

**Vision and
Objectives**

2

2.1 Vision

The City of Ryde is committed to enhancing and promoting imaginative, creative and diverse play opportunities which are intrinsically linked to the vibrant community and natural environment, and also enhance health, wellbeing and social connections.

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The Play Vision and Objectives have been defined by a review of existing research and theory. They seek to deliver the project aim to ensure the provision of safe, accessible, sustainable and high quality playgrounds for all residents within the City.

The value of well-functioning sustainable public open space lies primarily in its potential to create bonds between people. The public realm is a shared resource that sustains and improves people's quality of life, in ways that are not possible in their private lives alone.

Children and young people have limited independence, and depend on the public realm more than other groups, as apart from home and school, public spaces are the mainstay of children's everyday lives: it is where they play and socialise.

Good public play areas for children and young people build better relationships between children and place, and between children and other people. Children tend to use public space along with friends and carers, hence spaces for children are spaces for the entire community. Healthy and accessible public areas for children depend on the quality of shared resources, easily accessed by everyone.

The City's vision for livable communities is based on the understanding that the public realm is a shared resource, welcoming to all generations, cultures, and people of varying abilities. Areas dedicated to play are spaces of exchange, interaction and collective experience.

The City is committed to ensuring that there are sufficient and suitable spaces and facilities for children and their carers to play freely.

The following Play Vision has been adopted by the City:

“Supporting and nurturing child and family friendly communities through play”.

- City of Ryde: Play Vision

2.2 Objectives

Positive experiences for children and their carers depend on a positive play offer. The following objectives have been developed to support the implementation of the Play Vision, and have been grouped under the project aims of:

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Play Value
- Sustainability.

Safety

- Children and their carers should be able to play freely in their local areas
- Provide safe playgrounds that encourage good surveillance, way finding and comfort for carers
- Maintenance and support of play areas is vital to the success of playgrounds

Accessibility

- Provide play spaces for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds
- Locate playgrounds near destinations, centres and supporting services
- Make play walkable to the majority of the community to ensure everyday accessibility and to encourage physical activity and mental wellbeing

Sustainability

- Play is primarily a social experience
- Contact with nature is essential to children and adults
- Sound economic principles should underpin play provision
- Play may reflect social and cultural values of a place and create a sense of belonging
- Play is enriched when a consultative collaborative platform is used to support the outcomes

Play Value

- Play for play's sake provides playgrounds for fun and enjoyment
- Provide structured and unstructured play opportunities
- Play is enriched by skilled professionals
- Play should promote development through graduated challenge

Figure 5. Objectives supporting the Play Plan Vision



Analysis

3

3.1 Process

3.1.1 Project process

This Play Plan is designed to provide a strategy to meet the needs of all ages, backgrounds and abilities of the Ryde community by making recommendations for the distribution and design of playgrounds (removal at end of economic life, relocation, new and upgrades).

In order to understand how to best meet these needs, five channels of investigation were undertaken to inform the strategy and decision making process:

- Population profile and distribution
- Play and design theory
- Community consultation
- On-site playground audits
- Budget data

Concise observations were drawn from the analysis process, resulting in a series of key findings under the objective focus areas:

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Play Value
- Sustainability

The comparison and consistency across the key findings led to the development of the strategy streams. From there, strategic recommendations, design criteria and playground specific actions were determined.

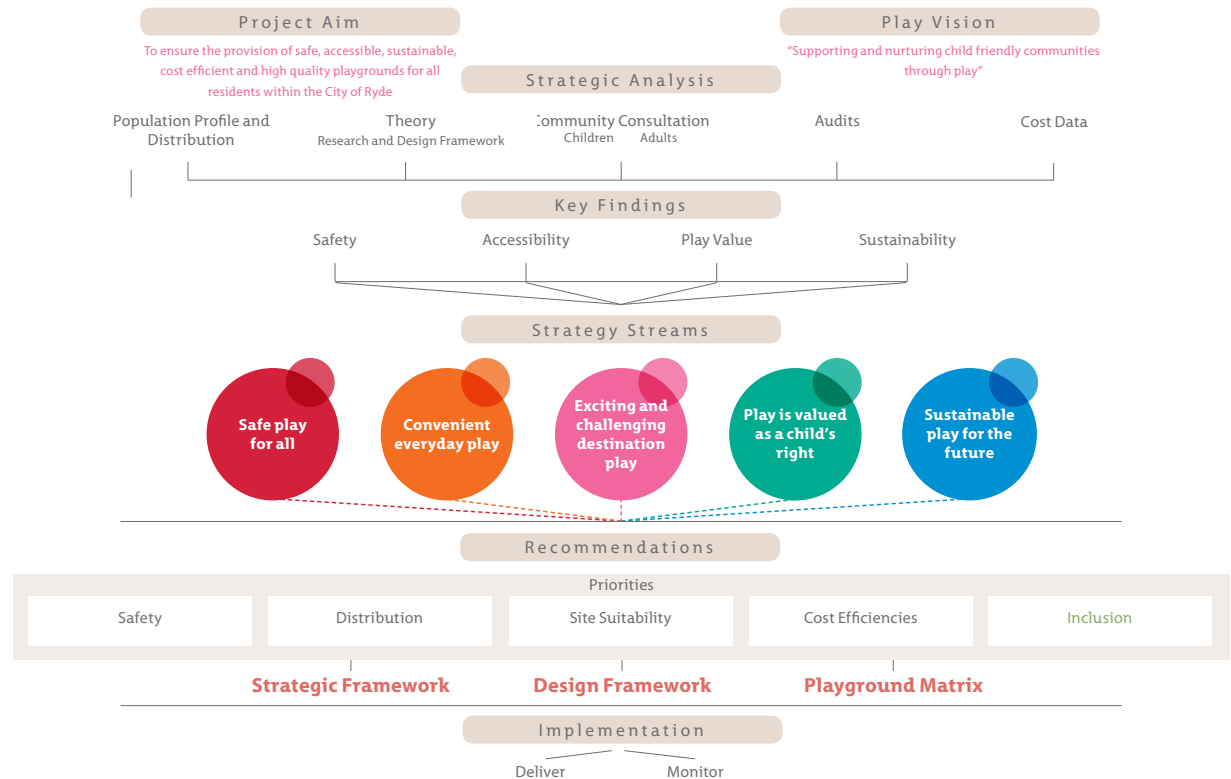


Figure 6. Summary of the Implementation Plan development process.

3.2 Strategic analysis

3.2.1 Investigations

The following describes the process of investigation undertaken to access commonalities across the five information sources, enabling trend and key finding identification.

3.2.1.1 Population profile and distribution

Gaining an understanding of the community for which you are planning is essential to ensure a rigorous strategic approach to diversity and equality in play. Appreciation of the spatial distribution and characteristics of defining groups within a community helps to target actions to where they are most appropriate.

A strategic assessment of existing playgrounds compared with population distribution, forecast population growth, cultural diversity, low income, access and distribution of each playground level (regional, district, neighbourhood and local) was undertaken.

