


CITY OF PARRAMATTA

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Network



Parks and outdoor recreation facilities support our community to live healthy, active lives.

Our parks are places where people can access formal and informal recreation opportunities, relax, exercise, play and enjoy our natural heritage. These facilities create opportunities for people to make connections with one another, to enjoy being in nature and to escape from the built environment, especially in a growing city. They also provide habitat for wildlife, improve air quality and help protect from the community from the impacts of climate change.



About Council's park classification

Pocket parks

Serves the immediate neighbourhood surrounding the site. Located in residential areas. Provides limited recreation value as sites are unembellished.

Typical components:

Small land parcel with no facilities.

Typical facilities: Pedestrian links, seating or natural shade.

Typical size: <0.3ha.

Local parks

Serves a neighbourhood. Provides elements or facilities suitable for passive enjoyment of outdoors and nature, spaces to gather and interact and/or to encourage individual and group-based active recreation. Located within residential areas.

Typical components:

Small land parcel with some facilities.

Typical facilities: One or more embellishments, e.g. circuit pathways play space and picnic facilities.

Typical size: >0.3ha-2.0ha.

District parks

Serves a catchment of multiple suburbs and multiple communities, of less than one local government area. Supports diverse uses and provides a range of recreation activities for individuals, small and large groups. Destination by nature, district parks create a hub of activity, supporting community gatherings and extended stays for picnic, play, and other activities.

Typical components:

Larger land parcel with multiple facilities.

Typical facilities:

Five or more embellishments, e.g. toilets and carparking.

Typical size: >2ha-5ha.

Regional parks

Serves an area greater than the LGA. Are destinations that attract long-stay visitors from throughout the metropolitan area. They accommodate a high level of diverse facilities and significant environmental features that offer unique recreation opportunities.

Civic

Formal public spaces within highly urban settings, such as squares or plazas. These prominent public spaces are popular event venues and experience high levels of visitation by residents as well as workers and visitors.

Typical components: CBD location.

Typical facilities: Hard landscaped elements, monuments, event facilities, formal gardens.

Typical size: Variable.

Natural

Bushland reserves primarily provide conservation and ecological functions. Support limited recreational infrastructure, such as walking tracks and trails, provide opportunities for interaction with nature.

Typical components: Bushland.

Typical facilities: Tracks and trails, seating.

Typical size: Variable.

Heritage

For the purposes of this Strategy, 'Heritage' is defined as cementaries and parks with high heritage significance that are listed on the State Heritage Register. Support a range of low-impact passive recreational opportunities for individuals and groups.

Typical components: Monuments and memorials, historic buildings, heritage landscapes.

Typical facilities: Seatings, pathways.

Typical size: Variable.

About Council's outdoor recreation classification



YOUTH RECREATION

Facilities and spaces that are suitable for young people (aged 13+) to gather, participate in formal and informal recreation and to relax together. Facilities and spaces suitable for youth recreation are also used by members of the broader community. Youth recreation includes outdoor recreation elements like skate/bike facilities, youth parkour, study spaces, hard courts and informal fields.



ACTIVE RECREATION

Facilities and spaces that support individual and group-based active recreation, such as an informal sporting activity. They cater for a range of ages and abilities and provide outdoor recreation elements like tennis courts, cricket practice nets, hard courts and informal fields.



COMMUNITY RECREATION

Facilities and spaces that support a range of activities for individuals and groups of various sizes. These spaces are gathering places and support extended visits through providing outdoor recreation elements like picnic and barbeque facilities, event spaces and large open grassed areas.



FITNESS AND EXERCISE

Facilities and spaces that support exercise and fitness opportunities. These are free, accessible and provide outdoor recreation elements like outdoor exercise equipment, exercise/boot camp spaces and circuit paths.



TRAIL AND PATH BASED RECREATION

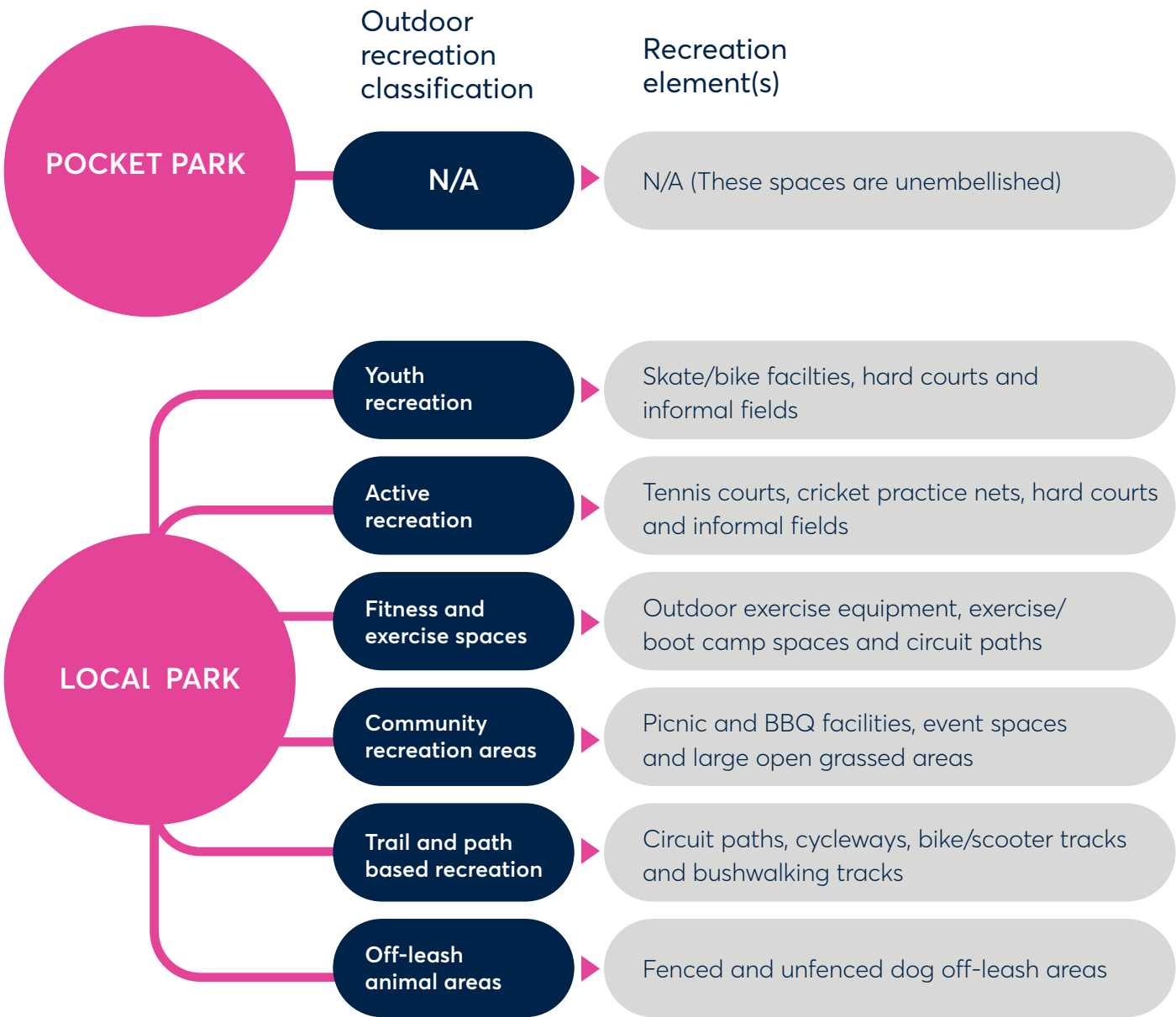
Facilities and spaces that support walking, cycling and running in public open space, natural areas and community destinations. These provide outdoor recreation elements like circuit paths, cycleways, bushwalking tracks and bike and scooter tracks.

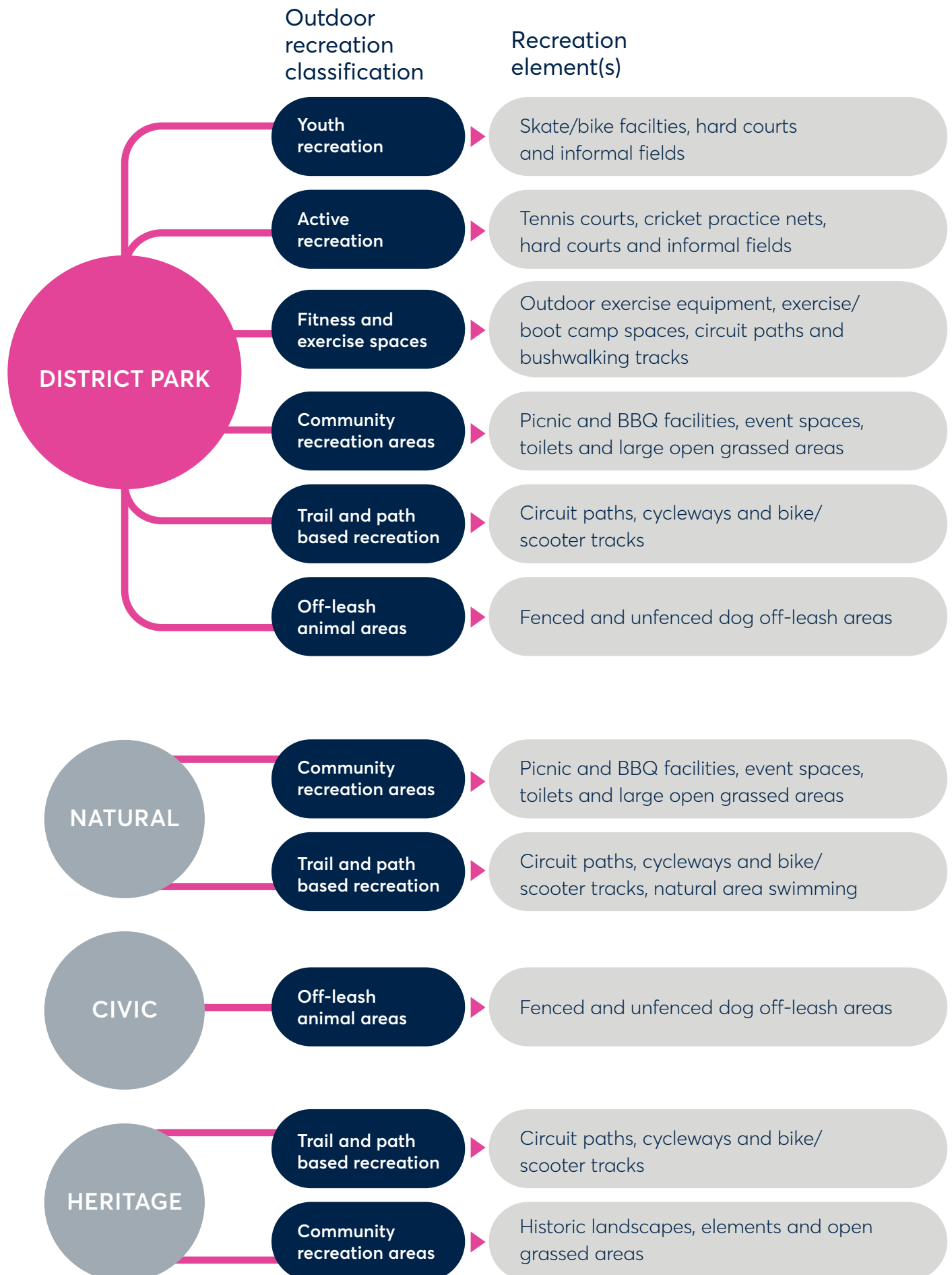


OFF-LEASH ANIMAL EXERCISE

Facilities and spaces that provide access to off-leash exercise areas for dogs and other animals. These are designated dog off-leash areas that can include perimeter fencing and agility equipment.

