

A Spirit of Play

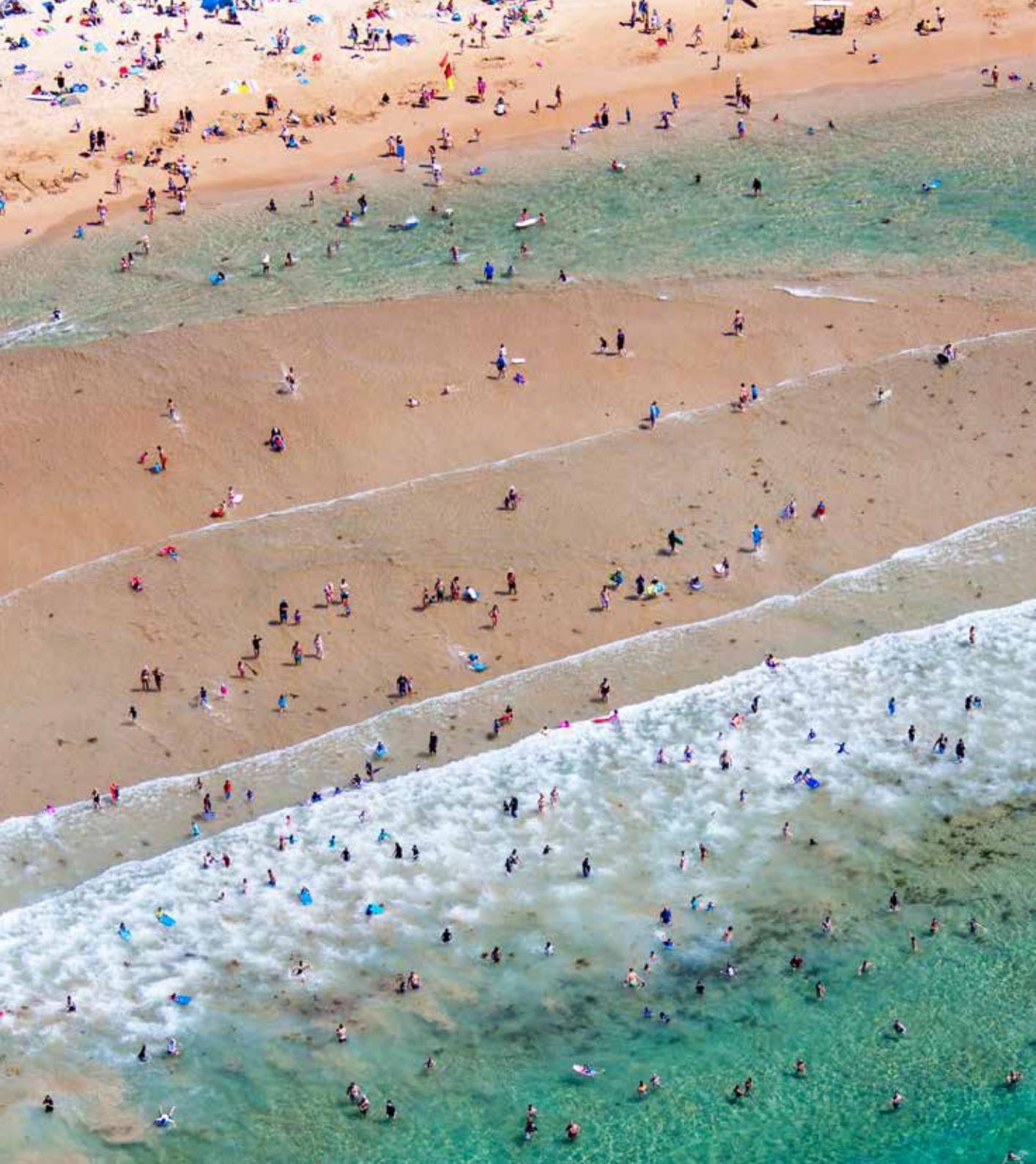
WARRINGAH'S OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
NOVEMBER 2015

Adopted November 2015

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WARRINGAH
COUNCIL



Acknowledgment

Warringah Council would like to thank all of the community members who contributed to this strategy through their submissions, attendance at workshops, participation in planning activities and for completing surveys.

Many of the ideas contained within this strategy originated from community members. Thanks again to everybody who provided valuable input.

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Executive Summary

In Warringah, we love to play. Play is for everyone, of all ages and abilities.

Warringah's vision for the Community Strategic Plan is to have:

A vibrant, caring community, thriving in a unique beach and bush environment, supporting a balance of lifestyle, business and recreation.

This strategy is therefore framed within '*A Spirit of Play*', which guides Warringah's forward planning. Play as referred to in this strategy encapsulates all activities at Warringah's open spaces.

Warringah boasts an extensive open space network, taking in significant areas of foreshore, bushland and many parks. By taking a holistic approach to park management and recreation asset provision across all open spaces this strategy considers current and potential usage.

The strategy has been written within the context of a growing population, an increasing proportion of older people, a period of increasing technological distractions for children, the needs of youth and increasing rates of obesity. Yet Warringah boasts a higher than average rate of participation in recreation.

For further information on the background to the strategy, the scope, objectives and consultation activities please see Section 1.

To provide some strategic context to the strategy, Section 2 presents Warringah's population statistics, participation in recreation and play and the State Government's benchmark for developed open space. However, in addition to considering the quantity of open space, this strategy addresses the quality and diversity of recreation opportunities and, most importantly, the needs of the Warringah community.

An analysis has found that Warringah is very well supplied with open space, with a range of facilities available catering to a variety of interests. An overview of Warringah's open spaces and recreation assets can be found in Section 3.

To ascertain participation in particular activities and their needs for the future, a theme analysis has been undertaken and can be found in Section 4. The needs of specific communities of interest, such as children, youth, families and older people, plus the community in general, have been outlined based on input from a series of consultation activities. This in-depth review of themes discusses specific recreation assets and outlines some strategic directions for the future.

Playgrounds are a very significant use of council's open space so a detailed review of Warringah's playgrounds has been conducted as part of the development of this strategy. Warringah upgrades an average of 8 of its 135 public access playgrounds each year and conducts maintenance on others as required. However, given the age and condition of many of the playgrounds we need to prioritise upgrading those that provide the greatest community benefit.

Four new playgrounds will be built and over 40 playgrounds will be upgraded over the next five years. The equipment from five ageing playgrounds will be removed within the next 12 months. Other playgrounds will be retired at the end of their useful life. Playgrounds to be retired in the future will continue to have minor works done as required to improve their condition and may remain in place for many years to come. Once they reach the end of their useful life and can longer be repaired the equipment will be removed and not replaced. The parks without play equipment will remain as green space for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.

Details on Warringah's strategic approach to playgrounds can be found in Section 5.

In Section 6, a summary of individual area recreation profiles and associated maps provide more detail on Warringah's open spaces and recreation assets within certain suburbs. By drawing on the suburb analysis, the theme analysis, the playground review and the strategy's strategic directions, council's commitments to new and improved open spaces and recreation facilities in each suburb are outlined here.

A summary of the strategic directions can be found in Section 7.

There are a number of new and improved recreation facilities in our open spaces recommended throughout this document, as well as recommendations for further research in some areas. Priorities for the future include:

- The integration of facilities for youth, older people and others to promote acceptance and tolerance and reduce social isolation
- Facilities for young people to socialise safely in the outdoors, with the option of participating in physical activity, e.g. skateparks, fitness equipment, basketball hoops and parkour

- Continued improvement of key assets such as popular tracks and foreshore areas
- Improved seating, toilets, water, shade, parking and picnic facilities, with consideration given to the needs of different user groups, such as older people or people living with a disability
- Future playground upgrades will focus on those that provide the most benefit to the community
- The need to review the distribution of off-leash dog areas
- Investigate suitable locations and designs for a new skatepark and/or skate trail in the Dee Why or North Curl Curl area
- Provide bike dirt jumps in Warringah, potential locations include Aquatic Reserve or Miller Reserve
- Support the further integration of facilities such as fitness equipment catering to a range of age groups, including youth and older people

Principles

The strategy adopts the following principles that can be applied to projects identified in this document and to future proposals that may arise.



1 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE

In the spirit of play, the purpose of Warringah’s Open Space Strategy is to provide a suite of overarching strategic directions to guide the future management of Warringah’s open spaces and the activities within them that are available for all to enjoy.

1.2 SCOPE

This strategy covers all open spaces managed by council. These include: playgrounds, parks, reserves, some bushland areas, foreshores, gardens and sportsfield surrounds.

The strategy does not cover the use of Warringah’s open spaces and sportsfields for organised sporting activities, but does consider the use of sportsfields at other times.

The strategy considers current and potential use of open spaces by specific communities of interests and the community in general.

The permissibility of certain activities and facilities need to be considered within the context of other existing plans of management and strategies.

This strategy does not identify open space for the purpose of disposal, rather it seeks to ensure an equitable and appropriate distribution of a range of open spaces and associated facilities.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

Consultation for the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) helped to guide the design of a number of objectives relating to our open spaces. The Open Space Strategy draws on these for long term strategic direction. The relevant CSP objectives are as follows:

- We have access to a diverse range of recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community and sporting groups
- We have access to attractive parks and natural areas that encourage and support a safe and healthy lifestyle
- We have inviting public spaces that are clean, green and well designed
- We can safely and conveniently walk or ride around Warringah
- We support and care for all our community members and provide opportunities to connect

In addition to the CSP objectives above, specific objectives for the Open Space Strategy include:

- Support the prioritisation of open space projects
- Provide guidance for scoping new recreational assets and renewal of existing assets
- Identify opportunities for diverse and multi-use facilities and attractive and inviting open

spaces meeting the needs of a broad range of demographics

- Encourage innovation and creativity
- Enhance the environmental, natural, cultural, heritage and built values of Warringah’s open spaces, including consideration of opportunities for adaptive reuse
- Encourage and support opportunities for a safe healthy lifestyle
- Develop and maintain Warringah’s open space assets within council’s foreseeable finances
- Contribute to understanding the availability or potential for open space in areas that may experience population growth

1.4 ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

While there is no predetermined role for local government in terms of providing recreation and sporting opportunities, councils have a responsibility to manage large tracts of Crown and community land in a manner that benefits the community.

An Open Space Strategy such as this, developed in concert with the community, provides an important guiding document for the current and future provision and management of open spaces and associated facilities.

1.5 BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Recreation and leisure activities in open space have many far-reaching benefits. Being active can improve or maintain physical health, wellbeing and emotional and mental health for people of all generations. It can play an important role in maintaining quality of life and independence as people grow older and can facilitate opportunities for social interaction and minimise social isolation and loneliness.

While some spaces may facilitate participation in active recreation, either through the provision of facilities and/or connectivity, other seemingly empty spaces can provide space for quiet contemplation, relaxation or visual relief and amenity.

Open spaces also form an important component of the landscape, whether natural, cultural, heritage or built.

1.6 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Warringah is committed to a Community Engagement Framework that ensures that the community is involved in planning and decision making processes. The development of the Open Space Strategy involved the following consultation activities in order to determine community need, interest and support.

Stage 1 October/November 2014

| Activity | Details |
|---------------------|--|
| Open Space Survey * | 423 online and hard copy surveys received. |
| Skater Survey * | Abbreviated version of the Open Space Survey that was promoted online and circulated at skate events. 254 survey responses received. |

* Note that these surveys were not stratified and the results are only representative of those who completed the survey

Stage 2 March/April 2015

| Activity | Details |
|---|--|
| Notifications at playgrounds | A range of consultation activities were held to seek feedback on proposed changes to playgrounds as well as to gather people's ideas for new or improved open spaces and facilities. |
| Letter box drops in vicinity of playgrounds | 75 submissions were received in writing and over the phone. |
| Social Pinpoint online engagement tool | 98 comments received on Social Pinpoint. |
| Swings and Roundabouts workshop | |
| Vacation Care play space planning exercise | |
| Pre School play space planning exercise | |
| Warringah Youth Advisory Committee | |
| Companion Animals Community Committee | |
| Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group | |
| Vibrant Connected Communities Strategic Reference Group | |

Stage 3 September/October 2015

| Activity | Purpose |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Public Exhibition of draft | 93 submissions received |

2 *Strategic context*

2.1 POPULATION STATISTICS

At the 2011 Census Warringah had a population of 138,781 people, although this is estimated to have risen to 155,289 by 2015. This is expected to further rise to an estimated 183,814 by 2036, which is an increase of 18.96% (between 2015 and 2036).¹

The suburbs projected to see the highest % population growth between 2011 and 2036 are Brookvale (57.7%), Frenchs Forest (49.4%) and Dee Why (34.1%), followed by Narrabeen (31%), Manly Vale (26.7%) and Belrose/Oxford Falls (21.7%).

While these forecast statistics are based on a set of assumptions at a given time and are subject to change, they highlight the need for open space planning to consider the long term and potentially changing needs over time.

2.2 RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Across Australia, the overall participation rates in physical recreation and sport declined between from 65% in 2011-12 to 60% in 2013-14 for people aged 15 and over (ABS 2015).

Data collected for Warringah's Recreation Strategy (2009) found that residents participated in sport and recreation at a rate 5.5% higher than the state and national averages. This could be attributed to a combination of a supportive physical environment (Vic Gov 2005) and the higher than average education level and socio-economic status (VicHealth 2010) of residents, both of which can have an influence on the rate of physical activity.

According to data from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation (2010), males over 15 participate in sport and physical activity at a slightly higher

rate than females, at 82.5% compared to 79.8%. However, females (44%) were more likely to meet the recommended physical activity three times a week, when compared to males (42.2%). Furthermore, participation rates tend to decrease with age, from 86.9% for those aged 15-24 years, to 72.9% for those over 65 years. Providing open spaces and facilities that meet the needs of residents as they age is paramount to maintaining health.

In Warringah's Open Space Survey (2014), walking/jogging rated as the top physical activity, followed by hanging out at a beach reserve and swimming at a rockpool as second and third respectively (see Table 1). For a further breakdown of participation according to different age groups please see Appendix B.

¹ Statistics drawn from Warringah Council website: *forecast.i.d. population forecasts*, based on 2011 Census data, accessed online 7 July 2015.

Table 1
Participation in open space activities
(Open Space Survey 2014 n=423)

| | Open space activity | Participation |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1 | Walking/Jogging | 84.16% |
| 2 | Hang out at a beach reserve, e.g. have a coffee, watch the surf | 74.94% |
| 3 | Picnic/outdoor gathering | 63.12% |
| 4 | Swim at rockpool (warmer months) | 59.10% |
| 5 | Bushwalking | 55.79% |
| 6 | Bike riding | 52.96% |
| 7 | Small neighbourhood playground | 45.15% |
| 8 | Larger regional/district playground | 41.13% |
| 9 | Relaxation, e.g. Meditation/Yoga/Tai-Chi/Read a book | 36.41% |
| 10 | Informal sports, e.g. kick a ball | 33.57% |
| 11 | Kayaking/Canoeing/Stand up Paddleboard | 26.48% |
| 12 | Off-leash dog park | 25.53% |

| | Open space activity | Participation |
|----|--|---------------|
| 13 | Scootering | 25.30% |
| 14 | Outdoor fitness equipment | 21.99% |
| 15 | Mountain biking (formed track) | 21.28% |
| 16 | Skateboarding | 20.09% |
| 17 | Parents groups | 19.86% |
| 18 | Personal training | 14.89% |
| 19 | Basketball (outdoor) | 13.95% |
| 20 | Hobby, e.g. Remote control/Kite flying | 12.53% |
| 21 | Birdwatching | 12.29% |
| 22 | Dirt jumping | 11.58% |
| 23 | Community gardens | 10.40% |
| 24 | Horse riding | 10.17% |
| 25 | BMX | 9.46% |
| 26 | Table tennis (Dee Why beachfront) | 6.38% |



2.3 THE BENEFITS OF PLAY

2.3.1 Play for children

There are a number of theories that consider the importance and benefit of play to a child's emotional, psychological, physical, language and social development.

Play helps a child develop skills and understanding and promotes both mental and social abilities. It gives children the opportunity to learn about themselves, to share, to interact with other children, to make friends and role play.

There are six broad categories of play that children may partake in at different stages of their childhood. These are outlined in Table 2.

Each of these types of play has value and regular participation should be encouraged. While the design of play spaces in Warringah already draws on these elements of play, future designs could benefit from input from children who have a different way of thinking than adults. Through consultation undertaken with children for this strategy, some new, creative and

innovative suggestions have already been proposed. These are discussed further in Section 4.1.4.

2.3.2 Play for adults

In the words of Bernard Shaw, '*We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.*' Play is also essential for adults. While busy work and family commitments are often prioritised over having fun, engaging in regular play can have many benefits for adults. It is an important stress reliever, is good for relationships, provides challenge, improves problem solving and creativity and increases energy.

Play for adults does not necessarily mean physical activity such as bike riding or walking. It can be found in art, books, music and spending time with pets. So by thinking creatively Warringah can facilitate a range of enjoyable activities in our open spaces that appeal to all ages.

2.3.3 Risk in play

To work toward optimal health and development, children need to engage in a certain level of risk and challenge as they play. A growing amount of literature

looks at how risk adverse parenting is affecting the development of children and the longer term effects this has as they reach adulthood.

This aversion to risk has occurred rather abruptly in recent decades, with children today far more over-protected than previous generations (LeMonye et al., 2011). A number of reasons have been attributed to this change:

- Shift toward commercial forms of risk which require no degree of control or skill (Tovey, 2007)
- A rise in enrichment activities, e.g. swimming lessons and organised sport
- Smaller families with fewer children
- Busy parents, often both working
- Media created atmosphere of social panic (Landry, 2005)
- Smaller backyards
- Busier roads
- General fear of a dangerous world
- Fear of litigation

Risk in play, in terms of there being an element of unpredictability and challenge, enables children to explore and test their own abilities and extend themselves. This gives children the skill of undertaking their own risk assessments which are invaluable later in life when faced with real life decisions and challenges within the environment they find themselves.

For council, this means providing a diversity of playgrounds and other play spaces and experiences that present a range of opportunities and challenges. This could be achieved through integrating more nature or adventure play into our open spaces, not only through playgrounds, but also through landscaping or encouraging interaction with the natural environment. Council manages these risks systematically and within the appropriate guidelines. For further information about Warringah's playgrounds see Section 5.

Table 2 Types of play
(QLD Department of Education, Training and Employment, 2014)

| Type of play | Participation |
|------------------|--|
| Dramatic | Children take on roles in pretend games about familiar experiences — going on a family fishing trip, sharing a family celebration. |
| Fantasy | Children create props and use these as they engage in fantasy adventures — creating an ocean floor using sheets for water and baskets for rocks. |
| Exploratory | Children explore the properties and functions of materials, equipment and objects — experimenting with a tool to find out how it works with clay or dough, using a magnifying glass to view different objects. |
| Manipulative | Children manipulate and explore objects, parts and materials — threading beads, doing puzzles, using construction sets. |
| Physical | Children explore movements and ways to combine movements — running and playing ball, jumping, climbing, dancing, moving on an obstacle course. |
| Games with rules | Children follow or create rules to reach a shared objective in a game — playing outdoor games, following child-created games with rules, playing computer, board and card games. |





Long Reef Headland

2.4 COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

In addition to the Community Strategic Plan mentioned in Section 1, Warringah has a number of documents that are relevant to the Open Space Strategy. These include:

- Various Plans of Management
- Recreation Strategy (2009)
- Playground Strategy (2007)
- Asset Management Strategy (2013)
- Youth Strategy (2013)
- Creative Warringah (2014)
- Living Well Warringah – Healthy Ageing Strategy (2013)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2012)
- Mountain Biking in Warringah (2012)
- Social Plan (2010)
- Warringah Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (2011)
- Warringah Bike Plan (2010)
- Warringah Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy (2007)
- Horse Paper: Horse riding trails in Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest (2009)

The council document most relevant to the development of the Open Space Strategy is the Recreation Strategy (2009). Action 1 from the Recreation Strategy identified the need for a recreational assessment and audit of all of Warringah's open space.

A review of the Playground Strategy (2007) has also been significant to the development of the Open Space Strategy, which will supersede the Playground Strategy.

2.5 STRATEGIC LANDUSE PLANNING

The provision of open space is a key consideration in any large scale landuse project. A current example is the development of the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest and proposed changes to housing density in the surrounding precinct. In this case the likely increase in population needs to be factored into early planning to ensure that open spaces meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors.

This would be similar for all proposed rezonings. As such, this document provides a guide to the types of open spaces council could or should be providing.

2.6 BENCHMARKS, CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

Open space benchmark

A current standard for open space provision is 2.83ha per 1,000 people, according to the NSW Growth Centres Code (2006). While the analysis of recreation and open space opportunities in the following sections of this strategy do cite this benchmark as a baseline guide, the Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government (2010) states that the 2.83ha per 1,000 people benchmark is irrelevant to contemporary planning because it ignores the fact that different types of open spaces can accommodate different needs. Furthermore, the benchmark is designed for greenfield development, not infill which is the more likely growth scenario in Warringah. So while this benchmark will be used as a reference point, of more importance to Warringah is the quality of the open space and its facilities.

The definition of the above benchmark includes parks, buildings directly associated with open space, sportsfields and privately owned golf courses.

Section 3 and Section 4 further discuss Warringah's provision of open space against this benchmark.

2.7 LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

When planning the design and management of open spaces the following pieces of legislation, standards and plans should be considered:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)
- Crown Lands Act (1989)
- Local Government Act (1993)
- Warringah Local Environment Plan (2011)
- Australian Standard for playgrounds



3 Warringah's open space

3.1 Overview

Warringah boasts an array of recreation opportunities across both land and water, with 14km of spectacular coastline, nine beaches, four lagoons, two national parks and a diversity of open spaces.

This section includes an overview of Warringah's open space provision and a summary of the key recreational features of Warringah. Map 1 visually displays the distribution of Warringah's developed and natural open space. The natural open space includes national park and bushland managed by council.

Table 3 provides details of the open space and associated facilities that are provided on council owned or managed land. In summary, out of a total of 7,199ha of open space, approximately 621ha is developed open space and 6,578ha is natural open space – including national park. Of the 7,199ha, 1,254 is council owned or managed.

In relation to the NSW Growth Centre benchmark (2006) Warringah is very well serviced with developed open space, with 621ha compared to the benchmark of 393ha (1.83ha per 1,000 people). See further details on this benchmark in Section 2.6).

Section 6 breaks this analysis down further into area recreation profiles for particular suburbs or groups of suburbs that may share easy access to certain recreation assets.

Table 3
Open space and facilities on council owned or managed land

| Open Space Provision | Number |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Developed Open Space (ha) | 621 |
| Natural Open Space (ha) | 6,578 |
| Total Open Space (ha) | 7,199 |
| Council owned/managed open space (ha) | 1,254 |
| Playgrounds (public access) | 135 |
| Playgrounds (restricted access) | 14 |
| Skateparks | 3 |
| Ocean rockpools | 6 |
| Lagoons | 4 |
| Botanic garden | 1 |
| Sportsgrounds | 54 |
| Synthetic sportsfields | 3 |
| Beaches | 9 |
| Golf courses | 3 |
| Bowling clubs | 2 |

| Open Space Provision | Number |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Tennis centres | 11 |
| Basketball hoops | 9 |
| Netball courts | 70 |
| Exercise equipment locations | 4 |
| Futsal pitch locations | 2 |
| Mountain bike trails (km) | 11 |
| BMX track | 1 |
| Horse trails (km) | 9 |
| Horse arenas | 3 |
| BBQs | 99 |
| Jetty | 1 |
| Boat ramps | 10 |
| Pathways | 141 |
| Community gardens | 2 |
| Viewing platforms | 16 |

3.2 Aboriginal Warringah

Warringah has a rich Aboriginal landscape, with many heritage sites surviving in our open spaces, bushland and even on private property. The northern beaches coastline provided an abundance of marine and land based food and resources. Rock engravings survive and provide pictorial evidence depicting motifs that were important to aboriginal people – whales, kangaroos/wallabies, emus, fish, spirit beings, mundoes (footprints) and shields feature prominently. Shell middens found along the coast preserve remnants of meals which were predominantly fish, shell fish, mammals and birds. Plants, roots, berries and fruit provided an important source of food, and the plants, bark and trees were also utilised to make useful items. For example, a stone spear tip or barb bound to the end of the shaft of a Xanthorrhoea flower were used as spears.

Other heritage surviving in the landscape includes ochre and charcoal art within rock shelters and grinding grooves along watercourses.

Given the importance of heritage, and due to its protection under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NSW) 1974, it is important to respect and embrace the presence or potential presence of Aboriginal heritage in the landscape.

For more information on how Warringah can acknowledge Aboriginal heritage in our open spaces please see Section 4.5.

3.3 Foreshores

Warringah's extensive foreshore is one of the area's key recreation assets. Residents relish the beach lifestyle and visitors flock to enjoy the coastline.

The Bicentennial Coastal Walk passes along Warringah's coastline as it stretches from North Head in the South and Barrenjoey Headland in the north. As a chain of headland walks linked by beaches, people can complete individual sections ranging from easy to hard, or undertake the whole walk. Dee Why and Collaroy beachfronts are accessible to people with mobility issues, with Collaroy also providing an all-abilities playground.

At the beach people enjoy swimming, surfing, body boarding, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, snorkelling, diving, fishing, spear fishing, wind and kite surfing or just hanging on the beach watching the surf, building sandcastles, frisbee, reading or just relaxing.

The beach reserves are popular for just hanging out, having a coffee or watching the surf, or for having picnics, BBQs and hosting a range of informal activities

such as gatherings of families and friends and mothers groups. The coast also provides plenty of space for those wanting time alone to think, reflect and relax.

3.4 Natural open space

Warringah is rich in natural bushland and is fortunate to have two large national parks, Garigal and Ku-Ring-Gai Chase, in addition to Manly Warringah War Memorial Park and the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. The 6,578ha of bushland hosts a range of recreation activities. Significant bushland activities in Warringah include walking, running, mountain biking and horse riding, with each having many kilometres of trails accessible across council managed land and national park.

Urban yards, parks and street trees provide important links to our natural bushland, creating 'wildlife corridors' - connections across the landscape that link up areas of habitat. They support natural processes that occur in a healthy environment, including the movement of species to find resources such as food and water.

Green corridors support multiple land uses, and contribute to the resilience of the landscape in a changing climate, helping to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions by storing carbon in native vegetation.

3.5 Lagoons

Each of the northern beaches four lagoons falls within Warringah, with Manly Lagoon jointly managed with Manly Council and Narrabeen Lagoon shoreline jointly managed with Pittwater Council. Dee Why and Curl Curl Lagoons are solely managed by Warringah Council.

While the recreation value of Dee Why, Manly and Curl Curl Lagoons is primarily with respect to walking, running and cycling opportunities around the lagoon edges, Narrabeen Lagoon is one of the northern beaches most popular recreation assets.

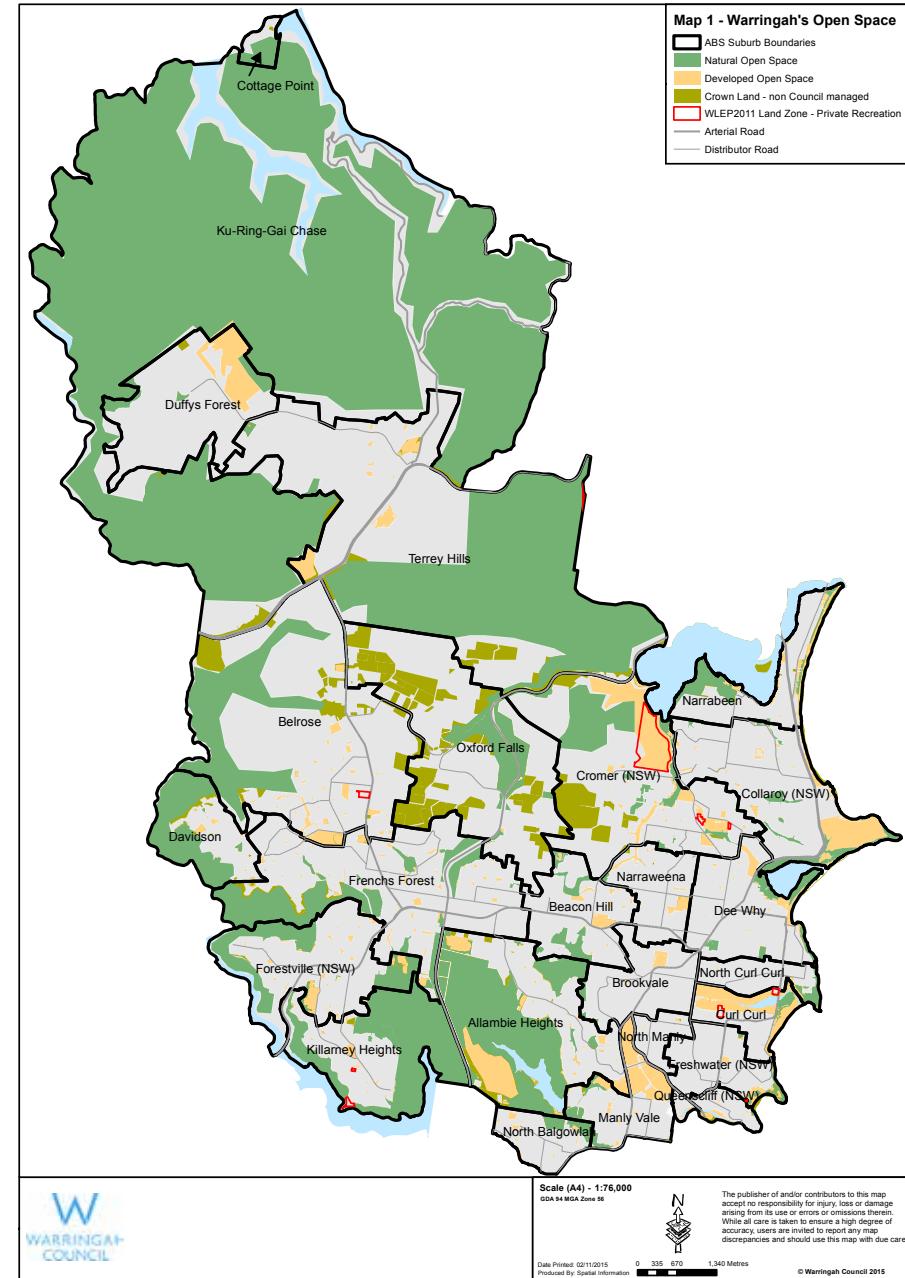
The recently completed Narrabeen Lagoon trail provides an easy 8.4 kilometre loop that is suitable for walking, running, cycling, strollers, wheelchairs and scooters. The foreshore area is popular for picnics, BBQs and gatherings, and the water is popular for sailing, kayaking, fishing and stand up paddle boarding. Playgrounds are located at Berry and Wheeler Reserves, with a third playground within Bilarong Reserve which is managed by Pittwater Council. Fitness equipment and basketball is available at Berry Reserve, where there are also monthly markets.

3.6 Recreation assets

Warringah provides a range of recreation facilities across our open space network. These are itemised in Table 4 and expanded upon in the theme analysis (Section 4) and the area recreation profiles (Section 6).

3.7 Sportsgrounds

When not used for formal sports, the large number of sportsfields in Warringah provide an abundance of open space for other informal recreation activities. For example, running around and kicking a ball, walking, flying kites and general exercise. On hard surfaces such as netball courts skateboarding, bike riding and scootering are also popular. Further information on the informal use of sporting facilities can be found in Section 4.1.5.



4 Theme analysis

Based largely on input from the community from the two surveys and a range of consultation activities listed in Section 1, this theme analysis discusses the needs of particular communities of interest, existing facilities and opportunities for improvement. It is broken down into the following theme areas:

- Spaces for all, e.g. communities of interest and facilities
- Safe and accessible spaces
- Spaces for animal friends
- Environmental spaces
- Artistic, cultural and heritage spaces

Each section has an overarching goal and strategic directions for council to work toward.

