

Marrickville Recreation Policy and Strategy 2013

Cultural & Recreation Services
June 2013

Mayor's Foreword

On behalf of Marrickville Councillors and Council Staff, I have great pleasure in presenting Council's new Recreation Policy and Strategy.

Marrickville Council recognises that a diverse, happy, and fair community is one where all community members have access to affordable sporting and recreation opportunities.

The Recreation Policy and Strategy came about after really extensive consultation with our residents, recreation providers, sporting groups, youth, seniors, and diverse cultural groups. It will help ensure that our facilities, programs, and services meet the present and future needs of our community.

We are confident that it will help us to achieve long-term sustainability of parks and open space, better and fairer access to sportsgrounds, and a more connected community.

The findings of the Recreation Needs Research report, which informs this document, told us that Council has to provide the right infrastructure and programs to support the top recreational activities in Marrickville - walking, cycling, and walking the dog.

As well, we will continue to recognise the needs of older people and younger people – providing a balanced approach to promote and support active ageing, while at the same time striving to engage our youth in a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you to everyone who engaged with Council as we developed our Recreation Policy and Strategy.

Victor Macri
Mayor of Marrickville

Contents

1. Introduction

2. Marrickville Recreation Policy Statement

3. Strategies

3.1 Lifelong Recreation

- 3.1.1 Aboriginal Communities
- 3.1.2. CALD Communities
- 3.1.3 Children
- 3.1.4 GBLTIQ Communities
- 3.1.5 Older People
- 3.1.6 People with a Disability
- 3.1.7 People with Pets in Parks
- 3.1.8 Time Poor 30-50 year olds
- 3.1.9 Women and Girls
- 3.1.10 Young People

3.2 Active in Marrickville

- 3.2.1 Connected recreation places and spaces
- 3.2.2 Awareness of local recreation opportunities
- 3.2.3 Provision of high quality open space and facilities to meet community needs
- 3.2.4. Provision of high quality recreation programs to meet community needs
- 3.2.5 Sustainable management of community land and recreation facilities
- 3.2.6 Place based community stewardship
- 3.2.7 The public domain as a key local recreation resource
- 3.2.8 Recreational assessment

3.3 The Recreation Economy

- 3.3.1 Planning
- 3.3.2 Plans of Management
- 3.3.3 Support for local business and clubs
- 3.3.4 Employment
- 3.3.5 Partnerships
- 3.3.6 Governance

3.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Introduction

The Recreation Policy and Strategy provides a strategic direction for the delivery of recreation facilities and services in Marrickville for the next 10 years. The policy and strategy are informed by the *Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville (2012)* report, a comprehensive independent research and consultation project into the recreation needs, facilities and services in the Marrickville area.

The recommendations from the *Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville* will inform the Recreation Policy and Strategy and other Council policies and strategies including:

- Section 94 Plan;
- Long-term Financial Plan;
- Biodiversity Strategy;
- Public Domain Strategy;
- Resource Management and Recovery
- Strategy for a Water Sensitive Community
- Traffic and transport planning; and
- Property Strategy

The Marrickville Recreation Policy presented in Section 2, will be implemented through the Marrickville Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2021, as detailed in Section 3 of this document.

The strategies presented emphasise relationship building and an integrated Council approach; therefore many of the Actions identify a range of Council sections and external partners that would be involved in its implementation over the long-term.

The policy and related strategies can be summarised as follows:

- **Lifelong Recreation** – inclusive access to best practice and innovative recreation opportunities for the Marrickville community;
- **Active In Marrickville** – enrichment of the health and well-being of the Marrickville community through participation in a diverse range of recreational activities; and
- **The Recreation Economy** – support for local recreation businesses and organisations that facilitate recreation in Marrickville and add economic value to the community.

Consistent with Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, the Marrickville Recreation Strategy identifies and prioritises initiatives that will inform Council's 4 year Delivery Program and 1 year Operation Plan and Budget:



Guiding Legislation, Plans and Strategies

There are a number of relevant acts, plans and strategies that have been considered in the development of the Marrickville Recreation Strategy.

Related Legislation and Policies

- Companion Animals Act
- Crown Lands Act
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
- Local Government Act
- Native Title Act
- Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines, Planning NSW
- Sydney Metropolitan Strategy 2036
- Sydney Regional Recreation Trails Framework
- State Rivers and Estuary Policy
- Threatened Species Conservation Act

Council Planning Instruments / Policies

- Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans
- Development Control Plans
- Local Environment Plan
- Marrickville Ageing Strategy
- Marrickville Bicycle Strategy
- Marrickville Biodiversity Strategy
- Marrickville Community Strategic Plan
- Marrickville Companion Animals Management Plan
- Marrickville Cultural Policy
- Marrickville Urban Strategy
- Marrickville Youth Strategy

Public Domain Strategy (in development)
Plans of Management for Community Land
Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville
Section 94 Plan
Strategy for a Water Sensitive Community
Transport Strategy
Urban Forest Strategy

Key Terms

Key terms used in the policy and strategy are defined below:

CALD

People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds – this term refers to differences that exist between people, most commonly but including language, food dress, traditions, art and religion.

Children

Refers to children aged 0 to 12 years of age.

Children's play areas

Meaning any public place, or part of a public place, that is within 10 metres of any playing apparatus provided in that public place for the use of children.

Community Hubs

Refers to places where people are likely to gather. Examples include libraries, town centres, shops, schools, parks and open spaces etc.

Community Land

Refers to public land owned by Council intended for public access and use. Community Land is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

Conflicting park uses

Refers to park uses that impact on each other.

Cyclability

Refers to suitability and ease of use for cycling.

Food preparation/consumption areas

Refers to any public place, or part of a public place, that is within 10 metres of any apparatus provided in that public place or part for the preparation of food for human consumption or for the consumption of food by humans. Food preparation / consumption areas include picnic / bbq food preparation and table / seating facilities.

GLBTIQ

An acronym for people who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, intersex and queer.

Older People

Refers to people aged 55 years of age and over.

On-leash Area

Applying to any public area except those areas prohibited to dogs or permitted off-leash.

Open Space

Refers to land under the care, control and management of Council for the purpose of public recreation. This may include Community Land and Crown Land (land vested in the Crown and managed in trust by Council for the purposes of public recreation).

Other areas not prohibited

Council may implement restrictions in other parks following investigation and consideration of environmental factors, competing uses and Council guidelines.

Parks

Refers to any open space within the Marrickville LGA, including parks, sportsgrounds, playgrounds, pocket parks, community gardens, and any land classified as open space in the Marrickville LEP 2012.

