



RECREATION STRATEGY

The Hills Shire Council | October 2019



THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire



The *Recreation Strategy 2019* was adopted by Council on 22 October 2019, Minute No.565.

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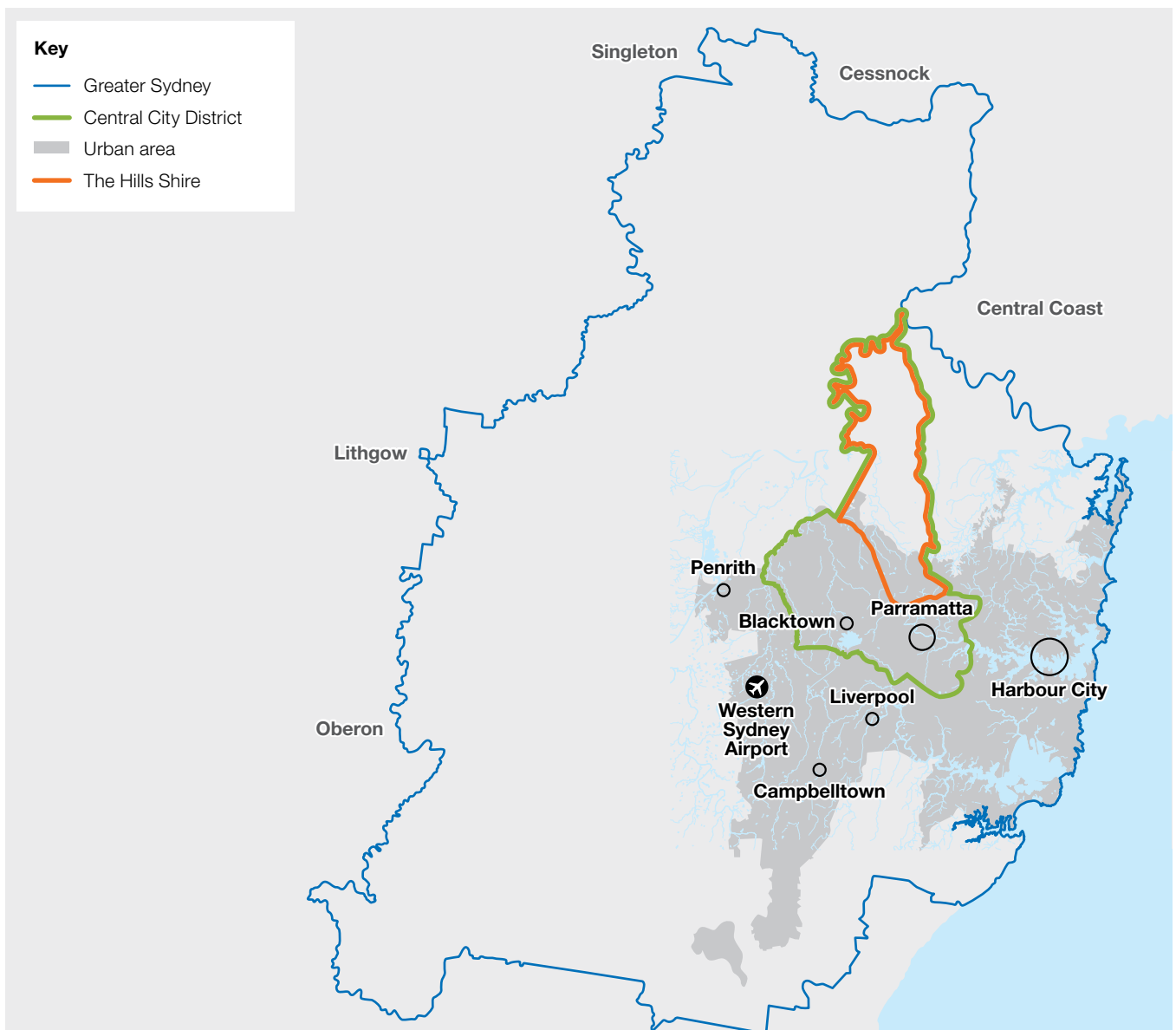
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The Hills Shire is a local government area (LGA) in the north west of Greater Sydney, around 30 kilometres from Sydney CBD. Spanning 38,500 hectares, it forms part of the Central City District, along with the Blacktown, Cumberland and City of Parramatta LGAs. The Shire includes land between Baulkham Hills and West Pennant Hills in the south, to Wisemans Ferry in the north.

The Hills Shire was home to approximately 162,500 people in 2016. We are planning for an 80 per cent increase in population by 2036, with the population of 290,900 people needing a mix of housing, access to services, shopping and public transport, and opportunities to connect with each other, with nature and with the rest of Greater Sydney.

While connected to the Central River City, centred around Parramatta, The Hills has strong links to the Eastern Harbour City and will grow connections to the future Western Parkland City and the Aerotropolis around the planned Western Sydney International Airport.





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Executive summary

Recreation space for both active sporting endeavours or for more passive pursuits is an important part of the lifestyle that the Shire is known for and is part of the reason new residents seek to live here.

People living in The Hills Shire appreciate its green, open spaces and connections to nature. The Shire is home to 1,181 hectares of existing and planned open space in its urban area, comprising 410 hectares of active open space and 771 hectares of passive open space.

While the quantity of open space in the Shire exceeds traditional benchmarks, of Council's 299 parks and reserves, 61 per cent is bushland, which serves an important passive recreational function but must also play a role in conservation. Of these, 37 parks are located on Crown Land, but managed and controlled by Council.

The Hills Shire's population is expected to grow by around 80 per cent between 2016 and 2036. This growing population will increase demand for public open space. Further, a greater proportion of new homes will be in higher density areas, meaning more people will be living in homes that do not provide them with their own outdoor space. This will also increase demand for public open space.

In planning for the future of the open space network, we aim to give most of the community access to a range of spaces. This includes an aim for most households to have a local park with an appropriate level of equipment and facilities within a 400-metre walk of their home. In terms of playing fields, we will aim for one playing field per 2,000 people for low density areas and one playing field per 4,000 people (2,000 dwellings) for high density areas.

Planning for passive open space – places where people go to relax or take part in non-organised activity – will involve establishing new local open space where possible, increasing the capacity of existing open space (embellishing existing basic parks), and ensuring that parks are appropriately distributed and accessible in growth areas. Outside of the growth areas, we propose upgrading certain parks to match their level of service in the open space hierarchy.

In greenfield areas, our planning for passive open space will meet demand. As development occurs in the Sydney Metro Northwest station precincts and in Baulkham Hills town centre, new and expanded local parks will be identified and existing parks upgraded to a higher standard and level of service as part of master planning.

Generally, land in the Shire's rural north, which makes up a substantial portion of the local government area, will remain unchanged. As we are not planning for substantial population growth in the rural area, we anticipate that the existing recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet demand. No change is proposed to the levels of service in these areas.

This Strategy is based around the following planning priorities to guide our actions over the next five years and for the longer term:

- **provide social infrastructure to meet residents' needs**, using clear benchmarks and acknowledging the different types of open space and how this relates to the Shire's changing centres
- **provide new and upgraded passive and active open spaces** by understanding current provision, supply and demand, gaps, opportunities for enhancement, and the kind of recreation facilities that the growing community is most likely to use
- **expand and improve the active transport network**, including recreational tracks and trails, local links, and cycling links.

As the overall strategic approach to protecting and managing the Shire's recreation land, the *Recreation Strategy 2019* also supports the commitments in our Community Strategic Plan, as expressed in the Hills Shire Plan, as well as the objectives of the higher-level *Central City District Plan* and *Greater Sydney Region Plan*.



INTRODUCTION

The *Recreation Strategy 2019* focuses on establishing a framework for how open space and recreation facilities will be provided into the future.

Our planning occurs in the context of a future population of 290,900 people by 2036 and the requirement for an additional 38,000 dwellings between 2016 and 2036.

It refreshes the *Environment and Leisure Direction*, prepared in 2008 within the context of the *Greater Sydney Region Plan*, *Central City District Plan* and the infusion of substantial transport investment including the Sydney Metro Northwest.



Purpose

The *Recreation Strategy 2019* establishes the basis for the planning and provision of open space and recreation facilities in the Shire to 2036. It informs the planning priorities and five-year actions contained in *Hills Future 2036*, our Local Strategic Planning Statement. It provides the finer detail about how we will achieve our vision and guide growth into the future.

To shape exceptional living, working and leisure places where expected growth brings vibrancy, diversity, liveability and prosperity for The Hills.

Vision – Hills Future 2036

Achieving the vision will require collaboration with, and commitment from, all stakeholders including the community, the NSW Government, business and the development industry to provide the housing and infrastructure needed for new communities.

This Strategy provides certainty about the distribution and quality of open space and ensures the creation of highly liveable neighbourhoods within the Shire. This includes new passive and active open space and improvements to existing open spaces and active transport facilities.

High quality and well maintained playing fields, parks and playgrounds will be within easy reach of all Hills residents, to provide them with every opportunity to develop a strong physical, social and emotional connection with the outdoors and with their wider community.

Developing the Strategy

This *Recreation Strategy 2019* complements the Hills Shire Plan, including the Community Strategic Plan, and will contribute to the themes of building a vibrant community and prosperous economy, proactive leadership, shaping growth and delivering and maintaining infrastructure.

It was informed by an understanding of existing open space, and existing demand for recreational land and facilities. We forecast future demand to inform a plan for open space to meet the projected increase in population in a financially responsible manner.

In developing the Strategy, we:

- reviewed NSW Government policies including the *Greater Sydney Region Plan*, the *Central City District Plan* and *Future Transport 2056*
- developed an open space hierarchy
- summarised standard levels of service expectations for delivering and embellishing open space
- audited existing open space and recreational facilities to assess them against the hierarchy and levels of service expectations
- reviewed the existing distribution of open space to ensure residents have adequate access to open space
- identified gaps in the regional and local recreational trail network
- forecast population growth and future demand for passive and active open space
- identified opportunities to provide new and upgraded open space.



2

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Understanding the strategic context ensures effective implementation of priorities and actions.

We have a legislative obligation to implement the objectives and vision of NSW Government strategic direction and other policies, as well as an obligation to The Hills community to create a place where people want to live, work and play.

Figure 1: Links to the region and district plans



Hills Future 2036

communicates how we will address the priorities and actions of the Region Plan and District Plan at a local level. It is supported by background strategies, including this one, undertaken in key areas to provide the vision for the future of The Hills Shire.

Figure 2: Hills Future 2036 and supporting strategies



We have reviewed the State and local strategic planning framework and recognise that The Hills Shire will be integral in Greater Sydney and will feature places for people, accessible and walkable neighbourhoods and a diverse supply of new housing. The key documents in this framework are:

State level

- *Greater Sydney Region Plan*
- *Central City District Plan*
- State planning instruments
- *North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy*.

Local level

- *Hills Future 2036*
- Hills Shire Plan, including the Community Strategic Plan
- The previous Hills Local Strategy
- The Hills Corridor Strategy
- Local planning instruments.



3

PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

Public open space is defined as publicly owned land set aside for recreation and leisure uses. It includes public parks, gardens, reserves, waterways, bushland and tracks and trails.

Public open space provides venues for informal leisure and physical activity, organised sports, events and community celebrations. Well designed, accessible and interesting open space makes real social, cultural and economic contributions to local communities.

Broadly, open space is categorised as either ‘passive’ – areas of play or quiet relaxation where people interact with each other and the environment – or ‘active’, which are areas for physical activity and organised sport.

Providing open space is not without challenges. These can extend from the planning phase, through to construction, maintenance and management of open space, as noted below:

- Availability and high cost of land, particularly in areas transitioning to higher density.
- Capacity to provide new open space close to areas of greatest demand, in line with unrealistic Government benchmarks.
- Capacity for existing clubs to grow while managing expectations.
- Environmental constraints such as vegetation restrictions, challenging topography, flooding, and easements. These constraints increase the cost of delivery and maintenance of open space.
- The size and shape of open space, affecting Council’s ability to accommodate intended infrastructure and facilities.
- Land-use conflict, for example noise or parking issues where facilities are close to houses.
- Flexibility for accommodating new, emerging and hybrid sports and premier facilities.
- Future maintenance and life cycle costs.
- Safety of open spaces.
- Management of Crown Land and potential Native Title claims.
- Suitability of school sites for active recreation and management of shared use agreements in the long term.

Benchmarking, hierarchy, levels of service and function

When planning for open space, we apply the tools discussed this section, namely benchmarks, hierarchy, level of service, and function. A copy of the level of service is provided in Appendix A.

Benchmarking

In the early 1900s British authorities developed a benchmark for open space provision so that children would have adequate space for play and gymnastics. It was set at seven acres per 1,000 people. Benchmarking assists in the equitable distribution of resources. It minimises duplication and over-servicing and enables areas that are underserved, or which are likely to be underserved as the population grows, to be identified. Broadly, benchmarks assist in:

- enabling more efficient decision making about development proposals and external requests for facility improvements
- informing asset management plans, and helping to establish appropriate maintenance regimes
- forecasting accurate costs.

In this Strategy, we have identified benchmarks for providing:

- passive recreation parks in accordance with their hierarchy
- sporting facilities at local, district and a sub-regional level
- premier facilities for major sporting codes.

The most basic way to identify open space demand is via the rates of open space per head of population, being 2.83 hectares of open space per 1,000 people.



Table 1: Rates of open space (traditional method)

	Ratio (ha/1,000 people)
Active open space	1.21
Passive open space	1.62
TOTAL	2.83

While the above benchmark provides a reasonable indication of the overall quantity of open space required or supplied, it does not account for efficient access to open space, quality of the open space, improvements provided, or demand from the local community. Quite often this level of provision is not always possible due to limitations on available land or cost. Where the overall quantity of open space falls short of the standard benchmarks, we aim to provide well distributed and high quality open space to support a higher number of people.

Benchmarks can also be set in other forms including ‘catchment areas’ (proximity of residents to open space) and playing field/court ratios (number of persons per playing field or court). For active open space, we prefer to determine playing field requirements using a

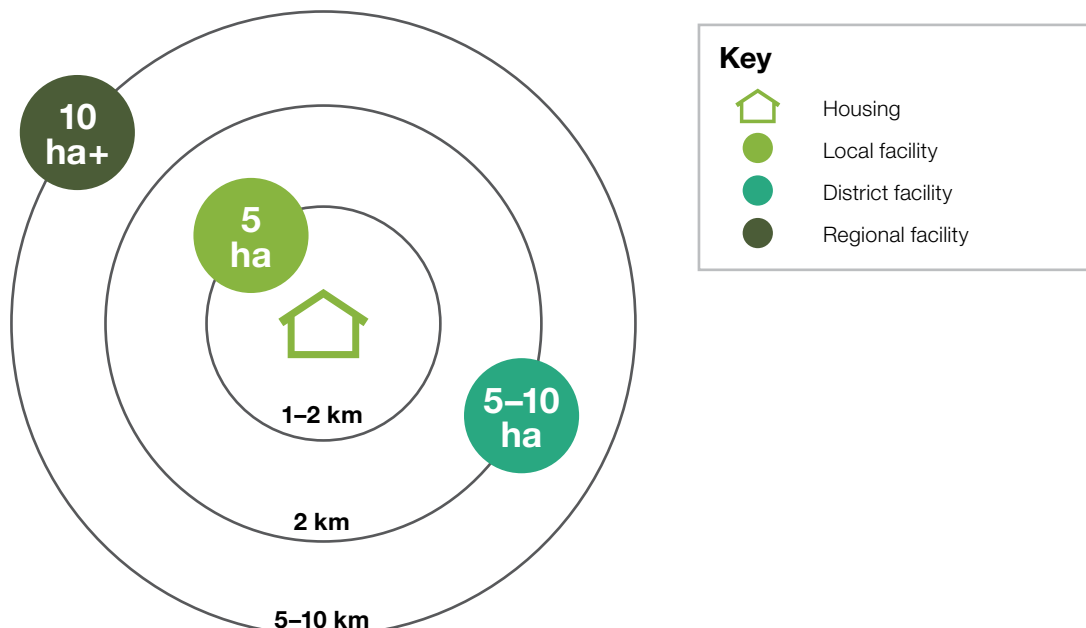
playing field per population ratio. At present, Council provides one playing field per 2,144 people, placing it within the ratio for playing fields established by industry association body, Parks and Leisure Australia, of 1:2,000–2,500.

