



# Burwood Community Facilities and Open Space Strategy

10 October 2019



**Burwood**  
Inc.1874

**Cred**  
CONSULTING



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Prepared for:



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Cred Consulting acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, Gadigal of the Eora Nation, on which our offices are located and pay our respects to ancestors, Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the strength, resilience and contributions of our First Nations peoples, and the eternal and spiritual connection they hold for their lands, waters, cultures and beliefs.

Through our values, we are committed to building vibrant communities and creating purposeful outcomes that reflect our deep appreciation for the peoples and cultures that make us who we are and shape where we are going — together as one.

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# Executive summary

## BACKGROUND

The Burwood Community Facilities and Open Space Strategy (the Strategy) supports Burwood Council (Council) to plan for the provision and management of best practice community facilities and public open space to address the needs of the current and future resident, worker, student and visitor population of the Burwood Local Government Area (LGA) to 2036. The Strategy will be used to inform the planning and strategic direction of Council in working with developers, not for profit organisations, government departments and other community partners, at a local and regional level.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Burwood LGA is located within the Eastern City District. The suburb of Burwood is identified as a Strategic Centre in the Eastern City District Plan, highlighting its strategic importance within the Sydney metropolitan area. The Eastern City District is facing population growth and change requiring partnership between neighbouring LGAs; sharing of school facilities through shared use agreements, in areas where there is an undersupply of local facilities; the optimisation of public land for social infrastructure that will connect communities; and use of non-traditional facilities and spaces for sport, recreation and community uses.

## POPULATION CONTEXT

Council’s internal forecasts indicate the resident population is forecast to increase by an additional 18,000 residents to 57,500 people by 2036 and a population density increase from 55 to 80 persons per hectare. The future population characteristics are likely to be similar to the present with a high proportion of non-English speaking residents, a high proportion of group households and tertiary students, higher proportions of residents with disability, and lower median incomes than Greater Sydney. Additionally, there are around 20,644 local jobs with workers coming into Burwood everyday, 85% of whom live outside the LGA.

This growth will result in an increased demand for the limited open space and community facilities in an already highly populated area; a need to make existing facilities and open space work harder; and demand for outdoor space and “parks and streets as backyards” away from the home for socialisation, gathering, spending time with pets, playing with children, exercise, birthday parties and other celebrations.

A high proportion of workers will also increase demand for open space, particularly during breaks and after work for exercise classes, team sports (for example, lunchtime ball games), Tai Chi, relaxation and eating lunch.

Burwood’s lower Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) rating indicates that some residents living in the LGA will continue to require access to low cost or free, formal or informal activities either in parks or Council community facilities. There will also be demand for community services delivered by other agencies, that will need space to deliver services.

It is important that future community facilities and parks also respond to the social and cultural diversity of the community and their recreational participation needs and interests.

## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

### Community facilities

There are 59 community facilities, owned by a range of providers, located in the Burwood LGA. Council owns 10 community facilities including one aquatic centre; five community centres/venues for hire; three early education and care centres; and a library.

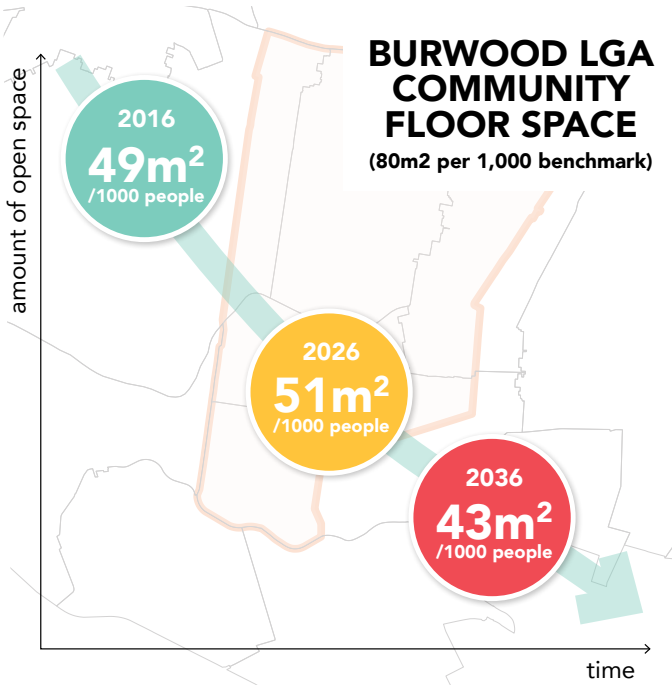


Figure 1 - Burwood LGA Community Floorspace



Council's community centres and venues total 1,815m<sup>2</sup> of community floor space (or 49m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people). An additional 800m<sup>2</sup> is planned by 2026, which will increase Council's community floor space to 2,725m<sup>2</sup> (this does not include library floor space) by 2026. Around 90% of Council's community centre and library floor space is located within the suburb of Burwood.

## Open space

There is 375,983m<sup>2</sup> of open space for recreation across 28 parks in the Burwood LGA, equaling 10m<sup>2</sup> per person. Comparatively, the amount of open space per person across the LGA is significantly lower than neighbouring Canada Bay LGA (27m<sup>2</sup> pp), Inner West LGA (16.8m<sup>2</sup> pp), and Canterbury Bankstown LGA (22.5m<sup>2</sup>). The suburb with the highest quantum of open space for recreation is Enfield with 134,292m<sup>2</sup>. The suburb (area within Burwood LGA) with the smallest quantum of open space is Strathfield with 2,325m<sup>2</sup>. As shown below Burwood and Strathfield had below 5m<sup>2</sup> per person of open space in 2016.

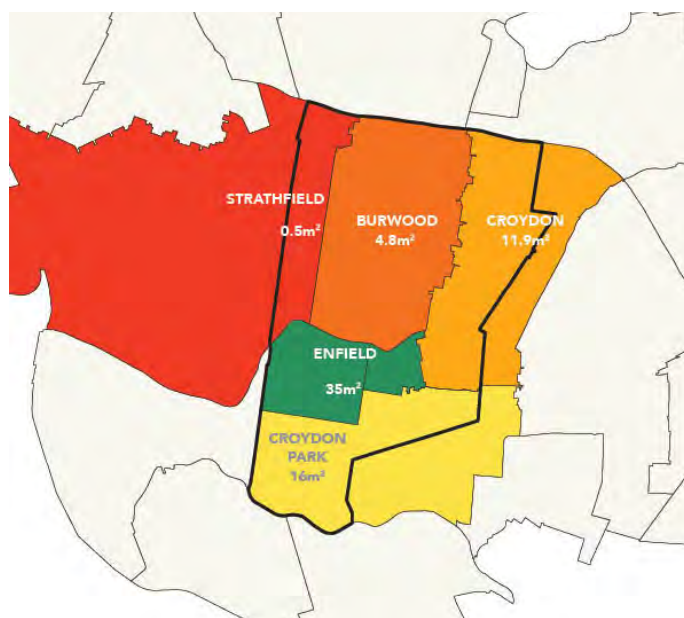


Figure 2 - M<sup>2</sup> Open Space per person by suburb

## WHAT DO WE NEED?

### Community facilities

Based on population and proximity-based benchmarks, by 2036, Burwood LGA will need:

- An additional 1,875m<sup>2</sup> of community centre floor space to meet a benchmark of 80m<sup>2</sup> per person.
- A new community venue of at least 200m<sup>2</sup> to service the LGA's south (Enfield).

- A cultural/performance space to address a lack of arts and cultural facilities (in the Burwood LGA) and also regionally in adjoining Canada Bay and Strathfield LGA.
- An additional 481m<sup>2</sup> of library floor space required by 2036 to meet benchmarks.
- Possibly new teaching places and classrooms at Burwood Public School to accommodate the additional 1,237 children aged 5 to 11 years who will be living in the Burwood area.
- One indoor recreation centre is indicated as needed, with three to four indoor courts to address local cultural sporting and recreational interests, to address a local and regional gap.

### Open space

By 2036, Burwood LGA will need to deliver an additional:

- 206,910m<sup>2</sup> (or 20 hectares) of open space to maintain the current provision of 10.2m per person.
- New parks for local uses of between 0.1 and 0.3 hectares in high density and very high-density areas of Burwood and Strathfield.
- New recreational trails, or green links, to connect the existing network of parks, and respond to the directions of the Green Grid including: a recreational link between Centenary Park (in Inner West LGA) to Concord Oval (in Canada Bay LGA); a recreational link along the Cooks River from Bark Huts Reserve in Strathfield LGA to Croydon Park and Canterbury Park in the Canterbury Bankstown; and a recreational link from Henley Park to Picken Oval and Croydon Park.
- At least one new outdoor fitness station by 2036 to meet benchmarks. However, given the high demand for access to free outdoor exercise equipment, new stations are recommended for Burwood Park, Flockhart Park, and Woodstock. They could also be provided along any future recreational trails.
- Up to four additional outdoor multipurpose courts. These could be delivered on rooftops or within mixed use developments.
- Capacity of Council sportsfields to address the need for increasing local participation in ballsports, in particular soccer which has high and increasing participation rates locally for children and adults.

## HOW DO WE GET THERE?

### Principles

The following principles will drive the future planning and delivery of community, cultural, and recreation facilities, and open space to 2036:

1. Aim to meet a best practice benchmark of community facility floor space of 80m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people by 2036.
2. Aim to retain through growth, the current provision of 10m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person across the LGA.
3. Future facilities to be multi-purpose wherever possible, with opportunities to deliver libraries, community centres and cultural uses in the same space.
4. Further to the multi-purpose principle, ensure that facilities are fit for their primary purpose, e.g. if it is to be used an exhibition space provide the appropriate infrastructure.
5. Create a shared city, utilising rooftops, podiums, streets and lanes wherever possible.
6. Aim for accessible and universally designed facilities and open spaces.
7. Aim to deliver inclusive and diverse opportunities.
8. Plan for amenity based on the inclusive playspaces concept "Can I get there, can I play, can I stay?"

### Strategic directions

The following four strategic directions provide a framework for future community, cultural and open space and recreation actions and decisions.

#### Strategy 1:

Deliver new and enhanced **community and cultural facilities** to respond to current and future gaps.

#### Strategy 2:

Deliver new and enhanced **open space and recreational facilities** to respond to current and future gaps.

#### Strategy 3:

Increase **recreational opportunities** by creating a network of active and friendly streets, lanes and trails.

#### Strategy 4:

Deliver a range of **recreational, social, and cultural opportunities** that respond to local needs and interests.

### Actions

A range of actions are detailed in Chapter 11.

# 1

## ***Introduction***



# Introduction

## BACKGROUND

The Burwood LGA is an urban area located at the edge of Sydney's Eastern City District and as such plays an important local and regional role in the provision of community facilities and services. Burwood's resident population is set to grow significantly by 2036 along with an increasing workforce, many of whom use local community facilities and open spaces during work hours.

Council is committed to ensuring the area remains an exciting place to live, work, study and visit. The LGA's growth, and the area's strategic centre, provide the opportunity for Council to leverage for increased and updated community facilities and open space through developer contributions, partnerships, and innovative delivery approaches.

This Strategy will support Council to plan for the provision and management of best practise community facilities to address the needs of the current and future resident and worker population of the LGA. The Strategy will be used to inform Council's planning and strategic direction in working in partnership with developers, not for profit organisations, government departments, neighbouring councils and the community.

Increasingly local councils are taking a shared, partnership and regional approach to the delivery of community infrastructure that serves a district or regional purpose, particularly in dense urban areas, where there is little land available for new facilities, and emerging regional needs.

ABS Census data tells us that our area has a predominantly young population, but with an increasing proportion of older people, and is culturally diverse with more than 60% of all residents speaking a language other than English at home (a high proportion being Chinese languages). With this diversity comes unique local community issues, aspirations and the opportunity to build on these characteristics to support and create an interesting and valued place for residents, workers and visitors.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Strategy is to deliver a study of the current and future community facility and public open space needs and demand in the Burwood LGA. The outcomes of the Strategy will assist Council to plan, prioritise and deliver community facilities and open space that meet the needs of our community in a socially and fiscally responsible way.

The Strategy is based on a quadruple bottom line approach, considering the social, environmental, economic and cultural outcomes. It also aligns with the strategic objectives of Burwood 2030, Council's Community Strategic Plan, supporting the following strategic goals:

- High quality facilities, services and initiatives to meet the diverse needs of the community
- A proud and inclusive community that celebrates diversity
- Enhanced green and open spaces, and streetscapes
- Connected and accessible infrastructure
- Participate in regional planning and infrastructure projects to ensure the best outcomes for the community
- Maximise Burwood's regional status, and
- Activate village precincts and preserve the distinct characters of surrounding residential areas
- A well informed, supported and engaged community

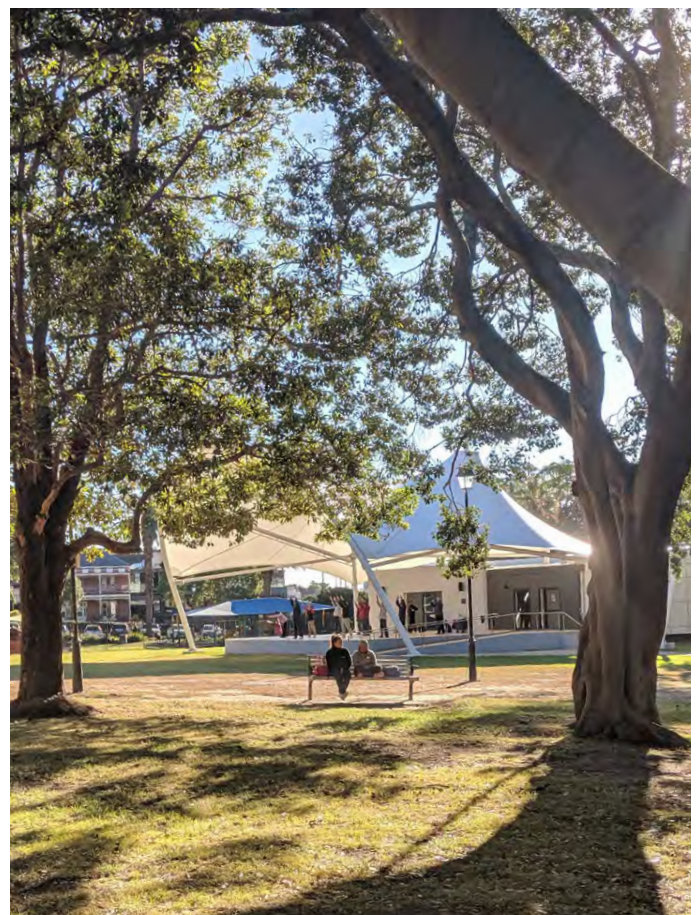


Figure 3 - Community facilities and open space play a significant role in the liveability of Burwood LGA. Image taken at Burwood Park.  
(source: Cred Consulting)

APPROACH

As shown by Figure 4 below, the approach to assessing the community facility and open space needs for the LGA considers the following indicators:

- Demographics and research - What are the characteristics of the existing and future community and what needs does this indicate?
- Strategic context - What's the big picture planning and thinking that will shape the character of local areas and the LGA into the future?
- Auditing, utilisation and quality assessment - What community facilities and open space currently exists or is planned? What is the existing quality and capacity of

- community facilities and open space? How do people access it?
- Benchmarking - What do industry population and proximity, comparative benchmarks and best practice trends indicate by facility type, for the LGA and the region?
- Expressed need - What has the community told us about what they need?

None of the indicators is more important than the others. To determine future social infrastructure needs for Burwood LGA, all five indicators must be read together.

STUDY AREA



Figure 4 - Needs Assessment methodology (source: Cred Consulting)

The study area is the Burwood LGA (shown in Figure 55 below) and its suburbs: Burwood, Croydon (part), Croydon Park (part), Enfield-Burwood Heights, and Strathfield (part). The central and strategic location of the LGA means that it plays an important role in the social wellbeing and health of local residents and workers, but also a regional role for residents, workers and visitors within the wider Eastern City District of Sydney.

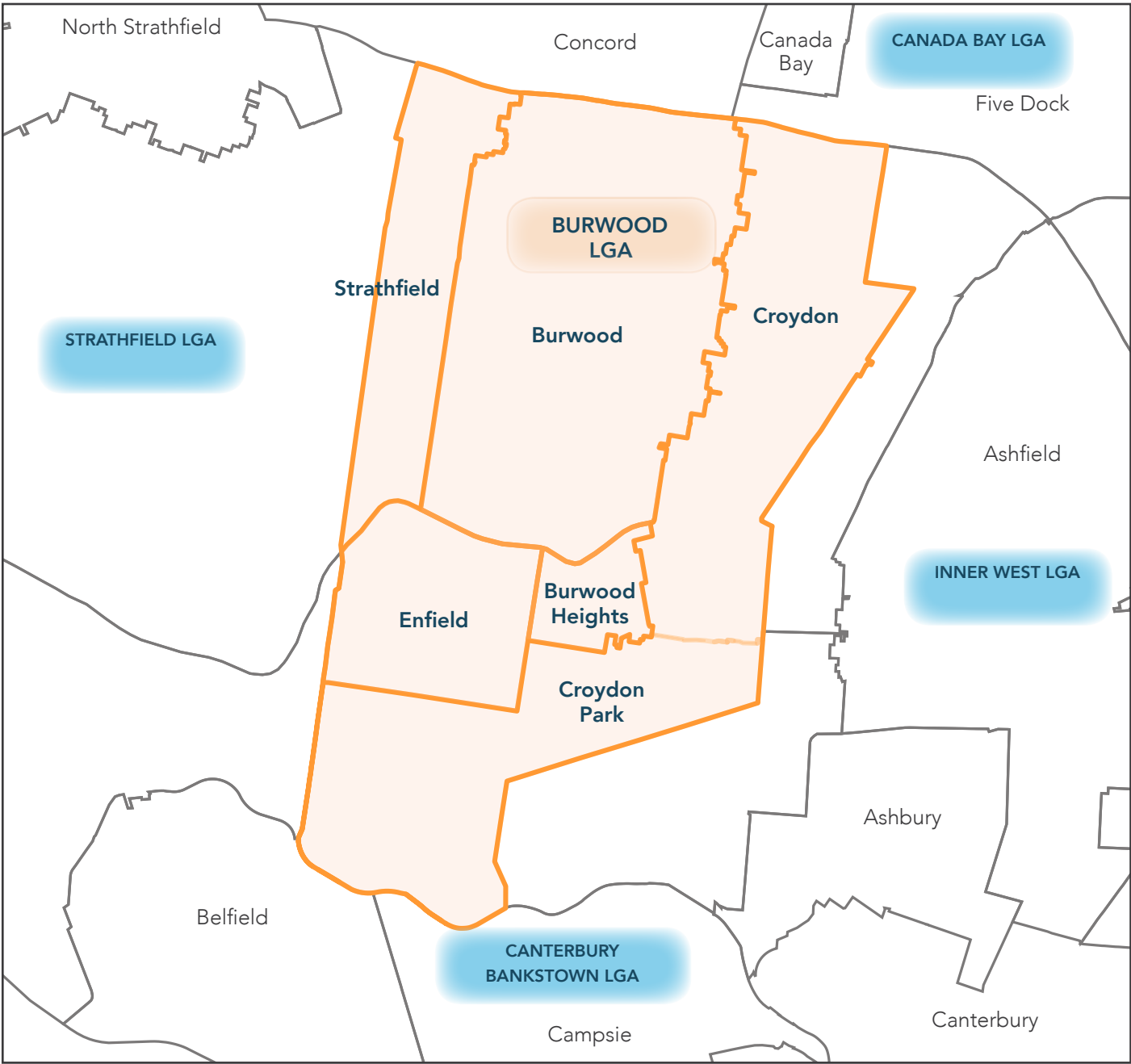


Figure 5 - Burwood LGA and surrounds



DEFINITIONS

What are community facilities?

For the purposes of this Strategy, community facilities include:

- Community centres and venues for hire
- Libraries
- Arts and cultural spaces
- Schools and tertiary education facilities
- Early childhood education and care centres (childcare and OSHC)
- Health facilities
- Aquatic centres
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Age specific spaces – such as: youth centres, seniors centres, and
- Leased facilities (e.g. scout halls, clubhouses, function centres).

While Council is only one provider of community facilities, the Strategy focuses on Council’s role in the future delivery of needed facilities to support population growth and change, and opportunities for partnership.

What is open space?

For the purposes of this Strategy, open space is outdoor public land that is used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. This includes recreation spaces (such as parks and play spaces), community/civic spaces (such as urban public space and plazas), linkage parks (such as recreation trails) and natural areas.

Open space can include a range of outdoor facilities and amenities including:

- BBQs, seating, tables, and outdoor games
- Play spaces for a range of age groups
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Sports fields
- Outdoor courts and sheltered hard surface areas, and
- Recreational, bike and walking trails/paths.

When calculating open space provision, public owned open space zoned RE1 under the Burwood LEP (excluding all road verges, landscaped areas or traffic control areas that are too small for recreational purposes or not well located) were included. The strategy includes consideration of making the most of other opportunities to provide open space for recreation that may arise, including private recreation facilities and spaces and grey infrastructure, such as streets and laneways.

For the purpose of this Strategy, open space includes any parks (green or grey) that are usable for recreational purposes. The hierarchy and definition of open space areas used for this study is provided below.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Small open space	This includes small pieces of open space either as small pocket parks, median strips or leftover parcels of land. Some of this open space is unusable for recreation but provides a break from built up areas. (Local example: Fitzroy Reserve).
Local	Local parks are small neighbourhood parks that are used by a range of community members for social activities or information leisure activities. Local parks may have some small equipment such as a playground or fitness equipment and seating. (Local example: Cooinoo Reserve).
District	District parks are larger parks that have uses or functions that service a suburb or suburbs. They may include playing fields or courts. (Local example: Wangal Park).
Regional	Regional parks are open space areas of a size or function that services and an entire LGA and draws residents from other LGAs. They have multiple attractors drawing people to the park. (Local example: Henley Park and Burwood Park).

What is recreation?

Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that people participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing and to connect to families and communities. This includes casual activities like going for a walk or a picnic with friends, play, exercise and fitness activities, and social, organised and elite sporting activities. Recreation can be considered as a spectrum of activities ranging from passive to active, and informal to formal/organised (Figure 66).



Figure 6 - Burwood recreation spectrum (source: Cred Consulting)





# Community benefits



# Community benefits

## BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Best practice and research tells us that quality and accessible community facilities play an important role in the social fabric of a community - supporting and facilitating community harmony and cohesion, and health and wellbeing. Community facilities provide places and opportunities for people to meet each other and interact, engage and participate in community events, co-work, learn new skills, and share social capital. This section is based on our knowledge and experience in social infrastructure and open space planning and a range of studies and sources.

### Liveability of Burwood

Liveable places are those that have great access to community and recreational facilities that enable life-long learning and creative expression; create team-players and healthier communities; and bridge social networks and supports. Liveable places attract not only higher rates of wellbeing, but also social capital, ensuring a great quality of life for residents.

The availability of community facilities, both Council and non-Council owned, enables the presence of social supports and essential community services that are necessary to help people thrive. Community facilities also enable “place making”, creating spaces for people to meet, connect and participate in meaningful and healthy activities. Community facilities strengthen local and community identity, and help meet the essential needs of the community, including social and recreational. This is particularly important in high density and culturally diverse communities such as Burwood, where people need spaces outside of their apartments and homes to connect, gather and celebrate.

### Resilience of Burwood and creation of social capital

Access to community facilities is key to both the social and environmental sustainability of a community. Community facilities are also vital to encourage the community to come together, share resources, access services, meet each other and learn about the different cultures, age groups and interests of people living in the area, building community cohesion.

Access to community facilities builds healthy, strong and empowered communities who have more resources and support to draw on when dealing with chronic stresses. Community and recreational programs deliver multiple benefits, which can be understood in terms of social, cultural and economic terms. Social benefits include improved community cohesion, capacity building, and wellbeing (physical and mental). Community programs

establish networks, safety and trust which are the fundamentals of social capital. Feelings of trust in a community are an established measure of social capital, a key social indicator used internationally. They further provide additional benefits to Council through positive public relations, happier and safer communities, reducing workloads, and activation of Council's currently unstaffed community venues and public places.

Social capital focuses centrally on our many social connections, and the benefits and resources these bring to the wellbeing of individuals and of the community. Planning for social capital can facilitate opportunities for communities to develop neighbourliness, a welcoming attitude, cooperation, and trust. These factors contribute to the development of resilience within and amongst communities which supports the ability to adapt and respond to change (such as population growth, demographic trends, environmental challenges and economic conditions). These considerations can increase local social capital and social and economic outcomes for all. Planning for liveable and socially sustainable communities can be created in four ways by enabling:

- Spaces that enable incidental connections;
- Spaces and events that enable connections between groups;
- Opportunities for shared value and community life; and
- Voice and influence.

### Productivity of Burwood and economic growth

Investment in community facilities not only has social and physical wellbeing benefits, but also significant economic benefits for the community. Community facilities such as libraries, work hubs, subsidised office spaces, child care and indoor recreation provide much needed spaces to learn, engage in or access the workforce to enable everyone to achieve their full potential. In *“The Library Dividend”*, SGS Economics & Planning found that equitable access to facilities, programs and services can lead to:

- Improved employment opportunities, increased workforce participation and an increase in human capital;
- Increased learning opportunities which help people to innovate and express themselves, improve personal satisfaction and wellbeing;
- Increased social interaction, cultural appreciation and community cohesion/identity; and
- Opportunities for local ownership, entrepreneurship and employment,
- Opportunities for partnerships and increased capacity to attract further investment.

It also found that every \$100 invested by Local or State Government in Queensland public libraries delivers \$230 worth of value back to the community. Providing these important spaces for lifelong learning and study means that children have opportunities to succeed at school and study. Parents can more easily return to work when childcare is high quality, accessible and affordable.

Individuals and families, especially new migrants and refugees, can access employment when they have the training and support that they need to access and thrive in new jobs. Social infrastructure enables people of all ages and abilities to access resources, programs and services and be included within events and activities that support lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community.

The economic benefits of community programs include enabling people to engage in further learning and work, through volunteering, foundation skills courses and breaking down the barriers to participation. Volunteer contributions through community programs and services are significant and diverse, and are both social benefits and economic benefits.

## **BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

### **Social benefits**

Open space and recreation are important social connectors which provides a space for the community to meet each other and interact, as well as come together to share and celebrate. For example, a well-designed public domain enables older people and people with a disability to get out, be involved in community life, stay fit, and participate in activities. Open space, and in particular community/civic open space, is also important for creative and cultural expression. These spaces provide opportunities for formal and organised events as well as informal gatherings; spaces to perform and create, and places for the community to come together, meet each other and build a sense of common identity.

Research has found that participation in sport and recreation also reduces the risk of health conditions and improves social and emotional health and wellbeing. Participation in recreation has benefits across all life stages. For children and young people, participation in regular physical activity has benefits for physical and mental development. Psychological benefits include improving the symptoms of anxiety and depression, and reduction in youth offending and anti-social behaviour. For older people, participation in physical activity is important for healthy ageing and social connection.

Research is deepening our understanding of the

importance of access to quality open space for health and wellbeing outcomes. While living in a city can increase people's risk of mental illness, living close to green space is shown to have positive impacts on mental health. Access to green space is linked to increased physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, stress reduction and mental health benefits across all ages, socio-economic groups and genders. However, it is the quality and variety of green space that is important, rather than the amount or number of spaces.

The Australian Clearinghouse for Sport identifies that sport is widely regarded as a core element of social inclusion in Australian communities. It provides opportunities for diverse groups to meet and interact and build relationships and understanding.

Apart from the health benefits of physical activity, participating in sporting activities informally or as part of a club can contribute to an individual's or group's sense of belonging, and promote trust, cooperation and tolerance. The Settlement Council of Australia has also identified that sport can and does contribute to positive settlement outcomes and social inclusion for people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and supports integration into Australian society. Recreation activities can also be a form of cultural expression, for example playing a traditional sport or performing a traditional dance.

### **Environmental benefits**

Open space is an important resource to protect and build biodiversity and protect natural areas, particularly important in highly dense areas such as Burwood. Biodiversity in cities is facing a number of human-induced pressures including habitat loss due to urban development, introduction and spread of invasive pest and weed species, greater demand on natural resources and urban runoff from roads, houses and industry. Natural areas include areas of biodiversity importance, and planning for open space and recreation needs to balance the community's recreation needs with fragile conservation areas.

Open space can support resilience to environmental shocks which is increasingly important in a climate changed world. Open space, with permeable surfaces such as grass and soil can help to reduce and manage flooding and the impact of more severe heavy rain events, temporarily storing water and aiding with infiltration. Green spaces with tree cover can act as urban "cool rooms", reducing the ambient temperature and the urban heat island effect. Every 10 per cent increase in tree canopy can reduce land surface temperatures by 1.13 degrees. Trees and shrubs in open space also remove air pollutants that endanger human health.

