

CITY OF PARRAMATTA

Sportsground Network

**Sportsgrounds provide wide
ranging health, economic,
environmental and civic
benefits for our community**



Sportsgrounds enable formal and informal sport and outdoor recreation opportunities which support our community to lead healthy and active lifestyles. Many community members experience a strong sense of enjoyment and belonging

through participating in sports and engaging with their various sports clubs and organisations. Sportsgrounds also play a role in protecting the natural environment by reducing human impact which contributes to improving the overall

sustainability and resilience of our community. Sportsgrounds are also a vital business and marketing tool to attract economic investment to an area and for increasing local 'footfall'.

Defining our sportsground network:

Sportsgrounds are defined as outdoor green open space that can support sporting activities. These sporting activities include:

- Formal sporting activities which consist of organised sport, training, and competition based activities by sporting clubs, schools and others.

This Strategy makes reference to sport-specific terminology:

- **NSO** – National Sporting Organisations.
- **SSO** – State Sport Organisations.
- **Association** – An umbrella organisation bringing together the affiliated sports clubs and licenced players, with the aim of organising the sport, primarily through competition-based participation.
- **Sports club** – A registered organisation that exists to promote and develop participation in a particular sport or physical activity.



There may be one or more playing fields situated at each sportsground.

City of Parramatta categorises sportsgrounds according to a hierarchy:

This Strategy focuses on actions that Council will take, with others, to strengthen its network of local and district sportsgrounds.

Local

Refers to sportsgrounds with a primary catchment area of a single local government area or multiple suburbs. These sites focus on club competition and provide a mix of recreational, competitive and programmed formats for participants. Local facilities generally service the needs of sports clubs for home and away fixtures, including finals, training activities and participation programs.

District

Refers to sportsgrounds with a primary catchment of a large local government area, often catering for various Councils due to the nature of the competition or sport. District facilities cater for Association competition as well as service a local catchment to provide a mix of recreational, competitive and programmed formats for participants. These sites serve as a local sporting finals venue or as a central venue facilitating regular competition for multiple clubs and/or teams.

Regional

Refers to sportsgrounds with a primary catchment of multiple local government areas. These sites also service a local catchment and are able to support high level training and competition and are designed and maintained to a higher standard. Regional facilities provide a broad range of sport and recreation activities and events, often hosting regional tournaments and carnivals with large numbers of teams across multiple days. Regional facilities can also be a significant single sport facility of a high quality, catering for high levels of competition.

National/State

Refers to sportsground and facility sites with the primary catchment being state level. They attract users and visitors from interstate and overseas. They provide for the highest level of sporting competition which may include international events and competitions, national league(s) and associated state and national team and squad training centre(s). These facilities also assist to promote sports and provide community access and pathway opportunities for participants. As these facilities provide for the highest level of competition, they also have a high entertainment value and attract large numbers of spectators.

** City of Parramatta has three National/State facilities that are currently built or under construction within our LGA. These include: Sydney Olympic Park owned by Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA), Old Saleyards Reserve leased by the Parramatta Eels and owned by Council, and the Western Sydney Stadium owned by Venues NSW, (under construction). Old Kings Oval located within Parramatta Park is a regional sports facility managed by Parramatta Park Trust. City of Parramatta Council is committed to working in collaboration with these organisations to plan for and manage these facilities as we acknowledge that they are a significant resource for our community, with access to both regional and national facilities. These facilities are considered out of scope for the Community Infrastructure Strategy.*

SPORTSGROUND NETWORK

Current situation

What is provided now?



63

Playing fields

KEY: ● Council owned playing fields in 2019

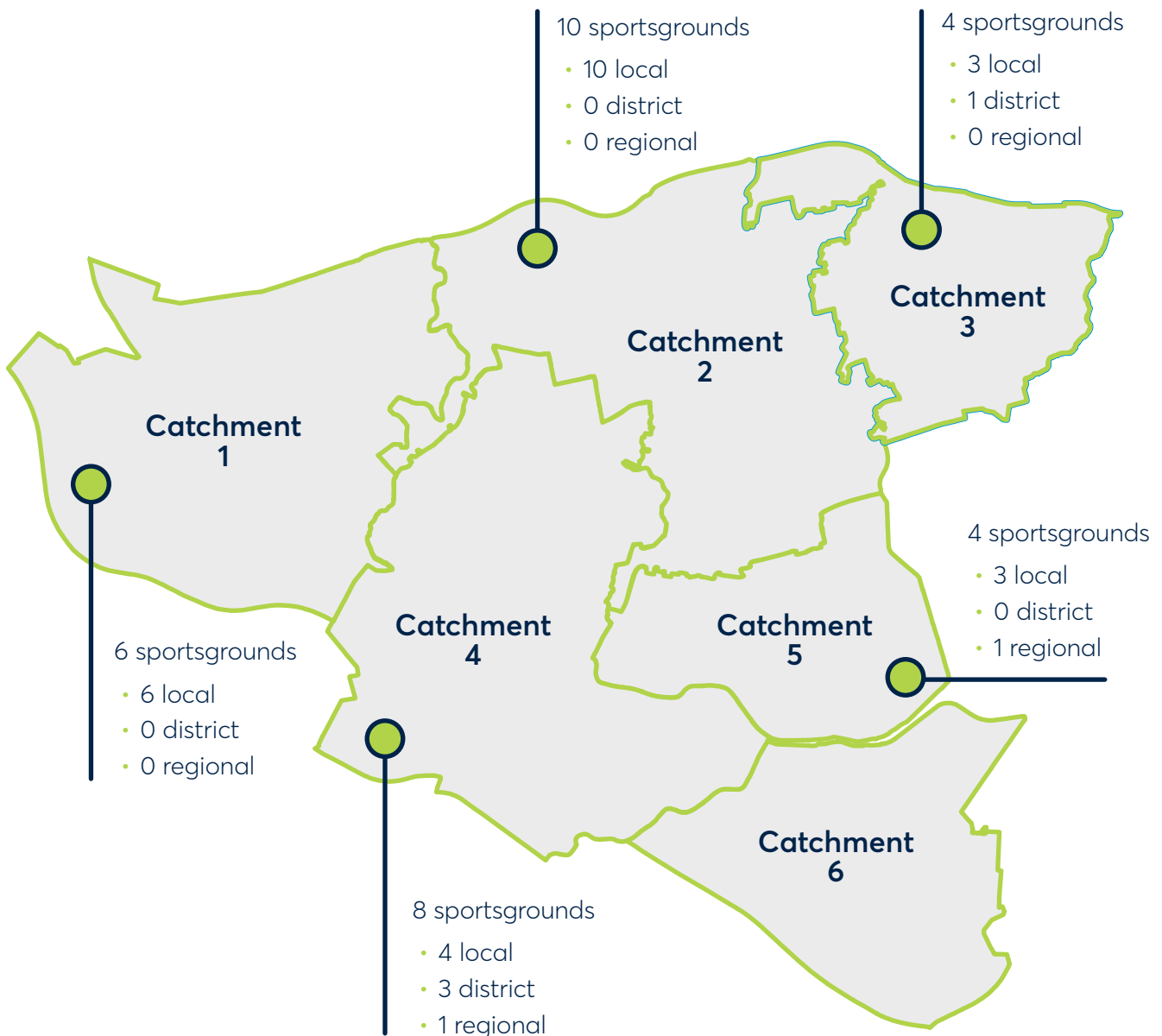
City of Parramatta Council (Council) plays a significant role in the provision of sportsgrounds throughout our Local Government Area (LGA).

Council has 32 sportsgrounds and a total of 63 individual playing fields that together form a network of 147 hectares and cater for:

- Informal sporting and recreation opportunities.
- Formal sporting opportunities including local sporting club training and competition.