Table 4
Annual Community Satisfaction Survey ratings out of 5, with results over 4.5 being 'Extremely high importance/satisfaction' and those under 1.99 being 'Very low' (2013, 2014 and 2015) (n=601 for 2015)

| Parks and recreation areas, including playgrounds | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Importance | 4.58 | 4.53 | 4.61 |
| Satisfaction | 3.68 | 3.75 | 3.78 |

4.1 SPACES FOR ALL

Goal: To have open spaces that cater for a diverse range of recreational interests that support the physical, social and mental health and well-being of park users.

4.1.1 Satisfaction with Warringah's open spaces

In Warringah's Annual Community Satisfaction Survey, the importance of parks and recreation areas, including playgrounds, consistently rates as Extremely high (Table 4). Satisfaction has remained at Moderately high and is slowly increasing.

Through the Open Space Survey respondents were asked how well Warringah's open spaces met their needs. 59% selected Good or Excellent, with 33% selecting Fair (Figure 1). Of the 8% that selected poor

36% (n=15) were in the 19-24 age bracket and 12% (n=64) were aged 13-18 years. A higher percentage of males (11%) selected poor when compared to females (6%).

While the survey respondents indicated a high satisfaction with Warringah's open spaces, those who selected poor highlighted the dissatisfaction of youth whose needs are further discussed in Section 4.1.4, with opportunities for new or improved youth related recreation facilities detailed in Section 4.1.5.

Overall how well do Warringah's open spaces meet the needs of you and your household? n=358

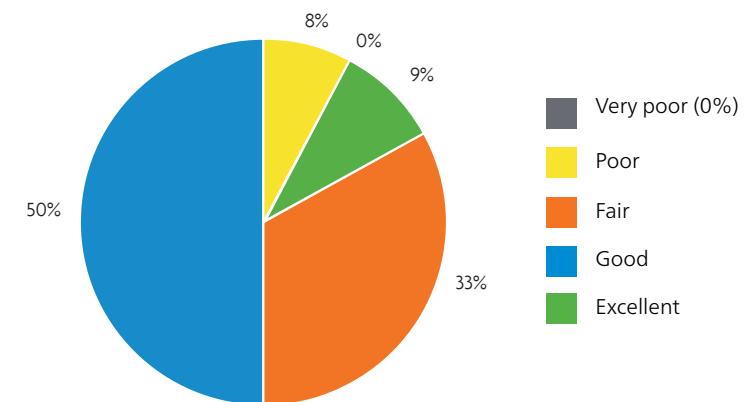


Figure 1
Survey respondents satisfaction with Warringah's open spaces (Open Space Survey 2014)

4.1.2 Participation in recreation

The Warringah Council Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey (2013) identified numerous reasons people visit a park via an intercept survey. Respondents indicated participation in active and passive health and wellbeing activities and social/dining activities were important. While data collected from surveys such as this have limitations, the information is still valuable. For a further breakdown please see Appendix C.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, the top three open space activities participated in by the Open Space Survey respondents were walking/jogging, hanging out at a beach reserve and swimming at a rockpool. A further breakdown of the types of activities participated in by specific communities of interest are detailed in Section 4.1.4 and a full comparative table can be found in Table 17 in Appendix B.

Open Space Survey respondents were also asked what features may encourage them to visit Warringah's open spaces more often. The top five responses overall, in order of importance, were shade/sheltered locations, toilets, places to sit, water and picnic spaces. However, there were variations between different age groups and this is elaborated on in Section 4.1.4. A full comparison of features of interest according to different age groups can be found in Table 18 in Appendix B.

4.1.3 Uses of open spaces

Warringah's Recreation Strategy advocates for the multi-use of open space and recreation facilities where possible. In contrast, some open spaces, such as a small park with a playground, may appear to cater to one user group, in this case children and their carers. Similarly, there are some larger parks that primarily cater to one or two user groups and that could be enhanced to cater for additional uses.

There are benefits in having mixed-use open space recreation destinations that meet the diverse needs of the community. Such destinations can provide opportunities for activity at different times of the day or night and enable the shared access to parking, toilets and other infrastructure as appropriate.

Warringah's open space network also provides many opportunities for quiet contemplation and relaxation. With an abundance of open space and bushland parks, ranging from small and secluded to the vast openness of the many vantage points across our hilly landscape and oceans vistas, many residents hold dear 'their place' that they like to visit to get away from the stress of everyday life.

Strategic directions:

- Council will continue to activate open spaces where there may be capacity for increased mixed or multi usage, for example James Meehan Reserve.
- Council will provide, and embellish where appropriate, quiet spaces available for contemplation and relaxation. These spaces may be linked to other well-activated spaces, or be separate.
- Warringah owns or manages approximately 500 reserves, of which over 300 are used for recreation. There is a need to understand the primary and secondary purposes of each of these, for example, recreation, drainage, easements, road reserve or operational purposes (e.g. carparks). An audit is recommended.

4.1.4 Communities of interest

There are many communities of interest in Warringah and council aims to have open spaces that are inviting to all. This section provides information on the needs and interests of some particular communities, such as children, youth and older people. The strategy also makes reference to families, individuals and parents groups, as well as other groups that may gather in open spaces. This could include those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It is important for the management of Warringah's open spaces to consider principles of social justice, so people from all backgrounds and interests have an opportunity to enjoy our parks.

Spaces for children

Open spaces provide a range of opportunities for children to play. Play is important for children in terms of developing their abilities and interests through experiencing challenge, taking risks and problem solving.

While council has historically maintained a large number of playgrounds across Warringah, it is also important to provide diversity. Consultation revealed strong support for nature play, which allows children to engage with the environment in an exploratory and imaginative way.

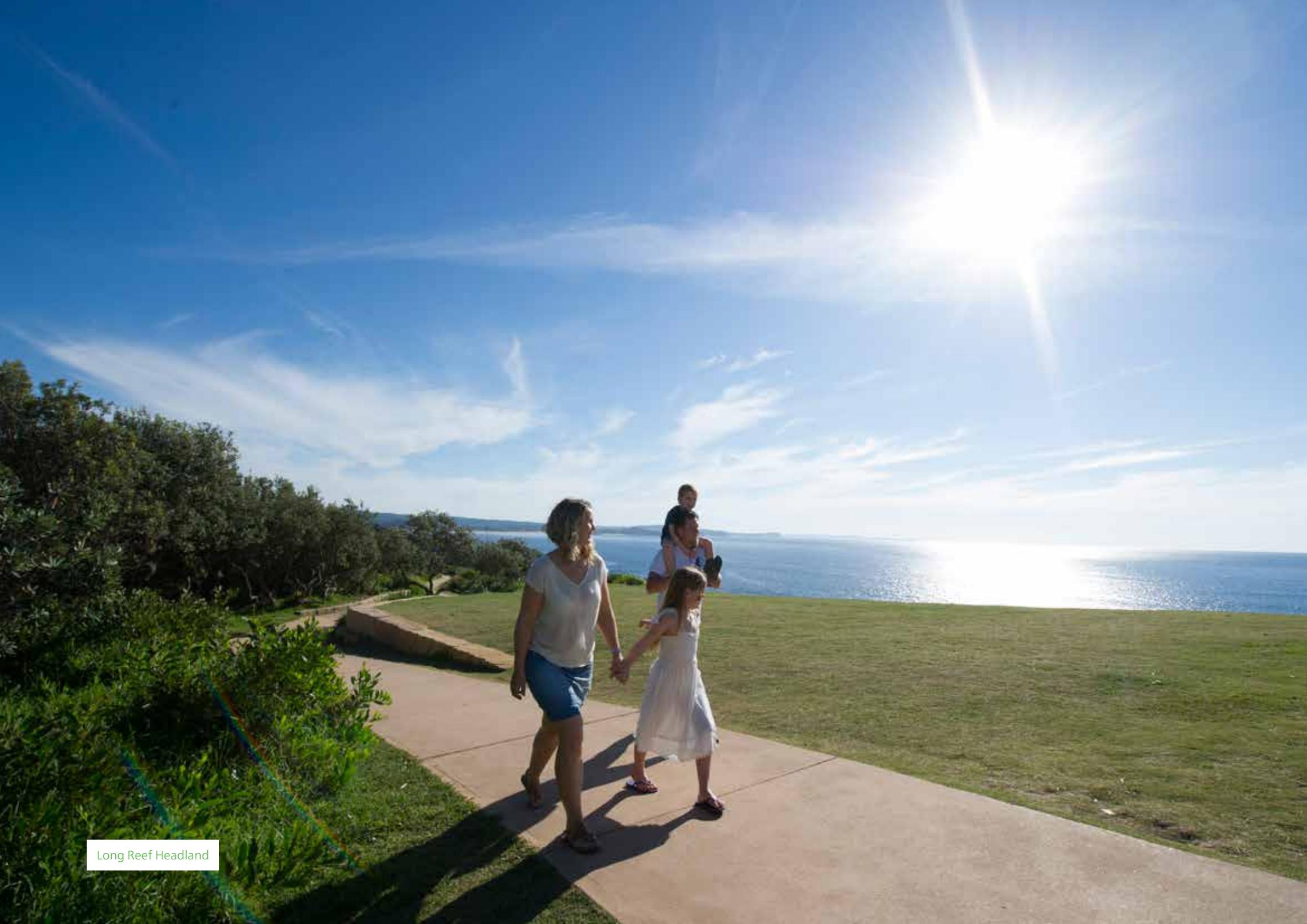
Council remains committed to providing an equitable distribution of playgrounds, however the types of playgrounds, or play spaces, will change in some areas as we start to integrate more nature and adventure play opportunities. This may include child friendly landscaping or public art installations that encourage physical activity and interaction.

With many of our playgrounds located adjacent to bushland reserves and water courses, nature or adventure play would be more in keeping with the surroundings. Suitable locations may be places like Manly Dam and Rabbett Reserve. In a suburban area a nature play or adventure play design can create something special and a sense of exploration and escape.

By re-defining 'playgrounds' within Warringah as being 'play spaces for all' we will move toward a more inclusive open space network. Play in this sense could include nature, adventure, creativity or sensory play and should contain an element of risk and challenge. The whole of Narrabeen Lagoon, for example, could be considered one big playground or play space under this definition and would serve all age groups.

For further details on Warringah's playgrounds see Section 5.

Consultation with children aged 4-12 years old found that there was still support for standard items of playground equipment such as swings, slides and climbing frames. However, when asked to design their ideal play space other common themes that arose were tree houses, mazes, water play, rainbows and themes such as dragons featured prominently. Other commonly occurring recreation facilities that were included in the designs of children were parkour and skateparks. These are addressed in greater detail in Section 4.1.5.



Long Reef Headland

Family spaces

Open spaces provide important places for families to spend time together, with 17% of visitors surveyed for the Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey (2013) indicating that they were there to spend time with children/family. This could be to visit a playground, a picnic, walk the dog, watch the surf, go for a bike ride, to name a few.

With increasing housing density in some areas, Children need places to spend time outdoors as part of a family unit. They need space to kick a ball, fly a kite and to just run around and make their own fun and games in an unstructured and free play manner.

Trails with good connectivity enable families to walk, ride and scoot within and between open spaces, either as a recreation activity or while commuting to school or the shops. Open spaces also provide important spaces for learning to ride in a safe environment away from cars and driveways.

Trails and spaces for hanging out with family and friends are explored in greater detail in Section 4.1.5.

Spaces for youth

Warringah's Youth Strategy (2013) identified recreation and wellbeing as a key theme for young people, with an aim to be responsive to their evolving needs for recreational and sporting opportunities.

Although there is some support for play equipment such as giant swings suitable for older children and youth, as children grow their needs and interests change.

With youth considered to be those aged 12 to 24 years, consultation for the Open Space Strategy revealed requests from this age group for more skateparks, basketball courts, parkour facilities, bike dirt jumps, fitness equipment and space to just hang out, whether for socialising with friends or studying. Similarly, consultation for the Youth Strategy saw consistent calls for more skateparks and basketball.

When asked what activities people participate in though the Open Space Survey, the top five responses for respondents aged 13-18 and 19-24 are listed in Table 5.

Table 5

Activities participated in at Warringah's open spaces for survey respondents aged 13-18 and 19-24 years – excluding 'Commute'
(Open Space Survey 2014)

| Rank | 13-18 years (n=64) | |
|------|---|--------|
| 1 | Walking/Jogging | 73.44% |
| 2 | Hang out at a beach reserve, e.g. have a coffee, watch the surf | 56.25% |
| 3 | Picnic/outdoor gathering | 48.44% |
| 3 | Bike riding | 48.44% |
| 5 | Swim at a rockpool | 46.88% |
| 5 | Relaxation, e.g. Meditation/Yoga/Tai-Chi/Read a book | 46.88% |

| Rank | 19-24 years (n=15) | |
|------|---|--------|
| 1 | Walking/Jogging | 86.67% |
| 2 | Hang out at a beach reserve, e.g. have a coffee, watch the surf | 73.33% |
| 3 | Picnic/outdoor gathering | 53.33% |
| 3 | Bushwalking | 53.33% |
| 3 | Outdoor fitness equipment | 53.33% |

As mentioned in Section 4.1.1, the Open Space Survey revealed that youth were the least satisfied with Warringah's open spaces.² The youth who chose 'Poor' were requesting an increase in youth related facilities such as bike dirt jumping, parkour and skateparks.

When asked in the survey what features would potentially encourage people to use our open spaces more often, the top five responses for 13-18 and 19-24 year olds are listed in Table 6. This list clearly shows the difference in interest between younger youth (13-18) and older youth (19-24). While places to sit and picnic spaces feature on both lists and are closely linked to facilities that would enable youth to hang (addressed in Section 3.6), the availability of WiFi was of most interest to those aged 13-18 years and outdoor fitness equipment was of most interest to those aged 19-24 years.

Please note that skate facilities were not offered as an optional feature as there were specific skateboarding questions to which the answers are reported separately later in this section.

Opportunities for new or improved recreation assets such as those requested here are detailed in Section 4.1.5.

Table 6
Top five features that may encourage an increased use of Warringah's open spaces, for 13-18 and 19-24 year olds (Open Space Survey 2014)

| Rank | 13-18 years (n=64) | |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | WiFi | 8.90% |
| 2 | Places to sit | 8.14% |
| 3 | Toilets | 7.95% |
| 4 | Water | 7.58% |
| 5 | Picnic spaces | 6.63% |

| Rank | 19-24 years (n=15) | |
|------|--|-------|
| 1 | Outdoor fitness equipment | 9.09% |
| 2 | Other (e.g. skateparks, parkour, dirt jumps) | 7.27% |
| 2 | Events/Music/Entertainment | 7.27% |
| 2 | Picnic spaces | 7.27% |
| 2 | Places to sit | 7.27% |

Healthy ageing

As we age, staying healthy and active is fundamental to ensuring a long and happy life. Council has a role in providing recreation opportunities that enable people to improve or maintain their health as they age. Open spaces provide opportunities for older people to participate in varying types of recreation that support a range of abilities and choice.

Given that people are living longer, recreation providers need to cater to a growing and changing demand from older demographics of open space users. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013), the number of people over 65 in Australia will increase from 3.2 million in 2012 to between 5.7 and 5.8 million in 2031, and will continue to increase over time.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, participation in recreation decreases as people age. Evidence also suggests that the types of recreation activities that older people will want to participate in in the future may be different to older people of today. As the baby boomers enter retirement, they bring with them a different set of values and expectations as they have grown through a period of changing social norms.

² Please note that the sample size for survey respondents aged 19-24 years is very small and therefore may not be representative of the age group.

The baby boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, do not think of themselves as old. They are generally healthier and more active than previous generations. Many do not need to be educated on the importance of physical activity; they just need to be provided with the opportunity.

To be able to continue to live an active life well into the older years, there are a number of recreation opportunities that council can enable. For instance, council's Living Well Warringah - Healthy Ageing Strategy (2013) identified walking as the key means for older residents to stay active. As such, to be able to walk through and between open spaces there needs to be good trails, good connectivity and footpaths. Having seats, shade, bins and water available along a trail ensures that those who need to can take a break and enjoy the scenery.

Similarly, the Open Space Survey (2014) and the survey conducted for the Recreation Strategy (2009) both found walking to be the top recreation activity in Warringah for most ages groups, including those aged over 60. Other top responses in the Open Space Survey for respondents 60 years and over, in order of priority, were hanging out at a beach reserve, having a picnic/outdoor gathering, swimming at a rockpool and

bushwalking. This is based on all survey responses by people aged over 60. A further breakdown by age can be found in Table 17 in Appendix B.

As identified in the Living Well Warringah - Healthy Ageing Strategy (2013), social isolation can be common for older people, having impacts on their mental and physical health. Open spaces provide numerous opportunities to get out and about and meet people, for example, either by just going for a walk or through formal walking groups. A key is to make information about open space and recreation opportunities available via a range of mediums, such as council's website, libraries and community networks.

Information on fitness equipment that is suitable for all ages and abilities is addressed later in this document.

Strategic direction:

- Council will consider the needs of different communities of interest in Warringah when designing open spaces such as picnic areas and walking trails in terms of the benefit of co-locating them with toilets and parking and the availability or potential for shade, seating and water.
- Council will make information about Warringah's open spaces and recreation facilities available to the public via a range of mediums, including on the website through the development of a user-friendly online interactive tool.



Curl Curl Lagoon shared path

Community partnerships

Council partners with many community members and groups to provide services that benefit the community and the environment.

Friends of the Bush is a volunteer bush care program that has been running since 1991. Volunteers provide invaluable assistance at approximately 30 locations across Warringah and help to run community nurseries at Manly Dam and Stony Range.

Council works closely with and appreciates the dedication of other Friends of groups, such as Curl Curl Lagoon Friends, Narrabeen Lagoon Friends and Friends of Dee Why Lagoon.

Council's Aboriginal Heritage Office facilitates an award winning volunteer program in which volunteers monitor and report on the condition of Aboriginal heritage.

Mountain bikers are encouraged to participate in volunteer track maintenance days at Manly Dam.

Council is keen to work with and facilitate other capacity building programs as they arise. These may include programs with youth or disability programs.

Strategic direction:

- Council will continue to facilitate and support volunteer and capacity building initiatives that benefit open spaces.

4.1.5 Recreation assets

This section reviews Warringah's provision of a wide range of recreation assets, including skateparks, fitness equipment, trails, picnic areas and community gardens. Opportunities for increased or improved provision are presented as are the barriers. Supporting facilities such as toilets, water and seating are discussed.

The provision of playgrounds is presented separately in Section 5.

Trails

Warringah has many trails available that cater for walking, cycling, horse riding, scooters, strollers and in some cases wheelchairs. Details on facilities for horses is covered separately in section 4.3.2.

Trails provide great opportunities for recreation, although connectivity to and between destinations is also important to enable participation in active travel. Of the 423 respondents to the Open Space

Survey (2014), 93% indicated that they commute through open spaces (commuting being defined as walking or cycling as part of a trip to work, school, shops or services). As discussed in section 2.2, 84% of respondents walk or jog and 53% ride bikes.

The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) (2011) identifies that providing good pedestrian paths throughout the LGA , and in particularly along key recreational access points, could assist in minimising car trips by encouraging people to walk to where they play. When the PAMP is next reviewed there may be an opportunity to further improve connectivity within and between recreation destinations.

A strategy for developing consistent signage across Warringah is underway. Once complete, this can be used for improving signage and wayfinding in Warringah's parks and other open spaces, inlcuding the extensive trail network.

Below are further details on shared tracks, walking tracks and trails for various types of cycling. The main recreational trails in Warringah are shown in Map 2. Note that the trails identified in Map 2 as multi-use are shared by two or more users, but the map does not state which two or more users it may be. Please check Council's website for further details on particular trails.

Shared tracks

Many of Warringah's tracks are shared, for example, the Narrabeen Lagoon trail, Curl Curl Lagoon, Nolan and Passmore Reserves and the trail linking Dee Why beach and Narrabeen Lagoon. These are generally classified as easy access and are suitable for all ages and abilities. They are popular with a broad demographic.

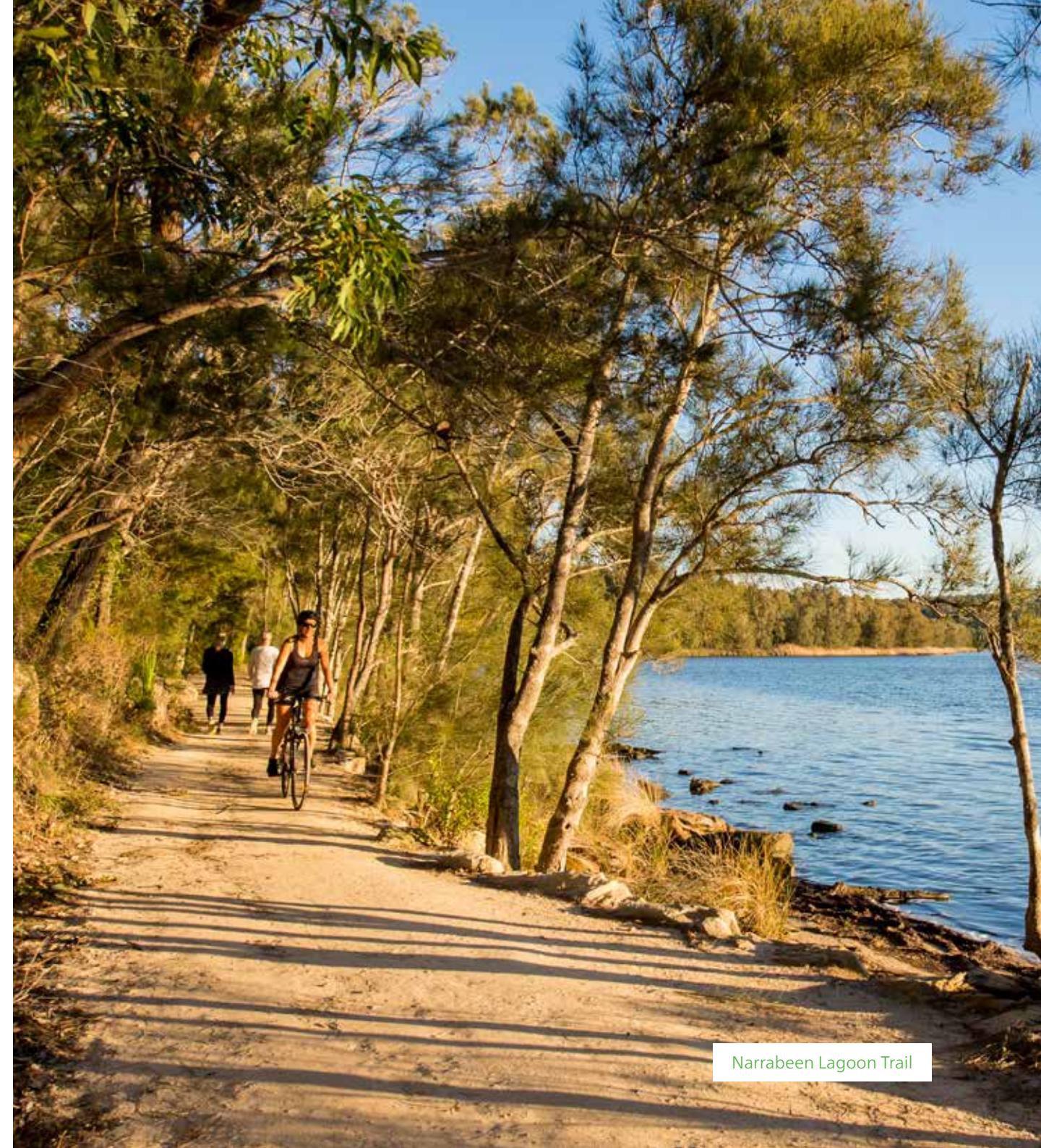
Some sections of trail at Manly Dam are shared by walkers and mountain bikers. These are the wide fire trail sections, with single tracks currently identified exclusively for either walking or mountain biking to ensure the safety of park users and reduce the likelihood of conflict.

Conflict between users on shared trails can be managed through signage and education.

Walking tracks

Due to Warringah's bush and beach setting there are diverse opportunities for walking, both on council land and in the national parks.

The Bicentennial Coastal Walk covers Warringah's 14kms of coastline and continues to North Head in the south and Barrenjoey headland in the north, making a continuous coastal walk of approximately 30km. The



walk consists of a series of headland walks that are joined together by enjoying a walk along the beaches. Each headland presents a different experience in terms of difficulty, views, vegetation and geology.

Bushland reserves such as Allenby Park, Anembo Reserve and Forestville Park each provide a different walking experience as the landscape varies, from rainforest in some locations to sandstone heath in others. There are also many trails within the national parks.

Some opportunities for new or improved trails have been identified in plans of management but are yet to be realised. For example, the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Corridor Plan of Management (2008) proposes a trail along South Creek which would provide residents in Beacon Hill with trails leading to Narrabeen Lagoon and Dee Why.

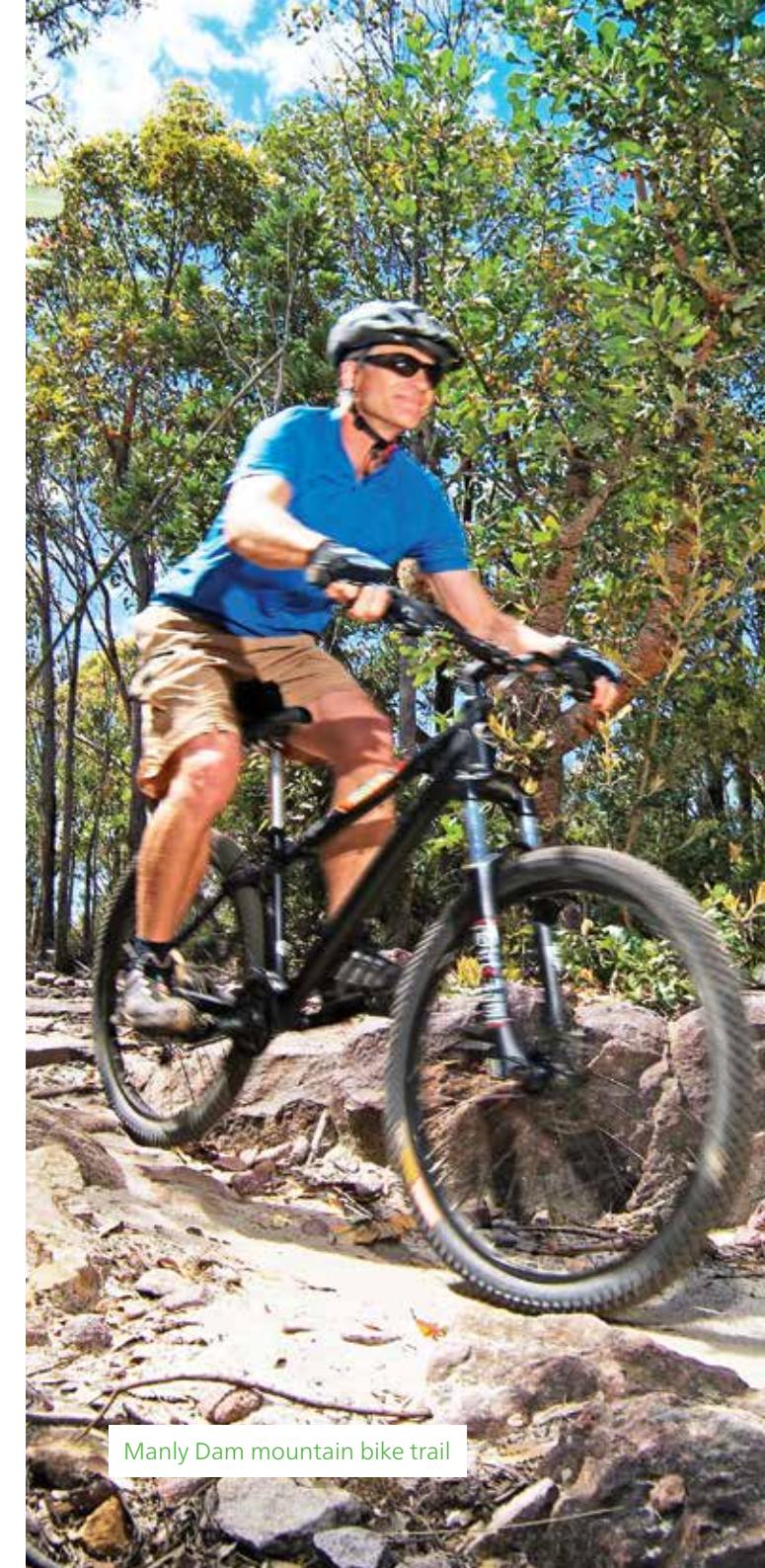
Council's website has an online interactive map of walking tracks which shows points of interest along the way. It is compatible with mobile phones for easy access along the trails. A series of twelve brochures on Warringah's best walks are also available to download from the website.

Bikes

There are a number of styles of bike riding that are popular in Warringah, including: mountain biking, bike dirt jumps, pump tracks, downhill, shared tracks and learn to ride, to name a few. In the Open Space Survey 53% of respondents indicated that they ride a bike, 21% participate in mountain biking and 12% in dirt jumping.

Council manages an 11km mountain bike track at Manly Dam and is currently formalising an access trail across council land in Forestville Park to link up with the new mountain bike trails in Garigal National Park. There are also a number of informal trails on private property and Crown land. Council's priorities for mountain biking are detailed in Mountain biking in Warringah: Research and Directions (2012).

Warringah does not currently have a formal bike dirt jump track. Consultation will take place over designs to build dirt jumps at Aquatic Reserve adjacent the recently upgraded half pipe skate ramp or Miller Reserve near the skatepark.



Manly Dam mountain bike trail

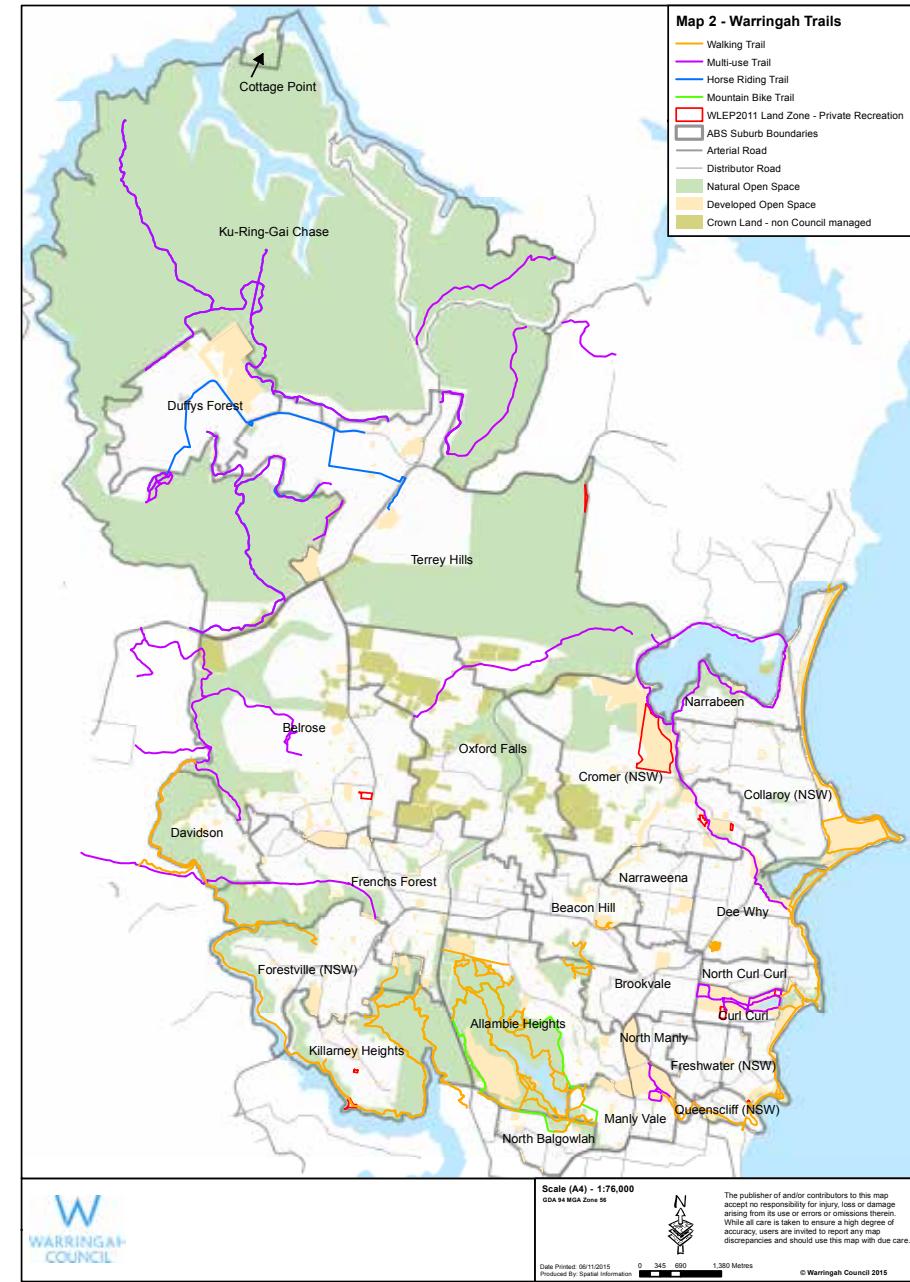
Places to learn to ride are important to families and young children. Warringah does not currently have any formal learn to ride areas, however, the netball courts at John Fisher Park and the soccer fields at Cromer are popular for this. Some of the easier sections of trail at Manly Dam provide good areas for learning off road cycling. Additional locations would be beneficial.

