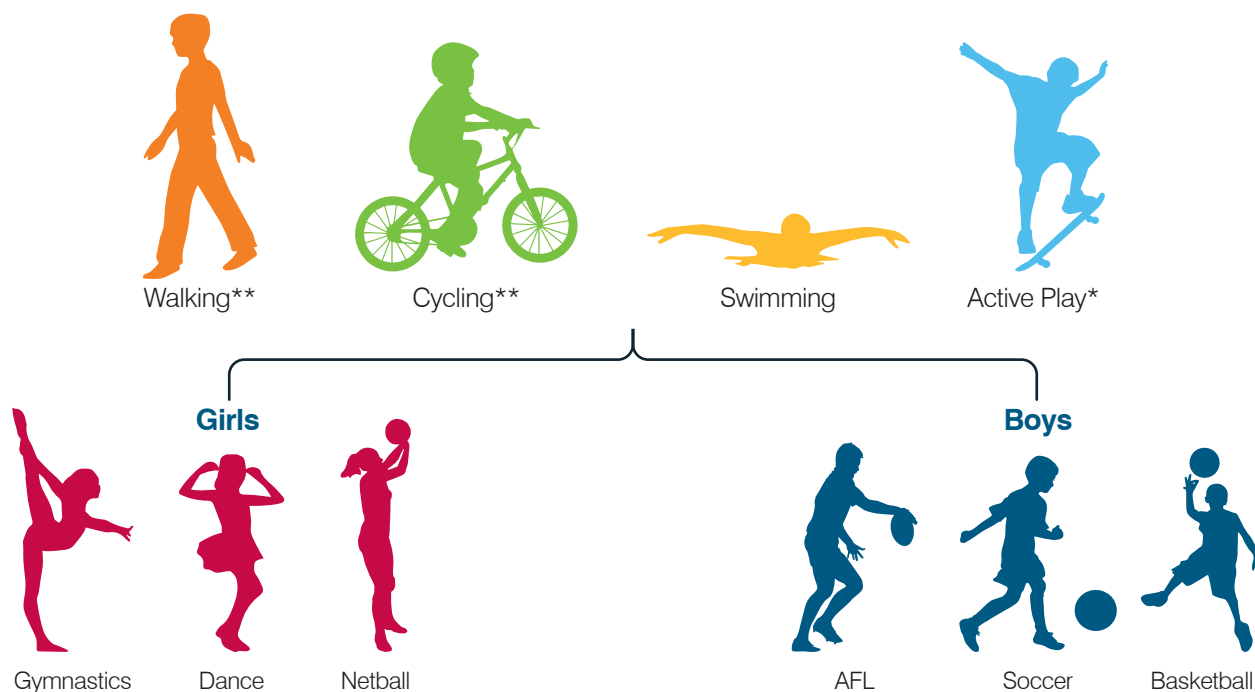
## High Participation Sport and Recreation Activities

Appendix 2, 3 & 4 (Volume 5) details participation rates derived from ABS and Australian Sports Commission survey reports.

### Adults



### Children



\*Besides organised sport and dancing, the 2012 CPCLA (ABS 2012c) also asked about participation in bike riding and skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter. A higher percentage of boys participated in these activities (70% in bike riding and 60% in skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter) than girls (57% and 47% respectively).

\*\* Includes Walking and Cycling to school.

Source: ABS - Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation 2013-14; Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey Childrens Report 2010; Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Report 2010



## 2.5 Infrastructure Drivers

Major infrastructure projects planned for delivery over the next 5-15 years will provide potential opportunities or impacts on the open space network.

These include:

# WestConnex

The Euston Road frontage adjoining Sydney Park will be widened to cater for the WestConnex St Peters Road Interchange. Increased traffic may present barriers to access Sydney Park unless grade separated facilities are provided. The visual impact of the interchange ramps on views from the park is yet to be determined.

Pedestrian and cycle links are proposed across Alexandra Canal at Campbell St / Euston road that accommodate walking and cycling which could improve east west access to Sydney Park, however the quality and amenity of these connections need to be determined.

It is also anticipated that the St Peters Interchange area may result in open space dedicated after the completion of the project although the quality and usability of any land dedication is yet to be assessed. Connectivity of any open space dedication to Sydney Park is critical to assure any meaningful usage, but the quality of this open space is questionable given potential noise and air quality impacts. (Refer Figure 6)

## South Eastern Light Rail

This project will be the catalyst for the public domain transformation of the city centre with sections of George Street being pedestrianised and being connected to upgraded public spaces and laneways. The 2030 and Gehl Public Space Public Life 2007 vision of a central spine connected by three significant public spaces will also have more impetus and merit to be realised as an outcome of this project.

The light rail route along Devonshire Street will result in the expansion of parkland at Wimbo Reserve, and create additional street closures as well as a pedestrian / cycle connection to Moore Park.

## Sydney Metro City and Southwest

The proposed new rapid transit line that will run under Sydney Harbour, through the city centre and to Bankstown may create opportunities for new or reconfigured public spaces to accommodate new station entrances such as at **Martin Place**.

A station at **Town Hall** could be the catalyst to achieve new public space connected to George Street.

A potential new station at **Waterloo** will generate requirement increased density to support transport infrastructure.



Figure 6

Source: [www.westconnex.com.au](http://www.westconnex.com.au)

## 2.6 Environmental Drivers

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, renewable energy production, stormwater management, water recycling and active transport links.

### The City's Environmental Targets

Sustainable Sydney 2030, Environmental Masterplans and Strategies provide an overarching framework to establish the City's environmental vision, goals, targets and actions for the next ten years and beyond. It addresses the themes of energy and emissions, water, waste, plants and animals.

The City has adopted ambitious environmental targets for greenhouse gas emission energy and mains water use reduction for its operations and across the local area.

These include:

#### City of Sydney Operations

Emissions
26% reduction of 2006 emissions by 2016*
70% reduction of 2006 emissions by 2030
Energy
5% of electricity by renewables by 2016*
70% electricity produced by trigeneration by 2030
30% electricity by renewables by 2030
100% local energy generation by 2030
No reliance on coal-fired electricity by 2030
Water
Zero increase in 2006 mains water by 2016*
Mains water consumption reduction to 10% below 2006 levels by 2030
Water usage in City parks of 180L per square metre of irrigated space by 2016*
Waste
54% resource recovery of facilities waste by 2016*
98% resource recovery of maintenance, construction, demolition waste by 2016*
Fleet
Zero increase in emissions from the City's fleet of vehicles based on 2014 levels*

#### Local Government Area

Emissions
70% reduction of 2006 emissions by 2030
Energy
70% electricity produced by trigeneration by 2030
30% electricity by renewables by 2030
100% local energy generation by 2030
No reliance on coal-fired electricity by 2030
Water
10% mains water consumption reduction of 2006 levels by 2030
30% of water demand through recycling using local sources by 2030
50% reduction in stormwater pollutants (total suspended solids) and 15% reduction in nutrients by 2030
Waste
66% resource recovery of municipal waste by 2014
76% recovery of construction waste by 2014
63% resource recovery of commercial waste by 2014
Greening Sydney
50% increase in current canopy cover by 2030 and 70% by 2050

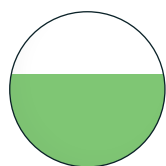
**The City's open space network will need to provide appropriate infrastructure and management regimes in order to contribute to the City's environmental targets.**



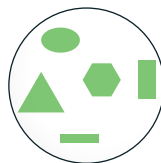
# 3.0

## Open Space Network Needs Assessment

The criteria used to assess the open space network is as follows:



Open Space Area Provision



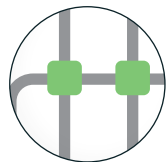
Diversity



Open Space Distribution



Size and shape



Accessibility and Connectivity



Quality of Visitor Experience

For the purposes of this study, the assessment of the open space network has also been based on a range of other factors including population analysis by Village area, as per Figure 3 on page 07.

### 3.1 Open Space Provision Assessment

#### (a) Public Open Space within City of Sydney

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:

- City of Sydney owned or under care control and management
- Managed by other authorities, agencies, Trusts or institutions
- Located in adjoining local government areas accessed by City of Sydney residents

#### (b) Open Space Included in Assessment.

Generally all publically accessible open space over 50m<sup>2</sup> in size is included in the open space calculation. The sports ovals within Sydney University and the Wentworth Park greyhound track / sports oval are not included in the calculation as there is limited public access for casual use.

The 2007 Open Space Study included approx. 190ha open space provided by other agencies. This included an area of 115ha for the Moore Park precinct which incorporates sportsfields / parkland, E S Marks Athletic field, childcare facility (approx. 6ha) and Entertainment Quarter. For the purposes of this Study only the parkland and golf course area has been included. Moore Park Golf Course has been included on the premise is zoned and gazetted as public open space albeit dedicated to golf which restricts general wider recreation use

#### (c) 2016 Open Space Provision and Distribution

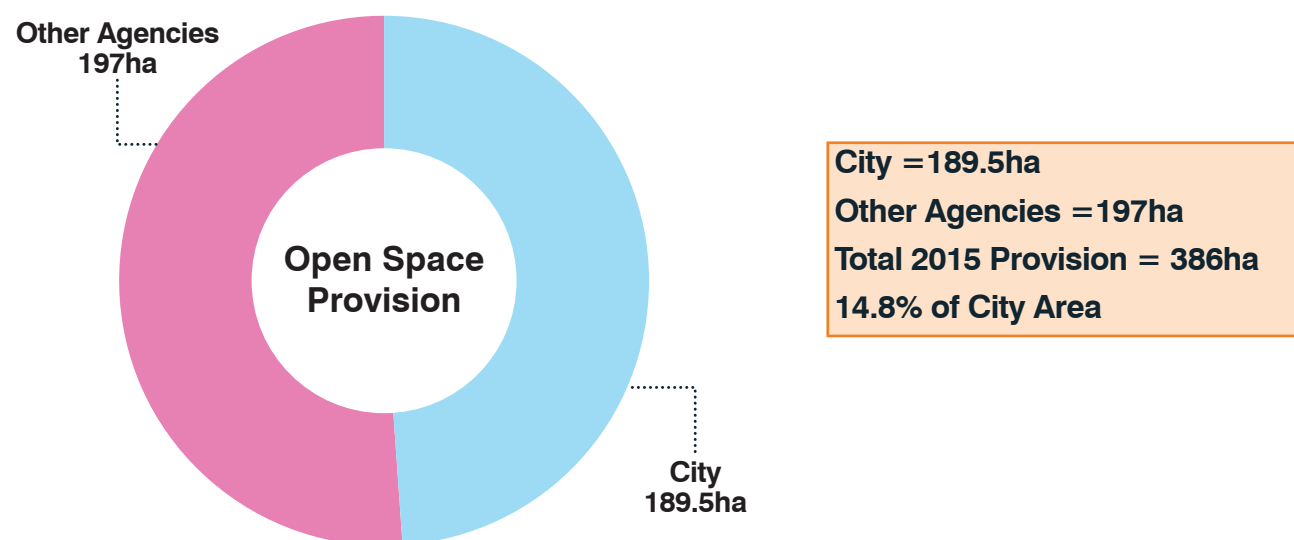


Figure 7



## (d) Open Space Additions

Since 2004, 18.3ha 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 The City

- **11.1ha by other Agencies**

Figure 8 on page 21 shows the distribution of new open space additions since 2004.

## New Park Examples



Harmony Park, Surry Hills



Pirrama Park, Pyrmont



Barangaroo Headland Reserve, Millers Point  
(Developed and Managed by Barangaroo Delivery Authority)