Understanding the distribution of outdoor recreation facilities within Council's parks

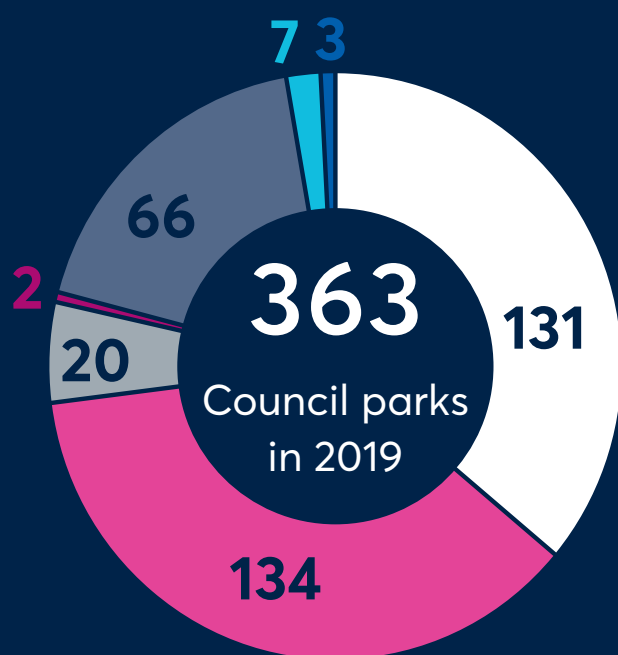




PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION NETWORK

Current situation

What is provided now?



131 Pocket parks
134 Local parks
20 District parks
2 Regional
66 Natural
7 Heritage
3 Civic

KEY: ● Pocket parks ● Local parks ● District parks ● Regional ● Natural ● Heritage ● Civic

City of Parramatta Council (Council) plays a significant role in the provision of parks and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the Local Government Area (LGA).

Council has 363 parks:

- 131 pocket.
- 134 local.
- 20 district.
- 66 natural.
- 3 civic.
- 7 heritage.
- 2 regional.

Together, these parks form a network that caters for:

- Informal recreation opportunities.
- Formal recreation opportunities.

Natural, heritage and civic parks form approximately one-fifth of our parks and outdoor recreation network.

City of Parramatta has three unique civic parks including Prince Alfred Park, St John's Park (Centenary Square) and the Parramatta River Foreshore.

City of Parramatta also has highly valued heritage parks including four cemeteries and three state heritage listed parks.

66 natural parks are located within City of Parramatta. These parks include diverse natural elements and interesting, unique and protected flora and fauna.

Within our LGA there are two regional parks that are owned and managed by others. These include Parramatta Park and Sydney Olympic Park.

City of Parramatta 2019: parks classification by catchment

	Catchment 1	Catchment 2	Catchment 3	Catchment 4	Catchment 5	Catchment 6	Total
Pocket	39	35	13	22	17	5	131
%	38.6%	37.2%	28.3%	32.8%	42.5%	33.3%	36.1%
Local	40	33	16	23	15	7	134
%	39.6%	35.1%	34.8%	34.3%	37.5%	46.7%	36.9%
District	5	5	2	3	4	1	20
%	5.0%	5.3%	4.3%	4.5%	10.0%	6.7%	5.5%
Natural	17	21	15	8	4	1	66
%	16.8%	22.3%	32.6%	11.9%	10.0%	6.7%	18.2%
Civic	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Heritage	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Regional	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	6.7%	0.6%
Total	101	94	46	67	40	15	363
	27.8%	25.9%	12.7%	18.5%	11.0%	4.1%	100%

There are more than 30 public schools within City of Parramatta that have green space and outdoor recreation facilities that have been identified as having the potential to be made accessible to the broader community through joint and shared use arrangements.

The majority of Council's parks offer one or more outdoor recreation offerings. Distribution of outdoor recreation opportunities varies across the LGA. Some of City of Parramatta's local and district parks also have significant natural elements located onsite.

These natural elements are highly valued and influence the provision and type of outdoor recreation experiences available at the sites. This applies to the following number of local and district parks:

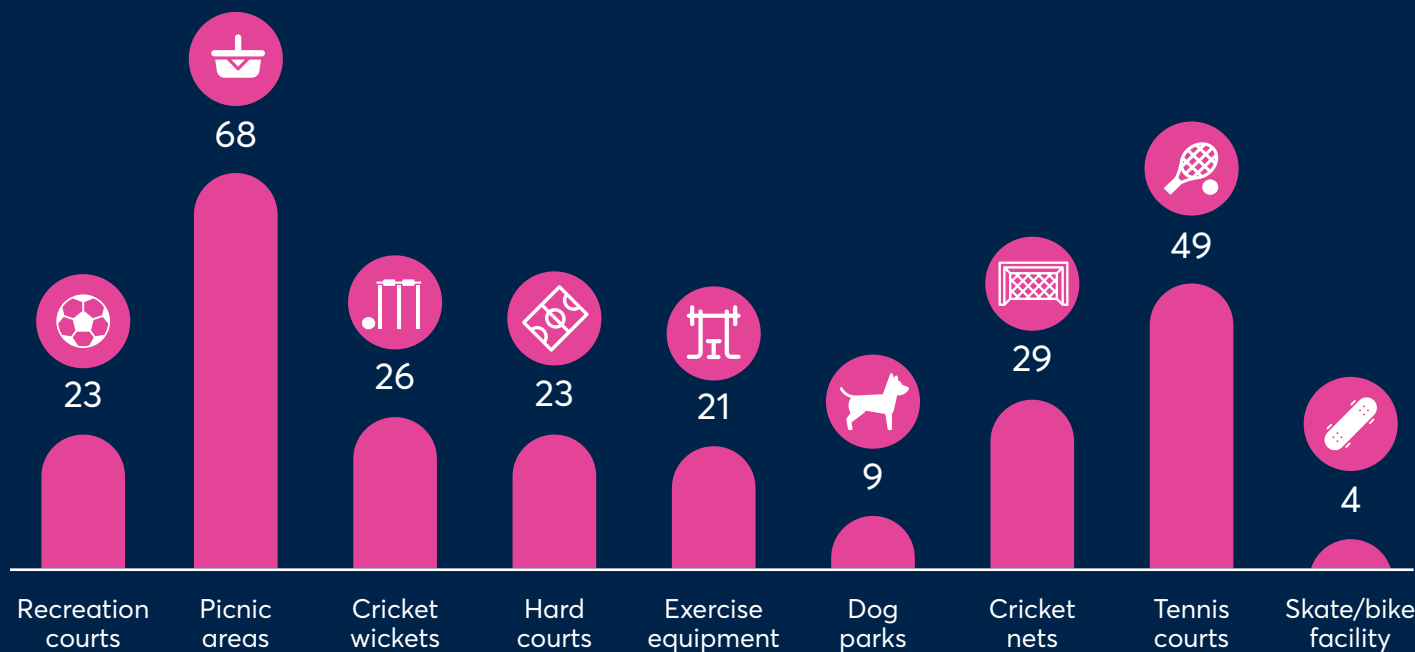
- Catchment one: six local parks and one district park.
- Catchment two: two local parks.
- Catchment three: two local parks.
- Catchment five: one local park.

Council has the most flexibility to make significant upgrades and changes to extend the recreation experiences available to the community within its pocket,

local and district classified parks. Council's natural, civic and heritage parks provide targeted, unique and valuable recreation offerings for our community, however, opportunities to extend, modify or expand recreation offerings within these locations is limited due to significant parameters that exist at these sites (for example, biological conservation areas).

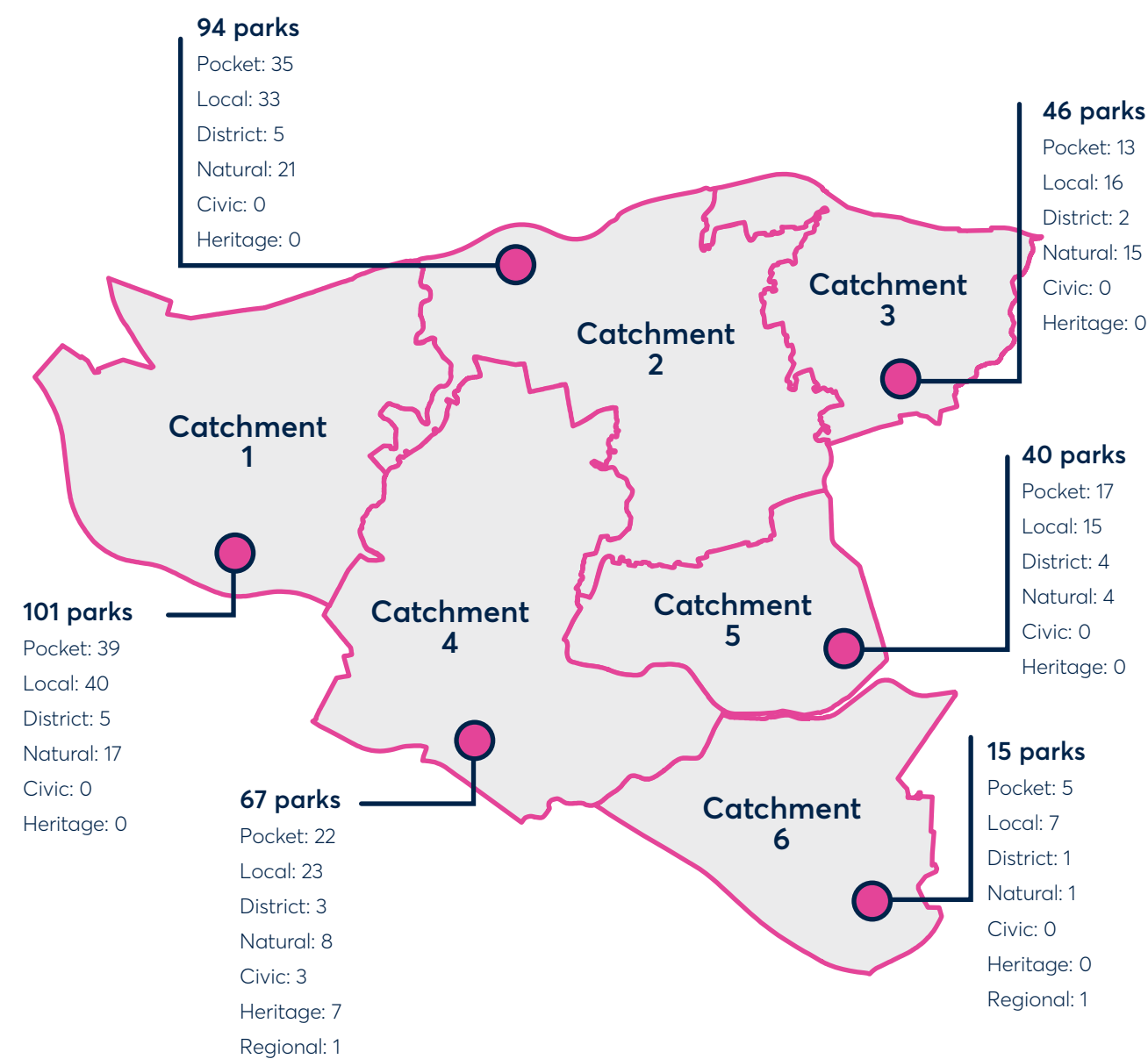
Therefore, the primary focus of recommendations within this Strategy relate to pocket, local and district parks.

