



CITY OF RYDE

SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2016 - 2026

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 25 JULY 2017

Through its role in sport and recreation planning and management, the City of Ryde will contribute to the lifestyle, health and wellbeing and social cohesion of Ryde.

Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 - 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ryde community have expressed that their open spaces and their recreation and sporting facilities are very important to them and are critical to the community living an active and healthy lifestyle. As the City of Ryde changes and grows, it is essential for Council to provide for sport and recreation with facilities and programs that are flexible and adaptable to these changing community needs and expectations. To do this, Council needs to provide for the right mix of active and passive opportunities conveniently located across the City.

The purpose of the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 - 2026 (the Strategy) is to provide a framework for the ongoing effective provision, management and coordinated development of recreation facilities and services across the City of Ryde. Understanding and planning for recreation and sport is essential to ensure that the community has every opportunity to live an active lifestyle that is available and equitable to all members of the community. To achieve this, it is necessary to plan for changes in recreation and sporting needs strategically and to build in flexibility and adaptability to existing and future facilities.

This Strategy will guide the management, future planning and investment on sport and recreation across the City. As such, it will challenge how the City of Ryde currently provides for sport and recreation, question how a changing City will impact provision and allocation, contemplate new partnerships for investment, and provide the City with a long term vision of sport and recreation.

Finally, the Strategy will specify the goals and areas for strategic focus for the City of Ryde as it designs, plans and manages for sport and recreation into the future.

As Council takes a more strategic and community focused approach to the provision and management of the structured recreation across the City, the Strategy will provide the foundation stone for ongoing improvement and priority setting for the City. This will occur through a detailed understanding of local and regional trends for sport and recreation together with a detailed investigation of community needs and expectations for sport and recreation within the City of Ryde.

Vision for sport and recreation

Sport and recreation are key elements to the lifestyle of Ryde residents. A 'vision' for sport and recreation that is consistent with the broader strategies of Council will provide a framework in this area. The following vision is proposed:

"Through its role in sport and recreation planning and management, the City of Ryde will contribute to the lifestyle, health and wellbeing and social cohesion of the community."

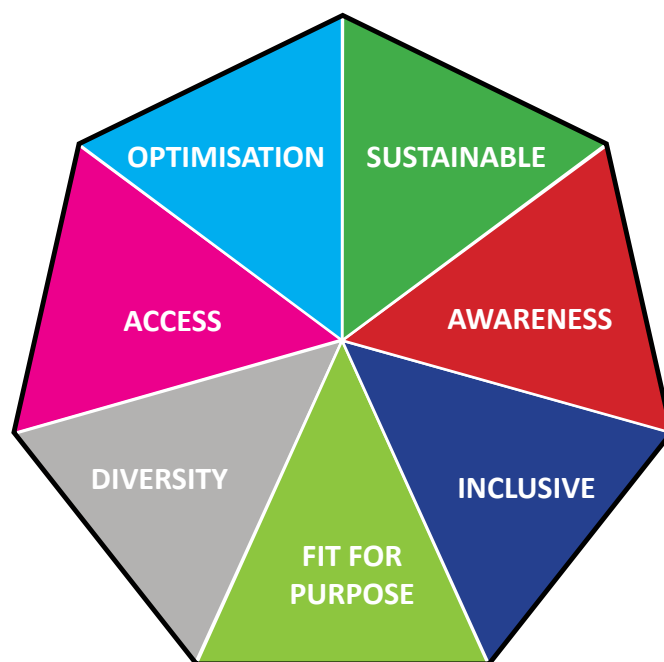
Additionally, Council's commitment to the open space network is to ensure that

"...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 sustainable now and for future generations."

To achieve this vision, **Seven Thematic Priorities** have been established for sport and recreation. It is these themes that will provide the structure for the ongoing management and planning for sport and recreation for the City of Ryde into the future.

The Seven Thematic Priorities for the provision, management and planning for sport and recreation in the City of Ryde are as follows.

- **Optimal use** of sport and recreation facilities
- **Access** to sport and recreation facilities
- **Diversity of facilities** for participation and enjoyment
- **Facilities** that are **fit for purpose**
- **Inclusive** and **accessible** sport and recreation facilities
- **Awareness** of recreation **facilities** and **programs**
- **Sustainable management** of facilities and sports



These seven key priorities/themes arose from research on sport and recreation trends and from an extensive consultation program. They have been used as the foundation for the establishment of the Goals for Sport and Recreation; seven (7) goals developed to align all future actions for sport and recreation to the Vision for the management of Open Space in the City of Ryde, and to offer an aspirational vision for a healthy and active community.

The City of Ryde's seven goals for a healthy and active community are:

Goal 1 - To Make the Most of What We Have

- *The City of Ryde will examine ways to get the most out of our existing open spaces to meet the sport and recreation needs now and into the future whilst recognising the role and connection to our natural and cultural environmental areas, while maintaining the amenity of our neighbourhoods.*

Goal 2 - Equitable Access for All

- *The City of Ryde will provide fair and equitable allocation of sporting facilities and will work closely with the community to provide for their changing sport and recreation needs.*
- *The City of Ryde will focus on the distribution and accessibility of passive recreation opportunities across the City.*
- *The City of Ryde will provide sport and recreation facilities for the whole community through a balance between the provision of structured and unstructured opportunities.*

Goal 3 - We Understand and Respond to the Needs of Our Diverse Community

- *The City of Ryde will respond to the changing needs of our diverse community by creating flexible sports and recreation areas that can adapt to the future needs and preferences of our Community.*

Goal 4 - Our Facilities are Fit For Purpose

- *The City of Ryde will ensure the design of all sports and recreation facilities are fit for purpose, specific to the levels of sport and recreation they are providing for.*

Goal 5 - We Provide Inclusive and Accessible Sport and Recreation

- *The City of Ryde will design sport and recreation facilities to maximise access for people of all abilities. This will include the design of physical access to sport and recreation facilities, and the planning of programs to eliminate barriers to access and participation.*

Goal 6 - Our Community Will be Aware of Our Facilities and Programs

- *The City of Ryde will actively engage with our community and partners/stakeholders to support and promote the sustainable growth, management and success of our local clubs and associations.*
- *The City of Ryde will continue to advocate the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle by promoting the variety of sport and recreation facilities and programs in the City.*
- *The City of Ryde will maintain a transparency in the management of all sport and recreation facilities with the assistance of the Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee, where proactive engagement with our community will inform management strategies and priority setting.*

Goal 7 - Sustainable management of facilities and Sport

- *The City of Ryde will continue to work with clubs and associations to promote sustainable growth and development of our sporting facilities.*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Vision for sport and recreation	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	7
SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION	11
Background	11
Purpose and Strategic Links	11
Scope of the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 - 2026	13
Contents of this report	14
SECTION 2 - VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION	15
City Vision	15
Vision for Sport and Recreation	15
SECTION 3 - CONTEXT	17
Regional Geographic Context	17
Regional Strategic Context	20
Local Strategic Context	23
Sport and Recreation Strategic Directions	31
SECTION 4 - SPORT AND RECREATION IN THE CITY OF RYDE	37
Open Space Provision	37
Sport and Recreation Provision	39
Structured Recreation Facilities	43
Unstructured Recreation Facilities	45
Recreation Facilities Owned / Managed by Others	47
Active Open Space Areas	48
Passive Recreation Areas	53
Natural Recreation Areas	54
Sport and Recreation Inventory	54
Sport and Recreation in the Surrounding LGA's	57
Policy Analysis	66
SECTION 5 - TRENDS IN SPORT AND RECREATION	71
Nationwide Megatrends in Recreation and Sport	71
Observational Trends	72

Trends Affecting Sports in Ryde Clubs and Associations	76
Implications of Trends	77
SECTION 6 - COMMUNITY NEEDS AND DEMANDS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION	79
Park User and Broad Community Outcomes	79
Sporting Club and Association Feedback	85
Summary of Consultation with Clubs and Associations	89
Schools Feedback	91
Analysis of School Feedback	93
State Sporting Organisations Feedback	94
Focus Group Meetings	96
Discussions with Neighbouring Councils	100
Other Observations	101
SECTION 7 - CITY GROWTH AND IMPACT ON RECREATION	103
City population growth and the impact on Sport and Recreation	103
Forecast development and changes in dwelling numbers	105
Other Demographic Observations for the City of Ryde	108
City growth and its impact on the use of the Open Space Network	108
City growth and its impact on Sport and Recreation	108
SECTION 8 - PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND RECREATION	111
Structure and Non-Structured Sport and Recreation Participation	112
SECTION 9 - THEMES AND GOALS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION	115
Thematic Priorities for Sport and Recreation	115
Goals for Sport and Recreation	118
Goal 1 - To Make the Most of What We Have	119
Goal 2 - Equitable Access for All	124
Goal 3 - We understand and response to the needs of our Diverse Community	125
Goal 4 - Our Facilities are fit for purpose	128
Goal 5 - We provide inclusive and accessible sport and recreation	130
Goal 6 - Our community will be aware of our facilities and programs	132
Goal 7 - Sustainable management of facilities and Sport	134

SECTION 10 - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (2016 to 2026) 137

Goal 1 - To make the most of what we have	138
Goal 2 - Equitable Access for All	141
Goal 3 - We understand and respond to the needs of our Diverse Community	142
Goal 4 - Our Facilities are fit for purpose	144
Goal 5 - We provide inclusive and accessible sport and recreation	147
Goal 6 - Our community will be aware of our facilities and programs	149
Goal 7 - Sustainable management of facilities and Sport	151

List of Tables

Table 1- Recreation Definitions	13
Table 2- The Plan for Growing Sydney- Sport and Recreation specific Directions and Goals	22
Table 3 - Sport and Recreation Strategic Directions at the City of Ryde	35
Table 4 - Sport and Recreation Strategic Directions at the City of Ryde	39
Table 5- Active Open Spaces in Ryde	48
Table 6 - Premier Active Areas	49
Table 7- Community Active Areas	51
Table 8- Supplementary and Training Areas	51
Table 9- Passive Recreation Assets	54
Table 10 - City of Ryde Sport and Recreation Inventory	57
Table 11 - Surrounding LGA's recreation observations	64
Table 12 - Current and Emerging Trends for Sports Clubs in the City of Ryde	75
Table 13 - Membership patterns of Clubs in the City of Ryde	85
Table 14 - Analysis of membership trends of Clubs in the City of Ryde	86
Table 15 - Analysis of local school use of sport and recreation facilities	90
Table 16 - Opportunities for community use of school sport and recreation facilities	92
Table 17- State sporting organisation issues relevant to Sport & Recreation Strategy	93
Table 18 - Impact on Open Space with future population growth	103
Table 19- Intensification of Open Space in Macquarie Park, Ryde and North Ryde.	104
Table 20- Predicted increase in Open Space patronage.	104
Table 21- Forecast growth in dwellings in the City	105
Table 22- National participation rates in sport and recreation	111
Table 23 - Top 10 Unstructured sport and recreation activities participation rates 2001- 2010	112
Table 24 - Top 10 Structured sport and recreation activities participation rates 2001- 2010	112

List of Figures

Figure 1- The Open Space Network in the City of Ryde	12
Figure 2- City of Ryde Community Strategic Plan's Outcomes Framework	16
Figure 3 - Regional Geographic context of the City of Ryde (red labelled names are NSROC)	17
Figure 4- Sport and Recreation Regional Geographic context	18
Figure 5- Possible Local Government boundary review	19
Figure 6 - Structure Plan from the Plan for Growing Sydney	20
Figure 7- Integrated Open Space Plan's Structure Plan	27
Figure 8 - Open space typologies are areas across the City of Ryde	37
Figure 9 - Open Spaces and Reserves	38
Figure 10 - Existing Structured Recreation Facilities	42
Figure 11 - Existing Unstructured Recreation Facilities	44
Figure 12 - Existing Privately Owned / Managed Recreation Facilities	46
Figure 13 - Premier Active Areas- Summer and Winter Seasons	50
Figure 14 - Community Active Areas- Summer and Winter Seasons	52
Figure 15 - Typical Model of Service Provision for Sport in Local Government	67
Figure 16- Importance of sport and recreation facilities and services to the Community	79
Figure 17- Levels of satisfaction with sport and recreation facilities and services	80
Figure 18 - Community priorities for improvements in sport and recreation	81
Figure 19- Community Suggestions and Priorities for new or improved Sport & Recreation Facilities/ Services	83
Figure 20- Forecast increase in Dwellings 2011- 2031.	106
Figure 21 - Creek and Bushland Corridors	120

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

Background

The Ryde community have said that their open spaces and their recreation and sporting facilities are very important to them. As the City changes due to population growth and shifting attitudes towards living an active and healthy lifestyle, it is important for Council's sport and recreation opportunities be both flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of our changing community. This requires Council to provide the right mix of active and passive opportunities conveniently located across the City, that can meet the community's needs and expectations.

As the foundation to providing for a changing community the City of Ryde's vision is to provide an Open Space Network that will be managed to ensure:

"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".

The Open Space Network, as shown in Figure 1, is a range of open space settings and typologies that support the provision of sport and recreation across the City of Ryde.

The Integrated Open Space Plan (IOSP) 2012, provides Council with a detailed understanding of the current and future open space needs of the community. It outlines the requirement to undertake detailed planning that will guide decision making on the provision and management of sport and recreation across the City. In the past, Council has been responsive to the needs of it's community and delivered sport and recreation facilities in an opportunistic, unplanned and largely ad-hoc approach. While successfully meeting short term goals, Council now needs to ensure that decision making and design of sport and recreation facilities is strategic, sustainable and informed.

Purpose and Strategic Links

The purpose of the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 - 2026 (the Strategy) is to provide the framework for the ongoing effective provision, management and coordinated development of recreation facilities and services across the City of Ryde.

Understanding and planning for recreation and sport is essential to ensure that the community has every opportunity to live an active lifestyle that is available and equitable to all members of the community. To achieve this, it is necessary to plan for changes in recreation and sporting needs strategically and to build in flexibility and adaptability to facilities.

The Strategy guides the management, future planning and investment on sport and recreation across the City. As such, the Strategy considers how the City of Ryde currently provides for sport and recreation, questions how a changing City will impact provision and allocation, considers new partnerships for investment and offers the City a long term vision of sport and recreation. Importantly, the Strategy specifies the goals and areas for strategic focus for the City of Ryde as it design, plans and manages for sport and recreation into the future. This will aid decision making via a suite of detailed and prioritised actions to meet Council's visions for sport and recreation.

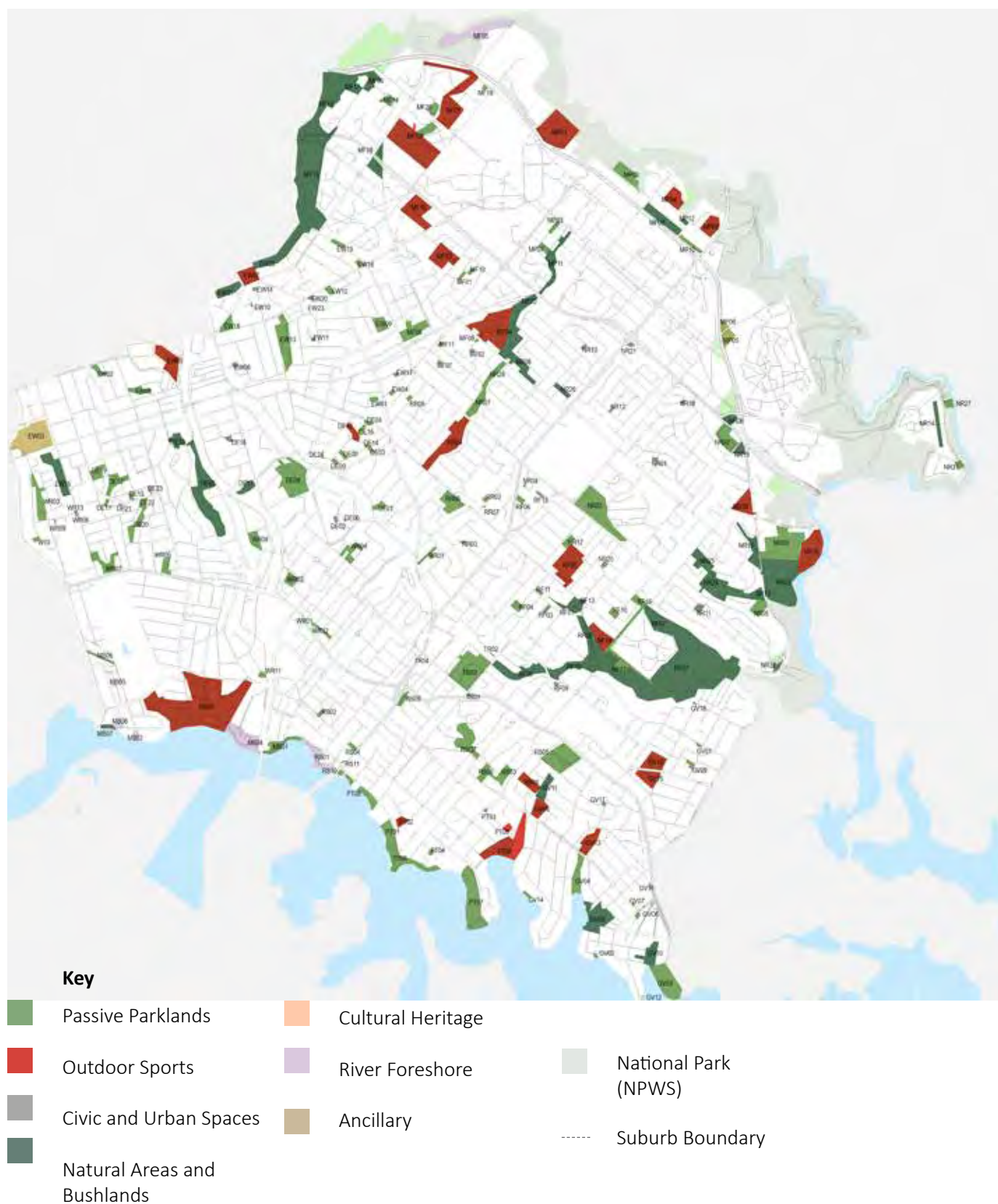


Figure 1- The Open Space Network in the City of Ryde

Objectives of the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 - 2026

The Strategy has the following objectives:

- Identify the current and projected sporting and recreation needs of residents/ visitors
- Recommend approaches for Council in response to relevant sporting and recreation trends
- Identify and map existing recreation facilities and services in Ryde
- Determine the role of Council and other stakeholders (e.g. Community sporting clubs and groups, the private sector and other government authorities) with the provision of sporting and recreation services and facilities
- Identify Council's role with the planning and delivery of services through its facilities
- Provide a 'best practice' template for the management of recreation reserves that articulates the expectations, roles and responsibilities of Council, tenants/ allocated users, local residents and other recreation reserve users
- Establish guiding principles to assess the broader community benefits of commercially managed, recreational activities within Council owned/managed facilities
- Review existing, and if unsuitable, recommend alternate models with guiding principles, for the provision of capital contributions from community sporting groups toward facility improvements
- Provide tenancy models that reflect equitable maintenance responsibilities and cost recovery principles for the various tenancy arrangements of Council owned/ managed recreational facilities

Scope of the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 - 2026

The Strategy guides the provision, allocation, management and planning for sport and recreation within the Ryde Local Government Area (LGA). This includes sport and recreation opportunities in all open spaces as shown in Figure 1, with the focus of the Strategy on structured and unstructured recreation.

Recreation in the City of Ryde is very broad and can be described using the following terminology detailed in Table 1. The definition of recreation is important in the context of this plan as the Strategy focuses on meeting the needs of both structured and unstructured recreation.

Descriptor	Definition	Common Recreation Facilities	Examples
Structured	Recreation undertaken as a part of an organised competitive club competition. There is usually a fee to participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sportsfields and hard courts • Club houses and canteens • Storage facilities • Floodlighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer games, both training and competition as a part of GHFA • Netball games, both training and competition as a part of ERNA • Tennis • Night competition netball, badminton etc • Personal Training
Unstructured	Recreation undertaken on a casual basis where there is no formal organisation of the competition and there is usually no fee to participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share paths (such as Ryde River Walk) • Playgrounds • Dog off leash areas • Sportsfields and hard courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social running club • Dog walking • Social sports (eg a social groups or family playing soccer on a Sunday afternoon)

Table 1- Recreation Definitions

The City of Ryde is taking a more strategic and community focused approach to the provision and management of the structured recreation across the City of Ryde. In 2012, Council completed the Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds Best Value Review

- To compare the performance of the City of Ryde with other Councils and to consider other stakeholders, local users, external stakeholders and staff on how to best manage Councils's community sports infrastructure
- The Strategy builds on the Best Value Review by updating its outcomes whilst analysing the unstructured recreation challenges facing the City.

Council engaged with the community to challenge why, how and by whom the services supporting community sports are being provided.

Plan Methodology

The study process comprised a four-stage methodology:

- Stage 1: Research & analysis of current situation
- Stage 2: Community & stakeholder consultation
- Stage 3: Analysis of findings and future demands
- Stage 4: Outcomes and recommendations

Contents of this report

The remaining sections of this report are:

- Section 2 Vision and Guidelines Principles for Sport and Recreation
- Section 3 Context
- Section 4 Sport and Recreation in the City of Ryde
- Section 5 Trends in Sport and Recreation
- Section 6 Community Needs and Demands for Sport and Recreation
- Section 7 City Growth and Impact on Recreation
- Section 8 Participation in Sport and Recreation
- Section 9 Themes and Goals for Sport and Recreation
- Section 10 Implementation Plan

SECTION 2 - VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

City Vision

The overarching planning document that guides long term strategic planning in the City of Ryde is the Community Strategic Plan 2025. It states that:

“Our vision will respond to and deliver on the aspirations of our community. City of Ryde: The place to be for lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep.”

Vision for Sport and Recreation

Sport and recreation are key elements of the lifestyle of Ryde residents. A ‘vision’ for sport and recreation that is consistent with broader strategies of Council will provide a framework for Council’s role in this area. The following vision is proposed:

“Through its role in sport and recreation planning and management, the City of Ryde will contribute to the lifestyle, health and wellbeing and social cohesion of the community.”

Additionally, Council’s commitment to the open space network is to ensure that:

“...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 sustainable now and for future generations.”

The vision for sport and recreation is underpinned by a number of guiding principles that directly relate to the key challenges described in Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2025.

These key challenges are described below:

Resource sustainability

Council will manage the pressures on its finite sport and recreation resources in a manner that maximises sustainability and functionality. Innovative and sustainable practices, such as synthetic surfaces, lighting and maintenance and upgrade planning will contribute to the sustainability of the City’s valuable sport and recreation resources.

Responding to demographic change

Council recognises the need for accessible, adaptable and culturally appropriate sport and recreation opportunities that are available to all residents regardless of age, gender, culture, income or physical ability.

Communication and collaboration

Council will encourage sport and recreation clubs and community groups to work collaboratively with Council rather than creating a reliance on Council. Council recognises the importance of clear communication and engagement with clubs and the community in the planning and management of sport and recreation opportunities.

Outcome Framework

How our suite of documents will work together to deliver our vision and mission.

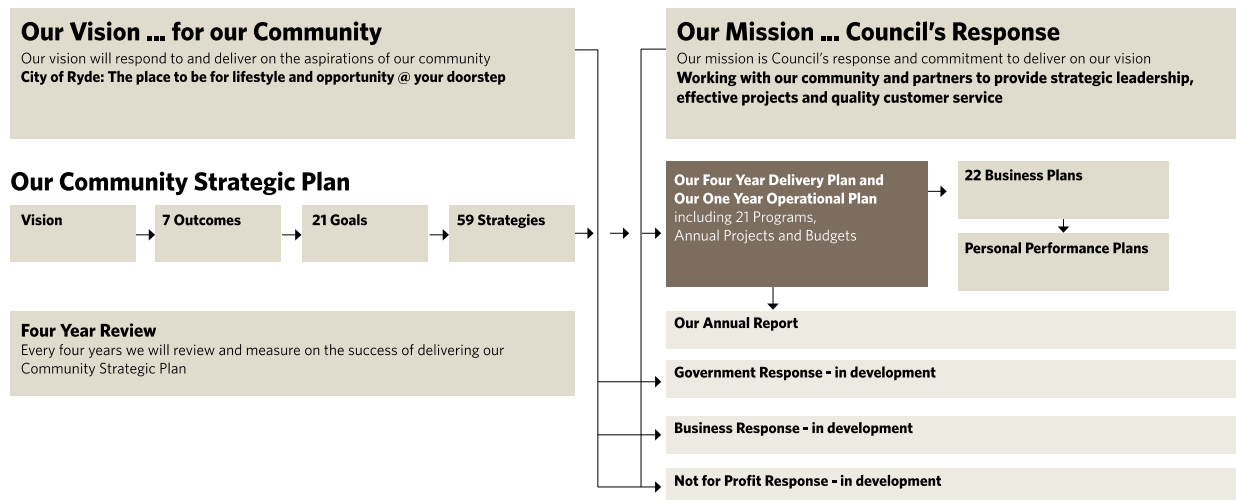


Figure 2- City of Ryde Community Strategic Plan's Outcomes Framework

Balanced provision

Council acknowledges the importance of active recreation in providing opportunities for residents to lead healthy lifestyles. Council acknowledges its important role in the provision of sporting opportunities for the broader Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) region and will endeavour to ensure future planning balances organised sport, with active recreation needs of the community.

Participation

Council will advocate for increased participation in sport and active recreation to improve the lifestyle, health and wellbeing of all Ryde residents. Council acknowledges that a primary focus must be on increasing participation for local residents through provision of adequate facilities.

Council's primary role in sport and recreation is to ensure that its community have access to a range of recreation and sporting opportunities that support the diversity of communities in the City. These should be sustainable, meet identified needs, and encourage an active and healthy community. Council does this by:

- Planning
- Advocating
- Providing
- Collaborating

SECTION 3 - CONTEXT

This Section provides a summary of the information and analysis that has been used to inform the recommendations for the future provision, management and planning for sport and recreation within the City of Ryde. This has included developing and understanding of:

- Where the City of Ryde sits within a geographical context in Sydney,
- What changes will impact the City from population growth and changes to the way people live their lives (including dwelling types and preferences for recreation and sport)
- How the proposed changes to LGA boundaries will impact the future of sport and recreation.

Regional Geographic Context

Currently, the City of Ryde is bordered by six other Councils (refer to figure 3); Parramatta, Hornsby, Willoughby, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai and Hunters Hill. The LGA's southern boundary is the Parramatta River and located to the south of the River are Canada Bay and Auburn Councils.

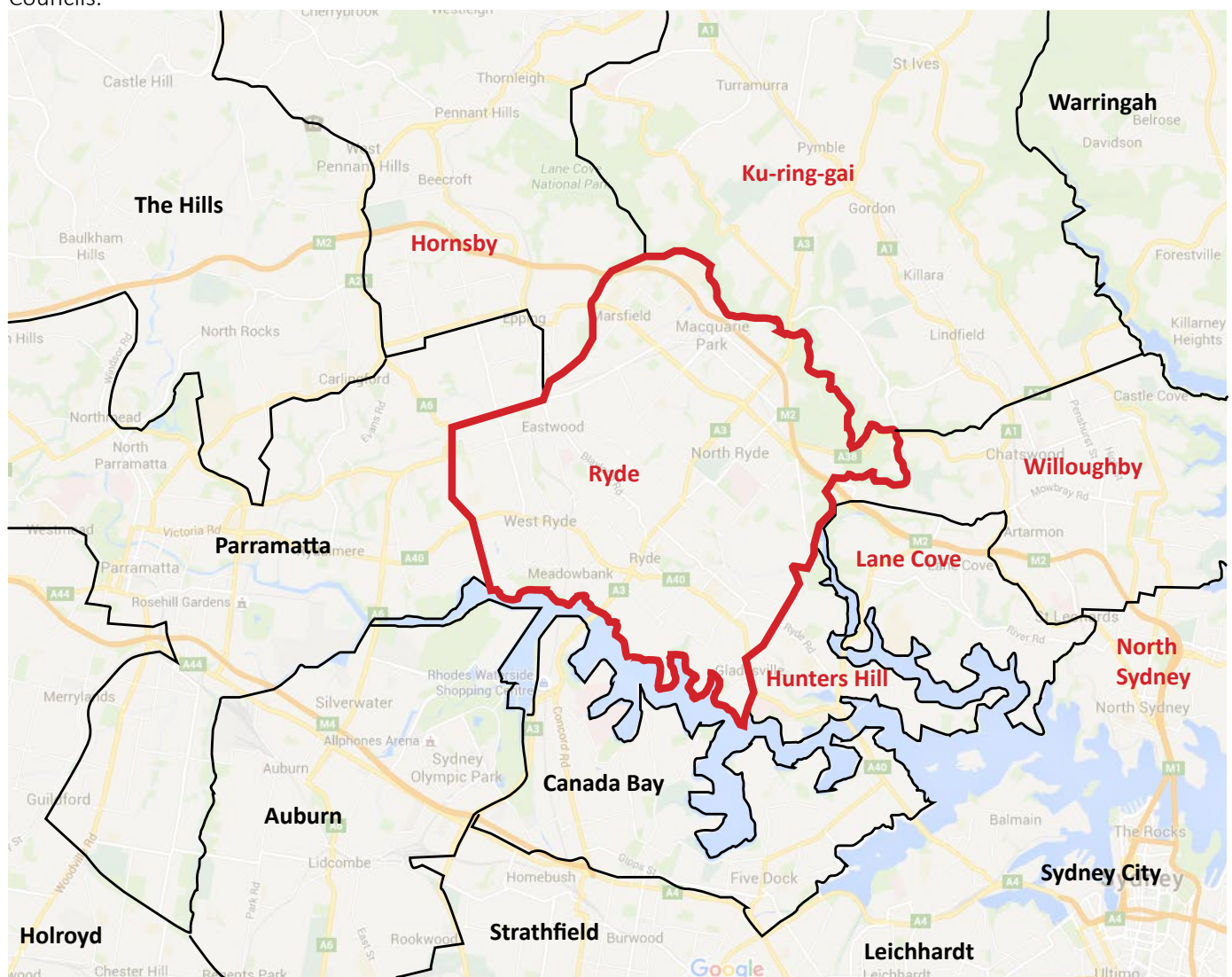


Figure 3 - Regional Geographic context of the City of Ryde (red labelled names are NSROC)

Local Government Boundary Review

The State Government's Fit for the Future Program is proposing a possible merger of Hunter's Hill Council, Lane Cove Council and City of Ryde Council, as shown in Figure 5. At the time of preparing this Plan, the outcome of the Governments program has not been finalised. The following extract is taken from the Merger Proposal that provides a high level synopsis of the possible outcome for the City of Ryde;

'The proposed new Council will be responsible for infrastructure and service delivery to more than 164,000 residents across the Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove and City of Ryde area of Sydney. The creation of a new Council provides the opportunity to bring together the communities from across the local government areas of Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde. These communities have similar lifestyles, demand similar services and have a common identity as residents of the broader northern Sydney region. The new council will be responsible for infrastructure and service delivery to more than 215,000 residents by 2031.'



Figure 5- Possible Local Government boundary review

This Strategy should be reviewed following any future changes to the LGA boundaries and updated to reflect the needs of a larger community, a broader catchment and a wider supply of sport and recreation facilities and program.

Goal 3: A great place to live with communities that are strong, healthy and well connected will have better access to jobs and economic opportunities; good transport and social infrastructure; healthy natural and built environments; and will find it easy to get to services, the arts, cultural and recreational activities.

The City of Ryde has a role to play in the maintaining and embellishing Sydney's reputation as a vibrant cosmopolitan place, through the provision of quality public spaces, green spaces, sports facilities and precincts that engage people and reflect the city's heritage and history. The City of Ryde will assist in achieving Goal 3 through being committed to raising living standards and improving wellbeing to create strong, inclusive communities. Council/Government will improve access to the natural and built environments by improving access to and provision of recreational activities and facilities that meet the communities needs of today, while remaining flexible to evolve to meet the community needs into the future.

Relating to sport and recreation, the directions and actions prescribed the *Plan for Growing Sydney* are outlined in Table 2.

Direction	Action	Actions for the City of Ryde
Direction 3.2: Create a network of interlinked, multipurpose open and green spaces across Sydney		
Sydney's much loved open spaces, bushland tracks and trails support recreation, sporting activity, walking and cycling, and improve the environmental quality and liveability of our urban communities. More than 90% of the City's residents live within a five to 10 minute walk of green space and less than a 30 minute drive from a large regional open space. A Plan for Growing Sydney aims to improve the quality of green spaces and create an interconnected network of open spaces and parks, tree-lined streets, bushland reserves, riparian walking tracks and National Parks. It will also encourage innovative uses of these spaces – from bushland renewal to outdoor theatres and stimulating children's playgrounds.		
	Action 3.2.1: Deliver the Sydney Green Grid project	The Sydney Green Grid will include open spaces, parks, bushland, natural areas, waterway corridors and tree-lined streetscapes in a network that connects our homes to centres, public transport, jobs and recreation. It will build upon the open space network already established through the Metropolitan Greenspace Program and the Regional Tracks and Trails Framework. Providing open space guidelines will resource local councils to develop recreational and open space policies to meet local community needs and inform the preparation of local level plans and policies that are consistent with the Sydney Green Grid.
		Specific Actions relative to Ryde include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to implement the Metropolitan Greenspace Program; Continuing to implement the Sharing Sydney Harbour Program; Working with councils to develop open space guidelines to encourage appropriate local planning for the open space needs of communities; Working with local councils and communities to connect walking trails identified in the Regional Tracks and Trails Framework and locate new recreation and sporting facilities within the Sydney Green Grid;
	Action 3.2.2: Investigate options for a Bushland renewal program	Urban bushland is important to the city's network of green spaces, biodiversity and the development of the Sydney Green Grid. A bushland renewal program will be developed to preserve and improve the environmental quality of the bushland within the City.
		Specific Actions relative to Ryde include those that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options to enhance current programs and investment to support habitat and bushland renewal; and Investigate the application of Environmental Trust funds to habitat and bushland renewal projects

Direction	Action	Actions for the City of Ryde
Direction 3.3: Create Healthy Built Environments		
The design of our City and suburbs play an important role in supporting physical activity, social interaction and equitable access to healthy food. The built environment can also facilitate social cohesion and community connectivity.		
		<p>The built environment can encourage healthy communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating mixed-use centres that provide a convenient focus for daily activities; • Providing separated footpaths and cycleways to safely connect people to destinations; • Providing facilities such as bike lockers at rail stations and workplaces to make it easier to walk or cycle to public transport and local centres; • Creating attractive public spaces and improving the quality of the public domain through better design, including landscaping, lighting and traffic calming measures in high pedestrian areas; and • Linking open spaces to encourage recreational walking and cycling, and support cross-regional trips to centres and other destinations.

Table 2- The Plan for Growing Sydney- Sport and Recreation specific Directions and Goals

North District Plan

The Sydney region is divided into six subregions;

- Central
- West Central
- West
- North
- South West, and
- West

Ryde is located in the north subregion with the following local government areas; Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Northern Beaches Council, Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby.

Of the priorities outlined for the subregion the priority relevant to the Strategy is to '*Promote the natural environment and promote its sustainability and resilience*'. Key areas are to protect and enhance natural and regional parks including the enhancement of connectivity.

The North District Plan is currently being finalised by the Greater Sydney Commission.

Feedback given to the commission relating to Sport and Recreation include;

- There needs to be a coordinated approach to the delivery of regional open space facilities between local and State governments,
- The district plan should identify open space areas for acquisition including appropriate funding models, and
- Open spaces within the district need to be better connected with better access to Lane Cove National Park for regional links, particularly for active transport.

Sydney Regional Recreation Trails Framework

As outlined in the IOSP, The Sydney Metropolitan Regional Recreational Trails Update 2010, 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 of Ryde include the Regional Trails:

- Ryde Riverwalk (Trail 5.7) which includes the section to Kissing Point Park 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)
- Shrimpton's 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 with the recent completion of the eastern most link of the Ryde Riverwalk. The Ryde River Walk now offers a combination of on road and off road pedestrian and shared pathways that connect Banjo Patterson Park in the east with Wharf Road in the west of the LGA, allowing the community to access a wider trail network that continues to Sydney Olympic Park and Parramatta CBD.

