



INTEGRATED OPEN SPACE PLAN

ADOPTED 24 July 2012

Acknowledgements:

The City of Ryde would like to thank the members of the Project Reference Group for their invaluable contribution to the development of the Integrated Open Space Plan.

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The Integrated Open Space Plan was adopted at the Council Meeting, 24 July 2012.

Cover Image:

Shepherds Bay at Meadowbank, on the foreshore of the Parramatta River, is part of the Ryde Riverwalk that incorporates public art within a contemporary open space.

INTEGRATED OPEN SPACE PLAN



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City of Ryde
Lifestyle and opportunity
@ your doorstep

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

Drawing on the Vision for the City of Ryde, 'The place to be for lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep' the Integrated Open Space Plan analyses the City's existing public open space and makes clear recommendations on how that open space can be conserved, enhanced and extended to meet the community's recreation and leisure needs, both now and into the future.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the IOSP are to:

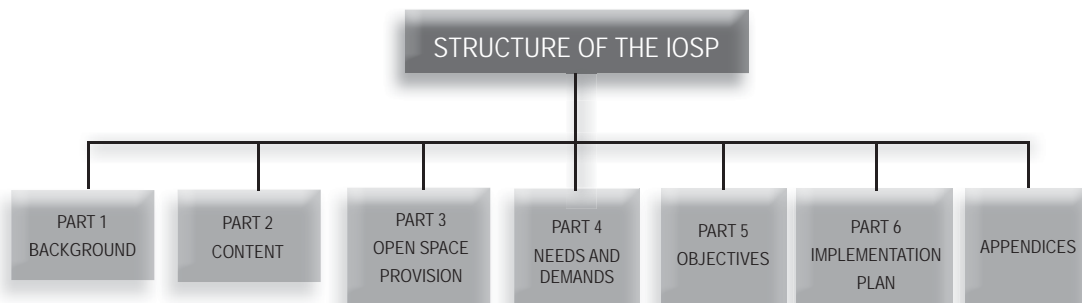
- establish a clear understanding of the types of open space and their distribution across the City
- recognise the recreational, environmental, social and health & well being values of open space
- establish a clear understanding of stakeholder and community needs in relation to open space
- establish clear linkages and corridors between key points of interest, town centres and transport nodes and suggest enhancements
- identify future actions to ensure that the values of open space are sustainably managed
- inform an open space enhancement program to improve facilities and encourage their use.

The objectives of the IOSP set out in the Project Brief are to:

- establish a policy framework for open space
- understand the values, needs and aspirations of the Ryde community, visitors to the City and other users whilst promoting greater social inclusion
- ensure open spaces meet the needs of the Ryde community and improve open space provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety
- recommend sustainable management and maintenance actions
- ensure open spaces enhance the quality of the local environment, whilst understanding and promoting natural and cultural heritage values
- be inclusive and embody the principles of safe design
- be innovative and offer opportunities for education, health and wellbeing
- improve linkages within and between the open space networks
- provide a clear framework for investment priorities and action to improve open space connections and provisions
- offer imaginative and innovative techniques for the future planning and design of the City's open spaces.

These objectives have been further refined during the preparation of the IOSP and have informed the Commitment for Open Space and the Objectives of the Plan.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE IOSP

The Objectives draw on the findings of the IOSP and are the foundations of the Implementation Plan that sets out the actions by which the IOSP will be realised. It establishes the thematic priorities, the Commitment for Open Space and a suite of Objectives that form the Open Space Structure Plan.

Thematic Priorities

The drivers of the Commitment and Objectives are based around five thematic priorities for the IOSP, namely:

- Optimisation: making more of what we have
- Consolidation and acquisition: achieving more equitable access to our open spaces
- Integration and adaptation: ensuring the whole is greater than the sum of the parts
- Connection: linking our parks with our natural environment and history
- Organisation: planning from top down and bottom up.

Commitment for the City's Open Space

In consultation with the Project Reference Group and drawing on the analysis and findings of the IOSP, a Statement of Commitment was prepared. Written in narrative form, the statement envisages a future for the City that meets the community's needs. The statement closes with this sentence:

"We have ample, accessible open space to meet our needs, shared and enjoyed by us all, founded on a healthy natural environment, conserving our rich history, culture and local character and managed sustainably now and for future generations".

Objectives

The closing summary of the Commitment for Open Space statement forms the headings for the IOSP's Objectives. Each objective heading is referenced to the Seven City Outcomes:

Ample, Accessible Open Space (C01, C05)

- providing open space within at least 400 metres safe and direct walking distance from every residence

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- maintaining existing provision at minimum (ie. no net loss of open space)
- ensuring safe and convenient access to open space for all abilities
- optimising access by walking and cycling
- maintaining a network of recreational corridors, linkages and connections.

Shared And Enjoyed By All (C02, C06)

- providing opportunities for all ages and backgrounds
- balancing structured and unstructured recreation
- incorporating flexibility for multiple uses
- fostering healthy physical activity and mental wellbeing
- offering safe environments that encourage social interaction, health and wellbeing
- enabling simple wayfinding and providing accessible information and interpretation.

Founded On A Healthy Natural Environment (C04)

- responding to Ryde's natural topography and geology
- maximising creek, river and bushland connections and corridors
- conserving and enhancing native flora and fauna communities and habitats
- providing natural connections across the City linking with adjoining LGAs
- promoting awareness of Ryde's natural values
- maximising permeable area by minimising built structures and hard surfaces
- adapting to the impacts of climate change by park planning and design.

Conserving Our Rich History, Culture and Local Character (C06)

- integrating natural, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage into the City's open spaces
- interpreting and promoting the unique history of Ryde for residents and visitors
- drawing on local landscape character in park design and planting strategies
- maximising views and vista opportunities across the City
- implementing public art to express the identity and culture of the City.

Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations (C03, C07)

- conserving energy and resources and optimising life cycles
- managing assets to a financially and operationally sustainable model

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- designing to high standards and quality with innovative practices
- actively involving the community in planning and design
- fostering partnerships with other parties to extend recreation opportunity
- operating under a structured management and maintenance plan and program.

Structure Plan (see *City of Ryde Open Space Structure Plan*)

The framework for delivering the Implementation Plan is the Structure Plan. The strategic map shown on the following page illustrates the principal recommendations at the heart of the IOSP. These core elements are further expanded on as follows:

Corridors, Connections and Barriers

Connectivity is a critical thrust of the Implementation Plan, be that physical, social or visual. The Structure Plan identifies a network of recreational and access creek corridors linked to a road based cycle and walk network (the grid) that connects to day-to-day destinations (work, shops, school, parks).

Active Parklands

The Plan identifies four Level 1 Sports Hubs/Precincts across the City that are based on existing facilities that will be progressively upgraded. The Plan also identifies Level 2 (district) Sport Parks that combine competition facilities with more flexible spaces. At Level 3, (neighbourhood) Multi-Use Parks provide open spaces suitable for sports and other uses but with more limited permanent sports infrastructure (ie. junior sports and training). The IOSP recommends that no structured sports be held on Level 4 open spaces.

Passive Parklands

Achieving a goal where all residents across the City are no more than 400m from some form of open space requires better connectivity, access and acquisition of new open space, especially in areas of high density, high population and strong forecast population growth.

Urban Spaces

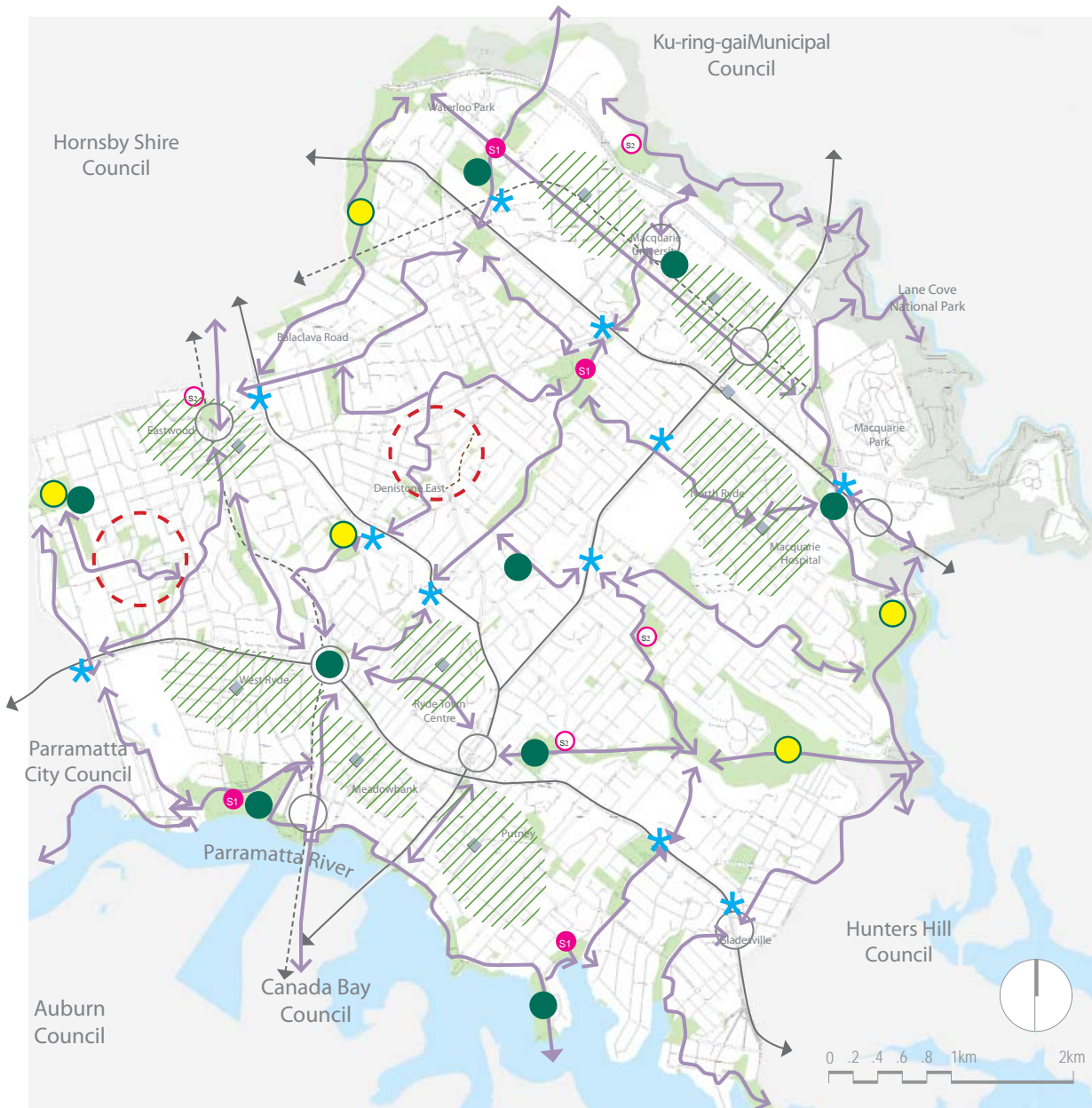
The recreation and leisure needs of the City's diverse community cannot be solely met through provision of parks. The IOSP proposes that urban spaces in town centres be enhanced to accommodate this and that the City fosters social engagement in its urban spaces.

Consolidation, Acquisition and Rationalisation

To improve and extend the City's open space there are three basic means of enhancing the open space 'landbank', namely:






- acquisition; acquiring new open space in areas of current or future deficiency
- consolidation; identifying where land adjoining existing open space could be acquired to extend that space or land swaps that may achieve more usable open space





City of Ryde Open Space Structure Plan

KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Major Centres - Existing And Proposed |  Major Barrier Reduction Targets (Walking/Cycling) |
|  Citywide Sports Hub/Precinct |  Local Open Space Deficit Areas Acquisition Review Areas |
|  Level 2 Sports Park |  Major Arterial Roads |
|  Primary Passive Parkland |  Rail Lines |
|  Principal Bushland Reserve |  Future Local Reserve Acquisition Opportunity (Review Localities) |
|  Principal Recreational Linkages (see Green Web and Green Grid) |  Multiple Small Reserves (Rationalisation Review) |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

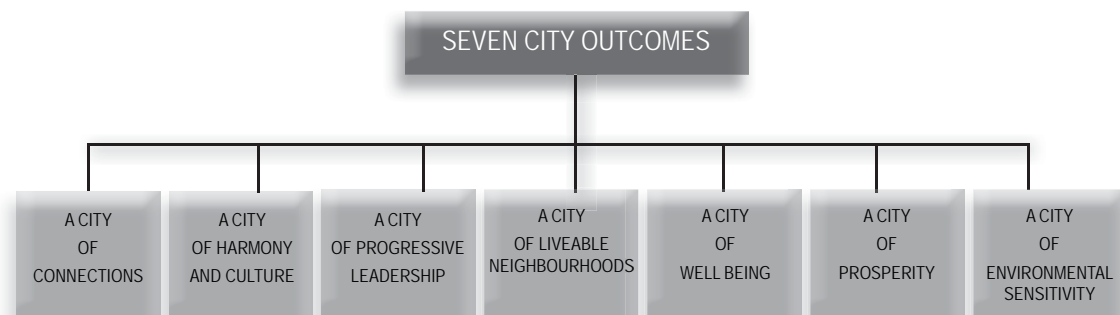
- rationalisation; divesting open space in areas where duplication, particularly of small open spaces with very limited recreational capacity, to consolidate or acquire larger open space that will better meet recreational and leisure needs in that locality.

The Structure Plan identifies those suburbs in which these processes may be applicable.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Corporate and Administrative Context

The City's Vision forms the foundation for the 21 goals and 59 strategies of the 2021 Community Strategic Plan. These goals will be delivered under the following Seven City Outcomes which inform and set the structure for the Objectives of the IOSP:



Trends, Benefits and Benchmark Planning

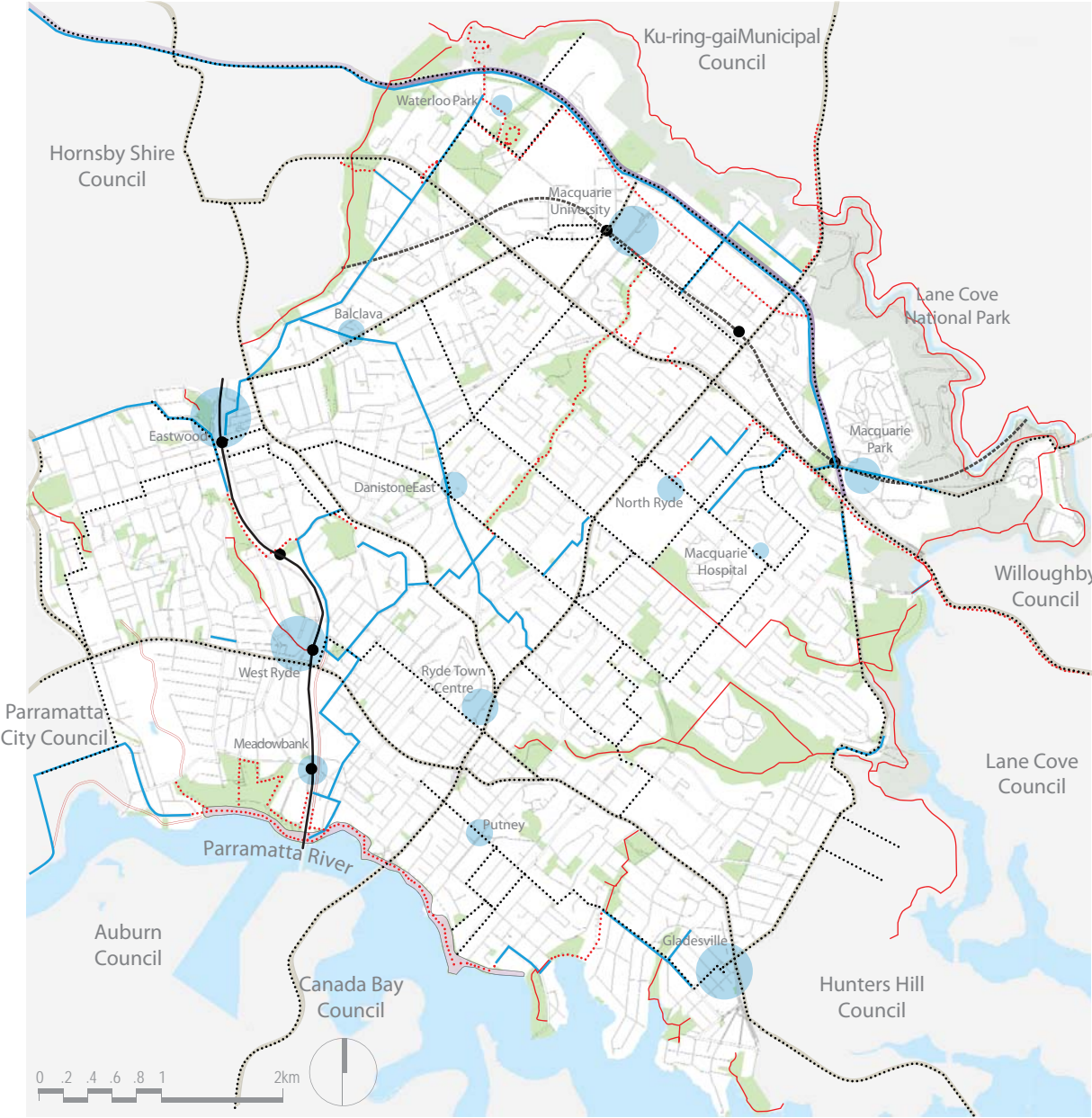
Open space provides a range of social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits including through:

- providing places for the community to meet and participate in leisure activities
- providing amenity and attracting significant economic value through tourism to an area or region
- assisting in shaping local biodiversity and conservation values
- being a focus and venue for physical activity with associated health and wellbeing benefits.

Ongoing research across the world highlights the importance of access to high quality open space as a measure of a communities physical and mental health, creativity and productivity.

Population Demographics

The City of Ryde population at 2006 was 96,951 people with the forecast population for the 2011 Census at 104,114 people. This population is forecast to grow to a total of 118,010 by 2031 with the principal growth areas in the City being Ryde South, North Ryde and Macquarie Park.



Transport links

KEY

- Open Space
- Shopping Areas
- Motorways
- Main Roads
- Rail-line
- Underground Rail-line
- Ryde Riverwalk
- Walking Tracks (bicycles not permitted)
- On-Road Marked Cycle Routes
- Off-Road Marked Cycle Routes (also walking tracks)
- Cycleways (Proposed)
- Bus Routes

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The key demographic characteristics of the City's existing population include:

- indigenous population: the City's Indigenous population is significantly lower than Sydney region
- overseas born: the City's proportion of population born overseas, mainly China and Korea, is significantly higher than Sydney region
- mature adults 65 - 84 years: the City's population of mature adults is higher than the Sydney region
- senior citizens 85 years + : the City's proportion of citizens who are 85 years + is nearly one and a half times higher than the Sydney region
- the population of the City is relatively transient
- 30% of the population live in apartments.

Forecast characteristics of the projected future population is anticipated as:

- most age groups will experience growth
- 70-85 year olds and 30-39 year olds will show most growth
- teenage age groups will experience some decline
- the working population is expected to grow especially in Macquarie Park.

Existing population and the City's future growth have implications for the IOSP that include:

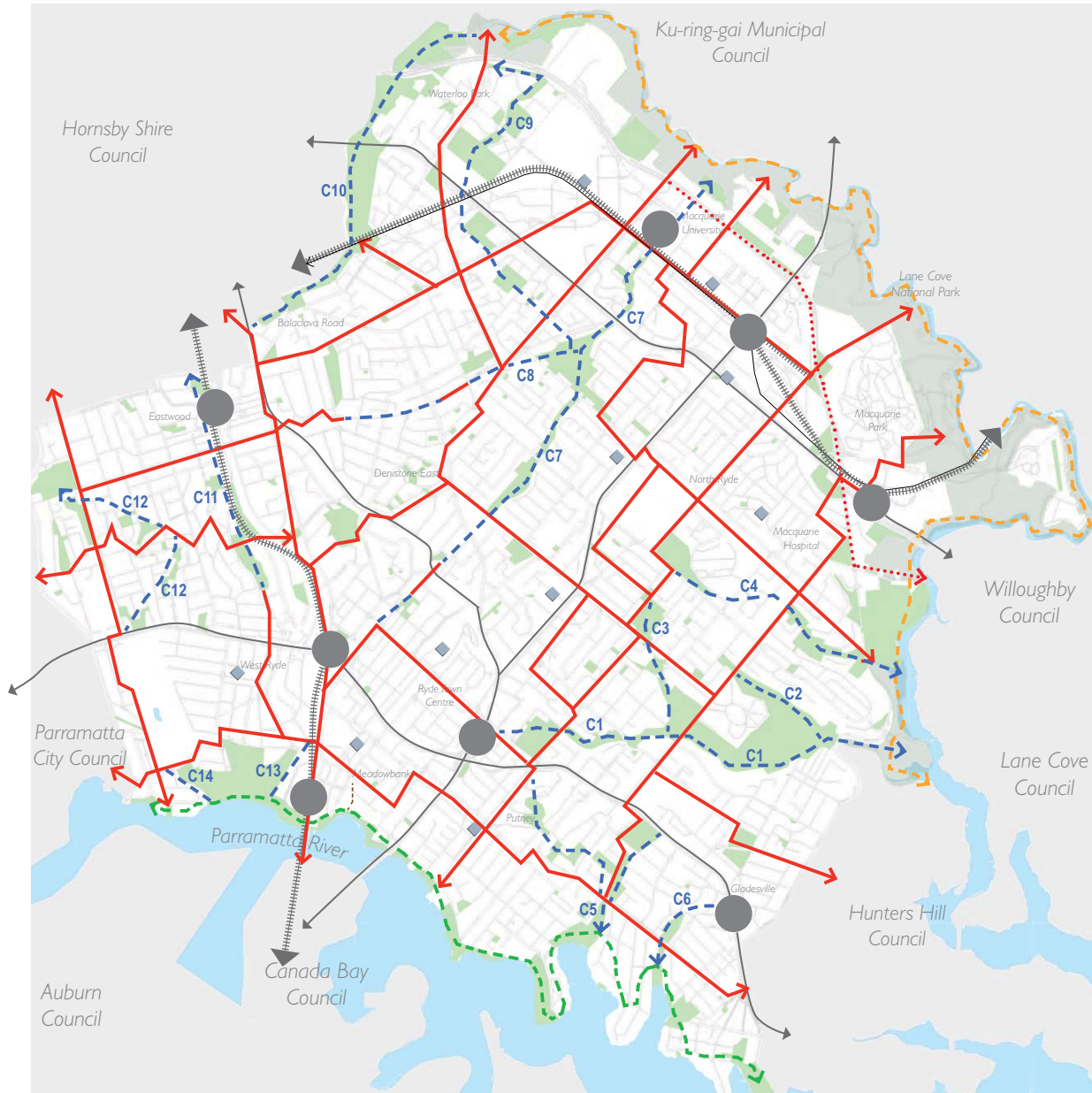
- increases in population will require additional capacity in open space
- growth in numbers of residents living in apartments will place emphasis on ease of access to local open space in the absence of backyards
- high numbers of families in the City, with an expected increase, suggests additional demand on play and sports facilities
- high proportion of residents from CALD backgrounds implies the need to ensure facilities meet cultural needs
- the significant and growing numbers of seniors in the population will place emphasis on the need for ease of access to and within open space
- expected growth in the working population will place pressure on facilities for formal and informal recreation in those localities.

Transport and Access (see *Transport Links* and *City of Ryde Corridors Plans*)

The City is well serviced by roads with five major arterial routes into and out of the City. While these roads assist vehicular circulation they also form barriers to pedestrians seeking access to open space.

The west and the north of the City are best served by public transport. Few open spaces in the City have direct access within close proximity to rail stations, while more are serviced by bus routes.

Cycle access varies across the City with the Bicycle Plan identifying a range of on and off-road routes and shared pathways including the Ryde Riverwalk along the Parramatta River foreshore.



City of Ryde Corridor

KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| ● Major Centres - Existing And Proposed | ↔ Street Based Walk and Cycle Links (Green Grid) Proposed |
| ↔ Creek and Bushland corridor Links (Green Web) Existing and Proposed (see list below) | ⋯ Existing major dedicated cycleway (RTA) |
| ↔ Ryde Riverwalk (City of Ryde) Existing and Proposed | → Existing Major Roads |
| ↔ Great Northern Walk (NPWS) | ⌞ Existing Railway Line |

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While Council has identified a number of trails across the City there is no formal strategy in place for a walking network associated with local and district day-to-day destinations across the City. The principal implications of the Transport and Access status for the IOSP are:

- major roads act as barriers to walking access to local open space
- public transport access to open space is highly variable across the City
- off road cycle access into and across the heart of the City is very limited and is not strategically linked to natural corridors and on road options
- planning for walking will be an essential aspect of the City's future open space, particularly for the increasing family and aged population.

Environment and Heritage

The topography of Ryde reflects the underlying geology of the Hornsby Plateau. The underlying Wianamatta Shale creates a series of ridges and valleys forming the sub-catchments that feed the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers. In places, the valleys are steep sided and parts of the City, especially to the east, form elevated and level topography.

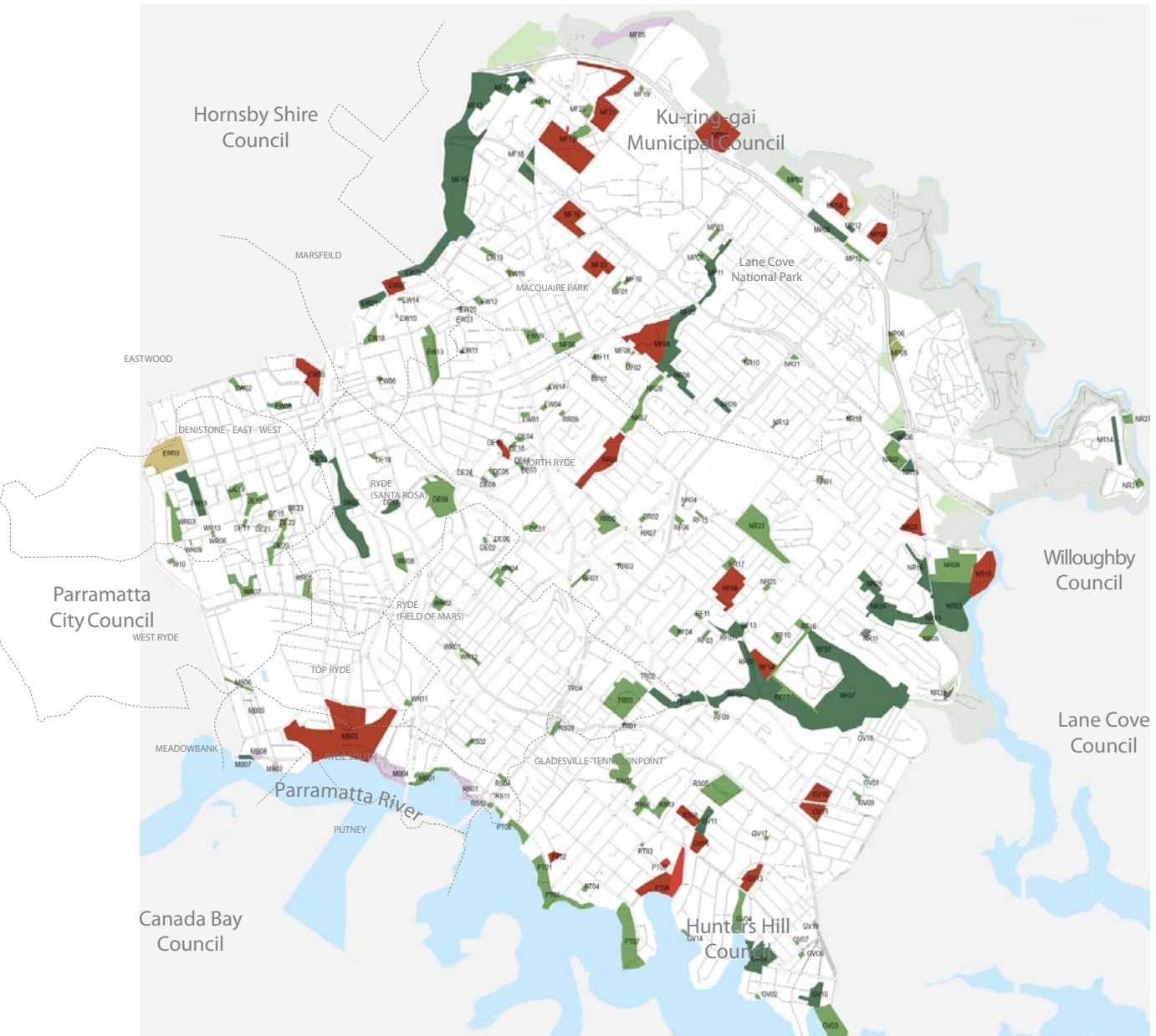
Five major creeks within the City (Buffalo, Terrys, Archers, Porters, and Shrimptons Creek) retain natural profiles and associated riparian vegetation over much of their lengths.

The natural flora and fauna of the City is represented in a range of landscapes from riparian corridors to remnant bushland, transitional forests and threatened communities (Blue Gum High Forest). Nine of the City's major open spaces are categorised as natural areas settings. The adjoining Lane Cove National Park comprises 635 hectares of bushland and links directly to the Field of Mars, which is the site of an important environmental education centre.

The Aboriginal heritage of the area includes the pre-European settlement custodianship over many thousands of years of a rich and varied landscape. Some Aboriginal archaeological sites remain along the Parramatta River shoreline, while many landscapes of the City have since been heavily modified.

The non-Aboriginal heritage is diverse and stems back to late 18th Century with associated land grants commencing in 1792. The arrival of the rail line in the 19th Century rapidly developed the City with the progressive withdrawal of industry seeing a major expansion of residential apartments on the post-industrial sites. The implications of the City's environment and heritage for the IOSP include:

- the network of creeks many of which retain high natural values provide opportunities to act as connected recreation corridors
- a more connected recreational network would also provide better environmental connectivity
- steep topography makes non-vehicular access to and around some open spaces challenging
- a rich Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage is not presently reflected in park character and layout.



Open Space Settings

KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| Passive Parklands | Creeks and Wetlands |
| Outdoor Sports | Ancillary |
| Civic and Urban Spaces | Informal |
| Natural Areas and Bushlands | National Park (NPWS) |
| Cultural Heritage | Suburb Boundary |
| River Foreshore | |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Open Space Inventory

The development of a comprehensive Open Space Inventory is a key component of the IOSP. It has identified all of the open spaces that are in the care, control and management of the City of Ryde. The inventory identifies the title and property details of each open space and designates:

- the hierarchy of the open space (Levels 1-4, representing what traditionally would be Regional, District, Neighbourhood and Local Parks respectively)
- the primary and contributory setting
- other attributes such as status, networks and associations, levels of embellishment and assets and functions
- the major assets within the open space (eg. fencing, play, lighting, buildings).

The inventory is provided in table format and is cross referenced to maps showing the location of each open space and its primary setting across the City.

Quantum, Size, Distribution and Shape of Open Spaces

The inventory identifies that the City contains 197 open spaces under the care control and management of Council, of which 35% are over 1 Ha. Importantly, 36% of all open spaces are under 0.2 Ha in area, significantly smaller levels than the optimal 0.5 Ha for local open spaces.

For the most part public open space across the City has resulted from land conserved for bushland or foreshore, dedications for parks in the 19th and early 20th Century or acquired through residential development in the late 20th and early 21st Century.

The implications of this quantum, size, distribution and shape of open space for the IOSP are that:

- there is a very high dependence on a large number of smaller reserves
- residents in some suburbs have more immediate access to open space than in others
- some suburbs contain large numbers of small open spaces while others have fewer larger open spaces.

Diversity of Settings (see *Open Space Settings Plan*)

The range of setting types across the City are relatively limited in number with the principal settings Passive Parklands, with Outdoor Sports the second most common and Natural Areas and Bushland being third. Outdoor Sports open space is extensive in total area across the City.

There are relatively few large Passive Parklands across the City. However the larger parks have often been most recently embellished and are well used and popular.

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The Ryde Riverwalk is the most substantial River Foreshore setting and is becoming progressively better connected.

Many of the Outdoor Sports settings have been embellished over time with a singular focus and offer limited additional recreation opportunities.

Large open spaces of Natural Areas and Bushland located on the City's boundaries means that limited bushland is to be found in the heart of the City.

Accessibility and Connectivity

Best practice planning for urban environments recommends that all residences should be within a maximum of 400 metres (approximately 10 minutes) walking distance from public open space for day-to-day recreation needs. Whilst the majority of residences in the City fall within this band, some suburbs such as Top Ryde, Ryde South and West Ryde do not meet the standard.

Major road barriers limit access as does steep topography in suburbs such as Denistone, Top Ryde and Ryde Field of Mars.

The principal recreational linkages across the City are provided by the two rivers (the Ryde Riverwalk and the Great Northern Walk). Creek systems also provide continuous trails of more than 2kms in length. However, few of these trails are connected to each other at present.

Relationship of Open Space to Population

Compared with historic standards of 2.83 Ha per 1000 persons, the City of Ryde provides sufficient open space for its population at 3.41 Ha/1000 based on the 2011 forecasted population. However current benchmark planning for open space considers a range of parameters beyond total quantum, including more detailed evaluation at suburb level, accessibility to open space and community demand (refer to Best Practice in Open Space Planning).

Commonly, a critical assessment of the adequacy of provision excludes the more regional open spaces (Level 1) in establishing the quantum of local and district scale open space (Level 3 and 4) per 1,000 population.

When the quantum and distribution of Level 4 open space across the City is compared with the population (and forecast growth) of each suburb it can be seen that there are significant disparities across the City, including:

- low amounts of open space of all hierarchies in Ryde Santa Rosa, Top Ryde and West Ryde
- very low ratios of Level 4 open space per head of population in Gladesville, Putney, Ryde Santa Rosa, Top Ryde and West Ryde
- forecast growth in Macquarie Park, North Ryde and Ryde South suggests the need for future acquisition

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- suburbs with low population but very low Level 4 open space (eg. Putney).

Open Space Analysis by Suburb

Drawing together the foregoing analysis of quantum, distribution, diversity, accessibility and ratio of open space to population, an analysis on a suburb-by-suburb basis was carried out. From that integrated process a number of conclusions could be drawn:

- existing open space provision (especially Level 4) that is already low in some suburbs is exacerbated by poor accessibility and diversity (eg. centre of Gladesville suburb, Putney, Ryde Santa Rosa, Top Ryde and West Ryde)
- highest priority areas for acquisitions
- improving off-road access to open space and achieving greater capacity out of existing reserves will be particularly important for Top Ryde and Macquarie Park.

The Broader Public Realm

A proportion of the publicly accessible open space in the City is not in the care control and management of Council (eg. National Parks) or is not classified as open space (eg. malls and streetscapes).

Liaising with the respective managing organisations (eg. Schools, Macquarie University, NPWS) will be essential in optimising recreation opportunity for the community and reducing pressure on Council controlled open space.

NEEDS AND DEMANDS

Key to ensuring that the IOSP responds to community needs will be an assessment of the likely needs of the growing and changing population. The Needs and Demands section evaluates the findings of previous consultations and combines this with the outcomes of consultation undertaken during the IOSP.

Background

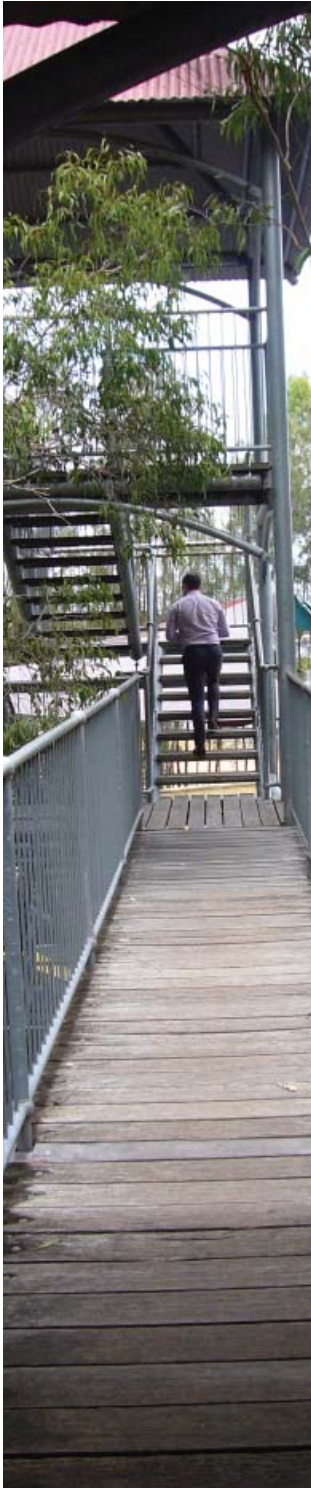
Council has undertaken a number of questionnaire surveys since the early 1990s. The most recent being the Leisure and Recreation Needs Study (LRN 2009), the NSROC Regional Sportsground Strategy and the IOSS User Satisfaction Benchmark Study (IOSS 2002-2009). Findings from these surveys and the consultations carried out during the IOSP are summarised here.

Open Space Usage Patterns

- highest leisure and recreation participation across the City is in informal activities (eg. walking, walking the dog, runabout, play, picnics, BBQs, etc)
- more than 35% of the existing population participates in some form of sport and sportsgrounds in the City have high usage levels (in some cases up to 500 players per week during winter on a single ground) with use still growing
- there is a high level of social considerations for participation in leisure and recreation activities



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- indoor facilities receive high levels of use, especially amongst the CALD communities
- there has been a trend to increased visitation of parks between 2002 - 2009
- the majority of park users travelled less than 5 km by private vehicle to reach the park (this was closely followed by walking as the second option of travel).

Participation in recreation largely mirrors national levels. Ryde displays higher participation in tennis and touch football than at a national level.

Of the barriers to participation, 'not enough time' was foremost in surveys, whilst reasons that could be addressed by Council included 'not enough information', 'lack of facilities' and 'cannot get access'.

Survey results from expected changes in usage over coming years revealed expected increase in walking, cycling, swimming, visiting parks and outdoor sports (55% of the sports groups consulted confirmed expected growth).

Satisfaction, Importance and Unmet Demand

The IOSS 2002-09 survey confirms increased satisfaction with park maintenance since 2007 and also with parks facilities over the seven years of the survey (Council has been progressively upgrading its major parks and its recreational trails).

The survey of sports clubs in the LRN 2009 study revealed dissatisfaction with substandard facilities, inadequate maintenance, overuse of facilities and inadequate meeting rooms. For seniors and for youth the principal concern was with inadequate public transport serving open space.

The community identified that parks and gardens were first and bike paths second in their priorities for Council expenditure over the next 5-10 years. 42% of residents surveyed ranked the natural environment in the top three issues of importance in the City. The CALD community identify indoor spaces are as important as urban spaces.

80% of those surveyed in preparation for a skate strategy indicated that there should be more skate facilities in the City, while a recent trial of dog off-leash designated parks received wide support.

Unmet demand identified through the LRN 2009 survey shows bike paths, off-leash dog areas, parks and gardens and playgrounds amongst the top ten.

Whilst visitation to parks has increased over recent years the IOSS 2002-09 survey does not indicate whether that increase also relates to small local parks.

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Gap Analysis

The gap between demand and needs commonly relates to matters that an existing community anticipate, but which may be apparent from broader trends. In the case of the City, this includes factors such as climate change adaptation, changes in sports trends and variations in the national economy.

Conclusions from Needs and Demands Analysis

From all of the previous analysis, it is evident that there is a need to:

- make more of the City's existing open space to meet current needs (embellishment, additional capacity, multi-using) while exploring opportunities to meet future needs (acquisition, consolidation, rationalisation)
- extend the planning of 'open space' to include streets, urban spaces and other parts of the City
- integrate the natural environment and cultural heritage values more substantially into the planning of open space and associated infrastructure (extending and linking existing natural corridors through parks and streets, allied to walking and cycle links)
- extend unstructured and informal leisure and recreation opportunities (eg. walking, cycling, play, picnics, BBQs, dog walking, etc)
- improve access to and between public open spaces at all levels to encourage more regular park use
- offer a greater diversity of experience and landscape character at all parks
- strategically plan and manage sports across the City from both a local and sub-regional perspective, recognising competition for facilities and the limited available open space (enhancing capacity, incorporating unstructured recreation at all sports venues, multi-use buildings, designated training areas)
- better recognise cultural diversity in the City through open space planning and design (eg. enhanced urban space design, multi-use buildings, cross cultural events, community gardens, etc)
- address specific needs of youth activities (eg. skate, hang-out spaces in parks and neighbourhoods), seniors (better access to parks, more walkable places, informal sports spaces, shade and seating) and significant working populations (passive and active recreation)
- more closely aligned planning, design and maintenance of open space with respect to objectives, quality and service level.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Action Plan drives the delivery of the Implementation Plan, setting out a set of actions that meet the Objectives, under the following headings:

- Ample, Accessible Open Space

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- Shared and Enjoyed By All
- Founded on a Healthy Natural Environment
- Conserving Our Rich History and Culture
- Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations.

For each action there is a corresponding identification of:

- the City Outcome to which it relates
- the priority of its implementation (high, medium or low)
- the Service Accountability within Council to which its implementation is tasked
- the Key Performance Indicator(s) that will determine that it has been achieved.

The proposals under the Action Plan may be summarised as follows:

Ample, Accessible Open Space

Progressively implement upgrades to open space with a focus on:

Amount and Distribution

- extend capacity of existing reserves through more efficient layouts, multi-using and clearer space definition to address existing open space shortages
- acquire new open space to address current and future shortages in seven of the City's suburbs (West Ryde, North Ryde, Macquarie Park, Putney, Ryde South, Eastwood, Top Ryde) and rationalising/consolidating very small open spaces into Level 4 open spaces in two suburbs (Ryde Santa Rosa and Denistone West) to improve recreation opportunity.

Accessibility

- enhance public transport access to open space by improved walkable/cycle connections from train stations and bus stops
- provide adequate on site parking at major reserves without significant loss of open space
- improve walkability and cycle access by a network of trails .

Universal Access

- update audits to identify required improvements for access to and within parks for the disabled, pram users and the like.

Connectivity

- prepare a Recreational Corridor Network plan to improve open space connectivity across the City, based on the proposed outline network in the Open Space Structure Plan
- prioritise actions to overcome major barriers to walking and cycling access to and between parks or recreational resources.

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Wayfinding

- prepare a Wayfinding Plan for the City that fosters and enhances walking, cycling and the use of public transport
- ensure wayfinding is focused on linking day-to-day destinations using the open space system.

Shared and Enjoyed By All

Extend and enhance the the City's open space to reflect recreational needs and local identity through:

Open Space Settings

- improve and extend passive parklands across the City (see Open Space Structure Plan for Level 1 and Level 2 open spaces identified)
- extend passive recreation opportunities in all park settings
- liaise with adjoining Councils to co-ordinate areas where shortfalls can be jointly addressed (eg. Hunters Hill and Hornsby Shire)
- upgrade existing civic spaces (eg. Eastwood) to encourage social interaction and accommodate special events
- enhance natural and cultural heritage values in all parks
- integrate the City's two rivers and many creeks into the open space system
- review and where necessary implement 'no go zones' or 'buffers' adjacent to bushland areas
- review and where necessary re-categorise and/or rezone any ancillary and informal open space into a more appropriate setting or zone
- integrate the proposed street walking and cycling 'grid' into an open space sub-inventory of all places
- develop corner Gathering Spaces at key local road junctions
- implement a three tier sports facility hierarchy as follows:
 - Level 1 Citywide Sports Hub: four in number, 1) Meadowbank Park 2) Marsfield/Waterloo Park, 3) Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park, 4) ELS Hall Park. These Sports Hubs have the highest level of sports infrastructure development, carrying capacity and amenities
 - Level 2 Sports Park: combining competition standard sports with training capacity. Typical parks include Gannan Park, Eastwood Park and Ryde Park
 - Level 3 Multi-Use Park: laid out to permit sport uses, mostly for junior and lower grades or training with limited and multi-use sports infrastructure.



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All such parks should be progressively redeveloped over time to meet the functional requirements in the IOSP appendices:

- integrate passive recreation opportunities into all Outdoor Sports settings to encourage spectators and shared uses.

Recreation Opportunity

- develop a Children's Play Implementation Plan that audits existing play spaces plus provides a clear framework for play provision for all ages and abilities
- develop a skate strategy
- undertake consultation with youth groups and youth inter-agencies to establish specific recreation needs
- address the specific and expressed recreational needs of CALD communities
- plan and design open spaces to meet the needs of seniors
- address the findings of the dog off-leash consultation and trial in 2011.

Recreation Facilities

- prepare detailed planning and design guidelines for facility provision. First priorities should be on basic facilities at a local level and those needs identified in the IOSS surveys
- seating and shelter; provide ample seating in all parks and junctions. Ensure shelter meets disability access
- toilets: audit existing toilets in open spaces and progressively upgrade and extend
- cafes, kiosks and mobile refreshments; identify locations for refreshment facilities suitable to setting types and open space hierarchy (cafes Level 1, kiosks Levels 2 and 3, mobile refreshments Levels 3 and 4).

Amenity and Safety

- audit all open spaces during upgrades for public safety using principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)
- integrate microclimate amelioration in all open space design
- progressively upgrade all lighting in open space (excluding in extensive areas of natural habitat) to encourage safe evening and early morning use
- develop planting design guidelines for open space that address matters such as the appropriate contexts for native and exotic species, linking habitat, defining spaces, ensuring public safety, limiting maintenance
- explore technology in parks to assist in administration and enhance access to information.

Landscape Design

- build on the high quality design of recent upgrades to major parks in the City by identifying specific design principles for all open spaces.

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Other Recreation Providers

- develop and foster partnerships and maintain liaison with other providers to optimise community leisure and recreation opportunities and minimise duplication

Founded on a Healthy Natural Environment

Elevate the environmental values of all open spaces, across all setting types, as a core element of the recreation and leisure experience through:

Integration of Natural Values

- plan and manage all natural areas to conserve natural values, enhance community's appreciation of the City's environment and encourage interaction with nature
- integrate the physical geography of the City into the open space network, through capitalising on major regional views and extending recreational corridors
- conserve and extend bushland linkages and wildlife corridors
- using native trees in streets connecting to creeks and river foreshores
- integrate ongoing improvements to natural corridors, rivers and creeks
- conserve and where practical, return natural hydrology and profiles to creeks.

Sustainability

- review and audit all planning for open space using Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) values (social, economic, cultural and environmental)
- prepare strategies to adapt the City's open spaces to climate change in order to maintain amenity and functionality.

Conserving Our Rich History and Cultural Heritage and Local Culture

Recognise, reflect and integrate the City's rich and diverse culture, heritage and local identity in the planning and landscape design of open space through:

Cultural Heritage

- liaise with the Aboriginal community to establish how their culture and cultural heritage can best be integrated into the City's open spaces
- establish the nature of interpretation, landscape design, bushland management, public art and performance in open space promotes the wider understanding and respect of Aboriginal Heritage
- Integrate and interpret the City's non-Aboriginal heritage in the planning and design of open space
- ensure that local identity is woven into open space at all levels of hierarchy.

Cultural Diversity

- provide facilities and opportunities in open space that meet the widest community needs but that draw on local cultural diversity for CALD

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communities. Promoting a mutual understanding and appreciation of differing cultural responses to landscape

- engage communities from all backgrounds to establish how art and interpretation will be planned, designed and managed.

Landscape Character

- identify, document, conserve and enhance (through a Landscape Character Study) the unique landscapes of the City of Ryde as core elements of open space
- identify core views, vistas and landmarks as part of the Landscape Character Study including regional views
- implement maintenance guidelines to prevent key views and vistas being obscured over time by vegetation growth.

Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations

Administer and manage open space to reflect current and forecast usage patterns and projected recreational and leisure choices through:

Administration Planning and Management

- Administration and Co-ordination: maintaining regular inter-departmental communication (including field staff) on the delivery of the IOSP
- Open Space and Public Realm Inventory: continue to update the Open Space Inventory including updated GIS mapping, addition of a Public Realm inventory
- Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines: prepare an integrated suite of guidelines (see Appendix for typical example) for all setting types and hierarchies of open space for the future
- Open Space Planning: prepare a 'Corridor Connection and Linkage Plan'
- Recreation and Leisure Programs: develop recreation and leisure programs for the City to draw on the IOSP and to foster more community use of open space
- Plans of Management and Masterplans: review and where necessary, upgrade all generic and site specific Plans of Management following completion of the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines (as above)
- Acquisition, Consolidation and Rationalisation: prepare an open space future provision plan addressing the areas of open space shortfall and duplication
- Service Levels: following an audit and cost review, update Service Level Agreements
- Maintenance Review: as part of the Service Level Agreement audit, review and update maintenance practices and intensity levels to reflect the findings of the IOSP.

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- Leases, Licenses and Allocations: in line with recommendations of the final Sportsground Allocation and Management Best Value Review (BVR) update arrangements for leasing, licensing and allocation.

Partnership Development

- Public Sector: develop a partnering strategy with other open space providers to optimise recreation opportunity and share resources and costs where mutually beneficial.
- Revenue and Expenditure: develop a financial plan to correspond with the IOSP addressing all revenue sources, works in kind, costs and cost minimisation.

Communication, Consultation and Participation

- Communications and Consultation: prepare a communications strategy to inform the community on the major elements of the IOSP and their role in its progressive implementation.
- Community Participation: expand the community's participation in stewardship of the City's open space
- Education and Awareness: involve all levels of education (schools, university, TAFE) in the care, monitoring and promotion of open spaces
- establish priorities for liaison with school principals for shared community use of facilities. Highest priorities should be in locations where there is currently a shortage of public open space.

DELIVERING THE PLAN

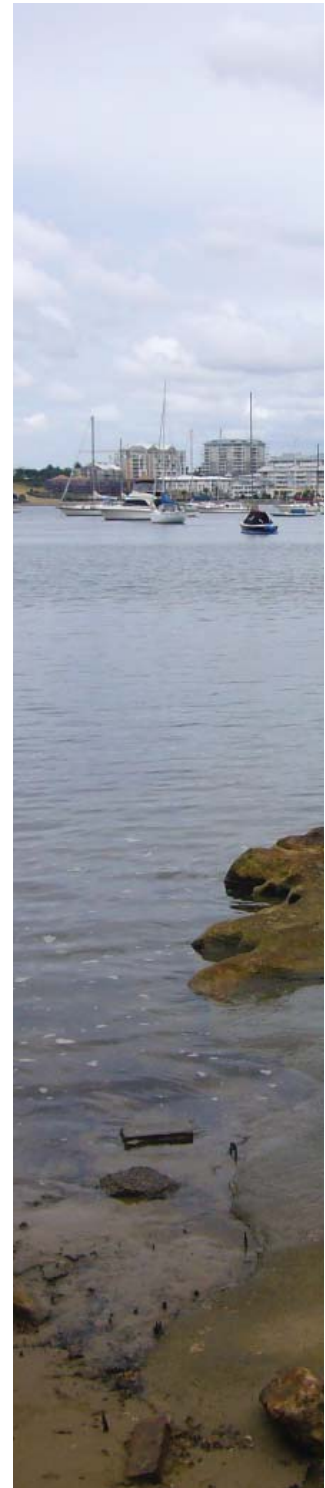
This closing section of the IOSP provides further details on specific aspects of delivering the Plan referred to in the Implementation Plan, including:

Hierarchy and Delivery

The hierarchy structure for the delivery of the Implementation Plan (see Planning and Implementation Hierarchy Flow Chart) shows the importance of the chronology and hierarchy of where each part fits and the suggested sequence for the delivery of the Implementation Plan.

Acquisition, Consolidation and Rationalisation

'Part 3: Open Space Provision' identifies and analyses various suburbs within the City where there is either a scarcity of open space to meet demands of the current and future population. Many locations were identified during discussions with the PRG members. Further analysis includes where there is a multiplicity of very small open spaces that are neither individually nor collectively offering a broad range of recreation opportunities in those neighbourhoods.



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Accordingly the need to acquire land for future open space and the importance of rationalising existing open space are both crucial initiatives arising from the IOSP. The 'Delivering The Plan' section sets out the parameters for this process and reiterates the premise that all such actions must be focused on an overall improvement in access and recreational opportunity in all of these locations.

Funding the Plan

The very nature of open space plans such as the IOSP is their coverage of both big picture strategic proposals, as well as the short term and more urgent actions.