City of Parramatta 2019: number of parks providing outdoor recreation elements

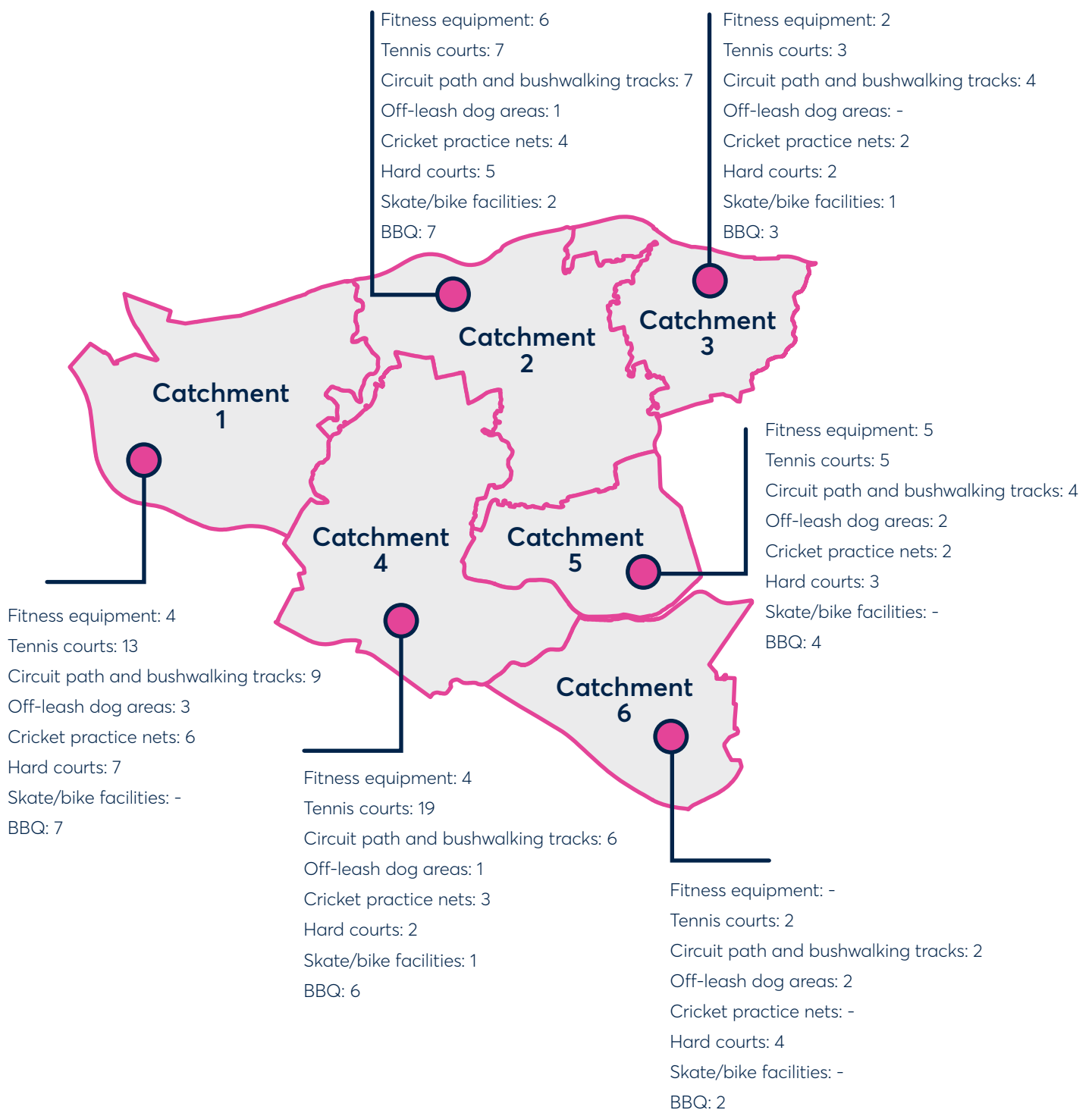




2019 City of Parramatta parks network



2019 City of Parramatta outdoor recreation facilities network



Council's parks and outdoor recreation network

CATCHMENT 1

Suburbs – Winston Hills, Toongabbie, Westmead, Northmead, Old Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and Constitution Hill

Our parks	Deliver the following outdoor recreation opportunities:	Include the following outdoor recreation elements:
Total Parks: 101 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket: 39 • Local: 40 • District: 5 • Natural: 17 • Civic: 0 • Heritage: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth recreation: 12 • Active recreation: 18 • Fitness and exercise spaces: 7 • Community recreation areas: 7 • Trail and path based recreation: 9 • Off-leash animal areas: 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment: 4 • Tennis courts: 13 • Circuit path: 3 • Off-leash dog areas: 3 • Cricket practice nets: 6 • Hard courts: 7 • Skate/bike facilities: 0 • BBQ areas: 7 • Bushwalks: 6

CATCHMENT 2

Suburbs – Carlingford, North Rocks, Dundas, Dundas Valley and Telopea

Our parks	Deliver the following outdoor recreation opportunities:	Include the following Outdoor Recreation Elements:
Total Parks: 94 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket: 35 • Local: 33 • District: 5 • Natural: 21 • Civic: 0 • Heritage: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth recreation: 8 • Active recreation: 10 • Fitness and exercise spaces: 9 • Community recreation areas: 7 • Trail and path based recreation: 7 • Off-leash animal areas: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment: 6 • Tennis courts: 7 • Circuit path: 3 • Off-leash dog areas: 1 • Cricket practice nets: 4 • Hard courts: 5 • Skate/bike facilities: 2 • BBQ areas: 7 • Bushwalks: 4

CATCHMENT 3

Suburbs – Epping, Beecroft and Eastwood

Our parks	Deliver the following outdoor recreation opportunities:	Include the following Outdoor Recreation Elements:
Total Parks: 46 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket: 13 • Local: 16 • District: 2 • Natural: 15 • Civic: 0 • Heritage: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth recreation: 5 • Active recreation: 6 • Fitness and exercise spaces: 3 • Community recreation areas: 3 • Trail and path based recreation: 4 • Off-leash animal areas: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment: 2 • Tennis courts: 3 • Circuit path: 4 • Off-leash dog areas: 0 • Cricket practice nets: 2 • Hard courts: 2 • Skate/bike facilities: 1 • BBQ areas: 3 • Bushwalks: 3

CATCHMENT 4

Suburbs – Parramatta, Granville, Camellia, North Parramatta, Oatlands, Harris Park, Mays Hill, Rosehill and Clyde

Our parks	Deliver the following outdoor recreation opportunities:	Include the following outdoor recreation elements:
Total Parks: 67 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket: 22 • Local: 23 • District: 3 • Natural: 8 • Civic: 3 • Heritage: 7 • Regional: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth recreation: 5 • Active recreation: 7 • Fitness and exercise spaces: 6 • Community recreation areas: 6 • Trail and path based recreation: 6 • Off-leash animal areas: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment: 4 • Tennis courts: 19 • Circuit path: 2 • Off-leash dog areas: 1 • Cricket practice nets: 3 • Hard courts: 2 • Skate/bike facilities: 1 • BBQ areas: 6 • Bushwalks: 4

CATCHMENT 5

Suburbs – Melrose Park, Rydalmere and Ermington

Our parks	Deliver the following outdoor recreation opportunities:	Include the following outdoor recreation elements:
Total Parks: 40 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket: 17 • Local: 15 • District: 4 • Natural: 4 • Civic: 0 • Heritage: 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth recreation: 5 • Active recreation: 7 • Fitness and exercise spaces: 7 • Community recreation areas: 4 • Trail and path based recreation: 4 • Off-leash animal areas: 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment: 5 • Tennis courts: 5 • Circuit path: 2 • Off-leash dog areas: 2 • Cricket practice nets: 2 • Hard courts: 3 • Skate/bike facilities: 0 • BBQ areas: 4 • Bushwalks: 2

CATCHMENT 6

Suburbs – Sydney Olympic Park, Wentworth Point, Lidcombe/Carter Street, Silverwater and Newington

Our parks	Deliver the following outdoor recreation opportunities:	Include the following outdoor recreation elements:
Total Parks: 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket: 5 • Local: 7 • District: 1 • Natural: 1 • Civic: 0 • Heritage: 0 • Regional: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth recreation: 3 • Active recreation: 3 • Fitness and exercise spaces: 1 • Community recreation areas: 2 • Trail and path based recreation: 2 • Off-leash animal areas: 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness equipment: 0 • Tennis courts: 2 • Circuit path: 1 • Off-leash dog areas: 2 • Cricket practice nets: 0 • Hard courts: 4 • Skate/bike facilities: 0 • BBQ areas: 2 • Bushwalks: 1

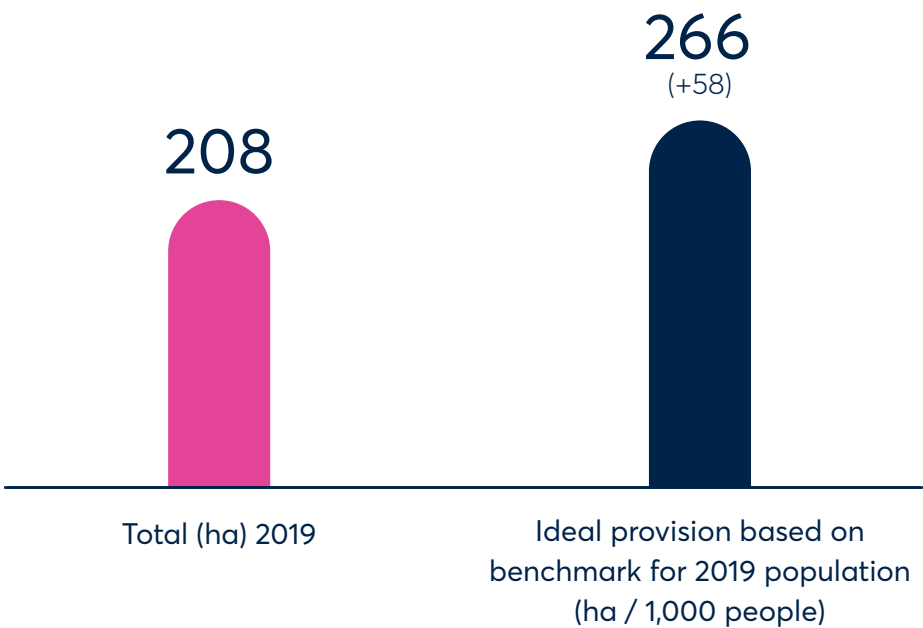
Rates of provision

City of Parramatta’s current provision of informal and passive recreation sites available to the general public is well below the ideal benchmark.

A people per hectares approach to benchmarking indicates there is currently 0.78ha/1,000 people of parks space, a gap of 0.22ha per 1,000 people. Benchmarking indicates ideal provision of 266ha to support the current population.

A percentage of land approach to benchmarking indicates that 2.47% of land area (based on LGA total of 8,375ha) is currently used for informal and passive recreation. This means there is a gap of 2.53% of land area or 212ha of informal and passive recreation space to reach the ideal 5% benchmark.

City of Parramatta: 2019 park provision against benchmark (hectares)



KEY: ● Council-owned parks ● 2019 benchmark

**Benchmark based on average LGA standard of seven metropolitan councils, 2017*

Park provision benchmarks

This Strategy applies two benchmark approaches in considering the adequacy of park provision.

1. A percentage of land approach where 15% of the land area is for open space?

AND

2. Provision rate of hectares per 1,000 people with 3ha/1,000 people being used as the benchmark based on industry approaches. This includes:

- 1ha/1,000 people for parks

- 1ha/1,000 people for sporting open space
- 1ha/1,000 people or more for natural areas and other open spaces

For more information on the application of benchmarks and their strengths, weaknesses and considerations, refer to the 'Table of benchmarks' on pages 60-61.