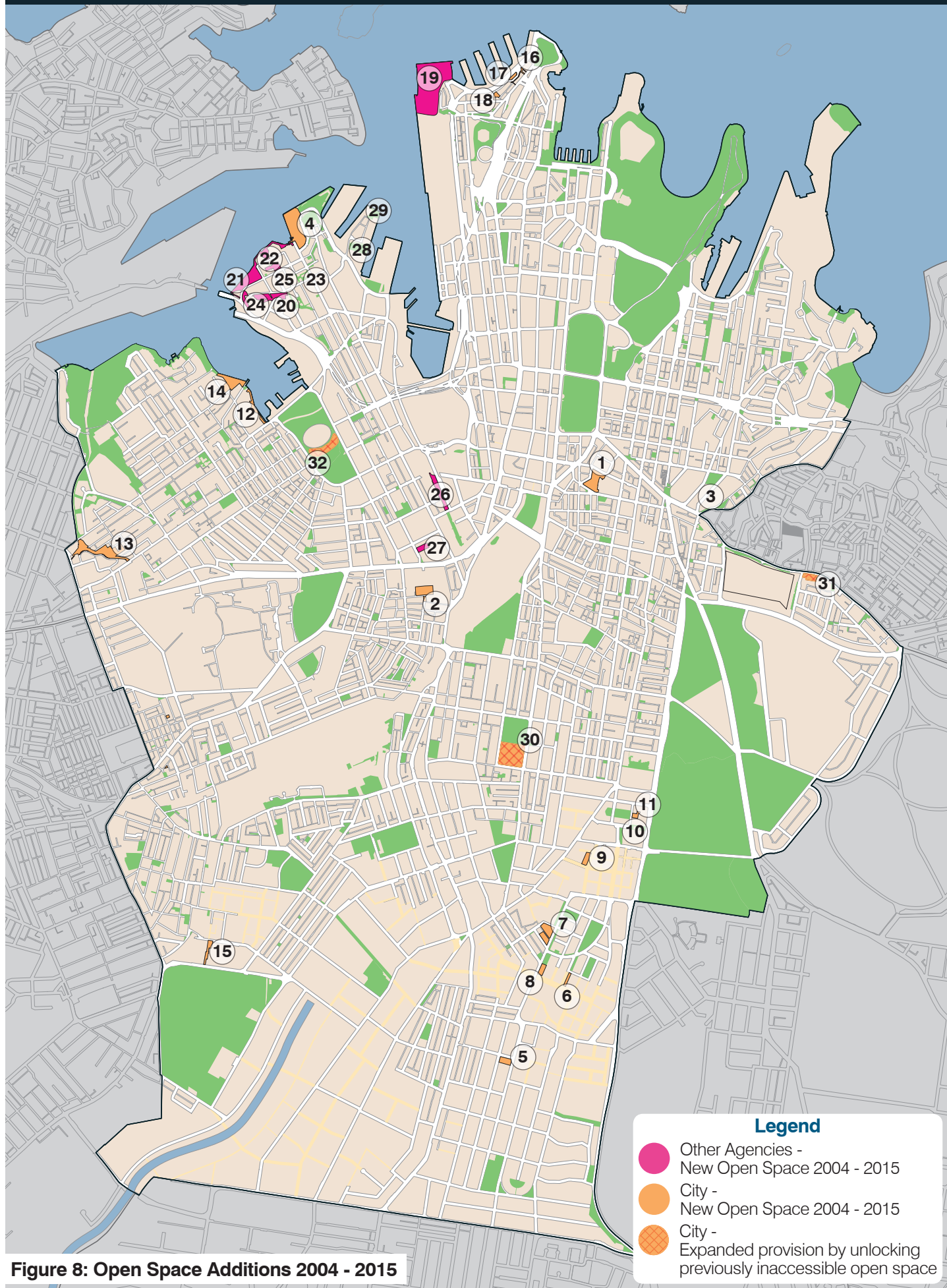


Sweetacres Park, Roseberry

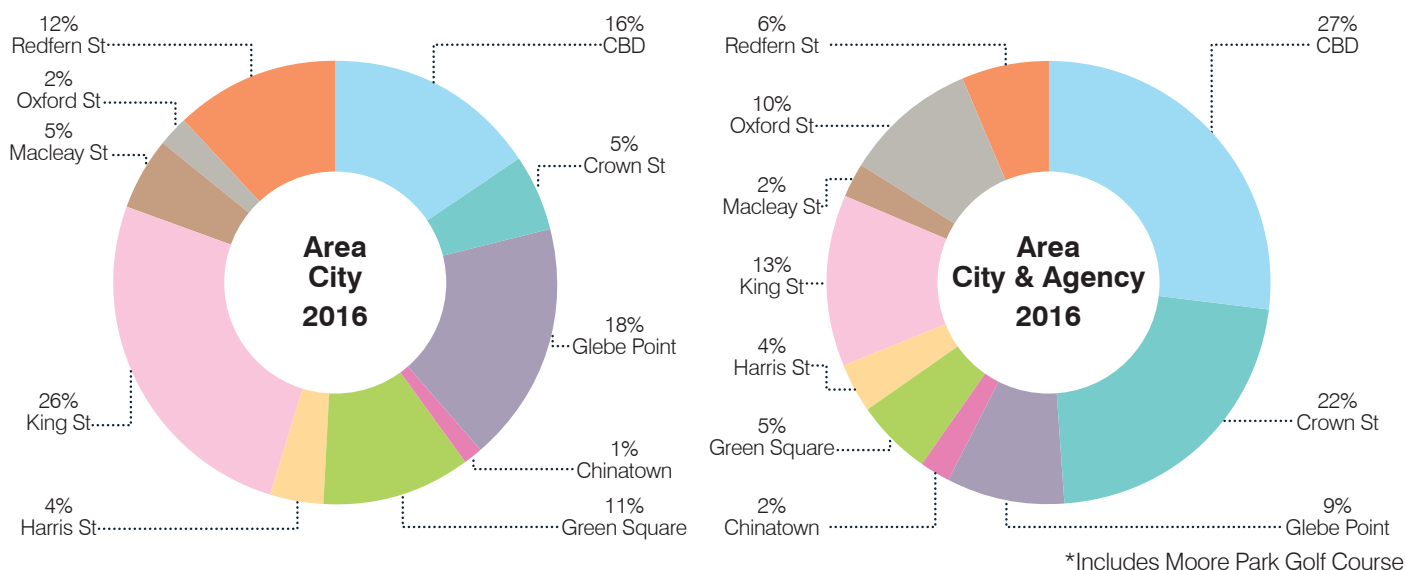
## 2004 – 2016 Additional Open Space Provision

	Park	Classification	City Village	Suburb	Open Space Provision (m <sup>2</sup> )
1	Harmony Park	Park	Crown Street	Surry Hills	9,020.6
2	Chippendale Green	Park	Redfern Street	Chippendale	5,000
3	Barcom Avenue Reserve Extension	Pocket Park	Oxford Street	Darlinghurst	1,850
4	Pirrama Park Site Acquisition	Foreshore Park	Harris Street	Pymont	18,000
5	Sweetacres Park	Park	Green Square	Rosebery	5,000
6	Linear Park	Ancillary	Green Square	Zetland	867
7	Mary O'Brien Reserve Extension	Park	Green Square	Zetland	4,268
8	Woolwash Park Extension	Pocket Park	Green Square	Zetland	1,800
9	The Rope Walk, Stage 1	Park	Green Square	Waterloo	2,863.4
10	Gadigal Avenue Park,	Pocket Park	Green Square	Waterloo	1,741.4
11	Corning Park	Pocket Park	Green Square	Waterloo	1,321.4
12	Glebe Foreshore Walk Stage 5	Park	Glebe Point	Glebe	5,200
13	Orphan School Creek Acquisitions	Park	Glebe Point	Forest Lodge	5,000
14	Blackwattle Bay South	Park	Glebe Point	Glebe	5,706
15	Balmal Way	Ancillary Link	King Street	Alexandria	2,350
16	Pottinger Park East	Pocket Park	CBD and Harbour	Millers Point	1,091
17	Clifftop Walk (Parbury Lane Park)	Ancillary	CBD and Harbour	Millers Point	800
18	Pottinger Park West	Pocket Park	CBD and Harbour	Millers Point	912
Total:					72,790 m <sup>2</sup> (7.2ha)
Other Agencies					
19	Barangaroo Reserve	Foreshore Park	CBD North	Barangaroo	60,000
20	Distillery Drive Reserve	Pocket Park	Harris Street	Pymont	1,006.5
21	Waterfront Park	Foreshore Park	Harris Street	Pymont	12,320
22	Jacksons Landing Promenade	Foreshore Park	Harris Street	Pymont	5,580
23	Bowman St Reserve	Park	Harris Street	Pymont	2,960
24	Knoll Park	Park	Harris Street	Pymont	4,680
25	Refinery Square	Civic	Harris Street	Pymont	3,800
26	The Goods Line North	Civic	CBD South	Ultimo	3,500
27	UTS Alumni Green	Civic	CBD South	Ultimo	5,400
28	Metcalfe Park	Park	Harris Street	Pymont	8,000
29	Ballaart Park	Park	Harris Street	Pymont	4,000
Total:					111,246.5 m <sup>2</sup> (11.1ha)
Unlocked Open Space					
30	Redfern Park	Park	Crown Street	Redfern	22,000
31	Paddington Reservoir Gardens	Park	Oxford Street	Paddington	3,000
32	Wentworth Park	Park	Glebe Point	Glebe	5,000
Total:					30,000 m <sup>2</sup> (3.0ha)





**Figure 8: Open Space Additions 2004 - 2015**

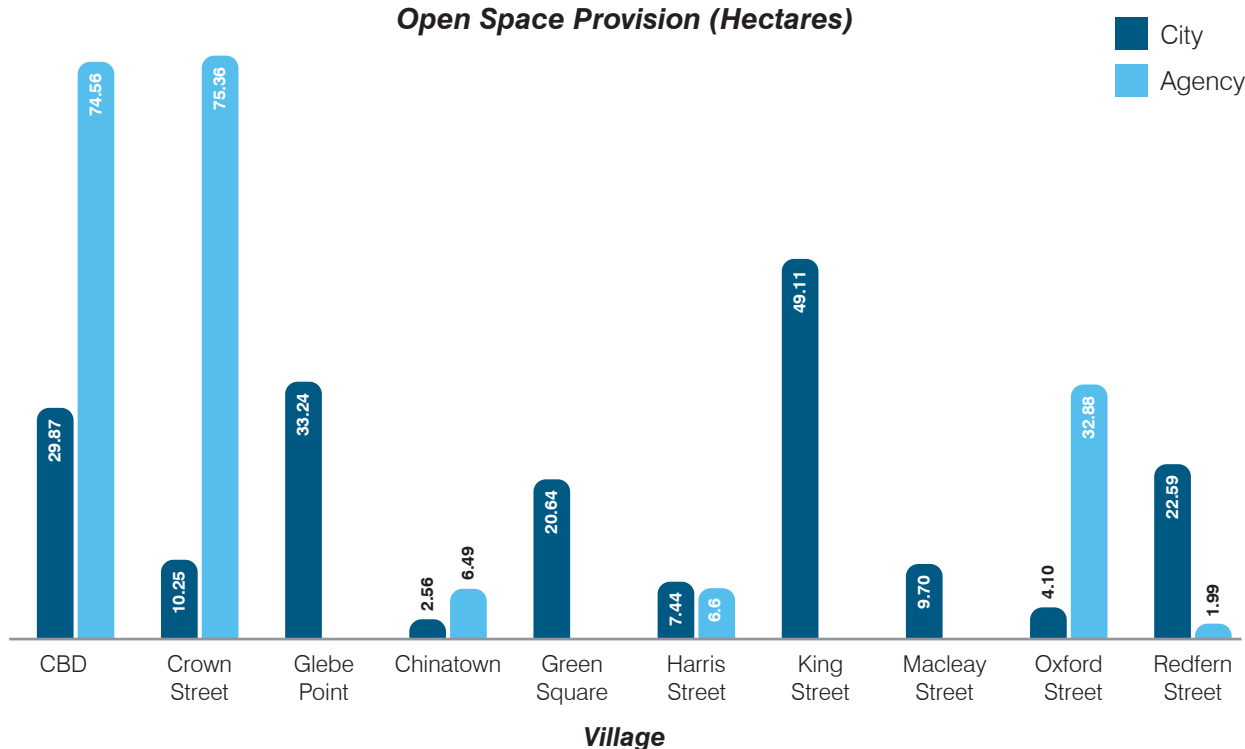


### 3.2 Open Space Distribution

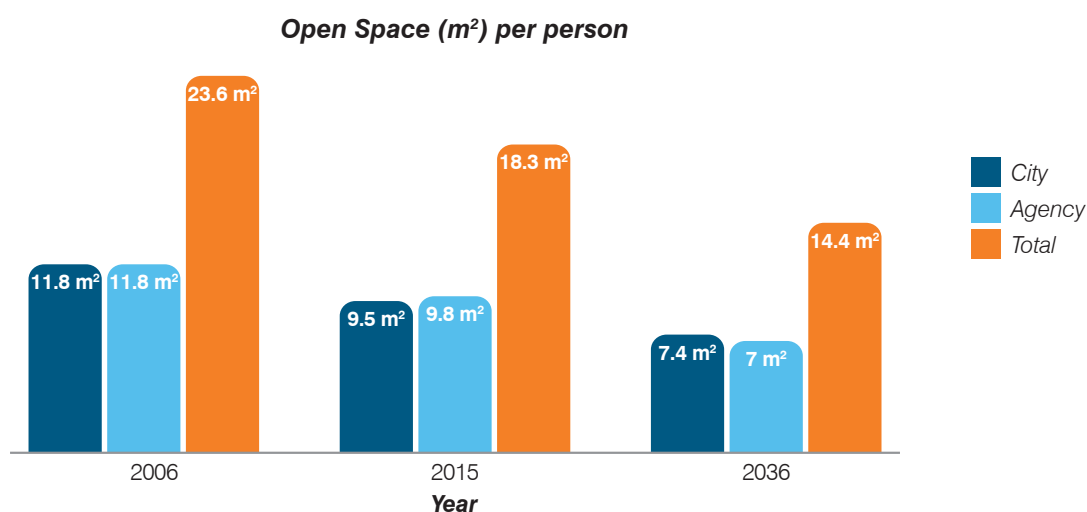
The geographic distribution of public open space within the LGA is a key access and equity issue for the community. The ability of residents to gain access to public open space within an easy walk or cycle from home or work is an important factor to quality of life.

The following graphs set out the distribution of open space in the LGA within each *In Your Village* precinct areas and which is divided on the basis of open space managed by the city and other agencies.

#### Open Space Provision (Hectares)







## 3.3 Resident Open Space Provision

The amount of open space relative to population density is an important measure of open space provision and in high density environments it is an important factor in ascertaining park needs given less allocation of private open space.

When the City's projected population for the coming years is compared with the level of current provision, and an allowance is made for the projected planned open space provision that Council is currently undertaking or planning, the ratios of population to open space appear as set out above.

### Village Precinct - Open Space Per Resident

Table 3 on page 24 illustrates the quantity of open space per resident in different villages. This measure gives an indication of variations of open space quantity relative to population density to 2031 based on planned open space provision as set out in Volume 2 Open Space Delivery Plan.

Table 3

Village	Gross Village Area km <sup>2</sup>	Residential Population		Residential Population Density Persons / km <sup>2</sup>		Open Space Per person (City & Agency)	
		2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036
<b>City of Sydney</b>	<b>26.10km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>211,696</b>	<b>280,964</b>	<b>8,110 / km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>10,764 / km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>18.3 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>14.4 m<sup>2</sup></b>
CBD	3.09 km <sup>2</sup>	10,113	18,368	3,273 / km <sup>2</sup>	5,944 / km <sup>2</sup>	103.3 m <sup>2</sup>	59.8 m <sup>2</sup>
Chinatown	1.09 km <sup>2</sup>	18,617	25,223	17,080 / km <sup>2</sup>	23,140 / km <sup>2</sup>	4.9 m <sup>2</sup>	3.78 m <sup>2</sup>
King Street	2.96 km <sup>2</sup>	21,824	29,927	7,373 / km <sup>2</sup>	10,110 / km <sup>2</sup>	22.5 m <sup>2</sup>	16.9 m <sup>2</sup>
Redfern Street	2.95 km <sup>2</sup>	25,593	35,040	8,669 / km <sup>2</sup>	11,877 / km <sup>2</sup>	9.7 m <sup>2</sup>	7.12 m <sup>2</sup>
Green Square	3.88 km <sup>2</sup> *	30,499	58,159	7,860 / km <sup>2</sup>	14,989 / km <sup>2</sup>	6.7 m <sup>2</sup>	6.9 m <sup>2</sup>
Crown Street	1.75 km <sup>2</sup> †	22,919	25,737	10,141 / km <sup>2</sup>	11,004 / km <sup>2</sup>	37.3 m <sup>2</sup> **	34.5 m <sup>2</sup> **
Glebe Point	2.52 km <sup>2</sup>	23,150	25,724	9,186 / km <sup>2</sup>	10,180 / km <sup>2</sup>	14.4 m <sup>2</sup>	14.7 m <sup>2</sup>
Harris Street	1.38 km <sup>2</sup>	19,106	20,486	13,845 / km <sup>2</sup>	14,844 / km <sup>2</sup>	7.4 m <sup>2</sup>	6.9 m <sup>2</sup>
Macleay Street	1.40 km <sup>2</sup>	20,455	21,384	14,826 / km <sup>2</sup>	15,274 / km <sup>2</sup>	4.7 m <sup>2</sup>	4.5 m <sup>2</sup>
Oxford Street	2.5 km <sup>2</sup>	19,418	20,915	7,767 / km <sup>2</sup>	8,366 / km <sup>2</sup>	19.04 m <sup>2</sup>	17.9 m <sup>2</sup>

\* Does not include Southern Industrial area

† Does not include Moore Park

\*\* Includes Moore Park Golf Course

The amount of open space in each planning district bears little relationship to the population in village districts; Chinatown / City South has highest population density and the second lowest amount of open space per 1,000 persons.

Over the coming years even with planned open space dedications and acquisitions the ratio of population to open space will lessen progressively given the anticipated population growth.

Should this trend continue the use pressures will become evident for particularly larger parks that can cater for both casual and organised active recreation uses.

- **Most research recommends a good provision of public open space in high density areas due to less private open space, and to contribute to the social and health benefits and liveability of a neighbourhood.**
- **More open space is required through planned dedications and an open space acquisition strategy in order to meet the growing demand.**
- **Qualitative improvements also become central considerations with significant increases in capacity able to be achieved through efficiencies in better planning and design of the existing network.**
- **Multi-purpose use of the network to accommodate diverse recreational demands with a limited amount of space.**
- **Improving access to open space could address open space deficits better connections and crossing points to create a large catchment area.**





### 3.4 Considering Workers, Visitors and Students

**The worker population has an influence on open space provision also increase pressure on the network for lunch time sport and recreation particularly in areas of high worker population density such as the City Centre and Pyrmont.**

The City's Contributions Plan has assumed one worker generates demand equivalent to 0.2 residents and converted workers into equivalent residents. This Study has based assessment on resident population only however worker and visitor population is significant and will increase demand and pressure on the network.

