

Ku-ring-gai Council

Open Space and Recreation Needs Study



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We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians, Ancestors and Elders, past and present.

We recognise the strength, resilience and contributions of First Nations Peoples, and the eternal and spiritual connection held in the lands, skies and waters, through cultural practices and beliefs.

Our team is proud to live, learn and thrive in the place we now call Australia, and recognise sovereignty has never been ceded by First Nations Peoples of this continent.

As embedded in our values, we are committed to building connected, healthy and resilient communities, and creating purposeful outcomes that reflect our deep appreciation for the peoples and cultures that make us who we are and shape where we are going — together, as one.



Report title: Ku-ring-gai Council Open Space and Recreation Needs Study

Cover photo: Roseville Park (Photo source: Cred Consulting)

Client: Ku-ring-gai Council

Version: Final

Date: May 2023

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Contents

Executive summary	04
1. Introduction	09
2. Community priorities	21
3. Strategic context	24
4. Community profile	28
5. Recreation and participation trends	39
6. Open space supply and demand analysis	54
7. Recreation facilities supply and demand	80
8. Strategic needs and opportunities	115

Executive summary

The Ku-ring-gai Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (this Needs Study) provides the evidence to inform Ku-ring-gai Council's future Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Recreation is a broad spectrum

This Needs Study defines recreation as a broad spectrum of activities undertaken in open space. Open spaces include parks, sports spaces, natural areas, and waterways.

Recreation activities range from informal activities like picnics, play, fitness, walking and cycling; to emerging social sports such as pickleball; and organised team sports like soccer, netball, hockey, and rugby.

How we plan for recreation in metropolitan areas is evolving

Tailored and nuanced needs analysis

Simply applying historical standards and benchmarks to determine needs will not address the unique issues facing metropolitan areas like the Ku-ring-gai LGA. The needs in this Needs Study are based on a range of indicators including population growth and change, strategic context, best-practice, innovation, changing participation trends, community engagement, tailored open space classifications, and population and proximity-based benchmarking.

Land is limited, constrained and expensive

The primary limitation for Council in addressing identified needs is the limited availability, constrained ownership and extremely high cost of land that is suitable for the provision of new open space and recreation facilities.

Innovative, multipurpose and shared solutions

Limited and high-cost land means thinking differently about how to address open space gaps and improve recreational facilities that respond to changing community needs. New approaches include flexible and multipurpose design; new recreation facilities in podiums or on rooftops; re-imagining streets as shared spaces for walking, play and cycling; and connecting up the open space network with recreational links.

Council is already a leader

Ku-ring-gai Council (Council) is already leading the way in contemporary recreation planning with strategies such as 'Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy 2020', multipurpose use and design of sports spaces and parks, and ongoing initiatives such as its 'Open Space Acquisition' Program.

Population and participation trends influence Ku-ring-gai's needs

Ku-ring-gai's population is growing and more diverse

Around 17,000 more people will live in the Ku-ring-gai LGA by 2041 (DPE population projections, 2022). In 2021, around 25% of residents live in apartments, 28% speak a language other than English at home, and families with children and young people make up 46% of households. This means planning for more diverse and equitable open spaces and recreation facilities that are designed for shared uses by children, older people, young people, and dog owners.

People want more spaces to participate in informal recreation for fun

Fun and enjoyment (90%), fitness and exercise (88%), and getting fresh air (88%) are the main reasons residents use recreation spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Walking (87%) is the most popular recreation activity and other popular activities include picnics (64%), relaxing (58%), walking the dog (48%), fitness activities (44%), and running (44%). This means prioritising investment in open spaces that support informal activities for all ages and abilities.

Sports are still in high demand, but non-traditional sports are emerging

Local sporting clubs and peak bodies indicated that participation in organised sport remains popular in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, reporting a 41% increase in participation in the past five years. There is also increasing demand for spaces for informal social team sports, emerging games such as Padel and pickleball, as well as demands for more spaces for women's sports. This means sportsfields and sports spaces can no longer be single purpose or single code to meet needs.

Overall, there is a high provision of open space, but a high proportion is natural areas. There is less access to parks for informal recreation, particularly along the rail corridor.

With a total provision of 3,170ha. of public open space, or 25.5ha. per 1,000 people, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has an overall high provision of public open space for recreation. This provision is well above the established benchmark of 3ha. per 1,000 people (Benchmark source, City of Parramatta, Community Infrastructure Strategy, 2020).

However, 91% (2,895ha.) of the total network is natural areas, with 6% (90ha.) classified as sports spaces (or 1.5ha. per 1,000 people above Council's

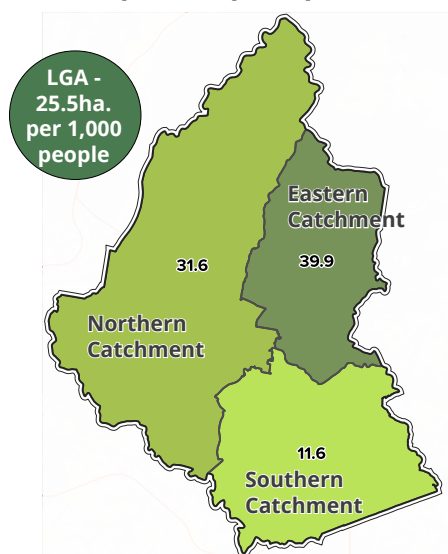
1ha. per 1,000 person benchmark), and only 2.4% (76 ha.) is classified as parks (or 0.6ha. per 1,000 people lower than Council's benchmark of 1ha. per 1,000 people). Many parks are also small (1 in 4 are under 0.5ha.), limiting their uses.

As shown in Figure 1, there is also inequitable provision of open space by type across Council's three planning catchments. The Southern Catchment of the LGA has the lowest provision for all open space types other than sports spaces.

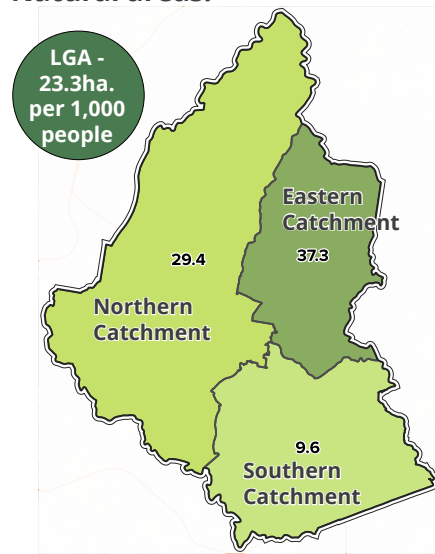
Figure 1 - Comparison of ha. per 1,000 people provided by type and catchment (in 2021)

Hectares per 1000 people (2021) people: ■ 0 - 0.5ha. ■ 0.5 - 1ha. ■ 1 - 3ha. ■ 3 - 10ha. ■ more than 10ha.

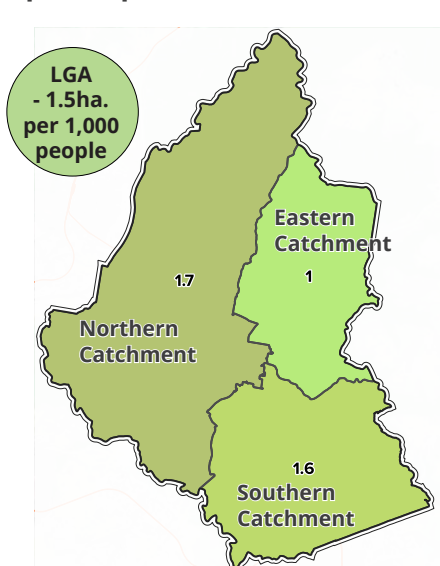
Overall public open space:



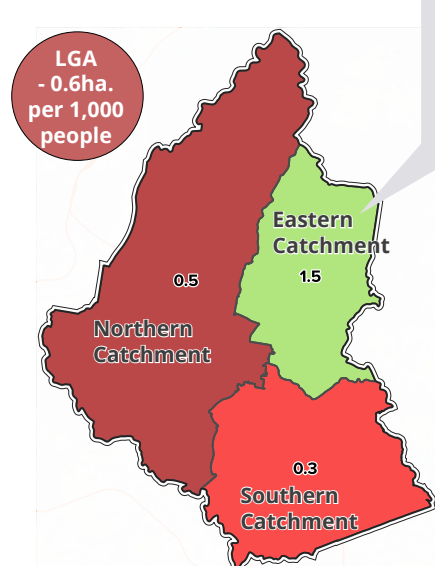
Natural areas:



Sports spaces:



Parks:



Five priority needs for Ku-ring-gai's open space and recreation network

Need 1 -

New, improved and welcoming parks for informal and active recreation

- There is a below-benchmark provision of parks within Ku-ring-gai's open space network, but they are the most-loved open spaces by the community, with 43% of survey respondents wanting to see more investment in them. Parks also provide the spaces for participation in high demand, informal recreation activities.
- Priority locations for new parks are along the train line where access is lowest and there is the highest population growth and density. However, where delivery of new parks is not feasible, Council can prioritise embellishments to existing parks, sports spaces and unconstrained natural areas to make them multipurpose spaces to increase opportunities for informal recreation including quality amenities, outdoor fitness stations, BBQs, and sheltered and social spaces to gather and recreate.

Need 2 -

Increased capacity, quality and flexibility of sports spaces

- There are 55 sportsfields across the Ku-ring-gai LGA (above the benchmarked demand of 25), and utilisation data indicates that Council's natural turf fields are operating below capacity. While benchmarked supply will continue to meet demand by 2041, sports are still in high demand by sporting groups. 95% of sporting stakeholders consulted indicated they rely on Council facilities to meet their sporting needs. There are also women's sports and emerging sports (pickleball, paddle ball) that do not have equitable access to sportsfields.
- As land for new sports spaces may not be feasible, there is a need to improve the capacity and quality of what Council already has, with quality identified as the biggest barrier to increasing sports participation (59% of stakeholders surveyed) including: inability to cope with wet weather; lighting, amenities, maintenance, safety, and unfit facilities for female participation.

Need 3 -

Increased provision of diverse and multipurpose recreation facilities

- Benchmarks, participation trends and community consultation indicate that there is a need for more diverse recreation facilities such as multipurpose courts/hard-surfaced areas, outdoor fitness stations, and pump tracks to respond to age and cultural interests. For example, where there are 63 single-purpose tennis courts, there are 0 basketball courts across the LGA.
- Observations of some of Council's tennis courts indicated that people are already using them for other recreational purposes, and consultation indicated a desire for more investment in outdoor courts, particularly basketball courts.

Need 4 -

Connect up and expand the open space network with recreational links and loops

- The high provision of natural areas across the LGA provides the opportunity to increase recreational links for walking and cycling along streets and in neighbourhoods to connect up the recreational network.
- In particular, where opportunities for new parks is limited, there is a need to provide recreational loops around local streets with facilities for play and fitness that increase opportunities for walking and activate neighbourhoods.

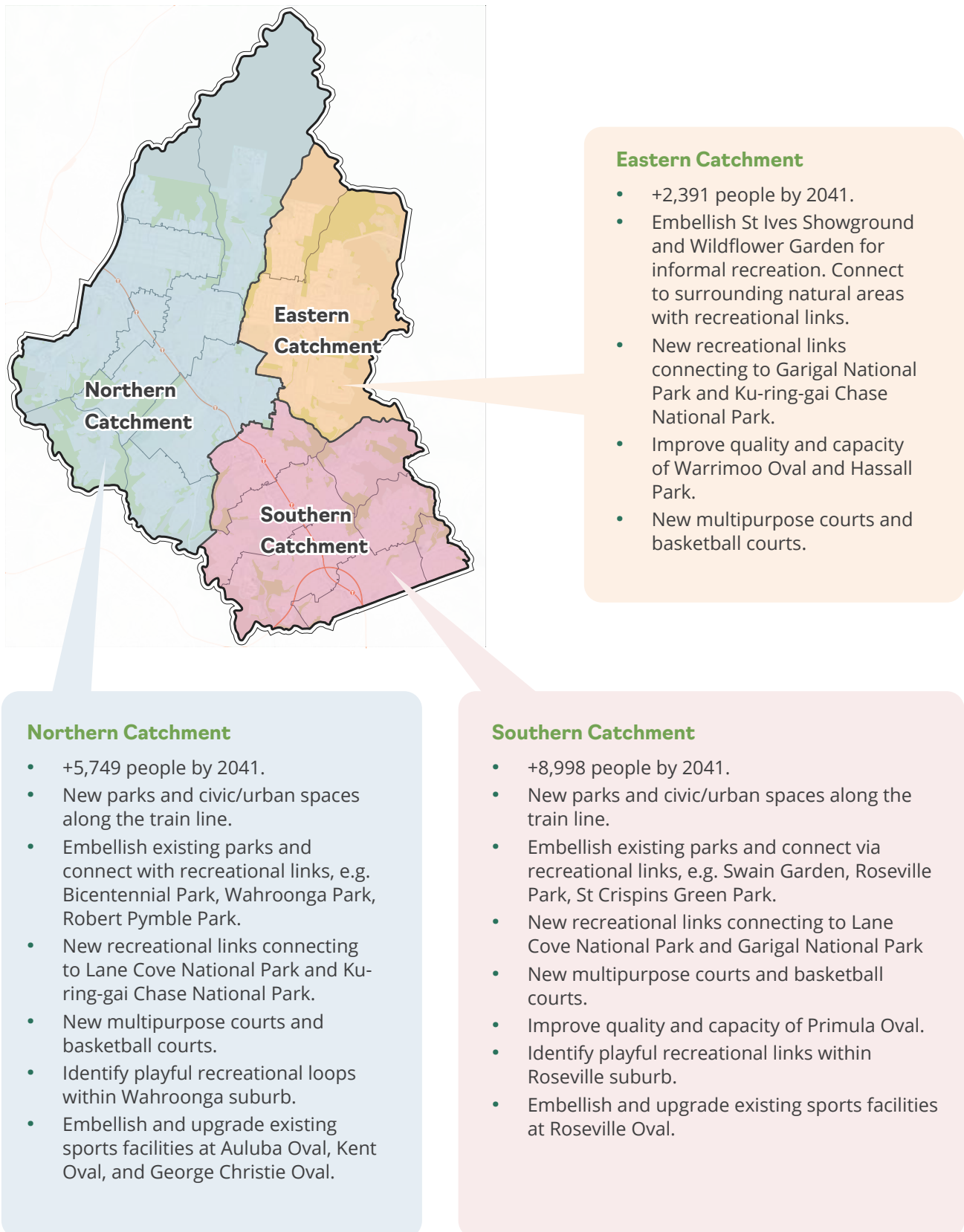
Need 5 -

Continued local and regional partnerships and collaboration

- Given limited opportunities to increase the quantum of open space, there is a need to collaborate with private open space owners, such as golf clubs and schools, to potentially unlock recreational opportunities.
- Continued and increased partnership and information sharing between local clubs and neighbouring councils is also needed to effectively explore options for shared use of sports facilities to help grow participation, and to advocate regionally for regional-level sports spaces.

Place-based opportunities can address current and future recreation needs across the public open space network

Figure 2 - Catchment-based opportunities map





Outdoor fitness station, Turrumurra Memorial Park, Turrumurra.
Photo source: Cred Consulting.

1. Introduction

The Ku-ring-gai local government area (the Ku-ring-gai LGA), is home to a diverse and distinctive open space and recreation network that includes a range of settings including parks, sports spaces, natural spaces, waterways, a civic space and a showground. Ku-ring-gai LGA's beautiful natural setting is the area's strength. From bushland to walking trails and parks, the community highly values these special spaces.

This Ku-ring-gai Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (this Needs Study) provides the evidence base to help set the framework for the future planning of Ku-ring-gai LGA's open space and recreation network, and the future Ku-ring-gai Council Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

1.1. About this Needs Study

This Needs Study assesses current and future open space and recreation needs for the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

The purpose of this Needs Study is to inform Council's future Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy. The Open Space and Recreation Needs Strategy will provide a roadmap for how Council will deliver open spaces and recreation facilities that meet the needs of the current and future Ku-ring-gai resident, worker and visitor populations.

This Needs Study will provide the evidence base to inform the development of Council's policy and strategy in relation to the open space and recreation needs of the Ku-ring-gai LGA, now and into the future. This Needs Study uses population projections for 2041 to demonstrate anticipated changes in demand over time for these spaces and facilities.

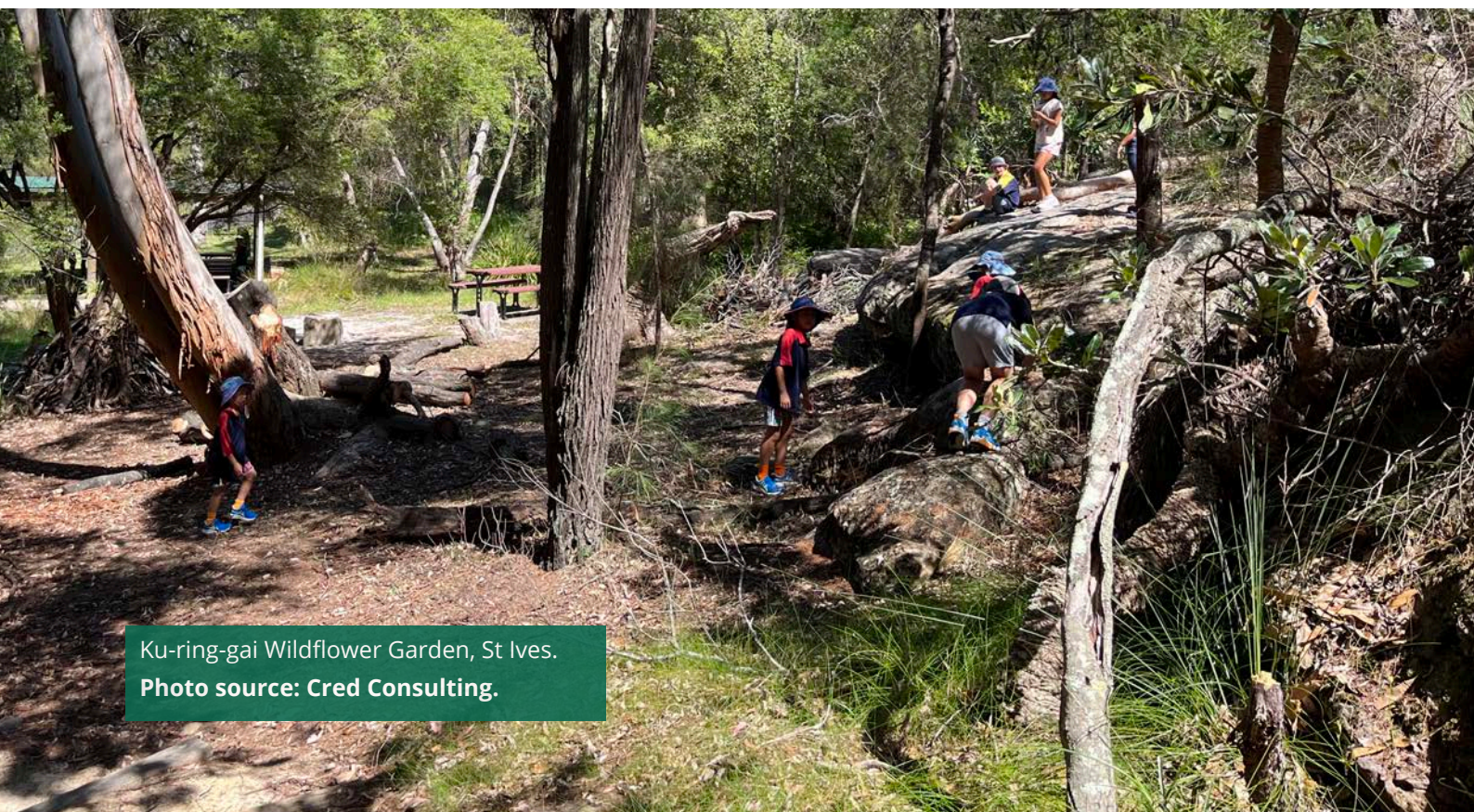
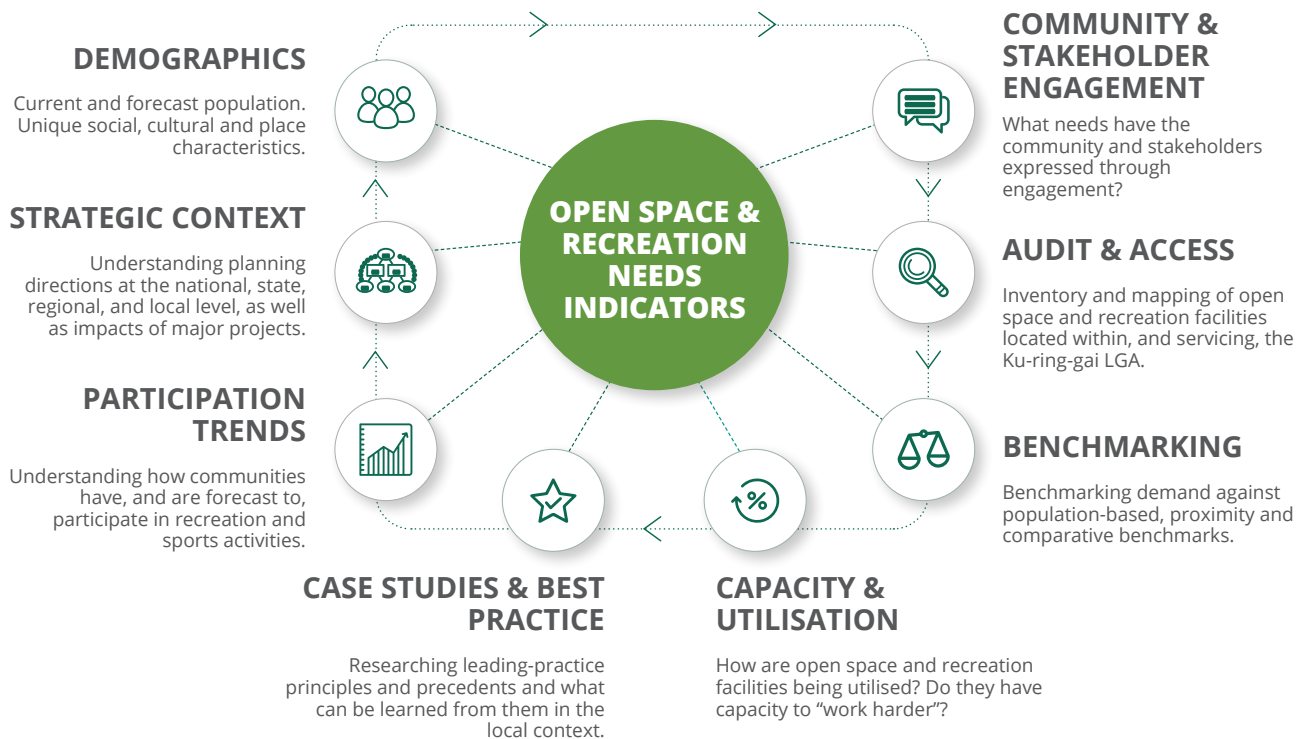
The key objectives of this Needs Study are to:

- Undertake community and stakeholder consultation to gain an understanding of open space and recreation needs to inform the Needs Study,
- Prepare an Open Space and Recreation Needs Study that aligns with Ku-ring-gai Council and NSW Government objectives, priorities and actions, and
- Identify strategic directions and priorities to inform the future Ku-ring-gai Council Open Space and Recreation Strategy, to be prepared by Council.

1.2. Methodology

Our approach to undertaking this Needs Study is an analysis of a range of indicators, as shown in Figure 3, below:

Figure 3 - Cred Consulting's Needs Study Indicators:



Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives.
Photo source: Cred Consulting.

1.3. About the study area

About the Ku-ring-gai LGA

The Ku-ring-gai LGA is located in Sydney's northern suburbs and in 2021, was home to approximately 124,075 residents. Situated 16 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD, the area includes 17 suburbs, six major local centres, and two smaller local centres located along the northern Sydney rail line.

The study area

For the purposes of this Needs Study, the study area includes the whole of the Ku-ring-gai LGA, as shown in Figure 4.

Planning catchment approach

This Needs Study uses a catchment-based approach to analysing and planning for open space and recreation infrastructure within the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

A catchment approach reflects the following considerations:

- Community preferences in how they access facilities, including travel patterns,
- Location of existing centres and infrastructure,
- Demographics, including distribution of the population across the Ku-ring-gai LGA,
- Natural barriers (e.g. topography), and
- Built barriers (e.g. roads).

Using a catchment approach can deepen our understanding of how open space and recreation facilities are distributed and accessed across the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

A catchment approach is an important tool to encouraging a networked approach to the planning and delivery of open space and recreation facilities.

As shown in Figure 4, the study area includes the following planning catchments:

- **Northern Catchment**

- North Turramurra
- North Wahroonga
- Pymble
- South Turramurra
- Turramurra
- Wahroonga
- Warrawee
- West Pymble.

- **Eastern Catchment**

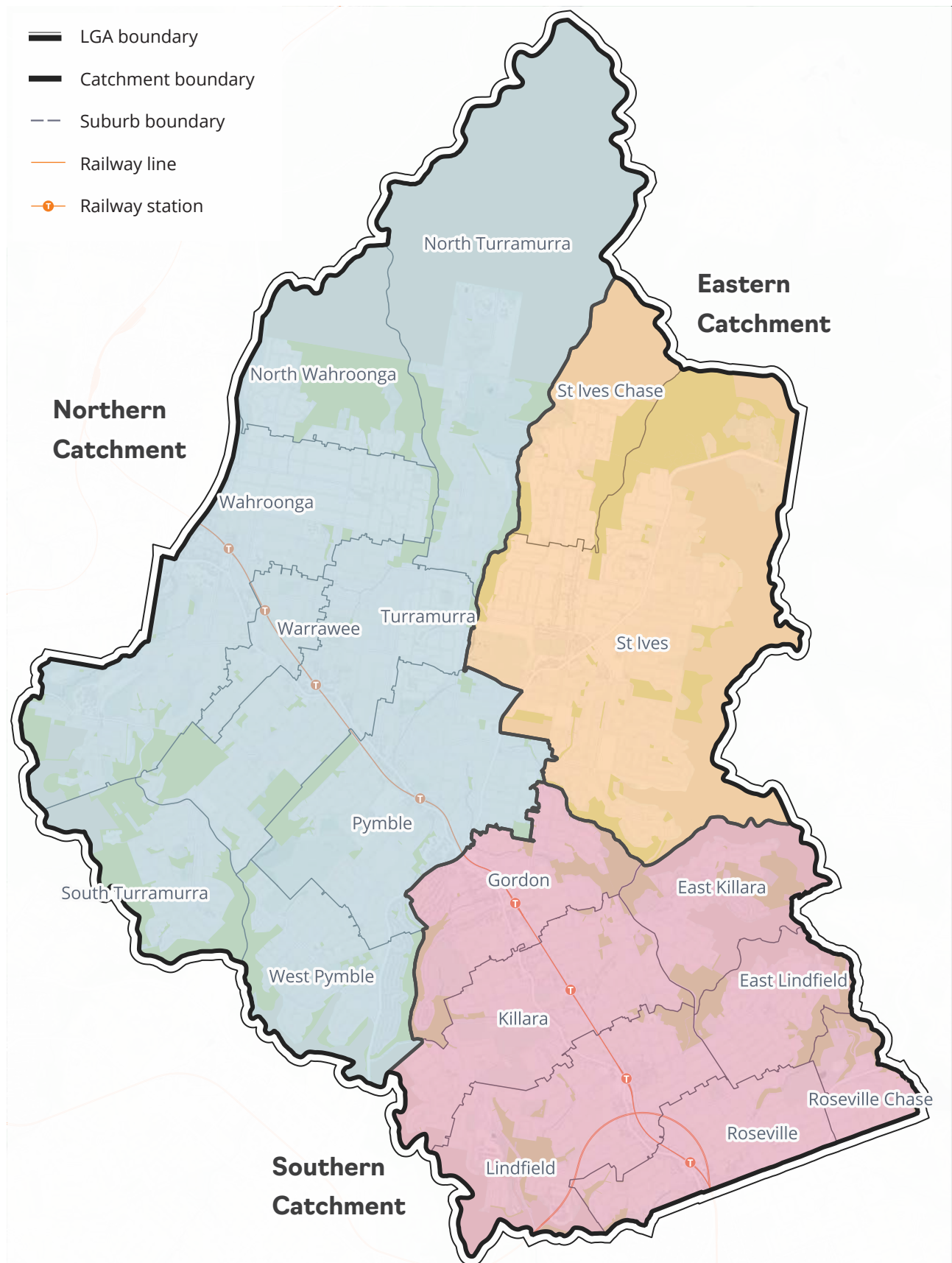
- St Ives
- St Ives Chase.

- **Southern Catchment**

- East Killara
- East Lindfield
- Gordon
- Killara
- Lindfield
- Roseville
- Roseville Chase.

Figure 4 - Map of The Ku-ring-gai LGA and it's three planning catchments (Northern, Eastern and Southern)

(Spatial data source: SIX Maps, Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



1.4. About open space and recreation

For the purposes of this Needs Study, open space is broadly defined as:

Open space is land that is publicly accessible and used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. This includes parks, sports spaces, civic and urban spaces, as well as natural areas across the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

The public open space networks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA include the following functions:

- **Parks** - open space that supports informal recreation activities.
- **Sports space** - open space that supports formal/organised sporting activities.
- **Natural areas** - open space that supports biodiversity.
- **Reserves** - open space that is unembellished and limited in size and functionality.
- **Civic/urban spaces** - public space in urban, developed areas, including elements of the public domain such as streets and plazas, often hard surface and event ready spaces.
- **Waterways** - connects and supports water-based recreation.

The Ku-ring-gai LGA also benefits from open space and recreation assets that are owned and managed by other agencies and entities including National Parks, as well as assets owned and managed by public and private schools and private organisations such as learn-to-swim schools. We understand that these open spaces and facilities are important recreation spaces used by the community. However, they have not been included in benchmarking calculations in this Needs Study, as they are not managed by Council.

Recreation is defined as:

Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that we participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing, and to connect with our families and communities. This includes casual activities like going for a walk or a picnic with friends, as well as fitness activities and social, organised, competition, and elite sporting activities.

It is important to approach recreation planning as a spectrum ranging from passive recreation such as visiting the beach or enjoying nature; personal fitness and wellbeing such as using outdoor gym equipment; through to organised, representative and elite sport. Figure 5, below, shows the diverse spectrum of recreation activities that take place in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Figure 5 - Ku-ring-gai LGA's recreation spectrum:



Recreation facilities are defined as:

Recreation facilities are the built infrastructure that supports recreation activities such as sportsfields, aquatic facilities, outdoor courts, indoor recreation centres, play spaces, swimming pools, outdoor fitness stations, off-leash dog areas, recreation trails, civic event spaces, golf courses, lawn bowling clubs, and community gardens.

Recreation loops are defined as:

A recreational loop is a local recreational path that provides fun stops for local residents to play, exercise, walk, run, and cycle within their local neighbourhood. A recreational loop will have a start and finish point within a local area. Users of a recreational loop are likely to be local communities, particularly those living in areas with below-capacity provision of public open space and recreational facilities.

Recreation links are defined as:

A recreational link is an active link along streets and paths for walking, cycling or running that connects people to and between linkage and destination public spaces such as schools, sportsfields, public transport, as well as other public facilities and public open space areas. Users of recreational links will be residents, workers and visitors who want to cycle or walk through public spaces, or who want to access public spaces via active transport links.

Characteristics or features of recreation loops and links within the study area may include:

- Green - verge planting, larger trees for canopy cover
- Safe - traffic calming, wide accessible footpaths, good passive surveillance
- Legible - wayfinding signed, environmental information signage
- Play - places for children and young people to stop and play
- Comfortable - seating, shade, wide for a variety of users, and places to stop and rest – particularly for older people
- Choice - curation of a range of walking circuit lengths to suite all fitness and ability levels
- Cycle paths - safe cycle paths
- Educational - environmental art and signage
- Night time use - creative lighting, passive surveillance, street lighting, and
- Exercise - outdoor exercise equipment.

The way we use recreation facilities is changing

Increasing diverse populations, growing demand for existing facilities, and the rise of informal recreation means that the way we use recreation facilities is fundamentally changing.

This means that in the future, Ku-ring-gai's open space and recreation facilities cannot serve only one purpose anymore. To accommodate these changing needs and demands, new and upgraded open space and recreation facilities will need to be intentionally designed to reflect ever-changing community needs and preferences for sport recreation practices.

This Needs Study is underpinned by a range of trends and factors that influence recreation needs:

- Ku-ring-gai's population is increasingly diverse, with a range of recreational interests and needs to be met including 28% of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds, 52% women, 25% living in high density, and 3.9% needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.
- Greater Sydney-wide recreational participation trends indicate there is now a much higher demand for spaces to participate in informal and social recreational activities such as walking, cycling, social sports, exercise/fitness, and play. While this is also the case in Ku-ring-gai, demand for sports spaces and participation remains high in the LGA.
- While there are increasing and competing demands for more public open spaces, in metropolitan, built-up LGAs like Ku-ring-gai, land for new public open spaces and facilities is expensive, or there is simply no more land available to meet these demands. Cities are getting creative in addressing recreation needs by encouraging urban plazas in town centres, re-imaging what they have as multi-use, shared, diverse spaces, and creating recreational links and loops along local streets functioning as part of a network across the LGA and regionally.
- Standards that are used to measure recreation demand are often based on historical needs that don't necessarily respond to the unique issues facing metropolitan areas like the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

1.5. The benefits of open space and recreation

Social benefits

Open space and recreation facilities are important social connectors.

They provide a space for the community to meet each other and interact, as well as come together to share and celebrate¹.

AusPlay identifies that sport provides opportunities for diverse groups to meet and interact, and build relationships and understanding².

Open space, and in particular community/civic open space, is also important for creative and cultural expression.

These spaces provide opportunities for formal, organised events as well as informal gatherings; performance spaces and spaces to create, and places where the community can build a sense of common identity.

Recreation activities can also be a form of cultural expression. For example, playing a traditional sport, or performing a traditional dance³.

Participation in sport and recreation also reduces the risk of health conditions and improves social and emotional health and wellbeing.

Participation in recreation has benefits across the life stages: for children and young people, participation in regular physical activity has benefits for physical and mental development; psychological benefits including improving the symptoms of anxiety and depression, and reduction in youth offending and anti-social behaviour⁴. For older people, participation in physical activity is important for healthy ageing and social connection.

While living in a city can increase people's risk of mental illness, living close to green space is shown to have positive impacts on mental health⁵. Access to green space is linked to increased physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, stress reduction and mental health benefits across all ages, socio-economic groups and genders. However, it is the quality and variety of green space that is important, rather than the amount or number of spaces^{6,7}.

^{1,2} Cred Consulting for NSW Office of Sport, Sports Facility Needs in Multicultural Communities, 2018

³ Community Perceptions Monitor Annual Report 2021-2022, Australian Sports Commission, 2022

^{4,5} AIHW for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Physical activity across the life stages, 2018

⁶ World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, Urban green spaces and health, 2016

⁷ Wheeler, et al., Beyond greenspace: An ecological study of population general health and indicators of natural environment type and quality, International Journal of Health Geographics, 2015

Environmental benefits

Open space is an important resource to protect and build biodiversity.

Natural areas include areas of biodiversity importance. Planning for open space and recreation needs to balance the community's recreation needs with fragile conservation areas.

Open space supports resilience to environmental shocks, which is increasingly important in a climate-changed world.

Open space with permeable surfaces such as grass and soil can help to reduce and manage flooding and the impact of more severe heavy rain events, which are predicted to increase in intensity with climate change, temporarily storing water, and aiding with infiltration.

Green spaces with tree cover can act as urban "cool rooms", reducing the ambient temperature and the urban heat island effect. Every 10 percent increase in tree canopy can reduce land surface temperatures by 1 degrees Celsius⁸.

Economic benefits

The economic benefits of open space and recreation include increased property values for dwellings located close to open space, increased tourism (e.g. to major parks and events), and reduced health and social costs⁹.

The benefits of community sport infrastructure in Australia has been quantified by KPMG¹⁰, and is an example of how all open space provides economic benefits.

Community sport infrastructure is estimated to generate an annual value of more than \$16.2 billion to Australia, with \$6.3 billion worth of economic benefit, \$4.9 billion worth of health benefit and \$5.1 billion worth of social benefit¹⁰.

