



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA



Heart of Play

Background Research Report

June 2020

Report Title: Heart of Play - Background
Research Report

Client: City of Parramatta

Version: v2

Date: 5 June 2020

Table of contents

Key findings	4
Introduction	6
Section 1 - Strategic context	8
Strategic context	9
Section 2 - People context	23
People context	24
Section 3 - Place context & site analysis	31
Place context	32
Site analysis	36
Section 4 - Community sports and recreation needs analysis	59
Sport and recreation needs analysis	60
Site capacity and utilisation	63
Sport and recreation participation trends	65
Section 5 - Best practice precedents	69
Section 6 - Next steps	79
Next steps	80

Key findings

HOP includes seven connected major open spaces including the following parks and sporting grounds: Doyle Ground, Sherwin Park, Dan Mahoney Reserve, Old Salesyard Reserve, Corry Court Reserve, Barton Park and PH Jeffery Reserve.

Current uses of the HOP open spaces include:

- An off-leash dog park at Dan Mahoney Reserve (formally a sportsground used for hockey)
- Council's largest sportsground at Doyle Reserve
- A district athletics facility at Barton Park, and
- Council's largest owned tennis facility at PH Jeffery Tennis Complex with 17 courts.

The Heart of Play project addresses context and plans at scales from Metropolitan level up to neighbourhood level. Given the density of the site, there will be a need for the master plan to balance the needs of locals needing "a backyard" away from the home, and broader district and regional sporting infrastructure needs.



This report provides the background research to inform development of draft master plan options.

This will be combined with the results of community engagement, including with existing park user and sporting groups to get a deeper understanding of site opportunities, sporting and recreation needs.



Strategic context analysis

- The analysis of regional and local strategies and policies tells us that there is an increased need for open space and recreation in Parramatta.
- The planning and design of open spaces in Parramatta should improve green cover, increase active transport connections, be ecologically sensitive and sustainable, reduce heat, engage the local community and improve overall social resilience

”

Council is aware of the need to upgrade and broaden the diversity of recreational opportunities and facilities that our open spaces provide, particularly along the Parramatta River, around the CBD and high density areas to better accommodate increasing community needs and expectations.

Our sportsgrounds are increasingly being used for both informal and formal activities and need to provide better designed multi-use amenities that can cater for a growing diversity of uses and activities. Playing field surfaces are experiencing high levels of use and require increased maintenance and enhancement in order to withstand increased wear and tear in the context of increasing housing densities and changing climatic conditions.

- Local Strategic City Plan 2036

”



Demographic analysis

- The community surrounding HOP is forecast to grow significantly over the next 20 years.
- There will be a growing proportion of medium and high density housing, which means that access to open spaces becomes more critical, serving as a communal 'backyard'. This also means that HOP will have to meet not only regional and district sporting needs, but also local recreation needs.
- The community is likely to be highly diverse, which means that HOP should address the needs of culturally diverse residents through the provision of spaces for social interaction, informal sport, large gathering spaces for family and friends, and night time recreation.
- There is a growing proportion of children and young people, as well as a growing older population. The needs of children and young people can be met through the provision of play spaces and youth friendly features such as courts, scooter and skate facilities, play spaces and outdoor study spaces, as well as gentle exercise equipment and options for older residents.
- There is a growing proportion of lone person households, as well as single parent households which highlights the need for HOP to serve as an important social connect to build relationships



Site analysis

- Employing water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles will help combat flooding risks and establish a precedent for park landscapes.
- Increasing urban tree and plant canopies will help tackle the high temperatures the site witnesses in summer.
- Providing new walking and cycling connections within and across the HOP area, and improving the legibility of existing walking/ cycling infrastructure will help establish a network of parks and open spaces.
- Providing a diversity of recreational experience and co-locating them with other social and economic amenity will encourage more daytime, informal use from local families and social organisations.



Learnings from best practice precedents

- Sustainable approach to open space planning and design also enhances the aesthetic and social value of the spaces.
- Multi-functional design ensures the space is used by various user groups throughout the year
- A multi-dimensional approach to play spaces improves user experiences and create attachment to the place
- Participatory planning ensures delivery of successful open spaces and fosters social cohesion



Community needs analysis

- There is a need to increase capacity and improve access to existing facilities
- HOP presents the opportunity to provide a network of inclusive, creative and fun play spaces
- Existing club houses and sporting amenity blocks on site can be re-imagined to provide general community and cultural meeting and creative space, as well as meeting sporting needs.
- There is a need to provide more outdoor gathering spaces for community.
- The significant tennis infrastructure on site can be improved to meet the needs of Parramatta LGA
- There is opportunity to provide more facilities to support informal sporting training and games (such as more cricket nets)
- It is important to provide free opportunities to increase health and fitness. This includes through outdoor gym equipment, as well as providing features such as measured circuit paths
- There is opportunity to enhance the existing off-leash dog area through increased facilities and amenities

Introduction

The City of Parramatta is preparing a 'Parramatta Heart of Play' master plan for a sporting and recreation open space network that will be guided by community consultation, and community infrastructure needs. The master plan will provide a long-term strategic vision for a central sporting, open space, and recreation network in a rapidly growing and densifying part of the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA).

About the master plan

The Parramatta Heart of Play master plan (HOP) offers an exciting opportunity to plan for the delivery of an innovative, multipurpose, generous, and resilient open space network for North Parramatta and surrounding areas to address significant identified demand for new and embellished space. The master plan will lead the creation of a strong sense of place for the local community, address local social, sporting and recreational infrastructure gaps and needs, and contribute to needs as part of a linked network of open space and recreation facilities.

As the City of Parramatta continues to grow, parks will become our 'community common' or 'living rooms' - places where seniors, children, young people and families from all walks of life can come together to play, socialise, participate in sport, walk the dog and get happier and healthier. Parks are also green lungs for our city, providing shade, shelter and a cool place to be both day and night.

This background report provides the evidence base to inform the development of a master plan by providing an analysis of the site, of the community, and of sporting and recreational needs.

About the site

HOP includes seven connected major open spaces, as shown by Figure 1, including the following parks and sporting grounds: Doyle Ground, Sherwin Park, Dan Mahoney Reserve, Old Salesyard Reserve, Corry Court Reserve, Barton Park and PH Jeffery Reserve.

These seven connected open spaces in North Parramatta together comprise 30 hectares of open space just two blocks east of Parramatta CBD's northern extent.

The seven open space areas that form HOP are well-used and beloved by the community. Their coordinated improvement will optimise and increase their collective use.

Current uses include an off-leash dog park at Dan Mahoney Reserve (formally a sportsground used for hockey), Council's largest sportsground at Doyle Ground, a district athletics facility at Barton Park, and PH Jeffery Tennis Complex is Council's largest owned tennis facility with 17 courts.

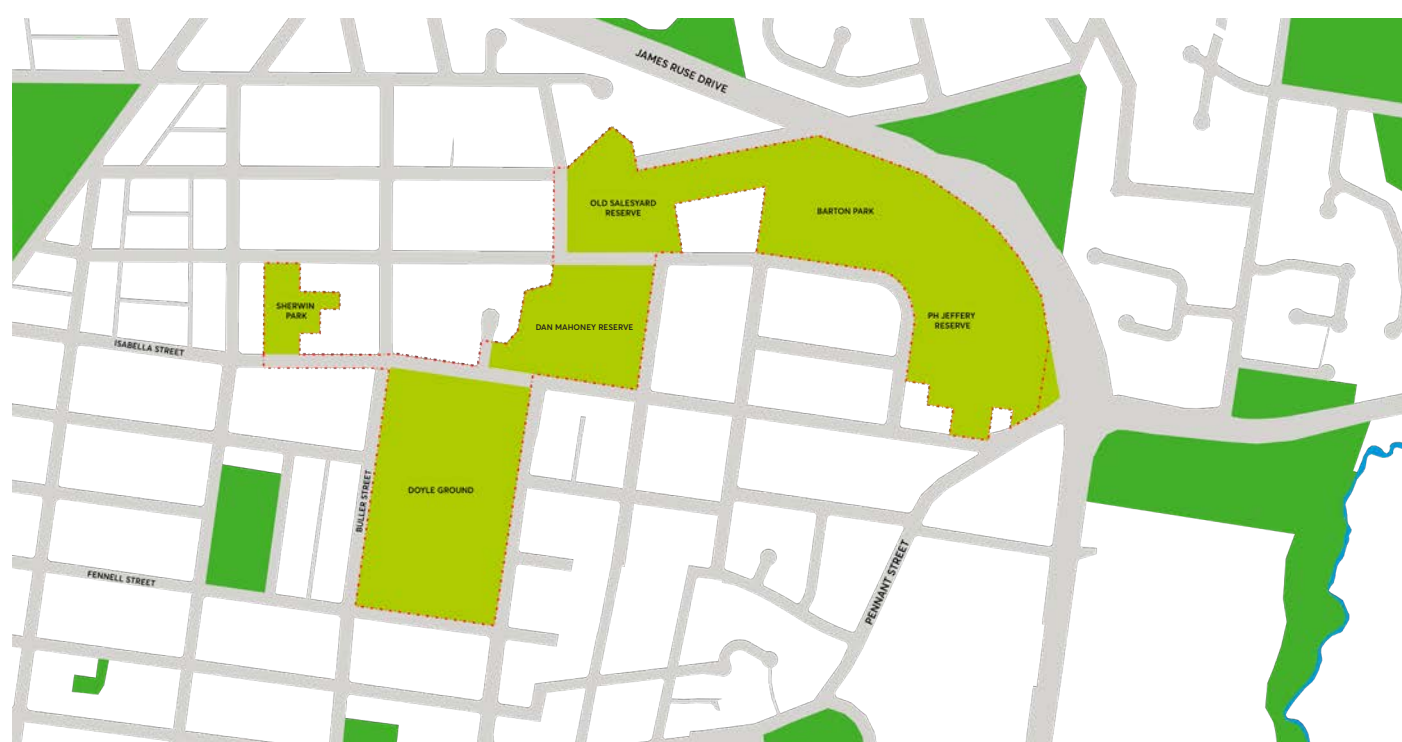


FIGURE 1 - SITE MAP

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this background report is to provide the research, context and background to inform the development of the master plan. It includes the following:

Section 1: Strategic context

Review of strategic context and alignment:

- How does Heart of Play align with key national, state and local strategic drivers for the site?

Section 2: People context

Review of people context:

- What role does the site play at a City, catchment and local level?
- What are the demographic characteristics of the catchment, and the immediate neighborhoods connected to the parks?
- How is the community forecast to change at a City, catchment, and local level?

Section 3: Place context and site analysis

- What services and other social infrastructure surrounds the site? What social role does HOP play in its community?
- How do people move around the site and connect with other parts of the city?
- What are the existing site conditions including hydrology, soil, water, wind and green cover ?
- What are the existing infrastructure and services available on site?

Section 4: Sport and recreation needs analysis

Review of sport and recreation capacity and utilisation:

- What are national, state and local sport and recreation participation trends that indicate how people will use the site?
- What social, sports and recreation facilities currently exist on site?
- What is the condition of the existing sports and recreation facilities?
- How do sporting groups currently use the site? Are sporting fields and amenities at capacity?
- Review of community infrastructure needs based on Community Infrastructure Strategy benchmarking

Section 5: Best practices

- What best practices can be adopted to deliver the maximum social outcomes for HOP?

Section 6: Key learnings & Next Steps

- What are the key learnings for HOP? What are the opportunities for the HOP master plan?
- What are the next steps to follow?

The Heart of Play project addresses context and plans at scales from Metropolitan level up to neighbourhood level. This report considers the role of HOP at all of these scales:

Metropolitan scale: Greater Sydney and the Central City District

The City of Parramatta plays an important role within Greater Sydney as the 'second CBD' a metropolitan focus area for new jobs and housing. With significant growth forecast, existing open spaces will need to work harder to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Regional Scale: City of Parramatta

HOP is a regionally significant collection of open spaces and sportsgrounds, meaning it plays a role in servicing the whole of the LGA!

Catchment scale: City of Parramatta

This report aligns with the Community Infrastructure strategy that is underpinned by a catchment based approach to planning for community infrastructure. HOP offers a significant opportunity to meet some of Catchment 4's future sport and recreation needs

Local neighbourhood scale: North Parramatta and immediate surrounds

While HOP is a cluster of regional sports and open space, it still needs to service the needs of the immediate suburb and residents who will use the park to meet their daily recreation needs.





Section 1

Strategic context

This section summarises the key national, state and local strategic documents that guide the development of the HOP master plan.

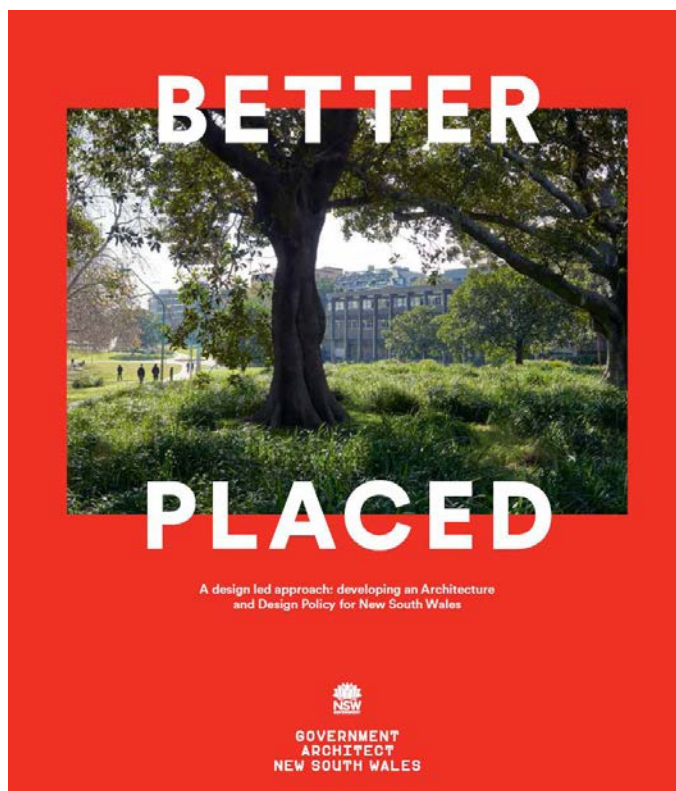
Strategic context

Federal and NSW Government as well as regional and local strategies and policies influence the future planning for Heart of Play. The follow is a summary of relevant strategies and policies as well implications of strategic context.

NSW

Better Placed

Government Architects NSW (GANSW)

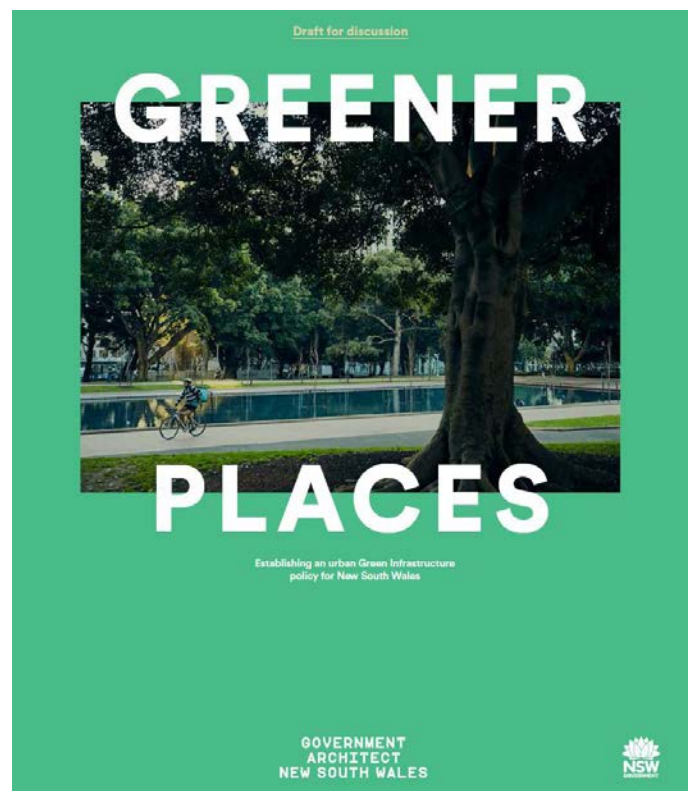


'Better Placed' is a design led NSW Government policy intent upon guiding the delivery of world-class planning and design outcomes. The policy establishes 7 principles for the built environment,

1. Contextual, local and of its place.
2. Sustainable, efficient and durable.
3. Equitable, inclusive and diverse.
4. Enjoyable, safe and comfortable.
5. Functional, responsive and fit for purpose.
6. Value-creating and cost effective.
7. Distinctive, visually interesting and appealing.

Greener Places

Government Architects NSW (GANSW)



'Greener Places' is a NSW Government policy that acknowledges the fundamental role that green infrastructure will play in ensuring community sustainability moving into the future. Adopting a strategic approach to greening, the policy outlines 4 guiding principles,

1. Integration: green infrastructure, urban development and Grey infrastructure.
2. Connectivity: creating a network of open spaces.
3. Multi-functionality: establishing multiple ecosystems.
4. Participation: involve stakeholders.

5 Million Trees

NSW Government



The 'Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney Program' targets Local Government Areas (LGAs) within Greater Sydney to improve their urban canopy coverage. The program's objects are to,

1. Plant more than 5 million trees in Greater Sydney by 2030.
2. Increase urban canopy cover to 40%
3. Better respond to climate extremes through shade and cooling.
4. Improve livability.

Everyone Can Play

NSW Government

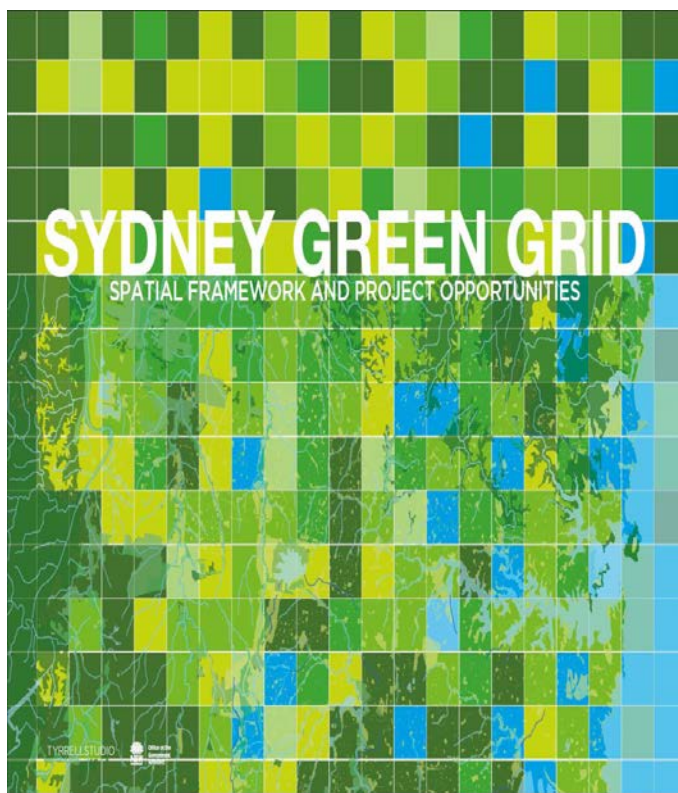


Developed by the NSW Government, 'Everyone Can Play,' guides designers and placemakers in developing inclusive playspaces for the modern audience. The principles of the document are considered under the principles, 'Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay? The document forms 'toolkit' for the user to understand how their design can be accessible to people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Greater Sydney

Sydney Green Grid

Government Architects NSW (GANSW)



The 'Sydney Green Grid' recognises the integral role that open space plays in supporting the character and community of cities and suburbs. The site is located within the 'West Central District: Parramatta River Foreshore,' and has the opportunity to engage with the proposed green grid opportunities, particularly those relating to green infrastructure.

Central City District Plan 2056

Greater Sydney Commission

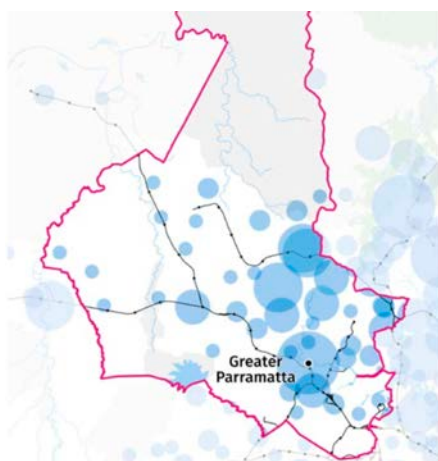
OUR GREATER SYDNEY 2056

Central City District Plan

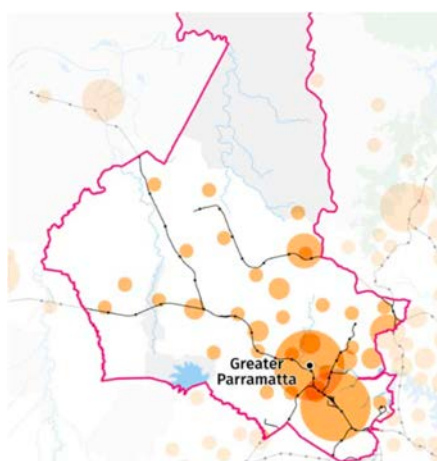
– connecting communities



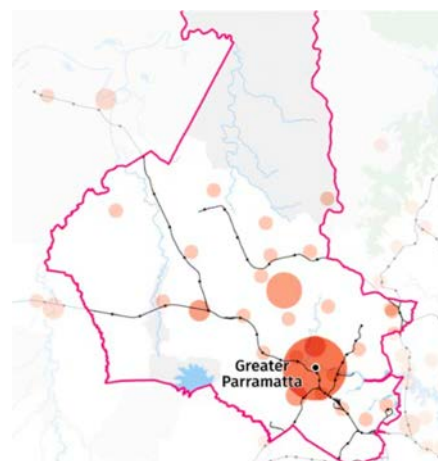
This Central City District Plan is a 20-year plan to manage growth in the context of economic, social and environmental matters to achieve the 40-year vision of Greater Sydney. It is a guide for implementing the Greater Sydney Region Plan, A Metropolis of Three Cities, at a district level is a bridge between regional and local planning. Relevant strategies for HOP are listed in Table 2.



● Social infrastructure includes facilities such as community and neighbourhood hubs, sportsfields, clubs and courts, men's sheds, pools and leisure centres



● Street life and meeting places include live music venues, farmers' markets, high streets and eat streets.



● Shared places include community gardens, co-working spaces and car sharing

Social Connectors, Central City District Plan

TABLE 2 - RELEVANT STRATEGIES FROM CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT PLAN

Directions	Potential Indicators	Planning Priorities
A city for people - Celebrating diversity and putting people at the heart of planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased walkable access to local centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1 - Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs C2 - Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities
A city of great places - Designing places for people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access to open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C6 - Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage
A city in its landscape - Valuing green spaces and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased urban tree canopy Expanded Greater Sydney Green Grid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C13 - Protecting and improving the health and enjoyment of the District's waterways C14 - Creating a Parkland City urban structure and identity, with South Creek as a defining spatial element C15 - Protecting and enhancing bushland, biodiversity and scenic and cultural landscapes C16 - Increasing urban tree canopy cover and delivering Green Grid connections C17 - Delivering high quality open space C18- Better managing rural areas

Local context

Community Strategic Plan 2018-2038

The Parramatta Community Strategic Plan (CSP) identifies the community’s main priorities and aspirations for the future and plans strategies for achieving these goals.

The Plan outlines themes and relevant outcomes, directions and three year delivery program actions, with relevant directions for open space and recreation outlined in the table below.



