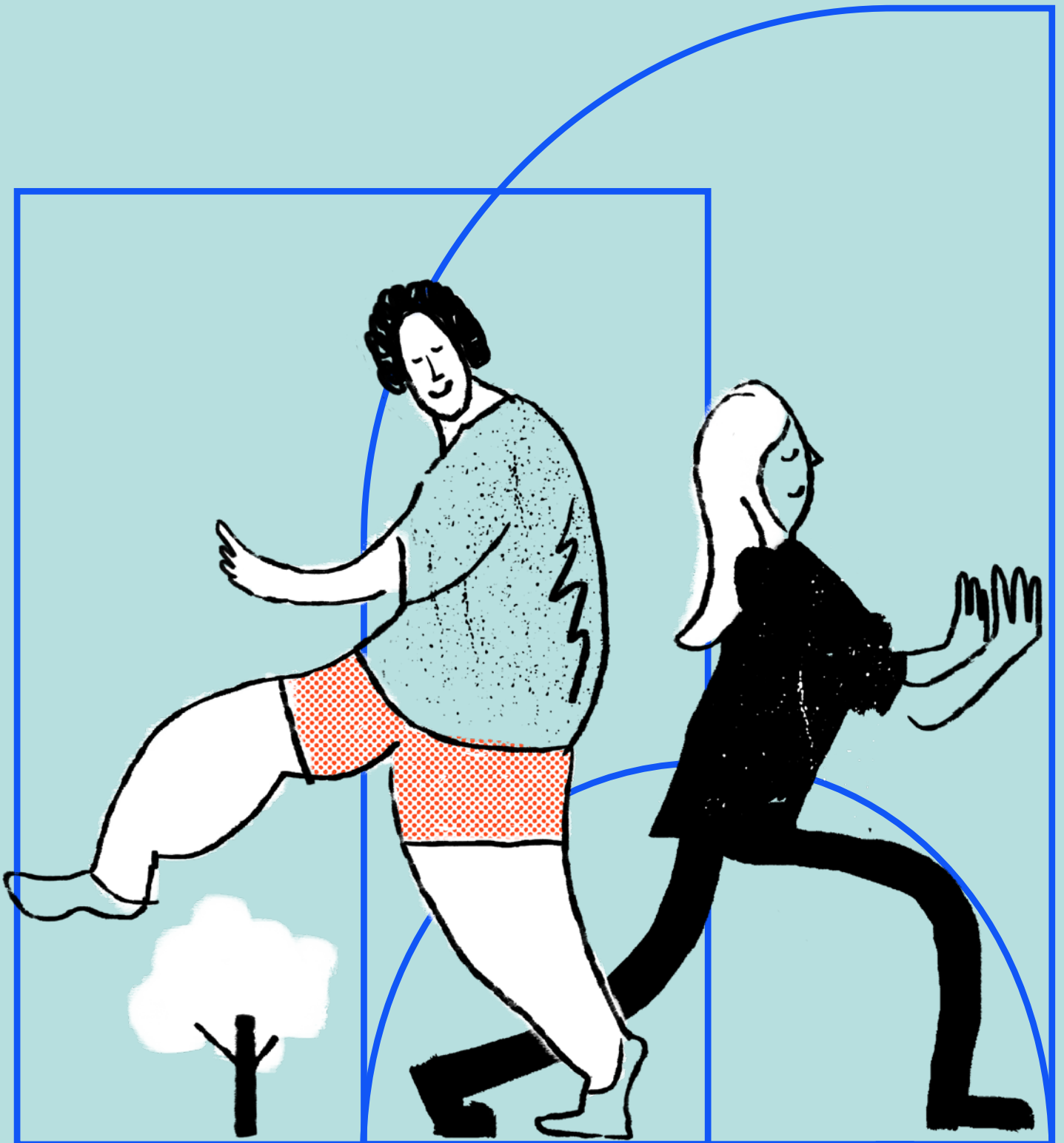


INNER WEST

Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2023-32





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Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of this land, and would also like to pay respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their young people who will be our future leaders.



LGA Wards

- Balmain Ward – Baludarri (Leather Jacket)
- Leichhardt Ward – Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
- Ashfield Ward – Djarrawunang (Magpie)
- Stanmore Ward – Damun (Port Jackson Fig)
- Marrickville Ward – Midjuburi (Lillypilly)



An active and connected Inner West

Foreword

Council's Recreation Needs Study *A Healthier Inner West* (2018) defines recreation as a broad spectrum ranging from unstructured activities like picnics, walking the dog, playing in parks, streets or laneways; to organised competitive sport and everything in between. The study highlights that physical activity, leisure and sport are critical elements in promoting good health and community wellbeing.

Being active improves quality of life, mental wellbeing, community cohesion and delivers health benefits. Being involved in sport and recreation can also reduce social isolation.

Inner West Council is committed to making the opportunity to be active more accessible and inclusive than ever before. This draft Recreation Strategy aims to tackle the health problems associated with inactivity and has an integrated approach through partnerships with schools, evidence-based recreation infrastructure and community strategic planning.

Strategic planning for active lives focuses on excellence in design and place making. Council is committed to encouraging recreation across the age spectrum and ensuring residents and workers have access to quality open space. Open space needs to be inclusive, offer a diverse range of affordable recreation and link to other green spaces to connect communities.

Council is committed to addressing the challenges of maintaining an active community and providing for local sport and recreation needs. These include changes in population growth, limits to open space provision, changes in recreation trends and neighbourhood connectivity.

This document provides the strategic direction for the next ten years and includes measurable and defined outcomes aligned with *Our Inner West 2036* the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). At the end of a ten-year period this strategy will be reviewed to assess key achievements and evaluate challenges moving forward.

Strategic context

Our Inner West 2036 – Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

The CSP identifies the community's vision for the future, long term goals and strategies to get there. It also outlines how Council will measure progress towards that vision. The CSP identifies five strategic directions that support the goals of the community. The Recreation Strategy aligns closely with *Strategic Direction 4: Caring, happy, healthy communities*. This strategy will help Council achieve outcome 4.3: *The community is healthy and people have a sense of belonging*, by guiding and informing the provision of facilities and spaces that support wellbeing and active communities for people to participate in activities they enjoy.