For the Shire’s established areas, we propose a playing field ratio of 1:2,000 to enable playing fields to be optimally managed. Within the Shire’s higher density areas, active open space is substantially more difficult to provide. We propose to apply a ratio of one playing field per 4,000 people (2,000 dwellings) to high density areas around Sydney Metro Northwest precincts and Baulkham Hills town centre.

Hierarchy

We use a hierarchy to determine the need for open space. Often, spaces provide several functions in the one location, so the catchment and primary function of the space defines its position on the hierarchy. The catchment of an open space is a reference to its sphere of influence, the nature and scale of development, the likely number of people that will use it, and how far they are prepared to travel to do so. The primary function refers to the type of activities that are expected in the space.

Figure 3: Active recreation benchmarks (expressed in hectares) and area catchments



3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

The hierarchy and the benchmark criteria and catchments for each type of ‘active open space’ are included in Table 2.

Table 2: Hierarchy – active open space

Active open space hierarchy and benchmark areas and distances			
Classification	Definition	Catchment	Area
Ancillary	Ancillary playing fields, such as Ellerman Park in Dural, consist of a single playing field, sometimes below full-size. They are generally located in established areas and are limited in their use due to their restricted space. They can include related facilities, but generally lack the required infrastructure. School sites where only a single playing field is possible due to limitations of available space can be considered. To ensure maximum usability at school sites, they will need to be full size fields and require as a minimum, synthetic playing surfaces, floodlighting, amenities and car parking. Ancillary sites are not a preferred approach for existing public open space.	1–2km	Subject to availability of land
Local	Examples include Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Kellyville and George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills. They predominantly include two full-sized playing fields (occasionally three to four fields with basic level infrastructure for a single code), amenities, floodlighting and car parking. They include core infrastructure sufficient for grassroots local sport and recreation. This level is the most common sized playing field facility across the Shire.	1–2km	5ha
District	District facilities, such as the Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, are generally larger and cater for a wide catchment including a minimum four full-sized playing fields. They include a larger amenities building, floodlighting, car parking and multi-purpose/ hard courts (tennis, netball, basketball, etc.). They are generally suitable for grassroots local and representative sport, as well as recreation.	2km	5–10ha
Regional	Regional facilities cater for multiple sports and recreation opportunities such as Fred Caterson Reserve. They serve the entire Shire and visitors. They can be used for various levels from local sport, representative, state and national sport. These facilities are preferably located close to public transport links and also include ancillary passive recreational opportunities.	5–10km	10+ha



Figure 4: Passive recreation benchmarks (expressed in hectares) and area catchments

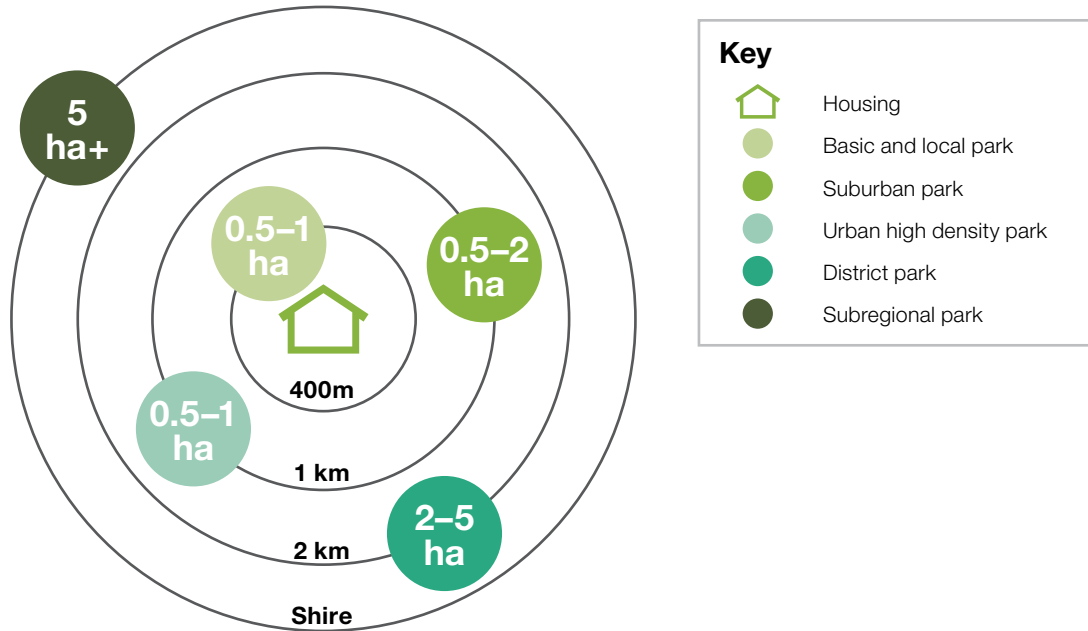


Table 3: Hierarchy – passive open space

Passive open space hierarchy				
Classification	Definition	Catchment*	Area	
Local	Basic park	Undeveloped park consisting of primarily turf, generally used as a kick-about area, such as Gilbert Road Reserve in Castle Hill. These spaces may include a bench/seat, some landscaping and a pathway link forming part of an extended route. They are generally small, but can also be a large undeveloped bushland setting.	400m	0.5-1ha
Local	Local park	Open space serving an immediate local catchment including adjoining and nearby surrounding streets, such as Turkeys Nest Dam Reserve in Beaumont Hills. They service the daily and weekly needs of surrounding residents, and are generally accessed by walking or cycling from surrounding areas. They contain basic infrastructure including a playground, attracting visitors for short visits of up to an hour.	400m	0.5-1ha

3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

Passive open space hierarchy

Classification	Definition	Catchment*	Area
Local Suburban park	These parks are slightly larger than local parks catering for a local catchment up to a suburb, such as Balcombe Heights Estate Reserve in Baulkham Hills. They contain slightly larger playgrounds than a local park with shade, sheltered seating/picnic facilities, drinking water, pathways and landscaping. They attract visitors for short to medium visits of an hour or two.	400m–1km	0.5–2ha
Local Urban park (high density areas)	Open space servicing a larger local catchment of up to a suburb in higher density area, such as Arthur Whitling Park in Castle Hill. These parks have the character of an urban park and contain recreational infrastructure such as playgrounds, formal paved areas, designated seating and shelter, and may include technological features such as wifi availability to cater for the increased surrounding population. They attract visitors for short to medium visits of an hour or two.	400m–1km	0.5–1ha
District	Open space serving a group of suburbs or ward area, such as Crestwood Reserve in Baulkham Hills. These spaces contain multiple and diverse recreational opportunities including an extensive playground. They attract visitors from within and outside the Shire for medium to long visits of one to three hours.	2km	2–5ha
Subregional	Open space serving a major portion of the Shire or from outside the Shire, such as the Castle Hill Showground. They are generally accessed by car and/or major public transport routes, but can be influenced specifically by their location, intent, purpose and historical value. These spaces generally contain multiple and diverse recreational opportunities or significant items of interest. They are destination facilities, attracting visitors for long stays of more than three hours.	One facility for the Shire	5+ha

* Subject to topography, barriers/busy roads etc.





Caddies Creek Reserve entrance

Levels of service

Levels of service designation helps us to achieve a more equitable distribution of resources. It minimises duplication and over-servicing of areas by not developing spaces beyond their core requirements and position in the hierarchy. It provides a consistent quality benchmark to guide the design and maintenance of open spaces. Service levels also enable more accurate forecasting of costs. Optional items may be considered relevant to some facilities and not others.

Levels of service are the key to understanding the cost of providing the service relative to community expectations. An open space that has a higher level of service has a higher cost of maintenance and renewal and community experience needs to be balanced with resourcing across the range of assets and services that Council provides. A standard levels of service table that identifies the features of each type of open space in the hierarchy and the servicing required is included in Appendix A.

Function

We identify function for open spaces to ensure a range of recreation experiences in a given catchment. Many functions overlap or there are a range of functions in one space. The following table lists the functions of open space.

Table 4: Functions of open space

Function	Definition
Passive recreation	Traditional local and neighbourhood parks that may or may not have playground equipment however provide opportunities to be outdoors in a safe and aesthetically pleasing space. These areas typically provide opportunities for play, social gatherings, informal games and sports activities and exercise.
Active sports areas	These spaces are venues designed to support individual and team sports training and competition.
Urban public space	Public places that have been modified to support a changing urban density both residential and employment, and include newly designed parks and other open spaces, landscaped plazas or public squares, shopping centres and other large-scale commercial developments, and popular festival sites.
Bushland/conservation	Open space areas reserved or provided for the protection of flora and fauna. They may include existing bushland, grassland, riparian zones, wetlands and waterways.
Waterways	Public areas often serving as dual functional facilities in managing stormwater and providing open space. These include dams, basins, rivers, creeks, rain gardens and wetlands.
Conservation and heritage	Open space areas reserved or provided for the protection of European or Indigenous cultural heritage.
Linear and linkages	Footpaths and cycleways that provide connection between streets and spaces, which are not located on the road surface. Trails may connect or circumnavigate spaces.



Supply of open space

Current provision

In the urban part of the Shire there are approximately 1,181 hectares of existing and planned open space, comprising 410 hectares of active open space and 771 hectares of passive open space. An assessment of the amount of open space against the traditional open space benchmarks is provided in the following table, which shows the overall open space exceeds the benchmarks. However, it should be noted that a portion of the existing and planned supply is bushland and in serving the function of conservation cannot be developed into traditional open space such as parks or playing fields.



Table 5: Levels of provision – open space (urban)

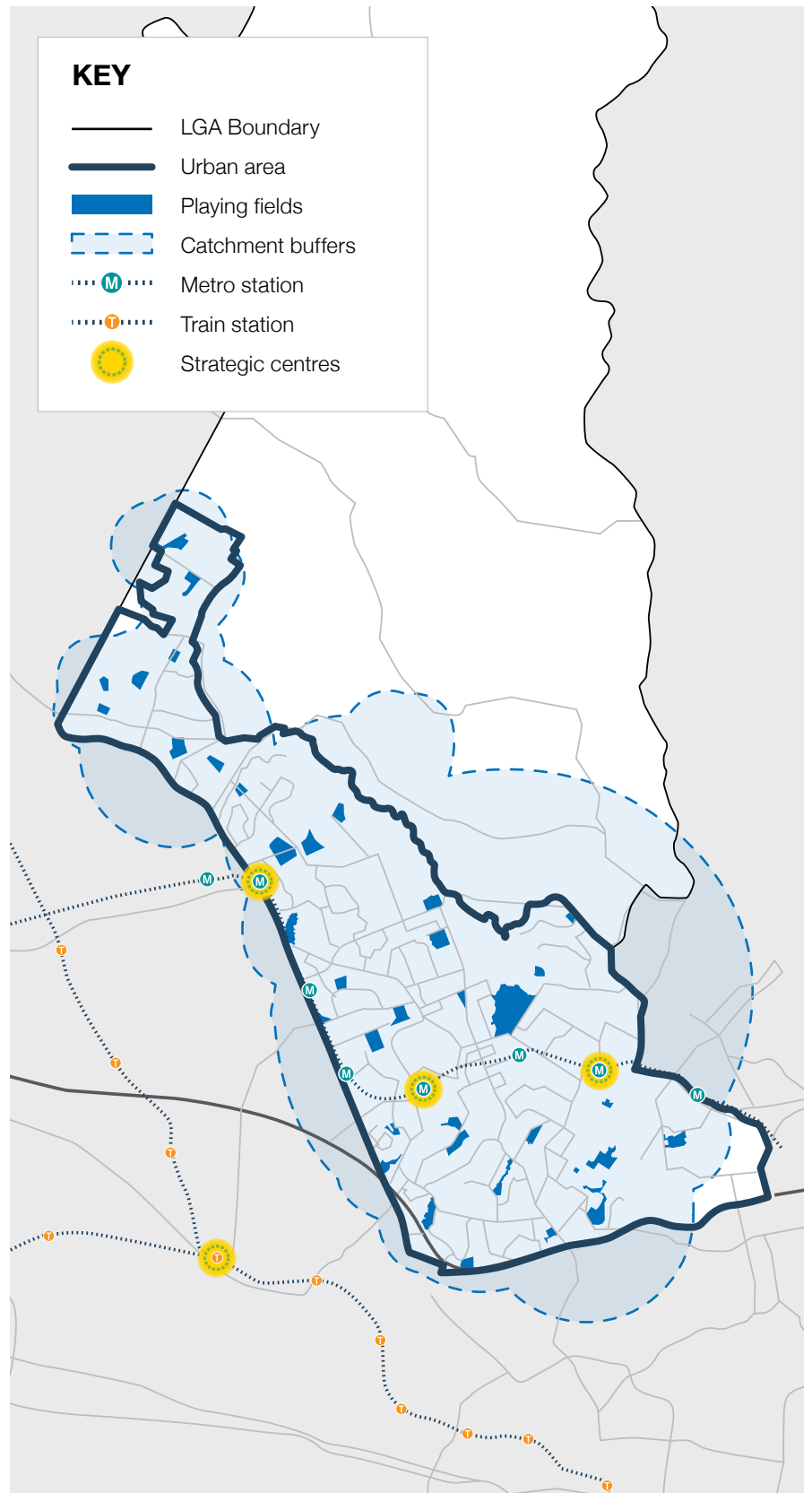
	Ratio (ha/1,000 people)	Required and planned open space		
		Required to meet ratio (ha)	Planned/provided (ha)	Balance (ha)
Active open space	1.21	256.68	410	+153.32
Passive open space	1.62	343.66	771	+427.34
TOTAL	2.83	600.34	1,181	+580.6

Active open space

Currently, 410 hectares of active open space are in the urban part of the Shire, which can accommodate 99 playing fields. Within the Shire’s urban area, 72 playing fields currently exist with an additional 36 playing fields to be developed in the Shire’s release areas over coming years. This active open space consists of 268 hectares of local playing fields, 84 hectares of district playing fields and 58 hectares of regional playing fields. Growth in the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor is expected to generate demand for an additional 18 playing fields.

Most of the urban part of the Shire has sufficient access to playing fields and other active recreation facilities to service the existing population, with the exception of a small portion of West Pennant Hills.