NSROC

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 as shown with a red name label in Figure 3.

Regional sport and recreation planning studies undertaken for NSROC have also been taken into account. These include:

- NSROC Netball Development Plan (2015)
- NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy (2011)

NSROC remains an important regional direction setter for sport and recreation. Ryde's ongoing participation in planning for sport and recreation in this forum is recommended.

Local Strategic Context

The City of Ryde 2025 Community Strategic Plan

The 2025 Community Strategic Plan sets out the overall direction and long-term planning for the economic, social and environmental growth of the City. It aims to reflect the aspirations of the Ryde community, while meeting the challenges of the future. The Community Strategic Plan sets out the following Vision for the Ryde community:

"Our vision will respond to and deliver on the aspirations of our community. City of Ryde: The place to be for lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep."

The document outlines Council's Mission as:

"Working with our community and partners to provide strategic leadership, effective projects and quality customer service."

The document outlines seven challenges facing the City of Ryde, followed by Seven Key Outcomes for the City. The plan contains 21 Goals and 59 Strategies listed under their relevant outcome.

The seven Challenges for the City of Ryde are:

1. **Meeting the needs of a growing population** - To meet the increasing pressure and needs of a growing population and changing demographics, while maintaining the prosperity, uniqueness and liveability of our City.
2. **Addressing the needs of a changing population** - To offer appropriately targeted support services, appropriate recreational and cultural opportunities, and to design accessible public domain to ensure that we adjust to our changing community's needs.
3. **Offering suitable housing options while maintaining the characteristics of our suburbs** - To offer a range of affordable and varied accommodation options, through strategic forecasting and planning that meets the changing needs and demands of our growing and diverse community while maintaining the character of our many suburbs.
4. **Creating a strong economy and employment closer to home** - To plan for sufficient land and infrastructure for business. As Sydney's transport systems and roads networks are placed under increasing pressure we need to accommodate this growth and encourage people to live closer to their place of employment.
5. **Managing the pressure of population growth on our amenity** - To plan and design a growing and liveable city through considered urban renewal and land use, while protecting and enhancing our natural assets and keeping abreast of demand for passive and active recreation opportunities from our community and visitors.
6. **Adapting to climate change** - To collaborate with all our partners to address the predicted long term effects of climate change such as higher frequencies of extreme weather patterns, bushfires, storm surge and flood inundation.
7. **Remain competitive** - To reinvigorate Macquarie Park, address its traffic management issues and utilise all the opportunities that a close association between a university and business park bring so that it remains competitive and nationally significant.

The seven Outcomes are:

1. **City of Liveable Neighbourhoods** – a range of well-planned clean and safe neighbourhoods, public spaces, designed with a strong sense of identity and place.
2. **City of Wellbeing** – A healthy community, with all supported throughout their life by services, facilities and people.
3. **City of Prosperity** – Creating urban centres which champion business, innovation and technology to stimulate economic growth and local jobs.
4. **City of Environmental Sensitivity** – Working together as a community to project and enhance our natural and built environments for the future.
5. **City of Connections** – Access and connection to, from and within the City of Ryde. Providing safe, reliable and affordable public and private travel, transport and communication infrastructure.
6. **City of Harmony and Culture** – A welcoming and diverse community, celebrating our similarities and difference, in a vibrant city of culture and learning.
7. **City of Progressive Leadership** – A well led and managed city, supported by ethical organisations which deliver programs and services to the community by listening, advocating and responding to their needs.

A City of Wellbeing is the outcome of particular relevance to sport and recreation planning in Ryde. This outcome aims to ensure the creation of a City that supports the physical and emotional health of all of the community.

Specific goals and strategies relevant to sport and recreation planning are:

- Our residents are encouraged and supported to live healthy and active lives.
 - To offer a range of cultural, sport, recreational and leisure facilities to meet the needs of all.
 - To collaborate with our partners to encourage more people to lead healthy and active lives locally.
- All residents feel supported and cared for in their community through the provision of ample services and facilities.
 - To provide services and facilities that meet the needs and challenges of all our community, throughout the cycles of their life.
 - To collaborate with our partners to offer the whole community a range of quality services and facilities.

This outcome states that "...the network of volunteer sporting groups and associations will be supported with sports amenities which are optimised across the region in collaboration with neighbouring Council areas (Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils) and educational institutions. As the population ages Council will ensure that active living reaches all generations in the way that we design our active and passive recreational facilities".

Ryde Section 94 Development Contributions Plan 2007: Interim Update (2014)

The Ryde Section 94 Development Contributions Plan 2007: Interim Update (2014) which is currently in force, levies for open space, recreation and community cultural facilities based on a works schedule dating back to 2006-07.

Works levied for include new parks in Macquarie Park, walking tracks and cycleways, improvements to sportsgrounds, and park upgrades.

Council is currently preparing a new contributions plan for the City. The Plan will include a new works schedule meeting the future infrastructure needs of the City. The works programme is based on predicted population growth for the next 20 years and the goals set by the Community Strategic Plan 2025.

Integrated Open Space Plan

The Integrated Open Space Plan (IOSP) is a key recreation planning document for the City of Ryde and contains the following objectives for open space:

- Ample, Accessible Open Space
 - Providing open space within at least 400 metres safe and direct walking distance from every residence.
 - Maintaining existing provision at minimum (i.e. 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
 - 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
 - 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 LGA's.
 - Promoting awareness of Ryde's natural values.
 - Maximising permeable areas 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
 - 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
 - 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 opportunity.
 - Operating under a structured management and maintenance plan and program.

The IOSP provides an Open Space Structure Plan, which is the framework for delivering the Open Space Implementation Plan. The Structure Plan, refer to Figure 7, contains direction on:

- Corridors, Connections and Barriers
- Active Parklands
 - Level 1 Sports Hubs/ Precincts- Regional (Meadowbank Park, ELS Hall, Marsfield Park/Waterloo Park, Christie Park, Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park/Tyagarah Park precinct)
 - Level 2 Sports Parks- District (e.g. Ryde Park, Eastwood Park, Gannan Park)
 - Level 3 (neighbourhood) Multi-Use Parks (e.g. Fontenoy and Tyagarah Parks)
- Passive Parklands
- Urban Spaces
- Consolidation, Acquisition and Rationalisation

The IOSP outlines the following implications for open space in response to the City's population and future growth:

- Increase 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 Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (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

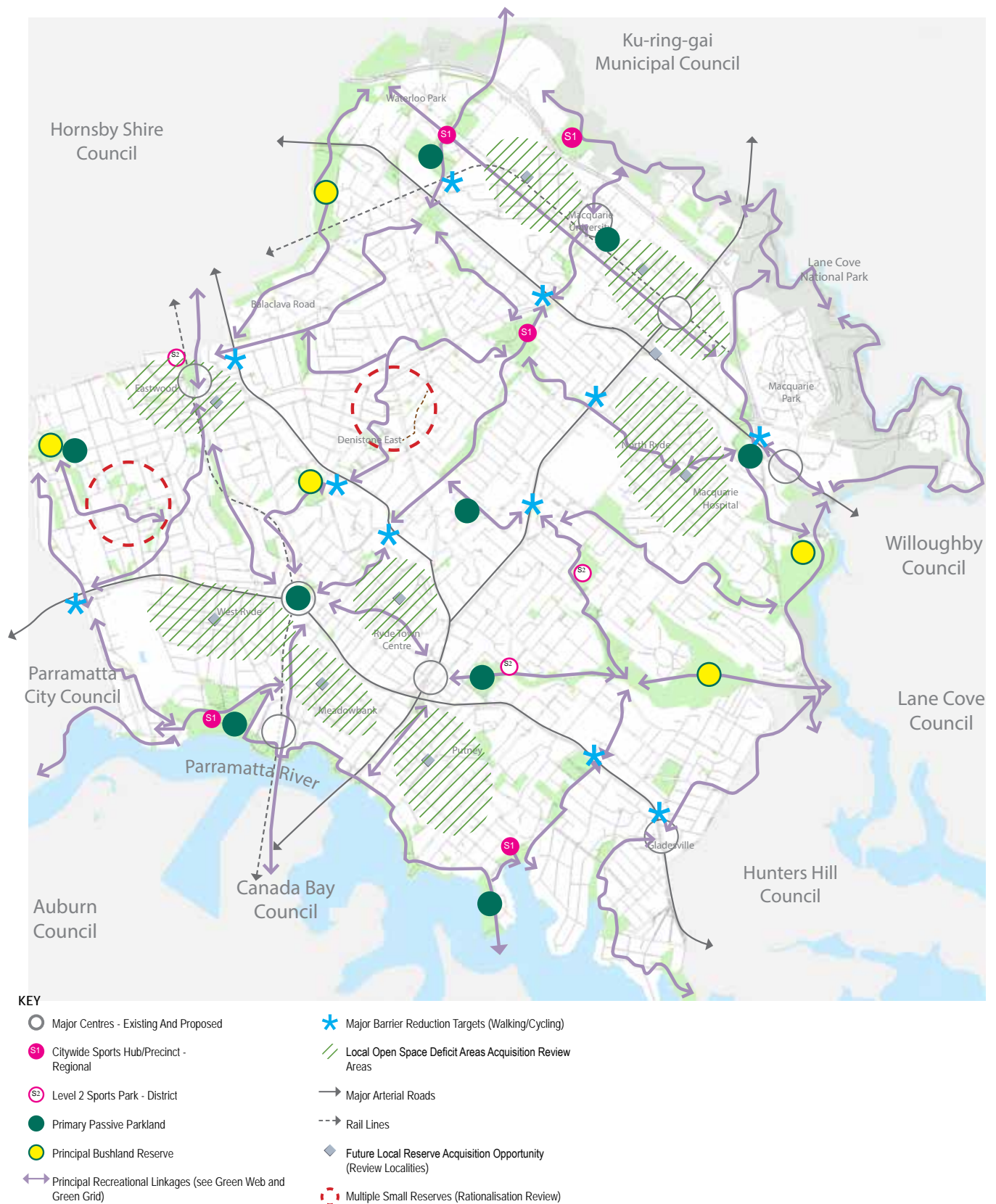


Figure 7- Integrated Open Space Plan's Structure Plan

- 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
- In relation to transport and access, key implications for open space are identified:
 - Major roads act as barriers to walking access to local open space
 - Public transport access to open space is highly variable across the City- few open spaces have access via rail stations, while more have access via bus routes
 - Off-road cycle access into and across the City is limited and not linked to natural corridors and on road options
 - Planning for walking will be an essential aspect of the City's future open space
- Environmental and heritage implications are:
 - The network of creeks, including high natural values, provides opportunities for connected recreation corridors
 - A more connected recreational network would enhance environmental connectivity
 - Steep topography makes non-vehicular access to and around some open spaces challenging
 - The City's rich Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage is not currently reflected in park character and layout

The IOSP contains an Open Space Inventory identifying all open spaces in the care, control and management of the City of Ryde. The inventory identifies:

- The hierarchy of open space (Levels 1-4)
- Primary and contributory setting
- Other attributes (i.e. Status, networks and associations, levels of embellishment, assets and functions)
- Major assets within the open space (e.g. lighting, fencing, play structures, buildings)

Key points identified by the Open Space Inventory:

- The City contains 197 open spaces under the care, control and management of Council
- 35% of open spaces are over 1Ha
- 36% of all open spaces are under 0.2Ha
- 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 others
- Some suburbs contain a large number of small open spaces while others have fewer larger open spaces
- Outdoor Sports open space is extensive. Many offer singular focus and limited opportunity for additional recreation opportunities
- There are relatively few large Passive Parklands

The IOSP outlines needs and demands from previous surveys and consultations undertaken with the community and stakeholders. Some key points to note include:

- Informal activities make up the highest leisure and recreation participation across the City (e.g. walking, walking the dog, runabout, play, picnics, BBQs, etc.)
- More than 35% of the population participate in some form of sport
- Sportsgrounds have high usage levels
- Use of indoor facilities is high, particularly amongst CALD communities
- Visitation to parks increased between 2002 and 2009
- The majority of park users travel less than 5km to a park

Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds, 2012

The Best Value Review (BVR) is a four volume report that provide specific recommendations for the allocation and management of sports grounds in the City of Ryde. The Volumes identify and provide resolution actions for a number of key issues relating to Council's sportsground allocations and management, including:

- Allocation and hire of sportsgrounds
- Fees and charges and relationship with ground quality
- Sportsground maintenance
- Facility Condition and Capital Works
- Function of the Recreation Team
- Usage and Demand for Sportsgrounds
- Overall User Perceptions

A summary of the Reviews findings are provided below:

- The sportsground services that Council offers include an enquiry, booking, allocation, maintenance service as well as the management and development of sporting infrastructure. In general, the service is highly regarded by customers and the outputs could be considered to be good value considering that many sites are affected by encumbrances, are overused, and that maintenance and capital works are underfunded. In future this service should aim to embrace a stronger marketing and sports development focus, to enhance sporting participation.
- In comparison with other Councils benchmarked the City of Ryde provides a good suite of sportsground opportunities and considering limited funds, the resource quality and the cost to users the service provided is good value. Like most other Councils refinements are required due mostly to changing professional practices, financial pressures and increasing expectations of users.
- The Open Space Unit is responsible for the delivery of these services with the exception of maintenance and capital improvements. The unit plays a minor role in capital improvements. In future it would be desirable for these aspects to be managed from the same unit, and this unit to have a stronger customer, marketing and planning focus.
Note:- **During the project in 2015 Council restructured the Open Space Unit. The planning component moved into Strategic City and the operational staff moved to the Operations Unit in City Works and Infrastructure.**
- Whilst Council should retain turf and infrastructure management as a core service partnerships with other NSROC Councils, sports associations or peak bodies should be considered, to fund or undertake non core or supplementary elements of maintenance. Many internal systems relied on to deliver the sportsground service are in need of refinement and updating.
- An upgrade of the CLASS software is required and all booking, referral, reporting and monitoring should be conducted electronically with a user interface. A new system to record and analyse costs by playing field, reserve and season is essential to monitor performance and efficiency and make service deliver choices.
- The absence of this information prevents this review from recommending more specific actions in relation to maintenance, and comparing costs with other providers. In the delivery of the service a greater focus on communication with sport peak bodies and users, and regular monitoring of the importance of service aspects to users and their perceptions of performance is required (rather than satisfaction measures).

- An additional staff person would be beneficial to deliver this aspect as well as market available opportunities to residents. Overall the greatest gaps in users' expectations relate to capital works and the condition of grounds. This is unlikely to be resolved without significant additional funds. In relation to how the service is delivered; users identified gaps in communication.
- There needs to be a stronger ownership of issues faced by Council, by sports associations and users, with respect to managing the condition and use of grounds. This needs to a focus in communication efforts and documenting.

City of Ryde Leisure and Recreation Needs Community Consultation Report, 2009

This study sought community views on current and future leisure and recreation needs. Key findings included:

Participation

- Over one third of respondents said they participated in "Outdoor Active Recreation" and "Passive or Social Outdoor Leisure" regularly to frequently.
- "Indoor Organised Sport" and "Outdoor Organised Sport" rated in the lowest 3 participation levels.
- Participation was higher amongst English speaking respondents for "Outdoor Active Recreation" and "Passive or Social Outdoor Leisure".

Use of Council Facilities

- The eight most regularly used Council-provided facilities/ venues 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 (7.2%)
 - Sportsfields (5.7%)
 - Playgrounds (5.6%)
- The top 10 facilities and services identified as lacking, inadequate or required were:
 - Bike paths
 - Off-leash dog areas
 - Swimming venues
 - Parks and gardens
 - Playgrounds
 - Walking paths/ tracks
 - Sportsfields and sports facilities
 - Improved transport/ accessibility/ parking
 - Libraries
 - Picnic facilities and barbecues.

Future participation patterns/ behaviours

- Activities people expect or hope to participate in more frequently in 5 to 10 years were:
 - Walking
 - Outdoor organised sport
 - Cycling, including mountain biking
 - Visiting parks and gardens, including picnicking
 - Visiting libraries
 - Swimming.
- Parks and open space, bike paths and BMX facilities were identified as the highest priorities for Council spending in the next 5 to 10 years.

CALD Communities

- Some key notes in relation to CALD communities:
 - Halls and meeting rooms were the most used facilities
 - Natural areas were visited more frequently by CALD than English-speaking respondents
 - CALD residents reported lower frequencies of use of Council facilities/ settings
 - As well as walking, visiting libraries, swimming, visiting parks/ gardens, picnicking, outdoor active recreation, cycling, indoor organised sport, indoor leisure/ recreation and visiting playgrounds, CALD residents also indicated a desire in the future to participate in dancing, golf and bushwalking
 - Dancing/ dance socials was ranked the top priority item for future needs by CALD residents, followed by indoor sports facilities, indoor leisure venues, golfing facilities, social and recreation support services and seniors activities/ centres

Key recommendations focussed on sport and recreation:

- Provision of additional informal leisure and recreation facilities or settings (i.e. Open spaces, bike paths, walking paths and tracks, dog exercise areas, youth facilities, skate parks)
- A multi-disciplinary approach to planning, design and management of informal leisure and recreation facilities or venues
- The requirements of organised sporting groups are balanced with the needs of informal/ independent participants
- Investigating improved transport and access services for leisure and recreation, particularly where seniors are concerned
- Continuing consultation regarding the needs of CALD residents

Sport and Recreation Strategic Directions

The City of Ryde has been very active in planning for sport, recreation and open space in recent years. A great deal of strategic plans, management and maintenance plans, and policy development work has occurred in the last six years. This includes:

- Children's Play Implementation Plan (2013)
- Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs (2010)
- Skate Feasibility Study (Draft) (2011)
- Synthetic Sports Surfaces Study (2013)
- Sports Field Assessment Studies (2015)

- Sports Fields Lighting Audit (2015)
- Sportsfield Upgrade Program (2014)
- Sports Ground Allocation Policy (2014)
- Sports Ground User Fees and Contribution Policy (2014)
- Parks Access Review Report (2013)

Many of the recommendations from these studies have been partially implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The Strategy is mindful of the amount of recent planning that has already occurred and endeavours to build on this work and reinforces the need to complete the implementation of recommendations from these studies.

Other relevant plans and studies were also reviewed. These included:

- City of Ryde Four Year Delivery Plan (2015-2019)
- Capital Works Projects 2014 to 2018: Sportsground, Amenities and Floodlighting
- City of Ryde Youth Interagency Survey (2015)
- City of Ryde Bicycle Strategy (2014)
- City of Ryde Council Community Research (2013)
- Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, Department of Planning (2010)
- Generic Plan of Management: Sportsgrounds, Parks, Natural Areas (2001)
- Macquarie Park and North Ryde Pedestrian and Cycling Issue Report
- Football NSW Future Needs Report (2015)

The Strategy will consolidate the finding of these studies and reports. Table 3 provides a summary of the key sport and recreation strategic documents.

Name of Strategic Document	Summary
A Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs in the City of Ryde, 2010	<p>This study involved an assessment of parks within the City of Ryde to determine suitability as dog off leash areas. The report presents 5 recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of a City Wide Approach to the provision of on and off leash dog recreation areas • Creation of enclosed free running areas • Creation of free running areas • Creation of shared sportsfield dog facilities • Creation dog walking trails along the Ryde River Walk and Shrimpton's Creek
The City of Ryde Sports Field Assessment Program – Assessment Made August 2015 Labosport	<p>This study involved an end-of-season investigation of six of Council's sports fields, as a follow up of the initial assessment in February (see summary below). The study scope included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing recommendations on remedial works to be undertaken. • Comment on drainage.
City of Ryde Sports Fields Lighting Audit, 2015	<p>This document presents the results of an audit of current lighting systems on nominated Council sports fields for compliance with relevant Australian Standards. The study investigated lighting on 18 nominated sports fields in the City of Ryde.</p>
Netball Development Plan. Northern City Regional Organisation of Council's (NSROC). 2015.	<p>This plan is a strategic document intended to guide Council's within NSROC (Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby) in the development of netball facility plans for each Local Government Area. The Report outlined the key future needs of netball in NSROC Region included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be able to meet growing demand from women and girls' participation. Competition schedules and facilities are reaching capacity. • Need access to indoor courts by representative teams, particularly for training. The few indoor facilities available are unavailable. • Need better access to local training facilities for clubs. There is a shortage of training courts and lack of floodlighting.

Name of Strategic Document	Summary
Macquarie Park and North Ryde Pedestrian and Cycling Issue Report, 2015	<p>Connect Macquarie Park + North Ryde (Connect) is a Transport Management Association that has made a number of recommendations to improve the walkability of Macquarie Park and North Ryde to fully realise their potential as a blue chip employment and activity centre. The report examines footpath and bicycle network issues in the Macquarie Park-North Ryde activity centre. It identifies the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising pedestrians and cyclists over motor vehicles. • Reduce speed limits (to 50km/hr). • Fund footpath projects by increasing car parking cap prices. • Deliver footpaths and pedestrian crossings by bringing them forward in development stages. • Install pedestrian crossings. • Audit and monitor the pedestrian network.
Youth Interagency Survey 2015. City of Ryde.	<p>An internal survey conducted by City of Ryde officers of youth preferences and needs found the following in relation to sport and recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More males than females indicated their 'talents and passions' included sports & outdoors (68% compared to 46%). • More males than females indicated they are currently involved in sports and outdoors (75% compared to 54%). • More men who indicated that their talents and passions included sports and outdoors were actually involved in that activity compared to females (82% compared to 55%).
City of Ryde Sports Ground Allocation Policy (2014)	<p>This policy applies to all sports grounds owned or managed by the Council and is aimed at ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of sports fields and providing guiding principles on how they will be managed. The intent of the policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a responsible, consistent, transparent and equitable process for the use of Council sportsgrounds and associated facilities. • Provide agreed principles to priorities use and management of the sportsgrounds and associated facilities. • Assist Council in the allocation of Sports Grounds when competing requests are submitted. • Provide a Policy that is consistent with Council policies, relevant local laws and other relevant legislation
City of Ryde Children's Play Implementation Plan: Volume 1, 2013	<p>This Plan was commissioned to guide the City of Ryde's approach to the provision of play over the next 10 years. The Plan contains the following vision <i>"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."</i></p> <p>The Plan recommends 5 Regional Destination playgrounds, 17 District Destination Playgrounds, 28 Everyday Neighbourhood Playgrounds and 38 Everyday local playgrounds, with decommissioning of 23 playgrounds (1 x district destination, 5 x neighbourhood everyday, 17 x local everyday).</p> <p>There are five strategy streams, each with recommendations and key actions provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe play for all • Convenient everyday play • Exciting and challenging destination play • Play valued as a child's right • Sustainable play for the future
The City of Ryde Sports Field Assessment Report. Labosport, May 2015.	<p>This study involved assessment of the current condition of Council's sports fields, and advice on how to optimise sports field usage. 11 sports fields were investigated, and 10 key performance properties were measured at five separate locations at each of these fields. Surveys of user groups and Council's maintenance staff were also used to understand the current situation.</p>

Name of Strategic Document	Summary
Sports Ground User Fees and Contribution Policy (2014)	<p>This policy applies to all sports grounds located in the City of Ryde. The goal of the policy is to “ensure the sustainable and equitable use of Council’s sports grounds.” Key points of the policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees are based on actual cost of maintenance and provision of the service (including administration costs associated with bookings). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two levels of fees apply: - City of Ryde rate – incorporated not-for-profit community sporting groups, associations & charities. - Non City of Ryde Rate – user groups who do not meeting the “City of Ryde” definition (e.g. commercial and private operators). • Fees are set based on a 3-level ground hierarchy determined depending on competition level, associated amenities and supporting infrastructure. • Fees will be based on a daily rate or hourly rate (i.e. Not a seasonal rate). • Fees applied to sports grounds will aim to achieve a 75% subsidy for the total cost to council of maintaining the sports ground. • School groups will be able to use sportsgrounds free of charge for general sports programs. Fees will be applied for carnivals and inter-school competitions. • Council encourages capital contribution from sporting groups, aiming for a minimum 40% contribution towards the total project cost. Council will enter into an agreement with clubs that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoU outlining the project and responsibilities of each party; - Capital depreciation schedule; - Agreement for reduction of fees if appropriate. • Council will consider applications for up to a 50% reduction in fees for groups supporting people from disadvantaged backgrounds/ target groups, • 3 or more programs for people from the target groups will receive a 50% reduction, 2 or more programs will receive a 30% reduction, 1 program will receive a 10% reduction.
City of Ryde Bicycle Strategy, 2014	<p>This study builds on a 2007 Bicycle Strategy, and aims to make cycling easier and more attractive in Ryde, and to reduce car usage, particularly for short trips with the following Community vision-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryde will be a bicycle friendly environment where people of all ages are encouraged to use bicycles for every-day transportation and enjoyment. • The City will be connected by a cycling network providing safer, more comfortable and enjoyable cycling environment. • Our community recognises the important role of cycling in improving the quality of city life and community health, better environmental sustainability and reduced traffic congestion, and; • Cycling and walking are the natural first choices for medium and short trips and local shopping in our City.
City of Ryde Skate Feasibility Study: A Summary Report (Draft), 2011	<p>This study assessed six sites for suitability as a regional skate park location. The following key site selection criteria were used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical site conditions & technical considerations • Access/ transport • Natural surveillance, security and safety • Proximity to amenities (water, toilets, shade, food & drink) • Impact on existing facilities, adjoining uses and users • Distance from housing and incompatible land use • Event space opportunities • Maintenance issues • Context & amenity • Consistency with strategic objectives

Name of Strategic Document	Summary
City of Ryde Parks Access Review Report, 2013	<p>This report was prepared to provide advice and strategies to maximise the accessibility provisions to and within 13 of the City of Ryde's most popular parks for people of all ages and abilities. The Parks were analysed and recommendations presented for each park under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Entrances – entry points which visitors could use to enter the park • Path of Travel – Pathways and stairs in the parks • Facilities – Sanitary facilities, playground areas, BBQ areas and other facilities • Car Parking – Provision of accessible car parking facilities • Miscellaneous – Directional signage, seating and other facilities
City of Ryde Synthetic Sports Surfaces Study, 2013	<p>This report identified the following as key sports that would probably need to accommodate growth over the next two decades- Football (soccer), Australian Rules Football, Hockey, Rugby Codes. It suggested that the City would be unlikely to be able to accommodate growth just with the current natural sports turf facilities. It recommended that due to the growth in demand, Council consider using the synthetic turf technology in order to satisfy growing demand for sporting facilities and reduce the financial impost on Council due to the additional maintenance and renovation cost that will be needed should natural turf fields continue to be over utilised.</p> <p>Vision (outcome): <i>"More people recreating, playing sport more often in Ryde by providing quality, safe and appropriate facilities."</i></p> <p>Mission (purpose) <i>"To use the technology of synthetic surfaces to allow for greater use by the community who wish to recreation and play sport, by satisfying the demand and encouraging development opportunities."</i></p>
NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy. Volume 1 – Strategy, 2011	<p>This report analyses sportsground management in the NSROC region. Five key issues and associated recommendations are presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils' role in sports • Managing fluctuations in demand • Planning and managing infrastructure and the carrying capacity of grounds • Pricing and occupancy of facilities • Funding capital works as well as planning and management <p>Key regional initiatives to emerge from the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional sports knowledge base • A regional golf, bowls and tennis strategy • A regional schools' initiative • Smart transport and low sport miles • Joint Council approach to capital works forward planning • Co-operative development of proposed regional facilities • Standardising conditions of use • Region wide sportsground information portal • A consistent approach to costs of ownership for synthetic and grass sportsgrounds • Bundled projects and funding packages

Table 3 - Sport and Recreation Strategic Directions at the City of Ryde

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SECTION 4 - SPORT AND RECREATION IN THE CITY OF RYDE

In Ryde, sport and recreation takes place in a very diverse range of settings and locations. It may be a structured sporting activity such as a water polo competition at the RALC, or sitting in a cafe in Ryde Park as children play at the adjoining playground, or enjoying a bush walk in the Field of Mars and Lane Cove National Park. Ryde has diversity of open space and park settings that can accommodate a wide variety of land based and water based recreation opportunities for the community and the residents of Ryde participate in recreation activities at times that are convenient to them. This can mean that on any given day, Ryde residents are up in the early hours of the morning enjoying a cycling course along the Ryde River Walk and connecting to Sydney Olympic Park or late in the evening with night competition netball at Meadowbank Park or a jog along the Shrimpton's Creek Corridor. Further to this, drop past a Eastwood Park during lunchtime and you will see school children enjoying lunch time recreation and PE classes.

The demand from the community, for a diversity of settings, activities, times and purposes for recreation and sport requires Council to understand the facilities available for the community. Council needs to be able to respond and adapt to the changing sport and recreation needs of the community. This section provides a snap shot on the sport and recreation facilities provided by the City of Ryde and what recreation activities the Ryde Community participates in.

Open Space Provision

As detailed in the IOSP, Council manages 355 hectares of public open space across 197 open spaces within the suburbs of the City of Ryde, representing approximately 8.7% of the total LGA. The distribution of open space can be seen in Figure 9.

The City's open space network is complex and can provide for many recreation opportunities simultaneously. Council manages this complexity by segregating all open space into active, passive and natural areas. The purpose of this is to simplify the management of the open space and to comprehensively plan for open space typologies. However, recreation can sit within each of these open space typologies and Figure 8 and Table 4 provides definition of the typology and examples of recreation that can sit within each type.

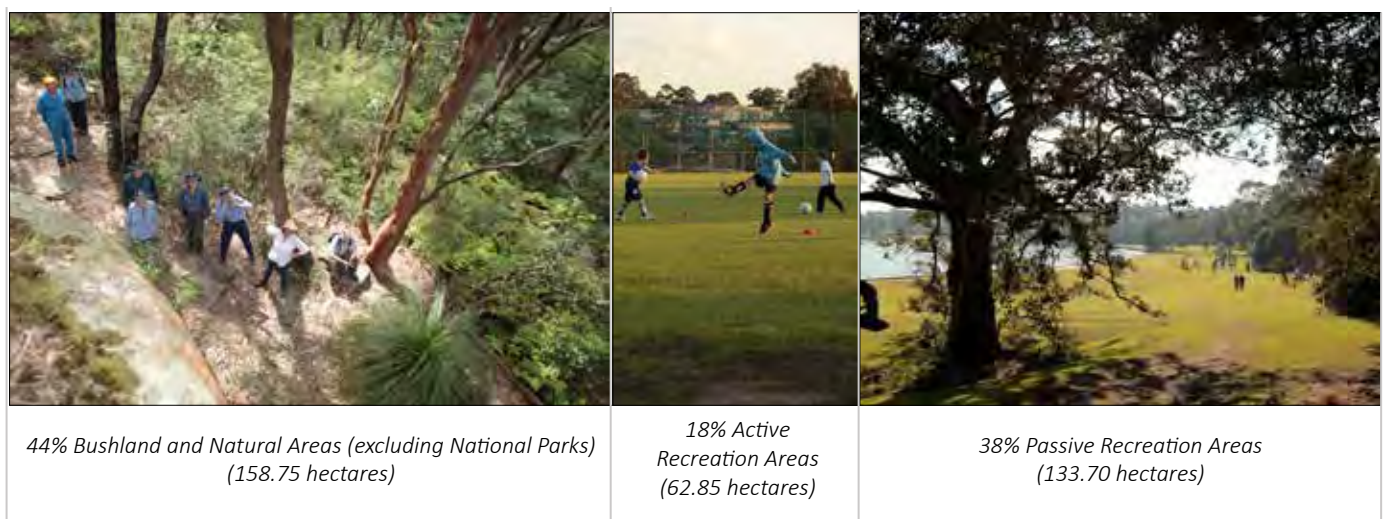


Figure 8 - Open space typologies are areas across the City of Ryde



Suburb	Number of Parks	Suburb	Number of Parks	Suburb	Number of Parks
Denistone- East- West	24	Meadowbank	8	Ryde- South	11
Eastwood	23	North Ryde	30	Top Ryde	4
Gladesville- Tennyson Pt.	18	Putney	9	West Ryde	13
Macquarie Park	12	Ryde - Field of Mars	16	TOTAL	197
Marsfield	22	Ryde- Santa Rosa	7		

Figure 9 - Open Spaces and Reserves

Open Space Typology	Definition	Locations	Possible Recreation Activities
Passive Parklands <i>Approx area 133 hectares</i>	<p>Those park areas that facilitate unstructured activities that do not generally require a high level of physical exertion.</p> <p>Typically examples of passive parklands include river foreshores, playgrounds, open kick about areas etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putney Park Meadowbank Park surrounds (the areas not used as sportsfield) Ryde Park surrounds (the areas not used as sportsfield) Elouera Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog off leash areas Children's playgrounds Share paths and footpaths Fitness equipment Viewing areas Fishing and water sports Cafes
Active Parklands <i>Approx area 61 hectares</i>	<p>Those park areas that facilitate active participation in a sport involving a moderate to high level of physical activity, usually but not exclusively on a competitive basis, be it individual or team related.</p> <p>Typically occurring active parklands are sportsfields and indoor sporting venues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadowbank Park sportsfields Christie Park sportsfields Magdala Park sportsfields ELS Hall Sports Centre RALC Eastwood Park sportsfields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer Netball Cricket Hockey Rugby Union / League Tennis
Natural Areas <i>Approx area 158 hectares</i>	<p>Those park areas of unique ecological value that are maintained with minimal human intervention and are protected because of their significant ecological value for the Ryde Community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field of Mars Reserve Brush Farm Park surrounds (the areas not used as sportsfield) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushwalking Running Bushcare Programs Bird watching

Table 4 - Sport and Recreation Strategic Directions at the City of Ryde

Sport and Recreation Provision

This Section provides an analysis and evaluation of the sport and recreation assets and infrastructure that are located within the City of Ryde. As a baseline of information, the *Sport and Recreation Inventory* will be the foundation stone for assessing whether the Ryde community has access to adequate facilities and will offer insight into those area where there are deficits and oversupply.

This Inventory should be read in conjunction with the *Open Space Inventory* that is contained in Section 3 of the IOSP.