Refer to section 2.2 for more information.

### 3.4 Adjacent Open Space Provision

Figure 9 depicts open space provision that is outside the LGA but within convenient access to City of Sydney residents.

Located immediately adjacent to the City of Sydney LGA boundary and provide readily available open space for residents living at the periphery of the City. Whilst not include within the actual provision of the City these open space areas play an important role to overall opportunities for people to access quality park space.

Map Ref.	Park Name	LGA	Adjacent Village	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
1	Centennial Park	Randwick and Woollahra	Oxford Street	1,890,000
2	Paddington Womens Hospital Park	Woollahra	Oxford Street	5,000
3	Rushcutters Bay Park (Woollahra Council side)	Woollahra	Macleay Street	64,000
4	Trumper Park	Woollahra	Macleay Street Oxford Street	68,000
5	Camperdown Rest Memorial Park	Marrickville	King Street	59,000
6	Camperdown Park	Marrickville	King Street	49,000
7	Johnstone Creek Canal	Leichhardt	Glebe Point	14,100

Assessing open space context outside the LGA boundary is relevant to ascertain that for some sections of the City the neighbouring council LGA may offer the most convenient access to a park.

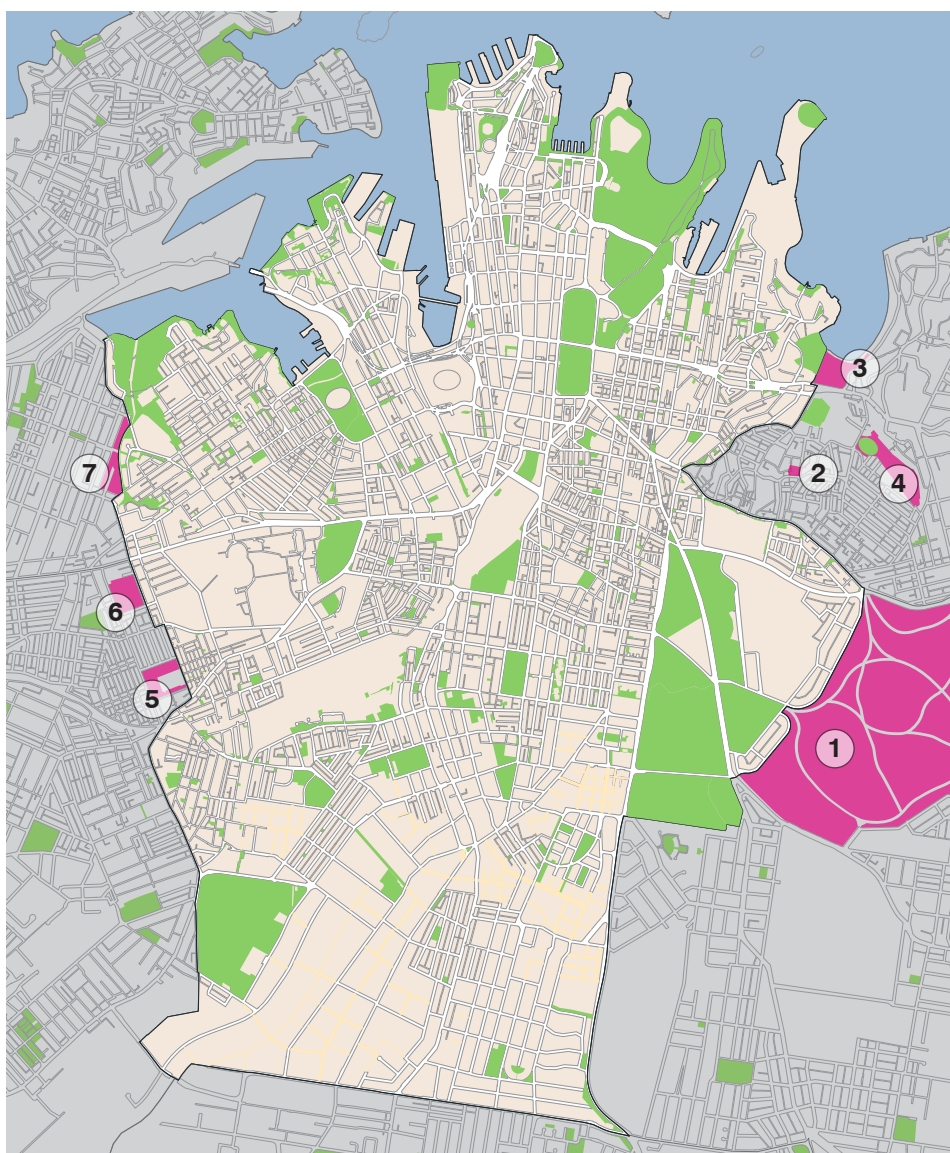


Figure 9





Aerial view to Centennial Parklands from Waterloo



### 3.5 Open Space Diversity and Distribution

The range of open space setting types within a local government area will determine the diversity of recreation available for people to use.

The City's open space network has been assessed in terms of the landscape setting types (Figure 12) which are defined in Section 1.2. This assessment provides a means to ascertain the relative diversity of open space types and subsequent recreation opportunities or deficiencies provided throughout the open space network.

The following graphs show the overall LGA wide and Village distribution of open space settings:

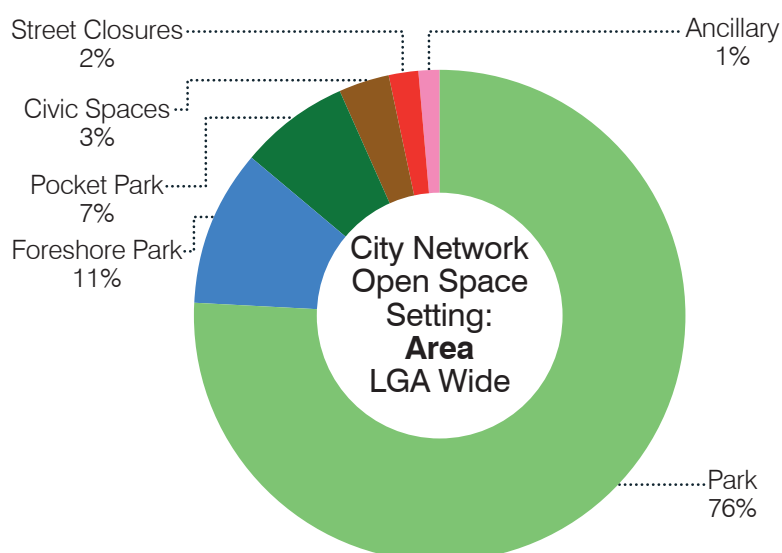


Figure 10

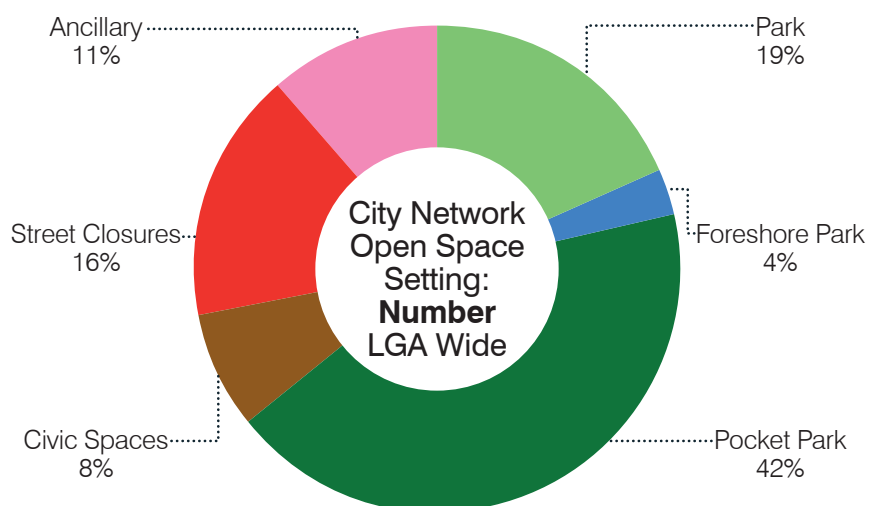
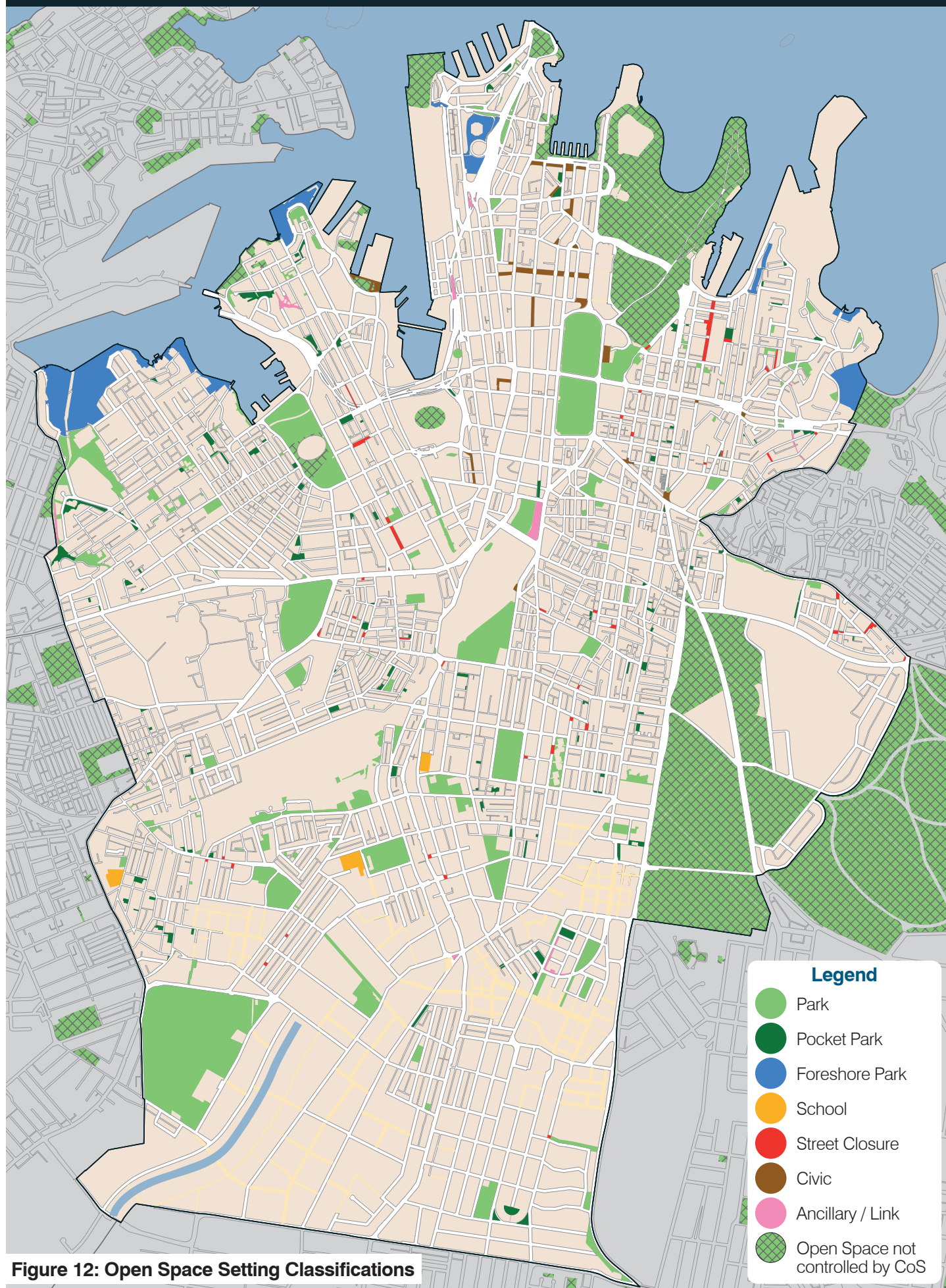


