



FAIRFIELD SECTION 94 REVIEW OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007

Report - April 2007
Fairfield City Council

FAIRFIELD SECTION 94 REVIEW OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's *Open Space Strategy (1999)* is well regarded, however as this Strategy was developed in 1999, critical revision and updating to reflect the progress made by Council in the planning, design and management of their open spaces is required.

As a part of this Section 94 Review, the 1999 Strategy has been updated so as to inform the review of the Section 94 Plan. This will enable decision making about the type and appropriate location of open space works throughout the City that reflects the anticipated nature of future growth in the City.

The Project Brief

Task two of the Section 94 Review relates to the provision of a revised Open Space Strategy and new Action Plan that will:

- Identify any alterations required to update the current Open Space Strategy, reflecting on work completed and new demands created through the Metro Strategy.
- Identify priorities for Council to focus upon in implementing the Open Space Strategy including a prioritised acquisition plan for land listed in the Section 94 plan using existing funds on hand (approximately \$12M). This would include recommendations for boundary realignment for areas to be acquired by Council
- Identify any surplus; recommend alternate uses and/or disposal priorities. Where a shortfall in provision is identified, recommend alternative strategies to address these shortfalls
- Establish the appropriate role for Section 94 and Section 94A in achieving the Open Space Strategy.

The Aims of the 2007 Strategy

The aims of the 2007 Strategy are as follows:

- To provide a commentary on the progress of implementation of the 1999 Strategy.
- To identify critical strategies from the 1999 Strategy yet to be implemented.
- To develop new strategies for the ongoing planning, design and management of open space.
- To identify new priorities for open space management.
- To inform the review of Council's Section 94 Contributions Plan.
- Provide an acquisition and disposal rationale for land parcels for open space.

Legislation and Planning Framework

The 2007 Open Space Strategy identifies three significant changes in the planning for open space in the City of Fairfield. These are:

- The Metropolitan Strategy that influences the development of Centres and Corridors and Parks and Public Spaces across the Sydney Metropolitan area and has specific directive for areas within Fairfield City.
- The development of the Western Sydney Parklands, located within the Rural Place Management Area, provides a significant open space and recreation opportunity for the Fairfield Community.
- Sydney Metropolitan – Regional Recreation Trails Framework that identifies significant walking and cycle trails across the Sydney Metropolitan area. Some of these regional trails are located within the Fairfield City.
- Fairfield City Council Management Plan 06/07 – 08/09 that defines the key focus areas for Council.

1999 Open Space Review

The implementation of the 1999 Open Space Strategy was assessed and it was identified that Council has worked towards the implementation of the 1999 Strategy however more work needs to be done, particularly at a strategic level to ensure that future improvements and upgrades are well targeted.

Key successes of the 1999 Strategy include:

- Provision of additional recreation facilities within the Prairiewood and Fairfield Leisure Centres.
- Development of new open space areas, such as the Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park.
- Implementation of the “Smoke Free Park” initiative across the City.
- General park improvements have been accomplished by way of the Parks Improvement Program.
- Construction of new skate park facilities at Emerson Street Reserve and Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park.
- Construction of new parks, including Wetherill Park Reserve.
- Improved linkages, both cycleways and walking trails, across the City.
- Improved access to and along creek lines.

Revisiting the Vision: Planning Strategies

The vision for open space provides the guiding principles against which objectives, strategies and policies can be developed. To ensure that the vision for open space is tied into the strategic management of Council, it has been modified to reflect the vision for Fairfield City, as defined in the City's Management Plan.

Under the Key Issues of the Management Plan, open space is a key component in achieving the following strategic issues:

- Balancing the pressure between continued development and maintenance of existing assets.
- Locating developments in the right location so that it is supported by cycleways and walking trails and is located close to open space areas.
- Projects are planned and completed to promote and encourage a healthy and safe community.

In light of the Key Issues facing Council, consideration must be given to the following factors facing the management, planning and provision of open space in the City of Fairfield.

Balancing land acquisitions and open space embellishment opportunities.

- Consideration should be given to the best use of the funds raised by Section 94 Contributions. Allocation funds to the improvement of existing parks may be more effective than investing in the purchase of new open space areas

Identification of critical acquisition opportunities.

- There are areas within the City that are deficient in open spaces. This includes areas such as Cabramatta West and Fairfield Heights. Acquisition of land in these areas is important so as to provide local parks for the community to access.

Application of a Park hierarchy system.

- The use of a park hierarchy system assists the future planning of parks and sportsfields.
- Critically assessing parks and sportsfields against the Management and Development Guidelines in this Strategy will also assist in identifying opportunities to develop parks and sportsfields to provide additional recreational uses.

Recreation opportunities for the whole community.

- Walking trails, seating, shade and accessibility to open space are the critical considerations in the design of open space to support participation of the whole community.
- The planning, design and management of open space must be aimed at meeting the recreational needs of the community.
- The selection of parks for upgrade in the Parks Improvement Program must consider the needs across the whole community as well as the needs of the community in the future.

Enhance streetscapes

- A program of assessing streetscapes with the aim of improving access to open space and connections between open spaces should be undertaken.

Funding to support recreation and open space.

- The funding allocations for open space must be continually reviewed and increased where necessary to ensure the number and quality of parks and sportsgrounds being upgraded is maintained.
- Funding should be annually reviewed to reflect the cost of park upgrades.

Open Space and Recreation – The Key Issues

The review of the 1999 Strategy highlighted a number of key areas that require Council's focus to ensure appropriate planning, design and management of public open spaces and recreation facilities across the City.

These critical issues include:

Understanding the recreation needs of the community.

- For Council to provide recreational opportunities for the community, it must understand the recreational needs of the community. Completing a Recreation Needs Study of the City is essential.

An inventory of open space.

- Best practice planning and management of open space requires a complete knowledge of the open space. Council must continue with developing a complete inventory of their open spaces.

Strategic planning.

- Strategic planning for open space is essential. The preparation of plans including Sports Strategy, Recreation Needs Study and the Open Space Inventory will support the formulation of well considered decisions on open space.

Distribution of open space.

- Developing an understanding on the areas where there are deficiencies in the provision of open space will allow Council to determine strategic land acquisition opportunities that will provide maximum benefit to the community.
- Assessment of the opportunities for the disposal of inappropriate open space areas.

Planning, design and implementation.

- The design of Council's open spaces should be done in alignment with the Management and Development Guidelines in this Strategy. This will promote a consistency for managing Council's open spaces.
- A balance must be achieved between the competing issues of open space located along drainage lines being a valuable recreation asset and provide a role in stormwater management.

Management and Maintenance.

- Council has commenced preparing standards for maintenance. Ongoing commitment to this will assist in reducing the cost of maintaining open spaces.
- All maintenance approaches and methods should be reviewed so as to meet environmental initiatives of Council while reducing the cost to Council biannually.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	11
AIMS	11
OBJECTIVES	12
METHODOLOGY	12
PLANNING UNITS	13
TERMINOLOGY	13
REGIONAL CONTEXT	16
THE METROPOLITAN STRATEGY	16
<i>Centres and Corridors</i>	16
<i>Parks and Public Places</i>	16
SYDNEY METROPOLITAN – REGIONAL RECREATION TRAILS	
FRAMEWORK 2005	16
WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS	17
FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006 / 07 - 2008 / 09	
.....	18
FAIRFIELD'S STRATEGIC CITY PLAN	19
1999 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY REVIEW	20
REVISITING THE VISION: PLANNING STRATEGIES	22
<i>Balancing Acquisition and Embellishment Opportunities</i>	22
<i>Critical Acquisitions</i>	23
<i>Park Hierarchy</i>	25
<i>Recreation needs of the whole community</i>	25
<i>Funding to support Recreation and Open Space</i>	26
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION - KEY ISSUES	27
<i>Understanding the Recreation Needs of the Community</i>	27
<i>An Inventory of Open Space</i>	28
<i>Strategic Planning</i>	28
<i>Distribution of Open Space</i>	29
<i>Planning, design and implementation</i>	30
<i>Management and Maintenance</i>	30
PROPOSED PROJECTS	30
<i>Cycleways and Walking trails</i>	31
<i>Sportsgrounds</i>	31
<i>Bushland Parks and Reserves</i>	31
<i>Park Improvements</i>	33
<i>Playgrounds</i>	33
<i>Indoor Sports Facilities</i>	33
<i>Land Acquisition and Disposal</i>	33
FUTURE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROVISION	34
THE INFLUENCE OF DEMOGRAPHICS ON OPEN SPACE PROVISION	34
DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION	36
RECREATION TRENDS	37
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE	38
<i>Acquisition</i>	38
<i>Rationalisation</i>	38
<i>Disposal</i>	38
<i>Strategy One: Rationalise Riparian Corridor Boundaries</i>	38
<i>Strategy Two: Consolidate Open Space</i>	38

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	40
PROTECTION OF EXISTING AND NEW OPEN SPACE AREAS	41
OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION	41
IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE RESOURCE	43
DIVESTMENT OF OPEN SPACE	44
LAND ACQUISITION WEIGHTED MATRIX	46
2007 PLANNING STRATEGIES	47
PLANNING STRATEGIES	47
<i>Structure of the Strategy Tables</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Integration with Development and Management Principles</i>	<i>48</i>
STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION	49
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITY STRATEGIES	50
Diverse Range of Open Space and Recreation Facilities	50
Structure Open Space System	50
Upgrading Sports Facilities	50
Upgrading Passive Recreation Facilities	50
Provision of Indoor Facilities	50
Leisure Centres	50
Provision for Special Needs Groups	50
Partnerships	50
Shortfalls in Open Space Provision	51
Surpluses in Open Space Provision	51
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	51
MEDIUM PRIORITY STRATEGIES	54
LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES	56
ONGOING STRATEGIES	57
ACCESS AND LINKS STRATEGIES	59
Public and Private Transport	59
Cycleways and Walking Trails	59
Access Positive Facilities	59
Security	59
Safety	59
Links	59
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES	59
MEDIUM PRIORITY STRATEGIES	60
LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES	61
ONGOING STRATEGIES	62
NATURAL SYSTEMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE STRATEGIES	64
Integrated Management	64
Remnant Bushland	64
Cultural and Natural Heritage	64
LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES	64
ONGOING STRATEGIES	65
MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING STRATEGIES	67
Maintenance	67
Allocation	67
Leases and Licensing	67
Management	67
Funding	67
Communication, Liaison, Education and Participation	67
Information, Promotion and Marketing	67

<i>HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES</i>	68
CONCLUSIONS	73
APPENDIX 1	74
APPENDIX 2	99
MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES	100
<i>Natural Areas and Bushland</i>	100
<i>Natural Areas and Creeklines</i>	102
<i>Natural Areas and Creeklines</i>	103
<i>Natural Areas, Lake and Foreshore Parks</i>	104
<i>Sportsgrounds</i>	107
<i>Parks</i>	109
<i>Areas of General Community Use and Urban open space</i>	112

INTRODUCTION

The Open Space Strategy (1999) was prepared with the aim of determining whether Council provided open space and recreational facilities to meet the current and future needs of the community.

The 1999 Strategy provided a thorough description of Council's open space assets followed by a suite of key strategies that focused on improving the quality of open space as well as identifying opportunities to meet community needs.

It is intended that the 2007 Update will provide Council with a snapshot of the progress that has been made on the implementation of the 1999 Strategy and provides reassessed strategies for integration with a new approach to Section 94 Contributions and the Parks Improvement Program (PIP).

The PIP, funded through a special rate levy and linked to the 1999 Section 94 Recreation and Open Space Embellishment Program, has a critical role in achieving the 1999 Strategy. However, the PIP is primarily focussed on embellishment of existing open space and does not provide funding for strategic planning nor design or development of new open spaces.

Since the 1999 Strategy, Council has adopted the five Place Management areas of Cabramatta, Bonnyrigg, Fairfield, Wetherill Park and Rural. The 2007 Strategy will revisit the strategies for the management of open space within the Place Management areas. Furthermore these areas should be used by Council for determining future planning and management of open space and for determining distribution and provision of open space and recreation facilities across the City.

AIMS

Since the adoption of the 1999 Strategy, Council has progressively worked towards the implementation of the key strategies. The aims of the 2007 Strategy are as follows:

- To provide a commentary on the progress of implementation of the 1999 Strategy.
- To identify critical strategies from the 1999 Strategy yet to be implemented.
- To develop new strategies for the ongoing planning, design and management of open space.
- To identify new priorities for open space management.
- To inform the review of Council's Section 94 Contributions Plan.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 2007 Open Space Strategy are as follows:

- Revise the original 1999 strategies and recommendations and update these in accordance with the progress that has been made and with the aim of meeting the changing recreation needs of the community since 1999.
- Recommend new strategies for meeting the recreation needs of the community.
- Develop approaches to meet the increasing demands for open spaces and recreation facilities.
- To assess the efficiency of current open space and related recreation facilities both in private and public ownership in fulfilling current and predicted future needs of the community through expansion and further analysis of the recreation needs of the community.
- To identify the key areas for the provision of open space in terms of meeting the existing and future demands and to identify opportunities and actions to meet these demands.
- Recommend actions required to rationalise provision, development and maintenance of open space to ensure that community needs are met.
- To provide a basis for the application and future review of Section 94 funding and possible land acquisitions and subsequent embellishments.
- To develop a priority ranking for strategies and recommendations for each open space category type.
- To identify opportunities to integrate the maintenance and development of open space areas in conjunction with other Council programs, including stormwater management.

METHODOLOGY

Revision of the 1999 Strategy undertaken has involved the following steps:

- Consultation workshops with key Council Officers that including a discussion of what has been achieved since 1999 physically and strategically.
- Review of each of the 1999 strategies and assessment of the status of each strategy.
- Site inspections and assessment of completed park embellishments constructed as a part of the PIP.
- Preparation of new strategies and recommendations in conjunction with the review of the Section 94 Contributions Plan and the Social Plan.

- Development of new strategies and recommendations for ongoing implementation.

PLANNING UNITS

As identified in the 1999 Strategy, five planning districts have been identified. Now referred to as Place Management Areas, the boundaries of these areas have been slightly modified since 1999. The five Place Management Areas are as follows:

- Rural District
- Wetherill Park District
- Bonnyrigg District
- Fairfield District
- Cabramatta District

The Place Management Areas are referred to in this Strategy and are shown in Figure 1. While the City has been divided into Place Management Areas, the planning and provision of open space and recreation must not be restricted to within these boundaries. A city wide approach should also be considered to ensure implementation of improvements across Place Management Area boundaries.

Figure 1 also illustrates the location of the suburb boundaries across the City.

TERMINOLOGY

Consistency has been maintained in the 2007 Update by using the same terms and definitions used in the 1999 Strategy. Specifically, these are as follows:

- *Statutory Open Space* - Land set aside specifically for open space under the current zoning categories of "Existing and Proposed Recreation" Zone 6(a), "Recreation - Corridor" Zone 6(c) and "Recreation - Tourism" Zone 6(d). This includes land under either Council management or private lease, and may include municipal sportsgrounds and parks, swimming pools and recreation centres, other Crown Land managed by Council or lands held in Trust or Deed of Trust and managed by Council.
- *Private Open Space* - Land set aside specifically for private recreation and leisure facilities under the current zoning category of "Private Recreation" Zone 6(b).
- *Functional Open Space* - This category may include land zoned for a variety of purposes other than open space but that functions as such, for example environmental protection zones, Special Purpose zones such as school grounds, drainage corridors, road reserves, and service easements where they are managed by the Council or State or Federal authorities. It also includes what may be termed urban open space, ie. pedestrian malls, squares and plazas (eg.

Freedom Plaza, Cabramatta), which perform a valuable open space role within commercial centres.

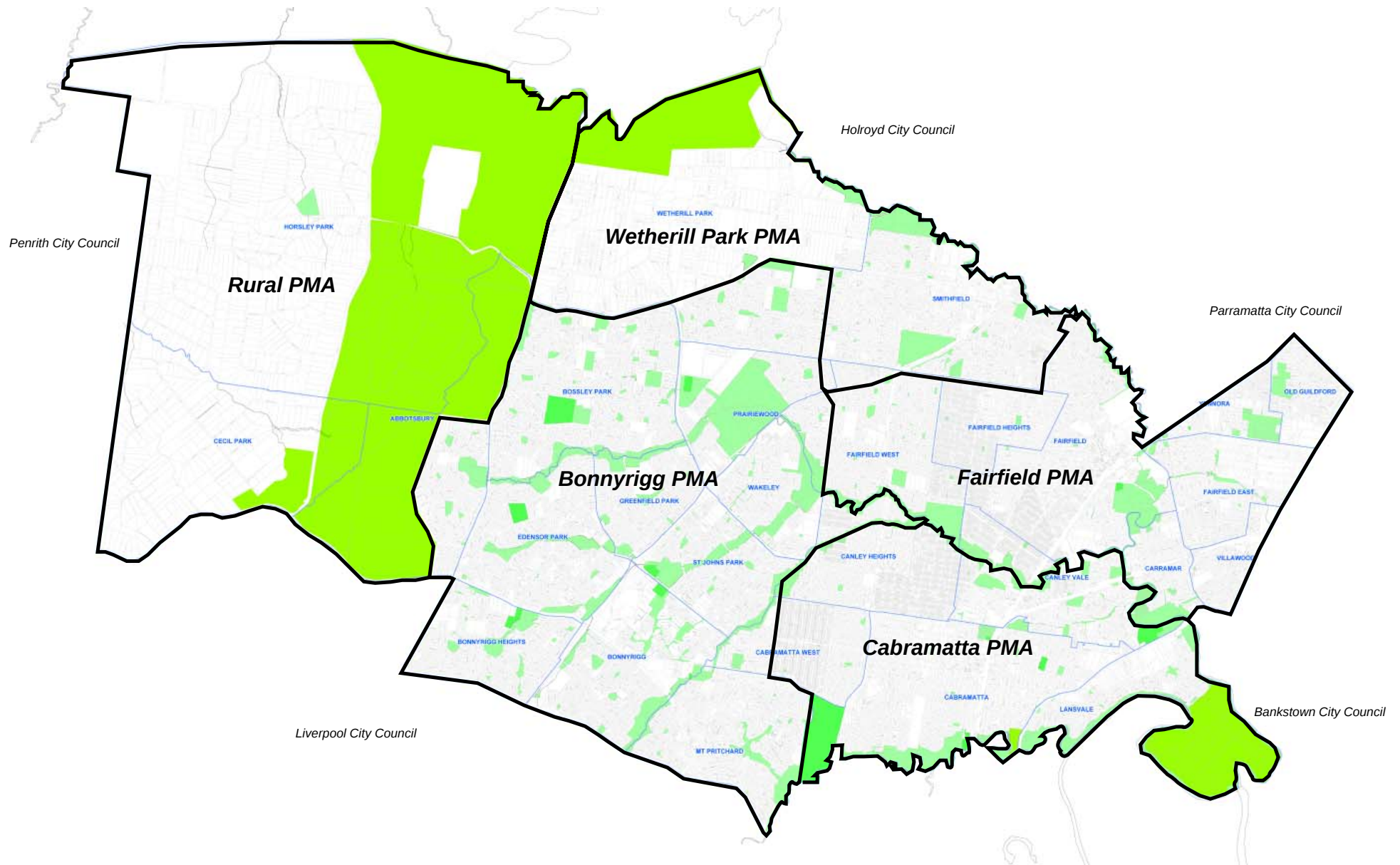
A definition of recreation provided by Pilgrim in his study *Outdoor Recreation and Resource Management* provides a simple and economical expression of the term:

"Recreation can be considered to be an activity, voluntarily undertaken primarily for pleasure and satisfaction, during leisure time". (Pilgrim 1983)

Whilst this definition covers the ground well by classifying a wide range of activities by intent and motivation, for the purposes of this Strategy, such a broad description, which includes popular recreational activities such as watching television, reading and visiting friends, goes well beyond the scope of Council's planning and management role.

This Strategy limits the area of focus for both information gathering and strategy development to activities that fall within the ambit of Council's responsibilities.

Recreation is defined as including structured and unstructured activities, which are public in the sense that they are carried out away from home and for which Council has either a direct role in the provision of facilities or settings or have a clear responsibility to encourage their provision through other government agencies or the private sector.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

The following section should be read in conjunction with the Volume 1, Part A, Section 3 Legislation and Planning Framework of the 1999 Strategy.

This section defines the strategic planning developments since the completion of the 1999 Open Space Strategy.

THE METROPOLITAN STRATEGY

Developed by the New South Wales Government, the Metropolitan Planning Strategy is a framework that provides a vision for Sydney and its sustainable growth and development over the next 25 years.

The two components for specific discussion are the strategies for:

- Centres and Corridors
- Parks and Public Places

Centres and Corridors

The Centres and Corridors policy is aimed at improving access, promoting sustainable use of transport and improving use of existing infrastructure as the Sydney metropolitan areas expands. As identified in the NSW Government Metropolitan Strategy – Centres and Corridors, (page 93), Fairfield has been identified as being a *Planned Major Centre*.

The implications of Fairfield being listed as a planned major centre will materialise in the form of development of infrastructure and promotion of the area as a place to work and reside.

Secondly, the corridor policy focuses on connections between the major centres and promoting economic growth of these corridors. Within the Fairfield City there are three significant corridors running north south.

Parks and Public Places

The vision for open spaces within the Sydney Metropolitan area is to promote fair access, diversity and quality within an open space network of parks, reserves, cycleways and walking trails. The Strategy highlights the provision and access to open space in western Sydney is a priority.

SYDNEY METROPOLITAN – REGIONAL RECREATION TRAILS FRAMEWORK 2005

Developed by the NSW Government, the purpose of the Sydney Metropolitan Recreation Trails Framework is to identify the locations for regional trail corridors across the Sydney metropolitan area.

Within Western Sydney the framework has identified there is demand for walking trails and picnic areas that are linked to

FAIRFIELD OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2007



bushland and adjacent to water bodies. These trails should be combined with areas for active sports but should be planned and developed to ensure the protection of natural areas.

Defined within the Framework are regional trails, subregional loops and local feeders. Within the Fairfield City there is a regional loops that connects the Western Sydney Parklands with the surrounding open spaces of Fairfield City and beyond.

As contained in the Metropolitan Strategy – Parks and Public Places, the Regional Recreation Trails are shown on the map below (taken from NSW Government Metropolitan Strategy – Parks and Public Places, page 241)

WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

Located in the western half of Fairfield City is the Western Sydney Parklands. The Parklands offer a significant recreation and open space opportunity to Fairfield due its close proximity.

The Vision of the Parklands is

The Western Sydney Regional Parklands forms a unique component of the Sydney metropolitan open space system, linked to surrounding areas and providing a diverse range of recreational and cultural learning experiences integrated with the natural and cultural values of the land.