⁸ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Technical Guidelines for Urban Green Cover in NSW

⁹ The Trust for Public Land, The Economic Benefits of the Public Park and Recreation System in the City of Los Angeles, California, May 2017

¹⁰ KPMG for the Australian Sports Commission, The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure: Investigating the Value of Community Sport Facilities to Australia, 2018

1.6. About benchmarking

What are benchmarks?

Benchmarks (also commonly referred to as provision standards) are a commonly used tool in estimating the demand for various types of social infrastructure. There are three kinds of benchmarks used for social infrastructure planning:

- **Population-based benchmarks** (the subject of this paper),
- **Proximity-based benchmarks** (the distance people must travel to access social infrastructure within a catchment, and how easily they can be accessed on foot or by public transport), and
- **Comparative benchmarks** (how does this LGA compare with neighbours or similar-sized council areas?).

Benchmarks are used to give an indication of the number and size of items of social infrastructure that would ideally be provided if:

- Opportunity exists and feasibility is demonstrated,
- Funding is available,
- The local context and broader provision close by are considered, and
- Site opportunities and limitations are accounted for.

This Needs Study provides guidance on benchmarks that could be used to determine the social infrastructure needs of the current and forecast population of the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Best practice in recreation planning supports the provision of open space and recreation facilities based on quantitative and qualitative criteria including: industry benchmarks, minimum sizes, distance and accessibility by residents, proximity of other recreation opportunities, local demand, profile of local community, and various design criteria. Therefore, benchmarks are one of a range of indicators that are used to understand the social infrastructure needs of a community.

Limitations of using benchmarks

While a useful tool for comparing and understanding 'like with like', benchmarks should be applied with caution when planning for future communities:

- There are currently no industry accepted benchmarks for public open space and recreation facilities.
- Benchmarking usually reflects a historical approach to community infrastructure provision and does not necessarily capture how infrastructure will need to be provided into the future to reflect emerging best practice.
- Benchmarking does not take into account the usability or suitability of specific assets to meet community needs.
- Benchmarking is not nuanced to a local context, so it doesn't take into account the circumstances that affect the way we plan for community infrastructure (e.g. high costs of land or availability of land). For example, a more disadvantaged area may have a higher need for open space than benchmarking alone would indicate.

Benchmarks have the advantage of providing a standardised measure for comparison within and between the Ku-ring-gai LGA and other areas. In development contexts, benchmarks can be employed as a minimum requirement – helping to facilitate a positive outcome for the community.

Benchmarks are necessary to be able to identify the land needed to meet needs, and to assess capacity of existing assets. Table 1 and Table 2 identify the public open space and recreation benchmarks that have been used in the Needs Study.

Table 1 - Public open space benchmarks for the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Category	Hierarchy	Benchmark	Benchmark source
Parks	All	1ha. per 1,000 people	City of Parramatta, Community Infrastructure Strategy 2020
Sports spaces	All	1ha. per 1,000 people	City of Parramatta, Community Infrastructure Strategy 2020 Government Architect NSW, Draft Greener Places Design Guide 2020
Natural areas	All	1ha. per 1,000 people	City of Parramatta, Community Infrastructure Strategy 2020
Total open space	All	3ha. per 1,000 people	City of Parramatta, Community Infrastructure Strategy 2020

Table 2 - Recreation facilities benchmarks for the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Category	Sub-category	Hierarchy	Benchmark	Benchmark source
Sports facilities	<i>Total sportsfield</i>	All	1 per 5,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2020 (Low benchmark)
Outdoor sports courts	<i>Netball</i>	All	1 per 8,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2020 (Low benchmark)
	<i>Basketball (full court)</i>	All	1 per 4,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2020 (Low benchmark)
	<i>Tennis</i>	All	1 per 30,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2020 (Low benchmark)
	<i>Multipurpose court</i>	All	1 per 10,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2012
Indoor and outdoor recreation spaces	<i>Aquatic facility</i>	Local	1 per 30,000 people	Growth Centres Commission, NSW Government
		District	1 per 75,000 people	
		Regional	1 per 150,000 people	
	<i>Indoor court</i>	All	1 per 20,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2012
	<i>Indoor recreation centre</i>	All	1 per 50,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2012
	<i>Outdoor fitness station</i>	All	1 per 15,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2012
	<i>Playground</i>	All	1 per 2,000 people	Parks and Leisure Australia, 2012
	<i>Skate park & BMX/ Pump track</i>	Local	1 per 10,000 people	Newcastle Parks and Recreation Strategy 2014
		District	1 per 25,000 people	
		Regional	1 per 150,000 people	
	<i>Dog off-leash area</i>	All	1 per 8,000 people	Newcastle Dogs in Open Space Plan
	<i>Clubhouse</i>	All	N/A	N/A
	<i>Community garden</i>			
	<i>Mountain bike</i>			
	<i>Equestrian arena</i>			
	<i>Climbing</i>			
	<i>Orienteering & rogaining</i>			
	<i>Golf course</i>			

1.7. Council's role

Council plays an active role in supporting participation in formal and informal recreation by providing and planning for open space and recreation infrastructure and facilitating recreation programs and services.

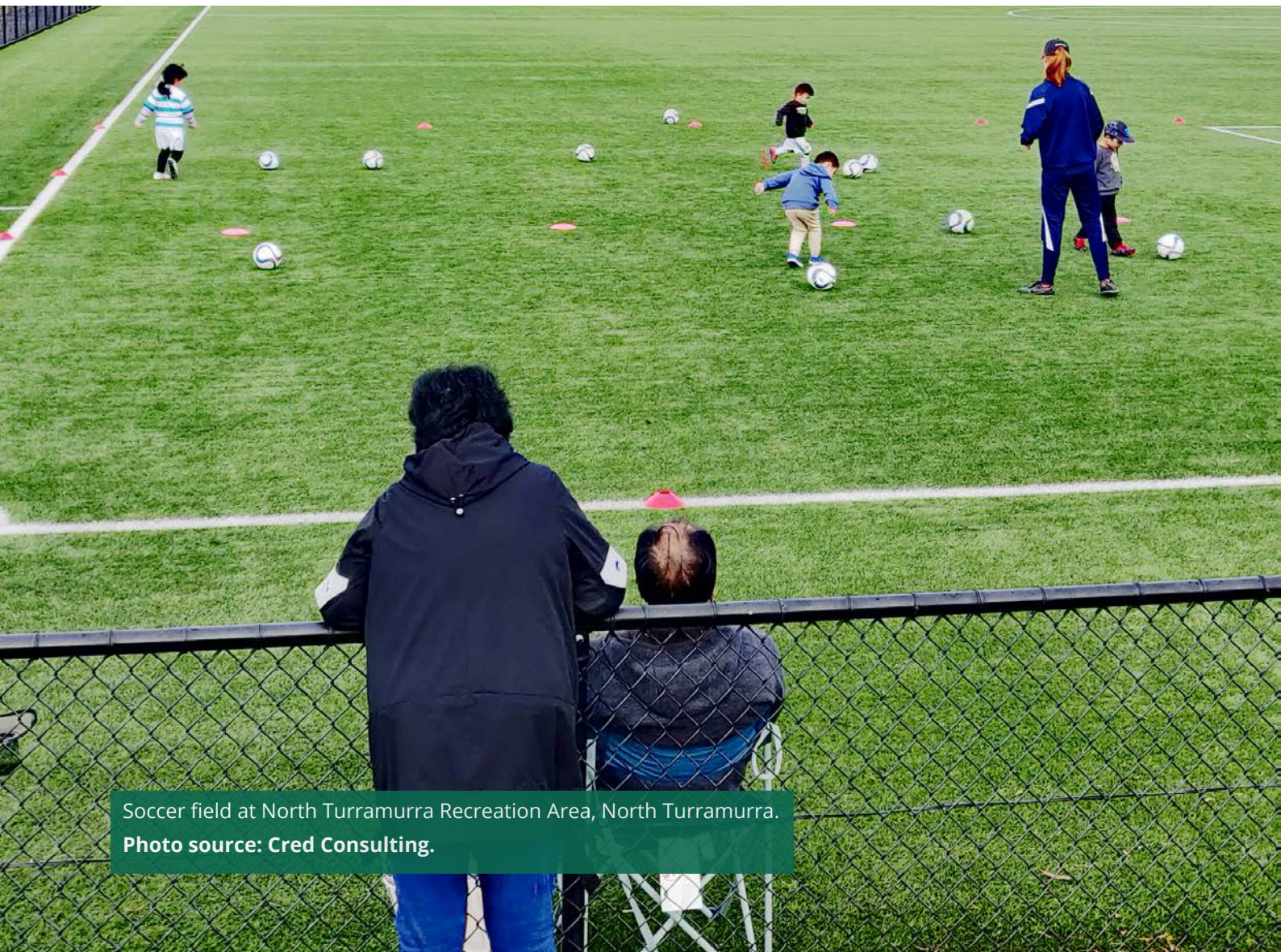
Council also plays a key role in facilitating recreation through partnerships with relevant organisations and the provision of funding through grants programs.

There are numerous other providers of open space and recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, including private facilities (such as fitness gyms), schools, educational institutions (public and private schools), sports clubs, and the NSW Government. The recreation sector as a whole is important to delivering the open space and recreation spaces and facilities that meet the needs of the current and future Ku-ring-gai LGA community.

The way NSW local government categorises, analyses, and plans for public open space and recreation facilities is changing.

Given the unique open space recreation planning challenges facing metropolitan areas such as the Ku-ring-gai LGA, Council needs to think differently about how they categorise, analyse and plan for public open spaces and recreation facilities into the future.

For example, historical tools such as categorisation of hierarchy may not necessarily add value to decision making. This is because although public open spaces may be categorised as local, district or regional spaces according to their size, they may actually be serving the community at a different level due to factors such as their location and quality of embellishment.



Soccer field at North Turramurra Recreation Area, North Turramurra.
Photo source: Cred Consulting.

2. Community priorities

Cred Consulting engaged with over 1,400 people from June 2022 to August 2022 to inform the development of this Needs Study.

This Needs Study summarises findings from a range of consultation activities, including a representative community telephone survey, an online community survey, an online stakeholder survey and face-to-face stakeholder interviews.

For the purposes of this Needs Study, the consultation findings are presented by group, being community and stakeholder insights.

For further information on Ku-ring-gai's community engagement, please see the Ku-ring-gai Recreation and Open Space Needs Study Engagement Report located in the Appendix.

Who was engaged?



946 online community survey participants

Available online from 29 June to 30 July 2022.



402 community telephone survey participants

Occurred between 17 June to 27 June 2022.



10 face-to-face stakeholder interviews & 51 stakeholder surveys

Interviews with sporting peak bodies, community groups and local schools occurred between July and August 2022. Surveys occurred between 30 June to 27 July 2022.

2.1. What we heard from the Ku-ring-gai community



Unstructured recreation activities such as walking and bushwalking are Ku-ring-gai's top recreation activities

Fun and enjoyment (90%), fitness and exercise (88%), and getting fresh air (88%) are the main reasons people use recreation spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Walking (87%) and bushwalking (75%) are the most common recreation activities people in the Ku-ring-gai LGA undertake in a normal year.



Trying new recreation activities is important for some Ku-ring-gai residents

One in three residents in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are interested in trying new recreational activities.



Lack of time is a major barrier for participation in recreation activities

Lack of time (38%) was the main reported barrier preventing people from taking part in recreation activities.



Parks, natural areas, and walking tracks and trails are the top priority for residents into the future

Residents want parks (81%), natural and bush areas (79%), and walking tracks and trails (76%) to be the main priority for future recreation planning.

Spaces where residents wanted more investment included walking tracks and trails (46%), natural and bush areas (46%), parks (43%), and play spaces for children (40%).

2.2. What we heard from Ku-ring-gai's stakeholders

The majority of stakeholders rely on Council's facilities to meet their sporting needs

- 90% of responses to the stakeholder survey were from sporting organisations in the Ku-ring-gai area. Other stakeholders include schools, dog training and social/hobby groups.
- 95% of stakeholder survey respondents use Ku-ring-gai Council's recreation facilities to meet their sporting needs, with sportsfields, ovals and courts being the most popular facilities used.

"...Our main requirement is having access to sport fields that support our club for training during the week (with lights and adequate drainage) and for the scheduling of games on the weekend."

- Stakeholder survey respondent

Participation trends vary across sports

- 41% of stakeholder survey respondents reported that participation has typically increased over the last five years.
- 56% of stakeholder survey respondents felt that their organisation participation levels would increase in the next five years.

"...The increased population density in the area (development along the highways), coupled with growth of female participation, and higher participation with older players... is only going to increase participation."

- Stakeholder interviewee

Quality of facilities is the biggest barrier to participation

- Poor quality of sport and recreation facilities was reported as the biggest barrier to participation for stakeholder survey respondents (59%).
- Access to more sportsfields across the Ku-ring-gai LGA and maintenance of sports facilities are the most common stakeholder needs.

"...The state of the grounds is a big barrier. A lot of them are not safe, or they get closed a lot, which influences a person's experience."

- Stakeholder interviewee

Female participation in sports is growing, but facilities and amenities across the Ku-ring-gai LGA are not fit-for-purpose

- We heard throughout stakeholder interviews that female participation in sports is growing, but facilities and amenities across the Ku-ring-gai LGA are not fit-for-purpose.

"...Women's sport is forgotten in the area; the boys and their facilities are really well looked after and ours aren't... Council can at least maintain things a little better than they are right now."

- Stakeholder interviewee

Stakeholders have concerns around renting, leasing and booking facilities

- We heard throughout stakeholder interviews that stakeholders are concerned about renting, leasing and booking sport and recreation facilities.

"...I hate to see a ground that is dormant and not being used, and equally hate to see clubs thinking they don't have enough space to accommodate all the kids. Multi-use spaces for me are the big idea."

- Stakeholder interviewee

Stakeholders want increased communication and partnership between Council and others

- We heard throughout stakeholder interviews that stakeholders want better and increased collaboration with Council, other sporting organisations and schools.

"...In Ku-ring-gai, we need to get in a room, sit down and have a good think about what we do and how we do it. There isn't space to get a whole lot of new ovals, but the ovals we do have could be better utilised if there was better cooperation."

- Stakeholder interviewee



Mountain biking at Jubes Mountain Bike Park, North Turrumurra.
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council

3. Strategic context

3.1. Strategic policy context

A range of strategies and policies have been reviewed to inform this Needs Study. A snapshot of the international, national, state, regional, and local strategies and policies reviewed is shown below:

National



State



Regional



Ku-ring-gai Council



*For a full list and detailed summary of strategic documents, refer to the Appendix.

What does the strategic context mean for open space and recreation in Ku-ring-gai LGA?



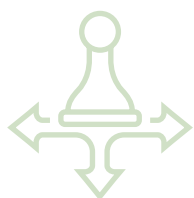
New and upgraded public open space and recreation facilities must be designed to meet the needs of Ku-ring-gai's diverse community

- Seek opportunities to (in alignment with Ku-ring-gai Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement [LSPS]) provide a broad range of open spaces, sporting and leisure facilities to meet the community's diverse and changing needs.
- Reduce barriers to participation for older people, children, young people, low income groups, migrants, women, and people with disability.
- Enhance open space so it can meet a wider range of community needs. This can include better landscaping, better lighting and multi-use spaces.



Ku-ring-gai needs better active transport and comfortable connections between regional and district recreational spaces

- Seek opportunities to (in alignment with Ku-ring-gai Council's LSPS) provide well-maintained, connected and accessible trail networks and recreational infrastructure where people can enjoy and connect with nature.
- Seek opportunities to improve walking and cycling links within and around the Ku-ring-gai LGA by maximising recreational loops and links for leisure and recreation.



Ku-ring-gai's existing public open spaces will need to have improved quality and capacity to manage competing demand and expectations

- Seek opportunities to improve the quality and capacity of Council's existing open space and recreation facility network.
- Seek opportunities to (in alignment with Ku-ring-gai Council's LSPS) develop and manage a network of sporting assets that best meet the needs of a growing and changing community.



Ku-ring-gai needs to deliver new or upgraded public open space and recreation facilities close by to high-density dwellings

- Ensure the provision of new or embellished open spaces and recreation facilities within proximity to new development, higher-density living and forecast growth areas.
- Seek to provide innovative open space solutions that deliver high-quality and diverse spaces.



Ku-ring-gai's existing play spaces need to have improved quality and diversity, especially to meet the needs of families living in higher-density housing

- Seek opportunities to deliver high-quality play spaces that provide diverse play value and experience for a range of age groups.
- New and upgraded play spaces should be prioritised close to high-density dwellings.
- Provide opportunities for children and young people's play throughout the Ku-ring-gai LGA.



Ku-ring-gai can explore sharing public and private spaces through partnerships and collaboration

- Explore partnerships and sharing including the sharing of school spaces (both public and private), such as open spaces and recreation facilities with benefits including cost-sharing.
- Explore the use of golf courses to provide a wider range of sport and recreation facilities for local communities.



Ku-ring-gai needs to apply a gender-lens to decision making

- Consider opportunities (in alignment with the Office of Sport's Women in Sport Strategy) for new and upgraded sporting facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA by applying a gender lens, with female-friendly amenities and upgrades to lighting.



St Ives Rugby Club building, Hassall park, St Ives.
Photo source: Cred Consulting

4. Community profile

Future planning for open space and recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA is driven by the unique demographic and place characteristics of the Ku-ring-gai LGA and its suburbs. Demographic data in this chapter reflects the 2021 ABS Census sourced via Profile ID.

4.1. Ku-ring-gai's community now

- In 2021, the Ku-ring-gai LGA had a population of 124,075 (Usual Resident Population).
- The Ku-ring-gai LGAs experiencing a small growth in population (+2,187 people since 2016).
- 67% of dwellings are single dwellings, but there is **increasing high-density housing**, from 19% in 2016 to 25% in 2021.
- As shown in Figure 6 and Table 3, the Ku-ring-gai LGA is home to a **younger population overall** (<18s= 26%), but with a significant and growing older population (>70 = 16% in 2021 compared to 14% in 2016).
- 28% speak a language other than English** (lower than Greater Sydney at 37%), but this is higher than in 2016 at 23%.
- Main language spoken other than English is Mandarin**, which increased from 4% in 2016 to 8% in 2021.
- Approximately 1 in 4 people live with a long-term health condition** in 2021 (similar to Greater Sydney).

4.2. How is the Ku-ring-gai community going to change?

In the future, it is expected that the Ku-ring-gai community will have the following key characteristics:

- By 2041, the total population of the Ku-ring-gai LGA will grow to 140,760 people. This represents a **total increase of +10.4% or +13,358 people**.
- Growth likely in more high-density apartments** (+3,027) (5.2%) between 2016 & 2021 – this trend is likely to continue.
- Continuing **increase in cultural diversity**.
- Continuing **families with young children, young couples without children and lone person households**.
- A high proportion of **working aged adults**.
- A higher proportion of **people aged over 85 and over**.

Figure 6 - The Ku-ring-gai LGA age profile 2021 (Source: Profile ID)

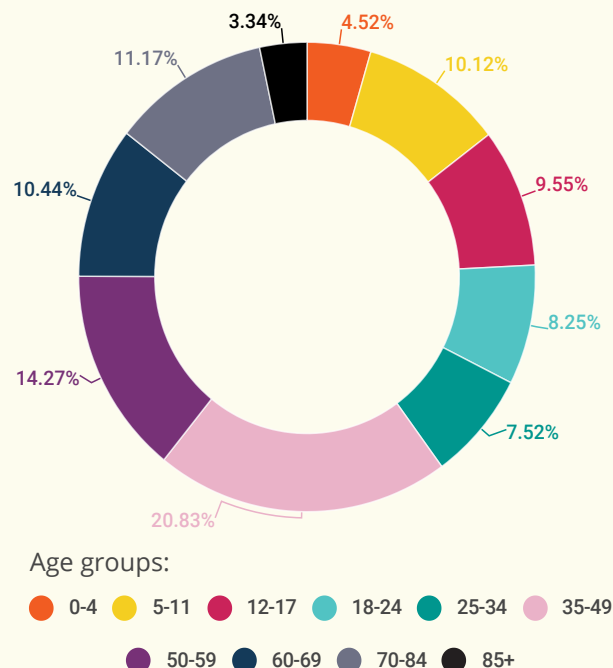


Table 3 - The Ku-ring-gai LGA age profile compared to Greater Sydney (Usual Resident Population) (Source: Profile ID)

2021			Change	
Service age group	Ku-ring-gai		Greater Sydney	Ku-ring-gai 2016 to 2021
	#	%	%	#
0-4	5,602	4.5	6.0	-425
5-11	12,558	10.1	8.8	+354
12-17	11,853	9.6	7.1	+226
18-24	10,233	8.2	8.8	+299
25-34	9,330	7.5	15.5	-332
35-49	25,844	20.8	21.5	+1,259
50-59	17,700	14.3	12.0	+1,240
60-69	12,955	10.4	9.8	+1,177
70-84	13,862	11.2	8.7	+2,124
85+	4,138	3.3	2.0	+102
Total	124,075	100.0	100.0	+6,024

The profile of the Ku-ring-gai community is based on 2021 census of population and housing data (rounded to the nearest whole number).

If Ku-ring-gai was 100 people...

42

is the median age

1

person is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



24

people are aged under 18 years



21

people are aged 35 to 49 years



19

people are aged over 65 years



43

people were born overseas



33

people speak a language other than English at home



English (77)
Mandarin (13)
Cantonese (6)

people would speak these languages

4

people in need of assistance due to disability



20

people volunteer



7

people are studying at university



54

people have a university degree



If Ku-ring-gai was 100 households...

17

lone-person households



1

group household



46

couples with children households



25

couples without children households



9

one-parent households



24

households live in high density dwellings



\$3,046

median weekly households income



12 low-income households earning <\$800 a week

48 high-income households earning >\$3,000 a week

19

households are renting privately, while 1 household is social housing



40

households owned outright



96

households own at least one car



4.3. Current population characteristics

Current population (2021)

At the time of the 2021 census, the Ku-ring-gai LGA population was 124,075 (Usual Resident Population). Ku-ring-gai LGA's population grew by +5.1%, or +6,023 persons from 2016 to 2021.

Figure 7 shows a demographic profile of the Ku-ring-gai LGA compared with similar LGAs, The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC), and NSW.

Age profile

The median age of Ku-ring-gai Council residents is 42 years. As shown in Figure 8, Ku-ring-gai Council has a similar age profile compared to Greater Sydney; however, with key differences, including:

- Much lower proportion of young workforce aged 18 to 24 years (7.5% vs. 15.5%),
- Much higher proportion of seniors aged 70-84 (11.2% vs. 8.7%), and
- Much higher proportion of children and teenagers aged under 18 years (24.2% vs. 21.9%).

Cultural diversity

In 2021, 42.6% of residents living in the Ku-ring-gai LGA were born overseas, compared to 38.6% in Greater Sydney. Top places (other than Australia) where people in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are born include China (10.4%), England (5.7%) and South Africa (3.0%).

Income

In 2021, 47.5% of households in the Ku-ring-gai Council area were high-income households and earned an income of \$3,000 or more per week, compared to 30.1% of households in Greater Sydney.

Overall, 11.9% of households in the Ku-ring-gai Council area were low-income households, compared to 17.9% in Greater Sydney.

Wellbeing

3.9% of the Ku-ring-gai LGA population, or 4,834 people, reported a need for assistance due to disability – a slightly lower proportion compared to Greater Sydney (5.2%).

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of indicators including income, education level, unemployment, and jobs in unskilled occupants. The higher an area's index value for the SEIFA, the less disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas. In 2016, the Ku-ring-gai LGA scored 1,121.0, indicating it is less disadvantaged compared to Greater Sydney (1,018.0).

Education and employment

In 2021, 70.1% of the Ku-ring-gai population aged 15 and over held educational qualifications, and 25.0% had no qualifications, compared with 57.9% and 34.2% respectively for Greater Sydney.

In 2021, 20.4% of people living in the Ku-ring-gai LGA provided voluntary work, a much higher proportion of than Greater Sydney (11.6%).

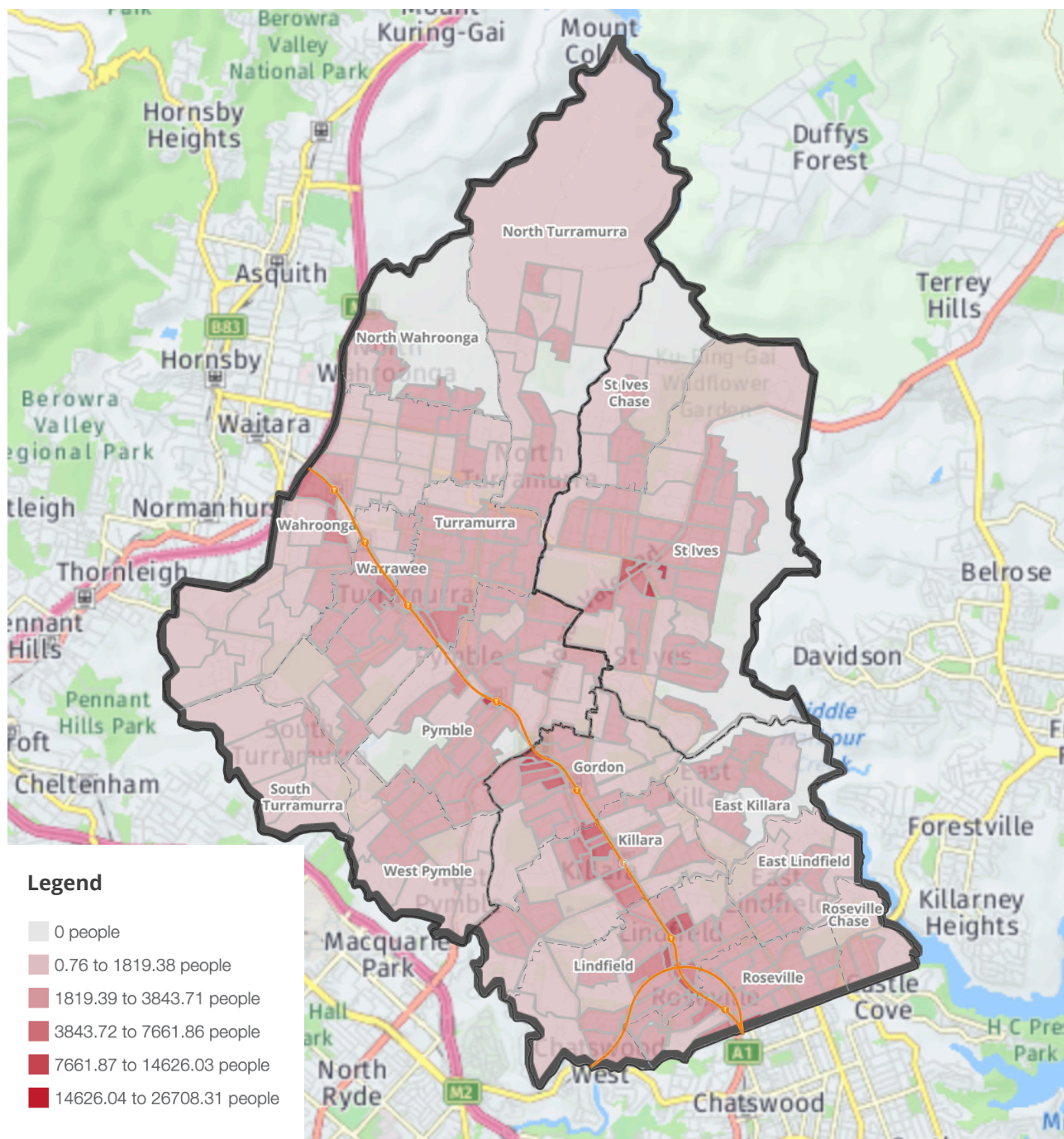
Household composition

With 2.84 persons per dwelling in 2021, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a similar average household size when compared to Greater Sydney.

The Ku-ring-gai LGA is an established, family-oriented area. Couples with children make up the largest proportion of family structures within Ku-ring-gai at 45.7%. This is also a higher proportion compared to Greater Sydney at 35%.

Figure 7 - Population density across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Source: Atlas ID)



Density

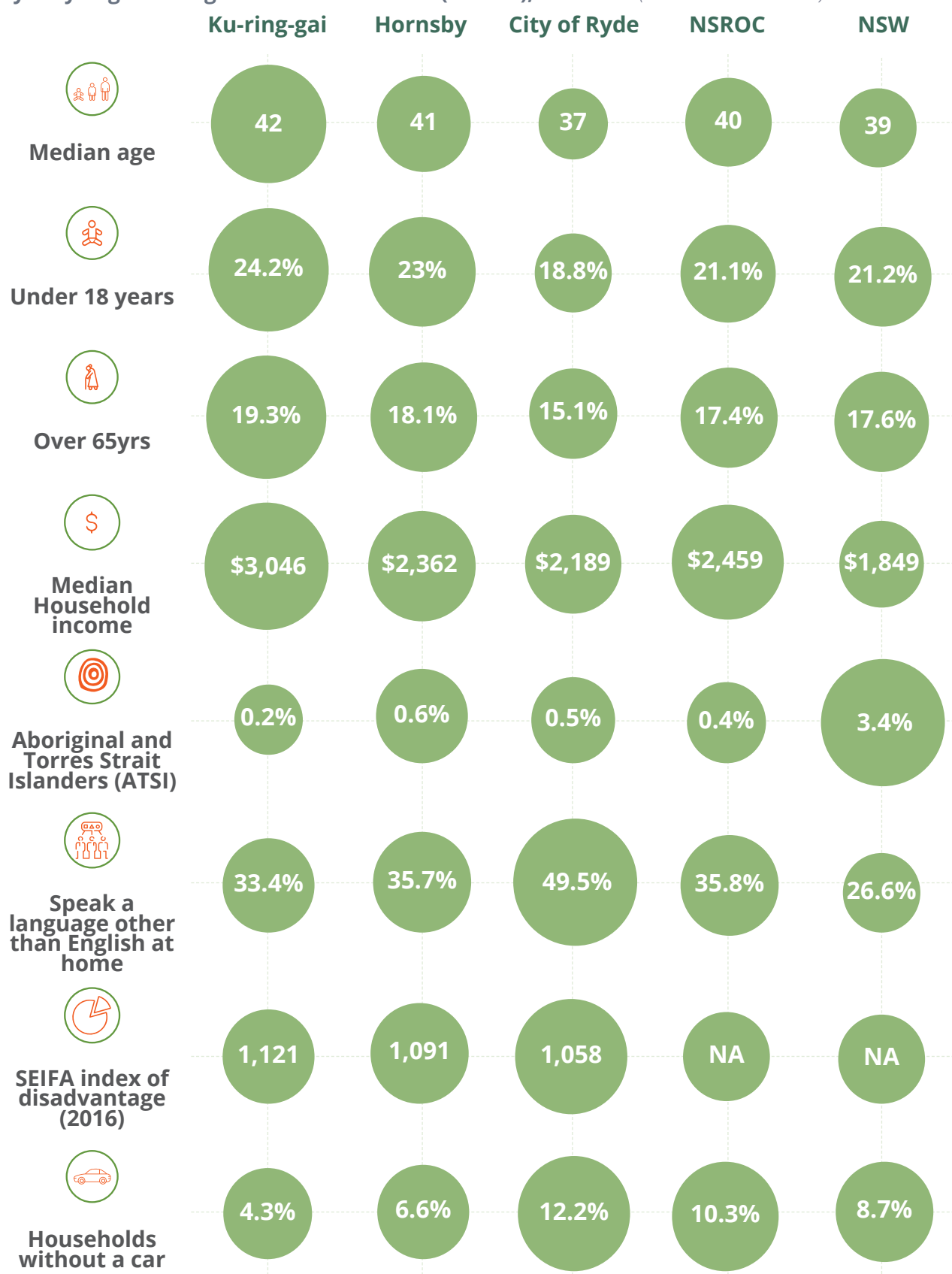
Population density in the Ku-ring-gai LGA varies across the LGA, from a high of 14.30 persons per square kilometre (pp/km²) in St Ives, to a low of 1.35pp/ km² in Warrawee.

As a well-established suburban area, the Ku-ring-gai LGA is also characterised by a higher proportion of separate houses compared to Greater Sydney,

with 67% of households living in separate dwellings compared to 53.4%.

Figure 7, above, shows the population density of the Ku-ring-gai LGA in 2021. It indicates that population density is concentrated along the train line and in the St Ives Town Centre area.

Figure 8 - Demographic profile of Ku-ring-gai compared with similar LGAs, The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC), and NSW (Data source: Atlas ID)



4.4. How is the Ku-ring-gai community going to change?

This section provides an analysis of population forecasts for the Ku-ring-gai LGA and at a planning catchment level (SA2 census data) using the NSW Department of Planning and Environment population forecasts (2022).

Ku-ring-gai is expected to grow modestly into the future.

The main source of growth will be from migration from Australia and internationally. The trend towards an older population will continue, and those aged 85 and over will become the dominant age group by 2031.

Future population (2041)

Figure 9 shows that by 2041, the total population of Ku-ring-gai LGA will grow from 124,075 to 140,760 people. This represents a total increase of +13.4% or +16,685 people.

This population change will be made up of +753 residents in natural change (births less deaths), and +12,506 in migration (arrivals less departures).

As shown in Table 4, the growth of catchment areas will be Southern Catchment (+8,998), Northern Catchment (+5,749), and Eastern Catchment (+2,391).

Population by age

The population age pyramid in Figure 10 shows that in 2021, Ku-ring-gai has higher proportion of babies and young kids, and people aged 40 to 65. There is a lower proportion of people aged between 25 and 35 and those aged 80+.

By 2041, this will change slightly, with those aged 85+ becoming the dominant age group. Those aged between 25 and 35 will still be the least dominant group in the region.