Figure 11

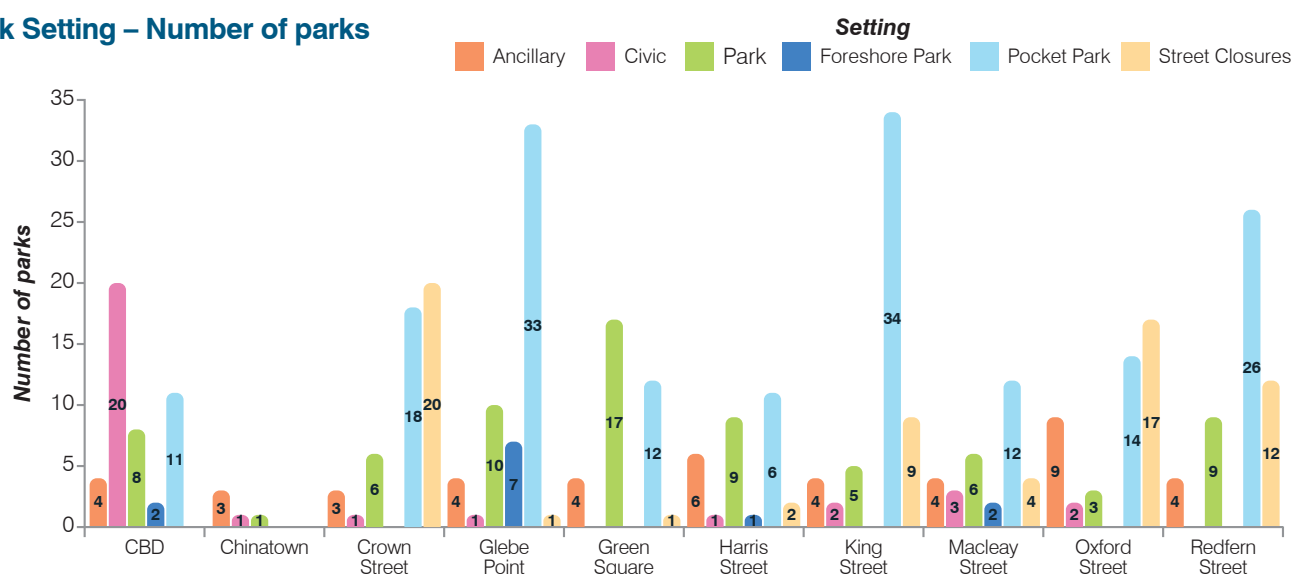




**Figure 12: Open Space Setting Classifications**

## Open Space Setting Assessment - City Network

### Park Setting – Number of parks

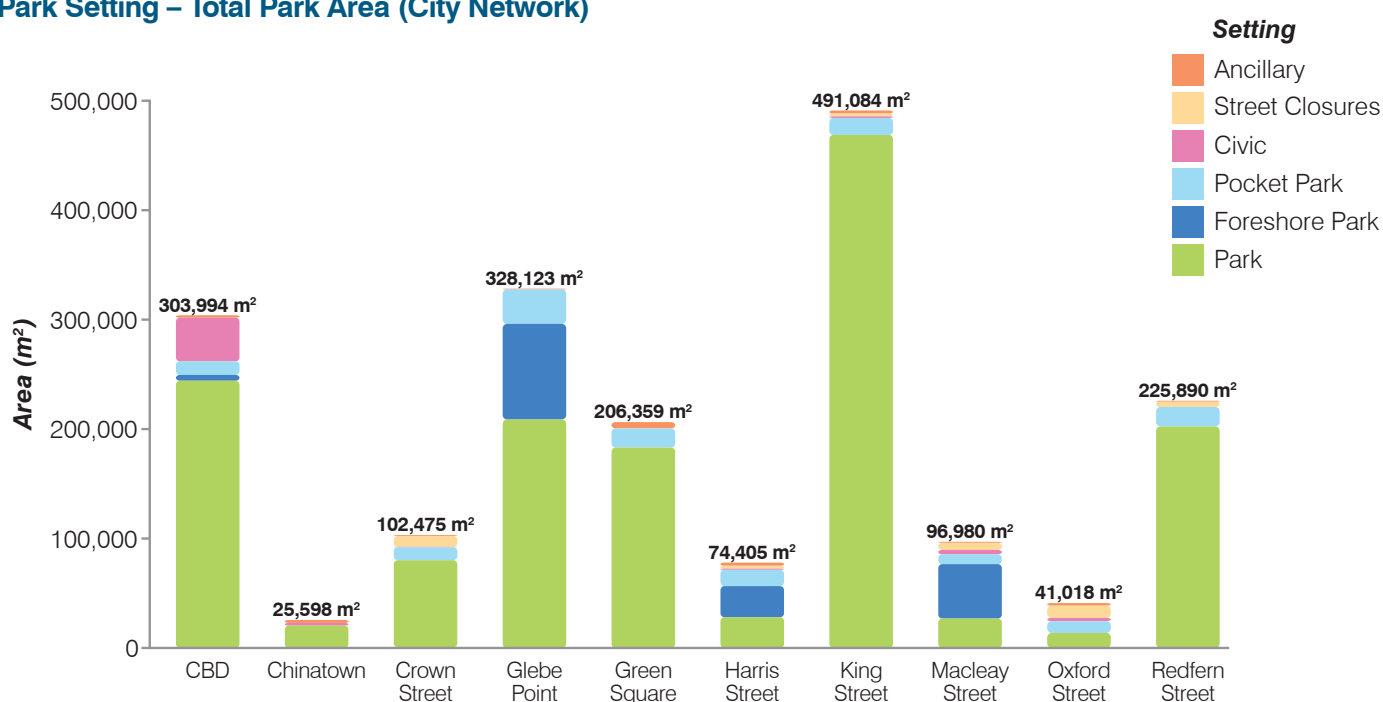


- **Pocket Parks are still the major park type by number (41%) but account for only 7% of the total park area in the City.**
- **Parks comprise only 19% of the park types by numbers but account for 76% of the City's open space area.**
- **Street Closures are a significant setting type by numbers although overall area is only 2% of total open space provision.**

Given the extensive foreshore access enjoyed by the City this setting type comprises a relatively small proportion of the City's parks by numbers 4% and area (11%). However there are 5 foreshore parks in Pyrmont not managed by the City as well as the recently completed Barangaroo Reserve.

**In summary, the network shortfall is larger parks to accommodate sport and allow a co-location of recreation facilities.**

### Park Setting – Total Park Area (City Network)





## 3.6 Open Space Size Provision and Distribution

### Number of Parks

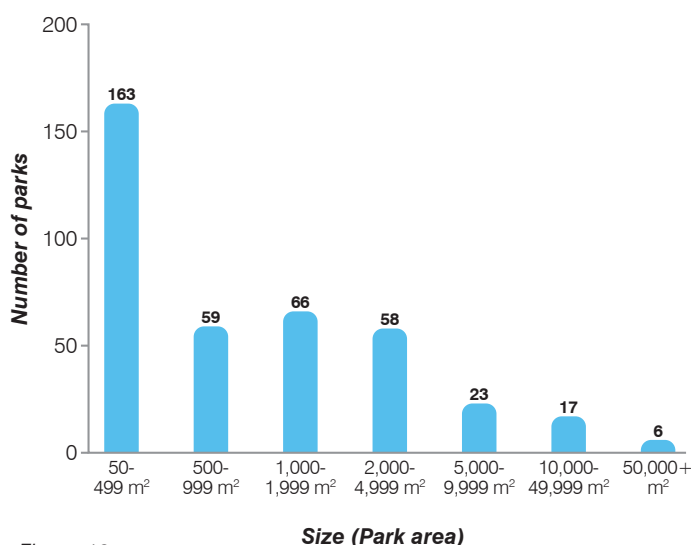
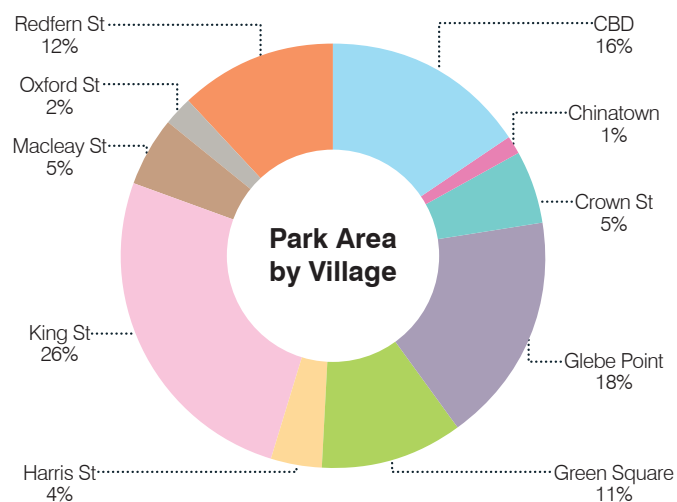


Figure 13

Related to open space setting types the size of open space across a local government area has a direct bearing on a community's access to open space and the capacity of that open space to meet a range of recreation activities and needs.

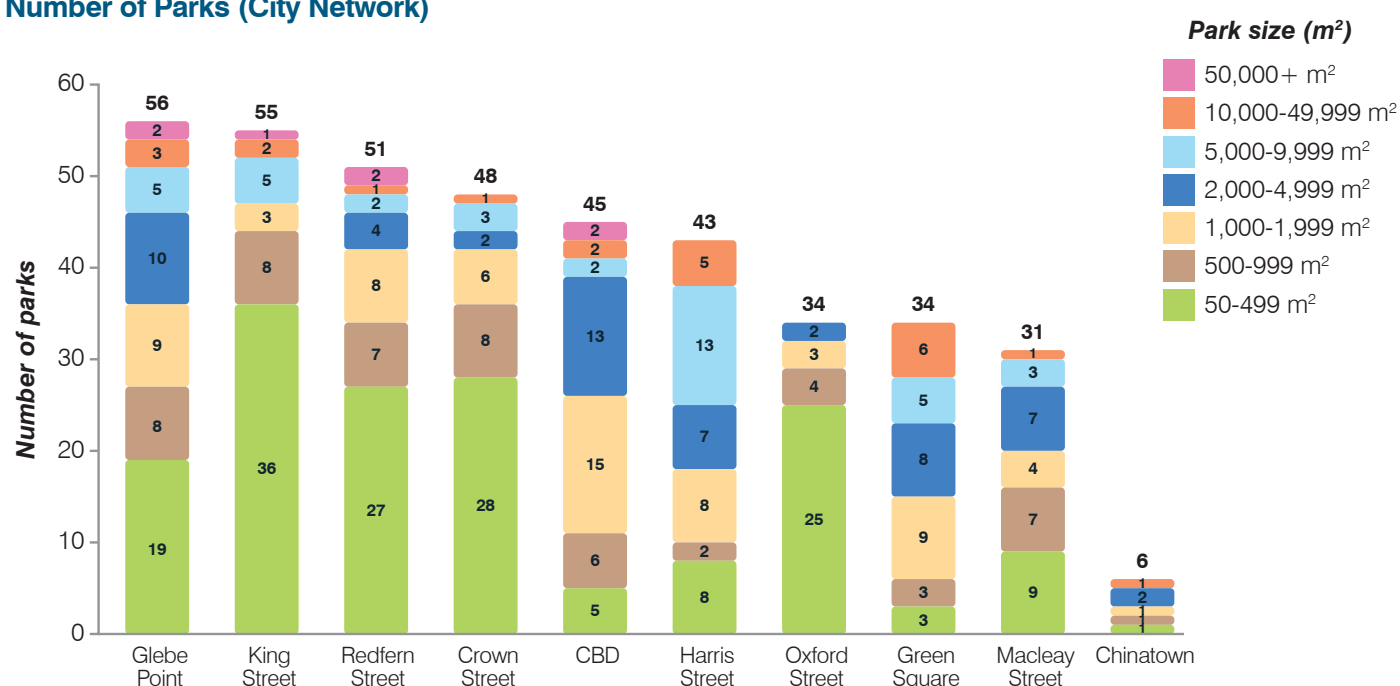
Assessment of the size of individual open spaces is important because typically larger parks can offer greater diversity of facilities and therefore recreation opportunities - whereas small open spaces are inevitably limited in the facilities and types of uses that they can offer.

There is also a strong relationship between size of parks and user catchment. Apart from small reserves on the Harbour Foreshore, larger parks generally attract patronage from a wider area due to the diversity of recreation opportunities that are available.

**The City's network is typified by parks with a small site area 72% of the City's network consist of parks less than 3,000m² in area. This restricts the capability of the parks to accommodate a variety of recreational needs, particularly active sport.**

The following tables and graphs summarise the number of individual open spaces in the City's open space network described within various size ranges (excludes open space not controlled by City).

### Number of Parks (City Network)



### 3.7 Open Space Accessibility and Barriers

Critical to the widest opportunities for the community to enjoy and use our public open space and recreation facilities is the ease of access. The *Trust for Public Land* in the United States considers accessibility as a better measurement of park system excellence than total park area.

Two factors that most strongly affect access to open space at a local level are **distance to walk** and **access barriers**.

#### 3.7.1 Pedestrian Open Space Distribution Gaps and Barriers

Analysis was undertaken to assess distribution of open space and identify areas not within reasonable walking distance of residents and workers.

Although a park may be geographically close, topography, street layouts and lack of safe crossing points can be significant barriers to pedestrian / cycle movement that often define peoples' sense of boundaries of their neighbourhoods.

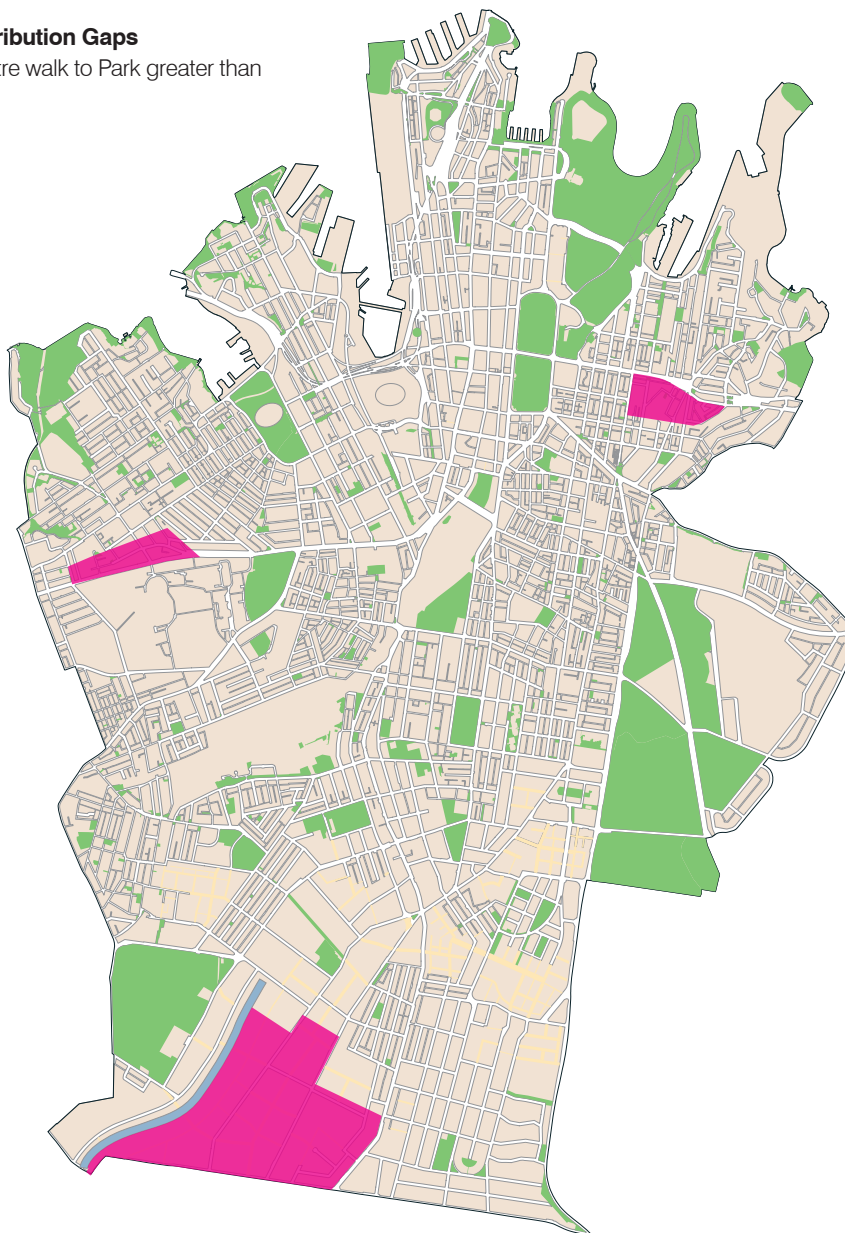
The following mapping determines gaps and barriers in distribution for local and district level parks.

##### Local / Neighbourhood Open Space Distribution Gaps

The below figure depicts open space catchment of 400m distance to walk to a local / neighbourhood park greater than 1,000-1,500m<sup>2</sup>. This includes open space planned to be delivered in urban renewal areas and public open space not under the control of the City. The mapping type provides the basis for broadly identifying which areas are not adequately served in terms of safe and convenient pedestrian access to local open space for short stay and recreation experiences.

##### Local Neighbourhood Distribution Gaps

● Areas deficient in 400 metre walk to Park greater than 1,000 - 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>





## Open Space Barriers



### Key distribution gaps are:

Village	Distribution Gaps
Green Square	Area west of Botany Road Botany Road / Ralph/ Birmingham Street is accommodating additional residential that provision of local open space or better links and access to Turruwul Park in Rosebery.
Glebe Point	Area of Camperdown defined by Pyrmont Bride Road, Booth Street, Ross Street and Parramatta Road comprises extensive residential development – one new small park provided at 1-3 Larkin Street, however with anticipated expansion of residential density additional local open space is required.
Harris Street	
Chinatown	Chinatown area bounded by King Street, George Street, Sussex Street and Day Street and Liverpool Street has limited open space and relies on connections to Darling Harbour or through to Hyde Park.  Belmore park important open space needs to increase amenity provision to become a local park destination as well as City Park
Macleay Street	
Oxford Street	The distribution of open space is limited in the area south of William Street, particularly east of Victoria Street – connections to Green Park important.  Darlinghurst – low provision of Local / Neighbourhood space so connections to Hyde Park and Cook and Phillip Park important. Recent capital works for O'Briens Reserve and Albert Sloss Reserve will contribute to provision of neighbourhood open space.