The Parklands are divided into 9 Precincts with Precinct 6 and 7 relating most significantly to Fairfield City Council. The Management Plan for the Parklands identified the following character for each Precinct:

Precinct 6 – Horsley Drive Farmlands

Horsley Drive Farmlands Precinct will be the focus destination for agriculturally based tourism and recreation. The area's rural landscape will be maintained and enhanced through sustainable agriculture and associated tourism and commercial opportunities under leasing arrangements that provide for appropriate public access, education and the enhancement of environmental values.

Precinct 7 – Horsley Drive Farmlands

Abbotsbury Parklands Precinct incorporates the existing Western Sydney Regional Parkland and is the main regional hub for passive recreation in the central part of the Parklands. A large part of the area would be retained as a pastoral landscape and as a backdrop to surrounding urban areas, with grazing used as a management tool where environmental values permit.

Within this landscape, pockets of intensive recreation use around existing picnic, equestrian and tourist facilities will continue to be maintained and expanded. Visual image and views will be a prime management consideration.

FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006 / 07 - 2008 / 09

The City's Management Plan 2006 / 2007 to 2008 / 2009 is a strategic document that outlines the strategic direction of Council during the term of the Plan.

Defined in the Plan is Council's Vision that guides all planning and decision making across the whole City. This vision is as follows:

"Fairfield City, a thriving, safe friendly place where people who support and respect each other are proud to live invest and prosper.

- *A City where the character of its people, communities, neighbourhoods and places are supported and celebrated.*
- *Confident young people who are able to achieve their potential and are proud of where they come from.*
- *Employable people, encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities and overcome barriers to success.*
- *A clean, green City with restored waterways, cleaner air and a wide range of open spaces that support increased biodiversity as well as recreational opportunities.*
- *A City that responsibly maintains and manages its publicly owned built and natural assets for current and future generations.*
- *Well-designed residential areas able to meet changing needs with well-maintained infrastructure and landscape.*
- *Vibrant, welcoming, competitive urban centres, each one unique, taking advantage of the transport links and the City's cultural assets to provide opportunities for locals and tourists.*
- *Thriving employment areas, taking advantage of potential growth and a variety of employment opportunities.*
- *An accessible City, which connects people, places and activities, that has a wide choice of safe, affordable and convenient transport options within and beyond the City.*
- *A City where the changing and special needs of different groups in the community are met.*
- *A place where everyone is encouraged and supported to play an active role in the management of our City."*

From the definition of Council's long term Vision statement, the City has identified four Key Issues that are the priority for planning and decision making for the term of the plan. These key issues are:

- Managing community assets
- Employment and training
- Building a more integrated, accessible city
- A healthy safe community

FAIRFIELD'S STRATEGIC CITY PLAN

Council's Strategic Plan defines the vision for the City as:

'A thriving, safe and friendly place where people are proud to live, invest and prosper.'

This vision is then divided into seven aims that direct the development and improvement of public facilities, including open space and recreation. These seven aims are:

- The right things in the right place
- A healthy, skilled and resourceful population
- A clean, safe natural and built environment
- Bio-diversity and ecological health
- A well-based local economy
- Cultural harmony
- Effective governance

1999 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY REVIEW

The approach taken for the review the 1999 Strategy has been focused on identifying what strategies have been implemented, what is still to be completed and what are the new opportunities and constraints that alter Council's ability to implement strategies from the 1999 Strategy.

Contained in Volume Three of the 1999 Strategy were 133 recommended strategies for implementation. These strategies were grouped into four main headings:

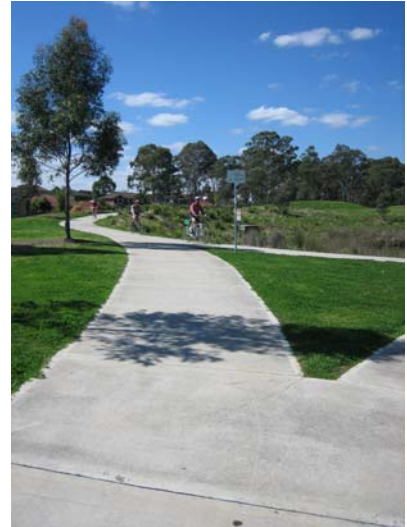
- Open Space and Recreation Opportunity.
- Access and Links.
- Natural Systems and Cultural Heritage.
- Maintenance, Management and Funding.

Assessment of each of the 1999 strategies was completed by CLOUSTON in conjunction with Council Officers. The result of this assessment indicated the achievements made during the seven years of implementing the 1999 Strategy.

These results illustrate Council's commitment to providing useable open space areas however these results also indicate that there is more work to be done to provide a strategic approach to providing useable, appropriate and safe parks and reserves for the community.

Some of the implementation successes from the 1999 Strategy include:

- Adoption of the four tier hierarchy for open spaces and the application of this hierarchy in the Plans of Management.
- Provision of additional recreation facilities within the Prairiewood and Fairfield Leisure Centres.
- General park improvements have been accomplished by way of the PIP.
- Construction of new skate park facilities at Emerson Street Reserve and Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park.
- Improve linkages, both cycleways and walking trails, across the City.
- Land acquisitions.
- Implementation of the 1995 Bike Plan.
- Provision of off-leash dog walking areas located at Canley Vale and Wakeley.
- Improved access to and along creek lines.



Shared pathways at Stockdale Crescent Reserve have a high usage and provide a connection to surrounding open spaces.



Cawarra Park upgrade including new play equipment and public art as a part of the PIP. Artist: Joe Hurst.

- New playgrounds and softfall.
- Construction of public art and interpretative works in open spaces.
- Adoption of the plans of management.

The 1999 Strategy listed a combination of strategies that could be implemented as projects on the ground and strategies that would provide strategic direction for the management of Council's open spaces. Many of these Strategies remain to be a high priority today and their implementation should continue.

Through the review of the 1999 Strategy it is evident that Council has actively sort to improve the quality of exiting parks through providing playgrounds, recreational facilities and other park elements. However the review has identified that development of strategic direction has been limited.

Specifically, these strategic documents include:

- Recreation needs assessment, including assessing the recreation needs of the community's non - English speaking communities.
- Playground strategy.
- Park maintenance service standards and maintenance manual.
- Financial plans to inform the management of open space.

A commentary on each of the strategies contained in the 1999 Strategy is provided as an annexure to this report. The purpose of this commentary was to provide Council with an indication of the success of the 1999 Strategy and also to identify the key areas for Council's focus for ongoing management of open space.



Public art in the City's urban spaces and streetscapes offer has been installed as a part of the PIP. Artist: Placebo Culture.



Public art has been installed in many parks and reserves across the City. This example provides an interpretation of creek management. Artist: Art.is.an.Option

REVISITING THE VISION: PLANNING STRATEGIES

A vision for open space was identified in 1999. This vision provided the guiding principles against which objectives, strategies and policies can be developed.

In 1999, the vision was aligned with the Strategic Plan for Fairfield City which was that *“clean and green Fairfield with restored waterways and a wide range of open spaces and recreation areas connected into a regional open space, recreational and water system”*.

To ensure the revision of the 1999 Strategy is tied into the strategic management of Council, the vision for open space has been modified to reflect the vision for Fairfield City, as defined in the City's Management Plan. Under the Key Issues of the Management Plan, open space is a key component in achieving the following strategic issues:

- Balancing the pressure between continued development and maintenance of existing assets.
- Locating developments in the right location so that it is supported by cycleways and walking trails and is located close to open space areas.
- Projects are planned and completed to promote and encourage a health and safe community.

Planning open space and recreation to meet the strategic direction for the City requires planning and allocation of resources and funds that will provide the most appropriate resources for the community. In light of the Key Issues facing Council, consideration must be given to:

- Balancing land acquisitions and open space embellishment opportunities.
- Identification of critical acquisition opportunities.
- Application of the Park hierarchy system.
- Recreation opportunities for the whole community.
- Funding to support recreation and open space.

Balancing Acquisition and Embellishment Opportunities

Council's Section 94 Plan (1999) outlines that there is a link between providing embellished open spaces and the need for acquisition of land for open space. However the reality of the predicted growth of development in the City will place restrictions on the ability of Council to acquire suitable land for open space

While some areas of the City have adequate provision of open space there are other parts of the City that are significantly deficient in open space, consequently the provision of open

space for the future will need to consider the benefits the community will receive from land acquisition in preference to open space embellishments.

The predicted growth of development within the City is considered to be increasing slowly, thus the funds raised from this gradual increase will inhibit Council's ability to acquire large areas of land for useable open space. Accordingly land acquisitions may result in an open space that is too small to be useable or to include land that has been assessed as no longer being required.

Alternatively, funds allocated to the embellishment of existing open space areas can offer the community increased recreation value through the addition of new facilities and improved quality of existing facilities.

The determination of where within the City priority should be given for the allocation of funds for improvement projects, priority should be given to those projects that:

- Are located near to those areas where development is occurring.
- Are aligned with the Strategies of the 2007 Open Space Strategy.
- Are supported by the aims and the values of the PIP.

It is important to ensure that improvements to Council's open spaces are not limited to those areas where new development is situated as new residents will use bushland parks, cycleways, walkways and sporting facilities across the whole of the City.

Critical Acquisitions

The apportionment of funds for the acquisition of land must be carefully considered. The overall community benefit of land acquisition must be considered against the values of improving existing open space assets. With an understanding that suburbs such as Cabramatta West and Fairfield Heights are significantly deficient in open space areas it will be necessary to balance the needs of the community for local open spaces together with the opportunities to enhance regional open space facilities, as shown in Figure 2.

The community uses both private backyards and neighbourhood parks located close to their homes for passive recreation. For more specific recreation activities, such as skateboarding or organised sports (e.g. soccer, cricket) the community will travel to particular destinations to participate.



Since the adoption of the 1999 Strategy, Council has developed key cycleway links through the city, such as the Cabramatta Creek, Orphan School Creek and Prospect Creek cycleways. Provision of new indoor facilities and swimming pools has also provided significant recreational benefit to the community. Council should maintain the program of acquisition and rationalising open space along the creeklines to support the links through the city.

This process of property boundary rationalisation also provides a more practical and cost effective approach to land management and maintenance for property owners and Council.

Park Hierarchy

The development of Level 2 and 3 parks and sportsgrounds and parks (refer to the hierarchy of open space) will assist in meeting the needs for residents, visitors to the City and the future residents.

It is imperative that Council assess the opportunities for developing existing open spaces into a higher Level facility.

Recreation needs of the whole community

As the City develops, the structure of the community will change as new people move into the area and it is considered that the recreation areas most utilised by this new population will include:

- Cycleways and Walking Trails
- Sportsgrounds
- Bushland Parks and Reserve
- Parks and Reserves,
- Playgrounds,
- Streetscapes / laneways (as connectors to open space)
- Indoor Sports Facilities.

For Council to meet the recreation needs of the community, the planning and programming of all open space enhancements and improvements should reflect the strategies of this Open Space Strategy.

Under the umbrella of the PIP, the embellishment of parks occurs across the entire City. The selection of open space for development is done following a consideration of the recreation and environmental needs of families as well as aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of age groups simultaneously. The planning and design of Council's open spaces under this program considers the needs of the existing community as well as endeavouring to meet the recreation and environment needs of the community in the future.

It must be noted that that PIP does not cover the full extent of open space across the City. This program is focused at specific open space areas.

The development and timing of a continual program for open space improvement must consider the ability of Council to raise funds for the improvement works. Commonly this can include a combination of Section 94 funds, PIP funds and grant funding (including Sport and Recreation, Natural Heritage Trust and Metro Green space programs).

Funding to support Recreation and Open Space

Open space and recreation programs are funded under a number of sources, including the PIP special rate, Section 94 contributions, grant funding and capital funding from Council's annual budget. It is anticipated that Council will continue to rely on funding from these sources however it is imperative that Council adopt a more strategic approach to the use of funds raised through Section 94 and to the manner of allocating these funds.

The existing funding programs, such as the PIP, have been adequate, to date, in funding improvements to parks. However to keep the momentum it is necessary to increase the amount of funds available so as to ensure the quality of improvements remains. In addition to this, investigations into extending the program to incorporate improvements to sportsfields and the development of new parks should be undertaken.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION - KEY ISSUES

The review of the 1999 Strategy has highlighted a number of key areas that require focus to ensure appropriate planning, design and management of Council's open spaces and recreation facilities.

These critical issues include:

- Understanding the recreation needs of the community.
- An inventory of open space.
- Strategic planning.
- Distribution of open space.
- Planning, design and implementation.
- Management and Maintenance.

Revised strategies are contained in the Section entitled 2007 Planning Strategies. These strategies have been prepared to provide a focus on improving Council's performance in the strategic management of their open spaces and meeting the above critical issues.

Understanding the Recreation Needs of the Community

Understanding the recreational needs of the community is a fundamental link missing from the strategic planning of the City's open space. The last assessment of recreational need was completed in 1997 and a reassessment of the needs of the community should be undertaken to inform all open space planning decisions.

The social make-up of the Fairfield community is very complex and the community has a very rich ethnic diversity, resulting in the need for Council to consider social and ethnic diversity in the provision, design and maintenance of open spaces.

To obtain a full understanding of the needs of the recreation needs, investment must be made into the completion of a Recreation Needs Study. In addition to determining need, this study should focus on:

- The impacts of the ageing population, the socio-economic characteristics and cultural blend of the City.
- Establishing what conflicts existing in the provision of recreation and identify the current and future demand on recreation facilities.
- Identifying changes in community recreation needs and provide strategies on how the City will adapt existing open space areas to accommodate these changes.



Ongoing management of supply and demand of playing fields and general open space will be informed by a Recreation Needs Study.

An Inventory of Open Space

To ensure Council can plan and manage their open spaces, it is essential that Council has a full listing open space areas, their setting and the recreation infrastructure provided. Currently there remain some voids in Councils knowledge of all open spaces under its ownership or care, control and management.

It is imperative that an inventory of the open spaces within the City is completed and maintained. This inventory should provide basic information on the areas, such as ownership / tenure, size, location etc. Furthermore, this inventory should also contain hierarchy level, planning district, setting type and a listing of facilities as the minimum.

Following the completion of the Open Space Inventory, a comprehensive audit should be undertaken to establish the condition of all parks and reserves. This audit should be aimed at identifying:

- All aspects of quality in parks including, sun/shade, path circuits, seats, play, safety, visual amenity etc.,
- Passive and active recreation facilities with a view to a long term improvement strategy and if necessary rationalisation
- Streetscape improvement opportunities,
- Regional Parks, such as Chipping Norton Lakes,
- Areas that require improvement, maintenance or renovation, and
- New recreational opportunities.

This audit would complement Council's current Asset Register.

Strategic Planning

In association with the development of the Recreation Needs Assessment it is imperative that Council support the provision and embellishment of open spaces and recreation facilities with solid strategic justification.

Council has maintained a continual embellishment program for open space since 1999 however there remains a gap in the development of strategic planning for these facilities.

The critical tasks for the strategic management of Council's open space resources, in addition to the Recreation Needs Assessment for the City, are:

- Update the Open Space Inventory.
- Classify setting types, function and hierarchy.
- Determine the appropriate planning 'precinct' boundaries around which local open space planning will be focused.
- Open space audit.



Developing an inventory of all facilities within open space will assist in ongoing management and maintenance



Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park skate park is a recent and important initiative of Council.

- Specific strategies, such as Sports Strategy, Playground Strategy, Streetscape Strategy that define design principles, locations for installation and management guidelines.
- Place Management Boundaries and creeklines

These strategic documents will assist Council in planning for future open space projects and provide a baseline for the ongoing management of open space.

Distribution of Open Space

As a part of the review of the Section 94 Contributions Plan it has been predicted that although the City does not display rapid growth in population size the ongoing discrepancy in the distribution of open space will exacerbate the problems with community access to open space for leisure and recreation. This is particularly evident in Cabramatta West and Fairfield Heights.

These deficiencies must be addressed so that the existing and future recreation and open space needs of the community can be planned for and accommodated.

It is essential that innovative solutions are considered to overcome those open space deficiencies across the City, but to do this effectively, Council must undertake the following:

- Thoroughly schedule and critically appraise the equity of open space distribution across the City and how it relates to current population density and projected growth,
- Analyse park sizes and catchments to determine whether local district and regional open space needs are being met,
- Determine the degree to which distribution, scale and function reflect needs, based on demographic analysis,

Following the completion of these tasks, Council will be equipped to determine strategic land acquisition or rationalisation opportunities that will provide maximum benefit to the community.

The net increase of open space and any improvement to the distribution of open space across the City is a medium to long term goal. However, in the short term, the impacts of the disproportionate distribution of open space can be eased through providing superior access to the existing open spaces. The following actions will assist with this:

- Design existing open spaces to meet the recreational needs of the wider community, such as youths and the elderly,
- Linking footpaths with the provision of pram ramps, bridges over creeklines and removal of barriers, and
- Identify and resolve barriers to access by installing pedestrian crossings, pathway links etc.



Providing a network of connections between open spaces across the City, such as Emerson Street Reserve has been a high priority of Council.

Planning, design and implementation

Established in the 1999 Strategy were Management and Development Principles for all levels of the open space hierarchy. To assist in providing a range of settings and a spectrum of recreational opportunities across the parks and reserves, commitment to these Principles should be made and their implementation during the planning and design of all renovations or upgrades should be applied.

All individual design of open space reserves should be consistent with the overall strategic plan and framework for open space. Specifically, the design for open spaces should be consistent with the proposed use and hierarchy level of the space but also provide a tapestry of diversity across the City.

Management and Maintenance

As stated in the 1999 Plan, the adoption of differential maintenance regimes will help to reduce costs, achieve greater efficiencies and achieve better environmental outcomes. Council has begun planning and coordinating their approach to maintaining the open space of the City, however there remains a demand to actively respond to the maintenance of the open space.

As outlined previously, the completing of a comprehensive audit of the quality and standard of all open space areas will provide Council with a baseline for preparing maintenance standards (Service Level Agreements) and performance targets.

Achieving a goal of planned and coordinated management of Council's open space assets will be enhanced with the completion of the Open Space Inventory and application of an asset management system.

A review of all maintenance tasks to establish where process can be refocused to meet environmental initiatives while simultaneously reducing costs should also be investigated.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

The review of the Open Space Strategy has identified strategies for improving the existing open space and meeting the recreation needs of the community. In summary this approach is to:

- Determine the recreation needs of the community,
- Improve links and access to open space,
- Increase security and safety in and around open space,
- Prepare programs for open space embellishment (such as a continuation of the PIP) and upgrade of existing facilities, and
- Identify land for acquisition (specifically in Cabramatta West and Fairfield Heights) and consider long term acquisition funding (including buy / lease back).

- Review of acquisition / disposal of open space.

A directory of the strategic planning that is required comprises;

- Recreation needs study,
- Open space inventory,
- Open space user survey,
- Sports Strategy,
- Condition and opportunity audit of open space,
- Maintenance service level agreements,
- Streetscapes and laneways, and
- Carrying capacity assessment of all sportsgrounds and determination of suitable usage levels.

As previously discussed, while the distribution of open space projects should be City wide, the types of open space settings that should be considered as priorities include:

Cycleways and Walking trails

Providing regional and local links between town centres and the City's open spaces, the provision of shared pathways and cycleways offers the community with recreation opportunities as well as encouraging alternatives to private vehicle travel. New residents will use these facilities and future extensions and improvements to the existing network with funding from Section 94 is appropriate.

Figure 3 illustrates the existing barriers to open space across the Fairfield City.

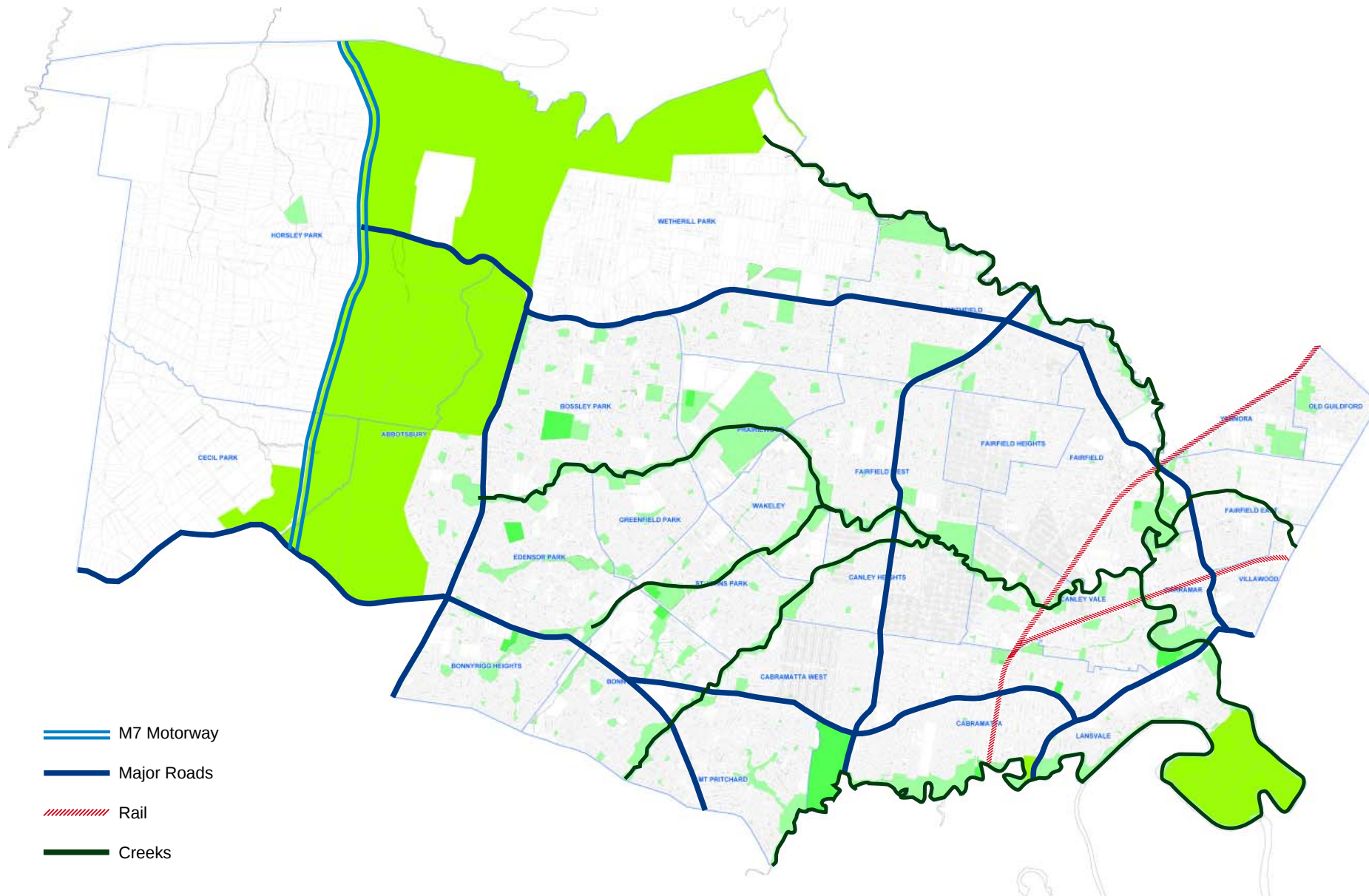
Sportsgrounds

The existing sportsgrounds within the City are currently heavily used and any new development will increase the demand for these recreation facilities. There are two approaches to meeting additional needs from development.

