

Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy 2014



The recommendations in this Strategy will be taken into consideration over the long term as part of Council's Integrated Planning process. See Page 16 for further information.

October 2014

The Appendices are separately bound.

Acknowledgements

- 217 residents who completed the survey for their original and creative ideas.
- 60 residents who attended the workshop for expanding on the ideas.
- Representatives from 24 clubs who completed the sporting clubs survey and attended the workshop. (There are 27 clubs altogether).
- Discussions with young people at Barrenjoey High School, Marta Maria Catholic College and Narrabeen Sports High School.
- Students from Macquarie University's PACE Program who developed an application for mobile devices. The application, called 'Walking Pittwater' provide suggested walks, historic photos, a short film and vegetation descriptions.
- Local residents who walked Pittwater and mapped the best places to walk for fitness and enjoyment and provided the short film, Kooroowall Dreaming, for the mobile devices.
- A representative from Avalon Historical Society; and the local residents who walked Pittwater, for identifying the location of historic photos for placement on the application for mobile devices.



What You Told Us . . . Quotes from the Surveys

Refer to Appendix A for Community Workshop and Discussion Paper

'All walking tracks and cycling tracks are appreciated. I walk the headland track from Newport to Bilgola frequently. More of these would be wonderful. Somewhere to stop for coffee along the way. It would be great to combine exercise with social activities.'

'Indoor areas need to be enhanced with consideration for specialist sports like badminton which is constrained by the lack of facilities.'

'Provide facilities to encourage social interaction including seating and shelter at larger parks with enough space and facilities for social gatherings. At small neighbourhood parks, provide walking and cycling tracks. Link village greens or outdoor space to a shopping centre.'

'Pittwater has an expanding population. We will be in need of a greater amount of sports fields.'

In developing this Strategy, Pittwater Council has endeavoured to capture the thoughts, opinions and creative ideas the Pittwater community has for the management and improvement of their public spaces. This page contains some representative quotes provided by the community.

The Strategy provides long term planning considerations for open space, sport and recreational activities. Funding is dependent on available Council resources and must be assessed against the other priorities. Works will be implemented according to priorities. Budget allocations will be assigned as part of the process of the annual review of the *Pittwater Council Delivery Program and Budget*.

'It is important to maintain some open space for its own sake - somewhere people can 'stretch' mentally and have distance vistas - as a relief from what is becoming heavily built up suburbia. Somewhere without any built structures.'

'Basically Pittwater is so stunningly beautiful that I think it just needs to be preserved with only tasteful, careful landscaping or facilities.'

'Pittwater could be a bit like the *Cinqueterre* in Italy if there were piazza style centres and outdoor dining unaffected by traffic noise and worries about kids and roads. A series of small villages full of character. . . It would be much more of a social place and tourist attraction if there were urban central spaces for people to congregate and mingle, eat and drink.'

'I tend to think of our area as unique. We have a natural advantage, and in many cases, simple addition to function . . . will enhance an area.'



Executive Summary

The vision articulated in the Pittwater 2025 Community Strategic Plan is "To be a vibrant sustainable community of connected villages inspired by bush, beach and water". The *Open Space, Bushland and Recreation Strategy, 2000* captured the community priorities for open space at that time and into the near future and it is pleasing to report that a number of identified opportunities have been converted to significant achievements. These include:

- saving the Ingleside Escarpment – expectations have been exceeded with the acquisition of 65 hectares of highly sensitive bushland escarpment to create Ingleside Chase Reserve that now extends from Elanora Heights in the south to Mona Vale Road in the north;
- protection of the Winnererremy Bay Foreshore – this was achieved including the establishment of a highly popular regional park and playground as well as environmental and access improvements;
- provision of a multi-court & multi-purpose Indoor Sports Centre – the four courts Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre has now been in operation for over 12 years and such is the demand it has development consent for a further two courts to be added;
- shared use of school facilities has been further established at Narrabeen Sports High including synthetic oval and western oval;
- Currawong, an historic site on the western foreshore, has been secured into public ownership; and
- regional/district parks created and embellished at Governor Phillip Park, Dunbar Park, Winnererremy Bay, Apex Park and Bilarong Reserve.

The Draft Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy updates and builds upon the previous Strategy and aims to provide a further range of sustainable outcomes based on Pittwater's identified key directions:

- supporting and connecting our community;
- valuing and caring for our natural environment; and
- integrating our built environment.

Key components of the Strategy

- Enhance existing public space, sport and recreation networks that have high public value.
- Encourage social ownership and a desire to protect and use these networks in such a way that enhance Pittwater's natural areas and cultural heritage.
- Expand public space, sport and recreation networks for the benefit of future generations that considers the needs of the community for social interaction, public health, provision of access for all, and that are sustainable in economic and environmental terms.
- Improve the quality of public space through upgrading and managing existing networks as well as consideration given to purchasing additional land and the sale of surplus land. In particular, additional land for sportsfields is required to service the growing population. There is a shortage of sportsfields to meet the playing and training needs of the community, and in many cases the maintenance standards are considered below expectations. Council allocates significant budgets to cover the recurrent costs associated with sportsfields, and recovers only a small portion in user charges.



The Strategy is based on statistical data sourced from previous open space and recreation strategies, the 2011 ABS Census, research on current National and State trends and surveys and workshops carried out specifically for this project.

Consultation

The consultation process involved a number of surveys and workshops which asked the community to be creative and 'think outside the square'. The general survey was completed by 216 people and 60 people attended the public workshop. The survey results for Pittwater are reasonably consistent with national trends. Refer to Table 5 on page 37.

National trends

- Walking is the most popular activity closely followed by aerobics / fitness, then swimming, cycling, and running.
- Australians are becoming more physically active.
- Field sports have remained popular, particularly outdoor football codes. Non-competitive and passive recreation is gaining in popularity.
- The number of people aged 65 and over is predicted to increase from just over one million in 2012 to 2.3 million in 2050.
- In 2010, 36% of Australians aged 18 years and over participated in voluntary work.
- Sixty-three percent of children aged 5 -14 years participated in organised sport outside school hours.
- Screen based activities (internet and television) are popular with adults and children.

The trends highlight the importance of providing a broad range of opportunities for the community to participate in sport, leisure and recreational activities for physical, mental, cultural and social benefits. Facilities need to be well designed and managed, and be accessible to provide for an ageing population and to encourage children and young people to participate in an active lifestyle.

Main Recommendations

In response to the survey and workshop results and analysis of the open space network, the main issues addressed in the Strategy include:

General

- Upgrade and expand, where feasible, the public space network for the benefit of the broader community.
- Promote programs that support social interaction, access for all and are sustainable in economic and environmental terms. Provide well designed, safe open spaces that protect and enhance the natural environment, identify cultural heritage and consider aesthetics, sustainability and 'sense of place'.
- Improve equity in the distribution of public space and recreational opportunities.
- Provide multi-use spaces that promote intergenerational use including additional opportunities for an ageing population and for children and young people.



Nature Conservation Areas

- Provide activities that allow for the experience of nature appreciation – contemplative, bushwalking and educational.
- Conduct Bushcare workshops to share ideas and help reinforce Council's working relationship with volunteers.

Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Tracks

- A review of all walking tracks is currently being undertaken in conjunction with the development of iPhone applications by students from Macquarie University this semester to supplement the Android application made by students last year. Upon completion of the iPhone and iPad application, Pittwater will have a comprehensive range of mobile devices available to the public to enhance their walking experience within Pittwater. There has been no cost to Council and the community for the development of these devices.

Ocean Beaches

- Continue to upgrade amenity. Restore dunes and maintain beach safety standards.
- Support SLSC and work with the surfing, swimming, hanggliding and para-gliding communities to improve facilities for these sports.

Foreshore Reserves and Waterways

- Improve accessibility to the water for water craft. Continue to upgrade wharves to provide access for all.

Large Developed Parks

- Continue to upgrade amenity and maintenance standards. Provide high quality facilities for all of the community such as the proposed skate park at Kitchener Park and an All Abilities playground at Bert Payne Reserve.

Structured Sports and Recreation Areas

- Investigate more equitable use of golf courses and bowling clubs for the benefit of the wider community. Pittwater contains three public golf courses covering 66.6 hectares plus three private golf courses. This could represent an oversupply of golf courses at the expense of other activities the community wish to participate in.
- Rationalise playgrounds by gradually removing some of the older small playgrounds and replacing with fewer larger-scale facilities. Playgrounds are monitored closely under legislative requirements. This strategy will reduce maintenance costs and provide facilities that meet the expectations of the community.

Sportsgrounds

- Identify land suitable for sportsgrounds in and adjacent to new release areas for purchase.
- Continue to upgrade facilities with sustainable technologies.
- Continue to support volunteers.



Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities

- Continue to support the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre at Warriewood which has Development Consent to expand to a six court facility (Currently four courts).
- Consider the development of an indoor aquatic centre after the end of the 2017 financial year in accordance with the recommendation at the Council meeting of 6 February 2013.

Village Greens, Culture and Leisure

- In conjunction with the Enliven Pittwater Program, improve the ambience of the town centres by developing a distinctive sense of place that captures the essence of Pittwater.
- Investigate opportunities for outdoor entertainment and public art to provide additional activities in the town centres (other than shopping).
- Develop a program to assist the community to establish community gardens as a sustainable activity that promotes well-being and social interaction.

Tourism

- Welcome visitors to Pittwater and encourage eco-tourism.
- Identify joint ventures with local businesses and commercial ventures such as expanding the network of kiosks to help fund additional open space infrastructure, ongoing maintenance and services for the benefit of the community.

Land rationalisation

The Strategy supports the purchase and sale of land to provide the best possible range and use of public land for current and future generations. Since the inception of Pittwater Council, 145.2 hectares of public space with high social and environmental values has been purchased and 18.5 hectares of land with lower values has been either swapped or sold. This is a net increase of over 126 hectares and a positive ratio of almost 8 to 1. The sale proceeds have provided funding for major embellishments of open lands acquired as well as embellishment of other existing high net community benefit open space.

In addition, Council has sold segments of road reserve that are surplus to road infrastructure needs with the funds put back into road related outcomes (as per the Roads Act) such as additional on road footpaths identified in the *Pittwater Walks & Rides Strategy*. This adds to the connectivity between Village Centres and open space nodes and further promotes walking as recreation.

Examples of purchases with high social and environmental values include Warriewood Wetlands, Ingleside Chase Escarpment Reserve and Winnererremy Bay foreshore parkland as well as creekline corridors through the Warriewood Valley land release area.



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Appendices

Separately Bound



Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFL	Australian Football League
AHO	Aboriginal Heritage Office
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DCP	Development Control Plan
ERP	Estimated Resident Population (Census adjustment)
ha	Hectares (10000 square metres)
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
PSSA	(Pittwater) Primary Schools Sports Association
RTA	Roads and Traffic Authority
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
RUC	Rugby Union Club
SHOROC	Shore Regional Organisation of Councils, comprising of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah
SLS	Surf Life Saving
sq. km.	Square kilometer





1. Introduction

Pittwater Council recognises and acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which this strategy is located.

The Strategy provides the direction necessary to continue to maintain and develop a range of quality public space, sport and recreation facilities and activities across the Pittwater LGA for at least the next 10 years.

The Strategy is founded on statistical results ranging from local to national levels, research from previous surveys and reports, data from the 2011 Census, current national and state trends and project specific surveys and workshops as well as analysis of Pittwater's open space network.

Public space is defined as land that is managed by Council and available to all members of the community. While this Strategy considers all public space, it focuses on open space. Open space is typically land zoned RE1 Public Recreation, E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves, E2 Environmental Conservation, W1 Natural Waterways and W2 Recreational Waterways in the *Pittwater Local Environmental Plan, 2014*. Open space includes:

- Bushland, Headlands, Wetlands and Escarpments
- Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Tracks and Paths
- Ocean Beaches
- Foreshore Reserves and Waterways
- Large Developed Parks
- Structured Sports and Recreation Areas
- Sportsgrounds
- Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities
- Village Greens
- Tourism



This Strategy does not include community recreation centres at Avalon and Newport or privately owned recreational facilities.

Over the past few decades, there has been an increased recognition of the value of public space for the benefits provided to the community. There has been a new desire to create a 'sense of place' that reinforces social integration and ownership of public spaces, as well as creative initiatives aimed to provide people with a better quality of life.

Historical trends in population growth and population projections by Government agencies suggest that development in Australia will continue to grow. Future development will impact on Pittwater's natural environment, aesthetics and way of life. The demand for land and



the pressure on existing infrastructure will increase. As land is a finite resource, it is important to evaluate the supply of public space, sporting and recreational facilities, as well as its distribution to provide for current and future needs.

Pittwater's parks and reserves including the associated infrastructure is valued at about two billion dollars (Pittwater Council Delivery Program and Budget 2012-2016, p. 7). The management of the open space network is complex and expensive. The over-arching goal in managing the open space, sport and recreation network is to conserve, enhance and protect the natural environment, while providing a diverse range of recreational activities appropriate to the particular landscape setting and its context. Management practices aim to achieve the best outcome from available funding.

Pittwater's parks and reserves are generally managed by landscape settings including beaches, waterways, foreshore reserves, bushland, parkland, village greens, sportsfields and connecting corridors with walking tracks. Many people are drawn to the Pittwater area due to the diverse range of landscape settings and the associated activities.

An analysis of Pittwater's open space network is contained in Chapter 5 and Appendix B which contains the reserve inventories. The discussion is contained in Chapter 6 which is structured by landscape setting and based on community consultation. The recommendations are contained in Chapter 8. The recommendations provide a wish list for long term planning.





2. About the Strategy

2.1 Context of the Strategy

The approach taken in preparing this Strategy is based on the following considerations and process:

- assess open space considering the condition of the land, its physical suitability for use as open space, the type of facilities and their appropriateness and the differing expectations of the community;
- consider the value of landscape settings within the open space network, including nature conservation areas, walking, cycling, equestrian paths and tracks, ocean beaches, foreshore reserves and waterways, large developed parks, structured sport and recreation areas, sportsgrounds, indoor sports and recreation facilities and village greens;
- determine the needs, aspirations and recreational interests of the community based on surveys and workshop for this Strategy with consideration given to other relevant planning documents;
- investigate the provision of a range of sport and recreational opportunities to meet community needs that extends beyond traditional expectations;
- consider equity in relation to the provision and distribution of public space, sport and recreation facilities; and
- provide for changing needs and trends.

2.2 Purpose of the Strategy

The Strategy has been prepared to:

- update the previous Strategy, dated 2000;
- set a clear direction for future public space, sport and recreational planning and expenditure, including the need to expand public space, sport and recreation facilities, to cater for population growth;
- determine and justify expenditure on public spaces, sport and recreation in Council's Delivery Plan;
- form a basis for nominating capital works for public space, sport and recreation within the Section 94 Contributions Plan for Open Space and Recreation or applicable mechanism for infrastructure contributions;
- assess any increased demand for public space, sport and recreation facilities and inform priorities that may be delivered by the infrastructure contributions mechanism (under the planning legislation).





2.3 Legislation and Policies

The legislation and literature considered during the preparation of this Strategy is based on a number of documents.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 or its equivalent legislation forms the legislative framework for planning in New South Wales and facilitates the preparation of statutory planning instruments to enable development of land including State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure), 2007 provides generic provisions where development consent is not required (known as 'exempt development') or an assessment of factors to be addressed; known as Part V Assessment. There are 23 classes of infrastructure development where a Development Application is not required and only a Part V Assessment has to be undertaken.

Other State Environmental Planning Policies include Bushland in *Urban Areas (SEPP 19)*, *Coastal Protection (SEPP 71)* and *Coastal Wetland (SEPP 14)*. These policies aim to protect the natural environment. For instance, SEPP 19 aims to protect bushland - from remnant plant communities that were once characteristic in the area to retaining areas of bushland of a size and configuration that will enable plant and animal communities to survive in the long term.

Local Government Act, 1993 requires that councils classify public land as Operational or Community. Community land is categorised and subject to core objectives and categorised into one or more of the following categories: natural area (further categorised as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore), general community use; sportsground; park; or area of cultural significance.

Crown Lands Act, 1989 and Amendments in 2005. Pittwater contains a number of reserves that are Crown land. The Act states that the use of Crown land must be consistent with the reservation of Crown land and the principles for management of Crown land under the Act.

Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney, March 2013 provides the strategic planning framework for Sydney. The Draft Strategy for Sydney describes Pittwater and its role as an 'iconic coastline and water environment: protect long term health, scenic quality and economic contribution; increase access to promote Sydney as a world class, high quality visitor destination.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment; a department of the NSW Government, is responsible for long term planning and ongoing environmental management at a local government level including population predictions. (Refer to Section 4.2 Pittwater's Projected Population Growth).

Office of Communities Sport and Recreation, NSW Government - supports the NSW Sports Federation in a number of ways, from sponsorship to dispute resolution. Sporting clubs and associations are subject to common law requirements including legal obligations in relation to how they manage the club's finances.



The Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines for Local Government, 2012 was introduced by amendments to the *Local Government Act, 1993* (and Regulations 2009). It aims to standardise and improve strategic planning by local governments. From June 2012, councils are required to document all planning for the long, medium and short term. Reports are structured within a hierarchy and include:

- Community Strategic Plan (10 + years) - is the highest level plan that a council will prepare. The purpose is to identify the community's main aspirations and priorities for the long term. The research and consultation undertaken for the *Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy* informed the Recreation Management Strategy within the *Pittwater 2025 Strategic Plan*.
- Delivery Program (4 years) where the community's aspirations and priorities are translated into actions.
- Operational Plan (1 year) provides the individual projects and activities undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

Community engagement underpins the decision making directly to the Community Strategic Plan or through aspirations from the various other strategies and plans prepared by councils, such as this Public Space and Recreation Strategy. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.





Other documents that relate to, or stem from the Pittwater's Public Space and Recreation Strategy are listed below. These documents can be accessed from Council's website.

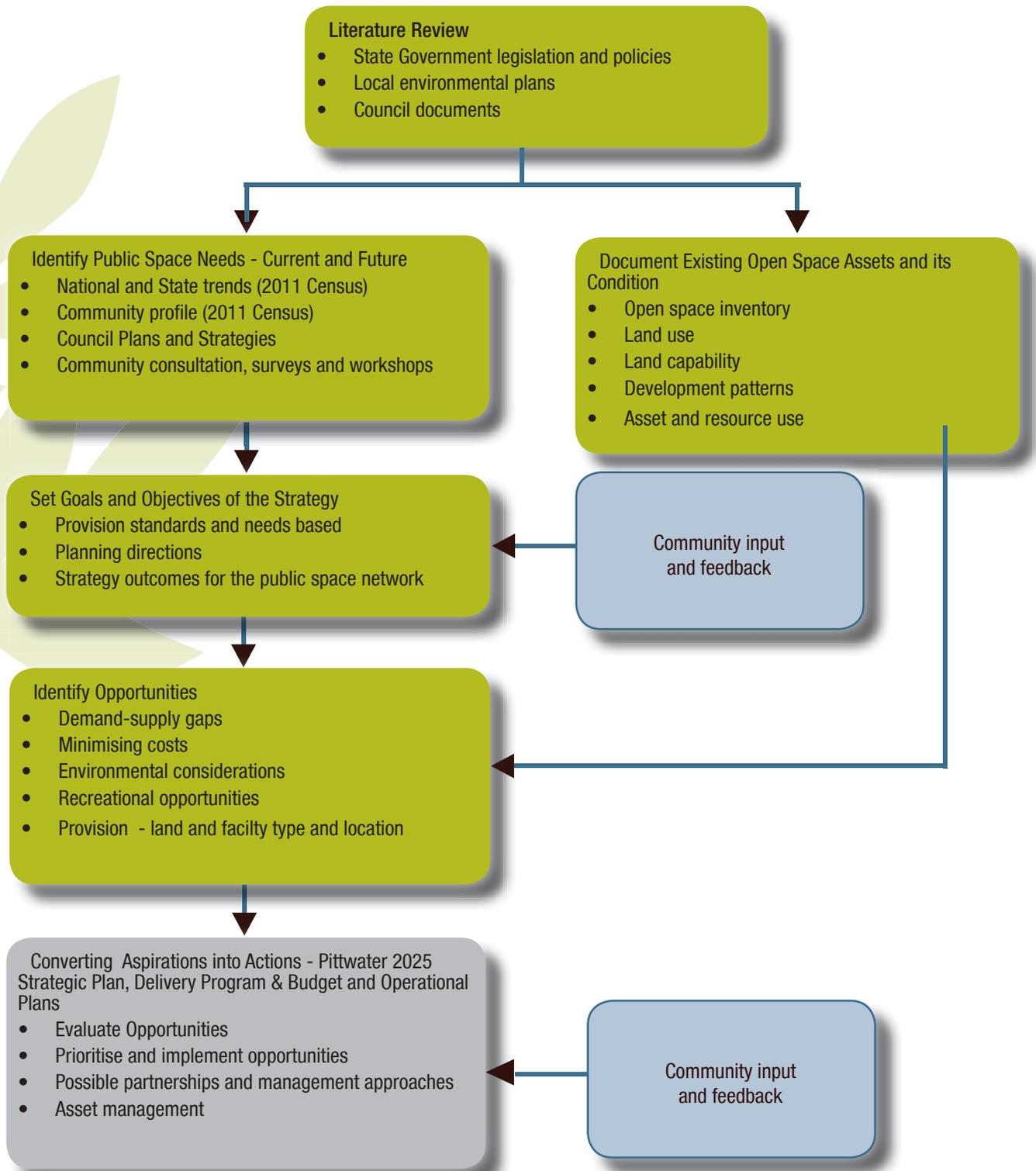
Documents relating to the Strategy include:

- *Pittwater 2025 Community Strategic Plan*
- *Pittwater Council Delivery Plan & Budget*
- *Pittwater Natural Areas Plan of Management, 2009*
- *Pittwater Native Vegetation Management Plan*, adopted December 2012
- Proposed upgrades for each reserve as authorised in the Plans of Management. This is an ongoing process.
- *Walks & Rides Strategy* (first adopted in 2005) and its sub-plans - currently under review.
- *Pittwater Social Plan 2012-2016, Live, Connect, Participate*, 2 July 2012.
- *Emerging Issues Paper - Arts*, September 2013.
- *Pittwater Economic Development Plan 2012-2016, Working Locally - Connecting Globally* - 3 July 2013
- *Enliven Pittwater Report*, Council Report 15 August 2013.





2.4 Process





3. Recreational Trends - Statistical Overview

This chapter explores the demand and patterns for sport, recreation and cultural activities at a national and state level. The information has been collected from a number of sources and results have been used to gauge any shifts in community attitudes, needs and preferences. The information has been cross referenced with the census results and survey results for Pittwater to ensure consistency.