Pets

Pets include companion animals, which are defined under the Companion Animal Act as cats and dogs. Council also recognises that pets may include other animal species.

Plans of Management

Meaning a formal planning document that provides guidance for the future development and management of public open space. Plans of Management are a requirement for all community land (see above).

Prohibited Area

Refers to an area where companion animals (as defined above) are not allowed at all times, whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled. This section does not apply to a police dog, a dog that is an assistance animal being used bona fide by a person with a disability to assist the person, or a corrective services dog. In accordance with Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act (CAA) 1998 companion animals are not allowed in the following places, whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled. This includes the following:

Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited

Meaning any public place or any part of a public place that is used for or in conjunction with public bathing or public recreation (including a beach), in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that dogs are prohibited in or on that public place).

Public Domain

Refers to streets and plazas which are often relevant and contribute to community recreation.

Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited

Meaning any public place, or part of a public place, provided or set apart by a local authority for public recreation or the playing of organised games and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that dogs are prohibited in or on that public place or part.

Recreation Facilities

Meaning those facilities in parks and open space which fall within the responsibility of Council for the purpose of public recreation for example aquatic centres, amenity blocks, basketball courts, pathways, playgrounds, recreation centres, skateparks, and sports grounds.

Time Share Off-leash Area

It is an area where pets may be unleashed during the identified time periods but must be under the effective control of a competent person at all times and may be used to manage competing park uses. Outside the identified times pets must be on-leash.

Unrestricted Off-leash Area

Is an area where pets may be unleashed at any time but must be under the effective control of a competent person. These areas may be fenced or unfenced, in areas with minimal adjoining recreation uses to minimise opportunities for conflicting use to arise.

Walkability

Refers to suitability and ease of use for walking.

Youth

Refers to young people aged from 12 to 25 years of age.

2. Marrickville Recreation Policy

“Open space and recreation services are provided for various reasons – but at least in part to deliver benefits to individuals, families, groups and/or communities. The benefits may be personal, social, economic, educational or environmental” (Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville 2012)

The Recreation Policy states Marrickville Council’s position on and understanding of its role in local recreation, and the importance of recreation to well-being. Council is committed to providing, maintaining, and promoting a range of recreation facilities and opportunities.

In this policy, recreation is considered to include a broad spectrum of activities ranging from individual passive activities to active sporting competition.

Passive	Active	Personal Fitness	Social sport	Community sport	Elite sport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnics ▪ Reading ▪ Walk through suburbs ▪ Gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active transport (bikes) ▪ Play with kids in parks / playgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gyms ▪ Organised personal training ▪ Individual fitness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social games: touch football ▪ Oz Tag ▪ Netball etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organised local competitions – all ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High performance competition ▪ Representative sport



POLICY STATEMENT

Marrickville Council will work with the local community and service providers to ensure equal and inclusive access to best practice and innovative recreation opportunities for the Marrickville community.

Council is committed to enriching the health and well-being of the Marrickville community by providing opportunities for participation in a diverse range of recreational activities and experiences.

Council supports equal access to parks and open spaces and will actively promote harmonious use.

Marrickville Council recognises the economic impact of recreation and acknowledges the significant in-kind contribution of volunteerism in building an active, thriving and sustainable recreation sector. Council will support local recreation businesses and organisations to facilitate recreation in Marrickville.

Lifelong Recreation

Council will ensure all Marrickville citizens have equal access and opportunities to participate in recreation at all stages of life, especially:

- Aboriginal communities;
- CALD communities;
- children;
- GB�TIQ communities
- older people;
- people with a disability;
- people with pets in parks;
- time poor 30-50 year olds;
- women and girls; and

- young people.

Active in Marrickville

To enhance participation, Council will provide good physical and virtual connections between its recreation places and spaces, so as to:

- raise awareness of local recreation opportunities;
- provide high quality open space and facilities to meet community needs;
- provide high quality recreation programs that meet community needs;
- sustainably manage community land and recreation facilities;
- encourage place-based community stewardship;
- recognise the public domain as a key local recreation resource; and
- provide recreational assessment

The Recreation Economy

Council recognises its role in supporting local recreation businesses and clubs that make a significant contribution to the local economy. Council will support recreation businesses to establish, grow and engage locally through

- support for local business and clubs;
- employment;
- partnerships;
- planning controls; and
- governance.

The Marrickville Recreation Policy will be implemented through the development of relevant strategies and procedures and prioritised through the 4 year Delivery Program and 1 year Operational Plan.

3. Strategies

3.1 Lifelong Recreation

Marrickville Council will work with the local community and service providers to ensure inclusive and best practice access to recreation so that all members of the Marrickville community can enjoy activities that appeal to their interests and form closer connections. This will be especially aimed at:

- Aboriginal communities
- CALD communities
- Children
- GBLTIQ communities
- Older people
- People with a disability
- People with pets in parks
- Time Poor 30-50 year olds
- Women and girls
- Young People

3.1.1. Aboriginal Communities

Council recognises the land of the Gadigal Wangal people of the Eora Nation and will work with the local Aboriginal community to ensure awareness and respect of Aboriginal cultural heritage in open space. Council will provide recreation opportunities and activities that meet their needs.

Actions

Action 1 - Ensure that the Aboriginal community is aware of and has access to local recreation activities

Council will:

1. Identify opportunities for Aboriginal art and artefacts to act as catalysts for interaction and community engagement, including climb-on sculptures, community art projects, graffiti walls and murals.
2. Continue to work with the local Aboriginal Elders to promote culturally sensitive and inclusive environmental management practices of important sites.
3. Introduce cultural awareness training for Council's recreation facilities staff.

Did You Know?

The 2011 census identified over 1,100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Marrickville Local Government Area.

3.1.2. CALD Communities

Council has a long-standing commitment to multiculturalism and cultural diversity and recognises the wide diversity of recreation activities within CALD communities. Council will continue to develop a better understanding of cultural differences and provide recreation opportunities that meet the needs of existing and emerging CALD communities.

Actions

Action 1 - Support and facilitate recreation initiatives and programs for CALD communities

Council will:

1. Use existing cultural networks to increase awareness of and participation in recreation programs, including the Sister Cities Program.
2. Continue to deliver a range of community events to celebrate the cultural diversity of Marrickville.
3. Ensure that recreation promotion meets the needs of CALD communities, including accessible information and translation services.

Did You Know?

65,140 people attended a major Council run event over the past 12 months.

3.1.3. Children

Council actively supports the health, safety and wellbeing of all children, and recognises that physical activity contributes to children's ability to socialise, concentrate and learn, and is integral to their wellbeing and self-confidence. It is also a central component for good health and countering issues such as childhood obesity.