The first is in the form of improving the quality of existing facilities and to provide multifunctional opportunities where possible while the second is focussed on the opportunity to develop existing facilities and elevate the Level of the facility by the addition of floodlighting, irrigation, amenity buildings, improving parking and fencing.

Bushland Parks and Reserves

Natural areas throughout the City offer an opportunity for the community to experience and learn about local indigenous flora and fauna. These areas provide habitat for native animals and are popular locations for passive recreation in a naturalistic setting.



To ensure future residents of the City are able to benefit from these areas, these areas must be conserved, regenerated and improved so that their natural elements are protected and so these areas can adequately cater for increases in visitation without detrimental effects on the bushland.

Park Improvements

Located throughout the City are in excess of 450 parks that provide open space for the community to participate in recreation, sport, community events and act as habitat for native fauna. These parks provide a diversity of recreation opportunities for the community and ongoing improvement of these parks is essential to meet the changing needs of the community. In conjunction with the PIP, Section 94 funding should be attributed to the ongoing development and improvement of the City's parks.

Playgrounds

The use of playgrounds is a popular activity for parents, grandparents, carers and children. It is imperative that Council's playgrounds are designed and managed to meet the needs of a wide range of ages within a safe environment. A key consideration for the future provision of play opportunities is the distribution of playgrounds across the City and meeting the needs for all ages and abilities of children.

Indoor Sports Facilities

Ongoing assessment and development of Council's existing indoor sports facilities is important in providing multifunctional recreation assets. As new residents move into the City, the demand placed on these facilities will increase as will the required diversity of recreation opportunities. Development of these facilities will allow the carrying capacity of these facilities to increase and with that the ability to meet the needs of the community.

Land Acquisition and Disposal

While this offers opportunities to provide new areas of open space, land acquisition must be carefully considered and guided by the following principles; the land should be located along cycleways and walking trails where there are existing barriers or located adjacent to existing Council open space areas, and suitably sized to adequately provide opportunities for recreation.

Scattered across the City are small areas of open space. The size of these spaces limits the opportunities to develop as functional parks for the community. These areas should be considered for disposal or other alternate uses.



Playground upgrade at Bareena Park



Prairiewood Leisure Centre

FUTURE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROVISION

Fairfield City Council conducted a Recreation Needs Study in 1997 that outlined the recreational needs of a complex socioeconomic and ethnically diverse community.

This Strategy provides a series of Planning Strategies that are aimed at ensuring adequate and appropriate provision of open space and recreation opportunities for the community. However, to determine the future needs of the community and to ensure adequate provision of open space, consideration of demographic changes in the 2006 Census and development trends must be undertaken.

The following discussions provide a background for the guidelines prepared to direct Council in appropriate strategic planning of the existing open space and recreation resource and valuable land acquisition and rationalisation decisions.

THE INFLUENCE OF DEMOGRAPHICS ON OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Data obtained from Census information (2001) and projections on population, age structure, ethnicity, income and housing for the Fairfield Community has important implications on the use of existing recreation areas and open spaces. In addition to this, this data provides an insight into the future open space and recreation needs and demands of the community.

Some of the key trends that will have implications for the provision of open space and recreation opportunities for the community include:

- A trend towards an ageing population that requires a greater need for adequate access to open spaces and accessibility within open spaces
- A gradual decrease in the number of children in the age categories of 0 – 4, 5 – 14 and 15 - 24 years of age. These trends will impact on the type and location of recreation facilities provided for children and youth
- A lower income populace increases the need for affordable access to community facilities and high quality open spaces
- The need to recognise differences in cultural preferences for open space and recreation and to ensure these preference differences are considered and addressed in the development of local open spaces
- The ongoing need to investigate specific open space needs of low income groups and areas with a high proportion of medium and high density housing
- As the Fairfield Community is a highly developed area, there is a need to concentrate on enhancing and improving existing open space assets

- A trend in the development of dwellings other than separate houses is increasing, resulting in increased pressure on public open space and public recreation facilities
- The Fairfield Community is extremely diverse, creating a need for the provision of a wide range of recreational opportunities that cater to this diversity and changing population structure
- A steady but slow population growth is predicted for the Fairfield Community. This growth however, further strengthens the need to invest in the improvement of existing open space and recreation assets while supplementing the provision of open space areas in those locations where there is insufficient provision
- The need to review open space and recreation provision on a regular basis (no more than every five years) to take into account the changing needs and demands of the Fairfield Community and the increased demands of new development within the LGA
- An ongoing commitment for revision and assessment of open space provision and access to recreation opportunities must be maintained

While there are a number of specific trends in the demographic structure of the Fairfield Community, it is important to plan for open space and recreation for the long term.

As populations and community structures recycle over time, it would be short sighted to focus open space planning on specific trends. Rather, a more appropriate method of addressing demographics changes in the Fairfield Community is to aim to meet the needs of the widest sections of the community, complimented with an understanding of changes within the community, followed by actions to improve access and provision accordingly.

In this regard an adequate distribution of open space meeting the needs of the widest section of the community and ease of access to that space is of primary importance.

DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Outlined in the *Fairfield State of the Community Report 2004* and further substantiated by ABS Statistics, there has been a growth in dwellings within the City and it is projected that four PMA's are projected to experience growth in dwellings over the next 20 years. However, the Rural PMA will experience a decline in dwelling numbers. Specifically, the growth / decline of each PMA is listed as follows and as shown in Figure 4:

- Fairfield (12.1% growth)
- Bonnyrigg (7.3% growth)
- Cabramatta (3.0% growth)
- Wetherill Park (5.3% growth)
- Rural (29.6% growth)

While a relatively high proportion of the Fairfield Community lives in separate houses, (76.5%), there is a trend towards urban consolidation and the number of medium density dwellings, including units, townhouses, terraces and apartments is increasing at a rate of 1 to 1.4 in favor of medium density dwellings.

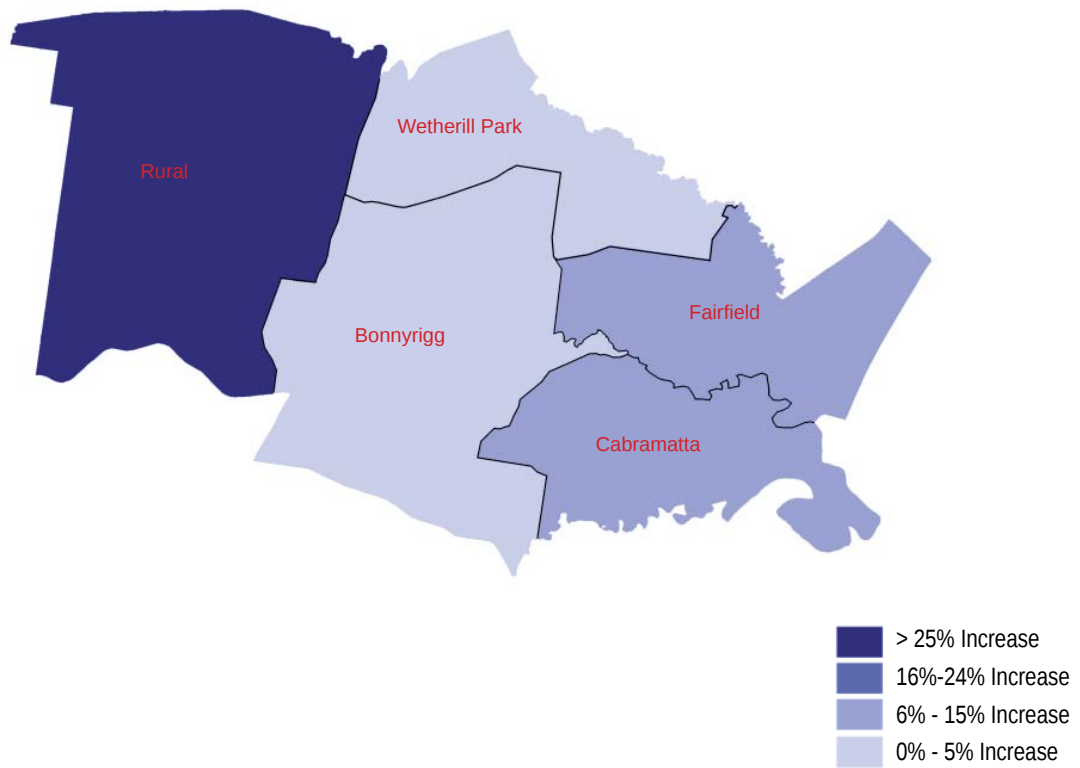
Similarly to projected dwelling increases, population has also been predicted and the growth across the City is as follows:

- Fairfield (2.7% growth)
- Bonnyrigg (4.4% decline)
- Cabramatta (1.2% decline)
- Wetherill Park (2.4% decline)
- Rural (19.7% growth)

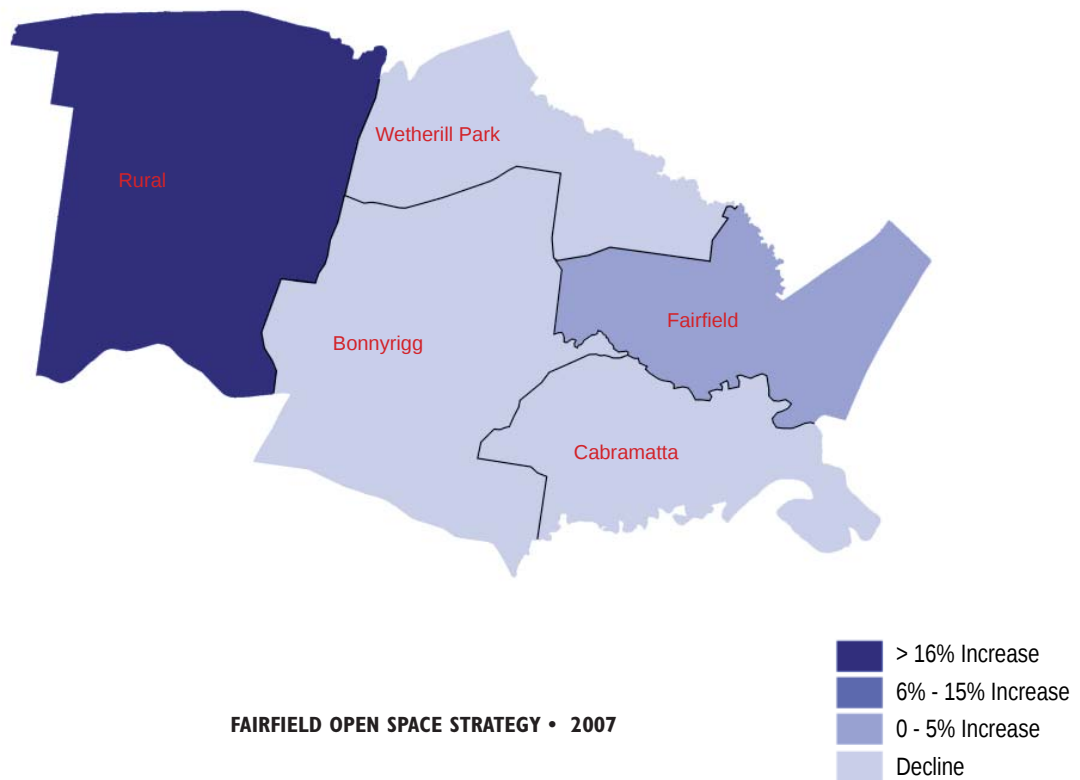
Combine the projected dwelling growth with projected population growth for each of the PMA's and the demand on the open spaces within each of the PMA will be increasing over the next 20 years.

The implications of the projected growth across the City for the planning and provision of open space and recreation may include:

- An increased need for highly accessible open space, especially in areas with and increasing population in medium density housing
- Consideration of the specific needs of individual cultural and ethnic groups when determining the nature and location of open space



Projected Growth / Decline of Dwellings across Fairfield (2006 - 2026)



FAIRFIELD OPEN SPACE STRATEGY • 2007

Projected Growth / Decline of Population across Fairfield LGA (2006 - 2026)

- Limitations on pedestrian access to open space as a result of barriers, including railway lines, roads and private lands

RECREATION TRENDS

Considerable changes have occurred in recreation and the manner in which Australian society uses open spaces and participates in recreation. While a full assessment of the provision of open space and an assessment of the recreation patterns within the City is beyond the scope of this report, some recent trends and implications of these for the open spaces of Fairfield City are listed below:

- An increasing demand for diverse recreation opportunities within public open spaces
- A ongoing increase in the proportion of medium density housing that provides little private open space, thus increasing the demand in public open space
- An increased awareness of health and wellbeing issues and as a consequence of this awareness there has been an increase in demand for jogging, walking and cycling trails
- An increasing need to provide passive recreation opportunities for informal recreation
- Opportunities to access natural areas and bushland and an increased awareness of the condition of the environment and open spaces
- Individualisation and casualisation of sport – informal teams (touch, tag) personal training etc.

These changes to the recreation trends have altered the demand for open space and recreation facilities. Some of these include:

- Expanding and improving on linkages between open space and to surrounding areas. This includes streetscapes and recreational trails.
- Development of open space that can accommodate many uses (both active and passive) and can cater for a diverse range of age groups
- Improvements towards the safety and security of park users
- Maintaining an ongoing commitment to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- Increase access to cultural and natural heritage assets.

The changes in trends and demands for open space and recreation requires a need for a flexible approach to the provision of open space in addition to the development of easily transformable open space facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

As discussed earlier in Section *Open Space and Recreation – Key Issues*, there are a number of areas where there are inadequacies and uneven distribution of open space. This indicates the need for Council to consider rationalisation and acquisition of open spaces across the City.

Terminology explanation:

Acquisition

- Whole new space purchased
- Adjoining space purchased to supplement

Rationalisation

- Adjustment of boundaries on existing open space that may result in acquisition and/or disposal

Disposal

- Sale of land that has been thoroughly assessed as being incapable of providing any reasonable recreational function. Note that if the land is classified community land the process must follow. The Local Government Act 1998 requirements include an enquiry and public consultation. It is also strongly recommended that all funds generated by disposal be reinvested in improved open space in the same locality

Land acquisitions and rationalisation offer Fairfield an opportunity to secure, protect and consolidate the existing open spaces and to improve the distribution and quality of open space areas and their recreation facilities.

The following broad strategies provide guidance for identifying the focus for rationalisation or acquisition of land

Strategy One: Rationalise Riparian Corridor Boundaries

Across the City, the location of existing open space is largely predicated on the location of creeklines that traverse the LGA. A solution to meeting open space demands for trails and connections by improving the existing quality and accessibility in the short term while having a long term focus on appropriate rationalisation and acquisition strategy.

Strategy Two: Consolidate Open Space

Where the pattern of open space is characterized by a scattering of small reserves, a focus on consolidation of open space should be adopted. By developing a careful balance between acquisition and disposal, the distribution and usability of open space can be improved.

As Council is committed to ensuring the open space needs of the Fairfield Community are met, the intention of all acquisition and disposal of land strategies is to improve access to open space, create new opportunities for recreation and to redistribute the economic costs of maintain a high quality open space asset.

The following are key recommendations for the rationalisation of open space within the Fairfield City:

Connection

- Commitment to the *strategic framework* for an interconnected open space network across the City.

Protection

- *Protect* existing open spaces including cultural heritage, natural heritage assets and recreation opportunities within open space

Consolidation

- Secure areas used but not yet dedicated for public open space areas, including operational land and crown land

Acquisition

- Strategically acquire open space in areas of deficiency that are the result of increased development and demand on open space

Improvement

- Improve the quality of existing open space areas by enhancing environmental, aesthetic and functional values

Disposal

- Investigate the opportunities across the City to dispose of existing open space areas that provide low existing and potential recreation value and redirect the funding allocated to these lands to improve other open space areas that provide more recreational value to the community

Flexibility

- Investigate options to provide flexible space for occasional and passive recreation use such as dual use of publicly owned land not dedicated as open space. This may include car parks, school grounds etc

Diversity

- Negotiate the diverse open space needs of the community at the Council-wide and local scale to develop flexible open spaces responding to changing recreation functions over time
- Conduct further studies to improve the existing data on open space resources, flow and fauna, cultural and natural heritage items

Finally and most importantly, complete a Recreational Needs Assessment for the whole LGA to ensure the proposed facilities and open space meets expressed demand

These recommendations are expanded upon in the remainder of the Section accompanied by examples for improvement, acquisition, disposal of open space within the City.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

A strategic framework for Fairfield's open spaces has been prepared in the review of the Open Space Strategy. Sections *Open Space and Recreation – Key Issues* and *2007 Planning Strategies* of this report provide direction and focus for creating interconnecting open spaces and improved open spaces through the identification of actions and priorities.

Key recommendations at a City-wide, strategic level for the future provision of open space includes the following:

- Extend the connected system of open spaces. This will be assisted, particularly the north south connections, through the ongoing acquisition of land along to the major creeklines and improvement to the streetscapes to accommodate access to open space. Areas of focus should be:
 - Clear Paddock Creek, Mt Pritchard
 - Orphan School Creek, Canely Heights
 - Cabramatta Creek, Lansvale
 - Chipping Norton Lakes, Lansvale
 - Western Sydney Regional Park
 - Links to Western Sydney Regional Park
- Away from the major sporting fields, identify opportunities to create neighbourhood parks by acquiring land parcels with a focus on those areas of highest demand (as shown on Figure 1)
- Improve the physical and visual connections between open space areas within each Place Management Area by:
 - Developing existing and potential pedestrian links
 - Creating cross connections across major physical barriers such as roads, rail lines and the Transit Way, where appropriate
 - Improve the streetscapes to increase pedestrian amenity and access to open space areas, such as installation of pram ramps.
 - Improve accessibility through currently inaccessible open space, such as golf courses, showground's etc. This requires negotiation with private land holders or lessees
 - Consider the development of a signage system that informs the community of open space areas and pathways across the City
 - Use public art as a means of telling the story of Fairfield.

- Ongoing development of PMA Centres and the open spaces within and adjoining these centres. This is to provide civic spaces and gathering areas for the community for passive recreation opportunities

PROTECTION OF EXISTING AND NEW OPEN SPACE AREAS

All new open space areas and all existing open space areas should be managed in a way so as to ensure the protection of their use by the community. This should include the following actions:

- Ensure all existing and proposed open space areas are correctly recorded and zones within Council's LEP and other Strategic Documents
- Protect and enhance environmentally sensitive open space area, including natural areas, creeklines, bushland and all culturally sensitive sites through appropriate protection measures and zoning
- Negotiate to acquire public access easements through land under ownership other than Council to minimise cost of acquisition while simultaneously improve pedestrian access between open space areas

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

- Identify opportunities to augment existing Council owned open space resource by the purchase of land parcels that are listed for sale or reuse (including industrial locations) in those areas shown in Figure 2 as having the highest need. These opportunities should be focused on creating new open space areas that provide useable and viable recreation opportunities that are required by the community
- Investigate possible acquisition of land in the following areas
 - Fairfield
 - Fairfield Heights
 - Canley Heights
 - Cabramatta West
 - Cabramatta
- The rationale for acquisition in the above listed areas is as follows:
 - Inadequate existing provision
 - Potential to improve usability of existing open space areas by improving links to other open space areas and to natural and cultural features within close proximity
 - Potential to contribute to the revitalisation of existing commercial centres and residential areas away from

main roads by developing open space areas in conjunction with other leisure orientated development geared to meeting the recreation needs of the community, such as playgrounds, leisure centres, aquatic centres etc

- Conduct a review of the land identified but not yet acquired for open space. The 1999 Section 94 Plan identifies land in all PMA;s and the priority of acquisition of these sites should be assessed
- Funding for acquisition to include possible use of Section 94 contribution monies and external funding sources

As a means of optimising the usefulness of land parcels acquired for open space, it is recommended that each parcel of land be thoroughly assessed for its recreational capability prior to purchase. The following checklist provides a starting point for this assessment.

Land should be purchased for dedication and use as open space if it satisfies the following criteria:

1. Ability to function independently as open space
2. Located preferably within 400m – 500m walking distance to the nearest open space
3. If the parcel has a limited capability to function as open space in the short term (eg, the space is too small) does the space have realizable potential to function as open space in the future, through the acquisition of adjoining land parcels or improved local access?
4. What is the condition of built features on site? Do they have potential for reuse as recreation facilities?
5. The land has been identified in a LEP, DCP, Section 94 Plan or Plan of Management as being for open space and recreation purposes
6. The land adjoins an existing area for open space and can readily and desirably be consolidated into the existing open space immediately or at a later date
7. The land has an area of a minimum of 0.3 – 0.5 hectares and is considered as being suitable for open space purposes by Council's Park Management Officers
8. Council considers the acquisition of the land will not place an unreasonable burden on the existing or future community
9. The land does not contain access barriers or other major impediments to open space use, such as easements and drainage lines
10. The land contains items and features of natural or cultural significance such as bushland, creeklines or

historical associations

11. The land is readily overviewed day and night and easily and safely accessible by foot from various directions
12. The land is not impacted by adjoining land use and activities, such as noise, pollution etc

It is recommended that a simple assessment table be drawn up covering much of these queries, identifying a high, medium or low score for conformity. The aggregate score will give some indication of the suitability of land to purpose.

- Could the land form a critical part in a linkage of open space
- Is the area generally compound in shape (unless to form a link) to maximise its flexibility for future uses
- Is the space easily accessible i.e. no major barriers (rail etc) or surrounded by busy roads.
- Is the future land use constrained by any feature (e.g. power lines, flood)

IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE RESOURCE

- Establish a program for development and improvement of existing open space areas that is in addition to the PIP. The funding source for this program could be supplied by the sale of unwanted land and Section 94 Contributions
- The improvement of existing land should be aimed at:
 - Improving the quality of existing open space areas by enhancing environmental, aesthetic and functional values
 - Diversifying the range of recreation opportunities offered with an area of existing open space
 - Improving access to open space, such as streetscape improvements, walking trails and cycleways
- Carry out community consultation with local communities to ensure improvements match local needs
- Specific improvement works indicated by the finding of the Review include a need to:
 - Develop parks in residential areas with a range of facilities, such as shade, planting, seating, play facilities etc.
 - Develop open space areas that meet the needs of the whole community
 - Develop flexible open spaces that allow for the changing recreation needs of the community

- Improve access to and facilities that cater to informal recreation activities, including walking and picnicking
- Maintain maintenance standards for public open spaces, including streetscapes
- Conduct bush regeneration and creek management programs across the City

DIVESTMENT OF OPEN SPACE

It is inevitable that arising from the rationalisation of existing open space resources and working towards meeting the recreation needs for the community, certain parcels of land may be assessed as inappropriate for open space use by virtue of their location, present condition or barriers to future use. This land therefore should be considered for disposal or improvement.