Opportunities and constraints in the above focus areas were identified through analysis of the following information:

- Open space, natural character, population and urban structure mapping from the IOSP
- 2016 Census data from Atlas ID
- GIS Playground location and hierarchy distribution mapping.

3.2.1.2 Play and design theory

With ever changing technology and a greater understanding and appreciation of child psychology and physical development, a review of best practice theory and design standards was necessary.

The context of the Play Plan in the City's current strategic planning framework, and the influence of the IOSP completed in 2012 is also important in addressing the importance of play to both the City and the community.

A desktop review of the City's current planning framework documents, industry leading publications on the importance of play, and the collaboration with play design specialists provided a solid base for identifying key planning and design issues.

Key source documents included:

- The City of Ryde 2028 Community Strategic Plan
- The City of Ryde Integrated Open Space Plan (2012)
- Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces - Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Children, Schools and Families, Play England
- Built 4 Kids: A good practice guide to creating child-friendly built environments - NSW Commission for children and young people
- Everyone Can Play (ECP) Guideline: NSW Government document outlining best practice for the design and delivery of playgrounds for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

3.2.1.3 Community consultation

The purpose of conducting the community consultation sessions was to:

- Ensure the community's current opinions, expectations and priorities are identified and understood
- Ensure all end user groups are engaged in the process (children, young people, adults)

The following consultation sessions were undertaken during the analysis and framework development (2012):

- 1 Primary School group
- 1 High School focus group
- 2 Adult focus groups
- An online survey of one month duration.

Consultation was undertaken with 64 children from Denistone East Primary School and 40 students from Marsden High School in separate sessions in March 2012. Two exercises were conducted to determine what children want in the City's playgrounds. This consultation has informed decisions that have been made for the strategic hierarchy and Design Framework for the Play Plan.

During two sessions, one Saturday and one mid-week, adult members of the community were encouraged to discuss what attracts and hinders them from using playgrounds and what kinds of playgrounds were most visited and enjoyed. Participants were given the

opportunity to complete a survey which was also made available online on the City's website. This survey provided a valuable insight into the priorities of the Ryde community and how they may be best addressed in the Play Plan.

General findings can be found within the Strategic Analysis section, with the detailed Consultation Reports and an example of the Online Survey in the Appendix for further reference.

Through the Play Plan update process, consultation has occurred through the Project Control Group (PCG) which included community group representatives, playground design professionals and Council members. The Play Plan update will then be released for public exhibition before being finalised.

5 YEAR REVIEW AND UPDATE

A summary of the Everyone Can Play Guideline alignment evaluations has been included.

3.2.1.4 On-site playground audits

The purpose of conducting a rigorous on-site assessment of all playgrounds within the City in 2012 was to determine the current level of provision. From this process we gained valuable statistical data for trend identification, from which opportunities for improvement were identified.

On-site playground audits were conducted over three weeks in April/May 2012 by a team of design professionals. A database of quantitative and qualitative elements were developed to inform the audit process. The existing condition of playground elements were compared against the Design Framework for each playground level (Regional, District, Neighbourhood and Local). A detailed explanation of the audit criteria is located in the Appendix (6.2.2 Playground audit criteria).

The audits informed distribution mapping indicating which playgrounds on-ground facilities did not correspond with their official classification. Improvements identified on-site also assisted in informing the costing and budgeting of required improvements.

As part of the Play Plan update, all Regional and District level playgrounds were assessed against the ECP Guideline to determine their level of compliance and to inform the recommendations and improve how inclusive these Destination playgrounds are.

3.2.1.5 Budget data

The purpose of reviewing the City's budget information was to ensure a realistic approach to the recommendations of the Play Plan in the context of the City's available funds. The City provided the following budgets and report to inform the project:

- The capital works budget
- Maintenance budget
- Playfix report

By reviewing the data, realistic cost ranges to implement the recommended playground capital works were developed in collaboration with the City.

To align with the City's available annual budgets, playground recommendations have been assigned a priority of actions to 'roll out' the capital works program over 10 years. The priority of actions are classified as:

- **High** (1-4 years)
- **Medium** (5-7 years)
- **Low** (8-10 years)

It is also important to understand the City's anticipated time frames against Community expectations.

Life Cycle Cost modelling was also undertaken to inform the City's budget programming and future funding requirements over a 10 year period. The cost information will assist the City with its budget allocation for both capital works and essential ongoing maintenance costs to ensure the realisation of the Play Plan.

3.2.2 Analysis findings

From the rigorous investigations of the five information sources, general findings were identified that related to the distribution and design of playgrounds. An understanding of these broad issues and priorities led to the development of the five strategy streams, under which all play recommendations are made.

3.2.2.1 Population profile and distribution

The City is undergoing population growth. The estimated population forecast for Ryde in 2019 is 131,911 which indicated a 21% increase from 2011.

Cultural diversity

The City has a high proportion of overseas born (46.9%) and non-English speaking residents (8.5%) when compared to Greater Sydney percentages, 36.7% and 6.5% respectively. This has implications for the provision of playgrounds in the City of Ryde. The diverse cultural groups use the public domain in a variety of ways that need to be considered when planning for the provision of appropriately located playgrounds.

Large groups of extended family and friends use playgrounds and parks for children's birthday parties, picnics and BBQs. Many bringing their own BBQs to local and neighbourhood playgrounds where none exist. Parks are chosen that possess playgrounds for these family

events to cater for the children present at group gatherings.

Household structure

In 2016 the dominant household type in the City was couple families with dependents, which accounted for 34.5% of all households which compared similarly with the overall Sydney region.

Couple families with children under 15 made up a high proportion of the City and were evenly distributed spatially. One parent families were also located across the City with higher proportions located in centres, most likely in medium or high density housing.

This information supports an even spatial distribution of playgrounds across the City to cater to all children.

Low income

An analysis of the spatial distribution of low income households revealed that lower income households were more prevalent around centres in Macquarie Park and Eastwood.

Young people

Playgrounds for young people were few in Ryde. Often, provision for young people is only provided for in terms of organised sports or skate parks.

Population Statistics:

- Proportion of the population born overseas (46.9%) is significantly higher than the Sydney region (36.7%)
- Proportion of those 0-17 years old (19.1%) is lower than the overall Sydney region (22.1%). The dominate age group is parents and home builders (35-49 years) at 21%
- Proportion of 85+ years (2.6%) is higher than Sydney region (2%)
- Population growth is forecast at an average annual change of 1.59% over the next 20 years
- 46.9% of the population was born overseas, compared with 36.7% for the Sydney Statistical Division
- 29.2% of households earn a high income, and 15.5% are low income households
- The dominant non-English speaking country of birth was China, where 12.5% of the population were born; other predominant cultural communities present are Indian, South Korean and Filipino

3.2.3 Inclusive Playspace Guidelines

In 2018 the NSW Department of Planning and Environment released the Everyone Can Play Guideline. This document provides best practice recommendations for all playgrounds in metropolitan and regional areas throughout NSW.

The aim of the Everyone Can Play Guideline is to ensure as many people as possible, despite their age, ability or cultural background, feel invited and challenged by playgrounds in their community. It moves beyond the traditional notion of an All Abilities playground, which is largely focused on accessibility compliance and catering specifically for children and adults with disabilities.