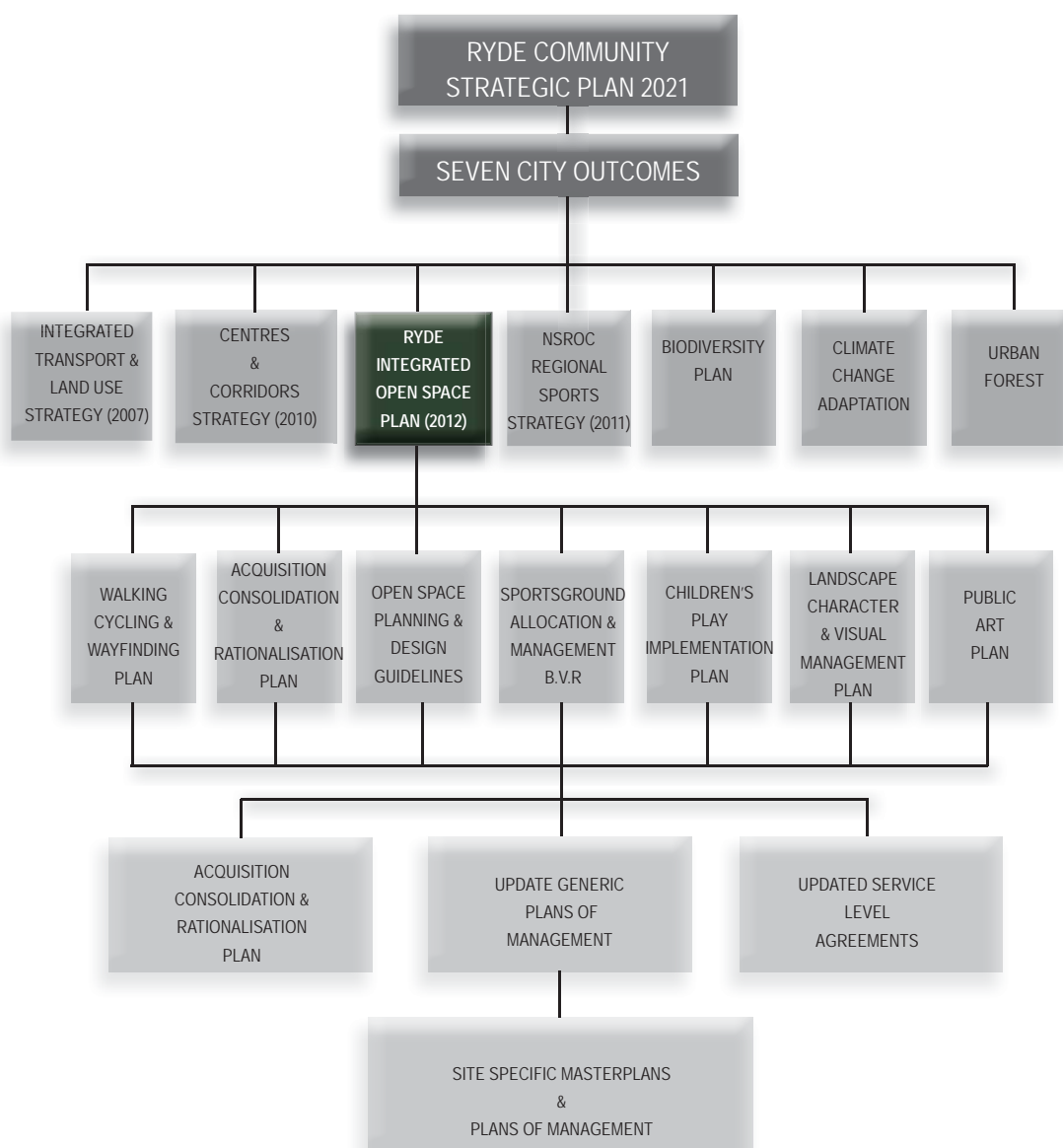
The Action Plan identifies the relative priorities of all proposals and in this section it outlines the means of generating revenue to fund these actions. The approach to minimising and better targeting expenditure is also addressed.

APPENDICES TO THE IOSP

The Appendices contain details or background information on issues or actions outlined in the body of the Plan, these include:

- Macquarie Park: an outline of recommendations for open space planning made during the IOSP to assist Council in preparing the DCP for the Macquarie Park Precinct
- Typical Planning and Design Guidelines: typical guidelines for the development of differing hierarchies of open space setting types
- Minutes of Consultation.

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Planning and Implementation Hierarchy Flow Chart

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- **Demands:** community members recorded results through consultation or survey process regarding demands for open space and recreation
- **Unmet Demand:** the absence of facilities or opportunities for recreation that have been identified by the community as being in demand
- **Needs:** an evaluation of all aspects of a community's open space and recreation needs including demand as established through community survey or consultation
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- **Barriers to Participation or Access:** factors that prevent a person or community from accessing open space or participating in leisure or recreation activities, including physical (eg. roads or rail lines preventing access), perceptual (eg. concerns over safety or knowledge of what is available), social (eg. available time), cultural (facilities may not meet cultural needs) or economic (cost of participation or access)
- **Gap Analysis:** analysis of both unmet demand and need, with an assessment of facilities or opportunities that may require to be prioritised to meet shortfall between the two
- **Local Environmental Plan (LEP):** is a legal instrument that imposes standards to control development. The purpose of an LEP is to achieve the objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- **Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA):** is an agreement entered into by a planning authority (such as Local Government or the Department of Planning and Infrastructure) and a developer where the developer agrees to provide or fund public amenities
- **Recreation:** in its broadest sense recreation is 'an activity done for pleasure or relaxation'. As such a broad description, would include activities such as watching television, reading and visiting friends, the IOSP limits recreation to those activities in the outdoors that fall within the responsibilities of Council's provision or facilitation (eg. sports, play, etc)
- **Passive Recreation:** is unstructured activities not generally requiring a high level of physical exertion Typically occurring in areas of passive

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parklands, river foreshores, bushland, wetlands, plazas, etc. Examples include picnicking, going for a walk, visiting a playground, a casual bike ride or spectating at a sports event.

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- **Size Comparisons:** The IOSP refers to two common sizes for small open space. For comparison purposes, 0.2 Ha is the equivalent of two traditional 'quarter acre house blocks' and 0.5 Ha is approximately the size of the playing area of a football field.

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in the Executive Summary:

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CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
CFG	Community Focus Groups
DP	Deposited Plans
DCP	Development Control Plan
DoP	Department of Planning
ERASS	Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey
ET	Executive Team
GIS	Geographic Information System



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Ha	Hectare
IOSP	Integrated Open Space Plan
IOSS	Integrated Open Space Services
LGA	Local Government Area
LEP	Local Environment Plan
NSROC	Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
PAMP	Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
PAYP	Pay As You Play
PCG	Project Control Group
PoM	Plan of Management
PRG	Project Reference Group
SoE Report	State of the Environment Report
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement

Introduction



INTRODUCTION



The City of Ryde provides opportunity for fostering health and wellbeing by providing a range of recreation and leisure opportunities such as playground equipment for varying ages.

‘LIFESTYLE AND OPPORTUNITY @ YOUR DOORSTEP’

With ‘lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep’, the Ryde 2021 Community Strategic Plan articulates the City’s vision for Ryde, recognising that it is experiencing an exciting and challenging period of growth and change. ‘Lifestyle’ and ‘opportunity’ are also terms inexorably linked to the issues of open space, leisure and recreation, issues at the heart of this Plan.

By embarking on an Integrated Open Space Plan (IOSP), Council has taken an active approach to the challenges it faces - an increase in the residential population as well as growth in employment, education and retail precincts. These growth scenarios have a direct relationship with and impact upon the City’s public open spaces

- how easily can families access their local parks?
- do the City’s sports facilities meet community needs?
- are there enough play facilities to accommodate new families in the area?
- where might tai-chi groups practice in solitude in the early mornings?
- do office workers have adequate places to enjoy the outdoors during their breaks?

The IOSP is an opportunity to ensure that ‘lifestyle and opportunity’ are realised for public open space for new and existing residents, workers, students and visitors to Ryde as they set about their daily lives in the City’s parks, plazas, streets and foreshores.

CLOUSTON Associates, together with OneEighty Sports and Leisure Solutions P/L, have prepared this IOSP to assist Council in planning and managing public open space in the City of Ryde. The Plan has engaged the City’s residents and key stakeholders in its preparation and articulates their hopes and aspirations.

As it is realised, the IOSP will ensure that the City is recognised by residents, visitors and businesses as the place to be, where a diversity of open space and recreation opportunities are available close to where people live, work and play.

SCOPE OF THE IOSP

The IOSP addresses the open space needs of current and future residents, visitors to and users of the City’s public open space. It assesses and analyses open space quantity and quality, the varied functions and significance of existing parks and the recreation and leisure needs of the local community and other users.

The Plan considers the wider corporate objectives of the City of Ryde, Council’s health and fitness initiatives and the role of open spaces in helping to achieve these initiatives. The Plan sets out an Commitment Statement, reflecting the aspirations of the community for the City’s open space and its contribution to their wellbeing and a suite of Objectives which set the framework for a detailed Implementation Plan.

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While the IOSP necessarily addresses various aspects of recreation and leisure, its primary focus is upon the public open spaces that provide the venues and settings for such activities and pastimes. Future recreation programs are to be initiated by Council and are outside the scope of the IOSP.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the IOSP recognises the need to address the types and distribution of open space across the City, the recreational, environmental, social and connectivity values of that space, linked to a community engaged with Council in its future planning, improvement and sustainable management.

The aims of the IOSP are to:

- establish a clear understanding of the types of open space and their distribution across the City
- recognise the recreational, environmental and social values of open space
- establish a clear understanding of stakeholder and community needs in relation to open space
- establish clear linkages and corridors between key points of interest, town centres and transport nodes and suggest enhancements
- identify future actions to ensure that the values of open space are sustainably managed
- inform an open space enhancement program to improve facilities and encourage their use.

The objectives of the IOSP are to:

- establish a policy framework for open space
- understand the values, needs and aspirations of the Ryde community, visitors to the City and other users whilst promoting greater social inclusion
- ensure open spaces meet the needs of the Ryde community and improve open space provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety
- recommend sustainable management and maintenance actions
- ensure open spaces enhance the quality of the local environment, whilst understanding and promoting natural and cultural heritage values
- be inclusive and embody the principles of safe design
- be innovative and offer opportunities for education, health and wellbeing
- improve linkages within and between the open space networks
- provide a clear framework for investment priorities and actions to improve open space connections and provisions
- offer imaginative and innovative techniques for the future planning and design of the City's open spaces.



Eastwood Park is a successful example of a park that accommodates multiple user groups.

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PROJECT METHODOLOGY AND CHRONOLOGY

Methodology for the IOSP involved the following activities in its preparation and development:

- initial briefing by Council's Project Control Group (PCG) to review details of scope, program and consultation strategy. This was later followed up by a second meeting to discuss data gaps, current administration of open space and recreation in the City and Council's structure of open space categorisation
- review of all existing policies, mapping, data and documents provided by Council
- research of other current documents and strategies for open space and recreation, Government guidelines and policies, non-Government initiatives and funding opportunities
- site visits, accompanied by Council officers, to some of the major open space parks and reserves. Site visits included a selection of the smaller reserves in the Local Government Area (LGA)
- a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of the City's open spaces
- progressive preparation of Stage 1-5 Reports and associated consultation for each stage
- community consultation and workshops held throughout the project.

The IOSP has been undertaken in six stages over a period of 11 months, during which time Council has undertaken related community consultation for the project. Stages 1-5 of the project as described below have entailed the preparation of stand alone reports, building to the preparation of the Implementation Plan that includes the section Delivering The Plan.

- Stage 1: Project Initiation and Establishment
- Stage 2: Review and Evaluate
- Stage 3: Open Space Provision
- Stage 4: Open Space Needs and Demands
- Stage 5: Open Space Objectives
- Stage 6: IOSP Implementation Plan.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Council managed the consultation program for the IOSP in line with their Community Engagement Policy 'Your City Your Voice'. Following the review of previous community consultations and stakeholder surveys (refer to Part 4: Needs and Demands), Council and CLOUSTON Associates conducted the following internal consultation process:

- Project Reference Group: including Councillors and community members who expressed an interest to be involved in the IOSP

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- Advisory Committees: meetings included community members with specific interests associated with open space and recreation (eg. access, environment, cultural heritage, etc)
- Councillors: members who were currently elected and serving the City.

Extensive internal consultation, including workshops conducted throughout the project provided valuable local knowledge and feedback for the IOSP. Consultation processes undertaken include the following:

- seven meetings with the Project Control Group (PCG): members represented by Community Life and Public Works Staff of the City of Ryde
- two meetings with the Executive Team (ET): members represented by the General Manager of Council and Council Group Managers
- two workshops with Councillors
- two workshops with Council Field Staff: represented by outdoor staff with on-the-ground knowledge of the City's open space
- two workshops with Council Office Staff: represented by indoor staff with administrative and statistical knowledge of the City's open space.

External consultation of the broader community include the following:

- five meetings with the PRG: members represented by Councillors, City of Ryde staff, local residents with young families, bushcare, bio-diversity and connectivity experts, social workers, mental health workers
- one workshop with the Advisory Committee: represented by invited members of the community who came together to discuss open space and who were involved in local business and economy, community groups, social clubs, sports clubs, access, climate change, heritage, traffic, Macquarie Park Forum, volunteers, companion animals, community safety and individual, actively involved citizens
- meetings with Community Focus Groups (CFG): members represented the local community who responded to open invitation
- flyers distributed at the Granny Smith Festival
- consultation and project progress information provided on Council's website
- informal chat/information gathering with local youth.

In 2012 the draft IOSP will go on public exhibition at the Council offices for further community comment and feedback prior to finalisation of the IOSP.



There are extensive sports facilities throughout the City of Ryde providing for a wide range of sports codes.

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LEP	Local Environment Plan

INTRODUCTION

NSROC	Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
PAMP	Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
PAYP	Pay As You Play
PCG	Project Control Group
PoM	Plan of Management
PRG	Project Reference Group
SoE Report	State of the Environment Report
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement

Part 1: Background



Putney Park playground features a large climbing frame which forms part of the combination equipment in this regional park.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The City of Ryde is located 12 kilometres north-west of central Sydney and covering an area of 40,651 square kilometres, with much of its boundaries defined by the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers (refer to Figure BR.01 and BR.02). There are 16 suburbs within the City* with a mix of residential living, business, retail and educational centres and incorporating a range of open spaces including bushland, sports facilities, passive parklands, recreational corridors, river and creek foreshores and areas of historical significance. The suburbs comprise:

Chatswood West (Willoughby)*	Marsfield
Denistone*	Meadowbank
Denistone East*	Melrose Park (adjoining Parramatta)
Denistone West*	North Ryde
East Ryde	Putney
Eastwood (adjoining Hornsby)	Ryde
Gladesville (adjoining Hunters Hill)	Tennyson Point*
Macquarie Park	West Ryde



Ryde Park located on Blaxland Road, Ryde is a successful regional park with facilities for shared use that include formal sports, playgrounds and passive recreation.



ELS Hall Park with the new indoor sport facility. There is a lack of integration with adjoining sports fields on two sides of the building

HISTORY OF OPEN SPACE PLANNING IN THE CITY

Council has compiled an extensive range of background documents that are relevant to the IOSP. While a number of these documents are more detailed in focus and therefore of interest for general background data (refer to Bibliography), there is a number of previous reports and documents that were central to the initial analysis phase and subsequent policy and strategy development (refer to References).

Previous Open Space and Recreation Studies

In particular, the following Council documents contain important data or background analysis, even where some may also contain strategies and actions that are the subject of Council review or revision:

- Ryde Leisure Needs Study, 1991
- Generic POM Open Space (contains a Community Land Inventory), 2001
- IOSS User Satisfaction Benchmark Survey, 2002-09
- Leisure Needs Study, Final Draft 2005
- Social Plan - Social Planning Framework 2005-2010
- Parks on Track for People 2025, 2006
- Metro Strategy – Parks (Final)
- Draft Ryde Foreshore Natural and Cultural Heritage Study, Volume 1 of 2, October 2009



Glades Bay is a conservation area with Aboriginal heritage significance.



Putney Park is very popular and offers views to the water and interactive water play.

** For the purposes of the IOSP the 16 suburbs have been aggregated to 13 suburbs with the aggregated suburbs being Denistone/Denistone East/Denistone West and Chatswood West/ East Ryde/North Ryde to reflect the Census analysis used by id.profile in preparing the Community Profile.*

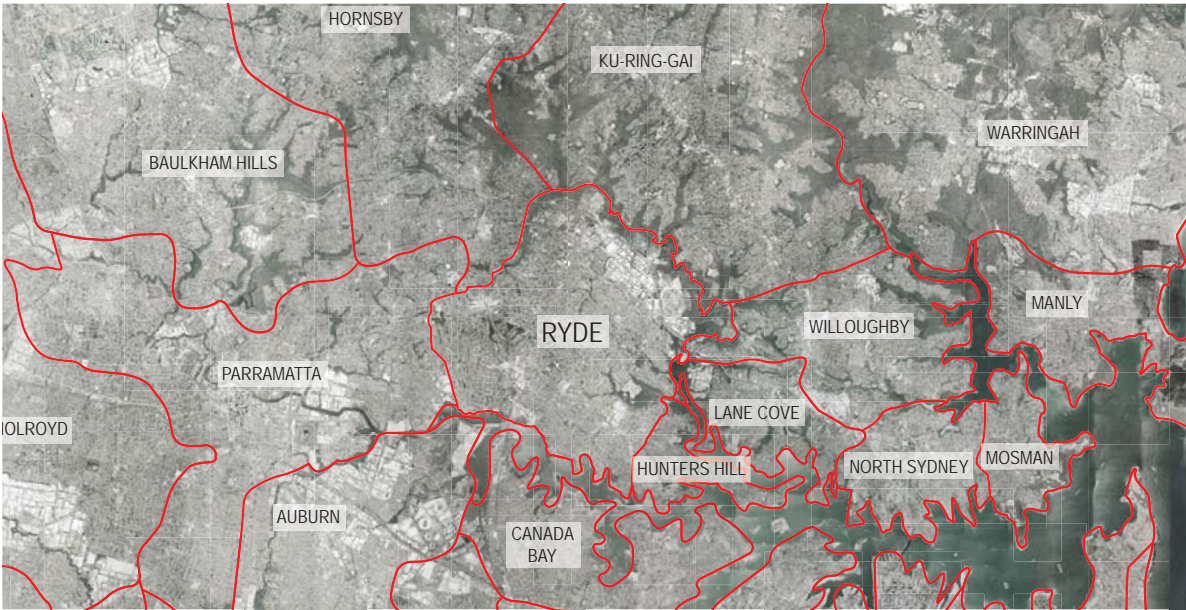


Figure BR.01 - Regional Context - showing Ryde LGA and surrounding Council boundaries
Map Source: Google Earth Professional 2010

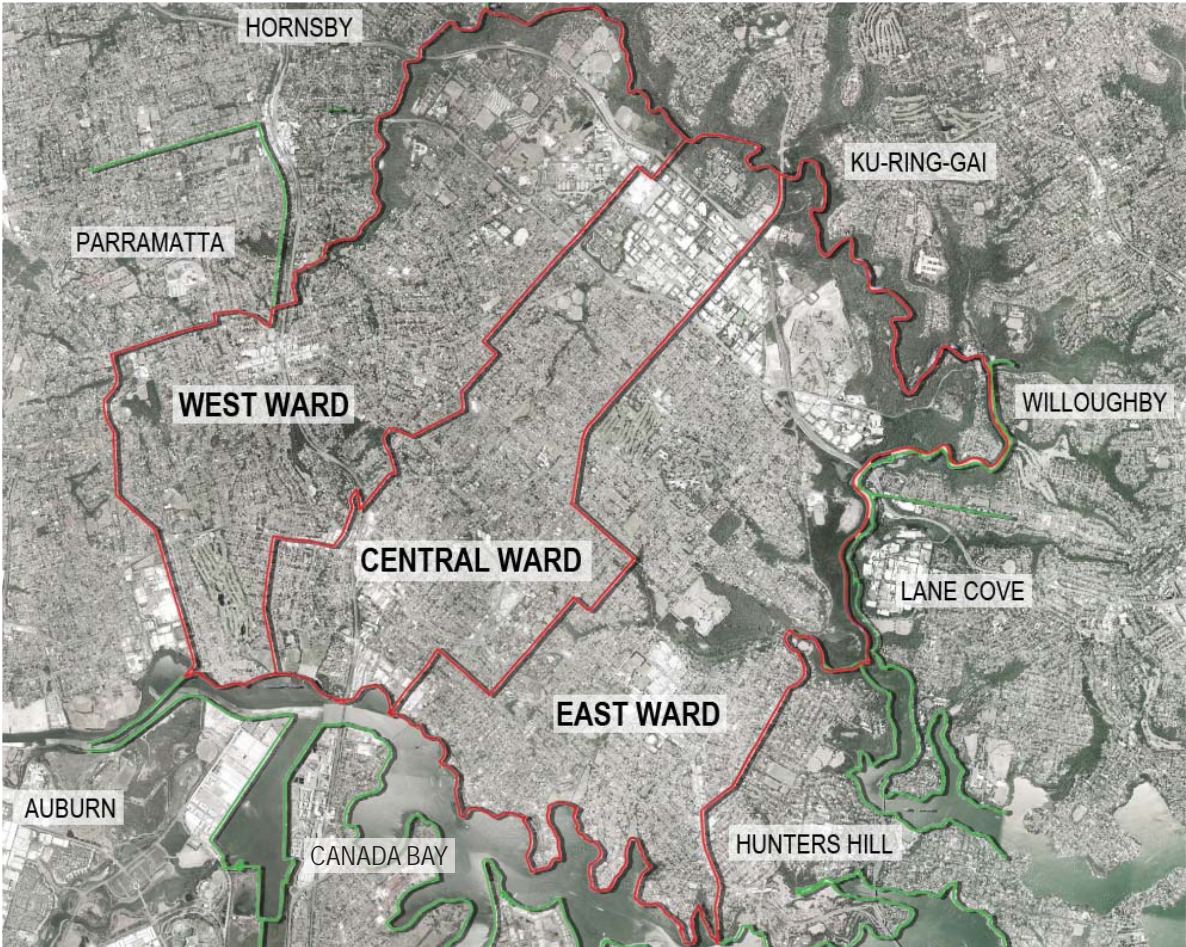


Figure BR.02 - Local Context / Study Area - showing the City of Ryde and its Ward boundaries

PART 1: BACKGROUND

- City of Ryde Community Profile, 2009
- Leisure and Recreation Needs Study, Draft 2009
- Urban Tree Management Discussion Paper, 2009
- City of Ryde Management Plan, 2010-2014
- Internal Service Level Agreements, 2010
- Open Space and Environment Strategy, 2011
- Ryde 2021 Community Strategic Plan, 2010
- City of Ryde Local Planning Study, 2010
- Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds, 2011.



CURRENT OPEN SPACE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The administration of Council provided services is organised across its suburbs in three wards East, Central and West (refer Figure BR.02 and figure BR.03). Council services come under the four administrative headings of:

- Community Life
- Public Works
- Planning and Environment
- Corporate Services.

Planning and Administration Framework

Council is currently reviewing and upgrading its internal administrative framework. With respect to the administration of public open space, the key principles being that any new structures should include:

- clear and shared goals and objectives for open space and recreation
- shared understanding of multi-faceted nature of open space and recreation
- integrated and holistic planning and management
- regular communication between departments on new initiatives and shared issues
- clear structure for management including categorisation of open space and its use and management (especially at service levels)
- ability to sustainably maintain existing and future open space
- integrated stakeholder consultation.



Ryde open space has a wealth of connection to water with the Parramatta River and Lane Cove River, and the LGA's many internal creeks.

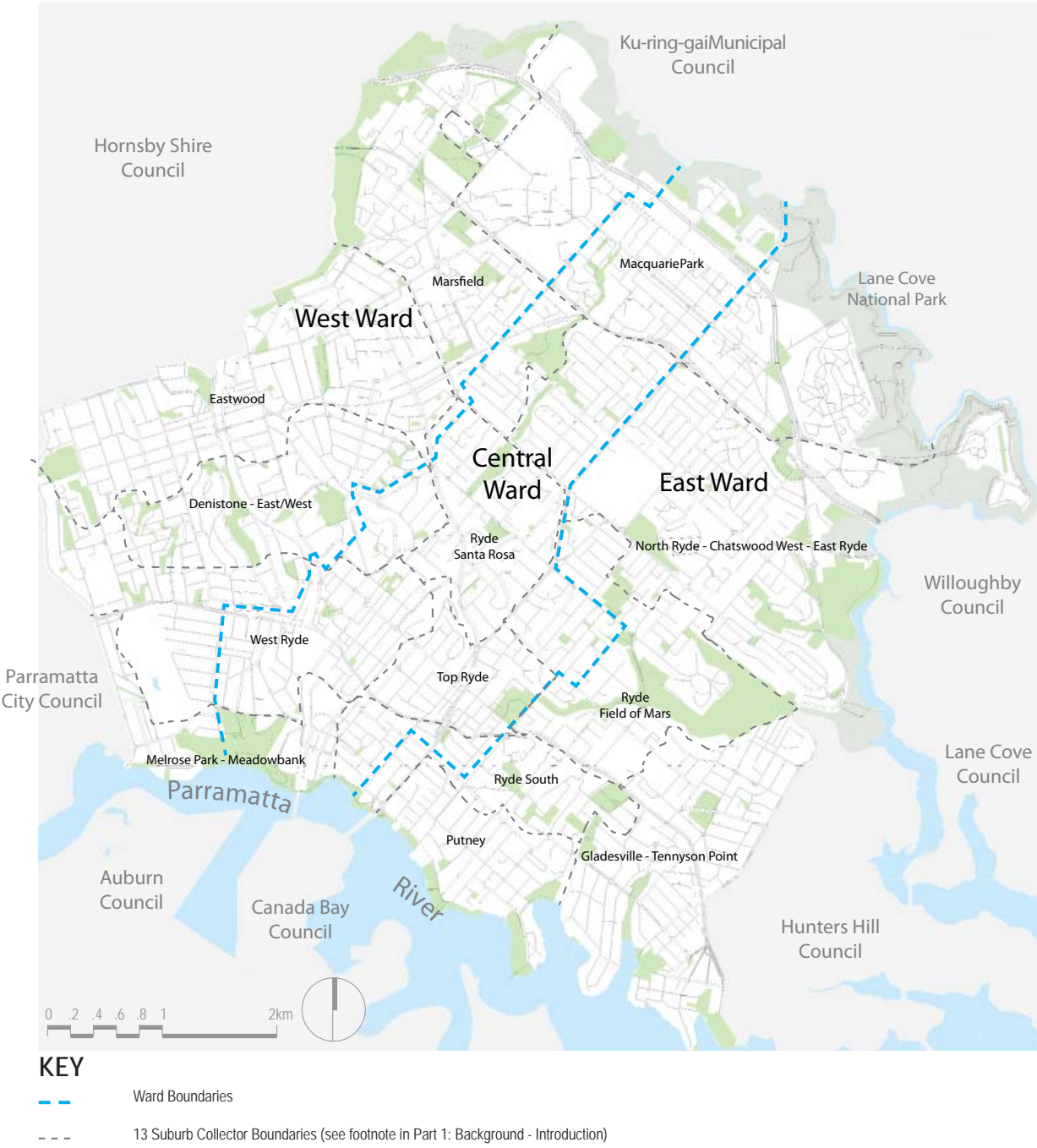


Figure BR.03 - Administrative Boundaries

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Open Space Management and Service Levels

Council's current open space service levels have been based on the proposals in the document Parks on Track for People. Council is seeking to revise Service Level Agreements in line with the IOSP and is considering improvements that include:

- a more comprehensive and centralised open space inventory linked to Council's mapping
- a wholesale review of categorisation of open space in the City (eg. setting type and relationship to Local Government Act (1993) categories) and to include hierarchy and dominate setting type
- development of key policies to drive new initiatives and strategies
- more integrated planning, management and design of open space and recreation
- performance indicators to establish how well new initiatives are performing for the community.

A review and upgrade of Service Levels Agreements will follow from the adoption of the IOSP.

Management of Sports in the City of Ryde

Council is currently reviewing the way it manages and allocates active sport facilities in its care, control and management through a Best Value Review (BVR). The BVR is in three draft volumes 1: State of Play, Volume 2: Benchmarking Report and Volume 3: Issues and Options. The key recommendations of the BVR include the need for:

- improved communications to users and associations
- users to play a greater role in limiting use at peak times to minimise impact of use on grounds
- occupancy and allocation agreements to spread use and wear and tear of grounds
- increase the availability of and carrying capacity of some grounds through means such as lighting and all weather surfaces.

PLANNING AND CORPORATE BACKGROUND

This section provides a brief overview of the principal and current planning documents and strategies that informed the analysis and recommendations at the core of the IOSP.

Ryde 2021 Community Strategic Plan

The 2021 Community Strategic Plan, adopted by Council in 2011, is a long term strategy for the Ryde community which aims to ensure that the City of Ryde lives up to the aspirations of its community, while meeting the challenges of the future. Its overall aim and vision for the City is for the recognition by its residents and investors as the place to be, where lifestyle and opportunities are available close to where people live, work and play.

This is encapsulated by the City's Vision:

City of Ryde - The place to be for lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep.



Field of Mars Reserve on Strangers Creek. The new board walk is well designed and improves universal access to this important bushland open space.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

As a control measure of the ongoing success of the 2021 Community Strategic Plan the budgets will be reviewed by Council every four years under the four year Delivery Plan and a one year Operational Plan. The 21 goals and 59 strategies of the 2021 Community Strategic Plan over the four year Delivery Plan come under the following 7 City Outcomes:

- a City of Connections
- a City of Harmony and Culture
- a City of Progressive Leadership
- a City of Liveable Neighbourhoods
- a City of Well Being
- a City of Prosperity
- a City of Environmental Sensitivity.

Part 5: Objectives provides a detailed discussion on how the IOSP ties into the delivery of the City's Vision and meets the goals and strategies of the 7 City Outcomes.

TRENDS IN LEISURE AND RECREATION

With increased understanding of the importance of health and wellbeing for our communities has come a renewed appreciation of these values and a corresponding growth in research and data to demonstrate the critical economic significance of high quality open space and recreation opportunity for all communities. There is now compelling evidence to show that day-to-day participation in leisure and recreation can:

- assist prevention of lifestyle diseases
- aid recovery from disease and major surgery
- reduce anxiety and depression
- reduce heat island effects in urban environments
- minimise environmental impacts of major natural events (eg. flooding, bushfire)
- enhance property values when in proximity.

At a national, metropolitan and local level many of these benefits are being realised, but equally current trends in recreation and leisure participation are presenting challenges to open space providers and managers that directly bear on plans such as the IOSP. Set out below is a brief summary of these trends and issues.

National Trends in Leisure and Recreation Participation

Trends in recreation participation and facility use across Australia include:

- a swing from outdoor team sports to individual fitness and social sport
- substantial growth in indoor sport and recreation
- growth in year-round swimming
- a measurable decline in participation in sport by young women, but increasing participation by women and girls in traditional male sports such as AFL, soccer, rugby union and rugby league

PART 1: BACKGROUND

- increasing impact of design technology on leisure choices, such as computer games and new recreational equipment. Associated with this a decreasing involvement by young people (adolescents and young adults) in active recreation activities, and an increase in indoor 'passive' activities such as computer use and watching television and DVDs
- apparent decline in the physical activity levels of children causing concerns about the increase in obesity
- changes in participation in competitive sport (greater diversity of codes, reduced younger participation, greater participation in seniors and masters sports) and more participation in informal recreation activities
- continuing emergence of new activities as a result of overseas trends, cultural diversity, etc (eg. cultural events, dancing, outdoor table tennis)
- continual impacts on the number of volunteers involved in leisure, mainly due to work, family commitments and litigation concerns, resulting in a declining number of volunteers and consequently an increase in employment of administrators, coaches and other officials
- growth in the number of events and participation in sports tourism, including Masters events and State and National championships catering for all ages
- a gradual ageing of the population as life expectancy increases, birth rates stay low, and "baby boomers" grow older, with longer periods of later life with decreasing physical activity participation
- increase in the proportion of families with two parents working full time (with probable reduced time for leisure)
- flexibility in the times that people enjoy their recreation, as demands on time increase and work practices change. Greater demand for indoor facilities that are available all day, every day of the year
- changes in recreation preferences towards newer, more varied activities which offer flexibility and are available in more time periods. Construction of multi-purpose recreation complexes, combining facilities for indoor sport, weights and fitness training, swimming and other recreation activities. Such facilities are increasingly being funded and/or operated by the private sector.

National Trends in Sports Participation

With respect to participation in sports specifically the following are common influencing factors:

- age: increasing numbers of the community are staying more active later in life with more specific recreation needs
- disability: increase in people with disabilities participating in sport
- customers not members: there is a decrease in those wishing to be members of sports organisations and the concept of 'Pay as You Play' (PAYP) is growing in popularity

PART 1: BACKGROUND



While many playgrounds across the LGA are contemporary and of a high standard, the absence of an overall guiding document creates a homogeneity of play that does not always relate to community need

- expanding codes and variations: many sports are diversifying their offer to appeal to more time constrained participants or differing age groups
- social recreation: an increase in whole of family and social dimensions of sport is evident
- preference for facilities: popularity of court-based sports is growing
- traditional to new: a growing trend is appearing for seeking excitement through sport and leisure, rather than skills development
- safety and liability: increasing legislative framework and community concern on how safety affects services and facilities is reducing volunteerism and participation in some sports
- clubs' dependence on voluntary labour and support will require them to provide greater incentives and better management practices to attract volunteers. Australians are less likely to spend their time volunteering now than they were during the 1980s
- land availability: cities and especially the inner city suburbs are particularly short of new land to meet demands of increasing populations
- overlapping sporting seasons: many sports are extending their seasons with impacts on other codes and the capacity of facilities to meet this additional use
- increasing popularity of 'extreme sports' such as skateboarding, rollerblading and BMX riding has led to the development of large skate parks by local councils. Extreme sports continue to gain public acceptance, with skate parks being incorporated into prominent and highly used parks and reserves.

Recreation Trends Across Sydney and the City of Ryde

In Sydney and the City of Ryde, where a number of social, development and environmental trends are placing added pressure on parks and public places which include:

- increasing residential and working population
- loss of private space for recreation in progressively smaller backyards and for the increasing number of apartment dwellers
- pressure on available leisure time created by long working hours (including travel time to and from work and travel time to get to a park)
- increasing vehicle congestion and availability of access to safe pedestrian crossings making cycle and pedestrian access to parks and reserves more difficult
- changing community perceptions of child safety in public places
- increasing diversity of sports codes, age ranges and gender participation, placing pressure on existing sports facilities
- increase in obesity (including childhood obesity) with parallel increase in personal fitness programs
- enhanced awareness of the health risks of sun damage.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Implications for the IOSP

As is evident from the foregoing analysis, there are both broad trends in national and international participation in leisure and recreation as well as localised variations across Sydney and the City of Ryde.

The IOSP addresses the issues and opportunities that these trends generate for the City through strategic responses which ensure that public open spaces:

- are meaningful and appealing to the community
- are multi-functional and adaptable
- provide diverse recreational opportunities
- encourage social interaction
- promote health and wellbeing for its community
- provide equity and accessibility
- embody sustainability (environmental, social, cultural and economic).

BENEFITS AND VALUES OF OPEN SPACE

Great parks, squares and streets make for a better quality of life. A network of well-designed and cared-for open spaces adds to the character of places where people want to live, work and visit.

Open spaces also provide the vital green infrastructure that enable us to deal with storm water or mitigate and adapt to climate change while providing wildlife habitats, sporting facilities or beautiful parks and meeting spaces.

Open space provides a range of social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits such as through:

- providing places for the community to meet and participate in leisure
- providing amenity and attract significant economic value to an area or region
- assisting in shaping local biodiversity and conservation values
- being a focus for physical activity with associated health and wellbeing outcomes.

Ongoing research from across the world highlights the importance of access to high quality open space as a measure of a community's health, creativity and productivity. The link therefore between a high quality open space system and a healthy and vibrant society should be a strong one, with open space providing opportunities for:

- escape from urban stress
- places for people to enjoy numerous outdoor activities
- areas for children to safely explore the natural environment
- environmental corridors

PART 1: BACKGROUND

- buffers that divide (or integrate) mixed use areas
- water catchments
- hike and bike trails and path linking networks.

These benefits can be broadly summarised under the quadruple bottom line values (social, cultural, economic and environmental) as outlined in Table BR.01.

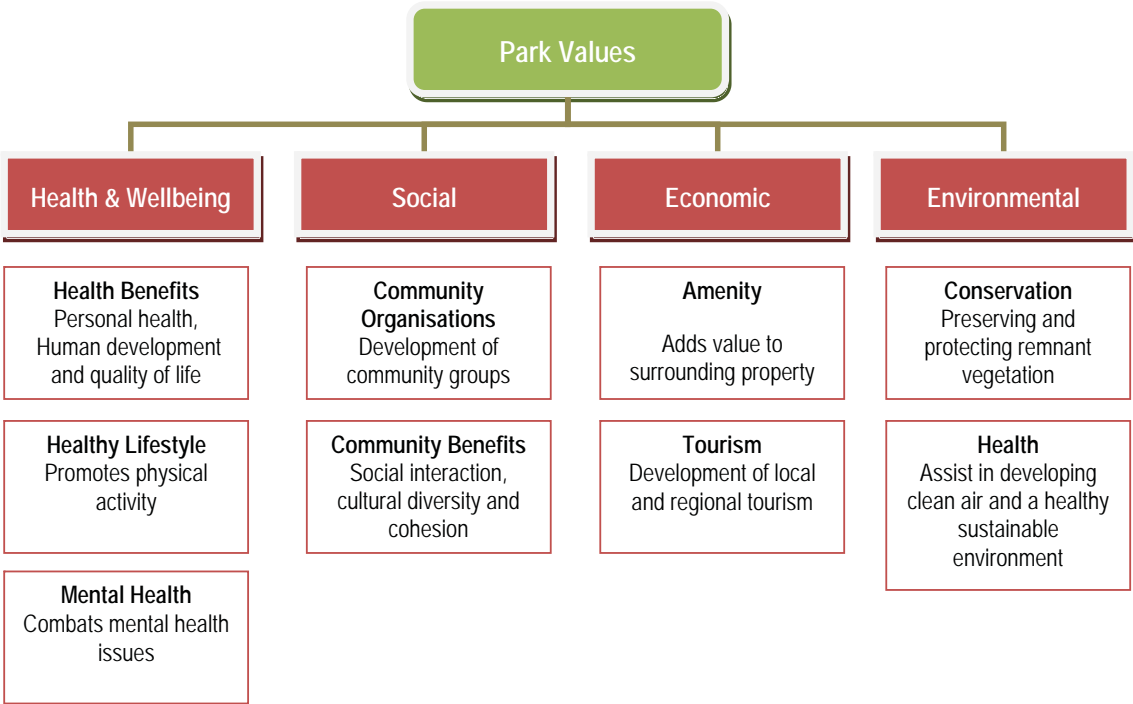


Table BR.01: Values of Parks
Source: Modified from the Sydney Urban Parks Education and Research Group Model

Outlined below is a brief description of some of the specific open space related benefits that can realise these values.

Health and Wellbeing values of Open Space

Parks are places for both structured and unstructured activity with research supporting that natural environments offer low cost preventative measures to combat public health issues and increase levels of physical activity in communities.

In Australia one in five people will experience depression and more than 6 million working days are lost as a result. In a Study of people suffering from mental illness 90% or more people indicated that green space activities had benefited their mental health and they had greater self esteem, focus of mind, were more relaxed, more motivated, enjoyed an improved quality of life and felt ‘fresh and alive’.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Social and Cultural Value of Open Space

The social and cultural value of open space is often underestimated. The following summarises some key considerations of social and cultural benefits of open space.

Sense of Place

Place making and ensuring open space forms a part of the green and urban fabric is important. Establishing well connected plazas and settings that place the pedestrian before motorised vehicles can assist in establishing a community that respects and appreciates open space, walking and connectivity. In turn, this can assist in promoting community interaction, incidental physical activity and combating social isolation.

Identifying and capitalising on a local theme through public art and sculptures within the open space network will also add to a sense of place by promoting the unique features or aspects of the City.

Playspace Development

Playspace design is a key consideration when planning for open space as the traditional 'play equipment' has dominated playground design and components. Research now supports the notion that play may not necessarily include physical equipment and can be designed into the local natural landscape.

Components, therefore, that could be considered in a playspace can include equipment, open space for free play, natural areas for exploration and special design features that promotes a more imaginative experience of play and are unique to the place. Adult or carer areas to include seating, shading and shelter to assist and create opportunity for passive surveillance of children. These aspects should be considered in a hierarchy of playspace and a plan developed that meets the communities and visitors needs.

Youth Areas

Encouraging and consulting with young people to ensure open space is designed in a manner that meets their needs is a critical aspect of open space planning. Planning for areas that are youth friendly and assist in social interaction is an important dimension of the IOSP.

Dog Parks

In recent years, dog parks have become a popular means of controlling dogs in public open space whilst at the same time offering a valuable social outlet for dogs and their owners.

Research has supported that dogs and other companion animals have become an important part of our culture and community life (see Reference B1). Companion animals provide many benefits which are difficult to quantify in monetary terms, but which have important implications for the health and welfare of humans.

Active Transport

Ensuring the open space framework links key destinations through the promotion of safe well connected networks will also encourage active transport options. This includes access modes (or travel to a destination for a purpose such as work, school, indoor recreation, sportsgrounds, gyms, etc); sub access (utilising public transport as part of a longer journey), and leisure (walking for pleasure) (see Reference B1a and B1b).

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Street networks should also be considered and where open space links are not present through a parks network, green corridors along roads considered during upgrades or development proposals.

Community Sport

Whilst there is a general trend toward unstructured activity, organised sport is still a high priority for Council and the community of Ryde. However, community sport is at a turning point and clubs and associations need to consider shared management agreements to ensure optimal use of facilities and ultimately the viability of their organisations in a competitive leisure market.

Centralising sporting infrastructure avoids duplication whilst promoting shared use agreements for quality infrastructure between the community and sporting groups and is a consideration across Australia and many western nations.

Additionally, and based on average participation rates for NSW, the likely number of players per sport for 2021 for Northern Sydney shows that soccer will remain the number one participation sport in the next 10 years (see Table BR.02). Therefore open space that can cater for this and other structured team sports must be considered.

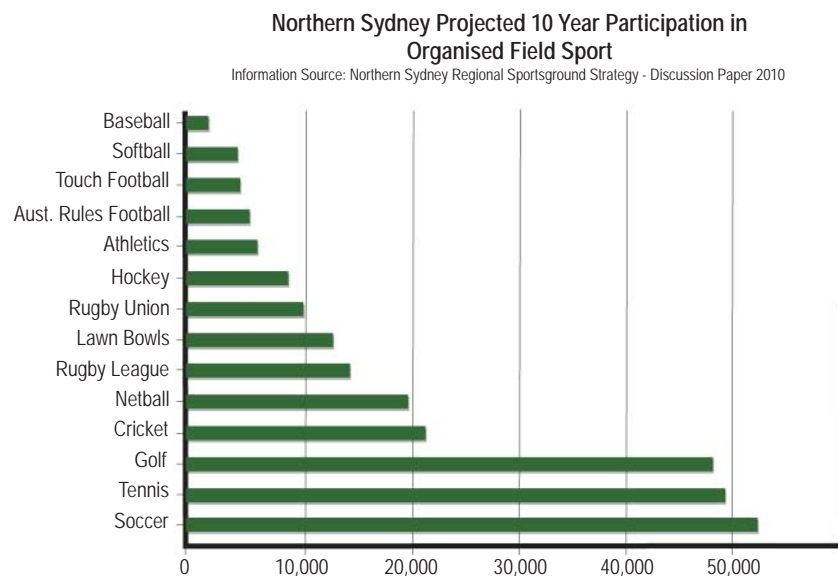


Table BR.02: Shows future participation numbers of formal sport activities over the next ten years
Source: Northern Sydney Regional Sportsground Strategy - Discussion Paper 2010

Partnerships

Encouraging shared use with other land owners such as schools and university for example, will ensure open space and opportunity is maximised for the broader community. Councils are becoming increasingly aware of forging partnerships with a number of agencies to optimise access whilst sharing maintenance costs and associated risk.

Economic Value of Open Space

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Open space, particularly in the more densely populated urban areas such as the City of Ryde is becoming increasingly 'valuable' from an economic perspective as demonstrated through recent research which reveals direct relationships between residential value and proximity to public open space (see Reference B2a and B2b).

Not only does this mean that public open space should be conserved to ensure public open space is protected, but equally that the economic benefits of open space are promoted and realised by Council, developers and the commercial business sector alike.

Environmental Value of Open Space

The environmental value of open space is now recognised both nationally and internationally as having direct impact on any community. The following benefits are a serious consideration for public open space:

- habitat conservation eg. native fauna, remnant plant communities
- environmental connectivity eg. wildlife corridors
- stormwater detention and management
- temperature control
- physical and psychological health of the community
- climate change adaptation
- air pollution absorption and reduction
- biodiversity and self-sustaining ecosystems.

BEST PRACTICE IN OPEN SPACE PLANNING

Over recent decades our understanding of what we mean by public open space, how it is used and what communities seek from their recreation and leisure experiences has evolved significantly, with a corresponding shift in planning and design directions.

The simplistic standards-based approach to open space provision that characterised open space planning for much of the 20th Century, has been progressively superseded by policies, guidelines and performance criteria that recognise the critical roles of accessibility, diversity and quality of visitor experience in meeting open space needs.

The following brief summary outlines some of the current best practice planning directions on critical considerations that also underpin the analysis, objectives and proposed actions in the IOSP.

Open Space Planning Principles

From across the world there is a wide range of research and policy that covers the core principles of open space planning and design. In Australia, one of the most recent documents to address these issues from a government and development perspective is the Landcom Open Space Design Guidelines (Ref B3). These guidelines form part of a box set, covering a range of urban planning and design topics. The Open Space

PART 1: BACKGROUND

Guidelines are structured around eight principles, proposing that the design and planning of all public open space should:

- be meaningful to place and community
- be multi-functional and adaptable
- provide diversity
- encourage social interaction
- promote health and wellbeing
- provide equity and accessibility
- embody environmental sustainability
- ensure financial sustainability.

These principles are integrated in the IOSP, particularly in the shaping of Part 5: Objectives and informing the Open Space Commitment and the headings for Part 6: Implementation Plan.

Amounts, Areas and Types of Open Space

The longstanding standard of 2.83 Ha/1000 persons for provision of open space in new communities derives from the UK National Playing Fields Association in the early 20th Century. This standard was widely adopted across Australia and has only been significantly challenged in the last two decades as being too simplistic. State Governments across Australia now adopt varying approaches to this issue, with Western Australia applying 10% of the gross area of land in all new developments and South Australia adopting 12.5% (see Reference B4).

In NSW the recently published Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government from the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (see Reference B5) recommends a default standard of 15%, which can be varied through analysis of local context. However, all of these standards apply principally to new developments and not to existing long established communities, such as exists in the City of Ryde.

For the purposes of the IOSP therefore, the assessment of the adequacy or otherwise of current and future open space provision has been based on a range of factors, including population analysis by suburb, accessibility to open space, connectivity between open spaces (eg. recreational corridors) and open space provision by other agencies (eg. National Parks).

The Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government also identifies typical sizes for varying hierarchies of open space. The recommended sizes are as follows:

- Local Parks is 0.5-2 Ha (5Ha for Outdoor Sport)
- District Parks at 2-5 ha (Outdoor Sport 5-10 Ha)
- Regional Parks at 5+Ha (10+Ha for Outdoor Sport).

For the purposes of the IOSP and the City's Open Space Inventory, the Local Government recommended sizes are changed to Level 1-4; where District is Level 1, Regional is Level

PART 1: BACKGROUND

2, Neighbourhood is Level 3 and Local is Level 4.

Accessibility and Connectivity

One of the most important considerations in ensuring that open space meets the needs of its community is the issue of access. Urban planning across Australia has progressively moved to an understanding that walking catchments largely determine people's access to local parks for day-to-day recreation needs.

While guidelines vary to some degree as to the maximum distances/time required for accessing local parks, most research suggests that a maximum 400m walking distance (ie. a maximum 10 minute walk) should be the maximum distance/time between all residences and some form of public open space. This is the standard proposed in NSW Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government (see Reference B5).

With respect to connectivity, the Guidelines also suggest that local linkages and corridors should ideally be 1km in length, 2kms for District (Level 2) and 5-10kms for Regional (Level 1). Again, these recommendations mostly apply to planning for new developments. The IOSP incorporates analysis of access to Level 4 open space based on the maximum 400m distance and identifies areas where this does not currently apply, with recommendations on how shortfall areas may be addressed.

Many existing trails in the City are Level 1 (eg. Great North Walk) or Level 2 (eg. Ryde Riverwalk) in nature and thus in total, may exceed these standards. At Level 4, existing linkages range greatly from several hundred metres in length to more than 2kms (eg. Shrimptons Creek). The IOSP, therefore consequently recommends means by which existing linkages can be extended and better connected.

Placemaking and Local Identity

Placemaking as a concept has been around for more than 30 years but over the last decade its role in the planning and design of our living environments has come to the fore, particularly within the public domain. At the park level this has resulted in planners understanding the opportunities that exist to greatly extend the visitor experience through integration of activities such as community events and celebrations, interpretation of the local environment and heritage and the incorporation of public art in landscape design.

In essence, all of these factors contribute to a sense of place and local identity (see Reference B6). Key elements in the placemaking process include:

- distinctive landscapes
- natural features
- locally distinctive built form
- streets patterns which respond to the context
- special spaces of natural or cultural significance
- skylines and roofscapes
- building materials



The Ryde Riverwalk bike and pedestrian path continues along the Parramatta River foreshore past Shepherds Bay wharf and Anderson Park which feature public artwork as part of this well lit section of the foreshore.

PART 1: BACKGROUND

- local culture and traditions
- avoiding standard solutions
- public art specific to place.

Fundamental to placemaking is the integration of community consultation and participation, working from the outset to understand the community's values of place, determining in what ways that may be conserved and enhanced and delivering those measures in partnership with the managing agency. The use of the Spaceshaper consultation process (see Reference B7), recently introduced to Australia.

In the IOSP placemaking has an important role, particularly at the planning and design stages for new parks or for parks enhancement; but as importantly placemaking also recognises that spaces for public leisure and recreation - from a contemporary community perspective - extend beyond the park to include places such as streets, civic spaces, plazas, malls, schools, etc.

Planning and Design for Sports

Research and policy development for the planning, design and management of sports facilities across Australia is still relatively limited in scope. However, the sport and recreation agencies of the State Governments of South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland and NSW are all involved with various local governments in regional and district planning of sports strategies and facilities.

From these initiatives and from parallel processes in the United Kingdom (eg. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (see Reference B8)) a number of common principles are emerging that include:

- the need to plan sport at a regional as well as local level, where a number of Local Governments work together with State Government to avoid duplication and achieve strategic outcomes
- the creation of a clear hierarchy of sports facilities ranging from sports hubs or precincts that cater to high level sports provision at a regional or sub-regional level, through district level facilities usually providing for sports within a local government area or adjoining suburbs to local open spaces where sports infrastructure is limited but spaces are suitable for training, junior sport and/or informal kickabout
- levels of sports infrastructure development, carrying capacity, quality of provision, tenure, and allocation that relate directly to the hierarchies as described above
- the need to match Service Level Agreements to the hierarchy of sports settings and associated carrying capacity
- multi-using of space and facilities, involving field and court layouts that suit a wide range of sports and codes or amenity buildings that are shared by a number of clubs, associations or sports across seasons and which can be readily adapted to changes in sports trends and local demography
- management models that involve clubs and associations in defined and

Part 2 : Context



PART 2: CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

Part 2: Context provides the following information and analysis that has been used to inform the Implementation Plan:

- planning context (eg. principle planning documents and strategies)
- the City's population and demographics
- barriers and permeability
- transport, connections and corridors
- natural environment and cultural heritage.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

The Ryde Local Government Area (LGA) is bordered immediately by six other Councils (being those of Parramatta, Hornsby, Willoughby, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai and Hunters Hill) and shares a boundary on the Parramatta River with two other Councils, Canada Bay and Auburn (refer to Figures BR.01, BR.02 and CO.01).

The City of Ryde is part of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC), which comprises seven Councils, namely Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby.