In the event that a decision is made to divest Council owned land parcels, it is recommended that the derived income from the sale of this land be expended in the following ways:

- To offset any debt incurred in the acquisition of land for open space
- To acquire other parcels of land to be used for open space. In this circumstance it would be preferred that any future acquisition be within the same PMA or in a location that will better satisfy the open space and recreation needs of the community
- Be used for the ongoing improvement of existing open space in the same PMA in which the open space is located

It is imperative that Council be publicly accountable for all income that is derived from the disposal of open space and that the income is redirected into improvements to Council's open space resources.

The following points summarise recommendations regarding possible disposal of open space parcels within the City of Fairfield:

Assess open space areas identified as inappropriate as open space using agreed criteria. The following listing is suggested as a starting point:

1. A scoring method should be used to assess each parcel of land. It is recommended that a scoring system out of five will allow for a combined assessment of the land and will aid in the determination of where disposal should be considered
2. Scoring categories should include, as a minimum:
 - Natural heritage

- Cultural heritage
- Scenic quality
- Useability
- Area
- Community Need
- Visual Surveillance
- Connectivity Space Networks
- Accessibility Networks

Land parcels suitable for disposal may have the following scoring:

- Score low (two or less out of five) for *natural heritage, cultural heritage and scenic quality*
 - Preferably have a medium score for *area*, such as a three or four out of five. This assessment should be more that total size and must include an assessment of shape and size of the land parcel
 - Preferably have a medium score for *useability*, such as a three or four out of five.
 - The size of the land parcel must be of a size that is viable for other uses, such as a housing lot size etc
 - Be Council owned and preferably classified as operational land
 - Be of minimal importance strategically in terms of quality, quantity and distribution. For example, the land should not be located in areas f high demand
 - Have minimal potential for improvements by acquisition of adjoining parcel or consolidation. For example a parcel of land that is small in size and is located at a distance from other parcels of land
3. Conduct an economic feasibility costing on cost benefits for parcels to be potentially divested
 4. Identify alternative landuse and zoning for areas to be divested
 5. Test divestment proposals against Council and community expectations

LAND ACQUISITION WEIGHTED MATRIX

Weighted Criteria		Land is zoned for public recreation or open space purposes (yes – score 3) (no – score 1)	Land links to other open space areas, natural and cultural features or adjoins existing open space that can readily be consolidated	Land has the capacity to provide passive and or active recreation (including sportsfields), is easily accessible, readily overviewed and not impacted by adjoining land uses.	Land has a minimum area of 0.3 to 0.5 ha. (made up of one or more lots) & meets objective of all residents being within a 400 m radius of open space.	Land is required for the purpose of stormwater or flooding management. (yes – score 15) (no – score 5)
Score		1	2	2	4	5
High	3	3	6	6	12	15
Medium	2	-	4	4	8	-
Low (no)	1	1	2	2	4	5

- Land is zoned for public recreation or open space purposes.
- Land is required for the purpose of ensuring public safety by adequate management of stormwater or flooding.
- Land has a minimum area of 0.3 to 0.5 hectares (made up of one or more lots) and all residents are within a 400 metre radius, where possible, of open space.
- Land links to other open space areas, natural and cultural features or adjoins existing open space that can readily be consolidated.
- Land has the capacity to provide passive and or active recreation (including sportsfields), is easily accessible, readily overviewed and not impacted by adjoining land uses.
- Land contains items and features of natural or cultural significance such as native bushland, creek lines or historical associations.
- Acquisition of land will not place an unreasonable burden on the existing or future community.

2007 PLANNING STRATEGIES

PLANNING STRATEGIES

The 1999 Plan contained management principles and planning strategies for open space. These strategies (Volume 2, Section 9) were under the following main headings:

- Open Space and Recreation Opportunity
- Access and Links
- Natural Systems and Cultural Heritage
- Maintenance, Management and Funding

A critical review of the strategies under each of these headings has been undertaken so as to determine relevance and appropriateness of ongoing implementation.

The following tables have been prepared to reflect the developments that have occurred in open space management, the successes achieved and to express the strategies that remain pertinent today.

Under the same main headings of the 1999 Plan, this review also recommends new strategies and revised priorities for implementation.

Structure of the Strategy Tables

Each of the main headings has been divided into sub categories. (These sub categories are listed below.) Each category has an overarching management principle followed by a suite of strategies aimed at meeting the management principle.

Open Space and Recreation Opportunities Strategies

- Diverse range of open space and recreation facilities
- Structured open space
- Upgrading sports facilities
- Upgrading passive recreation facilities
- Provision of indoor sports opportunities
- Leisure Centres
- Provision for special needs groups
- Partnerships
- Shortfalls in open space provision
- Surpluses in open space provision

Access and Links Strategies

- Public and private transport
- Cycleways and walking trails
- Access positive facilities
- Security
- Safety
- Links

Natural Systems and Cultural Heritage Strategies

- Integrated management

- Remnant bushland
- Cultural and natural heritage

Maintenance, Management and Funding Strategies

- Maintenance
- Allocation
- Leasing and licensing
- Management
- Funding
- Communication, liaison, education and participation
- Information, promotion and marketing

The Strategy Tables are then divided into four columns.

1999 Strategies – A full listing of all the strategies that were recommended in the 1999 Open Space Strategy.

Achievement / Commentary – A snapshot on what actions have been completed in completing the original 1999 strategy. This column also provides a review of the ongoing appropriateness of the ongoing implementation of the strategy.

2007 Strategies – Revised strategies recommended to ongoing implementation.

Ranking – Nomination of the priority for implementation of the revised strategy. All strategies are ranked Low, Medium or High. As a guide,

- High Rank is a strategy that is critical and must be done within the next 12 months.
- Medium Rank is a strategy that is less critical but is needed within the next 2 – 3 years.
- Low Rank is a strategy to be completed when all other higher ranked strategies have been completed.

Integration with Development and Management Principles

The Development and Management Principles were intended to compliment the management principles and the strategies and inform the planning, design and management of Council's open space categories or setting types.

These principles have been prepared for each of the four level of the hierarchy under the following five headings:

- Open Space and Recreation Opportunity
- Access and Links
- Natural Systems
- Landscape Character
- Maintenance and Management

As a part of the review of the 1999 Plan, the Development and Management Principles have also been critiqued and updated.

Where there is an association between the Strategies and the Development and Management Principles, an annotation will be included.

It remains important to note that these Principles are recommended guidelines and can be adapted to specific situations and given sites. They do not in themselves imply absolute maximum or minimum provisions.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

162 Strategies have been identified for Council to implement. Of the 162 Strategies,

- 34 have been assigned the ranking of High with a suggested implementation timeline of 12 months.
- 35 have been assigned the ranking of Medium
- 40 have been assigned the ranking of Low
- 53 have been assigned the ranking of Ongoing

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITY STRATEGIES

Diverse Range of Open Space and Recreation Facilities

Principle:

Development of an open space resource that reflects the known and locally researched needs of a highly diverse community.

Structure Open Space System

Principle:

Development of an integrated planning, management and design structure that combines setting and hierarchy planning

Upgrading Sports Facilities

Principle:

Establishment of a range of sports facilities that focuses primarily on upgrading and expanding the carrying capacity of existing resources

Upgrading Passive Recreation Facilities

Principle:

Progressive implementation of upgrading of basic, common open space needs (e.g. shade, access, play) throughout Fairfield LGA before developing more sophisticated facilities.

Provision of Indoor Facilities

Principle:

Provision of additional/improved indoor sports opportunities to address the shortfall in provision within Fairfield LGA over time

Leisure Centres

Principle:

Adopt Council's strategy to develop three primary multi-use leisure centres to serve the Fairfield LGA

Provision for Special Needs Groups

Principle:

Establish the core requirements of special needs groups and integrate into the planning and management of the open space system City Wide.

Partnerships

Principle:

Develop partnerships with schools and private clubs to achieve greater use of the existing resource and develop future opportunities

Shortfalls in Open Space Provision

Principle:

Develop strategies and programs to make good the existing shortfalls in open space provision in Fairfield LGA to fully provide for the community's diverse recreation needs

Surpluses in Open Space Provision

Principle:

Develop strategies to rationalise the existing surplus provision of open space in Fairfield LGA to make the most effective use of the existing resource.

HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Undertake a Recreation Needs Study that will identify the recreation and leisure needs of the community, identify existing gaps and inform future decision making.

This investigation should focus on:

- The impacts of the ageing population, the socio-economic characteristics and cultural blend of the City.
 - Establishing what conflicts exist in the provision of recreation and identify the current and future demand on recreation facilities.
 - Identifying changes in community recreation needs and provide strategies on how the City will adapt existing open space areas to accommodate these changes.
 - Identifying opportunities for cross functional use of open space to maximise recreation opportunities for the community.
 - Liaison to provide private recreation.
 - Implement program to provide public amenities at district parks and reserves
2. Complete Council's Open Space Inventory. As a minimum, this inventory should identify all facilities in parks (including shade, paths, play equipment, seating, fencing, parking, traffic control and level of usage etc), ownership / tenure, size, location, hierarchy level, setting and planning district.
 3. Adoption of the four tier hierarchy system and its integration into the planning, management and design of all open spaces.
 - Level 1 (Serving the Western Sydney region)
 - Level 2 (Serving the recreation needs of the Fairfield Local Government Area as a whole)
 - Level 3 (Serving the recreation needs within each of the five planning districts within the LGA)
 - Level 4 (Serving the recreation needs of an individual suburb or neighbourhood)

Subcategories:

4a: larger neighbourhood parks

4b: smaller "pocket" or local parks. Refer to Figures 9, 10 and 11.

4. Adopt the five Place Management Areas as the basis of localised open space planning as follows

- Fairfield District
- Cabramatta District
- Bonnyrigg District
- Wetherill Park
- Rural District.

The development of the Recreation Needs Study should incorporate the Planning Districts. Update all Plans of Management to reflect this approach to the regional planning for open space.

5. Review existing classifications of sports facilities and identify those facilities that should be enhanced to meet the criteria and specification of a higher level.
6. Continue adopting the four tier hierarchy system and its integration into the planning, management and design of all sports facilities.
 - Level 1 (serving the Western Sydney region)
 - Level 2 (serving the recreation needs of the Fairfield Local Government Area as a whole)
 - Level 3 (serving the recreation needs within each of the five planning districts within the LGA)
 - Level 4 (serving the recreation needs of an individual suburb or neighbourhood)
7. Develop an asset register for all sports facilities that encompasses amenity buildings, sports infrastructure (e.g. goal posts and floodlighting) and playing surfaces. This register should detail an inspection schedule and a program for upgrade, renovation or replacement.
8. Prepare a Sports Strategy that identifies the current and future needs of sports within the City.
9. Continue the program of upgrading sports facilities including floodlighting, irrigation, fencing, car parking. All upgrades should be completed in accordance with the Development and Management Principles in this strategy.

All new sports facilities must be planned and designed with consideration of the impacts of these facilities on surrounding residential areas and traffic management.

10. All strategic renovations should be planned in accordance with a set of priorities based on the four tier hierarchy in this Strategy (reflecting frequency and quality).

11. Formalise strategy for the upgrading existing amenities buildings that will extend for a 10 year program. Key planning and design considerations are:
 - location where casual surveillance is optimised
 - adequate secure storage
 - adequate space/facilities for sporting clubs needs
 - vandal and fire proof external design (e.g. secure doors/windows/roofs)
 - adequate external lighting
12. Review existing classifications of parks and identify those parks that should be enhanced to meet the criteria and specification of a higher level.
13. Provide long-term shade by the provision of appropriate tree planting.
14. Develop an asset register for all parks encompassing amenity buildings, park infrastructure (eg seating, BBQ's, and play equipment). This register should detail an inspection schedule and a program for upgrade, renovation or replacement.
15. Undertake a review of all possible options for recreational use of public facilities not specifically zoned as open space, for example:
 - designated out of hours use of car parks for sports courts, skateboarding. Refer to Shortfalls in Recreation Provision
 - identifying areas where Level 4 open space is limited and develop traffic calming in quiet residential streets to provide for safer close-to-home play. Refer to Special Needs Groups for other strategies.
16. Provide for shade in the short-term by the provision of appropriate, vandal-resistant shade structures, particularly for playgrounds, seating, picnic and barbecue areas across the City.
17. Ongoing commitment to the Parks Improvement Program and achieving the ambition of the program being to *'provide unique, exciting and accessible environments for play, recreation and social interaction, promote community ownership and pride and achieve a sustainable balance between recreational use and the natural environment'*.
18. Develop two new sports court at Fairfield Leisure Centre
19. Provide open space and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities within existing open space areas, including access positive facilities.
20. Explore the opportunities for future joint sports facility development with schools and private clubs. All partnerships should be carefully prepared and managed to ensure public access to the facilities are maintained and the community obtains benefit from the partnership.

21. Continue exploring any opportunity to make good the shortfall in passive open space provision in the Middle Distance Areas by a long term program of land acquisition and redevelopment including:
 - identifying optimum/preferred locations
 - approaching landowners for long-term purchase/lease back until total area acquired
 - rezoning after completed acquisition
 - rationalising non-functional open space (eg. too small, poorly located, over-provision) and re-direction of funds to optimum/preferred locations or use as community gardens
22. Implement a program to make good the shortfall in passive open space provision in the Middle Distance Areas (including the suburbs of Cabramatta, Cabramatta West, Canley Vale, Fairfield Heights) in the short term by improvement of existing facilities and links including:
 - improved access (bus stops, safe pedestrian access, cycleways)
 - improved basic facilities (refer to Upgrading of Passive Recreation Facilities)
23. Undertake a comprehensive community consultation exercise to explore the options improve the open space provision in the residential flat areas of Fairfield and Cabramatta, including:
 - upgrading/consolidation of open space areas which have potential for greater future use
 - rationalisation/disposal of unsuitable or underutilised open space areas
24. Investigate opportunities to address shortfalls in open space to meet community demands and expectations through the adaptive reuse of existing public lands that is not used currently used for recreations.
25. Identify all areas where the community does not have safe walking access to open spaces. Develop a program for providing suitable road crossings and lighting to access nearby areas of open space.

MEDIUM PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Undertake a long term research project into the recreational needs of CALD groups. This study should be completed in conjunction with the Recreation Needs Study.
2. Ensure all Plans of Management for community open spaces are reviewed in future accordance with the categorisations and core objectives for open space as stated in the Local Government Act 1998.
3. In response to the recreation needs of the Fairfield community, continue Council's existing strategy of locating multi-purpose courts at Level 2 sports grounds. Focus should be placed on those sports identified in the Recreation Needs Study.

4. Prepare a playground strategy (as a part of the PIP) that focuses on rationalizing and prioritizing the upgrading of existing playgrounds by the following process:
 - establish play boundary zones
 - site assessment and identification of main play area in each zone
 - prioritise play boundary zones
 - develop a funding program in the new S94 plan to upgrade play areas
 - complete assessment of other play areas in priority zones
 - carry out community consultation to evaluate proposed program for upgrading and rationalisation
 - identify all surplus playgrounds
 - identify opportunities for the development of regional playgrounds, special needs playgrounds

This strategy should be used in determining allocation of PIP funding.
5. Further develop the playground strategy to establish various grades of play activity and provision for different age groups, and utilise a variety of setting types for playgrounds. Refer to Provision for Special Needs Groups.
6. Provide affordable sport and recreation opportunities for youth needs, including skateboard facility(s) and additional basketball courts, based on localised recreation needs assessments. Key considerations are:
 - location: close to commercial centres and public transport
 - affordability/accessibility: e.g. half courts, mobile facilities
 - supervision: readily observed locations
 - needs of girls/young women
 - territory: awareness of potential conflict of use

Ensure Place Managers have consulted youth prior to finalising facilities/locations
7. Provide open space and recreation opportunities for the elderly within existing open space areas
8. Provide basic open space and recreation opportunities for all cultural groups within existing open space areas
9. Complete the implementation of new Level 3 (district) parks located within the:
 - Fairfield District, and
 - Cabramatta District.
10. Assess the opportunity for providing casual sports and sports courts at:
 - Wewak Place Reserve, Bossley Park,
 - Hume Highway Reserve, Canley Vale,
 - Lansvale Reserve, Lansvale,

All new facilities must be planned and designed with consideration of the impacts of these facilities on surrounding residential areas and traffic management

11. Provide a urban skate areas at Fairfield Park or Leisure Centre that will replace the facility at the Fairfield Leisure Centre.
12. Investigate the opportunity to expand sports facilities at:
 - Avenel Park, Canley Heights,
 - Amaroo Park and Lalich Avenue Reserve, Bonnyrigg,
 - King Park, Wakeley,
 - Wilson Road, Bonnyrigg

All new sports facilities must be planned and designed with consideration of the impacts of these facilities on surrounding residential areas and traffic management.

13. As a part of masterplanning, investigate for new opportunities at the commercial centres of Cabramatta, Fairfield and Villawood, with specific attentions on parks located close to these centres.
14. Undertake a program of rationalising the provision of Level 4 parks, particularly those under 0.5 hectares in size, by considering the appropriate disposal of open space against an agreed set of criteria, using the resultant funds for improvements to facilities in existing open space areas or for acquiring land for open space to address shortfalls.
15. Investigate the possibilities of rationalising the existing provision of amenities buildings Refer also to Upgrading of Sports Facilities.
16. Identify small open space areas that can be disposed of or used for alternative to parks and reserves
17. Undertake a program of rationalising the provision of natural open space areas along creeklines where other strategies can achieve similar outcomes.

LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Investigate the option of providing synthetic playing surfaces to allow for specialised use sports, eg hockey and or soccer. Consider the long term provision of at least one synthetic playing field within the Fairfield LGA.
2. Explore the opportunities for developing partnerships with the private sector to provide additional indoor sports facilities, with particular emphasis in the short term in the Bonnyrigg District
3. Prepare business plans for each of the Leisure Centres. These plans should use the findings of the Recreation Needs Study and develop strategies for meeting the needs of the community and filling the gaps in recreation throughout the LGA.
4. Ongoing commitment to the long-term strategy for:
 - one aquatic/leisure centre serving the western sector of Fairfield LGA at Prairiewood, and
 - one aquatic/leisure centre serving the eastern sector at Fairfield

5. Develop a second sports court at Cabra Vale Leisure Centre
6. Provide larger scale, high capital cost specific open space and recreation facilities only when the results of the further investigations for CALD groups recreation needs are known. Typical issues to consider are:
 - requirements of large family groups
 - quiet space for specific activities (e.g. tai chi)
 - shade and shelter needs
 - cooking/refreshment requirements (e.g. food preparation, cooking facility design)
 - specific gender issues (e.g. Moslem women's needs)
7. Review specific play equipment for different age groups based on the proposed hierarchy for open space
8. Develop one Level 3 park as a model project for special needs groups, including access positive facilities and a sensory garden.
9. Consider promoting the development of a bmx/motorcross bike facility within Fairfield LGA, possibly within Western Sydney Regional Park in discussion with NPWS

ONGOING STRATEGIES

1. Continue commitment to the Parks Improvement Program and achieving the ambition of the program being to *'provide unique, exciting and accessible environments for play, recreation and social interaction, promote community ownership and pride and achieve a sustainable balance between recreational use and the natural environment'*.

The funding associated with the Parks Improvement Program must be reviewed annually to ensure the ambition of the program can continue to be achieved and is not diluted due to the increasing costs of open space improvements. Furthermore, adequate funding increases must be provided to maintain the parks improved under this program.

2. Ensure that specific recreation infrastructure is provided at Level 1 and Level 2 facilities with lower level facilities maintaining greater long term recreation flexibility.
3. Continually update the Open Space Inventory and Open Space Data Sheets for all open space areas that identify ownership/tenure, type, hierarchy level, planning district, background, listing of facilities within the open space and future opportunities.
4. Monitor and review the progress of all changes to open space
5. Ensure that any change to the design and use of open space does not impact negatively on the environment, restrict riparian and bushland reestablishment nor reduce water quality of the surrounding creeks.

6. Integration of streetscape strategy including improvements to laneways (where possible)
7. Continue the playing field surface renovation program
8. Continue undertaking the Condition Audit of all parks to identify all potential improvement opportunities. This audit should be used to inform the program for upgrading/renovating all existing park infrastructure.
9. Consider in the design of all small parks as a network of linked parks rather than individual parks and design these accordingly.
10. Ensure all parks are designed with the intent to maximize equal opportunity for all the community to use and enjoy the parks and progressively implement compliance with all relevant Australian Standards for access.
11. Encourage partnerships with private organisations to promote active participation in sports and recreation. For example Parks 4 People and Healthy Hearts
12. Explore opportunities for partnership with private organisations to enhance parks and streetscapes and to provide financial assistance for the ongoing maintenance of parks and streetscapes.
13. Continue to develop and manage the Fairfield Showground Site as a Level 2 Park facility.
14. Continue to develop and manage existing Level 2 sportsgrounds in the following locations within the Fairfield District: Fairfield Park, Endeavour Reserve.
15. Assess any future provision of sporting facilities against the need for a balance between the need for organised sports and the need for passive recreation.
16. Liaise with surrounding Councils with the aim of balancing recreation facilities and meeting open space needs across a number of adjoining LGA's.
17. Acquire land for open space reserves with consideration given to linkages to other surrounding open spaces and the recreational needs of the community.

ACCESS AND LINKS STRATEGIES

Public and Private Transport

Principle:

Improve public and private transport access to open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource.