Most schools, some universities, and some other government agencies in City of Parramatta have sportsgrounds of varied sizes, however, access for the general public is limited.

2019 City of Parramatta sportsground network



Council's sportsground network

CATCHMENT 1

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

Overall number of sportsgrounds = 6 (6 local/0 district/0 regional)

Total number of playing fields = 13

Total size (ha) = 12.23 (20% of network)

Suburb	Sportsground	Category	Number of playing fields	Size (ha)	Total usage – formal hire in winter
Northmead	Arthur Phillip Park	Local	2	1.89	26.25 hours per wk
Northmead	Northmead Reserve	Local	2	2.08	21.25 hours per wk
Old Toongabbie	Binalong Park	Local	4	3.25	35.2 hours per wk
Toongabbie	McCoy Park	Local	2	1.84	27 hours per wk
Winston Hills	John Curtin Reserve	Local	1	1.03	20 hours per wk
Winston Hills	Max Ruddock Reserve	Local	2	2.14	40.5 hours per wk



CATCHMENT 2

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

Overall number of sportsgrounds = 10 (10 local/0 district/0 regional)

Total number of playing fields = 16

Total Size (ha) = 12.98 (22% of network)

Suburb	Sportsground	Category	Number of playing fields	Size (ha)	Total usage – formal hire in winter
Dundas Valley	Dundas Park	Local	3	2.24	21.17 hours per wk
North Rocks	Murray Farm Reserve	Local	1	0.97	11 hours per wk
Carlingford	North Rocks Park	Local	2	1.31	48.25 hours per wk
Carlingford	Carlingford High School	Local <i>*Council managed, Department of Education land</i>	3	2.21	55.5 hours per wk
Carlingford	Cox Park	Local	2	1.47	25 hours per wk
Carlingford	Harold West Reserve	Local	1	0.93	43.5 hours per wk
Carlingford	Homelands Reserve	Local	1	0.83	34 hours per wk
Carlingford	Peggy Womersley Reserve	Local	1	0.95	37 hours per wk
Dundas Valley	Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve	Local	1	0.92	26 hours per wk
North Rocks	Speers Road Reserve	Local	1	1.15	32.5 hours per wk

CATCHMENT 3**Suburbs – Epping, Beecroft and Eastwood**

Overall number of sportsgrounds = 4 (3 local/1 district/0 regional)

Total number of playing fields = 6

Total size (ha) = 2.82 (5% of network)

Suburb	Sportsground	Category	Number of playing fields	Size (ha)	Total usage – formal hire in winter
Epping	West Epping Park	District synthetic fields	2	0.97	38.5 hours per wk
Beecroft	Roselea Park	Local	1	0.66	52.25 hours per wk
Eastwood	Somerville Park	Local	2	1.39	42.5 hours per wk
Epping	Boronia Park	Local	1	0.77	33.5 hours per wk

CATCHMENT 4

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

Overall number of sportsgrounds = 8 (4 local/3 district/1 regional)

Total number of playing fields = 17

Total size (ha) = 20.38 (34% of network)

Suburb	Sportsground	Category	Number of playing fields	Size (ha)	Total usage – formal hire in winter
Granville	FS Garside	Regional	1	0.94	43 hours per wk
Parramatta	Jones Park	District	3	3.30	31.58 hours per wk
North Parramatta	Barton Park	District	2	2.65	9 hours per wk
North Parramatta	Doyle Ground	District	4	5.49	20.38 hours per wk
North Parramatta	Belmore Park	Local	2	1.79	4 hours per wk
North Parramatta	Dan Mahoney Reserve	Local	1	2.00	3 hours per wk
Parramatta	Ollie Webb Reserve	Local	2	2.52	32.75 hours per wk
Parramatta	Robin Thomas Reserve	Local	2	1.67	32.75 hours per wk



CATCHMENT 5

Suburbs – Melrose Park, Rydalmere and Ermington

Overall number of sportsgrounds = 4 (3 local/0 district/1 regional)

Total number of playing fields = 11

Total size (ha) = 10.34 (17% of network)

Suburb	Sportsground	Category	Number of playing fields	Size (ha)	Total usage – formal hire in winter
Rydalmere	Rydalmere Park	Regional	3	2.55	47.83 hours per wk
Ermington	George Kendall Riverside Park	Local	5	4.99	17.65 hours per wk
Rydalmere	Eric Primrose Reserve	Local	2	1.51	24 hours per wk
Rydalmere	Upjohn Park	Local	1	1.27	8.75 hours per wk

CATCHMENT 6

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

Overall number of sportsgrounds = 0

Total number of playing fields = 0

Total size (ha) = 0

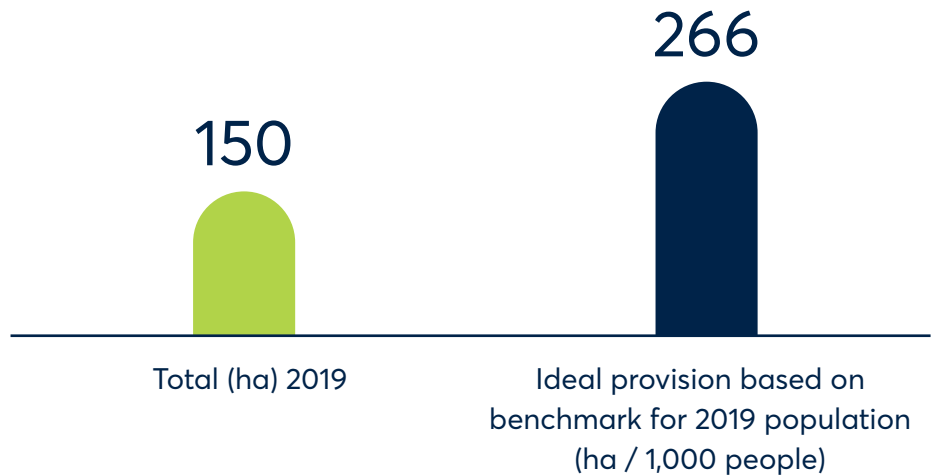
Rates of provision

City of Parramatta's current provision of sportsgrounds available to the general public is severely lacking.

A people per hectares approach to benchmarking suggests that in 2019 the provision of sportsgrounds amounted to 0.56ha/1,000 people, a gap of 0.44ha when compared to the ideal provision of 1ha/1,000 people. This benchmark indicates ideal provision of 266ha to support the current population.

A percentage of land approach to benchmarking would indicate that in 2019, 1.76% of land area (based on LGA total of 8,375ha) is currently used for formal sport. This means there is a gap of 4.24% of land area or 356ha of sporting open space to reach the ideal 6% sportsground benchmark.

City of Parramatta: 2019 sporting open space provision (ha) against benchmark*



KEY: ● Council-owned ● 2019 population benchmark

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

An analysis of walkable catchments (250m, 300m and 400m) from residences to useable Council-owned recreation and sporting open space, shows gaps for our communities in the following areas:

- Catchment one:** Northmead and Westmead
- Catchment two:** Carlingford and North Rocks
- Catchment three:** Epping
- Catchment four:** Rosehill
- Catchment five:** Melrose Park
- Catchment six:** Silverwater, Sydney Olympic Park and Wentworth Point

Sportsground benchmarks

There are various provision standards that can be employed when determining future community needs and potential gaps related to sportsgrounds. For the purposes of this Strategy, two benchmark approaches are considered:

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

- 6% is sportsground.
- 5% is informal and passive recreation.
- 4% is natural area.

AND

2. 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 sportsgrounds.
- 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' pages 60-61.