The Guideline was informed by the process of Universal Design, the “design of products and environments to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation and specialised design”. Ron Mace, 1997.

Figure 39-40 provides key extracts from the Guideline, the overarching Framework (Figure 39), and the Design Principles (Figure 40). The Framework assists in understanding what makes a playground inclusive and looks beyond the boundaries of the playground to consider supporting amenities and key network connections.

When determining whether a playground is inclusive, it is important to consider:

- Can I Get There?
- Can I Play?
- Can I Stay?

The Design Principles (Figure 43), adapted from the goals and principles of Universal Design, were also developed to clearly communicate the intent of inclusive playground design in greater detail than previously explored.

The Guideline should be used to inform the playground design brief, concept design and detailed design to ensure inclusive play opportunities are maximised at all levels/types of playgrounds. A set of Best Practice Design Recommendations are also provided in the guideline document “to inspire innovation, challenge existing processes and trigger designers to create inviting playspaces with inclusion top of mind”.

For existing playspaces, there is an Evaluation Checklist which can be used to review the current level of inclusive play provision an existing playground provides. This checklist can then be used to determine whether improvements to that particular playground are necessary.

“Play is for everyone. Our playspaces should be too.”

- NSW Everyone Can Play Guideline, 2019

5 YEAR REVIEW AND UPDATE

A summary of the Everyone Can Play Guideline key messages and actions has been included.



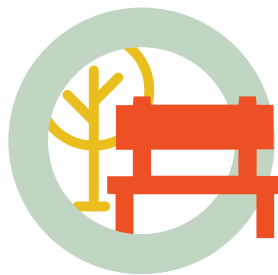
Can I Get There?

A considered location and layout, adequate signage and wayfinding and accessibility will ensure everyone can find their way to, in and around the playspace.



Can I Play?

The play experience as a whole, including the equipment and surfacing, should enable everyone to experience a variety of challenging and engaging play opportunities in a way that suits them.



Can I Stay?

Sufficient consideration of safety, amenities and the wider environment and landscape will ensure everyone can stay at the playspace for as long as they would like.

Figure 7. Framework from the Everyone Can Play Guideline, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2019.

Design Principles

These six guiding design principles address the intent of inclusive playspace design in greater detail. Established through a review of current theory and research into playground and universal design, the principles are an important reference for inclusive playspace design.

The design principles extend the focus beyond accessibility to include opportunities for play and social interaction for people of all ages, abilities and cultures.



Find

Communicate the purpose and location of play elements, facilities and amenities.



Fit

Provide a range of play opportunities for people of all abilities and sizes.



Choose

Enable exciting individual experiences and social interaction.



Join In

Create opportunities for everyone to connect.



Thrive

Challenge and involve people of all capabilities.



Belong

Create a place that is welcoming and comfortable.

Figure 8. Design Principles from the Everyone Can Play Guideline, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2019.

Analysis findings

Existing playgrounds: walkability catchments

Figure 9 shows the current level (as defined by the 2013 play plan) of existing playgrounds within the City. The 400m walkability catchment of each playground is shown in the figure, which shows that not all residents of the City live within the 400m walkability catchment of a playground within low and medium density areas and a 200m walkability catchment of a playground within high density areas. This walkability catchment factors in barriers such as roads and rail to create an accurate picture of walkable accessibility to playgrounds in the City.

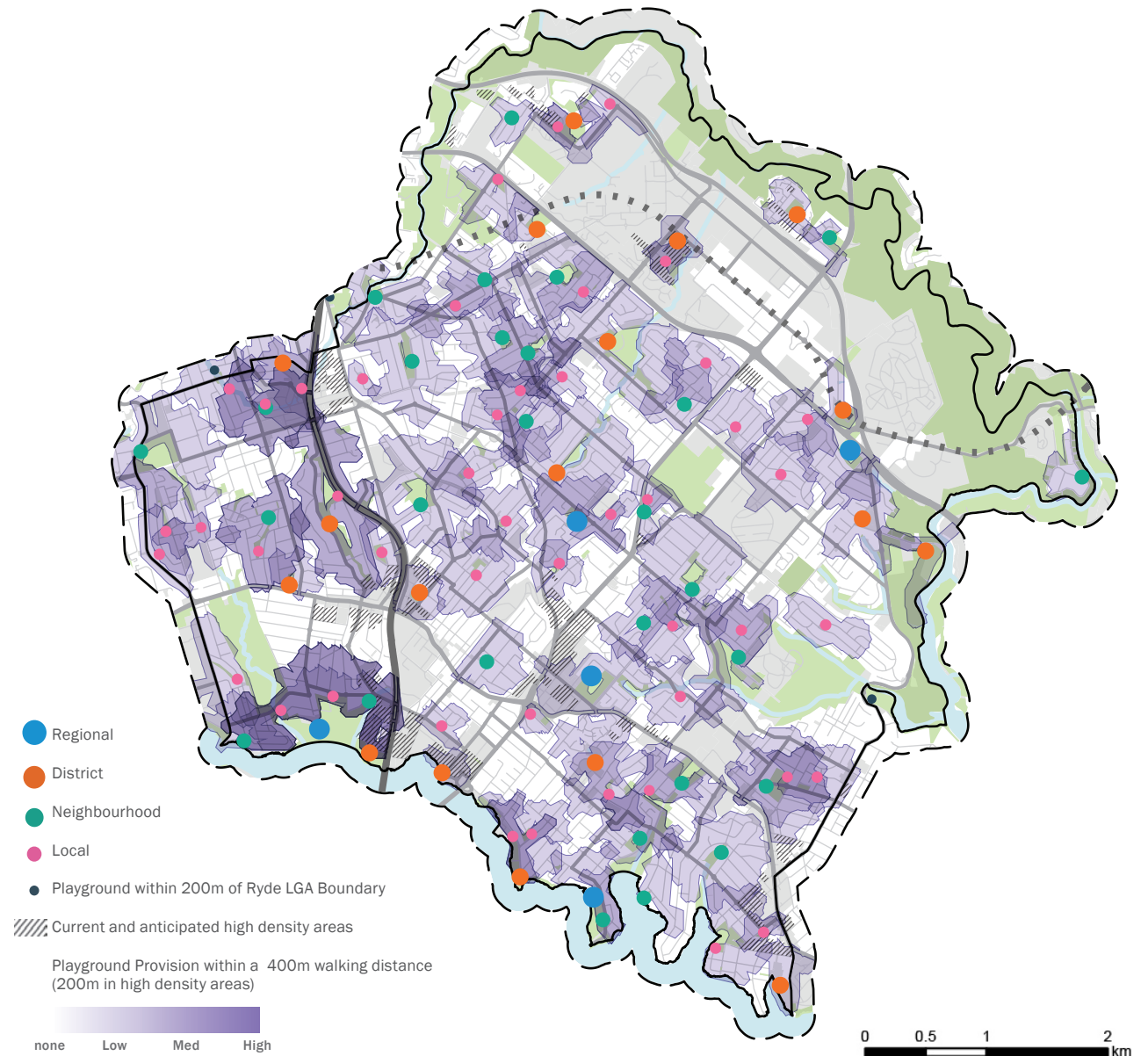


Figure 9. Location of existing playgrounds with 400m walkability catchments

Analysis findings

Existing playgrounds: playground level distribution

Figure 10, Figure 11, Figure 12 and Figure 13 show the distribution of playgrounds throughout the City sorted by level. A high concentration of Regional playgrounds is noted in the south-east of the City. District playgrounds are evenly spaced, as are Neighbourhood playgrounds. Local playgrounds are reasonably evenly spread, with small clusters appearing in the mid-north and west areas of the City.