Parramatta Community Strategic Plan

TABLE 3 - RELEVANT STRATEGIES FROM CSP

Goals	Strategic Directions
Vision - Sydney’s central city, sustainable, liveable and productive – inspired by our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable - Stewards of our built and natural environment. Fostering vibrant neighbourhoods, places and development that is well- balanced, connected and sustainable. Liveable - Supporting all of our community to succeed and live well. Champions of our community and culture.
Fair - We can all benefit from the opportunities our City offers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3 Support people to live active and healthy lives 1.6 Engage and consult the community in decision-making
Accessible - We can all get to where we want to go.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Design our City so that it is usable by people of all ages and abilities 2.3 Make our City more enjoyable and safe for walking and cycling
Green - We care for and enjoy our environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Protect and enhance our natural environment 3.4 Provide green spaces for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment 3.6 Promote energy and water efficiency, renewable energy sources, and reduced emissions and waste
Welcoming - We celebrate culture and diversity – past, present and future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2 Promote the growth of arts and culture and champion the role that culture plays in city-building
Thriving - We benefit from having a thriving CBD and local centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “5.3 Plan and deliver a vibrant, attractive and safe CBD and local centres”

Parramatta Local Strategic City Plan 2036

The Local Strategic Planning Statement City Plan 2036 sets out a 20-year land use planning vision for the City of Parramatta. It balances the need for housing and economic growth, while also protecting and enhancing housing diversity, heritage and local character. Further, the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) aims to protect the City's environmental assets and improve the health and liveability of the City. Relevant priorities include:

Priorities

Local Planning Priorities

1. Expand Parramatta's economic role as the Central City of Greater Sydney
2. Grow Parramatta as a Smart City
3. Advocate for improved public transport connectivity to Parramatta CBD from the surrounding district
4. Focus housing and employment growth in the GPOP and Strategic Centres; as well as stage housing release consistent with the Parramatta Local Housing Strategy
5. Preserve and enhance the low-scale character and identity of suburban Parramatta outside of the GPOP area and Epping Strategic Centre
6. Provide for community infrastructure and recreation opportunities

Productivity Planning Priorities

11. Build the capacity of the Parramatta CBD, Strategic Centres, and Employment Lands to be strong, competitive and productive
12. Retain and enhance Local Urban Service Hubs for small industries, local services and last-mile freight and logistics

Liveability Planning Priorities

7. Provide for a diversity of housing types and sizes to meet community needs into the future
8. Incentivise affordable rental housing delivery and provide for permanent affordable housing
9. Enhance Parramatta's heritage and cultural assets to maintain our authentic identity and deliver infrastructure to meet community needs
10. Improve active walking and cycling infrastructure and access to public and shared transport

Sustainability Planning Priorities

13. Protect and improve the health and swimmability of the Parramatta River, its waterways and catchment
14. Protect and enhance our trees and green infrastructure to improve liveability and ecological health
15. Reduce emissions and manage energy, water, and waste efficiently to create better buildings and precincts and solve city planning challenges
16. Increase resilience of people and infrastructure against natural and urban hazards

Parramatta Local Strategic City Plan 2036

TABLE 4 - RELEVANT PRIORITIES FROM LSPS 2036

Theme	Planning Priorities
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement for walkable neighbourhoods and a connected city - To plan local neighbourhoods so people have access to daily needs within a 5–10 minute walk, advocate for mass transit and transport services, ensure land uses match mobility investment and managing roads to reduce impacts and create great places. • Supporting community wellbeing with social infrastructure - To plan, collaborate and partner with others to deliver local infrastructure, such as open space and community and cultural facilities, and state infrastructure, such as health, education and emergency services for the wellbeing of our changing community.
Liveability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A creative and socially connected city - To take a people-focused approach to planning and place making, create inclusive and accessible places and improve planning to support cultural activity and spaces. • Creating great places - To plan for accessible local centres and high streets to be the heart of local communities, protect the character of our distinctive heritage neighborhoods and iconic places, and deliver design excellence and high amenity in the built environment.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing the natural environment for a resilient city - To improve the city's waterways, biodiversity corridors, green spaces and tree canopy to support the environment and a healthy community. • Increasing resilience of people and infrastructure against natural and urban hazards - To manage the risks to people and infrastructure from flooding and stormwater, contaminated land, noise, and the longer-term implications of sea-level rise.

Community Infrastructure Strategy (Draft)

The CIS identifies and assesses existing community infrastructure in the City of Parramatta LGA. The CIS will be used by the City of Parramatta to identify priorities for future community infrastructure and will guide future decision making.

TABLE 5 - RELEVANT STRATEGIES FROM COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Focus Area	Actions/ Recommendations
Play Spaces	The CIS recommends the addition of 1 new district level play space in North Parramatta.
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Network	<p>The CIS identifies that there is a severe gap in the provision of parks and outdoor recreation networks in Catchment 4 where the HOP spaces are located. The relevant directions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the diversity, quality and utilisation of Council's existing parks and outdoor recreation network • Improve access through quality and design including universal design standards, lighting, amenities and sustainability principles • Implement designs that balance versatility, flexibility and are multifunction • Create unique opportunities for outdoor recreation that provide greater amenity • Enhance the pedestrian and cycle connections between parks and outdoor recreation spaces • Increase opportunities for dog off-leash exercise to support healthy high density living <p>Future trends identified as part of the CIS that are relevant to HOP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to serve the growing and diverse needs of our entire community, parks and outdoor recreation facilities must be managed and planned for as a network. • Parks and outdoor recreation will need to accommodate activities which meet a variety of needs, and remain flexible enough to accommodate the values and preferences of different groups as they evolve over time. • Parks and outdoor recreation facilities are increasingly being used for both formal and informal sporting activities which means that the space available will have to support and manage competing interests. • Public spaces will need to support 'day to day' recreation and exercise needs as well as providing facilities for other activities like sport and play.
Sportsground Network	<p>The CIS recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing better connections between sportsgrounds • Re-purposing parks to accommodate both formal and informal sports • Re-purposing alternative (non-traditional) spaces for both formal and informal sport and recreation <p>Future trends identified as part of the CIS that are relevant to HOP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to serve the growing and diverse needs of our community, sports grounds must be managed and planned for as a network. • Council will need to employ adaptable, multipurpose design principles that allow space to change according to shifting community needs. • Sharing the use of sports grounds and amenities buildings with different sports, clubs and Associations • Sports grounds become an important community focal point that bring people together and promote social connection.

Environment Sustainability Strategy

The City of Parramatta Environmental Sustainability Strategy outlines key environmental sustainability directions and priorities to meet the demands of the growing city, its residents, workers and visitors. The relevant strategic goals and actions are listed in the table below:



City of Parramatta Environmental Sustainability Strategy

TABLE 6 - RELEVANT STRATEGIES FROM ENV. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Theme	Goals	Strategic Actions
Parks & green space	Protect, enhance and increase our parks and green spaces to make them a community feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise quality green and open space in new growth precincts Promote the use of shared green space by educating and engaging our community Continue to activate our parks and open spaces via our bike and walking networks
The urban forest	Increase canopy cover to 40% by 2050 (based on 2016 levels)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise street tree planting along cycleways and the Parramatta Ways walking network Get our community more involved in National Tree Day and similar events Develop a community engagement program to provide information and improve understanding of the value of trees in our City
Water use	No net increase in potable water consumption by 2038 (based on 2015 levels)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase water sensitive urban design and rain gardens in developments and in public domain
Sustainable transport	10% of trips made by walking and cycling by 2038	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% of trips made by walking and cycling by 2038 Support implementation of the Parramatta Ways Walking Strategy
Urban heat	Improve liveability by cooling the city and protecting people and communities from heat stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve public and community space design to reduce summer heat by incorporating shade structures, drinking fountains, water features, and by capturing rainwater to irrigate trees and plants and cool public spaces Encourage and promote green infrastructure such as green roofs and walls and water sensitive urban design

Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework, 2017

Goals identified as part of the Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework that are relevant to HOP are:

- Children are our future - Work to ensure every child in Parramatta is healthy, nurtured, happy and will thrive.
- All people can learn, share and grow - Facilitate formal and informal learning opportunities at all ages, to help people improve their circumstances, reach their full potential and share their own knowledge, creativity and culture.
- Green, inclusive and safe places to share - Design, build and maintain public spaces and neighbourhoods that are green, safe and inclusive for all.
- All people have access to the resources they need to live healthy, active lives - Improve health outcomes, starting with disadvantaged groups in our community.
- We trust each other, are welcoming, and feel good about being here - Facilitate social connections to foster strong, culturally diverse, inclusive and empowered communities.

Active Parramatta

The Active Parramatta initiative by City of Parramatta strives to provide healthy and active opportunities for residents, workers and visitors to improve their health and wellbeing, and encourage active participation. Relevant objectives include:

- Improve community cohesion by using health and active participation to reduce barriers
- Increase participation to improve the communities' health and well-being
- Improve the quality and participation of local sporting clubs
- Provide literacy and educational programs to connect residents with their communities

Cool Parramatta

The Parramatta LGA has more hot days than Sydney and this in turn impacts the way its residents experience the place. The Cool Parramatta toolkit was developed by City of Parramatta (CoP) to provide its residents tips and ways to stay cool when the temperature rises.

Economic Development Plan 2017-2021

The Economic Development Plan seeks to create more jobs in Parramatta by stimulating the economy and making it more competitive. The Economic Vision that is relevant to HOP are:

Part 4 of ECP - Where do we want to be in the future?

- Urban transformation and sustainability
2. Travel improvements between Parramatta and Western Sydney
- 4. Overall planning for the city such as urban heat and green space.

Parramatta Ways

Parramatta Ways is a plan to improve walkability across Parramatta LGA. The plan aims to form a network of streetscapes, open space and river corridors to make the city more attractive for walking.

Relevant objectives include:

- Create a Walkable City : Connect Parramatta by making walking safe, comfortable and attractive for all users across the LGA
- Improve the Environment: Improve the environmental performance of streets and walkways through significant tree planting and enhanced green corridor connections
- Support Healthy Lifestyles : Create an environment that encourages active living and improves well-being
- Engage the Community: Enable opportunities for increased community engagement and participation

The Parramatta Ways network cover the HOP area with major routes connecting the 7 open spaces.



Parramatta Ways Major Routes Map

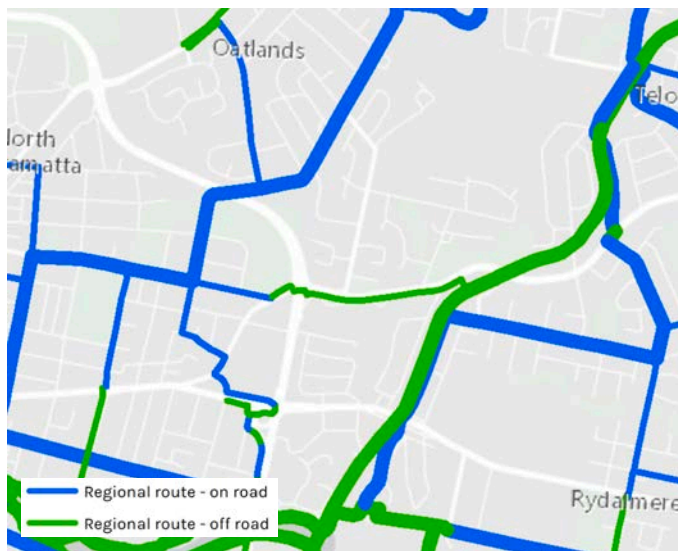
Parramatta Bike Plan

The Parramatta Bike Plan 2017-2037 outlines a cycling network in the Parramatta LGA that aims to demonstrate that an improvement in cycling infrastructure and increase in cycling will contribute to a more reliable and efficient integrated transport network for all users.

The objectives of the Plan are:

- To enhance the productivity and liveability of Parramatta through an increase in cycling, helping foster healthy and connected residents, workers and visitors
- For cycling to be safe, and perceived as a safe and attractive option for all members of the community, for those aged 8 to 80
- To increase the proportion of people cycling in Parramatta to 5% of all trips to work, and 10% for those ending in the CBD

The Parramatta Bike Plan has identified routes connecting the HOP open spaces as part of the regional cycling network.



Parramatta Bike Plan - Cycling Network

A socially sustainable community puts people first.

A community is socially sustainable when "the formal and informal processes; systems; structures and relationships actively support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and liveable communities. Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and provide a good quality of life."⁶⁶

Socially Sustainable Parramatta Framework

Culture and Our City

The Cultural plan for Parramatta sets a way forward for cultural and social success in the face of unprecedented rapid growth.

The plan consists of four strategic goals:

1. Always was, always will be a gathering place
2. Diversity is our strength and everyone is welcome
3. Ideas and imagination are the heartbeat of our City
4. By design, our City incubates creativity, industry and new knowledge.

The City has noted to focus on these actions in particular:

- Support creativity.
- Celebrate and support our artists, dreamers, designers, storytellers, digital innovators, curators, scientists and architects to inspire connections and transform the way we live, come together, see ourselves and influence the world. What you will see by 2021:

Parramatta has a reputation as a cultural hub of ideas, imagination and artistic leadership.

A well-resourced community and professional creative workforce, with access to a mix of new and adapted creative spaces.

Our CBD neighbourhoods and precincts are energised with arts and cultural activation across sports, science, community and technology, food and diversity.

Our public spaces, buildings and streets are enhanced with a visual aesthetic that is purposeful, playful and reflective of our community.

A leading performance, visual arts and literary destination with arts and cultural venues right in the heart of our City.

Additional relevant actions identified as part of this strategy include:

- 1.11 - Innovate our annual program of events and activations to reflect our community's changing interests in our outdoor, public and natural environments.
- 1.29 - Prioritise the use of public space for online activation, increasing shared spaces for people to work, socialise, collaborate or make
- 2.7 - Expand the range of everyday activations in our public spaces
- 2.9 - Expand engagement of families and children in public spaces and programming
- 2.20 - Provide a fantastic experience for our sporting fans that extends their connection with Parramatta and invites them to return.

- 2.28 - Broker underutilised spaces for after-hours innovation, events and activations
- 3.19 - Identify partners, funding sources and possible sites for the new exhibition spaces
- 4.7 - Deliver the Civic Link cultural spine as a vibrant space in the heart of the Council
- 4.9 - Work to establish an integrated approach with private and public investment to attract and foster a cultural ecology throughout this key public domain.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

The Disability Inclusion Plan outlines the practical steps the City of Parramatta Council will take over the next four years to create a more inclusive community for people with disability who are living in the Parramatta LGA.

Relevant objectives include:

- 2.1 Ensure new and upgraded public buildings, facilities and open spaces meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- 2.2 Provide continuous accessible travel pathways throughout the LGA
- 2.4 Increase access to public spaces
- 2.5 Increase the number of accessible public toilets in the LGA
- 2.8 Increase access to parking and transport
- 2.10 Increase access to recreational and sporting programs.

Crime Prevention Plan

The Crime Prevention Plan 2019-2023 outlines City of Parramatta's plans for a safer Parramatta. It sets out 67 actions that will reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, improve the look and feel of public spaces in the CBD and neighbourhoods, and generate a sense of community attachment.



Parramatta disability inclusion plan

Relevant actions include:

- 2.2. Meet with relevant stakeholders to discuss issues relating to safety in and around the transport interchange including issues relating to young people, service provision and public space.
- 2.4. Consult with and consider the needs of young people before installing signage which may restrict their mobility needs such as skateboarding or roller blading.
- 2.5. Provide additional facilities for and in consultation with older adolescent young people in parks and reserves.
- 2.9. Explore the use of public art which empowers women and improves perceptions of safety in the public domain.
- 3.5. Review Council's Public Toilet and Amenities strategy and construct new public toilets to address the shortage of facilities in the LGA.
- 3.7. Continue to upgrade Council street lighting at key locations in line with Council Public Domain Guidelines to improve perceptions of safety and promote interesting streetscapes and public spaces.
- 4.5. Investigate the extension of lighting in key parks and sportsgrounds to improve night time usage where appropriate.

Community Engagement Strategy

The Community Engagement Strategy acts as a guide for consultation, research and engagement, in order to ensure best practice engagement with Parramatta's communities now and into the future.

All the objectives identified as part of the Community engagement strategy are relevant to HOP, and they include:

- To provide a best practice, consistent and considered approach to engagement that is meaningful and appropriate for our diverse communities of all ages and abilities
- Raise awareness of Council's social media and digital platforms to increase community participation in the decision making process
- Report back to the community on engagement activities so they are aware of the outcomes
- To increase participation in Council's online engagement panel, Our City Your Say annually by 3% and for the panel to be demographically representative.
- To ensure best use of limited engagement resources across the organisation.
- To constantly evaluate and explore contemporary engagement methods with a view to improving and extending the City's engagement activities.

First Nations + Country

The Darug people are recognised as the traditional owners on the land on which the City of Parramatta, and subsequently the site, stands. For roughly 4000 years before settlement, the Burramattagal people cultivated, care for and respected the lands on which they resided.

History to present Day.



Burramatta Dancers
Photography: George Gittany for City of Parramatta Council

Roughly translated to 'The place where the eels lie down' or 'head of waters,' Parramatta is rich in Indigenous history and culture. The Darug Nation are the traditional land owners of what is present day Parramatta. Within this vast and rich nation, the Burramattagal people were the first settlers along the upper Parramatta River and tributary.

The river is the epicenter of Burramattagal culture. It served as a food source for the people, and the banks of the river became common place for cooking, ceremony

and gathering. The Burramattagal people practiced 'Fire-stick Farming,' which was the act of using controlled burning for hunting and landscape maintenance.

Following the arrival of European settlers in 1788, most of the Parramatta landscape was settled as farmland for the colony, leading to the mass displacement of the local people from their land.

The Darug people led a resistance against the settlers, led by Pemulwuy whose story is now a common feature in the modern indigenous narrative of Parramatta.

Present day Parramatta continues to explore and represent the Indigenous narrative through art, recreation and planting. The Parramatta Riverside Walk tells the narrative of Pemulwuy through public art and infographics. Other walking routes and initiatives, including the Warami Mittigar Cultural Walk in Parramatta Park and the walking tracks and trails along Parramatta Lakes.

Other notable features of contemporary Indigenous culture can be found at the,

- Arunga Bardo Aboriginal Bushfood Garden
- Third Settlement Reserve Toongabbie
- Old Government House
- Domain Creek

References

1. Parramatta's Indigenous Heritage: Parramatta City Council
- 2.'Six Places to Experience Indigenous History and Culture in Parramatta,' Discover Parramatta



What do these regional and local strategies mean for Heart of Play?

Improved access to open space and recreation

- The Greater Sydney Commission has prioritised the delivery of social infrastructure and access to open spaces to support growth as part of the District Plan for the Central City
- There is a need for outdoor courts, indoor courts, play spaces, fitness equipment, large parks, improved sports fields and local open space, and HOP master plan should address this need including provision of multi-use spaces.

Improved green cover

- Improving green cover is a priority for Greater Sydney and City of Parramatta, and HOP should include abundant trees and planting in the master plan to address the same

Improve physical connections and promote an active healthy lifestyle

- Multiple strategies prioritise improving walking and biking connections in Parramatta, and HOP should create a walking/ cycling network which facilitates an active lifestyle. This also indicates a need for bike storage and other facilities as part of HOP

Reduce Heat

- Cooling Parramatta's streets through increased tree canopies is a core aspect of the Cool Parramatta project and tree canopies that provide shade should be incorporated in HOP.

Improve inclusivity

- Creating an inclusive city for all ethnicities, ages and abilities is a high priority for City of Parramatta, and the HOP master plan should provide for the needs and aspirations for all these different user groups.

Improve sustainability, energy and resource efficiency

- Conserving existing resources and improving long-term sustainability is a high priority for City of Parramatta, and the HOP master plan should incorporate ways to increase water efficiency and promote sustainability.

Improved social connections

- The creation of socially sustainable and connected communities is a priority for the City of Parramatta, indicating a need to provide opportunities for social connections in HOP.

Engage and involve the community in decision making

- The HOP master plan should actively engage the community in informing, consulting and collaborating with them in shaping the future of HOP open spaces.

Improve and promote local culture and heritage

- Promoting local culture and showcasing heritage is a priority for City of Parramatta and the HOP master plan should incorporate ways to celebrate the same.

Strategic Alignment

The Heart of Play master plan acts on 19 local and regional strategies through the following key actions:

KEY ACTIONS	HEART OF PLAY MASTERPLAN								
	Improve green cover	Improve walking and cycling connections	An inclusive Parramatta for all user groups	Improve community interaction and social cohesion	Engage and involve the community	Improve access to open space and recreation	Improve sustainability, energy and resource efficiency	Reduce heat	Improve and promote local culture and heritage
BETTER PLACED			✓				✓		
GREENER PLACES	✓	✓			✓	✓			
SYDNEY GREEN GRID	✓	✓							
EVERYONE CAN PLAY			✓	✓					
5 MILLION TREES	✓								
CENTRAL DISTRICT PLAN	✓	✓				✓			
COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
PARRAMATTA WAYS		✓			✓				
ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY	✓	✓					✓	✓	
PARRAMATTA BIKE PLAN		✓							
SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE PARRAMATTA FRAMEWORK	✓		✓	✓					
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY			✓			✓			
COOL PARRAMATTA	✓							✓	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN	✓	✓						✓	
CULTURE AND OUR CITY		✓	✓	✓					✓
DISABILITY INCLUSION PLAN			✓						
CRIME PREVENTION PLAN			✓	✓	✓				
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY					✓				
PARRAMATTA LOCAL STRATEGIC CITY PLAN 2036	✓	✓				✓	✓		



Section 2

People context

This section explores the community and place that HOP services, and how this community will grow and change into the future.

People context

This section explores the community and place that HOP services, and how this community will grow and change into the future.

The Heart of Play project addresses context and plans for scales from Metropolitan level up to neighbourhood level. This report considers the role of HOP at all of these scales:

Metropolitan scale:
Greater Sydney and the Central City District

The City of Parramatta plays an important role within Greater Sydney as the 'second CBD', a metropolitan focus area for new jobs and housing. With significant growth forecast, existing open spaces will need to work harder to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Regional Scale:
City of Parramatta

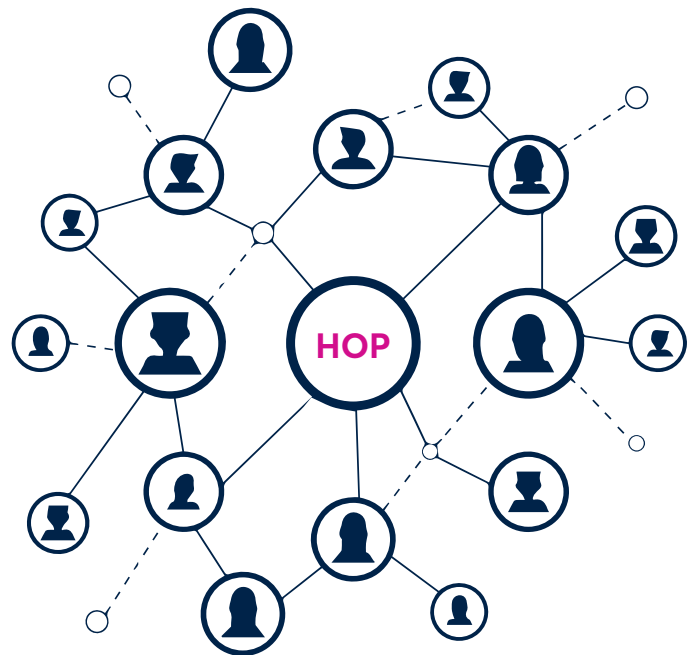
HOP is a regionally significant collection of open spaces and sportsgrounds, meaning it plays a role in servicing the whole of the LGA!

