



# LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL PARKS AND PLAY STRATEGY 2021

Adopted by Council 23 August 2021



# OTIUM PLANNING GROUP PTY LTD

## Head Office:

304/91 Murphy Street  
Richmond VIC 3121

☎ (03) 9698 7300  
✉ [info@otiumplanning.com.au](mailto:info@otiumplanning.com.au)  
🌐 [www.otiumplanning.com.au](http://www.otiumplanning.com.au)

ABN: 30 605 962 169

## Local Office:

The Plaza, 13.03/87-95 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Contact: Martin Lambert | Director

☎ 0418 151 450  
✉ [martin@otiumplanning.com.au](mailto:martin@otiumplanning.com.au)

**Otium Planning Group** has offices in Auckland, Brisbane, Cairns, Christchurch, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

OPG, IVG and PTA Partnership has offices in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing.

*All photos Lake Macquarie City Council unless otherwise indicated.*

*Cover photo: Webb Park, Redhead*

Prepared by Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd in conjunction with 180SLS



**SPORT + LEISURE**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges the Awabakal People, the traditional custodians of the land over which the Parks and Play Strategy relates.*

*We pay respect to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationships the Awabakal people have to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to the Lake Macquarie community.*

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Our parks and playspaces are cherished by our community and provide places for recreation, relaxation and connection. They are important features of our vibrant communities, contributing to our City's character and sense of place, and creating ideal settings for our people to lead active lifestyles.

We are so lucky to have a wonderful network of quality parks and playgrounds that add to the liveability of our City, which contributes to making it a better place to live, visit, invest and play. Across the network we have 158 parks and 114 playspaces that cover around 13 per cent of the City area.

The development of this Parks and Play strategy will help ensure we continue to maintain and deliver attractive meaningful, beneficial and sustainable parks and playspaces, that our community is proud of and love to visit and play in.

Parks and playspaces are a huge part of how and where our community come together. These areas are essential in supporting and providing mental, physical, social, economic, and ecological benefits for our city. Whether it is playing with the kids, exercising, connecting with our friends or family, attending events or simply enjoying the natural space, we've all enjoyed time spent in the more than 4,000 hectares of natural areas across our City.

As our City continues to grow and our urban environments change, we remain committed to conserving our natural environment. I am pleased to share this vision and framework that will guide future decision making in the delivery of diverse, functional and sustainable parks and play spaces for us all to enjoy.

**Cr Kay Fraser**

Mayor, Lake Macquarie City Council



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>STRATEGY OVERVIEW</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.	Why a Parks and Play Strategy?	1
1.2.	What Does the Strategy Cover?	2
1.3.	Where Does The Parks and Play Strategy Fit?	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>WHO IS LAKE MACQUARIE?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>EVIDENCE FOR ACTION</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1.	The Importance of Parks and Open Space	6
3.2.	Trends that Influence How We Plan for Parks	7
3.3.	Understanding Play and its Benefits	7
3.4.	Trends That Influence How We Plan and Design for Play	8
<b>4.</b>	<b>PARKS &amp; PLAY IN LAKE MAC</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1.	How We Engaged	11
5.2.	What Our Community Said	12
<b>6.</b>	<b>OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARKS</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1.	GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARKS	14
<b>7.</b>	<b>OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY</b>	<b>15</b>
7.1.	GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLAYSPACES	16
<b>8.</b>	<b>A PARKS FRAMEWORK FOR LAKE MAC</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>A PLAYSPACE FRAMEWORK FOR LAKE MAC</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>OUR PLAN</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>OUR CATCHMENT PLANS</b>	<b>30</b>
12.1.	Belmont	31
12.2.	Charlestown	33
12.3.	Glendale	35
12.4.	Morisset	37
12.5.	Toronto	39
<b>13.</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW</b>	<b>41</b>





# 1. STRATEGY OVERVIEW

## 1.1. WHY A PARKS AND PLAY STRATEGY?

Parks and playspaces support the health and wellbeing of our residents. Parks are places where our residents and visitors to the city can relax, be physically active and play. They provide free locations for people to gather and socialise, helping people to make connections with one another and have a sense of belonging in our growing community. They provide opportunities to escape the built environment, and improved natural amenity provides habitat for wildlife, cools our neighbourhoods and enhances air quality.

The Parks and Play Strategy aims to provide the city with a long-term vision and framework for the provision, enhancement and use of our parks and playspaces network. It will guide Council decision-making on where, when and how we develop our parks and playspaces in the future to ensure an improved park and play experience for Lake Macquarie residents and visitors.

## 1.2. WHAT DOES THE STRATEGY COVER?

The Parks and Play Strategy covers:



### What is a Park?

A Park is a parcel of community land that Council manages and maintains as parkland for the benefit of our residents and visitors. These spaces are accessible to the public to enjoy active and passive recreation, outdoor activities, nature appreciation, social gathering and physical activity. Parks are usually grassed areas embellished with trees and/ or landscaping and often include facilities, such as barbeques, picnic facilities, play equipment, exercise equipment and/ or special features.

Lake Macquarie currently has 158 parks ranging in type and size from large, major destination parks such as Speers Point Park, to smaller parks servicing local communities.



### What is a Playspace?

A playspace is a defined space purposely developed for children's play. Playspaces are most often located within a park and include the area and facilities surrounding the play equipment. Playspaces can range in size from small, local level playspaces that include some play equipment and surrounding softfall, to larger, regional scale playspaces that may include a diversity of play equipment for different ages, grassed areas, sensory and nature-play spaces, shade and seating.

Lake Macquarie has 114 playspaces.

The Strategy does **NOT** cover:



Sports fields



Bushland and nature reserves



Crown Land not managed by Council



Private parks and playgrounds

### 1.3. WHERE DOES THE PARKS AND PLAY STRATEGY FIT?

The Parks and Play Strategy is underpinned by a number of volumes or supporting documents including:



**Background Report**



**Community Engagement Report**



**Analysis Report**



**Planning Framework and Assessment Tools**

The Lake Macquarie Local Strategic Planning Statement is underpinned by a number of strategic documents including the Parks and Play Strategy. The graphic below illustrates the Parks and Play Strategy placement within the broader Council context.



The Parks and Play Strategy has been developed with reference to key regional and state strategies:

STATEWIDE	REGIONAL
Greener Places: An Urban Green Infrastructure Design Framework for NSW	Hunter Regional Plan 2036
NSW Draft Greener Places Design Guide: Open Space for Recreation	Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006-2031
NSW Everyone Can Play: A Guideline to Create Inclusive Playspaces	Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036



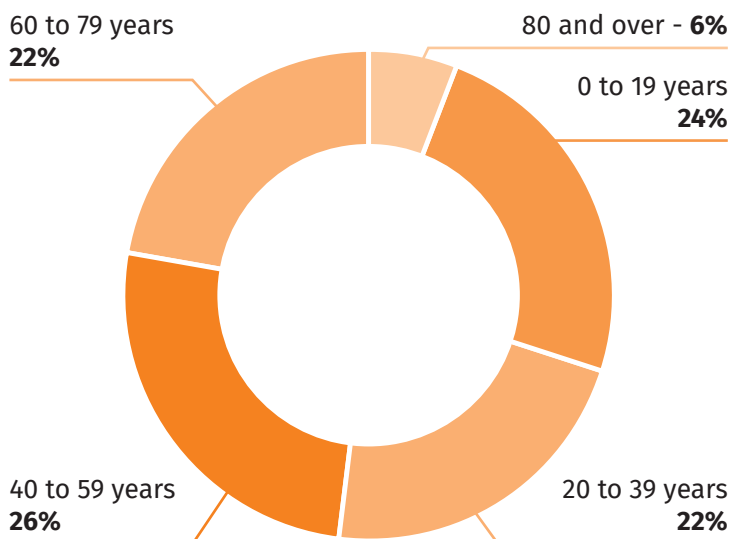
## 2. WHO IS LAKE MACQUARIE?