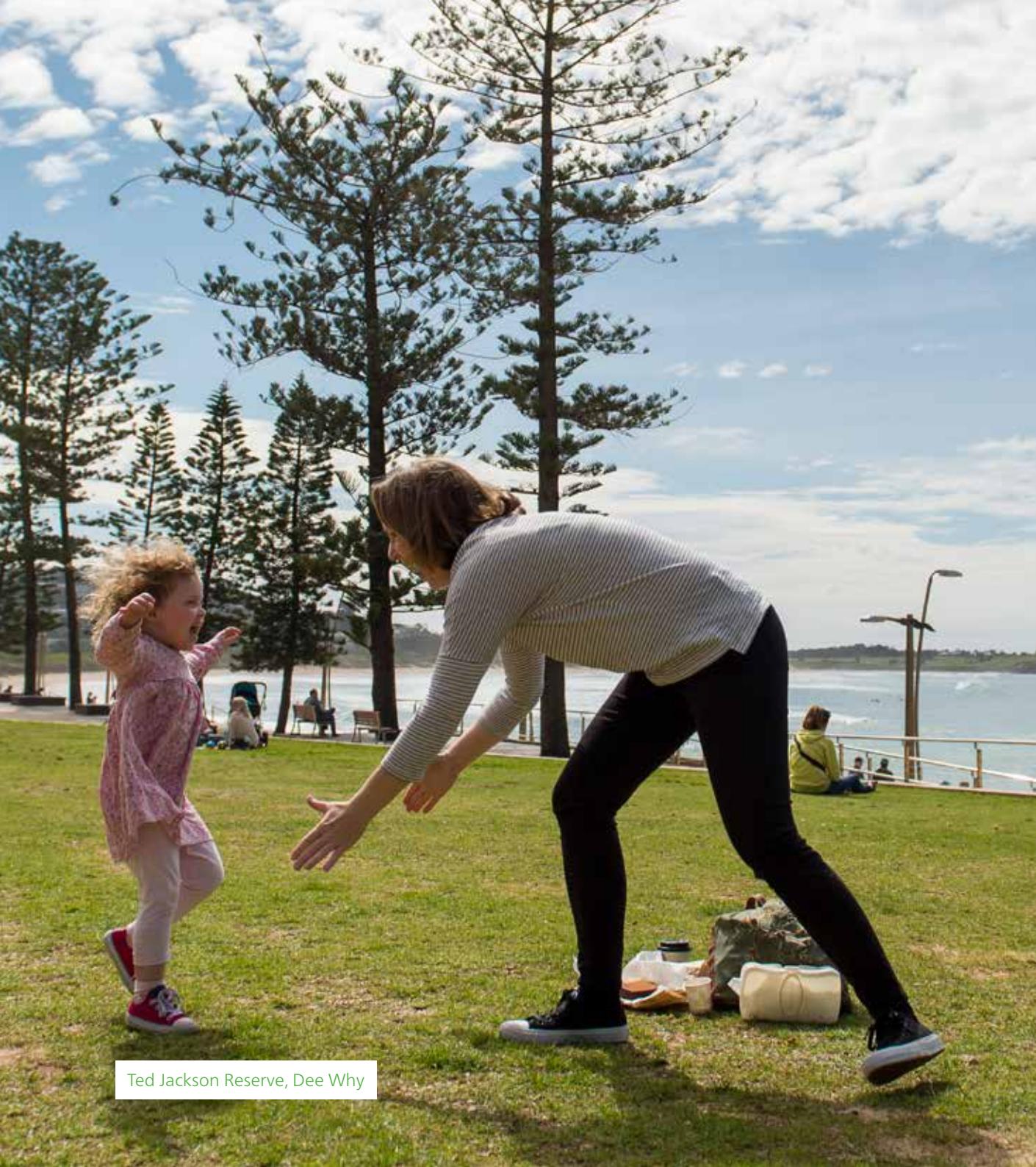
Warringah's Bike Plan (2010) identifies priorities for bike routes and infrastructure and is currently being reviewed. This includes a Wayfinding Plan.

The Sydney Water Pipeline is identified in the Bike Plan and the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy. Although the track is informal, it has the potential to provide a beneficial link from Forestville, through Frenchs Forest to Allambie Heights.

Strategic directions:

- Council will identify opportunities for new trails and improved accessibility and connectivity.
- Council will provide a bike dirt jump track in Warringah, potential locations are Aquatic and Miller Reserves.
- Warringah will provide learn to ride facilities.
- Council will implement its Signage Strategy and Wayfinding Plan to improve information within and between Warringah's open spaces.





Ted Jackson Reserve, Dee Why

Hanging out

There were a number of activities mentioned in the Open Space Survey that relate to just hanging out. This could be spending time in a park or beach reserve by yourself or with friends or family. People may utilise facilities such as picnic tables, seats, BBQs and toilets, or they may just want a piece of grass to sit on with a coffee and a view to watch the surf or for quiet reflection.

Hanging out at a beach reserve was popular across all age groups, with 75% of all survey respondents indicating they do this at least yearly and 66% at least monthly (Table 7). Those in the 25-39 age group rated this activity the highest, with 87% indicating that they hang out at a beach reserve.

Having picnics or outdoor gatherings at open spaces are popular activities, with 63% ($n=423$) of Open Space Survey respondents indicating that they do this. Warringah's open spaces are also popular with parents groups, with 46% of respondents aged 25-39 participating in this activity at least yearly and 36% at least monthly. See Appendix B for a further breakdown of these activities according to age.

Relaxing at our open spaces, for example, meditating, Yoga, Tai-Chi or reading a book also rated well, with 36% of respondents indicating that they visit open spaces for relaxation purposes. The results were even higher for those in the 12 and under, 13-18 years and 60-74 years age groups (see Table 17 in Appendix B).

Warringah already considers the provision of facilities conducive to spending time in open spaces, such as picnic tables, seating, BBQs, water and toilets. This is done well along most foreshore areas and some of the larger parks and playgrounds. However, council is working toward providing spaces for larger groups through the provision of larger picnic tables and seating areas. For example, the Walter Gors Park upgrade at Dee Why includes large picnic tables which could be used for gatherings of families or friends, or as a study area for youth.

Strategic direction:

- Council will provide facilities that cater for large groups, families and gatherings to take place at Warringah's open spaces, by providing picnic tables and seating for bigger groups.

Table 7
Hanging out at a beach reserve (Open Space Survey 2014 n=423)

| Frequency | Overall | <12 years | 13-18 years | 19-24 years | 25-39 years | 40-59 years | 60-74 years | 75-84 years | 85+ years |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| At least monthly % | 66 | 36 | 45 | 67 | 80 | 75 | 69 | 54 | 75 |
| At least yearly % | 75 | 55 | 56 | 73 | 87 | 84 | 79 | 77 | 75 |



Berry Reserve, Narrabeen

Youth hanging out

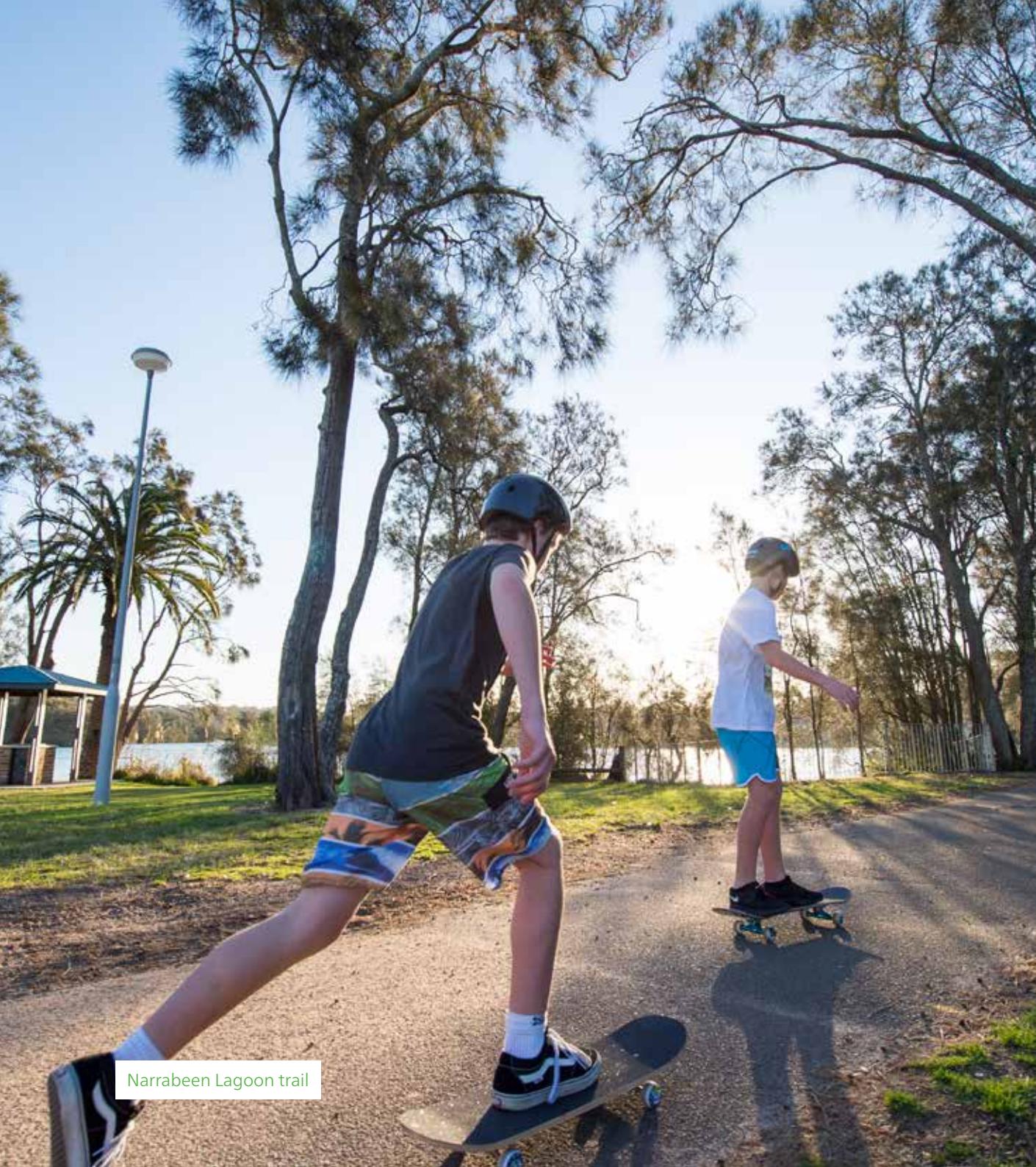
Having spaces for youth to hang out with their mates is an essential element of socialisation. Whether it is space to just sit and chat or a space conducive to studying, youth need somewhere to go that is inviting, inclusive and meets the needs of both young men and young women. Our open space provision and designs therefore need to challenge the perception that youth who are just hanging around are engaging in anti-social behaviour. Research has found that there is no relationship between perceptions of youth behaviour and the actual prevalence of youth offences (National Foundation for Educational Research in Halsey and White 2010). By designing spaces with youth in mind they can feel safe and welcome to share Warringah's open spaces.

While such spaces can be suitably co-located with recreation activities like basketball courts, parkour, fitness equipment or skateparks, facilities should also provide for the passive use of open space by youth who just want to hang out with their mates to talk,

learn, grow, plan, build relationships, confidence and connect, either face to face or through the provision of WiFi. Youth may also like to be involved in the design of youth hang out spaces, so as to integrate funky, creative and innovative ideas and artworks. This co-location of recreation assets would be beneficial across all age groups.

Strategic directions:

- Council will look into additional locations for youth recreation facilities at Warringah's open spaces, such as basketball courts, parkour, skateparks and fitness equipment.
- Council will integrate seating, tables or appropriate landscaping into open spaces designed to facilitate youth socialisation and study opportunities. This may include the integration of WiFi where appropriate.



Narrabeen Lagoon trail

Skateparks

A specific Skater Survey held in October and November 2014 revealed strong support for new and improved skate facilities in Warringah.

Council has existing skate facilities at Miller Reserve Manly Vale, Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields and Aquatic Reserve Frenchs Forest. The St Matthews Farm Masterplan includes a skatepark and the design stage will occur in 2015-16. There are also skate facilities nearby in Manly and Mona Vale that are managed by neighbouring councils.

Pop-up (temporary) skate events are held at John Fisher Park in North Curl Curl which will continue and be expanded where possible at other hard surface locations such as St Matthews Farm in the lead up to a new skatepark being constructed.

Street skate is the most popular style of skateboarding according to the respondents who completed the Skater and Open Space Surveys, followed by ramps and skate bowls (See Figure 2). People who selected 'Other' primarily ride scooters, with some riding BMX.

The majority of respondents were in the 13-18 years (44% n=251) and 12 and under (35%) age groups (see Figure 3), meaning that their options for getting themselves to a skate park is either to skate or catch a bus, unless a parent or carer is able to drive them. These age groups therefore need their skate facilities to be easily accessible if they are to be granted the independence to travel to and from a skatepark themselves.

Council remains committed to the existing level of service for skate facilities and to researching locations for new skateparks. As such, the ageing half pipe at Aquatic Reserve was upgraded in July 2015. The survey also drew requests for expansions to the existing skate parks at Manly Vale and Forestville, including for the further provisions of supporting facilities such as toilets, shade, picnic tables and BBQs. This would enable families and friends to enjoy time together as skaters and as spectators.

What style of skateboarding do you participate in? n=286

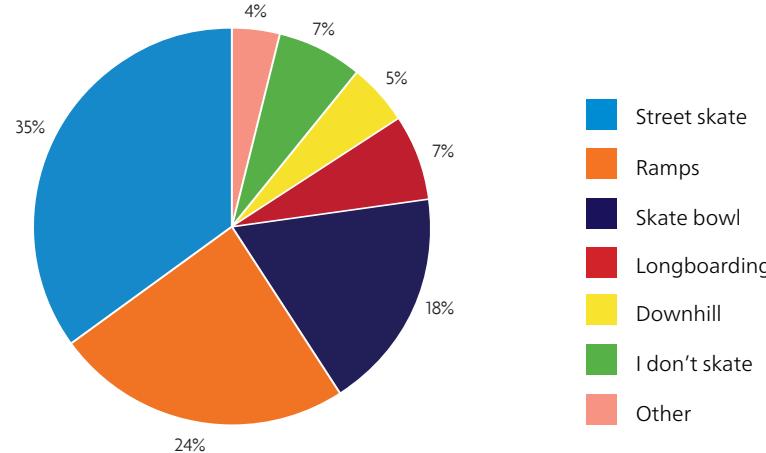


Figure 2
Participation in styles of
skateboarding (Combined
data from the Skater and
Open Space Surveys 2014)

How old are you? n=251

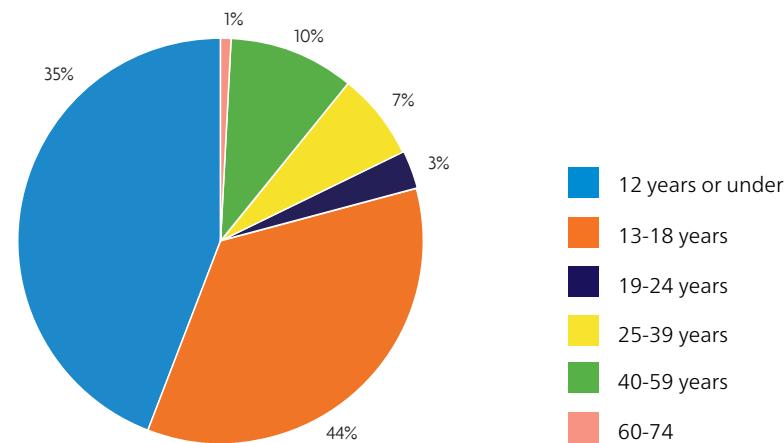
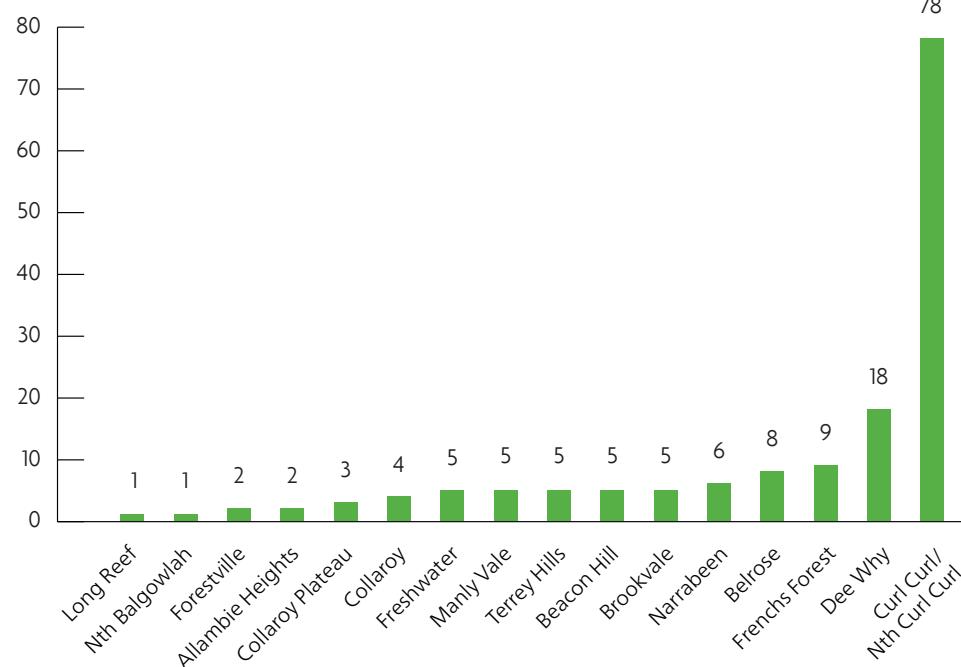


Figure 3
Age of skaters who
completed the survey
(Skater Survey 2014)

Opportunities for new skate facilities should be explored for the coastal areas of North Curl Curl and Dee Why. There are currently no skate facilities in this area and the survey attracted a significantly higher number of requests compared to other suburbs.

Suggested locations for new or improved skate facilities (aside from St Matthews Farm) (n=157)



Specifically, Curl Curl/North Curl Curl received 50% (n=157) of all requests for new skate facilities, followed by Dee Why with 11% (see Figure 4). The demand for skate facilities in this area is further evident given that the John Fisher Park netball courts and Dee Why beachfront are already being frequented by riders

either bringing in their own equipment or utilising park furniture, stairs and railings.

There have been a number of complaints over the years, including through the Open Space Survey, raising the issue of skateboarders disrupting other park users at Dee Why beachfront. An effective way to combat the inappropriate use and damage of park assets by skateboarders would be to provide a skate facility in the area.

Depending on the availability of space, this could be a formal skate park or a skate trail where features are integrated into existing or new pathways. A B-line skate trail may be suitable in the vicinity of existing trails at John Fisher Park, James Meehan Reserve or Dee Why Park (oval).

Skateable art is also an effective way to integrate creativity and public art into our open spaces.

Figure 4
Requests for new or improved skate facilities (Combined data from the Skater and Open Space Surveys 2014)

Strategic Direction:

- Council will continue to maintain and grow existing skate facilities and investigate opportunities for new skate facilities, including, but not limited to, the Dee Why and North Curl Curl areas.

Parkour

Parkour is an emerging activity in Warringah, even though council does not currently provide any parkour facilities in our open spaces. It is difficult to gauge how much usage a dedicated outdoor parkour facility would attract. However, consultation resulted in many requests for parkour and play space designs by children aged 6-12 that incorporated parkour.

Parkour has the ability to be integrated into other elements of open space facilities, such as landscaping, park furniture, public art and infrastructure. It could also be incorporated into a multi-use space, for example with fitness equipment. Further, it can double as a hang out space for youth by providing a destination for socialising that also encourages physical activity.

By trialling the integration of parkour friendly design into some of our open spaces we can monitor usage with the view to increasing parkour opportunities in the future should there be a demand.

Strategic direction:

- Council will integrate parkour friendly design into open space landscaping, park furniture, public art or infrastructure or co-locate it with another facility such as fitness equipment. Suitable locations could be, but not limited to, St Matthews Farm and District Park.





Berry Reserve, Narrabeen

Basketball

Warringah provides ten basketball hoops at various locations across the LGA. Three are full sized courts, at: Lionel Watts Reserve, Belrose; Forestville Memorial Playing Fields; and Terrey Hills Oval. The others are either half or quarter courts and can be found at: Akora Reserve, Frenchs Forest; Beacon Hill Reserve; Berry Reserve, Narrabeen; Brookvale Oval; John Fisher Park, North Curl Curl; Nolan Reserve, North Manly; and St Matthews Farm, Cromer.

In the Open Space Survey basketball was found to be most popular with those aged 13-18 years (40.63%, n=64). Similarly, of the respondents to the Skater Survey who were aged 13-18 years (n=110), 34% indicated that they play basketball. Of those aged 12 or under (n=88), 39% play basketball.

Through the surveys and via consultation with the Warringah Youth Advisory Committee, there was strong support for an increase in the number of basketball hoops, in particularly full size courts. The above survey data supports that basketball is popular with children and youth and an increase in facilities should be supported. Given the identified need to integrate more

facilities suitable for youth into our open spaces, there is potential to construct additional basketball hoops at existing parks.

It may be difficult to find space for additional full-sized basketball courts, however, many schools have them. It may be possible to negotiate access to basketball courts and playground equipment within school grounds. This should be investigated further.

Strategic directions:

- Council will seek opportunities to integrate additional basketball and netball hoops into open spaces, for example James Meehan Reserve.
- Council will approach the Department of Education and Communities and other bodies to discuss the potential for public access to recreational facilities such as basketball courts and playground equipment outside of school hours.



Brookvale Park

Fitness equipment

Warringah has fitness equipment at four parks and is supportive of installing more at additional locations in the future. They are currently located at Brookvale Park, Berry Reserve, Lionel Watts Reserve and F.J Machon Reserve.

The Open Space Survey revealed that 22% of respondents (n=423) used fitness equipment at least yearly, with 16% using it at least monthly (see Table 8). Those aged 19-24 (n=15) used fitness equipment the most often, with 53% using it at least once a month.

Fitness equipment can be designed to cater for a range of ages and abilities. For instance, some councils have had success with installing fitness equipment for

seniors. This can help with increasing fitness, strength and balance and reducing the risk of falls.

Consultation for this strategy resulted in many requests for the installation of fitness equipment at additional locations, particularly along foreshore areas. It would be compatible to co-locate fitness equipment with other open space facilities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, basketball, skateparks and parkour. A suitable location for fitness equipment for all ages and abilities may be the North Curl Curl Community Centre, which has been identified as a healthy ageing hub.

Clear instructions for use and introductory programs should be considered to encourage usage, especially with fitness equipment for older residents.

Strategic directions:

- Council will install fitness equipment for all ages at additional locations, for example, but not limited to, foreshore areas such as James Meehan Reserve, Freshwater beach, the North Curl Curl Community Centre, Griffith Park and Middle Creek Reserve.

Table 8
Participation in fitness equipment (Open Space Survey 2014 n=423)

| Frequency | Overall | <12 years | 13-18 years | 19-24 years | 25-39 years | 40-59 years | 60-74 years | 75-84 years | 85+ years |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| At least monthly % | 16 | 18 | 23 | 53 | 17 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| At least yearly % | 22 | 27 | 31 | 53 | 24 | 21 | 12 | 8 | 0 |

Informal sports

While organised sports on sportsfields are outside the scope of this strategy, sportsfields offer an opportunity to engage in many informal activities when not being used for organised sport. Facilities include, for example, cricket pitches, netball courts, and fields for baseball, rugby league, union, AFL, softball, T-ball, hockey and football (soccer). Practice nets are also available for sports such as cricket and baseball.

Of all of the Open Space Survey respondents, 34% (n=423) indicated that they participate in informal sports such as kicking a ball at least yearly, with 28% at least monthly (see Table 18 in Appendix B). Participation was relatively consistent across all age groups, from those aged 12 and under to those aged 40-59. Participation petered off for those aged 60 and over.

Informal sports have different benefits to formally organised and structured sports. Individuals and groups can practice their skills in a relaxed and fun environment, without the pressure of competing. If playing with friends, especially children and youth, informal sports enable the development of social and

interpersonal skills as they improvise, make their own rules, learn to cooperate and problem solve. Playing with extended families can promote intergenerational communication. So access to sporting facilities for informal recreation by the general community is an important factor in open space provision.

Other sporting facilities that could be integrated into Warringah's open spaces for informal use are hitting walls for tennis, soccer walls, birdie cages for golf, handball courts and outdoor table tennis. The provision of basketball hoops is addressed separately earlier in this section.

Strategic directions:

- Council will encourage and/or facilitate shared and informal use of purpose built sporting facilities where possible.
- Council will integrate sports infrastructure into open spaces for informal use where there is demand, for example, practice nets, birdie cages, handball courts, table tennis and hitting walls.

Sporting clubs and commercial providers

With the exception of organised sports that use sportsfields - which are excluded from this strategy

- Warringah's open spaces provide locations for other sporting, recreation and community clubs and commercial providers for activities such as kayaking, sailing, horse riding, personal training and yoga.

Licensing arrangements, regulations and policy frameworks for these activities are inconsistent at present and non-existent in some cases. Council needs to gain a holistic view on how these clubs and commercial providers use council's open spaces and work toward a clear and equitable management framework.

Strategic direction:

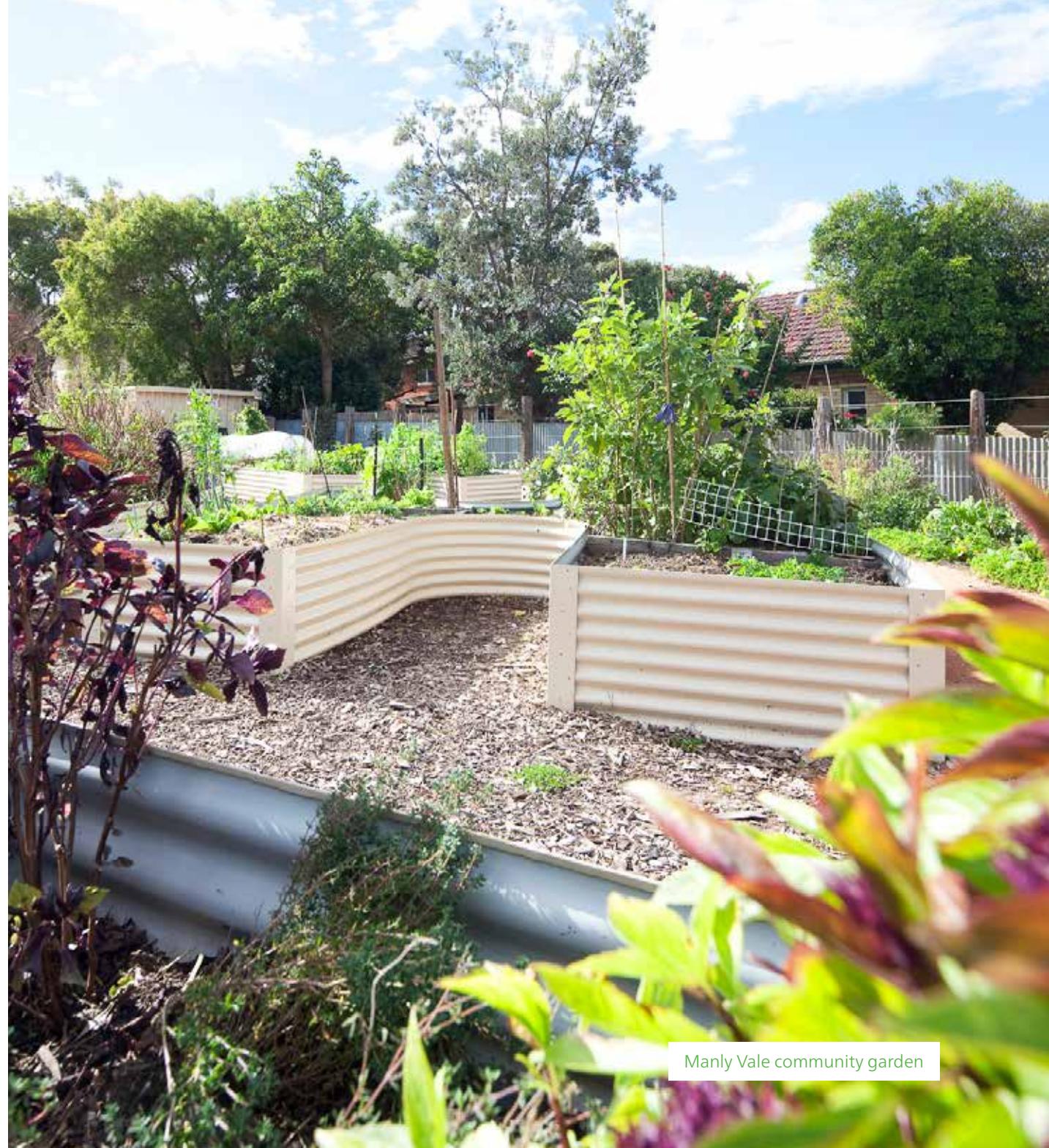
- Council will review the use of Council reserves (excluding sportsfields) by clubs and commercial providers and design and implement an equitable management framework.

Community gardens

There are currently two community gardens in Warringah, at Manly Vale and Queenscliff. Consultation revealed requests for additional community gardens. The Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines outline the parameters for establishing a community garden in Warringah. In summary, council supports the establishment of community gardens on council owned or managed land.

Strategic direction:

- Council supports the development of community gardens on Council land in line with the Community Gardens Policy.



Manly Vale community garden

Supporting facilities

In the Open Space Survey respondents were asked what features would encourage them to visit Warringah's open spaces more often. Supporting facilities rated highly, with shade/sheltered locations rating highest, followed by toilets, water, seating, bins and picnic areas with tables and BBQs (see Table 19 in the Appendix).

The provision of supporting facilities can be essential to the enjoyment and satisfaction of some park users. For example, having toilets allows visitors to stay longer, and water and seating can allow older people or those with health conditions to enjoy a stroll along a trail and take breaks along the way.

However, new toilet blocks are costly to build. Adaptive reuse of existing buildings can reduce the cost in some cases, for example by considering adapting the maintenance building at Jacka Park, Freshwater, into a multi-purpose toilet and baby change facility.

In the harsh Australian summer sun it is important to provide shade in certain locations. Shade could be

created through tree planting or shade structures. While it is not economically feasible to have shade structures over every playground and picnic area, they are provided in some areas. Planting trees are the preferred option for providing shade, although there is a delayed gratification as it can take many years for a tree to grow big enough to make a difference to the provision of shade.

Council considers the need and suitability of supporting facilities during open space planning and following specific requests from the community, for example requests for bins in parks. However, a need has been identified to review the availability of toilets in Warringah's open spaces.

