



CUMBERLAND
CITY COUNCIL



Cumberland City Council Open Space and Recreation Strategy

2019 - 2029

Welcome to Country

Jumna ya wogal wal ya pemel jumna mingan jumna tamu. Ngalaringi wyanga pemal.
Ngalaringi babuna wal gnia ya pemal da lo-loley dice wara mooting jumna banga nolla ya.
Pemal jumna wal gnia koi mund wal tati pemal jumna annagar dice.
Eorah wal mullana wal mingan jumna gai gnia bou gu-nu-gal nglaringi go-roong dyaralang.
Nglaringi go-roong dyaralang.
Ngalaringi bou ngalaringi jam ya tiati nglaringi bubuna jumna. Mittigar gurrung burruk
gneene da daruga pemal.
Didjeree Goor.

*We were the first carers of the land, we took only what we needed from our Mother Earth.
Our ancestors knew how to take care of the land, so as to continue their survival.
We do not own the land, but we are charged with the care of it. As custodians of this land we
ask that all people join us and preserve what we have left for future generations.
We must protect the few sites we have to ensure our culture continues.
In the language of our ancestors we welcome you to Darug Lands.
Thank you.*

Welcome to Country by Darug Elder Aunty Edna

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The Duck River corridor is a popular place for family gathering and informal sports

Introduction

Our open space and recreation facilities are an important resource for our community: a place to come together with family, friends and the community; to be active and healthy; and to preserve and celebrate our natural environment and heritage. The Open Space and Recreation Strategy will support Council to consolidate and enhance the planning and management of open space and recreation facilities in our area, and prepare for increasing and changing recreation needs and demands in our growing and diverse community.

This Open Space and Recreation Strategy (the Strategy) provides Council with a ten year (2019 - 2029) direction for open space, sport and recreation services and facilities.

By reviewing the existing provision and demand for open space and recreation in Cumberland, it establishes a clear open space policy and planning framework.

The Strategy's guiding principles, strategic directions and actions focus on achieving social inclusion, connectivity, health and well-being, increased sport and recreation participation and social and environmental sustainability within Cumberland.

THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY HAS 4 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1:

Deliver new open space and new recreation facilities that meet the needs of our growing population



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:

Increasing the quality and capacity of existing open space and recreation facilities



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3:

Supporting inclusion and increased participation by our diverse community



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 4:

Protecting our natural environment and increasing resilience

Development of the Plan

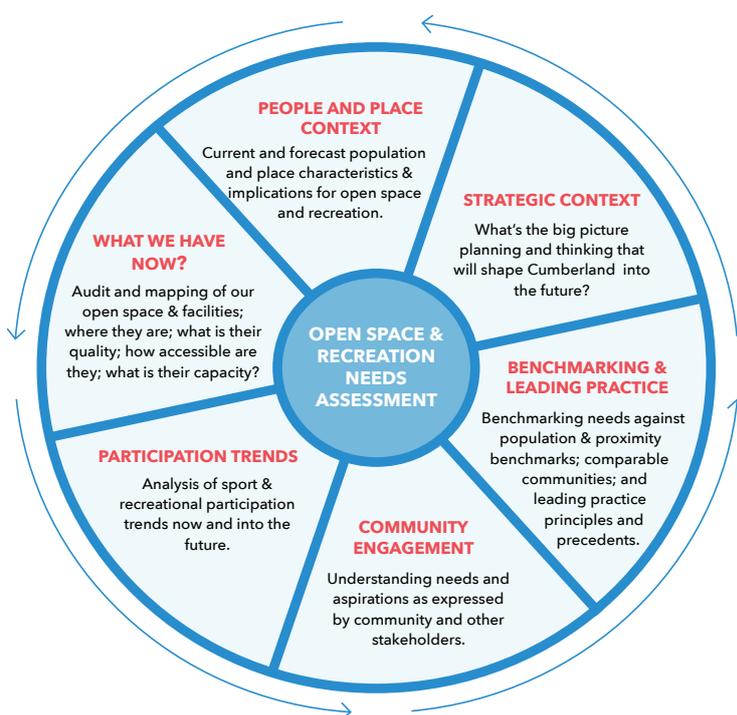
Open space and recreation planning at the local government level is about building on Council's existing open space assets, ensuring that they reflect community needs both now and into the future.

This Strategy is based on detailed research, consultation and clear evidence, and builds on Council's existing strategies, plans and policies.

The Cumberland Open Space and Recreation Background Report (2019) details the extensive research and engagement undertaken to develop this Strategy.

The development of this Strategy included:

- Review of relevant national, State and Regional policy settings and Council's existing planning
- Review of key trends in sport and recreation participation including in culturally diverse and low income communities, global best practice and trends in open space, sport and recreation planning and management
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Audit and assessment of existing open space supply
- Review of Cumberland's current and forecast resident and worker population demographics, and current participation in sport and recreation activities
- Identification of locally-appropriate standards and levels of service for open space, sport and recreation facilities
- Analysis of current and forecast gaps and opportunities in the supply and management of open space, sport and recreation facilities, program and support services
- Assessment of options to address gaps and opportunities, and
- Development of the Strategic Framework including vision, management principles, and strategies for the provision of open space and recreation facilities.



Needs assessment approach. Source: Cred Consulting

Informal badminton at Campbell Hill Reserve



Using the fitness equipment at Phillips Park, Lidcombe

Defining open space and recreation in Cumberland

What is open space?

Open space is land that is publicly owned and used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. This includes recreation spaces (such as parks and play spaces), sports grounds, community/civic spaces (such as urban public space and plazas), linkage parks (such as recreation trails) and natural areas.

What is recreation?

Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that we participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing and to connect to our families and communities. This includes casual activities like going for a walk or a picnic with friends, fitness activities, and social, organised and elite sporting activities. Recreation can be undertaken indoors or outdoors.

What's not included

The Strategy will provide high-level strategic directions and the context for future, more specific planning for recreation facilities provided within open space including play spaces and sports grounds.

Private open space (such as private golf courses and lawn bowls clubs) and built recreation facilities (such as aquatic/leisure centres, indoor sports courts, halls and other buildings) are not a focus of this Strategy.

While this strategy acknowledges the value and importance of Bushland and Environment zoned (E2) open space, for the purpose of calculating open space provision, these areas as well as golf courses, and Rookwood Cemetery have been not included as they are not accessible for the wider community to use for recreation purposes.



Figure 1 - Cumberland's Recreation Spectrum

The Plan in Context

Access to open space and recreation supports livability, health and wellbeing, and community and economic outcomes. Existing strategic planning at the national, State, Regional and LGA levels will influence how we plan for, fund and deliver open space and recreation facilities in Cumberland.

STATE CONTEXT

Greener Places: Draft Open Space for Recreation Guidelines, Government Architect NSW

Greener Places is a draft policy to guide the design, planning, management and delivery of Green Infrastructure in urban areas. This includes the Draft Urban Tree Canopy Guide, which sets a target of increasing Greater Sydney's tree canopy to 40% (>25% in medium density and >40% in suburban areas).

The Draft Open Space for Recreation Guidelines recognise the importance of open space for recreation and outline approaches to planning for open space including benchmarking, hierarchy and functional classifications and criteria for open space and recreation facilities.

Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy, NSW Department of Education

This policy encourages shared use of school facilities (such as open space and sporting facilities), with significant investment in new, upgraded or maintained facilities.

Everyone Can Play in NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

These guidelines provide best practice design and management approaches to building inclusive play spaces for everyone, regardless of age, ability or cultural background.

Five Million Trees, NSW Government

Five Million Trees is an initiative aimed at increasing Greater Sydney's tree canopy by planting more trees in streets, parks, bushland areas and yards by 2030. The project is a long-term commitment to create a greener city and improve Sydney's health, climate, economy and environment.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Greater Sydney Regional Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities, Greater Sydney Commission

This document sets a 40-year vision and 20-year plan to manage growth and change for Greater Sydney in the context of social, economic and environmental matters. It is built on the premise of a 30-minute city, where most residents live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places. The Regional Plan identifies the importance of access to open space and recreation opportunities in areas of growth, increasing density, and changing communities.

Central City District Plan, Greater Sydney Commission

The Central City District Plan provides a more detailed context to the directions and objectives of the Greater Sydney Region Plan specific to the area. It describes how the District will grow substantially, capitalising on its location close to the geographic centre of Greater Sydney, with major public and private investment contributing to new transport and other infrastructure leading to major transformation.

A major regional project is the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula urban renewal area, which includes parts of Wentworthville, Auburn and Lidcombe and will drive growth in these areas.

Priorities and directions for open space and recreation at the regional level include that:

- Public open space is accessible, protected and enhanced, with high quality open space that meets a wide range of community needs, and
- The Sydney Green Grid links parks, open space, bushland, walking and cycling paths, including the Duck River Open Space Corridor, Prospect Reservoir Water Pipeline Corridor and Duck Creek.

Key actions for Granville and Auburn where the area covered by the Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Area include:

- Leverage new development to provide new open space and high quality and active public domains
- Improve existing open space and access to open space networks.

LOCAL CUMBERLAND CONTEXT

Community Strategic Plan, Cumberland Council

The community vision as outlined in Cumberland's Community Strategic Plan is "Welcome, Belong, Succeed." The key aim of Council's strategic planning in relation to open space and recreation planning is ensuring that Cumberland is a great place to live that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, supported by a variety of high quality community facilities, public, green and open spaces, services and activities that are in line with community expectations, population growth and intended uses.

Council has a focus on supporting a "clean and green" community with high quality and abundant green space and clean urban and open areas. To help deliver this goal, Council is developing a 10 year Biodiversity Strategy and supported by a 4 year Action Plan. This strategy will help to protect green and open spaces; ensuring they suit a variety of uses, mitigate heat island effects; protect and enhance biodiversity and promote sustainable practices.

Cumberland 2030: Our Local Strategic Planning Statement, Cumberland Council

Cumberland 2030: Our Local Strategic Planning Statement plans for the Cumberland area's economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 10 years. It sets clear planning priorities about what will be needed, such as jobs, homes, services and parks.

The plan identified that the natural environment in Cumberland, including our network of parks and open spaces, is highly valued by residents and visitors. The Duck River (the largest tributary of the Parramatta River) is the 'green heart' of Cumberland providing excellent opportunities for both passive and active recreation and biodiversity. Several highly valued community and tourism assets exist along the corridor, including the Auburn Botanic Gardens and various sporting fields and parks.

Whilst the quality of our existing open space is generally high, there are gaps in the provision of

open space in some areas. There are opportunities to improve liveability standards by addressing the gap in open space for some areas. These can be addressed to better meet current and future needs.

Four of the 16 Planning Priorities identified in the Statement relate to open space and recreation:

- Planning Priority 13: Protecting, enhancing and increasing natural and green spaces
- Planning Priority 14: Improving access to and health of waterways
- Planning Priority 15: Planning for a resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards and climate change
- Planning Priority 16: Supporting urban cooling to minimise heat island effects

Cumberland Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2020

The plan allows the collection of levies and rates on approved development.

The Plan includes strategies and opportunities to make better use of Council's open space assets include the following:

- Improved design and planning of the existing so that increases in capacity, quality, diversity, usability and accessibility of open space can be achieved
- Improving the connections and crossing points, upgrading or providing new linear linkages and access paths (footpaths and cycleways) and implementing the District Plan's 'Green Grid'
- Providing greater opportunities for walking and passive recreation through new and upgraded paths through publicly owned land
- Increasing the weekly time available for active recreation by converting turf areas into synthetic surfaces, providing floodlighting and improving field/court drainage
- Partnering with schools and other institutions to make available open space and sport facilities on their lands for public use

The Cumberland community

The Cumberland area has an estimated population of 242,524¹. This population is forecast to increase to 304,811 by 2036 (an increase of 26%).

