

STRATEGIC RECREATION PLAN



FINAL

MAY 2011



CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

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MARCH 2010

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This document provides a Plan for the future direction for recreation services and facilities in the Canterbury Local Government Area (LGA).

The City is home to a diverse socio-demographic and cultural population of an estimated 139,000 people in 2008. Canterbury City is also a workplace for a significant number of people, with employment centres concentrated in Campsie, Roselands, Belmore and Kingsgrove.

Canterbury City is located about 17 kilometres south-west of the Sydney central business district, approximately 33 square kilometres in area. The City borders Bankstown local government area to the west; Strathfield, Burwood and Ashfield to the north; Marrickville to the east; and Hurstville and Rockdale to the south. Suburbs in Canterbury are Croydon Park, Ashbury, Canterbury, Hurlstone Park, Earlwood, Kingsgrove, Clemton Park, Campsie, Belfield, Belmore, Roselands, Lakemba, Wiley Park, Narwee, Punchbowl, Riverwood, and Belmore.

Key features of Canterbury are:

commercial centres (Punchbowl, Belmore, Belfield, Earlwood, Lakemba, Campsie).

a regional retail centre (Roselands).

health centre (Canterbury Hospital).

highways and arterial roads (M5 Motorway, King Georges Road, Canterbury Road).

Bankstown rail line (stations at Hurlstone Park, Canterbury, Campsie, Belmore, Lakemba, Wiley Park, Punchbowl).

East Hills rail line (stations are outside Canterbury City but are easily accessible to Canterbury residents: Tempe, Wolli Creek, Turrella, Bardwell Park, Bexley, Kingsgrove, Beverly Hills, Narwee – in Canterbury City, Riverwood).

light industrial areas at Kingsgrove and Riverwood.

Canterbury also has diverse open space and recreation settings, ranging from waterways, bushland, parks and gardens, sporting fields and courts, and built recreation facilities such as indoor sports centres and lawn bowling clubs.

1.2 Key recreation issues

Some of the key issues facing Canterbury in terms of planning for its future recreation needs are:

increasing cultural and socio-economic diversity, including new immigrants and emerging communities with diverse recreational interests.

open space is inequitably distributed and increasing numbers of residents living in flats in built up areas have no access to outdoor space.

the highly developed nature of Canterbury means that there is limited availability of new open space through land acquisition.

many existing community and recreation facilities, parks and ovals, are at capacity and some are in poor condition and not attractive to use.

limited sportsfields and ovals to meet competing sporting needs.

increasing demand for informal outdoor spaces to recreate.

financial limitations to address increasing recreational demands.

1.3 Background to and purpose of this plan

The purpose of this Plan is to provide the strategic framework for the provision of quality and appropriate recreation services and facilities to address the current and future needs of the Canterbury City community. Preparation of this updated Recreation Plan was identified in Council's Strategic Plan 2008-2017.

This Plan follows on from the 10-year Open Space and Recreation Strategy that was completed for the City of Canterbury in 2001. Broad and priority issues relating to open space and recreation were addressed in the Strategy. Some recommendations of the Strategy have been implemented since 2001. However, with local demographic and land use changes, it is timely to look again at the current and future recreation needs of the Canterbury community, and to prepare a Strategic Recreation Plan to address those needs.

1.4 Scope of this plan

The scope of this plan is to strategically address the provision of recreation facilities and services in the City of Canterbury. This plan does not include library, arts and cultural services, which will be covered in separate studies.

'Recreation' and 'leisure' are terms that are perceived to have a similar meaning. Marriott (2004) differentiates them by defining leisure as a "state of mind or an experience". Leisure can be achieved by using settings or involving oneself in activities which are freely chosen, which provide a range of benefits to participants and others, and which are not unduly detrimental to the wider community or environment. Recreation can be defined as a range of activities which provide the means by which leisure experiences are achieved.

For the purposes of this plan, recreation is considered as an activity, voluntarily undertaken, primarily for pleasure and satisfaction during leisure time (Pigram, 1983). Further, Canterbury City Council has defined recreation as 'all areas, programs and services that people access for the purpose of an interest, hobby or leisure activity that provides them with enjoyment, health and wellbeing.' Recreation undertaken in parks and other public open space is considered to be outdoor recreation.

The term 'leisure' has a wider meaning than does recreation, including free and committed time available for rest or recreation, such as watching television or reading. Thus, 'recreation' has a narrower focus than 'leisure'.

A sport is generally an activity that:

is a form of recreation.

involves competitive physical activity, or training for such activities.

is usually organised or structured, being governed by a set of rules or customs.

can be undertaken as an individual or as part of a team.

can be undertaken outdoors or indoors.

Recreation facilities and settings in the City of Canterbury include:

open space, which can be considered as outdoor settings that are used for recreation, such as natural areas, water and foreshore areas, parkland and reserves, sport grounds, play spaces, formal gardens, and linear walking and cycling tracks.

outdoor sporting fields and courts.

community leisure (Council-owned facilities and services).

commercial leisure (privately owned and operated facilities and services).

Recreation facilities and settings in local government areas outside Canterbury have been considered where relevant, because they add to the total supply of recreation opportunities which are available to Canterbury residents.

1.5 Aims and objectives of this plan

In the preparation of this Plan, Canterbury City Council wish to:

draw together relevant information from several established strategies, background reports, community consultations, and recommendations already presented to Council across the broad recreation profile of the City of Canterbury.

review the current and planned provision of recreation land / infrastructure, programs and services in Canterbury.

identify the recreational needs of Canterbury's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community which makes up 63% of its total population.

support equitable access to recreational facilities and services by a diverse range of residents.

establish current and future community needs and future participation demands for recreation land / infrastructure, programs and services.

assess the supply of and demand for recreation opportunities in Canterbury.

identify any deficiencies and opportunities to improve provision.

prepare a 10-year comprehensive, informed, practical and sustainable Strategic Recreation Plan for the City of Canterbury that will meet demonstrated community needs, and will integrate with and inform the City's existing suite of strategic and operational plans.

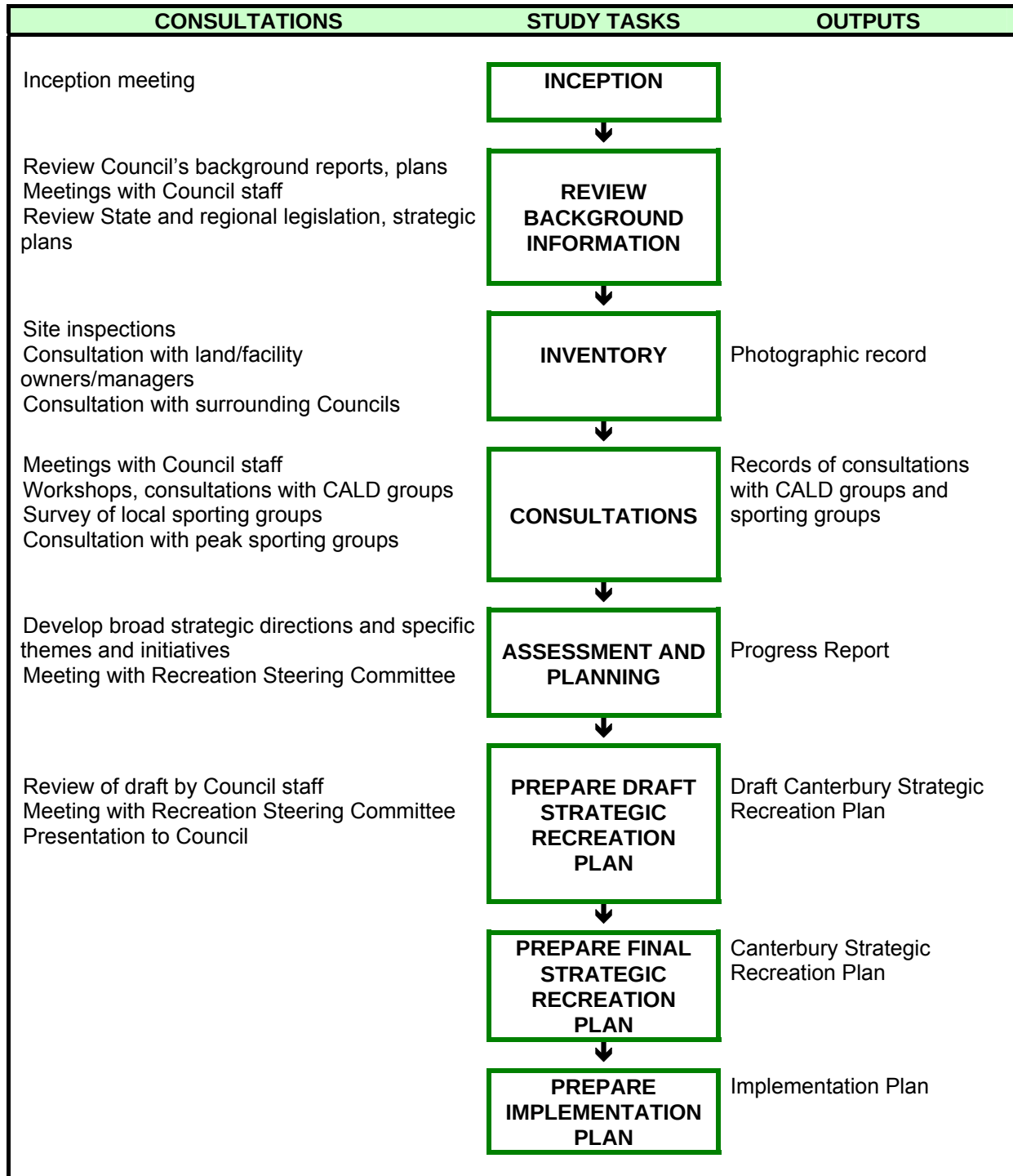
prepare an Implementation Strategy for the Recreation Plan with a range of strategic options with prioritised actions, their notional cost, and tiered options for recreation land / infrastructure.

The outcomes of the Strategic Recreation Plan will assist in reviewing, validating, and where necessary informing the Section 94 Contributions Plan 2005 and Council's ongoing Works Program in terms of open space acquisition, and additional and embellished recreation facilities and community facilities.

1.6 Process of preparing this plan

The tasks involved in preparing this Strategic Recreation Plan are set out in **Figure 1.1**.

Figure 1.1 Process of preparing this plan



1.7 Contents of this report

This report contains the following sections:

Section 2: State, regional and local legislation, policies and plans affecting provision of recreation opportunities.

Section 3: general supply of recreation facilities and settings in Canterbury City.

Section 4: demand for recreation opportunities in Canterbury, as indicated by demographic analysis and population forecasts and participation trends.

Section 5: assessment of provision of open space and recreation opportunities in 6 themes:

- informal recreation (open space and indoor).
- target groups (children, young people, older people, people with disabilities, people from a culturally and linguistically diverse community, women).
- linkages (pedestrian, cycleways, multi-purpose).
- sport (fields, courts, indoor, other).
- aquatic and fitness facilities.
- natural areas.

Section 6: Action Plan.

Section 7: Acquisition of land for open space and recreation.

Section 8: Implementation of the Recreation Strategy and Action Plan.

Section 9: Conclusion.



Gough Whitlam Park



Clemton Park



Peel Park



Punchbowl Park

2 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 The importance and benefits of recreation

This Strategic Recreation Plan takes the approach that recreation opportunity is a benefit to the community, and is worth providing. Recent initiatives overseas and in Australia have attempted to quantify the benefits of recreation to the community as outlined below.

2.2.1 Personal and individual benefits

Participation in recreation and sporting activities can:

reduce physical health problems, including cardiovascular disease and lower back pain.

improve psychological wellbeing through reducing stress, and increasing personal development, self-esteem, self-confidence and skills. There are also intangible psychological benefits such as happiness, enjoyment, satisfaction and spiritual experiences through participation in sport and recreation.

2.2.2 Social and community benefits

Participation in recreation and sporting activities can:

strengthen social bonds at the local community level through involvement of volunteers in recreation and sport, and local residents meeting each other in recreation settings.

maintain and strengthen family and cultural relationships maintained by joint involvement in recreation and sporting activities.

promote appreciation and understanding of people with disabilities and their carers and families through participating in mainstream activities.

reduce the incidence of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

2.2.3 Environmental benefits

Recreation settings:

offer protected natural environments for physical activity and visual pleasure. Looking out over pleasant parklands gives visual relief from urban development.

are key factors that are considered when people have a choice about where they live.

increase environmental awareness and appreciation through experience.

encourage people to walk and cycle rather than using cars, which improves air quality.

2.2.4 Economic benefits

Opportunities for participation in recreation and sport result in:

economic benefits from the development of recreation and sport facilities, production and sale of related goods and services, and employment of people in the recreation and sport industry.

significant savings in health costs, allowing such funds to be redirected into other areas of health services.

attraction of participants and spectators from outside the area for sporting events.

increased property values adjacent to or near open space, resulting in a better environment for the property owner and higher land tax contributions to the community.

improved work performance and productivity, decreased absenteeism and staff turnover, and reduced work accidents.

attracting new residents to an area.



Canterbury Golf Course



Terry Lamb Reserve

2.2 State government legislation and policies

2.2.1 Legislation

Several key pieces of legislation influence the provision of open space and recreation opportunities in Canterbury as follows.

Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 requires Councils to identify, classify and manage land that it owns. Public land that is classified as community land generally includes parks and other open spaces. Under the Act, Councils are required to prepare Plans of Management for community land. Canterbury Council has prepared several Plans of Management for parks, reserves and bushland areas. Councils are also required to categorise community land as either natural area (foreshore, watercourse, wetland, bushland), sportsground, park, area of cultural significance, or general community use. Core objectives for management apply to each category of community land.

Under the Act, Councils are also required to prepare an annual State of Environment report, in which information on open space, recreation and natural resources is usually presented.

Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998

This Regulation requires all Councils in NSW to prepare a Social or Community Plan that addresses the needs of target groups. Such plans may or may not address recreation as part of identifying and addressing social needs, as there is an overlap between recreation and social needs and planning.

Crown Lands Act 1989

The *Crown Lands Act 1989* governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including reservation or dedication for a public purpose such as Public Recreation, and leasing and licensing. The Land and Property Management Authority is responsible for management of the Crown reserve system throughout NSW. However, most of the Crown land in Canterbury is under the care, control and management of Council.

Crown land must be managed and used according to:

the public purpose of the reserve.

case law.

any conditions and provisions within the zoning that applies in Council's Local Environmental Plan.

the principles of Crown land management, which are to:

- observe environmental protection principles in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.
- conserve the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna, and scenic quality) wherever possible.
- encourage public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land.
- encourage multiple use of Crown land, where appropriate.
- use and manage Crown land in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, where appropriate.
- occupy, use, sell, lease, license, or otherwise deal with Crown land in the best interests of the State, consistent with the above principles.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* provide the framework for, among other things:

Councils and other planning authorities to prepare land use planning instruments, including State Environmental Planning Policies and Local Environmental Plans.

the processes for the assessment and approval of development applications, including addressing the impacts of development on the provision of public amenities and services.

Impacts on public amenities and services provided by councils and other planning authorities that arise from the approval of new development are usually addressed through the imposition of conditions of consent requiring development contributions.

Development contributions are contributions made by those undertaking development approved under the EPA Act toward the provision of public amenities and services. A development contribution can be a monetary contribution, the dedication of land free of cost or the provision of a material public benefit.

Development contributions in Canterbury LGA may be obtained through the imposition of a condition on a consent requiring either section 94 contributions or section 94A levies, or they may be provided through an agreement negotiated between the developer and the Council (called a 'voluntary planning agreement').

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* aims to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas, including access to premises. The Act also aims to promote recognition and acceptance in the community that people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

Companion Animals Act 1998

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* aims to promote responsible animal ownership in NSW. Under the Act, dogs in public places must be on a lead under the effective control of a competent person, except in a declared off-leash area. Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children's play areas, food preparation / consumption areas, and recreation areas where dogs are prohibited by the local authority. If a dog defecates in a public place, the owner must remove and dispose of it in a rubbish receptacle.

Other legislation and requirements

Numerous other Acts and Regulations relate to the planning and management of recreation facilities and open space, including:

environmental management requirements: including the Noxious Weeds Act, Heritage Act, and pollution control.

quality of buildings and structures: such as Australian standards for play equipment and softfall, and the Building Code of Australia.

2.2.2 Strategic plans

NSW State Plan

A key priority (E8) of the NSW State Plan (2006) for 'Environment and Living' is:

'More people using parks, sporting and recreation facilities, and participating in the arts and cultural activity'.

The Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation is responsible for meeting targets for this priority, including to increase:

the number of visits to State government parks and reserves by 20% by 2016.

the number of people participating in sporting activities and physical exercise by 10% by 2016.

The NSW Government is committed to operating a sport development program and facilities to support sport and recreation organisations in NSW, and providing recreational boating infrastructure through the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program.

New directions that the State Government will consider to achieve the above targets include promoting the Healthy Parks / Healthy People program, and developing a more strategic approach with local government to improve their sporting and recreational facilities.

Game Plan 2012

Game Plan 2012 (NSW Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and NSW Sport and Recreation, 2006) sets out guidelines for the sport and recreation industry in addressing priority issues until 2012. The Plan is based on the principle that physical activity builds stronger communities, and that social relationships and support lead to increased levels of physical activity. The government's aim is to encourage increased participation of players and volunteers. The number of adults and children participating in sport and physical activity in NSW is expected to increase at the rate of 1% per year. Relationships with and collaboration between participants, service providers, facility providers, funders and advocates are necessary to ensure the benefits of physical activity are realised.

Challenges facing the sport and recreation industry in meeting the stated aims primarily relate to participation, funding, facilities, and volunteers. The approach to address these challenges is 'community-centred' – by recognising the strength of social relationships and community engagement – to build the social capital of NSW.

Four key focus areas in Game Plan 2012 which underpin the vision of "shaping our community for a sustainable future" are:

active community. The objective is to make it easier and affordable for people of all ages to be physically active and involved in their communities. The success measure is a one percent increase per annum in physical activity across all ages, gender, disability and culturally diverse groups.

new vision for volunteers. The objective is to increase the number of qualified, confident volunteers – referees, technical officials, coaches and administrators - who feel valued and supported and want to remain in the industry. The success measure is a 1% increase per annum in the number of volunteers working in sport and recreation.

innovative funding. The objective is to provide sustainable funding from government and non-government sources. The success measure is increased per capita amount of funding from government (all levels) and non-government sources.

fresh approach to facilities. The objective is to increase the availability of usable open space and ensure facilities are of a quality standard to meet community expectations. The success measures are a two percent increase in access to usable open space; quality assurance framework with standards for new sports facilities (especially multi-use facilities) is accepted and implemented by sport organisations; and a feasibility study completed for a multi-sport facilities model.

Specific strategies following on from these key focus areas relate to:

providing quality, multi-purpose and safe facilities.

increasing opportunities for available land for open space through creative means.

joint use of facilities through partnerships.

2.2.3 Initiatives

Several general initiatives to promote use of open space and participation in recreational activities include:

Healthy Parks Healthy People program, which encourages people to visit parks and gardens by highlighting the mental and physical benefits of spending time in parks.

Premier's Sporting Challenge, which encourages primary and secondary school students to take part in regular moderate to vigorous sport and physical activity.

2.2.4 Funding

The State government provides funding for various aspects of open space and recreation as follows:

Department of Planning: Metropolitan Greenspace Program for regional parks and Cooks River foreshore projects.

Department of Sport and Recreation: Capital Assistance and Regional Sports Facilities grants.

2.3 Regional plans and policies

2.3.1 Sydney Metropolitan Area

Metropolitan Strategy

The Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney (Department of Planning, 2005) aims to achieve a more sustainable city, including to enhance liveability. Seven subject areas of the Metropolitan Strategy include Parks and Public Places. The vision for Parks and Public Places is that:

Sydney will have fair access to quality parks and public places for leisure, sport and recreation for the local community and visitors. The city will have a range of open spaces that meet the diverse and changing needs of the community.

a network of recreation trails will provide walking and cycling opportunities linking centres and parks.

Relevant objectives and initiatives for Parks and Public Places are to:

increase access to quality parks and public places by improving the quality of regional open space, and improving access to waterways and links between bushland, parks and centres.

provide a diverse mix of parks and public places by improving the quality of local open space, and by investigating the future options for open space provision and management.

The State Government's Metropolitan Strategy flags an increase in 7,100 additional dwellings, equating to a population increase in the order of 17,500 people or 13% in the Canterbury local government area by 2031. The corresponding increase in population, together with an aging population, smaller household sizes, smaller residential lots and increase in housing density, and changes in the amount of leisure time and how people use it, means that a comprehensive and strategic approach should be taken to addressing recreation needs in Canterbury.

2.3.2 Southern Sydney region

South Sub-region

The main issue in the South Subregion in relation to open space is limitations on recreational open space to cater for the needs of the established, middle ring residential areas of Canterbury. Councils and state agencies in this subregion are focusing on capital works programs to increase the capacity of existing parks.

Canterbury has a lesser amount of local open space against population, compared to other southern Sydney Councils.

Following on from the Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney, key strategies for the South Sub-Region are outlined below.

Table 2.1 Strategies for increasing access to parks and public places

First-level strategy	Second level strategy	Third-level strategy
F1 Increase access to quality parks and public places.	F1.2 Improve the quality of regional open space.	The NSW Government and local Councils to: ❑ focus on promoting the educational use of bushland and foreshore recreation areas such as Wolli Creek Regional Park and Botany Bay National Park (F1.2.2). ❑ continue to improve the Cooks River corridor, Brighton-le-Sands, Rockdale Wetlands and Recreation Corridor, and the M5 Corridor (F1.2.4).
	F1.3 Improve access to waterways and links between bushland, parks and centres.	Department of Planning to continue to work with local Councils, DECC and RTA to: ❑ develop the framework for an integrated network of regional recreation trails as part of the overall open space system (F1.3.1). ❑ complete gaps in existing trails, including the M5 East (off-road) Wolli Creek trail (F1.3.2).

Other strategies for open space and recreation in the South Sub-Region are in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Strategies for providing diverse parks and public places

First-level strategy	Second level strategy	Third-level strategy
F2 Provide a diverse mix of parks and public places.	F2.1 Improve the quality of local open space.	Councils will prepare strategies for the provision and management of new open space areas and embellishments to existing open space areas to serve the needs of the existing and future residents of the South Subregion.
		Councils to investigate expanding the Marrick-ville Local Open Space Program to improve the Cooks River corridor and the M5 linear corridor.
		Councils to consider an open space embellishment program for improving facilities.
		Councils to improve areas for informal activities such as skating, basketball, netball, and the establishment of cafes.
		Councils to consider mechanisms to increase the capacity of local sports fields to a district level.
		Councils to continue to maintain or enhance the provision of local open space particularly in centres and along transport corridors where urban and particularly residential growth is being located.
	F2.2 Investigate future options for open space provision and management.	-
	F2.3 Provide for urban civic space in planning for centres.	Councils to consider the need for civic space and identify opportunities to enhance existing civic space and provide new civic spaces.
F3 Improve Sydney's major sporting and cultural event facilities.	F3.1 Improve Sydney's major sporting and cultural event facilities.	-

Southern Sydney Region

In addition to local initiatives, Southern Sydney regional investigations in relation to recreation opportunities (HM Leisure Planning and Inspiring Place, 2003) have shown that demands in the Southern Sydney region focus on:

- linear trails and walkways.
- sportsgrounds.
- quality playgrounds.
- indoor aquatic centres and ball sports venues.
- informal recreation opportunities.
- higher quality and more focused informal parks.

Key gaps in the Southern Sydney region to be addressed are:

more sportsfields.

linear trails in a range of settings.

informal social opportunities in facilities for youth.

recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

regional playgrounds.

The extent to which these regional demands and gaps apply to Canterbury are reflected in the recommended actions in the Action Plan in Section 6.

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), which includes Canterbury, is pro-active in sport and recreation planning. It promotes joint planning and co-ordination of use of sporting fields among SSROC Councils.

2.3.3 Cross-boundary planning

Canterbury Council co-operatively works with other surrounding Councils on recreation issues crossing local government area boundaries. For example, the Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan provides a rich recreational resource for the local and wider community catering for a range of recreational activities and important regional links.

The Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Program aims to enhance the natural environment and recreational opportunities on the Cooks River foreshore. Government funds projects to improve the green space along the foreshore, restore riverine habitats, naturalise riverbanks, improve access to the water, extend pedestrian and cycle links along the river.

2.4 Local plans and policies

2.4.1 Planning context

Canterbury City Council's vision is:

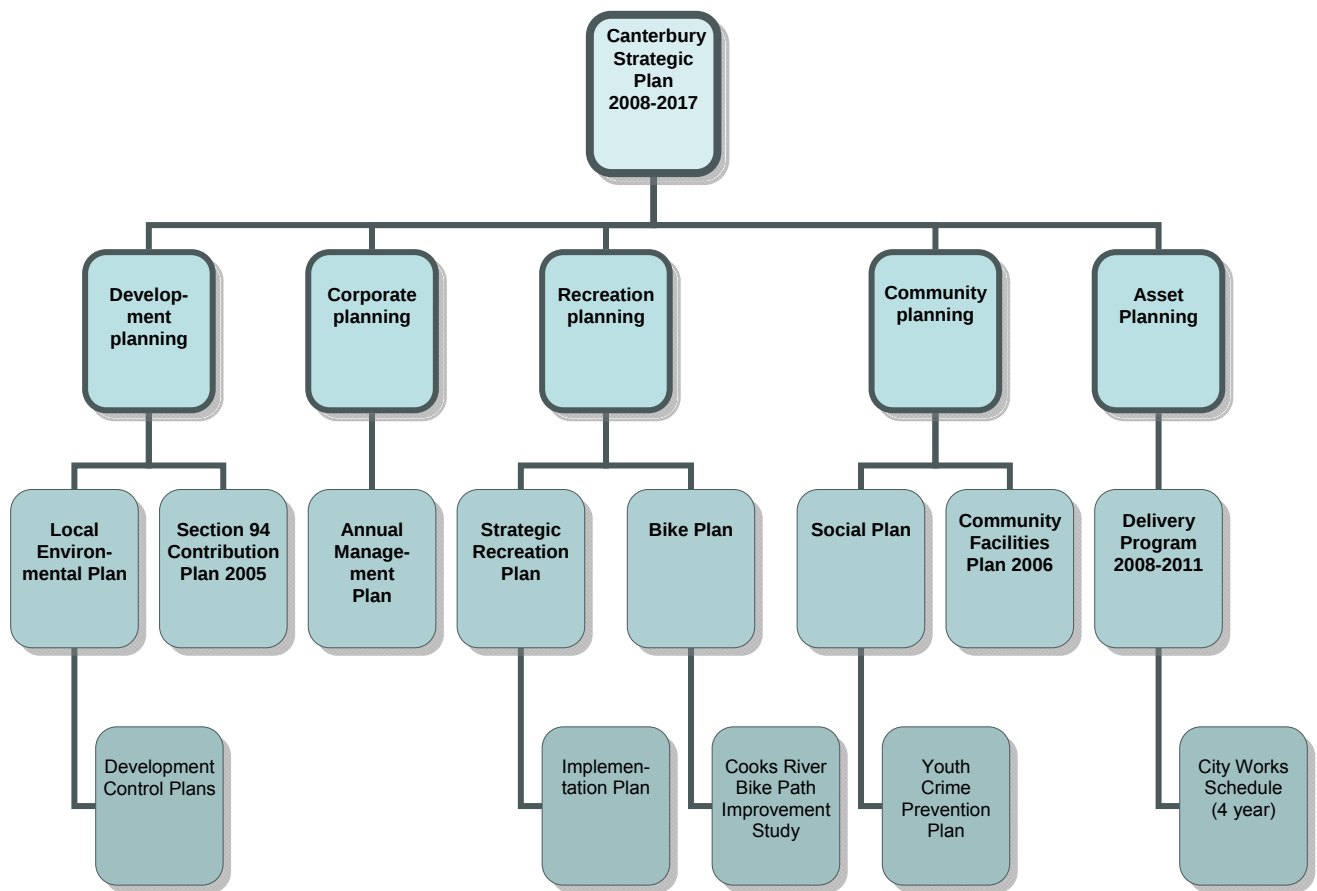
The City of Canterbury ... a great place to live and work!

Following on from the vision, Council's Mission is:

**We are responsible to council and our community through this
City Strategic Plan to achieve real improvements in quality of life for
people living and working in the City of Canterbury.**

Numerous local plans and policies guide planning, provision and management of open space opportunities in Canterbury as shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 Context of recreation planning in Canterbury



Specific information regarding each plan above that relates to each theme for recreation is in Section 5.

Supporting these broader plans are Council's policies relating to recreation as follows:

Dog Exercise Areas.

Use of Parks and Reserves by Commercial Fitness Groups and Personal Trainers.

Seasonal Allocation of Sporting Fields.

Velodrome and Touch Stadium Policy.

2.4.2 Relationship of this plan to the Canterbury Strategic Plan

Long-term goals and desired outcomes of Council's Strategic Plan 2008-2017 that are relevant to recreation are set out below.

Table 2.3 Long term goals and outcomes for Canterbury 2008-2017

Theme	Long-term goals	Outcomes
1 Attractive City	1.1 Good looking infrastructure	☐ Improving buildings and amenities ☐ Improving Salt Pan Creek ☐ Maintaining parks and buildings ☐ Planning and design ☐ Improving asset management systems
	1.2 Transport alternatives that work	☐ Improving disability access ☐ Improving footpaths and bike paths
2 Stronger Community	2.1 Safety and health	☐ Healthy lifestyles are supported by appropriate leisure and recreational facilities ☐ A harmonious and cohesive community where residents and visitors feel safe to live, work travel and socialise.
	2.2 Access to responsive services	☐ Appropriate provision and optimum use of community facilities ☐ Community planning and development is integrated and coordinated ☐ Equitable access to all physical cultural and social resources to promote quality of life ☐ Progressive services that reflect the diversity of customer requirements
	2.3 Celebration of diversity	☐ A strong, well connected community which recognises and values diversity ☐ Opportunities for expression and wide appreciation of local heritage and cultural identity
3 Healthy Environment	3.1 Sustainable urban development	☐ Urban planning and development meets community needs and the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development
4 Strategic Leadership	4.1 Healthy finances	☐ Ongoing resources are available to deliver improved services and infrastructure
	4.2 Engaged community	☐ Active community participation is valued and encouraged ☐ People in our community are aware of services facilities and programs
	4.3 Effective governance	☐ Planning and policy provides a clear direction for current and future operations ☐ Our exposure to risk is managed responsibly ☐ Our activities comply with legislative obligations
5 Improving Organisation	5.1 Efficient services	☐ Services that reliably meet the needs of our community and represent value for money
	5.2 Well maintained equipment	☐ Modern, safe and well maintained facilities, plan and equipment.