Strategic direction:

- Council will review the provision, distribution and access to toilets at Warringah's open spaces and in other areas that may be accessible to open space users.

Data capture

Council employs different methods of capturing data to use when monitoring, planning and managing open spaces. Counters have been used at the Narrabeen Lagoon trail and Manly Dam and these are beneficial to understanding park usage and change over time.

Intercept surveys can provide more detail about a person's visit. In 2013 council participated in the Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey which was an intercept survey conducted at 20 locations. The Annual Community Satisfaction Survey also helps to gauge council's performance in open space management.

There would be benefit to council collecting additional usage data, for example at playgrounds.

Strategic direction:

- Council will collect data on usage of open spaces to assist in the planning, monitoring and management of recreation assets.

Barriers

There are a number of barriers to providing new or improved open spaces and recreation assets.

Determining demand is the first step to providing a recreation facility, but finding an appropriate location can be a challenge. Residents often do not want to see any increased use of areas close to their houses. Concerns vary from noise, litter, parking and traffic congestion to the likelihood of attracting antisocial behaviour. However, the benefit of living adjacent open spaces comes hand in hand with that area being available to the general public. These impacts have to be managed and minimised where possible.

Cost is another prohibiting factor to developing recreation facilities. While grants can sometimes be available, the allocation of funds is competitive and it can be challenging to prioritise the order in which projects get placed into Council's four year delivery program. This strategy will assist in determining community needs and priorities.



Stand up paddle boarding on Narrabeen Lagoon

4.2 SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACES

Goal: To have safe and accessible open spaces that support inclusion and foster a sense of belonging.

Safety

The issue of safety can be both real and perceived. In either case, concerns over safety have the potential to be a barrier to the ways that people use spaces and places (Planning Institute of Australia 2009).

In the Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey (2013) 99% of participants felt that parks were safe to visit during the daytime (n=401), although only 24% felt that parks were safe to visit at night.

In the Open Space Survey (2014) some of the respondents stated that they do not go walking or jogging in early mornings or evenings due to concerns for their safety, particularly if female and alone.

Similarly, some people avoid certain areas that are dark (e.g. toilet blocks), have poor sight lines, or where there may be groups of people affected by alcohol.

The Open Space Survey response that received the second highest rating for concern over safety was off-leash dogs with 11 responses. Dogs are addressed separately in Section 4.3.1.

By minimising opportunities for crime, the real and perceived risks to safety can be reduced. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) involves strategies to reduce the likelihood of crime by focusing on the planning, design and structure of cities and neighbourhoods. Similarly, the Safer By Design program ensures that development application proposals are routinely assessed for crime risk, with preventable risk to be reduced prior to approval.

Subsequently there are methods and strategies that council can draw on to minimise risk and safety concerns in our open spaces. For example, while it would not be feasible to provide lighting along all pathways through open spaces, there may be opportunities for providing lighting at some particular locations. For example, the path through James Meehan Reserve and around Dee Why Lagoon is not only a popular recreation trail, but also an important connectivity link. This was raised several times during the survey as a location that could benefit from lighting.

Accessibility

There are a number of factors to ensuring our open spaces are accessible to all members of the public. Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, there are rights and responsibilities about equal access and

Strategic Directions

- Council will use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Safer by Design strategies to minimise risk and safety concerns for open space users.
- Council will provide safer access to Warringah's open spaces, for example, by researching the feasibility of providing lighting at key locations and implementing improvements where warranted.

opportunity for people living with a disability. In terms of access to open spaces, these standards refer to access to toilets, parking, slope, footpath design and curb heights.

Where possible, trails should be built to accessible standards to allow participation and enjoyment by people of varying levels of mobility. Improving linkages and ensuring connectivity within and between open spaces can maximise opportunities for access.

The new Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW), makes further provision for government departments and

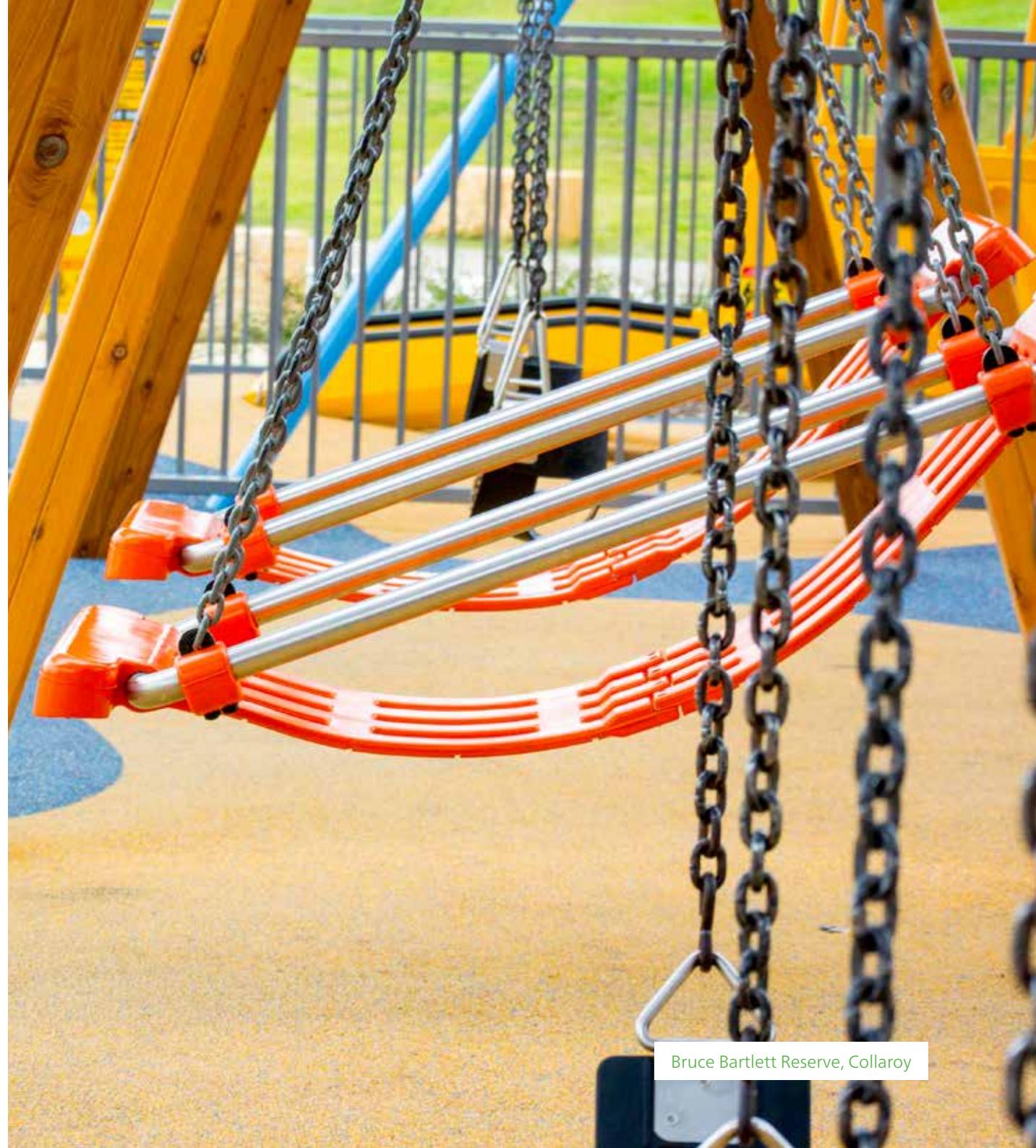
local councils to develop and implement a Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The new Act reflects that people with disabilities should be central to decisions that affect them.

Having clear signage within and on approach to open spaces can also ensure park users can enjoy an easy and intuitive visit.

Parking near open spaces can be a challenge at peak times, such as the beaches in summer. Overflow carparks exist at some locations. As mentioned earlier, the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (2011) suggests that the availability of footpaths and connecting trails to and through recreation areas can encourage people to walk or ride a bike and leave their cars at home.

Strategic direction:

- Council will develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan in line with the requirements of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW).



Bruce Bartlett Reserve, Collaroy



4.3 SPACES FOR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Goal: To be able to spend quality time with our animal friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

4.3.1 Dogs

Dogs play an important role in human companionship. Our general health and well-being are enhanced through the physical, emotional and social benefits of owning a dog. Similarly, dogs depend on their owners to obtain an appropriate level of physical activity. Insufficient play and stimulation can result in a variety of behavioural problems (Lansberg et. al. 2013).

Dogs are welcome in most council reserves when on a leash, including along trails within bushland reserves. However, dogs are not permitted within 10 metres of a playground, on synthetic sportsfields, at rockpools or on beaches in Warringah.

According to the Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998, each Local Government Area is required to provide one off-leash dog area. At present Warringah provides eight locations where dogs can be exercised off the

leash at any time, and a further four locations with time restricted access. Council is therefore providing a level of service beyond legislative requirements. Further information on locations and timed access of Warringah's dog exercise areas can be found on the council website.

Through consultation there were five requests for additional locations for dogs to be permitted off the leash. Suggestions included allowing dogs off the leash in some of the smaller, seemingly underutilised open spaces. The need for small dogs to play without the stress of larger dogs being present was also raised.

Conversely, there were three requests for increased compliance of off-leash dogs, including in off-leash areas where dogs are still required to be under the effective control of their owner. Reasons varied from recounts of having been attacked or threatened by aggressive dogs, to the issue of perception of safety, whereby the mere presence of an off-leash dog can cause anxiety or fear for other park users. Through the Open Space Survey 11 people expressed concern for their safety over dogs being off the leash. This was the second ranked safety concern raised through the survey, following concerns over being in open spaces after dark.

Dog swimming is permissible on the southern bank of Curl Curl lagoon when accessed from Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve, although the water quality is variable. The potential for allowing dogs on beaches within Warringah has been the subject of much research in recent years. A trial of dogs swimming at Manly Dam was abandoned after an unacceptable amount of dog faeces was collected. Extensive investigations into Narrabeen and Curl Curl beaches found that they were not suitable for environmental and social reasons respectively.

Dog owners picking up after their animals continues to be an issue. This is of particular concern where unleashed dogs are allowed on sportsfields which could present a health risk to people using the field. Further, this is a health issue for mowing and maintenance staff.

Additional dog facilities such as water bowls and waste disposal bins and bags were requested during consultation. Council does provide dog waste bags and bins at some off-leash dog areas, however these are filled by volunteers. Dog owners therefore need to take responsibility for their dog's waste by carrying their own bags. Council will continue to provide water bowls where appropriate.

With 21,748 dogs registered in Warringah, council remains committed to providing opportunities for dog owners to enjoy open spaces with their dogs off the leash. There may be opportunities for additional off-leash areas, thereby improving the equity of distribution, while reassessing the suitability of the current locations. Having an increased number of off-leash areas may reduce the level of non-compliance in other areas.

Strategic directions:

- Council will continue to encourage responsible dog ownership in Warringah through education and enforce it in line with the Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998.
- Council will reassess the distribution and diversity of off-leash dog areas, taking into consideration the appropriateness of allowing off-leash dogs on sportsfields and the opportunity for dogs to be allowed off the leash at some of the smaller, underutilised parks in Warringah.



Anembo Reserve, Duffys Forest

4.3.2 HORSES

The Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest area has a large horse riding community, with a network of trails accessible to horses across both council managed land and national park.

Council provides horse arenas at J.J. Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, Anembo and Kinka Reserves. Council also provides the Bridle Trail which is important for providing connectivity across the area. Improvements have been made to many of the trails and arenas in the area, and they will continue to be made as funding becomes available.

The connectivity of trails across different land tenures is an area that warrants further research. Signage to clarify permissibility of access in terms of shared or sole use as well as trail etiquette and safety are needed across the trail network and adjacent roads. These issues, and others, have been captured in Warringah's Horse Paper (2009). Similarly, the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy identifies the need for clear signage.

Strategic Direction:

- Council will continue to implement the priorities for signage, trails works and improved connectivity in line with the Horse Research Paper (2009), the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy (2007), and relevant plans of management.
- Council will liaise with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and neighbouring councils to coordinate consistent signage and to identify opportunities for improving trail access and connectivity for horse riding across shared borders.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SPACES

Goal: To have open spaces that complement and enhance the natural environment.



Sympathetic design

Open spaces form part of a broader environmental context, to which humans are intrinsically connected, from bushland settings, coastal areas, historically significant areas to highly developed parks and public areas. There is a need to ensure that open spaces are designed and maintained in a manner that is sympathetic to its surrounds, in particular the natural environment.

In a bushland reserve for example, a play structure could have a nature based theme and include more natural landscaping elements, rather than brightly coloured playground equipment. The aim would be for children to explore and learn from interacting with the environment, rather than playing on equipment in isolation from the context in which it is located.

Play equipment and other landscaping, facilities and infrastructure therefore have the ability to enhance and highlight the key features of its setting.

The planting of trees and shrubs in open spaces can enhance Warringah's environment, whilst also providing shade and aesthetics.

Environmental impacts of recreation

The Recreation Strategy (2009) has a principle for adopting a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to recreation planning and development. This is important given that the draft Biodiversity Conservation Study (2011) identifies that uncontrolled recreation access in natural areas is widespread and primarily affects areas with high to very high conservation significance. The threats have been related to impacts in the vicinity of formal and informal trails from activities such as cycling, horse riding, four wheel driving, trail biking and walking. Impacts can

include habitat fragmentation, habitat loss, weed invasions, erosion, sedimentation of natural waterways, disturbance to natural fauna behaviour, fauna predation by cats and dogs, and edge effects extending into bushland from trail boundaries.

As identified in Warringah's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2012), there is a need to consider and balance environmental values with recreation demands. However, where land is not managed by council the effects can be complex to control.

As population levels rise, housing density increases and people continue to seek recreation opportunities in bushland areas, the impacts will need to be carefully managed, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas. Volunteers can play a role in working with council to manage these impacts. Community partnerships are explored further in Section 4.1.4

Environmental education

Environmental education can occur either face to face through council run and supported programs and events or through interpretive signage.

There are many council run events that take place in our open spaces. These are guided by a Sustainable Events Policy (PL-530-Events), as are all events held in Warringah. Environmental messages are often promoted by council and others through stalls and activities at events.

There are further opportunities for interpretive signage to be integrated into our open spaces. The interpretation could be aimed at varying demographics, depending on the target audience. For instance, simple, fun and potentially interactive environmental education messages for children and more detailed environmental themes for adults.

At some of our parks the existing interpretive signage is ageing and requires removal. Graffiti and vandalism can further shorten the life of signage. In these cases the suitability of the location will need to be re-assessed, together with the benefit gained from the sign content and message.

Climate change

A number of climate change impacts have the potential to impact open spaces and recreation assets. Specifically, sea level rise, an increase in storm frequency and intensity and associated storm surges are likely to place increased pressure on coastal recreation assets and infrastructure, such as beaches, rockpools, foreshore areas, dunes, lagoons and coastal trails. An increase in storm frequency and intensity as well as increased periods of draught will also further complicate the management of turf at council reserves, particularly sportsfields. These factors will need to be considered in terms of the design and maintenance of recreation assets into the future.

Strategic directions:

- Open spaces will be designed and maintained in a manner that is sympathetic to its context, in particular with reference to natural settings.
- Council will consider opportunities for integrating environmental messages into new or improved interpretative signage in our open spaces and via online material.
- Protect the natural and cultural values of Council managed lands while ensuring that visitor access and use is sustainable (Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012, p.41).
- Council will plant trees and shrubs in open spaces for shade, aesthetics and environmental purposes.

A photograph of three teenagers walking through a dense forest. In the foreground, a girl with blonde hair, wearing a blue zip-up hoodie and white pants, walks towards the camera. Behind her, a boy with dark hair, wearing a dark t-shirt, looks down at something in his hands. Further back, another boy with short brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt with a logo, walks towards the camera with a smile. The forest is filled with tall trees and dense undergrowth, creating a natural and somewhat overgrown setting.

Allenby Park



Brookvale Show

4.5 ARTISTIC, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SPACES

Goal: To integrate art, culture and heritage into our open spaces through creative and innovative ways.

Embracing art, culture and heritage

According to the Creative Warringah Strategy (2014), 'Our community is enhanced by its cultural life, connections and wellbeing – catering for all generations and needs.' The Creative Warringah Strategy seeks to integrate public art, creative expressions and cultural experiences into projects within the public domain to create high quality, innovative, distinctive and welcoming places.

Open spaces can provide opportunities to embrace and celebrate our culture and heritage. This can range from the acknowledgment of Warringah's Aboriginal past to a celebration of the area's strong beach culture.

Recognition can occur through permanent installations in the form of public art, plaques, monuments, murals or interpretive signage, or could be through conducting, supporting or enabling activities and events. Art can be integrated into areas such as skateparks and playgrounds and sculptures can double as climbing frames.

Permanent installations continue to have a place within Warringah's open spaces, with the latest

being the Knitting Girl and Care Package sculpture which was unveiled at Collaroy beachfront in April 2015. Others include Kiah the whale and Dance of the Tides sculptures at Long Reef Headland, the Duke Kahanamoku Statue and Memorial Garden at Freshwater and the many war memorials across Warringah.

Art in Odd Places, held in 2013, was an exciting and innovative project that surprised and thrilled the unsuspecting audience, by presenting a combination of visual and performance art.

Opportunities for temporary art, such as graffiti walls, are also supported at appropriate locations.

Events

Council runs a number of regular events in our open spaces, such as Australia Day, Christmas by the Beach and the Brookvale Show. Regular community run events include Eurofest, Guringai Festival, the Berry Reserve Markets and many more.

The success of events such as the La Lune – Energy Producing Art exhibition held at Long Reef in May 2014 and the Bush Sculptures exhibition at Stony Range shows that the community is supportive of integrating art and creativity into our open spaces.

Further events such as those mentioned above will continue to be supported as appropriate opportunities arise. Council may be able to improve facilities that enable activities, events and private bookings to take place, for example, by providing improved access to power at council reserves and pre-arranging necessary approvals and guidelines.

Warringah does not have any permanent performance areas such as stages or amphitheatres, but these could be considered in the future should there be demand. Busking can be an effective way to activate public areas.

Aboriginal heritage and culture

Warringah's open spaces, bushland and foreshore areas are rich in evidence of Aboriginal heritage, with the whole of Warringah being an historic Aboriginal landscape.

Although the exact location of sites is confidential, there is an opportunity to acknowledge our Aboriginal past, present and future within our open spaces. For instance, Warringah's Reconciliation Action Plan (2008) calls for 'opportunities for Indigenous art and artists to be featured in prominent locations such as parks, town centres and roads in accordance with council's Public Art Policy.' It further calls for the acknowledgement of Aboriginal heritage through signs in public locations,

sites of significance and in publications and publicity. The naming of parks, streets, buildings and other landmarks is also raised.

Warringah does not have any significant pieces of public art or other acknowledgments of our Aboriginal connections. The Gulgadja Muru Aboriginal self-guided walk at Manly Dam does provide an insight into Warringah's Aboriginal past, however, there are further opportunities for traditional or modern artworks, sculptures, themed landscaping, interpretation and educational play spaces that have the potential to educate park users of the area's Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Strategic directions:

- Council will continue to support and improve facilities for activities and events to take place within Warringah's open spaces.
- Council will continue to acknowledge Warringah's history, culture and heritage through public art installations.
- Council will integrate Aboriginal themes into Warringah's open spaces. This may include public art, landscaping, interpretation and educational play spaces.

5 Playgrounds

Goal: To provide a sustainable and equitable distribution of quality play experiences.

5.1 SUMMARY

Warringah is well-serviced with 135 public access playgrounds, with most households having access within a reasonable walking distance. The variety of high quality playgrounds ranges from those that are small and local to larger district and regional playgrounds catering to various age groups and with associated facilities such as BBQs and picnic tables. The definitions for playgrounds can be found in Table 9. The category of 'Local' is new and acknowledges playgrounds servicing a highly localised catchment.

An average of eight playgrounds are upgraded each year and many others receive maintenance as required. Some recent upgrades include the all-abilities playground at Collaroy, Beverly Job, F.J. Machon, Cootamundra, Peppercorn, Starkey and Belmore.

Table 9
Warringah playground category definitions, life cycle and cost.

| Playground category | Definition | Approx. cost of asset | Approx. life cycle |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Regional | Has a catchment that extends beyond Warringah's boundaries. Services the local community, Warringah's residents and visitors from outside Warringah. | \$600K | 15 years |
| District | Services a wider catchment for residents within the suburb and visitors from neighbouring suburbs. | \$170K | 20 years |
| Neighbourhood | Caters for a localised catchment within 10 minutes walking time from residences. | \$40K | 25 years |
| Local | Services a highly localised catchment for residences within 10 minutes walking distance and may include limited equipment such as a swing. | \$10K | 25 years |



Cootamundra Reserve Playground, before



Cootamundra Reserve Playground, after

Over the next five years a further 41 playgrounds will be upgraded, including those at the following reserves: Quarry, Frank Beckman, Wandella, Rabbett, Fairway, Duncan, Brookvale Park, Passmore, Wentworth and many more. See Table 10 for a full list of playgrounds to be upgraded over the next 5 years.

However, given that many of Warringah's playgrounds were installed in the 1960s and 70s, a large number are ageing, in poor condition and reaching the end of their useful life. In recent years the annual playground renewal budget has been doubled to approximately \$500,000 in an attempt to upgrade and maintain such a large number of playgrounds.

While there is no intention to reduce the playground budget, part of the asset management process involves identifying which playground upgrades should be prioritised.

As part of the Open Space Strategy, in order to move toward a sustainable portfolio of good quality playgrounds that are equitably distributed across Warringah, a review was undertaken that looks

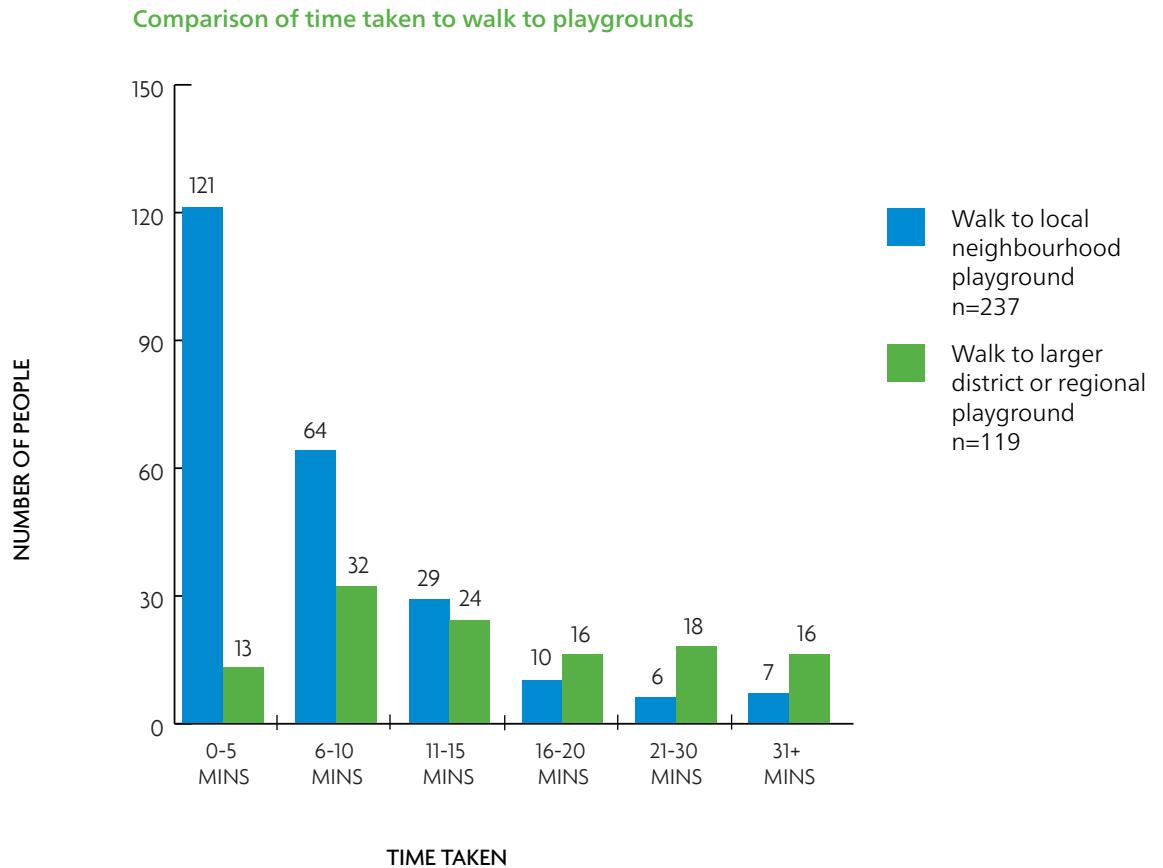


Figure 5
Time taken to walk to playgrounds (open space survey 2014)

holistically at the priorities for the future. For example, it is noted that the coastal areas are predominantly serviced by a smaller number of District playgrounds, compared to other areas that may have a much larger number of Local or Neighbourhood playgrounds. Furthermore, while the Open Space Survey found that more people are likely to walk to a small playground close by, they are willing to walk considerably further for a bigger and better playground experience (see Figure 5).

It is also important to consider what other recreation activities may be available. So while residents on the coast have other coastal activities available to them at the beaches and lagoons, residents who live away from the coastal strip have access to expanses of natural open space, such as, national park and Manly Dam. This was taken into consideration when considering playground distribution.

Furthermore, Warringah would like to breakdown the boundaries around the definition of a playground. A broader definition of ‘play space’ would encompass many other types of play that could apply across all age groups. This is further explored in Section 4.1.4.

A full list of playgrounds can be found in Table 16 at Appendix A.

5.2 CONSIDERATIONS

As part of this strategy each of Warringah’s playgrounds has been reviewed on a case by case basis. The following factors have been taken into consideration:

- Many playgrounds are ageing and require significant investment to maintain or renew.
- Number of residents benefiting from each playground, for example, playgrounds located on thoroughfares would get higher use than those located in a cul-de-sac with no passing foot traffic.
- Proximity to other playgrounds.
- Number of children per playground in each suburb.
- The asset condition rating (0-5). See further details in Section 5.2.1 below.
- Equity of distribution across suburbs.
- Playground categories to better reflect definitions, actual use, and to acknowledge the areas likely to experience growth. Changes to categories are noted in Table 16 in Appendix A.
- Future playground renewals are to consider a diversity of play experiences and be in keeping with the surrounds, e.g. nature based play.
- The Playground Strategy (2007) was reviewed.

5.2.1 Playground condition rating

Each year all playgrounds are assessed by an independent auditor to determine their condition rating. Ratings are 0-5 as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | No equipment |
| 1 | Near perfect condition |
| 2 | No work required |
| 3 | Minor repairs/Improvement required |
| 4 | Major repairs/Improvement required |
| 5 | Unserviceable – Recommended to be removed |

These ratings assist council to prioritise necessary repairs or improvements. Following the 2014 audit, 35 of Warringah’s 135 public playgrounds were rated 4. This is a significant improvement from the 61 playgrounds that were rated 4 in 2013. Council aims to reduce the number of rated 4 playgrounds to zero within two years.

5.3 CHANGES TO PLAYGROUND PROVISION

5.3.1 New playgrounds

Four new playgrounds are proposed and have been carried over from the Playground Strategy (2007). These are listed in Table 11. Each of the locations has been found to have a gap in playground provision.

While maintaining and upgrading existing playgrounds is the priority overall, the location of each of these four new playgrounds have the ability to provide greater community benefit than some of the existing ageing playgrounds, for which there are alternatives close by.

5.3.2 Playground removals

The process for prioritising which playgrounds should be upgraded has also involved identifying a number of playgrounds from which the ageing equipment should be removed. In each case there are alternative play experiences close by. Note that the removal of playground equipment does not mean the loss of the space. The parks will remain available to the community as green space which could be used for relaxation, games or informal activities.

The equipment at the five playgrounds listed in Table 13 is in poor condition and is to be removed within 12 months from the adoption of this strategy.

The equipment at a further 11 playgrounds (see Table 13) will be maintained for as long as possible until they reach the end of their useful life, then they will not be replaced. The playground equipment to be retired in the future may remain in place for many years to come. As mentioned previously, alternative playgrounds and recreation opportunities are nearby and the likelihood of increased usage will be factored into future upgrades. This list of playgrounds to be retired includes the future loss of the Belrose Library playground due to the sale of the land.

5.3.3 Playground relocations

Two playgrounds are to be relocated due to circumstances outside of council's control. The first is the Orara Reserve playground at Allambie Heights which is currently on land owned by the Department of Education and Communities. A bigger and better new playground is to be situated at a park 130 metres to the south, between Llyl and Orara Rds.

The second is the District playground at Brick Pit Reserve at Frenchs Forest which is to be impacted by the Roads and Maritime Services road widening project. As a replacement, a new District level playground is to be installed at nearby Akora Reserve which is currently in poor condition. The new playground will cater for increased use and varying ages.

5.3.4 Number of children per playground

In order to further qualify the changes to playground provision, Table 14 illustrates that the suburbs to be most affected by playground removals have a small ratio of playgrounds to children when compared to some other suburbs. For example, Dee Why has the highest ratio of children to playgrounds (1:335), with the focus being on primarily providing a small number of District playgrounds in a densely populated area that is likely to experience further growth. On the other hand, suburbs such as Belrose/Davidson (1:132) and Frenchs Forest/Killarney Heights (1:145) have a much smaller ratio of playgrounds to children. The type, quality and location of playground therefore play an important role in satisfying demand and not necessarily the quantity.

The data in Table 14 is referred to further in the suburb breakdowns in Section 6.

Table 10
Playgrounds to be upgraded over the next five years.