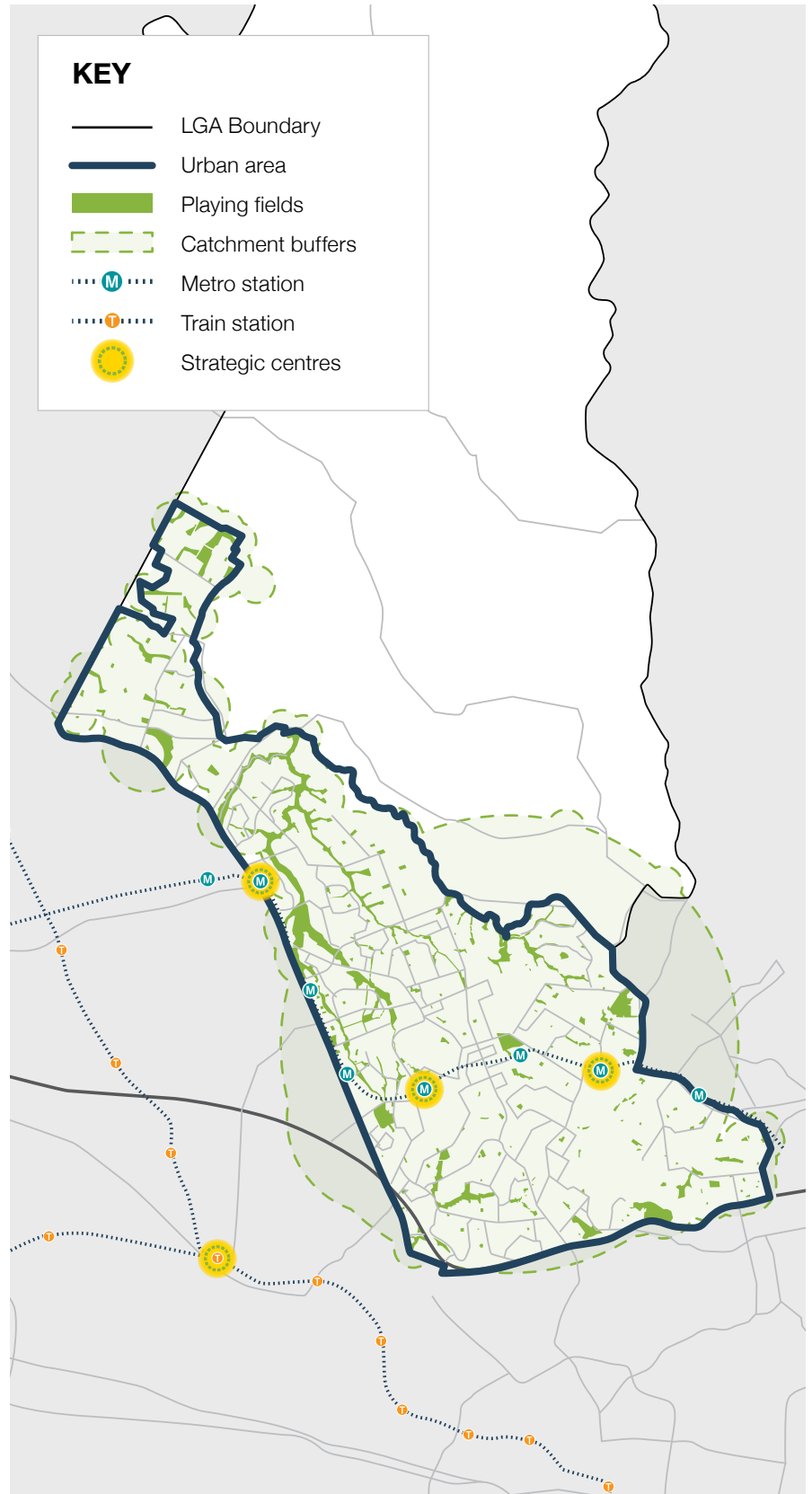
Figure 5: Location and catchment map – active open space



Passive open space

The urban area of the Shire currently contains 771 hectares of passive open space, comprising 708 hectares of local parks, 45 hectares of district parks and 18 hectares of regional parks. The following map shows all passive open space in the urban part of the Shire, and the catchment boundaries around each park. Most of the urban part of the Shire has sufficient access to passive open space.

Figure 6: Location and catchment map – passive open space



Open space facilities

Table 6 overviews open spaces in the Shire (both urban and rural). These figures do not include facilities planned to support growth in the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor.

Table 6: Total number of open space facilities

Facility	Existing	Planned	TOTAL
Passive open space hierarchy	299	47	346
Regional park	1	0	1
District park	6	1	7
Local urban park – high density area	6	5	11
Local suburban park	10	4	14
Local park	152	37	189
Local basic park	124	0	124
Sports playing fields	72	36	108
Subregional sports	15	0	15
District sports	24	12	36
Local sports	33	24	57
Playgrounds	169	approx. 40	209
Level 1 (subregional, district and local – urban)	4	6	10
Level 2 (local – urban and local – suburban)	9	4	13
Level 3 (local)	156	approx 40	186



Facility	Existing	Planned	TOTAL
Outdoor gyms (exercise fitness stations)	131	approx. 30	161
Courts	5	5	10
Netball	113	32	145
Tennis	67	10	77
Basketball (half courts – outdoor)	41	16	57
Multi-purpose	5	2	7
Indoor recreation centres	0	4	4
Aquatic centres	1	0	1
Skate parks	4	2–3	6–7
BMX tracks	2	0	2
Dog off-leash areas	5	8	13
Equestrian sites*	5	8	13

* Castle Hill Showground is not a permanent equestrian site but is used for equestrian events.

Existing and planned recreation facilities

The following table shows existing and forecast population and playing fields in the Shire. The planned level of services averages at around one playing field per 2,145 people. However, in West Pennant Hills there is a noticeable shortfall with a rate of 6,606 people per field, some 4,561 people more than the average.

With the exception of the shortfall in West Pennant Hills, the existing and planned supply and distribution of open space meets Council objectives. Ultimately, the shortfall in playing fields in West Pennant Hills will need to be addressed.

Table 7: Population per playing field (established and release areas)

Location	Pop.	No. of existing and planned playing fields	Pop. per field
Established areas			
Baulkham Hills	37,164	18	2,065
Castle Hill/Glenhaven	42,064	17	2,474
Kellyville/Rouse Hill /Beaumont Hills	38,261*	16	2,391
Norwest/Bella Vista	10,977	3	3,659
West Pennant Hills	13,213	2	6,606 (Shortfall)
Dural/Middle Dural/Kenthurst	8,664	3	2,888
Annangrove/Nelson/Maraylya	2,318	1	2,318
Rural North	4,254	4	1,063
Release areas (planned growth)			
Balmoral Road (Current population – 4,000 people)	13,000	13	1,000
North Kellyville (Current population – 6,000 people)	15,500	8	1,945
Box Hill	30,500	18	1,704
Box Hill North	13,500	4	3,375
TOTAL	229,415	108	2,144

* Excludes current population for Balmoral Road release area



Demand for open space

The development horizon for release areas and station precincts depends on market uptake. The overall growth capacity for the Shire is approximately 71,100 new dwellings, with around 38,000 new dwellings expected by 2036.

Forecast demand and gaps in provision

In planning for the open space network, we aim to give the majority of the community access to a range of open spaces. That is, we want most households to have a local park within 400 metres walking distance with the appropriate level of equipment and facilities. To continue to provide these facilities, we have undertaken a gap analysis of the existing and proposed open space network.

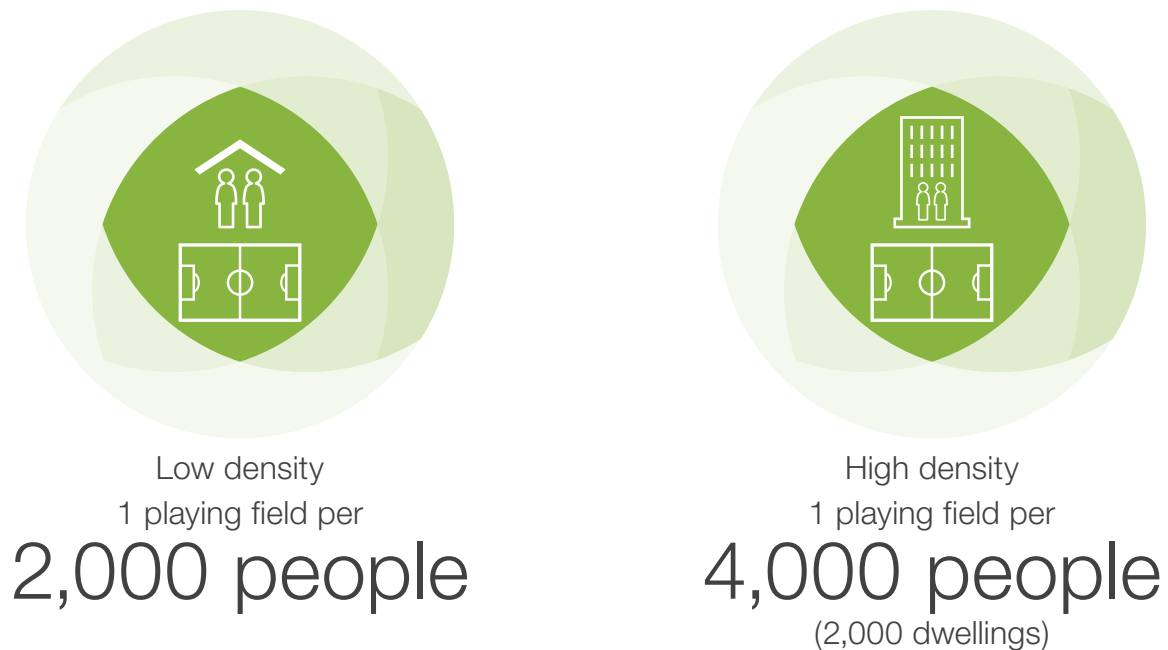
Applying benchmarking to the existing network of open space allows us to base an upgrade program on robust open space planning principles and the anticipated expectations of the community.

Active open space

We have assessed the number of additional playing fields required to service increased demand, applying benchmarks of one playing field per 2,000 people for low density areas and one playing field per 4,000 people (2,000 dwellings) for high density areas.

Residential densities in North Kellyville and Box Hill are higher than originally anticipated by the-then Department of Planning and Environment during master planning, due to market conditions. The Department has revised the population estimates for the precincts.

Figure 7: Benchmarks



3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

The revised population estimates will increase the ratio of people to playing fields from 1,945 to 2,584 for North Kellyville and from 1,704 to 2,257 people per playing field for Box Hill.

The resulting levels are still within the one playing field per 2,000–2,500 people per field range, which is reasonable for a suburban location and is consistent with the Shire's established areas. The previous and revised levels of provision are shown in the following table.

We propose to apply a benchmark ratio of one playing field per 4,000 people (2,000 dwellings) to the Sydney Metro Northwest precincts and the Baulkham Hills town centre.

In the playing field audit, we identified a shortfall in playing fields for West Pennant Hills. The current level of provision is around 6,606 persons per field which is 4,561 people more than the average. Accordingly, an additional two fields are required. Growth in Baulkham Hills town centre, coupled with growth along the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor and the existing two-field shortfall in West Pennant Hills, will create demand for 21 additional playing fields.

Table 8: Population estimates

Precinct	Original estimate		Revised estimate	
	Dwellings	Population	Dwellings	Population
North Kellyville	5,185	15,563	7,741 (+2,556)	20,675 (+5,112)
Box Hill	10,224	30,687	15,197 (+4,973)	40,633 (+9,946)

Table 9: Levels of provision

Precinct	Planned playing fields	Original level of provision		Revised level of provision	
		Population	People per playing field	Revised population	People per playing field
North Kellyville	8	15,563	1,945	20,675	2,584
Box Hill	18	30,687	1,704	40,633	2,257



Table 10: Additional active open space demand

	Population (un-serviced)	Active open space @ 1.21ha per 1000 people (ha)	Playing fields	Playing field ratio
West Pennant Hills	N/A	N/A	2	1 per 3,306 people
Baulkham Hills town centre	2,100	2.60	1	1 per 2,100 people
Cherrybrook Station precinct	8,000	9.68	2	1 per 4,000 people
Castle Hill Station precinct	15,400	18.63	4	1 per 3,850 people
Showground Station precinct	21,486	26.00	5	1 per 4,297 people
Norwest Station precinct	11,000	13.31	3	1 per 3,667 people
Bella Vista and Kellyville Station precincts	18,120	21.93	4	1 per 4,530 people
TOTAL	76,106	92.09	21	1 per 3,624 people

For Kellyville/Bella Vista and the Showground precinct, we propose one field per 4,530 people and one field per 4,297 people respectively. This is slightly lower than 4,000 people per field; however, these precincts adjoin the bushland corridors of Cattai Creek (Showground Precinct) and Elizabeth Macarthur Creek (Kellyville and Bella Vista), which serve an important open space function. Furthermore, building small courts under the Sydney Metro Northwest viaduct will help to address the playing field shortfall in these locations.

Within existing urban areas, planning and providing playing fields is difficult and very costly and has a greater amenity impact than for local parks. The following measures could help address these obstacles:

- new synthetic playing field/s (agreement/s with private sector)
- shared-use agreements with local schools (public and private)
- expansion of existing open space facilities to provide additional playing fields.



Synthetic fields at Bernie Mullane Sports Complex

Passive open space

Planning for passive open space will focus on increased demand due to additional population. Planning will involve establishing new local open space where possible, increasing the capacity of existing open space (embellishing existing basic parks), and ensuring that parks are appropriately distributed and accessible in growth areas. Outside of the growth areas, we propose upgrading certain parks to match their level of service in the open space hierarchy.

Of Council's 299 parks and reserves, 61 per cent is bushland, which serves an important passive recreational function. Thirty-seven parks are located on Crown Land and managed and controlled by Council.

Within the Box Hill and North Kellyville greenfield areas, planned passive open space is sufficient to meet the demand generated by the population growth. In the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor and Baulkham Hills town centre, new and expanded local parks will be identified and existing parks upgraded to a higher standard and level of service. This will occur as part of the master planning for each precinct.

Improve the capacity of existing open space (strategic locations)

We audited the existing parks in the Shire to assess them against the hierarchy and levels of service expectations in this Strategy. There are a number of existing parks where there is a gap between the existing and required level of service. The level of service of the following parks is proposed to increase from local park to suburban park standard:

- Mackillop Drive Reserve, Baulkham Hills
- Turon Avenue Reserve, Baulkham Hills
- Bella Vista Village Green Reserve, Bella Vista
- Castlewood Community Reserve, Castle Hill
- Coolong Reserve, Castle Hill
- Rutherford Avenue Reserve, Kellyville
- Oxlade Street Reserve, North Kellyville
- Connie Lowe Reserve, Rouse Hill
- Bellamy Farm Reserve, West Pennant Hills.



Recreation facilities

Synthetic playing fields

Internationally, synthetic grass has been in use as a playing field surface since the 1960s. Prior to 2014 there were just six synthetic playing fields in Sydney. Due to the demand for playing fields in The Hills Shire, the suitability of and opportunities for synthetic grass are being explored. Two synthetic playing fields opened at Bernie Mullane in mid-2018.