Figure 9 - Ku-ring-gai population 2021 and forecast population 2041 (DPE population projections, 2022)

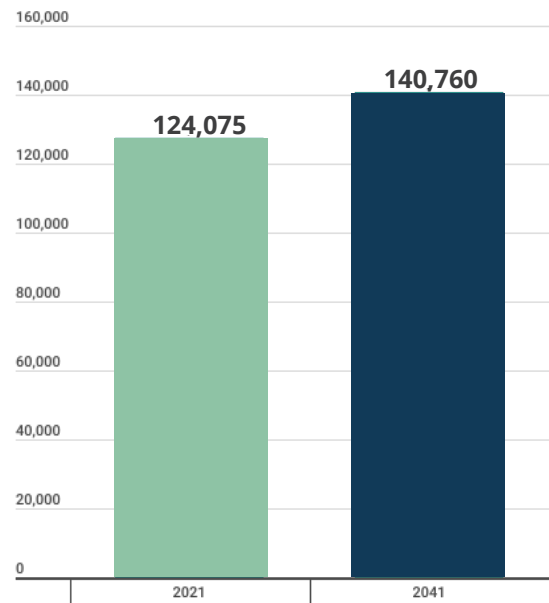


Figure 10 - Population by age, Ku-ring-gai population 2021 and forecast population 2041 (DPE population projections, 2022)

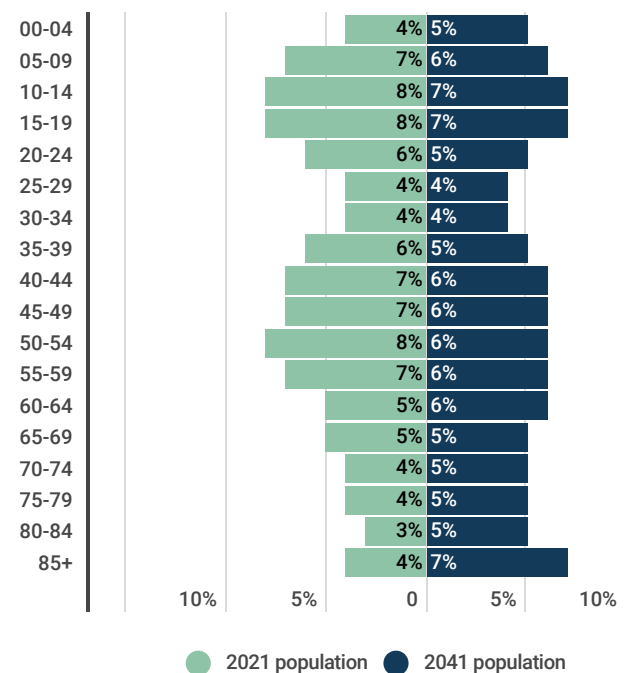
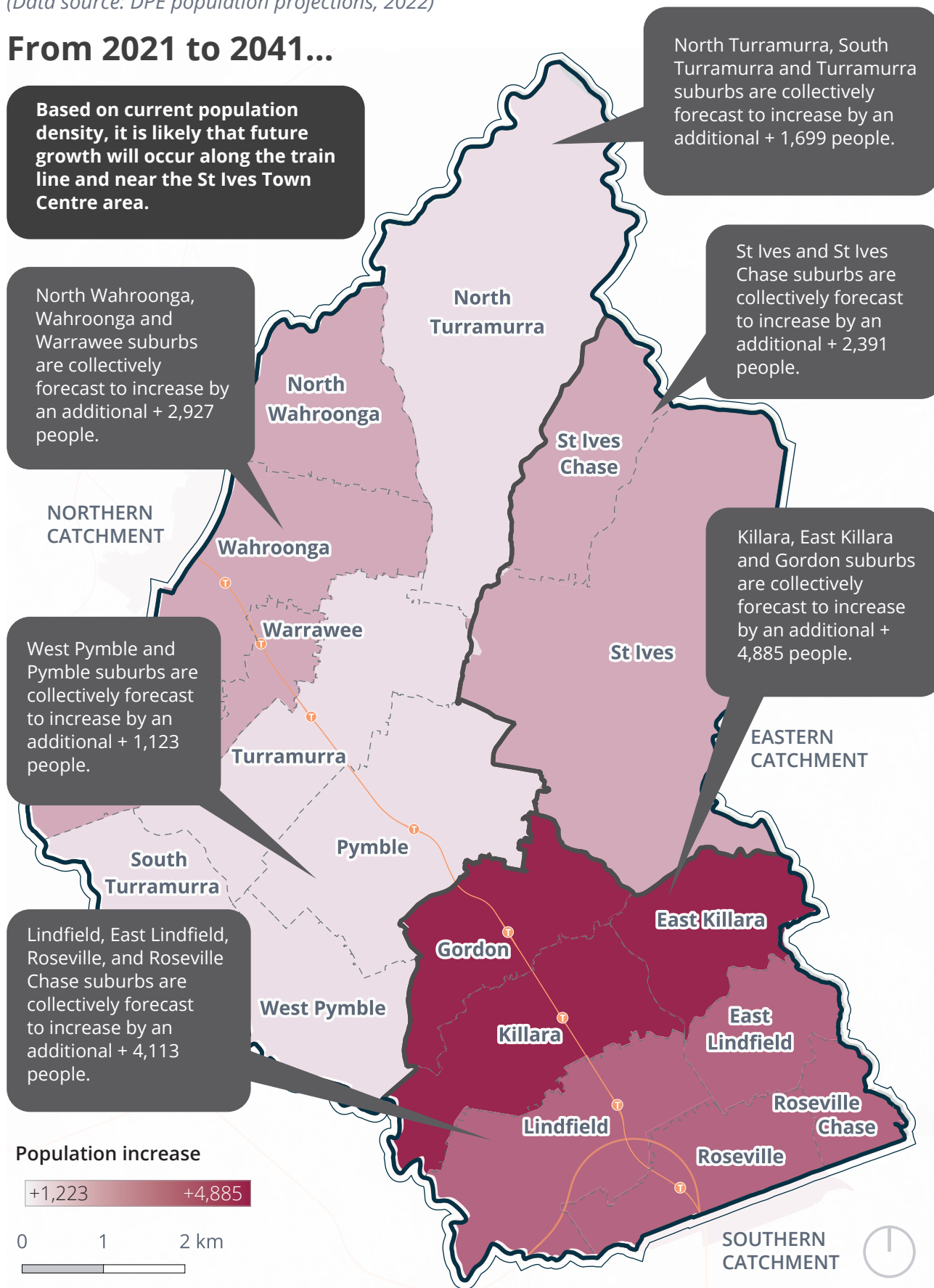


Table 4 - The Ku-ring-gai LGA age profile compared to Greater Sydney (Usual Resident Population) (Source: Profile ID)

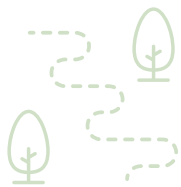
2021				
Catchment	Suburbs	2021 population	2041 population	Change from 2021 to 2041
Northern catchment	North Turramurra	20,252	21,951	+ 1,699
	South Turramurra			
	Turramurra			
	North Wahroonga	18,340	21,267	+ 2,927
	Wahroonga			
	Warrawee			
	West Pymble	17,216	18,339	+ 1,123
	Pymble			
Southern catchment	East Killara	22,304	27,189	+ 2,391
	Gordon			
	Killara			
	East Lindfield	24,290	28,403	+ 4,885
	Lindfield			
	Roseville - Roseville Chase			
Eastern Catchment	St Ives	21,667	24,058	+ 4,113
	St Ives Chase			
Northern catchment		55,808	61,557	+5,749
Southern catchment		46,594	55,592	+8,998
Eastern catchment		21,667	24,058	+2,391

Figure 11 - The Ku-ring-gai LGA population increase from 2021 to 2041
 (Data source: DPE population projections, 2022)

From 2021 to 2041...



What does the community profile mean for open space and recreation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA?



Ku-ring-gai can recognise First Nations Peoples within its open spaces

For thousands of years, the Ku-ring-gai area was home to Durrumurragal people. Open spaces and recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA can provide opportunities to recognise, celebrate and learn from Aboriginal connection to Country.

Where? Throughout the Ku-ring-gai LGA.



There is a need to provide more parks closer to high-density developments

67% of the Ku-ring-gai LGA community live in single dwellings, but an increasing proportion of the community are also living in apartments, growing from 19% in 2016 to 25% in 2021. Supporting higher-density communities means providing open space that meets a range of recreation needs; is within easy walking distance of home; and also functions as a “backyard” for residents living in apartments that have little private open space.

Where? Suburbs with a higher population density such as Killara (22.8 persons per hectare), and Gordon (20.3 persons per hectare).



Families with children need access to high-quality open spaces and recreation facilities

Families with children make up 45.7% of Ku-ring-gai LGA’s households. Supporting families with children means providing open spaces that can host family celebrations – providing accessible facilities located near public transport or accessible parking spaces, accessible play spaces suitable for different age groups and abilities, and dedicated parents rooms.

Where? Suburbs with a higher proportion of couples with children households such as St Ives Chase (56.5%), South Turramurra (55.7%), and West Pymble (55.4%).



Ku-ring-gai can embellish existing open spaces and recreation facilities to support working-aged people

Supporting working-aged people means extending opening hours at leisure centres and sporting fields for use outside of work hours, providing lighting for use at night time, and providing online centralised booking systems. Local workers who do not live in the area may also access Ku-ring-gai LGA's open spaces and recreation facilities, thereby increasing demand.

Where? Suburbs with a higher labour force participation rate such as West Pymble (66.6%), South Turramurra, (66.2%), Roseville/Roseville Chase (64.6%).



There is a need to ensure Ku-ring-gai's open space and recreation facilities support older people to stay healthy and happy

One in four (25%) of Ku-ring-gai LGA residents is aged 60 years or over. This means providing open space and recreation facilities that support activities for older people, such as gentle exercise and walking. Open space and recreation facilities should be universally designed so that they remain accessible as people become more frail. Accessible connections to open space and recreation facilities are also important.

Where? Suburbs with a higher proportion of people aged 65 years and over including North Turramurra (41.1%), St Ives (21.7%), and North Wahroonga (21.6%).



Ku-ring-gai can support culturally and linguistically diverse communities by providing diverse recreation opportunities

Open space and recreation facilities can be a place to form cross-cultural relationships as well as new connections for recently arrived residents. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) residents may also have different recreation needs, for example: for different activities such as badminton, swimming, fishing, dancing, and walking in the evenings (Cred 2018).

Where? East Killara (55.1%), Gordon (52.9%), and St Ives (47.7%) have the highest proportion of residents born overseas.



Dogs in the sportsfield at Killara Park, Killara.
Photo source: Cred Consulting

5. Recreation and participation trends

5.1. Recreation trends

The impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly intensified the use of open space for recreation and relaxation across the world, including in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. A recent survey by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment shows a dramatic increase in activities in public spaces and local neighbourhoods, with 71 percent of respondents appreciating local parks more¹. This has highlighted the importance of having access to open space in proximity to all residents within their local area.

COVID-19 has also had a significant impact on people's participation in recreation activities. Organised sporting activities experienced declining participation due to ongoing adherence to health orders and associated lockdowns¹. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, AusPlay also observed an increase in participation in unstructured daily exercise (e.g. walking) for adults, and reduction of the gap in participation for both males and females². Consultation with stakeholders confirmed that while COVID-19 has been a barrier for growth in the short-term, many organisations have reported experiencing a growth in participation over the last five years.

The impact of wet weather

Wet weather experienced by the Ku-ring-gai LGA in the 2021 and 2022 summer and winter seasons was widely reported as a significant barrier to participation by stakeholders. Stakeholders reported that many Council facilities are not able to cope with wet weather, citing safety of facilities, poor drainage, lack of maintenance resources, and cumulative repair requests as key issues facing the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Key trends and changes

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.

Participation in recreation (both sport and non-sport physical activities) is evolving as our lifestyles, communities and urban environments change.

Nationally, the most significant trend in recreation participation in recent years is an increase in participation in informal, flexible and unstructured recreation activities such as walking, running or personal fitness, while research from the NSW Office of Sport shows that participation rates for many organised sports have held constant or are declining.

“Today more than ever, Australians are time poor, have limited budgets, are being inundated by new forms of entertainment and face increasing barriers to participation. As society changes, new preferences are emerging; Australians desire greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them.”

– Australian Sports Commission

Findings from community and stakeholder engagement conducted for this Needs Study indicate that participation in individualised recreation activities, such as walking and bushwalking, is high in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. However, interviews and surveys with local clubs and sporting peak bodies also indicate that participation in organised sport remains popular and there is increasing demand.

We also know that there are many emerging sports of interest in the Ku-ring-gai LGA such as Padel and pickleball, and that female participation in sport requires more attention.

The following identifies national and local sports and recreation trends that need to be considered in future planning for Ku-ring-gai Council.



Casualisation of sports and recreation

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 groups.¹



Individualisation of sports and fitness

Individualised sport and fitness activities have increased, while participation rates for many organised sports has held constant or declined.²



Increasingly time-poor

People are generally spending less time recreating, and need to fit activities into their busy schedules.³



Impact of climate on outdoor recreation

Climate change and increased days of extreme weather conditions is driving demand for indoor recreation facilities, which can support participation regardless of weather.



Cultural diversification

Interest in recreational activities range, due to a diversifying population with unique hobbies and interests.⁴



Increasing demand for indoor recreation

Demand for indoor recreation is increasing due to cultural diversification, climate comfort, safety at night, and co-location with other facilities.



Increasing participation of women and girls

Women and girls' decisions to participate in sport fluctuates according to age and life stage. The number of women participating in formal sports, is increasing.⁵



Adventure sports

"Extreme" lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports like skateboarding and BMX are becoming more mainstream.⁵



Accessible recreation

Universal access is important so that everyone, regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability, can collectively enjoy activities.⁵

¹ Greater use of public, open and shared space. Greater Sydney Commission. <https://www.greater.sydney/greater-use-of-public-open-and-shared-space>.

² The Greater Sydney Outdoor Survey, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

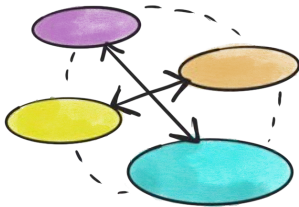
³ The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission

⁴ Sports facility needs in multicultural communities, by Cred Consulting for the NSW Office of Sport

⁵ The Future of Australian Sport. Megatrends shaping the sports sector over the coming decades, by CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission

5.2. Best-practice trends: planning for open space and recreation

Across NSW, there are increasing challenges and opportunities to delivering and governing open space and recreation infrastructure. The following provides a summary of these trends.



A networked approach

Increasingly, open space and recreation is being planned to operate as part of a network of public facilities, public open space, streets and services that work together and are multi-functional spaces to meet a broad range of community needs across a neighbourhood, catchment, or a region.

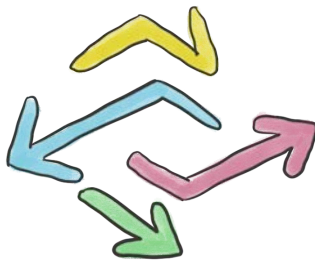
This integrated, strategic approach allows open space and recreation facilities, together with other types of social infrastructure, to provide a different yet complementary range of offerings in a compact pool of quality and multipurpose spaces, and avoid duplication.



Co-located recreation facilities within open spaces

The term co-located recreation facilities refers to the integration of recreation facilities within open spaces to provide better access to a wider range of recreation opportunities, across age groups.

Integrating and co-locating recreation facilities within open spaces, like district parks and sportsfields, helps to achieve key gathering points within a community with a variety of offerings. This approach improves efficiency through encouraging compatible uses and increases the overall flexibility and activity of the given area. Co-located recreation facilities within open spaces provide opportunities to attract a range of users, increase access to diverse facilities, and allow for the coordination of supporting services like public transport.



Multipurpose, shared, and flexible open space and recreation facilities

Multipurpose, shared and flexible open space and recreation facilities have been a trend for some time, particularly for new and upgraded facilities.

Multipurpose and flexibly-designed open spaces support a range of different passive and active recreation uses being delivered at once, and allow for the space to change over time in response to changing needs. The demand for multipurpose spaces will be accelerated with retrofitting of existing infrastructure to accommodate a range of activities.

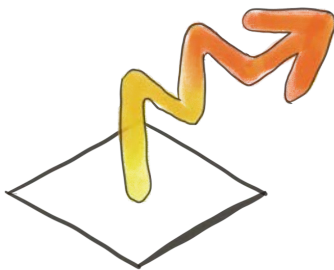
Spaces used for organised sport will also need to accommodate informal activities such as walking, running, and cycling; public streets can be shared for active transport such as walking and cycling, and testing centres and emergency evacuation/support centres.



Outdoor rooms for collaboration and innovation

Gathering, learning, socialising, collaborating and delivering programs in outdoor open spaces is increasing in popularity. Recent events such as COVID-19 have also accelerated demand for these types of outdoor meeting and collaboration spaces, with people working from home seeking social connection and innovation precincts, and encouraging collaboration in informal environments.

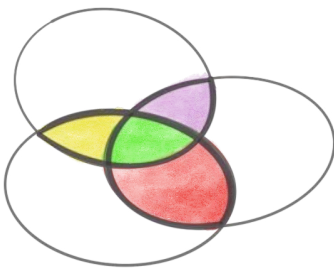
This trend of delivering community spaces in parks and outdoor areas can be seen in recent examples of the Goods Line at UTS (outdoor study and collaboration spaces), Burwood Pavilion (outdoor stage/covered hard stand areas and hireable community room), and most recently, Chill Out Hubs (open-air smart hubs) in Georges River.



Increasing the capacity of what we have: “Making it work harder”

Before any new social infrastructure is planned, local government is increasingly reviewing the capacity of what they already have within the given area or in close proximity to that area. Local government is also working to identify opportunities for re-purposing social infrastructure to ensure it is well located and has the capacity to function as a modern, flexible and multipurpose space. We should be asking the question: “Can existing infrastructure be extended or improved, or is new investment needed?”

In the context of unprecedented population growth and increasing community expectations, improving the capacity, efficiency and performance of existing social infrastructure will need to be a priority in order to meet demand. Opportunities exist to make smaller, more incremental investments where significant capacity enhancements can be delivered through existing infrastructure. This could include synthetic turf on hard-working sportsfields, or re-purposing of ageing infrastructure, like clubhouses, with modern technology to increase amenity and utilisation.



Shared use of social infrastructure

Sharing the use of existing social infrastructure has significant potential to maximise the use and efficiency of a variety of open spaces and recreation facilities for community benefit.

Sharing existing space may decrease the need to build new facilities that replicate already existing infrastructure, making assets work harder for the benefit of all. There may be opportunities in areas with social infrastructure deficiencies, including growth areas, to share social infrastructure with primary and secondary schools, and with other community partners.

5.3. NSW participation in recreation

The use of public open space and recreation facilities has changed over time. This Needs Study will explore and respond to the Ku-ring-gai community's diverse needs and changing preferences and participation in sport and recreation.

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) AusPlay Survey tracks the physical recreation activities (both sport and non-sport) that Australians participate in. Figure 12 shows the Ausplay participation rates by recreation activity. Some key trends are outlined below:

- Athletics - Track and Field, Swimming, Tennis, Football/Soccer, Tennis, Basketball and AFL sports have high participation rate across all age groups
- Walking (recreational) and Fitness/Gym are the top two sports amongst adults
- Gymnastics, Dance (recreational), Netball, Cricket, Rugby League, Karate, Surf Life Saving and Dance (Sport) are the top activities unique to children
- Overall, Swimming has a participation of 52.3% and its the most popular activity amongst all age groups.

The following NSW participation trends are sourced from AusPlay Survey aggregate data collected from October 2015 to the latest release in July 2022.

Participation by First Nations community

- 80.7% of the First Nations adults participate in sports
- Participation rate amongst First Nations children is 17% less than the overall children participation rate.

Participation by Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities

- 87.4% of the CALD community adults participate in sports
- Participation rate amongst children speaking a language other than English is 8% less than the overall children participation rate.

Participation by people with disability

- 78.2% of adults with disability participate in sports.

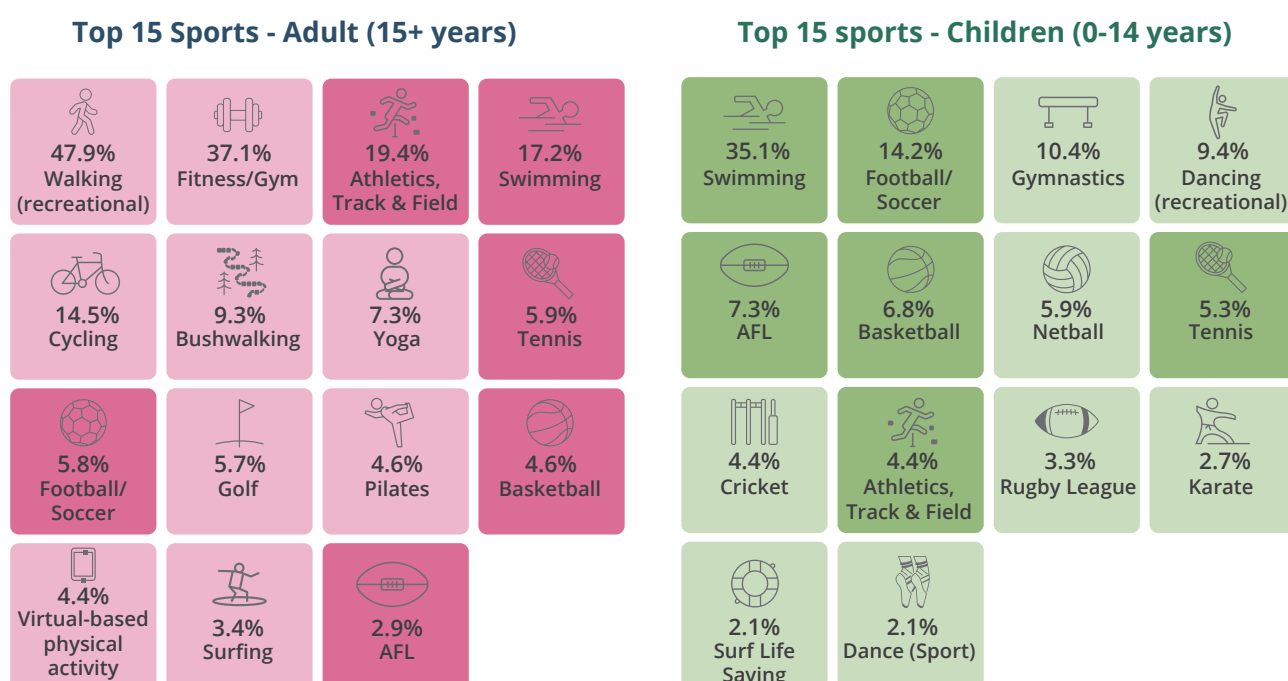
Participation by children

- Overall, 74.3% of children participate in some sort of recreation activity
- Children in NSW participate at least in 2 recreation activities, including sports.

Participation by women and girls

- Participation by adult female and male participants are at similar levels.

Figure 12 - Participation rates by recreation activity (Source: Ausplay Survey NSW data tables, Jan-Dec 2021)



5.4. Ku-ring-gai participation in sports and recreation

The summary of participation trends data provided by state associations for each sporting code and AusPlay is shown in Table 5.

AusPlay data was gathered from the SportAus AusPlay survey results January 2021 - December 2021. Ku-ring-gai Council contacted all sporting associations between April to September 2022.

The data they provided is shown below and has been used to assess participation trends. The state association for Rugby Union did not respond to this request for data, and therefore has not been included in the assessment.

It is noted that most sports activities have been impacted by lockdowns during COVID-19 pandemic. Detailed analysis of each sport will be provided in the next sub-section.

Table 5 - Summary of sports and recreation participation trends in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

- *Increasing** - Decreased during COVID-19 lockdown (2020-2021), but increasing after restrictions eased.
- *Decreasing** - Increased during COVID-19 lockdown (2020-2021), but decreasing after restrictions eased.

Sport	Participant category	Data collection years	Trend for Ku-ring-gai LGA	Overall trend for AusPlay 2021	Comments
Field based sports					
AFL	Male	2017-2021	Increasing	Increasing	Participation from both males and females is steadily increasing overall. This increase is likely due to increasing popularity of AFL across Australia.
	Female				
	Total				
Cricket	Male aged 5 to 8	2017-2021	Decreasing	Decreasing	Participation for age group 5 to 8 is decreasing overall. Participation rates for age group 9 to 17 is increasing overall. Participation rates for Senior Cricket is decreasing overall. The increase seen in age groups 9 to 17 is likely due to higher levels of cultural diversity in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.
	Male aged 9 to 17	2019-2022*	Increasing		
	Male senior cricket	2019-2022*	Increasing*		
	Female aged 5 to 8	2017-2021	Decreasing		
	Female aged 9 to 17	2019-2022*	Decreasing		
	Female senior cricket	2019-2022*	Increasing*		
	Total aged 5 to 8	2017-2021	Decreasing		
	Total aged 9 to 17	2019-2022*	Increasing*		
	Total senior cricket	2019-2022	Decreasing		

Sport	Participant category	Data collection years	Trend for Ku-ring-gai LGA	Overall trend for AusPlay 2021	Comments
Football	Female	2019-2022*	Increasing	Increasing	<p>Participation rates for Football are increasing overall. Participation across all age groups has increased since 2019, with the exception of the 13-18 age group, who have experienced a small decline. Female participation in football is increasing.</p> <p>Increases are likely due to the visibility and popularity of Football worldwide, including the FIFA World Cup.</p>
	Male		Increasing*		
	Junior (5 -12 years)		Increasing		
	Youth (13-18 years)		Decreasing		
	Senior (Over 19 years)		Increasing		
	Total		Increasing		
Little Athletics	Total	2017-2022	Increasing*	Increasing (athletics, track and field)	<p>Participation was steady in the years leading up to COVID-19; however, a sharp decrease of 20% occurred between 2019-2020 and 2021-2022. Post COVID-19 lockdowns, participation has steadily increased. Recent increase in participation is likely due to the flexibility of participation offered by Little Athletics.</p>
Hockey	Total	2017-2022	Stable	Stable	<p>For members in the LGA playing in other associations, membership has remained stable, with 202 participants in 2017 and 189 participants in 2022. Overall, females are more likely to play Hockey when compared to males.</p>
Outdoor court based sports					
Netball	Total	2015-2022	Decreasing	Decreasing	<p>There has been an 37% decrease in participation since 2015. Between 2019 and 2021, there was a decrease of 17% in participation numbers.</p> <p>This overall decrease in participation is likely due to greater diversity in opportunities available for female sport in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. It may also be attributed to limited netball facilities available in the LGA.</p>

Sport	Participant category	Data collection years	Trend for Ku-ring-gai LGA	Overall trend for AusPlay 2021	Comments
Softball	Male	2017-2022	Increasing	N/A	Participation rates have remained relatively stable, with a minor decrease occurring during COVID-19.
	Female		Increasing*		
Basketball	Total	N/A	N/A	Increasing	Trend over time data was not provided for Ku-ring-gai LGA; however, across NSW, Basketball has been growing overall with an increase of 18.6% Metro participants and an increase of 18.8% of Country participants since 2016. Across NSW, female participation has declined slightly from 32% in 2016 to 27% in 2021.
Indoor and outdoor recreation					
Aquatic Centre	Total	2014-2021	Increasing	Increasing (swimming)	Attendance is generally increasing year on year. There was a major decrease in the 2019-2020 financial year due to COVID-19 lockdowns. However, patronage overall is trending upwards.
Golf	Total	2019-2022	Stable	Increasing	There is limited utilisation data available for Golf Courses in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.



Australian Football (AFL)

Participation data received from AFL NSW/ACT shows a steady increase in participation in AFL within the Ku-ring-gai LGA for both males and females between 2017-2021. Overall, in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, males are more likely to participate in AFL when compared to females.

- Male participation increased from 617 participants in 2017 to 712 participants in 2021 (+ 95 male participants).
- Female participation increased from 153 participants in 2017 to 274 participants in 2021 (+121 female participants).
- Overall participation increased from 770 participants in 2017 to 986 participants in 2021 (+216 total participants).

Increase in AFL participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA is likely due to increasing visibility and popularity of AFL across Australia, and AFL adding to the greater diversity of sporting opportunities available to women.



Aquatic Centre

Participation data received from Ku-ring-gai Council for the Y Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre shows an overall increase in patronage from 2014 - 2022. Across the years, there is a consistent slight decrease in participation in the cooler months from April to September, with overall participation increasing significantly from October through to March. Participation rates were also significantly impacted by COVID-19, with the facility being closed from April - May 2020, and July - September 2021. However, since the ceasing of COVID-19 lockdowns, participation rates have returned to levels similar to pre-COVID-19.

- Overall, participation increased from 26,889 in January 2015 to 27,489 in January 2022 (peak of 28,337 in January 2018).
- Overall, participation increased from 13,829 in June 2015 to 17,133 in June 2021 (low of 5,653 in 2020).



Cricket

Participation data received from Ku-ring-gai Council shows trends for Cricket in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are decreasing overall, with the exception of the 9 to 17 years age bracket.

- Participation for age group 5 to 8 is decreasing overall with 423 total participants in 2017/18 and 275 total participants in 2021/22 (-148 participants).
- Participation rates for age group 9 to 17 is increasing overall, with 1,315 total participants in 2019/20 and 1,526 total participants in 2021/22 (+ 211 participants).
- Participation rates for Senior cricket are decreasing overall, with 2,416 total participants in 2019/20, and 1,710 total participants in 2021/22 (- 706 participants).

The increase seen in age groups 9 to 17 is likely due to higher levels of cultural diversity in the LGA.

Overall, in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, males are more likely to participate in Cricket, when compared to females.



Football

Participation data received from Football NSW shows an overall increase in participants in the Ku-ring-gai LGA from 2019 to 2022, with 7,139 participants in 2019 and 7,288 participants in 2022 (+149 participants).

- Male participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA decreased from 5,551 participants in 2019 to 5,384 participants in 2022 (-167 male participants).
- Female participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA increased from 1,588 participants in 2019 to 1,903 participants in 2022 (+315 participants).

Overall, males are more likely to participate in Football, when compared to females in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

The overall increase in Football participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA is likely due to increasing visibility and popularity of the sport worldwide, including significant sporting events such as the FIFA World Cup.



Softball

Participation data from Softball NSW shows an overall decrease in participation rates in the Ku-ring-gai LGA since 2017/18.

- Participation rates have decreased from 1,252 participants in 2017/18 to 1,159 participants in 2021/22 (- 93 participants).
- However, since the end of COVID-19 lockdowns, participation rates have increased from 1,048 in 2020/21 to 1159 in 2021/22 (+111 participants).



Basketball

Participation data from Basketball NSW shows a total of 1,475 members for the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Trend over time data was not provided for the LGA; however, across NSW, Basketball has been growing overall with an increase of 18.6% Metro participants and an increase of 18.8% of Country participants since 2016.

Across NSW, female participation has decline slightly from 32% in 2016 to 27% in 2021.



Hockey

Participation data provided by Hockey NSW shows that overall, participation has decreased between 2017 and 2022.

- For Northern Sydney and Beaches, participation has decreased from a total of 1,839 in 2017 to 1,256 in 2022 (- 583 participants).
- For North West Sydney, participation has decreased from a total of 1,822 in 2017 to 1,667 in 2022 (- 155 participants).
- For members in Ku-ring-gai LGA playing in other associations, membership has remained stable with 202 participants in 2017 and 189 participants in 2022.

Overall, females are more likely to play Hockey when compared to males.



Little Athletics

Participation data received from Little Athletics NSW shows that participation in Little Athletics within the Ku-ring-gai LGA was steady in the years leading up to COVID-19; however, a sharp decrease of 20% occurred between 2019-2020 and 2021-2022. Post-COVID-19 lockdowns, participation has steadily increased.

- Male participation decreased from 297 in 2017/18 to 218 participants in 2021/22 (-79 participants).
- Female participation decreased from 268 participants in 2017/18 to 238 participants in 2021/22 (-30 participants).
- Participation rates peaked in 2019/20, with 298 males and 273 females, a total of 571 participants.
- There has been an increase of +26 players between 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Recent increase in Little Athletics participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA is likely due to the flexibility of participation options offered by the organisation.



Netball

Participation data received from Netball NSW shows an overall decrease in netball participation between 2015-2022.

- Participation rates in the Ku-ring-gai LGA have decreased from 3,867 participants in 2015 to 2,975 participants in 2021 (- 892 participants).
- There has been an 37% decrease in participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA since 2015. Between 2019 and 2021, there was a decrease of 17% in participation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

This overall decrease in participation is likely due to greater diversity in opportunities available for female sport in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, and potentially also attributed to limited netball facilities available in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.



Rugby League

Participation data provided by NSW Rugby League shows that participation in Rugby League is increasing overall, and participation rates for the 'Ku-ring-gai Cubs' is also increasing, with 123 participants in 2019, and 147 participants in 2021 (+24 participants).

- Participation rates for the North Sydney Junior Rugby League has increased by +712 participants since 2017, from 954 participants in 2017 to 1,666 participants in 2021.
- During this time, female participation has also increased in the North Sydney Junior Rugby League.



Rugby Union

Ku-ring-gai Council contacted all sporting associations between April to September 2022. The state association for Rugby Union did not respond to this request for data.



Golf

There is limited utilisation data available for Golf Courses in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Ku-ring-gai is home to two council-operated golf courses (Gordon Golf Club and North Turramurra Golf Course) and one private golf course (Roseville Golf Club). Cred Consulting contacted these golf clubs to request utilisation and active membership data between 2019 - 2022.

- **Gordon Golf Club:** in 2022, the Club reported approximately 480 active members. The Club reported an increase of 40% in memberships during COVID-19 lockdowns.
- **North Turramurra Golf Course:** In 2022, the Club reported approximately 500 active members. The Club identified that they have experienced a decrease in memberships post COVID-19 lockdowns. During 2020 and 2021, they averaged approximately 1,000 members each year. The Club also noted that the 2022 season has been challenging given recent wet weather.
- **Roseville Golf Club:** In 2022, the Club reported approximately 1,000 members, which is consistent with past three years.

Across Ku-ring-gai LGA's three golf courses, there were approximately 1,890 active memberships in 2022.

5.5. Community participation trends

Cred Consulting worked together with Micromex Research, a market research and community consultation agency, to deliver a survey to help inform this Needs Study.

Micromex conducted research with the Ku-ring-gai LGA community to identify community priorities, participation and usage for recreational space in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. A telephone survey was completed by 402 residents between 17th and 27th June 2022.

A full Engagement Report is available separate to the Needs Study.

Snapshot of findings for Ku-ring-gai LGA:	
What are residents using most?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks• Sports grounds• Natural bush areas• Walking tracks and trails
What activities are residents more likely to participate in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking• Bushwalking• Picnics/BBQs• Relaxing/sitting/meditating
What facilities do residents want to see prioritised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks• Natural bush areas• Walking tracks and trails• Sporting fields
What's stopping residents from doing more?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of time• No facilities close by• Family commitments• Don't know what's available

Walking, bushwalking and participating in picnics or BBQs are the top recreation activities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Walking activities are the most common recreation activities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Walking (87%) and bushwalking (75%) are the most common recreation activities people in the LGA undertake in a normal year. Other common activities include picnics (64%), relaxing (58%), walking the dog (48%), fitness activities (44%), and running (44%). The least popular recreation activities include cycling off road (20%), organised sports on courts (25%), and cycling on road (28%).

The main reason that people participate is for fun and enjoyment, fitness and exercise, and to enjoy nature, including getting fresh air.

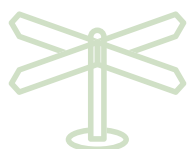
Survey respondents were asked about their reasons for spending time in recreation spaces. 90% of respondents said their main reason for using recreation spaces was for fun and enjoyment. This was followed by fitness and exercise (88%), getting fresh air (88%), being out in nature (87%) and spending time with family (77%). The least likely reason for using recreation spaces is participating in sports for competition (26%).

Not having enough time or facilities close by were the main barriers to participating in recreation.

Having limited time is the biggest self-identified barrier to participating in new recreation activities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

As a follow up, the 33% of residents open to trying new recreation activities were asked what the barriers were for them pursuing this interest. In response, not having enough time was stated the biggest barrier (38%). Other barriers included not having facilities close by (23%), family commitments (13%) and safety concerns (9%).

What do the recreation and participation trends mean for open space and recreation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA?



Ku-ring-gai's open space and recreation facilities need to support an increase in more informal, unstructured recreation activities, such as walking

The Greater Outdoors Survey identifies a trend towards casualisation of sport and recreation activities. Walking (87%) and bushwalking (75%) were reported as the most common recreation activities undertaken in Ku-ring-gai by telephone survey respondents. Supporting informal recreation means seeking opportunities to support informal recreation use at parks, enhancing active transport connections within and between public open spaces, and providing supporting amenities such as toilets, BBQs and picnic tables.



Ku-ring-gai needs to upgrade existing facilities to support female participation in organised sports

Interviews with stakeholders and data received from state associations suggests that there is increasing female participation in organised sport overall. Supporting female participation means providing appropriate amenities (e.g. change rooms and female facilities).



There is a need to provide flexible open space and recreation facilities which meet the needs of time-poor residents

Lack of time was reported as the main barrier to participating in more recreation activities (38%), by telephone survey respondents. Supporting people to increase participation means increasing opening hours of open spaces and recreation facilities, ensuring that amenities (e.g. lights and toilets) are accessible for longer and providing convenient access.



Shared streets, public and private open spaces are increasingly important

Ku-ring-gai needs to share its streets and other spaces for recreational outcomes as its population grows and demand for existing open spaces and recreation facilities increases. Interviews with stakeholders suggest that Ku-ring-gai LGA's schools are already undertaking shared-use agreements, and that there is a desire for Council to explore opportunities for partnerships and increased collaboration between various stakeholders.



As our climate becomes hotter, Ku-ring-gai will need to ensure open spaces are places for respite from the heat

Supporting public open spaces to be places of respite from the heat includes increased tree planting, enhanced natural elements (e.g. water in the landscape), and inclusion of water bubblers and shaded areas.



Considering varying participation behaviours is key to planning for diverse community needs

People participate in different ways for various reasons correlated to factors such as age, gender, income, ability and access. Considering the community's needs at all stages of planning, design and delivery is critical to providing successful open spaces and recreation facilities.



Sportsfield, Queen Elizabeth Reserve, Lindfield.
Photo source: Cred Consulting

6. Open space supply and demand analysis

6.1. Open space definitions and functions

The NSW Government states that open spaces are important public spaces where people can relax, exercise, play, and enjoy the natural environment:

- Walkable, accessible, well-designed open spaces are integral to the character and life of local towns and cities. They promote healthier lifestyles and provide relief from our built environment.
- Green open spaces help to mitigate climate change impacts, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve environmental conditions such as air and water quality.

For the purposes of this Needs Study, the functions and definitions shown in Figure 14 are used. These include publicly-accessible open spaces, both owned by Government agencies and by private entities.

Figure 13 - Public and private open space definitions for the Ku-ring-gai LGA
(Source: Primarily based on Government Architect NSW Greener Places functions and adapted to suit Ku-ring-gai LGA's needs).