Cycleways and Walking Trails

Principle:

Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource, increase opportunities for exercise and reduce vehicular traffic

Access Positive Facilities

Principle:

Provide access positive facilities for people with disabilities within open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource by special needs groups such as the disabled and elderly

Security

Principle:

Improve the security of open space areas and facilities to make more effective use of the existing resource and reduce vandalism

Safety

Principle:

Improve the safety of open space areas to protect the public and encourage greater use of the existing resource

Links

Principle:

Develop a system of links at regional, district and local level to improve access to and within the open space system thereby encouraging greater use of the existing resource

HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Continue implementation of the Green Bike Project.
2. Control car access within open space areas by use of:
 - appropriate location of car parks
 - bollards, fencing
 - planting
 - gates/vehicle barriers

3. Further develop links to regional open space (Western Sydney Regional Park, Chipping Norton Lake, Prospect Reservoir) in liaison with the relevant management organisation (e.g. NPWS) by:
 - providing cycleways/footpaths
 - acquiring land
 - removing private encroachments
 - negotiating access agreements
 - negotiate increase maintenance of CN Lakes

MEDIUM PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Develop a City wide Street Tree Planting Program. This program should identify all opportunities for improving green corridors and the amenity of streetscapes and provide guidelines for the maintenance of street tree plantings.
2. Explore the opportunities to improve the connections between the major open space areas/links, and adjacent residential areas, by the provision of cross-links in the form of :
 - cycleways
 - footpaths
 - 'green streets'
3. Undertake a Condition Audit of all walking trails and cycleways and identify all potential improvement opportunities. This audit should be used to inform the program for providing appropriate users facilities.
4. Implement a long-term program of strategically located creek crossings to increase access to open space areas and establish links.
5. Ongoing implementation of the Fairfield Bike Plan with focus placed on completing important regional routes.
6. Adopt the provisions of the Companion Animals Act in terms of :
 - restricting dog access by erecting notices to playgrounds (also by fencing), picnic/BBQ areas, and certain other areas of open space such as sportsgrounds (when in use) and creeklines
 - provide appropriately located dog faeces disposal containers or encourage a take home culture for management of dog faeces (due to cost of bins and bags and the cost of maintaining the bins)
 - provide leash-free areas for dogs within Level 2 and 3 parks where there is adequate space available without creating conflicts with other users
 - consider smaller fenced areas for leash-free use for dogs in areas where other opportunities do not exist

7. Implement a program to provide continuous access along the major creeklines by:
 - providing cycleways/footpaths
 - acquiring land (if necessary)
 - removing private encroachments
 - negotiating access agreements

LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Explore opportunities to encourage improved public transport access to open space and recreation facilities considering the following options:
 - additional provision of bus stops and services
 - extending frequency and duration of services
 - rerouting of bus services
 - relocation of bus stops
 - improved connections to railway stations and the proposed bus transitway
 - connections between off-road/on-road cycleways and rail/bus stations
2. Review the Bike Plan and include walking trails. The design of all cycleways should encompass shared pathways to encourage their use by pedestrians.
3. Implement a long-term construction program of walking trails in accordance with the above plan, with priority given to regional and important recreational routes
4. Conduct a user survey of all cycleways and walking trails to ascertain the volume of activity and to assist in identifying actual and potential conflicts.
5. Review and improve pedestrian and cycle uses of local streets. This may include:
 - Condition of the surface,
 - Pram crossings,
 - Pedestrian refuge islands
 - Bicycle lanes
 - Seating and
 - Signage.
6. Consideration should be given to the NSW Department of Planning strategy for trails and networks across Sydney. The Metro Greenspace Program has identified major regional centres at Fairfield, Prairiewood and Cabramatta.
7. Investigate the opportunity to provide storage areas within new facilities at sportsgrounds and provide storage options for sports clubs
8. Provide secure lockable bins/bin stores within open space areas to prevent bins being set alight against buildings, in liaison with Council's litter collection staff

9. Investigate and provide where appropriate additional lighting (Refer to Figure 16) including:
 - along footpaths
 - in car parks
 - adjacent to amenities buildings
10. Integrate the development of links with other strategies, for example:
 - cycleways/walking trails
 - creek crossings
 - local connections
 - public transport
11. Undertake research to determine an appropriate minimum corridor width for creeklines. Key considerations include:
 - opportunities for access
 - effectiveness as wildlife corridor
 - fragmentation of remnant bushland and 'edge effect'
 - solar penetration
 - stormwater management
 - erosion control
 - landscape character
12. Encourage pedestrian and cycle access to all open spaces in an attempt to reduce vehicle use. This can be enhanced by providing pathways and shaded walking trails.

ONGOING STRATEGIES

1. Improve car access and parking to open space areas based on the proposed hierarchy of the facility in accordance with the Development and Management Principle
2. Any major change in use of open space should be done following a consideration of potential traffic impacts on the surrounding area and pressure for on road and off road car parking.
3. Liaise with adjoining Local Government Agencies to ensure connectivity of walking trails beyond the City's boundaries.
4. Consideration should be given to allocation and design of recreation facilities to provide recreation opportunities for an ageing population (such as level grade walking trails that are serviced by amenities in areas with good surveillance).
5. Where possible, design all new and replacement facilities to be access positive in accordance with the appropriate standards including:
 - seats, picnic tables
 - BBQ's
 - shelters
 - toilets/ amenities buildings
 - footpaths

6. Where possible, design all new and replacement footpaths to be access positive in accordance with the appropriate standards including:
 - appropriate grades
 - ramps/platforms
 - tactile paving
 - handrails
7. Ensure future improvements and facilities are designed to be vandal-resistant including:
 - seats, litter bins, picnic tables
 - shelters, BBQ's
 - lighting, irrigation
 - amenities buildings
 - play equipment
8. Implement a program, as a part of the PIP, of replacing loose softfall material (e.g. bark, sand) with rubber softfall, synthetic turf or other material, to prevent danger from used syringes
9. Ensure all future planting takes account of visibility by the use of high canopy trees and limited or below eye-level shrub planting
10. Implement a program to remove major earth mounds where these are significantly affecting visibility into and within open space areas
11. Ensure the continued provision of syringe disposal containers within open space areas (especially near playgrounds) and ensure they are regularly emptied
12. Ensure the future planning and provision of open space and recreation facilities, particularly paths, car parks, amenities buildings etc, takes account of safety issues and are design in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
13. Ensure all parks and open spaces are designed maximising the surrounding passive surveillance provided by the community.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE STRATEGIES

Integrated Management

Principle:

Integrate the management of natural systems within open space areas to co-ordinate all relevant areas and achieve the widest possible range of outcomes

Remnant Bushland

Principle:

Protect and rehabilitate remnant bushland within open space areas to enhance the experience of users whilst achieving nature conservation objectives

Cultural and Natural Heritage

Principle:

Protect and interpret the cultural and natural heritage significance of open space areas to enhance the experience of users whilst maintaining the existing resource

LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Co-ordinate open space development with the findings and proposals of the Water Management Plan and the Water Sensitive Urban Design Strategy and develop the creeks use for recreational purposes including:
 - fishing
 - boating
 - canoeing
2. Continue exploring for opportunities to develop projects which achieve a range of outcomes as above (eg “Restoring the Waters” and the partnership with Mounties) and gain popular community support
3. Review the priorities for bushland rehabilitation in line with a wider set of objectives including:
 - wildlife conservation
 - open space and recreation opportunity
 - access
 - safety/security
 - stormwater management
4. Promote and encourage the “KEEP” environmental education program.
5. Consider a new Environmental Protection Zone for significant areas of remnant bushland or threatened species such as Cumberland Plain Woodland, *Acacia pubescens*, etc. Consider land management agreements with adjacent landowners

6. Protect and maintain the existing cultural/natural heritage resource with reference to heritage listed items and other sources of information (refer to Figure 10.15). Key sites for integration in the open space system include:
 - Fairfield Park
 - Heiden Park
 - Fairfield Showgrounds
 - Oakdene Park
7. Interpret cultural/natural heritage within open space areas (refer to Figure 19), in terms of:
 - published material
 - interpretation signs/boards
 - appropriate renovation or reconstruction where appropriateAll interpretation should be in languages other than English.

ONGOING STRATEGIES

1. Ensure integrated management of creeklines by co-ordinating all areas of management, including:
 - open space and recreation opportunity
 - maintenance
 - stormwater / catchment management
 - water quality
 - access
 - bushland rehabilitation
 - environmental education
2. Co-ordinate the activities of Council departments (i.e. the embellishment of open space, maintenance, drainage, bushland rehabilitation) and community groups (e.g. Creeks and Wetlands Group) involved with creeklines
3. Adopt natural solutions for stormwater management of creeklines rather than hard engineering solutions including:
 - natural creek channels
 - use of biodegradable geotextiles, wattle, plant material for erosion control
 - constructed wetlands/reed beds
 - constructed riffles
 - dual-use detention basins
4. Continue to rehabilitate remnant bushland, particularly concentrating on the upper reaches of creeklines which have most potential for rehabilitation, working towards the lower reaches. Integrate with community group programs and community education
5. Ensure that locations for amenity/cultural plantings do not compromise the integrity of remnant bushland

6. Continue to protect the remnant bushland resource by controlling the following impacts:
 - clearing and fragmentation of bushland
 - litter, dumping
 - urban run-off
 - fires
 - weed and exotic species infestation
 - antisocial behaviour (is graffiti)
7. Maintain the commitment to community bush regeneration programs and promote environmental education in these programs including the Fairfield City Indigenous Flora Park Group
8. Encourage and support community volunteer programs that are committed to the preservation and protection of the LGA's natural assets, including the "Cabramatta Creek Flying-fox Committee" and the "Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group".

MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING STRATEGIES

Maintenance

Principle:

Develop structures, programs and procedures to improve the efficiency of the maintenance of open space in the long term, improve the quality of the existing resource and reduce insurance risk

Allocation

Principle:

Ensure the allocation procedure for open space (particularly sportsgrounds) achieves equity, transparency, accountability and the highest level of use of existing facilities

Leases and Licensing

Principle:

Ensure that leasing and licensing of/within open space achieves the best outcome for the community

Management

Principle:

Develop structures and planning to improve the management of open space in the long term and increase the quality of the existing resource

Funding

Principle:

Develop financial structures and planning to make best use of all available sources of funding for open space and ensure equity and accountability in the allocation of that funding

Communication, Liaison, Education and Participation

Principle:

Establish closer liaison and partnerships with all parties involved in the planning and management of open space including Councils, the community and commercial organisations, to ensure a coordinated approach and achieve the best community outcome

Information, Promotion and Marketing

Principle:

Provide a greater level of information and promotion for open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource

HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Establish Service Level Agreement and Performance Targets to drive maintenance budgets and programmes from open space
2. Explore the advantages/disadvantages of the existing system and organisation of the maintenance of open space and amenities buildings in terms of:
 - cost minimisation
 - maintenance standards
 - efficiency
 - knowledge/skill level of staff
3. Ensure street tree maintenance is included in all maintenance schedules.
4. Complete park user surveys to identify opportunities where there will be mutual benefit for the community and local cultural clubs who want to develop open space.
5. Use the revised Open Space Strategies to inform the preparation of the new Section 94 Plan for open space
6. Prepare a comprehensive financial management plan for open space, including:
 - sources of funding
 - cost minimisation
 - revenue generation
 - cost recovery

MEDIUM PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Explore the opportunities to implement differential maintenance regimes in order to:
 - review existing maintenance
 - minimise costs
 - prioritise maintenance operations
 - achieve better environmental outcomes

Operations to address might include:

- differential mowing heights
- increased areas of bushland regeneration
- planting low native shrubs/grasses with conservation value
- planting low water demand species
- using recycled greenwaste

This should provide the basis for the development of Service Level Agreements.

2. Develop a maintenance manual for reserves which includes:
 - annual computer based calendar of seasonal maintenance tasks and required staffing
 - hierarchy of maintenance intensity
 - strategies for establishing low maintenance grass species
 - most appropriate maintenance techniques/ equipment for each type of maintenance operation
 - environmental best practices
 - re-skilling of existing staff
3. Consider the preparation of checklists for maintenance. These can also be developed to provide the basis for ongoing auditing of open space maintenance standards.
4. Continually monitor and review the options for the organisation of maintenance teams to establish the most appropriate and cost effective structure, for example:
 - different teams for different operations (e.g. one team for mowing; one team for other operations, as currently organised)
 - different teams for different areas/districts
5. Investigate opportunities to increase carrying capacity of existing sports facilities. This can be assisted by reviewing field orientation and installation of floodlighting and irrigation systems.
6. Investigate incentives to encourage shared use and multiple uses of existing sportsgrounds.
7. Investigate options for transferring selected maintenance costs of sportsgrounds to the relevant clubs. This could be addressed in a review of Fees and Charges for Open Spaces and example include charges for line marking, goal post erection, mowing and reactive maintenance due to miss use of the facilities.
8. Develop a leasing policy that responds to the proposed open space hierarchy, specifically with relation to sports facilities.
9. Review the existing strategy to protect native bush land in private ownership
10. Develop program of community education and participation with open space planning and management based on the recommendations of the workshops including:
 - major improvements to facilities
 - youth facilities
 - differential maintenance regimes
 - strategies with regard to open space provision in residential flat areas
 - bushland rehabilitation

11. Provide information (including languages other than English) regarding the opportunities for recreation within Fairfield LGA, including:
 - directory of recreation facilities including public transport access
 - adding information on open space to Councils GIS system
 - leaflets/brochures with a co-ordinated and attractive format on specific subjects (eg cycleways, walking trails, picnic/bbq areas, bushland areas, water-based activities, specific sports), eg. Parks Victoria brochures
 - newsletters on matters such as special events, people in parks, bushland rehabilitation, etc

LOW PRIORITY STRATEGIES

1. Consider entering into maintenance agreements for amenities buildings with private clubs, lessees
2. Consider entering into licenses with commercial organisations for appropriate facilities/events, for example:
 - mobile kiosks (for major events)
 - mobile bicycle hire,
 - special events (eg. festivals, markets, performances)
3. Consider entering into leases with private clubs and community groups for appropriate facilities, for example:
 - playing fields
 - multi-purpose sports courts
 - clubhouses/amenities buildings
 - cafes/kiosks
 - bicycle/boat hire
4. Ensure all leases contain appropriate provision for the following:
 - public access
 - facility improvement
 - maintenance standards
 - charges and insurance
 - review
5. Review the existing generic Plans of Management for:
 - Formal Areas
 - Open Areas
 - Bushland
 - Creeklines
6. Future review the existing plans of management for reserves as required under the Local Government Amendment Act 1998 (eg. for land containing significant natural features, habitat of endangered species, an area of cultural significance) any such permitted use or development

7. Undertake a review of Council's long term role in the management of major recreation facilities, considering Council's responsibility in providing the best possible service for the community. Possible options include:
 - Council to continue to take overall responsibility for managing centres with some private sector involvement, and to subsidise facilities to keep entry fees down
 - Council to continue to take overall responsibility for managing centres, but to seek greater private sector involvement (particularly in less profitable areas) to minimise operational losses
 - Council to divulge overall management of centres to the private sector
8. Consider the opportunities for sponsorship and commercial activities in open space areas, for example:
 - cafes/kiosks
 - bicycle/boat hire
 - sponsorship of major events, competitions
 - corporate sponsorship of capital improvements (e.g. walkways, bushland rehabilitation)
 - local business sponsorship for tree planting, bushland rehabilitation
 - community gardens (allotments)
9. Consider opportunities for joint future facility development with schools and private clubs, ensuring community access and guidelines on school use of public open space.
10. Examine appropriate structures and authority/responsibility for the community's increased role in open space management. Solution to be inter-departmental and to lead to setting up of workshops with sports, environmental, cultural and other community groups
11. Develop an education program that is focused on explaining the importance of street trees and the value of trees private yards, open spaces and streetscapes.
12. Review and update defined point(s) of contact at Council's Call Centre for all inquiries regarding open space and recreation supported with information on reserves

ONGOING STRATEGIES

1. Conduct quarterly playground inspections by an independent auditor. This may be complemented by more frequently inspections by parks staff.
2. Maintain and equitable and transparent process for the allocation of all park hire. Review booking system and waiting lists
3. Maintain the improved communications between Council and the sportsclubs. This will include communicating changes to facilities, consultation with clubs during design development and communication of all relevant details of the allocation procedure to all sporting and relevant community groups

4. Actively seek all available sources of State and Federal Government funding by establishing a Grant Application Committee to co-ordinate grant applications from all relevant Council departments, and developing a liaison structure with neighbouring Councils to pursue regional grants.
5. Actively seek partnerships with the private sector, particularly private clubs, to fund future facility development
6. Maintain inter-departmental communication during the planning, design and implementation of open space projects, such as the PIP. Channels include:
 - between City Outcomes and City Services Departments
 - between various project officers within City Outcomes to co-ordinate projects
 - between maintenance staff and managers to assess ongoing progress of implementation of strategies
 - with neighbouring Councils to achieve regional and cross-border outcomes
7. Engage in consultation with Council's Youth Committee and Access Committee when planning and design open spaces.
8. Commitment to the promotion of cycling within the LGA by supporting the Western Sydney Cycling Network and the bike hire program, based at the Fairfield Showground.
9. Continue smoke free parks education and enforcement. Particular attention should be focused on sportsgrounds.
10. Council's website should be updated frequently to provide information on open space and recreation opportunities (including languages other than English)
11. Develop contacts and issue regular releases to local media (including cultural group newspapers) to publicise major improvement and facility development projects for open space areas
12. Publicise major events to be held at open space areas (including in languages other than English), for example:
 - markets
 - concerts, performances
 - festivals
 - fairs
13. Continue the implementation of standards signage throughout the LGA.
14. Use art themes to promote environmental awareness in open space

CONCLUSIONS

The 1999 Open Space Strategy has been, in significant ways successfully implemented in conjunction with the Parks Improvement Program. Many park upgrades have been completed and the momentum is building towards providing the community with open spaces that are of a high quality and freely accessible.

However it is critical that this momentum is sustained.

To do this, Council must focus on understanding the open spaces it manages. This includes having an understanding of what is contained in the parks and reserves in addition to having information on how the community uses these spaces and what the recreation needs of the community are.

While the PIP has been successful in the past six years, a review of the allocated funding for the future is necessary. As the costs of upgrading open space increases, reducing funding will result in a reduction in the number of parks completed or a reduction in the quality of the upgrades.

It was stated in the 1999 Strategy and remains relevant today that the cost implication on Council of maintaining the open space imposes severe demands on Council operating budgets. The development of maintenance service level agreements will assist in streamlining and standardising maintenance of open space.

Council's maintenance services remain to be essentially a reactive response rather than being cyclical and planned. The formulation of long term priorities, defined maintenance standards and programs will help to reduce maintenance budgets and provide a high quality open space asset for the community.

Across the City, Council has designed and built a number of impressive parks and recreational facilities. This includes Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park, Wetherill Park and Nelson Park. While these parks represent a snap shot of the success, there remain many more parks across the City (particularly some of the smaller parks) that still require upgrading and improvements to provide the community with safe, accessible and useable open spaces.

With the demands on public open space increasing, it is necessary for Council to provide a diverse range of open space settings and identify all opportunities to develop multifunctional parks and reserves. The opportunity for Council to do this is positive, especially at Fairfield Showgrounds and Rosford Street Reserve.

Maintaining the momentum for open space by continuing with the implementation of the PIP and following the updated strategies of the 2007 Open Space Strategy can only be achieved if supported by adequate funding. The allocation of funding for the PIP should be reviewed and modified to match the current day cost of park upgrades.

APPENDIX I

Implementation commentary on the 1999 Strategies completed with input from Council officers.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITY STRATEGIES

DIVERSE RANGE OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Development of an open space resource that reflects the known and locally researched needs of a highly diverse community.</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
1. Update the Recreation Needs Study to ascertain any changes in recreation demand	No action to date. Completion of a Recreation Study remains a high priority for Council and it is recognised as being essential for ongoing planning of Council's open spaces and recreation needs.
2. Undertake a long-term research project into the recreation needs of NESB groups (involving Councils Place Managers and Cultural Officer), building on the study currently being undertaken by Parks Victoria	No action to date. There is an ongoing commitment to recognising the value of this study. This study should be completed as a part of the updated Recreation Needs Study.
3. Promote a multi-functional approach to open space planning by integrating and promoting the role of natural systems, recreational opportunities and cultural heritage in the management of public and private open space, for example by setting up an open space and recreation Project Officer Team (refer to Figure 10.1).	Strategy implemented. A multifunctional approach has been achieved in the Park Improvement Program. The PIP team includes staff from Outcomes and City Services. Reference is also made to the Catchment Management team when necessary and/or relevant expertise is brought in as required.

STRUCTURED OPEN SPACE SYSTEM	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Development of an integrated planning, management and design structure that combines setting and hierarchy planning</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
4. Adopt the four Planning Districts as the basis of localised open space planning as follows (refer to Figure 1.1 in Volume 1 Background Information): • Fairfield District • Cabramatta District • Bonnyrigg District • Wetherill Park and Rural District	Strategy partially implemented. Commitment to a specific planning basis has not been made, although reference has been made to the four planning districts in funding applications. Various different approaches have been used by Council since 1999 including suburb amalgamations and Town Centre Planning. Consistency needs to be established for planning purposes.
5. Adopt the proposed four tier hierarchy integrated into all aspects of planning, management and design (refer to Figures 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4): • Level 1 (regional) • Level 2 (LGA) • Level 3 (district) • Level 4 (neighbourhood) and classification system for open space: • natural area • sportsground • park • area of cultural significance • general community use	Strategy partially implemented. This is critical for full implementation of this strategy so as to form a baseline for future planning and management. The Hierarchy should be integrated into the Open Space Inventory.
6. Classify and establish the hierarchy for each	Strategy partially implemented as seen in the Open Space

STRUCTURED OPEN SPACE SYSTEM	
reserve and designate in the open space inventory (<i>refer to Open Space Inventory in Appendix F of Volume 3 Supporting Information</i>)	Data Sheets. This is critical for full implementation of this strategy so as to form a baseline for future planning and management.
7. Adopt the core objectives for each category of open space in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Amendment Act 1998	Strategy implemented.
8. Ensure that specific infrastructure is generally provided at higher level facilities with lower level facilities maintaining greater long-term flexibility (<i>refer to section 10.2 Development and Management Principles and Figures 10.2 and 10.3</i>)	No action to date. Active implementation of this strategy will assist with leases and funding arrangements for facilities.
9. Adopt the Development and Management Principles included in this strategy (<i>refer to section 10.2</i>)	No action to date. These Principles remain a useful toolbox and the utilisation of these Principles will assist in the future planning, design and management of open space.

UPGRADING OF SPORTS FACILITIES	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Establishment of a range of sports facilities that focuses primarily on upgrading and expanding the carrying capacity of existing resources</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
10. Undertake a staged and prioritised program of upgrading sports facilities including, floodlighting, irrigation, car parking (<i>refer to Figure 10.5</i>)	Strategy implemented Various upgrades have been completed, including floodlighting, car park and irrigation. The selection of which facilities were upgraded was based upon age and opportunity to replace older facilities. An overview of mean by which capacity for all sports can be extended should be undertaken, including lighting, drainage, artificial surfaces, water re-use etc.
11. Establish a hierarchy for playing fields and amenities buildings to help develop priorities for maintenance and renovation as follows (<i>refer also to Figure 10.2</i>): Level 1/2: serving the region/LGA area as a whole Level 3: serving one of the five districts Level 4: serving an individual suburb	Strategy implemented Evidence of adoption of the hierarchy system was located in the Plans of Management. The hierarchy of open space should also be applied to the implementation of the EAM
12. Investigate the option of providing synthetic playing surfaces to allow for specialised use sports (e.g. hockey). Consider the long-term provision of at least one synthetic playing surface within Fairfield LGA).	Strategy partially implemented. A negotiation is currently underway with Mounties Hockey Club who wishes to implement a synthetic hockey field. Council should consider selective use of artificial surfaces for open sports or for high –wear locations, such as goal mouths etc.