3.1 Australian Bureau of Statistics Reports

Census 2011

Australia's sixteenth national census, conducted on 9 August 2011, estimates the national population at 21.5 million with 50.6% women and 49.2% men. Some general findings include:

- Australians are older and more ethnically diverse;
- fourteen percent of the population is now aged 65 or over;
- the median age has risen; from 24 in 1911, to 37 in 2011;
- immigration is currently at 200,000 people a year, mostly from Britain and New Zealand, then China and India, followed by people from a diverse range of countries; and
- since the last census of 2006, the median weekly household income rose by 20 percent to \$1,234. This is below the previous jump of 31%.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts a number of smaller surveys, including data on the range of sport, leisure and cultural activities that people participate in. The ABS also provide a number of reports that analyse the census and survey findings. These are available from the ABS website. The following sections highlight findings from some of the relevant information provided in the ABS reports. (The surveys consider an adult to be 15 years or older).

Between July 2009 and June 2010 the ABS surveyed households asking people about their participation in sport and physical recreation and their attendance at cultural events and sporting events. The following results were reported:

- 64% of the adult population participated in some form of outdoor exercise during the 12 months prior;
- 26% of people participated in organised sport and physical recreation;
- walking ranked as the most popular physical recreation activity for exercise;
- 63% of school aged children (5-14 years) participated in organised sport outside school hours during the 12 months prior;

For all those who participated, health and fitness was the most common motivator for 33% of the population, followed by enjoyment at 21%, well-being at 16% and social or family reasons at 14%.



Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2011-12

The participation for adult men and women for the ten most popular sport and recreational activities according to the survey are contained in Figures 2 and 3.

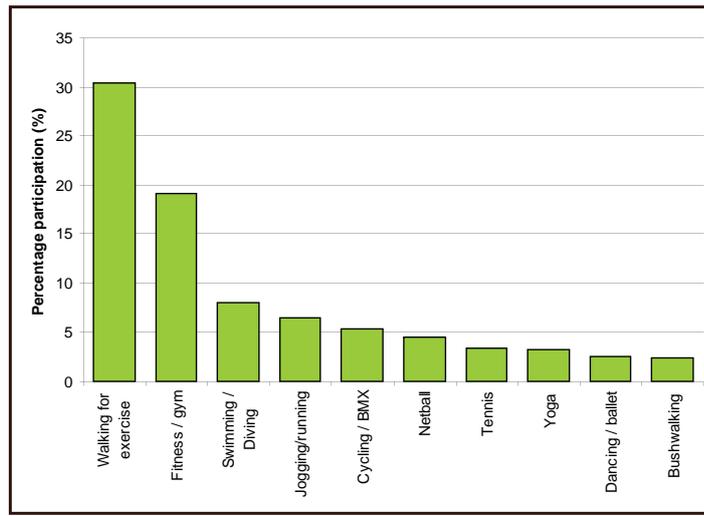


Figure 2. Top Ten Most Popular Activities for Female Adults

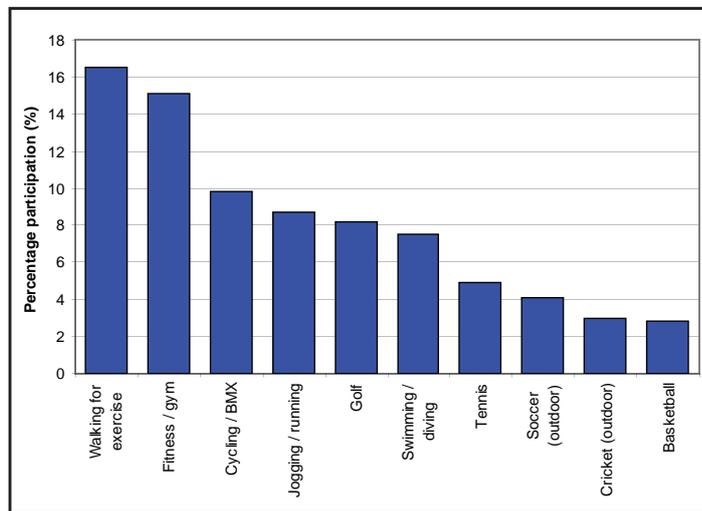


Figure 3. Top Ten Most Popular Activities for Male Adults

Australian Social Trends, June 2011

Within the range of activities contained in this survey, 67% of people attended the cinema and 34% visited a library. More than 27% of people aged 15 years and over participated in at least one selected cultural activity. The activities selected for the survey included textile crafts, jewelry making, paper crafts, wood crafts, sculpting, painting and drawing.



For younger people results indicated:

- 27% were likely to attend art galleries and theatre
- 93% were likely to attend the cinema
- 40% were likely to attend a library
- 38% were likely to attend popular music concerts
- 13% were likely to attend classical concerts

For people aged 55 years and older:

- 17% were likely to attend art galleries and theatre
- 13% were likely to attend classical concerts



Voluntary Work, Australia 2010

The General Social Survey reviewed participation in unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group. Findings include:

- In 2010, 36% of the Australian population aged 18 years and over participated in voluntary work;
- 58% of volunteers worked for one organisation in the previous 12 months, 23% worked for two organisations and 19% worked for three or more;
- 35% of adult volunteers participated at least once a week;
- an additional 335,200 people reported doing unpaid work for an organisation or group;
- sport and physical recreation organisations were the most common organisations people volunteered for with people aged 35 to 54 the highest participators; and
- 37% of people aged over 65 volunteered for welfare and community organisations.

Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities (2012a)

This survey is conducted every three years. See Figures 3 and 4. The most recent results indicate 60% of children aged 5-14 participated in at least one organised sporting activity outside school hours; 67% were boys and 53% girls. Participation for age groups in NSW include:

- 5 - 8 year old - 56%
- 9 - 11 year old - 66%
- 12 - 14 year old - 60%

Children's Participation in Sport and Leisure Time Activities, 2003 - 2012

This survey assessed children's participation in selected activities by gender from 2003 to 2012. The report indicates that over one third of children did not participate in any organised sport. The proportion of children accessing the internet has increased from 64% in 2003 to 90% in 2012. Figures 4 and 5 summarise the percentage participation for boys and girls in specific formalised sports. Figures 6 and 7 summarise the percentage participation of boys and girls in unstructured recreational activities.

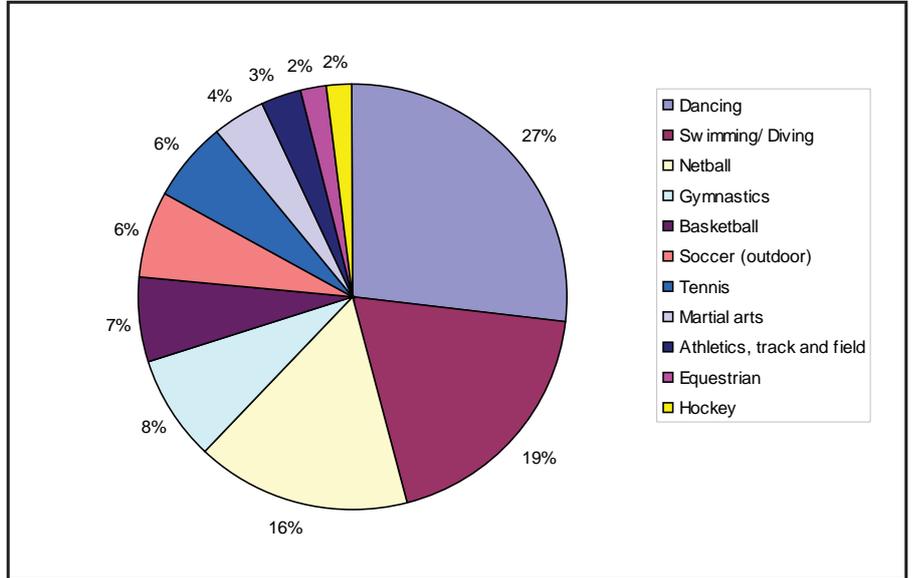


Figure 4. Percentage of Girls Participating in Various Sports

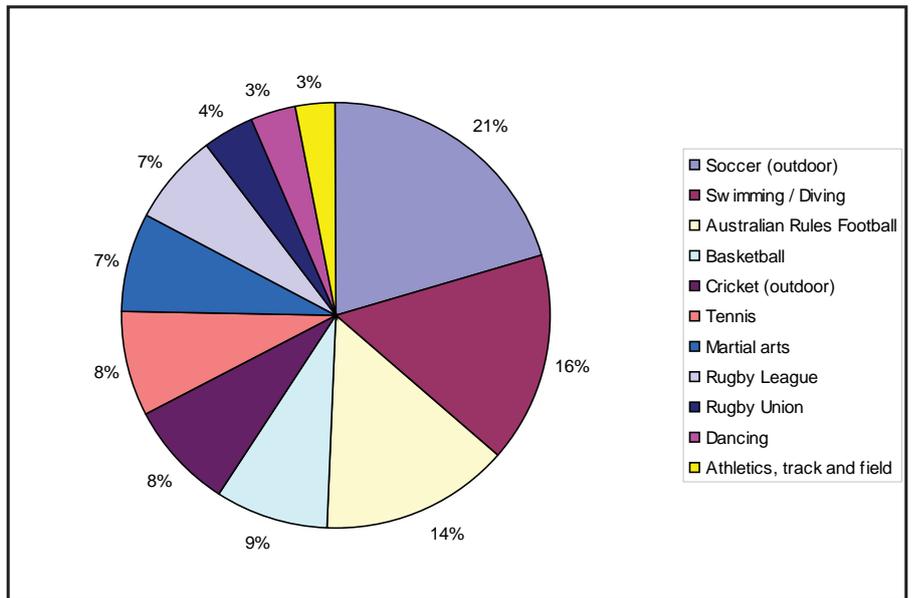


Figure 5. Percentage of Boys Participating in Various Sports

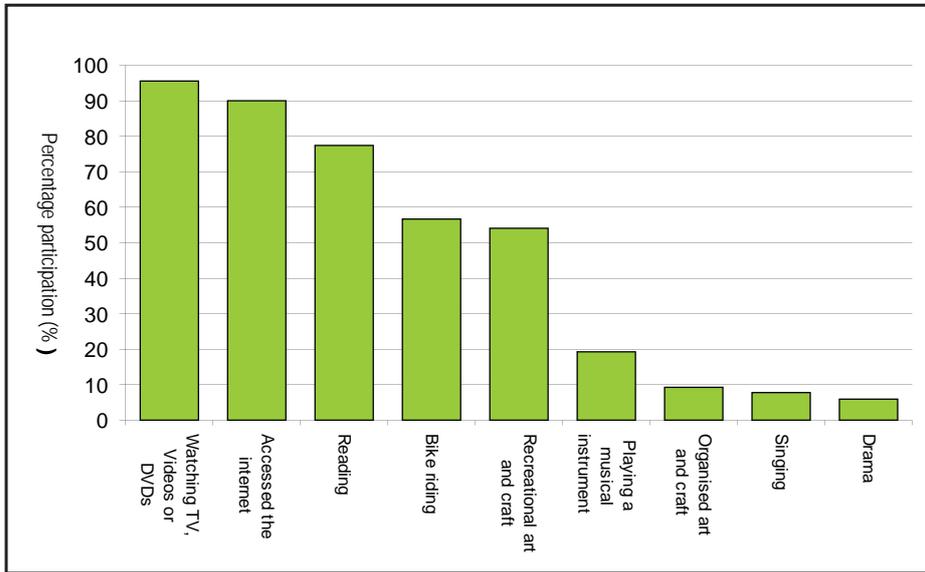


Figure 6. Percentage of Girls Participating in Recreational Activities

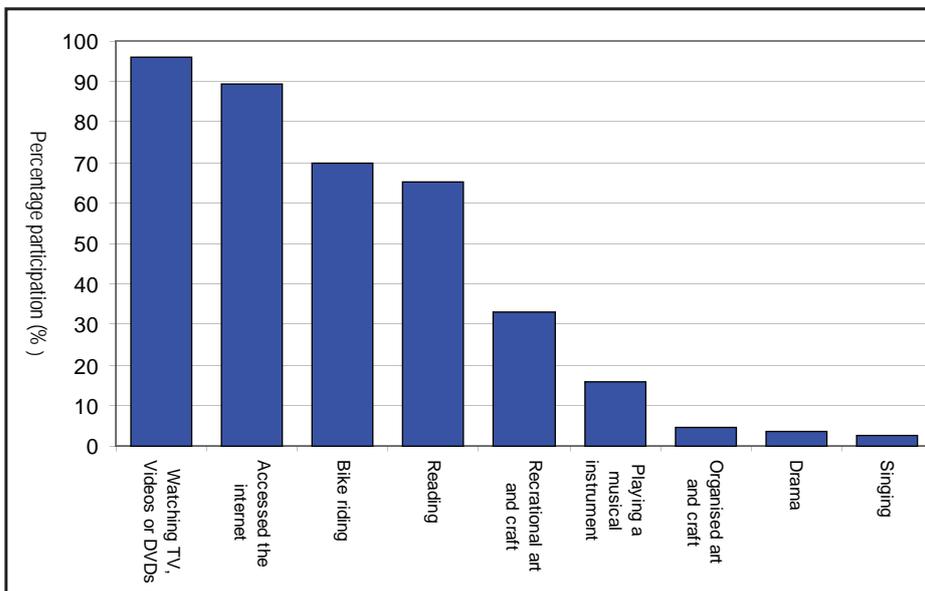


Figure 7. Percentage of Boys Participating in Recreational Activities



3.2 National Sports Commission - Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS)

The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey was undertaken annually in NSW between 2001 and 2010. The results for 2010 in relation to the participation in specific activities (organised and non-organised) by gender can be seen in Table 1. The results indicate that the trends in Pittwater are reasonably consistent with those for NSW. There are a number of activities that stand out. Walking is the most popular activity, closely followed by aerobics/fitness, then swimming, cycling, running and outdoor football. Female participation is well represented in these activities. This is a positive sign, given that the traditional organised sports tend to be male dominated.



Table 1. ERASS Survey for Participation in Specific Activities by Gender

Activity	Males		Females		Persons	
	Participation	Participation Rate %	Participation	Participation Rate %	Participation	Participation Rate %
Aerobics/fitness	529.4	19.0	741.0	25.7	1,270.5	22.4
Aquarobics	**9.1	**0.3	44.0	1.5	53.1	0.9
Athletics/track and field	*16.1	*0.6	*25.4	*0.9	41.5	0.7
Australian rules football	87.2	3.1	**8.2	**0.3	95.3	1.7
Badminton	**10.2	**0.4	**10.6	**0.4	*20.8	*0.4
Baseball	**10.0	**0.4	**5.9	**0.2	15.8	0.3
Basketball	96.0	3.4	49.9	1.7	145.9	2.6
Billiards/snooker/pool	**2.9	**0.1	**0.0	**0.0	2.9	0.1
Boxing	*23.1	*0.8	52.8	1.8	75.9	1.3
Canoeing/kayaking	*39.8	*1.4	*29.4	*1.0	69.2	1.2
Carpet bowls	**4.2	**0.2	**5.3	**0.2	**9.5	**0.2
Cricket (indoor)	*21.2	*0.8	**0.0	**0.0	21.2	0.4
Cricket (outdoor)	168.5	6.0	*25.3	*0.9	193.8	3.4
Cycling	383.3	13.7	220.2	7.6	603.5	10.6
Dancing	*23.8	*0.9	145.6	5.1	169.4	3.0
Darts	**5.3	**0.2	**3.3	**0.1	8.6	0.2
Fishing	113.4	4.1	*13.0	*0.5	126.4	2.2



Table 1. Continued

Activity	Males		Females		Persons	
	Participation	Participation Rate %	Participation	Participation Rate %	Participation	Participation Rate %
Golf	361.9	13.0	69.2	2.4	431.1	7.6
Gymnastics	**7.1	**0.3	*17.6	*0.6	*24.7	*0.4
Hockey (indoor)	**6.1	**0.2	**1.9	**0.1	8.0	0.1
Hockey (outdoor)	*24.2	*0.9	*39.9	*1.4	64.1	1.1
Horse riding/equestrian activities/polocrosse	*13.5	*0.5	*33.5	*1.2	47.0	0.8
Ice/snow sports	51.8	1.9	44.2	1.5	96.0	1.7
Lawn bowls	78.8	2.8	53.1	1.8	131.9	2.3
Martial arts	65.6	2.4	*38.2	*1.3	103.8	1.8
Scuba diving	*14.0	*0.5	*11.4	*0.4	25.3	0.4
Motor sports	73.6	2.6	**8.4	**0.3	82.0	1.4
Netball	**8.1	**0.3	164.7	5.7	172.7	3.0
Orienteering	*20.9	*0.8	*24.2	*0.8	45.1	0.8
Rock climbing	**7.1	**0.3	**7.0	**0.2	*14.1	*0.2
Roller sports	**3.6	**0.1	**5.0	**0.2	8.6	0.2
Rowing	**10.0	**0.4	**9.2	**0.3	*19.1	*0.3
Rugby league	112.6	4.0	**9.0	**0.3	121.5	2.1
Rugby union	60.9	2.2	**7.0	**0.2	67.9	1.2
Running	312.3	11.2	205.7	7.1	518.0	9.1
Sailing	*32.8	*1.2	*19.3	*0.7	52.1	0.9
Shooting sports	53.8	1.9	**1.9	**0.1	55.7	1.0
Football (indoor)	68.9	2.5	*24.3	*0.8	93.2	1.6
Football (outdoor)	256.4	9.2	114.2	4.0	370.6	6.5
Softball	**3.1	**0.1	*19.5	*0.7	22.6	0.4
Squash/racquet ball	60.4	2.2	*28.8	*1.0	89.3	1.6



Table 1. Continued

Activity	Males		Females		Persons	
	Participation	Participation Rate %	Participation	Participation Rate %	Participation	Participation Rate %
Surf Sports	88.3	3.2	*24.8	*0.9	113.2	2.0
Swimming	386.0	13.8	385.2	13.4	771.2	13.6
Table Tennis	**9.2	**0.3	*11.8	*0.4	21.0	0.4
Tennis	213.8	7.7	171.1	5.9	384.9	6.8
Tenpin Bowling	**9.0	**0.3	**4.6	**0.2	13.6	0.2
Touch Football	166.3	6.0	86.0	3.0	252.3	4.4
Triathlon	**6.0	**0.2	**1.9	**0.1	8.0	0.1
Volleyball	*19.9	*0.7	*13.7	*0.5	*33.6	*0.6
Walking (bush)	152.9	5.5	120.0	4.2	272.9	4.8
Walking (other)	667.9	23.9	1262.5	43.8	1930.4	34.0
Water polo	**3.1	**0.1	**0.0	**0.0	3.1	0.1
Waterskiing/power boating	*20.9	*0.7	**8.9	**0.3	*29.8	*0.5
Weight training	80.1	2.9	57.9	2.0	138.1	2.4
Yoga	*17.9	*0.6	172.7	6.0	190.6	3.4

(a) Relates to persons aged 15 years and over who participated in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport over a 12 month period prior to interview in 2010.

(b) For any group, the total participation rate is the number of persons who participated in the activity at least once in the last 12 months expressed as a percentage of the population in the same group.

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.



The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) collects information on the frequency, duration, nature and type of physical activities undertaken by people aged 15 years and over on national and state levels.

The latest survey results from 2010 indicate that 4.6 million people in NSW aged 15 and over participated in sport or a physical activity between April 2010 and April 2011. The main findings include:

- people aged 15 to 24 years have the highest participation rate;
- mature aged people (around 45 to 54) participate at least three times a week;
- 86.1% participate in non-organised physical activity;
- 48.6% participate in organised physical activity;
- the top ten participation rates in NSW are walking (34%), aerobics / fitness (22%), swimming (13.6%), cycling (10.6%), running (9.1%), golf (7.6%), tennis (6.8%), football (6.5%), bushwalking (4.8%), touch football (4.4%), outdoor cricket (3.4%). (See Table 1);
- Of the activities above, the participation rates that correlate with Pittwater include netball (3%), dancing (3%), lawn bowls (2.3%), fishing (2.2%), surf sports (2%), canoeing / kayak 1.2%, rugby league (2.1), rugby union (1.2), outdoor hockey (1.1%) and sailing (0.9%); and
- over recent years there has been an increased participation in outdoor football and cricket and since 2001, a decreased participation in tennis and golf.



3.3 Womensport NSW

Womensport and Recreation NSW is a not-for-profit organisation that is working with the NSW Division of Sport and Recreation to improve opportunities for women and girls to take part in sport at a local level. Their research indicates that in many council areas, sportsgrounds are dominated by males (85% males, 15% females).

Womensport and Recreation NSW, have highlighted that women's sport receives very little sponsorship; less than 10% of the media coverage that men's sports receive, and less than 2% in television and radio. It is suggested that young girls tend to leave organised sport between the ages of 14 to 16. The impact of this is greater in future years due to the positive health benefits of sport on health.

Nevertheless, collected by the ABS indicates that women are well represented in walking, gym, aerobics, swimming, yoga, cycling and tennis. Football (soccer) has been growing in popularity for females, particularly young girls.



3.4 NSW Ageing Strategy, 2012

The NSW Ageing Strategy, 2012 by the Department of Family and Community Services Office for Aging identifies the main challenges and opportunities facing older people. The NSW Government wish to make it easier for seniors to live full and active lives. They state (pp. 20 and 38):

People who reach the age of 65 today have the opportunity to enjoy more years of healthy active living than any generation before them. Seniors are already using their extra years to work, help friends and family, travel, volunteer and pursue personal interests. Active living means people are more likely to maintain good health and well being as they grow older.

Regular physical exercise increases the chances of a healthy life expectancy and lowers the risk of falls and major health issues such as heart disease, diabetes, hip fractures, high blood pressure and obesity. Older people will need accessible environments and community plans focused on increasing social connection.

Main Facts Relevant to Recreation by Aging People

- The number of people aged 65 and over will increase from just over one million people in 2012 to 2.3 million in 2050.
- Over 40% of older people participate in sport or recreational physical activities.
- 31% of people aged 65 and over are volunteers.
- Over 75% of people aged 65 and over and 50% of people over 80 live independently without the assistance of aged care services.

3.5 NSW Tourism Satellite Accounts

The *NSW Tourism Satellite Accounts, 2008-2009*, are prepared by the ABS. The Accounts indicate that the Gross State Product (GSP) in NSW is at 2.8% for tourism, 1.5% for agriculture, forestry and fishing and 3% for mining. Tourism is larger than electricity, water and waste services and arts and recreation services. In 2008-2009 the value of tourism consumption in NSW was \$24.7 billion and directly responsible for 4.7% of jobs in NSW.

It was found that visitors to NSW spend their money on takeaway and restaurant meals (16%), long distance transport costs (14%), shopping (13%), accommodation services (12%) and fuel (9%).