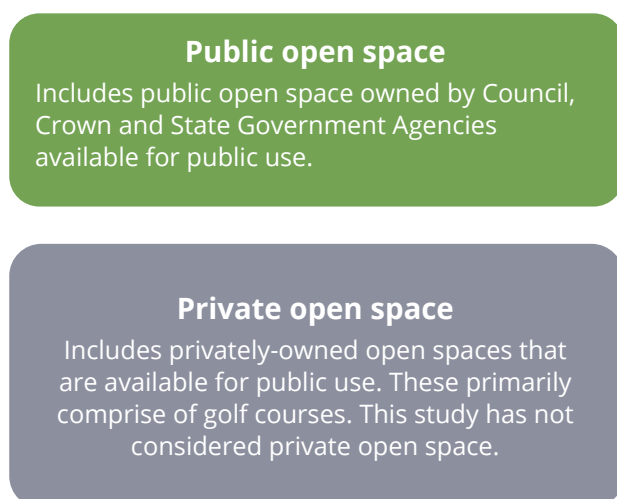
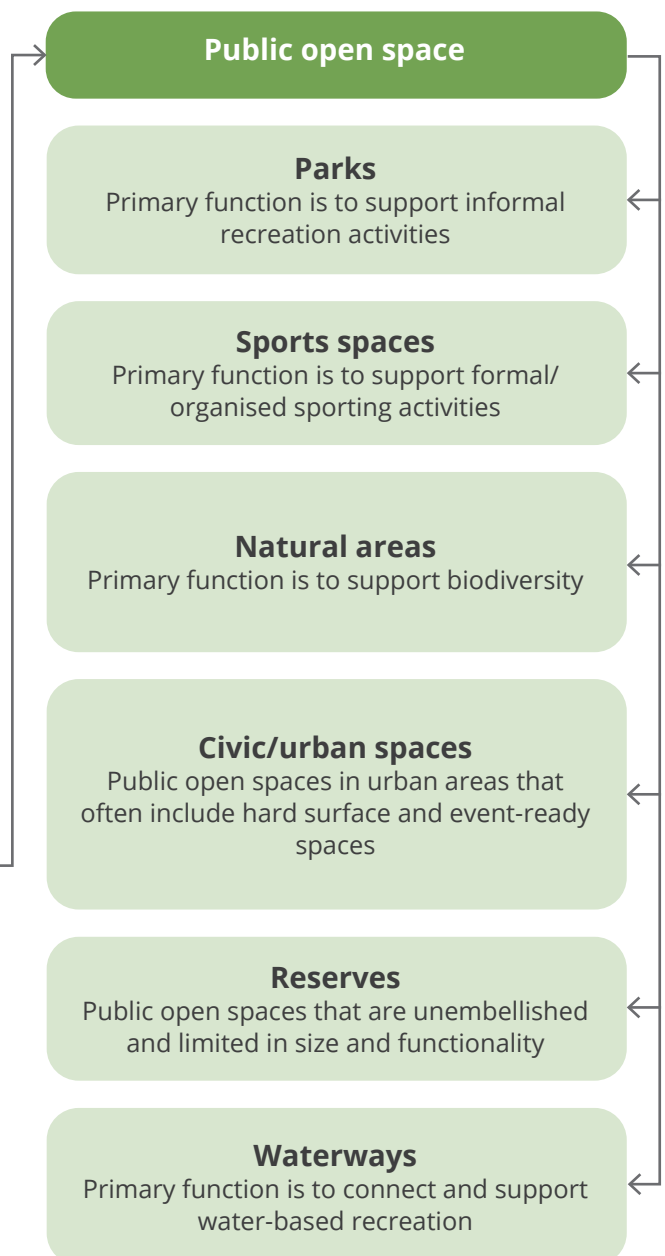


Figure 14 - Public open space definitions and functions for the Ku-ring-gai LGA
(Source: Primarily based on Government Architect NSW Greener Places functions and adapted to suit Ku-ring-gai LGA's needs).



6.2. Ku-ring-gai LGA's current open space network provision

Figure 15 shows that the Ku-ring-gai LGA has 3,170ha. of public open space and 219ha. of private open space.

Figure 15 - Distribution of open space: (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



**the open space areas in this figure are rounded to the nearest decimal.*

Table 6, below, shows that the majority of this public open space (91.3%) is made up of natural areas, followed by sports spaces (6.0%), and parks (2.4%). It also shows a majority of public open space is concentrated in the Northern Catchment, followed by the Eastern and Southern Catchments.

Table 6 - Breakdown of public open space across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Public open space	Eastern catchment	Northern Catchment	Southern Catchment	Ku-ring-gai LGA
Natural areas	809ha.	1,638ha.	448ha.	2,895ha. (91.3%)
Sports spaces	21ha.	95ha.	73ha.	190ha. (6.0%)
Parks	32ha.	28ha.	16ha.	76ha. (2.4%)
Reserves	4ha.	3ha.	2ha.	9ha. (0.3%)
Civic / urban spaces	0ha.	0 ha.	0.3 ha.	0.3 ha. (0.001%)
Waterways (NA)*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Totals	865ha.	1,765ha.	539ha.	3,170ha.

Note: The open space areas in this table are rounded to the nearest decimal.

**Area of waterways not defined.*

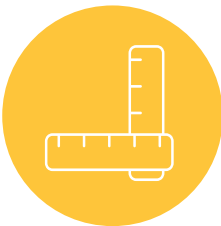
The following sections of this report focuses on public open space.



Outdoor fitness station, Queen Elizabeth Reserve, Lindfield.
Photo source: Cred Consulting

6.3. Approach to public open space provision and benchmarking

Drawing on current approaches to public open space and recreation planning, this section analyses the public open space provision in the Ku-ring-gai LGA based on:



Quantity

How much public open space does the Ku-ring-gai LGA have now?

How much public open space is there per person?

How will this change as the population grows?



Size

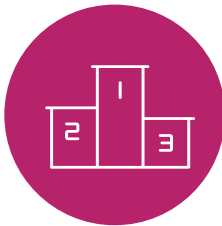
Are public open spaces sufficiently sized to serve their intended function?



Proximity and distribution

Can residents access public open space?

Can residents easily walk to a public open space?



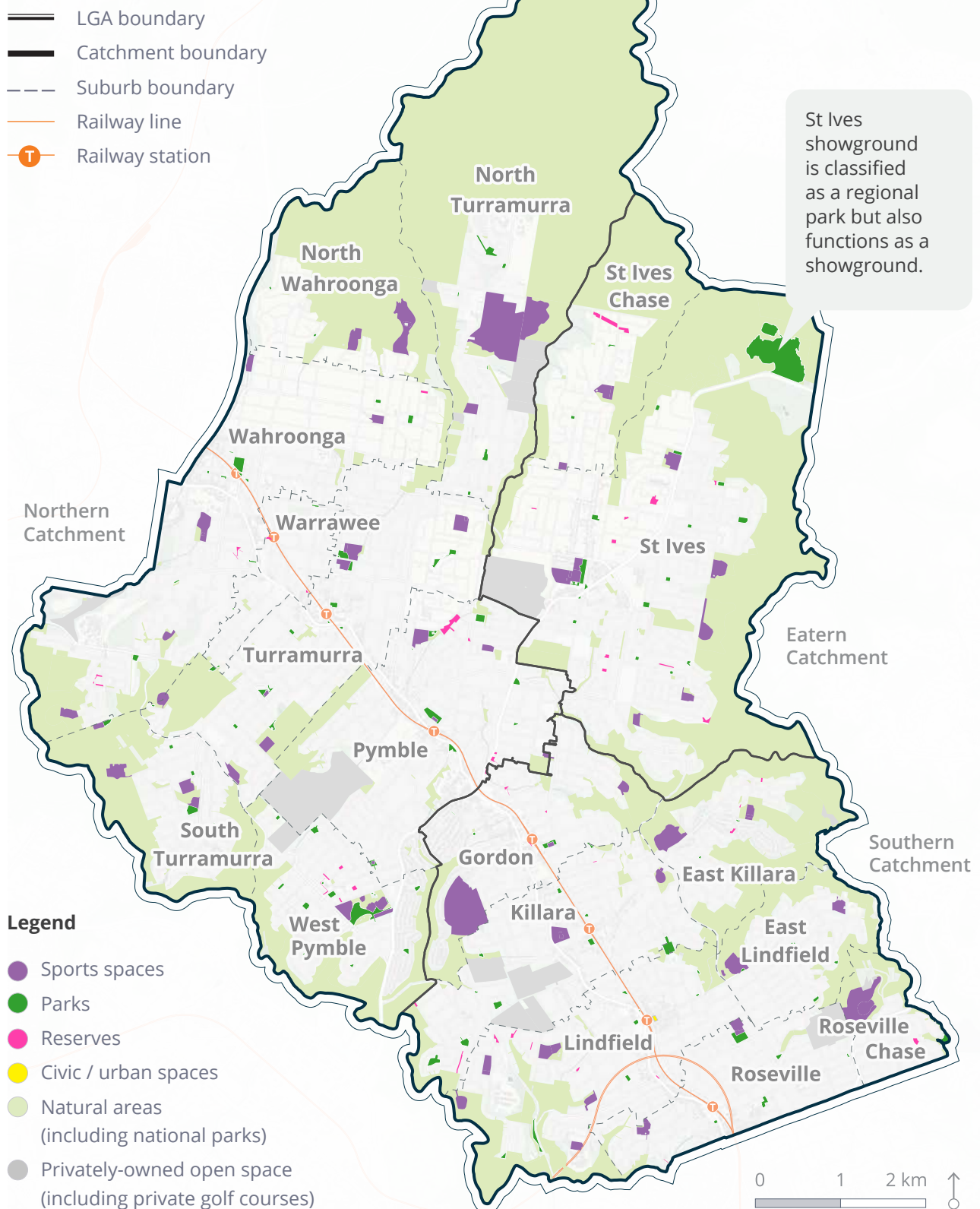
Hierarchy

Is there an equitable provision of public open spaces across different hierarchies?

Figure 16 - Ku-ring-gai LGA's current open space network
(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

91.3% of total open space within the LGA is comprised of natural areas.

Figure 16 shows the location of public and private open spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA by its functions.



6.4. The Ku-ring-gai LGA - Public open space ownership

Figure 17 - Public open space ownership across Ku-ring-gai LGA:

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

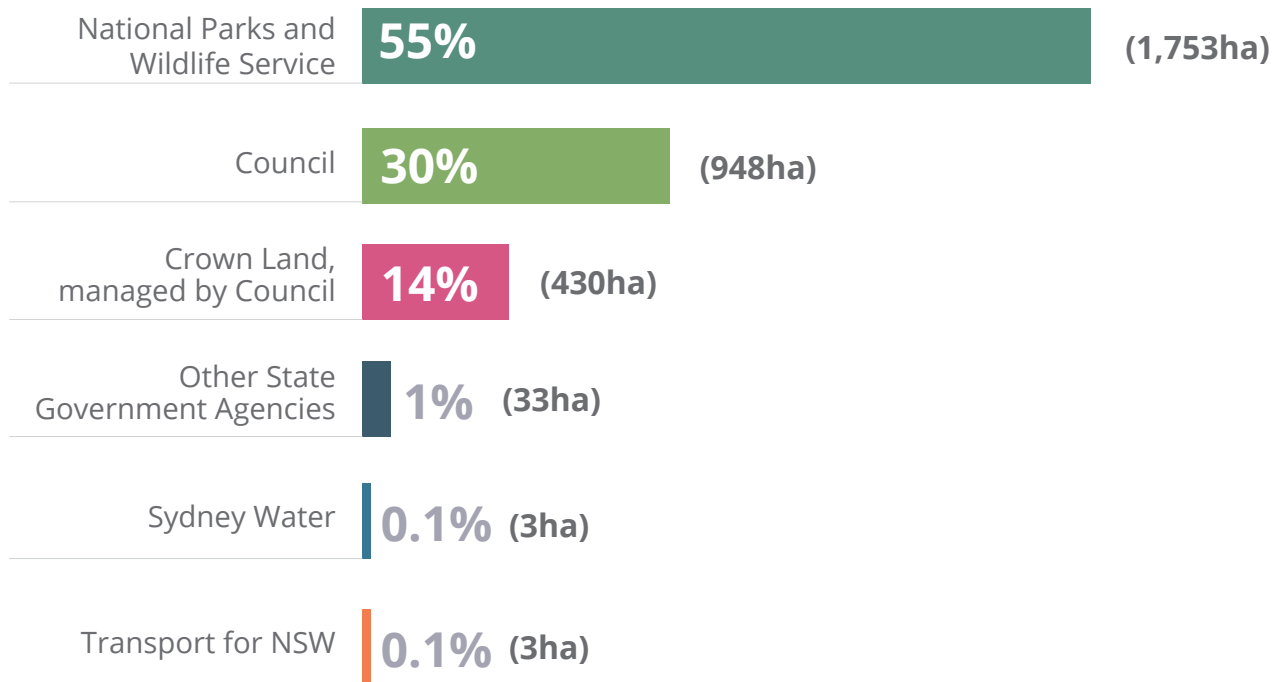


Figure 17 shows the distribution of public open spaces. It shows that public open spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are owned by several government agencies. Although Council does not own or manage all of these areas, it plays a crucial role in advocating, being a stakeholder, and liaising for recreational activities in these spaces.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is the largest owner, providing 1,753ha or 55% of the total provision. Council owns 948ha, providing 30%, and Crown Land owns 439ha, representing 14% of the total provision.

6.5. Ku-ring-gai LGA's benchmarking

Population benchmark

As shown in Table 7, using a benchmark of 3ha. per 1,000 people indicates that Ku-ring-gai LGA's total provision of public open space is well above benchmark demand in both 2021 and 2041.

Table 7 also demonstrates that provision of total public open space exceeds benchmarked demand by 2,798ha. in 2021 and by 2,748ha. in 2041.

Table 7 also shows that Ku-ring-gai LGA's natural areas and sports spaces are above minimum benchmark standards when considering the LGA as a whole in both 2021 and 2041. However, provision of parks is significantly below minimum benchmark standards for the LGA as a whole, being 48ha. below benchmarked demand in 2021.

Proximity benchmark

As shown in Figure 18, using the proximity benchmarks of 800m distance from parks over 0.3ha., 800m from local sports space, 2km from district sports space, and 5km from regional sports space, we can see that overall, the whole of the Ku-ring-gai LGA is within accessible distance to a local, district or regional park, or a sports space.

Current provision of total public open space is significantly **above** minimum benchmark standards.

Table 7 - Public open space per 1000 people current provision and benchmark demand in Ku-ring-gai LGA: (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

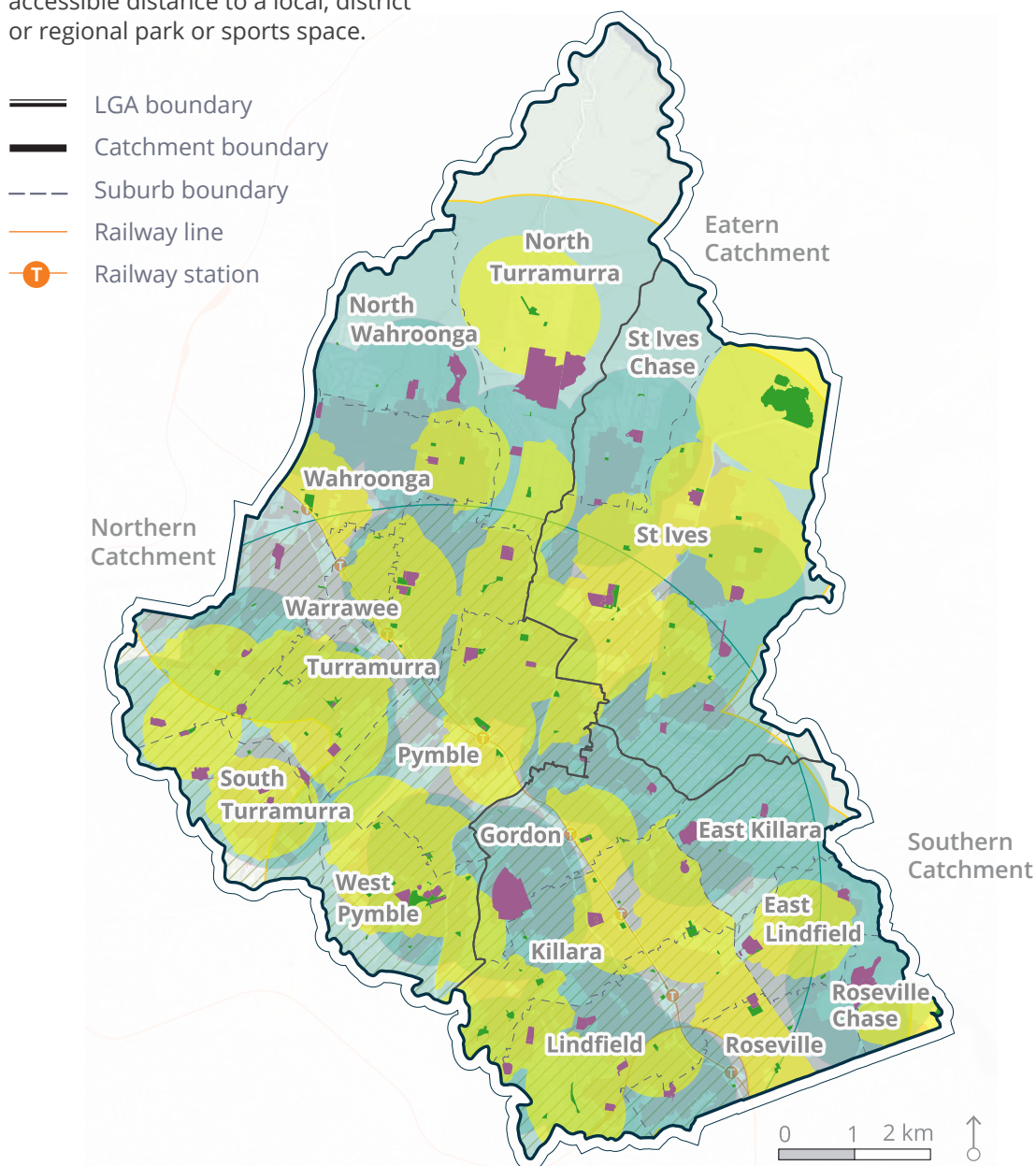
Benchmark	Benchmarking	What does this mean?
Current provision	2021 demand	2041 demand
		Benchmark gap
*the open space areas in this table are rounded to the nearest decimal.		
Total public open space: 3ha. per 1000 people		2021 above benchmark demand by +2,798ha. (+2,748ha. in 2041)
Natural areas: 1ha. per 1000 people		2021 above benchmark demand by +2,771ha. (+2,754ha. in 2041)
Sports spaces: 1ha. per 1000 people		2021 above benchmark demand by +66ha. (+49ha. in 2041)
Parks: 1ha. per 1000 people		2021 below benchmark demand by -48ha. (-65ha. in 2041)

Figure 18 - Proximity from Ku-ring-gai LGA's parks and sports spaces

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

This map shows the accessible distances from parks and sports spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. This proximity benchmark shows that the whole of the Ku-ring-gai LGA is within accessible distance to a local, district or regional park or sports space.

Overall, the whole of the Ku-ring-gai LGA is within accessible distance to a local, district or regional park or sports space.



Legend

- Park
- Sports space
- 800m distance from parks over 0.3 ha.*
- 5km from regional sports space
- 2km from district sports space
- 800m from local sports space

*Considers train lines, water bodies and arterial roads as barriers for access when calculating walking distance.

Successful open space and recreation facilities in Ku-ring-gai:



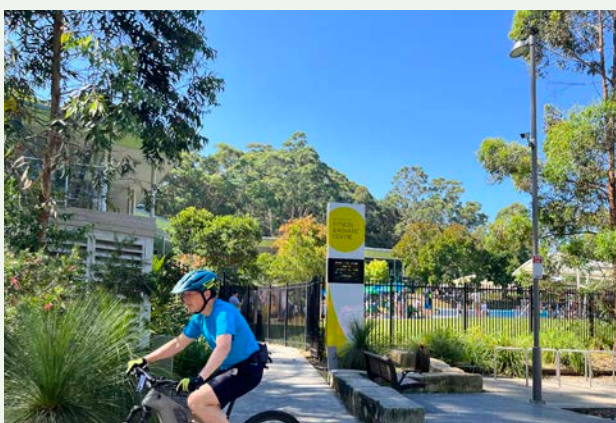
Cycle pop-up at Bicentennial Park sportsfield.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Bicentennial Park, West Pymble

This Park is a regional open space containing the following functions and amenities:

- Three sports spaces including a sports court
- Dog off-leash area
- Outdoor fitness stations
- Fenced playgrounds
- BBQ facilities
- Spaces to hire
- Natural areas
- Bowling club
- Fitness and aquatic centre
- Preschool
- Community centre.



Fitness and Aquatic Centre at Bicentennial Park.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Bicentennial Park - Fitness and Aquatic centre, West Pymble

The Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre is a regional facility located within Bicentennial Park in West Pymble, Southern Catchment. The Centre was started in 2014 and has a range of high-quality facilities, including:

- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Indoor and outdoor pool and water play area for toddlers
- Health club with multipurpose rooms
- Child-minding / play room for children
- Cafe.

It is a leased facility and its managed by YMCA.



Fern House at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives

The 123 hectare bushland is located in the suburb of St Ives in the Northern Catchment. The Garden hosts a range of events for people of all age groups, including:

- Eucalypt Week
- School holidays at Wildflower Garden
- Nature play
- Nature School
- Community events
- Seniors in Nature
- Junior Rangers.

Council also works with local artists to commission a range of works featuring native plants and animals at the Wildflower Garden.



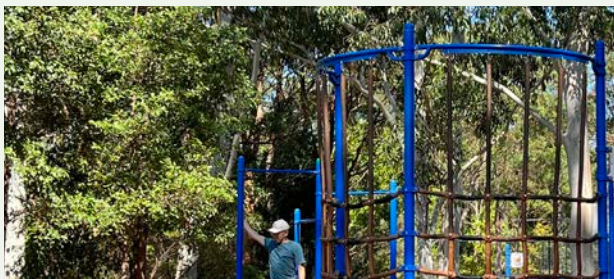
Sportsfield at Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park, East Lindfield

This Park is a multipurpose open space with the following features:

- Sports spaces including tennis courts and rugby/touch football field
- Parks
- Natural areas
- Dog off leash area
- Playground
- Rock climbing
- Abseiling



Outdoor fitness station at Queen Elizabeth Reserve.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Queen Elizabeth Reserve, Lindfield

The reserve is located in Lindfield, Southern Catchment. It has a range of facilities and amenities including:

- Sports spaces including tennis court, basketball half court and soccer field
- Playground
- Dog off leash area
- BBQ.



Shaded structure at Wahroonga Park.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Wahroonga Park, Wahroonga

Located next to Wahroonga train station, Wahroonga Park is a 1.8 hectare open space with manicured gardens, fenced playground and it a venue for functions such as:

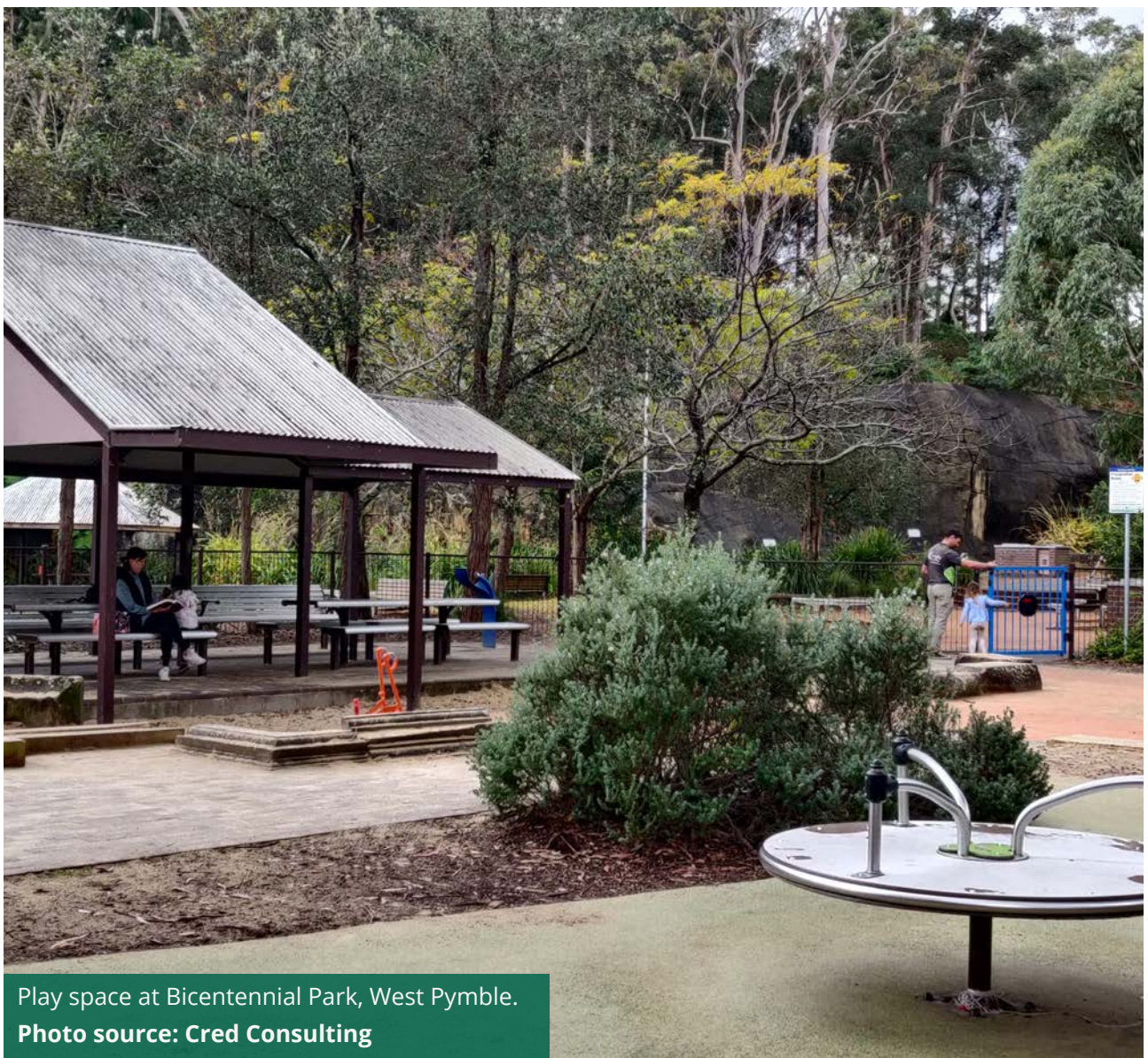
- Birthdays
- Family picnics
- Wedding ceremonies and
- Photography.

The park also hosts a range of community events and festivals every year.

Ku-ring-gai LGA's open space network by each public open space type

Having just described Ku-ring-gai LGA's open space network as a whole, the next section of this Needs Study will explore Ku-ring-gai LGA's open space network in detail, by public open space type, including:

- Parks
- Sports spaces
- Natural areas
- Civic/urban areas
- Waterways.



Play space at Bicentennial Park, West Pymble.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

6.6. Parks

Overall, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a total of 76ha. of parks, which are distributed across the three planning catchments. As shown in Table 8, the Eastern Catchment has the highest quantum of park space.

An industry benchmark standard of **1ha. per 1,000 people** is used to calculate the amount of park space required to service the 2021 census population and the forecast population in 2041. Currently there is 0.61ha. per 1,000 people provision of park space in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, which will decline to 0.53ha. per 1,000 people by 2041.

In terms of total quantum of park space, as shown in Table 8, this translates to a benchmark demand for 124ha. of parks to support the current population in 2021, which will increase to 141ha. by 2041.

- An additional 48ha. of parks would be required to meet benchmark standards in 2021, and a further 17ha. (total 65ha.) to meet benchmark standards by 2041.
- As shown in Table 8, the Eastern Catchment has an above benchmark provision of park space both in 2021 and by 2041.
- The Northern Catchment would require an additional 28ha. of parks to meet 2021 benchmark standards, and a further 6ha. (total 34ha.) to meet benchmark standards by 2041.
- The Southern Catchment would require an additional 31ha. of parks to meet 2021 benchmark standards, and a further 9ha. (total 40ha.) to meet benchmark standards by 2041.

Current provision of park space is significantly **below** minimum benchmark standards in two out of the three planning catchments.

Table 8 - Parks current provision and benchmark demand across planning catchments:
(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Size - 1 in 4 parks are under the size of 0.5 ha.

The size of a park determines how well it can serve the recreational needs of the community. According to the Draft Greener Places Design Guide (the Guide), local parks in medium to low-density areas should be at least 0.5 - 0.7ha. and should have good road frontage and visibility to ensure easy access for everyone.

The Guide also classifies parks into different sizes, such as 0.5ha., 0.5 to 1ha., 1 to 2ha., and above 2ha. Larger parks have greater capacity to accommodate more recreation activities and can better meet the needs of the community.

Table 9 categorises the parks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA according to their size. The data shows that parks below 0.5ha. make up 19ha., or 25% of the total park provision in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Comparing this to the Guide's minimum standards reveals that approximately one-quarter of Ku-ring-gai LGA's total park space is of inadequate size and unable to effectively serve the community's recreational needs. Further analysis of parks under 0.5ha. reveals that most of them are also under 0.3ha., which further limits their ability to offer recreational activities.

Table 9 provides further details on the park sizes in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Parks in the 0.5 to 1ha. range constitute 12ha or 16% of the total park provision, while parks in the 1 to 2ha. range make up 15ha. or 20% of the total park provision.

Parks larger than 2ha. account for 30ha. or 39% of the total parks provision. However, it should be noted that a majority of this figure comprises the St Ives Showground, which is 25ha. in size.

Table 9 - Total area of Ku-ring-gai's parks classified according to size

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

	Under 0.5ha.	0.5 to 1ha.	1 to 2ha.	Above 2ha.	TOTAL Ku-ring-gai LGA
Eastern Catchment	4ha.	1ha.	2ha.	25ha.	32ha.
Northern Catchment	9ha.	7ha.	7ha.	4ha.	28ha.
Southern Catchment	6ha.	4ha.	6ha.	0ha.	16ha.
TOTAL Ku-ring-gai LGA	19ha.	12ha.	15ha.	30ha.	76ha.
Percentage of the overall park area	25%	16%	20%	39%	100%

*the open space areas in this table are rounded to the nearest decimal.

Figure 19 - Total area of Ku-ring-gai's parks classified according to size, by catchments
(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

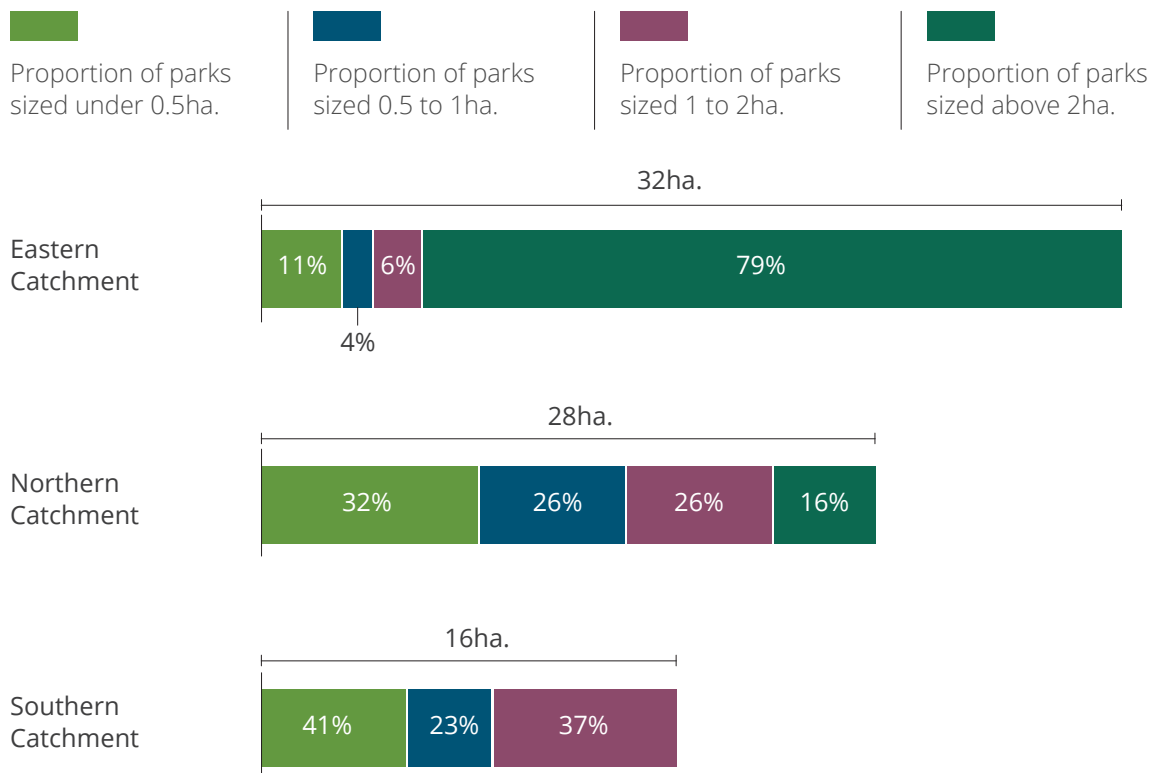


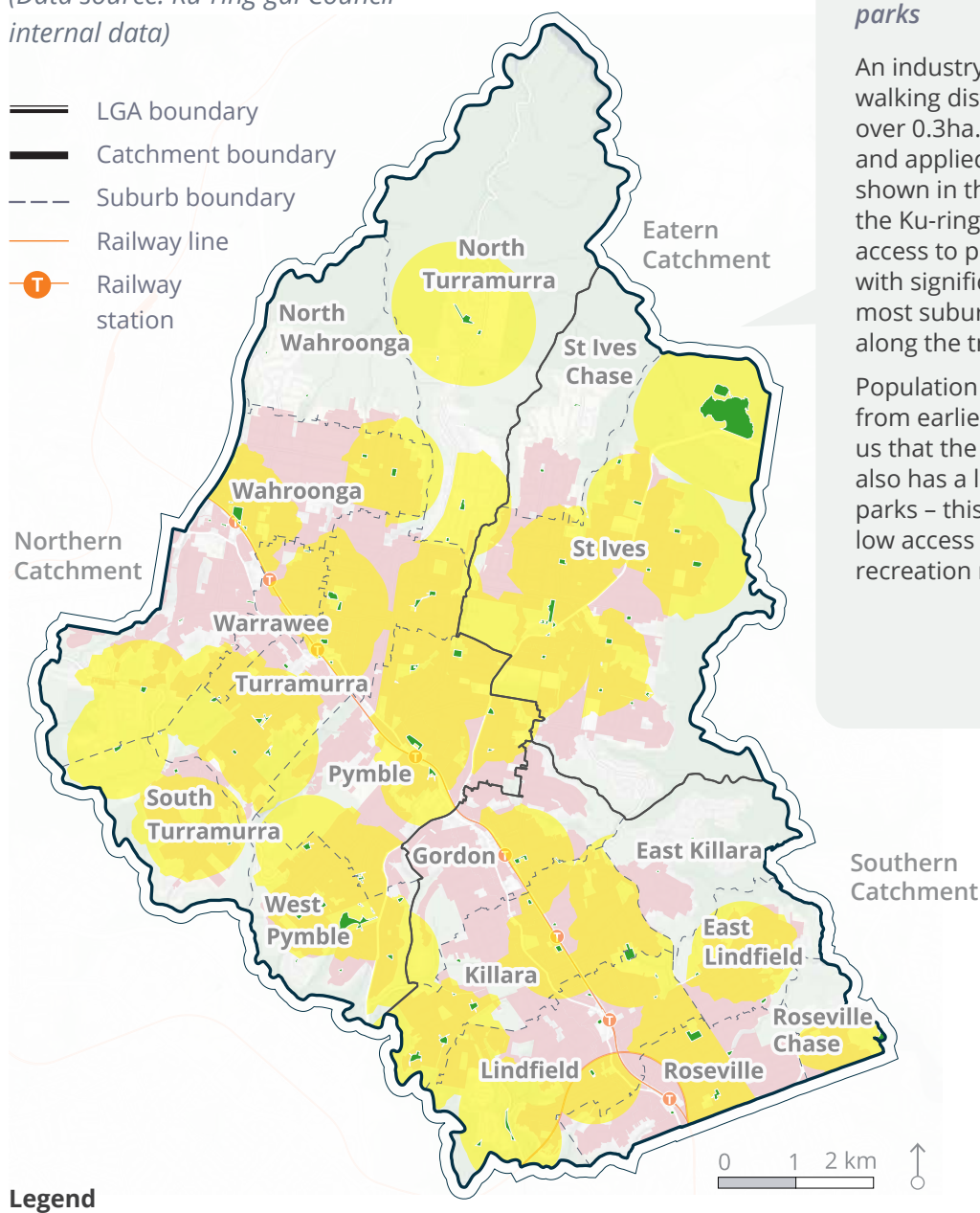
Figure 19 illustrates the percentage split of parks classified by size for all three planning catchments.