As of 2021 there are an estimated 208,615 residents living within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area.<sup>1</sup>

By 2036 the population of Lake Macquarie is expected to be 231,198.



The median age of Lake Macquarie residents as at the 2016 Census was 42<sup>2</sup>, which compares with 38 for NSW as a whole.



4.1% of the Lake Macquarie population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.



9.4% of the Lake Macquarie population were born overseas.



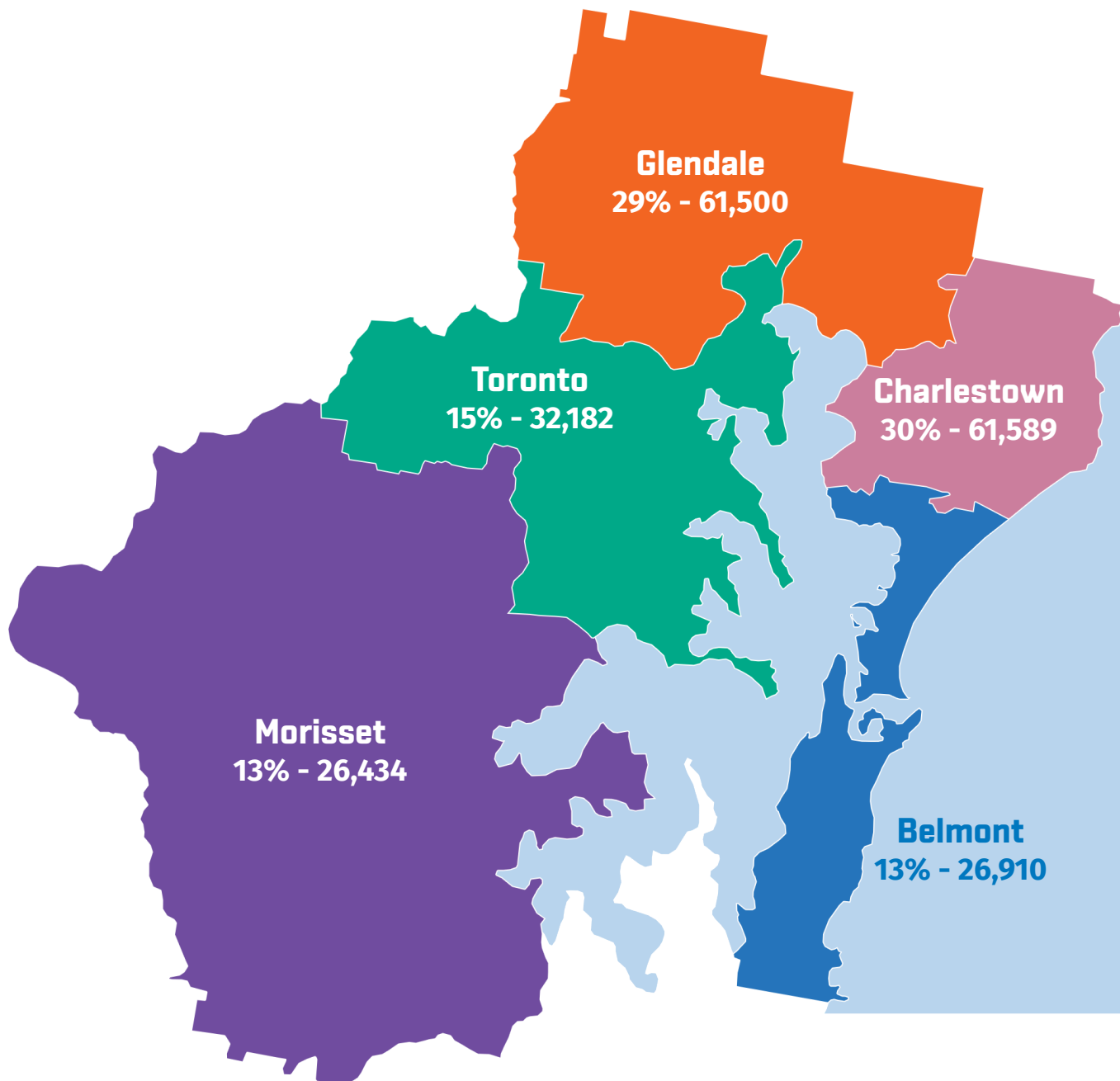
The 2016 SEIFA index for Lake Macquarie was 996.

<sup>1</sup> REPLAN 2021.

<sup>2</sup> ABS, *Census of Population and Housing, Quickstats, Lake Macquarie LGA, 2016*



Distribution of population across Lake Macquarie's five planning catchments is shown below.



Population Distribution by Catchment (Estimated Population, 2021, REMPLAN)



## 3. EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

### 3.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Our parks, sport and recreation facilities are critical for community health and wellbeing, helping to benefit our community:



**Physically and mentally** by promoting physical activity and active lifestyles, reducing illness and disease, improving mental health and creating a sense of wellbeing.



**Socially** by generating stronger and more connected communities with improved social interaction and inclusion.



**Environmentally** by developing well-planned and attractive settings encouraging active transport and use of public parks and leisure services and helping to reduce temperature, mitigate urban heat island effects, improve air quality ecosystems and biodiversity.



**Economically** by assisting to reduce health care cost through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction, and providing local employment and investment opportunities.

*Evidence from around the world for building cities and regional areas around public open space, active recreation areas, green streets and walking and cycling infrastructure, has repeatedly demonstrated this approach will deliver improved health, social cohesion, vibrant local economies, productivity, and environmental benefits.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> State of New South Wales (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - GANSW) 2020 Draft Greener Spaces Design Guide

### 3.2. TRENDS THAT INFLUENCE HOW WE PLAN FOR PARKS

- Changes in the way we keep active with increased participation in **walking** and rising participation in **cycling and running**.
- Parks and playgrounds that are **safe, accessible, easy to walk to** and inviting are a key component of an environment that supports active lifestyles.
- Parks have become popular venues for **formal and informal exercise and fitness**, increasing demand for quality spaces, shade and water.
- Increasing community expectations for **high quality parks** with high level play and active recreation opportunities.
- Increased valuing of the environment, leading to a need for more **sustainable design** and creation of green spaces.
- People are increasingly wanting to exercise with their pets, leading to an increase in demand for **dog friendly parks**, particularly in urban areas.
- Increasing demand for **digitisation of public spaces** and use of “smart” features.
- Provision of parks and their facilities needs to be **inclusive and accessible** for all abilities.
- Increasing demand for spaces to cater to **all age groups**, particularly young people, older adults and families.
- Communities desire **more even distribution** of park and play opportunities to ensure everyone has access.