This strategy will further support *Strategic Direction 2: Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods*, and in particular outcome 2.6: *People are walking, cycling and moving around the Inner West with ease*. The Recreation Needs Study identifies walking as the recreational activity with the greatest participation in the Inner West. This strategy seeks to inform and guide Council activities and infrastructure that supports walking and active transport, and also investigates and creates ways to provide new linkages between open space and other important areas of the Inner West.

Our Place Inner West – Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

Planning priority 11 of the LSPS is to *'provide accessible facilities and spaces that support active, healthy communities'*. This includes the objective that *'the community has access to a wide range of accessible high-quality open spaces, community facilities, recreational and cultural spaces'*. This Recreation Strategy and Action Plan outlines actions to guide Council in the provision of a range of dynamic and flexible open spaces and community facilities that support health and wellbeing.

Recreation Needs Study – A Healthier Inner West

This strategy continues the work undertaken in the Recreation Needs Study *A Healthier Inner West* (RNS). The RNS identified the current state of recreation and open space in the Inner West LGA. It made recommendations aimed at ensuring recreation and open space provision and opportunities continue to meet the future needs of a growing Inner West community. These recommendations have been carefully considered, and after further consultation with stakeholders and community engagement have informed the development of this strategy and its key measurable outcomes.

The RNS included an extensive review of federal, state, regional and local strategic documents ensuring that both RNS recommendations, and this strategy, are strategically aligned with these planning documents. Of importance is the close alignment with the Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) Eastern District Plan; and in particular *Planning Priority 18: Delivering high quality open space*, and the associated objective that *Public open space is accessible, protected and enhanced*. The Eastern District Plan includes reference and measurable outcomes relating to all actions identified by the GSC aimed at maximising the use of existing open space and protecting, enhancing and, where possible, expanding public open space.

Delivering the Recreation Strategy

The Inner West Recreation Strategy will be delivered by Council's Planning Division with overall responsibility sitting with the Parks and Recreation Planning Team. This team is focussed on delivering excellence in customer service, strategic recreation planning, place making, open space planning, infrastructure investment and improvements in the utilisation of existing parks and open space areas. The Parks and Recreation Planning

Team will work collaboratively with other teams across Council to deliver this strategy.

Lead implementation teams from within Council have been identified to deliver individual key measurable outcomes. The implementation of most items will include a collaborative cross-Council approach. It is expected that lead teams will undertake the relevant engagement and consultation with internal and external stakeholders.

Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, councils are required to develop a hierarchy of plans known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework. This framework assists councils in delivering their community's vision through long, medium and short term plans. The purpose of the framework was to formalise strategic and resource planning across NSW councils and ensure long term planning is based on community engagement leading to a more sustainable local government sector.

Implementation of the Recreation Strategy will be embedded in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework and timelines to ensure that priorities are included in the long-term planning and short-term delivery of Council's projects and programs. Longer term outcomes will be in the high-level Delivery Program which is a four-year document that aligns with the term of the elected Council. Each year priorities will be detailed in Council's one-year Operational Plan and these will be reported to Council and the community through the Quarterly Reporting process. In addition to these actions, Council will also create efficient and effective measures and targets that will be used to demonstrate Councils' progress against service delivery and will ascertain whether Council is moving towards or away from the communities' priorities as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan *Our Inner West 2036*.

What has been delivered to date?

Council has already invested significantly in the development of improved recreation services and facilities, in partnerships and future open space provision.

Key highlights include:

- Investing a record \$44.7 million in an integrated suite of staffing, aquatic and leisure facilities to deliver a diverse suite of community-based aquatic and fitness facilities and programs. This investment delivered the new Ashfield Aquatic Centre which opened in October 2020.
- Investing \$7.7 million annually in open space management and maintenance. Committing to \$104 million in funding in 2020-2021 for park capital infrastructure improvement projects to support and promote community wellbeing and outdoor recreation.
- Developed the GreenWay Master Plan to guide the delivery of landscaping and infrastructure within the GreenWay corridor over the next 10 to 15 years. It establishes the GreenWay as an integrated ecological and active transport corridor that facilitates a range of passive and active recreation opportunities and incorporates local places for culture and art. The Master Plan includes proposals for \$57 million of works to be implemented over the long term, with \$27 million of high priority works anticipated to be completed by 2023.
- Invested \$2 million in the provision of a new synthetic sportsfield to increase capacity at Tempe Recreation Reserve.
- Established the Inner West Sports Forum which consists of 48 local clubs and eight associations that meets twice yearly to address local sporting needs.

- Investing in the development of Park Plans of Management and Master Plans for 45 major parks, with an emphasis on community engagement and planning park improvements over a ten-year period.
- Commenced development on a play strategy *Everyone Can Play* with a focus on inclusiveness and diversity in play experiences across the age spectrum.
- Supporting community and neighbourhood events within parks and community spaces which promote neighbourhood connections and encourage outdoor play. The first neighbourhood event “Our Street” was held in 2020 in Cary Street Leichhardt with 80 local residents in attendance.
- Developed and adopted a Sporting Ground Allocations Policy which focusses on transparency and equity in seasonal sporting ground allocations for local sporting clubs.
- Collaborating with the NSW Government to ensure that the community is provided with 10 hectares of quality and accessible open space within the former Rozelle Good Yards (Rozelle Parklands) as documented in the Working group report of June 2021.
- Commenced development of Plans of Management and Master Plans for 59 specific individual parks and 210 neighborhood and pocket parks.
- Managing 189 Watercraft permits with a waiting list of 70 applicants.
- Delivering nine weekly community recreation activities, with another 11 activities delivered by Council’s partners.
- Funding \$70K worth of community recreation grants in 2020 and 2022 as part of Council’s Annual Grants Program.
- Yeo Park License agreement was finalised with the Department of Education in early 2022.
- Consolidated fees and charges for the hiring of Inner West sporting grounds adopted in 2021.
- Council will advocate to NSW Office of Sport for a regional approach to address future water polo needs across the wider region.
- Developed and adopted an Events in Parks Policy governing events and casual park hire.
- Developed and adopted a Memorials in Parks Policy.