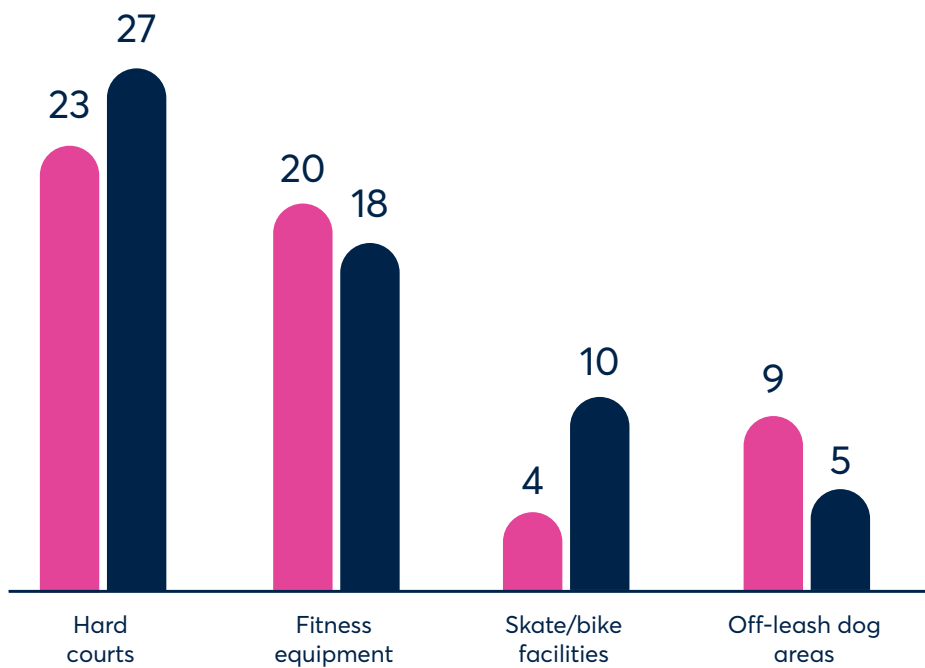
City of Parramatta’s current provision of outdoor recreation available to the general public is variable when compared to ideals indicated through benchmarking.

Provision of skate/bike facilities and hard courts does not meet benchmarks. Benchmarking indicates that at least 10 skate/bike facilities and 27 hard courts are required to meet the needs of City of Parramatta’s current resident population.

Benchmarking also indicates that at least 18 fitness equipment facilities and 5 off-leash dog areas would be ideal to meet the needs of City of Parramatta’s current resident population. There are currently 20 fitness equipment areas and nine off-leash dog areas in City of Parramatta LGA.

Distribution of outdoor recreation elements throughout is uneven, with some areas underserved and others overserved.

City of Parramatta: 2019 outdoor recreation provision against benchmark



KEY: ● Actual 2019
● Provision required based on benchmark for 2019 population

**Benchmark based on standards identified by Parks and Leisure Australia, Guidelines for Community Infrastructure 2012*

Outdoor recreation provision benchmarks

This Strategy applies the following benchmarks in considering the adequacy of outdoor recreation provision:

- **Hard courts**
1:10,000 people
- **Fitness equipment**
1:15,000 people

- **Skate/bike facilities**
1:50,000 people (skate)
1:50,000 people (bike)
- **Off-leash dog areas**
1:50,000

(Source: Parks and Leisure Australia)

For more information on the application of benchmarks and their strengths, weaknesses and considerations, refer to the 'Table of benchmarks' on pages 60-61.

Gaps in provision

The accessibility, type and quality of parks and outdoor recreation varies significantly across the LGA. This is in part because historically, sections of City of Parramatta LGA were owned and managed by different councils, which all took a different approach to the provision and maintenance of public parks. In addition, the development of parks and outdoor recreation has been influenced by and responded to requests made by individuals or groups within the community. These factors have resulted in a fragmented provision of parks and outdoor recreation, with areas of both over and under supply across the LGA, and inequitable access to recreation opportunities for residents.

Walkability to parks

All people within City of Parramatta LGA should have access to good quality parks and outdoor recreation opportunities, ideally:

- Within 400m for those living in homes in low density neighbourhoods: and
- Within 250m for those living in homes in higher density neighbourhoods.

Notable gaps in walkability to any of Council's parks is evident for residents living in communities in catchments three, four and six.

Analysis of walkable catchments (400m) from resident's homes to Council-owned local parks shows gaps for our communities in the following areas:

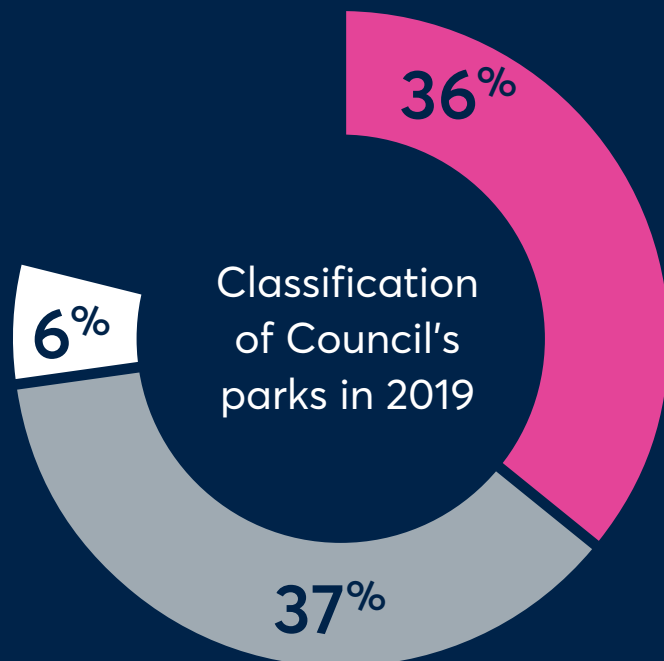
- Catchment one: Pendle Hill, Northmead and Westmead.
- Catchment two: Carlingford and North Rocks.
- Catchment three: Epping and Eastwood.

- Catchment four: Oatlands, Rosehill Camellia, Clyde and Granville.
- Catchment five: Melrose Park, Rydalmere and Dundas Valley.
- Catchment six: Silverwater, Sydney Olympic Park, Wentworth Point and Lidcombe.

Access to a diversity of parks experiences

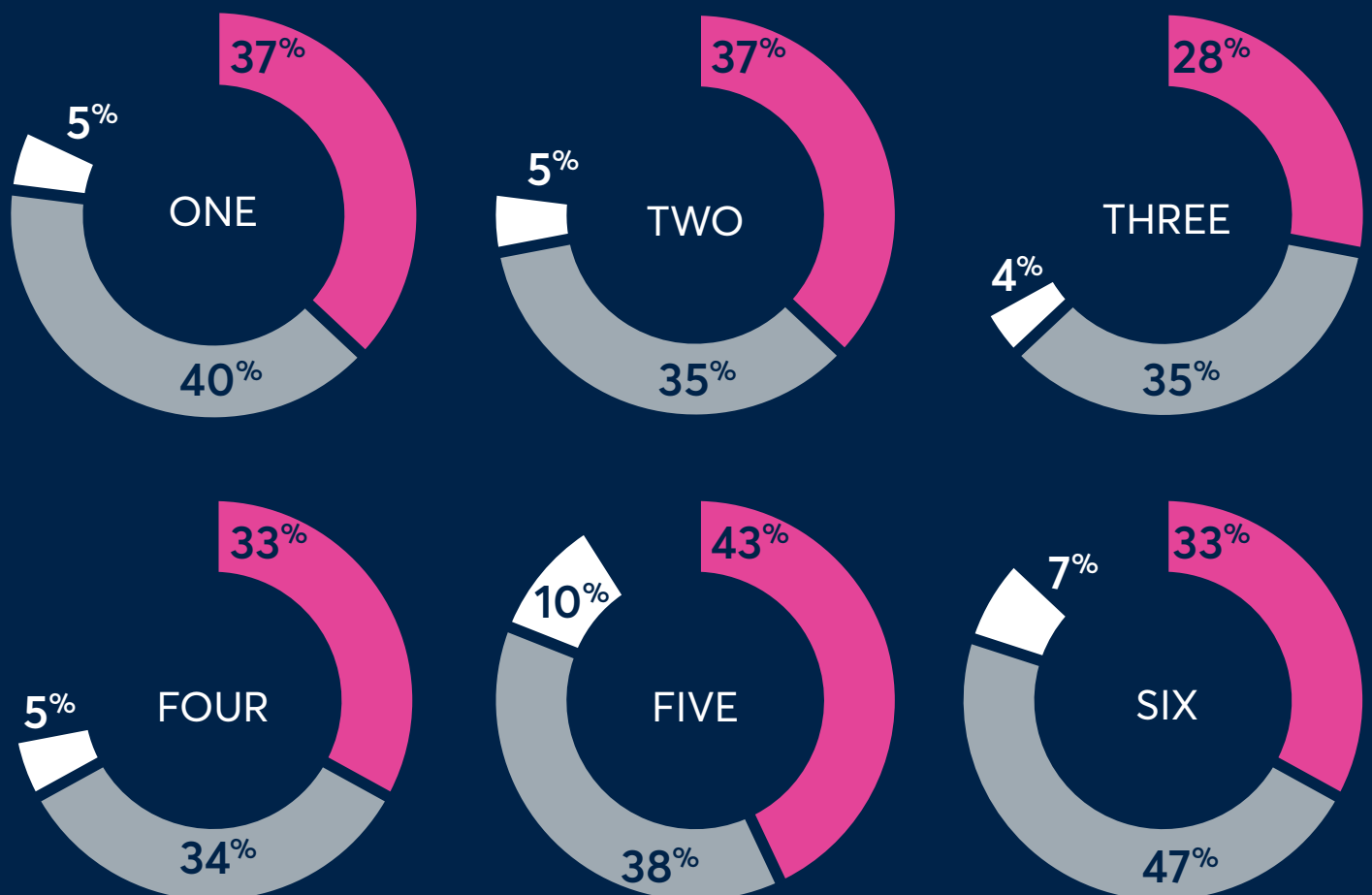
The majority of parks within City of Parramatta are classified as 'pocket' (36%), or 'local' (37%), together accounting for 73% of all assets across the LGA. District parks make up 6% of the network. The distribution of parks experience across the LGA is variable. The majority of parks available to residents within their local catchment are pocket parks, which are often not embellished or have very limited embellishment, and by nature are therefore more limited in the value they provide, apart from access to small green spaces.