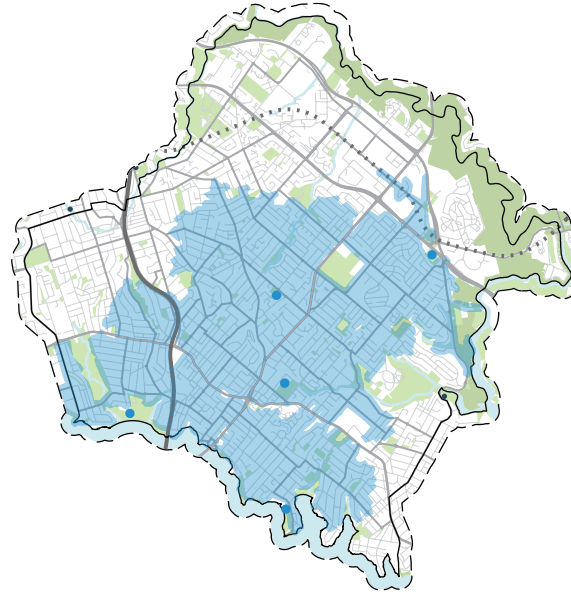


Figure 10. Existing Regional playground distribution (2km walkability catchment)

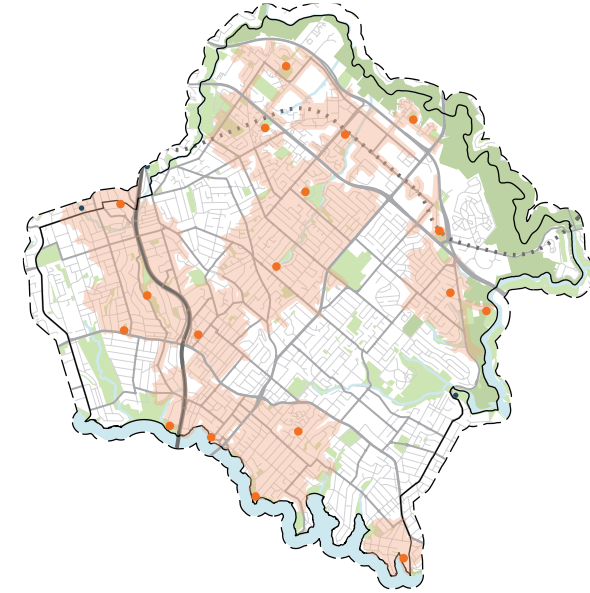


Figure 11. Existing District playground distribution (1km walkability catchment)



Figure 12. Existing Neighbourhood playground distribution (600m walkability catchment)

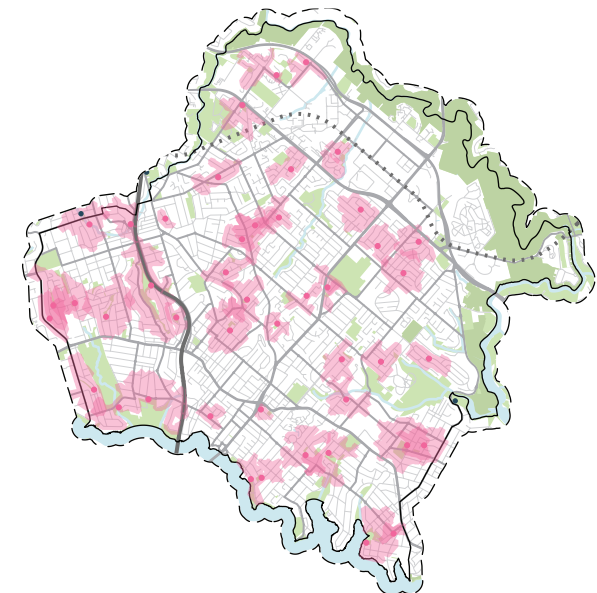


Figure 13. Existing Local playground distribution (200m in high density areas & 400m in low density areas walkability catchment)

Opportunity mapping

Figure 14 shows opportunity mapping, with information adapted from the IOSP. It shows a concentration of local parks in the central northern area of the City, with a number of gaps in open space distribution in the south west and north east. The City is bounded on two sides by the Lane Cove River National Park and Parramatta Rivers, which provides opportunities for interaction with natural communities within the landscape. Steep topography associated with drainage corridors precludes the placement of playgrounds within these reserves. Existing playgrounds are marked with black dots across the city grid.