The NSW Government released a report by the joint Ministerial Taskforce on Tourism and Local Government that details 12 recommendations designed to help meet the NSW State Plan priority of delivering 160.6 million visitor nights by 2015-16, these include:

- providing NSW Government assistance to councils to develop local tourism plans;
- providing resources to help councils plan and manage tourism, including a tourism planning manual, an online tourism planning tool specifically designed for local councils and a range of briefing seminars; and
- identifying infrastructure and supply issues and opportunities for local and regional tourism.



3.6 Summary of National Trends

The studies outlined in this chapter have provided an indication of the general shifts in community attitudes, needs and preferences for sport and recreation for NSW. The trends have been taken into consideration during the development of the Strategy.

Summary of National Trends:

- 65% of Australia's population participate in sport and physical activities;
- walking for fitness and health is the most popular form of physical activity;
- there are more opportunities for males than females to participate in organised sport and receive sponsorship;
- there is an increased recognition of the links between good physical and mental health and participation in sport and recreation;
- Australians are becoming more physically active - mainstream sports have retained their popularity and participation rates, while many people are participating in non-competitive and passive recreation;
- very high growth of individual fitness activities - non-competitive and passive recreation, such as walking, swimming, cycling, fitness programs and weight training. Swimming and aerobics have also increased in popularity as year round activities;
- high public expectations for good quality facilities;
- increased demand for indoor facilities to provide all-weather access and protection from solar radiation;
- demand for flexible programing (particularly weekday evenings and weekends);
- rise in the popularity of extreme sports;
- many people wish to participate in meaningful philanthropic experiences - private initiatives, for public good, in order to improve their collective quality of life;
- larger proportion of older people are healthier and living longer in retirement;
- increased opportunities for seniors to be involved in their communities and neighbourhoods through volunteer activities;
- increase in the number of people with special needs or disabilities - as the population ages, it is important to make places accessible; and
- as a population we are spending a large percentage of time on screen based activities. Children are using the internet as well as watching TV. This pattern is probably similar for adults.

These trends highlight the importance of providing a broad range of opportunities for the community to participate in sport, leisure and recreational activities for physical, mental, cultural and social benefits.



4. The Pittwater Community - Demand and Needs

This chapter provides an overview of Pittwater's population; differences between suburbs and past and future population growth. Population density, demographics and access influence the strategic location and type of the facilities available for the community.

A number of Australia's greatest sporting achievers reside in the Northern Beaches and have made valuable contributions to the development of sport in the area. Appendix C. Northern Beaches Hall of Fame contains a list of Olympic Medallists.

The following studies provide an outline of the historic trends in relation sport and recreation in Pittwater. The data is useful to analyse whether issues have been consistent over time, where the shifts have been and where they are likely to be in the future.

- ABS 2011 Census
- Community Consultation in relation to this Strategy (Refer to Chapter 6)
- Pittwater Open Space Bushland and Recreation Strategy, June 2000
- TTS Research, 1999
- Pittwater Open Space and Recreation Plan, July 1997

Older Reports include:

- Recreational Needs Study, September 1994
- Recreation Needs Study, June 1994
- Survey of Community Attitudes, Ninter Research, April 1994
- Recreational Needs Study, 1994

4.1 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011

The most relevant points from the Census include:

- Pittwater is a family area with parents representing the largest age group (22.1%);
- Pittwater's population has a median age of 42;
- 38.4% of the population is over the age of 50;
- 3.2% of people need assistance due to a disability;
- 5,436 persons provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 0.4% of the population;
- 9,615 (21%) of Pittwater's population did voluntary work through an organisation or group over the past 12 months;
- since 2006 more of the 'young workforce' are leaving the area while 'empty nesters' between 60 and 69 years, are remaining in the area;
- there are 23,445 private dwellings in Pittwater. 74% are separate houses, 11% are semi-detached or townhouses, 14.3% are apartments and the balance are other dwelling types or not stated;
- the average household size is 2.7 persons;



- 16,997 dwellings are connected to the internet; and
- 19,774 vehicles are registered with a Pittwater address.

Table 2 provides the main activities undertaken by each age group. Census statistics on Pittwater's population for each age group has been added to the Table. It is recommended this table be used as a cross reference in planning the open space network and associated infrastructure to ensure equitable distribution of facilities across all age groups.





Table 2. Key Activities Within Particular Age Groups

Age (years)	2011 Census for Pittwater	Key Activities	Open Space and Recreation Needs
0-12	0 to 4 year old = 3,825 5 to 11 year old = 5,402	All children require safe, familiar environments, multi-sensory stimulation, challenges, creativity. 0 - 4 years tends to centre around the home, playgrounds and playgroups. Children 5-12 years like to explore and be challenged. As they grow older many will become involved in community and cultural activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and regional parks and playgrounds with appropriate supervision. Indoor recreation, gym, dance, sport and swimming. Sports fields and courts. Safe cycle and pedestrian links between home, parks and schools
13-29	12 to 17 year old = 4,427 18 to 24 year old = 4,063 25 to 34 year old = 4,851	Young people have a high rate of participation in leisure, physical and recreational activities. As they grow, young people become more social and entertainment becomes important. Youth friendly public space and skate facilities are important for young people who are not interested in structured activities. Participation in sport declines slightly after 25 years, but is offset in family activities with their own children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports fields and courts Indoor sport and aquatic facilities Fitness and gym Cycle paths and walking trails Large parks for picnics Natural area settings
30+	35 to 49 year old = 12,656 50 to 59 year old = 8,401 60 to 69 year old = 6,898 70 to 84 = 5,113. 85 and over =1,520	Participation in structured sport and recreation activities declines steadily with age. Family visits to district scale parks is most appealing to the 40-55 age groups Adults caring for children up to eight years will be major users of local playgrounds Less structured activities are popular – walking, walking the dog, golf, tennis People over 55 years have a diversity of skills, interests and physical and mental abilities. Some will continue to use recreational facilities and programs including yoga and the gym. People with special needs increases with age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle paths, walking trails, Large parks Natural areas for contemplation Swimming pools Inter-generational areas For parents, grandparents, and other carers supervising young children – seating shade etc.



4.2 Pittwater's Projected Population Growth

The 2011 Census places Pittwater's population at 57,154 adjusted to approximately 60,250. The number of people within each age group is contained in Table 3.

The latest projections by the *NSW Government Planning & Environment* indicates that NSW population is expected to rise from 7.2 million to 9.2 million by 2031. Sydney's population is projected to grow from 4.3 million in 2011 to 5.8 million in 2031. Pittwater's population is expected to rise from 60,250 in 2011 to 81,950 in 2031 to house an additional 21,700 people which represents an increase in population of 36%. (Available from: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/projections).

Note: Predictions are continually being revised to reflect data from the ABS, Department of Immigration and Citizenship and NSW Health.

Council's projections for the next two decades to meet the housing target are primarily through development, specific areas identified for medium density, the commercial centres, Warriewood Valley release area and potentially Ingleside.

Table 3. Pittwater's Population by Age Group - ABS 2006 and 2011

Age group (years)	2011 Results		2006 Results	
Babies and preschool years (0 to 4)	3,825	6.7 %	3,563	6.6 %
Primary school years (5 to 11)	5,402	9.5 %	5,061	9.3 %
Secondary school years (12 to 17)	4,427	7.7 %	4,370	8.1 %
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	4,063	7.1 %	3,959	7.3 %
Young workforce (25 to 34)	4,851	8.5 %	5,353	9.9 %
Parents and home builders (35 to 49)	12,656	22.1 %	12,624	23.3 %
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	8,401	14.7 %	7,915	14.6 %
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	6,896	12.1 %	5,499	10.2 %
Seniors (70 to 84)	5,113	8.9 %	4,578	8.5 %
Frail aged (85 and over)	1,520	2.7 %	1,222	2.3 %



4.3 Pittwater’s Population by Suburb

With a land area of approximately 10,900 hectares the overall population density of the Pittwater LGA equates to 5.34 persons per hectare. The 10,900 hectares includes:

- 4,769 hectares within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. (Of 14,882 hectares in total, this represents the land content east of America/Refuge Bays.) (NSW National Parks & Wildlife Services, 2002.);
- 1,800 hectares (surface area) within Pittwater Estuary (Lawson and Treloar, 2003); and
- 4,331 hectares consists of residential and public land.

The population density in relation to the 4,331 hectares equates to approximately 13.45 persons per hectare. The population density for each suburb is contained in Table 4 . The land area is based on the ABS 2011 and Council records.

Table 4. Estimated Population Density for Each Suburb in Pittwater as at 2014

Suburb	Population of residents	Land Area (ha)	Density (pers. per ha)
Avalon and Clareville	10,445	574	18.2
Bayview	2,848	364	7.8
Bilgola	3,606	172	21.0
Church Point, Scotland Island, Western Foreshore	2,015	323	6.23
Elanora Heights	4,147	340	12.2
Ingleside	1,036	636	1.62
Mona Vale	9,997	485	20.6
Newport	9,036	379	23.8
North Narrabeen	5,470	298	18.4
Palm Beach and Whale Beach	1,973	328	6.0
Warriewood	6,642	242	27.4
Warriewood Valley	3,986	190	20.9
TOTALS	61,201	4,331	Mean 14.13

Note: Population density is calculated by dividing the population against the total land area within each suburb including roads.



4.4 Community Consultation

A comprehensive community engagement process was implemented to gather feedback from the general community, young people and sports clubs about their needs and priorities concerning public space, sport and recreation. Refer to Appendix A Survey Results and Workshop Discussion Papers for more information.

- Survey completed by 217 residents
- Community workshop attended by 60 residents
- Sports group survey completed by 24 clubs that book sports fields (there are 27 clubs altogether)
- Sports group workshop attended by representatives from 24 clubs that book sports fields
- Sports Group grant application workshop
- Presentation and discussion with students from Barrenjoey High School (two presentations) Mater Maria Catholic College and Narrabeen Sports High School.

4.5 Community Survey and Workshop

The community survey was completed by 129 females and 135 males. Participants covered a broad age range: 10 people aged 16 to 25, 23 people aged 26 to 35, 100 people aged 36 to 50, 82 people aged 51 to 65 and 44 people aged over 66 years.

The survey asked residents to nominate their preferred landscape setting and the types of activities they do or would like to do for each setting. Table 5 on page 37 summarises the most favoured activities and the number of survey respondents who undertake each activity. While respondents represent a small percentage of the overall population, the survey results are reasonably consistent with State statistics with the exception of aerobics/fitness which are the most popular activity for males and females according to the National ERASS Survey. These activities are operated privately in Pittwater.

Summary of Community Survey Results

- Dining in a cafe or restaurant was the most popular activity.
- Walking for pleasure and fitness is the second most popular activity and the most popular type of active recreation for the wider community. Bushwalking is the third most popular activity. Cycling (road and mountain bike) is the twelfth most popular activity. These activities are readily available, low cost and offer flexibility to suit the individual's schedule and level of fitness.



- A consistent theme in community consultation for most projects relating to public space is the high value residents place on Pittwater's natural environment and its poetic qualities. The community wish to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment. Nature appreciation is the seventh most popular activity.
- Water sports are synonymous with Pittwater and an integral part of the culture of Sydney's beach suburbs. Swimming is the fourth most popular activity (a number of residents would like an indoor heated pool), swimming in the surf the eighth, boating the tenth and surfing the fourteenth.
- Attending the cinema is the fifth most popular activity. There are private cinemas at Warriewood and Avalon.
- Visiting the park for recreational purposes was the sixth most popular activity. Residents would like a wider range of activities in parks that are low cost or free. Activities should be inclusive of gender, race and age. Inter-generational activities that encourage people to mix together rather than being segregated were suggested, particularly by young people. Shopping at a market is the ninth most popular activity. This is consistent with Council's market program including Palm Beach Market, Mona Vale Market Day, Pittwater Food and Wine Fair and Beaches Market at Pittwater Rugby Park as well as several privately organised markets.
- The survey confirmed that Pittwater residents give generously to others. Volunteering is the eleventh most popular activity. Sporting clubs and service providers rely heavily on volunteers. The two largest volunteer groups in Pittwater are the Rural Fire Service and the Surf Life Saving Clubs. Bushcare is another popular activity with 224 volunteers.
- Dog off-leash areas ranked thirteenth. Residents would like a dog off-leash area that is designed specifically to provide an aesthetically pleasing and comfortable setting so they can better integrate their dogs into their lifestyle.
- The Arts were not rated within the top 35 activities, nevertheless there were a number of suggestions that related to art and culture in the survey responses and workshop. Pittwater has long been a hub for artists, crafts people and photographers. Many artists draw their inspiration from the natural environment. The open space network provides many opportunities that can be explored to expand facilities for the arts for the benefit of the broader community.



4.6 Consultation with Sports Clubs

- A separate survey and workshop was conducted sports clubs that seasonally book the sportsfields due to the complexities in managing the sportsfields. Pittwater's nine sportsground precincts are insufficient to cater for the needs of clubs. Further information is available in Section 6.9 and Appendix B3.



Table 5. Survey Respondents Participation in Various Activities

Note: These figures do not include the 8, 903 people who belong to sports clubs that regularly book the sportsfields. See separate survey.

Rank	Activity	Responses
1	Cafes/Outdoor dining	135
2	Walking	132
3	Walking - bushland	107
4	Swimming - pool	105
5	Cinema	103
6	Park visits - passive recreation such as barbecues, picnics	101
7	Nature appreciation	94
8	Swimming - surf	83
9	Markets	79
10	Boating activities	71
11	Community volunteer or fund raising	69
12	Cycling	64
13	Dog walking	60
14	Surfing	59
15	Biking - mountain bike	55
16	Playground visits	53
17	Dog off-leash areas	47
18	Golf	41
19	Watching sport as a spectator	38
20	Educational activities	37
21	Fishing	34
22	Skateboard, roller blading, bike	33

Rank	Activity	Responses
23	Football - soccer	31
24	Tennis	29
24	Hang gliding, paragliding	29
25	Surf life saving	27
26	Horse riding, equestrian	26
27	Netball	25
28	Badminton	18
28	Athletics	16
28	Bowling - lawn	16
28	Football - Rugby Union	16
29	Youth groups such as Scouts, guides	13
29	Football - touch	13
30	Triathlon, biathlon, marathon	12
30	Football - Rugby League	12
31	Volleyball	11
31	Table tennis	11
32	Football - indoor	10
33	Hockey	9
33	Softball	9
33	Football - Australian Rules	9
33	Cricket	9
33	Basketball	9
34	Football - Oztag	8
35	Baseball	7



4.7 Consultation with Young People

Council conducts regular meetings with young people at local schools. The information used in developing this Strategy is based on data collected at meetings held during 2011 and 2012, as follows:

- Barrenjoey High School 2011 - Student Representative Council
- Barrenjoey High School 2012 - Students from Years 8, 9, 10
- Mater Maria Catholic College High School 2012 - Students from Years 7 to 12
- Narrabeen Sports High School 2012 - Students from Years 7 to 11

The consultation revealed the following barriers to participation in sport and recreation:

- geographic isolation;
- transport (linked to geographic issues);
- lack of availability of desired activities;
- affordability of activities; and
- difficulties coordinating activities with friends.

Students commented that Pittwater is a relatively safe place to live . The beaches are beautiful and part time work is plentiful. Midnight basketball and the 24/7 Youth Film Festival are considered good examples of programs that involve young people and provide positive experiences. Such experiences assist young people to discover their identity, learn their strengths, be supported by mentors and to enjoy time with friends.

Young people placed a high level of significance on how a place feels and looks when deciding how and if to access and use it. There was a preference for well lit, modern and expansive spaces. Clean and tidy places are seen as safe and comfortable. Young people prefer to use places where they feel they fit in and describe specific areas in Pittwater as 'territorial'.

Suggested Activities

- Natural environment for walks, boating, rowing and fishing
- Non-structured events
- Fitness, dance and exercise activities, gym for an approved youth age
- Indoor activities and places to congregate in groups and participate in semi structured activities
- Extreme sports such as mountain bike riding
- Days or events with cultural significance
- Places to meet and socialise such as Yo Yo's Youth Centre at Frenchs Forest

Prior consultation was undertaken during the development of the Kitchener Park Plan of Management, where young people highlighted the need to upgrade the skatepark at this location.





5. Pittwater's Public Space Network

This chapter provides an analysis of Pittwater's overall open space network. An inventory of all reserves is contained in Appendix B. The entire Pittwater LGA encompasses 10,900 hectares including the national park and waterways. This is summarised in Table 6.

Pittwater's visual and scenic amenity stems from its rugged topography, vast bodies of water and vegetated hillsides. Landscape components includes landform, soils, vegetation, water, climate, wildlife and land uses. The landform includes beaches, dune systems, headlands and cliffs, tidal mud flats and estuaries, escarpments, plateaus, valleys, sheltered gullies, an island and a tombolo. The diverse landforms have provided the opportunity for a wide range of sport and recreational activities including walking, cycling, horse riding, sailing, swimming, hang gliding, picnics and bushwalking as well as organised sport.

Table 6. Pittwater Open Space Network Components

Pittwater LGA	Hectares	Open Space network	% of the Open Space Network
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park	4,693		44
Pittwater Estuary	1,650		15
Private land and public land including residential and commercial premises, roads, parks, reserves and Crown reserves	4,557	808.11	41
TOTAL	10,900		100

Council managed land	Quantity	Hectares	Hectares Sportsgrounds Sportsfields	% of the Open Space Network
Conservation Areas	105	496.76		61%
Ocean Beaches	9	41.08		5%
Foreshore Reserves	49	-		-
Small parks- parkland	80	32.12		4%
Unimproved parks	27	6.42		1%
Large Developed Parks	27	109.09		13%
Sportsground Reserve Precincts	9	70.05 Reserve precinct	Sportsgrounds 44.94 Sportsfields 28.93 *	7%

* Reserve Precinct - known by a given name, includes land unsuitable for active recreation such as bushland

Sportsground - Sportsfield as described below, plus amenity buildings, access roads and carparks

Sportsfield - playing surface and surrounds within the sportsgrounds



The list of all reserves has been updated. Each reserve rezoned under the *Pittwater Local Environmental Plan 2014*. The zoning has taken into consideration the function or use, hierarchical position, condition and location of the reserves. Privately owned facilities, available to the community, are not included in the calculations relating to the open space provision because they are not under Council's control and there is no certainty that they will be available to the public in the future. Refer to Appendix B2 for further details.

A full assessment of all infrastructure is currently being undertaken as part of Council's Asset Management System review.

5.1 Classification and Structure of the Open Space Network

The open space network is generally planned and managed according to three management structures:

- Structuring by use, is as the name suggests, such as bushland, tennis courts and sports fields.
- Categorising into a hierarchical order. Pittwater's parks and reserves are structured into a hierarchical order from regional, district, local central to local parks. The hierarchical system assists in identifying the most suitable locations for higher levels of use and resources. Regional parks serve whole cities or subregions. District parks serve a number of neighbourhoods and may have a catchment extending beyond the LGA. Local central parks are larger in size, but developed to service the local neighbourhood. Local parks are small in area and typically serve the local neighbourhood. Refer to Appendix B1 for further information.

The classification of the open space network into a hierarchical order aims to provide:

- an even distribution and level of provision of space and facilities; and
- equity of opportunities for all residents regardless of interests, age and ability.

Structuring by landscape setting provides the means to enhance, protect and conserve the natural environment while providing a diverse range of recreational activities appropriate to the particular landscape setting. Refer to Section 5.2

Land capability is another consideration in the planning and management of the open space network. Land capability relates to the ability of land to provide amenity through conservation areas, parklands, vegetation and canopy trees and/or to support recreational activities. The physical characteristics and community values for a parcel of land directly influence its capability and include:

- topography;
- geotechnical conditions;
- natural hazards;
- climate;
- heritage; and
- social /cultural expectations.



Table 7. Summary Provision of Open Space by Landscape Setting. See Appendix B1 for further information

Setting	Description	Examples
Conservation areas – Bushland , Headlands, Wetlands and Escarpments	Open space comprising bushland and open space integral to a hilltop, bluff or headland area. The natural features of these sites will be protected, key focus promoting biological diversity	McKay Reserve, North Mona Vale Headland, Warriewood Wetlands
Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Tracks and Paths	Link areas within and between open spaces, natural areas and recreation facilities.	Bicentennial Coastal Walkway
Ocean Beaches	Ocean beaches including the rock platforms and tidal rock pools.	Mona Vale Beach
Foreshore Reserves and Waterways	Pittwater Estuary and Narrabeen Lagoon and the open space network surrounding these waterways. (Note. Narrabeen Lagoon is contained in Warringah Council LGA).	Clareville Beach Reserve
Large Developed Parks	Open space where the physical character and/or vegetation has been modified to support use. Large developed parks may incorporate a range of recreational opportunities such as dog off-lease areas, picnic / barbecues or children’s play areas.	Winnererremy Bay Park
Structured sports and recreation area	Basketball, netball, tennis and volleyball courts; bowling greens; golf courses; equestrian facilities; skateboard and roller blading facilities; and unleashed dog exercise areas; and includes club rooms, change rooms, equipment; storage, etc.	Mona Vale tennis courts
Sportsgrounds	Open space of predominantly mown grass incorporating either an oval, playing field, athletics track, or area of organised sports.	Hitchcock Park, Boondah Reserves
Indoor recreation facilities	Indoor facilities, such as courts and pools, that accommodate indoor sports and recreation activities	Community centres, surf clubs
Small neighbourhood parks	Open space predominantly used as children’s playground or as communal open space for the adjacent neighbourhood, and unimproved open space zoned for recreational purposes and capable of future development for recreation purposes.	Whitney Reserve
Village green or space linked to a shopping centre	Open space that relates to a shopping centre	Village Park Mona Vale



5.2 Provision of Open Space

An inventory has been compiled of all open space including location, types of facilities and usage. Refer to Appendix B.

Benchmarking

Open space provision; comprising passive and active open space, at the local government area level is based on 2.83 hectares per 1,000 population. Active recreation involves moderate to high intensity activities using sportsfields, golf courses and surfaced courts. Passive recreation involves low intensity activities using tracks and paths, picnic areas and seating.

Based on the standards approach, with an LGA population of approximately 61,201 residents, Pittwater requires a minimum of 173.19 hectares of open space for active and passive recreation. Considering Pittwater contains approximately 817.62 hectares of open space, the LGA appears to be well serviced numerically with open space. However, the standard approach does not consider land capability or pressures from tourism.

Needs Based Approach

The needs-based approach considers the condition of the land, its suitability for recreational activities, the condition of the associated facilities and the characteristics of the community. Performance criteria for assessing the open space network includes:

- within a reasonable distance of residential areas;
- are of suitable size and quality;
- provide a diversity of open space settings provide sufficient land for active (sport); and
- are of sufficient quality to cater for changing community characteristics.