Key themes

An active and connected Inner West

Three main themes have been developed to support this strategy. Each theme recognises that the community requires diversity in recreation provision and that residents and visitors to our LGA have different skills, abilities and preferences for keeping healthy, active and connected.

The three strategic themes are:

Theme 1

An active Inner West - activating and enabling a healthy caring and connected Inner West

Theme 2

Active lives - promoting and facilitating opportunities and partnerships for a diverse range of indoor and outdoor recreation experiences

Theme 3

Active neighbourhoods - promoting social connections and providing a diverse range of opportunities for recreation, leisure and neighbourhood cohesion





Theme 1 – An active Inner West

Activating and enabling a healthy, caring and connected Inner West

1.1 Increase open space in deficient areas

Actions: Increase the supply of publicly accessible open space in suburbs currently providing below the LGA wide minimum benchmark (13.3m² per person) as detailed within the 2018 RNS *A Healthier Inner West*.

Council will actively seek to increase supply through new spaces on rooftops, carparks, street upgrades, laneways and through partnerships with developers, schools and state government agencies.

Where acquisition is affordable this will also be considered. Recognising that some operational land can offer recreational value, Council will investigate supplementing existing open space with operational land, where available and appropriate, for improved and increased recreation opportunities.

Where suburbs cannot be provided with adequate open space Council will consider reviewing the public domain to consider potential improvements such as:

- street trees
- increased permeability
- play elements
- skate elements
- footpaths
- rest stops
- parklets
- improved lighting
- social street furniture
- universal design
- traffic calming and limited speed areas .

Through the creation of a new Development and Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP) an emphasis will be sought on increasing opportunities for open space in catchment areas that are deficient within the Inner West LGA

Categorising parks into typology enables a general overview of their strategic value and the contribution they make to the urban context and recreational opportunities of residents.

Typology: Pocket Park

Description: Provides ‘doorstep’ access to small amenity and socialising spaces in high density residential areas.

Provides visual relief in intensively developed areas.

New pocket parks are typically between 0.1 to 0.5 hectares.

Indicative amenities:

- Landscaping and gardens
- Small lawn areas
- Furniture
- Hard surface treatments
- Areas for socialising and respite

Provision target: Voluntarily provided at no capital cost and only on agreement by Council. Alternatively, pocket parks can be retained in private ownership.

Located in urban centers or high-density residential areas. Must be located on a public street and not an internalised space within a development block.

Not to be located within 100m of other open space.

In addition to requirements for neighbourhood parks.

Typology: Neighborhood Park

Description: Provides basic informal recreation and social opportunities within a short walk of surrounding residential areas.

New neighbourhood parks are typically between 0.3 to 0.5 hectares.

Indicative amenities:

- Play space
- Flat, unobstructed, kick-around space for informal games (30m by 30m)
- Areas for socialising and respite
- Landscaping
- Specimen trees
- Furniture

Provision target: 400m walk in high and medium density residential areas.

600m walk in all other residential areas.

Provides a range of different recreation opportunities between nearby neighbourhood and suburb parks.

The provision of communal open space within future Master Planned development sites will also be encouraged to support the supply of space available to the public.

Council will also develop best practice principles for use with developers for the delivery of open space within precinct scaled redevelopments including:

- locating new local and district parks on the edge of the development site so they are accessible to the broader community
- inclusion of biophilic design considerations including non-visual and visual connections to nature, green walls and communal parks on rooftops
- inclusion of nature based and adventure play spaces
- best practice trends in shared and multipurpose spaces.

In areas with limited land, Council will work collaboratively with delivery partners of future major projects to realise the provision of new open space, parks and recreational facilities on rooftops of residential, commercial and retail buildings and carparks, industrial areas, laneways and tunnels, and other non-traditional locations.

In the delivery of these objectives Council will consider the complexities of public land ownership within privately owned buildings. There are considerations to ongoing maintenance and accessibility costs, safety and useability, along with public liability insurances, and strata management bodies. The desirability of delivering privately-owned open space as an alternative to the Council-ownership of such spaces is to be determined on a case by case basis.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will develop and adopt a new DCP with key open space objectives and best practise principles by 2023.

Lead implementation team: Strategic Planning

Council will increase open space provision either through the acquisition of new open space or through external partnership arrangements.

Lead implementation team: Strategic Planning, Properties, Parks and Recreation Planning

As part of the 5 yearly RNS review Council will seek to establish and maintain a register of privately-owned open spaces in the Inner West LGA. The register will identify provision of open space provided by the private sector to allow a more holistic needs study to occur in the future.

Lead implementation team: Strategic Planning, Parks and Recreation Planning

1.2 Update the 2018 Recreation Needs Study

Actions: The Inner West Council Recreation Needs Study *A Healthier Inner West* was finalised in 2018 prior to the completion of a range of comprehensive strategic studies that underpin a new Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

These studies investigated the demands generated by the predicted residential and employment population in the Inner West over the next 10–20 years:

- Our Inner West Local Housing Strategy (LHS) – adopted by Council in March 2020; and
- Employment and Retail Lands Strategy and Study (ERLS & S) – adopted by Council in September 2020.

To respond to these findings, an update to the Inner West 2018 Recreation Needs Study is required.

The update will:

- review the appropriateness of the applied benchmarks for urban infill areas on a catchment basis, details of how new, enlarged, and/or embellished parks and indoor and outdoor recreation spaces will align with the demands generated by the predicted population and employment growth in the LGA over the next 10 to 20 years.
- provide details of where, and at what cost, these parks and recreation spaces will be provided, including the main expected funding sources e.g. Development Contributions; Planning Agreements; Special Rate Levies; NSW Government Grant Funds etc.
- include an indicative cost schedule and where possible, accompanying location maps of all parks

and indoor and outdoor recreation space works required to meet the increased demands, for inclusion within the 2021 Inner West Consolidated Development Contributions Plan (IWCCP)

- review all of the relevant parks and recreation works within the existing Inner West Legacy Development Contributions Plans to determine if the listed works align with the findings of the Recreation Needs Update and the objectives of this Recreation Strategy and Action Plan.

Key measurable outcomes

Implementation of the findings of the Recreation Needs Study Update which may include:

- a revised catchment-based planning approach and per person open space benchmarks; and
- the identification of any required land-use zoning changes to implement new or enlarged parks and recreation spaces.