COMMUNITY PROFILE: This profile of the Cumberland community is based on the most recent (2016) Census of Population and Housing data. The profile provides insight into the unique characteristics of the Cumberland community².

AGE 

The Cumberland area has a relatively young community, with a **median age of 32 years**. The area has high proportions of:

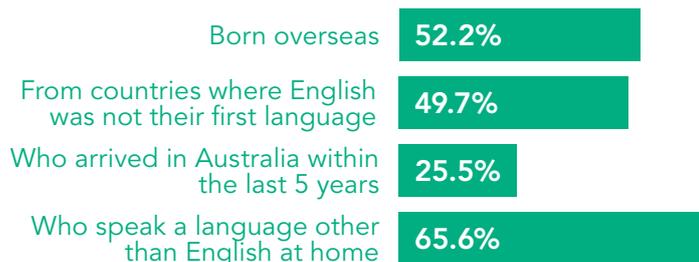


By 2036, the median age will increase to 34 years. The fastest growing age groups are:

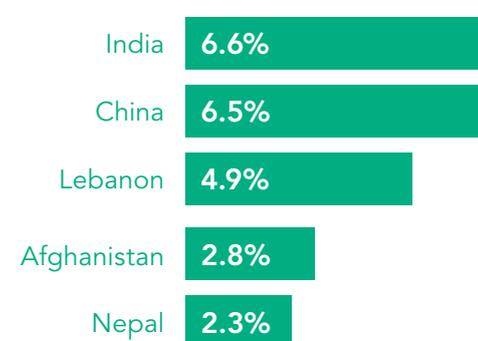


CULTURAL DIVERSITY 

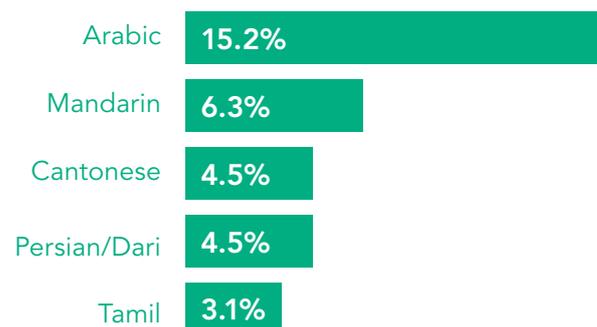
Cumberland is a culturally rich, vibrant and diverse area. The area has high proportions of people:



The top 5 overseas countries of birth for the Cumberland community are:



The top 5 languages spoken in the Cumberland area (other than English) are:



0.6% OF PEOPLE IN THE CUMBERLAND AREA IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER.

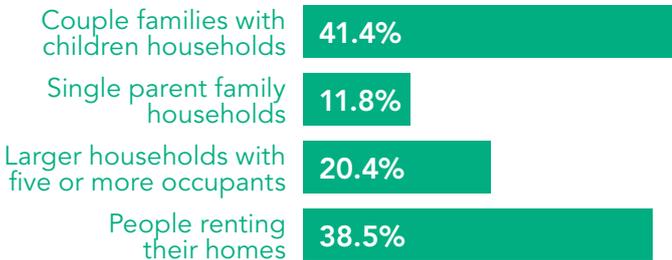


Cumberland has the **highest proportion of refugees per capita** and the **highest number of people seeking asylum** of any local government area in NSW³. Over the past 25 years, **20,000 refugees** have settled in the Cumberland area⁴.

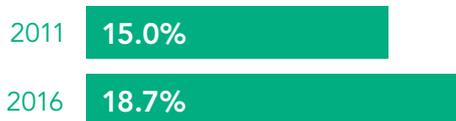


HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

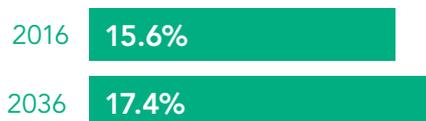
The Cumberland area has a high proportion of:



There is a notable increase in the proportion of higher density dwellings (apartments/units) in recent years.

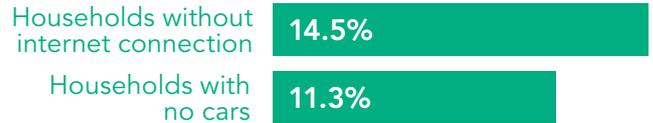


Couple families with children will still be the most common household type in 2036, but there will be a **significant increase of people living alone**



ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

The Cumberland area has a high proportion of:



EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The Cumberland area has a high proportion of:



MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 2016 WAS \$1,377 (COMPARED TO \$1,745 FOR GREATER SYDNEY).

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AND CARERS



5.8%

OF PEOPLE IN THE CUMBERLAND AREA NEED HELP IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES DUE TO DISABILITY

11.2%

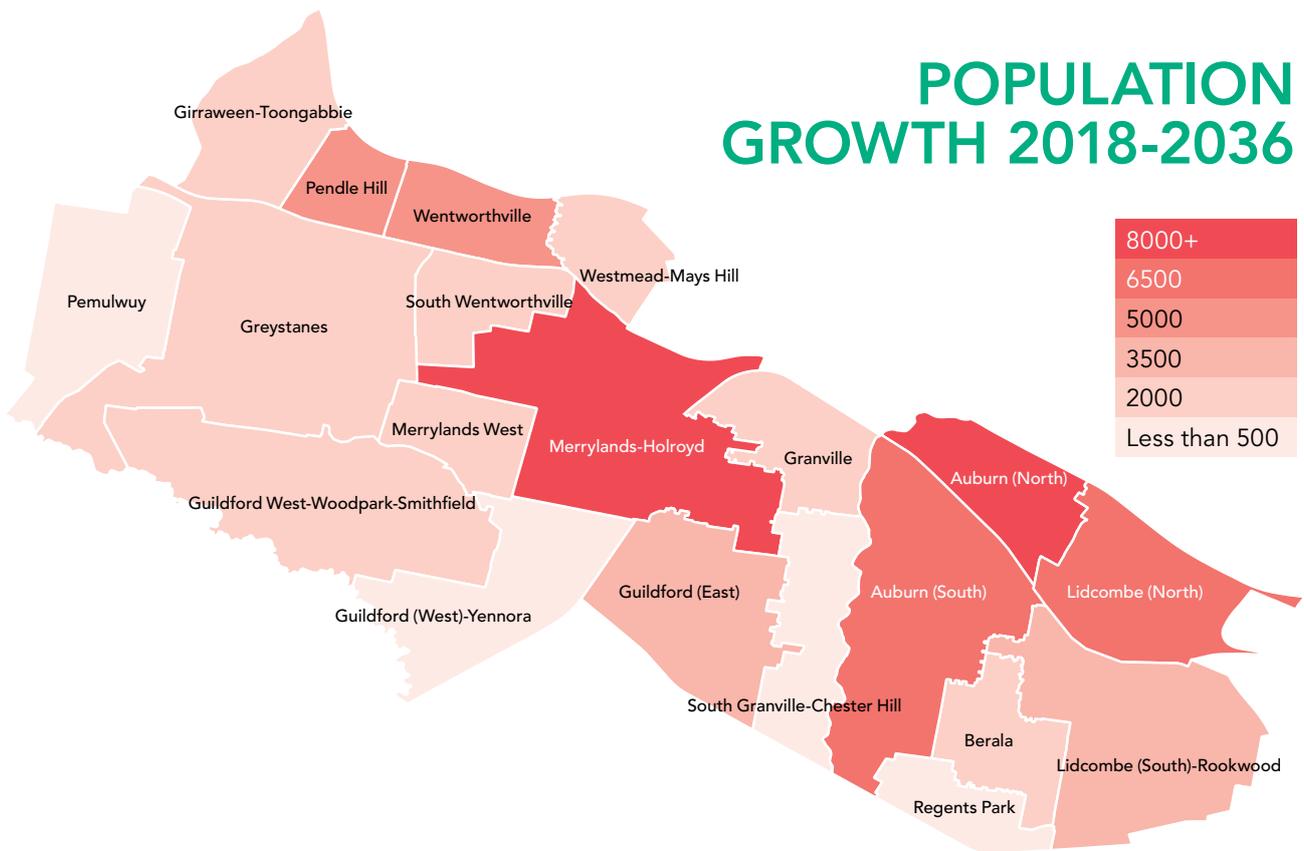
OF PEOPLE IN THE CUMBERLAND AREA PROVIDE UNPAID CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY OR SENIORS IN THE CUMBERLAND AREA

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Community organisations in the Cumberland area (funded and unfunded)

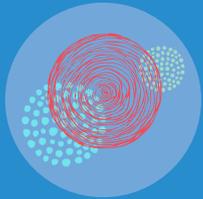
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POPULATION GROWTH 2018-2036



AREA	POPULATION CHANGE	% CHANGE	2036 POPULATION
Auburn (North)	+9,428	+72.7	22,395
Auburn (South)	+5,673	+19.1	35,303
Berala	+1,722	+18.0	11,309
Girraween – Toongabbie	+1,433	+14.5	11,306
Granville	+927	+7.8	12,796
Greystanes	+1,342	+5.6	25,137
Guildford (East)	+3,047	+19.4	18,759
Guildford (West) – Yennora	+1,006	+11.8	9,507
Guildford West – Woodpark – Smithfield	+371	+5.4	7,226
Lidcombe (North)	+6,149	+52.3	17,895
Lidcombe (South) – Rookwood	+2,860	+26.7	13,565
Merrylands – Holroyd	+14,460	+42.0	48,895
Merrylands West	+943	+13.7	7,805
Pemulwuy	-233	-4.3	5,208
Pendle Hill	+4,811	+75.0	11,222
Regents Park	+483	+10.5	5,074
South Granville – Chester Hill	+486	+7.3	7,185
South Wentworthville	+1,043	+14.5	8,211
Wentworthville	+4,657	+46.1	14,760
Westmead – Mays Hill	+1,681	+17.6	11,253
Cumberland LGA-wide	+62,289	+25.7	304,811

What does our Community profile mean for open space and recreation in Cumberland?



Open space presents opportunities to celebrate our Aboriginal heritage

Open space and natural areas are an opportunity to share and celebrate the Aboriginal history of the area, in particular in Pemulwuy, Prospect Creek and along the Duck River.



High proportion of low income households means open space and recreation needs to be accessible and affordable

Affordable ways for the community to take part in sport and recreation is key to increasing participation and enjoyment of open space. This includes providing space for informal sports, recreation walking and jogging trails as well as outdoor fitness equipment and fun, inviting youth recreation precincts.



Larger families means Cumberland's open space often becomes an important gathering place and family living room

Cumberland is home to a lot of larger families which means open space often becomes a place for outdoor family gatherings, BBQs and picnics. To cater for this, Cumberland parks can have kiosks access to water, BBQ, seating and shade amenities and affordable prices to aquatic and leisure facilities.



Increasing high density means that access to open space will become more important

With increasing high density living and a growing population, access to open space will become more important in some areas. Open space needs to serve both a backyard for people living in apartments and a place for the community to come together, particularly in Merrylands, Granville, Auburn and Lidcombe, Cumberland's fastest growing communities.



A highly culturally diverse community, with a high proportion of newly arrived migrants means that open space may be used in different ways

Cumberland has a significantly high CALD population, with a high proportion of people who have recently arrived in Australia, including from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. Engagement with CALD communities has shown that preferred sports tend to include football (soccer), cricket, badminton and volleyball. With many people migrating from higher density towns and cities Open space including civic plazas and parks are an important, cultural and social space into the evening with a need to consider lighting appropriate open spaces after dark to cater for this need. Areas that have a particularly high proportion of newly arrived residents include Toongabbie - Pendle Hill, Wentworthville - Westmead, Auburn, Lidcombe and Granville, and students, in particular in Lidcombe, Berala - Regents Park, Auburn and Granville.