Current usage

Council's sportsgrounds are used formally and informally, and differently in winter compared to summer. Understanding the impact of these factors informs the way we manage our sportsground network.

Formal and informal sports use

Year round, sportsgrounds cater for a wide range of sporting activities, including club training and competition, school based sport and general community use.

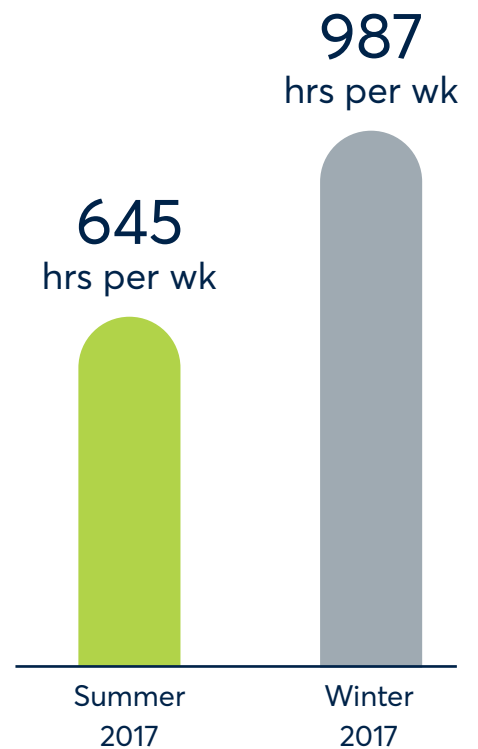
This use can be formal, for example through club competition, or informal, for example, when local residents use Council playing fields to kick around a ball after school or work. Formal sports use requires a booking to be made through Council's booking system. This means that we have a good understanding of the level of formal sportsground use across our network. However, the level of informal sportsground use is more difficult to determine as this does not require a booking, occurs on an as-needs basis and is often spontaneous.

Seasonal use

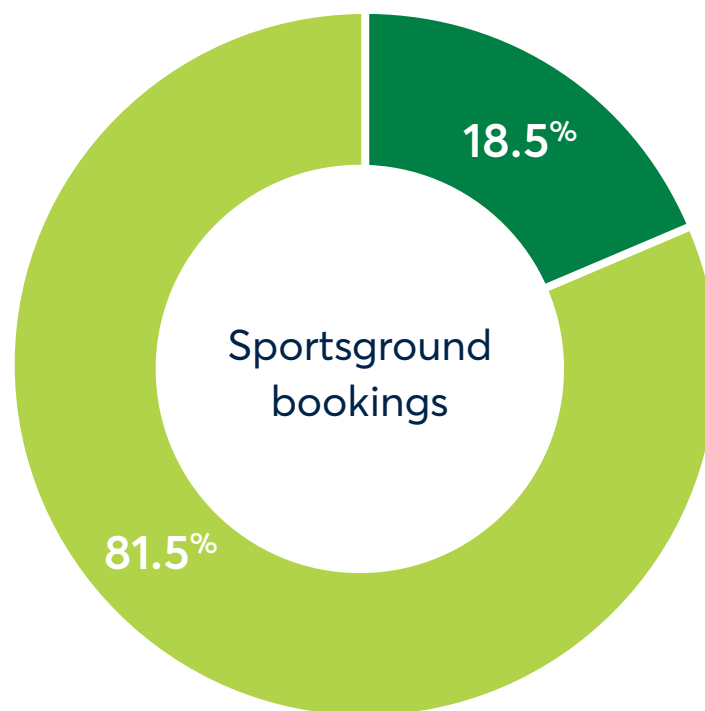
Formal sports use is currently broken up into two distinct seasons (summer and winter). Council's sportsgrounds accommodate different sporting uses depending on the season. For example, many of Council's sportsgrounds cater for football in the winter season and cricket in the summer season.

Different sporting uses cause varying levels of wear and tear, which impacts on field maintenance and management. For example, winter season sports have a much higher impact on playing surfaces because they are high-intensity and likely to distribute wear and tear across the entire playing surface.

City of Parramatta: 2017 formal sportsground bookings by season



City of Parramatta: 2017 formal bookings of Council sportsgrounds



KEY: ● School use ● Other use

Formal bookings made by sports clubs and businesses represent 81.5% of all sportsground bookings. Sports clubs across the LGA continue to increase their membership base.

This increased demand impacts sportsground maintenance as well as the overall availability of the fields for general community use. School group bookings comprise 18.5% of booked usage of Council's playing fields.

Council's sportsground network receives higher formal use in the winter season. Council's sportsgrounds typically receive over half of their usage during weekdays.

Current carrying capacity of sportsgrounds

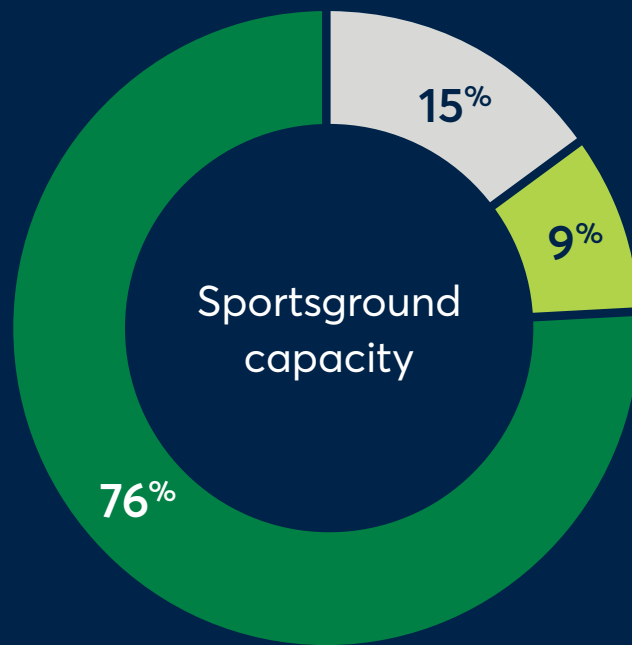
Carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of a natural grass sportsground is the maximum level of usage that the site can sustain, without resulting in a major decline in the turf and surface condition that results in the site becoming 'unfit for use'.

Studies show that playing field usage of more than 20 hours per week will contribute to a deterioration of playing surfaces. We also know that some sports uses will cause more wear and tear than others. Playing fields are living assets that require time to recover from the wear and tear that sports uses create. This 'buffer' period allows for appropriate turf maintenance, renewal and management of the field.

Given current condition and maintenance regimes, Council has identified the ideal capacity of its natural grass playing fields as 16-20 hours per week of use.