Joe Poole Reserve



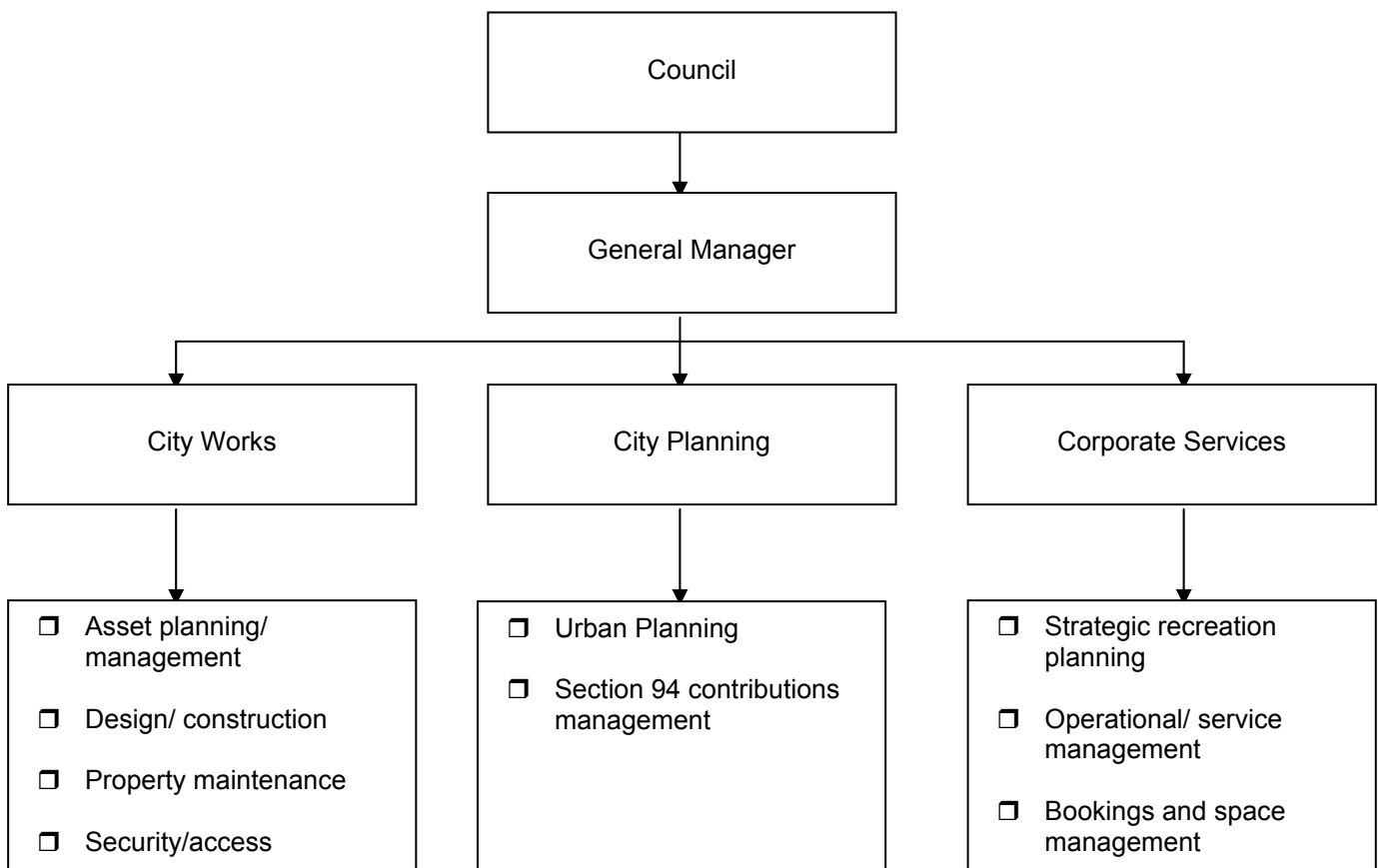
Belmore Sportsground

2.4.3 Council's role in recreation

In 2007-08, Canterbury City Council allocated \$4,987,000 to expenditure on recreation and leisure (Department of Local Government, 2009). This amount equates to \$36.20 per person¹, which ranks as one of the lowest per-person rates of expenditure on recreation and leisure of all Councils in NSW, and ranks as the median per-person rate of expenditure on recreation and leisure among the local government areas including and adjoining Canterbury City.

Responsibility for recreation within Canterbury City Council is spread throughout the organisation. The roles of various sections of Council in planning, providing and advocating recreation opportunities in Canterbury City are set out below.

Figure 2.2 Council's role in recreation



2.5 Open space and recreation planning principles

This Strategic Recreation Plan adopts the following planning principles in relation to recreation in Canterbury City.

¹ Based on an estimated resident population of 137,755 people

2.5.1 Recreation opportunity spectrum

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is an outdoor recreation planning tool that recognises that the recreational needs of a community are most likely to be satisfied if a range of recreational experiences are provided through a range of settings (Clarke and Stankey, 1979).

2.5.2 Outdoor recreation and open space guidelines

The Department of Planning recognises that open space management is a significant component of local government responsibility in NSW. The Department encourages Councils to prepare open space and recreation plans to help with planning the present and future provision of open space and recreation facilities. To assist Councils with preparing these plans, the Department prepared guidelines for outdoor recreation and open space planning (Department of Planning, 1992). These guidelines outlined several concepts that Councils are encouraged to adopt in preparing their open space and recreation plans, including:

providing quality open space areas that cater for diverse recreation experiences which satisfy the community's needs for recreation.

moving from the rigid 'standards' approach of providing open space (where open space provision is expressed in terms of the number of hectares per 1,000 people) towards a needs-based approach that considers the characteristics and specific needs of local communities.

compiling an inventory of all open space areas that becomes an important management tool.

Despite being developed in the early 1990s, these concepts still hold in open space and recreation planning in NSW. The Department of Planning is currently reviewing and updating these open space and recreation guidelines, which will provide further guidance and assistance to local Councils in particular to plan, develop and manage open space and recreation facilities.

2.5.3 Needs-based provision

Standards for provision of open space based on population were first thought to have been applied by the American Park and Outdoor Art Association in 1901, which recommended provision of open space at the rate of 5 acres (2 hectares) per 1,000 population (Veal, 2008). The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) in the UK first proposed that 7 acres (2.83 hectares) per 1,000 population was a desirable standard for provision of open space, although this figure does not include open space settings and facilities such as outdoor sport facilities, nature conservation areas, ornamental gardens and parks, golf courses, water areas, indoor sport and fitness facilities, or commercial entertainment and theme parks.

Planners in Australia adopted the UK standard of 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people in the 1940s despite little relevant or justifiable evidence (Veal, 2008). More recent attempts by Australian organisations such as the National Capital Development Commission and South Australian Urban Land Trust to develop a more robust standard resulted in guidelines of four to seven hectares per 1,000 people (excluding natural areas and metropolitan parks). If provision of open space in the City of Canterbury was assessed only using these guidelines, then it appears that Canterbury City is relatively undersupplied in terms of open space (refer to Section 3.1) when this may not be the case.

The limitations of open space standards have been well documented by many commentators since the 1970s. Such limitations include that quantity of open space does not always equate with quality or appropriate distribution and location, recreation and open space needs of unique communities are ignored, and that a British standard developed in the 1930s has no relevance to Australia 70 years later. Despite these limitations, open space standards are still referred to in

planning documents such as Section 94 contributions plans, and by the NSW Land and Environment Court.

Veal (2008) observes that although a numerical standard provides a benchmark by which to consider the adequacy of open space, provision of open space should be assessed on a needs basis and quality of open space should be considered consistent with its designated purpose. In recent years efforts have been made in Australia and the United States to encourage planners to not use standards and to use a needs-based approach to open space and recreation provision instead. The needs-based approach takes into account factors such as social and demographic characteristics of the community being planned for, and needs for open space and recreation expressed through means such as consultation and usage patterns.

2.5.4 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles aim to minimise opportunities for anti-social behaviour in Council recreation facilities and parks, and maximise the perception of safety of users and the community. Implementation of CPTED principles involves:

- fostering a strong sense of identity and community ownership of parks.
- improving security lighting in high-use areas and along major pedestrian pathways.
- maximising casual surveillance through sight lines from surrounding areas.
- providing controlled access points, and directional signage.
- providing clear pathways to and within parks.
- clearly defining the boundary between the park and any adjoining private areas to delineate where activities in the public open space should occur.

2.6 Recreation industry trends

Issues and trends in the recreation industry affecting planning and management of recreation and open space include:

increasing recognition of the need for balance in the provision of 'structured' and 'unstructured' recreation. This is reflected, for example, in the widespread development of bicycle and walking trails and leisure pools rather than just concentrating on providing sporting facilities.

the widespread adoption of 'access for all' principles in open space and recreation facility planning, design and construction.

increasing recognition that safe, accessible and visually attractive recreation facilities and open spaces will encourage and promote more active lifestyles.

increasing concentration on health promotion and education, especially in response to concerns about the increasing weight of children.

recreation providers are finding many constraints to providing more recreation opportunities due to shortage of land, and limited resources. More resources are being directed towards improving the quality of recreation facilities and spaces to increase their use capacity, rather than developing new spaces and facilities.

escalating public liability insurance costs are a significant cost for sporting and community organisations, which are affecting the viability of the groups, and their ability to organise events. There has been a recent shift from the public winning cases against Councils for injuries sustained in Council-owned and managed open space towards the courts taking a view towards taking personal responsibility for actions that lead to injuries. As such, high risk activities are no longer readily accepted by open space and recreation managers. An increasingly litigious society has forced recreation managers to require increasing risk insurance, and costs have increased significantly.

the role of local government in managing recreation and sport is changing as follows:

- trend away from government provision towards Councils to contract the delivery of leisure services to commercial and community organisations.
- increasing levels of professionalism are required for the management of sporting activities, facilities and events due to risk management requirements.
- pressure to do more with less funding and staff. Council budgets for recreation and open space rarely increase in real terms.
- increasing onus on local government to implement Commonwealth and State Government initiatives, such as Active Australia programs.
- an increasing move towards 'user pays' for participation in recreation activities.

a trend away from single-purpose or dedicated facilities towards shared or multi-use facilities.

Construction of multi-purpose recreation complexes, combining facilities for indoor sport, weights and fitness training, swimming and other recreation activities. Such facilities are increasingly being funded and/or operated by the private sector. This results in less duplication of facilities, more sustainable assets in the longer term, and streamlined management.

an increasing number of facilities are being constructed or upgraded with synthetic surfaces.

due to the increase in the number of leisure activities available being participated in, there is fierce competition for the "leisure dollar". Recreation providers can no longer rely on "walk-ins", with facility management now more business-like to attract and retain customers.

financial resources are becoming increasingly limited. Facilities previously funded by one organisation are now provided by partnerships between various types of organisations including State government, local government, the private sector and user groups.

on-going pressures to charge users for traditionally free or low-cost subsidised services to cover the costs of provision, or "user pays".

perceptions and incidences of crime are guiding design of recreation spaces, particularly through adopting Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

the drought and water shortages are encouraging Councils to adopt Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles in recreation facility and open space design.

3 SUPPLY OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN CANTERBURY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 General

Canterbury has a wide spectrum of recreation facilities and spaces throughout the City, including river and creek foreshores and paths, bushland, playing fields and parks.

Regional open spaces in Canterbury include Wolli Creek Regional Park, Gough Whitlam Park, Wiley Park, Cooks River foreshore, and Salt Pan Creek Wetlands. District open spaces include John Mountford Reserve in Narwee, and Rudd Park in Belfield. Peel Park in Lakemba is an example of a local open space.

A summary of the inventory of recreation opportunities in Canterbury is as follows.

3.1.2 Total open space

Canterbury City has 345 hectares of public open space in 251 park areas. This equates to 25 square metres of open space per person. Of this total area of open space, 23 spaces (24% of total area) has a regional catchment, 46 spaces (61% of total area) have a district catchment, and 182 spaces (15% of total area) has a local catchment.

Issues relating to open space in general include:

some parks are not 'visible' from surrounding roads and residential areas, or are not recognised as public open space

some parks require review of maintenance to improve condition and make more attractive to use

limited availability of new open space through land acquisition.

3.1.3 Open space and recreation facilities and settings

A summary of the open space and recreation facilities and settings in City of Canterbury are set out below. More information is set out in Section 5. Issues in Table 3.1 below relate to the issues presented in the Action Plan in Section 6.

Table 3.1 Recreation opportunities in Canterbury City

Recreation opportunities in Canterbury City	Issues regarding provision
Informal recreation facilities	
Outdoor informal recreation facilities, including: picnic and barbecue areas. unleashed dog exercise areas. formal gardens (Gough Whitlam Park, Lofts Gardens) community garden at Riverwood. outdoor performance spaces (Wiley Park, Riverwood wetlands) practice walls.	Passive recreation activities and gatherings in open space and recreation areas with family and friends is becoming increasingly popular. Exercising dogs is enjoyed in open spaces, but requires suitable planning and management around other users. A range of informal recreation activities are enjoyed in open space. Development and improvement required in the condition, security and accessibility of public amenities in open space areas.
Indoor recreation facilities including: more than 20 licensed clubs community centres (Canterbury City, Carrington Centre, Earlwood, Riverwood) Scout and Guide halls men's shed private dance and music venues.	Increase access to low cost leisure and recreation indoor programs, particularly for families and older people.
Target groups	
Children's facilities, including: 95 playgrounds children's bike paths private indoor children's play facilities (Earlwood, Roselands) activities and programs for children.	Council playgrounds are aging and provide little imagination or engagement and require review of maintenance to meet safety standards. There is an uneven distribution of playgrounds and some are isolated from amenities Enhance and increase play opportunities associated with playgrounds, playgroups, children's bike paths and activities for children with special needs. Improve access to affordable occasional and vacation care programs and services within Canterbury.
Facilities for young people, such as: youth centres (Belmore Youth Resource Centre, PCYC Belmore) youth café (Campsie) teenage play equipment (Croydon Park) two skate parks (Riverwood, Lakemba) basketball courts BMX / mountain bike track (Canterbury) Australian Air League (Riverwood).	There is a need for more quality and low-cost informal leisure and recreation opportunities in Canterbury for young people There is an imbalance in distribution and provision of youth facilities and programs in the LGA

Recreation opportunities in Canterbury City	Issues regarding provision
Opportunities specifically for older people: six senior citizens' centres organised activities.	Reduce the barriers to participation in recreation by older people, particularly cost and transport. Increase access indoor space for senior citizens programs in the Lakemba area.
People with a disability: activities accessible buildings and recreation settings	General access to and within open space and recreation areas for people with a disability requires improvement. Recreation activities for people with a disability are limited, lack imagination, challenge and are influenced by the carer or care organisations.
People from a culturally and linguistically diverse community: No specific facilities	Gain an understanding of the role of recreation for CALD communities. There are few usable open space opportunities for family/cultural gatherings, activities and recreation.
Women: women's rest centres (Campsie, Lakemba). organised activities for women.	Opportunities for women to access specific and separate leisure and recreation facilities and services need to be developed. Access to short-term childcare is required to increase participation of mothers with young children in recreation activities.
Linkages	
A network of pedestrian paths, cycleways and shared paths focused on the Cooks River and Wolli Creek.	A number of open space systems are not well connected, and have limited systems of shared pathways and amenities. Enhance safety and security of existing linkages. Increase numbers of accessible amenity and services along high use linkages.
Sporting facilities	
General	There is a growing need for facilitated sports development within Canterbury LGA. Cost and culture of structured sport activities can be restrictive and limits participation for some low-income and CALD communities.
Sporting fields (48 in winter, 36 in summer), catering for athletics, Australian Rules, baseball, cricket, football, hockey, rugby league and union, softball and touch football.	There are sufficient fields for summer sports however training areas and competition fields are fully booked for winter sports identifying a need for balance of sport specific fields. There are a number of sporting field amenity buildings and services in need of repair or replacement.

Recreation opportunities in Canterbury City	Issues regarding provision
Sporting fields (cont.)	Availability and booking of sporting fields by external groups and community organisations is limited by traditional usages in some circumstances. A commitment will be required to maintain and develop key sporting complexes.
Outdoor sports courts for netball, tennis, basketball and multi-purpose use.	Canterbury has very few outdoor sports courts facilities to meet high demand for a range of sport and recreation activities.
Lawn bowling greens, and petanque / boules.	Need to review sports, such as lawn bowls, that may have facilities that are under-utilised and have low membership.
Indoor sports courts (basketball, squash, racquetball, etc. and halls (gymnastics, martial arts).	Increase access to indoor sports courts facilities to meet high demand for a range of sport and recreation activities.
Specialist sporting facilities such as Canterbury Golf Course, Canterbury Racecourse, Tempe Velodrome, and Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink.	These facilities add to the range of sporting facilities available to Canterbury residents and visitors.
Aquatic and fitness facilities	
Aquatic centres (Canterbury, Roselands) Gyms / fitness centres (public and private).	A review of the ageing aquatic and fitness Centres at Roselands and Canterbury is required. There is a lack of leisure and fun aquatic play areas at the Aquatic Centres.
Natural areas	
Natural areas focused on rivers and creeks, including: bushland (Wolli Creek Valley, along Cup and Saucer Creek, and remnants in Campsie, Wiley Park, Gough Whitlam Park) wetlands (Cooks River, Wolli Creek, Salt Pan Creek, Gough Whitlam Park).	Increasing urban development is impacting on bushland and rivers / creeks. There are growing conflicts between visitation, usage and ecological sensitivity of natural areas. Facilities and access to natural areas is limited There is limited parking and amenities resulting in parking in residential streets. Recreational use of waterways is limited. There is limited education and knowledge of residents on activities in natural areas.

A more specific discussion of open spaces and recreation opportunities in each of the 6 themes are in Section 5.



Euston Park



Pat O'Connor Reserve

3.2 Issues

As the population of Canterbury is expected to increase, the use of open space and recreation facilities will correspondingly increase. However, factors such as ease of access and the type of open space and recreation facilities determines the nature and frequency of their use.

Deficiencies in the supply of recreation opportunities in Canterbury were identified in 2001. These deficiencies were:

open space in the central and northern sections of the City (Lakemba, Punchbowl, Wiley Park, Campsie) corresponding to increased population densities in those suburbs.

evidence of cultural diversity of the City reflected in facilities and activities in its open space areas.

recreation opportunities for older children and youth.

children's play equipment that offers a range of experiences.

sporting opportunities for girls and women.

access for people with disabilities in most parks and along street pathways.

These issues still hold in 2009.

To attempt to address these deficiencies, in recent years, Council has:

improved formerly unused land such as Salt Pan Creek and at Gough Whitlam Park for recreational use.

acquired land through Section 94 contributions to establish linkages and parks.

Several factors affect Council's ability to fund priority recreation projects. Such factors include:

the highly developed nature of Canterbury means a lack of suitable land for new recreation facilities and spaces in Canterbury. Any suitable land is relatively expensive to purchase at market rates for open space and recreation purposes. Rather than necessarily purchasing expensive land for recreational use, Council's focus is on 'quality not quantity'. Council's key approach should be to improve, embellish and sustainably manage existing land and settings for recreation. Council should only purchase additional land where there is a demonstrated lack of open space in a particular area, or because additional land would provide a benefit to existing recreational linkages and spaces.

amendments to the EP&A Act (which are yet to commence) which will limit the range of open space and recreation facilities that councils may levy development contributions for. Council's are limited to levying for or entering into a planning agreement for 'key community infrastructure', unless the Minister for Planning has approved the infrastructure as 'additional community infrastructure'. The definition of key community infrastructure as it relates to open space and recreation facilities, is however reasonably broad and is likely to include most or all of the types of items that Council currently levies for under its current contributions plans.

3.3 Opportunities for open space and recreation in Canterbury

Opportunities for additional open space and recreation in Canterbury include:

through redevelopment of sites, such as Stage 2 of Salt Pan Creek, a link along the Cooks River, and the proposed Belmore Recreation Area.

encouraging private developers to incorporate desired recreation facilities and links in their proposed development.

jointly using facilities. The Standing Committee on Public Works (2004) promoted joint use and co-location of open space / recreation facilities and public buildings such as schools, hospitals, universities and community centres. Agreements between Council and schools for public use of recreational facilities on school grounds outside school hours have been successfully entered into elsewhere.

Other specific opportunities are identified in each theme discussion in the following sections.

4 DEMAND FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN CANTERBURY

4.1 Population characteristics

4.1.1 Existing population

Total population

In 2006 the population of the Canterbury City local government area (the LGA) was 129,963² people. This represented a decrease of 984 people or 0.75% since the 2001 Census.

More recently, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) estimate the resident population of Canterbury City at 30 June 2008 was 139,985 people, an increase of 1.7% from the previous year.

Defining population characteristics of the Canterbury LGA

Research has shown that certain unique characteristics of a population influence the level and type of use of open space, recreation facilities, and participation in leisure activities. While there were no major differences between the age structure of the Canterbury City Council and the Sydney Statistical District (SSD), there were a number of distinctive socio-demographic differences that will impact on local recreation demand in Canterbury, including a:

significantly higher population density than all other Councils in NSW with total populations over 100,000 people (except City of Sydney).

significantly larger proportion of people born overseas (including refugees), as well as a much larger proportion of people from a non-English speaking background.

smaller proportion of people who spoke English only but a larger proportion of those speaking a non-English language (either exclusively, or in addition to English).

larger proportion of couple families with children as well as a larger proportion of one-parent families.

smaller proportion of high-income households (those earning \$1,700 per week or more) but a larger proportion of low-income households (those earning less than \$500 per week).

smaller proportion in employment, and a larger proportion of unemployed people.

lower level of car ownership particularly in Riverwood, Campsie, Narwee and Lakemba.

higher level of public housing tenants, particularly in Riverwood.

These key differences will affect access to recreation facilities and activities and use of open space in terms of a number of factors including financial access, language and cultural barriers, lack of family support, and access to transport.

² Id.profile, City of Canterbury website, 2008

Age structure

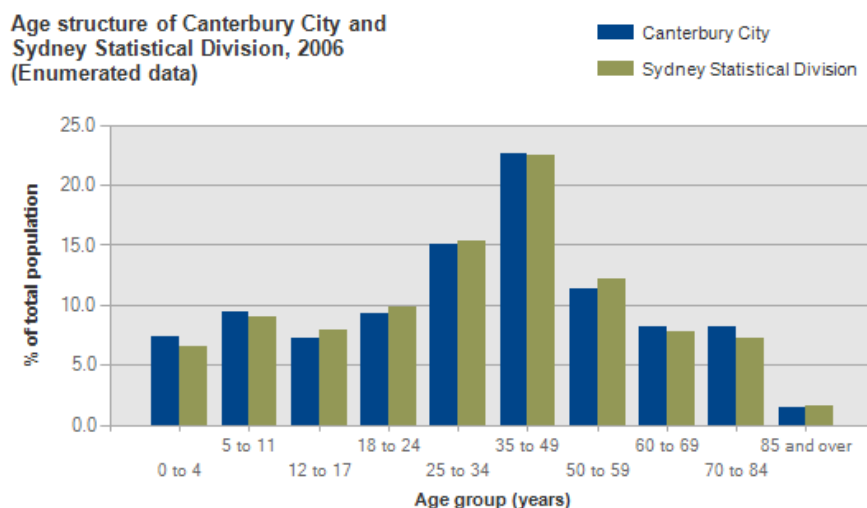
Age is the major demographic characteristic governing participation in recreation activities. As demonstrated in Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 in 2006, there were no major differences between the Canterbury LGA's age structure and that of the SSD. It shows that there was a decrease in all age groups under 55 years and an increase in all age groups over 55 years.

Between 2001 and 2006 the Canterbury population showed a loss in younger people aged 0 to 49 years (particularly in the 15-19 years age group), and a corresponding increase in numbers of people aged 50 and over (particularly in the 75 years and over age group).

Table 4.1 Population by age group 2006

Age group	Canterbury City 2006		SSD	Change from 2001
	No.	%		
0 to 4	9,461	7.3	6.6	-287
5 to 11	12,188	9.4	9.1	-214
12 to 17	9,318	7.2	7.9	-443
18 to 24	12,070	9.3	9.9	-88
25 to 34	19,444	15	15.3	-968
35 to 49	29,311	22.6	22.5	-128
50 to 59	14,623	11.3	12.2	949
60 to 69	10,657	8.2	7.8	161
70 to 84	10,546	8.1	7.3	388
85 and over	1,863	1.4	1.6	176
TOTAL	129,481	100	100	-454

Figure 4.1 Age structure of Canterbury City as compared to SSD³



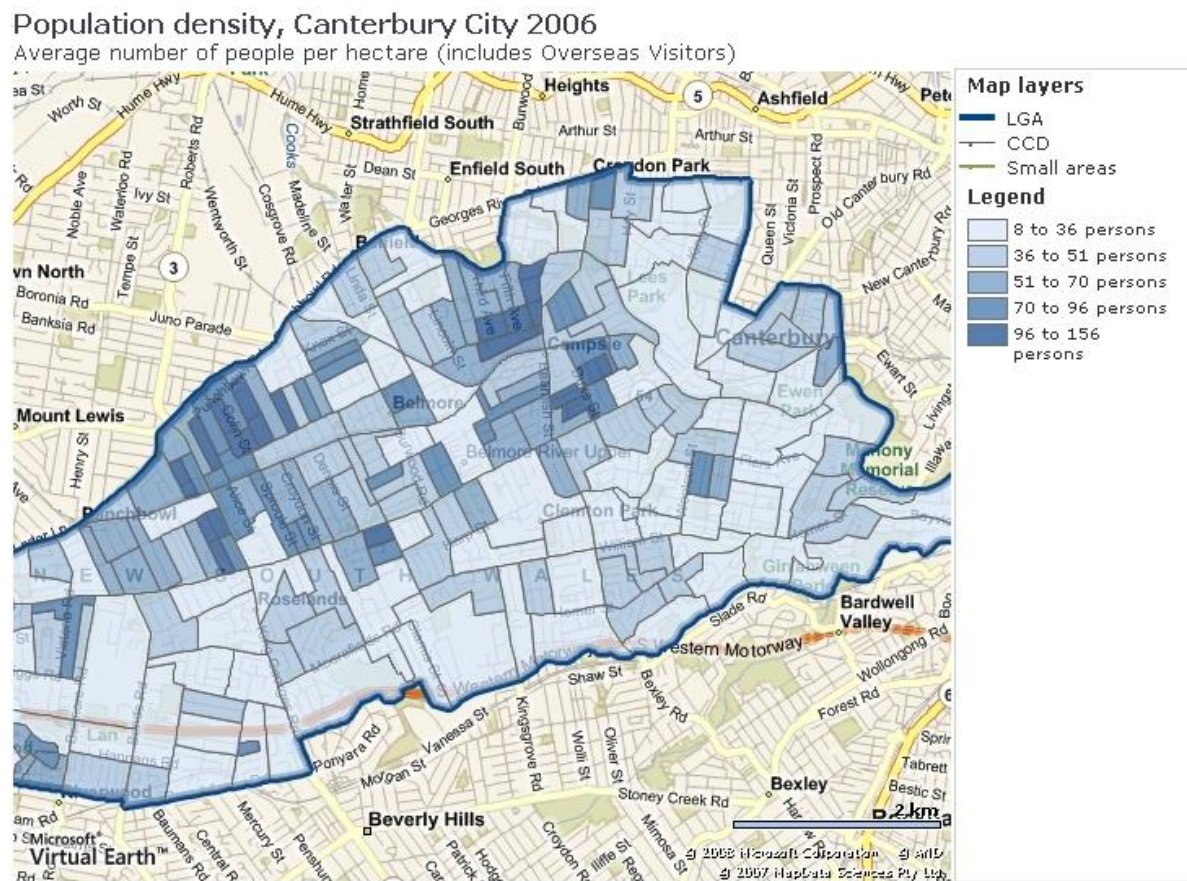
Population density

In Canterbury City, the population density in 2006 was 38.8 persons per hectare. As shown in Figure 4.2, the areas in Canterbury City with the highest population densities in 2006 included Lakemba (65.8 persons per hectare), Wiley Park (65.0 persons per hectare), and Campsie -

³ id.profile website, www.idprofile.com.au, 2008

Clemtown Park (58.5 persons per hectare). The lowest population density in the City was found in Beverly Hills with 17.9 persons per hectare. Population density will impact on how and where recreation facilities and services can be provided.

Figure 4.2 Population density City of Canterbury 2006⁴



Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

One of the most defining features of the Canterbury LGA is the high number of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds.

In 2006, 46.9% of residents or 60,982 were born overseas (compared to 39.6% SSD). Of these, a total of 56,675 were born in non-English speaking countries (or 43.6% of the total population) - significantly higher than the SSD at 25.0%. Figure 4.3 shows the top 10 countries of birth in the Canterbury LGA compared to the SSD. The main countries of birth were China, Lebanon, Greece, Vietnam, Italy and Korea.

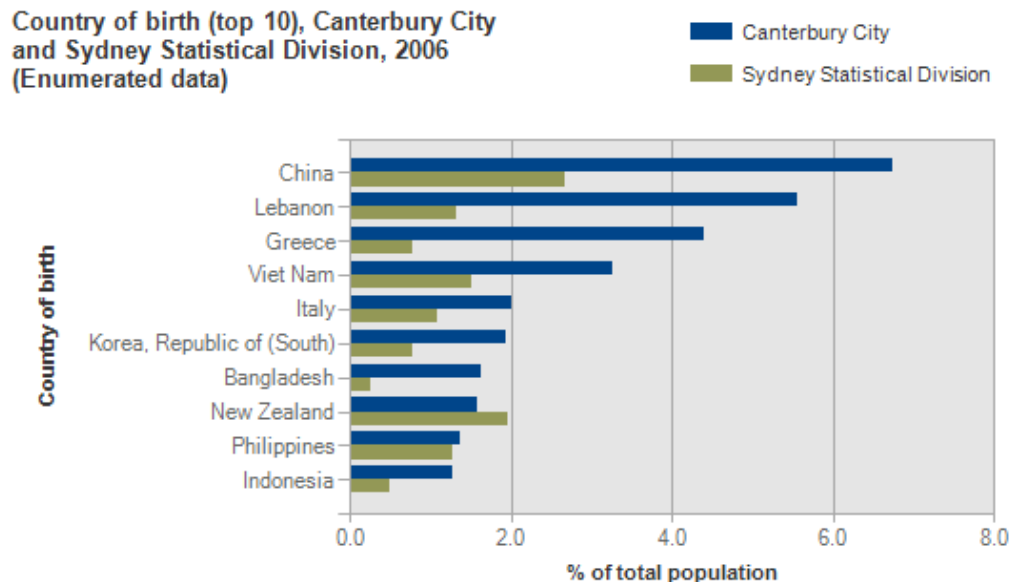
While Canterbury City had a relatively higher proportion of persons born in a country other than Australia, it is important to note that this varied across the LGA. Proportions ranged from a low of 33.1% in Ashbury to a high of 60.2% in Campsie-Clemtown Park. As Figure 4.4 shows, the areas with the highest percentages of people born overseas were:

- Campsie - Clemtown Park (60.2%)
- Lakemba (56.6%)
- Wiley Park (54.1%)
- Belmore (47.3%)

⁴ atlasid, City of Canterbury website, 2008

Punchbowl (46.3%).