A high proportion of people with disability and an ageing population means that open space and recreation facilities need to be inclusive

Cumberland has a high rate of people with a disability, and an ageing population. Open space and recreation needs to be inclusive, and consider universally designed paths, play spaces and amenities, adequate accessible parking and drop off zones (for regional/district parks especially). Areas with high proportions of people reporting need for assistance, and high proportion of aging residents include Toongabbie - Pendle Hill, Merrylands and Guildford - South Granville.



Council's recreation team engaging the community at the Auburn Cherry Blossom Festival

What we've heard

Over the past three years since Cumberland City Council was formed, we have heard from our community about their needs and ideas for open space and recreation in our area.

Our Parkscape surveys found that you frequently use parks in Cumberland for spending time with large groups of friends and family, sharing a meal together using picnic and BBQ facilities or play sport informally.

You also use parks for relaxing, meditation and mindfulness, and to enjoy the 'peace and quiet', as well as walking, jogging and cycling.

Our Parkscape surveys found that you love being close to the environment and large amounts of regional open space and bushland, while also living in an urban and suburban environment.

However, while you think Cumberland's regional open space is high quality, you told us that there is room for improvement throughout local parks, including a need to increase sense of safety, increasing the quality of play spaces, as well as increasing access to toilets and amenities and places to put rubbish.

A community survey was completed by 181 people to inform this study, with an additional 36 community sporting organisations completing a survey or interview to help inform strategies and actions

Across projects such as the Cumberland Community Strategic Plan, Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Youth Strategy, Cumberland Cultural Plan 2019 - 2029 and other works, the community has identified many priorities for open space and recreation including:

- Valuing living in “an environment that is abundant with parks and green spaces, whilst also being within access to a large city”
- Parks and open space, pathways and footpaths, and recreation spaces are a high priority for the community
- Having a network of linked green and open spaces is important
- More spaces in town and village centres where the community can come together and do their own thing including creative and cultural activities
- Concerns over ‘over-development/high-rises’ and ‘infrastructure development and maintenance’ as key challenges for the area, reflecting our rapidly growing population and increasing density and associated pressure on infrastructure and services
- Young people would like to see more parks, youth centres, sports grounds, courts and safe areas, and
- People with disability and carers would like to see more accessible, inclusive and promoted recreation facilities and programs which increase social inclusion and participation.



Informal recreation along the Duck River corridor

The most common improvements that people would like to see in open space and recreation facilities in Cumberland were:

-  Upgrading play spaces
-  Increased shading/protection from the sun
-  Better maintenance of existing facilities
-  Upgrades to toilet and change room facilities
-  Improved safety
-  More bins/rubbish collection
-  More/improved seating
-  Improved cycle paths and links
-  More/better staff at sports facilities including pools
-  Improved lighting
-  Open spaces that are welcoming and engaging for young people to use and visit

Parks in Cumberland are destinations for family and friends to gather, eat and play, hubs for recreation and sport, and a place of respite for mindfulness, relaxation and enjoyment of nature.

Participation trends

As our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change, our open space and recreation facilities will need to respond to our changing participation in sport and recreation. We will need to plan for open space and recreation facilities which meet the diverse needs of our growing and changing community.

NATIONAL AND NSW PARTICIPATION TRENDS IN RECREATION

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change. The most significant trend in recreation participation in Australia in recent years is a move to informal, unstructured recreation activities rather than traditional organised sport (i.e. mid-week training session and weekend match games with a formal club).

The motivations for participation in sport versus non-sport physical activity vary. The key reasons that people participate in sport are for physical health and fitness, fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, while the main reason that people participate in non-sport physical activity is for physical health and fitness. Barriers to participation include time pressure and poor health or injury.

According to the 2018 NSW AusPlay state survey results, walking is the most popular recreation activity, followed by fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (including running/jogging), cycling and football/soccer.

Recreation participation differs between demographic groups such as women, children, older people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with disability.

“Today more than ever Australians are time poor, have limited budgets, are being inundated by new forms of entertainment and face increasing barriers to participation. As society changes new preferences are emerging; Australians desire greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them.”

– Australian Sports Commission

People with disability

Participation in physical activity is much lower for people with disability than without due to external constraints such as cost, supervision, access to venues, and transport options as well as other factors.

Children

Children play outside far less today than a generation ago. Parent’s activity has an influence on children’s activity: active parents are more likely to have active children. Participation and trends can also differ between boys and girls.

People from culturally diverse backgrounds

Participation in physical activity is lower for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Informal, unstructured and social sports are popular, as well as football/soccer, swimming, basketball, badminton, cricket.

Barriers to participation include language, transport and cost barriers; family/caring commitments; lack of awareness of Australian sporting structures and participation opportunities.

Older people

Participation in physical activity declines as people get older, and non-sport physical activity becomes more popular. Barriers to participation include poor health or injury, and ageing.

People who participated in physical activity throughout their lives are more likely to continue to participate as they get older.

Women

Women participate less in organised activities than men, particularly during childbearing years (25 - 44).

Women are also more likely to participate for health and fitness reasons (Walking, fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (including running and jogging), yoga), and less likely to participate for fun and enjoyment.

Lower income households (<\$40,000)

A barrier to participation for low income groups is lack of environmental access to green spaces and active living facilities .

People on lower incomes are at a higher risk of adverse health outcomes associated with decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviours.

PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND RECREATION TRENDS IN CUMBERLAND

While there is no definitive data on participation in sport and recreation activities in Cumberland, NSW participation trends, Cumberland community profile, existing sports clubs and community engagement all provide indicators of future sport and recreation needs of the community.

There are over 100 sports clubs in Cumberland, playing around 20 sports.

This includes both highly popular sports like football/soccer and cricket, and less common sports like baseball, softball, gridiron, vigoro, flyball, Sepak Takraw, Chin Lone, and hockey. According to the Office of Sport, the most popular sports in the Central District are:

- Football (soccer)
- Golf
- Netball
- Tennis
- Little Athletics, and
- Rugby Union.
- Oztag
- Gymnastics
- Cricket
- Basketball

However, similar to NSW, people in Cumberland are likely to participate more in unstructured, informal recreation participation rather than organised activities.

Research suggests that people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities like those in Cumberland, tend to prefer more informal recreation activities, and there can be a number barriers to participation in organised sports clubs. Lower income households also have lower rates of participation in regular physical activity, and may struggle with the cost of participating in organised sport.

Lower participation in organised sport in Cumberland may also be the result of more informal/unregistered groups or barriers to the growth of clubs (e.g. not having enough courts, volunteers, or poor marketing).

Other activities that are popular in multicultural communities are likely to be popular here.

This includes informal sports and recreation activities like Tai Chi, dancing and walking. Research completed for the Office of Sport identified that the following formal and informal sports are popular with people culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Cumberland:

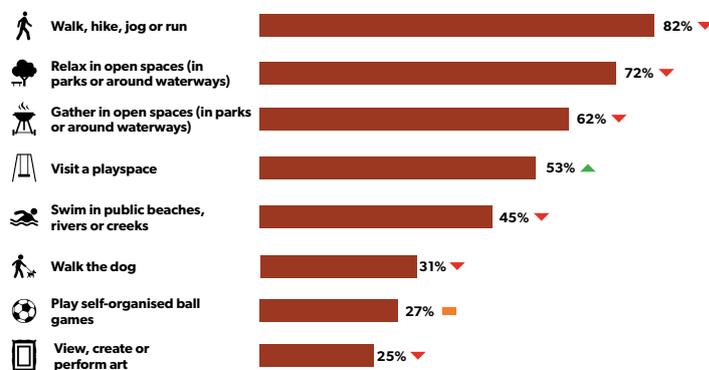
- Football/soccer
- Cricket
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Cycling
- Tennis.

Community engagement showed that popular activities in Cumberland include informal, individual activities, similar to the most popular activities in NSW and the Central City Districts.

The community survey completed for this research showed that the most popular sport and recreation activities are:

- Swimming (21.5%)
- Soccer (15.5%)
- Recreation and leisure (non-specific) (11%)
- Exercise and fitness (non-specific) (9.9%)
- Walking / dog walking (7.7%), and
- Cycling (7.7%).

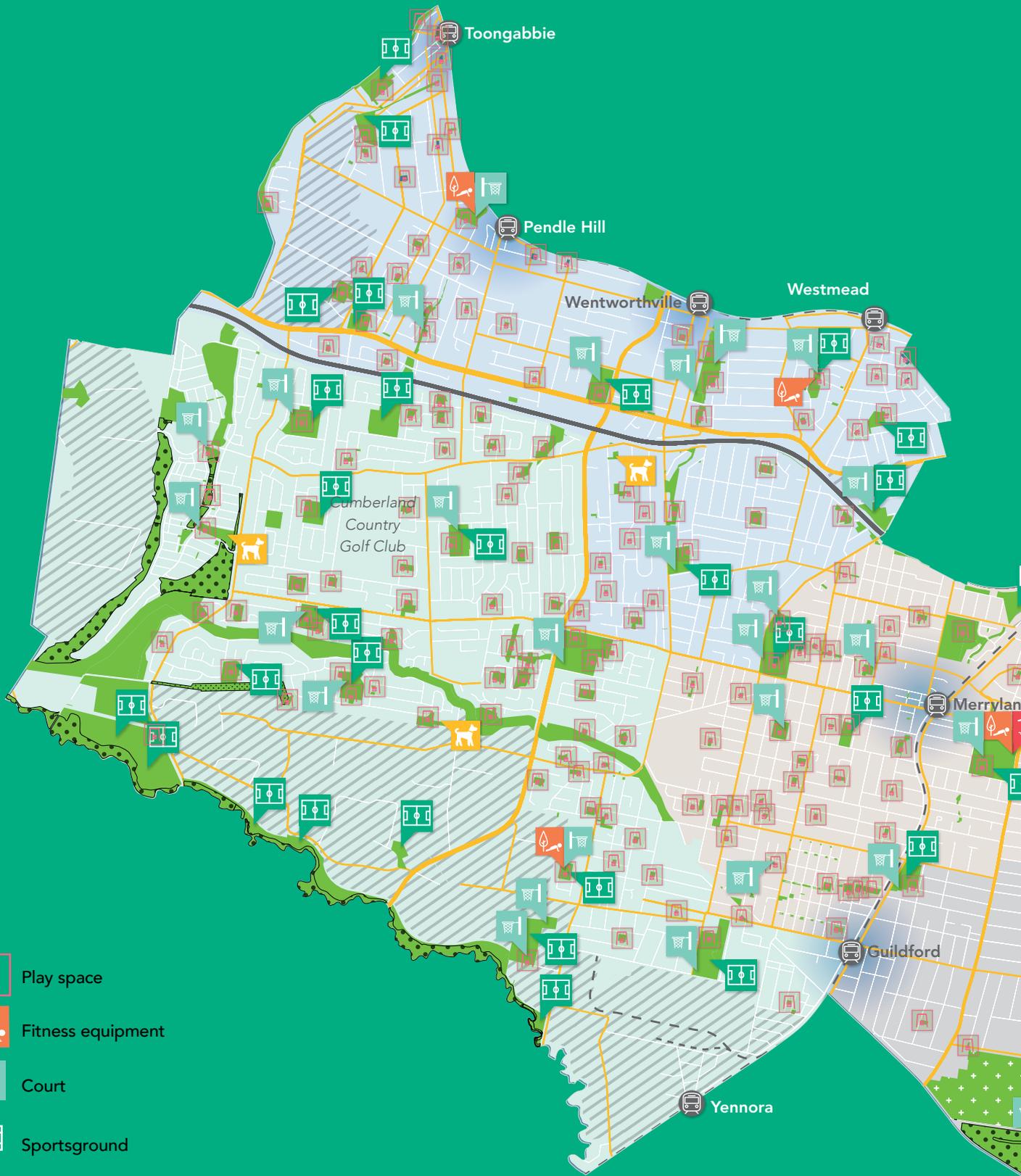
What do Central City District residents love to do?