Catchment scale:
City of Parramatta

This report aligns with the Community Infrastructure strategy that is underpinned by a catchment based approach to planning for community infrastructure. HOP offers a significant opportunity to meet some of Catchment 4's future sport and recreation needs

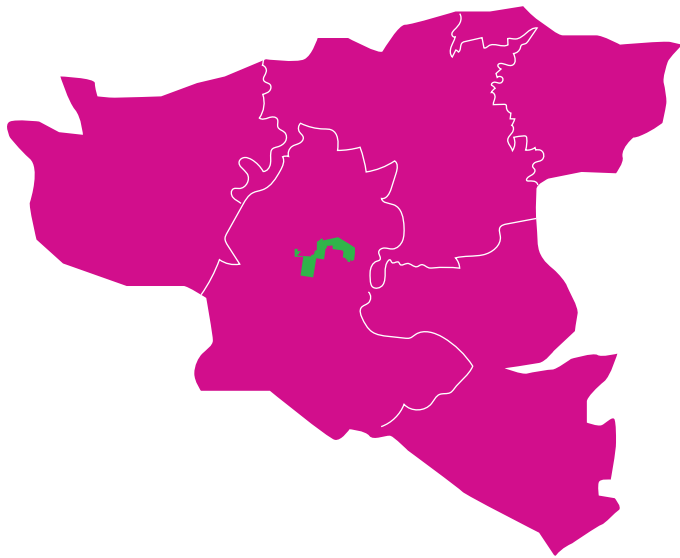
Local neighbourhood scale:
North Parramatta and immediate surrounds

While HOP is a cluster of regional sports and open space, it still needs to service the needs of the immediate suburb and residents who will use the park to meet their daily recreation needs.



The HOP parks and open spaces are currently used by many people, not only people who live in the immediate surrounding areas, but also visitors and workers who may rely upon HOP to meet their recreation and sporting needs.

The HOP master plan should respond to the needs and aspirations of all of its users which are primarily shaped by the demographic characteristics of the community. This section gives an overview of the demographic character of communities at regional, local and immediate neighbourhood level.



The demographic character of City of Parramatta LGA

The HOP area is located in City of Parramatta LGA.

Overall, the City of Parramatta LGA is a younger, higher income population compared to Greater Sydney, with a lower proportion of people living alone, more medium and high-density housing, and similarly priced housing costs but higher housing stress. However, there are pockets of disadvantage and vulnerability including low income households, people who speak a language other than English at home, people with disability and unpaid carers.

City of Parramatta LGA has a consistently growing population. In 2016, the resident population was 234,444 (an increase of 31,239 people since 2011). By 2041, according to NSW Department of Planning projections, the resident population will have increased by a further 252,591 residents to around 487,037 people.



Population - 257,197 (ABS 2019)



Median age - 34 years



Avg household size - 2.72



Languages spoken at home other than English - 51.5%



People who live in high and medium density housing - 55.2%



Low income household - 14.3%



Unemployment rate - 7%



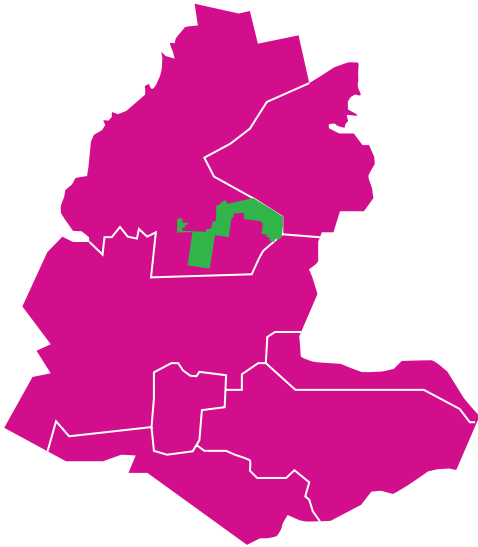
Between 2016 and 2041, the population for the City of Parramatta is forecast to increase by 252,591 persons (107.74% growth), at an average annual change of 2.97%.



View of Parramatta. Source: Daily Telegraph



View of Sydney CBD from Parramatta. Source: Real Estate



The demographic character of Parramatta - Catchment 4

City of Parramatta is divided into 6 planning catchments. The HOP area is located in Catchment 4, and it includes the following suburbs:

- Parramatta
- Granville
- Camellia
- North Parramatta
- Oatlands
- Harris Park
- Mayshill
- Rosehill & Clyde

In 2016, Catchment 4 shares similar demographic characteristics to the City of Parramatta LGA, with major differences being higher population growth, cultural diversity and significantly higher proportion of high and medium density housing.

The population will increase by 99,000 people in the next 20 years.

Major deviations from characteristics of CoP LGA



Languages spoken at home other than English - 59.31%



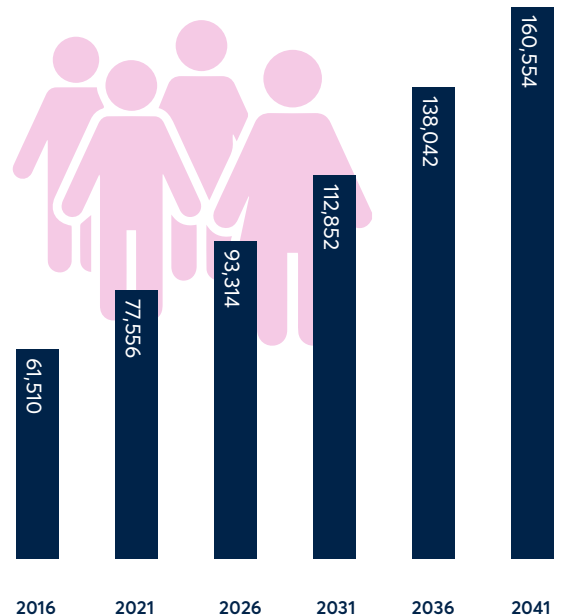
People who live in high and medium density housing - 73.68%



Catchment 4 population is estimated to grow by 99,046 in the next 20 years, which amounts to 39% of the growth in CoP LGA. A majority of this increase will be witnessed in Parramatta CBD, Parramatta and Camellia suburbs.



Rendering of future Parramatta CBD. Source: The Morning Herald





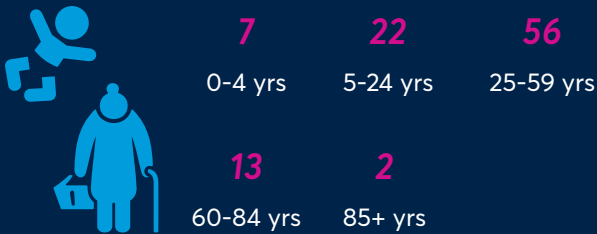
The demographic character of North Parramatta

The HOP master plan should reflect the community's needs and aspirations, many of which are shaped by the demographic characteristics of the community. This profile of the North Parramatta suburb is based on the most recent (2016) Census of Population and Housing data.

**Please note data is rounded to nearest figure.*

If North Parramatta was a community of 100 people...

AGE



COMPOSITION



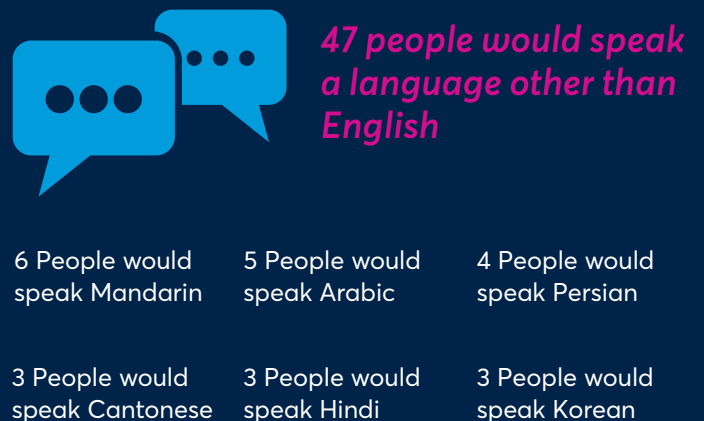
RECENT ARRIVALS



COUNTRY OF BIRTH



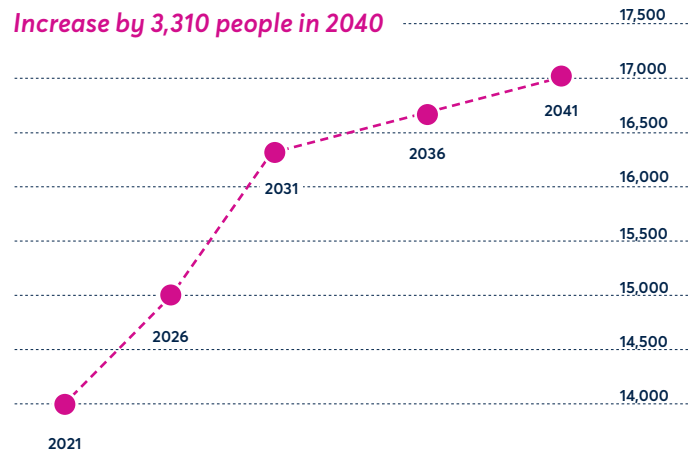
LANGUAGE



HOW ARE WE GOING TO GROW AND CHANGE?

North Parramatta has a consistently growing population. In 2016, the resident population was 13,879. By 2041, according to NSW Department of Planning projections, the resident population will have increased by a further 3,310 residents to around 17,189 people.

Taking the immigration pattern into account, in the next 20 years, North Parramatta will have an even higher population of people from India and China.



ASSISTANCE



6 people

would need assistance daily due to disability

INCOME



18 people

would live in a household that earns less than \$650 a week

EDUCATION



32 people would have a university qualification

34 people would have no formal qualification

5 people would be attending university

EMPLOYMENT

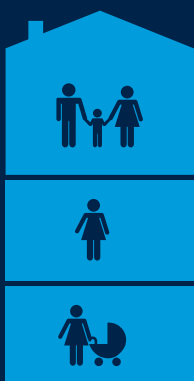


64 people would be employed full-time

26 people would be employed part-time

8 people would be looking for a job

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



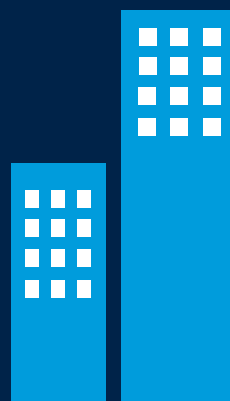
28 people would live in a two-parent family

27 people would live by themselves

19 people would live with their partner/spouse but not have children

11 people would live in a one-parent family

DWELLING TYPE



46 people would live in a high-density dwelling

30 people would live in a medium-density dwelling

23 people would live in a separate house

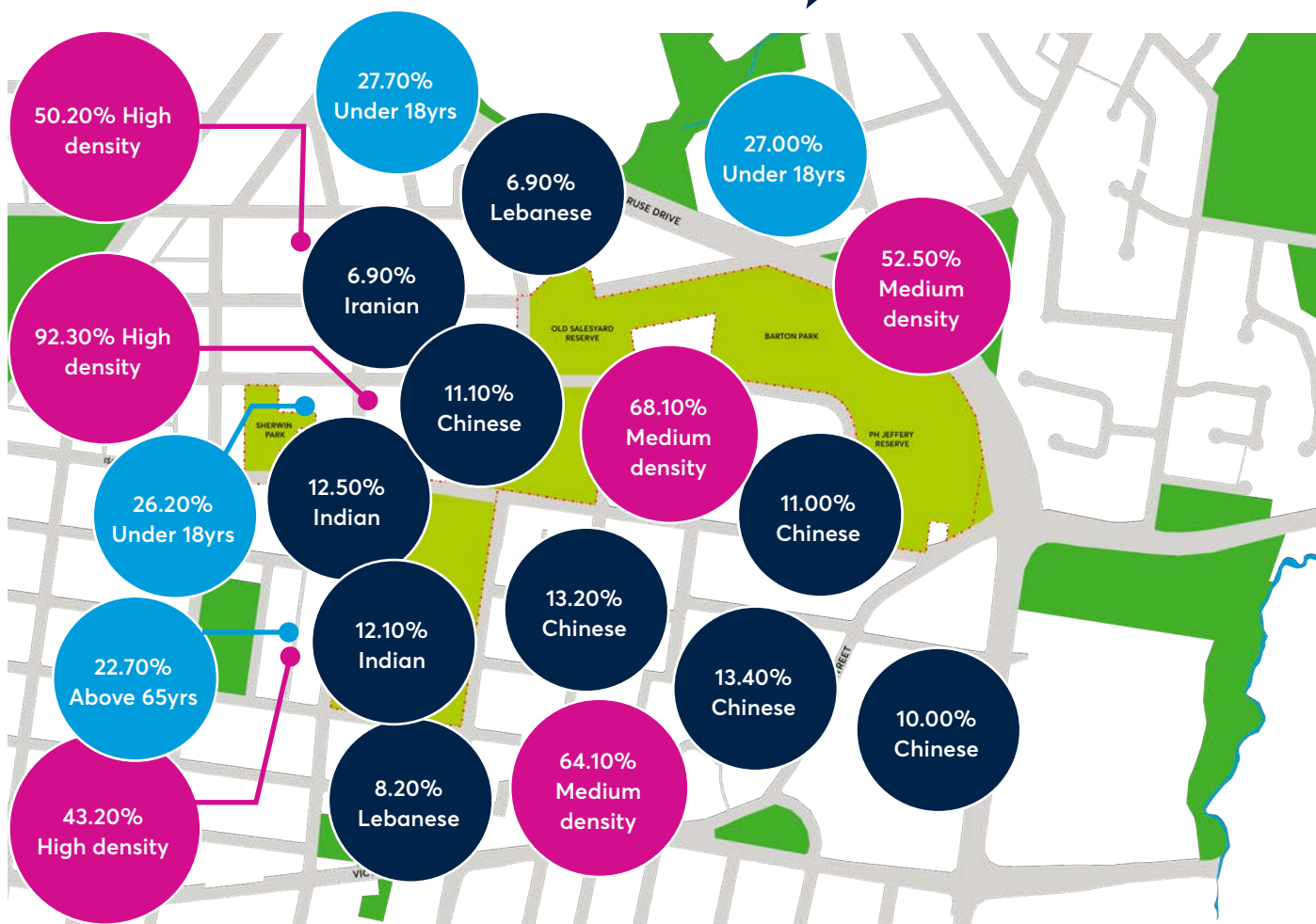
The demographic character of immediate neighbours - Heart of Play area

While the HOP master plan will service sporting and recreation needs for the North Parramatta area, and the growing and increasingly dense Catchment 4, the HOP master plan will also need to consider the informal, social and recreational local needs of the residents living around its edges.

The areas neighbouring the seven HOP open spaces are home to a highly diverse community with a majority of residents being born overseas, especially from India and China. At 27.7% of the population, the proportion of people under 18 years of age is higher in many of the neighbourhoods compared to Greater Sydney (22%). The percentage of people over 65 yrs of age (up to 22.7%) is also higher in some neighbourhoods in comparison to Greater Sydney (13.9%).

A large proportion of the population live in high and medium density housing (64%) in comparison with City of Parramatta and Greater Sydney (high density - 33.8% and 23.5% respectively). Given the density of the site, there will be a need for the master plan to balance the needs of locals needing "a backyard" away from the home, and broader district and regional sporting infrastructure needs.

- Culturally diverse community
- More people live in high & medium density housing
- More young people
- More old people





What do these demographic characteristics mean for Heart of Play?

A growing population who will live in high and medium density housing with increased reliance on open spaces.

- There is significant forecast population growth across the HOP area, North Parramatta suburb and City of Parramatta LGA indicating a growing demand for increased open space and recreation opportunities.
- Given the medium and high density of the area, there will be a need for access to social and recreational spaces outside of the home, providing 'a backyard' for those without one including quality local parks close to dwellings, larger spaces for social gatherings, play spaces for children and informal sporting areas.

A culturally diverse community who will use the HOP open spaces in varied ways

- Given the high cultural diversity as well as a high proportion of people who have recently arrived in Australia, the HOP master plan should facilitate opportunities for social connection as well as celebration of cultural diversity. The HOP master plan should provide for the varying cultural needs

of the existing and future groups. This includes enabling nighttime recreation, catering for increased demand for informal and social sports (such as cricket, soccer and touch) and facilities that support large gatherings of family and friends.

High proportion of young and old people who will use the HOP area differently

- The HOP master plan will need free, informal and engaging places for children and young people to play, recreate, and learn in the outdoors. It will also need gathering spaces for the elderly, inclusive, dynamic exercise equipment, and walking trails to facilitate elderly exercises, and it will be a high priority to support a safe, and healthy living environment.

A growing lone household population with an increased need to socialise

- Given the high proportion of lone persons and single parent families, there will be a need for the HOP master plan to facilitate opportunities for social connection and community.



Section 3

Place context & site analysis

This section explores the current site functions, and connectivity to other services and systems.

Place context

Parramatta is a place rich in a diverse range of social and cultural infrastructure. Now being recognised as Sydney's 'second city,' the region has become home to major cultural institutions, including the hub for State Government agencies, Western Sydney University and the ever evolving Sydney Olympic Precinct.

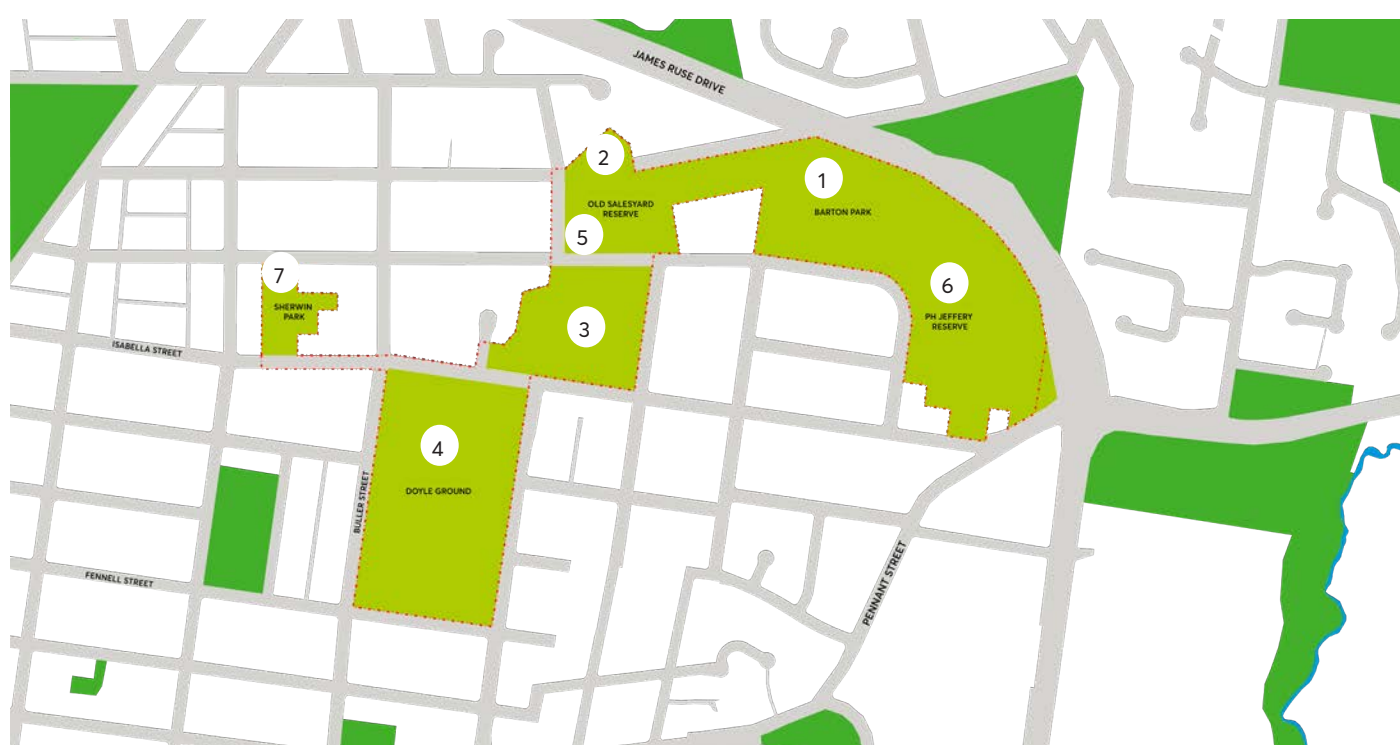


TABLE 7 - CURRENT FACILITIES AND USES WITHIN HEART OF PLAY

No.	Space	Description
①	Barton Park	1 athletics track, 1 club building, field lights, exercise equipment, play space oval track, long jump pit, throwing cages. Used for both senior and junior athletics in summer and winter, and used extensively for school sport carnivals
②	Corry Court Reserve	Grassed and tree area
③	Dan Mahoney Reserve	Grassed oval for dogs off-leash, 1 club building, 2 containers, field lights
④	Doyle Ground	3 fields (with capacity for 10 touch football field), 2 cricket pitches, field lights, 1 clubroom, 2 exercise, play space equipment areas, picnic settings, circuit path
⑤	Old Saleyards Reserve	2 rugby league fields, 2 club buildings, field lighting, synthetic running track
⑥	P H Jeffery Reserve and Tennis Complex	1 field with throwing cages for athletics, 16 outdoor courts with lights, 2 club buildings linked to tennis, 1 club building linked to field, car parking Field which was reconstructed in 2018 is used for football during winter and athletics during summer.
⑦	Sherwin Park	Playspace, 1 outdoor court, picnic settings and shelter, path

In Heart of Play, we have



7

Parks



5

Sports fields



Currently used
for a yearly
average of

123hrs

of formal sport
per week



3

Play spaces



9

Council
playing fields



18

Council Courts



21

regular hirers of
sporting, fitness and
open space



9

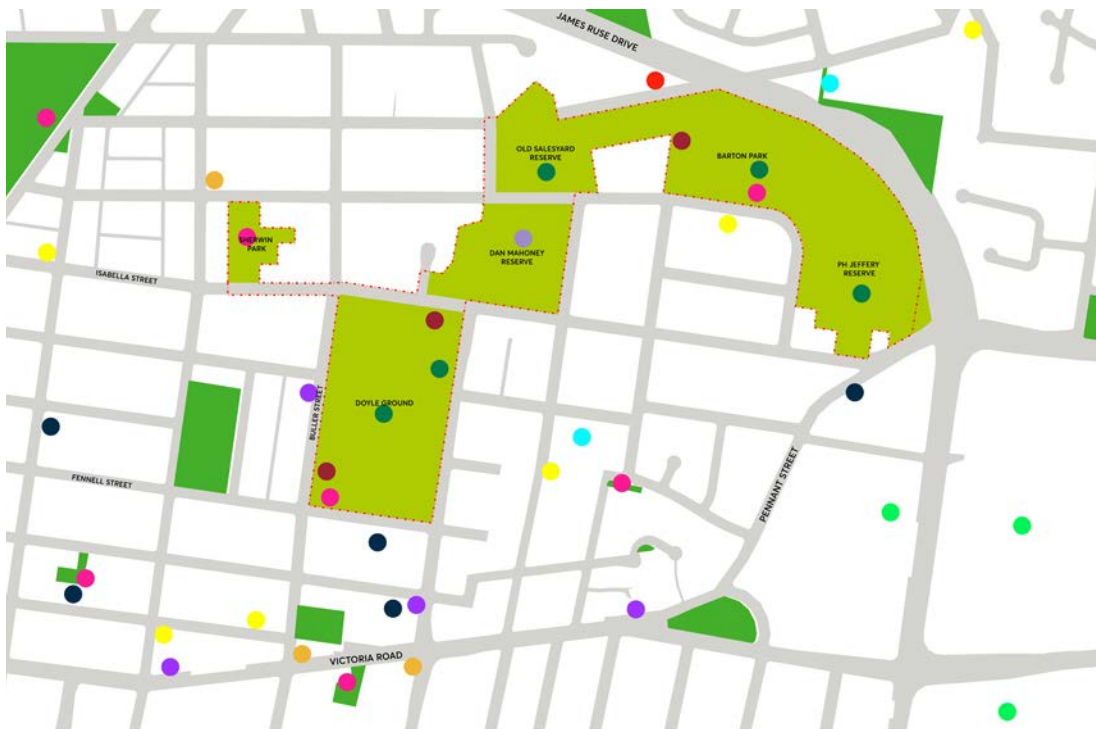
Different sports played
formally across our
sportsgrounds