Actions

Action 1 - Children's health and wellbeing is enhanced through opportunities to participate in a range of engaging and safe recreation and play activities

Council will:

1. Continue to provide age appropriate physical activity, play opportunities and healthy food choices in Council run Childcare Services.
2. Provide a range of aquatic and recreation centre based physical activity programs for children.
3. Support sporting clubs in the Marrickville area that provide recreation opportunities for children.
4. Maintain relationships with local schools and encourage inclusion of recreation programs within their curricula.
5. Continue to provide information to families and the community about the importance of physical activity to children's health and development.

Did You Know?

Council's Children and Family Services care for over 1,300 children each week.

Action 2 - Provide a range of play equipment to facilitate physical activity and play opportunities

Council will:

1. Ensure effective ongoing maintenance of play facilities.
2. Review the Playground Strategy to cater for current and future population needs and improved play facilities for older children (10 years and over).
3. Increase the number of child friendly cycle paths in parks and open space.

3.1.4 GBLTIQ Communities

Council recognises the need to facilitate and promote inclusive, non-discriminatory and safe sport and recreation for everyone.

Actions

Action 1 – Facilitate and promote an inclusive and safe recreation community.

1. Provide and promote training opportunities in inclusive practices for administrators, coaches and other volunteers in sport and recreation organisations.
2. Promote the inclusion of best practice anti-discrimination in sport and recreation organisation codes of conduct.
3. Facilitate the appointment and training of a Member Protection Information Officer in all sport and recreation organisations.

3.1.5 Older People

Council's recognises the need to provide a range of services and programs for Marrickville's active and engaged community of people aged 55 years and over, while also providing for the frail and very elderly and their recreation needs.

Did You Know?

Over 15,000 people or approximately one fifth of the Marrickville population are 55 years of age or over.

Actions

Action 1 - Promote and support active ageing in Marrickville

Council will:

1. Review current programs for older people to ensure local needs are met.
2. Improve opportunities to walk in Marrickville.
3. Provide organised social opportunities through recreation programs for older people.
4. Promote volunteering opportunities in recreation organisations through relevant networks.
5. Continue to develop recreation programs for older people provided in Council's recreation facilities.
6. Promote increased awareness of recreation activities and programs for older people through appropriate media.

Action 2 – Create user friendly recreation outdoor spaces and places for older residents

Council will:

1. Provide seating and shade along walking routes and in parks and open spaces.
2. Ensure the needs of older people are considered in the provision and management of park amenities, including public toilet facilities.

3.1.6 People With a Disability

Council recognises the importance of providing accessible recreation opportunities to people with permanent and temporary disabilities, and their carers.

Actions

Action 1 – Provide opportunities for people of all ages with disabilities to participate in recreation activities

Council will:

1. Use existing networks to increase awareness of and participation in recreation programs.
2. Work with local recreation providers to identify opportunities for people with a disability.

Did You Know?

3,282 people, or 4.3% of the population in the Marrickville Council area, report needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.

Action 2 - Create user friendly recreation outdoor spaces and places for people with a disability

Council will:

1. Continue to apply access-for-all principles in all park and public domain upgrades.
2. Extend the Accessible Pathways Program to connect and improve access to parks near designated growth centres, and maintain existing parks pathways.

3.1.7 People With Pets in Parks

Council actively promotes responsible pet ownership, recognises the value of pet ownership in contributing to community well-being, and acknowledges that providing public spaces to exercise pets is essential. Council's approach to equitable access to parks for people with pets is based on:

- safe and shared use of Marrickville's parks and open space;
- the development of facilities to meet the needs of residents and their pets; and
- ongoing management of pet access in parks and open space.

Actions

Action 1 – Improve Existing Off-leash Facilities

Off-leash exercise relieves boredom and pent-up energy of pets, particularly dogs, and also reduces incidents of nuisance behaviour such as uncontrolled barking. Council currently provides the following off-leash facilities:

Suburb	Park	Hours of Access	Facilities
Tempe	Tempe Lands adjacent to Tempe Reserve	6am - 9.30pm daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ bins▪ car parking▪ lighting▪ water tap▪ two small seating shelters
Sydenham	Sydenham Green Corner Unwins Bridge Road and George Street	Unrestricted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ bins▪ lighting▪ limited car parking▪ water tap
Enmore	Enmore TAFE Park Corner Sarah Street and Simmons Street	6am - 9am 4pm - 8pm daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ bins▪ lighting▪ water tap▪ water bubbler with dog bowl
Camperdown	Camperdown Memorial Rest Park Federation Road and Church Street	5pm - 9am daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ bins▪ lighting▪ water tap
Camperdown	O'Dea Reserve Ross Street	Unrestricted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ bins

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ two small seating shelters ▪ water tap
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Council will:

1. Investigate facilities and supporting infrastructure required to enable successful off-leash areas, including access to water and shade and lighting, signage and ongoing maintenance.
2. Monitor bin locations on an ongoing basis to ensure these facilities are meeting requirements of the CAA and the needs of pet owners, while also managing Council's ongoing expenditure in this area.
3. Prioritise the implementation of unrestricted hours during the week in existing off leash areas (in Camperdown Rest Memorial Park).
4. Prioritise a review of off leash hours at Enmore TAFE Park.
5. Adjust all timed off leash areas outside daylight saving period to provide an additional hour off leash.

Did You Know?

Council will upgrade the O'Dea Reserve off-leash facility in 2013. Improvements to the dog exercise area include regrading, soil improvement, improved bubbler and tap facilities and resurfacing. Other works under consideration include paved entry areas, additional seating shelters and restoration of native grass planting.

Action 2 – Develop new off-leash facilities

Off-leash facilities are not evenly distributed across the LGA, leading to unauthorised off-leash use of local parks and open spaces. Reasonable access is considered to be within a 1 kilometre radius, or a 12-15 minute walk.

Council will:

1. Develop new off-leash facilities based on the following criteria:
 - a) Location
 - b) Size
 - c) Suitability for time share or unrestricted off-leash use
 - d) Conflicting park uses, ie children's playgrounds and biodiversity areas
 - e) Facilities required and ongoing maintenance
2. Develop new off-leash facilities as identified in the *Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville 2012* report and the public exhibition of the Recreation Policy and Strategy:
 - Enmore Park, Enmore
 - Henson Park, Marrickville
 - Johnson Park, Dulwich Hill
 - Mahoney Reserve, Marrickville
 - McNeilly Park, Marrickville
 - Marrickville Park, Marrickville
 - Petersham Park, Petersham
 - Simpson Park, St Peters
 - Weekley Park, Stanmore

The development of facilities at Henson Park, McNeilly Park, Enmore Park and Weekley Park will be prioritised because of high dog ownership, and inadequate existing facilities. Minimal resources would be required for establishment.