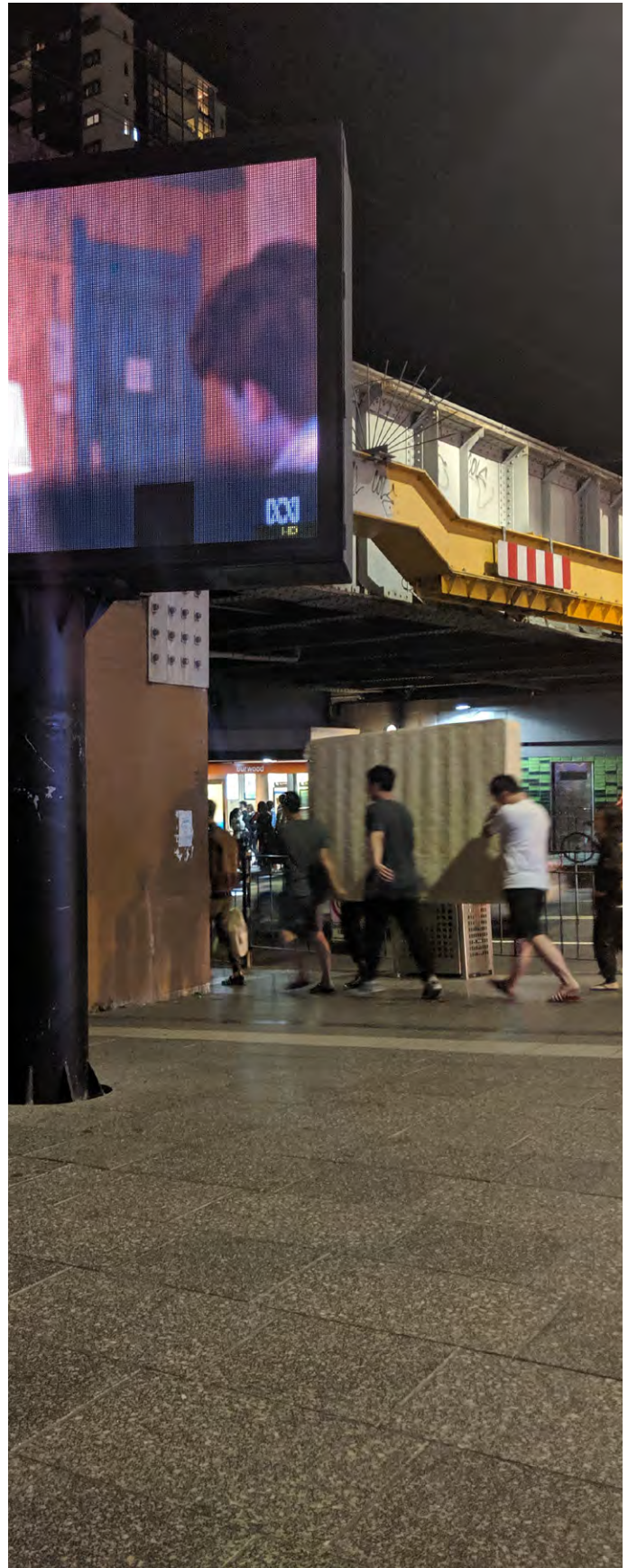
### Economic benefits

- The economic benefits of open space and recreation include increased property values for dwellings located close to open space, increased tourism for example to major parks and events, and reduce health and social costs . The direct use value of parks (the amount residents would pay to use equivalent private facilities) is also significant although hard to quantify. For example, in San Francisco the direct use value of park facilities was found to be US\$1.92 per visit for general park use (e.g. dog walking, sitting), US\$5.02 per visit for sports facilities use (e.g. running, team sports) and US\$4.28 for special uses (e.g. fishing, festivals, gardening) .

The benefits of community sport infrastructure in Australia has been quantified by KPMG, and is an example of how all open space provides economic benefits:

- Community sport infrastructure is estimated to generate an annual value of more than \$16.2 billion to Australia, with \$6.3 billion worth of economic benefit, \$4.9 billion worth of health benefit and \$5.1 billion worth of social benefit. The \$6.3 billion worth of economic benefit includes the economic activity associated with the construction, maintenance and operation of community sport infrastructure and the increased productivity of those who are physically active as a result of such infrastructure.
- The \$4.9 billion worth of health benefit includes personal benefits to those who are less likely to contract a range of health conditions which are known to be associated with physical inactivity and the benefits to the health system from a healthier population.
- The \$5.1 billion worth of social benefit includes the increased human capital resulting from the social interactions that are facilitated by community sport infrastructure and the broader community benefits of providing "green space" (e.g. sports fields).

In addition, community sport infrastructure is a key driver and enabler of a range of other benefits which can only be considered on a qualitative basis at this point in time, such as social inclusion and community pride.







# ***Strategic context***

# Strategic context

This section provides a summary of the strategic policy context and major projects relating to planning for community facilities and open space in the Burwood LGA

## NATIONAL AND NSW STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Federal and NSW Government strategic documents and programs include:

- Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport 2017 (Federal)
- National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011 (Federal)
- Active Kids Rebate 2017-2018 (NSW)
- Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy 2018, NSW Department of Education
- NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy 2013-2018
- NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020, and
- NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, 2016-2019.

Needs and opportunities identified in these strategies include:

- Making sport more affordable for low income families, more accessible to migrant groups, and more attractive to women.
- Addressing barriers for older people including not having transport options, trouble walking about, physical barriers and the built environment, poor-quality or scarce footpaths and a lack of accessible parking. Caring roles (including ageing carers and carers of older people) are associated with poor physical and mental health.
- Supporting children and young people in their local areas, including creating integrated and well connected open space, sporting facilities and recreation opportunities.
- More flexible, social sports and new low time-commitment offerings.
- Introducing incentives to encourage sport participation
- Ensuring green spaces more appropriate for sport, keeping facilities open later, and increasing the walking, running and cycling friendliness of cities.
- Urban environments that support healthy eating and active living.
- Partnering with State and territory governments on program delivery.

- Open up school, University and TAFE facilities for public use during non-core hours and developing facility partnerships between schools, clubs and local government to increase facility utilisation and lower operating costs.
- Supporting and partnering with NGOs that enable sport and active recreation participation.
- The NSW Department of Education Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy encourages shared use of school facilities (such as open space and sporting facilities), with significant investment in new, upgraded or maintained facilities.

## GREATER SYDNEY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

### Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities (Greater Sydney Commission)

The Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities (the Plan) is built on a vision where people live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places. The Plan includes a focus on universal design, resilient and socially connected communities with walkable streets, and great places that bring people together.

The Plan seeks to transform Greater Sydney into a metropolis of three cities, including the Eastern Harbour City, which Burwood Council is located. Planning is guided by ten strategic directions. Directions relevant to Burwood include:

- A city for people. Celebrating diversity and putting people at the heart of planning
- Service and infrastructure meet communities' change needs
- Communities are healthy, resilient and socially connected
- Greater Sydney celebrates the arts and supports creative industries and innovation.
- A city of great places. Designing places for people.
- Great places that bring people together.
- A collaborative city. Working together to grow a Greater Sydney.
- Benefits of growth realised by collaboration of governments, community and business.
- A city supported by infrastructure and supporting new developments
- Infrastructure adapts to meet the future needs, and
- Infrastructure use is optimised.



### Eastern City District Plan (Greater Sydney Commission)

Burwood is located in the Eastern City District, along with Canada Bay LGA, Bayside, City of Sydney, Inner West, Randwick, Strathfield, Waverley and Woollahra LGAs. The Plan aims to:

- Nurture quality lifestyles through well-designed housing in neighbourhoods close to transport and other infrastructure.
- Create sustaining communities through vibrant public places, walking and cycling, and cultural, artistic and tourism assets.
- Align growth with infrastructure, including transport, social and green infrastructure, and delivering sustainable, smart and adaptable solutions.
- Through collaborative approaches, increase the use of public resources such as social infrastructure.
- Actions within the Plan that relate to community facilities and open space include:
  - Deliver social infrastructure that reflects the needs of the community now and in the future
  - Optimise the use of available public land for social infrastructure
  - Deliver healthy, safe and inclusive places for people of all ages and abilities that support active, resilient and socially connected communities.

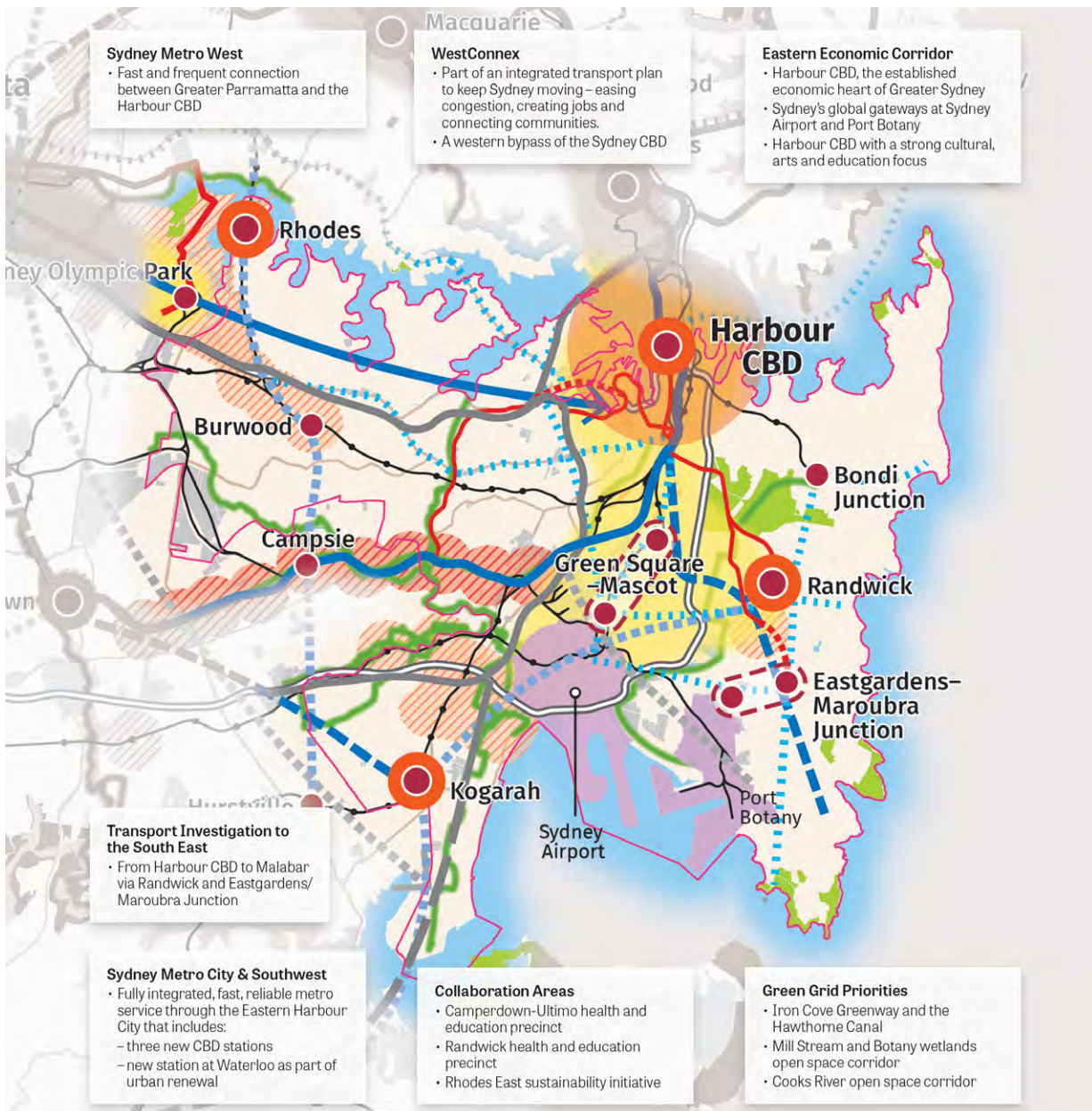


Figure 7 - The Eastern City District Plan on a page. Source: Greater Sydney Commission

- Facilitate opportunities for creative and artistic expression and participation, including arts enterprises and facilities, and creative industries, interim and temporary uses, development of the night-time economy.
- Strengthen social connections within and between communities through better understanding of the nature of social networks and supporting infrastructure in local places.
- Using a place-based and collaborative approach throughout the planning, design, development and management, deliver great places, including integrating social infrastructure to support social connections and provide a community hub and recognising the celebrating the character of a place and its people.
- Use place-based planning to support the role of centre and as a focus for action connected neighbourhoods.

### **Greater Sydney Green Grid, Government Architect's Office**

The Greater Sydney Green Grid is a long-term vision for a network of high quality green spaces that connects communities to the natural landscape. It links tree-lined streets, waterways, bushland corridors, parks and open spaces with centres, public transport and public places.

Tree-lined streets, urban bushland and tree cover on private land form the urban tree canopy. The urban tree canopy is a form of green infrastructure that mitigates the urban heat island effect, with a 10 percent increase in tree canopy cover reducing the land surface temperature by 1.13 degrees Celsius. The urban tree canopy also supports cleaner air and water and provides local habitat. Trees remove fine particles from the air and help insulate against noise pollution, particularly along busy road corridors. The urban tree canopy can also help make communities more resilient, by reducing the impact of heatwaves and extreme heat.

The Great Coastal Walk, the Federation Track (linking Circular Quay with Centennial Parklands and the Cooks River Corridor), Wolli Creek Regional Park and the Iron Cove Bay Run form part of the Greater Sydney Green Grid. Green Grid improvements will benefit the densely populated neighbourhoods of Burwood, by linking these to the Harbour and Parramatta River, Cooks River and other open space corridors.

Transport for NSW is establishing a Principal Bicycle Network in collaboration with councils. Opportunities to integrate the Principal Bicycle Network with the Greater Sydney Green Grid will be an important part

of linking centres. In some areas, rail lines and other linear infrastructure prevent connectivity. Where feasible, planning and investment must consider opportunities for connections across rail lines, roads and other linear infrastructure.

### **District Sports Facility Plans, NSW Office of Sports**

The Office of Sport is working in collaboration with key partners, including councils, to develop a Sport and Recreation Participation Strategy and a Sport and Recreation Facility Plan for each district during 2018 and 2019. The plans will include local and regional sport facilities that provide a strong foundation for participation in sport and active recreation. The core purpose of the Plans is to create a shared vision on Sydney sporting facility provision and priorities that meet community needs now and into the future; and to guide investment in community sporting infrastructure.

Common issues for the Eastern City District identified through the Plans include:

- Population growth & changing trends
- Facilities at/over capacity
- Demand from workforce, tourism and adjoining residents
- Increase in female participation & facility requirements
- Residential objections to increasing capacity
- No room to expand or provide new facilities
- Quality of land / open space on constrained parcels, and
- Fragmented development applications and loss of control through the Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels.

Common opportunities identified through the Eastern City District Plans include:

- Partnerships with schools (private and public)
- New infrastructure through new development sites (including through site amalgamation)
- Use of left-over land from transport projects for recreation facilities
- Increase synthetic fields and multi-use specs
- New/expansion of indoor facilities
- Non-traditional facilities for sport use
- District/regional booking system
- Increase use at off-peak times, and
- Shared use of public golf courses.

## OTHER PLANS/REPORTS

### Resilient Sydney – A strategy for city resilience 2018

The 100 Resilient Cities initiative – pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation - helps cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. The Resilient Sydney Strategy recognises that no one organisation can solve our problems and instead looks at how we can work together, across boundaries to protect and champion the needs and interests of communities for metropolitan Sydney.

This Strategy sets the direction to strengthen our ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of increasing global uncertainty, local shocks and stresses and calls for business, government, academia, communities and individuals to lead and work as one city. *'Direction 3: Connect for Strength'* aims for every Sydneysider to feel they belong in our community and city. This aims to address Sydney's declining social cohesion resulting in outcomes where people have equal access to engage in society, the economy and all the city has to offer.

### SSROC Liveability Indicator Mapping, 2017

SSROC's Liveability Indicator Mapping provides a baseline and current assessment against a range of liveability indicators for each area within the SSROC region. Benchmarking identified that the existing provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities within an LGA should be used as the minimum level to determine future supply as the population grows.

SSROC identifies that the open space challenge is significant in this area and suggests three approaches:

- More intervention in the way large sites are developed or smaller sites are amalgamated for development. A much clearer approach to creating small communal open space areas and pocket parks, to which multiple development sites should contribute, is required. This will involve early structure planning guidance and intervention. The expectation should be that 5 to 10 percent of sites for development is provided for open space
- There is a need for the multi-use of school playing fields. This has long been on the agenda but the security, cost and maintenance obligations to allow for greater community use of school and other institutional fields have been a barrier. A concerted effort to resolve these issues is necessary, and
- The quality of streets and public domain is increasingly important where it is difficult to create new open space. New developments should

contribute to the quality of these assets, via coordinated guidance and funding obligations.

### Concord Community and Recreation Precinct Strategy

Neighbouring council City of Canada Bay has developed a strategy for the Concord Community and Recreation Precinct which is one of the most strategically important recreation precincts in Sydney's Inner West, providing approximately 40 hectares (including public indoor space, i.e. Five Dock Leisure Centre) of continuous recreational open space and approximately 780 metres of bayside frontage. The Concord Community and Recreation Precinct Strategy (August 2018) whilst not adopted by Council includes a plan for the redevelopment of Concord Oval.

## GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NSW

### Better Placed

Better Placed is an integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW and seeks to place good design at the centre of all development processes from project definition to concept design through to construction and maintenance. Better Placed is based around seven distinct objectives that together seek to create a well-designed built environment that is healthy, responsive, integrated, equitable and resilient:

- Better fit: contextual, local and of its place
- Better performance: sustainable, adaptable and durable
- Better for the community: inclusive, connected and diverse
- Better for people: safe, comfortable and liveable
- Better working: functional, efficient and fit for purpose
- Better value: creating and adding value, and
- Better look and feel: engaging, inviting and attractive.

The principles above should also be applied to social infrastructure, creating functional facilities and spaces that people want to visit, feel comfortable within, that are functional and fit for purpose and provide opportunities to build social capital.

### Greener Places

The Government Architect NSW has recently released Greener Places, a draft policy to guide the design, planning, management and delivery of Green Infrastructure in urban areas. This includes the Draft Urban Tree Canopy Guide, which sets a target of increasing Greater Sydney's tree canopy to 40% (>25% in medium density and >40% in suburban areas).



The Draft Open Space for Recreation Guidelines recognise the importance of open space for recreation and outline approaches to planning for open space including benchmarking, hierarchy and functional classifications and criteria for open space and recreation facilities. The benchmarking approach outlined in the Draft Open Space for Recreation Guidelines is outlined further in the benchmarking section of this report.

## BURWOOD COUNCIL

Burwood Council, through its various strategies and plans for parks and community facilities aims to promote and improve their community's wellbeing through:

- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Arts and cultural activities and places
- Diversity
- Healthy and active living
- Interactions between different groups in the community, and
- Safety and crime prevention.

### Accessibility & inclusivity

The Burwood Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 provides guidance for improved accessibility in Burwood. Council has 20 parks that are accessible to people using a wheelchair. Of these, seven have an accessible toilet (with Master Key Access after hours). There are 11 playgrounds with accessible play equipment. New or replacement playgrounds are pending for three parks (four playgrounds in total). These playgrounds will also include some accessible equipment.

All of Council's venues and facilities are physically accessible. However, only Burwood Community Hub and Customer Services have a hearing loop. Enfield Aquatic Centre has a new accessible entrance and hoist upgrade to improve accessibility.

### Arts and culture

The Burwood Cultural Plan 2015-2018 builds on Council's previous Cultural Plan 2006-2011. The four-year Strategy's goals set out to increase community engagement through the provision of cultural arts activities, programmes and opportunities to enable people in Burwood, residents and visitors to engage more actively with cultural landscape.

## Diversity

The Community Cultural Plan 2006-2011 vision for Burwood to is be: "a creative and inclusive community which promotes and encourages the celebration of the diversity of its cultures and traditions."

The Multicultural Strategy for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community in Burwood notes the high number of older Greek, Italian, Chinese and Korean members of the community who face challenges with communication in English. The Multicultural Strategy for the CALD Community in Burwood contains many strategies which are relevant to parks and community facilities, namely for Burwood Council to:

- Explore opportunities for CALD groups to better access affordable community spaces
- Build and strengthen relationships with CALD leaders and facilitate opportunities for collaboration with CALD groups
- Provide accessible programs, activities and resources;
- Integrate more CALD themes in the development of the public domain
- Provide resources to community groups
- Provide support in learning English
- Maintain and develop programs and events that create opportunities for CALD groups to develop intercultural interaction with celebrate cultural diversity and community cohesion, and
- Develop and encourage volunteer opportunities.

### Healthy & active living

Burwood2030 includes plans to encourage active and healthy lifestyles, such as supporting the development of increased safe cycleways.

### Interaction between different groups in the community

Burwood2030 recognises the importance of promoting interaction between different groups in the community and promoting sporting and activities that bring different diverse people together. Burwood's Ageing Strategy, notes the need for opportunities for generations and cultures to interact.



## Safety and crime prevention

Burwood2030's goal for safe facilities and services includes improving lighting in public places. This is supported by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan Review 2012 (priority area five), which refers to Community Safety Audits in which respondents identified poor lighting as a concern.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan Review 2012 notes that Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles are becoming increasingly prevalent in the Council's plans for parks and public spaces.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE?

The implications of the above strategic policy drivers include:

- The suburb of Burwood is identified as a Strategic Centre in the Eastern City District Plan which highlights its strategic importance within the Sydney metropolitan area.
- The Eastern City District is facing population growth and change that will require partnership with neighbouring LGAs; sharing of school facilities through shared use agreements, in areas where there is an undersupply of local facilities; the optimisation of public land for social infrastructure that will connect communities; and use of non-traditional facilities and spaces for sport, recreation and community uses.
- Planning for community facilities and open space should take a place-based approach, and future social infrastructure and open space should be designed to be flexible to respond to future community needs.
- The Green Grid aims to provide a future network of high-quality green spaces that connects communities to the natural landscape, and Council should consider opportunities for its green spaces through green recreational links and better connection to major Green Grid locations.
- Creating harmonious and healthy communities through access for all to community facilities and open space is a priority for Council through its Community Strategic Plan.
- Providing access (cost, physical, and psychological) for everyone to community facilities is a priority, but particularly for CALD, women, older people, and young people in Burwood LGA who may face language, gender or age barriers to participation as referred to in various Council strategies and plans.

4

# ***Population context***

# Population context

## INTRODUCTION

The Burwood LGA is a melting pot of culture with a thriving business and retail centre surrounded by historic villages each with their own distinct character and charm, including Burwood Heights, Croydon, Croydon Park, Enfield and Strathfield.

The quality of life residents enjoy, the central location, local schools and excellent transport infrastructure has made the LGA an attractive destination for people to live, work, study and visit. As a major strategic centre, Burwood will strengthen its role in Sydney's inner west over the next 10 years providing a mix of higher skilled jobs and a diverse mix of housing.

In 2019, the Burwood LGA is 715ha in size with a population density of 55.8 people per hectare (compared to 3.9 persons across Greater Sydney). Burwood is a mixed residential and commercial area and plays an important role as a strong economic hub with a range of retail outlets, transport, services and facilities.

The demographic data and information in this chapter is sourced from ABS Census and profile.id.

## CURRENT RESIDENT POPULATION

### Total population

Based on the ABS Census, the total population of the LGA in 2016 was 36,809 people, representing a 13.5% increase since 2011. The Estimated Resident Population in 2018 was 39,886 (source: profile.id for Burwood Council) an increase of 3,077 people since 2016.

Table 1 - Total population Burwood LGA 2011 to 2016, Usual Resident Population (URP) (source: ABS Census 2011 and 2016)

	2011	2016	CHANGE 2011 TO 2016	
	Total	Total	Total	%
Burwood LGA	32,423	36,809	4,386	13.5%

### Population density

The population density of the LGA varies by suburb, with Burwood and Strathfield the most dense suburbs. In 2016, the LGA had a population density of 51 persons per hectare as compared to 3.9 persons in Greater Sydney.

Table 2 - Population density by suburb and LGA 2016 (source: ABS, 2016)

SUBURB	HECTARE	PERSONS PER HECTARE
Burwood	245	65
Croydon	153	41
Croydon Park	141	40
Strathfield	78	64
LGA	51.4	51
Greater Sydney		3.9

### Age profile

Overall, the LGA (in 2016) had a high proportion of younger adults (18 to 24 years) and young workforce (aged 25 to 34 years) than compared to Greater Sydney.

These two groups also made up the highest proportion of the total LGA population. Other key population attributes that influence the future planning and provision of community facilities and open space include:

- An increase in the proportion of older people in the LGA between 2011 and 2016 including 50 to 59 years olds, 60 to 69 year olds and 85 years and over
- A lower proportion of 0 to 4 years olds as compared to Greater Sydney (6.4%) and Sydney Inner West (6.0%)
- A lower proportion of 5 to 11 year olds (5.9%) as compared to Greater Sydney (8.8%) and Sydney Inner West (7.3%)
- A lower proportion of 35 to 49 year olds (17.6% people) compared to Greater Sydney (21.1%) and Sydney Inner West (21.7%), and
- Residents aged 12 to 17 years experienced a percentage decrease from 2011 to 2016 (-3.8%).

Table 33 provides a breakdown of service age groups within the Burwood LGA.

Table 3 - Population by service age group 2011 to 2016  
(source: ABS, 2016)

2016					2011				CHANGE 2011 TO 2016	
Service age group	# LGA	% LGA	GS %	SIW %	# LGA	% LGA	SIW %	GS %	# Change	% Change
0 to 4 years	1,670	4.5	6.4	6	1,649	5.1	6.5	6.8	21	1.3
5 to 11 years	2,156	5.9	8.8	7.3	2,103	6.5	6.9	8.7	53	2.5
12 to 17 years	2,051	5.6	6.9	5.4	2,133	6.6	5.6	7.4	-82	-3.8
18 to 24 years	5,484	14.9	9.6	10.1	4,119	12.7	9.3	9.5	1,365	33.1
25 to 34 years	7,860	21.4	16.1	19.7	6,136	18.9	18.5	15.4	1,724	28.1
35 to 49 years	6,487	17.6	21.1	21.7	6,348	19.6	23.6	21.9	139	2.2
50 to 59 years	4,213	11.4	12.2	11.8	3,755	11.6	11.9	12.2	458	12.2
60 to 69 years	3,035	8.2	9.5	8.7	2,619	8.1	8.5	9	416	15.9
70 to 84 years	2,874	7.8	7.5	7.2	2,762	8.5	7.4	7.2	112	4.1
85 and over	976	2.7	2	2.1	799	2.5	2	1.8	177	22.2
Total	36,809	100	100	100	32,423	100	100	100	4,386	13.5

Table 4 - Population change by suburb 2011 to 2016 (source: ABS, 2016)

2016			2011		CHANGE 2011 TO 2016	
Suburb	No.	%	No.	%	# change	% change
Burwood	15,984	43.40%	12,569	38.80%	3,415	27.20%
Croydon	6,314	17.20%	6,119	18.90%	195	3.20%
Croydon Park	5,633	15.30%	5,467	16.90%	166	3.00%
Enfield/ Burwood Heights	3,845	10.50%	3,540	10.90%	305	8.60%
Strathfield	5,040	13.70%	4,729	14.60%	311	6.60%
Burwood Council LGA	36,809	100%	32,423	100%	4,386	13.50%



### Population breakdown by suburbs

As shown in Table 44, in 2016 the suburbs with the resident populations that made up the greatest proportion of the LGA were:

- Burwood (43.4%)
- Croydon (17.2%), and
- Croydon Park (15.3%).

The suburbs with the greatest percentage increase in population between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Burwood (+27.2% or 3,415 people)
- Enfield/Burwood Heights (+8.6% or 305 people), and
- Strathfield (+6.6% or 311 people).

### Cultural diversity

The LGA is a culturally diverse place. ABS Census data for 2016 tells us that the proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home was significantly higher in Burwood LGA (63.5%) than Greater Sydney (35.8%). The top five non-English speaking languages spoken at home in Burwood LGA were:

- Mandarin (20.3%), more than four times the Greater Sydney (4.7%) proportion. The number of residents that spoke Mandarin at home also experienced a significant percentage increase in this language between 2011 and 2016 (+80.7%)
- Cantonese (8.6%), more than double the proportion of Greater Sydney (2.9%) residents
- Italian (4.4%), higher than Greater Sydney (1.3%)
- Korean (3.9%), higher than Greater Sydney (1.2%), and
- Arabic (3.7%), lower than Greater Sydney (4.0%).

### Household size

According to ABS, in 2016 the average household size in Burwood LGA was 2.82 persons per dwelling. This is higher than Greater Sydney at 2.72. Given the lower density and separate dwellings in these areas, the highest average household sizes were:

- Croydon Park (3.01), and
- Croydon (2.89).

There were higher numbers of 4, 5, and 6 person households than Greater Sydney (32.2% compared to 30.8%). This higher household size is most likely attributable to multiple families living in one household and student group households.

### Household type

In 2016 households in Burwood LGA had:

- A lower proportion of couples with children (31.4% or 3,956 households) compared Greater Sydney (35.3%)
- A low proportion of couples without children (21.9% or 2,766 households) compared to Greater Sydney (22.4%). There was also a significant increase between 2011 and 2016 (+17.0%)
- A significantly high proportion of group households (10.3% or 1,301 households) compared to Greater Sydney (4.5%). There was also a significant increase between 2011 and 2016 (+50.9%). The higher proportion of group households could be attributable to a high number of international students living in Burwood
- A low proportion of lone-person households (19% or 2,402 people) compared to Greater Sydney (20.4%), and
- Around 3.4% of households in Burwood LGA were social housing (Greater Sydney 4%).

### Dwelling type

In 2016, across the LGA there was:

- A lower proportion of separate houses (38.5% or 5,197 dwellings) compared to Greater Sydney (55.0%)
- A slightly higher proportion of medium density dwellings (23.9% or 3,230 dwellings) compared to Greater Sydney (20.3%). There was an increase between 2011 and 2016 (+35.4%), and
- A higher proportion of high-density dwellings (36.3% or 4,896 dwellings) compared Greater Sydney (23.5%). There was also a significant percentage increase between 2011 and 2016 (+48.5%).

### Income

In 2016, 19% of the LGA's total households were classed as low-income compared to 15.1% in Greater Sydney. While the LGA had a higher proportion of low-income households, this varied across the LGA with a high of 22% of low income households in Burwood, and a low of 11.5% on Croydon Park.

The median household income in Burwood LGA was \$1,566. This was lower than both Sydney Inner West (\$1,867) and Greater Sydney (\$1,745).

## Employment/unemployment

Council's Community Strategic Plan tells us there are 20,644 local jobs and 5,184 local businesses. In 2016, 7.6% of Burwood LGA's labour force was classed as unemployed compared to Sydney Inner West (5.8%) and Greater Sydney (6.0%). While the LGA had a higher rate of unemployment, this varied across the LGA with a high of 10.1% in Burwood and a low of 3.9% in Croydon Park.

## Education and students

In 2016, 35% of Burwood's population aged 15 years and over had a university qualification (Bachelor degree or higher), compared to 28.3% in Greater Sydney. In 2016, 12.8% of Burwood Council area's population were attending a University compared to 6.1% in Greater Sydney. This varied across the LGA, with a low of 6.0% in Croydon Park (South) to a high of 17.9% in Burwood (South).

## SEIFA Index of Disadvantage

Lower incomes, higher unemployment, and living in non-private dwellings such as boarding houses or nursing homes are indicators of disadvantage. The Burwood LGA had a SEIFA (Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage) rating of 999, which is lower than Greater Sydney (1,018), SSROC (1023.7) and Sydney Inner West (1032.5), which means that it is more highly disadvantaged than these areas.

## Need for assistance

In 2016, Burwood LGA (5.2%) had a higher proportion of people in need of assistance due to disability compared to Sydney Inner West (4.7%) and Greater Sydney (4.9%).