UPGRADING OF SPORTS FACILITIES	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
13. Continue the playing field surface renovation program in accordance with a reviewed set of priorities based on the proposed hierarchy	Strategy implemented. The playing field program is carried out annually, encompassing playing surface repairs. Council is reviewing maintenance priorities and these should be parallel priorities for key fields and facilities.
14. Continue Council's existing strategy of locating multi-purpose courts at major (Level 2) sportsgrounds	Strategy partially implemented
15. Undertake a staged and prioritised program of upgrading existing amenities buildings. Key planning and design considerations are:	Strategy implemented.
• location where casual surveillance is optimised • adequate secure storage • adequate space/facilities for sporting clubs needs • vandal and fire proof external design (e.g. secure doors/windows/roofs) • adequate external lighting	Council allocated \$100,000 per year for 5 years to upgrade security and energy conservation in amenities buildings. Currently in year 2 of the program

UPGRADING PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Progressive implementation of upgrading of basic, common open space needs (e.g. shade, access, play) throughout Fairfield LGA before developing more sophisticated facilities.</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
16. Undertake a staged and prioritised program of upgrading existing basic recreation facilities including, cycleways/footpaths, seating, picnic tables, play equipment, car parking, lighting and planting (refer to Figure 10.6)	Strategy implemented. The PIP is a prioritised program for providing playgrounds, circuit paths, shared paths, seating, shade planting, etc. Some playground upgrades were undertaken using s94 funds commencing in 1998.
17. Provide for shade in the short-term by the provision of appropriate, vandal-resistant shade structures, particularly for playgrounds, seating, picnic and barbecue areas	Strategy partially implemented. Some picnic seating installed in some parks under PIP with shade structures erected in select locations only, i.e. Fairfield Heights Park and Wetherill Park Reserve. Furthermore, weather awnings have been added to some amenities buildings. Further implementation is required across the City.
18. Provide long-term shade by the provision of appropriate tree planting	Strategy implemented. Planting have been carried out under the PIP including street plantings that will provide shade along pathways. Ongoing commitment is required.

UPGRADING PASSIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

19. Adopt the playground strategy recommended by the 1997 Recreation Needs Study to rationalise and prioritise the upgrading of existing playgrounds by the following process: • establish play boundary zones • site assessment and identification of main play area in each zone • prioritise play boundary zones • develop a funding program in the new S94 plan to upgrade play areas • complete assessment of other play areas in priority zones • carry out community consultation to evaluate proposed program for upgrading and rationalisation • rationalise surplus sites	No action to date. A playground strategy remains a requirement and will assist in identifying the actual need of the community and provide the basis for decision making on rationalisation and or implementation of additional facilities. Works on the ground have been conducted with funding from the PIP. This commenced in 2000/01.
20. Further develop the playground strategy to establish various grades of play activity and provision for different age groups, and utilise a variety of setting types for playgrounds (<i>refer to 9.2.37 Special Needs Groups</i>)	No action to date. Refer to comment above
21. Consider developing an outdoor entertainment amphitheatre located in a major open space (e.g. Fairfield Showgrounds Site) where a regional audience could be accommodated without conflict with local residential areas.	Strategy no longer relevant. Whilst an outdoor entertainment amphitheatre area has not been developed, there was the intention to incorporate an area as an outdoor community space into the design for Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park. Construction of the park is complete; however the mentioned area is limited.
22. Undertake a review of all possible options for recreational use of public facilities not specifically zoned as open space, for example: • designated out of hours use of car parks for sports courts, skateboarding (<i>refer to 9.2.48 Shortfalls in Recreation Provision</i>) • identifying areas where Level 4 open space is limited and develop traffic calming in quiet residential streets to provide for safer close-to-home play (<i>refer to Special Needs Groups for other strategies</i>)	No action to date

PROVISION OF INDOOR FACILITIES

PRINCIPLES

Provision of additional/improved indoor sports opportunities to address the shortfall in provision within Fairfield LGA over time

1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
23. Promote the provision of expanded/additional indoor sports opportunities at Council's two main leisure centres at Prairiewood and Fairfield	Strategy implemented. Considerable works have been completed in the expansion of the Prairiewood and Fairfield Leisure Centres.
24. Explore the opportunities for the redevelopment of Cabramatta Swimming Centre to provide additional indoor sports facilities, based on the localised recreation needs study. In particular investigate the following aspects: • district/local community needs • cultural issues (e.g. NESB needs, mixed gender use, etc. Refer also to Special Needs Groups) • nature of facilities preferred/likely to be used	Strategy implemented. Construction commenced and expected completion in March 2007. A component of this is additional sports courts.

PROVISION OF INDOOR FACILITIES	
25. Explore the opportunities for developing partnerships with the private sector to provide additional indoor sports facilities, with particular emphasis in the short term on Bonnyrigg District	No action taken to date. Partnerships with the private sector offer opportunities to develop additional facilities with a possibility of a reduction in funding required by Council.
26. Explore the opportunities for encouraging greater community access to indoor sports facilities owned by schools and other organisations by: • setting up workshops with all school principals to agree strategies • establishing a co-ordinated strategy for insurance liability • establishing a policy on cross funding and maintenance • establishing management and review procedures	Strategy no longer relevant. Council did have a partnership agreement with Prairiewood High School, however Council maintained the ground and the school was not cooperative in allowing community use of the playing field. PLA is undertaking this on behalf of NSW, maybe open opportunities at a local level

LEISURE CENTRES	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Adopt Council's proposed strategy to develop two primary multi-use leisure centres to serve the Fairfield LGA, and redevelop the Cabramatta Swimming Centre primarily as an indoor sports facility</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
27. Implement the proposed long-term strategy for: • one aquatic/leisure centre serving the western sector of Fairfield LGA at Prairiewood, and • one aquatic/leisure centre serving the eastern sector at Fairfield (refer to Figure 9.1, and to 9.5.20 and 9.5.21 Management for strategies relating to future Council management of leisure centres)	Strategy partially implemented. This strategy was considered when developing the Cabra Vale Leisure Centre.
28. Undertake further investigations to determine the priorities and timescale for the provision of additional recreation opportunities at Council's two major leisure centres including: • a new 50m pool at Prairiewood • new indoor sports courts at Prairiewood and additional indoor sports courts at Fairfield • additional health and fitness areas at both centres • improved changing facilities/reception area at Fairfield	Strategy implemented. The completion of Prairiewood pool complete – 50m outdoor /heated and improvements to gym and foyer areas and Fairfield - improvements to foyer, gym and work out areas. New roofing over indoor pool.
29. Explore the opportunities to redevelop the Cabramatta Swimming Centre predominantly as an indoor sports facility with reduced aquatic facilities, specifically catering for youth needs, based on the feasibility study (refer to Figure 9.1)	Strategy implemented. The redevelopment of the Cabramatta Swimming Center is currently under construction
30. Undertake additional research to determine the specific planning and design criteria for the redeveloped Cabramatta Swimming Centre	Strategy implemented. This was done using the Community Cultural Planning approach: achieved highly commended award at recent PLA NSW regional awards for Open Space Planning.

PROVISION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

PROVISION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Establish the core requirements of special needs groups and integrate into the planning and management of the open space system</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
31. Provide affordable sport and recreation opportunities for youth needs, including skateboard facility(s) and additional basketball courts, based on localised recreation needs assessments. Key considerations are: • location: close to commercial centres and public transport • affordability/accessibility: e.g. half courts, mobile facilities • supervision: readily observed locations • needs of girls/young women • territory: awareness of potential conflict of use Ensure Place Managers have consulted youth prior to finalising facilities/locations	Strategy partially implemented. Skate parks have been constructed at Emerson St Reserve and Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park. Basketball court has been constructed at Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park and Peter Lee Reserve
32. Provide open space and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities within existing open space areas, including access positive facilities	Strategy implemented. The PIP provides opportunities where possible for accessible playgrounds and pathway links to open space and cycleway network.
33. Provide open space and recreation opportunities for the elderly within existing open space areas	Strategy implemented. The PIP included circuit paths, shared paths connected to the street network, seating, shade, passive surveillance and safety.
34. Provide basic open space and recreation opportunities for all cultural groups within existing open space areas	Strategy partially implemented. The PIP considers opportunities for culturally specific recreation facilities.
35. Provide larger scale, high capital cost specific open space and recreation facilities only when the results of the further investigations for NESB groups recreation needs are known. Typical issues to consider are: • requirements of large family groups • quiet space for specific activities (e.g. tai chi) • shade and shelter needs • cooking/refreshment requirements (e.g. food preparation, cooking facility design) • specific gender issues (e.g. Moslem women's needs)	No action taken to date. Limited information has been collected via PIP consultations. Further studies are necessary to provide culturally specific recreation facilities.
36. Develop one Level 3 park as a model project for special needs groups, including access positive facilities and a sensory garden (<i>refer to Figure 9.1</i>)	No action taken to date. Inaction has been due to funding limitations.
37. Provide specific play equipment for different age groups based on the proposed hierarchy for open space: • toddlers (0-4 years): Level 2/3/4 facilities • children (5-9 years): Level 2/3/4 facilities • older children/teenagers (10-14 years): Level 2 facilities	Strategy partially implemented. The Smith Family provides funds for an artist to be involved in the development of playgrounds in parks in the 2165 post code area for playgrounds to suits 0 – 5 years

PARNTERSHIPS	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Develop partnerships with schools and private clubs to achieve greater use of the existing resource and develop future opportunities</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
38. Explore the opportunities for the further community use of schools facilities (refer also to provision of Indoor Sports Facilities)	Strategy no longer relevant.
39. Explore the opportunities for future joint facility development with schools and private clubs	Strategy no longer relevant. Note new school fencing policy and programs – affects what used to be successful shared –community spaces in schools in other LGA's. Parks and Leisure Australia – NSW region is taking up this issue with the Department of Education.

SHORTFALLS IN OPEN SPACE PROVISION	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Develop strategies and programs to make good the existing shortfalls in open space provision in Fairfield LGA to fully provide for the community's diverse recreation needs</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
40. Continue to develop and manage existing Level 2 sportsgrounds in the following locations (refer to Figure 9.1): • Fairfield District: Fairfield Park, Endeavour Reserve • Wetherill Park District: Brenan Park, Rosford Street Reserve	Strategy partially implemented Projects completed: Rosford Street Reserve Projects under construction: Brenan Park
41. Further develop existing facilities as Level 2 sportsgrounds (eg. by providing multi-purpose sports courts, improving existing facilities) in the following locations (refer to Figure 9.1): • Cabramatta District: Cabramatta Sportsground • Bonnyrigg District: Tarlington Parade Reserve	Strategy completed. Cabramatta Sports Ground leased to Cabramatta Leagues Club – they have provided extra floodlighting, and grandstand however the amenities at Tarlington Pde was demolished due to ongoing vandalism.
42. Continue to develop and manage the Fairfield Showgrounds Site as a Level 2 park facility (refer to Figure 9.1)	This is an ongoing strategy that should be continued.
43. Develop four Level 3 (district) parks, broadly serving the districts of Fairfield, Cabramatta, Bonnyrigg and Wetherill Park as follows (refer to Figure 9.1): • Fairfield District: Fairfield Park/Heiden Park (combined sportsground/park linked across creek) • Cabramatta District: Strong/Howard/Shearer/Hollywood Park (combined lake foreshore park) • Bonnyrigg District: new park at Bonnyrigg Town Centre (town centre park, including wetlands, adjacent to new bus transitway station) • Wetherill Park District: Wetherill Park Reserve (park serving both residential and industrial areas)	Strategy partially implemented. Implementation of this strategy has resulted in the completion of following projects: Fairfield Link, Bonnyrigg Town Centre – Stage 1, and Wetherill Park Reserve – Stage 1. Key parks in the 1999 Strategy remain applicable for development.

SHORTFALLS IN OPEN SPACE PROVISION	
44. Implement a program to make good the shortfall in passive open space provision in the Middle Distance Areas (including the suburbs of Cabramatta, Cabramatta West, Canley Vale, Fairfield Heights) in the short term by improvement of existing facilities and links including: • improved access (bus stops, safe pedestrian access, cycleways) • improved basic facilities (refer to Upgrading of Passive Recreation Facilities)	Strategy partially implemented PIP, where possible provides links to facilities and retail areas however there is an ongoing need for more open space in middle distance areas.
45. Explore the opportunities to make good the shortfall in passive open space provision in the Middle Distance Areas by a long term program of land acquisition and redevelopment including: • identifying optimum/preferred locations • approaching landowners for long-term purchase/lease back until total area acquired • rezoning after completed acquisition • rationalising non-functional open space (eg. too small, poorly located, over-provision) and re-direction of funds to optimum/preferred locations (Refer to section 10.4 Rationalisation)	Strategy partially implemented Some land acquisition has occurred, allowing for the development of training soccer field at Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Bonnyrigg Town Centre and Togil Street for cycleway construction. Other sites are currently in negotiation. Ongoing exploration of new areas of open space is required to continue.
46. Undertake a comprehensive community consultation exercise to explore the options improve the open space provision in the residential flat areas of Fairfield and Cabramatta, including: • upgrading/consolidation of open space areas which have potential for greater future use (eg. providing seats, shade, planting, play equipment, additional lighting and footpaths, improving visibility) • rationalisation/disposal of unsuitable or underutilised open space areas (eg. converting areas to other uses or into semi-private, enclosed open space under the control of residents)	No action to date. There is very little open space to support residential flat dwellers in either areas. Some data is available that has identified open space area that is not suitable to be developed/ retained as an adequate open space resource. These areas were identified during the update of the Plans of Management from 2000
47. Undertake a comprehensive program to improve the open space provision in the older commercial centres of Cabramatta, Fairfield and Villawood (particularly parks close to the centres and urban open space), as part of a wider economic and social strategy based on community consultation, including (refer to Figure 9.1): • upgrading Cabravale Park (considering the future role of the PCYC) as a town centre park serving Cabramatta commercial centre • upgrading The Crescent in Fairfield commercial centre	Strategy partially implemented. Implementation has included the completion of Hilwa Park, Villawood and Cabra Vale Park scheduled for completion in 06/07. Furthermore a concept Masterplan for Fairfield Town Centre is currently being reviewed.
48. Provide a skateboard facility(s) located in the following locations: • Fairfield District: Level 2 facility at Fairfield Park (upgrading/replacing the existing facility at Fairfield Leisure Centre) • Cabramatta District: Level 3 facility at the redeveloped Cabramatta Swimming Centre • Bonnyrigg District: Level 3 facility at the new town centre park • Wetherill Park District: Level 3 facility at Wetherill Park Reserve and consider a basic mobile facility as a short term and/or complimentary measure (as per North Sydney Council model)	Strategy implemented. Skateparks completed to date are Emerson St Reserve, Wetherill Park Reserve and Bonnyrigg Saket Park. Consultation identified that a skatepark at Cabramatta was not needed and the decision of the Fairfield location is still to be determined.

SHORTFALLS IN OPEN SPACE PROVISION

49. Consider promoting the development of a bmx/motorcross bike facility within Fairfield LGA, possibly within Western Sydney Regional Park in discussion with NPWS	No action to date. Through the completion of a Recreation Needs Study, Council will be able to determine if there is a community need for this type of facility. Following this, consideration could be given a partnership with the Western Sydney Parklands.

SURPLUSES IN OPEN SPACE PROVISION**PRINCIPLES**

Develop strategies to rationalise the existing surplus provision of open space in Fairfield LGA to make the most effective use of the existing resource.

1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
50. Undertake a program of rationalising the provision of Level 4 parks, particularly those under 0.5 hectares in size, by considering the appropriate disposal of open space against an agreed set of criteria, using the resultant funds for improvements to facilities in existing open space areas or for acquiring land for open space to address shortfalls.	Strategy partially implemented. Some areas of open space have been identified as possible surplus. However this needs to be reviewed to ensure that open space provision is adequate to meet the needs of existing and future demands.
51. Investigate the possibilities of rationalising the existing provision of amenities buildings (refer also to 9.2.15 Upgrading of Sports Facilities)	Strategy partially implemented. There is a need to identify the surplus and deficit both for the present day and for the future. The Recreation Needs Study is critical for doing this.

ACCESS AND LINKS STRATEGIES

PUBLIC / PRIVATE TRANSPORT	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Improve public and private transport access to open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource.</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
1. Improve car access and parking to open space areas based on the proposed hierarchy of the facility in accordance with the Development and Management Principles	Strategy partially implemented. Projects completed to date include parking along Daniel Street for Wetherill Park Reserve and design for more parking in Fairfield Park.
2. Explore opportunities to encourage improved public transport access to open space and recreation facilities considering the following options: • additional provision of bus stops and services • extending frequency and duration of services • rerouting of bus services • relocation of bus stops • improved connections to railway stations and the proposed bus transitway • connections between off-road/on-road cycleways and rail/bus stations	Strategy partially implemented. An ongoing commitment to this strategy is needed to maximise the opportunities for the community to use public transport to recreation facilities.

CYCLEWAYS / WALKING TRAILS	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource, increase opportunities for exercise and reduce vehicular traffic</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
3. Implement a long-term program of strategically located creek crossings to increase access to open space areas and establish links	Strategy partially implemented. Further creek crossings are required to maximise linkages through open space areas.
4. Construct the final lengths of the Cycleway at the west and east ends to link Western Sydney Regional Park with Railway Parade at Canley Vale (refer to Figure 9.2)	COMPLETED
5. Implement the long-term construction program of cycleways in accordance with Fairfield City's Bikeplan, with priority given to regional and important recreational routes	Strategy partially implemented. Key links identified in the 1995 Bike Plan are still to be implemented.
6. Prepare a plan for the provision of strategically located walking trails (where additional to cycleways)	Strategy partially implemented. The use of shared pathways and the provision of amenities along the cycleways will encourage the use of cycleways as walking trails.
7. Implement a long-term construction program of walking trails in accordance with the above plan, with priority given to regional and important recreational routes	Strategy partially implemented. The use of shared pathways and the provision of amenities along the cycleways will encourage the use of cycleways as walking trails.

CYCLEWAYS / WALKING TRAILS	
8. Explore the opportunities to improve the connections between the major open space areas/links, and adjacent residential areas, by the provision of cross-links in the form of : • cycleways • footpaths • 'green streets' (refer to Figure 9.2 and Figure 10.11)	Strategy partially implemented. A review of the existing connections should be undertaken and all connections that require improvement are identified for programmed upgrade.

ACCESS POSITIVE FACILITIES	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Provide access positive facilities for people with disabilities within open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource by special needs groups such as the disabled and elderly</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
9. Where possible, design all new and replacement facilities to be access positive in accordance with the appropriate standards (refer to Figure 10.10) including: • seats, picnic tables • BBQ's • shelters • toilets/ amenities buildings • footpaths	Strategy implemented. Commitment to this strategy should be ongoing to provide equal access across the City, where possible.
10. Where possible, design all new and replacement footpaths to be access positive in accordance with the appropriate standards (refer to Figure 10.10) including: • appropriate grades • ramps/platforms • tactile paving • handrails	Strategy implemented. Commitment to this strategy should be ongoing to provide equal access across the City, where possible.
11. Develop one Level 3 park as a model project for special needs groups, including access positive facilities and a sensory garden. Suggested locations include: • Wetherill Park Reserve • Bonnyrigg town centre park • Strong/Howard/Shearer/Hollywood Park (refer to Figure 9.2)	Strategy implemented. Special needs playground constructed in Wetherill Park Reserve

SECURITY	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Improve the security of open space areas and facilities to make more effective use of the existing resource and reduce vandalism</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
12. Provide secure lockable bins/bin stores within open space areas to prevent bins being set alight against buildings, in liaison with Council's litter collection staff (refer to Figure 10.12)	Strategy implemented. Strategic placement of these bins has occurred, such as at skateparks. Otto bins are provided at sportsgrounds where local sports clubs are responsible for care and management of the bins.

13. Provide secure long-term storage for sporting clubs within sportsgrounds (refer also to 9.2.15 Upgrading of Sports Facilities)	Strategy no longer relevant. Clubs provide their own storage facilities. However storage has been incorporated into new facilities constructed at Horsley Park Reserve. There are current conditions of hire that preclude storing of equipment in the buildings.
14. Control car access within open space areas by use of: • appropriate location of car parks • bollards, fencing • planting • gates/vehicle barriers (refer to Figure 10.12)	Strategy partially implemented. Vehicle management is being installed within the parks and reserves in consultation with the outdoor parks staff with the aim of providing suitable access for maintenance and mowing practices.
15. Ensure future improvements and facilities are designed to be vandal-resistant including: • seats, litter bins, picnic tables • shelters, BBQ's • lighting, irrigation • amenities buildings • play equipment	Strategy implemented. The prevention of vandalism is a priority consideration when installing new items across the City.

SAFETY

PRINCIPLES

Improve the safety of open space areas to protect the public and encourage greater use of the existing resource

1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
16. Implement a program to remove/thin existing understorey/shrub planting where this is significantly affecting visibility into and within open space areas (refer to Figure 10.12)	Strategy implemented. This strategy is implemented as a part of the PIP and should be and ongoing strategy for open space.
17. Ensure all future planting takes account of visibility by the use of high canopy trees and limited or below eye-level shrub planting (refer to Figure 10.12)	Strategy implemented. This strategy is implemented as a part of the PIP and should be and ongoing strategy for open space.
18. Implement a program to remove major earth mounds where these are significantly affecting visibility into and within open space areas (refer to Figure 10.12)	Strategy implemented. This strategy is implemented as a part of the PIP and should be and ongoing strategy for open space.
19. Provide additional lighting (refer to Figure 10.12) including: • along cycleways/footpaths • in car parks • adjacent to amenities buildings	Strategy implemented. This strategy is implemented as a part of the PIP and should be and ongoing strategy for open space.
20. Explore the option of installing security cameras in select locations at major open space and recreation facilities and in urban open space as a joint venture with users.	Strategy no longer relevant No action was taken due to financial limitations.
21. Ensure the continued provision of syringe disposal containers within open space areas (especially near playgrounds) and ensure they are regularly emptied	Strategy implemented. This strategy is implement as a part of the PIP and should be and ongoing strategy for open space. Syringe bins installed at all sportsgrounds and Bolivia Park, Cabramatta
22. Implement a program of replacing loose softfall material (eg. bark, sand) with rubber tiles to prevent danger from used syringes in accordance with the playground strategy (refer to 9.2.19 Upgrading of Passive Recreation Facilities)	Strategy implemented. Stage 1 completed to bring playgrounds to compliance with Australian Standards. Upgrade will continue under PIP with replacement of either synthetic surface or rubber wetpour.