City of Parramatta's pocket, local and district parks in 2019



KEY: ● Pocket
● Local
● District

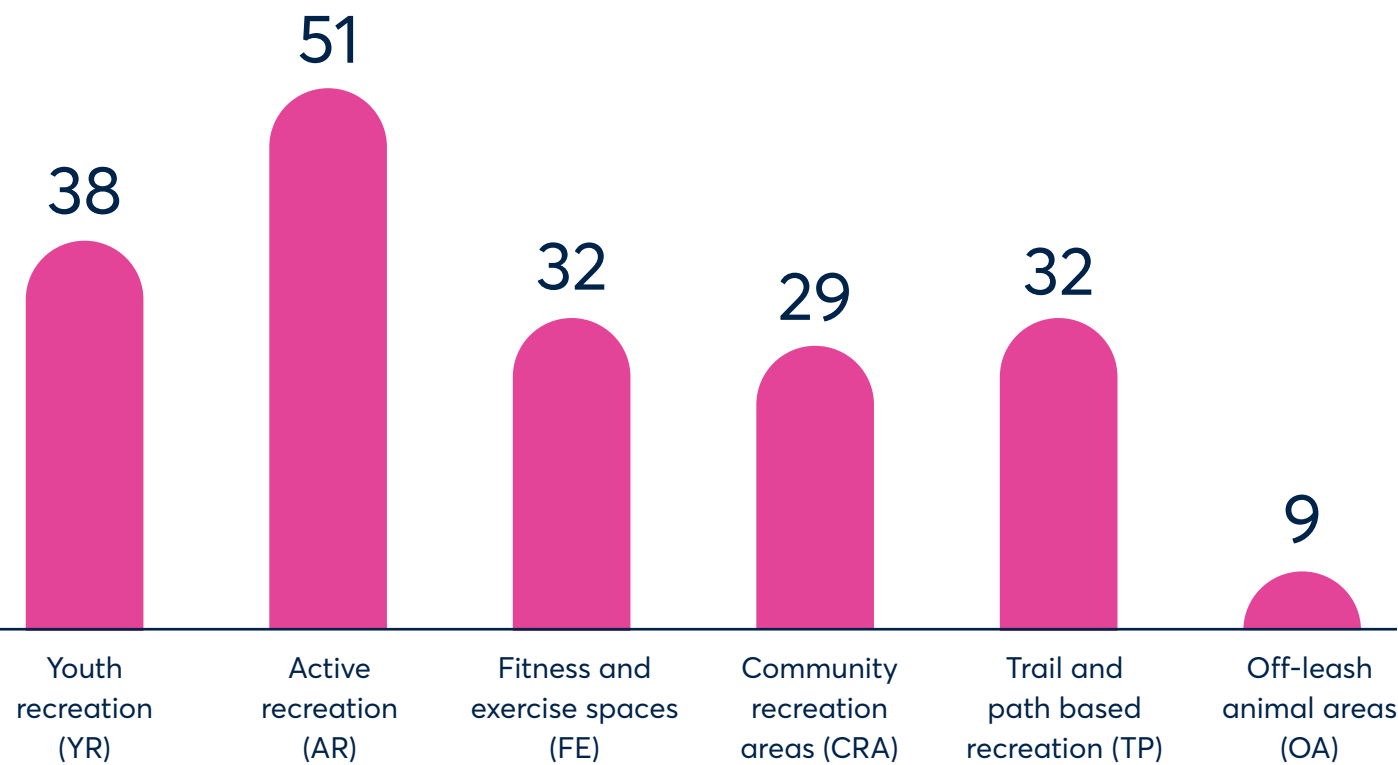
Park classification by catchment highlights the uneven distribution of pocket, local and district parks across the LGA:



KEY: ● Pocket
● Local
● District

Access to a diversity of outdoor recreation experiences

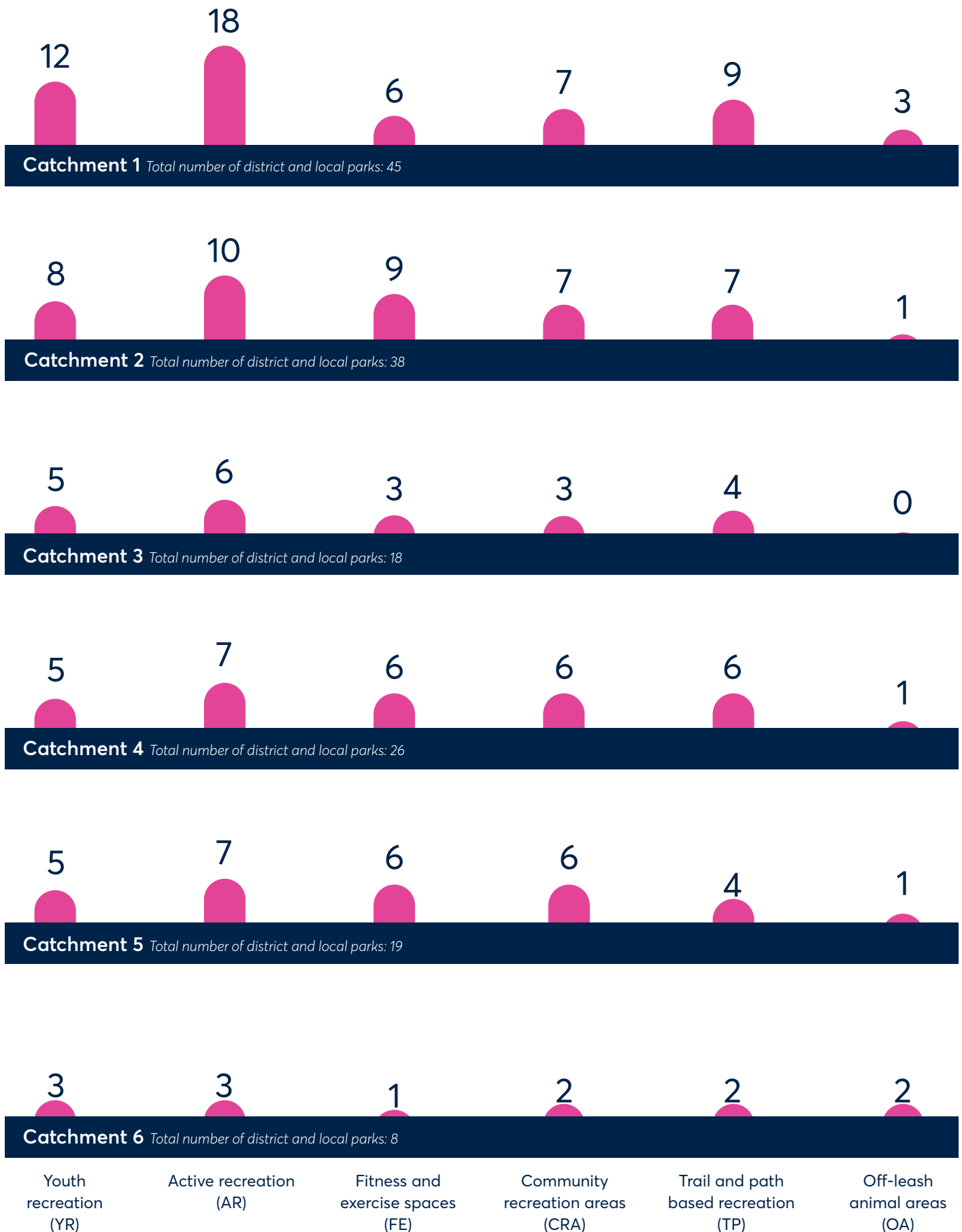
City of Parramatta: 2019 number of outdoor recreation experiences provided within Council's parks*



**This analysis is inclusive of district and local parks only. Pocket parks are not included.*

The majority of outdoor recreation experiences provided in Council's parks are youth recreation and active recreation focused. An analysis by catchment further highlights the uneven distribution of outdoor recreation experiences available to residents within each catchment.

City of Parramatta by catchment: 2019 number of Outdoor recreation experiences available in Council parks



City of Parramatta by catchment: 2019 outdoor recreation facilities gap analysis summary

A spatial analysis correlating current availability and distribution of outdoor recreation facilities with current and future population and demographics (e.g. age range), high density areas, geographical constraints, and walkability, shows the following gaps in recreation provision across the LGA:

Catchment 1 (Winston Hills, Toongabbie, Westmead, Northmead, Old Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and Constitution Hill)					
Youth recreation	Active recreation	Fitness and exercise spaces	Community recreation areas	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash animal areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gap in skate + BMX facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gap in Cricket Nets in Westmead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate gap in provision of BBQ facilities in Wentworthville and Pendle Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gap in outdoor fitness equipment in Toongabbie and Pendle Hill Moderate gap in outdoor fitness equipment in Northmead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to strengthen connections within and between parks and outdoor recreation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision

Catchment 2 (Carlingford, North Rocks, Dundas, Dundas Valley and Telopea)					
Youth recreation	Active recreation	Fitness and exercise spaces	Community recreation areas	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash animal areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gap in outdoor fitness equipment in North Rocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to strengthen connections within and between parks and outdoor recreation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision

Catchment 3 (Epping, Beecroft and Eastwood)					
Youth recreation	Active recreation	Fitness and exercise spaces	Community recreation areas	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash animal areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate gap in hard courts at Epping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small gap in provision of BBQ facilities in Beecroft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to strengthen connections within and between parks and outdoor recreation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision

Catchment 4

(Parramatta, Granville, Camellia, North Parramatta, Oatlands, Harris Park, Mays Hill, Rosehill and Clyde)

Youth recreation	Active recreation	Fitness and exercise spaces	Community recreation areas	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash animal areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate gap in hard courts in the Parramatta CBD Large gap in cricket nets in Rosehill and Granville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate gap in outdoor fitness equipment in Rosehill, Camellia and Granville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to strengthen connections within and between parks and outdoor recreation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision

Catchment 5

(Melrose Park, Rydalmere and Ermington)

Youth recreation	Active recreation	Fitness and exercise spaces	Community recreation areas	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash animal areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate gap in skate + BMX facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small gap in tennis facilities in Rydalmere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to strengthen connections within and between parks and outdoor recreation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision

Catchment 6

(Sydney Olympic Park, Wentworth Point, Lidcombe/Carter Street, Silverwater and Newington)

Youth recreation	Active recreation	Fitness and exercise spaces	Community recreation areas	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash animal areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gap in skate + BMX facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate coverage of active recreation facilities (provision met by regional facility at Sydney Olympic Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate coverage of community recreation (provision met by regional facility at Sydney Olympic Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large gap in outdoor fitness equipment in Wentworth Point and Lidcombe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to strengthen connections within and between parks and outdoor recreation areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate provision

How well positioned is our current parks and outdoor recreation network?

The strengths of our parks and outdoor recreation network include:

- Many of Council's parks are well maintained and are of overall average or good quality.
- Many of Council's parks provide a range of opportunities for recreation like picnic facilities, courts and circuit paths.
- There are a small number of district parks which provide recreation offerings that are innovative and unique.
- Pathways are included within many open spaces to provide access to activity spaces and enable movement between open spaces.
- Many parks have an appealing landscape with mature trees and grassed areas.
- Many of our outdoor recreation facilities are co-located with other opportunities like sportsgrounds and play spaces.
- Bush walking tracks and pathways in our parks provide good opportunities to access natural areas.

Despite some strengths, our network of parks and outdoor recreation has weaknesses:

- The ability of residents to walk 5-10 minutes to active open space from their homes is variable throughout the LGA.
- A number of parks are in poor condition and many of our outdoor recreation facilities are not being upgraded.
- 21% of our network is made up of civic, heritage and natural parks and the scope for recreation is limited on these sites.
- There is limited co-location of parks and outdoor recreation within close proximity to supporting social infrastructure such as community spaces.
- Some parks are under developed and underutilised and there is potential to use these spaces to create quality open space in areas that will experience high population growth.
- The majority of parks do not meet universal design principles.



Image Credit: Salty Dingo

- There is a lack of diversity and inequitable spread of outdoor recreation offerings across the LGA to meet the variety of needs of our community in some areas
- Benchmarking methodologies for outdoor recreation provision does not adequately reflect community needs. Additional facilities (e.g. dog parks) may be required to support healthy high density living
- Historically, investment in parks has been influenced by and responded to requests made by individuals or groups within the community which means that the type and quality of parks and outdoor recreation vary significantly across the LGA.

Facts at a glance

In City of Parramatta in 2019, we have:

154

Local and district parks

131

Pocket parks

13

Tennis court complexes

21

Sites with fitness equipment

29

Sites with BBQ

17

Cricket practice nets

23

Hard courts

4

Skate/bike facilities

9

Off-leash dog areas

West Epping Park

City of Parramatta

CASE STUDY

West Epping Park is located at Dent Street in a residential area of Epping, which has a population of 30,051 people. This population is expected to grow by 9,194 to reach 39,245 by 2041*. City of Parramatta Council recognises the impact of Epping's growing population on demand for green space and outdoor recreation facilities in the suburb.

West Epping Park underwent redevelopment over a period of 18 months and was reopened to the community in March 2018, with new facilities promoting both passive and active outdoor recreation.

The upgraded West Epping Park site provides access to two synthetic sports fields, which can be booked for soccer during winter and becomes a cricket pitch during summer. These durable synthetic fields enable sports matches to be conducted in all weather conditions. The site also offers basketball and tennis courts, which facilitate active recreation.

The park also provides multiple play spaces, which accommodate for a range of age groups. Play equipment in these spaces include slides, a rope climbing tower and table tennis tables.

Other amenities provided on the site include picnic areas, barbecues and drinking fountains, which promote passive outdoor recreation.