The vision for the Inner North Subregion will involve several key objectives that will directly affect the City in, among others, the following ways:

- strengthening the global economic corridor - North Sydney to Macquarie Park
- reinforcing the subregion's knowledge assets by building on the regions assets eg. Macquarie University, TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute
- encouraging use of public transport by enhancing rail links with a series of rail infrastructure eg. three new stations at Macquarie Park
- protecting and promoting the harbour and bushland setting eg. protection of Parramatta River foreshore lands.

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

There are a range of Government planning policies and frameworks relevant to the IOSP, the principal ones of which are summarised below.

The Sydney Metropolitan Strategy 2036

In 2010, the NSW Department of Planning published the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy 2036 (updating the 2005 Strategy under the title of Sydney – City of Cities). The Strategy foresees an increased population for Sydney of 1.7 million, with the Inner North Subregion accounting for 20,000 new dwellings and 54,000 new jobs.

At the metropolitan scale, the strategy recognises the role of Macquarie Park as part of the Global Economic corridor and identifies a Long Term Corridor For Investigation (Transport and Urban Renewal that links the Macquarie Park area to Homebush Bay).



Northern Regional Organisation of Councils
Source: <http://nsroc.com.au/>

PART 2: CONTEXT

Of most relevance to the IOSP is the supporting document to the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy entitled 'Park Public Places and Culture - Key Directions'. The section of this document is focused on three major directions and associated initiatives that are proposed to be adopted by both State and Local Government. These three major directions are:

- increase access to quality parks and public spaces
- provide a diverse mix of parks and public spaces
- improve Sydney's major sports and cultural event facilities.

The key implications of these directions for the IOSP include:

- the need to address the increased leisure and recreation needs of a growing residential population
- the importance of open space for the growing working population of Macquarie Park
- the growing demand for open space created by increased high density living and smaller backyards.

Open Space in the Inner North Subregion

Public open space across the Inner North Subregion as described in the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy, in which the City lies, reveals that 19% of the subregion's total land area is in open space, of which 54% of this is natural area/bushland.

In general, these characteristics are not untypical of the City of Ryde itself with the total land area in open space being 23% passive recreation, 13% active and 12% other open space (eg. golf course). A significant part of the City's open space is accounted for in natural areas (eg. Lane Cove National Park and Field of Mars Reserve), much of which is of regional significance.

Other characteristics of open space in the Inner Northern Subregion are noted as follows:

- the Subregion is generally well serviced by open space – within a 10 minute walk of most areas
- active parks and bushland areas are well distributed, providing good access for residents
- bushland is concentrated along creeklines and river foreshores
- access to bushland open space is limited in some parts by steep topography
- an increasing demand for development of regional sport facility hubs
- a shortage of facilities to meet demands of some age groups for more specific sports (eg. youth skate/bmx facilities)
- a need for more informal, family orientated areas is demonstrated.

PART 2: CONTEXT

Sydney Regional Recreation Trails Framework

The Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreational Trails Update 2010 (CLOUSTON Associates) identifies a number of regional trails that are either complete or in need of extension across Metropolitan Sydney. The trails of relevance to the City include the Regional Trails:

- Ryde Riverwalk (Trail 5.7) which includes the section to Kissing Point completed since 2005
- Meadowbank to Lane Cove (Trail 3.7) which is part of the Walking Volunteers Harbour Circle route.

The following subregional walks are also identified in the Plan:

- Lane Cove River to Ryde (Trail 3.17)
- Shrimptons Creek Trail (Trail 3.23).

In recognition of the significance of these trails, the City has focused on improving and extending trails along the Parramatta River. The Ryde Riverwalk, an 8 kilometre river foreshore pathway that links Morrison Bay and Glades Bay Parks, is a \$1.6 million partnership between the City and the State Government to improve public access to parks, trails, heritage sites and transport hubs along the river foreshore.

The pedestrian and cycle pathway will be complemented by new foreshore parks such as the Ryde Wharf Reserve, Anderson Park and Helene Park. Much of this work has been directly funded through Section 94 as part of major residential development on the adjoining former industrial sites and also through 'Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program' and Metropolitan Greenspace grants from the NSW State Government.

Northern Sydney Regional Sportsground Strategy – Discussion Paper

This paper, prepared for the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) summarises many of the challenges faced by these Councils in providing facilities for and promoting sports across the region. In particular, the paper identifies the issues of:

- the increasing range of sports being pursued by residents in the region
- the growing number of people involved in sport
- the pressure on fields and courts created by the above; most sports are now at capacity
- the growth of Pay As You Play (PAYP) and social sports
- increasingly overlapping seasons
- increasing competition for space for pre-season competitions and midweek training
- pricing policies that do not disadvantage minor or establishing sports.

The Discussion Paper acknowledges the pressures councils face from clubs and associations and the degree to which associations plan competition across the City boundaries. The Paper seeks to provide a collective strategic approach to sports provision that ensures equity and optimises opportunities across all sports.



KEY

CITY OF RYDE

- National Park (NPWS)
- City of Ryde Open Space

OTHER COUNCILS' OPEN SPACE

Within approximately 2km of City of Ryde Boundary

- Passive Parklands
- Sports
- Natural / Bushland

Figure CO.01 Existing open space in City of Ryde and surrounding councils

PART 2: CONTEXT

Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds (Draft)

To establish how these opportunities might be realised at a local level and to establish whether Council is providing best value for sports, the City commissioned in 2011 a Best Value Review (BVR). The key findings of the BVR with implications for the IOSP include:

- addressing shortcomings in internal administration
- improving sportsfield allocation systems
- improving communications with associations and clubs
- providing a strategic framework through the IOSP to inform carrying capacity of fields and a hierarchy of facility scale and quality.

Open Space and Recreation in Adjoining Council LGAs

The six council areas that adjoin the City have highly varied physical and urban geographies but all have reserves of regional significance with user catchments that include the City's residents (refer to Figure CO.01).

Regional open space of significance within the adjoining council areas includes:

- Sydney Olympic Parklands at Homebush Bay
- Parramatta River and its foreshore trail links east and west into the Parramatta and Hunters Hill councils
- Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garrigal National Parks (Ku-ring-gai)
- Ku-ring-gai Bicentennial Park (Ku-ring-gai)
- Lane Cove National Park (NPWS)
- Lake Parramatta Reserve (Parramatta City)
- Parramatta Park (Parramatta City)
- Majors Bay Reserve (Canada Bay)
- Wyatt Park (Auburn)
- Flat Rock Creek (Willoughby)
- Cockatoo Island (Sydney Harbour Trust)
- Pennant Hills Park (Hornsby Shire).



PART 2: CONTEXT

Regional trails of significance that lie within adjoining council areas include:

- Great North Walk (Sydney to Newcastle)
- Bay to Bay Walk/Cycleway (Botany Bay to Homebush Bay)
- Duck River Walk (Auburn)
- River Foreshore Trail (Sydney Olympic Parklands).

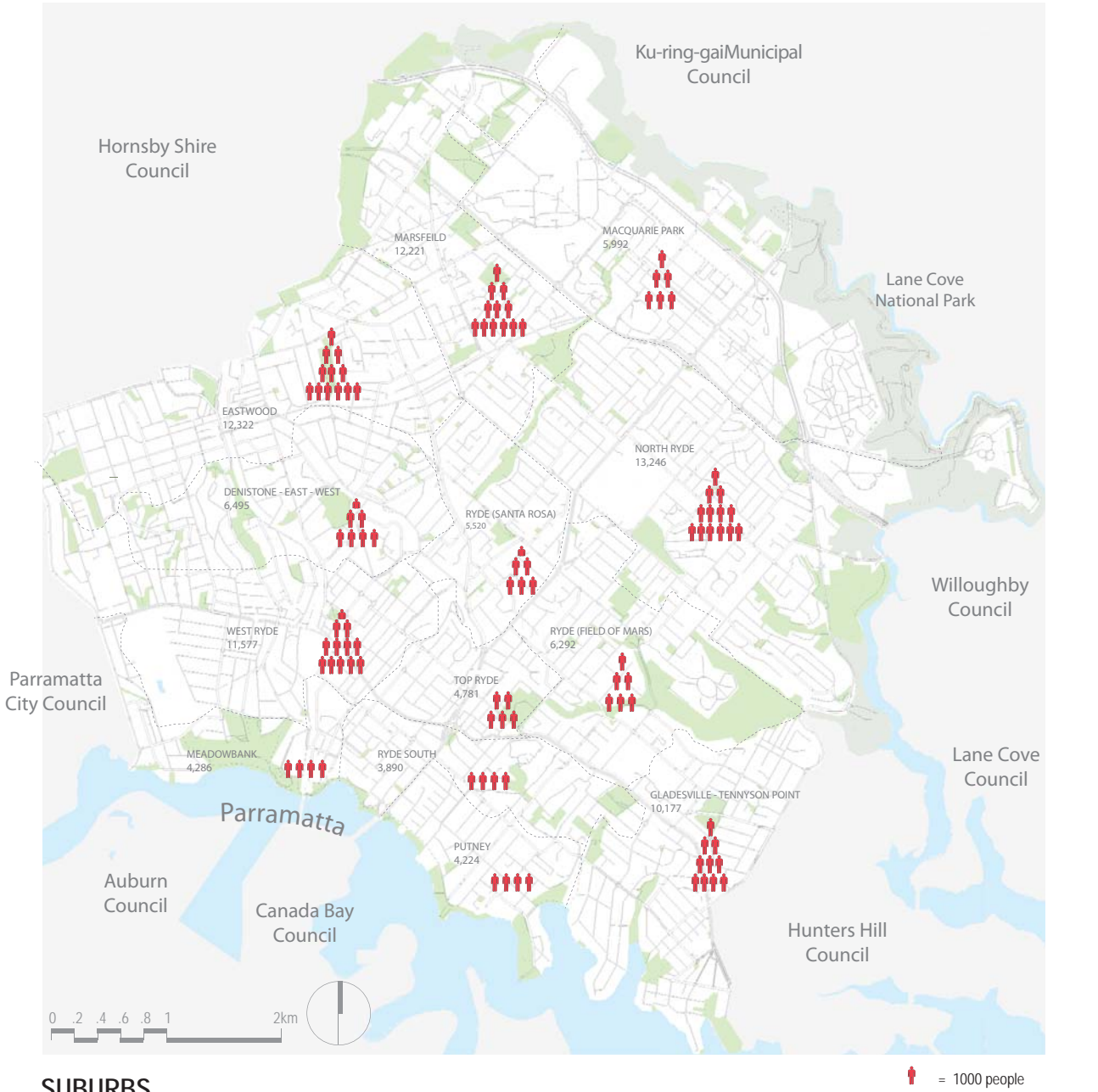
Of perhaps most significance to the IOSP is that a number of these open spaces lie on river foreshores or in creek and bushland corridors. As the City's trail system becomes extended, many of these reserves are becoming increasingly accessible from the City via off-road paths and cycleways.

THE CITY'S PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The principal instrument for planning in the City of Ryde is the Local Environment Plan (LEP). An LEP provides a standard format set by the Department of Planning that specifies land use zones, uses that may be permitted in those zones, planning provision and definitions.

In December 2010 the Draft 2011 LEP was submitted to the Department of Planning with a request to allow for formal exhibition under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979.

The Draft Ryde LEP 2011 is based on the City of Ryde Local Planning Study (2010) that was adopted by Council in December 2010. The DLEP is a comprehensive LEP that looks to the future development of Ryde for the next ten years and is currently on exhibition for community comment.



SUBURBS

Denistone - East - West :	6,495 (6.5%)	Meadowbank :	4,286 (4.5%)	Ryde (South) :	3,890 (4%)
Eastwood :	12,322 (12%)	North Ryde :	13,246 (13%)	Ryde (Top Ryde) :	4,781 (5%)
Gladesville - Tennyson Point :	10,177 (10%)	Putney :	4,224 (4%)	West Ryde :	11,577 (11.5%)
Macquarie Park :	5,992 (6%)	Ryde (Field of Mars) :	6,292 (6%)		
Marsfield :	12,221 (12%)	Ryde (Santa Rosa) :	5,520 (5.5%)		

Figure CO.02 - Existing population by suburb (2006)

PART 2: CONTEXT

THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE

The City of Ryde continues to experience population growth and a changing demographic with implications for the planning of open space to meet this growth. The most recent population data analysed by the company profile.id. confirms that as at 30 June 2009, the current population of the City of Ryde stands at 106,289. This indicates a 1.37% increase from the previous year.

The Population Today

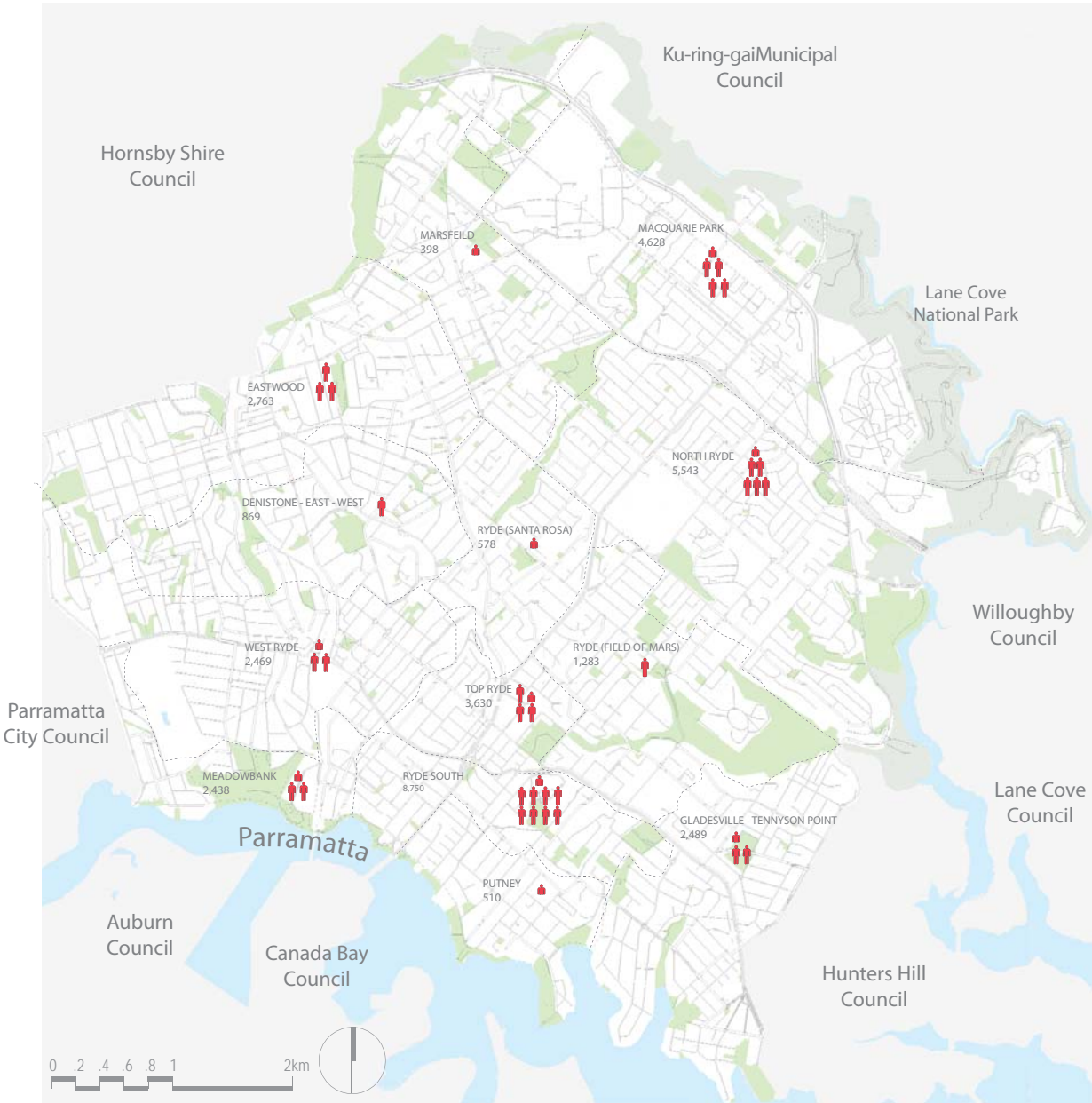
Table CO.01 illustrates the population of Ryde captured during the 2006 and 2001 census (refer to Figures CO.02 and CO.03), excluding overseas visitors. Comparison is made with the overall Sydney population statistics.

Key Statistic	2006				2001			
	Ryde	%	Sydney	%	Ryde	%	Sydney	%
Total population	96,951	-	4,119,189	-	94,483	-	3,961,451	-
Males	46,778	48.25	2,028,728	49.25	45,575	48.24	1,951,516	49.26
Females	50,173	51.75	2,090,461	50.75	48,908	51.76	2,009,935	50.74
Indigenous population	268	0.28	43,517	1.06	234	0.25	38,377	0.97
Australian born	53,750	55.44	2,486,709	60.37	56,353	59.64	2,467,300	62.28
Overseas born	36,465	37.61	1,307,412	31.74	33,571	35.53	1,235,859	31.20
Australian citizens	77,965	80.42	3,404,221	82.64	79,434	84.07	3,343,658	84.40
Australian citizens aged 18+	61,171	63.09	2,564,024	62.25	62,681	66.34	2,510,173	63.36
Infants 0 to 4 years	5,596	5.77	270,819	6.57	5,629	5.96	265,552	6.70
Children 5 to 17 years	13,689	14.12	697,821	16.94	13,713	14.51	695,610	17.56
Adults 18 to 64 years	63,559	65.56	2,644,571	64.20	61,393	64.98	2,527,662	63.81
Mature adults 65 to 84 years	12,059	12.44	439,906	10.68	11,983	12.68	418,063	10.55
Senior citizens 85 years and over	2,048	2.11	66,069	1.60	1,752	1.85	54,061	1.36

Table CO.01: Key statistics from 2001 and 2006 census. Source: profile.id® website.

Although some of the population characteristics for the Sydney region and the City are comparable there were significant differences in the 2006 Census, particularly in regard to:

- indigenous population: the City's Indigenous population (0.28%) is significantly lower than the Sydney region (1.06%)
- overseas born: the City's proportion of population born overseas (37.61%) is significantly higher than the Sydney region (31.74%)
- mature adults 65 - 84 years: the City's population of mature adults (12.44%) is higher than the overall Sydney region (10.68%)
- senior citizens 85 years + : similar to the mature adults category - the City's proportion of citizens who are 85 years + (2.11%) is nearly one and a half times higher than the overall Sydney region in the same category (1.60%).



SUBURBS

= 1000 people

Denistone - East - West :	869	Meadowbank - Melrose Park :	2,438	Ryde (South) :	8,750
Eastwood :	2,763	North Ryde :	5,543	Ryde (Top Ryde) :	3,360
Gladesville - Tennyson Point :	2,489	Putney :	510	West Ryde :	2,469
Macquarie Park :	4,628	Ryde (Field of Mars) :	1,283		
Marsfield :	398	Ryde (Santa Rosa) :	578		

Figure CO.03 - Forecast population growth by suburb (2006 - 2031)

PART 2: CONTEXT

These statistics, combined with the forecasted growth areas in the City's population demographics, the types of recreation activities required and the future provision of open space will have the greatest impact on the following two groups:

- overseas born - 33,571 residents were born overseas in 2001 compared to 36,465 in 2006 representing an increase of 2,894 (2.08%) born overseas
- senior citizens 85 years and over - an increase of 26% occurred between 2001 and 2006.

The differences in the population, age or cultural background of the City from those of the overall Sydney region directly influence the need for open space and this issue is expanded upon in the IOSP Part 4: Needs and Demands.

Demographic Profile

Age Groups

The majority of age groups are expected to experience growth in the next 20 years. However, several of the teenaged year groups are expected to experience an overall decrease in numbers.

The older generations (70 - 85 +) will contribute a total of 5,335 persons and the 30 - 39 year old age bracket will contribute 4,561 persons (refer to Table CO.03). These groups represent the largest areas of population growth by age in the City area for the next 20 years.

Population Forecast

Table CO.02 summarises the growth statistics of the City's population and illustrates that the average annual growth rate is forecasted at 0.63% over the next 20 years.

Summary of growth statistics	
Forecast population for 2011	104,114
Population change between 2011 and 2031	13,896
Average annual percentage change between 2011 and 2031	0.63%
Total percentage change between 2011 and 2031	13.35%

Table CO.02: Summary of Growth Statistics. Source: forecast.id® website.

In 2031, the population of the City is forecast to be 118,010 an increase of 13,897 persons from 2011.

PART 2: CONTEXT

Table CO.03 shows the groups that represent the largest population increase by age range in the City until 2031.

Forecast age structure	2011		2021		2031		Change from 2011 to 2031
Age group	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	No.
0-4 years	6,109	5.9	6,134	5.6	6,533	5.5	424
5-9 years	5,463	5.2	5,548	5	5,634	4.8	171
10-14 years	5,232	5	5,228	4.7	5,095	4.3	-137
15-19 years	6,152	5.9	6,087	5.5	6,076	5.1	-76
20-24 years	8,239	7.9	8,859	8	9,439	8	1,200
25-29 years	8,704	8.4	8,942	8.1	9,788	8.3	1,084
30-34 years	7,840	7.5	8,366	7.6	9,249	7.8	1,409
35-39 years	7,625	7.3	7,865	7.1	8,493	7.2	868
40-44 years	7,395	7.1	7,266	6.6	7,858	6.7	463
45-49 years	7,476	7.2	7,123	6.5	7,531	6.4	55
50-54 years	6,788	6.5	6,838	6.2	7,010	5.9	222
55-59 years	5,887	5.7	6,505	5.9	6,482	5.5	595
60-64 years	5,215	5	5,703	5.2	5,891	5	676
65-69 years	3,893	3.7	4,961	4.5	5,501	4.7	1,608
70-74 years	3,354	3.2	4,507	4.1	4,954	4.2	1,600
75-79 years	2,997	2.9	3,551	3.2	4,350	3.7	1,353
80-84 years	2,740	2.6	2,928	2.7	3,640	3.1	900
85 years and over	3,004	2.9	3,986	3.6	4,486	3.8	1,482
Total Persons	104,113	-	110,397	-	118,010	-	13,897

Table CO.03: Population forecast by age groups. Source: Forecast.id

PART 2: CONTEXT

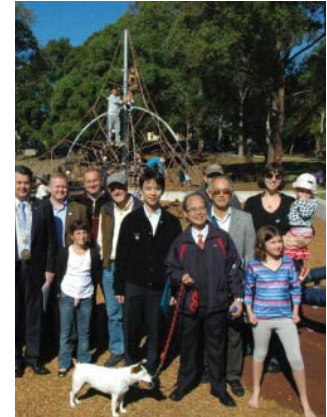
Cultural diversity

In 2006, 60.4% of the City residents were born in Australia and 31.7% were born overseas. These figures are comparable with the overall Sydney region. The City's Environment and Open Space Study (July 2010) summarises key findings of the 2006 census data relating to cultural diversity in the City as follows:

- 37.6% of the population was born overseas, with 31.5% from a non-English speaking background, compared with 31.7% and 23.9% respectively for the Sydney Statistical Division
- the dominant non-English speaking country of birth was China, where 6.8% of the population were born.

Households

In 2006, the dominant household type in the City was couple families with dependents, which accounted for 32.2% of all households which compared similarly with the overall Sydney region (refer to Table CO.04). Differences between the two areas showed that the overall Sydney region had a smaller proportion of one-parent families.



The City of Ryde has a diverse multi-cultural population with the percentage of overseas born residents nearly 6% higher than the average for the Sydney Metropolitan.

Forecast Households, City of Ryde

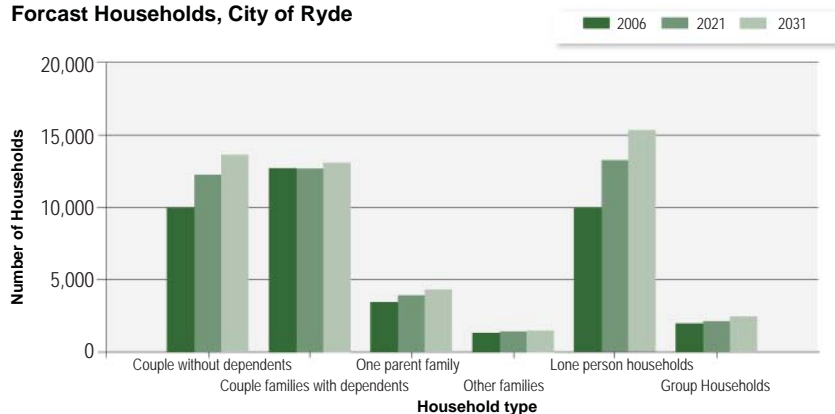


Table CO.04: Forecast Households from 2006 to 2031 Source: Forecast.id

This trend is predicted to continue with the potential to increase demand on open space and also the types of open spaces provision including formal sportsfields, community gardens, play spaces, etc.

Implications from the Demographic Analysis for the IOSP

Summaries on the preceding analysis include the following:

- based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Macro's 2006 forecast, the population growth of the City (13.5% increase between 2011 - 2031) will increase demand for new facilities and resources
- increasing population density (30% of the City's current households are apartments) particularly in the growth areas of Macquarie Park and the town centres of Eastwood, West Ryde, Top Ryde, Meadowbank and Gladesville implies more limited access to private open space and thus a premium

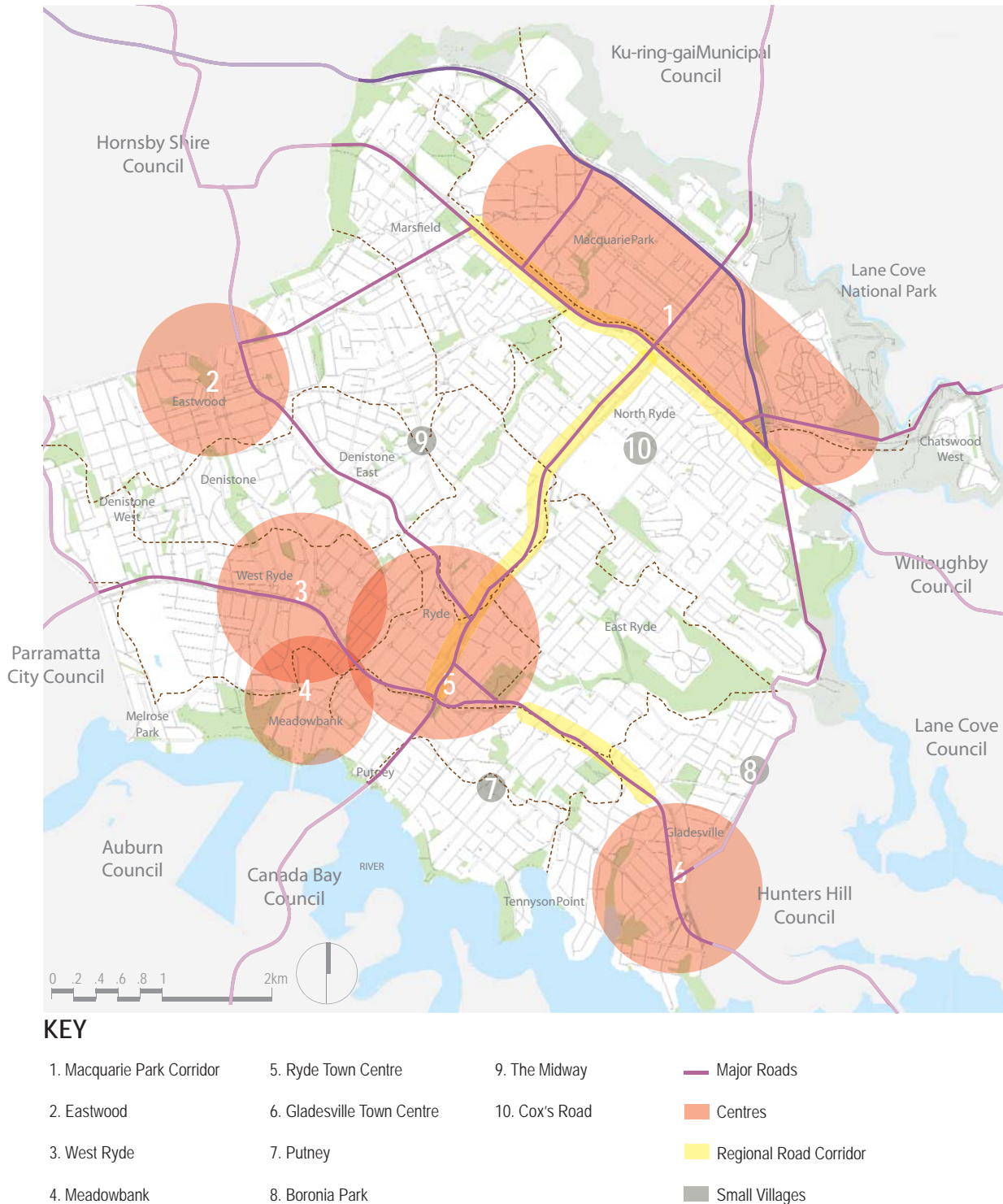


Figure CO.04 - City of Ryde town centres and corridors strategy

PART 2: CONTEXT

on easily accessible public open space. This trend of increasing density continues, with 66% of residents living in dwellings with less available private outdoor open space in 2009, down from 78% in 2006

- high numbers of families in the City (57% of households compared to the Sydney average of 37%), with an expected further increase, places a premium on organised sports facilities and play (field and court facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools, etc)
- the population of the City is relatively transient (only 76% of residents have lived at their current address for one year or longer) with implications for social integration in community and factors such as volunteering in sports organisations
- the high number of residents in the City that were born overseas (30% compared with 23% Sydney average), particularly from China and Korea, requires specific attention and focus on their needs (eg. indoor cultural and sporting facilities)
- higher than average levels of education in the City and higher than average household incomes will tend to increase participation in recreation and leisure, based on research findings (see Reference C1)
- lower socio-economic groups in the City have more limited resources to pay for leisure services or to access by private transport
- the high number of ageing residents in the City will look for greater access to basic leisure and recreation needs such as paths, tracks, bushland and social gathering spaces
- the high working population of the City and its anticipated growth (particularly, the business sector in the Macquarie Park Corridor) will place additional pressure on open space and recreation provision.

Town Centres And Suburbs

The major towns and centres of the City (refer to Figure CO.05) comprise:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Ryde Town Centre | - West Ryde Town Centre |
| - Gladesville Town Centre | - Meadowbank |
| - Eastwood | - Macquarie Park Corridor |

All of these towns and centres are well serviced by major arterial roads while Eastwood, Denistone, West Ryde, Meadowbank, North Ryde, Macquarie University and Macquarie Park are also serviced by a railway station.

Centres and Corridors Strategy

The Inner North Subregional Strategy is a supporting document for 'City of Cities: Metropolitan Strategy' (2005) which responds to growth targets where they will occur in the City and in particular in the centres and corridors.

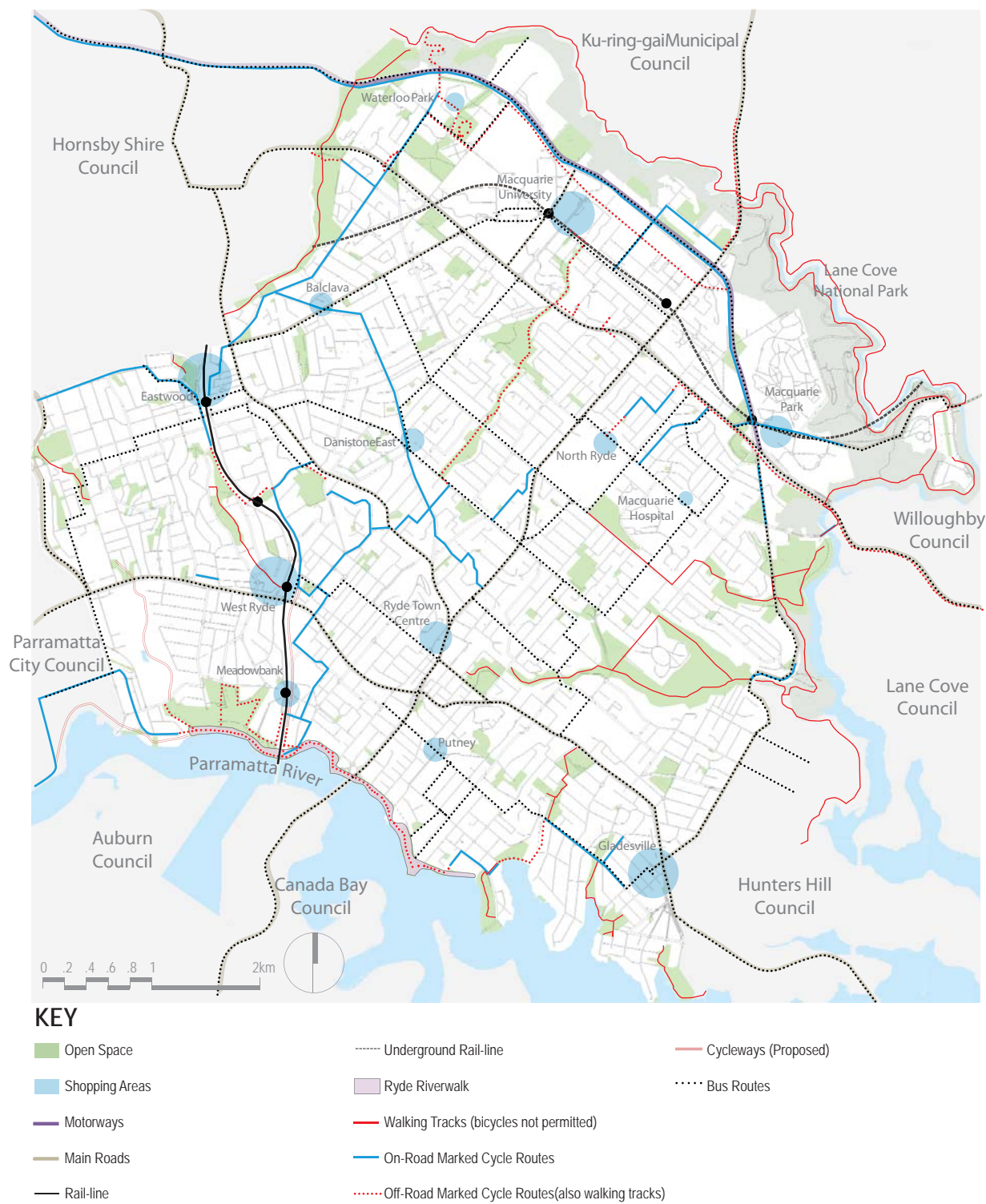


Figure CO.05 - Transport links

PART 2: CONTEXT

The Centres and Corridors Strategy, which is part of the City's 'Local Planning Study' (2010) underpins the Local Environmental Plan and future planning controls. The major proposals of the Strategy of relevance to the IOSP include:

- reviewing key documents, plans and strategies of less than 10 years to understand relevant constraints eg. flooding and traffic
- analysis of key transport hubs for future work/resident population growth
- analysis of each centre to understand growth capacity (eg. Macquarie Park)
- developing distinctive character for each centre (eg. key assets, looks and function)
- analysis key issues for changes in categories (eg. land use zones, public space network, streetscapes).

Implications for the IOSP in any major redevelopment planning proposals through the Centres and Corridors Strategy include:

- continuation and/or improvement of pedestrian/cycle paths between centres
- continuation and/or improvement of connecting greenlink corridors
- provision of civic/public open spaces as part of any large development.

Transport Infrastructure

The Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (2007) relates to the Centres and Corridors Strategy and promotes sustainable planning and design towards an improved transport links future for the City (refer to Figure CO.05).

State and Regional Roads and Rail Networks

The City has an extensive transport system with the three key transport and land use development corridors identified as Macquarie Park (Epping Road, M2, Epping to Chatswood rail link), the Northern Line rail corridor and Victoria Road. The rail line has stations at the town centres of North Ryde, Eastwood, Denistone, West Ryde, Meadowbank and at Macquarie University and Macquarie Park.

Cycleways

Council's Cycling Map (2nd Edition 2009) identifies an extensive network of on and off-road cycleways. Many of the on-road cycleways are located on both major and local roads providing connections to Ryde City Centre and many of the other suburb centres. These cycleways also extend to other areas outside of the City of Ryde, including:

- South/North link - Meadowbank to Marsfield which also extends southward to Cooks River Cycleway and northward to Turramurra
- North/South Link - North Ryde to Meadowbank extends northward to Lane Cove National Park and West Pymble and southward to Olympic Park and Strathfield
- West East Link - Ermington to Gladesville (Parramatta Valley Cycleway)
- East - West Northern Link – North Ryde to Epping and Hills.

The principal on and off-road cycleways are illustrated in Figure CO.05.

PART 2: CONTEXT



Public art as part of the Ryde Riverwalk at Shepherd's Bay Wharf reflects on the history of the place.

Walking Tracks

As outlined earlier in this section Council has been developing a number of regionally significant trails in the City over a number of years. At a more local level a number of off-road pathways exist, many following creek and waterways. These include:

- Shrimpton's Creek
- Kunzea Walk
- Eastwood to West Ryde through Darvall Park
- Terry's Creek Trail
- Stranger's Creek Trail
- Kitty's Creek Trail.

Council is committed to an ongoing program to establish strong links that include shared walking and cycle paths, launching ramps and jetties and linear corridors to destination points. Council is currently working to fully develop the Ryde Riverwalk along the Parramatta River foreshore.

The Ryde Riverwalk is part of the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program, a NSW government initiative to improve public access to and enhance the recreational enjoyment of Sydney Harbour and its tributaries for the people of Sydney and its visitors. The 8km long pedestrian and cycle pathway that follows the Parramatta River foreshore, includes public art and will link the Morrison Bay and Glades Bay Parks.

The existing and proposed trails and corridors in the City are further discussed in Part 3: Open Space Provision.

THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

The City of Ryde provides over 355 hectares of public open space across the City inclusive of the natural areas of Archers Creek, the Denistone catchment, Kitty's Creek, Porters Creek, Shrimpton's Creek, Terrys Creek, Buffalo Creek, Pages Creek, the Parramatta River foreshores and Lane Cove National Park. These natural areas are owned and governed under the following categories:

- Community land classified under the Local Government Act (1993)
- Crown Reserve under the City of Ryde as Trust Manager
- Crown Land Reserves under the Crown Lands Act (1989)
- New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Of the 197 public open spaces owned and managed by Council, nine are between 5 -10 Ha (see below) and listed as a natural area in the LGA category of the City's Generic Plan of Management: Sportsgrounds, Parks, Natural Areas and General Use (2001):

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| - Berriwerri Reserve | - Darvall Park | - Magdala Park |
| - Boobajool Reserve | - Denistone Park | - Mansfield Park |
| - Brush Farm Park | - Lucknow Park | - Waterloo Park |

PART 2: CONTEXT

Greater pressure will be placed on all natural areas and bushland as a combined result of the increasing population, urban consolidation and potential commercial development.

The predicted ageing population of the City and the growing awareness by the general community of the benefits towards health and well-being offered by ready access to the natural environment for passive recreation will also increase future demand for these bushland areas.

Many of these natural areas successfully adjoin or integrate with passive and active recreation facilities and amenities including walking trails and links, bbq and picnic areas, sporting facilities and heritage parks.

Topography and Geology

The topography of the City of Ryde varies from steep sandstone ridges to valleys that range from sea level on the banks of the two major rivers to nearly 100 metres in the higher parts of the City. A high and clearly defined ridge line extends west from Top Ryde towards Eastwood and Brush Farm Park. The undulating landscape combined with the high ridgelines and deeply eroded river gorges offer opportunities for sweeping views, many of them in Council's open spaces across the City but on the negative side have the steep terrain which makes walking to destination points more difficult (refer to Figure CO.06).

The underlying geology, known as the Hornsby Plateau slopes to the south-west with the rivers and their tributaries having cut deeply into the overlying Wianamatta Shale revealing the Hawkesbury Sandstone in their river valleys. These sandstone outcrops support a diverse variety of plant communities, some threatened (refer to Figure CO.09) and associated rich flora and fauna habitat; many of these habitats lie in the City's open spaces adding environmental, aesthetic and recreational value.

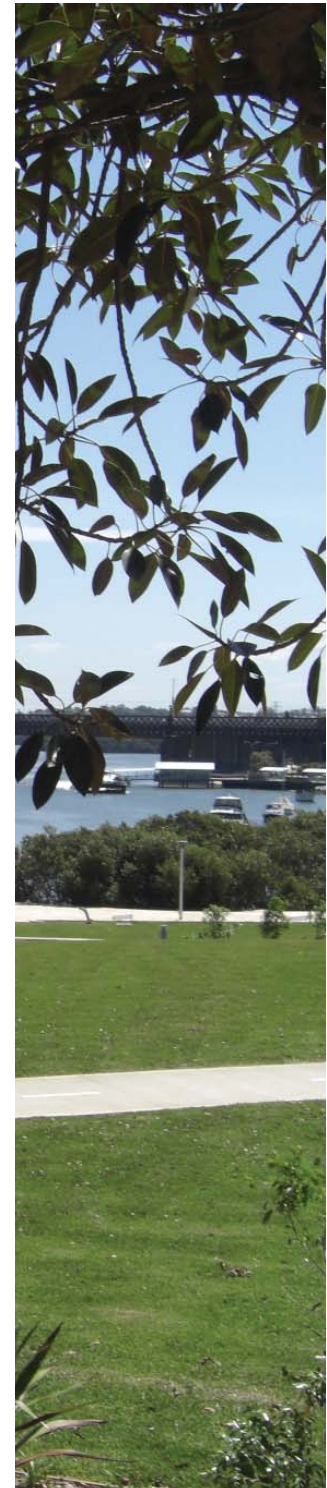
Rivers, Creeks and Stormwater

The City is bounded by the two major rivers, Parramatta River and Lane Cove River, forming the receiving waters for a network of large and small creeks that flow throughout the City; many of these forming recreational corridors (refer to Figures CO.07 and CO.08).

The original waterways and catchments, prior to European settlement in the area were extensive but many of these have been diverted, piped or built over as part of urban development. The five creeks that retain significant lengths of natural profile are:

- Buffalo Creek
- Terry's Creek
- Archer's Creek
- Porters Creek
- Shrimptons Creek.

Due to the urban nature of these creek catchments, water quality varies greatly and is often poor in periods of rain when stormwater discharges into the creeks from adjoining roads and developments. However, as part of the NSROC organisation, the City shares



Foreshore open space such as the Ryde Riverwalk has created a link to suburbs through the City of Ryde as well as neighbouring LGAs.



Figure CO.06 - Topography

PART 2: CONTEXT

responsibility for the management and water quality of its rivers and drainage corridors, reporting conditions using the "SIGNAL" monitoring system (measuring the levels of macro invertebrates present in the water) as a guide to the environmental health of the waterways.

Water quality in stormwater systems are continually under improvement with Council making substantial investment in new gross pollutant traps (GPTs) that removed 219 tonnes of waste from the 30 GPTs operating in the City during 2009/2010.

Part of the stormwater treatment systems put in place by Council include constructed wetlands, raingardens and bio-retention basins. Council has instigated innovative educational programs involving local schools and residents promoting a greater understanding of these natural resources. A number of the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) treatments are located in the City's open space.

Flora and Fauna

Natural areas that include areas of remnant bushland, riparian corridors and river foreshore in the City contain valuable plant communities, biodiversity and active ecosystems. These existing communities and vegetated landscapes are important for a healthy environment and society and make the City a desirable place to work and live.

Natural areas in the City include remnant salt marshes with their associated sea grasses, riparian areas along watercourses, shorelines and ridgelines, transitional forests and plant communities associated with the sandstone and shale geology that were present prior to European settlement (refer to Figure CO.10).

A number of rare and threatened species and plant communities, including the Blue Gum High Forest, are listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and found in the Ryde area with the majority contained in the riparian areas. The listing includes 13 species of flora threatened, three species endangered and 13 species of fauna threatened and four species endangered (see side panels).

Since 2006 the City of Ryde has undertaken systematic surveys to produce a number of Flora and Fauna Studies which comprehensively access the current flora and fauna of their open space. The Studies provide recommendations for the conservation and management of these open spaces surveyed.

Natural Areas and Networks

Council's open space assets include two large natural bushland areas of quality in the City (Field of Mars Reserve and Brush Farm Park/Lambert Park) and extensive foreshore reserves along the City's section of the Parramatta River.

The Lane Cove National Park, although managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is an important adjunct to the provision of open space in the Ryde LGA as it covers over 635 hectares of bushland. The Park plays a significant recreational role because of its highly urban location and important links to Macquarie University, the Lane Cove River Valley and the continuation of the Great North Walk.

Ryde Flora Threatened Species

- Port Jackson Heath
- Narrow-leaf bottlebrush
- *Darwinia biflora*
- Tea-tree
- Deane's Paperbark
- Glandular Pink-bell
- Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint
- Curved Rice-flower
- Brittle Midge Orchid
- Narrow-leaf *Wilsonia*
- Narrow-leaf Finger Fern
- Geebung

Ryde Fauna Threatened Species

- Osprey
- Black Bittern
- Gang Gang Cockatoo
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Powerful Owl
- Green and Golden Bell Frog
- Red-crowned Toadlet
- Yellow-bellied Glider
- Grey-headed Flying-fox
- Eastern Bent-wing Bat
- Black Necked Stork
- Regent Honeyeater

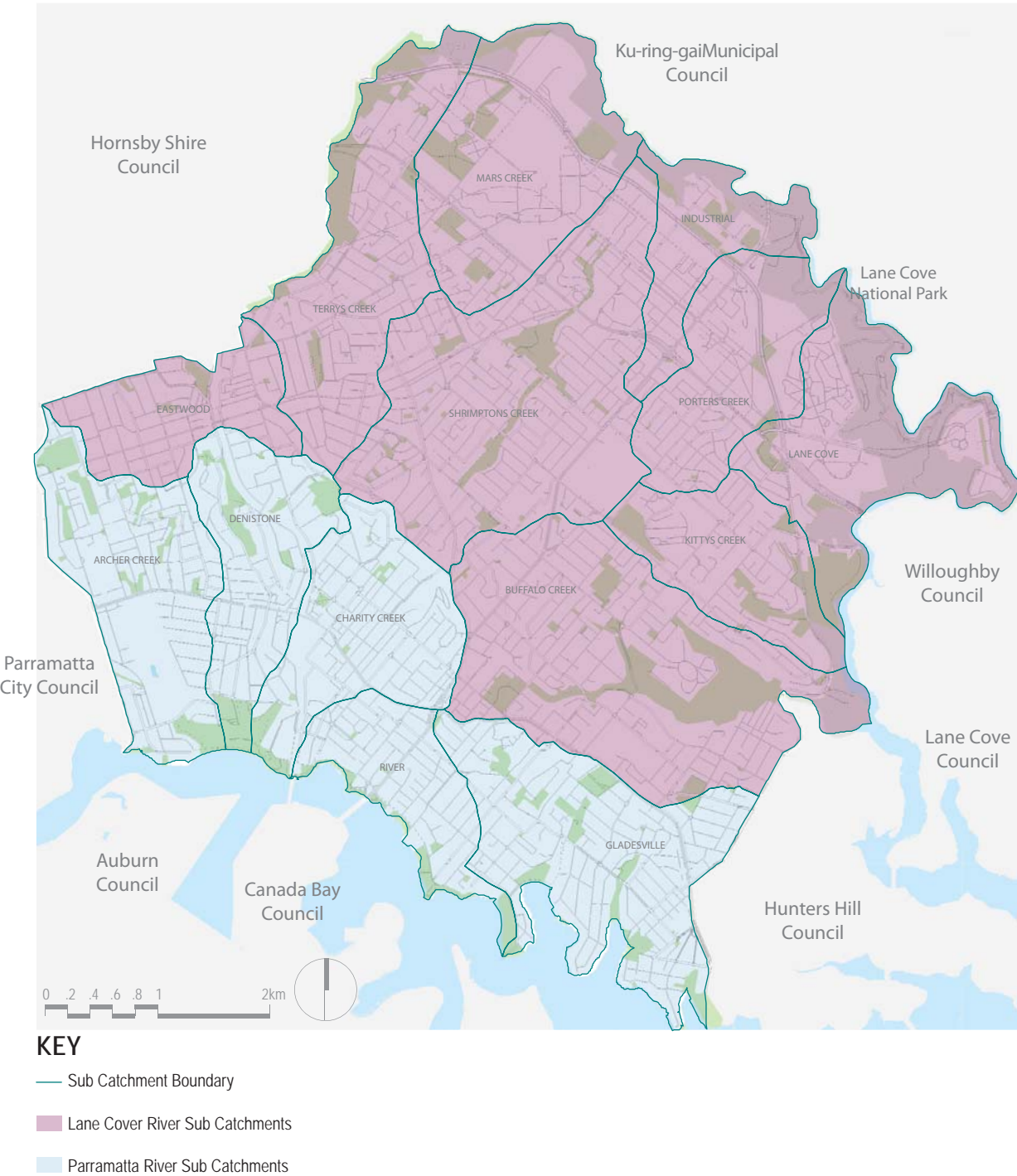


Figure CO.07 - Sub catchments in the City of Ryde

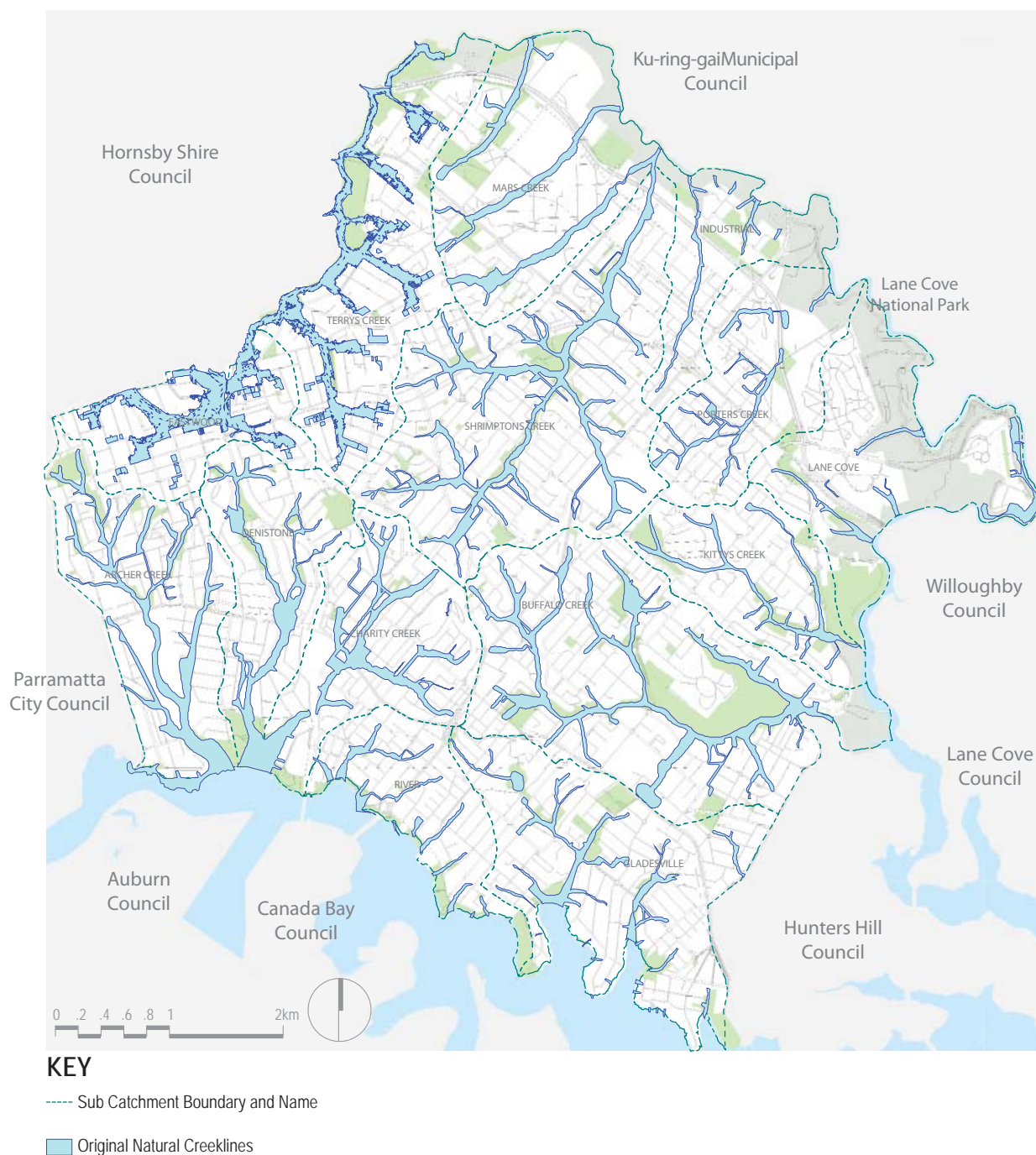


Figure CO.08 - Natural Hydrology

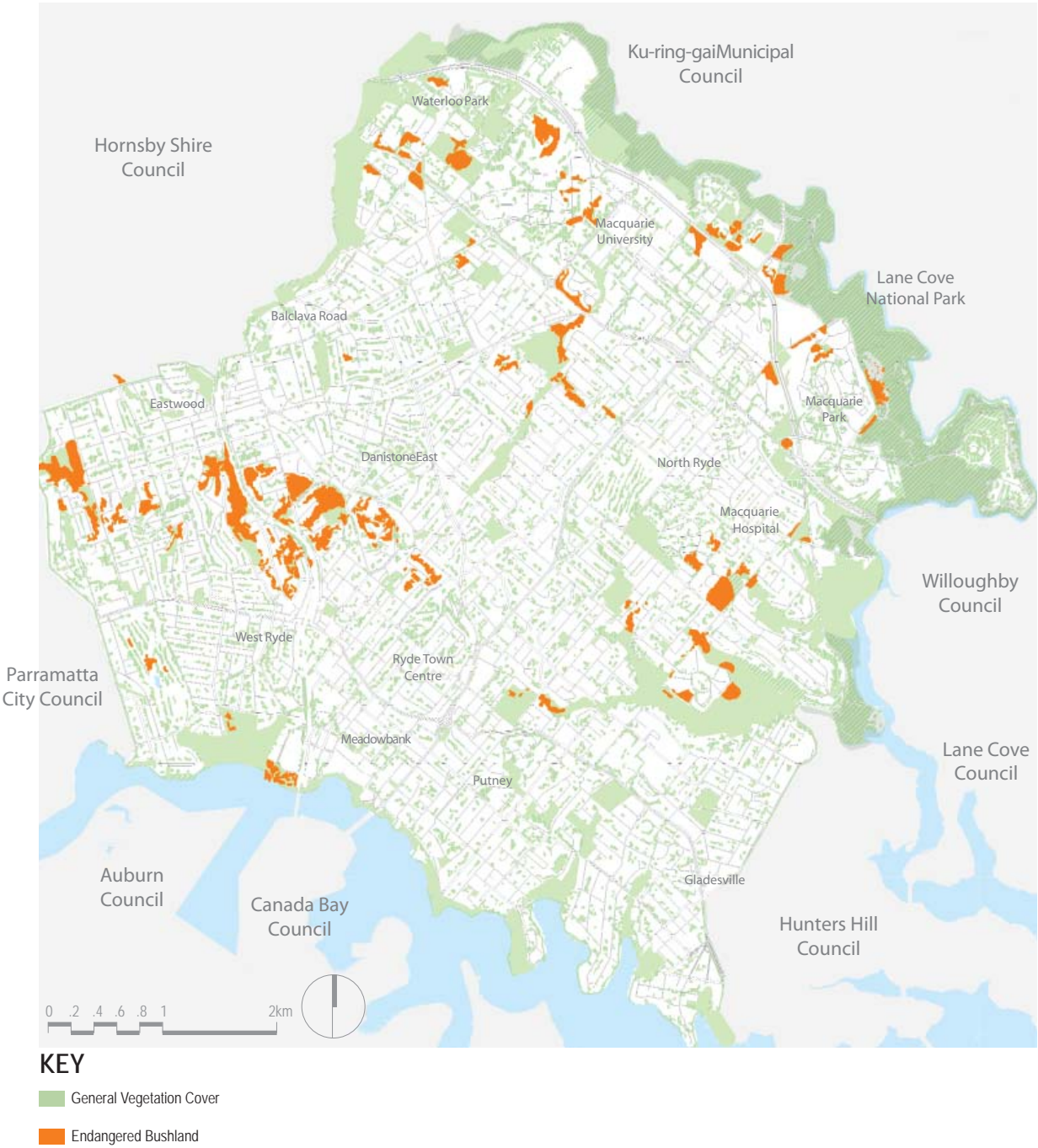


Figure CO.9 - Vegetation Cover

PART 2: CONTEXT

Field of Mars Reserve

The Field of Mars Reserve is an important link to the Lane Cove National Park through Buffalo Creek, Stranger's Creek and the Great North Walk and covers an area of over 49 Ha. Due to its topography of ridges and gullies and the different soils and aspects, the plant communities found there are both rich and diverse with over 300 species of plants from communities which include salt marsh, wet and dry sclerophyll forest.