For the purpose of this audit, sport and recreation facilities and settings are physical assets which accommodate sport and recreation activities. They are:

- Places where people recreate or play sport
- Either natural or built assets specifically provided and managed for recreational purposes
- Land or water based
- In public or private ownership or management

Primarily the Sport and Recreation Inventory differentiates the following types of recreation facility

- a. Structured sport infrastructure. This will include playing fields, floodlighting, park amenity buildings, courts etc.
- b. Water based recreation infrastructure and will include boat ramps, jetties, dinghy racks etc.
- c. Unstructured facilities and settings encompassing playgrounds, dog off leash areas, outdoor gyms, cycle and walking trails
- d. Sport and recreation facilities that are available to the public but are owned or managed privately

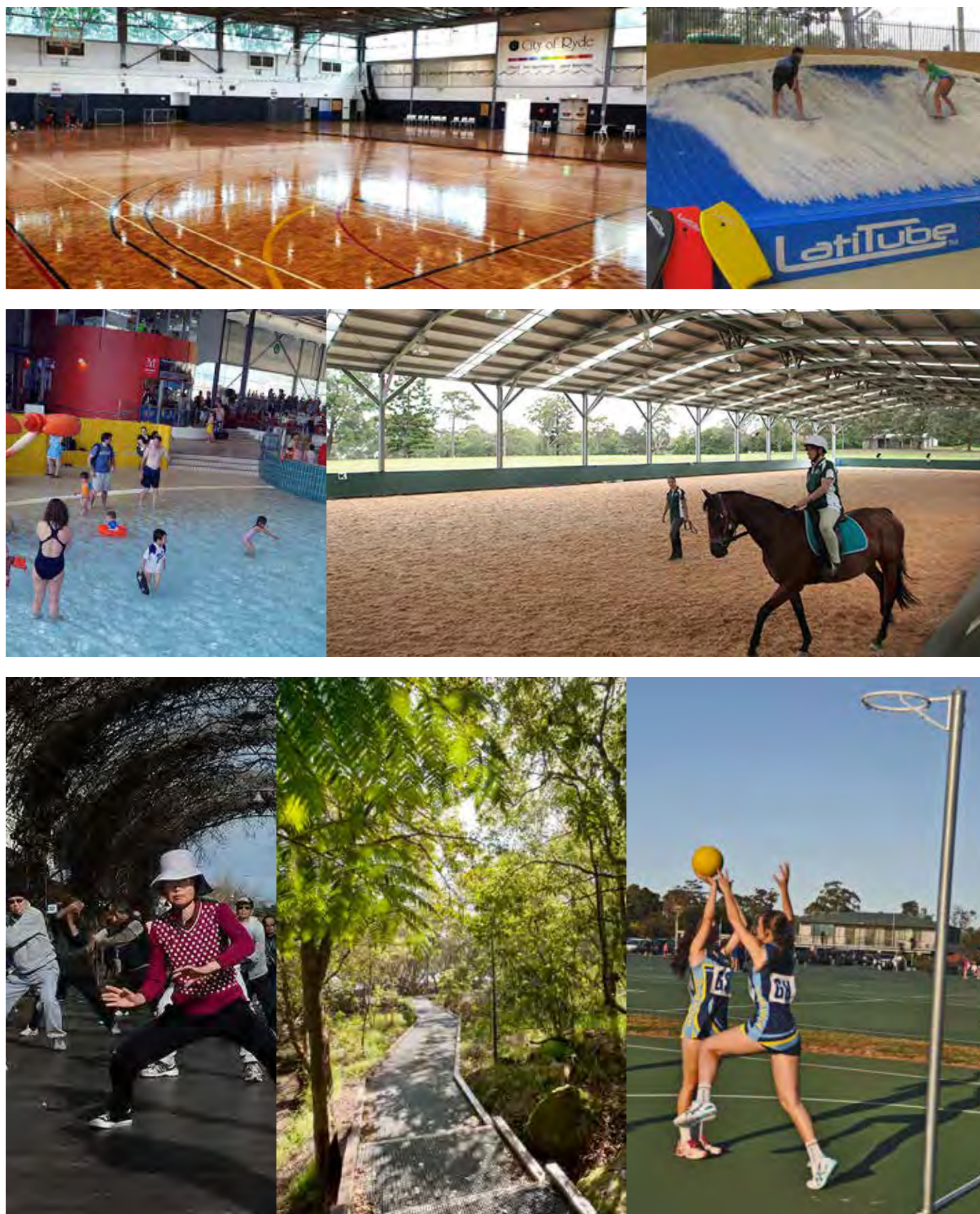
Refer to figures 10,11 and 12

It should be noted that many of the Council assets are designed to fulfil several roles such as parks and reserves that can be used for both structured and unstructured recreation. Included in this Audit are the facilities within the schools of the Ryde LGA as there are opportunities to enhance community access to Department of Education facilities and settings.

Understanding the facilities that are available to the community will enable us to establish whether the City has enough open space to meet the recreation needs of the existing community, as well as the flexibility to meet the requirements of the future generations.

As outlined in the IOSP, when establishing the adequacy and accessibility of public open space that serves a given population, a number of factors need to be considered. Similarly, this applies to the analysis of recreation and sporting facilities and infrastructure and as such, the analysis of provision extends beyond a listing of assets. The analysis also considered the following:

- Quantum and sizes of open space and sporting fields
- Distribution (geographic spread across a given area) and diversity (range of open space settings)
- Flexibility of the infrastructure
- Accessibility and connectivity to the facility
- Ratio of population (current and forecast) to quantum of open space and facilities
- Influence of facilities that are owned and managed by other agencies (schools, universities)
- Private providers of open space or recreation facilities (golf course, fitness centres etc).



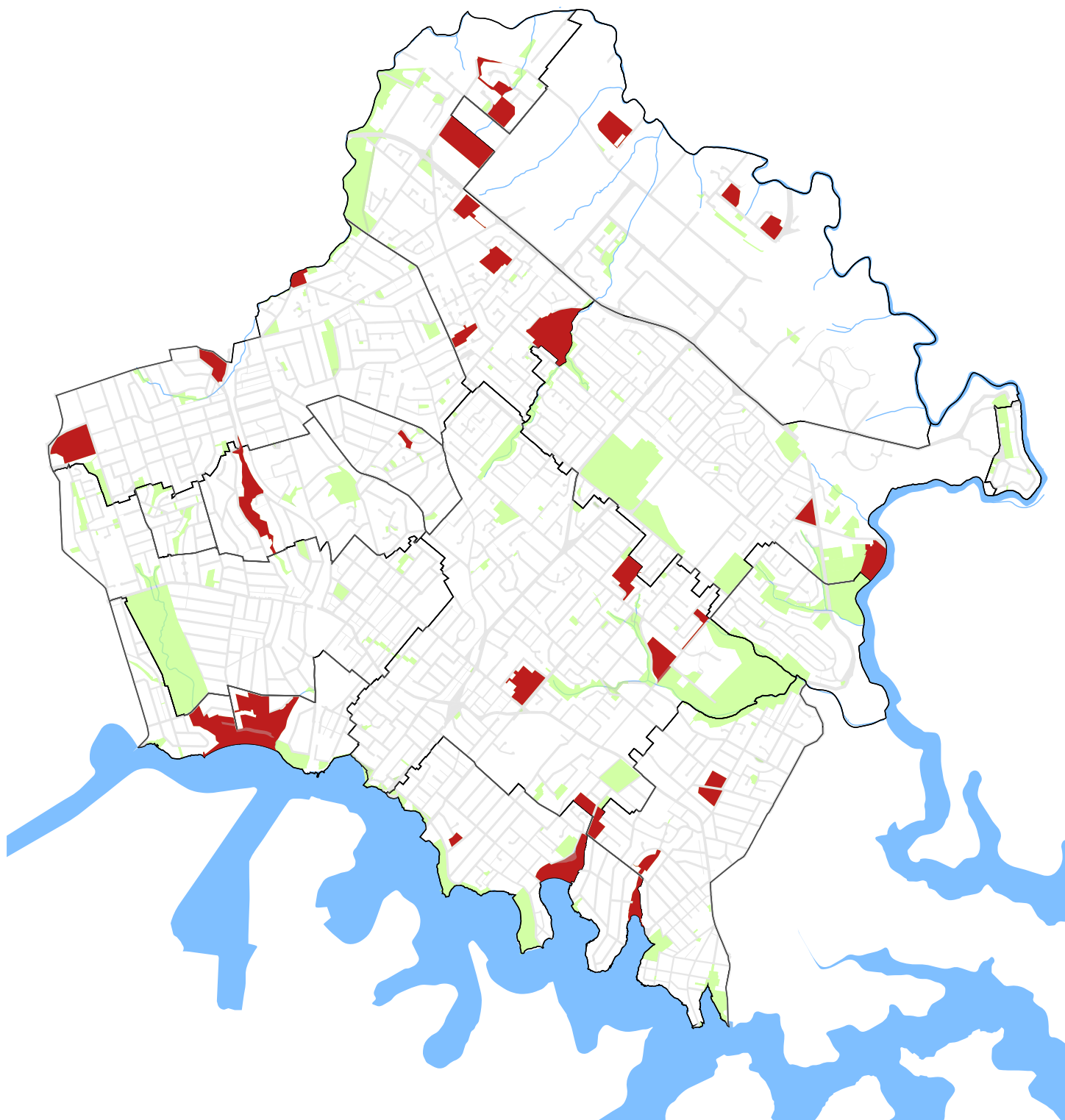


Figure 10 - Existing Structured Recreation Facilities

Structured Recreation Facilities

Legend



Sporting Fields

Summary of assets and facilities

Recreation Asset	Quantity
Cricket Wicket (Turf)	4
Cricket Wicket (Synthetic)	21
Cricket Nets	9
Soccer Pitches (Senior)	37
Soccer Pitched (Junior / Mini)	9
Baseball (Senior)	6
Baseball (Junior)	8
Rugby (Senior)	4
Rugby (Junior)	1
AFL (Junior)	2
Tennis Courts	30
Netball Courts	47
Multi Court Indoor	4
Basketball Court (Half Court)	1
Swimming Pools (Public)	2
Athletics Track	1
Hockey Pitch (Turf)	1
Bowling Greens and Clubs (Public ownership)	9
Indoor Sports Facilities	2
Sailing Club	1

Notes

Not all areas within each of the active parks are a designated active park area. Reference to individual park maps is required to identify designation of active areas, passive areas and natural areas.

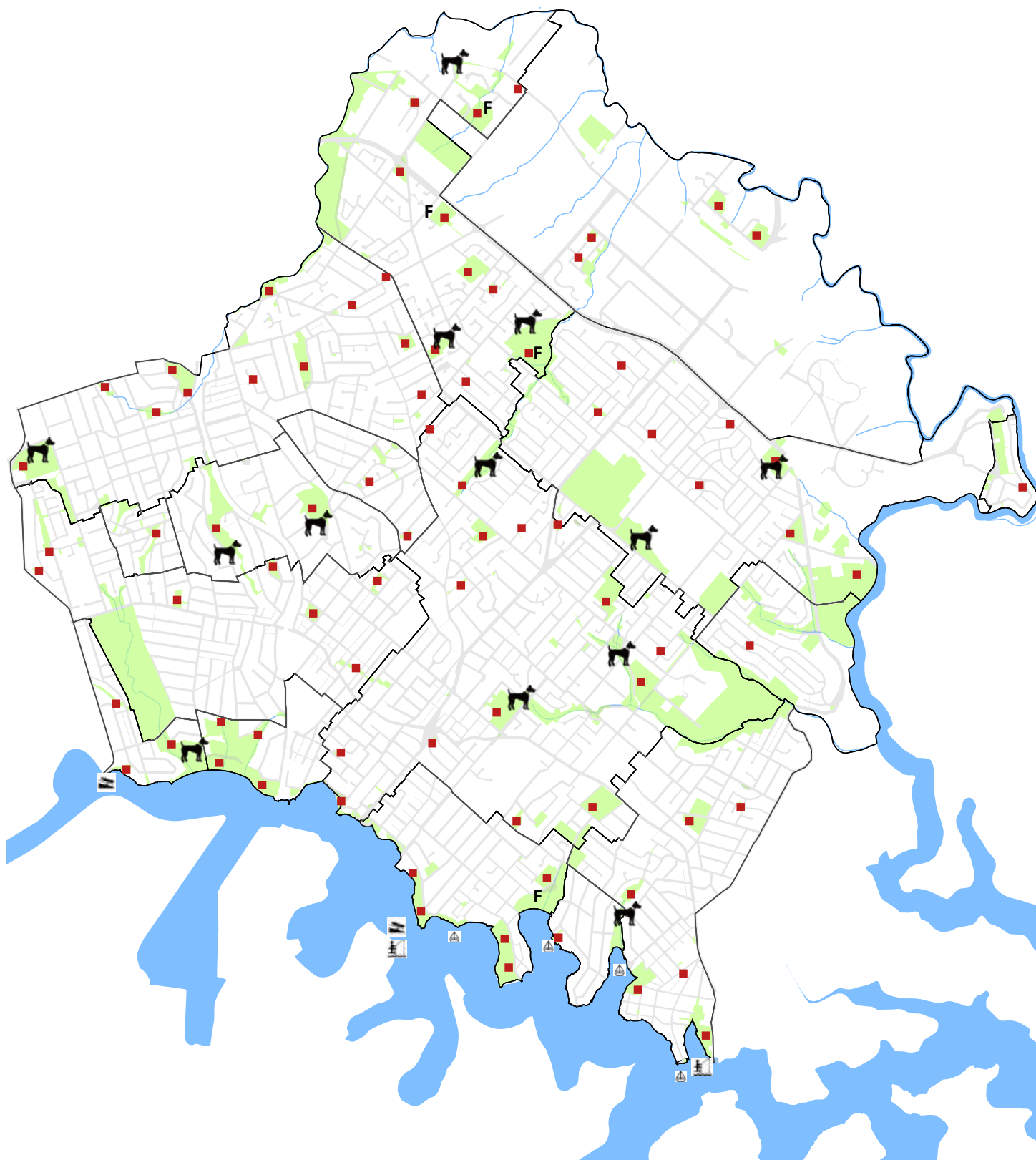








Figure 11 - Existing Unstructured Recreation Facilities

Unstructured Recreation Facilities

Legend

-  Playgrounds
-  Outdoor Gyms
-  Dog off leash areas
-  Public Boat Ramp
-  Public Jetty / Wharf
-  Dinghy Racks

Summary of assets and facilities

Recreation Asset	Quantity
Basketball Court (Half Court)	1
Bowling Greens and Clubs (Public ownership)	9
Outdoor Fitness Centres	4
Wharfs + Jetties	7
Boat Ramps	2
Dinghy Racks	86
Cycle Network	20,436m
Walking Trails	TBC
Equestrian	1
Boat Houses + Clubs (Sailing)	1
Boat Houses + Clubs (Rowing)	1
Dog Off Leash Areas	13
Playgrounds	87

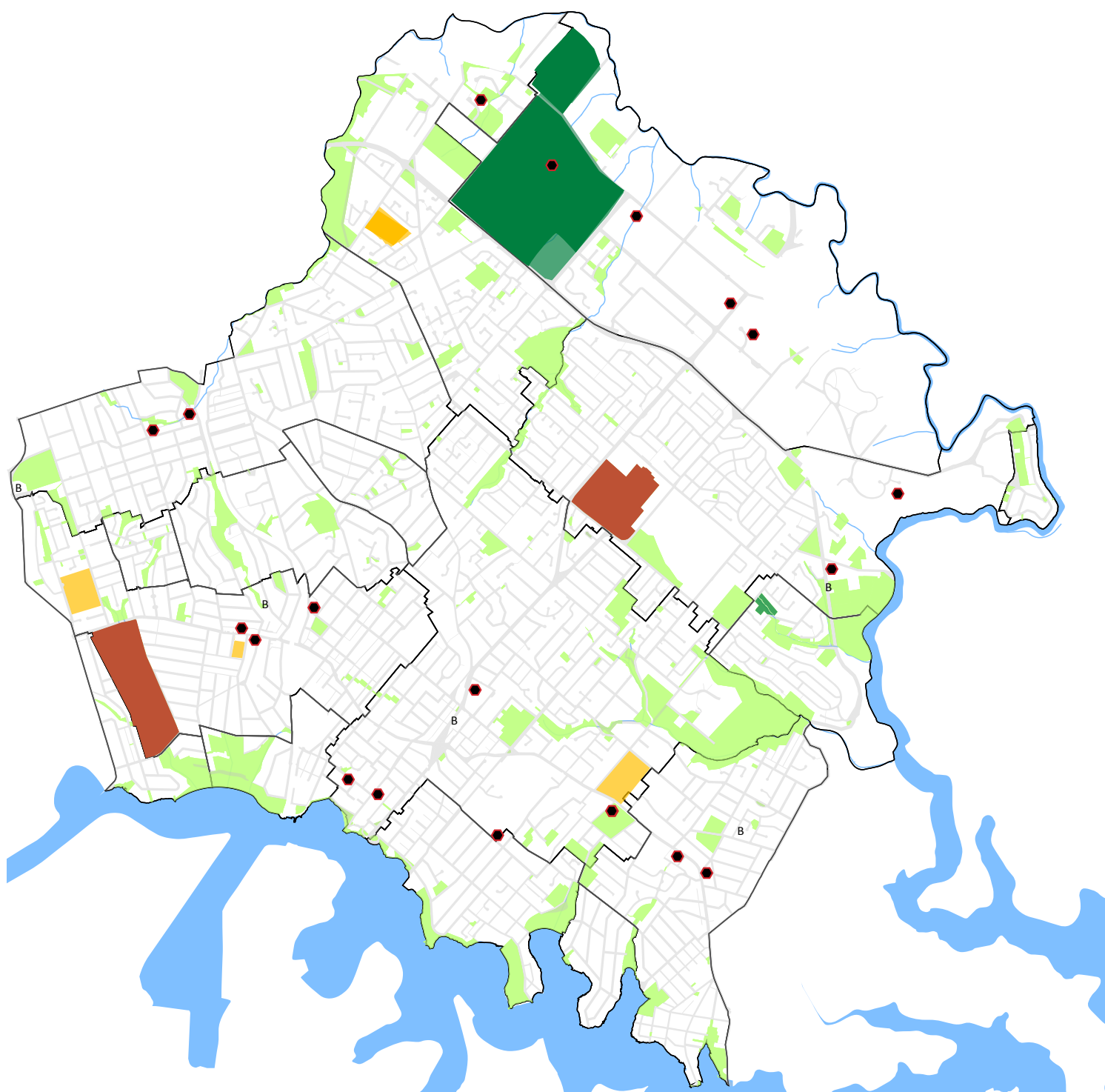


Figure 12 - Existing Privately Owned / Managed Recreation Facilities

Recreation Facilities Owned / Managed by Others

Legend

-  Golf Courses
-  Private sports fields
-  University Recreation Areas
-  Indoor Fitness Centres / Gyms
-  Bowling Clubs

Summary of assets and facilities

Recreation Asset	Quantity
Rugby (Private)	3
Tennis Courts (Private)	30
Netball Courts (Private)	1
Swimming Pools (Private)	7
Hockey Pitch (Synthetic Private)	1
Bowling Greens and Clubs (Private ownership)	5
Indoor Fitness Centres (Private)	23
Golf Courses (Private)	2
University Facilities	
Boat Houses + Clubs (Sailing)	1
Boat Houses + Clubs (Rowing)	1
Ice Skating	1
Concord and Ryde Sailing Club	1

Active Open Space Areas

The City of Ryde has 61.35 hectares of active sports area spread across 30 open space areas where they are predominately a component of a broader open space area. The City of Ryde does not have any open spaces that have the active space classification for the entirety of the park area. The active areas within the City of Ryde are listed in Table 5.

Park Name	IOSP ID	Ward	Street Address	Suburb	Area (m ²)	% of total park area
DARVALL PARK	DE07	West	2c Chatham Road	West Ryde	2,954	3%
BRUSH FARM PARK	EW03	West	2- 4 Lawson Street	Eastwood	11,880	15%
WATERLOO PARK	MF21	West	191a Waterloo Road	Marsfield	12,733	19%
TYRELL PARK	RF16	East	25a John Miller Street	North Ryde	2,100	20%
GANNAN PARK	RF08	East	Buna Street	Ryde	10,896	24%
SANTA ROSA PARK	RR04	Central	64 Bridge Road	Ryde	11,707	25%
TYAGARAH PARK	RS08	East	5 Tyagarah Street	Gladesville	5,595	31%
PIDDING PARK	RF14	East	84 Cressy Road	Ryde	15,617	34%
KOTARA PARK	MF09	West	87 Abuklea Road	Eastwood	7,776	39%
PIONEER PARK	MF16	West	188a Balaclava Road	Marsfield	9,989	39%
TUCKWELL PARK	MP09	Central	442 Lane Cove Road	Macquarie Park	9,319	39%
MARSFIELD PARK	MF13	West	202 Vimiera Road	Marsfield	35,690	39%
PEEL PARK	GV13	East	32 Stanbury Street	Gladesville	6,403	39%
ELS HALL PARK	MFO4	Central	Kent Road	Marsfield	49,761	40%
FORRESTER PARK	EW07	West	47 Vimiera Road	Eastwood	6,560	44%
NORTH RYDE PARK	NR23	East	26 Cressy Road	North Ryde	9,460	44%
DUNBAR PARK	MF03	West	16 Sobraon Road	Marsfield	15,450	44%
WESTMINISTER PARK	GV16	East	6a Ryde Road	Gladesville	7,782	45%
BREMNER PARK	GV06	East	129 Morrison Road	Gladesville	9,879	46%
BILL MITCHELL PARK	GV04	East	82 Morrison Road	Tennyson Point	11,250	48%
MAGDALA PARK	NR15	East	Magdala Road	East Ryde	20,464	48%
CLEVES PARK	PT02	East	53 Douglas Street	Putney	3,590	49%
FONTENOY PARK	MP04	Central	52a Fontenoy Road	Macquarie Park	9,911	51%
MONASH PARK	GV15	East	142 Ryde Road	Gladesville	10,620	54%
RYDE PARK	TR03	Central	7 Blaxland Road	Ryde	35,776	55%
CHRISTIE PARK	MP01	West	16- 26 Christie Road	Macquarie Park	29,027	56%
MORRISON BAY PARK	PT06	East	Frances Road	Putney	56,305	64%
MEADOWBANK PARK	MB03	West	Constitution Road	Meadowbank	165,385	66%
EASTWOOD PARK	EW05	West	45 West Parade	Eastwood	23,135	67%
KINGS PARK	DE10	West	22 Salter Crescent	Denistone East	6,495	85%

Table 5- Active Open Spaces in Ryde

Active open space areas contain those areas that are used for structured recreation, such as sportsfields, tennis courts, swimming pools etc. To assist with planning and management of active areas, all active areas have been allocated one of three classifications based on the function, setting, capacity and community desire for each of the active areas. These classifications are:

- Premier Grounds
- Community Grounds
- Supplementary Grounds and Training Areas

Premier Active Areas

The City of Ryde provides for a range of community sport including high level competition and accordingly, the City offers eight Premier Active Areas that cater to the needs of higher level sporting competition. These active areas will draw people from the whole of the City of Ryde and from wider afield as a result of their use for regional sporting competitions and as destination areas for competition finals. The following sportsgrounds, as listed in Table 6 are Premier Grounds.

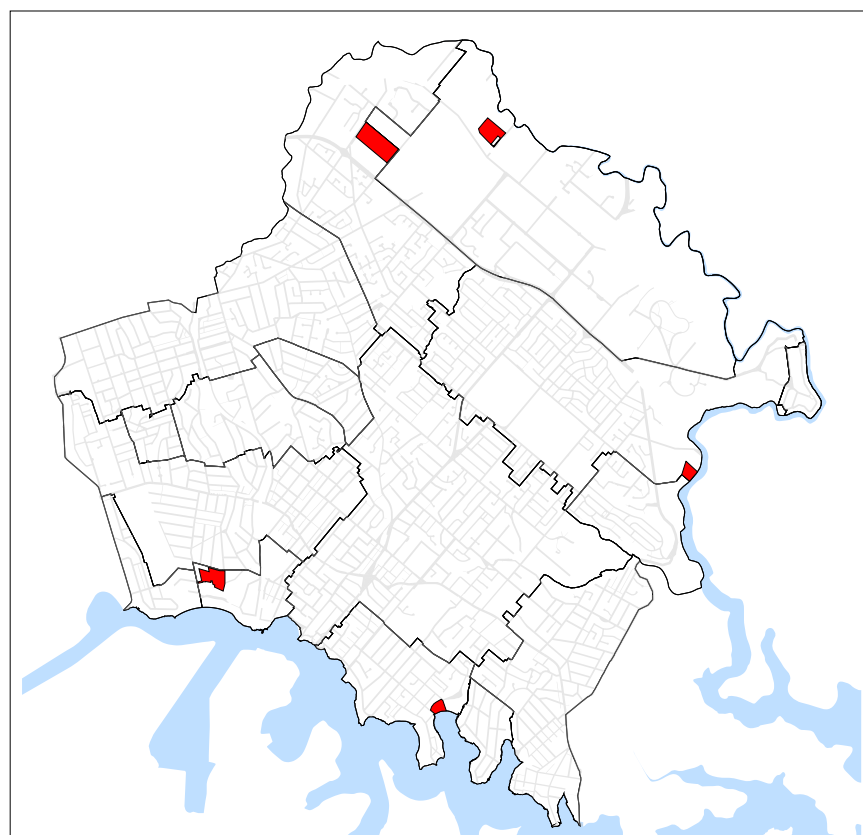
Park	Field	Summer Season	Winter Season
Christie Park	Field 1	✓	✓
Eastwood Park	Upper	✓	✗
ELS Hall Park	Field 2	✓	✗
Magdala Park	Field 1	✗	✓
Marsfield Park	All	✗	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 1	✗	✓
Morrison Bay Park	Field 4	✗	✓
Ryde Park	Field 1	✓	✗

Table 6 - Premier Active Areas


Community Active Areas

The City of Ryde provides for a range of community sport whereby the City offers 35 Community Active areas that cater to the needs of community level sporting competition and associated training. These active areas will draw people from the whole of the City of Ryde and from adjoining suburbs as a result of their use for community sporting competitions and associated training. The following sportsgrounds, as listed in Table 7, are Community Active Areas.

Park	Field	Summer Season	Winter Season
Bremner Park		✓	✓
Brush Farm Park		✓	✓
Dunbar Park		✓	✓
Eastwood Park	Upper	✗	✓

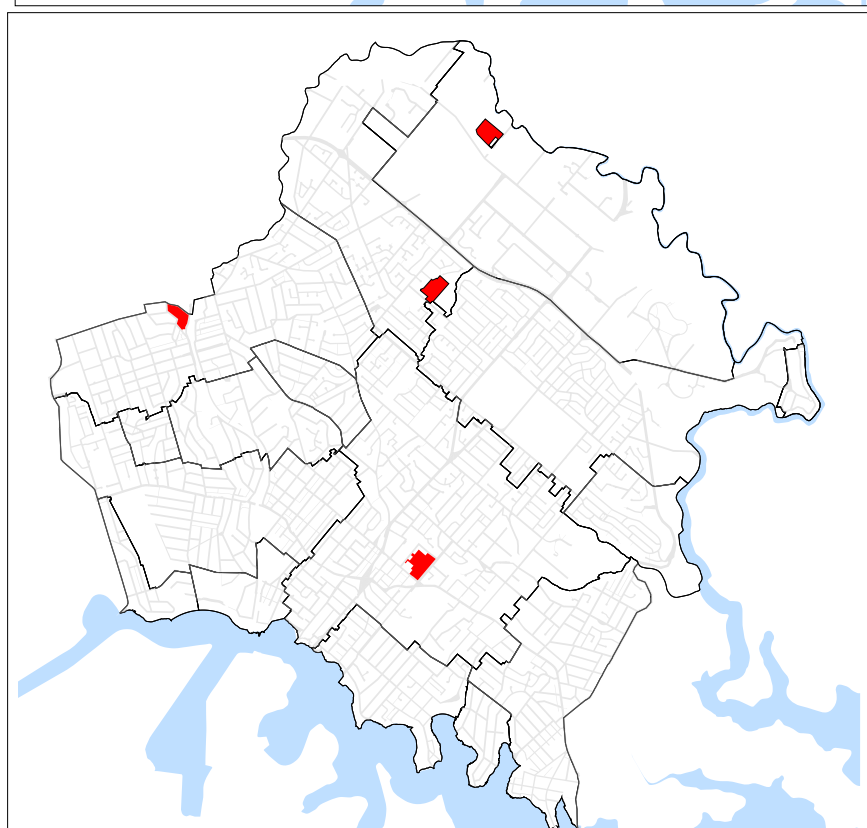


Key- Winter Premier Active Areas


 Level 1- Premier Grounds

Note:

The colour areas do not indicate specific fields within each Park where there is more than one playing field. Reference to individual park maps is required to identify allocated hierarchy nominations for each playing field within a park. Refer to Table 6



Key- Summer Premier Active Areas

 Level 1- Premier Grounds

Note:

The colour areas do not indicate specific fields within each Park where there is more than one playing field. Reference to individual park maps is required to identify allocated hierarchy nominations for each playing field within a park. Refer to Table 6

Figure 13 - Premier Active Areas- Summer and Winter Seasons

Park	Field	Summer Season	Winter Season
Eastwood Park	Lower	✗	✓
ELS Hall Park	Field 1	✓	✓
ELS Hall Park	Field 2	✓	✓
Gannan Park		✓	✓
Magdala Park	Field 2	✗	✓
Marsfield Park		✓	✗
Meadowbank Park	Field 1	✓	✗
Meadowbank Park	Field 2	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 3	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 4	✗	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 7	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 8	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 9	✗	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 10	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 12	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 13	✓	✓

Park	Field	Summer Season	Winter Season
Monash Park		✓	✓
Morrison Bay Park	Field 2	✓	✓
Morrison Bay Park	Field 3	✓	✓
Morrison Bay Park	Field 4	✓	✗
Morrison Bay Park	Field 5	✓	✗
Morrison Bay Park	Field 6	✓	✓
North Ryde Park		✓	✓
Peel Park		✓	✓
Pidding Park		✓	✓
Pioneer Park		✓	✓
Ryde Park	Field 1	✗	✓
Santa Rosa Park		✗	✓
Tuckwell Park		✓	✓
Waterloo Park		✓	✓
Westminister Park		✓	✓

Table 7- Community Active Areas

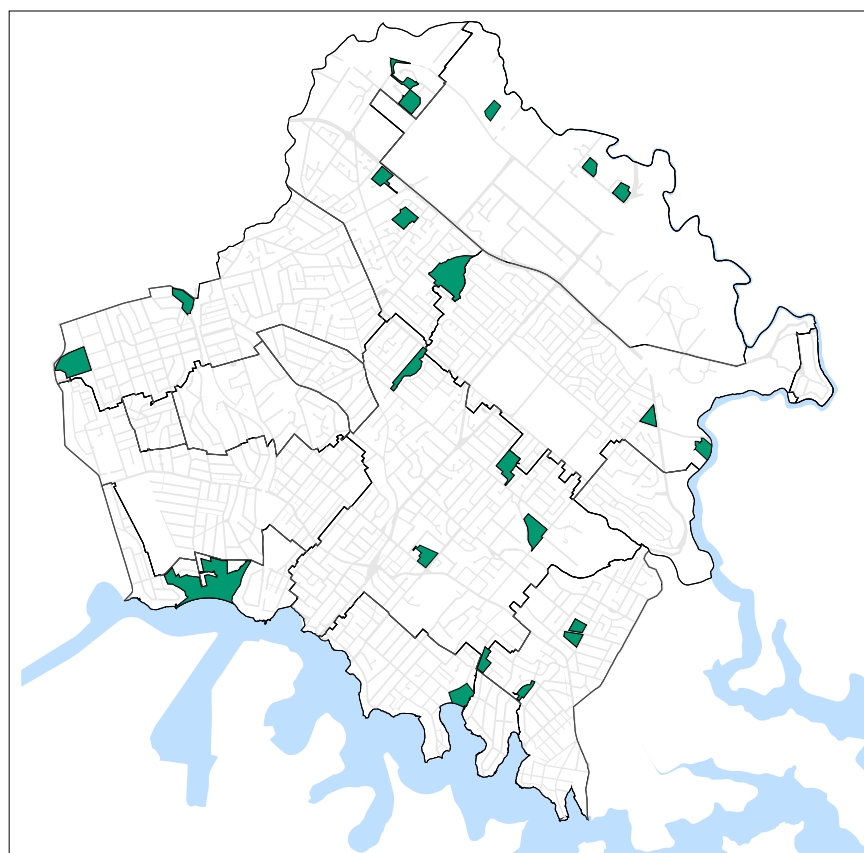
Supplementary and Training Areas

Across the City there are a number of sporting areas that for various reasons are not able to sustain community level sporting activities. This may be due to size, condition or through a decision to maintain their purpose to be a specifically identified training facility. The following sportsgrounds are listed as Supplementary and Training Areas (Table 8).

Park	Field	Summer Season	Winter Season
Bill Mitchell Park		✓	✓
Bremner Park		✓	✗
Christie Park	Field 2	✓	✓
Cleves Park		✓	✓
Darvall Park		✓	✓
Eastwood Park	Lower	✓	✗
Fontenoy Park		✓	✓
Magdala Park	Field 2	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 4	✓	✗
Meadowbank Park	Field 5	✗	✓

Park	Field	Summer Season	Winter Season
Meadowbank Park	Field	✓	✓
Meadowbank Park	Field 9	✓	✗
Morrison Bay Park	Field 1	✗	✓
Morrison Bay Park	Field 2	✓	✗
Morrison Bat Park	Field 5	✗	✓
Morrison Bay Park	Field 6	✓	✓
Pidding Park		✓	✗
Ryde Park	Field 2	✓	✓
Santa Rosa Park		✓	✗
Tyagarah Park		✓	✓

Table 8- Supplementary and Training Areas

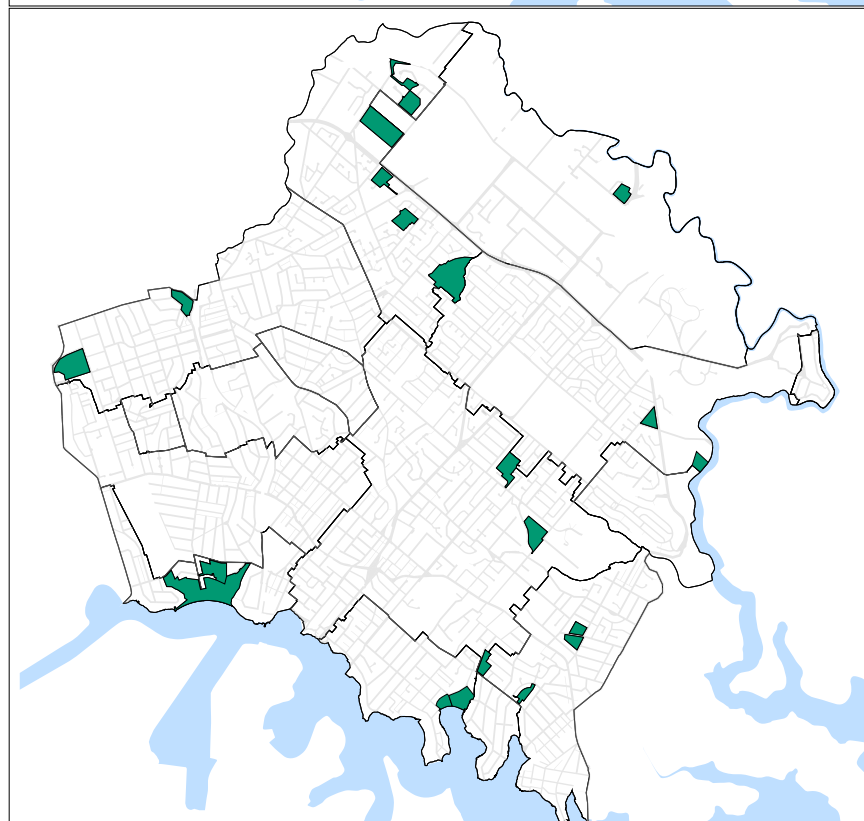


Key- Winter Community Active Areas


 Level 2- Community Grounds

Note:

The colour areas do not indicate specific fields within each Park where there is more than one playing field. Reference to individual park maps is required to identify allocated hierarchy nominations for each playing field within a park. Refer to Table 7



Key- Summer Community Active Areas

 Level 2- Community Premier Grounds

Note:

The colour areas do not indicate specific fields within each Park where there is more than one playing field. Reference to individual park maps is required to identify allocated hierarchy nominations for each playing field within a park. Refer to Table 7

Figure 14 - Community Active Areas- Summer and Winter Seasons

Passive Recreation Areas

The City of Ryde has in excess of 133 hectares of open space and parklands that are classified as spaces used for passive recreation. This represents approximately 38% of the open space area in the LGA. Passive open space areas are found in 162 parks and they are often co-located with natural areas and active open spaces areas, with only 105 of the 162 open spaces fully dedicated as passive open space.

As defined in the IOSP, all passive spaces have been assigned a hierarchy to assist with management of the open space assets. With regard to passive space,

- 26% is Level 1 with an area of 35 hectares
- 37% is Level 2 with an area of 50 hectares
- 18% is Level 3 with an area of 23 hectares
- 19% is Level 4 with an area of 25 hectares

The provision of passive open space across the City is listed for each catchment below

- Denistone - 7.7 hectares
- Eastwood - 11.2 hectares
- Gladesville - 8.8 hectares
- Macquarie Park - 10 hectares
- Field of Mars - 14.5 hectares
- North Ryde - 16.8 hectares
- Putney - 13.8 hectares
- Ryde - 28.7 hectares
- West Ryde - 7.9 hectares

The recreation activities that are supported by the passive open spaces within the City are outlined in Table 9.