Lead implementation team: Strategic Planning

1.3 Child Safe facilities and services

Actions: Council manages several community facilities and services in the open space and recreation remit. This includes parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, indoor sports facilities, sporting grounds and skate parks. Council recognises that it has a legal obligation to provide a safe environment for children and young people whilst on Council premises and utilising Council services.

Council will develop an overarching Child Protection Policy and procedures which will mandate the professional and legal obligations of Council staff. This policy will be based on the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Child Safe Organisations National Principles (2018)* and the NSW Office of Children's *Guardian Child Safe Action Plans*.

Council will also implement procedures and requirements for working with children in the sporting community for both volunteers, contractors, service providers and develop key requirements around sporting and facility hire which will promote the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will launch new Child Protection protocols and procedures in 2023.

Lead implementation team: Social and Cultural Planning

As part of its Sporting Grounds Allocations Policy review Council will include Child Safe Standards as a condition for seasonal hire.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

1.4 Safe and inclusive open spaces

Actions: Council is committed to ensuring its parks and open space areas are safe, welcoming, inclusive and well maintained. Where there are issues associated with crime, antisocial behaviour or rough sleepers, Council will initiate community safety partnerships in collaborations with multi-agency groups including the NSW Police, local residents, Mission Beat and others to proactively address such issues.

In recognition of the focal nature of Camperdown Memorial Rest Park and its geographical relationship to the entertainment precinct of Newtown, Council will continue to invest in safety by design and park activation opportunities. This will include investigating opportunities for increasing community safety and possible partnership opportunities with the NSW Police in crime prevention strategies including the possibility of CCTV surveillance.

Key measurable outcomes

Capital investment and the delivery of well designed public toilet facilities by 2023 which will support ongoing park use and opportunities for increased park activation.

Lead implementation team: Capital Works

Investigate and report to Council on opportunities for a 'Parks After Dark' program focussed on opportunities for park activation through community and cultural events, including night markets by 2024. This opportunity should include collaboration with Council's Economic Development and City Living units along with the City of Sydney's night-time economy team

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Undertake community engagement with young people and local residents on the provision of recreation facilities to support park activation and park safety by 2024.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

1.5 Strategic service alignment

Actions: Council will undertake a strategic service alignment of its Parks and Recreation Planning team to ensure the key outcomes of the recreation strategy can be delivered. This includes reviewing key deliverables to improve performance and remove duplication. This review will also ensure the right skills and resources are in place to deliver the strategy.

Key measurable outcomes

A strategic alignment of the Parks and Recreation Planning team will be completed within six months of the Recreation Strategy being adopted.

Lead implementation team: Director of Planning

Theme 2 – Active lives

Promoting and facilitating opportunities and developing partnerships for a diverse range of indoor and outdoor recreation experiences

2.1 Rozelle Parkland vision and advocacy

Actions: Council will work in partnership with the NSW Government to assist with the planning and design of the new 10-hectare Rozelle Parklands. Council will actively lobby the NSW Government to secure this area as future open space to include:

- an indigenous name to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and support Council's efforts to promote reconciliation
- a wetland and other water sensitive urban design features to enhance biodiversity
- 3000 trees to provide shade, amenity and habitat

- provision of 150 angle car park spaces and suitable bus parking along Lilyfield Road
- multi-purpose sporting grounds and off field amenities that meets the needs of a diverse range of sporting codes
- community facilities to provide for cultural and community needs
- a range of passive recreation opportunities, including nature play
- heritage and artistic interpretation elements
- an accessible and well lit path network which links with key facilities and the outer public domain.

Key measurable outcomes

The new Rozelle Parklands contains the listed deliverables upon opening.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning



2.2 Iron Cove Bay Run Master Plan

Actions: In partnership with Canada Bay Council and the greater Sydney Parklands Authority, Inner West Council will develop a Master Plan for the Iron Cove Bay Run which will focus on connectivity, accessibility, public art, creative placemaking and consistent wayfinding signage. The Master Planning project will identify the opportunities and constraints associated with use and enjoyment of the Bay Run including event planning and recreational conflict. Future marketing of the Bay Run as a regional recreation trail will also be a key consideration.

Through Plans of Management, Council will improve safety on shared pathways for the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore and future GreenWay paths through design, signage and community education programs .

Key measurable outcomes

A joint draft Master Plan for the Iron Cove Bay Run will be prepared and developed in 2025 for public exhibition.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

2.3 Delivering greenspace walking and cycling projects

Actions: Council will work independently and with partner organisations, such as the Greater Sydney Commission, to deliver key state and local priority greenspace projects including:

- the GreenWay Master Plan
- the Inner West green grid projects
- linkages and connections to Sydney Harbour including opening up community access to Whites Bay
- work to extend the Great Harbour Walk through the Inner West, taking in the Glebe Island Bridge and Bays Precinct
- partnering with Greater Sydney Parklands for the development of a Master Plan for Callan Park

- developing the Inner West Cycling Strategy and Action Plan, and Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
- implementing the Iron Cove Canal walking/cycling link
- Lilyfield Road cycleway
- improved north-south cycling links in Marrickville
- improved cycleways through major urban renewal projects including the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal, Bays Precinct and the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor
- the Alexandra Canal Master Plan.

Council will develop a Blue-Green Grid Strategy to inform the creation of a network of green and blue infrastructure connections across the Inner West, resulting in greener and more walkable neighbourhoods. The development of the blue-green grid will also provide ecosystem services and maximise our quality of life and environment by:

- enhancing access to recreational open space, routes for walking and cycling, and opportunities for active and passive recreation
- expanding the urban forest and vegetation and integrating water in the landscape to reduce urban heat, improve air quality and provide natural habitat for native fauna
- protecting and connecting ecological communities and increasing their resilience
- improving hydrology and water conservation through the incorporation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), treating stormwater and managing water quality
- reducing flood risk
- providing increased shade to reduce community exposure to urban heat and UV radiation.

Key measurable outcomes

The Blue-Green Grid Strategy will be completed for Council adoption by 2024.

Lead implementation team: Strategic Planning

2.4 School partnership opportunities

Actions: Council will review and renew the current license agreement with the Department of Education for community sporting access to Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus.