### 3.3. UNDERSTANDING PLAY AND ITS BENEFITS

#### Research shows that play has many benefits for children, including:

- increasing their self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-respect
- improving and maintaining their physical and mental health
- giving them the opportunity to socialise with other children
- allowing them to increase their confidence through developing new skills
- promoting their imagination, independence, and creativity
- offering opportunities for all abilities and backgrounds to play together
- providing opportunities for developing social skills and learning
- building resilience through risk taking and challenge, problem solving, and dealing with new and novel situations
- providing opportunities to learn about the environment and wider community.

#### Evidence also supports the wider benefits of play, including:

- parents feeling secure knowing their children are happy, safe and enjoying themselves
- families benefit from healthier, happier children
- play services are frequently seen as a focal point for communities
- offers opportunities for social interaction for the wider community and supports the development of a greater sense of community spirit and cohesion
- public outside spaces have an important role in the everyday lives of children and young people, especially as a place for meeting friends
- parks and other green spaces are popular with adults taking young children out to play and for older children to spend time together.

### 3.4. TRENDS THAT INFLUENCE HOW WE PLAN AND DESIGN FOR PLAY

- **Changing needs of children** as they grow and develop means that traditional playspace equipment like slides, swings, and rockers whilst still important, are only one component of the play spectrum.
- Increasing awareness of and demand for **nature based play** experiences.
- Playspaces are not only considered as areas for children, but also the **whole family** and therefore may now include aspects for adults and carers such as barbeques, shade, shelter, water, bike racks, paths, trails, carparks and in some instances, fencing.
- The increasing popularity of **fitness equipment** and trend towards equipment that includes and considers adult use and weight bearing to enable social interaction and play with and between children.
- A shift from developing play spaces in areas where young children are prevalent to providing **even distribution of facilities** to ensure access for all including grandparents, people with disabilities and carers and families.
- A need for **innovative and proactive** ways to provide play experiences in natural settings whilst managing perceived risks and liability.





## 4. PARKS & PLAY IN LAKE MAC

In Lake Macquarie, we have:

**274 Ha** of parkland

---

**3** Major Destination Parks

---

**22** District Parks

---

**133** local parks

---

**114** Playspaces

---

**1.02Ha** average size of our local parks

---

**50%** of people have access to a park within a 400m walk

---

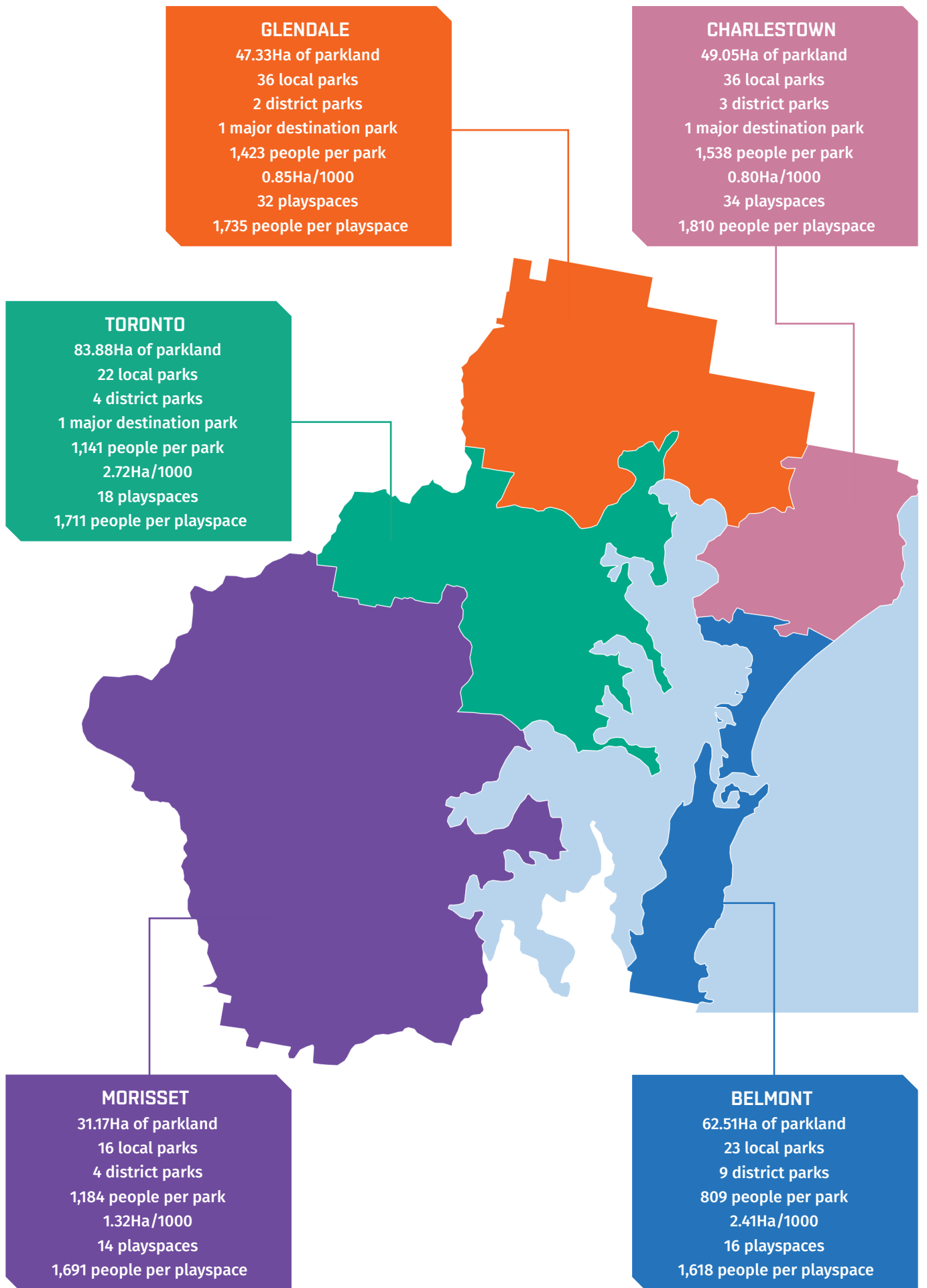
**1,249** people per park

---

**1.39** Ha/1000 people

---

**1,732** playspaces for every 1000 people



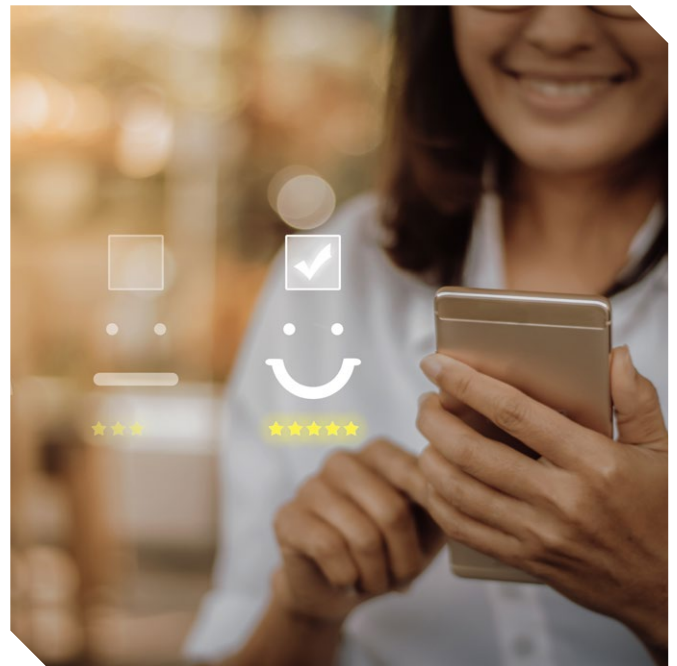
Summary of Park and Playspace Provision by Catchment



## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

### 5.1. HOW WE ENGAGED

- Shape Lake Mac project information and online ideas board
- Social Media and Online – “Instacomment” and QR Survey codes
- Community Survey - 217 responses
- Targeted Discussions and Focus Groups
  - Older adults
  - People with a disability
  - Progress Associations
  - Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups
  - Youth Council
  - Direct Discussions
- 220 Direct emails to key stakeholders including schools, childcare, multi-cultural groups, community organisations, youth, older adult and disability organisations
- Interviews with government agencies



## 5.2. WHAT OUR COMMUNITY SAID

Some key findings emerged through consultation with the Lake Macquarie community and key government and community stakeholders.



**98.10%**

of community survey respondents had visited a **Council park** in the last 12 months.

**3.5 ★**

average rating



Parks and playground provision is adequate but not excellent, receiving a 3.5 star rating from the community.



**Speers Point Park**

is the most popular park in Lake Macquarie.

### We would like...

...more local parks and play opportunities within **walking distance** of our homes.

...to see **more variety** in our parks and playspaces.

...to see more **pathway connections** to parks, and paths and trails in our parks.

...improved **maintenance** of our parks and playspaces.

...improved **park distribution** across Lake Macquarie.



### Lack of shade

is the biggest barrier to park use.



**Natural shade, clean amenities and rubbish bins** are the three most important park features.

### We want...

...our playspaces to have **shade**, have opportunities for children with **disabilities** and to be **clean and welcoming**.

...our parks to **reflect the local character and heritage** of our communities.

...**inclusive and accessible spaces** and facilities so that everyone in our community can access our parks and playspaces.



We love, and want to protect **our natural environment**.



### We love to visit our parks to

play, to access nature, to exercise and to socialise with friends and family.



### Our community want to

be involved, by providing input into future park and playground design, planting trees in our parks and communicating maintenance concerns to Council.



There is a perception of a focus on the **lake and foreshore area**.





Figure 2 – Speers Point, Our most popular destination park and playspace

## 6. OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARKS

*Parks are important features of the Lake Macquarie lifestyle. Lake Macquarie residents and visitors will have access to an integrated, diverse, inclusive, sustainable and adaptable network of quality parks that support active lifestyles, protect and value our unique natural environment, reflect our rich history, and provide opportunities for social and community connection.*

## 6.1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARKS

### Diversity

Council will provide a range of parks to support a diverse range of current and future outdoor recreation activities.

The parks network will aim to provide for the diverse cultures, interests, needs and abilities of the community.

Park Settings will provide a diversity of landscapes and settings, including formal, highly developed parks to undeveloped and natural areas.

Park design and development will reflect diverse landscape and cultural values.

---

### Equity and accessibility

Equity of access to a range of parks and outdoor recreation opportunities will be central to planning future provision.

A core aspiration is to ensure access to park opportunities within walking distance of all residential areas.

Park planning will recognise the needs of different cultural, demographic and community groups and facilitate inclusive design and universal access in provision and development.

---

### Sustainable Management

Investment in new and existing parks will be evidence-based and recognise ongoing financial management responsibilities.

Council resources will be allocated to ensure parks are managed and maintained to agreed levels of service, to keep users safe and protect the investment in the asset.

Planning will ensure that land intended for parkland is fit for purpose which will save on development and maintenance costs.

---

### Environmental Sustainability

Parks are an important part of the open space network, supporting blue and green grids and helping to improve the connection between people and nature.

Parks help to preserve and protect ecological areas, habitats, natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

Parks support sustainable environmental outcomes by incorporating design and management practices that minimise water and energy use, reduce the impacts of climate change and help mitigate urban heating.

---

### Quality and Health

Planning for fit-for-purpose, functional, flexible, and adaptable parks will help meet current and future community outdoor recreation needs.

High quality, well-maintained spaces and accessible infrastructure creates attractive and inviting recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

Investing in parks encourages residents to be active, improves their emotional, physical and mental health, and strengthens the local economy.

---

### Sense of Place

Parks contribute to local community identity, reflecting local character, increasing belonging and a 'sense of place'.

The design and development of parks can protect the historical and cultural values of individual communities.

Opportunities for community involvement in the planning and management of parks will encourage a sense of ownership and community value.

---

### Connectivity

Parks are an important part of the overall open space network providing connection to the natural environment and connections that support the natural environment.

Parks will be connected to the community by adequate street frontage, active transport networks (including pathways, trails and walkable streetscapes) and other public space.

The parks network should integrate with urban design and active transport networks improving connectivity between communities, key community destinations and facilities, and supporting active lifestyles.

# 7. OUR VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY

*Playspaces are an important part of our City's culture, identity and landscape. They will be designed to promote the social, physical and cognitive development of all children whilst offering a unique destination for residents and visitors alike.*

*Playspaces should showcase the identity that is Lake Macquarie and blend with our environment to offer users and visitors a safe and memorable experience.*