The Field of Mars Reserve is one of the most significant areas for passive recreation in the City and consequently, trails have been constructed through it, recently incorporating a universally accessible raised boardwalk to encourage a more leisurely and manageable approach of walking in the bush. These additional facilities include the 2.5 kilometres long Kunzea Walk which follows Buffalo Creek as a continuation of the Great North Walk.

The Environmental Education Centre close to the Pittwater Road entry is operated by the NSW Department of Education and Training and educates school children on environmental sustainability. The Ryde Hunters Hill Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, a group formed in the 1960s to ensure the preservation of the Reserve, manage the centre on a volunteer basis on the weekends and Public Holidays.

In 2009, Council adopted the Plan of Management for Field of Mars Reserve that provides the practical means of establishing and implementing the future uses and management of the Reserve. The legislative requirements of the Local Government Act (1993) and the Crown Lands Act (1989), as amended, guided the drafting of the PoM.

Brush Farm House and Lambert Park

The Brush Farm Estate was purchased in 1807 by the explorer, Gregory Blaxland and Brush Farm House, one of the oldest houses in Australia, was built in 1820. The relatively well conserved large Palladian style house represents a nationally important site that is listed on the City's Heritage LEP (as Item 105), is surrounded by remnant land of the relatively undisturbed farming estate and one of the larger natural area assets of the City.

A distinctive ridge line extends from Top Ryde West to Eastwood which includes Brush Farm and the adjoining Lambert Park that extends over 7 hectares. In 1990, the City purchased Brush Farm and began restoration of the house in 2006 funded by Council, the Commonwealth Government and the NSW Heritage Office.

As part of the Statement of Significance for Brush Farm, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage states the importance of its historic and visual link with the Parramatta River as the following:

"Brush Farm Park which has the capacity to demonstrate important aspects of the development of the former estate from the 1810s to the present; and remnant view connections between Brush Farm House and the Parramatta River and its environs as well as the Parramatta district and the Blue Mountains".

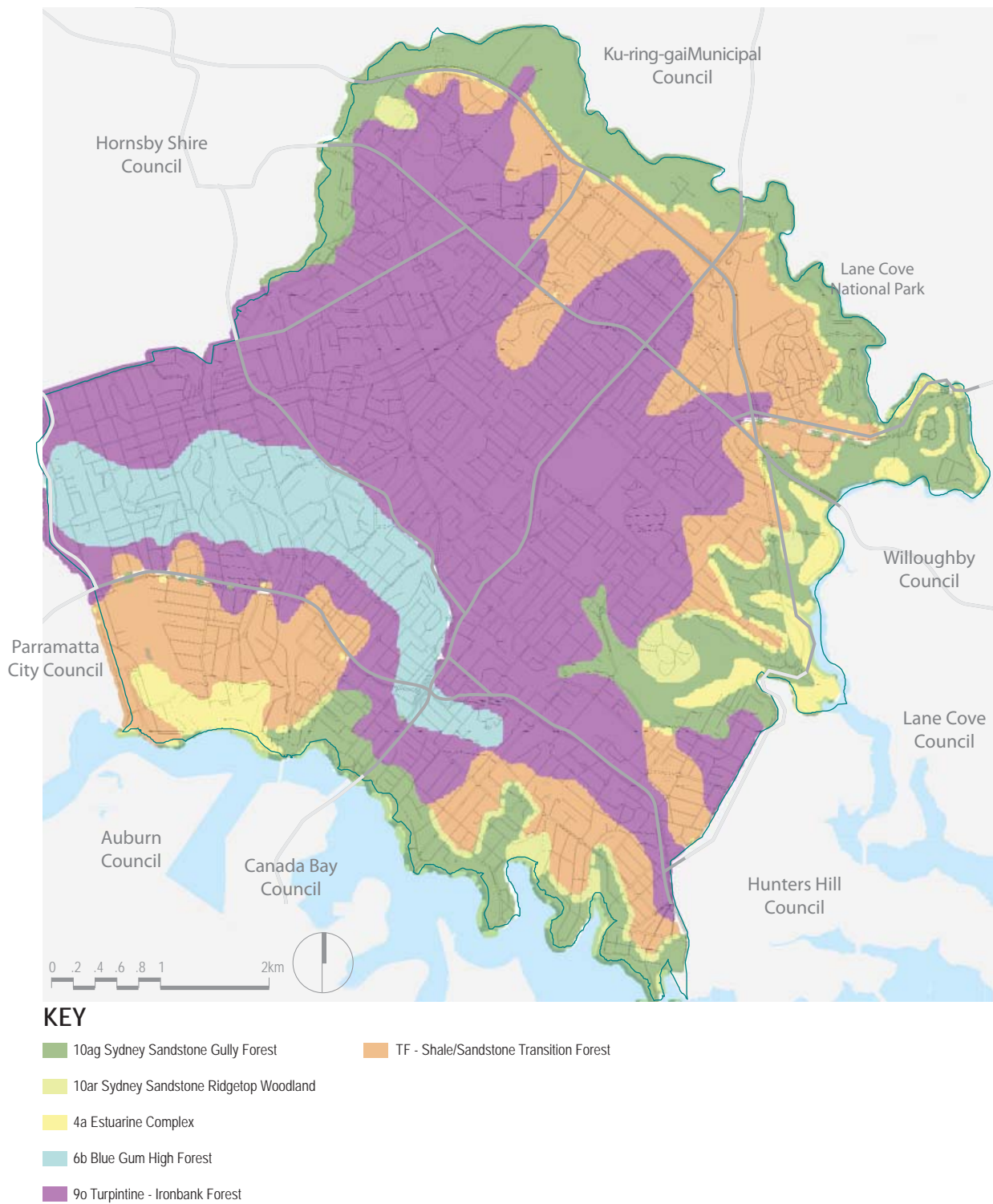


Figure CO.10 City of Ryde Ecological Communities (pre 1750)

PART 2: CONTEXT

In 2009, Council adopted a Plan of Management for Brush Farm Park and Lambert Park and an Action Plan to provide a framework from which the environmental, historical and recreational aspects of both Brush Farm Park and Lambert Park can be improved and preserved for future generations.

Natural Waterways and Foreshores

The more natural areas along the City's public foreshores are an important part of Council's open space and provide visual and physical connections to the Parramatta River. Riparian vegetation in these areas where the land meets river or creek may include mangrove, saltmarsh and seagrass plant communities.

A major project being developed by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority will assist 25 local councils, including the City, to guide the improvement of water quality from all the catchments draining to Sydney Harbour. This partnership will aid in the protection of riparian areas and enhance terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity across the City's waterways.

Cultural Heritage

In response to the Metropolitan Strategy and Inner North Draft Subregional Strategy, Council prepared a Local Planning Study that aims to guide the delivery of a new LEP for the City. The City has over 150 heritage items and four heritage conservation areas listed in its local planning instrument, the Ryde Planning Scheme Ordinance. Further studies are to be undertaken by Council in order to conserve and protect the City's heritage.

Aboriginal Heritage

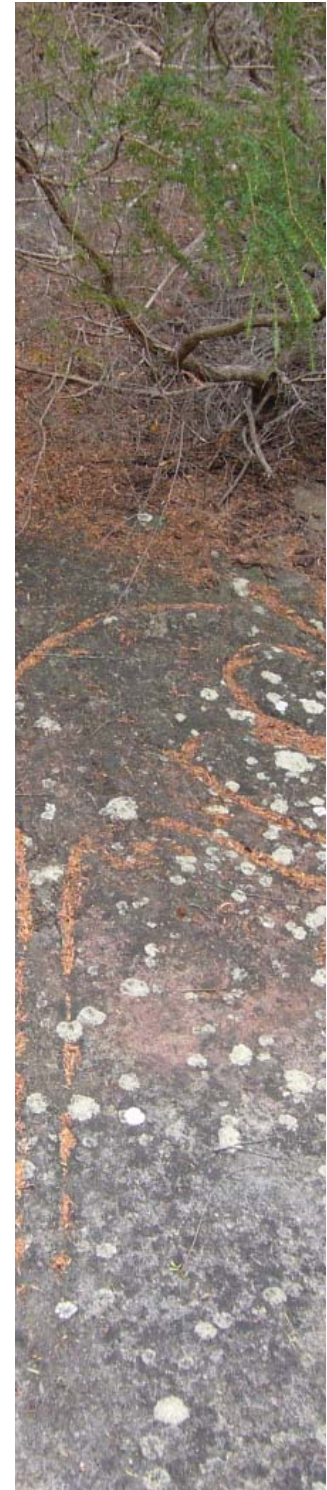
The traditional custodians of the land that is formed now by the City are the Wallumedegal clan of the Durag tribe. The Wallumedegal clan lived for thousands of years in the Ryde area and survived for generations in a rich environment of river flats, creeks and mangrove swamps.

The Wallumedegal clan would have used the natural resources of the area, fishing with pronged spears and handlines surviving on a diet including shellfish, birds, small game and various edible native plants.

In 2010, the City of Ryde: Aboriginal site Management Report was written and compiled by the Aboriginal Heritage Office for Council. The main purpose of the report was to confirm known Aboriginal sites in the Ryde area and to provide updated information and management recommendations for the relocated sites.

In addition to sites that are known and currently registered in the City there are areas which still hold potential for further discovery of archeological evidence of Aboriginal open campsites, shell middens, rock shelters, axe grinding grooves or other artefacts.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974) provides specific provisions for how such discoveries are to be conserved and managed. Where these occur in public open space they will be managed in that manner and the IOSP addresses the means by which these new discoveries should also be interpreted and managed.





PART 2: CONTEXT

Non-Aboriginal Heritage

European settlement dates from 1792 when the first land grants were made along the northern bank of the Parramatta River, known as the 'Field of Mars'. The land was used mainly for farms and orchards with significant population growth taking place from the 1870s into the 1890s, with the opening of the railway line from Strathfield to Hornsby, that greatly improved access to the area.

Expansion of settlement continued during the 1920s and 1930s with further significant development occurring during the post-war years due to industrial and commercial growth and the construction of public housing for the increasing population. Rapid growth during the 1960s, saw many new apartments built with the population continuing to increase through the 1970s to the 1990s and into the 21st Century, rising from about 90,000 in 1991 to nearly 97,000 in 2006. This later population growth increase came primarily from urban consolidation and the redevelopment of former industrial sites into housing.

To address the potential impacts and challenges of the City's continued population growth in 2011, Council prepared the City of Ryde Local Planning Study (2010). The study was prepared in response to the actions and directions within the State Government's Metropolitan Strategy and the Inner North Subregional Strategy. The Study informs the City's LEP 2011 which is the main planning instrument as well as supports the Strategic Plan Ryde 2021. Directions of the study included:

- promote and support sustainability in all its forms
- focus and support growth in centres through a mix of land uses which provides housing, jobs and services close to public transport
- strengthen and improve the unique identity of Ryde and its centres
- improve access and neighbourhood design by range of housing types for existing and future residents
- continue to protect and enhance the City's open space and the natural environment
- conserve those places which the community values
- stimulate economic growth and jobs by providing a range of opportunities
- encourage walking, cycling and public transport use by focusing growth in centres, by improving links between centres, community safety, open space, residential and education precincts.

Implications for the IOSP

The foregoing analysis of the City's natural environmental and cultural heritage suggests the following implications for the IOSP:

- rich cultural heritage requiring greater recognition in open space
- extensive high natural values in many open spaces requiring conservation and integration
- waterways as a critical part of the open space and recreation network.



The City has many natural areas and bushland of high natural values that help link open space to destination points

Part 3: Open Space Provision



Playground features at Putney Park include a large climbing frame which forms part of the combination equipment in this Regional Park. Council has been progressively upgrading play facilities in its parks over a number of years resulting in increasing satisfaction expressed by the community through regular surveys.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

INTRODUCTION

Part 3: Open Space Provision provides an analysis and evaluation of all the existing public open space within the City. The aim of this section is to establish whether the City has enough open space to meet the needs of the existing community as well as the flexibility to meet the needs of the future generations.

When establishing the adequacy and accessibility of public open space that serves a given population, a number of factors need to be considered. These extend beyond simple calculation of park numbers or total open space. Contemporary open space analysis generally includes an evaluation of the following topics and these form the basis of this section:

- quantum and sizes of reserves
- distribution (geographic spread across a given area) and diversity (range of open space settings)
- types and diversity of open space
- flexibility of open space to perform a number of requirements
- accessibility and connectivity to that open space by the community it serves
- ratio of population (current and forecast) to quantum of open space
- the broader public realm, including open space managed by other agencies
- private providers of open space or recreation facilities.

The principal data source from which to carry out this evaluation and analysis is a comprehensive inventory of all public open space that is in the care, control and management of the City of Ryde. Council's inventory of open space has been comprehensively updated and completed in the development of the IOSP, the contents and format of which are outlined below.

OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

As a key step in the preparation of the IOSP Council has updated the structure and contents of the inventory of open space over which it has care, control and management. The location of each open space listed in the inventory is identified in Figure OS.01 and listed in Table OS.02.

Set out below is a brief description of the basic elements of the updated inventory. Table OS.01 describes the objectives, uses and characteristics of the hierarchy, settings, status and attributes of open spaces.

Park Numbers and Reserve

To ensure that current and future data on population and open space can be compared at a local level, all reserves in the inventory are now grouped within suburbs; each reserve is recorded with a suburb prefix and its own reserve number as well as the name of the reserve determined by Council.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Ownership, Location and Title

The inventory specifies the street address, the suburb and the ward within which the open space lies, the owner of the land and the Lot and DP details are also listed.

Area and Zoning

The area of each open space is specified in hectares (Ha; with an indication of the size bracket by area in which it falls); the total area of public open space for each suburb is also identified. The zoning of the open space (under Council's LEP) is included in the inventory.

Reserve Hierarchy

Four tiers of park hierarchy are proposed, those being Level 1 to Level 4. While size is often a key determinant of hierarchy, other factors such as the 'drawcard effect' (how far people are prepared to travel to visit the open space because of a particular facility that it offers (eg. a regional playground or an historic landscape) is also used to determine the park's hierarchy (refer Table OS.01).

Classification

As required under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, classification identifies land for public open space as either Operational Land or Community Land. Most parks are classified as Community Land, as this bestows a more secure status on the land for recreation and leisure uses. 'Operational Land' usually applies to uses such as Council depots and recreation facilities with major operational requirements such as swimming pools (eg. Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre). The other common classification is Crown Land where the ownership rests with the State Government.

Settings (Categorisation)

The NSW Local Government Act (1993) requires that all Community Land be categorised; this categorisation describes the setting type (see Figure OS.02) under a series of predetermined descriptors. The IOSP adopts the following setting types, based on the recently published 'Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government' (see Reference B5), adapted to the specifics of the City's landscape.

Many open spaces are comprised of more than one setting (ie. the same open space might contain bushland and a sports reserve) and thus the inventory identifies the primary setting type, whilst also listing the secondary and contributory settings.

This option for multiple settings allows Council to manage the open space principally for its 'primary setting' type whilst ensuring that the 'secondary' or 'contributory settings' are appropriately recognised and integrated.

To conform to the Local Government Act the equivalent categorisation under the Act is cross referenced in the inventory. A full description of the objectives and intended uses for each setting is provided in Table OS.01.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Status

Status describes the extent to which the open space has been enhanced through landscape design and the integration of facilities or actively managed for public access and enjoyment.

The three categories are 'Embellished' (the park is well developed), 'Unembellished' (no significant enhancements have been undertaken or the open space is not in active management) and 'Proposed' (an area of land that may be proposed for future open space but is not presently zoned or classified as such). Any natural areas that are actively managed for public access, even where enhancements are very minor (such as through provision of paths), are deemed 'Embellished' for the purposes of the inventory.

Networks and Associations

This category relates to the broader connections that the open space may have to other open spaces, be it part of a corridor of open space, a natural corridor such as a creek or a unique association with another open space in the City (eg. an historical connection or a shared unique flora).

Assets, Functions and Comments

The assets existing within the open spaces are described under their relevant headings (buildings, lighting, fences, play facilities, etc). Where Council has identified a core function for the open space (eg. dog off-leash, education or tourism) these functions are also listed. The last column in the Open Space Inventory provides space for specific comments about the open space that are central to its management.

Managing and Applying the Inventory

The Open Space Inventory provides the baseline data upon which the City's open spaces will be managed over time. Table OS.01 provides the direction for the management and application of the inventory, setting objectives, the uses and assets for various hierarchies and settings.

While it will be essential that all new open space developed by Council follows these guidelines, in many cases these preferred characteristics will not universally apply to existing open space. In this latter instance, Council should seek to achieve these objectives by progressive changes and upgrades over the coming years, with priorities as identified in the Objectives and Preferred Uses in Table OS.01.

Table OS.01 Open Space Hierarchy and Settings

Hierarchy and Objectives	Preferred Uses/Functions/Facilities	Accessibility	Preferred Size (Ha)	CoR Parks
Level 4				
<p>Local open spaces cater for passive recreation for residents within walking distance.</p> <p>These spaces also contribute to the character and identity of the local area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible to all residents within their immediate locality • passive un-irrigated area • low key planting • shade (trees, not shelters) • seating (natural or bench) • play equipment catering primarily for junior play opportunities (0-6yrs) and not all parks • paths only as required to access park and seats/play • no organised sport 	<p>Within a maximum of 400 metres actual walking distance or 10 minutes walking time</p> <p>No on site parking</p>	<p>Min 0.2 Ha and usually up to 0.5Ha</p>	
Level 3				
<p>Level 3 open space caters for broader population catchments and provides convenient access to passive and active recreation opportunities for local residents of all age groups.</p> <p>These open spaces attract a greater levels of use, encourage longer stays and contribute to the identity and character of the local area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play spaces • sports facilities that accommodate informal and or junior sport training with no permanent sports infrastructure nor floodlighting • picnic / low key BBQ facilities and shade/tables • informal active areas with passive elements for family recreation including kickabout • potentially toilets, but preferably these would be in adjoining building in street • other possible uses may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community gardens - community / public art - dog off leash exercise areas 	<p>1 km actual walk or 15-20 minutes walking time</p> <p>No on site car parking but preferably close to public transport eg nearby bus stop</p>	<p>Min 0.5 Ha and preferably up to 1 Ha</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Anderson Park 2.Beattie Park 3.Memorial Park 4.Brereton Park 5.Burrows Park 6.Cleves Park 7.Cudal Reserve 8.Kittys Creek Reserve 9.Kobada Reserve 10.Looking Glass Bay Park 11.Olympic Park 12.Pembroke Park 13.Pryor Park 14.Tennyson Park 15.Trim Place 16.Anzac Park 17.Denistone Park 18.Forrester Park 19.Glen Reserve 20.Lambert Park 21.Lions Park 22.Miriam Park 23.Stewart Park 24.West Denistone Park 25.Wilga Reserve

Hierarchy and Objectives	Preferred Uses/Functions/Facilities	Accessibility	Preferred Size (Ha)	CoR Parks
Level 2				
<p>Level 2 open spaces are larger and provide for a variety of active and passive recreation needs of the residents for the City of Ryde.</p> <p>These open spaces can accommodate large group activities, organized sports and offer opportunities for cultural expression and environmental education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play spaces for all ages • sports facilities that accommodate multiple sports and hard courts with supporting infrastructure such as floodlighting, seating, change rooms and canteens • cultural and civic spaces for events and or ceremonies • specific areas of interest including natural areas, bushland and beaches and riverside settings. • single and group picnic areas • park amenity buildings • other possible uses may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community gardens and nursery - community / public art and other interpretative items - youth spaces including multi use areas and skate facilities - dog off leash exercise areas - on and off street car parking areas - boat ramps, river jetties and access to the River for water sports 	<p>Within 5kms or 10-15 min drive from all residents. Readily accessed by public transport and with some limited on site parking to reduce day-to-day impact on adjoining streets</p>	<p>Min 1.0 Ha and usually up to 2-5 Ha</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Fontenoy Park 2.Santa Rosa Park 3.Tuckwell Park 4.Banjo Patterson Reserve 5.Bill Mitchell Park 6.Boobajool Reserve 7.Bremner Park 8.Gannan Park 9.Glades Bay Reserve 10.Gwandalan Reserve 11.Kissing Point Park 12.Morrison Bay Park 13.North Ryde Common 14.North Ryde Park 15.Peel Park 16.Pidding Park
Level 1				
<p>Level 1 open space provides a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities for the residents of the City of Ryde and visitors to the City.</p> <p>These open spaces are commonly large in size and can accommodate large community activities, organized sports and offer opportunities for cultural expression and environmental education.</p> <p>These spaces may provide unique recreation opportunities or landscape settings that are considered a regional attraction. In some cases, especially where environmental or cultural heritage values are high, these spaces may not be large but may still be a regional drawcard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large children's play areas that may include adventure play and inclusive play • regional sports facilities that accommodate multiple sports and hard courts with supporting infrastructure such as floodlighting, grandstands, change rooms and canteens. • cultural and civic spaces for large community events and or ceremonies • areas of natural significance • areas of open space for specific events that attract local and regional tourism. • single and group picnic areas • other possible uses may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community and sports centres - food and beverage opportunities that may include kiosks, cafes and or restaurants - community / public art and other interpretative items - youth spaces including multi use areas and skate facilities - dog off leash exercise areas - on and off street car parking areas - boat ramps, river jetties and access to the River for water sports 	<p>Between 30 and 90 minutes travel by car or public transport.</p> <p>Access by public transport should be practical and site will contain significant on-site parking, often in more than one car park</p>	<p>Usually 10 Ha or more, but if a particular feature (eg. Heritage Property) could be much smaller</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.ELS Hall Park 2.Yamble Reserve 3.Blenheim Park 4.Field of Mars Reserve 5.Putney Park 6.Christie Park 7.Marsfield Park 8.Meadowbank Park 9.Eastwood Park 10.Ryde Park

Category/Setting Type	Description/Function/Use	Facilities/Assets	NSW Local Gov Act Equivalent
Passive Parklands	open spaces which have had their physical character and/or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and wellbeing uses	play, paths, fencing, gardens, lighting, public art, interpretation ornamental gardens, play facilities, stages and amphitheatres, toilets, amenity buildings, café/kiosk shade structures community gardens, formal or informal lawns, tree and shrub planting (both native and ornamental) dog facilities, youth spaces	36G – Park 36A 36B 36C 36D
Outdoor Sports	venues designed to support organized sports, including training and competition. Such reserve settings may include buildings where these have a recreation function (eg. swimming pools or sports halls)	formal fields, courts, buildings (change rooms, toilets, amenities, café), swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), sports halls, club rooms, scout halls, grandstands etc. Includes lighting, irrigation, fencing, car parks and associated passive recreation facilities (play, access and circuit paths, seating kiosk etc).	36F – Sportsground
Civic and Urban Spaces	plazas, squares, public building and shopping centre forecourts which accommodate social gatherings or special events	forecourts, steps, lighting, public art, interpretation, visitor information, structures, monuments, gardens, lawns, historic features, banners and flags, youth spaces	36H – Cultural Significance 36 I – Community Use
Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage	open spaces created to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, but which also have a quiet/passive recreation/leisure dimension eg walking, cycling, tourism visitation	native bushland or grasslands, ephemeral creek, salt marshes	36J – Bushland 36K – Wetland 36L – Escarpment 36E
River Foreshore	river foreshores, includes immediate foreshore eg. within tideline or for access to waterway itself. May include an open water body itself where this has recreation use (eg. sailing/rowing)	beaches, launching ramps, buoys, pontoons, defined sailing/rowing areas, protected wildlife areas	36M – Watercourse 36N – Foreshore
Creeks and Wetlands	lake, pond, permanent or ephemeral creek	shoreline, creek bank, boardwalks, water treatment infrastructure, pipes and weirs	36M – Watercourse 36N – Foreshore
Ancillary	spaces not zoned for public open space with a minor recreation use but primarily with an amenity function, eg. road reserves and wide medians, reservoirs, rail corridors, service easements, stand-alone ornamental garden beds, City gateways, etc.	aside from infrastructure itself these are usually planted or grassed only or remnant natural vegetation exists or they are especially planted for civic or visual amenity	36 I – Community Use
Informal	spaces not zoned for public open space with another primary function but which are used periodically by the public for recreation with permission of the owner (eg. school grounds, community gardens, car parks and building roofs)	may have no recreation infrastructure (eg. car parks) or be fully developed (eg. school)	36 I – Community Use

Category/Setting Type	Description/Function/Use	Facilities/Assets	NSW Local Gov Act Equivalent
STATUS			
Embellished	actively in use and fully accessible	any of the above categories or hierarchy	N/A
Unembellished	no specific facilities provided and/or setting/hierarchy not defined. Often not accessible but with intention to be developed. May also be identified for disposal/rezoning if demonstrated to be unsuitable for open space and recreation	few or no facilities but may have hierarchy and setting identified as goal for future development of the reserve	N/A
Proposed	zoned or identified for future acquisition/designation for public open space and recreation	in other land use at present, may require demolition of existing facilities before being developed for open space but may have hierarchy and setting identified in strategy that identified its acquisition	N/A

NETWORKS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Attribute	Examples	Accessibility	Preferred Size
<p>This relates to spaces where the primary role may not be public open space but where recreation can occur and is often associated with movement oriented recreation (walking and cycling) eg. creek lines, storm water channels, linear trails, native vegetation corridors, river foreshores, rail corridors, etc.</p> <p>These areas are significant and serve as supplementary greenlinks between existing parks and reserves and are particularly important in suburbs identified as deficient in open space</p> <p>In many cases these networks and corridors are comprised of a number of linked but discrete reserves, often of different settings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> river or coastal walks regional trails (as per Sydney Regional Recreation Trails Framework 2011) wildlife corridors with trails network of linked local reserves forming a recreation corridor open spaces that may have a common association (eg. historical/heritage connection or common threatened species) 	<p>Could be anything from a few minutes to an hour away from residences</p>	<p>No constraint on size</p>

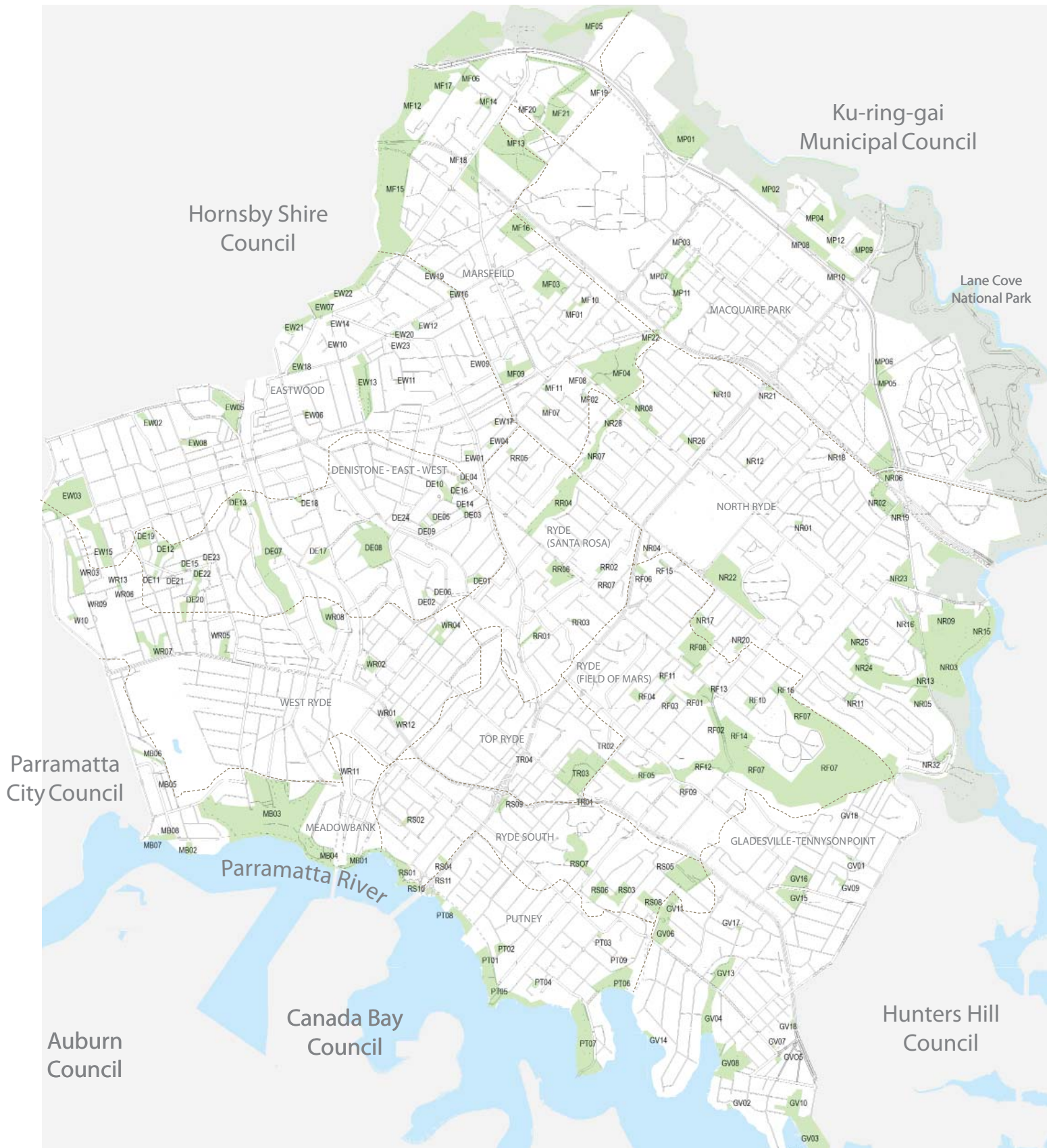


Figure OS.01 Existing Public Open Space Inventory

OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

KEY



Public Open Space under care control and management of the City of Ryde



Open Space owned and managed by NPWS

NR22

Reserve number with Suburb prefix
(see Inventory)



ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
Collector Suburb Boundaries



Willoughby
Council

Lane Cove
Council



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Table OS.02 Open Space Inventory

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PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

QUANTUM AND SIZE OF RESERVES

The number and sizes of open space across a local government area has a direct bearing on the community's access to open space and the capacity of that open space to meet a range of recreation and leisure activities and needs.

Numbers and Sizes of Reserves

Council manages some 355 Ha of public open space (approximately 8.7% of the total local government area) across 197 open spaces, within the suburbs of the City of Ryde (see Figure OS.02). The open spaces vary greatly in size, ranging from the smallest at 0.007 Ha (an un-named park in Vimera Road, Eastwood) to the largest at 49 Ha (Field of Mars).

Table OS.03 below summarises the total number of open space in each suburb, based on the four tier hierarchy of Level 1 - Level 4 (Level 1 being the largest open space and Level 4 the smallest).

SUBURB	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Total Number
Denistone - East - West	19	3	2	0	24
Eastwood	14	7	2	0	23
Gladesville - Tennyson Pt.	9	2	6	1	18
Macquarie Park	6	2	3	1	12
Marsfield	13	2	5	2	22
Meadowbank	6	1	0	1	8
North Ryde	19	6	3	2	30
Putney	3	1	4	1	9
Ryde - Field of Mars	11	1	3	1	16
Ryde - Santa Rosa	5	0	1	1	7
Ryde - South	5	3	2	1	11
Top Ryde	3	0	0	1	4
West Ryde	7	6	0	0	13
TOTAL	120	34	31	12	197

Table OS.03 Quantity and level of open space by suburb

The principal conclusions drawn from this table are that:

- 60% of all open spaces in the City are Level 4 (120), this suggests the level of local open space provided for immediate day-to-day needs in common with much of the Sydney metropolitan area
- The numbers of open space in each suburb bear little relationship to the size of the suburb (Denistone East and West is one of the smaller suburbs, yet it contains 24 open spaces, whilst Macquarie Park and West Ryde, two of the larger suburbs have only have 25 open spaces collectively)
- Some suburbs like Ryde Santa Rosa and Meadowbank have a few large open spaces (Levels 1 and 2) but very few of Levels 3 and 4 open spaces. Conversely North Ryde has many more Level 4 than Level 1 and 2.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

In general it is evident that open space numbers and hierarchies do not closely relate to the scale or geography of the suburbs in which they lie. However, to establish whether this requires specific action to redress this variability the distribution, relationship to population and accessibility must first be evaluated, as detailed later in this section.

Table OS.04 summarises the amounts of open space in each suburb, based on a series of size brackets ranging from 0.1-0.2 Ha to 10 Ha+ (as a visual indicator a soccer field is approximately 0.5 Ha). The sizes of open spaces, particularly at Level 4, have a direct bearing on the recreational opportunities that those open spaces may offer.

SUBURB	0.0 - 0.1 Ha	0.1- 0.2 Ha	0.21 - 0.5 Ha	0.51 - 1.0 Ha	1.1 - 2.0 Ha	2.1 - 5.0 Ha	5.1 - 10 Ha	10+ Ha	Total number of parks
Denistone - East - West	8	6	2	5	2	0	1	0	24
Eastwood	3	5	6	1	4	3	1	0	23
Gladesville - Tennyson Pt.	5	0	4	1	4	4	0	0	18
Macquarie Park	0	1	4	1	3	2	1	0	12
Marsfield	3	4	2	4	2	3	2	2	22
Meadowbank	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	8
North Ryde	6	5	2	4	4	6	3	0	30
Putney	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	9
Ryde - Field of Mars	1	6	2	1	1	4	0	1	16
Ryde - Santa Rosa	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	7
Ryde - South	1	2	1	4	2	1	0	0	11
Top Ryde	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
West Ryde	2	2	2	3	4	0	0	0	13
TOTAL	36	36	27	28	28	27	10	4	197

Table OS.04 Amounts of open space by size brackets

The principal conclusions drawn from this table are that:

- 50% of the parks in the City are of less than 0.5Ha in size
- analysis of the inventory also reveals that of these, 18% are of less than 0.1 Ha (Level 4 that have a size and shape which can reasonably accommodate formal or informal play opportunities such as kickabout, picnic, bbq, and social gathering are generally considered optimal at 0.5 Ha or more [Ref B5])
- 36% of open spaces are of under 0.2 Ha in size (0.2 Ha is about a fifth of a full size soccer field). 0.3 Ha is generally considered an absolute minimum size for a range of non-sports based informal recreation activities in built up urban areas (Ref B5)
- only four open spaces are greater than 10 Ha in size (Pembroke Park, ELS Hall Park, Field of Mars Reserve and Ryde Riverside Reserve).

The implications of this spread of sizes is that there is a heavy reliance on a large number of very small open spaces for recreation across the City. Significant numbers of the open spaces, whilst valued by the community are not of sufficient size to meet a wide range of day-to-day recreational opportunities and needs.

Shapes of Reserves

The shapes of open spaces also have a bearing on their capacity to accommodate a range of recreational opportunities. In general, compact, rather than elongated shapes accommodate a broader range of activities; narrow open spaces may be more restrictive in use from a recreational perspective.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

As may be seen from Figure OS.02, a significant number of the open spaces in the City are linear in form, reflecting the retention of the natural hydrology and native vegetation associated with creek corridors such as Buffalo Creek, Shrimpton's Creek, Kitty's Creek and Stranger's Creek, as also illustrated in Fig OS.04.

Limitations created by narrow linear shaped reserves may be both recreational and environmental in nature and can include :

- natural values that can be compromised by creating open, level areas (many narrow reserves are comprised of creeks and associated native riparian vegetation)
- topography that limits creation of level open spaces without significant change to natural landform and disturbance of vegetation (many narrow reserves are comprised of watercourse with significant gradient changes over their length)
- impacts on adjoining residences from noise and light spill by virtue of their narrow form
- 'edge effects' can be significant including impacts of weeds, stormwater and non-compatible activities from adjoining landuses (dumping garden waste, etc).

While narrow open spaces can have significant natural values (especially where they retain natural corridors and valleys) they may also have substantial recreational value in acting as corridors for walking and cycling in scenic surrounds. These values do not compensate for the need for each locality to have adequate space for informal kickabout areas (a critical need when addressing physical activity opportunities as part of everyday healthy lifestyles).

OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION

When considering the community's ability to access open space as part of their daily lives, the distribution of public open space is of equal, if not higher importance than the size and area of reserves. An overview of Figures OS.02 and OS.03 reveals some important characteristics of open space distribution across the City:

- significant areas in some suburbs are without access to public open space of any significant size within 400 metres of residences
- major road and rail corridors across the City act as barriers for access to parks and open spaces, especially for walkers and cyclists
- large areas of well connected open space exist along the Parramatta and Lane Cove River foreshores (with much of the latter being National Park managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- there is an uneven distribution of sporting open spaces in the City with most located in the north and south-east sections of the City
- many of the creek systems which also act as open space corridors are fragmented or truncated by roads or development.

The distribution of open space also affects accessibility and connectivity, which is described later in this section.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

DIVERSITY OF OPEN SPACE SETTINGS

The range of open space setting types within a local government area will determine the diversity of recreation opportunity for its community. While some settings are inherently determined by the existing characteristics of the landscape (eg. creeks and river foreshores), many settings will have been planned during the development of the locality to meet the perceived or expressed recreational needs of the community at the time which the reserves were Gazetted.

For an inner city area such as Ryde, the primary setting types for many of larger parks may have been determined early in the City's development (during the late 19th Century to early 20th Century) and may not have varied greatly. Since that time the community has grown, evolved and changed in its recreational preferences.

In order to develop the Implementation Plan for the IOSP, Council has designated setting types based on the broad objectives outlined in Table OS.01. However, this is necessarily an iterative process and as part of implementing the plan it is proposed that Council progressively review and update these settings (particularly any secondary settings not previously designated).

Figure OS.02 shows the distribution of the different open space setting types in the 197 open spaces accounted for in the existing inventory data of City of Ryde. The functions and objectives are outlined in Table OS.01.

From analysis of the setting types across the City, a number of conclusions can be drawn:

- 'Outdoor Sports' are open spaces designed, managed and used for organised sports, that may also contain indoor sports halls. They account for a large number of open spaces across the City and are also significant in total area
- the majority of 'Natural Areas' and 'Bushland' settings are located on the outer boundaries of the east and west suburbs. They are not well connected to the core of the City
- 'Passive Parkland' open space settings managed for informal and unstructured leisure and recreation are the most numerous, but also the smallest in size
- Setting types on the Parramatta River foreshores are varied in nature ('Outdoor Sports', 'Passive Parklands', 'River Foreshores')
- Several setting types (Cultural Heritage, Civic and Urban Spaces, Ancillary and Informal) have very limited distribution
- While many 'Civic and Urban Spaces' have recreational, social and leisure uses, Council does not currently include these in the inventory as they are not zoned as public open space (eg. Eastwood Plaza)
- 'Cultural Heritage' open space is very limited despite the area's rich history (only Brush Farm House).

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Importantly also, when the settings are examined in more detail, many of the open spaces are oriented to a single use only; this is particularly true of Outdoor Sports settings, tending to limit recreational opportunities for a significant quantum of the overall open space.

ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

To establish the degree to which open space meets the needs of the City community, the analysis of the amounts and distribution of open space must also be measured against the accessibility and connectivity of that resource.

Accessibility

As previously identified, contemporary benchmarking indicates that access to public open space in an urban environment should be at a maximum of 400m direct walking (or 10 minutes average walking) distance from all residences. To assess the degree to which this applies in the City a simple 'pedshed analysis' can be carried out. Figure OS.03a illustrates the results of the 'pedshed analysis', incorporating a series of 200m bands from the boundaries of all existing open space.

Based on this analysis most residential areas of the City have suitable access to open space. The dark blue colour identifies those areas that lie outside a 400m maximum distance from any open space and thus do not meet best practice benchmarks for open space access.

It is evident that there is a deficit of locally accessible open space in North Ryde and in the suburbs of Top Ryde, Ryde South and West Ryde. Relatively steep topography and the presence of major roads in these areas provide impediments to open space access. Further analysis of the existing and projected population in these suburbs (as detailed later in this section) explains the full significance of the deficit in these areas.

Barriers

Topography, street layouts, major roads and waterways can all be significant barriers to pedestrian movement across the City (refer Figure OS.03b) and the following are significant barriers within the City:

- the rail line is a significant barrier in the west of the City
- Lane Cove River and Parramatta River are significant barriers to movement across other LGA boundaries to access open space and recreation in adjacent councils' open space
- busy roads of Victoria Road, Lane Cove Road and Epping Road create major barriers for safe pedestrian passage
- the M2 (in its open section) obstructs safe and easy access to Lane Cove National Park
- steep topography in suburbs such as Denistone, Top Ryde and Ryde, Field of Mars (refer Figure CO.07) limit access to open spaces.

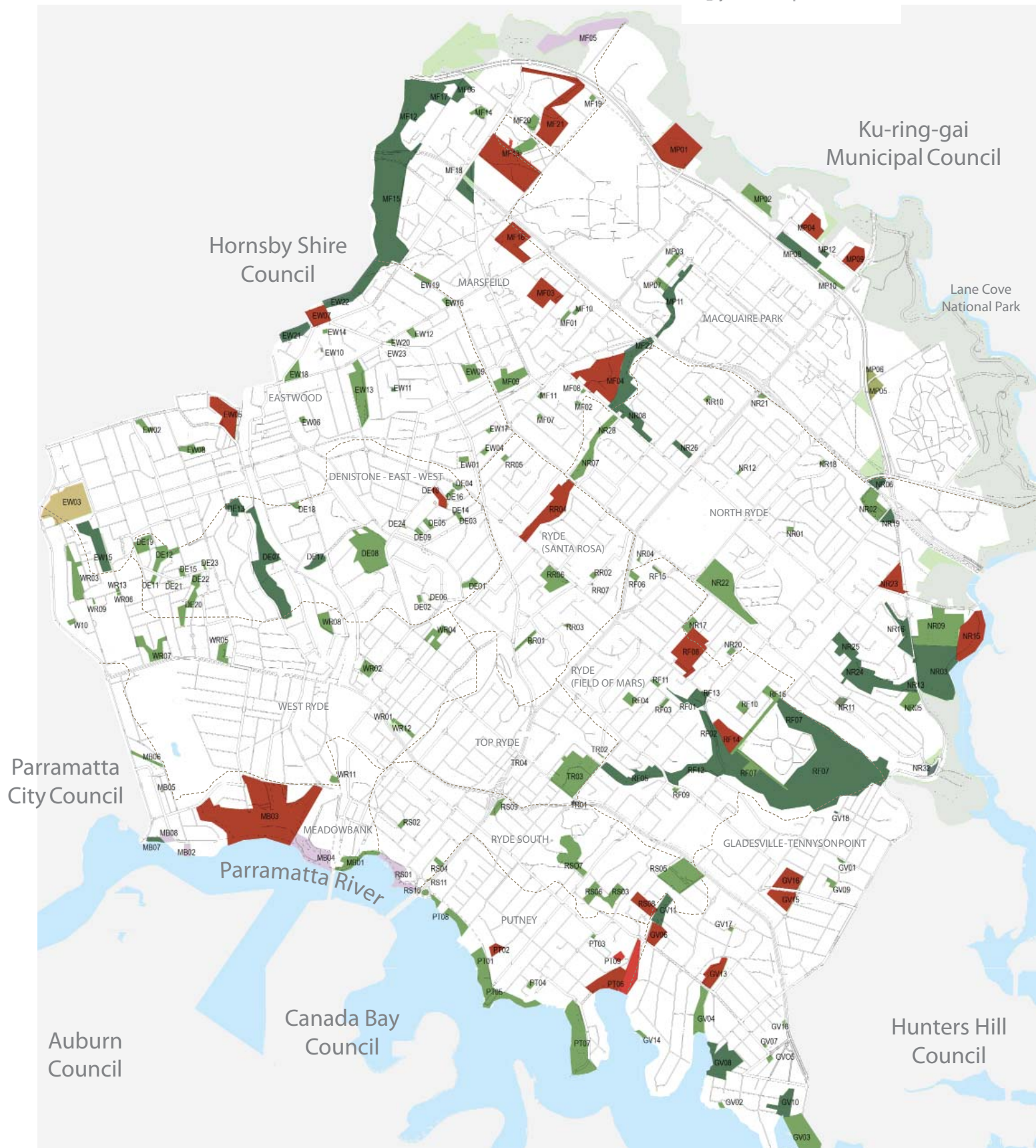


Figure OS.02 Open Space Settings

OPEN SPACE SETTINGS

KEY

-  Passive Parklands
-  Outdoor Sports
-  Civic and Urban Spaces
-  Natural Areas and Bushlands
-  Cultural Heritage
-  River Foreshore
-  Creeks and Wetlands
-  Ancillary
-  Informal
-  National Park (NPWS)
-  Suburb Boundary



Willoughby
Council

Lane Cove
Council



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Connectivity

Exploring the full range of recreational connections and linkages at a local, district and regional level is a core element of the IOSP. Such connections within and outside of parks and open spaces include:

- bushland areas and corridors
- river foreshores and creek corridors
- rail, road and infrastructure corridors
- local road systems, including shared paths and dedicated cycleways and pathways
- the diverse range of laneways across the City.

At a district level the Shrimpton's Creek Cycleway trail is a major two kilometre off road link which connects south from Macquarie Shopping Centre to ELS Hall Park, Wilga Park, Booth Reserve, Tindarra Reserve, Flinders Park and Santa Rosa Park.

The Great North Walk, an example of a regional level connection, is the 250 kilometre walking track from Sydney to Newcastle and part of the Regional Recreational Trails Framework which can be accessed from the City via Buffalo Creek Reserve, Magdala Park and Lane Cove National Park.

Importantly, the strategy to improve accessibility to, between and across the City's open space must be based on simple principles that:

- enhance natural values and draw on natural features
- link to other destinations and attractors (work, school, shops, transport)
- tell the 'story' of Ryde
- respond to the user-type and context.

In 2007, Council prepared an outline strategy for improving connectivity across the City entitled 'Linking People and Places'. The draft strategy addressed a series of path and trail connections that were either largely in place or in need of extending or enhancing. Whilst the strategy was not formally adopted, it has formed a baseline from which the IOSP investigates the trails, corridors and linkages more substantially.

The linkages and trails identified by Council (refer to Figure OS.04) are largely located on creek or bushland remnant across the City, including the following:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| - Ryde Riverwalk | - Terry's Creek Trail |
| - Shrimpton's Creek | - Strangers Creek Trail |
| - Kunzea Walk | - Kitty's Creek Trail |
| - Eastwood to West Ryde (via Darvall Park) | - Great Northern Walk (part of) |

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Further opportunities that Council may explore given the relatively recent opening of new rail stations, would include:

- North Ryde to West Chatswood
- Meadowbank to West Ryde
- Ryde to Morrison Bay.

The Open Space and Environment Strategy (2010) also identified seven city-wide links. The routes are: (refer to Figure OS.04)

- City-Wide Link 1: West Ryde centre to the Parramatta River and Meadowbank Park. Meadowbank shops to the Parramatta River
- City-Wide Link 2: Five Ways shops to Eastwood Heights Public School, Forrester Park, Terry's Creek, Pembroke Park, and T.G. Milner Field
- City-Wide Link 3: Macquarie Park Centre to Christie Park, Fontenoy Park, and Tuckwell Park
- City-Wide Link 4: Shrimpton's Creek Parklands to Cox's Road shops, Blenheim Road shops
- City-Wide Link 5: Shrimpton's Creek Parklands to North Ryde Common, Wallumatta Reserve, Gannan Park, and Pidding Park
- City-Wide Link 6: Putney shops to Kissing Point Park, Parry Park, Cudal Reserve, Tyagarah Park, Mallee Reserve, the RALC, Bremner Park, and Morrison Bay Park (Parramatta River)
- City-Wide Link 7: Gladesville Centre to Glades Bay Park and Looking Glass Bay.

While Council has worked to establish a network of trails, many of these routes have been proposed by different sections within Council and are documented in a variety of reports. It is clear that they do not form a co-ordinated, strategic approach to connections and corridors, which the IOSP addresses in development of a consolidated suite of strategic recreational and environmental corridors.