## SUBURB COMPARISON

Figure 8 provides a snapshot of the unique population characteristics by suburb, showing which areas have significant population characteristics that are higher or lower than Greater Sydney averages. It shows there is greater age, household and cultural diversity, and higher disadvantage in the northern suburbs of the LGA (Burwood, Strathfield), which are also the most highly dense and have the highest forecast population and density growth and change.



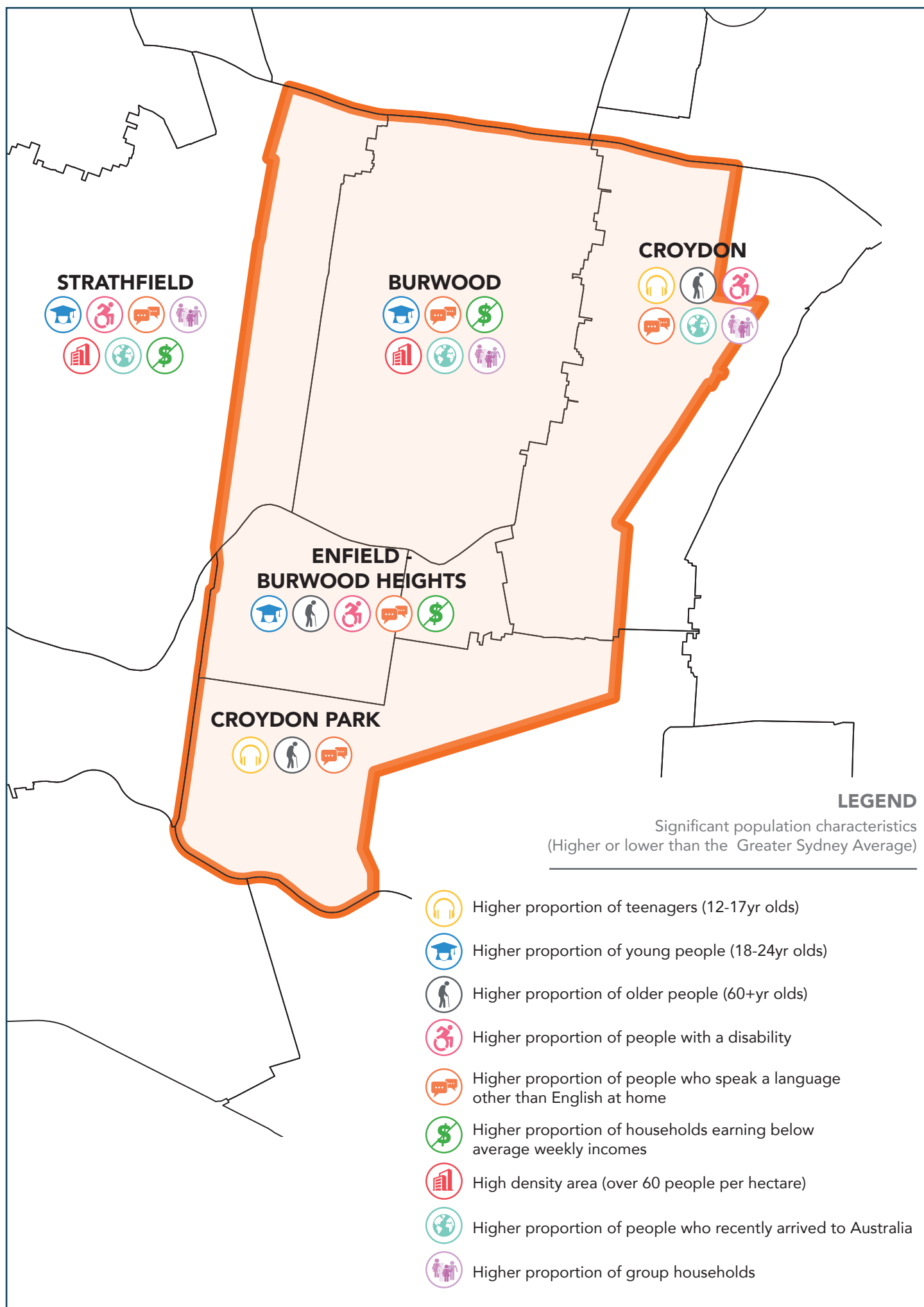


Figure 8 - Burwood LGA suburb demographic characteristics  
Burwood Community Facilities and Open Space Strategy | 29

POPULATION FORECASTS

Total population

According to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), by 2036 the forecast population of the Burwood LGA will be 57,500 (+18,650 or 48% growth). This growth is similar to the forecast growth for Sydney (48.3%). No suburb population forecasts are available.

Comparison to neighbouring LGAs

All neighbouring councils have forecast population growth, with Burwood (46%) and Strathfield (70%) forecast to have the highest proportional growth. The significant growth in Strathfield LGA is likely to occur around the Strathfield Town Centre, part of which is located within the Burwood LGA.

Table 5 - Forecast population growth neighbouring LGAs (source: NSW DPIE)

	2016	2036	CHANGE
Burwood LGA	36,809	57,500	48%
Canada Bay LGA	95,618	119,858	25%
Inner West LGA	199,527	230,667	15.60%
Strathfield LGA	41,050	60,950	70%
Canterbury Bankstown LGA	381,212	463,311	21%
Eastern City District	1,103,200	1,338,050	234,850

Service group forecasts

As shown in Table 6 6, between 2016 and 2036 the highest growth is expected for people aged 25 to 34 years. There is also a high expected growth in the age groups of 18 to 24 year olds, 35 to 49 year olds and 50 to 59 year olds.

Table 6 - Burwood LGA Age profile forecasts (source NSW DPIE, applying 2016 service age group proportions to the forecast total population)

SERVICE AGE GROUP	2016	2026	2036	GROWTH 2016-2036
0 to 4 years	1,670	2,212	2,588	918
5 to 11 years	2,156	2,900	3,393	1,237
12 to 17 years	2,051	2,752	3,220	1,169
18 to 24 years	5,484	7,323	8,568	3,084
25 to 34 years	7,860	10,518	12,305	4,445
35 to 49 years	6,487	8,650	10,120	3,633
50 to 59 years	4,213	5,603	6,555	2,342
60 to 69 years	3,035	4,030	4,715	1,680
70 to 84 years	2,874	3,834	4,485	1,611
85 and over	976	1,327	1,553	577
Total Population	36,809	49,150	57,500	20,691

## DEMOGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE

Table 77 gives a summary of the implications of Burwood LGA's demographic trends on demand for community facilities and open space.

Table 7 - Demographic implications for future community facility and open space needs

DEMOGRAPHIC TREND	IMPLICATIONS FOR ACCESS COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE
High forecast growth, with the majority of growth likely in Burwood suburb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased demand for limited open space and community facilities in an already highly populated area</li> <li>- Making existing facilities and open space work harder.</li> </ul>
Increasing population density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More people living in high density will increase demand for outdoor space and "parks and streets as backyards" away from the home for socialisation, gathering, walking the dog, playing with children, exercise, birthday parties and other celebrations</li> <li>- Increasing density will require more open space to create a break from the built form</li> <li>- The existing use of parks in high density areas may need to prioritise local uses over regional or LGA wide uses. Need to prioritise local over regional uses of existing open space areas and community facilities.</li> </ul>
High forecast growth in neighbouring LGAs including Strathfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact of growth on local access to community facilities and open space that service a regional need including the Enfield Aquatic Centre, sportsfields, and Burwood Park</li> <li>- Opportunities to regional approaches to delivering identified community facility and open space gaps.</li> </ul>
High cultural diversity, particularly from Chinese speaking countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spaces for cultural activities and for programs to support people with English as a second language</li> <li>- Hard surface sheltered outdoor spaces to support culturally diverse leisure/social activities such as Tai Chi, dance, badminton, family gatherings, bbqs</li> <li>- Demand for indoor courts for badminton, table tennis, and dance</li> <li>- Demand for community facilities and open space for use at night.</li> </ul>
Increasing proportion of older people 60+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spaces within multipurpose facilities for delivery of programs and services to support older people to age in place</li> <li>- Park designs for intergenerational play including senior's exercise equipment, seating and shading</li> <li>- Accessible facilities and open space and inclusion of universal design principles.</li> </ul>
20,000+ local jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A high proportion of workers increasing demand for open space, particularly during breaks and after work for exercise classes, team sports (for example, lunchtime ball games) relaxation and eating lunch</li> <li>- Community facilities and spaces for meetings, workshops and team building.</li> </ul>
High proportion of tertiary age students and group households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free outdoor recreation facilities for social recreation and gathering.</li> <li>- Community facilities and open space away from crowded housing</li> <li>- Access to technology and places to study</li> <li>- Co-working desks and incubator/start up hubs.</li> </ul>
Low car ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community facilities and open space should be located near public transport, walking paths and cycle routes.</li> </ul>
More highly disadvantaged area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Burwood's lower SEIFA rating indicates that there are residents living in the LGA who will continue to require access to low cost or free, either formal or informal activities either in parks or Council community facilities. There will also be demand for community services delivered by other agencies, that will need spaces to deliver services.</li> </ul>
High and increasing number of workers, including from neighbouring LGAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workers will increase demand for indoor recreation centres, indoor courts, and open space for exercise, team sports, fitness, lunch and socialising.</li> </ul>

# 5

## ***Community facility supply***





# Community facility supply

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES WITHIN THE BURWOOD LGA

There are 59 community facilities located in the Burwood LGA. These facilities are owned by a range of providers including NSW Government, Council, Non-government organisations, and the private sector. Facilities include:

- One aquatic centre, including one meeting room
- 16 community centres/community venues for hire
- One library
- One Early Child Health Centre
- 16 long day care
- Two preschools (children 0 to 5 years)
- Eight Out of School Hours Care centres/services (5 to 11 year)
- Six primary schools
- Two secondary schools
- Three primary and secondary combined.

### Council owned community facilities

As shown in Figure 99, Council owns 10 community facilities including:

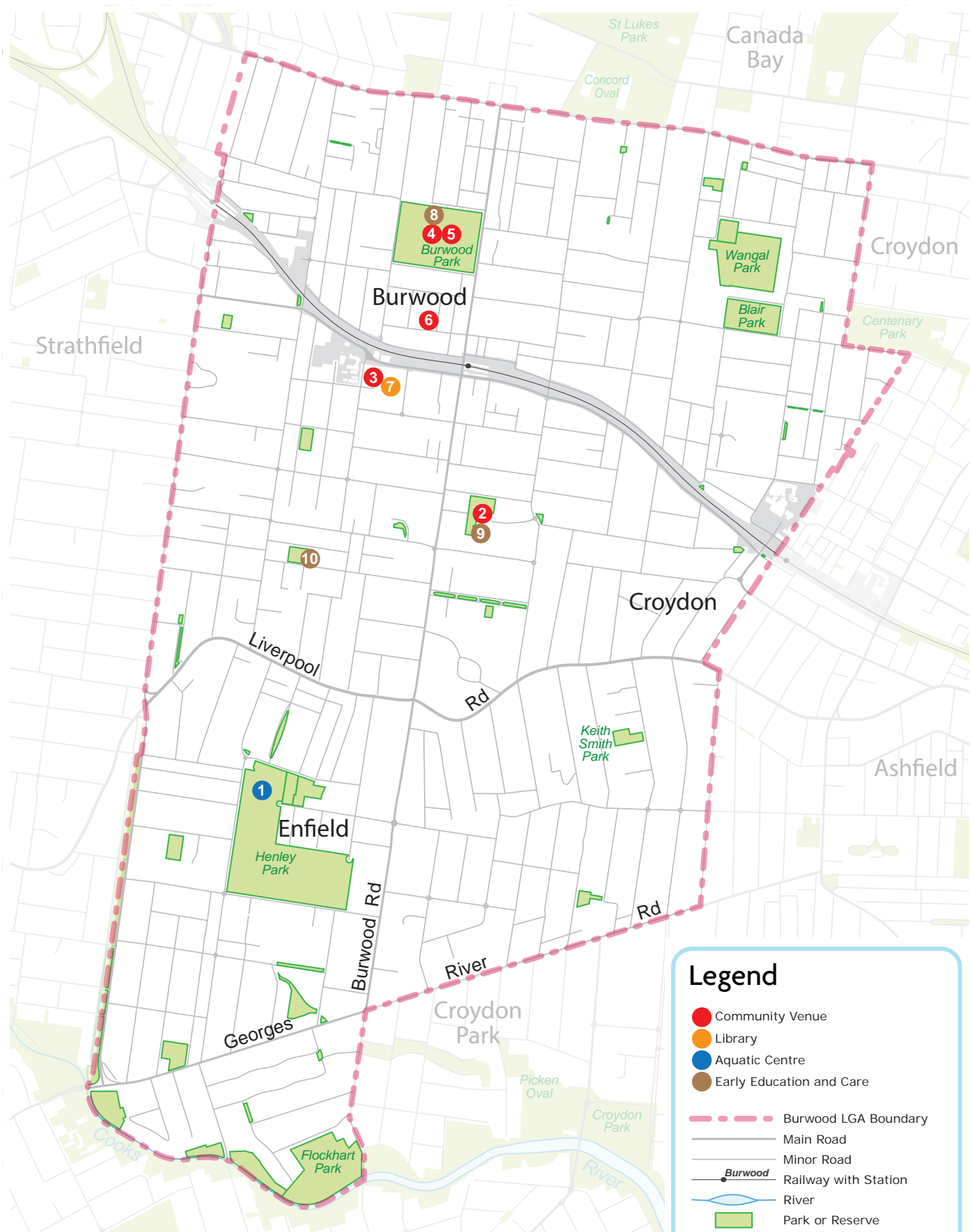
- One aquatic centre
- Five community centres/venues for hire
- Three early education and care centres, and
- One library.

Council does not own any facilities with indoor courts, or dedicated arts and cultural facilities.

Council's community facilities are clustered around the Burwood Town Centre and Burwood Station. There is a lack of community facilities in the south of the LGA.

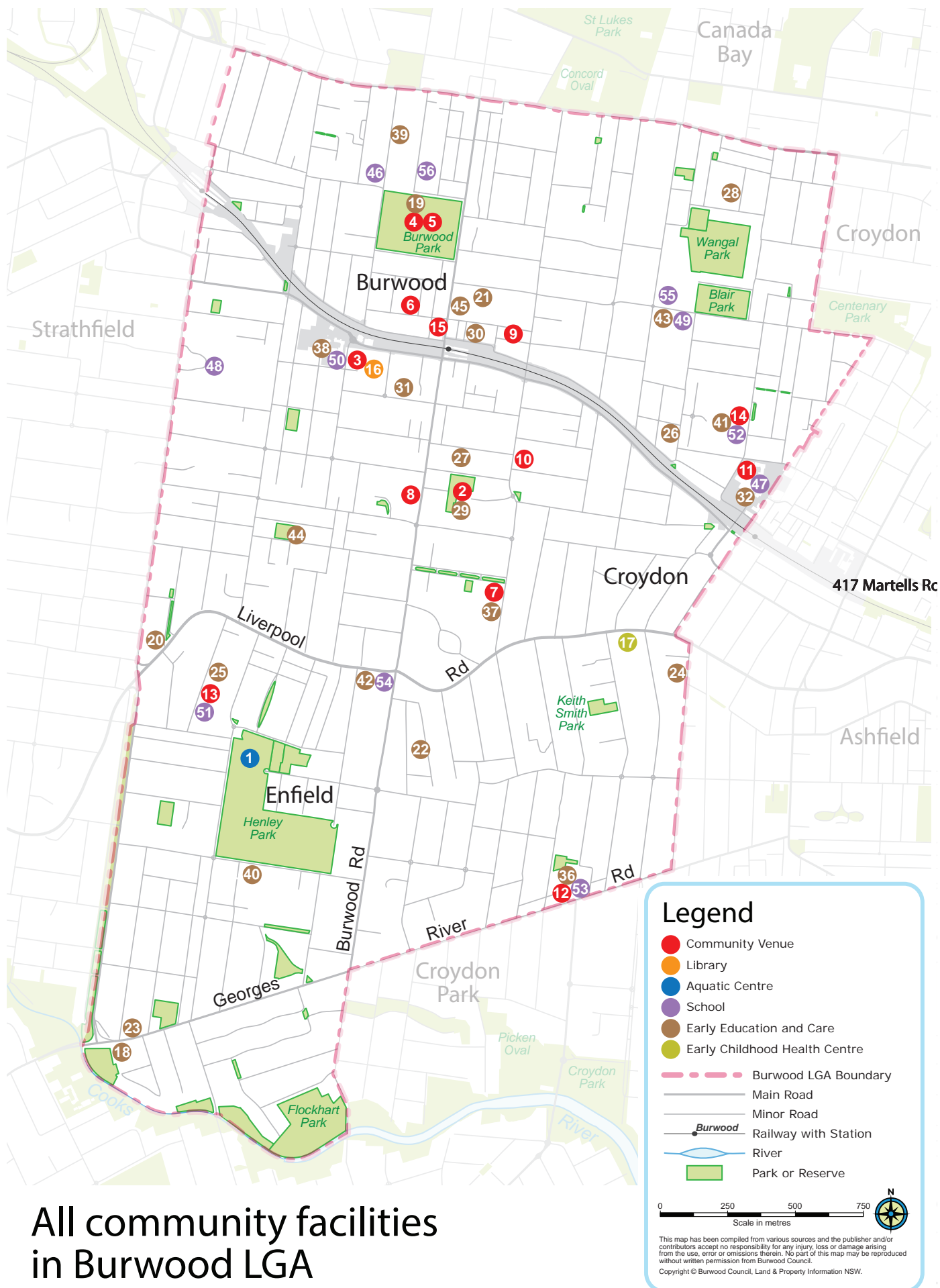
Table 8 - Inventory of Council owned community facilities

FACILITY NAME	TYPE	SIZE/ PLACES	SUBURB
Enfield Aquatic Centre	Aquatic centre		Enfield
Woodstock Community Centre and Fitzroy Hall	Community centre	860m <sup>2</sup>	Burwood
Burwood Community Hub	Venue for hire	150m <sup>2</sup>	Burwood
Burwood Library	Library	1,200m <sup>2</sup>	Burwood
Burwood Park Community Centre	Vacant venue for hire	110m <sup>2</sup>	Burwood
Burwood Pavilion Community Centre	Venue for hire	450m <sup>2</sup> (including outside pavilion)	Burwood
George Street Community Venue	Venue for hire	225m <sup>2</sup>	Burwood
Burwood Montessori Academy	Long Day Care	73 places	Burwood
Woodstock Child Care Centre	Long Day Care	63 places	Burwood
KU Burwood Preschool	Preschool	25 places	Burwood



## Community Facilities Owned By Burwood Council

Figure 9 - Council owned community facilities, source Council 2019



## All community facilities in Burwood LGA

Figure 10 - Map of all community facilities located in Burwood LGA (source: Council 2019)



Table 9 - Audit of community facilities in Burwood LGA (Source: Council, 2019)

MAP NO.	NAME	TYPE	SUBURB
1	Enfield Aquatic Centre	Aquatic Centre	Enfield
2	Woodstock Community Centre and new Fitzroy Hall	Community venue	Burwood
3	Burwood Community hub	Community Hub	Burwood
4	Burwood Park Community Centre (Vacant)	Community venue	Burwood
5	Burwood Park Pavilion Community Centre	Community venue	Burwood
6	George Street Community Venue	Community venue	Burwood
7	Burwood Community Welfare Services Incorporated Community Hall	Community venue	Burwood
8	St Paul's Anglican Church Hall	Community venue	Burwood
9	Burwood Scout Hall	Community venue	Burwood
10	Burwood RSL Club Auditorium	Community venue	Burwood
11	Presbyterian Ladies College Hall	Community venue	Croydon
12	Croydon Park Public School Hall	Community venue	Croydon Park
13	Enfield Public School Hall	Community venue	Enfield
14	Croydon Public School Hall	Community venue	Croydon
15	Burwood Public School Hall	Community venue	Burwood
16	Southern Cross Vocational High School Hall	Community venue	Burwood
17	Club Burwood function rooms	Community venue	Burwood
18	Burwood Library	Library	Burwood
19	Croydon Early Childhood Health Centre	Early childhood health centre	Croydon
20	Only About Children Croydon Park	Early education and care	Croydon Park
21	Burwood Montessori Academy	Early education and care	Burwood
22	City Kidz Pre- School	Early education and care	Enfield
23	Educare Playskool Burwood	Early education and care	Burwood
24	Elm St Early Learning Centre	Early education and care	Burwood Heights
25	Love of Learning Early Learning Centre	Early education and care	Croydon Park
26	Greenhills Early Learning Centre	Early education and care	Croydon
27	Beaumaris Street Early Learning Centre	Early education and care	Enfield
28	Kiddies Kapers Learning Centre	Early education and care	Croydon
29	Mother's Love Early Education & Childcare Service	Early education and care	Burwood
30	St Anthony's Family Care - Early Learning Centre	Early education and care	Croydon
31	Woodstock Child Care Centre	Early education and care	Burwood
32	One Plus One Early Learning Centre	Early education and care	Burwood

Table 9 Audit of community facilities in Burwood LGA (2016) continued...

MAP NO.	NAME	TYPE	SUBURB
36	ToBeMe Early Learning - Burwood	Early education and care	Burwood
37	Little Bees Childcare Burwood	Early education and care	Burwood
38	PLC TheirCare Sydney	Early education and care	Croydon
39	Croydon Park OSHC Centre	Early education and care	Croydon Park
40	Burwood Heights Kids Out of School Hours Care	Early education and care	Burwood
41	YMCA Burwood OSHC	Early education and care	Burwood
42	Uniting MLC School Outside School Hours Care	Early education and care	Burwood
43	Kidz On The Go	Early education and care	Croydon Park
44	Coscare Inc.	Early education and care	Croydon
45	Kids Capers Enfield OOSH	Early education and care	Enfield
46	Holy Innocents Out of School Hours Care	Early education and care	CROYDON
47	KU - Burwood Preschool	Early education and care	BURWOOD
48	Uniting Care Burwood Preschool	Early education and care	BURWOOD
49	MLC School	School	Burwood
50	Presbyterian Ladies College	School	Croydon
51	Santa Sabina College	School	Strathfield
52	Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary School	School	Croydon
53	Burwood Public School	School	Burwood
54	Enfield Public School	School	Enfield
55	Croydon Public School	School	Croydon
56	Croydon Park Public School	School	Croydon Park
57	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	School	Enfield
58	Burwood Girls High School	School	Croydon
59	Southern Cross Vocational College	School	Burwood

## PLANNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Council plans to deliver new community facilities by 2026 as detailed in Table 1010 including 800m<sup>2</sup> of new multipurpose community floor space which is planned as flexible space for both community and library uses.

Table 10 - Planned new facilities and community floor space Burwood LGA

FUTURE FACILITY	LOCATION	FLOOR SPACE
Training Room	Enfield Aquatic Centre	30m <sup>2</sup>
Health and Wellbeing Room	Enfield Aquatic Centre	40m <sup>2</sup>
Community room/Storage	Henley Park Sports Facility	40m <sup>2</sup>
Multipurpose community floor space	Burwood Community Hub – flexible space for library/community use linked by an air bridge to the existing library/community hub	800m <sup>2</sup>
TOTAL		910m <sup>2</sup>



Figure 11 - Plans are currently underway for improvements to Burwood Library  
(image source: Cred Consulting)





# **Community facility demand benchmarking**

# Community facility demand benchmarking

This chapter provides an assessment of demand for community facilities based on population and proximity based benchmarking. Benchmarking is provided by community facility type including:

- Community centre floor space (community centres and venues)
- Arts and cultural facilities
- Libraries
- Early education and care, and
- Indoor recreation.

## COMMUNITY CENTRES AND VENUES

Community centres are staffed community facilities that provide onsite hire support and importantly, deliver services and programs tailored to meet the social, cultural, learning and leisure needs of the different communities surrounding each centre. These centres also offer rooms and spaces for hire by all residents, workers and visitors. As they are staffed centres, their doors are open to residents, workers and visitors to access Council and community information and directly engage.

Community venues are unstaffed community facilities that are available as venues for hire. They include rooms, halls and auditoriums that are suitable for either community meetings, social group gatherings, cultural activities, conferences, civic functions, private functions or weddings.

Community venues support local communities to participate in community and cultural life. These spaces are particularly important in areas where residents have limited indoor and outdoor space for gathering and socialising. In inner city areas these spaces are increasingly used for children's birthday parties, which bring together friends, family and neighbours. Burwood Council currently operates a number of community venues.

Community centres play an key role in community and cultural development of communities. Community centres are an important part of the public domain, as they are open to everyone, regardless of income and are accessible and inclusive. There are currently no Council-owned, staffed community centres in the Burwood LGA.

## POPULATION BASED BENCHMARKING

### Population benchmarking approach

This study applies the benchmark of 80m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people to determine the floor space required per 1,000 people by LGA. This benchmark has been consistently used in social infrastructure planning including for the City of Parramatta Social Infrastructure Strategy 2018 and Canada Bay Social Infrastructure Strategy 2019.

### Current floor space provision

Community centre floor space includes all Council owned community venue, hall or centres.

As shown in Table 11, Burwood Council currently owns and manages 1,815m<sup>2</sup> of community floor space including community centres and venues for hire. By 2026, this will increase to 2,725m<sup>2</sup>.

Table 11 - Total floor space Council owned community facilities June 2019

FACILITY	TOTAL FLOOR SPACE M <sup>2</sup> (JUNE 2019)	PROPOSED NEW FLOOR SPACE M <sup>2</sup> (2026)	TOTAL BY 2026
Woodstock Community Centre and Fitzroy Hall	860		860m <sup>2</sup>
Burwood Community Hub	150	800m <sup>2</sup>	750m <sup>2</sup>
Burwood Park Community Centre (Vacant)	110		110m <sup>2</sup>
Burwood Park Pavilion Community Centre (indoor/ outdoor)	450		450m <sup>2</sup>
George Street Community Venue	225		225m <sup>2</sup>
Enfield Aquatic centre	20	70m <sup>2</sup>	90m <sup>2</sup>
Henley Park Community room	-	40m <sup>2</sup>	40m <sup>2</sup>
Total	1,815m <sup>2</sup>	910m <sup>2</sup>	2,725m <sup>2</sup>



Community floor space provision per 1,000 people

As shown in Figure 122, applying this benchmark across the LGA there is currently 49m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people of community floor space which will increase slightly to 51m<sup>2</sup> in 2026 but declines with population growth to 43m<sup>2</sup> in 2036.

Applying the benchmark of 80m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people, by 2036, Burwood Council would need to deliver an additional 1,875m<sup>2</sup> of community centre floor space to meet benchmarks.

Figure 12 - Burwood LGA community floor space per 1,000 people (source: Cred Consulting)

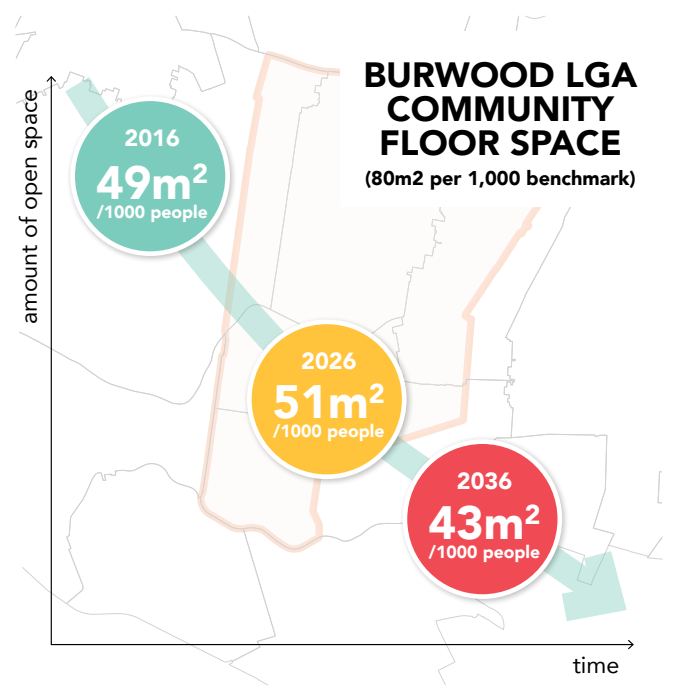


Table 12 - Community centre floor space gap to 2036

	COMMUNITY FLOOR SPACE NEED (80M <sup>2</sup> PER 1,000)	FLOOR SPACE PROVISION	FLOOR SPACE GAP
2016	2,955	1,815	1,140
2026	3,932	2,725	1,207
2036	4,600	2,725	1,875

PROXIMITY BASED BENCHMARKING

Understood best practice indicates that all residents should be within 800m walking distance of a local community facility.

Figure 133 shows that residents below the Liverpool Road (Hume Highway) are not currently in proximity to any community facilities. Once the proposed community spaces at the Aquatic Centre and Henley Park are built, they will have access to small program/community rooms of around 40m<sup>2</sup> but not to any facilities of at least 200m<sup>2</sup> (which are considered usable for gatherings and larger community events and programs, e.g. the size of the Burwood Community Centre in Burwood Park).

Figure 144 (overpage) shows that residents in the south of our LGA also cannot access district level community centres/venues in neighbouring LGAs easily within 800m walking distance.