### Key barriers are:

Village	Barriers
CBD	Observatory Hill Park is disconnected from city centre. Inclusive pedestrian access from Kent Street should be considered.
King St	Sydney Park – bounded by busy roads so consideration of opportunities to ensure access north to residential developments.  The Westconnex proposal could present significant access barriers along Euston Road and Campbell Street unless appropriate measures put in place.
Redfern	Railway corridor limits access between Surry Hills - Chippendale and Alexandra – Darlington/Newtown.  Chippendale - bounded by busy roads – needs safe accessible links to Victoria Park and Prince Alfred Park.  Future urban renewal Central to Eveleigh may address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections from Henderson road to Codrington street link north Eveleigh to ATP</li> <li>• Connection from Meagher street link between Chippendale and Prince Alfred Park</li> </ul>
Green Square	Alexandra Canal significant barrier to access Sydney park from Alexandria and Rosebery.  Urban Renewal will provide a network of new streets that will increase permeability and access across the present. Connections along Alexandra Canal and stormwater tributaries will improve connections from Southern Sydney to Green Square town centre.
Glebe Point	Sandstone Escarpment requires consideration of access links from Harold Park to Glebe.
Harris Street	Topography limits access to Wentworth Park for Central Pyrmont residents.
Macleay Street	Foreshore access around Domain near Cowper Wharf Road should be assessed for improvements.  Pedestrian access currently not provided to Garden Island Reserve.



## 3.7.2 Inclusive Access

At the individual park level, park layout, design and maintenance practices may determine the accessibility and inclusive enjoyment of the park by people with disabilities, older people and families with prams. As the population of the City ages, such considerations take on even greater weight.

Australian Standard suite 1428 check is intended to ensure equity of access in both the public and private domain and provides physical expression to the objectives of the Disability and Discrimination Act. All park upgrades carried out over the last 10 years in the City have been mindful of the need to address universal access through use of ramps, rails and seats as well as the provision of at least one on-grade access into a park (wherever gradients permit make this practically possible).

**The City's Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2014 - 2017 includes the following objectives relevant to open space and recreation:**

- **People with disability be able to participate in leisure, recreation, sports and cultural activities as they choose.**
- **Parks and other public areas are accessible to everyone. Green spaces are designed with access and inclusion in mind.**

Decisions as to whether to visit a park for either the disabled or their carers can often depend on the availability and quality of toilets, seating, shade and other accessible amenity. Importantly these access improvements are of equal benefit to able-bodied users, including those with prams, cyclists and walkers.

Access to and within parks for everyone has been improved in recent years but requires ongoing attention as does the street access to parks.

The City is currently preparing a Public Domain Access Policy that will provide guidance on the design, maintenance and management of parks and other recreation facilities to ensure access and inclusion are key considerations.

### 3.8 Open Space Linkages

The degree to which open space is linked is a crucial dimension of future planning for improved park use in the City and access to a diversity of recreational experiences.

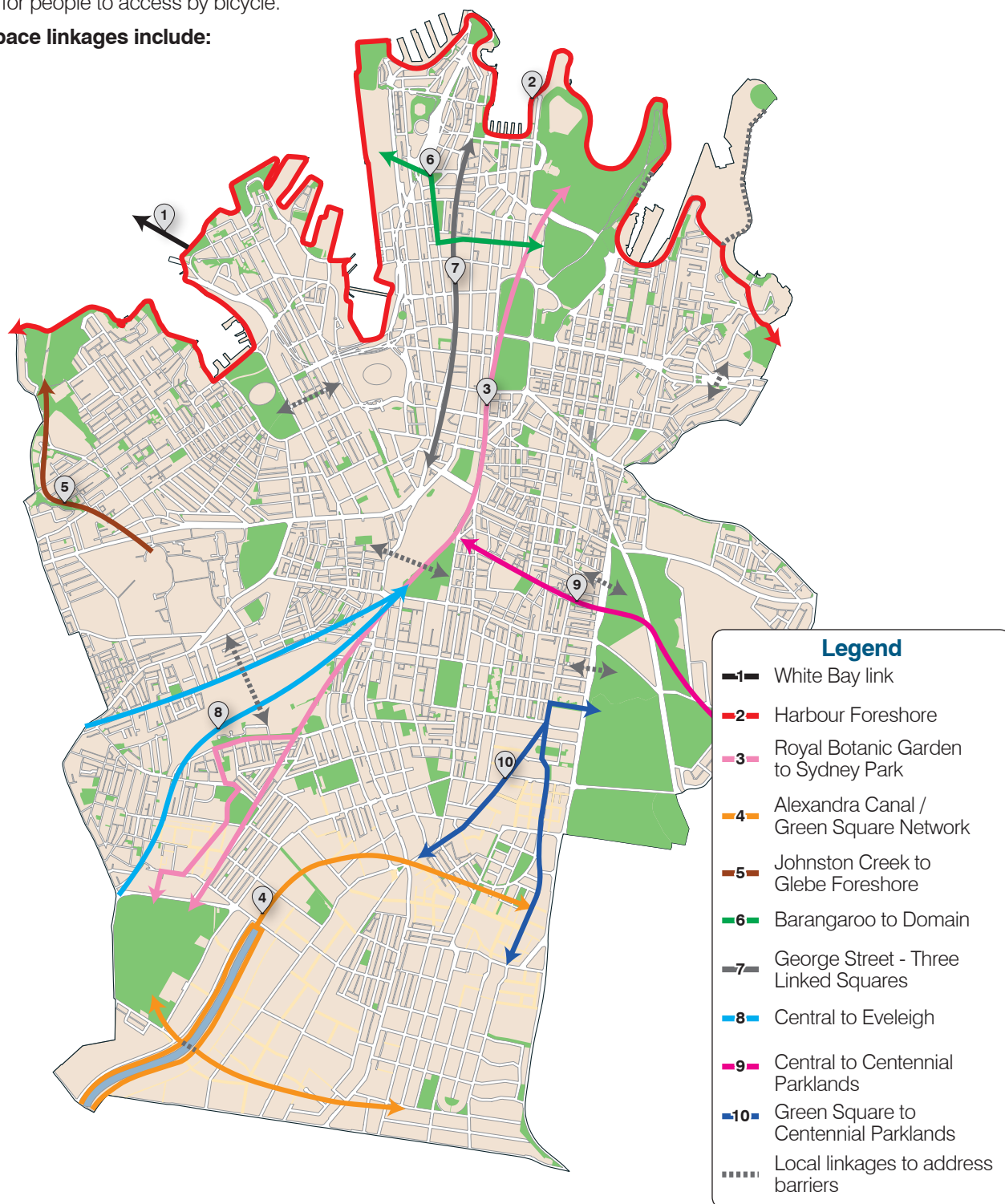
While proximity is a key driver of use, where proximity is poor then actual access through adjoining streets and linkages becomes crucial, especially for those people without cars or in areas of poor public transport.

The promotion of open space networks across the City provide greater opportunity for recreation, promote physical activity, enhance access to other parks and community facilities, improve visual amenity and create wildlife corridors.

Key to creating open space linkages is the City's **Liveable Green Network** and at a wider regional level the State Governments **Sydney Green Grid project**.

Liveable Green Network proposes new cycleways and pedestrian links across the study area makes walking and cycling a viable option to access the open space and recreation network. Cycle connections network provide a safe wider catchment for district parks for people to access by bicycle.

**Key open space linkages include:**





## Liveable Green Network

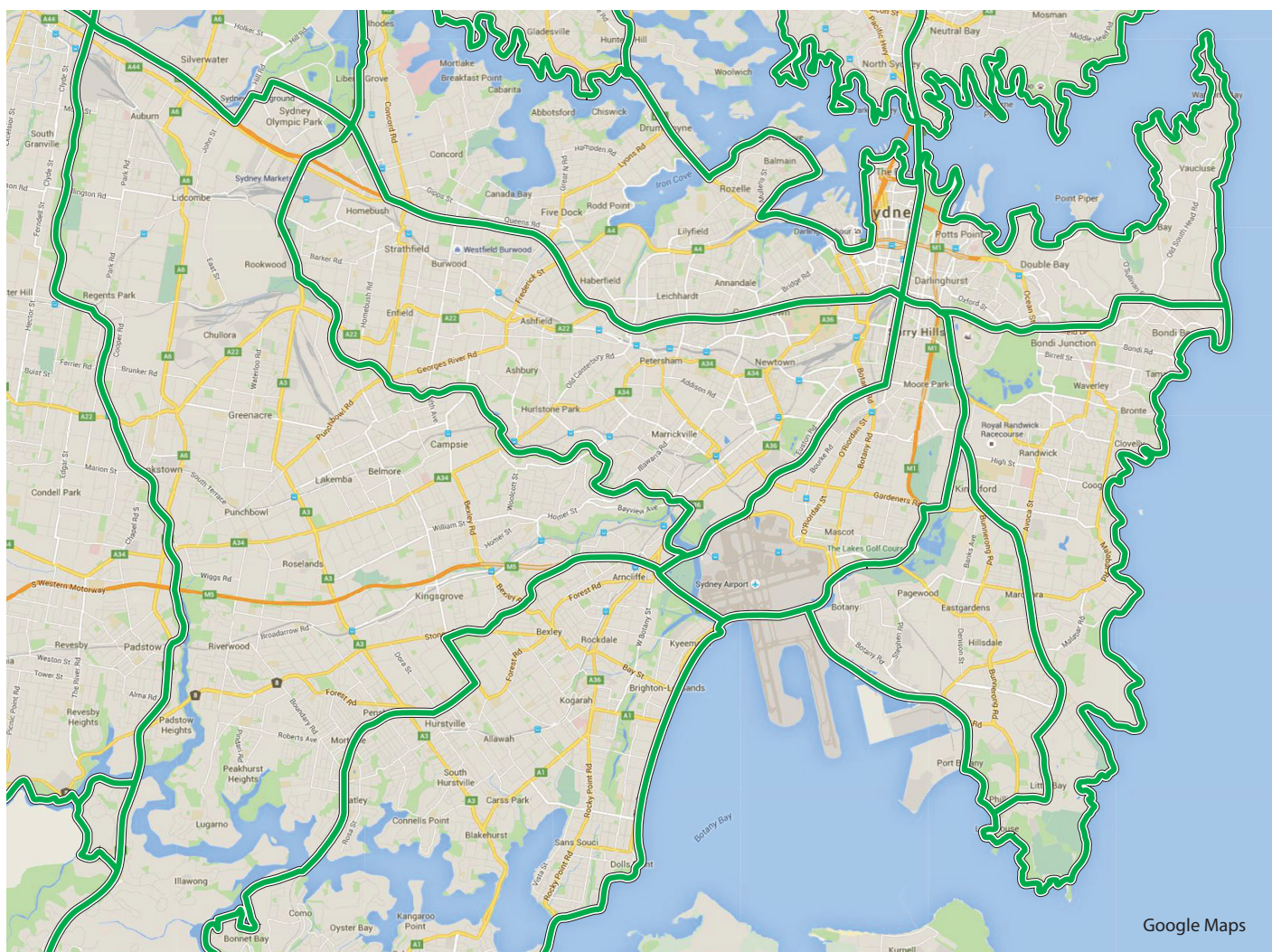




The opportunity to link parks is not confined to the City alone. The **Sydney Green Grid** identifies important regional trails across Metropolitan Sydney, many linking to the City.

Of particular relevance to the City of Sydney would be:

- **Harbour Foreshore walk**
- **Botany Bay to Homebush Bay and Kurnell to La Perouse Trails (linked to the City via the Alexandra Canal)**
- **Coastal Walk (linked to the City via Centennial Parklands)**
- **Perry Park south along Alexandra Canal to Marrickville LGA**
- **City to Botany Bay**



**Sydney Green Grid - Primary Corridors**



## 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.

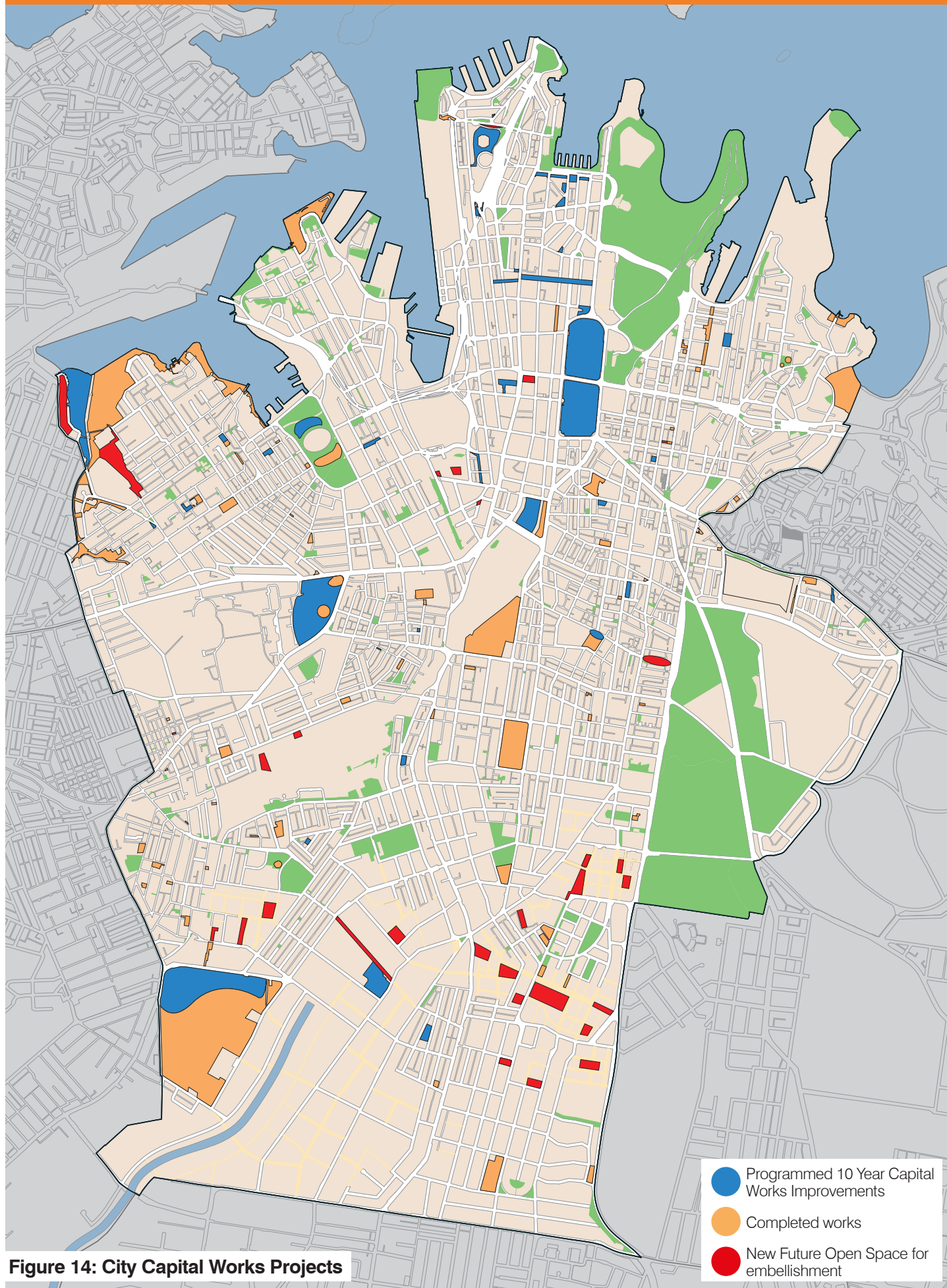
### Maintenance and Park Management

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.