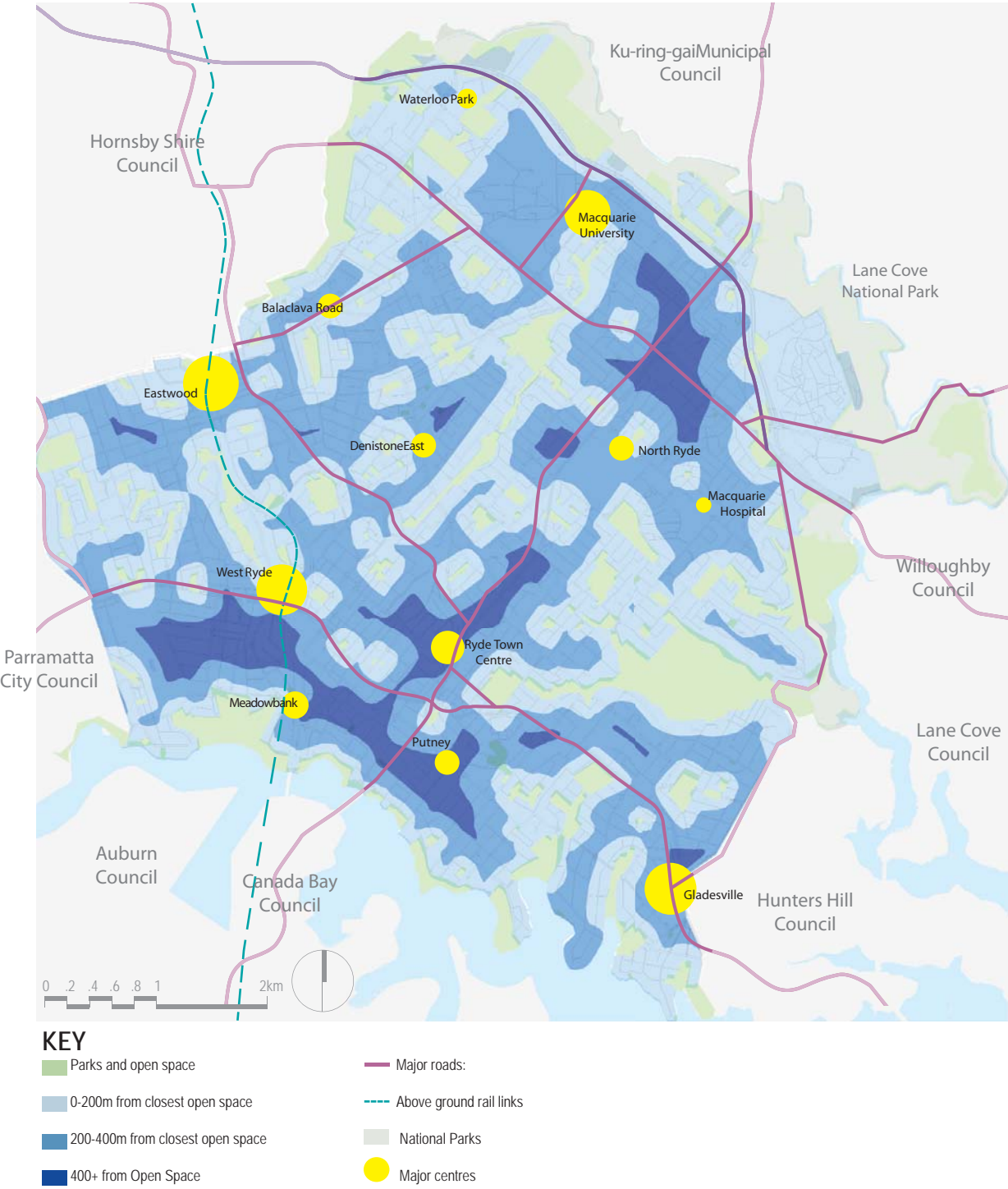


Figure OS.03a - Accessibility and Connectivity of Open Space

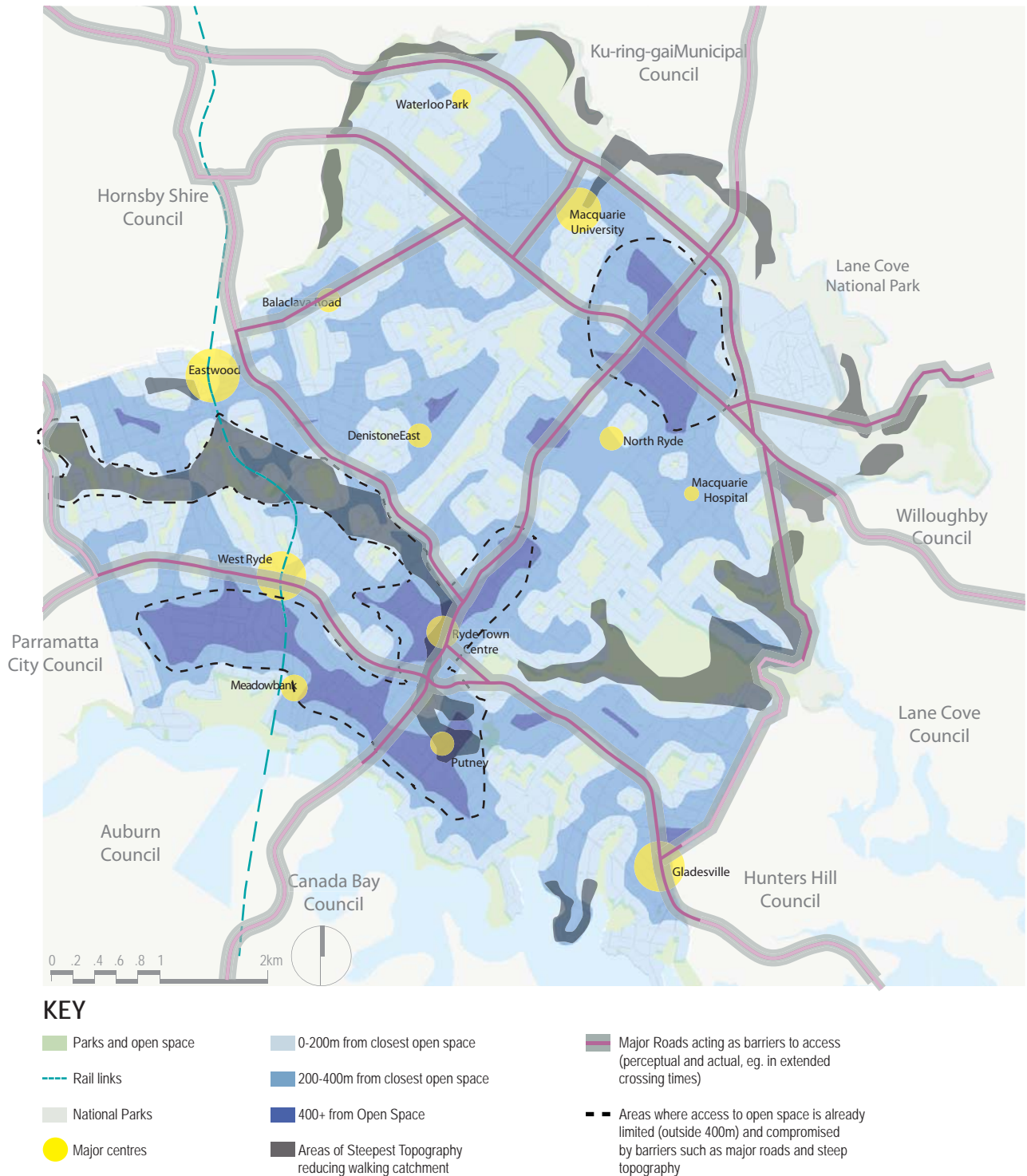


Figure OS.03b - Accessibility and Connectivity of Open Space with barriers added

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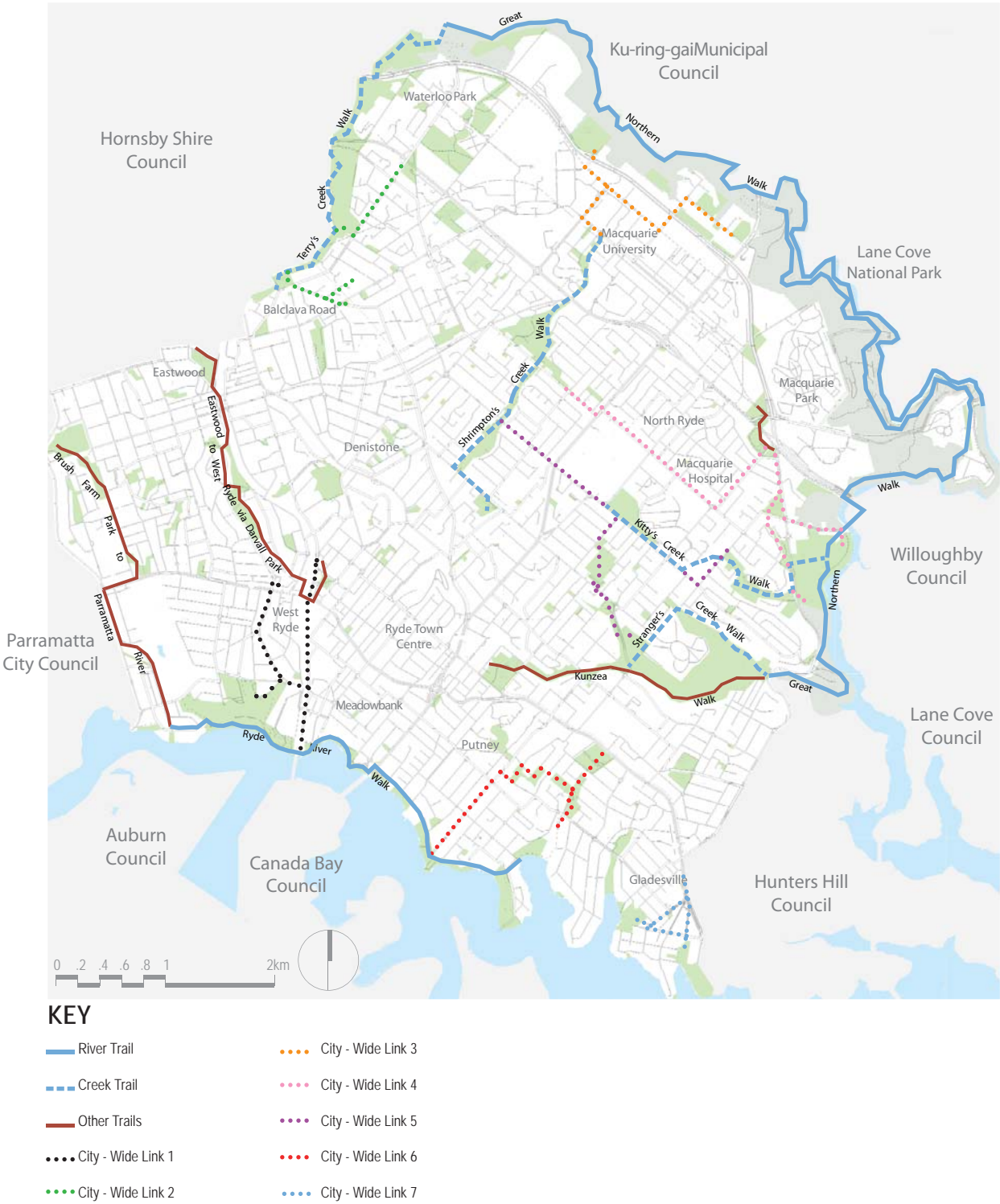


Figure OS.04 - Linkages and trails currently identified by Council (see descriptions in Open Space Provision, Connectivity)

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RELATIONSHIP OF OPEN SPACE TO EXISTING AND FUTURE POPULATION

While Level 1 and Level 2 open space can serve a local open space role for those living within their vicinity, for the most part these spaces serve the whole population of a local government area, with most residents prepared to travel across the Council area to enjoy those facilities. However, Level 3 and Level 4 open space, by its nature and distribution, serves a smaller section of the City's population.

Accordingly, the availability of and easy accessibility to parks at this local level is central to people's ability to access leisure and recreation opportunity on a day-to-day basis. Analysis is therefore carried out at a sub-district level – at a suburb level in the case of the City – where the amounts of open space can also be measured against known populations and the projected population change within those suburbs.

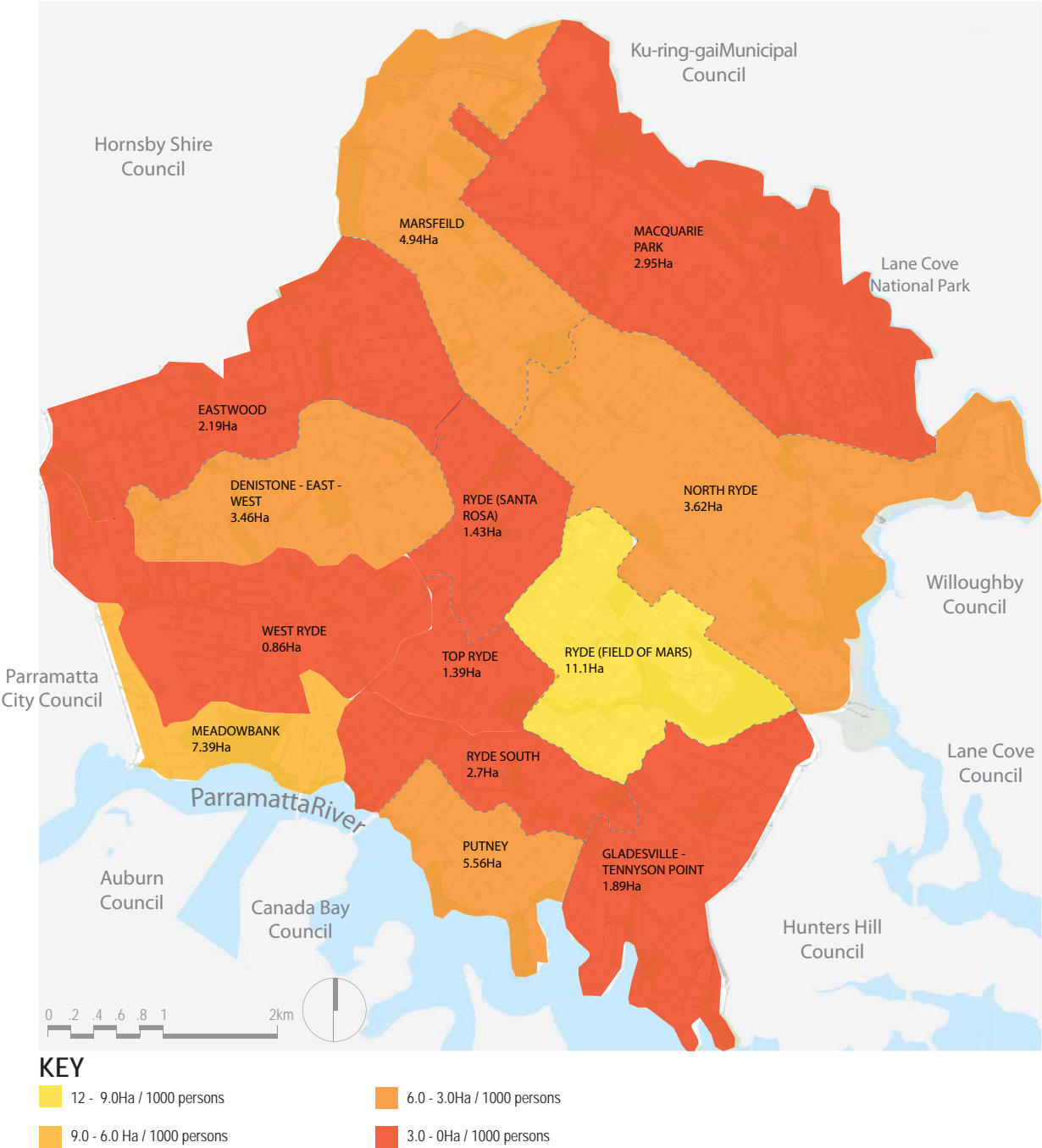
The City analyses its population and demography across thirteen separate suburbs. Each of these suburbs corresponds with the borders of a number of Census Collector districts, therefore parks are listed and detailed under these same suburbs in the inventory.

Table OS.05 schedules the amounts of open space relative to population in each suburb. Figure OS.05 illustrates these ratios in map form.

Suburb	Total Population 2006 Census (% of Total)	Total / Ha Open Space	Total Ha / 1000 2006 Population	Total Ha per Hierarchy				Ha/1000 of 2006 population without Level 1 Open Space only	Ha/1000 of 2006 population Level 3 & 4 Open Space only	Ha/1000 of 2006 population Level 4 Open Space only	Population 2031	Population change 2006 to 2031	Ave Annual Change %	Ha/1000 of projected 2031 population Level 4 Open Space only
				Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4							
Denistone - East - West	6495 (6.5%)	22.49 Ha	3.46	0	2	3	19	3.46	1.98	0.79	7,364	869	0.50%	0.69
Eastwood	12322 (12%)	27.01 Ha	2.19	0	2	7	14	2.19	1.25	0.32	15,085	2,763	0.81%	0.26
Gladesville Tennyson	10177 (10%)	19.37 Ha	1.90	1	6	2	9	1.74	0.39	0.14	12,606	2,489	0.88%	0.11
Macquarie Park	5992 (6%)	17.62 Ha	2.95	1	3	2	6	2.07	0.79	0.36	10,620	4,628	2.32%	0.21
Marsfield	12221 (12%)	60.35 Ha	4.94	2	5	2	13	3.16	1.56	0.42	12,619	398	0.13%	0.41
Meadowbank	4286 (4.5%)	31.68 Ha	7.39	1	0	1	6	1.52	1.52	0.65	6,724	2,438	1.82%	0.41
North Ryde	13246 (13%)	48.05 Ha	3.62	2	3	6	19	3.05	1.78	0.79	18,789	5,543	1.41%	0.57
Putney	4224 (4%)	23.51 Ha	5.56	1	4	1	3	3.96	0.27	0.1	4,734	510	0.46%	0.09
Ryde - Field of Mars	6292 (6%)	69.76 Ha	11.1	1	3	1	11	3.17	1.56	0.96	7,575	1,283	0.75%	0.79
Ryde - Santa Rosa	5520 (5.5%)	7.88 Ha	1.43	1	1	0	5	0.98	0.14	0.14	6,098	578	0.40%	0.13
Ryde - South	3890 (4%)	11.09 Ha	2.85	1	2	3	5	2.17	0.66	0.32	12,640	8,750	4.83%	0.1
Top Ryde	4781 (5%)	6.71 Ha	1.40	1	0	0	3	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,411	3,630	2.29%	0.02
West Ryde	11577 (11.5%)	9.87 Ha	0.86	0	0	6	7	0.86	0.86	0.18	14,046	2,469	0.78%	0.15

Table OS.05 Amounts of open space per 1000 population, by suburb

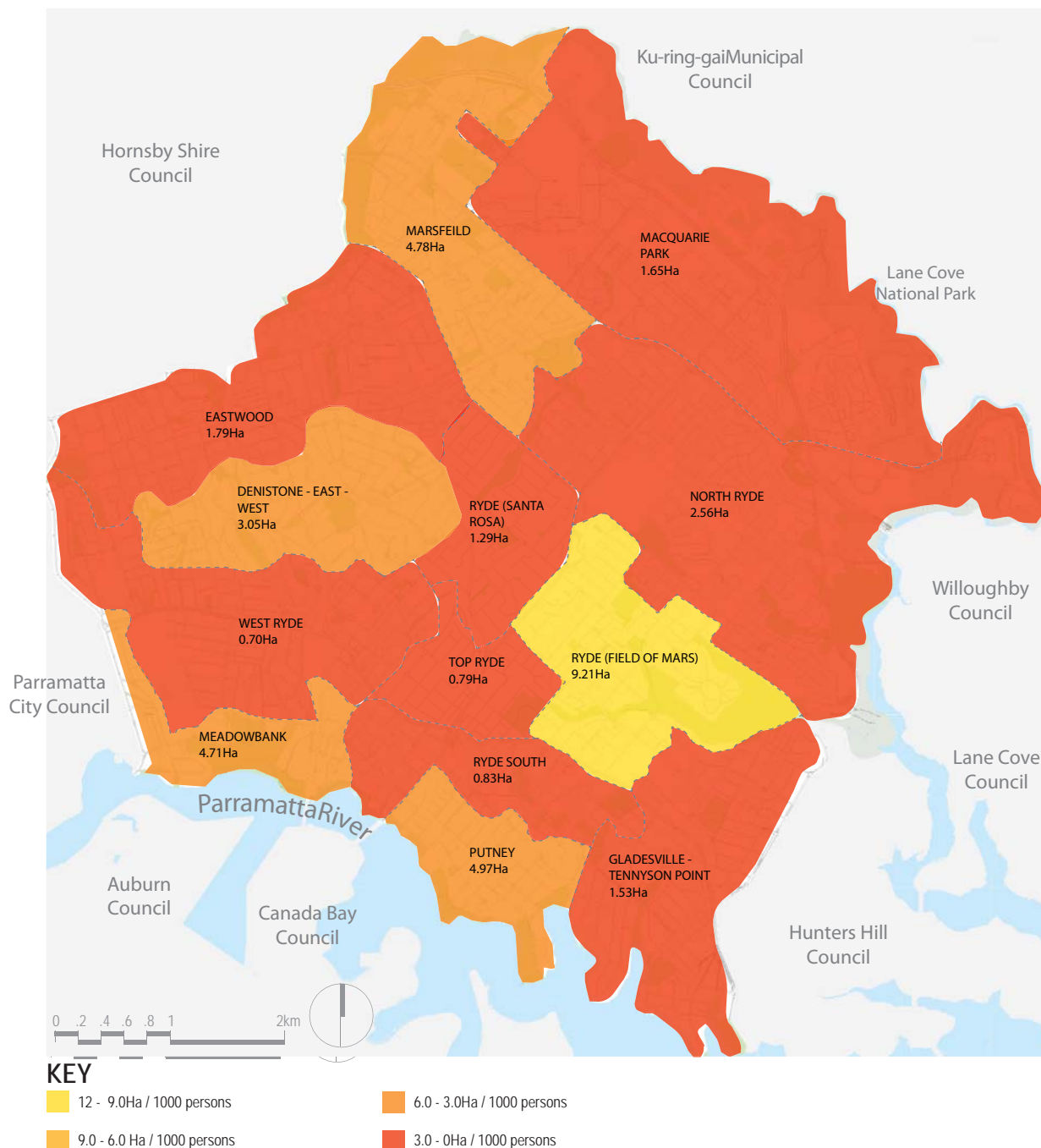
PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION



NB. these figures include Level 1 open space and should be considered in conjunction with distribution and access (Refer to Figure IP.01) to gain a full understanding of Level 4 open space sufficiency

Figure OS.05a : Total Amounts of Open Space to 2006 population ratio (Ha/1000 persons)

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NB. these figures include Level 1 open space and should be considered in conjunction with distribution and access (Refer to Figure IP.01) to gain a full understanding of Level 4 open space sufficiency

Figure OS.05b : Total Amounts of Open Space forecast to 2031 population ratio (Ha/1000 persons)

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Key conclusions from this analysis are:

- at 3.41Ha/1000 persons, the total open space in the City compares favourably with other inner urban suburbs, but at a local level, provision is highly variable across the City
- there are very low totals of open space per 1000 persons in Ryde Santa Rosa, Top Ryde and West Ryde
- there are very low ratios of Level 4 open space per head of population in Gladesville, Putney, Ryde Santa Rosa, Top Ryde and West Ryde
- substantial population growth in Macquarie Park, North Ryde and Ryde South will require Council to optimise capacity of existing open space and evaluate options for future land acquisition for additional open space in order to meet the growing demand
- suburbs with lower population growth, but also limited Level 4 open space may require further land acquisition for open space (eg. Top Ryde, Putney).

SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION BY SUBURB

Drawing together all of the analysis of the quantum, size, distribution, diversity, accessibility and amounts per head of population, Table OS.06 on the following pages summarises these findings by suburb and identifies the conclusions and implications for the development of the IOSP.

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SUBURB	QUANTUM AND SIZE	DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY	RATIO TO POPULATION	ACCESSIBILITY/ CONNECTIVITY	CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Dennistone East/West	Large number of very small open spaces (14 under 0.1-0.2 Ha) and only two large open spaces (Darvall Park and Denistone Park). No Level 1 open space in the suburb.	Distribution is mostly even (few residences more than 500m from a park). Darvall and Denistone Parks are both large but mostly bushland (Darvall has a sportsfield), with only small areas of passive parklands, not highly embellished. Numerous very small reserves on eastern and western boundaries.	Amounts of overall open space to existing population (3.46 Ha/1000) high but principally bushland. Level 4 open space/ passive parkland ratio low (0.79) but still second highest in Council area. However, projected population growth is small.	Eastwood Rail line is a major barrier to east-west movement in the suburb, compounded by limited grid pattern of streets in centre of suburb. Blaxland Road is also a barrier to east west movement in east of suburb.	Need for greater diversity in setting and a few larger size Level 4 open spaces rather than many small ones. Population growth is low, so not highest urgency in the City. Longer term consolidation of the many small open spaces would be beneficial; short term focus may be best targeted on embellishment of larger parks for passive needs and greater diversity for existing population.
Eastwood	High number of Level 4 open spaces but also a high number of Level 2 open space compared to other suburbs. Reasonable number of open spaces over 0.2 Ha. Largest open spaces are Brush Farm Park, Eastwood Park, Jim Walsh Park and Lambert Park.	Parks are evenly dispersed, but diversity of setting types are greater than in most suburbs. Significant gap in Level 4 open space immediately to east of rail line and between Glen Reserve and Brush Farm Park (more than 700 metres apart).	Second highest existing population, but low ratio of Level 4 open space to population and with a moderate growth forecast this drops further (20% less in 2031). Highest density population in the City is immediately north of Eastwood town centre where very limited space exists, with 300 metres of residences.	Eastwood Rail line is a major barrier to east-west movement in the suburb and is a particular barrier given the very high density population to east of the rail line, with Eastwood Park to the west of the line with only significant crossings at the station and First Street, well south of this area.	Recent upgrades to Eastwood Park have responded well to high pressure on this open space, given very limited open space in this most densely populated centre. West of the rail line is the principal shortfall, given many 3 - 4 storey walk-ups here. Long term acquisition may be worth considering (possibly close to the retail area) but short term may need to focus on greatly embellishing open spaces such as Glenn Reserve and Moore Park and also improve streetscape walkability.
Gladesville Tennyson Pt	Six open spaces are classified as Level 2 although none are over 0.4 Ha in size. Nine open spaces are deemed Level 4 but relatively few parks are under 0.2 Ha (5 No). No Level 1 open space but north of suburb abuts Field of Mars Reserve.	Significant riverside open space (Glades Bay and Looking Glass Park). Most open space in centre of suburb are sports focused (Monash, Westminster and Peel Parks), limited passive parkland except on river.	Relatively high population (10% of City). Very low quantum of open space per 1000 persons (1.90 Ha) and even lower Level 4 open space (0.14 Ha). Moderate to High population growth (25% in 2006-31).	Ongoing foreshore open space improvements and extending paths on Parramatta River foreshore are enhancing accessibility and improving river access. Victoria Road is a major barrier to north-south access.	South of the suburb is well served but there is a critical shortage of Level 4 open space for passive uses in the centre of the suburb. In the meantime, focus on embellishing existing smaller areas (eg. Halcyon Park and north end of Peel Park), plus high quality play equipment and perhaps path circuit at sports parks (eg. Monash Park) would meet shorter term needs.

Table OS. 06 Summary of Open Space Provision Status by Suburb

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

SUBURB	QUANTUM AND SIZE	DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY	RATIO TO POPULATION	ACCESSIBILITY/ CONNECTIVITY	CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Macquarie Park	Only 12 open spaces in the second largest suburb (by area) in the City. Aside from Christie Park, most parks are less than 3.0 Ha in size.	Aside from the Shrimpton Creek Reserves (Wilga and Quandong Reserve), almost all parks are on the northern boundary of the suburb adjoining Lane Cove National Park. Setting diversity is limited and park embellishment is mostly very limited across the suburb (there are only five minor play areas in the suburb).	Current population is relatively low (6% of City) and ratio to open space is also low but growth projections are very high (average 2.3% per annum), creating the need for more local open space especially in the centre of the suburb. New resident population and major business growth will add demand.	A large part of the suburb comprises of business park and the University, therefore street access is limited. M2 Motorway is a major barrier to reserves along Lane Cove River and Great North Walk. Epping Road is a major barrier to movement south and west of the suburb.	Council planning for the Macquarie Park Corridor is still ongoing. Given the forecast of significant growth in residential and working population, there will be the need for significant development negotiations for new open space at all Levels, aside from civic plaza spaces. Improving cycle and pedestrian access in northeast/southwest axis, especially with M2 and Epping Road will be important. Ongoing partnership with the University for shared uses is worthy of further exploration.
Marsfield	Significant total quantum of open space in suburb with two open space areas over 5.0 Ha (Marsfield Park and Waterloo Park) and two over 10.0 Ha (ELS Hall Park and Pembroke Park). There are four open space in the south of 0.1 Ha or less in size.	Distribution is uneven, with natural bushland concentrated along Terry's Creek on the western boundary. The suburb contains the highest number of sports facilities (six sports focused parks), mostly on the eastern boundary, showing a minor open space deficit east of Abuklea Road. Diversity of settings and facilities is very limited.	Current population is one of the three highest in the City (12% of the City) with a relatively high quantum of open space per 1000 persons (4.94 Ha). Projected annual growth to 2031 is very low (average 0.13% per annum).	Epping Road is the major barrier to access between the northwest and southwest parts of the suburb. The M2 also acts as a barrier to Lane Cove National Park in the north of the suburb.	With the extensive area of reserves dedicated to sports in this suburb, there is a distinct lack of opportunity for passive recreation, with very limited embellishment in any of the sports parks (eg. no play equipment presently at all in Dunbar or Marsfield Parks). Likewise, while there are bushland reserves there are few passive parklands of any size in the suburb. Given the current high population but low growth forecast, focus may best be centred on providing greater diversity within existing sports parks.

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SUBURB	QUANTUM AND SIZE	DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY	RATIO TO POPULATION	ACCESSIBILITY/ CONNECTIVITY	CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Meadowbank	Only eight open spaces in the suburb with six classified as Level 4 and one Level 3 (Memorial Park). One major Level 1 sports park (Meadowbank Park) accounts for 80% of the open space in the suburb.	Whilst open space in the west of the suburb is more limited, distances from here to Meadowbank Park remain walkable and Bartlett Park (Parramatta City Council) is immediately to the north. Other than Memorial Park and the Ryde Riverwalk path, the principal focus has been on sports in Meadowbank Park. However, the current masterplan proposes more passive uses in the park.	Current population is relatively low (4.5% of City) with a high ratio per 1000 persons (7.39 Ha) but projected annual growth is one of the higher forecasts in the LGA (1.82% annual average growth) which will increase demand for open space.	Council's improvements to the Ryde Riverwalk enhances accessibility to open spaces within the suburb and the cycle path/footpath across the Parramatta River provides access to the extensive open space network in Homebush Bay. Eastwood Rail line is not a significant barrier given its elevation, however increasing gradients on the northern boundary of the suburb limits the walkable connections north.	Recent funding as part of the 'Sharing Sydney Harbour' initiative has improved the suburbs diversity of open space and connectivity along the river. The density of population around the Meadowbank centre is some of the highest in the City and with an increasing residential density between Concord Road and the Rhodes Rail bridge, access to river foreshore parks is reasonable. There is a lack of kickabout space on this side of the suburb, exacerbated by a similar shortage in the adjoining suburb of Ryde South.
North Ryde	Largest number of open spaces in the City (total of 30) with 11 less than 0.2 Ha, (about a fifth of the size of a soccer field) and no open spaces greater than 10.0 Ha in size. North Ryde Common, Blenheim Park, North Ryde Park and Magdala Park are some of the larger open spaces in the suburb.	Parks are relatively dispersed with the majority of open space located around the perimeter and showing significant gaps across the centre of the suburb. Small passive parks are scattered across the northeast of the suburb with larger natural bushland and sports focused in the east and west (Shrimpton's Creek). Diversity is modest but Blenheim Park is one of the most embellished parks for passive open space in the City.	Current population is the highest across the City (13% of the City) with a relatively high overall ratio per 1000 persons (3.62 Ha) and a high projected annual growth (1.41%). Predicted population of 18,789 by 2031 will greatly increase demand for open space.	Epping Road and Lane Cove Road are major barriers to east-west and north-south movement in the suburb and to a lesser degree, Pittwater Road, is a barrier to the east.	This suburb is one of the largest by area and also holds the largest population with moderate growth forecast. Given the very substantial area in the centre and north of the suburb that has little access to open space, a focus on acquisition will be a probable outcome here.

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SUBURB	QUANTUM AND SIZE	DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY	RATIO TO POPULATION	ACCESSIBILITY/ CONNECTIVITY	CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Putney	Total of nine open spaces across the suburb with two larger than 2.0 Ha and two larger than 10.0 Ha (Putney Park and Morrison Bay Park). There are two open spaces in the south east of the suburb of less than 0.1 Ha in size.	Distribution is very uneven with the majority of open space located along the river foreshore results in a significant lack of open space across much of the remaining suburb. Diversity is uneven with foreshore parkland dominant and Morrison Bay Park the major sports park.	Current population is one of the lowest across the City (4% of the City) with a relatively high ratio per 1000 persons (5.56 Ha) but low at Level 4. Predicted population growth is low up to 2031 (only 510 persons) this will keep future demand at a lower level.	Ongoing foreshore park improvement and extending paths on Parramatta River foreshore are enhancing accessibility and connectivity and improving river access. Gradients to the north reduce walkability connections to Ryde South. The River to River corridor is an important initiative linking the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers.	Recent funding as part of the 'Sharing Sydney Harbour' initiative has improved the suburbs diversity of open space and connectivity along the river. There is a significant shortage of open space in the northern part of the suburb and longer term acquisition might be considered. Although with low population and low forecast growth this would not be the highest priority in the City.
Ryde Field of Mars	Total of 16 open spaces across the suburb with one greater than 10.0 Ha (Field of Mars is the largest single open space in the City at 49 Ha) and four less than 5.0 Ha. There are seven less than 0.1 Ha in size. Gannan Park and Pidding Park are significant sized sports parks (both 4.5 Ha).	Distribution is fair and most residences are within a 400m distance of some open space, although the great majority of open space is in the east of the suburb and principally of natural bushland and creek. Diversity is limited and very few of the parks have any significant embellishment. Improvements such as the boardwalk at Field of Mars has helped accessibility, but for an open space of its size it offers few other public amenities that reflect its importance.	Relatively low population (6% of the City). Very high quantum of open space per 1000 persons (11.1 Ha) and some of the highest amounts of local open space in the City. Moderate annual growth predicted (0.75% annual average).	Field of Mars is the most significant natural and recreation corridor in the City. Steep local topography in the Buffalo Creek Valley is a barrier to north-south access in the suburb, but conversely the open space forms a very important link as a natural and recreational corridor between the Lane Cove River, the Great North Walk and Top Ryde. Victoria Road is a major barrier to access south into the suburbs of Ryde South and Gladesville.	For the most part this suburb is reasonably well served for access to public open space, although there is no significantly sized passive park that would suit informal kickabout. Focusing on more embellishment of existing small open spaces such as Brigade and Byron Park would also be complemented by more passive recreation facilities at sports parks like Gannan and Pidding Parks. While the Field of Mars is first and foremost a bushland open space there are cleared areas, particularly close to Pittwater Road that would meet passive recreation needs without compromise to its integrity.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

SUBURB	QUANTUM AND SIZE	DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY	RATIO TO POPULATION	ACCESSIBILITY/ CONNECTIVITY	CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Ryde Santa Rosa	Total of seven open spaces across the suburb with five of those classified as Level 4 and less than 0.5 Ha in size, and two less than 5.0 Ha (Yamble Reserve and Santa Rosa Park) classified by the City as Level 1. No Level 3 open space in the suburb.	Distribution is low as there are only two significant open spaces in the suburb (Santa Rosa Park, including the community garden/nursery and Yamble Reserve), although Santa Rosa forms part of an important corridor of open space north along Shrimptons Creek.	Current population is relatively low (5.5% of the City) with a low ratio of open space per 1000 persons (1.43 Ha) and very low quantum of Level 4 open space. Projected annual growth is low (0.40%).	Blaxland Road is the only significant arterial road in the suburb itself, while Lane Cove Road on its eastern boundary is a significant barrier to access to North Ryde and Ryde Field of Mars. Yamble Reserve is large and well developed but is not part of a wider park network or corridor. Access is therefore relatively car-dependent.	Santa Rosa lies at the geographic heart of the City and in that location can serve a pivotal role in connecting the City's open space, especially with the existing north-south corridor of Shrimpton's Creek. The absence of any significant open spaces in the south of the suburb, compounded by a similar position in Top Ryde to the south, suggests a review of longer term acquisition may be needed.
Ryde South	Total of nine open spaces across the suburb with four less than 1.0 Ha, one at less than 5.0 Ha (Lardelli Park) and two less than 2.0 Ha (Olympic Park and Tyagarah Park). Lardelli Park is large at 4 Ha but is unimproved.	Distribution is uneven with the majority of parks and reserves in the east of the suburb. There are only three very small parks in the west, none of which are of a size suitable for informal kickabout. Diversity is low with natural areas dominant with only one sports park (Tyagarah Park), although Olympic Park does contain the Ryde Tennis Centre. Several parks have very limited embellishment (eg. Cudal Reserve).	Current population is low (4% of the City) with a ratio of open space per 1000 persons (2.85 Ha) with very low Level 4 open space. Projected annual growth is the highest across the City (4.83%) with a predicted population for 2031 of 12,640 persons. Demand is going to increase, especially in the west where open space is so limited.	Victoria Road and Devlin Road/Church Street are the major road barriers in the suburb and the very steep topography to the south of Victoria Road and to the southeast of its junction with Devlin Street considerably reduces the walking environments in these areas. The Morrison Bay to Olympic Park corridor is strong but the park links west through Tyagarah, Cudal and Parry Park and to the Putney shops is very disjointed.	With the highest forecast population growth in the City the lack of open space in the west of the suburb, compounded by an equal shortage in the northern half of the Putney suburb suggests that addressing these shortages will be a high priority in Ryde South. In the shorter term, improved recreational links from the Putney village centre east through the open space to the Morrison Bay Park corridor would improve access to the Ryde Riverwalk and the various sports parks in this area.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

SUBURB	QUANTUM AND SIZE	DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY	RATIO TO POPULATION	ACCESSIBILITY/ CONNECTIVITY	CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Top Ryde	Total of three open spaces across the suburb with one Level 1 (Ryde Park) and less than 10.0 Ha in size and two less than 0.2 Ha (about a fifth of the size of a soccer field). No Level 2 and 3 open space in the suburb.	Distribution is very poor with only three open spaces across the suburb, all on its eastern boundary with associated low diversity. Many residences in the west of the suburb are further than 400m distant from any open space.	Current population is low (5% of the City) with a low ratio of open space per 1000 persons (1.40 Ha). As projected annual growth is second highest across the City (2.29%), this will create greater need for more open space.	Concord Road/ Lane Cove Road are major barriers to east-west movement in the suburb. Blaxland Road is also a barrier east-west of the suburb, with steep topography in the north of the suburb further limiting walking catchments.	While Ryde Park has recently received a significant upgrade, its location east of the Top Ryde centre and separation from the western side of the suburb by a major arterial road means it is largely serving only the east of the suburb as a local park. The major forecast growth in the suburb and the absence of any public open space over the majority of the suburb suggests that acquisition may be a top priority in this suburb.
West Ryde	Total of 13 open spaces across the suburb with no open spaces greater than 2.0 Ha in size. The open space is all classified as either Level 3 or 4. No Level 1 and 2 open space is located in the suburb.	Distribution is uneven with open space only in the northern section of the suburb. Diversity is low with most parks and reserves being passive parklands, low in park embellishment. Many residences immediately south of Victoria Road are substantially further than 400m from any public open space.	Current population is third highest across the City (11.5% of the City) but with a very low ratio of open space per 1000 persons (0.86 Ha). Projected average annual growth is the second highest in the City (average 0.78% annually).	Victoria Road is a major barrier to north-south access with gradients south from Victoria Road limiting walking catchments. The shortage of open space in the suburb is further exacerbated by the absence of any existing recreational creek corridors. Thus connectivity and accessibility are highly constrained in this suburb.	The north of the suburb is better served but there is a critical shortage of all open space for passive and sports uses in the centre of the suburb (the south has access to Meadowbank Park in the adjoining suburb). With a high existing population and a high forecast, further embellishment of Parks like Anzac Park and Lions Park will assist the northernmost residences in the short term. Acquisition of further open space in the centre would appear to be a high priority.

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

CONCLUSIONS FROM ANALYSIS BY SUBURB

While Table OS.04 draws conclusions and implications from the detailed analysis in this section on a suburb by suburb basis, some broader overall conclusions can also be drawn from the City as a whole. These include:

- a need to optimise the capacity of existing open spaces to meet now and future recreation and leisure needs in all suburbs
- a requirement to establish potential locations for future land acquisition in suburbs where the population growth is not matched by current open space provision (eg. Macquarie Park, Ryde North, Ryde South, Top Ryde, Putney)
- improved connectivity (paths, creek corridors, etc) to assist access to open space for those with more limited opportunity in their neighbourhoods particularly in the short term whilst acquisitions are in the planning (eg. Top Ryde, Ryde South, North Ryde)
- ensuring that until such time as additional land is acquired for public open space in those suburbs where there is a deficit, it will be essential to optimise recreation opportunity in the existing public open space
- a need to improve layouts in existing sports facilities to increase usage capacity, plus the need to offer more passive recreation opportunities within sports parks.

THE BROADER PUBLIC REALM

While the IOSP is principally concerned with the open space that is zoned as 'Open Space' and that is in the care, control and ownership of Council, there are many other public places and spaces across the City that are available to the general community for leisure and recreation. These may also be managed by Council or other government agencies as outlined below. For example Council is currently working on the DCP for the Macquarie Park Corridor with comments and recommendations for 'An Open Space Planning and Design Principles' being supplied by the consultant (Refer to Appendix 1).

Other Public Domain Managed by Council

Council is also responsible for management of areas of the public domain not zoned as open space, but which may be regularly visited and used by the community for various forms of leisure and recreation. These include:

- civic spaces and street malls
- local streets (incorporating paths and cycleways)
- gateway landscapes
- open car parks
- community facility buildings and halls with associated outdoor spaces

At present these spaces are not documented by Council as part of the Open Space Inventory. It would be prudent to maintain a Register of such spaces as a separate part of the inventory.

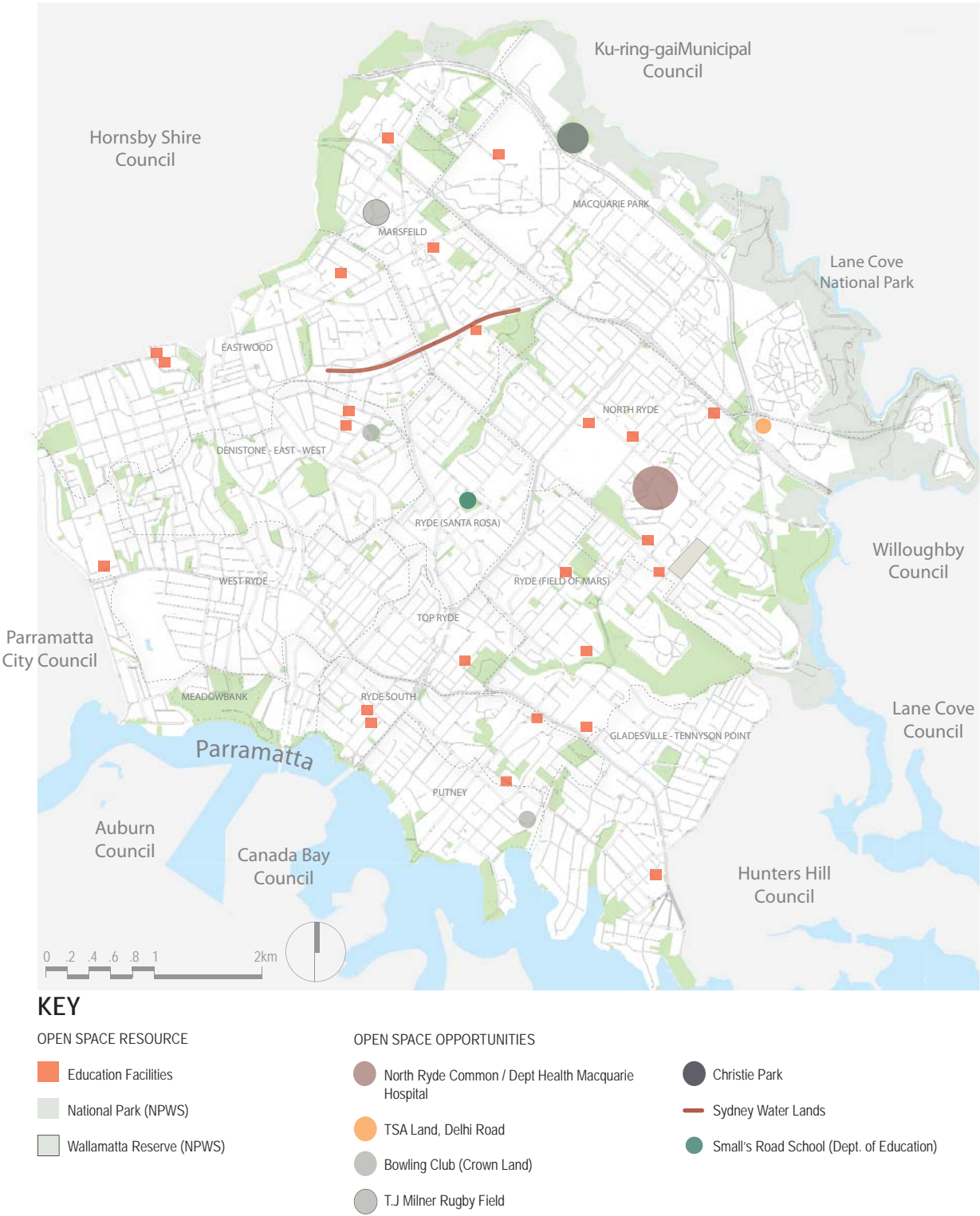


Figure OS.06: Opportunities for Open Space owned by others and not under care or management by the City of Ryde

PART 3: OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Public Domain Managed by Other Government Agencies

Open space that is available to all of the community (or certain sectors by virtue of their particular users or functions) and managed by other agencies include:

- National Parks (as illustrated in Figure OS.02)
- public schools (see Figure OS.06) (relatively few provide community access) and shared use is at the discretion of individual school principals
- railway and road corridors (walkways and cycleways)
- infrastructure easements (eg. corridors such as adjoin ELS Hall Park)
- University sports and recreation facilities (eg. Macquarie University)

In some cases these open spaces are not managed by their agencies specifically for public recreation, even where they may be available for free public access. For the purposes of the IOSP these have been termed 'Open Space Opportunities' (refer Figure OS.06), where Council considers that the agencies responsible for their management could choose to exclude the public.

Where a government agency wishes to dispose of land, the current legislation creates a default to the surrounding zoning. Thus by example the unused Small's Road School site would in principal be zoned residential for future use.

Implications for the IOSP

The principal implications for the IOSP of these publicly accessible spaces referenced above and their importance for the City is to:

- ensure that all publicly accessible open space is listed, even where it is not zoned 'open space' and its leisure/recreation role is documented
- establish, maintain and foster partnerships with other managing agencies, at minimum to secure and at best, to extend public accessibility to these spaces and places. This will maximise the opportunities for leisure and recreation, ideally at nil or minimum cost to Council.

Part 4 : Needs and Demands



A \$2 million upgrade to Eastwood Park completed in 2009 included a new playground, terraced seating, improved pathways and drainage and a makeover for the existing Keith Shaw Grandstand which revitalised the park. The park upgrade meets growing recreational needs and demands from the increasing urban population with its contemporary design and facilities that balance sports and passive recreation facilities.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

INTRODUCTION

This section provides a review and summary of the community consultation surveys previously carried out by Council. It identifies perceptions and expectations of the residents in the City. a desktop study of the results from existing surveys informed the IOSP in the identification of current themes and trends of public open space and the means of addressing these issues is presented in Part 5: Objectives and Part 6: Implementation of the IOSP.

The City has a projected population increase from 2011 - 2030 of nearly 14,000 persons (current figures sourced from i.d forecast), many of whom will be relatively young with growing families. This population growth will occur alongside an increase in the numbers of ageing residents; and a marked increase in the working population (particularly in the developing Macquarie Park Corridor) and an expected burgeoning of cultural diversity across the City's community.

These and other factors in the changing demographics of the City will strongly influence the community's needs and demands for open space.

The preceding parts of the IOSP have provided an overview and analysis of these demographics and the existing provision of open space and recreation opportunity across the City. The focus of Part 4 is based upon the community's expressed views on current and expected usage and participation, degrees of satisfaction with the existing status and priorities for enhancing existing and future provision that will meet the community's needs and demands.

To analyse such needs and demands a series of factors are considered in this section and are set out to include:

- background data, reports and community surveys
- demographic influences
- environmental and geographical influences
- current usage and participation
- comparisons with national participation levels
- barriers to participation
- expected changes in participation
- satisfaction with existing provision
- demand importance and priorities
- comparison with regional demand data
- unmet demand
- gap analysis (the difference between demand and provision)
- comparing needs and demands
- conclusions from all the above.



Ryde Park is a popular and very successful example of an open space that accommodates multiple user groups.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AND DATA

The City has commissioned a range of studies over the last twenty years that have evaluated community participation in recreation and leisure across the City, establishing the community's expressed demand for open space and recreation facilities. Key documents in this regard include:

- Ryde Leisure Needs Study, 1991 (RLNS 1991)
- Leisure Needs Study, Final Draft 2005 (LNS 2005)
- Leisure and Recreation Needs Study, Draft 2009 (LRN 2009)
- IOSS User Satisfaction Benchmark Survey, 2002-09 (IOSS 02/09)

These documents form the basis of much of the analysis within this section. Other reports and studies which address demands and needs and which are referred to in this report or cross-referenced in the before-mentioned studies include:

- Social Plan 2004
- Northern Sydney Regional Sportsground Strategy 2010
- various recent consultation outcomes from studies relating to issues such as Skate Facilities, Dog off-Leash, Access Equity, Disability Action, Environment, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and various Needs Papers such as those for women, older people, children and Aboriginal people
- Ryde 2030/2021 Community Strategic Plan: Consultation Outcomes Report.

The reasons for participation in leisure and recreation in any given community will range from influencing factors that are both within and outside of the control of a local government provider. It is critical to understand which-is-which and also to establish what those factors are when planning facilities and programs, in order to optimise the outcomes of budget spending.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES

The levels and nature of the community's participation in leisure and recreation is greatly dependent on the profile of the community itself. Age, cultural background, physical ability, socio-economic status and many other factors of the local demography all influence both the opportunity and motivation for participation.

From the outline of the community profile of the City detailed in Part 2: Context and from the conclusions drawn in the LNS 2005 and LRN 2009 study, the following are characteristics of the current and forecast City community that have particular bearing on the use of, and demand for the City's open spaces:

- increased population will increase demand and potential diversity of recreation sought
- increasing density will place greater needs on easy access to open space
- high numbers of families will increase demand for sport
- the high transient population will tend to mean demand will not be stable

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- the high number of overseas born residents will mean conventional open space and recreation provision will not necessarily meet demand
- the increasing ageing population will have specific demands and needs
- the growing working population will require daytime recreation opportunities

These demographic factors must also be considered with the City's landscape and urban development, as well as the demands which have been expressed by the community.

EXISTING GEOGRAPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

From the analysis of the City's physical geography, urban fabric and current open space and recreation provision, a number of factors influence community participation in leisure and recreation, recognising that:

- the steep topography of some parts of the City impacts on accessibility to open space and recreation facilities
- the extensive river foreshore and creek corridors within the City provide opportunities to enhance connectivity and access through paths and trails
- public transport accessibility across the City varies greatly, with some parts well serviced and others poorly serviced
- major roads across the City create barriers to non-vehicular access to public open space
- the City retains extensive natural areas with close proximity to the Lane Cove National Park, providing benefits to open space use and enjoyment whilst enhancing community and environmental connectivity
- the City has a rich Aboriginal, natural and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage that can be appreciated through many of its open spaces
- the topography of Ryde provides ideal opportunities to exploit district and regional views
- recently improved accessibility along and across the Parramatta River enhances opportunities for City residents to enjoy open space in adjoining LGAs and parkland areas (eg. Sydney Olympic Park)
- projected climate change will affect low lying open space adjoining the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers and may increase risks of bushfire and flooding in creeks. Potential impacts on recreation, leisure and the health of natural systems exist in the future.