A synthetic field can be used for up to 2.4 times more hours than natural turf. However, while a synthetic field can be used more frequently than a turf field, it will not provide more capacity during the peak demand periods (such as Saturdays). Synthetic will principally assist with respect to training and out-of-peak-time sports. Potential synthetic field locations are assessed against criteria including the type of facility, rate of use, location and gaps or shortfalls in provision – either existing or forecasted. Synthetic fields development will be considered as part of a whole range of measures for meeting the future demand for active recreation. It should not be considered the sole solution.

In determining the most appropriate locations for synthetic fields, sites that have open, natural surveillance are more favourable than those that are secluded and potentially prone to vandalism. Similarly, maintenance considerations contribute to a site's suitability.

Open areas where there is minimal debris from trees and vegetation are preferred over sites with many trees because they increase the need for regular maintenance. More open areas also reduce the occurrence of mould and other effects arising from dampness and shading. We will also consider potential damage by embers from bushfire or hazard reduction burns.

The useful life of synthetic grass is between eight and ten years, depending on its use. Apart from the fields at Bernie Mullane Reserve mentioned above, Council is beginning to explore further use of synthetic playing field surfaces. Research suggests the following costs are associated with synthetic fields:

- average cost to construct a single field is \$1.8 million to \$2 million
- average maintenance costs for 60 hours per week usage is approximately \$31,000 per annum per field.

3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

School ovals receive high volumes of traffic and a synthetic surface would enable higher usage from both school and community to be accommodated. Synthetic facilities will be explored and proposed upon single field school sites where opportunities exist.

A longer-term consideration may be to provide synthetic sports fields above car parks to maximise the use of limited space. Synthetic fields do not require a profile as deep as natural turf and can be provided on top of infrastructure such as a car park. Whilst this is not proposed in the short term, such innovative solutions may need to be considered to meet the longer-term demand for active recreation.

Premier facilities and partnerships

A premier sports facility for each mainstream (major) sporting code enables The Hills Shire to have representation at regional or state level sporting competitions, and for residents to partake in their chosen sport at a high level in the Shire. Additionally, a premier sports facility provides a venue for sporting codes and other groups to aim events such as regional and school competitions, gala day events, seminars, conferences and training at a wider catchment level.

A premier facility does not necessarily imply that a whole site needs to be developed to an elite level. Council provides sporting opportunities for community level competition and organisations that seek facilities above the community level are required to fund upgrades. These may include lighting, fencing, amenities upgrades, and grandstands. An example of this is the partnership between Council, NSW/ACT AFL and NSW Cricket to provide additional facilities at Bruce Purser Reserve.

Any proposed increase to the standard of facilities would need to explore funding external to Council such as grants and contributions through clubs, associations, state and national sporting organisations, and sponsors.

Sports including tennis, netball and basketball that have centralised their activities, have entered into formal agreements with Council that allow for organisations representing those sports to manage the use and contribute to the upkeep of facilities. The Shire prefers partnerships that encourage sports associations to provide a greater diversity of local sports and partnerships that propose a premier facility.

Council already has a partnership with the Western Sydney Academy of Sport. Presently there are no facilities used by the Academy in the Shire, meaning local athletes must travel outside of The Hills. The partnership should be further enhanced by providing premier facilities for Academy athletes in The Hills Shire. Providing premier facilities would be limited to one facility for each identified sporting code. We assume that the nominated facility would become the site for higher level competition for that code, irrespective of which club uses it.



Bruce Purser Reserve, Kellyville – premier facility for AFL and cricket



Snapshot of the major codes and premier facilities

Grassroots facilities are provided in The Hills for all mainstream sporting codes played in Australia, as well as a number of second-tier sports. The table following lists the existing and proposed premier facilities in the Shire.

Table 11: Existing and proposed premier facility locations

Code	Facility locations	Status
AFL	Bruce Purser Reserve	Existing
Athletics	A H Whaling Reserve	Proposed
Baseball	Fred Caterson Reserve (Knights Field)	Existing
Basketball	Fred Caterson Reserve	Existing
Cycling (BMX)	Fred Caterson Reserve	Existing
Cricket	Bruce Purser Reserve	Existing
Soccer	Caddies Creek Sports Complex (Stage 2)	Proposed
Hockey	Box Hill North – Central Fields	Proposed
Netball	Kellyville Netball Complex	Existing
Rugby league	Kellyville Park	Proposed
Rugby union	To be determined	To be determined
Tennis	Fred Caterson Reserve	Proposed
Touch football	Centenary of ANZAC Reserve	Proposed

Shared use with schools

Schools offer a good opportunity for adding playing fields. Council has forged relationships with the Department of Education and individual schools with the view of progressing joint-use partnerships for school playing fields, through the signing of a non-binding Shared Heads of Agreement for Joint Use Partnerships. Similar discussions have been evolving with private schools. School sites would be unavailable to the general public during normal school hours. However, outside of these times the facility may be accessible to the community.

There can, however, be a significant capital outlay, along with maintenance and replacement costs. School sites with a single field are generally not considered to be suitable unless they have a synthetic surface due to the heavy use by students during school hours, and the community out of school hours. Council is responsible for funding the transformation of a standard natural turf playing field to a synthetic facility with associated infrastructure. School sites will also require facilities complementary to a synthetic field including an amenities building, floodlighting, fencing and car parking – some of which may already be available in the school grounds. The appropriateness of a school site for a shared-use arrangement would consider:

- availability of land to accommodate a full sized field
- guaranteed land tenure of at least 20 years with optional extensions
- availability or opportunity for adequate car parking
- availability or opportunity for the provision of an amenities building
- availability or opportunity for the provision of floodlighting.

Aquatic facilities

Aquatic facilities remain important community assets as they provide a range of community benefits including:

- water safety lessons
- physical and health benefits
- social capital – they assist in building strong social networks and relationships
- economic stimulus – they provide facilities, programs and services, and localised employment for residents and contractors.

With strong population growth across The Hills, which includes high-density housing and small lot sizes, the likelihood of private pools in backyards is decreasing. Furthermore, facilities at the existing Waves Aquatic Centre (our only aquatic facility) are outdated and the provision of new and contemporary aquatic facilities to meet increased community demand will be a major challenge.

The Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre is more than 50 years old and currently provides:

- 50-metre outdoor heated pool
- outdoor splash area
- indoor program pool
- gymnasium
- reception and amenities.

In its Guidelines for Community Infrastructure, Parks and Leisure Australia recommends the following for aquatic facilities:



Table 12: Aquatic facility requirements

Level of facility	Population ratio	Inclusions
Regional	1:150,000	50m FINA competition standard
District	1:75,000	25m and/or 50m for recreational, club, water polo, diving and competitive swimming
Local/neighbourhood	1:30,000	25m and leisure pool

Source: Guidelines for Community Infrastructure: Parks and Leisure Australia WA

With a projected population of more than 290,000 by 2036, a new aquatic facility would be required. The selection of a future site will need to consider the catchment of the Waves complex in Baulkham Hills,

and facilities in neighbouring Blacktown City Council at both Stanhope Gardens and Riverstone, as well as other privately operated aquatic centres.

Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre



3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

Indoor centres

Parks and Leisure Australia's Guidelines for Community Infrastructure suggest a minimum three-court indoor centre with associated infrastructure for a population of 50,000–100,000 people. Single court facilities are generally not viable and are not encouraged.

The Shire's three recreation centres are at Bernie Mullane Sports Complex in Kellyville, the Dural Recreation Centre, and at Fred Caterson Reserve, Castle Hill. Bernie Mullane has been in operation since 2001 and accommodates a number of activities in its two-court facility, and also includes an activity room and gymnasium. It is currently operated privately under a contractual agreement with Council. The Fred Caterson facility is operated by the Hills Basketball Association under a lease agreement with Council. The centre has six courts, exclusively used for basketball. The Dural Recreation Centre is a single court facility also used by The Hills Basketball Association.

Forming part of the new Joint Use Partnership agreement between Council and the Department of Education, the new hall at Bella Vista Public School, consisting of a two basketball courts or a single netball court, is available to the community outside of school hours. This facility opened in early 2019.

The recent purchase of the Horseworld site in Maraylya creates the opportunity for the redevelopment of the indoor equestrian centre into a recreational facility. It has potential to accommodate at least four indoor courts, as well as outdoor space for up to 30 courts, or two full-sized playing fields. An indoor recreational centre was previously identified as part of the master planning for the Box Hill precinct. However, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) removed this item from the Box Hill Contributions Plan on the grounds that the capital cost for delivery of community infrastructure is not on the essential works list. The Horseworld site could offer an alternative to providing a new facility.

Similar to the proposed indoor facility in Box Hill, the contribution plans for the Balmoral Road release area and the North Kellyville release area identified the need for the Bernie Mullane complex to expand to two additional indoor courts. As these additional courts also did not fall within the essential works list, they were removed from the contributions plans for each precinct. Therefore, whilst the expansion is considered necessary to service the increased demand from the surrounding community, it is not currently funded. We anticipate that this expansion will remain a priority for Council.



Bernie Mullane Sports Complex



Skate facilities

The location, fit and use of skate parks requires careful consideration and planning to ensure they are used to their potential. Council has one main skate park, listed as a district skate park, with three further neighbourhood skate parks across the Shire. A three-tiered hierarchy system determines the level of skate park provided.

Table 13: Skate park requirements

Hierarchy	Location	Population Ratio
Subregional	No facility	1:25:000–50,000
District	Balcombe Heights Reserve	1:10,000–25,000
Neighbourhood	Ambleside Drive Reserve, Castle Hill Castle Glen Reserve, Castle Hill Crestwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills	1:5,000–10,000

Source: Guidelines for Community Infrastructure: Parks and Leisure Australia WA

Additional skate park opportunities will be investigated as community demand increases. Possible site locations could include the Castle Hill Showground as well as in new release areas.



Crestwood Reserve – outdoor gym

Outdoor gyms

Fitness equipment in outdoor settings provide an opportunity for community physical activity. These can be provided as one station, or multiple stations along a pathway/route. They can include basic static equipment for exercises such as chin-ups, sit-ups and step-ups, or they can accommodate movable equipment for resistance exercises. Outdoor gyms are currently located at:

- Castlewood Community Reserve, Castle Hill
- Crestwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills
- George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills
- Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills
- Hills Centenary Reserve, Kellyville.

3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

We propose including such facilities in district and sub-regional open spaces, which are generally frequented by larger numbers of people. It is also an optional inclusion for local parks in high-density areas to enable residents to leave their apartments and exercise outdoors. Future outdoor gyms are proposed for:

- Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, Kellyville
- Caddies Creek Sports Complex
- Pioneer Place Reserve, Castle Hill
- Box Hill
- North Kellyville
- station precincts.

Waterways and drainage land

Waterways form part of the landscape of The Hills and can include dams, basins, rivers, creeks, rain gardens and other wetlands. Many are constructed to manage stormwater, sometimes in open space areas, or along drainage corridors directly adjacent to parklands or providing links to them.

Basins and rain gardens address stormwater, emphasising flood, water flow and water quality management. Natural waterways, including the Hawkesbury River, offer opportunities for recreation, while dams in various locations act as water features and provide irrigation for open space areas such as playing fields.

Future planning and design of water management systems will focus on water sensitive urban design principles with an emphasis on reducing ongoing maintenance.



Bladensburg Road Reserve, North Kellyville – detention basin

Parks and playgrounds

Playgrounds are generally located within 400 metres of any residence. Where possible, playgrounds should enable use by people of all ages and abilities. We recognise that every facility may not be able to cater for all age groups. Not all sites are equally accessible due to terrain or other landscape features. We are guided by the NSW Government's report Everyone Can Play.

It is not imperative that every park in the Shire has a playground. Council seeks to provide playgrounds in accordance with the open space hierarchy. Playground locations are selected based on their accessibility to the wider community and suitability of the land. Council's objective for playgrounds is to provide quality ahead of quantity.

We intend to consider shading at all sites and at a minimum include natural shade. Shade sails are to be included in all subregional, district, local-urban and local-suburban facilities where long term stays are expected. We intend to include a playground at sports fields to offer an extra recreational opportunity, particularly for people not associated with formal or organised sport. These are potentially longer-term stays.





Level 1

Figure 8: Playground levels

Bernie Mullane Sports Complex – district level 1 playground



Level 2



Oxlade Street Reserve – local suburban level 2 playground



Level 3



Gorman Avenue Reserve – local level 3 playground

As with active sporting fields, we are seeking opportunities for joint partnership arrangements with the Department of Education. This will primarily involve public open space located adjacent to a school or use of the school playground for both school and community purposes.

Park furniture

Park furniture is a key component of passive and active recreation. Park furniture will be included to complement other park features as well as being sensitive to the site and its communal surrounds. The levels of service identified for each open space hierarchy will determine the types to be added or considered.

Off-leash areas

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world, providing significant social and health benefits for pet owners. More than 36,000 dogs are registered in the Shire, equating to nearly one in five people owning a dog. Council has a responsibility under The Companion Animals Act 1988 (NSW) to provide at least one off-leash area for dogs in the Shire. Dog off-leash areas contain fenced sections in public reserves, ranging from approximately 2,500 to 4,000 square metres in size, that can be divided for small and large dogs.

Currently Council has five off-leash areas. With the increasing number of high-density housing and smaller residential yards, additional dog parks will be needed. We propose these facilities be distributed in the existing urban area of the Shire.

Existing off-leash areas are currently available at:

- Balcombe Heights Reserve, Baulkham Hills
- Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill
- Connie Lowe Reserve, Rouse Hill
- Coolong Reserve, Castle Hill
- Crestwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills.

Proposed off-leash areas are at:

- Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, Kellyville
- Caddies Creek Sports Complex, Beaumont Hills
- George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills
- Ironbark Ridge Reserve, Rouse Hill
- Rutherford Avenue Reserve, Kellyville
- a future park in North Kellyville
- a future park in Box Hill and/or Box Hill North.

Private recreation

Privately owned, and generally used for commercial purposes, private open space includes golf courses, bowling greens, and sports clubs. There are seven sites that are specifically zoned for private recreation including:

- Baulkham Hills Sporting Club
- Hills District Bowling Club
- Wirreanda Retirement Village (part of site)
- Castle Hill Country Club (part of site)
- Castle Pines Retirement Village
- Castle Hill RSL Club
- Castle Hill Bowling Club.

Private recreation facilities are particularly important in higher density areas where residents have limited access to their own private open space. Golf courses can also provide an important visual 'green space' in the urban area, as well as supporting local biodiversity through continuing the tree canopy and providing habitat for fauna.

Private recreation land that is part of a retirement village is generally zoned consistently with the primary residential use of the site. Development controls or environmental overlays can also be used to recognise other constraints applying to the land.

Private recreation facilities are also located outside the urban area in centres, employment areas, and rural areas. Golf courses at Wisemans Ferry and Riverside Oaks are located in rural areas and are zoned RE2 Private Recreation to reflect their recreational function. In such locations they can contribute to economic development and the growth of tourism. We propose that these sites remain zoned RE2 Private Recreation to reflect their recreational role and function.





Riverside Oaks Golf Course

Recreational tracks and trails

Accessibility of open space is important to its use. A network of pedestrian and cycle paths linking parks, waterways, bushland and town centres is crucial to encouraging community use of the recreation, leisure and scenic opportunities of the Shire. Our approaches to planning for regional walking networks accord with the NSW Government's Regional Trails Network and Green Grid projects.