Recreation Type	Quantity / Location
Bowling Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryde bowling Club – currently closed, 3 lawns. Crown Land, City of Ryde management • Denistone East Bowling Club – 2 lawns (currently closed). City of Ryde owned + managed • Putney Tennyson Bowling Club – 2 lawns. City of Ryde owned + managed • Denistone Bowling Club – 3 lawns. Private and City of Ryde owned, privately managed • Gladesville Sporties – 2 lawns. Privately owned and managed • Ryde Ex – 2 lawns. Privately owned and managed • North Ryde RSL – 2 lawns. Privately owned and managed • Brush Farm Park – 3 lawns. Privately owned and managed.
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Regional Playgrounds • 17 District Playgrounds • 28 Neighbourhood Playgrounds • 37 Local Playgrounds
Boat Ramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ermington Boat Ramp. 60 car + trailer spaces. Toilets, pontoon (on the boundary of Parramatta City Council) shared facility. • Kissing Point Park Boat Ramp. Approx 50 car spaces inc 15-20 + trailer spaces. Toilets, pontoon.

Recreation Type	Quantity / Location
Dinghy Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kissing Point Park – 27 racks. Utilisation in 14/15=70% Tennyson Park – 23 racks. Utilisation in 15/16=98% Glades Bay Park – 20 racks. Utilisation in 14/15=70% Meditation Bay Park – 16 racks. Utilisation in 14/15=75%
Cycle Network	20,436 meters linking across the City and to external areas
Walking Trails	N/A
Equestrian	Riding for disabled, Marsfield Park.
Boat Houses + Clubs	<p>Sailing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concord and Ryde Sailing Club, Kissing Point Park, Putney <p>Closest outside City of Ryde boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunters Hill Sailing Club. Hunters Hill Council. <p>Rowing: Closest outside City of Ryde boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNSW Rowing Club, Gladesville. Hunters Hill Council. <p>Wharfs + Jetties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wharf Rd, Melrose Park Meadowbank Wharf, Meadowbank Wharf Reserve, Ryde Kissing Point Park, Putneyx3 Banjo Paterson Park, Gladesville.
Macquarie Ice Rink	Macquarie Shopping Centre
Dog Off Leash Areas	12 located across the City- including free running and enclosed exercise areas
Outdoor Gyms	4

Table 9- Passive Recreation Assets

Natural Recreation Areas

The final open space typology is natural areas and bushland. These areas provide for recreation activities that can be used for walking, bush regeneration, bird watching, cycling and provision of picnic areas. Ryde has approximately 158 hectares of natural areas and the major bushland areas are at the Field of Mars Reserve, Brush Farm Park and along the interface with the Lane Cove National Park.

Sport and Recreation Inventory

The following pages contains an inventory of the sport and recreation facilities within the City of Ryde. Table 10 provides a summary of the following:

- Structured sport and recreation
- Unstructured sport and recreation- both land and water based
- Sport and Recreation facilities that are privately owned or managed

Recreation Asset	Quantity	Location
Cricket Wicket (Turf)	4	Eastwood Park, ELS Hall Park (2), Ryde Park

Recreation Asset	Quantity	Location
Cricket Wicket (Synthetic)	21	Bill Mitchell Park (2), Bremner Park, Brush Farm Park, Cleves Park, Darvall Park, Eastwood Park (2), Forrester Park, Gannan Park, Marsfield Park, Meadowbank Park (4), Monash Park, Morrison Bay Park (3), North Ryde Park, Pidding Park, Santa Rosa Park, Smalls Road Park, Tyagarah Park, Westminster Park.
Cricket Nets	9	Gannan Park (2), Marsfield Park (2), Meadowbank Park (2), Morrison Bay Park (3)
Soccer Pitches (Senior)	37	Bill Mitchell Park, Brenmer Park, Christie Park (2), Eastwood Park (2), ELS Hall Park (2), Magdala Park, Meadowbank Park (8), Monash Park, Morrison Bay Park (6), North Ryde Park, Peel Park, Pidding Park, Santa Rosa Park (2), Smalls Road Park (2), Tuckwell Park, Tyagarah Park, Waterloo Park, Westminster Park.
Soccer Pitched (Junior / Mini)	9	Bill Mitchell Park, Fontenoy Park (3), Magdala Park, Meadowbank Park (2), Smalls Road Park (2)
Baseball (Senior)	6	ELS Hall Park, Gannan Park, Magdala (2), Pioneer Park, Westminster Park
Baseball (Junior)	8	ELS Hall Park, Marsfield Park (4), Pioneer Park (3)
Rugby (Senior)	4	ELS Hall Park, Marsfield Park (2), Ryde Park
Rugby (Junior)	1	Santa Rosa Park
Rugby (Private)	3	TJ Milner Oval
AFL (Junior)	2	ELS Hall Park (2)
Tennis Courts	30	Kotara Park (8 courts with lighting), Kings Park (2 courts with lights), Meadowbank Park (8 courts with lights), Olympic Park (8 courts with lights), Next Gen (4 courts with lights)
Tennis Courts (Private)	30	Tennis world (10 courts with lighting), North Ryde RSL (2 courts with lighting), St Anthony's, Marsfield (4 courts with lights), Macquarie University (12 courts with lights), Royal Rehab (2 courts, no lights).
Netball Courts	47	North Ryde RSL (2 outdoor netball courts), Meadowbank Park (28 hard courts with lighting), Brush Farm Park (4 hard courts with lighting and, 12 grass courts)
Netball Courts (Private)	1	Macquarie Uni – 1 indoor court
Multi Court Indoor	4	Ryde Community Sports Centre (2 indoor courts), RALC (2 indoor courts),
Basketball Court (Half Court)	1	Meadowbank Park, Waterloo Park
Swimming Pools (Public)	2	RALC (50m multi format indoor pool, water playground, indoor leisure pool)
Swimming Pools (Private)	7	Next Generation Gym (25m outdoor pool), Macquarie Uni (outdoor 50m and 25m indoor), Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club (25m indoor), Carlile Swimming (Learn to swim pool), Ryde Swim School (Learn to swim pool) and Brewer Swimming, Macquarie Park (Learn to swim pool)
Athletics Track	1	Dunbar Park (Track, Discuss, Hammer Throw, Long Jump (2))
Hockey Pitch (Grass)	1	Meadowbank Park
Hockey Pitch (Synthetic turf-Private)	1	Macquarie Park
Bowling Greens and Clubs (Public ownership)	9	Ryde bowling Club (3), Denistone East Bowling Club (2), Putney Tennyson Bowling Club (2)
Bowling Greens and Clubs (Private ownership)	12	Denistone Bowling Club (3), Gladesville Sporties (2), Ryde Ex (2), North Ryde RSL (2), Brush Farm Park (3).
Outdoor Fitness Centres	5	Waterloo Park, Morrison Bay Park, Pioneer Park, ELS Hall Park, Meadowbank Park

Recreation Asset	Quantity	Location
Indoor Fitness Centres (COR Owned)	1	Next Generation
Indoor Fitness Centres (Private)	23	Across whole LGA
Golf Courses (Private)	2	Ryde Parramatta Golf Course (18 holes), North Ryde Golf Club (18 holes)
Wharfs + Jetties	7	Wharf Rd Melrose Park, Meadowbank Wharf Meadowbank, Wharf Reserve Ryde, Kissing Point Park Putney (3), Banjo Paterson Park Gladesville
University Facilities		<p>Sports and Aquatic Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gymnastics Hall Recreation hall – flexible space for either; 10 table tennis tables/three badminton courts/one volleyball court/one netball court. Sports hall – flexible space for either; four badminton courts/one futsal courts/one basketball court/one netball court. Swimming pools. 1 outdoor 50m pool. 1 indoor 25m pool. 2 outdoor kompan courts – either basketball or small sided soccer. Lifestyle studio – yoga room. Fields for cricket/AFL/soccer/rugby 12 tennis courts.
Indoor Sports Facilities	2	RALC, Ryde Community Sports Centre, Macquarie Uni, MAASH – Marsfield. Squash courts, rock climbing
Boat Ramps	2	Ermington Boat Ramp. 60 car + trailer spaces. Toilets, pontoon and Kissing Point Park Boat Ramp. Approx 50 car spaces inc 15-20 +trailer spaces. Toilets, pontoon
Dinghy Racks	86	Kissing Point Park (27), Tennyson Park (23), Glades Bay Park (20), Meditation Bay Park (16)
Cycle Network	20,436m	Linking across the City and to external areas
Walking Trails		N/A
Equestrian	1	Riding for disabled, Marsfield Park
Boat Houses + Clubs (Sailing)	1	Hunters Hill Sailing Club. Hunters Hill Council
Boat Houses + Clubs (Rowing)	1	UNSW Rowing Club, Gladesville. Hunters Hill Council
Ice Skating	1	Macquarie Centre
Dog Off Leash Areas	12	N/A

Recreation Asset	Quantity	Location
Playgrounds	87	Adventure Park, Anderson Park, Ann thorn Park, Anzac Park, Australia 2 Park, Banjo Paterson Reserve, Beattie Park, Bell Park, Bennelong Park ,Blamey Park, Blenheim Park, Boyla Reserve, Braemar Park, Brigade Park, Brush farm Park, Byron Park, Carara Reserve, Charity Creek Cascades, Cleves Park, Community Park, Darvall Park, Denistone Park, Dunbar Park, Eastwood Park, Elouera Park, ELS Hall Park, Fontenoy Park, Forrester Park, Gannan Park, Girraween Reserve, Glades Bay Park, Glen Reserve, Granny Smith Memorial Park, Halcyon Park, Hardy Park, Heatly Reserve, Henri Dunant Reserve, Holt Park, Irene Park, Jennifer Park, Jim Walsh Park, John Miller Park, Jordan Park, Kathleen Reserve, Kissing Point Park, Kotara Park, Lardelli Park, Lions Park, Lynelle Park, Lynn Park, Magdala Park, Marjorie Park, Meadowbank Park (4), Melrose Park, Memorial Park, Midgee Reserve, Miriam Park, Monash Park, Moreshead Park, Morrison Bay Park, Mulhall Park, North Ryde Park, Olympic Park, Parry Park, Peel Park, Pidding Park, Pindari Park, Pioneer Park, Putney Park, Quandong Reserve, Ryde Park, Santa Rosa Park, Stewart Park, Talavera Reserve, Tennyson Park, Tuckwell Park, Valerie Park, Wandoo Reserve, Waterloo Park , Watts Park, Wendy Park , West Denistone Park, Yamble Reserve

Table 10 - City of Ryde Sport and Recreation Inventory

Sport and Recreation in the Surrounding LGA's

Meetings were held with neighbouring Councils in the NSROC region and Parramatta City Council (refer Table 11). The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the following issues:

- Key sport and recreation issues relevant to their Council
- Capacity of existing facilities
- Future plans for facilities
- Ground allocation/ tenure policies
- Maintenance responsibilities
- Policies on pricing and capital contributions by clubs
- Commercial use of recreation parkland
- Synthetic surface provision, planning and management

Discussions with NSROC management also revealed that previous studies have demonstrated that sports fields are at or over capacity however current plans lack detail on how planning for sport will meet the needs generated by population growth.

LGA	Key Issues	Facility Capacity	Future Plans for Facilities	Ground Allocation & Tenure Policies	
Ku-ring-gai Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor facilities Athletics facilities Netball courts Hockey synthetic fields Oversupply of tennis courts & bowls greens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fields current capacity around 30 hours per week & 15 Sundays per season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed site for indoor facility. Proposed installation of lights at existing netball facility. Proposed relocation of athletics to Bannockburn Park. Gordon Golf Course proposal to sell 30-40 lots and use proceeds to fund development of indoor facilities and athletics on the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal allocation. All soccer & cricket grounds hired to associations and not clubs (works well). Other clubs dealt with individually. No leases over grounds. 	
Hornsby Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough facilities for high participant sport (soccer, cricket, netball). Insufficient indoor facilities. Emerging sports – demand for facilities (MTB, BMX). Tennis in decline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fields operating at maximum – 30 hours per week. Fields at capacity at southern end of Council (high density/ growth). Less so in northern end (less growth/ lower density). Continual shortage for playing fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-court indoor facility at Waitara Park. New sports field at Hornsby Park. Additional synthetic surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal allocations mostly. Long term lease given if major capital works. Most ground allocation to parent association and some individual clubs. 	

	Maintenance Responsibilities	Pricing and Capital Contributions	Commercial use of parkland	Synthetic Surfaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs have responsibility for ground closure Council does major maintenance and capital upgrades on playing areas but not buildings. Clubs/ associations have minor responsibility (eg. Repairing rabbit holes). Council maintain turf pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSROC proposal to standardise fees & charges across NSROC. Has been agreed at office level. Council will allow capital contribution towards clubhouses (5 years mostly). Council will allow lease over buildings/ clubhouses. Some associations have fully funded facility improvements. Capital contribution can entitle the association to guaranteed bookings but not permanent tenure. Associations still pay for ground hire and use of lights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEP allows kiosks in open space (can have cafes in parks). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing field 105m x 68m (Football NSW standard). Maintenance fortnightly. Surface holding up well. Planning for new synthetic field at North Turrumurra. Will build another field at West Pymble – seeking 50% contribution from clubs and associations (will not entitle them to lease, just guaranteed booking schedule). Sinking fund set up from user fees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fields operating at 30 hours per week maximum. If lease exists, clubs do maintenance. Otherwise Council does all maintenance, line marking, turf pitches. Clubs have minimal maintenance responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where large investment in improvements (eg. Synthetic hockey field & indoor netball courts), have granted long term lease. Soccer put in \$800K to upgrade grounds and have been granted a long term lease (20 years). For smaller grants (eg. \$200K) Council advises clubs of seasonal allocation. A guarantee is provided that should Council require access to the fields over the agreed tenure period, clubs will be refunded part of their contribution on a pro rata basis. Will grant lease of building or part thereof for capital contribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small fee for personal trainers. Coffee van – charges apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the process of building a facility at Pennant Hills Park. Another 2 proposed at Epping Park (YMCA).

LGA	Key Issues	Facility Capacity	Future Plans for Facilities	Ground Allocation & Tenure Policies	
Lane Cove Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate number of sports fields. Demand for netball and basketball (especially 15-24 age cohort). Demand for teenage activities (eg. Skate, BMX, ball sports). Demand for better amenities / facilities/ storage areas at sportsground and lighting. Demand for sporting facilities outside standard working hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports fields at capacity. Number of fields don't have lighting or adequate lighting. Lack of informal sports fields. Only 6 sportsgrounds – small and no expansion capacity. Playing fields at St Ignatius available for community sport. No formal agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golf Course – 10 holes and numbers declining. Rebuild tennis courts and possibly accommodate indoor sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal allocation based on precedent bookings. Larger clubs seeking to secure additional space. Clubs wanting to book in advance is a major problem. Systems need improvement. Largest clubs are soccer and rugby – main pressure on grounds are in winter. 	
Willoughby City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coping with government growth expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity exacerbated by population growth. No additional land. Minimum 2 week layover of fields for recovery between seasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further partnerships with schools. Guaranteed school access during school hours, otherwise book. Plans to light some grounds to increase capacity – funded via approved infrastructure levy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal allocations on a historic basis. Allocations are made to associations on the vast majority of occasions. 	

	Maintenance Responsibilities	Pricing and Capital Contributions	Commercial use of parkland	Synthetic Surfaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council maintains most grounds. Council does all mowing, maintenance of lights, grounds. Soccer does some minor maintenance at Blackman Park (eg. Top dressing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do joint bids with clubs for some upgrades. Have discretion to reduce user fees in return for capital contribution. Don't generally provide a reduction in user fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardisation of fees and charges not approved by NSROC General Managers as yet. Hire policy on personal trainers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 existing fields at Blackman Park with cricket pitch in middle. Built on landfill. Council takes bookings. Sinking fund set up to pay off debt for surface development and then towards long term replacement. Hourly rate \$40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council does all maintenance and pays water rates, plus capital works improvements (eg. Lights). Council maintenance done by mixture of in-house staff and external contractors. Clubs do line marking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No active policy. Associations have contributed to capital works (eg. Lights – up to \$150K). No formal tenure is granted in these instances – club gets a letter regarding preferred usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSROC is proposing to standardise personal trainers. Less than 5 casual, 6+ = groups and therefore charged accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 existing facility which was over capacity within 4 years. 2nd facility recently completed. Maintenance cost believed to be about the same as grass fields. Main advantage is improved usage due to availability when fields are unable to be used on wet weather days, plus allows multiple uses.

LGA	Key Issues	Facility Capacity	Future Plans for Facilities	Ground Allocation & Tenure Policies	
North Sydney Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of opportunity for 'greenfield' sites means need to increase capacity of existing facilities and/or providing more indoor sporting opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fields were being overused until Cammeray Park was converted to synthetic. This has now taken the "pressure off". Future plans for a synthetic surface 9 (hockey/soccer) at Anderson Park will ensure current demand is met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade North Sydney Oval to become more competitive as a stadium for regional and state events. Provide or improve lighting to outdoor sports facilities to enhance flexibility of use. Add an additional court to the North Sydney indoor sports centre. Improve all the support facilities at outdoor sportsgrounds providing compact, shared spaces Provide an additional synthetic field in North Sydney Investigate options for parking, shared path/cycle access, and transport for existing sports precincts. Investigate opportunities for other sports activities on, or around the golf course, including at night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise standard seasonal booking arrangements. 	

	Maintenance Responsibilities	Pricing and Capital Contributions	Commercial use of parkland	Synthetic Surfaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council carries out all maintenance responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy is to recover 25% of costs. Standard and comparable seasonal and casual booking fees in NSROC area. Schools book facilities, but are free of charge within school hours and for schools within the LGA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant number of personal trainers using open space at no cost (policy position). Private corporate lunchtime operators conduct programs at Anderson Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only opened in February 2015. Expect 50 – 60 hours of use per week.

LGA	Key Issues	Facility Capacity	Future Plans for Facilities	Ground Allocation & Tenure Policies	
Parramatta Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key focus is on Parramatta CBD (following on from Plan for Growing Sydney) No indoor recreation or aquatics in CBD. Changing demographics (greater variety in backgrounds, particularly SE Asian population) that require research. Assets are dominated by traditional sports and “ownership” Desire to change approach to sport Create networks and variety of experiences. Sport viewed as an important part of the culture. Recreation and sport seen as key support areas to facilitate future growth and make Parramatta an attractive place to live. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed sportsground capacity review to manage reallocation of sports activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New fields at George Kendall Reserve (2 Ovals/4 fields). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard seasonal and casual use booking process. Council has a very active physical activity program for residents targeting disadvantaged groups and school aged children. 	

Table 11 - Surrounding LGA's recreation observations

	Maintenance Responsibilities	Pricing and Capital Contributions	Commercial use of parkland	Synthetic Surfaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority is full Council maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No adopted policy but estimated at 17-25% recovery. Schools are big users of space. Lower grade facilities are used for free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal trainers make formal application and pay appropriate fees. Anderson's Events conduct corporate lunchtime competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some reservation over synthetics due to issues of general public access. Would consider installation in the right location but must be aware of environmental and heritage issues.

Policy Analysis

Following is an analysis of policies on the management of recreation reserves, capital contributions from community sporting groups toward facility improvements, and tenancy and maintenance models.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

It is commonly accepted that Council has a significant role to play in the provision and management of sport and recreation services. State and federal governments, local, regional and state sporting bodies and the commercial sector also have significant roles in providing services. Perhaps the most crucial provider is the community sector which consists of the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who run and organise local sport, without whom most sports would perish.

At a local level, the community and local government sectors typically 'plug the gaps' by providing programs (community) and facilities (local government and community) for sports not economically viable/ sustainable without some support. This usually leads to a closer relationship with 'community' sporting bodies that use Council facilities. Indeed, Council's principles for service provision revolve around partnerships with the various sporting bodies that use its facilities.

A typical model of how local government and community sport service provision is structured is shown at Figure 15. This structure is generally consistent with the observed provision of services by the City of Ryde. Under this structure, Council tends to focus on resource management (ie the development and management of facilities) whilst community sporting bodies tend to focus on providing direct services to the community/ customers/ members (ie competitions, coaching etc).

This approach is generally consistent among neighbouring Councils in NSROC, however, variations occur from Council to Council including resource levels, management systems, staff structures and competing service priorities.

MANAGEMENT ROLES

With regard to facility management Council plays three main roles:

- Maintenance/ Assets – developing and implementing maintenance and asset management programs
- Administrator – developing policies and procedures for the use of the land (eg. Bookings, fees etc.)
- Promoter – promoting use of facilities by user groups.

In managing facilities Council is responsible for developing:

- Cost recovery levels (fees and charges),
- Booking/ allocation policies
- Tenure arrangements (types and conditions of land tenure),
- Maintenance and asset management issues
- Wet weather ground closure policies

Sporting groups contribute to the management of facilities through:

- Complying with and implementing:
 - Policies of Council
 - User/ booking agreements
 - Management practices
- Monitoring and reporting on:
 - Inappropriate use
 - Facility condition and safety
 - Maintenance needs

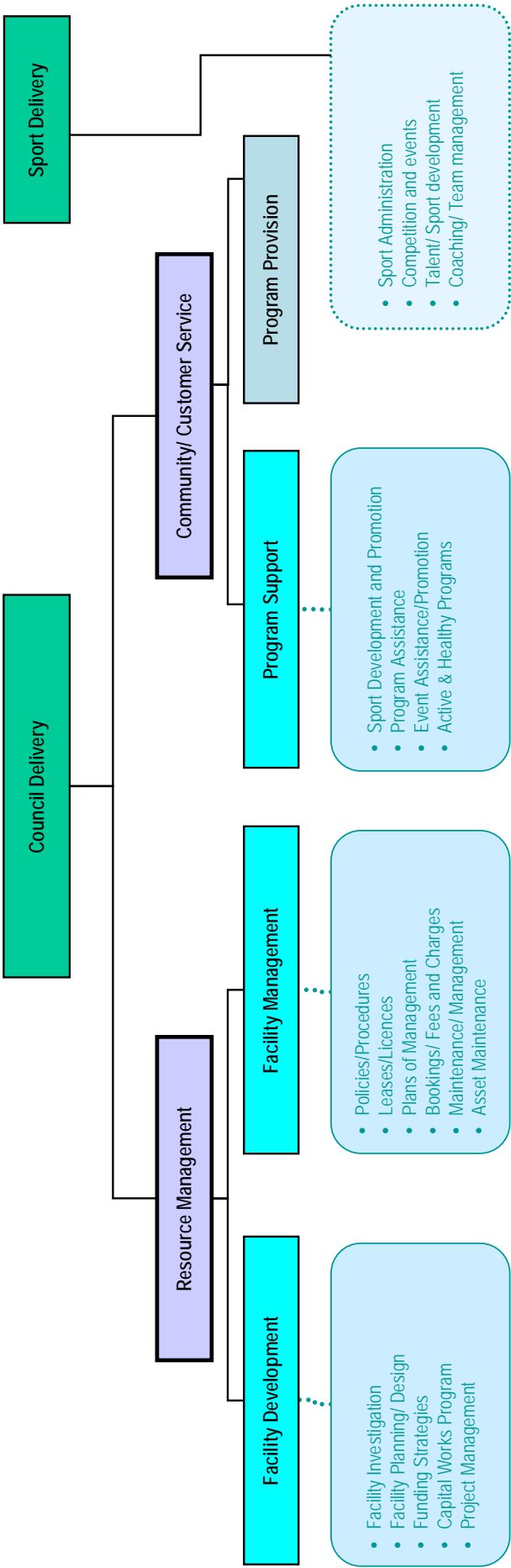


Figure 15 - Typical Model of Service Provision for Sport in Local Government

- Payment of:
 - Season hire fees
 - Outgoings (eg lights)

The survey of sporting clubs, found that, in general, there is an expectation that the current approach to service provision should be continued, that is, where Council takes primary responsibility for maintenance and management and sporting groups focus on providing service direct to the community/ members.

Clubs in Ryde believe they can contribute to management of facilities by communicating issues/ needs to Council, being responsible users, providing input into decision making etc.

ALLOCATION AND TENURE

A brief overview of tenure options for Council land classified as 'community land' is as follows:

- Lease
 - Provides exclusive use (subject to the terms of the lease)
 - Lessee is responsible for maintenance of leased area
 - Could be considered for specialised playing surfaces where multi-use is not possible (eg bowls or tennis courts) or where a club/ association has made a large contribution to capital improvements
 - Can be granted over buildings only (eg clubhouses), playing areas, or both
 - For periods of 5 years or less must comply with Section 47A of Local Government Act 1993; for periods up to 21 years (or 30 years with Ministerial approval) must comply with Section 47 of Local Government Act 1993.
 - Fees dependent on the level of commerciality of use
- Licence
 - Non-exclusive use
 - Council responsible for maintenance
 - Can be granted over buildings only (eg clubhouses), playing areas, or both
 - For periods of 5 years or less must comply with Section 47A of Local Government Act 1993; for periods up to 21 years (or 30 years with Ministerial approval) must comply with Section 47 of the Act
 - Subsidised fees in recognition of community benefit and not-for-profit status, otherwise fees dependent on level of commerciality
- Seasonal tenancy
 - Winter and/ or summer allocation
 - Existing users generally given first right of refusal
 - Council responsible for maintenance
 - Exempt from provisions of Section 47A of Local Government Act 1993 if less than 5 years
 - Subsidised fees in recognition of community benefit and not-for-profit status

The City of Ryde grants seasonal tenancies for all playing fields. User groups that responded to the survey of sport and recreation organisations generally felt that the current allocation process works well. Key principles of Council's ground allocation policy are:

- Seasonal bookings have priority over casual bookings.
- In the event that there is a need to prioritise contested use of sportsgrounds a priority matrix sets out the method for determining priorities (this considers historical use, tenancy record, access & equity, whether or not the sport is 'in season', and contributions toward Council infrastructure improvements)
- Clubs are required to provide Council with confirmation of the residential suburb details of its members
- Casual bookings and bookings made by sporting teams from out of the area are only considered where there is no existing booking request.
- Council will only consider an application if the ground is in a satisfactory condition (determined after

- consultation with Council maintenance staff)
- Season draws must be provided to Council once confirmed by the sporting associations to allow Council to hire out unused sports fields.
- Blanket bookings are not permitted

The City of Ryde has historically granted leases or licences to user groups with specialist surfaces (eg tennis courts, bowls clubs) for periods up to 21 years. Long term (21 year) leases have also been granted to scouts, guides, steam locomotive, soccer and RSL groups. Licences (generally 5 years) have been granted to netball, soccer, and recreation organisations such as dog training, racing pigeon, riding for the disabled and radio controlled car clubs. Lease and licence fees vary according to Council's assessment of the level of commerciality of use.

Some sports clubs/ associations have expressed a desire to have greater security of tenure over facilities which are partly or wholly funded by them. The granting of licences for up to 5 years or longer, rather than seasonal tenancies, over playing fields and associated buildings could be considered where user groups have made a substantial contribution to capital improvements.

All Councils in NSROC grant seasonal allocations over playing fields typically to associations rather than individual clubs. One Council in NSROC (Ku-ring-gai) allows leases over buildings of up to 5 years where capital contributions toward their development have been made. Where clubs/ associations have made capital contributions toward the upgrading of playing areas they are typically not granted leases or licences but are entitled to guaranteed seasonal allocations, preferred usage rights, or a reduction in user fees. One Council (Hornsby) has granted a long term lease over playing fields in return for a major capital contribution.

CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM USER GROUPS

Capital contributions toward facility improvements in other Councils in NSROC are encouraged but not compulsory. The Best Value Review: Allocation and Management of Sportsgrounds Study (2012) found that only two of the 17 Councils benchmarked for the study required user groups to contribute to capital upgrades.

The City of Ryde's Sports Ground User Fees and Contribution Policy encourages sporting groups to contribute to Council identified sports ground and amenity projects with the aim of securing a minimum 40% contribution towards the total project cost from user groups. A written agreement with the relevant user group is put in place which includes:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding outlining the project and clarifying each party's expectation and responsibilities;
2. A capital depreciation schedule detailing the value of the asset over a specified time period; and
3. An agreement for the reduction of fees for use of the relevant facility if appropriate.

Council's policy allows for the 40% contribution to be derived from grants from government agencies. Clubs/ associations that responded to the organisation survey had mixed views about the requirement to co-fund improvements to Council facilities. Capital contributions need to be balanced against:

- Some security or return for investment, that is, preferential or licence agreement for use
- Equitable usage costs compared to 'non-contributing' groups
- Council's 'obligation' to provide a certain level of facilities and services

In reality, some clubs / associations will be able to afford to make a 40% capital contribution to capital improvements and others not. The capacity of any user group to meet the 40% target in the existing policy will depend on the nature of the improvement. For example, the installation of synthetic surfaces could require a contribution in excess of \$1m while other projects such as lighting upgrades could be in the order of \$40,000.

SPORTSGROUND USER FEES

Sportsground user fees are outlined in the Sportsground User Fees and Contributions Policy. The policy applies to all sportsgrounds located in the City of Ryde. Broadly the goal of the policy is to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of Councils sportsgrounds.

Fees and charges are reviewed annually and are updated in the fees and charges section within the one year Operational Plan. In addition fees and charges are set in accordance with other NSROC Councils.

SECTION 5 - TRENDS IN SPORT AND RECREATION

Nationwide Megatrends in Recreation and Sport

A recent CSIRO report identified six megatrends likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years. These include:

- Personalised sport for health and fitness
- The rise of lifestyle sports
- Health, community and overseas aid objectives via sport
- Demographic, generational and cultural change
- Economic growth and sports development in Asia
- Market pressures and new business models

Each of these megatrends are discussed in detail below.

Personalised sport for health and fitness

Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise. Australians are becoming more health conscious and increasingly playing sport to get fit, rather than getting fit to play sport. People may be less willing to commit time needed for training and match fixtures in some team sports. Discretionary time available for sport and leisure is limited and the amount of time people spend on sport and outdoor activities has decreased. Consequently, they “... seek, often serendipitous, opportunities to play or watch sport that fits into a busy schedule.” Health matters more to Australians than ever before and is likely to feature to a greater extent in people’s choices about sport. There has been significant growth in the number of fitness centres (including the rise of 24 hour access gyms) with revenue from the fitness industry estimated at \$2.9 billion in 2011-12.

The rise of lifestyle sports

While mainstream and organised sports have remained constant or declined over the past decade, lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports have risen in popularity particularly among young people. These sports typically have some element of inherent danger or thrill seeking and participants often a sense of self-expression (eg BMX, skateboarding, kite surfing, white water rafting, scuba diving and rock climbing). Some (eg BMX) have found their way into the Olympics and there are efforts to also have skateboarding and rock climbing included. However, opinion is divided among the extreme sports communities about the merit of their inclusion in mainstream competitions due to the nature of lifestyle sports being about constant change and experimentation.

Health, community and overseas aid objectives via sport

The broader benefits of sport are being recognised by governments and business. With obesity on the rise, one in two Australians being overweight and projected to rise by a further 15% over the next 10 years, and diabetes increasing, sport is seen as having an important role. Participation in sport among children is reported as an effective means of reducing obesity in adulthood. Many controlled studies demonstrate overwhelming evidence that sport and exercise produce better outcomes in the clinical treatment of mental disorders. Anecdotal evidence of the potential for sport to reduce crime by helping to achieve social inclusion for marginalised groups is also cited. Despite the physical and mental benefits of sport, there has been a decrease in the prominence of sport and physical activity in

the school curriculum and a reduced number of teachers trained in the delivery of sports programs. Sport can build bridges to other countries and contribute to economic and foreign policy objectives.

Demographic, generational and cultural change

The population is ageing and life expectancy is on the rise. In 1900 males and females had a life expectancy of 50 and 55 years respectively; by 2030 this is projected to be 84.5 and 87.8 years respectively. People may continue to engage in sporting activities further into their old age. The popularity of the World Masters Games suggests that the ageing population is still keen to participate in sporting activities. Increasing cultural diversity will result in different sporting preferences. Sporting organisations will be challenged with capturing the interest of diverse cultures. Outdoor soccer has had significant growth between 2001 and 2010 with the third highest increase among the top 10 physical activities. Large scale community competitions have become more popular (eg City to Surf fun races, Sydney to the Gong bike ride) revealing a demand for sporting activity across broad cross sectoral demographics.

Economic growth and sports development in Asia

Population and income growth in Asia has started to raise living standards and available leisure time. The Chinese and Indian economies are likely to play a vital role in shaping the world economy. Asian countries are investing heavily in sports capabilities and the international sporting arena will become increasingly competitive for Australia with the overseas athlete pool growing faster than the Australian athlete pool. The Chinese sports system is channelling the country's sports resources into elite sport. As disposable incomes grow, Asian countries are becoming more interested in sport. This may create new markets for sports television, sports tourism, sports equipment, sports services and sports events.

Market pressures and new business models

The coming decades are likely to see many Australian sports organisations transition to corporatised governance structures (eg AFL). There will be more pressure on sport from market forces (eg virtual participation, smartphone broadcasting, adaptation of game rules to capture emerging markets and offer a better customer experience, move from sport-oriented business to an entertainment business). Elite athletes in some sports will have considerable pay rises which may draw athletes away from sports with lower salaries. Volunteering in sport and physical recreation organisations accounted for 37% of the total volunteer population in Australia in 2010. However barriers to volunteering are growing (eg time pressures, increased bureaucracy, lack of local Council support, lack of appreciation and fear of being sued). The cost of participation is increasing and is a barrier to participation for many people.

Observational Trends

A range of sport and recreation trends have been observed through studies for various local governments throughout Australia and analysis of published data (eg ABS, CSIRO, Australian Sports Commission). Following is a summary of participation, planning, design and management trends that may have implications for sport and recreation planning and provision in Ryde and elsewhere.

Generic trends

The following general trends influencing the use of sport and recreation facilities and parks are evident:

- Many individuals and families are time poor and the scheduling of activities at times that are convenient to them is increasingly important.
- There is a desire by many participants to simply “turn up and play” with minimal volunteering commitments. Many participants are willing to pay extra for this service which has created some opportunities for commercial provision.
- Participation in organised sport is generally static but there is growing demand for social forms of participation in sport.
- Local governments are recognising the importance of creating environments to enable people to lead active and healthy lives, placing greater focus on integration with urban planning, provision and/ or connectivity of walk/ cycle paths, provision of sport and recreation facilities and programs, and provision and access to parks and open space.
- There is a greater demand for floodlighting of facilities so that people can participate at times that are convenient to them or to reduce exposure to the sun.
- Volunteerism is declining in many sport and recreation organisations. This is placing greater pressure on the remaining volunteer base and may impact on participation levels and/ or costs in future if services that were once provided voluntarily need to be paid for.
- Declining volunteerism is also placing greater pressure on Councils in terms of the way they manage sports facilities on their land.
- There is an awareness of the importance of “risk management” and the need for a “whole of life” approach to facility development and asset management.
- Multiple use of sport and recreation facilities, season overlap and across season usage is becoming more prevalent in response to limited supply in some areas.
- New methods to maximise use of sport and recreation facilities are being explored (e.g. community/ cultural events, off season sports, nontraditional sports).
- Demographic shift, especially in larger cities, is changing the patterns of participation in sport and recreation.
- Many sports peak bodies are responding to social and demographic trends by introducing modified forms of participation and scheduling.
- Toilets and change rooms are expected to be adequate in size, accessible to playing areas and compliant with Building Codes and Australian Standards.
- Accessibility to facilities, particularly via walking and cycling is increasingly important.

Facility planning & design

Trends in facility planning and design include:

- The planning process for new facilities has improved significantly with the conduct of effective feasibility studies being the norm. These studies have generally included management/ marketing/ financial plans with demand projections based on sophisticated survey data.
- There is a strong trend away from single purpose facilities towards multi-purpose facilities, however facilities need to be designed to ensure they can meet the specific needs of key user groups.
- Contemporary planning seeks to create, where possible, ‘community hubs’ for sport and

recreation that can meet a broader range of needs, and facilitate higher utilisation and viability.