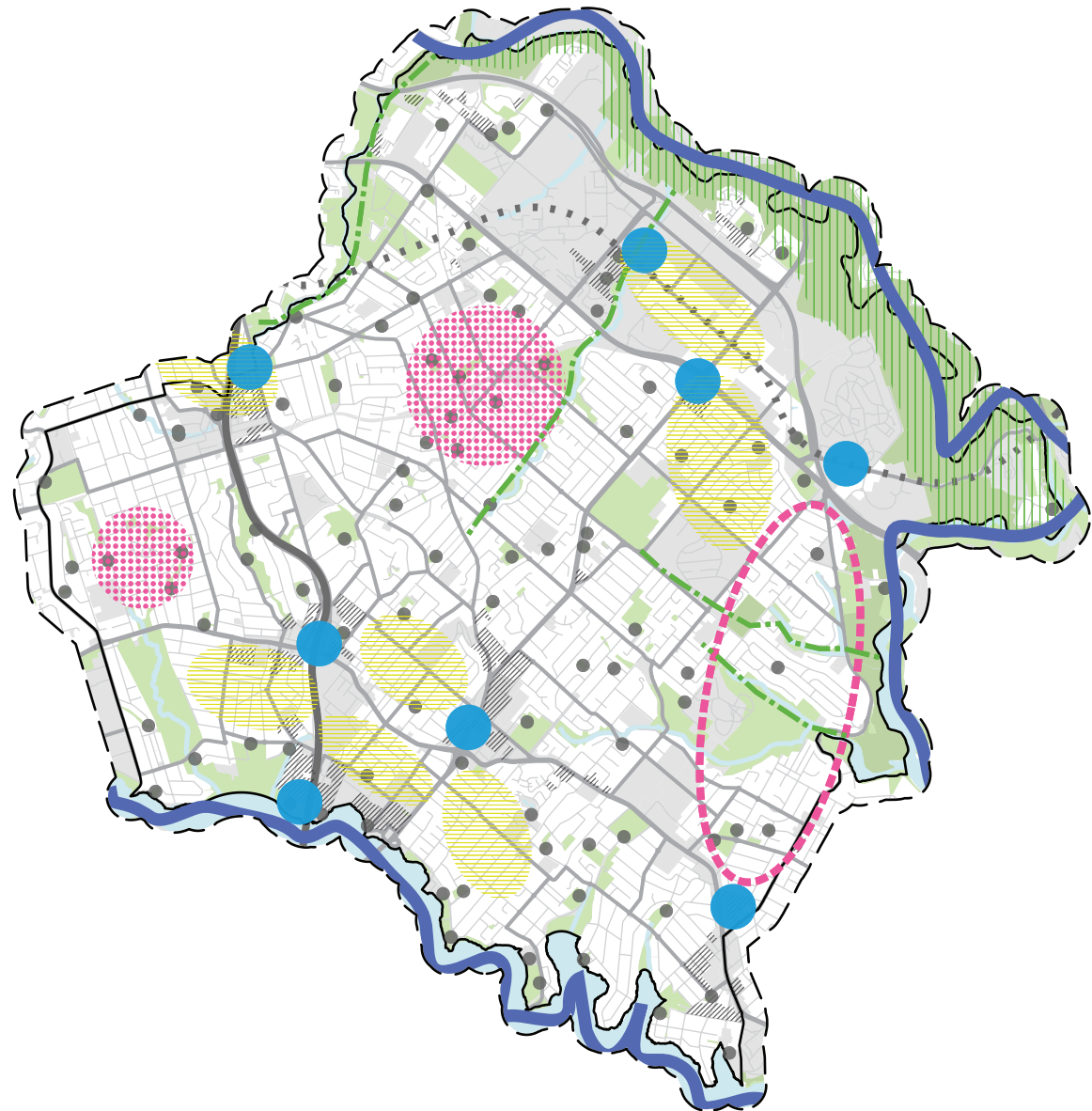
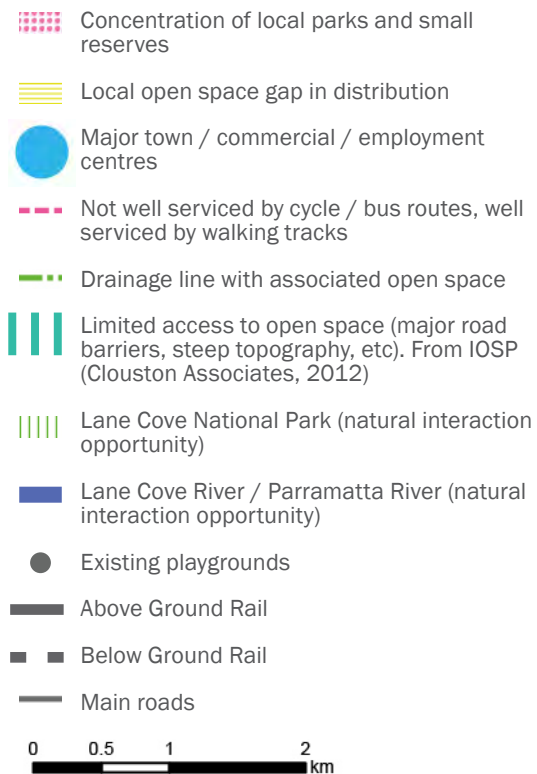












Figure 14. Open space opportunity mapping

Demographic opportunity

Figure 15 illustrates the demographic distribution across the City. A high concentration of young people around the western and south western edges suggest opportunities for young people focused playgrounds should be investigated in these areas. Lower income concentrations scattered throughout the City suggest a reliance on public transport and therefore the importance of walkability and easy access to play opportunities in these areas. The cultural diversity distribution should be noted and facilities planned to cater for large group gatherings (analysis research findings) that encourage social interaction.

-  Low percentage of people from non-english speaking backgrounds
-  Medium percentage of people from non-english speaking backgrounds
-  High percentage of people from non-english speaking backgrounds
-  High concentration of non-english speaking residents and new arrivals
-  Medium / high population density and low concentration of young people (12-17 years old)
-  High concentration of young people (12-17 years old)
-  Lower income concentrations
-  Suburb Collector boundaries
-  Existing playgrounds
-  Current and anticipated high density areas

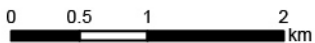


Figure 15. Demographic opportunity mapping

3.2.2.2 Play and design theory

Children's right to play

The right to play and informal recreation, for all children and young people up to 18 years of age, is enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and ratified by the Australian Government in December 1990. The government has a duty under this convention to protect and promote play opportunities for all children and young people.

Article 31 states:

- States Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
- States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

The above relates to all opportunities for play in local communities. A clear demonstration of a local council's equitable and appreciation of a child's right to play is the adequate distribution and best practice design of play provision provided to the community.

Play can be divided into two types of provision:

- Permanent play
- Play programs

Permanent play provision

- Playgrounds (hierarchies) in parks
- Unique playgrounds/destination play facilities
- Playable spaces
- Spaces for young people
- Shared school play areas
- Activities not based on equipment
- Hybrid play areas
- Bike parks

Play programs

- Play streets
- Play buses
- Play groups in parks
- Play rangers
- Play days
- Community play programs
- Youth programs
- Play pods
- Environmental play/discovery

A detailed explanation of these play provision types can be found in the Appendix (6.1 Definitions and abbreviations).

From the identified key objectives for providing play opportunities, the following is considered important in determining appropriate recommendations:

- Play provision is to provide outdoor play areas and/or programs that promote the idea of children and young people having fun, and enjoying themselves as the primary outcome of playing
- Play is essential to the healthy development of all children and young people: irrespective of age, background, ability or gender
- Children and young people all enjoy a social setting for play experiences: between children, and between children and adults

“The kids love climbing – not high, but high enough to provide a child with a sense of achievement”.

- Community consultation response

- Children and young people need as many opportunities as possible to interact with natural systems, be that plants, animals or materials
- Children and young people have the right to use and enjoy public spaces, and should be able to do so safely.
- Skillful adult support can enrich children’s play, and extend and broaden the offer of play across the local government area. Skilled professionals know just how to extend the play repertoire of a child, without compromising safety.
- Involve children and young people in the planning and organisation of their play activities. They need to express their views, and for that process to be authentic.
- Play provision needs to be allocated according to carefully costed budgets and programs, which are monitored over time, and regularly reviewed and updated as work takes place.
- Children are particularly sensitive to quality play provision and the ongoing maintenance of playground equipment. Demonstrate the City’s commitment to the provision of quality playgrounds and the social benefits they offer through a balanced approach to either maintain or develop playgrounds to ensure optimal play provision.

3.2.2.3 Community consultation

Regardless of age, children in these consultation sessions want to access more opportunities for play and social interaction in a natural setting. The availability of age appropriate play equipment is the highest priority for appealing to all children – especially swings, flying foxes and climbing nets/walls. Making parks appealing for social interaction between children, their families and carers requires access to seating, shade, shelter, picnic/BBQ facilities, toilets and drinking water that is kept clean and well maintained.

Primary school children want water play and climbing. In terms of social preferences, younger children express this in terms of interactive games such as hiding, while older children express this as being with friends. Both ages appear to have a preference for being in an exploratory environment with younger children expressing this as wonder and older children as being in nature. Differences in active play preferences are sand play for younger children and swinging for older children.