In assessing the accessibility and connectivity of recreational spaces, we have considered both regional and local links. The focus of this Strategy is recreation rather than commuter links which are addressed in the *Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy 2019*.

Link to Great North Walk

The Great North Walk is a 250-kilometre trail from Sydney Cove to Newcastle. The trail begins in Macquarie Place and heads toward Circular Quay. Its southern section passes historic locations and heritage homes in Sydney suburbs before arriving at the Lane Cove River National Park. From there, the Great North Walk follows the Lane Cove River as far as Thornleigh and onwards to Berowra Creek before heading through part of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to arrive at Brooklyn, on the Hawkesbury River. The Walk's middle sections travel through Brisbane Water National Park and the Ourimbah Valley before reaching the Watagan State Forest. Its final destination is central Newcastle. Created in 1988, The Great North Walk is maintained by the NSW Government's Land and Property Management Authority.

An offshoot of the trail, known as the Governor Phillip Arm, passes through the Shire connecting Mount Wilberforce Park at West Pennant Hills, the Cumberland State Forest, Bidjigal Reserve, and Excelsior Reserve.

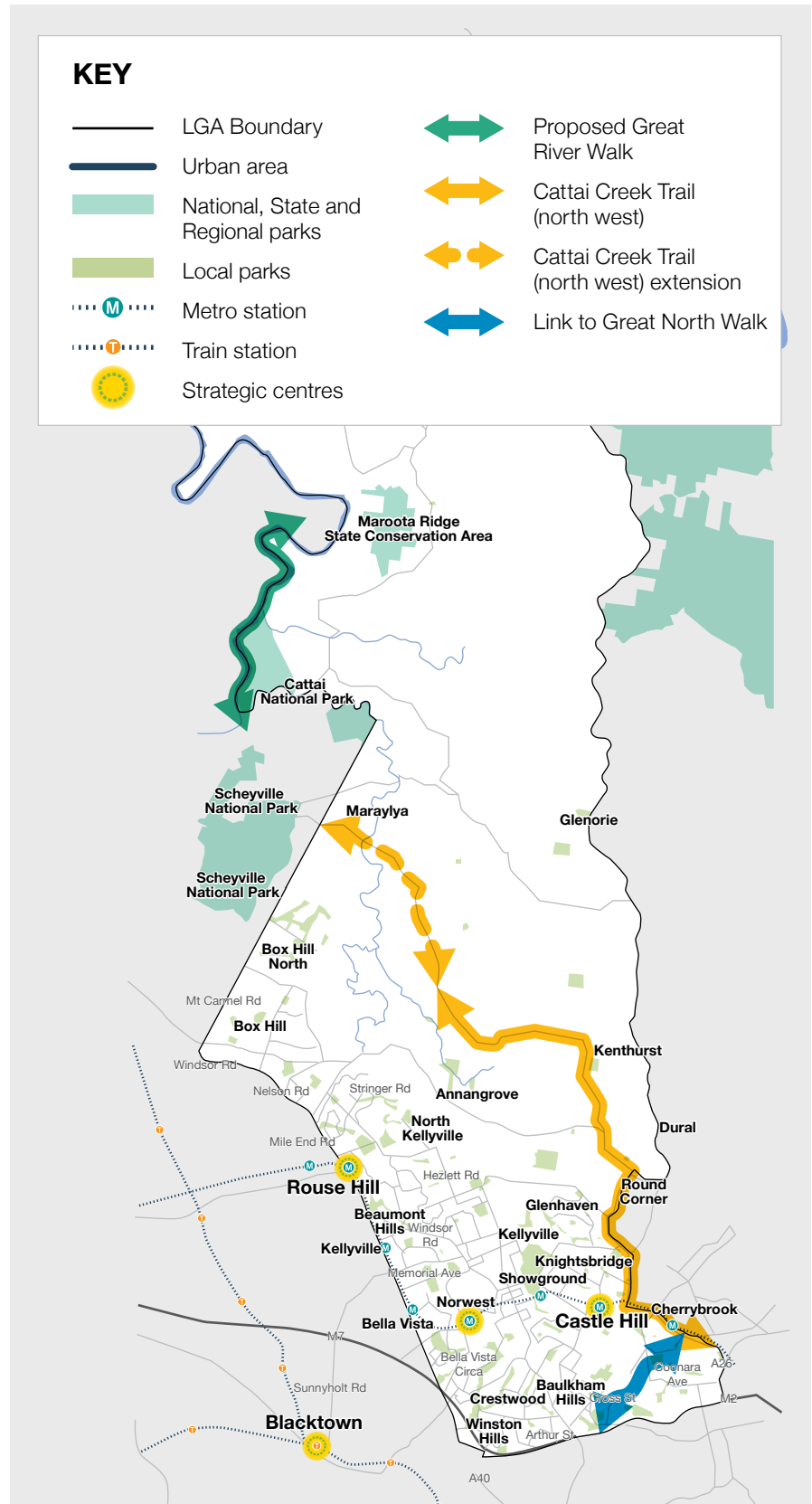
Proposed Great River Walk

The Great River Walk is a proposal from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust to develop a walking trail from Brooklyn to Canberra along the Hawkesbury River. At its northern reaches it will connect to the Great North Walk.

The walking trail would combine a number of different routes and would allow for the use of watercraft to traverse the river so that walkers will be able to experience the river from the bank and on the water. The walk will generally be in the local government areas of Hawkesbury and Penrith. Both councils have given their support for the walk.

Within The Hills Shire, the proposed route starts at the Riverside Oaks Golf Club and travels north to the Lower Portland Ferry. Currently there is no formal track and work is underway to establish a permanent route. However, given much of the land along the Hawkesbury River is in private ownership, significant obstacles remain.

Figure 9: Regional recreational trails



Cattai Creek Trail (North West)

Extending from Thompsons Corner (connecting with the Great North Walk) to Scheyville National Park, the trail, which principally adjoins major roads, extends along Castle Hill Road, Old Northern Road (from Rogans Hill to Round Corner Dural), then along Kenthurst Road and Pitt Town Road, terminating near Burrell Road, Kenthurst. A link to the north has not been completed but we anticipate the alignment would continue along Pitt Town Road and terminate at Boundary Road.

Local links

Creeks and bushland corridors provide an ideal setting for trails; however, where possible we will establish trails in a variety of settings. Inter-suburb trails give the community opportunities to access and experience other areas of the Shire, as well as different trail lengths for individuals and families building up their fitness and riding experience. Other benefits include:

- opportunities for people to be physically active, socialise and experience nature
- options for people to move safely around the neighbourhood, especially for people who cannot drive
- opportunities for children to develop physically active habits, wayfinding skills, bicycle skills and connection with friends
- important recreation opportunities for visitors
- opportunity for the community to reduce their carbon footprints
- a reduction in non-pervious paving required for car parking in open spaces
- a cost-effective recreation facility for Council to build and maintain.

Local links within the Shire include:

- the Greenway Link
- Cattai Creek Trail
- Caddies Creek Trail
- Smalls Creek Trail
- North Kellyville Link
- Toongabbie Creek Cycleway
- Crestwood Reserve Cycleway
- Box Hill Trail Network
- Box Hill North Trail Network.



3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

The Greenway Link

This link is a shared pedestrian and cycleway from Bella Vista Farm Park, through the Balmoral Road release area, to Rouse Hill. It forms part of the NSW Government's Green Grid network, protected linear corridors of open space managed for conservation and recreation that link parks and natural features. The Greenway Link is complete except for two gaps. One is from Raymond Court to Memorial Avenue and the completion of this link will occur in line with development in the Balmoral Road Release Area. The other is NSW Government-owned land zoned E2 Environmental Conservation on Mungerie Road, from The Rise to Withers Road, Beaumont Hills. We will investigate completing this link with a shared pedestrian/bicycle path.

Cattai Creek Trail

The Cattai Creek Trail, which is also a Green Grid connection, has been planned as part of the Kellyville/Rouse Hill greenfield area and will provide recreational access along Cattai Creek from Glenhaven Bridge to the Castle Hill employment area and Cockayne Reserve, passing through Fred Caterson Reserve, the Castle Hill Showground and The Hills Showground station site. Completion of this link requires a trail from Cameo Place to Roseberry Road on RE1 Public Recreation zoned land. Further, in line with redevelopment of the site at 60–98 Cattai Creek Drive, Kellyville, we will acquire land zoned RE1 Public Recreation and construct a trail. Finally, we will complete the acquisition of land zoned RE1 Public Recreation connecting Cockayne Reserve and Carrington Road. This will include the construction of pedestrian and cycle links to connect Cockayne Reserve and the Castle Hill Showground.

Caddies Creek Trail

Caddies Creek Trail, which is also a Green Grid connection, runs from the junction of Caddies Creek with Smalls Creek in Rouse Hill, sharing the Greenway Link through Rouse Hill town centre, continuing south under Windsor Road then along Elizabeth Macarthur Creek through the Balmoral Road release area and Norwest to Bella Vista Farm Park.

Using drainage land for recreation in addition to stormwater provides for multipurpose functionality. Drainage land may be used as formal pathways or informal tracks, as leash-free areas for dogs or biodiversity corridors, providing an additional educational benefit. The gaps in the Caddies Creek corridor are from Celebration Drive near Bella Vista Station to Samantha Riley Drive near Kellyville Station. Development of this link will occur as part of the master planning of NSW Government land, led by Landcom. Another gap is the section of the path from Sanctuary Drive to Drummond Road in Rouse Hill which will be widened from 1.2 metres to 2.5 metres to enable shared pedestrian/bicycle use.



Inter-suburb trails give the community opportunities to access and experience other areas of the Shire.”



Smalls Creek Trail

The Smalls Creek Trail, once completed, will be a shared pedestrian and cycleway connecting the Rouse Hill Regional Park with the Castle Hill employment area. From Castle Hill, it will extend to Centenary of ANZAC Reserve and the Wrights Road town centre, following Smalls Creek to Samantha Riley Drive. The link will then follow Smalls Creek along the western boundary of the North Kellyville precinct to the junction with Second Ponds Creek. The link then follows the Second Ponds Creek drainage corridor through the Annangrove Road employment area and progresses to Windsor Road at the Rouse Hill Regional Park.

Filling gaps will create a continuous link. These include:

- between Samantha Riley Drive and the junction of Second Ponds Creek and Smalls Creek at Mile End Road. This link will be progressively delivered in line with redevelopment in the North Kellyville Precinct
- extension of the link from the junction of Second Ponds Creek and Smalls Creek to the existing path at Russell Reserve.

North Kellyville link

This link will traverse the North Kellyville precinct. It will comprise a 2.5 metre-wide shared path along Hezlett, Withers, Barry and Stringer roads connecting through to Ross Place and the future bridge to the Annangrove Road employment area. Its construction will be aligned with redevelopment and road upgrades in the North Kellyville precinct.

Cycling

Toongabbie Creek Cycleway

Toongabbie Creek Cycleway extends from Old Windsor Road under the M7 motorway north through Col Sutton Park, William Joyce Reserve, Sophia Doyle Reserve and Torry Burn Reserve to Windsor Road near Roxborough Park Road. There is currently a gap in the link from Woodridge Place to Louise Avenue in Baulkham Hills. We propose a new shared path including a bridge over Toongabbie Creek.

Crestwood Reserve Cycleway

This is a complete link and connects Col Sutton Park in Winston Hills, progressing through William Joyce Reserve, Crestwood Reserve, and MacKillop Drive Reserve to Windsor Road, near the Castle Hill employment area.

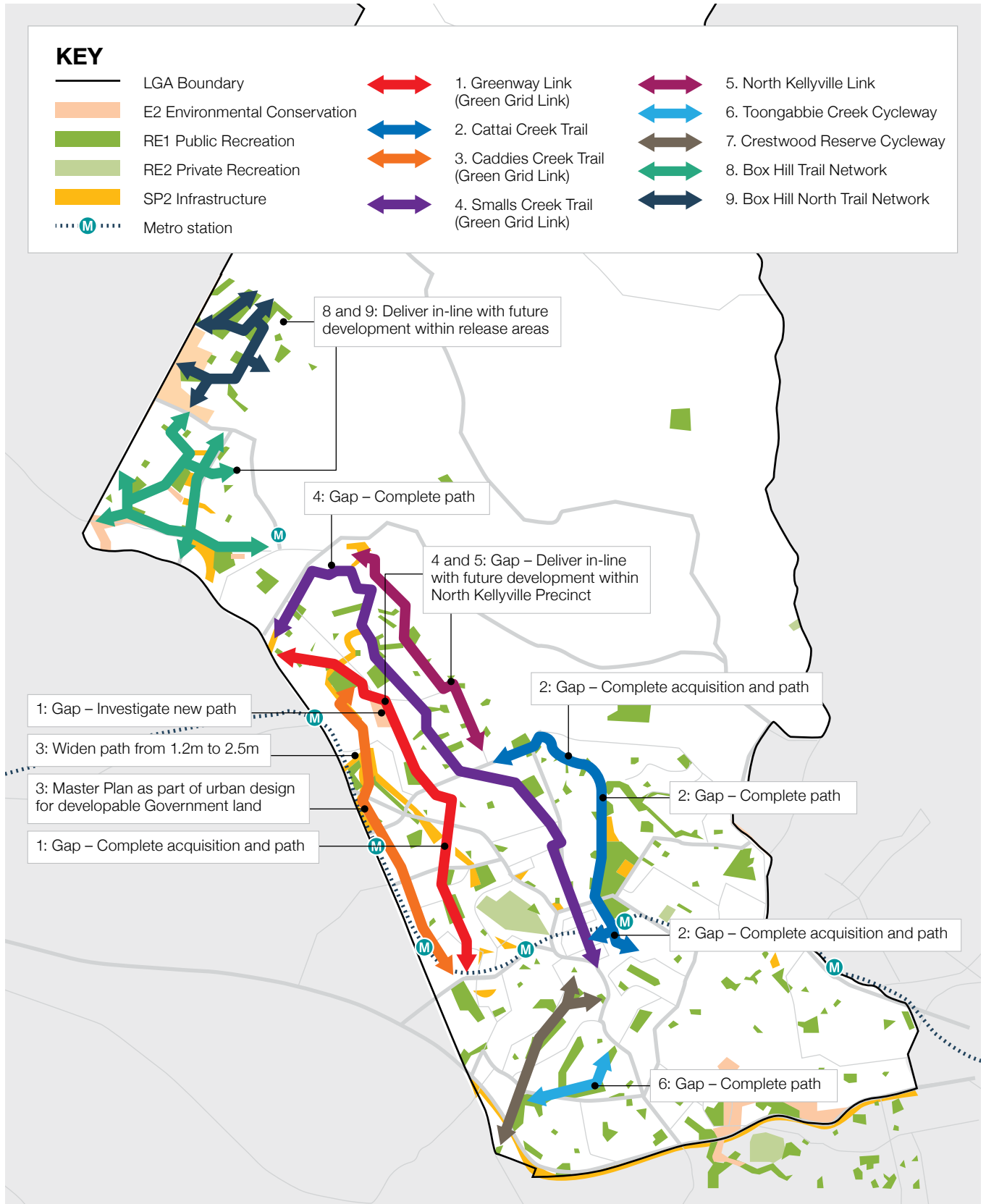
Box Hill Trail network and Box Hill North Trail networks

As part of the master planning for the Box Hill and Box Hill North precincts, we have identified a potential network of pedestrian and cycleways and will progressively construct them as development proceeds.