Many of these factors are considered in the analysis of suburbs in Table OS.03.

EXISTING USAGE AND PARTICIPATION

Since 1990 Council has surveyed participation levels of its residents in many aspects of open space use, recreation and leisure. This section provides a brief overview of these findings and compares these with national data on participation. It also identifies barriers to participation and the expected changes in usage patterns.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

From those residents surveyed in the LRN 2009 Study, the top most regularly used facilities and spaces (at least once a month) for leisure and recreation, were:

- parks and gardens (13.7%)
- libraries (13.4%)
- walking tracks (7.9%)
- halls and meeting rooms (7.7%)
- bike paths (7.4%)
- swimming pools, including Ryde Aquatic Centre (7.2%)
- sportsfields (5.7%)
- playgrounds (5.6%).

Of these users, at least one third used these facilities three to five times a week.

Bike paths figured as a more frequently used facility amongst the English speaking community, who also visited the City's natural areas more frequently than the CALD Community. Further results from CALD community respondents identified greater participation in more social and less structured leisure activities eg. walking, playing golf, visits to libraries, as well as use of halls and meeting rooms for cultural and family events including dancing.

Over 9% of all respondents of the LRN 2009 survey did not use any Council provided leisure or recreation facilities or services within the City. It was not clear whether this group used facilities in other Council areas.

The City was among seven regional governing authorities referred to as NSW Region who participated in a Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey Program developed by Integrated Open Spaces Services (IOSS). The seven authorities comprised City of Ryde, Blacktown City Council, Gosford City Council, The Hills Shire Council, Parramatta City Council, Sydney City Council, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Wyong Shire Council. The survey was undertaken annually from 2002 - 2009 and the overall results for Ryde showed:

- frequency of parks visited more than once a week by residents of Ryde increased from 2006 - 2009
- increasing length of stay from half hour to more than one hour
- greatest use of parks by visitors were childrens playgrounds, followed by recreational walking
- the majority of park users travelled less than 5 km by private vehicle to reach the park (this was closely followed by walking as the second option of travel)
- perception of safety in parks had increased from 2006 - 2009
- survey participants with private backyards decreased from 2006 - 2009
- the age of participants ranged from 14 years to above 70 years with the largest proportion of park users in the 30-40 year age bracket.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

When set against other participating authorities in the latest survey (2009) the City of Ryde, scored well against the other Sydney/Central Coast Region participants on issues such as:

- daily visitation to the park
- shorter stay (< ½ hour) in the park
- children's play/visit playground
- walking as a way to get to the park

However Ryde scored lower by comparison with other Sydney/Central Coast Region participants on issues such as:

- satisfaction with level of maintenance (ranked fourth out of eight)
- longer stay in the park (> 4 hours)
- no grounds and no communal recreational facilities in dwellings and outdoor space among the City participants survey (17%) compared to NSW Region (6%)

With respect to structured sports participation in the City, the NSROC Regional Sportsground Strategy 2011 (RSS 2011) identified that:

- more than 35% of the existing population participates in some form of sport
- in order of projected participation numbers for 2011, the top three sports are soccer, tennis and golf, all by a significant margin from touch football, cricket and netball which are fourth, fifth and sixth respectively
- sportsgrounds in the City have high usage levels (in some cases up to 500 players per week during winter on a single ground) with use still growing
- 55% of the sports groups consulted in the study indicated forecasted growth of participation in their sport.

This strategy and associated Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds are further discussed under 'Demands, Priorities and Importance' later in this section.

Conclusions on Current Participation

The data collected from the consultations and surveys outlined above have the following implications for the IOSP:

- highest participation across the City is in informal activities placing an emphasis on the need for all parts of the City to cater for walking, bushwalking, cycling and informal open space uses (eg. runabout, play, picnics, BBQs, etc)
- the high level of social considerations for participation in leisure and recreation activities should be reflected in park design (ample seating, places to meet, plenty of shade, play opportunities, dog walking and sports venues that also provide opportunities for social interaction)
- indoor facilities receive high levels of use for a range of activities from sports to cultural and leisure uses, implying the need to optimise flexible spaces that can adapt to diverse use wherever practical

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- the needs of CALD communities in the City should be integrated into open space and recreational planning (especially with respect to indoor facilities, golf and walking). While Council may not have direct control over the planning and management of all such facilities and opportunities, their role in advocacy (ie. promoting walking) and partnerships that assist in meeting the highest demands are important influences
- the causes for the trend towards increased visitation of parks (particularly local parks) and longer times spent in the park should be recognised and built upon (improved access, quality of experience and perception of safety are typical contributors)
- the high use of - and increasing demand for - sports facilities suggests the need to optimise existing facilities for enhanced capacity increased flexibility for multi-using and the consideration of where additional facilities may be required to meet future demand.

COMPARISONS WITH NATIONAL PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Since 2001, Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) has conducted surveys quarterly throughout Australia. ERASS is a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and the state and territory government agencies responsible for sport and recreation in persons aged 15 years and over for exercise (see Reference C1).

These quarterly surveys record levels of recreational participation amongst adults and children across the nation and in many cases reflect the patterns for the City. The results of the national ERASS statistics for 2010 can be summarised as follows:

- of all activities, walking had the highest total participation rate (35.9%) - an estimated 6.3 million persons aged 15 years and over walked at least once for exercise, recreation or sport. This excluded bushwalking, which is categorised separately and had a total participation rate of 4.8%
- other sports and physical activities with relatively high total participation rates were aerobics/fitness activities (23.5%), swimming (13.0%), cycling (11.9%) and running (10.6%)
- 57.4% of those aged 15 years and over participated at least once per week in a non-organised physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport
- 25.7% participated at least once in 2010 in physical activity organised by a 'sport or recreation club or association'
- 16.5% participated in physical activity organised by a 'fitness, leisure or indoor sports centre'
- levels of participation in structured sport in order of magnitude were aerobics (7.1%), golf (3.4%), outdoor football (3.4%), netball (3.1%), AFL (2.6%), tennis (2.4%), basketball, (2.3%), touch football (2.3%), outdoor cricket (2.1%) and lawn bowls (1.9%).

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

It is also worth noting that the changes in participation over the period 2001-2010 show increases as follows:

- walking (44%)
- aerobics/fitness (110%)
- cycling (45%)
- running (71%)
- soccer (53%)
- bushwalking
- netball (6%)

Conversely there were decreases over that same period as follows: swimming (-6%), golf (-5%), tennis (-24%).

When compared with statistics available for participation in the City, there is a strong correlation with patterns of national participation in physical activity. Of particular note for comparable results are:

- the highest level of participation was in walking, nationally and in the City
- similarly high participation levels for aerobics, swimming, cycling and running
- similar relative participation levels for soccer, netball and cricket.

Participation across the City varies from national levels as follows:

- relatively low participation in rugby league, rugby union and AFL
- relatively higher levels of participation in tennis and touch football.

The national trends that show decreases in participation for swimming, golf and tennis over that period require careful consideration in the City's context where for example, tennis has relatively high participation and expected growth.

It should also be noted that recent participant numbers across the City for less structured but popular sports such as Oztag, Frisbee and Corporate Fitness are not available for comparative purposes. The current Guided Walks, part of Council 'What's On Program', are also proving extremely successful with the community.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Of the studies referenced in this report only the RLNS 1991 study surveyed barriers to participation. The top three barriers identified by the respondents were:

- not enough time (64%)
- lack of information (47%)
- lack of facilities (47%)
- not enough money (44%)
- cannot get access (33%).



PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS



Interpretive signage can be found in many of the City's bushland areas such as here on the Wulaba Aboriginal Heritage Track in Glades Bay Park.

While Council has little control over residents' available time for leisure and recreation, it does have some opportunity to reduce - or influence the reduction of - the other barriers to involvement through the likes of:

- facility provision (new or improved open spaces)
- improved access (paths and cycle routes to local reserves, improved all ability access)
- availability of information (signs, maps and website information on what is available and where) and active promotion of facilities
- costing structures (pricing of facility use could also consider use type, locality and ability to pay)
- local transport planning (eg. cycle path routes, bus route selection, bus stop locations and siting of new facilities such as sports venues close to public transport).

In many cases, the Council's role in consulting and liaising with other agencies and organisations (eg. State and Federal Government, transport authorities, etc) would be as influential on these outcomes as the direct provision of facilities or services.

EXPECTED CHANGES IN PARTICIPATION

More than 30% of the 377 respondents to the LRN 2009 study believed that the frequency and nature of their participation would be unlikely to change over the coming 5-10 years and 42% expected their participation to increase over that period.

Clearly the nature and extent of this expected growth in participation cannot be precisely identified at this point. The strategic response must therefore focus on increasing general open space capacity and the flexibility of that open space to meet evolving needs.

Walking was considered the top activity for increased participation in respondents from both the CALD and English speaking community. Other activities in which 42% of the respondents surveyed expected to increase their participation were:

- walking (10.7%)
- outdoor organised sport (8.8%)
- cycling (7.3%)
- visiting parks and gardens, including picnicking (7.0%)
- visiting libraries (6.4%)
- swimming (6.1%).

The expected demand in the activities stated above with the predicted increase in the population of the City, including the ageing population and its demand for more informal recreation, will place greater pressure on the facilities and open spaces of the City that accommodate these activities.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

In the CALD community in particular, the other expected increased participation would be in:

- dancing
- playing golf
- bushwalking.

One in ten of the LRN 2009 respondents indicated a likely decrease in their future participation. Few respondents identified any activities or use of facilities that they expected to decline over the coming years. Of the influences that would affect the respondents changing patterns of use and participation the respondents identified the following as the top three:

- more leisure time (especially for pending retirees) cited by 20% of respondents, indicating the extent of the size of the ageing population
- family structure and age issues (ie. ageing, children growing up, starting a family)
- access and transport issues (especially for senior citizens).

In terms of access to leisure and recreation facilities and venues, respondents identified that the private vehicle was the principal means of access now (64.2%), but indicated they believed that this is likely to reduce in coming years (42.4%).

SATISFACTION WITH EXISTING PROVISION

Satisfaction levels with existing open space in the City has principally been expressed through the LRN 2009 Report, the IOSS community surveys and from consultation during the preparation of the IOSP. The key findings of these three sources are summarised below.

The LRN Report 2009

The LRN 2009 Report provides some basic community feedback on satisfaction with existing facilities and services, while the IOSS 02/09 surveys profile changes in satisfaction levels over that period.

The Leisure and Recreation Needs Community Consultation Report 2009

377 surveys were submitted by the community and the top 10 'lacking or inadequate facilities' were generally focussed on unstructured activity with eight of the top ten having a requirement or consideration for open space planning. In order of priority these were:

1. bike paths (open space)
2. off-leash dog areas (open space)
3. swimming venues
4. parks and gardens (open space)
5. playgrounds (open space)
6. walking paths/tracks (open space)
7. sportsfields and sports facilities (open space)
8. improved transport/accessibility/parking (open space)
9. libraries
10. picnic facilities and BBQs (open space).



Natural bushland in urban areas provides crucial habitat for native fauna and links across the City.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

Of the sports clubs and structured recreation organisations surveyed in the LRN 2009 study, the principal concerns with existing facilities included:

- inadequate or substandard facilities
- inadequate maintenance
- overuse of facilities and sportsgrounds
- inadequate meeting rooms for sports clubs and associations use

Public transport routes with access to sports venues were also seen as a concern of respondents for both now and in the future, with stress placed on the value of easy access to facility locations. These concerns, predominantly from the senior citizen respondents, suggest the need for a planned approach for future facilities. They should be located close to public transport and consideration should be given to routes and set downs for public or community buses.

The IOSS Community Surveys 2002-2009

In the IOSS 02/09 surveys, the satisfaction of participants with the level of maintenance in parks in the Sydney/Central Coast region were included in the surveys over the eight year period. Results from these surveys were recorded as percentages from 2006 as an overall mean score across participating authorities. Ranking for the City improved from 7th in 2006 to 4th in 2009.

The resulting scores for the City show the local community perceive overall improvement in park maintenance since 2007. There was an increase in the numbers and duration of visits to parks in the City between 2002 and 2009. There appears to be a correlation between this changing trend and Council's ongoing improvements to its parks and path networks over the period the surveys were taken.

Consultation During IOSP

The feedback and aspirations gathered from consultation carried out during the IOSP raised a number of issues that were common to all of those consulted. These included:

Open Space

- any loss of open space was viewed as highly undesirable and ensuring all future opportunities are investigated for new acquisitions was important
- acquisition of open space to be made on land availability and guided by identification of future need and provision (eg. growth areas or linkage and to meet best value)

Facilities

- facilities to be kept flexible in order to easily accommodate change in demography and any future recreation demand
- all weather shelter provision in parks

Natural Environment

- conservation and enhancement of the natural bushland environment and biodiversity that is unique to the City

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Sustainability

- the City to be amongst the leaders for a sustainable future, conserving natural resources, energy and responding to climate change

Community

- creation of more local vibrant civic hubs with strong sense of identity where shopping and social interchange can occur across the diverse cultural backgrounds of its citizens
- recognition of the needs, health, mental health and wellbeing of the whole community, in particular the youth, disabled and senior citizens

Access and Connectivity

- need to overcome difficulty of access caused by major roads and heavy traffic
- safe and improved forms of transport networks and open space links, including pedestrian, cycle and public transport
- further planning needed to prevent conflict between commuters and family based usage of cycle paths

Safety

- safe, well lit and better connected access to open space across the whole of the City

Partnerships

- partnerships with non-governing bodies and corporations to improve and consolidate open space access/provision in new developments.

Some issues raised during consultation were mentioned only by individual groups during the consultation process. Comments included:

Councillors

- a need for balance in the City's open space to ensure enough unembellished areas for passive recreation
- a need for a choice in open space: some high profile parks and other more natural areas
- identify a clear direction to improve open space value
- identify and acquire property when available and rent until its acquisition can be consolidated as part of additional open space
- need for clear guidelines for developers as part of VPA's prior to any major high density development
- identify and put forward recommendations for under-utilised Council owned open space as part of an open space database

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS



Demand for use of sportsgrounds across the City for competition and training and the high levels of participation in informal recreation requires planning, design and management for enhanced capacity.

Field Staff

- noted that there appeared to be an over supply of childrens playgrounds
- noted foreshore paths were extremely popular and well used
- increasing usage of sportsgrounds required more regular breaks for turf to recover as they are "all hammered"
- dog off-leash areas and cleaning of dog bins proved unpopular as part of open space maintenance with field staff
- noted improved design of finished edges and mowing margins in turfed areas would reduce maintenance man hours
- indicated an increase in anti-social behaviour during school holiday periods
- noted park bins and surround were regularly used to dispose of large household goods.



The Civic Plaza in Eastwood Shopping Centre is a destination point for people of varying ages and from different cultural backgrounds. Such places are a critical part of the City's open space network (even though they are not normally zoned as public open space). They therefore require as much focus as parks in respect of meeting the community's leisure and recreation needs.

Combined Advisory Committees

- noted different types of open space should be further investigated (eg. rooftops)
- Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) may have additional value for open space as part of larger development proposals
- noted concern of parking conflicts between residents and sporting fans during sport events
- appropriately placed off-leash dog areas was viewed as highly desirable for a good open space experience
- noted that Local Environment Plan (LEP) should include planning for natural and cultural heritage areas (eg. E1 and E2 zones)
- wildlife corridors were considered highly desirable but needed to include layer planting for a safer and more natural habitat
- roads and street were considered as vital links connecting open space and were valuable as open space.

Youth Group

- meeting places in urban civic spaces and parks were viewed as essential for safe social contact areas with peer group
- a range of activity options, not necessarily skateboard and basketball facilities, would improve peer contact/social behaviour for the youth of the City's community.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

DEMAND, IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITIES

Across the range of background documents outlined in the Introduction, a picture can be gained of the community's aspirations for recreation and leisure facilities in the City over the 18 year period between 1991 - 2009.

Of the five principal background studies cited in this report, the LNS 2005 and the LRN 2009 provide the most substantive and current evaluation of expressed community demand for leisure and recreation services in the City.

The former also incorporates many of the relevant findings from the RLNS 1991, the IOSS 02/09 annual survey assists in establishing trends in changing use, demand and satisfaction over a seven year period.

Summary of Demand and Priorities

The core conclusions of the community's demands for leisure and recreation and their assessments of its importance, as drawn from the analysis of these documents includes:

- parks and open space (1st) and bike paths (2nd) are ranked highest importance for Council spending over the next 5-10 years. Then, in order of importance are: swimming, walking and paths, libraries, playgrounds, sportsgrounds, off-leash dog areas, improved transport parking and access, youth activities and facilities (including skateparks), dance venues and 'socials'
- urban spaces, outdoor passive and active recreation are in greater demand than indoor facilities amongst those from English speaking backgrounds
- the CALD community have a higher demand for indoor facilities (halls, meeting rooms, dance facilities, indoor sports, seniors centres, etc) and urban spaces, with less demand for formal field sports and facilities (with the exception of golf)
- public transport and access to facilities and services ranked in the top three in terms of importance, especially for senior citizens
- 42% of residents ranked the natural environment in the top three issues of importance in the City, with transport and infrastructure and facilities 2nd and 3rd
- social gathering public spaces which meet the needs of the community - in particular elderly and youth, and that offer a safe and livable neighbourhood close to home, was ranked of high importance by both sectors of the community
- flexible facilities and spaces that suit informal, cultural and sporting activities and events were need and preference of all respondents, but especially amongst the CALD community.

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Blenheim Park is a popular multi-functional open space which has provided for increasing recreational demands including cycle tracks, dog exercise area, picnic spaces, adventure playgrounds for under fives and older children. The park has created opportunities for both formal and imaginative play within both a natural and structured setting.



In the 'Leisure and Recreation - Community Consultation Report' conducted by the City of Ryde in April 2009, dog exercise areas, including "facilities where dogs can run without a leash", were identified as a strong current and future demand in the Ryde LGA.



Offering young people attractive places to meet and interact, either socially or around activities especially in places that are not overly programmed, will go some way to addressing expressed demand.

Summary of Other Council Studies on Demands

The RLNS 2005 study also summarised demands from a range of documents prepared by Council between 2000 - 2005, that related to Council services, but that were not specifically focused on leisure and recreation services per se. A brief outline of the key demands from that summary were the following expressed demands:

- closer/available recreation and leisure
- cheaper recreation costs
- better targeted spaces and activities for young people and children
- additional parks that are cleaned more regularly
- better maintenance
- improved linkages (cycleways and walking tracks)
- additional and improved swimming pools
- protection and conservation of bushland
- improved sports facilities
- better access and facilities for the disabled
- more cross-cultural activities (including events held in parks)
- protection and conservation of the City's heritage.

IOSS Benchmark Survey Findings 2002-2009

Data collected through the IOSS surveys over the period 2002-2009 show a predicted increase in demand of public open space as a result of the following:

- increase in number of regular visitors from the Ryde area
- decrease in the number of dwellings with private yards
- increase in awareness of nature and its connection with health and wellbeing
- increase in number of residents exercising companion dogs.

Dog Off-Leash Survey

In April 2011, Council concluded its trial for potential dog off-leash areas in 16 parks across the City. Survey responses received during the trial (and the following online and written responses) showed that the community was generally in support of well planned off-leash areas. Only six specific parks were deemed as 'not desirable' for off-leash areas.

As a result of this response, Council resolved to provide additional off-leash areas and to allocate future budgets for enclosed off-leash areas (currently available in Blenheim Park). Designated parks now with off-leash areas, in which dogs and their owners can exercise and play, include North Ryde Common, Kotara Park, Santa Rosa Park, ELS Hall Park, Denistone Park and Olympic Park. Peel Park, Brush Farm Park, Darvall Park and Pidding Park and are available for off-leash exercise when not used for organised sport (Meadowbank Park has allotted times Monday - Friday).

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Skate Strategy Consultation

Council undertook a comprehensive consultation on skate facilities (2010), key findings were:

- 80% of residents considered that there should be more skate facilities in the City
- several options for skate facilities were explored at Meadowbank Park, along the Ryde Riverwalk and at Macquarie Park.

Whilst there was no clear support for any one option and indeed, some opposition from local residents, amongst those consulted the majority preferred a facility at Meadowbank Park.

NSROC Regional Sportsground Strategy

The City is currently a participant in the Northern Sydney Regional Sportsground Strategy through the auspices of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC). The NSROC Sportsground Strategy Volume 1 identifies an expected increase in demand for sports over the coming years based on demographic changes including:

- 12% increase in the number of people aged between 5 - 19 years
- 15% increase in the number of people aged between 25 - 34 years
- 37.8% increase in the number of people aged 65 years and above.

The Strategy went on to identify that the population increase in the region will be provided principally through higher density living. The change in the mix of housing options will increase diversity in the community in terms of age, household type and socio-economic status. The principal implications noted for sports up until 2036 are:

- there will be a greater number of people in each age group than there are now
- there will be sustained demand for junior team sports (12% growth or 114,500 children in this highest participation age group)
- an increasing demand by middle aged and older adults (who are increasing in numbers and staying active longer) for social, casual 'Pay as you Play' (PAYP), masters sports and for alternative fitness activities that use playing fields.

Sportsground, Allocation and Management, Best Value Review (Draft)

Council has also commissioned a Best Value Review (BVR) in the allocation and management of sportsgrounds. It contains findings that are highly relevant to the demand and needs for sportsgrounds and facilities in the City. The findings of particular relevance include:

- current demand already outstrips supply in some sports and this situation is likely to become more prevalent with increasing population
- many sportsgrounds are heavily utilised, particularly in winter and cannot provide for the desired level of use
- there is a shortage of sportsgrounds in the NSROC region with the demand for soccer, rugby union, cricket and hockey already exceeding demand
- there area lack of training fields, especially preseason, across the City

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- demand for many sports is growing across the City
- over 55% of sports groups surveyed identified an increase in demand over the next five years for both junior and senior competition and training
- carrying capacities for sportsgrounds is recommended between 20 - 35 hours depending on turf species but some are currently receiving 40 - 50 hours of usage.

The core issues raised in the BVR that are integral to the realisation of the IOSP include:

- the need to increase carrying capacity of existing reserves
- clearer definition of Council's role in sports provision and management
- strategic directions on which will be the City's primary sports facilities to target and focus resources

The Strategy and Best Value Review are both in first draft form. The implications for sports provision and management in the region and in the City are significant in light of these changing demographics. An integrated, strategic approach is required recognising the limited 'landbank' within the City on which Council can draw.

COMPARISONS WITH REGIONAL DEMAND DATA

The Northern Sydney Regional Recreation Demand study in 2004 identified a number of demands for the wider regions within which the City lies. These have strong parallels with the data derived for the City at a local level:

- accessible spaces for recreation and social activities for young people
- regional walking, cycling and shared paths and tracks, especially along foreshores
- district outdoor sporting facilities and indoor sports courts
- informal recreation opportunities, especially family friendly parks for all age groups
- access to the water, particularly foreshore parks and boating facilities.

Other demands that were identified included swimming facilities, interaction with nature and specialist sports (eg. equestrian sport).

UNMET DEMAND

Unmet demand (ie. recreation or leisure facilities, services or programs desired by, but not available to, a community) is not readily established in any quantitative manner except through surveys. From the background documents, the information on unmet demand is mostly limited to the LRN 2009 and RLNS 2005 studies.

25 % of those surveyed in the LRN 2009 study indicated that they had no unmet demands and 6% indicated they believed that there were no under-supplied recreation and leisure facilities in the City.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

Of those who identified unmet demands, the following are listed in order of stated importance:

- bike paths*
- off-leash dog areas
- swimming venues*
- parks and gardens*
- playgrounds
- walking paths and tracks
- sportsgrounds and sports facilities*
- improved public transport/accessibility/parking (especially for seniors)*
- libraries*
- picnic and barbecue facilities

* The supply of these facilities were deemed equally inadequate by both the English speaking and CALD communities.

GAP ANALYSIS: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

Gap analysis is the difference between the community's expressed demand and the needs assessed through wider analysis. Councils frequently use this information to determine what additional facilities or resources maybe needed to bridge this gap.

Public and Private Leisure Facilities and Services

The RLNS 2005 listed an extensive range of leisure and recreation facilities and programs across the City and concluded that "There appears to be a very good balance of supply of facilities between public and private providers". The study however identified areas where the public provision requires attention, namely:

- upgrades to halls and community use facilities
- upgrades to playgrounds.

The study also concluded that the range of leisure services (ie. recreation and leisure programs initiated by Council and other providers) in the City is high when compared to other Sydney metropolitan areas.

Major Gaps

Whilst Council has continued to improve its parks and recreation provision since the last evaluation of unmet demand (LRN 2009), the clearest gaps identified between demand and current and potential needs include the need for:

- better meeting the needs of the CALD community (indoor sports, dancing and social gathering facilities, etc)
- more extensive and safe paths and tracks to enhance access and promote walking and cycling for health and wellbeing
- greater variety in park and open space settings and character



The provision of an extended and well-signed recreational footpath and cycle network across the City, especially along the creeks and river foreshores, has responded to an expressed demand from the community. It also generates usage by virtue of its accessibility and amenity, which creates further demand to extend the network. A strategic approach to minimising clashes between pedestrians and cyclists is essential in light of this growing usage.



Indoor facilities are in demand across the City (especially amongst the CALD communities). The ELS Hall Park with its new indoor sport facility is leased to a community based organisation. Opportunities exist to promote the need for 'share management agreements' in these large multi-functional sporting facilities.



Council's initiatives in improving foreshore access and foreshore parks is generating higher levels of use and demand from the community. In some cases this requires a review and upgrade of the foreshore design to cater for changed usage patterns.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- focus on upgrading smaller local parks as well as district and regional parks
- a more strategic approach to play provision and hierarchy of playground types
- better transport access to parks and venues
- improved facilities for youth (skate, hang out spaces, etc).

Where Needs May Differ From Demands

There is an important distinction between 'needs' and 'demands' as outlined earlier in Definitions and Terms.

Whilst there is typically a strong alignment between needs and demands, detailed analysis of needs reveals potential requirements not expressed through demand surveys and consultation.

In the City context some of the factors that may create differences between needs and expressed demands include:

- the new population that is projected to live in the City cannot be consulted at this time
- demand is often expressed in terms of an individual's current experience. It may not address emerging trends and opportunities in recreation provision and open space design
- some demand data is based on very limited survey numbers (eg. LRN 2009 survey of clubs and organisations)
- the needs of those living in apartments was not well represented in the LRN 2009 Survey.

Other external factors that influence demand in the future, and thus create a need over the coming years include:

- climate change, with implications for shade, breezes and protection of open space from flooding and bushfires
- diversifying sports codes, placing increasing pressure on existing sports facilities
- economic conditions in Australia.

Given that these factors may influence future needs, the assessment of provision must consider all aspects of the new population, the physical geography of the City and its capacity to absorb change.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS



Opportunities to foster enhanced health and wellbeing of Ryde residents and visitors can be achieved through the promotion of walking as a recreation activity, a form of recreation in high demand in Ryde.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions from Part 4: Needs and Demands are summarised below; identifying the need for:

- making more of the City's existing open space to meet current needs (embellishment, additional capacity, multi-using) while exploring opportunities to extend the amount of open space to meet future needs (acquisition, consolidation, rationalisation)
- extending the zoning definitions of 'open space' beyond the park to include streets, urban spaces and other parts of the City that commonly cater to the community's recreation and leisure needs
- integrating the natural environment and cultural heritage values of the City into the planning of open space and associated urban infrastructure (eg. extending and linking existing natural corridors through parks and streets, allied to walking and cycle links)
- extending unstructured and informal leisure, as in non-programmed activities and recreation opportunities. This recognises that these remain the highest type of recreation participation with strong social motivation for involvement (walking, cycling, play, picnics, BBQs, dog walking, etc)
- improving access to and between public open spaces at all levels to encourage more regular day-to-day open space use (eg. linking paths and cycleways in parks and streets, improved disability access, creek and bushland corridor links, enhanced public transport access, stronger path links between open space, schools, work, shops, etc)
- offering a greater diversity of experience and landscape character in all open space, reflecting local variations in environment, heritage and community
- strategically plan and manage sports across the City from a local and subregional perspective, recognising the significant competition for facilities and the limited available open space (enhancing capacity, incorporating unstructured recreation at all sports venues, multi-use buildings, designated training areas)
- better recognising cultural diversity in the City through open space planning, design and integrate urban design and community facility planning (eg. enhanced urban space design, multi-use buildings, cross cultural events, community gardens)
- addressing the specific needs of youth (eg. skate, hang-out spaces in open space and neighbourhoods), seniors (better access to parks, more walkable places, informal sports spaces, shade and seating) and significant working populations (passive and active recreation)
- more closely aligning planning, design and maintenance of open space with respect to objectives, quality and service level.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

From all the analysis of community needs and demands, carried out to date a number of general recommendations that inform the Part 6: Implementation Plan can be made.

Access and Connectivity

- more extensive network of paths and trails across the City, especially on foreshores and along creek corridors to enhance local park access (eg. within a maximum of 400m walking access of residences)
- more cycleways suitable for all users in safety, through parks, off road in streets and dedicated on road (all as appropriate to context)
- greater connectivity between open spaces, both physically and environmentally (bushland and creek corridors and linked habitat)
- improved transport access to venues and facilities especially for both youth and seniors in the community (eg. planning location of any new sports or major park venues on public transport routes, community bus route selection, bus set down locations, etc)
- ensuring residents in apartments have easy and direct access to local open space as part of the development process (new parks, roof gardens, off-road path links to existing open space).

Activities, Facilities and Social Engagement

These recommendations range across a wide spectrum of structured and unstructured recreation and leisure opportunities including:

Indoor Facilities

- emphasis on more multi-use indoor facilities for activities ranging from sports to club and general community uses
- facilities that meet CALD demands in particular (social, cultural, dance, etc).

General Parkland

- progressive implementation on the ground of the proposed hierarchy of open space (eg. Levels 1-4) and settings that recognise principal users, catchment and character
- creation of spaces that actively encourage social engagement and integration (eg. dog off-leash areas, play spaces and picnic/barbecue spaces at sport venues, community gardens, seating in shade at path crossings)
- emphasis on upgrading existing open spaces in the short term to meet immediate and short term needs with longer term planning for new, consolidated or rationalised open spaces
- identification of parks and urban spaces within which local and city-wide cultural and community events can be staged.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS



Topography within the City's open spaces are often challenging and in places non-negotiable for prams, the elderly and visually or physically impaired residents and visitors, as evidenced here in Glades Bay Park.

Sports Reserves

- focus on creating sports facility hubs where access is easy and facilities can be shared
- sports facilities that incorporate a balance of activities with opportunities to include passive and informal recreation (play, circuit paths around boundaries, shade, etc)
- incorporation of adequate facilities to meet daytime recreation and leisure needs of the significant working population in major business areas (eg. informal relaxation spaces, cycle and walk circuits, sports and kickabout spaces, for example Macquarie Park Corridor)
- shared club facilities using contemporary and multi-use design, including opportunities for incorporating wider community uses
- areas designated for personal and corporate training or other informal fitness development, meeting user needs without compromising local amenity.

Play and Skate

- clearer hierarchy of play facilities from local to regional scale with a greater variety of play experiences that offer opportunity for exploration and discovery
- a strategic approach to skateboard infrastructure, both permanent and temporary, incorporated into suitable locations, eg. close to lit outdoor sporting venues or where natural surveillance is high.

Streetscapes and Urban Spaces

- design of urban spaces to encourage day-to-day leisure and recreation uses as well as for special event venues where applicable (eg. town centre open air retail areas and malls)
- streetscape designs that encourage walking and cycling for recreation and transport (trees for shade and amenity, safe paths and crossings)
- fostering opportunities for social engagement along path and cycle routes (eg. neighbourhood street corner seats in shade of trees).

Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage

- integrate natural environment initiatives more significantly throughout the City's open spaces and urban spaces by increasing connectivity and reducing fragmentation of habitat (eg. recognition of major habitat priorities in settings, objectives and accessibility)
- enhanced habitat connectivity allied to a web of new or extended recreational links, based on the existing ridgelines, creek alignments and locations of creek lines no longer in existence
- native canopy links along ridges through existing open spaces and streetscapes

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- building education and awareness of the values of the City's extensive natural environment through managed access and more extensive and accessible interpretation
- climate change adaptation within reserves through increased shade from trees and exploiting cooling breezes on ridges and river foreshores (through planting design and bushland regeneration).

Safety and Amenity

- design of paths to encourage and accommodate use by the elderly, disabled and pram users
- greatly increased shade and shelter (trees for the longer term, shelters for the short term or for more extensive shade areas) and exploitation of summer breezes
- location and design of spaces that encourage community use throughout the day and evening (eg. well lit and easily viewed spaces, paths and circuits)
- use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTD) principles in all open space planning and design (eg. clear sight lines, adequate lighting, natural surveillance from adjoining residences).

Image, Character and Identity

- greater variety of character in setting types, ie. a stronger response to local environment and landscape (eg. through species selection), recognition of local heritage values or specific cultural characteristics of a neighbourhood
- better urban spaces suitable for social gathering, especially for the young and CALD community
- emphasis in open space planning and design on what is unique about the City's character and history (eg. promotion of the City's high quality regional views and vistas).

Management and Administration

- establish a clear set of priorities for short and long term actions to meet shortfalls in existing and anticipated future population needs
- greater inter-departmental liaison on open space planning, in light of critical links with natural systems, transport, urban design and community facilities planning and management
- establish partnerships between Council and third parties on shared use and access to facilities (schools, university, adjoining councils, state government agencies, etc)
- review and upgrade sports management and allocation through the findings of the BRV (currently in draft)

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- focus of maintenance standards more closely relating to open space type, hierarchy and user objectives
- more information on facilities and programs offered by Council and other providers (further improvements to existing website)
- recognition of the many that do not wish to be members of clubs (Pay As you Play) through the clubs pricing structures and management
- balanced recreation provision that recognises differences in culture, gender interests and participation
- encourage volunteerism in leisure and recreation organisations through targeted programs, meaningful involvement in decision making by user groups in management of open space (eg. sports groups)
- commitment to multi-use of sports facilities and related indoor facilities through planning, design, management, partnerships and consultation.

These broad recommendations arising from the Needs and Demands analysis are integrated with the conclusions from Part 2: Context and Part 3: Open Space Provision in the combined conclusions outlined below.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND/NEED ANALYSIS SUMMARY

From the conclusions made from the four preceding documents, this section analyses the balance of current open space supply, set against the expressed demands and anticipated current and future needs of the City to establish the Objectives.

Summary of Supply Analysis

The Open Space Provision Report identifies the following key findings:

- *Amounts of Open Space:* there are some significant parks and natural corridors across the City, especially along river foreshores, in creek corridors and in bushland. However, the amount of open space per capita that is not bushland (less than 1.5 Ha/1000 persons) and the number of open spaces in the City that are of less than 0.1 Ha in size (more than 50%) limit recreation opportunity. Furthermore many of these open spaces are narrow in nature and of relatively steep topography, limiting their ability to accommodate a range of setting types
- *Distribution and Accessibility:* distribution of open space across the City bears relatively little relationship to population density and distribution; in many suburbs local open space is not available within 400-500 metres of residences (eg. West Ryde, Top Ryde, Ryde South, Eastwood, North Ryde and Macquarie Park): While significant natural and recreational corridors do exist (Shrimptons Creek, Field of Mars, Kitty's Creek, etc) the significant barriers of major roads and rail corridors as well as steep topography challenge access to open space in many parts of the City
- *Types of Open Space:* when bushland that is not within the care, control and management of Council is excluded (eg. National Park), the most prevalent form of open space across the City (by primary setting type) is Outdoor

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS



Figure ND.01: Council has recently completed a masterplan for Meadowbank Park that increases the park's sports capacity through revised field and facility design. As importantly, the masterplan provides more structured spaces for passive recreation, a more coherent access and circulation design, better integration with the adjoining Memorial Park and an upgraded planting framework. All of these improvements extend the potential park user type and numbers while greatly enhancing the environmental, cultural heritage and aesthetic values of the park.

Sports (sportsgrounds of more than 2 Ha in size account for more than twenty of the City's open space). Passive Parklands account for the second largest amount of open space by setting type, but most of these parks (with some exceptions like Putney Park, Yamble Reserve and Blenheim Park) tend to be small in area and/or linear spaces along river foreshores or creeks. This limits the diversity of recreation opportunity to existing and future residents

- *Park Design and Layout:* many reserves, especially sports parks, provide limited opportunity for unstructured recreation (eg. Meadowbank Park where this issue is currently being addressed through a new Masterplan), (See Figure ND.01) and in many cases grounds layouts are not arranged for optimum use or for multi-using
- *Natural and Heritage Values:* many open spaces that are not primarily bushland settings and are either low, neglected or poorly integrated.

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

Summary of Demand and Needs Analysis

The Needs and Demands Report identifies that:

- unstructured recreation, especially walking, aerobics, cycling and swimming account for the highest level of physical activity participation in the City with more structured recreation participation being highest in sports such as tennis, soccer, netball, golf and cricket
- the BVR identifies that sports codes expect growth of participation in the next five years
- existing structured recreation across the City is under increasing demand across an ever-wider range of sports and codes. This diversification and increase in demand is expected to continue
- the community has expressed increased satisfaction with facilities and opportunities at many of the City's major open spaces. Significant upgrades over recent years at open spaces such as Ryde River Reserve, Ryde Park, Eastwood Park being likely reasons for this trend. The numbers of visits to larger open spaces has increased during the last 10 years, as has the duration of stay
- the natural environment is of high importance to the residents of the City
- CALD communities share many of the recreation preferences of the wider population but also participate more in structured and unstructured indoor activities (indoor sports, dancing, social) as well as outdoor sports such as golf
- seniors consider problems of gaining access to open space as their major concern (transport and distance to local open space)
- factors that may change demand (and thus must be considered as changing needs) include climate change (currently being addressed by Council), the demography of new residents and communities, changing trends in recreation preference and changing economic conditions.

Conclusions on Current Supply versus Needs

From the comparative analysis of supply versus demands and needs, the following conclusions can be drawn with respect to the current status of open space in the City:

- there is a need to improve access to existing open space (particularly at a local park level)
- the capacity of existing parks requires to be extended if current recreation and leisure needs are to be better met
- a strategic approach to developing an extensive network of recreational and natural corridors will need to be addressed if the demand for walking, cycling and bushwalking needs are to be met, the natural values of the City are to be enhanced and access to local, district and regional open space is to be improved

PART 4: NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- more strategic approach to sports provision (eg. sports precincts/hubs, dedicated informal sports and training areas, indoor sports. etc) at both a district and sub-regional level is essential if existing needs are to be met more equitably whilst also enhancing access to unstructured recreation
- a greater variety in open space settings that also reflects distinctive local landscape character and cultural heritage need to be provided to meet the diverse community needs
- streetscapes and urban spaces need to be considered as part of the full spectrum of public open space if all recreation and leisure needs are to be met
- development of strategic partnerships with third party landowners and recreation providers (private providers, schools, University, YMCA, government agencies) is essential if capacity is to be enhanced in the short to medium term.

Conclusions on Future Anticipated Supply versus Needs

From the comparative analysis of current supply versus future projected demands and needs, the conclusions drawn mirror those outlined above for the current situation. The following conclusions also apply in respect to the future status of open space in the City:

- existing provision and recreation opportunity is already constrained. While existing open space capacity can be enhanced, the forecast population growth in some parts of the City suggests that additional open space will be required to meet the growing needs, especially at the lower Level 3 and Level 4 open space tier
- additional demands and needs created by diversification and growth of sports participation across the City may not be met solely within the City's boundaries. A sub regional approach and more active/less reactive management of allocation is required
- the significant forecasted resident and working population growth for the Macquarie Park corridor suggests the need for a specific strategy that develops a new open space network in that locality
- negotiations during the planning of major developments are required. Council must take on an active role to ensure the open space provided as a part of major developments are suitably flexible and adaptable.

Part 5 : Objectives



Ryde Park, Blaxland Road is a successful example of a multi-use open space. It accommodates passive recreation, playgrounds, meeting places and sports both formal and informal, as shown here with the casual use of the basketball court.

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

Part 5: Objectives draws on the findings of the preceding stages and acts as the 'lynchpin' of the Plan. It provides the rationale for the Objectives driving the Implementation Plan and acts as the reference point for future refinements to the Implementation Plan, where changing circumstances may require a review. This section includes:

- Thematic priorities: five thematic priorities are proposed that provide a structure for the delivery of the ensuing IOSP Objectives and Implementation Plan
- Commitment for the City's Open Space and Recreation: this simple descriptive statement seeks to capture the core values and desired future for the City's parks, open space, leisure and recreation. It sets a benchmark that will resonate with the aspirations of the City's community and is written in language is accessible to all
- Objectives: drawn from the Commitment, the Objectives act as the reference point for the development of the Open Space Structure Plan.
- Open Space Structure Plan: this mapped component of the document is the illustrated expression of the Commitment and Objectives. It summarises the main themes and directions of the IOSP at a citywide level, informs the more detailed implementations that follow and, importantly, acts as the anchor for reviews and refinements of the implementations and actions in future years.



The recent upgrades to Eastwood Park, incorporating a more contemporary playground and new planting, broaden the community appeal and flexibility of uses of the open space, which remains largely focused on sports. It is planning of this nature that greatly extend the capacity of the City's existing open space to help meet the needs of the community.

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

From the previous analysis a number of thematic priorities emerge in Parts 2-4 of the IOSP around which the Commitment and Objectives are set. All of these priorities are inter-related and their resolution will likewise require an integrated approach through the actions that underpin the subsequent Implementation Plan. The Thematic priorities are as follows:

Optimisation

Making More of What We've Got

The City's open spaces have many values, but there is significant wastage of space and duplication of facilities that results in under-provision of recreation opportunity. Making more of the existing open space resource is the first priority, achieved by:

- more efficient planning, design and programming of existing open space
- layouts and designs that cater for multi-using of space and facilities
- improved access to existing parks through more comprehensive recreational linkages
- designs that encourage safe use throughout the day and evenings
- extending the effective open space by better planning of streetscapes and urban spaces.

Consolidation and Acquisition

Achieving More Equitable Access to Our Open Spaces

The current distribution of open space across the City does not relate closely to population distribution or demographic profile. Furthermore, with the expected population growth and distribution to 2021, this disparity is likely to be exacerbated. This inequity can be re-addressed by:

- developing an acquisition program for those parts of the City that have existing and likely future deficiencies relative to populations or where acquiring adjoining properties can substantially enhance the capacity of existing open spaces
- targeted consolidation and rationalisation of existing open space, especially at a local level in areas with multiple small parks.

Integration and Adaptation

Ensuring the Whole is Greater Than The Sum of The Parts

Much of the City's open space is poorly integrated with a long established approach of single-use planning, resulting in impacts on natural systems health, wasted space and a lack of local identity to parks and reserves. A more integrated approach to open space planning and management can be achieved by:

- planning and designing open space to achieve multiple values and recreation opportunities, especially through combining structured and unstructured recreation facilities

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

- working more closely with adjoining councils to manage linked ecosystems and shared facilities at a sub-regional level
- extending the community's concept of open space by making streets and urban spaces safe and appealing places for leisure and recreation.

Connection

Linking Our Parks with our Natural Environment and History

The health of the City's natural environment and cultural heritage underpins its community's wellbeing. As a core element of the open space network the community enjoys some remarkable natural and historic landscapes, yet many of these places remain isolated and poorly connected to the urban environment and people's day-to-day lives. A higher level of connection between community, the landscape and the City of Ryde's history will be achieved by:

- bringing enhancement of the City's natural environment into the planning, design and management of every open space, whatever its setting
- bringing the City's cultural heritage and diversity to life through park design, interpretive trails and public art
- planning for adaptation to the impacts of flooding and increased temperatures caused by climate change.

Organisation

Planning from Top Down and Bottom Up

The planning of the City's public open space is achieving tangible improvements at a park level. The challenge will be to ensure this is well integrated into the strategic urban planning that is currently underway to address the City's population growth and change.

A more 'top down and bottom up' approach to open space organisational integration would better achieve this by :

- planning open space around the goals of the seven City Outcomes
- integrating public open space with urban planning and natural systems management
- using a Quadruple Bottom Line values-based approach (economic, environmental, social and cultural) to future planning for open space
- maintaining partnerships with third parties to extend the quantum and diversity of recreational opportunity in the City
- aligning strategic planning and design of parks to an equivalent service level of maintenance, allocation and user management arrangements
- adopting a strategic approach to negotiations with developers that is always focused on achieving the objectives of the IOSP.



Commitment For The City's Parks & Public Open Spaces

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

COMMITMENT FOR THE CITY'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Our City boasts a rich cultural heritage, a highly diverse community, many varied urban spaces and places and a landscape that encompasses large rivers, extensive bushland, numerous parks, ridges and valleys with distant views. These are qualities we value greatly; they enrich our lives and give us a sense of connection and identification with the place we live in.

We recognise that in the coming years, as our community grows, there are many challenges to be addressed to ensure that we and the next generations will continue to enjoy and value what we have now. Change and adaptation is important but we resolve to conserve and enhance these qualities.

So this is how we envision our future:

When friends or family come to visit us, they share our sense that we have much to be proud of in the parks and open spaces which meet our day-to-day recreation and leisure needs. Better still, we have many landscapes that others do not have that we are keen to share with visitors to our City, as we too visit others' unique places.

Our bushland, creeks and two rivers are some of our City's greatest assets. We have conserved and enhanced these natural environments as connected places throughout our City. Our parks, streets, creeks and river foreshores form a strong and dynamic web, securing the natural health and resilience of our City's native flora and fauna. These natural places are very much part of the fabric of our City and the way in which we move around it. They form important parts of our daily outdoor experiences and keep us close to nature, even while we live in the City. Most importantly they are safe places in which our children can explore and learn about the world.

The same can be said of our cultural heritage which is part of the living history of our City, the appreciation of which is evident in our open spaces, foreshores and town centres; not simply through interpretive signs and public art. We have planned and designed these places to reflect our history, from Aboriginal life pre-European settlement through to today and we will continue to share the stories of these places.

We don't need to get in our cars to visit our local park or friends in the neighbourhood, because we can use a network of paths on streets, along creeks or river foreshores that are safe and attractive for walking and cycling. Getting to work, college or school on foot or by bike is also a safe and appealing option for us.

Sports are well organised in Ryde; our major 'sports hubs' are easily accessible by public transport and cyclepaths which helps reduce our children's dependency on 'Mum's Taxi'. There remain plenty of places in our local areas for less structured sport, junior games, kickabout, training, ball court games and the like. All our sports parks offer more than just sport too, because they are also places that locals and families can enjoy for play, walking and relaxing (and there's always plenty of shade when you need it and a sunny spot when you don't).

We can get a coffee and a bite to eat in some of our larger parks while we watch the kids play or when the grandparents come with us for a walk. There are toilets too in places where they're clearly needed, made visible, accessible and safe to use.

Teenagers will always choose their preferred hangout spaces around less structured spaces, but we've designed our parks and neighbourhoods to provide those opportunities for our youth.

If we were to sum this all up in one sentence we would say:

"We have ample, accessible open space to meet our needs, shared and enjoyed by us all, founded on a healthy natural environment, conserving our rich history, culture and local character and managed sustainably now and for future generations."

Seven City Outcomes



PART 5: OBJECTIVES

SEVEN CITY OUTCOMES

To ensure that the City of Ryde's important community vision of 'The place to be for lifestyle and opportunity @your doorstep' and the Seven City Outcomes and Goals of the Community Strategy 2021 are achieved in the future planning and management of the City's open spaces these outcomes and goals are cross referenced in the Objectives of this document. The Seven City Outcomes and their associated Goals driven by Council's Vision are:

C01 - A City of Liveable Neighbourhoods

Goal 1: All residents enjoy living in clean, safe, friendly and vibrant neighbourhoods

Goal 2: Our community has a strong sense of identity in their neighbourhoods and are actively engaged in shaping them

Goal 3: Our neighbourhoods thrive and grow through sustainable design, planning and regulation that support community needs.

C02 - A City of Wellbeing

Goal 1: Our residents are encouraged and supported to live healthy and active lives

Goal 2: All residents feel supported and cared for in their community through the provision of ample services and facilities

Goal 3: Residents feel secure and included in an environment where they can connect socially and are supported by their neighbours.

C03 - A City of Prosperity

Goal 1: Our Community and businesses across the City flourish and prosper in an environment of innovation, progression and economic growth

Goal 2: Our City is well-designed and planned to encourage new investment, local jobs and business opportunities

Goal 3: Macquarie Park is recognised globally and locally as an innovative education and technology hub.

C04 - A City of Environmental Sensitivity

Goal 1: Our residents, businesses and visitors collaborate in the protection and enhancement of our natural environment

Goal 2: To encourage and enable all our residents to live a more environmentally sensitive life

Goal 3: As we grow, we protect and enhance the natural and built environments for future enjoyment and manage any impacts of climate change.

C05 - A City of Connections

Goal 1: Our residents, visitors and workers are able to easily and safely travel on public transport to, from and within the City of Ryde

Goal 2: Our community has the option to safely and conveniently drive, park, cycle or walk around their City

Goal 3: Our residents, visitors, workers and businesses are able to communicate locally and globally.

C06 - A City of Harmony and Culture

Goal 1: Our residents are proud of their diverse community, celebrating their similarities and differences

Goal 2: People living in and visiting our City have access to an inclusive and diverse range of vibrant community and cultural places and spaces

Goal 3: Our community is able to learn and grow through a wealth of art, culture and lifelong learning opportunities.

C07 - A City of Progressive Leadership

Goal 1: Our City is well led and managed

Goal 2: The City of Ryde will deliver value for money services for our community and our customers

Goal 3: Our residents trust their Council, feel well informed, heard, valued and involved in the future of their City.

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

THE OBJECTIVES

The Objectives for the IOSP as outlined below are grouped under five themes based on each phrase of the summary sentence at the end of the Commitment Statement. The Objectives relate to the Seven City Outcomes from the Community Strategy 2021, with the City Outcome objectives listed as a coded number (eg. C01, C05) next to each heading.

Ample, Accessible Open Space (C01, C05)

- providing open space within a maximum of 400 metres of safe and direct walking distance from every residence
- maintaining existing provision at minimum (ie. no net loss of open space)
- ensuring safe and convenient access to open space for all abilities
- optimising access by walking and cycling
- maintaining a network of recreational corridors, linkages and connections.

Shared And Enjoyed By All (C02, C06)

- providing opportunities for all ages and backgrounds
- balancing structured and unstructured recreation
- incorporating flexibility for multiple uses
- fostering healthy physical activity and mental wellbeing
- offering safe environments that encourage social interaction, health and wellbeing
- enabling simple wayfinding and providing accessible information and interpretation.

Founded On A Healthy Natural Environment (C04)

- responding to Ryde's natural topography and geology
- maximising creek, river and bushland connections and corridors
- conserving and enhancing native flora and fauna communities and habitats
- providing natural connections across the City linking with adjoining LGAs
- promoting awareness of Ryde's natural values
- maximising permeable area by minimising built structures and hard surfaces
- adapting to the impacts of climate change by park planning and design.

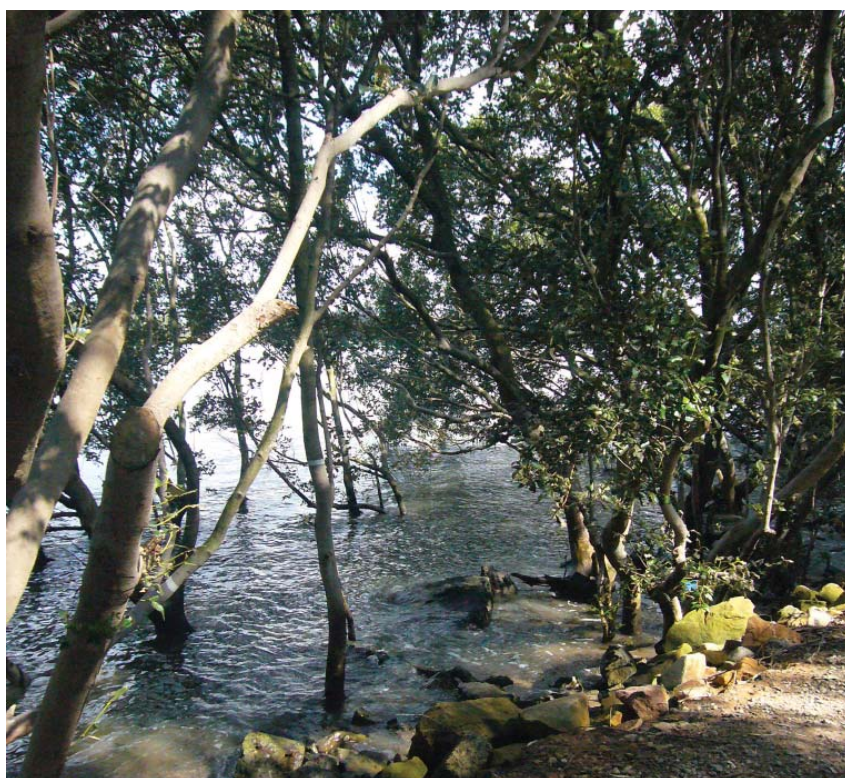
PART 5: OBJECTIVES

Conserving Our Rich History, Culture And Local Character (C06)

- integrating natural, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage into the City's open spaces
- interpreting and promoting the unique history of Ryde for residents and visitors
- drawing on local landscape character in park design and planting strategies
- maximising views and vista opportunities across the City
- implementing public art to express the identity and culture of the City.

Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations (C03, C07)

- conserving energy and resources and optimising life cycles
- managing assets to a financially and operationally sustainable model
- designing to high standards and quality with innovative practices
- actively involving the community in planning and design
- fostering partnerships with other parties to extend recreation opportunities
- operating under a structured management and maintenance plan and program.



Lane Cover River Foreshore

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

OPEN SPACE STRUCTURE PLAN

In realising the Commitment and Objectives for the City's open space, the Structure Plan (see Figure OB.01) forms the basic framework of the IOSP. Key elements include:

Corridors, Connections and Barriers

As the primary framework for the City's network of open space a comprehensive 'web' of combined recreational and natural corridors is proposed. This 'web' is principally structured around the existing creek and river corridors where these form part of the City's open space network. To complete this web and to link these corridors to the City's town and neighbourhood centres, the corridors are extended along their natural catchment boundaries following streets and linking currently unconnected parks.

This web would be supplemented by a green grid of selected streets characterised by continuous canopy of native tree planting broadly of genotype local to each area. This green grid will extend natural values across the catchment using selected streets and does not preclude cultural planting in other streets. These green grid streets would provide principal cycle and walking routes linking to and between the green web corridors and to neighbourhood and town centres.

Outdoor Sports Parks

Outdoor Sports Parks would be re-organised to a three-tier framework over time, aligning with the BVR and including:

- Level 1 - Citywide Sports Hubs; four to five main locations across the City (eg. Meadowbank Park, ELS Hall, Marsfield Park/Waterloo Park, Christie Park, Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park/Tyagarah Park precinct) organised as hubs or precincts where sports facilities are planned and designed strategically to meet the highest level and standard of facilities for both indoor and outdoor sports
- Level 2 - District Sports Parks; individual parks at minimum District level, that combine competition standard facilities with less structured and more flexible spaces that suit training or less organised sports and informal usages related to non-seasonal bookings (typical parks would include Ryde Park, Eastwood Park and Gannan Park)
- Level 3 - Neighbourhood Multi-Use Parks; individual parks at minimum to Neighbourhood level that would be principally oriented to less structured recreation but that would have larger spaces (generally not of a competition standard dimension and having no permanent sports infrastructure) that would be usable for less formal sports use (eg. juniors sports and training) and that would be available for such use at specific times of the day and week (typical parks might include Fontenoy and Tyagarah Parks).

All sports related parks would accommodate unstructured recreation needs such as play, seating, shade, BBQ, picnics, walking circuits. Note that while local parks may be suitable for informal kickabout they do not generally form a part of a structured sports network.

Level 3 and Level 4 Open Space

Through a longer term strategic process (see Consolidation, Acquisition and Rationalisation below) all residences in the City would have access to an open space or network within

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

a maximum 400 metres of home (in areas of high density and high rise, with little or no integrated private open space, the goal would be closer to a maximum of 250-300 metres).

Newly acquired or consolidated open space would generally be of no less than 0.5 Ha (a standard football field) and only as low as 0.3 Ha (slightly larger than two traditional 'quarter acre house blocks') and where gaining a greater area is not viable. Compound shape and relatively level topography are preferable in order to provide maximum recreation opportunities and flexibility for a diversity of user types and needs over time, as well as to accommodate significant canopy vegetation.

Urban Spaces

Street corner meeting places allied to the green grid streets at key locations and crossings connect neighbours where they are likely to pass each other. Designed to encourage social interaction, for seniors or parents with children the meeting spaces provide places to stop and rest or act simply as a small incidental meeting space. These street corners would provide shade in the form of a significant tree or trees (that can also be a local wayfinding landmark) and seating that may simply be formed by a low wall or bench.

In town centres and in some larger neighbourhood centres at least one space is identified and designed to meet local leisure needs. This may range from a space that suits early morning Tai Chi or local cultural events. Seating, shade, planting and public artwork would be typical elements. In larger centres, spaces would be adaptable to local events and designed to accommodate temporary or permanent stages with built-in infrastructure (power, water, etc).

Consolidation, Acquisition and Rationalisation

To achieve the goals of meeting current and future recreation needs, a strategic approach to extending the existing quantum of open space would be based on three actions undertaken in the following order:

- Consolidation: identifying properties or spaces that are not currently zoned as public open space either within reserves or adjoining reserves, the consolidation of which would extend the capacity of that reserve; an example would include identifying residences adjoining or interjecting into park spaces for acquisition when they come to market, permitting extension of an existing reserve or joining of two separated parks (eg. Blenheim Park)
- Stand Alone Acquisitions: identification of areas of open space deficit relative to existing or future population densities (eg. West Ryde, Top Ryde, Ryde South, Eastwood, North Ryde and Macquarie Park) with a view to acquiring land for new reserves
- Rationalisation: improvement of local open space and recreation opportunity by sale of selected small open spaces where there is high level of duplication with very limited recreation value (eg. East and West Dennistone) or identifying areas where excising land from existing reserves and selling to adjoining property owners (especially narrow corridors with limited open space functionality) funds acquisition or consolidation of a more substantial local park or parks.

This process, as required under the Local Government Act 1993, requires detailed site analysis, community consultation and a public inquiry. The section Delivering the Plan provides guidance on the specifics of this process.

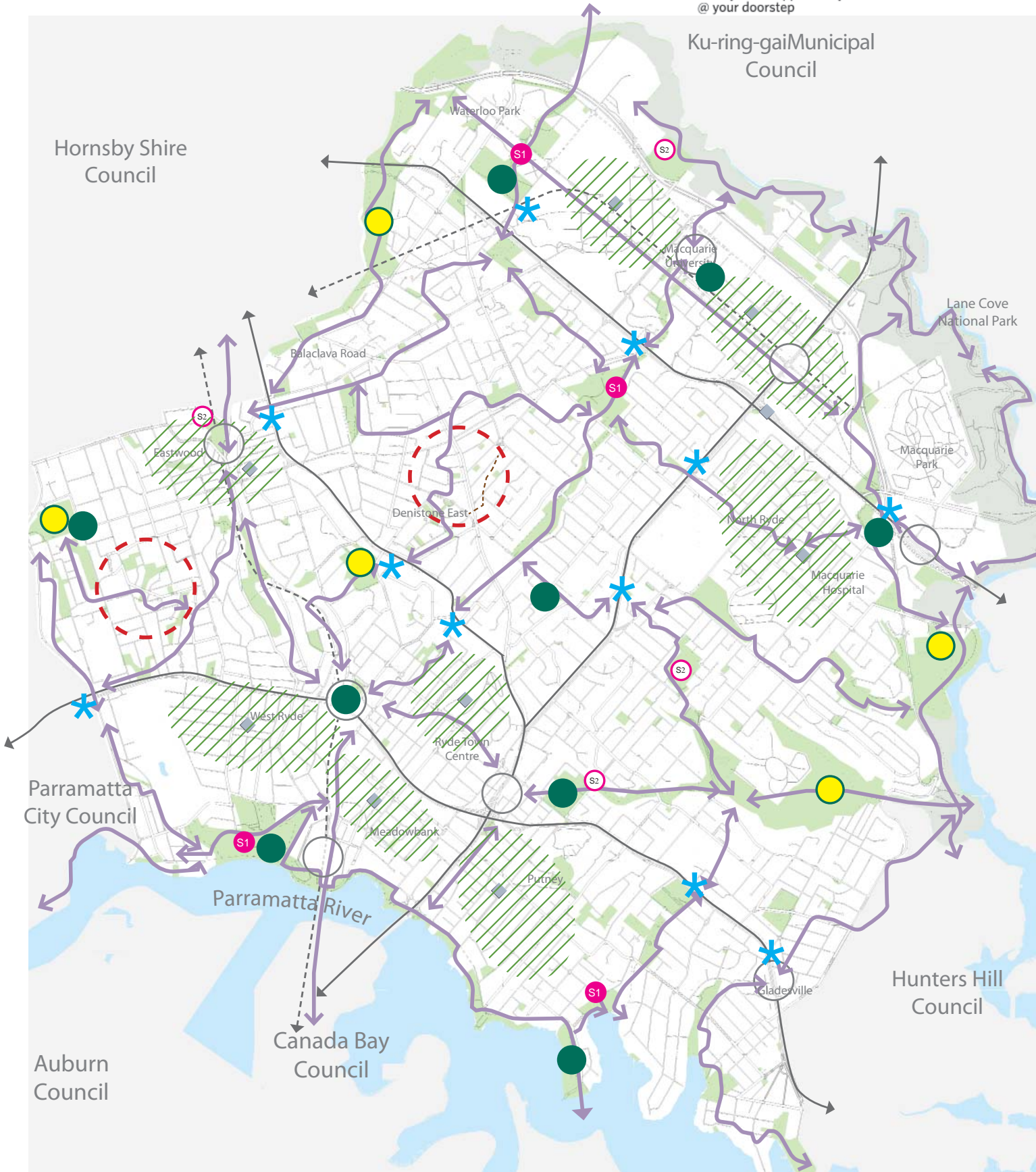














Figure OB.01 City of Ryde Open Space Structure Plan

OPEN SPACE STRUCTURE PLAN

KEY

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  | Major Centres - Existing And Proposed |  | Local Open Space Deficit Areas Acquisition Review Areas |
|  | Citywide Sports Hub/Precinct |  | Major Arterial Roads |
|  | Level 2 Sports Park |  | Rail Lines |
|  | Primary Passive Parkland |  | Future Local Reserve Acquisition Opportunity (Review Localities) |
|  | Principal Bushland Reserve |  | Multiple Small Reserves (Rationalisation Review) |
|  | Principal Recreational Linkages (see Green Web and Green Grid) | | |
|  | Major Barrier Reduction Targets (Walking/Cycling) | | |



Willoughby
Council

Lane Cove
Council



Part 6: Implementation Plan



PART 6: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Implementation Plan sets out the actions by which the IOSP will be realised, founded on the Objectives Commitment and illustrated through the Open Space Structure Plan. The Implementation comprises two parts, namely:

- The Action Plan
- Delivering the Plan.

Both sections refer to where applicable, further details of implementation provided in the listed appendices.

The Action Plan

Set out in a series of tables, The Action Plan identifies the works to be undertaken, detailed under the five headings that underpin the Open Space Commitment, namely:

- Ample, Accessible Open Space
- Shared and Enjoyed by All
- Founded on a Healthy Natural Environment
- Conserving Our Rich History, Culture and Local Character
- Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations.

The actions include planning, design and management proposals and identify what further detailed studies or related strategies may need to be undertaken for the full delivery of the IOSP.

For each action there are four related details of their implementation which are:

- Outcomes: identifies the related Outcome Goal and Strategy in the Community Strategic Plan
- Accountability: identifies the team within Council responsible for delivering that action
- Priority: proposes the relative priority in implementing the action being High, Medium or Low
- Key Performance Indicators: identifies the KPI that will apply to the realisation of that action.

Explanation, details and abbreviations of each of the above is provided in the second part of this section, Delivering The Plan.

Delivering The Plan

This second section of the Implementation Plan expands on the means by which the proposals in the Action Plan should be delivered and includes further details of:

- Acquisition, Consolidation and Rationalisation
- Funding The Plan
- Monitoring, Reviewing and Updating the Plan.

PART 6: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

OUTCOMES

In Part 5: Objectives, the Seven City Outcomes and their associated three goals are given a corresponding reference code (eg. C01). In the Action Plan Table (refer to Table IP.01) the relevant 'Outcome' is listed with its corresponding code and goals against each recommended Topic/Action. The strategies to achieve these goals are set out in the City's 'Ryde 2021 Community Strategic Plan' (2011).

SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITIES

The City has identified the Service Units within the Council organisation charged with delivery of the City Outcomes. In the Action Plan the relevant Service Unit (or Units) responsible for implementing the action are identified under the heading 'Accountability' using the following 'Code' number:

Code	Accountability	Service Unit
33	Cultural development and management	<i>Community & Culture</i>
64	Sportsground development and management	<i>Open Space</i>
70	Passive recreation development and management	<i>Open Space</i>
73	Natural bushland development and management	<i>Open Space</i>
74	Natural bushland delivery management	<i>Open Space</i>
79	Open space planning development	<i>Open Space</i>
84	Public domain development and management	<i>Urban Planning</i>
140	Heritage place enhancement and development	<i>Urban Planning</i>
171	Sustainable transport development	<i>Environment</i>

PRIORITY OF IMPLEMENTATION

For each action in the Action Plan a corresponding priority for its implementation is assigned as follows:

- H = High: top priority. Where there are no impediments to its delivery, this action should be achieved in the short to medium term
- M = Medium: second tier priority with implementation due in the medium term
- L = Low: not an urgent implementation action but important nonetheless and should be planned for the medium to long term
- O = Ongoing: a recurrent action that may be regularly repeated.

PART 6: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To determine when a specific action has been satisfactorily implemented a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) needs to be identified. Of the numerous forms of KPIs that are typically applied to strategic planning, the most common KPIs used in open space planning are listed below and will be applied to the IOSP. Abbreviations identified in the Action plan denote the relevant KPI for that action:

- QS = Questionnaire Survey: this may be an omnibus telephone survey of the community carried out regularly to elicit community satisfaction on all Council services or a targeted open space survey such as the IOSS conducted by Council. Such surveys may also include organisations such as sports clubs
- ES = Exit Survey: this survey is carried out as a one-on-one questionnaire of open space users as they are leaving the park, to determine their experience and satisfaction levels of their visit, including perceptions of safety
- US = Usage Survey: this comprises a count of users of open space or recreation facilities, carried out at specific and consistent times of the year to establish changes in usage levels over time
- PS = Photographic Survey: this is most commonly used to identify changes in the landscape, associated with targets for enhancement of landscape character or natural and cultural conservation
- FS = Field Survey: in field investigations are most commonly used to determine environmental changes such as bushland management, species diversity and water quality; in the case of the IOSP this applies particularly to monitoring natural and recreational corridors and safety audits
- AP = Aerial Photography: this is frequently used to establish changes in the landscape and when compared over a period of years can identify critical changes. The 'Near Maps' historical sequence tool bar is particularly helpful in this regard
- CC = Community Correspondence: communications received from the community, collated under specific topics can identify trends in satisfaction.
- CW = Consultation Workshops: where Council may need focused qualitative feedback on the success or otherwise of implementation it may choose to convene a workshop of relevant stakeholders, internal staff and/or external experts to establish the nature of performance on key actions
- FA = Financial Audit: some actions can be most readily measured by economic and financial indicators. Typically this might include actions where cost reductions are being sought or where cost benefit ratios are needed.

In many cases, several KPI measures can be applied at the same time; for instance an action that requires both quantitative data gathering (eg. usage) and qualitative feedback (eg. park experience and satisfaction) a combined exit survey, usage survey and photographic survey can be carried out in the same place over a period of a few hours.

AMPLE, ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE

Progressively implement upgrades to the quantum and diversity of open space in the City of Ryde (employing the four level hierarchy and the eight setting types proposed) with a focus on:

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
A1	AMOUNT AND DISTRIBUTION				
	Upgrade the quantum and distribution of open space to match current and future population needs, including:				
a	Optimisation	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	US/ES
	Extend capacity of existing open space as the first priority through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – more efficient layouts of reserves – clearer definition of spaces and uses – designing and planning for multi-use. 				
b	Acquisition and Consolidation	C07.2.3	MED	79	US/AP/FA
	Address identified shortages of public open space across the City of Ryde through a program of acquisition and consolidation. High priorities identified in Figure OB.01 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ryde South (central/west) – Putney (north) – West Ryde (central) – North Ryde (central and north) – Macquarie Park – Eastwood (east of rail line) – Top Ryde (central/north). See Delivering the Plan for details of the processes required to achieve this.				
c	Rationalisation	C07.2.3	LOW	79	US/FA
	During the Acquisition and Consolidation program, review areas of multiple small reserves with a view to achieving fewer larger local reserves (within a 400m walking distance of all residences) for better recreation opportunity. Areas to consider for rationalisation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ryde Santa Rosa/Dennistone East/Eastwood border – Dennistone West border. 				

Table IP.01 Action Tables

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
A2	ACCESSIBILITY				
	Improve community access to existing and future public open space through an integrated action plan that involves all modes of access including:				
a	Public Transport	C05.2.1	MED	171	US/CC/QS
	<p>Review accessibility to all reserves by public transport as part of the Integrated Public Transport Plan of reducing car dependency and pursue actions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – locating bus stops close to entries of major parks – improving walkability of paths between bus stops, stations and major parks (as part of a wider audit, see Walkability) – ensuring bus route links optimise connectivity between stations and major sports reserves – selecting routes for Council funded minibus routes to include open space and recreation corridors as well as steep hills. 				
b	Private Vehicle	C05.2.1	MED	79	US/ES
	<p>Ensure access and parking at reserves is efficient in circulation and adequate for needs, especially where public transport access is presently poor. Actions should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – designing entries, circulation and parking to optimise use of space, minimise footprint (see also Sustainability) and limit impacts on local residential amenity – use on-street parking for Local and Neighbourhood parks wherever possible – identify overflow parking areas for major events in District and Regional parks, especially major sports parks (such spaces should have another primary function eg. training, kickabout areas). 				
c	Walking and Cycling	C02.1.2 C05.1.2	HIGH	79	US/QS
	<p>Prepare a combined Walking and Cycling Plan (linked to the Recreational network Plan) for the City that integrates all aspects of recreational, fitness and commuter cycling and walking. Actions to promote and accommodate more cycling should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – updating the current City of Ryde cycle plan to integrate the recreational walking and cycling objectives in the IOSP with the proposed commuter cycling routes – integrating the proposed recreational and street based walking and cycling corridors (see Connectivity and Figure OB.01) into the cycle network – reviewing new opportunities for shared paths in parks and recreational corridors with respect to capacity, suitability and context – incorporating children's cycle circuits in identified parks to encourage cycling. <p>Actions to promote and cater for more walking in the City of Ryde should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – preparation of walkability audit across the City of Ryde as outlined in NSW Premier's Council for Active Living website (see Reference B1b: C05.2.1 - C02.1.2) – integrate all parks and open space into a walking network for the city that links paths with generators and attractors (shops, public transport, education facilities, employment areas and community facilities, etc) – establish a walking 'web' (based on recreational/natural corridors identified in the Open Space Structure Plan Figure OB.01) with a walking 'grid' of streets identified from the walkability audit as best suited to walking and which also link the corridors to generators and attractors (as above). 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
A3	UNIVERSAL ACCESS				
	Optimise access for all abilities and backgrounds to the City's open space, including through:				
a	Access Audit	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	ES/US
	<p>Update access audits of all public open space across the City of Ryde to determine where improvements can be achieved towards universal access to all public space. Key outcomes with respect to parks and recreational corridors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ease of access to park entries off streets (especially street crossings close to entries and bus stops; safe, even paths, etc for wheelchairs and mobility scooters) – provision of circuit paths that can be easily walked or wheeled for prams, wheelchairs or children's bikes – ample seating with shade and shelter – disabled car park spaces close to park entries and exploiting views of the park (especially important at sports venues) or lookouts for those not able to leave the car or where park topography is steep – optimised access to play facilities for all abilities. 				
A4	CONNECTIVITY				
	Enhance open space connectivity across the City of Ryde for all of the community through an integrated strategy that links recreational, cultural heritage and natural values:				
a	Recreational Corridor Network Plan	C05.2.1	HIGH	79	A/OS/UP
	<p>Prepare a detailed Recreational Corridor Network Plan, based on the proposed network identified in the Open Space Structure Plan and as further detailed in Figure IP.01. The plan should integrate the natural corridors (green web) with street based linkages and connections (green grid). The Plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – determination of routes that optimise use of the physical geography (ridges and valleys) and natural environment (bushland, creeks and rivers) of the City of Ryde. – Analysis of linkages in the network that cannot be achieved solely as above (ie. using streets, rail corridors, etc) that align as closely as possible with the catchment and sub-catchment geography (Figure OB.01) – design parameters for the corridors such as path design, natural habitat conservation, planting, shade and amenity – identification of third parties that may be critical to achieving each section of the network (ie. State government agencies, other landowners) – street and road based design to achieve the objectives of the green grid (eg. amenity, the canopy, safe walking and cycling) – priority for implementation (see below). <p>Criteria for highest priorities of implementation should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – completing local missing links in existing corridors that would significantly extend open space access – enhancing links in areas with limited open space and high populations – creating links where this would enhance natural values – overcoming major barriers (roads, etc) – establishing links that would benefit children (eg. off-road paths to school or sports venues). 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
b	Barriers	C05.2.1	HIGH	79	US/QS
	<p>Analyse and prioritise action to address major barriers to walking and cycling across the City including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – major arterial road crossings as identified in the Open Space Structure Plan (refer to Figure OB.01) – access for disabled persons (see Universal Access) – footpath design and quality (see Walking and Cycling Plan). <p>The highest priorities to removal of barriers are in areas where residences are more than 400m from any open space.</p>				
A5	WAYFINDING				
	Enhance wayfinding around the City of Ryde, particularly to promote walking and cycling as both recreation and a daily part of the lives of the local community through:				
a	Wayfinding Strategy	C05.2.1	HIGH	79	US/ES
	<p>Prepare a Wayfinding Plan in keeping with the Walking and Cycling Strategy (as above) with particular emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – off-road routes that link school, work and home through the public open space network – recreational circuits with distances and walking times identified – routes that can be readily undertaken by those with a disability – links between walking routes and public transport stops. <p>The Plan should draw on all media in an integrated fashion including in-field maps, signage, brochures, phone enabled GPS and web (including Council's website), etc.</p>				

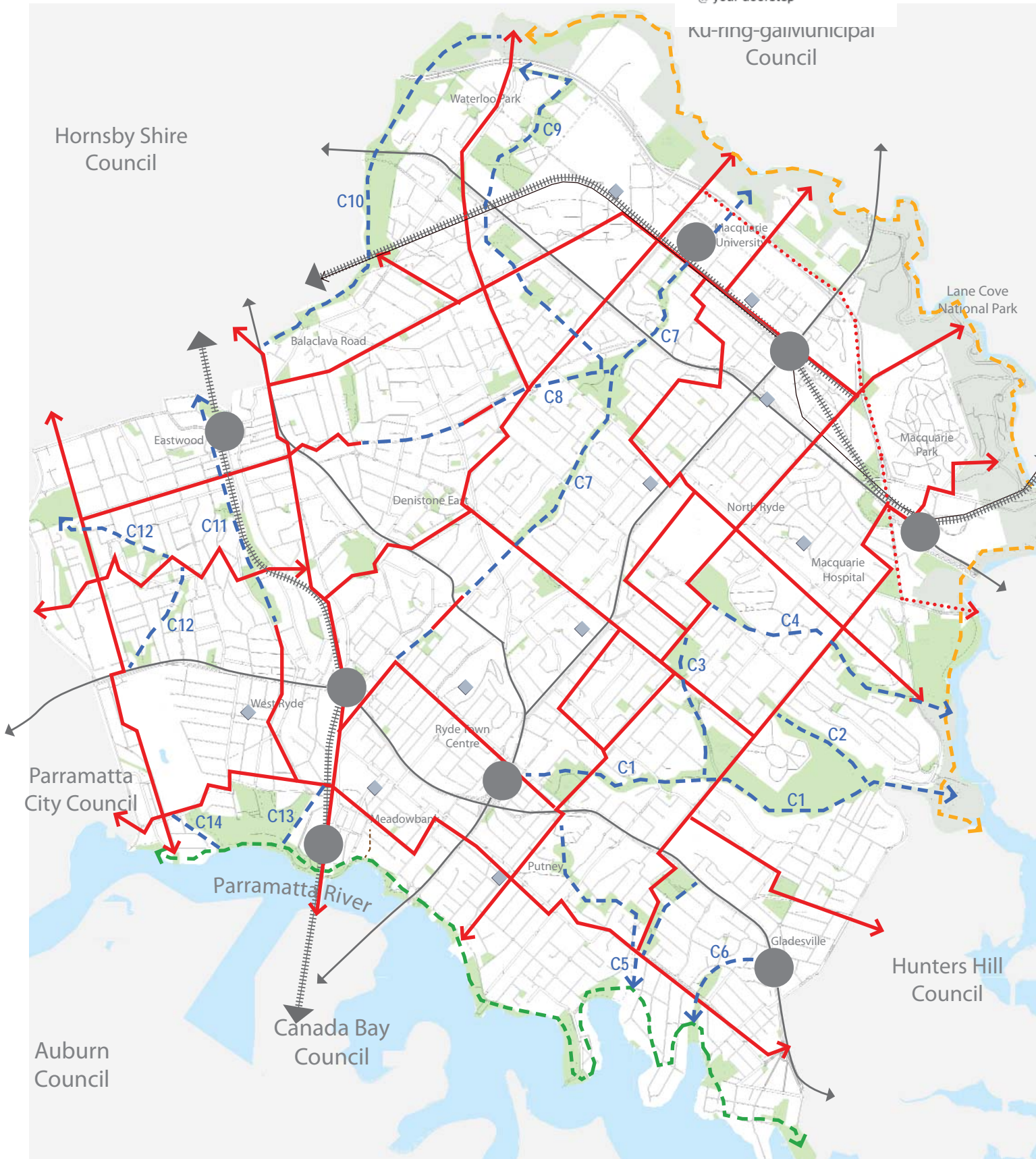


Figure IP.01 City of Ryde Corridor

RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR NETWORK PLAN

KEY

- Major Centres - Existing And Proposed
- ◀ - ➤ Creek and Bushland corridor Links (Green Web) Existing and Proposed (see list below)
- ◀ - ➤ Ryde Riverwalk (City of Ryde) Existing and Proposed
- ◀ - ➤ Great Northern Walk (NPWS)
- ◀ - ➤ Street Based Walk and Cycle Links (Green Grid) Proposed
- ◀ ... ➤ Existing major dedicated cycleway (RTA)
- Existing Major Roads
- ▬ Existing Railway Line

CREEK AND BUSHLAND CORRIDORS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| C1 Kunzea Walk (Buffalo Creek) | C8 Shrimpton's Creek West Link |
| C2 Strangers Creek Walk | C9 Mars Creek Link |
| C3 Buffalo Creek North | C10 Terry's Creek Link |
| C4 Kitty's Creek Walk | C11 Denistone - Eastwood Walk |
| C5 Morrison's Bay Link | C12 Bush Farm Park Walk |
| C6 Glade's Bay Link | C13 Charity Creek Walk |
| C7 Shrimpton's Creek Walk | C14 Archer Creek Walk |

SHARED AND ENJOYED BY ALL

Extend and enhance the capacity, amenity and quality of the City's open space to reflect recreational needs and local identity through:

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
S1	OPEN SPACE SETTINGS				
	For each of the proposed open space settings, both for the existing reserves and for the future, planning, management and design include:				
a	Passive Parklands	C02.1.1, C02.1.2, C07.1.3	HIGH	79	US/ES/QS
	<p>Implement a program that greatly extends opportunities for all members of the community to enjoy access to quality passive parklands that meet their day-to-day recreational needs. Priorities should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meeting local recreation needs within a minimum 400m walking distance of all residences – targeting areas of open space deficit and areas of densest population first – extending passive parklands within the existing system – integrating passive recreation space and facilities within all sports reserves – addressing most fundamental needs first (paths, shade, planting, play and kickabout space). <p>At a citywide level, establish and progressively upgrade the following open spaces as the principal Level 1 and Level 2 passive open space for the City that will ensure that all residents are within 2kms distance from a major passive open space (see Open Space Structure Plan Figure OB.01)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Yamble Reserve, Ryde Santa Rosa – Marsfield Park, Marsfield – Blenheim Park, North Ryde – Anzac Park, West Ryde – Ryde Park, Top Ryde – Putney Park, Putney – Brush Farm Park, Eastwood – Memorial Park/Meadowbank Park – Macquarie Park (future park as part of Macquarie Park Corridor Strategy). <p>Of these open spaces, those that are presently best embellished should be priorities for upgrade.</p> <p>Liaise with adjoining Councils to co-ordinate and improve any shortfalls in district level passive open space close to the City of Ryde boundaries. Examples of these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hornsby Shire Council and Somerville and/or Forrester Park – Hunters Hill Council and Buffalo Creek Reserve. <p>See also Partnerships in 'Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations'.</p>				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
b	Outdoor Sports	C02.1.2	HIGH	64	QS/US/CC
	<p>Integrate into the completion of the NSROC Regional Sports Strategy and the associated Best Practice Review (BVR) the definition of three tiers of sports facility provision, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Level 1 Citywide Sports Hubs: 1) Meadowbank Park, 2) Marsfield Park/Waterloo Park, 3) Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park, 4) ELS Hall Park. Progressively upgrade these hubs to meet the principles outlined in Typical Planning, Design & Management Guidelines (Appendix 2) Level 2 Sports Parks: combining competition standard sports facilities with training capacity and flexible facilities to adapt to various sports needs in short five-ten year cycles. Typical parks would be Eastwood Park, Gannan Park, Ryde Park Level 3 Multi-Use Parks: laid out to permit sports uses, mostly of junior/lower grade levels; permanent infrastructure limited to that which suits the widest range of field and court sports. <p>Level 4 parks should be used only for informal and junior sport where their layout suits (ie. level and clear open space), with no sports infrastructure.</p> <p>Extend existing sports capacity within existing reserves through a combined Masterplan and Plan of Management process that addresses the hierarchy above. Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marsfield Park/Waterloo Park Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park/Tyagarah Park. <p>Integrate passive recreation opportunity and facilities into all levels of sports reserves (at minimum basic needs would include circuit paths around the park, ample seating in shade, planting with emphasis on native species, play from toddler to ten years typically, picnic/BBQ and informal kickabout space).</p>				
c	Civic And Urban Spaces	C01.2.1	MED	84	US/ES
	<p>Integrate civic and urban spaces into the public open space as part of the wider public realm that the community uses for recreation and leisure including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upgrade existing civic spaces in each major town centre to accommodate a range of uses including general relaxation, cultural events, entertainment, ceremonies introduce new civic spaces where these do not exist in major centres integrate small scale gathering and meeting spaces associated with all minor urban centres and clearly distinguishable as public space as distinct from privately run outdoor eating areas. <p>See Ancillary below for streetscape strategy associated with civic spaces.</p>				
d	Natural Areas/Bushland	C04.3.2	MED	74	AP/FS
	<p>Plan and manage all reserves of all setting types to conserve, integrate and enhance natural values into their recreational use and appreciation. See Founded on a Healthy Natural Environment for further details.</p>				
e	Cultural Heritage	C06.2.1	MED	79	AP/PS/CC
	<p>Plan and manage all reserves of all setting types to conserve, integrate and enhance cultural heritage values into their recreational use and appreciation. See Reflecting Our Rich History and Culture for further details.</p>				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
f	River Foreshore and Creeks And Waterways	C05.2.1	HIGH	79	PS/FS/AP
	Integrate the City of Ryde's two rivers and many creeks into the public open space network as a core component of the community's recreational and leisure experience through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – continuing the roll-out of the Ryde River Walk Masterplan for improved foreshore connectivity, physical and visual access to the river for recreation purposes and enhanced natural values – aligning recreation access across the City with the natural geography and biology of the 14 sub-catchments across the local government area – integrating best practice Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into all design, planning and management of the City's creeks. See Founded on a Healthy Natural Environment for further details.				
h	Ancillary	C02.1.1	MED	79	AP/FA
	Review all existing spaces identified as Ancillary in the open space inventory for their contribution to the community's leisure and recreation experience or aesthetic values. Upgrade those spaces to achieve the objectives set out in the Hierarchy and Settings Table (see Table OS.01) and also add the following to Ancillary in the inventory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Streetscapes: identify 'green grid streets' that are most suitable to accommodate major walking and cycling routes that link to urban centres and connect with the recreation corridor 'web' network (see Walking and Cycling for details) – Street corner gathering spaces: identify where such gathering spaces can be readily integrated into the existing street and urban fabric. Larger gathering spaces should coincide with the 'green grid streetscapes' identified as the principal walking and cycling streets. 				
i	Informal Spaces	C02.1.3	LOW	79	US/QS
	Add all informal spaces that have recognised and permitted free public uses to a secondary inventory of all spaces that are not zoned as Open Space or classified as Community Land or Operational Land (see Managed Sustainably for Our Future for details). Typical informal spaces may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – retail plazas and malls (eg. Top Ryde) – car parks for court games when not in use at weekends – roof tops of buildings and car parks – community gardens – temporary uses of private or government owned land pending future development. Where necessary, liaise with third party landowners and recreational users to assist in agreeing terms and periods of use (see Managed Sustainably for Ours & Future Generations for details on co-ordination and liaison).				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
S2	RECREATION OPPORTUNITY				
	Develop a range of Action Plans for specific recreation needs including:				
a	Children's Play Implementation Plan	C02.1.1	HIGH	70	US/ES/QS/CC
	<p>Develop a Children's Play Implementation Plan that meets the needs of all ages, backgrounds and abilities and which results in a roll-out of contemporary play facilities. The Plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a full audit of all existing play facilities in the City's public spaces, the equipment present and its condition – a clear hierarchy of play spaces and facilities that meet needs for daily play within 400m of home (especially for toddlers and infants), play spaces for longer visits by car or public transport (Level 3) and major play destinations for all ages (Level 1 and 2) – plans and designs that address all age ranges, abilities and cultural backgrounds – promotion of imaginative, creative and adventure play, development of motor skills and interaction with nature – accessibility of play for older children by off-road walking and cycling wherever practical. <p>Progressively retrofit play facilities matching this strategy to a priority program and in line with the proposed park hierarchy and setting types.</p>				
b	Skate Plan	C02.1.1	MED/HIGH	79	US/ES/QS/CC
	<p>Develop a Skate Plan for the City of Ryde that addresses the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – permanent skate facilities that meet the needs of varied ages and skill levels – location of facilities close to public transport and with ample natural surveillance – temporary facilities that can be relocated on a rotational basis – skateable spaces that may have other uses (stages for bands, temporary art installations, event spaces, etc). – permanent skate facilities should be located close to public transport, safely accessible by cycle and open to passive surveillance. 				
c	Youth	C02.1.2	HIGH	79	US/ES/QS/CC
	<p>Undertake specific consultation with youth groups from a range of backgrounds and youth inter-agencies to gain a clearer picture of the recreation and leisure needs of the City's youth. In particular, address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – preferred social gathering spaces and places (including specific locations in the City) – means of access to meet friends at parks or urban spaces (walking, cycling, car, public transport) – range of passive recreation needs – design issues with respect to parks and urban spaces to meet their needs. <p>Integrate the findings into Plans of Management, Masterplans and urban design guidelines.</p>				
d	CALD Communities	C02.1.2	HIGH	79	US/ES/QS/CC
	<p>Integrate any recreational and leisure needs that may be specific to CALD communities into all planning and design for public spaces, places and reserves, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – multi-use indoor facilities that can accommodate social, dance, performance or sporting activities – shade and shelter for large social groups and gatherings – facilities and management that recognises specific cultural or religious practices (eg. Halal BBQs). 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
e	Seniors	C02.2.1	HIGH	70	US/ES/QS/CC
	<p>Plan and design all open space to meet the recreational, social and leisure needs of seniors, recognising the increasing demand in physical activity for seniors. Specific responses should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a variety of walking paths and circuits close to home that can be readily undertaken in 30 minutes to meet daily physical activity needs – ample shade and bench seats (especially at local parks, playgrounds and sportsfields) – ease of access to parks from public transport stops – ample nature walks – community gardens for those with little or no access to private gardens – optimised disability access. <p>In general, planning for seniors and those with disabilities will also meet the needs of the broader community.</p>				
f	Exercising Dogs	C02.2.1	MED	70	US/ES/QS/CC
	Implement the findings from the dog off-leash consultation undertaken by Council in 2011. Review the proposed new locations in line with the park hierarchy and settings outlined in the IOSP and integrate identified dog off-leash parks in the Open Space Inventory and Plans of Management.				
S3	RECREATION FACILITIES				
	Prepare guidelines for all future provision or replacement of facilities, structures and infrastructure in reserves as part of the Open Space Design Guidelines (see Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations) addressing:				
a	Facility Priorities	C02.1.1-3	HIGH	64,79,84	ES/ES/US/FA
	Establish priorities for facility provision that meet the criteria of high functionality, multi-using, value for money, ease of ongoing supply, adaptability to customisation, strong design aesthetic and ESD criteria. In particular, place priority on facilities that are most regularly cited in community satisfaction and importance surveys both in the City of Ryde and more generally.				
b	Seating and Shelter	C02.1.1-3	MED	64,74,70	FS/ES
	Provide ample seating in shade, in social arrangements and especially at park entries and path crossings. Sheltered tables suitable for larger groups in larger parks and always suitable for wheelchair access. Optimise use of shelters (eg. minimum necessary shade over BBQs to ensure use for cooking only). Incorporate lawn areas with ample tree shade for picnic uses and for larger gatherings.				
c	Toilets	C02.1.1-3	MED/HIGH	79	ES/US/ES
	Audit of existing toilets in reserves with the goal of roll-out of strategic locations for improved facilities, designs and locations that limit anti-social use, offer strong natural surveillance, are scaled to the size of reserve/user numbers, provide universal access and ensure family friendly facilities are available.				
d	Cafes, Kiosks and Mobile Refreshments	C02.1.1-3	LOW	79	US/FA/ES
	<p>Identify locations and facilities suitable for refreshments in appropriate public spaces where it supports the principal function of the land. General criteria for provision should allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cafes principally at larger reserves (Level 1) – Kiosks (Level 2 or 3) – Identified locations for mobile refreshments such as coffee carts (Level 3 or 4). <p>Avoid locating permanent facilities in close proximity to existing and established private outlets adjoining and addressing the public space. Ensure that PoM's provide clear directions on the nature of operations.</p>				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
S4	AMENITY AND SAFETY				
	Upgrade amenity and safety in all open space across the City through planning and design with a particular emphasis on:				
a	Public and Personal Safety	C02.1.1-3	HIGH	79	US/ES
	As part of the access audit (see Universal Access), review safety of existing reserves through criteria addressed in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles enshrined in the Safer By Design Guidelines (see Reference A1).				
b	Microclimate	C02.1.1-3	MED	70	ES
	Integrate amenable microclimates to design and layout of all reserves including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – summer shade (large trees and shelter, especially at playgrounds) – summer sea breezes (especially close to Parramatta River and parks on ridges) – winter solar access (sheltered from westerly/southerly winds) – cooling summer temperatures (water and mist features especially in urban spaces). 				
c	Lighting	C02.1.1-3	MED/HIGH	70	US/FA
	Progressively upgrade all lighting in reserves. Selecting where and how to light reserves to follow the principles of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – encouraging evening use of passive parklands and sports facilities – limiting lighting in areas that may impact on native fauna – discouraging anti-social behaviour – using latest technology to limit power use (LED, solar, etc). 				
d	Planting	C02.1.1-3	HIGH	70	PS/CC
	Develop planting design guidelines as part of the Open Space Design Guidelines with a particular emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – tree planting strategy that integrates with the City of Ryde's street tree planting strategies – the typical locations suitable for use of native, exotic or mixed planting – use of planting to enhance habitat and define spaces – planting guidelines that identify intensity of maintenance and associated service levels required – limiting high maintenance planting to key locations, with associated irrigation from recycled sources – reducing mown grass and irrigation requirements through design of defined higher and lower maintenance turf areas and native grass zones with associated hydrozones (levels of intensity of irrigating) for each park type and setting. 				
	Technology	C03.1.1	LOW	79,84	QS/US/CC
	Review the means by which access to current technology in open space broadens recreational value, extends information and enhances administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wireless Access/Hot Spots - choose key parks in which Wi-Fi is made available – Interpretation/Information - explore Smartphone, and tablet applications (eg. ipad) and upgrade Council website communications and promotion – Technology options particularly in relation to park information, facilities available and interpretation – Sports facility administration and allocation (see Best Value Review) – Encourage children's exploration of open space, eg. 'My Parx' 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
S5	LANDSCAPE DESIGN				
	Continue the improvements to landscape design quality of the City's parks and open spaces that are evident across park upgrades over recent years. To optimise park usage, capacity and appeal, particular focus should be placed on:				
a	Defined Spaces	C02.1.1	MED	79	AP/US/PS
	Enhance park use and capacity by defining spaces within parks more clearly through design elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – path layouts and circuits that also act as borders for differing maintenance regimes – tree and shrub grouping to define open spaces or linear corridors and provide backdrop to gathering spaces – defined mown and native grass areas (see S6.d Planting above) – park buildings with both major elevations having active uses/access. 				
b	Local Character	C02.1.1	MED	91	CC/CW
	Apply more local identity to open space through a range of design opportunities, employing placemaking principles including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – park layout (reflective of local culture or history) – retention or adaptive reuse of local heritage fabric – use of materials that may be common in the neighbourhood – local plant species (both native local genotype where viable as landscape planting and exotic species where they have historically been planted in the locality) – park or suburb logos integrated into signage and furniture – public art addressing local culture, natural values, landscape and heritage. 				
S6	OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS				
	Optimise recreation opportunities for all residents in the City in partnership with other recreation providers through:				
a	Liaison	C02.2-3	MED	79	CC/CW
	Liaise with all other owners of public open space and private recreation providers to maximise public access to leisure and recreation, to minimise duplication and achieve cost effective provision and agency by the City of Ryde (see Managed Sustainably for our Future for details on co-ordination, liaison and potential partners) Typical Providers would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schools - regarding community access (highest priorities in areas of current under-provision of open space) – National Parks - regarding liaison with NPWS of connecting open spaces to and from Lane Cove River into the heart of the City. – Golf Courses - regarding boundary areas where these can form part of wider corridor network (eg. North Ryde Golf Club). 				

FOUNDED ON A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Elevate the environmental values of all open spaces, across all setting types, as a core element of the recreation and leisure experience through:

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Account'y	KPI
F1	INTEGRATION OF NATURAL VALUES				
	<p>Plan and manage all natural areas in co-ordination with open space planning to ensure that all recreational access and facilities in natural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conserves those natural values (sensitive areas will necessarily require more controlled access and may require more limited facilities) – adds value to the appreciation and enjoyment of those spaces by the community – promotes and integrates the natural environment as a core value and facet of all open spaces no matter what their setting – encourages day-to-day interaction with nature through education, play, physical activity and daily movement around the City. <p>Specifically, pursue action on the following facets of integration:</p>				
a	Topography and Hydrology	C04.3.1	HIGH	79,73	PS/FS/AP
	<p>Integrate the natural geography of the City of Ryde into the planning, design and management of open space including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – extending recreational corridors along existing and pre-existing creek alignments (see Figure CO.07 and Co.08) as part of the open space network – capitalising on natural ridges for walking routes and to exploit district views (see Landscape Character below) – adapting to climate change generated flooding with use of natural systems management and minimal necessary built form (see Climate Change below) – integrating best practice stormwater management through WSUD techniques into reserve design, maximising Green Infrastructure assets (vegetation, natural materials). 				
b	Bushland Management	C04.3.1-3	MED	79,73	FS/AP/CC/CW
	<p>Plan and manage open space and recreation to compliment, conserve, extend and promote the appreciation and enjoyment of bushland throughout the City of Ryde, in particular through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – incorporating bushland conservation, restoration and fabrication in all levels of reserve as a key part of the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines (see Managed Sustainably Now and For Future Generations) – employing an extended open space corridor network to enhance bushland viability, diversity and connectivity across the whole of the City of Ryde (see Open Space Structure Plan Figure OB.01) – enhancing native fauna habitat connectivity (and thus reducing habitat isolation and fragmentation) through extending the natural and recreational corridors (green web), linking to a network of selected streets for walking and cycling routes that provide continuous native tree canopy (green grid) – using native trees in streets that connect to creeks and river foreshores – identifying locations for exotic species planting and species selection that does not compromise natural bushland values as part of design guidelines 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – promoting awareness and enjoyment of bushland through publicly available maps (on Council website) of the existing and proposed natural/recreational corridors. Identify short, medium and long walks in all localities, with an emphasis on circuits and routes that link to day-to-day destinations (eg. schools, work, shops, transport) – increasing community knowledge of their natural environment through targeted interpretation and wayfinding signage within reserves (not just bushland reserves) – providing ongoing technical and resources support to bushcare groups including assistance with promotion and information distribution. 				
c	Natural Corridors, Rivers and Creeks	C04.3.1-3	HIGH	79	FS/US/CC
	<p>Continue to upgrade all river and creek open spaces to enhance recreational and natural systems connectivity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – optimising riparian vegetation along river foreshores and creek corridors (ensuring key views to creeks and rivers are identified and maintained) – maintaining or restoring natural river banks and creek profiles wherever practical – encouraging access to the water's edge and recreation by and on the water (boating, fishing where safe, paddling, etc) – monitoring and interpreting water quality changes to increase community awareness of the value of natural waterways (eg. Streamwatch) – conserving and promoting the natural hydrology of the sub-catchments (including reforming channelised creeks to natural profile where practical) even where it may be hidden in pipes and under streets (eg. naming trails after the creeks that they follow) – interpreting the natural and cultural heritage of the waterways as an integrated narrative. <p>The order of priority for delivery should be based on the following in order of importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – missing links in already heavily used corridors – links that assist in developing longer routes into the heart of the City – links to major destinations (eg: Level 1 open space, town centres, major employment areas). <p>Highest priorities should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ryde Riverwalk (continue missing connections) – Shrimptons Creek (south from Santa Rosa to West Ryde) – River to River Walk. 				
d	Biodiversity Plan	C04	HIGH	79,73	FS/US/CC
	Preparation of Biodiversity Plan and action recommendations.				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
F2	SUSTAINABILITY				
	Plan, design and manage sustainability all open space using best practice including through:				
a	Quadruple Bottom Line	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	FA
	<p>Review and audit all planning, design and management actions in open space using Quadruple Bottom Line (QBL) criteria to ensure optimum sustainability, those values being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – environmental – social – cultural – economic <p>Key outcomes in open space include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – optimising the ecology of all open space, no matter how urbanised – minimising built form footprint (car parks, buildings etc) – using materials and design with low embodied energy – conserving and re-using water – creating spaces and opportunities that encourage social interaction and cultural interactivity (seating, dog parks, childrens play areas, cultural event spaces, kiosks, etc) – considering whole of lifecycle costs in all design, planning and management. <p>Plans of Management, Masterplans and Acquisition/Rationalisation actions in particular should be prepared and audited with these values integrated in preparation and delivery. Priorities for preparation or updating Plans of Management or Masterplans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Level 1 and 2 Sportsgrounds (see Fig OB.01) – Level 1 Passive Parklands (see Fig OB.01) – Level 4 Passive parklands (generic) 				
b	Climate Change Adaptation	C04.3.3	MED	79	FS/CC/CW
	<p>Prepare Plans to adapt the City's open space to forecast climate change in line with Council's current studies and analysis including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – increasing available shade to combat temperature increases in all reserves – exploiting seabreezes to reduce temperatures, especially close to the rivers and on ridges – using recycled water for play and temperature amelioration in urban spaces – extending tree planting in reserves, streets and urban open spaces to combat heat island effect – planning for more indoor recreation opportunities, particularly for summer sports – addressing flooding climate change with minimal necessary built form (river walls) and through long term planning (eg. facility relocation, extending flood capacity and retention of creeks through natural reprofiling. Key reserves in terms of flood impact include Meadowbank Park, lower section of Field of Mars and various other parks on the Lane Cove River and Parramatta River foreshores. 				