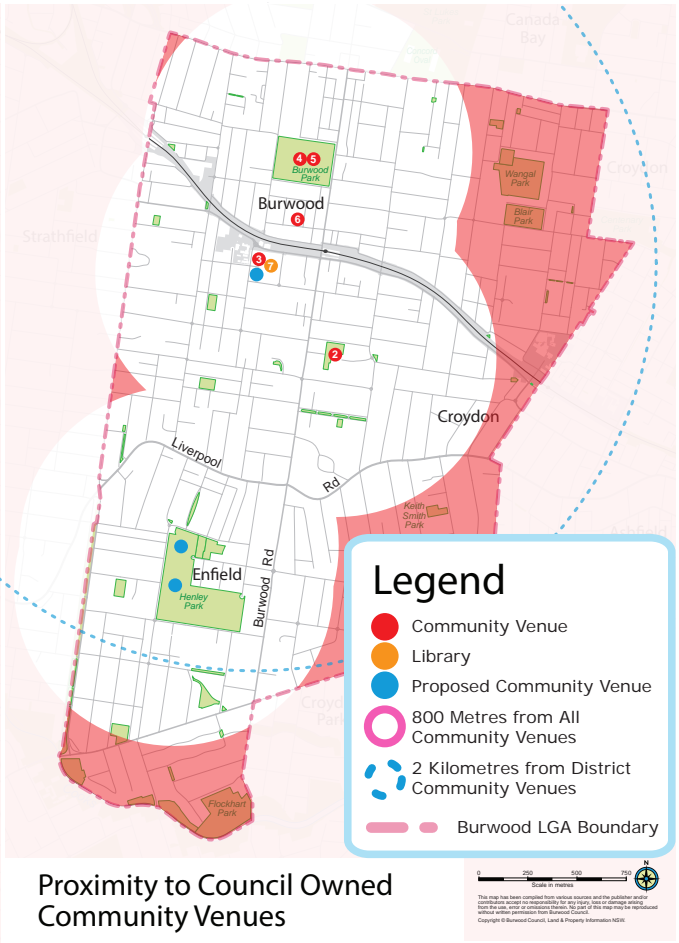
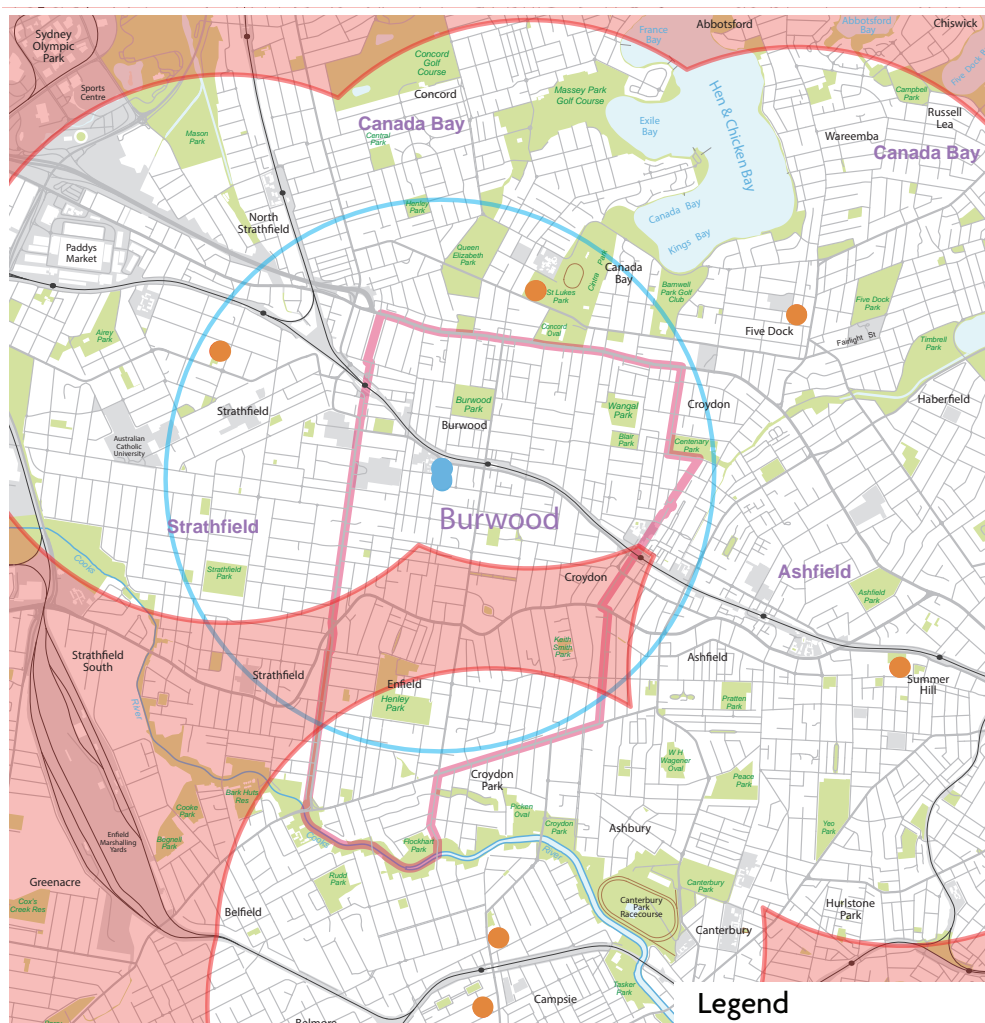


Figure 13 - Proximity to Council owned facilities (source: Burwood Council & Cred Consulting)





## Key

- District level community facilities (external LGAs)
- District level community facilities (Burwood LGA)

Figure 14 - Proximity to district community facilities in neighbouring LGAs (source: Burwood Council and Cred Consulting)

## Legend

## ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Create NSW has highlighted that cultural infrastructure is an integral part of individual and community life. Creative spaces can include places to both produce, and consume art, they can also be delivered in a variety of ways to respond to local community needs. Quality cultural facilities play an important role in supporting and facilitating social cohesion and creative expression. As identified by Create NSW, future cultural space/ infrastructure provision should not just be about new buildings but also through adaptive and creative reuse of existing facilities. Arts and cultural infrastructure includes performance and exhibition spaces; community participation spaces such as maker spaces and co-working spaces; creative arts centres; artists studios.

### Current provision

There are currently no dedicated arts and cultural facilities in the Burwood LGA. There are also no performing or creative arts centres in neighbouring Strathfield or Canada Bay LGAs. However, within the Burwood LGA, there are multipurpose facilities that are used for arts and cultural purposes including: A wet/dry art room at the Woodstock Centre, and the Burwood Community Pavilion is a space where cultural performance and events are delivered.

### Approach to benchmarking

There is no standard set of NSW cultural facility planning benchmarks. However, The Growth Centre Commission's benchmarks have been adopted of 1 x Multipurpose Performing Arts/Cultural Centre for every 30,000 people to an 'arts space' of any hierarchy or nature.

Applying this benchmark to our LGA would require one dedicated arts and cultural facility to support our current population and up to two facilities by 2036. This can be delivered as part of future multipurpose community centres (e.g. which might include exhibition or creative art space) or through the provision of a dedicated cultural centre or performance space as part of a mixed-use development.

LIBRARIES

Libraries are emerging as one of the highest priority community facilities for local communities, particularly those with high numbers of students, newly arrived residents, and with higher levels of disadvantage. They are transforming into more than just places to access books and other resources, but places of refuge, creativity, and co-work. Libraries are becoming known as “the third place (outside of our other places of home and work). Easy to access libraries and community spaces that are located in close proximity to public transport play a critical role in providing opportunities for students to study and learn, for people to stay in contact with each other, and for people to access technology and other tools. Increasingly libraries are providing business focused spaces such as office work spaces with access to the Internet, printers, and a social environment.

Approach to benchmarking

The commonly used approach to benchmarking for libraries is the State Library of NSW, People Places. New benchmarks were released in April 2019 and have been applied to forecast demand for future library space demand for the Burwood LGA.

Current library floor space provision

Currently there is 1,200m<sup>2</sup> of library floor space within one library located in Burwood Town Centre. By 2022, an additional 800m<sup>2</sup> of flexible multipurpose community floor space will be delivered as part of a new community hub, which will increase the provision of library floor space to 2,000m<sup>2</sup> by 2026.

What do the benchmarks tell us?

As shown in Table 133, there is a 2016 gap of 614m<sup>2</sup> of library floor space, increasing to 481m<sup>2</sup> by 2036.

Table 13 - Library floor space demand 2016 to 2036 (source: State Library of NSW, People Places, 2019)

YEAR	DEMAND	PROVISION	GAP
2016	1,814	1,200	-614
2026	2,218	2,000	-218
2036	2,481	2,000	-481



Figure 15 - Book display at Burwood Library and Community Hub

## SCHOOLS

Schools include public and private primary and secondary schools, which their provision are the responsibility the NSW Government, or private organisations and not local councils. They offer educational services for children and young people, but also are increasingly seen as being a key part of communities, where sharing of facilities and resources present an opportunity in areas of high population growth.

### Current provision

As shown in Table 144, within our area, there are currently:

- Six primary schools
- Two secondary schools, and
- Three primary and secondary combined.

Table 14 - School enrollments in the Burwood LGA 2016 to 2018 (source: MySchool)

SCHOOL	SUBURB	OPERATOR	TYPE	ENROLLMENTS 2018	ENROLLMENT 2013	CHANGE 2013 - 2018
Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary School	Croydon	Catholic Education	Primary School	162	200	-38
Burwood Public School	Burwood	NSW Government	Primary School	579	649	-70
Enfield Public School	Enfield	NSW Government	Primary School	296	274	22
Croydon Public School	Croydon	NSW Government	Primary School	684	690	6
Croydon Park Public School	Croydon Park	NSW Government	Primary School	446	371	75
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Enfield	Catholic Education	Primary School	539	505	34
Burwood Girls High School	Croydon	NSW Government	Secondary School	1,152	1,151	1
Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College	Burwood	Independent	Secondary School	NA	NA	
MLC School	Burwood	Independent	Primary & Secondary School	1,191	1,167	24
Presbyterian Ladies College	Croydon	Independent	Primary & Secondary School	1,407	1,386	21
Santa Sabina College	Strathfield	Independent	Primary & Secondary School	1,216	1,176	40

These schools have not had significant increases in enrollments over the past 5 years.

### Benchmarking approach

NSW Department of Education (DoE) does not provide any benchmarks for future planning of public primary and secondary schools. New school places are based on a range of considerations including current utilisation, school capacity, and forecast growth.

While there are no plans for new schools by DOE. Therefore, within our existing school infrastructure and based on population forecasts, by 2036 there will be a need for an additional:

- 1,237 primary school places for children aged 5 to 11 years, and
- 1,169 secondary school places for young people aged 12 to 17 years.



Department of Education planning

For schools outside of, but service our LGA, DoE are planning for:

- Croydon Public School – upgrades to cater for up to 1,000 students
- Homebush West Public School – recently completed upgrades and new classrooms to assist in meeting projected demand, and
- A new high school at Sydney Olympic Park. Once complete, this school may assist in relieving enrolment pressure at surrounding schools.

EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

Early education and care (or childcare) centres provide education and care services for children aged 0 to 5 years (before school begins) and 5 to 12 years (during primary school years).

While not a direct Council responsibility, it is recognised that quality and sufficient early education and care services can help build stronger community connections within neighbourhoods. These facilities connect families and children with each other and to local services (such as schools and community services); support a strong economy and workforces; and improve social and educational outcomes for children and families through access to education and care services as well as access to literacy, environmental and other educational programs for children and families particularly those from low-income families, those with additional needs, and those with English as a second language.

Policy considerations

In 2017, the NSW Government passed the State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017. The new SEPP clearly limits the role of Council as a consent authority on influencing where new education and care services can be built in the LGA and the design of the services.

For centre-based early education and care facilities, the matters for consideration in the Child Care SEPP and the Child Care Planning Guideline take precedence over controls in Council’s DCP, with the exception of controls relating to building height, side and rear setbacks and car parking rates.

The need for more affordable early education and care services that are responsive to the social, economic and cultural needs of our residents and workers, as well as a need to ensure that there are adequate services in the area that meet any forecast demand is important.

CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 5 YEARS

Centre-based education and care services (childcare) for children aged 0 to 5 years include Long Day Care and Preschool. These services are all regulated under National Regulations.

There are currently 928 early education and care centres for children aged 0 to 5 years located in the LGA.

Table 15 - Total early education and care places for children aged 0 to 5 years (source: ACECQA, May 2019)

SUBURB	TOTAL CENTRES	TOTAL PLACES
Burwood	10	531
Croydon/Croydon Park	6	288
Enfield	2	109
TOTAL	18	928

Approach to benchmarking

A benchmark of 1 place for every 3.8 children aged 0 to 5 years has been applied. This is based on NSW utilisation data of approved early education and care by children in NSW in 2018 as released by the Productivity Commission in January 2019. (Report on Government Services, Productivity Commission, Canberra).

For 0-5 year olds this utilisation data shows that based on the NSW benchmark there is no current or forecast gap for early education and care places for children aged 0 to 5 years in our LGA. However, this does not include the 14,000 workers in the Burwood LGA who do not live in the area. A benchmark of 1 place for every 75 workers (City of Sydney Child Care Strategy 2014) has also been applied, indicating there may be demand for an additional 90 places by 2036.

Table 16 - Benchmark demand for early education and care places for children aged 0 to 5 years

TOTAL CHILDREN 0 TO 5 YEARS	TOTAL PLACES 2019	RESIDENT DEMAND	WORKER DEMAND	TOTAL DEMAND	GAP
2,032	928	534	186	720	No gap
3,162	928	832	186	1,018	90

## CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 12 YEARS

Education and care services for children aged 5 to 12 years include Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) which provide before and after school care and school holiday (vacation) care. As at May 2019, there were 637 Out of School Hours Care places in 8 centres.

Table 17 - Out of School Hours Care centres and places by suburb (source: ACECQA, May 2019)

SUBURB	CENTRE	PLACES
Burwood	3	210
Croydon/Croydon Park	4	363
Enfield	1	64
Total	8	637

### Benchmarking approach

A benchmark of 1 place for every 6 children aged 5 to 12 years has been applied based on NSW utilisation data of Commonwealth approved Out of School Hours Care by children in NSW in 2018 (Report on Government Services, Productivity Commission, Canberra). As shown in Table 188, there is no gap in Out of School Hours Care places to 2026.

Table 18 - Benchmark demand for Out of School Hours Care places for children aged 5 to 12 years

	TOTAL CHILDREN 5 TO 12 YEARS	TOTAL PLACES 2019	DEMAND BASED ON BENCHMARK	GAP 2016
2016	2,487	637	414	No gap
2036	3,881	637	646	9

## AQUATIC CENTRES AND INDOOR RECREATION

### AQUATIC CENTRES

NSW recreation participation trends indicate that swimming is amongst the most popular recreation activities for all demographics. Swimming facilities play many roles: from learn to swim classes for adults and children – particularly children and adults from non-English speaking backgrounds; to gentle exercise for older people, people with injuries and pregnant women; to social recreation on hot days; to more intense exercise and lap swimming.

With increasing high density living and smaller backyards, higher temperatures, and an ageing and culturally diverse population, swimming facilities are increasingly in demand. However, many councils across Australia face increasing costs of maintaining older facilities that are reaching end of life. Some strata developments may include a communal pool.

### Current provision

Aquatic centres are generally provided at an LGA, or regional level as they service a large catchment of around 5km travel distance. Currently there is one Council owned Aquatic centre in Enfield. Given the small geographical size of the LGA, this aquatic centre services the whole of the LGA.

Council has plans to upgrade this facility to respond to population growth and its age, and the needs of its culturally diverse community (particularly in relation to learning to swim). The masterplan (2016) included upgraded amenities for outdoor pool, new Learn to Swim pool for teaching children and adults to swim, new café, new rooms for health and wellbeing activities, and a new customer service foyer.

In terms of regional aquatic centres, as shown in Figure 166, while there are a number of aquatic centres in the Inner West LGA, Burwood Council's aquatic centre is most likely also servicing the Strathfield LGA where there are no public swimming pools.

### Benchmarking approach

A benchmark of one indoor aquatic centre for every 50,000 to 100,000 people is commonly used (Parks and Leisure Australia). Based on this benchmark, there is no current or forecast demand for a new aquatic centre within the Burwood LGA.

## Aquatic facilities

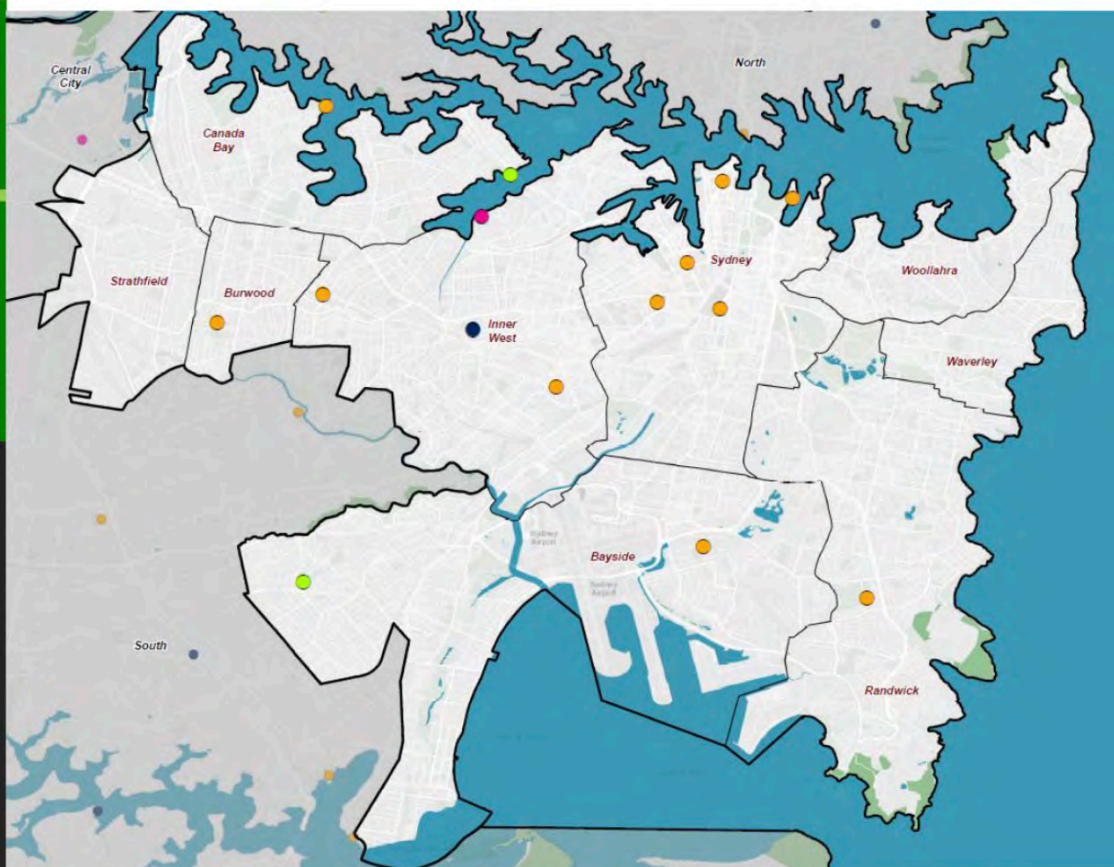


Figure 16 - Aquatic facilities in the Eastern City District (NSW Office of Sport, 2019)

### INDOOR RECREATION AND INDOOR COURTS

Indoor recreation centres provide an all-weather venue for recreation, as well as being essential for some sports (e.g. gymnastics, squash, badminton and table tennis) and ideal for others (e.g. high level basketball and netball competitions). In culturally diverse communities, indoor recreation is particularly popular while indoor spaces are also appropriate for working age populations who may be playing social sports later at night.

#### Current provision

There are no indoor courts or indoor recreation centres in the Burwood LGA. As shown in Figure 177, there is limited supply across the Eastern City District, with the nearest indoor courts and leisure centre in Five Dock. This facility is at capacity with and does have the space to accommodate for future growth within the Canada Bay LGA and neighbouring LGAs.

### Benchmarking approach

#### Indoor recreation centre

Based on a benchmark of 1 indoor recreation centre per 50,000 to 100,000 people, there is a current and forecast gap of 1 indoor leisure centre for the Burwood LGA.

#### Indoor courts

Parks and Leisure Australia suggests a benchmark of 1 indoor court for every 20,000 people. Based on a benchmark of 1 indoor court per 20,000 people there is a current demand (2019) for 2 indoor courts and 3 indoor courts by 2036.

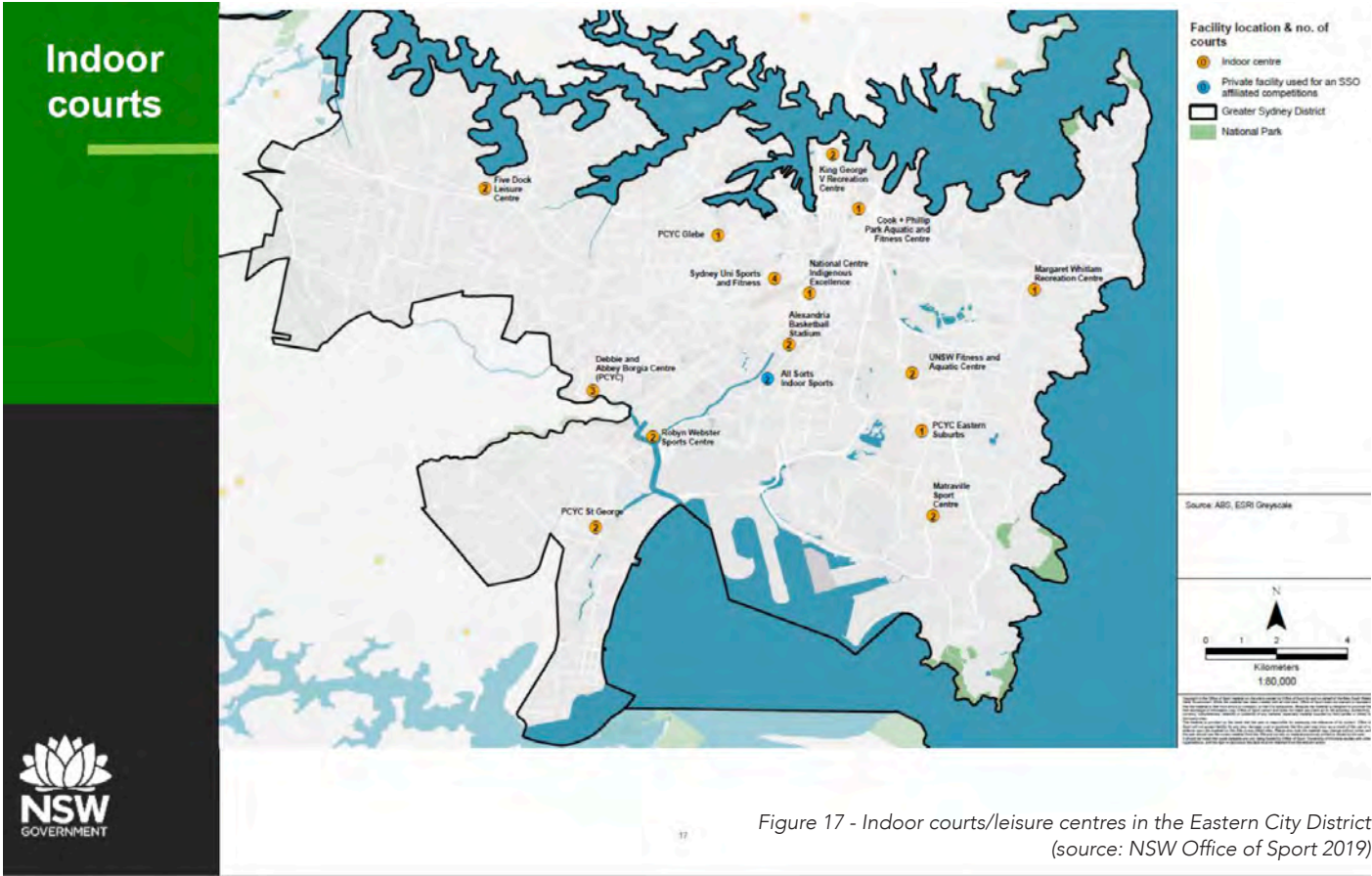


Figure 17 - Indoor courts/leisure centres in the Eastern City District (source: NSW Office of Sport 2019)

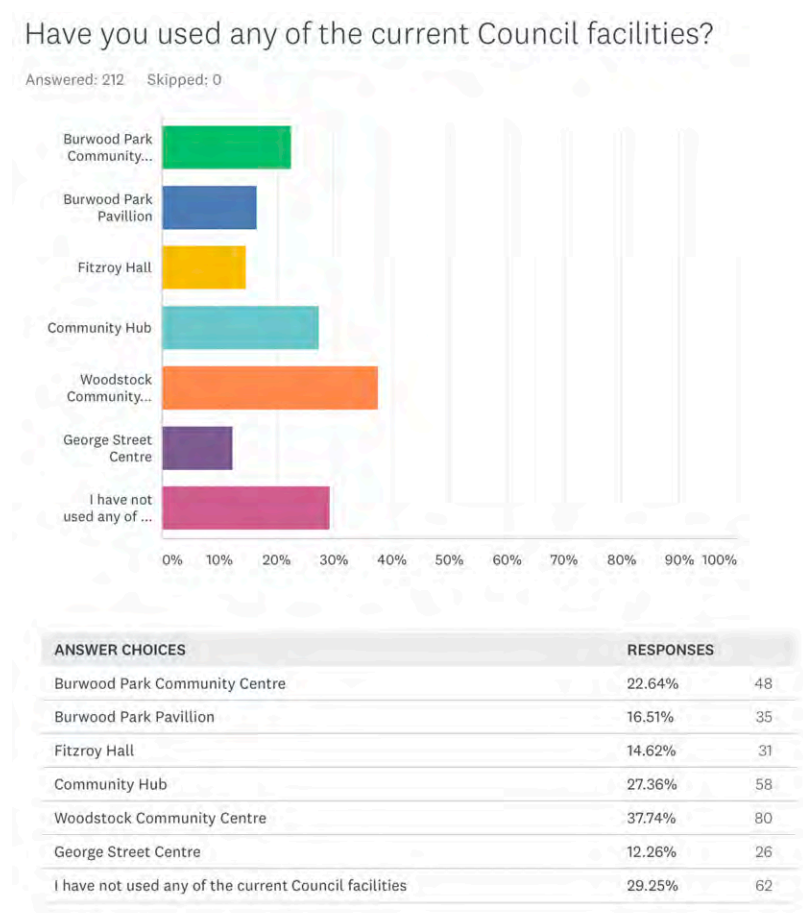


Figure 18 - Use of Council community facilities (source: Burwood Council Library and Community Spaces Survey, Burwood Council, July 2019)



## CAPACITY AND UTILISATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

Councils' community centres are used by a wide variety of community and cultural groups. The most popular times for community uses are morning up until 12pm and even from 6pm to 10pm. A recent survey by Burwood Council to inform its future community hub space, indicated that Woodstock Community Centre is Council's most used community facility. Given that this facility is programmed by Council it is not surprising it has been used by the most people.

### TYPES OF BOOKINGS

An analysis of utilisation data for Council's community facilities (for January to December 2018), indicates that the primary booking type across all Council facilities was meetings (691), followed by Council – Have A Go bookings (526), Council – Programs bookings (526), Exercise (388) and church group bookings (236). A key finding is that for venues that have space available for exercise, this is the most popular activity.

#### Woodstock

The primary types of bookings across all spaces at Woodstock were meeting bookings (363) and Council – Have A Go bookings (152) and function bookings (138).

BOOKING TYPE	NUMBER
Meeting	363
Council - Have A Go	152
Function	138
Council - Programs	80
Performance	63
Exercise	50
Information Session	46
Seminar	37
Council - Event	32
Council - Staff Meetings	14
Tutoring - Study Group	10
Tennis	4
Exhibition	1
Total bookings:	990

#### Carpenter Hall

The primary types of bookings at Carpenter Hall were seminar (65) and meeting bookings (42).

BOOKING TYPE	NUMBER
Seminar	65
Meeting	42
Council - Programs	30
Council - Event	12
Council - Staff Meetings	4
Woodstock Park	1
TOTAL BOOKINGS:	154

#### Fitzroy Hall

The primary types of bookings at Fitzroy Hall were Exercise (289) and Council – Have A Go bookings (282).

BOOKING TYPE	NUMBER
Exercise	289
Council - Have A Go	282
Meeting	70
Function	37
Seminar	32
Church Group	24
Council - Programs	15
Exhibition	11
Performance	7
Council - Staff Meetings	2
Council - Event	1
Total bookings:	770

## Burwood Park Community Centre

The primary types of bookings across all spaces at Burwood Park Community Centre were exercise (49), meetings (19) and seminar bookings (17).

BOOKING TYPE	NUMBER
Exercise	49
Meeting	19
Seminar	17
Council - Have A Go	14
Council - Event	11
Performance	10
Council - Programs	4
Information Session	3
Function	2
Tutoring - Study Group	1
<b>TOTAL BOOKINGS:</b>	<b>130</b>

## George Street Centre

The primary types of bookings at George Street Centre were church group (212), meeting and Council – Have A Go bookings (80).

BOOKING TYPE	NUMBER
Church Group	212
Meeting	80
Council - Have A Go	77
Seminar	41
Information Session	26
Council - Staff Meetings	6
Government Agency	1
<b>Total bookings</b>	<b>443</b>

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES?

Population and proximity based benchmarking for community facilities indicates the following is needed for our community to 2036:

- Increasing the supply of community floor space to aim to meet a benchmark of 80m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people. Currently 49m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people is provided, and this will decline to 43m<sup>2</sup> by 2036. An additional 1,875m<sup>2</sup> of community centre/venue floor space would be required to meet benchmarks.
- Addressing inequitable distribution of community centre and venue floor space in the southern part of the LGA (below the Liverpool Road) where there is currently only around 20m<sup>2</sup> provided. A future community venue of at least 200m<sup>2</sup> will be required.
- One dedicated cultural/performance space will be required to address a lack of arts and cultural facilities locally (in the Burwood LGA) and also regionally in adjoining Canada Bay and Strathfield LGAs. This facility should have capacity for 200+ people. The funding and delivery of this facility could be in partnership with neighbouring LGAs given the regional role the facility will play.
- An additional 481m<sup>2</sup> of library floor space will be required by 2036 to meet benchmarks.
- New teaching places and classrooms at Burwood Public School to address the additional 1,237 children aged 5 to 11 years who will be living in the Burwood LGA by 2036.
- One indoor recreation centre with three indoor courts will be required within the Burwood LGA by 2036. There may be opportunities to deliver this as part of a mixed use development or in partnership with neighbouring Strathfield Council where there is also demand.
- There are a number of ‘private’ community venues/halls and opportunities to access these and share for community use should be investigated.
- The importance of “third places with increased population and increased apartment living.
- Delivery of the masterplan for Enfield Aquatic Centre, particularly with the inclusion of the learn to swim pool and health and wellbeing rooms.
- More spaces with community facilities for dance, fitness and other exercise classes will be important in future facilities.



# 7

## ***Open space supply***



# Open space supply

## OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION

Based on the definition of public open space for recreation there are a total of 28 parks that can be used for recreational purposes in the Burwood LGA (this excludes all road verges, landscaped areas or traffic control areas that are too small for recreational purposes or not well located).

### Parks

There is a total of 375,983m<sup>2</sup> of recreational open space across the LGA including:

- 179,096m<sup>2</sup> of regional open space
- 115,448m<sup>2</sup> of district parks
- 77,725m<sup>2</sup> of local parks, and
- 3,712m<sup>2</sup> of small pocket parks.