High school students were highly engaged in stating what they value in their experience of parks and playgrounds.

They want an engaging environment for social interaction, and some requested equipment that facilitated social interaction. High school students appear to be seeking a safe, peaceful and pleasant

environment and are more demanding about park amenities, cleanliness and maintenance.

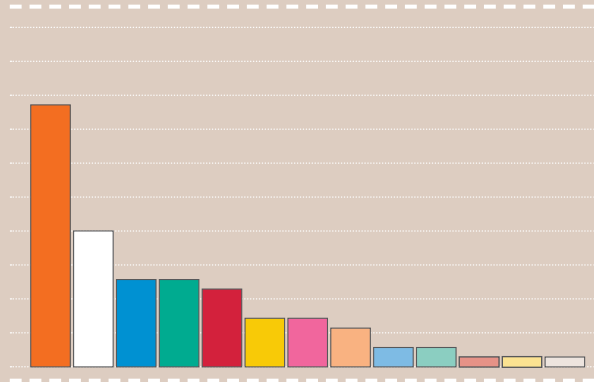
Graphic representations of the key findings of the online survey are included on the following pages.



Figure 16. Community consultation at Eastwood Public School

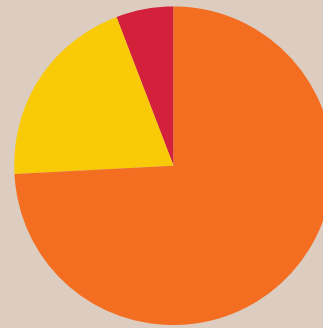
Community Consultation Results: Everyday playgrounds

Reasons to go*



- 77.1% close to home
- 40% easy to access
- 25.7% convenient
- 25.7% diversity of play experience
- 22.9% other
- 14.3% attractive and beautiful
- 14.3% bike and scooter paths
- 11.4% swings
- 5.7% challenging and adventure play
- 5.7% safe and defensible
- 2.9% nature play and experience nature
- 2.9% good for climbing
- 2.9% good for picnicking
- 0% water play options, good for spinning

Transport to

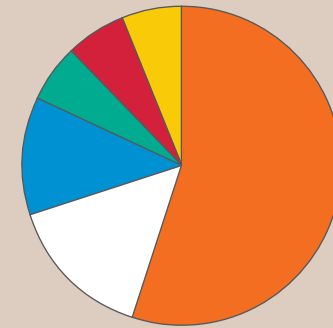


- 74.3% walk
- 20% drive
- 5.7% bike

Bar Graph*

Respondents were asked to pick more than one response to this question, therefore percentages are based on the number of respondents rather than the number of responses (i.e. the results do not add up to 100%).

Who with



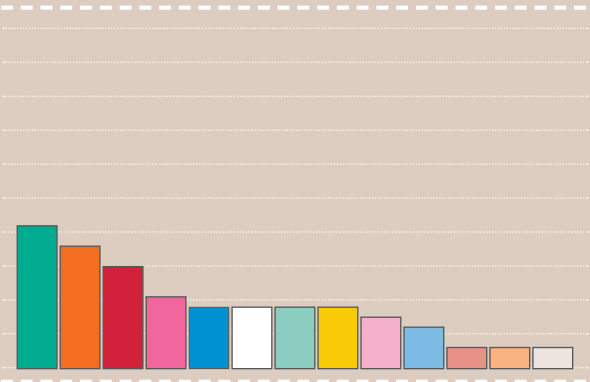
- 55% my children
- 15% my partner and children
- 12% my children and other children
- 6% extended family
- 6% my partner
- 6% partner
- 0% other, friends, grandparents, siblings, alone

Pie Chart

Respondents were asked to pick one response to these questions, therefore the number of responses adds up to 100 (i.e. the results represent a percentage of respondents).

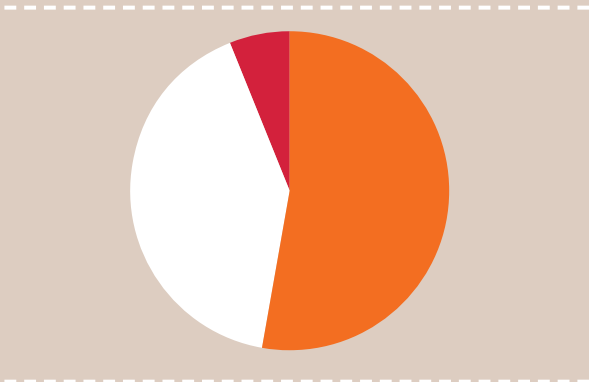
Community Consultation Results: Destination 'favourite' playgrounds

Reasons to go*



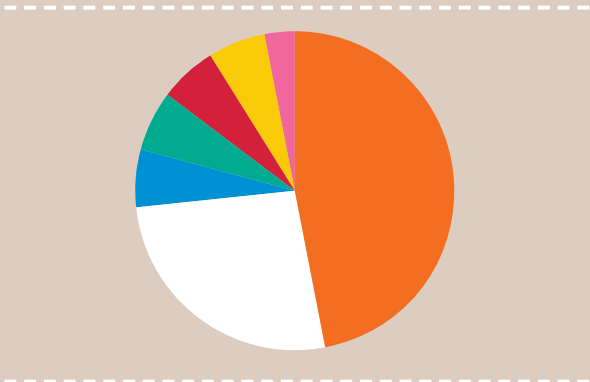
- 41.2% diversity of play
- 35.3% close to home
- 29.4% other
- 20.6% bike and scooter paths
- 17.6% convenient
- 17.6% easy to access
- 17.6% safe and defensible
- 17.6% attractive and beautiful
- 14.7% water play options
- 11.8% challenging and adventure play
- 5.9% nature play and experience nature
- 5.9% swings
- 5.9% good for picnicking
- 0% good for climbing, good for spinning

Transport to



- 52.9% car
- 41.2% walk
- 5.9% bike
- 0% bus, train, ferry

Who with



- 47.1% my children
- 26.4% my partner and children
- 5.9% my children and other children
- 5.9% friends
- 5.9% my partner
- 5.9% other
- 2.9% extended family
- 0% grandparents, siblings, alone

3.2.2.4 On-site playground audits

On the whole, the audit process found that playgrounds were well used by the community. At the time of the audits, Sydney experienced inclement weather, which highlighted issues of drainage and excessive slope within playgrounds. In spite of this, playgrounds were generally well maintained.

Playgrounds were well sign posted and well equipped with bins (both for regular rubbish and recycling). New playgrounds were found to be well designed and built, with thought to play experience, integration of play into the landscape, and a good mix of equipment. Playgrounds of note were located at Lardelli Park (Putney Hill), Blenheim Park (North Ryde), Kissing Point Park (Putney) and Ryde Park (Ryde). These playgrounds are well designed, exciting, and well used by the local community.