8

Clubhouses

Place in pictures



Legend

- University
- School
- Playspace
- Cafe / Restaurant
- Shops
- Social infrastructure
- Sporting facility
- Child care
- Fitness
- Dog park
- Place of worship



1st Scout Hall Parramatta



The Container Cafe, Buller Street



Universities, Western Sydney University South Campus



Shopping Facilities, Victoria Road



Reggio Emilia Early Learning Centre



Parramatta East Public School



Old Saleyards

- 2 x rugby league fields
- 2 x club buildings
- Synthetic running track



P H Jeffery Tennis Courts

P H Jeffery

- Field and throwing cages for athletics
- 16 outdoor courts with lights
- 2 x tennis club buildings
- 1 x field club building
- Field reconstructed in 2018



Doyle Ground - Parramatta Touch Football

Doyle Ground

- 3 x fields and lighting
- Capacity to transform into 10 touch football fields
- 2 x cricket pitches
- Club room
- 2 x exercise equipment
- Play space
- Picnic settings
- Circuit path



Barton Park - Parramatta Little Athletics

Barton Park

- Athletics track and lighting
- Club building
- Exercise equipment
- Play space
- Oval track
- Long jump pit
- Throwing cages
- Used for senior and junior athletics in summer and winter and extensively for school sport carnivals



Sherwin Park

- Play space
- Outdoor court
- Picnic settings and shelter
- Path



Dan Mahoney Reserve - Off Leash Dog Park

Dan Mahoney

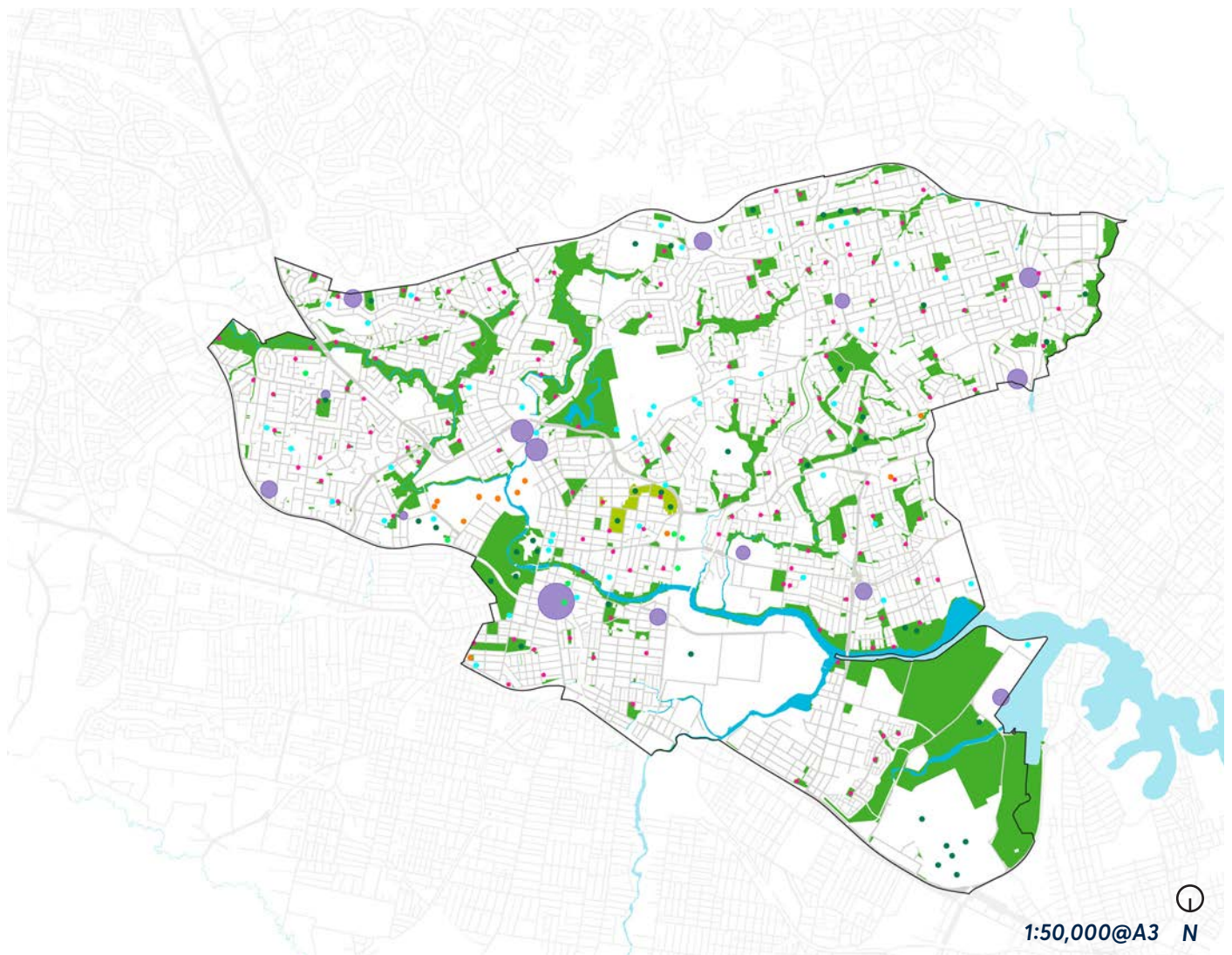
- Grassed oval for dog off-leash area
- Club building
- 2 x containers
- Field lights

Site analysis

This section provides a comprehensive analysis of the HOP site at a regional and local context level including site conditions, movement, built and unbuilt infrastructure, social and cultural infrastructure.

Social and Cultural Infrastructure

Regional Scale

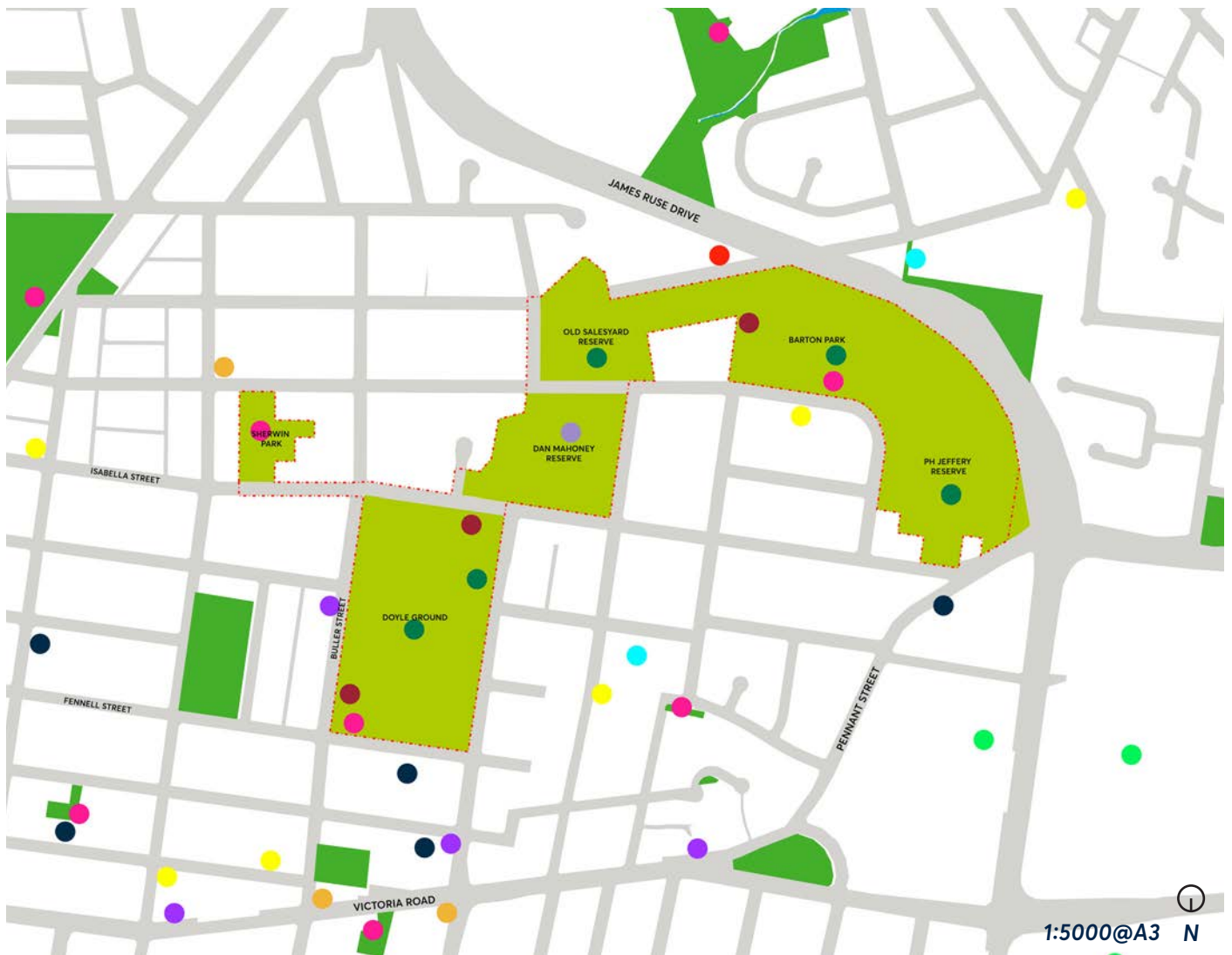


Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Site | Roadways | University | Medical Service |
| Open Space | Parramatta LGA boundary | Educational Facility | Shopping Precinct |
| Water-feature | | Playspace | Sport / Recreation |

Neighbourhood scale

- Recreation is the primary place feature within the site, however there is limited cafe and restaurant facilities to support the users of these spaces.
- There are opportunities to increase the prevalence and availability of dining facilities in the area.



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Site | Roadways | University | Cafe / Restaurant | Sporting Facility | Dog Park |
| Open Space | School | Shops | Playspace | Place of Worship | |
| Water-feature | Child Care | Community Facility | Fitness | | |

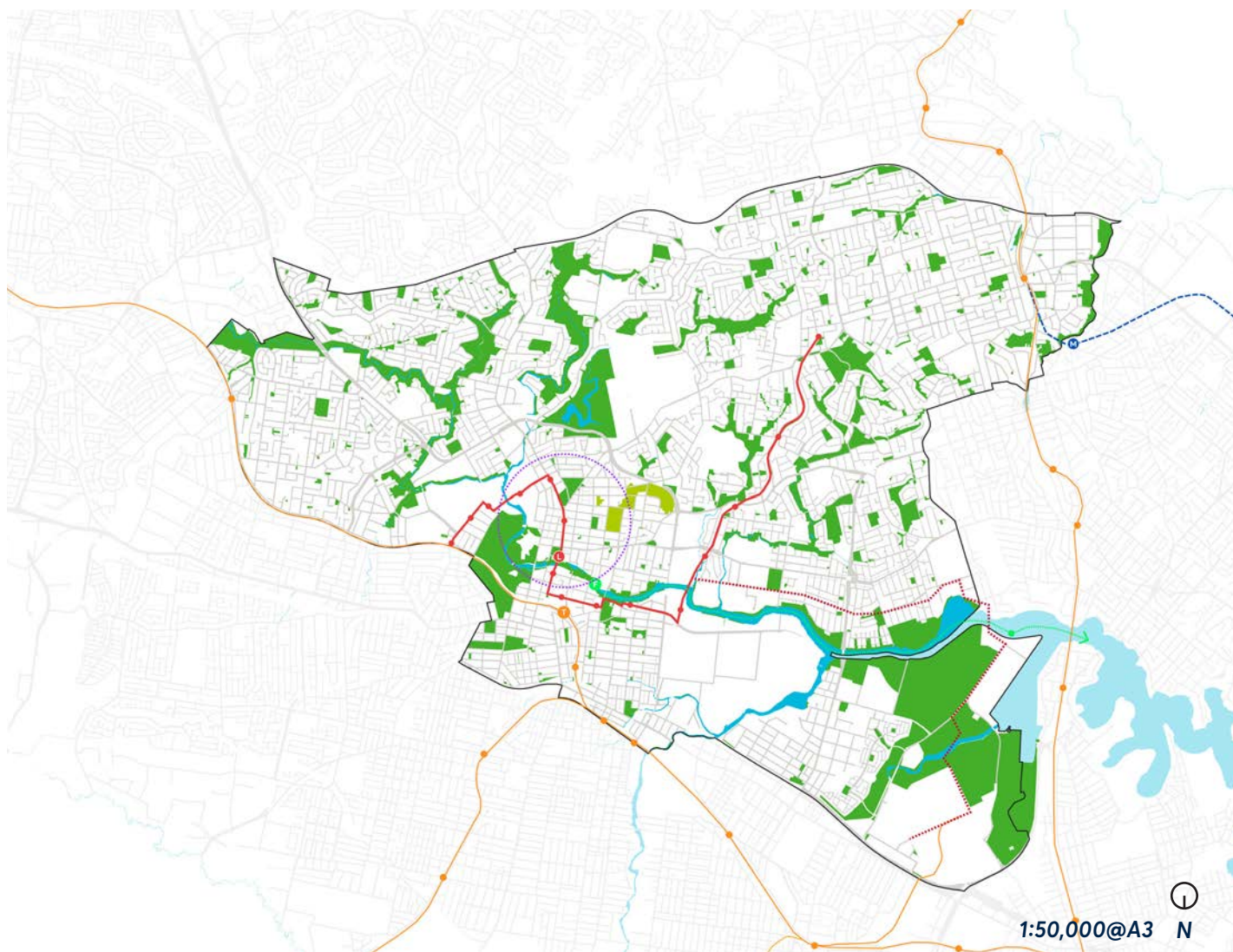
Mobility

Parramatta is an ever evolving city. There have been great strides made in public infrastructure, particularly in regards to public transport. With the new light-rail, improved cycle connections and greater understanding of pedestrian networks (through Parramatta Ways), Parramatta is to set a precedence for mobility within Greater Sydney.

Public Transport

Regional Public Transport Network

- There are ample public transport connections within the LGA.
- Future Light rail connections will improve the Central Business District (CBD) mobility and wider connections to key destinations / town centers.



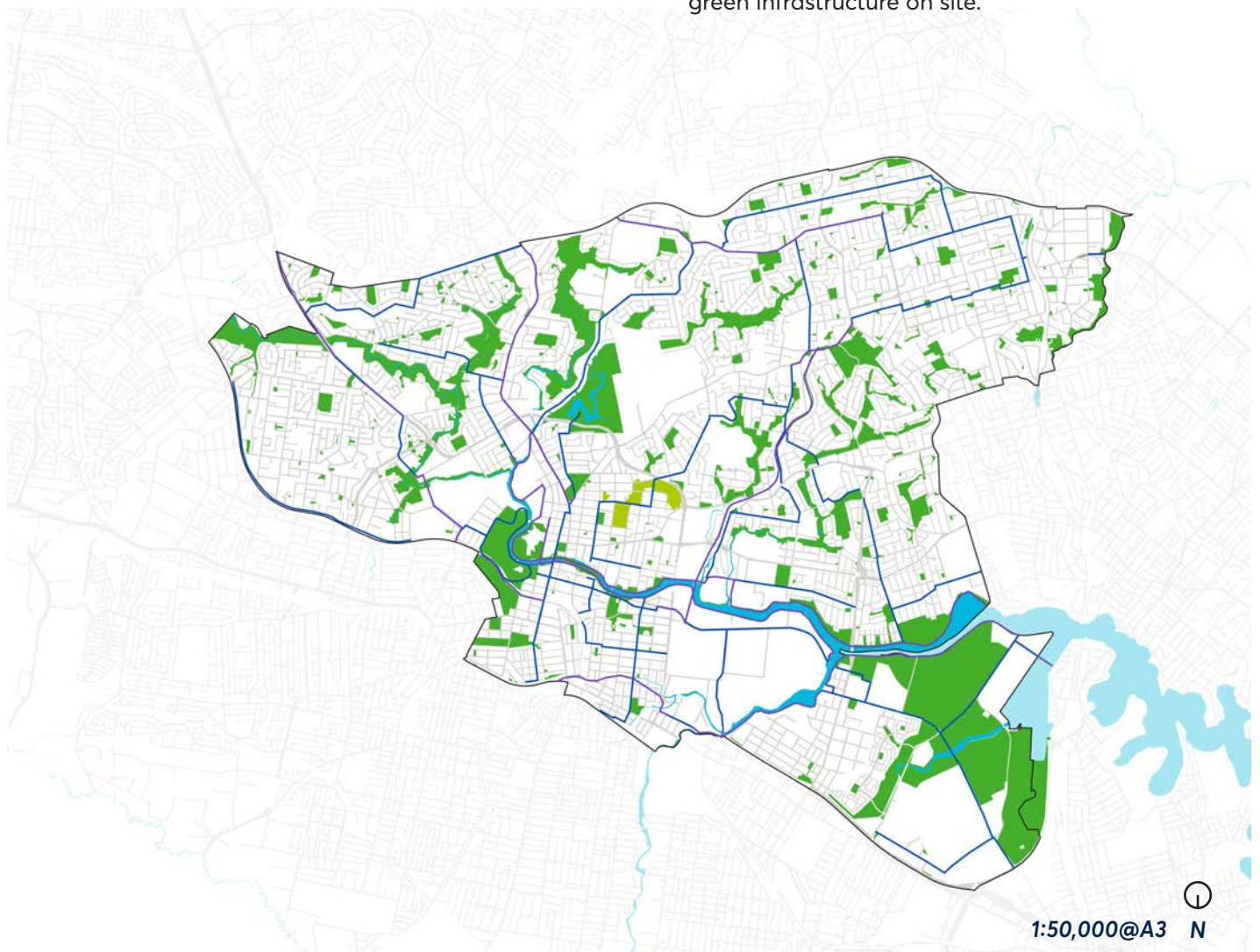
Legend

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Site | Roadways | Light Rail (Stage 1) | Metro Line |
| Open Space | Parramatta LGA boundary | Light Rail (Stage 2) | Ferry Route |
| Water-feature | | Train Line | 10min walking radius from nearest Light Rail Stop to HoP (1km radius) |

Cycle Infrastructure

Future Regional Cycle Network

- There are many proposed regional cycle routes connecting the CBD to the greater open space network, including the site
- Multiple opportunities to support the proposed network through cycle parking, cycle routes and green infrastructure on site.



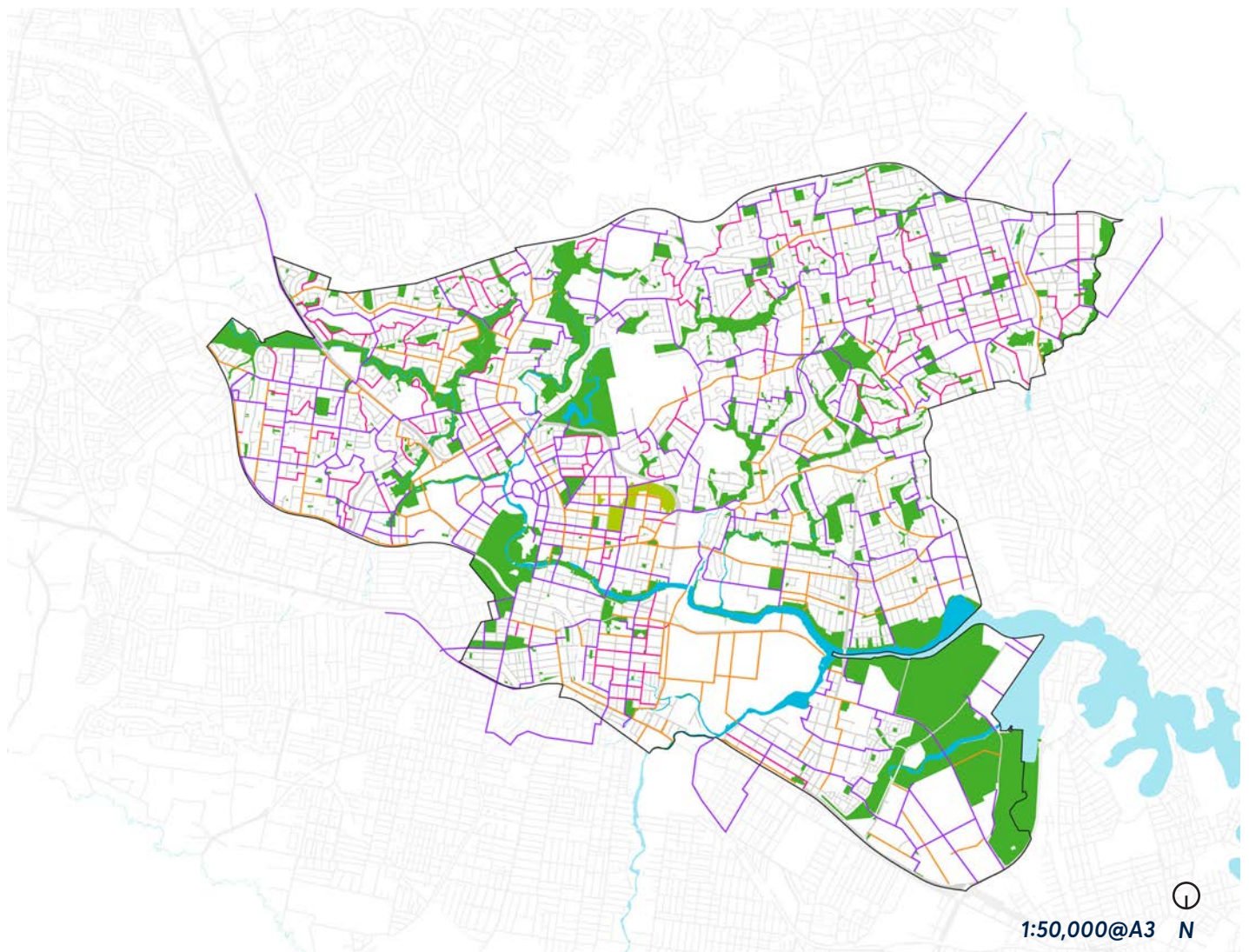
Legend

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Site | Roadways | Regional Cycle On Road |
| Open Space | Parramatta LGA boundary | Regional Cycle Off Road |
| Water-feature | | |

Pedestrian Network

Parramatta Ways

- Mapping details the proposed regional walking route.
- The pedestrian network is to be supported by the improved greening of street and open space corridors, and improved public transport infrastructure.