Sixty one percent of the 817.62 hectares of the open space network, 496.76 hectares (61%) is contained in conservation areas. These areas are important for their aesthetic and environmental values but they provide limited opportunities for active recreation. Many of the walking tracks are only accessible to people with a reasonable level of fitness due to the steep terrain.

The remaining 320.86 hectares of open space consists of parklands, large and small parks, sportsgrounds, golf courses, foreshore areas and ocean beaches. Consistent with conservation areas, a large percentage of this land is dominated by steep terrain and includes areas of bushland which are unsuitable for recreational activities. Pittwater's sportsgrounds are considered as three distinctive areas, being:

- sportsground reserve precincts - known by a given name, comprise 70.05 hectares which includes areas for active recreation and passive recreation such as bushland and steep terrain;
- sportsgrounds - comprising the playing surface/s runouts, goal areas, amenity buildings, access drives and parking covering 44.95 hectares; and
- sportsfields - comprising the flat, cleared area of playing surface/s, runouts and goal areas covering 28.93 hectares.



The ocean beaches and foreshore reserves significantly cater for visitors to the area and are therefore considered to be regional facilities. Pittwater can be very busy on warm summer days when people from all areas of Sydney as well as international visitors visit the beaches. On warm, sunny days foreshore parks and wharves are heavily used by boat owners accessing moored vessels as well as boats on trailers using the boat ramps.

A major characteristic of the Pittwater community is their preference for outdoor lifestyles. This is confirmed in the survey results. 8,903 people belong to the clubs with seasonal bookings for the sportsfields resulting in a shortage of sportsfields. Refer to Section 6.7 for further information.

5.3 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the open space network. The results have been considered in the development of the recommendations.

Strengths

- Wide range of landscape settings and correspondingly wide range of recreational opportunities including extreme sports such as hang-gliding. Large areas set aside for conservation that provides biodiversity and amenity.
- Strong active support of conservation areas by Bushcare volunteers.
- Parks and reserves are well distributed throughout all suburbs in Pittwater. Refer to Appendix B2.
- The Pittwater LGA is bordered by ocean, estuary and lagoon providing opportunities for surfing, swimming and boating.
- Provision of four new large-scale playgrounds
- Positive impacts of tourism in relation to the provision of local employment
- Sporting hub in the Mona Vale to Narrabeen areas that matches the highest population suburbs
- Linear pathways with scenic values, particularly the Bicentennial Coastal Walkway, Narrabeen Lagoon Loop Walk (due to be completed late 2014), Mona Vale to Church Point Foreshore Walk, and creekline pathways through Warriewood Valley.

Weaknesses

- Collective large open space network which is expensive to maintain on a comparatively low level of financial resources.
- Under supply of sportsfields due to demand.
- Under supply of areas with a suitable size and quality with flat land for active recreation.
- Poor access along the foreshore of Pittwater Estuary.
- Negative impacts from tourism in relation to litter, traffic and parking congestion, and wear and tear on resources.
- Potential impacts by a range of natural hazards, including flooding, cliffs, rock fall, landfill, soil contamination, bushfire risk and restricted access.
- Limited access due to the steep terrain of the peninsula.
- Limited recreational opportunities due to the steep terrain of the peninsula.
- Poor grass recovery resulting in limited opportunities for intensive recreational use, due to



- sandy soils with low nutrients and low water holding capacity.
- Most walking tracks tend to be steep containing flights of steps that are not accessible for people without a reasonable level of fitness.
 - The beaches and waterways are regional facilities providing for the wider Sydney public.
 - Oversupply of golf courses, given there are three public and three private courses .
 - Many pathways are in poor condition, particularly reserves for access (public access ways).
 - Large capital investment is required for additional infrastructure.
 - Many clubhouses and associated facilities require constant maintenance.

Opportunities

- Further income generation methods to be explored
- Opportunities for external funding
- Land rationalisation program
- Increased use of technologies such as the internet and phone applications
- Volunteer training could be increased
- Further assistance for volunteering groups - workshop
- Scope for volunteer groups to manage reserves for access similar to the Bushcare Program

Threats

- Funding budget cuts
- Climate change
- Fire and natural threats
- Injuries - insurance
- Resources to provide increased services

When the above issues are taken into consideration, although Pittwater appears to be well supplied with open space, collectively the open space network does not completely meet the needs of the community due to a shortage of large flat areas for active recreation. This is most evident in the undersupply of sportsfields. (Refer to Section 7.9 for recommendations to address the shortage of sportsfields in the established suburbs).

Given the deficiencies in the quantum of active recreation areas and the current demands for these areas, it is imperative that the planning of Pittwater's release areas identify and set aside suitable land for open space particularly active recreation areas/sportsfields, given the topographic and environmental conditions prevalent in the Pittwater LGA and the actual quantum of land required for these facilities.

5.4 Land rationalisation

Good asset management is not just limited to traditional asset categories such as roads, drainage, buildings and park furniture. It also applies to the overall portfolio of land holdings. As such, it is equally important to consider land holdings from a whole of life asset perspective. The property asset management approach considers the following criterion:

- its spatial context and use relative to other open space provision;
- why the land is in Council ownership and have the circumstances changes;
- what benefit does the land provide in its current or an upgraded state;



- how much does keeping the land cost the community in terms of maintenance / servicing or upgrade;
- how much does keeping the land cost the community in terms of lost opportunity cost;
- what is the current overall demand for upgrades at other locations and the funding shortfall; and
- if the subject land was sold or swapped what impact would this have and what higher net community benefit outcomes could be achieved for the community now, i.e. nexus. For instance, the vast majority of land is important to retain, despite often requiring significant and costly ongoing maintenance, servicing commitments and upgrades to better fulfil their potential. However, funding constraints can prevent much of this from occurring. Conversely, there are a limited number of land holdings that provide very little community or environmental benefit. These have generally been acquired or dedicated through a somewhat ad hoc basis or circumstances have changed. If these properties are sold or swapped then it can provide the much needed funding to acquire other much higher net community benefit property or upgrade other existing property.

Since its establishment in 1992, Pittwater Council has been effective in using the property asset management approach to improve the open space network. Prime examples include:

- Ingleside Chase Reserve - conserving 61.20 hectares of natural areas for conservation purposes.
- Warriewood Wetlands - conserving 30.86 hectares of natural areas for conservation purposes.
- Winnererremy Bay Reserve - 11.85 hectares adjacent to Pittwater Estuary providing a large-scale playground, picnic area, cycle path, cafe and the protection of foreshore natural areas for conservation purposes.
- Warriewood Valley Sportsground - providing 4.70 hectares including 3.80 hectares of sportsgrounds for active recreation.
- Betty Morrison Reserve at Bungan Head (dedication) - conserving 1.10 hectares of prime ocean front land for natural area conservation purposes.

Refer to Appendix C for a full list of land purchased.

Pittwater Council has proactively managed its property holdings, netting an additional 145.2 hectares of high community benefit land along with major upgrades. This has been achieved through the sale or swap of approximately 18.54 hectares of property. This is a net increase of approximately 126 hectares representing a positive gain ratio of over seven to one associated with land acquisition along with millions of dollars in improvements.

While the future potential to purchase land is more limited, there is scope to significantly embellish high net existing and recently acquired land for community and environmental benefits as well as establishing a perpetual funding mechanism for future maintenance and servicing.

Further potential exists with a number of opportunities listed within adopted Plans of Management and Council's Delivery Program & Budget.

It is therefore a recommendation of this Strategy that Council's portfolio of property holdings be assessed in terms of their ongoing net community benefit to identify potential open space and road



reserve holdings that could be sold or swapped. The proceeds from any sale are to be restricted to the future purchase or embellishment of other property assets.

A further strategic initiative associated with property asset sales is to acquire some commercial land or commercial opportunities that provide a perpetual fund for the ongoing maintenance and servicing of open space. Examples include the provision of a kiosk on a reserve which also significantly improves the amenity of the reserve space. These have already been established at Dunes, Palm Beach, Inch Cafe, Mona Vale, Bilgola Beach Cafe and Flying Fox Cafe, Mona Vale. An additional kiosk and restaurant is planned at Avalon Beach SLSC building. These provide not only a commercial return but add to the recreational experience.

Road reserve land sale proceeds, although needing to be spent on road related outcomes in accordance with the Roads Act, are included because this provides the opportunity to bring forward and thereby provide, in part, additional footpaths and cycleways / shared paths. This in turn improves the connectivity and safety between town and village centres and recreational spaces.

Recommendations

The recommendations for options to improve the open space network are provided on page 85.





6. Open Space by Landscape Setting

This chapter provides an analysis of each landscape setting. This is consistent with the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum which is based on experiences being derived from recreational activities that are linked to the setting in which they occur.

The main strength of Pittwater's open space network is the diverse range of recreational settings.

6.1 Natural Areas - Bushland, Headland, Wetland, Escarpment

Pittwater's uniqueness is due to the natural environment and dependent upon the retention of bushland and canopy trees. The 496.76 hectares conservation areas contribute significantly to this amenity.

Nature conservation areas consist of bushland, headland, wetland and escarpment, including the geologic and hydraulic features, flora and fauna communities and ecological processes that shape the local environment. These areas are important to preserve and manage for their conservation values. They support features with historical significance, particularly Aboriginal heritage sites and provide amenity and passive recreational and educational opportunities for local residents and visitors to the area.

The larger bushland reserves with high conservation values include McKay Reserve, Stapleton Park, Angophora Reserve, Deep Creek Reserve, Ingleside Escarpment, Warriewood Wetlands and Nareen Wetlands. Further information is available in Appendix B2.

The amount of land zoned for conservation purposes has increased since the previous Open Space and Bushland Strategy was adopted in 2000. This is due to land acquisitions, the re-vegetation of some parks and reserves and distinguishing bushland areas in reserves.

Council's management of parklands also conserves the topographical features of the site and any remnant vegetation. Planting in parkland is restricted to locally native species, unless a more formalised setting is desired for a specific aesthetic or function.

Pittwater contains 105 conservation areas covering approximately 496.76 hectares. The reserves contain a diversity of vegetation and habitat types including wetlands, heathlands, woodlands and forests. Bushland settings range in size from 0.24 hectares (Morning Bay South Reserve) to 84 hectares (Ingleside Chase Reserve). Bangalay and Eastcoast (2012) identified 36 locally native vegetation communities in Pittwater, ten of which are listed as Endangered Ecological Communities in NSW. The distribution of conservation areas managed by Council is contained in Appendix B2.

Council's management of parklands also conserves the topographical features of the site and any remnant vegetation. Planting in parkland is also restricted to locally native species unless a more formalised setting is desired for a specific aesthetic or function.





Bushland

The benefits of bushland include amenity, the provision of wildlife corridors and habitat, biodiversity, contribution to clean air and fresh water and soil health. Bushland reserves provide the community with:

- a peaceful place to rest and contemplate;
- shady tracks to walk and enjoy the scenery;
- visual and green space values in steep terrain areas and lookouts at key viewing points;
- direct community involvement through Bushcare programs; and
- lawn areas used for recreation such as children's playgrounds and picnics.

The value of bushland reserves is increased when they are linked with vegetation corridors and a pedestrian/cycle network. In Pittwater, bushland reserves can be quite small but located in close proximity to each other. At the other spectrum, bushland reserves can be large but relatively isolated like McKay and Angophora.

The maintenance of bushland reserves relies on staff with the technical skills and experience to determine the best management practices. In Pittwater, the weeding, planting and nurturing of bushland is undertaken by contractors and supplemented by dedicated Bushcare volunteers. The work done by volunteers provides a valuable contribution to the community with around 300 registered volunteers.

The area of bushland in Pittwater is extensive given the relatively small size of Pittwater. Gaps in the network include:

- difficulty achieving high quality bushland management within resource constraints;
- the expectation of residents for the preservation of bushland; and
- the capacity for greater recreational opportunities.

Bushwalking is a popular activity in Pittwater. Walking tracks exist in some larger bushland reserves and to a lesser extent in the smaller reserves. In some cases, there are missing linkages between bushland reserves but there is potential to make these connections. Council-owned and managed bushland has the lowest provision in the suburbs of Bayview, Church Point and Clareville.

Headlands

Pittwater LGA contains nine headlands including Barrenjoey Head, Little Head, Bangalley Head, Avalon Headland, Bilgola Head, Bungan Head, Mona Vale Headland, Turimetta Head and Narrabeen Head.

Mona Vale Headland Reserve, South Mona Vale (Robert Dunn Reserve), Narrabeen Head and Turimetta Head have been identified for their panoramic coastal views, and the value of reasonably large lawn areas suitable for social gatherings, picnics, weddings and whale watching.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas of land that are wet by surface water or groundwater, or both, for long enough periods



that the plants and animals in them are adapted to, and depend on, moist conditions for at least part of their life cycle (NSW Wetland Policy 2010). Pittwater contains three estuarine / salt marsh wetlands - one at Careel Bay and two constructed wetlands at Winnererremy Bay as well as two freshwater wetlands at Warriewood and North Narrabeen (Nareen Wetland). Together they total approximately 72 hectares.

Careel Bay Wetland is part of the Broken Bay estuary. It contains the largest area of estuarine wetlands in Pittwater. The Bay is about 2.5 kilometres long, covering an area of 1.5 square kilometres and is less than five metres in depth. The intertidal flats and foreshores support mangroves, saltmarsh, Casuarina forest and provide habitat and food for marine life, and supports bird nesting sites on the East-Asian / Australian Flyway.

Winnererremy Bay has been significantly modified. It includes two man-made salt marshes that were created to replace the original one. The surrounding area consists of Casuarina forest and mangrove communities and supports a large population of bandicoots and other native fauna. Dog owners use the large dog exercise area to the north of the reserve. This is separated from the boat launching ramp. Local residents use the access trails throughout the area which link Mona Vale and Church Point.

Warriewood Wetland is the largest sandplain wetland in Sydney at 68 hectares. It comprises several vegetation communities including swamp forest dominated by *Eucalyptus robusta*, Casuarina Swamp Forest, Dry Scrub, *Melaleuca ericifolia* Swamp Forest, Wet Grassland, Swamp Herbland, Sedgeland and Phragmites grassland. Over 100 species of birds have been recorded in the wetlands. The Coastal Environment Centre takes school and community environmental education groups through the wetlands. The wetland is accessed from formal pathways off Jacksons Road, Katoa Close and Garden Street. The wetland includes 150 metres of boardwalk. There are plans for additional walking tracks.

Nareen wetland is dominated by remnant Swamp Oak Forest (*Casuarina glauca*), with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in frequently inundated areas. There are a number of aquatic weeds present including Water Hyacinth, *Ludwigia peruviana* and Willow trees. Nareen Wetland Reserve is used for passive recreation by local residents

Escarpments

An Escarpment is a long, continuous steep face of a ridge or plateau formed by erosion or a fault. Escarpments, unlike a 'scarp', separate two relatively level areas of differing elevations, age or composition.

The four key escarpments in Pittwater are the Warriewood Escarpment, Bayview Escarpment, Ingleside-Chase Escarpment and Bilgola Newport Escarpment. Studies on the Warriewood Escarpments found significant wildlife and habitat, and determined that the escarpment was unsuitable for urban development. The bushland is now conserved and protected to enhance the visual characteristics and landscape values of the region and to retain significant vegetation communities and fauna populations.

Community Feedback

The majority of land in Pittwater is in private ownership, therefore the preservation of the natural environment is significantly dependent upon residents conserving natural areas and planting locally native species on their land. There is a wealth of knowledge, skills and expertise within the community regarding how to plan and maintain native gardens.



Historic and current consultation indicates that the quality of bushland is a key concern in relation to natural areas with residents requesting a higher standard of maintenance. See Appendix A for the type of suggestions made by the community.

Specific issues raised by the community

- Removal and treatment of noxious weeds
- Wildlife corridor enhancement and linkages
- Improved stormwater management
- Continued bush fire management
- Controlled ecological burns
- Improved access
- Controlled or restricted access where necessary
- Improved profile for Bushcare volunteers



The following list summarises the communities priorities regarding bushland.

Priorities

- Support the preservation of natural areas
- Support Bushcare programs and volunteers who assist Council in maintaining areas of bushland.
- Retain and promote the urban tree canopy particularly in the Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest areas
- Provide pedestrian and cycle access to natural areas where appropriate and in keeping with the natural environment
- Improve access to bushland and opportunities for bush walking within and between bushland reserves
- Provide information on the location and condition of bushland
- Increase funding for bush regeneration
- Maintain the existing level and standard of bush retention
- Encourage residents to remove weeds from their properties
- Provide programs and workshops that highlight the natural environment
- Broaden activities from the Coastal Environment Centre to include a comprehensive bushland component
- Host a native garden forum where residents bring photos of their garden and staff and residents workshop ideas for the garden
- Introduce an annual award for the best local garden using native species
- Investigate whether a mentor system could be developed in the community for native gardens
- Develop natural environment applications for iPhones and Androids with maps and educational material

Recommendations

The recommendations for Pittwater's natural areas are provided on page 91.



6.2 Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Tracks

The survey results relating to this Strategy indicate that walking for exercise and pleasure is the second most popular activity and bush walking is the third. This is consistent with ABS (2011) survey results which indicates that the main reason people walk is for health and fitness. Cycling is the twelfth most popular activity and mountain bike riding the fifteenth. Equestrian activities are the twenty-seventh most popular activity.

The benefits of walking, jogging, cycling and horse riding include:

- improve the health and well being of the community;
- foster social interaction and a sense of community;
- facilitate sustainable modes of transport; and
- provide the most cost effective forms of travel.



The main constraints in relation to these activities is the shortage of footpaths and access to the nature strip at pinch points due to the steep topography of the peninsula. Nevertheless, Pittwater contains a variety of footpaths, walking tracks, multi-use paths, boardwalks and constructed lookouts. Council aims to continue extending opportunities for walking in consultation with the community. The major paths and tracks are planned on a regional level by the State Government and the SHOROC Region of Councils.

Walking

Walking for fitness and enjoyment is the most popular form of recreational activity Australia wide (ABS 2011). Walking provides health and community benefits to enable society to enhance social interaction. Pittwater is an ideal place to hold walking events due to its scenic qualities. For instance, the Sydney Coastrek 50-100 kilometre Team Challenge from Coogee to Barrenjoey includes Pittwater's Bicentennial Coastal Walkway. The Challenge raised \$1.8 million last year and aims to raise \$2.5 million this year for the Fred Hollows Foundation.

During the development of this Strategy local volunteers walked Pittwater and developed a series of walks for most suburbs along with a report containing suggestions to improve the walking experience for the wider community. At the same time, Council developed an Android phone application - 'Walking Pittwater,' in partnership with Macquarie University's PACE Program and with the assistance of the local volunteers. The application is intended to enhance the walking experience by enabling the user to read about the vegetation of bushland reserves, compare the current scene with historic photos and watch a short film on Kooroowall Reserve. The user can also save their own data on the device.

Walking Pittwater promotes walking on the nature strip and incorporates parks, reserves and public pathways where possible.

Pittwater's Most Scenic Streets Register, 2012 contains a list of streets nominated for their outstanding qualities and representation of the local character. Additional guidelines are provided for streets in the Register to help ensure that their identified qualities are conserved and enhanced.

Pinch Points

Another consideration in relation to the local walking experience is to improve pedestrian access at 'pinch points'. Pinch points are isolated locations along the road where the geometry restricts sight lines, often at



crests or tight corners. Discussions with the community for this Strategy and the *Pittwater's Most Scenic Streets Register, 2012* indicate that some residents would like improved pedestrian access at tight road corners, particularly at the northern end of the peninsula.

The topography at the northern end of Pittwater is steep, resulting in narrow winding roads with blind corners that create difficulties for walkers (and vehicle drivers). An education awareness campaign may also be beneficial in encouraging residents to maintain the nature strip to meet the needs of walkers.

Reserves for Access

Pittwater's reserves for access are part of the original subdivisions and were designed to enable residents to take short cuts or to link with water bodies, the ocean and areas of interest. They can sometimes replace for long lengths of concrete footpaths. There are 312 reserves for access in Pittwater of which 184 provide concrete paths and identified with signage as Public Pathway. The remaining 128 reserves for access are signposted as 'Public Land' because access is considered too unsafe to promote to the public.

Discussions with the community indicates that reserves for access are highly valued by some residents for practical reasons and for enjoyment. Some walkers enjoy diverting onto reserves for access to be away from the traffic or to take the 'road less travelled.' Most importantly, in some instances, reserves for access allow walkers to avoid pinch points or difficult sections of road.

In response to the discussions with the community, the existing reserves for access and public pathways will continue to be maintained for public access, with consideration given to gradually reinstating those that lead to high value locations or those located in areas where they allow walkers to avoid pinch points. Currently there is no funding allocated for this additional work and an 'Adopt a Path' program will be investigated. The 'Adopt a Path' program, likely to operate in a similar way to the Bushcare program, could also incorporate beautification of the reserves for access and public pathways to enhance the walking experience for local residents.

Pathways and Tracks Through Parks and Reserves

Off-road tracks have been carefully planned and located in the most scenic locations, where people will benefit the most. Examples include:

- Bicentennial Coastal Walkway
- Mona Vale to Church Point Walkway
- Pelican Path
- Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail (joint with Warringah Council)
- Warriewood Valley multi-use pathways
- Warriewood Wetlands Boardwalk
- Careel Bay Wetland boardwalk
- From the Crown to the Sea





Pittwater is fortunate to be connected to the Sydney Harbour & Coastal Walking Network. The section that includes Pittwater stretches 100 kilometres along the coastline between Barrenjoey and Cronulla. It is known as the Bicentennial Coastal Walkway. The Walkway passes through headlands, beaches and various coastal vegetation communities. Some of the headlands cater for picnics, weddings and whale watching. The northern end of the walk requires skill due to the steep topography. The area between Palm Beach and Bilgola Beach is highly fragmented, with much of the access north of Mona Vale along relatively narrow and often winding roads. There is also limited access for people with disabilities and limited interpretative signage.

Many of Pittwater's bushland reserves contain walking or hiking tracks. The more extensive tracks are located at Deep Creek Reserve, Minkara Reserve, McKay Reserve, Irrawong Reserve, Stapleton Park, Angophora Reserve and Ingleside Escarpment. Additional tracks are available at Garrigal National Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. There are lookouts at selected locations.

Pittwater contains three multi-use paths. They are designed to cater for walkers, joggers and cyclists. Multi-use paths provide higher levels of use for less cost. The drawback, is that the combination of cyclists and pedestrians can create difficulties for some user groups in terms of awareness, reaction and safety.

Multi-use paths in Pittwater are:

- Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail (The trail is incomplete. Pittwater is responsible for the trail around the northern foreshore).
- Pedestrian and cycle path around Winnererremy Bay.
- Warriewood Valley multifunction creek line flora and fauna corridors on Narrabeen, Mullet and Fern Creeks catering particularly for young people, the elderly and people with disabilities for walking, bike riding, skateboarding, roller blading. The boardwalks through Warriewood Wetlands provide pedestrian access to the Warriewood Square shopping centre in Jacksons Road, Warriewood.