3. Investigate the introduction of consistent time-share periods, such as 6am – 9am and 6pm – 9pm daily, across all parks. Some exceptions will apply and variations will be considered on a park by park basis. For example, parks with sportsgrounds can have high use and/or closures on weekends for events, creating conflict with the typical timed off-leash use.
4. Minimise the need for fencing where possible through considered selection of off-leash areas and employment of other management techniques such as time share use, clear signage and monitoring. If fencing is required, consider using this as a barrier rather than an enclosure.
5. Identify and explore new off-leash opportunities for parks not already designated or prioritised for the development as demand arises.
6. Engage with the local community on the implementation of each proposed off-leash facility.

Action 3 – Develop On-leash facilities

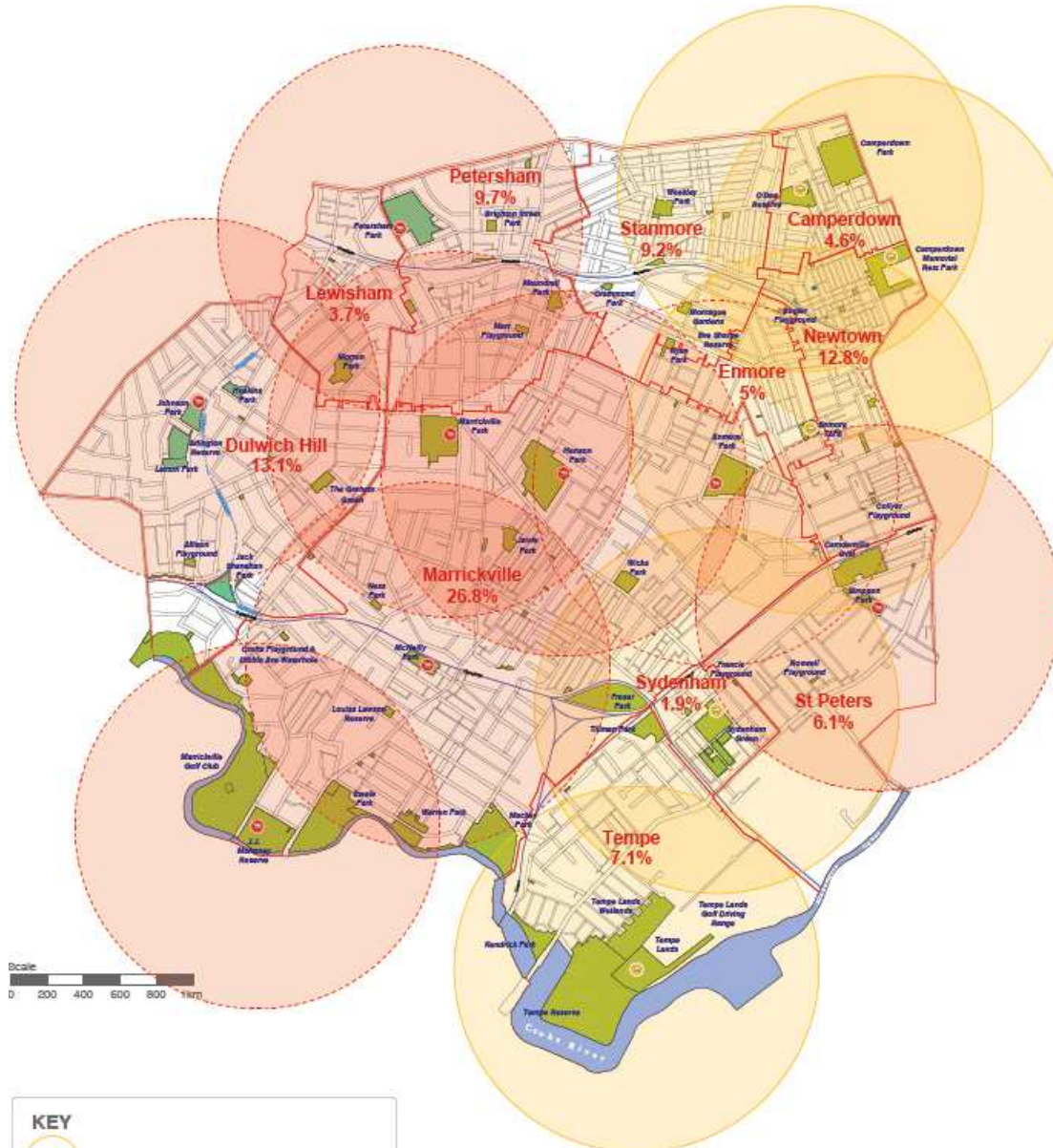
Council will:

1. Upgrade and maintain facilities used for on-leash access, including major public thoroughfares and shared pedestrian / cycle paths.
2. Ensure that all on-leash areas have appropriate signage to assist pet owners, including:
 - Main access paths including major public thoroughfares and shared pedestrian / cycle paths
 - Garden display areas
 - Informal recreation areas.
3. Protect local biodiversity by ensuring on-leash and time share is applied in Priority Biodiversity Areas through signage to assist owners in understanding the biodiversity importance of the area.

Did You Know?

There are about 10,000 dogs identified through a microchip in the Marrickville LGA. Council's statistics indicate that 72% of dogs that are seized are microchipped and therefore it is estimated that the total number of dogs within the LGA is 13,000.