The amount of open space varies across the LGA's suburbs as shows in Table 19.

Table 19 - Number and size of parks by suburb within the Burwood LGA as at June 2019 (source: Burwood Council)

	NUMBER OF PARKS	SIZE
Burwood	7	76,482m <sup>2</sup>
Croydon	6	75,278m <sup>2</sup>
Croydon Park	11	87,604m <sup>2</sup>
Enfield	5	134,291m <sup>2</sup>
Strathfield	5	2,325m <sup>2</sup>
Total	28	374,983m <sup>2</sup>



Figure 19 - Open space in Burwood is used for a range of community activities



Figure 20 below provides a map of all recreational open space in the Burwood LGA.

Figure 20 - Public Open Space for recreation in Burwood LGA: Source: Burwood Council 2019

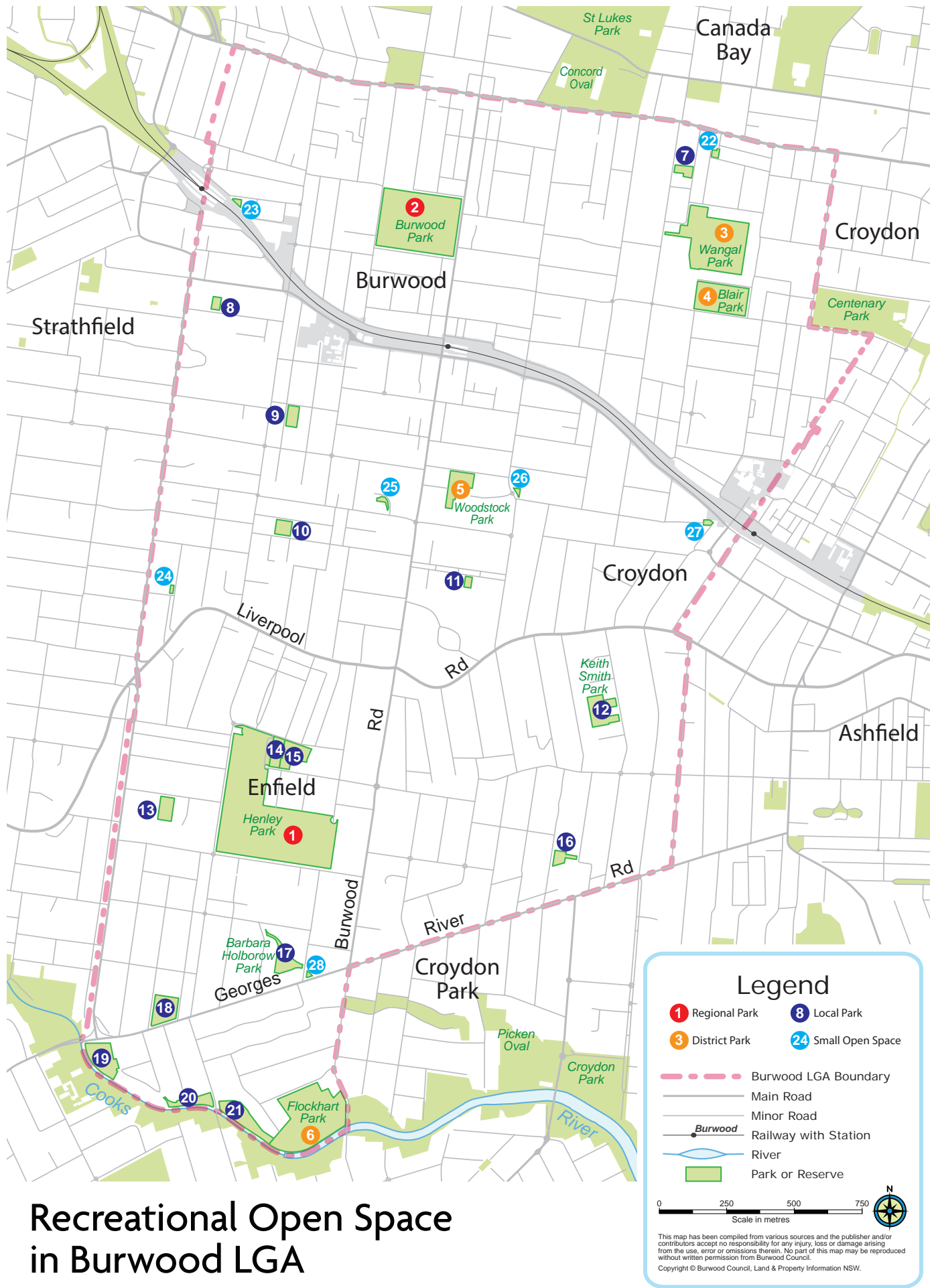


Table 20 - Recreation open space inventory, Burwood LGA (source: Burwood Council)

MAP NO.	NAME	PARK TYPE	SUBURB	AREA_M <sup>2</sup>
1	Henley Park	Regional	ENFIELD	118,585.49
2	Burwood Park	Regional	BURWOOD	60,511.42
3	Wangal Park	District	CROYDON	43,533.78
4	Blair Park	District	CROYDON	19,222.78
5	Woodstock Park	District	BURWOOD	7,648.91
6	Flockhart Park	District	CROYDON PARK	45,042.67
7	Prowse Reserve	Local	CROYDON	2,296.31
8	Russell Street Reserve	Local	STRATHFIELD	1,422.93
9	Sanders Reserve	Local	BURWOOD	3,090.70
10	Jackett Reserve	Local	BURWOOD	3,053.28
11	Wyatt Avenue Park	Local	BURWOOD	1,005.16
12	Keith Smith Park	Local	CROYDON	8,871.83
13	Cooinoo Reserve	Local	ENFIELD	4,261.89
14	Grant Park	Local	ENFIELD	4,431.60
15	Old Bowling Club	Local	ENFIELD	7,012.98
16	Martin Reserve	Local	CROYDON PARK	2,530.29
17	Barbara Holborow Park	Local	CROYDON PARK	6,265.83
18	Jackson Park	Local	CROYDON PARK	8,212.72
19	Walsh Avenue Reserve	Local	CROYDON PARK	10,147.27
20	Whiddon Reserve	Local	CROYDON PARK	4,966.23
21	Brown Reserve	Local	CROYDON PARK	10,156.43
22	King Edward Street Landscaped Area	Small Open Space	CROYDON	767.05
23	Everton Pocket Park	Small Open Space	STRATHFIELD	539.73
24	Willee Street Landscaped Verge (Playground)	Small Open Space	STRATHFIELD	362.78
25	St Pauls Close Park	Small Open Space	BURWOOD	772.74
26	Fitzroy Street Reserve	Small Open Space	BURWOOD	400.23
27	Fitzroy Street Landscaped Traffic Control Area (Reed Reserve)	Small Open Space	CROYDON	586.85
28	Stanley Street Reserve	Small Open Space	CROYDON PARK	283.21

## Civic squares

There is one civic square in the Burwood LGA, Burwood Railway Square near Burwood station. This square has a café, screen, seating and tables for the community gatherings.

## Linkage parks

There are currently no green links linking parks and open space areas in the, but there are opportunities to address open space undersupply through these in the future.

## Recreational facilities in parks

Burwood's parks have a number of recreational facilities located within them as detailed in Table 211.

Table 21 - Recreation facilities in public open space for recreation, by suburb and LGA (source: Burwood Council)

	SPORTSFIELDS	CASUAL PLAYING FIELD	PLAYGROUND	SKATE PARK/RAMPS	DOG OFF LEASH	BOCCE	TENNIS COURT	CRICKET PITCH	CRICKET NETS	PING PONG TABLES	OUTDOOR CHESS SET	EXERCISE TRACK	INCLUSIVE PLAY	NETBALL COURTS	MULTIPURPOSE COURTS	FLOOD LIGHTING	VOLLEYBALL/BADMINTON	BIKE RACKS
Burwood	1	1	6		1		2	1			1							2
Croydon	1		5	1	1	1						1			1	1		1
Croydon Park	2		4					1	1									1
Enfield	6		3	1	2			3	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1
Strathfield			2															
Total LGA	10	1	23	2	4	1	1	5	2	4	2	2	1	0	2	2	1	5
Private but publicly accessible	2						10											



## PLANNED RECREATION FACILITIES IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

In addition to the existing open space and recreation facilities, Council has plans for the following:

- Obstacle Course and fitness equipment upgrades at Henley Park
- Council is also working on the re-development of a small pocket of unused land on Everton Road to become a new 'pocket park'. At the time of writing this report, a new table tennis table, wall mural, park furniture and stone bench seatings with planters were proposed (see below for draft concept plan).



Figure 21 - Proposed concept plan for a new pocket park at Everton Road

## PRIVATE OPEN SPACE

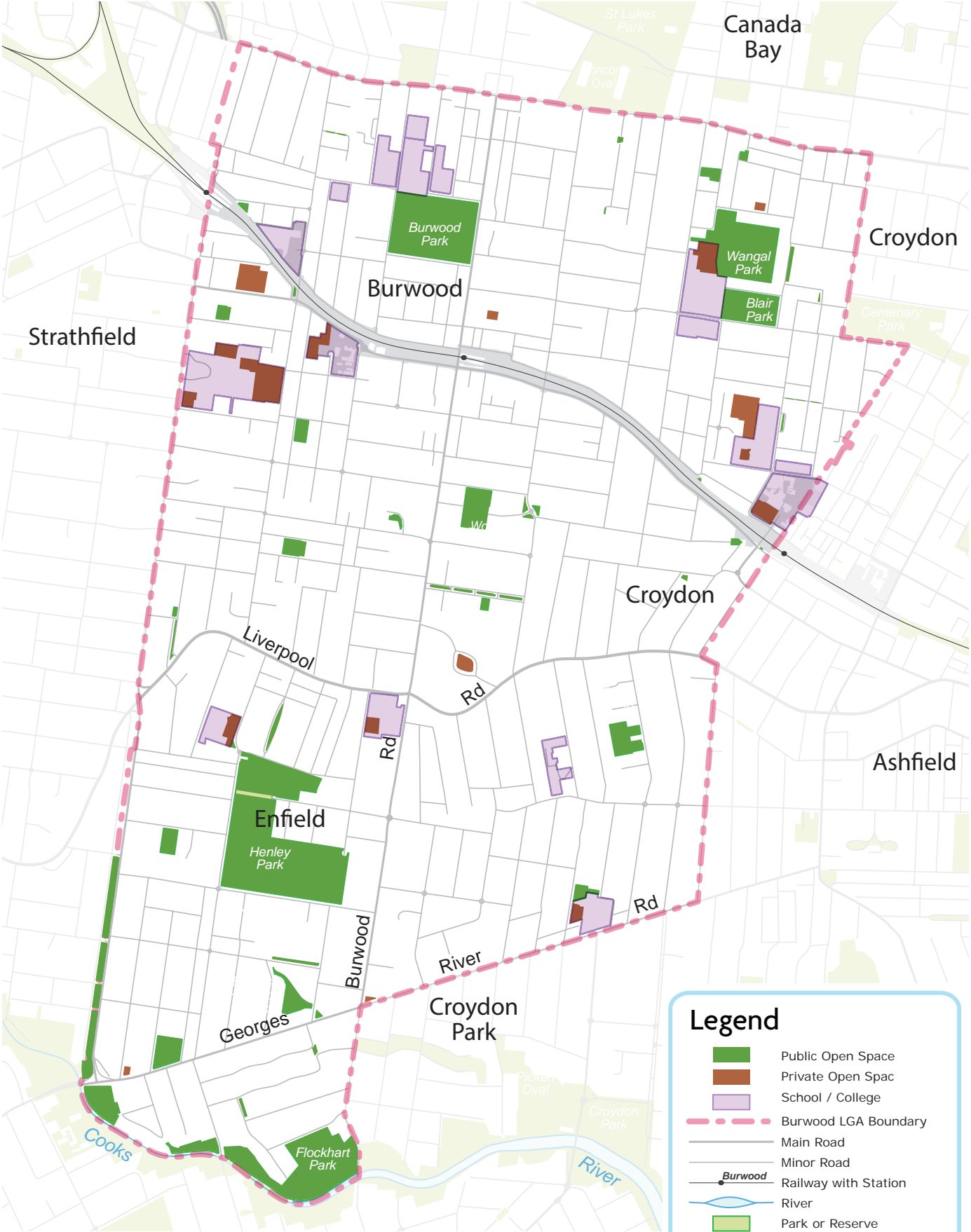
There are a number of privately owned open space areas and recreation facilities located in the LGA. These are predominantly located within private and public schools, and the Strathfield Recreation Club.

As shown in Table 22, overall, there is 72,752m<sup>2</sup> of privately owned open space. Much of this open space, and the recreation facilities within it, are not accessible to the general public. However, the 10 tennis courts and two artificial turf soccer fields at the Strathfield Recreation Club are available for casual hire by the general community and highly utilised. Figure 22 shows where private open space is located.

Table 22 - Private open space in the Burwood LGA

NAME	AREA_M <sup>2</sup>
10 Webb Street - Meriton Apartments	10,308.55
Appian Way Open Space	2,791.48
Church Grounds - Burwood Rd/George St	1,130.62
Church Grounds - Monash Pde	1,014.63
RMS Land - Georges River Road	666.692
RMS Land - Georges River Road	457.501
School Grounds - Burwood Girls High School	7,330.67
School Grounds - Burwood Primary School	4,806.21
School Grounds - Croydon Park Primary School	2,312.23
School Grounds - Croydon Primary School	1,279.07
School Grounds - Enfield Primary School	3,864.77
School Grounds - PLC	4,476.35
School Grounds - Santa Sabina	14,940.99
School Grounds - Santa Sabina	3,470.9
School Grounds - Santa Sabina	2,423.81
School Grounds - St Josephs Catholic School	2,643.46
Strathfield Recreation Club	8834.86
Total	72,752.793

Figure 22 - Public and Private open space in Burwood LGA



# Public and private open space in Burwood LGA

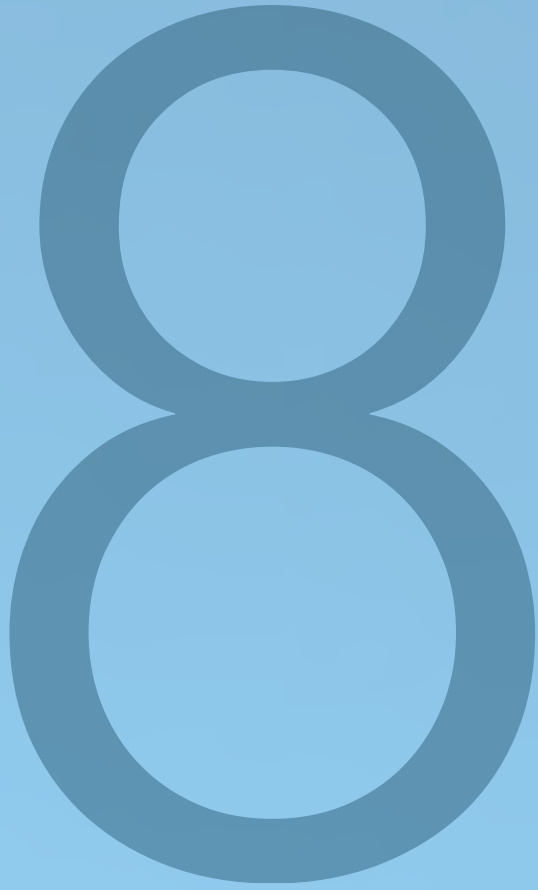
**Legend**

- Public Open Space
- Private Open Space
- School / College
- Burwood LGA Boundary
- Main Road
- Minor Road
- Railway with Station
- River
- Park or Reserve

0 250 500 750  
Scale in metres

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# ***Open space benchmarking***



# Open space benchmarking

This section benchmarks demand for open space for recreation and recreation facilities within open space including sportsfields, outdoor courts, and exercise equipment.

## CURRENT APPROACHES TO OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING

Historically, benchmarking for open space was based only on the quantity of open space per person. However, population growth, increasing density, and decreasing access to land has meant that the planning industry is now considers a range of ways to benchmark demand for open space and recreation facilities.

### Proximity

Proximity benchmarks can assess the geographic distribution of open space: how far from home, work, or school do people need to travel to access open space. There may be different proximity benchmarks for different types of open space: for example, local open space should be within walking distance of most people, but regional open space could be further away. When applying proximity benchmarks, connectivity and access should be considered – for example, how well connected is the open space to the surrounding area, and how walkable are the main access routes? With an acknowledgement of the different recreation and open space needs of people living in high density, there is a move towards planning benchmarks specifically for the provision of open space in high density areas. Best practice research also recommends a benchmark specifically for the provision of open space in vulnerable areas e.g. areas with ageing populations, and low income areas.

### Quantity & per person

Quantity can be looked at per person, or by land area. A common approach is to ensure that the current quantity does not decline per person post population growth.

### Land Area

A new approach is looking at the percentage of total land area that is used for open space. However, this approach does not consider the capacity of the open space provided – this approach would indicate the same land area for a small population as for a larger one, as it looks only at the total land area and not how many people are living there.

### Quality

The quality of open space is key to its usability and attractiveness. Quality indicators can include for example amenity (e.g. maintenance, noise, facilities and equipment, aesthetics); access (visual and physical access, disability access); safety; size, shape and topography; vegetation and setting. A large amount of poor quality open space may not meet a community's needs as well as a smaller, high quality provision.

### Diversity

The range of open space types within an area determines the diversity of recreation opportunities for a community. Co-locating different uses in one space can support activation and create a space for the whole community to come together. Benchmarking can look at the number of different types of recreation opportunities available in an area.

### Hierarchy and size

Hierarchy approaches recognise that different parcels of open space should provide different levels of service, and is a useful approach to ensure different needs (e.g. for local community space vs major regional space) are met efficiently. Generally, public open space is classified into some form of a local, district and regional hierarchy, based on size and uses.

## Benchmarking comparative approaches

ORGANISATION	APPROACH
Inner West Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: All residents are at a minimum within 400m walk of a local park (0.5-2ha) &amp; all residents in high density are a minimum of 200m walk of a local park of at least 0.3ha</li> <li>- Quantity: Maintain at least current level of provision through growth</li> </ul>
City of Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: All residents are at a minimum within 400m walk of a local park (0.5-2ha).</li> <li>- Quantity (land area): 9% of land area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision.</li> <li>- Hierarchy: Following the DPIE Guidelines.</li> </ul>
City of Canterbury Bankstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: All residents should be within 400m of Regional and District open space or within 300m of Neighbourhood and Local open space.</li> <li>- Quantity (per person): 1 – 1.5ha of parks and recreation areas per 1,000 people, based on industry benchmarks. Sporting grounds and natural areas are in addition to this.</li> <li>- Hierarchy: Hierarchy approach: State – Regional / City wide – District – Neighbourhood – Local.</li> <li>- Catchment: Catchment approach for playground planning: 17 Districts defined by major roads and rail lines, 96 Local catchments.</li> </ul>
City of Canada Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: All residents are at a minimum within 400m walk of a local park (0.5-2ha) &amp; all residents in high density are a minimum of 200m walk of a local park of at least 0.1 to 0.3ha</li> <li>- Quantity: Maintain at least current level of provision through growth</li> </ul>
City of Parramatta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: Walkable catchments of 400m.</li> <li>- Quantity (per person): 1 ha/1,000 people for parks, with sporting grounds and natural areas in addition. Total = 3ha/1,000 people.</li> <li>- Quantity (land area): 15% of the land area for all open space of which: 6% is formal sport, 5% is informal and passive recreation, 4% is natural area.</li> <li>- Density: 20% of land for high density areas. Walkable catchments of 250m for higher density. Design principles specifically for high density.</li> <li>- Catchment: Six catchment areas across the local government area.</li> </ul>
SSROC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantity: Existing level of provision and usage represent the minimum benchmark due to council advice that usage is already at capacity across the district.</li> </ul>
Greater Sydney Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: All dwellings should be within 400m of open space.</li> <li>- Density: All dwellings in high density areas (greater than 60 dwellings per hectare) should be within 200m of open space.</li> </ul>
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity: 400m to local open space.</li> <li>- Quantity (land area): 9% of land area for local and district level open space provision and 15% of site area including regional open space provision.</li> <li>- Hierarchy: Local (0.5-2ha); District (2-5ha); Regional (5+ha).</li> </ul>



OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING

QUANTITY

As shown in Table 244, in 2019, there is 375,983m<sup>2</sup> of open space for recreation, within 28 parks in the Burwood LGA, which is equal to 10m<sup>2</sup> per person. The suburb with the highest quantum of open space for recreation is Enfield with 134,292m<sup>2</sup>. The suburb (area within Burwood LGA) with the smallest quantum of open space is Strathfield with 2,325m<sup>2</sup>.

QUANTITY PER PERSON

Approach to benchmarking

As there is no current standard benchmark of open space per person, for the purposes of this study, the SSROC and Inner West Council approach has been adopted, to aim toward maintaining the current level of open space per person as the population grows.

What do we have?

As shown in Table 233, in 2019 there is around 10m<sup>2</sup> per person of open space for recreation. This is different across the LGA, with the suburbs with the highest density and highest anticipated growth, having the lowest amount of open space per person (Burwood 4.8m<sup>2</sup> pp, and Strathfield 0.5m<sup>2</sup> pp).

The information to forecast the quantum of open space required into the future is not available at a suburb level. However, by 2036, the amount of open space per person will decline to around 6.5m<sup>2</sup> across the LGA. The forecast information is only available at a LGA scale.

Table 23 - Quantum of open space per person 2016 to 2036

AREA	2016	2026	2036
Burwood (North and South)	4.8	NA	NA
Croydon (North and South)	11.9	NA	NA
Croydon Park (North and South)	15.6	NA	NA
Enfield/Burwood Heights	34.9	NA	NA
Strathfield (North and South)	0.5	NA	NA
Burwood LGA	10.2	7.6	6.5

Table 24 - Total open space by hierarchy, suburb and LGA (source: Burwood Council)

	SMALL OPEN SPACE	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL	TOTAL
Burwood	1,172m <sup>2</sup>	7,149m <sup>2</sup>	68,160m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>	76,482m <sup>2</sup>
Croydon	1,353m <sup>2</sup>	57,701m <sup>2</sup>	19,223m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>	75,278m <sup>2</sup>
Croydon Park	6,549m <sup>2</sup>	36,012m <sup>2</sup>	45,042m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>	87,604m <sup>2</sup>
Enfield	0m <sup>2</sup>	15,706m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>	118,585m <sup>2</sup>	134,292m <sup>2</sup>
Strathfield	902m <sup>2</sup>	1,423m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>	2,325m <sup>2</sup>
Total	9,978m <sup>2</sup>	114,993m <sup>2</sup>	132,426m <sup>2</sup>	118,586m <sup>2</sup>	375,983m <sup>2</sup>

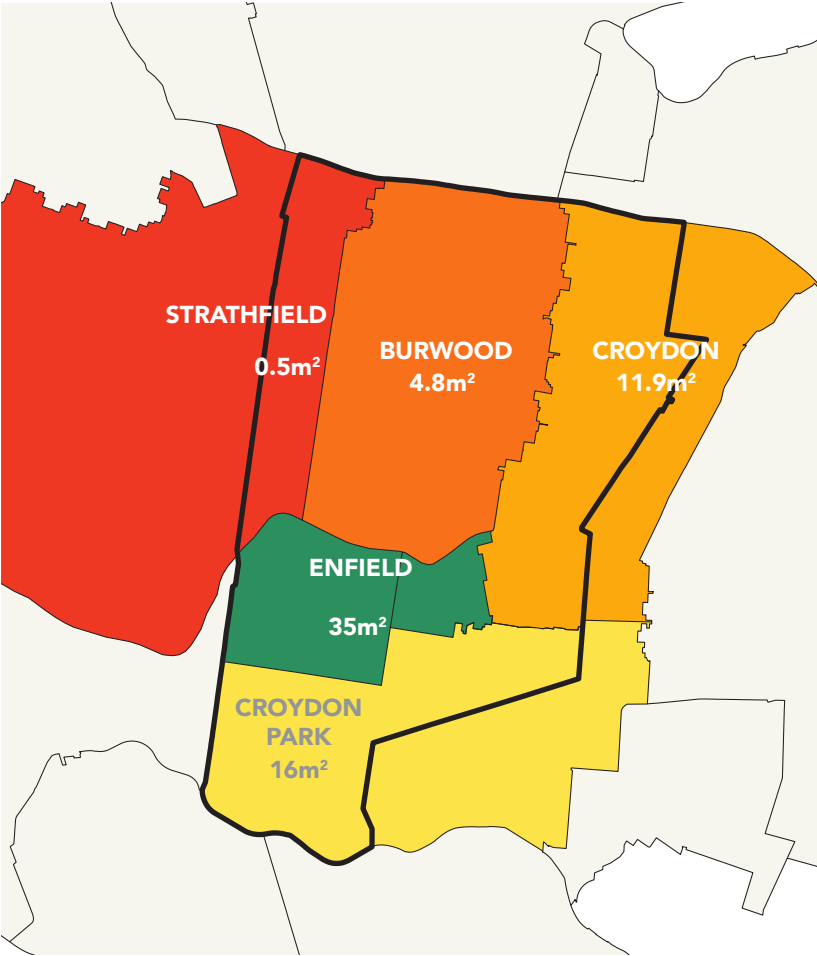


Figure 23 - Open space per person m<sup>2</sup> 2016 Burwood LGA by suburb

### What do the benchmarks tell us?

Comparatively, the amount of open space per person across the LGA is significantly lower than neighbouring Canada Bay LGA (27m<sup>2</sup> pp) Inner West LGA (16.8m<sup>2</sup> pp), and Canterbury Bankstown LGA (22.5m<sup>2</sup>). Data is not available for the Strathfield LGA.

By 2036, Burwood LGA will need to deliver an additional 206,910m<sup>2</sup> (or 20 hectares) of open space to maintain the current provision of 10.2m per person.

## PROXIMITY BENCHMARKING

Proximity and connectivity benchmarks can assess the geographic distribution and accessibility of open space as well as how far do people need to travel to access open space. There may be different proximity benchmarks for different types of open space: for example, local open space should be within walking distance of most people, but regional open space could be further away. When applying proximity benchmarks, connectivity and access should be considered – for example, how walkable are the main access routes?

With an acknowledgment of the different recreation and open space needs of people living in high density, there is a move towards planning benchmarks specifically for the provision of open space in high density areas. Best practice research also recommends a benchmark specifically for the provision of open space in vulnerable areas such as areas with ageing populations, low income areas.

The Government Architect NSW 'Greener Spaces' Draft Open Space for Recreation Guidelines (2018) provide benchmarks for proximity to open space:

- All dwellings should be within 400m easy walking distance of quality open space of at least 0.5ha
- All high-density dwellings (more than 60 dwellings per ha) should be within 200m easy walking distance of quality open space of at least 0.2ha

### PROXIMITY TO OPEN SPACE WITHIN BURWOOD LGA

#### What does the benchmarking tell us?

As shown in Figure 255 the following areas do not have access to open space of at least 0.1ha within 400m.

The areas in yellow, which are low density areas. As these areas are low density areas and residents may have back yards, they are not considered as high a priority as the high and very high density areas of the LGA.