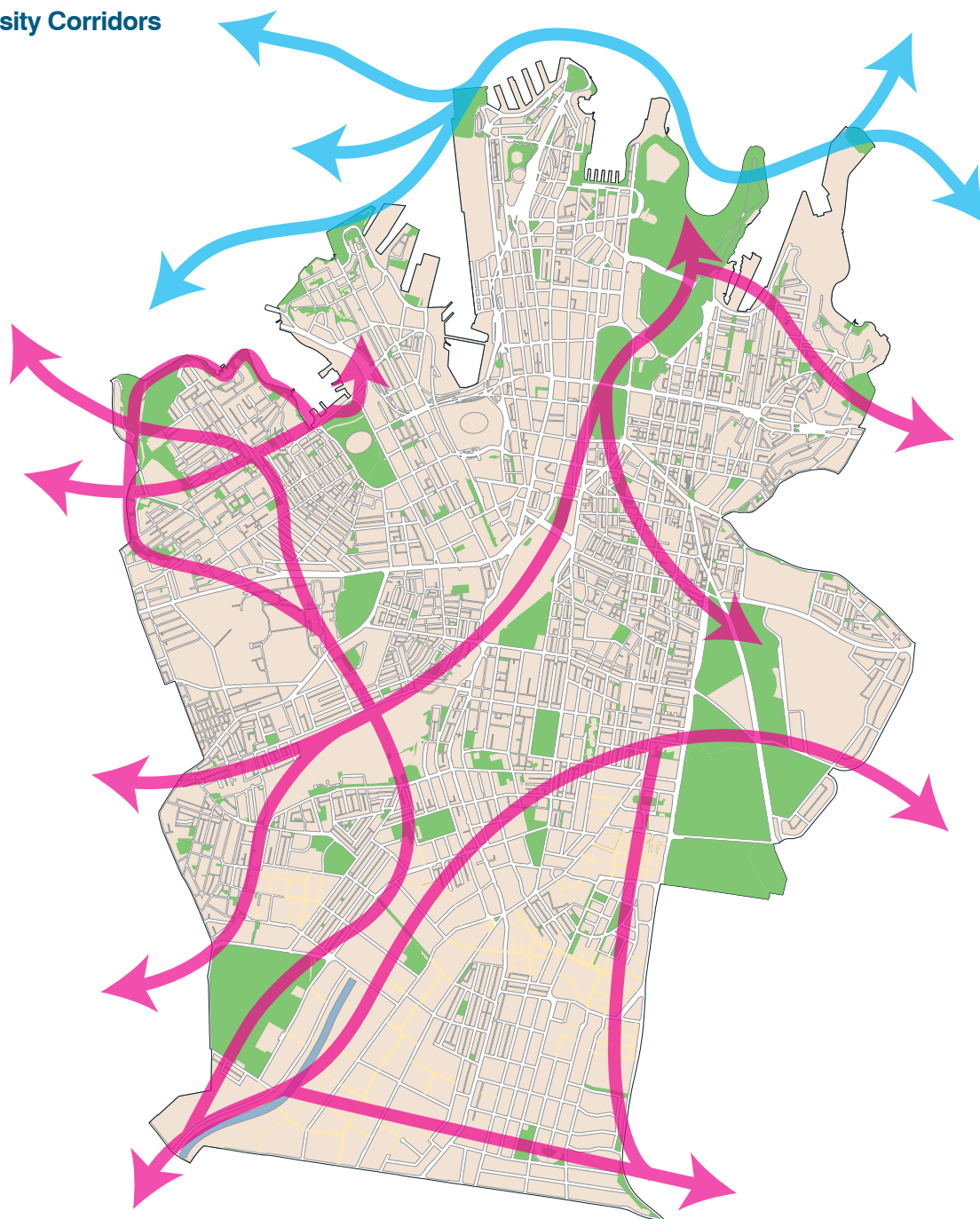
## 3.10 Open Space Environmental

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





## 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 response 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.

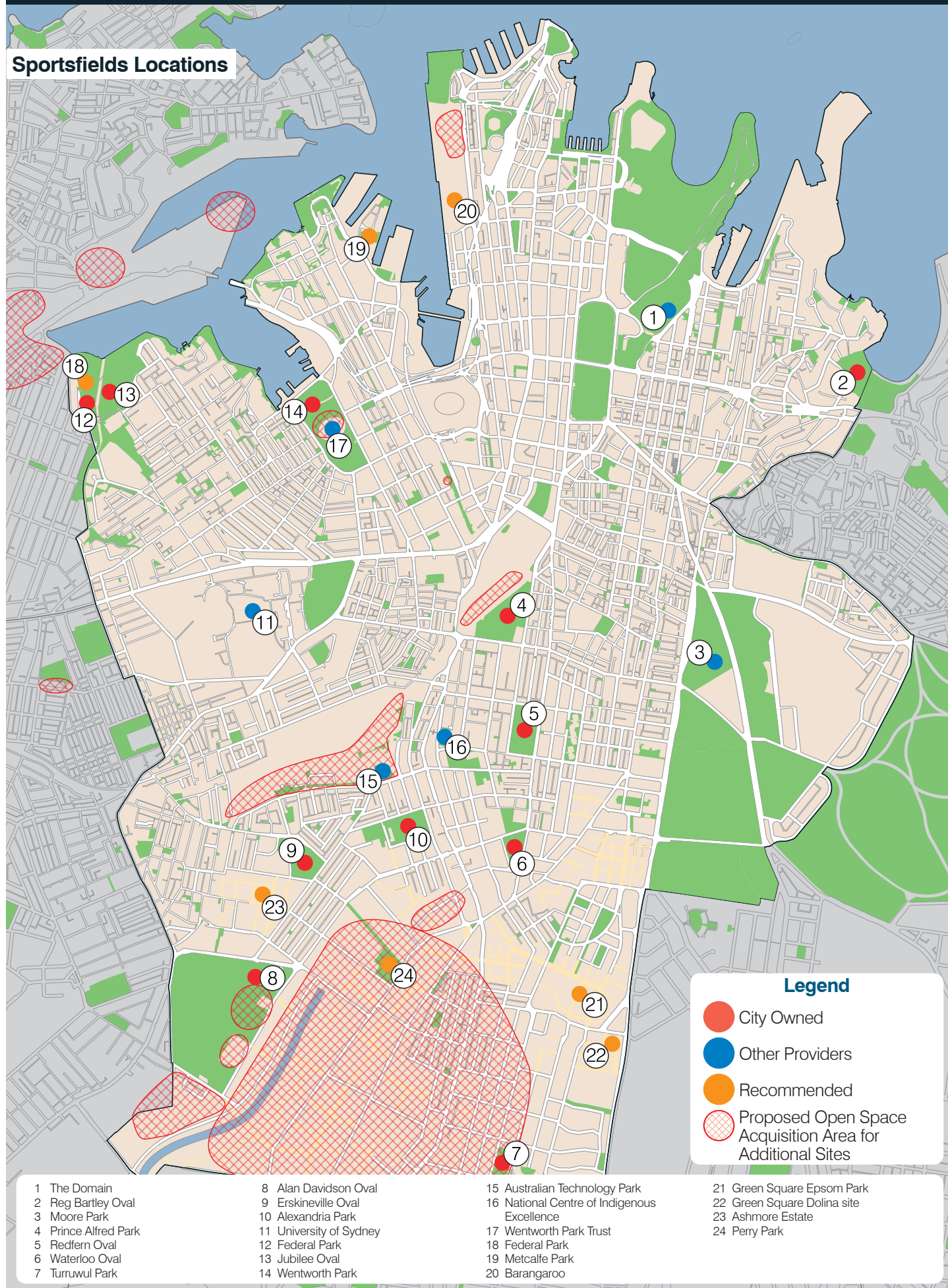
Sportsfields		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
Increase the provision of sports fields in the open space network	<b>Open Space Acquisition Plan</b> to prioritise sites able to accommodate sports field recreation	Volume 2 - Open Space Delivery Plan City of Sydney s.94 Plan 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
<b>Partnerships</b> 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	Negotiate public access to sporting fields according to the NSW Department of education Community Use of school Facilities Policy (2009, updated 2013).  Potential school sites to approach include: - Alexandra Park Community School - Sydney Secondary College, Glebe - Newtown Performing Arts School  Other Partnership opportunities: - Increase access to field inside Wentworth Park racing track - National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016



# Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study 2016

## Sportsfields Locations



## Aquatic Facilities

### Now

- **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

- 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

- 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.

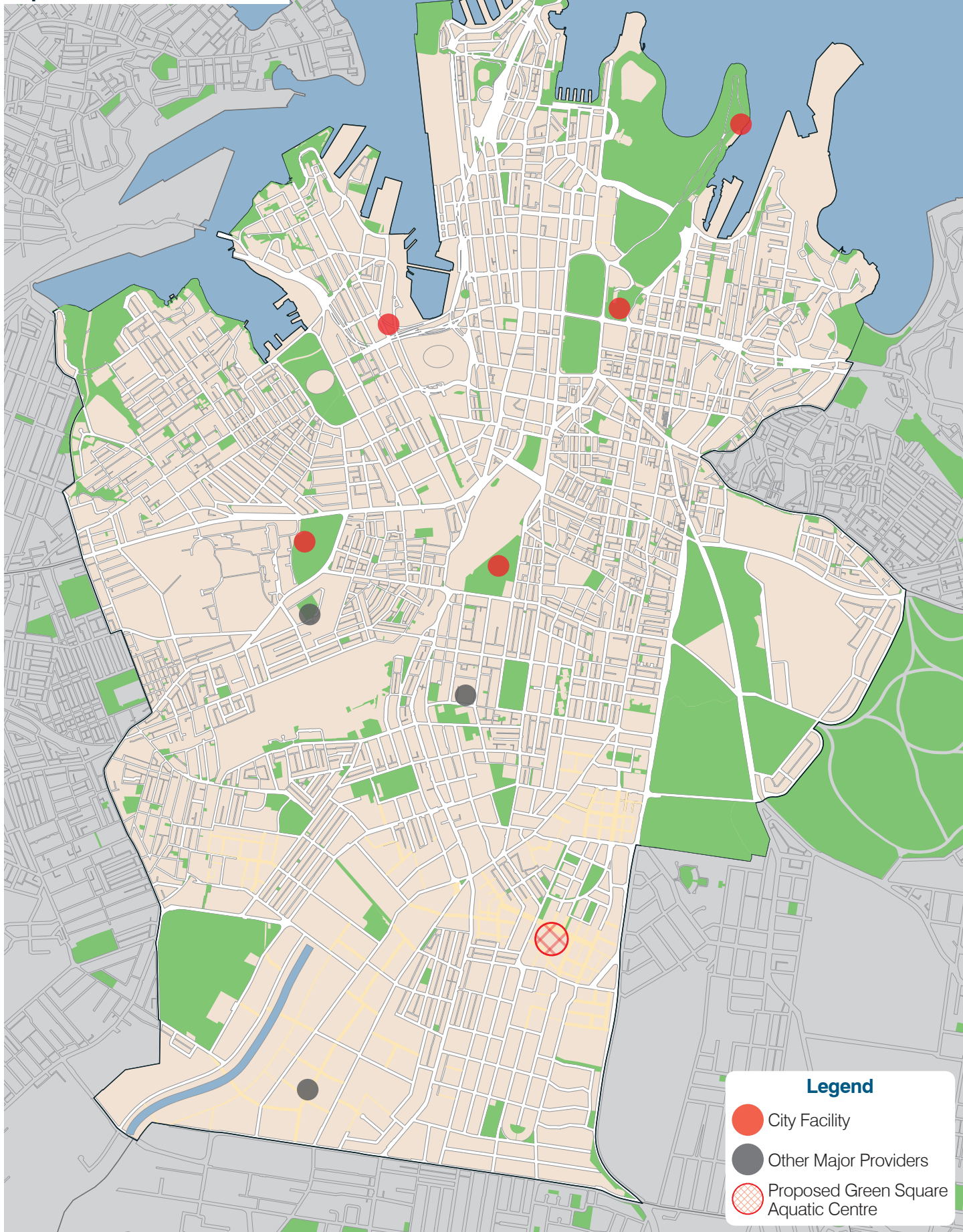


Aquatic Facilities		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
New Facilities for a Growing Population	Green Square Aquatic Centre Completion – 2018 Includes hydrotherapy pool facility (action underway)	
Strategic Planning	<b>Review</b> City Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy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





### 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>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<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>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016

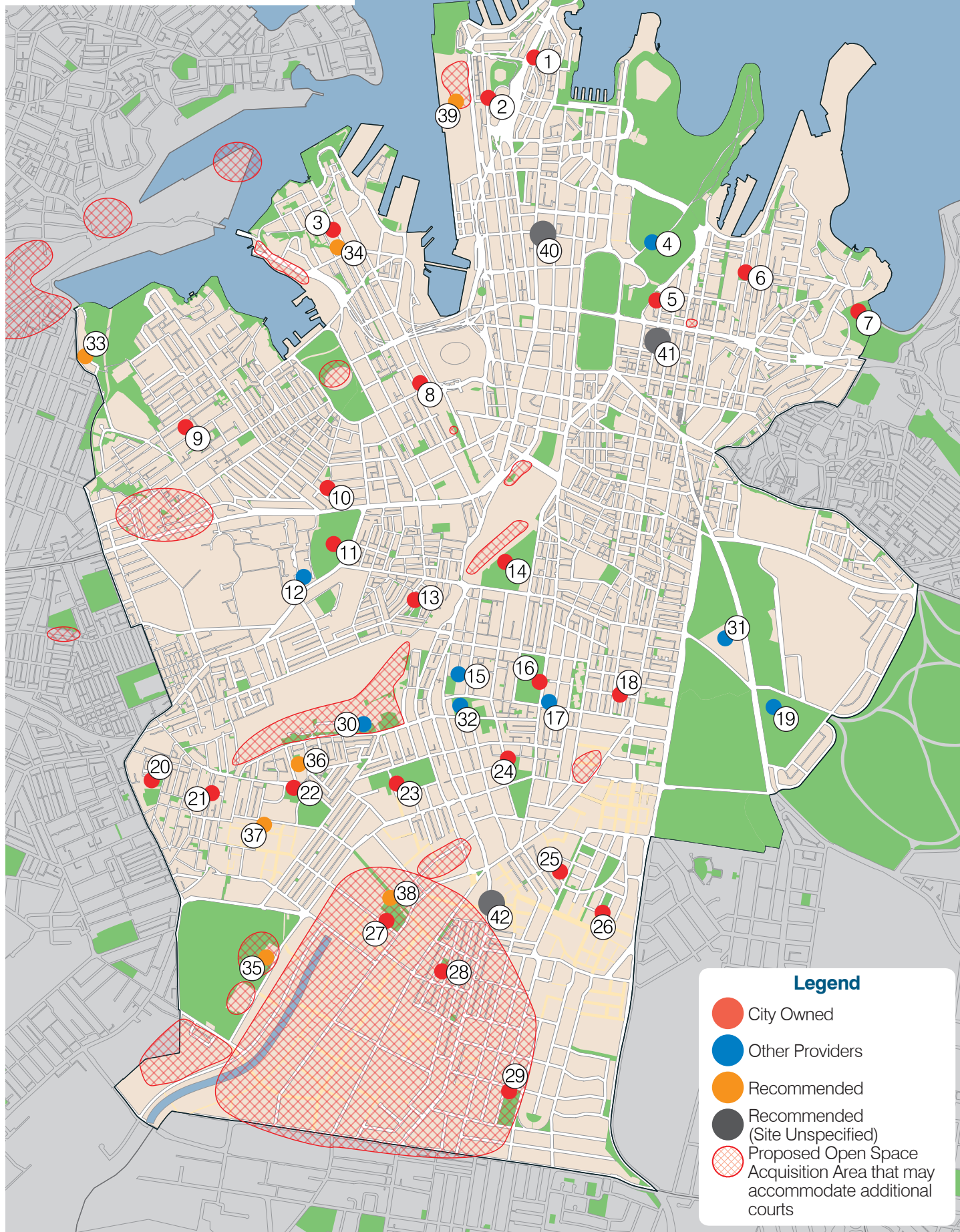
Outdoor Court Facilities (Continued)		
Recommended Strategy Direction	Recommended Actions	Reference
<b>Urban Renewal</b>	Advocate to State Government for provision of sports courts for social recreation at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barangaroo Central</li> <li>• Central to Eveleigh</li> <li>• Bays Precinct</li> </ul>	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Multi-Purpose Use</b>	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.  Provide multi- purpose courts ( which require larger footprint than a basketball court) of around 38x22 metre which can accommodate a range of uses.  Mark courts for multiple sports to provide the potential to maximise use of courts for various sports.  Encourage use of full size tennis courts for junior “Hot Shots”	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Improve capacity of existing courts</b>	Improved surfacing, lighting and support amenities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybanke Centre Pyrmont (completed)</li> <li>• Peter Forsyth Auditorium</li> </ul> Assess option to install all weather fabric roof structure above sports courts at Ultimo Community Centre	Volume 4 - Sports Facilities Demand Study 2016
<b>Partnerships</b>	Explore partnerships to provide new multi – purpose courts, with: <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>	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.	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