City of Parramatta 2017



KEY: ● Operating below or far below capacity
 ● Operating at capacity
 ● Operating above or far above capacity

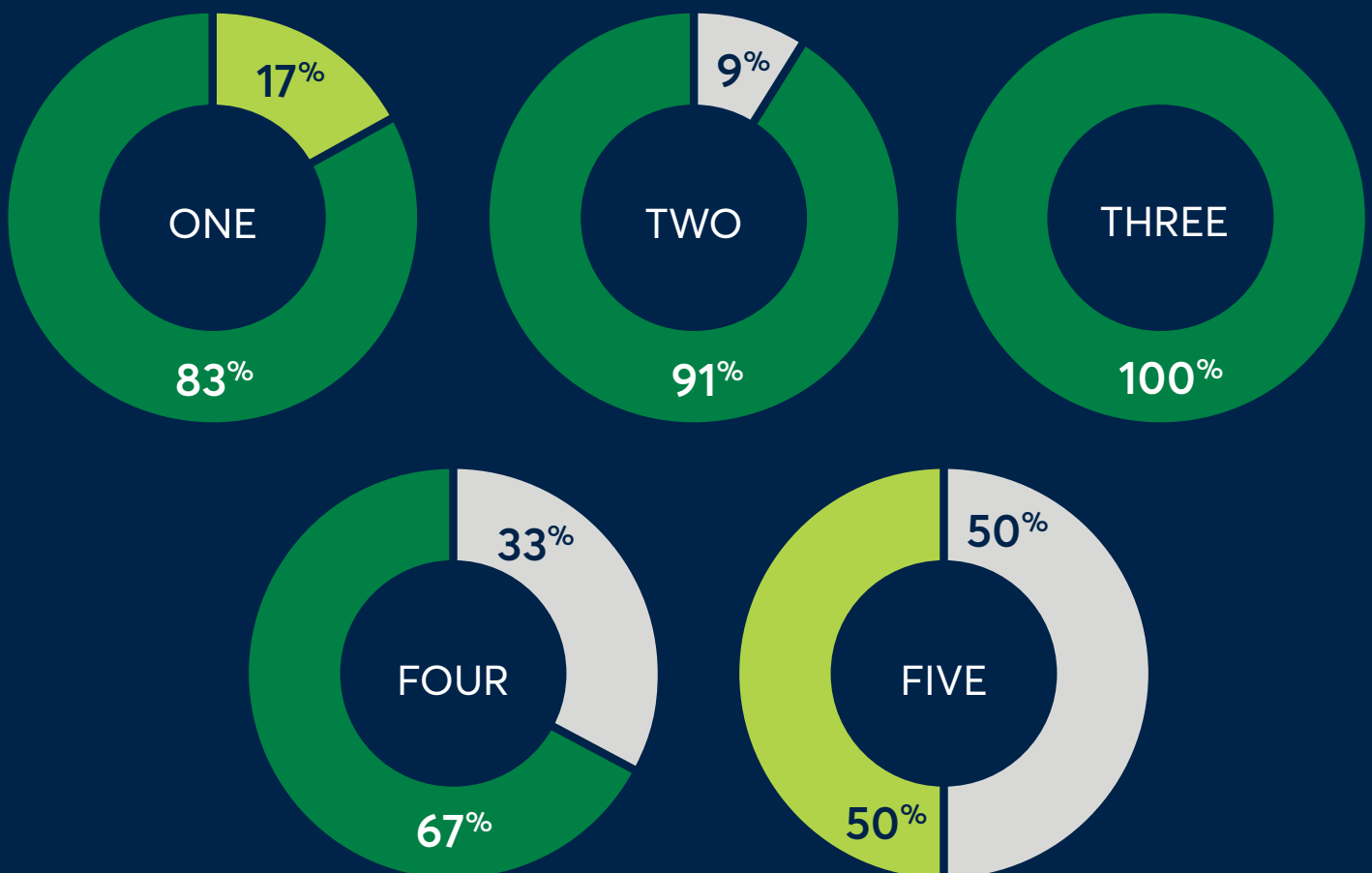
An analysis of the current formal sports usage patterns of Council's sportsground sites shows of the 33 sites:

- Three (9%) sites are operating at capacity where usage of the site can be sustained without a major decline in playing surface.
- Five (15%) sites are operating below or far below ideal capacity.
- 26 (76%) sites are operating above or far above ideal capacity.

The use of our sportsgrounds varies throughout the LGA. This means that sportsgrounds in particular catchments are under significantly more pressure and operating above or far above their capacity compared to other catchments.

Capacity level	Hours per week of use	No. of council sportsground sites with usage within these hours
Operating far above capacity	26+	20
Operating above capacity	21-25	6
Operating at capacity	16-20	3
Operating below capacity	11-5	1
Operating far below capacity	10 or less	4

City of Parramatta by catchment: 2017 carrying capacity of sportsgrounds based on formal bookings use:



KEY: ● Operating below or far below capacity
 ● Operating at capacity
 ● Operating above or far above capacity

How well positioned is our current sportsground network?

The strengths of our sportsground network include:

- We have sportsgrounds throughout our catchments except in catchment six.
- Our sportsground network can accommodate a variety of sports and uses.
- Many sportsgrounds are co-located with other recreation uses (e.g. playspaces, fitness equipment, walking and cycling pathways.)
- Some of our sportsgrounds have recently been upgraded.
- There are a number of local level sportsgrounds that, if embellished, have the capability to be district-level facilities and support a broader range of uses.

Despite some strengths, our sportsground network has weaknesses:

- Close to 80% of Council-owned sportsgrounds are operating at or above capacity.
- Use and wear and tear is not spread evenly across sportsgrounds in our LGA and this means there are some fields that operate above capacity and others that operate below capacity.
- Overall, there is not an equitable distribution of district and local sportsgrounds or enough to meet community need.
- Only some sportsgrounds are flexible in design to accommodate multiple and changing uses.
- There are a number of sportsgrounds without appropriate supporting infrastructure (such as floodlighting, cricket pitches and amenities blocks), reducing the overall functionality of these sites.
- Some of our sportsgrounds are in poor condition.
- Sportsground surfaces and associated maintenance costs are growing as a result of increasing impacts of weather conditions (including, extreme heat and flooding).
- Some schools are heavily reliant on using Council's sportsgrounds for their sporting activities due to reduced availability of facilities within school grounds and growing student numbers.
- There is a current lack of sportsground provision in suburbs that are projected to have high population growth into the future (e.g. Epping , Wentworth Point and Granville).
- There are no sportsgrounds in catchment six.

Facts at a glance

In City of Parramatta in 2018, there were:



63

Council-owned playing fields



2

Synthetic playing fields



5

Sportsgrounds without floodlights



4

District sportsgrounds



13

Different sports played formally across our sportsgrounds



15hrs

Current average weekly carrying capacity of our sportsgrounds



18,000

Sportsground bookings per year



44

School bookings for sportsgrounds each week



47

Local sporting clubs and associations using our sportsgrounds

George Kendall Riverside Park

City of Parramatta



George Kendall Riverside Park is located at 38 Spofforth Street within the suburb of Ermington, which has a population of approximately 13,119 people*. Ermington is located within close proximity to areas that are expected to experience significant population growth in the future, including Melrose Park, Rydalmere, Camellia, Rosehill and Sydney Olympic Park.

We know that this growth will impact the immediate area, placing greater demand on the sportsground. By 2041 an estimated 57,317 people are forecast to live in the catchment surrounding this site.

Council's adopted masterplan for George Kendall Riverside Park strives to achieve a unique and valued riverside park that optimises the potential of its distinctive setting, as well as satisfying a wide variety of social and recreational opportunities.

**Source: Forecast id ERP, 2019. Note that the population of Melrose is captured in this figure.*

The adopted masterplan reorganises the site to provide a greater number and size of sporting fields, increasing the capacity of the site.

The masterplan includes:

- Expanding the number of fields and associated supporting infrastructure to increase formal sports use (from two football fields to six full-size football fields, two full-size cricket grounds and reconfigured baseball fields).
- Expanding and upgrading outdoor recreation facilities at the site, including an off-leash dog area and informal open space.
- Relocation and embellishment of playspaces to better connect with other park facilities and allow for more usage.
- Installation of energy efficient lighting to cater for additional fields.
- Installation of stormwater infrastructure with full irrigation to the sporting fields.
- Centralisation and embellishment of current buildings to create a multipurpose hub.
- Reconstruction of sports turf to improve quality and quantity.
- Increased links into and around site to key public infrastructure such as cycle and shared pathways and to the broader recreation network of City of Parramatta and the local residential community.





Emerging trends

City of Parramatta continues to undergo transformational change. The associated growth and development is leading to an increasingly urbanised environment that will have a significant impact on the future of our sportsground network.