Existing & Proposed Off Leash Areas



KEY

- Existing off leash dog parks
- Proposed off leash dog parks supported during Community Consultation
- Parks within Sandiobot Protection Area (as outlined within MLSP 2018)
- Marrickville 26.8%** Percentage of dog ownership within Marrickville LGA (as outlined within MDC Draft Dogs in Parks Strategy)

1km radius catchment applied as per Dogs in Parks Strategy

Action 4 – Promote responsible pet ownership and harmonious access to local parks

Council will:

1. Undertake community education to address issues including:
 - prohibited areas, on-leash and off-leash facilities
 - registration and chipping of cats and dogs
 - shared uses and harmonious access to parks
 - responsible pet ownership
2. Continue to encourage pet owners to responsibly dispose of faeces, including carrying bags or boxes etc rather than rely on Council supplied bags.
3. Ensure complaints and issues regarding pets in parks, including shared access and behavioural issues such as dog attacks are reported through Council's standard reporting system (Merit) to ensure they are recorded and actioned by relevant Council officers within established timeframes.
4. Promote dog training and support this use within Council's on-leash and off-leash areas.
5. Keep the community informed of the full range of facilities including prohibited and off-leash areas and the closure of facilities due to routine maintenance, such as turf renovations requiring establishment periods and other infrastructure replacement, and provide information about alternative facilities.
6. Educate the community about keeping cats indoors between dusk and dawn and using collars with a bell.
7. Provide information about additional resources, including:
 - Department of Local Government - Custodian of the NSW Companion Animals Register maintained by NSW local councils - website: www.dlg.nsw.gov.au
 - Companion animal brochures translated into community languages - website: www.dlg.nsw.gov.au
 - Doggiespot - Information for dog owners about upcoming doggie events, best buys, dog friendly places to visit, tips and advice about responsible pet ownership and doggie news - website: <http://doggiespot.com.au/>
 - Petline (veterinarians only) - telephone 1300 137 387
 - RSPCA - animal welfare, veterinary clinic, boarding of cats and dogs - website: www.rspcansw.org.au
 - NSW Animal Welfare League - care for unwanted, neglected and displaced animals - telephone: 02 9606 9333
 - WIRES - community environmental services that rescue and rehabilitate native animals – telephone: 02 8977 3333
 - Sydney Wildlife - telephone: 02 9413 4300

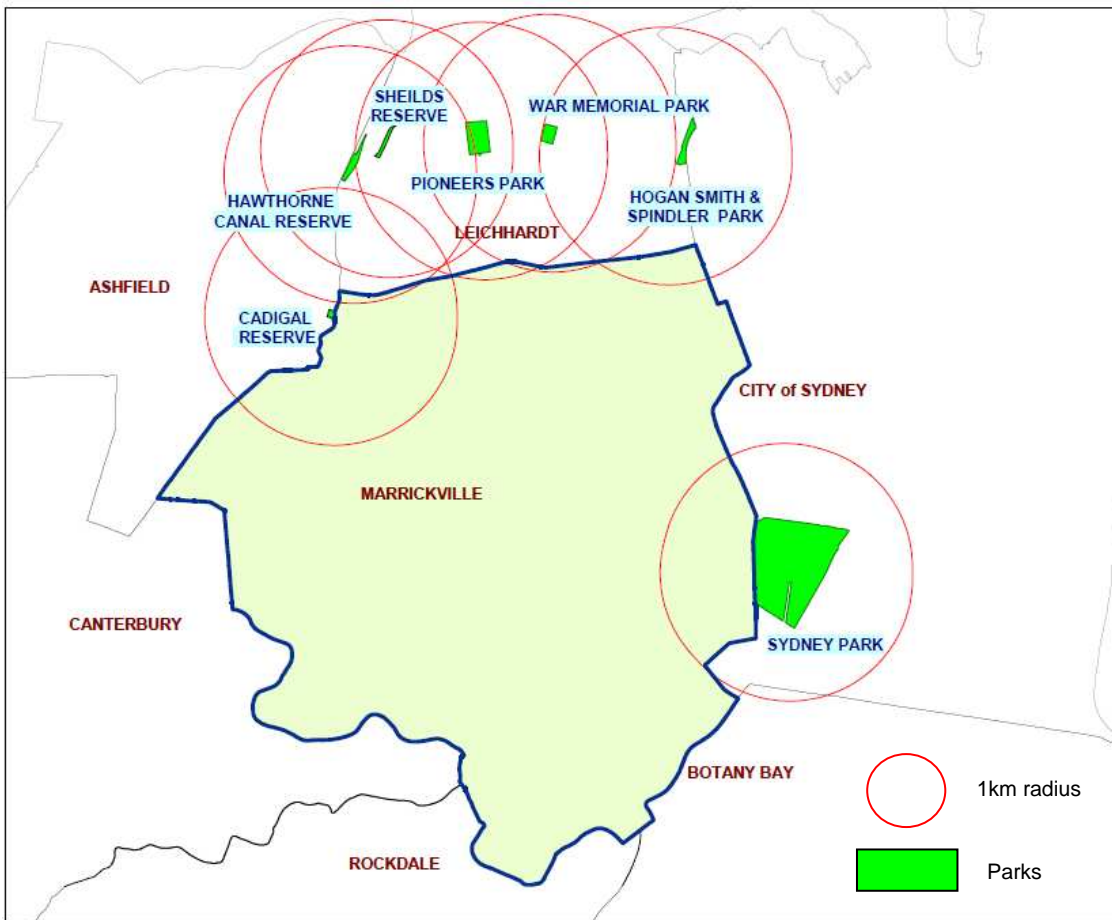
Action 5 – Partner with Neighbouring Councils

Marrickville is a densely populated LGA with a modest amount of open space that borders on five local government areas that also maintain facilities for pets such as off-leash areas. Many residents living along the fringes of the LGA may find access is easier to these facilities.

Council will:

1. Increase awareness of off-leash facilities not owned, managed or controlled by Marrickville Council, within a suitable walking distance of 1km, including:
 - Leichhardt Council - Hogan Smith and Spindler Parks; Hawthorne Canal and Shields Reserves; War Memorial Reserve; and Pioneers Park
 - City of Sydney - Sydney Park
 - Ashfield Council - Cadigal Reserve
2. Council will develop partnerships with neighbouring Councils to ensure residents have the best access to available off-leash facilities, through information sharing and collaborative projects, where possible.

Off-leash areas in adjacent LGAs



3.1.8 Time Poor 30 to 50 year olds

Council recognises that many 30 to 50 year olds experience significant time constraints in balancing family, work and lifestyle commitments and that this creates different recreation needs.

Did You Know?

30 to 50 year olds make up almost 30,000 of the Marrickville population. At 38% of the Marrickville Council area population, this is a significantly higher proportion than the Sydney average of 30%.

Actions

Action 1 – Ensure that time poor 30 to 50 year olds have opportunities to participate in a range of recreation activities that meet their needs.

Council will:

1. Investigate lighting upgrades along the Cooks River Corridor for evening safety in high traffic areas.
2. Investigate the feasibility of additional child care services at major Council recreation facilities.
3. Promote active transport options and infrastructure within the broader recreation planning process to meet the need for walkability, cyclability and general accessibility of streets and connection between open and civic spaces and places.

3.1.9. Women and Girls

Council recognises that local women and girls are most likely to participate in walking, aerobic/fitness and swimming and that there is a decline in participation in the early teenage years.