Overall, in the future we should be planning for:

Popular individual and informal recreation activities like walking (including dog walking), fitness/gym, swimming, running/jogging, cycling, dance, Tai Chi and yoga.

Social sports as well as formal organised sports, including football/soccer, golf, tennis, basketball, netball, cricket/vigoro, badminton, baseball/softball, table tennis, flyball, hockey and the many different varieties of football (AFL, touch/Oztag, gridiron, rugby league, rugby union).



-  Play space
-  Fitness equipment
-  Court
-  Sportsground
-  Youth space
-  Off-leash dog area
-  E2 zoned areas designated for environmental conservation
-  Public golf courses

Our parks and recreation facilities

OVER 400 PARKS | 2 SKATEPARKS (YOUTH SPACE) | 225 PLAY SPACES

8 OUTDOOR VENUES SUPPORTING COMMUNITY EVENTS | 8 OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS | 10 OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS

OVER 550 HA OF OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION | 97 FIELDS | 46 SPORTSGROUNDS

100 HARD COURTS | 21 BASKETBALL COURTS (BOTH FULL AND HALF) | 37 TENNIS COURTS | 42 NETBALL COURTS

OVER 220 HA OF BUSHLAND AND GOLF COURSES



*Recreation asset snapshot as at 2019

What we have and what we need - our recreation facilities

PLAY SPACES

Play and opportunities for play are a priority for the Cumberland community. Best practice is to provide a diverse range of play opportunities which include play spaces for different age groups, risky and adventure play spaces to support healthy development, places to play and interact with nature, and inclusive play for all abilities.

➡ **What we have:** There are currently 225 play spaces across in Cumberland of which 5 are district play spaces. This equates to approximately 5.2 play spaces per 1,000 children.

➡ **What we need:** While the LGA is well supplied with play spaces, these are not evenly distributed across the LGA. There is a current and future need for more local play spaces in Guildford (East), Auburn (North) and Lidcombe (North)

In addition there is a current gap with no district play spaces provided in the south west of the LGA. This will be exacerbated by the growing population.



FITNESS STATIONS

Outdoor exercise equipment provides an opportunity to participate in one of the most popular recreation activities (fitness/gym) in an affordable and informal way. Physical activity in a natural or green environment has additional health and wellbeing benefits above participating indoors; while outdoor fitness stations also provide an opportunity for social connections and encourage physical recreation. Targeted areas for fitness activities also relieve pressure on other areas of open space. Outdoor exercise equipment can provide specific equipment to allow for gentle exercise for older people.

➡ **What we have:** Cumberland currently has 10 parks with outdoor fitness equipment.

➡ **What we need:** Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1 outdoor fitness station per 15,000 people. If no additional stations are provided, there will be a total gap of 8 stations in 2026



OUTDOOR COURTS

Outdoor courts provide space for informal and social sport, and are increasingly popular in particular in areas with young populations and high cultural diversity. Best practice is to provide multipurpose courts that allow for a range of popular sports which in Cumberland may include basketball and volleyball. Council should plan in parallel with indoor courts, with usage data (Book-a-Court), to plan for formal court sports and provide space for free informal court games.

➡ **What we have:** Cumberland has a large number of courts including 1 multi-purpose court, 7 outdoor basketball courts or half/part basketball courts, 37 tennis courts and 42 netball courts.

➡ **What we need:** Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of 1 multipurpose outdoor court per 10,000 people. If no additional multipurpose outdoor courts are provided, there will be a total gap of 20 courts in 2026.





SKATE AND YOUTH PRECINCTS

Youth precincts refer to youth-focused areas that provide for both active recreation and space to gather and interact. This includes skate parks, BMX tracks, and youth plazas. Best practice is to also co-locate with indoor sports centres (not within the scope of this strategy) and youth centres.

Best practice youth recreation spaces are designed for safety including lighting; located close to public transport, shops, schools and other facilities; include amenities such as seating in groups, shelter, shade and bins; and involve young people (including girls, and culturally diverse young people) in the design and management.

➡ **What we have now:** Cumberland has 2 skate parks including 1 existing skatepark at Merrylands (Granville Park), and a 'snake run' at Wyatt Park, Lidcombe.

➡ **What we need:** Industry benchmarks indicate that one regional level youth recreation space should be provided per 50,000 people as a minimum (Growth Centres Commission and City of Parramatta). The NSW Office of Sport has also found that the provision of skate-parks across Greater Sydney is 1 per 56,407 people. Cumberland is under-supplied for youth recreation spaces with benchmarking indicating at least 4 additional regional facilities needed by 2026. Planning and investigations are underway for a Youth Precinct at Wyatt Park and the feasibility of establishing a Skate Park in Gipps Rd Park.



DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

Increasing density and decreasing backyard sizes mean that in urban environments there is a growing trend to exercising dogs out of the home with an increased need for off-leash dog parks. Around 1 in 3 Australian households own a dog. Dog parks can be a social connector, facilitating connections between people walking their dogs and helping to build social capital and a sense of community.

Good design and management of dog off-leash areas can play an important role in managing the interactions between dogs and other users. Prominent signage, bins, bags, seating, shade and drinking fountains should be provided in all dog off-leash areas.

➡ **What we have now:** There are currently 8 dog off-leash areas

➡ **What we need:** As homes increase in density, it's important that dog owners can access off-leash areas. Adopting a benchmark of 1 dog park per suburb with greater than 20% high density, there will be a need for additional off-leash areas in: Granville, Lidcombe (north), Merrylands, Merrylands West, and Westmead-Mays Hill, and a need to improve the quality of existing off-leash areas



SPORTS GROUNDS

Sportsgrounds are generally provided at a district level. Best practice is to provide sports fields in a double field format (eg two rectangular fields with a cricket pitch in the middle) to support summer and winter sports as well as senior and junior club-based sport. Associated infrastructure can include club houses (with storage, canteen, toilet and change facilities), spectator areas, play spaces, parking, and other facilities such as outdoor courts.

➡ **What we have now:** There are 46 sports grounds with sports fields in Cumberland. Of these, 18 provide only one field, 15 provide two fields and 13 provide 3 fields or more.

➡ **What we need:** The NSW Office of Sport indicates a requirement for one district sports ground per 10,000 people, which we currently meet. However, existing fields are currently utilised unevenly with 18% of fields used at over 90% capacity year round, and 15% used at less than 50%.



Planning into the future - provision of open space analysis

Cumberland has over 400 parks, totalling to over 550ha of open space. However, this open space is not distributed evenly. The amount of open space per person or 'quantum' of open space is one indicator of how each suburb in Cumberland is performing in terms of open space provision, distribution and access.

While only one, high level indicator, it assists with the identification of current and future open space needs as the population grows over time.

This method of analysing open space enables Council to understand the current state of open space distribution of open space in Cumberland, as well as how this is forecast to change based on population growth.

By mapping the quantum of open space in each suburb, areas of highest need for new open space, open space embellishment or ways to increase access to existing parcels of open space become clear.

➡ **What we have (2016):** Across the LGA, there is currently 26.6m² of open space per person. As a comparison, the Central City District has 44.7m² of open space per person (excluding metropolitan level open space such as the Western Sydney Parklands).

As shown by Figure 2 and 3 open space is not evenly distributed. Suburbs with large regional parks such as Guildford West - Woodpark - Smithfield (76.5m²) and Pemulwuy-Greystanes (66.8m² per person) have very a high quantum of open space, while others such as Auburn North have a very low provision (3.8m² per person).

➡ **What we will have (2036):** With Cumberland forecast to grow over the next 20 years, the provision of open space per person will also change unless new open space areas are delivered. Without any new open space, Cumberland is forecast to have 18.1m² of open space overall, a decrease of 8.5m² per person over the 20 year period.

➡ **What we will need:** There are multiple approaches to benchmarking the quantum of open space.

Historical benchmarking approaches indicate that there should be 2.83ha/1000 people, however in infill, urban contexts like Cumberland, the World Health Organisation recommends a minimum of 9m² of open space per person.

For Developer Contributions plans, precedents from the Land and Environment Court have established that it is reasonable for Council's development contributions plans to at a minimum, seek to maintain the same quantum of open space post-development as there was prior to development.

2016

CURRENT OPEN SPACE PROVISION

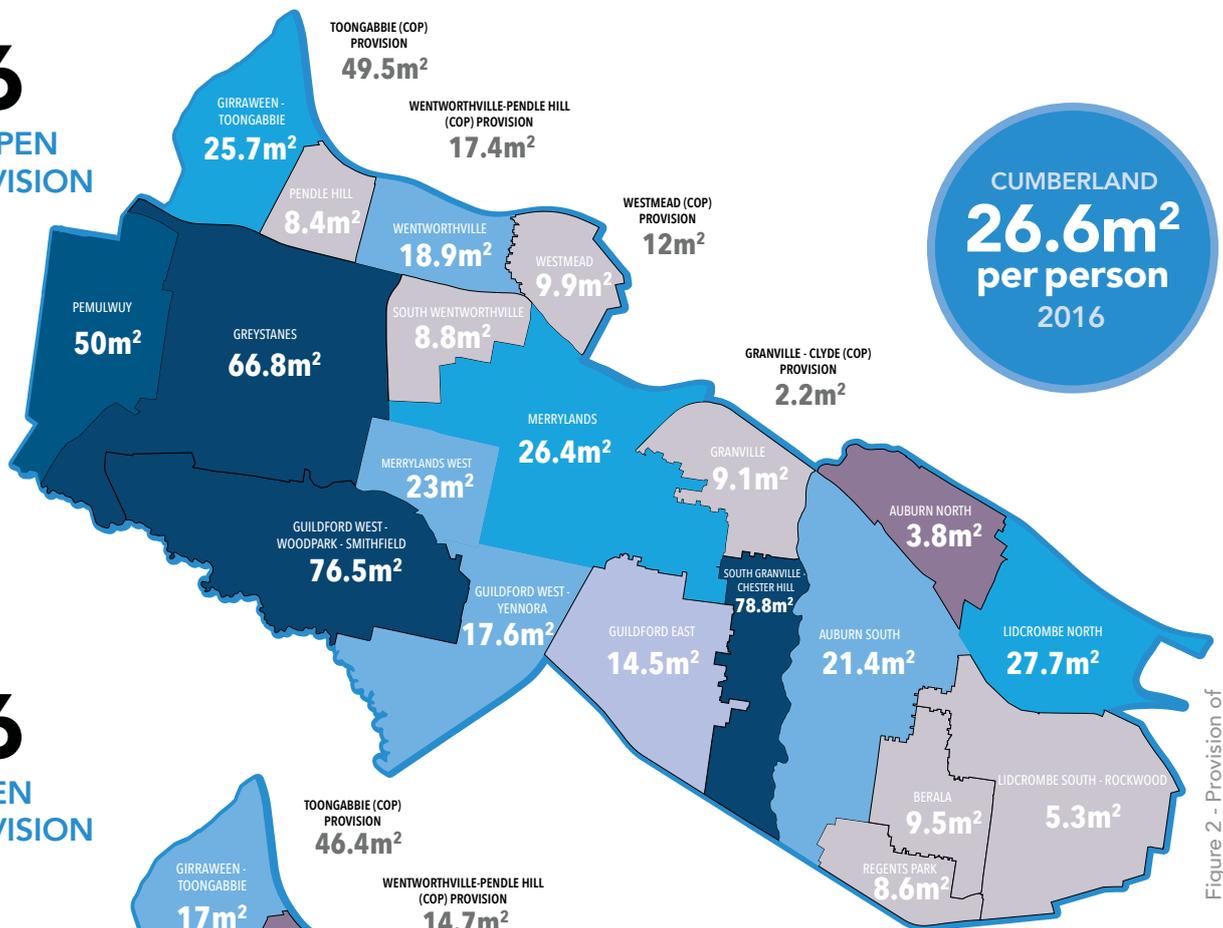


Figure 2 - Provision of open space (2016)