Footpaths

The road network in Pittwater covers 271 kilometres with 81 kilometres of footpaths. Footpaths are constructed on road reserves and aim to facilitate walking to a destination. Unfortunately many of the streets in Pittwater were constructed in the early to mid-twentieth century. At this time there was less traffic and footpaths were limited. The shortage of footpaths has created difficulties for people with special needs, particularly wheel chairs and prams. There are also safety issues, particularly at the northern end of Pittwater. Many streets are narrow and winding with blind corners and it can be difficult to access the nature strip due to landscaping of the nature strip by neighbouring properties.

Council has been progressively installing footpaths and track connections in accordance with the *Pittwater Council Public Roads Active Transport Strategy* and its Sub Plans including:



- Road Reserve Walking Sub Plan
- Schools Footpath sub-plan
- Pedestrian Amenity sub-plan
- Footpath Asset Management sub-plan Pedestrian Crossing Facilities Sub Plan
- Bus Stop Upgrade Sub Plan
- Road Reserve Cycling Sub Plan

Mobile Device Application - 'Walking Pittwater'

- In response to the popularity of walking, local volunteers, with appropriate expertise and local knowledge, have walked Pittwater and developed a series of walks for each suburb. The walks extend and complement the existing formal footpaths, reserves for access, public pathways and tracks. The volunteers have also provided Council with associated reports aimed at improving access and increasing safety for walkers throughout Pittwater.
- An Android phone application has been developed called 'Walking Pittwater' in conjunction with final year IT students from Macquarie University's PACE Program. 'Walking Pittwater' contains a series of walks, and points of interest, being historic photos and vegetation descriptions as well as a short film on Kooroowall Reserve as provided by a local resident. A volunteer from Avalon Historical Society has also assisted with the heritage images. Currently students from Macquarie University are preparing an iPhone application. Council will be inviting the students and community to a workshop where we will demonstrate how to install the application, how to use it and then go for a walk together to see how it works.

Cycling

Generally, cyclists share the road with cars. The surveys highlighted that this is not an ideal situation. Unfortunately, the roads were constructed without consideration for cyclists and are being retrofitted with



Figure 8. 'Walking Pittwater' Phone Application.



bicycle routes where possible.

The surveys indicate the community would like bicycle paths linking areas of Pittwater and linking Pittwater to the wider Sydney area and the Central Coast. The following list is a breakdown of where cyclists travel:

- On-road - 58%
- Footpaths - 9%
- Bush / fire trails - 2%
- Off-road paths - 2%
- Parkland - 1%
- Cycling tracks - 28%

The surveys indicate that the Pittwater community would like to see the number of cyclists in the local community increase. The community values the positive impact cycling can have on tourism in the area as well as the health and environmental benefits.

To encourage cycling, all cyclists require easily accessible and safe facilities. The different types of cyclists have specific needs that need to be catered for, namely:

- Road cycling where the focus is on sport and fitness can be performed in groups or as an individual. These riders require on-road regional and sub-regional routes. Popular routes include Pittwater Road and McCarrs Creek Road that provide links to Ku-ring-gai Chase National park and Barrenjoey Road to Palm Beach.
- Commuter cyclists are generally individuals who require direct on-road or off-road routes to major employment areas and transport hubs. Commuter cyclists may travel locally and regional.
- Recreational and novice cyclists require off-road cycle paths and meandering paths to key locations such as shops, transport hubs, recreational facilities. Off-road cycle paths should be clearly signposted with directions and shared use to avoid conflict with pedestrians.
- Mountain biking is performed on off-road trails. Trails are generally within bushland areas and may consist of fire trail or single track and often include technical riding elements such as jumps and berms.
- Children on bicycles require safe off-road facilities. Pittwater now has bicycle paths for children at Winnererremy Bay, Apex Park, Lake Park Reserve, Bilarong Reserve and Pat Hynes Reserve.

Council has a number of programs aimed at encouraging cycling including:

- provision of shared pedestrian and cycle paths in the new release areas where these shared paths are connected to residential areas through natural areas such as wetland and riparian corridors;
- close partnership with AustCycle to offer cycling workshops to the local community;
- seniors cycle workshops as part of Seniors Week;
- school holiday cycling programs for primary school aged children;
- 2013 Summer Cycling by the Lake workshops for families, adults and children and
- annual Bike Week event to promote cycling in Pittwater.

Council also works with neighbouring Council's to promote shared paths and the use of cycle ways. One of the outcomes of this is that riders can now cycle from Warriewood to Dee Why Beach on a shared path.

Currently there is little connectivity between mountain bike trails across Sydney's northern suburbs. Authorised trails in the SHOROC region include Manly Warringah War Memorial Park which contains an 11 kilometres loop trail around Manly Dam (Warringah LGA) and fire trails within bushland areas including in Garigal and



Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks. The Pittwater LGA does not contain an authorised mountain bike trail however a number of unauthorised trails have been constructed in various bushland reserves.

There are safety and liability issues to consider in relation to mountain bike tracks. Unauthorised tracks are often not constructed or maintained in a sustainable manner and can impact negatively on the environment causing erosion and damage to vegetation and Aboriginal heritage.

Council is currently investigating a suitable location for a mountain bike track in order to meet the current demand and remove and control the formation of further illegal tracks.

A competition BMX track is located at the at J J Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve at Terry Hills (Warringah Council).

Equestrian

Horse-riding has a strong tradition in the Northern Beaches and the Upper North Shore. Council encourages diversity in recreational activities. It is pleasing that horse riding is still available in Pittwater despite loss of rural lands due to development in Warriewood Valley continuing into Ingleside. Horse riding is particularly popular with young girls and women; a demographic that is not well represented in other sports as pointed out by WomenSport NSW. Equestrian Clubs in the area include:

- Ingleside Riders Club Inc.
- Manly, Warringah, Pittwater Pony Club continue at Clive Rodgers Equestrian Centre at North Narrabeen.
- North Shore Horse and Pony Association.

Equestrian specific facilities on the Northern Beaches include:

- J J Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve at Terrey Hills
- Frenchs Forest Showground
- St Ives Showground.
- Clive Rodgers Equestrian Centre at North Narrabeen Reserve

In 2009 to 2010 the North Shore Horse and Pony Association surveyed the Terrey Hills, Duffys Forest, Belrose and Ingleside area to ascertain the extent of equestrian activities and their contribution to the area.

Community Feedback

The survey results for this Strategy indicate that walking for fitness and pleasure is the highest ranking form of physical exercise (after dining and cafes), followed by bushwalking. The popularity of walking has been consistent since the first surveys in 1994.

The need for a well planned network of walking tracks and paths has traditionally been given high priority by Pittwater residents. The Recreational Needs Study (1994) ranked walking activities as the most popular activity. In the 2000 Strategy walking was again identified as the most popular



recreational activity and noted for being well suited to the range of recreational settings available. See Appendix A for survey and workshop results. See Table 8 for key findings relating to walking and cycle tracks from historical and current studies.





Table 8. Key Findings Relating to Walking and Cycling Tracks from Pittwater Studies and Plans

Study or Plan	Key Findings
Pittwater Bicycle Plan, 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked cycle lanes on roads. • Off-road cycle lanes for commuters. • Safer bicycle routes to schools, shops and transport. • Recreational paths in parks. • Mountain bike trails. • Motor vehicle driver education. • Educational cycleway for children. • Bicycle parking for commuters.
Pittwater Walks and Rides Strategy Masterplan Review, June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Barrenjoey Road for use by experienced riders only. • Install signage at intersections using the NSW Bicycle Guidelines. • Review traffic calming devices that may not be bicycle friendly • Signage - “ring your bell when passing”: at appropriate locations • More directional signage (coordinated with SHOROC Councils) • Conduct safety audits at identified routes and key intersections. • Provide bike racks at destinations; • Prioritise infrastructure for local trips to shops, school and recreational facilities; • Regular maintenance -including line marking and signage.
Pittwater Walks and Rides Strategy, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68 footpaths and shared use paths. • Prioritise future construction based on cost, safety and need. • Provision of roads, paths and shared paths that cater for pedestrians, cyclists and mobility scooters. • Upgrade near major roads, around schools, major community facilities and the commercial precincts. • Develop a School Footpaths Program.

Note: The Walks and Rides Strategy does not cover tracks and trails through natural area reserves.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to walking, cycling and equestrian tracks are provided on page 92.



6.3 Ocean Beaches

This section looks at ocean beaches, tidal rock pools and rock platforms. Pittwater's coastline contains nine ocean beaches and extends approximately 18 kilometres from the entrance of Narrabeen Lagoon to North Palm Beach. Within this area, there are nine ocean beaches, ten major rock platforms and seven ocean rock pools. Recreational reserves are located adjacent to Palm, Whale, Avalon, Newport and Mona Vale beaches. A full inventory of Pittwater's beaches and associated facilities is contained in Appendix B.

Pittwater's sandy beaches, rock platforms, dune systems, salty water and fresh air draw both residents and visitors to these unique areas. Residents appreciate the natural environment of the beach and its surrounds.

Sand dunes and rock platforms support an extensive ecosystem providing food and habitat for marine species. Rock platforms are flat, expansive eroded regions that lie at the base of rocky headlands. They contain a huge variety of plants and animals that cope with unique physical stress of waves, fluctuating weather conditions and daily tide cycles. Rock platforms are used for access to perform rock fishing, snorkeling and scuba diving. They are also used for walking, wading, exploration and educational purposes. Some recreational activities on rock platforms have negative impacts such as trampling and the removal of locally native flora and fauna. In response, Council has implemented a community awareness program through regular rock platform walks, brochures and events such as the Coastal Ambassadors program.

Of the ten major rock platforms within Pittwater, four have conservation status under NSW Fisheries jurisdiction, being:

- Intertidal Protection Areas at Bungan Head and Mona Vale Headland
- Aquatic Reserves consisting of the larger rock platforms at Barrenjoey Headland and Narrabeen Headland

Certain species of fish must not be removed from these areas. Further information is available from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, see <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/info/closures/rec-sw-loc/central-coast-index/bungan-head>.

Coastal dunes restrict the intrusion of salt spray and waves and act as an emergency reservoir of sand for storms. Coastal dunes provide the transition from a marine to a terrestrial environment. They are places where plants have adapted to the extreme conditions but can be easily damaged by human impacts. In Pittwater there are several community volunteer projects actively restoring coastal sand dune systems.

Activities that occur within the ocean beaches area include:

- surfing, swimming and bodysurfing in the ocean;
- surf club activities,
- socialising in general;



- relaxing, walking, jogging, children's sand play, informal games, sightseeing and fishing on the sand;
- recreational swimming, competitive swimming, swimming classes and life saving programs in the rock pools;
- beach volleyball is being trailed at Newport Beach by the Manly Warringah Beach Volleyball Association;
- bush regeneration volunteer groups work on adjacent reserves and sand dunes;
- water quality monitoring through the NSW Environmental Protection Authority Beachwatch Program.

Facilities available at the ocean beaches include:

- General facilities include seating, picnic tables, litter bins, outdoor showers, taps, and lighting.
- All beaches (except Turimetta) have a surf life saving club building, and are patrolled by lifesavers during the summer swimming season.
- The surf club buildings are available for lifesaving activities as well as, social and community activities and special events.
- Ocean rock pools are adjacent to all beaches except Bungan, North Palm Beach and Warriewood. Bilgola Beach includes an access ramp for people with disabilities.
- Amenities buildings with change rooms and toilets are available at all beaches except Turimetta.
- Children's playgrounds are located at North Palm Beach, Whale Beach, Avalon Beach, Newport Beach and Mona Vale Beach.
- Car parking is available at all beaches except Bungan and Turimetta beaches.
- Currently Avalon Beach SLSC Building is being reconstructed as a joint project with Avalon SLSC. The facility will include a cafe and restaurant to assist with funding and ongoing maintenance of the facility and associated beach and reserve.

With the existing and future population concentrated in Mona Vale, Avalon, Newport and North Narrabeen, access for these residents to quality beach facilities is an important. Nearby beaches such as Warriewood and Turimetta are well known by local residents and likely to be the main focus of their use.

Community Feedback

Ocean beaches have consistently been a highly valued area by the Pittwater community. A survey of visitors to six beaches in Pittwater in 1999 (Interviewing Australia, 1999) showed that 50% of users were Pittwater residents.

Results from the current survey indicate that swimming in a pool is the fourth most popular activity, swimming in the surf the eighth, surfing the fourteenth, fishing the twenty-first and surf life saving the twenty-sixth most popular activity.



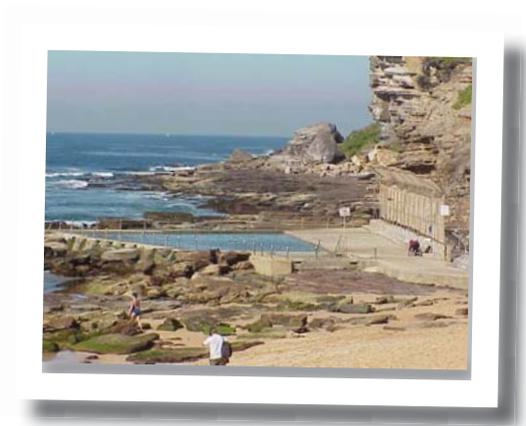
Innovative responses provided during the recent community consultation included:

- Support for the development of an esplanade, similar to Broadbeach and Cairns in Queensland, with activities such as walking, cycling, skating, exercise equipment, exercise groups and beach volleyball.
- Improve lighting at beaches with restaurants adjacent.
- Develop a seaside/maritime theme for beach side locations similar to Lorne (Victoria), rather than a suburban feel.
- Introduce innovative landscaping such as the seating at Bradleys Head, Sydney Harbour National Park.
- Introduce beach volleyball.
- Provide water polo facilities in rock pools.
- Improve risk management of rock falls at beaches.

Comments received from the community is contained in Appendix A.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to ocean beaches are provided on page 95.





6.4 Foreshore Reserves and Waterways

Pittwater contains 49 reserves on the shores of Pittwater Estuary and Narrabeen Lagoon. Areas adjacent to or near the water provide a high level of amenity due to their scenic, sensory and cultural values and improve the quality of life for the community.

Recreational activities undertaken in foreshore areas include access to moored boats (there is limited parking in most foreshore areas), nature appreciation, environmental education, relaxation, scenic viewing, picnics, barbecues, foreshore fishing, children's play, scouting, community festivals and events and community outings and walking.

An inventory of Pittwater's foreshore reserves, waterways and associated facilities is contained in Appendix B.

Pittwater Estuary

Pittwater Estuary is located along the western boundary of the Peninsula and covers 1,650 hectares. An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water that forms where rivers or creeks meet the ocean. Estuaries are transitional places where salt water and fresh water merge. Estuaries contain a rich diversity of habitats that provide breeding grounds for fish and shellfish.

Boating and recreational fishing are the main activities undertaken on Pittwater Estuary. The social and economic benefits of these industries are significant. (The estuary does not support commercial fishing or aqua-agriculture).

There are currently 3,641 moorings on Pittwater Estuary. Averaged on a 10 metre boat, NSW Maritime collects about \$2 million a year from boat registrations and mooring fees. The Department of Land and Water Conservation collects funds from leases for private boat sheds (Permissive Occupancies).

The industries associated with boating include marinas, boat brokers, shipwrights, mechanics, chandlers, marine trimmers, charter fleets and local cafes and restaurants. These industries are important for providing local employment.

The dinghy storage program has been very successful. At the time of the 2000 Strategy, Pittwater contained eight dinghy storage facilities for approximately 100 craft. Today, Pittwater contains 883 boat storage spaces at eighteen reserves with five additional areas proposed. Funds received are used to upgrade facilities in the local area. Council provides two areas where large boats such as outrigger canoes and dragon boats may be stored within Rowland Reserve and Riddle Reserve West, both at Bayview.

There are 28 public / commercial wharves on Pittwater Estuary and 18 boat launching ramps. Most of the wharves are old and require constant maintenance which is generally funded from rates.





Foreshore Reserves adjacent to Pittwater Estuary

Large parks located on the foreshore of Pittwater Estuary include Winnererremy Bay (Mona Vale), McCarrs Creek Reserve (Church Point), Rowland Reserve (Bayview) and Careel Bay / Hitchcock Park (Avalon Beach). Smaller foreshore parks include Griffin Park (Church Point), Yachtsmans Paradise Reserve (Newport), Taylors Point Reserve (Clareville), Currawong Reserve (Palm Beach) Catherine Park (Scotland Island), Thomas Stephens Reserve (Church Point), Winji Jimmi Reserve (Mona Vale), Crescent Reserve (Newport), Dearin Reserve (Newport), Clareville Beach Reserve (Clareville) Paradise Beach (Clareville), Dark Gully Park (Palm Beach), Sandy Beach (Palm Beach) Snapperman Beach (Palm Beach), Station Beach (Palm Beach), Great Mackerel Beach (Great Mackerel), Currawong Beach (Great Mackerel), Old Wharf Reserve (Avalon), Deep Creek Reserve (North Narrabeen) and Wimbleton Reserve (North Narrabeen).

Foreshore access is more limiting to Pittwater Estuary north of Mona Vale due to the steep topography of the Peninsula. Private jetties and boat houses as well as encroachments further restrict foreshore access. Currently there is a reasonable balance of foreshore reserves for nature conservation and parkland.

Previous studies indicate the reserves with the highest level of use are McCarrs Creek Reserve and Thomas Stephens Reserve at Church Point, Rowland Reserve and Winnererremy Bay at Bayview, Sandy Point Beach Reserve and Pittwater Park at Palm Beach, and Clareville Beach Reserve at Clareville and Bilarong Reserve at North Narrabeen adjacent to Narrabeen Lagoon.

Narrabeen Lagoon

Narrabeen Lagoon covers 200 hectares and is located on the southern boundary of Pittwater, being a coastal lagoon it is defined as a relatively shallow body of salt water separated from the adjacent sea by a low lying sand barrier. Inlets cut through the barrier and permit tidal currents to transport water into and out of the lagoon.

The *Narrabeen Lagoon Estuary Management Plan (2002)* proposes that 1,400 people visit the Lagoon and its surrounds on weekdays and 1900 on weekends. Activities include kayaking, canoeing, rowing, windsurfing, fishing and rowing, cycling, walking and birdwatching. The Lagoon provides two boat launching ramps.

Foreshore Reserves adjacent to Narrabeen Lagoon

Large parks on the foreshore of Narrabeen Lagoon include Bilarong Reserve and Lake Park Oval Reserve, both at North Narrabeen. Bilarong Reserve is a regional park containing a large playground based on the theme of 'Lord of the Rings'. It is one of the most highly visited parks in Pittwater.

The Coastal Environment Centre is also located on the shore of Narrabeen Lagoon. The centre's role is to enhance community skills, knowledge and engagement in caring for urban coastal environments. Last year over 19,000 people took part in the centre's programs.

Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail provides a shared pathway for pedestrians and cyclists around Narrabeen Lagoon. The 10 kilometre trail is scheduled to be completed in late 2014.



Management of Waterbodies

The management of Pittwater Estuary and Narrabeen Lagoon considers estuarine vegetation - foreshore reeds, seagrass, saltmarsh and mangroves, fauna - migratory and marine species - birds, invertebrates and fish, exotic pest species, water quality, sedimentation and erosion, impact of water based activities, foreshore usage, heritage and proposed developments.

Pittwater Estuary contains two ecologically important areas of estuarine wetland at Careel Bay and Winnererremy Bay. Water activities that are accessed from the foreshore need to consider the estuarine ecology, particularly mangroves and sea grasses.

Narrabeen Lagoon is within and managed by Warringah Council, but the northern foreshores are within Pittwater LGA. Pittwater Council provides some funding towards the management of the Lagoon. The collecting catchment waters drain from Mullet Creek, Narrabeen Creek, Deep Creek, Middle Creek and South Creek.. The Lagoon itself consists of three sections which are connected to the sea over a rock shelf, which maintains a minimum level of water in the Lagoon. The Lagoon entrance naturally clears periodically as a result of sand drift, but is mechanically cleared under Warringah Council's Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance Management Policy to manage flood risk.

In an attempt to reduce the amount of pollutants entering Narrabeen Lagoon from the surrounding catchment, Council has placed several Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices on pipe systems entering the Lagoon, and undertaken creek restoration of Narrabeen and Fern Creeks including and extensive riparian rehabilitation.

Aboriginal heritage is another consideration near water bodies; shell middens, campsites and burial grounds are often associated with lagoons, estuaries and the coastline.

The 2000 Strategy identified gaps in the provision of recreational facilities in foreshore reserves and recommended that Council carry out a strategic review of foreshore land suitable for acquisition for foreshore open space. This would recognise the high cost of acquiring land on foreshore and identify opportunities for acquisition of foreshore land already outlined in the strategic review.

Council's Capital Improvements Program shows that major works in foreshore reserves in the next five years target wharf refurbishment. Given the high use of foreshore reserves, expenditure needs to be directed to improving foreshore pedestrian links, recreational facilities and access.

As part of the NSW State Government agreement with Currawong, several other sites in Pittwater will be transferred to the Crown to form Pittwater State Park. These sites include Mackerel Beach, McKay Reserves, 69A Beaconsfield Street, Newport, (currently jointly owned by the NSW Government and the Council), Pittwater Park at Palm Beach and its ferry wharf, Governor Phillip Park at Palm Beach, Barrenjoey Beach, North Palm Beach and McKay Reserve.



Community Feedback

- Comments received from the community are contained in Appendix A.
- Improve accessibility to the water for small craft.
- Provide more information on dinghy / boat launching and storage locations.
- Limit development on foreshore areas
- Improve rubbish collection and reduce litter - provide more recycle bins and encourage reserve and boat users to take recyclables home.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to foreshore reserves and waterways are contained on page 96.





6.5 Large Developed Parks

Pittwater contains 27 large developed parks covering 109.09 hectares. This represents approximately 13% of the open space network.

Large developed parks; including district and regional parks, are defined as open space where the physical character and/or vegetation has been modified to support a particular use. Large developed parks facilitate active outdoor lifestyles by promoting activities such as walking, jogging, playground activities and informal sport. These parks also provide places for people to socialise, particularly where barbecue and picnic facilities are available. Access to large areas of open space with no fee or cost is important to most Australians. Green space is essential to our sense of wellbeing.