Note that this list does not include those playgrounds on the retire list which may receive minor improvements.

| | Suburb | Reserve | Estimated yr |
|----|------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Allambie Heights | Wandella | 2015/16 |
| 2 | Beacon Hill | Kalianna | 2015/16 |
| 3 | Beacon Hill | Wedgewood | 2019/20 |
| 4 | Belrose | Kapunda | 2017/18 |
| 5 | Belrose | Karina | 2017/18 |
| 6 | Belrose | Opala | 2018/19 |
| 7 | Belrose | Wingara | 2016/17 |
| 8 | Brookvale | Brookvale Park | 2016/17 |
| 9 | Cromer | Michele | 2016/17 |
| 10 | Cromer | Lillihina | 2017/18 |
| 11 | Davidson | Allworth | 2019/20 |
| 12 | Dee Why | James Meehan | 2017/18 |
| 13 | Dee Why | Walter Gors | 2016/17 |
| 14 | Forestville | Gwarra | 2018/19 |
| 15 | Forestville | Ryrie | 2016/17 |
| 16 | Forestville | Epacris | 2019/20 |
| 17 | Forestville | Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields | 2019/20 |
| 18 | Frenchs Forest | Rabbett | 2019/20 |
| 19 | Frenchs Forest | Patanga | 2019/20 |
| 20 | Frenchs Forest | Wentworth | 2018/19 |
| 21 | Frenchs Forest | Akora | 2019/20 |

| | Suburb | Reserve | Estimated yr |
|----|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 22 | Frenchs Forest | Nandi | 2016/17 |
| 23 | Frenchs Forest | Jimada | 2017/18 |
| 24 | Frenchs Forest | Nianbilla | 2016/17 |
| 25 | Frenchs Forest | Brentwood | 2019/20 |
| 26 | Freshwater | Freshwater Beach Reserve North | 2016/17 |
| 27 | Freshwater | Freshwater Beach Reserve South | 2019/20 |
| 28 | Killarney Heights | Waterford | 2016/17 |
| 29 | Killarney Heights | Adare | 2019/20 |
| 30 | Manly Vale | Passmore | 2016/17 |
| 31 | Manly Vale | Fairway | 2016/17 |
| 32 | Manly Vale | King St | 2018/19 |
| 33 | Narrabeen | Berry Reserve | 2016/17 |
| 34 | Narrabeen | Narrabeen Beach S.L.S.C Reserve | 2016/17 |
| 35 | North Manly | Ankali | 2018/19 |
| 36 | North Manly | Quarry | 2015/16 |
| 37 | Terry Hills | Frank Beckman | 2015/16 |
| 38 | Terry Hills | Terrigal | 2016/17 |
| 39 | Terry Hills | Burraga | 2019/20 |
| 40 | Terry Hills | Duncan | 2016/17 |
| 41 | Wheeler Heights | Grasmere | 2015/16 |

Table 11
New playgrounds.

| | Suburb | Reserve | Category | Justification | Estimated yr |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Allambie Heights | Allambie Heights Oval | District | This area does not have a district playground. Council continues to receive requests for a playground here. This is a good location near the shops. | 2017/18 |
| 2 | Allambie Heights | Llyl Rd to Orara Rd | Neighbourhood | This playground is to replace the one presently located on Department of Education and Communities land at Orara Reserve, 130m to the north. | 2017/18 |
| 3 | Collaroy Plateau | Parkes Rd | Neighbourhood | There are no playgrounds available to families in this vicinity. Management of this land was transferred to council from the Department of Lands following a recommendation in the Playground Strategy (2007). The playground is to be on the southern side of the pathway, fronting Plateau Road. | 2017/18 |
| 4 | Nth Balgowlah | Condover | Local | Residents in this area are isolated from accessing other playgrounds due to steep topography and no footpaths. A swing is recommended to cater for families who live within easy walking distance. | 2017/18 |

Table 12
Ageing playground equipment to be removed from the following reserves, with parks remaining as green space for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.

| | Suburb | Reserve | Condition rating | Justification |
|---|------------------|-----------|------------------|---|
| 1 | Allambie Heights | Gilai | 4 | Equipment has non-conforming parts, worn items and no softfall. There are three playgrounds within a small area. Wandella Reserve 270m away is to be upgraded in 2015-16 to service the residents in this area. |
| 2 | Belrose | Birrong | 4 | Equipment has non-conforming components, no softfall and general poor condition. Alternate playground 300m away at Wingara Reserve which is to be upgraded to cater for increased usage. |
| 3 | Duffys Forest | Anembo | 4 | Equipment has non-conforming parts, worn items, corrosion and no softfall. Nature based landscaping to be installed to encourage play, in keeping with the natural setting. |
| 4 | Frenchs Forest | Kalgal | 4 | Equipment has non-conforming components and no softfall. The age and condition of equipment would make repairs and modifications unfeasible. Alternate playgrounds are available 300m away at Nianbilla Reserve and 700m away at Lionel Watts Reserve. |
| 5 | Frenchs Forest | Jindabyne | 4 | Equipment has non-conforming components, worn items and no softfall. The playground 480m away at Peppercorn Park was upgraded in 2014 and Rabbett Reserve 400m away is to be upgraded in 2016-17. Nice park to be maintained for passive recreation value. Seats to be installed. |

Table 13

Playground equipment to be maintained for as long as possible at the following reserves then retired at the end of their useful life.

Parks are to remain as green space for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.

| | Suburb | Reserve | Condition rating | Justification |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | Allambie Heights | Maroa | 2 | This playground is in fair condition and will remain in place for many more years. However, there are three playgrounds within small area and the Wandella Reserve playground 270m away is to be upgraded in 2015-16. The existing equipment at Maroa Reserve is to be maintained for as long as possible. Install seats or picnic table to encourage visitation. |
| 2 | Belrose | Belrose Library | 3 | This land has been sold. The playground will remain accessible in the short term while the library is still operating. Alternate playgrounds are at Wingara Reserve 200m away and Lionel Watts 500m away. An upgrade to the Wingara Reserve playground has been brought forward to 2016/17 to accommodate increased usage. |
| 3 | Belrose | Maple | 2 | Softfall installed in 2012 which improved the condition and extended the life of equipment. At the end of a small cul-de-sac, the playground services a small number of residences. New playground 440m away at Undula Reserve. Although this play equipment will remain in place for many more years, when it reaches the end of its useful life it will not be replaced. |
| 4 | Belrose | Windrush | 2 | Playground in good working order at present and is likely to remain for many more years. Orana Reserve playground 270m away. |
| 5 | Forestville | Casuarina | 4 | Equipment has non-conforming parts, no softfall and is in generally poor condition. Improvements will be made to improve the condition of this playground to prolong its life. Alternate playground 300m away at Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields. |
| 6 | Forestville | Brown | 2 | Bark mulch was installed as softfall in 2012 which has extended the life of this playground. Alternate playground 400m away at Lindsay Reserve which has the potential to be further improved, for example through the integration of youth facilities. |
| 7 | Forestville | Wellman | 2 | Bark mulch softfall was installed in 2012 and the equipment will remain in place for many more years. Non-conforming parts on slide. Alternate playground available 500m away at Lindsay Reserve. |
| 8 | Frenchs Forest | Aranda | 4 | Non-conforming components, no softfall. Nearby Yindela Reserve, opposite Craig Place, may provide a more suitable location for a playground. Yindela is a larger reserve and is in a more central location which would service a greater number of residences when compared to Aranda. Further consultation should take place with residents in the vicinity of Criag Place near Yindela Reserve to determine their support. |
| 9 | Frenchs Forest | Merrilee | 4 | Non-conforming components, worn items, no softfall and generally poor condition. Lionel Watts 750m away. Springvale 500m away. |
| 10 | Killarney Heights | Donegal | 4 | Non-conforming components, no softfall and generally poor condition. Starkey Reserve playground 350m away was recently upgraded. |
| 11 | Killarney Heights | Cashel | 4 | Non-conforming components, no softfall. Alternate playground at Forestville War Memorial Park 430m away. |

Table 14

Number of children per playground. Table sorted according to the far right column.

Based on Census 2011 data.

| Warringah Council area – enumerated – 2011 Census | | | | Current provision | | Open Space Strategy | |
|--|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Suburb (Census) | Population | Number 0-11 yrs | % 0-11 yrs | Playgrounds | Number of children per playground | Playgrounds | Number of children per playground |
| Terrey Hills/ Duffys Forest/ Cottage Point | 3,487 | 540 | 15 | 7 | 77 | 6 | 108 |
| Belrose/ Davidson | 11,025 | 1,841 | 17 | 19 | 97 | 14 | 132 |
| Forestville/ Killarney Heights | 12,066 | 2,319 | 19 | 20 | 116 | 15 | 155 |
| Frenchs Forest | 12,556 | 2,425 | 19 | 20 | 121 | 15 | 162 |
| Brookvale | 2,572 | 343 | 13 | 2 | 172 | 2 | 172 |
| Beacon Hill | 6,999 | 1,223 | 17 | 8 | 153 | 7 | 175 |
| Allambie Heights/ North Balgowlah | 9,966 | 1,965 | 20 | 11 | 179 | 11 | 179 |
| Cromer | 7,284 | 1,268 | 17 | 7 | 181 | 7 | 181 |
| Manly Vale/ North Manly | 8,493 | 1,458 | 17 | 8 | 182 | 8 | 182 |
| Narrabeen | 5,989 | 980 | 16 | 4 | 245 | 4 | 245 |
| Freshwater/ Queenscliff | 11,343 | 1,693 | 15 | 6 | 242 | 6 | 242 |
| Collaroy/ Collaroy Plateau/ Wheeler Heights/ Narrabeen | 21,567 | 3,210 | 15 | 10 | 321 | 11 | 292 |
| Curl Curl/ North Curl Curl | 5,868 | 1,227 | 21 | 5 | 307 | 5 | 307 |
| Dee Why | 19,415 | 2,677 | 14 | 8 | 335 | 8 | 335 |
| Oxford Falls | 180 | 30 | 17 | 0 | NA | 0 | NA |
| Total | 138,810 | 23,199 | 17 | 135 | | 119 | |
| Average | | | | | 172 | | 194 |

5.4 The future of playgrounds

The following strategic directions will guide the development and renewal of playgrounds in the future:

Strategic directions:

- Playground upgrades will focus on providing an equitable distribution of high quality play experiences that benefit a broad range of people, rather than smaller playgrounds that may only service a small catchment.
- Playground distribution and categories to consider the likelihood of future growth, either in residential density or increased visitation.
- Playground designs are to:
 - * be sympathetic to the surrounding environment.
 - * incorporate creative and innovative designs that inspire the imagination of children.
 - * facilitate an appropriate level of risk and challenge to enable children to test their limitations and learn new skills.
- The co-location of assets can encourage the sharing of space and activity across generations, including families, carers and grandparents.
- Where playgrounds are removed consider alternate uses such as quiet spaces, BBQs, seating or pathways.

6 Area recreation profiles

This section provides an overview of current recreation opportunities within areas. The areas are based on one or more suburbs that may share access to particular recreation assets. Statistics are based on 2011 Census suburb boundaries to ensure consistent analysis throughout the strategy. A series of maps numbered 4-17 support each area's recreation profile.

A summary of the population, hectares and open space of each suburb or group of suburbs can be found in Table 16, including a comparison to the NSW Growth Centres benchmark (2006) of 2.83ha per 1,000 people (detailed further in Section 2.6).

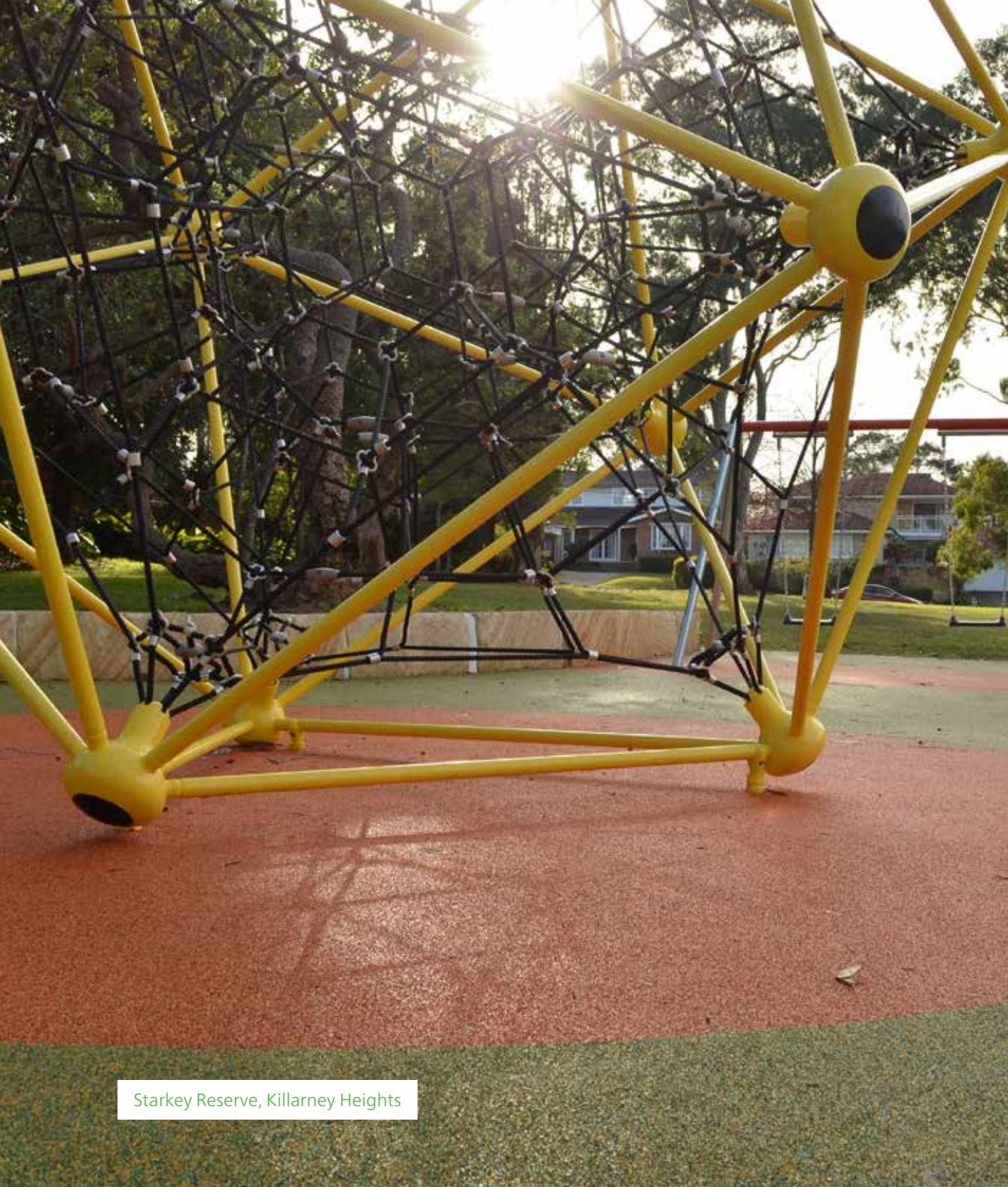
The data in Table 15 is referred to in the following recreation area profiles. The analysis shows that while some suburbs may appear to be under supplied with developed open space, there is generally additional open space nearby in neighbouring suburbs and often right at the boundary. Warringah also has extensive natural open space within two national parks, Crown land and the many council owned or managed bushland reserves. These are all taken into consideration in the area recreation profiles.

The second purpose of this section is to outline some commitments to improvements that can be made to the open space and recreation facilities in each area.

Table 15

Open space availability by suburb/s. Note that Crown Land that is not managed by council is not included in these figures.

| Warringah Council - Enumerated Census 2011 | | | Open space data (hectares) | | | |
|---|------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Suburb/s (Census) | Population | Hectares | Total open space | Natural open space | Developed open space | Deveopled open space benchmark |
| Allambie Heights, North Balgowlah | 9966 | 768 | 406 | 330 | 76 | 28 |
| Beacon Hill, Narrabeen | 12988 | 453 | 53 | 31 | 22 | 37 |
| Belrose, Davidson | 11025 | 1488 | 402 | 367 | 35 | 31 |
| Brookvale | 2572 | 219 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| Collaroy, Collaroy Plateau, Wheeler Heights, Narrabeen | 21567 | 708 | 160 | 72 | 88 | 61 |
| Cromer | 7284 | 636 | 222 | 116 | 106 | 21 |
| Curl Curl, North Curl Curl | 5868 | 246 | 76 | 16 | 60 | 17 |
| Dee Why | 19415 | 307 | 45 | 28 | 17 | 55 |
| Forestville, Killarney Heights | 12066 | 906 | 397 | 369 | 28 | 34 |
| Frenchs Forest | 12556 | 840 | 187 | 168 | 19 | 36 |
| Freshwater, Queenscliff | 11343 | 226 | 23 | 10 | 13 | 32 |
| Manly Vale, North Manly | 8493 | 282 | 70 | 14 | 56 | 24 |
| Terrey Hills, Duffys Forest, Cottage Point | 3487 | 7031 | 1070 | 979 | 91 | 10 |
| Oxford Falls | 180 | 832 | 90 | 88 | 2 | 1 |
| Ku-ring-Gai Chase National Park | | | 3988 | 3985 | 3 | |
| Total | 138,810 | 14,937 | 7199 | 6578 | 621 | 393 |



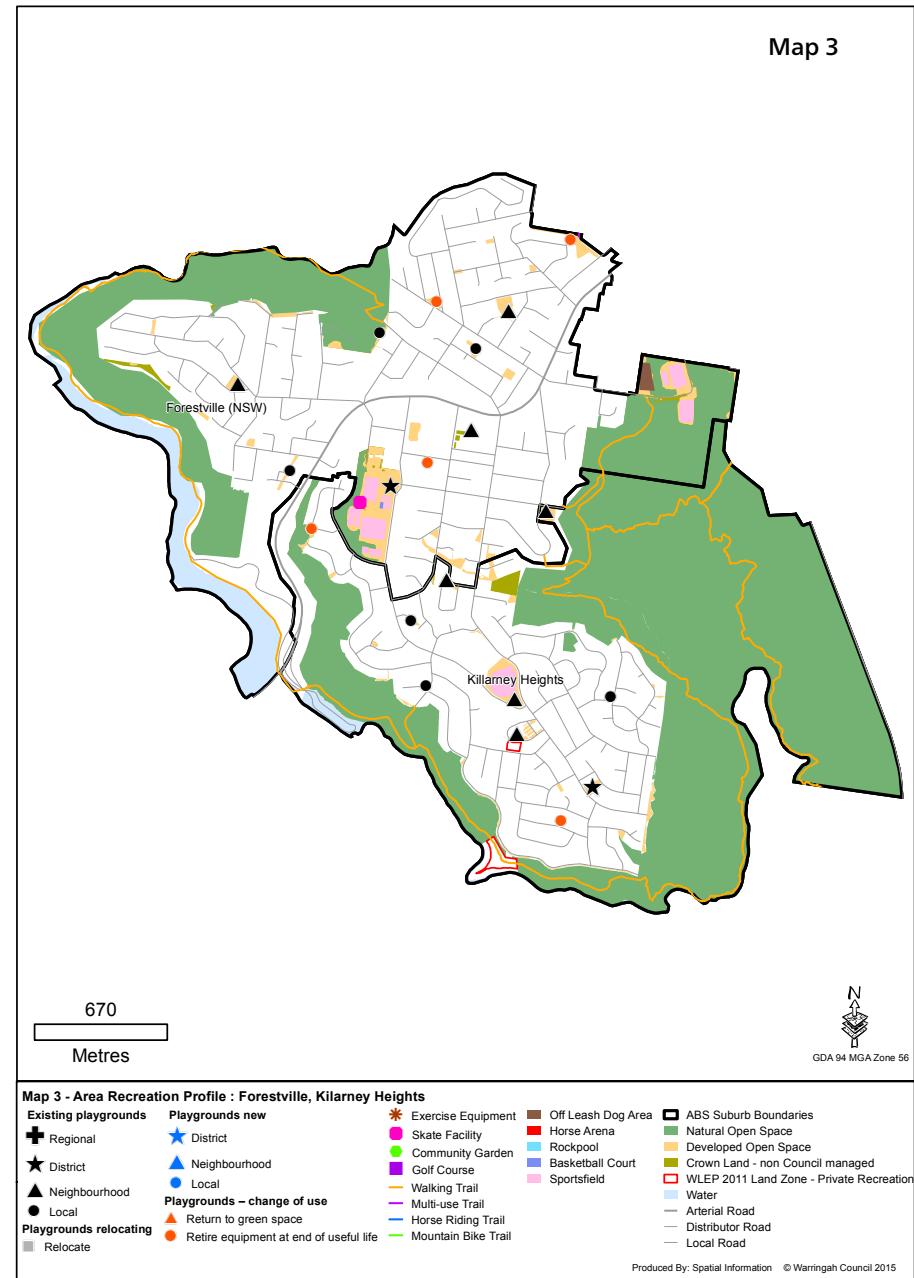
Starkey Reserve, Killarney Heights

6.1 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: FORESTVILLE, KILLARNEY HEIGHTS - See Map 3

- Predominantly low density detached dwellings.
- While the 28ha of developed open space in Forestville and Killarney Heights does not quite meet the benchmark of 34ha, there is extensive natural bushland (369ha) within the adjoining Garigal National Park.
- Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields contains a skatepark, netball and basketball courts, a district playground and new synthetic sportsfields.
- Forestville Park has opportunities for walking and mountain biking and linkages to Garigal National Park. Killarney Heights Oval has cricket nets and a playground.
- Off leash dog walking is available in designated areas of Forestville Park and Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.
- This area is well supplied with 20 playgrounds. With 1 playground per 116 children this ratio is one of the lowest in Warringah (see Table 14 in Section 5.3.4).
- Playgrounds have been upgraded in recent years at Forestville Library and Cook St, Calca and Starkey Reserves.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Continue to implement the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields Masterplan, including the enclosed dog exercise area, pathways, linkages and expand the skatepark.
- Implement the Killarney Heights Oval Masterplan, including new pathways, cricket nets, landscaping, street trees, seating and picnic areas.
- Formalise the mountain bike trail link between Forestville Park and Garigal National Park.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Gwarra, Ryrie, Epacris, Waterford and Adare Reserves and Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.
- Retire the playgrounds at Casuarina, Brown, Wellman, Donegal and Cashel Reserves when they reach the end of their useful lives and retain the parks for recreational use such as ball games and relaxation.
- Consider additional recreation facilities for Lindsay Reserve, for example, basketball hoop.
- Determine if there is demand for the installation of fitness equipment in the area. Potential location could be Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.





F.J Machon Reserve Playground

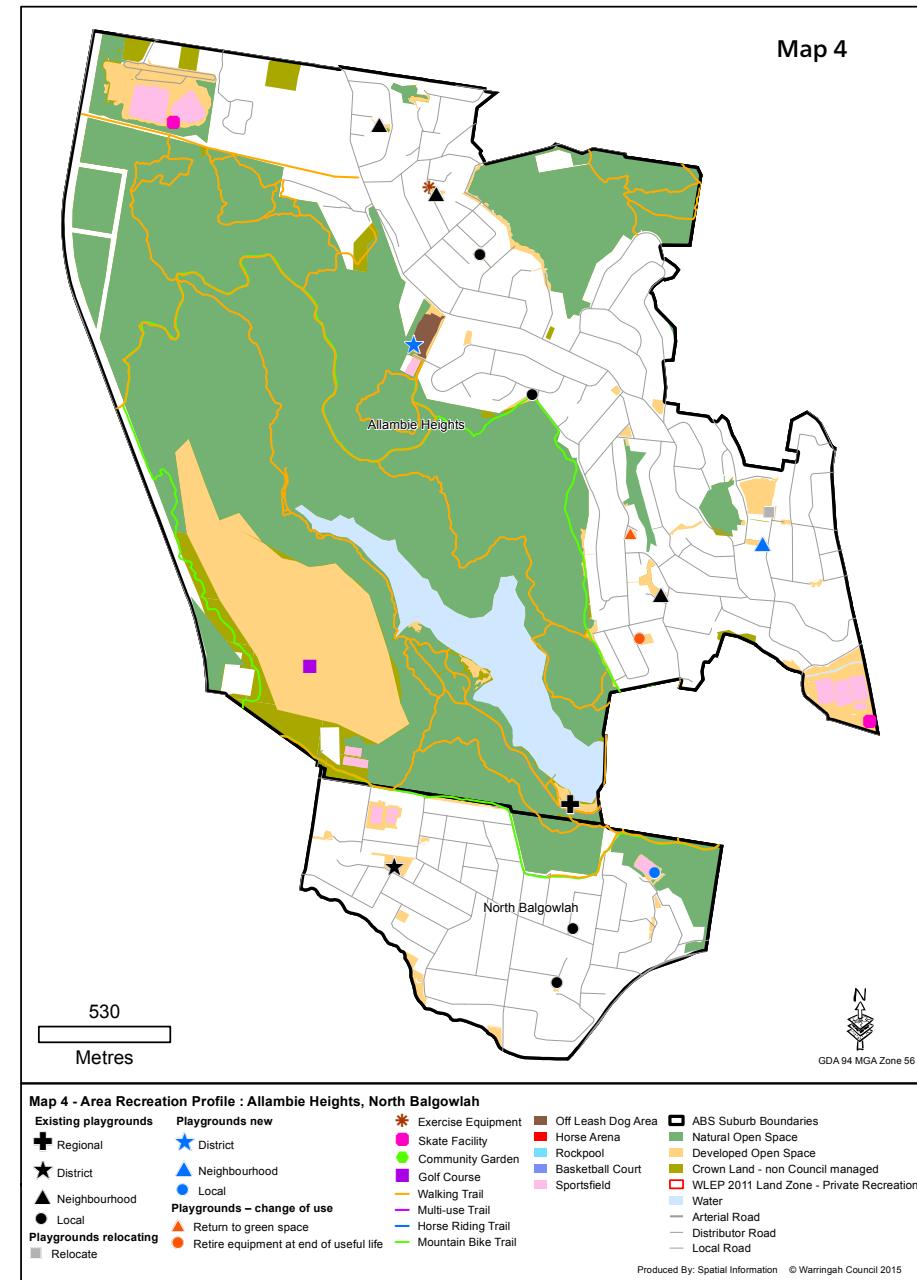
6.2 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS, NORTH BALGOWLAH

– See Map 4

- Low density detached dwellings.
- The Allambie Heights and North Balgowlah areas are well supplied with developed open space, with 76ha compared to the benchmark of 28ha. While some of this falls within the Wakehurst Golf Club, the area includes Miller Reserve, which forms part of the larger District Park.
- There is extensive natural open space in the area (330ha). This falls predominantly within the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam), which provides opportunities for walking, mountain biking, water skiing, water sports, picnics and BBQs, among other activities.
- Allenby Park also contains significant natural open space and provides trails linking Allambie Heights and Beacon Hill to Brookvale.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash at Allambie Heights Oval at particular times of the day.
- The half pipe skate ramp at Aquatic Reserve was upgraded in July 2015. The skatepark at Miller Reserve is very popular.
- There are 11 playgrounds in this area. Playgrounds have been upgraded in recent years at F.J. Machon, Cootamundra, Arnhem and Woodbine Reserves.
- Fitness equipment is located at F.J Machon Reserve.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Manage and upgrade the walking and mountain bike trails according to the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) Plan of Management.
- Develop and implement a Masterplan for the Manly Dam carpark and picnic areas, including the playground.
- Upgrade signage at Manly Dam.
- Provide a new District playground at Allambie Heights Oval.
- Install playground equipment at Condover Reserve eg a swing to cater for local residents within easy walking distance.
- Install a new playground at Lylly and Orara Rds to replace the one at Orara Reserve which is on land owned by the Department of Education and Communities.
- Upgrade the playground at Wandella Reserve.
- Remove the playground equipment at Gilai Reserve. An alternate playground is nearby.
- The playground at Maroa Reserve is in fair condition at present. When it reaches the end of its useful life it will not be replaced due to the Wandella Reserve playground being upgraded nearby.
- Review the Multiple-Use Trails Strategy's proposal to formalise trails between Condover Reserve and Manly Dam.
- Consider additional support infrastructure at the Miller Reserve Skate Park, such as water, shade and picnic tables.
- Make improvements to the carpark at Condover Reserve.





Corbett Playground

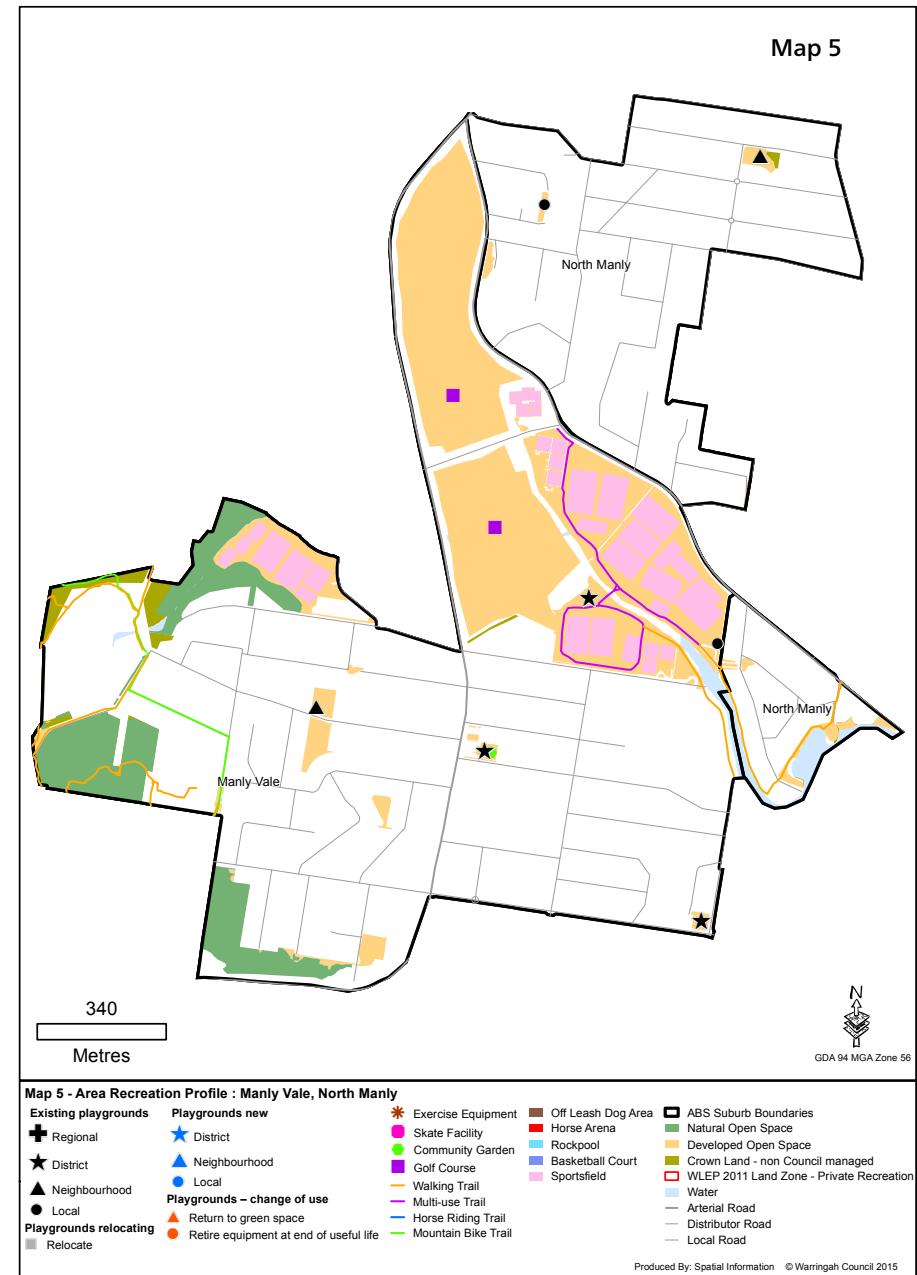
6.3 AREA RECREATION PROFILE:

MANLY VALE, NORTH MANLY - See Map 5

- Predominantly low density detached dwellings, combined with some high density housing in Manly Vale .
- This area contains more than double the recommended developed open space, with 56ha, compared to the benchmark of 24ha. This falls predominantly within District Park, although there are also a number of smaller parks.
- Although these two suburbs only account for 14ha of natural open space, nearby Manly-Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) is within walking distance of many residences and provides a range of land and water based recreation activities.
- District Park provides for golf, organised sport, basketball and playground. Nolan and Passmore Reserves contain a multi-use trail that is wheelchair accessible. The Warringah Recreation Centre provides tennis, futsal and squash.
- Although the Miller Reserve skate park falls within the census suburb of Allambie Heights, it is actually within District Park and is easily accessible to skaters.
- There is a community garden at Manly Vale which contains a playground.
- There are seven playgrounds in the area.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Implement the District Park Plan of Management, including consideration of parkour, fitness equipment, expanding the skatepark, improve pathways and linkages and consider the need for bike parking.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Passmore, Fairway, King St, Ankali and Quarry Reserves.