2036

FUTURE OPEN SPACE PROVISION

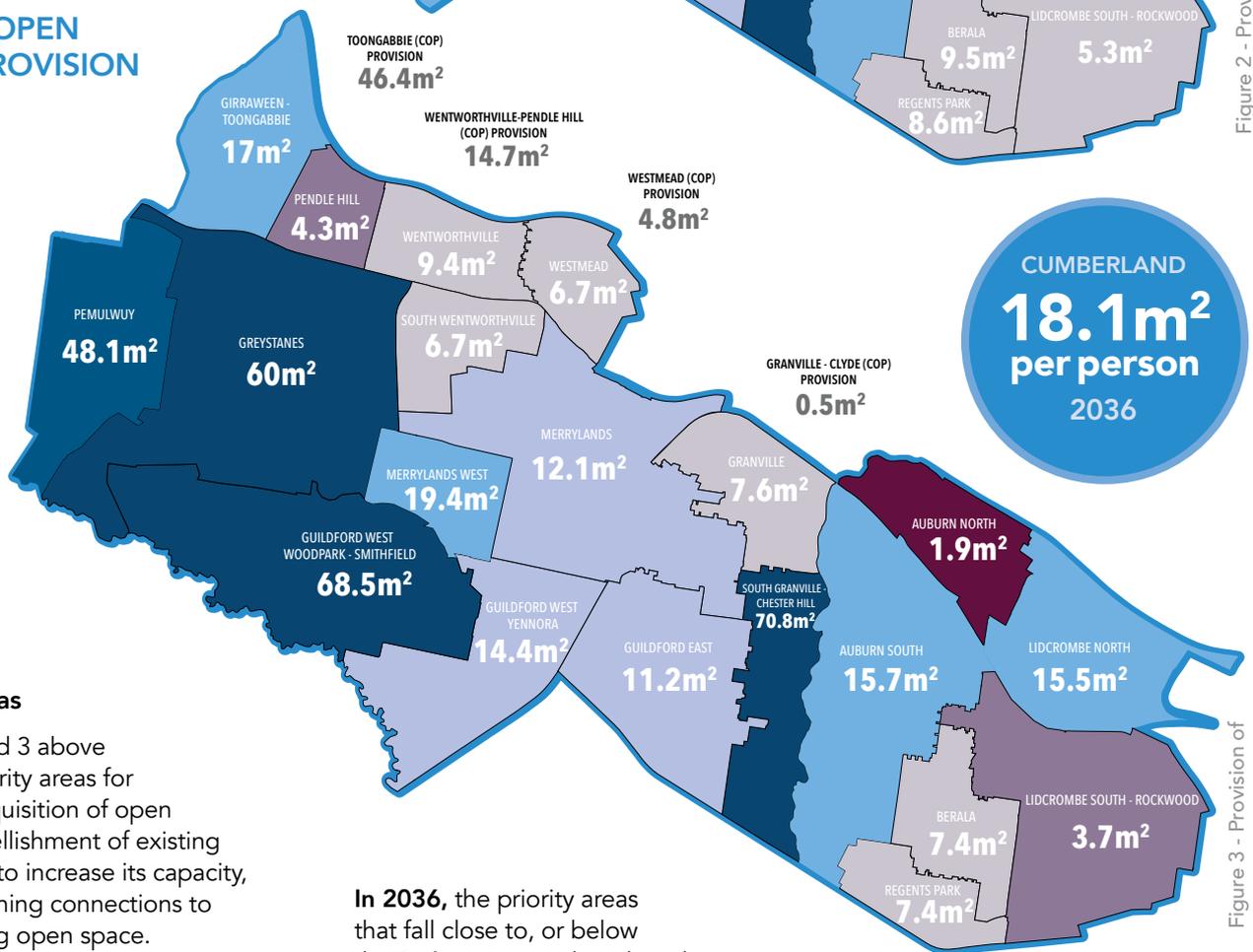


Figure 3 - Provision of open space (2016)

Priority areas

Figures 2 and 3 above indicate priority areas for either the acquisition of open space, embellishment of existing open space to increase its capacity, or strengthening connections to neighbouring open space.

In 2016, the priority areas that fall close to, or below the 9m² per person benchmark include:

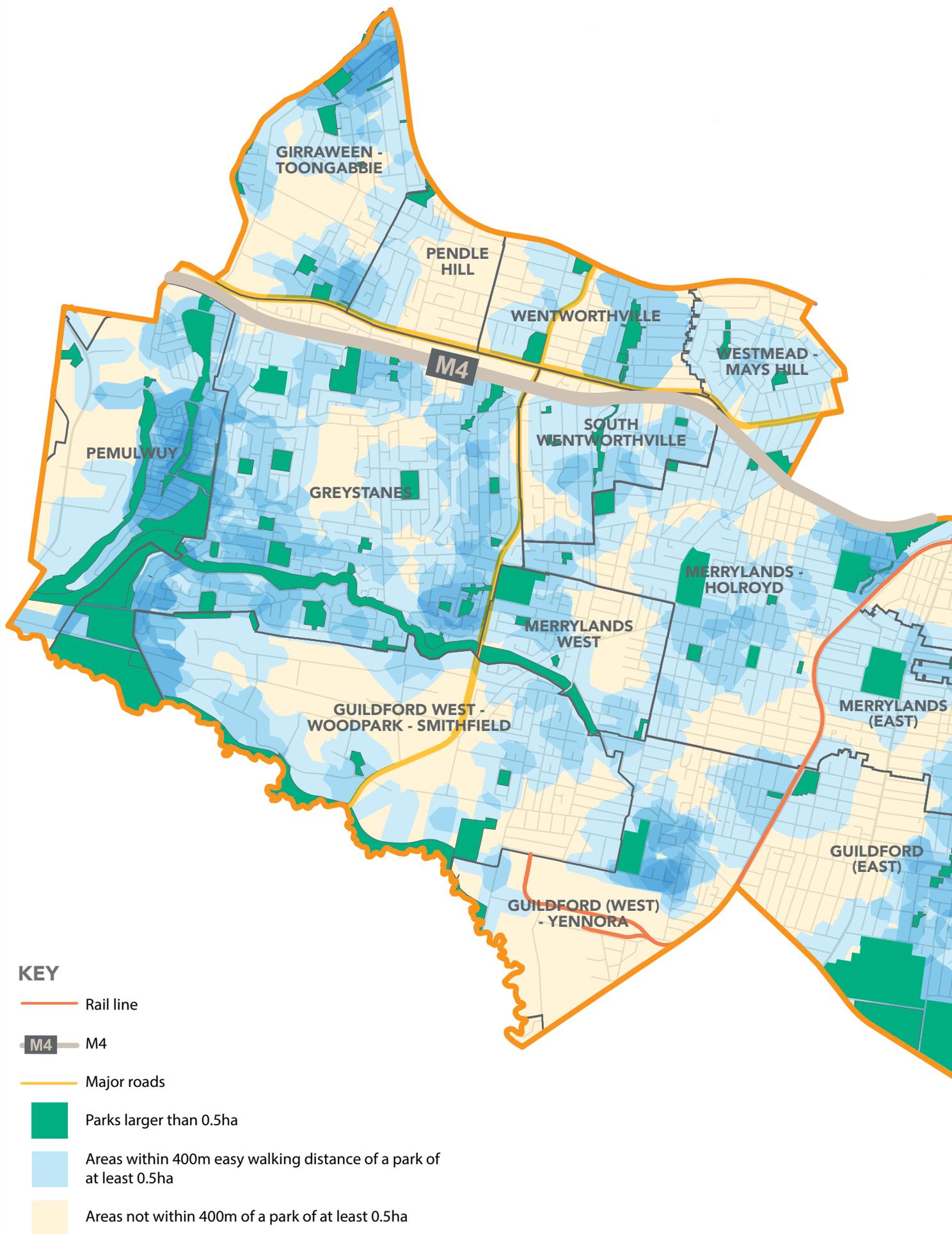
- Auburn North (3.8m²)
- Lidcombe South-Rookwood (5.3m²)
- Pendle Hill (8.4m²)
- Regents Park (8.6m²)
- South Wentworthville (8.8m²), and
- Granville (9.1m²)

In 2036, the priority areas that fall close to, or below the 9m² per person benchmark include:

- Auburn North (1.9m²)
- Lidcombe South-Rookwood (3.7m²)
- Pendle Hill (4.3m²)
- Westmead (6.7m²)
- South Wentworthville (6.7m²)
- Berala (7.4m²)
- Regents Park (7.4m²), and
- Wentworthville (9.4m²)

Cross-boundary implications

As several suburbs within Cumberland are split across LGA boundaries, for demand-planning purposes, it is also important to understand the provision of open space on the City of Parramatta (COP) side. As figure 3 shows, by 2036 there may be additional open space pressure in Westmead and Granville if no open space is provided on both sides of the rail-line.



KEY

- Rail line
- M4 M4
- Major roads
- Parks larger than 0.5ha
- Areas within 400m easy walking distance of a park of at least 0.5ha
- Areas not within 400m of a park of at least 0.5ha

Accessing our open space - proximity analysis

Regardless of the amount of open space there may be in a particular area, if it's not easy to get to, it's not likely to be used.

This is why it's important to plan for open space by considering both the amount of open space, as well as how people can access it.

Benchmarking access to open space

The Greater Sydney Commission indicates that all residents should have access to Regional Open Space within 5km, District Open Space within 2km and that all dwellings should be within 400m of quality open space (defined by this strategy as >0.5ha). Dwellings in high density should also be within 200m of quality open space of at least 0.1ha.

How can different areas access public space in Cumberland?