Council considers the following trends as critical to the future of our sportsground network:

Growing demand and diverse interests.

The way people use sportsgrounds across the LGA is changing. Sportsgrounds need to accommodate an increasingly diverse range of activities to meet a variety of needs, for both informal and formal sporting opportunities and for our culturally diverse community. Open space must also employ universal design principles and be accessible to all members of the community.

Physical activity and obesity.

We know that our communities' health behaviours and health outcomes are worse than for people living in Greater Western Sydney. Increasing obesity rates are evident within Australia due to poor diet and lack of exercise. There is a need to ensure that open space can support and encourage physical activity for all ages, abilities, genders, cultural and socio-economic groups.

Housing density.

Increasing density, smaller backyards and higher density development around transport nodes means that there will be an increased need for public spaces close to where people live. These public spaces will need to support passive recreation as well as provide facilities and events for organised sport and activity.

Sportsgrounds as a network.

In order to serve the growing and diverse needs of our community, sportsgrounds must be managed and planned for as a network. Local, district and regional sportsgrounds must work together to deliver a range of opportunities for activity and recreation throughout the LGA that cater for varied skill levels and needs. There is an increasing need to provide a range of quality local spaces as well as regional and district open spaces and facilities. Sportsgrounds must be located on land suitable for the intended use and must incorporate appropriate amenities and supporting infrastructure.

What does future best practice look like?

Adaptable multi-use sportsgrounds.

To meet increasing expectations for our sportsgrounds, the quality and design of playing surfaces must reflect best practice approaches. Council will need to employ adaptable, multipurpose design principles that allow space to change according to shifting community needs. For councils, the ability to maintain the quality of surfaces and extend the hours of use of the playing surfaces, will be at the centre of resource planning and decision making. In strategic locations, this is likely to include the use of synthetic surfaces.

Increased maintenance impacts.

Playing surfaces are experiencing an accelerated life cycle due to extended use. Sportsgrounds need to be developed to withstand increased wear and tear, especially in the context of changing climatic conditions. Sportsgrounds are increasingly being used for both informal and formal sporting activities which means that the space available will have to manage and support competing interests. The cost of maintenance will increase in order to maintain a high quality standard.

Organisation of formal sport.

Given the increasing pressure on our sportsgrounds, which are already operating above capacity at many sites, the patrons of sportsgrounds, be they clubs or Associations, will need to accommodate a different way of playing and organising competitions. This could include:

- Sharing the use of sportsgrounds and amenities buildings with different sports, clubs and associations.
- Competition matches held on week nights in addition to weekends.
- The use of different sportsgrounds for training and competition purposes.
- Supporting complementary use of sportsgrounds for formal and informal sports.
- Exploring the potential for partnerships with sports clubs, schools and other bodies.

Shared and joint use arrangements.

Leading practice in sportsgrounds planning and provision has seen many local governments move away from exclusive-use arrangements with sports clubs towards facilitating the right mix of activities, clubs and events at each sportsground to meet community need. Joint planning and collaboration with the NSW Department of Education for the shared and joint use of facilities will be critical to success. Clubs will need to accommodate different models of playing and competition, which could include sharing the use of sportsgrounds and amenities with different sports clubs and organisations and exploring the potential for partnerships with sports, schools and other bodies.

Building community cohesion.

In places where there is significant population growth, as well as growing diversity, sportsgrounds become an important community focal point that bring people together and promote social connection. Sportsgrounds are neutral spaces where a diverse range of people can come together to play informal and formal sport, connect with others and with nature. Sportsgrounds provide a forum for conversations that add to the understanding of the community and assist people to connect with the information and resources necessary for strengthening citizenship.

Princes Park

City of Melbourne

CASE
STUDY

“Princes Park is one of Melbourne’s most valued and well-used inner parks”

In 2012, City of Melbourne released a masterplan to set the strategic direction and guide the management of Princes Park, Melbourne. Located less than three kilometres from the centre of Melbourne, it provides a setting for a wide range of recreation and sporting activities.

Princes Park covers an area of approximately 39ha and stretches for approximately 1.5km along Royal Parade, forming a significant connection into central Melbourne as well as a landmark for the community. Princes Park accommodates sports clubs for a range of activities, bowling, cricket and tennis facilities as well as a children’s playground and other amenities.

Like many sportsgrounds in urban environments, Princes Park is experiencing an increase in demand and expectation from the community.

To support changing demand, the masterplan supports the provision and management of sports grounds which are used for competition and training throughout the year. In summer, the park includes infrastructure for four cricket grounds as well as a flexible sports area with six touch football fields (two within one cricket ground). In winter, the park supports one cricket ground and eight full-sized soccer pitches with sports lighting for the whole area.

Part of the redesign includes upgrades to the playing surfaces to enable flexible community use. Works included regrading, irrigation and drainage improvements and best practice turf surfaces. A fully accredited synthetic playing surface was also installed as part of this project.

**Information and image sourced from “Princes Park Masterplan” (2012) – City of Melbourne.*

Image Credit: Melbourne University Soccer Club





Carlingford High School



A shared-use arrangement

The NSW Department of Education have an arrangement with City of Parramatta Council for the shared-use of Carlingford High School's three playing fields.

These three playing fields are owned by the Department of Education, however, the bookings for this site are managed by Council. This means that these playing fields can be hired out for community use outside of school hours.

Council is responsible for the maintenance of these sportsgrounds and for ensuring appropriate use and booking mix for the community that access these fields.

The fields are used by a variety of sporting clubs. During winter, the ground is used for soccer and throughout summer, the ground is used for cricket and oz-tag.

Of all the sportsgrounds within City of Parramatta, the Carlingford High School site is our most used.

Carlingford High School ovals feature the following amenities:

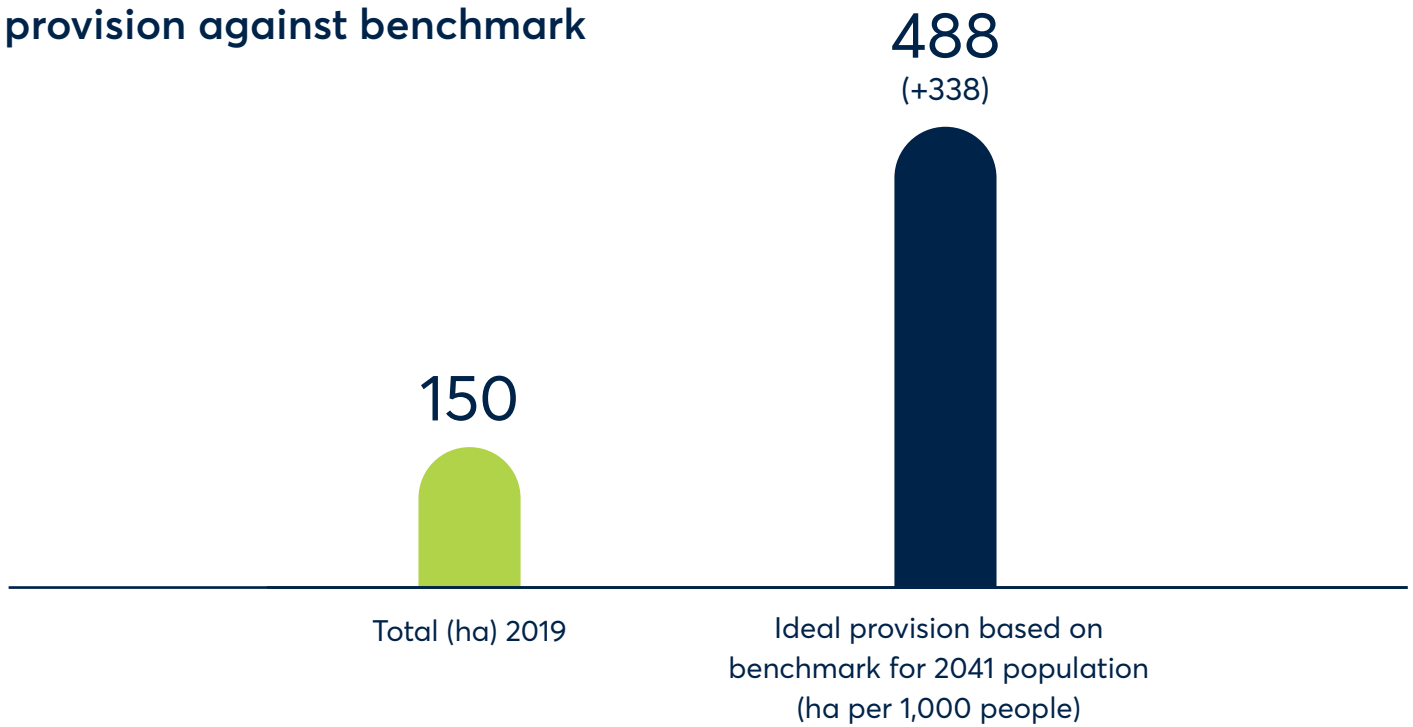
- Car park.
- Amenities building available at the adjoining Roselea Park.