**Information and images sourced from:
<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/recreation-environment/our-parks/park-and-reserve-hire/west-epping-park>*

** Source: Forecast id ERP*



Emerging trends

City of Parramatta continues to undergo transformational change. The experience of living in urban environments and increasing pressure on land use, is changing the way we consider and use our park and outdoor recreation network

Council considers the following trends as critical to the future of our parks and outdoor recreation network:

Parks and outdoor recreation as a network.

In order to serve the growing and diverse needs of our entire community, parks and outdoor recreation facilities must be managed and planned for as a network. Pocket, local, district and regional parks must work together to deliver a range of opportunities for activity and recreation throughout the LGA that cater for varied skill levels and needs.

Diversity of interest.

The way people utilise parks and outdoor recreation across the LGA is changing and people are now relying on open space for an increasingly diverse array of activities. Coupled with increasing cultural diversity, this means our parks and outdoor recreation will need to accommodate activities which meet a variety of needs, and remain flexible enough to accommodate the values and preferences of different groups as they evolve over time. For example, this could include flexible areas that could be used for Tai Chi, bootcamp and many other activities.



**What
does future
best practice
look like?**



Quality and design.

To meet the increasing expectations of our parks and outdoor recreation facilities, the quality and design of these spaces must reflect best practice approaches. Parks and outdoor recreation facilities must be located on land suitable for the intended use and must incorporate appropriate amenity facilities. Parks and outdoor recreation facilities must employ universal design principles and be accessible and inclusive of all members of the community. Parks and outdoor recreation facilities of the future will also need to consider how people will want to engage with technologies in these spaces.

Increased pressure on parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

Heightened demand on our parks and outdoor recreation facilities means that these spaces will experience an accelerated life cycle due to increased wear and tear. Parks and outdoor recreation facilities are increasingly being used for both formal and informal sporting activities which means that the space available will have to support and manage competing interests. Parks are experiencing more pressure to accommodate private infrastructure within our reserves and to act as regular event spaces.

Housing density.

Increasing density, larger houses on smaller land, parcels and high density development around transport nodes means that there will be an increased requirement for public spaces close to where people live. These public spaces will need to support 'day to day' recreation and exercise needs as well as providing facilities for other activities like sport and play. Higher quality park space and outdoor recreation facilities are increasingly needed to support constant and heavy usage.

Physical activity and obesity.

Increasing obesity rates are evident within Australia due to poor diet and lack of exercise. There is a need to ensure that our open space can support and encourage physical activity for all ages, cultural and socio-economic groups. The Government is currently promoting health and physical activity and recognises the need to encourage individuals and their families to make use of open space. There is a need for increased connectivity of our green spaces and better walkability to ensure access to parks and outdoor recreation facilities is readily available to all members of our community.

Local vs regional facilities.

There is increasing recognition of the importance of local recreation spaces as well as larger reserves. There is a need to provide a spread of quality local spaces as well as regional and district parks and facilities.

Partnerships.

Reduced resources and access to open spaces means that alternative modes of delivery for parks and outdoor recreation facilities will require exploration. There is increased need for shared assets and pursuing partnerships with by schools.

Increased community expectations.

Community expectations are rising and people are asking for more from our parks and outdoor recreation facilities. In particular, people are expressing their desire for increased in amenity and other complimentary facilities within parks that support liveability (e.g. cafes).

Image Credit: Skate Sculpture



Princess Wallington Community Parkland Project

City of Stirling, Western Australia

In 2017, the City of Stirling in Western Australia announced its commitment to funding the Princess Wallington Community Parkland Project. The site is at Princess Wallington Reserve in Balga, and currently provides a playground, exercise equipment, BBQs, public toilets and sheltered areas.

City of Stirling's 2013 Skate and BMX Strategy identified the need for the provision of skate and BMX facilities at the Princess Wallington Reserve site. This was followed by significant community consultation to guide the project's design, a process which is ongoing.

The Princess Wallington Community Parkland Project aims to transform the existing site into a community hub and improve access to outdoor recreation facilities for all ages.

This will include the provision of a playground, skate and BMX facilities to accommodate for different skills levels, multi-use courts for casual use and a parkour area. Amenities such as public toilets, BBQs, Wi-Fi, car parking, sheltered areas, drinking fountains and market space will also be included.

The design recognises the Traditional Owners of the land through the inclusion of a voice recording of Welcome to Country at the entrance to the site and artworks by local Aboriginal artists throughout the park. It also acknowledges the local neighbourhood's cultural diversity through providing signage in a range of languages.

In 2016, the project received a High Commendation from Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) in the Leisure and/or Open Space Planning category, based on its community engagement and innovative approach. Construction of the parkland is expected to commence in late 2019.

This information has been sourced from City of Stirling's website and Skate Sculpture
<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/projects-and-initiatives/infrastructure-and-facilities-projects>
<http://www.skatesculpture.com.au/portfolio/princess-wallington-reserve-youth-plaza/>

**This image has been sourced from Skate Sculpture*
<http://www.skatesculpture.com.au/portfolio/princess-wallington-reserve-youth-plaza/>

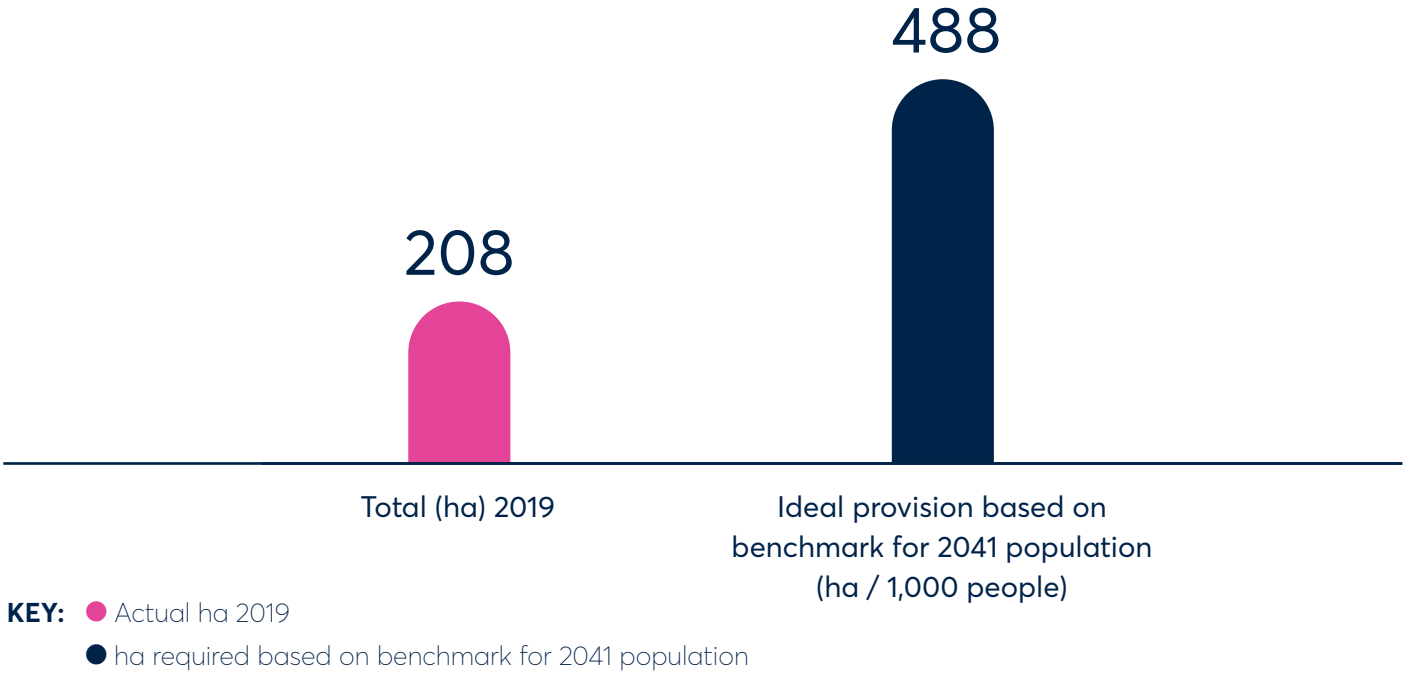


PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION NETWORK

Future needs



City of Parramatta: 2041 park provision against benchmark



**Benchmark based on standards identified by Parks and Leisure Australia, Guidelines for Community Infrastructure 2012*

Benchmark analysis parks

City of Parramatta’s future population is estimated to grow to almost 488,000 people by 2041. Benchmarking indicates that to a total of 488ha is ideal for this population, which is an additional 280ha.

Current park space provision of 208ha will be equivalent to 0.78ha/1,000 people at 2041, compared to the benchmark of 1ha/1,000 people.

Catchments three, four and six will have particularly low provision of Council-owned or managed park space for their projected population size at 2041.

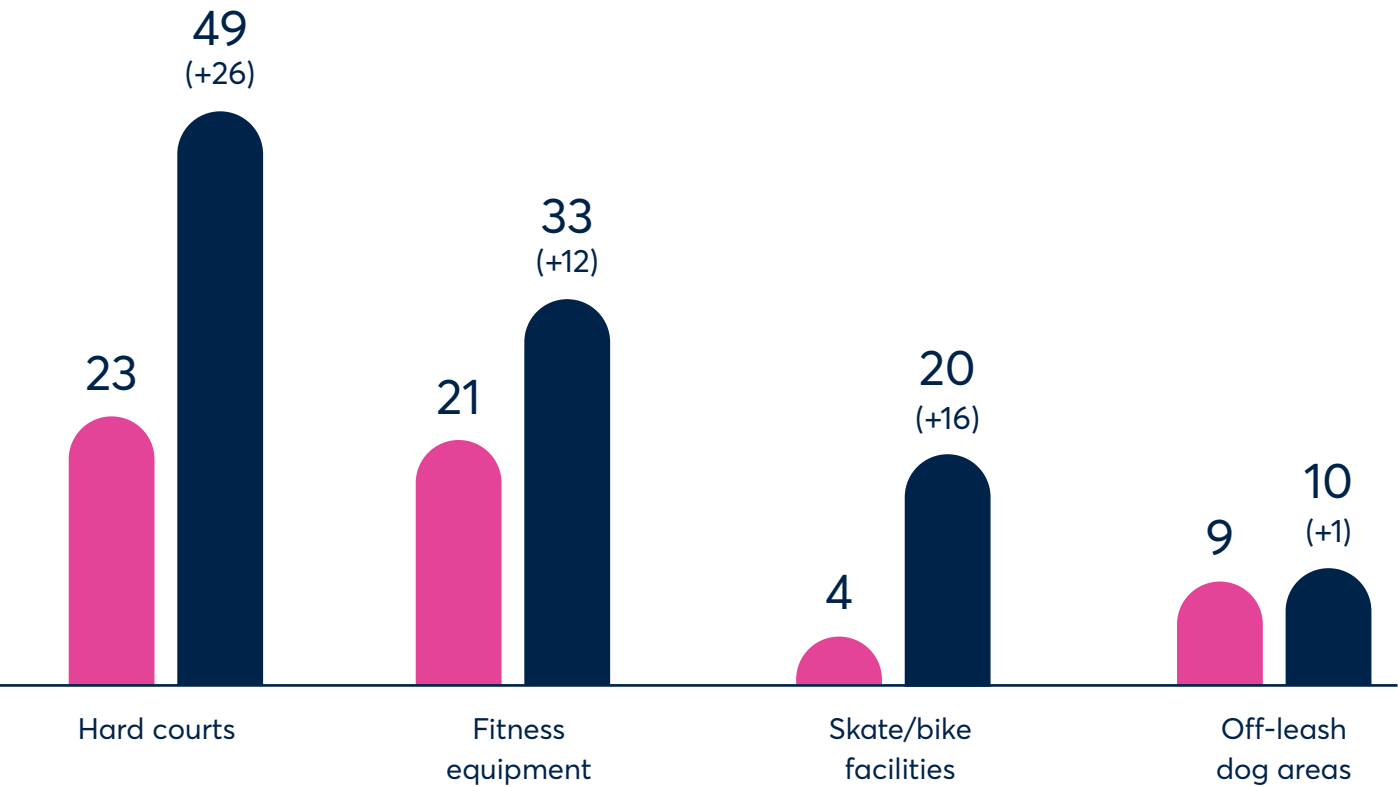


City of Parramatta by catchment at 2041: open space* provision compared to population benchmarks

	Catchment 1	Catchment 2	Catchment 3	Catchment 4	Catchment 5	Catchment 6
Provision of recreation and sport open space in 2019 (ha)	71.2ha	81.6ha	31.3ha	82.8ha	73.6ha	15.0ha
2041 population	80,722	77,026	47,324	160,554	57,317	64,790
2041 ha/1,000 people	0.85	1.06	0.67	0.51	1.28	0.23
2019 ha/1,000 people	1.29	1.49	0.84	1.15	3.63	0.56
Potential gap in provision by 2041 (ha/1,000 people)	1.15	0.94	1.33	1.49	0.72	1.77

**Council owned or managed parks and sportsgrounds only - excludes natural and general community use.*

City of Parramatta: 2041 outdoor recreation provision against benchmark



Benchmark analysis outdoor recreation

With a forecast population of almost 488,000 people by 2041, benchmarking indicates that an additional 26 hard courts, 12 fitness equipment areas and 16 skate/bike facilities are required to meet the needs of this population.