Large developed parks in Pittwater include:

- Apex Park, Mona Vale
- Bilarong Reserve, North Narrabeen
- Governor Phillip Park, Palm Beach
- Lakeside Park, North Narrabeen
- Winnererremy Bay, Mona Vale
- Avalon Beach Reserve, Avalon Beach
- Bert Payne Park, Newport Beach
- Catherine Park, Scotland Island

Popular large parks where there is the potential to further develop children's play areas include:

- Hitchcock Park, Avalon
- McCarrs Creek Reserve, Church Point
- Avalon Beach Reserve, Avalon

Large developed parks contribute to local economies through tourism, employment opportunities relating to the management of the park and its facilities and pay-and-display parking meters for non-residents. It is estimated that in 1996/97 more than 123,000 tourists visited Pittwater (excluding day-trippers). The income generated from pay-and-display facilities near the regional and district parks by non-residents is substantial and used to maintain the parks.

Over the past decade, Council has focused on the development of larger parks as a strategic direction. Large-scale playgrounds have been built at Winnererremy Bay, Bilarong Reserve, Governor Phillip Park, Apex Park and Warriewood Valley Local Park - a local central park. Council Policy 168 has been amended to include reference to all-abilities facilities, including an all-abilities playground at Bert Payne Reserve Newport Beach. (Reference: Council Resolution 18 March 2013).

A large-scale skate park is planned for Kitchener Park at Mona Vale. The proposed skate park is well supported by the community. It is intended to provide young people with a space to socialise and includes a retail outlet. Council needs to investigate opportunities to fund this proposal, including through the land



rationalisation program.

The capacity of Pittwater's open space network to provide additional facilities on a larger scale is dependent upon new land acquisitions to meet the needs of incoming residents.

Community Feedback

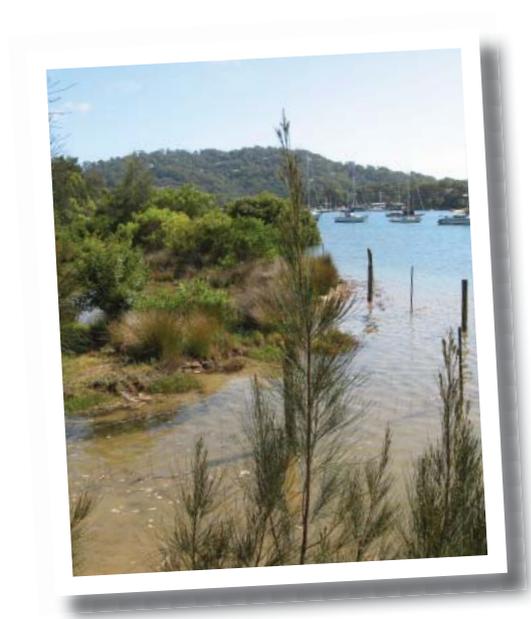
Overall, respondents would like minimal facilities, placed carefully to retain as much green space as possible and for minimal disturbance to fauna, flora and neighbourhood residents. Buildings and facilities should be attractive, well designed and maintained.

Community gardens were also suggested as a sustainable activity that also strengthens communities.

Comments received from the community are contained in Appendix A.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to large developed parks are provided on page 96.





6.6 Structured Sports and Recreation Areas

This setting covers reserves or areas within reserves that are dedicated to one sport or recreational activity, often an organised or structured sport. Examples include golf courses, tennis courts, netball courts, bowling greens and dog walking areas, etc. See Table 15. Ancillary facilities may include specialised equipment and club houses. The management of sportsgrounds is complex and discussed in Section 6.10.

Participation in organised or structured sport contributes to 'social capital'. Generally, places with high levels of social capital are safer, better governed and more prosperous than places with low levels of social capital (Putnam, 2000).

Structured sport provides opportunities to play, exercise, talk and share experiences improving physical and mental wellbeing. Structured sport is particularly beneficial for young people. Research shows that children who are engaged in sport and recreation do better academically and are less likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Most structured sports and recreation areas in Pittwater are outdoor facilities. However, indoor courts are provided at the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre (NBISC). NBISC is operated as a not-for-profit facility. The facility provides four full sized courts with sprung floors, suitable for a range of sports including netball, basketball, volleyball and futsal.

Pittwater contains 15 public tennis courts. All courts are used for competition and social play. The Pittwater Tennis Liaison Committee comprises of representatives of each of the tennis clubs. They liaise with Council regarding the management of Pittwater's tennis facilities.

Bowling greens are primarily used for lawn bowls and used by people aged 55 and over. Bowling clubs also book their facilities out to other groups for meetings, parties and community events.

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* and the *Companion Animals Regulation 2008* provide for the identification and registration of cats and dogs, how they are managed and the duties and responsibilities of their owners in NSW. Local councils administer and enforce this legislation, as well as update registration information on the NSW Companion Animals Register. Each LGA is required to provide at least one off-leash dog exercise area under the Companion Animals Act, 1998.

Pittwater contains seven dog off-leash areas. Rowland Reserve, Derin Reserve, Mackerel Beach and McCarrs Creek Reserve are in premier waterside locations. Dog off-leash areas without water access include Careel Bay, South Mona Vale Headland and Progress Park. Dog Day by the Bay is an annual event held at Rowland Reserve with lots of activities, dog related stalls and competitions including the Pittwater Dog of the Year Photo Competition. Deep Creek Reserve provides a dog training area.

Table 9 provides a summary of facilities for different structured sports and recreational activities offered in Pittwater. For Pittwater operated facilities, an online booking system is available from the Council website for some of the facilities.





Table 9. Summary of Facilities for Different Structured Sports and Recreational Activities Offered in Pittwater

Type of Sport	Location of Facilities in Pittwater
Golf Course	<p>Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northern Beaches Golf Driving Range at North Narrabeen Reserve contains the Narrabeen Golf Driving Range and the Pirates Mini Golf. The facility is leased from Council by a private operator. • Avalon Golf Course covers 13 hectares. It is accessed from The Crescent, Avalon. It provides a nine hole course set within vegetated undulating fairways. Three heritage listed buildings are on the site, providing a cafe and licensed function room. The land is owned by Council. The golf course is leased from Council by a private operator and the proshop and restaurant are managed by a contractor. • Palm Beach Golf Course was founded in 1924. It was previously a camping ground. The facility provides a nine-hole golf course and restaurant / licensed function centre. The land is owned by the Crown and Council leases it to Palm Beach Golf Club. • Mona Vale Golf Course covers 13 hectares and first established around 1900 as part of the Oaks Polo Pony Stud Farm, a financially unsuccessful, yet opulent tourist resort. It is now an 18 hole, Par-72 championship golf course with licenced function centre for up to 300 people. The land is owned by the Crown and Council leases it to Mona Vale Golf Club. <p>Private</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash Country Club at Ingleside • Elanora Country Club at Elanora Heights • Bayview Golf Course at Bayview
Tennis Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayview Tennis Club is located at Bayview Park, Bayview. The club provides two competition standard courts with synthetic grass surface and lighting, clubhouse and amenities. • Careel Bay Tennis Club is located at Hitchcock Park, North Avalon. The Club has five synthetic grass courts, lighting, a clubhouse, pro shop and children's playground. • Elanora Park Tennis Club is located at Merridong Avenue, Elanora Heights. The facility provides two courts with lighting. • Mona Vale Tennis Club is located at Kitchener Park, Mona Vale. The facility provides four courts with lighting. • Newport Community Tennis Courts -is located at The Boulevarde, Newport. The facility provides two courts with synthetic grass surfaces and lighting. • North Narrabeen Community and Tennis Centre is located at Woorara Ave, North Narrabeen. The facility provides two courts with synthetic grass surface and lighting, playground refurbished club room, showers, toilets and kitchen. Newport and North Narrabeen facilities are Managed by Council.



<p>Netball Courts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass courts at Boondah Reserve, Warriewood. • Ten asphalt netball courts are available in summer and four in winter: • One at Newport Beach carpark • One at Avalon Beach Reserve • Two at Careel Creek - one each side of the creek • Three at Old Barrenjoey Road Netball Courts • Three at Pittwater Rugby Park No. 2. • Most high schools and larger primary schools have netball courts within the school grounds.
<p>Skateboard and BMX Riding Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchener Park, Mona Vale. • Avalon Beach Reserve, Avalon
<p>Bowling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avalon Beach Bowling Club is located at Dunbar Park, Avalon Beach. The club was established in 1961 and provides three lawn bowls, <i>petanque</i> and croquet. Licensed club facilities are available for functions. • Mona Vale Bowling club is located at Kitchener Park, Mona Vale. The club was founded in 1957 and provides three greens, a function room and associated facilities. Available for hire. • Newport Bowling Club is located at Spurway Park, Newport. The club was founded in 1938 and provides three greens and a club house. In 2009 Pittwater Council constructed the tennis courts and community centre at the site. • Narrabeen War Veterans Bowling Club, Narrabeen is a privately owned facility. • Indoor Bowls is available at Pittwater RSL
<p>Dog Exercise areas</p>	<p>Off Leash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careel Bay Playing Fields, Avalon - northern most area. • Dearin Reserve, Newport. • Deep Creek Reserve, North Narrabeen - designated dog training area, dogs are only allowed off leash during training sessions. • Mackerel Beach - dogs are permitted off leash but time restrictions apply. Dogs are not permitted in the water or below the high tide mark. • Progress Park, North Narrabeen. • Rowland Reserve, Bayview - water access. • South Mona Vale Headland, Warriewood. • McCarrs Creek Road Reserve





Community Feedback

The following sections summarise the community feedback and recommendations from previous studies as well as the results of the recent survey results. Comments received from the community are contained in Appendix A.

As discussed in Chapter 3, Statistical Overview, there has been a shift away from structured activities to unstructured activities, with many people preferring to walk or go to a gym for exercise. This trend is reflected in the past and current survey results.

Dog Exercise Areas

In the current survey, dog walking was the thirteenth most popular activity and dog exercise areas ranked seventeenth. Dog off-leash areas need to be carefully sited. For instance, the Careel Bay dog exercise area may be in conflict with endangered birds in the Careel Bay Environmental Protection Area and with sports people using the playing fields.

The survey results for this project, requested an attractive, well designed and comfortable park for dogs and their owners that provides facilities such as seating so dogs can be better integrated into their owner's lifestyle.



Facilities for children and young people

Facilities for children and young people were identified as a major area for improvement within the Pittwater area (Recreation Needs Study, June 1994).

The Draft Pittwater Open Space and Recreation Plan (1997) identified that teenagers need informal, active and outdoor facilities for skateboarding and rollerblading, and meeting places to 'hang out'. Skate parks were the most popular request from young people in during the development of the *Kitchener Park PoM, 2000*.

Current surveys of young people indicate that Pittwater still requires more social and recreational opportunities for young people. A concept plan to upgrade the skate park at Kitchener Park to a regional facility was adopted by Council, refer to the Kitchener Park POM, 2009.

Past and Current Survey Results

- Tennis was ranked third for leisure activities in Pittwater in 1994. (Recreation Needs Study, June 1994). The current survey ranks tennis as 24th; and
- Golf ranked fifth in the Recreation Needs Study (June 1994) whereas golf was ranked 18th in the current survey.
- Install permanent beach volleyball facilities at one beach, in consultation with the surf clubs. Consideration be given to monitoring volleyball activities to ensure the safety of other beach users.



- Provision of youth facilities including basketball and netball courts, was one of the three major social issues identified by the community (TTS Research,1999). Potential for basketball half-courts was suggested in 1997. (Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan, July 1997, Sportsgrounds POM, 2000).
- The importance of bowling greens to the broader Pittwater community has not been documented in the past. The current survey ranks bowls at 35th.
- In the current survey, netball was ranked 28th, volleyball 37th and basketball 44th. Yet, these sports have a history of being more popular.
- In 1994, the Manly Warringah Netball Association identified an increase in volleyball players and suggested Pittwater had insufficient netball courts recommending they be installed between Narrabeen and Avalon (Recreation Needs Study, July 1994). Basketball and netball facilities were required at Warriewood Valley (Travers Morgan, 1994). It was recommended to provide sealed netball courts at North Narrabeen Reserve and the courts at Boondah Reserve lit for night training. (Focus group consultations and survey of sporting groups August / September, 1994).
- The installation of six basketball courts were recommended for Newport Beach, Epworth Park, Plateau Park, Nareen Park, Hitchcock Park and Whitney Reserve (Sportsgrounds POM, 2000).

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to structured sports and recreation areas are provided on page 97.





6.7 Sportsgrounds

A sportsground is defined as land that is intended to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games. A sportsground includes the sportsfield, run-out and surrounding flat land, amenity buildings, access roads and vehicle parking.

A sportsfield is defined as the playing surface, run-out and immediate surrounds. The sportsfields are reconfigured as various sized playing surfaces depending on seasonal demand. The sportsground and sportsfields are located within a larger area, defined by the reserve name or precinct. The reserve may also include landscaped areas and/or bushland and cater for general community use including walking, picnicking, impromptu sport and passive recreation. Further information on sportsgrounds and their use is contained in Appendix B2.

The Pittwater LGA contains nine sportsground reserve precincts covering approximately 70 hectares. The sportsground areas cover approximately 45 hectares and the sportsfield areas cover approximately 29 hectares.

Currently Pittwater contains 21 full sized fields, five x three-quarter sized fields and eight mini fields. The sportsfields are insufficient to meet the needs of the existing community due to the demands for games and training as well as the management regimes of the sportsfields.

Sports club membership is high at 8,903 players. Refer to Table 11. This figure is restricted to team registrations with the clubs that seasonally book the sportsfields. With a population of approximately 61,201 residents, team registrations comprise approximately 14.59% of Pittwater's population. It is believed this is the highest participation rate of all sport, recreation, social and cultural activities across the Pittwater LGA.





Table 10. Sportsgrounds and Sportsfields in Pittwater - Refer to Appendix B2. Sportsground Inventory

Sportsgrounds	Precinct or Reserve	Sportsground (ha) Sportsfields, amenity buildings, access roads, vehicle parking)	Sportsfields (ha) Playing surface, run-out and immediate surrounds
Boondah Reserves East and West	9.21	5.00	3.60
Careel Bay Playing Fields and Hitchcock Park	14.35	7.40	4.90
Kitchener Park	7.16	3.83	2.60
Lake Park Oval Reserve (Lakeside Park)	3.20	2.36	1.30
Narrabeen Sports High School	1.40	1.40	1.40
Newport Park (Newport Oval)	1.96	1.56	1.20
North Narrabeen Reserve, incorporating Pittwater Rugby Park	23.78	16.97	10.10
Porter Reserve	4.29	2.62	1.43
Warriewood Valley Sportsground	4.70	3.80	2.40
Totals (hectares)	70.05	44.94	28.93
Rounded (hectares)	70	45	29

Table 11. Sports Club Membership registered players 2013 - 8,903.

Code	Membership	Code	Membership
Football (Soccer)	3079	Australian Football League	208
Touch Football	1705	Softball	198
Rugby Union	1090	Cricket	174
Netball	794	SuperTouch (Commercially managed rather than voluntarily)	156
Rugby League	574	Hockey	35
Oz-Tag	572	Equestrian (NBHTRC)	13
Baseball	294	Equestrian (MWPPC)	20



Distribution of Sportsfields

All Pittwater's sportsgrounds are located within walking distance of major roads including Pittwater Road and Barrenjoey Road.

Most of Pittwater's sportsgrounds are located at the southern end of the LGA where they form a sporting hub. This is because the land form in the southern end of the LGA contains low lying flat land, whereas the topography of the peninsula to the north tends to be steep. The location of the flatter land is fortuitous because this is the most densely populated area and the most accessible area for local residents and visiting teams. Many areas of low-lying flat land in the southern end of the LGA provide bore water which is a major advantage in relation to the management of sportsfields as generally Pittwater's soils are sandy loams with low water holding properties.

Council's strategic planning supports the development of sporting precincts where possible. It is more cost-effective to construct and maintain a group of sportsfields in the one area than a single field. Infrastructure can often be shared within a precinct.

Established sportsgrounds and facilities within the southern precinct include the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre, North Narrabeen Reserve, Lake Park Oval Reserve and Boondah Reserves East and West. Newer facilities to meet the needs of incoming residents of Warriewood Valley include Warriewood Valley Sportsground and Narrabeen Sports High School.

Synthetic Grass Fields

In 2012 Council entered into an agreement with Narrabeen Sports High School to construct a new full-sized artificial turf sportsfield and a three-quarter sized turf sportsfield. Council maintains the fields which are generally used by the school's during school hours and available for community hire through Council outside school use hours. Sportsfield lighting on both fields allows for training and games after dark. The total project cost was approximately \$2.1 million. AFL NSW contributed funding and the school contributed a grant and provided the land. The remaining funds were provided by Council through Section 94 funding by developer levies. Council has a 60 year lease for use of the fields.

The Manly Warringah District Hockey Club caters for junior, women, men and mixed teams. Currently 35 Pittwater residents belong to the Club, however the Club is progressive and membership is growing across the SHOROC region.

Manly and Warringah provide turf facilities for hockey, however Pittwater does not provide facilities for hockey. Facilities are inadequate for club members who train and play across the greater Sydney region. In recognition of the Club's success in promoting hockey in the region, coupled with the suitability of a full sized synthetic hockey pitch to accommodate up to four futsal-sized pitches, it is recommended Council undertake further investigations in relation to the development of hockey in Pittwater and a feasibility study for a synthetic hockey pitch suitable for training and competition.



Complexities of Managing the Sportsfields

The management of sportsfields is complex and subject to many ongoing challenges. Council is responsible for ensuring that sportsfields provide a 'fit for purpose' surface that is safe and meets the needs of the type and level of sport using it. Examples of hazards from poor surfaces results from hardness, uneven and trip hazards. Clubs also have a duty of care to ensure they are using facilities responsibly and that they check the condition of the field before and after use.

The condition of the fields may change with seasonal use. Fields are used more intensely in the winter season. By August, the end of the winter season, the grass is usually well worn and dormant. In summer, by late February to early March, the fields have returned to being in reasonably good condition. Council carries out work including re-turfing, compaction alleviation, top dressing, fertilising, herbicide weed control during December and January each year.

The amount of use each field can withstand is governed by the subsoil, drainage and irrigation. Many of the fields are located on sandy soil profiles, together with low nutrients and poor water holding capacity. Groundwater is used to supplement town water for sportsfields that are low lying including North Narrabeen Reserve, Lake Park Oval Reserve, Kitchener Park, Hitchcock Park and Careel Bay Playing Fields. The high salt content in the groundwater requires it to be mixed with another water source to dilute the salt content.

Lake Park Oval Reserve, Careel Bay Playing Fields and Hitchcock Park are located in areas that are influenced by predicted sea level change under Federal and State Legislation.

Stormwater harvesting involves collecting rainwater and storing it in tanks. This reduces the demand on town water. North Narrabeen Reserve, Porter Reserves, Boondah Field 1, Narrabeen Sports High School and Pitwater Rugby Park supplement irrigation with collected rainwater.

Night use on many fields is limited by the quality of the light from floodlights.

Residents living adjacent or near sportsgrounds may be impacted by noise, light spill from floodlighting, traffic congestion and increased street parking. Sportsground users need to minimise their impact on the amenity of local residents.

Use of Sportsfields

All sports fields and associated facilities are available to the community for hire. The sportsfields are booked on a regular basis by sport's clubs for the summer season (September to March inclusive) and the winter season (April to August inclusive). The fields are generally used for training on weekday evenings and competition on weekends. Outside this usage, the fields are available for casual bookings, which is often by schools.

Sportsfields are booked on a seasonal basis by registered sports clubs for the summer and winter seasons. The sportsfields are generally used for training on weekday evenings and competition on weekends. The fields are also available for casual bookings.



Leases and licenses formalise the use of community land by groups. A lease is used where a group has exclusive use of a facility for a fixed period of time. Council's preferred lease period is two years. Section 46 of the LGA 1993 states that a lease or licence must be expressly authorised by a plan of management.

A management license is used where a group has management rights of a sportsfield and /or facility. Examples include seasonal licences, casual hire, school use or when clubs share facilities. Council encourages joint use, and gives preference to clubs that share facilities and undertake joint management. Clubs must hold their own public liability insurance and cannot sub-hire the allocated grounds, days and times.

Clubs would like existing facilities upgraded including sportsfields, clubhouses and change rooms and the amenity, comfort, spectator seating and landscaping of the sportsgrounds improved.

Due to limited funding, Council encourages clubs to take responsibility for their own operations as much as possible. Clubs depend on the generous work done by volunteers. Council provides assistance where possible, focusing on clubs that are proactive and demonstrate a strong commitment to their members.

As part of the community consultation for the Strategy, Council organised a workshop with a grant specialist for all clubs and associations. The aim of the workshop was to provide volunteers with the skills needed to apply for government grants. It is suggested that the clubs work closely with each other where possible to share the cost and maintenance of facilities.

Community Feedback

As part of the preparation of this Strategy, a separate survey was distributed to the clubs that seasonally hire the sportsfields. Of the 27 sports clubs registered with Council, 24 completed the survey. The issues raised by the clubs are consistent with the issues outlined in the 2000 Strategy and the ongoing management issues contained in Council's database.

The survey results highlighted that there are three main issues impacting the clubs, including:

- quality of the sportsfields;
- ground closures; and
- shortage of sportsfields.

Quality of Fields and Ground Closures

Council maintains the fields, however the clubs are responsible for checking the condition of the field immediately prior to occupation and during occupation to determine whether the field is fit for the intended use. If use proceeds and the field is damaged, the club may be liable for damage. Council does not accept responsibility for injury caused by usage of fields in an unfit condition. Council reserves the right to close fields as required due to maintenance or wet weather.

To protect sportsfields and users, Council is required to close sportsfields during periods of wet weather. To increase the availability of sportsfields in wet weather, Council has embarked on a program of installing subsoil drainage on sportsfields that were prone to water logging.



Shortage of Fields

The survey indicated that clubs would like additional sportsfields to alleviate the pressure on existing sportsfields. Continued residential development and increased population will require planned additional sportsfields.

Sportsground Requirements

Open space provision (passive and active) traditionally was based on 2.83 hectares per 1,000 population and did not differentiate the percentage or quantum of land attributed for passive or active open space. Active recreation involved moderate to high intensity activities using sportsfields, golf courses and surfaced courts. Passive recreation involves low intensity activities using track sand paths, picnic areas and seating.

Although Pittwater appears to be well supplied with open space at 822.55 hectares, there is a shortfall of active open space. The majority of the open space network - 496 hectares, is contained in environmentally sensitive conservation areas and/or steep terrain. Some of the most valued and highly used facilities cater for visitors to the area, particularly the waterways and adjoining parklands, beaches and the entire coastal strip which contains the Bicentennial Coastal Walkway.

When considering the break up of the required open space, often made to both active and passive; active open space are areas where organised sports such as football and netball can be played. Of course, new passive recreational pursuits (informal) can be undertaken on areas where organised sport is played, but in general, active sports cannot be played on passive recreational areas due to the requirements for active sports, e.g. size, grades, goal posts etc.