In the Northern Catchment, 32% of the total park area is comprised of parks under 0.5ha. in size, while in the Southern Catchment, 41% of the total park area is occupied by parks of this size.

As demonstrated on page 64 of this Needs Study, the provision of parks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA falls below minimum benchmark provision standards. Moreover, the Northern and Southern Catchments have a significant proportion of parks that are under 0.5ha. in size and hence cannot cater effectively to recreational needs. Therefore, it is imperative for Council to focus on enhancing the capacity and efficiency of the other parks to meet the community's needs.

Figure 20 - 800m walking catchment from parks over 0.3ha., overlaid on residential areas

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Proximity and access - Significant gaps in access to parks

An industry standard of 800m walking distance from parks over 0.3ha. has been adopted and applied for Ku-ring-gai as shown in this map. It indicates the Ku-ring-gai LGA has low access to parks over 0.3ha. with significant gaps across most suburbs, particularly along the train line.

Population benchmarking from earlier sections also tell us that the Ku-ring-gai LGA also has a low provision of parks – this combined with low access make informal recreation more prohibitive.

*Considers train lines, water bodies and arterial roads as barriers for access when calculating walking distance.

Ku-ring-gai Council's parks acquisition program

Ku-ring-gai Council has developed an award-winning Open Space Acquisition Program to provide additional public open space for community use.

Since 2010, Council has been actively acquiring land in the LGA, to convert this land into new parks and civic/urban spaces for community use.

Council has set a goal to acquire and deliver 50,000m² of additional public open space within the LGA. To date, Council has already acquired over 25,000m² of public open space.

Given the increasing costs of purchasing land and the limited availability of large parcels of land in urbanised areas, it can often be difficult for councils to secure enough land to provide new public open space and recreation facilities. Ku-ring-gai's Open Space Acquisition Program demonstrates a unique approach to meeting gaps in provision, and servicing communities with the highest levels of population growth and lowest provision of public open space within the LGA.

Some examples of completed parks include:

Boyd's Orchard Park, Turramurra

- Total area of 2,700m²
- Opened to the community in 2020.

Balcombe Park, Wahroonga

- Total area of 900m²
- Opened to the community in 2013.

Lapwing Reserve, St Ives

- Total area of 3,000m², adding 2,000m² to an existing reserve
- Opened to the community in 2017.



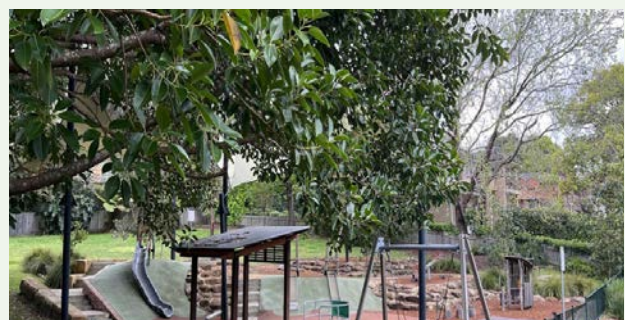
Shaded structure, Boyd's Orchard Park, Turramurra.

Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Play space, Balcombe Park, Wahroonga.

Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Play space, Lapwing Reserve, St Ives.

Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Turramurra Memorial Park, Turramurra.
Photo source: Cred Consulting

6.7. Sports spaces

Table 10, below, shows that the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a total of 190ha. of sports spaces, which is distributed across the three planning catchments. As shown Table 10, the Northern Catchment has the highest area of sports spaces.

A benchmark standard of **1ha per 1,000 people** has been used to calculate the amount of sports space required to service the existing population in 2021 and the forecast population in 2041.

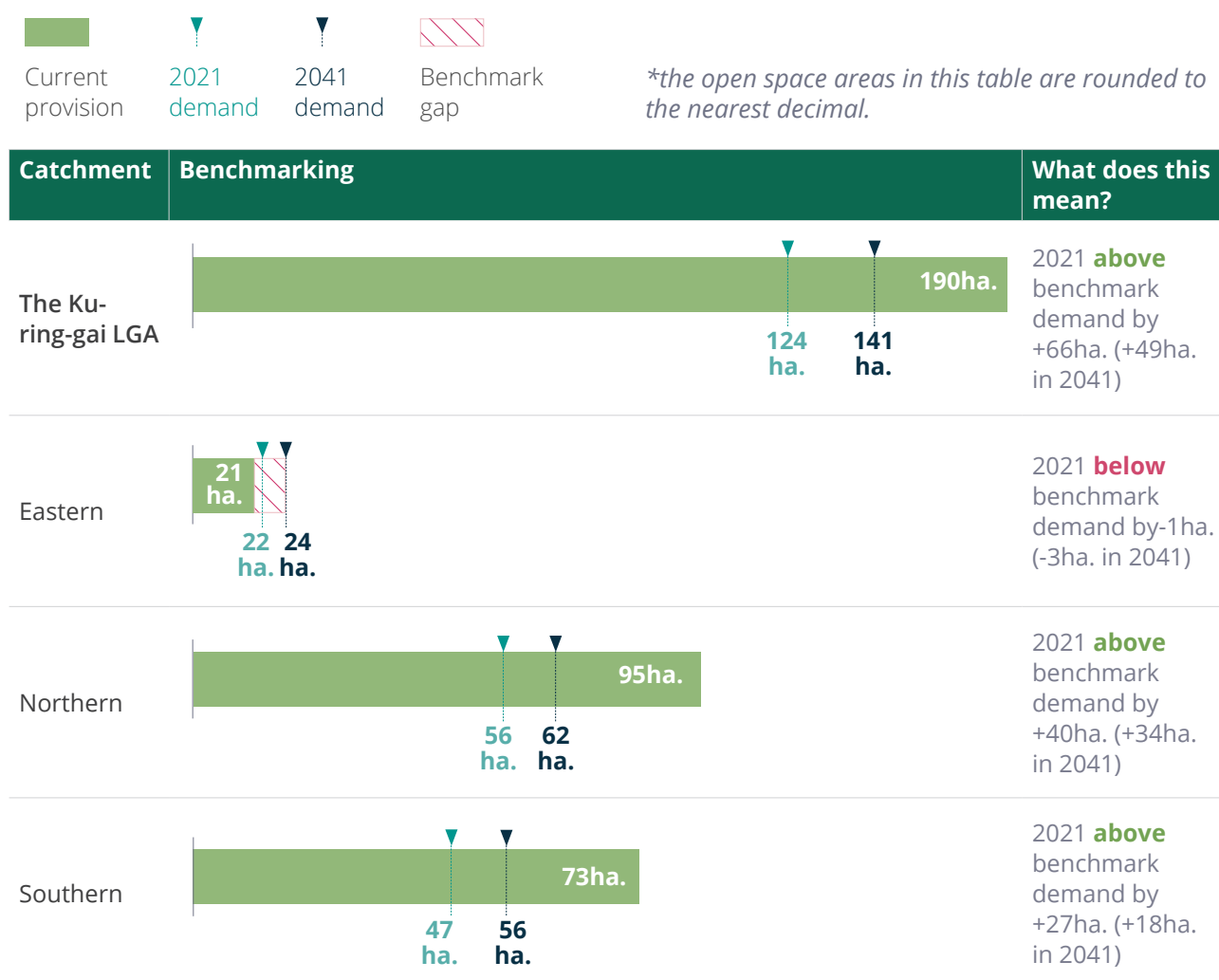
- Table 10 shows there is a benchmark demand for 124ha. of sports spaces to support the current population in 2021, which will increase to 141ha. by 2041 to support future population growth.

- In 2021, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has an above benchmark provision of +66ha. of sports space when compared to minimum benchmark standards. This will reduce to an above benchmark provision of +49 ha. by 2041, as the population grows.

Current provision of sports spaces is:

- above** minimum benchmark standards in Ku-ring-gai LGA and
- below** minimum benchmark standards in Eastern Catchment.

Table 10 - Sports spaces current provision and benchmark demand across planning catchments: (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Current provision is below minimum benchmark standards in the Eastern Catchment

- As shown in Table 10, the Eastern Catchment will require an additional 1ha. of sports space to meet minimum benchmark standards in 2021, and a further 2ha. (total 3ha.) to meet benchmark standards by 2041.
- The Northern Catchment has the most significant above benchmark provision of sports space. In 2021, the Southern Catchment has an above benchmark provision of +40ha of sports space when compared to minimum benchmark standards, which will reduce to an above benchmark provision of +34ha by 2041, as population grows.
- In 2021, the Southern Catchment has an above benchmark provision of +27ha of sports space when compared to minimum benchmark standards, which will reduce to an above benchmark provision of +18ha by 2041, as the population grows.

Hierarchy - the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a high proportion of local sports spaces

Council classifies sport spaces into local, district and regional, based on the level of amenities and the population it services. Table 11, below, shows hierarchy of sports across the Ku-ring-gai LGA and the three planning catchments.

Overall, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has 70 sports spaces. Out of those, 64% are local sports spaces, 31% are district sports spaces, and 4% are regional sports spaces.

All regional sports spaces (3) are in the Northern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA. The Southern Catchment has the highest number of district sports spaces (11), followed by the Northern Catchment (9). The Northern Catchment has the highest number of local sport spaces (21), followed by the Southern Catchment (16).

Table 11 - Sports spaces hierarchy (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

	Regional sports spaces		District sports spaces		Local sports spaces		TOTAL Ku-ring-gai LGA	
	#	% *	#	% *	#	%*	#	%*
Eastern catchment	0	0%	2	3%	8	11%	10	14%
Northern Catchment	3	4%	9	13%	21	30%	33	47%
Southern Catchment	0	0%	11	16%	16	23%	27	39%
TOTAL Ku-ring-gai LGA	3	4%	22	31%	45	64%	70	100%

*Numbers rounded to nearest decimal

Figure 21 - Ku-ring-gai LGA's current sports spaces network

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

This map shows the location of sports spaces in Ku-ring-gai LGA by its hierarchy.

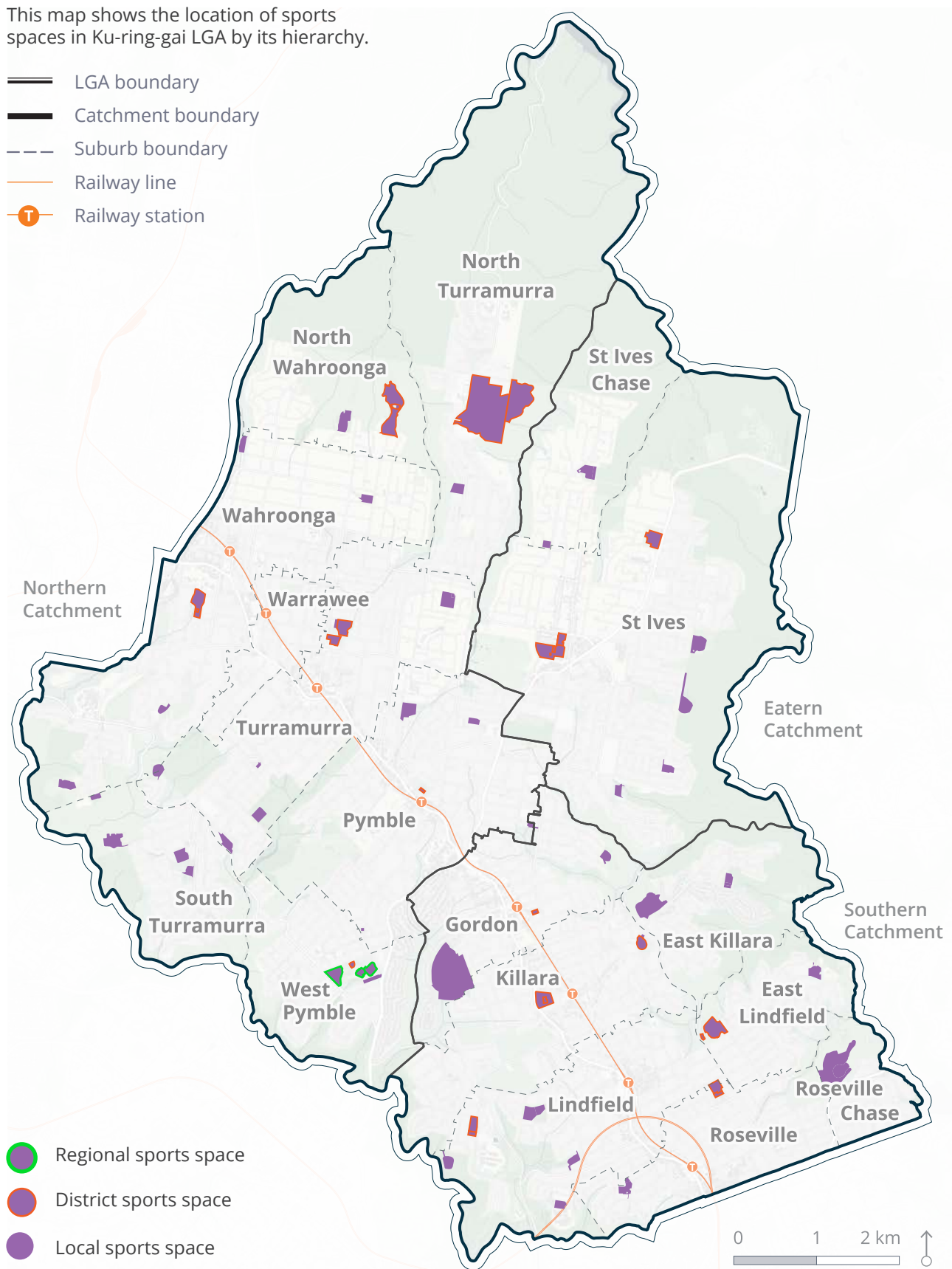
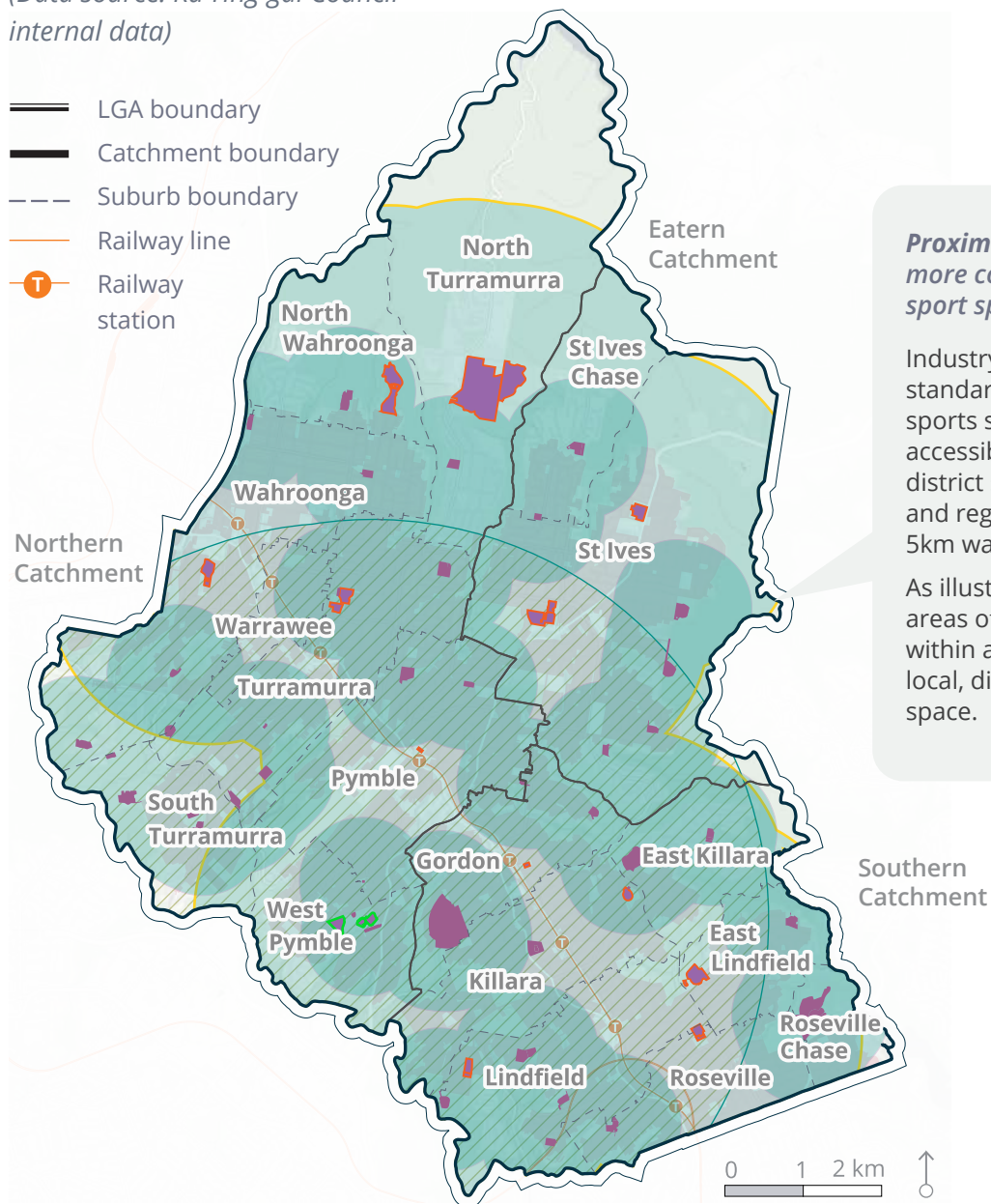


Figure 22 - 800m, 2km and 5km buffer distance from sports spaces, overlaid on residential areas

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Proximity and access - Need more connections to existing sport spaces

Industry proximity benchmarking standards specify that local sports spaces should be accessible within an 800m, district sports spaces within 2km, and regional sports spaces within 5km walking distance of homes.

As illustrated in this map, all areas of the Ku-ring-gai LGA is within accessible distance to a local, district or regional sports space.

Legend

- Regional sports space
- District sports space
- Local sports space
- 5km from regional sports space
- 2km from district sports space
- 800m from local sports space



Sportsfield, Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park, East Lindfield.
Photo source: Cred Consulting

6.8. Natural areas

Table 12, below, shows the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a total of 2,895ha. of natural areas, distributed across the three planning catchments. The Northern Catchment has the highest area of natural areas (1,638ha.), followed by the Eastern Catchment (809ha.) and the Southern Catchment (448ha.).

A benchmark standard of 1ha. per 1,000 people is used to calculate the amount of natural areas required to service the existing population in 2021 and the forecast population in 2041.

Table 12 shows there is a benchmark demand for 124ha. of natural areas to support the current population in 2021, which will increase to 141ha. by 2041 to support future population growth.

In 2021, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has an above benchmark provision of +2,771ha. of natural areas when compared to minimum benchmark standards, which will reduce to an above benchmark provision of +2,754ha. by 2041.

By 2041, all three planning catchments will still have a significant above benchmark provision of natural areas.

As shown in Table 12, the Northern Catchment has the most significant above benchmark provision of natural areas.

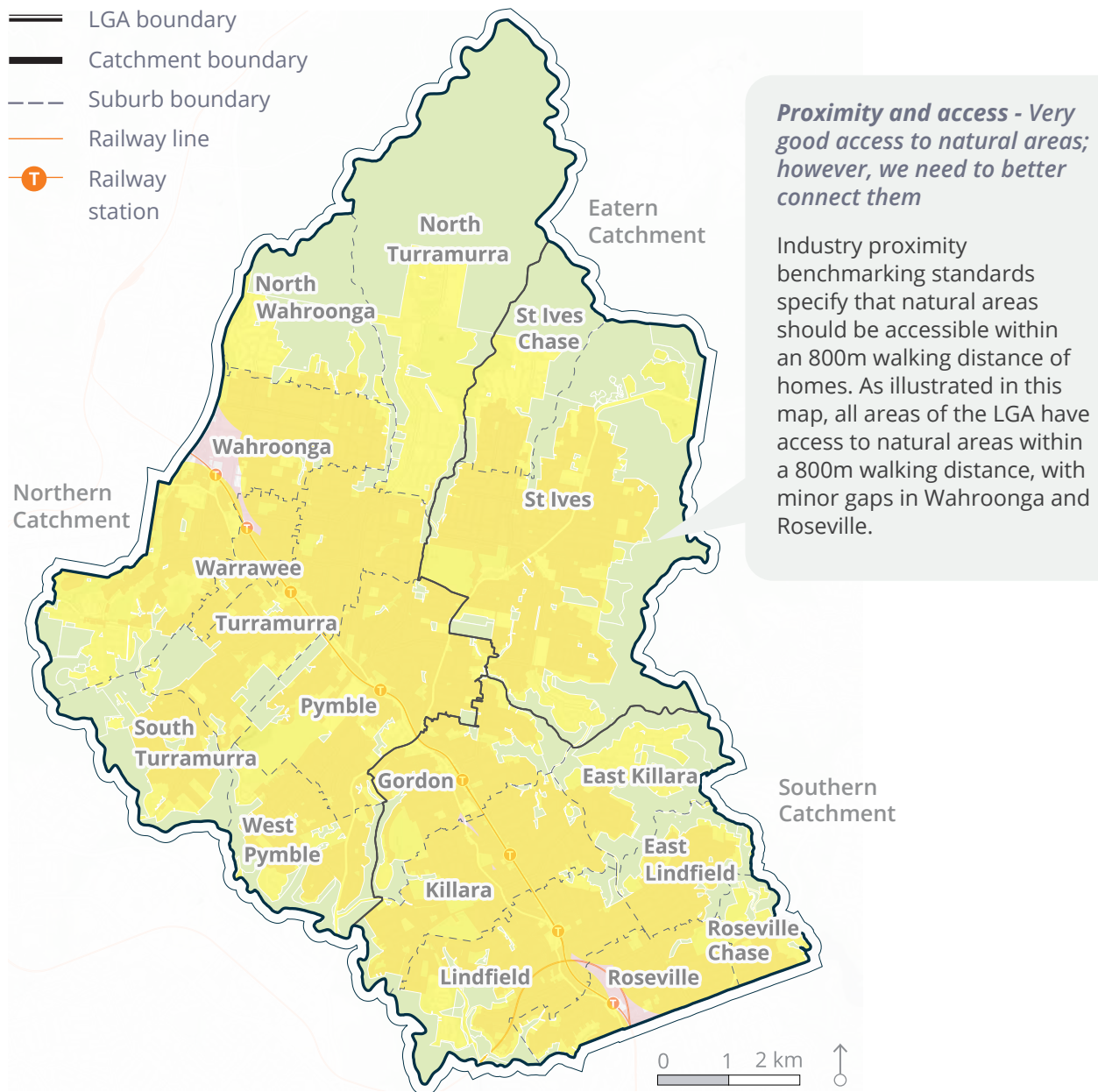
Current provision of natural areas is significantly **above** minimum benchmark standards.

Table 12 - Natural areas current provision and benchmark demand across planning catchments: (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Figure 23 - 800m walking catchment from natural areas

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Legend

- Natural areas
- 800m distance from natural areas*
- Residential areas (land zoned R1 to R4) within 800m walking distance of a natural area
- Residential areas (land zoned R1 to R4) outside 800m walking distance of a natural area

*Considers train lines, water bodies and arterial roads as barriers for access when calculating walking distance.



Ku-ring-gai Flying Fox Reserve
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Sheldon Forest Track, Pymble
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Sphinx Memorial, Sphinx Trail
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council

6.9. Civic/ urban spaces

Ku-ring-gai LGA has one civic/urban space in Lindfield Village Green which was opened to public in February 2022. The Village Green has been developed on the former Tyron Road car park. It consists of a pavilion, shared pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, two gazebos, two water features, a cafe and outdoor dining facilities. It is also equipped to host outdoor events and markets.

The Ku-ring-gai Public Domain Plan 2022 identifies a program to develop civic/ urban spaces in each of Council's six town centres.

6.10. Waterways

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has numerous waterways that traverse its landscape, nurturing the land and offering diverse recreational activities.

Among them, Cowan Creek, Middle Harbour, and Lane Cove River present opportunities for boating, fishing, and kayaking, which are highly valued by the local community.

Echo Point Park is Ku-ring-gai's only park with water frontage and includes a beach, mangroves, Aboriginal heritage sites, fishing, walking tracks, terraced gardens, playground and remains of the old Roseville Baths and Roseville Bridge.



Bobbin Head

Photo source: Google maps



Cowan Creek

Photo source: Google maps



Lane Cove River

Photo source: Google maps



Tennis and multipurpose courts, Roseville Park, Roseville
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council

7. Recreation facilities supply and demand

For the purposes of this Needs Study, we use the following definitions:

Sports space:

Sports space is open space that supports formal/organised sporting activities.

Sports facilities:

Sports facilities are facilities within sports spaces where people can engage in sporting activities for informal recreation and/or competition purposes. Sports spaces are places and venues containing sports facilities, its amenities and equipment used by the public and sports clubs.

Sportsfields are the most prominent type of sporting facility in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Outdoor sports courts:

Outdoor sports courts are dedicated hard surfaces designed for fitness and sporting competition purposes. They can be used for informal recreation and/or competition purposes. Sports courts are often used for sports such as basketball, netball or tennis, and they can also be designed to be multi-purpose courts which can support a wide range of sporting activities.

The sports courts included in this section are owned and managed by Council.

Indoor and outdoor recreation facilities:

Recreation includes a broad range of passive and active leisure activities that we participate in for fun, relaxation, health and wellbeing, and to connect with our families and communities. This can include casual activities like going for a walk or a picnic with friends, as well as fitness activities and social activities.

Recreation facilities are the built infrastructure that supports formal and informal recreation activities, for example outdoor fitness stations and skate parks.

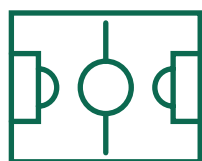


Older children play space at Turramurra Memorial Park, Turramurra.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

Ku-ring-gai LGA's current recreation network – at a glance

The following provides an summary of Ku-ring-gai Council-owned / managed existing open space and recreation facilities network:



156 Sports facilities

55 Sportsfields including football/soccer, AFL, baseball, rugby and cricket fields

50 Cricket nets

33 Cricket wicket (Synthetic)

8 Cricket wicket (Turf)

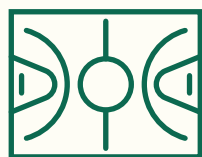
6 Bowling green

2 Croquet

2 Athletic track/training area

There are a total 156 sports facilities. These include 55 sportsfields.

For example, Turramurra Park Oval is a district facility with soccer field, cricket wicket and a public athletic track/training area.



107 Outdoor sports courts

63 Tennis

22 Netball

11 Multipurpose courts

7 Basketball (Half court)

0 Basketball (Full court)

4 Futsal

60% of all sports courts are dedicated to Tennis, followed by Netball.

For example, Bradley Park Canoon Recreation Area in South Turramurra has five multipurpose courts and 16 Netball courts.



169 Indoor and outdoor recreation spaces

104 Play space

25 Clubhouses

23 Dog off-leash area

7 Outdoor fitness station

3 Golf courses

2 Community garden

2 Mountain bike track

1 Aquatic facility

1 Recreation centre

1 Skate park

1 BMX/Pump track

1 Equestrian arena

Ku-ring-gai Play Space Strategy identifies 104 plays spaces with:

- 87 local
- 15 district, and
- 2 regional play spaces.

There are three council owned Golf courses at Gordon, North Turramurra and Roseville.

The Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre is council-owned and privately operated indoor recreation centre with aquatic facilities.

7.1. Sports facilities

7.1.1. What does Ku-ring-gai LGA have now?

Table 13 provides a summary audit of the current sports facilities available within the Ku-ring-gai LGA as a whole, and within each planning catchment, and Figure 24 shows the location of sports facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Table 14 provides a detailed audit of the current sports facilities available within the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Overall, Ku-ring-gai LGA has a total of 156 sports facilities:

- Sportsfields including football/soccer, AFL, baseball, rugby and cricket (55)
- Cricket wicket - synthetic (33), cricket wicket - turf (8)
- Cricket nets (50)
- Croquet courts (2)
- Bowling greens (6) and
- Athletic track / training area (2).

Eastern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Eastern Catchment has the lowest number of sports facilities provision in the Ku-ring-gai LGA when compared to the other planning catchments. There are a total of 26 sports facilities available within this catchment, including:

- Sportsfields including football/soccer, AFL, baseball, rugby and cricket (11)
- Cricket wicket synthetic (6)
- Cricket wicket turf (1)
- Cricket net (5) and
- Bowling green (3).

Northern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Northern Catchment has the highest proportion of the sports facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. There are a total of 67 sports facilities available within this catchment, including:

- Sportsfields including football/soccer, AFL, baseball, rugby and cricket (25)
- Cricket wicket synthetic (17)
- Cricket wicket turf (2)
- Cricket net (19)
- Bowling green (2) and
- Athletic track/training area (2).

Golden Jubilee Oval (S2) and George Christie Sportsground (S6) are also used for model planes flying.

Southern Catchment

There are a total of 63 sports facilities available within this catchment, including:

- Sportsfields including football/soccer, AFL, baseball, rugby and cricket (19)
- Cricket wicket synthetic (10)
- Cricket wicket turf (5)
- Cricket net (26)
- Croquet court (2) and
- Bowling green (1).

Roseville Chase Oval (S66) and Roseville Oval (S68) are also used for hockey training.

Sir Phillip Game Reserve North (Edenborough Park) (S60) is also used for archery.

Table 13 - Current provision of sports facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Sports facility (No. of)	Sports facility (#)			
	Eastern Catchment	Northern Catchment	Southern Catchment	LGA total
Sportsfields (including football/soccer, AFL, baseball, rugby and cricket)	11	25	19	55
Cricket wicket (Synthetic)	6	17	10	33
Cricket wicket (Turf)	1	2	5	8
Cricket net	5	19	26	50
Croquet court	-	-	2	2
Bowling green	3	2	1	6
Athletic track/training area	-	2	-	2
TOTAL	26	67	63	156

Figure 24 - Location of sports facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Table 14 - Audit of sports facilities within the Ku-ring-gai LGA*(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council)*

Map Ref.	Name	Hierarchy	Sports facilities/features
Eastern Catchment			
S35	Warrimoo Oval	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S36	Acron Oval	Local	AFL, cricket wicket (turf)
S37	Barra Brui Sportsground	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S38	Bryce Oval	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S39	Hassall Park (Sportsgrounds)	District	Rugby, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S40	St Ives Bowling Club	Local	Bowling green
S41	St Ives Village Green	District	Baseball, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S43	Toolang Road Sportsground	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
P75	St Ives Showground	Regional	Football/soccer, Rugby
Northern Catchment			
S1	Cliff Avenue Sportsground	Local	Rugby, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S2	Golden Jubilee Oval	District	Football/soccer, baseball
S3	Brown's Field	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S4	Carrington Oval	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S5	Claude Cameron Grove (Westbrook Avenue Sportsground)	Local	Cricket wicket (synthetic)
S6	George Christie Sportsground	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S8	The Glade (Oval)	District	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (turf), cricket nets
S11	North Turramurra Recreation Area (Sports Reserve)	District	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S12	Samuel King Sportsground (North Turramurra Park)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S14	Karuah Park - Sportsgrounds	District	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S16	Kent Playing Field	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S17	Rofe Park - Mimosa Oval	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S19	Turramurra Park Oval	District	Rugby, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket wicket (turf), cricket nets, athletics track/training area
S21	Comenarra Sportsground	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic) cricket nets

Map Ref.	Name	Hierarchy	Sports facilities/features
S22	Sir David Martin Reserve (Auluba Oval 1 & 2)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S23	Sir David Martin Reserve (Kissing Point Road Sportsfield/Auluba Oval 3)	Local	Baseball
S24	Twin Creeks Reserve (Howson Oval)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S27	Lofberg Oval	Regional	Rugby, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S28	Norman Griffith Sportsground (Bicentennial Park)	Regional	Football/soccer
S29	West Pymble Bowling Club	Local	Bowling green
S31	Bannockburn Road Sportsground (Bannockburn oval)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S32	Friar's Field	Local	Football/soccer
Southern Catchment			
S44	Darnley Oval (East Gordon Park)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S48	Killara Park (W.A Bert Oldfield Oval)	District	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (turf)
S50	Regimental Park Sports Precinct	District	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic) croquet
S52	Allan Small Oval	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S54	Koola Park - Sportsgrounds	Local	Football/soccer, rugby, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket wicket (turf), cricket nets
S55	Charles Bean Sportsfield	Local	Football/soccer
S56	Fiddens Wharf Road Sportsground	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S57	Princes Park/Primula Oval	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic), bowling green
S59	Queen Elizabeth Reserve	District	Football/soccer
S60	Sir Phillip Game Reserve North (Edenborough Park)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S62	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park - Sportsgrounds	District	Rugby, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket wicket (turf), cricket nets
S64	East Lindfield Park (Wellington Oval)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic)
S65	Loyal Henry Park (West Rosevill Park)	Local	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (synthetic), cricket nets
S66	Roseville Chase Oval	Local	Rugby, cricket wicket (turf), cricket nets
S68	Roseville Oval	District	Football/soccer, cricket wicket (turf), cricket nets

7.1.2. What do benchmarks tell us?

Population benchmark

Due to limitations in available benchmarks, this Needs Study includes benchmark analysis for sportsfields only. Benchmarking needs have not been assessed for other types of sports facilities in this Needs Study, as benchmarks do not exist.

Sportsfields include the following: Football/soccer/ cricket fields, AFL fields, rugby fields and baseball.

Table 15 shows that in 2021, Ku-ring-gai LGA's provision of sportsfields exceeded benchmarked demand by +30 sportsfields. If a "do nothing approach" is taken, by 2041, Ku-ring-gai LGA's provision of sportsfields is expected to exceed benchmarked demand by +27 sportsfields. This trend is repeated across each of Ku-ring-gai's three planning catchments, with all planning catchments being above- benchmark provision for sportsfields.

- **Eastern Catchment:** The Eastern Catchment currently has 11 sportsfields, which is +7 sportsfields above benchmark provision for sportsfields in 2021. In the future to 2041, this provision may decrease to an above benchmark provision of +6 sportsfields.
- **Northern Catchment:** The Northern Catchment currently has 25 sportsfields, which is +14 sportsfields above benchmark provision for sportsfields in 2021. In the future to 2041, this provision may decrease to an above benchmark provision of +13 sportsfields.
- **Southern Catchment:** The Southern Catchment currently has 19 sportsfields, which is +10 sportsfields above benchmark provision for sportsfields in 2021. In the future to 2041, this provision may decrease to an above benchmark provision of +8 sportsfields.