Council will partner with the Department of Education to provide community access to other school recreation facilities through the Share Our Space program.

Council will investigate the feasibility of joint use projects for upgraded sporting grounds or play space in local schools.

Council will renew the license agreement with the Department of Education at Graham Green at Dulwich Hill High School of Visual Arts and Design.

Council will enter into a license agreement with the Department of Education to secure long-term open space access at Yeo Park.

As part of its Active Inner West Council program, Council will advocate to the NSW Department of Education the roll out of the Burn 2 Learn Program for HSC Students for Inner West High Schools and make outdoor recreation facilities managed by Council free for use for this program.

Key measurable outcomes

Feasibility reports for Council consideration on school partnership opportunities completed by 2024.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Advocate to the NSW Department of Education the roll out of the Burn 2 Learn Program for HSC Students

Lead implementation team: Aquatic Service-Recreation

2.5 Creating opportunities for fair and equitable sporting ground use

Actions: On practical completion of the Rozelle Parklands, Council will commence a strategic review on the use of sporting grounds.

Key components of the review include:

- an assessment of shared use of sporting grounds

and off field amenities by multiple sports clubs and organisations

- opportunities for new and emerging sports including new formats and ways of playing for existing sports (e.g. Rock Up Netball, Walking Football etc)
- fair and equitable allocation of sporting grounds.

Key measurable outcomes

A draft strategic review will be completed by 2026.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning.

Council will review and update its adopted Sporting Ground Allocations Policy in 2023 to ensure fairness, equity and transparency in provision of sporting grounds.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

2.6 Developing a Master Plan for Leichhardt Oval

Actions: Council will develop a Master Plan, operational and marketing plan for Leichhardt Oval, with a focus on attracting a long-term tenants. This vision will include consideration of a redevelopment which will minimise future costs to ratepayers. Special emphasis will be applied to the cultural and historical significance of Leichhardt Oval to the Inner West community and existing activities within the Leichhardt Park precinct.

Key measurable outcomes

A draft Master Plan, Operational Plan, and long-term financial plan for Leichhardt Oval will be completed by 2023.

Lead implementation team: Strategic Investment & Properties

2.7 Increasing participation of underrepresented groups

Actions: Council will work in partnership with local sporting clubs, schools, State Sporting Organisations and others to enable a diversity of sporting formats that encourages participation for all.



We will focus on actions that encourage underrepresented groups to be active and connected in community sport. This includes First Nations peoples, refugees and asylum seekers, people living with disability, lower income families, seniors and those from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Council commits help increase female participation in sport as players, officials and administrators. Council will invest and support activities, events and infrastructure that assists women and girls' participation in sport and recreation activities.

Opportunities for activating or repurposing buildings in parks will be considered if it can provide social enterprise and employment opportunities for First Nations peoples, people living with disability, young people or those with recognised refugee status.

Key measurable outcomes

Ensure the Sporting Ground Allocations Policy highly values sporting groups who have plans and programs that address barriers to participation and promote diversity and inclusion. This includes initiatives to recruit and retain players, officials and volunteers from underrepresented groups.

Council will deliver a program to support current and emerging female leaders in community sport that aims to increase the number of women administrators in local clubs.

Council will assess all its sporting grounds to ensure they meet accessibility codes as part of future facility audits. Buildings requiring accessibility improvements will be ranked as a high priority.

Council's Master Plans and Park Plans of Management will adopt a key principle of upgrading sports facilities to be female friendly and apply universal design standards that prioritise safety and accessibility.

Parks Planning team will work in partnership with the Community team to ensure sport and recreation opportunities are included in Council supported events including Seniors Festival, Pride and International Women's Day.

Council will undertake an assessment of parks and their amenities to ensure they are female appropriate and safe including changerooms, lighting, active edges, universal design.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Council will undertake an asset audit of underutilised facilities in parks and develop a discussion paper for Council's consideration on which facilities can be repurposed in the medium to longer term to bring about tangible benefits for social enterprise activities. A discussion paper will be completed by 2025.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning, City Living, Economic Development

2.8 Recognise sporting volunteers

Actions: In consultation with Council's Community Services Division develop an annual Sporting Club Volunteer of the Year award which recognises dedicated services from sporting volunteers within the Inner West Community.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will initiate a Sporting Club Volunteer of the Year award by 2023.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

2.9 Support healthy ageing

Actions: Council's Healthy Ageing Strategy will deliver participation opportunities for older residents. The strategy will focus on the following:

- improved social and community facilities for delivery of recreation programs
- installation of fitness and play equipment in parks and open space
- continued delivery of health, fitness, and recreation programs at Council's parks, aquatic and indoor recreation facilities

- improving public safety in and around Ashfield Town Centre after daylight hours
- increase shade provision through tree plantings that are endemic to the area, to reduce localised temperatures and increase liveability
- increase infrastructure that supports people getting out of their homes like seating with backrests and support arms, accessible water bubblers and shade
- improved lighting along pathways especially near stairwells or changes in gradient
- adding railings along stairs in open spaces and parks to enable people to rest or pause along their journey
- ensure all park upgrades refer to the Public Toilet Strategy.

Key measurable outcomes

Council adopted the Inner West Healthy Ageing Strategy in 2022.

Lead implementation team: Social and Cultural Planning

2.10 Understand participation trends

Actions: Council will gather data on sport and active recreation participation in order to understand participation trends within the Inner West LGA to assist with evidence-based planning for future sport and recreation infrastructure.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will engage with partners to source, collect and analyse participation data to complete a benchmark study by 2023 with annual reporting subsequently. Results will be used to inform recreation programming and medium to long term infrastructure priorities.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

2.11 Wayfinding plan for open space facilities

Actions: Council will develop a comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Wayfinding and Signage Plan which will focus on the creation of a consistent signage policy within parks and open space areas, natural area sites, and the public domain. This strategy will provide the guidance for park wayfinding, promotion, compliance and interpretation including heritage and biodiversity. This policy work will be undertaken in the context of the National Wayfinding Standard.