Figure 24 - Outdoor table tennis at Woodstock

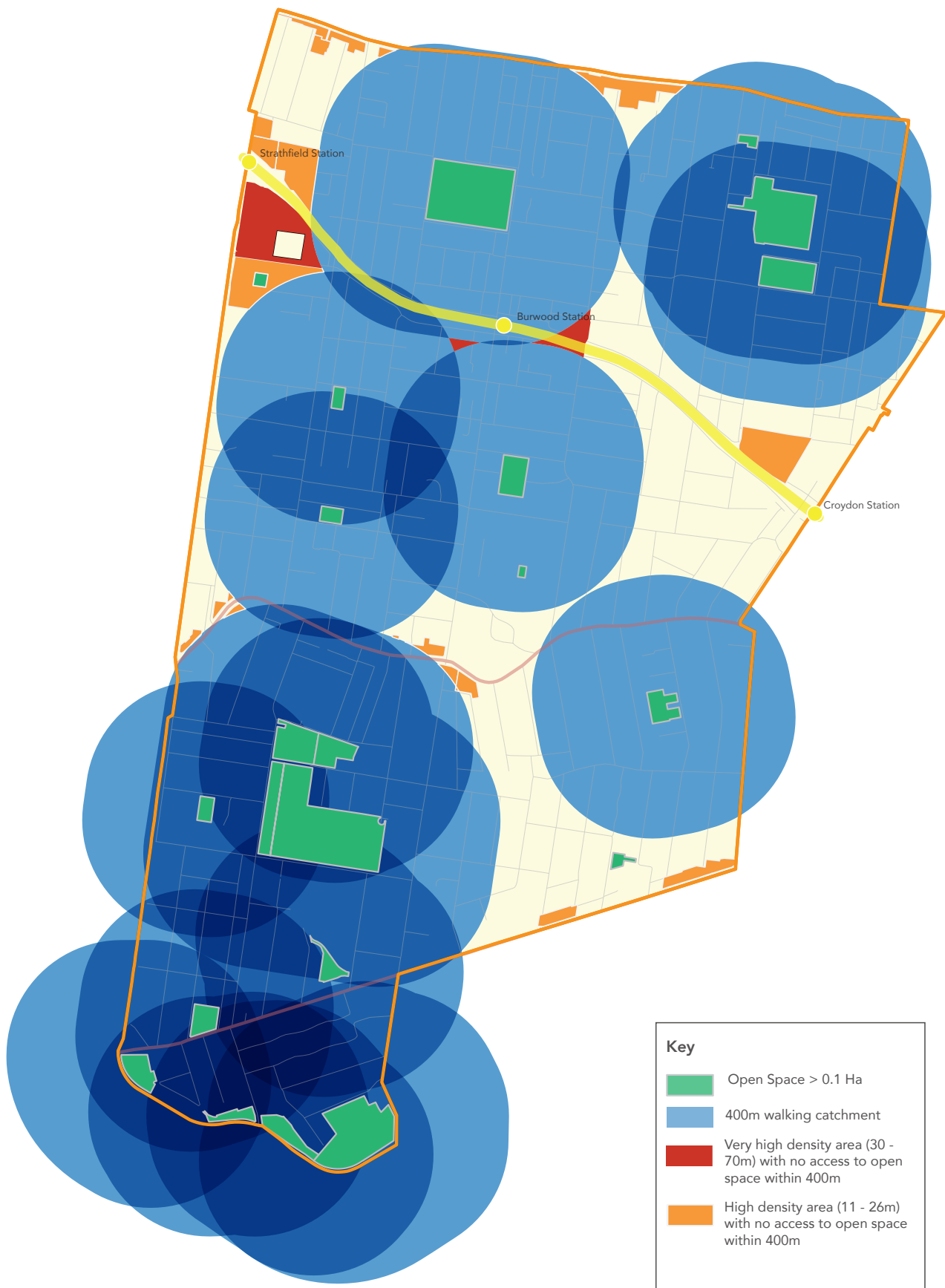


Figure 25 - Areas of the LGA that are not in 400m proximity to open space of at least 0.1ha (areas in blue have access to open space within 400m)



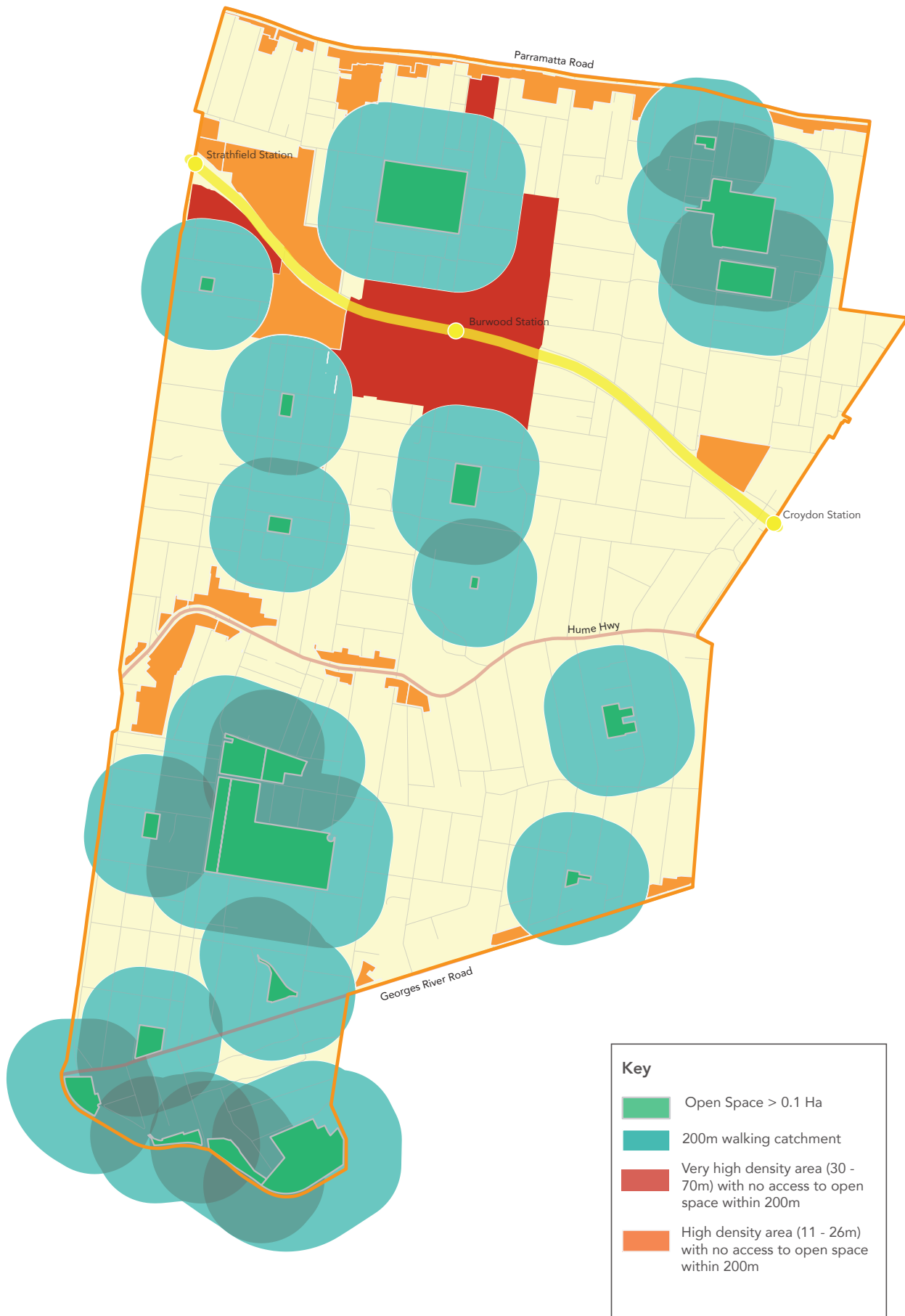


Figure 26 - High density areas of the LGA that are not within at least 200m of open space of at 0.1ha the areas in green are accessible within 200m walking distance

PROXIMITY TO OPEN SPACE IN NEIGHBOURING LGAS

As shown in Figure 277, there are 28 parks or open space areas in neighbouring councils, within 2km of the border of Burwood LGA. There are:

- 11 parks or open space in Canada Bay LGA
- Eight parks or open space in former Ashfield LGA
- Six parks or open space in former Canterbury LGA, and
- Three parks or open space in Strathfield LGA.

While these parks are within 2km, there are only a small

number of parks in easy walking distance, with road/ creek or other barriers. These parks offer opportunities to create green recreational links connecting them with open space in Burwood LGA as shown by Figure 288 overpage, including:

- A recreational link between Centenary Park (in Inner West LGA) to Concord Oval (in Canada Bay LGA)
- A recreational link along the Cooks River from Bark Huts Reserve in Strathfield LGA to Croydon Park and Canterbury Park in the Canterbury Bankstown LGA , and
- A recreational link from Henley Park to Picken Oval and Croydon Park.

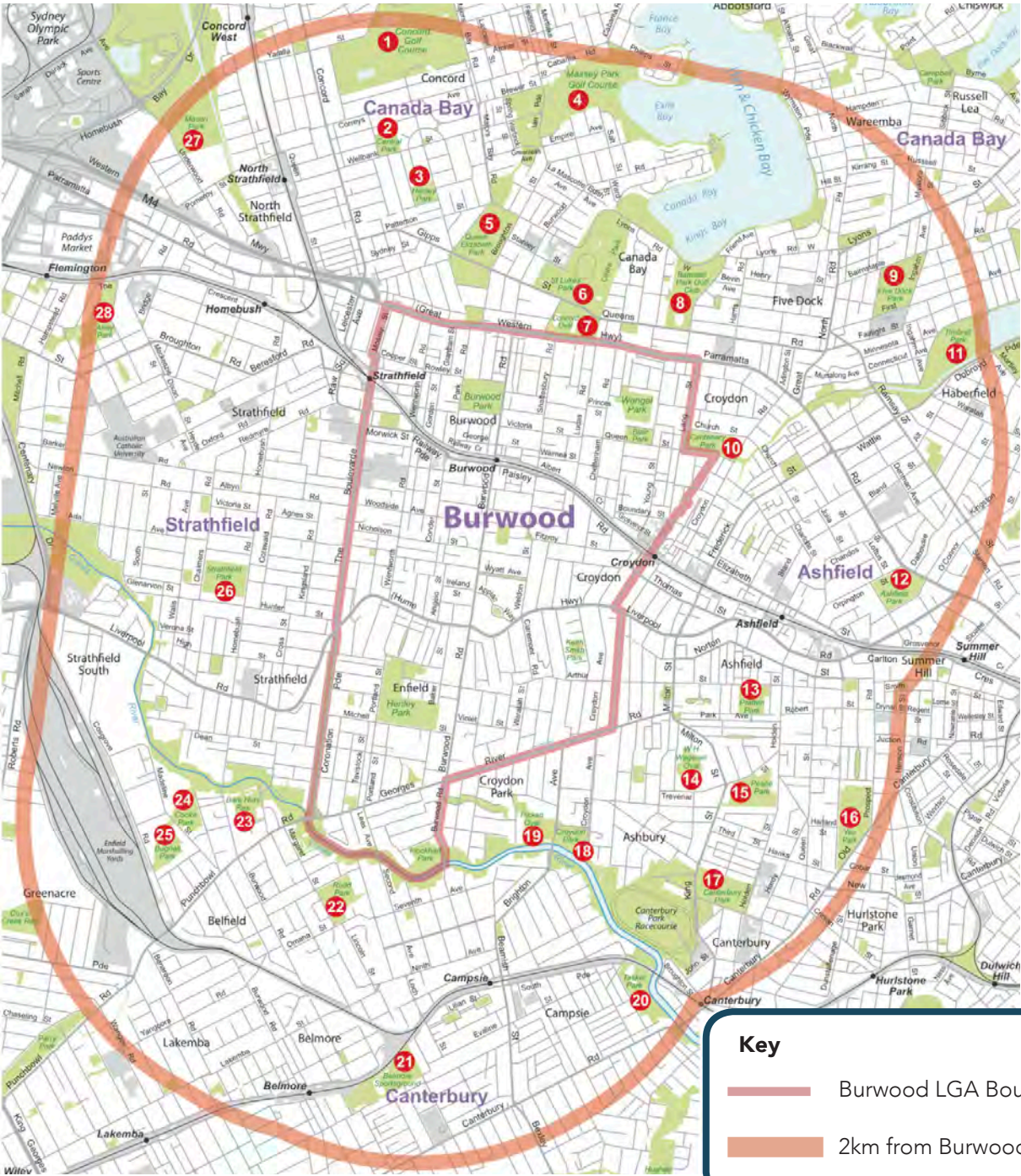


Figure 27 - Parks within 2km of the Burwood LGA border



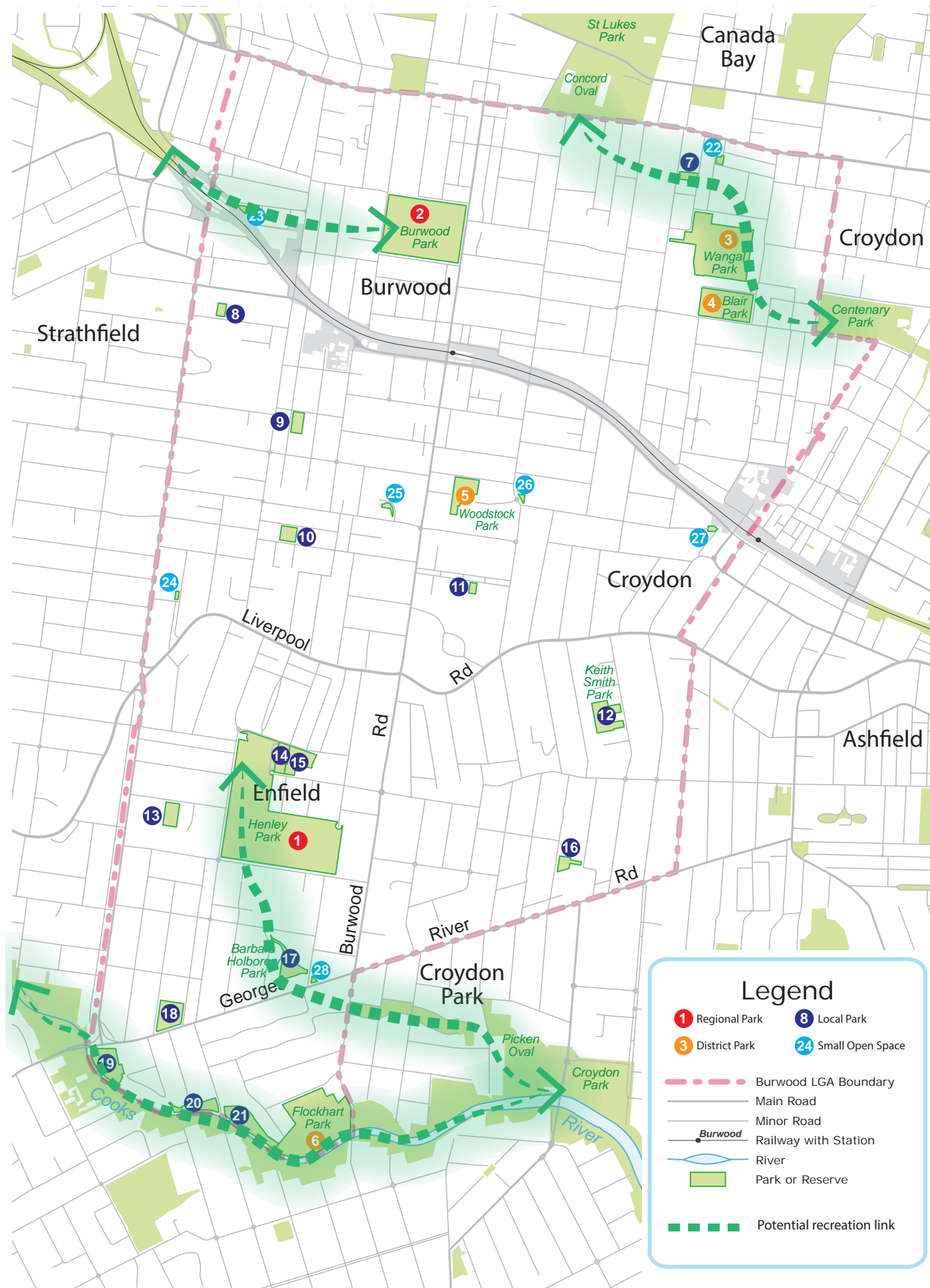


Figure 28 - Potential future recreation links in Burwood LGA  
 Burwood Community Facilities and Open Space Strategy | 67



OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

This section identifies current and forecast demand as indicated by population and proximity benchmarks for outdoor recreation facilities.

SPORTSFIELDS

Approach to benchmarking

A benchmark of one sportsfield per 3,823 people has been applied to the current and forecast population of the Burwood LGA. This benchmark aligns with the current provision (2019) of sportsfields in the Eastern City District, as audited by the Office of Sport as part of their draft Sports Infrastructure Study, 2019.

Based on this benchmark, there is currently demand for 10 sportsfields, and therefore there is currently no gap in supply. This demand will increase to 15 sportsfields by 2036. There are opportunities to meet this increased demand through partnerships with local schools and the Strathfield Recreation Club (currently 2 publicly accessible sportsfields) to support increased community use. There is also one additional synthetic sportsfield proposed for Henley Park, as part of the Henley Park Masterplan.

Table 25 - Benchmarking demand for sportsfields (benchmark: One sportsfield per 3,823 people)

	CURRENT PROVISION	DEMAND 2019	DEMAND 2036	GAP 2019	GAP 2036
Public sportsfield	10	-	-	-	-
Publicly accessible privately owned sportsfields	2	-	-	-	-
Total	12	10	15	-2	3

As shown in Figure 299 and Figure 3030, Burwood has access to a number of sportsfields in neighbouring LGAs, but by 2036 as populations increase in Inner West LGA in particular, will not be able to rely on access to these sportsfields as local demand increases.

OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Outdoor fitness equipment provides an opportunity to participate in one of the most popular recreation activities (fitness/gym) in an affordable and informal way. Physical activity in a natural or green environment has additional health and wellbeing benefits above participating indoors; while outdoor fitness stations also provide an opportunity for social connections and encourage physical recreation. Targeted areas for fitness activities also relieve pressure on other areas of open space. Outdoor exercise equipment can provide specific equipment to allow for gentle exercise for older people.

Best practice is to provide a mix of static and dynamic equipment for a range of users made of robust materials to handle exposed locations. Stations should provide for aerobic, anaerobic, stability and flexibility exercises. Where possible, duplicates should be provided of equipment that is likely to be popular. Signage, shade, seating and drinking fountains should be provided and charging stations could be included. Stations should be located in active areas e.g. pedestrian routes with good passive surveillance.

A benchmark of one outdoor fitness station per 15,000 people as been applied to the current and forecast population. This is a commonly used benchmark from Parks and Leisure Australia.

With three existing outdoor fitness stations, the current demand has been met based on benchmarks. However, there is demand for one more by 2036, and there is high demand for free and accessible outdoor fitness equipment, so opportunities to include new fitness stations in parks such as Burwood Park, Flockhart Park, and Woodstock, as well as along recreational paths along the Cooks River, should be considered.

Table 26 - Benchmarking demand for outdoor fitness stations

	CURRENT PROVISION	DEMAND 2019	DEMAND 2036	GAP 2019	GAP 2036
Outdoor fitness stations	3	2	4	-1	1

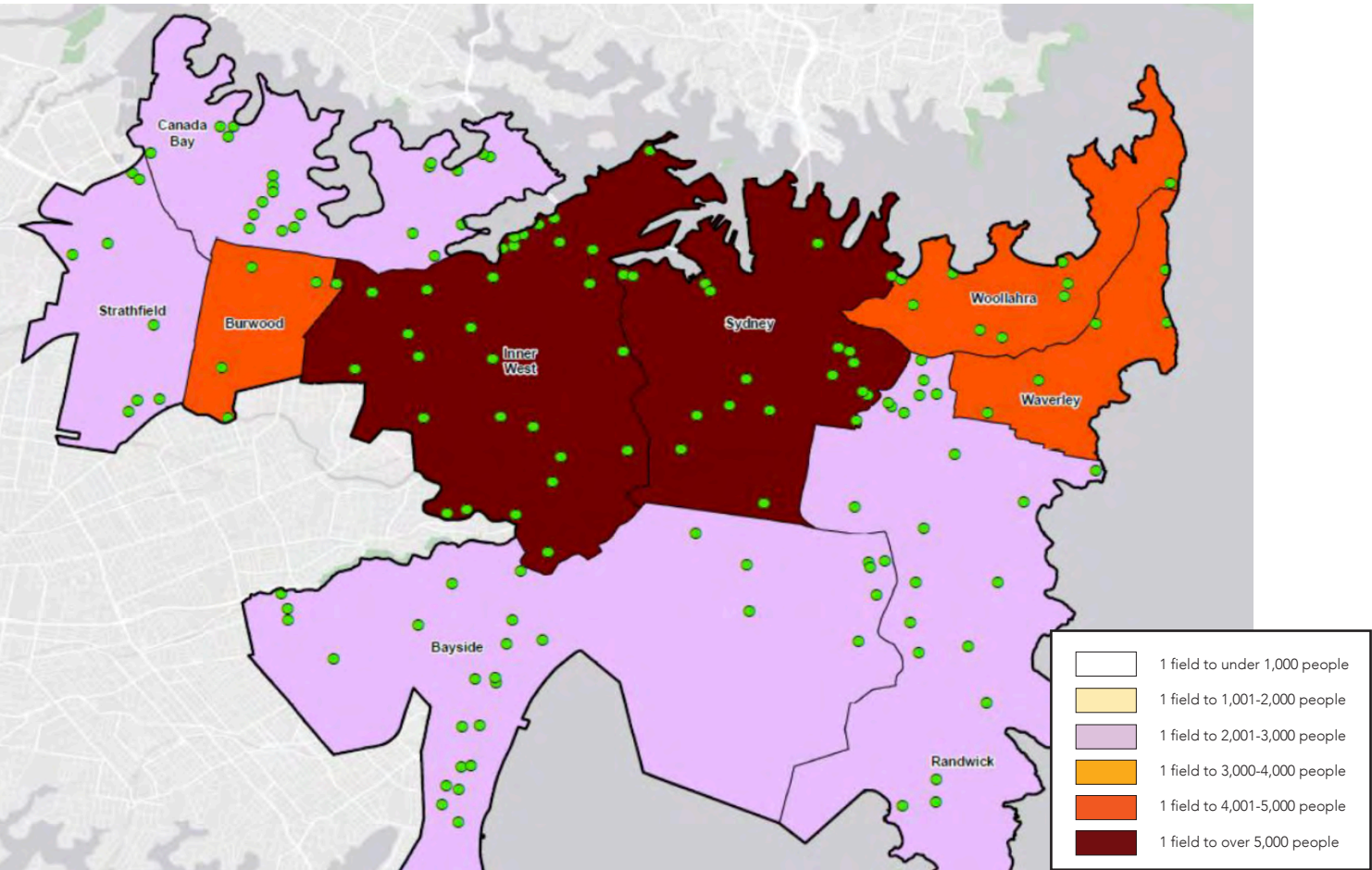


Figure 29 - Fields per population Eastern City District 2016

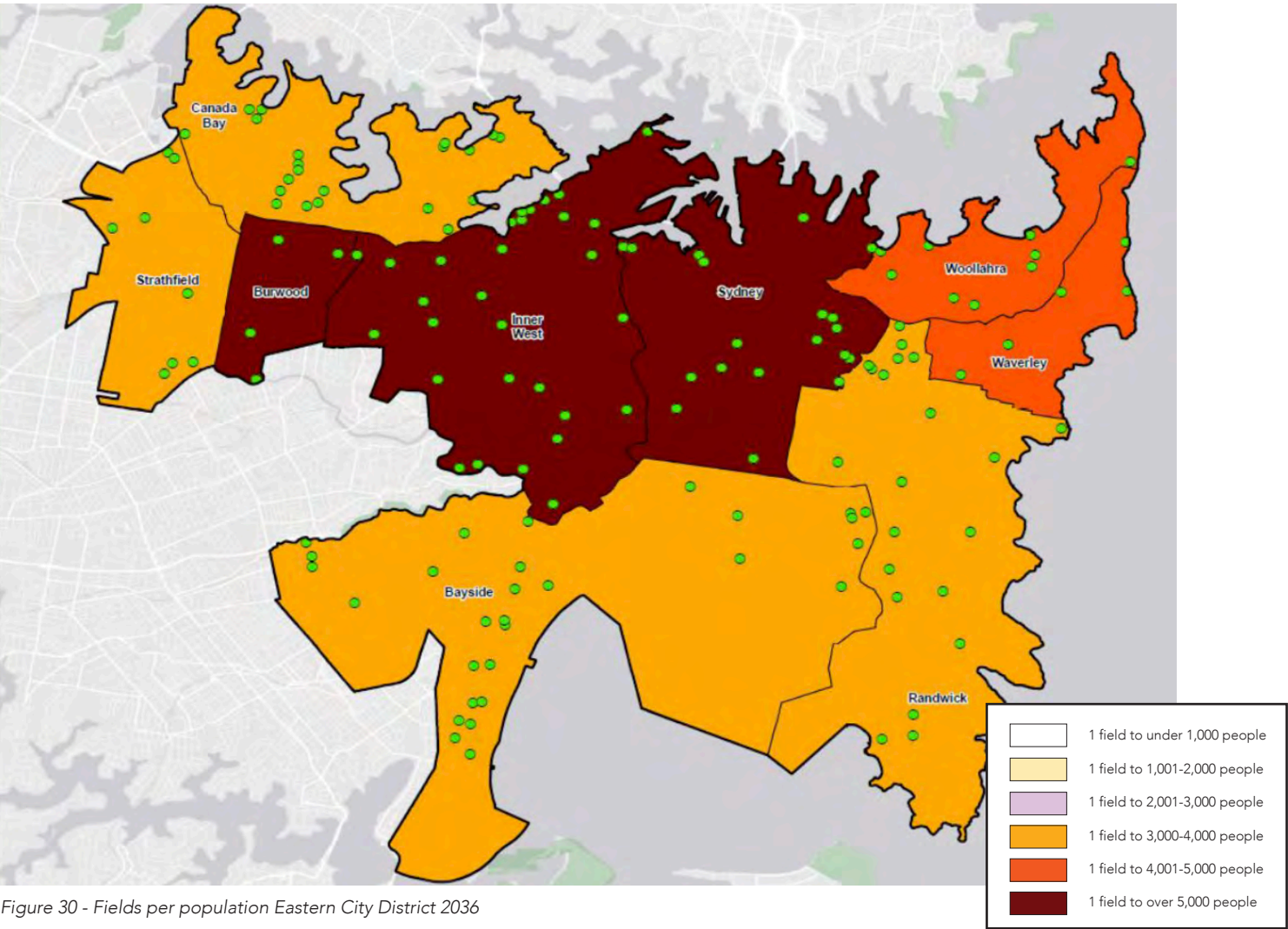


Figure 30 - Fields per population Eastern City District 2036

OUTDOOR MULTIPURPOSE COURTS

Multipurpose outdoor courts provide space for informal and social sport, and are increasingly popular in particular in areas with young populations and high cultural diversity. Multipurpose outdoor courts should be designed for safety including lighting for use at night.

They should provide for a range of sports popular in the local area which in Burwood may include basketball, netball, volleyball and tennis. Providing courts in a cluster (e.g. 4 courts) can support use by schools and for social/ low level competitions or training. Grouping courts (e.g. minimum two courts together) enables better sharing of space, with enough space and hoops/goals for a number of groups of people to play at once.

Consideration should also be given to creating a space that is welcoming for different groups including children and families as well as women and girls, rather than becoming a space dominated by one group (for example through signage, use of colour, or using non-competition standard makings to highlight the informality of the space). In culturally diverse communities, courts can also be used for Tai Chi, dance and other group cultural activities.

Parks and Leisure Australia indicate a benchmark of one multipurpose outdoor court per 10,000 people. There are currently two outdoor multipurpose courts across the LGA indicating demand for two courts in 2019 and up to four additional courts by 2036

Table 27 - Benchmarking demand for multipurpose outdoor courts

	CURRENT PROVISION	DEMAND 2019	DEMAND 2036	GAP 2019	GAP 2036
Outdoor multipurpose courts	2	4	6	2	4

OFF LEASH DOG AREA

Around one in three households in Australia own a dog, and these canine companions play an important role in our lives including helping to improve physical and mental health and reducing the effects of stress.

Increasing density and decreasing backyard sizes mean that in urban environments there is a growing trend to exercising dogs out of the home with an increased need for off-leash dog parks. Dog parks can be a social connector, facilitating connections between people

walking their dogs and helping to build social capital and a sense of community. However, they can also be spaces of conflict as users, particular dogs and children, have different needs and may sometimes interact negatively.

Industry benchmarks indicate that one off-leash dog park should be provided per 50,000 people (City of Parramatta). However, this is a comparatively low provision compared to the current supply in Burwood LGA. Given this, a benchmark of maintaining the current provision dog off-leash areas into the future has been used instead, one dog off-leash park to 9,200 residents. This indicates that an additional one off leash dog park may be required by 2036. It is unlikely that existing parks would have the capacity for additional off leash areas.

PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAY SPACES

As outlined in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment’s (DPIE) draft guidelines ‘Everyone Can Play,’ a play space is defined as a place within a park that has playground equipment and is immediately adjacent supporting amenities, such as toilets, car parking, bike paths, picnic facilities, and open space or landscape areas. Best practice is to provide a diverse range of play opportunities which include play spaces for different age groups, challenge and adventure play spaces to support healthy development, places to play and interact with nature, and inclusive play for all abilities.

Former Growth Centres Commission (GCC) provides a benchmark of one play space per 500 children aged 0 to 4 and one play space per 500 children aged 5 to 11. There are currently 23 play spaces across the LGA well above the benchmark provision required in 2019 of 14 play spaces. This will increase to a demand for 24 play spaces by 2036.

OPEN SPACE CAPACITY AND UTILISATION

Informal park uses

Open space in the Burwood LGA is heavily utilised. Burwood Park in particular is used by multiple informal groups daily and for Council, community, LGA-wide and regional events. It is highly activated by people of all age groups and cultural groups.

Previous surveys with park users and hirers show there is overall high satisfaction with Council’s open spaces. Parks and open spaces are heavily used most days and weekends, with peak activities during mornings, late afternoon and weekends. With increasing demand for local uses as Burwood’s population increasing, there may be a need to evaluate and priorities local vs regional uses in some parks. Table 28 shows that Burwood Park has the highest informal use of all of Council’s parks.



## Formal sportsfield capacity

In urban environments where there is limited space for new facilities, increasing the capacity of existing fields is a priority. The current utilisation of Council's existing sporting fields is detailed in Table 28. The table provides an outline of the existing utilisation of sporting fields in Burwood for both informal and formal uses. There may be opportunities to increase the capacity of sporting fields to better meet recreation needs through for example surface improvements, lighting improvement, maintenance of damage from dogs, engineering for flooding etc.

A benchmark of 30 hours per week is commonly applied for optimum park use. Table 288 shows that during the Winter Season a number of parks are being used above capacity but there may be opportunities to increase the use of Flockhart Park across Summer and Winter (although this park has high hours of informal use).

Table 28 - Sportsfield utilisation uses per week (source: Internal Council research, June 2019)

GROUND	SUMMER SEASON (SEPT- APRIL)			WINTER SEASON ( APRIL SEPT)		
	AVER-AGE HOURS USE PER WEEK	AVER-AGE INFORMAL USE PER WEEK (HRS)	NO. WEEKS IN SEASON THIS GROUND IS USED FOR WEEKEND MATCHES	AVERAGE HOURS USE PER WEEK	AVER-AGE INFORMAL USE PER WEEK (HRS)	NO. WEEKS IN SEASON THIS GROUND IS USED FOR WEEKEND MATCHES
Henley Park 1	31	10	24	40	10	22
Henley Park 2	31	10	24	40	10	22
Henley Park 3	23	10	24	40	10	22
Henley Park 4	23	10	24	40	10	22
Henley Park 5	16	10	24	20	10	20
Henley Park Mini	17	10		32	16	22
Burwood Park	8	30	24	18	35	22
Flockhart Park 1	16	16	24	24	8	22
Flockhart Park 2	16	16	24	16	8	22
Blair Park	8	24	0	34	14	24

Additional to the above, other uses on Council parks include:

- Henley Park- Three interschool soccer gala days with estimated numbers attending each event 1000-2000 people
- Three local school athletic carnivals with estimated 200-300 people attending each event.
- Blair Park - Two school athletics carnival estimated 200-300 students attending each event.
- Flockhart Park - One school athletics/cross country carnival with estimated 200-300 students attending.
- Burwood Park - One school athletics/cross country carnival with estimated 200 students attending
- Burwood Park Oval also use for some non- sporting events such as Burwood Festival, TVB Anywhere Carnival etc.

## EVENTS IN PARKS

As shown in Figure 311, Burwood Park has a number of large events of up to 70,000 people each year. As a small park it is taking on a heavy regional burden that may need to be reviewed in light of future growth near the Burwood train station, and the need for additional open space for local uses.