3. PLANNING FOR RECREATION IN THE HILLS

Figure 10: Local recreational links and gaps





Fred Caterson – BMX track

BMX riding

The Shire's two BMX tracks are located at Fred Caterson Reserve, Castle Hill and Turon Avenue Reserve, Baulkham Hills. Fred Caterson Reserve is used for competition riding from club level to state and national championships. Recent upgrades include track resurfacing, a new amenities building and sheltered starting gates. The track at Turon Avenue Reserve is for non-competitive use.

Mountain biking

No mountain bike facilities are provided by Council in the Shire. Mountain bike tracks require significant areas with a variety of conditions including hills and sloped terrain, vegetation and amenities. Possible opportunities may exist in crown reserves and national parks in the north of the Shire.

Learn to ride

We recently installed four learn-to-ride tracks to encourage children to practise their cycling skills in a safe and purpose-built environment. The tracks are located at:

- Coolong Reserve, Castle Hill
- Crestwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills
- Hills Centenary of ANZAC Reserve, Kellyville
- Twickenham Avenue Reserve, North Kellyville.

Learn-to-ride tracks require a relatively flat area of land which is accessible by pathway. Complementary facilities in the form of seating, sheltered areas and drinking water enhance the experience.



4

PLANNING PRIORITIES

This section outlines our priorities for the Shire's recreation areas and how we will achieve these priorities. The planning priorities will guide how we plan to create new, or enhance, open spaces, while also creating better connections to encourage people to walk to cycle. The priorities are:

- provide social infrastructure to meet residents' needs
- provide new and upgraded passive and active open spaces
- expand and improve the active transport network.



Provide social infrastructure to meet residents' needs

This relates to Planning Priority 10 in *Hills Future 2036*.

Rationale

Protecting and managing the Shire's recreation spaces involves balancing the needs and expectations of the community while achieving equitable and sustainable recreational outcomes. Zoning is the primary mechanism by which we protect and manage open space. It allows clear identification of the intended role of different spaces through zone objectives and identification of uses as either permissible with consent, permissible without consent, or prohibited. Open space objectives are to provide recreation space for residents and to enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

Zoning for open space will consider the following criteria:

- continue to zone public open space to clarify and communicate its role, land use and public ownership
- identify forestry land to communicate its role and ownership
- identify golf courses (including golf courses in rural locations), bowling greens and sports clubs as private recreation land to communicate the role, land use and private ownership
- continue to zone publicly owned conservation areas (Bella Vista Farm Park and Balcombe Heights) to reflect their ownership, recreation and community function.

This planning priority also seeks to provide a proposed facility in a timely manner in line with population growth where land is identified for public open space. This will provide certainty to the community about recreation facilities and ensure that the residents in growth areas are provided with consistent and appropriate level of service.

As discussed above, we have developed an open space hierarchy to reflect the function of all open spaces in the Shire, providing further certainty for the community. A standard levels of service table articulates the expected features and quality of each type of open space in the hierarchy. This will enable the community to identify what features should or should not be included in any existing or future open space in the Shire. If a developer intends to transfer open space to Council, it shall be assessed for its position on the hierarchy and designed in accordance with the level of service expectations.

Council will:

- Provide services and social infrastructure that keeps pace with population growth and meets the needs of existing and future residents.
- Zone private and public recreation land to match its function.

Actions

- Categorise all existing and future open space on the open space hierarchy.
- Embellish open space in accordance with the standard levels of service table.



We aim to provide recreation space for residents and to enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.”



Provide new and upgraded passive and active open spaces

This relates to Planning Priority 15 in *Hills Future 2036*.

Rationale

Passive open space

Passive open space refers to areas of play and quiet relaxation, and provides an opportunity to connect with the community and outdoor environment. These spaces can range from a local park with only turf, to a fully paved urban park or plaza, or even a green corridor adjoining a creek that contains a footpath and cycleway. Passive open space increases the attractiveness and liveability of our neighbourhoods and ultimately increases the quality of life of Hills residents.

We want to ensure Hills residents have access to sufficient passive open space in terms of quantity, quality and distribution. Planning will be in accordance with benchmarks identified in this Strategy and will inform new passive open space for town centres and Sydney Metro Northwest precincts, release areas, and upgrades to existing open spaces in established areas.



When planning for new passive open space we will apply the following criteria:

- Parks will have an area of at least 5,000 square metres and development will reflect their level on Council's open space hierarchy.
- Where existing parks cannot be expanded, new parks will be identified.
- Plazas are encouraged around railway station entrances and town centre cores.
- All residents will live within 400 metres of a local park.
- Where possible and appropriate, creek corridors are to be utilised as greenway links.
- Open spaces will be embellished in accordance with the open space hierarchy and level of service benchmarks.
- Parks should be located where they can be seen from nearby residential properties or areas with a high level of pedestrian activity.
- Development that adjoins open space should have an attractive outlook to that open space.
- Parks in high density locations will not be overshadowed from 11am to 2pm during mid-winter.
- Where possible, vegetation shall provide shade during the warmer months.
- The use of drainage land will be considered where practical for playing fields, small courts or other recreational opportunities.

In recognition of the audit undertaken of existing open spaces in the Shire, we propose upgrading certain parks to improve their capacity and reflect their level on the open space hierarchy in this Strategy. Embellishment of these parks will comply with their planned level of service.

Active open space

Our commitment is that any resident who wants to take up physical activity, whether casually or through organised sport, will be able to do so in The Hills Shire.

We offer an extensive range of recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, including a variety of formal sports, indoor recreation centres, community facilities and private health and fitness venues. Grounds and facilities directly managed by Council, other not-for-profit organisations, or the private sector are utilised by community sporting clubs and groups.

Our open space network caters for the variety of sports and physical activities, providing residents with opportunity to progress to elite levels of competition. Promotion of premier facilities and strong partnerships with sporting bodies and other government agencies will further this capacity.

The future population will require at least 21 new playing fields, of which 18 will be required in the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor. We propose this demand is addressed by implementing:

- new fields in locations as close as possible to urban areas
- new synthetic playing field(s) through strategic partnerships with the private sector
- shared-use agreements with local schools
- expansion of existing open space facilities to provide additional playing fields, or to increase the capacity of existing facilities.

Some existing reserves have capacity to accommodate new or expanded fields or be upgraded to synthetic. These reserves are listed below and are identified in Figure 11:

- Caddies Creek Reserve
- AH Whaling Reserve, Baulkham Hills (synthetic track and field)
- Castle Glen Reserve, Castle Hill (new facilities to attract winter sport)
- Fred Caterson Reserve, Castle Hill (pony club)
- George Thornton Reserve, West Pennant Hills
- Eric Mobbs Reserve, Castle Hill
- Holland Reserve, Glenhaven
- Kellyville Park, Kellyville
- Kenthurst Park, Kenthurst
- Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills (synthetic field).

21

The number of new playing fields required for the future population in station precincts, Baulkham Hills and West Pennant Hills

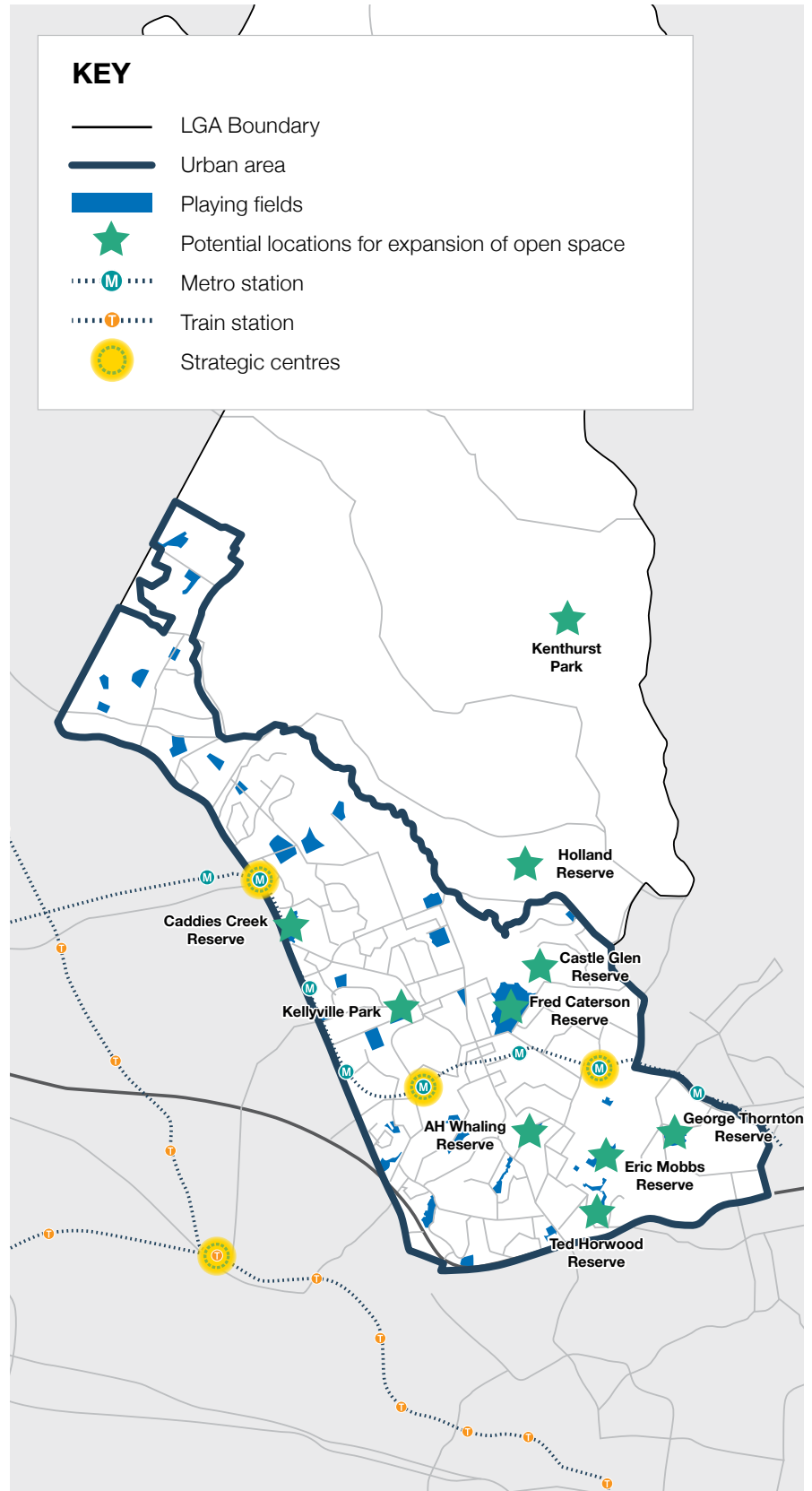


Expansions of any of these reserves would depend on its utility to the future growth areas. Where sufficient new fields cannot be provided, we will consider a shared field arrangement with local schools. Council also proposes to investigate new and expanded aquatic facilities, new courts, skate facilities and outdoor gyms in selected open spaces throughout the Shire.

The NSW Government owns Caddies Creek Reserve. We are working to secure ownership of this land to enable a significant amount of open space, additional playing fields and improved active transport links between Rouse Hill and Kellyville. This would complete the priority Green Grid link along Caddies Creek, identified in the *Greater Sydney Region Plan*.

As part of the planning and construction of new sport and recreation facilities in the Shire, Council will continue to work with the Office of Sport (District Sport Facility Plans for Greater Sydney).

Figure 11: Potential expansion of existing open space facilities



Essential works lists

When preparing contributions plans for developers to fund necessary infrastructure upgrades, we are bound by the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) essential works list which articulates what infrastructure may be included. Currently the list includes:

- land for open space (for example, parks and sporting facilities) including base level embellishment
- land for community services (for example, childcare centres and libraries)
- land and facilities for transport (for example, road works, traffic management and pedestrian and cyclist facilities), but not including car parking
- land and facilities for stormwater management
- the costs of plan preparation and administration.

Base-level embellishment of open space is considered works required to bring the open space up to a level where the site is secure and suitable for passive or active recreation. This may include:

- site regrading
- utilities servicing
- basic landscaping (turf, asphalt and other synthetic playing surfaces) and paths, but does not apply to synthetic playing fields, only soft fall playground surfaces
- drainage and irrigation
- basic park structures and equipment (park furniture, toilet facilities and change rooms, shade structures and play equipment)
- security lighting and local sports field floodlighting
- playing fields, tennis courts, netball courts, basketball courts (outdoor only), but does not include skate parks and BMX tracks.

The current application of the essential works list results in more expensive and less efficient planning outcomes. Broadening the list would enable us to identify and levy for shared facilities and allow an increase in capacity of existing facilities. It could also enable higher level embellishment of urban parks, the provision of indoor recreation facilities and synthetic surfaces, as well as increased flexibility in catchment boundaries. Costs to developers may be higher however it may also mitigate the need for more extensive land acquisition. We expect to employ these approaches as part of a broader open space and recreation solution, rather than the sole solution.

Council will:

- Progressively review and update key existing open spaces and recreation facilities to reflect their level on the open space hierarchy and standard levels of service.
- Investigate locations for new playing fields, shared use agreements with local schools and expansion of existing open space facilities to meet the future demand for open space and playing fields.
- Advocate broadening IPART's essential works list to enable Council to tailor the provision of open space to meet the needs of future residents in a cost-effective manner.

Actions

- Apply the criteria listed in this planning priority when planning for new passive open spaces.
- Secure the transfer of government land adjoining Caddies Creek to facilitate planning for additional open space.

Future work

- Prepare a master plan for the former Horserworld site to investigate alternative uses such as an indoor sports arena and external sports fields.



Expand and improve the active transport network

This relates to Planning Priority 13 in *Hills Future 2036*.

Rationale

To encourage community use of the recreation, leisure and scenic opportunities in the Shire, a network of pedestrian and cycle paths that link parks, waterways, bushland and centres is crucial. Linking the open space network in this way connects the community to the environment without conflicting with the busy road network. Off-road trails, provided as circuits, are a priority open space type needed close to homes, as the most popular recreational activities are undertaken on trails.

To improve connectivity between open spaces in the Shire and to encourage walking and cycling, we will progressively fill the gaps in the regional and local trail network. The completion of some links will align with development in greenfield areas and the Sydney Metro Northwest station precincts. Other links will be completed through the construction of shared pedestrian/bicycle paths at specific locations. Improvements to the local and regional trail network are shown in the following table:

Table 14: Local and regional trail network improvements to be completed

Regional link improvement
Cattai Creek Trail (north west) – investigate extension of the trail along Pitt Town Road from Burrell Road, Kenthurst to Boundary Road, Maraylya.
Local link improvement
Caddies Creek Trail – liaise with NSW Government as part of the master planning for the developable government land.
Caddies Creek Trail – path from Sanctuary Drive to Drummond Road in Rouse Hill shall be widened from 1.2m to 2.5m to enable shared pedestrian/bicycle use.
Cattai Creek Trail – complete trail from Cameo Place to Roseberry Road on RE1 Public Recreation zoned land.
Cattai Creek Trail – complete the acquisition of land zoned RE1 Public Recreation along Cattai Creek Drive.
Cattai Creek Trail – complete the acquisition of land zoned RE1 Public Recreation connecting Cockayne Reserve and Carrington Road.
Smalls Creek Trail – extension of the link from the junction of Second Ponds Creek and Smalls Creek to the existing path at Russell Reserve.
Toongabbie Creek Cycleway – there is currently a gap in the link from Woodridge Place to Louise Avenue in Baulkham Hills. We propose a new shared path including a bridge over Toongabbie Creek.