SAFETY	
23. Ensure the future planning and provision of open space and recreation facilities, particularly paths, car parks, amenities buildings etc, takes account of safety issues	Strategy partially implemented. Safety audits are carried out in various areas and in liaison with the Safety Audit Committee
24. Adopt the provisions of the Companion Animals Act in terms of : • restricting dog access by erecting notices to playgrounds (also by fencing), picnic/BBQ areas, and certain other areas of open space such as sportsgrounds (when in use) and creeklines • provide appropriately located dog faeces disposal containers • provide leash-free areas for dogs within Level 2 and 3 parks where there is adequate space available without creating conflicts with other users • consider smaller fenced areas for leash-free use for dogs in areas where other opportunities do not exist	Strategy partially implemented. Two specific areas have been developed of dog based recreation. These are located in Canley Vale and Wakeley.

LINKS	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Develop a system of links at regional, district and local level to improve access to and within the open space system thereby encouraging greater use of the existing resource</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
25. Implement a program to provide continuous access along the major creeklines by: • providing cycleways/footpaths • acquiring land (if necessary) • removing private encroachments • negotiating access agreements (refer to Figure 9.2 and 10.13)	Strategy partially implemented. Projects completed to date include Orphans School Creek Cycleway and Prospect Creek Cycleway. Works in progress are located along the Cabramatta Creek Cycleway under construction. Ongoing commitment is necessary to provide a completed network across the City.
26. Further develop links to regional open space (Western Sydney Regional Park, Chipping Norton Lake, Prospect Reservoir) in liaison with the relevant management organisation (e.g. NPWS) by: • providing cycleways/footpaths • acquiring land • removing private encroachments • negotiating access agreements (refer to Figure 9.2)	Strategy partially implemented. This is an ongoing relationship between the Western Sydney Regional Park and other surrounding Councils.
27. Undertake research to determine an appropriate minimum corridor width for creeklines. Key considerations include: • opportunities for access • effectiveness as wildlife corridor • fragmentation of remnant bushland and 'edge effect' • solar penetration • stormwater management • erosion control • landscape character	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to provide a sustainable network across the City.
28. Integrate the development of links with other strategies, for example: • cycleways/walking trails	Strategy partially implemented.

LINKS

- creek crossings
- local connections
- public transport
- extended heritage trail

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE STRATEGIES

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Integrate the management of natural systems within open space areas to co-ordinate all relevant areas and achieve the widest possible range of outcomes</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
1. Co-ordinate the activities of Council departments (ie. the embellishment of open space, maintenance, drainage, bushland rehabilitation) and community groups (eg Creeks and Wetlands Group) involved with creeklines	Strategy partially implemented. This strategy is implement as a part of the PIP and should be and ongoing strategy for open space. Bush Regeneration has a strong community program.
2. Ensure integrated management of creeklines by co-ordinating all areas of management, including: • open space and recreation opportunity • maintenance • stormwater/catchment management • water quality • access • bushland rehabilitation (refer to Figure 10.14)	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to provide a sustainable and healthy network of creeks within the City.
3. Explore opportunities to develop projects which achieve a range of outcomes as above (eg "Restoring the Waters") and gain popular community support	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to provide a sustainable and healthy network of creeks within the City.
4. Adopt natural solutions for stormwater management of creeklines rather than hard engineering solutions including: • natural creek channels • use of biodegradable geotextiles, wattle, plant material for erosion control • constructed wetlands/reed beds • constructed riffles • dual-use detention basins	Strategy partially implemented. All naturalization should be done where there will not be conflicts with existing recreation opportunities. There needs to be a balance between natural creek solutions and recreation.
5. Co-ordinate open space development with the findings and proposals of the Stormwater Management Plan for Prospect Creek Catchment and develop the creeks use for recreational purposes including: • fishing • boating • canoeing	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to provide a sustainable and healthy network of creeks and waterways within the City

REMNANT BUSHLAND	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Protect and rehabilitate remnant bushland within open space areas to enhance the experience of users whilst achieving nature conservation objectives</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
6. Continue to protect the remnant bushland resource by controlling the following impacts: • clearing and fragmentation of bushland • litter, dumping • urban run-off • fires • weed and exotic species infestation (refer to Figure 9.3)	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to ensure the integrity of natural areas within the City.
7. Review the priorities for bushland rehabilitation in line with a wider set of objectives including: • wildlife conservation • open space and recreation opportunity • access • safety/security • stormwater management	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to ensure the integrity of natural areas within the City.
8. Consider a new Environmental Protection Zone for significant areas of remnant bushland or threatened species such as Cumberland Plain Woodland, <i>Acacia pubescens</i> , etc (refer to Figure 4.6 in Volume 1). Consider land management agreements with adjacent landowners.	No action to date.
9. Continue to rehabilitate remnant bushland, particularly concentrating on the upper reaches of creeklines which have most potential for rehabilitation, working towards the lower reaches. Integrate with community group programs and community education (refer to Figures 9.3, 10.14 and to 9.5.34).	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to ensure the integrity of natural areas within the City.
10. Ensure that locations for amenity/cultural plantings do not compromise the integrity of remnant bushland	Strategy partially implemented. Ongoing commitment is necessary to ensure the integrity of natural areas within the City.

CULTURAL / NATURAL HERITAGE	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Protect and interpret the cultural and natural heritage significance of open space areas to enhance the experience of users whilst maintaining the existing resource</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
11. Protect and maintain the existing cultural/natural heritage resource with reference to heritage listed items and other sources of information (refer to Figure 10.15). Key sites for integration in the open space system include: • Fairfield Park • Heiden Park • Fairfield Showgrounds • Oakdene Park • Carrawood Park	Strategy partially implemented. A listing of all cultural and natural heritage items is of a high importance.

CULTURAL / NATURAL HERITAGE	
12. Interpret cultural/natural heritage within open space areas (refer to Figure 10.15), in terms of: • published material • interpretation signs/boards • appropriate renovation or reconstruction where appropriate including in languages other than English	Strategy implemented. Interpretative artworks have been installed in Wetherill Park Reserve, Prospect Creek (Warali Wali), Day Street Park and Fairfield Heights Park. This type of approach should be encouraged.
13. Utilise the major links along the creeklines to extend the heritage trail (refer to Figure 9.3)	Strategy no longer relevant. The Heritage Trail was not developed, was only a proposal at the time. Council does not consider this a priority in the long term.

MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING STRATEGIES

MAINTENANCE	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Develop structures, programs and procedures to improve the efficiency of the maintenance of open space in the long term, improve the quality of the existing resource and reduce insurance risk</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
1. Develop long-term priorities and planned maintenance programs for open space	Strategy partially implemented. PIP aligns capital works with maintenance. Council's asset management staff are involved with the design and the development of the parks.
2. Explore the opportunities to implement differential maintenance regimes (refer to Figure 10.16) in order to: • review existing maintenance • minimise costs • prioritise maintenance operations • achieve better environmental outcomes Operations to address might include: • differential mowing heights • increased areas of bushland regeneration • planting low native shrubs/grasses with conservation value • planting low water demand species • using recycled greenwaste	No action to date. It is intended that Service Level Agreements are prepared to address this strategy.
3. Develop one Level 3 reserve as a model project for the implementation of differential maintenance regimes for the purposes of community education, staff training and outcome monitoring	Strategy no longer relevant.
4. Establish Level Of Service and Performance Targets to drive maintenance budgets and programmes for open space	Strategy partially completed. More work must be done to included Council's building assets.
5. Develop a maintenance manual for reserves (refer to section 10.3) which includes: • annual computer based calendar of seasonal maintenance tasks and required staffing • hierarchy of maintenance intensity • strategies for establishing low maintenance grass species • most appropriate maintenance techniques/ equipment for each type of maintenance operation • environmental best practices • re-skilling of existing staff	No action to date. This strategy remains relevant and when completed will give Council a planned and strategic maintenance program for open space.
6. Review the options for the organisation of maintenance teams to establish the most appropriate and cost effective structure, for example: • different teams for different operations (eg. one team for mowing; one team for other operations, as currently organised) • different teams for different areas/districts	Strategy partially implemented. The review of maintenance teams should be done as a part of developing the Service Level Agreements.
7. Continue maintenance team inspections and regular 6 monthly play equipment inspections to ensure reduced risk and insurance liability and review the effectiveness of these inspections	Strategy implemented. All playgrounds now comply with the current Australian Standards and are inspected regularly.

MAINTENANCE	
8. Develop a regular inspection and long-term planned maintenance program for amenities buildings	Strategy partially implemented. Some inspections have been carried out. The proposed asset management tools will assist with this.
9. Consider entering into maintenance agreements for amenities buildings with private clubs, lessees.	No action to date.
10. Explore the advantages/disadvantages of the existing system and organisation of the maintenance of open space and amenities buildings in terms of: • cost minimisation • maintenance standards • efficiency • knowledge/skill level of staff	No action to date. This strategy remains relevant and when completed will give Council a planned and strategic maintenance program for open space.
11. Establish a "Parks Watch" program and hot line to encourage members of the public to contact the Council with information as to day-to-day work urgently required in a reserve, and act immediately to deter continued vandalism (eg. Hobart City Council).	Strategy no longer relevant. Whilst this has not been established, the local community is fairly vigilant in reporting vandalism/damage in open space areas, which we respond to as soon as possible.

ALLOCATION	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Ensure the allocation procedure for open space (particularly sportsgrounds) achieves equity, transparency, accountability and the highest level of use of existing facilities</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
12. Review the existing allocation procedure to ensure equity, transparency and accountability	Strategy implemented. The current process is equitable and transparent
13. Communicate details of the allocation procedure to all sporting and relevant community groups	Strategy implemented. Regular communication with clubs and associations will assist Council in determining the needs of each sport and prepare strategies to meet these needs.
14. Undertake a review of possible options to extend the use of existing sports facilities through multiple use by different groups (eg. schools, private clubs, community groups) at different times including: • providing additional floodlighting • multi-purpose sports courts • multiple use of playing fields	Strategy implemented. Current capacity is being reached by clubs and associations. Each park is currently used by at least 3 different users. To extend carrying capacity, floodlight upgrades have been carried out. Additional funds have been requested from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation under the Capital Assistance Grants.

LEASING AND LICENSING	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Ensure that leasing and licensing of/within open space achieves the best outcome for the community</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
15. Consider entering into licenses with commercial organisations for appropriate facilities/events, for example: • mobile kiosks (for major events) • mobile bicycle hire • special events (eg. festivals, markets, performances)	Strategy partially implemented. Investigate licensed opportunities.
16. Consider entering into leases with private clubs and community groups for appropriate facilities, for example: • playing fields • multi-purpose sports courts • clubhouses/amenities buildings • cafes/kiosks • bicycle/boat hire	Strategy partially implemented. Investigate lease opportunities. This should be done with reference to meeting the needs of sports clubs as well as the recreation needs of the wider community.
17. Ensure all leases contain appropriate provision for the following: • public access • facility improvement • maintenance standards • charges and insurance • review (refer to Development and Management Principles)	No action to date Currently there is no monitoring of the leases with sporting clubs. There is a continuing confusion within Council as to who has responsibility, i.e. property, CS or COD. This must be resolved then followed by implementation of the strategy.
18. Develop a leasing policy that responds to the proposed open space hierarchy, specifically with relation to sports facilities (refer to section 10.3 and Development and Management Principles))	No action to date This remains to be a relevant strategy and should be implemented.

MANAGEMENT	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Develop structures and planning to improve the management of open space in the long term and increase the quality of the existing resource</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
19. Use the Open Space Strategy to inform the preparation of the new Section 94 Plan for open space	Strategy implemented.
20. Continue the current management system of major recreation facilities (eg. leisure and swimming centres) by Self Directed Team Management Structure in the short to medium term.	Strategy implemented. The Leisure Centres, Showground and Golf Course are under the one Business Unit Manager.

MANAGEMENT	
21. Undertake a review of Council's long term role in the management of major recreation facilities, considering Council's responsibility in providing the best possible service for the community. Possible options include: • Council to continue to take overall responsibility for managing centres with some private sector involvement, and to subsidise facilities to keep entry fees down • Council to continue to take overall responsibility for managing centres, but to seek greater private sector involvement (particularly in less profitable areas) to minimise operational losses • Council to divulge overall management of centres to the private sector	No action to date.
22. Explore the possibility of establishing a Fairfield Sports Council to administer sportsgrounds within Fairfield LGA, including: • maintenance • allocation • licensing/leasing • grant funding	Strategy no longer relevant. This is not considered viable for future consideration.
23. Review the existing generic Plans of Management for: • Formal Areas • Open Areas • Bushland • Creeklines	Strategy implemented. Ongoing review of these plans should be completed to reflect changes in community needs and usage patterns of open space.
24. Prepare Plans of Management for reserves as required under the Local Government Amendment Act 1998 (eg. for land containing significant natural features, habitat of endangered species, an area of cultural significance) which: • specify the purposes for which the land, and any buildings, will be permitted to be used • specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or license or otherwise • describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development	Strategy implemented. Ongoing review of these plans should be completed to reflect changes in community needs and usage patterns of open space.

FUNDING	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Develop financial structures and planning to make best use of all available sources of funding for open space and ensure equity and accountability in the allocation of that funding</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
25. Prepare a comprehensive financial management plan for open space, including: • sources of funding • cost minimisation • revenue generation • cost recovery (refer to section 11.0)	No action to date

FUNDING	
26. Actively seek all available sources of State and Federal Government funding by establishing a Grant Application Committee to co-ordinate grant applications from all relevant Council departments, and developing a liaison structure with neighbouring Councils to pursue regional grants (refer to section 11.1 and Table 11.1)	Strategy implemented. Increase awareness of external funding opportunities for open space and recreation.
27. Actively seek partnerships with the private sector, particularly private clubs, to fund future facility development	There may be opportunities to increase participation in recreation through the support from private industry for specific programs.
28. Consider the opportunities for sponsorship and commercial activities in open space areas, for example: • cafes/kiosks • bicycle/boat hire • advertising on buildings, fences • sponsorship of major events, competitions • corporate sponsorship of capital improvements (eg. walkways, bushland rehabilitation) • local business sponsorship for tree planting, bushland rehabilitation • community gardens (allotments)	Strategy partially implemented Examples of the implementation of this strategy is the proposal to include a café in the Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park, (however further development of this proposal had not commenced) and a community garden established in Hughes Street Cabramatta.
29. Explore the options of raising an environmental levy and additional categories of Section 94 funding (eg cycleways) to increase revenue	Strategy partially implemented

COMMUNICATION / LIASION / EDUCATION / PARTICIPATION	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Establish closer liaison and partnerships with all parties involved in the planning and management of open space including Councils, the community and commercial organisations, to ensure a coordinated approach and achieve the best community outcome</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
30. Develop a structure for closer inter-departmental liaison within Council, including: • between City Outcomes and City Services Departments • between various project officers within City Outcomes to co-ordinate projects • an annual forum for all project officers regarding open space issues • between maintenance staff and managers to assess ongoing progress of implementation of strategies • with neighbouring Councils to achieve regional and cross-border outcomes	Strategy implemented. The development of the PIP and the implement of the project in the PIP is evidence of a improved communication
31. Establish closer liaison with schools and private clubs including re-establishing regular meetings between Council and sporting groups and considering establishing a Fairfield Sports Council (refer also to 10.5.22 Management strategies)	Strategy no longer relevant Council does not wish to establish a sports council
32. Consider opportunities for joint future facility development with schools and private clubs, ensuring community access and guidelines on school use of public open space.	No action to date.

COMMUNICATION / LIASION / EDUCATION / PARTICIPATION	
33. Examine appropriate structures and authority/responsibility for the community's increased role in open space management. Solution to be inter-departmental and to lead to setting up of workshops with sports, environmental, cultural and other community groups	Strategy partially implemented. The development of the PIP and the implement of the project in the PIP is evidence of a improved communication
34. Develop program of community education and participation with open space planning and management based on the recommendations of the workshops including: • major improvements to facilities • youth facilities • differential maintenance regimes • strategies with regard to open space provision in residential flat areas • bushland rehabilitation	Strategy implemented. Examples include KEEP, Fabulous Fairfield and the Community Nursery. Ongoing commitment to this strategy should be encouraged.
35. Set up a regular (minimum 6 monthly) meeting with local youth services (Council and independent) to discuss recreation issues (structured and unstructured) of particular concern to youth	Strategy partially implemented. Regular meetings have not occurred however open space staff have attended the Council's youth committee meetings on occasions to seek feedback on skate facilities and park usage. The Access Committee has also been involved in the consultation for park upgrades.
36. Consider establishing an "adopt a park" program for appropriate parks	Strategy no longer relevant This project has not been encouraged as it can lead to one group/individuals 'taking control' of a park, which can have a detrimental affect on the allocation of resources and the general community not having 'ownership' of their local park.

INFORMATION / PROMOTION / MARKETING	
PRINCIPLES	
<i>Provide a greater level of information and promotion for open space to encourage greater use of the existing resource</i>	
1999 STRATEGIES	ACHIEVEMENTS / COMMENTARY
37. Establish a defined point(s) of contact at Council's Call Centre for all inquiries regarding open space and recreation. Adopt a "Park Help" program to provide the public with information on reserves including: • training Council staff to deal with the public and respond effectively to questions • displaying a "Park Help" logo on Council vehicles and uniforms	No action taken to date.
38. Provide information (including languages other than English) regarding the opportunities for recreation within Fairfield LGA, including: • directory of recreation facilities including public transport access • adding information on open space to Councils GIS system • leaflets/brochures with a co-ordinated and attractive format on specific subjects (eg cycleways, walking trails, picnic/bbq areas, bushland areas, water-based activities, specific sports), eg. Parks Victoria brochures • newsletters on matters such as special events, people in parks, bushland rehabilitation, etc	Strategy implemented. The cycleway network is in the GIS system. A cycleway maps were developed, currently been updated. A brochure was developed for the Warali Wali project and leaflets on bush regeneration projects are available.

INFORMATION / PROMOTION / MARKETING	
39. Update Council's website to provide information on open space and recreation opportunities (including languages other than English)	Strategy implemented. Council's new website has been completed and recreation info was updated with descriptions and photographs
40. Develop contacts and issue regular releases to local media (including cultural group newspapers) to publicise major improvement and facility development projects for open space areas	Strategy implemented. Media releases are provided when various projects are commenced and completed. Also information provided in the Council newsletters (City Life) and annual report. And Art and Culture magazine items.
41. Publicise major events to be held at open space areas (including in languages other than English), for example: • markets • concerts, performances • festivals • fairs	Strategy implemented Bonnyrigg Town Centre Park hosted Naidoc Week celebrations and Harmony Day. Naidoc Ceremony also held at Hilwa Park. Somoan Festival held in Fairfield Park. Open Days are held in some parks as part of the consultation process for PIP.
42. Design and implement the installation of an appropriately designed range of signage for open space areas, detailing facilities/activities available (including languages other than English)	Strategy implemented Standard signage is installed that is readily recognised as Council and some have feature panels, ie art works relevant to the area, for fun or historical aspects (Wetherill Park Reserve). To include such information would be too detailed for the parks. The facilities available in the parks are easily visible.
43. Use art themes to promote environmental awareness in open space (eg. the Flood Icon in Fairfield Park)	Strategy partially implemented A number of urban art projects are developed as part of PIP and along the cycleways.



APPENDIX 2

MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

Natural Areas and Bushland

Development Level: *Level One* Existing Example(s): Western Sydney Regional Park

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
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Management:
By National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Development Level: *Level Two* Existing Example(s): Indigenous Flora Park

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
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ACCESS:

As found preferably on or close to arterial roads and public transport routes.

AREA & TOPOGRAPHY:

Minimum 10 hectares, preferably 20 hectares plus

Topography suitable to permit car park in one location.

NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION:

As located and can be acquired.

Preferably within 30 minutes drive by private vehicle and 45 minutes bus ride from most of the City.

FACILITIES:

Opportunities to provide for:

- Toilets
- Picnic area/shelters
- Major walking route including steps for natural materials at steeper locations
- Viewing point (where applicable)
- Cycle route if adjoining urban area or as part of City linked route
- Boardwalks (where applicable)

CARPARKING: Min 80 car spaces on site, porous surface where possible.

BUSHLAND: Min. 90% tree cover. All species endemic and generally conforming with natural alliances.

DRAINAGE: Where possible all adjoining land uses drain away from site. If applicable, install low flow pipes or deflection on boundaries directly to creek. Toilets should be pumped out if not on mains sewerage.

INTERPRETATION: Interpretative signage, information boards and brochures and/or signage on walking route or guided walks. Also interpret impacts of urban run-off and weeds.

SCENIC QUALITY: Optimum protection of all natural features. Align walkway routes to enhance full range of senses. Conserve peaks and ridges in particular.

VIEWS: Use existing topography to explain/retain middle and long distance views.

HERITAGE: Protect and interpret. Preserve Aboriginal sites (NPWS), but seek local Aboriginal groups permission to interpret.

MANAGEMENT: By Council with volunteer organisation assistance in bush rehabilitation.

LICENSES/LEASES: Licenses: mobile kiosk in car park: annually.

MAINTENANCE: Bush rehabilitation by Council and volunteer organisations, concentrating on boundary impacts.

SPONSORSHIP: Seek corporate sponsorship for walkways/cycleways. Interpretation and major events.

Natural Areas and Bushland

Development Level:	<i>Level Three</i>	Existing Example(s): Bushland areas of Fairfield Park or Heiden Park		
<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: As found preferably on or near trunk road and public transport routes. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Minimum 5 ha and a consolidated shape, not linear. Should lie above surrounding land uses where possible. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: As opportunity permits.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Visitor Information board • Picnic tables (shaded) • Walking route with porous surface where possible (cemented earth) CARPARKING: Min 15 on site car space. Porous surface draining to boundary or street where possible.	BUSHLAND: Min. 85% tree cover. All endemic species. DRAINAGE: Where possible all adjoining land uses drain away from site. If applicable, install low flow pipes or deflection on boundaries directly to creek. Toilets should be pumped out if not on mains sewerage. INTERPRETATION: Key features signed. Run occasional local birdwatch/spotlighting days or evenings.	SCENIC QUALITY: Optimum protection of all natural features. Align walkway routes to enhance full range of senses. Conserve peaks and ridges in particular. VIEWS: Exploit all mid to long distance views. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret. Preserve Aboriginal sites (NPWS), but seek local Aboriginal groups permission to interpret.	MANAGEMENT: By Council with volunteer organisation assistance in bush rehabilitation. LICENSES/LEASES: No leases or licenses. MAINTENANCE: Predominantly by volunteer organisations with technical support by Council. Concentrate on reducing major weeds, exotic species, feral animals and bush rehabilitation. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for paths, plant materials.