Date	Event	Event Location	Venue Booked	Time	Estimated Crowd
<b>Saturday 26 January</b>	Australia Day	Burwood Park	Park + Pavilion	4pm – 8pm	300
<b>Saturday 2 March</b>	Lunar New Year Carnival	Burwood Park	All of Burwood Park + Friday for bump-in	9am to 9pm	20,000
<b>Saturday 13 April</b>	Easter in the Park	Burwood Park	Burwood Park + Pavilion + Community Centre	<b>Parade from 10 – 10.30am</b> Event from 11 – 3pm	1,200
<b>Thursday 25 April</b>	Anzac Day March and Dawn Service	Burwood Park	Burwood Park	<b>March 6am – 6.30am</b> <b>Service 6.30 – 8am</b>	1,200
<b>Sunday 19 May</b>	Vesak Day	Burwood Park	Burwood Park	9.30am – 3.30pm	300
<b>Sunday 2 June</b>	National Servicemen's Commemorative Service	Burwood Park	Burwood Park	11am – 2pm	300
<b>Sunday 4 August</b>	Sandakan Service	Burwood Park	Burwood Park + Pavilion + Community Centre	11am – 2pm	400
<b>Saturday 17 August</b>	TVB Anywhere Carnival	Burwood Park	Burwood Park + Pavilion + Community Centre	10am to 4pm	15,000
<b>Saturday 14 September</b>	New Impressions Moon Festival	Burwood Park	Burwood Park + Pavilion + Community Centre	10am to 8pm	15,000
<b>Sunday 13 October</b>	Burwood Festival	Burwood Park	All of Burwood Park including Oval	11am – 6pm	70,000
<b>Saturday 16 &amp; Sunday 17 November</b>	Park Feast	Burwood Park	All of Burwood Park including Oval	10am - 6pm	40,000
<b>Saturday 7 December</b>	Carols in the Park	Burwood Park	All of Burwood Park including Oval	5pm to 9pm	5,000

Figure 31 - Events calendar 2019 (source: Council 2019)

Council Events		Memorial Services
Joint Events		Council Sponsored
		External Organiser



Figure 32 - Community events at Burwood Park

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OPEN SPACE?

Open space population and proximity benchmarking indicates the following needs should be addressed in future planning within the Burwood LGA:

- There is currently 10.2m<sup>2</sup> per person of open space in the Burwood LGA. However, this open space is inequitably distributed with a current and future significant undersupply of public open space for recreation in Burwood and Strathfield.
- To maintain its current provision per person of open space, Burwood LGA would need to deliver an additional 20 hectares of open space by 2036.
- High density and very high density areas of Burwood and Strathfield also are impacted by not having local parks within 200m walking distance of homes. There is a need for at least one new local park of at least 0.1ha near Burwood Station, and one new local park of at least 0.1ha near Strathfield Town Centre by 2036.
- There are opportunities to deliver new recreational trails, or green links to connect the existing network of parks, and respond to the directions of the Green Grid including: A recreational link between Centenary Park (in Inner West LGA) to Concord Oval (in Canada Bay LGA); a recreational link along the Cooks River from Bark Huts Reserve in Strathfield LGA to Croydon Park and Canterbury Park in the Canterbury Bankstown LGA; and a recreational link from Henley Park to Picken Oval and Croydon Park.
- Shared use opportunities to access sporting facilities at schools should be investigated.
- At least one new outdoor fitness station should be installed by 2036 to meet benchmarks. However, given the high demand for access to free outdoor exercise equipment, new stations are recommended for Burwood Park, Flockhart Park, and Woodstock. They could also be provided along any future recreational trails.
- Up to four additional outdoor multipurpose courts should be provided by 2036. These could be delivered on rooftops or within mixed use developments.
- Improving the capacity of the sportsfields Council already owns will be a priority. Understanding the hours per week they are currently used, and the optimum hours of use would assist Council to assist with making parks work harder.





# ***Recreation participation trends***



# Participation trends

As our communities, cities and lifestyles change so does our participation in recreation – from the kinds of activities that we prefer, to when and how often we participate and the places that we use. This section explores current trends in participation in recreation activities and assesses current participation in recreation in Burwood LGA.

## RECREATION PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is changing as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change. The most significant trend in recreation participation in Australia in recent years is a move to informal, unstructured recreation activities rather than traditional organised sport (i.e. mid-week training session and weekend match games with a formal club).

*“Today more than ever Australians are time poor, have limited budgets, are being inundated by new forms of entertainment and face increasing barriers to participation. As society changes new preferences are emerging; Australians desire greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them.”* – Australian Sports Commission

Other “megatrends” influencing how sport is provided and played have been identified by the CSIRO :

- Increasing individualised sport and fitness activities, with increasing participation in aerobics, running, walking and gym membership. People are fitting fitness activities into their busy lives rather than committing to regular organised sport
- “Extreme” lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports are becoming more mainstream, particularly with younger generations. Examples include hiking, skateboarding, BMXing and rock climbing
- Our ageing and increasingly multicultural community will have changing preferences and recreation habits
- Market pressures and new business models - market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport, with loosely organised community sports associations replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.

The motivations for participation in sport versus non-sport physical activity vary. The key reasons that people participate in sport are for physical health and fitness, fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, while the main reason that people participate in non-sport physical activity is for physical health and fitness. Barriers to participation include time pressure and poor health or injury .

The Recreation Needs of Greater Sydney study is being completed by the Office for Open Space and Parklands (DPIE) has identified some general recreation trends in Greater Sydney, including:

- Linear travel: Activities done on paths and trails are popular such as walking, bushwalking and running
- Personal choice: Popular recreation activities include walking, relaxing and casual ball sports – all activities performed solo or in small social groups
- Diverse expression: Recreational activities range from mountain biking to Tai Chi, due to a diversifying population with unique hobbies and interests
- Accessible recreation: Universal access is an increasingly important issue, so everyone regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability can collectively enjoy activities and
- Competing priorities: People in general are spending less time recreating, but they are expecting more from their physical activity.

### Informal recreation

State and National recreation participation trends, tells us that the nature of sport and recreation is changing, and that it is important to move away from a perception of recreation as only about organised club sport.

Across all Districts of Greater Sydney, the most popular recreation activities in parks by the general community as identified in the Greater Sydney Outdoor Study (2019) are:

- Walking, hiking jogging or running (85%)
- Relaxing in public spaces (77%)
- Gatherings in public spaces (64%)
- Swimming (53%)
- Visiting play spaces (49%)
- Walking the dog (34%)
- Informal group sports (27%) and
- Cycling (26%)

### Formal organised sport participation

The NSW Office of Sport has provided information on how residents of the Eastern City participate in formal organised sport (where the players are registered to a State Sporting Organisation (SSO)). The most popular sports are:

- Football (soccer)
- Tennis (competition)
- Golf
- Basketball (SSO competition)
- Oztag
- Netball
- Rugby League
- Sailing (competition)
- Cricket
- Rugby Union and
- AFL

### SPORTS PARTICIPATION IN BURWOOD

As shown in Figure 333, within the Burwood LGA, football (soccer) is the most participated in sport in the Burwood LGA, and participation is forecast to increase to 2036. As shown in Figure 344, claims from the NSW Government for Active Kids, shows that soccer is also the most popular sport for children in Burwood LGA.



	Eastern	Bayside		Burwood		Canada Bay		Inner West		Randwick		Strathfield		Sydney		Waverley		Woollahra		Notes
		2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	2016	2036	
	Population	162,900	228,150	38,850	57,500	90,850	122,900	190,500	232,100	146,250	180,150	41,250	64,900	212,550	315,200	72,250	77,300	57,800	59,850	
AFL	0.4891%	797	1,116	190	281	444	601	932	1,135	715	881	202	317	1,040	1,542	353	378	283	293	
Athletics	0.0746%	122	170	29	43	68	92	142	173	109	134	31	48	159	235	54	58	43	45	
Little Athletics	0.2845%	463	649	111	164	258	350	542	660	416	513	117	185	605	897	206	220	164	170	
Baseball	0.1128%	184	257	44	65	102	139	215	262	165	203	47	73	240	356	81	87	65	68	
Basketball																				Confirming numbers
Biathlon	0.0111%	18	25	4	6	10	14	21	26	16	20	5	7	24	35	8	9	6	7	
Bowls																				Confirming numbers
Cricket	0.5653%	921	1,290	220	325	514	695	1,077	1,312	827	1,018	233	367	1,202	1,782	408	437	327	338	
Cycling	0.1469%	239	335	57	84	133	181	280	341	215	265	61	95	312	463	106	114	85	88	
Diving	0.0104%	17	24	4	6	9	13	20	24	15	19	4	7	22	33	8	8	6	6	
Dragon Boating	0.0601%	98	137	23	35	55	74	114	139	88	108	25	39	128	189	43	46	35	36	
Equestrian (pony club)	0.2100%	342	479	82	121	191	258	400	487	307	378	87	136	446	662	152	162	121	126	
Football (Soccer)	2.6139%	4,258	5,964	1,016	1,503	2,375	3,212	4,979	6,067	3,823	4,709	1,078	1,696	5,556	8,239	1,889	2,021	1,511	1,564	Excludes summer only registrations
Futsal	0.1240%	202	283	48	71	113	152	236	288	181	223	51	80	264	391	90	96	72	74	
Golf	1.5542%	2,532	3,546	604	894	1,412	1,910	2,961	3,607	2,273	2,800	641	1,009	3,303	4,899	1,123	1,201	898	930	
Gymnastics	0.4538%	739	1,035	176	261	412	558	864	1,053	664	818	187	295	965	1,430	328	351	262	272	
Hockey	0.1601%	261	365	62	92	145	197	305	372	234	288	66	104	340	505	116	124	93	96	
Mountain Biking (competition)	0.0110%	18	25	4	6	10	14	21	26	16	20	5	7	23	35	8	9	6	7	
Netball	0.8796%	1,433	2,007	342	506	799	1,081	1,676	2,042	1,286	1,585	363	571	1,870	2,772	636	680	508	526	
Oztag	0.8812%	1,435	2,010	342	507	801	1,083	1,679	2,045	1,289	1,587	363	572	1,873	2,778	637	681	509	527	
Riding for the Disabled																				Need to check 0% districts
Rowing	0.0554%	90	126	22	32	50	68	106	129	81	100	23	36	118	175	40	43	32	33	
Rugby League	0.5951%	969	1,358	231	342	541	731	1,134	1,381	870	1,072	245	386	1,265	1,876	430	460	344	356	
Rugby Union	0.6410%	1,044	1,462	249	369	582	788	1,221	1,488	937	1,155	264	416	1,362	2,020	463	495	370	384	
Sailing																				Need to check 0% districts
Softball																				Confirming numbers
Squash																				No participation details per district
Swimming	0.2185%	356	499	85	126	199	269	416	507	320	394	90	142	464	689	158	169	126	131	
Tennis	1.7595%	2,866	4,014	684	1,012	1,599	2,162	3,352	4,084	2,573	3,170	726	1,142	3,740	5,546	1,271	1,360	1,017	1,053	
Touch Football																				No data received

Figure 33 - Participation rates in sport, by LGA (source: Office of Sport 2019)

Bayside	6,503	Burwood	1,394	Canada Bay	4,277	Inner West	7,560	Randwick	6,370	Strathfield	1,385	Sydney	2,597	Waverley	2,313	Woollahra	1,536
Football (Soccer)	2,564	Football (Soccer)	485	Football (Soccer)	1,551	Football (Soccer)	3,200	Football (Soccer)	1,990	Multi Sport	406	Football (Soccer)	656	Football (Soccer)	863	Football (Soccer)	579
Swimming	949	Multi Sport	275	Swimming	535	Swimming	1,221	Swimming	1,354	Football (Soccer)	352	Swimming	475	Dance	347	Dance	171
Netball	668	Swimming	211	Netball	508	Netball	741	Netball	851	Swimming	218	Multi Sport	386	Swimming	268	Gymnastics	164
Multi Sport	647	Dance	160	Multi Sport	466	Dance	648	Dance	509	Dance	103	Dance	290	Netball	169	Swimming	137
Dance	530	Netball	86	Dance	407	AFL	522	Rugby union	371	Netball	89	AFL	217	Basketball	139	Netball	126
Basketball	253	Martial arts	44	AFL	220	Multi Sport	369	AFL	340	Tennis	59	Netball	156	Gymnastics	135	Tennis	91
Rugby league	242	Basketball	39	Rugby union	203	Rugby union	283	Gymnastics	305	Cricket	45	Gymnastics	148	AFL	114	Basketball	79
Gymnastics	239	Tennis	33	Rugby league	131	Athletics	196	Multi Sport	297	Rugby league	42	Basketball	112	Rugby union	114	AFL	79
Martial arts	223	AFL	31	Active Recreation	128	Basketball	190	Basketball	215	Basketball	36	Martial arts	84	Rugby league	82	Athletics	56
Active Recreation	188	Rugby league	30	Basketball	128	Martial arts	190	Active Recreation	138	Martial arts	34	Active Recreation	71	Active Recreation	82	Active Recreation	54

Figure 34 - Active Kids participation (source: NSW Office of Sport, 2019)

CULTURAL PARTICIPATION – CREATE NSW  
CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2025

Arts and cultural infrastructure plays a central role in the lives of New South Wales artists, creative workers, residents and visitors. Participation in the arts and cultural activities is high, as demonstrated by this research from the Australia Council for the arts which shows an overwhelming majority of people in NSW participate in culture. Almost half are creatively involved in culture, and 98% engage with culture in some way. Three quarters of people (74%) attended events in 2016 with live music (56%) the most popular attraction. Visual arts (45%), theatre (41%), and dance (33%) also attracted significant audiences.

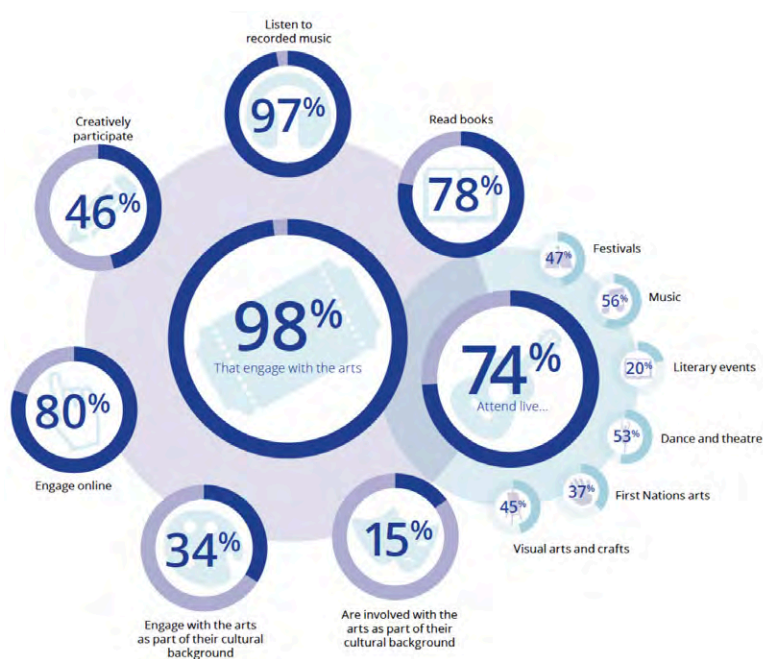


Figure 35 - Cultural participation NSW 2018, source: Create NSW 2025

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OPEN  
SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES?

Sport, recreational and cultural participation trends indicate that future community facility and open space provision should respond to the following:

- There is increasing participation in informal sporting and recreational activities as opposed to organised and programmed sport, this is particularly the case for culturally diverse communities, time poor people, and people who can't afford to participate in team activities.
- The most popular sport across NSW is soccer, and while informal participation is increasing, in the case of soccer, formal participation is increasing, increasing in the Burwood LGA where it is the most participated in sport.
- Delivery of streets, public places and recreational trails that respond to the most popular recreational activities of walking, walking the dog and unstructured recreation will be a priority.
- Delivery of sporting and recreational facilities that respond to the age and cultural diversity of the Burwood community, including hard surfaces with shelter for Tai Chi and dance/k-pop, indoor courts for badminton, volleyball, and table tennis, exercise equipment and spaces for older people, and informal facilities for young people.
- Playful streets will be required for children and young people for informal and healthy engagement with their local urban environment.
- Inclusion of arts and cultural spaces within future multipurpose community and recreational facilities is needed to respond to the high participation rates in arts and culture.





# 10

## ***Community engagement***



# Community engagement

This section provides a summary of consultation outcomes from previous plans and strategies including:

- Burwood Community Facilities and Open Space Strategy
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2014
- Burwood 2030 Community Strategic Plan
- Burwood Council Library and Community Space Survey

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Burwood Community Facilities and Open Space Strategy (2014) identified that:

### Community facilities

- The main reason for people using community facilities in Burwood is to participate/access the range of organised services/activities/programs that are on offer.
- Opportunities for socialisation and learning were the two most important benefits that the provision of community facilities offered. These outcomes were particularly important for those from a non-English speaking background and older people, as individuals from both groups can easily become isolated if they are unable to find opportunities to connect.
- Burwood is seen a central location easily accessible by public transport and by car, therefore the programs/activities/services provided at the facilities are used not only by local residents and workers, but residents from other inner west suburbs and in some cases the important community programs offered at Woodstock community centre (for example, U3A and Speakers Corner) draw people to Burwood from places such as the Blue Mountains and Central Coast.
- A need for spaces for young people to participate in positive and engaging activities in the evenings and on weekends was identified.
- It was identified that there are currently no spaces for cultural or other exhibitions or activities in the LGA.
- Some older Chinese residents thought it would be good to have an internal space where older people could meet to do Tai Chi and dance when it gets too cold in the parks.

### Parks and open space

- The main reason for people using park was bringing the kids to play and participation in formal sports or informal groups. The high use of parks for play with children may be due to the provision of play equipment in the majority of parks that is of good quality. However, as identified by some respondents, the play equipment provided in the parks provides little variation and therefore respondents suggested that “more interesting playgrounds” as a way to improve the user experience and increase visitation.
- The most common group/organised activity was soccer. Other group/organised activities included, but were not limited to: dance, fitness, and walking.
- Seniors, particularly Chinese seniors are users of Burwood Park for informal group activities (Tai Chi and dance).
- Woodstock Park and the setting it provided is valued by the users of the community centre, but few of them use the open space area for their programs/classes.
- Regular hirers of parks noted that there is an undersupply of sporting fields in Burwood LGA and the Inner West region in general. This is both for practice and for playing organised sports.
- Some people also identified that with increasing density there will be a need for more green space to provide relief and a softening of the built environment.
- There are limited opportunities for new large open space areas in Burwood LGA, but Council could look at consolidation of small unusable, or underutilised sites, to deliver larger usable and quality parks.
- Ideas or suggestions to increase use and improve the experience of the park included:
  - Activities for grandparents and grandchildren
  - BBQs
  - Better lighting
  - More parking
  - More seating and shelters
  - Dog parks
  - More things for youth, and
  - Better and more interesting playgrounds.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Council undertook extensive community consultation from November 2017 to March 2018 in order to receive feedback from residents on their priorities and vision for the area over the next ten years. Various methods of consultation were undertaken and promoted through advertisements, online, social media and leaflet distributions to residents.

Table 29 - Top priorities in relation to community and lifestyle were:

MICROMEX PHONE SURVEY	ONLINE SURVEY	COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP	STAFF FOCUS GROUPS	BYAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- More community service for ageing, young, people with a disability</li><li>- Safety in Burwood</li><li>- Green and open spaces</li><li>- Community integration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local facilities and services</li><li>- Managing development</li><li>- Access and transport</li><li>- Safety</li><li>- Heritage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- More community events and activities</li><li>- More promotion/digital presence</li><li>- Preservation of heritage</li><li>- Encourage the community</li><li>- Improve community facilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Promote and celebrate culture</li><li>- Engage with stakeholders</li><li>- Provide support to all the community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- More recreational options</li><li>- Aged care services</li><li>- Increase in community activities</li></ul>

Access to services

At least 95% of survey respondents stated "access to adequate health, education and employment opportunities and access to services and community facilities for all was important."

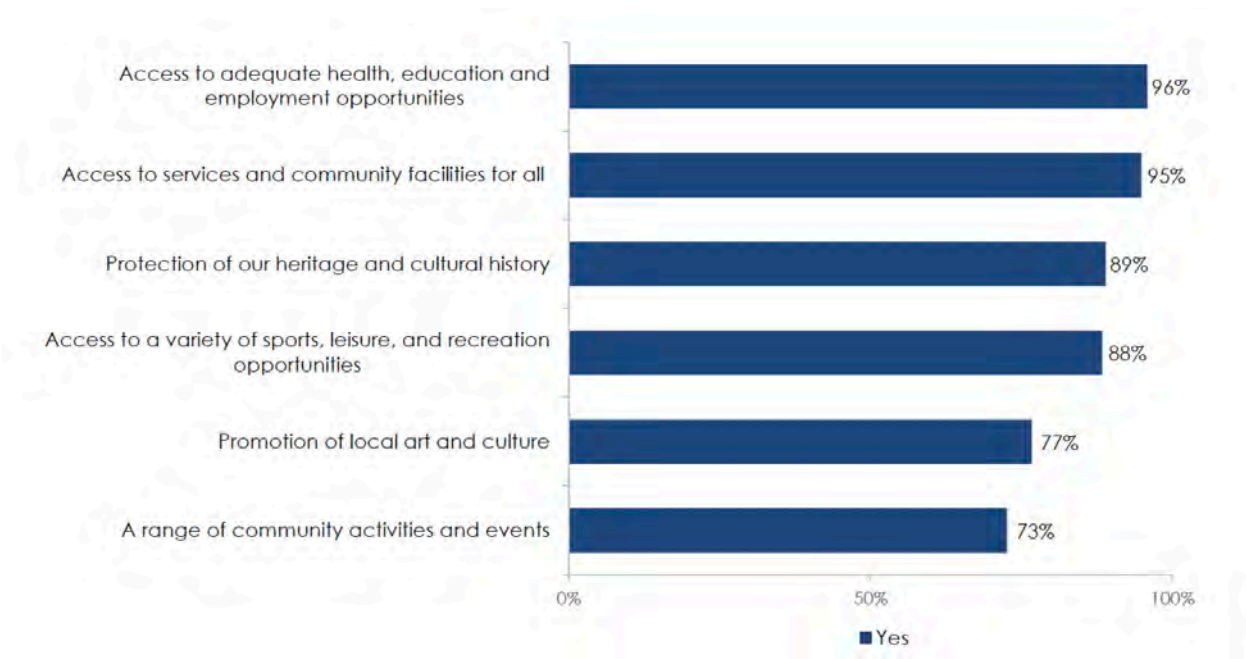


Figure 36 - Importance of access to services (source: Micromex telephone survey, 2019)

## Drivers of quality of life

The Burwood Community rated the environment as a high priority.

*Dependent variable: Overall, how would you rate the quality of life you have living in Burwood?*

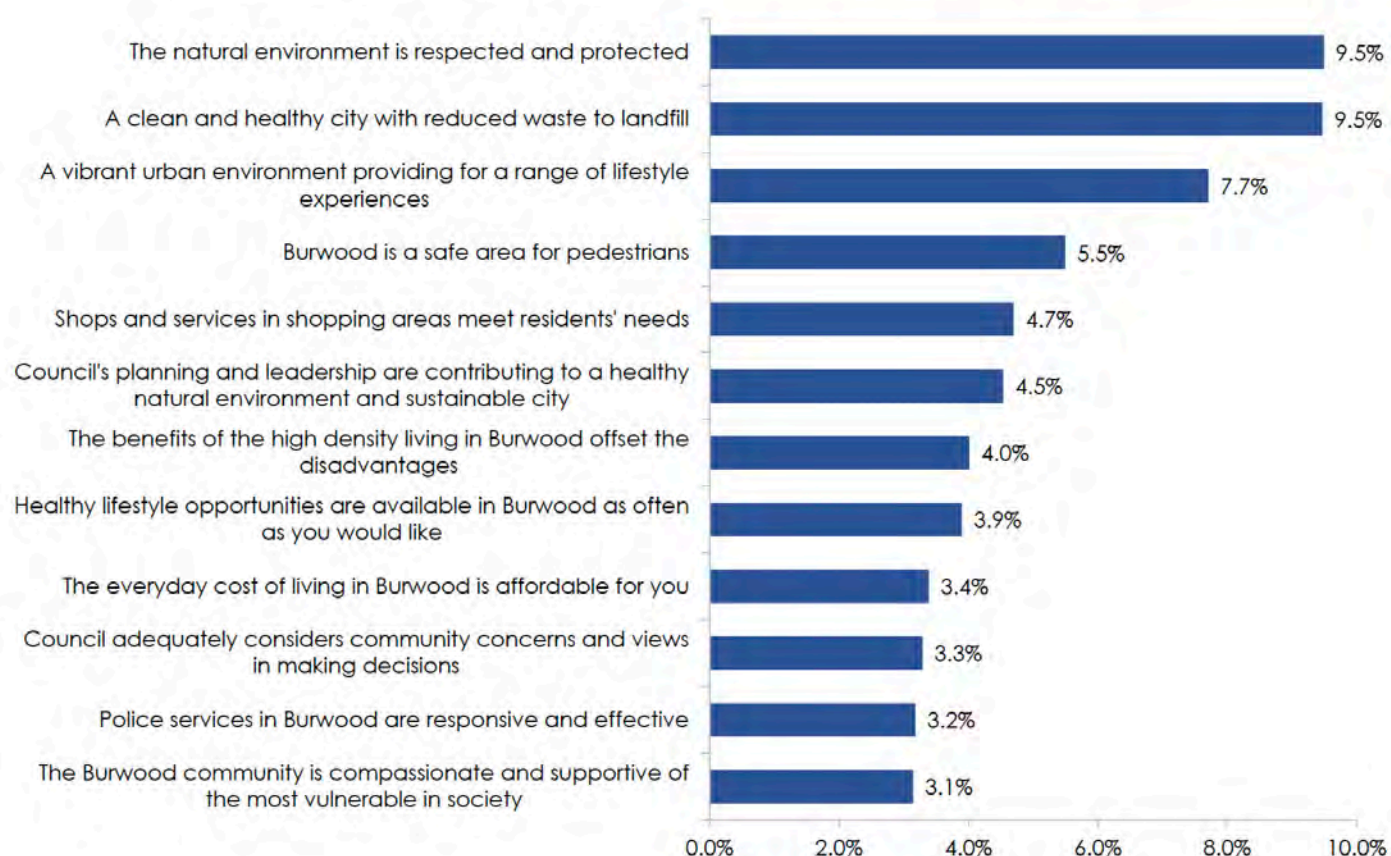


Figure 37 - Drivers of quality of life (source: Micromex telephone survey, 2019)

## COUNCIL LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SPACES SURVEY

The Council library and community spaces survey (2019) engaged with more than 200 residents to understand what is important to them for inclusion as part of Council's future community and library spaces.

When asked what a modern library and community space would look and feel like, the top 5 responses were:

- Natural light (52%)
- Supported by staff (50%)
- Access to digital technology (43%)
- A café on site (35%) and
- A welcoming vibe (33%).

When asked what people would use a modern library and community space for, the top five uses were:

- Learning (36%)
- Arts and creativity (14%)
- Quiet Zone (10%)
- Social gathering (7%), and
- Technology and Digital Innovation (6%) and Business Hub (6%).