Many of the older playgrounds consisted of a small area of bark chip contained with raised timber edging, and a couple of standard pieces of play equipment. While this may be suitable for smaller local and neighbourhood parks, this formula presents the following problems:

- The basic design and shape of these playgrounds are not suitable for sloped sites
- Raised timber edges around playgrounds are problematic for accessibility.
- Containment of play equipment within a flat plane surrounded by timber edging limits landscape integration and varied play experiences.

- Bark chip as a play surface is susceptible to erosion, and can potentially pollute waterways when parks are located in drainage lines.

Poor siting of playgrounds within the parks was a common problem. Inappropriate placement of playgrounds in places with limited passive surveillance or close proximity to roads resulted in limited use due to safety concerns and vandalism damage.

Accessibility of playgrounds was a common problem, with most playgrounds accessed over lawn areas which were not suitable for strollers, prams and wheelchairs.

There was a general lack of integration of playgrounds into the landscape, leading to a lack of landscape and nature play experiences.

Few opportunities for youth and all abilities play were found within the Local Government Area (LGA).

Generally, playground levels were found to match the park level within which it was located. However, this categorisation was found to differ particularly with regard to the provision of sporting facilities (i.e. playgrounds adjacent to sporting grounds were classified at a higher level than the play experiences they were offering, based on their association with that sporting ground).

Playgrounds coming to the end of their economic life

Multiple playgrounds within the City are nearing the end of their economic life. Previously, these playgrounds may have been proposed for closure to re-allocate funding to

nearby playgrounds and more efficiently manage ongoing maintenance issues. However, it is important to acknowledge the important role these playgrounds play, particularly to the neighbouring residences. A holistic analysis of the importance of the playgrounds vs. their ongoing maintenance costs has been undertaken and it has been determined by the City to maintain them in their current state until it becomes economically unviable to do so.

It is proposed that the following playgrounds are to be maintained at their current state until the end of their economically useful life:

- Acacia Park
- Booral Reserve
- Cleves Park
- Darvall Park North
- Glen Reserve North
- Trafalgar Reserve
- Westminster Park
- West Denistone Park South

3.3 Key findings

From the investigations and subsequent general analysis results, the key findings have been captured under the four objective focus areas, namely **Safety** (Table 3), **Accessibility** (Table 4), **Sustainability** (Table 5), and **Play Value** (Table 6). The strategy stream from which the observation was sourced is identified in each table.

Safety

Table 3. Key findings: Safety

Finding	Source
3.1. Children should be able to play freely in their local area	Play & Design theory
3.2. Children often feel safer in staffed play provision, and have the choice to come and go as they please	Play & Design theory
3.3. Maintenance is vital to providing a clean and safe environment in which to play	Community Consultation
3.4. Fencing is desired where risk is perceived	Community Consultation
3.5. Parents and carers favour playgrounds that provide good opportunities for surveillance of children playing	Community Consultation
3.6. 'Feels unsafe' is the main thing that stops parents and carers from taking their children to a playground	Community Consultation
3.7. 'Untidy or poorly maintained' is the second main reason why parents or carers don't take their children to a playground	Community Consultation
3.8. Bark chip as a play surface is susceptible to erosion	2013 On-site Audit
3.9. There was a direct link between the ability of a playground to be viewed from the road and vandalism	2013 On-site Audit
3.10. 74% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory opportunity for parental supervision (available seating and sight lines to play areas)	2013 On-site Audit
3.11. 84% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory opportunity for passive surveillance (can be viewed from the road and adjacent properties)	2013 On-site Audit
3.12. 64% of playgrounds demonstrate a satisfactory level of maintenance (audit conducted immediately following inclement weather)	2013 On-site Audit
3.13. 45% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory drainage conditions (audit conducted immediately following inclement weather)	2013 On-site Audit
3.14. 14% of playgrounds have no safety surfacing evident under/around the play equipment	2013 On-site Audit



Accessibility

Table 4. Key findings: Accessibility

Convenient
everyday play

Finding	Source
4.1. Not all Ryde residents are within the 400m walkability catchment in low and medium density areas or within a 200m walkability catchment in high density areas of existing playgrounds (refer Figure 9)	Population Profile
4.2. Children 0-4 years – even distribution across the LGA, there is an average lower concentration of 0-4 years north of Epping Road	Population Profile
4.3. Children 5-11 years – even distribution across the LGA, there are small pockets of lower concentration at town centres and north of Epping Road	Population Profile
4.4. Children 12- 17 years – even distribution across the LGA, with higher concentration along the Putney foreshore and west of Blaxland Road (Eastwood and Denistone). Lower concentrations in town centres, particularly at West Ryde adjacent to the rail line	Population Profile
4.5. Low income households – evenly distributed throughout the LGA – higher concentrations at Eastwood and Marsfield	Population Profile
4.6. A concentration of higher household sizes (2.22-2.89 people per household) occur west of Lane Cove Road	Population Profile
4.7. Concentrations of smaller household sizes occur at transport hubs and town centres (1.45-2.22 people per household)	Population Profile
4.8. Concentrations of major residential development south of Victoria Road, at Melrose Park in particular	Population Profile
4.9. Low population density (0-41 persons per hectare) evenly distributed across LGA with concentrations of medium to high at town centres	Population Profile
4.10. Children should be able to play freely in their local area	Play & design theory
4.11. Every child needs play	Play & design theory
4.12. There is currently a perception of inadequate provision of age appropriate equipment for young people	Community Consultation
4.13. Playgrounds closest to home and convenient to walk to are most regularly used	Community Consultation
4.14. Parents and carers preferred playgrounds that considered the adult experience e.g. comfortable seating and coffee/cafe	Community Consultation



Convenient everyday play



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Finding	Source
4.15. Everyday parks require easy walking distance, simple equipment and amenity	Community Consultation
4.16. Currently, 74.3% of people surveyed walk to their most regularly visited playground and 20% drive	Community Consultation
4.17. Currently, 41.2% of people surveyed walk to their favourite playground and 52.9% drive	Community Consultation
4.18. Only 2 respondents selected bicycle to access their most regularly visited or favourite playground and none selected public transport	Community Consultation
4.19. 'Hard to access' was the fourth main reason that stopped parents from taking their children to a playground	Community Consultation
4.20. Raised timber edges are problematic for accessibility	2013 On-site Audit
4.21. 62% of playgrounds have timber edging surrounding the play equipment, containing the safety surface	2013 On-site Audit
4.22. 66% of playgrounds demonstrated opportunity to improve the footpath access from park entry points	2013 On-site Audit
4.23. 47% of Regional and District playgrounds are fully compliant with ECP Guideline	2018 On-site Audit