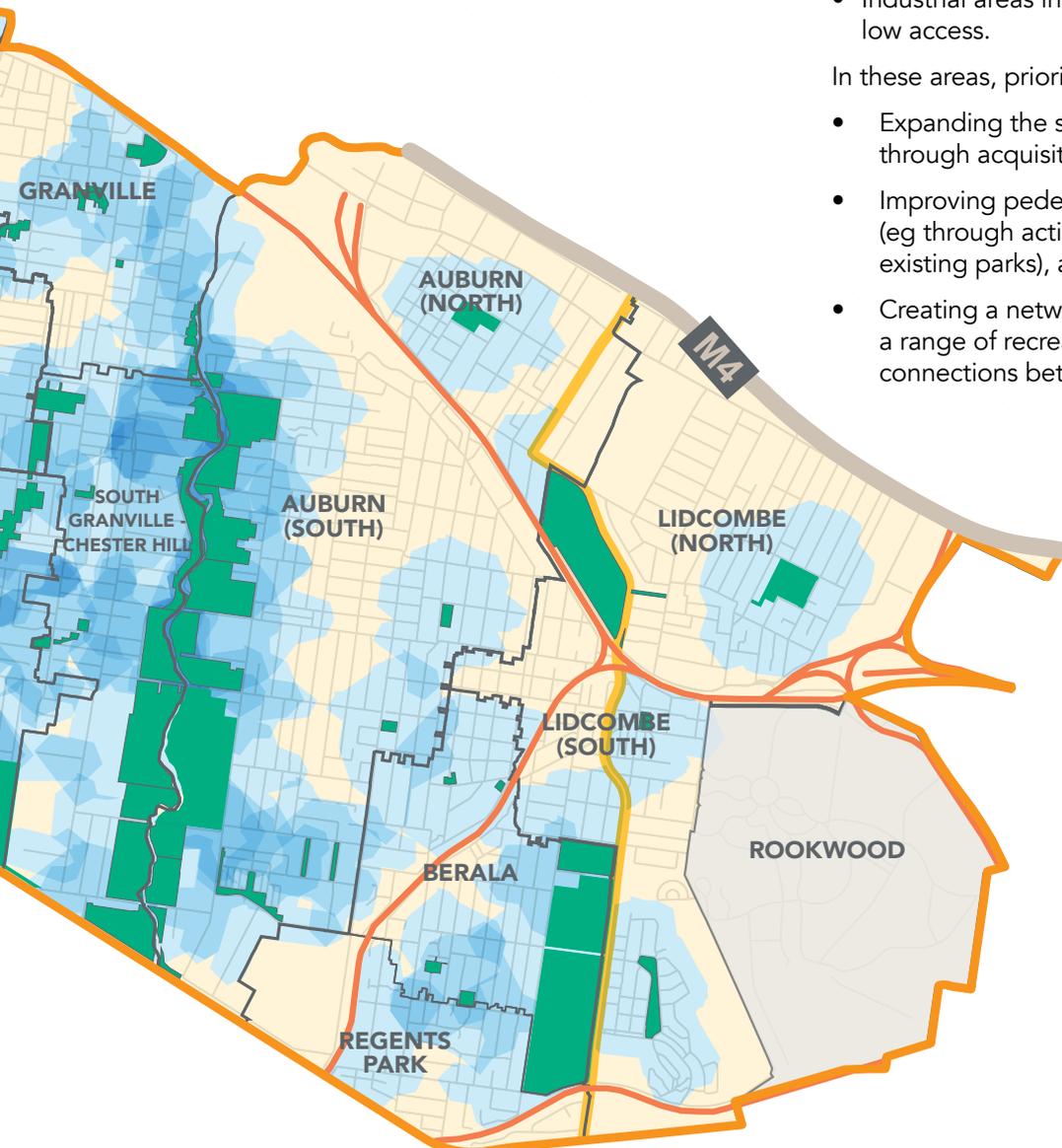
The Map below shows walking catchments of 400m from all parks over 0.5ha in Cumberland. It shows that not all residents have access to parks, and that parks are not evenly distributed.

Some parts of the LGA currently have overall poor access to parks over 0.5 ha in size, in particular:

- Guildford
- Pendle Hill
- The northern parts of Auburn
- Regents Park, and
- Lidcombe (North).
- Industrial areas in Smithfield and Yennora also have low access.

In these areas, priorities should include:

- Expanding the size of existing open space (eg through acquisition of adjoining sites)
- Improving pedestrian access to existing open space (eg through active street networks or connecting up existing parks), and
- Creating a network of smaller spaces that provide a range of recreation functions with active street connections between.



Planning for connections - regional

While this Strategy plans for the open space and recreation facilities managed by Cumberland City Council, the community does not organise their lives by Council boundaries.

Residents of Cumberland City Council are likely to also use open space and recreation facilities in neighbouring areas, while people from neighbouring areas may regularly visit open space in the Cumberland City Council area.

This is particularly true in those suburbs which cross council boundaries, with a town centre located in Cumberland (Pendle Hill, Wentworthville, Westmead and Granville). While the train line is a significant barrier to informal, every day access (such as walking a child to the park), residents in the north of these suburbs (City of Parramatta area) may access open space in Cumberland City Council while in the town centre, for events and sporting activities, or where the open space is high quality or provides unique recreation opportunities.

WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Source: Western Sydney Parklands



This urban 5280ha park and nature reserve includes extensive trails to cycle, birdwatch, bushwalk, and mountain bike. Additional recreational play spaces and event facilities are available for all ages to enjoy.

Merrylands

- 21 min
- 15 min
- 59 min

Auburn

- 58 min
- 24 min
- 1 h 4 min

PROSPECT RESERVOIR



Prospect Reservoir (Source: Trip Savvy)

This natural reserve and recreational park features several walking and cycling tracks, scenic lookouts, BBQ areas and picnic spots throughout the 325ha region.

Merrylands

- 43 min
- 17 min
- 1 h 37 min

Auburn

- 1 h 3 min
- 33 min
- 1 h 26 min

PROSPECT CANAL CYCLING TRAIL



Boothtown Aqueduct is a State Heritage listed, hidden gem that is bike-friendly. It follows the Lower Prospect Canal in the south of Greystanes.

KEY

- Regional Cumberland open space
- Regional corridor connections
- Green grid corridors
- Cumberland open space
- Neighbouring open space

and neighbouring open space

PARRAMATTA PARK

Source: Parramatta Park Gallery



The 85ha park offers a variety of recreational outdoor activities including an open space amphitheatre and is a hub for community events and family gatherings.

Merrylands

- 14 min
- 10 min
- 26 min

Auburn

- 27 min
- 15 min
- 26 min

SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK



Source: Sydney Olympic Park

Sydney Olympic Park is a 400ha+ sporting and entertainment precinct, bordering the Cumberland Suburb of Lidcombe.

Merrylands

- 43 min
- 15 min
- 15 min

Auburn

- 17 min
- 15 min
- 28 min

FAIRFIELD PARK



Source: Fairfield City Council

Covering 18 hectares and along the Orphan School Creek, this park offers a variety of leisure activities including a large playground for children to play in, tennis courts and sports fields.

Merrylands

- 1 h 8 min
- 13 min
- 38 min

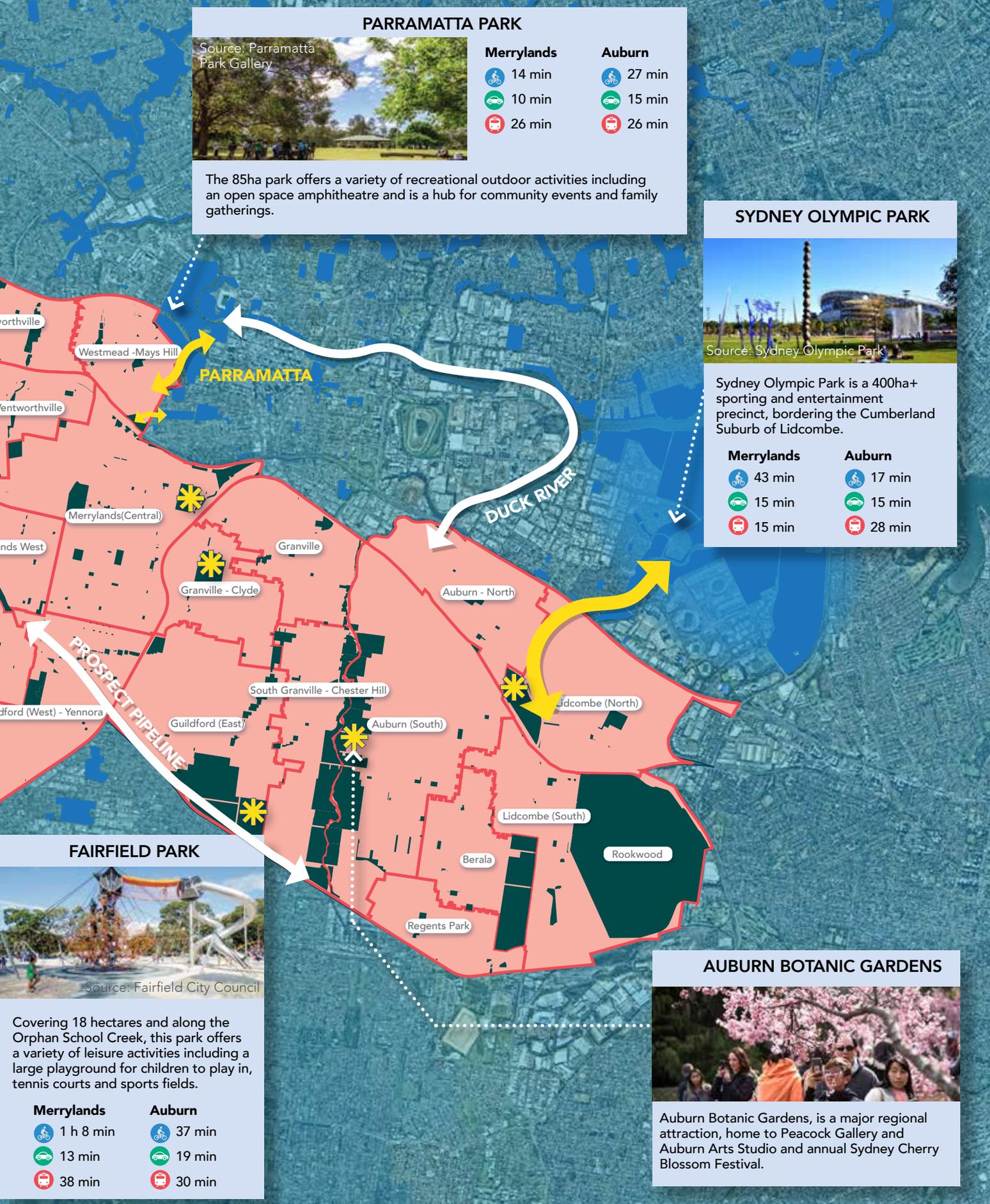
Auburn

- 37 min
- 19 min
- 30 min

AUBURN BOTANIC GARDENS



Auburn Botanic Gardens, is a major regional attraction, home to Peacock Gallery and Auburn Arts Studio and annual Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival.



Trends and best practice for open space delivery

Knowing the opportunities and challenges for Cumberland's open space and recreation network, we can look to emerging trends and best practice across Greater Sydney, Australia and the world to inform innovative and effective approaches to meet the needs of our community.



Synthetic fields (credit: Centennial Parklands)

SUPPORTING HIGHER INTENSITY USE

A key trend in increasingly urban and dense built environments is the design of multi-purpose and flexible spaces that both maximise usage and meet a greater diversity of recreation needs within the same space. This includes multipurpose courts and fields that allow different sports and activities to occur in the same space.

Design interventions such as the installation of synthetic turf can also increase the capacity of fields from 30 hours a week (natural grass) to around 60 hours of playing time, effectively doubling the amount of playing time per week and increasing the time and number of teams that can play across the year. While synthetic turf can be useful for getting more out of existing recreation facilities and fields, considerations such as impacts on local use, parking, and heat are important when deciding where synthetic fields are best located.

Lighting and safety are important considerations to allow for the use of recreation facilities at night, in particular in areas with high working populations who need access to recreation opportunities outside of work hours.

Sportsgrounds can support higher intensity use through weekday and evening games, smaller format sports (eg 6 a side soccer) and high usage training facilities such as cricket nets, batting cages, multipurpose courts etc.



Auburn Botanic Gardens (credit: Cred Consulting)

CONNECTING TO NATURE

Research is deepening our understanding of the importance of access to quality open space for health and wellbeing outcomes. Access to green space is linked to increased physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, stress reduction and mental health benefits across all ages, socio-economic groups and genders. However, both the quality, quantity and variety of green space is of central importance.

While living in a city can increase people's risk of mental illness, living close to green space is shown to have positive impacts on mental health. Biophilic design is an emerging trend in open space and recreation planning, as well as architecture and design, that recognises the importance of connections to nature for mental health. This approach aims to "bring nature into the city" through the design of public spaces, buildings, and open space, for example through incorporating natural materials and planting in the built environment.

Opportunities for play and exploration in nature are also important for children's growth and development. Providing an antidote to digital distractions, wild or adventure play spaces allow children to create their own spaces in a hands-on way, empowering kids to self-organise and learn by doing.



Collaborative design process with Hume Housing residents (credit: Cred Consulting)

DESIGNING FOR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Best practice planning also includes providing open space and recreation that supports inclusion and participation by diverse and vulnerable groups. Women and girls can often feel less welcome or safe in public parks or streets. An Australian study found, for example, that 70% of girls believe it's not safe to share public parks already occupied by older boys. A recent PLAN Australia survey indicated that 90% of young women in Sydney feel unsafe in public at night. Additionally, local government sporting grounds are often dominated by male sports teams and competitions, making it harder for girls and women to participate in sports formally.