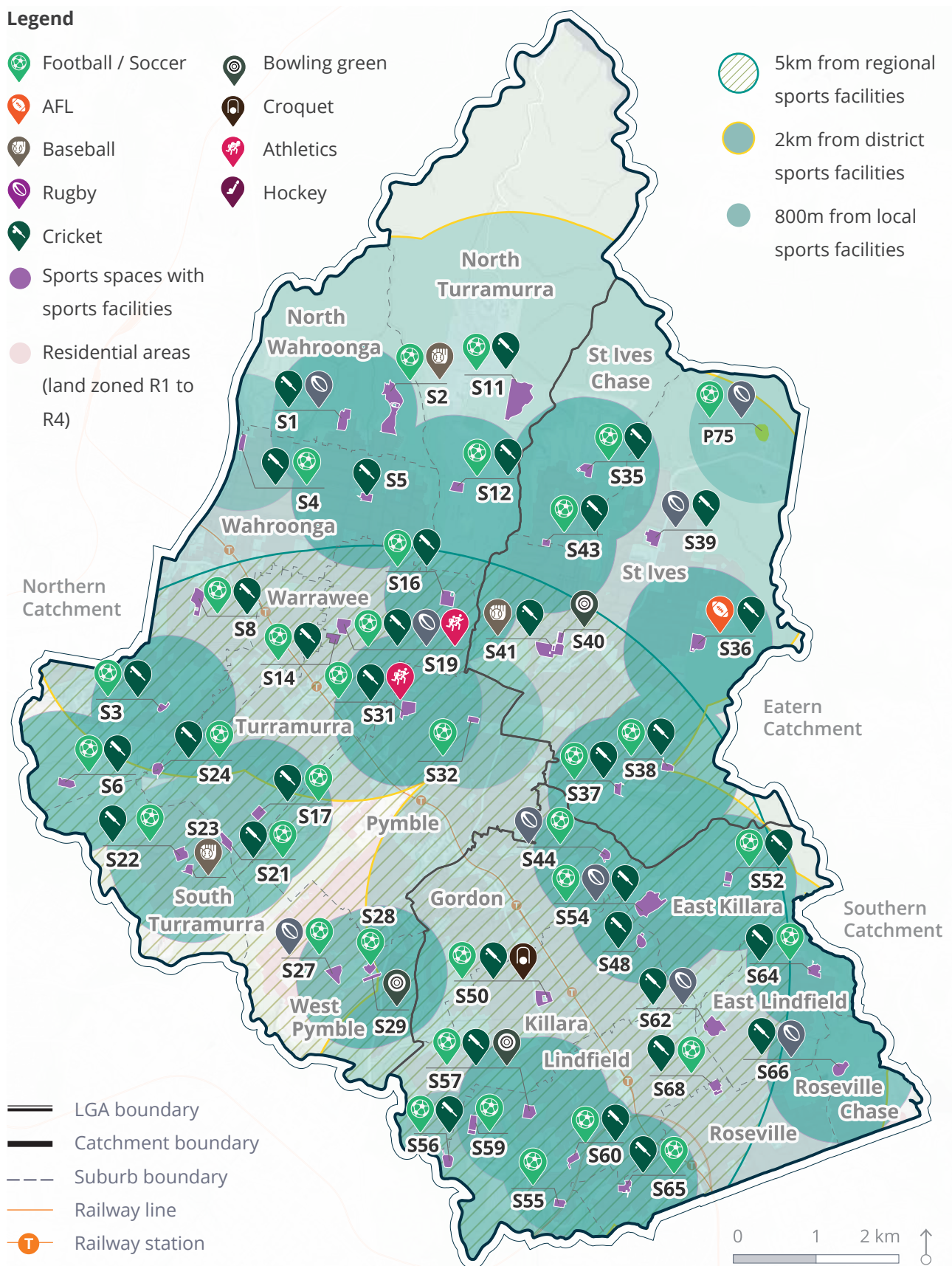
Ku-ring-gai LGA as a whole, and all planning catchments, are well serviced in terms of sportsfield provision.

Table 15 - Benchmarking of current and future provision of sportsfields in the Ku-ring-gai LGA (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Benchmark	Catchment	Benchmarking	What does this mean?
1 sporting field per 5,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia, 2012).	Ku-ring-gai LGA		2021 above benchmark demand by +30 facilities. (+27 facilities in 2041)
	Eastern		2021 above benchmark demand by +7 facilities. (+6 facilities in 2041)
	Northern		2021 above benchmark demand by +14 facilities. (+13 facilities in 2041)
	Southern		2021 above benchmark demand by +10 facilities. (+8 facilities in 2041)

Figure 25 - Proximity map of sports facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Ku-ring-gai Council has a high level of sportsfield provision when compared to Greater Sydney.

The Office of Sport has provided provision rates for Greater Sydney (1: 2,553 persons). As shown in Table 15, with 55 Council-owned full sized sportsfields, Ku-ring-gai LGA has a current provision rate of 1 sportsfield per 2,256 residents. With population growth to 2041, this provision rate would decrease to 1 sportsfield per 2,559 residents.

Proximity benchmark

The Ku-ring-gai LGA generally has good access to local and district sports facilities.

Figure 25 shows 800m walking catchment from all sports facilities within the Ku-ring-gai LGA, overlaid on areas zoned for residential uses. It considers train lines, water bodies and arterial roads as barriers for access when generating the walking catchment. It shows that:

- While most of the Ku-ring-gai LGA generally has good access to sports facilities within 800m walking distance of home, areas along the train line lack access, such as Wahroonga, Warrawee, Pymble, Gordon, Killara and Roseville.
- Most of the Ku-ring-gai LGA can access a district sports facility within a 2km distance, with the exception of South Turramurra and parts of West Pymble and Pymble.
- There is a portion of the Ku-ring-gai LGA which lacks access to a regional sports facility within a 5km distance, including Wahroonga, North Wahroonga, North Turramurra, St Ives Chase and St Ives.
- As evidenced by population benchmarking in previous sections, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a significant above benchmark provision of sports facilities. There is a need to connect existing sports facilities with high-quality walking and cycling paths.

There is an opportunity to improve access to Ku-ring-gai LGA's existing sporting facilities, particularly for residents living close by to the rail corridor. Council should also conduct further analysis to understand how to optimise access to existing facilities with high-quality walking and cycling paths.

7.1.3. What does the utilisation data tell us?

Utilisation of natural turf sportsfields in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

The following analysis refers to natural turf sportsfields only, which make up a significant proportion of Council's sports facilities.

Ku-ring-gai's natural turf sportsfields are used differently in summer and winter seasons, and can be used for both formal and informal recreation purposes. Understanding how Ku-ring-gai's natural turf sportsfields are being used across the year can help us Council better plan for and manage facilities.

- The following section provides a carrying capacity analysis of the utilisation of natural turf sportsfields in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. The carrying capacity of a natural turf sportsfield is the maximum level of traffic/usage that the site can sustain without resulting in a major decline in the turf and surface condition that would render the site unfit for use.
- Utilisation of natural turf sportsfields has been assessed based on the assumption that sportsfields have capacity for 30 hours of use weekly for natural turf sportsfields (Ku-ring-gai Council internal data). Therefore, sportsfields with >30 hours of weekly use are categorised as operating 'above' capacity and sportsfields with <30 hours of weekly use are categorised as operating 'below' capacity.
- This analysis includes general bookings (e.g. local clubs) and school bookings. Synthetic facilities and other types of sports facilities are not included in this analysis.

Please note that a limitation of this review was the inability to break down the "booked" time to "actual usage" time. "Booked" time refers to the time reserved in advance by local clubs for use of sportsfields in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. "Actual usage" refers to the actual total hours of utilisation of sportsfields in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, regardless of bookings. Therefore, as data included in this section relies on "booked" time for analysis, it does not represent actual usage of sportsfields across the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Formal natural turf sportsfield bookings

Formal bookings can be made by local clubs and local schools. Council's natural turf sportsfields receive a higher proportion of formal bookings in the winter season.

Table 16, below, shows that across the Ku-ring-gai LGA, natural turf sportsfields receive approximately 1233.75 hours of use per week in the winter season, compared to 309.25 hours of use per week in the summer season.

Figure 29 shows sports space utilisation in the summer season, and Figure 30 shows sports space utilisation in the winter season.

The following pages provide further analysis of formal natural turf field bookings by catchment, and by season.

Table 16 - Ku-ring-gai LGA: 2022 weekly hours of use for natural turf fields by season

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Planning catchment	Summer hours (weekly total hours of use)	Winter hours (weekly total hours of use)
Eastern Catchment	40.5	195
Northern Catchment	140.75	580.25
Southern Catchment	128	458.50
Weekly total hours of use	309.25	1233.75

Eastern Catchment - Winter season

As shown in Figure 26, approximately 15% of natural turf sportsfields in Ku-ring-gai's Eastern Catchment are operating above capacity in the winter season.

According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **above capacity** include fields at:

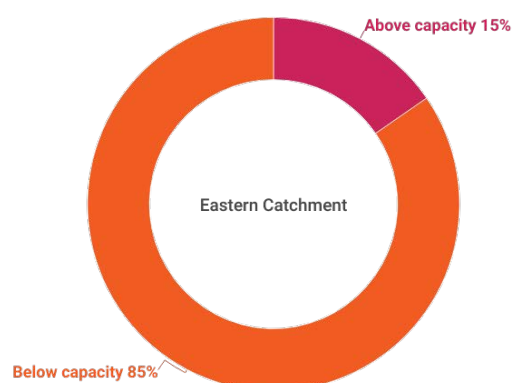
- Acron Oval
- Warrimoo Avenue Sportsground.

85% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Eastern Catchment are operating below capacity in the winter season.

According to booking data, sports facilities in the Eastern Catchment that may be operating **below capacity** include fields at:

- Barra Brui Sportsground
- Bryce Oval
- Hassall Park
- St Ives Village Green
- Toolang Road Sportsground.

Figure 26 - Eastern Catchment Ku-ring-gai LGA: 2022 carrying capacity of natural turf sportsfields based on formal bookings in winter (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Northern Catchment - Winter season

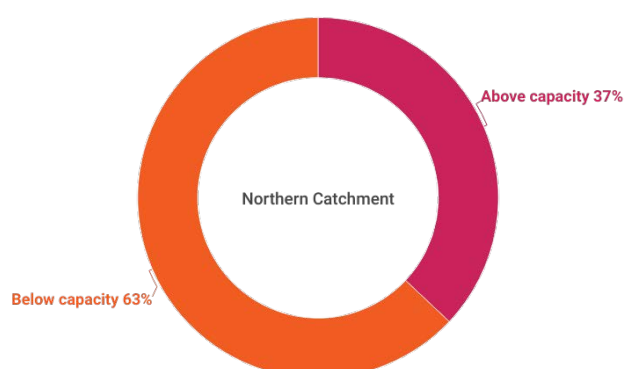
As shown in Figure 27, approximately 37% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Northern Catchment are operating above capacity in the winter season. According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **above capacity** in the Northern Catchment include fields at:

- Bannockburn Road Sportsground
- Bicentennial Park
- Comenarra Sportsground
- North Turramurra Recreation Precinct
- Rofe Park
- Sir David Martin Reserve
- Twin Creek Reserve.

Approximately 63% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Northern Catchment are operating below capacity in the winter season. According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **below capacity** in the Northern Catchment include fields at:

- Brown's Field
- Carrington Park
- Cliff Avenue Sportsground
- Friar's Field
- George Christie Sportsground
- Golden Jubilee Oval
- Karuah Park
- Kent Road Sportsground
- Sir David Martin Reserve
- The Glade
- Turramurra Memorial Park.

Figure 27 - Northern Catchment Ku-ring-gai LGA: 2022 carrying capacity of natural turf sportsfields based on formal bookings in winter (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Southern Catchment - Winter season

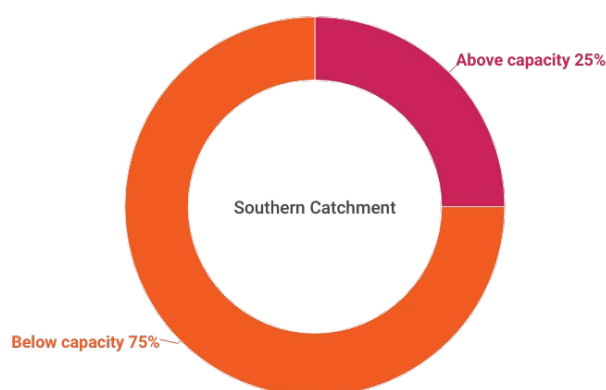
As shown in Figure 28, approximately 25% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Southern Catchment are operating above capacity in the winter season. According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **above capacity** in the Southern Catchment include fields at:

- Koola Park
- Princes Park
- Roseville Park.

Approximately 75% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Southern Catchment are operating below capacity in the winter season. According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **below capacity** in the Southern Catchment include fields at:

- Allan Small Park
- Governor Phillip Reserve
- East Lindfield Park
- Fiddens Wharf Road Sportsground
- Killara Park
- Koola Park
- Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park
- Loyal Henry Park
- Queen Elizabeth Reserve
- Regimental Park
- Roseville Chase Oval
- Sir Phillip Game Reserve North.

Figure 28 - Southern Catchment Ku-ring-gai LGA: 2022 carrying capacity of natural turf sportsfields based on formal bookings in winter (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Eastern Catchment - Summer season

100% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Eastern Catchment are operating below capacity in the summer season.

According to booking data, sports facilities in the Eastern Catchment that may be operating **below capacity** in the Eastern Catchment include fields at:

- Acron Oval
- Hassall Park
- St Ives Village Green.

Northern Catchment - Summer season

100% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Northern Catchment are operating below capacity in the summer season.

According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **below capacity** in the Northern Catchment include fields at:

- Bannockburn Sportsground
- Bicentennial Park
- Cliff Avenue Sportsground
- Comenarra Sportsground
- George Christie Sportsground
- Golden Jubilee Oval
- North Turramurra Recreation Precinct
- Sir David Martin Reserve
- The Glade
- Turramurra Memorial Park.

Southern Catchment - Summer season

100% of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai's Southern Catchment are operating below capacity in the summer season.

According to booking data, sports facilities that may be operating **below capacity** in the Southern Catchment include fields at:

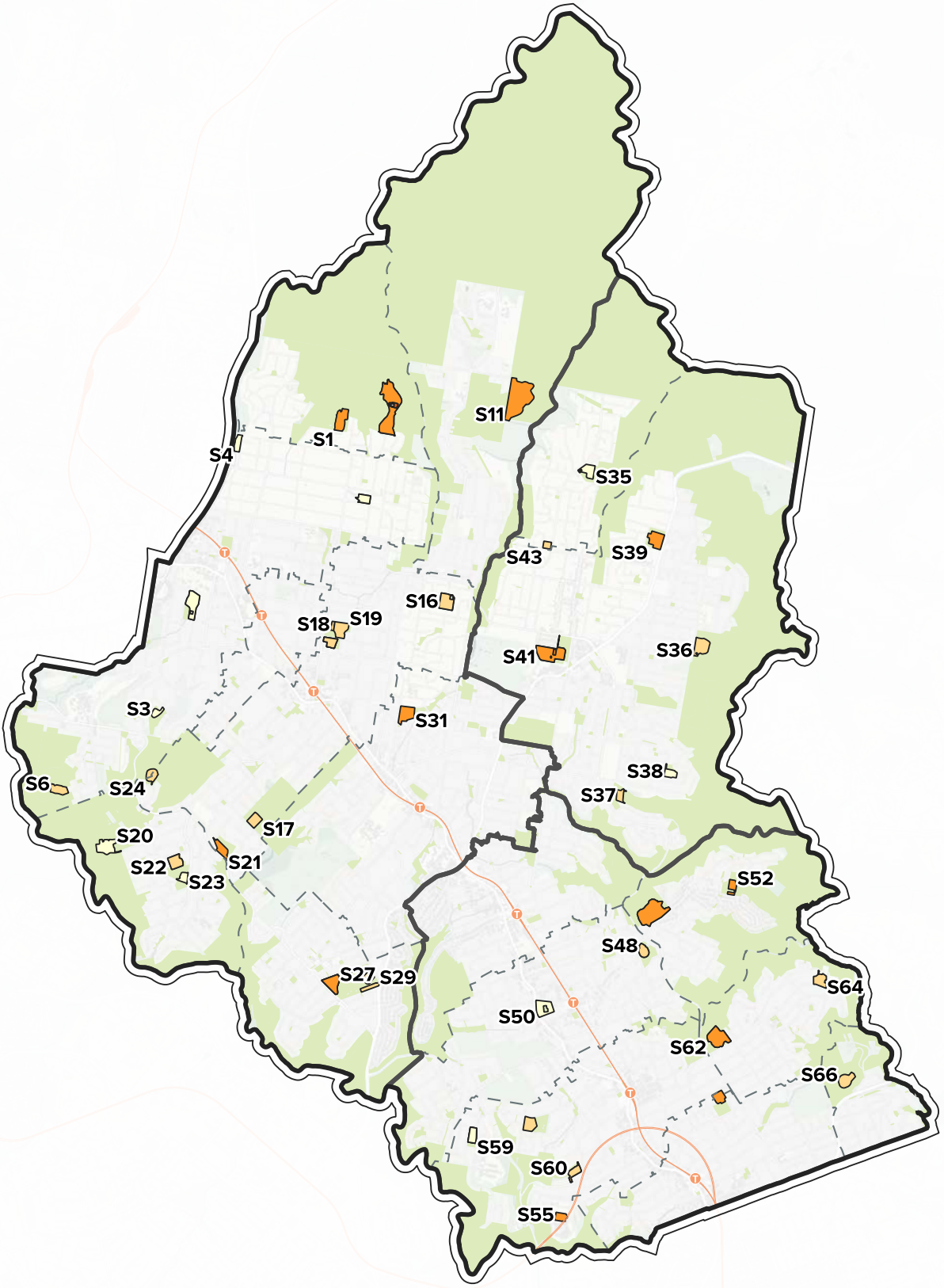
- Allan Small Park
- Killara Park
- Koola Park
- Lindfield Memorial Park
- Queen Elizabeth Reserve
- Roseville Chase Oval
- Roseville Park
- Sir Phillip Game Reserve North.



Sportsfield at Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park, East Lindfield.

Photo source: Cred Consulting

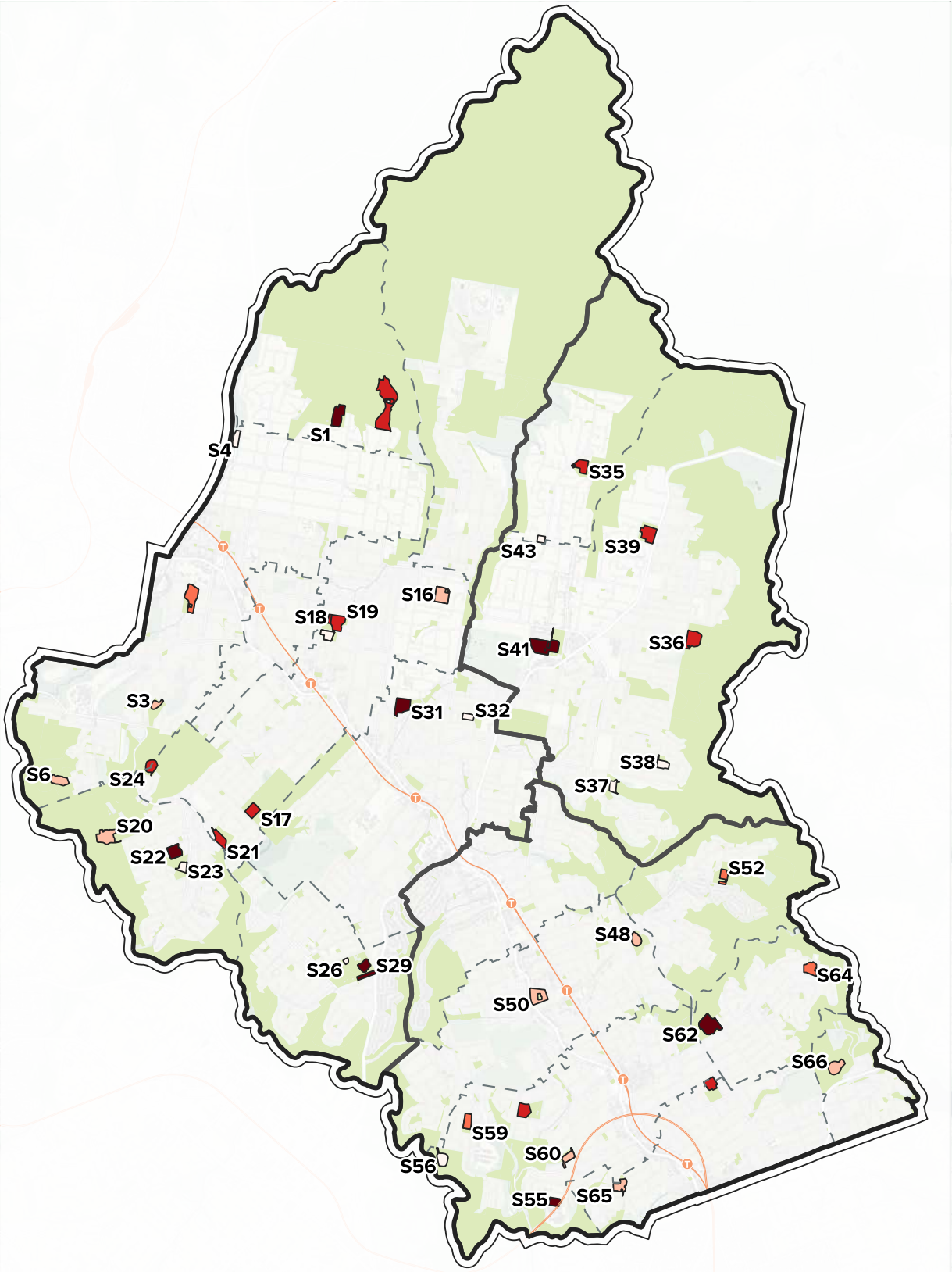
Figure 29 - Sports spaces utilisation in summer (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Legend

- 01 to 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 30 hours

Figure 30 - Sports spaces utilisation in winter (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Legend

- 01 to 10 hours
- 10 to 20 hours
- 20 to 30 hours
- 30 to 40 hours
- Above 40 hours



Cricket nets, Auluba Oval, South Turramurra.

Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council

7.2. Outdoor sports courts

7.2.1. What does the Ku-ring-gai LGA have now?

Table 17, below, provides a summary audit of the current sports courts available within the Ku-ring-gai LGA as a whole, and within each planning catchment. Table 18 provides a detailed audit of current sports courts available within the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Figure 31 is a map showing the location of current outdoor sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Overall, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has:

- A total of 100 full sports courts and 7 half sports courts.
- 63 tennis courts, 22 netball courts, 11 multipurpose courts, 7 basketball half courts and 4 futsal courts.

Eastern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Eastern Catchment has two different types of sports courts available to the general public. Sports courts available within this catchment include:

- Tennis court (3) and
- Multipurpose court (4).

The Eastern Catchment has the lowest level of sports court provision in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

Northern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Northern Catchment has four different types of sports courts available to the general public. Sports courts available within the catchment include:

- Netball (21)
- Basketball half court (4)
- Tennis court (26) and
- Multipurpose court (5).

The Northern Catchment has the majority of Ku-ring-gai LGA's netball courts, with 21 of 22 netball courts located in this planning catchment.

Southern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Southern Catchment has five different types of sports courts available to the general public. Sports courts available within the catchment include:

- Netball court (1)
- Basketball half court (3)
- Tennis court (34)
- Futsal (4) and
- Multipurpose court (2).

The Southern Catchment has a large proportion of Ku-ring-gai LGA's tennis courts, with 34 out of 63 Tennis courts located in this planning catchment. The Southern Catchment also has Ku-ring-gai LGA's only four Futsal courts.

Table 17 - Current provision of outdoor sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Outdoor sports court type	Current provision of sports courts in Ku-ring-gai LGA (#)			
	Eastern Catchment	Northern Catchment	Southern Catchment	Ku-ring-gai LGA total
Netball	-	21	1	22
Basketball (full court)	-	-	-	-
Basketball (half court)	-	4	3	7
Tennis	3	26	34	63
Futsal	-	-	4	4
Multipurpose court	4	5	2	11
TOTAL	7	56	44	107

Figure 31 - Location of outdoor sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

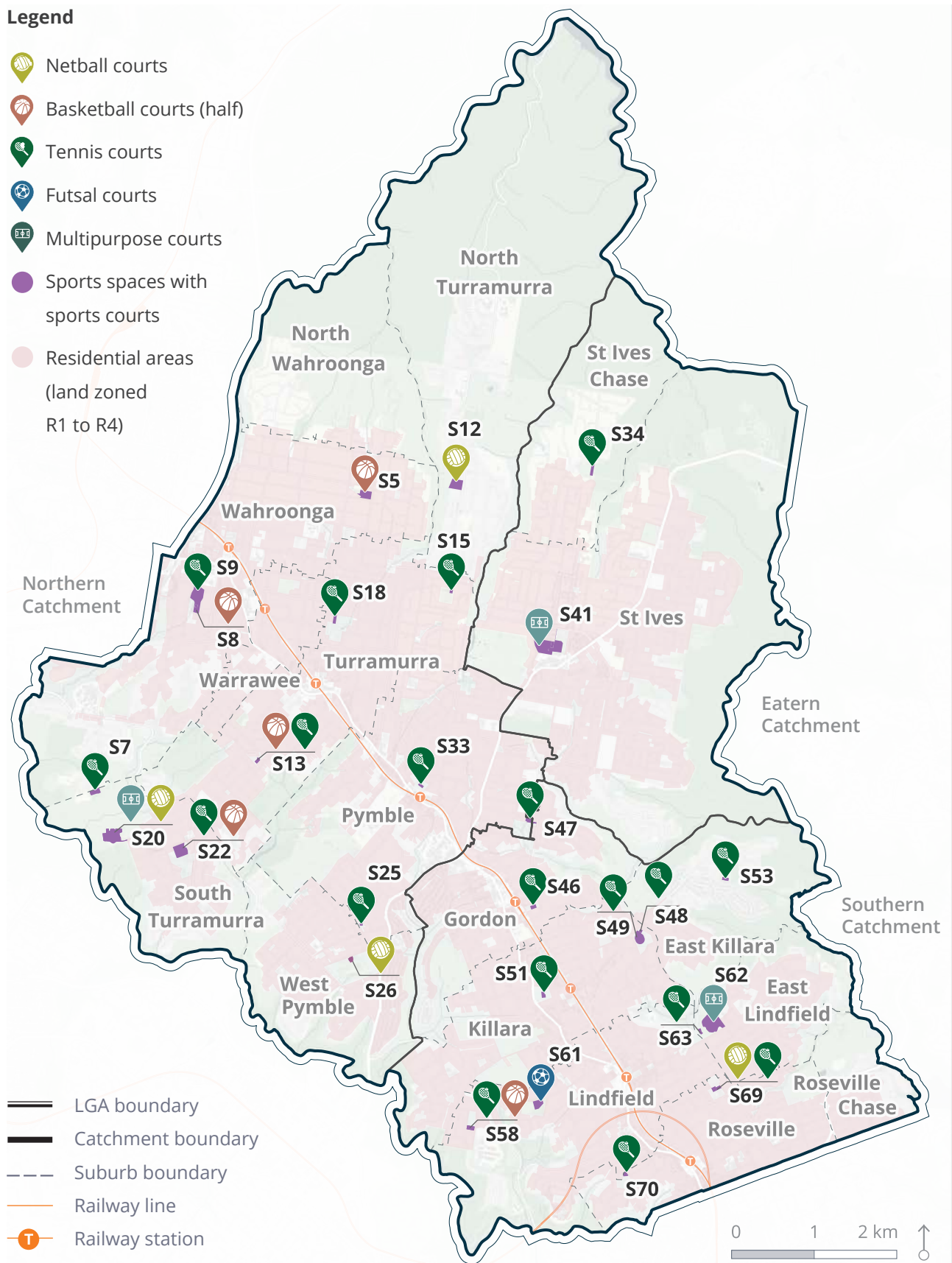



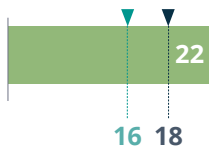






Table 18 - Audit of current provision of outdoor sports courts in Ku-ring-gai LGA*(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council)*

Map Ref.	Name	Hierarchy
Eastern Catchment		
S34	Warrimoo Tennis Courts	Local
S41	St Ives Village Green	District
Northern Catchment		
S5	Claude Cameron Grove (Westbrook Avenue Sportsground)	Local
S7	Morona Avenue Reserve Tennis Courts	Local
S8	The Glade (Oval)	District
S9	The Glade Reserve - Tennis Courts	District
S12	Samuel King Sportsground (North Turramurra Park)	Local
S13	Hamilton Park (Tennis Courts)	Local
S15	Kent Playing Field - Tennis Courts	Local
S18	Turramurra Memorial Park - Turramurra Oval	Local
S20	Bradley Park (Canoon Recreation Area)	Local
S22	Sir David Martin Reserve (Auluba Oval 1 & 2)	Local
S25	Kendall Village Green - Sportsgrounds	Local
S26	Lofberg Netball Courts	Regional
S33	Robert Pymble Park Tennis Courts	District
Southern Catchment		
S46	Gordon Recreation Ground - Tennis Courts	District
S47	Richmond Park Tennis Courts	Local
S48	Killara Park (W.A Bert Oldfield Oval)	District
S49	Killara Park (Tennis Courts)	District
S51	Regimental Park Tennis Courts	District
S53	Allan Small Park - Tennis Courts	Local
S58	Queen Elizabeth Reserve - Tennis Courts	Local
S61	West Lindfield Sport and Recreation Club - part of Primula Oval	Local
S62	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park - Sportsgrounds	District
S63	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park - Tennis Courts	District
S69	Roseville Tennis Courts	District
S70	Thomas Avenue Tennis Court	Local

7.2.2. What do benchmarks tell us?

Table 19 - Population benchmarking of current and future provision of sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA





(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Current provision	2021 demand	2041 demand	Gap			
Sports court				Benchmark	Benchmarking	What does this mean?
	Netball court	1 per 8,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2020 - low benchmark)		2021 above benchmark demand by +6 courts (+4 courts in 2041)		
	Basketball (full court)	1 per 4,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2020 - low benchmark)		2021 below benchmark demand by -31 courts (-35 courts in 2041)		
	Tennis courts	1 per 30,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2020 - low benchmark)		2021 above benchmark demand by +59 courts (+58 courts in 2041)		
	Multi-purpose courts	1 per 10,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -1 court (-3 courts in 2041)		

Note: There are currently no accepted benchmarks available for assessing the provision of Basketball (half court) and Futsal. A full list of Ku-ring-gai LGA's sports courts is included in the Appendix.

Table 20 - Population benchmarking of current and future provision of sports courts in Ku-ring-gai catchments

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Sports court	Benchmarking						
	Catchment	Benchmark demand		Ku-ring-gai provision		Benchmark gap	
		2021	2041	2021	2041	2021	2041
 Netball court	Eastern	3	3	-	-	-3	-3
	Northern	7	8	21	21	14	13
	Southern	6	7	1	1	-5	-6
	LGA	16	18	22	22	6	4
 Basketball (full court)	Eastern	5	6	-	-	-5	-6
	Northern	14	15	-	-	-14	-15
	Southern	12	14	-	-	-12	-14
	LGA	31	35	-	-	-31	-35
 Tennis court	Eastern	1	1	3	3	2	2
	Northern	2	2	26	26	24	24
	Southern	2	2	34	34	32	32
	LGA	4	5	63	63	59	58
 Multi-purpose courts	Eastern	2	2	4	4	2	2
	Northern	6	6	5	5	-1	-1
	Southern	5	6	2	2	-3	-4
	LGA	12	14	11	11	-1	-3

Ku-ring-gai LGA

Table 19 and Table 20 shows that the Ku-ring-gai LGA overall has **above benchmark** provision in the following sports courts:

- Netball courts (+6 in 2021 and +4 in 2041)
- Tennis courts (+59 in 2021 and +58 in 2041).

However, the Ku-ring-gai LGA overall has **below benchmark** provision of the following sports courts:

- Basketball (full court) (-31 in 2021 and -35 in 2041)
- Multipurpose courts (-1 in 2021 and -3 in 2041).

Eastern Catchment

Table 19 and Table 20 shows that the Eastern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **above benchmark** provision in the following sports courts:

- Tennis courts (+2 in 2021 and +2 in 2041)
- Multipurpose courts (+2 in 2021 and +2 in 2041).

However, the Eastern Catchment also has **below-benchmark** provision of the following sports courts:

- Netball courts (-3 in 2021 and -3 in 2041)
- Basketball (full court) (-5 in 2021 and -6 in 2041).

Northern Catchment

Table 19 and Table 20 shows that the Northern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **above benchmark** provision in the following sports courts:

- Tennis courts (+24 in 2021 and +24 in 2041)
- Netball courts (+14 in 2021 and +13 in 2041).

However, the Northern Catchment also has **below benchmark** provision of the following sports courts:

- Basketball (full court) (-14 in 2021 and -15 in 2041)
- Multipurpose courts (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)

Southern Catchment

Table 19 and Table 20 shows that the Southern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **above benchmark** provision in the following sports courts:

- Tennis courts (+32 in 2021 and +32 in 2041)

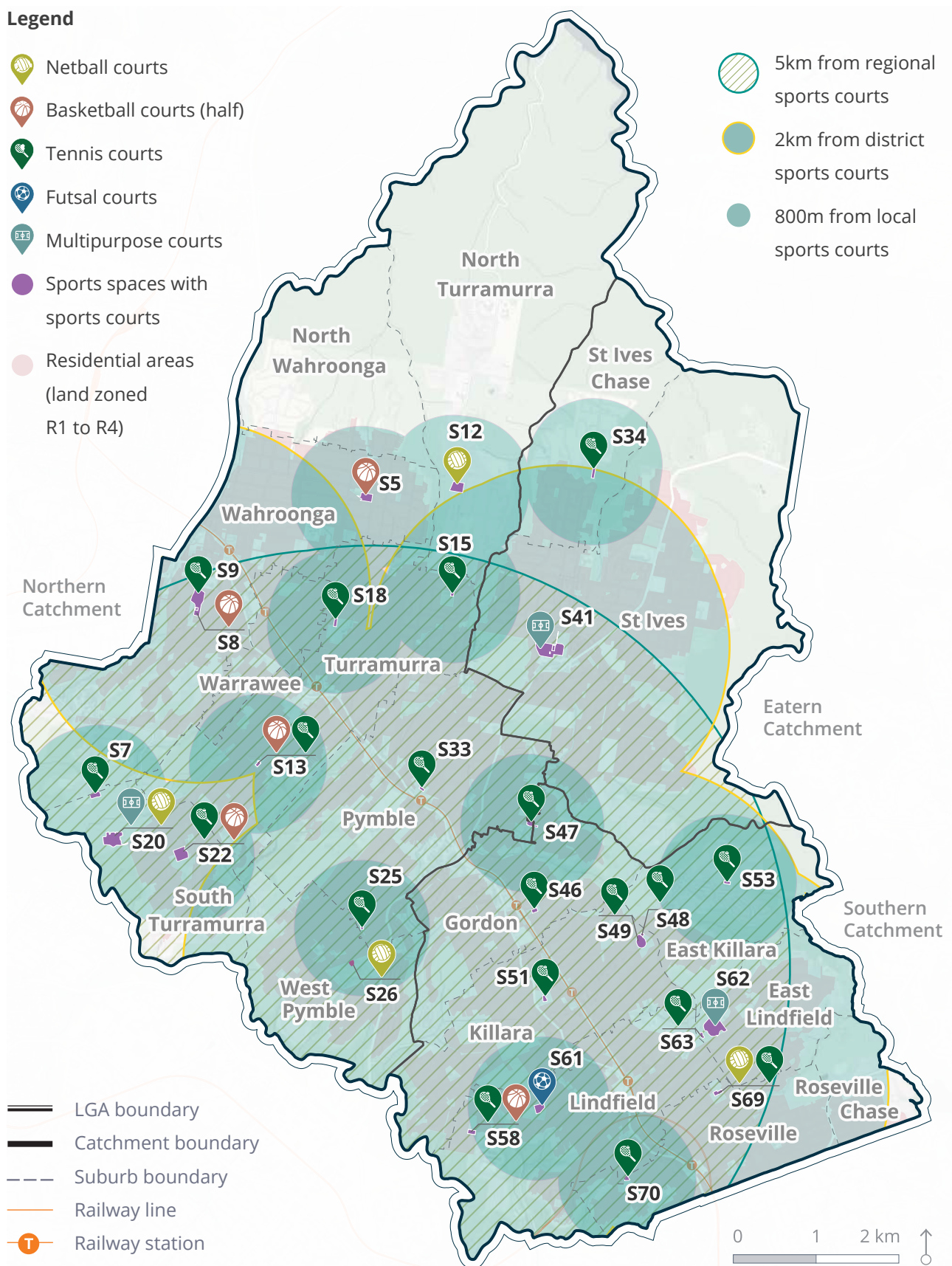
However, the Southern Catchment also has **below benchmark** provision of the following sports courts:

- Netball courts (-5 in 2021 and -6 in 2041)
- Basketball (full court) (-12 in 2021 and -14 in 2041)
- Multipurpose courts (-3 in 2021 and -4 in 2041).



Figure 32 - Proximity map of sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



Proximity benchmark

Parts of the Ku-ring-gai LGA lack access to local, district and regional sports courts.