4. PLANNING PRIORITIES

Council will:

- Progressively identify and fill the gaps in the network of off-road cycleways and footpaths.
- Support the health and wellbeing of residents by prioritising active transport links in centres and residential areas.

Actions:

- Review and update the bike plan.
- Improve wayfinding on existing and proposed cycleways.



A network of pedestrian and cycle paths that link parks, waterways, bushland and centres is crucial.”

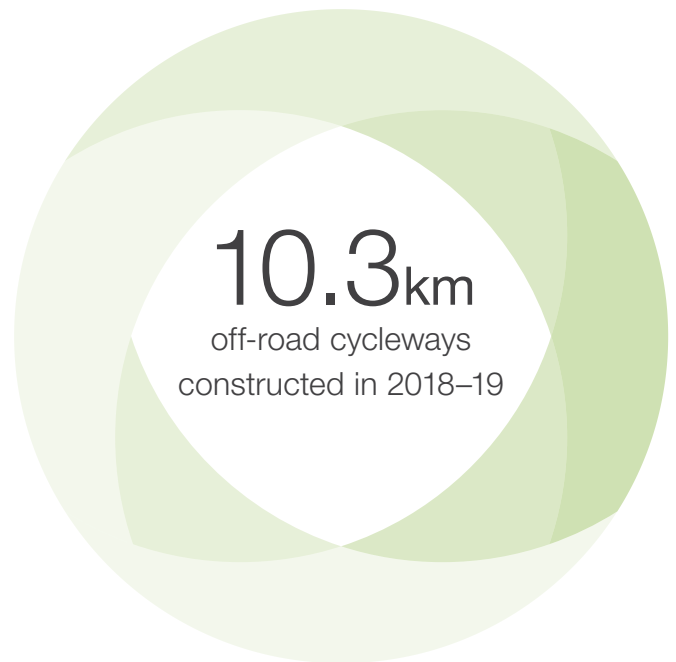


Image right: Cycleways – Crestwood







IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Implementation and delivery

The actions contained in this Strategy are to be implemented in accordance with the Implementation Plan in *Hills Future 2036*.

Resourcing the Strategy

We currently allocate funding for open space projects in a four-year rolling capital works program. Each proposed facility upgrade is measured against a clear set of criteria. Those works that rate a high score against the criteria are recommended to Council for inclusion into the current program.

The current approach is to:

- create new fields
- upgrade sports facilities to ensure they meet demands and comply with the requirements of sporting codes
- embellish selected facilities to a premier level
- improve places for passive recreation across the Shire
- upgrade places for play and the amenity of selected parks
- complete the network of off-road paths and cycleways
- introduce recreational pathways and activities around sports grounds to improve mid-week use
- continue to facilitate the growth in sports.

Funding

There are a variety of sources through which Council funds the provision of open space and recreation facilities. These are outlined in Table 18.

Table 15: Funding sources

Funding source	Definition
Section 7.11 and 7.12 Development contributions	As currently operating through Council's contributions plans.
Planning agreements	Contributions made by developments for public infrastructure. Generally proposed in areas that are not subject to a specific contributions plan, or where the yields being proposed are in excess of the yields that have been planned for.
Capital works program	Projects ranging from \$10,000–\$500,000 (maintenance projects below \$10,000 should be funded through Council's maintenance budget).
Recreation strategy outcomes	Projects beyond \$500,000. This enables major costing projects to be funded independent of the capital works program, therefore allowing a greater number of projects to be completed without being impacted by individual high cost projects.
External sources	Grants, clubs, state and national sporting organisations, sponsors, community groups, loans.



Costs for the embellishment of open space are estimated based on the levels of service provided and the size of the facility. These are indicative costs for these facilities, based on IPART rates and real-life examples, and contain primarily core inclusions only. These costs do not include land acquisition. Optional items such as dog off-leash areas, skate parks and outdoor gyms attract higher costs, and are only identified for certain locations. Furthermore, they do not take into consideration any major earthworks that may be required or other potential factors such as the terrain, topography and vegetation cover upon the site. Land size of the park or open space facility is also a factor that influences overall cost.

When identifying, designing and delivering new facilities, the initial acquisition and construction cost is only one financial element that must be considered. Most open space will require regular and ongoing maintenance and replacements costs which will impact on our budget. By forecasting the additional maintenance and replacement costs of open space, Council can ensure that the new open space infrastructure can be appropriately funded.



Most open space will require regular and ongoing maintenance and replacements costs.”

Stakeholders

Stakeholders who will help us to deliver the actions include:

- residents
- sporting clubs
- State agencies including the Greater Sydney Commission, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Office of Sport, and Department of Education.

Planning instrument

Master plans will be progressively prepared for the remaining precincts along the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor. We anticipate that these master plans and subsequent planning proposals will be completed by the next five-year review.

Any new open space identified to support the future population in these precincts will be rezoned RE1 Public Recreation and identified on the Land Reservation Acquisition Map of the LEP.

Monitoring and review

The *Recreation Strategy 2019* will be monitored annually and a report made to Council to inform future review programs. We expect to review, exhibit and re-adopt the Strategy every five years to ensure open space and recreation facilities meet the needs, means and lifestyles of The Hills community.



6

APPENDICES



Appendix A:

Level of service

Level of service	Passive recreation						Active recreation				
	Local basic	Local	Local suburban	Local urban	District	Subregional	Ancillary	Local	District	Subregional	
Hierarchy											
Shared pathway forming commuter link	✓	If identified as a route in Council's adopted Bike Plan and relevant Contribution Plans									
Internal pathways/connections	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
On-site car parking			O		✓	✓	O	✓	✓	✓	
Public amenities			O	O	✓	✓	O	✓	✓	✓	
Playground		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	O		✓	✓	
Playground – water play			O	O	O	✓			O		
Playground shade structure		O	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Playground fencing		F	F	F	F	F		F	F	F	
Playground synthetic/rubber soft fall		O	✓	✓	✓	✓		O	✓	✓	
Outdoor fitness equipment			O	O	✓	✓		O	✓	✓	
Skate parks			O		O	✓		O	O	O	
Dog off-leash area	O	O	O		O	O	O	O	O	O	
Shelter and seating		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		O	✓	✓	
Seating	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bbq facilities (electric)			O	✓	✓	✓		O	O	✓	
Rubbish bins and collection		O	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Drinking water		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tap/water connection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Park lighting		O	O	✓	✓	✓		O	✓	✓	
Park signage	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Landscaping/tree planting	O	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Amenities building changerooms								✓	✓	✓	
Indoor recreation centre								✓	✓	✓	
Storage							O	✓	✓	✓	
Training and clubroom								O	P	✓	



Level of service	Passive recreation						Active recreation			
Hierarchy	Local basic	Local	Local suburban	Local urban	District	Subregional	Ancillary	Local	District	Subregional
Grandstand									P	✓
Spectator viewing area (seating)								O	✓	✓
Fencing – reserve perimeter				O				✓	✓	✓
Fencing – main field perimeter								O	P/O	✓
Playing field							✓	✓	✓	✓
Playing surface drainage and Irrigation							O	✓	✓	✓
Playing field – synthetic surface									O	O
Playing field floodlighting standard (lux)							50*	100*	100*	500*
Tennis court (incl. floodlighting)							O	O	O	O
Netball court (incl. floodlighting)							O	O	O	O
Multi-purpose court (incl. floodlighting)							O	O	O	O
Cricket pitch (synthetic grass)							O	O	O	O
Cricket practice nets (Synthetic Grass with Fencing)							O	O	O	O
Recycled water tank/s						O	O	✓	✓	✓
Public art				O	O	✓				
Open space kick-about area	O	✓	✓	O	✓	✓		O	✓	✓
Irrigation – gardens, kick-about areas		O	O	✓		✓			O	O

Legend: ✓ = Included (Core) ; O = Optional ; P = (Premier Facility only) ;
F = Fencing – Safety only (to prevent access onto roads, car parks, water, bushland etc.)

* = Average lux level across the playing field surface

Appendix B:

Provision of playing fields per code

Code	Number of facilities	Number of clubs	Facility locations	Number of fields
AFL	3	3	Bruce Purser Reserve	1
			Charles McLaughlin Reserve	1.5
			Kellyville Park (to be relocated to Balmoral Road Sports Complex)	1
Athletics	4	5	AH Whaling Reserve	1
			Gooden Reserve	1
			Hills Centenary Reserve	1
Baseball	4	4	Castle Glen Reserve	1
			Col Sutton Reserve	1
			Fred Caterson Reserve	1
			Hills Centenary Reserve (to be relocated to Cattai Creek Sports Complex)	1
			Kellyville Park	1
Basketball	2	Association	Bernie Mullane Sports Complex	2 (courts)
			Dural Recreation Centre	1 (court)
			Fred Caterson Reserve	6 (courts)
Cricket	27	8	Annangrove Park	1
			Arnold Avenue Reserve	1
			Balcombe Heights Estate	2
			Bella Vista Oval	1
			Bernie Mullane Sports Complex	2
			Bruce Purser Reserve	1
			Castlewood Reserve	1
			Centenary of ANZAC Reserve	1
			Coolong Reserve	1
			Crestwood Reserve	1
			Castlewood Reserve	1
			Charles McLaughlin Reserve	2
			Coolong Reserve	1
			Ellerman Park	1
			Eric Mobbs Reserve	2
			Francesco Crescent Reserve	1
			Fred Caterson Reserve	2
			George Thornton Reserve	1
			Glenhaven Oval	1
			Greenup Park	1
			Holland Road Reserve	1
			Kellyville Park	3
			Kenthurst Park	2
			Les Shore Reserve	1
			Maroota South Reserve	1
			Parraweena Reserve	1
			Russell Reserve	1
Sackville North Memorial Park	1			
Ted Horwood Reserve	2			
Yattenden Oval	1			



Code	Number of facilities	Number of clubs	Facility locations	Number of fields
Cycling BMX	2	1	Fred Caterson Reserve	1 (track)
			Turon Avenue Reserve	1 (track)
Equestrian	3	3	Bannerman Road (Holland) Reserve Dilkera Road Reserve Gilbert Road Pony Club	N/A
Football	18	23	Annangrove Park	1
			Arnold Avenue Reserve	2
			Balcombe Heights Reserve	2
			Bella Vista Oval	1
			Bernie Mullane Sports Complex	5
			Coolong Reserve	1
			Eric Mobbs Reserve	4
			Francesco Crescent Reserve	2
			Fred Caterson Reserve	5
			George Thornton Reserve	2
			Glenhaven Oval	1
			Greenup Park	1
			Hills Centenary Park	3
			Holland Road Reserve	1
			Kellyville Park	3
			Kenthurst Park	2
Parraweena Reserve	1			
Russell Reserve	2			
Ted Horwood Reserve	4			
Gridiron	1	1	Torry Burn Reserve	1
Hockey	1	1	Ted Horwood Reserve (Field 5 Training only)	1
Netball	1 for competition Multiple for training	Association	Bernie Mullane Sports Complex	5 (courts)
			Coolong Reserve	6 (courts)
			Crestwood Reserve	2 (courts)
			Gooden Reserve	10 (courts)
			Kellyville Netball Complex	38 (courts)
			Ted Horwood Reserve	4 (courts)
Rugby league	6	6	Castlewood Reserve	1
			Centenary of ANZAC Reserve (possible future move)	2
			Crestwood Reserve	2.5
			Kellyville Park	2
			Torry Burn Reserve	1
Rugby union	2	2	Kellyville Park	1
			Yattenden Oval	1
Softball	1	1	Hills Centenary Reserve	1
			Kellyville Park	1

APPENDIX B: PROVISION OF PLAYING FIELDS PER CODE

Code	Number of facilities	Number of clubs	Facility locations	Number of fields
Tennis	1 Association Multiple smaller complexes	Association	Annangrove Park Bella Vista Oval Bernie Mullane Sports Complex Crestwood Reserve Fred Caterson Reserve Glenhaven Oval Kenthurst Park Les Shore Reserve Ted Horwood Reserve	2 (courts) 2 (courts) 6 (courts) 6 (courts) 10 (courts) 2 (courts) 4 (courts) 2 (courts) 5 (courts)
Touch Football	5	5	Castlewood Reserve Centenary of ANZAC Reserve Crestwood Reserve Kellyville Park Yattenden Oval	Various field numbers – no fixed venues
Ultimate Frisbee	2	1	Eric Mobbs Reserve	



Appendix C:

Planned provision of playing fields per code

Code	Number of facilities	Facility locations	Number of fields
AFL	2	Balmoral Road Sports Complex	1
		Stringer Road Sports Complex	1
		The Water Lane Sports Complex	2
Athletics	2	Les Shore Reserve	1
		The Water Lane Sports Complex	1
Baseball	2	Bligh Sports Complex	1
		Caddies Creek Sports Complex	1
Basketball	2	Bella Vista Public School	2 (courts)
Cricket	12	Balmoral Road Sports Complex	2
		Bligh Sports Complex	2
		Box Hill North – Northern Fields	1
		Brindle Parkway Reserve	1
		Caddies Creek Sports Complex	1
		Copenhagen Street Reserve	1
		Hereford Street Reserve	1
		Samantha Riley Drive Reserve	2
		Stringer Road Sports Complex	1
		Sunny Hill Parkway Sports Complex	2
		The Water Lane Sports Complex	1
Cycling			
Criterion (road/track)	2	To be determined	2 (tracks)
Mountain biking	1	Holland Road Reserve	1 (track)

APPENDIX B: PLANNED PROVISION OF PLAYING FIELDS PER CODE

Code	Number of facilities	Facility locations	Number of fields
Football	9	Balmoral Road Sports Complex	2
		Bligh Sports Complex	4
		Box Hill North – Northern Fields	2
		Caddies Creek Sports Complex	4
		Copenhagen Street Reserve	2
		Stringer Road Sports Complex	2
		Sunny Hill Parkway Sports Complex	4
Hockey	1	Box Hill North – Central Fields	2
Netball	1	Bligh Sports Complex	6–12 (multi-use)
		Kellyville Netball Complex	2
Rugby league	2	Brindle Parkway Reserve	2
		Samantha Riley Drive Reserve	4
Rugby union	1	Hereford Road Reserve	2
Tennis	1	Sunny Hill Parkway Sports Complex	6–12
Touch football	1	Centenary of ANZAC Reserve	5 (permanent venue)



Appendix D:

Existing passive open space – hierarchy

Name	Suburb
Subregional facilities	
Castle Hill Showground	Castle Hill
District facilities	
Crestwood Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Caddies Creek Sports Complex (Stage 1)	Beaumont Hills
Bella Vista Farm Park	Bella Vista
Castle Hill Heritage Park	Castle Hill
Bernie Mullane Sports Complex	Kellyville
Wisemans Ferry Park	Wisemans Ferry
Local – urban (high density areas)	
Conie Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Turnbull Reserve	Box Hill
Arthur Whitling Park	Castle Hill
Chapman Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Maurice Hughes Reserve	Castle Hill
Withers Road Reserve	North Kellyville
Local – suburban	
Balcombe Heights Estate Reserve	Baulkham Hills
MacKillop Drive Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Turon Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Bella Vista Village Green Reserve	Bella Vista
Castlewood Community Reserve	Castle Hill
Coolong Reserve	Castle Hill
Rutherford Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Oxlade Street Reserve	North Kellyville
Connie Lowe Reserve	Rouse Hill
Bellamy Farm Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Local	
Annangrove Park	Annangrove
AH Whaling Memorial Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Ambleside Drive Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Amphitheatre Circuit Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Bundara Way Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Charles McLaughlin Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Charles Street Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Chelsea Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Christopher Street Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Clarke Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Col Sutton Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Coolock Crescent Reserve	Baulkham Hills