SPORTSGROUNDS NETWORK

Future needs

What are the gaps and challenges we face?

City of Parramatta: 2041 sportsground provision against benchmark



KEY: ● Sportsground space ● 2041 population benchmark

Benchmark analysis

City of Parramatta's future population is estimated to grow to 488,000 people by 2041. Benchmarking would justify 338 additional hectares of sportsground space, bringing this to a total of 488ha.

Current sportsground space provision of 150ha will be equivalent to 0.31ha per 1,000 people at 2041, compared to the 1ha/1,000 people benchmark. Catchments three, four and six will have particularly low provision of Council owned or managed sportsgrounds for their projected population size at 2041.

City of Parramatta by catchment: parks and outdoor recreation and sportsground open space* at 2041 – compared to population benchmarks

Catchment	Existing parks & recreation and sportsgrounds open space (ha)	2041 population	2019 ha/1,000 people	2041 ha/1,000 people	Potential gap in provision by 2041 (ha/1,000 people)
One	70.9ha	80,722	1.28	0.88	1.12
Two	81.4ha	77,026	1.49	1.06	0.94
Three	31.3ha	47,324	0.84	0.66	1.34
Four	82.6ha	160,554	1.15	0.51	1.49
Five	73.6ha	57,317	3.63	1.28	0.72
Six**	14.8ha	64,790	0.56	0.23	1.77

Note: Provision gap is based on benchmark standards of 1ha / 1,000 people for sportsgrounds and 1ha / 1,000 people for parks and recreation, totaling 2ha / 1,000 people of open space.

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

**Note there is no sportsground provision in catchment six.

Increasing use of Council sportsgrounds

Through embellishment and increased maintenance schedules, it is possible to improve efficiency, increase carrying capacity and usage of Council's existing sportsground network, creating maximum value for the community from our open space network. Council will also need to rethink how it manages formal sports, and enables sharing of sites with multiple sports clubs for the benefit of our growing population.

Increasing carrying capacity of fields

Improving sportsground playing surface (through improvements in drainage, irrigation and turf quality), and in some instances by increasing maintenance schedules, can help to achieve a higher level of sustainable carrying capacity of fields of 21-25 hours per week, compared to the 16-20 hours per week that is currently possible across our network.

By investing further in Council's playing field surfaces, we could sustainably increase sportsground carrying capacity, and therefore hours of use for the community,

from approximately 1,300 hours to approximately 1,625 hours of possible use per week.

There are currently nine sportsgrounds (with one or more fields) within Council's network that are used much less than 21-25 hours per week, and have great potential to provide more formal sporting value to the community.

Increasing shared use of fields by multiple sporting clubs

Shared use refers to the sharing of a physical asset by more than one group for a range of activities at the same time, or at different times. Enabling shared use of facilities can help to address challenges facing sportsground provision within the context of a growing population, fiscal constraints and increased demand on facilities. Shared use requires provision of multi-field configurations, supporting infrastructure and pavilions and amenities buildings which can serve more than one user group. Currently, Council's facilities are not best positioned to cater for shared

use arrangements. Of Council's 32 sportsground sites, 13 are used by more than one sporting club during a season.

Enabling sharing of sportsgrounds by multiple sports clubs will help to achieve increased use and distribution of use across Council's sportsgrounds and ultimately achieve higher participation outcomes for users across a diversity of sports.

A focus on better management of bookings as well as planning for and delivering sites that can support shared use arrangements will increase the number of playing fields available for public use.

Sports clubs and Associations will need to work together with Council, State and Federal Government to address these challenges and identify strategic responses to ensure our sportsground network is able to respond to the needs and expectations of both our current and future communities.

Expanding the sportsground network

Benchmarking analysis of demand to 2041 estimates the shortfall in sportsgrounds for our community to be equivalent to 338 additional playing fields. This is not something that can be realised in the current and increasingly urbanised environment of City of Parramatta.

Expansion of Council's current sportsground sites through redesign and capital works is possible. However, regardless of strategies to increase use and expand fields at Council's current sportsgrounds, there will still be a gap in sportsground provision for our fast growing population.

What are the opportunities for expansion?

Council must work with others to increase community access to sportsgrounds outside of its own network for both formal and informal uses. Alternative innovative options for partnerships and provision in a highly urbanised environment must also be considered, along with land acquisitions and creation of new facilities.

There are several public schools and non-government schools within City of Parramatta that have playing fields of an appropriate size that have been identified as having the potential to service the broader community for formal sports.

Harnessing the potential of our 12 growth precincts, including Westmead, Camellia and Carter Street, especially where land uses are fundamentally changing and new communities are being developed, will be critical to increasing the supply of sportsgrounds that require large parcels of land and are hard to retrofit into existing built neighbourhoods.

Proactively advocating for, and planning with, developers of larger sites for provision of sporting open space in both traditional and non-traditional forms is part of the solution, as is seeking out partnerships with others who have open space like universities, government, private business and churches.

Council acknowledges that indoor recreation facilities will play a vital role in complementing our existing sportsground, parks and outdoor recreation network and alleviating some of the demand on our open spaces.

Council will need to plan for, prioritise, grow and manage our indoor recreation facilities to operate in conjunction with our green open spaces providing increased opportunities for our community to engage in formal and informal recreation.

Eric Primrose Reserve

City of Parramatta Council



Eric Primrose Reserve is located at 41 John Street in Rydalmere. The suburb of Rydalmere sits at the western end of a growth corridor that also includes Ermington and Melrose Park.

Significant population growth is expected in and around Eric Primrose Reserve, with the increasing development of high density apartments. In the context of exponential growth, access to active and passive open space becomes even more critical to support our growing population and meet community need. By 2041 an estimated 39,412 additional people (57,317 in total) are forecast to live in this corridor.

In its current setting, Eric Primrose Reserve is limited in its ability to cater for the high growth expected in Rydalmere. This is due to the layout of the sportsgrounds which do not enable efficient use, and therefore are underutilised. Further, the poor location and layout of the amenities building does not allow for multiple user groups. The site is also not currently used for formal sports use in summer as it has no relevant sports infrastructure to support summer sporting opportunities.