By the end of 2023 Council will have completed a full review of all recreation based web site information and develop an integrated 'Active Inner West' web page. Key information relating to community recreation Active Inner West will cover all community recreation opportunities including:

- aquatic based recreation
- organised indoor and outdoor sport and recreation activities
- links to local community sporting groups
- community recreation programs and services.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will develop a Recreation and Open Space Wayfinding and Signage plan to be drafted by 2024.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning, Strategic Planning (Public Domain)

Council will review the Parks and Recreation sections of the website annually to ensure that content is up to date.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Introduce wayfinding around 15 local schools to help support safe walking, bus stop access to and from schools, and include this in Council's Public Domain, Wayfinding and Gateway Signage Program.

Lead Implementation Team: Strategic Planning–Public Domain

2.12 Inclusive recreation facilities for the LGBTIQ+ community

Actions: Council will work in partnership with local sporting groups to promote diversity and inclusion for LGBTIQ+ people.

This includes:

- hosting regular Trans and Gender Diverse Swim Nights, all abilities swimming events and will develop and deliver a refugee swimming program.
- supporting and promoting Pride Rounds
- membership of ACON's Pride in Sport
- encouraging local clubs to participate in the annual Pride in Sport Index
- working with Pride Cup to deliver inclusion education and training
- including in our Sporting Ground Allocations Policy recognition to hirers who cater to the LGBTIQ+ peoples
- working with State Sporting Organisations on pride initiatives.

Key measurable outcomes

Annual reporting on pride initiatives undertaken each year and tracking progress over a 10 year period.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

2.13 Arts and cultural opportunities

Actions: Council will investigate opportunities for embedding cultural uses in suitable open space and recreation facilities through the Inner West Cultural Strategy. This includes a diverse use of open space and recreation facilities, including arts and culture, that help create a wide range of participation and social outcomes. The potential for a trial of temporary creative spaces in suitable open space and recreation facilities will also be investigated.



Key measurable outcomes

Council adopted the Inner West Cultural Strategy in 2022.

Lead implementation team: Social and Cultural Planning

2.14 Recreation grants

Actions: Council will adopt a two year funding cycle for its Recreation Grants. The focus of the biennial grants program is to support groups that seek to increase participation in underrepresented groups and emerging sports.

Council will establish an annual Emerging Athlete fund to support residents who are excelling at sport. The Representative Sport Grant will provide financial assistance to participate in national and international level competition in a recognised sport and competition.

Key measurable outcome

Monitoring of the biennial Recreation Grant program to assess the impacts on participation.

Adoption of an Emerging Athlete fund and annual reports on the distribution and achievements of successful athletes.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Theme 3 – Active neighbourhoods

Promoting social connections and providing a diverse range of opportunities for recreation, leisure and neighbourhood cohesion

3.1 Addressing the undersupply of indoor sport facilities

Actions: Council will commence a feasibility study in 2024 to examine the provision of indoor sporting facilities within Inner West LGA. Where current service provision is in place a full review will be undertaken on management services, current service levels, identification of any gaps in current service provision and key community needs moving forward.

A special emphasis will be placed on the provision of health and fitness service provision, female sport, recreation programs which are focussed on community wellbeing and inclusivity and addressing provisional gaps through planning for new recreational opportunities including gymnastics, indoor netball and basketball.

This study will also focus on preferred future locations (south and north) for indoor recreation centres and the key priority of addressing the forecast gap of one indoor recreation centre.

The study will include an assessment of an upgrade of Robyn Webster Sports Centre at Tempe Reserve to a state-of-the-art, multi-sports indoor sports centre for this purpose.

Key priorities for investigation will include:

- addressing the undersupply of female sporting opportunities
- provision of a minimum of 4 indoor courts
- increasing health and fitness opportunities
- gymnastics, indoor netball and basketball
- multipurpose sports flooring
- culturally appropriate recreation program spaces
- management models.

Location considerations will include:

- traffic and parking impacts
- proximity to public transport
- walkable connections
- supporting infrastructure including outdoor open space.

Key measurable outcomes

A completed feasibility study with key recommendations will be reported to Council in 2025.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

3.2 Increasing sporting ground capacity

Actions: Council will work with local sporting clubs on opportunities for synthetics to increase capacity. External partners including schools, state government agencies and where possible developers will be included when seeking opportunities for new synthetic surfaces.

Consider the delivery of an artificial all-weather surface and new amenities building at Leichhardt Oval #2.

Undertake a sporting ground lighting audit with the aim of improving lighting on sporting grounds to 200 lux to increase capacity and allow night competition at parks where residential conflict is low and surface conditions support such use up to 10pm.

Investigate options for an all weather sporting surface in the middle of the LGA.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will consider delivering an artificial all-weather sporting surface and upgraded amenities building at Leichhardt Oval #2 (subject to external funding support).

Lead implementation team: Capital Works

Sporting ground flood lighting audit to be undertaken and a works plan created by 2023.

Lead implementation team: Capital Works, Parks Assets



3.3 Upgrade and maintenance of natural turf sporting grounds

Actions: Council will create an overall sporting ground upgrade and renewal plan, which will include:

- a rolling renewal program that maintains the integrity and quality of playing surfaces
- a review of all floodlighting to address areas that are below standard
- a review of sub-surface drainage and irrigation to ensure sustainability of sportsground surfaces
- an audit of amenities blocks to ensure they adequately support the sportsground and meet standards
- adopting a single lighting control system, decommissioning the three legacy systems.

Key measurable outcomes

An overall sporting ground upgrade and renewal plan will be completed by 2023 for Council consideration.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning, Capital Works

3.4 Everyone Can Play playground strategy

Actions: Council will develop the Everyone Can Play playground strategy. It will focus on the enhancement of existing pocket parks with a special emphasis on access, nature play, shade provision, creative design and inclusion. The strategy will include a prioritised program of playground improvements, considering areas with an undersupply of open space.

The playground strategy will also consider ways to increase unstructured play opportunities including varied and innovative play such as adventure/junk playgrounds, nature play, multigenerational play, creative play and play for older children.

Child-friendly streets will be promoted and implemented where possible to improve children's usage and accessibility of the urban public domain as well as a strategy to develop independence and agency.

Council will design and construct flagship inclusive playgrounds in every ward by 2027.