Benchmarking methodologies for outdoor recreation provision do not adequately reflect resident needs in some of our communities. For example, additional facilities (e.g. dog parks or circuit paths) are likely to be required to support healthy high density living).



What our community has told us...

The first version of this Strategy was publicly exhibited between August and October 2017, and the updated draft Strategy was publicly exhibited between September and November 2019.


These engagement opportunities allowed Council to better understand the needs and expectations of our community. This information has been useful for strengthening this document. Through the consultation process we heard that:

Our community values:

- The important role our public outdoor spaces play for our community and their sense of identity.
- Parks that are within walking distance of people's homes.
- Parks that are embellished with facilities that support diverse recreation opportunities.
- The quality and maintenance of our current parks.

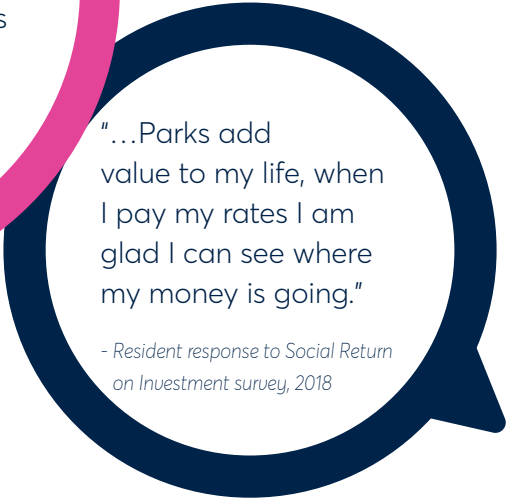
Our community would like to see:

- An increase in provision of outdoor recreation facilities for young people.
- Outdoor recreation facilities that meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities within the same park.
- An increase of green spaces with facilities that support diverse activities and uses.
- A network of parks and recreation spaces, connected by walking and cycling paths.
- Increased availability of parks and outdoor recreation within an accessible distance of all members of our community.



"...The bike pathway is great. My child learnt to ride the bike. The sporting equipment is also great for the adults to keep fit. Coming to the park allows us to breathe fresh air."

- Resident response to Social Return on Investment survey, 2018



"...Parks add value to my life, when I pay my rates I am glad I can see where my money is going."

- Resident response to Social Return on Investment survey, 2018

*A negative number indicates a forecast oversupply



Sydney Park, Alexandria

Sydney Park is a regional park located in Alexandria within City of Sydney local government area.

The 40 hectares of parkland provides the community access to a sports field, exercise equipment, playground, café, public toilets and BBQ facilities.

Sydney Park is home to the Sydney Park Cycling Centre, which was upgraded in 2015. This includes a cycling track with stop signs, traffic lights and pedestrian pathways, which cater to a range of age groups. This facility teaches children about road rules and safety, whilst also promoting active recreation.

The site also includes green open space and wetlands with viewing decks, which provides an escape from the rush of the city. Upgrades to the wetlands were undertaken as part of the Sydney Park water reuse project, which was undertaken between 2013 and 2015. The project included the delivery of a water harvesting system, upgrades to surrounding recreational spaces and the sharing of information with visitors about the ecological importance of the wetlands.

The facilities available at Sydney Park promote healthy, active living by providing access to extensive open space and promoting a diverse range of outdoor recreation opportunities.

This information has been sourced from City of Sydney's website <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/facilities/parks/major-parks/sydney-park>

<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision/better-infrastructure/parks-and-playgrounds/completed-projects/sydney-park-wetlands>

**CASE
STUDY**



The strategic challenges we face together

Population growth, high density development and urban renewal are putting pressure on our parks and outdoor recreation space.

Our parks and outdoor recreation network can contribute to strengthening people's sense of community and improve access to informal recreation and social opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

We will need to plan and use our resources to find innovative solutions to the following critical strategic challenges:

Q. How can we increase the offerings and quality of our existing parks and outdoor recreation network to meet the needs of our growing, diverse and changing communities?

Q. How can we increase and maximise the utilisation of existing parks and outdoor recreation spaces to meet the needs of a diverse community now and into the future?

Q. How can we ensure our parks and outdoor recreation network remains flexible and responsive to accommodate the changing recreation needs and preferences of our community in a growing, more culturally diverse and more high density environment?

Q. How can we embed the principles of access and inclusion appropriately in our parks and outdoor recreation network to support all of our community?

Q. How can we increase access to parks and outdoor recreation, in both traditional and non traditional settings, that are within a walkable catchment of all resident's homes?

Q. What partnerships and collaborations will assist us to expand the network of parks and outdoor recreation across our LGA for our community to access?

Q. What funding strategies will be most successful for delivering best practice parks and outdoor recreation with appropriate supporting infrastructure in both the short and long term?

Q. How can we acquire new open space in appropriate locations to strengthen our parks and outdoor recreation network and increase community access?

PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION NETWORK

Future directions



Image Credit: Resident Kellie Darley (Parraparents)

Strategic directions

To meet the needs of City of Parramatta's growing and increasingly diverse community, Council will seek to realise quality parks and outdoor recreation opportunities in the right locations in each catchment.

It is crucial for Council to continue to work in this area, as this provision is generally not met by the private market and demand is growing.

Council strives to deliver best practice in open space provision, where all residents can access open space within 400m of their homes. For residents living in high density neighbourhoods a walkable catchment of 250m is considered appropriate.

For areas undergoing significant change and development including an intensification of housing, Council seeks to realise 20% of a site or area to be dedicated as quality open space.

To do this, City of Parramatta Council will focus on the following strategic directions:

- **Seek no net loss of current park and outdoor recreation space overall, in City of Parramatta.**
- **Increase the diversity, quality and utilisation of Council's existing parks and outdoor recreation network:**
 - Increase local level parks through upgrade and redesign of existing pocket parks, where it is appropriate and meets the needs of the community.
 - Increase district level parks through upgrade and redesign of existing local parks, where it is appropriate and meets the needs of the community.
- **Redesign local and district parks to:**
 - Improve diversity of recreation opportunities.
 - Expand offerings for targeted groups (e.g. young people, multicultural groups and over 55s).
 - Increase all abilities offerings.
 - Improve access through quality and design including universal design standards, lighting, amenities and sustainability principles.
 - Implement designs that balance versatility, flexibility and are multifunction.
 - Create unique opportunities for outdoor recreation that provide greater amenity.
 - Enhance the pedestrian and cycle connections between parks and outdoor recreation spaces.
 - Increase opportunities for dog off-leash exercise to support healthy high density living.

- **Deliver new parks and outdoor recreation opportunities using the following approaches:**

- Investigate strategic opportunities for land acquisition where existing open space provision is inadequate to meet community needs, with a focus on supporting communities living in high density areas.
- Develop shared and joint use arrangements with schools for community access to school open space and other outdoor recreation facilities.
- Advocate for new parks and outdoor recreation provision in all urban renewal areas, and undertake joint planning with stakeholders to determine ownership, use, renewal and maintenance matters.
- Increase the respectful and sensitive use of natural areas for outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Scope options for parks and outdoor recreation opportunities in non-traditional sites throughout the LGA.
- Support the delivery of communal parks and outdoor recreation within new private development for resident use.



City of Parramatta parks and outdoor recreation network: 20 YEAR PROVISION TARGETS

Through collaboration, partnerships and the resources of many, we seek to achieve the following targets for our community:

LOCAL PARKS

2041 future supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All residents can access a local park within 400m of their homes.• 50% of all parks within each catchment classified as local.
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DISTRICT PARKS

2041 future supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All residents can access a district park within 2km of their homes.• 10% of all parks within each catchment classified as district.
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Key recommendations

Realising open space needs for the current and future community has many challenges. With high land costs and rapid urbanisation, Council needs to be innovative in drawing upon a range of approaches in order to provide open space.

New local parks can be delivered through the following implementation methods:

- **Upgrade** pocket park to local park through embellishment and quality improvement.
- **New** green space provided as part of an urban renewal area by developers or Council.
- **Proposed acquisition** of land in locations where existing open space provision does not meet community needs.

New district parks can be delivered through the following implementation methods:

- **Upgrade** local park to district park through embellishment and quality improvement.
- **New** green space provided as part of an urban renewal area by developers or Council.
- **Proposed acquisition** of land in locations where existing open space provision does not meet community needs.

These implementation methods: **upgrade, new** and **proposed acquisition** are used to described open space recommendations in each catchment across the LGA.

KEY

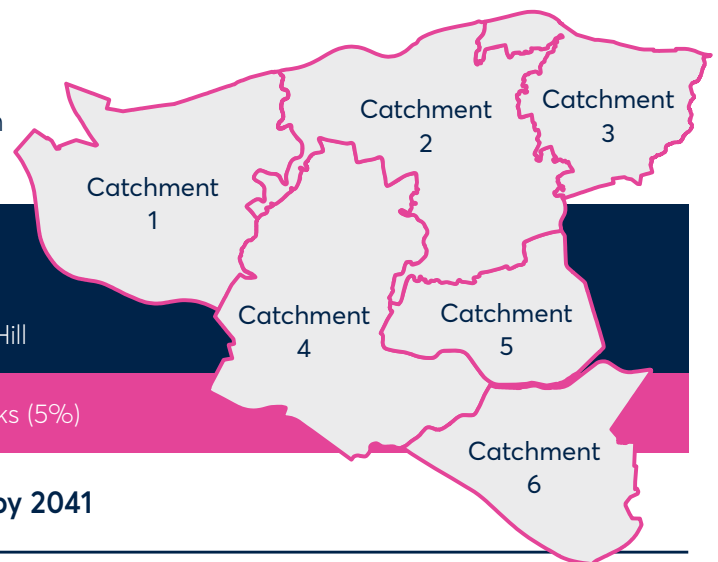
	Adequate provision
	Small need to increase provision
	Moderate need to increase provision
	High need to increase provision

CATCHMENT 1

Suburbs – Winston Hills, Toongabbie, Westmead, Northmead, Old Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and Constitution Hill

39 pocket parks (38%), 40 local parks (40%), 5 district parks (5%)

Moderate gap in provision of 1.15ha/1,000 people by 2041



Recommended focus for future embellishment and upgrades to existing park and outdoor recreation facilities to support healthy high density living