There are opportunities to overcome these limitations and to significantly increase the passive informal and formal sporting uses at the site. Re-designing Eric Primrose Reserve will assist in accommodating the growing surrounding residential community of Rydalmere.

Opportunities at the site include:

- Expanding the number of fields and associated supporting infrastructure to increase formal sports use (from two fields to three full-size fields, full-size cricket ground and full-size AFL field).
 - Expanding and upgrading outdoor recreation facilities on the site.
 - Relocating and embellishing the playspace to better connect with other park facilities and cater for more usage.
 - Improving the carpark to accommodate increasing demand.
 - Installation of energy efficient sportsground lighting to cater for additional fields.
 - Installing stormwater harvesting and usage infrastructure with full irrigation to the sportsgrounds.
- Centralising and upgrading of current building to create a multipurpose hub.
 - Reconstructing sports turf to improve usage quality and quantity.
 - Increasing links into and around the site to key public infrastructure such as cycle and shared pathways and to the broader recreation network of City of Parramatta and the local residential community.



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 sportsgrounds play within our community.
- A diverse network of sportsgrounds that meet a variety of user needs.

Our community would like to see:

- An increase in provision of sportsgrounds, particularly near high density dwellings.
- Arrangements for the sharing of school facilities with the community, including sportsgrounds, where it is appropriate to do so.

- Improved function and usability of open space while respecting the character and heritage of areas throughout our LGA.
- Appropriate quality and quantity of sportsgrounds to match the expected growing demand in different sporting codes (e.g. AFL).
- Easily accessible sportsgrounds that are co-located with other community facilities.
- Improved supporting facilities for sportsgrounds that can better meet user needs (e.g. amenities).
- Upgrades to our sportsgrounds to increase capacity.

"With lots of new development [happening], we need to maintain and upgrade sports fields and outdoor green spaces"

- Resident, public submission

"...There is a need to configure sports fields in the best orientation possible to improve utilisation."

- Sporting club, public submission

"...There is a need to ensure facilities in the LGA match the increase in female participation and for sporting facilities to be up to a standard that will reflect the needs of diverse users with a variety of cultural backgrounds."

- Resident, public submission



Synthetic playing fields – an alternative to traditional turf surfaces

As our population grows, City of Parramatta will need to look to innovative approaches to address our significant gap in sportsground provision. In the absence of adequate sportsground provision, facilities such as synthetic playing fields and indoor/outdoor recreation spaces can provide alternative options for the community to engage in formal and informal recreation opportunities.

Synthetic playing fields, also referred to as artificial turf fields, pose an alternative to traditional natural turf surfaces. They are flexible, multipurpose assets, which have the capacity to handle high levels of usage. As community demand increases, many councils in NSW have chosen to invest in the provision of synthetic playing fields as a means of increasing the carrying capacity (time the fields can be used for activity) of playing fields. The strengths and weaknesses for further consideration of synthetic playing surfaces are:

Strengths:

- Can accommodate up to than 60 hours of use per week.
- Condition of playing surface is more consistent and durable.
- Reduces annual renovation costs.
- Aesthetics.
- Not weather dependant.
- Provides environmental benefits including water saving.
- Provides a year round option for high impact sport usage.
- Incorporates advances in technology.

Weaknesses:

- Health and environmental impact concerns.
- Contributes to urban heat.
- Heat absorption of playing surface.
- Artificial feel.
- Strong odour.
- Costly to install.
- Costly to maintain.
- High asset renewal cost.
- Disposal of materials at end of life.



- Shorter asset life – typically lasts between seven years (for 60 hours of use per week) to 10 years (for 40 hours of use per week).
- Ongoing maintenance and specific hardware will need to be invested in to ensure successful maintenance of the playing surface (costs increase as levels of usage increase).

City of Parramatta Council is developing a framework to guide decision making on the provision of synthetic playing surfaces in our LGA.

Northbridge Oval

Synthetic and turf field



Northbridge Oval is located on Sailor's Bay Road, Northbridge NSW, within the Willoughby LGA.

It is a dual purpose artificial turf football (soccer) pitch designed and constructed to FIFA 1 Star standards and a cricket oval designed to Cricket NSW standards. The project replaced an existing natural turf oval and is the first publicly available synthetic turf sports fields of its size in Sydney.

The site has a total surfaced area of 11,000m² and was completed in April 2011. It took 26 weeks to build and cost around \$1.3 million to deliver.

Synthetic fields are able to operate at around three times the capacity of a grass surface. The durability and flexibility of a synthetic field means that matches can be conducted in all weather conditions throughout the year.

Synthetic surfaces can also provide a safe and consistent playing surface that can withstand greater wear and tear. The Northbridge Oval allows for intensive training sessions during the week, whilst providing a high-performance facility for weekend competition.

As part of the project, a new lighting system was installed, consisting of five towers providing a 100 lux illumination of the soccer pitch and practice areas.

Since it has been built, the Northbridge Oval has been embraced by the community, with some stating that the field had exceeded their expectations. The fact that the oval will be green all year round is especially valued.

**This information has been sourced from <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/your-neighbourhood/recreation/sportsground/northbridge-oval/>*

Image credit: Northbridge Football Club



The strategic challenges we face together

Our sportsgrounds enable healthy active living for our residents and foster broader community wellbeing, through access to informal and formal sporting and recreation opportunities.

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

Q. How can we increase and maximise the utilisation of our existing sportsgrounds to meet the needs of a variety of user groups (formal and informal) now and into the future?

Q. How can we increase and support shared use of sites by multiple sports clubs?

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

Q. How can we ensure best practice infrastructure is delivered at existing and new sites?

Q. What partnerships and collaborations will assist us to expand the network of sportsgrounds and other alternative spaces across our LGA for our community to access for both formal and informal sport and recreation?

Q. What funding strategies will be most successful for delivering best practice sportsgrounds and supporting infrastructure in both the short and long term?

SPORTSGROUND NETWORK

Future directions



Strategic directions

To meet the needs of City of Parramatta's growing and increasingly diverse community, Council will seek to realise quality sportsgrounds in each catchment. This will enable the delivery of essential informal and formal sporting and recreation space to meet the needs of residents and visitors to the City of Parramatta.

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

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

Increase Council's own sportsground network using the following approaches as relevant:

- Increase playing surface at current sportsgrounds through redesign.
- Increase the carrying capacity of current playing fields through supporting infrastructure upgrades or embellishments, playing surface upgrades and increased maintenance.

- Develop better connections between sportsgrounds.
- Repurpose parks to accommodate both formal and informal sports.
- Repurpose alternative (non-traditional) spaces for both formal and informal sport and recreation.
- Give consideration to the use of synthetic surfaces where it is deemed appropriate for the site and current and future uses.
- Seek land acquisition in high growth areas for sportsgrounds as part of precinct renewals.

Increase and maximise the use of all of Council's sportsgrounds through:

- Proactive programming, matching of user requirements with available assets, and establishing shared use arrangements between sports clubs.

Increase access for the community to sportsgrounds not under Council's ownership:

- Develop shared and joint use arrangements with schools for community access to school sportsgrounds for informal and formal sporting uses.
- Develop shared and joint use arrangements with businesses, government and not-for-profits for community access to sportsgrounds and sporting spaces for informal and formal sporting uses.