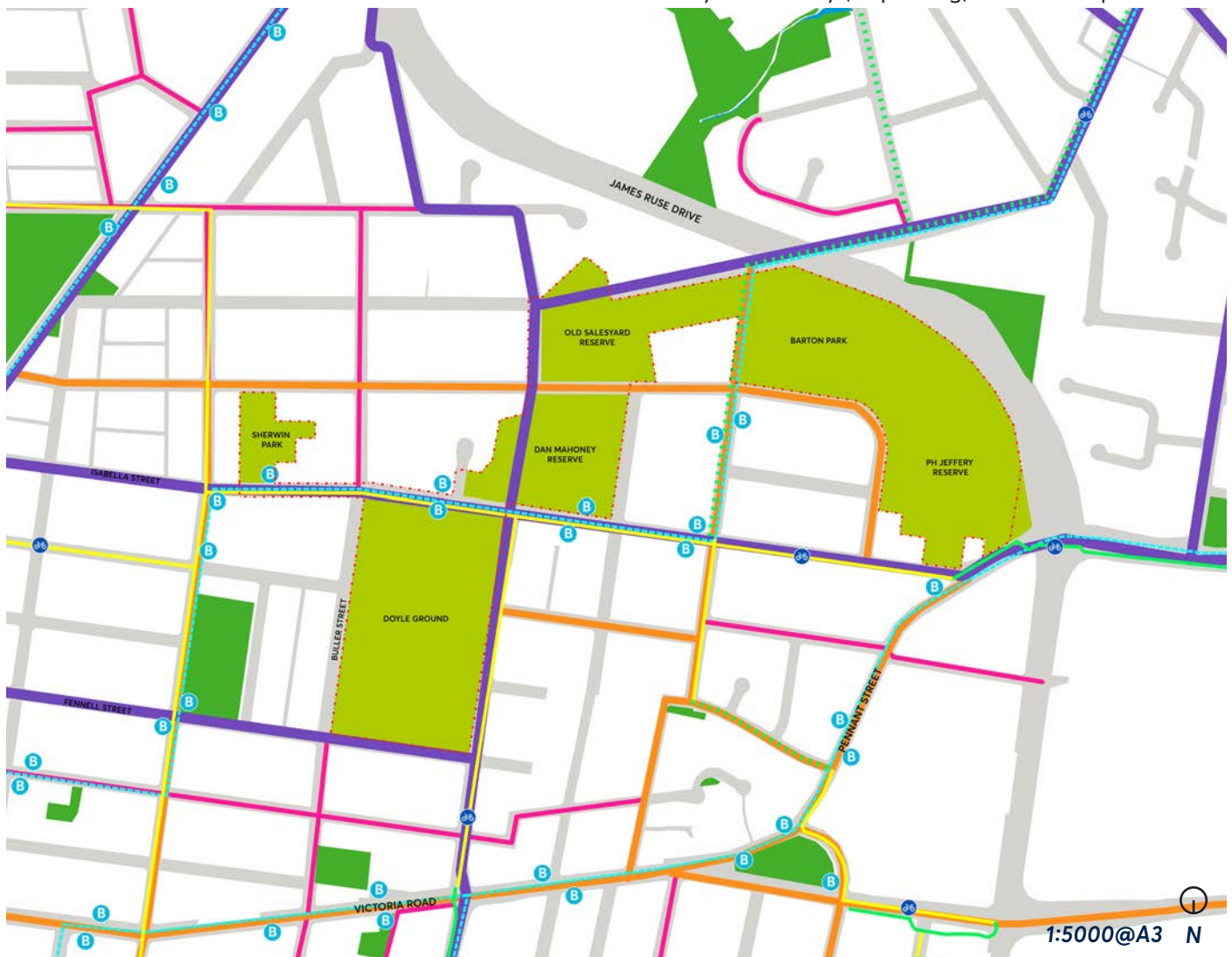
Legend

Site	Roadways	Major Route
Open Space	Parramatta LGA boundary	Intermediate Route
Water-feature		Local Route

Mobility within Heart of Parramatta

Public Transport, Pedestrian and Cycle

- The site is well connected to the proposed Parramatta Ways network and is an important green corridor for the scheme.
- There are ample bus connections, mostly east-west.
- Cycle amenity (i.e parking) could be improved.



Legend

Site	Roadways	Major Route	Proposed Cycle (on road - painted)
Open Space	Bus Route	Intermediate Route	Proposed Cycle (on road - mixed traffic)
Water-feature	Bus Stop	Local Route	Proposed Cycle (off road - shared path)

Site Conditions

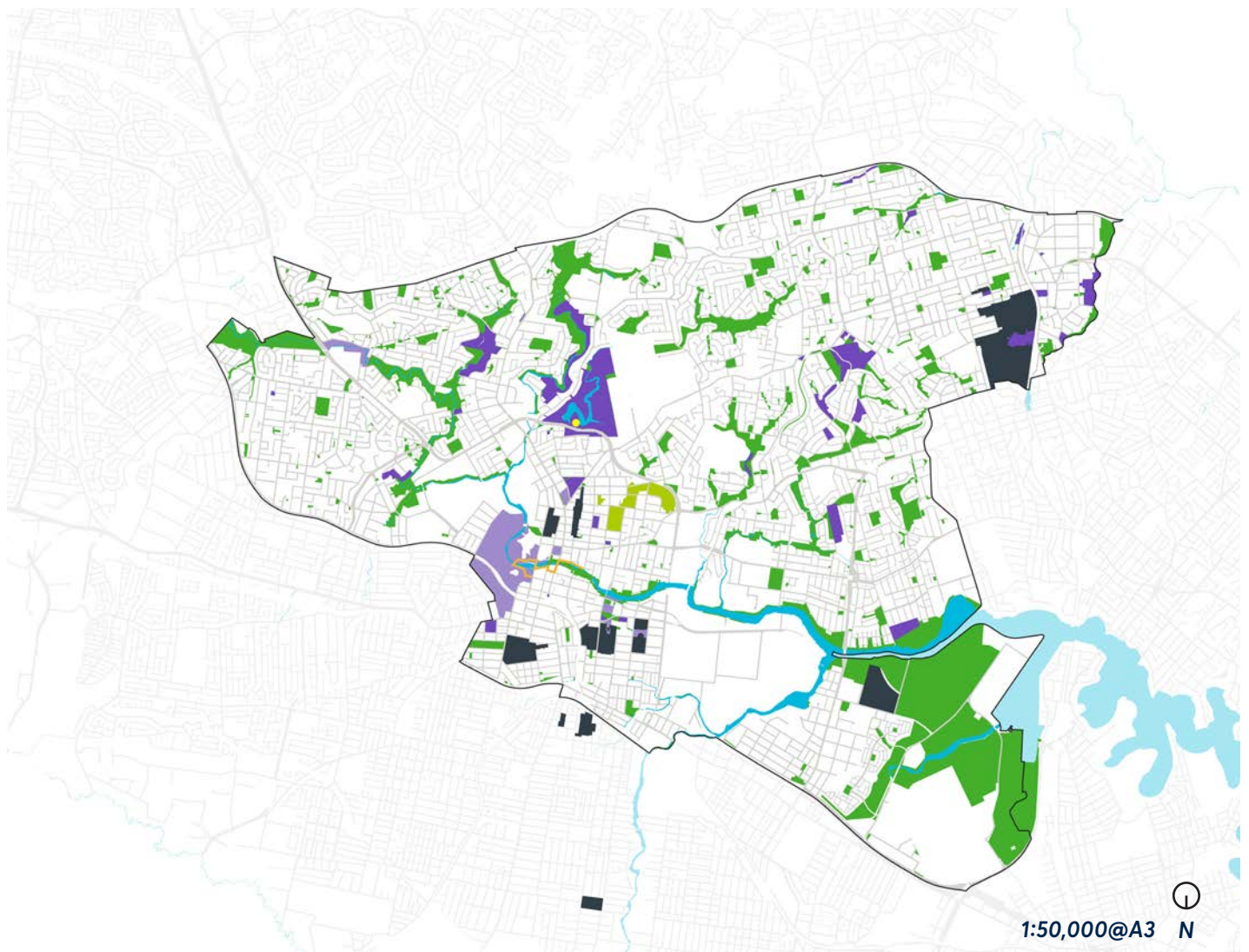
The site provides a comprehensive analysis of the HOP site at a regional and local context level, including site conditions, movement, built and unbuilt infrastructure and social and cultural infrastructure.

Society and Culture

Heritage

Key Sites

- The Parramatta LGA has an array of historical key sites.
- Many sites are located along Parramatta river; the River is an important element in both the Indigenous and non-indigenous historical narrative.

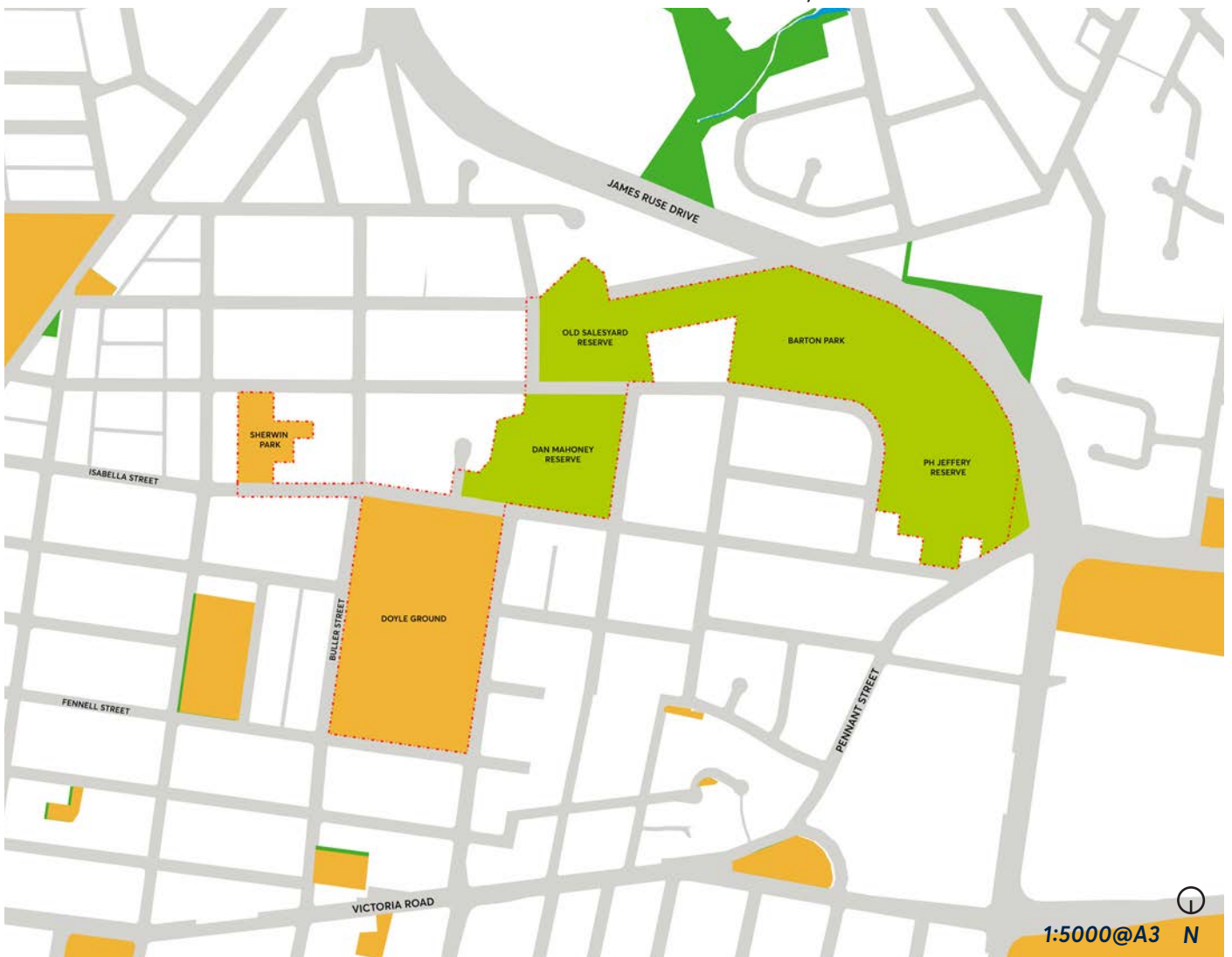


Legend

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| ■ Site | — Roadways | ■ European Heritage Site | ● She-oak Walk starting point |
| ■ Open Space | — Parramatta LGA | ■ Site recognised under State Heritage Act | — Parramatta River Cultural Walk |
| — Water-feature | | ■ Local Environment Plan Historical Site | |

Indigenous Heritage

- Within the site, both Doyle Ground and Sherwin Park are recognised as areas of high sensitivity for Indigenous peoples.
- Further consultation and information is required to understand the implications and meaning of the levels of sensitivity.



Legend

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Site | Roadways |
| Open Space | High sensitivity site |
| Water-feature | |

European heritage within the HoP

Dan Mahoney Reserve

Namesake: *Daniel John Mahoney, Mayor of Parramatta in 1958.*

The reserve was established in 1957. The namesake, Daniel John Mahoney, served as key politician for the area of Parramatta, in both local and state government.

The majority of the reserve is Crown land reserved for public recreation in 1969.

Doyle Ground

Namesake: *Cecil Howe Doyle.*

The land of Doyle Ground was originally owned by its namesake, Cecil Howe Doyle, who purchased the land off an old rifle range, to meet the sporting needs of the The Kings School. Council then acquired this land from the school in 1950's.

Old Saleyard Reserve

Namesake: *Likely commemorating the livestock saleyard.*

This is the site of the former Parramatta livestock saleyards, between 1950 until c.1980.

Sherwin Park

Namesake: *Likely commemorating the Sherwin Family.*

The park was likely named after the Sherwin family, who were early land grantees and operated a local brick making business in the area in the late-1800s.

PH Jeffery Reserve

Namesake: *Phillip Henry Jeffery.*

Namesake, Phillip Henry Jeffery was an important member of local council from 1926 to 1943, and the Parramatta Hospital board for 25 years. The reserve is part of a large former quarry and landfill site, reserved for public recreation in 1955 and then finally converted to a recreational reserve in the early 1960's. Remnants of the Reserve's former life as a quarry remain evidently today around the southwest of the tennis court complex.

Barton Park

Namesake: *Colonial land grantee, William Barton.*

Before its current life as an athletics field, Barton Park was used as a land-fill site in the 1960s and early-1970s. Most waste was domestic, with some layers of ash and 'trade waste' laid on-top prior to re-purposing.

Corry Court Reserve

Namesake: *Somerset Richard Lowry-Corry*

Somerset Richard Lowry-Corry (1835-1913), 4th Earl Belmore (Viscount Corry) was the governor of NSW from January 1868 until February 1872. The reserve was transferred to Baulkham Hills Shire Council when the surrounding land was subdivided for residential housing in 1980.



Aerial Imagery of the Heart of Parramatta c.1943.
Source SIX Maps (not to scale)

- 1 Dan Mahoney Reserve
- 2 Doyle Ground
- 3 Old Saleyard Reserve
- 4 Sherwin Park
- 5 PH Jeffery Reserve
- 6 Barton Park
- 7 Corry Court Reserve



Doyle Ground - Parramatta Touch Football



Aerial Imagery: Circa 2003

Built Form + Use

- Primarily finer grain grid network of buildings.
- Most buildings on site/s are associated with the clubs and sporting entities that use the fields.
- Opportunity to improve and upgrade existing amenities.



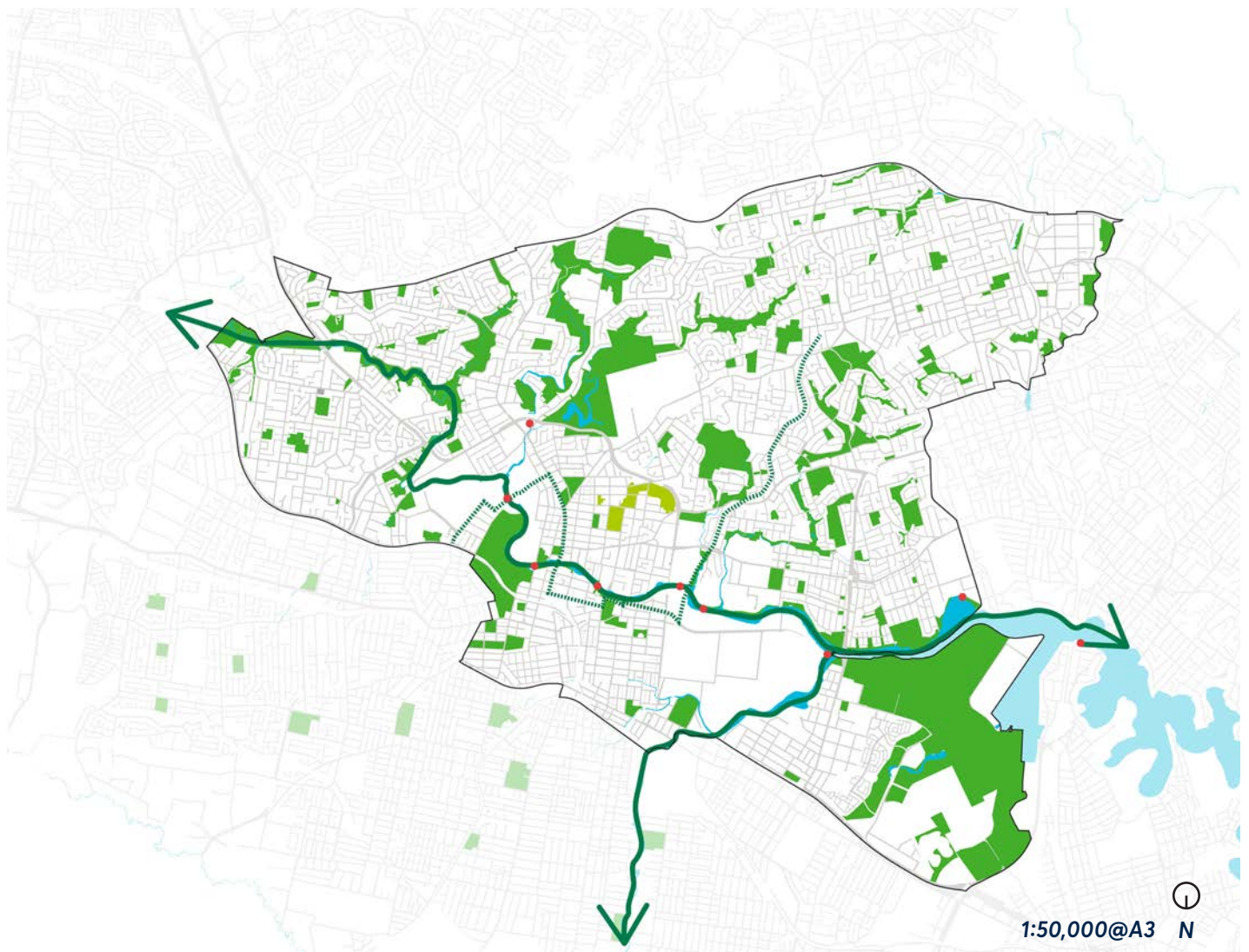
Legend

Site	Roadways	① Club Building	④ Club Building	⑦ Parramatta City Tennis Courts + Club Buildings
Open Space	Built Form	② Club Building	⑤ Club Building	
Water-feature		③ Club Building	⑥ Club Building	

Environment and Open Space

Green / Blue Network

- CoP is the epicenter for a number of key Green Grid opportunities
- Most green infrastructural opportunities are anchored off the Parramatta River and Lakes

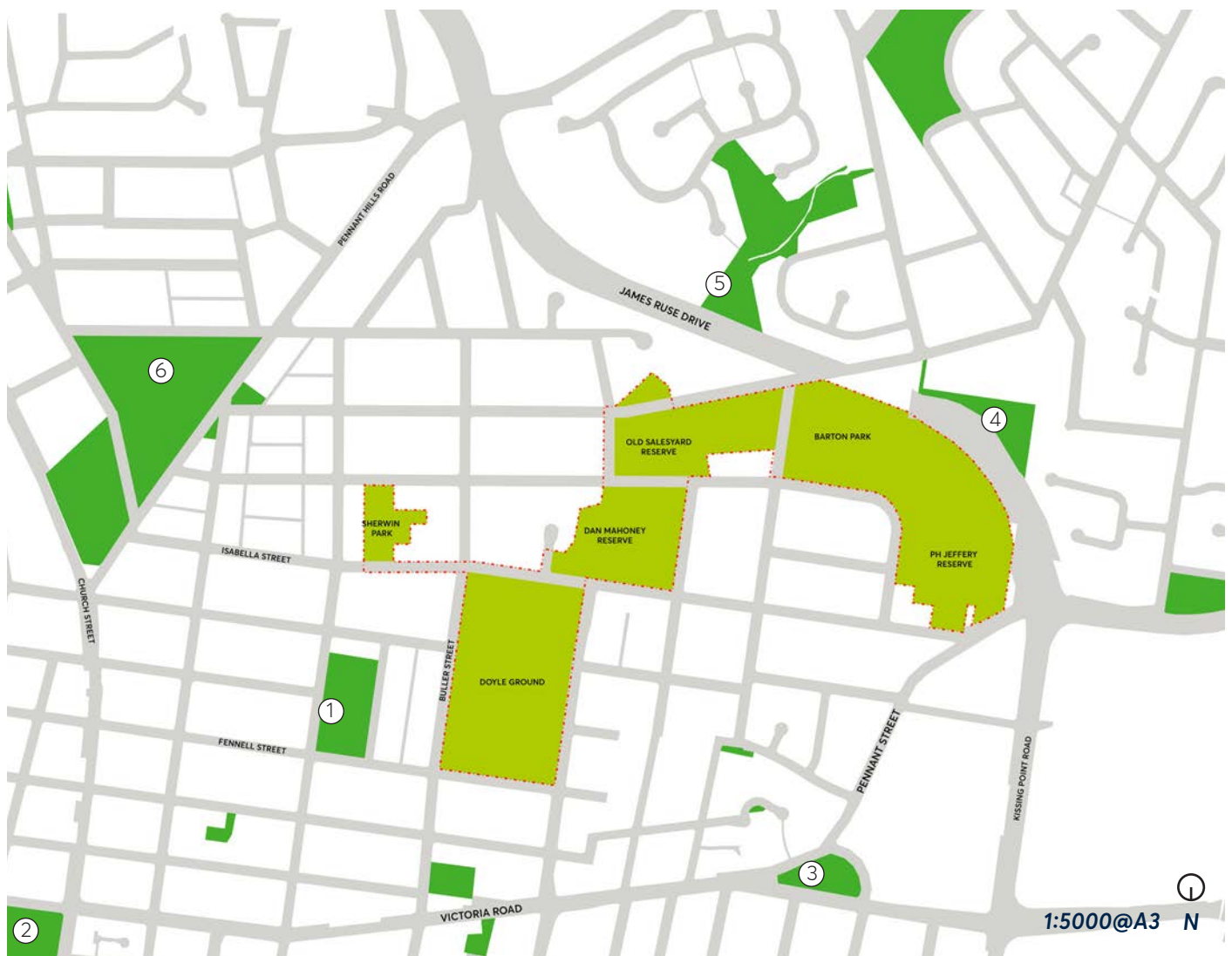


Legend

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Site | Roadways | Green Grid Major Opportunity |
| Open Space | Parramatta LGA | Light Rail |
| Water-feature | | Key Green Grid Node |

Open Space Network

- Existing canopy is primarily located along the perimeter of the parks.
- Opportunity to increase the canopy coverage across site, tying into the green grid and contributing to the 40% canopy target for Greater Sydney.