Key measurable outcomes

A draft Inner West Let's Play strategy will be commenced in 2023.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

3.5 Neighbourhood and pocket parks

Actions: Council will complete a Plan of Management in 2023 for pocket and neighbourhood parks and engage the community on key improvements. A 15-year implementation plan for park improvements will be initiated and included for future consideration in Councils capital works program.

Key measurable outcomes

A draft Plan of Management for pocket parks and neighbourhood reserves will be presented to Council in 2023 for the purposes of public exhibition.

Lead implementation team: Parks Planning

3.6 Plans of management for larger parks and open space

Actions: Council will complete the drafting of plans of management and master plans for all its major parks by 2030. This planning will include extensive community engagement to ensure that the plans are reflective of local recreational needs and community aspirations as well as compliant with key government legislative requirements.

Through the plan of management and master planning process special consideration will be given to providing quality recreation experiences in parks. This will include considering the provision of future recreation facilities in parks that reflect trends towards informal, unstructured participation.

Key measurable outcomes

Plans of management and master plans for site specific parks will be completed by 2030.

Lead implementation team: Parks Planning

3.7 Safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment

Actions: Council will support people to protect, restore, enhance and connect with nature. Council will minimise the impact of recreation on Natural Area sites, in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of parks and other recreation facilities.

Council will include signage for natural areas in line with the Recreational and Wayfinding Strategy.

Council will incorporate green infrastructure such as WSUD and advocate for waterway naturalisation to enhance and protect the natural environment.

Key measurable outcomes

All Plans of Management will consider key objectives and design initiatives that aim to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Council will continue to resource and support a Natural Areas Program that includes bushcare volunteering.

Lead implementation team: Urban Forest and Ecology

3.8 Recognising cultural and social heritage.

Actions: Council recognises that it has a number of parks which are either heritage listed or contain items of local or state significance. Council will proactively work to develop conservation management plans for heritage listed parks and undertake adaptive reuse and heritage protection to encourage recreational use, education and public appreciation.

Council will reflect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and stories in Council parks including interpretive signage, naming and public art.

Key measurable outcomes

Key heritage items in parks and open space areas will be accurately recorded in an asset register which will be reported to Council no later than fourth quarter of 2024. Key recommendations pertaining to conservation protection, restoration and use will form part of the asset register reporting process.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

3.9 Local sporting grounds weekday use

Actions: Continue to promote the use of sporting grounds for weekday community recreational use including through commercial fitness providers.

Key measurable outcomes

Achieve a minimum of 20 commercial fitness training permits across the LGA per year.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

3.10 Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) Master Plan

Actions: Council will deliver the priority works and upgrades identified in the LPAC Master Plan.

Key measurable outcomes

Council finalises the key components of the LPAC Master Plan by 2026.

Lead implementation team: Capital Works

3.11 Enhanced inclusivity at aquatic and recreation centres

Actions: Implementation of actions identified in the inclusion plans for LPAC and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre (AKAC).

Completion of inclusion plans for the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre and Robyn Webster Sports Centre.

Key measurable outcomes

Implementation of inclusion plans by 2023.

Lead implementation team: Aquatics, Parks and Recreation Planning, Access and Inclusion Planning

3.12 Streets Alive

Actions: Council's Streets Alive program will develop public domain master plans for each of its town centres.

Public domain planning will include the promotion of town centres for cultural recreation and at a minimum will include heritage interpretation, street furniture, water bubblers, green infrastructure such as tree planting and WSUD, bicycle racks and spaces for street entertainment and busking. Best practice design will comply with accessibility standards, lighting treatment for extended night time economy use and improved safety and a greater emphasis on the needs and promotion of pedestrians and cyclists ahead of cars.

The Inner West Public Domain Design Guide (currently under development) and its principles of liveability, inclusion, sustainability, public domain activation, urban cohesion and durability should be referenced and used in the development of any precinct or town centre master plan.

Key measurable outcomes

Council has a draft public domain masterplan timetable that will deliver 15 masterplans by 2025, with six commencing in 2023.

Lead implementation team: Public Domain

3.13 Connected and healthy neighbourhoods

Actions: Council will develop Discover Your Neighbourhood, a connected communities program. The focus will be on promoting walkable recreational trails including the Cooks River trail, the Tom Uren trail and the GreenWay. As part of this work Council will develop a walking app called Neighbourhood Connection which will promote parks and open space connections and walkable neighbourhoods within the Inner West.

Council will continue to promote Our Street as a recreational and community cohesion opportunity for neighbourhoods to come together and celebrate. This will be extended to include laneways as opportunities for enabling community cohesion.

Council will design walking-related infrastructure that is accessible and inclusive for everyone in accordance with Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.

Key measurable outcomes

Council's Neighbourhood Connection app will be developed and rolled out with Inner West walking trails by 2026.

Lead implementation team: Aquatics Parks & Recreation Planning

Our Street will be promoted on Council's website as a valuable opportunity to get to know your neighbours and promote community cohesion and neighbourhood support. Website to be updated by fourth quarter of 2022.

Lead implementation team: Aquatics Parks & Recreation Planning

3.14 Water based recreation

Actions: Council will actively continue to provide and expand public storage for water-based recreation activities e.g. kayaking, canoeing and dragon boating. Where opportunities exist in foreshore parks such as Tempe Reserve and the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Club, Council will provide infrastructure to support water-based access.

Council will continue to work with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), Cooks River Alliance (CRA) and State government authorities to improve water quality in rivers and waterways.

Council will advocate, design and construct the Callan Park Swim Site.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will assist the River Canoe Club of NSW with grant applications and digital promotion to support club growth, building maintenance, improved water access and promotion of kayaking opportunities along the Cooks River.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning, Properties

Council will seek expressions of interest for the establishment of an inclusive Dragon Boat Club at Tempe Reserve and/or Marrickville Parklands.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

Council will advocate and support through grant applications for improved disability access for para rowing at established rowing clubs in the Leichhardt and Balmain wards.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning, Access and Inclusion Planning





3.15 Maximising use of outdoor courts and fitness equipment

Actions: Council will undertake a review of all tennis, basketball and netball courts to identify surface improvements or conversion to multipurpose courts to increase use. Emphasis will be placed on increasing capacity and participation.