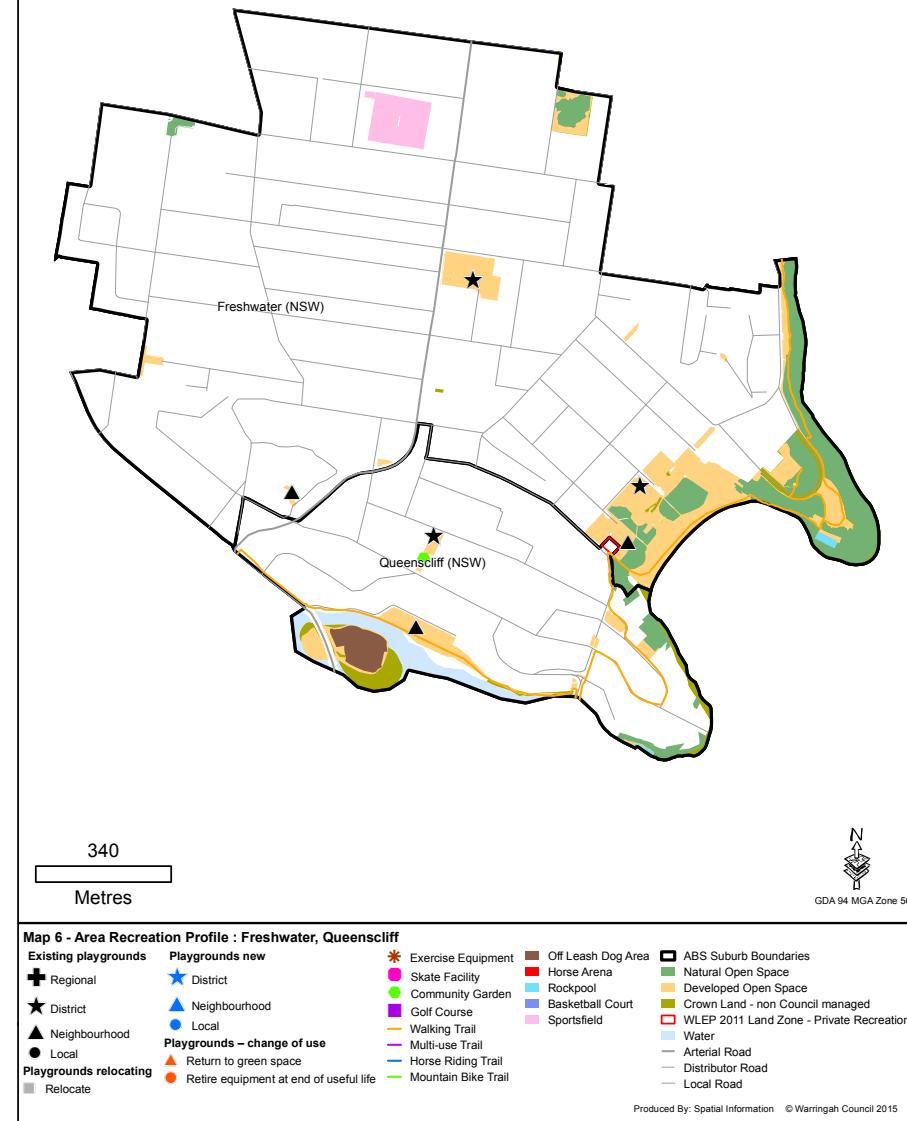


Queenscliff Rockpool

6.4 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: FRESHWATER, QUEENSCLIFF – See Map 6

- Queenscliff consists of high density housing, with Freshwater being a mix of high density and low density detached dwellings.
- While the Freshwater/Queenscliff area appears to have a low supply of developed open space, with 13ha compared to the benchmark of 32ha, District Park and John Fisher Park at the suburb boundaries to the south and north respectively both contain extensive developed open space and associated activities which are readily available to the residents of Queenscliff and Freshwater.
- The foreshore and rocky coastline provide popular recreation opportunities such as swimming, surfing and walking, as well as play equipment, picnic tables and BBQ facilities. Rockpools are located at the northern ends of Freshwater and Queenscliff beaches.
- There is 10ha of natural open space in the area. It is found predominantly along the coastline.
- The Freshie Community Garden is co-located with a playground, which is one of six in the area.
- Opportunities for walking the dog off the lead exist nearby at Hinkler Park, Adam St Reserve and Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve.

Map 6



In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Rejuvenate Freshwater Beach Reserve South, retaining play equipment in the design. Maintain and improve the visual amenity to complement the coastal vista.
- Maintain heritage assets such as Freshwater View Reserve and with Harbord Diggers the Duke Kahanamoku Statue and Memorial Garden.
- Investigate adapting the maintenance building at Jacka Park into an amenities building with a toilet and baby change facilities and provide necessary pathways.
- Install fitness equipment in the area, potential locations include Freshwater Beach Reserve and Jacka Park.
- Upgrade the playground at Freshwater Beach Reserve North and continue to maintain all other existing playgrounds.
- Investigate the feasibility cost of extending the pathway from Freshwater rockpool to Ocean View Road.
- Install a shade structure at Freshwater rockpool, pending feasibility.
- Upgrade the stairs between Freshwater beach and Bridge Road.



Brookvale Park

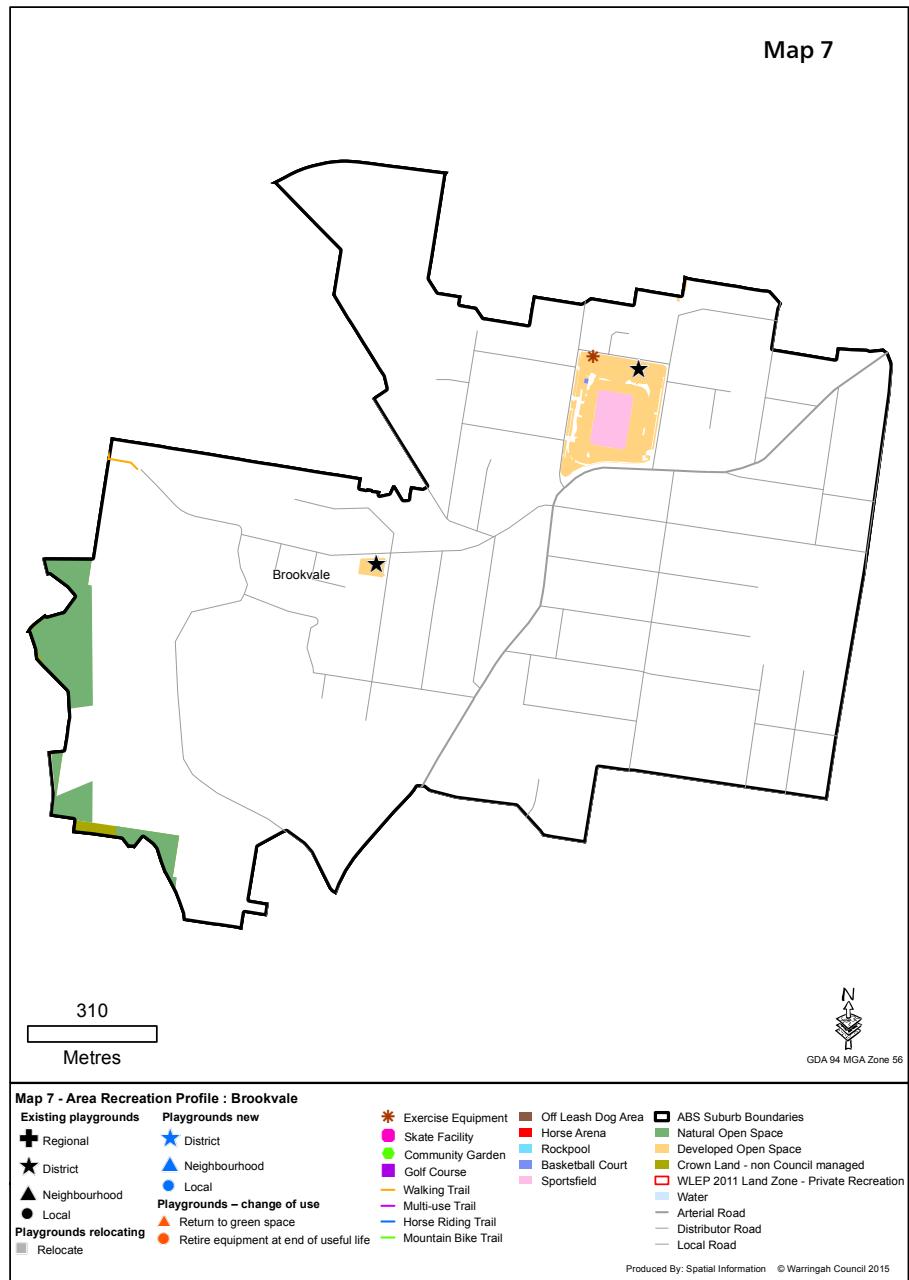
6.5 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: BROOKVALE

– See Map 7

- Brookvale is a mix of low and medium density, with much of the suburb being a retail and industrial area.
- While Brookvale falls slightly short of the benchmark for developed open space, with 5ha, compared to 7ha, nearby John Fisher Park fills this gap.
- The majority of developed open space falls within Brookvale Park, which provides green open space, a District playground, basketball, cricket net and fitness equipment. The sportsfield itself is available for public access and bookings when not being used by the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles for rugby league.
- There is a second District playground at Green St.
- The 5ha of natural open space is a small slice of the much larger Allenby Park, which provides a tranquil setting for a walk through the rainforest and a picnic.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Upgrade the playground at Brookvale Park.
 - Consider installing signage on the approach to, at the entry to and within Allenby Park.
 - Determine if there is demand for fitness equipment at Green St Reserve.





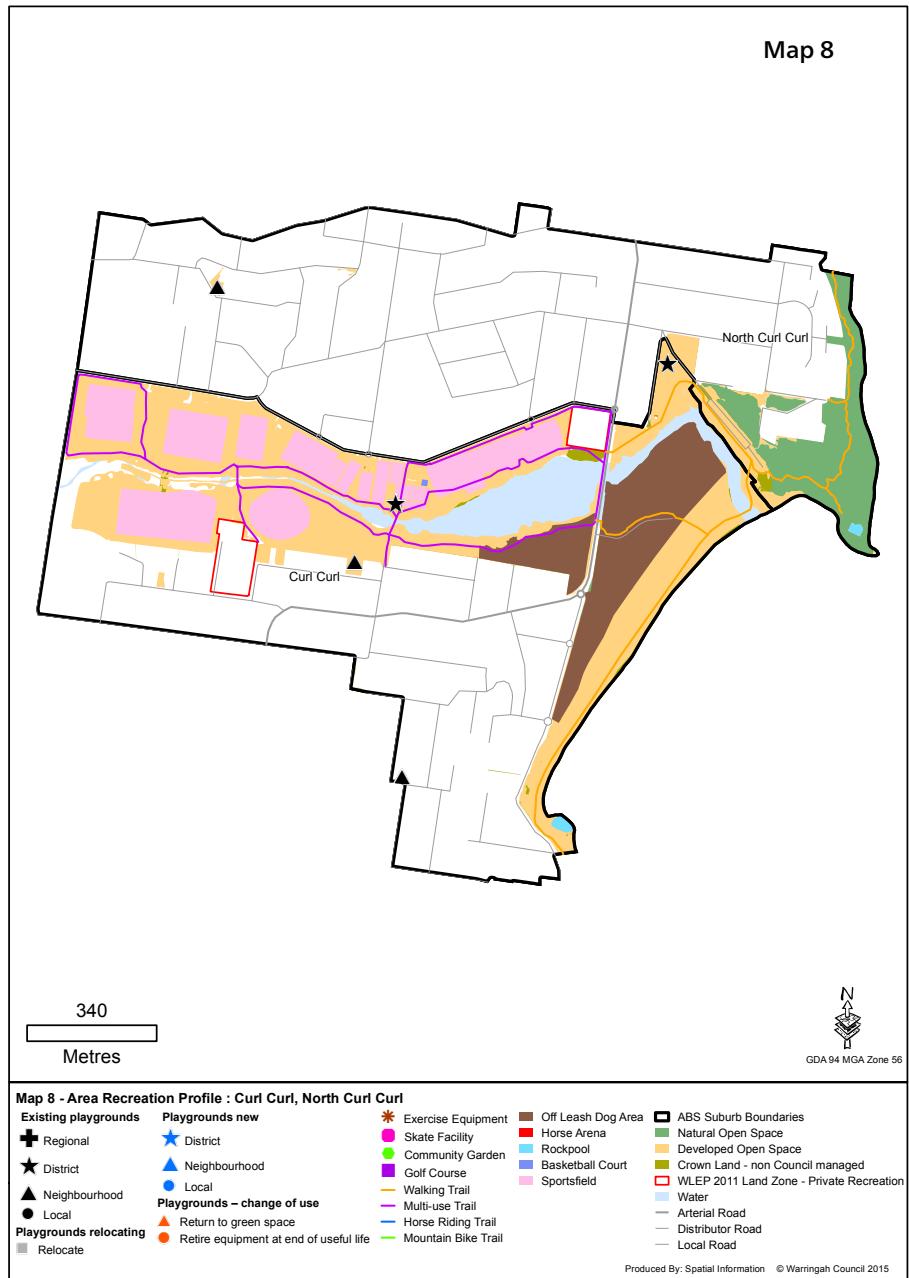
Dee Why Headland, North Curl Curl

6.6 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: CURL CURL, NORTH CURL CURL – See Map 8

- Curl Curl and North Curl Curl consists of low density detached dwellings.
- John Fisher Park (JFP) and the beach foreshore provide significant developed open space, with 106ha compared to a benchmark of 21ha. An additional 16ha of natural open space is present at Dee Why Headland.
- This area is great for walking, either around Curl Curl lagoon or along the coast. As a shared path, the lagoon walk is popular for bikes, scooters, strollers and dog walking. Much of the trail is wheelchair accessible.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash at Adams Street Reserve and much of Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve. They must be on the lead at all other locations.
- JFP is used for many informal recreation activities and general exercise. The netball courts provide a hard surface for many activities such as skateboarding, learn to ride, remote control cars and shooting hoops. A basketball hoop is also present.
- There are five playgrounds in the area.
- Rockpools are available at each end of the beach, at North Curl Curl and South Curl Curl.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Continue to improve the catchment of Curl Curl Lagoon and its surrounds.
- Continue to implement the Curl Curl Beach Masterplan, including pathways, seating, showers, picnic areas, shelters and changes to the carpark.
- Investigate opportunities for a skate park and/or skate trail in the vicinity of Dee Why or North Curl Curl.
- Improve access to Tea Tree Lookout at Dee Why Headland, off Molong St, to reinstate wheelchair access.
- When the Surf Rd playground reaches the end of its useful life it should be upgraded from neighbourhood to district level.
- Consult with the community over the future use of the land surrounding the North Curl Curl Community Centre (former Dee Why RSL Bowling Club).
- Install a shade structure at South Curl Curl rockpool, pending feasibility.
- Provide a path between Griffin Road and Houston Parade along the northern bank of Curl Curl Lagoon.





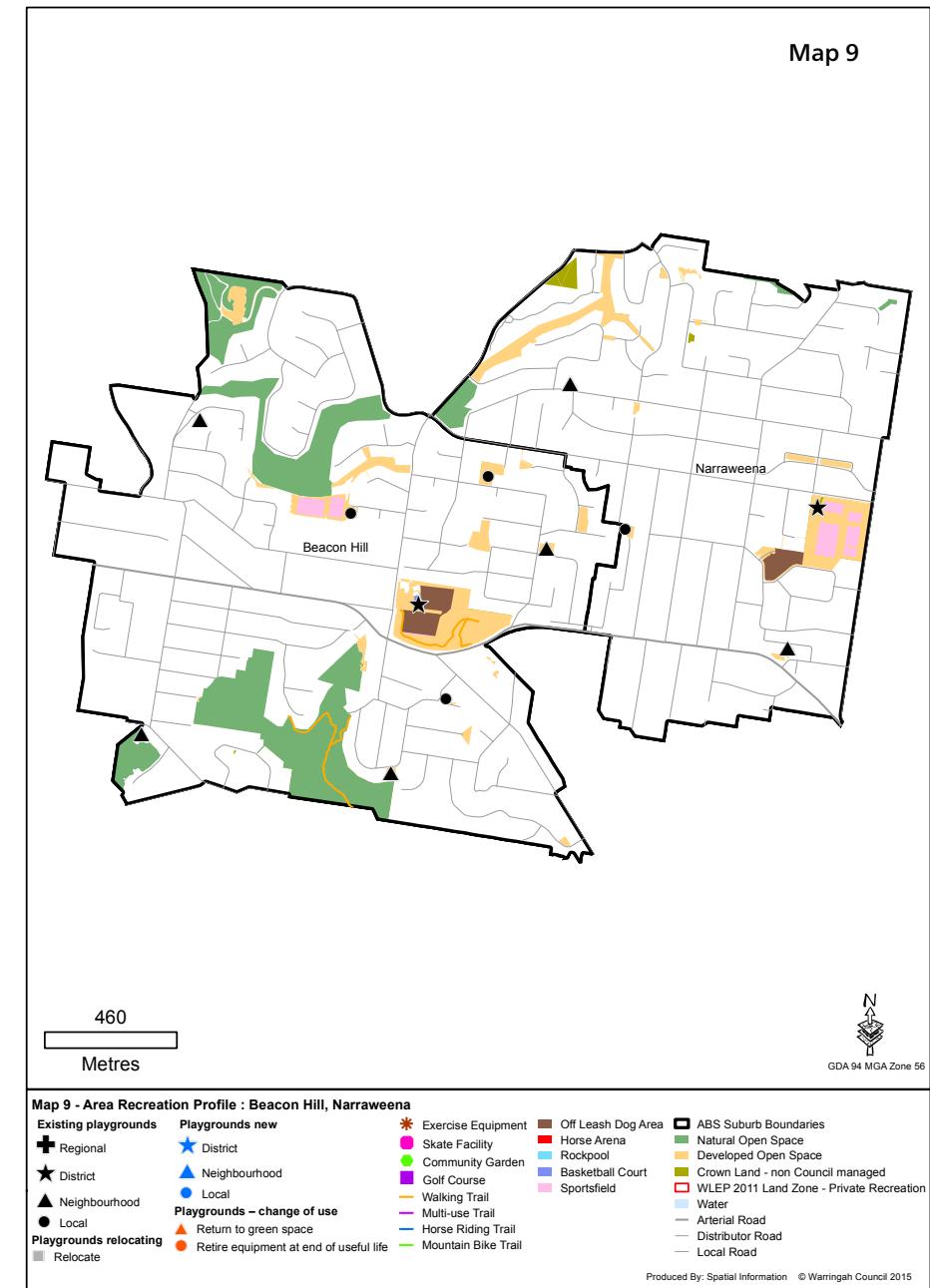
Beverley Job Park, Narrabeen

6.7 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: BEACON HILL, NARRABEENA – See Map 9

- Predominantly low density detached style housing, with small pockets of medium and high density.
- Although the 22ha of developed open space in Beacon Hill and Narrabeen doesn't quite meet the benchmark of 37ha, there are some prominent recreation spaces at Beverly Job Park and Beacon Hill Reserve.
- Beverly Job Park and Beacon Hill Reserve both contain sportsgrounds, a District playground and off leash dog areas. There are a number of smaller reserves.
- Governor Phillip Lookout adjoins Beacon Hill Reserve and has panoramic views across Sydney, stretching from the coastline, to the city and west to the Blue Mountains.
- There is an additional 31ha of natural open space, primarily in the areas of South Creek, Red Hill and Allenby Park. Each of these provides opportunities for walking, picnicking and enjoying nature.
- There are 12 playgrounds. The District playground at Beverly Job Park was upgraded in 2015.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Develop a Masterplan for Beverly Job Park to provide guidance on future recreational use.
- Consider formalising trail access between Beacon Hill and Narrabeen Lagoon via South Creek.
- Review the use and potential use of Red Hill Reserve and the connectivity of trails in the area.
- Upgrade the playground at Wedgewood Reserve.
- Improve the condition of the Kalianna Reserve playground equipment. When it reaches the end of its useful life consider whether it should be replaced with more playground equipment or something different, for example, nature play landscaping.
- Determine if there is demand for fitness equipment at either Beverly Job Park or Beacon Hill Reserve.





Ted Jackson Reserve, Dee Why

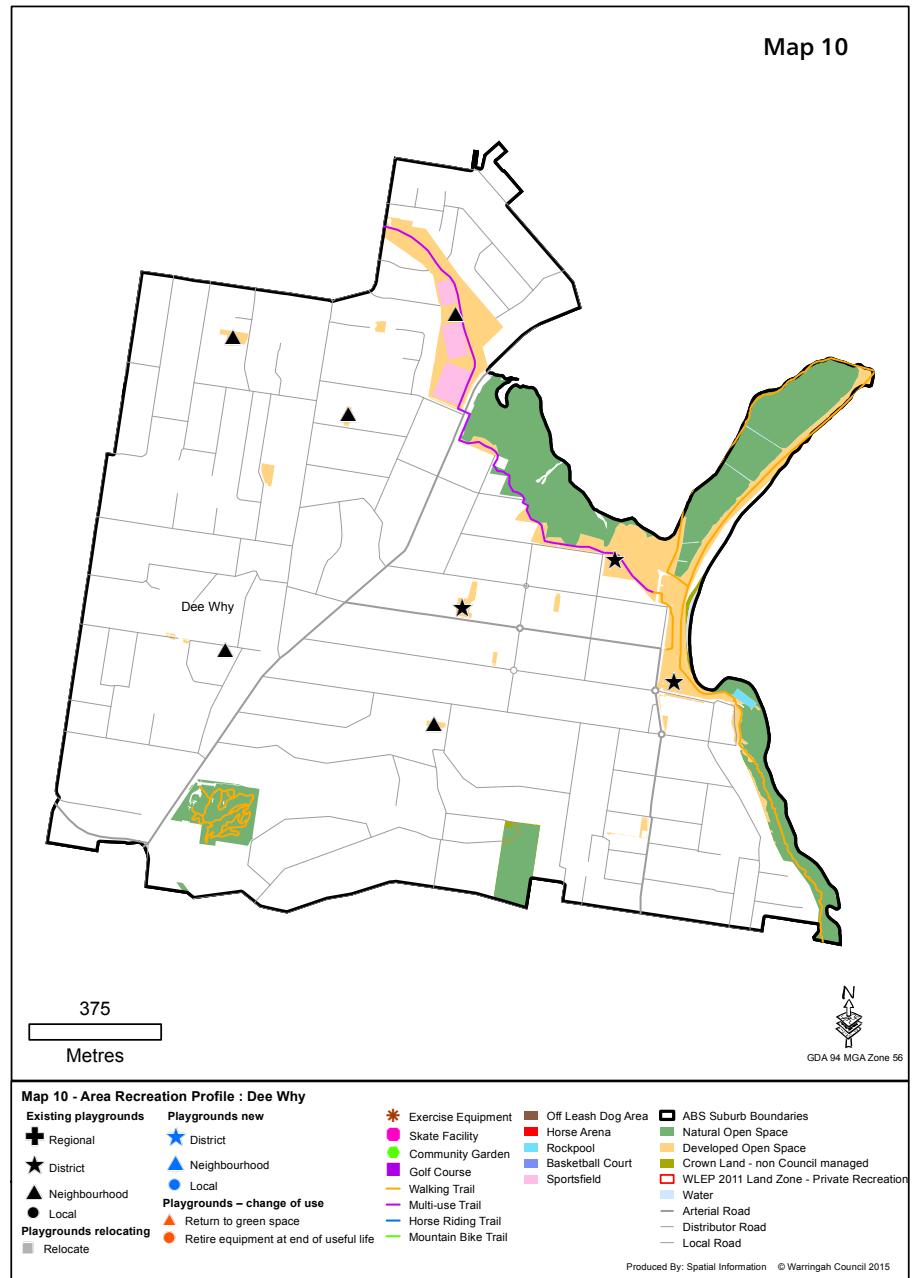
6.8 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: DEE WHY

– See Map 10

- Primarily high density in the vicinity of the beach and town centre, with low density detached dwellings elsewhere.
- The beach foreshore, lagoon surrounds and creek corridor at Dee Why Oval provide the majority of Dee Why's 17ha of developed open space, with many smaller parks in the area. Although the benchmark for the current population is 55ha, the suburb also has extensive natural open space(28ha) around the lagoon edge, the beach foredunes, Dee Why Headland, Stony Range Botanic Garden and Wingala Reserve.
- As part of the Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan, a planned major upgrade of Walter Gors Park and the Triangle Park will improve the quantity, quality and amenity of developed open space for residents living close to the town centre.
- There are many interesting walking tracks and the suburb is well serviced with bike paths. The foreshore is popular for informal recreation activities such as picnics, BBQs or just hanging out with family or friends.
- Once the playground at Walter Gors is upgraded Dee Why will have three District playgrounds and a further five Neighbourhood playgrounds. The playgrounds at Holborn and Stoddart have been upgraded in recent years.
- There is a rockpool at the southern end of Dee Why beach.
- A Police Citizens Youth Club is being constructed in Dee Why and will provide indoor sport and recreation facilities as well as study space and support. Once completed, it will complement the facilities available to youth in the open space

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Continue to implement the Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan, including the Walter Gors Park and Triangle Park upgrade with outdoor kitchen, large seating area, water feature, playground and fitness equipment. Improve the pedestrian and bike connectivity between the town centre and the beach.
- Continue to work toward improving the condition of Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area.
- Continue to implement the Masterplan for Stony Range Botanic Gardens, including the upgrade of the pavilion building and nursery.
- Consider installing fitness equipment at James Meehan Reserve and along the trail between Dee Why Beach and Narrabeen Lagoon.
- Investigate opportunities for a skatepark or skate trail in the vicinity of Dee Why or North Curl Curl.
- Install a shade structure over part of the seating area at the Dee Why toddler rockpool.
- Research the feasibility of providing power to James Meehan Reserve to accommodate events.
- Consider installing lighting at James Meehan Reserve.
- Install fitness equipment in James Meehan Reserve, considering suitability for varying ages and abilities.
- Install additional shade structure at Dee Why rockpool, including consideration of access for the disabled.
- Investigate suitable locations for a basketball hoop at or near James Meehan Reserve.





Belmore Reserve, Cromer

6.9 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: CROMER

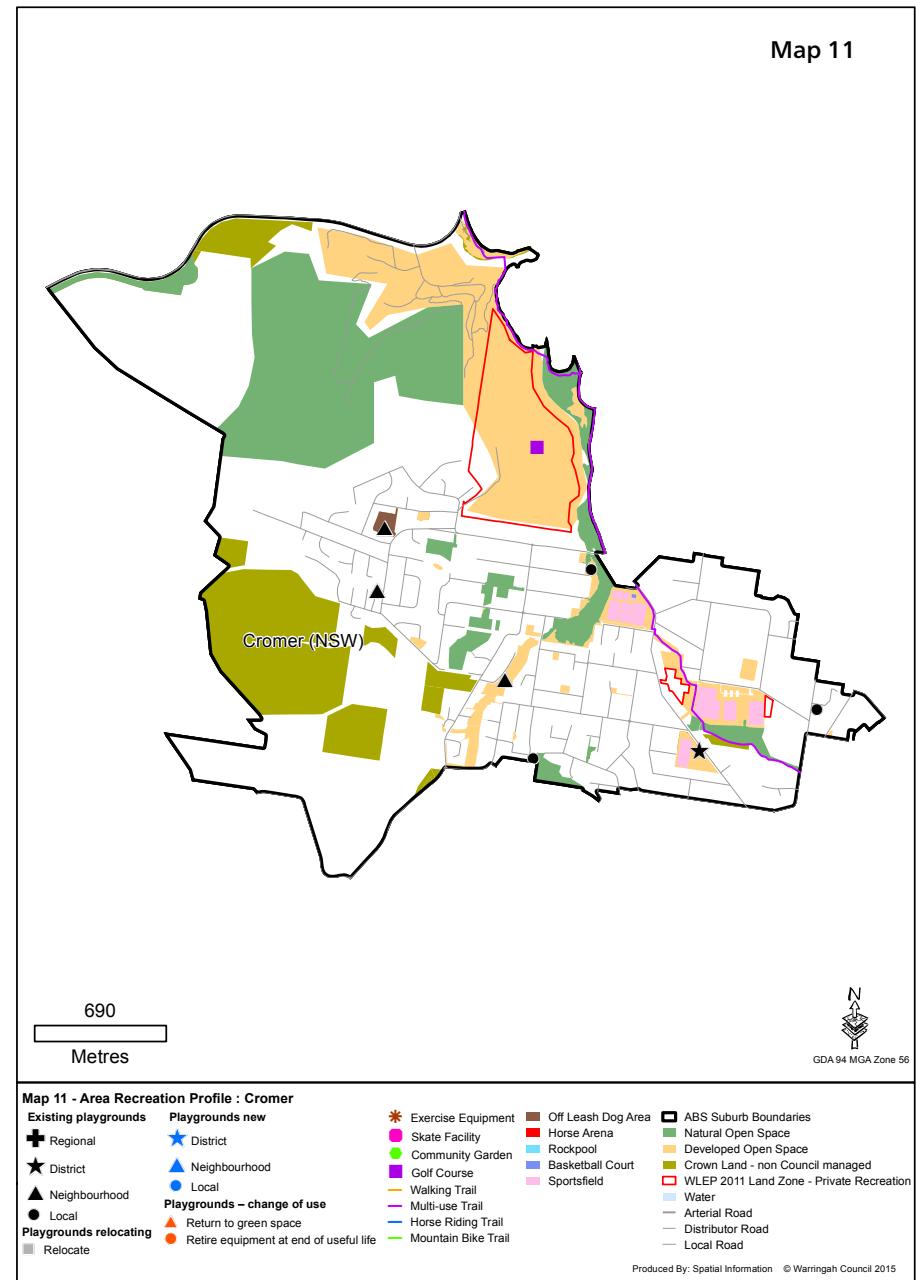
– See Map 11

- Dominated by low density detached dwellings, with small pockets of medium and high density housing.
- The open space benchmark of 21ha for Cromer is well exceeded at 106ha. While this includes the sportsfields at St Matthews Farm and Cromer Park with its synthetic pitch, it also includes Cromer Golf Club.
- An approved Masterplan for St Matthews Farm will see the future integration of a skatepark, a full sized multi-use hard court, a picnic/BBQ area, improved trail linkages and upgraded facilities.
- There is extensive natural open space (116ha) along Dee Why Creek and South Creek, as well as natural area owned by the Crown, NSW Department of Education and Communities and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- There are ample opportunities for walking and cycling, with a formal shared path linking Dee Why beachfront to Narrabeen Lagoon.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash at Truman Reserve.
- There are seven playgrounds. The playgrounds at Tyagarah and Belmore Reserves have been upgraded recently.

In response to the findings of this strategy Council will:

- Implement the St Matthews Farm Masterplan upgrades, including the integration of a skatepark, cricket nets, a multipurpose hard court, seating, carpark extension, new and improved pathways, a link to Wabash Reserve and the potential for parkour.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Michele and Lillihina Reserves.
- Consider installing fitness equipment along the trail that links Dee Why beach to Narrabeen Lagoon.

Map 11





A photograph showing two people in a green kayak on a body of water. The person on the left is wearing a red life vest and has curly hair. The person on the right is wearing a black and red patterned top. They are both holding yellow paddles and splashing water. In the background, there are trees and buildings under a clear blue sky.