Development Level:	<i>Level Four</i>	Existing Example(s): Fairfield Heights Park, Yennora Park		
<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: As found preferably on Collector road. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Minimum 5 ha and a consolidated shape, not linear. Should lie above surrounding land uses where possible. Avoid very small linear bushland, especially in urban areas. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Only where required to consolidate link.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Visitor Information board • Picnic tables (shaded) • Walking route with porous surface where possible (cemented earth) CARPARKING: No formal car parking.	BUSHLAND: Min. 85% tree cover. All endemic species. DRAINAGE: Where possible all adjoining land uses drain away from site. If applicable, install low flow pipes or deflection on boundaries directly to creek. Toilets should be pumped out if not on mains sewerage. INTERPRETATION: Key features signed. Run occasional local birdwatch/spotlighting days or evenings.	SCENIC QUALITY: Optimum protection of all natural features. Align walkway routes to enhance full range of senses. Conserve peaks and ridges in particular. VIEWS: Exploit all mid to long distance views. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret. Preserve Aboriginal sites (NPWS), but seek local Aboriginal groups permission to interpret.	MANAGEMENT: By Council with volunteer organisation assistance in bush rehabilitation. LICENSES/LEASES: No leases or licenses. MAINTENANCE: Predominantly by volunteer organisations with technical support by Council. Concentrate on reducing major weeds, exotic species, feral animals and bush rehabilitation. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for paths etc

Natural Areas and Creeklines

Development Level: *Level One* Existing Example(s): Not usually applicable at this level

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
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Development Level: *Level Two* Existing Example(s): The Fairfield Indigenous Flora Park

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: As found preferably on or near trunk road and regular bus route and stop. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: 5-10 ha. Topography suitable for creekline access/walk. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Max 20 minute drive in private vehicle, 30 minute bus ride from most of City.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Food Kiosk • Small jetty • Picnic area • Kickabout area • Major playground (unfenced if well away from creek) • One major shelter for events, large groups • Toilets • BBQ's, shelters, taps • Creekline walk as part of continuous link, plus cycleway. CARPARKING: Min 50 on site car spaces, split if necessary to reduce visual impact. Restrictions on local street parking.	BUSHLAND: Min. 30% tree cover. All planting predominantly endemic species except feature trees as native. Shrub and native grass species on street boundaries. DRAINAGE: 'Soft' engineering constructions with natural filter. Channelled if space does not permit above. Include a small wetland area where possible. INTERPRETATION: Provide signage interpreting natural systems along a specific walking route.	SCENIC QUALITY: Creekline with lit boardwalk, footpath/ cycleway, jetty and food outlet/boat hie, etc. balance of open areas and bushland. Retain/plant groups of trees along creekline min. 50% of length. No new building facilities below 1:20 flood level. VIEWS: Retain and frame all long distance views. Ensure creekline planting does not obscure views where possible. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret existing features. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council except leased facilities. Local community assistance with bush regeneration. LICENSES/LEASES: Boat/canoe hire: 21 years Kiosk, etc: 5 years License for mobile boat/bicycle hire/kiosks: annual. MAINTENANCE: Council mowing or by contract. Various mowing heights (Kickabout shorter than picnic etc.) emphasis on bushland/wetland maintenance. SPONSORSHIP: Seek corporate sponsorship for walkways, bushland rehabilitation, etc. no major non-local franchises for food outlets.

Natural Areas and Creeklines

Development Level: *Level Three* Existing Example(s): Prout Park

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: As found preferably on or near trunk road and bus route. Accessible by bicycle. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: 2-5ha with other conditions as above. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Accessible within 10 minute drive, 20 minute bus ride from any suburb.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: - One boat/canoe access point - Mobile food kiosk location (weekends) - Picnic area/Kickabout - Shelters, BBQ's, taps - Play equipment (unfenced if safe) - Cycleways/walkway as part of continuous link. CARPARKING: Min 25 on site car space.	BUSHLAND: Min. 40% tree cover. All endemic species except at street front. All native planting. DRAINAGE: All 'Soft' engineering with natural filter to creek. INTERPRETATION: Sign to describe key features of site.	SCENIC QUALITY: constructed creekbank at key locations only (eg. Adjoining jetty). Natural creekbank throughout remainder. VIEWS: Retain and frame all long distance views. Ensure creekline planting does not obscure views where possible. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret existing features. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council except licenses and leases. LICENSES/LEASES: Leases: kiosks: 5 years Licenses: mobile kiosk, canoe hire: annual. MAINTENANCE: mowing by Council. Bush regeneration predominantly by volunteer organisations SPONSORSHIP: Seek corporate sponsorship for walkways, bushland rehabilitation, etc. no major non-local franchises for food outlets.

Development Level: *Level Four* Existing Example(s): Gordon Street Reserve

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: Close to collector road AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 30m unless a creekline link only, then min 5m wide. No criteria for topography except car and foot access. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: As opportunities arise to acquire/enhance walk link.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: - Picnic tables/shelter - Small area of grass with shade for picnics - Link to adjoining open spaces where achievable. CARPARKING: Min 6 on site car spaces or on street parking if park is smaller area (waterside link)	BUSHLAND: 60% site tree cover. All endemic species. Native species near street if necessary. Endemic species including shrubs and grass. DRAINAGE: Buried drain to creek. INTERPRETATION: Sign to describe key features of site. Run occasional local guided spotlighting.	SCENIC QUALITY: Shaded with majority of creekline as tree canopy. VIEWS: Encourage visitors to come to creekline for best views by tree planting. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret existing features. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: Predominantly by local community with Council assistance. LICENSES/LEASES: Leases: nil, Licenses: considered by special application only. MAINTENANCE: Council low frequency mowing. Volunteer organisation mowing and bush rehabilitation. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for bushland

Natural Areas, Lake and Foreshore ParksDevelopment Level: *Level One* Existing Example(s): Penrith Lakes

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
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Development Level: *Level Two* Existing Example(s):

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: As found preferably on or near trunk road and bus route and stop. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: 5-10ha topography suitable for waterside access/walk and boat launching. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Max. 20 minute drive in private vehicle, 30 minute by bus/rail from most of City.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Turning/washdown area (adequate depth of water for launch/recovery) • Food Kiosk • Small jetty • Picnic area • Kickabout area • Major Playground (unfenced if well away from water) and child's cycle circuit • One major shelter for events, large groups • Toilets • BBQ's, shelters, taps • Foreshore shaded walks as part of continuous link, plus cycleway. CARPARKING: Min 50 car spaces on site, split if necessary to reduce visual impact. Restrictions on local street parking.	BUSHLAND: Min. 30% tree cover. All planting predominantly endemic except feature tree as native. Shrub and native grass species on inland boundaries. DRAINAGE: All 'Soft' engineering with natural filter. Channelled if space does not permit above. Include as small wetland area where possible. INTERPRETATION: Provide signage interpreting natural systems along a specific walking route.	SCENIC QUALITY: Urban water frontage with lit boardwalk, promenade, jetty and food outlet/boat hire, etc. Balance of open areas and bushland. Retain/plant groups of trees on foreshore min 30% of length. No new building facility below 1:20 flood level. VIEWS: Retain and frame all long distance views. Ensure waterfront plating does not obscure views. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret existing features. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council except leased facilities. Local community assistance with bush regeneration. LICENSES/LEASES: Cafes, restaurants, boat businesses: 21 years, Kiosk etc. 5 years License for mobile boat/bicycle hire/kiosks: annual. MAINTENANCE: Council mowing or by contract. Various mowing heights (Kickabout shorter than picnic etc.) Emphasis on bushland/wetland maintenance. SPONSORSHIP: Seek corporate sponsorship for walkways, bushland rehabilitation, etc. no major non-local franchises for food outlets.

Natural Areas, Lakes and ForeshoresDevelopment Level: *Level Three*

Existing Example(s): Howard Park

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: As found preferably on or near trunk road and bus route and stop. Accessible by Bicycle. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: 2-5ha with other conditions as above. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Accessible within 10 minute drive, 20 minute bus ride from any suburb.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • One Boat ramp or canoe access point • Mobil food kiosk location (weekends) • Picnic area/Kickabout • Shelters, BBQ's, taps • Play equipment (unfenced if safe) • Toilet • Foreshore walk as part of continuous walk CARPARKING: Min 25 in site car spaces.	BUSHLAND: Min. 40% tree cover. All endemic species except at street front. All native planting. DRAINAGE: All 'Soft' engineering with natural filter to lake. INTERPRETATION: Sign to describe key features of site.	SCENIC QUALITY: Constructed foreshore at key locations only (eg. Adjoining jetty). Natural foreshore throughout remainder. VIEWS: Retain and frame all long distance views. Ensure waterfront plating does not obscure views. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret existing features. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council except leases/licenses. LICENSES/LEASES: Leases: Kiosk: 5 years Licenses: mobile kiosks, windsurf board hire: annual. MAINTENANCE: Mowing by Council. Bush rehabilitation predominantly by volunteer organisations with Council technical support. SPONSORSHIP: Seek corporate sponsorship for walkways, bushland rehabilitation, etc. no major non-local franchises for food outlets.

Natural Areas, Lakes and Foreshores

Development Level:	Level Four	Existing Example(s): Strong Park		
OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: Close to collector road AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 30m unless a creekline link only, then min 5m wide. No criteria for topography except car and foot access. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: As opportunities arise to acquire/enhance walk link.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: - Picnic tables/shelter - Small area of grass with shade for picnics - Link to adjoining open spaces where achievable. CARPARKING: Min 6 on site car spaces or on street parking if park is smaller area (waterside link)	PLANTING: 60% site tree cover. All endemic species. Native species near street if necessary. Endemic species including shrubs and grass. DRAINAGE: Buried drain to creek. INTERPRETATION: Sign to describe key features of site. Run occasional local guided spotlighting.	SCENIC QUALITY: Shaded with majority of creekline as tree canopy. VIEWS: Encourage visitors to come to creekline for best views by tree planting. HERITAGE: Protect and interpret existing features. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: Predominantly by local community with Council assistance. LICENSES/LEASES: Leases: nil, Licenses: considered by special application only. MAINTENANCE: Council low frequency mowing. Volunteer organisation mowing and bush rehabilitation. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for bushland rehabilitation.

Sportsgrounds

Refer to Figure 10

Development Level: *Level One*

Existing Example(s):

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
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Development Level: *Level Two*

Existing Example(s): Endeavour Reserve, Brenan Park

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: On or close to major arterial/distributor road. Close to railway station or regular bus route. Easy bicycle access. Access positive. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: No less than 10ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less, site development should not entail major cut and fill exercise. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City to ensure 15-20 minute drive in private vehicle, 30 minutes by public transport (non rush hour). Ideally, close to major adjoining passive recreation area (eg. Park), and sited generally within an urban area.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Athletics track around major field with grandstand/clubhouse/food outlet • 4 outlying fields, all lit, minimum area to permit full range of field sports including baseball diamond and cricket pitch • 2 fields unlit • 10 consolidated multi-purpose all weather courts, all lit • Fenced playground • Off-road cycle circuit, ideally linked to off-site cycleway. CARPARKING: Min 150 car spaces on site. Restricted car parking in adjoining streets.	PLANTING: Site selection should entail minimum clearing of native vegetation. Boundary area and corners of site substantially planted with endemic tree/shrub species. Exotic species acceptable for entrance and feature areas. Native shade trees dividing fields and shading car parking. Passive recreation areas predominantly native to minimum 40% cover. DRAINAGE: On site detention and natural filter for irrigation water/recycle. All drainage into basin/creek and away from adjoining bushland if possible.	SCENIC QUALITY: Well planted boundaries to screen neighbours, particularly for night lighting. VIEWS: Retain existing middle distant views where possible. HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees. Do not develop on sites where landscape has heritage significance that may be damaged or obscured. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council. Maintenance of major field/oval and leased courts by lessee. LICENSES/LEASES: Max lease on any facility 21 years by open tender. Typical leases: multi-purpose courts (but Council/community rights to some allocation). Multi-use of facilities encouraged. MAINTENANCE: High intensity mowing and line marking regime by Council, irrigation on major oval. Additional mowing and other work by Lessee. SPONSORSHIP: Subject to Council policies

Sportsfields

Development Level: *Level Three* Existing Example(s): Joe Broad Reserve

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: On or close to major trunk road and within 10 minutes walk of regular bus stop or railway station. Accessible by foot and bicycle. Access positive. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 5ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City for max 10 minutes drive by private vehicle or 20 minutes by bus/rail.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: 4 fields (2 lit) permitting 1 cricket pitch 6-8 multi-purpose courts all lit - Clubhouse, changing module toilet - Playground (fenced) - Link to local cycleway - Ample shaded seating under trees CARPARKING: Min 50 car spaces on site.	PLANTING: As above with street front tree planting compatible with local street tree planting. DRAINAGE: Stormwater discharge to street through natural filter.	SCENIC QUALITY: Well planted boundaries to screen neighbours, particularly for night lighting. VIEWS: Retain existing middle distant views where possible. HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees. Do not develop on sites where landscape has heritage significance that may be damaged or obscured. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council. Maintenance of major filled/oval and leased courts by lessee. LICENSES/LEASES: Max lease 5 years by open tender. Typical leases: 2 floodlit fields, 4 multi-purpose courts, clubhouses (joint lease winter and summer codes). Multi-use of facilities encouraged. MAINTENANCE: Mowing by Council, medium frequency. Additional mowing and other work by lessee. SPONSORSHIP: Acceptable but confined to buildings or fences.

Development Level: *Level Four* Existing Example(s): Avery park

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: On local through route and visible from road where possible. No more than 15 minutes walk from bus stop/railway station. Access positive. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 2ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City for max 5-10 minutes drive by private vehicle or 20 minutes cycle ride.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: 2 fields with cricket pitch between 4 multi-purpose courts (preferred) - Toilet/changing module - Play equipment - Link to local cycleway CARPARKING: Min 20 car spaces on site. Room for on-street parking without detriment to local residents.	PLANTING: As above with emphasis on endemic species. DRAINAGE: Stormwater discharge to street.	SCENIC QUALITY: Provide shade for spectators by tree planting. VIEWS: Emphasise location by distinctive street-front planting. HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees. Do not develop on sites where landscape has heritage significance that may be damaged or obscured. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents	MANAGEMENT: Principally by Council. LICENSES/LEASES: None MAINTENANCE: Mowing by Council. Tree planting programmes by local communities and schools. SPONSORSHIP: None that involves major signage.

Parks

Refer to Figure 9

Development Level: *Level One*

Existing Example(s): Western Sydney Regional Park

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
				MANAGEMENT: by NPWS

Development Level: *Level Two*

Existing Example(s): Fairfield Showgrounds Site

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: On or close to major arterial/distributor road. Close to railway station or regular bus route. Easy bicycle access. Access positive. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min. 10ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less, site development should not entail major cut and fill exercise, but some topographic interest to provide variation. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City to ensure 20 minute drive in private vehicle, 30 minutes by public transport (non rush hour).	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Surfaced paths • Tree shaded picnic area • Café, Kiosk, bicycle hire • Large Kickabout area • Major skateboard facility • Creek where possible • Large shelter • Outdoor entertainment amphitheatre • Adventure playground (unfenced if away from traffic) plus child bicycle circuit • Playground for toddlers and older children • Sensory garden • Toilets • Shelters, BBQ's, taps, seats • Bicycle circuit and link to regional cycleways/walking trail • Park sign CARPARKING: Min 80 car spaces on site.	PLANTING: Predominantly native to minimum 40% site cover. Avenues and groups of trees exotic, including deciduous. Also on street front. DRAINAGE: Where possible drain into feature lake or wetland/creek. INTERPRETATION: Labels identifying trees or plants of interest.	SCENIC QUALITY: Attractive and interesting for users, appealing to family groups especially. Some more intimate areas. Opportunity for seasonal colour variations in planting. Protect all natural features. VIEWS: framed views within park, both closed and open areas. Clear views into park from surrounding streets, adjacent to cycleway/walking trails. HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees, and programme replacement planting if old. Explain history of park. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council. LICENSES/LEASES: Café Lease: 21 years Kiosk/bicycle hire lease: 5 years Special events license by application. Party bookings of shelter or amphitheatre by application. MAINTENANCE: Principally by Council, various mowing hierarchies (major tree areas will reduce mowing). Leased facilities by lessee. Council contract garbage clearance after special events. SPONSORSHIP: Seek corporate sponsorship for major events.

Parks

Development Level:

Level Three

Existing Example(s): Wetherill Park

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: On or close to major arterial/distributor road. Close to railway station or regular bus route. Accessible by foot and bicycle. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min. 4ha. Topography so as to allow for a range of play, and as above. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City to ensure 20 minute drive in private vehicle, 30 minutes by public transport (non rush hour).	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Tree shaded picnic area/seats • Kiosk • Kickabout area • Playground for toddlers and older children (attached to neighbourhood centre if applicable) • Toilets (modular) • Shelters, BBQ's, taps, seats • Bicycle circuit and link to regional cycleways/walking trail • Park sign CARPARKING: Min 50 car spaces on site.	PLANTING: As above, lower key, less feature planting. DRAINAGE: Where applicable drain through wetland/reed bed into creek. Avoid neighbourhood drainage into park. INTERPRETATION: Labels identifying trees or plants of interest.	SCENIC QUALITY: Attractive and interesting for users, appealing to family groups especially. Some more intimate areas. Opportunity for seasonal colour variations in planting. Protect all natural features. VIEWS: framed views within park, both closed and open areas. Clear views into park from surrounding streets, adjacent to cycleway/walking trails. HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees, and programme replacement planting if old. Explain history of park. SCREENING: Minimise impact on surrounding residents through screening facilities.	MANAGEMENT: By Council. LICENSES/LEASES: local event license on application. MAINTENANCE: Principally by Council, lesser frequency mowing (higher cut). Tree planting programmes by local community organisations and schools. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for tree planting, local events.

Parks

Development Level: *Level Four* Existing Example(s): Tarlington Reserve

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: On or close to major arterial/distributor road. Close to railway station or regular bus route. Easy bicycle access. Access positive. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min. 0.5ha. Topography: principally 1 in 10 gradient or less, site development should not entail major cut and fill exercise, but some topographic interest to provide variation. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: Adequate coverage across City to ensure max 10 minute walk from local neighbourhood.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Tree shaded picnic area • Playground for toddlers and older children • Bicycle circuit and link to regional cycleways/walking trail • Park sign CARPARKING: No formal car parking on site.	PLANTING: as above, lower key, less feature planting. DRAINAGE: Where applicable drain through wetland/reed bed into creek. Avoid neighbourhood drainage into park. INTERPRETATION: Labels identifying trees or plants of interest.	SCENIC QUALITY: Attractive and interesting for users, appealing to family groups especially. Some more intimate areas. Opportunity for seasonal colour variations in planting. Protect all natural features. VIEWS: Clear views into park from surrounding streets, adjacent to cycleway/walking trails. HERITAGE: Preserve Aboriginal sites, retain/refurbish heritage buildings, retain listed trees, and programme replacement planting if old. Explain history of park.	MANAGEMENT: By Council. LICENSES/LEASES: local event license on application. MAINTENANCE: Principally by Council, lesser frequency mowing (higher cut). Tree planting programmes by local community organisations and schools. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for tree planting, local events.

Areas of General Community Use and Urban open space

Development Level: *Level One* Existing Example(s): not applicable at this level to Fairfield LGA

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
				MANAGEMENT: by NPWS

Development Level: *Level Two* Existing Example(s): not applicable at this level to Fairfield LGA

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Development Level: *Level Three* Existing Example(s): Freedom Plaza Cabramatta, The Crescent, Fairfield

OPEN SPACE AND LINKS	RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY	NATURAL SYSTEMS	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE
ACCESS: Close to commercial centre. Within 5 minute walking distance of available car parking, and public transport (railway station/ bus transit way and regular bus routes) Access positive. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: Min 0.5ha. Topography will allow for access positive paths/ramps. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: One at each major commercial centre (eg. Fairfield, Cabramatta). As required to meet civic amenity requirements.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Restaurants, cafes, kiosks • Large shelter • Amphitheatre/performance space • Large paved area • Toilets • Seating (shaded) • Street tree planting • Amenity planting • Bubblers • Connected to regional cycleway • Town map/information board • Unstructured play through use of artworks, steps, walls CARPARKING: Available adjacent major car parking facility.	PLANTING: Street/feature tree planting of exotic species. Shrub/annual planting for colour and seasonal interest. DRAINAGE: Drainage to surface water system unless access to reed bed.	SCENIC QUALITY: In accordance with urban design objectives. Good quality materials/street furniture. Attractive and interesting for users, some more intimate areas. VIEWS: framed views within commercial centre, particularly of heritage buildings. Good visibility for security reasons. HERITAGE: Retina/refurbish heritage buildings, structures, retain listed trees. Interpret heritage features by brochures, information boards, etc.	MANAGEMENT: By Council. LICENSES/LEASES: Cafes/kiosks: lease: 5 years. Special events license (eg. Market stalls, food/drink festivals, performance) on application. Bookings of amphitheatre/performance space by application. MAINTENANCE: By council with possible help (eg. Litter bins) from local businesses. SPONSORSHIP: Seek local business sponsorship for capital improvements and special events.

Areas of General Community Use and urban open spaceDevelopment Level: *Level Four*

Existing Example(s): Cook Square, Cabramatta

<i>OPEN SPACE AND LINKS</i>	<i>RECREATION RANGE AND OPPORTUNITY</i>	<i>NATURAL SYSTEMS</i>	<i>LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</i>	<i>MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE</i>
ACCESS: As above. AREA & TOPOGRAPHY: 0.1-0.5ha. Topography as above. NUMBERS & DISTRIBUTION: As required to meet civic amenity requirements.	FACILITIES: Opportunities to provide for: • Kiosk • Paved area • Seating (shaded) • Street tree planting • Amenity planting • Bubblers • Connected to regional/local cycleway • Town map/information board • Unstructured play though use of artworks, steps, walls • Public artworks/murals • Lighting • Security cameras CARPARKING: No formal car parking on site.	PLANTING: as above, DRAINAGE: As above	SCENIC QUALITY: As above. VIEWS: As Above. HERITAGE: As Above	MANAGEMENT: By Council. LICENSES/LEASES: Kiosk: 5 years. Others by special application. MAINTENANCE: As Above SPONSORSHIP: As Above