New tennis courts are included in the Master Plan and Plan of Management at Tempe Recreation Reserve.

Council will actively promote and encourage the use of outdoor fitness equipment. This will include the provision of new outdoor fitness equipment for people of all ages, in locations deemed suitable through the Parks Plan of Management and Master Planning process.

Key measurable outcomes

A formal review of all outdoor courts will be completed by 2024. The review will also include an analysis of coaching partnerships, present and future, which can promote and support sports such as tennis and basketball while providing a small income to Council, offsetting future court upgrades.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

A program of outdoor sports courts upgrades will be included in the capital works program with upgrades completed by 2030.

Lead implementation team: Capital Works, Parks Assets

Instructional and promotional videos for outdoor fitness equipment in the LGA will be created by 2024. These will be hosted on the Council website, along with a map identifying locations of existing equipment throughout the LGA.

Lead implementation team: Sport and Recreation

3.16 Managing climate change

Actions: Council will continue to undertake flood studies, ensuring they investigate the impact of sea level rises on foreshore and riverfront open space, and riparian ecological communities. Council will protect salt marsh, mangroves and wetlands in order to protect the foreshore and increase resilience of the landscape.

Council will continue to investigate opportunities for more shade in parks, playgrounds and connecting streets to encourage recreation on hot days and cool the built environment. This will include delivery of tree planting, natural area programs and investigating opportunities for more tree and understorey plantings to provide shade and to capture and store carbon.

Council will implement water strategies, build WSUD features, increase tree canopy and other strategies where possible in its public domain upgrades to reduce flood impacts and develop a cooler urban environment.

Council will investigate opportunities to create cooler environments at community centres and indoor recreation centres through good design practise. This can include natural ventilation and shading from tree planting. Air conditioning will be considered where renewable energy sources are available to offset emissions.

Key measurable outcomes

Council will develop a green building strategy for improving sustainability for its existing recreation and community facilities for Council consideration by 2026.

Lead implementation team: Urban Sustainability, Parks and Recreation Planning

All park plans of management will consider clear and specific climate change aims, objectives and key deliverables.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning



3.17 Public toilet facilities in parks

Actions: Council will review and revise an integrated and inclusive public toilet strategy which will include current and future provision, accessibility, all gender adequacy and design standards.

Key measurable outcomes

A revised Public Toilet Strategy will be submitted for consideration for Council adoption in 2023.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning

3.18 Companion animals

Actions: Council will work closely with the community to encourage the sharing of recreation spaces and deliver good dog management programs.

Council will consider establishing Wildlife Protection Areas for key biodiversity sites (such as Tempe Lands

and Blackmore Wetland), to protect native wildlife under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Key measurable outcomes

As part of the draft master planning and community engagement for Djarrawunang/Ashfield Ward parks, Council will consider opportunities for new off-leash areas.

In the parks plan of management process for each park access to open space for companion animals will be reviewed as well as provision of off-leash areas, dog owner education, signage and enforcement activities.

Council will complete a draft Commercial Dog Walking Policy for Inner West Parks for consideration by Council in 2023.

Lead implementation team: Parks and Recreation Planning, Companion Animal Services



Action Plan

Theme 1. An active Inner West

#	Action	Who	Target date
1.1	Increasing open space in deficient areas	Parks & Recreation Planning Strategic Investment & Properties Strategic Planning	Ongoing
1.2	Update the 2018 Recreation Needs Study	Parks & Recreation Planning Strategic Planning	Completed 2022
1.3	Child Safe facilities and services	Parks & Recreation Planning Social and Cultural Planning	Due 2023
1.4	Safe and inclusive open spaces	Capital Works Community Services Economic Development Parks & Recreation Planning	Public Toilet Strategy Review Due 2023 Parks After Dark Program 2024
1.5	Strategic service alignment	Director Planning	Due 2023



Theme 2. Active lives

#	Action	Who	Target date
2.1	Rozelle Parkland vision and advocacy	Infrastructure and Service Delivery Parks & Recreation Planning	Completed 2023
2.2	Iron Cove Bay Run Master Plan	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2025
2.3	Delivering greenspace walking and cycling projects	Strategic Planning	Due 2025
2.4	School partnership opportunities	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
2.5	Creating opportunities for fair and equitable sporting ground use	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2023
2.6	Developing a Master Plan for Leichhardt Oval	Strategic Investment & Properties	Due 2023
2.7	Increasing participation of underrepresented groups	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
2.8	Recognise sporting volunteers	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2023
2.9	Support health ageing	Social & Cultural Planning	Completed 2022
2.10	Understand participation trends	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
2.11	Wayfinding plan for open space	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2024
2.12	Inclusive recreation facilities for LGBTIQ+ community	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
2.13	Arts and cultural opportunities	Social & Cultural Planning	Ongoing
2.14	Recreation grants	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2024

Theme 3. Active neighbourhoods

#	Action	Who	Target date
3.1	Addressing the undersupply of indoor sports facilities	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2024
3.2	Increasing sporting ground capacity	Capital Works	Ongoing
3.3	Upgrade and maintenance of natural turf sporting grounds	Capital Works Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
3.4	Let's Pay playground strategy	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2024
3.5	Neighbourhood and pocket parks	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2023
3.6	Plans of management for larger parks and open space	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
3.7	Safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment	Ecology Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
3.8	Recognising cultural and social heritage	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
3.9	Local sporting grounds weekday use	Parks & Recreation Planning	Ongoing
3.10	Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Master Plan	Capital Works	Due 2026
3.11	Enhanced inclusivity at aquatic and recreation centres	Aquatics, Parks & Recreation Planning Access and Inclusion Planning	Due 2023
3.12	Streets Alive	Public Domain	Due 2025
3.13	Connected and healthy neighbourhoods	Aquatics Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2025
3.14	Water based recreation	Access and Inclusion Planning Parks & Recreation Planning Properties	Ongoing
3.15	Maximising use of outdoor courts and fitness equipment	Capital Works Parks Assets Sports and Recreation	Ongoing
3.16	Managing climate change	Parks & Recreation Planning Urban Sustainability	Ongoing
3.17	Public toilet facilities in parks	Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2023
3.18	Companion animals'	Companion Animal Services Parks & Recreation Planning	Due 2025