- More flexible designs are being created and there is a growing expectation that facilities will need to be renovated/ upgraded on a periodic basis. There is a realisation that facilities have a “customer interest life-span”, which is much less than the facilities life-span.
- Sport facility designs are increasingly required to cater for different levels and standards of competition.
- Provision for socialising spaces is a key component of facility design.
- Environmentally sustainable design of facilities are prerequisites.

Outdoor playing fields

In relation to outdoor playing fields, the following trends are evident:

- Designing and maintaining playing surfaces to maximise their sustainability is important as the intensity of playing surfaces increases.
- It is necessary for facility design to incorporate options for temporary/ spill over parking to support major events.
- Water harvesting initiatives to reduce town water consumption, maintain a high standard of playing fields and improve viability is important.
- Provision of shade (natural and artificial) is increasingly important given the emphasis on sun safe practices.
- Change rooms, canteen, storage and clubrooms are considered typical ancillary facilities provided within outdoor playing field environments.
- Due to the open nature of outdoor playing field facilities, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is critical to protect users and the facility assets.
- Lighting of playing fields, compliant with Australian Standards and/ or sport-specific standards and increasingly the desire for LED lighting to enhance cost savings is increasing in importance.
- Population growth, extreme climatic conditions, and a shortage of affordable land for sports fields in some urban centres are contributing to increases in the intensity of use of outdoor playing fields. This often results in overuse of fields and adversely impacts on the standard and usability of playing fields. Synthetic surfaces are increasingly being examined as a solution to these challenges.

Multi-purpose indoor court facilities

Trends associated with multi-purpose indoor court facilities include:

- A minimum of three courts is generally required to support the effective sustainability of indoor court facilities. Generally, centres with less than three courts have a lower income generating capacity and lower likelihood of being financially viable.
- Higher quality finishes, including higher quality amenities, wall finishes, lighting, audio/ visual and seating are incorporated to support broader community and cultural events.
- Food and beverage facilities are being designed to have the capacity to support larger scale sporting and community/ cultural events.
- Incorporation of indoor court facilities as part of a broader leisure facility mix can result in a range of economies of scale including reduced staffing costs, increased buying

power and improved energy rates. Facilities that are designed to be “multi-use” are generally operated at higher levels of usage capacity and financial performance than single sport/ specialist facilities.

- Despite the influx of single court facilities as a result of the Federal Government’s Building Education Revolution program, there remains a shortage of indoor courts in many localities. Single court facilities are less functional and there is intense competition for access to indoor courts during peak times in many areas. Larger, centralised facilities are more efficient in terms of both competition coordination and financial sustainability.
- Effective Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) outcomes are being incorporated to improve airflow and reduce the need for artificial lighting.

Health & fitness facilities

Trends relating to health and fitness facilities include:

- The rapid growth in new health and fitness centres has resulted in strong market competition and increased accessibility.
- The rapidly increasing health and fitness centre market has raised the need to ensure facilities that incorporate high quality finishes with the latest in technology, lighting and audio visual elements.
- 24 hour access to facilities is increasing in popularity as work patterns change.
- Programs and facilities are designed to attract a variety of market segments, are increasingly age specific and aimed towards older adults, children, injury recovery, strength and conditioning and general health, fitness and wellbeing.
- A large proportion of health and fitness floor space is retained as multi-use program rooms to accommodate a range of programs and to be adaptable to changing market interests.
- Wellness centres (eg allied health, beauty and relaxation services) are being incorporated as part of the health and fitness centres to provide a comprehensive service to patrons and contribute to viability.
- There is an increase in the use of personal trainers as patrons seek personalised fitness programs to achieve their goals.

Facility management

A number of facility management trends are emerging. These include:

- Improvement in the management of leisure facilities, with increased expectations of managers to provide better financial outcomes and generate higher attendance.
- Ongoing economic constraints and limited capital and operational budgets, new sports facilities may need to consider joint venture arrangements between private and public sectors.
- Managers of publicly owned/ managed sporting facilities have increased responsibilities and need higher skill levels, access to training and professional networks, and suitable financial reporting systems.
- While many local governments continue with traditional models of external management of facilities such as pools or indoor sporting centres, many Councils are managing facilities ‘in-house’ either as part of normal operations, or dedicated business units, or a wholly owned company limited by guarantee. The latter two arrangements

- permit more flexible staffing and commercial management practices.
- Many facility managers pursue non-sporting uses (eg. Events, displays, functions etc.) to maximise the viability of aquatic, sport and recreation facilities.

Trends Affecting Sports in Ryde Clubs and Associations

Sporting Clubs were asked to indicate if there were any current or emerging trends affecting their sport. The trends that were most frequently mentioned were a desire for shorter game formats, and the performance of Australian teams at an elite level impacting on the interest in their sport. A full summary of responses is contained at Table 12.

Club	CLUB REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CHANGE
All Saints Hunters Hill Football	People will play team sport for longer – well into 50's and 60's. Many kids are now playing multiple sports, for example, rugby and soccer, netball and soccer
Anderson Events	None
Brush Farm Dog Training Club	Don't think so as we have operated much the same for the past 40 years on the same ground
Church Cricket NSW	Increase in T20, Last Man Standing and winter cricket
Eastwood Croquet Club	Shorter, faster games increasingly favoured over longer and more technically difficult games, but croquet continues to offer sporting and social opportunities that appeal to many
Eastwood Ryde Netball Association	Popularity of netball now that we are World Champions and the media attention netball has gained. Introduction of NSW premier league – only 8 associations have a franchise and Eastwood Ryde Netball Association is one of them
Eastwood St Andrews AFC	With an increasing population in the City of Ryde we expect the growth rate to continue into the future
Gladesville Hornsby Football Association	The game of football remains constant however the success of the Socceroos or A-League clubs does impact the interest
Gladesville United	We should have 80 more junior players in 2016 season
Hillview Eastwood Rugby Union Club	None
North Ryde Junior Rugby League	If Rugby Union clubs continue to move to play on a Sunday, this will continue to cause a clash between the two codes. If the current demographic continues to influx in the area, then it will have an ongoing effect on our numbers. The fact primary schools do not play Rugby League, and the NRL does such a poor job of promoting the sport at grassroots [will] continue to have a negative effect on numbers when other sports do promote themselves better
North-Western Suburbs Tennis Association	Tennis NSW is in the progress of introducing a regional grouping of associations and clubs on a tiered structure which will provide other alternatives for players as to the way competitions are conducted. In addition, people are more time poor, through work and/ or family commitments and have less time to play organised/structured tennis and are looking for shorter time ways to play tennis such as the advent of Fast4 Tennis

Club	CLUB REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CHANGE
Pacific Coast Baseball League/ Ryde Eastwood Baseball Club	Lack of baseball fields. Decrease in baseball fields maintenance quality. Poor club management and direction
Putney Rangers Football Club	Increase in membership due to increase in population in the area. The club is also a Level 2 FFA accredited club, attracting more members.
Ryde Eastwood Touch Association	Most senior touch competitions are now played under lights even in the summer. It seems that people struggle to leave work early enough to get to the grounds in daylight time (even though ours is a summer sport). Being able to play games at a later time requires lights and these are currently not available at Morrison Bay
Sydney North Volleyball Club	The sport is growing popularity within local schools so numbers are expected to increase
West Ryde Rovers Football Club	More popularity at summer football. Also with demands of increased membership demands on night games will increase. This will also place a greater demand on training needs

Table 12 - Current and Emerging Trends for Sports Clubs in the City of Ryde

Implications of Trends

Generally the implications of these trends for sport and recreation planning include:

- Local government will have an increasingly important role in improving health outcomes by enabling residents to be more physically active
- There is increased demand for “self-directed exercise related recreation”. This means that Local Government will need to respond to increasing need for running, walking and cycling networks as well as demand for public spaces to accommodate fitness and exercise activities with demand occurring before during and after work hours
- People will want to be able to access recreation opportunities easily from where they live, especially in areas where density is increasing. Local and regional linkages via cycle/ walkways will grow in importance
- Maximum flexibility in design to accommodate varying community needs and forms of use should be a prerequisite. Multi-use sport and recreation precincts may need to consider incorporating opportunities for traditional and nontraditional activities
- Future facilities and activities will need to be safe, easily accessible, with few barriers to entry, and cater for formal and informal forms of participation. Provision of safe facilities and safe access-ways is of particular importance for female participation
- Lighting of playing fields and parks for safety and/ or to extend their usage and functionality will be increasingly important. Evening competitions are likely to continue to grow
- Lighting of playing fields should use contemporary technology to maximise operating viability and minimise impacts on neighbouring residents
- Facility design should maximise opportunities for generating increased revenue and utilisation and/ or to reduce operating costs
- Aquatic/ indoor sport and recreation facilities should be designed as community hubs where possible to maximise viability and respond to social trends. The range of design elements should consider aquatic, indoor court, informal recreation, health and fitness, wellness, food and beverage, socialising and retail opportunities

-
- Sustainable facility design is essential, including: Management models that maximise financial viability; CPTED design principles to prolong the life of assets and protect users, ESD solutions to reduce a facility's carbon footprint and reduce energy costs; Linkages with sustainable transport solutions aimed at reducing the sole reliance on motor vehicles to access community facilities
 - Synthetic playing surfaces may need to be considered in areas where limited provision opportunities, high use of existing facilities, and/ or an inability to adequately maintain grass fields to suitable standards are evident
 - Increasing demands within limited budgets may necessitate the need for regional scale planning of higher level facilities to ensure that facilities are economically and socially viable
 - Partnerships with schools, tertiary sector, or associations/ clubs should be considered in the provision of new/ upgraded sporting infrastructure
 - Facility design will need to remain flexible so as to enable opportunities for informal/ non-organised activities not just organised sport
 - Facilities should support the ability to host a variety of activities, including beyond their primary intended use (e.g. community, cultural and entertainment events)

SECTION 6 - COMMUNITY NEEDS AND DEMANDS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

As a part of this project, an extensive community engagement program was undertaken to understand the needs and expectations of the community in the provision of sport and recreation facilities. Administrated by the consultant Strategic Leisure Group (SLG) in partnership with the City of Ryde, the consultation processes with the residents of the City of Ryde, park users, sporting clubs/associations, community groups, relevant Council staff, and other key stakeholders was completed in August- October 2015. The approach to the consultation program was to ensure that a wide cross section of the community in addition to interested parties (such as a clubs and associations) were given an opportunity to provide input into the direction of the future provision of sport and recreation across the City.

A comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement process was implemented for this project that comprised of the following:

- Surveys of Sport and Recreation organisations within the City of Ryde
- On-line community survey promoted widely by the City of Ryde
- Intercept interviews of residents at Lions Park, West Ryde (Friday 11th Sept 2015), Yamble Reserve, Ryde (Sunday 13th Sept 2015), and North Ryde Library (Tuesday 15th Sept 2015)
- Distribution of surveys within CALD community groups in Chinese and Korean languages
- Focus group meetings with representatives of environmental groups, key sport and recreation organisations, walking and cycling groups, youth groups and personal trainers
- Meetings with managers of major sport and recreation facilities in City of Ryde (eg YMCA at ELS Hall Park, Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, Macquarie University Sport)
- Meetings with officers of neighbouring NSROC Councils
- Meetings with major licensed clubs
- Meetings/ discussions with State Sporting organisations
- Meetings with external Project Reference Group established to provide guidance
- Workshop and meetings with City of Ryde staff

Park User and Broad Community Outcomes

Community Survey

An on-line survey designed by SLG was made available via Council's website between 25 August and 18 October 2015. The survey and the project in general was heavily promoted by Social media (Facebook and Twitter), the City of Ryde website, Mayoral message in the local newspaper and through flyers and posters erected in Council's Customer Service Centres and all City of Ryde Libraries.

The survey sought information about:

- Importance of, and satisfaction with, sport and recreation facilities or services in the City
- Things that Council is doing well in terms of sport and recreation opportunities
- Participation patterns
- Barriers to participation in sport and recreation
- Relative priority of Council spending on sport and recreation compared to other things

214 survey responses were received and analysed by City of Ryde and the characteristics of the responses are outlined in the following pages. Please note, due to the skew of the survey respondents, the community survey findings should be interpreted with caution as the sample

may not reflect broader community views.

- A high proportion of couples with families (72% of respondents as compared to 33.5% of the population (2011))
- A low proportion of people from non-English speaking backgrounds (6% of respondents as compared to 42% of the population (2011))
- Mostly female respondents (62%)
- 36% of respondents had a household member who was a member of a soccer club
- High proportion from Gladesville-Tennyson Point (27% as compared to being only 9.7% of the total City of Ryde population)

Importance of Sport and Recreation Facilities and Services

Survey respondents identified parks (87% very important), walk/ cycle paths in urban areas (72% very important), and outdoor sports fields (72% very important) as the three most important sport and recreation facilities or services (refer to figure 16 for additional results).



Figure 16- Importance of sport and recreation facilities and services to the Community

Levels of Satisfaction with Sport & Recreation Facilities and Services

Levels of satisfaction with facilities and services vary, with the strongest performing areas identified as aquatic centres, parks and children's playgrounds. Figure 17 describes satisfaction rankings with sport and recreation facilities and services compared to their importance ranking. Facilities/ services ranked relatively high in importance but comparatively weak in performance were:

- Places/ activities for older youth (unaware of opportunities, more programs/ more innovative programs sought)
- Activities/programs for older adults (unaware of opportunities, lack of facilities/ time restrictions for those wanting to practice tai chi)
- Activities/programs for young children (unaware of opportunities, more programs sought particularly in the toddler-kindergarten age group)

- Indoor recreation facilities (facilities not affordable, need additional facilities)
- Other facilities/ services that were ranked as somewhat lower in importance but comparatively weak in performance were:
 - On-road cycling (feel unsafe due to narrow roads or motorists, need more/ dedicated cycle lanes, better line marking/ wider lanes/ better surfacing, better links to destinations (eg riding to work))
 - Commercial services in parks (cafes and kiosks always closed, need more cafes/ kiosks, Areas for personal training can become crowded on weekends or school sport days)
 - Exercise equipment in parks (not aware/ too few facilities)
 - Community gardens (not aware of facilities)

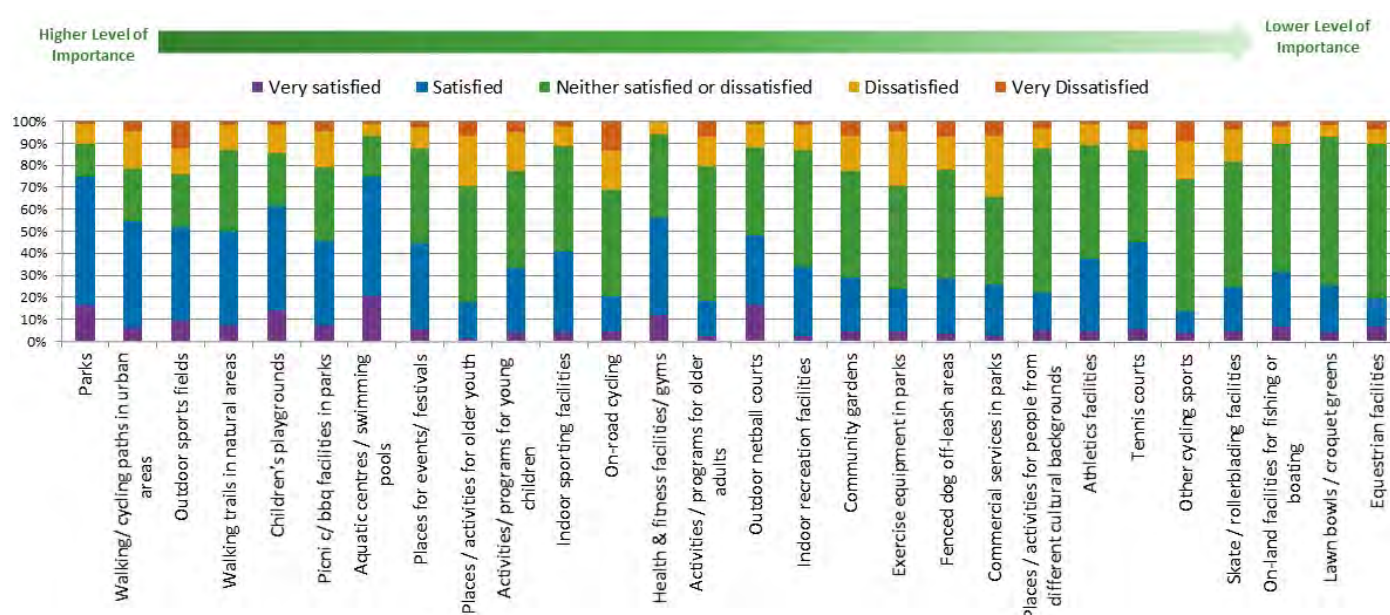


Figure 17- Levels of satisfaction with sport and recreation facilities and services

What is Council doing well?

When asked to nominate things that Council is “doing well” in terms of its involvement in sport and recreation, only 81 of the 214 respondents to the survey answered this question. Of those who did, the most frequently expressed comments related to

- Well-maintained grounds/ fields/ facilities (23% of responses)
- Good playgrounds or facilities for kids and adults (14% of responses)
- Redevelopment of existing parks/ landscapes/ paths (12% of responses)

Barriers to participation in sport & recreation

The community was asked to identify barriers that prevented their participation in sport and recreation in the City of Ryde. Of the 147 respondents who answered this question, the main barriers were identified as:

- Cost of joining or activity fees (26%)
- Cost of sporting club membership (16%)
- Overcrowding of existing facilities (14%)
- Lack of facilities within easy access of where they live (12%)

Priorities for improving sport and recreation

Respondents were asked to identify the top three priorities that the City of Ryde should address over the next 10 years to improve sport and recreation facilities or services. A wide variety of items were mentioned with improving the quality of sports fields by way of lighting, drainage, turfing, resurfacing as the highest priority.

Other items that were identified as areas where Council should focus included the points below with a full list show in Figure 18:

- Improved provision for cycling (eg more/ improved lanes)
- Improved walkway/ cycleway linkages
- Maintenance of fields/ grounds/ facilities/ trails/ paths
- Creation of a Tai-Chi friendly areas

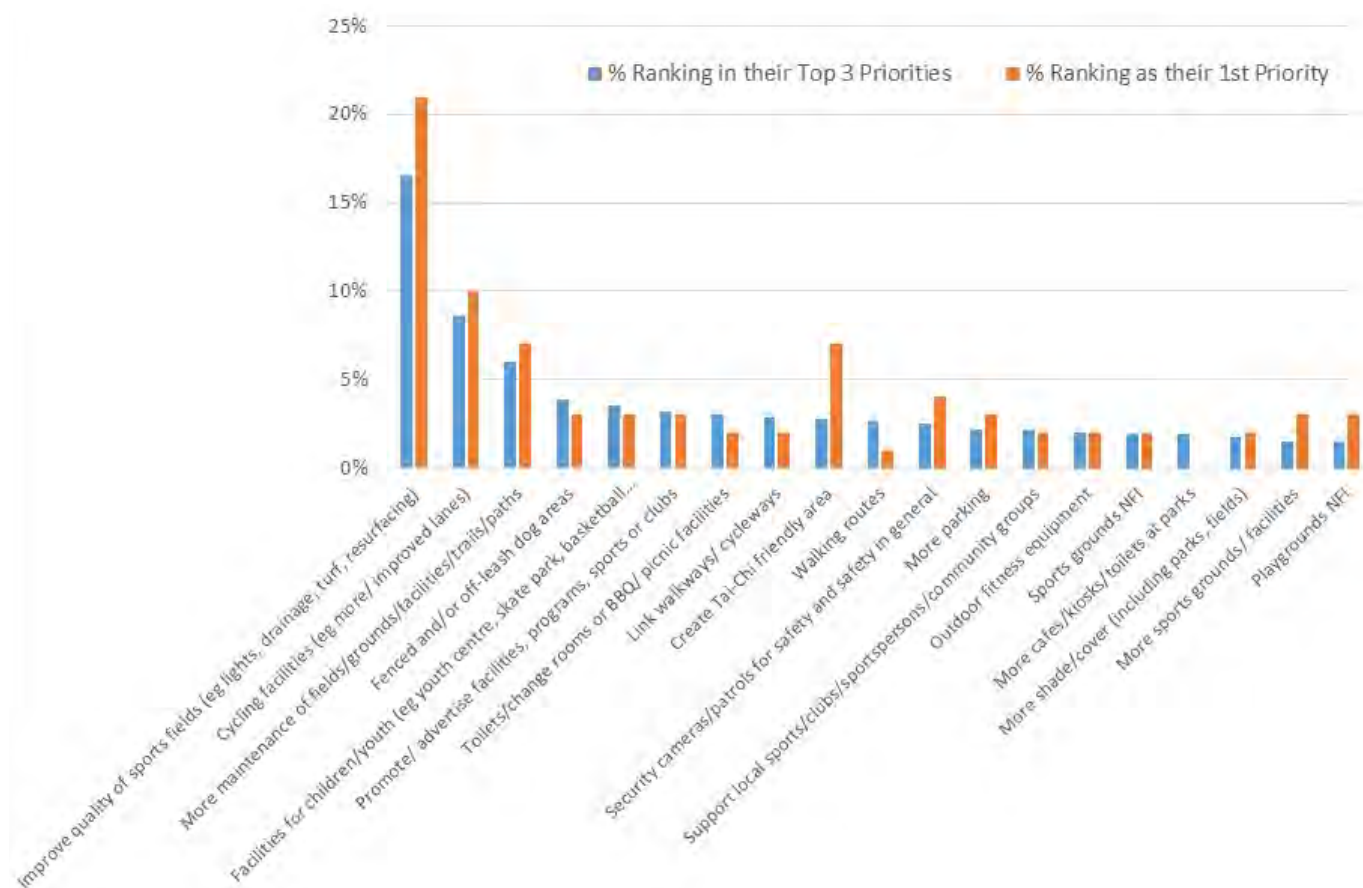


Figure 18 - Community priorities for improvements in sport and recreation

Intercept Interviews

Intercept interviews were conducted by members of the SLG team and Council during the consultation period. Council promoted all three events via local media and distribution of flyers and organised activities at each location. The surveys were completed at Lions Park, West Ryde (Friday 11 Sept 2015), Yamble Reserve, Ryde (Sunday 13 Sept 2015) and North

Ryde Library (Tuesday 15 Sept 2015). The purpose of the intercept interviews was to engage with residents to discuss:

- What things they felt are being done well in terms of sport and recreation in the City
- What needs to be done better
- What essential new or improved facilities/ services are required
- What priorities need to be addressed

In total 138 intercept interviews were completed. Key characteristics of residents interviewed are as follows:

- More participants were female (63%) than male (37%)
- More than half were aged 30-39 years (53%), followed by 40-49 years (23%)
- West Ryde was by far the most common residential suburb of survey respondents, followed by Ryde and Eastwood

What is being done well?

When asked “Thinking about sport or recreation opportunities in the City of Ryde, what things are being done well?” the responses from the community were ranked as follows:

- Provision and facilities in parks/ reserves was the most common response
- Support and appreciation for the work Council has been doing in park/ reserve upgrades
- The Ryde Aquatic & Leisure Centre is well supported and liked by the community
- Council’s provision of playgrounds is also considered positively by the community

What could be done better?

The community identified the following as areas where Council can improve in the provision of sport and recreation facilities:

- Inadequate or insufficient facilities
- Poor condition of sports facilities and inadequate drainage of playing fields
- Lack of provision for Tai Chi
- Need to provide more playgrounds that are suitable for toddlers
- Inadequate shade provided in parks and playgrounds
- Additional fitness equipment / outdoor gyms in parks
- Need for more upgrades of parks across the City
- Inadequate maintenance of parks and open spaces
- Inadequate car parking and fencing
- Ryde Aquatic and Leisure Centre too expensive and too busy

Suggestions and Priorities for new or improved Sport & Recreation Facilities/ Services

Participants were asked “What new or improved sport or recreation facilities or services do you think are essential in the City of Ryde?”. The preferences of the community are outlined in Figure 19.

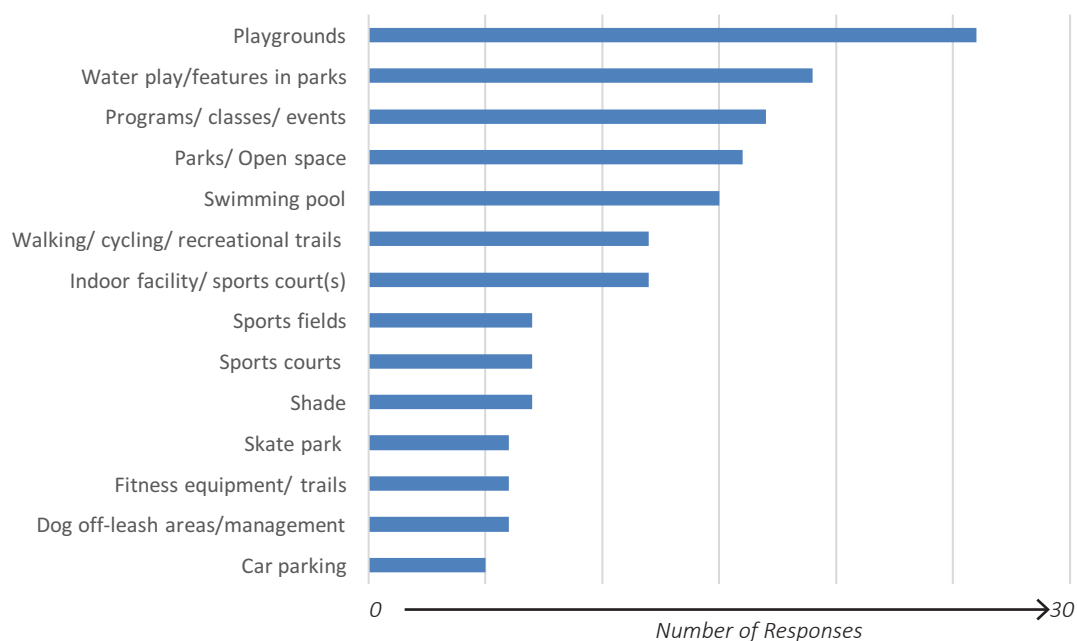


Figure 19- Community Suggestions and Priorities for new or improved Sport & Recreation Facilities/ Services

The CALD Community - Intercept Interviews

The City of Ryde has a high proportion of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds, in particular from China and Korea. Council distributed surveys to community groups comprising people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Surveys were made available in the most common written languages within the City of Ryde, namely Chinese and Korean and later translated by Council officers. 102 surveys from CALD community members were completed. The following points describe the survey group:

- More of the survey participants were female (64%) than male (36%)
- The majority of surveys were completed by older residents with 70% of survey respondents aged 60 and over, and a further 16% aged 50 – 59
- Ryde and Eastwood were the most common residential suburb of survey respondents, followed by West Ryde.

What is Council doing well?

The most common responses related to activities/ events/ programs, with English classes mentioned frequently in the discussions with the interviewer. Playgrounds and children's facilities was the second most common response followed by general discussions about the provision of open space facilities, places and spaces.

What could Council do better?

The areas that were identified as areas for improvement for Council in sport and recreation provided by the CALD Community were:

1. General commentary about the provision of facilities in open spaces with the following elements listed as a high priority for Council to action
 - Provision of Tai Chi suitable destinations
 - Provision of additional indoor facilities
 - Installation of additional exercise equipment or outdoor fitness areas
 - Additional sports courts
2. The next most common response related to Councils running of activities, events and programs. The responses focused on a preference for:
 - Longer classes
 - Provision of Tai Chi community programs
 - Additional events and community programs for seniors
 - Increased frequency of events and activities

Suggestions and Priorities for new or improved Sport & Recreation Facilities or Services

When asked “What new or improved sport or recreation facilities or services do you think are essential in the City of Ryde” the largest number of responses related to the provision of facilities, places and spaces for seniors. This outcome is skewed by the large proportion of older respondents to the survey. In addition to this, the CALD community indicated these focus areas for improvements

1. Additional activities/ programs)
2. Provision of undercover/ indoor facilities/ spaces
3. Additional spaces and facilities for Tai Chi
4. It should be noted that many of the responses mentioned a combination of the above responses, for example “more big indoor exercise sites for seniors so we can practise Tai chi”, “Activity space for the elderly, especially roofed outdoor space’, and “Indoor or open space for the elderly, appropriate for group activities.”

Sporting Club and Association Feedback

Sporting Association and Club Membership

During the preparation of this Study, 60 sport and recreation clubs and associations that used the sport and recreation facilities within the Ryde LGA were asked to provide information on membership levels. The following 16 clubs submitted information:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • All Saints Hunters Hill Football | • Hillview Eastwood Rugby Union Club |
| • Anderson Events | • North Ryde Junior Rugby League |
| • Brush Farm Dog Training Club | • North-Western Suburbs Tennis Association |
| • Church Cricket New South Wales | • Pacific Coast Baseball League |
| • Eastwood Croquet Club | • Ryde Eastwood Touch Association |
| • Eastwood Ryde Netball Association | • Sydney North Volleyball Club |
| • Eastwood St Andrews AFC | • West Ryde Rovers Football Club |
| • Gladesville Hornsby Football Association | • Gladesville United Soccer |

Table 13 provides the reported membership number and the change in membership over the last 2 years.

Club / Association	Membership Type (Active Players)	Current Membership	Membership 2013	Difference	% Change
All Saints Hunters Hill Football	Seniors	295	185	+110	59%
	Juniors	573	342	+231	68%
Anderson Events	All	150	-	-	-
Brush Farm Dog Training Club	Seniors	476	420	+56	13%
	Juniors	25	22	+3	14%
Church Cricket NSW	All	400	450	-50	-11%
Eastwood Croquet Club	All	46	45	+1	2%
Eastwood Ryde Netball Association	Seniors	1,200 (+ 300 night competition members)	1,130	+70	6%
	Juniors	3,300 (+ 200 night competition members)	2,875	+425	15%
Eastwood St Andrews	Senior	350	300	+50	17%
	Junior	350	225	+125	56%
Gladesville Hornsby Football Association	All	14,058	13,135	+923	7%
Gladesville United Soccer	Senior	40	40	0	0%
	Junior	110	110	0	0%
Hillview Eastwood Rugby Union Club	Junior	80	120	-40	-33%
North Ryde Junior Rugby League Club	Senior	77	82	-5	-6%
	Junior	64	95	-31	-33%
North-Western Suburbs Tennis Association	Senior	190	170	+20	12%
	Junior	106	150	-44	-29%
Pacific Coast Baseball League	All	2,500	1,800	+700	39%
Putney Rangers Football Club	Senior	327			
	Junior	252			
Ryde Eastwood Touch Association	Senior	420	380	+40	11%
	Junior	400	320	+80	25%
Sydney North Volleyball Club	Senior	397	312	+85	27%
	Junior	69	60	+9	15%
West Ryde Rovers Football Club	Senior	327	321	+6	2%
	Junior	660	535	+125	23%

Table 13 - Membership patterns of Clubs in the City of Ryde

Clubs were asked to indicate the reasons for any membership change. Of those sports reporting a decline in membership the main reason cited was changing demographics of the area. The main reasons cited for growth in membership were organic growth, growth in women's participation, successful introductory programs or promotion days, and changes in management structures resulting in more professional management, or movement in players from other areas. Full reasons for membership changes as stated by survey respondents are summarised in Table 14 below.

Club	CLUB REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CHANGE
All Saints Hunters Hill Football	We have seen an increase in 30+ age group returning to team sport. We have also found that All Ages, over 35 and over 45 is seeing members play team sport for longer. We have many members in their 50's still playing – both men and women. We have also seen a growth in women's football in the junior girls age as well as more mixed teams. There seems to be a greater participation in sport for junior kids
Anderson Events	We are growing our lunchtime competitions and getting more companies involved, which means it should be more active members however keep in mind we play in 10 week seasons so every 10 weeks our members change
Brush Farm Dog Training Club	People train their dogs and when they are satisfied they move on
Church Cricket NSW	There is a reduction in adult players playing normal full length cricket matches
Eastwood Croquet Club	Inability to play due to work/ study/ personal circumstances means a small number may not renew in any year. However, there is a steady recruitment of new members
Eastwood Ryde Netball Association	Increase in families living in units in the area. Increase in interest in sport for children. Successful Come & Try / Skills Fitness & Fun sessions for 5-7 years. Last year 50 children attended. This year 100 children attended! Hopefully a lot of these children will register with a club and play netball next year
Eastwood St Andrews AFC	We have increased our membership base particularly in recent times. We have a new committee whom are trying to rebuild the community spirit that our great club use to foster in years gone past. This year alone we grew our juniors by 45% and we expect that growth to continue into the future
Gladesville Hornsby Football Association	The increase in total GHFA membership is primarily due to organic growth in numbers
Hillview Eastwood Rugby Union Club	Change in demographics
North Ryde Junior Rugby League	Change of demographic in the North Ryde area. Certain ethnic backgrounds are less likely to play Rugby League. Some of the bad press around the NRL has an effect on mums wanting their son/daughter playing the game. Financial stresses on households has meant that children are being told they can only play one sport. Rugby Union changed to playing on Sunday's which had an effect on Rugby League given we had quite a number of players in the club playing both codes, some of whom now had to choose one or the other
North-Western Suburbs Tennis Association	Between 1.7.2014 and 30.6.2015, the association had embarked on a revised membership structure where besides all competition players be they seniors/ adults or juniors, membership packages have been extended to social players and children/ adults in coaching. This has met with reasonable success but more work is being carried out in this current year to 30.6.2016 to attract more of those adults and juniors in those categories

Club	CLUB REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CHANGE
Pacific Coast Baseball League/ Ryde Eastwood Baseball Club	Increase new players and club. The increase is not in internal growth but movement of players from other areas
Ryde Eastwood Touch Association	We have made a conscious effort to recruit juniors by running gala days etc. The competition has been stagnating but the new Board has reinvigorated the association. The competition is being run more professionally now and we are struggling to cater for all the senior sides that want to play
Sydney North Volleyball Club	Increased participation in our representative growth. We also started a new women's only social volleyball competition
West Ryde Rovers Football Club	Primary membership is pure growth. WRRFC has an average growth at 7% over the past 7 years and has a projected growth at 7-10% over the subsequent years past 2015

Table 14 - Analysis of membership trends of Clubs in the City of Ryde

User Satisfaction of Sporting Facilities

In the dialogue with the Sporting clubs and associations, Council sort information on level of satisfaction with the provision of sporting infrastructure. Each of the respondents provided specific information on facilities. The recurrent themes that arose during the consultation with regard to the satisfaction levels is summarised below:

- During the winter months, the areas that are covering synthetic cricket pitches can deteriorate quickly and can become unsafe for users
- The application of line marking does not align with the sporting activities taking place (eg. Fontenoy Park is used for six aside games and the field is not line marked for this arrangement)
- The timing of maintenance activities often creates conflicts with club activities (Eg. Timing of watering at Brush Farm Park and the use of the park by the Dog Training Club)
- Field size inadequate for the level of sporting being played
- The provision of car parking for users is inadequate. This is a particular issue at Eastwood Park and timed parking should be considered to allow the park users to access the parking rather than it be fully subscribed by commuter parking. Meadowbank Park is also highlighted as having insufficient parking for the sport activities
- Field condition is not suitable for competition
- It is preferred that all of netball is provided for in one location and there is no longer support from the Netball Association to invest in facilities at Brush Farm Park.
- Use of playing fields for community events causes damage
- Floodlighting provision is inadequate. This extends to the lack of floodlit grounds and where the grounds are floodlit, the lux level is inadequate for training
- Lack of and poor quality amenity buildings, including toilets, change rooms, canteens etc
- Fencing is needed to prevent balls going onto surrounding roads
- Maintenance is criticised as being substandard and there is a lack of understanding from the grounds staff of the specific maintenance needs for each type of sport

Summary of Consultation with Clubs and Associations

Membership trends

Sports with high levels of participation in Ryde experienced significant growth in the last 3 years, namely soccer (+923), baseball (+700) and netball (+495). Other sports have had significant growth off a lower base of participants namely Touch (+120), AFL (+175) and volleyball (+94) refer to Table 13. Some sports, namely cricket, rugby league, rugby union and tennis reported a decline in participation over the last 3 years.