Figure 4.3 Top 10 countries of birth Canterbury compared to SSD 2006⁵



Overall, 30.0% of the Canterbury population spoke English only, and 62.7% spoke a non-English language, compared with 63.9% and 29.3% respectively for the SSD. The dominant language spoken at home, other than English was Arabic, with 14.4% of the population, or 18,706 people using this language.

In 2006, 15,972 residents who were born overseas spoke English poorly or not at all. This represents 59.9% of all overseas born residents compared to 13.9% across the SSD. This will have significant impacts on how the City of Canterbury promotes its recreation services and facilities.

The City of Canterbury has a relatively high proportion of Eastern Orthodox, Islam and Buddhist communities compared to the SSD.

Children and families

There were 21,469 children aged 0 to 11 years in the City of Canterbury in 2006. This represents a 21.5% decline since 2001 (or 511). Children aged 0 to 11 represent 18% of the total population.

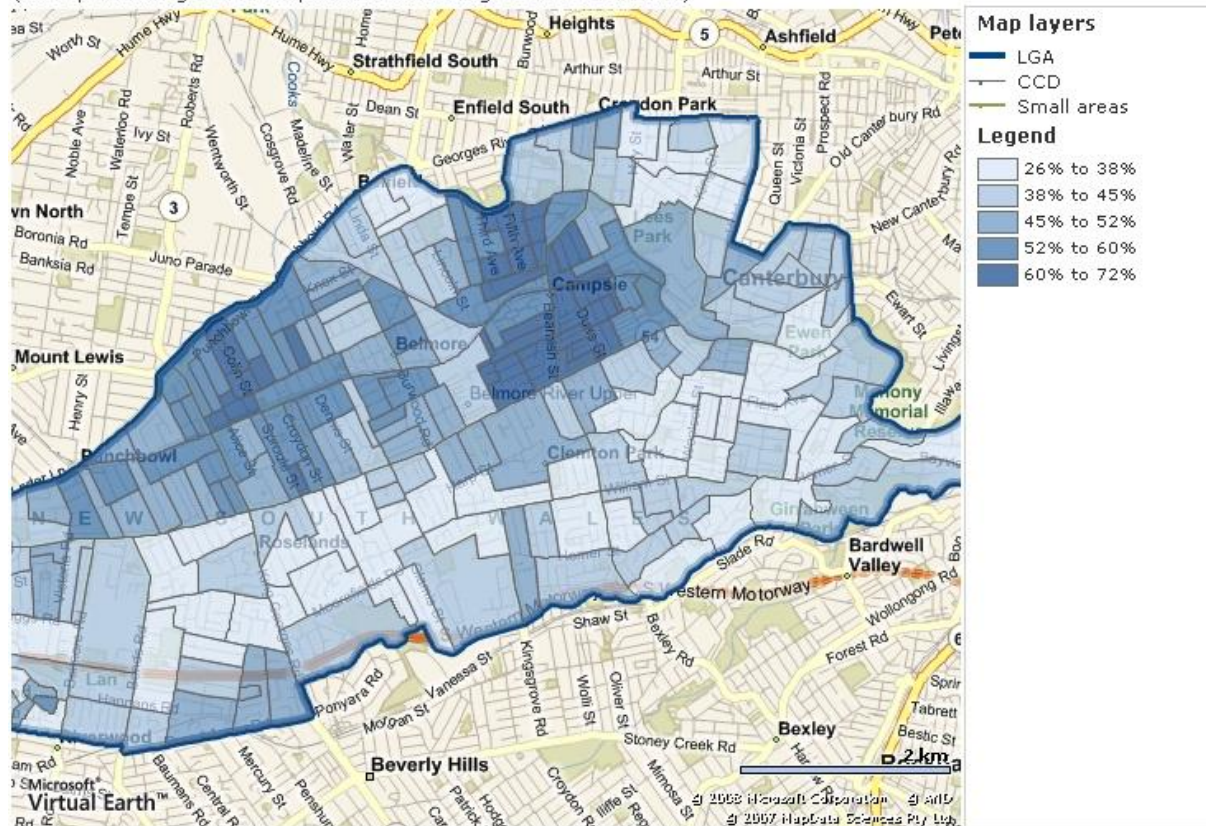
The suburbs with the largest percentage of 0 to 4 year olds were Lakemba 10.4%, Wiley Park 9.6%, and Punchbowl 8.9%. The suburbs with the largest percentage of children aged 5 to 11 are Wiley Park 11.3%, Punchbowl 11.6%, and Lakemba 10.6%

The suburbs with the largest numbers of children aged 0 to 4 years were Campsie 1,446, Lakemba 1,468, and Earlwood 990. The largest numbers of 5 to 11 year olds can be found in the suburbs of Campsie 1,894, Lakemba 1,517, and Earlwood 1,429.

⁵ idprofile, City of Canterbury website 2008

Figure 4.4 Location of persons born overseas in Canterbury City 2006⁶

Persons born overseas, Canterbury City 2006
(As a percentage of total persons excluding overseas visitors)



Overall, 51.1% of families were couple families with children, and 17.9% were one-parent families, compared with 49.3% and 15.6% respectively for the SSD.

Young people

There were 21,412 young people aged between 12 and 24 years in the City of Canterbury in 2006. This represents a decline of 2.4% since 2001.

The suburbs with the highest numbers of young people aged 12 to 24 are Campsie 3,472, Earls Park 2,470, Lakemba 2,359, and Belmore 2,029. The suburbs with the highest percentage of young people aged 12 to 24 are Punchbowl 19%, Wiley Park 18.2%, and Belfield 17.3%.

The majority of Canterbury's young people aged 15 to 24 who were born overseas were born in China (1,181 or 13.6%), followed by Lebanon (464 or 6.4%) and Vietnam (308 or 7.3%).

The City of Canterbury has a significantly lower percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 employed in either full-time or part-time work in comparison to the Sydney region, and a much greater percentage of young people not in the labour force. This signifies a need for diversionary recreation activities for young people whilst not working or studying.

⁶ atlasid, City of Canterbury website.

Older people

The aging of the Canterbury population is a reflection of Australia's population generally growing older. As the population gets older, there will be added pressure to provide appropriate recreational facilities and services for a diverse range of older adults. There were 29,953 people aged 55 years or over in 2006. This represents 23.0% of the total population similar to the SSD at 22.5%.

The suburbs with the largest number of older people aged 55+ were Earlwood 3,793, Campsie 3,216, and Belmore 2,345. The suburbs with the highest percentage of older people aged 55+ were Riverwood 26.4%, Narwee 25.8%, Kingsgrove 23.5%, and Beverley Hills 23.2%.

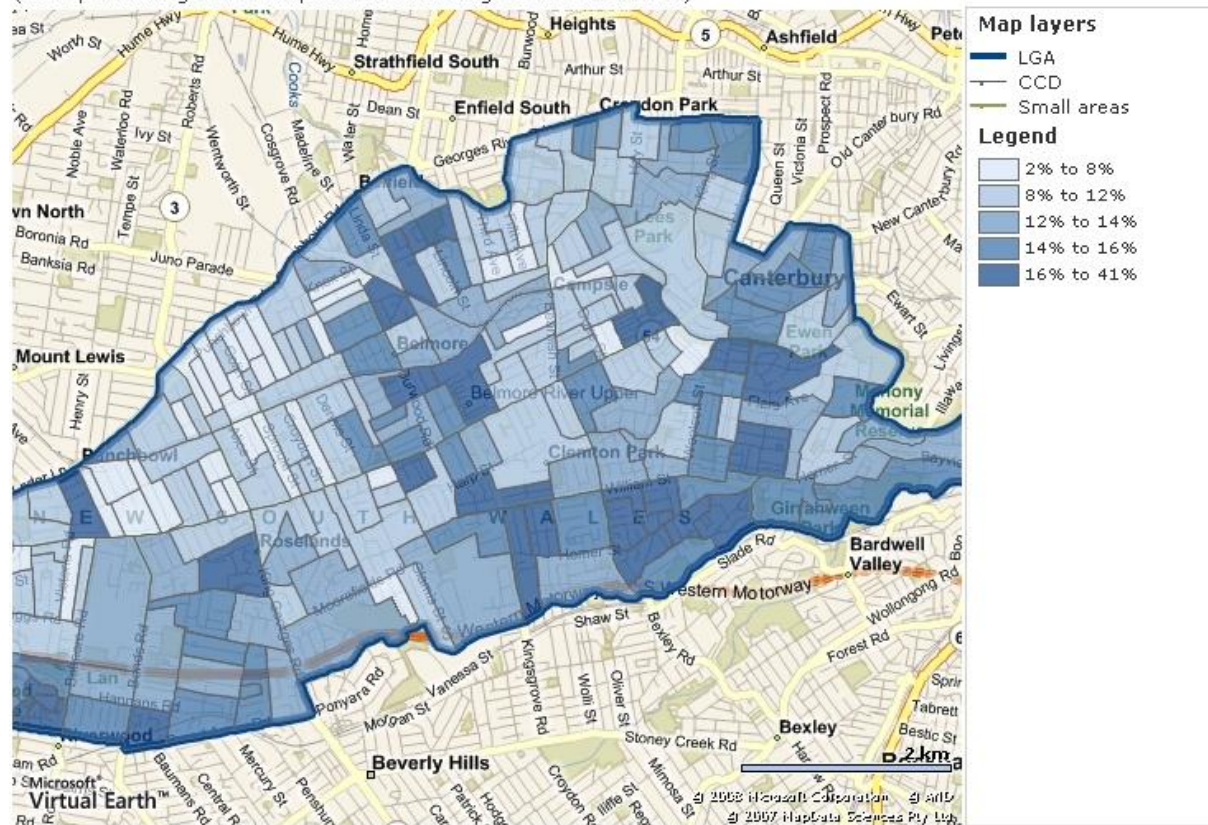
Of those over 65 years who spoke a language other than English, 49.1% (5,158 people) spoke English not well or not well at all compared to 28.3% of Sydney region residents over 65 years.

Baby boomers are those persons aged 60 to 74 years and typically includes those who are approaching retirement age as well as those who have retired already. It is a time in life which has implications for Council's service provision as most older people in these age groups are looking for opportunities to participate in healthy and active recreational pursuits. In 2006, 11.6% of Canterbury City's population was aged between 60 and 74 years compared to 10.6% in the SSD. While the City had a relatively higher proportion of adults aged 60 to 74 years, it is important to note that this varied across the LGA. Proportions ranged from a low of 8.1% in Lakemba to a high of 16.4% in Riverwood. As Figure 4.5 shows, the areas with the highest percentages of 60 to 74 year olds were Riverwood (16.4%), Earlwood (15.0%), Narwee (14.7%), and Kingsgrove (14.2%).

Figure 4.5 Location of persons aged 60 to 74 years in City of Canterbury 2006⁷

Persons aged 60 to 74 years, Canterbury City 2006

(As a percentage of total persons excluding overseas visitors)



⁷ atlasid, City of Canterbury website, 2008

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

There were 746 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the LGA in 2006 representing 0.6% of the total population. This is smaller than the SSD at 1.1% of the total population. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canterbury City has decreased by 7.9% since the 2001 Census.

People with a disability

In all the age ranges between 35 years and 84 years, the City of Canterbury population has a higher percentage of people needing assistance for core activities⁸, when compared to the Sydney region. Access to recreation services and facilities for people with a disability needs to be considered in local planning.

The City of Canterbury also has higher percentages of people with profound/severe and mild disabilities when compared with the Inner West of Sydney, while having the exactly same percentage of people with moderate disabilities. 35.3% of those with moderate, severe or profound disability in the Inner West are City of Canterbury residents (9,902 people). Of the 65,007 people with a disability in the Inner West, 24.4% (22,335) live in the City of Canterbury, representing 17% of the total population. 50% of those people identifying as having a disability have a mild disability.

Women

There were 65,396 women living in the LGA in 2006 or 50.3% of the total population.

Low-income households

In 2006, 24.0% of Canterbury City's total households were classed as low-income compared to 16.7% in the SSD. Low-incomes will affect Canterbury residents' ability to participate in local sport and recreation activities. Some residents may not be able to afford uniforms or entry fees for team sports, others may not have enough money to access transport to get to activities, or to enter sporting facilities. While Canterbury City had a relatively higher proportion of low-income households this varied across the City. Proportions of low-income households ranged from a low of 16.2% in Ashbury to a high of 46.6% in Riverwood. As Figure 4.6 shows, the areas with the highest percentages of low-income households were Riverwood (46.6%), Narwee (27.6%), Lakemba (26.7%), Punchbowl (26.5%), and Wiley Park (26.2%).

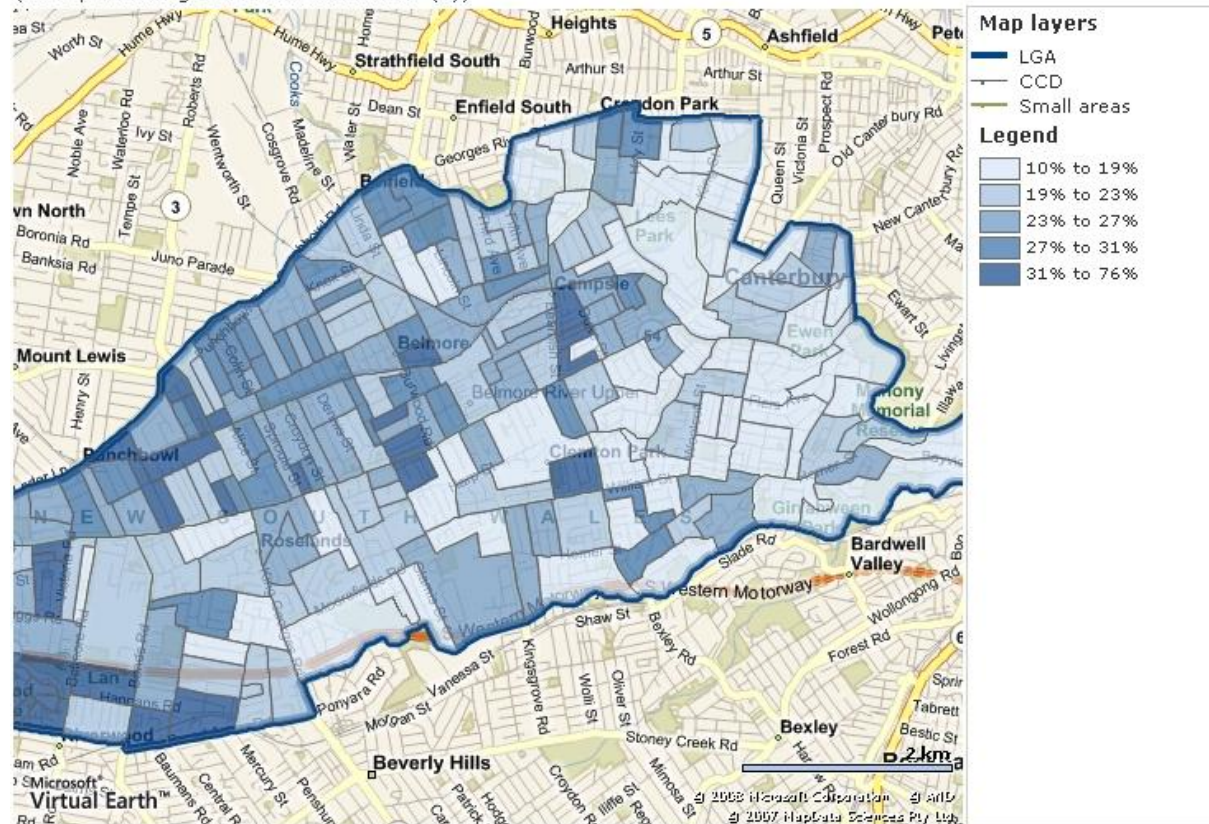
Car ownership

The ability of households to access recreation facilities and services is strongly influenced by access to transport. In 2006, 17.4% of Canterbury City's households did not have a car compared to 12.6% in the SSD. While Canterbury City had a relatively higher proportion of households without a car, this varied across the LGA. Proportions ranged from a low of 9.0% in Ashbury to a high of 31.3% in Riverwood. The areas with the highest percentages of households without a car were Riverwood (31.3%), Campsie - Clemton Park (22.9%), Narwee (22.1%), Lakemba (20.6%), and Wiley Park (19.8%).

⁸ Core Activity Need for assistance measures the number of people with a profound or severe disability. People with a profound or severe disability are defined as needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas or self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long term health condition or old age.

Figure 4.6 Location of low-income households Canterbury City⁹

Low income households, Canterbury City 2006
(As a percentage of total households (b))



Household size

Canterbury City had an average household size of 2.75 persons per dwelling in 2006, slightly higher than the SSD at 2.65 persons per dwelling. While Canterbury City had a relatively higher average household size, variation exists across the City. Average household size ranged from a low of 2.27 in Riverwood to a high of 2.98 in Punchbowl.

Employment

In 2006, 7.9% of Canterbury City's labour force was classed as unemployed compared to 5.3% in the Sydney Statistical Division. While Canterbury City had a relatively higher rate of unemployment, this varied across the LGA. Proportions ranged from a low of 3.7% in Ashbury to a high of 13.5% in Wiley Park. The areas with the highest unemployment rates were Wiley Park (13.5%), Riverwood (13.4%), Lakemba (12.7%), and Punchbowl (11.9%).

Public housing

In 2006, 5.7% of Canterbury City's households were renting their dwelling from a government authority, lower than the SSD at 5.1%. While Canterbury City had a slightly higher proportion of households who are renting from a government authority, this varied across the City. Proportions of households renting from a government authority ranged from a low of 0.9% in Beverly Hills to a high of 47.5% in Riverwood. The areas with the highest percentage of public housing were Riverwood (47.5%), Narwee (16.0%), Punchbowl (7.9%), and Belfield (7.3%).

⁹ atlasid, City of Canterbury website

Migration

53.9% of the City's residents did not move out of Canterbury City between 2001 and 2006. 10.2% of residents moved within the LGA, and 30.8% moved out of Canterbury City during this period. By comparison, 51.2% of residents across the SSD moved from their usual address.

4.1.2 Forecast population

The South Sub-regional Strategy published by the State government has set a target of 5,325 additional dwellings in Canterbury City to 2016, increasing to a total of 7,100 additional dwellings in 2031. Using the average household size of 2.46 people, this equates to an increase of approximately 17,470 people in Canterbury in the next 20 to 25 years.

Newplan (2009) observes that the Strategy proposes that the majority of future growth in dwellings are located in major centres that have good access to public transport. Dwelling creation in the Canterbury local government area is likely to be in multi-unit developments in the main centres, with some dual occupancy and villa/townhouse development spread through existing residential areas. Locality-specific dwelling targets prepared by Canterbury City Council to inform the targets in the Metropolitan Strategy show that expected dwelling creation to 2031 will be focused on public transport nodes and along Canterbury Road, particularly in the Canterbury Road study area (49% of forecast new dwellings), infill throughout the City (20%), Canterbury Town Centre (10%), Campsie (7%), Roselands (4%) and elsewhere in the City (10%).

4.1.3 Recreation needs

The size, growth rate and characteristics of a population are key indicators of sport and recreation needs and demands. The key characteristics and their implications for recreation needs and demands in Canterbury are summarised in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Population characteristics and implications for recreation demand

Population characteristics	Demand for recreation opportunities	Implications for Canterbury
Total population Population in 2006 = 130,000 people. 7,100 additional dwellings (2.46 people / dwelling) by 2031 = 17,466 people. High population density.	An increasing population requires a higher level of provision of recreational facilities and settings. Increasing numbers of people living in apartments will mean increased demand for access to open space, outdoor facilities for children and young people. Increasing population density means people need to easily access recreation opportunities from where they live and work.	Facility capacity and opportunities will need to keep pace with population and employment growth. Potential for overuse of facilities. Facilities that absorb the needs of residents and workers at peak times are required. Additional open space within budget constraints is required.
Age Mix of age groups. Comparatively high proportion of younger and middle aged adults indicating an aging population. Recent baby boom.	Age is the most important determinant of recreational patterns. Younger people are more active in a variety of recreational pursuits. Participation in sport is higher in younger age groups. As people get older they participate less frequently in activities that require less physical effort, and prefer walking, golf and lawn bowls.	Focus on facilities for young children, young adults, and older adults such as family-friendly, accessible and sheltered spaces and facilities. Aging population requires focus on less structured non-sporting facilities and services e.g. walking tracks and parks.

Table 4.2 Population characteristics and implications for recreation demand (cont.)

Population characteristics	Demand for recreation opportunities	Implications for Canterbury
Age (cont.)	People of all ages enjoy activities such as walking, observing nature, cycling, swimming and golf. Children need access to play areas particularly those living in apartments.	Young people need informal recreation spaces they feel comfortable to hang out.
Gender Approximately even % of males and females	Males are likely to use open space and participate more often than females in active recreational pursuits such as cycling and using indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. Females participate more in unstructured and informal activities such as walking, nature activities and aerobics; and sporting activities such as netball, gymnastics, green sports and badminton. Females prefer to use unstructured settings. Activities in which males and females participate equally include visiting parks, picnics and barbecues, bushwalking, baseball/softball, outdoor hockey, tennis.	Provision of sporting facilities in Canterbury favours male sports. Recognise the need to equitably cater for the different recreation preferences of males and females.
Place of birth High proportion of people born overseas and from a non-English speaking background. People born outside Australia represent a spread of countries. Increasing % of people born overseas.	People from a non-English speaking background (NESB) do not participate in sport as often as people from an English speaking background. This is particularly true for women from a NESB and is mostly attributable to access issues.	People from different cultural backgrounds have different preferences and interests in recreation activities. Social meeting places, picnic and barbecue facilities, and indoor sports facilities are important. There are opportunities for integrating and sharing cultures in recreation settings. Muslim and some African women need private and safe indoor facilities for fitness activities. Newly arrived immigrants need access to sporting facilities such as sports fields.
Educational qualifications Relatively low education and skill levels.	People with higher levels of education and occupations use open space more often than the less educated, particularly the more expensive outdoor activities and indoor sports.	The generally lower level of education in Canterbury indicates a lower than average participation rate in recreation activities.
Household type Couples / one parent families with children under 15 years, couples without children, and lone person households are the dominant household types. Smaller households, including increasing % of people living alone.	Households with children and young people are more frequent users of recreation facilities than other household types.	The high number of families with children implies a higher than average demand for playgrounds, sports fields, swimming pools and indoor sports facilities. Opportunities to participate in recreation are important to alleviate social isolation and to support fitness and reduce increasing obesity rates in some lower-income areas such as Lakemba.

Table 4.2 Population characteristics and implications for recreation demand (cont.)

Population characteristics	Demand for recreation opportunities	Implications for Canterbury
Household income Canterbury is a comparatively low income area.	Use of recreation facilities and settings reflects the cost of using those facilities. People earning medium to higher incomes demonstrate an above average participation in gym activities, tennis and golf which cost money to play. People and households earning lower incomes are more likely to use free public and school facilities.	There is an ability to pay for recreation activities for part of the population, although there is a need for affordable and informal opportunities, particularly for older adults, young people and families, refugees, and public housing tenants.
Dwelling structure Diverse housing types, although separate houses and apartments dominate.	Detached dwellings generally have play space for children and space for gardening etc. Medium density dwellings and flats have little play space which increases reliance on local public open space.	There is a need to provide sufficient open space, particularly children's play space, in medium density residential areas and areas where detached dwellings are on small blocks through land acquisition and embellishment of existing open spaces. Families require space beyond home for active recreation (kicking balls, walking dogs etc.). The denser population close to transport routes requires open space to compensate for limited private recreation space.
Residential mobility More than 50% of residents lived at the same address 5 years ago. Increasing rate of stability of residents.	High turnover of residents means that awareness of recreation opportunities and local social networks is lessened.	Promotion of recreation opportunities is important to increase awareness of new residents about recreational opportunities to encourage them to participate.
Vehicle ownership Reliance on motor vehicles for transport is high. However, 17% of Canterbury households do not have a car.	Vehicle owners have the mobility to use open space more frequently for active recreation, and use a greater variety of recreational spaces and facilities. People without access to a vehicle tend to visit local parks within walking distance of their homes or on a public transport route.	Greater access to motor vehicles increases access to recreation options. Households with one or no vehicles are constrained in their access to a range of recreation opportunities. Public transport and quality close-to-home recreation opportunities are particularly important for these households. Almost average levels of vehicle ownership imply average mobility and access to district and regional scale facilities. Those suburbs with much lower levels of car ownership need quality local facilities. Key facilities should ideally be located on public transport routes.

Sources: various Australian and overseas studies.

4.2 Participation trends

Sport and recreation trends data from various published sources assist in identifying existing and likely future sport and recreation participation levels in Canterbury.

4.2.1 Recreational activities

Surveys of people across Australia and in NSW show trends in participation in recreation activities over time. Broad trends will assist in planning in Canterbury, but there are limitations in applying national and state data to local areas that may not reflect the broader trends.

Youth and children

Australia

National surveys of participation by children aged 5 to 14 years in leisure and cultural activities outside school hours and away from home were undertaken in 1999-2000, 2003 and 2006 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2000, 2004, 2006). Relevant results are shown below.

Changes in participation between 2000 and 2006 of Australian children aged 5 to 14 years in culture and leisure activities showed a marginal increase in participation in organised sport (59% in 2000 to 63% in 2006).

The most popular non-organised activities for children in NSW are cycling, skateboarding / rollerblading and swimming. Most popular organised sports for children in NSW are soccer, swimming and netball.

In 2006 Australian children were more likely to participate in organised sporting activities if:

they are aged 9-11 years.

they or their parents were born in Australia or an English speaking country.

they live outside a capital city.

they live in a couple family.

their parent(s) are employed.

Children participate in organised sport at a higher rate than adults do.



Table 4.3 Most popular exercise, recreation and sporting activities by Australian children

Activity / sport	2000 Aust %	2003 Aust %	2006 Aust %	2006 NSW %	Change 2000-06 Aust.	2006 Age Aust	2006 Gender Aust
Bike riding	63.8%	62.1%	67.8%	65.4%	↓	5-8 years	Boys
Skateboarding / rollerblading	30.9%	22.8%	23.6%	22.1%	↓	9-11 years	Boys
Swimming	14.4%	16.6%	17.4%	17.4%	↑	5-8 years	Boys / Girls
Outdoor soccer	11.4%	13.4%	13.2%	19.8%	↑	9-11 years	Boys
Netball	9.1%	9.1%	8.5%	9.1%	↔	12-14 years	Girls
Tennis	8.5%	8.6%	7.3%	6.4%	↔	9-11 years	Boys / Girls
Basketball	7.6%	7.7%	6.6%	3.8%	↔	12-14 years	Boys
Australian Rules	6.6%	7.3%	7.5%	2.1%	↑	12-14 years	Boys
Cricket (outdoor)	5.3%	5.0%	5.4%	5.1%	↓	12-14 years	Boys
Martial arts	4.0%	4.9%	4.5%	4.4%	↑	9-11 years	Boys
Athletics	3.9%	3.8%	2.9%	3.0%	↔	9-11 years	Girls / Boys
Gymnastics (trampolining)	2.6%	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	↑	5-8 years	Girls
Rugby league	3.6%	2.9%	4.2%	7.7%	↓	9-14 years	Boys
Hockey	2.4%	2.5%	1.9%	1.7%	↔	12-14 years	Girls
Softball		1.7%					
Touch football		1.6%					
Rugby union		1.3%					
Soccer (indoor)		1.2%					
Horse riding / equestrian events		1.2%					
Surf life saving		1.1%					
Golf		1.0%					
Baseball		0.9%					

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2000, 2004, 2006)

↑ Increase in participation rate; ↓ Decrease in participation rate; ↔ No change in participation rate.

Adults

Australia

The Australian Sports Commission and Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS) (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007) have conducted the most recent, comprehensive, annual national surveys of participation in exercise, recreation and sport by Australian adults 15 years and over.

Participation of Australian adults in sports and physical recreation activities was highest in 2006 (Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport, 2007) if they:

- were aged 15 to 34 years.
- lived in a state capital city.
- were born in an English speaking country.
- were employed.
- live in a group household.
- were still at school or had a university degree or higher.

Stratton, et. al. (2005) found that participation in sport or recreational physical activity was highest among:

males aged 18 to 44 years.

people who live in a major city.

people employed in professional and advanced services occupations.

high income households.

the highest 20% socio-economic status for areas (SEIFA).

couple (with or without children) or lone person household.

degree or diploma holders.

people with proficiency in English.

people in excellent health

ease of transport access

people with at least weekly contact with family or friends.

people with a high feeling of safety.

Stratton et. al. recommended a need for programs to target:

people with poor proficiency in English, as this is an indicator of a sense of connectedness and belonging with the community.

people in poor health.

younger females 25 to 44 years.

people aged over 45 years.

people with little social contact or access to transport.

people with lower socio-economic characteristics.

New South Wales

The most popular recreational activities of adults in NSW are listed in Table 4.4. On the whole, participation in non-organised, informal activities is significantly higher than participation in organised activities for males and females of all ages.