Figure 32 shows an 800m walking catchment from all sports courts within the Ku-ring-gai LGA, overlaid on areas zoned for residential uses. It considers train lines, water bodies and arterial roads as barriers for access when generating the walking catchment. It shows that:

- While areas along the train line generally have good access to sports courts within an 800m walking distance of home, areas further away lack access, such as St Ives, North Turramurra, North Wahroonga, Wahroonga, Warrawee, Gordon, East Lindfield, Roseville, and Roseville Chase.
- Most of the Ku-ring-gai LGA can access a district sports court within a 2km distance, with the exception of parts of Wahroonga, North Wahroonga, North Turramurra and St Ives Chase.
- The majority of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has access to a regional sport courts within a 5km distance, with the exception of Wahroonga, North Wahroonga, North Turramurra, St Ives, and Roseville Chase.
- As evidenced by population benchmarking in previous sections, there is also a shortage of supply of basketball and multipurpose courts that can be located in these areas with limited access. Furthermore, there is a need to connect existing courts with high-quality walking and cycling paths.

There is an opportunity to increase provision of outdoor courts for informal use in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Council should also conduct further analysis to understand the utilisation of existing tennis courts and consider feasibility of re-purposing existing tennis courts to multipurpose courts or basketball courts.

7.2.3. What does the utilisation data tell us?

Utilisation of sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

There is currently limited data available about the utilisation of sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, with “booking” data only available for netball courts.

This data below includes general bookings (e.g. local clubs) and school bookings for Netball courts. Please note that a limitation of this review was the inability to break down the “booked” time to “actual usage” time.

Council data provides a small snapshot into the utilisation of the following netball sports courts:

- Bicentennial Park Netball Courts are utilised for approximately 9 hours per week in both summer and winter seasons.
- Bradley Park Canoon Recreation Area Netball Courts are utilised for approximately 5 hours per week in summer season and 17.5 hours per week in the winter season. Approximately 5.5hrs of weekly use in the winter season is by local schools.
- North Turramurra Recreation Precinct Netball Courts are utilised for approximately 11 hours per week in the winter season, with approximately 2 hours per week by local schools.

No further data on utilisation of sports courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA is currently available.

According to formal booking data, Ku-ring-gai LGA's netball courts are currently underutilised. Council should work with local clubs to enhance understanding of booked and actual utilisation of existing sports courts (e.g. tennis courts and netball Courts). Council should seek to increase provision of basketball courts and multipurpose courts across the Ku-ring-gai LGA.



7.3. Indoor and outdoor recreation facilities

7.3.1. What does the Ku-ring-gai LGA have now?

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has a total of 171 recreation facilities spread across its Eastern, Northern and Southern Catchments.

Table 21, below, provides a summary of the current recreation facilities available within the Ku-ring-gai LGA as a whole, and within each Planning Catchment. Table 22 provides a detailed audit of current provision. Figure 33 provides a map which shows the location of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Overall, there are the following recreation facilities available to the public:

- Play space (104), clubhouse (25), dog off-leash area (23), outdoor fitness station (7), community garden (2), mountain biking (2), golf course (3), aquatic centre (1), indoor recreation centre (1), skate park (1), BMX/Pump track (1), and equestrian arena (1).

Eastern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Eastern Catchment has seven different types of recreation facilities available to the general public and 35 recreation facilities in total.

Recreation facilities available within this catchment include, clubhouse (6), outdoor fitness station (1), play space (18), mountain biking (1), skate park (1), dog off-leash area (7), and equestrian arena (1). The Eastern Catchment has Ku-ring-gai LGA's only skate park and equestrian facilities.

Northern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Northern Catchment has ten different types of recreation facilities available to the general public and 81 recreation facilities in total. Recreation facilities available in the Ku-ring-gai LGA include the aquatic centre (1), indoor recreation centre (1), clubhouse (11), outdoor fitness station (3), play space (50), community garden (2), mountain biking (1), BMX/Pump track (1), and dog off-leash area (10). The Northern Catchment has Ku-ring-gai LGA's only aquatic centre, indoor recreation centre and BMX/Pump track.

Southern Catchment

Ku-ring-gai's Southern Catchment has five different types of recreation facilities available to the general public and 55 recreation facilities in total. Recreation facilities available in the Southern Catchment include clubhouse (8), outdoor fitness station (3), play space (36), and dog off-leash area (6). The Southern Catchment is the least serviced planning catchment in the Ku-ring-gai LGA for recreation facilities, with a lack of diversity in facilities and number of recreation opportunities.

Table 21 - Audit of current provision of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)






Recreation facility	Current provision of recreation facilities in Ku-ring-gai LGA (#)			
	Eastern Catchment	Northern Catchment	Southern Catchment	LGA total
Aquatic centre *	-	1	-	1
Indoor recreation centre	-	1	-	1
Indoor court	-	-	-	-
Clubhouse	6	11	8	25
Outdoor fitness station	1	3	3	7
Play space	18	50	36	104
Community garden	-	2	-	2
Mountain biking	1	1	-	2
Skate parks	1	-	-	1
BMX/Pump track	-	1	-	1
Dog off-leash area	7	10	6	23
Equestrian arena	1	-	-	1
Golf course	-	1	2	3
TOTAL	35	81	55	171

*Includes Council-owned facilities only

Figure 33 - Location of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Legend

-  Aquatic facility
-  Dog off-leash
-  Fitness station
-  Indoor recreation
-  Skatepark / BMX
-  Golf course

-  Sports spaces with recreation facilities
-  Parks with recreation facilities
-  Natural areas with recreation facilities
-  Reserves with recreation facilities
-  Residential areas (land zoned R1 to R4)


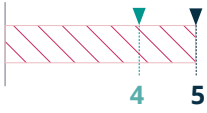
















Table 22 - Audit of current provision of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in Ku-ring-gai LGA
(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council)

Map Ref.	Name	Hierarchy
Eastern Catchment		
S35	Warrimoo Oval	Local
S36	Acron Oval	Local
S41	St Ives Village Green	District
P75	St Ives Showground	Regional
N69	Barra Wood (Natural reserve)	Local
N91	Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden	Regional
U17	Transmission Park - Mid	Local
Northern Catchment		
S2	Golden Jubilee Oval	District
S5	Claude Cameron Grove (Westbrook Avenue Sports ground)	Local
S8	The Glade (Oval)	District
S10	North Turramurra Recreation Area (Golf Course)	District
S14	Karuah Park - Sports grounds	District
S16	Kent Playing Field	Local
S27	Lofberg Oval	Regional
S30	Bicentennial Park - Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre	Regional
P8	Morona Avenue Reserve	Local
P17	Mitchell Crescent Reserve	Local
P22	Sandakan Memorial Park	Local
P30	Karuah Park	District
P32	Friar's Field	Local
P33	Turramurra Memorial Park	Local
P40	Kissing Point Village Green	District
Southern Catchment		
S45	Gordon Golf Course	Local
S48	Killara Park (W.A Bert Oldfield Oval)	District
S54	Koola Park - Sportsgrounds	Local
S59	Queen Elizabeth Reserve	District
S60	Sir Phillip Game Reserve North (Edenborough Park)	Local
S62	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park - Sports grounds	District
S67	Roseville Golf Reserve (Leased to club)	Local
P97	Hyndes Park	Local
P117	Roseville Park	District

7.3.2. What do benchmarks tell us?

Table 23 - Population benchmarking of current and future provision of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)



		Current provision	2021 demand	2041 demand	Gap	
Recreation facility	Benchmark	Benchmarking		What does this mean?		
	Aquatic facility (local)	1 per 30,000 people (Growth Centres Commission NSW Government)		2021 below benchmark demand by -4 facilities (-5 in 2041)		
	Aquatic facility (district)	1 per 75,000 people (Growth Centres Commission NSW Government)		2021 below benchmark demand by -2 facilities (-2 in 2041)		
	Aquatic facility (regional)	1 per 150,000 people (Growth Centres Commission NSW Government)		2021 meeting benchmark demand (same as 2041)		
	Indoor recreation centre	1 per 50,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -1 facility (-2 in 2041)		
	Indoor courts	1 per 20,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -6 facilities (-7 in 2041)		
	Outdoor fitness stations	1 per 15,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -1 facility (-2 in 2041)		
	Skate & BMX (local)	1 per 10,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -12 facilities (-14 in 2041)		
	Skate & BMX (district)	1 per 25,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -3 facilities (-4 in 2041)		
	Skate & BMX (regional)	1 per 150,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 below benchmark demand by -1 facility (-1 in 2041)		
	Play space	1 per 2,000 people (Parks and Leisure Australia 2012)		2021 above benchmark demand by +42 facilities (+34 in 2041)		

Note: There are currently no accepted benchmarks available for assessing the provision of the following recreation facilities: clubhouses, community gardens, mountain biking, equestrian arena, climbing, orienteering and rogaining, and golf-courses.

Table 24 - Benchmarking of current and future provision of recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA and catchments (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Recreation facility		Benchmarking						
		Catchment	Benchmark demand		Ku-ring-gai provision		Benchmark gap	
			2021	2041	2021	2041	2021	2041
	Aquatic facility (local)	Eastern	1	1	-	-	-1	-1
		Northern	2	2	-	-	-2	-2
		Southern	2	2	-	-	-2	-2
		LGA	4	5	-	-	-4	-5
	Aquatic facility (district)	Eastern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Northern	1	1	-	-	-1	-1
		Southern	1	1	-	-	-1	-1
		LGA	2	2	-	-	-2	-2
	Aquatic facility (regional)	Eastern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Northern	-	-	1	1	+1	+1
		Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		LGA	1	1	1	1	-	-
	Indoor recreation centre	Eastern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Northern	1	1	1	1	-	-
		Southern	1	1	-	-	-1	-1
		LGA	2	3	1	1	-1	-2
	Indoor courts	Eastern	1	1	-	-	-1	-1
		Northern	3	3	-	-	-3	-3
		Southern	2	3	-	-	-2	-3
		LGA	6	7	-	-	-6	-7
	Outdoor fitness station	Eastern	1	2	1	1	-	-1
		Northern	4	4	3	3	-1	-1
		Southern	3	4	3	3	-	-1
		LGA	8	9	7	7	-1	-2
	Play space	Eastern	11	12	18	18	+7	+6
		Northern	28	31	50	50	+22	+19
		Southern	23	28	36	36	+13	+8
		LGA	62	70	104	104	+42	+34

Table 24 - Benchmarking of current and future provision of recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA and catchments (Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Recreation facility		Benchmarking						
		Catchment	Benchmark demand		Ku-ring-gai provision		Benchmark gap	
			2021	2041	2021	2041	2021	2041
	Skate park & BMX/ Pump track (local)	Eastern	2	2	-	-	-2	-2
		Northern	6	6	-	-	-6	-6
		Southern	5	6	-	-	-5	-6
		LGA	12	14	-	-	-12	-14
	Skate park & BMX/ Pump track (district)	Eastern	1	1	1	1	-	-
		Northern	2	2	1	1	-1	-1
		Southern	2	2	-	-	-2	-2
		LGA	5	6	2	2	-3	-4
	Skate park & BMX/ Pump track (regional)	Eastern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-
		LGA	1	1	-	-	-1	-1
	Dog off-leash area	Eastern	1	1	7	7	+6	+6
		Northern	3	3	10	10	+7	+7
		Southern	3	3	6	6	+3	+3
		LGA	7	8	23	23	+16	+15

Ku-ring-gai LGA

Table 24 shows that the Ku-ring-gai LGA overall has **above benchmark** provision in the following recreation facilities:

- Play spaces (+42 in 2021 and +34 in 2041)
- Dog off-leash area (+16 in 2021 and +15 in 2041).

Table 24 shows that the Ku-ring-gai LGA overall has **below benchmark** provision in the following recreation facilities:

- Local aquatic facilities (-4 in 2021 and -5 in 2041)
- District aquatic facilities (-2 in 2021 and -2 in 2041)
- Indoor recreation centre (-1 in 2021 and -2 in 2041)
- Indoor courts (-6 in 2021 and -7 in 2041)
- Outdoor fitness station (-1 in 2021 and -2 in 2041)
- Local skate park & BMX pump track (-12 in 2021 and -14 in 2041)
- District skate park & BMX pump track (-3 in 2021 and -4 in 2041)
- Regional skate park & BMX pump track (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041).

Eastern Catchment

Table 24 shows that the Eastern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **above benchmark** provision in the following recreation facilities:

- Play spaces (+7 in 2021 and +6 in 2041)
- Dog off-leash areas (+6 in 2021 and +6 in 2041).

However, the Eastern Catchment also has **below benchmark** provision of the following recreation facilities:

- Local aquatic facilities (-1 in 2021 and -2 in 2041)
- Indoor courts (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)
- Outdoor fitness station (-1 in 2041)
- Local skate park & BMX/Pump track (-2 in 2021 and -2 in 2041).

Northern Catchment

Table 24 shows that the Northern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **above benchmark** provision in the following recreation facilities:

- Play spaces (+22 in 2021 and +19 in 2041)
- Dog off-leash area (+7 in 2021 and +7 in 2041)
- Regional aquatic facility (+1 in 2021 and +1 in

2041) - however, this would not be considered an over provision as this facility services the whole Ku-ring-gai LGA.

However, the Northern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **below benchmark** provision in the following recreation activities:

- Local aquatic facilities (-2 in 2021 and -2 in 2041)
- District aquatic facilities (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)
- Indoor courts (-3 in 2021 and -3 in 2041)
- Outdoor fitness station (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)
- Local skate park & BMX/Pump track (-6 in 2021 and -6 in 2041)
- District skate park & BMX/Pump track (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041).

Southern Catchment

Table 24 shows that the Southern Catchment of the Ku-ring-gai LGA has **above benchmark** provision in the following recreation facilities:

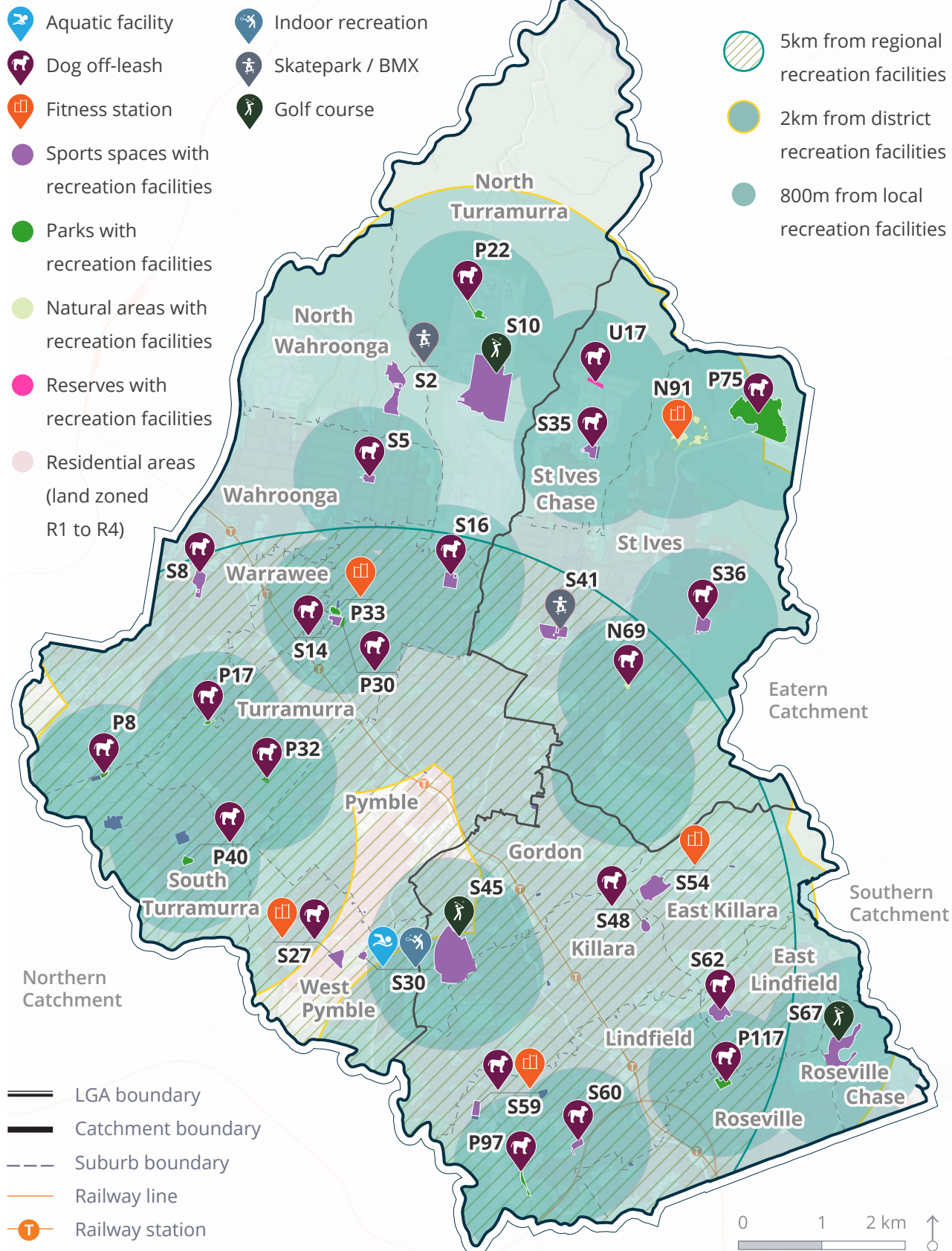
- Play spaces (+13 in 2021 and +8 in 2041)
- Dog off-leash area (+3 in 2021 and +3 in 2041).

However, the Southern Catchment also has **below benchmark** provision of the following recreation facilities:

- Local aquatic facilities (-2 in 2021 and -2 in 2041)
- District aquatic facilities (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)
- Indoor recreation centre (-1 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)
- Indoor courts (-2 in 2021 and -3 in 2041)
- Outdoor fitness station (0 in 2021 and -1 in 2041)
- Local skate park & BMX/Pump track (-5 in 2021 and -6 in 2041)
- District skate park & BMX/Pump track (-2 in 2021 and -2 in 2041).

Figure 34 - Proximity from indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA
(Data source: Ku-ring-gai Council internal data)

Legend



Proximity benchmark

The Ku-ring-gai LGA on average has varied access to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

Figure 34 shows an 800m walking catchment from all recreation facilities across the Ku-ring-gai LGA, overlaid on areas zoned for residential uses. It considers train lines, water bodies and arterial roads as barriers for access when generating the walking catchment. It shows that:

- There is varied access to local indoor and outdoor recreation facilities within an 800m walking distance across the Ku-ring-gai LGA, with gaps in access for the following areas: West Pymble, Pymble, Warrawee, Wahroonga, North Wahroonga, St Ives, Gordon, Killara, East Killara, and Lindfield.
- Most of the Ku-ring-gai LGA can access a district indoor and outdoor recreation facility within a 2km distance, with the exception of parts of Pymble and West Pymble.
- Parts of the Ku-ring-gai LGA lack access to a regional indoor and outdoor recreation facility within a 5km distance, with gaps in access for the following areas: Wahroonga, North Wahroonga, North Turramurra, St Ives Chase, St Ives, and Roseville Chase.
- As evidenced by population benchmarking in previous sections, there is a significant below benchmark provision in 2021 and 2041, for the majority of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. There is an opportunity to consider provision of recreation facilities with new or upgraded facilities, and also an opportunity to utilise the periphery of Ku-ring-gai LGA's existing natural areas to provide recreation opportunities, where permitted.

Overall, the provision of recreation facilities available to the general public within each planning catchment is varied. This means that residents in some catchments may not be able to access some types of recreation facilities within close proximity to their homes.

There is an opportunity to utilise the periphery of Ku-ring-gai LGA's existing natural areas to provide recreation opportunities, where permitted. It is also acknowledged that a majority of natural areas are protected for environmental conservation.

7.3.3. What does the utilisation data tell us?

Utilisation of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in Ku-ring-gai LGA

There is currently no data available about the utilisation of the following recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA:

- Clubhouses
- Outdoor fitness stations
- Playground/play spaces
- Community gardens
- Mountain biking
- Skate parks
- BMX/Pump tracks
- Dog-off leash areas
- Equestrian arena.

Recreation infrastructure in Ku-ring-gai LGA's natural areas

As detailed in Ku-ring-gai's Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy, Ku-ring-gai's natural areas offer a broad variety of recreation opportunities. Some of the activities currently conducted on bushland tracks and trails in Ku-ring-gai, include:

- Bushwalking
- Dog walking
- Rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling
- Mountain biking and BMX riding
- Orienteering and rogaining
- Bird watching
- Running and jogging and
- Horse riding.

Of the 211 respondents to Ku-ring-gai Council's Mountain Bike Riding in the Ku-ring-gai LGA survey 2023, 55% use the Warrimoo mountain bike/shared use trail, 59% use the Jubes mountain bike/shared use trail, and 73% use other fire/management trails in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

When asked what type of mountain bike trails they like, 93% of survey respondents said Flow trail, 75% said Enduro trail, 45% said Downhill trail and 43% said MTB park.



Outdoor swimming Pool, Bicentennial Park Fitness and Aquatic Centre, West Pymble.
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Dog Park at Acron Oval, St Ives
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Gordon Golf Course, Gordon
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council



Lofberg Dog Park, West Pymble
Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council

8. Strategic needs and opportunities

8.1. Key insights

Council is at the forefront of the public open space and recreation industry

Strategies such as 'Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy 2020' and 'Play Space Strategy 2020' and ongoing initiatives such as the 'Open Space Acquisition Program' demonstrate Council's leadership in planning for and delivering public open space and recreation opportunities.

Council aims to ensure that the community can lead a healthy lifestyle and be socially connected and resilient by using a multi-pronged approach. The Community Strategic Plan 2030 outlines Council's aspirations to expand and enhance public open spaces to accommodate population growth, improve access to diverse recreational opportunities, and collaborate with community groups and stakeholders to maximise community benefits.

Overall, the public open space network provides above-benchmark requirements, but it is mostly made up of natural areas

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has a total of 3,170ha. of public open space.

Industry minimum benchmark standard for public open space is 3ha. per 1,000 people. In 2021, current provision of public open space in Ku-ring-gai LGA is equivalent to 26ha. per 1,000 people and by 2041, provision is expected to be approximately 23ha. per 1,000 people. This shows that current and future provision significantly exceed minimum benchmark standards.

However, the majority 91% (2,895ha.) of Ku-ring-gai LGA's public open space network is made up of natural areas, which are predominantly conserved for environmental protection – with limited access for the general public. These natural areas are highly valued by the community and they would like to continue its preservation into the future.

There is an undersupply of parks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

2.4% (76 ha.) of Ku-ring-gai LGA's public open space network is being dedicated to parks.

Industry minimum benchmark standard for parks is 1ha. per 1,000 people. In 2021, current provision is equivalent to 0.61ha. per 1,000 people, which may decrease to 0.53ha. per 1,000 people by 2041, both below the minimum benchmark standard.

Figure 1 indicates that in 2021, the provision of parks significantly falls below the minimum benchmark standards across Northern Catchment (0.5ha. per 1,000 people) and Southern Catchment (0.3ha. per 1,000 people). The Eastern Catchment has an above benchmark provision of 1.5ha. per 1,000 people, but it is mainly comprised of the St Ives Showground. Furthermore, 25% of parks are under the minimum size of 0.5ha. indicating that they may not be effective in meeting community needs. Additionally, some areas in Northern and Southern Catchment, especially along the train line cannot access a park within a reasonable walking distance from their home.

To meet benchmark standards, there will be a need for an additional 48ha of parks in 2021 and a further 17ha (total of 65 ha) by 2041. However, it's important to note that this is based primarily on population benchmarks, which is just one indicator of need. There are other factors to consider, such as the quality, capacity, and proximity of the parks. Additionally, the current usage of some of Council's sports spaces as informal or park space has not been factored into this calculation, which may affect the actual need for additional parks.

Council has been working to expand its parks network through the Open Space Acquisition Program over the years. However, limited land availability and high land value costs make it infeasible for the Council to provide significant additional parks.

Therefore, opportunities for improving quality, capacity, and proximity to parks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are crucial for Council to act upon.

Sports spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are meeting benchmark standards; however, their low quality limit their capacity and utilisation

The provision of sports space in the Ku-ring-gai LGA makes up 6% (90ha.) of the total public open space network.

Industry minimum benchmark standard for sports spaces is 1ha. per 1,000 people. In 2021, current provision is equivalent to 1.5ha. per 1,000 people and by 2041, provision is expected to be approximately 1.3ha. per 1,000 people, both exceeding benchmark standards.

Furthermore, Figure 1 indicates that in 2021, the current provision of sports spaces meets or exceeds minimum benchmark standards across all planning catchments.

While the quantity of sports spaces provided is sufficient, the quality of these facilities is the biggest barrier for participation according to feedback from community and stakeholders. 59% of stakeholders indicated that the quality of sportsfields is a major barrier for participation, citing issues such as lighting, amenities, maintenance, safety, and unfit facilities for female participation.

Additionally, the analysis of Council's formal booking data shows that natural turf sportsfields operate below capacity throughout the year, indicating the opportunity to improve their capacity and utilisation.

The Ku-ring-gai LGA needs to support more informal, unstructured recreation activities, such as walking

The Greater Outdoors Survey identifies a trend towards casualisation of sport and recreation activities. Walking (87%) and bushwalking (75%) were reported as the most common recreation activities undertaken in Ku-ring-gai by telephone survey respondents. Supporting informal recreation means seeking opportunities to support informal recreation use at parks, enhancing active transport connections within and between public open spaces, and providing supporting amenities such as toilets, BBQs and picnic tables.

There is an above benchmark provision of single-use courts, including netball and tennis courts

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has an above-benchmark provision of netball courts. According to analysis of Council's formal booking data, the LGAs netball courts are currently underutilised. Participation data from state associations also show that participation in netball is decreasing.

Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA, there is an above benchmark provision of tennis courts. Notably, the Northern and Southern Catchments have a provision that significantly exceed the benchmark standard. In addition, a high-level scan indicates that a high proportion of residences also have private tennis courts in them.

Although the community want more basketball and multipurpose courts, the Ku-ring-gai LGA has a below benchmark provision

Over 45% of telephone survey respondents would like to see increased investment in outdoor courts, especially basketball. As the Ku-ring-gai LGA becomes more culturally diverse, there is a growing demand for basketball and multipurpose courts within this community including for informal recreation activities such as Tai chi, dance and games.

However, basketball courts (full) provision is below the benchmark across all planning catchments, while multipurpose courts in the Ku-ring-gai LGA are below benchmark with an above benchmark provision in the Eastern Catchment.

There is a below benchmark provision of indoor recreation and aquatic facilities

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has a below benchmark provision of indoor recreation centres and courts, this shortfall is particularly significant in the Northern and Southern Catchments. Ku-ring-gai LGA also has a below benchmark provision of local and district aquatic facilities.



Cycling in the streets.

Photo source: Ku-ring-gai Council

8.2. Strengths and challenges of the network

Strengths

- Overall high quantum of public open space.
- Beautiful and plentiful natural spaces, including bushland and tree canopy.
- The LGA attracts recreation users from a regional catchment.
- Ku-ring-gai's public open spaces are loved and valued by the community.
- Many parks are appealing to users, with mature trees and large, open grassed areas.
- High number of sportsfields distributed across the LGA.
- Established and engaged local sporting and recreation clubs.
- Lots of schools with high-quality recreation facilities, and potential for sharing.
- Many recreation facilities have been co-located with sportsfields or sports courts.
- Proactive Council with leading initiatives such as the Open Space Acquisition Program.

Challenges

- Forecast population growth within Ku-ring-gai LGA and neighbouring suburbs will place pressure on the capacity of existing public open space network.
- A changing climate impacting on drought, rising water levels and floods presents challenges for Council in how to manage and maintain its public open spaces and recreational facilities sustainably.
- Severe under supply of parks, as well as an undersized network of parks, with limited scope to acquire new land due to increasing land prices.
- Some parks are under developed and underutilised.
- People living in higher density, especially those located in and around the train line, experience a lack of access to parks close to home.
- Poor linkages, including within and between public open spaces and recreation facilities throughout the LGA.
- High number of single-use outdoor courts.
- Limited supply of indoor recreation facilities.
- Managing conflicts between users of open spaces, including dogs, pedestrians and local clubs.
- Managing conflicts and improving the ability for multiple sports to share spaces and facilities.
- Large areas of non-Council owned and managed open space with restricted public access, such as national parks.

8.3. Needs and opportunities

This section provides an overview of five key needs for Ku-ring-gai LGA's open space and recreation network, now and to 2041.

A number of strategic and place-based opportunities have been identified to address each need.

These needs and opportunities can directly inform the development of the future Ku-ring-gai Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Need 1 - New, improved and welcoming parks for informal and active recreation

Need 2 - Increased capacity, quality and flexibility of sports spaces

Need 3 - Increased provision of diverse and multipurpose recreation facilities

Need 4 - Connect up and expand the open space network with comfortable recreational links and loops

Need 5 - Continued local and regional partnerships and collaboration



Need 1:

New, improved and welcoming parks for informal and active recreation

Key needs

Increased parks, prioritising areas that currently have a low provision

81% of telephone survey respondents identified Ku-ring-gai LGA's parks as a priority for the future, and 43% want to see more investment in Ku-ring-gai's parks in future recreation planning.

Ku-ring-gai sets a benchmark of 1ha per 1,000 people for parks. In 2021, the Ku-ring-gai LGA provides 0.61ha. per 1,000 people, which will decline to 0.53ha. per 1,000 people by 2041.

This means there is a below-benchmark provision of parks, now and into the future. However, this varies across planning catchments. While the Northern (0.5ha. per 1,000 people) and Southern (0.3ha. per 1,000 people) Planning Catchments have a severe below-benchmark provision, while Eastern Catchment (1.5 ha. per 1,000 people) has an above-benchmark provision of parks.

To address this shortfall, an additional 48ha of parks are required in 2021 and a further 17ha (total of 65ha) by 2041. Delivering significant quantum of new parks is unachievable due to high land costs, limited availability of land to acquire and constraints in expanding existing land.

However, efforts should be made to deliver more parks wherever possible. In addition, the amenity of existing parks should be improved, and recreational connections should be formed between and to the parks. Prioritisation should be given to the Northern and Southern Catchments, where the need for parks is greatest.

Improved parks to better suit the community's recreational preferences and interests

We heard that walking (87%), picnic or BBQs (64%), relaxing, sitting or meditating (58%), and walking the dog/dog park (48%) are top recreation activities that they do now and would like to continue to do in the future, and most of these activities occur in parks.

The quality and amenity of existing parks can be improved to ensure they cater to the community's recreational preferences, as well as make the environment more comfortable and welcoming so everyone can use them well.

Additionally, Ku-ring-gai LGA's community is changing, with an increasingly culturally diverse population who have different recreation needs and interests. The recreational offering of parks can be enhanced through incorporating elements that appeal to the interests of this cohort, such as ping pong tables, badminton poles, and pavilions for dancing and exercising.

Re-imagining sportsfields as multipurpose spaces suitable for informal recreation

The Ku-ring-gai community currently uses many of the sportsfields for informal recreation, but the lack of data on this utilisation means that these sportsfields are not currently considered as part of the park quantum (ha.) in this Needs Study.

Existing sportsfields can still be intentionally improved to promote informal recreation. One way to do this is by blocking out time where the community can use the sportsfield as a park or providing more amenities such as seating and shade to encourage this type of use.

Increased access to existing parks

Proximity benchmarking shows that some areas of the Ku-ring-gai LGA have good access to parks, while there are significant gaps in access in other areas.

To address this, it is recommended to enhance access by connecting existing paths through recreational links and loops.

Priority should be given to areas along the train line, where there is currently a high lack of access, a higher population density, and where any future population growth is likely to occur. This includes the suburbs of Wahroonga, Warrawee, Pymble, Gordon, Killara, Lindfield, and Roseville – all located in the Northern and Southern Catchments.

Provide civic/urban spaces for informal recreation

Civic/urban spaces play an important role in providing a gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds in urban settings. They serve a variety of functions, including hosting events, festivals, and markets, as well as providing a space for people to socialise, relax, and enjoy the outdoors.

Despite the Ku-ring-gai LGA's increasing urban nature, there is only one civic/urban space, Lindfield Village Green, indicating a need to provide more of these spaces in the future. A program to develop civic/urban spaces in each of Council's six town centres under the Ku-ring-gai Public Domain Plan 2022 will address this need.

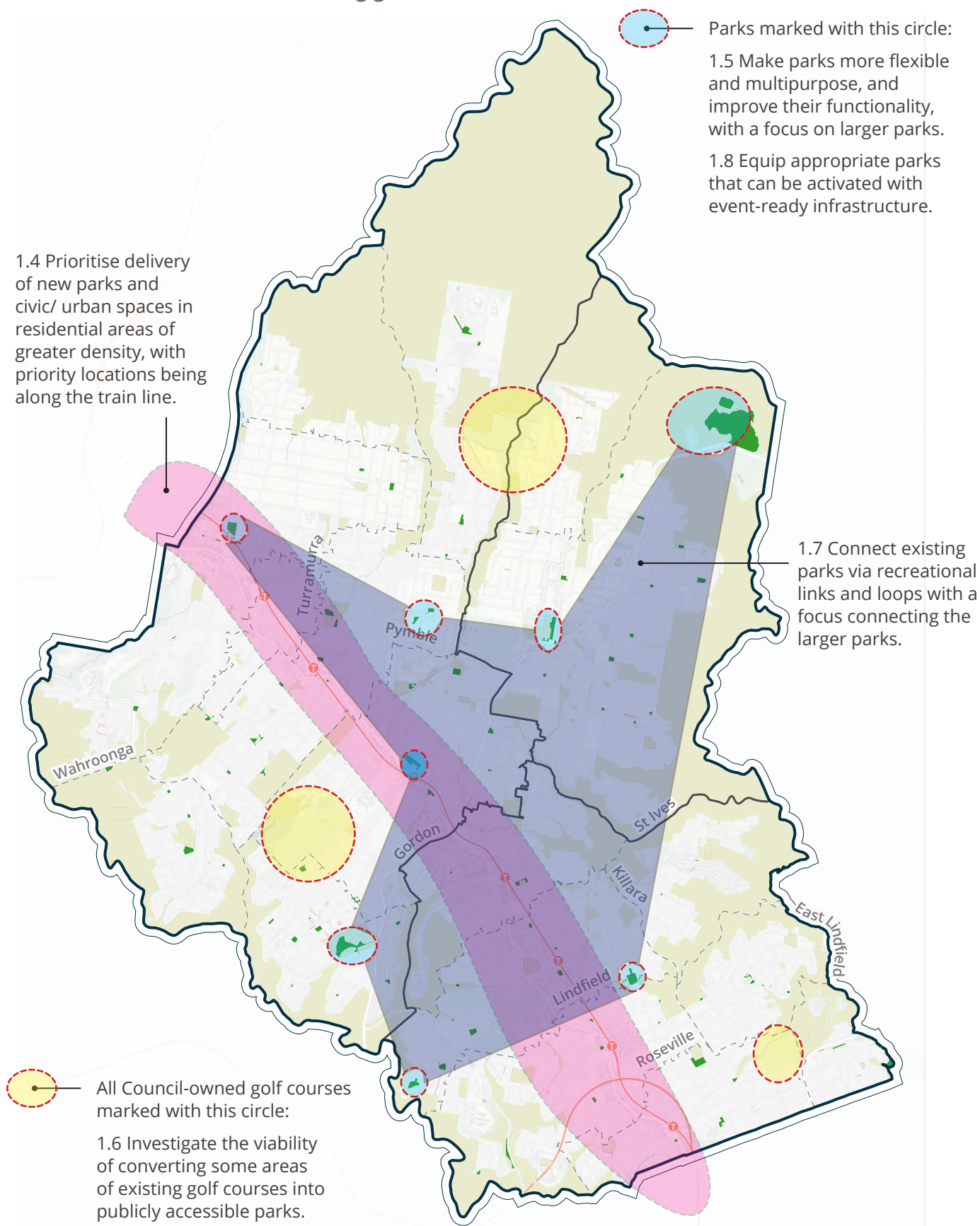
Table 25 - Opportunities for new, improved and welcoming park for informal and active recreation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Opportunities	Locations to investigate
1.1	Continue Council's Open Space Acquisition Program to increase provision of public open space in the LGA, with a focus on areas that have under-supply or limited walking access to open space.	Northern Catchment - North Turramurra, South Turramurra, Warrawee, North Wahroonga.
1.2	Investigate expansion of existing parks as opportunities arise, prioritising areas that have under-supply or limited walking access to open space.	Southern Catchment - Lindfield, East Lindfield, Roseville Chase, Gordon, East Killara.
1.3	Undertake a technical study to identify which sportsfields are currently used for informal recreation and to determine how to improve their design to better serve this purpose, without negatively impacting their use for sports.	Across Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.4	<p>Prioritise delivery of new parks and civic/ urban spaces in residential areas of greater density, with priority locations being along the train line. Parks should aim to be a minimum of 0.5ha to provide quality facilities for a range of ages and interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider reusing existing Council land for park development, such as abandoned buildings or parking lots. This can help to save on land acquisition costs and provide unique recreational opportunities. Leverage tools such as Development Control Plans (DCPs), developer contributions, voluntary planning agreements and state government grants to deliver more parks. 	Along the train line
1.5	<p>Make existing parks more flexible and multipurpose, and improve their functionality, with a focus on larger parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high-quality amenities such as clean toilets in safe locations, water fountains, mobile charging stations. Provide large spaces with shelter for families and cultural gatherings. Provide facilities to stay and linger, including key amenities such as sheltered tables and picnic areas, social seating, mobile charging stations, WiFi, creative spaces, or cafés that provide convenience and enable users to hang out and stay. Include public art and facilities for creative engagement Include recreational and play facilities that are free to use, engaging and able to support community programs and events (e.g. hard surface courts). Water fountains and features for play and cooling. Lighting in parks and streets to support safety and use after dark. Landscaping and trees for connection to nature, relaxation and respite. 	<p>Northern Catchment - Bicentennial Park, Wahroonga Park, Robert Pymble Park, Sandakan Memorial Park, Irish Town Grove, Kissing Point Village Green</p> <p>Southern Catchment - Swain Garden, Roseville Park, St Crispins Green Park, Hyndes Park</p> <p>Eastern Catchment - St Ives Village Green, St Ives Showground</p>

Table 25 - Opportunities for new, improved and welcoming park for informal and active recreation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Opportunities	Locations to investigate
1.6	Investigate the viability of converting some areas of existing golf courses into publicly accessible parks.	North Turramurra Recreation Area (Golf Course), Gordon Golf Course, Roseville Golf Reserve
1.7	Connect existing parks via recreational links and loops with a focus on larger parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider different options for connecting the parks, such as pedestrian and bike paths, greenways, or landscaped corridors. Work with transport teams to identify road corridors that can become recreational links. 	Northern Catchment - Bicentennial Park, Wahroonga Park, Robert Pymble Park, Sandakan Memorial Park, Irish Town Grove, Kissing Point Village Green
1.8	Identify appropriate parks that can be activated with programs and events such as exercise classes, dance classes, festivals, movie screening, markets and cultural events. Equip these parks with event-ready infrastructure such as power connection.	Southern Catchment - Swain Garden, Roseville Park, St Crispins Green Park, Hyndes Park Eastern Catchment - St Ives Village Green, St Ives Showground
1.9	Encourage rooftop landscaping for private open space and recreation opportunities, particularly in high density areas where land is limited through planning controls.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.10	Prepare and implement a Dog Recreation Plan to guide planning of both existing and potential future dog facilities.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.11	Increase the amenity of existing dog-off leash areas to improve the management of dogs in public open spaces e.g. 'pooh bag' stations, rubbish bins, seating and water bubblers.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.12	Improve quality and diversity of Council's existing play spaces to enhance play value as per the Ku-ring-gai Play Space Strategy.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.13	Review all existing Plans of Management to ensure management and use reflects community need.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.14	Provide up to date information about Ku-ring-gai's parks online, including accurate and transparent information about the facilities and recreation opportunities available at each park.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.15	Continue to promote existing community gardens and Bushcare and Parkcare volunteering groups.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
1.16	Investigate the feasibility of re-purposing some of the peripheries of natural areas to create additional recreational spaces such as picnic areas and BBQ facilities. Ensure that these modifications do not compromise the primary conservation objectives of the area.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Figure 35 - Place based opportunities for new, improved and welcoming parks for informal and active recreation in the Ku-ring-gai LGA



Best-practice precedents

Mills Park

Mills Park (WA) caters to both sport and passive recreation. Mills Park has cricket, soccer, AFL, and tennis facilities, along with walking trails, a skate park and playgrounds for children. Access to these can be found via a boardwalk through the surrounding trees. Mills Park also has a number of amenities including shelters, BBQs, drinking foundations, seats, toilets and first aid facilities.