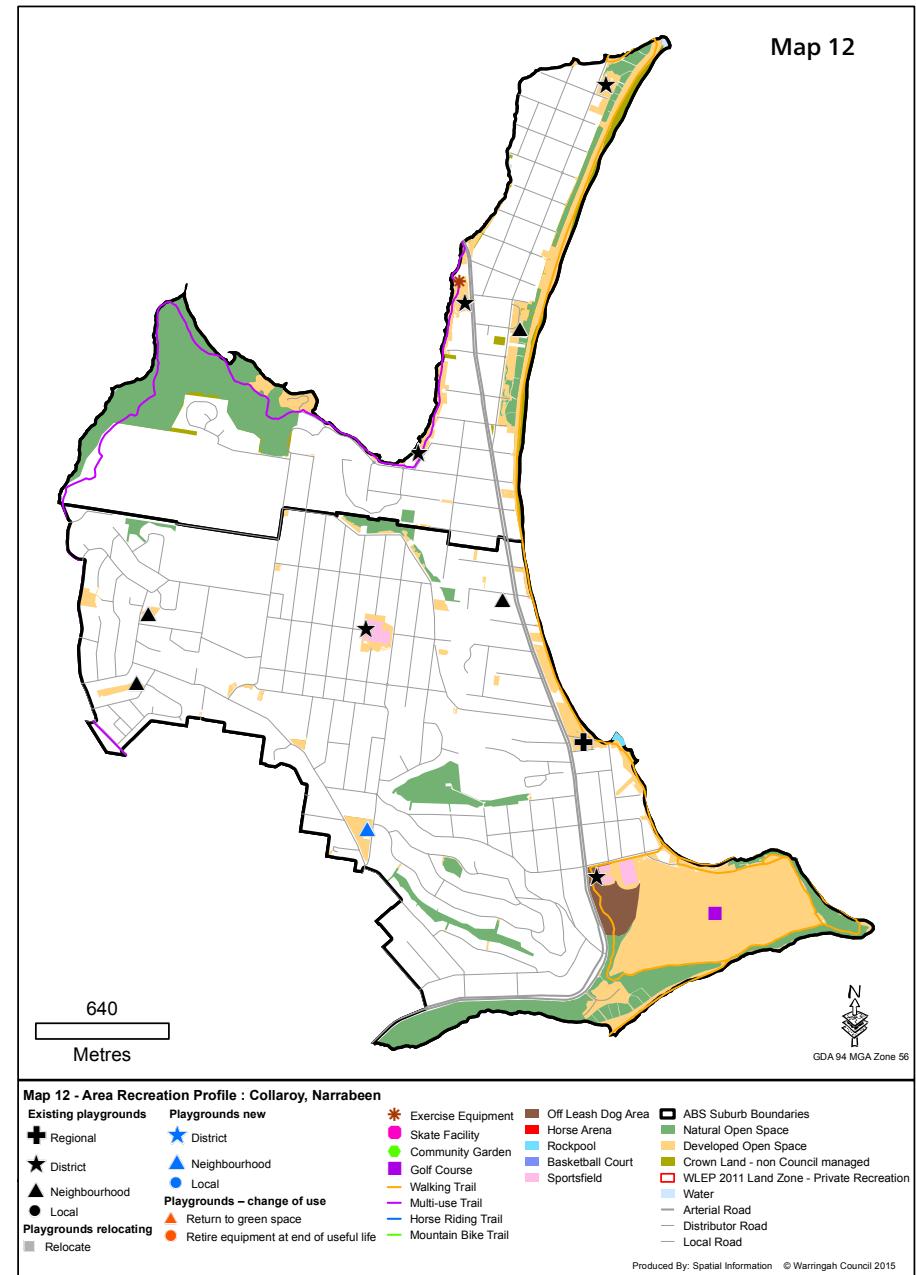
**6.10 AREA RECREATION PROFILE:
NARRABEEN, COLLAROY, COLLAROY PLATEAU,
WHEELER HEIGHTS – See Map 12**

- The foreshore of Collaroy and Narrabeen are dominated by medium and high density housing. Collaroy Plateau and Wheeler Heights consist of low density detached dwellings.
- The developed and natural open space is predominantly along the foreshore areas of the coast, including Long Reef headland, as well as Narrabeen Lagoon. The developed open space equates to 88ha, compared to a benchmark of 61ha, with a further 72ha of natural open space. There are a number of smaller parks around the area.
- Both Narrabeen Lagoon and the coastline provide extensive opportunities for walking, while the 8.4km lagoon trail also provides for cyclists, scooters, strollers and wheelchairs.
- The lagoon provides for water based activities such as sailing, kayaking, fishing and stand up paddle boarding. There is fitness equipment and a basketball hoop at Berry Reserve.
- Along with the new Regional all-abilities playground at Collaroy beach, there are a further nine playgrounds.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash within the designated area of Griffith Park, but must be on the leash at all other times. Dogs are not permitted on the beach or rock platform.
- There is a rockpool at the south end of Collaroy beach.

Kayaking on Narrabeen Lagoon

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Continue to implement the Collaroy All Abilities Accessibility Precinct, including works to amenities building, lighting, promenade, carpark and landscaping.
- Continue to implement the Birdwood Park Masterplan, including upgrade to the carpark on the lagoon edge and surrounds. Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design.
- Install a new playground at Parkes Rd Reserve, Collaroy Plateau.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Grasmere Reserve, Birdwood Park and Narrabeen Beach S.L.S.C Reserve.
- Consider installing fitness equipment along the beachfront e.g. Narrabeen or Collaroy beachfront or Long Reef/Griffith Park.
- Upgrade the Collaroy rockpool.
- Continue with improvements to Berry Reserve and Jamieson Park, including remediation of pathways, line marking and signage to address user safety. Improvements to landscaping and amenity.
- Upgrades to the trail at Griffith Park and Long Reef Headland.
- Install drink stations at Wheeler Park and Jamieson Park
- Construct an accessible beach shower at Jamieson Park.
- Install a shade structure at Collaroy rockpool, pending feasibility.
- Install a shade structure at Griffith Park playground.
- Investigate the feasibility of installing seats along the path between Jamieson Park and South Creek Reserve.
- Investigate the feasibility of providing bike racks at Narrabeen Lagoon, at the end of Narrabeen Street.
- Signage and pathway hatching is to be installed at Narrabeen Lagoon, in the vicinity of Limani, to encourage riders to slow down in this area.
- Investigate and consult over the feasibility of constructing a learn to ride path for children at Narrabeen Lagoon, to the south of Limani restaurant.
- Investigate opportunities for additional dinghy storage at Narrabeen Lagoon





Peppercorn Park, Frenchs Forest

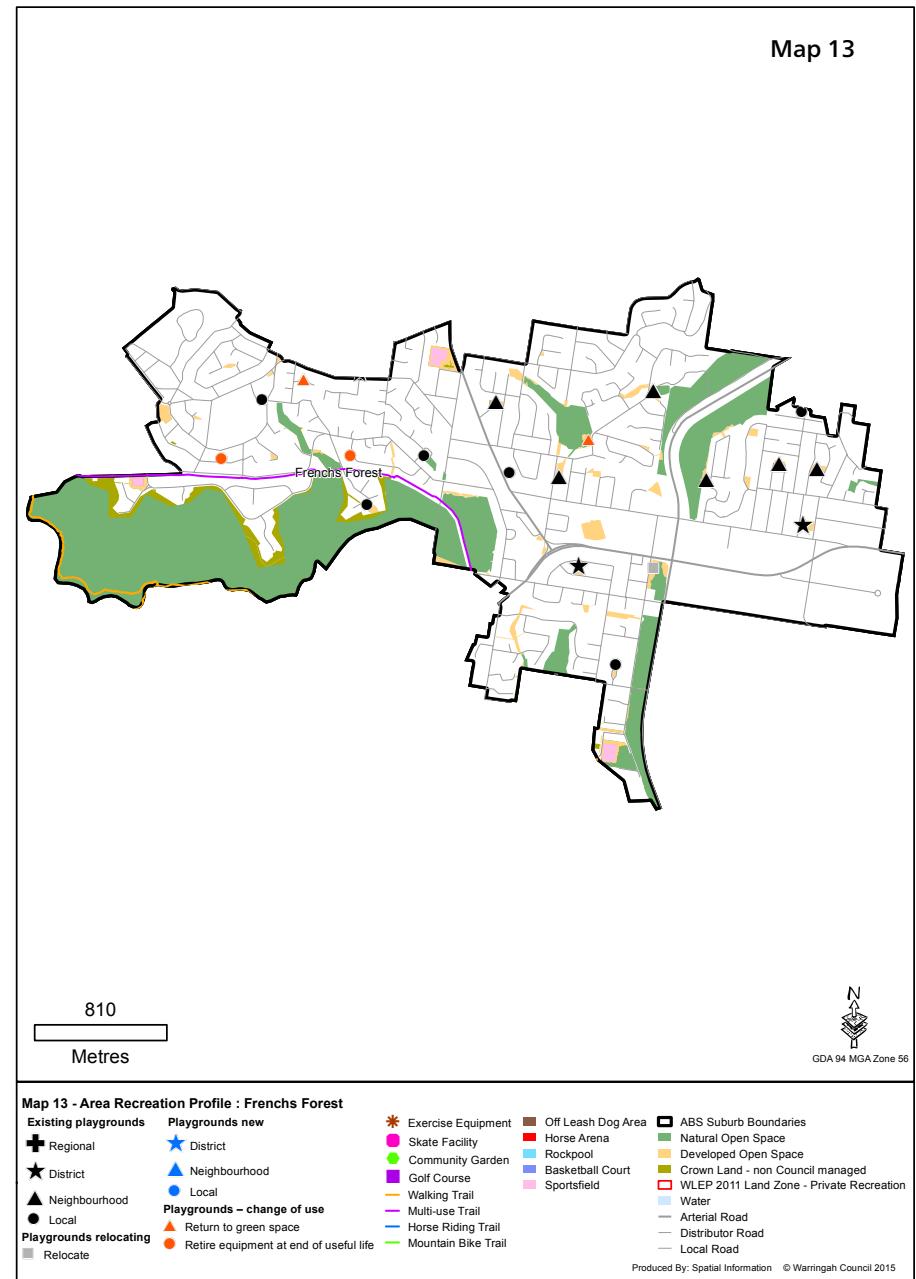
6.11 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: FRENCHS FOREST – See Map 13

- Frenchs Forest consists of low density detached dwellings, however, there may be increased density in the future in the vicinity of the new Northern Beaches Hospital.
- Although Frenchs Forest only has 19ha of developed open space, compared to the benchmark of 36ha, there are additional open space opportunities at the suburb boundaries, such as Lionel Watts Reserve at Belrose and Aquatic Reserve at Allambie Heights.
- There is a further 136ha of natural open space in the many bushland reserves as well as Garigal National Park, providing opportunities for walking, mountain biking, bird watching and enjoying the outdoors.
- The suburb of Frenchs Forest is well-supplied with 19 playgrounds. With 1 playground per 121 children, this ratio is one of the lowest in Warringah (see Table 14 in Section 5.3.4).
- The playgrounds at Peppercorn, Coster, Jimada and Greendale 1 Reserves have been upgraded recently.
- This area is likely to experience growth due to future increased housing density in the vicinity of the new Northern Beaches Hospital.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Approach Sydney Water to formalise recreational access to the pipeline trail.
- Ensure there are quality open spaces available to cater for an increase in population in the vicinity of the new Northern Beaches Hospital.
- The playgrounds at Rabbett, Patanga, Akora, Nandi, Jimada, Nianbilla and Brentwood Reserves are to be improved or upgraded.
- The playground at Brick Pit Reserve is to be impacted by the Roads and Maritime Services road widening project. The Akora Reserve playground will be significantly upgraded to cater for increased usage.
- The ageing playground equipment at Kalgal and Jindabyne Reserves are to be removed and the parks will remain as greenspace. Alternate playgrounds are nearby.
- The playgrounds at Wellman and Merrilee Reserves are to be retired when they reach the end of their useful life.
- The playground at Aranda Reserve is to be retired at the end of its useful life. A more suitable location for a playground may be nearby Yindela Reserve, opposite Craig Place, pending community support.
- Determine if there is demand for fitness equipment at parks such as Patanga and Akora Reserves.

Map 13





Anembo Reserve, Duffys Forest

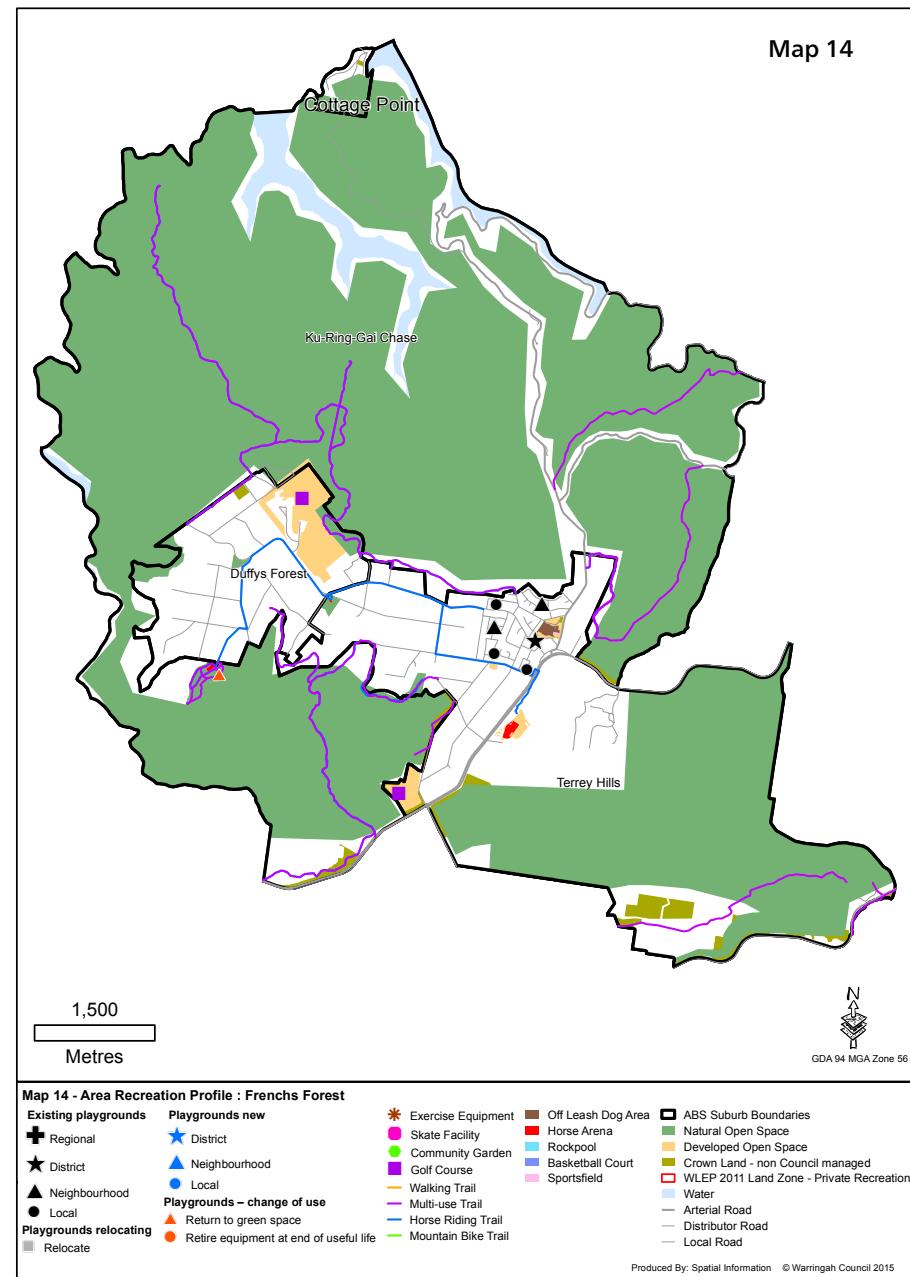
**6.12 AREA RECREATION PROFILE:
TERREY HILLS, DUFFYS FOREST, COTTAGE POINT**

– See Map 14

- Low density detached dwellings on a mix of house blocks and rural acreages.
- This area is well-serviced with developed open space, with 91ha, compared to the benchmark of 10ha, although, some of this is golf course (Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club and Terrey Hills Par 3). Terrey Hills Oval and J.J. Melbourne Hills are the largest developed open spaces in this area aside from the golf courses. There are a number of smaller parks.
- Terrey Hills Oval has a full-sized basketball court, netball court, tennis courts and cricket nets and has sportfields that provide for rugby union, cricket and soccer.
- J.J. Melbourne Hills provides a horse arena, BMX track, cycling and field archery. Horse arenas are at Kinka and Anembo Reserves. The Bridle Trail through Duffys Forest and Terrey Hills provides important connectivity.
- The 979ha of natural open space, plus an additional 3,988ha within the national park makes for a wide range of recreational opportunities. Horse riding, bushwalking and mountain biking are very popular in this area.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash at Terrey Hills Oval at certain times of the day.
- Frank Beckman Reserve provides a district level playground, which is one of seven in the area. The Kurara Reserve playground was upgraded in late 2014.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Consider what improvements could be made to the Bridle Trail.
- Consider installing trail etiquette signage in line with the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy.
- Upgrade the corners of the BMX track at J.J.Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Frank Beckman, Terrigal, Burraga and Duncan Reserves.
- Remove the ageing swing at Anembo Reserve, upgrade the BBQs and install landscaping features to encourage nature play.
- Review trail linkages across Council and national park boundaries.





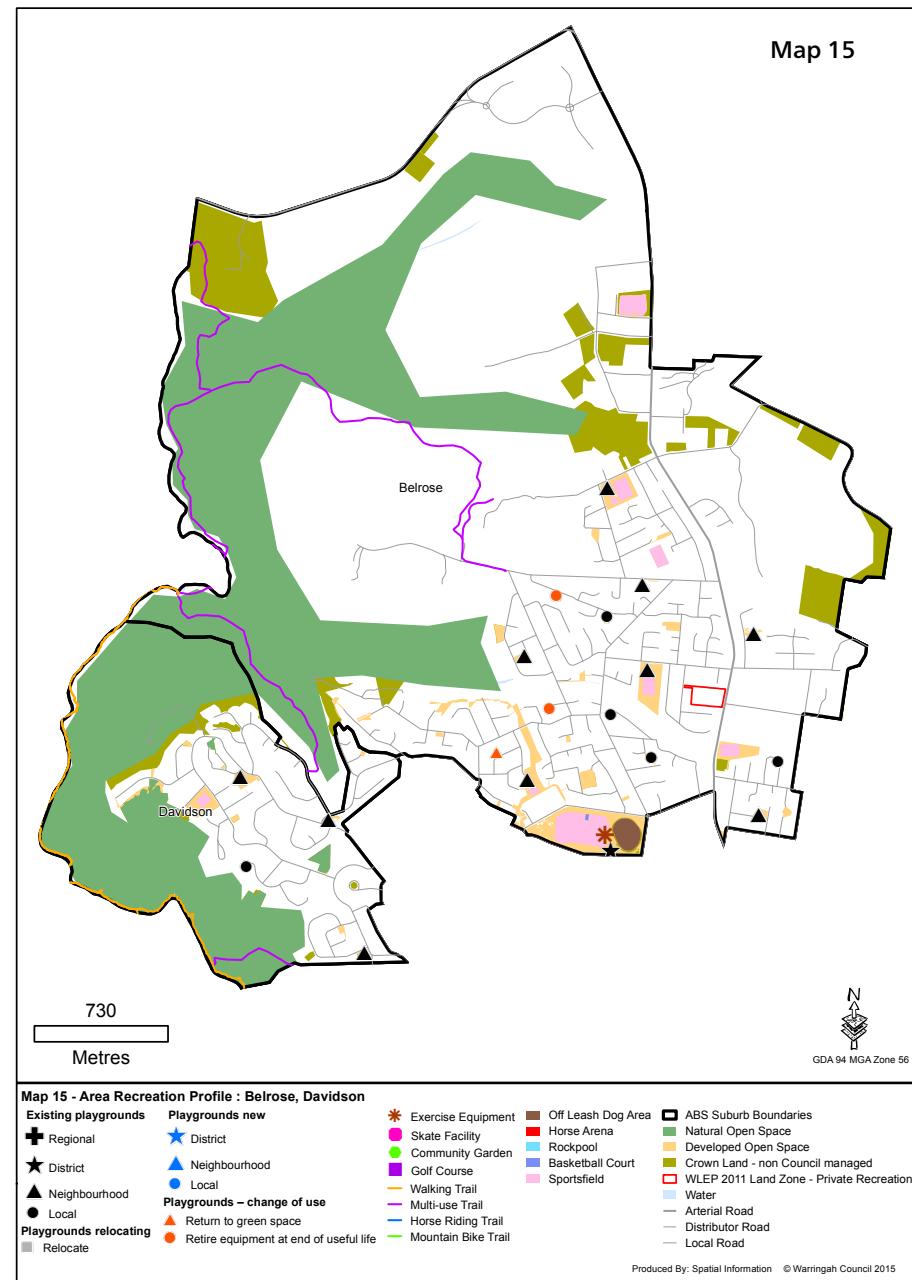
Undula Reserve, Belrose

**6.13 AREA RECREATION PROFILE:
BELROSE, DAVIDSON** – See Map 15

- Largely low density detached dwellings, with some medium density.
- The Belrose and Davidson suburbs have a number of developed open spaces of varying sizes equating to 35ha, compared to a benchmark of 31ha.
- The largest park is Lionel Watts Reserve and Frenchs Forest Showground, which provide sportsfields, a district playground, enclosed off leash dog area, fitness equipment, cricket nets, full sized netball and basketball courts and, from time to time, horse riding.
- Wyatt Reserve has tennis courts, a playground and sportsfield.
- There are a number of smaller parks and reserves.
- There are 19 playgrounds in this area. With 1 playground per 97 children, this ratio is one of the lowest in Warringah (see Table 14 in Section 5.3.4).
- The playgrounds at Undula and Wayne Schimanski Reserves were upgraded in recent years.
- There is extensive natural open space (367ha), predominantly within Garigal National Park. This bushland provides opportunities for walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Make improvements to Lionel Watts Reserve. Future improvements could consider the integration of a skatepark, learn to ride area and connecting pathways.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Wingara, Wentworth, Kapunda, Karina, Opala and Allworth Reserves.
- Remove the ageing playground equipment from Birrong Reserve.
- Due to the sale of Belrose Library, the playground will be closed once the new library has been constructed at the Glen St Theatre site.
- The playground at Wingara Reserve is to be upgraded to cater for increased usage due to the removal of the Belrose Library and Birrong Reserve playgrounds.
- Provide lighting at the Frenchs Forest Showground off-leash dog area.
- The playgrounds at Maple and Windrush Reserves are in fair condition at present, however when they reach the end of their useful life they will not be replaced (retired) and will remain as greenspace.
- Research the availability of horse trails in Belrose and connectivity between Council and national park trails.

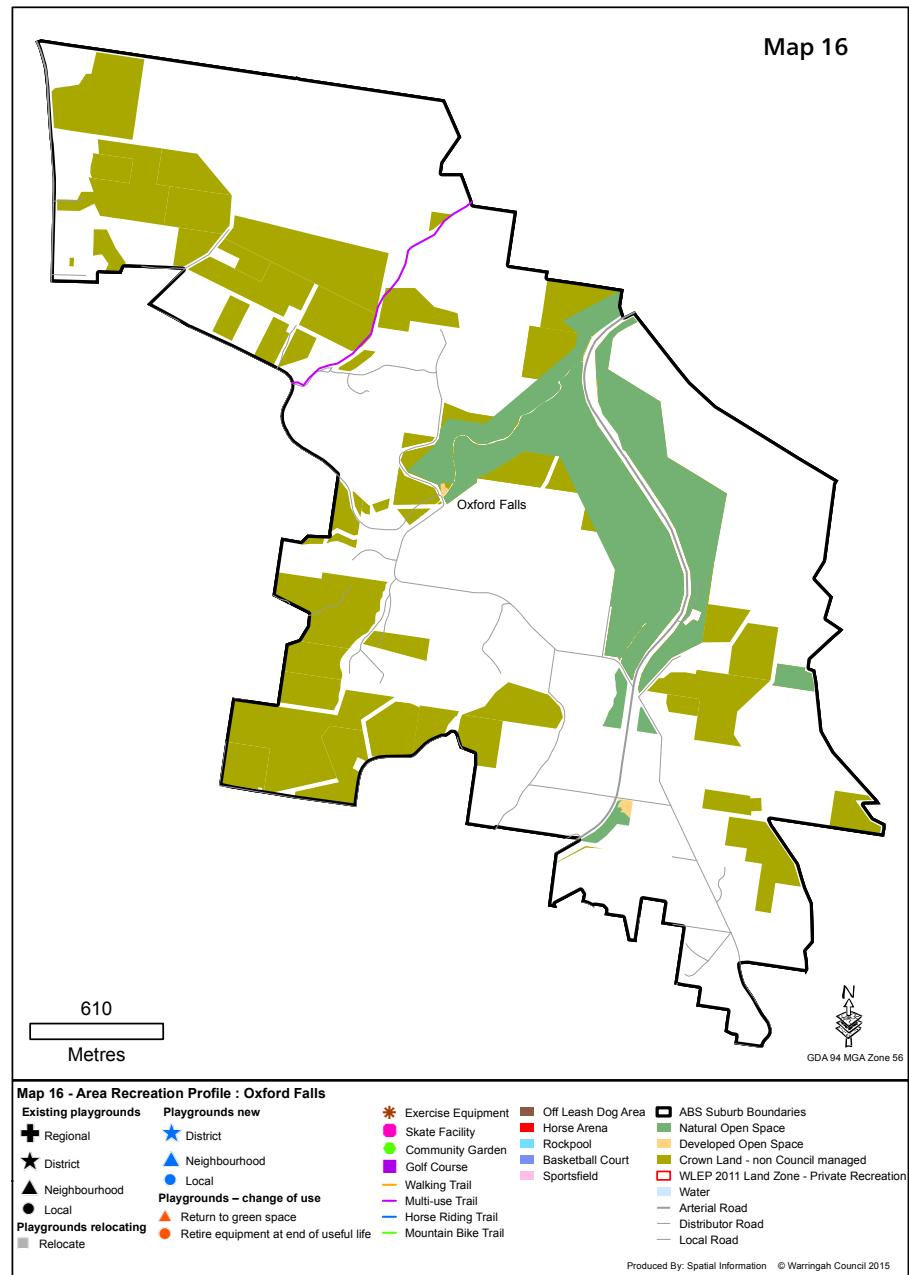


6.14 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: OXFORD FALLS – See Map 16

- Low density detached dwellings, primarily acreages.
- Given the small population of Oxford Falls (180 people at the 2011 census), and the primarily bushland environment, the 2ha of developed open space exceeds the 1ha benchmark.
- The 88ha of natural open space is under-stated given the large tracts of bushland that are excluded from this figure that fall under the ownership of the Crown, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council or other private land holders.
- Oxford Falls is popular for mountain biking, although there are no formal trails. Bike dirt jumping and trail bike (motorised) riding occurs at some locations, however, this is not authorised and has been known to damage sensitive vegetation communities. There is limited open space in Oxford Falls under the management of council, making planning and managing such activities difficult.
- There are no public playgrounds in Oxford Falls.

In response to the findings of this strategy Council will:

- Work with land owners when required with respect to recreational access to land.



7 Summary of strategic directions

Spaces for all

Goal: To have open spaces that cater for a diverse range of recreational interests that support the physical, social and mental health and well-being of park users.

Recreation assets and facilities

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Council will continue to activate open spaces where there may be capacity for increased, mixed or multi usage, for example James Meehan Reserve. |
| 2 | Council will provide, and embellish where appropriate, quiet spaces available for contemplation and relaxation. These spaces may be linked to other well-activated spaces, or be separate. |
| 3 | Warringah owns or manages approximately 500 reserves, of which over 300 are used for recreational purposes. There is a need to understand the primary and secondary purposes of each of these, for example, recreation, drainage, easements, road reserve or operational purposes (e.g. carparks). An audit is recommended. |
| 4 | Council will identify opportunities for new trails and improved accessibility and connectivity. |
| 5 | Council will provide a bike dirt jump track in Warringah, potential locations are Aquatic and Miller Reserves. |
| 6 | Warringah will provide learn to ride facilities. |
| 7 | Council will consider the needs of different communities of interest in Warringah when designing open spaces such as picnic areas and walking trails in terms of the benefit of co-locating them with toilets and parking and the availability or potential for shade, seating and water. |
| 8 | Council will provide facilities that cater for large groups, families and gatherings to take at Warringah's open spaces, by providing picnic tables and seating for bigger groups. |
| 9 | Council will look into additional locations for youth recreation facilities at Warringah's open spaces, such as basketball courts, parkour, skateparks and fitness equipment. |
| 10 | Council will integrate seating, tables or appropriate landscaping into open spaces designed to facilitate youth socialisation and study opportunities. This may include the integration of WiFi where appropriate. |

- | | |
|----|--|
| 11 | Council will continue to maintain and grow existing skate facilities and investigate opportunities for new skate facilities, including, but not limited to, the Dee Why and North Curl Curl areas. |
| 12 | Council will integrate parkour friendly design into open space landscaping, park furniture, public art or infrastructure or co-locate it with another facility such as fitness equipment. Suitable locations could be, but not limited to, St Matthews Farm and District Park. |
| 13 | Council will seek opportunities to integrate additional basketball and netball hoops into open spaces eg James Meehan Reserve. |
| 14 | Council will approach the Department of Education and Communities and other bodies to discuss the potential for public access to recreational facilities such as basketball courts and playground equipment outside of school hours. |
| 15 | Council will install fitness equipment for all ages at additional locations, for example, but not limited to, foreshore areas such as James Meehan Reserve Freshwater beach and North Curl Curl Community Centre. |
| 16 | Council will encourage and/or facilitate shared and informal use of purpose built sporting facilities where possible. |
| 17 | Council will integrate sports infrastructure into open spaces for informal use where there is demand, for example, practice nets, birdie cages, handball courts, table tennis and hitting walls. |
| 18 | Council will review the use of council reserves (excluding sportsfields) by clubs and commercial providers and design and implement an equitable management framework. |
| 19 | Council supports the development of community gardens on council land in line with the Community Gardens Policy. |
| 20 | Council will review the provision, distribution and access to toilets at Warringah's open spaces and in other areas that may be accessible to open space users. |
| 21 | Council will collect data on usage of open spaces to assist in the planning, monitoring and management of recreation assets. |
| 22 | Council will make information about Warringah's open spaces and recreation facilities available to the public via a range of mediums, including on the website through the development of a user-friendly online interactive tool. |
| 23 | Council will implement its Signage Strategy and Wayfinding Plan to improve information and directional signage within and between Warringah's open spaces. |

Safe and accessible spaces

Goal: To have safe and accessible open spaces that support inclusion and foster a sense of belonging.

| | |
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| 24 | Council will use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Safer by Design strategies to minimise risk and safety concerns for open space users. |
| 25 | Council will provide safer access to Warringah's open spaces, for example, by researching the feasibility of providing lighting at key locations and implementing improvements where warranted. |
| 26 | Warringah owns or manages approximately 500 reserves, of which over 300 are used for recreational purposes. There is a need to understand the primary and secondary purposes of each of these, for example, recreation, drainage, easements, road reserve or operational purposes (e.g. carparks). An audit is recommended. |

Spaces for animal friends

Goal: To be able to spend quality time with our animal friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Dogs

| | |
|----|--|
| 27 | Council will continue to encourage responsible dog ownership in Warringah through education and enforce it in line with the Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998. |
| 28 | Council will reassess the distribution and diversity of off-leash dog areas, taking into consideration the appropriateness of allowing off-leash dogs on sportsfields and the opportunity for dogs to be allowed off the leash at some of the smaller, underutilised parks in Warringah. |

Horses

| | |
|----|---|
| 29 | Council will continue to implement the priorities for signage, trails works and improved connectivity in line with the Horse Research Paper (2009), the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy (2007) and relevant Plans of Management. |
| 30 | Council will liaise with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and neighbouring councils to coordinate consistent signage and to identify opportunities for improving trail access and connectivity for horse riding across shared borders. |

Environmental spaces

Goal: To have open spaces that complement and enhance the natural environment.

| | |
|----|--|
| 31 | Open spaces will be designed and maintained in a manner that is sympathetic to its context, in particular with reference to natural settings. |
| 32 | Council will consider opportunities for integrating environmental messages into new or improved interpretative signage in our open spaces and via online material. |
| 33 | Protect the natural and cultural values of council managed lands while ensuring that visitor access and use is sustainable (Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012, p.41). |
| 34 | Council will plant trees and shrubs in open spaces for shade, aesthetics and environmental purposes. |
| 35 | Council will continue to facilitate and support volunteer and capacity building initiatives that benefit open spaces. |

Artistic, cultural and heritage spaces

Goal: To integrate art, culture and heritage into our open spaces through creative and innovative ways.

| | |
|----|--|
| 36 | Council will continue to support and improve facilities for activities and events to take place within Warringah's open spaces. |
| 37 | Council will continue to acknowledge Warringah's history, culture and heritage through public art installations. |
| 38 | Council will integrate Aboriginal themes into Warringah's open spaces. This may include public art, landscaping, interpretation and educational play spaces. |

Playgrounds

Goal: To provide a sustainable and equitable distribution of quality play experiences.

| | |
|----|---|
| 39 | Playground upgrades will focus on providing an equitable distribution of high quality play experiences that benefit a broad range of people, rather than smaller playgrounds that may only service a small catchment. |
| 40 | Playground distribution and categories to consider the likelihood of future growth, either in residential density or increased visitation. |
| 41 | Playground designs are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be sympathetic to the surrounding environment• incorporate creative and innovative designs that inspire the imagination of children• facilitate an appropriate level of risk and challenge to enable children to test their limitations and learn new skills |
| 42 | The co-location of assets can encourage the sharing of space and activity across generations, including families, carers and grandparents. |
| 43 | Where playgrounds are removed consider alternate uses such as quiet spaces, BBQs, seating or pathways. |

8 *Summary*

Warringah Council is fortunate to have an amazing bush and beach environment and a wide range of recreation assets available to the community.