Cooks River cycleway



Tasker Park

Table 4.4 Most popular sport and physical activities of adults in NSW

Activity	NSW Participation Rate 2001	NSW Participation rate 2003	NSW Participation rate 2007	Change 2001-2007	Age	Gender
Walking	26.8%	36.0%	31.6%	↔	45-65 +	Females
Aerobics / fitness	12.5%	16.2%	19.8%	↑	25-34	Females
Swimming	19.0%	17.5%	13.8%	↓	25-34	Females
Cycling	7.9%	7.7%	8.3%	↑	25-44	Males
Running	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	↔	15-34	Males
Golf	8.4%	8.4%	5.6%	↓	55-64	Males
Tennis	11.0%	9.8%	6.7%	↓	15-44	Males
Soccer (outdoor)	4.7%	5.3%	5.9%	↑	15-24	Males
Bushwalking	6.6%	6.8%	6.2%	↓	45-54	Females
Touch football	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	↑	15-24	Males
Surf sports	3.4%	2.9%	2.8%	↓	15-24	Males
Netball	3.3%	2.8%	2.4%	↓	15-24	Females
Cricket (outdoor)	2.9%	2.6%	2.7%	↔	15-24	Males
Yoga	1.9%	3.3%	3.1%	↑	25-34	Females
Weight training	2.6%	2.7%	1.9%	↓	25-34	Males
Dancing	2.1%	2.5%	1.5%	↓	15-24	Females
Basketball	2.7%	3.3%	2.7%	↔	15-24	Males
Lawn bowls	1.8%	2.8%	1.1%	↓	65 +	Males
Martial arts	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	↓	15-24	Females
Fishing	2.3%	2.1%	1.6%	↓	35-64	Males
Rugby league	1.9%	1.6%	1.8%	↔	15-24	Males
Soccer (indoor)	0.8%	1.8%	1.4%	↑	15-24	Males
Aquarobics	1.0%	1.4%	0.8%	↓	65 +	Females
Horse riding/ equestrian/polo	1.2%	0.9%	1.1%	↔	15-54	Females
Rugby union	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	↔	15-24	Males
Canoeing / kayaking	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	↑	15-24	Males
Rock climbing	1.3%	-	0.5%	↓	15-24	Males
Waterskiing / powerboating	1.1%	1.0%	0.4%	↓	25-34	Males
Volleyball	1.5%	0.6%	0.5%	↓	15-24	Males
Hockey (outdoor)	0.9%	0.8%	0.5%	↓	15-24	Females
Cricket (indoor)	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	↓	25-34	Males
Tenpin bowling	1.0%	1.0%	0.2%	↓	25-34	Males/ females
Australian football	2.3%	1.0%	0.3%	↓	15-24	Males
Roller sports	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%	↓	15-24	Males
Athletics	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	↓	15-24	Males
Scuba diving	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	↓	15-24	Males
Sailing	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	↓	35-54	Males
Badminton	0.6%	-	0.6%	↔	15-24	Males
Softball	1.1%	-	0.4%	↓	15-24	Females
Orienteering	-	0.6%	0.4%	↓	15-24	Males

Source: Australian Sports Commission (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)

Table 4.5 further illustrates the activities that are more popular with NSW adults in some age groups compared with other age groups. Activities at the top of the table are participated in most by younger people.

Table 4.5 Participation by Australian adults in 2007 by age

Activity	Total Participation %	15-24 %	25-34 %	35-44 %	45-54 %	55-64 %	65+ %
Athletics / track and field	0.7%	3.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Indoor hockey	0.0%	0.1	-	-	-	-	-
Rugby union	0.8%	3.0	0.9	0.4	0.2	-	-
Basketball	3.0%	10.7	4.1	1.5	0.9	0.2	-
Australian football	1.9%	5.8	2.6	1.7	0.6	0.1	0.1
Soccer (indoor)	1.5%	5.2	2.2	1.0	0.3	-	-
Martial arts	1.9%	3.1	2.7	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.8
Rugby league	1.1%	4.5	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	-
Cricket (indoor)	0.8%	2.0	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	-
Netball	3.2%	8.7	5.5	3.1	0.8	0.1	-
Orienteering	0.5%	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
Rock climbing	0.4%	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	0
Roller sports	0.5%	1.4	0.8	0.3	0.1	-	0.1
Running	7.7%	10.7	13.2	10.2	5.9	3.3	0.8
Cricket (outdoor)	2.5%	5.5	4.2	3.0	1.4	0.1	0.2
Volleyball	0.8%	2.3	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.1	-
Weight training	2.1%	2.0	2.7	2.8	2.1	1.5	1.4
Touch football	2.3%	6.3	3.3	2.4	0.8	-	-
Badminton	0.7%	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1
Softball	0.4%	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	-
Triathlon	0.3%	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.2	-
Boxing	0.4%	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.2	-	-
Soccer (outdoor)	4.2%	13.3	4.5	4.1	1.6	0.3	0.1
Scuba diving	0.4%	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	-	-
Water polo	0.1%	0.3	-	0.2	0.1	-	-
Swimming	12.0%	11.8	14.6	15.5	13.5	9.8	5.8
Tennis	5.8%	8.1	5.2	6.7	6.6	4.9	2.9
Surf sports	1.9%	2.8	2.7	2.1	2.2	0.8	0.2
Squash / racquetball	1.2%	1.2	1.6	1.9	1.5	0.5	0.2
Horseshooting/equestrian/polo/crosse	1.0%	0.8	1.2	1.6	1.5	0.6	0.1
Waterskiing / powerboating	0.6%	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	-
Hockey (outdoor)	0.6%	2.8	0.7	1.2	0.5	-	0.1
Gymnastics	0.3%	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	-	-
Rowing	0.4%	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.1
Dancing	1.8%	2.9	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.9	2.2
Shooting sports	0.4%	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Table tennis	0.4%	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4
Cycling	9.7%	6.6	12.6	15.6	11.7	7.1	3.3
Yoga	2.8%	1.4	3.7	3.7	3.5	2.7	1.4
Canoeing / kayaking	0.9%	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.5	0.8	0.2
Bushwalking	5.7%	2.1	5.7	6.8	7.6	7.9	4.1
Tenpin bowling	0.5%	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
Fishing	1.6%	0.4	1.4	1.8	2.6	2.4	1.3
Sailing	0.5%	0.2	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.2
Walking	33.0%	12.7	28.6	33.8	41.1	44.5	40.3
Golf	5.6%	1.1	4.1	4.9	6.9	8.6	7.9
Lawn bowls	1.4%	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.9	2.4	5.1
Carpet bowls	0.2%	0	0	0	0	0.2	1.3

Source: Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (2008)

Notes:

Shading indicates above-average participation in activity at a level higher than the total participation %. %s reflect the proportion of the total population and people in each age group who participate in that activity, so %s don't add to 100 in each row.

%s don't add to 100 in each column because people participate in more than one recreational activity.

(-) denotes participation rate is not statistically significant, or less than 0.1%.

The table above shows:

the highest rate of participation in sport and physical activities is among people aged 15-34 years.

golf, fishing, sailing, walking, lawn bowls and carpet bowls generally become more popular as people age.

as age increases, participation rates in faster sports such as soccer (outdoor) and netball decline significantly.

Recent national surveys by the Australian Sports Commission (2000-07) have shown that certain activities are more popular with some age groups rather than others. The following findings are relevant to Canterbury.

In 2007 young people 15-24 years participated most in:

aerobics / fitness 22%

soccer (outdoor) 13%

walking 13%

swimming 12%

running 11%

basketball 11%

netball 9%

tennis 8%

cycling 7%

Australian football 6%

cricket (outdoor) 6%

touch football 6%

indoor soccer 5%

Activities in which participation increases with age, at least until the age of 65 years, are:

canoeing / kayaking

golf

fishing

sailing

walking

lawn bowls

carpet bowls.

The most popular activities for older Australians 65 years and over in 2007 were:

walking 40%

golf 8%

swimming 6%

lawn bowls 5%

bush walking 4%
cycling 3%
tennis 3%
aquarobics 3%
dancing 2%
martial arts 2%
fishing 1%
weight training 1%
carpet bowls 1%
yoga (1%)

Activities that are popular in most adult groups, or “whole of life” activities, include:

swimming
tennis
tenpin bowling
dancing
cycling
bushwalking
yoga
golf
fishing
sailing
walking.

Activities most popular among adult males in NSW in 2007 were:

walking 24%
aerobics / fitness 16%
swimming 14%
cycling 12%
golf 9%
running 10%
soccer (outdoor) 9%
tennis 8%
surf sports 5%
touch football 5%
cricket (outdoor) 5%.

Activities most popular among adult females in NSW in 2007 were:

walking 39%
aerobics / fitness 24%
swimming 14%
bushwalking 7%
tennis 6%
netball 5%
yoga 5%
running 5%
cycling 5%.

Reasons for participation

The reasons given by Australians who participated in sports and physical recreation activities 13 times or more in the year before interview (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007) are in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Reasons for participating in sport and physical recreation activities

Motivator	% of Australians	Gender	Age group
Health / fitness	82%	Females	25 years and over
Enjoyment	54%	Males	15 to 24 years
Wellbeing	41%	Females	35 years and over
Social / family	34%	Males	15 to 34 years
Weight loss	17%	Females	25 to 64 years
Competition / challenge	12%	Males	15 to 34 years
Walk the dog	8%	Females	35 years and over
Transport	4%	Males, females	All ages

Note: Total does not add up to 100% because each person could give more than one answer.

Constraints on participation

Reasons for non-participation in sport and physical recreation activities are highly individualistic, and vary at different times and with personal circumstances.

The key constraints on participation of Australians who either did not participate in sports and physical recreation activity or participated irregularly (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007) are in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Constraints on participation in sport and physical recreation activities

Constraint	% of Australians	Gender	Age group
Insufficient time due to work or study	23%	Males	15 to 54 years
Not interested in sport or physical activity	19%	Males, females	15 to 34 years
Injury / illness (temporary or ongoing)	18%	Males	45 years and over
Age / too old	17%	Females	65 years and over
Insufficient time due to family	11%	Females	25 to 54 years
Already active	7%	Males	45 to 64 years
Cost	1%	Males, females	18 to 34 years
Insufficient time (other reasons)	1%	Males, females	All age groups

Note: Total does not add up to 100% because each person could give more than one answer.

4.2.2 Recreation participation trends

Introduction

There are a number of established and emerging trends in participation in recreation activities, and use of sport and leisure facilities, which are important to consider when planning for recreation. The following information has been sourced from national surveys undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Sports Commission, and recreation studies undertaken for other local government areas.

Societal trends

Trends in participation in recreation activities are being driven by several wider trends in Australian society:

Aging population. The Australian population is gradually aging as life expectancy increases, birth rates stay low, and “baby boomers” grow older. This results in increasing demand for facilities and lower impact activities that cater for the needs of older age groups. Many retirees have the time, energy and commitment to improve their physical fitness once they no longer work.

Changes in work practices. Increasing demands on peoples’ spare time, the increase in casual and shift work, and the increase in the proportion of families with two parents working full time requires flexibility in the times that facilities are available for people to enjoy recreation. This leads to a greater demand for indoor facilities that are available all day and evenings, every day of the year. Organised sports on weekday evenings give people more time on weekends for informal recreation with family and friends.

Changing housing types, with a shift towards medium density housing with less private open space.

General participation trends

Significant popularity of informal recreation activities. Although organised sport is a very visible form of recreation, various surveys indicate that participation in organised sporting activities is not as popular as unstructured recreation activities.

Flexibility in provision of facilities. Changes in recreation preferences towards newer and more varied activities which are available in more time periods.

Volunteerism. Apart from participants, all sporting and recreation clubs need support from volunteers such as office-bearers, coaches and officials to keep their activities going. Australians are less likely to spend their time volunteering now than they were during the 1980s, which can be directly related to the rapid change and complexity of people’s daily lives, family commitments and litigation issues.

Consequently, volunteering is declining in many sport and recreation organisations. The dependence of clubs on voluntary labour and support will require them to provide greater incentives and better management practices to attract and retain volunteers. Larger associations and clubs are increasingly employing administrators, coaches and other officials.

Increasing interest in recreational activities where people experience, protect, restore and study natural settings.

Interest in health and fitness. There is a growing interest and awareness in physical fitness and healthy living among all age groups. Fitness is increasingly seen as part of a balanced lifestyle for health, rather than just a leisure activity. Recent changes include:

- ☐ the concern about obesity in children has led to the recognition that children should be encouraged to keep physically active, and the development of activity programs for children.
- ☐ cardio-vascular activities (such as aerobics) no longer dominate group fitness activities. Cardio work is now being balanced with activities focusing on strength and flexibility such as yoga, Pilates, weight training, and more recently using magnetic plate machines.
- ☐ personal fitness activities are becoming an increasingly sophisticated, comprehensive and commercial service offered by gyms and individual personal trainers often in Council parks and indoor fitness centres. “Boot camps” are a high-profile form of such activities.
- ☐ activities requiring commitment for attendance at a specified time are declining in favour of activities that can be participated in informally, such as walking, swimming, cycling and gym activities.

Increase in demand for outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation activities that take place in natural settings, such as bushwalking, mountain bike riding, camping and fishing, are growing in popularity. There is likely to be substantial demand for natural settings and destinations close to urban populations in future.

New activities. New activities are constantly emerging as a result of overseas trends, cultural diversity and the increasing impact of technology on leisure choices, including computer games and using new equipment such as scooters.

“Old” activities. People in their 20s are taking up pastimes once done by older people, such as knitting and crocheting, and lawn bowls (Palement, 2006).

Growth in sports tourism. There is an increasing number of events and participation in sports tourism, including Masters events, and State and national championships catering for all ages.

4.3 Demand issues in Canterbury

Key factors that will influence the needs and demands for open space and recreation in Canterbury include:

an increasing population, which will result in increased use of existing open spaces and recreation facilities, and demand for additional recreational opportunities.

changing demographics of the community, particularly an increasingly aging and multi-cultural population.

increasing residential density, which results in an increasing population of residents and workers who use open space and recreation facilities resulting in pressure on existing spaces, competition for limited space, and potential conflicts.

the financial downturn throughout the world, which adversely affects household financial security, employment, and disposable income for recreation.

4.4 Aspirations for recreation in Canterbury

4.4.1 Consultation with the Canterbury community

Consultation with the Canterbury community was undertaken for this Plan in late 2008. The range of groups consulted were:

Council's advisory groups: Youth Council, Disability Access, Women's Network, Canterbury Child and Family Interagency, Multicultural, Senior Citizens and Pacific Island Women.

groups from a culturally and linguistically diverse background by workshops and telephone conversations (refer to the CALD consultation report).

sporting clubs (survey).

recreation and community groups (letter).

managers of private recreation facilities, including registered clubs (letter).

The general community had the opportunity to provide input by an on-line survey on Council's website, to which over 70 people responded.

Comments from the community were wide-ranging, and aimed at providing constructive suggestions to improve recreation opportunities in Canterbury City. Comments and suggestions are integrated into the remaining sections of this Plan.

4.4.2 What does recreation mean to the Canterbury community?

From consultations carried out with community groups in Canterbury in 2008, recreation means:

A way to escape everyday living and spend spare time doing a range of activities such as sport, relaxing informal activities and cultural and creative pursuits in outdoor and indoor settings for purposes particularly physical fitness and spending time with family and friends.

4.4.3 Importance of and satisfaction with recreation provision in Canterbury

The importance of various aspects of recreation in Canterbury, and residents' satisfaction with their provision, were measured by a telephone survey of Canterbury residents in 2007 (Iris Research, 2007).

'Sport and recreational facilities' was the 9th most liked aspect of living in Canterbury, with 2.5% of residents citing this as what they liked most about living in Canterbury (Iris Research Ltd, 2007).

Canterbury residents rated the importance of 'recreation facilities and services' as 4.04 / 5, with 5 being 'very important' (Iris Research Ltd, 2007). People in the community that rated the importance of recreation facilities and services above the average rating were females, young adults aged 18 to 39 years, Central Ward residents, renters, and people born overseas.

The satisfaction rating with 'recreation facilities and services' at 3.43 / 5 was lower than the importance rating 4.04 / 5. This means that recreation facilities and services are important to the community, but their expectations are not being met as shown by a lower satisfaction rating. The people in the community that rated their level of satisfaction with 'recreation facilities and services' above the average were people aged over 60 years, Central and West Ward residents, renters, and people born overseas.

4.4.4 Goals for recreation

The over-riding goal for recreation in Canterbury is to improve the level of provision of and satisfaction with recreation opportunities in the City so residents and workers can enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

To achieve this goal and to meet the needs of an increasing and changing population in Canterbury, recreation opportunities should be:

DIVERSE: Incorporating a range of settings, facilities, and services to meet the needs, interests and desires of people from various age groups, cultural groups, and social and economic backgrounds that will strengthen local community participation and networks, and cultural identity.

MULTI-PURPOSE AND INTEGRATED: Recreation opportunities will be located near each other within multipurpose facilities and settings that provide more than one function in terms of design and built form, and flexible enough to change with community needs.

ACCESSIBLE: To people of all abilities and all social and cultural backgrounds. Where possible, recreation opportunities will be provided near public transport, at low cost, well signed in community languages, and safe. They will be equitably located across the LGA.

HIGH QUALITY rather than high quantity. To encourage optimum community use, and effective management and maintenance, a range of high quality and aesthetically pleasing facilities and settings will be provided in key locations.

SUSTAINABLE: Facilities and settings will be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. Opportunities to partner with community and government organisations in the delivery and provision of recreation facilities and services will be encouraged.

These principles are the basis for the action plan in Section 5.

5 RECREATION PLANNING THEMES

5.1 Introduction

The following action plan for recreation opportunities in Canterbury is set out in 6 themes covering the scope of recreation for this project as set out in Section 1. The themes are:

Informal Recreation (open space, indoor).

Target groups (children, young people, older people, people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, people with disabilities, and women).

Linkages (walking, cycling).

Sport (sporting fields, courts, indoor).

Aquatic and fitness facilities.

Natural areas (bushland, wetlands, rivers and creeks).

The scope of each theme is set out below.

A full assessment for each theme (refer to Volume 2) detailed the scope of each theme, planning context, current and planned supply, existing demand and future needs, assessment of issues, and opportunities and challenges.

As a result of the assessment of each theme, a number of priority issues, strategies and actions have been established for each theme. The strategies and actions are consistent with the recreation planning principles in Section 4.4.

5.2 Informal Recreation

5.2.1 Open Space

Informal open space includes regional, district and local open spaces, parks and reserves for informal recreation activities. Such settings / facilities include:

Picnic, barbecue and eating areas

Unleashed dog exercise areas

Formal gardens

Community gardens

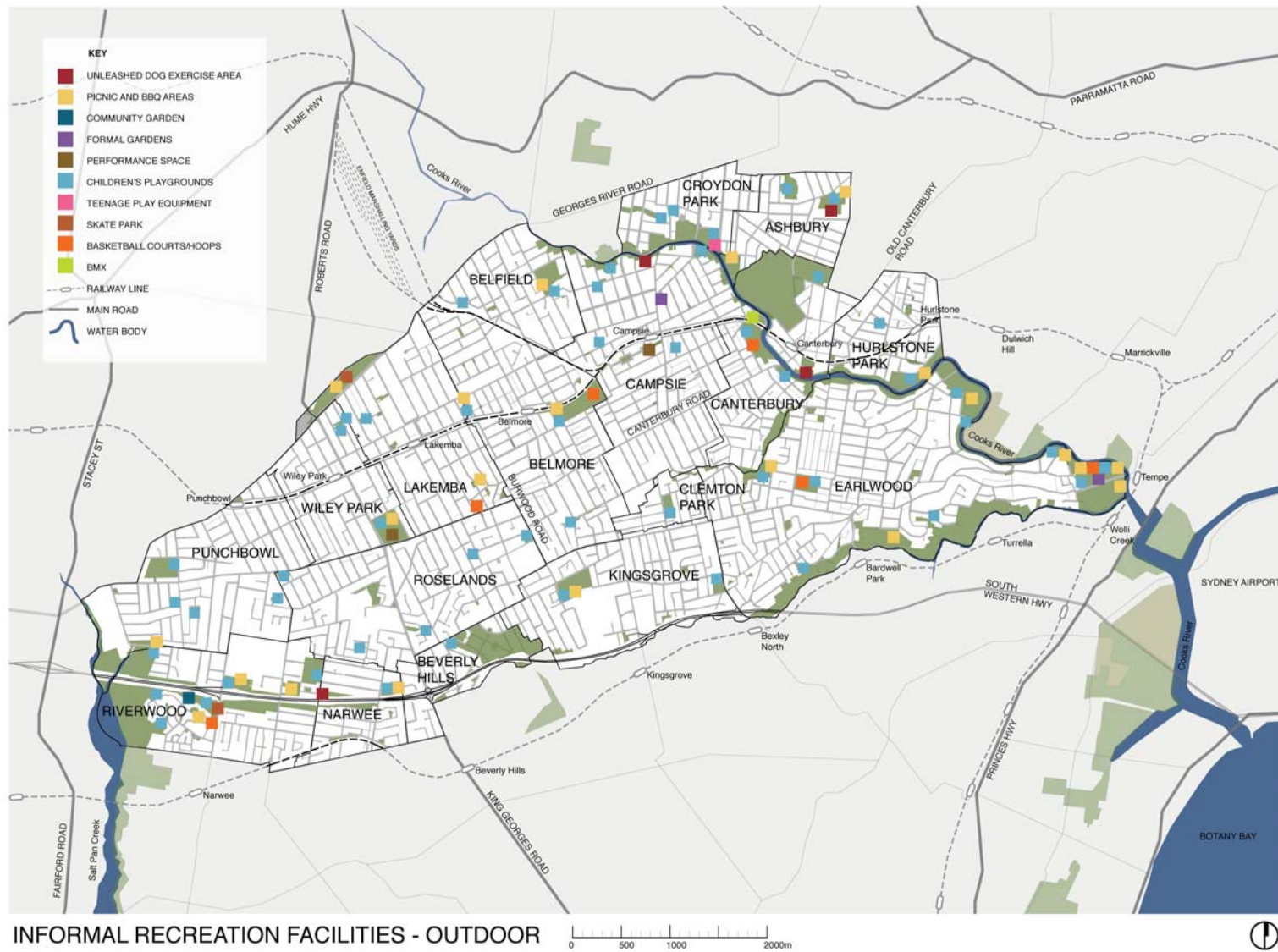
Exercise equipment

Outdoor performance spaces

Practice walls.

The location of outdoor informal recreation facilities in Canterbury City are shown in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1 Location of outdoor informal recreation facilities



Informal parks and open spaces have different roles and levels of significance, and cater for local, district or regional users. The suitability and attractiveness of informal parks for informal recreation varies according to their size and shape, linkages, landform, relationship to surrounding land uses, and attractive features.



Gough Whitlam Park



Bazentin Street Reserve



Gough Whitlam Park – Gardens of the World



Riverwood Community Garden

At the district and regional levels, informal parks provide for large-scale recreation activities that cannot be accommodated in local parks. They may comprise a range of developed and semi-natural settings of sufficient size to accommodate a variety of informal uses such as large social gatherings, picnicking, play, walking and cycling, while protecting and enhancing natural features, ecologically sensitive areas, cultural heritage and/or visually significant areas. Examples of such parks in Canterbury City are Wiley Park and riverfront reserves.

At the local level, parks provide for informal passive pursuits (sitting, quiet contemplation, strolling and socialising) as well as the active, informal pursuits of children and families (such as ball games, kite flying, children's games and use of play equipment).

Table 5.1 Supply of outdoor informal recreation facilities

Local
Informal parks There are some 217 passive parks and reserves in Canterbury City. Examples of open spaces serving various catchments are: Regional: ☐ Wiley Park (ponds, picnic areas, amphitheatre) ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Peace Park, Ashbury ☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands (wetland, picnic area, playground, bike riding) District: ☐ John Mountford Reserve, Narwee ☐ Rudd Park, Belfield Local: ☐ Parry Avenue Reserve, Narwee. ☐ Peel Park, Lakemba.
Picnic, barbecue and eating areas Picnic and barbecue areas: ☐ Rudd Park, Belfield ☐ Lees Park, Canterbury ☐ Beaman Park, Earlwood ☐ Girrahween Park, Earlwood ☐ Gough Whitlam Park, Earlwood ☐ Hughes Park, Earlwood ☐ Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park ☐ Parry Park, Lakemba ☐ John Mountford Reserve, Narwee ☐ McLaughlin Oval, Punchbowl ☐ Kentucky Road Reserve, Riverwood ☐ Lance Hutchinson Oval, Riverwood ☐ Rotary Park, Riverwood ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Peel Park, Belmore Picnic facilities: ☐ Peace Park, Ashbury ☐ Little Tasker Park, Campsie ☐ Sutton Reserve, Earlwood Cafes: None
Unleashed dog exercise areas ☐ Richard Podmore Reserve, Roselands (dog equipment) ☐ Peace Park, Ashbury (dog equipment) ☐ Cooks River Reserve (Campsie) south of river between Fifth Avenue and Beamish Street) ☐ Close Street Reserve, Canterbury ☐ Karne Street Reserve, Roselands

Table 5.1 Supply of outdoor informal recreation facilities (cont.)

Formal gardens
☐ Gough Whitlam Park – Gardens of the World ☐ Lofts Gardens, Campsie
Community gardens
Riverwood (Department of Housing, for residents of the Riverwood housing estate)
Exercise equipment
None
Outdoor performance spaces
☐ Wiley Park – amphitheatre ☐ Anzac Square, Campsie
Practice walls
☐ Parry Park, Lakemba ☐ Hughes Park, Earlwood ☐ Montgomery Reserve, Earlwood ☐ Between Bonaparte and Mazarin Streets, Riverwood ☐ Scott Reserve, Roselands ☐ Jack Cheshier Reserve, Campsie ☐ Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe
Regional
Current supply – examples
Picnic, barbecue and eating areas
Unleashed dog exercise areas
Tempe Lands, Marrickville
Formal gardens
Ashfield Park
Community gardens
Marrickville West
Addison Road Centre, Marrickville

5.2.2 Indoor spaces and activities

Indoor recreation spaces and activities include:

Community centres owned by City of Canterbury, which are places for the provision of community services and programs targeting a wide range of residents.

Commercial recreation facilities, such as tenpin bowling alleys, cinemas, registered clubs, Scouts and Guides, Mens' sheds, and private recreation classes.

Refer to Figure 5.2 for the location of indoor recreation facilities.



Belmore Community Centre



Riverwood Community Centre



Belmore Scout hall

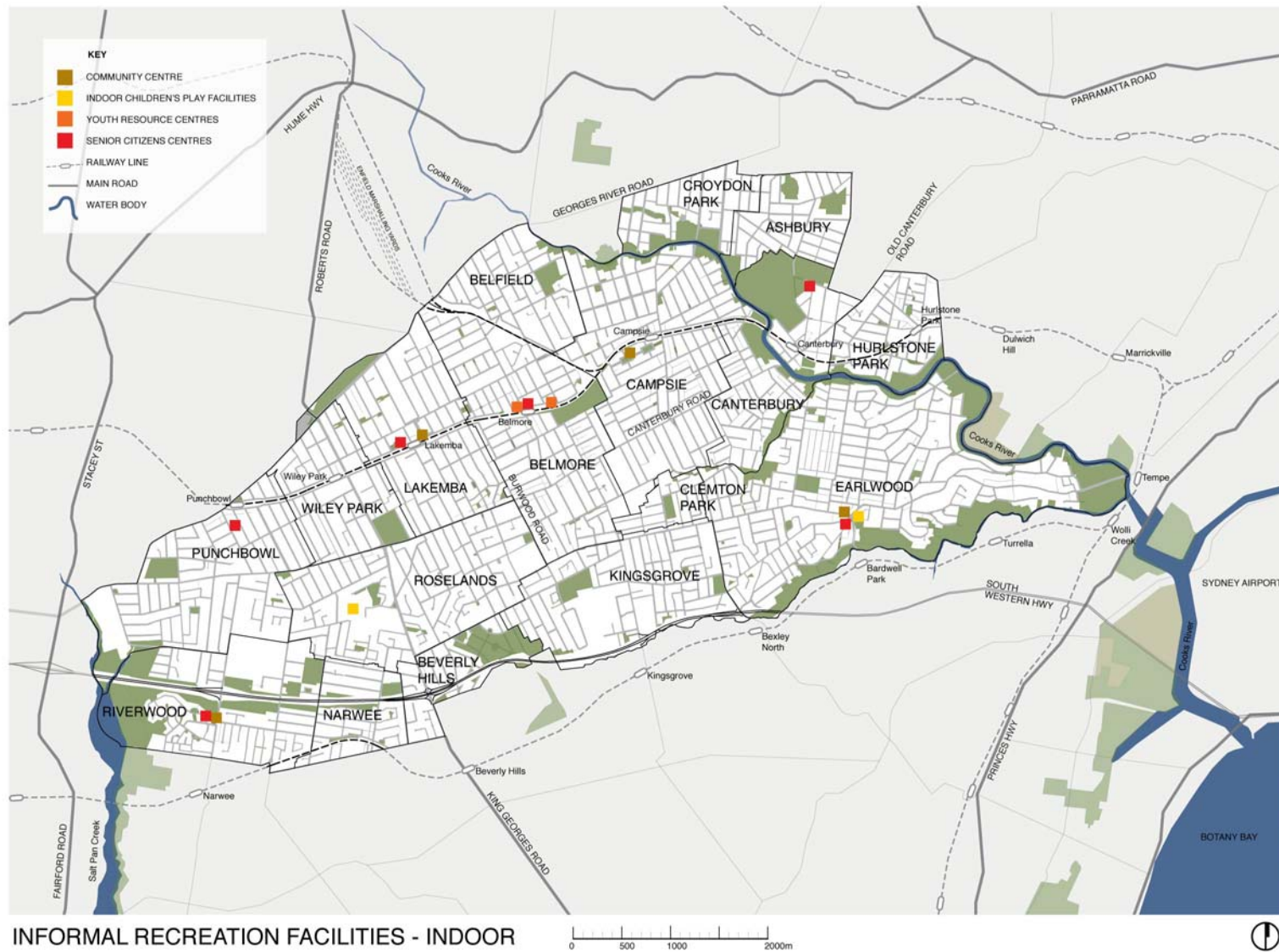
Table 5.2 Supply of indoor recreation facilities in Canterbury City

<i>Local</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Community centres ☐ Canterbury City Community Centre ☐ The Carrington Centre ☐ Earlwood Caring and Community Centre ☐ Riverwood Community Centre	In each LGA
Commercial recreation facilities Canterbury Ice Rink	Ten-pin bowling centres at Bankstown, Enfield Cinemas at Auburn Indoor rock climbing at Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym at St Peters.
Registered clubs More than 20 licensed clubs (sporting, ex-servicemens and ethno-specific) throughout the City.	For example Bankstown Sports Club. In each LGA
Scouts and Guides: ☐ Earlwood Scouts ☐ Belmore Scout Hall (dance classes)	In each LGA
Mens Sheds Mobile Mens Shed (woodwork, crafts) at Canterbury City Community Centre.	Lewisham Marrickville

Table 5.2 Supply of indoor recreation facilities in Canterbury City (cont.)