APPENDIX B: EXISTING PASSIVE OPEN SPACE – HIERARCHY

Name	Suburb
Local (continued)	
Coorumbene Court Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Crestwood Lions Park Reserve	Baulkham Hills
George Suttor Park	Baulkham Hills
Gooden Drive Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Goodhall Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Hammond Court Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Harry Carr Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Kate Bird Park Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Landscape Street Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Leone Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Linton Street Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Manor Place Reserve	Baulkham Hills
McBurney Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Meryll Avenue North Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Meryll Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Mullane Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Parraweena Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Quintana Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Rembrandt Drive Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Sierra Place Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Solar Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Sophia Doyle Reserve – Jasper Road	Baulkham Hills
Ted Horwood Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Templeton Crescent Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Thomas Extrem Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Torry Burn Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Warooga Way Reserve	Baulkham Hills
William Joyce Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Yattenden Oval	Baulkham Hills
Aberdoon Homestead	Beaumont Hills
Aberdour Village Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Bara Way Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Barker Street Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Beaumont Drive Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Broadleaf Crescent Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Bruce Purser Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Guardian Avenue Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Ironbark Ridge Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Maria Iori Reserve	Beaumont Hills



Name	Suburb
Local (continued)	
Roy Dudley Park	Beaumont Hills
Stratheden Avenue Reserve	Beaumont Hills
The Parkway Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Turkeys Nest Dam Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Bella Vista Oval	Bella Vista
Brighton Drive Reserve	Bella Vista
Evesham Court Reserve	Bella Vista
Francesco Crescent Reserve	Bella Vista
Highrange Terrace Reserve	Bella Vista
Rowanbrae Crescent Reserve	Bella Vista
Waterfall Crescent Reserve	Bella Vista
Box Hill Nelson Community Reserve	Box Hill
Anson Place Reserve	Castle Hill
Applecross Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Balintore Drive Reserve	Castle Hill
Bert Parkinson Reserve	Castle Hill
Bill Wood Reserve	Castle Hill
Britannia Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Broadsword Place Reserve	Castle Hill
Brunette Drive Reserve	Castle Hill
Castle Glen Reserve	Castle Hill
Castle Hill Lions Park	Castle Hill
Castlewood Drive Reserve	Castle Hill
Centenary of ANZAC Reserve	Castle Hill
Citadel Crescent Reserve	Castle Hill
Cockayne Reserve	Castle Hill
Connaught Circuit Reserve	Castle Hill
Coolibah Street Reserve	Castle Hill
Coomalie Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Crane Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Darcey Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Elizabeth Chaffey Reserve	Castle Hill
Eric Felton Reserve	Castle Hill
Eric Mobbs Reserve	Castle Hill
Excelsior Reserve	Castle Hill
First Farm Drive Reserve	Castle Hill
Fred Caterson Reserve	Castle Hill
Glendale Park	Castle Hill
Glenwood Way Reserve	Castle Hill

Name	Suburb
Local (continued)	
Greenup Park	Castle Hill
Hancey Farm Reserve	Castle Hill
Helmsley Grove Reserve	Castle Hill
Huntingdale Circle Reserve	Castle Hill
James Greenwood Reserve	Castle Hill
Kingussie Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Larool Crescent Reserve	Castle Hill
Lisa Crescent Reserve	Castle Hill
Mercer Street Reserve	Castle Hill
Olola Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Pioneer Place Reserve	Castle Hill
Sandhurst Crescent Reserve	Castle Hill
Sherwin Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Sunderland Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Telfer Way Reserve	Castle Hill
Ulundri Drive Reserve	Castle Hill
Woodchester Place Reserve	Castle Hill
Woodhill Street Reserve	Castle Hill
Worthing Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Ellerman Park	Dural
Porter Scenic Lookout	Dural
The Pines	Dural
Alice Robinson Reserve	Glenhaven
Annie Prior Reserve	Glenhaven
Edna Brown Reserve	Glenhaven
Farmridge Way Reserve	Glenhaven
Glenhaven Oval	Glenhaven
Glenhaven Rural Fire Brigade Reserve	Glenhaven
Holland Road Reserve (incl. Bannerman)	Glenhaven
Hyde Avenue Reserve	Glenhaven
Rosebank Avenue Reserve	Glenhaven
Dilkera Reserve	Glenorie
Kemp Place Reserve	Glenorie
Les Shore Recreation Reserve	Glenorie
Ted Schwebel Park	Glenorie
Arnold Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Brampton Drive Reserve	Kellyville
BrodrickBeoulevard Reserve	Kellyville
Brushwood Drive Reserve	Kellyville



Name	Suburb
Local (continued)	
Caddies Creek Conservation Area	Kellyville
Caddies Creek Park	Kellyville
Cameo Place Reserve	Kellyville
Cattai Creek Conservation Area Reserve	Kellyville
Cattai Creek Drive Reserve	Kellyville
Coral Crescent Reserve	Kellyville
Craigmore Drive Reserve	Kellyville
Diana Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Duncriag Reserve	Kellyville
Fairway Drive Reserve	Kellyville
Golden Grove Reserve	Kellyville
Gormon Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Greenwood Road Reserve	Kellyville
Greyfriar Place Reserve	Kellyville
Half Penny Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Hodges Road Reserve	Kellyville
Kellyville Lions "Ted Pike" Reserve	Kellyville
Kellyville Memorial Hall	Kellyville
Kellyville Netball Complex	Kellyville
Kellyville Park	Kellyville
Kellyville Rotary Park	Kellyville
Lavender Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Lewis Jones Reserve	Kellyville
Liberty Way Reserve	Kellyville
Macquarie Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Marella Avenue Open Space Cycleway	Kellyville
Martin Knight Reserve	Kellyville
McCabe Place Reserve	Kellyville
McGilvray Place Reserve	Kellyville
Mount Saint Francis Reserve	Kellyville
O'Sullivan Place Reserve	Kellyville
President Road Reserve	Kellyville
Pryce Court Reserve	Kellyville
Redden Drive Reserve	Kellyville
Richardson Place Reserve	Kellyville
River Oak Circuit Reserve	Kellyville
Rochester Grove Reserve	Kellyville
Russell Reserve	Kellyville
Seymour Way Reserve	Kellyville

APPENDIX B: EXISTING PASSIVE OPEN SPACE – HIERARCHY

Name	Suburb
Local (continued)	
The Hills Centenary Park	Kellyville
Thomas Boulton Circuit Reserve	Kellyville
Vantage Crescent Reserve	Kellyville
Eric Wood Reserve	Kenthurst
Kenthurst Girl Guides Reserve	Kenthurst
Kenthurst Park	Kenthurst
Barry Road Reserve	North Kellyville
Bladensburg Road Reserve	North Kellyville
Blinkhorn Circuit Reserve	North Kellyville
Deepwater Circuit Reserve	North Kellyville
Indwarra Avenue Reserve	North Kellyville
Kumbatine Crescent Reserve	North Kellyville
Lansdowne Road Reserve	North Kellyville
McMillan Circuit Reserve	North Kellyville
Prentice Avenue Reserve	North Kellyville
Springbrook Boulevard Reserve	North Kellyville
Twickenham Avenue Reserve	North Kellyville
Eather Avenue Reserve	North Rocks
Stonemason Drive Reserve	Norwest
Knox Place Reserve	Rouse Hill
Milford Drive Reserve	Rouse Hill
Trumper Way Reserve	Rouse Hill
William Harvey Reserve	Rouse Hill
South Maroota Community Reserve	South Maroota
AC Charlie Moore Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Ashley Avenue Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Colburra Place Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Eaton Road Reserve	West Pennant Hills
George Thornton Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Giuffre Place Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Grangewood Place Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Henry Curtis Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Larchmont Place Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Larissa Avenue Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Lyndhurst Court Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Mount Wilberforce Lookout Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Richard Webb Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Salisbury Downs Drive Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Hawkins Lookout Reserve	Wisemans Ferry



Name	Suburb
Local – Basic	
Blue Gum Creek Reserve	Annangrove
Gibber Place Reserve	Annangrove
Lillian Road Reserve	Annangrove
Baulkham Hills Road Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Fairmont Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Gabrielle Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
George Best Crescent Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Gumbuya Avenue Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Michael Simpson Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Montieth Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Munro Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Myee Crescent Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Myee Crescent South Reserve	Baulkham Hills
O'Reagan Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Railway Street Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Benson Road Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Wardington Rise Reserve	Bella Vista
Westwood Way Reserve	Bella Vista
Banks Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Bounty Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Coolibah Street North Reserve	Castle Hill
Cumberland Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Fullers Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Gilbert Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Linksley Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Old Castle Hill Road Reserve	Castle Hill
Orange Grove Reserve	Castle Hill
Somerset Way Reserve	Castle Hill
Spain Reserve	Castle Hill
Talofa Place Reserve	Castle Hill
Timothy Avenue Reserve	Castle Hill
Cattai Creek Maroota South Reserve	Cattai
Old Glenhaven Road Reserve	Glenhaven
Hillside Reserve	Glenorie
Nelson Reserve	Glenorie
Acres Road Reserve	Kellyville
Alan Pearce Reserve	Kellyville
Aruma Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Marwarra Crescent Reserve	Kellyville

Name	Suburb
Local – Basic (continued)	
Meadow Place Reserve	Kellyville
Skye Court Reserve	Kellyville
York Road Reserve	Kellyville
Cadwells Road Reserve	Kenthurst
Lucas Avenue Reserve	Kenthurst
The Deep Hole	Kenthurst
Jasper Reserve	Kenthurst
Upper Half Moon Reach Reserve	Leetsvale
Liverpool Reach Reserve	Lower Portland
Lower Portland School of Arts Reserve	Lower Portland
Portland Reserve	Lower Portland
Heath Road Reserve	Maraylya
Newman Road Reserve	Maraylya
Maroota School of Arts	Maroota
Wisemans Ferry Road Reserve	Maroota
Mill Drive Reserve	North Rocks
Sackville Ferry Road Reserve	Sackville
Sackville North Memorial Park	Sackville
Crescent Reach Reserve	South Maroota
Maroota South Bushland Reserve	South Maroota
Ashley Avenue North Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Brookpine Place Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Curawong Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Hillside Place Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Jack Read Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Lisle Court Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Moolanda Avenue Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Penderlea Drive Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Silverfern Crescent Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Westmore Drive Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Old Northern Road Reserve	Wisemans Ferry



Appendix E:

Proposed passive open space – hierarchy

Name	Suburb
District facilities	
Rainforest Street Reserve	Box Hill
Local – urban (high density areas)	
Local Park 1	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 2	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 3	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 4	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Mason Road Reserve	Box Hill
Local – suburban	
Neighbourhood Park 1	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Neighbourhood Park 2	Bella Vista/Kellyville
McCall Parkway Reserve	Box Hill
Bryant Street Reserve	Kellyville
Local	
Free Settlers Drive Reserve	Bella Vista
Town Square 1	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Town Square 2	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Pocket Parks	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 8	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 7	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 4	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Local Park 3	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Active Open Space – Rail Viaduct Land	Bella Vista/Kellyville
Bligh Reserve	Box Hill
Brindle Parkway Reserve	Box Hill
Copenhagen Road Reserve	Box Hill
Hereford Road Reserve	Box Hill
Shetland Street Reserve	Box Hill
Settlement Drive Reserve	Box Hill
Local Park 9	Box Hill
Local Park 10	Box Hill
Hannaford Avenue Reserve	Box Hill

APPENDIX E: PROPOSED PASSIVE OPEN SPACE – HIERARCHY

Name	Suburb
Local (continued)	
Equinox Drive Reserve	Box Hill
Ceres Way Reserve	Box Hill
Sunny Hill Parkways Sports Complex	Box Hill
Western Drainage Park	Box Hill North
Transmission Line Park	Box Hill North
SSTF Park	Box Hill North
SE Riparian Park	Box Hill North
Pocket Park 1	Box Hill North
Pocket Park 2	Box Hill North
Pocket Park 3	Box Hill North
Pocket Park 4	Box Hill North
Eastern Drainage Park	Box Hill North
CPW Park	Box Hill North
Central Square and Southern Portion	Box Hill North
Central Sports Fields	Box Hill North
Northern Sports Fields	Box Hill North
Balmoral Road Sports Complex	Kellyville
Samantha Riley Drive Reserve	North Kellyville
Stringer Road Sports Complex Reserve	North Kellyville



Appendix F:

Existing active open space – hierarchy

Name	Suburb
Subregional sports facilities	
Fred Caterson Reserve	Castle Hill
District sports facilities	
Crestwood Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Ted Horwood Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Bruce Purser Reserve	Beaumont Hills
Caddies Creek Sports Complex (Stage 1)	Beaumont Hills
Bannerman Road Reserve	Glenhaven
Dilkera Road Reserve	Glenorie
Bernie Mullane Sports Complex	Kellyville
Kellyville Netball Complex	Kellyville
Kellyville Park	Kellyville
Local sports facilities	
Annangrove Park	Annangrove
A H Whaling Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Balcombe Heights Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Charles McLaughlin Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Col Sutton Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Gooden Drive Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Torry Burn Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Yattenden Oval	Baulkham Hills
Bella Vista Oval	Bella Vista
Francesco Crescent Reserve	Bella Vista
Castle Glen Reserve	Castle Hill
Castlewood Community Reserve	Castle Hill
Eric Mobbs Reserve	Castle Hill
Greenup Park	Castle Hill
Glenhaven Oval	Glenhaven
Holland Road Reserve	Glenhaven
Les Shore Reserve	Glenorie
Arnold Avenue Reserve	Kellyville
Centenary of ANZAC Reserve	Kellyville
Kenthurst Park	Kenthurst
Russell Reserve	Rouse Hill
The Hills Centenary Reserve	Rouse Hill
South Maroota Community Reserve	South Maroota
George Thornton Reserve	West Pennant Hills
Ancillary sports facilities	
Parraweena Reserve	Baulkham Hills
Coolong Reserve	Castle Hill
Ellerman Park	Dural
Sackville North Memorial Reserve	Sackville North

Appendix G:

Planned active open space – hierarchy

Name	Suburb
District sports facilities	
Caddies Creek Sports Complex (Stage 2)	Beaumont Hills
Sunny Hill Parkways Sports Complex	Box Hill
Bligh Reserve	Box Hill
Central Sports Fields	Box Hill North
Balmoral Road Sports Complex	Kellyville
Local sports facilities	
Brindle Parkway Reserve	Box Hill
Copenhagen Road Reserve	Box Hill
Hereford Road Reserve	Box Hill
The Water Lane Reserve	Box Hill
Northern Sports Fields	Box Hill North
Samantha Riley Drive Reserve	North Kellyville
Stringer Road Sports Complex Reserve	North Kellyville
School sites (shared facilities)	
Bella Vista Public School	Bella Vista
North Kellyville Public School	North Kellyville



The Hills Shire Council



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During business hours (8am – 4.30pm Mon – Fri)



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