Actions

Action 1 - Support recreation initiatives and programs aimed at increasing female participation

Council will:

1. Facilitate and support programs featuring popular female recreation activities through both Council owned facilities and through other providers.
2. Facilitate and encourage a gender inclusive culture in sport and recreation organisations including in administrative roles.
3. Increase understanding of women and girls' recreation needs through data on female participation collected from local recreation providers.
4. Provide recreation amenities that cater for the privacy and hygiene needs of women and girls.

3.1.10 Young People

Council understands the importance of providing appropriate recreational activities and facilities for young people, both in the form of informal public spaces which are youth friendly and more formal facilities such as youth centres, and aims to encourage and enable young people to engage in recreation activities.

Actions

Action 1 – Provide appropriate recreation facilities and programs for young people

Council will:

1. Provide age appropriate play facilities in open spaces and parks.
2. Ensure that youth and at risk programs continue to be a component of operations at the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre.
3. Continue to partner with youth oriented organisations in the servicing of young people's recreation needs including the development of after-hours programs.

3.2 Active In Marrickville

3.2.1 Connectivity

Council recognises the importance of physical and virtual connectivity in facilitating an active community and Council will work to enhance connections between individuals, communities, providers and physical locations.

Action 1 - Continue to implement programs and projects that will enhance physical connectivity between parks, community hubs and public transport

Council will:

1. Enhance walkability, cyclability and general accessibility of streets connecting parks, community hubs and public transport.
2. Continue to implement the Bicycle Strategy.
3. Improve access to the Cooks River corridor and linkages between the end of the Light Rail extension and south Marrickville.
4. Continue to support the Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway.
5. Where expansion of major parks is planned, ensure adequate access to public transport, active transport networks, bicycle storage and/or off street parking to support increased usage.

Action 2 – Develop existing and new networks to create connections between individuals, communities and providers to enhance use of Marrickville recreation facilities, parks and open spaces

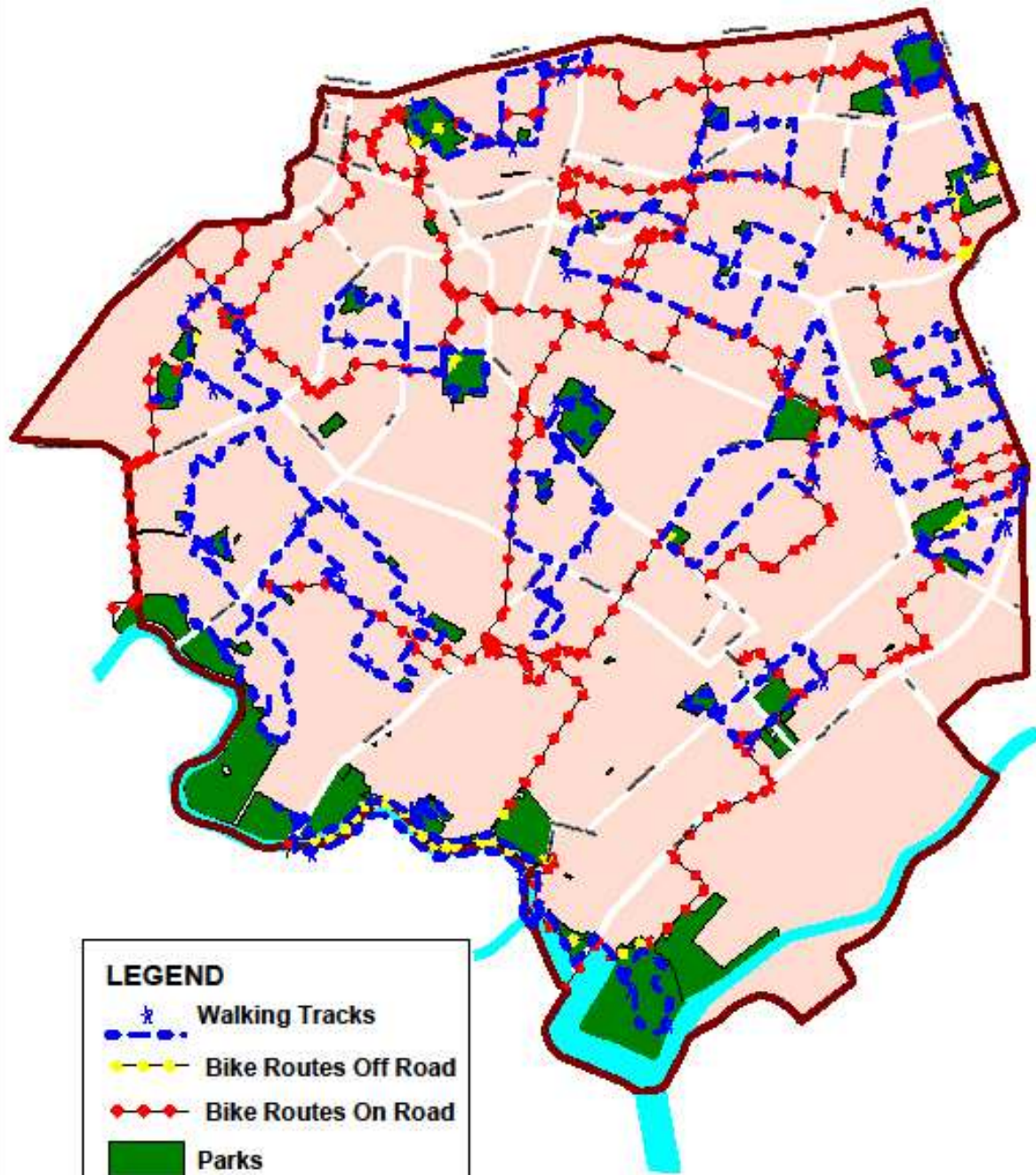
Council will:

1. Develop and implement 'rec post' as an online recreation hub to connect people and groups.
2. Investigate the feasibility of wi-fi in selected parks and open space.





Did You Know?

The 2011 census indicates that over 76% of the Marrickville population has an internet connection.

Bicycle and Walking Routes in the Marrickville LGA



LEGEND

-  Walking Tracks
-  Bike Routes Off Road
-  Bike Routes On Road
-  Parks

3.2.2 Provision of high quality open space and recreation facilities to meet community needs

Council is committed to the provision and maintenance of a range of facilities and open space to encourage informal and organised recreation activities including:

- Quality sportsgrounds
- Quality footpaths
- Appropriate lighting
- Local, district and regional parks
- Natural areas
- Playgrounds and play facilities
- Youth Facilities

Did You Know?

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the most popular type of facilities used for sport and physical recreation activities in 2011-12 are parks and reserves.