<i>Local</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Private recreation classes Tai chi ☐ Earlwood Caring Community Centre ☐ Riverwood Community Centre ☐ Ashbury Senior Citizens Centre ☐ Chinese Australia Services Society ☐ Anzac Park, Campsie ☐ Better Health Tai Chi Chuan, Narwee Yoga ☐ Earlwood Caring Community Centre Dance ☐ Dance – cnr Marcia and Duntroon Streets, Hurlstone Park Karate Go-Ju-Ryu karate-do, Earlwood	In each LGA Variety of activities

Figure 5.2 Location of indoor informal recreation facilities



5.3 Target Groups

5.3.1 Children

Facilities and services that service children including:

Children's play equipment (Figure 5.1).

Children's bike paths

Indoor children's play facilities (Figure 5.2).

Children's activities and programs



Gough Whitlam Park playground



Beaman Park



End of Flinders Road, Earlwood



Harold Street playground



Park near Edgeware Public School

Table 5.3 Supply of children's recreation facilities and programs

<i>Local</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Council play facilities 95 playgrounds in parks in Canterbury. Regional playgrounds in Canterbury include Wiley Park and Gough Whitlam Park. Most playgrounds in Canterbury are modular plastic climb/slide units and spring toys, with bark softfall. Children's bike paths associated with playgrounds in McCourt Street Reserve, Lakemba and Bennett Park, Narwee. No playgrounds for children with disabilities.	Regional, district and local playgrounds in surrounding LGAs.
Road safety tracks. No road safety tracks.	Children's road safety bike track in Sydney Park.
Commercial indoor play facilities Indoor children's play facilities: ☐ Club Kids Playhouse and Café in Earlwood shopping centre. ☐ Kidz Jungleplay in Roselands shopping centre.	Indoor playground (Shrimps) at Bexley.
Kids play programs ☐ Park and Play program ☐ "Playbus in the Park" open air playgroup for kids 0 to 5 years at Hampden Park Reserve, Lakemba ☐ playgroups in church halls, public schools and community centres in Belmore, Beverly Hills North, Campsie, Clemton Park, Croydon Park, Earlwood, Lakemba, Punchbowl, Wiley Park, Riverwood. ☐ CALD playgroups for young children and carers: Chinese (Campsie), Korean (The Boulevarde).	Magic Yellow Bus in Marrickville.
School playgrounds Various primary schools have children's play equipment in their school grounds. Limited public access.	

5.3.2 Young People

Youth recreation facilities and services include:

Youth centres

Youth cafes

Teenage play equipment

Skate facilities

Basketball courts

BMX / mountain bike facilities.

Refer to Figures 5.1 and 5.2 for location of youth recreation facilities.



Belmore Youth Resource Centre



Croydon Park



Riverwood skate park



Local park, Riverwood

Table 5.4 Supply of youth recreation facilities and activities in Canterbury City

Current supply of youth facilities
Youth centres: Belmore Youth Resource Centre for youth aged 12 to 24 years: ☐ Sporting activities ☐ Art programs ☐ Recreational activities ☐ Casual drop-in Wed and Fri afternoons (table tennis, air hockey, pool, Playstation 2, karaoke, internet, music program, graffiti art workshops, cooking workshops, hip-hop workshops) ☐ Girls only space on Friday afternoons ☐ Women only programs (newly arrived young womens groups, arts and cultural classes) ☐ Group meetings ☐ School holiday activities (music workshops, ultimate Frisbee, photography workshops) ☐ Unity program. A collaborative project between Canterbury City Council and local youth services for young people from various youth services to participate in a social sporting competition each month. Funded by the NSW Sport and Recreation Community Solutions initiative. PCYC Belmore: ☐ Boxing room (boxing training – girls, junior, senior; womens cardio boxing) ☐ Outdoor basketball court (wheelchair basketball) ☐ Drop-in – pool, table tennis, video games) ☐ Martial arts room (judo, tae kwon do) ☐ Gym (weights, cardio, ☐ Hip-hop dancing ☐ Girls drop-in ☐ School holiday activities
Youth café: ☐ Fusion Café, Campsie offers recreational activities (internet, live music) and arts projects (video/film production, art, drawing, sculpture, music) for young people aged 12 to 18 years.
Skate parks ☐ Salt Pan Creek Recreation Area, Riverwood – bowl, spine ramp, roll over boxes catering for rollerblading, BMX bike riding, skateboarding ☐ Parry Park, Lakemba
Teenage play equipment Croydon Park – Teen Rager equipment
Basketball courts / hoops ☐ Tasker Park, Canterbury (1 full size) – well used ☐ Peter Moore Field, Belmore ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Riverwood ☐ Leonard Reserve, Campsie ☐ Earlwood Oval / Park (half) ☐ Anne Pringle Reserve
BMX Informal BMX mounds in Little Tasker Park, Canterbury
Air League Australian Air League (Riverwood Squadron) at Bland Oval, Riverwood

5.3.3 Aged and Disability

Recreational facilities, programs and services for aged people and people with disabilities including:

Senior citizens centres.

Access and equity.



Riverwood Senior Citizens Centre



Rotary Park, Riverwood



Punchbowl Bowling Club

Table 5.5 Supply of recreation opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities

<i>Local</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Senior Citizens Centres: ☐ Ashbury ☐ Belmore ☐ Earlwood ☐ Lakemba ☐ Punchbowl ☐ Riverwood	In all LGAs

Table 5.5 Supply of recreation opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities (cont.)

<i>Local</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Community centres which cater for activities for older people: ☐ Carrington Centre, Campsie ☐ Earlwood Caring and Community Centre ☐ Riverwood	In all LGAs Example: Older Womens Wellness Centre in Bankstown PCYC
Groups for older people CALD seniors groups: Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Hungarian, Korean, Egyptian Arabic, Vietnamese Special interest groups: bridge, line dancing, folk dancing, OMNI (Older Men New Ideas), singing, computers, exercise / fitness, yoga, ballroom dancing, art, tai chi, board games, bowling Suburb-specific groups: Wolli, Campsie, Punchbowl.	In all LGAs
Other facilities / groups for older people Arabic Aged Centre Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre Chinese Australian Services Society Eastern Star Amenities Centre, Clemton Park Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre	In all LGAs
Activities for people with disability include: Belmore Senior Citizens Centre: ☐ Chinese Parents of Children with a Disability ☐ Belmore PCYC wheelchair basketball	In all LGAs Example: Recreation Sports and Aquatic Club in Bankstown provides programs and activities for adults and children with disabilities, including: ☐ sport (swimming, bocce, boccia, tennis, athletics, indoor and outdoor soccer, tenpin bowling, gymnastics, cricket, sports skills, basketball). ☐ social (drama, discos, dance, social club)

5.3.4 People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Recreational facilities programs and services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



See the Children section for group activities for CALD children.

See the Young People section for group activities for CALD young people.

See the Older People section for group activities for CALD seniors.

See the Women and Girls section for group activities for CALD women and girls.

5.3.5 Women and Girls

Recreational facilities programs and services to support and increase opportunities for women and girls.



Wise Reserve



Rotary Park, Riverwood

Table 5.6 Recreation opportunities for women and girls in Canterbury City

Facilities and activities for women
Womens Rest Centres at Campsie and Lakemba. Canterbury City Community Centre and Earlwood Caring Community Centre: ☐ Greek Women's Group (weekly program of socialising, guest speakers, bingo, outings) Lakemba Uniting Church: ☐ Woman's Place—flower arranging, computers, Korean choir Clemton Park Baptist Church: ☐ craft classes St Mary's House, Campsie: ☐ craft activities Beverley Hills North and Narwee Public Schools: ☐ Jazzercise Roselands Aquatic Centre ☐ Women and girls only swimming Sunday mornings Canterbury Golf Course ☐ Golf classes for women Campsie Cultural Centre ☐ Ladies group Muslim Womens Association ☐ Young women's leadership camps, programs Belmore Youth Resource Centre: ☐ Girls-only space on Fridays. Girls only programs (newly arrived young women, art and cultural programs)

5.4 Linkages

Linkages in Canterbury are dedicated and incorporated shared walking paths, bike paths and cycleway that network the City's main open space and recreation areas and link to town centres and neighbouring LGAs.

Walking tracks and bike paths are shown in Figures 5.3 and 5.4.



Cooks River path



Cup and Saucer Creek, Pat O'Connor Reserve



Footbridge over Cooks River at Karool Avenue



Arinya Street underpass

Figure 5.3 Location of walking tracks in Canterbury City

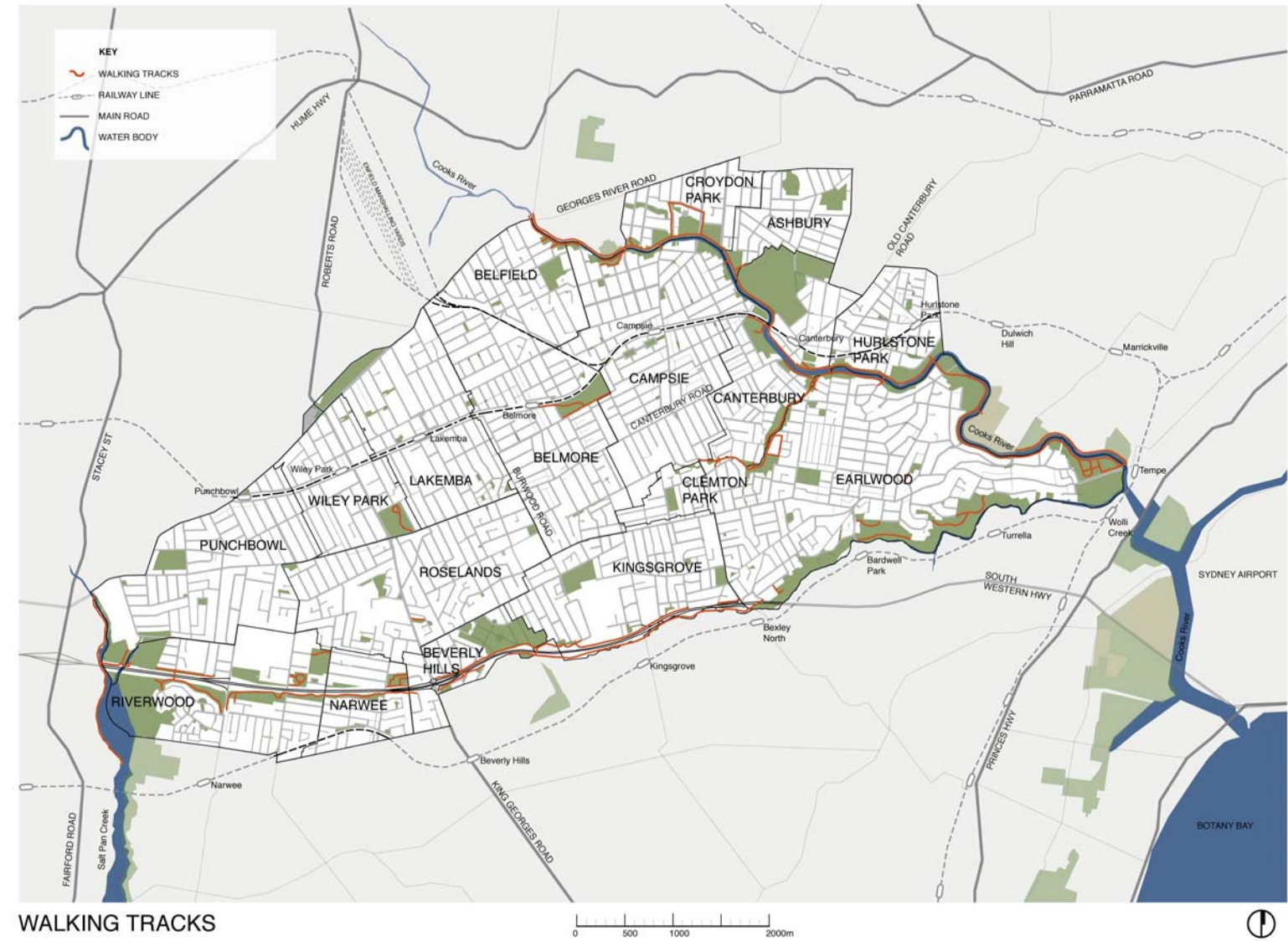


Figure 5.4 Location of cycleways in Canterbury City



Table 5.7 Supply of walking and cycling tracks in Canterbury City

<i>Local</i>	<i>Regional</i>
Walking tracks ☐ Two Valley Trail Walk 13 km between Campsie and Bexley North railway stations via Cooks River and Wolli Creek valleys. ☐ Wolli Creek Walk Girrahween Park to Nanny Goat Hill and Turrella Reserve Cycleways ☐ Refer to cycleways map Shared paths ☐ Cooks River ☐ Cup and Saucer Creek ☐ M5 Linear Park Bike racks ☐ Ewan Park ☐ Beaman Park ☐ Wanstead Reserve	Ryde to Botany Bay cycleway along the Cooks River Salt Pan Creek Georges River M5 Motorway Wolli Creek Great Kia'mia Way

5.5 Sport

All sporting facilities, programs and services for sports, both indoor and outdoor, that service Canterbury LGA including:

Athletics
Australian Rules
Baseball
Cricket
Hockey
Rugby League
Rugby Union
Soccer

Softball
Touch Football / Oz Tag
Indoor Court Sports
Lawn Bowls
Petanque / Boules
Croquet
Cycling

Horse Racing
Golf Driving
Pigeon Racing
Basketball
Indoor Soccer / Futsal
Ice Skating
Martial Arts

Sporting facilities in Canterbury are provided by:

Council.

Schools. The community has limited or no access to public and private school facilities.

Sporting clubs, such as Wills Ground at Earlwood.

Figure 5.5 shows the location of sporting facilities and aquatic / fitness facilities in Canterbury City.



Campbell Oval athletics facilities



McLaughlin Oval baseball diamond

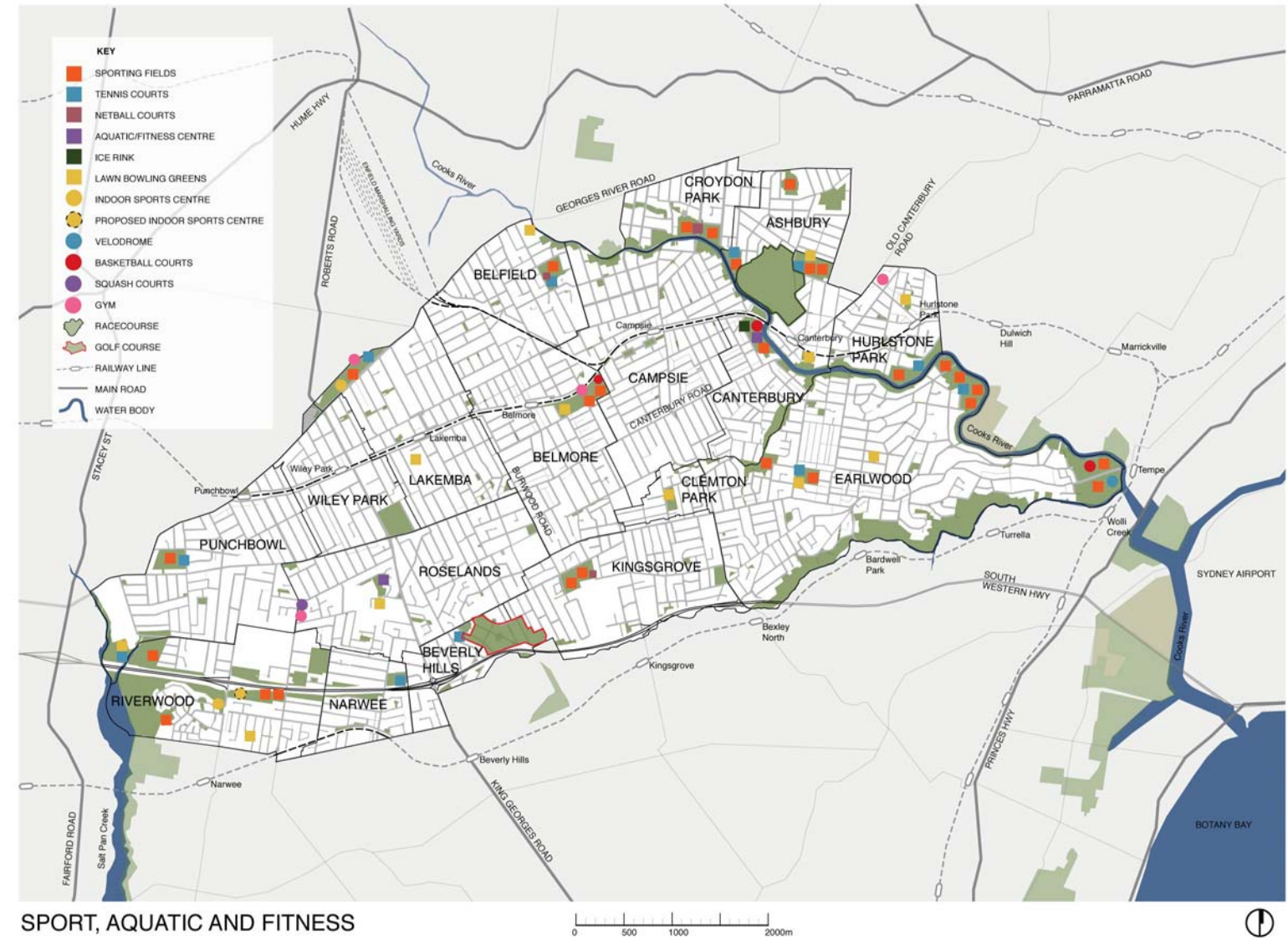


Lance Hutchinson Oval



Waterworth Park

Figure 5.5 Sporting, aquatic and fitness facilities in Canterbury City





Wills Ground



Beaman Park pavilion



Clemton Park netball courts



John Mountford Reserve, Narwee



Australian National Sports Club, Parry Park



Australian National Sports Club, Parry Park



Belfield Bowling and Recreation Club



*Belmore Bowling and Recreation Club
Unused green*



Canterbury Golf Course

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) sporting fields report (2008) concluded that there is:

a surplus of or sufficient fields for summer sports (baseball, cricket, softball, touch) across the region. sufficient fields in the region to meet most of the demand of current winter sports (Australian Rules, winter baseball, hockey, rugby league, rugby union, touch football), but at the expense of quality playing surfaces and latent demand.

The SSROC report assumes current participation rates will continue into the future to 2031, and there will be a steady increase in demand for new facilities or higher capacity facilities (e.g. synthetic) in the north-east region of SSROC but nowhere else in the region. Canterbury is in the NW sub-region of SSROC, so no forecast increase in demand for sporting fields is expected.

In the north-western sub-region demand for outdoor sports facilities in summer will steadily decline towards 2031, unless sports associations and governments run successful campaigns to keep significant numbers of older people in competitive sport. The demand for outdoor sports facilities in the north-west sub-region in winter is also likely to steadily decline towards 2031.

The SSROC recommendations are to provide new (or converted) grounds in the north-west sub-region in the short to medium term (next 10 years), then look for opportunities to convert some grounds, at least temporarily, to other open space uses. If demand for sporting fields in the north-west sub-region does increase, such conversions may not be necessary.

Table 5.8 Supply of field sporting opportunities

Current supply	Grounds used in Canterbury	Benchmark provision Regional (SSROC, 2008)	Benchmark provision Local
	Open / unallocated fields Summer: open fields at Beaumont Park, Rosedale Park, Yatama Park, Kentucky Road Reserve Winter: open field at Bland Oval (lit)	1 shared use field / 41,500 people	Not applicable
Code			
Athletics	Campbell Athletic Field (lit)	1 athletics field / 76,000 people – actual. 1 athletics field / 65,765 people – supply benchmark.	1 track / field per 140,000 people
Australian Rules	Picken Oval (1 field – lit) WH Wagener Oval (1 field – lit)	1 AFL field / 68,000 people – actual. 1 AFL field / 58,850 people – supply benchmark	1 field / 70,000 people
Baseball	McLaughlin Oval (2 diamonds)	1 baseball diamond / 28,500 people – actual. 1 baseball diamond / 28,670 people – supply benchmark.	1 diamond / 70,000 people
Cricket	Turf Bland Oval (1 turf) Blick Oval (1 turf) Lance Hutchinson Oval (1 turf) Punchbowl Park (1 turf) Synthetic Beaman Park (3 synthetic) Bennett Park (2 synthetic, 1 net) Clemton Park (2 synthetic, 2 nets) Croydon Park (2 synthetic) Earlwood Oval (1 synthetic, 4 synthetic practice nets) Ewen Park (1 synthetic) Gough Whitlam Park (1 synthetic, 1 net) Hughes Park (1 synthetic, 1 net) Lees Park (1 synthetic, 2 nets) Parry Park (2 synthetic) Punchbowl Park (2 synthetic) Rudd Park (4 synthetic) Tasker Park (2 synthetic) Waterworth Park (1 synthetic) Cricket practice nets at other locations: Peter Moore Field, Belmore; Riverwood; Harold Bull Reserve, Lakemba; Campsie	1 wicket / 5,300 people – actual. 1 wicket / 4,820 people – supply benchmark.	1 wicket / 4,830 people

Table 5.8 Supply of field sporting opportunities (cont.)

Current supply	Grounds used in Canterbury	Benchmark provision Regional (SSROC, 2008)	Benchmark provision Local
Football	Beaman Park (4 senior fields, 1 junior field, 2 mini-fields) Beaumont Park (1 senior field) Bennett Park (4 senior fields – 4 lit) Blick Oval (1 senior field) Croydon Park (2 senior fields – lit, mini-fields) Earlwood Oval (1 senior field – lit, mini fields) Ewen Park (2 senior fields – lit) Hughes Park (1 senior field – lit) Kentucky Road Reserve (1 field – lit) Lees Park (1 senior field – lit, mini field) Parry Park (3 senior, 1 junior, mini fields – lit) Peter Moore Field (1 field – lit) Punchbowl Park (4 senior fields – 3 lit) Rosedale Park (1 senior field – poorly lit) Rudd Park (4 senior fields – 2 lit, 1 mini field) Tasker Park (1 senior field – lit) Yatama Park (1 senior field)	1 football field / 4,000 people – actual. 1 football field / 3,900 people – benchmark	
Hockey	Tasker Park (2 fields)	1 hockey pitch per 68,000 people – actual. 1 hockey pitch / 74,530 people – supply benchmark	1 hockey pitch / 70,000 people
Rugby league	Belmore Sports Ground (1 field) 5,000 seat grandstand, covered seating areas at northern and southern ends Clemton Park (3 fields – lit) Beaman Park (1 field) Kentucky Road Reserve (1 field) Lance Hutchinson Oval (1 field – lit) Peter Moore Field (1 field, lit)	1 rugby league field / 17,000 people – actual. 1 rugby league field / 17,200 – supply benchmark.	1 rugby league field / 17,500 people
Rugby union	Wills Ground, Earlwood (private)	1 rugby union field / 38,000 people – actual. 1 rugby union field / 34,950 – supply benchmark.	1 rugby union field / 140,000 people
Softball	None	1 softball diamond / 107,500 people – actual. 1 softball diamond / 124,220 people – supply benchmark.	-
Touch football / Oztag	Beaman Park (10 fields – 6 lit) Canterbury Velodrome (1 field – lit) Gough Whitlam Park (3 fields) Waterworth Park (4 fields – lit)	1 touch field / 7,770 people – actual. 1 touch field / 11,650 people – supply benchmark	
School facilities			
	Some schools have sporting fields e.g. Kingsgrove North High School and Punchbowl Public School.		

Table 5.8 Supply of field sporting opportunities (cont.)

Current supply	Grounds used in Canterbury City	Benchmark provision Regional (SSROC, 2008)	Benchmark provision Local
Regional			
	Elite: Oki Jubilee Oval, Kogarah Telstra Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park Concord Oval Leichhardt Oval Other major sporting grounds include: Crest of Bankstown, Georges Hall Wyatt Park, Auburn Steel Park, Marrickville South Olds Park, Penshurst Penshurst Park, Penshurst Strathfield Park, Strathfield Henley Park, Enfield Petersham Park, Petersham		

Table 5.9 Supply of outdoor court sporting opportunities

Local	Regional
Netball courts Council ☐ Clemton Park, Kingsgrove (9 sealed, 5 grass separated), not lit ☐ Croydon Park, Ashbury (2 sealed, 3 grass) ☐ Rudd Park (3 grass courts) School grounds McCallums Hill Public School (1 court)	Bankstown City Netball Association, Deverall Park, Condell Park
Basketball courts Council ☐ Peter Moore Reserve, Belmore (2) ☐ Tasker Park ☐ Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe School Belmore Boys High School	Throughout the region
Tennis courts Council courts (24) ☐ Coolabah Street Reserve, Beverly Hills (4 synthetic grass) ☐ Lees Park, Canterbury (3 or 4 synthetic grass, lit, clubhouse, barbecues) ☐ Parry Park, Lakemba (4 hardcourts, lit, club room) ☐ Punchbowl Park (2 synthetic grass, club room) ☐ Beaman Park, Earlwood (4 synthetic grass, lit) ☐ Earlwood Oval (2) ☐ Rudd Park, Belfield (2 synthetic grass, lit, club room) ☐ John Mountford Reserve, Narwee (4 hardcourts) Private ☐ Canterbury Bankstown Tennis and Bowls Club (6 courts: 4 synthetic grass, 2 hardcourts) ☐ Sydney Olympic Sporting Club, Ewan Park (6 courts: 3 good, 3 poor condition) ☐ Trinity Grammar School (4 courts)	Canterbury Bankstown Tennis Association – Amour Park (Marco Avenue) and Childs Street (Panania), Deverall Park (Condell Park). Southend Tennis Complex, South Strathfield Western Suburbs Lawn Tennis Association, Pratten Park, Ashfield
Volleyball None	
Multi-purpose sports courts None	

Table 5.10 Supply of indoor court sporting opportunities

Local	Regional
Sports courts Australian National Sports Club in Parry Park, Lakemba ❑ 1 full-sized basketball court ❑ 2 x ¾ size basketball courts for activities such as indoor soccer, netball, volleyball, basketball. Full indoor court at Riverwood Community Centre. It is not equipped for competition, because there is no spectator area or perimeter space.	Marrickville: Borgia Community Recreation Centre, Steel Park (3 courts) Robyn Webster Sports Centre (2 courts) Rockdale : Rockdale Sports Centre (1 court) St George PCYC (1 court) Hurstville: Johnny Warren Indoor Stadium (3 courts) Hurstville Leisure Centre Bankstown: Bankstown Basketball Stadium Others: Auburn Basketball Stadium Alexandria Basketball Stadium State Sports Centre, Sydney Olympic Park Five Dock Leisure Centre Wyatt Park, Auburn Leichhardt Aquatic Centre Sydney University
Indoor soccer / futsal Australian National Sports Club, Parry Park, Lakemba	Clubs in: Ashfield (Ashfield Boys High School). Auburn (State Sports Centre at Sydney Olympic Park) Bankstown (Bankstown Basketball Stadium and Bankstown PCYC) Marrickville (Marrickville PCYC, and Robin Webster Sports Complex at Tempe). Rockdale (Rockdale PCYC and Rockdale Sports Centre)
Squash / racquetball courts Roselands Sports Fitness and Squash Centre, Bonds Road, Roselands – 5 squash courts Bulldogs Squash Club	Bankstown RSL Squash Ador Squash Centre, Rockdale
Indoor cricket Kingsgrove Sports Centre, Kingsgrove	

Table 5.10 Supply of indoor court sporting opportunities (cont.)

Local	Regional
Gymnastics Australian Academy of Gymnastics, 1 Knox Street, Belmore Sydney Gymnastics Factory, Earlwood Public School hall	Gymnastics clubs use: Bankstown City YMCA. Bunnerong Gym, Marrickville. State Sports centre, Sydney Olympic Park. Bankstown Sports Youth Club, Dunc Gray Velodrome. Burwood PCYC Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre Kogarah RSL Youth Club
Ice rink Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink: skating classes, skating clubs Rink owned by Council, leased and operated by others	None in surrounding region. Closest rinks at North Ryde, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Liverpool Catholic Club
Martial arts Miyagi Kan Goju Ryu Karate – Campsie Public School hall Roselands Fitness and Squash Centre – tae kwon do and karate Karate and mixed martial arts classes at Belmore South Public School Australian National Sports Club (tae kwon do, karate, judo)	Shinpo Tanren Karate Academy – Kingsgrove / Bexley North Community Centre

Table 5.11 Supply of other sporting opportunities

Local	Regional
Lawn bowling greens Over 20 used greens in 15 clubs	Throughout the region
Petanque / boules Sydney Petanque Club – Canterbury Bowling Club	France Petanque Club, Tempe
Croquet No croquet lawns	Tempe (3 lawns), Hurstville (2), Strathfield (2), Marrickville (1)
Cycling Canterbury Velodrome	Dunc Gray Olympic Velodrome, Bankstown
Horse racing Canterbury Racecourse: day and night feature racing, dining. Owned and operated by Sydney Turf Club.	Randwick, Rosehill, Warwick Farm

Table 5.11 Supply of other sporting opportunities (cont.)

Local	Regional
Golf courses / golf driving range Canterbury Golf Course, Beverly Hills – 9 holes, practice putting green, nets, pro-shop, barbecue facilities No golf driving range	Bardwell Valley Golf Club Marrickville Golf Course Strathfield Golf Club Bankstown Golf Club Riverwood Golf Club Bexley Golf Club Kogarah Golf Club Golf driving ranges at Tempe Lands, Hudson Park at Strathfield, Sydney Olympic Park, Beverly Park (Kogarah) Night Golf Driving Range
Pigeon racing Punchbowl and Panania Pigeon Club and Bankstown Pigeon Club in the Canterbury Bankstown tennis and Bowling Club.	

5.6 Aquatic and Fitness Facilities

Aquatic and fitness facilities, programs and services at:

Canterbury Aquatic Fitness Centre, Tasker Park

Roselands Aquatic Centre, Roselands.

future planning principles for aquatic facilities within the LGA.



Canterbury Aquatic and Fitness Centre



Roselands Aquatic Centre



Learn to swim class, Canterbury

Refer to Figure 5.5 for the location of aquatic and fitness facilities.