Consultation and research revealed ideas for a host of new and improved open spaces and recreation assets. Gaps in demand were identified for certain youth facilities such as skateparks, parkour and places to just hang out. Fitness equipment has been found to be a worthwhile asset across all age groups, from youth right up to older people who can benefit from training in strength and balance.

Council is keen to develop spaces that encourage interaction across generations by co-locating some recreation facilities and by developing areas that are welcoming to everyone. Open spaces have the ability to bring people together and promote acceptance, tolerance, and reduce social isolation.

Areas that facilitate large gatherings for study or families can be developed through the integration of large picnic tables and shelters. Similarly, quiet spaces for reflection and relaxation are also important.

Council would like to be more adventurous in the design of play spaces, by taking on the ideas of children who were involved in consultation activities for the development of the strategy – rainbows, dragons, tree houses and water play all featured prominently and further consultation with children would be beneficial on a project by project basis.

Conversely, some future playgrounds and landscaping in general would benefit from drawing on the surrounding environment for inspiration. Safety, accessibility and inclusion are also important design factors.

Overall, this strategy has taken a holistic view of Warringah's open spaces and provides a suite of strategic directions and commitments that are largely based on feedback from the community.

The implementation of the strategy will occur over time. Outstanding actions will be reviewed in five years against potential new priorities. Maintenance of existing assets will continue and funding has already been secured for some new projects. Further research is required in some areas, with the strategy providing guidance on future priorities. Overall the strategy provides direction to ensure that Warringah's open spaces provide opportunities for all community members to enjoy the outdoors.

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10 Appendices

APPENDIX A: PLAYGROUNDS

Table 15 - Full list of Warringah's 135 public access playgrounds, including rationale behind changes in categories and removals.

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|------------------|------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Allambie Heights | B | Arnhem | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | New playground installed in 2014. |
| Allambie Heights | B | Canea | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | 300m from proposed new playground at Allambie Heights Oval and 300m from the recently upgraded playground at FJ Machon Reserve. Maintain as Local playground until new playground at Allambie Heights Oval is installed then consider retiring at end of useful life. |
| Allambie Heights | B | Cootamundra | Neighbourhood | Local | 1 | Upgraded in 2015. |
| Allambie Heights | B | F.J. Machon | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | New playground installed in 2014. |
| Allambie Heights | B | Gilai | Neighbourhood | Remove | 4 | This is a very small street corner reserve with a swing. The equipment requires major repairs/improvements and it would be costly to make compliant with softfall due to site constraints, particularly the slope. Wandella Reserve is 270m away and is to be upgraded with a nice playground and other open space improvements to service residents in the south-western portion of Allambie Heights. Wandella is a much larger reserve, with multiple street access, shade, walking trails and potential for enhancements for a variety of current and future users. |
| Allambie Heights | B | Maroa | Neighbourhood | Retire | 2 | The play value of Maroa Reserve has been decreasing over time as non-compliant pieces of equipment have been removed. Major investment would be required to improve the play value. Wandella Reserve is 250m away and is a larger, more central reserve with multiple street access. Wandella will therefore be upgraded to provide new and improved recreation experiences, including a new playground. The play equipment at Maroa Reserve will be maintained for as long as possible. Consider alternate uses, such as picnic area with seating. |
| Allambie Heights | B | Orara | Neighbourhood | Relocate | 4 | This playground is located on land owned by the Department of Education and Communities. When it reaches the end of its useful life the new replacement playground will be built on a council managed reserve approximately 130m further south between Llylly and Orara Rds. |
| Allambie Heights | B | Wandella | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 4 | Wandella Reserve will be improved to service a variety of park users for the south-western section of Allambie Heights, including a new playground. It has multiple street access, walking trails and natural shade from trees. The equipment 270m away at Gilai is to be removed and the equipment 250m away at Maroa is to be retired at the end of its useful life. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-------------|------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Beacon Hill | C | Beacon Hill | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| Beacon Hill | C | Brooker | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Swing to be provided. Investigate the feasibility of trail linkages via Brooker Reserve to Red Hill and Golden Grove. |
| Beacon Hill | C | Careden | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | New playground at Princess Mary Reserve 300m away, and a playground 600m away at Beacon Hill Oval. |
| Beacon Hill | B | Goroka | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | This playground would benefit from shade through tree plantings. |
| Beacon Hill | B | Kalianna | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Non-conforming components, no softfall. Wedgewood Reserve 250m away to be upgraded, however, access can be difficult due to narrow verge and blind corner. Improvements to be made to the Kalianna swing to extend its life. |
| Beacon Hill | C | Kerry | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | Bark mulch was recently installed to improve condition rating from 4 to 2. |
| Beacon Hill | C | Princess Mary | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 3 | Playground upgraded in 2009. |
| Beacon Hill | B | Wedgewood | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 3 | Wedgewood services a large number of residences on the southern side of Warringah Rd in Beacon Hill. The playground is to be upgraded to meet this demand. |
| Belrose | C | Belrose Library | Neighbourhood | Retire | 3 | The Belrose Library site has been sold. The library and the playground will remain available to the public until the new library is built across the road within the Glen St Theatre site. Alternate playgrounds are located 200m away at Wingara Reserve and 500m away at Lionel Watts Reserve. The Wingara Reserve playground is to be upgraded to cater for increased usage. |
| Belrose | C | Birrong | Neighbourhood | Remove | 4 | Birrong was earmarked for removal in the 2007 Playground Strategy. The equipment at Birrong Reserve would require major repairs/improvements to retain. Wingara Reserve contains a playground 300m away and is to be upgraded to cater for increased usage. Birrong Reserve is to be retained for recreation such as ball games and relaxation. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|---------|------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Belrose | C | Childs Circuit | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | When this playground is due to be renewed in the future, consider relocating it to Lindrum Reserve. A playground at Lindrum Reserve would cater for more residents, including those living on both sides of Perentie Rd. |
| Belrose | C | Hews Parade | District | Neighbourhood | 2 | This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District. |
| Belrose | C | Kapunda | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Maintain due to dual street access and position on a thoroughfare. Improvements required to improve the condition rating. |
| Belrose | B | Karina | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Improvements are to be made to the Karina Reserve swing to improve condition rating. Once it reaches the end of its useful life and needs to be removed, consultation should occur with residents to determine a suitable future use for the reserve, for example a new swing, a basketball or netball hoop, or a more nature based theme such as climbing logs. |
| Belrose | B | Maple | Neighbourhood | Retire | 2 | The remaining double swing had mulch softfall installed in 2012 which improved the condition rating and extended the life of the play equipment. At the end of a small cul-de-sac, the playground services a small number of residences. The new playground at Undula Reserve is 440m away. There is a playground at Wingara Reserve 450m away. The fair condition of the play equipment at Maple Reserve will see it remain in place for many more years. |
| Belrose | C | Orana | Neighbourhood | Local | 3 | This playground was earmarked for removal in the 2007 Playground Strategy due to its close proximity to playgrounds at Ralston (350m away) and Windrush (270m away) Reserves. It is now proposed to maintain Orana as a Local playground instead of Windrush due to the large trees providing natural shade. |
| Belrose | C | Pusan | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Pusan is a small reserve which has multiple street access and is on the walking route to the school which would facilitate lots of passing foot traffic who may use the playground. Improvements are required to improve the condition rating. |
| Belrose | C | Ralston | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |
| Belrose | C | Undula | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Upgraded in 2012. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-----------|------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Belrose | C | Wentworth | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 3 | The playground at Wentworth Reserve services a large number of residences and has multiple access points. The playground needs to be upgraded to meet current demand. |
| Belrose | C | Windrush | Neighbourhood | Retire | 2 | Orana Reserve is 270m away and is preferred to be maintained as the local playground servicing residences in this area, primarily due to the natural shade from the large trees present. However, the play equipment at Windrush Reserve is in good working order and is likely to remain in place for many years to come. Windrush is a large flat reserve and council would be open to alternate recreation uses for the space in the future. |
| Belrose | C | Wingara | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Bark mulch softfall installed in 2012 to improve the condition rating. An upgrade to the playground has been brought forward to accommodate increased use resulting from the removal of the Birrong Reserve and Belrose Library equipment. |
| Belrose | C | Wyatt | District | Neighbourhood | 2 | This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District. |
| Brookvale | B | Brookvale Oval | Regional | District | 3 | Category changed to District to better reflect actual usage and facilities, e.g. enclosed playground, picnic tables, BBQ. |
| Brookvale | C | Green St | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| Collaroy | C | Bruce Bartlett | Regional | Regional | 1 | New Regional playground opened in 2014. |
| Collaroy | C | Griffith | Neighbourhood | District | 2 | Category changed to District to reflect actual usage and facilities, e.g. enclosed playground, picnic tables and high usage. |
| Collaroy | A | Ramsay | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 3 | Maintain. |
| Collaroy | A | Collaroy Plateau Park | District | District | 3 | Maintain. |
| Cromer | A | Belmore | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | Playground upgraded 2013. |
| Cromer | A | James Morgan | District | District | 3 | Maintain. |
| Cromer | A | Lillihina | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Major repairs/improvement is required to improve the condition rating. |
| Cromer | A | Michele | Neighbourhood | Local | 3 | Michele is to be retained as a Local playground. It is proposed that a new playground be installed at Parkes Rd Reserve. A playground at Parkes Rd Reserve would service a larger number of residences, many of which do not currently have easy access to a playground. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-----------|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Cromer | A | Truman | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 3 | Maintain. |
| Cromer | A | Tyagarah | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2011. |
| Cromer | A | Wabash | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | The play equipment has had bark mulch softfall installed to improve the condition rating. The equipment services a large number of residences, with no other playgrounds nearby. It is proposed to construct a trail linking Wabash Reserve to St Matthews Farm to enable residents to have easier access to a wider range of recreational experiences. |
| Curl Curl | B | Stigess | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |
| Davidson | C | Allworth | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | No other playgrounds within easy walking distance. Improvements required to improve the condition rating. |
| Davidson | C | Kambora | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2010. |
| Davidson | C | Maitland | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2009. |
| Davidson | C | Wayne Schimanski | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | Playground upgraded in 2013. |
| Dee Why | A | Holborn | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2012. |
| Dee Why | A | James Meehan | Regional | District | 2 | Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage. |
| Dee Why | A | Michaela Howie | District | District | 3 | Maintain. |
| Dee Why | A | Mooramba | District | Neighbourhood | 2 | This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District. |
| Dee Why | A | Stoddart | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Although this playground was upgraded in 2012 to the equivalent of the new Local category, it will retain its Neighbourhood category due to the large number of residences it services. |
| Dee Why | B | The Crescent | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2009. |
| Dee Why | A | Tulich | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2009. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|---------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Dee Why | A | Walter Gors | Neighbourhood | District | 4 | A new District playground is to be incorporated into the Walter Gors upgrade. |
| Duffys Forest | C | Anembo | Neighbourhood | Remove | 4 | This swing cannot be repaired to a satisfactory condition rating and needs to be removed. It is not proposed to be replaced with another swing, however, there may be an alternate play experience that is more sympathetic to the bushland surrounds, for example, log stepping stones. Anembo Reserve provides horse riding and bush walking experiences and is home to the Duffys Forest Rural Fire Brigade. |
| Forestville | A | Angophora | District | Neighbourhood | 3 | This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District. |
| Forestville | C | Brown | Neighbourhood | Retire | 2 | Bark mulch was installed in 2012 as softfall which has extended the life of the playground. Lindsay Reserve 400m away is a large reserve with multiple street access and is to be enhanced to provide recreation space for a range of people, including a new playground and potential for youth activities. |
| Forestville | C | Calca | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | Playground upgraded in 2014. |
| Forestville | C | Casuarina | Neighbourhood | Retire | 4 | This playground would require major repairs/improvement to retain in the long term, however it is possible to extend its life in the short term. The playground at Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields is 300m away. Casuarina is a nice reserve with natural shade from large trees and a seat. It should be maintained for passive recreation value. |
| Forestville | C | Cook St Reserve | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2011. |
| Forestville | C | Epacris | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Improvements required to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Forestville | C | Forestville Community Arts | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2012. |
| Forestville | C | Forestville memorial | Regional | District | 3 | Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage. |
| Forestville | C | Gwarra | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|----------------|------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Forestville | C | Lindsay | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain playground. Consider addition recreation opportunities at Lindsay Reserve to cater for a broader range of interests and age groups, e.g. youth facilities such as a basketball hoop. |
| Forestville | C | Ryrie | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Forestville | C | Wellman | Neighbourhood | Retire | 2 | Lindsay Reserve 500m away is to be enhanced to provide a range of recreation experiences, including the potential for youth activities. This playground is in fair condition and will remain for many years to come until it reaches the end of its useful life, upon which the equipment will not be replaced. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Akora | Neighbourhood | District | 2 | This playground is due for renewal. Given that the Brick Pit Reserve playground is to be impacted by road widening the playground at Akora reserve will be upgraded to District level to cater for likely population growth and additional usage. The reserve contains a basketball hoop which is to be retained and upgraded as required. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Aranda | Neighbourhood | Retire | 4 | The ageing playground equipment is to be retired at the end of its useful life. There are non-conforming components and no softfall. Nearby Yindela Reserve, opposite Craig Place, may provide a more suitable location for a playground. Yindela is a larger reserve and is in a more central location which would service a greater number of residences when compared to Aranda. Further consultation should take place with residents in the vicinity of Craig Place near Yindela Reserve to determine their support. Alternatively residents could attend the next nearest playgrounds at Prahran, Nianbilla or Kambora Reserves. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Brentwood | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Nice location with view over bushland. No footpaths so not so easy access to other playgrounds nearby. Improvement are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Brick Pit | District | Relocate | 2 | This playground will be impacted by the RMS road widening project. The playground at nearby Akora Reserve will be upgraded to District level to cater for future population growth and increased usage. The heritage plaques should be salvaged and considered for reinstallation at the reserve once construction is complete. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|----------------|------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Frenchs Forest | C | Coster Reserve | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2011. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Gilbert | Neighbourhood | Local | 3 | Maintain the Gilbert Reserve equipment as a Local playground. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Greendale No 1 | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | Playground upgraded in 2014. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Jimada | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 3 | The swing was replaced in 2014. This is a nice reserve with lots of trees for natural shade. The rocker is non compliant due to no softfall. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Jindabyne | Neighbourhood | Remove | 4 | This playground would require major repairs/improvements to improve the condition rating and play value. The playground 480m away at Peppercorn Reserve was upgraded in 2014. Rabbett Reserve is 400m away and is proposed to be upgraded into a nice Neighbourhood playground to service the residences in this area. Jindabyne Reserve would benefit from the installation of picnic tables or seats. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Kalgal | Neighbourhood | Remove | 4 | Major repairs/improvements would be required to improve the condition rating of this playground. The playground at Nianbilla Reserve is 300m away and there is a District playground at Lionel Watts 700m away. The storm of April 2015 brought a tree down on the swings, with a slide and spring animal remaining. These are to be removed. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Lionel Watts | Regional | District | 3 | Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Merrilee | Neighbourhood | Retire | 4 | Improvements would be required to improve the condition and play value of this playground. Springvale Reserve playground is 600m away, Lionel Watts is 850m away and Yanco Reserve is 700m away. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Nandi | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 4 | Playground due for renewal. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Nianbilla | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Dual street access and positioned on a thoroughfare, this playground services many residences. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|----------------|------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Frenchs Forest | C | Patanga | District | District | 2 | This playground does not currently reflect a District category playground. The playground and reserve are to be improved to provide recreation opportunities for a broad range of people, including an improved playground and potential youth facilities and fitness equipment. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Peppercorn Reserve | District | Neighbourhood | 1 | Playground upgraded in December 2014. The playground aligns more accurately with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Rabbett | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 4 | This playground is due for renewal. The upgrade should be sympathetic to the natural creek setting. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Springvale | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | Maintain. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Wareham | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Dual street access and positioned on a thoroughfare, this playground services many residences. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Frenchs Forest | C | Yanco | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | Maintain. No other playgrounds nearby. |
| Freshwater | B | Cooksey | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2009. |
| Freshwater | B | Freshwater Beach North | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| Freshwater | B | Freshwater Beach Sth | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | This reserve is to be upgraded. The play equipment here is highly valued by the community. The design for the future upgrade, on which the community will be consulted, will include play equipment. |
| Freshwater | B | Jacka Park | District | District | 3 | Consider if the onsite maintenance shed could be adapted to provide a toilet and baby change facilities. |
| Freshwater | B | Palomar Reserve | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2011. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-------------------|------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Killarney Heights | C | Adare | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | The residences here are relatively isolated from other play equipment due to topography and distance. Starkey Reserve playground is 650m away and was recently upgraded to District level, however access is uphill with no footpaths and requires crossing a busy road. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of the Adare Reserve equipment. |
| Killarney Heights | C | Cashel | Neighbourhood | Retire | 4 | This playground would require major repairs/improvement to improve the condition rating and play value. It services a small number of residents. The District playground at Forestville Memorial Playing Fields is 430m away. |
| Killarney Heights | C | Donegal | Neighbourhood | Retire | 4 | Major repairs/improvement would be required to improve the condition rating and play value of this playground. A new District playground has been installed at Starkey Reserve 350m away. |
| Killarney Heights | C | Killarney Heights Shops | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |
| Heights | C | Killarney Oval | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |
| Killarney Heights | C | Shannon | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | Upgraded with softfall, rocker and swing. |
| Killarney Heights | C | Starkey | Neighbourhood | District | 2 | This playground was upgraded in 2013 and is now a District level. |
| Killarney Heights | C | Waterford | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Manly Vale | B | Corbett - Innes Rd | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| Manly Vale | B | Fairway | District | District | 2 | Due to be upgraded in the coming years. |
| Manly Vale | B | King St | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-----------------|------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Manly Vale | B | Manly Dam | District | Regional | 2 | Category changed from District to Regional to allow for future upgrade of playground within this regional recreational asset. Being within a natural area future playground upgrades here should consider themes sympathetic to the surrounds, such as nature based, adventure based, environmental education or an Aboriginal or historical theme. Designs should not be restricted to the current playground footprint and could spread across the different picnic areas and facilitate less structured play. While demand is strong for existing playground equipment such as the swings, alternatives or additions to be considered could include, a flying fox, water play, climbing wall or a slide built into the slope. Given the area's rich Aboriginal heritage, a replica rock shelter or rock platform with engravings or ochre could be integrated into the landscape. |
| Manly Vale | B | Passmore | Regional | District | 2 | Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage. |
| Narrabeen | A | Berry Reserve | Regional | District | 3 | Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage. |
| Narrabeen | A | Birdwood Park | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| Narrabeen | A | Furlough | District | Neighbourhood | 2 | This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District. |
| Narrabeen | A | Wheeler Park | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| Narraweena | B | Beverley Job | District | District | 1 | Playground upgraded in July 2015. |
| Narraweena | B | May | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |
| Narraweena | A | Parr | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground renewed in 2011. |
| Narraweena | B | Warri | Neighbourhood | Local | 3 | This playground services a large number of residences due to its position on a thoroughfare with dual street access. There are no other playgrounds nearby. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| North Balgowlah | B | Winsome | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | Located on a thoroughfare with dual street access. No other playgrounds nearby. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-----------------|------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| North Balgowlah | B | Woodbine | Neighbourhood | Local | 2 | New equipment installed in 2012. |
| North Balgowlah | B | Woolgoolga | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| North Curl Curl | B | John Fisher Park Netball | District | District | 2 | Maintain. |
| North Curl Curl | B | Makim St Reserve | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground renewed in 2010. |
| North Curl Curl | B | Surf | Neighbourhood | District | 2 | When due for renewal the playground should be upgraded to District. Consideration should be given to providing picnic tables, BBQs and fencing or screening to provide a barrier from the large number of dogs who travel through this reserve to access the off-leash dog area. |
| North Manly | B | Ankali | Neighbourhood | Local | 3 | There are no other playgrounds in this area. The reserve is a thoroughfare with dual street access. Retain as a Local playground. |
| North Manly | B | Nolan Reserve No. 2 | Neighbourhood | Local | 3 | Although close to the larger playground at Passmore Reserve 300m away, this play equipment is well used. Bark mulch installed in 2012. |
| North Manly | A | Quarry | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 4 | To be upgraded in 2015-16. |
| Queenscliff | B | Aitken | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Maintain. |
| Queenscliff | B | Crown Street | Neighbourhood | District | 2 | Category to be upgraded to District to better reflect actual usage and facilities. |
| Terrey Hills | C | Burraga | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | The next nearest playground is 550m away at Kurara Reserve which is on the other side of busy Booralie Rd. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Terrey Hills | C | Coreen | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | Playground upgraded in 2010. |

| | Ward | Reserve | Previous category | New category | Condition rating 1-5 | Comment |
|-----------------|------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Terrey Hills | C | Duncan | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | Duncan Reserve is a nice shady reserve which provides a link from the residential area through to a nursery, bus stop and school. The equipment should be repaired or replaced as necessary and seating should be installed. The District playground at Frank Beckman Reserve is less than 400m away and is due to be upgraded in the 2015-2016 financial year. |
| Terrey Hills | C | Frank Beckman | Regional | District | 2 | Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage. |
| Terrey Hills | C | Kurara | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 1 | Playground upgraded in February 2015. |
| Terrey Hills | C | Terrigal | Neighbourhood | Local | 4 | The playground 500m away at Kurara Reserve was upgraded in 2014. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground. |
| Wheeler Heights | A | Ambleside | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 2 | This playground was renewed in 2010. |
| Wheeler Heights | A | Grasmere | Neighbourhood | Neighbourhood | 4 | This playground is to be upgraded in the 2015-2016 financial year. |

APPENDIX B: OPEN SPACE SURVEY RESULTS

Table 17 - Participation in open space activities

(Open Space Survey 2014) n=423

| Activity | Overall | 12 years or under | 13-18 years | 19-24 years | 25-39 years | 40-59 years | 60-74 years | 75-84 years | 85+ years |
|---|---------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Walking/Jogging | 84.16% | 72.73% | 73.44% | 86.67% | 92.08% | 87.77% | 96.15% | 92.31% | 75.00% |
| Hang out at a beach reserve, e.g. have a coffee, watch the surf | 74.94% | 54.55% | 56.25% | 73.33% | 87.13% | 84.17% | 78.85% | 76.92% | 75.00% |
| Picnic/outdoor gathering | 63.12% | 36.36% | 48.44% | 53.33% | 74.26% | 69.78% | 67.31% | 69.23% | 50.00% |
| Swim at a rockpool | 59.10% | 45.45% | 46.88% | 33.33% | 70.30% | 69.78% | 50.00% | 69.23% | 25.00% |
| Bushwalking | 55.79% | 45.45% | 34.38% | 53.33% | 68.32% | 63.31% | 59.62% | 38.46% | 25.00% |
| Bike riding | 52.96% | 54.55% | 48.44% | 40.00% | 67.33% | 66.19% | 26.92% | 15.38% | 0.00% |
| Small neighbourhood playground | 45.15% | 45.45% | 34.38% | 13.33% | 73.27% | 46.04% | 36.54% | 30.77% | 0.00% |
| Larger regional/district playground | 41.13% | 45.45% | 29.69% | 13.33% | 62.38% | 47.48% | 25.00% | 23.08% | 0.00% |
| Relaxation, e.g. meditation/yoga/Tai-Chi/read a book | 36.41% | 45.45% | 46.88% | 26.67% | 36.63% | 32.37% | 46.15% | 38.46% | 0.00% |
| Informal sports, e.g kick a ball | 33.57% | 36.36% | 39.06% | 46.67% | 41.58% | 38.85% | 9.62% | 23.08% | 0.00% |
| Kayaking/canoeing/Stand up paddleboard | 26.48% | 9.09% | 29.69% | 13.33% | 33.66% | 32.37% | 15.38% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Off-leash dog park | 25.53% | 18.18% | 23.44% | 33.33% | 22.77% | 35.97% | 17.31% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Scooting | 25.30% | 36.36% | 20.31% | 6.67% | 42.57% | 30.94% | 1.92% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Outdoor fitness equipment | 21.99% | 27.27% | 31.25% | 53.33% | 23.76% | 20.86% | 11.54% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Mountain biking | 21.28% | 45.45% | 23.44% | 40.00% | 27.72% | 24.46% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Skateboarding | 20.09% | 27.27% | 31.25% | 13.33% | 9.90% | 30.94% | 7.69% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Parents groups | 19.86% | 36.36% | 9.38% | 6.67% | 45.54% | 14.39% | 9.62% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Personal training | 14.89% | 18.18% | 10.94% | 13.33% | 21.78% | 17.27% | 7.69% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Basketball | 13.95% | 18.18% | 40.63% | 20.00% | 7.92% | 12.95% | 1.92% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| Hobby, e.g. remote control/kite flying | 12.53% | 18.18% | 29.69% | 6.67% | 11.88% | 10.79% | 3.85% | 15.38% | 0.00% |
| Birdwatching | 12.29% | 9.09% | 6.25% | 13.33% | 6.93% | 16.55% | 15.38% | 23.08% | 0.00% |
| Dirt jumping | 11.58% | 18.18% | 21.88% | 33.33% | 10.89% | 10.79% | 1.92% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Community gardens | 10.40% | 9.09% | 1.56% | 6.67% | 18.81% | 11.51% | 5.77% | 15.38% | 0.00% |
| Horse riding | 10.17% | 18.18% | 12.50% | 0.00% | 7.92% | 14.39% | 5.77% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| BMX | 9.46% | 9.09% | 15.63% | 6.67% | 11.88% | 10.07% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Table tennis (outdoor) | 6.38% | 9.09% | 15.63% | 6.67% | 4.95% | 5.76% | 0.00% | 7.69% | 0.00% |

Table 18 - Features that may encourage survey respondents to visit Warringah's open spaces more often
 (Open Space Survey 2014)

| What features would potentially encourage you to visit Warringah's open spaces more often? | Overall | 12 years or under | 13-18 years | 19-24 years | 25-39 years | 40-59 years | 60-74 years | 75-84 years | 85+ years |
|--|---------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Shady/sheltered locations | 9.43% | 5.81% | 6.44% | 6.36% | 10.42% | 10.62% | 10.81% | 9.80% | 3.70% |
| Toilets | 9.32% | 10.47% | 7.95% | 6.36% | 9.72% | 9.32% | 10.54% | 9.80% | 11.11% |
| Places to sit, e.g. seats, benches, rocks | 8.98% | 8.14% | 8.14% | 7.27% | 8.73% | 8.78% | 10.81% | 10.78% | 14.81% |
| Water | 8.09% | 8.14% | 7.58% | 6.36% | 9.30% | 8.45% | 7.03% | 6.86% | 3.70% |
| Picnic spaces with tables and BBQs | 8.06% | 4.65% | 6.63% | 7.27% | 8.31% | 7.91% | 10.00% | 10.78% | 11.11% |
| Bins | 6.55% | 4.65% | 5.87% | 6.36% | 7.04% | 6.28% | 6.49% | 9.80% | 11.11% |
| Improved access to parking | 5.83% | 3.49% | 4.92% | 4.55% | 5.92% | 5.20% | 8.38% | 9.80% | 7.41% |
| Events/Music/Entertainment/Markets | 5.66% | 4.65% | 5.49% | 7.27% | 5.49% | 6.07% | 5.41% | 2.94% | 7.41% |
| Improved accessibility, e.g. footpaths | 4.87% | 2.33% | 6.06% | 5.45% | 3.52% | 4.23% | 5.95% | 7.84% | 7.41% |
| Improved safety, e.g. lighting, passive surveillance | 4.56% | 3.49% | 4.73% | 4.55% | 4.65% | 3.90% | 4.86% | 6.86% | 7.41% |
| Public art | 4.08% | 3.49% | 4.17% | 5.45% | 2.96% | 4.33% | 4.86% | 3.92% | 7.41% |
| Other, please specify | 3.98% | 5.81% | 3.22% | 7.27% | 3.38% | 4.98% | 2.43% | 2.94% | 0.00% |
| Outdoor fitness equipment | 3.94% | 5.81% | 5.30% | 9.09% | 4.08% | 3.68% | 1.62% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Wi-Fi | 3.94% | 8.14% | 8.90% | 4.55% | 2.82% | 2.82% | 2.43% | 0.00% | 3.70% |
| Less activity and smaller crowds | 2.95% | 4.65% | 2.65% | 2.73% | 2.96% | 3.58% | 2.43% | 1.96% | 0.00% |
| Fences/boundaries | 2.78% | 2.33% | 1.89% | 1.82% | 5.35% | 1.52% | 2.97% | 1.96% | 3.70% |
| Outdoor table tennis | 1.89% | 4.65% | 3.41% | 3.64% | 1.41% | 1.84% | 0.27% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Handball court | 1.85% | 4.65% | 3.22% | 1.82% | 0.99% | 2.28% | 0.54% | 0.98% | 0.00% |
| Hitting wall (for tennis) | 1.85% | 1.16% | 1.52% | 0.00% | 1.97% | 2.60% | 1.62% | 0.98% | 0.00% |
| Outdoor chess | 1.41% | 3.49% | 1.89% | 1.82% | 0.99% | 1.63% | 0.54% | 1.96% | 0.00% |

APPENDIX C

Warringah Council Benchmark Park User Survey (2013). Reasons for visiting a park recorded during park intercept surveys.

| Reasons for visiting the park | WC n = 730 | Region n = 4337 |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| PASSIVE HEALTH & WELL-BEING | 20% | 27% |
| Be alone | - | 0.2% |
| Beach activities | - | 0.2% |
| Camping | - | 0.1% |
| Enjoy environment | 4% | 8% |
| Enjoy peace & quiet | 0.3% | 1% |
| Feed ducks/birds | 0.4% | 0.3% |
| Fish | 0.3% | 0.4% |
| Fly kite | - | - |
| Meditate/Spiritual practices | 0.1% | 0.02% |
| Read/Study | 0.3% | 1% |
| Relax | 2% | 5% |
| Sightsee | 0.3% | 3% |
| Spectate sport | 11% | 4% |
| Sunbathe | - | 1% |
| Take a break | 0.1% | 1% |
| Take photos | 0.3% | 1% |
| Undertake arts & crafts | 0.1% | 0.05% |
| Use model boat/aircraft/car | 0.1% | 0.05% |
| Watch wildlife | 0.4% | 1% |

| Reasons for visiting the park | WC n = 730 | Region n = 4337 |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| SOCIAL/DINING | 36% | 29% |
| Attend social/family function | 5% | 4% |
| Have meal break | 1% | 3% |
| Have picnic/BBQ | 8% | 4% |
| Meet friends/socialise | 4% | 6% |
| Spend time with children/family | 17% | 11% |
| Visit Café/restaurant | 1% | 1% |
| COMMUNITY | 0.1% | 1% |
| Participate in community event | 0.1% | 1% |
| Participate in community program | - | 0.1% |
| Visit markets | - | 0.02% |
| ACCESS | 2% | 5% |
| Access other locations – pass thru park | 1% | 3% |
| Access public transport | - | 0.2% |
| Park is convenient | 0.4% | 1% |
| Wait/pick up/drop off | 0.3% | 1% |
| VOCATIONAL | 0.3% | 2% |
| Vocational purposes | 0.3% | 2% |

| Reasons for visiting the park | WC n = 730 | Region n = 4337 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| ACTIVE HEALTH & WELL-BEING | 44% | 38% |
| Boat/canoe/kayak/sail | 1% | 1% |
| Children's play/visit playground | 9% | 8% |
| Cycle | 2% | 3% |
| Dog exercise/recreation | 12% | 6% |
| Exercise | 1% | 2% |
| Hike/bushwalk | 0.4% | 0.2% |
| Jog | 1% | 1% |
| Other aquatic activities | 1% | 1% |
| Play/train sport | 1% | 2% |
| Play ball/social games | 1% | 1% |
| Recreate/play | 1% | 2% |
| Ride BMX/stunt bike | - | 0.1% |
| Ride mountain bike | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Rollerblade | - | - |
| Skateboard/scooter | 1% | 1% |
| Swim | 2% | 1% |
| Undertake martial arts/Tai Chi | - | 0.1% |
| Walk | 10% | 8% |