

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY

Analysis of Existing Open Space and Recreation Facilities

In 2019, Council undertook a review of our existing open spaces and recreation facilities. The following summarises findings from our review, the range of user groups that use these spaces, and diversity of activities that these spaces support. Findings under each of the six Strategy themes inform our approach to management of open and recreation space and the Action and Implementation Plan within the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (OSRS).

Playing and relaxing

- Different groups use spaces for both active and passive recreation. Organised groups (sporting and community clubs, schools) regularly book spaces for training and match play.
- Regional and district parks and reserves are key visitor destinations and host large annual events which are important for Sydney.
- Occasional users are visitors that live outside the LGA, domestic travellers and international travellers that are attracted to Waverley's coastal walks and beaches.

Design and setting

- Design guidance helps to maintain and enhance the distinct characteristics of the Waverley area and the context of each park and reserve.

Getting to and around

- There is generally a good distribution of open space across the LGA, and most residents live within a 400-metre walk to a park or reserve. There is variation in the types of spaces people can access from home, so it is important to maintain quality spaces and provide walking, cycling and public transport connections across the open space network.
- It is important to continually review whether spaces are universally accessible, particularly regional and district parks and reserves which have high visitation. The topography can also impact on access, reducing the ability to maintain continuous paths and can make access more difficult for people that are less mobile or carers with prams.

Enhancing the environment

- Waverley's parks and reserves have environmental importance and contribute to the ecology of Waverley as well as having bushland that has high environmental value.
- The topography and coastal setting create a unique landscape; however, it can also make access difficult in places where there are level changes.

Community, culture and heritage

- Many parks and reserves have heritage values that need to be protected and managed and management of heritage needs to be improved. There are Indigenous items, important archaeological sites, non-indigenous items, and landscape character areas that have Local, State and National significance.

Maintenance and management

- Council has various established frameworks and policies that guide the management of open space.
- Acquisition of land for open space should align with and deliver on the OSRS.
- The OSRS will guide future revisions of the Waverley Strategic Asset Management Plan and Plans of Management for parks and reserves.
- There is a need for better signage for all spaces to support compliance with permitted and prohibited activities in parks and reserves.