Image source: https://www.gosnells.wa.gov.au/About_our_City/Places_Spaces/Parks_and_Spaces_in_your_area/Beckenham/Mills_Park



Image source: https://www.gosnells.wa.gov.au/About_our_City/Places_Spaces/Parks_and_Spaces_in_your_area/Beckenham/Mills_Park

Burwood Park

Burwood Park has an enclosed playgrounds with shaded shelters, dog off leash areas, outdoor fitness stations, large sporting field, outdoor chess boards, pond, BBQs, picnic areas, cafe, War Memorial arch, rotunda, cricket pitch, and an outdoor chess board. The Pavilion and Burwood Park Community Centre, are located within the Park and can be hired.



Image source: <https://www.burwood.nsw.gov.au/For-Residents/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Reserves/Burwood-Park>

Sydney Pocket Parks

Pocket parks across the City of Sydney Council LGA create small, green spaces for locals to relax, play or exercise within densely populated areas. Pocket parks can be found across the LGA and often include play spaces, shade, pathways, trees and plants.

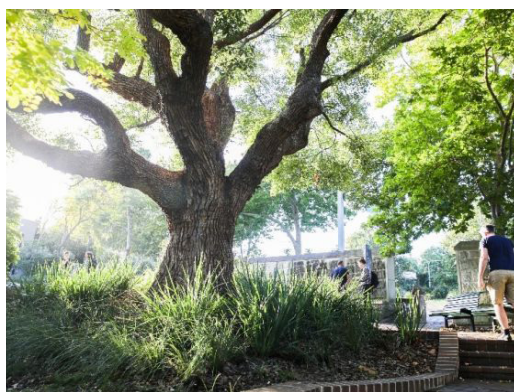


Image source: <https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/check-out-city-sydney-latest-pocket-park-upgrades>

Need 2:

Increased capacity, quality and flexibility of sports spaces

Key needs

The Ku-ring-gai LGA is well-serviced with sports spaces, but there is a need to improve their quality

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has set a benchmark of 1ha per 1,000 people for sports spaces. As of 2021, there is a provision of 1.53ha per 1,000 people of sports spaces, which is expected to decrease to 1.34ha per 1,000 people by 2041. However, the provision will still exceed the benchmark standards.

The quality of facilities is the biggest barrier for participation in sport and recreation activities across the Ku-ring-gai LGA. 59% of stakeholders indicated that the quality of sportsfields is the major barrier, citing issues such as lighting, amenities, maintenance, and safety.

Upgrades to increase capacity and utilisation of sports spaces

An analysis of Council's formal booking data shows that natural turf sportsfields operate below capacity in both winter and summer. Facilities that are not fit-for-purpose pose significant barriers to participation, especially for female participants.

Although additional analysis is necessary, there is a clear need to increase utilisation and capacity of these sports spaces. This could be achieved by making them more fit-for-purpose, catering to the increasing number of female participants, or upgrading facilities to enhance their usability.

Additionally, this can be enhanced through collection of data that show actual hours of use, rather than total booking time.

More basketball and multipurpose courts

The Ku-ring-gai LGA currently provides no basketball full-courts and has a significant under-supply when compared to benchmark standards (-31 full-courts in 2021, and 135 full-courts in 2041).

The Ku-ring-gai LGA also has a below benchmark provision of multipurpose courts (-1 in 2021 and -3 in 2041) with an above benchmark provision in the Eastern Catchment.

Furthermore, over 45% of telephone survey respondents would like to see increased investment in outdoor courts. Adding to this, as the Ku-ring-gai LGA becomes more culturally diverse, there will be a continuing growing demand for basketball and multipurpose courts.

This could be achieved either via providing new courts or re-purposing netball and tennis courts that exceed benchmark standards.

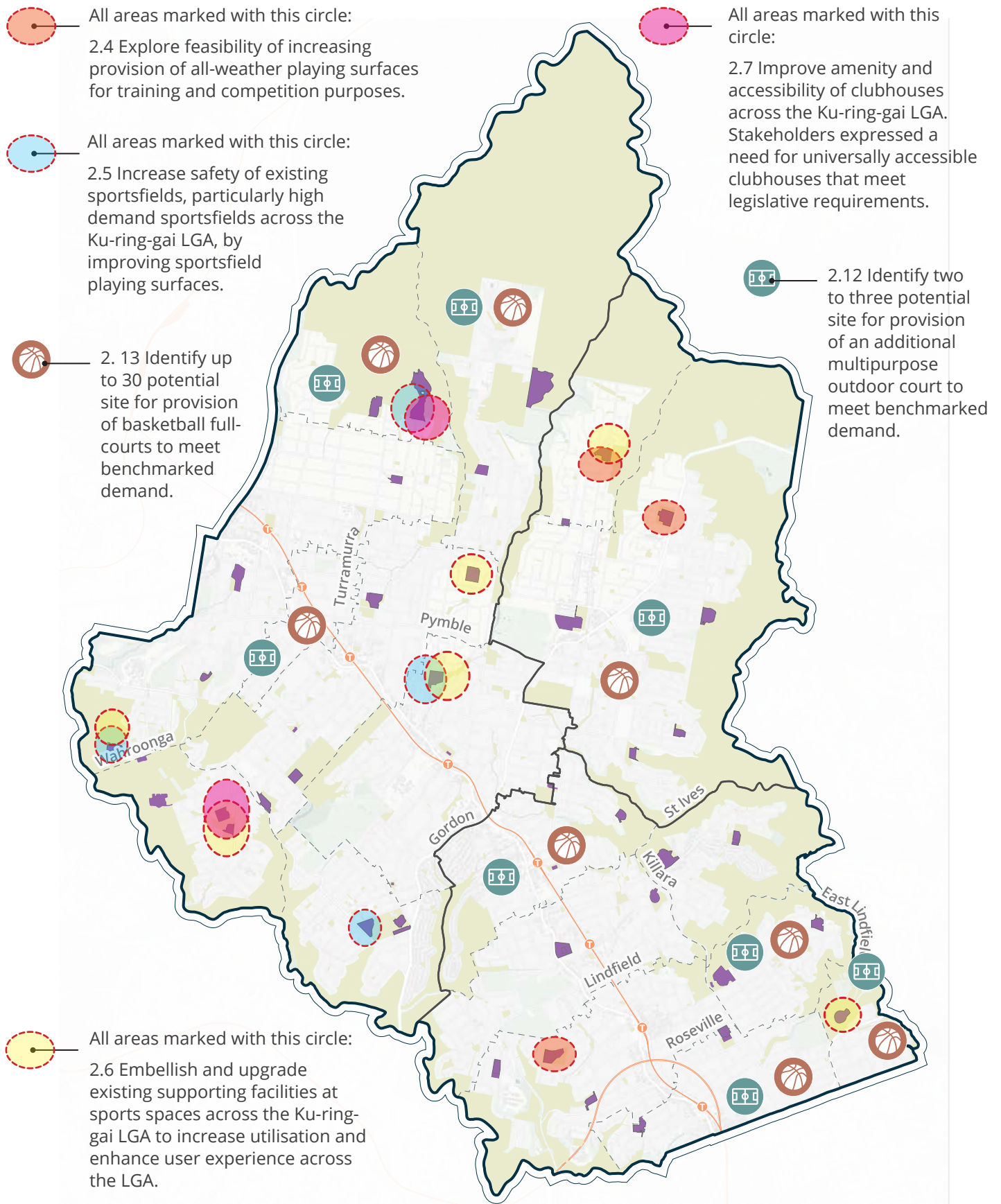
Table 26 - Opportunities for increased capacity, quality and flexibility of sports spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Opportunities	Locations to investigate
2.1	Undertake a detailed utilisation and condition assessment of Council's existing sportsfields and sports courts to identify opportunity to increase their capacity and accommodate higher use for more sports.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
2.2	Implement systems to collect sportsfields and sports courts utilisation data based on actual hours used rather than total booking time to ensure spaces are being used to their full capacity.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
2.3	Undertake a technical study to determine which sporting codes can share effectively and how to optimise existing sportsfields and sports courts to make them more multi-purpose.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
2.4	Explore feasibility of increasing provision of all-weather playing surfaces for training and competition purposes.	Primula Oval, Warrimoo Oval and Hassall Park.
2.5	Increase safety of existing sportsfields, particularly high demand sportsfield across the Ku-ring-gai LGA, by improving sportsfield playing surfaces (e.g. improved drainage and irrigation).	Stakeholders expressed need for improvements to the quality and maintenance of the playing surfaces at: Lofberg Oval, George Christie Oval, Bannockburn Oval and Golden Jubilee Oval.
2.6	Embellish and upgrade existing supporting facilities at sports spaces across the Ku-ring-gai LGA to increase utilisation and enhance user experience across the LGA.	Stakeholders expressed need for improved quality and maintenance of amenities at: Auluba Oval, Kent Oval, Warrimoo Oval, George Christie Oval, Bannockburn Oval and Roseville Oval.
2.7	Improve amenity and accessibility of clubhouses across the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Stakeholders expressed a need for universally accessible clubhouses that meet legislative requirements.	Stakeholders identified the need for improvements to the following clubhouses: Auluba Oval Clubhouse and Golden Jubilee Clubhouse.
2.8	Conduct a technical study to assess the suitability of existing sportsfields and courts for supporting female participation, and explore retrofitting options to enhance participation.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
2.9	Conduct an audit and assessment and works program to improve the lighting of sportsfields and sports courts to improve safety at night and allow for additional night time participation.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
2.10	Continue to optimise Council's booking system to increase utilisation of sports spaces, including sportsfields and sports courts, across the Ku-ring-gai LGA.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
2.11	Undertake a detailed utilisation and condition assessment of Council's single purpose outdoor courts to explore feasibility of potential conversion of some of these facilities (e.g. tennis courts) to provide basketball courts or multipurpose courts, to address gap in provision.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Table 26 - Opportunities for increased capacity, quality and flexibility of sports spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Opportunities	Locations to investigate
2.12	Identify locations for the delivery of two to three additional multi-purpose outdoor courts to meet benchmarked demand.	Northern Catchment - North Turramurra, North Wahroonga, Wahroonga, Warrawee. Southern Catchment - East Lindfield, Gordon, Roseville and Roseville Chase. Eastern Catchment - St Ives
2.13	Identify opportunities for the provision of up to 30 additional basketball full-courts to meet benchmarked demand, potentially through re-design of existing single purpose tennis courts	Northern Catchment - North Turramurra, North Wahroonga, Wahroonga, Warrawee. Southern Catchment - East Lindfield, Gordon, Roseville and Roseville Chase. Eastern Catchment - St Ives
2.14	Identify laneways and local streets in areas with low provision of sports courts to re-imagine as recreation spaces including basketball hoops and coloured markings.	Northern Catchment - North Turramurra, South Turramurra, Warrawee, North Wahroonga. Southern Catchment - Lindfield, East Lindfield, Roseville Chase, Gordon, East Killara.

Figure 36 - Place-based opportunities for increased capacity, quality and flexibility of sports spaces in the Ku-ring-gai LGA



Legend

- Sports spaces
- All other public open spaces

Best-practice precedents

Charles Bean Sportsground

Charles Bean Sportsground is the first synthetic playing field in Ku-ring-gai, allowing it to be used in all weather conditions and easily maintained. There is also access to changing rooms for players and referees, disabled toilets and a community room.



Image source: <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Things-to-do/Parks-playgrounds-and-sportsfields/Charles-Bean-Sportsfield>

Alley-Oop

Bold pink and yellow paint and basketball hoops act as a beacon to those working in Vancouver's business quarter, encouraging them to play, exercise, and socialize in the space.



Image source: <https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/laneways.aspx>

One Mile Oval

QLD's Gympie Council worked with Landmark Products to design and install affordable and adaptable female friendly change rooms at One Mile Oval. The facilities include private showers, and aim to help local sports clubs meet the growing demand of girls and women playing organised sport.



Image source: <https://www.landmarkpro.com.au/female-friendly-sports-facilities/>

George Kendall Riverside Park

The multipurpose courts in George Kendall Riverside Park in Parramatta support basketball, tennis, handball, and many other ball games, which require no bookings. These courts cater to the needs of both young and older people.



Image source: <http://www.parraparents.com.au/parks-playgrounds/george-kendall-riverside-park-ermington/>

Need 3:

Increased provision of diverse and multipurpose recreation facilities

Key needs

Provide more indoor recreation centres and courts

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has a below benchmark provision of indoor recreation facilities (-1 in 2021 and -2 in 2041).

There is also a below benchmark provision of indoor courts for the overall Ku-ring-gai LGA (-6 in 2021 and -7 in 2041), this shortfall is particularly significant in the Northern and Southern Catchments.

Provide more aquatic facilities

The Ku-ring-gai LGA currently has one regional aquatic facility, but it does not meet the benchmark standards for providing local or district aquatic facilities (-4 in 2021 and -5 in 2041 for local aquatic facilities, and -2 district aquatic facilities in both years).

To address this shortfall, it is recommended to focus on delivering two additional district aquatic facilities in the Northern and Southern Catchments. While there is no need to provide both new local and district aquatic facilities, the addition of district aquatic facilities will significantly improve access to aquatic facilities in these areas.

Provide more recreation facilities for young people

The Ku-ring-gai LGA currently has two district BMX and pump tracks, but it falls short of meeting the benchmark standards for providing local and district BMX/pump tracks (-12 in 2021 and -14 in 2041 for local tracks, and -3 in 2021 and -4 in 2041 for district tracks).

While it may not be feasible to provide such a large number of BMX/pump tracks, the focus should be on providing district facilities where possible. In addition, where feasible, skateable surfaces can be incorporated within other public open spaces to help meet the recreational needs of the community.

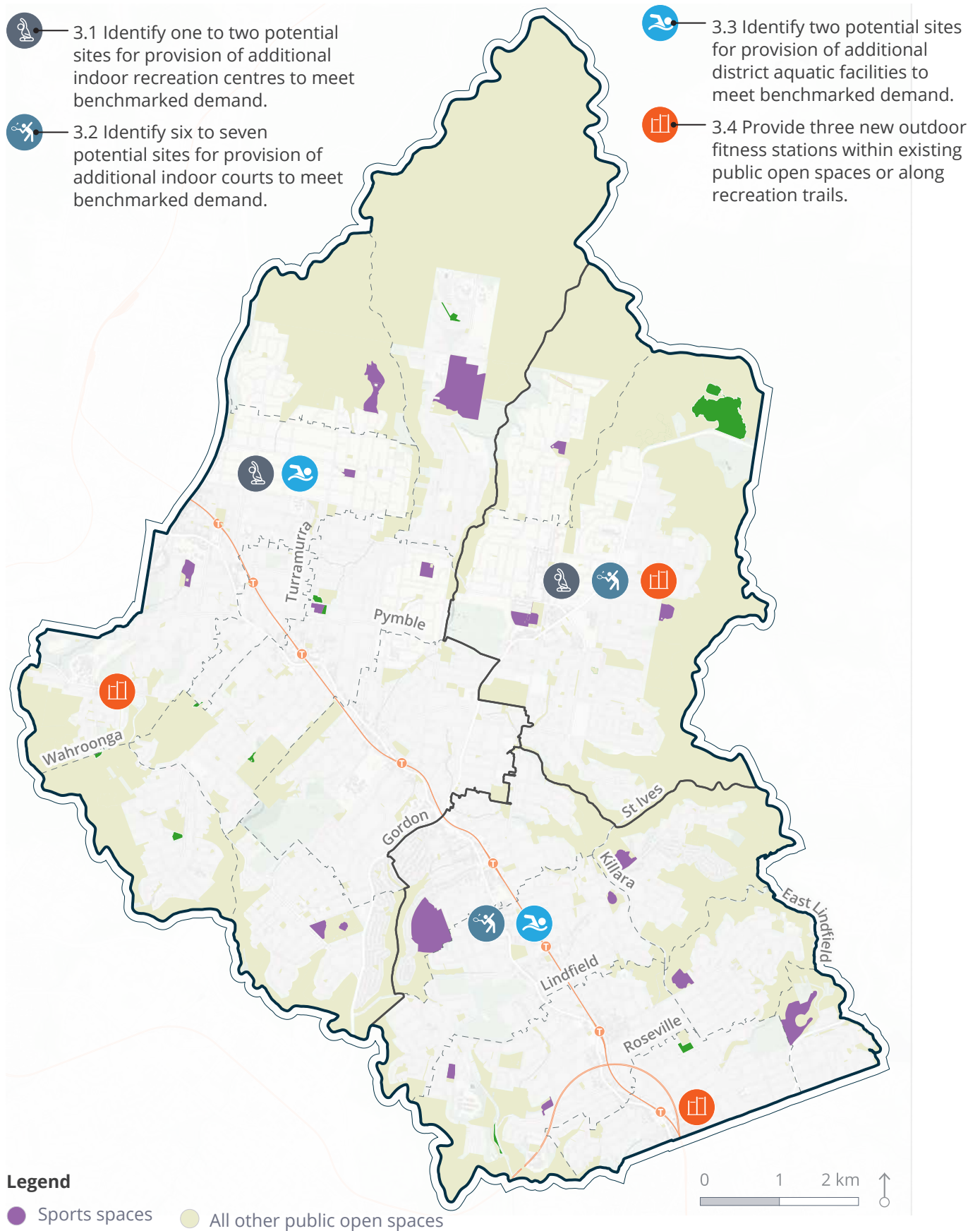
Provide more outdoor fitness stations

While the Ku-ring-gai LGA provides seven outdoor fitness stations, it requires two more outdoor fitness stations to meet benchmark standards.

Table 27 - Opportunities for increased provision of diverse and multipurpose recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Needs and opportunities	Locations to investigate
3.1	Identify opportunities to deliver increase indoor recreational facilities to meet benchmarked demand. This may be through shared use with private facilities, through partnerships with neighbouring councils, or through provision of indoor recreation spaces as part of future development	Northern Catchment and the Eastern Catchment.
3.2	Identify opportunities to address the under-provision of indoor courts to meet benchmarked demand including for emerging sports such as pickleball and paddle board. Explore feasibility of delivering multipurpose indoor courts as part of future development, or within commercial spaces owned by Ku-ring-gai Council.	Eastern Catchment and the Southern Catchment
3.3	Identify opportunities to address the benchmarked under provision of aquatic facilities to meet benchmarked demand (e.g. Shared facilities with schools and regional approaches).	Northern Catchment -Turramurra Southern Catchment - Killara
3.4	Provide three new outdoor fitness stations within existing public open spaces or along recreation trails. Ensure provision of a mix of static and dynamic fitness stations to enable a diversity of fitness abilities, and older persons to participate.	Northern Catchment - Wahroonga Southern Catchment - Roseville Eastern Catchment - St Ives
3.5	Identify opportunities as part of future park or sport space upgrades, or where allowable in natural areas, to provide new district BMX/ pump tracks to meet benchmarked demand.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
3.6	Identify Council assets such as community centres, libraries and leisure centre located along future recreation links and loops network that can incorporate emerging recreation trends such as climbing walls and dancing mirrors.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
3.7	Identify potential future sites for additional community gardens responding to expressed community need.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Figure 37 - Place-based opportunities for increased provision of diverse and multipurpose recreation facilities in the Ku-ring-gai LGA



Best practice precedents

Julia Reserve Youth Precinct

Julia Reserve Youth Precinct in Oran Park is an attractive hub for young people to enjoy a skate park, parkour facility, ping pong tables, kick about space and basketball courts.



Image source: <https://bluemountainmums.com/julia-reserve-youth-precinct/>



Thurgoona Outdoor Fitness Zone

Thurgoona Outdoor Fitness Zone (NSW) was developed as part of the Ernest Grant Park Master Plan to encourage the local community to be healthy and active. The Fitness Zone includes ten items of equipment, bike racks, a drinking foundation, shade sails, signage and a pathway.



Image source: <https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/complete/thurgoona-outdoor-fitness-zone>

Perry Park Recreation Centre

Perry Park Recreation Centre in NSW's Alexandria provides a space for locals to meet and participate in recreation activities in all weather. The Centre has four indoor multipurpose courts along with bike racks, changing facilities, showers and a kiosk.



Image source: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community-centres/perry-park-recreation-centre>

Need 4:

Connect up and expand the open space network with comfortable recreational links and loops

Key needs

Create a recreational links and loops network

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has a high quantum, both in terms of number of spaces and area of spaces distributed across the LGA. However, some areas have more access to public open space than others, especially areas along the train line have gaps in access to public open spaces. There is a need to connect existing open spaces and deliver a network of recreational links and loops.

Recreational links connect people from one public open space to another and it will increase walking, cycling and other informal recreational activities, while also increasing the public open space network.

Recreational loops provide walkable circuits in neighbourhoods connecting up key places. There is an opportunity to improve playful and comfortable recreational loops for people of all ages, particularly in high-density areas where this is limited opportunity for new parks for informal recreation to support people to walk or ride within Ku-ring-gai LGA's recreation network.

Connect natural areas to recreational links and loops

Ku-ring-gai has set a benchmark of 1ha of natural spaces per 1,000 people. In 2021, it has 23.3ha per 1,000 people, and will reduce to 20.6ha by 2041, both well above benchmark standard. The Ku-ring-gai community highly value the beautiful and expansive natural spaces that the LGA offers.

76% identified Ku-ring-gai LGA's walking tracks and trails as a priority to them, and 46% want to see more investment for walking tracks and trails in future recreation planning.

Furthermore, walking (87%) and bushwalking (75%) were reported as top recreation activities that they do now and would like to continue to do in the future.

While it is acknowledged that natural areas in the Ku-ring-gai LGA, including national parks, are predominantly conserved or preserved – and there are limited opportunities to provide recreational spaces in them – there is still a need to better connect them to the public open space network, as well as expand the recreational trails, where possible.

Re-imagine some local streets as recreational spaces, links and loops

Re-imagining local streets and laneways as recreational spaces, links, and loops can have significant benefits for the community. Often, local streets and laneways are underutilised and can be transformed into vibrant, multi-use spaces that serve as an extension of existing public open spaces. By doing so, we can create more opportunities for recreational activities, including walking, cycling, and socialising.

This approach can be particularly effective in areas with existing proximity and provision gaps, where there is a lack of public open space, or in high-growth areas where new public open space is not feasible due to land constraints or high costs. By re-purposing existing infrastructure, we can create a network of safe and accessible recreational spaces that connect communities and improve their overall well-being.

Table 28 - Opportunities to connect up and expand the open space network with recreational links and loops in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Opportunities	Locations to investigate
4.1	<p>In collaboration with Council's Active Transport Teams identify streets where existing road space can be reallocated to create a network of recreational links and loops that connect existing public open spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These recreation streets should include pedestrian and cycle pathways; shade, seating and shelter; lighting; a variety of recreation elements such as play spaces, outdoor fitness stations, ping pong tables, and skateable surfaces. • Prioritise areas with low parks provision and low access to parks within a walking distance. 	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.2	Enhance access and connectivity to Ku-ring-gai's expansive natural areas and national parks via the future network of recreation links and loops.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.3	Connect parks that are in close proximity to each other via recreational loops (walkable circuits), prioritising areas with low parks provision and low access to parks within a walking distance.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.4	Create recreational links (walking, cycling) across the major roadways of the Pacific Highway and Ryde Road/Mona Vale Road.	Along the railway lines such as Lindfield, Killara, Gordon, Pymble, Warrawee, Wahroonga and St Ives.
4.5	Identify laneways along the future recreation links and loops network that can be re-imagined as recreation spaces including providing more spaces to relax, socialise and play.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.6	Prepare a wayfinding and signage strategy to ensure public open spaces are easily to locate and create points of interest along the way including public art and heritage interpretation.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.7	Investigate opportunities for more tree planting and shade in parks, playgrounds and connecting streets to encourage recreation on hot days.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.8	Take advantage of Ku-ring-gai LGA's beautiful tree canopy and natural areas for more adventure recreation, mountain bike tracks and other activities as detailed in Ku-ring-gai Council Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Best-practice precedents

Ryde River Walk

The Ryde River Walk in NSW was created to improve the community's enjoyment of the attractions along Parramatta River. Along with river and city views, the walk provides access to bays, parks, playgrounds, bushland, historic sites and art installations.



Image source: <https://fleetwoodurban.com.au/project/ryde-river-walk/>

Koola Park to Rocky Creek Track

From Ku-ring-gai's Koola Park, visitors are able to access the start of the Rocky Creek Track in the Garigal National Park. The track is a 4.3km return walk and crosses Hawkesbury Sandstone soils with a cropping of ironstone layers, creating a vegetation community with diverse native plant species and birds to hear and see along the way.



Image source: <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Things-to-do/Bushwalking-tracks/Koola-Park-to-Rocky-Creek-Track>

Underline, Miami

The Underline is a public-private partnership that will transform 120 acres of Miami-Dade County, City of Miami and City of Coral Gables owned land adjacent and below to the existing Metrorail guideway, from the Miami River (Brickell area) to the Dadeland South Metrorail Station, into a world-class, multi-modal urban trail.



Image source: <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/transportation/the-underline>

Healthy Street, Meadowbrook

A Healthy Street installation in the Brisbane suburb of Meadowbrook in Queensland, includes a wide shared pathway for pedestrians and cyclists, with frequent seating offering many opportunities to rest, trees for shade, bicycle parking stands, litter bins to keep the street tidy and public art designed by local community artists.

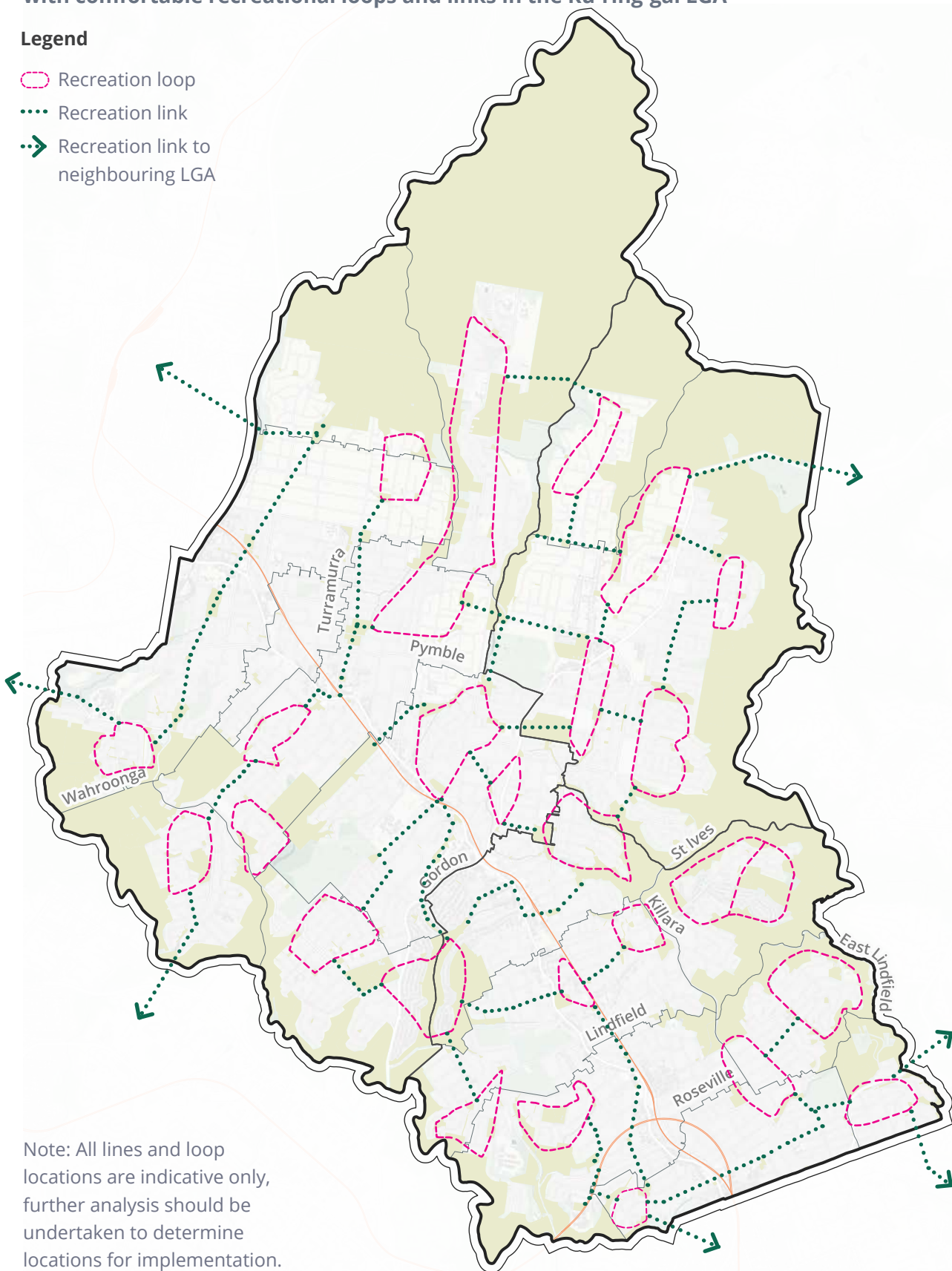


Image source: <https://streetfurniture.com/projects/healthy-street-meadowbrook/>

Figure 38 - Place-based opportunities to connect up and expand the open space network with comfortable recreational loops and links in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Legend

- ⬡ Recreation loop
- ⋯ Recreation link
- ➡ Recreation link to neighbouring LGA



Note: All lines and loop locations are indicative only, further analysis should be undertaken to determine locations for implementation.

Need 5:

Continued local and regional partnerships and collaboration

Key needs

Collaborate with other stakeholders

Council can't meet all public open space and recreation needs alone and ongoing partnership with local and regional stakeholders will be important to enable sharing, understanding and shared access.

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has many sporting clubs, recreation groups, and public and private schools with sports and recreation facilities.

Collaboration with these groups will ensure that the facilities are well cared for and utilised, and uncover opportunities for shared use. Developing ongoing partnerships can also help to build trust and ensure transparent decision-making.

Furthermore, these stakeholders expressed a strong desire for increased opportunities to work in collaboration with Council to holistically plan for sporting and recreation needs.

Coordinated and aligned planning to meet regional recreation needs

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has neighbouring councils with similar challenges to meet growing demands for sports and recreation.

As Ku-ring-gai LGA's population grows and demand for diverse open spaces and recreation activities deepens, it will be important for Council to work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify innovative solutions to shared challenges, in the LGA and across borders.

Table 29 - Opportunities to continue local and regional partnerships and collaboration in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

No.	Opportunity	Locations to investigate
4.1	Liaise with local sports clubs to identify ways to address the challenges they face, e.g. the quality and management of facilities. Stakeholders suggested hosting an annual meeting between local sporting clubs and Council to improve collaboration.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.2	Work with local public and private schools and the Department of Education to identify opportunities for shared use of facilities and increase public access outside of school hours through the joint use agreement framework.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.3	Work with partners such as the Greater Cities Commission and neighbouring Councils to deliver a connected network of recreational links and loops.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.4	Collaborate with other government agencies such as NSW Government, National Parks and Crown Lands, to ensure aligned planning and delivery of quality outcomes.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.5	Collaborate with large private open space owners such as golf courses to unlock recreation opportunities – particularly recreational links and loops with outdoor fitness stations and playable spaces.	North Turramurra Recreation Area (Golf Course), Gordon Golf Course, Roseville Golf Reserve
4.6	Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) are currently undertaking a sports facilities planning process in consultation with sports clubs and there is an opportunity to build on the findings of this study.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.7	Collaborate with local communities to co-design and deliver public art projects across the public open space network to foster a sense of identity and community connection.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA
4.8	Work with local communities to encourage community stewardship and maintenance of smaller public open spaces.	Across the Ku-ring-gai LGA

Best-practice precedents

Carlingford High School

NSW Department of Education has a shared use arrangement with City of Parramatta Council for three playing fields at Carlingford High School. This arrangement allows for the fields to be hired for community use outside of school hours, with maintenance and bookings managed by Council.



Image source: <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/node/19166>

Blackman Park

Blackman Park Scout and Amenities Hall is a shared use space that was jointly funded by the 1st Lane Cove Scout Group and NSW's Lane Cove Council. The Hall was designed to be used for a variety of community uses, including sport and recreation. The facility includes a meeting room, large hall and small hall that are available for hire at commercial, general, and concession and community rates. It is co-located at Blackman Park, which has a facilities for tennis, cricket and basketball along with a playground and bushwalks.



Image source: <https://service.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/facilities/facility/blackman-park-scout-hall>