Actions

Action 1 - Upgrade parks according to the Design Guidelines for the Development of Good Open Space

Council will:

1. Continue to consult with the local community and relevant stakeholders on all facility upgrades.
2. Prioritise the upgrade of parks in areas with a low supply of parks and open space.
3. Provide outdoor exercise stations in 2-3 larger parks.
4. Undertake planning with potential sites to develop one multi-use sports unit comprising one cricket field with two superimposed multi-purpose fields (for winter codes etc) to meet the needs of the incoming populations.
5. Undertake a feasibility study into the upgrading of two of the grounds at Tempe Reserve with a synthetic surface as an alternative to additional winter sports fields.
6. Increase the capacity of sports grounds at Marrickville, Camperdown, Steel, Camdenville Parks, Tempe and Mahoney Reserves via a renovation / upgrade strategy similar to that employed at Mackey Park.
7. Where expansion or improvements of major parks is planned ensure adequate access to public transport, active transport networks, bicycle storage/parking and/or off street car parking to support increased usage.

Action 2 - Maintain parks, open space and recreation centres to provide quality facilities for the local community

Council will:

1. Ensure parks, open space and recreation facilities are managed through strategic asset management.
2. Undertake ongoing maintenance of existing park, open space and recreation facilities.

Did You Know?

Newtown Jets Rugby League Club has just celebrated its 105th birthday. The 2012 NSW Cup champions was formed on January 8, 1908 at Newtown Town Hall and claims to be the oldest rugby league club in Australia. The Jets has played at Council owned Henson Park in Marrickville since 1937.

Action 3 – Investigate opportunities for additional recreation space with in the local area

Council will:

1. Negotiate with the Department of Education and Training and local School Principals regarding the use of school facilities and open space outside of school hours.

3.2.3 Promotion of awareness of local recreation opportunities

Open communication and distribution of information is central to the creation of an active and informed community. Council will market and promote recreation opportunities through a range of media to all age groups.

Action 1 - Development and implementation of strategic marketing and promotional materials

Council will:

1. Continue to promote recreation programs and activities on Council's website and through a variety of other media.
2. Promote recreation programs and activities through community and commercial organisations networks.

3.2.4 Provision of high quality recreation programs to meet community needs

Council is committed to facilitating and promoting and a diverse range of recreation programs that address local issues and meet community needs.

Actions

Action 1 – Facilitate a range of programs that are targeted to meet the recreation needs of the Marrickville community

Council will:

1. Continue to provide programs to support local sport and recreation organisations including the development and implementation of a recreation grants program.
2. Continue to provide programs and services to provide community development outcomes.
3. Continue to research and work with the local community to provide new recreation programs to meet changing needs.

Did You Know?

Council is currently involved in the facilitation and delivery of a broad range of 20 recreation programs to the Marrickville community.

3.2.5.Promote sustainability in the management of community land and recreation facilities

Council recognises its role in the ongoing sustainability of natural and built resources through planning and management of recreation facilities that make a positive contribution to the local environment through the provision of ecosystem services.

Actions

Action 1 – Implement existing Council environmental strategies and targets, including energy and water consumption resource management and recovery, plant selection, materials selection and recyclability.

Council will:

1. Revise sports field availability schedules to ensure balance between the demand for playing time and turf maintenance.
2. Minimise the environmental impacts at recreation facilities through implementation of energy efficiency plans and programs.
3. Ensure consistency between development of public open space and civic space design, and the outcomes, strategies and targets of Council.
4. Develop field maintenance standards that integrate sustainable practices including the continued roll out of the Sustainable Irrigation Plan.
5. Explore the possibility of closing fields on an off seasonal basis to give them time to regenerate.
6. Implement stormwater harvesting on the high water-use sites to drought proof sports fields in the future and secure a more sustainable water supply for irrigation.
7. Investigate options for additional sustainability projects including using pocket parks as biodiversity enhancement areas as part of the Urban Habitat Mosaic, urban forests or community gardens; the use of permeable pavements; use of vegetated roofs on parks buildings.

Action 2 – Ensure that consideration is given to the long-term sustainability of all park and open space facility upgrades.

Council will:

1. Incorporate sustainable design features (water sensitive urban design, renewable energy, renewable and recyclable materials, stormwater detention, water harvesting etc) into park and public domain upgrades.
2. Identify the full life cycle operational and maintenance costs of all capital projects in parks and only proceed with those projects where these recurrent costs can be fully resourced.
3. Maintain or reduce greenhouse gas emissions from recreation activities and facilities by design, investment in renewable energy or offsets.

3.2.6. Place based community stewardship

Council values the considerable reserve of social capital and the dynamic networks that exist in the local area. Council will engage with and collaborate with recreation providers and community groups in the care and stewardship of local parks and open space.

Actions

Action 1 – Use existing social networks and expertise in the community to engage local people in place-based projects and programs

Council will:

1. Cultivate more parks 'friends groups' by engaging local residents in major and neighbourhood park upgrades with a view to establishing ongoing local stewardship.
2. Promote adoption of trees or sponsorship of greening streets by community groups, schools, businesses and industry.
3. Continue to support a bottom up approach to the development of community gardens and landcare groups.
4. Implement a place-making pilot program in pocket parks.

3.2.7 The public domain as a key local recreation resource

Council recognises that the public domain complements and extends more traditional recreation resources, creating walking, running and cycling linkages between community hubs, public transport and parks and open space.

Actions

Action 1 – Develop the public domain to complement parks and open space

Council will:

1. Prepare a Green Streets Strategy as part of the Public Domain Strategy to enhance connections between community hubs, public transport and parks and open space.
2. Consider local needs in the design of public domain spaces in accordance with Design Guidelines for the Development of Good Open Space included in the *Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville*.
3. Develop Village Centre Park/Plaza space in each of the four designated urban villages with links to streets and paths to support social gatherings, public art, landscaping, food vending, outdoor seating and special paving.

3.2.8. Recreational Assessment

Council recognises the importance of parks and open space in providing respite from the built environment and somewhere to 'get away from it all'. Council is committed to better understand local recreational developments and emerging needs and for this to inform the provision of relevant programs and services. Council is also mindful of the recreation impacts of major developments in the local area.

Actions

Action 1 – Ensure the consideration of recreation in the land use planning process

Council will:

1. Develop a system of recreation and well-being indicators to better understand local recreational developments and emerging needs and use this information to inform future planning.
2. Implement recreation impact assessments for major developments in Marrickville.

3.3 The Recreation Economy

3.3.1 Planning

Council recognises the importance of planning to meet the future recreation needs of the local community.