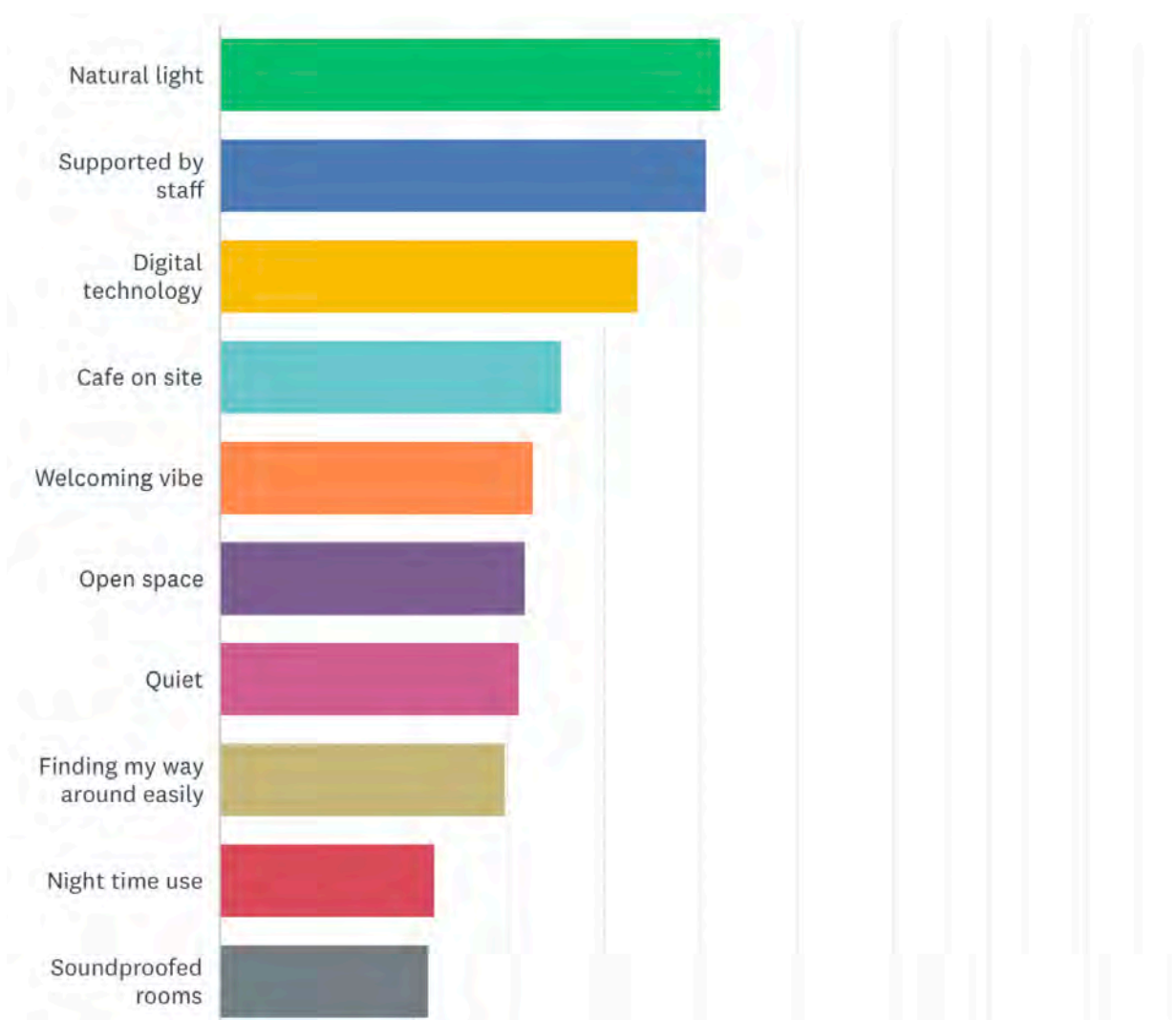
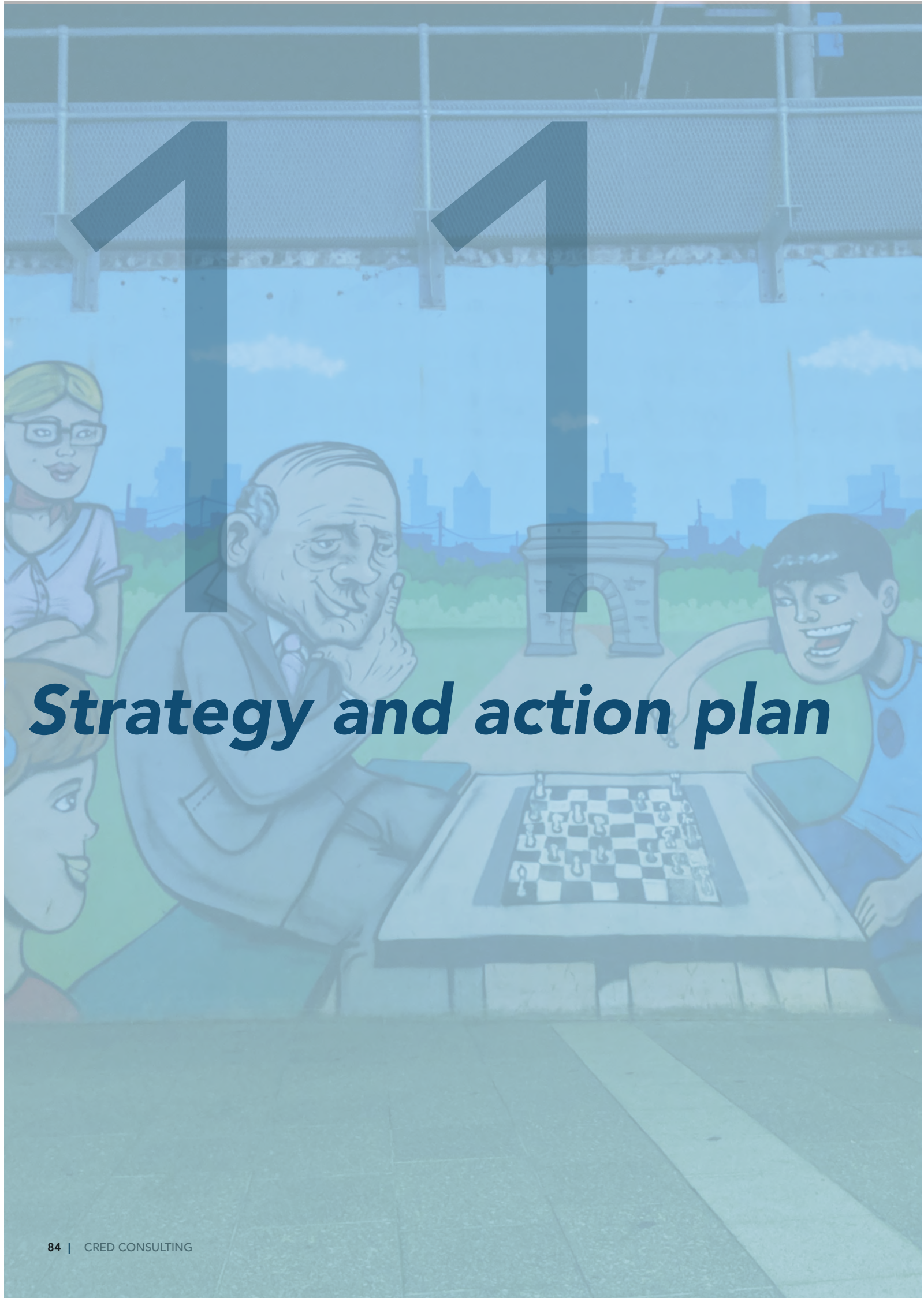


Figure 38 - What would a modern library/community space look and feel like (source: Library and community spaces survey, 2019)

## IMPLICATIONS

Engagement with the community indicates the following priorities for community facility and open space planning:

- Council libraries and community hubs are important to residents who want to use them for a range of activities. Having staffed centres is preferable to venues for hire without staff support.
- There is an interest in technology, innovation and digital access in future community spaces and well as arts and creativity and access to business resources and co-working hubs.
- New and improved green space, particularly in urban areas, to respond to population growth and increased density. Natural green space is an important quality of life driver for the Burwood community.
- Community facilities and parks are important spaces for residents to form social connections, stay healthy, and engage culturally, which is important in culturally and socially diverse communities.
- Health, education and sporting facilities and services are a future priority for the LGA.



# ***Strategy and action plan***

# Strategy and action plan

This section provides a Strategy and Action Plan for Burwood Council to plan for the community facility, open space and recreational needs to 2036.

## PRINCIPLES

The following principles will drive the future planning and delivery of community, cultural, and recreation facilities, and open space. These principles are based on leading practice and the unique needs of our community.

1. Aim to meet a best practice benchmark of community facility floor space of 80m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people by 2036.
2. Aim to retain through growth, the current provision of 10m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person across the LGA.
3. Future facilities to be multi-purpose wherever possible, with opportunities to deliver libraries, community centres and cultural uses in the same space.
4. Further to the multi-purpose principle, ensure that facilities are fit for their primary purpose, e.g. if it is to be used an exhibition space provide the appropriate infrastructure.
5. Create a shared city, utilising rooftops, podiums, streets and lanes wherever possible.
6. Aim for accessible and universally designed facilities and open spaces.
7. Aim to deliver inclusive and diverse opportunities.
8. Plan for amenity based on the inclusive playspaces concept "Can I get there, can I play, can I stay?"

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Strategy and Action Plan is framed by four strategies:

**Strategy 1:** Deliver new and enhanced **community and cultural facilities** to respond to current and future gaps.

**Strategy 2:** Deliver new and enhanced **open space and recreational facilities** to respond to current and future gaps.

**Strategy 3:** Increase recreational opportunities by creating a **network of active, friendly streets, lanes and trails**.

**Strategy 4:** Deliver a range of **recreational, social, and cultural opportunities** that respond to local needs and interests.

The Strategy and Action Plan aims to meet the objectives of Burwood 2030 to create:

***"A well connected, sustainable and safe community that embraces and celebrates its diversity"***

## TIMEFRAME

The Strategy and Action Plan prioritises projects within the following timeframe:

Short term: 1 to 5 years

Medium term: 5 to 10 years

Long term: 10 years +



# Strategy 1: Deliver new and enhanced community and cultural facilities to respond to current and future needs

## Why is this important?

By 2036, the population of the Burwood LGA is forecast to increase by 18,000 people to 57,500 and our population density from 55 to 80 people per hectare. With more people living in apartments, increased access to community facilities which provide “third spaces” (those places outside of homes and work) are needed to connect with others within the community, learn, participate in programs, access services, and be creative away from home.

At 49m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people, there is currently a below benchmark provision of community floor space and this will decline to 43m<sup>2</sup> by 2036. Population based benchmarking tells us that by 2036, the Burwood LGA will need:

- An additional 1,875m<sup>2</sup> of community centre floor space to meet a benchmark of 80m<sup>2</sup> per person.
- A new community venue of at least 200m<sup>2</sup> to service the LGA's south (Enfield).
- A cultural/performance space to address a lack of arts and cultural facilities locally (in the Burwood LGA) and also regionally in adjoining Canada Bay and Strathfield LGAs.
- An additional 481m<sup>2</sup> of library floor space.

With an additional 1,237 children aged 5 to 11 years by 2036, new teaching places and classrooms may also be required at Burwood Public School. The Burwood community told Council that they would like increased access to technology, creative arts programs and spaces, and indoor program space for social dance/exercise programs.

While growth will place additional pressure on existing community facilities, future development also offers opportunities to leverage funding for new facilities and to embellish existing spaces and facilities, including delivery of multipurpose spaces within high density residential and commercial buildings, on rooftops and at podium level. The inclusion of communal space (for residents of a building only) is also becoming more common and there are opportunities for Council to encourage the delivery of communal community rooms such as music practice rooms and study spaces within future mixed use development.

Best practice tells us that future community facilities should be co-located, multi-functional and interconnected with other services and facilities to meet the diverse needs of communities as they grow and change. Community hubs that have the potential to combine a traditional community hall, library or even theatre are considered best practice.



## Actions

ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME			
	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	ONGOING
Identify opportunities through future mixed-use development in the south of the LGA (Enfield/Croydon Park), to deliver a community venue of at least 200m <sup>2</sup> internal space, using the Burwood Pavilion community centre as a best practice model facility with indoor/outdoor space (including for informal use).		✓		
<p>Activate the new 800m<sup>2</sup> multipurpose hub at 8 Conder Street with a range of community and cultural uses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative, digital and learning maker space</li> <li>• Amphitheatre</li> <li>• Indoor garden promoting connections to nature</li> <li>• Music practice rooms for people living in high density</li> <li>• Meeting spaces (24 people).</li> </ul>	✓			
<p>To address the floor space gap of up to 2,356m<sup>2</sup> by 2036 (community 1,875m<sup>2</sup> and library 481m<sup>2</sup>) and the need for a cultural facility for our LGA-wide community, investigate opportunities through future development to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multipurpose LGA-wide Cultural and Performance Centre, including a multipurpose hall with capacity of 200+.</li> <li>• Additional library floor space.</li> </ul>		✓	✓	
Continue to engage with NSW Department of Education to ensure that there are sufficient teaching, open and social spaces at Burwood Public School to support a future additional 1,237 primary school aged children who will be living in the area by 2036.				✓

## How has this been done elsewhere?

### LIBRARIES AS A THIRD SPACE AND ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES: WHITLAM LIBRARY, CABRAMATTA

Whitlam library is an example of how the boundaries of the traditional library can be pushed to deliver services that actively respond to community needs. Within the footprint of a 3,000m<sup>2</sup> library, recent renovations and creative re-use of spaces has seen the inclusion of 'the Workary,' 'Studio 2166' and a VR technology space. These additions provide space for the community to make best use of the library's resources to develop business ideas, get creative in the studio to produce music and video, as well as learn and trial the very latest in technology. Access to these resources is important, particularly in areas of socio-economic disadvantage where residents may not be able to access their own VR technology, recording equipment or be able to rent office space. In addition the library has also extended its opening hours to midnight, enabling students who may not have a dedicated quiet study space in their own home to be able to tsey at the library into the evening.

Like many parts of Cumberland, Cabramatta is a highly culturally diverse area. Whitlam library demonstrates how to actively respond to the needs of a diverse

demographic by opening hours to midnight, as well as providing access to resources that many people would not be able to afford within their own households.

It also shows how business incubator space can be provided within a library setting - being located upstairs separates the space from children's program areas, with a variety of resources available including hireable meeting rooms, dedicated work space and a variety of business support programs available.



Studio 2166 at Whitlam Library  
(Image source: Fairfield Council)

### HAROLD PARK COMMUNITY HALL

The Harold Park Community Hall is located on level 1 within the Tramsheds complex in Forest Lodge. The former tram depot has been transformed to an accessible and sustainable community venue. The site preserves its heritage significance while providing modern facilities for contemporary events.

The Hall was delivered through a VPA as part of the Harold Park redevelopment.

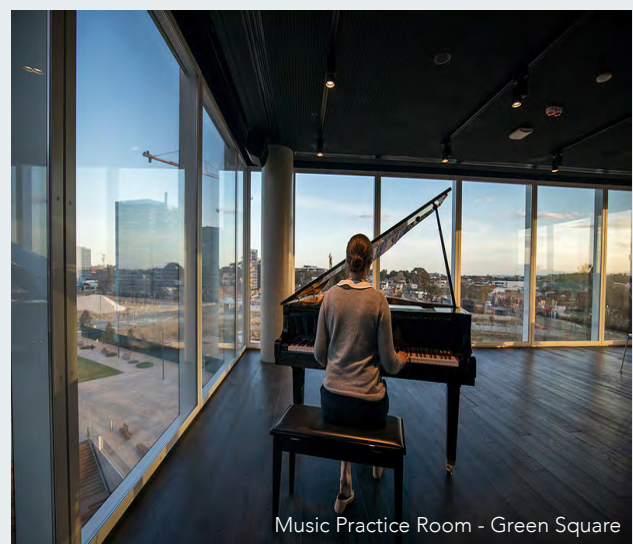
The venue is available for hire 7 days a week from 7am to 10pm. The venue is used by a variety of groups including Jujitsu classes, children's birthday parties, dance groups, and community meetings.



Harold Park Community Hall

### MUSIC PRACTICE ROOM - GREEN SQUARE

The new music practice room at Green Square library is bookable by the local community who cannot practice piano or other instruments in their apartments due to noise impacts. Private developers can also include communal rooms, such as practice rooms, within their residential development to provide additional amenity for residents and take pressure off public community facilities.



Music Practice Room - Green Square



## Strategy 2: Deliver new and enhanced open space and recreational facilities to respond to current and future needs

### Why is this important?

In an urban and increasingly dense area such as Burwood, access to open space and recreational facilities is central to our continued health and wellbeing and social connectivity. This is particularly important in areas with high numbers of residents living in apartments and without private open space.

Currently the Burwood LGA has around 10m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person, but this will decline by 2036, resulting in an additional 20ha needed to maintain this current provision. Open space is also inequitably distributed across the LGA with only 5.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person in Burwood, and 4.6m<sup>2</sup> around Strathfield town centre. In some of our high density areas, residents also cannot access open space within 200m walking distance.

Traditionally the hierarchy of regional, district and local parks have their own particular typology and use. However, as the population grows, regional and district parks need to take on a variety of roles and with increased development in Burwood centre it is important that the large parks are people-focused and service the local needs as a priority, while also contributing to the regional needs.

Population and proximity based benchmarks and participation trends tell us that by 2036, the Burwood LGA will need:

- One indoor recreation centre, with 3 to 4 indoor courts to address local cultural sporting and recreational interests (e.g. badminton, table tennis, and soccer). There is also an undersupply in neighbouring Inner West and Canada Bay LGAs.
- An additional 206,910m<sup>2</sup> (or 20 ha) of open space to maintain the current provision of 10.2m<sup>2</sup> per person.
- New parks for local uses of between 0.1 and 0.3 hectares in high density and very high-density areas of Burwood and Strathfield.
- At least one new outdoor fitness station. Given the high demand for access to free outdoor exercise equipment, new stations are recommended for Burwood Park, Flockhart Park, and Woodstock.
- Up to 4 four additional outdoor multipurpose courts. These could be delivered on rooftops or with future mixed use developments.

Given the high value of land, and limited opportunities for large open space at ground level, increasing capacity of existing open spaces and facilities will help to increase access to recreational opportunities for everyone. This includes improving the capacity of Council sportsfields to cater to increased demand for sports such as soccer, and new open space and recreation facilities delivered on rooftop or podium level where required.



Wangal Park Wetlands

## Actions

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME			
	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	ONGOING
Identify opportunities as part of future development sites, site amalgamations or acquisitions to deliver new parks for local uses, of between 0.1ha and 0.3ha in priority areas. Parks could be accessible at ground, podium or rooftop level. Priority areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burwood Town Centre (south of station)</li> <li>Near Strathfield town centre</li> <li>Croydon (south of station).</li> </ul>		√		
Review the use and capacity of existing sportsfields and identify opportunity to increase their use including at night. For example, investigate installing floodlighting at Flockhart Park to enable night time training.		√		
Investigate lighting (for example, coloured lighting or low lux lighting) at Burwood Park to support night time social sport, and other recreational activities such as walking or jogging.		√		
Install new fitness stations in Burwood Park, Flockhart Park, Grant Park and at Woodstock.		√		
Given its importance to a growing community, develop a policy and guidelines for the use of Burwood Park for events to ensure that there is a balance of regional and local uses within the parks.		√		
Assess the capacity of existing large parks to deliver appropriate local, district and regional events, and opportunities to improve their event readiness to take pressure of Burwood Park.		√		
Identify opportunities through future development for the delivery of indoor multi-purpose courts located in Burwood Town Centre as part of a future mixed used development, or outdoor rooftop multipurpose courts as part of commercial premises.			√	
Collaborate with City of Canada Bay and PCYC to investigate opportunities to build a new indoor recreation centre as well as community transport connections and/or green links across Parramatta road.		√		



# How has this been done elsewhere?

## CASE STUDY - ROOFTOP RECREATION: PARK 'N' PLAY, NORDHAVEN, DENMARK

Playground 'Park 'n' Play' has been built above Copenhagen's harbour scenery in bright red. It is located 24m above sea level on the roof of a car park and it has set new standards in the way people think about designing public spaces. This project's challenge was to create centrally located parking facilities that would optimally integrate into the surroundings of the modern Nordhavn city district. Nordhavn is a rapidly growing urban city which will have thousands of new residents. Such an ambitious urban renewal required ambitious approaches to recreation spaces addressed by this playground.



Playspace on a carpark rooftop in Copenhagen (Image source: JAJA Architects)

## CASE STUDY - ROOFTOP RECREATION: MORINOMIYA MALL RUNNING TRACK, OSAKA

Morinomiya Mall's rooftop 300m running track is an example of provision of a public recreation asset. In addition to the running track that circles the rooftop and levitates over the building, the mall also supports two futsal courts, a children's climbing wall, and privately run gyms and indoor climbing facilities.



Rooftop running track and futsal courts, Osaka (Image source: Wikipedia Commons)

## CASE STUDY - UNDERGROUND SPACES: HUME PARK, CROWS NEST

On a small site in an urban renewal area, the Hume Park upgrade and expansion will provide an underground indoor sports centre with natural light, cinema, carpark, and 8,000m2 of ground level open space. A plaza and pedestrian link will connect the site into the urban fabric.



Artist impression of Hume Park (Image source: via Sydney Morning Herald)



## Strategy 3: Increase recreational opportunities by creating a network of active, friendly streets, lanes and trails



Family fun day at Burwood Park

### Why is this important?

An increasing trend within high density cities with limited opportunities for new open space, is to share the streets, roads, laneways and trail spaces to provide additional recreational opportunities, and to better connect open space areas and community facilities with friendly, green recreational links and linear parks.

In Burwood, the network of streets themselves are critical public spaces that lend richness to the social, civic, and economic fabric of the community. Active, green, walkable streets extend opportunities for recreation beyond the boundaries of parks, and improve connections to parks across the LGA and neighbouring LGAs in areas with low provision.

Streets are public places where everyday life takes place. Through verge planting, traffic calming, wide footpaths, seating, shade, and places to stop such as parklets or skate and play features, streets can provide places for existing and future residents to recreate and come together with neighbours.

Creating a Green Grid across Sydney, and a series of linear parks, is also a priority of the NSW Government and neighbouring councils. This vision for an interconnected network of open space will help to reduce the heat island effect, encourage physical activity and healthy living, provide habitat for biodiversity and strengthen ecological resilience. As development in the Burwood LGA increases, strategic Green Grid connections help to link residents from their homes to work, school and play as well as to each other.

There are also opportunities to create recreational green links, with tree plantings for shade, fitness stations, and playful elements, between parks and facilities within the Burwood LGA, connecting along the Cooks River and to large regional spaces in neighbouring LGAs. This will not only increase access to open space and community facilities, but increase access to recreational opportunities, health and wellbeing, and improve social connectivity.

Children and residents living in high density areas, and limited access to open space also need improved active transport links, that are shaded, wide and fun.

## Actions

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME			
	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	ONGOING
<p>Consider opportunities to deliver new recreational trails and green links to connect the existing network of parks locally and regionally, and increase open space provision. Opportunities exist for the following recreational links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between Centenary Park (Inner West LGA) to Concord Oval (Canada Bay LGA)</li> <li>Along the Cooks River from Bark Huts Reserve (Strathfield LGA) to Croydon Park (Canterbury Bankstown),</li> <li>Henley Park to Picken Oval and Croydon Park, and</li> <li>Burwood Station to Strathfield Station.</li> </ul>	✓	✓		
Investigate the potential for Whiddon Reserve to become a resting point for pedestrians and cyclists, including seating and a bike repair station. Also consider how this reserve, along with Brown Reserve, Flockhart Park and Walsh Reserve are strategically linked as part of the wider Cooks River open space network - what can they contribute to the overall usability and attractiveness of this corridor that is significant to the wider Sydney area, not just the local area.			✓	
Increase play opportunities in high density areas by introducing playful elements in streets, footpaths and lanes (e.g. surfaces painted with games and interactive public art).				✓
Develop a fitness station/trail circuit in identified streets which have fitness stations.			✓	
Encourage increased use of Burwood's cycleways, improved safety on shared paths and delivery of a connected cycle path network.	✓			
Through an EOI process with the community, establish a Playstreets Program where communities can nominate to close their streets to traffic on a temporary basis for play and recreational uses.			✓	
Investigate opportunities for inclusion of new wayfinding and lighting to connect parks, community facilities and services that communicates effectively with our diverse cultures, and which may include imagery, colour, and smart technology opportunities.				✓
Investigate art, play and shared use in Hornsey Street.			✓	



# How has this been done elsewhere?

## INNER WEST PLAY STREETS

Inner West Council is planning to pilot a Play Streets program in a small number of local streets and laneways throughout the Local Government Area (LGA). The pilot will inform a longer term position on the viability of a community led street play program for the LGA. The long term aim of the program is for communities to be empowered to run self-managed play streets events in their neighbourhood with support and advice from Council.

## HOW PLAY STREETS WORK

Play Streets involves the temporary closure of a quiet local street to enable children (and adults) to use the street as an urban playground. The closure typically happens on a weekend, and on other occasions agreed by local residents (weekly/monthly etc). Suitable locations are on streets where the temporary closure has limited impact on local traffic, support of the residents, and on streets with limited access to nearby open space.

Each Play Street is unique based on its local residents and what they enjoy doing. Residents may play handball or ride their bikes on the streets, while others might create an artwork on the pavement with chalk. Others may simply use the opportunity to meet and socialise with neighbours.

In the lead up to each pilot Play Street, a volunteer(s) from the street will liaise with Council to ensure approval for the street

closure is obtained, and that barriers closing the street are placed in accordance with the approved Traffic Management Plan during the event. This volunteer(s) will also liaise with other local residents in the lead up, and request cars to be parked in other areas (where practical) during the event in order to maximise space.

It is envisaged that Council will provide a toolkit (which may include things like: information and ideas on Play Streets, chalk, skipping ropes etc) and a contact person to provide ongoing support for the pilot period.



Play Street in Inner West of Sydney (Image source: Inner West Council)

## CAULFIELD TO DANDENONG LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL – ‘THE UNDERLINE’ BY ASPECT STUDIOS

ASPECT Studios collaborated with multidisciplinary partners to remove nine level crossings along the Caulfield to Dandenong rail corridor to create a new public space. The heavily concreted area, previously unavailable for community use, was transformed through the use of brightly coloured and graphic sports paint surface, wayfinding signage, and outdoor sporting facilities to create a multi-use public realm. This realm includes basketball and football courts, a sports wall, fitness area, and children’s climbing area all connected by 17km of pedestrian and cyclist paths. The project designated 11 football fields (225,000 m<sup>2</sup>/22.5 ha) of previously unused space for recreational use by the urban community.



‘The Underline’ at Caulfield to Dandenong Rail Corridor (Image source: Aspect Studios)

## BOURKE STREET CYCLEWAY, SYDNEY

Dedicated cycle paths make riding on the road feel safer for different groups including kids and parents riding to school, work or other recreation spaces. In addition to the existing path, the planned 1.5km upgrade between Phillip St, Redfern and Botany Rd, Green Square will include wider footpaths allowing pedestrians and bikes to share the space off-road, improved street lighting, and signage to remind cyclists to ride slowly. By providing dedicated space for riding off-road, these design changes will increase the ridership of children, young people and women. The cycleway already has been successful getting kids riding to school. The Bourke Street Cycleway Bourke Street School principal, Peter Johnston said: “About 80 per cent of the school’s pupils already walk, ride or scooter every day. The kids enjoy it because they can ride along the bike lane to the school gate.”



Bourke St Cycleway (Image Source: GSA)



## Strategy 4: Deliver a range of recreational, social, and cultural opportunities that respond to local needs and interests



Burwood Festival at Burwood Pavilion

### Why is this important?

The Burwood LGA has a unique and diverse community. More than 60% of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds; a high proportion of students living in share houses; below Greater Sydney average household incomes; and a higher than Greater Sydney average of people with disability. Given these factors, provision of affordable, accessible, and diverse recreational, social, cultural and sporting opportunities by Council is critical to build social capital and community wellbeing.

Inclusion happens when every person who wishes to can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or cultural heritage). Burwood Council is leading the way with parks that are culturally and socially inclusive.

Different people, different cultures have a range of cultural, creative, recreational and sporting interests. The functions and design of the parks, community and recreational facilities should respond to the cultural diversity of community interests. The inclusion of shaded hard surfaces in parks for Tai Chi and dance is one example of providing opportunities for a variety of activities to occur within the Burwood LGA.

Engagement with the community indicated that there is a strong desire to have access to facilities, services and programs including places for group exercise and dance; co-working spaces and tech hubs; access to technology and study space; places for English language classes and cultural learning; and places to participate and the arts and creativity.

Across NSW there is increasing demand for spaces and places to participate informally in recreational, sporting and cultural activities. In culturally diverse places such as Burwood LGA, there is high demand for places for Tai Chi, dance, night time activities as well as badminton and volleyball courts. While overall participation in formal sports is declining, participation in soccer is increasing, particularly for women. In the Burwood LGA, soccer has the highest participation rate for children and adults, indicating a need for fields to support this increasing local interest.

## Actions

ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME			
	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG	ONGOING
Identify opportunities to deliver affordable co-working space and business incubator space as part of a future mixed-use development or within the future Library and Community Space.				✓
Provide improved opportunities to access technology (e.g. 3D printers, computer hardware and programs and other 'maker' technology) as part of future Library and Community Space improvements.	✓			
Consider opportunities to deliver affordable office space for community service organisations in exchange for delivery of local services, noting there will be increasing demand for space from aged services to support ageing in place.		✓		
Install low impact exercise equipment in parks in walkable locations for seniors. This could be located in parks such as Henley Park, Woodstock Park or along the Cooks River Pedestrian and Cycle Way.	✓	✓		
Investigate the addition of more innovative, inclusive and adventure-based play opportunities for a range of age groups particularly in the LGA's southern suburbs, where there are higher proportions of children, and in high density areas where children living in apartments need access to nature. Consider inclusion of amenities such as shaded seating, water and bins particularly for older grandparents caring for their grandchildren.	✓	✓		
Investigate identified small/ancillary spaces to be embellished to become community gardens in highly dense areas in the north of the LGA, supporting neighbourhood connections and providing a break from apartment living. Any community gardens would need to be driven by an established community group and in appropriate locations.		✓		
Investigate the provision of an information tool kit to guide the delivery of new high quality child care centres (through the private or NGO sector) to ensure that future centres provide the best outcomes for our families and children (e.g. through access to natural light and natural outdoor space).		✓	✓	
Consider the provision of an outdoor youth space, for example connected to the Burwood Library or at Burwood Park, for young people to gather, access Wi-Fi and hang out.		✓		
Provide free spaces and facilities in parks for young people to engage in productive activities, hang out, play passive sports and gather informally. Locate these spaces nearby other park activities.				✓
Include shaded hard flat surfaces in future local parks to support informal performance and social recreation activities (e.g. dance, Tai Chi, exercise) common in Chinese culture.	✓			
Continue to support programs such as English language classes for seniors at the Woodstock Community Centre or the George Street Community Venue.				✓
Develop a policy to manage increasing commercial uses (e.g. bootcamps) in local parks to balance resident needs with those of participants in an increasingly dense area with competing demands.	✓			



# How has this been done elsewhere?

## CASE STUDY - SENIORS PLAYGROUNDS

Dubbed London's first 'pensioners' playground,' Hyde Park Senior Playground is a space for seniors located amongst existing sports facilities and cafes, surrounded by trees and shrubs and close to public transport and accessible parking spaces.

The recreation facility includes six pieces of exercise equipment that provide twisting, cycling and cross training motions to help users improve core strength, flexibility and balance. The equipment chosen was specifically selected to ensure that a high level of accessibility, ease of use and enjoyment can be ensured for all users, although is not suitable for use by people under the age of 15 years. As a space designed for older people, the playground also allows older people to meet new people while getting active, acting as an important social connector and helping to minimise the high levels of social isolation often felt by older residents.



Hyde Park Senior's Playground (Image source: Sourceable.com)

## ADVENTURE PLAY: THE LAND, PLAS MADOC, WALES and TOKYO PLAY PARKS

In a highly disadvantaged housing estate in Wales, The Land is a 55m2 "junk" playground, a fenced-off grassy area with scrounged and donated items - pallets, wheelbarrows, tyres, ropes, shopping trolleys, upside down boats. A resident opened the playground in 2011 with funding from the Welsh government to establish an adventure playground. The focus is on child-directed play, with two playworkers on site who observe the play but step in only when needed. The space is an opportunity for children to engage in risky, adventurous play; to build, make fires, and construct hiding spaces; to imagine. While cheap to build and stock, barriers to this kind of play space can be the staffing resource (which is where volunteers come in), as well as community perceptions that it is an ugly space.

There are more than 80 play parks (adventure playgrounds) in Tokyo, ranging from pop-ups and gatherings in local neighbourhoods to expansive play-worker staffed spaces like Yume Park, which has hand built zip-lines, towers, fire pits and a pizza oven.



Superkilen Park (Image source: Sarah Reilly)

## SMALL HARD SURFACE AREAS AT LENIN MEMORIAL PARK – HANOI, VIETNAM

Lenin Memorial Park in Hanoi is renowned as a 'youth-friendly' public space that integrates small hard-surfaced areas in its public gardens that have fixed exercise equipment, badminton and shuttlecock courts, and benches. The park is known for local groups to come together and perform dance routines.



Lenin Memorial Park - Hanoi Vietnam  
(Image source: <http://www.hanoiyouthpublicspace.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/FINAL-research-report-small.pdf>)



The background image shows a modern urban courtyard. On the left is a multi-story building with a glass and metal facade. On the right is a lower, white building with a green vertical stripe. In the center, there are trees and a paved area with outdoor seating. A large, semi-transparent blue graphic, consisting of a stylized 'C' or a curved arrow, is overlaid on the image. The word 'References' is written in a bold, dark blue, italicized font across the middle of the image.

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