CONSERVING OUR RICH HISTORY, CULTURE & LOCAL CHARACTER

Recognise, reflect and integrate the City's rich and diverse culture, heritage and local identity in the planning and landscape design of open space through:

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Account'y	KPI
R1	CULTURAL HERITAGE				
	Promote the awareness and recognition of the City of Ryde's cultural heritage through planning, design, consultation and integration of:				
a	Aboriginal Heritage	C06.1.3	MED	33,79,140	CC/CW
	Liaise with the Aboriginal community to establish the means through which their cultural heritage can best be recognised within the City's open space. This should typically be a multi-faceted approach that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conservation of sites and potential sites (PADs) as required through the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1984 – interpretation through landscape design, planting, public art and performance in open space – participation in implementing works and managing landscapes with cultural associations and/or natural values – education programs for schools and the community – telling the story of Aboriginal heritage in co-ordination with interpretation of non-Aboriginal heritage. 				
b	Non-Aboriginal Heritage	C06.1.3	MED	33,79,140	CC/CW
	Consult with the broad community on the means by which the City's non-Aboriginal heritage can best be integrated and promoted within the City's open space including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – recognising and interpreting the City's agricultural, horticultural, industrial, social and maritime history within appropriate reserves and open spaces across the City – focusing on the Parramatta River and the timber as the principal landscapes that initiated early European settlement of the area (using natural landscape elements such as planting and water as the key environmental assets of the landscape), the history of the City's growth after World War II and the increasing cultural diversity of its population today – reflecting local history and heritage in each suburb and locality through specific responses in the associated reserves (eg. planting original species where these are still viable, customising street furniture such as through logos, themed creative play, use of locally available materials, local interpretation, etc. – identifying and categorising any open spaces with strong heritage associations and related uses that as such come under the Inventory Settings. 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
R2	CULTURAL DIVERSITY				
	Reflect the City's cultural diversity through the planning, design and management of open space including through:				
a	Recreation Opportunity and Facilities	C02.1.1	MED	79	QS/CC/CW
	<p>Provide facilities and opportunities that meet the widest community needs, but tailored to local cultural needs and lifestyles. Typical responses should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – accommodating cultural practices and lifestyles (eg. contemplative spaces and places that suit activities such as tai chi, meditation, outdoor prayer, quiet celebration) – facilities that respond to family/social culture such as shaded lawn areas or larger shelters for bigger gatherings – open spaces linked to indoor facilities that accommodate social sports – locations for performance, cultural events and temporary art installations (especially in urban spaces) – tailored interpretation to promote greater awareness and appreciation of the City's natural environment – developing river based cultural events that bring new perspectives to engagement with water (eg. Parramatta Council Riverbeats Festival) – develop clear guidelines as part of Plans of Management where and how cultural gifts, exchanges and memorials will be located and managed. <p>Priorities should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creation of more extensive shaded areas through tree planting and shade structures in major open spaces such as Meadowbank Park, Brush Farm Park, Blenheim Park – urban plazas, focus on shade and formal and informal seating (eg. low walls), interactive public art – more extensive passive recreation opportunities at Level 1 and 2 Sportsgrounds (eg. ELS Hall, Meadowbank Park, Marsfield Park, Morrison Bay Park). 				
b	Art and Interpretation	C06.3.2	MED	79	QS/CC/CW
	<p>Engage communities from differing backgrounds in developing permanent or temporary public art installations (eg. Art in the Park) and performance in open spaces that reflect their cultural background. This should avoid simple theming of single cultures but reflect that community's culture and relationship with other communities and the landscape.</p>				

R3	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER				
	Ensure that the unique and diverse landscape values of the City of Ryde are reflected in its open spaces, in particular through a Landscape Character Study addressing:				
a	Local Landscape Character	C04.1.1 C06.1.3	MED	79	PS/FS/AP
	<p>Identification of the unique elements of the City's landscape character and how these qualities will be conserved for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – endangered or threatened species – river foreshore and natural sandstone landscape – post-industrial landscape – ridgeline canopy trees – critical views (see below). 				
b	Views, Vistas and Landmarks	C04.1.1 C06.1.3	HIGH	79	PS/FS/AP
	<p>Identification, conservation and enhancement of the visual and scenic qualities of open space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – landscape views (especially district views, such as those that can be appreciated from the ridge at Gladesville and Top Ryde looking west) – key vistas within reserves that assist in orientation and context – key views to the rivers: these should be specifically identified to ensure that they do not become obscured by vegetation (eg. include liaison with government agencies to agree retention of such framed views, especially in mangrove environments) – key landmarks across the City of Ryde, such as heritage listed trees, views to historic buildings, ridge top canopies, etc. <p>Ensure that such views are recorded and that maintenance strategies are put in place to ensure vegetation does not obscure the views. Promote these views through photographs, promotional material related to the City of Ryde's open space and landscape character.</p>				

MANAGED SUSTAINABLY NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In line with proposals detailed in the IOSP Action Plan, review and upgrade planning and administration of open space across the City of Ryde to reflect current and forecast usage patterns and recreational and leisure choices through:

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
M1	ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING & MANAGEMENT				
a	Administration and Co-Ordination	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	FA
	<p>During internal administrative re-organisations and upgrades of the open space and related teams in the Council, ensure the following can be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – regular forum with related departments and teams on implementation of the IOSP, especially in urban planning, environmental management, social policy, landscape design, stormwater management and urban design – regular review with field and operational staff to plan and monitor implications and results of implementation of the IOSP on the ground, especially with respect to Service Levels, maintenance techniques, recurrent costs and assistance in development of the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines (see below). 				
b	Open Space and Public Realm Inventory	C02.1.1	MED	79	FS
	<p>Continue to update and integrate the inventory of all open space into the IOSP including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mapping all open space in GIS and linking directly with the inventory database – preparing a Public Realm inventory as the subset of the upgraded open space inventory, recording all public spaces not zoned as public open space or classified as Community Land but which are actively used for leisure and recreation (eg. urban plazas, malls, civic spaces, streetscapes). 				
c	Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	FS/CW/FA
	<p>Prepare Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines for the City of Ryde based on the principles outlined in the Hierarchy and Settings Strategy. The guidelines should preferably be in a simple table and diagram format (see typical example in Appendix 2). The guidelines should be used to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Council or consultant generated Masterplans and Plans of Management – Service levels for each hierarchy and setting – Co-ordination within Council when reviewing acquisition, consolidation and rationalisation strategies – Open space requirements from development (Section 94 and VPAs) – Liaison with other government agencies. 				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
d	Recreation and Leisure Program	C02.1.1	HIGH	64	QS/CC/CW
	<p>Develop a Recreation and Leisure Program that extends current programs and compliments the delivery of the IOSP, with the goal of promoting and fostering more use and enjoyment of the City's open space and the encouragement of healthy, active lifestyles in the City of Ryde. Typical existing and potential programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking programs (eg. Heart Foundation programs like Mall Walks) "Try" programs to introduce people to sports community gardens/city farm initiatives holiday activities programs partnering recreation based corporate, charity or community events in parks (eg. fun runs, fun cycle rides, triathlons, etc) partnering local community events in parks (Christmas, Australia Day, Granny Smith Festival, local celebrations, arts events, fairs, evening food markets, greeting new communities, etc) guidance for personal training in parks supporting volunteer groups in sports, bushland management, community gardens, etc. <p>Communicate an annual calendar of such programs with monthly updates through Council's website and other media.</p>				
e	Plans of Management and Masterplans	C02.1.1	MED	79	US/CC
	<p>Review and upgrade where necessary any current Plans of Management in concert with Masterplans (where Plans of Management are site specific) to correspond with the open space structure, hierarchy, settings and quality as outlined in the IOSP and after completion of the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines. For existing plans the recommended priorities for action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> updating generic Plans of Management (eg. Bushland, Sports, Waterways and Foreshores) updating site specific Plans of Management for any major reserves identified in the IOSP Action Plan as principal parklands at Level 1 or Level 2 (see Shared and Enjoyed by All). <p>Identify priority parks for new Masterplans/Plans of Management including those identified in the Open Space Structure Plan including Level 1 or Level 2 open spaces for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> passive open space outdoor sports (Sports Hubs) natural and bushland areas cultural heritage reserves. 				
f	Acquisition, Consolidation and Rationalisation	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	CW/FA
	<p>Prepare an Open Space Future Provision Plan to establish in detail the locations, size and nature of future open space acquisitions, consolidations and rationalisations as outlined in the Open Space Structure Plan (see also general locations proposed in Sufficient Assessable Open Space). Principles to be followed in this process include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improvement of open space quantity and quality in relation to current and future community needs is the underpinning purpose of the whole strategy evaluation and refinement of acquisitions and additions (extensions to existing open space) should precede any consolidations and rationalisations disposals funds generated by rationalisations and disposals are returned to improvement of open space in the locality in which they are generated transparency of objectives, process and evaluation is central to stakeholder and community involvement. <p>Further details of the process are provided in the following section (Delivering The Plan).</p>				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
g	Service Levels	C02.1.1	HIGH	79	FS/FA
	<p>In line with the IOSP proposals, review and update all current Service Levels that relate to management and maintenance of open space, following an audit and cost review. In particular, consider maintenance intensity levels relative to setting type and park hierarchy, which can be further expanded on through the Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines outlined above. Typical landscape maintenance elements that would relate to varying intensity levels would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – sports turf (highest quality at Sports Hubs with second tier at Level 2 and third tier at Level 3, etc) – passive parkland lawn areas (high intensity cutting in critical locations eg. ceremonial, civic spaces, heritage, etc); second tier for major kickabout spaces with defined edges; longer interval cutting regimes in less formal or active spaces and Local parks. Native grasses in all boundary areas, adjoining bushland and creeks, etc – planting: highest intensity annuals/perennials at key locations only (eg. entries to major parks and civic spaces, heritage spaces) ornamental shrubs in defined beds to demark entries and spaces for special events (wedding and ceremonial areas or historical contexts); Australian native shrubs in all general parkland areas; locally native shrubs and grasses adjoining within all natural areas, river foreshore and creek corridors. – irrigation regimes; to similar principles for planting and turf practices above. <p>Liaise as necessary with field staff when developing Service Levels to ensure optimum practical delivery on the ground and to evaluate implications for field staff skills required, changes to practice and plant/machinery updates and refinements.</p>				
h	Maintenance Review		HIGH		US/CC
	<p>Carry out a review of current maintenance practices and techniques with operational staff to establish potential changes required in implementing the IOSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – update Service Levels as above – review maintenance reduction options (ie. grass mowing, irrigation, etc as per Service Levels) – review plant and equipment required and review resources and staff required – initiate trials of new products, techniques, etc – seek to increase life cycles of materials and recycling/reuse options – review amendments required to maintenance responsibilities of sports clubs – establish targets, KPI's, measurement techniques and monitoring intervals (seasonal). <p>Where practical introduce new products, techniques, etc as part of any Masterplan/Plan of Management or re-design works to facilities.</p>				

Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
i	Lease, Licenses and Allocations	C02.1.1	MED	64	FA
	<p>In line with findings and recommendations of the final Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds, review all current leasing and licensing arrangements. Establish generic guidelines associated with the objectives outlined in the Hierarchy and Settings Strategy (Table OS.01) and in line with the proposed typical Open Space Planning and Design Guidelines (Appendix 2) and the findings of the BVR. Core principles, in line with the Local Government Act 1993 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – longer term leases should generally only apply to facilities in Level 1 and Level 2 open spaces – short term leases may apply to facilities at Level 2 open spaces – annual allocations of facilities, field and court uses should apply to Level 3 open spaces – licenses may apply to a range of uses (eg. refreshments, personal training, ceremonies, recreation equipment hire, one-off special events) and should be user friendly in format. <p>Implementation of these guidelines will necessarily be progressive over time as existing leases and licenses become renewable.</p>				
Ref	Topic/Action	Outcome	Priority	Accountability	KPI
M2	PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT				
	<p>Develop a partnering strategy for ongoing engagement with a range of open space and recreation stakeholders within the City of Ryde to extend the reach and capacity of the open space network, including with:</p>				
a	Public Sector	C02.1.1 C04.1.3	MED	64,73,79	CC/CW/FA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding natural and recreational corridor links into Lane Cove National Park – University and TAFE (sharing sports facilities and research and monitoring: see Education) – adjoining Councils (all six) especially in relation to shared major recreational facilities and recreation trail and natural area links and corridors – schools - indoor and outdoor facilities for active and passive recreation, particularly those located close to railway stations and near major bus stops for ease of out of hours public transport – road and Rail authorities regarding cycling, walking and public transport integration of parks – utilities authorities, in relation to recreational use and planting in easements – managers of hospitals and cemeteries. <p>Private Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – private recreation providers (golf courses, gyms, health and fitness clubs, personal trainers, etc) – private Businesses (including major multi-nationals in Macquarie Park) – developers - working with developers to establish voluntary agreements for the creation of public open space with direct nexus for the development. <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – services groups (Rotary, RSL, etc) – Sports Clubs and Associations especially clubs which are active in the community – volunteers (bush care, disability recreation, etc). 				
b	Revenue and Expenditure	C07.2.1	HIGH	64,70,73,79	FA

M3	COMMUNICATION, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION				
	Employ a comprehensive communications and consultation program in implementing the IOSP including:				
a	Communications and Consultation	C07.3.1	HIGH	64,70,73,79	QS/ES/US/CC/ CW
	<p>Use all current digital and print media employed by Council, post-adoption of the IOSP to continue to inform the community on the priorities and delivery of implementation. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – prepare a communications strategy for the delivery of the IOSP – continue to post summaries and updated documents on Council's high quality updated website – establish community consultation groups around the IOSP suburb structure (consider aggregating the suburbs into five consultation/placemaking 'districts' which also relate to the Centres and Corridors strategy) to assist in localising inputs – seek direct feedback on upgrades to parks through social media as well as through ongoing IOSS annual surveys – upgrade park user information on Councils' website to user friendly maps, especially in relation to trails, corridors, play, ceremony locations – employ best practice consultation processes (as per Council's Consultation Policy) for all Plans of Management and Masterplans. <p>Specifically, ensure that the Acquisition/Rationalisation process is communicated transparently and the underpinning goal of improvement of open space is evident and inherent in its communication and delivery.</p>				
b	Community Participation	C07.3.1	HIGH	64,70,73,79	CC/CW
	<p>Review and update all aspects of active involvement of the community in the care and stewardship of open space in the City of Ryde including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – volunteer engagement and support strategy – schools engagement strategy – sports forums – community monitoring and reporting system (eg. Park Watch) – volunteer awards programs. <p>Where applicable, liaise with adjoining Councils or other government agencies to co-ordinate.</p>				
c	Education and Awareness	C07.3.1	MED	64,70,73,79	QS/ES/CC
	<p>Involve all levels of formal education in the care, monitoring and appreciation of open space in the City of Ryde including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – schools involvement in environmental education in the parks (eg. Field of Mars), planting events, monitoring of systems (eg. Streamwatch) – Colleges such as Ryde TAFE; field based research in parks and waterways, natural habitat monitoring, park user surveys and the like – University; use of technology in promoting park usage (eg. 'My Parx' application) and remote management systems. <p>Continue dialogue with individual school principals to seek reciprocal benefits from shared community use of school recreation facilities and school use of Council facilities.</p>				

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DELIVERING THE PLAN

The final section of the IOSP comes under Delivering the Plan which identifies how the Action Plan can be delivered now and in the future. It identifies a more detailed means of how this can be achieved under the following headings:

- Hierarchy and Delivery: provides the hierarchy for the suggested sequence of delivery
- Acquisition, Consolidation and Rationalisation: provides a guide as to the process on how these elements can be identified and achieved in both the short and long term to enhance and improve the City's public open space
- Funding the Plan: identifies the opportunities for future funding of the City's public open space.

Hierarchy and Delivery

Table IP.01 illustrates in a work flow chart format the hierarchy structure for the delivery of the Implementation Plan. The table shows the importance of the chronology of and where each part fits and the suggested sequence for the delivery of the Implementation Plan.

Acquisition, Consolidation and Rationalisation

The Open Space Structure Plan identifies areas of open space deficit and duplication. To address these discrepancies in provision the following is a brief guide to the core elements of acquisition, consolidation and rationalisation.

Further Investigation

Potential means of identifying and acquiring further Open Space available to Council include:

- opportunities to augment the existing Council-owned open space resource by purchase of land parcels coming up for sale or reuse (eg. old industrial areas) in areas of identified shortfall at the neighbourhood hierarchy and in order to increase the size of existing open space areas (to improve useability/viability)
- review of land zoned but not yet acquired for open space (if applicable)
- acquisition through redevelopment projects ie. land acquired through VPAs
- negotiation to acquire critical land links along existing or potential linked systems as part of major new developments
- funding for acquisition to include possible use of Section 94 contributions, monies and external funding sources.

Checklist for Acquisition and Consolidation

As a means of optimising the usefulness of land parcels acquired for open space, it is recommended that each parcel be carefully assessed prior to purchase. The following checklist provides a starting point for assessment. Land should be purchased for dedication and use as open space if it satisfies the following criteria:

- ability to function independently as open space in the short term

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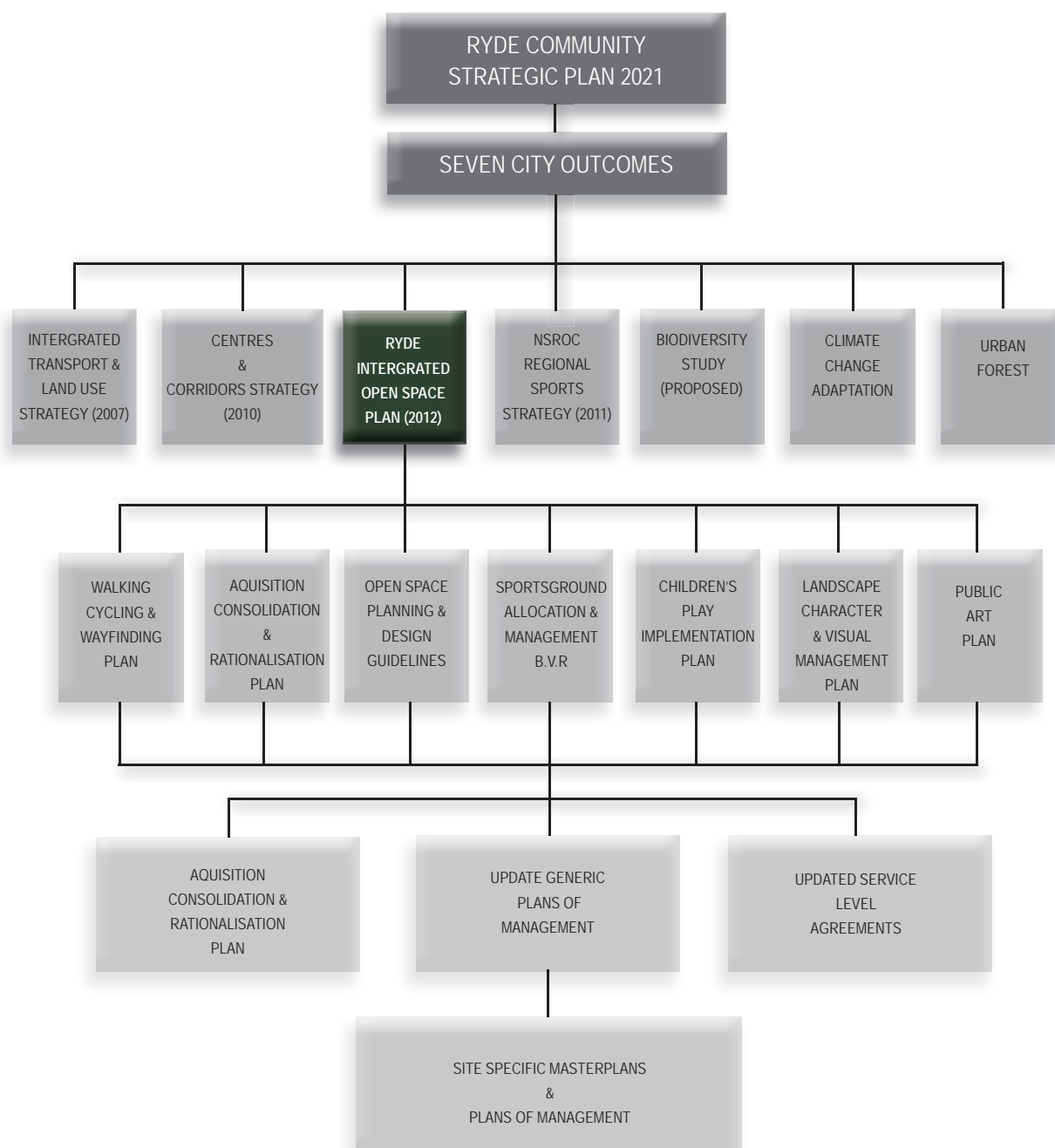


Table IP:01 Planning and Implementation Hierarchy

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- if the parcel has a limited capability to function as open space in the short-term (for reasons of small size for example) does it have realisable potential to function as open space in the future (eg. through acquisition of adjoining land parcels)?
- what is the condition of built features on site? Do they have potential for reuse as recreation facilities?
- The land adjoins an existing area of open space and can readily and desirably be consolidated into that existing area immediately or at a later date
- The land has an area of at least 0.5 Ha (a minimum of 0.3 Ha in dense urban areas) and is considered as being suitable for open space purposes by Council
- dedication and long term management and maintenance will not place an unreasonable burden on the existing or future community
- the land does not contain access barriers or other major impediments to open space use such as easements and drainage lines
- the land contains items or features of natural or cultural significance such as bushland or historical associations where these would enhance the park user experience
- the land is readily overviewed day and night and easily and safely accessed by foot from various directions
- the land is not impacted by adjoining land use/activities eg. noise impacts from industry, etc.

There will be a range of mechanisms for land acquisition and consolidation that Council may pursue including:

- acquisition through Section 94 processes or VPAs
- negotiations with State Government landholders
- purchase through other financial sources within Council (eg. general revenue, loans, etc).

Raionalisation/Divestment

In some areas open space is duplicated, often in the form of a number of small open spaces in a local community. This situation often results in poor recreation provision and high maintenance costs. In these circumstances, there may be merit in consolidating or rationalising the spaces to achieve one larger, more flexible open space.

In the event that Council decides to divest Council-owned land parcels it is essential that the derived income be spent in one or several of the following ways:

- to offset debt incurred in the acquisition of that land; or
- to acquire other parcels for open space in the same or other districts that will better satisfy the identified open space and recreation needs of the local community; or

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- for the ongoing improvement of existing open space in the district in which the open space is located as part of an integrated divestment and re-investment strategy.

It is imperative that Council be publicly accountable for all income derived from the disposal of open space and that the income be redirected into the overall open space improvement in the locality.

The following points summarise recommendations regarding possible disposal of open space land parcels in the City of Ryde. The following checklist is a suggested starting point. Land parcels suitable for possible divestment should:

- be Council owned, preferably classified as 'operational'
- be of minimal importance strategically in terms of quantity, quality and distribution eg. located in area of high provision or duplication of numerous small reserves
- have minimal potential for improvement by acquisition of adjoining parcels or consolidation eg. small in size/at a distance from other parcels, isolated from easy access
- be based on economic feasibility on cost benefits for parcels to be potentially divested
- involve identification of alternative land use and zoning for areas to be divested
- be subject to legislative processes and community consultation.

For areas of Council-owned land to be divested which are classified as 'Community Land', Council will need to have the land reclassified to the appropriate classification to allow divestment. This entails a Public Inquiry process as set out in the Local Government Act.

Transparent Consultation

The need for comprehensive local community consultation from the outset of any of the above initiatives is not only important but actively required through the Local Government Act.

All of these initiatives are commonly very sensitive issues in urban communities and whilst broad support may be achieved across a locality, it is common for there to be significant resistance amongst property owners directly adjoining existing open space to be mooted for divestment. The community concerned must therefore be in no doubt that the primary motive is improvement of public open space in their locality, if the initiative is to have any chance of success.

Transparency and accountability are key success factors as is an active engagement program with the community that goes beyond meeting legal requirements.

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Funding The Plan

There is a range of funding mechanisms available to Council in providing for open space and community facilities including:

- Section 94 contributions
- Council rates/loans/revenue
- State and Federal Government programs and funding
- levies and special charges
- joint venture arrangements with private organisations and other authorities
- sponsorship.

Each mechanism is appropriate to different strategies. For example, maintenance of open space is traditionally funded through Council rates, whilst the acquisition or embellishment of open space to meet the demand of future residents/land uses is often funded through Section 94 contributions.

The balance between funding for acquisition/embellishment and that for maintenance is best established as part of a total financial management plan for the City's open space and community facilities.

Grants

There are a range of State and Federal Government grants available to assist in the funding of open space, recreation and community facility works. These funds are usually only for capital works and may include professional planning and documentation fees. Grants usually have to be matched by Council, with a commitment to carry out ongoing maintenance of constructed works.

Where external funding sources are concerned, Council should establish a more concerted and co-ordinated programme of State and Federal funding applications.

Liaison with adjoining Councils for joint funding for regional open space, recreation and community facilities across boundaries (eg. Metropolitan Greenspace Program or Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan) is likely to be successful if well planned and co-ordinated.

Such funding support is obviously limited and there is considerable competition for grants. Nevertheless, applications that clearly demonstrate a strong long-term commitment from both Council and the community and which are closely aligned to the purpose of the grant have the most chance of success.

Community facilities funding will need to engage the full spectrum of options for achieving the capital required, ie. refurbishment, joint venture partners for new developments, specific capital assistance applications to government, property realisation and in-kind assistance through existing property options.

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In this respect, this Plan should be seen as an important support document in any application, providing the rationale behind and justifying any project.

Cost Minimisation

The implications of future trends in open space, recreation and community facilities planning include:

- a greater quantity and quality of facilities to manage and maintain within existing open space areas
- greater user pressure on open space requiring higher levels of maintenance at key sites
- the need for co-location of community facilities and open space to reduce capital and recurrent costs
- level of budgets and staff allocated to the management of Council's open space and community facility resources should be reviewed annually and tested against performance indicators.

Options for future cost minimisation therefore include:

- revised maintenance practices (eg. reduced mowing)
- risk assessment and liability insurance reduction through regular design and maintenance checks (particularly with regard to playgrounds)
- development and management strategies and principles to reduce life cycle costs (materials, maintenance implications, etc)
- disposal of land not suited to an open space, recreation or community facility function (see Rationalisation).

Other means by which best value can be achieved include:

- encouraging the development of public/private partnerships in public recreation and community facility provision, particularly in areas of specialist services where high capital or recurrent costs are involved and where "user pays" is commonly an accepted practice (eg. gymnasiums, child care, swimming pool management by agencies such as YMCA, etc)
- community use of school facilities for recreation and community facilities such as room hire
- recreational use of public facilities not specifically zoned for open space uses including 'out of hours' use of car parks and multi-storey car parks for courts/skateboards
- improved walking routes in the vicinity of community facilities and public open space to encourage higher and more frequent use.

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Revenue Generation Opportunities

Much debate surrounds the degree to which it is acceptable to use public open space as a means of generating revenue. Purists will argue that public open space should remain free from commercial interests of any sort.

In practice, the application of this approach, precludes opportunities to enhance the appreciation of open space and the option to use funds where appropriately generated to improve or maintain the resource itself.

The core principal for any commercial activity in public open space is the activities direct relationship to aid enhancement of the recreational experience.

Two traditional strategies for revenue generation are:

- commercial activities in open space areas
- sponsorship.

Both require discreet planning, awareness of appropriateness to context and an established policy which sets controls to ensure the clearly stated objectives are achieved.

In relation to the former, Council should give serious consideration to a range of commercial opportunities over which it can maintain control through leases and licenses, rather than directly operating. These might include cafes/kiosks, bicycle hire, weddings, filming and major party bookings in large parks.

The nature of sponsorship of recreation has changed markedly in recent years with a shift away from sports orientation to a more global recreation and leisure market, particularly facilities or events with an environmentally friendly or family orientated bias.

Council should give serious consideration to sponsorship in the following areas in particular:

- sponsorship of major events/festivals and corporate events (especially applicable in Macquarie Park (refer to Appendix 2)
- approaching major local industries for sponsorship or contribution of materials towards some of the more environmentally directed programs such as cycleways, walking trails, wetlands, bushland rehabilitation.

In any such sponsorship, clear rules of the process should ensure discreet signage.

Revenue generated from these sources must be clearly understood, and evidently shown, to be returned to open space, recreation community facilities improvement and/or maintenance, or the running of the associated events preferably in the locality from which it is generated.

In the case of newly developed community facility buildings, the management plan at the feasibility stage will need to establish the level of revenue or cost recovery required or available.

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Cost Recovery

This is effectively related to a 'user pays' philosophy. In applying 'user pays', it is crucial that Council sees this facet of financial planning in its widest possible planning and management context.

A strategic approach must be applied and the Council's Pricing Policy (as addressed in the BVR) refined to ensure that it reflects a number of factors including:

- purpose of levy and financial justification
- frequency of levy (per annum, per season, per session, per hour, etc)
- means and economy of collection (special Council rate, site fee, license, etc)
- equity and ability to pay
- establishing net benefit and to whom (does the policy value add?)
- possible fall-out effects (additional pressure on other unlevied settings/ activities) or lack of takeup
- user attitudes (will the levy induce positive or negative user attitudes?)
- targeting (is the levy appropriately targeted? eg. resident, non-resident)
- administration (degree to which the Council wishes to administer, eg. lease, license, Council/commercial partnership)
- cross-border implications for local authorities
- acceptability of levy to community
- ability to monitor progress and appraise performance and achievement of objective (eg. exit surveys, financial reports, improvement to resource, etc).

These factors should be seen in the context of low income groups within the City of Ryde and the community's widely held view that access to public open space should be free of charge at all times and that charges for use of community facilities where required be limited.

Where such issues have equity implications for the wider community, appropriate consultation techniques (eg. user group workshops, public exhibition, etc) will be crucial to the long term acceptance and success of the policy.

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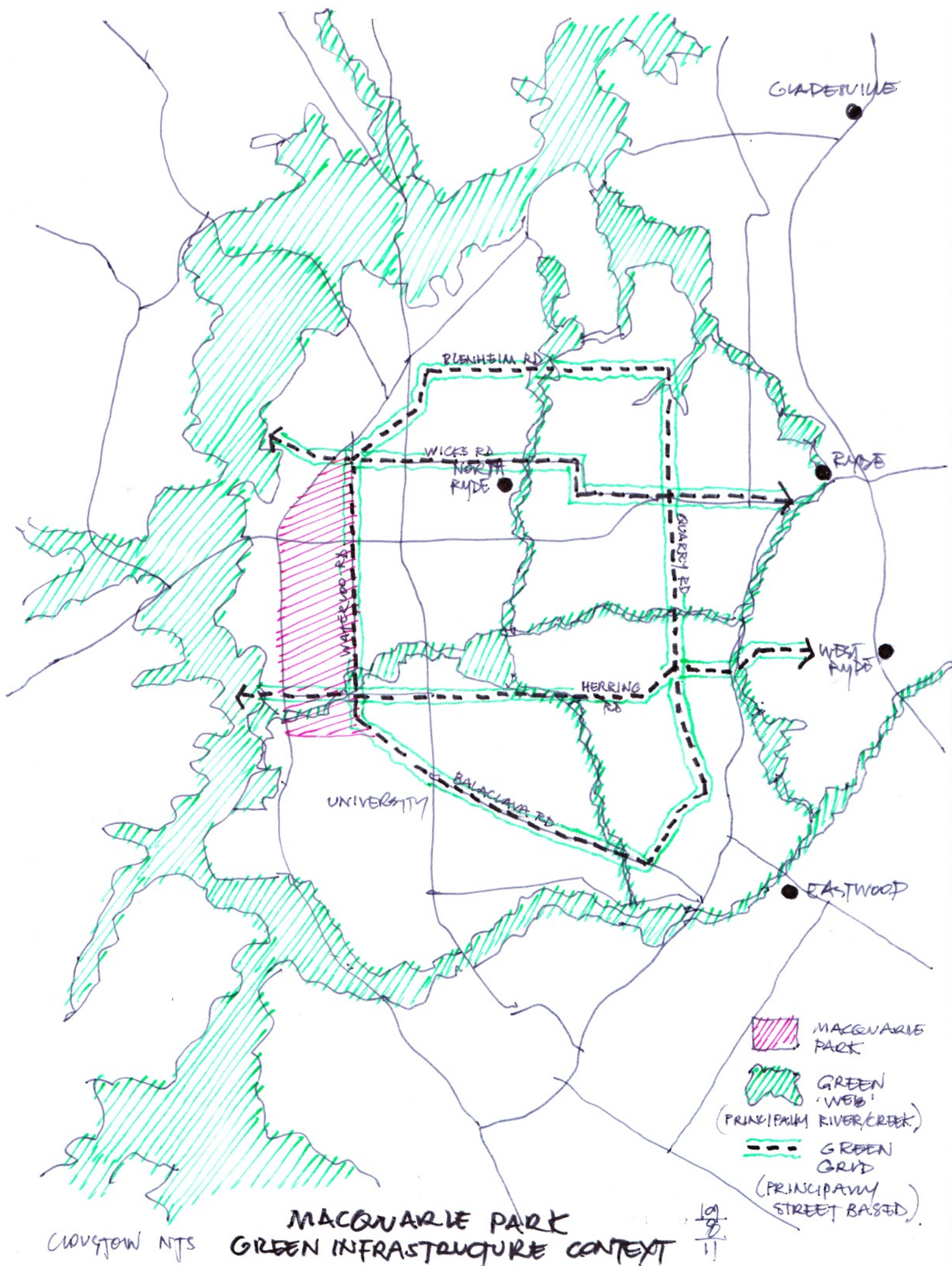
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Appendix 1: Macquarie Park Overview



MACQUARIE PARK GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

CLOVSTON

19
8
11 NTS

KEY

○ RAIL STATION

--- DISTRICT GREEN GRID

..... LOCAL GREEN GRID

LOCAL/DISTRICT GREEN 'WEB'

LEVEL 1 PARK
(1.5 - 2.0 HA NOMINAL)

LEVEL 2 PARK
(0.3 - 0.5 HA NOMINAL)

P PLAZA SPACE

M STREET CORNER MEETING PLACE
(10 - 20 M² NOMINAL)

CYCLE + PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES ACROSS ROAD/RAIL JUNCTIONS

BLenheim PK.

WICKS ROAD

EPHING RD

LANE COVE ROAD

MOVE THIS LINK TO
CONNECT TO
EXISTING
FOOTBRIDGE
OVER EPPING RD

ELLS HALL

WILGA

HERRING RD

TALAMERA RD

WATERLOO ROAD

M2

2

2

2

2

2

1

2

2

M

M

M

M

M

M

M

M

M

M

P

P

P

P

MACQUARIE PARK CORRIDOR; OPEN SPACE PLANNING AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES
COMMENTARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
19th August 2011

The following provides a brief commentary on the Open Space structure for the Macquarie Park Corridor with an outline of recommended planning principles. The overview is based on an analysis of the Macquarie Park Corridor Structure Plan and a range of related background planning documents; as also from discussions with senior planning staff at Council.

RATIONALE

The Macquarie Park site ranks as one of Sydney's premier science, business and innovation hubs in NSW, specifically designated as a Special Zone under the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy. The locality is already home to many of the world's major business corporations and institutions with the adjoining Macquarie University providing a strong research link to a number of these organisations.

The strategy for Macquarie Park's future envisages a significant expansion of this business hub with an expected working population of 45,000 people by 2031, allied to a significant retail sector and an additional residential population of 6,000 people within the same timeframe

In establishing the quantum, distribution and nature of the public open space required to service this working and residential population there are a number of aspects of the landscape context and the development type and scale that need to be considered, as summarised below.

Business Expectations, Aspirations and Implications

Most major international corporations seek development environments in which landscape and open space play a core role in site selection criteria – high end business and science parks around the world have hosted major corporations and research organisations since the advent of business parks such as Silicon Valley in the 1980s. For these organisations a high quantum and quality of landscape and open space has a range of benefits that meet their corporate goals:

- inspiring work environments attracting top personnel and encouraging high productivity
- raised corporate profile associated with benchmark design and an attractive business environment
- commitment to ESD principles and high Green Star ratings in the built form and landscape
- promotion of healthy lifestyles for staff through provision of recreation facilities and open space
- opportunities to host/sponsor major events within the public domain

Typically, high end business environments in contexts such as Macquarie Park generate needs for public open space during weekdays and working hours that cater for leisure and recreation uses such as:

- lunchtime team sports (eg touch football, basketball etc, often with inter-business competitions)
- fitness training areas/facilities for personal training and fitness equipment/trails
- shaded circuits and routes suitable for jogging, walking and cycling (not on major roads)
- play spaces (especially associated with or adjoining crèches)
- informal open space with trees, shade and shelter for lunchtime, breaks and working sessions (picnic tables, shelters, BBQ, wireless connectivity etc)
- natural creeks and formal or natural water bodies
- corporate event and promotion spaces (often catering for significant numbers)

While it is commonly argued that the recreational and leisure needs of a working population should not be the business of the LGA within which those businesses reside, the reality of not providing a generous and high quality green infrastructure for business domains the size and nature of Macquarie Park has several serious consequences for Council and the community of the district:

- major international corporations see the precinct as lacking the facilities that other locations in Australasia can and do provide; an assessment factored into their location selection criteria, with potential direct loss of economic opportunity and civic profile for the LGA
- creeks and rivers fail to provide ecological services to the urban environment with flooding, poor water quality, loss of habitat, corridor fragmentation and weed proliferation also directly compromising recreation and aesthetic values
- recreation and leisure facilities in the adjoining localities receive additional pressure from overuse by the working population, with direct operational and maintenance consequences for Council and the local community (increased daytime use of local reserves which are often already under pressure from community and schools, resulting in higher maintenance costs, more frequent field closures, community backlash etc)
- loss of opportunity to acquire new facilities that can be used and enjoyed by the local community during the evenings and weekends
- loss of opportunity to acquire revenue return from use of open space for corporate events and promotions or sponsorship of reserves through naming rights etc
- lack of physical, social and economic integration with the broader business and residential community by virtue of internalizing and isolating the precinct from the LGA

The converse of these downsides clearly has direct Quadruple Bottom Line benefits to the Ryde LGA.

Existing and Future Population Needs

With an expected additional day time/weekday population the size of a small new town within the next 20 years the need to provide adequate and suitable additional public open space is unarguable. Allied to this should be an assessment as to the degree that existing local adjoining recreation facilities (such as ELS Hall Reserve and Blenheim Park) could be enhanced to cater for additional usage by Corridor workers or residents. Ease of access across a major road and rail will be a critical consideration. See below for recommendations on open space quantum and distribution.

Health of The Natural Landscape

The importance of integrating healthy natural systems with the open space network cannot be understated, if the functionality and sustainability of the area's economy, culture and environment is to be maintained.

- ***Native vegetation and habitat:*** while the Lane Cove National Park to the site's north provides extensive natural habitat and critical ecological connectivity with the Parramatta River, the biodiversity and green web network of much of the Ryde LGA has been lost through built environment development since the Second World War. The need for the creek systems and associated natural habitat.
- ***Stormwater and WSUD:*** as a sub catchment of the Lane Cove River, Macquarie Park plays an important role in minimizing flooding and improving water quality entering the receiving waters. Key to this function are the role of the creek corridors that run across the site. The incorporation of WSUD elements and exposure of the natural hydrology will enhance natural values and landscape character
- ***Climate Change:*** Ryde City Council's draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy highlights the likelihood of temperatures being elevated in the Macquarie Park area by 1 or 2 degrees above the LGA average, given distance from both rivers. The heat island effect of significant additional buildings and pavements will probably exacerbate this phenomenon and require mitigation through a comprehensive landscape and open space network
- ***Microclimate:*** tall buildings and associated shadowing and wind effects can have a profound impact on adjoining natural systems and open space amenity. Generally, tall buildings immediately to the north of reserves and natural corridors should be avoided where possible. Wind effects should be calculated in tall building design also where this may impact adjoining streets or open spaces.

Enhanced Connectivity

To optimize connectivity, particularly to promote active transport and healthy living, parks and corridors should be:

- well served by bus routes and cycle paths where possible
- accessed with minimum road crossing times wherever practical (hence local parks sited on secondary street fronts
- accessed by paths with moderate to low gradients where viable

A walkability audit would establish such ideal locations for reserves.

Challenges of Landholdings

The diverse nature of landholdings can place significant constraints on planning and distribution of open space, especially where there is no formal structure for incentives or a mechanism for evenly sharing the 'pain or gain' scenarios. While reasonable latitude can be exercised with the exact location of new reserves, mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that securing natural corridors based on existing hydrology are non-negotiable, whether this be through VPAs or legislative frameworks.

Links to the Ryde IOSP

The Ryde IOSP is currently in mid phase and as yet no specific strategies have been formulated, however a core component of the Plan will be the connectivity of recreation and natural systems across the LGA. To that end it is expected that a natural corridor network or web will be extended across the Council area and this will be complemented by a 'green grid' of principally street based linkages. Figure 1 illustrates this principle and demonstrates where this strategy would intersect with the Macquarie Park Corridor, with direct implications for the site as illustrated.

OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES

The following are recommended draft strategies for planning open space, leisure and recreation in the Macquarie Park Corridor. While biodiversity strategies are not specifically included, the essential link and symbiotic relationship between open space and natural systems is implicit in these principles. A more substantial analysis is suggested before finalizing and refining these principles. These principles should also be read in conjunction with the two associated figures, Fig 1 Macquarie Park Green Infrastructure Context and Fig 2 Macquarie Park Green Infrastructure.

Quantum

While formulae have existed for many years for calculating quantum's of open space per head of population (eg NPFA standard of 2.48 Ha/1000 persons) these are generally deemed too simplistic in contemporary planning practice and a more site and context responsive assessment based on land use types, population, geography and accessibility tender to yield more sustainable outcomes. In the case of Macquarie Park the high projected daytime working population and relatively low resident population complicates the issue further.

On the basis of preliminary analysis it is suggested that new reserves be provided in a quantum and of nominal sizes similar to that shown in Figure 2, namely

- At least one major reserve close to the core of the precinct of a size nominally in the order of 2 hectares minimum, to permit a range of uses as below. Where the evolving development options suggest that two such reserves are more practically achieved at a smaller size then these should be generally no less than 1.5 Ha in size located to optimize access by foot from the respective ends of the corridor. However two reserves at that size may well reduce the capacity to accommodate major events (sport, entertainment etc) and thus this should be a fallback position
- A suite of local parks distributed evenly across the corridor of a nominal size no less than 0.3 Ha and preferably 0.5 Ha, to permit a range of flexible unstructured recreation opportunities

- A network of Street Corner Meeting places, where possible associated with local corner stores or local community buildings, which can be as little as 20m² in size but which are set back on or adjoining the street corner with trees, shade, seating and planting; these are a cross between small plazas and a courtyard style settings. They do not need to contain lawn
- Natural corridors running south to north across the site linking to the Lane Cove National Park with adequate capacity to accept and treat stormwater in storm events, without compromise to their recreational and aesthetic values. They would contain native planting, designed WSUD features, small reserves where adequate width (eg Wilga Park), footpaths, cycle paths (where of adequate corridor width), footbridge crossings, shaded seating and the like

Distribution, Accessibility and Connectivity

The current best practice principle of no more than 400m walking distance or ten minutes slow walk from any residence to a Local Reserve (as above) should be the benchmark for the number and distribution of these reserves within future residential precincts. For the most part a more widely distributed network, say 500-600metres or fifteen minutes walk within commercial or retail precincts would be acceptable but the distribution would be contingent on other accessibility factors such as:

- presence of significant transport barriers (rail corridors with limited overpasses, major roads with long crossing intervals for pedestrians,.,
- steep gradients in the locality
- disability access to all spaces where significant natural gradient does not preclude this

A simple Pedshed Analysis (Ref Pedshed definition) would establish this distribution once land uses and street patterns are finalised at a detailed level

Setting Types (Functionality)

It is important that the full range of day-to-day current recreation opportunities exist within the Corridor. This does not necessarily require any major recreation infrastructure (eg stadia, indoor leisure centres etc) but rather reserves and corridors of a size that can accept a range of informal sports and passive recreation overlays. Importantly narrow natural corridors should not be seen as an alternative to offering destination reserves on mostly level ground; both are required if leisure needs are to be met and natural systems are to be healthy and uncompromised by recreation usage.

The IOSP will define setting types and hierarchy –including objectives for each - for all open spaces in the LGA; these should also apply to the Corridor open space.

Program Overlays and Use Objectives

The entire public domain, including streetscapes should be viewed as providing a recreational overlay. Flexibility to evolving needs for the reserves is the key and simplicity in design allied to clear and stated functional intent and management will ensure that such spaces evolve and adapt to changing needs as the residential and working community grows. Typically the overlays for each reserve type might run thus:

- Major Reserve: the major central reserve is a large careful structures space, able to accommodate a wide range of day to day recreational uses and special events. Typically this might include:
 - Unstructured lunchtime sports, touch football, basketball etc (several teams at the same time). These spaces should be available to the community during evenings and weekends for junior sport or other recreational or community use, where permanent sports infrastructure is not required
 - Significant play elements for a range of ages
 - Extensive shade and shelter , as much as possible provided by trees
 - Permanent or readily assembled stage, with power and services available for special events
 - Amphitheatre style seating incorporated into the park design by taking up level changes

- Designated locations for tents/marquees and event vehicles, plant and waste management
- Lighting for night time uses
- Public toilets

For the most part physical sports infrastructure (goalposts etc) should not be permanent to allow adaptability for events

- Local Parks; for the most part these should be simple and attractive places that are highly visible along and across the street and should be able to accommodate seating, shade and shelter, minor play for small children, adequate kick about space, BBQs, paths and tree planting
- Street Corner Meeting Places: these are simple elements in the fabric of the urban development and are intended to encourage informal social interchange and a public seating areas offline from the street that are not 'privatised'. They may contain seats, shade trees, shrub planting with colour and seasonal interest. They might also incorporate wayfinding maps, community notices and appropriately scaled public art.
- Natural corridors (Green 'Web'): these centre on natural creek corridors and should not simply be landscaped overland flow paths but rather they should reference pre-existing natural values, supporting local native plant genotypes and providing peaceful environments for walking and relaxation. They would only include shared cycle and footpaths or small passive reserves where the available corridor width permitted.
- 'Green Grid' streets: these are generally secondary roads linking Local Parks where capacity to incorporate dedicated cycleways in the street and generous footpaths is complimented by a strong tree canopy (as with Waterloo Street they may even include a tree planted central median). These streets should not be high volume traffic corridors as they would lend themselves well to circuits for joggers and cyclists and could even be the routes for special corporate events (corporate triathlons or cycle criterion)
- Major Streets; where major streets are required to have significant setbacks for other planning reasons such as rail underground rail corridors (eg over 10 metres width) the opportunity exists for these to contain a continuum of small spaces linked by vegetated connections, rather than simply a continuous and planted or grass band adjoining the road

PARTNERS

Clearly a key to successful delivery of this strategy is working with all stakeholders in its delivery including adjoining landowners. This might include the likes of:

- Business Forums
- Local Community
- Transport agencies (TCA, RTA etc)
- NPWS re Lane Cove National Park connections
- Macquarie University
- The Cemetery owners re connections

DESIGN PARAMETERS

The design of the open space should meet some basic design criteria and it is suggested that the Landcom Open Space Design Guidelines provide such guidance.

DRAFT

Appendix 2: Typical Planning, Design & Management Guidelines

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR: SPORTSGROUNDS

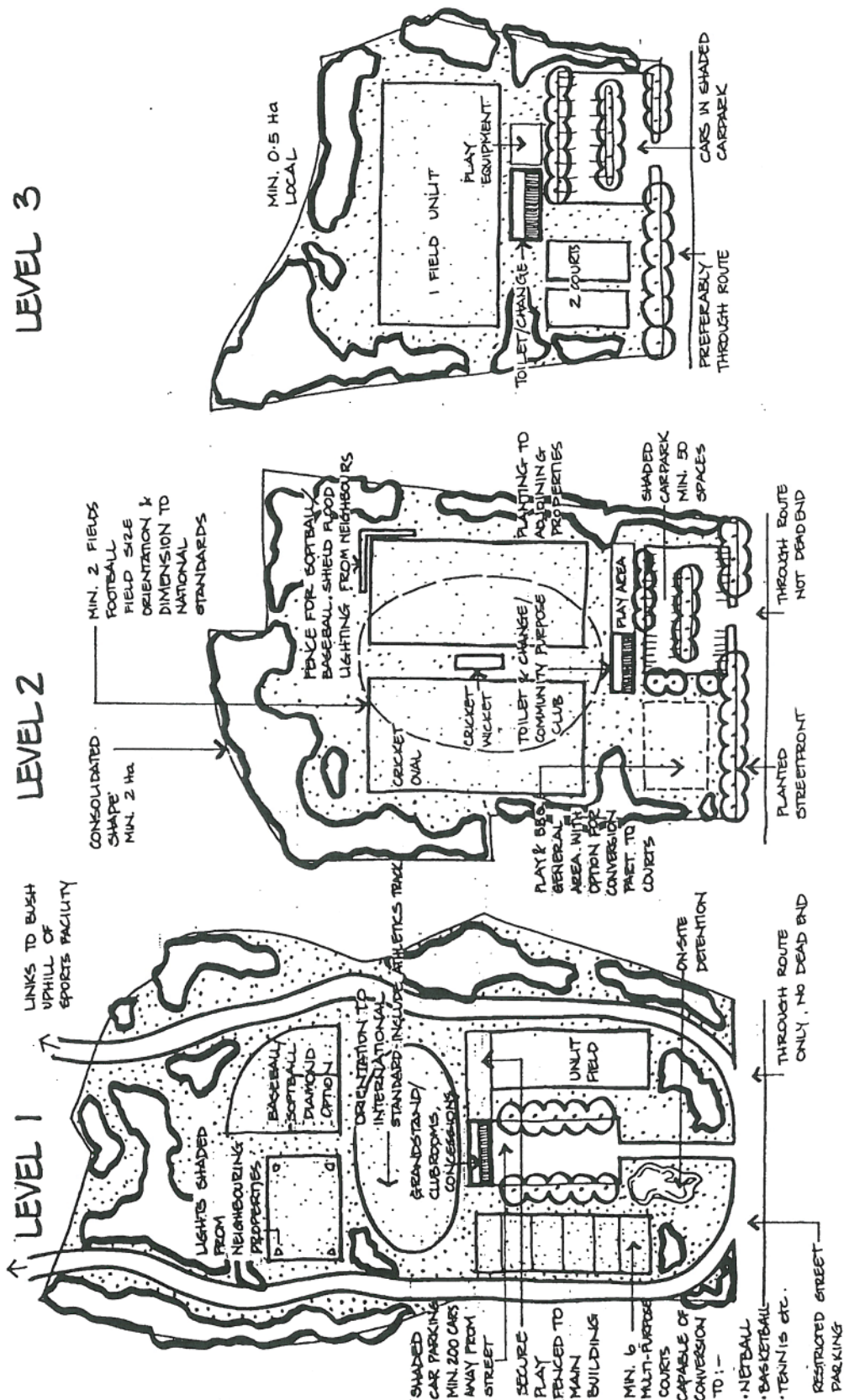
DEVELOPMENT LEVEL	OPEN SPACE & LINKS	RECREATION RANGE & OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE
LEVEL 2 (District) <i>Boggabilla Reserve</i>	<p>ACCESS: On or close to major trunk road and within 10 minutes walk of regular bus stop or railway station. Accessible by foot and bicycle. Access positive.</p> <p>AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 5ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less.</p> <p>NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage throughout City for max 10 minutes drive by private vehicle or 20 minutes by bus/rail.</p>	<p>FACILITIES: Opportunity to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 fields (2 floodlit) permitting 1 cricket pitch • 6-8 multi-purpose courts all floodlit • Clubhouse, changing module toilet • Playground (fenced) • Link to local cycleway • Ample shaded seating under trees <p>CARPARKING: Min 50 car spaces on site</p>	<p>PLANTING: As for above with street front tree planting compatible with local street tree planting.</p> <p>DRAINAGE: Stormwater discharge to street through natural filter.</p>	<p>SCENIC QUALITY: As for above.</p> <p>VIEWS: As for above.</p> <p>HERITAGE: As for above.</p> <p>SCREENING: As for above.</p>	<p>MANAGEMENT: By Council. Maintenance of fields and leased courts by lessee.</p> <p>LICENCES/LEASES: Max lease 5 years by open tender. Typical leases/licenses include 2 floodlit fields, 4 multi-purpose courts, clubhouse (joint lease Winter and Summer codes). Multi-use encouraged.</p> <p>MAINTENANCE: Mowing by Council, medium frequency. Initial line marking by Council. Irrigation on 2 fields/cricket pitch. Additional mowing, subsequent line marking and other work by lessee.</p> <p>SPONSORSHIP: Acceptable but confined to buildings or fences.</p>

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR: SPORTSGROUNDS

DEVELOPMENT LEVEL	OPEN SPACE & LINKS	RECREATION RANGE & OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE
LEVEL 3 (Neighbourhood) <i>Johnstone Reserve</i>	<p>ACCESS: On local through route and visible from road where possible. No more than 15 minutes walk from bus stop/railway station. Access positive.</p> <p>AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 2ha. Topography: as above.</p> <p>NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage throughout City for max 5-10 minute drive or 20 minute cycle ride.</p>	<p>FACILITIES: Opportunity to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 fields with cricket wicket between • 4 multi-purpose courts (preferred) • toilet/changing module • play equipment • link to local cycleway <p>CARPARKING: Min 25 car spaces on site, room for on-street parking without detriment to local residents.</p>	<p>PLANTING: As above, but emphasis on endemic species.</p> <p>DRAINAGE: Stormwater discharge to street.</p>	<p>SCENIC QUALITY: Provide shade for spectators by tree planting.</p> <p>VIEWS: Emphasise location by distinctive street-front planting.</p> <p>HERITAGE: As for above.</p> <p>SCREENING: As for above.</p>	<p>MANAGEMENT: Principally by Council.</p> <p>LICENCES/LEASES: None.</p> <p>MAINTENANCE: mowing by Council. Tree planting programmes by local committees and schools.</p> <p>SPONSORSHIP: None that involves major signage.</p>

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR: SPORTSGROUNDS

DEVELOPMENT LEVEL	OPEN SPACE & LINKS	RECREATION RANGE & OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE
LEVEL I Regional or City Wide <i>The Crest</i>	<p>ACCESS: On or close to major arterial/distributor road. Close to railway station or regular bus route. Easy bicycle access. Access positive.</p> <p>AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: No less than 10ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less. Site development should not entail major cut and fill exercise.</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City to ensure 15-20 minute drive in private car, 30 minutes by public transport (non rush hour). Ideally, close to major adjoining passive recreation area (eg. park), and sited generally within urban area.</p>	<p>FACILITIES: Opportunity to provide for as minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics track around major field with grandstand / clubhouse / food outlet • 4 outlying fields, all floodlit, minimum area to permit full range of field sports including baseball diamond and cricket pitch • 2 fields unlit • 10 consolidated multi-purpose all weather courts, all floodlit • fenced playground • off-road cycle circuit, ideally linked to off-site cycleway • ideally linked to regional walking/trail <p>CARPARKING: Min 80 car spaces on site. Restricted car parking in adjoining streets.</p>	<p>PLANTING: Site selection should entail minimum clearing of native vegetation.</p> <p>Boundary area and corners of site substantially planted with endemic tree/shrub species.</p> <p>Exotic species acceptable for entrance and feature areas.</p> <p>Native shade trees dividing fields and shading carparking.</p> <p>Passive recreation areas predominantly native to minimum 40% cover.</p> <p>DRAINAGE: On site detention and natural filter for irrigation water/recycle. All drainage into basin/creek and away from adjoining bushland if possible.</p>	<p>SCENIC QUALITY: Well planted boundaries to screen neighbours, particularly for night lighting.</p> <p>VIEWS: Retain existing middle distant views where possible.</p> <p>HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees.</p> <p>Do not develop on sites where landscape has heritage significance that may be damaged or obscured.</p> <p>SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening of facilities.</p>	<p>MANAGEMENT: By Council. Maintenance of major field/oval and leased courts by lessee.</p> <p>LICENCES/LEASES: Max. lease on any facility 21 years by open tender. Typical leases: major oval, grandstand, multi-purpose courts (but Council/ community rights to some allocations).</p> <p>Multi-use of facilities encouraged.</p> <p>MAINTENANCE: High intensity mowing regime by Council. Initial line marking by Council. Irrigation on major oval and 4 outlying fields. Additional mowing, subsequent line marking and other work by lessee.</p> <p>SPONSORSHIP: Acceptable and visible on major facilities.</p>



SITE LAYOUT AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR SPORTSGROUNDS

Appendix 3: Minutes From Consultation Process (PRG)