Table 5.12 Supply of aquatic and fitness facilities

Local	Regional
Pools Canterbury Aquatic and Fitness Centre ☐ 50 metre outdoor heated (25°C) pool ☐ Enclosed heated (30°C) teaching pool ☐ Children's pool ☐ Access for people with disabilities ☐ Learn to swim programs ☐ Stroke correction classes ☐ Swimming squads ☐ Aquarobics classes Roselands Aquatic Centre ☐ 50 metre 8 lane outdoor heated (25°C) pool with extension as a recreation pool ☐ 25 metre indoor heated (30°C) pool ☐ Teaching pool ☐ Access for people with disabilities ☐ Learn to swim programs ☐ Swimming squads ☐ Aquarobics classes ☐ Hydrotherapy ☐ Swimming for asthmatics ☐ Intensive school holiday swimming program Canterbury Hospital, Campsie: ☐ Swimming, water exercises – SHARE	☐ Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre ☐ Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, Marrickville ☐ Ashfield Aquatic Centre ☐ Auburn ☐ Bexley Swimming Centre ☐ Enfield ☐ Greenacre Swimming Centre ☐ Padstow Heated Pool ☐ Sydney International Aquatic Centre
Water play park none	Steel Park, Marrickville
Spa and sauna: ☐ Roselands Aquatic Centre	
Gym / fitness centres: ☐ Canterbury Aquatic and Fitness Centre (exercise equipment, weights, group fitness classes – aerobics, yoga, fitball, gentle exercise, step, pump, Pilates) ☐ Roselands Sports Fitness & Squash Centre, Roselands ☐ Canterbury Bankstown Leagues Club ☐ Canterbury-Hurlstone Park RSL Club ☐ Australian National Sports Club – gym ☐ All Stars Fitness Centre, Homer Street Earlwood ☐ Krunch Fitness, Homer Street Earlwood ☐ Vibe Fitness centre / Capoeira Academy, North Parade, Campsie	☐ Bankstown (Fitness First) ☐ Rockdale (Fitness First, Fernwood women only, Titan Fitness Centre) ☐ Beverley Hills (Fernwood women only) ☐ Haberfield (Fernwood women only) ☐ Burwood (Fitbodz) ☐ Marrickville (Mr T's Personal Training) ☐ Summer Hill (Hips Don't Lie Fitness Centre)

5.7 Natural areas

Natural open space areas and parkland associated with:

Bushland

Regional Parklands

Wetlands

Rivers and creeks: Cooks River, Wolli Creek, Salt Pan Creek, Cup and Saucer Creek.



Salt Pan Creek



Wolli Creek bushland

Refer to Figure 5.6 for the location of natural areas in Canterbury City.

Figure 5.6 Location of natural areas in Canterbury City

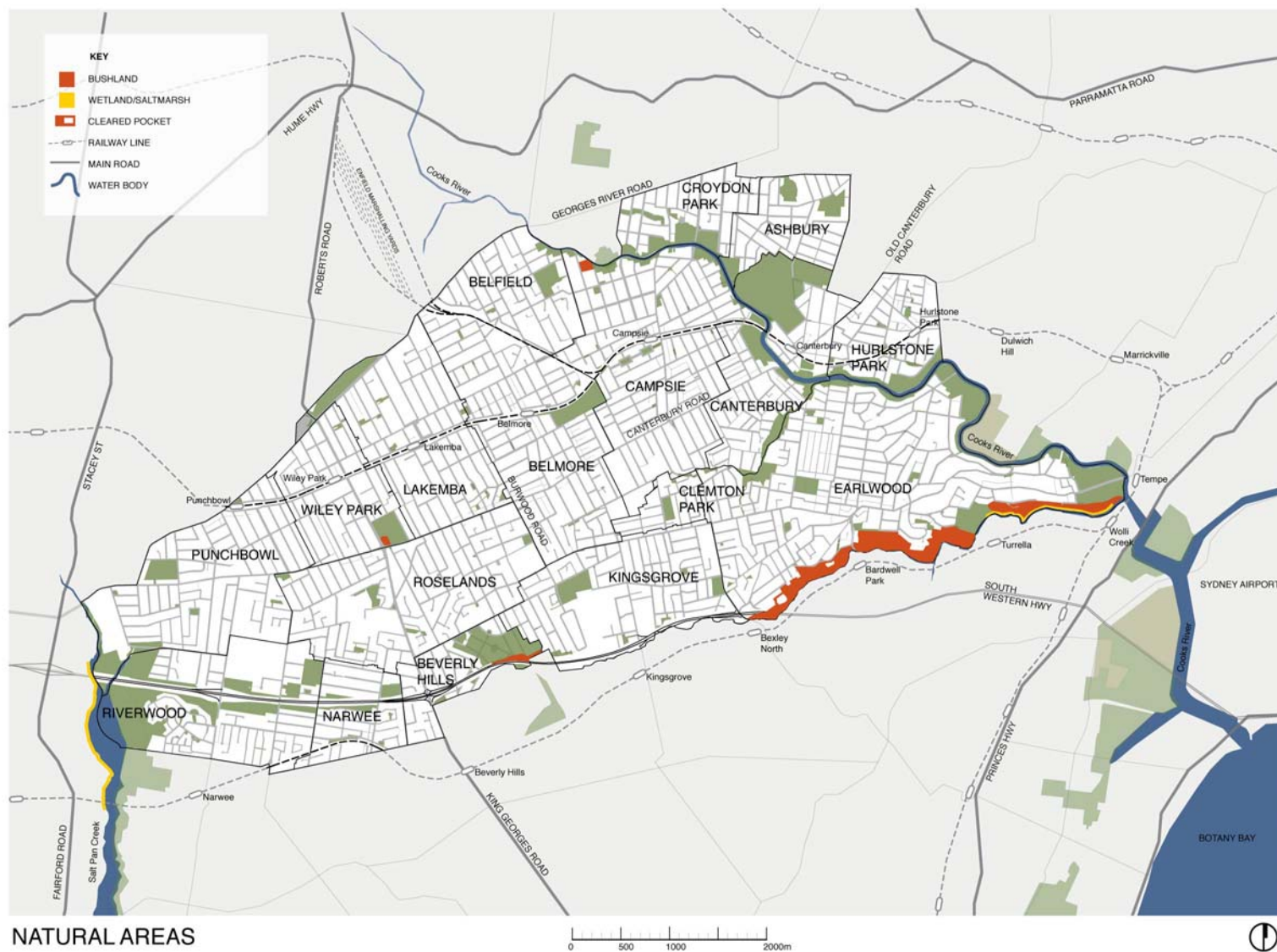


Table 5.13 Supply of natural areas in Canterbury City

Natural settings
Bushland ☐ Wolli Creek Valley contains the largest area of largely intact bushland in Canterbury City. It is also the most significant bushland remaining in the inner south-west of Sydney. ☐ Wolli Creek Regional Park – 50 hectares of remnant bushland, with rugged sandstone escarpments. Native heath and forest. ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Pat O'Connor Reserve ☐ Campsie Bushland. Remnant between Third and Second Avenues at Campsie. Bush regeneration and revegetation at Picken Oval and Rosedale Park to create a habitat corridor. Pockets of remnant vegetation along the M5 e.g. Beverly Grove. Wetlands ☐ Cooks River – mangroves ☐ Wolli Creek – mangroves, freshwater wetlands at Hartill-Law Avenue ☐ Salt Pan Creek – associated with walking and bike paths, playground, skate park ☐ Gough Whitlam Park – re-created wetland Rivers and creeks ☐ Cooks River – paddle sports and kayaking tours run by Tempe River Canoe Club. ☐ Wolli Creek ☐ Salt Pan Creek ☐ Cup and Saucer Creek Canoeing and kayaking up Wolli Creek at Turrella Weir. Can paddle from Botany Bay. Riverlife Interpretive Tours along the Cooks River (Canterbury, Marrickville, Strathfield Councils) funded by the DECC 'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing' program.

6 ACTION PLAN

6.1 Introduction

The Action Plan below is a 10-year plan that will link to Council's works program in conjunction with the specific projects and strategies identified in Council's:

City's Strategic Plan 2008-2017

Section 94 Contributions Plan 2005

Community Facilities Plan 2006

Proposed Principal Local Environmental Plan.

Table headings are explained as follows:

Issues	An issue relating to the particular theme.
Strategies	A broad, positive approach to resolving the issue.
Actions	Specific tasks required to resolve the issue, consistent with the strategy
Timing	Timeframe of the action to be achieved: Short term: 1-3 years Medium term 4 to 6 years Long term over 7-10 years Over 10 years to 20 years Ongoing
Priority	Priority, or urgency, given to achieving the action. 1 Best response to meet demand and resolves issue 2 Recommend to mediate issue or bridge gap of provision 3 Council to consider as response to reported needs
Implementation	Each action in the Action Plan has been assigned to an area/unit within Council for implementation. The lead area / unit within Council that is responsible for implementing the action is highlighted in bold . It is recommended that Council's Recreation Planner will facilitate the development of priorities and detail schedule from this action plan and negotiate inception into department work programs and priorities and Council's rolling Works Program.
Resources / Indicative cost	Source of funding and other resources / indicative cost

6.2 Action Plan tables

Table 6.1 Informal Recreation – Open Space

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost
Some parks are not 'visible' from surrounding roads and residential areas, or are not recognised as public open space	Improve the visibility and legibility of parks and open space from surrounding areas	1 Upgrade park entrances and directional signage to: ☐ Werona Avenue Reserve ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Rotary Park ☐ Punchbowl Park ☐ Loch Street Reserve (thin vegetation to allow view through to park, and place park name on entry structure) ☐ Wiley Park from Canterbury Road and King Georges Road ☐ Remove the garden at the entrance to Kingsbury Reserve, Kingsgrove	Short 1-3yrs	2	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	Works Program \$25,000
		2 Implement a new Open Space branding and signage information system across all open space and parkland areas	Medium –Long 4-10yrs	1	Parks & Property Corporate Communications	Allocate \$100,000
		3 Acquire properties for open space to increase visibility and access to some parks (refer to acquisitions list in Section 8.	Long 7-10yrs	3	Governance	
Some parks require maintenance and are not all attractive to use	Improve shade in open space areas	4 Plant shade trees at: ☐ Turrella Reserve ☐ Ewen Park	Short 1-3yrs	3	Parks & Property	Work Program \$10,000

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost
Some parks require maintenance and are not all attractive to use	Emphasise quality of space rather than quantity of distribution and improve attractiveness of district and regional park landscape	5 Conduct landscaping refurbishment work at: ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Parry Park ☐ Wise Reserve ☐ Rudd Park ☐ Bennett Park ☐ Rotary Park ☐ Ewen Park ☐ Jubilee Reserve ☐ Anzac Park ☐ Allegra Reserve	Over 10yrs	2	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	Work Program \$100,000
Limited availability of new open space through land acquisition	Acquire community access to school parkland and facilities outside of allocation school time through user agreements and partnerships	6 Identify areas of limited supply of and access to open space and target school partnerships in that area Establish school / open space community access partnerships with: ☐ McCallums Hill Public School ☐ Wiley Park Girls High School and/or Wiley Park Primary School ☐ Belmore South Public School ☐ Harcourt Primary School ☐ Punchbowl Primary School ☐ Canterbury South Primary School Develop partnership agreements inclusive of access times, security, maintenance, signage and responsibilities Consider implementation of capital improvements to each school partner for community use to improve specifically hard court / all weather sport training areas	Ongoing Over 10 yrs	3	Recreation Governance Parks & Property	\$40,000 per agreement capital setup cost

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost
Passive recreation activities and gatherings in open space and recreation areas with family and friends is becoming increasingly popular	Provide opportunities to enjoy food and beverages in parks	7 Install / replace barbecue/cooking facilities and picnic tables at: ☐ Terry Lamb Reserve ☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands ☐ Ewen Park ☐ Mary McKillop Park ☐ Turrella Reserve ☐ Washington Reserve ☐ Whitmarsh Park (near the playground)	Ongoing 1-6yrs	1	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	\$10,000 per location
	Provide large covered shelters over seating for large groups	8 Provide large shade areas with seating for groups/gatherings in: ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands (Stage 2)	Over 10 yrs	1	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	\$20,000 per location
	Encourage provision of cafes, kiosks and mobile food and beverage provision	9 Lease the café operation of existing kiosk facilities at: ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Wiley Park	Short 1-3yrs	1	Governance Recreation Parks & Property	
		10 Consider a lease or agreement for a mobile café to operate and service uses along the Cooks River bike pathway during peak periods	Short 1-3yrs	3	Governance Recreation	

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost
Passive recreation activities and gatherings in open space and recreation areas with family and friends is becoming increasingly popular	Encourage provision of cafes, kiosks and mobile food and beverage provision	11 Consider the inclusion of kiosk facilities and lease of operation in any new park amenity capital works at: ☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands ☐ Belmore Sports Ground ☐ Ewen Park ☐ Rotary Park	Ongoing	1	City Works Asset & Forward Planning Recreation	Allow funding within any allocation for redevelopment projects
	Exercising dogs is enjoyed in open spaces, but requires suitable planning and management around other users	12 Establish unleashed dog exercise areas at: ☐ Hughes Park, Earlwood ☐ Graig Street Reserve, Punchbowl ☐ Lark St Reserve, Belmore Investigate with DECC about an unleashed dog area at Turrella Reserve	Medium 4-6yrs	2	Environmental Compliance	Within existing budgets
		13 Designate additional dog exercise areas: ☐ Wise Reserve, Riverwood ☐ Salt Pan Creek (Stage 2)	Short 1-3yrs	3	Environmental Compliance	Within existing budgets
	Provide dog waste bag dispensers, bins and associated facilities	14 Provide dog facilities at unleashed areas including, drinking water, fencing, shade & seating for owners, waste bag dispensers & bins and information signage Provide dog waster bag dispensers and bins along the Cooks River bike pathway	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Environmental Compliance	Allow \$15,000 per location set up costs and \$10,000 annual maintenance total for consumables

Issues	Strategies	Action s		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost
Exercising dogs is enjoyed in open spaces, but requires suitable planning and management around other users	Provide dog waste bag dispensers, bins and associated facilities	14 cont.	Consider any commercial interest and demand for the establishment of a ‘Dog Café’ mobile or stationed to service unleash dog exercise area	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Environmental Compliance	Allow \$15,000 per location set up costs and \$10,000 annual maintenance tota for consumables
A range of informal recreation activities are enjoyed in open space	Integrate ‘hang-out’ spaces in open spaces near rail stations and transport	15	Consider establishing spaces with games tables, shade, seating, community art work located near transport and regional parks: ☐ Warren Reserve, Punchbowl ☐ Johnson Square, Wiley Park ☐ Jubilee or The Boulevard Reserve, Lakemba ☐ Anzac Square, Campsie ☐ Wiley Park, Wiley Park ☐ Salt Pan Creek (Stage 2) ☐ Peace Park, Ashbury ☐ Belmore Sports Ground redevelopment	Medium Long 4-10yrs	3	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Allow \$25,000 per location in Works Program Seek relevant grant funding opportunities
	Consider providing adult exercise / fitness equipment at large playgrounds, sporting complexes, and along linkages	16	Install an outdoor fitness training equipment station at: ☐ Forrester Reserve, Kingsgrove ☐ Between Close Street Reserve and Ewen Park, Cooks River Foreshore ☐ Mildura Reserve, Cooks River Foreshore	Short 1-3 yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation Parks & Property	Seek relevant grant funding opportunities Allow \$15,000 per site location

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost	
A range of informal recreation activities are enjoyed in open space	Facilitate hire of recreation equipment at regional parks and linkages	17	Consider a commercial lease operator for provision of bike and recreation equipment hire in Gough Whitlam Park	Short 1-3yrs	1	Governance	-
	Establish public accessible community gardens consistent with Council's Community Garden Program in high density areas	18	Facilitate the development of community gardens on school land through partnerships, specifically in densely populated areas and wherever else community support is found	Short 1-3yrs	3	Environmental Policy Waste Services	Funding already allocated within existing budgets
		19	Consider the development of a community garden in Lakemba at either Jubilee Reserve or Peel Park	Medium-Long 4-10yrs	3	Environmental Policy Parks & Property	Allocate \$50,000 within existing budgets or seek suitable grant funding
	Provide practice walls in local parks and at sporting facilities	20	Install practice walls for ball games at: ☐ Parry Park ☐ Yatama Park Consult with sporting clubs and user groups for consideration at other sport grounds	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation Parks & Property	Seek available grant funding through NSW Sport & Recreation and part funding by Sporting Clubs

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources/ Indicative Cost	
A range of informal recreation activities are enjoyed in open space	Increase opportunities for formal multipurpose performance or activity areas within open space for specific needs, i.e. tai chi	21	Establish performance and specific activity spaces within open space areas with shade and suitable soft fall surfaces at:	Medium - Long	3	Community Services	Allocate \$20,000 per location within Works Program
			☐ Campsie Town Centre Redevelopment	4-10yrs		Youth Services	
			☐ Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park			Asset & Forward Planning	
			☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands (Stage 2)				
			☐ Terry Lamb Reserve, Belmore				
			☐ Tasker Park, Canterbury			Parks & Property	
Development and improvement required in the condition, security and accessibility of public amenities in open space areas	Review and upgrade public amenities	22	Provide toilet amenities at:	Medium -Long	2	Asset & Forward Planning	Allow \$100,000
			☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands	4-10yrs			
		23	Upgrade public toilet amenities at:	Short	1	Asset & Forward Planning	Allow \$25,000 within Works Program
			☐ Terry Lamb Reserve	1-3yrs			
		Investigate opportunities to improve the condition, security and access to public amenities	24	Regularly update the national public toilet website information and map with Canterbury LGA operating times	Ongoing	1	Parks & Property

Table 6.2 Informal Recreation – Indoor Space

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost
Limited availability of low cost leisure and recreation indoor programs, particularly for families and older people	Partner with and support local and regional community and recreation organisations in recreation program delivery in Canterbury LGA	25 Consider the recruitment of a Recreation Program Officer or additions within a suitable Officer's job description to facilitate: ☐ community recreation programs ☐ Council's engagement of sport and recreation related program funding ☐ sport and recreation development opportunities and partnerships with local, state and national sporting agencies	Medium - Long 4-10yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation	Seek suitable grant funding for position or \$10,000 under a existing Officer extended position
		26 Develop and service partnerships with local recreation service providers to actively recruit new members and engage the wider, diverse communities with the LGA	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets and work programs
	Increase community capacity to deliver recreational activities, particularly those from diverse cultural back-grounds, and new immigrants who have limited social networks and language skills	27 Engage and encourage discounted membership offers and activities conducted by registered clubs and organisations within Canterbury specifically to target low income, culturally diverse and new migrant residents	Short Medium 1-6yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets and work programs
		28 Actively seek funding opportunities and engage recreation service providers to apply for grant funding to support the delivery of new and existing recreation programs	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets and work programs

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost
There needs to be development of indoor multipurpose playing courts and space to cater for a wide range of community activity groups and casual users	Develop, expand and/or refurbish existing facilities to create more modern and multi functional space	29 Undertake feasibility studies for the redevelopment Earlwood and Lakemba Multipurpose Community Centres as detailed in the Community Facilities Plan (recommendations 4 & 15) Community Facilities Plan 2006	Short to Medium 1-6yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Allow \$25,000 per study
	Implement Council's Community Facilities Plan 2006	30 Make Punchbowl Multipurpose Centre available to a wide variety of users across recreation and community activities with priority to users located within Canterbury LGA	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services	Within existing budgets
		31 Consider the development of Community Multipurpose Facility within any development of the Canterbury Town Centre Community Facilities Plan 2006	Long 7-10yrs	1	Community Services Asset & Forward Planning	Within any development allocation
		32 Redevelop the basement storage area in Carrington Community Centre into additional office space Community Facilities Plan 2006	Short 1-3yrs	3	Asset & Forward Planning Community Services	Allocate \$25,000 Works Program
		33 Investigate school partnerships to facilitate access to school indoor multipurpose halls for community use out of school hours within Canterbury	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Recreation Department of Education and Training	Within existing budgets

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
There needs to be development of indoor multi-purpose playing courts and space to cater for a wide range of community activity groups and casual users	Develop, expand and/or refurbish existing facilities to create more modern and multi functional space	34	Provide one (1) community space within the development of Ewen Park Plan of Management and redevelopment of amenities	Medium 4-6yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Governance	Within development allocation
		35	Investigate and consider the joint use or conversion of bowling clubs or similar facilities for indoor recreation and community group use	Ongoing 1-10yrs	3	Recreation Governance	Encourage commercial investment
		36	Support the private and exclusive use during allocated times by cultural women’s groups at Council community facilities where possible	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Community Services	Within existing budgets
		37	Support and encourage external providers of occasional child care at community and recreation facilities with Canterbury LGA	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Children’s Services	Within existing budgets
There is a lack of commercial indoor recreation facilities to satisfy needs for a variety of recreational activities	Encourage and support development applications for commercial indoor recreation facilities, such as cinemas, in appropriate area	38	Consider a commercial Cinema complex within future Town Centre redevelopments	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Corporate Projects City Strategy	Commercial investment partnership
		39	Encourage and support where feasible new commercial recreation facilities / services that add to the supply of recreation opportunities with Canterbury LGA	Ongoing 1-10yrs	3	Development Assessment Recreation	Within existing budgets
	Encourage provision of indoor informal recreation opportunities for community groups	40	Establish and facilitate a Men’s Shed in Shakespeare Street, Campsie	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services	Within existing budgets
		41	Consult annually with Council’s Advisory Committees on specific recreation program and service needs	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets

Table 6.3 Recreation Target Groups – Children

Issues	Strategies	Action	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost
Council playgrounds are aging and provide little imagination or engagement and require review of maintenance to meet safety standards	Review all playgrounds within Canterbury LGA	42 Conduct a Playground Feasibility and Rationalisation Study with Canterbury LGA. Study to address:	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning Parks & Property	Allow \$25,000 for the study
	Conduct regular inspections to ensure safety and compliance	☐ Play needs of the range of ages and abilities ☐ Variety and challenge offered by equipment ☐ Hierarchy and distribution based on community need ☐ Use of natural play elements and aesthetics ☐ Co-location of playgrounds with existing amenities and facilities ☐ Supporting services and safety				
		43 Conduct equipment and softfall rectification works to meet AS 4685 at:	Short 1-3yrs	1	Parks & Property	Within existing maintenance budgets
		☐ Bennett Park, Riverwood ☐ Cullens Road Reserve, Punchbowl ☐ George Cayley Reserve, Punchbowl ☐ John Mountford Reserve, Narwee ☐ Kardella Crescent Reserve, Narwee ☐ Kentucky Road Reserve 2, Riverwood ☐ Leonard Reserve, Lakemba ☐ McLaughlin Oval, Riverwood ☐ Punchbowl Park, Punchbowl ☐ Roseanne Reserve, Roselands				

Issues	Strategies	Action	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
Council playgrounds are aging and provide little imagination or engagement and require review of maintenance to meet safety standards	Review all playgrounds within Canterbury LGA	43 cont.	☐ Salt Pan Creek Reserve, Riverwood	Short 1-3yrs	1	Parks & Property	Within existing maintenance budgets
	Conduct regular inspections to ensure safety and compliance		☐ Scott Reserve, Punchbowl				
☐ Werona Avenue Reserve, Punchbowl							
☐ Hillard Reserve, Lakemba							
☐ Ken McLean Reserve, Kingsgrove							
☐ Eccles Reserve, Belfield							
☐ Harcourt Reserve, Campsie							
☐ Wiley Park, Wiley Park							
☐ Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park							
	Improve shade, safety and amenities at playgrounds	44	Consider playground shade and seating amenities playgrounds within the feasibility study at:	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Seek appropriate grant funding opportunities
			☐ Anzac Park, Campsie				
			☐ Beaman Park, Earlwood				
			☐ Beaumont Park, Kingsgrove				
			☐ Bennett Park, Riverwood				
			☐ Bungalow Road Reserve, Roselands				
			☐ Coolabah Street Reserve, Roselands				
			☐ Croydon Park, Ashbury				
			☐ Earlwood Oval, Earlwood				
			☐ Eccles Reserve, Belfield				
			☐ Forrester Reserve, Kingsgrove				
			☐ Harcourt Reserve, Campsie				
			☐ Jubilee Reserve, Lakemba				
			☐ Lees Park, Ashbury				
			☐ McLaughlin Oval, Riverwood				
			☐ Rudd Park, Belfield				
			☐ Terry Lamb Reserve, Belmore				

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost
Council playgrounds are aging and provide little imagination or engagement and require review of maintenance to meet safety standards	Improve shade, safety and amenities at playgrounds	45 Install playground perimeter fencing to playgrounds in close proximity to water, roads and unleashed dog exercise areas: ☐ Beaman Park, Earlwood ☐ Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe ☐ Wiley Park, Wiley Park ☐ Parry Park, Lakemba	Short 1-3yrs	1	Parks & Property Risk Management Recreation	Within existing budgets
	Provide modern, attractive and appealing playgrounds within Canterbury	46 Consider the provision of a regional multi-purpose wet/dry playground centralised in Canterbury to service as a fun leisure aquatic attraction in summer and a dry playground zone in winter.	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Seek appropriate grant funding opportunities
There is an uneven distribution of playgrounds and some are isolated from amenities.	Revise the hierarchy and distribution of playgrounds, in terms of regional, district and local provision ensuring suitable provision in high density residential areas with a high proportion of children	47 Address as part of Action 42, Playground Feasibility and Rationalisation Study and consider: A tiered playground provision of local, district and regional playgrounds within the respective open space areas Co-locate any new district and regional playground with parkland amenities and infrastructure to promote its use New Playgrounds at: ☐ Flora St Reserve ☐ Wanstead Avenue ☐ Forrester Reserve	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Seek appropriate grant funding opportunities
				1		
				1		
				3		

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
There is an uneven distribution of playgrounds and some are isolated from amenities.	Identify opportunities to co-locate play-grounds in existing parklands and sporting facilities with established access, amenities and security	47	☐ Bungalow Reserve ☐ Jack Chesher Reserve ☐ Beaumont Park ☐ Salt Pan Creek Wetlands (Stage 2) ☐ Jubilee Reserve ☐ Knox Street Reserve ☐ McPherson Reserve ☐ Marlowe Street Reserve ☐ Vermont Crescent Reserve ☐ Parry Park	Short 1-3yrs	3	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Seek appropriate grant funding opportunities
		cont.	Partner with schools for public access to school playgrounds within designated high density areas		3		
Enhance and increase play opportunities associated with playgrounds, playgroups, children’s bike paths and activities for children with special needs	Identify opportunities to ‘add value’ and accessibility to playgrounds with associated play facilities	48	Provide a children’s bike pathway within parklands: ☐ Rotary Park ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Ewen Park	Medium 4-6yrs	2	Asset & Forward Planning Parks & Property	Allocate \$25,000 per site location to Works Program
		49	Apply ‘accessibility’ principles to the design and construction of all future playground installations	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Community Services Design	

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
Enhance and increase play opportunities associated with playgrounds, playgroups, children’s bike paths and activities for children with special needs	Build on existing in-park children’s activities and encourage groups to provide play and social opportunities for children and carers	50	Continue to support and expand the ‘Park & Play’ mobile play group program across the Canterbury LGA	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services	Seek appropriate grant funding
		51	Support children play groups and organisation in increasing play opportunities within the Canterbury LGA by facilitating: ☐ Sourcing grant funding ☐ Allocation of space and facility ☐ Mentoring opportunities ☐ recurrent employment of Canterbury Child and Family Interagency Facilitator	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Community Services	Within existing budgets and work programs
		52	Consider the appointment of a Community Services Officer – Children & Families or increase hours of Child and Family Interagency Facilitator to 0.75FTE	Short 1-3yrs	3	Community Services	Source increased grant funding from DOCS
	Encourage private provision of indoor play opportunities in retail or commercial Town Centres	53	Where permissible support commercial application to provide indoor play centre activities within Town Centres, shopping centres or within a Council Community or Multipurpose Centre	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Development Assessment City Strategy	Encourage commercial Investment
Improve access to affordable occasional and vacation care programs and services within Canterbury	Identify ways, both through internal resources and infrastructure and external organ-isations, to increase affordable care opportunities within Canterbury LGA	54	Consider multipurpose child care facilities within Campsie Town Centre redevelopment	Short 1-3yrs	3	Corporate Projects Children’s Services	Within project development contributions

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
Improve access to affordable occasional and vacation care programs and services within Canterbury	Identify ways, both through internal resources and infrastructure and external organisations, to increase affordable care opportunities within Canterbury LGA	55	Consider multipurpose child care facilities within any new Town Centre or multipurpose centre development in consolidation of existing facilities to ‘co-locate’ services	Medium Long 4-10yrs	3	City Strategy Children’s Services	Within project development contributions
		56	Continue promotion through local media and relevant agencies vacancies at Council’s four Outside School & Vacation Care services conducted at: ☐ Belmore ☐ Clemton Park ☐ Lakemba ☐ Punchbowl	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Corporate Communications Children’s Services	Within existing budgets

Table 6.4 Target Groups – Youth

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost
There is a need for more quality and low-cost informal leisure and recreation opportunities in Canterbury for young people	Investigate opportunities to create more appropriate multipurpose and accessible 'Youth' orientated spaces	57	Review outcomes of Canterbury Youth Council consultation with young people undertaken in February 2011 and action relevant recommendations.	Short 1-3yrs	1	Youth Services Youth Council Within existing budgets
		58	Undertake a feasibility study on Youth Services with Canterbury LGA. Study to address recreation needs in the areas of: - Passive recreation space - Active recreation facilities, addressing the need for outdoor accessible multipurpose playing courts - Leisure and performance space - Young women - Supporting services, networks and programs reviewing current operation and management of Belmore Youth Resource Centre - Location, safety and supervision of facilities and services	Short 1-3yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation Youth Services Youth Council Youth Council Contribution \$5,000 within existing budgets \$5,000
		As part of the feasibility study for youth services consider informal 'hangout' spaces incorporating active and passive facilities at Anzac Park, Campsie and Lakemba railway stations			3	

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
There is a need for more quality and low-cost informal leisure and recreation opportunities in Canterbury for young people	Provide outdoor recreation facilities for young people	59	Consider the provision of a new skate park facility in the Central or East Wards	Short 1-3yrs	3	Recreation Youth Services Youth Council	Within study budget allocation
		60	Upgrade the bike track at Little Tasker Park and provide suitable shade, seating and information signage to support its use	Short 1-3yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning	Allocate \$10,000 within works program
		61	Consider within the feasibility study a new BMX/mountain bike facility at Mildura Reserve, Campsie to link with the Cooks River Foreshore Bike Pathway and inclusion in the Salt Pan Creek Stage 2 development	Short 1-3yrs	3	Recreation Youth Services Youth Council	Within study budget allocation
	Involve a diversity of young people in the design of space to create ownership, build capacity and reduce vandalism	62	Undertake a youth program to improve amenity, use and interest at designated pocket parks and unused open spaces through the provision of youth projects including: ☐ construction of street furniture ☐ artwork, murals, sculptures, graffiti art ☐ youth adventure playground	Mediu m 4-6yrs	3	Youth Services Youth Council	Within existing budgets and/or seek appropriate grant funding opportunities or allocation through Youth Council
There is an imbalance in distribution and provision of youth facilities and programs in the LGA	Improve youth services in Belmore, while establishing a wider distribution and opportunity of youth services across Canterbury LGA	63	Expand the Belmore Youth Resource Centre BYRC to include indoor or covered multipurpose sport playing court, (basketball, netball, volleyball, soccer, badminton)	Short 1-3yrs	1	Youth Services Recreation	Allocate \$30,000 Works Program
			Consider the installation of a fitness room including gym equipment at BYRC		3		And seek funding through NSW Sport Recreation Grant Funding