City of Parramatta sportsground network: 20 YEAR PROVISION TARGETS

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

Number of Council-owned full-size playing fields



2019 current supply



2041 future supply based on population growth

Number of shared-use full-size playing fields within schools (NSW Department of Education)



2019 current supply



2041 future supply based on population growth

Key recommendations

CATCHMENT 1

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

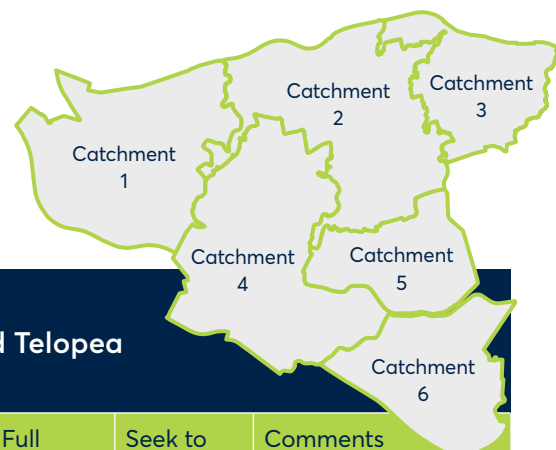
Suburb	Sportsground	Maintain and review as necessary	Improve playing surface	Embellish current design and infrastructure	Full redesign	Seek to develop new facility	Comments
Toongabbie	McCoy Park		✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site
Winston Hills	John Curtin				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site
Northmead	Northmead Reserve		✓	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for 1 x new full-size sports field Potential for 1 x new half-size sports field
Northmead	Arthur Phillip Park		✓	✓			
Old Toongabbie	Binalong Park	✓					
Winston Hills	Max Ruddock Reserve	✓					

Develop 'shared use' arrangements for community use of School sportsgrounds

School name/address/suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School - 28 Campbell Street, Northmead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x additional full-size fields 2 x additional half-size fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toongabbie East Public School - Harris Road, Wentworthville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional full-size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toongabbie West Public School - 83 Ballandella Road, Toongabbie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 x additional full-size fields 1 x additional half or full-size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pendle Hill High School - Cornock Avenue, Toongabbie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 x additional full-size fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winston Heights Public School - 51 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional half or full-size field

New provision opportunities

Suburb	Potential number of additional sports fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westmead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x new full-size field. Progress planning as part of Westmead Master Plan process



CATCHMENT 2

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

Expand Council sportsgrounds

Suburb	Sportsground	Maintain and review as necessary	Improve playing surface	Embellish current design and infrastructure	Full redesign	Seek to develop new facility	Comments
Carlingford	Cox Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for 1 x new full-sized sports field Environmental considerations at this site
Carlingford	Murray Farm Reserve				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site
Dundas Valley	Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for 1 x new full-size sports field Potential for 1 x new half-size sports field
Carlingford	North Rocks Park			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to adopted master plan
Carlingford	Peggy Womersley Reserve				✓		
North Rocks	Speers Road Reserve		✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site
Dundas	Dundas Park		✓				
Telopea	Homelands Reserve			✓			
Carlingford	Harold West Reserve			✓			

Develop or continue 'shared use' arrangements for community use of School sportsgrounds

School name/address/suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carlingford High School - North Rocks Road, Carlingford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full redesign of site 2 x additional full-size fields Site not owned by Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumberland High School - 183 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional full-size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Ruse Agricultural High School - 17-31 Felton Road, Carlingford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional full-size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murfield High School - Barclay Road, North Rocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x additional full-size fields

New provision opportunities as they arise

CATCHMENT 3**Suburbs – Epping, Beecroft and Eastwood**

Expand Council sportsgrounds

Suburb	Sportsground	Maintain and review as necessary	Improve playing surface	Embellish current design and infrastructure	Full redesign	Seek to develop new facility	Comments
Eastwood	Somerville Park			✓			
Beecroft	Roselea Park			✓			
Epping	Boronia Park	✓					
Epping	West Epping Park	✓					

Develop 'shared use' arrangements for community use of school sportsgrounds

School name/address/suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karonga School Karonga Cl, Epping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x new full size field

New provision opportunities as they arise

CATCHMENT 4

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

Expand Council sportsgrounds

Suburb	Sportsground	Maintain and review as necessary	Improve playing surface	Embellish current design and infrastructure	Full redesign	Seek to develop new facility	Comments
North Parramatta	Dan Mahoney Reserve	✓					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current provision of formal and informal sporting use
North Parramatta	Belmore Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a masterplan Potential for 1 x new full sized sports field
North Parramatta	Barton Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site Potential for 1 x new full sized sports field
Parramatta	Ollie Webb Reserve			✓			
Parramatta	Jones Park		✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential for water re-use plant at this site
North Parramatta	Doyle Ground		✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site
Granville	F.S. Garside Park			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing master planning
North Parramatta	P.H. Jeffery Reserve			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergoing master planning
Parramatta	Robin Thomas Reserve			✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacted by Parramatta Light Rail

Develop 'shared use' arrangements for community use of school sportsgrounds

School name/address/suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parramatta West Public School Young Street, Parramatta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional half or full size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macarthur Girls High School Thomas Street, Parramatta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional full size field

New provision opportunities

Suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camellia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 x new full size fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granville/Clyde 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x new full size fields

CATCHMENT 5**Suburbs – Melrose Park, Rydalmere and Ermington**

Expand Council sportsgrounds

Suburb	Sportsground	Maintain and review as necessary	Improve playing surface	Embellish current design and infrastructure	Full redesign	Seek to develop new facility	Comments
Ermington	George Kendall Riverside Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to adopted masterplan Environmental considerations at this site
Rydalmere	Upjohn Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations at this site
Rydalmere	Rydalmere Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to adopted masterplan
Rydalmere	Eric Primrose Reserve Park				✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for 1 x new full sized sports field

Develop 'shared use' arrangements for community use of school sportsgrounds

School name/address/suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rydalmere Public School 397 Victoria Road, Rydalmere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional full size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rydalmere East Public School Spurway Street, Ermington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x additional half size field

New provision opportunities as they arise

CATCHMENT 6

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

Expand Council sportsgrounds

Suburb	Sportsground	Maintain and review as necessary	Improve playing surface	Embellish current design and infrastructure	Full redesign	Seek to develop new facility	Comments
Newington	Newington Reserve					✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current provision of formal and informal sporting use Potential for 1 x new full sized field

Develop 'shared use' arrangements for community use of school sportsgrounds as opportunities arise

New provision opportunities

Suburb	Potential number of additional playing fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carter Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x new full size field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sydney Olympic Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC

Criteria to guide decision making for new sportsgrounds

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 these criteria to guide decision making and discussion with stakeholders and partners about new sportsground facility provision.

For all scenarios, will the additional sportsground site:

Be of adequate size to support junior and senior sports?

- Be a minimum of 180m x 180m and support two full-sized rectangle playing fields and support a full-sized cricket and AFL boundary?
- Allow for enough additional space for supporting infrastructure (including parking, lighting, sporting pavillion, seating)?
- Be free of significant overshadowing with good solar access to ensure sports field grass can grow?

Include draining, irrigation and flood lighting?

Give consideration to the changing climatic conditions of the LGA?

Be configured to support multiple sports users (both sporting pavilion and field)?

Employ universal design principles, be Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant and meet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) requirements?

Include adequate parking provision?

- Ideal provision of 50-80 spaces (site dependant).

Be located near public transport?

For all scenarios,
will the additional
sportsground site:
(Continued)

Provide a sporting pavilion that is flexible in design to support wider meeting room uses by the community?

- Ideal inclusion of meeting space of no less than 100m²
- Kitchen facilities
- Toilets
- Store rooms
- Referee facilities
- Kiosk
- Change rooms

Be financially viable, as demonstrated through a financial feasibility assessment that includes construction, ongoing maintenance and renewal costs as well as operational costs?

Be provided as unencumbered land, free of contamination or remediated to satisfactory levels?

Be of adequate size to support informal recreation?

- Circuit tracks
- Play spaces
- Picnic areas
- Fitness equipment.

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 sportsground 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>