Of those sports reporting a decline in membership the main reason cited was changing demographics of the area. The main reasons cited for growth in membership were organic growth, growth in women's participation, successful introductory programs or promotion days, and changes in management structures resulting in more professional management, or movement in players from other areas.

Trends affecting sports

Clubs were asked to indicate if there were any current or emerging trends affecting their sport. The trends that were most frequently mentioned were a desire for shorter game formats, and the performance of Australian teams at an elite level impacting on the interest in their sport.

Satisfaction with areas/ facilities used

Most clubs/ associations that responded to the survey were satisfied or neutral in their rating of facilities used. Where clubs/ associations indicated dissatisfaction with facilities the main reasons stated were:

- Poor condition/ maintenance (5)
- Inadequate parking (3)
- Lack of amenities (2)
- Inadequate lighting (1)

Club views on improving facility utilisation

Clubs/ Associations were asked if they felt sports grounds or sports facilities in the City of Ryde could be better utilised or more frequently utilised. About half of the organisations that responded to the survey offered suggestions.

- Eastwood Ryde Netball Association reported underutilisation of adjacent hockey fields and soccer fields at Meadowbank Park
- West Ryde Rovers Football Club suggested the area to the west of Meadowbank number 10 could be better utilised by the addition of two half size, or one half size and one three quarter size football fields for winter use
- Sydney North Volleyball Club commented on their inability to book courts at the indoor centre at ELS Hall Park

Likelihood of changed facility use by Clubs

Clubs were asked whether their utilisation of facilities in the City of Ryde was likely to change in the future. Most clubs/ associations expect their utilisation to increase citing a likely need

for additional facilities, or upgrading of facilities (eg lights).

Essential facility needs expressed by Clubs/ Associations

Clubs were also asked to indicate the new or upgraded facilities that were essential in order to meet club needs over the next ten years and to indicate the reasons why these are important. A wide range of needs considered essential were expressed with the most frequent relating to installation of synthetic surfaces, additional playing fields/ courts, upgrading of playing surfaces/ drainage/ amenities, and lighting.

Agreement with 25% maintenance cost recovery target

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the target among Councils in the region of recovering 25% of sports ground maintenance costs from user fees and charges. Six organisations agreed or strongly agreed with this proposal, four were neutral, and three disagreed.

Views on Club/ Associations role in management or maintenance of grounds and facilities

Clubs/ Associations were asked for their view on the role that clubs should play in the management of Council owned sports grounds or facilities.

- There is general acceptance of the premise that already applies to the booking of grounds whereby organisations take good care of facilities they use, avoid damage, only train/ play on the grounds/ times that have been allocated, ensure cleanliness, communicate problems to Council etc
- A number of organisations indicated they would like to have a greater say in assigning priorities for future works or wet weather closures
- Some organisations feel that there is capacity for users to play a greater role (eg general maintenance, ensure goal areas are not used during mid-week training sessions, erect signs and fence off goal mouths when grounds are closed)
- However, others felt that they should not have to bear the brunt of costs as reserves have “passive” users and/ or users are already paying for them in their rates
- One organisation commented on Council’s expectation for users to pay more but does not listen or do what users need

Bookings Process

In order to understand perceptions on how well Council manages the booking and allocations process for sports grounds in the City of Ryde, Clubs were asked to rate Council’s performance in this area. Nine clubs rated Council’s performance as ‘very good’ or ‘good’ and a further three rated the performance as fair. Only two clubs gave Council a ‘poor’ rating.

Notwithstanding their perception of the bookings process, a number of Clubs offered suggestions on actions that they felt would improve the process, for example:

- Introduction of an online booking system
- Allocating an extra 2 weeks to winter sports at the beginning or end of their present season
- Better enforcement of unauthorised usage
- Giving priority to local associations
- Addressing the threat from other sports taking over grounds.

Wet weather ground closure

Seven Clubs rated Council's performance in this area as 'good' or 'very good, two rated it as 'fair', and four rated it as 'poor' or 'very poor'. [It should be noted that Council has recently adopted new procedures for ground closures which would not have been experienced by some respondents.]

A number of Clubs commented favourably on improvements in this area. Some felt that sports should be able to make decisions on ground closures as applies in some other Councils. Some commented on the need for more timely communication with Clubs/ Associations.

Club/ Association role in funding capital improvements

Clubs/ Associations had mixed views about the requirement to co-fund improvements. There is a view that this needs to be balanced against security or return for investment; equitable usage costs compared to 'non-contributing' groups; and Council's 'obligation' to provide a certain level of facilities.

Schools Feedback

A survey was distributed via email to all 29 schools within the City of Ryde to ascertain information about:

- Schools' utilisation of Council sporting facilities and levels of satisfaction
- Likelihood of school use of sport and recreation facilities changing in future
- Utilisation of school facilities for community use and partnership potential
- School plans for the development of sport and recreation facilities

A follow up phone call was made and an email sent to schools that did not respond by the closing date. Responses to the survey were received from six schools and a summary of the feedback is provided in Table 15.

School	Is your utilisation of facilities likely to change in the future?	What facilities do you use currently?	How satisfied are you with the facilities? (5 Very satisfied - 1 Very Dissatisfied)	Do you offer community recreation and sport on your campus?		Are there future plans for facility development on your campus? Will these be available for community use?
Kent Road Public School	Yes	Not Specified	5	Yes	Sporting Field for evening junior soccer training	No
Meadowbank Public School	Yes	Meadowbank Park	5	Not Specified	-	No
		Putney Park	5			
Our Lady Queen of Peace Gladesville	Yes	Monash Oval	5	Not Specified	-	No
Putney Public School	Yes	Parry Park	2	Yes	School hall is used for karate and yoga classes	No

School	Is your utilisation of facilities likely to change in the future?	What facilities do you use currently?	How satisfied are you with the facilities? (5 Very satisfied - 1 Very Dissatisfied)	Do you offer community recreation and sport on your campus?		Are there future plans for facility development on your campus? Will these be available for community use?
St Anthony's Marsfield	Yes	Dunbar Park	5	Yes	School hall used for parish events	Yes- The P&F committee are planning to re turf the bottom oval or find a suitable alternative for that area. It is currently dirt. However community use will be not be provided
		RALC	5			
St Charles Ryde	Yes	RALC	5	Yes	Netball courts used for after school training School hall used for after school and weekend use	Yes- Always looking to improve and update existing facilities as well as put in new and more equipment that helps our students. Community use could be possible depending on request and who shall be using the area. Principal shall take a case by case outlook on this.
		Meadowbank Park	4			
		Morrison Bay Park	5			

Table 15 - Analysis of local school use of sport and recreation facilities

Schools were asked if they were considering a number of scenarios relating to usage of facilities and partnership potential. Specifically, they were asked if they were considering:

- Allowing community use of an existing facility that has not previously been made available for community use
- Developing a partnership with a club or association for the use of grounds or facilities
- Seeking a partnership with Council to improve sport and recreation facilities
- Removing any sport and recreation facilities or ceasing to make them available for community use

School	Allow the community use of an existing sport / recreation facility on your campus?	Develop a partnership with a club for use of sport facilities on your campus?	Develop a partnership with Council to improve sport / recreation facilities on your campus?	Remove a facility or cease to make is available	Comment
Kent Road Public School	-	-	Yes	-	We are always happy to make connections with the Council in regards to the facilities we use.
Meadowbank Public School	-	-	-	-	
Our Lady Queen of Peace Gladesville	-	-	-	-	
Putney Public School	-	-	-	-	
St Anthony's Marsfield	-	-	-	-	
St Charles Ryde	Yes	Yes	-	-	School Principal to take a case by case approach depending on request and those using facility.

Table 16 - Opportunities for community use of school sport and recreation facilities

Analysis of School Feedback

A variety of Council facilities were utilised by the six schools that responded to the survey, including playing fields, athletics track, netball courts and aquatic centre. Schools are very satisfied with these facilities with the exception of Putney Public School which commented on the removal of the netball court at Parry Park. Four schools had sport or recreation facilities that were utilised by community groups (eg sports fields, tennis courts, hall or indoor sports court). None of the schools had any plans to develop new or upgraded sport or recreation facilities in the next 5-10 years that would be available for community use.

One school commented on the increasing difficulty in booking sports fields and another suggested some forward notice of ground closures that have been scheduled for maintenance and a calendar or dates of when the grounds are changed over between summer and winter.

State Sporting Organisations Feedback

Discussions were held with representatives of larger state sporting organisations to identify any specific needs/ priorities for the City of Ryde. A summary of the outcome of these discussions is outlined at Table 17.

Sporting Organisation	Key Issues
AFL NSW/ ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFL has seen significant growth over the past 10 years across NSW/ ACT but in particular within Metropolitan Sydney. Between 2005 and 2015, club football participants in Metropolitan Sydney have increased from 5,710 to 10,429. Currently there is just one junior club within the City of Ryde (North Ryde Dockers with 160 members who play out of ELS Hall Oval) and one senior club (Macquarie University with 110 members who play out of University Oval). Above numbers exclude Auskick program participants. The AFL NSW/ ACT development workforce run introductory Auskick programs in 14 schools within the City of Ryde in 2015 with approximately 1,200 participants. Additionally, 16 teams and 240 participants competed in the AFL PSSA competition (primary school AFL) in 2015. Participation trends and strategies are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a focus on transitioning introductory programs for younger children at school level across to local community clubs. A critical influence on this transition is the quality of the Club, both in the built form (facilities) and the quality of people and expertise within these Clubs. Female football is a rapidly growing market and is a key priority for the AFL A modified, social game for the code has also rapidly grown in recent years in the form of AFL 9's. There is a 15 team/ 150 participant competition at Macquarie University. Each team comprises male and female players in a 9 a side, non-contact format. Association is intimately aware of the challenges faced by Councils and sporting groups within Metropolitan Sydney in relation to green space availability. As a code, they fully support the use of synthetic surfaces for training and matches. Fully support proposal for a synthetic oval at ELS Hall Park.
Baseball NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation trends show little or no growth Major numbers in the Metropolitan area in North Sydney Region (Manly, Ryde, Hills Council areas) Improvements identified in facilities audit for Ryde include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneer Park – utilities/ canteen and lighting Magdala Park – Utilities/ canteen, field/ fencing/ dugouts, lighting and hitting tunnels ELS Hall – Utilities/Canteen and Field/Fencing/Dugouts Key issues for Ryde: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for 'home' facility Senior pitching mound is an issue for code sharing Baseball Australia is investigating potential locations for state junior championship. Potential for Ryde facility.

Sporting Organisation	Key Issues
Basketball NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership figures across NSW indicate a 29% growth over the past 5 years with a total of 53,822 in 2015. For Metropolitan Sydney, 5 year growth is 38% (2015 members = 32,224). Metropolitan North have grown by 47% to 11,967 in 2015. In this time Ryde's membership has fluctuated and is currently approximately 400 (220 juniors and 180 seniors). The association uses three courts across two venues. The provision of basketball courts in Ryde is around the metro Sydney average (1:40,000 population) but below the Metropolitan North Average (1:22,000). With a growing population and a trend toward more indoor sport the long term provision of indoor courts will be crucial in Ryde.
Cricket NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide facility audit identified 74% of facilities are average or below average standard Cricket Australia have developed Community Cricket Facility Guidelines which aim to provide a consolidated resource of community cricket facility planning, development, management and maintenance information for use by community, government and national cricket industry partners and stakeholders No specific Ryde demands
NSW Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The code has grown by 8% across NSW in 2015 season Peak body believes facilities within City of Ryde are most inadequate No home training or competition venue for elite women's team Koalas Women's FC Women's teams have to walk a long way to access change rooms at Meadowbank Park Some facilities should be allocated as home grounds for different sports (eg Christie Park as home for soccer) Need for 2- 3 synthetic facilities in Ryde to enable scheduling of games in wet weather, high quality surface for home games, training venue, and better management of other grounds. Recommended locations are Christie Park and ELS Hall Park Principal of sinking funds for maintenance/ replacement of synthetic surfaces is well established Upgrading of facilities/ amenities at Monash Park, Morrison Bay Park and Meadowbank Park are also recommended
Gymnastics NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 47,000 gymnastics participants across 185 clubs in NSW in 2014 Annualised growth of 6% per annum over the last 5 years In providing a directed and prioritised approach to the identification of participation areas, Gymnastics NSW uses criterion that remains consistent with the sports growth strategy which includes identification of areas that fall below the target participation rate of 1.5% of the population area The upgrading or development of new facilities has a substantial impact on gymnastics in the local areas and the ability to increase participation through the diverse number of activities that can be delivered to the community. The high demand for gymnastics, as experienced by existing clubs, demonstrates that a facility has the potential for high usage and income generation Ryde participation is currently 1.18%. Four (4) gymnastics clubs are operating in the area with evidence of opportunity and potential for growth 3 clubs are operating through RSL entities with limited venue capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venue sizes restrict the ability to deliver the full suite of gymnastics programs to the community 1 club, Macquarie University, is servicing over 1,100 members in a small non-conventional facility Macquarie University is at full capacity to engage new members Clubs have to deny interested participants due to reduced facility offerings

Sporting Organisation	Key Issues
Hockey NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,800+ members in North West Sydney, with significant percentage (circa 50%) in Ryde (which is seen as a progressive association) with only 1 field Membership statistics demonstrate that larger memberships tend to be where facility supply is plentiful Additional field in Ryde would be supported by Hockey NSW.
Netball NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing alternative game formats and schedules (e.g. 'Net-Set-Go') Investigating other opportunities to spread use onto days other than Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key issues to facilitate are lighting security and parking Expect to release a strategic plan early in 2016 Northern region issues include need for additional courts in Eastwood Ryde Netball Association (ERNA) region
Tennis NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Ryde is currently home to 7 tennis venues which incorporate 51 tennis courts across the City. The City of Ryde is also home to one of Tennis NSW's largest competition providers, namely Ryde-Balmain Tennis Association The projection of population to courts ratio contained in the NSW State Master Plan for the City of Ryde is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 1,955 2015 2,056 2020 2,158 2025 2,262 These figures in a NSW context meet expectations for court provision for the local community Tennis NSW has seen significant growth in player registration due to a re-structure of the NSW membership offering, increase in Hot Shots (modified program), and tournament play A key issue for tennis in NSW, and in particular metropolitan Sydney, is leasing of courts. Leases tend to be inconsistent, expensive, and with little view to producing sustainable/ accountable outcomes for the longer term Tennis Australia is tackling this issue by producing a national leasing strategy document which focuses on best practice leasing terms for purpose built tennis facilities Educating clubs and operators on best practice club and facility management is a key area for coaches, volunteers and operators to maximise sustainability/ accountability outcomes. Provisioning tennis courts as part of a Community Hub (sport grouping) is a concept which can be successful, shared clubhouse facilities etc Tennis Australia is introducing new software for affiliated venues which provides an online platform to manage existing membership data, competition and tournament software, booking courts and providing community access to tennis venues Tennis NSW has a Participation Leader who focuses on the above and associated participation strategies within the City of Ryde and surrounding areas

Table 17- State sporting organisation issues relevant to Sport & Recreation Strategy

Focus Group Meetings

Focus group meetings were conducted with a range of stakeholder groups including:

- Walking and cycling groups
- Environmental groups
- Key sport & recreation organisations
- Youth groups
- Personal trainers

Broad ranging discussions about sport and recreation were held at these meetings- including

things that are working well or need to be improved, barriers to participation, essential needs and priorities. Key issues arising out of these meetings are summarised below.

Walking/ cycling groups

Key issues are as follows:

- Walking programs funded by Council in urban and natural areas are popular
- A lot of good work has been done in implementing Council's Bicycle Plan
- There is a need to ensure that new developments make provision for walking/ cycling
- Regular reviews of Council's Open Space Plan and Bike Plan should be undertaken to integrate funding opportunities for walking/ cycling facilities
- Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA's) must link with broader planning objectives to ensure that opportunities for walking/ cycling and pathway linkages are considered
- Additional exercise stations are needed
- Council should encourage end-of-trip facilities at key locations (eg lockable facilities)
- There is an absence of lit walk/ cycle paths at key locations
- There is a demand for additional funded walking programs to be conducted
- Council should play a leadership role in active transport
- Ryde lacks a criterium track
- Specific recommendations have been made by Bike North to improve cycling opportunities within the City of Ryde. The group has input into Council's Bicycle Committee.

Youth agencies

Key points to emerge from meetings with Ryde Hunters Hill Youth Interagency and Ryde Youth Council were as follows:

- Young people like feel there is a good supply of sporting fields, open space, playgrounds for young children, and a strong network of organised clubs
- The RALC, access/ availability of fitness equipment, and organised outdoor activities (eg outdoor cinema) are liked by young people
- There is a trend toward unstructured activity among people
- A dedicated youth facility for unstructured activities is lacking. This should include provision for table tennis and badminton and a range of facilities to attract young people (eg outdoor water facilities, wi-fi, basketball courts with reversible hoops, outdoor gym equipment, creative spaces for performances and drama, skate park, parkour, spaces for dancing and playing music, beach volleyball courts)
- Need for youth-led and youth-driven activities
- Adventure play equipment similar to the flying fox in Buffalo Creek Reserve just outside Ryde is desired
- The number of off-road bike paths could be improved

Environmental groups

A number of points raised in the meeting with environmental groups focussed on environmental issues unrelated to sport and recreation. Issues relevant to this study included:

- Guided walk programs are working well and many families walk in the bush on weekends

- There are five endangered ecological communities on City of Ryde land
- Bushland has value for aesthetics and quiet enjoyment
- The Darvall Park upgrade has been well done featuring active and passive areas which have not taken any bushland. The bushland is separated from active areas by logs and fences to clearly define mowing areas and there has not been much damage to bushland or conflict between sport and bushland
- An increasing population results in the need for open space and bushland
- Recreation and sport development is occurring at the expense of natural areas (eg Council resurfaced the oval at Brush Farm Park/ Lambert Park but bush regenerators were told there was no money to upgrade the bushland)
- There is concern about encroachment of sporting fields being carved out of bushland. Use rooftops for sport rather than clearing bushland
- There is a concern about the differentiation of Sportsground and Natural Area-Bushland categories in Plans of Management
- Bushland is not valued and protected in Ryde. Council's priority is development
- Spending on bushland should be separated from spending on open space because bushland comes second in terms of funds allocated to it
- All bushland is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation because it has high conservation value. Under this zoning concrete roads and mountain bike tracks are not permitted
- A generic Plan of Management covers bushland areas in Ryde. The Field of Mars Plan of Management is the only PoM which covers a specific bushland area. There is no specific Plan of Management for Darvall Park or other bushland areas
- Poorly maintained tracks in Ryde Park at Princes Street downstream to Burrows Park. The track quality is inconsistent and dangerous with exposed rocks before the intersection with Higginbotham Road
- Some specific priorities were mentioned:
 - Bush regeneration (allocate more funds to bush regeneration; encourage people who live in high density and people from CALD communities to visit bushland; biodiversity plantings for linkages. Pockets of unused space could be planted while not taking away kickabout space)
 - Education and signage (need good signage regarding bushland areas – wayfinding and interpretive signs; Darvall Park: provide education and information about the benefits of the bush; more guided walks and talks about bushland for people from the CALD community)
 - Upgrade entrances and walking tracks (want more “invitations” to enter the bush via formalised paths. Darvall Park has a legible, safe entrance; more funding for walking tracks. Brush Farm Park is clay on shale, so soil erodes easily. Properly constructed tracks could reduce erosion)
 - Monitoring (control impacts on bushland; reconfigure some sportsfields; exercise circuit in Darvall Park)

Sporting organisations

To provide input and guidance into the study Council formed an external Project Reference Group comprising representatives of sporting organisations and/ or residents with an interest in sport and recreation. Four meetings were held with this group. In addition, representatives of sporting organisations were invited to a focus group meeting to discuss the study. Key issues raised in these meetings were as follows:

-
- There are concerns about the impact of urban development on provision of sporting facilities (need to protect existing facilities and look for expansion where possible)
 - Urban growth will exacerbate the demand for sport and recreation facilities
 - The process for allocating grounds is generally ok but there are insufficient grounds to meet demands
 - Overuse of fields means that some grounds are in poor condition. Moreover there is always loss of access to grounds in wet weather
 - Maintenance of sports fields and upgraded parks could be improved
 - Synthetic surfaces and new/ upgraded lighting of grounds can enable increased utilisation
 - Resident concerns about lighting of facilities are acknowledged, but lighting technology has improved and lighting of facilities can also improve security for community members
 - Cricket is concerned about the potential loss of turf pitches if synthetic fields are developed
 - Sports are already responding to capacity issues by adjusting days/ times competitions are played (cricket, soccer, baseball), modifying field sizes (soccer), or utilising school facilities in some cases
 - There are good fields in a number of schools but their availability for community use depends on school principal
 - Council grounds need to be multi-use to maximise capacity. However, home grounds should be allocated for some sports (eg football at Christie Park)
 - Need for better communication between Council and sporting groups when implementing improvements at grounds (eg layout of facilities so that potential conflicts are avoided)
 - There is a need for a balance between active and passive opportunities. More active than passive in Ryde. Passive recreation at Waterloo Park works well
 - Need for a skate park has been identified in previous reports but has not been developed as yet
 - Netball courts at Meadowbank Park are situated on former landfill and subsidence under the courts is an ongoing concern. Relocation of courts may be required
 - No dedicated indoor training facility for netball and access is difficult at ELS Hall. Have to go outside Ryde
 - Need better facilities for organised sport. Adjacent Councils have clubhouses for sporting clubs but this hasn't happened in Ryde. Clubs have the ability to contribute financially
 - Upgraded facilities should be conducted in partnership with sports (eg lighting). Some form of tenure over upgraded facilities should be provided where partnership funding has been received from clubs/ associations
 - Licensed clubs are strong supporters of sporting clubs
 - Needs to be better integration of sport and recreation needs with funding opportunities [eg S94 Plans and Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA's)]
 - Lack of parking is an issue at some grounds. Allowing clubs to control car parking on adjoining unused grounds would help to address demands
 - Declining volunteers in many sports and some are struggling with viability. This puts pressure on fees and charges with some sports having to pay coaches when no volunteers are available

Personal trainers

A meeting with personal trainers identified the following:

- Need for shade/ shelter in parks (notably ELS Hall Park, Ryde Park, and Yamble Park which are well used for personal training activities).
- Greater promotion of personal trainers approved by Council would improve the visibility of this aspect of Council's Active in Ryde program.
- Personal trainers felt that exercise equipment in parks was not well used and not appropriate for older adults.
- Alternative training surfaces are needed during wet weather.

Discussions with Neighbouring Councils

Meetings were held with neighbouring Councils in the NSROC region. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the following issues:

- Key sport and recreation issues relevant to their Council
- Capacity of existing facilities
- Future plans for facilities
- Ground allocation/ tenure policies
- Maintenance responsibilities
- Policies on pricing and capital contributions by clubs
- Commercial use of recreation parkland
- Synthetic surface provision, planning and management

The main sport and recreation challenges confronting other Councils in NSROC are:

- High population growth
- Changing demographics (especially SE Asia) creating different, non-traditional demands
- Demand for more indoor facilities
- Tennis/ bowls are in decline
- Many playing fields at, or near, capacity

A range of initiatives are being implemented to address demands for playing fields, including development of synthetic surfaces, new grass fields, flood lighting of grounds, use of school facilities, and retrofitting of golf courses.

Other key points to emerge from these discussions included:

- Sinking funds are commonly set up for capital development and/ or surface replacement in respect of synthetic surfaces and charged to users of these facilities
- Councils are responsible for the maintenance of playing fields as also occurs in the City of Ryde
- Other NSROC Councils allow capital contributions from clubs/ associations and so do we. However, tenure over playing facilities is uncommon. Capital contributions usually entitle the users of playing facilities to preferred usage, not formal tenure
- A common fee for playing fields (25% cost recovery) and hourly rate for use of synthetic surfaces across all Councils in NSROC has been proposed for ratification by the General Managers Advisory Group (GMAC).

Discussions were also held with NSROC management which revealed that previous studies

have demonstrated that sports fields are at or over capacity; but plans lack detail on how planning for sport will meet needs generated by population growth

Other Observations

Several meetings/ workshops were held with Council officers throughout the course of the study. A wide range of issues were raised in these discussions including:

- There are no large tracts of vacant land in Ryde, increasing pressure on open space
- There is a growing demand for unstructured recreation/ self-determined exercise
- Population is aging. Likely demand for indoor facilities
- Macquarie Park public domain – demand for walking and jogging tracks
- Active transport corridors are a recreation opportunity
- Sports fields are heavily used. Summer use has increased which is eating into what were previously rest periods. Unauthorised use such as corporate lunchtime groups contributes to wear and tear of fields
- Sportsfields are in good condition considering use they get. Higher use needs higher maintenance
- Some facilities/ grounds at schools are used by community sporting clubs (eg Marsden High, Holy Cross)
- Some upgrading of sports grounds has been ad hoc rather than based on an overall strategy
- Netball courts are situated on a landfill site and have subsidence problems.
- Lighting of sports fields needs to consider impacts on residential areas, drainage lines, creeks, threatened species
- Parking is a major issue and spillover into residential areas needs to be avoided.
- Playgrounds are experiencing wear and tear. Many parks are being loved to death especially after upgrading (eg Anderson Park, Yamble Park, Blenheim Park).
- Future provision of sport and recreation facilities needs to be considered on a regional basis. Ryde plays a significant role in regional provision.
- There is a lack of opportunities for older youth (eg skate park, outdoor gym equipment, parkour, performance space)
- Council runs a popular 'Active in Ryde' program which focuses on activating open space. Well attended by diverse ethnic groups and new arrivals to area.
- Programs are delivered in partnership with range of agencies eg corporate sector, volunteer groups, government agencies, sport/ leisure venues. Walking programs have a waiting list of prospective participants

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SECTION 7 - CITY GROWTH AND IMPACT ON RECREATION

This Section provides a discussion on the future forecasts for the City of Ryde, including the forecast population growth and the type of urban development that is predicted for the City and its impact on the provision and use of open space and recreation assets for the community.

City population growth and the impact on Sport and Recreation

The City of Ryde forecasted population in 2016 is 114,996, and is forecast to grow to 135,508 by 2031, a growth of 17.84%. The use of the recreation facilities and sporting fields will intensify with this growth without additional open space areas and/or facilities being provided. The impact of this can lead to, most simply, more people using the parks for sport and recreation and placing increased demand on an open space network that is already under pressure.

The consequence of the projected City population growth is more people living and working in higher density neighbourhoods. This increase in urban density leads to more people relying on the City's public open space network to support their physical and mental health and wellbeing. This will place additional demand on the existing open spaces and in those areas of the most growth (Macquarie Park, Ryde and North Ryde) there will be a need to provide additional open space to ensure Council continues to meet the agreed open space commitment.

Population growth requires the City to improve the quantity, diversity, quality and natural features of open space and parklands to adequately cater to the increasing population.

The City of Ryde's population has been growing steadily over the past decades and there are situations where the growth is in areas that are already lacking in open space. West Ryde is an example of this where there has been growth of 1,889 people since 2006 with no additional open space provided to cater for this increase in demand.

The forecast growth impact on the existing open space network is analysed suburb by suburb in Table 18. This Table provides a breakdown of the amount of open space available in each suburb in hectares per 1,000 people and how this will reduce (with the exception on Marsfield, where the population is forecast to reduce slightly) with the projected population growth over the next 17 years. To provide a more detailed analysis, the table includes a breakdown of the open space network into the three main open space functions:

- Passive recreation areas (such as picnic areas, playgrounds, unstructured open spaces)
- Natural areas and bushland (those areas categorised as natural area under the Local Government Act) and
- Active recreation areas (including all sports fields and courts)

The purpose of this breakdown is to fully understand where the pressures in open space use intensification will be felt.

Suburb	Population 2016	Total / Ha Open Space	Total Ha / 1000 people in 2014			
			Total Open Space Settings	Passive Open Space*	Bushland and Natural Areas*	Active Open Space*
City of Ryde	114,996					
Denistone- East- West	7,062	22.49	3.18	1.10	1.96	0.04
Eastwood	13,262	27.01	2.04	0.85	0.87	0.31
Gladesville /Tennyson	10,714	19.37	1.81	0.83	0.54	0.43
Macquarie Park	6,916	17.62	2.25	1.45	0.41	0.70
Marsfield	12,836	60.35	4.7	1.13	2.57	1.02
Meadowbank	5,570	31.68	5.69	2.38	0.34	2.97
North Ryde	14,057	48.05	3.49	1.20	1.90	0.21
Putney	4,258	23.51	5.52	3.25	0.65	1.41
Ryde	23,935	93.47	3.91	1.20	2.44	0.33
West Ryde	13,012	9.87	0.75	0.61	0.15	0.00

Suburb	Population 2031	Total / Ha Open Space	Total Ha / 1000 people in 2031			
			Total Open Space Settings	Passive Open Space*	Bushland and Natural Areas*	Active Open Space*
City of Ryde	135,508					
Denistone- East- West	7,546	22.49	2.98	1.03	1.83	0.04
Eastwood	15,097	27.01	1.79	0.75	0.77	0.28
Gladesville /Tennyson	12,357	19.37	1.57	0.72	0.47	0.37
Macquarie Park	10,601	17.62	1.66	0.94	0.26	0.46
Marsfield	12,791	60.35	4.72	1.14	2.58	1.03
Meadowbank	5,664	31.68	5.59	2.34	0.33	2.92
North Ryde	18,345	48.05	2.62	0.92	1.46	0.16
Putney	4,266	23.51	5.51	3.25	0.65	1.40
Ryde	34,333	93.47	2.72	0.84	1.70	0.23
West Ryde	14,510	9.87	0.68	0.55	0.13	0.00

Table 18 - Impact on Open Space with future population growth

(Note*: This is an estimated total based on the mapping used in the Generic Plan of Management.)

As shown in Table 18 the impact of the projected growth in population of 21.4% on the open space network is an overall intensification of community use of the existing open space network of 17.9% from 2014 to 2031 when averaged across the whole City. However, the growth for the City is not balanced evenly across the City and is focused on three suburbs, Macquarie Park, Ryde and North Ryde where the 18,371 new residents or 71% of the total City population growth will be located. The intensification on open space in these three suburbs is shown in Table 19.

Suburb	Population 2014	Population 2031	Additional Residents	Intensification on Open Space Network [#]
Macquarie Park	6,916	10,601	3,685 (53%)	34.7%
North Ryde	14,057	18,345	4,288 (43%)	38.2%
Ryde	23,935	34,333	10,398 (31%)	30.4%
TOTAL			18,371	

Table 19- Intensification of Open Space in Macquarie Park, Ryde and North Ryde.

(Note[#]: Intensification of open space is the amount of increased use predicted for all the open spaces in the corresponding suburb, calculated as a percentage of the reduced provision per 1,000 people against the provision in 2014.)

To fully understand the impact of the forecast population growth on the City's open space network, further analysis has been undertaken to examine the increase in patronage of each park across the City. Table 20 details how many additional people will use each park, from a Level 1, regional park through to the impact on each Level 4 local park in each suburb.

Suburb	Number of Level 1 parks	Increase in people using the Park from 2014- 2031	Number of Level 2 parks	Increase in people using the Park from 2014- 2031	Number of Level 3 parks	Increase in people using the Park from 2014- 2031	Number of Level 4 parks	Increase in people using the Park from 2014- 2031
Denistone- East - West	0	-	2	242	3	161	19	25
Eastwood	0	-	2	918	7	262	14	131
Gladesville								
Tennyson	1	1643	6	274	2	822	9	186
Macquarie Park	1	3685	3	1228	2	1843	6	614
Marsfield	2	-22	5	-9	2	-23	13	-3
Meadowbank	1	94	0	-	1	94	6	16
North Ryde	2	2144	3	1429	6	715	19	226
Putney	1	8	4	2	1	8	3	3
Ryde	4	2600	6	1733	4	2600	24	433
West Ryde	0	-	0	-	6	250	7	214

Table 20- Predicted increase in Open Space patronage.

Forecast development and changes in dwelling numbers

The type of future urban development has a major impact on the open space network. The reduction and or loss of the traditional back yard area is placing and will continue to place, significant pressure on the City's open space network as in many areas of the City. The community's backyard will be the local park and become the only destination for outdoor play for many people.

The City of Ryde completed a Housing Study as a part of the Local Planning Study in 2010. This Study provides a detailed analysis of the Housing growth and changes expected over the

future years. Key characteristics of the City's housing is summarised below:

- The City of Ryde is an established residential area. The suburbs are largely made up of a single house per lot, with interspersed villas (townhouses) and duplex buildings.
- Higher density residential development in the form of apartment buildings and three storey walk-up flat buildings occur within and at the edges of town centres.
- Recent planning controls will deliver more housing to town centres in the form of multi-level apartment buildings above street level retail and commercial premises.
- Household types in the City of Ryde are changing. While the dominant household type is still couples with children, lone person households are increasing, as are the percentage of families living in town houses or villas.
- The most common dwellings in Ryde are separate houses followed by walk-up flats/units and townhouses or semi detached houses. However recent development trends see an increase in medium and high density and a reduction in separate houses.

Other general key findings of the Housing Study are as follows:

- Higher densities should be concentrated in town centres.
- The character of the low density areas should be retained.
- Town centres are good places for increased residential densities, but new buildings should be well designed and accessible.
- There is the potential for increased residential densities in small centres.
- Infill development should be grouped in defined areas rather than spread throughout the low density residential areas.
- Free-standing houses on small allotments, together with villas and duplex buildings are appropriate for infill development in low density residential areas.

The forecast growth in dwelling numbers across the City is listed in Table 21 and shown on Figure 20.

Suburb	2011 Number of Dwellings	2031 Number of Dwellings	Increase of dwellings between 2011 and 2031
Denistone- East- West	2,298	2,650	352 (15.3%)
Eastwood	4,774	5,700	926 (19.4%)
Gladesville Tennyson	4,428	5,405	977 (22.1%)
Macquarie Park	2,819	5,008	2,189 (77.1%)
Marsfield	5,178	5,364	186 (3.6%)
Meadowbank	2,526	2,749	223 (8.8%)
North Ryde	4,843	6,530	1,687 (34.8%)
Putney	1,406	1,558	125 (10.8%)
Ryde	8,856	14,404	5,548 (62.6%)
West Ryde	5,020	6,148	1,128 (22.5%)
TOTAL	42,148	55,516	13,368 (31.7%)

Table 21- Forecast growth in dwellings in the City

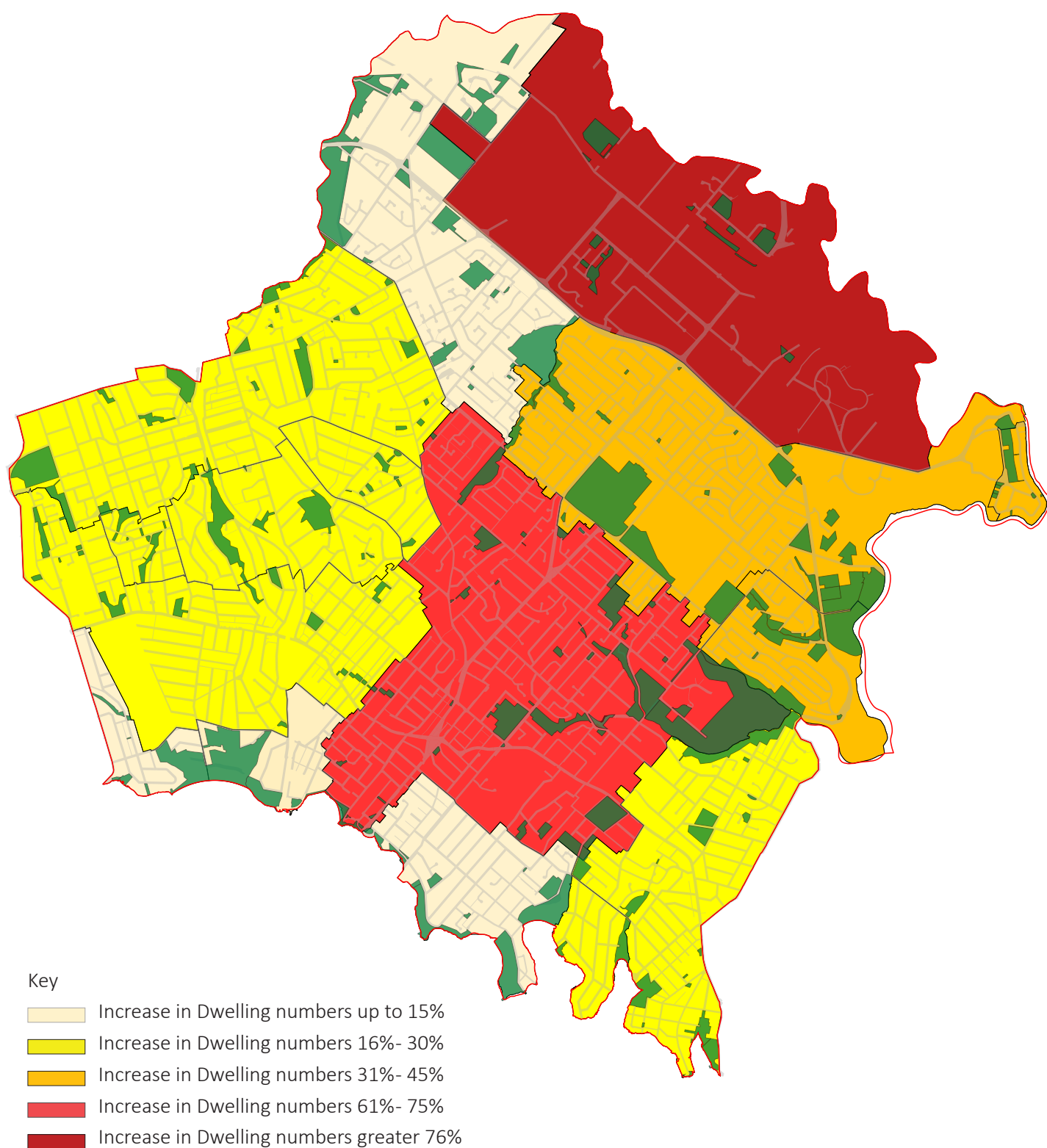


Figure 20- Forecast increase in Dwellings 2011- 2031.