The Australian Clearinghouse for Sport identifies that sport is “widely regarded as a core element of social inclusion in Australian communities”. It provides opportunities for diverse groups to meet and interact, and build relationships and understanding. Apart from the health benefits of physical activity, participating in sporting activities or as part of a club can “contribute to an individual’s or group’s sense of belonging, and promote trust, cooperation and tolerance”. The Settlement Council of Australia has also identified that sport can and does contribute to positive settlement outcomes and social inclusion for people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and supports integration into Australian society.

Best practice planning for open space and recreation recognises the importance of participatory design and management. People are experts in their own lives and know what’s needed, and what will and won’t work in their area. Involving the community - in all its diversity - in the design of recreation spaces and activities at an early stage is important to secure positive recreation and community outcomes. Beyond community engagement, Councils can also support communities to deliver on their own recreation needs, for example by connecting people to resources and also by ‘getting out of the way’ and removing regulation to make it easier to carry out community projects like verge gardens.



Sydney Park wetlands (credit: Adam Hunter)

LINKING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION TOGETHER

Best practice planning and Sydney’s Sydney Green Grid strategy ensures that recreation facilities and open space operate as a strongly connected network. Improving linkages both across and within parks and recreation facilities will support activities like walking, running/jogging and cycling which are among the most popular recreation activities.

Active, green, walkable streets operate as urban public spaces and extend opportunities for recreation beyond the boundaries of parks. Through verge planting, traffic calming, wide footpaths, seating, shade, and places to stop such as parklets or skate and play features, streets can provide places for existing and future residents to recreate and come together with neighbours. Lighting on paths and streets allows them to be used for walking and running at night - important in areas with a large working age population as well as in multicultural areas where a walk after a meal/in the evening is popular.



Top: Rooftop multi purpose courts at Pyrmont Community Centre (credit: City of Sydney).

PLANNING FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION IN HIGH DENSITY

In urban renewal areas, it is important to take a strategic planning approach to open space and recreation. Government and land owners should work together to identify areas for new open space that is well located and of a sufficient size to accommodate a range of recreation needs, rather than relying on individual land owners to provide smaller and often private open space on their sites.

The most important consideration in planning for open space and recreation in high density areas is a focus on quality, including open space and recreation facilities that are flexible and provide for a range of uses, that reduce and avoid conflict between users, and that respond to the local community profile and needs. In high density areas, all dwellings should be located within 200m of open space of at least 0.1ha.

With increasing high density development in parts of Cumberland, parks and open spaces must function as 'living rooms,' providing residents with a place to connect with each other, a place to play, relax, exercise, meet friends and family, host events, or walk their dog. Imagining parks as living rooms means that they are adaptable spaces suited to the different uses and needs of Cumberland's diverse community.

Rooftop recreation is also important in urban renewal areas where there is limited land available at ground level for new open space and recreation facilities. From the provision of communal rooftop gardens or pools, to publicly accessible basketball courts, there is potential for future and existing, public and private roofs to create opportunities for recreation in the sky and provide additional recreation spaces for a growing population. Leftover spaces can also provide opportunities for recreation such as converting redundant road or rail infrastructure, pedestrian tunnels, laneways, transport hubs and irregular or vacant parcels of land. Simple and small design interventions to these spaces, such as the installation of mirrors for residents to practice their dance moves, or the installation of a pop-up park can turn these spaces around from unused and often unsafe places, to lively spaces for recreation and fun.



Boxhill Gardens multi-purpose area (credit: Aspect Studios).

CO-LOCATION AND SHARED USE

Co-locating of recreation facilities that are shared or joint use such as outdoor courts and playing fields enables the following benefits:

- Opportunities for cross-promotion of activities
- The concentration of compatible services and facilities to create a community focal point
- Improved access and safety for users who can access a range of services at a single location
- Minimised duplication
- Achieving significant capital and operational savings
- More integrated and innovative delivery of services, and
- More efficient use of land, for instance through shared, rather than separate, parking areas, toilets/change rooms.

Co-location is also about integrating recreation facilities and district open spaces within other key activity nodes including schools, transport hubs and town or local centres, this ensures that the facilities are accessible and can be used easily by key groups such as school-aged children or working-aged residents to recreate easily after-work.



Pigalle courts, Paris (credit:Dezeen)

RESOURCING RECREATION

In an increasingly constrained financial environment, and with increasing demand for open space and recreation, it is important to effectively, fairly and efficiently fund both new open space and recreation facilities, and the ongoing maintenance of existing resources. This can include reimagining assets in areas of duplication or oversupply, or where assets are underutilised and do not have the potential to meet the community's needs even with improvements. It is important to prioritise new projects or improvements to assets to meet the needs of the community in an equitable way, including supporting vulnerable groups and addressing areas of undersupply. Possible sources of new funding include developer contributions in development areas, highlighting the importance of working with land owners to plan for open space and recreation in urban renewal areas.



Ian Potter Children's WILD PLAY (credit: Aspect Studio).

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

Open space is an important resource and asset which helps to protect and enhance biodiversity. The Open Space and Recreation Strategy will help deliver Council's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan by conserving natural areas as places for flora and fauna to live and corridors to move across the council area.

Biodiversity in cities is facing a number of human-induced pressures including habitat loss due to urban development, introduction and spread of invasive pest and weed species, greater demand on natural resources and urban runoff from roads, houses and industry. Natural areas include areas of biodiversity importance, and planning for open space and recreation needs to balance the community's recreation needs with fragile conservation areas.

Open space and recreation planning also increasingly considers opportunities to support environmental sustainability including through approaches such as water sensitive urban design including permeable pavements, rain gardens and bio-retention systems, and constructed wetlands for the management of stormwater runoff. Other approaches include water reduction measures, circular economy principles (like recycling materials) as well as sustainable infrastructure such as solar powered lighting.

Open space and recreation facilities can also support resilience including addressing the urban heat island effect. Research from UNSW and Sydney Water shows that the strategic inclusion of water in public places can reduce the ambient temperature by 2.5 degrees, increasing potential for recreational activities on hot days. Integrating water into urban environments through design features such as water play, mists, green walls or water curtains in conjunction with street planting and the use of lighter and reflective building materials is important to enable people to recreate and stay safe in the heat during summer.

The use of natural materials is also critical in designing outdoor recreation equipment. Research by Western Sydney University has found that artificial materials commonly used in play spaces such as 'soft fall' surfaces can become dangerously hot in full sun, reaching 71 - 84 degrees Celsius when summer temperatures were in the low 30s. Trees and tree canopy within parks and streets also play an important role in providing needed shade, reduce local temperatures, improve air quality and provide habitat.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles reflect best practice approaches to open space and recreation facilities provision and management, and the specific needs and characteristics of the Cumberland community. They are intended to be used as a guiding tool for Council in planning for open space and recreation facilities.

- Provide for the recreation needs of our diverse community, taking into account forecast population growth, to contribute to improved community health and wellbeing.
- Deliver a network of quality open space and recreation facilities that are safe, well-maintained, accessible, flexible and connected.
- Support the provision of open spaces that protect our natural environment and heritage by incorporating ecologically sustainable development principles to protect and enhance biodiversity, use water and energy efficiency and valuing resources through circular economy thinking.
- Work collaboratively with the community and delivery partners including developers, State government, neighbouring councils, schools, NGOs and sporting organisations.
- Focus on equity, efficiency, partnerships and innovation to resource open space and recreation in an increasingly constrained financial environment.

Strategic directions & Action Plan

The strategy includes four strategic directions, with strategies and actions under each, to address the open space and recreation needs of the Cumberland community now and in the future:



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1:

Deliver new open space and new recreation facilities that meet the needs of our growing population



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:

Increasing the quality and capacity of existing open space and recreation facilities



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3:

Supporting inclusion and increased participation by our diverse community



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4:

Protecting our natural environment and increasing resilience



**STRATEGIC
DIRECTION 1:**

DELIVER NEW OPEN SPACE AND NEW RECREATION FACILITIES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING POPULATION

As our urban environment and community changes, so will the demands on our open space and recreation network. Open space will need to function as backyards for people living in medium and high density, and provide places for the community to come together. There is also an existing undersupply of open space and recreation facilities in some areas.

Aim:

To meet demand for open space and recreation facilities in line with population growth.

Objectives:

- Ensure that development in our area provides new and upgraded open space and recreation facilities to support an increased resident and worker population.
- Address existing undersupply of open space and recreation facilities in some areas.

Strategy	Action
1.1 Deliver new, connected and high quality open space to address current undersupply.	1.1.1 Develop an Open Space Acquisitions Strategy which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas that currently have the lowest provision open space per person or that are not within 400m of open space of at least 0.5ha, with a focus on expanding existing assets, improving connections to existing open space, and providing spaces for new recreation facilities. - Pursuing acquisitions identified in Cumberland Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2020. Council will pursue an approach that will; acquire, or negotiate with developers to provide, a limited number of local open space areas in strategic locations and increase the recreation carrying capacity of existing open space.
	1.1.2 Explore opportunities for shared use of recreation facilities, including shared use arrangements of sporting grounds and courts within local private and public schools where it will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet an identified need in the local community - Offer benefits to both the school and the community - Make the most of school and community resources, and - Strengthen relationships and social networks between schools and communities
	1.1.3 Investigate opportunities for new civic/community space through strategies identified in the <i>Cumberland Community Facilities Strategy 2019-2029</i> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for new civic space to be provided in line with place making strategies in town centres through pedestrianised laneways, pocket parks/plazas, building forecourts in new community facilities, footpath widening, seating nooks and street closures. - Opportunities for improved connections between community facilities and open space, through facility repurposing and expansion to also host community activities, programs and service when they are not used by sports clubs, and - Opportunities for new and improved events spaces in open space.
	1.1.4 Investigate opportunities to provide new open space in unconventional locations such as rooftops (of residential, commercial and retail buildings and carparks), residual land in transport corridors, unused operational land, tunnels and laneways.
Strategy	Action
1.2 Deliver new recreation facilities to address current undersupply.	1.2.1 Provide at least 4 new regional level youth recreation spaces to address gaps across the LGA through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue work on planned youth recreation spaces - for example as part of the Granville Centre redevelopment (opening 2020) - additional sports courts, playgrounds integrated with existing youth facilities; and in progressing park masterplans e.g. Wyatt Park - Consider outdoor youth recreation space co-located with new community facilities, such as part the Granville Multipurpose Community Centre redevelopment - Working with the State government including the NSW Office of Sport to deliver new youth recreation spaces in locations based on the NSW Office of Sport skate facilities research.