Sustainability

Table 5. Key findings: Sustainability



Sustainable
play for the
future

Finding	Source
Social/Cultural Sustainability	
5.1. There is a high proportion of City of Ryde residents born overseas (37.61%), higher than the Sydney average (31.74%)	Population Profile
5.2. The dominant non-English speaking country of birth is China (6.8%). Other cultural communities present are Indian, South Korean and Armenian	Population Profile
5.3. Concentrations of residents born overseas are located in the north west of the LGA. Parts of Eastwood, Macquarie Park, West Ryde and Ryde have up to 61% of persons born overseas	Population Profile
5.4. Generally 1-10% of the population are recent arrivals in the LGA, with higher concentrations in Marsfield, Eastwood and West Ryde	Population Profile
5.5. Couple families with children under 15 made up a high proportion of the City and were evenly distributed throughout the LGA	Population Profile
5.6. Eastern LGA displays lower concentrations of non-english speaking residents	Population Profile
5.7. One parent families were located across the City with higher proportions located in centres	Population Profile
5.8. Annual City of Ryde population growth is forecast at 0.63% over the next 20 years	Population Profile
5.9. Play is a social experience	Play & Design Theory
5.10. Play is to reflect cultural values of places	Play & Design Theory
5.11. Low income areas are a higher risk for play deprivation and a greater provision of playgrounds should be provided in these areas	Play & Design Theory
5.12. Supporting facilities promote interaction	Community Consultation
5.13. Parents and carers favoured playgrounds that provided the opportunity to socialise and meet new people	Community Consultation
5.14. 42% of playgrounds have satisfactory levels of opportunity for social activity	2013 On-site Audit
5.15. 25% of playgrounds displayed a satisfactory level of community ownership	2013 On-site Audit
5.16. 16% of playgrounds demonstrate a satisfactory level of heritage integration	2013 On-site Audit

Finding	Source
5.17. 73% of Regional and District Playgrounds have sufficient level of graduated challenge and play diversity for multiple age groups	Play & Design Theory
5.18. Opportunities for Intergenerational Play leads to a more understanding and resilient community	Play & Design Theory
Economic Sustainability	
5.19. Efficiency of maintenance, lifecycle, product selection and recycling is key to economic sustainability	Play & Design Theory
5.20. Economic sustainability recommendations must be based on sound economic principles	Play & Design Theory
5.21. 64% of playgrounds display environmental efficiencies (e.g. energy efficient products)	2013 On-site Audit
5.22. Budget of \$XX million per year total (maintenance and upgrades)	Budget Data
5.23. 16% of budget to be allocated for playground maintenance	Budget Data
5.24. Current annual budget of \$X million (excludes maintenance) allows for 1 Regional (co-funding) or 2 District or 4-5 Neighbourhood or 15 Local	Budget Data
Environmental Sustainability	
5.25. Contact with nature is essential to children	Play & Design Theory
5.26. Children want play in a natural setting	Community Consultation
5.27. 49% of playgrounds used recycled products and/or contained recycling bins	2013 On-site Audit
5.28. Some playgrounds are in creekline corridors on sloped sites with bark mulch which impacts on water quality downstream	2013 On-site Audit

Play Value

Table 6. Key findings: Play Value

Finding	Source
6.1. Children's right to play (UN Charter)	Play & design theory
6.2. Play is a key part of children's development	Play & design theory
6.3. Play is enriched by skilled professionals	Play & design theory
6.4. Engaging children results in better play outcomes	Play & design theory
6.5. All children in Ryde want availability of age appropriate equipment = highest priority are swings, flying fox and climbing nets/walls	Community Consultation
6.6. Primary schools kids want: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water play • Exploratory environments • Younger – wonder and sand • Older – nature and swinging 	Community Consultation
6.7. High school kids want: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More equipment (play and exercise) • Age appropriate playgrounds • Challenge / intense experiences 	Community Consultation
6.8. Parents and carers' favourite playgrounds included a unique, special or occasional experience	Community Consultation
6.9. 11% playgrounds have play equipment for young people	2013 On-site Audit

Play is valued
as a child's
right



**Play is valued
as a child's
right**

Finding	Source
6.10. 70% of playgrounds have play equipment for toddlers (0-5 years)	2013 On-site Audit
6.11. 89% of playgrounds have equipment for young children	2013 On-site Audit
6.12. 58% of playgrounds have play equipment for older children	2013 On-site Audit
6.13. Containment of play equipment within existing timber edged regular shapes limits landscape integration and opportunities for nature play	2013 On-site Audit
6.14. 64% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory swinging experience	2013 On-site Audit
6.15. 77% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory slide experience	2013 On-site Audit
6.16. 11% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory nature play	2013 On-site Audit
6.17. 14% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory informal play experience	2013 On-site Audit
6.18. 73% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory balance play	2013 On-site Audit
6.19. 20% of playgrounds display a satisfactory level of flexibility (accommodates a variety of equipment and non-equipment based play)	2013 On-site Audit
6.20. 21% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory imaginative play opportunities	2013 On-site Audit
6.21. 19% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory originality in design and play opportunity	2013 On-site Audit
6.22. 19% of playgrounds demonstrate a satisfactory level of landscape integration	2013 On-site Audit
6.23. 48% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory park integration (location of playground within park)	2013 On-site Audit
6.24. 28% of playgrounds demonstrate satisfactory levels of planting integration	2013 On-site Audit
6.25. 44% of playgrounds are immediately adjacent to recreational facilities	2013 On-site Audit
6.26. 25% of playgrounds demonstrate best practice design standards	2013 On-site Audit

3.4 Strategy Streams

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The key findings from the analysis of the population profile and distribution, theory, community consultation, audits and cost data has been grouped under the following objective headings:

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Play value
- Sustainability

The strategy streams have been developed specifically for this Play Plan from the key findings. They provide strategic directions for the development of recommendations and the priorities of the Play Plan as outlined in the following Recommendations chapter.

The five strategy streams are:

- Safe play for all
- Convenient everyday play
- Exciting and challenging destination play
- Play is valued as a child's right
- Sustainable play for the future



Safe play for all

- All children are to feel safe in their local area
- Playgrounds will be appropriately sited and designed to ensure passive and active surveillance
- Parents and carers are to feel confident of children playing on equipment
- Provide clean playgrounds and supporting facilities which create safe environments for play
- Provide young people with easily accessible playgrounds in visible locations
- Provide equitable distribution of playgrounds across the community



Convenient everyday play

- Provide easily accessible playgrounds to all residents
- Provide easily accessible playgrounds to residents in high density areas
- Provide simple everyday playgrounds which promote interaction with nature
- Investigate alternative delivery relationships where public open space is not available to increase provision where recommended



Exciting & challenging destination play

- Provide a diversity of play experience that is unique and special
- Provide all residents with easily accessible destination play
- Provide a diversity of play experience and increased access to play opportunity
- Provide opportunities for development of physical, mental and social development
- Demonstrate understanding and opportunity for latest technology and best practice design



Play is valued as a child's right

- Provide play for every child in accordance with the UN Rights of the Child
- Provide playgrounds as a key part of children's mental, physical and social development
- Provide playgrounds that enhance health and social benefits of children
- Provide age appropriate play equipment in every playground
- Provide opportunities for child engagement in the design process
- Provide opportunity for skilled professionals in play and playground design



Sustainable play for the future

- Provide opportunity for social interaction, meeting friends and new people in playground settings
- Provide playgrounds which promote cultural diversity
- Provide an efficient and holistic approach to budgeting for playground works
- Provide adequate funding for playgrounds
- Provide flexible and cost effective options to meet funding targets
- Alternative equipment procurement and management options
- Alternative funding options