Figure 3 – Playspaces bring happiness



## 7.1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLAYSACES

<b>Understanding Play</b>	The importance of play is recognised by Council and it will strive to provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to develop the cognitive, social and physical skills and abilities.
<b>Recognising Play</b>	Council acknowledges that children will have different needs at various stages of their development and will generally refer to demographic groups as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infant 1-3 years of age</li> <li>- Toddler 3 -6 years of age</li> <li>- Junior 6 -12 years of age</li> <li>- Youth 12+</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Play (400 for 400)</b>	The whole community should have access to playspaces regardless of demographic profiling and location. This principle is based on the notion that where possible, practical and feasible, a playspace will be accessible and within walking distance (400m) of all homes in areas and townships with 400 people or more.
<b>Everyone can Play</b>	Playspaces are spaces for all and our future approach to design will incorporate the NSW Everyone can Play Guidelines. Access and inclusiveness will drive design for district and higher order playspaces and where possible local spaces will be inclusive and district/ higher level playspaces will include one all abilities playspace in each catchment.
<b>Classifying Play</b>	Playspaces will be classified according to their intended catchment with higher classifications including more components of the Playspace Development Model. Classifications are therefore discussed by Council in terms of Local (Infant/ Toddler), Neighbourhood (Infant/ Toddler/ Junior), District (Infant/ Toddler/ Junior/ Youth) and Regional (Infant/ Toddler/ Junior/ Youth).
<b>Quality Play</b>	Council will endeavour to provide more quality playspaces over smaller playspaces although all play a role in the overall provision of play. This principle may mean a justification in fewer smaller local playspaces, and the development of larger neighbourhood and district playspaces noting the 400 for 400 principle. Council will also endeavour to provide at least two district or higher playspaces within each catchment.
<b>Designing Play</b>	Design of playspaces will be in line with the intended classification and offer a diversity of experiences and opportunities to complement rather than duplicate provision. Additional features should be in line with the Playspace Development Model with ancillary services recommended as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Seating</b> - all playspaces should offer either natural or purpose-built seating.</li> <li>- <b>Shade and Shelter</b> - where feasible and practical, playspaces should take advantage of natural shade from park trees although should not necessarily be sited directly under them due to risks associated with falling limbs. District and regional, i.e. those attracting longer visitation should offer both natural and built shade sail/shelter structures.</li> <li>- <b>Fencing</b> - Playspaces that attract all age ranges such as District or Regional may have fenced areas with local and neighbourhood only warranting fencing should they be sited adjacent to hazards.</li> <li>- <b>Toilets</b> - given their catchment, local and neighbourhood playspaces do not warrant toilets but district and regional should be located close to or have purpose-built on-site facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Iconic Play</b>	Lake Macquarie's unique lakeside landscape provides an ideal opportunity to develop iconic District and Regional playspaces for locals and tourists alike and should be capitalised upon accordingly.
<b>Managing Play</b>	Unless identified as a strategic priority in an area of under supply, the management of existing playspaces will take precedence over developing new playspaces. Priority development will be given to those areas where a gap has been identified and those with ageing infrastructure.
<b>Partnerships and Stakeholder Relationships</b>	Council will identify and work with a number of partners and stakeholders including developers to ensure a full range of accessible playspaces are provided in the community.
<b>Monitoring Play</b>	Council will monitor its playspaces to ensure they continue to meet current and future generations' needs. All playspaces older than 15yrs will be assessed for removal, replacement or enhancement and an appropriate budget applied.



## 8. A PARKS FRAMEWORK FOR LAKE MAC

A 'hierarchy' of provision for parks in Lake Macquarie:



### Local Park

A small park close to your home that you would usually walk or ride to.



### District Park

A larger park 2-5km from your home that you might walk, ride or drive to, which provides several facilities for play, recreation and socialising.
















### Major Destination (Regional) Park

A high-level park that offers a large variety of activity options, that you might spend up to a day visiting, and which also attracts visitors to Lake Macquarie.











Lake Macquarie's provision framework for recreation parks is based on a combination of Qualitative Performance Criteria and Quantitative Guidance.

## Local Parks

 1 park for every 1,500 people	 Larger than 0.5Ha where possible	 80% of residents in urban areas have access within a 400m walk, 100% within 800m
 70% of park area useable and free of hazards	 Good road frontage and visibility	 Kick about area for local recreation and play
<b>May provide<sup>4</sup></b>		
 Seating and picnic table	 Trees and landscaped areas	 Natural shade
 Play equipment (not all) and pathways	 Bubbler or tap	 Rubbish bins
 When new residential areas (greenfield sites) are developed, these must provide 1 park for every 1,500 people, with a minimum area of 0.5Ha that is 100% useable and free of hazards		

<sup>4</sup> Examples only. Not all parks will have all features.

## District Parks

 1 park for every 5,000 to 10,000 people	 Larger than 2Ha where possible	 Within 2-5km (20 minute walk) of most residents
 75% of park area useable and free of hazards	 Good road frontage and visibility	 Caters for stays for up to half a day
 Pathways within park to facilities	 Some off-street car parking if possible	 Large open space area for recreation and play
<b>May provide (in addition to local park items)<sup>5</sup></b>		
 Public amenities	 Barbecue and picnic facilities	 Shelters
 Lighting of key features	 Play equipment for a range of ages	 Built and natural shade
 Fencing (if required)	 Youth facilities	 Bicycle circuits
 Skate park, BMX or pump tracks	 Multi-purpose courts	 Outdoor gyms
	When new residential areas (greenfield sites) are developed 1 District Park must be provided for every 7,500 people, with a minimum area of 2Ha that is 100% useable and free of hazards	

<sup>5</sup> Examples only. Not all parks will have all features.

## Major Destination Parks (Regional)

 <p>Within 30 minutes travel for most residents</p>	 <p>Larger than 10Ha where possible</p>	 <p>Caters for stays up to a whole day</p>
 <p>50% of park area useable and free of hazards</p>	 <p>Good road frontage and visibility</p>	 <p>Large open space area for recreation and play</p>
 <p>Highly accessible with pathways to facilities and shared pathways throughout</p>	 <p>Off-street car parking</p>	 <p>Event Space</p>
<b>May provide (in addition to local and district park items)<sup>6</sup></b>		
 <p>Multiple public amenities</p>	 <p>Multiple barbecue and picnic facilities</p>	 <p>Significant trees and landscaped areas</p>
 <p>Lighting</p>	 <p>Shaded play equipment for a range of ages and abilities</p>	 <p>Special Features</p>

<sup>6</sup> Examples only. Not all parks will have all features.



## 9. A PLAYSPACE FRAMEWORK FOR LAKE MAC

A hierarchy of provision for playspaces in Lake Macquarie:



### LOCAL

- A small playspace located within walking distance
- Primarily caters for younger children
- May include play equipment for young children and/ or imaginative creative area (natural setting)
- Inclusive design where possible

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Usually located about 1-2km from homes
- Can cater for young and older children
- May include 5 or more pieces of play equipment, imaginative creative area (natural setting), non-structured play area, adult/ carer area
- Inclusive design where possible



### DISTRICT

- A larger playspace you would usually visit for longer
- Would offer play equipment for all age groups (often fenced)
- Would also include imaginative creative area (natural settings), non-structured play area and adult/ carer area close to picnic/ BBQ areas, toilets, water and car parking
- Inclusive design and may include accessible play components

### REGIONAL

- Similar to district, but with more opportunities that attract local and regional visitors
- Offer a broad range of experiences and opportunities for the whole family and often have unique aspects like an adventure playground, water park and/ or event space
- Fully inclusive design and accessible play components



Photos: 180SLS

When planning and developing playspaces, Council will be guided by the Playspace Development Model, a widely recognised model that illustrates the elementary factors required to establish an area specifically for play, including the five aspects of:

### **Play Equipment**

Should complement rather than replace the 'playspace' and should align with the intended user and classification of the park.

### **Imaginative and Creative Area**

Requires sensitivity to develop possibilities. Some areas simply need to be left in their natural state whereby others can be designed using the natural environment to encourage exploration and imagination.

### **Unstructured Area**

An open space area often used as a meeting place/ socialising area or for informal ball games, traditionally appealing to older children.

### **Adult/ Family Area**

A comfortable space where adults accompanying children to play areas can passively monitor children whilst socialising with other carers or parents.

### **Special Feature**

An optional component that would attract greater use, visitation and general interest.