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
There is an imbalance in distribution and provision of youth facilities and programs in the LGA	Improve youth services in Belmore, while establishing a wider distribution and opportunity of youth services across Canterbury LGA	64	Consider the provision of satellite youth facilities to be located with any redevelopment of community facilities at Earlwood and Canterbury/Hurlstone Park	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Youth Services Youth Council Recreation	Within study budget allocation
	Provide and/or encourage safe, supervised youth venues at night and on weekends	65	Investigate opportunities to partner with PCYC Belmore at existing facilities such as Riverwood Community Centre, PCYC and future sites to provide youth programs outside core 'at risk' operating hours: ☐ Midnight basketball ☐ Movie marathons ☐ Urban soccer nights ☐ Live performance nights	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	2	Youth Services Youth Council	Within existing budgets
		66	Work with commercial operators to establish youth cafes similar to 'Fusion' at Campsie to service ☐ Belfield ☐ Roselands ☐ Lakemba ☐ Riverwood ☐ Croydon Park	Long 7-10yrs	2	Youth Services Youth Council	Encourage commercial investment

Table 6.5 Target Groups – Aged and Disability

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost
Increase access to indoor space for senior citizens programs in the Lakemba area	Redevelop Senior Citizens Centres into larger multipurpose facilities	67 Undertake feasibility studies for the redevelopment Earlwood and Lakemba Multipurpose Community Centres as detailed in the Community Facilities Plan (recommendations 4 & 15)	Long 7-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation	Allow \$25,000 for the combined study
	Increase opportunities for programs and services at Council owned buildings	68 Review booking system of Council's seniors citizens centres and consider increasing booking sessions from 2 to 3 per day	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services Governance	Within internal resources
Reduce the barriers to participation in recreation by older people	Address barriers to participation by older people in recreation activities in the areas of cost, security, transport and education	69 Review outcomes of Council's Ageing Strategy and action relevant recommendations.	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services	Within existing budgets
		70 Promote off peak usage of Council owned facilities for use by senior citizen groups	Ongoing 1-10yrs	2	Community Services	Within existing budgets
	Minimise cost and increase participation of seniors in recreation programs and activities	71 Partner with senior citizen groups and utilize programs such as Seniors Week to recruit new seniors into activities and generate greater awareness of opportunities, transport usage and safety	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	1	Community Services Corporate Communications	Within existing budgets
		72 Seek relevant grant funding through government agencies to support programs targeted at aged services, i.e. Department of Health & Aging	Ongoing 1-10yrs	2	Community Services	Grant funded opportunities
		73 Continue to subsidise room hire for senior citizens user groups and activities at Council owned venues	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Community Services	Within existing budgets

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
General access to and within open space and recreation areas requires improvement	Improve disability access across all open space, recreation facilities and linkages	74	Apply accessibility principles in all current and future recreation infrastructure projects	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Design & Traffic Asset & Forward Planning	Within existing project funding and allocations
		75	Implement a Council Development Control Plan (DCP) to address disability access provision in new development applications	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services Development Assessment Urban Planning	Within internal resources
						Community Services Access Committee Parks & Property	Within Access Community budget allocation
	76	Conduct an Accessible Parks Study to review accessibility of parks and sport fields in Canterbury and develop a action plan to improve access and amenity	Medium 4-6yrs	2	Community Services Access Committee Parks & Property	Within Access Community budget allocation	
	Improve disability access within transport mediums to and from open space and recreation facilities	77	Conduct a audit of public transport infrastructure with Canterbury LGA to report compliance against Department of Transport 2002 Disability Standards for Public Transport	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services Access Committee	Allocate \$10,000 within existing Access Committee budget funding

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Cost	
Recreation activities for people with a disability is limited, lack imagination, challenge and are influenced by the carer or care organisations	Develop initiatives to promote and educate carers and care organisations on recreation opportunities with Canterbury	78	Seek relevant grant funding through government agencies to support programs targeted at persons with a disability, i.e. NSW Department of Sport & Recreation, Disability Sport Assistance Program	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation	-
	Develop initiatives to promote and educate carers and care organisations on recreation opportunities with Canterbury	79	Consult with Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) in the implementation of the NSW Carers Action Plan 2007-2012 within LGA	Short 1-3yrs	1	Community Services Access Committee Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	Within existing budgets
	Investigate new and modern ways to incorporate innovation and challenge into recreation activity and experiences in Canterbury LGA	80	Consider within Action 79 Accessible Parks Study improvements to open spaces and recreation facilities in terms of vehicle parking, access to recreation facilities, amenities, continuous paths of travel, and accessible park furniture	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Design & Traffic Asset & Forward Planning	Within existing Works Program budget allocations and/or suitable grant funding opportunities
	Provide aquatic hydrotherapy rehabilitation within Canterbury	81	Provide a multipurpose hydrotherapy pool within any new aquatic centre development or redevelopment	Medium 4-6yrs	2	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Consider as part of existing redevelopment or new facility

Table 6.6 Target Groups – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs	
Gain an understanding of the role of recreation for CALD communities.	Develop and deploy a co-lingual education and communication strategy across Council's Recreation and Open Space facilities, programs and services	82	Conduct a audit review of all signage requirements for Council's recreation/sport facilities, open space and parks	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation Parks & Property	Within existing budgets
			Based on Action 85 outcomes, implement a new branding and co –lingual language information and user guide signage strategy across Council's recreation/sport facilities, open space and parks	Mediu m 4-6yrs	1	Corporate Communications Parks & Property	Implement within Action 5 budget allocation
		83	Consider promoting Council recreation services in a specific brand with visual logos, i.e. ' Active Canterbury ' or similar naming to promote, identify and educate residents of the diverse range of opportunities within the LGA	Mediu m 4-6yrs	3	Corporate Communications Recreation	Implement with Action 5 budget allocation
	Facilitate CALD groups participation in social sporting activities	84	Review booking arrangements and schedule appropriate session times for one off booking requests for sporting fields and parks to promote the participation and accessibility of CALD groups in social sport activities	Short 1-3yrs	2	Community Services Governance	Within existing resources
There are few usable open space opportunities for family/cultural gatherings, activities and recreation	Identify opportunities to reflect cultural diversity needs through open space and recreation facility provision	85	Allocate funding within Council's Works Program to improve and add to shade, seating and barbecue areas within district and regional open space: ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Salt Pan Creek (Stage 2) ☐ Peace Park Consider in any redevelopment of Belmore	Mediu m- Long 4-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning	Allocate \$25,000 per site location

Sports Ground and associated parkland

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There are few usable open space opportunities for family/ cultural gatherings, activities and recreation	Identify opportunities to reflect cultural diversity needs through open space and recreation facility provision	86	Consult with relevant community groups and identify opportunities to establish specific cultural activity spaces including community cultural gardens, art works and sculptures in open space areas to add to amenity and/or heritage of specific sites	Short 1-3yrs	2	Community Services Parks & Property Environmental Policy	Seek appropriate grant funding opportunities
		87	Consider the provision of outdoor recreation space within Town Centres or squares to cater for chess, checkers, bocce courts and similar culture leisure pursuits	Long 7-10yrs	2	Economic Development - City Strategy Community Services	Encourage commercial providers i.e. shopping centres
		88	Consult with Bowling Clubs in regard to broadening recreation opportunities to include cultural leisure pursuits such as bocce to increase membership and visitation	Short 1-3yrs	3	Recreation Governance	-
	Support the privacy needs of cultural women's and religious groups in design and provision of recreation facilities and activities	89	Consider the installation of partition walls, curtains and or scheduled session times for access to indoor community and recreation space	Short 1-3yrs	3	Community Services Parks & Property	Within existing budgets and/or user part funding partnership

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There are few usable open space opportunities for family/ cultural gatherings, activities and recreation	Provide more indoor playing courts to meet growing demand of badminton, table tennis basketball and volleyball within the Vietnamese and Chinese communities	90	Encourage YMCA of Sydney to allocated court time to service badminton and table tennis at Riverwood Indoor Sports Centre upon its inception	Short 1-3yrs	2	Recreation Governance	Equipment should be allocated in project fit out costs
		91	Consider indoor playing court/s at new multipurpose or recreation centre development or redevelopment within Central and East Wards: ☐ Peter Moore Fields ☐ Canterbury Aquatic Fitness Centre, Tasker Park	Mediu m-Long 4-10yrs	3 1 3	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Fund courts within project budget allocation

Table 6.7 Target Groups – Women

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
Opportunities for women to access specific and separate leisure and recreation facilities and services need to be developed	Identify and develop opportunities to establish sporting facilities and activities to for women's sport	92 Consult with state sporting bodies about opportunities to develop women's sports in Canterbury LGA	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation	-
		93 Facilitate local sporting associations to participate in the NSW Department Sport & Recreation, Women's Sport Leaders Scholarship Program	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	2	Recreation Community Services	Within existing budgets
		94 Consult with Community Sporting Clubs with regard to future needs and facilities with consideration to amenities and expansion of courts to service increase training and competition needs by a broad range of sports.	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation	-
		Refurbish the playing surface and goal posts at Asbury Netball Courts, Ashbury and install additional seating with shade	Long 7-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning	Allow \$50,000 Seek grant and user funding opportunities
		95 Establish suitable female change facilities within all new and refurbished sport field amenities	Ongoing 1-10yrs	2	Asset & Forward Planning	Within existing project allocation
Opportunities for women to access specific and separate leisure and recreation facilities and services need to be developed	Support allocation of community and recreation space to specific women's groups and programs	96 Maintain a partnership with NSW Department of Sport & Recreation in the delivery of Women's Only Swimming Program at Roseland's Aquatic Centre and or where feasible consider similar partnership programs at other and future recreation sites	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets and user pay agreements
		97 Consider installing partition walls, curtains and/or scheduled session times for access to indoor community and recreation space.	Short 1-3yrs	3	Community Services Parks & Property	Within existing budgets and/or user part funding

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs	
Access to short-term childcare is required to increase participation of mothers in recreation activities with young children	Support the provision of occasional childcare and crèches at recreation facilities	98	Provide suitable child minding / crèche facilities within new or refurbish recreation facilities and operational management at:	Medium - Long			
			☐ Riverwood Indoor Sports Centre, YMCA of Sydney	4-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation Children Services	Allocate \$10,000 per year to existing operating budgets to operate child minding at Tasker Park
			☐ Canterbury Aquatic Fitness Centre, Tasker Park		1		
		99	Consider a child minding service at Roselands Aquatic Centre during morning and aqua aerobic session times	Short 1-3yrs	3	Children Services Community Services - Recreation	Allocate \$10,000 per year to existing operating budgets to operate child minding
		100	Consult with lease operators of Council's community centre's to offer occasional care and child minding opportunities to support access by women to recreation programs	Short 1-3yrs	1	Children Services Community Services	To operate at their profit and loss

Table 6.8 Linkages

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
A number of open space systems are not well connected, and have limited systems of shared pathways and amenities	Establish high quality links to improve connectivity of open space and key recreation sites with an emphasis on links along foreshores	101 Establish or upgrade Cooks River Foreshore path way systems:	Ongoing 1-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning	Allocate \$50,000 per year plus link to Cooks River Bike Plan project
		☐ Younger Avenue to Riverview Road ☐ Third Avenue to Second Avenue including consideration of a access bridge across storm water ☐ Beamish Street to Burwood Road ☐ Cup and Saucer Creek confluence ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ Close Street Reserve to Boat Harbour ☐ Lees Park to Broughton Street ☐ Widen existing pathway from Georges River Road to Lang Road ☐ Formalise link at storm water easement between 21 and 23 Byron Street, Campsie from RTA ☐ Implement the Cooks River Foreshore Signage Strategy ☐ Support and implement works associated with the Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway Master Plan ☐ Construct or facilitate works with land owners the Two Valley Trail link on Wolli Creek at Turrella Reserve			Parks & Property	
		102 Establish or upgrade pathway link from Bland Oval to Riverwood Indoor Sports Centre	Medium 4-10yrs	2	Asset & Forward Planning	\$10,000
					Parks & Property	

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
A number of open space systems are not well connected, and have limited systems of shared pathways and amenities	Establish high quality links to improve connectivity of open space and key recreation sites with an emphasis on links along foreshores	103	Establish or upgrade pathway from Northcote Street to Warburton Parade, Canterbury	Medium 4-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Parks & Property	\$10,000
		104	Consult with Bankstown City Council to improve regional shared pathway links to Salt Pan Creek Wetlands	Long 7-10yrs	2	Corporate Services City Planning Recreation	Within existing budgets
		105	Liaise with the Department of Planning to allow public access to the Department's land zoned for regional open space at 38-38B Hampton Street, Campsie	Medium 4-10yrs	1	Corporate Services City Planning	-
		106	Enter into a formal agreement with the Department of Education and Training to continue public access on at least 0.4 hectares of DET land along the Cup and Saucer Creek pathway at the rear of Canterbury South Public School.	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	2	Corporate Projects Governance	-
Enhance safety and security of existing linkages	Improve the safety, visibility and passive surveillance of linkages	107	Conduct a review and risk assessment of existing road crossings at: ☐ Wardell Road ☐ Homer Street ☐ Brighton Avenue ☐ Burwood Road	Short 1-3yrs	2	Design & Traffic Risk Management	Within internal resources
		108	Consider low clearance underpasses at: ☐ Brighton Avenue ☐ Canterbury Road ☐ Wardell Road ☐ Illawarra Road	Over 10yrs	3	Design & Traffic	Within existing Works Program budget allocations

☐ Hartill-Law Avenue

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
Enhance safety and security of existing linkages	Improve the safety, visibility and passive surveillance of linkages	109 Install solar lighting systems along the Cooks River Foreshore Bike Pathway	Long 7-10yrs	3	Parks & Property Community Services	Allocate \$50,000 for design and installation of system
Increase numbers of accessible amenities and services along high use linkages	Support the provision of ancillary activities and facilities to add to the recreational experience of linkages	110 Provide bike storage racks at: ☐ Canterbury & Roselands Aquatic Centres ☐ Ewen Park ☐ Beaman Park ☐ Tasker Park ☐ Lees Park ☐ Mildura Reserve and Croydon Park ☐ Wiley Park ☐ Salt Pan Creek ☐ Riverwood Community Centre ☐ Lance Hutchinson / Bland Oval ☐ John Mountford Reserve ☐ Wolli Creek Regional Park ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ All Tennis Court Facilities (co-locate bike storage racks where possible in above parks with all Tennis Court Facilities)	Short Medium 1-6yrs	2	Parks & Property	Allocate \$5,000 per year to Works Program from existing budgets and/or seek appropriate grant funding opportunities

Table 6.9 Sport

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There is a growing need for facilitated sports development within Canterbury LGA	Facilitate sports development with all respective sport and club stakeholders located in Canterbury	111 Consider establishing a Canterbury Sports Council or regular/annual Sport Advisory Forum with representatives from sport associations, clubs and Council to develop sport opportunities with Canterbury	Short 1-3yrs	3	Governance Recreation	Within existing budgets
There are sufficient fields for summer sports however training areas and competition fields are fully booked for winter sports identifying a need for balance of sport specific fields.	Investigate opportunities to provide more space allocation for organised sport activities and training within areas of high demand	112 Establish and maintain school land access partnership within Earlwood and Hurlstone Park areas for association team training sessions and social sport use at: ☐ Clemton Park Public School, Earlwood (utilizing 6,000sqm of open space with provision for portable soccer goals, lighting, perimeter security fencing) ☐ Canterbury Boys High School, Canterbury (utilising 6,000sqm of open space with provision for portable soccer goals, lighting, perimeter security fencing) ☐ Consider Hannans Road Public School, Riverwood, adjoining Lance Hutchinson Oval under a school land access partnership for multiple mini sport soccer/league fields and training areas (utilising 7,500sqm of open space with provision for portable soccer goals, lighting, perimeter security fencing)	Over 10yrs	3	Recreation Governance Parks & Property	Allocate \$30,000 per site location Provision for routine maintenance within operating budgets

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There are sufficient fields for summer sports however training areas and competition fields are fully booked for winter sports identifying a need for balance of sport specific fields.	Investigate opportunities to provide more space allocation for organised sport activities and training within areas of high demand	113	Conduct a audit review and needs study to prioritise sport fields and develop a Sports Fields Management Plan to improve quality and durability of surfaces to increase usage capacity with regard to turf selection, soil profile, improved drainage, irrigation and water collection	Short 1-3yrs	1	Parks & Property Public Works	Allow \$25,000 for study and detailed designs
		114	Consult with NSW Touch Football Association on future needs and field requirements at Waterworth Park and consider reconfiguration of sports field layout to create a regional park facility and include soccer fields	Over 3yrs	2	Recreation Governance Asset & Forward Planning	Encourage NSW Touch or appropriate grant funding under a renewed lease/partnership agreement
		115	Design Salt Pan Creek (Stage 2) to be flexible with the inclusion of large grass areas that can be structure for sport or service the increasing need for sport team training space	Medium 4-6yrs	1	Design Asset & Forward Planning	Within project funding allocation
		116	Consider the potential use of open space along the M5 corridor for junior sport and training requirements (these areas could still maintain a strong informal recreation provision with pathways, seating, shade around the maintain grass field areas. Improved vehicle access and car park needs to be considered to any allocation of sports training along this corridor)	Over 10yrs	3	Parks & Property Recreation Governance Corporate Projects	Allocate \$10,000 per year to improve of M5 corridor areas
		117	Implement the Ewen Park Plan of Management 2008	Medium 4-6yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Governance	Seek appropriate grant funding where available

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs	
There are sufficient fields for summer sports however training areas and competition fields are fully booked for winter sports identifying a need for balance of sport specific fields.	Investigate opportunities to provide more space allocation for organised sport activities and training within areas of high demand	118	Consider the provision of ancillary training facilities such as hitting walls, portable soccer goal post, cricket nets at major sport fields and within school land use partnerships	Over 10yrs	3	Parks & Property Recreation	Seek appropriate grant funding or user pay opportunities with sport clubs
			Apply and/or support sport associations and school partners in the acquisition of grant funding through NSW Department of Sport & Recreation, Capital Assistance Program to fund the ancillary training facilities		1		
		119	Consult with and promote bowling clubs to partner with sport associations and users to provide training and modified competition leagues on underutilised greens to boost membership, visitation and to service a growing need for modified training facilities	Over 5yrs	2	Governance Recreation	Encourage commercial investment and or appropriate grant funding opportunities
		120	Consult with Canterbury Little Athletics Club and conduct a range of capital and safety improvements at Campbell Athletics Oval track, field facilities, spectator seating and amenities	Short 1-3yrs	1	Governance Recreation	Allocate \$30,000 over 3 years to undertake refurbishments
			Consider a synthetic athletics track to competition standards				Seek appropriate grant funding opportunities to resurface track
			Upgrade field services and provide synthetic runups to long jump, high jump areas and throwing stations				

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There are sufficient fields for summer sports however training areas and competition fields are fully booked for winter sports identifying a need for balance of sport specific fields.	Investigate opportunities to light additional fields for training and competition	121 Consult with sport association users in regard to field lighting improvements and requirements at: ☐ Campbell Athletic Field ☐ McLaughlin Oval ☐ Blick Oval ☐ Earlwood Oval ☐ Hughes Park ☐ Parry Park ☐ Punchbowl Park ☐ Beaman Park ☐ Croydon Park ☐ Lees Park ☐ Rosedale Park ☐ Rudd Park ☐ Ewen Park ☐ Repair lighting at Belmore Sports Ground Consider part funding lighting improvements with user groups seeking additional funding through NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Grant funding programs or self funded means	Mediu m-Long 4-10yrs	1	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	Allocate \$20,000 per year where required
	Establish additional sporting fields and improve facilities	122 Consider a multi-purpose oval that services AFL, cricket and rectangular playing field sports at any redevelopment of Belmore Sports Ground and associated parkland	Mediu m-Long 4-10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation	Within project development allocation

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There are a number of sporting field amenity buildings and services in need of repair or replacement	Undertake a program of upgrading amenity buildings and services	123 Upgrade the following toilet and change room facilities with a contribution by the user group and funding from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Capital Assistance Program: ☐ Picken Oval ☐ W.H. Wagener Oval ☐ Rudd Park ☐ Tasker Park ☐ Beaman Park ☐ Blick Oval ☐ Ewen Park (within the Ewen Park Plan of Management 2008) Upgrade perimeter fencing at: ☐ Campbell Oval ☐ Picken Oval ☐ McLaughlin Oval ☐ Belmore Sports Ground and associated facilities within any redevelopment	Over 10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Parks & Property	Allocate \$25,000 annually

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There are a number of sporting field amenity buildings and services in need of repair or replacement	Undertake a program of upgrading amenity buildings and services	124 ☐ Improve seating and shade opportunities at sporting fields: ☐ McLaughlin Oval ☐ Tasker Park ☐ Croydon Park ☐ Picken Oval ☐ Consider in consultation with Canterbury Little Athletics at Campbell Athletics Oval ☐ Waterworth Park ☐ Rudd Park ☐ Belmore Sports Ground and associated facilities within any redevelopment	Medium-Long 4-10yrs	2	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	Allocate \$15,000 per year in Works Program
Cost and culture of structured sport activities can be restrictive and limits participation for some low-income and CALD communities	Provide greater access and opportunity to participate in sport and develop programs that target lower income and higher density areas	125 - Consult with state sporting bodies and in partnership with local sport associations and or/ community sport agencies i.e. YMCA of Sydney, develop a sports participation program - Liaise with NSW Sport and Recreation regarding funding, resources and support opportunities - Liaise with schools and sport associations in Canterbury who are interested in coordinating and/or promoting a program - Provide support funding to enable initial programs to start to reduce participants cost and ensure equal spread of winter and summer	Short 1-3yrs	1	Recreation NSW Dept. Sport and Recreation	Allocate \$20,000 in first year and then fund from existing budgets or grant funding opportunities Encourage commercial partners from year 2

programs with an emphasis on girls participation

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs	
Availability and booking of sporting fields by external groups and community organisations is limited by traditional uses in some circumstances	Review Council's booking system and investigate ways to better allocate sporting field space	126	Review Council's sports field booking system with regard to support one off sport bookings by local organised cultural groups and opportunities for new sports and associations to gain access	Short 1-3yrs	3	Governance Recreation Parks & Property	Within internal resources
			Identify, through a sport fields usage audit, fields that may be seasonally booked but are under-used or not used and allocate these times specifically for new users or one-off bookings				
			Consult with sport associations directly or through the forum created in Action 114, Sports Council or Sport Advisory Committee to investigate ways to better allocate field space to increase capacity during peak training periods				
A commitment will be required to maintain and develop key sporting complexes	Support ongoing maintenance of major sporting facilities	127	Seek grant funding opportunities to refurbish and enhance major sporting facilities and infrastructure from: ☐ Australian Sport Foundation, Sport Incentive Program ☐ NSW Department of Sport & Recreation Capital Assistance Program ☐ Other State and Federal Infrastructure Grant Funding programs as they may become available	Over 10yrs	1	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	-
		128	Consult with the users of Canterbury Velodrome and conduct maintenance of grandstand facilities including installation of new hand rail and reseal grandstand floor surfaces	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	2	Parks & Property Governance	Allocate \$50,000 in Works Program

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
A commitment will be required to maintain and develop key sporting complexes	Identify opportunities to establish regional sport facilities with adjoining Councils or partner with commercial investors in the redevelopment or new development of such facilities	129	Conduct a expression of interest for the refurbishment and contract management of the Parry Park Tennis Centre to create a regional multi-sport venue (venue should have a focus on 5-a-side soccer with the ability to play other court sports like, netball, basketball and modified cricket)	Short 1-3yrs	1	Governance Recreation	Encourage commercial investment and operation
		130	Prepare a new Master Plan and Feasibility Study for Belmore Recreation Reserve	Short-Medium	1	City Planning Recreation City Works Corporate Services	Allocate \$50,000 to undertake study and master plan design
			Consider more accessible and contemporary recreation services that service a regional focus of parkland, playground, sports fields and grandstand amenities with indoor community space and playing courts	1-6yrs			
			Improve car parking and transport links to the Reserve Parkland Implement a full branding, logo and signage strategy across the Reserve				
131	Consider a joint partnership or gain input from Bankstown City Council in any redevelopment of Parry Park, Punchbowl.	Over 10yrs	1	Recreation	Regional development opportunities		
132	Investigate opportunities to co-locate sporting complexes with open space and recreation areas to consolidate services across adjoining Councils: ☐ Peace Park, Ashbury ☐ Waterworth & Gough Whitlam Parks ☐ Salt Pan Creek Reserve (Stage 2)	Over 10yrs	1	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Regional redevelopment opportunities		

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
Canterbury has very few indoor sports courts facilities to meet high demand for a range of sport and recreation activities	Increase provision of indoor sports courts	133 Assess the feasibility of additional courts at Riverwood Indoor Sports Centre in any Stage 2 development	Over 10yrs	3	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation YMCA of Sydney	-
		134 Support the completion and operation of the Australian National Sports Club at Parry Park	Short 1-3yrs	3	Governance City Works	Consider a commercial lease management agreement
		135 Liaise with schools with regard to community access to indoor sports courts outside school hours ☐ Wiley Park Public School ☐ Wiley Park Girls High School ☐ Belmore Boys High School ☐ Belmore North Public School Establish local community groups or a community elder to work as a caretaker of the school during prescribed access times based on a pre-arranged schedule of session times and supervise public access, security and participation	Over 5yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation Governance NSW Department of Education & Training	
		136 Consider outdoor playing/basketball courts within any redevelopment of Belmore Sports Ground and associated Parkland	Over 5yrs	2	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning City Planning City Works Corporate Services	Include in allocated study funding for Action 130

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
Canterbury has very few indoor sports courts facilities to meet high demand for a range of sport and recreation activities	Increase provision of indoor sports courts	137 Consider additional multipurpose sport playing courts (basketball, netball and modified soccer) within co-locate sport facilities at: ☐ Any redevelopment of Tasker Park and relocation of current basketball court ☐ Hughes Park, Earlwood ☐ Salt Pan Creek (Stage 2) redevelopment	Over 10yrs	2	Asset & Forward Planning Recreation	Allocate \$25,000 per site location
		138 Liaise with regard to community access partnership of hardcourt playing surfaces at: ☐ Ashbury Public School ☐ Wiley Park Girls High School ☐ Belmore Boys High School Consider supply and installation of suitable security and fencing to isolate courts from other school facilities during community session times Liaise with local community groups and/or leaders to provide a caretaking and supervision role of court playing area during schedule session times	Over 10yrs	3	Recreation Governance	Allocate \$15,000 per site location based on assessment of needs
		139 Consider beach volleyball courts at Canterbury and Roselands Aquatic Centre for public and school hire and use during summer peak periods	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Recreation Parks & Property	Allocate \$5,000 per centre within Works Program

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs	
Canterbury has very few indoor sports courts facilities to meet high demand for a range of sport and recreation activities	Review to upgrade tennis courts and associated facilities	140	Review tennis court facilities use at:: ☐ Coolabah Street Reserve and include perimeter fencing replacement ☐ Lees Park ☐ John Mountford Reserve And refer to Action 129 for Parry Park Courts	Over 10yrs	1	Parks & Property Asset & Forward Planning	Within existing capital works budgets
Some sports and their facilities are under-utilised and have poor membership	Encourage sporting groups specifically Bowling Clubs to better utilise their facilities and increase membership opportunities	141	Liaise with Bowls NSW with regard to developing a State Bowling Centre of Excellence within an existing bowling club facility located within Canterbury Work with Bowls NSW and existing bowling clubs on developing initiatives to increase membership and participation, i.e. corporate 'barefoot bowls'; competitions and 'come and try' days	Short 1-3yrs Over 5yrs	3	Governance Recreation	
		142	Consult with Bowling Clubs on possible multi-sport uses of unused greens, i.e. 5-aside soccer leagues, touch football competitions, croquet, modified Twenty 20 cricket and other social sporting activities	Short 1-3yrs	2	Governance Recreation	Encourage commercial investment and management

Table 6.10 Aquatic and Fitness Centres

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
Current planning principles indicate a stand-alone centralised indoor aquatic and fitness centre at a redeveloped Belmore Sports Ground The current facility elements limit the opportunity to implement new high demand programs related to health, rehabilitation and lifestyle	Investigate opportunities to provide sustainable quality and accessible indoor aquatic and fitness centres	143 Build Riverwood Indoor Sports Centre comprising health and fitness, multi-purpose sports courts and associated amenities	Short 1- 3yrs	1	City Works	Project costs already allocated
		144 Develop an Aquatic Facilities Strategy to address the facility needs, infrastructure and participation trends.	Over 10yrs	1	Recreation Aquatic Centres Corporate Services	Incorporate feasibility study as part of Action 130 budget allocation

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
Initiate a review of the aging Aquatic and Fitness Centres at Roselands and Canterbury	Determine the appropriate use, management and refurbishment needs of existing centres at Roselands and Canterbury	145	Consider tendering the management of Roselands Aquatic Centre to a suitably qualified and experience aquatic and leisure facility management agency for a suitable period.	Short 1-3yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets
		146	Establish consistent seasonal operating hours and operate under these at each aquatic centre.	Immediate & Ongoing	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets
		147	Install a new pool heating system at Canterbury Aquatic Fitness Centre	Immediate	1	Community Services - Recreation City Works	Allocate \$40,000 to Works Program
	Partner with organisations offering aquatic recreation programs for community groups	148	Consider the addition of a spin bike room and associated programs at Canterbury Aquatic & Fitness Centre	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation City Works	Allocate \$15,000 for room expenses and include spin bikes in operating fitness equipment lease
		149	Consider health and rehabilitation services in any new indoor aquatic and recreation centre; i.e. hydrotherapy pool, spa and sauna facilities	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	Within existing budgets
		150	Maintain and support partnership with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Women's Only swimming program at Roselands Aquatic Centre	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	1	Community Services - Recreation	Within existing budgets

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resources / Indicative Costs
There is a lack of modern leisure and fun aquatic play features at the Aquatic Centres	Provide informal aquatic leisure opportunities	151	Consider a leisure pool and water play splash park at any redevelopment of Canterbury Aquatic Fitness Centre at Tasker Park or new aquatic centre.	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Community Services - Recreation Asset & Forward Planning	
		152	Consider within the revised Master Plan and Feasibility Study for Belmore Recreation Reserve the provision of a zero-depth accessible aquatic playground.	Long 7-10 yrs	3	Asset & Forward Planning Community Services - Recreation	Allocate within redevelopment budget

Table 6.11 Natural Areas

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resource / Indicative Cost
Increasing urban development is impacting on bushland and rivers / creeks Impacts include weeds, rubbish, roads, feral animals and pollution of stormwater and rivers Urban development has resulted in fragmentation of natural areas and competing land use issues	Implement policies and actions to prevent further degradation of natural systems and alienation of natural areas	153	Undertake a audit of existing management practices in natural open space areas	Short 1-3yrs	1	Environmental Policy	Allow \$10,000 for study audit
		154	Encourage regeneration and revegetation of bushland areas: ☐ Picken Oval and adjoining Rosedale Park ☐ Wolli Creek parkland area ☐ Second Avenue, Campsie	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Environmental Policy	Within existing budgets
			155	Carry out recommended actions in Cooks River foreshore management plans	Over 10yrs	2	Environmental Policy Asset & Forward Planning
		156	Acquire land to enlarge Campsie Bushland Area	Over 10yrs	3	Governance	Possible use of funds generated by the sale of 67C Second Avenue Campsie
Degraded natural areas discourage recreational use	Progressively naturalise channelised creek and river banks with other organisations	157	Support and facilitate the Cooks River Bank Naturalisation project at: ☐ Cooks River / Cup and Saucer Creek confluence ☐ Flockhart Park to Beamish Street, Campsie ☐ Avoca Avenue to Second Avenue, Belfield with opportunity to continue to Punchbowl Road	Over 10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Environmental Policy	Sydney Water funding

Issues	Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resource / Indicative Cost	
Increasing urban development is impacting on bushland and rivers / creeks	Stabilise river and creek banks	158	Conduct repair and stabilisation work at riverbanks located at: ☐ Gough Whitlam Park ☐ between Homer Street and Bankside Avenue	Short 1-3yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning Environmental Policy	Within existing Work Program budget
There are growing conflicts between visitation, usage and ecological sensitivity of natural areas	Consider the use of less environmentally sensitive areas for recreation use and maintain more high profile areas for conservation	159	Facilitate the transfer of land around Wolli Creek Regional Park by transfer of Council owned land	Medium 4-6yrs	3	Corporate Projects	Within existing Work Program budget
Facilities and access to natural areas is limited There is limited parking and amenities resulting in parking in residential streets. Recreational use of the waterways is limited.	Improve access to and use of natural areas for recreation	160	Investigate appropriate areas to create car parking and amenities to service visitors to Wolli Creek Regional Park	Short 1-3yrs	2	Environmental Policy	DECCW
		161	Improve walking paths and boardwalks in and adjoining natural areas	Over 10yrs	1	Asset & Forward Planning	Within existing Work Program budget
		162	Encourage limited contact use of waterways in non-motorised watercraft by provision (where appropriate) of soft access points, pontoons, and watercraft hire Consider kayak/canoe launching points near the car park at Turrella Weir in Turrella Park	Long 7-10yrs	3	Asset & Forward Planning Environmental Policy Design	DECCW

Issues	Strategies	Actions		Timing	Priority	Implementation	Resource / Indicative Cost
There is limited education and knowledge of residents on activities in natural areas	Establish a program of promotion and education of natural areas	163	Support existing groups undertaking tours in natural areas	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Environmental Policy Recreation	Within existing budgets
		164	Enhance Council's ecotourism opportunities through tours and visitor information facilities in natural areas	Short-Medium 1-6yrs	3	Environmental Policy Recreation	Within existing budgets

7 ACQUISITION AND DEDICATION OF LAND FOR RECREATION

7.1 Introduction

Several actions in the Action Plan in the previous section relate to the need for additional land to improve recreational opportunities in Canterbury City. Opportunities for additional public open space may be provided by acquiring land, and may also arise from dedication of land resulting from development and redevelopment of larger sites.