- 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

- 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

- 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

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.

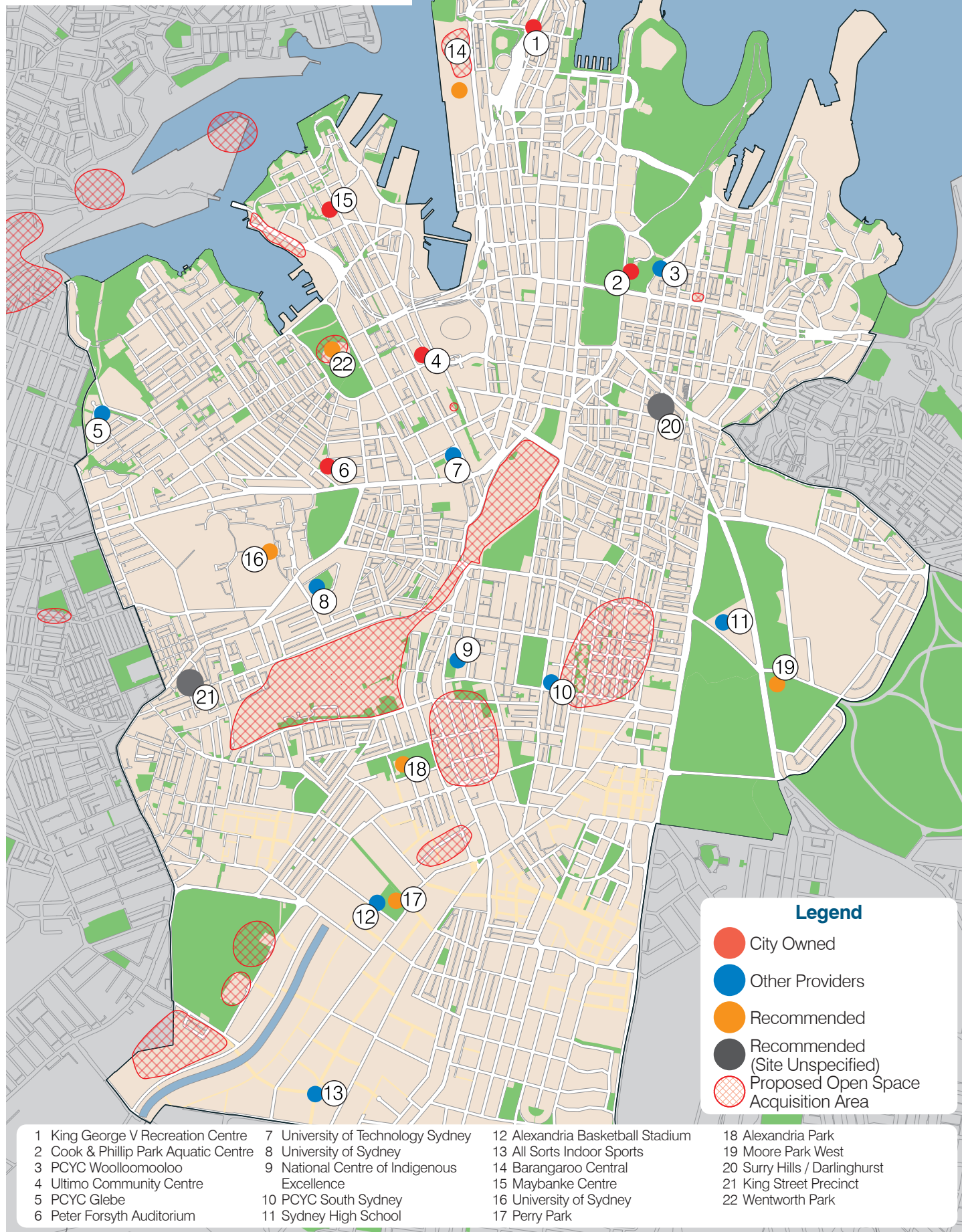
The Study concludes that the overall supply of indoor sports courts is assessed as inadequate, particularly when considering the impact of weekday population on facility demand, the limitations of single court facilities in supporting competitive sport, most existing courts reported at capacity and reported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

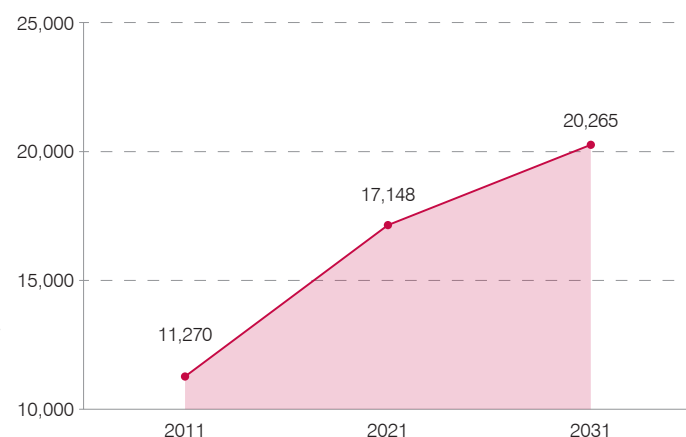


Figure 15: Population Growth of 0-11 year olds in the City of Sydney

### 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 children's 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			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>Turruwul 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.

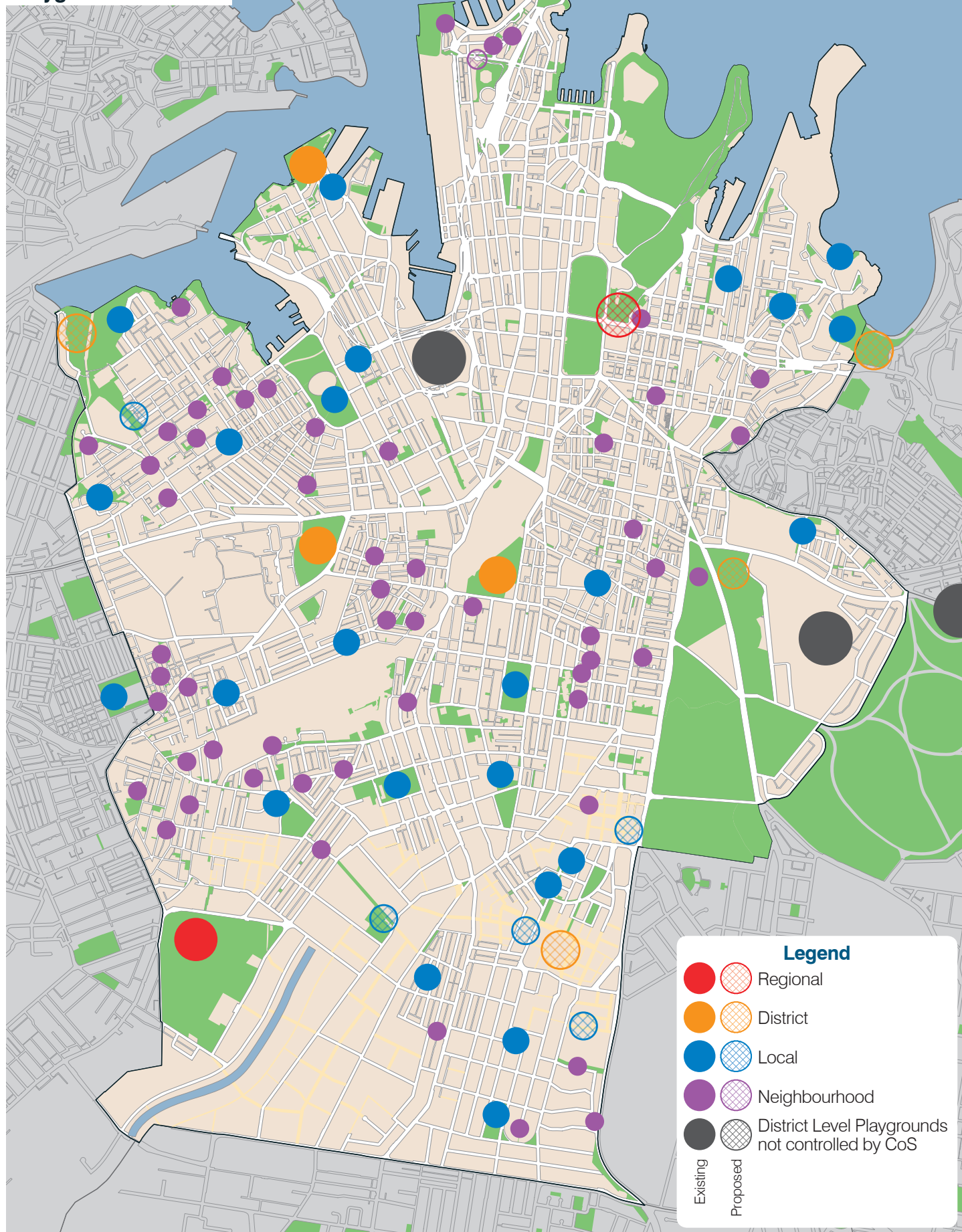
Playground Assessment (Continued)						
Planning Area / Suburb	Suburb	Current Provision			Assessment	Proposed Recommendations
		N'hood	Local	District		
Green Square	Beaconsfield	1	1		<b>Janet Bierne Reserve</b> upgraded for 0-7 years age group play and social recreation.	Review <b>Beaconsfield Park</b> 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)





## 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**

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**

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**

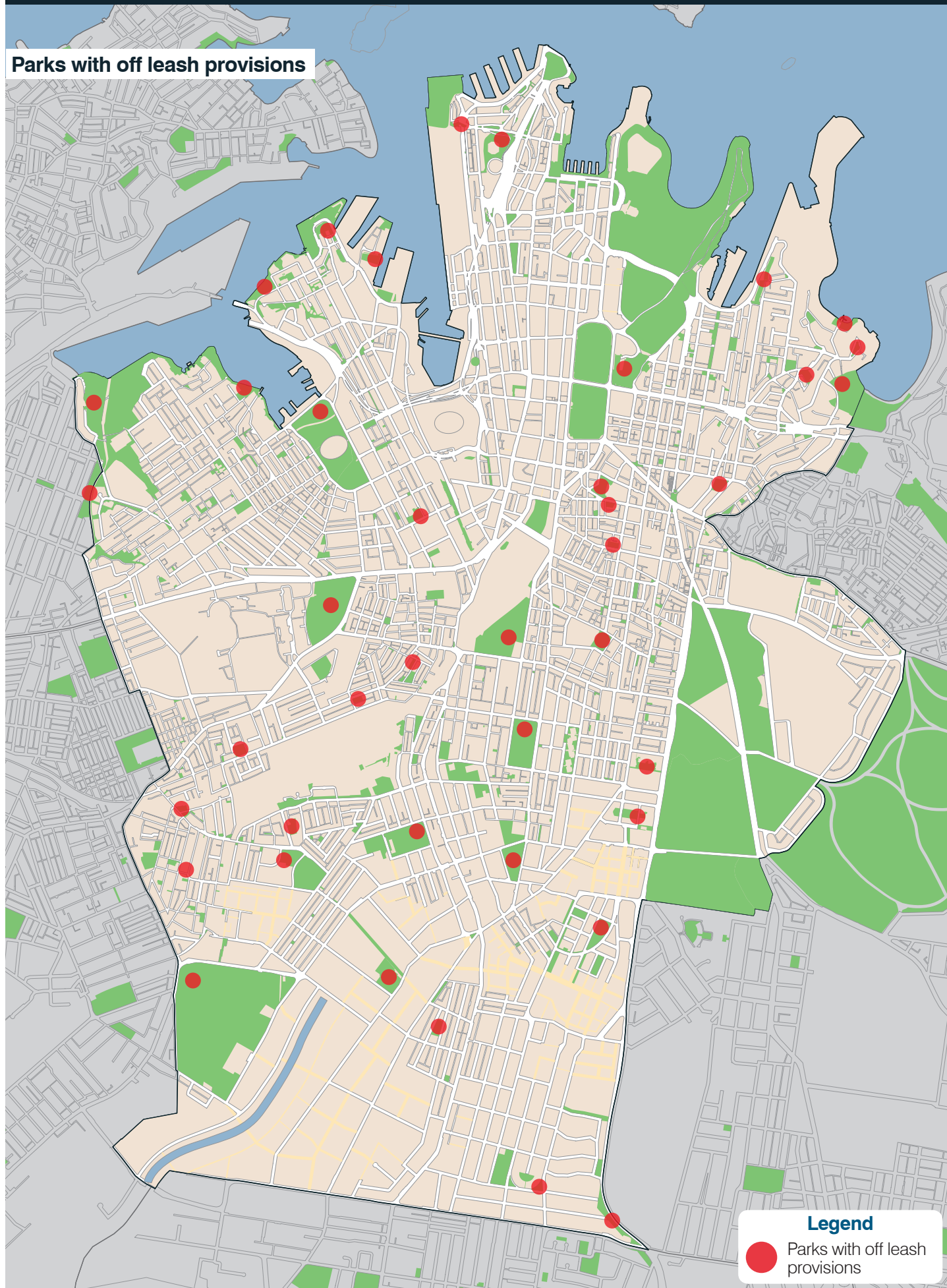
Increase facilities and amenities at popular dog exercise parks to increase enjoyment for owners and dogs.