Actions

Action 1 – Develop key plans to guide Council in the provision of recreation facilities for future incoming populations.

Council will:

1. Develop a new Section 94 for open space and recreation facilities based on a LGA wide contribution area and the needs, principles and guidelines identified in the *Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville*.
2. Adopt the LGA specific standards for open space planning standards as outlined in the *Recreation Needs Research – Strategic Directions for Marrickville*.
3. Improve data collection on participation rates at Council parks and facilities to enable informed decision making for future plans and upgrades.
4. Ensure that all parks upgrades/development/refinement of Plans of Management are based on extensive planning that considers social and cultural inclusion criteria based on the community feedback and targeted engagement with different cultural groups to identify specific needs for spaces, facilities and activities.
5. Review the need for two croquet clubs in the LGA given the small user numbers for the sport and the scarcity of open space in parks.
6. Review leased spaces such as bowling and tennis clubs so as to recognise the need for niche sports balanced with current participation trends.
7. Undertake feasibility and concept planning to develop one or two new indoor sports courts with potential options including extension of Debbie and Abbey Borgia or Robyn Webster centres.
8. Investigate the conversion of under-used pocket parks to create additional recreational resources.

Parks in the Marrickville LGA



3.3.2 Plans of Management

Council recognises that plans of management provide an important opportunity for meaningful engagement with the local community about their requirements and aspirations for the use of community land, and acknowledges that these are also required under the Local Government Act (1993).

Action 1 – Ensure a strategic approach to the planning of parks and open space

Council will:

1. Develop a cyclical program for the renewal of plans of management for local parks and open space.
2. Develop a plan of management for parks along the Cooks River including Fatima Island.
3. Develop a plan of management for Marrickville Golf Course.
4. Develop a plan of management for Laxton and Arlington Reserves and Johnson Park.
5. Develop a standardised plan of management for Local Parks.
6. Develop a standardised plan of management for Pocket Parks.
7. Develop revised plans of management for Camdenville Park, Camperdown Park, Camperdown Rest Memorial Park, Enmore Park, Henson Park, Marrickville Park, Petersham Park, Sydenham Green, Tempe Recreation Reserve and Tempe Lands.

3.3.3 Support for local businesses and clubs

Council recognises its role in supporting local recreation businesses and clubs that facilitate recreation in the Marrickville area and make a significant contribution to the local economy. Council will support recreation businesses to establish, grow and engage locally.

Actions

Action 1 – Support the development of businesses consistent with the community's recreation needs

Council will:

1. Actively promote the development of small public domain/park based businesses and social enterprises in Marrickville.
2. Explore opportunities for using vacant buildings/shop fronts for start up social enterprises by reviewing procurement and assets policy including pop up leases and incubator leases.
3. Prepare a policy on personal training in parks, including appropriate locations.

3.3.4 Employment

Council recognises local recreation businesses and their contribution to local employment as well as the significant contribution made by volunteers in recreation clubs and organisations. Council will promote local businesses through relevant recreation programs and services and support and facilitate the ongoing development of volunteerism to achieve active, thriving and sustainable sport and recreation organisations in Marrickville.

Did You Know?

In 2010, sport and physical recreation organisations attracted the largest number of volunteers in Australia - 2.3 million people, which is 37% of the volunteer population.

Actions

Action 1 – Promotion of local recreation businesses

Council will:

1. Partner with local recreation providers to provide recreation programs to meet community needs.
2. Promote local recreation providers to the local community through Rec Post.

Action 2 - Support and facilitate the ongoing development of volunteerism in recreation organisations

Council will:

1. Facilitate sport and recreation club development and training opportunities.
2. Promote volunteering to the community through Rec Post.
3. Work with existing volunteer landcare, tree planting and community gardening programs and provide ongoing support.

3.3.5 Partnerships

Council values effective partnerships in developing recreation opportunities for the Marrickville community. To support the effective management and delivery of recreation facilities and services Council will maintain existing and actively seek new partnerships with relevant organisations including:

- Federal Government
- NSW Government
- Sporting clubs and associations
- Local businesses
- Schools
- Other Councils
- Commercial recreation service providers
- Environmental groups

Actions

Action 1 – Maintain existing partnerships

Council will:

1. Continue to pursue grant funds from Federal and State governments for recreation related programs and facilities.
2. Continue to partner with local businesses in the facilitation and support of appropriate recreation programs.
3. Build on existing partnerships to improve efficiencies in management, programming and maintenance.
4. Work with recreation providers that deliver recreation programs to ensure that they use the relevant data to plan and deliver their programs and meet current and future needs of the community.

Action 2 - Actively seek new partnerships

Council will:

1. Explore the merits of partnerships with local businesses for the development and maintenance of recreation facilities.
2. Explore a sub-regional strategy with adjoining Councils to develop a multi-use sporting facility shared by several Councils and able to accommodate state level sporting teams.
3. Pursue partnerships with sporting organisations for the development of recreation related facilities and programs.

3.3.6 Governance

Council requires and uses best practice governance standards, with transparent decision making and a strong ethical culture. Council will always seek to provide the community with safe and equitable access to facilities and programs and provide value for money. Council also recognises the importance of consistency within the organisation through effective communication practices across all areas of Council.

Actions

Action 1 – Provide equitable and affordable access to recreation facilities and programs

Council will:

1. Establish the current level of cost recovery for sportsgrounds and review sports ground and recreation facility fees and charges.
2. Implement universal design principles in large parks to promote inclusiveness and multi-generational activity opportunities.
3. Develop a Sports Ground Allocation Policy to ensure equitable access for both traditional and newer sports including transparent criteria and addressing issues of tenure and capital investment.
4. Ensure that universal design and accessibility are prioritised and integrated into the approach to planning across Council.

Action 2 – Take a whole of Council approach to recreation operations and policy development

Council will:

1. Promote linkages to relevant Advisory Committees of Council.
2. Ensure there is regular communication between Recreation Planning and all other relevant areas of Council so that community recreation trends and activities are taken into account in all plans for changes to open space, public domain and indoor and outdoor facilities.

Did You Know?

474,000 people visited the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre in 2012.

Action 3 – Closely monitor contract management of recreation and aquatic centres to ensure value for money, relevance and quality services

Council will:

1. Continue and implement where relevant regular reporting requirements on all aspects of operation as part of operating agreements.
2. Continue to actively monitor customer service standards at AKAC.
3. Conduct a review of current operations and develop and implement a business plan for improved management and increased utilisation of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre.

4. Review the management of the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre prior to the upcoming 2014 leasing option.

3.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

This strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure alignment with other Council policies and planning documents.