In relation to the active open space component, there appears to be no broadly accepted standard to determine the quantity of sportsfields for a given population as noted by Thompson and Tregear (2000). Pittwater Council has not implemented a planning policy for quantifying sportsfield requirements based on population indicators either. Although not supported, Thompson and Tregear's (2000) report for the Northern Beaches recommended a supply of one full size sportsfield per 75 -100 sporting population for the area. This recommendation, being unrealistic and unachievable, was not supported given the lack of available land large enough to accommodate sportsfield/s.

Older Established Suburbs

There are limited opportunities to provide sportsfields at the desired rate to meet the need of the current users. It is recommended that Council take advantages of any opportunities to purchase land adjacent to existing playingfields, thereby keeping pace with population increases.

A number of options are available for Council to consider:

- optimise the use of existing sportsfields;
- purchase new land for sportsfields.;
- provide more multi-use facilities;
- adapt other reserves and parks to accommodate sportsfields;
- investigate opportunities to share school grounds and facilities;



- use small areas of open space in either parks or sportsgrounds for training or mini fields;
- develop more synthetic surface fields;
- redistribute other facilities to provide new sportsfields;
- install netball courts in carparks; and
- install floodlighting where appropriate.

The above options need to consider potential over-use and degradation of fields.

New Urban Release Areas

The ratio of 2.83 hectares per 1000 population has been applied to determine the provision of open space in the Warriewood Valley land release area. With an estimated incoming population of 6,777 people this equates to 19.1 hectares. Purchases to date include:

- 6.1 hectares of active open space;
- 3.99 hectares of passive open space; and
- 3.12 hectares of linear open space (30% of creek line corridors).

It is intended that the remaining balance of 6.32 hectares comprises of 1.69 hectares of linear open space (walkways, cycleways, wildlife corridors) and 4.63 hectares of open space. The 2.83 hectares per 1000 population is an industry standard and it is reasonable that Council determine the best possible mix of landscape settings to ensure the open space network meets the needs of the incoming population. The active open space component, by definition of its use, will consist of larger areas of flat land suitable for active recreation.

It is critical to provide the remaining balance of 6.32 hectares of open space to ensure that the existing under supply in sportsfields is not exacerbated.

Warriewood Valley, compared with the older established suburbs in the LGA, is of a density with smaller areas of private open space. The provision of the most appropriate type of open space for the incoming community of Warriewood Valley is consistent with State and Local Government promotion of active, healthy living.

It is recommended that Council determine the required division between active and passive open space in the proposed Ingleside land release area to provide for the incoming residents. It is suggested Council take into consideration that Ingleside is well serviced with passive open space, being adjacent to national parks and the Ingleside Escarpment as well as any retained bushland areas throughout the proposed development.

Funding

The level of funding that Council can allocate to sportsfields is insufficient to meet the expectations of the sports clubs and their members. Council charges a user fee for clubs to recover some of the expenses incurred in managing the sportsfields. Council records all recurrent costs, including annual provisions for the future costs of long-term asset maintenance, refurbishment and income.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to sportsgrounds are provided on page 98.



Table 12. How Well Facilities Meet the Club's Needs

The numbers indicate the number of clubs that responded to each question.

Answer Options	Meets needs all of the time	Meets needs most of the time	Meets needs some of the time	Does not meet needs	N/A	Response Count
Maintenance of the reserve in general	2	7	12	2	0	23
Condition of the playing fields	1	7	10	4	0	22
Amenity and comfort - landscape quality	0	3	12	5	3	23
Clubhouse and change rooms	6	4	3	9	0	22
Canteen	4	5	1	3	7	20
Rest rooms	5	2	5	9	1	22
Lighting	3	5	4	5	4	21
Social area/barbecue	4	2	4	4	6	20
Storage	5	2	3	6	5	21
Spectator seating	1	1	2	11	7	22
Traffic and parking	4	18	6	2	0	22
Access and paths	7	8	5	1	1	22
Safety and security	5	9	6	1	1	22
Impacts on neighbouring residents	5	7	1	0	8	21
Other and Other (please specify)						8



Synthetic field - North Narrabeen Sports High School



Table 13. Sportsgrounds and Facilities Used by the Clubs

Question: Which of the following sportsgrounds does your club use and which activities do you do on this ground?

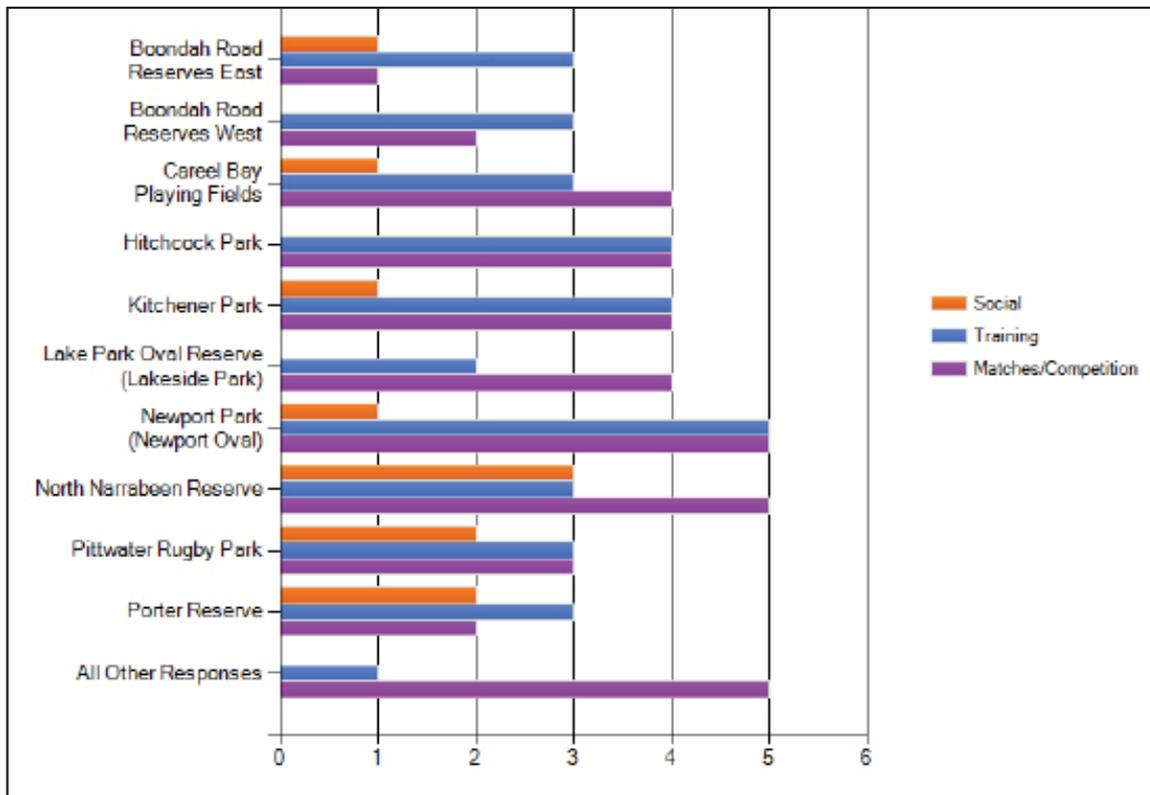
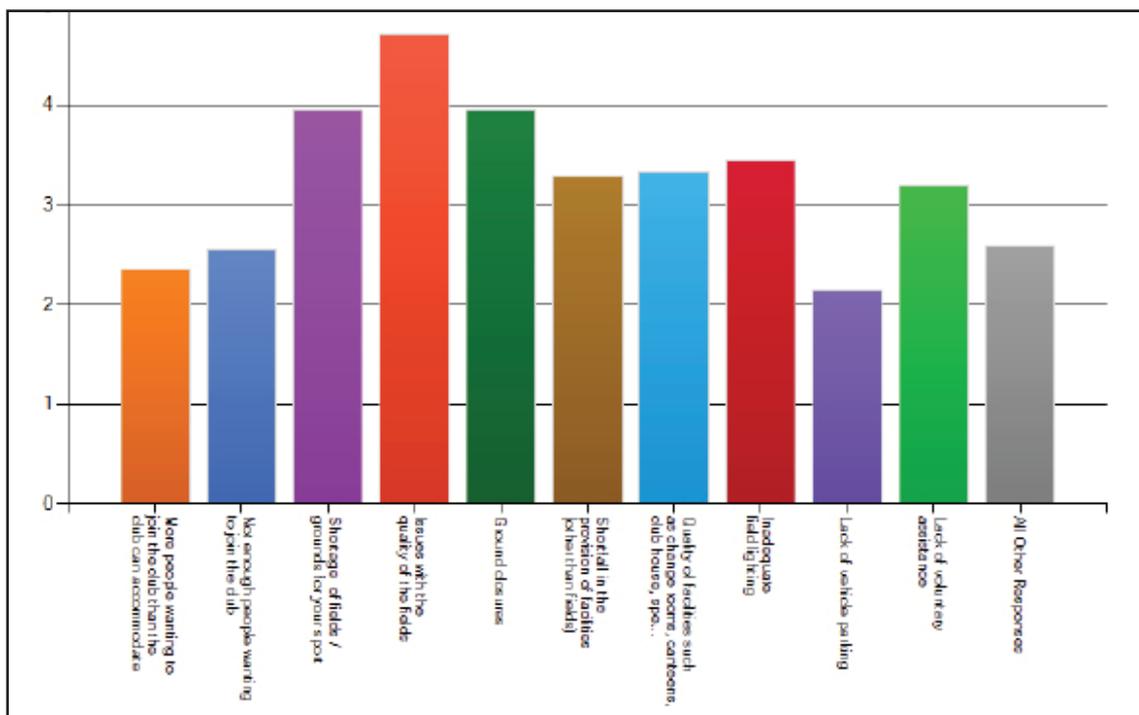


Figure 14. Key Issues Facing the Clubs

Question: What are the key issues currently facing your club? Rank where 1=low importance and 5-high importance





6.8 Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities

This setting covers indoor sports and recreation facilities, including swimming pools and sports courts. Council's community centres also provide recreational facilities.

The survey results indicate that swimming in a pool is the most fourth most popular activity. Other popular activities include basketball 44, indoor football - 39, table tennis 38, scouts and guides - 33 and badminton - 29.

The NSW Government owns and operates the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation, located off Wakehurst Parkway, Narrabeen. This facility includes a 25 metre heated pool, fitness and jogging tracks, sports science, medicine and physiotherapy. The Academy's facilities are generally not promoted to the local community. Training courses and camps can be accessed by local clubs, families and interest groups through a booking system.

The Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre (NBISC) at Jacksons Road, Warriewood was opened in 2002. It commenced as a joint venture between Pittwater Council and the NSW Department of Sports and Recreation. Council has retained a share in NBISC, however it is managed and operated as a private not-for-profit company and is available for hire by clubs.

NBISC contains four full sized multipurpose courts with sprung floors and capacity for 500 spectators. Sports played include netball, basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball, futsal and gymnastics. Futsal, a smaller scale indoor soccer game, is one of the fastest growing sports and the Northern Beaches Futsal Association membership has doubled since 2003.

The NBISC has also been used for handball, badminton, table tennis jazzercise and aerobics. Ancillary facilities include two change rooms, one referees change room, first-aid room, canteen and disabled toilet facilities. NBISC is fully wheelchair accessible and hosts disabled sports. The NBISC are proposing to construct two new courts with assistance from Council.

The Avalon Community Centre includes an indoor court that is used for indoor netball, badminton and basketball. Privately owned facilities are available across the Northern Beaches for hire, for example Elanora Squash Centre, Elanora Heights. Local high schools also provide indoor courts. These courts may have the potential to be hired out to community groups and clubs outside school hours. Single courts are located at Narrabeen, Pittwater and Barrenjoey High Schools.

A group of residents have been requesting an indoor heated pool for winter use, training and learn to swim classes. A conceptual design for an indoor heated pool has been investigated, but was not considered financially viable due to the small resident population and geographic isolation of the LGA. Aquatic centres in the SHOROC region include:

- Warringah Aquatic Centre at Frenchs Forest provides an indoor heated Olympic size swimming pool, diving pool, outdoor 25 metre lap pool and toddler wading pool. The pools are solar heated, with picnic and barbecue facilities, playground and creche. The facility is currently being investigated for refurbishment.



- Manly Andrew “Boy” Charlton Swim Centre. Council operated outdoor heated 50 metre and a 25 metre pool, toddler pool, shade covered baby pool, dry playground and handball court. New plans to refurbish are currently being considered by Manly Council.
- Mona Vale Hospital provides a hydrotherapy pool with supervised exercise programs supervised by physiotherapists for the patients. The temperature is higher than a standard heated swimming pool. The pool can be hired for learn to swim classes and warm water exercise classes as part of the hospital's Healthy Lifestyle Program.
- Mosman Swim Centre provides a privately operated 25 metre heated pool. The centre offers a wide range of programs and activities and disabled access.

Community Feedback - Historic

- Recreation Needs Study, 1994 - Pools and gymnasiums were the second most favoured commercial leisure setting of Pittwater residents behind hotels and clubs.
- Swimming pools were ranked number eight by residents in terms of extreme importance, regarding priorities for recreation spending. Ideally, residents felt an indoor swimming pool complex should also comprise a gym and child-minding facilities.
- Pittwater Social Plan, 1996 Resident Survey - venues for youth entertainment were a high priority for young people with an emphasis on specific venues for under 18s.
- The Open Space and Recreation Plan, 1997 - Indoor recreation facilities were the second most preferred recreational setting in Pittwater.
- Current Survey, 2012. Most of the comments supported an indoor heated pool for winter use, training and learn to swim classes, supplemented with a gym, cafe and child minding facilities. See Appendix A.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to indoor sports and recreation facilities are provided on page 99.





6.9 Village Greens - Culture and Leisure

For the purpose of this Strategy, village greens consist of parkland centrally located within or adjacent to a village or town centre. The village green provides the local community with an open air meeting place and space for community events. (In Australia, unlike England, there is no legal meaning associated with a village green).

Pittwater is fortunate to contain two village greens at Dunbar Park, Avalon and Village Park, Mona Vale. These areas provide space for cultural and leisure activities within a commercial locality and near the libraries, Council Customer Service Centres, retail, public transport and civic areas. Pittwater Council's Local Planning Strategy 2011, classifies the commercial and retail centres in Pittwater as follows:

- Town Centre - Mona Vale
- Village - Avalon, Newport, North Narrabeen, Palm Beach and Elanora Heights
- Shopping Centre - Warriewood Square (stand alone)

Council's vision is to be "A vibrant sustainable community of connected villages inspired by bush, beach and water". The natural environment of Pittwater has long been a hub providing inspiration to many artists, photographers, musicians, crafts people, writers, chefs and people involved in the film industry.

Pittwater's open space network has the potential to incorporate and share these artistic and cultural talents with the broader community. Local artists can be engaged to enliven town centres with music, street theatre, multicultural dining experiences and local markets.

Barrenjoey Road and Pittwater Road are the main thoroughfares in Pittwater. Barrenjoey Road and part of Pittwater Road connect the suburbs of North Narrabeen with Palm Beach. The roads parallel the coastline. The retail and commercial centres of Mona Vale, Newport and Avalon are located on the western side of Barrenjoey Road with the beaches adjacent to the east. There is the opportunity to make stronger links between the villages and the beaches and by creating a maritime atmosphere.

Community Feedback

The 2000 Strategy did not consider village greens or cultural and leisure activities. Yet, the current survey results indicate that cultural and leisure activities are popular forms of recreation in Pittwater:

- cafes / outdoor dining - most popular activity
- cinema - ranked fifth
- park visits for barbecues and picnics - ranked sixth
- markets - ranked ninth
- community volunteer or fund raising - ranked eleventh

Pittwater, like most of Sydney, has undergone a changing social scene over the past decade and respondents feel it is timely to enliven the retail and commercial centres with more opportunities for culture and leisure. Survey respondents highlighted the following gaps in Pittwater's centres:



- Elements from the European model - social spaces for people to congregate and mingle, eat and drink.
- Art and sculpture
- Outdoor dining located away from busy streets
- Pedestrian friendly access - close roads to traffic
- Enliven Pittwater, similar to the Enliven Lane Cove Project
- Outdoor activities such as outdoor chess tables and table tennis tables
- Musicians or activities that create a more vibrant street scene

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to village greens - Culture and Leisure are available on page 99.

6.10 Tourism

Council and community support tourism. The Mayor's Welcome to Pittwater states:

While Pittwater's beauty makes it popular with visitors, we encourage eco-tourism and ask that all that our welcomed visitors leave behind is footprints in the sand.

Tourism is a major industry in the SHOROC Region and the community benefits from the diverse range of backgrounds of visitors to the area. Tourism also assists the local economy. Statistics developed by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research indicates that for the financial year ending June 2012, 10,392 people, representing 9.4% of the workforce were employed in accommodation and food services. The only employment sectors with higher rates of employment include retail trade 13.9%, construction 10.9% and health care and social assistance 9.9%. (Source: SHOROC Economic Profile).

Cultural and recreational services also caters for tourists. For instance an additional, 2,484 people (2.4%) are employed in Arts and Recreation Services.

Lakeside Holiday Park was commended in the 2012 Greater Sydney Tourism Awards for the Tourism & Caravan Park category . The Park also provided accommodation to terminally ill children and their families over the summer of 2012/13 through the locally based charity Pittwater Cares.

Attractions

Pittwater's diverse landscape settings provide a range of activities that are popular with tourists.



Sydney's beaches are frequently mentioned as a key tourist activity. Palm Beach was the second most popular beach precinct, after Bondi with 7% of people surveyed specifically mentioning the set of the television program 'Home and Away' (Tourism NSW).

Pittwater Estuary and Narrabeen Lagoon are popular for boating activities and fishing. The rugged landform, vegetation and world-class views attract walkers. Both residents and tourists visit the markets, restaurants and cafes.

There are some interesting and enjoyable ways to access Pittwater's attractions. Ferries operate from the mainland to the Western Foreshore, Scotland Island and Ettalong on the Central Coast and a seaplane service operates from Pittwater Estuary.

Accommodation

Sydney Lakeside Holiday Park at Narrabeen provides a 4.5 star camping and caravan park with camping, on-site cabin vans and powered and un-powered sites for hire.

Currawong is located on the western foreshore and provides a range of accommodation including the lodge, cottages, Midholme (original homestead) and the caretakers cottage. Nightly and weekly booking rates are available from Council's website. Currawong also caters for weddings, community or corporate groups and filming.

The Basin at Coaster's Retreat located on sheltered sandy beach and inland lagoon offers camping. This is the only place available for camping in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and accommodates 400 people. The Beechwood Cottage can be hired for functions.

Pittwater also contains various youth hostels and private guest houses, motels and holiday home rentals.

Community Feedback

While tourism is supported by the community, residents are opposed to incompatible developments. For example, the proposed re-development of Currawong as a residential estate and the NPWS proposal to redevelop the Barrenjoey Lighthouse Precinct for commercial purposes. A resident protest on 14 July 2013 stopped the development at Barrenjoey Headland.

Recommendations

Recommendations in relation to tourism are available on page 99.



7. Recommendations

This chapter provides a range of recommendations for the Pittwater area. Under the *Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines* all council's plans and strategies need to be integrated and aligned with their Community Strategic Plan. The Community Strategic Plan outlines the vision and objectives that the community wish to see over the coming 12 years. To deliver the objectives in the Community Strategic Plan Council undergoes an annual process to develop a Delivery Program and Budget. In this process recommendations from the *Pittwater Public Space & Recreation Strategy* will be considered in conjunction with all other Plans and Strategies across Council and specific recommendations may become actions with associated budgets. See page 16 for further information.

7.1 Goals and Objectives

Today, public space, sport and recreation facilities embody a wide range of environmental, social and economic values and opportunities. The challenge is to provide an open space network that will meet the needs of current and future generations. The objectives include:

- to conserve, protect and enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage;
- to protect and enhance Pittwater's amenity and visual qualities;
- to provide the best range of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of the community.
- to provide high quality facilities;
- to support active lifestyles; and
- to ensure all open space is accessible to the wider community.

7.2 Options to Improve the Open Space Network - Recommendations

It is considered most suburbs in Pittwater provide adequate open space, with the exception of new urban release areas. A number of options are proposed to enhance the existing open space network. Options include:

Land Rationalisation

- The Strategy supports the purchase and sale of land to provide the best possible range and use of public land for current and future generations.
- In the planning of new release areas, identify land suitable to accommodate sportsfields for purchase.
- Purchase properties adjacent to existing large reserves when suitable properties become available, particularly where it would support additional sportsfields.
- Sell, swap and purchase land to provide for the existing and future generations with the best possible range of landscape settings and associated activities.
- Purchase land in prime locations such as foreshore areas and ocean beach areas where additional infrastructure is required such as parking to cater for the larger crowds at peak times.
- It is recommended that Council formalise the land rationalisation process through a strategic plan for review and input by the Council and community.



- The land rationalisation plan is to consider the submissions received in relation to the Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy, 2014.

Convert or Adapt Existing Open Space

- Investigate more equitable use of golf courses and bowling clubs for the benefit of the wider community. For instance, Pittwater contains three public golf courses covering 66.6 hectares plus three private golf courses for a population of approximately 62,000.

Rationalising Facilities

- Continue to group facilities and programs to create hubs. This achieves capital and operational savings as well as providing a range of activities and in the one location. This is particularly effective in relation to sportsgrounds where parking, buildings, seating, barbecues can be shared.
- Remove some of the older playgrounds and replace with fewer, larger playgrounds to provide a greater variety of equipment, increased opportunities for socialising and to meet the expectations of the community.

Partnerships and Commercial Approaches

- Expand and foster partnerships with volunteers and joint ventures with business and educational institutions.
- Continue to form partnerships to create new facilities such as the new synthetic sportsfield at North Narrabeen Sports High School which was a joint project between Council and the Department of Education. (Note: Council used to have agreements at other local secondary schools, however these have been terminated).
- Continue to work with students. Council has a two year agreement with Macquarie University to work with students from their PACE Program. The students have been developing phone applications for 'Walking Pittwater.' The phone applications are produced by the students with assistance from members of the community.
- Expand and foster joint projects with neighbouring councils to provide sub-regional facilities. An example of this is the jointly constructed Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-use Trail.
- Continue to develop Council /community owned cafes (leased to operators) with funds raised being reinvested into community facilities. Current provision includes Dunes Restaurant at Palm Beach, Inch Cafe at Mona Vale, Bilgola Beach Cafe and Flying Fox Cafe, Mona Vale. An additional kiosk and restaurant is planned at the new Avalon Beach surf club building. These facilities also provide opportunities for further socialising as well as supporting maintenance and upgrading costs.
- Incorporate volunteers in Council initiatives.
- Fund raise for local social programs, particularly in relation to young people.
- Include civic duties as well as Surf Life Saving, Rural Fire Service and Bushcare.
- Investigate setting up a register of local businesses who are interested in sponsoring volunteer groups and a list of groups who would like sponsors. Council would could assist with promotion and marking for the benefit of both the businesses and the volunteer groups.