- 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.

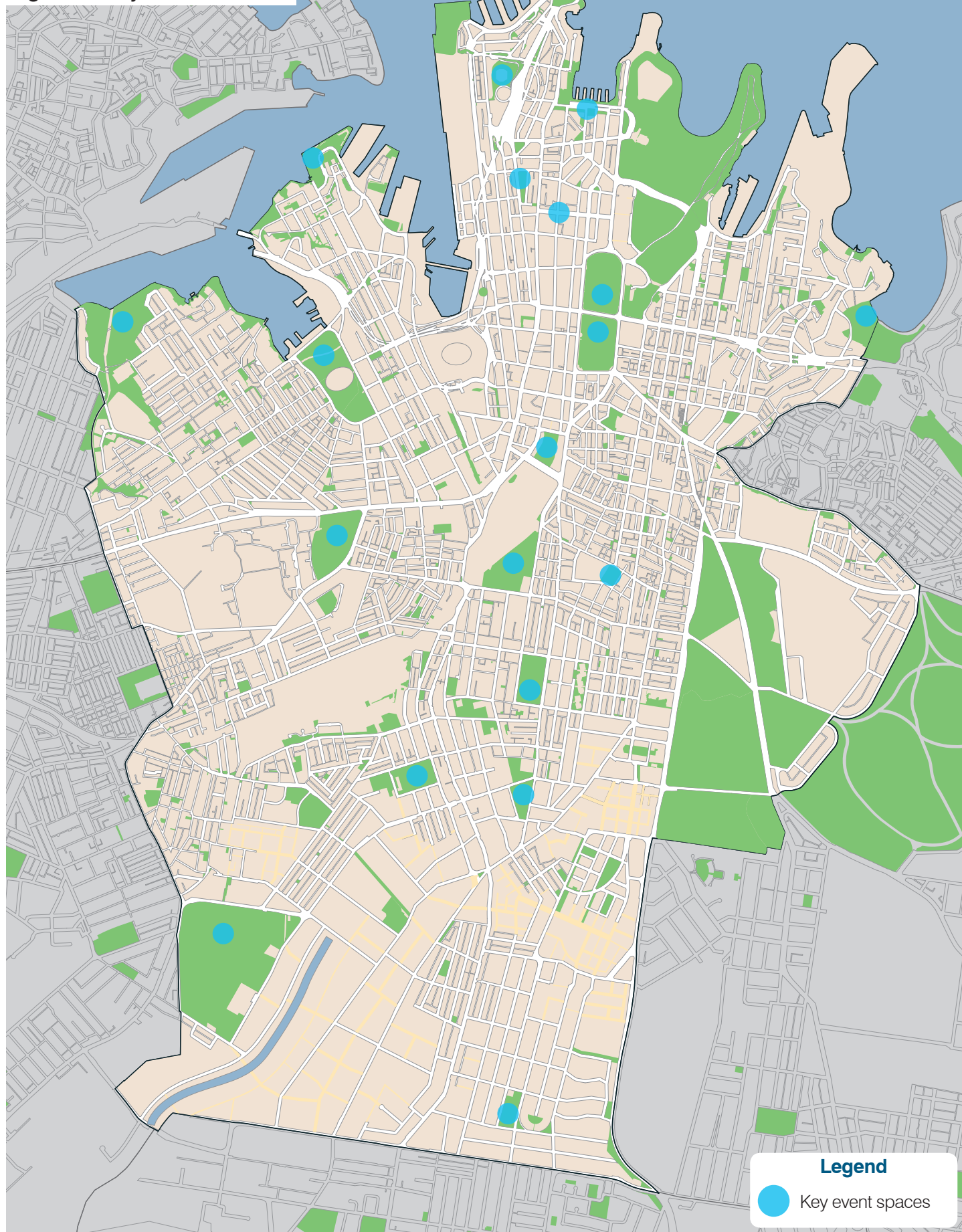
Ensure that event spaces are provided with appropriate infrastructure to support ongoing usage including:

- 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**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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:

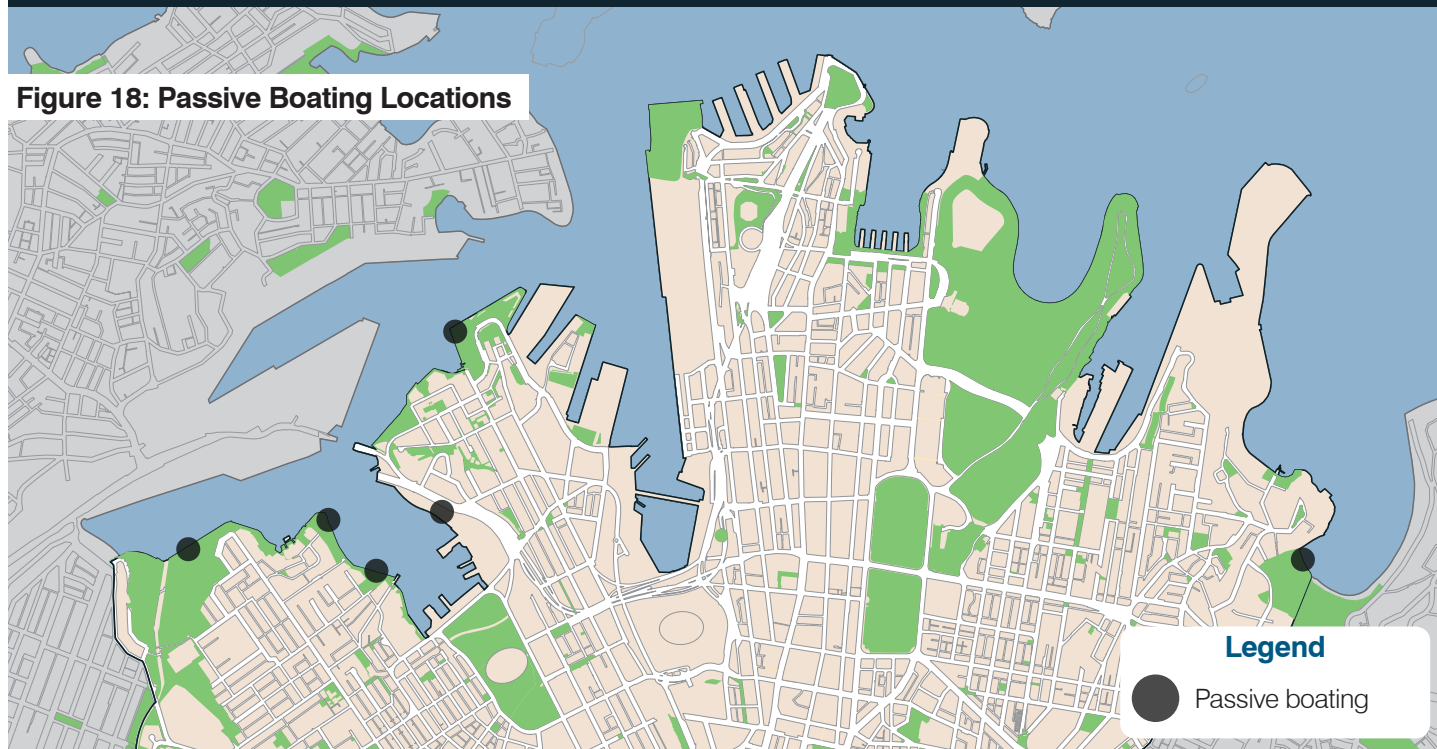
- Passive watercraft storage areas;
- Convenient access/ launch points for passive watercraft.
- Water quality issues.

### 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

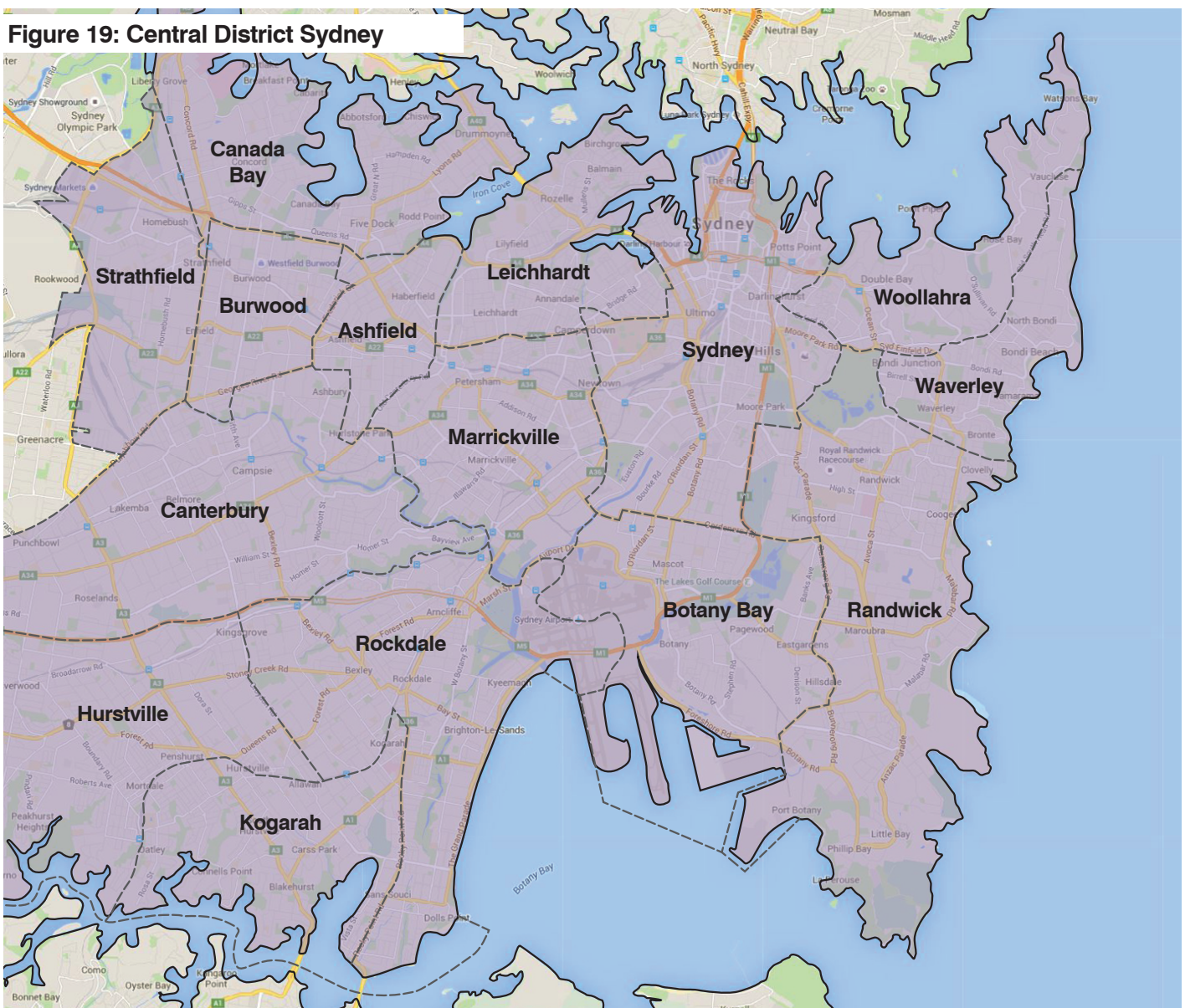


Hyde Park



# 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.

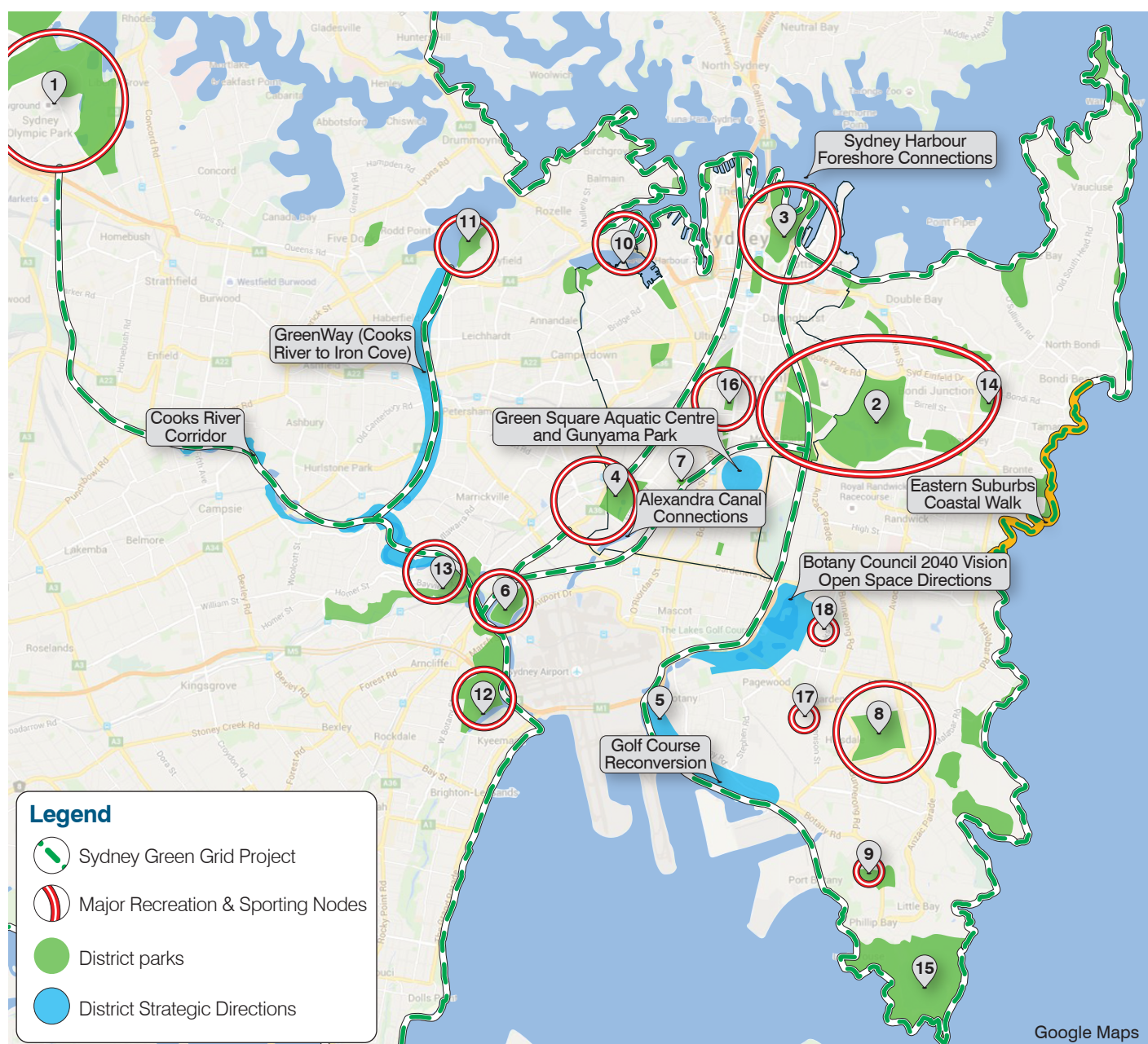
#### Sydney Green Grid Project

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