Rathmines Park

# Playspace Development Model

## ADULT/ FAMILY AREAS

- shade and shelter
- BBQ and picnic areas
- water/ toilets
- bike racks/ car parking
- fenced areas

## PLAY EQUIPMENT

- all age categories
- all skill levels and abilities
- traditional playspace equipment

## IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE AREAS

- nature play
- use of natural environment
- creek lines and trees
- exploration opportunities



## PLAYSPACE HIERARCHY

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- artwork/ sculptures
- games, ping pong, chess pavers, etc
- bespoke design e.g. pirate ships, towers, mazes, etc

## UNSTRUCTURED AREAS

- open space grassed areas for unstructured and informal activity
- hard court areas for ball games



Figure 4 – Wyee Point, popular for parties

## 10. OUR PLAN

We will:



**Commit to planning** for a functional, accessible, diverse, inclusive, and sustainable network of parks and playspaces.



**Provide and continue to enhance** a functional, accessible, diverse, inclusive and sustainable network of parks and playspaces in **existing communities**.



**Plan** for a functional, accessible, diverse, inclusive and sustainable network of parks and playspaces in **new communities**.



**Manage and maintain** a fit for purpose network of parks and playspaces.



Undertake **additional planning** to enhance the parks and play network and its role in contributing to active lifestyles.



**Collaborate** to ensure successful implementation of the Parks and Play Strategy.



## 11. ACTION PLAN

Actions have been identified under each of the overarching Parks and Playspace Strategy objectives detailed in “Our Plan”. These are the key actions that will guide further work to be undertaken in implementing the Parks and Playspace Strategy. The detailed implementation of the strategy will require additional work to address specific issues, including more detailed planning and assessment at the local level to determine the best response to identified issues. In some cases, actions will be dependant on collaboration and partnerships with others, access to external funding or resolution of local planning issues.

The implementation of this strategy will be considered within the context of Council’s overall priorities and the competing demands of other areas and strategies within Council.

### Lead Council Department and Partners

The strategy provides Lake Macquarie City Council with recommended actions and priorities. While a “lead” within Council is identified, there will often be a number of sections involved in implementation. Some actions require external partnerships with community groups or government agencies”.

### Priority Rating

Actions have been assigned a priority rating based on:

**High:** critical to strategy implementation. Should be commenced within the first three years.

**Medium:** important in responding to a future need. Requires pre-requisite work to be undertaken. Should be commenced within three to eight years.

**Low:** an identified future need that will improve parks and playspace provision. Should be commenced within eight to 12 years.

**Ongoing:** recurring actions that support implementation and continue throughout the life of the strategy.

ACTION			LEAD COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AND PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<b>1. Commit to Planning for a network of fit for purpose parks and playspaces</b>				
1.1	The Parks and Play Strategy is incorporated in Council's Annual and Four-Year Program	Integrate the Parks and Play Strategy into Council's strategic planning documents and identify actions to incorporate in the Four-Year Delivery Program. Utilise the park prioritisation model and park and playspace action plans to inform the delivery program and operational plan each year.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> Community Assets Management	High Ongoing
1.2	Ensure a consistent approach to future park planning, design and embellishment	Consider the following in all planning, design and embellishment of parks and playspaces: - Parks Hierarchy of Supply - Parks Provision Framework - Playspace Hierarchy of Supply - Playspace Development Model and Design Guidance Ensure the Land Acquisition and Assessment Guidelines are considered where necessary. Utilise the Parks Prioritisation Framework to inform project priority.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> Community Assets Management City Design Integrated Planning	Ongoing
1.3	Review community land and determine its role within the parks network	Review the Assessing Public Requests to Reclassify Community Land to Operational Land in accordance with the Parks and Play Strategy  Use the parks provision framework and the rationalisation guideline to assess existing community land and identify opportunities for future divestment and reinvestment that will achieve a more effective parks network.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b>  <b>Recreation and Land Planning</b>	Medium  Medium
<b>2. Provide and enhance parks and playspaces in existing communities</b>				
2.1	Ensure parks are fit for purpose in line with the park hierarchy and provision framework	Review existing parks that do not meet their identified park hierarchy and develop a program to upgrade these. Develop master plans for proposed district park upgrades identified in the catchment summaries to inform future site direction and development in accordance with the guiding principles. Consider parks identified in catchment summaries as a priority. Ensure park embellishment offers a diversity of opportunities across the LGA and within planning catchments.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> Community Assets Management City Presentation	Medium
2.2	Ensure playspaces provide quality experiences for all, in line with the playspace hierarchy and playspace development model	Review existing playspace classifications and develop a program to upgrade and/ or reclassify accordingly. Consider playspaces identified in catchment summaries as a priority. Ensure playspace enhancements offer a range of opportunities for children of all ages and abilities across the LGA and within planning catchments. This should include: - Retaining and enhancing the all abilities playspace at Speers Point Park and considering a second all abilities playspace in Toronto to service eastern catchments. - Assessing future need for all abilities playspaces in conjunction with any future upgrades to district or higher level playspaces aiming to provide at least one all abilities playspace in each catchment.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> Community Assets Management City Presentation	Medium

ACTION		LEAD COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AND PARTNERS	PRIORITY
2.3 Plan for new parks in existing communities where there is an identified undersupply	<p>Review areas of park underprovision in each catchment and identify opportunities to address these. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of new parks where undeveloped park land is available</li> <li>- Development of park nodes within other existing open space, including sporting fields, natural areas and operational land</li> <li>- Improving connectivity to existing parks and upgrading these to support increased use if required</li> <li>- Investigating land acquisition opportunities if the above options are not possible.</li> </ul> <p>Priority should be given to suburbs of underprovision identified in the catchment summaries.</p>	<p><b>Recreation and Land Planning</b></p> <p>Environmental Systems</p> <p>Property Services</p> <p>Integrated Planning</p> <p>City Presentation</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Ongoing and in line with Development Contributions Plans</p>
2.4 Plan for new playspaces in existing communities where there are identified provision gaps	<p>Review gaps in playspace provision in each catchment and identify opportunities to address these in line with new/ upgraded park developments aiming to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver a more even distribution of play opportunities that provide a wider range of experience.</li> <li>- Provide at least two district playspaces in each catchment that are complemented by a range of neighbourhood and local playspaces where gaps are evident.</li> </ul> <p>Priority should be given to suburbs of underprovision identified in the catchment summaries.</p>	<p><b>Recreation and Land Planning</b></p> <p>Environmental Systems</p> <p>Property Services</p> <p>Integrated Planning</p> <p>City Presentation</p>	<p>Medium</p>
2.5 Provide opportunities for the community to be involved in enhancing parks	<p>Involve the community in designing park improvements/ upgrades.</p>	<p><b>Recreation and Land Planning</b></p> <p>City Design</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
2.6 Consider cultural or heritage significance of parks in future park planning	<p>Identify opportunities to incorporate cultural or heritage significance in park planning and design. This could include, but not be limited to, public art and interpretive signage.</p>	<p><b>Recreation and Land Planning</b></p> <p>Arts, Culture and Tourism</p> <p>City Design</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>3. Plan for a fit for purpose network of parks and playspaces in new communities</b></p>			
3.1 Ensure land provided for parks in greenfield sites is planned for appropriately	<p>Ensure planning for parks and playspaces in new developments begins in the planning proposal stage and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considers the parks and playspace guiding principles</li> <li>- Identifies sufficient useable land in accordance with the Provision Framework guidance for greenfield areas</li> <li>- Identifies the intended park hierarchy classification</li> <li>- Addresses critical performance outcomes in accordance with the provision framework and design standards as planning progresses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Integrated Planning</b></p> <p>Recreation and Land Planning</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