Diversify parks offer		Diversify outdoor recreation offer				
Upgrade suitable pocket parks to local parks	Upgrade suitable local parks to district parks	Youth recreation and active recreation	Community recreation areas	Fitness and exercise spaces	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash dog areas
✓	✓					

Key projects

- Sue Savage Reserve, Toongabbie
- Proposed new park, Westmead
- Milson Park, Westmead

Recommendations for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation facilities to improve walkable catchments and provision in high density areas

New local park	New district park	Implementation method	Suburb
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Wentworthville
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Toongabbie
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Northmead
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Winston Hills
	✓	New	Westmead
✓		Upgrade from pocket to local park	Toongabbie
✓		Proposed acquisition	Northmead

KEY

	Adequate provision
	Small need to increase provision
	Moderate need to increase provision
	High need to increase provision

CATCHMENT 2

Suburbs – Carlingford, North Rocks, Dundas, Dundas Valley and Telopea

35 pocket parks (37%), 33 local parks (36%) and 5 district parks (5%)

Moderate gap in provision of 0.94ha/1,000 people by 2041

Recommended focus for future embellishment and upgrades to existing park and outdoor recreation facilities to support healthy high density living

Diversify parks offer		Diversify outdoor recreation offer				
Upgrade suitable pocket parks to local parks	Upgrade suitable local parks to district parks	Youth recreation and active recreation	Community recreation areas	Fitness and exercise spaces	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash dog areas
✓	✓					

Key projects

- Cox Park, Carlingford
- North Rocks Park, Carlingford
- Sturt Park, Telopea

Recommendations for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation facilities to improve walkable catchments and provision in high density areas

New local park	New district park	Implementation method	Suburb
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Carlingford
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Telopea
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Dundas
✓		Upgrade from pocket to local park	Carlingford

KEY

	Adequate provision
	Small need to increase provision
	Moderate need to increase provision
	High need to increase provision

CATCHMENT 3

Suburbs – Epping, Beecroft and Eastwood

13 pocket parks (28%), 16 local parks (35%) and 2 district parks 4%)

Severe gap in provision of 1.33ha/1,000 people by 2041

Recommended focus for future embellishment and upgrades to existing park and outdoor recreation facilities to support healthy high density living

Diversify parks offer		Diversify outdoor recreation offer				
Upgrade suitable pocket parks to local parks	Upgrade suitable local parks to district parks	Youth recreation and active recreation	Community recreation areas	Fitness and exercise spaces	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash dog areas
✓	✓					

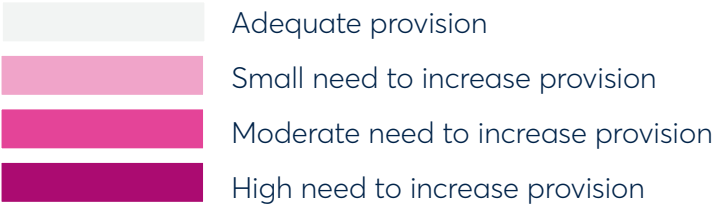
Key projects

- Somerville Park, Eastwood
- Dence Park, Epping
- Boronia Park, Epping
- New provision opportunities as they arise

Recommendations for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation facilities to improve walkable catchments and provision in high density areas

New local park	New district park	Implementation method	Suburb
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Eastwood
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Epping
✓		Upgrade from pocket to local park	Epping
✓		Proposed acquisition	Epping
✓		Proposed acquisition	Epping

KEY



CATCHMENT 4
Suburbs – Parramatta, Granville, Camellia, North Parramatta, Oatlands, Harris Park, Mays Hill, Rosehill and Clyde

22 pocket parks (33%), 23 local parks (34%) and 3 district parks (5%)

Severe gap in provision of 1.49ha/1,000 people by 2041

Recommended focus for future embellishment and upgrades to existing park and outdoor recreation facilities to support healthy high density living

Diversify parks offer		Diversify outdoor recreation offer				
Upgrade suitable pocket parks to local parks	Upgrade suitable local parks to district parks	Youth recreation and active recreation	Community recreation areas	Fitness and exercise spaces	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash dog areas
✓	✓					

Key projects

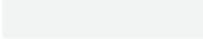



- Belmore Park, North Parramatta
- F.S. Garside Park, Granville
- Ollie Webb Reserve, Parramatta

- Lake Parramatta Reserve, North Parramatta
- Robin Thomas Reserve, Parramatta
- Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta

Recommendations for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation facilities to improve walkable catchments and provision in high density areas

New local park	New district park	Implementation method	Suburb
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Oatlands
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Granville
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Parramatta
	✓	New	Camellia
✓		Upgrade from pocket to local park	Harris Park

KEY

	Adequate provision
	Small need to increase provision
	Moderate need to increase provision
	High need to increase provision

CATCHMENT 5

Suburbs – Melrose Park, Rydalmere and Ermington

17 pocket parks (43%), 15 local parks (38%) and 4 district parks (10%)

Moderate gap in provision of 0.72ha/1,000 people by 2041



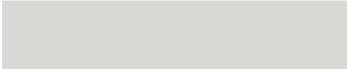

Recommended focus for future embellishment and upgrades to existing park and outdoor recreation facilities to support healthy high density living

Diversify parks offer		Diversify outdoor recreation offer				
Upgrade suitable pocket parks to local parks	Upgrade suitable local parks to district parks	Youth recreation and active recreation	Community recreation areas	Fitness and exercise spaces	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash dog areas
						

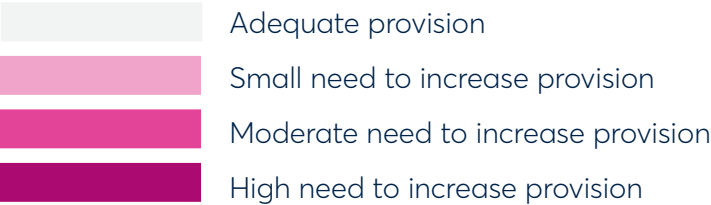
Key projects

- Eric Primrose Reserve, Rydalmere
- Rydalmere Park, Rydalmere
- George Kendall Riverside Park, Ermington
- Upjohn Park, Rydalmere

Recommendations for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation facilities to improve walkable catchments and provision in high density areas

New local park	New district park	Implementation method	Suburb
		Upgrade from local to district park	Rydalmere
		New	Melrose Park

KEY



CATCHMENT 6

Suburbs – Sydney Olympic Park, Wentworth Point, Lidcombe/Carter Street, Silverwater and Newington

5 pocket parks (33%), 7 local parks (47%) and 1 district park (7%)

Severe gap in provision of 1.77ha/1,000 people by 2041

Recommended focus for future embellishment and upgrades to existing park and outdoor recreation facilities to support healthy high density living

Diversify parks offer		Diversify outdoor recreation offer				
Upgrade suitable pocket parks to local parks	Upgrade suitable local parks to district parks	Youth recreation and active recreation	Community recreation areas	Fitness and exercise spaces	Trail and path based recreation	Off-leash dog areas
✓	✓					

Key projects

- New provision opportunities as they arise
- Newington Reserve, Silverwater
- Peninsula Park, Wentworth Point

Recommendations for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation facilities to improve walkable catchments and provision in high density areas

New local park	New district park	Implementation method	Suburb
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Silverwater
	✓	New	Carter Street
	✓	Upgrade from local to district park	Wentworth Point

Requirements for open space planning as part of site specific planning proposals, masterplans and urban renewal precincts.

In addition to the urban renewal precincts identified in this Strategy, Council receives a significant number of site-specific planning proposals and masterplans. A planning proposal is a request to amend a local environmental plan through the 'Gateway' process. The majority of these planning proposals request a change in land use zoning that would result in significant increases in residential density.

In order to ensure that adequate quantity and quality of open space is provided to meet the needs of current and future residents, Council requires the following in relation to any urban renewal precinct planning proposal, masterplan or similar landuse planning process:

For sites outside the Parramatta CBD:

20% of the total site area must be dedicated to Council as public open space. Dependant on site characteristics, the dedicated land must address the following:

OPEN SPACE TYPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be made up of a combination of formal sport, informal recreation and natural area.
USEABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be usable open space, that is, developable land that is unconstrained (examples of constraints include riparian corridors and infrastructure easements). • Be located on a deep soil site (no underground carparking).
ACCESSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed to incorporate flat topography and maximise street frontage. • Ideally, streets should form boundaries on all sides of the dedicated open space, however, corner sites providing a minimum street frontage of two sides are required to promote connections within and beyond the site and enable access to existing open space outside of the site.
SHAPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a regular shape (e.g. square/rectangular) to maximise flexibility and useability. • Dedicated open space should be configured to support both formal and informal recreational opportunities.
SOLAR ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of the land should receive a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight midwinter. • Alternatively, 50% of the land should receive maximum overshadowing between 10am and 2pm mid-winter.

For sites in the Parramatta CBD:

- The CBD by nature is very different to the rest of the neighbourhoods in City of Parramatta, as space is very limited for open space provision.
- In high density areas, 20% of the total site area should ideally be dedicated to Council as public open space.
 - Where sites are able to provide 20% of their total site area as public open space, the following requirements apply:

OPEN SPACE TYPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be made up of a combination of formal sport, informal recreation and difficult to provide in a CBD context.
USEABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be usable open space, that is, developable land that is unconstrained (examples of constraints include riparian corridors and infrastructure easements). • Be located on a deep soil site (no private underground carparking)? A minimum soil depth of 1.5m is required where carparking or other infrastructure is unavoidably located beneath part of land to be dedicated.
ACCESSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed to incorporate flat topography and maximise street frontage. • Ideally, streets should form boundaries on all sides of the dedicated open space, however, corner sites providing a minimum street frontage of two sides are required to promote connections within and beyond the site and enable access to existing open space outside of the site.
SHAPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a regular shape (e.g. square/rectangular) to maximise flexibility and useability. • Dedicated open space should be configured to support both formal and informal recreational opportunities.
SOLAR ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of the land should receive a minimum of three hours of direct sunlight midwinter. • Alternatively, 50% of the land should receive maximum overshadowing between 10am and 2pm mid-winter.

Only in exceptional circumstances, where sites are unable to provide 20% of their total site area as public open space, for example in small or constrained sites, will Council consider accepting an equivalent financial contribution.

Criteria to guide decision making for new or upgraded parks and outdoor recreation space

The following criteria complement and are to be used in conjunction with City of Parramatta's stated principles for community infrastructure planning found on pages 63-65.

Council will use them to guide decision making and discussion with stakeholders and partners about new parks and outdoor recreation opportunities.

For all scenarios, will the additional parks and outdoor recreation site:

Contribute to meeting the strategic directions for the network and complement the existing network?

Be financially viable and give consideration to ongoing staffing, operational and maintenance costs?

Facilitate open space and recreation opportunities in a high density urban renewal area?

Be located within close proximity to regular public transport services?

Be located to ensure visibility within the site?

Be physically accessible and employ universal design principles?

Be designed to maximise flexibility in use and be capable of accommodating a diversity of uses?

Include appropriate facilities to maximise amenity including accessible toilets?

For non-traditional outdoor recreation space, does the site meet the above criteria (as relevant), and additionally:

Is it located within a community hub or in a town/site centre?

Is it close to public transport?

Is it co-located with other community or supporting infrastructure?

For more information:

This Community Infrastructure Strategy draws on the knowledge and experience of many staff from across Council who have a passion for enabling socially sustainable communities. Together with feedback from our community, and our key stakeholders, this document has been a shared effort.

For further information on City of Parramatta's parks and outdoor recreation network, or Council's key strategic directions, the following resources are available:

- "Sharing the Opportunities of Growth for All – Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework": <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/sites/council/files/2018-09/socially-sustainable-parramatta-framework.pdf>
- City of Parramatta Council's website: www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au
- City of Parramatta Customer Contact Centre: 9806 5050
- For access to demographic data: <http://profile.id.com.au/parramatta>