Legend

Site

Open Space

Water-feature

① All Saints Cemetery

② Print Alfred Square

③ Collett Park

④ Barton Park

⑤ Burnside Gollan Reserve

⑥ Belmore Park

Urban Canopy Coverage

- Despite being a considerable area of open green space, most of the site lacks canopy coverage.
- With the exception of Sherwin Park, all sites fall below 30% canopy coverage.

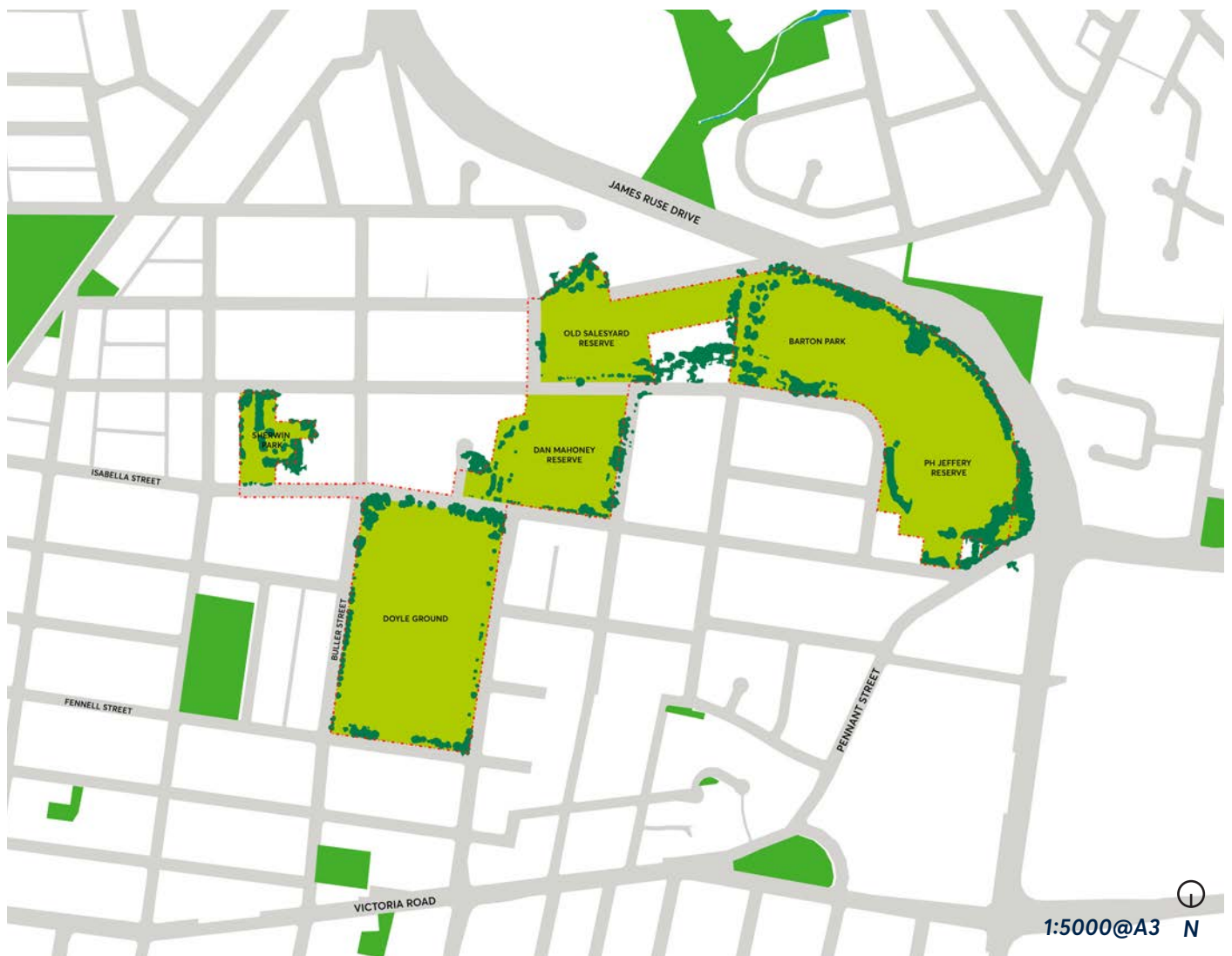


Legend

- - - Site
- 10%
- 10-20%
- 20-30%
- 30-40%
- >40%

Site Canopy

- Existing canopy is primarily located along the perimeter of the parks.
- Opportunity to increase the canopy coverage across site, tying into the green grid and contributing to the 40% canopy target for Greater Sydney.

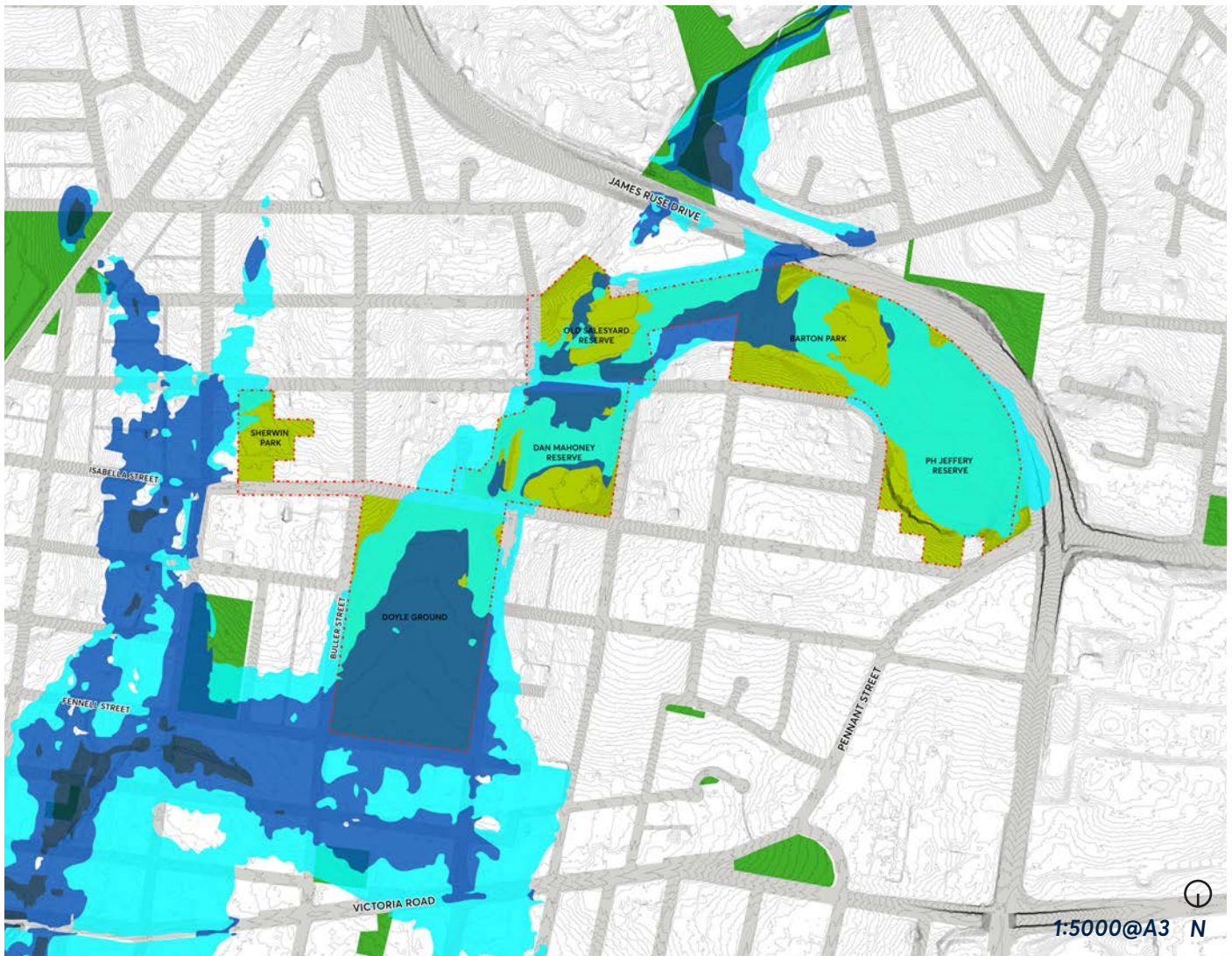


Legend

- Site
- Open Space
- Water-feature
- Existing canopy

Hydrology and Flooding

- All grounds within site are at risk of flooding.
- Primary Flood zone - Doyle Ground
- Opportunity to mitigate flooding through considered application of WSUD principles



Legend

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| Site | Roadways | Flood - High Risk |
| Open Space | Contours | Flood - Medium Risk |
| Water-feature | | Flood - Low Risk |

Summary of CoP water reports

Water Quality Improvement Opportunities (City of Parramatta)



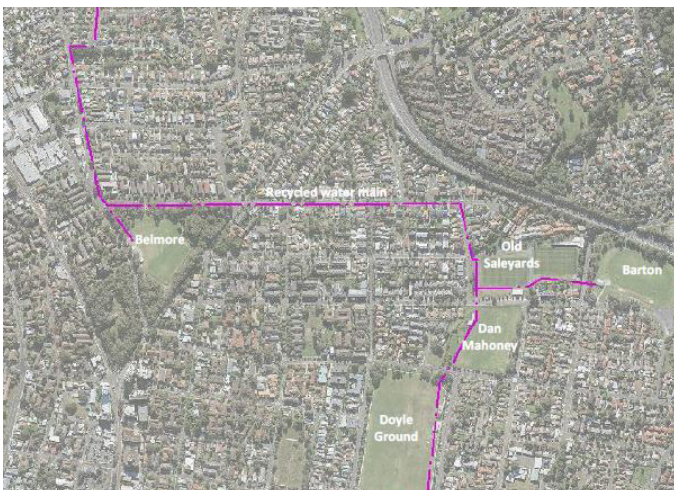
Above: Concept Sketch Dan Mahoney Reserve (extracted from 'Water Quality Improvement Options Report')

- The report researches and outlines the opportunities within the LGA for improving the water quality of local lakes and tributaries.
- Various sites across the LGA were reviewed and scored based on their suitability to contribute to the improvement scheme.
- Dan Mahoney is the highest ranked of all sites within this project. It was further shortlisted as a 'best site' following council workshops.
- The report proposes that Dan Mahoney Reserve has the potential to hold two bioretention areas and a swale proposed to treat urban stormwater runoff from the surround 22.6ha catchment area.
- It is important to note that the report acknowledges the presence of asbestos on site.

Summary of CoP water reports

Corporate Water Use Reduction (City of Parramatta)

- The report has investigated the potable water use within the LGA and proceeds to make recommendations on how the current usage rate can be reduced over the long term.
- Assessment of Doyle Ground: No subsoil drainage on site. Recently undertaken organic top soiling. Stormwater harvesting scheme on site requires regular maintenance due to regular blockages.
- Assessment of Old Salesyard Reserve: Subsoil drainage system installed, though is not connected to any water reuse system and it only installed on the western most field. The eastern most field is poorly drained and often not able to be used. There is an extensive irrigation system currently in place, though this is currently maintained by the Leagues Club.



Above: Indicative pipeline route of a Lake Parramatta scheme (extracted from 'Corporate Water Use Reduction Report')

Parramatta Lakes

- The report proposes that Dan Mahoney Reserve could have water supplied from the storage catchment at Lake Parramatta.
- It is suggested that Lake Parramatta could also comfortably supply the cluster of parks in the area (with the exception of PH Jefferey Reserve and Sherwin Park)



Above: Clay Cliff Creek / Brickfields Creek regional baseflow harvesting scheme diagram (extracted from 'Corporate Water Use Reduction Report')

Parramatta River Scheme

- The Brickfields / Clay Cliff Creek could provide recycled water to the same selection of parks.
- This option is recommended as an alternative, with the Lakes catchment the preferred.

Soil

- Geologically, the site is primarily a dark grey shale / laminate mix and medium to coarse grained quartz sandstone.

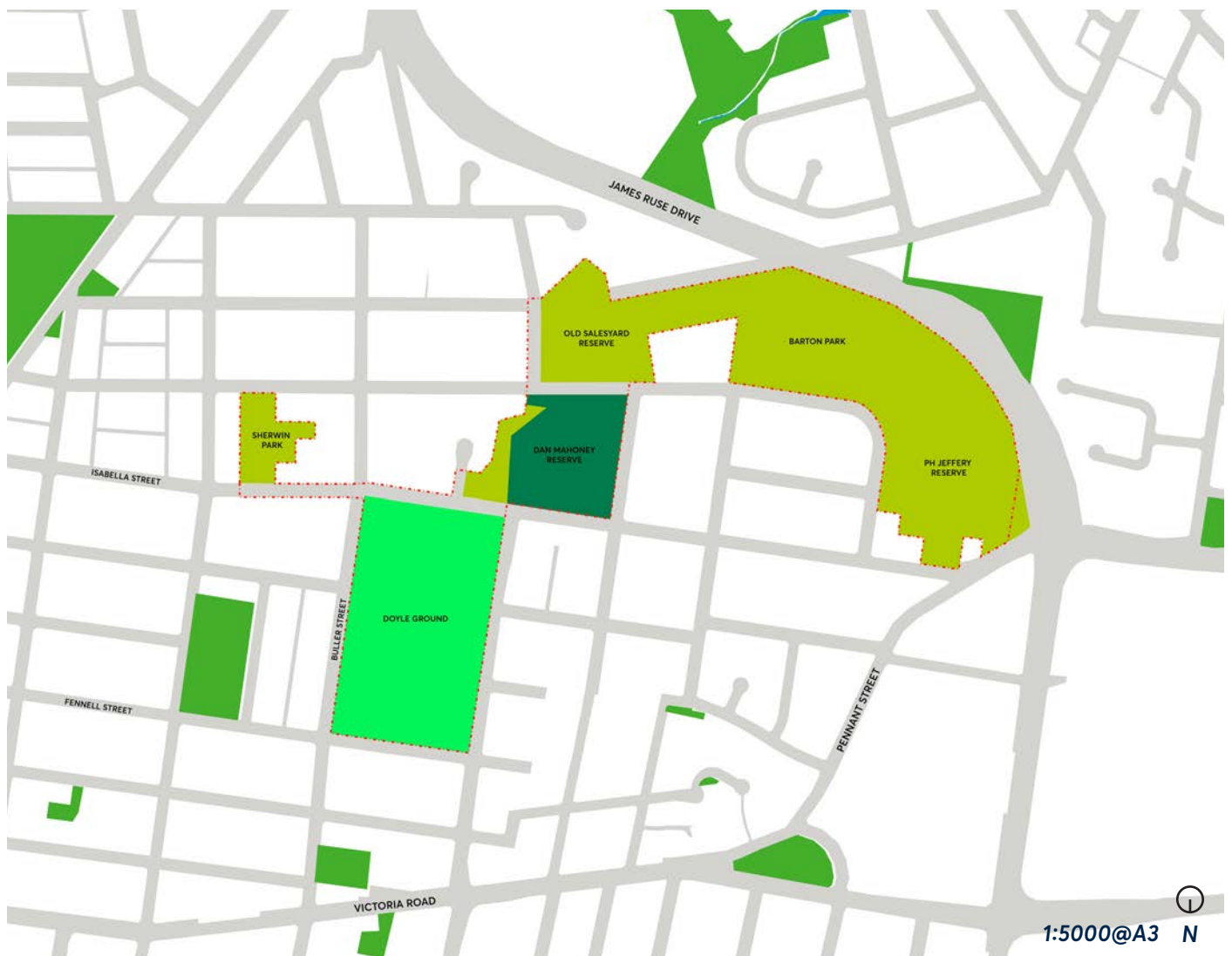


Legend

- - - Site Boundary
- Road
- Alluvial
- Disturbed Terrain
- Erosional
- Residual

Contaminated Landscape

- Extensive testing undertaken on fields and open spaces across CoP
- Testing revealed no need for work in Doyle , though work required to ensure safety at Dan Mahoney



Legend

- Site
- Roadways
- Land tested for contamination
- Open Space
- Land requiring remediation
- Water-feature

Heat

- Mapping of 'Heat Vulnerability Index: representing exposure, sensitivity or adaptive capacity to urban heat on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 - high exposure + sensitivity, 1 - low exposure + sensitivity)
- Heat retention issues across the entire site.

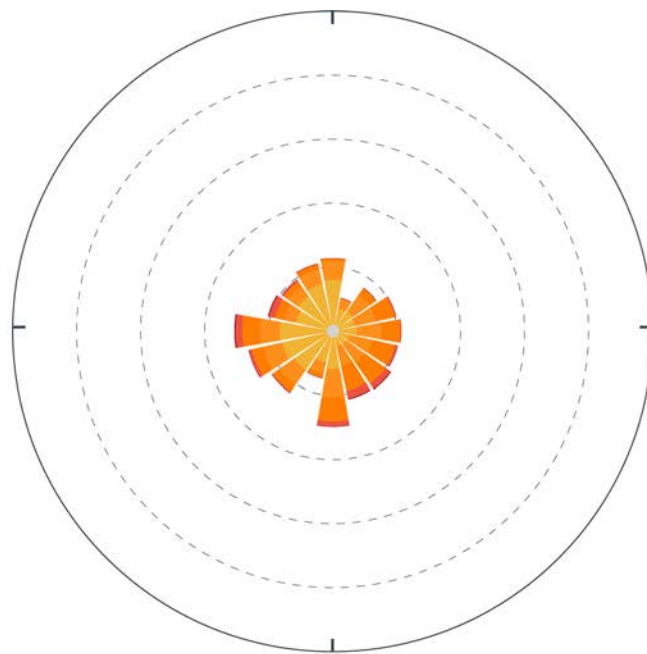


Legend

- - - Site Boundary
- Road
- HVI Level 5
- HVI Level 4
- HVI Level 3
- HVI Level 2

Wind

- The site is exposed to predominantly winds from the south / southeast and west.
- Between September - January, the average wind speed is at the highest. During the winter months, the wind speeds are significantly lighter.



Above: Wind Rose data - 5 year averages Jan 2015 - Current
(Extracted from Willy Weather Climate Statistics)

Infrastructure

Circulation, Private Transport and Parking

- Ample parking around the site and immediate streets for sporting events.
- Opportunity to improve pedestrian connections between the parks through wayfinding solutions.



Legend				
Site	Roadways	Recreational Footpath	Timed Parking (weekdays)	Public Carpark
Open Space	Crossing Island	Signalised Intersection	Street Parking	Major Road
Water-feature	Council Footpath	90 degree parking	Informal Parking	

Safety and Security

- Gates and fences have been applied to the Dan Mahoney Reserve and Old Saleyard Reserve for safety and security reasons.
- Opportunity to improve the safety of the underpass beneath James Ruse Drive.



Legend		
Site	Roadways	Private / Residential Fence-line
Open Space	Security Fence	Dog Park Entry
Water-feature	Dog Park Fence	Underpass

Services and Lighting

- Ample sports field lighting to most field spaces.
- More documentation / research required to determine if the lighting provided is adequate for future activities.



Legend

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Site | Roadways | Existing Sports Field Lighting |
| Open Space | | Tennis Court Lighting |
| Water-feature | | Park Lighting |

What do these site characteristics mean for Heart of Play?

Society and culture

- The site is rich in recreational, organised sport facilities. These facilities have worked well to support and encourage local sporting clubs. Their use of the field spaces have ensured that they are activated during most weekends, occasional weekdays and evenings. However these large open spaces are not well supported by other social infrastructure, such as cafes.
- The area has an abundance of school and childcare facilities. The Parramatta East Public School frequents Doyle Ground. Providing clearer pedestrian networks would encourage other educational and childcare facilities within the area to safely access the site and increase activation during weekdays.
- Cafes / Kiosks provide an economic and social incentive for people to use the space, though they are limited in the immediate region.
- Providing a diversity of recreational experience and co-locating them with other social and economic amenity will encourage more daytime, informal use from local families and social organisations.

Environment and open space

- Climate extremes are strongly felt within the Parramatta LGA and pose great challenges for the present usability of the site. All mapping indicates that the parks are highly susceptible to flooding, heat retention and lack of cooling amenity due to poor canopy coverage.
- There is a great opportunity to showcase the benefits of implementing WSUD strategies to mitigate flooding issues, particularly on Doyle Ground. Reducing the impact of flooding and implementing water re-use schemes will improve the usability of site and set a new precedent for park landscapes within the region.
- Dan Mahoney reserve is also subject to flooding. However, more significantly it has been noted as a key site to assist in the improvement of the LGA's water quality. This assessment and potential of the site by CoP should be considered and improved upon where possible.
- Old Salesyard Reserve has water and irrigation infrastructure, however the system is limited in its

success, with the eastern fields often becoming unusable following rain events. Reviewing the network currently in place and updating / retrofitting will be required to maximise the usability of the field.

- Heat retention, particularly on the larger open spaces, reduces the comfort and usability of these spaces. Combating this with planting and canopy will also help in aligning the project with the principles and objectives outlined across many of policy documents relevant to the site.

Infrastructure

- Whilst public transport and private transport are well accounted for in the region, there could be improvements made in the cycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Pedestrian connections are presented in a 'traditional' manner through standard council footpaths and pedestrian islands. Building upon the early stages of a recreational / mixed use pathway around Doyle Ground will support pedestrian movement and increase park use.
- Networks between parks are not well defined and there is room to improve legibility and pedestrian priority in the area.
- The site has limited infrastructure to support the cycle routes proposed in the Parramatta Ways and Sydney Green Grid. The improvement of cycle parking, wayfinding and signage in the area will encourage recreational cyclists to access the area from the CBD and nearby neighbourhoods and, ease movement between sites.
- It is imperative that green infrastructure is ingrained in the mastelanning for the site. Providing network connections will ensure that the site is aligned current government thinking.
- Whilst sports and flood lighting is ample across most ground, lighting may need to be reconfigured to accommodate the master plan design. Further investigation will be required.



Section 4

Community sports and recreation needs analysis

This section provides a summary of community sports and recreation needs based on the City of Parramatta's comprehensive Community Infrastructure Strategy, analysis of sports utilisation and contemporary sporting and recreation trends.

NOTE: This section will be revised post community engagement, to include expressed needs from the general community, and regular sports and facility users of HOP

Sport and recreation needs analysis

Our community is growing and changing. Planning for HOP as part of a catchment, means that an additional 100,000 people will be accessing Heart of Play for sport and recreation by 2041. This is why it's so important to plan for this growth now, to ensure we can meet the needs of our community into the future.

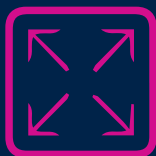
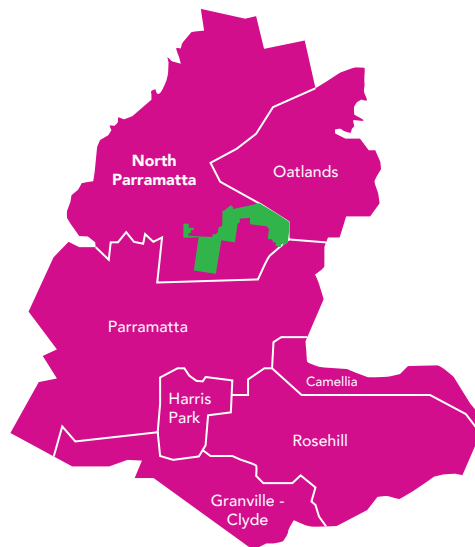
City of Parramatta Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS)

The Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS) outlines City of Parramatta Council's long term direction for social infrastructure provision. HOP offers the opportunity to help deliver the CIS needs.