- Promote self-funding where possible.
- Review facility lease, hire, user fee policies and protocols.

New Technologies and Enhanced Design

- Continue to upgrade technologies to overcome space and time shortages at existing reserves. Examples include night lighting to allow facilities to be used for longer periods of time.
- Provide increased indoor recreation facilities to ensure an equitable mix of outdoor and indoor recreation opportunities. More diverse recreation needs are being met through indoor facilities such as aquatic and fitness venues and multi-use community centres. Opportunities can be offered for extended hours and throughout the seasons. Pittwater provides a range of recreational opportunities at Avalon Recreation Centre, Newport Recreation Centre and the Northern Beaches Sport Centre. The Northern Beaches Indoor Recreation Centre is currently expanding to include an additional two courts.

Effective Management

- Protect, conserve and enhance natural areas and cultural heritage. Protect and enhance scenic coastal views for the net public benefit, while retaining the natural coastline and its biodiversity and aesthetic values. Provide pleasant and safe open space and recreational areas for users, that considers the need for facilities such as access, line of sight, community ownership and a sense of place. These can include enhancements such as seating, shade shelters, picnic settings, cycle racks, and drinking fountains .
- Upgrade and expand public spaces for the benefit of the broader community that considers the needs of the community for activating social interaction, including provision of access for all, health benefits, low cost that is environmentally and economically sustainable in economic and environmental terms.
- Provide flexible, multipurpose public spaces, facilities and programs to allow for continued shifts in focus and popularity, placing emphasis on creative and innovative opportunities.
- Provide increased opportunities for seniors to be involved in their communities and neighbourhoods through recreational activities and volunteer programs. Ensure places are accessible for people with special needs or disabilities.
- Continue to improve community events in major parks and facilitate the provision of events and activities by other organisations and service providers
- Retain all larger areas of parkland as open space ensuring new plantings are kept to the edge, and retaining sight lines.
- Provide safe spaces, ensure good surveillance, lighting and ranger presence
- Manage vandalism, graffiti, syringes and dog control
- Conduct a sign audit and identify opportunities to integrate directional, interpretative and compliance signs
- Conduct a safety audit of all reserves based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental



Design (CPTED) principles.

- Improve information on specific parks, facilities and activities and develop a marketing and promotion strategy for public spaces
- Continue to promote the inclusion of cafes, restaurants and other facilities within open space and recreation areas, that generates income to supplement rates and provide additional facilities and services for the community.
- Plan to accommodate increased popularity of extreme sports.
- Monitor and evaluate facilities in accordance with changing trends.
- Provide flexible programming where possible (particularly weekday evening and weekends)
- Develop flood prone land for open space rather than housing, provided the sites can be adequately managed.
- Use 'best practice manuals' to maintain the open space network.

Funding Opportunities

- Continue to seek grants.
- Promote joint ventures with local businesses and commercial ventures such as expanding the network of kiosks on major reserves to help fund additional open space infrastructure, ongoing maintenance and services for the benefit of our community. This is also consistent with feedback that cafes and outdoor dining rank very highly as recreational activities for the Pittwater community.
- Promote funding from commercial operators, including in relating to the conservation of natural areas.
- Continue to increase user fees (currently \$17 per season for seniors) in accordance with the Consumer

New Urban Release Areas

- Retain this standard of 2.83 hectares of open space provision per 1,000 population for Warriewood Valley. Ensure the open space provision comprises large and small parks, public recreation areas including multifunctional creekline corridors, pedestrian and cycleway paths, playgrounds and sportsfields.
- Focus on the purchase of large areas of land suitable for sportsground precincts using section 94 funds from developer contributions. In the event that Council is unable to purchase additional land due to the unavailability of suitable land or insufficient funds to purchase and embellish, there are a number of options available:
 1. Purchase the required land but delay embellishment until funds become available through other funding opportunities (at least the land is then available for some future public use); or
 2. Embellish existing open space (including newly acquired land which may only partially meet the plan requirements) to a higher standard. This would increase the number of available hours by replacing a turf playing surface with a synthetic surface, thereby allowing seven days per week usage regardless of weather conditions. This significantly increases the number of users for the playing fields.



In regard to Ingleside, the precinct planning must identify lands for open space particularly lands suitable for sportsfields up-front. Setting aside these lands, either through zoning or other mechanism is critical to meet the open space demands for this new community.

7.3 Natural Conservation Areas - Recommendations

Activities

- Promote activities that do not impact negatively on the natural environment in order to protect, conserve and enhance natural areas, wildlife corridors and habitat.
- Provide opportunities for activities that allow for the experience of nature appreciation.
- Provide more opportunities for access for the elderly and disabled.
- Investigate a suitable location for a mountain bike facility to reduce illegal mountain bike tracks in bushland areas.
- Develop a policy and/or guidelines for activities on headlands and coastal areas incorporating vegetation management, iconic public views and sporting activities such as hang gliding and paragliding.

Promote bush walking

- Rationalise existing walking tracks, regenerate unnecessary tracks and direct people away from sensitive areas.
- Construct additional walking tracks in bushland and headland reserves that offer unique environmental settings.
- Develop natural environment applications for iPhones and Androids with maps and educational material.

Bushcare Volunteers

- Conduct a community forum to workshop ideas aimed at improving the effectiveness of Bushcare volunteers.
- Regularly update Council's electronic communication tools with information on activities and groups.
- Improve incentives for the community to join Bushcare groups.
- Increase training opportunities.
- Place noticeboards at Bushcare sites to promote Bushcare work being done to the broader community.
- Ensure management coordination between Bushcare volunteers and contractors.
- Increase collaboration with other council Bushcare volunteers, particularly SHOROC members.

Promote Bush Gardens

- Host a native garden forum where residents bring photos of their garden and staff and residents workshop ideas for the garden.
- Investigate whether a mentor system could be developed in the community for native gardens in conjunction with the annual garden awards.



Educational

- Increase educational and scientific resources
- Provide programs and workshops that highlight the natural environment.
- Broaden activities from the Coastal Environment Centre to include a comprehensive bushland component.

Amenity

Infrastructure

- Restrict infrastructure in bushland areas to a minimum. Where infrastructure is necessary it should be low key and located thoughtfully on the peripheral edge to allow the natural environment to dominate.
- Further enhance recreational opportunities at headlands with carefully located facilities.
- Provide picnic tables and seats in appropriate locations within natural areas.
- Conduct a sign audit and identify opportunities to integrate directional, interpretative and compliance signs to enhance activities in nature conservation areas.
- Provide boardwalks where appropriate to protect the environment but avoid boardwalks on the beach.

7.4 Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Activities - Recommendations

Walking

Walking for Fitness and Enjoyment

- Provide walking opportunities for people with all levels of fitness and ability, walking groups, elderly people, children, youth, families, people with disabilities, people with wheel chairs and strollers, long walks for distance walkers, short walks and encourage walking to local facilities.
- Improve public access to the foreshore. (Permissive Occupancies; private boat sheds and jetties, are Crown leases, conditional that access along the foreshore is maintained for the public, nevertheless they create barriers).
- Encourage residents to maintain the nature strip in a condition that promotes safe pedestrian access. People often walk on the road because the nature strip is generally grass and provides an uneven surface. However, pedestrians are legally required to walk on the nature strip unless it is not accessible. Access along the nature strip in some areas may be blocked, particularly at pinch points.
- Provide walking track classification signage similar to the signage at McKay Reserve where access through reserves is challenging due to steep terrain.
- Develop an iPhone /iPad application for walking consistent with the Android application (This is being undertaken). Gradually update the applications as works are completed to provide a series



of walks for each suburb in accordance with the proposal by local volunteers.

- Develop an annual walking program to promote a walk each year, particularly in association with new walks.
- Increase the number of community walk / run events and investigate income producing programs such as Walking Festivals.
- Review the Bicentennial Coastal Walkway with the objective of improving the track, particularly sections from Bilgola Beach to Palm Beach.
- Provide seating along walking paths and tracks at suitable locations for older people and people with special needs.

Tight Corners and Pedestrian Safety

- Improve safety at tight corners by removing encroachments which are more prevalent at the northern end of the Peninsula, Clareville and Church Point.
- Consider a public awareness program to encourage residents to provide the required pedestrian access on the nature strip. It is generally expected that the nature strip is maintained by residents in accordance with Pittwater Streetscape Management Guidelines that limits encroachments and blocking access.

Reserves for Access (Public Pathways)

- Prioritise the maintenance and upgrade of reserves for access.
- Prioritise those with highest connectivity value, such as shortcuts for local neighbourhoods and where the links allow pedestrians to avoid walking on the road near blind corners. Work towards gradually improving access on public pathways and assess paths signposted as public land.
- Consider appropriate signage where safe access is possible
- Existing signage designates 'Public Land'. Delineate Public Land from private land where it is unclear.
- Investigate whether the community would be interested in an 'Adopt a Pathway' volunteer scheme similar to Bushcare.

Footpaths

- Continue to provide paths linking activity centres, recreational facilities, schools, beaches and other infrastructure in accordance with the Walks & Rides Masterplan and sub-plans.
- Consider public transport access and car parking.

Tracks Through Bushland Reserves

- Provide low-key paths in natural area reserves to blend in with the landscape.
- Classify tracks in accordance with AS 2156. Provide signage in accordance with the Australian Walking Track Grading System.
- Rationalise tracks through bushland to lessen the impacts from disturbances and the spread of weeds. Where possible locate tracks in the Asset Protection Zone.
- Develop strategies to control ticks. Where practical prune vegetation to approximately half a metre away from each side of paths / tracks.



- Investigate track volunteers or track sponsors, such as an Adopt a Track program to assist with funding, construction and maintenance, conditional that there are no large signs to this effect.

Signage

- Name Public Pathways.
- Devise a signage style for paths - focus on clarity, consistency and universality within the LGA.
- Investigate a stencil to stamp onto the footpath to identify local walks. The stencil will avoid additional signage on posts. Local artists have offered their assistance and suggest a competition for this.

Multi-Use Paths

- Continue to provide multi-use paths for walking, cycling, skateboarding and roller blading where suitable.
- Provide appropriate line marking, fencing, signage, path width and line-of-sight on multi-use paths to promote safe and correct use.

Cycling and Mountain Biking

- Improve safety for cyclists by reducing traffic conflict, maintaining infrastructure and line marking, installing appropriate signs and developing a driver awareness campaign.
- Investigate formalising a downhill mountain bike trail in a suitable location with the intention to limit mountain bike riding to one designated area and Council controlled track. Riders would be expected to abandon unauthorised tracks.
- Promote bike riding for local and regional trips to facilitate a healthy and active community and reduce motor vehicle use.
- Encourage cycling for sport and recreation, health and fitness and transport.
- Formalise connecting routes and multi-use paths across the entire Pittwater area including varying lengths suitable for different ages and ability and with adjacent Council area connections.
- Connect cycleways to commuter parking.
- Provide bike racks at key destinations.
- Improve mapping of cycle routes and promote the maps through a phone application and on Council's website.
- Investigate alternative routes to the main transport corridors.
- Improve on-road cycling facilities by providing cycle lanes and removing cycle hazards.
- Maintain and improve the safety of existing cycling corridors within Pittwater.
- Improve off-road paths connecting recreational facilities, activity centres and points of interest.
- Investigate and implement recommendations and actions from related studies and plans.



Equestrian

- Develop a feasibility study in consultation with the equestrian community to provide appropriate bridle paths and facilities to meet the needs of local riders and in recognition of the long-standing heritage of horse-riding in Pittwater. Note: Re-establishing the Ingleside Chase Reserve trail and old loop trail would require a study to determine any possible impacts on vegetation.
- Develop new tracks to link with existing and proposed tracks through neighbouring council areas - particularly Oxford Falls and St Ives and national parks.
- Install signage to identify horse riding trails. Ensure the nature strip is accessible on tight corners of the road.

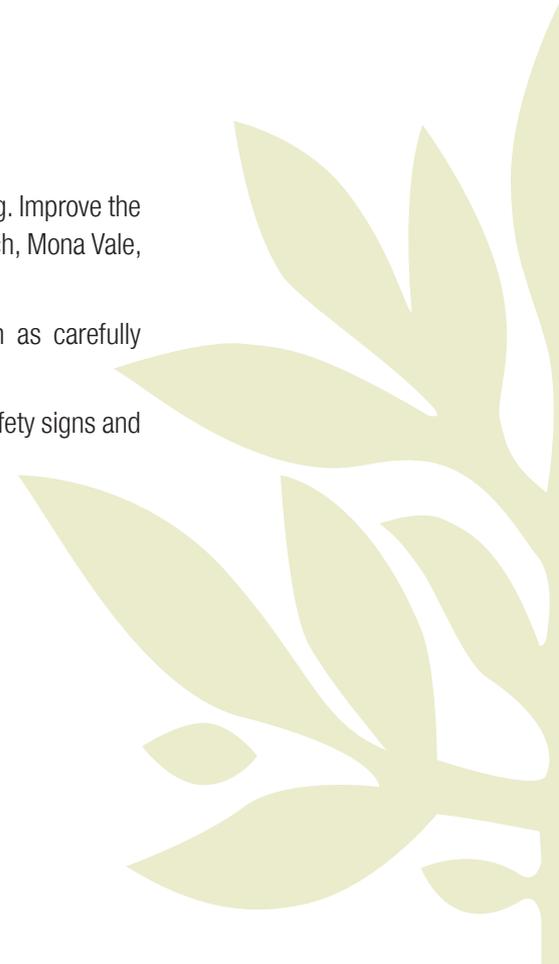
7.5 Ocean Beaches - Recommendations

Activities

- Support SLSC and work with the surfing, swimming and hang / para-gliding communities to improve conditions for these sports.
- Facilitate a broader range of activities where suitable (shortage of space).
- Investigate small-scale dances at the surf clubs.

Amenity

- Continue to upgrade amenity and restore dunes.
- Ensure activities do not impact on the beach, dunes and bushland areas.
- Reduce stormwater pollution and improve erosion control measures.
- Review and upgrade traffic and pedestrian conflicts, cycle access and car parking. Improve the amenity at beaches with landscaping, and shade trees, particularly at Palm Beach, Mona Vale, Avalon, Bilgola, Newport, and Warriewood.
- Ensure development has minimum impact on the natural environment, such as carefully located pathways and seats.
- Conduct a signage audit and identify opportunities to integrate directional and safety signs and new ways to integrate interpretative signs into built and natural elements.
- Maintain beach safety standards with SLSA and surf clubs.
- Continue to refurbish surf club buildings.
- Upgrade picnic and barbecue facilities.





7.6 Foreshore Reserves and Waterways - Recommendations

Activities

- Improve access to foreshore reserves to protect environmentally sensitive areas and promote sustainable pedestrian and cycleway access.
- Improve access to the water for the broader community and boat owners.
- Continue to upgrade wharves to provide access for all.
- Increase dinghy storage facilities where demand warrants.
- Increase recreational opportunities by providing additional seating, barbecues and playgrounds. Retain open grassed areas, particularly for children to play.
- Promote the Mona Vale to Bayview Foreshore Walk as suitable for elderly and people with special needs due to its flat surface and ease of access, install more seating and shade in the most scenic locations.

Amenity

- Limit development on foreshore areas to retain the natural amenity.
- Improve vehicle access and parking to foreshore facilities, with recognition of the value in protection of natural areas
- Plan for sea level rise impacts on foreshore infrastructure and facilities.

7.7 Large Developed Parks - Recommendations

Activities

- Improve pedestrian and cycle access and consider requirements for transport and parking where possible.
- Provide a wider range of activities, free or low cost such as exercise stations, tai-chi classes, table tennis, chess tables, dancing and skateboard parks.
- Continue to work with existing service providers to create recreational and exercise opportunities for older residents.
- Provide outdoor gym equipment in suitable locations.
- Continue to support opportunities for active living and social interaction for young people through a range of sporting facilities and activities.
- Provide an all-abilities playground at Bert Payne Reserve.
- Complete the playground strategy that is being prepared for consideration by the Council and for public exhibition. Ensure the Strategy analyses the network of playgrounds in consideration of their location, ease of access by the neighbourhood (radius/walking distance), condition of the equipment, safety and amount of use.



Amenity

- Continue to upgrade amenity and maintenance standards.
- Landscape to improve biodiversity and amenity, use locally native vegetation unless a 'landscaped' aesthetic is required.
- Improve lighting at playgrounds and parks, particularly solar and low level lighting.
- Improve signage and where possible provide low impact, more creative signage - directional, interpretative, regulatory and warning.
- Continue to provide drinking fountains, cycle racks, shade shelters, barbecues and picnic settings in locations with the highest scenic values.

7.8 Structured Sports and Recreation Centre - Recommendations

Activities

- Consider establishing a comfortable park with amenities so dogs can be integrated into their owner's lifestyle. It is suggested to organise a volunteer park maintenance program similar to Bushcare.
- Investigate fencing the dog exercise area at Careel Bay to separate the playing fields and protect the wetlands, including the migratory birds.
- Investigate more netball courts, particularly for training. Continue to line mark hard surfaces that can be used for multiple purposes such as parking.
- Rationalise playgrounds by removing some of the older smaller playgrounds and replacing with fewer high quality playgrounds in the same precinct. Include equipment for a range of ages and abilities and a higher level of amenity such as shade, seating and fencing and toilets where appropriate. Consider an adventure playground.
- Completion of a playground strategy (taking account of the network of playgrounds in terms of their location, ease of access by the neighbourhood (radius/walking distance), condition of the equipment, safety and amount of use) for Council's adoption and implementation.
- Investigate more equitable use of golf courses and bowling clubs for the benefit of the wider community. For instance, Pittwater contains three public golf courses covering 66.6 hectares plus three private golf courses for a population of 60,250.
- Reinvestigate the opportunity for an indoor aquatic centre facility. The investigation is to commence by June 2017 in accordance with Council's resolution of 6 February 2013.



7.9 Sportsgrounds - Recommendations

Shortage of Sportsgrounds

- Seek opportunities to purchase suitable land for sportsgrounds, acknowledging that population growth and increased popularity in some codes such as womens sport especially football and touch football for all ages and genders will continue to increase the demand for more sportsfields.
- Purchase land in new land release areas to create sportsground precincts for its incoming residents.
- As part of the precinct planning for Ingleside, identify suitable land for sportsgrounds for purchase.
- Investigate the suitability of larger reserves to accommodate a sportsfield/s or sporting facilities.
- Investigate possible relocation or replacement of existing facilities where suitable with sportsfields.
- Continue to re-configure fields to optimise available space as the need arises.
- Use small areas of open space at sportsgrounds or other parks for training or as junior fields.
- Continue to investigate partnerships with other organisations holding suitable land for sportsfields such as the Department of Education.
- Investigate the development of hockey facilities in Pittwater and undertake a feasibility study for a synthetic hockey pitch suitable for training and competition.

Activities

- Maximise community interest in sport and increase participation by actively promoting Council's facilities and the benefits of sport to the wider community. Increase opportunities for children and older people to participate in organised sport.
- Continue to assist clubs by supporting volunteers, similar to the grant writing workshop Council ran as part of this Strategy.
- Monitor applications to the clubs by women and girls for participation in organised sport and encourage clubs to promote participation in organised sport for women and girls.
- Continue to provide support to clubs and associations, particularly those that have a good track record of providing quality service to their members and support the local community.

Amenity

- Continue to improve the amenity of sportsgrounds through the plan of management process.
- Keep facilities minimal and do not over-clutter the landscape. Minimise signs, fences and concrete. Keep sportsgrounds low key and natural looking.
- Support sportsgrounds in a bushland setting.



Facilities

- Improve ancillary facilities and amenity at sportsgrounds - shade, storage, spectator seating, toilets, safety and security, picnic and barbecue facilities.
- Continue to install irrigation systems to improve the resilience of turf for play.
- Improve drainage of sportsfields and promote water sensitive urban design and water savings initiatives. Ensure water run-off does not enter adjoining bushland areas.
- Continue to upgrade facilities with sustainable technologies.
- Continue to upgrade lighting for fields, change rooms and parking areas using solar power.

7.10 Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre - Recommendations

- Continue to support the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre at Warriewood.
- Continue to promote the wide range of activities available including badminton, table tennis, indoor football and basketball.
- Investigate the opportunity for an indoor aquatic centre facility. The investigation is to commence by June 2017 in accordance with Council's resolution of 6 February 2013.

7.11 Village Greens, Culture and Leisure - Recommendations

Activities

- Enliven the retail and commercial centres by encouraging business to work with the community through the Enliven Pittwater project.
- Investigate opportunities for outdoor cultural nodes that may activate social interaction such as dining, cafes, live music, theatre, and the creation of meeting places for all ages.
- Continue to work closely with Chambers of Commerce.
- Provide activities in in centres (other than shopping) that facilitates social interaction such as chess tables, table tennis tables, street theatre and musicians.
- Investigate options for street vendors - more casual and less commercial than a market place, including introducing a music competition for local artists.
- Support local causes and charities through activities in village greens in conjunction with local charities and organisations.
- Develop a program to assist the community to establish community gardens as a sustainable activity that promotes well-being and social interaction. (A draft document has been prepared and publicly exhibited).
- That Council staff continue to work with the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO) to determine appropriate sites to place signage that reflects authenticated Pittwater Aboriginal history.



Amenity

- Improve the ambience of the town centres by further developing a distinctive sense of place that captures the essence of Pittwater in a contemporary manner to epitomise Australia's international culture
- Residents suggested a maritime theme at commercial and retail centres at Newport, Avalon and Mona Vale (seaside locations). Identify opportunities to link these villages physically and visually with the sea.
- Recognise the aesthetic value in Avalon, Mona Vale and Newport centres being located in proximity to the ocean.
- Investigate opportunities for more outdoor dining areas.

7.12 Tourism - Recommendations

- Welcome visitors to Pittwater, and provide infrastructure to cater for visitors during high peak use, while maintaining the natural integrity of the environment.
- Encourage eco-tourism, and promote the activities that promote awareness and sustainability of the natural environment.
- Continue measures to alleviate congestion such as Pay-and-Display parking to provide funds to maintain high use facilities
- Consider the community consultation findings from this Strategy in relation to tourism during the development of Pittwater's tourism plan. Refer to Section 3.5.
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Note: *Pittwater Economic Development Plan, 2012-2016*, 2 July 2012 provides further information on Pittwater's approach to tourism.



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Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Website:

PO Box 882, Mona Vale, NSW 1660

(02) 9970 1111

pittwater_council@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Customer Service Centres:

1 Park Street, Mona Vale

59a Old Barrenjoey Road, Avalon