Other Demographic Observations for the City of Ryde

Other key demographic variables for the City of Ryde as at the 2011 Census include:

- Significantly higher median weekly household income (\$1,466) compared to NSW (\$1,237) but lower than NSROC Councils as a whole (\$1,987). Macquarie Park has the lowest median weekly household income (\$1,274)
- 25.3% of households earn a high income compared with 18.9% for NSW as a whole
- Double the proportion of people from non-English speaking backgrounds (36.5%) compared to NSW (18.6%)
- 42% speak a language other than English at home, compared with 28.7% for NSROC and 32.5% for the Greater Sydney Region
- The largest non-English speaking country of birth is China (9.5%) followed by Korea (3.4%)
- Overall, less socio-economic disadvantage than NSW as a whole but Macquarie Park has a higher level of socio-economic disadvantage than NSW as a whole

City growth and its impact on the use of the Open Space Network

- Intensification of open space activity and use will be felt in a range of ways. According to Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), the 2031 demand could be realised in an additional (as an example):
 - 8,873 more walkers and 2,260 runners in our parks and streets
 - 2,941 additional cyclists on our streets and bike paths
 - 1,186 more soccer players- 70 more teams
 - 915 more netballers- 101 more teams
 - 1,186 additional bushwalkers in our natural areas and bushland
- From a passive recreation perspective, population growth will see increase demand for
 - playgrounds
 - picnic and BBQ areas
 - place to walk and relax
 - areas for unstructured outdoor recreation and so on
- Increased recreational use of natural areas and bushland will required careful management and control to minimise harm to the habitat value of the City's natural areas
- Population growth placed further demand on the use of sporting facilities including fields, courts, canteens and club facilities
- Increased medium density and high density developments place increased pressure on the use of open space as the pseudo backyard

City growth and its impact on Sport and Recreation

Possible implications of the demographic make-up for the City of Ryde in terms of sport and recreation include:

- Higher demand for non-traditional sport and recreation opportunities (eg indoor facilities)
- Lower levels of physical activity due to high proportion born overseas and/ or speak a language other than English at home (research has indicated that these populations are less likely to undertake sufficient physical activity to derive a health benefit)
- Higher participation in social sport, informal recreation (eg cycling)

-
- Likely ongoing pressure on playing fields due to lower median age and projected growth in families with young children
 - Demand for recreation park land
 - Greater capacity to pay in terms of membership fees/ entry fees/ program fees due to higher median household incomes (but may be negated due to high cost of housing)

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SECTION 8 - PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND RECREATION

Australia wide studies have been completed on the participation in sport and recreation activities. As outlined in the ERASS 2010 and the ABS report 4177.0- Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2013-14, participation in sport and recreation generally decreases with age. The findings conclude that:

- People aged 15–17 years reported the highest participation rate in sport and physical recreation (74%)
- People aged 65 years and over had the lowest (47%)
- Male and female participation rates were similar, except in the 25-34 age group where participation rates were higher for males (67%) than females (61%)
- Walking for exercise was the most popular physical recreational activity, with 19% of people aged 15 years and over walking for exercise
- Females were more likely to walk for exercise than males (25% and 14% respectively)
- Fitness and gym were the next most popular activity (17%) again with more females than males participating (19% and 16% respectively)
- Males were more likely than females to play golf (6.6% and 1.4% respectively) or participate in cycling and BMXing (8.5% and 4.0% respectively)

Using these benchmarking rates of participation, an analysis of the City of Ryde population against participation rates has been completed. The purpose of this is to gauge how many additional sport and recreation participants will be using the facilities within Ryde and the surrounding areas. 19 sport and recreational activities have been selected for this analysis and the results are listed in Table 22.

Sport	Participation Rates	Estimated Number Participants				
		Today	By 2021	Increase from 2016	By 2031	Increase from 2016
Aerobics/ Gym	22.4%	25,759	27,407	1,648	30,354	4,595
Athletics	0.7%	805	856	52	949	144
Australian Rules Football	1.7%	1,955	2,080	125	2,304	349
Baseball	0.4%	460	489	29	542	82
Cricket	3.4%	3,910	4,160	250	4,607	697
Cycling	10.6%	12,190	12,970	780	14,364	697
Hockey	1.1%	1,265	1,346	81	1,491	226
Lawn Bowls	2.3%	2,645	2,814	169	3,117	472
Netball	3.0%	3,450	3,671	221	4,065	615
Rugby League	2.1%	2,415	2,569	155	2,846	431
Rugby Union	1.2%	1,380	1,468	88	1,626	246
Running	9.1%	10,465	11,134	670	12,331	1,867
Soccer	6.5%	7,475	7,953	478	8,808	1,333
Softball	0.4%	460	489	29	542	82
Touch Football	4.4%	5,060	5,384	324	5,962	903
Walking (bush)	4.8%	5,520	5,873	353	6,504	985

Sport	Participation Rates	Estimated Number Participants				
		Today	By 2021	Increase from 2016	By 2031	Increase from 2016
Walking	34.0%	39,099	41,600	2,502	46,073	6,974

Table 22- National participation rates in sport and recreation

This method of assessing demand is an indicative guide only. Each LGA will have nuances that will impact participation rates and such factors can include demography of the population (including ethnicity and socioeconomic factors), availability of other sport and recreation facilities by other public providers, quality of facilities and availability of facilities in neighbouring LGA's should also be a consideration.

Structure and Non-Structured Sport and Recreation Participation

To further understand the changing need for the community in sport and recreation participation, it is necessary to analyse the participation levels in structured sport and recreation against the more social and non structured sport and recreation patterns of the community. The industry benchmark implies that of those people who participate in sport and recreation;

- 27% only participate in structured sport and recreation
- 53% only participate in unstructured sport and recreation
- 65% will participate in both structured and structured sport and recreation.

The trends for structured and unstructured participation between males and females is similar to the broader trends with 54% of men and 51% of women participating in non structured sport and recreation while 66% of men and 64% of women will participate in both structured and unstructured sport and recreation.

The changes in participation patterns in structured sport has been assessed Australia wide and Tables 23 and 24 from ERASS 2010 show details of the changing participation rates for organised sports. This includes:

- Participation in golf and tennis is declining
- Netball participation rates are steady
- The traditional winter sports of Australian Rules and Soccer (Football) are growing rapidly
- After a period of decline, lawn bowls is now increasing in participation
- Cricket continues as steady growth in participation

Similar assessment has been undertaken for the top 10 sport and recreation activities that Australians participate in an unstructured format the changing participation rates for unstructured sports. This includes:

- Use of fitness centre, gyms, personal trainers and boot camps (etc) is undergoing a rapid increase in participation level
- Cycling and Running is also experiencing significant growth in participation

- Playing of social tennis is declining and swimming is declining only slightly
- Walking is the most popular activity and the participation rate has grown by 44% over 10 years.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% change 2001-2010 (a)
	Total participation ('000)										
Walking	4283.5	4625.1	5787.8	6099.7	5875.3	5724.1	5309.7	6417.5	6110.2	6181.8	44
Aerobics/fitness	1104.1	1273.5	1340.7	1551.8	1623.2	1959.9	1876.7	2788.1	2855.2	3126.5	183
Swimming	2170.1	2042.2	2066.5	2295.2	2070.8	1955.0	1738.8	2158.9	2219.8	2153.2	-1
Cycling	1361.1	1342.4	1400.7	1591.3	1576.4	1571.7	1532.0	1850.5	1809.9	1985.1	46
Running	989.3	1067.5	1094.5	1242.4	1143.2	1125.5	1171.4	1554.6	1771.4	1748.1	77
Bushwalking	737.4	787.8	824.8	731.1	837.6	693.8	862.5	984.8	803.0	772.6	5
Golf	695.2	733.1	690.4	680.5	654.0	631.4	488.9	752.5	703.8	744.9	7
Tennis	927.0	818.0	884.4	819.7	792.5	752.7	602.3	791.1	714.0	736.3	-21
Weight training	313.8	230.0	274.6	304.3	233.1	355.0	257.7	468.5	402.7	421.7	34
Fishing	335.5	337.1	387.7	349.4	312.0	335.0	252.7	356.3	367.4	383.2	14

Table 23 - Top 10 Unstructured sport and recreation activities participation rates 2001- 2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% change 2001- 2010 (a)
	Total participation ('000)										
Aerobics/fitness	982.9	1095.1	1309.1	1393.3	1502.8	1282.0	1610.1	1327.4	1279.3	1238.0	26
Golf	655.1	709.5	728.7	678.8	590.8	601.3	513.2	602.2	565.4	602.7	-8
Football (outdoor)	381.9	467.9	429.0	447.5	431.1	428.0	418.0	574.1	579.2	593.8	55
Netball	533.2	523.6	545.6	509.9	510.3	504.5	438.9	526.6	577.3	537.6	1
Australian rules football	272.5	289.0	319.1	342.1	387.0	336.3	241.5	371.7	375.5	447.3	64
Tennis	548.6	541.9	588.9	597.8	547.5	433.7	427.2	448.1	463.4	419.2	-24
Basketball	364.2	432.0	367.5	341.1	376.3	370.0	353.4	388.3	413.3	403.5	11
Touch football	345.8	299.9	273.0	304.6	299.8	305.5	276.3	412.5	302.2	398.8	15
Cricket (outdoor)	279.6	327.4	332.4	346.3	317.1	382.7	264.1	344.4	347.0	372.1	33
Lawn bowls	280.3	337.1	353.9	343.4	340.9	307.2	229.1	329.4	319.1	337.0	20

Table 24 - Top 10 Structured sport and recreation activities participation rates 2001- 2010

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SECTION 9 - THEMES AND GOALS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

Thematic Priorities for Sport and Recreation

As detailed in Section 5 an understanding of local and regional trends for sport and recreation together with a detailed investigation of community needs and expectations for sport and recreation within the City of Ryde has been analysed and **Seven Thematic Priorities** have been established. It is these themes that will provide the structure for the ongoing management and planning for sport and recreation for the City of Ryde into the future.

The Seven Thematic Priorities for the provision, management and planning for sport and recreation in the City of Ryde are as follows.

- Optimal use of sport and recreation facilities
- Access to sport and recreation facilities
- Diversity of facilities for participation and enjoyment
- Facilities that are fit for purpose
- Inclusive and accessible sport and recreation facilities
- Awareness of recreation facilities and programs
- Sustainable management of facilities and sports

Theme 1 - Optimal use of sport and recreation facilities

A key theme of the IOSP is optimisation, or to put it more simply, making more out of what we have. This theme applies directly to sport and recreation across the City where there are many situations where there is significant wastage of space, poor location of recreation and sporting infrastructure and duplication of facilities that results in under provision of opportunities for the community.

Consideration of how to maximise the facilities that are provided is of paramount importance as the opportunity to create new facilities is constrained. Nonetheless, as outlined in the IOSP, making more of the existing sport and recreation opportunities is the first priority and could be achieved through

- More efficient planning, design and programming of existing open space and facilities
- Review of layout and designs that enable increased multiuse 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 areas for recreation on the doorstep of our community by better planning of the streetscapes and urban spaces.

With changing recreation needs and preferences by the community Council is more than maximising community use of the sport and recreation facilities. It is reviewing the design and placement of facilities. It must also encompass the way Council allocates fields for organised sporting use and this will require reviewing and where necessary modifying traditional patterns of use to allow more increase community participation and benefit.

Theme 2 - Access to sport and recreation facilities

The community has indicated during the consultation program that access to sport and recreation facilities is considered with a very high level of importance. It is important to note that the community's concern about access to facilities is not just about the allocation of sporting fields for organised sport.

Access to sport and recreation covers a range of topics that include the following:

- Provision for new and emerging sports
- Availability of areas for organised sport that encompasses season changes, hours of use, supporting use infrastructure (such as floodlighting of fields)
- Quality of sports fields and sporting infrastructure and the need for planned and programmed asset renewal for aging infrastructure
- Creation of new sport and recreation opportunities in parts of the City that are undergoing urban renewal (such as Shepherds Bay and Macquarie Park)
- Provision of adequate supporting infrastructure, including off street car parking, park amenity buildings and storage facilities
- Opportunities to access major sporting precincts by shared paths, public transport and other methods of transport
- Targeted review of traditional use patterns with the purpose of offering new opportunities for sport and recreation
- Opportunities for alternate tenure for sporting clubs and associations that offer long term stability while continuing to provide for broad community access and benefit

The consideration of access also encompasses the improvement of open space and recreation connections across the City. The planning of and implementation of a integrated network of pathways and cycle ways is essential to meet the most frequented recreation activity in the City of Ryde, walking.

Theme 3 - Diversity of facilities for participation and enjoyment

Ryde has a very diverse community and the planning, design and management of sport and recreation must reflect the needs of this very diverse community. Age, ability, ethnicity and housing type all influence the recreation preference of the community and Council needs to maximise diversity of recreation experiences across the City. Opportunities for participation is of high importance to the Ryde community and the type of participation is diverse enough to include

- Active or passive;
- Competitive or noncompetitive;
- In a group or individually;
- At a park or in a community centre or on the River



Providing flexible and adaptable open spaces and urban plazas across the City will enable the community to make their mark and adapt their recreation preferences. Council can complement this with keeping abreast of the needs of the community and offering a range of recreation opportunities that will activate the community and encourage an active and healthy community.

Theme 4 - Facilities that are fit for purpose

The City of Ryde is committed to providing infrastructure for community sport that are fit for purpose. Fit for purpose requires agreement on the level of community sport and recreation that is to be provided by the open spaces of the City of Ryde and to do this, identification of those areas where there is over servicing and those areas where the existing infrastructure is not at the standard for community sport is required.

Working towards providing fit for purpose will include:

- Council must work with sporting associations to understand their needs but also balance their need with the wider needs of the community
- Consideration should be given to opportunities for Council to partner with recreation providers and sporting clubs and associations to create new or improve existing facilities to ensure fit for purpose
- Work with the state sporting bodies to establish a suite of guidelines for facility upgrade that meets community requirements

Council needs to continue to take a lead role in managing community expectation for sporting facility provision with the aim of eliminating over capitalisation at the expense of community level fit for purpose provision.

Theme 5 - Inclusive and accessible sport and recreation facilities

A challenge facing many Council's in the Sydney metropolitan area is being able to meet the demands due to the increasing levels of participation in sport and recreation by people of all abilities and ages. With this increase in demand comes the need for suitable supporting infrastructure.



Theme 6 - Awareness of recreation facilities and programs

The Ryde Community values the open spaces in their community and they have communicated that protection of these spaces is very important. However, it is unclear as to how much the community knows of what is available to them for use. Whether it be sports fields, parks, the foreshore, playgrounds, urban plazas, community halls, bushland areas, golf courses, swimming pools or walking paths, the community has a plethora of opportunities for recreation and Council can do more in educating with the community what is available to them for sport and recreation.

Communication is a very important part of meeting the sport and recreation needs of the Ryde community. Council will look at ways of improving how it communicates to the community for sport and recreation. This could include:

- An active program of park promotion that outlines what recreation opportunities are on offer in each park
- Partner with local providers to maximise opportunity for the community to be involved with sport and recreation activities
- Expand the focus of the sports and recreation and wheeled sports advisory committee to reflect both active and passive sports and in doing so create a new platform for other emerging sports and recreation activities to position for facilities and opportunities
- Wet weather communications

Theme 7 - Sustainable management of facilities and sports

Many of Council facilities are at capacity with Council unable to fully support the needs of some Clubs and Associations. Management of Club growth against a finite asset base is essential to ensure that Clubs do not place an unmanageable demand on the City's sport and recreation assets.

Environmental issues have become one of the biggest issues of concern for our Clubs and community groups. Increasing costs of utilities are beginning to have an impact on Club and group sustainability.

Goals for Sport and Recreation

The seven key themes that arose from the research on sport and recreation trends and from the extensive consultation program have been used as the foundation for the establishment of the Goals for Sport and Recreation. These goals have been developed to align all future actions for sport and recreation to the Vision for the management of Open Space in the City of Ryde and to offer an aspirational vision for a healthy and active community.

Each goal is discussed and analysed against the key themes that were identified. The following section articulates how we are going to achieve these goals through listing of actions and specific tasks.

Goal 1 - To Make the Most of What We Have

The City of Ryde will examine ways to get the most out of our existing open spaces to meet the sport and recreation needs now and into the future, recognising the role and connection to our natural and cultural environmental areas while maintaining the amenity of our neighbourhoods.

Strategic Focus	Action
Review layouts of all major open spaces to identify areas where additional recreation or sporting opportunities can be realised.	Prepare a Master Plan for Meadowbank Park which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves amenities • Identifies the extent of the former land fill area • Examines the potential to reconfigure the netball courts (or the majority of them) on solid ground, and if possible extend the number of courts • Identifies the potential to reconfigure and retain the number of hockey, football playing fields and cricket pitches or moving their activities to another field(s) within the City of Ryde • Analyses and identify parking and internal traffic movement solutions that benefit the complex as a whole • Takes into account possible future synthetic surface(s) at Meadowbank Number 2 and/ or Number 3 • Provides for more extensive shade via tree planting and shade structures • Considers the inclusion of a potential skate park • Incorporates upgrades and addition of sports lighting • Incorporates extensive consultation with user groups and neighbouring residents • Incorporate passive recreation into master plan including youth facilities, playgrounds, walkway/cycle paths and picnic facilities.
	Progressively implement the outcomes of the Meadowbank Park Master Plan.
	Prepare a Master Plan for ELS Hall Park to incorporate parking solutions, dog off leash area, additional shade, expanded playground and opportunities for improvements to existing baseball and cricket facilities. Progressively implement the outcomes of the ELS Hall Master Plan.
	Prepare a Master Plan for the redevelopment of Gannan Park which incorporates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of field layout, lighting, parking and extended passive recreation opportunities (eg bbq, circuit path, landscaping, additional shade, seating etc) • Consultation with sporting groups and neighbouring residents Progressively implement the outcomes of the Gannan Park Master Plan.
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for all Level 1 and 2 sports fields
	Prepare a Strategic Plan and Master Plan which investigates upgrading of Olympic Park including the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC). Upgrading to possibly include additional facilities including indoor courts, pool, futsal, a skate / youth facility, additional carparking, provision of tennis and the existing open space.

Strategic Focus	Action
Establish new recreation opportunities within the existing open space network	<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 plan to integrate the recreational walking and cycling objectives in the IOSP with the proposed commuter cycling routes • Integrate the proposed recreational and street based walking and cycling corridors into the cycle network • Review new opportunities for shared paths in parks and recreational corridors with respect to capacity, suitability and context • Incorporate 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 • 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' 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. <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 21. 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 • 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) <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).



Note: Bushland corridor links have been adopted and approved through the City of Ryde Biodiversity Plan 2016.

Figure 21 - Creek and Bushland Corridors

Strategic Focus	Action
<p>Review all sporting fields and identify where improvements are needed to supporting infrastructure to maximise sporting use, such as floodlighting, off street car parking, park amenity buildings, field orientations and layouts and so on.</p>	<p>Priority actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate to convert Gannan Park into two full size football pitches with lighting • Investigate to relocate winter baseball from Gannan Park to ELS Hall #2. • Upgrade ancillary facilities at Gannan Park to accommodate the new use • Proceed with installation of lighting at Morrison Bay #2 and #4. • Install field lighting to Meadowbank #12 (currently under utilised with capability of accommodating multiple field users) • Liaise with the Department of Education to secure a community use agreement and joint funding arrangement for the development of a floodlit synthetic surface at Smalls Road (upper) field; OR If a suitable joint funding/ community use arrangement cannot be secured with the Department of Education, investigate the feasibility of establishing a synthetic surface at either Meadowbank #2 or #3. • Integrate passive recreation opportunities into sports reserves, eg circuit paths, seating, fitness stations, shade, playgrounds, picnic/ bbq and informal kickabout space (ELS Hall, Meadowbank, Marsfield and Morrison Bay parks). • Integrate recreation and leisure needs that are specific to CALD communities into the planning and design of public spaces and reserves (eg shade and shelter for large social groups) • Plan and design open space to meet the recreational, social and leisure needs of seniors recognising the increasing demand for physical activity in seniors (eg variety of walking paths and circuits close to home, ample shade and bench seats especially at local parks, playgrounds and sportsfields, ease of access from public transport, ample nature walks, community gardens, and disability access) • Identify parks within the City that can provide additional netball facilities • Review the provision of netball facilities at Brush Farm Park including an audit of the condition of the courts and prepare a works program to upgrade as required.
	<p>Ensure that the neighbouring residents are consulted when planning and designing any changes to sporting facilities to ensure actions to minimise adverse impact on the community can be applied.</p>
	<p>Roll out synthetic surfaces to open spaces as identified in the Synthetic Surfaces Action Plan. Priority list highest to lowest (2016- 2026) Christie Park 1+2 (2016- 2017) ELS Hall Park 1 (2016- 2017)</p>
	<p>Please note; the ongoing provision of synthetic sports fields needs to be assessed after the completion of ELS Hall Park 1 and Christie Park 1 and 2. Both Meadowbank Park and Magdala Park are located on former tip sites and will require a further feasibility assessment prior to the consideration of their viability.</p>
	<p>Undertake a review of all traditional use patterns (eg. Soccer, football,cricket) of sports field use and establish if modifications to this pattern can open up new sporting opportunities. Council are to work closely with sporting clubs during this review to understand their demands and changing needs.</p>
	<p>Implement the findings of the Labosport Field Assessment Report.</p>
	<p>Review criteria of sportsground categories (Level 1,2 and 3) and determine what elements should be in each category. For example, amenity, buildings, carparks, access to transport.</p>

Strategic Focus	Action
Identify opportunities for targeted open space acquisition that will offer new recreation connections, increase field sizes for sporting activities and create new facilities in areas of deficiency.	<p>Review the draft Open Space Future Provision Plan, assess the need for sport and recreation and make recommendations for targeted open space acquisition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a new opportunity or • Improve the functionality on an existing facility
Ongoing implementation of sport and recreation strategies- Best Value Review and Regional Sports Strategies from NSROC	<p>In accordance with 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"> • Five Level 1 Citywide Sports Hubs- Regional: 1) Meadowbank Park, 2) Marsfield Park/Waterloo Park, 3) Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park/Tyagarah Park, 4) ELS Hall Park, 5) Christie Park. Progressively upgrade these hubs to meet the principles outlined in Typical Planning, Design & Management Guidelines (IOSP) • Level 2 Sports Parks- District: 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 (Neighbourhood): 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>Extend existing sports capacity within existing reserves through a combined Masterplan and Plan of Management process that addresses the hierarchy above.</p> <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>
Ongoing review of sporting clubs and associations to encourage alternative use of sporting facilities.	Encourage sporting clubs and associations to allocate alternative game times to maximise the use of facilities. For example, Friday nights or Sundays.



Goal 2 - Equitable Access for All

The City of Ryde will provide fair and equitable allocation of sporting facilities and will work closely with the community to provide for their changing sport and recreation needs.

The City of Ryde will focus on the distribution and accessibility of passive recreation opportunities across the City.

The City of Ryde provides sport and recreation facilities for the whole community through a balance between the provision of structured and unstructured opportunities.

Strategic Focus	Action
Ground Allocation and Tenure management	Council continue to allocate and manage sports grounds in accordance with Council's adopted policies. Review annually. This will be particularly important when synthetic surfaces are developed so that over-utilisation of grounds is reduced. In line with BVR allocate sports grounds to associations for training and competition use and ongoing monitoring to ensure equity for clubs.
	Permit tenure arrangements over user funded capital improvements in accordance with Council's adopted policy. Review annually.
	Map existing field layouts and link them to Council's GIS and booking systems to improve user understanding of areas booked and internal reporting on performance
	Acquire and implement software to provide a user friendly interface for bookings, allocations, payments, wet weather closures and collecting data about demand and use of sportsfields
	Develop criteria for assessing the level of commerciality when setting fees for leases/licences of Council land to sport and recreation grounds to ensure equity.
	Conduct random audits of sports grounds (weekends and evenings) to ensure that actual usage is commensurate with bookings made.
	At a regular pre-season forum with user groups of Council reserves, seek feedback on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views of winter/ summer sports on suitability of current winter/ summer season time frame Extended financial reporting Communication with Council Presentation and discussion of capital works allocations Scheduling of high demands sports (netball and soccer) to create additional opportunities to maximise use of Council's facilities.
S94 Plan and VPA'S	Update the S94 Development Plan to include eligible costed capital items in the Sport & Recreation Strategy and other adopted reports and studies including Synthetic Surface Action Plan, Parks Accessibility Review, Children's Play Implementation Plan, Integrated Open Space Plan and land acquisition for additional recreation needs.
	Negotiations that occur as part of Voluntary Planning Agreements should reflect the outcomes and recommendations of the Sport & Recreation Strategy and other relevant reports and studies

Goal 3 - We understand and response to the needs of our Diverse Community

The City of Ryde will respond to the changing needs of our diverse community by creating flexible sports and recreation areas that can adapted to the future needs and preferences of our Community.

Strategic Focus	Action
Maintain an up to date understanding of the changing demographic and needs of the community in sport and recreation	Undertake regular reviews (after completion of each Census) of the demographics of the Ryde community to allow for modifications to actions to continually meet community needs. This review should include population and demographics, barriers to participation and what programs/initiatives exist in your area.
Provision of recreation opportunities for youth	<p>Undertake 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> <p>Develop an Outdoor Youth and Family Recreation Space Implementation Program 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). <p>Include the potential for a dedicated youth area linked to outdoor facilities in the feasibility study for a new indoor sport and recreation centre.</p>
Facilitate a range of sport and recreation programs that will appeal to the diverse Ryde Community	<p>Establish partnerships with local agencies, groups and state sporting associations to develop a recreation program that targets those groups that have a low participation rate, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mum's and Bub's • Elderly • CALD community • People with a disability <p>Increase opportunities for these low participation groups to participate in existing programs by reviewing location, timing and cost.</p>

Strategic Focus	Action
Commitment to “Girls make your move” initiative of the Commonwealth Government	The “Girls make your move” campaign features real girls playing sport and being active. The Initiative’s purpose is to encourage sport and physical activity to be a natural part of young women’s lives – enjoyed, not endured. The campaign aims to encourage and support young women aged 12-19 to be more active and reinforce the benefits of an active life, whether through recreation, sport or other physical activity. The campaign primarily target young women aged 15-18 to generate intentions to participate in a wide range of physical activities and sport. It also encourages parents of young women to provide support, be active themselves, and encourage family activity.
	Undertake a study to understand the needs and preferences for women in sport and recreation. This study should include an analysis of the barriers to participation for women in the City of Ryde.
	Following the completion of the Study, develop a Women in Sport policy that is to set the priority actions to eliminate barriers to participation in sport and recreation.
	Review amenity buildings in parks with regards to increased female participation in sport.
Offer a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities for the diverse CALD community living in Ryde	Work with local sporting clubs and associations to promote a welcoming attitude amongst members and develop plans, policies and procedures to support inclusion of the CALD community.
	Build partnerships with local community organisations that are connected with the groups you are aiming to work with, such as youth organisations, multicultural agencies and disability service providers.
	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-use indoor facilities that can accommodate social, dance, tai chi, 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)
Creation of sport and recreation facilities that support participation of a diverse community	Review the design and location of sports amenity buildings to ensure appropriate physical access to facilities and that the facility offers the suitable access to equipment and amenities such as male/female change rooms, ramps (permanent/portable), wide doors and disabled toilets.
Increase the awareness of the sport and recreation facilities provided by Council and how to access them	Prepare information on sport and recreation in different languages that provide information on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of facilities • How to join a club • How to participate in sport and recreation
	Promote local public transport links for players to attend training and games.
	Promote messaging by clubs in different languages
Become more responsive to the changing needs of the community with after hours and casual sport and recreation	Investigate alternate methods of providing for sport and recreation before and after work such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal trainers • Indoor facilities (such as the RALC and the RCSC)
Commitment to creating flexible and adaptable spaces for sport and recreation	During the preparation of masterplans for open space, consideration of the future needs of the community should be undertaken and the design of the open spaces should enable adaptability to user needs and preferences.

Strategic Focus	Action
	<p>Undertake a feasibility study to determine the need, viability, site location, facility mix, indicative capital cost, concept plans, financial projections, and management arrangements for the development of an indoor sport and recreation centre. Key elements to be investigated should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor sports courts (with possible retractable seating) • Gymnastics training facility (with capability of staging competitions on indoor sports court) • Flexible programming spaces for recreation activities • Potential dedicated youth area linked to outdoor facilities • Health & fitness area • Food and beverage and socialising • Prominent location and ease of access by public transport, bicycle as well as car <p>Consult with sport and recreation organisations, CALD groups, youth agencies, neighbouring Councils and the broader community in undertaking the feasibility study.</p> <p>If confirmed by the outcome of the feasibility study, budget to develop the facility and incorporate within Council's S94 Plan</p>
Commitment to the Provision of Sporting Facilities to cater for the needs and demands of the Community	Undertake a recreation facilities demand study
	Establish an Asset Management Plan for all of Council's recreation and sporting facilities



Goal 4 - Our Facilities are fit for purpose

The City of Ryde will ensure the design of all sports and recreation facilities are fit for purpose specific to the levels of sport and recreation they are providing for.

Strategic Focus	Action
Integration with Other Studies	As recommended in the IOSP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate passive recreation opportunities into sports reserves, eg circuit paths, seating, shade, playgrounds, picnic/ bbq and informal kickabout space (especially in Level 1 and 2 sportsgrounds such as ELS Hall, Meadowbank, Marsfield and Morrison Bay Parks). Integrate recreation and leisure needs that are specific to CALD communities into the planning and design of public spaces and reserves (eg shade and shelter for large social groups, contemplative spaces that suit activities such as tai chi, meditation, outdoor prayer, locations for performance, cultural events and temporary installations) Plan and design open space to meet the recreational, social and leisure needs of seniors recognising the increasing demand for physical activity in seniors (eg variety of walking paths and circuits close to home, ample shade and bench seats especially at local parks, playgrounds and sportsfields, ease of access from public transport, ample nature walks, sensory gardens, community gardens, and disability access) Create more extensive shaded areas through tree planting and shade structures in major open spaces such as Meadowbank Park and Blenheim Parks
	Implement the recommendations of the Children's Play Implementation Plan (2013) and incorporate into Plans of Management and S94 Plans.
	Investigate opportunities for incorporating informal water play features as part of new/ upgraded playgrounds in one or two major recreation parks that are inclusive spaces.
	Progressively implement the recommendations of the Parks Access Review (2013) in terms of access to parks and associated facilities (eg parking, toilets, picnic areas etc)
	Review the identification and establishment of suitable dog off-leash areas.
Regional Planning	Continue to support the regional planning and management of sport and recreation facilities within the North Subregion of Sydney and NSROC and adopt policies and principles agreed by the NSROC General Managers Advisory Group (GMAC).
	Review internal procedures to enable operating and maintenance costs of sports grounds and synthetic surfaces to be accurately measured (including the separation of informal community use from formal sport use).
	Consistent with the NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy, 2011 develop a strategy for the rationalisation and redevelopment of bowls clubs for other sport, recreation or community uses. If other NSROC Councils are unable or unwilling to participate, develop a Strategy for the City of Ryde.
	Pursue formal partnerships with Macquarie University and schools to avoid duplication of facilities and maximise value from Council's investment in sport and recreation.

Strategic Focus	Action
Facilitate cycling and walking across the City	Consistent with the recommendations of the Integrated Open Space Plan (2012): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a walkability audit across the city consistent with guidelines prepared by the Premiers Council for Active Living • Integrate parks and open space into a walking network for the city that links with other generators and attractors (eg shops, public transport, education facilities, employment areas, and community facilities) • Endeavour to create shared use walk/ cycle paths in connecting the open space network, where possible • Ensure the Bicycle Plan continues to recognise the importance of recreational cycling as a key objective
	In consultation with walking and cycling groups and the Bicycle Committee identify and prioritise opportunities for lighting of walk/ cycle paths to provide safe evening access for walking/ cycling.
	Inform Council's Bicycle Committee of priorities for improving cycling from consultation undertaken for the Sport & Recreation Strategy (eg more/ dedicated cycle lanes, better line marking, wider lanes, better surfacing).
	Ensure that new developments make provision for walking/ cycling that connects and/ or integrates with the existing network. This should form part of S94 contributions or Voluntary Planning Agreements.
A programmed approach to the implementation of synthetic surfaces and field lighting and all playing field remediation projects.	Construction of a synthetic football field suitable for shared use by AFL/ soccer at ELS Hall #1 and develop a new turf wicket between Marsfield #1 and #2 to accommodate the relocation of cricket.
	Construction of synthetic surfaces at Christie Park #1 and #2, subject to resolution of planning and environmental issues, and amend the Plan of Management if required.
	Given their high capital cost, the development of each synthetic sports field should be subject to the completion of a detailed business case. The Synthetic Surface Action Plan has undertaken a preliminary assessment of priority sites, but variables may emerge through the completion of the business case (eg planning/ zoning constraints, adverse geotech conditions, or cost/ availability of services). For this reason it is recommended that Council adopt a flexible approach to the implementation of the Action Plan.
	Establish user pays sinking funds to cover (or contribute to) the net capital cost to Council of establishing and/ or replacing synthetic surfaces in Council's fees and charges.
	Develop a forward planning program for the delivery of sportsfield renewals including geotechnical studies, soil profile analysis and field design.

Goal 5 - We provide inclusive and accessible sport and recreation

The City of Ryde will design sport and recreation facilities to maximise access for people of all abilities. This will include the design of physical access to sport and recreation facilities and the planning of programs to eliminate barriers to access and participation.