The CIS is underpinned by a catchment based approach to planning for community infrastructure.

Heart of Play falls into Catchment 4, which includes the following suburbs: Parramatta, Granville, Camellia, North Parramatta, Oatlands, Harris Park, Mays Hill, Rosehill & Clyde.

Relevant infrastructure and facility needs identified in the CIS for Catchment 4 that HOP can deliver are listed in Table 8. The graphic below summarises the key take-aways.



Increase capacity and improve access to existing facilities



Create a network of inclusive play spaces



Provide multi-purpose community spaces



Provide outdoor community gathering spaces / picnic



Provide more cricket practice space



Improve tennis infrastructure



Provide more outdoor gyms and exercising areas



Create more walking and cycling loops



Provide off-leash dog areas

TABLE 8 - CIS NEEDS

Type	CoP benchmark	Catchment 4 needs (by 2036)	Strategic directions identified by the CIS to meet future demands	What does this mean for Heart of Play?
Sports-ground network	1ha/1000 people	+189ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase carrying capacity of fields through improvements in drainage, irrigation and turf quality • Increase shared use of fields by multiple sporting clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOP is a significant opportunity to improve access to high quality sportsgrounds, and where possible, increase sportsground space. • Strategies to increase capacity of existing sportsgrounds will be investigated in the master plan.
Play space network	1:2,000 people (including district and regional provision)	+44 play spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase play value of current play spaces • No net loss of play spaces • Increase local play through upgrade and redesign of existing pocket play • Increase district level play spaces through upgrade and redesign • Expand play types to meet the following targets: Nature Play 25%, Sensory Play - 75%, Imaginative play 50% of all play spaces • Increase all abilities play offerings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment 4 is forecast to have a significant gap in playspaces. Opportunities for a network of play will be explored in the master plan. • Existing and future play spaces within HOP offer potential to be upgraded to district, inclusive play. • New nature, sensory and imaginative play spaces can be provided through HOP.
Community facility floor space	80m ² /1000m ² per person	+8,309m ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a community space of 1000m² ideally as part of a larger community hub at North Parramatta • Deliver a network of regional community facilities • Deliver district level community hubs in each catchment • Deliver neighbourhood level community spaces to service local communities • Seek to increase access to non-Council community space • Explore options to increase community space provision throughout the LGA by promoting access to non-traditional sites (e.g. sportsground amenities buildings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOP presents a significant opportunity to consolidate clubhouses (where appropriate) and provide general local multi-purpose community and cultural floorspace that also serves local sporting needs.

Table continued on next page

Type	CoP benchmark	Catchment 4 needs (by 2036)	Strategic directions identified by the CIS to meet future demands	What does this mean for Heart of Play?
Youth Recreation <i>(defined as skate/bike facilities, hard courts and informal fields)</i>	Skate/bike facilities 1:50,000 (skate) 1:50,000 (bike)	+5 youth recreation spaces +1 skate/bike facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CIS identifies a high need to increase provision of recreation facilities in Catchment 4, however none of the identified 'key projects' are within HOP Strategic directions that cover all recreation facilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the diversity, quality and utilisation of Council's existing parks and outdoor recreation network through the upgrade and redesign of existing local and district parks Improving the diversity of recreation opportunities Expand offerings for targeted groups (e.g. young people, multi-cultural groups, over 55s) Increase all abilities offerings Improve access through quality and design including universal design standards, lighting, amenities and sustainability principles Designs that balance versatility, flexibility and are multi-functional Provide greater amenity Enhance pedestrian and cycle connections between arks and outdoor recreation spaces Increase opportunities for dog off-leash exercise to support health high density living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for HOP to provide youth recreation spaces in the form of skate/bike facilities as well as increased hard courts (multi-purpose)
Active recreation <i>(facilities that support individual and group active recreation)</i>	Hard Courts: 1:10,000	+19 Tennis Courts + 3 Cricket practice nets		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to build on the existing tennis court complex Opportunity to provide more cricket practice needs
Community recreation <i>(Facilities and spaces that enable gatherings and support extended visits)</i>	No published benchmark	+ 6 BBQ areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide more community gathering and BBQ areas to support the community to stay longer and spend time outdoors with family and friends
Fitness and exercise <i>(Facilities and spaces that support exercise and fitness opportunities like outdoor exercise equipment, exercise/boot camp spaces and circuit paths)</i>	1:15,000 people	+ 4 fitness equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide more outdoor fitness equipment and training circuits/boot camp spaces through HOP.
Trail and path based recreation <i>(Facilities and spaces that support walking/cycling including circuit paths, cycleways, bush-walking tracks, bike/scooter tracks)</i>	No published benchmark	+ 2 circuit paths + 4 bushwalks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide measured walking loops around all of HOP/within individual parks and sport spaces that enable the community to walk/cycle for recreation and fitness
Off-leash animal exercise <i>(designated off-leash areas, can include agility equipment and fencing)</i>	1:50,000	+ 1 off-leash dog areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOP provides a significant off-leash dog area that services the LGA. There are opportunities to improve off-leash dog activities through upgrades to Dan Mahoney Reserve.

Site capacity and utilisation

This section explores how the site is currently used and its capacity. This helps us to understand whether there is room to accommodate additional uses, or if additional infrastructure will be required to meet current and future needs.

Who is regularly using HOP for sport and recreation?

In addition to informal, social use of HOP for walking and cycling, gatherings of family and friends or other casual activities, analysing bookings data gives us a clear picture of who is using HOP formally, and for what purpose. HOP is also used differently across the year dependent on the activity and field required, as well as the season (as shown in Figure 10).

Table 9 provides a summary of regular hirers of the fields and spaces within HOP, and an overview of the sports activities that are played. It shows that there are 21 regular users of the field, for 13 different activities. Doyle ground has the most diversity of uses catering for touch football through to cricket and school sport, followed by Barton Park.

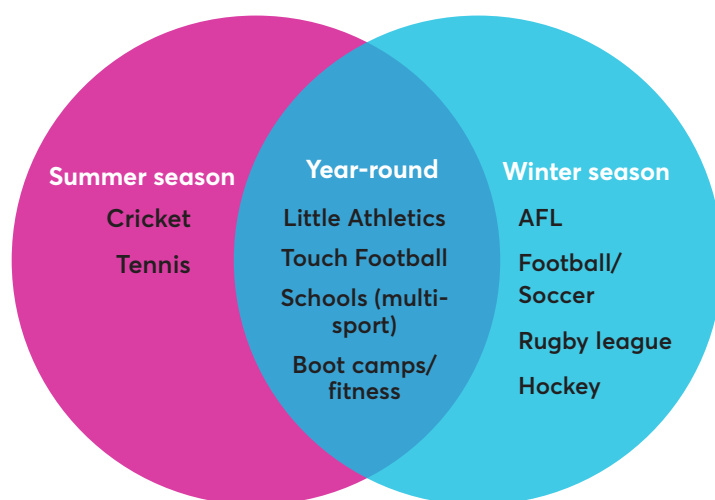
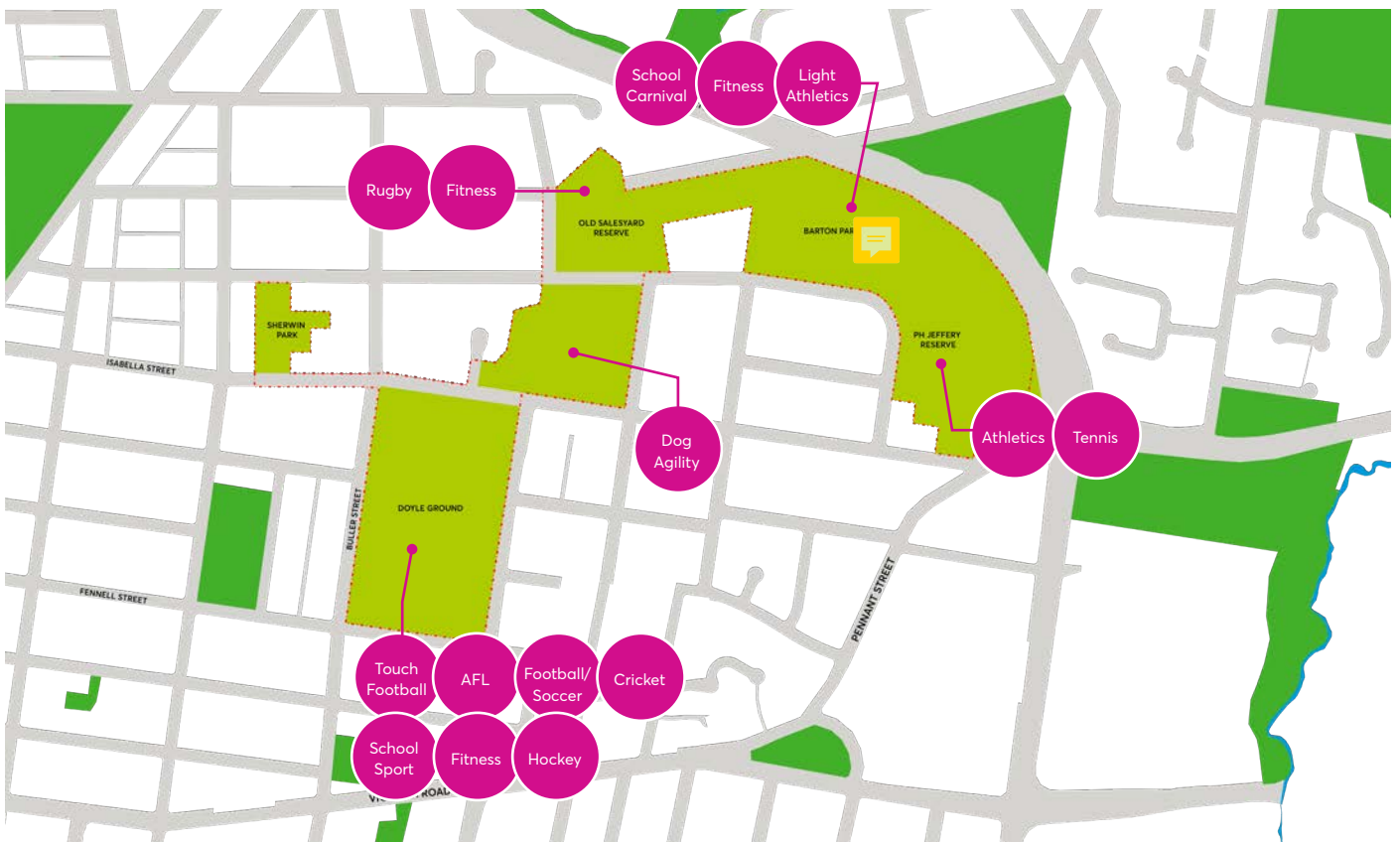


FIGURE 10 - SEASONAL FIELD USE

TABLE 9 - REGULAR USERS OF HOP

Park	Sport/use	Name of club/organisation
Doyle Ground	Touch Football	Parramatta Touch Football Association
	AFL	Parramatta Lions Junior AFL
	Football/Soccer	Granville Waratahs Soccer Football Club/ Granville & Districts Football Association
	Cricket	NSW Churches Cricket; Northern District Cricket Association
	School sport	Catherine McAuley High School; Parramatta PSSA; Hills Zone Secondary; Redeemer Baptist School
	Fitness	Rush Hour Australia Fitness
	Hockey	North West Sydney Hockey Association
Dan Mahoney Reserve	Dog Agility	Parramatta International Dog Agility Club
Barton Park	Little Athletics	Parramatta Little Athletics Centre
	Fitness	Rush Hour Australia Fitness
	School carnivals	Multiple schools for carnivals
PH Jeffery Reserve (field)	Athletics	Parramatta Little Athletics Centre
PH Jeffery Reserve (courts)	Tennis	Parramatta City Tennis
Old Saleyards Reserve	Rugby League	Parramatta Junior Eels Rugby League Club; Parramatta Juniors Rugby League Association
	Fitness	Rush Hour Australia Fitness



Sport field utilisation and capacity

HOP includes several sports fields and courts that are currently used for a variety of team sports for training and competition. This section analyses regular field bookings for the summer and winter seasons. The allocation data is for Winter 2019 and Summer 2018/19. This means that the current use of Doyle Ground for soccer, and Old Sale-yards for Rugby league is not reflected in the data below. However, it still gives a high level picture of which fields may be under pressure, and which fields may have capacity when managing sporting demands.

In urban environments where there is limited space for new sports facilities, increasing the capacity of existing fields is a priority. The current capacity and utilisation of HOP's existing fields is detailed below in Table 11 according to the summer and winter season.

TABLE 11 - SUMMER FIELD UTILISATION

Park	Field	Capacity (hours)	Summer Hours of use*	Summer Capacity %	Winter hours of use*	Winter capacity %
Barton Park	Athletics track and field	30	13	43.3	6	20%
Doyle Ground	Field 1	30	31.5	105	29	96.7%
	Field 2	30	31.5	105	27	90%
	Field 3	30	25.5	85	16	53.3%
	Field 4	30	25.5	85	16	53.3%
P H Jeffery	Field 1	30	4	13.3	20.5	68.3%

* Hours of use does include organised sports and school use, but not fitness trainers and events bookings

The table provides an outline of the existing utilisation of sporting fields in HOP, as well as their optimum capacity (the maximum amount of use per week that would still enable a useable surface condition). It shows that 2 fields are over capacity in the Summer Season (Doyle Ground, Field 1 & 2), and nearing capacity in the Winter Season.

The other relatively low regular bookings for other fields suggest that there may be opportunity to expand informal practice uses through the provision of nets etc. or change configuration (where possible) to support popular or growing sports.

There are also opportunities to increase the capacity of sporting fields to better meet recreation needs through surface improvements, lighting improvement, maintenance of damage from dogs, engineering for flooding etc.

Sport and recreation participation trends

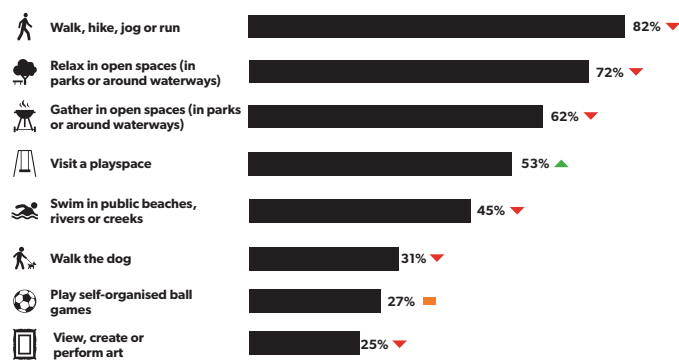
As our communities, cities and lifestyles change so does our participation in recreation – from the kinds of activities that we prefer, to when and how often we participate and the places that we use. Key national and local sports and recreation trends that will influence the kinds of activities HOP needs to cater for now, and into the future include:

POPULARITY OF WALKING ON THE RISE

Activities done on paths and trails is the top recreation activity in Greater Sydney such as walking, bushwalking and running¹.

CASUALISATION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION

The most significant trend in recreation participation in Australia in recent years is a move to informal, unstructured recreation activities rather than traditional organised sport (i.e. mid- week training session and weekend match games with a formal club). Popular recreation activities include walking, going to a play space, relaxing in parks and casual ball sports – all activities performed solo or in small social groups¹.



INDIVIDUALISATION OF SPORTS AND FITNESS

Increasing individualised sport and fitness activities, with increasing participation in aerobics, running, walking and gym membership. People are fitting fitness activities into their busy lives rather than committing to regular organised sport².

ADVENTURE SPORTS

“Extreme” lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports are becoming more mainstream, particularly with younger generations. Examples include hiking, skateboarding, BMXing and rockclimbing.



NEW BUSINESS MODELS FOR SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

Market forces and new business models are likely to exert greater pressure on sport, with loosely organised community sports associations replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems².



INCREASING DEMAND FOR INDOOR RECREATION

Demand for indoor recreation is increasing for a number of reasons. One of those is increasing multi cultural communities and their sporting preferences that often can be catered for indoor recreation facilities (e.g. basketball, badminton, table tennis, futsal). Other reasons include climate comfort, safety at night and co-location with other facilities.



1 - The Recreation Needs of Greater Sydney study completed by the Office for Open Space and Parklands (Department of Planning and Environment)
 2 - The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission.

ACCESSIBLE RECREATION

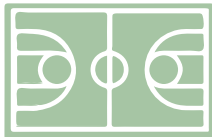


Universal access is an increasingly important issue. It is essential that everyone regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability can collectively enjoy recreational activities¹.

Australia has an ageing population. Providing recreation and fitness opportunities that are attractive and safe for older people will become increasingly important.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION

Climate change and increased days of extreme weather conditions is also driving up demand for indoor recreation facilities. On hot days, the use of outdoor sport and recreation facilities is limited. Whereas, indoor facilities are often air conditioned, and can still support participation in sports and recreation regardless of weather (heat and rain).



INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women and girls' decisions to engage and participate in sport, active recreation and physical activity is heavily influenced by a complex value system which fluctuates according to age and the life stage². According to the trends of participation, the number of women participating in formal sports, particularly all football codes, is increasing.

CULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION

Recreational activities range from mountain biking to Tai Chi, due to a diversifying population with unique hobbies and interests. Research completed for the Office of Sport identified that the following formal and informal sports are popular with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds:

- Football/soccer
- Cricket
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Basketball
- Cycling
- Tennis.



INCREASINGLY TIME POOR

People are generally spending less time recreating, but they are expecting more from their physical activity².

1 - The Recreation Needs of Greater Sydney study completed by the Office for Open Space and Parklands (Department of Planning and Environment)

2 - The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission.

National participation

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) AusPlay survey tracks the recreation activities (both sport and non-sport physical activities) Australians participate in.

- A majority of Australians (55%) participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week. The most popular physical recreation activities were recreational walking, fitness/gym, swimming, and athletics
- Over the age of 18, sporting clubs are not the main way Australians participate in physical activity. Of the 89% of adults that participate in physical activity, 20% participate in sport based activity only, 31% in non-sport related physical activity and 38% in both
- Participation declines as age increases
- The major motivation for participation in physical activities is for physical health and fitness, followed by fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, and
- Not enough time, and poor health or injury, are the main barriers to participation.

Central City District Participation

According to the NSW Office of Sport, the most popular formal organised sport (where the players are registered to a State Sporting Organisation) that Central City District residents are participating in include:

- Football (soccer)
- Gymnastics
- Netball,

TABLE 12 - CENTRAL CITY DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

Sport	Participation	
	No.	%
Football	29,133	3.00%
Gymnastics	9,549	0.98%
Netball	8,421	0.87%
Cricket	6,950	0.72%
Oztag	6,348	0.65%
Little Athletics	6,476	0.61%
Basketball	4,316	0.44%
Futsal	2,959	0.30%
Bowls	2,881	0.30%
Baseball	2,335	0.24%

City of Parramatta participation

AusPlay provides national data on the number of people participating in sport and physical activity and how they participate. On 31 October 2019, Sport Australia released the latest AusPlay results covering data collected in the 2018/19 financial year.

The top six sport and recreation activities residents within the City of Parramatta are participating in are:

- Fitness / Gym (28.6%)
- Walking (Recreational) (28.3%)
- Swimming (20.5%)
- Jogging, running and athletics (15.2%)
- Cycling (8.1%)
- Tennis (6.4%)
- Cricket (5.1%)
- Bush walking (4.5%)
- Badminton (3.3%)

The top 3 sporting activities for females in City of Parramatta include: Walking (recreational (35.5%), Fitness/gym (25%),and Swimming (21.9%).

The top 3 sporting activities for males in City of Parramatta include: Fitness/gym (31.6%), Walking (recreational) (22.2%) and Running, jogging and athletics (24%).

The top three sports club participation activities for all residents within the City of Parramatta are:

- Football/Soccer (6.2%)
- Cricket (2.7%)
- Netball (2.7%)
- Swimming (2.0%)
- Golf (1.1%)

What does the CIS mean for Heart of Play?

There will be increased need for additional sport and recreation infrastructure as Catchment 4 is projected to grow by 160%.

HOP offers significant opportunities to deliver on current and future sporting and recreation needs of the whole of Parramatta LGA, Catchment 4, and immediate surrounding residents. This includes investigating the potential for additional sportsfields, fitness equipment, courts, youth precincts, walking tracks and play spaces.

There is a need for a network of innovative and inclusive play spaces and accompanying shaded picnic areas.

There is a significant forecast gap in play spaces for catchment 4. Opportunities for a network of play will be explored in the master plan. This should also include new nature, sensory and imaginative play spaces. Ensuring amenities such as nearby seating, shade, toilets and BBQs also support the whole family to gather and enjoy the outdoors for longer.

There is opportunity to increase multi-purpose facilities by re-imagining what already exists

HOP presents a significant opportunity to consolidate clubhouses (where appropriate) and provide general local multi-purpose community and cultural floorspace that also serves local sporting needs. There is opportunity to also increase capacity through the provision of more multi-purpose fields and courts.

There is a need to increase health and fitness offerings within HOP

Increased outdoor fitness equipment, as well as training circuits/boot camp spaces can be explored through the master plan. There is also opportunity to provide measured walking/running loops across the precinct to encourage and help the community measure how far they can walk, jog or cycle each day. Increased sporting facilities

such as cricket nets, as well as free open field access will also support social and informal sport being played.

What do current sport and recreation trends mean for Heart of Play?

There is a need to plan for multi-purpose open spaces that support both formal and informal recreation.

National sport and recreation trends tell us that the nature of sport and recreation is changing from planning for sports use only, to planning for a spectrum of recreation uses within the same sporting space.

This means that our open spaces need to be multi-purpose, including not only fields or courts but also other features such as play, walking loops, outdoor fitness equipment and open spaces that support informal social sport or large outdoor gatherings of family and friends.

Our facilities and amenities blocks need to be inclusive, safe and welcoming to support all users.

Other important trends to note include the growing participation of women in organised sport, which can have implications for facilities such as amenities blocks. It's important that these blocks are inclusive, have private changing areas, and feel safe and welcoming for all users.

There is a growing desire for indoor recreation opportunities.

Climate changes and cultural preferences also indicate a movement towards the increased popularity of indoor sports and recreation facilities that cater for popular sports such as basketball, badminton, table tennis and futsal in an often air-conditioned setting. Features such as solar panels and water harvesting can help off-set the larger carbon footprint these types of facilities could otherwise have.



Section 5

Best practice case studies and precedents

This section provides a series of best practice case studies that can be used as precedents to inform the kinds of facilities and spaces the master plan can deliver.

The evolution of HOP

HOP has a history of contamination largely due to its past life as a rubbish tip, however this is not always a bad thing, and is in fact the reason that such a large amount of open space exists in the very heart of Parramatta today.

Many of the most iconic public open spaces across the world are revitalised industrial and landfill sites. The following case studies demonstrate how these landscapes have been radically transformed, providing safe and exciting open spaces for the wider community.

From Landfill to Landscape

Sydney Park

St Peters

From 1893 - 1996, modern day Sydney Park was the site of one of Sydney's landfill and brick pit sites. The industrial heritage of the site begins with the site's occupation in 1893 by Bedford Bricks. Parts of the site remained an active brick works until 1970.

The construction of these deep clay pits provided ideal spatial conditions for waste disposal. From 1948 until 1976, capping in 1996, the site was an active landfill.

44 HA OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DEDICATED TO NATURE PLAY, WETLAND WALKS, CYCLE TRACKS, OPEN RECREATION FIELDS AND PICNIC FACILITIES.