Strategy	Action
1.2.2	<p>Provide at least 8 new outdoor fitness equipment in parks to address gaps across the LGA through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New fitness stations with equipment for older people in Toongabbie - Pendle Hill, Merrylands, Pemulwuy - Greystanes and Berala - Regents Park - New fitness stations as part of park upgrades and co-located with other recreation facilities such as youth recreation spaces, outdoor courts and play spaces.
1.2.3	<p>Review underutilised sports fields to identify opportunities to increase utilisation (see Background Repor, Appendix H).</p>
1.2.4	<p>Deliver a Synthetics Sports Surfaces Plan to increase capacity at heavily utilised sports fields, with consideration to community, heat, economic and environmental impacts.</p>
1.2.5	<p>Provide 20 new multipurpose outdoor courts to address gaps across the LGA through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with schools to secure shared public access to multipurpose courts - In consultation with state and local sporting organisations, review the utilisation of netball courts in the LGA with a view to consolidating courts into larger groups (eg 4 courts together) and converting single or dual courts to multipurpose. - Investigate opportunities to provide groups of 4 multipurpose courts in open space. - Review utilisation of existing tennis courts to identify opportunities for conversion - Investigate opportunities to provide new rooftop multipurpose courts - In all future park upgrades, consider providing new recreation facilities including multipurpose outdoor courts.
1.2.6	<p>Deliver a Play Space Strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies opportunities for new play spaces Toongabbie - Pendle Hill, Auburn (north), Guildford East and Lidcombe (north) - Identifies opportunities for new district play spaces in the West of the LGA - Identifies opportunities for rationalisation of low quality, high maintenance and low utilisation assets in areas with an oversupply of play spaces. Utilise resources from rationalisation to provide new recreation opportunities in the location, and - Reviews the quality and diversity of offer of existing play spaces including inclusive play spaces, water play and nature play and play for a range of age groups in accordance with the 'Everyone Can Play' Guidelines.
1.2.7	<p>Identify and target evolving funding options and sources for Play Spaces including construction and ongoing maintenance.</p>
<p>1.3 Deliver new, connected and high quality open space and recreation facilities to address forecast population growth.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Plan for new open space based on a range of benchmarks and indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality, Quantum (minimum 9m² per person), Hierarchy, Function, Proximity (All dwellings within 400m of quality open space of at least 0.5ha and all medium to high density dwellings also within 200m of quality open space of at least 0.1ha) <p>Plan for open space in new developments with increased employment based on 10 workers = equivalent to the demand of 1 resident.</p> <p>Plan for new recreation facilities based on the following benchmarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 multipurpose outdoor court per 15,000 people - 1 outdoor fitness station per 10,000 people - 1 regional level youth recreation space per 50,000 people - 1 off-leash dog area per suburb with greater than 20% high density housing - 1 double sports field with amenities per 5,000 people
	<p>1.3.2 Developer contributions through either 7.11 or VPAs should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver new open space within the development site in accordance with benchmarks, and/or - Deliver new active street connections to existing open space, and/or - Where benchmark open space cannot be provided onsite, contribute to embellishment of existing open space to increase quality and capacity, and/or - Contribute to the acquisition of new open space.
	<p>1.3.3 Continue to work with the State government to inform master plans for urban renewal areas that provide new open space and recreation facilities in line with the benchmarking approach detailed above and to meet identified local needs.</p>
	<p>1.3.4 Deliver a best practice design manual for developers to advocate for the delivery of high quality communal and public open space on development sites.</p>
	<p>1.3.5 Encourage the provision of communal open space on rooftops and podium level within new high density development proposals through DCP controls</p>
	<p>1.3.6 As part of the LEP review, review areas that are currently zoned for medium to high density to ensure that future residents will be within 200m of quality open space of at least 0.1ha.</p>



**STRATEGIC
DIRECTION 2:**

INCREASING THE QUALITY AND CAPACITY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES

High quality open space is safe, accessible, builds community cohesion and identity, provides a range of recreation opportunities and is clean and well-maintained. Increasing the quality of our existing open space, can also increase its capacity. This is important, as providing new open space can be difficult to achieve in an already developed urban areas. While high quality space is more attractive and supports increased participation, it also increases ongoing maintenance costs.

Aim:

To increase the quality of our open space to support increased access to and participation in recreation.

Objectives:

- Improve the capacity and quality of what we have.
- Increase use of facilities and participation in recreation.
- Improve health and wellbeing outcomes and a sense of pride within our community.

Strategy	Action
2.1 Increase the quality of recreation spaces to support increased use and diversity of recreation opportunities.	2.1.1 Continue to redraft identified Plans of Management over the next five years, including identifying opportunities to improve the quality of open space and opportunities for new recreation facilities.
	2.1.2 Develop a minimum level of amenity matrix, corresponding to local, district and regional level parks.
	2.1.3 In areas with a high proportion of pocket parks (<1,000m ²) investigate opportunities to re-imagine spaces that are poorly sited for recreation for other uses including tree planting, biodiversity enhancement and other non-recreational uses.
	2.1.4 Incorporate CPTED principles in the design and upgrade of open space and recreation facilities.
	2.1.5 Develop a Community Garden Policy
	2.1.6 Finalise the <i>Synthetic Sport Surfaces Strategy</i> to identify how synthetic surface technology can assist in supporting sport and active recreation for the Cumberland Community
2.2 Provide clean, well-maintained open space and recreation facilities throughout the Cumberland area.	2.2.1 Review and establish new service standards to better reflect use, profile and hierarchy of open space.
	2.2.2 Include life-cycle costs and maintenance implications in the planning of new or upgraded open space and recreation facilities.
	2.2.3 Strategically place bins to maximise use (ie at entrances and exits, near play spaces and BBQ areas) in open space and at recreation facilities.
2.3 Be innovative in seeking funding and resourcing for open space and recreation to support customer satisfaction with open space and recreation.	2.3.1 Work with local sporting organisations, NGOs and schools to investigate partnership approaches to funding and delivering upgraded and new open space and recreation opportunities including grant funding.
	2.3.1 Identify existing and emerging grant and funding opportunities within State Government Programs to support funding open space and recreation (e.g. Metropolitan Greenspace Program, Everyone Can Play Program, Office of Sport Programs).
2.4 Develop a connected network of open space, recreation facilities and other infrastructure	2.4.1 Work with regional partners including neighbouring councils and the State government to implement the principles and priority projects of the Sydney Green Grid, specifically the Duck River Open Space Corridor, Prospect Reservoir Water Pipeline Corridor and Duck Creek projects.
	2.4.2 Investigate opportunities to increase access to open space through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An active street network in areas with poor distribution of open space, and - New links through/between adjoining parks, particularly along creek lines.



**STRATEGIC
DIRECTION 3:**

SUPPORTING INCLUSION AND INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Our community is unique and diverse with many different recreation needs. Open space and recreation facilities provide opportunities to build community identity and cohesion and support health and wellbeing. However, many people within Cumberland experience barriers to participating. We can support greater participation by involving and reflecting our community in the design of our spaces and facilities, and working collaboratively to deliver recreation programs and activities.

Aim:

To build a socially connected, healthy and happy community.

Objectives:

- Work with the community and our partners to ensure the open space and recreation needs of our diverse and unique community are met.
- Reflect our heritage and our current community in our open space and recreation facilities.
- Increase participation in recreation in our community.

Strategy	Action
3.1 Create welcoming and inclusive open space and recreation facilities that reflect the diversity of the Cumberland community	3.1.1 Include a focus on participatory and universal design in the development of new or upgraded open space and recreation facilities.
	3.1.2 Reflect the diverse community of Cumberland in the naming or renaming of open space and recreation facilities (for example, new facilities named for local women or reflecting local cultures and languages).
	3.1.3 Consult with the local Aboriginal community about opportunities to share and celebrate local Aboriginal heritage and significant sites in particular in Pemulwuy and along the Duck River and Prospect Creek through for example interpretation signage, bush tucker planting.
	3.1.4 Investigate opportunities to optimise views of scenic and cultural landscapes from and within parks and reserves.
	3.1.5 Implement public art and other cultural initiatives in parks and open space consistent with Council's Cumberland Cultural Plan 2019 - 2029 and Public Art Program.
	3.1.6 Complete an accessibility audit of existing open space and recreation facilities and promote accessible spaces on the Council website.
	3.1.7 Develop a public amenities plan, including increasing suitability for women and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.
	3.1.8 When planning new parks and recreation facilities respond to Cumberland's diverse community including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering cultural interests within new and upgraded open space areas including badminton, table tennis, cricket, basketball, volleyball, social soccer, Tai Chi/dance etc, and - Designing for a diversity of age groups.
3.2 Support increased participation in recreation including sporting activities and informal recreation	3.2.1 Work with local sporting and settlement organisations to investigate opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce cost barrier to participation in recreation - Provide transport assistance for recently arrived young people to participate in organised sport - Seek grant funding opportunities.
	3.2.2 Work with local sporting organisations and local NGOs including sports clubs, bowling clubs etc to increase their accessibility and appeal to new participants (from lower income households, women, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds) for example through promotion in community languages, "come and try" days, temporary memberships, sharing findings from successful organisations etc.
	3.2.3 Liaise with all hirers to educate and encourage shared use of fields cooperatively.



**STRATEGIC
DIRECTION 4:**

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND INCREASING RESILIENCE

While we live in an urban and suburban place, the natural environment is all around us and impacts on our health and wellbeing. Our open space and recreation facilities are opportunities to protect our natural heritage, create healthier environments, and build resilience in the face of stressors.

Strategy	Action
4.1 Create a cool environment in open space, streets and town centres.	4.1.1 Deliver an Urban Forest Strategy and Street Tree Program to identify opportunities to increase tree canopy and green cover in open space, pocket parks, streets and town centres.
	4.1.2 Advocate for the use of circular economy principles and natural materials in open space and recreation facility design.
	4.1.3 Collect heat mapping data for LGA and work with research institutions (such as Western Sydney University to analyse and present data in Council's parks and reserves to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify, develop and promote "cool spaces" such as well shaded parks - Identify areas with higher urban heat impacts and opportunities to address these through open space and recreation facilities, tree planting, water features, shading, and - As part of a Play Space Strategy, incorporate recommendations from heat mapping to mitigate heat effects in play spaces. - Contribute to WSROC's <i>Turn Down the Heat Strategy 2018</i>
4.2 Protect and support environmental outcomes including sustainability and biodiversity.	4.2.1 Conserve existing natural areas in line with Council's Biodiversity Strategy principles and support increased biodiversity in open spaces, including strengthening habitat corridors.
4.3 Create opportunities for recreation in nature.	4.3.1 Raise awareness of and encourage bushland regeneration activities on Council reserves such as bush care, in collaboration with volunteer groups.
	4.3.2 As part of a Play Space Strategy, identify opportunities for nature and adventure based play.
	4.3.3 As part of the Plans of Management Review Program, identify the open space areas which provide a "natural area" function and identify sensitive areas to protect from recreation impacts, and less sensitive areas which may provide opportunities for recreation in nature eg new walking and cycling trails.

Monitoring the Strategy

Implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy will be incorporated into Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan with accompanying responsibilities, resources and timeframes identified.



Visiting the emus at Auburn Botanic Gardens

The implementation of the Draft Strategy will be incorporated into Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan. It will also be supported by an annual implementation plan which will identify the priority actions to be implemented with accompanying responsibilities, performance indicators and timeframes.

Progress against the Strategy will be reported quarterly to Council and an evaluation of the Plan will be undertaken at the midway mark and at the completion of the ten year term in 2029. The results of this evaluation will be reported to Council and the community.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicators are an important tool in ascertaining the progress in implementing the Open Space and Recreation Strategy, as well as maintaining the profile and commitment to improved outcomes for open space and recreation within Council, our community, and our partners including developers and the State government.

The challenge for Council is that issues may be important and have a significant impact on open space and recreation in our area but be outside the direct control of Council. Council will monitor progress against these indicators to measure how we are tracking towards or away from the goals of this Strategy.

Strategic Direction	INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	COUNCIL INFLUENCE
Deliver new open space and new recreation facilities that meet the needs of our growing population	Number of recreation facilities per person	Council databases and Census data	Influence
	Quantum of open space per person	Council database and Census data	Influence
	Amount of open space or contributions provided through new development OR Number of developments including high quality open space on site or contribution to open space	Council database	Influence
Increasing the quality and capacity of our existing open space and recreation facilities	Customer satisfaction with sport and recreation facilities	Customer Satisfaction Survey	Influence
	Number of parks with a Plan of Management	Council databases	Control
Supporting inclusion and increased participation by our diverse community	Customer satisfaction with sport and recreation facilities	Customer Satisfaction Survey	Influence
Protecting our natural environment and increasing resilience	Tree canopy cover	Urban Forest Strategy	Control

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CUMBERLAND
CITY COUNCIL

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