7.2 Land acquisition

7.2.1 Current situation

Council's policy is to provide open space within 400 metres of all residences. However the lack of open space in some areas of the City, the uneven distribution of open space throughout the City, and the value of land (especially land zoned medium density) mean that Council may have great difficulty, or it may be impossible, to provide open space within 400 metres of all residences.

Council has a "passive" strategy for acquisition of open space, in that it does not actively pursue properties for acquisition for open space such as identifying specific properties in its LEP or informing property owners of the intention to acquire the property. The result has been a limited acquisition program in recent years, and an accumulation of Section 94 contributions collected and allocated for land acquisition. The accumulated funds should be spent before they may have to be returned to the developer if they are not spent within a reasonable time frame. A recommendation has been included in Section 7.4.2 that Council give further consideration to the appropriateness of continuing its current "passive" approach to acquiring land for open space.

7.2.2 Rationale and objectives for land acquisition

Within land availability and funding constraints, Council will acquire land for open space to:

- ☐ accommodate the open space needs of an increased population of approximately 17,500 people in the next 20 to 25 years.
- ☐ provide open space in areas lacking or deficient in open space.
- ☐ add to the land area and thus the potential usability of existing regional, district and local open spaces.
- ☐ facilitate open space and recreational linkages.

increase provision of open space especially in current and planned medium and high-density residential areas.

The need for acquisition of land for open space, and thus the cost to Council, decreases if open space and recreation facilities can be provided in another way. Council needs to evaluate the cost of continuing to deliver the existing open space acquisition program against alternative strategies that are likely to be more financially sustainable. Such strategies include augmenting and improving existing open space areas as a first option before purchasing new open space

areas, and prioritising acquisition of new open space in areas of highest need particularly high density areas. In addition, it is recommended that agreements for public use of open space and recreation facilities be entered into with schools specified in the Action Plan because of the facilities they have on their school grounds, and to reduce the need to purchase expensive land for open space in medium density areas.

7.2.3 Resources for land acquisitions

\$11.5 million is currently available in Council's accounts from developer contributions for acquisition of open space. Council received an average of \$697,967 per year (not including interest or Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases) for acquisition of open space between 2001/02 and 2008/09. Projecting this annual average over the next 10 years, it is estimated that Council will receive in the order of \$7 million for acquisition of open space over the next 10 years. Thus \$18.5 million is expected to be available from developer contributions for acquisition of open space over the next 10 years.

7.2.4 Strategy for land acquisition

Principles and strategy

The principles and strategy for acquisition of land for open space that underpin the land acquisition program below are to:

not necessarily acquire land for open space if alternatives for public access to open space (such as in schools) exist.

provide public access to open space in medium and high density areas.

provide linkages for pedestrians and cyclists along rivers and creeks.

move away from providing new small local pocket parks with high relative maintenance costs towards augmenting existing local, district and regional open space and providing mid-block links.

consider continuing Council's current "passive" approach to open space land acquisition, but be more proactive in reviewing property markets for opportunities to acquire land as set out in Table 7.1. Any opportunities for acquisition of suitable land should be reviewed and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

There is generally a lack of open space in medium density residential areas in Canterbury City. Due to its zoning, development status and potential, land in medium density areas is often prohibitively expensive to purchase. Alternatively, it is recommended that Council enter into agreements with the Department of Education and Training for public use of open space and recreation facilities in the grounds of several schools, particularly schools in medium density areas with appropriate sporting facilities (refer to the Action Plan). Therefore few properties in medium density areas are listed in Table 7.1 for acquisition. This minimises the costs to Council of purchasing land for public open space.

Recommendations of sites for acquisition

Table 7.1 lists recommended properties for acquisition for local open space, adding to regional open space, or to improve pedestrian and cycle linkages.

Table 7.1 Recommended acquisition of land for open space

Property	Suburb	Area (m ²)	Source	Zoning	Reason for purchase	Priority
4-8 Margaret Street	Belfield	2,039	Between Cooks River and proposed road	Public Open Space	Linkage	High
16-34 Margaret Street	Belfield	538	Between Cooks River and proposed road	Public Open Space	Linkage	High
4 Clissold Parade	Campsie	518	LEP 205	Public Open Space	Linkage	High
80 Duke Street	Campsie	466	Section 94 Plan	Public Open Space	Local open space	High
34 Allan Avenue	Belmore	506	Section 94 Plan	Public Open Space	Local open space	High
91-93 Northcote Street	Earlwood	1,988	LEP 205	Public Open Space	Linkage	Medium
15 Nowra Street	Campsie	35	LEP 205	Public Open Space	Linkage	Medium
17 Nowra Street	Campsie	42	LEP 205	Public Open Space	Linkage	Medium
6 East Parade	Campsie	266	LEP 205	Public Open Space	Linkage	Medium
40-44 Hampton Street (rear)	Campsie	450	LEP 205	Regional Open Space	Linkage	Low
46 Fairmount Street	Lakemba	1,783	Section 94 Plan	Public Open Space	Local open space	High
Rear 233 Canterbury Road	Canterbury	227	Section 94 Plan	Public Open Space	Regional open space	Medium
Rear 235 Canterbury Road	Canterbury	186	Section 94 Plan	Public Open Space	Regional open space	Medium
Rear 237-239 Canterbury Road	Canterbury	732	Section 94 Plan	Public Open Space	Regional open space	Medium
Land in vicinity of Rawson and Dudley Streets and Rosemont Street South	Punchbowl	5,000	Section 94 Plan	Residential	Local open space	High
39 Ludgate Street	Roselands	731	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	High
1 Westella Street	Roselands	455	Site inspection	Residential	Local open space	High
137 Moreton Street	Lakemba	675	Site inspection	Residential	Improve access	Medium
17 Werona Avenue	Punchbowl	695	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	High
18-20 Garrong Road	Lakemba	1,010	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	Low
15-21 Wangee Road	Lakemba	1,840	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	Low
118 Quigg Street South	Lakemba	626	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	Low
121 Dennis Street	Lakemba	470	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	Low
45 Flora Street	Roselands	647	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	Medium
115 Campsie Street	Campsie	607	2001 Open Space Strategy	Residential	Local open space	Medium
80 Fore Street	Canterbury	303	Site inspection	Residential	Linkage	Medium
67B Second Avenue	Campsie	n/a ⁽¹⁾	Council staff suggestion	Sydney Water own	Linkage	High
TOTAL		22,835				

(1) Will be funded from a complete land sale.

Table 7.1 shows approximately 22,835 metres² of land is proposed to be acquired for open space. At an estimated average land cost of \$1,000 per square metre, the total indicative cost of acquiring recommended properties is \$22.8 million. This amount is higher than the \$18.5 million available and budgeted for land acquisition, but not every property on the list will be acquired because there may be difficulties with the actual purchase for reasons such as land ownership, timing, changes in priority, and availability of funds for acquisition.

The list of land to be acquired above does not include land owned by the Department of Education and Training at the rear of Canterbury South Public School (10-20 High Street, Canterbury) that functionally forms part of the open space and a pedestrian / cycle linkage adjoining Cup and Saucer Creek and is an electricity easement. This land is desirable to be publicly available into the future. In the first instance it is recommended that Council approach the Department of Education and Training about executing a formal agreement under the Department's 'Community Use of School Facilities Policy' to continue public access as occurs at present over 0.4 hectares of land incorporating the pedestrian / cycle path and the electricity transmission tower. If this outcome is not satisfactory to Council or the Department, then the land should be added to **Table 7.1** for acquisition by Council.

Land that was previously identified for acquisition in previous plans (LEP 105, Section 94 Contributions Plan and the 2001 Recreation and Open Space Strategy) that has not now been recommended for acquisition is listed in **Table 7.2**. The reasons for no longer including these parcels on the land acquisition list are given.

Table 7.2 Proposed open space acquisitions deleted from former open space acquisitions lists

Property	Suburb	Source	Reason for removal from acquisition list
6 Wentworth Street	Croydon Park	Zoned as Public Open Space	No benefit for a linkage on northern side of canal draining into the Cooks River.
2A Robert Street	Belmore	Zoned as Public Open Space	Council own the site. Limited recreation value.
28A Karingal Street	Kingsgrove	Zoned as Public Open Space	Owned by RTA, but commercial property.
97A Northcote Street	Earlwood	Zoned as Public Open Space	Limited recreation value. Close to current linkage.
47 Francis Street	Earlwood	Zoned as Public Open Space	Limited recreation value. Close to current linkage.
51-57 Dennis Street	Lakemba	Section 94 Plan	Small parks at the end of the street.
45 Rosemount Street	Punchbowl	Section 94 Plan	Other properties in the street are more suitable for a mid-block link and are older dwellings which may become available for purchase sooner than newer dwellings.
56 Dudley Street	Punchbowl	Section 94 Plan	Other properties in the street are more suitable for a mid-block link and are older dwellings which may become available for purchase sooner than newer dwellings.
33 Panorama Road	Kingsgrove	Section 94 Plan	Other properties in the street are more suitable for a mid-block link and are older dwellings which may become available for purchase sooner than newer dwellings.
32 Shackel Street	Kingsgrove	Section 94 Plan	Other properties in the street are more suitable for a mid-block link and are older dwellings which may become available for purchase sooner than newer dwellings.
27 Northcote Street	Canterbury	Section 94 Plan	Other properties in the street are more suitable for a mid-block link and are older dwellings which may become available for purchase sooner than newer dwellings.
32 and 32a Messiter Street	Canterbury	Section 94 Plan	Other properties in the street are more suitable for a mid-block link and are older dwellings which may become available for purchase sooner than newer dwellings.
89 First Avenue	Belfield	Section 94 Plan	RTA purchased the site for road widening. Access to the Cooks River in this location is sufficient.
67-69 Ludgate Street	Roselands	Section 94 Plan	39 Ludgate Street has more value as local open space as it adjoins Ludgate Street Reserve.
45 MacDonald Street	Lakemba	2001 Open Space Strategy	Land too expensive to purchase for open space.
78 Chalmers Street	Lakemba	2001 Open Space Strategy	The adjoining Harold Bull Reserve is large and visible enough for a local park.
84 Chalmers Street	Lakemba	2001 Open Space Strategy	The adjoining Harold Bull Reserve is large and visible enough for a local park.
102 Brighton Avenue	Campsie	Council staff suggestion	Sydney Water intend to improve flooding on this site, so there is no need for Council to acquire the land.
29-31 Panorama Road	Kingsgrove	Section 94 Plan	Mid-block link in low density residential area has relatively low recreational value.
28-30 Shackel Street	Kingsgrove	Section 94 Plan	Mid-block link in low density residential area has relatively low recreational value.
60 Augusta Street	Punchbowl	Section 94 Plan	Proximity to significant industrial area
49 Belmore Road	Punchbowl	Section 94 Plan	Proximity to significant industrial area

51 Belmore Road	Punchbowl	Section 94 Plan	Proximity to significant industrial area
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Property	Suburb	Source	Reason for removal from acquisition list
19-21 Daisy Street	Roselands	Section 94 Plan	Access to other open space within 400 metres.
20-22 Northcote Street	Canterbury	Section 94 Plan	Mid-block link in low density residential area close to commercial area has relatively low recreational value.
9-11 Allen Street	Canterbury	Section 94 Plan	Mid-block link in low density residential area close to commercial area has relatively low recreational value.
64 Harp Street	Belmore	2001 Open Space Strategy	Property owned by Department of Housing.
66 Harp Street	Belmore	2001 Open Space Strategy	Property owned by Department of Housing.
37 Nelson Avenue	Belmore	2001 Open Space Strategy	Access to other open space within 400 metres.
37-39 Moore Street	Campsie	2001 Open Space Strategy	Mid-block link in low density residential area has relatively low recreational value.
34-36 Burns Street	Campsie	2001 Open Space Strategy	Mid-block link in low density residential area has relatively low recreational value.
9 Bazentin Street	Belfield	2001 Open Space Strategy	Little value as open space even if combined with adjoining small pocket park.
27-29 Earlwood Avenue	Earlwood	2001 Open Space Strategy	Low density area. Access to other open space within 400 metres.

Table 7.3 shows the breakdown of the proposed land acquisition program by priority.

Table 7.3 Priority of proposed land acquisition

Priority for acquisition	Indicative land value \$	% of total land value
High priority: within 1-3 years	\$12.7 million	56%
Medium: 4-6 years	\$ 5.7 million	25%
Low: 7-10 years	\$ 4.4 million	19%
TOTAL	\$ 22.8 million	100%

56% of total land to be acquired in **Table 7.1** is identified as high priority for acquisition, because they will satisfy current and future recreation needs arising from the lag in the land acquisition program, and from the forecast increase in population. The total cost of high priority land acquisitions is \$12.7 million. \$11.5 million was available in Council's Section 94 accounts for land acquisition as at 30 June 2009. The balance of high priority land acquisitions (\$1.2 million) can be funded by incoming Section 94 contributions. Land identified as medium and low priority for acquisition may be acquired as funding is available. Acquisition of some properties may not take place until after the 10-year program, depending on available funding and negotiations with property owners.

The breakdown of the total land to be acquired in **Table 7.1** by catchment (regional or district / local) is shown in **Table 7.4**.

Table 7.4 Catchment / purpose of proposed land acquisition

Catchment / purchase	Land value \$	% of open space
Regional open space – addition	\$ 1.1 million	5%
Linkage	\$ 6.8 million	30%
District / local open space	\$ 14.9 million	65%
TOTAL	\$ 22.8 million	100%

It is recommended that Council actively pursue acquisition of properties listed in **Table 7.1** in order of high, medium and low priority as funds are available. The priority for acquisition may change if an identified property becomes available for purchase sooner than anticipated. In any case, Council should consider pursuing a more active acquisition strategy, in which the owners of properties identified on the acquisitions list are informed that their property is listed, and the identified properties shown on the map accompanying the Local Environmental Plan in force.

Council's policy to provide open space within 400 metres of all residences should be changed to providing local open space within 400 metres of 90% of residences, taking into account demographic characteristics, land use, barriers such as highways and main roads, and location of district and regional open space.

7.3 Dedication of land for open space

Canterbury City Section 94 Plan states that developer contributions for open space and recreation facilities may be provided by a cash contribution from development of residential land, or as negotiated with the developer on a case-by-case basis in cash or either on-site or in the immediate vicinity of the development. Dedication of land in lieu of a monetary contribution for open space and recreation facilities should only be considered where at least one of the following circumstances applies:

the land is part of a housing subdivision or development of a greenfields site.

the land is zoned for open space, or has been identified as being suitable for open space purposes in a relevant study or plan.

the land adjoins an existing or proposed open space and can be desirably and readily consolidated into that area.

the land will create or improve linkages between existing open space areas, or access to existing open space areas.

Any land proposed to be dedicated as a contribution for open space and recreation facilities should be considered according to whether it satisfies most of the following criteria. Each parcel of land to be dedicated should ideally:

Be located in or close to the development site.

Be not less than 0.5 hectares in size.

Be accessible to the general public.

Have low impact on the amenity of adjoining or adjacent development.

Have the capacity to accommodate recreational facilities or to satisfy particular recreation needs and demands.

Add to the diversity of open space settings in the area.

Build on the special attributes of an area for a sense of place, for example a hill top, river or creek frontage, mature trees, panoramic views, rocky outcrops, remnant vegetation, cultural heritage sites.

Link existing and/or proposed areas of open space and other community-focused land uses (shopping centres, libraries, transport nodes, schools, community centres).

Be either flat or undulating, with a general maximum slope of 20% to maximise recreational use and to minimise maintenance costs.

Not be flood liable, with the majority of land not being subject to inundation greater than 10% Annual Probability of Exceedance (AEP). Drainage swales, channels and detention basins should only be accepted for dedication for open space where the land fulfils one or more of the above criteria, and Council is satisfied that the recreational value of the land will not be compromised by its function as part of a drainage system.

Have a frontage to a public road, facilitating visibility in to and from the site.

Have maintenance and emergency vehicle access.

Be cleared of all rubbish, boulders and debris.

Be provided with connection to water mains and other utility services.

Be separately subdivided and have a separate certificate of title.

Be zoned for open space / recreation purposes in the relevant planning instruments if it has recreational and/or environmental value.

Include stands of trees or natural features if present on the site.

Involve low ongoing costs to Council, including maintenance and other site costs.

Not display any other factors that may limit its usability, such as acid sulfate soils, threatened species, proximity to existing uses, current use of the land, and any improvements that may be necessary.

8 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

8.1 Cost of recommendations

The total indicative amount allocated for additional works and programs in the Action Plan (i.e. additional to existing budgets) over a 10 year period and grouped into 3 work periods is as follows:

Years	Short 1-3	Medium 4-6	Long 7-10
Amount	\$850,000	\$900,000	\$800,000

The additional works have been developed with the current economic down turn in mind and constraints Council has on the delivery of its current Work Program in coming years. The additional works are proposed in three periods of implementation, averaging around \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year.

Major capital work projects such as the Belmore Sports Ground redevelopment, Stage 2 Salt Pan Creek, Riverwood Indoor Sports Centre, Lakemba and Earlwood Multipurpose Centres, and any future redevelopment of Canterbury Aquatic Fitness Centre, have not been included in the above 10 year additional works programs.

8.2 Funding and partnerships

8.2.1 Introduction

Canterbury City Council has the following options for sourcing funding to assist with the implementation of this plan:

- ☐ Council-allocated funds for capital works.
- ☐ Recurrent Council allocations.
- ☐ Development contributions.
- ☐ Private sponsorships and grants.
- ☐ User fees and charges.
- ☐ Grants from the Federal and NSW governments.

8.2.2 Partnerships

Council can encourage the contributions of, and work with, other organizations to provide recreation opportunities:

Department of Planning for Metropolitan Greenspace Program grants.

Department of Sport and Recreation regarding funding for recreation programs and grants.

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) to investigate opportunities to provide access to, and improve the quality of Wolli Creek Regional Park and other riverside and creekside parks; and projects to enhance the natural environment.

Other Councils along the Cooks River.

Adjoining Councils in the development of cross-boundary projects such as shared pathways and other regional recreation facilities.

Partnerships with licensed clubs in the development and management of regional and district level facilities.

Encouragement of recreation facility development by the private sector, such as part of the commercial / employment areas, and new medium and high density developments.

Support of volunteers, either individuals or groups.

Shared use of school facilities. There are many successful examples of public use of school sporting and recreation facilities, such as:

- Councils maintaining fields in return for public use.
- Councils purchasing school land with Section 94 funds and agreeing with the school for school use during school hours and public use after school hours.

Contributions from sporting groups towards the development of facilities that will benefit their sport. This will be particularly relevant for improvements to district and local level facilities, such as groups raising funds towards improvements to an amenity building or the provision of lighting.

Owners of large areas of private land.

Partnerships with other land owners, such as:

- Department of Education and Training. The Department's 'Community Use of School Facilities Policy' states that schools are valuable community assets which should be available for community use when not required for school purposes. There may be potential to increase the level of use of school facilities in Canterbury. However, this will require identification of suitable school facilities, and a commitment by Council to providing some additional facilities on school land in exchange for public use of their open space.
- Land and Property Management Authority.
- Department of Planning.
- Sydney Water.
- Roads and Traffic Authority – partnerships with these and other relevant State agencies to enable continued use of resources for activities such as cycling.

Wherever possible, and in liaison with Team Leader Town Centres & Economic Development Program, it is recommended that grant funding opportunities be explored for relevant actions within the plan.

8.2.3 Development contributions

Overview

As discussed in Section 2.2.1, Councils are able exact contributions of land, money or other material public benefits from developers as part of the process of approving new development (i.e. 'development contributions').

In an area such as Canterbury, development contributions may be significant to open space and recreation planning in that they are the sole mechanism for developers to meet the cost of the open space and recreation facilities, amenities and services that are demanded by the users or occupants of their developments.

However, contributions generally can only ever meet the cost of infrastructure that is attributable to the demand for the infrastructure that development creates.

Expressed another way, contributions imposed on a condition of consent usually cannot meet any non-development demands, such as any demands attributable to the existing population and any demand generated from outside of the local government area.

In the case of money collected via section 94A levies the current limit on the levy (1% of the cost of development) means these levies are not likely to meet the demands generated by development.

Contributions included in a voluntary planning agreement can address non-development demands, however in practice there will be limited circumstances where developers will wish to contribute toward these demands.

Recent legislative and policy changes

Section 94 contributions threshold

The State Government has recently moved to limit both the type of infrastructure that may be the subject of a development contribution, and the total amount of that contribution where the development is residential development. Since 30 April 2009, consent authorities have not been able to impose section 94 contributions on residential development for an amount greater than \$20,000 per dwelling.

Councils may levy residential development a greater contribution than the above threshold but only if they have first obtained the approval of the Minister for Planning to do so. A recent review process resulted in some 20 councils being granted conditional exemptions from the \$20,000 limit.

Canterbury City Council currently levies development for open space and recreation facilities through its *Canterbury City Section 94 Contributions Plan* (2001). Total contributions toward all local infrastructure (including open space and recreation) for typical medium density dwellings being developed in the LGA are around \$7,000 per dwelling.

Council is currently in the process of reviewing its contributions plan.

Key community infrastructure

As discussed in Section 3.2, yet-to-commence amendments to the EP&A Act (i.e. the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 2008* (the Amendment Act)) restrict councils to levying only for 'key community infrastructure', unless the Minister for Planning has approved the infrastructure as 'additional community infrastructure'.

Insofar as it relates to open space and recreation facilities, key community infrastructure includes:

local parks.

local sporting, recreational and cultural facilities and local social facilities (being community and child care centres and volunteer rescue and volunteer emergency services facilities).

district infrastructure of the kind referred to above but only if there is a direct connection with the development to which a contribution relates.

land for any community infrastructure.

Note: in the above list, “facilities” refer only to buildings or works.

The definition of key community infrastructure is therefore quite broad and covers many of the types of these facilities Council levies for under its current contributions plans.

Potential future items that do not meet the definition could include:

recreation programs, maintenance and staff costs (i.e. anything that is neither a building or a work).

facilities that have a serve an area greater than a local or district service catchment (i.e. ‘regional’ level facilities that have service population catchments that extend beyond local government area boundary).

It is important to note that the Amendment Act is not definitive about what constitutes a local or district level facility. It is understood that the Department of Planning is currently preparing updated development contributions practice notes to provide greater clarity on the operation of the Amendment Act provisions.

Section 94A levies

Section 94A levies (or ‘indirect’ contributions as they are called in the Amendment Act) are currently limited to an amount that is no more than 1 percent of the proposed cost of carrying out development.

The Amendment Act however provides for the Minister for Planning, upon submission of a formal application of a council or councils, to vary this rate.

As part of the recent review of council submissions seeking approval for higher than \$20,000 per dwelling contributions, the Minister-appointed review panel recommended that councils within existing urban areas give consideration to employing a section 94A (rather than section 94) approach, with a levy ‘struck at an appropriate level to the circumstance’.

While this outcome would appear now to be State Government policy, no details have yet been provided on the criteria for councils formally applying to the Minister for approval to levy a higher section 94A levy.

Relevant matters for future contributions plans

This Strategy contains an Action Plan that includes, among other things, the acquisition of land and the carrying out of works for the purpose of meeting the current and future open space and recreation demands of the City of Canterbury population.

The Council may use the list of items in the Action Plan as a basis for the content of future development contributions plans.

Should Council wish to continue to levy section 94 contributions (instead of section 94A levies) on development for open space and recreation facilities, then in order to arrive at a reasonable contribution rate Council will need to consider fair apportionment of the cost of the facilities to future development.

Matters to be considered in cost apportionment include:

documenting accurate costs for each project, preferably drawn from at least a concept design and reviewed by a person with relevant cost planning experience (such as a quantity surveyor).

the existing and proposed rate of provision of local, district and regional open space areas.

the existing and proposed rate of provision of various recreation facilities that are provided by Council (e.g. sports fields, playgrounds).

the level of investment the current community has made in the various classes of open space and recreation facilities located in the LGA.

an understanding of the level of use of major recreation facilities by people who live or work outside of the LGA.

whether any proposed facilities will have a significant commercial component (e.g. kiosks, private gyms).

Other matters relevant to the preparation of future contributions plans for open space and recreation facilities include the following:

There are several items in the Action Plan which relate to programs rather than buildings or works. There are also items that not meet the requirement of a local or district service catchment for key community infrastructure. If such items are to be included in a future section 94 or Section 94A contributions plan then they could be considered 'additional community infrastructure' and would require the approval of the Minister for Planning before the Council could levy for them.

Details on the proposed partnership use of school sites for community and recreation purposes should be obtained, including which schools and what spaces are to be used, the protocol for public use (usage fees, if any; times of access etc.), and any in-principle commitment from the DET.

Whether there are any facilities already provided by Council in advance of development occurring which the Council would want to recoup the cost of under a future contributions plan.

Only levying for the costs of studies and investigations where those activities are related to the demands generated by future development, and not any existing or non development demands.

How the Council intends to apply funds collected (and yet to be collected) under existing development consents and contributions plans.

8.3 Maintenance

Costs of maintenance of existing and recommended recreation spaces and facilities will change over time according to changes in the expected quality of maintenance in maintenance agreements, and budgets from time to time.

8.4 Review of the Action Plan

This Strategic Recreation Plan should be reviewed at least every five years.

An annual review of the Action Plan and relevant corresponding schedules should be undertaken by the Recreation Steering Committee to determine whether specific works and actions should be undertaken.

9 CONCLUSION

Canterbury City Council are doing some good work to meet the recreation needs of its residents. Ongoing works along the Cooks River (probably the most popular recreational setting in Canterbury) and recent, high quality informal and indoor facilities in Riverwood are examples of such works.

However with a constantly changing community, recreation needs and demands change over time. Key gaps in recreation provision in Canterbury are facilities, settings and activities for young people, people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, and for women and girls. Provision of a wider variety of recreation spaces and facilities, such as water play facilities, multi-purpose indoor sports courts and youth recreation spaces, will cater for a wider range of recreational interests of the community.

The challenge for Canterbury City Council will be to more closely align what residents would like to do for recreation with available recreation settings, facilities and activities, within obvious funding constraints. Consultation undertaken with the community and facility providers have shaped the recommended strategies and actions in this plan to realistically reflect what the community wants to do for recreation now and in the future. Council, in partnership with recreation facility providers, other levels of government, and the community itself, has the task to implement this plan improve the quality of life of its residents in terms of recreation.

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