4 DEDICATED WETLAND AREAS, FORMING AN IMPORTANT URBAN ECOSYSTEM.

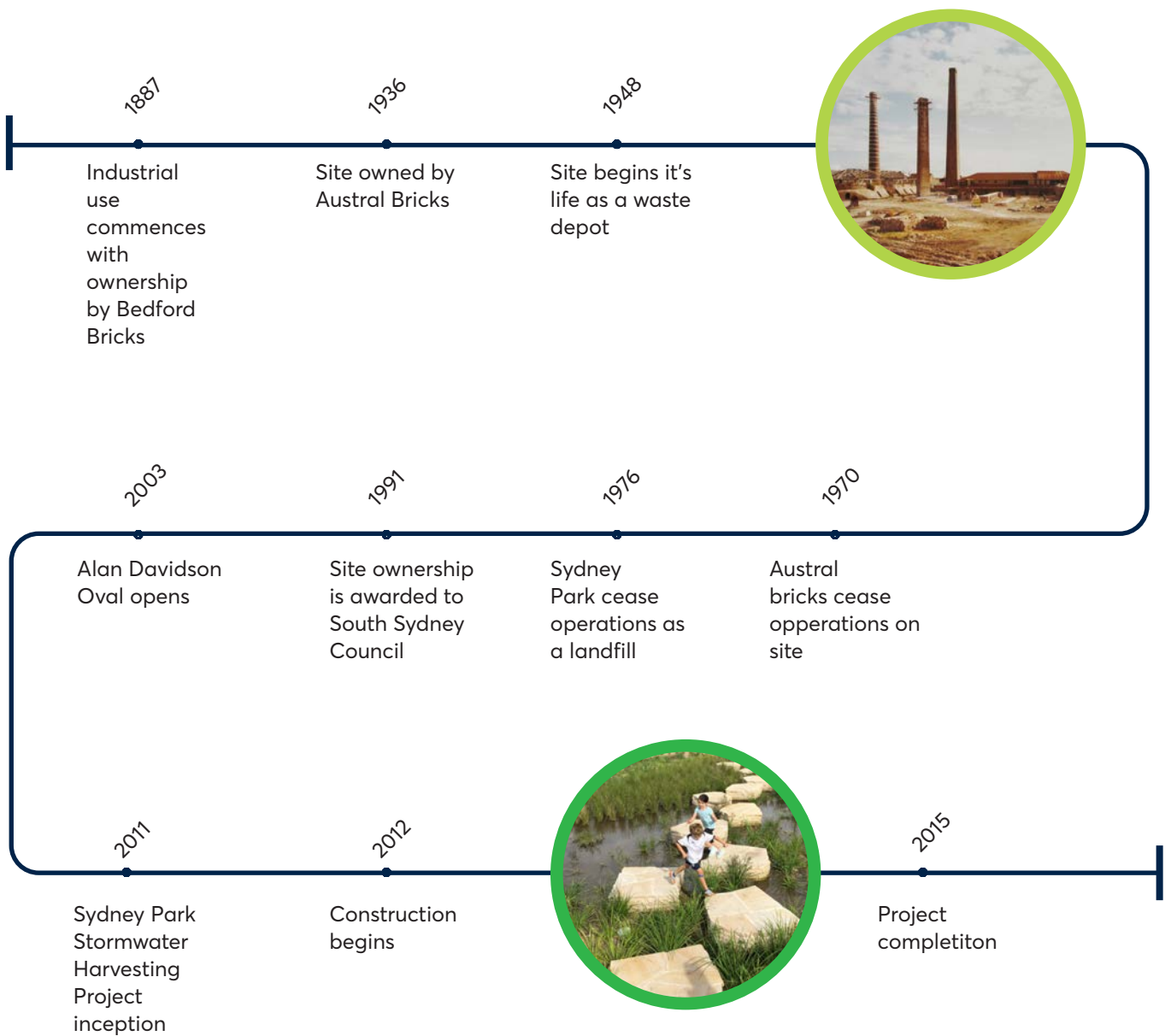
850 MILLION LITRES OR 380 OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOLS OF WATER HARVESTED FROM THE NEWTOWN CATCHMENT EVERY YEAR.



Above: Sydney Park, circa 1943.



Above: Present day, Sydney Park



Freshkills Park

New York City

Once one of the world's largest landfills, the Freshkills Parklands is now a world-class 890ha recreational space within New York City. The new parklands contains a variety of recreational opportunities and has since become a key location for community events, including art exhibitions and sporting events. The scheme for the parks is sighted for completion by 2037.

890HA OF DEDICATED RECREATIONAL SPACE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

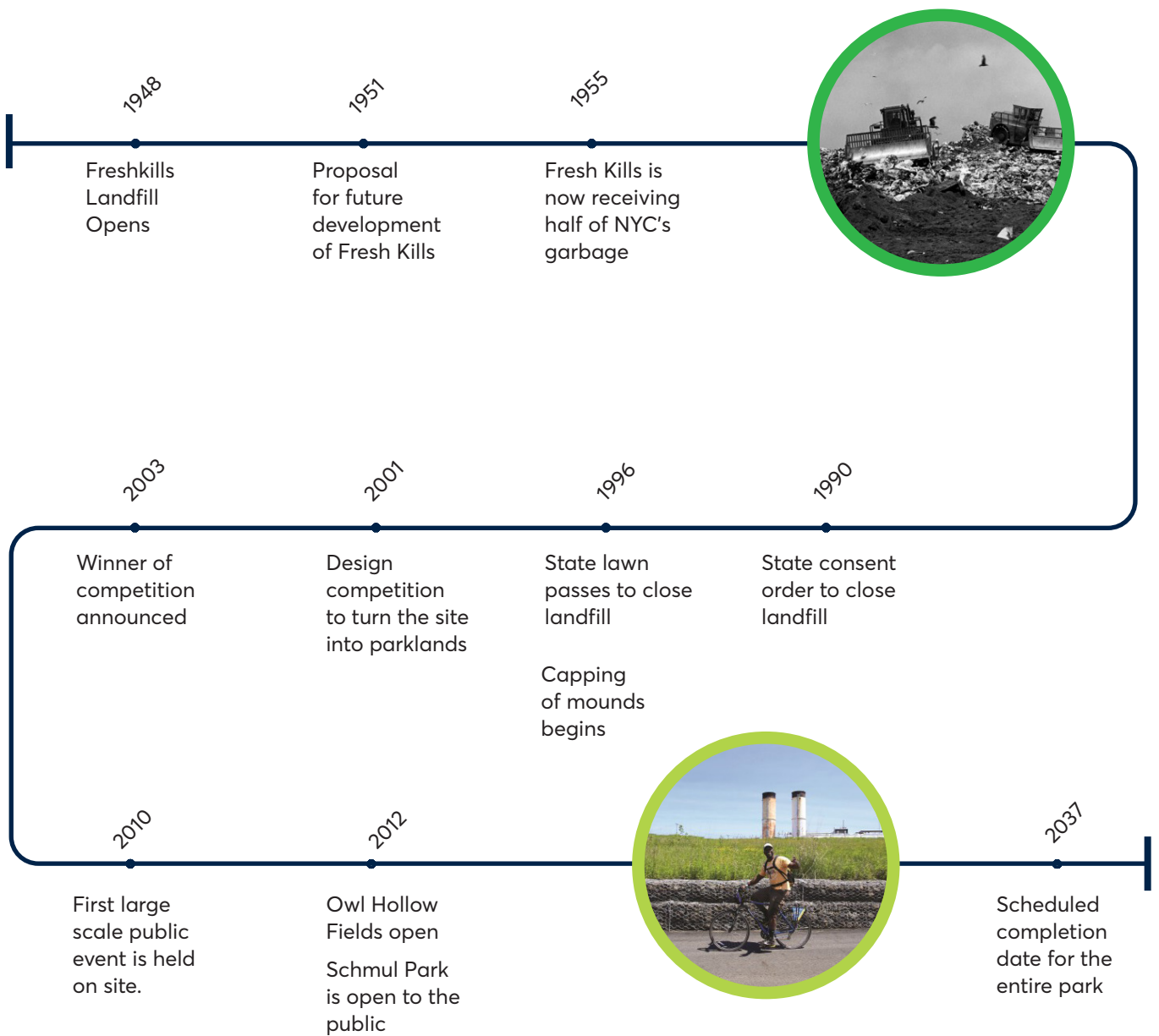
WALKING AND CYCLING TRACKS, DEDICATED SPORTING FIELDS, WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE FACILITIES.



Above: Fresh Kills Landfill, circa 1948.



Above: Present day, Freshkills Park



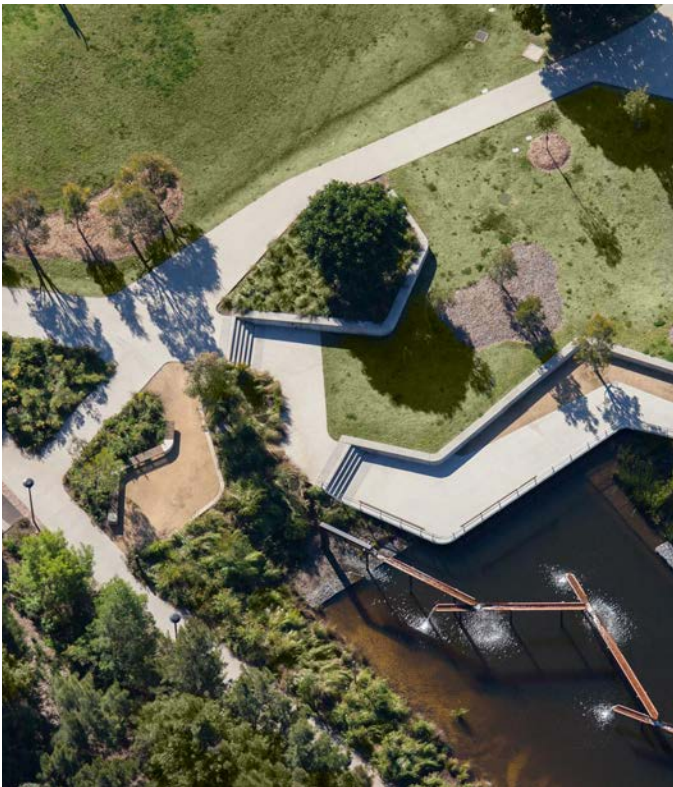
Precedents for HOP

Throughout landscape architecture and the associated disciplines, there are many projects that have set new benchmarks in the areas of urban design, resilience, inclusivity and representation. Learnings from these projects are to set a standard for all decisions moving forward in the masterplanning process. The following case studies explore some of the elements that may be applicable to HOP.

Case Studies

Green / Blue Infrastructure

Sydney Park



- Sydney Park is an exemplar in the Water Sensitive Urban Design sphere, proving that WSUD delivers benefits beyond the environmental.
- Focusing on water harvest and re-use, Sydney Park provides the locals with a considered public space that is harmonised with significant green infrastructure.
- This infrastructure is a model for sustainability and an artistic and playful component of public domain.

Edinburgh Gardens Raingarden



- Edinburgh Gardens Raingarden present a sustainable solution for the treatment of stormwater in local parks, sporting fields and around mature trees.
- The raingarden is treated as a visual & artistic element within the landscape.
Benchmarks:
- The system removes 16,000kg of annual total suspended soils per year.
- Provides 60% of the irrigation needs for the site/s.

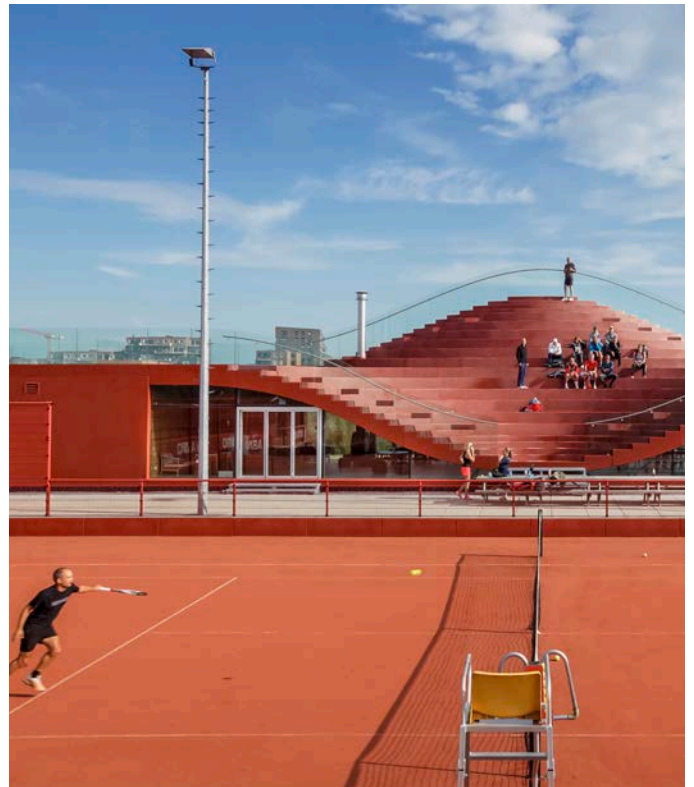
Athletics + Sports Pavilions

Athletics Track, by Subarquitectura Spain



- The design of this track challenges the 'traditional' approach to the athletics track, shifting the line markings up and over the elevated platform.
- Multi-purpose track, using '3D' element as an informal amphitheater.

The Couch Tennis Complex, The Netherlands



- The project challenges the traditional approach to grandstand sports, particularly on a local scale.
- Tennis amphitheater serves as a piece of 'street furniture,' grounding the courts as an icon within the community.
- The club house and grandstand are considered as one structure.

Cycle Tracks

C.A.R.E.S Precinct Bike Track



- The adventurous bike track provides a variety of tracks to challenge all users and help in developing the skills of young riders in safe space.
- There is a diverse pathway network, stop and go signals and other 'traffic' control measures to assist with the flow and movement of users on the tracks.
- 'Play and imagination' is included as a design element, with re-fueling stations and shops. These elements also add a level of 'artistic flair' to the track, not traditionally seen.
- Generous canopy coverage to ensure the site is usable throughout the year.

Dog Park

Roy Marten Dog Park



- Dog Parks are no longer considered simplistic, enclosed lawn spaces. This thinking has been left far behind within Roy Marten Dog Park and replaced with a contemporary playspace for both dogs and their owners to enjoy.
- The enclosed space integrates large softfall mounds for climbing and scaling, nature play elements for exploration and other agility features (inc. tires, poles and logs)
- Large open areas for running and planted areas for exploring complement the play elements.

Nature Play

Adelaide Zoo



- Adelaide Zoo nature play has been designed as a space for learning, exploring and creating.
- The design challenges fine motor skills, with a variety of balance, climbing and spinning structures for all levels of ability.
- Water is considered within the whole nature play experience.

Urban Play

Hercules Street Park, Northshore Hamilton



- The park offers a diversity of play experiences and challenges for all ages.
- Consideration is taken to ensure shade amenity is provided to the space and adjacent seating spaces so that carers and children can safely 'stay' and 'play,' in alignment with guidelines set out in 'Everyone Can Play.'
- Mix of waterplay, traditional slides, slopes and structures.
- The play structure references and reinterprets the history of place (industrial / wharf)

Water Play

Lizard Log Playground



- This increasingly popular playspace in Western Sydney carefully integrates water play into the overall experience of play.
- Water is explored through different dispersal and dissemination methods i.e. timber, sand, gathering and storing, flowing and pumping. These different methods encourage self constructed and imaginative play.

Multi-sports

Hercules Street Park, Northshore Hamilton



- The newly constructed playspace includes a large multi-sports court. The court delivers 6 informal sports (inc. handball and half-court basketball)
- Ping pong tables and seating adjacent completes this 'active zone'
- Rebound wall and bold colours create a visual statement to complement the active vibe of the space.
- Considered use of colour and linework to define areas and activity spaces.

Nature / Adventure Walks

Sydney Park



- Along with being a leader in the implementation of WSUD, Sydney Park offers scenic shared routes for all of its users.
- The walking tracks transverse through the sites unique landscape, capturing views and vistas that engage with the ecological and sustainable success the park is known for.

Western Sydney Parklands



- Western Sydney Parklands are a series of interconnected large scale parks, all with cycle and pedestrian connections.
- The parklands makes the most of the expansive landscape, with 60km of trails across the 5280 ha site.
- Wide pathways weave around key play and social hubs, generating activity throughout the day.

Working with communities to improve existing open space

Alfredton Recreation Reserve, Ballarat, VIC



- The Ballarat Council engaged with eight sporting/user groups, two primary schools, a mail-out to residents and a public forum for the improvement of Alfredton Recreation Reserve.
- The direct involvement from various stakeholders, especially local children has ensured the finished play space is a well used asset by children of all ages.
- It also complements the surrounding play areas at the school and neighborhood parks as well as encourages greater use of Alfredton Reserve's other facilities.

Building communities through open space development

Selandra Rise, Casey, VIC



- The development of open space at Selandra Rise in south-east Melbourne was seen as an opportunity for early engagement as well as an important community building initiative.
- The community consultation focused on exploring the big issues for open space in the area – how the space would be used, and what open space means to residents.
- Through discussions about open space needs, there was a robust exchange of ideas that informed the final design.
- Community leaders also emerged through the consultation process, which was a positive sign for the future health and vibrancy of the community.

Open spaces for mixed cultures

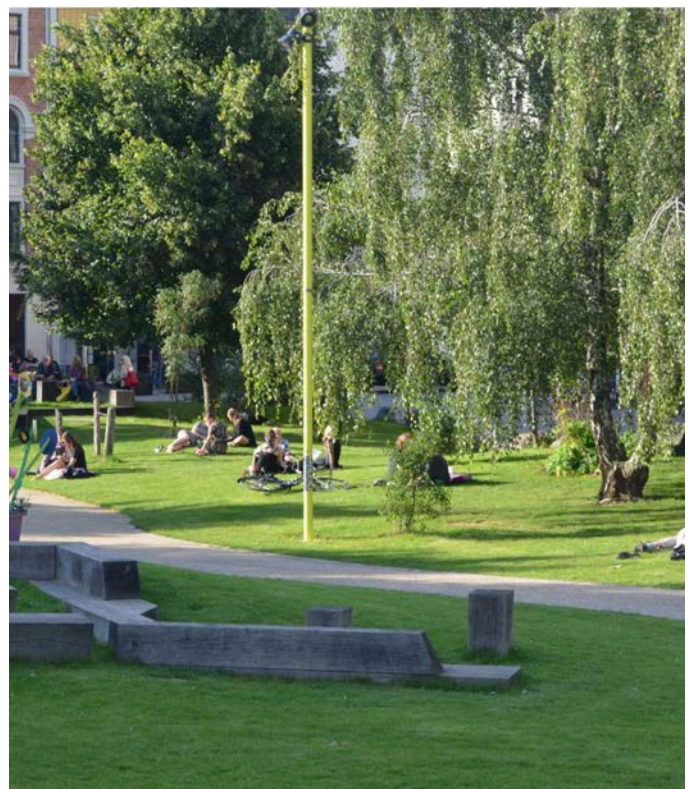
Garden of happiness, Bronx, New York



- By 1989, Green Thumb, a city Parks and Recreation group, transferred the city-owned parking lot in Bronx to a community garden, the Garden of Happiness.
- As soon as it opened, neighbors flocked to the new garden to plant collard greens, mustard greens, kale, cantaloupe, corn, string beans and squash. They spent hours comparing gardening tips, vegetables and stories about life in the Bronx.
- As people express their mutual values within garden spaces, relationships are created and strengthened among different groups of people. The garden still continues to strengthen community ties through fostering communal activities.

Building social resilience through inclusive design

Nørrebro Neighborhood, Copenhagen



- Folkets Park was primarily used by people experiencing homelessness, gangs, and refugees. The park felt unsafe to surrounding residents, so the city hired the artist Kenneth Balfelt (whose work focuses on community inclusion) along with an architecture firm to redesign the park.
- The design team engaged all members of the community - the people experiencing homelessness, refugees, gang members, nearby residents, business owners, etc - to co-create a place welcoming to all.
- This has built social resilience in the community and has encouraged social cohesion.



What are the learnings from these case studies for Heart of Play?

Sustainable open space design adds to the aesthetic and social value of open spaces

- These exemplar projects showcase the potential that great public spaces can be sustainable, adaptive and resilient without compromising experience. Rather, the integration of these green technologies can add character and experience to the space, improving their overall quality.

Multi-functional design improves the usability of open spaces

- Adopting a multi-functional approach to design ensures that spaces can be activated throughout the seasons, are adaptable to different social spheres and importantly are responsive to the ever-changing needs of the climate.

Experience-based approach to play enhances the user experience

- Play is a multi-dimensional experience. The concept of traditional playground elements have been superseded by the need for exploratory and experimental play. Play is driven by the landscape, with nature play a featuring element of all

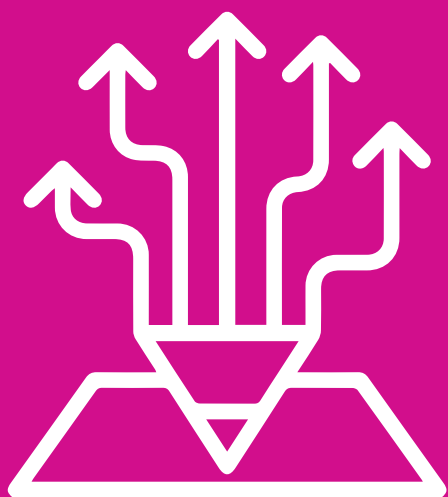
successful playspaces.

Participatory planning ensures delivery of successful open spaces

- Engaging with different user groups (age, abilities and ethnicities) in all stages of open space planning and design ensures the development of public spaces that are used by everyone throughout the year.

Participatory planning fosters social cohesion

- Involving communities in decision-making is crucial in making places that respond to varying cultural needs and as a result foster social cohesion.



Section 6

Next steps

This section provides next steps for the HOP master plan.

Next steps

Community consultation to inform the HOP master plan including:

- Inform the community of opportunities to provide input, project updates, and how their feedback has shaped the development of the master plan.
- Work with the identified group of stakeholders :
 - To understand concerns and challenges regarding the sports grounds
 - Understand desired improvements to the sports grounds and project outcomes
 - Understand how best to recognise and interpret the heritage and character of each open space site with express recognition of any First Nations uses
- Work with the community to achieve a master plan document that is supported and endorsed by the user groups and sporting stakeholders

Sports Facility Planning

Use results of community engagement and relevant data analysis to assist the future development of sport and active recreation in North Parramatta by:

- Developing the master plan in accordance with strategic and corporate directions
- Working with CoP and existing sporting stakeholders to:
 - Increase and maximise use of the HOP network through proactive programming to welcome a variety of community uses
 - Match user requirements with available assets
 - Establish shared use arrangements between sports clubs
- Identifying necessary improvements to the network and recommend the appropriate order of implementation
- Assessing current gaps in provision and future demands of sport and recreation in Parramatta and surrounds
- Building on the existing infrastructure to achieve best value-for-money whilst retaining flexibility for changes in future use and/or multi-use options

Master Plan for HOP

- Combine analysis of existing site conditions, uses, opportunities and constraints with findings from community consultation to determine future site configuration and management that will best meet competing needs
- Design an attractive, welcoming, innovative, fair, accessible, climate change-responsive open space and recreation network that can maximise capacity to meet diverse community needs and provide a balance between passive and active use, organised and informal recreation, and environmental benefits
- Improve connection to and through the site, and encourage active transport and public transit use
- Use the findings from community consultation and relationships built to enhance the community's sense of ownership of their public places
- Build upon the existing culture of the place and provide opportunities to create an enhanced identity