ACTION			LEAD COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AND PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<b>4. Manage and maintain a fit for purpose network of parks and playspaces</b>				
4.1	Ensure maintenance levels of parks and playspaces are commensurate with the park and playspace hierarchies	<p>Review current maintenance levels for parks and playspaces and update to new maintenance levels where parks or playspaces are classified at a higher or lower level.</p> <p>Ensure that maintenance levels are adjusted accordingly when parks and playspaces are upgraded to a higher classification.</p> <p>Assess playspaces aged over 15 years and prepare a plan for their future.</p>	<p><b>City Presentation</b></p> <p>Recreation and Land Planning</p> <p>Community Assets Management</p> <p>Community Assets Delivery</p>	Medium
4.2	Provide opportunities to partner with the community to manage and maintain parks	<p>Enhance opportunities for community involvement in management and maintenance through organised groups such as 'friends of', sustainable action groups, progress associations, community gardens.</p> <p>Involvement of community groups to be managed by authorised Council officers.</p>	<p><b>Community Partnerships</b></p> <p>Recreation and Land Planning</p> <p>City Presentation</p> <p>Community Assets Management</p>	Ongoing
4.3	Prepare and review asset management plans for parks	<p>Prepare and review park asset management plans in accordance with the park hierarchy capturing current and future embellishments for each park.</p> <p>Utilise asset management plans to guide the provision, maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of assets within parks.</p>	<p><b>Community Assets Management</b></p> <p>City Presentation</p> <p>Recreation and Land Planning</p> <p>Asset Accounting</p>	Medium
4.4	Investigating new technologies	Investigate new technologies for the management and maintenance of parks.	<p><b>City Presentation</b></p>	Medium
4.5	Review Park Furniture Donation Policy	Review the Park Furniture Donation Policy to ensure consistency with park hierarchy embellishment standards.	<p><b>Community Partnerships</b></p> <p>Recreation and Land Planning</p> <p>Community Assets Management</p>	High
4.6	Investigate and collaborate with partners to improve sustainability efficiencies	Partner with service providers to investigate options to reduce the use of water and energy consumption within parks.	<p><b>City Presentation</b></p> <p>Asset Optimisation</p> <p>Community Assets Management</p>	Medium
<b>5. Additional planning to enhance parks and playspaces and their role in contributing to active lifestyles</b>				
5.1	Progress the development of the Active Lifestyle Strategy to improve the activation and use of parks	<p>Ensure the Active Lifestyles Strategy considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities to improve parks for young people through skate, BMX, parkour, half courts facilities and hang out spaces</li> <li>- Opportunities to improve parks for older adults through improved pathways, outdoor exercise equipment and passive green spaces for low impact activities</li> <li>- Event potential of parks</li> <li>- The use of parks as venues for active lifestyle programs, including partnerships with activity providers.</li> <li>- Awareness raising and promotion of the use of parks in supporting active lifestyles, including collaboration with health and lifestyle sector partners.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recreation and Land Planning</b></p>	High
5.2	Progress the development of the Tracks and Trails Strategy to improve connections to parks and use of parks	<p>Improve opportunities to connect to parks through walking tracks in adjacent natural areas as an alternative to footpaths or driving and an additional activation.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for mountain bike trails in parks and adjacent natural areas as an additional activation.</p>	<p><b>Recreation and Land Planning</b></p>	High