Strategic Focus	Action
Design of open spaces that support passive recreation to ensure access of people of all abilities	<p>Create picnic areas that allow for adequate movement space for people who use wheelchairs, crutches, motor scooters or walkers etc. Where possible, including wheelchair friendly park furniture and provide sealed pathway connections between carpark areas and picnic area.</p> <p>High priority locations include those parks in close proximity to town centres, areas of increased housing densities, and areas accessible by public transport. Examples include Meadowbank Park, ELS Hall Park and Ryde Park.</p>
Modify existing park buildings to provide for improved access to people of all abilities	<p>Undertake a review of park amenity buildings against accessibility principles. This should include provision of accessible toilets and access to the building, reduction of the tension on doors to make them easier to open for individuals with decreased balance/strength.</p> <p>High priority locations include those parks in close proximity to town centres, areas of increased housing densities, and areas accessible by public transport. Examples include Meadowbank Park, ELS Hall Park and Ryde Park.</p>
Creation of a network of pathways across the City that offer opportunities for people with restricted mobility.	Complete and audit of the Ryde River Walk and Shrimpton's Creek Parklands Trail with the intention of improving access.
Provision of adequate accessible carparking	Review the provision of accessible car parking spaces within or near to open spaces (including on and off street).
Support the accessibility of sport and recreation opportunities through a suitable maintenance regime.	<p>Increase maintenance frequency of key open spaces to ensure access to facilities is maintained. This should include removing leaves, sticks, or other debris from walkways etc. Focus is to be placed on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yamble Reserve • Ryde Riverside Reserves • Ryde Park
Continue to make play walkable to the majority of the community to ensure everyday accessibility and to encourage physical activity and mental wellbeing.	<p>Ongoing implementation of the Children's Play Implementation Plan with a focus on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing play spaces for all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds. • Locating playgrounds near destinations, centre and supporting services. • Making play walkable to the majority of the community to ensure everyday accessibility and to encourage physical activity and mental wellbeing.
Provide areas that enable people with mobility limitations to exercise their dogs through the creation of enclosed dog off leash areas in accordance with the Provision of Dog Recreation Areas Report.	<p>Creation of enclosed free running dog parks with associated facilities such as seating, picnic tables, landscaping, trees, shade, dog water bowls etc. High priority focus locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denistone Park • ELS Hall Park • Olympic Park <p>Once these projects have been undertaken the Provision of Dog Recreation Areas Report will need to be reviewed and updated.</p>

Strategic Focus	Action
Provide the community with a range of viewing areas of community sport for the elderly and for people with access limitations.	<p>During the masterplanning of open spaces, consider what opportunities there are to offer spectator seating from vehicles or nearby to car parking areas. Priority locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadowbank Park • ELS Hall Park • Christie Park • Magdala Park • Waterloo Park
Offer opportunities for people of all abilities and ages to participate in recreation and sport programs.	<p>Review and expand existing programs to encompass people of all ages and abilities. This review should consider changes or modification to the way the program or activity is conducted through modification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the programme • The equipment used, • The program/activity (e.g., rules, playing environment) and • The person engages in the task, such as using a personal assistant or parental involvement
Encourage and support local clubs that have a policy of inclusion - <i>regardless of age, gender, race and ability, all members have an equal opportunity to participate in sport and recreation at a level they choose.</i>	<p>Work with local sport and recreation clubs to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas for improvement in the provision of facilities so that all members have appropriate physical access to facilities by offering equipment and amenities such as male/female change rooms, ramps (permanent/portable), wide doors and disabled toilets. • Offer training and support for volunteers and staff to ensure all members feel welcome. • Promote a welcoming attitude amongst members and develop plans, policies and procedures to support inclusion and promote respect, integrity and leadership. • Consider members' needs when planning and delivering training sessions. • Promote local public transport links for players to attend training and games. • Encourage members/volunteers to support inclusive practices and promote a welcoming environment for everyone.
Pro-active planning for sport and recreation opportunities for an ageing community	Undertake community consultation to understand the needs of older people for sport and recreation. Use the findings to develop a program for improving access and opportunity across the City.

Goal 6 - Our community will be aware of our facilities and programs

The City of Ryde will actively engage with our community and partners to support and promote the sustainable growth, management and success of our local clubs and associations.

The City of Ryde will continue to advocate the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle by promoting the variety of sport and recreation facilities and programs in the City.

The City of Ryde will maintain a transparency in the management of all sport and recreation facilities through the Sport and Recreation (including wheeled sports) Advisory Committee where proactive engagement with our community will inform management strategies and priority setting.

Strategic Focus	Action
Increase community and stakeholder engagement with sport and recreation decision making	Encourage clubs, associations and stakeholder groups to distribute sport and recreation communiqués to their members and promote events and activities and participation opportunities.
Inform the community on a regular basis using a variety of methods to increase awareness of and participation in sport and recreation pursuits.	Increase the use of social media as a platform for communication of programs, ground closures, opportunities to comment on upgrades and so on.
Increase communication of sport and recreation opportunities with the CALD Community	Increase and diversify the communication methods to ensure the messages reach all people in our community. Consideration of alternate communication methods, such as providing information accessible in different languages
Maintain a commitment to the Active in Ryde program and plan for further expansion into the CALD community and the other disengaged groups	Undertake a review of the Active in Ryde program to ensure that it is adequately resourced and sustainable into the future. As part of the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the program's strategic objectives and performance measures • Engage with existing program partners and participants to identify what is working well and needs improvement • Determine most effective means of expanding guided walking program and other fully booked programs that are consistent with strategic objectives • Analyse marketing arrangements and potential improvements • Identify management and delivery improvements • Identify resourcing priorities for the future
Liaise with Macquarie University with the purpose of collaboration and promoting of recreation opportunities for the worker, student and residential communities.	Develop a partnership arrangement with Macquarie University to promote recreation programs and access to sports and recreation facilities on campus

Strategic Focus	Action
Support local clubs and associations to operate their clubs effectively and sustainably.	<p>Develop a program for supporting the administration of local clubs and associations through training programmes. This could include workshops and seminars in first aid, governance, working with children, volunteer management, inclusiveness and working with Council.</p> <p>Work with local clubs to increase the understanding for managed growth. This should include discussions about how to manage growth due to finite recreation and sporting resources.</p> <p>Engage with state sporting organisations to work closely with local clubs and associations.</p> <p>Undertake a review of peak priority bodies through consultation with the peak sporting bodies it was identified the need for them to work closely with both sporting clubs and Councils. Council should utilise the capacity of peak sporting bodies to provide support and leadership to clubs in the development of policies and management practices.</p> <p>Enhance the information provided directly to sportsground users to encourage greater knowledge, care and ownership of issues associated with the sportsground service and management</p>
Increase information provided to the community about the unstructured recreation opportunities in the City	Update web page to provide additional information on unstructured recreation opportunities including, playgrounds, water based recreation, dog of leash areas, outdoor fitness areas etc.
Improved communication of the opportunities for walking and cycling in the City	<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>

Goal 7 - Sustainable management of facilities and Sport

The City of Ryde will continue to work with clubs and associations to promote sustainable growth and development while ensuring the long term sustainable of the physical assets will be maintained.

Strategic Focus	Action
User Group Contributions to Capital Improvements	Consider granting of licences (up to 5 years) for club/ association funded development of canteens/ clubhouses/ amenities. Ensure that granting of a licence complies with provisions of Local Government Act 1993 (including S47A)
	Review the Sports Ground User Fees and Contribution Policy to permit the granting of preferred allocation over playing areas, in return for capital contributions to improvements subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development being consistent with the Sport & Recreation Strategy The term of the preferred allocation to be dependent on the value of contribution and for a finite period of less than 10 years The facility continues to be available for shared use and is accessible to other community users Align with the Community Building Licensing Policy with regards to Council's subsidies aligning with the tenants capacity to contribute and the level of community benefit.
	Sportsground user fees are outlined in the Sportsground User Fees and Contributions Policy. The policy applies to all sportsgrounds located in the City of Ryde. Broadly the goal of the policy is to ensure sustainable and equitable use of Council's sportsgrounds.
	Fees and charges are reviewed annually and are updated in the fees and charges section within the one year Operational Plan. In addition fees and charges are set in accordance with other NSROC Councils.
	The development of a policy that includes one-off requests for upgrading facilities (eg with full or partial funding from user groups) they should be assessed against the following criteria: Primary Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment with Sport & Recreation Strategy Increased capacity and supply of field hours for sport (eg lighting, synthetic or hybrid surfaces, drainage/ ground improvements) Cost to Council Alignment with existing demand and future participation forecasts Secondary Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main user beneficiaries (amateur, semi-professional, professional) Benefits to other user groups/ community Impact on accessibility and/ or participation opportunities for people with disabilities Likelihood of increasing operating efficiency or significantly reduce maintenance costs Addresses safety/ risk management issues Extent of capital contribution by club/ association Demonstrated financial/ management capacity of club/ association Likelihood of securing other external funding Implications if work does not proceed

Strategic Focus	Action
	Assign the maintenance of any approved improvements funded by clubs/ associations to the club/ association, where the purpose of the improvement is to raise revenue.
Sports ground maintenance	In line with other Councils in NSROC, adopt a maximum threshold of 30 hours per week for playing field usage. Work with the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee to determine the ongoing management. Expand the criteria to include intensity of use, type of sport and time of year.
	<p>Investigate the recommendations of the Sportsfield Assessment Report by Labosport and build into maintenance programs and capital works improvements. Consistently monitor effectiveness of these measures.</p> <p>Improve maintenance practices by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting and implementing the 'effective hours of use' model prepared by Labosport to more accurately identify and monitor field use carrying capacity and user impacts • Adopting the recommendations of recently completed investigations undertaken by turf management specialists and reviewing budget allocations • [NB: Increased operating maintenance budgets may have an offsetting reduction in capital works allocations for field upgrading]
	Consider the utilisation of 'hybrid turf technology' in high wear areas (e.g. goal mouths).

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SECTION 10 - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (2016 TO 2026)

The Implementation Plan sets out the actions that will see the Sport and Recreation Strategy realised and it should be read in conjunction with the previous section. For each action a program (timing) and responsibility has been assigned to guide the priority setting for the implementation of the Strategy. The **Program** proposes the relative priority in implementing the action being High, Medium, Low or Ongoing and the **Responsibility** assigns the action of a unit of Council who will take the lead in the completion of the Action.

Priority of implementation

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

- High: Top priority. Where there are no impediments to its delivery, this action should be achieved in up to 4 years
- Medium: Second tier priority with implementation due in up to 7 years
- Low: Not an urgent implementation action but important nonetheless and should be planned for completion in up to 10 year
- Ongoing: A recurrent action that may be regularly repeated. Ongoing actions have been ranked in priority; high, medium, or low.

The time frames provided are indicative only. As opportunities arise for partnerships to deliver actions, timeframes may need to be adjusted. It should be noted that the delivery of the Implementation Plan may extend beyond the 10 year time frame. Some of the actions suggested are large, complex projects that may require additional funding from s94, VPA's, State and/or Federal Government funding partnerships or may require land acquisition.

Responsibility

Each action in the Implementation Plan has been assigned to a department or section of Council that is responsible for the completion of the action. There will be times when more than one group may be needed to achieve an outcome, however this action plan nominates the group that is responsible for the delivery and reporting of the actions' implementation.

The groups in Council responsible for the realisation of the Strategy are:

- Strategic City
- Community Engagement
- Project Development
- Operations
- Asset Systems
- Operations

Note: For the Implementation Plan to be a success it must be noted that the contribution of clubs and associations in the managing of facilities. They contribute by communicating issues and their needs to Council, being responsible users and playing an active role in reviewing allocation of training time, game day play etc in the management of the grounds. Maximising the use of our current facilities (through scheduling of games, additional floodlight etc) is the most important priority in the ongoing management of our facilities. In a City that is impacted by a rapidly growing population the creation of new facilities can be cost prohibitive and difficult to achieve.

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Goal 1 - To make the most of what we have The City of Ryde will examine ways to get the most out of our existing open spaces to meet the sport and recreation needs now and into the future whilst recognising the role and connection to our natural and cultural environmental areas, while maintaining the amenity of our neighbourhoods.			
Review layouts of all major open spaces to identify areas where additional recreation or sporting opportunities can be realised.	Prepare a Strategic Plan and Master Plan which investigates upgrading of Olympic Park including the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC). Upgrading to possibly include additional facilities including indoor courts, pool, futsal, a skate / youth facility, additional carparking, provision of tennis and the existing open space.	High	RALC
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for Level 1 Parks; Christie Park (completed 2016), Eastwood Park, Meadowbank Park, ELS Hall Park	High	Strategic City
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for Level 1 Parks; Blenheim Park, Marsfield Park, Ryde Park, Magdala Park, Peel Park.	Medium	Strategic City
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for Level 1 Parks; Yamble Reserve, Field of Mars, Putney Park.	Low	Strategic City
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for Level 2 Parks; Brush Farm Park, Gannan Park, Fontenoy Park, Tuckwell Park, Pidding Park	High	Strategic City
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for Level 2 Parks; Pioneer Park, Dunbar Park, Darvall Park, Bremner Park	Medium	Strategic City
	Progressively prepare Master Plans for Level 2 Parks; Santa Rosa Park, Monash/Westminster Park, Bill Mitchell Park, Banjo Paterson Park	Low	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
<p>Establish new recreation opportunities within the existing open space network</p> <p>Review all sporting fields and identify where improvements are needed to supporting infrastructure to maximise sporting use, such as floodlighting, off street car parking, park amenity buildings, field orientations and layouts and so on.</p>	Prepare a combined Walking and Cycling Plan	Low	Strategic City
	Prepare a detailed Recreational Corridor Network Plan	Medium	Strategic City
	Investigate to convert Gannan Park into two full size football pitches with sportsfield lighting as part of the Masterplan for the Park	High	Strategic City
	Investigate relocation of winter baseball from Gannan Park to ELS Hall #2	High	Strategic City
	Upgrade ancillary facilities at Gannan Park to accommodate the new uses	High	Strategic City
	Consider additional field lighting at Meadowbank Park and upgrade existing	Medium	Operations
	Liaise with the Department of Education to secure a community use agreement and joint funding arrangement for the development of a floodlit synthetic surface at Smalls Road (upper) field	Low	Strategic City/ Operations
	Integrate passive recreation opportunities into sports reserves, eg circuit paths, seating, shade, playgrounds, picnic/ bbq and informal kickabout space all Level 1 and 2 sports fields.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Integrate recreation and leisure needs that are specific to CALD communities into the planning and design of public spaces and reserves (eg shade and shelter for large social groups, contemplative spaces that suit activities such as tai chi, meditation, outdoor prayer, locations for performance, cultural events and temporary installations).	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Plan and design open space to meet the recreational, social and leisure needs of seniors recognising the increasing demand for physical activity in seniors	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Implementation of the Synthetic Surfaces Action Plan; ELS Hall Park #1, Christie Park #1 and #2.	High	Operations
	Investigation of the Synthetic Surfaces at Meadowbank Park Note: The ongoing provision of synthetic sports fields needs to be reassessed after the completion of ELS Hall Park #1 and Christie Park #1 and #2. Meadowbank Park is located on a former landfill site and will require a feasibility assessment prior to the consideration of their viability.	Medium	Operations
	Investigation of the Synthetic Surfaces at Magdala Park Note: The ongoing provision of synthetic sports fields needs to be reassessed after the completion of ELS Hall Park #1 and Christie Park #1 and #2. Magdala Park is located on a former landfill site and will require a feasibility assessment prior to the consideration of their viability.	Low	Operations
	Review criteria of sportsground categories (Level 1, 2, 3) and determine what elements should be in each category eg amenity buildings, car parks, access to public transport	High	Strategic City/ Operations
	Identify parks within the City that can provide additional netball facilities. Review the provision of netball facilities at Brush Farm Park including an audit of the condition of the courts and prepare a works program to upgrade as required	High	Strategic City/ Operations

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Identify opportunities for targeted open space acquisition that will offer new recreation connections, increase field sizes for sporting activities and create new facilities in areas of deficiency.	<p>Review the draft Open Space Future Provision Plan 2014, assess the need for sport and recreation and make recommendations for targeted open space acquisition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new opportunity or Improve the functionality on an existing facilities 	High	Strategic City
Ongoing implementation of sport and recreation strategies- Best Value Review and Regional Sports Strategies from NSROC.	<p>Formalise three tiers of sports facility provision, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Level 1 Citywide Sports Hubs- Regional: 1) Meadowbank Park, 2) Marsfield Park/Waterloo Park, 3) Morrison Bay Park/Bremner Park/Tyagarah Park, 4) ELS Hall Park, 5) Christie Park. Progressively upgrade these hubs to meet the principles outlined in Typical Planning, Design & Management Guidelines referred to in the IOSP Level 2 Sports Parks- District: 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>Extend existing sports capacity within existing reserves through a combined Masterplan and Plan of Management process that addresses the hierarchy above.</p>	High	Strategic City
Ongoing review of sporting clubs and associations to encourage alternative uses of sporting facilities.	Encourage sporting clubs and associations to allocate alternative game times to maximise the use of facilities. For example, Friday nights or Sundays.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
		Ongoing (High)	Operations

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Goal 2 - Equitable Access for All			
The City of Ryde will provide fair and equitable allocation of sporting facilities and will work closely with the community to provide for their changing sport and recreation needs.			
The City of Ryde will focus on the distribution and accessibility of passive recreation opportunities across the City.			
The City of Ryde provides sport and recreation facilities for the whole community through a balance between the provision of structured and unstructured opportunities.			
Ground Allocation and Tenure management	Continue to allocate and manage sports grounds in accordance with Council adopted policies. Review annually. In line with BVR allocate sportsgrounds to associations for training and competition use. Ongoing monitoring to ensure equity for clubs.	Ongoing (High)	Operations
	Permit tenure arrangements over user funded capital improvements in accordance with Councils adopted policy. Review annually.	Ongoing (Medium)	Operations
	Map existing field layouts and link them to Council's GIS and booking systems.	High	Operations
	Acquire and implement software to provide a user friendly interface for bookings, allocations, payments, wet weather closures etc	Medium	Operations
	Develop criteria for assessing the level of commerciality when setting fees for leases/ licences.	High	Operations
	Work with associations and clubs on the scheduling of high demand sports (netball and soccer) to create additional opportunities to maximise the use of Council's facilities.	Ongoing (High)	Operations
Balance between provision and funding for structured and unstructured recreation opportunities	Continue to provide adequate funding for unstructured recreation improvements across the City in accordance with the IOSP and the Strategy	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
S94 Plan and VPA's	Ensure the updated S94 Development Plan includes eligible costed capital items in the Sport & Recreation Strategy and other adopted reports and studies for sport and recreation	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
	Ensure Voluntary Planning Agreements reflect outcomes and recommendations of the Sport & Recreation Strategy and other relevant reports and studies	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Goal 3 - We understand and respond to the needs of our Diverse Community The City of Ryde will respond to the changing needs of our diverse community by creating flexible sports and recreation areas that can adapted to the future needs and preferences of our Community.			
Maintain an up to date understanding of the changing demographic and needs of the community in sport and recreation	Undertake regular reviews of the demographics of the Ryde community to allow for modifications to actions to continually meet community needs.	Ongoing (Low)	Community Engagement
Provision of recreation opportunities for youth	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. Integrate the findings into Plans of Management, Masterplans and urban design guidelines.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Prepare an Outdoor Youth Space Strategy for the City of Ryde. Three proposed for the City of Ryde- one in each ward.	High	Strategic City
	Progressively develop an outdoor youth space- Central Ward	High	Strategic City
	Progressively develop an outdoor youth space- West Ward	Medium	Strategic City
	Progressively develop an outdoor youth space- East Ward	Low	Strategic City
	Include the potential for a dedicated youth area linked to outdoor facilities in the feasibility study for a new indoor sport and recreation centre.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
Facilitate a range of sport and recreation programs that will appeal to the diverse Ryde Community	Establish partnerships with local agencies, groups and state sporting associations to develop a recreation program that targets those groups that have a low participation rate	Ongoing (Medium)	Operations
	Increase opportunities for these low participation groups to participate in existing programs by reviewing location, timing and cost.	Ongoing (Low)	Operations
Commitment to "Girls make your move" initiative of the Commonwealth Government	Undertake a study to understand the needs and preferences for women in sport and recreation. This study should include an analysis of the barriers to participation for women in the City of Ryde.	Medium	Strategic City
	Following the completion of the Study, develop a Women in Sport policy that is to set the priority actions to eliminate barriers to participation in sport and recreation.	Medium	Operations

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Offer a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities for the diverse CALD community living in Ryde	Work with local sporting clubs and associations to promote a welcoming attitude amongst members and develop plans, policies and procedures to support inclusion of the CALD community.	Ongoing (Medium)	Operations
	Build partnerships with local community organisations that are connected with the groups you are aiming to work with, such as youth organisations, multicultural agencies and disability service providers.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City/ Operations
	Integrate any recreational and leisure needs that may be specific to CALD communities into all planning and design for public spaces, places and reserves.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City/ Operations
Creation of sport and recreation facilities that support participation of a diverse community	Review the design and location of sports amenity buildings to ensure appropriate physical access to facilities and that the facility offers the suitable access to equipment and amenities such as male/female change rooms, ramps (permanent/portable), wide doors and disabled toilets.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City/ Operations
Increase the awareness of the sport and recreation facilities provide by Council and how to access them	Prepare information on sport and recreation in different languages that provide information on location of facilities, how to join a club, how to participate in sport and recreation	High	Community Engagement
	Promote local public transport links for players to attend training and games.	Ongoing (High)	Operations
	Promote messaging by clubs in different languages	Ongoing (Medium)	Operations
Become more responsive to the changing needs of the community with after hours and casual sport and recreation	Investigate alternate methods of providing for sport and recreation before and after work such as personal trainers and Indoor facilities (such as the RALC and the RCSC)	Low	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Commitment to creating flexible and adaptable spaces for sport and recreation	During the preparation of masterplans for open space, consideration of the future needs of the community should be undertaken and the design of the open spaces should enable adaptability to need user needs and preferences.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
	Undertake a feasibility study to determine the need, viability, site location, facility mix, indicative capital cost, concept plans, financial projections, and management arrangements for the development of an indoor sport and recreation centre.	High	Strategic City
Commitment to the provision of sporting facilities to cater for the needs and demands of the community	Undertake a recreation facilities demand study	High	Strategic City
	Establish an Asset Management Plan for all of Council's recreation and sporting facilities	High	Operations
Goal 4 - Our Facilities are fit for purpose			
The City of Ryde will ensure the design of all sports and recreation facilities are fit for purpose specific to the levels of sport and recreation they are providing for.			
Integration with Other Studies	Integrate passive recreation opportunities into sports reserves, eg circuit paths, seating, shade, playgrounds, picnic/ bbq and informal kickabout space (especially in Level 1 and 2 sportsgrounds such as ELS Hall, Meadowbank, Marsfield and Morrison Bay parks)	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
	Integrate recreation and leisure needs that are specific to CALD communities into the planning and design of public spaces and reserves (eg shade and shelter for large social groups, contemplative spaces that suit activities such as tai chi, meditation, outdoor prayer, locations for performance, cultural events and temporary installations)	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Create more extensive shaded areas through tree planting and shade structure in major open spaces such as Brush Farm and Blenheim Parks	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
	Implement the recommendations of the Children's Play Implementation Plan (2013) and incorporate into Plans of Management and S94 Plans.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
	Investigate opportunities for incorporating informal water play features as part of new/ upgraded playgrounds in one or two major recreation parks.	Medium	Strategic City
	Progressively implement the recommendations of the Parks Access Review (2013) in terms of access to parks and associated facilities (eg parking, toilets, picnic areas etc)	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
	Continue to provide improvements to Council's dog off-leash areas. This may include fencing, shade, shelter etc.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Plan and design open space to meet the recreational, social and leisure needs of seniors eg. Walking paths, fitness circuits, seating with shade, disabled access, fitness equipment and ample nature trails.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Regional Planning	Continue to support the regional planning and management of sport and recreation facilities within the North Subregion of Sydney and NSROC and adopt policies and principles agreed by the NSROC General Managers Advisory Group (GMAC).	Ongoing (High)	Operations
	Review internal procedures to enable operating and maintenance costs of sports grounds and synthetic surfaces to be accurately measured including the separation of informal community use from formal sport.	High	Operations
	Consistent with the NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy, 2011 (refer Supporting Resources Document: Volume 1) develop a strategy for the rationalisation and redevelopment of bowls clubs for other sport, recreation or community uses.	Medium	Strategic City
Facilitate cycling and walking across the City	Pursue formal partnerships with Macquarie University and schools to avoid duplication of facilities	Medium	Strategic City
	Undertake a walkability audit across the city consistent with guidelines prepared by the Premiers Council for Active Living	Low	Strategic City/Asset Systems
	Integrate parks and open space into a walking network for the city that links with other generators and attractors	Medium	Strategic City
	Endeavour to create shared use walk/ cycle paths in connecting the open space network	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City/Asset Systems
	Ensure the Bicycle Plan continues to recognise the importance of recreational cycling as a key objective	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City/Asset Systems
	In consultation with walking and cycling groups and the Bicycle Committee identify and prioritise opportunities for lighting of walk/ cycle paths to provide safe evening access for walking/ cycling.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City/Asset Systems
	Inform Council's Bicycle Committee of priorities for improving cycling from consultation undertaken for the Sport & Recreation Strategy	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City/Asset Systems
	Ensure that new developments make provision for walking/ cycling and form part of S94 contributions or Voluntary Planning Agreements.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
A programmed approach to the implementation of synthetic surfaces, field lighting and all playing field remediation projects.	Construction of a synthetic football field suitable for shared use by AFL/ soccer at ELS Hall #1 and develop a new turf wicket between Marsfield #1 and #2 to accommodate the relocation of cricket.	High	Project Development/ Operations
	Construction of synthetic surfaces at Christie Park #1 and #2.	High	Project Development/ Operations/Strategic City
	Establish user pays sinking funds to cover (or contribute to) the net capital cost to Council of establishing and/ or replacing synthetic surfaces in Council's fees and charges.	High	Operations
	Develop a forward planning program for the delivery of sportsfield renewals including geotechnical studies, soil profile analysis and field design.	High	Strategic City/ Operations
	Given their high capital cost, the development of each synthetic sports field should be subject to the completion of a detailed business case. The Draft Synthetic Surface Action Plan has undertaken a preliminary assessment of priority sites, but variables may emerge through the completion of the business case (eg planning/ zoning constraints, adverse geotech conditions, or cost/ availability of services). For this reason it is recommended that Council adopt a flexible approach to the implementation of the Action Plan.	Ongoing (Low)	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Goal 5 - We provide inclusive and accessible sport and recreation The City of Ryde will design sport and recreation facilities to maximise access for people of all abilities. This will include the design of physical access to sport and recreation facilities and the planning of programs to eliminate barriers for access and participation.			
Design of open spaces that support passive recreation to ensure access of people of all abilities	Create picnic areas that allow for adequate movement space for people who use wheelchairs, crutches, motor scooters or walkers etc. High priority locations include Putney Park, Banjo Paterson Park, Brush Farm Park, Field of Mars, Kissing Point Park and Ryde Park	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
Modify existing park buildings to provide for improved access to people of all abilities	Undertake a review of park amenity buildings against accessibility principles. This should include provision of accessible toilets and access to the building, reduction of the tension on doors to make them easier to open for individuals with decreased balance/strength.	High	Operations
Creation of a network of pathways across the City that offer opportunities for people with restricted mobility.	Complete and audit of the Ryde River Walk and Shrimpton's Creek Parklands Trail with the intention of improving access.	Medium	Asset Systems
Provision of adequate accessible carparking	Review the provision of accessible car parking spaces within or near to open spaces (including on and off street).	Medium	Asset Systems
Support the accessibility of sport and recreation opportunities through a suitable maintenance regime.	Increase maintenance frequency of key open spaces to ensure access to facilities is maintained.	Ongoing (Medium)	Operations
Continue to make play walkable to the majority of the community to ensure everyday accessibility and to encourage physical activity and mental wellbeing.	Ongoing implementation of the Children's Play Implementation Plan, particularly local park upgrades.	Ongoing (High)	Strategic City
Provide areas that enable people with mobility limitations to exercise their dogs through the creation of enclosed dog off leash areas in accordance with the <i>Study on the Provision of Recreation Areas for Dogs in the City of Ryde</i> , July 2010.	Creation of enclosed free running dog parks with associated facilities such as seating, picnic tables, landscaping, trees, shade, dog water bowls etc. High priority focus locations Denistone Park, ELS Hall Park, and Olympic Park.	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Provide the community with a range of viewing areas of community sport for the elderly and for people with access limitations.	During the masterplanning of open spaces, consider what opportunities there are to offer spectator seating from vehicles or nearby to car parking areas. Priority locations including Meadowbank Park, ELS Hall Park, Christie Park, Magdala Park, Waterloo Park	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City/ Operations
Offer opportunities for people of all abilities and ages to participate in recreation and sport programs.	Review and expand existing programs to encompass people of all ages and abilities such as Seniors (Heart Moves) and school holiday programs. Integrate into upgrades to facilities.	High	Operations
Encourage and support local clubs that have a policy of inclusion - <i>regardless of age, gender, race and ability, all members have an equal opportunity to participate in sport and recreation at a level they choose.</i>	<p>Work with local sport and recreation clubs to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas for improvement in the provision of facilities so that all members have appropriate physical access to facilities by offering equipment and amenities such as male/female change rooms, ramps (permanent/portable), wide doors and disabled toilets. Offer training and support for volunteers and staff to ensure all members feel welcome. Promote a welcoming attitude amongst members and develop plans, policies and procedures to support inclusion and promote respect, integrity and leadership. Consider members' needs when planning and delivering training sessions. Promote local public transport links for players to attend training and games. Encourage members/volunteers to support inclusive practices and promote a welcoming environment for everyone. 	High	Operations
Pro-active planning for sport and recreation opportunities for an ageing community	Undertake community consultation to understand the needs of older people for sport and recreation. Use the findings to develop a program for improving access and opportunity across the City.	High	Strategic City/ Community Engagement

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Goal 6 - Our community will be aware of our facilities and programs The City of Ryde will actively engage with our community and partners to support and promote the sustainable growth, management and success of our local clubs and associations. The City of Ryde will continue to advocate the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle by promoting the variety of sport and recreation facilities and programs in the City. The City of Ryde will maintain a transparency in the management of all sport and recreation facilities through the Sport and Recreation (including Wheelled Sports) Advisory Committee where proactive engagement with our community will inform management strategies and priority setting.			
Increase community and stakeholder engagement with sport and recreation decision making	Encourage clubs, associations and stakeholder groups to distribute sport and recreation communiques to their members and promote events and activities and participation opportunities.	Ongoing (High)	Operations/ Community Engagement
Inform the community on a regular basis using a variety of methods to increase awareness of and participation in sport and recreation pursuits.	Increase the use of social media as a platform for communication of programs, ground closures, opportunities to comment on upgrades and so on.	Ongoing (High)	Community Engagement/ Operations
Increase communication of sport and recreation opportunities with the CALD Community	Increase and diversify the communication methods to ensure the messages reach all people in our community. Consideration of alternate communication methods, such as providing information accessible in different languages	Ongoing (High)	Community Engagement/ Operations
Maintain a commitment to the Active in Ryde program and plan for further expansion into the CALD community and the other disengaged groups	Undertake a review of the Active in Ryde program to ensure that it is adequately resourced and sustainable into the future. As part of the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify the program's strategic objectives and performance measures Engage with existing program partners and participants to identify what is working well and needs improvement Determine most effective means of expanding guided walking program and other fully booked programs that are consistent with strategic objectives Analyse marketing arrangements and potential improvements Identify management and delivery improvements Identify resourcing priorities for the future 	Medium	Operations

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Liaise with Macquarie University with the purpose of collaboration and promoting of recreation opportunities for the worker, student and residential communities.	Develop a partnership arrangement with Macquarie University to promote recreation programs and access to sports and recreation facilities on campus	Low	Strategic City/ Operations
Support local clubs and associations to operate their clubs effectively and sustainably.	Develop a program for supporting the administration of local clubs and associations through training programmes. This could include workshops and seminars in first aid, governance, working with children, volunteer management, inclusiveness and working with Council.	Ongoing (High)	Operations
	Develop a program to work with local clubs to increase the understanding for managed growth. This should include discussions about how to manage growth due to finite recreation and sporting resources. Conversely develop a program to work with sporting clubs where their participation is declining.	Ongoing (High)	Operations
	Engage with state sporting organisations to work closely with local clubs and associations.	High	Operations
	Utilise the capacity of peak sporting bodies to provide support and leadership to clubs in the development of policies and management practices.	Ongoing (High)	Operations
Increase information provided to the community about the unstructured recreation opportunities in the City	Enhance the information provided directly to sportsground users to encourage greater knowledge, care and ownership of issues associated with the sportsground service and management	Ongoing (High)	Operations
	Update web page to provide additional information on unstructured recreation opportunities including, playgrounds, water base recreation, dog of leash areas, outdoor fitness areas etc.	Ongoing (High)	Community Engagement

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Improved communication of the opportunities for walking and cycling in the City	<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>	Medium	Strategic City
Goal 7 - Sustainable management of facilities and Sport			
The City of Ryde will continue to work with clubs and associations to promote sustainable growth and development while ensuring the long term sustainable of the physical assets will be maintained.			
User Group Contributions to Capital Improvements	Consider granting of licences (up to 5 years) for club/ association funded development of canteens/clubhouses/amenities. Ensure that granting of a licence complies with provisions of Local Government Act 1993 (including S47A)	Ongoing (Medium)	Strategic City
	Review the Sports Ground User Fees and Contribution Policy to permit the granting of preferred allocation over playing areas, in return for capital contributions to improvements subject to consistency with the Sport & Recreation Strategy, the term of the preferred allocation to be dependent on the value of contribution and for a finite period of less than 10 years and the facility continues to be available for shared use and is accessible to other community users. Align with Community Buildings Licensing Policy with regards to Council's subsidies aligning with the tenants capacity to contribute and the level of community benefit.	High	Operations
	<p>Sportsground user fees are outlined in the Sportsground User Fees and Contributions Policy. The policy applies to all sportsgrounds located in the City of Ryde. Broadly the goal of the policy is to ensure sustainable and equitable use of Council's sportsgrounds. Refer to page 18 of supporting reference documents.</p> <p>Fees and charges are reviewed annually and are updated in the fees and charges section within the one year Operational Plan. In addition fees and charges are set in accordance with other NSROC Councils.</p>		
	Ensure priorities for annual capital works program are consistent with the Sport & Recreation Strategy	Ongoing (High)	Operations

Strategic Focus	Action	Priority	Responsibility
	<p>Where one-off requests for upgrading areas are received they should be assessed against the following criteria:</p> <p>Primary Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with Sport & Recreation Strategy • Increased capacity and supply of field hours for sport (eg lighting, synthetic or hybrid surfaces, drainage/ ground improvements) • Cost to Council • Alignment with existing demand and future participation forecasts <p>Secondary Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main user beneficiaries (amateur, semi-professional, professional) • Benefits to other user groups/ community • Impact on accessibility and/ or participation opportunities for people with disabilities • Likelihood of increasing operating efficiency or significantly reduce maintenance costs • Addresses safety/ risk management issues • Extent of capital contribution by club/ association • Demonstrated financial/ management capacity of club/ association • Likelihood of securing other external funding • Implications if work does not proceed 	Ongoing (Medium)	Operations
Sports ground maintenance	<p>In line with other Councils in NSROC, adopt a maximum threshold of 30 hours per week for playing field usage. Work with the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee to determine the ongoing management. Expand the criteria to include the intensity of use, type of sport and time of year.</p> <p>Improve maintenance practices by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting and implementing the 'effective hours of use' model prepared by Labosport to more accurately identify and monitor field use carrying capacity and user impacts • Adopting the recommendations of recently completed investigations undertaken by turf management specialists and reviewing budget allocations • An increase in capital investment in recreation and sporting facilities will require an increase in maintenance budgets to keep pace with an increase in facilities. • New types of facilities eg synthetic playing fields require different maintenance regimes and may require capital costs for special maintenance equipment • Consider the utilisation of hybrid turf technologies in high wear areas (eg goal mouths) 	Ongoing (High)	Sports and Recreation
		Ongoing (High)	Sports and Recreation