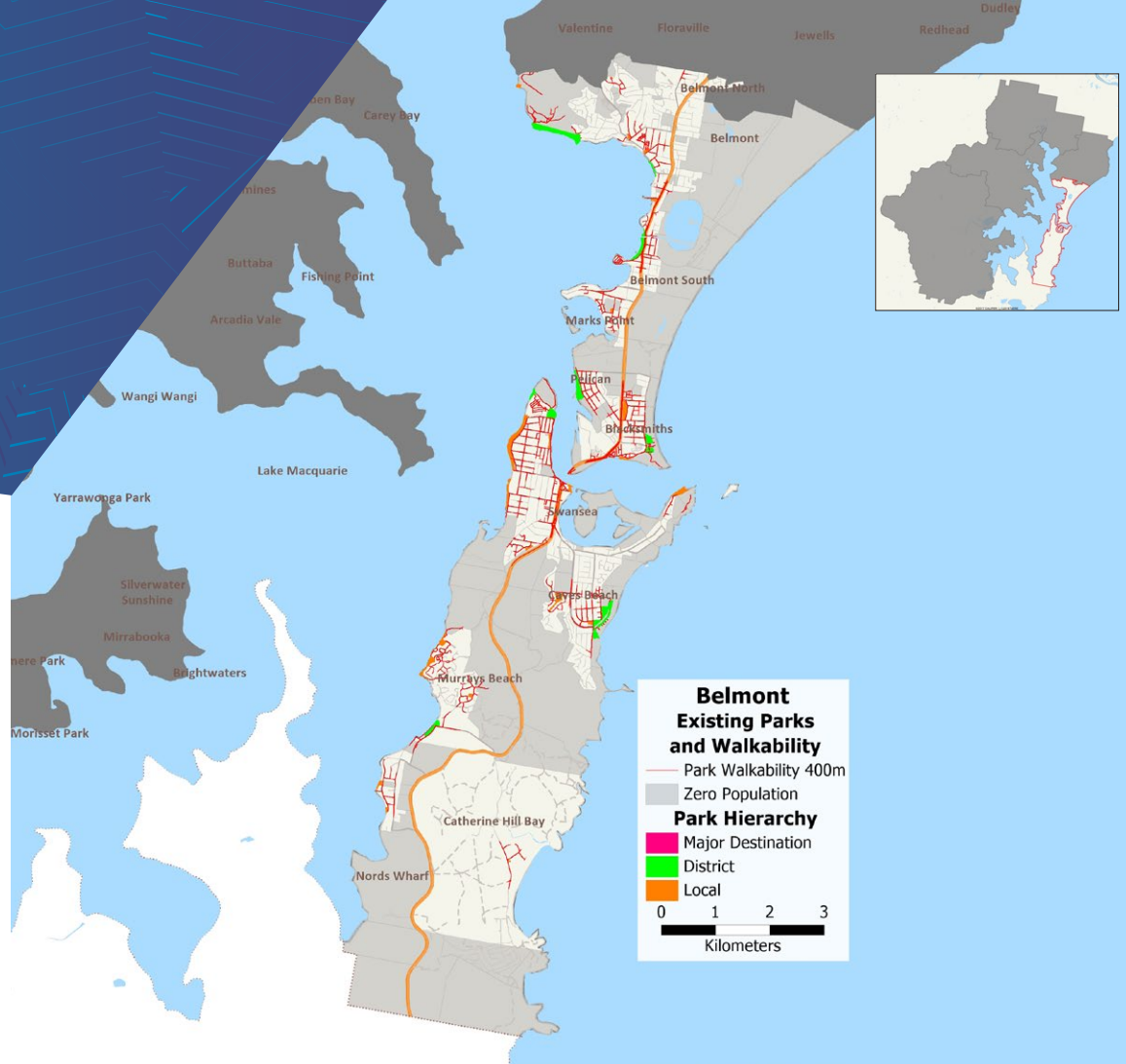


ACTION			LEAD COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AND PARTNERS	PRIORITY
5.3	Undertake broader open space planning to enhance integration of Lake Macquarie's greenspace network	Consider undertaking broader open space planning and identifying sites that function as open space, complement the parks network and contribute to the overall provision of greenspace across the LGA. This may include Crown Land and sites managed by Council or other agencies.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b>	Low
5.4	Review Council Catchment Development Contribution Plans	Review the Development Contributions Plans for Belmont, Charlestown, Glendale, Toronto and Morisset to ensure they are consistent with planning and provision frameworks and identified projects.	<b>Development Contributions</b> Recreation and Land Planning	Medium
5.5	Provide opportunities for the community to be involved in future planning for parks and playspaces	Engage the broader community in park and playspace planning, including: - Masterplanning - Design projects - Upgrade projects.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> Community Assets Management Community Assets Delivery City Design	Ongoing
<b>6. Collaborate to ensure successful implementation of the Parks and Play Strategy</b>				
6.1	Improve cross-departmental collaboration to facilitate strategy implementation	Develop internal mechanisms to ensure park planning and design is a high priority across all relevant departments.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> City Design Community Assets Management Integrated Planning Community Partnerships	High
6.2	Identify opportunities for external partnerships to enhance provision of and access to parks for the community	Investigate opportunities for community access to parks or land for parks not managed by Council. Partners may include: - Developers - Schools or community groups - Sporting clubs - State agencies - Commercial/private organisations.	<b>Recreation and Land Planning</b> Integrate Planning Community Partnerships	Ongoing
6.3	Raise awareness of parks and their benefits	Develop communication and promotional strategies to raise awareness of Council's parks and opportunities, facilities and benefits to the community. This may include: - Continuing and enhancing web-based and social media awareness raising - Promotion through/ to key community organisations and sectors - Partnering with event and tourism organisations to promote event and destination potential of parks.	<b>Communications</b> Recreation and Land Planning Arts, Culture and Tourism	Medium Ongoing
6.4	Improve and maintain the park mapping and data inventory	Utilise the GIS mapping and data inventory developed as part of this strategy to update existing Council databases. Update the GIS and data inventory as new parks come online or classification is changed.	<b>Applications and Development Systems</b> Community Assets Management Recreation and Land Planning	Ongoing

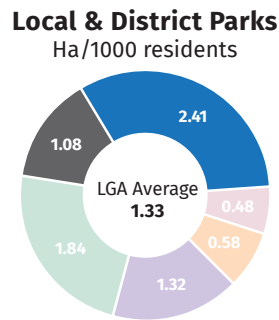
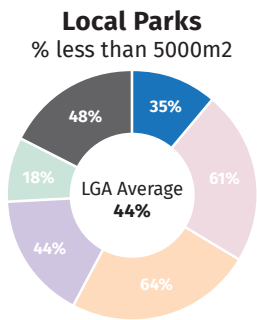
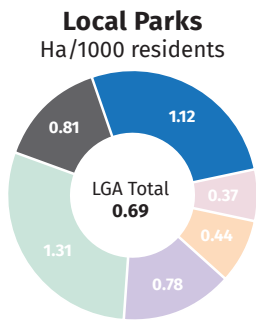
# 12. OUR CATCHMENT PLANS

*Pasterfield Reserve, Cameron Park*





## Population



## Parks for Recreation

**23** Local Parks

**9** District Parks

**2.41** Ha/1000 - Total Parks

- Good supply along lake foreshore areas
- Provision and access gaps in Belmont, Swansea, Caves Beach and Marks Point
- 65% of residents have access to a park within 400m
- Average size of local parks is 1.26Ha
- 35% of local parks are below 0.5Ha
- New parks planned for Green Point Foreshore, Swansea, Catherine Hill Bay and Murrays Beach/ North Wallarah.



## Playspaces

**16** Playspaces

**1,618** 1 playspace per 1,618 people

**8** playspaces over 15 years old

- No district playspace
- Catchment gaps in Swansea, Caves Beach North, Belmont
- Further consideration needed for children aged 9+
- New playspace being planned for at Lake Forest Drive Reserve, Murrays Beach

# OUR PLAN FOR BELMONT

## Upgrade existing parks and playspaces

### PARKS

Undertake master planning to improve the following district parks:

- Stuart Chalmers Reserve
- Blacksmiths Beach Reserve.

Upgrade local parks where required to ensure they meet local park functionality.

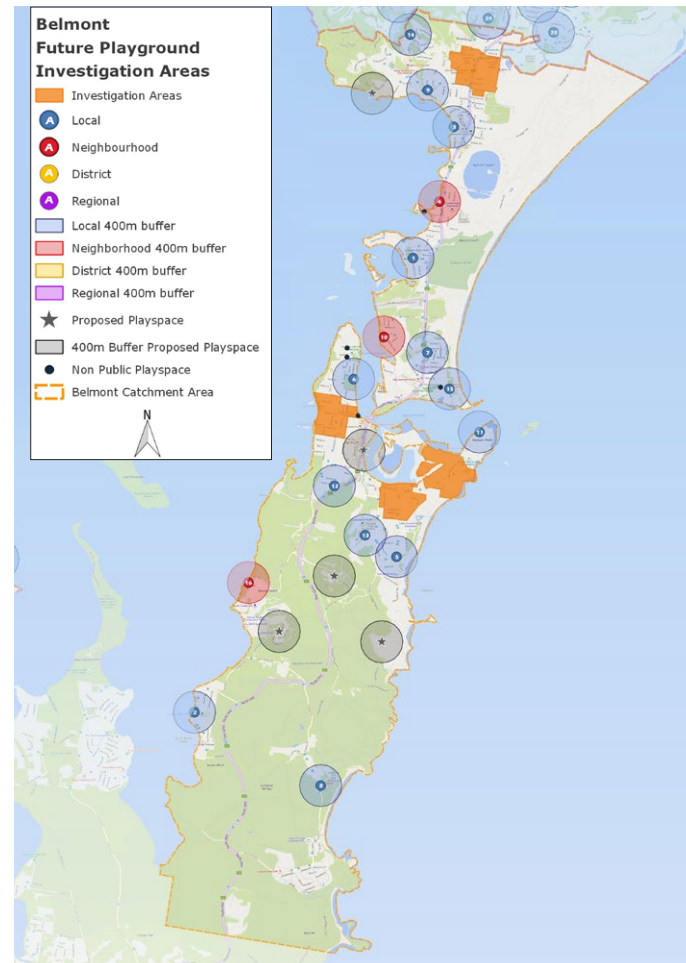
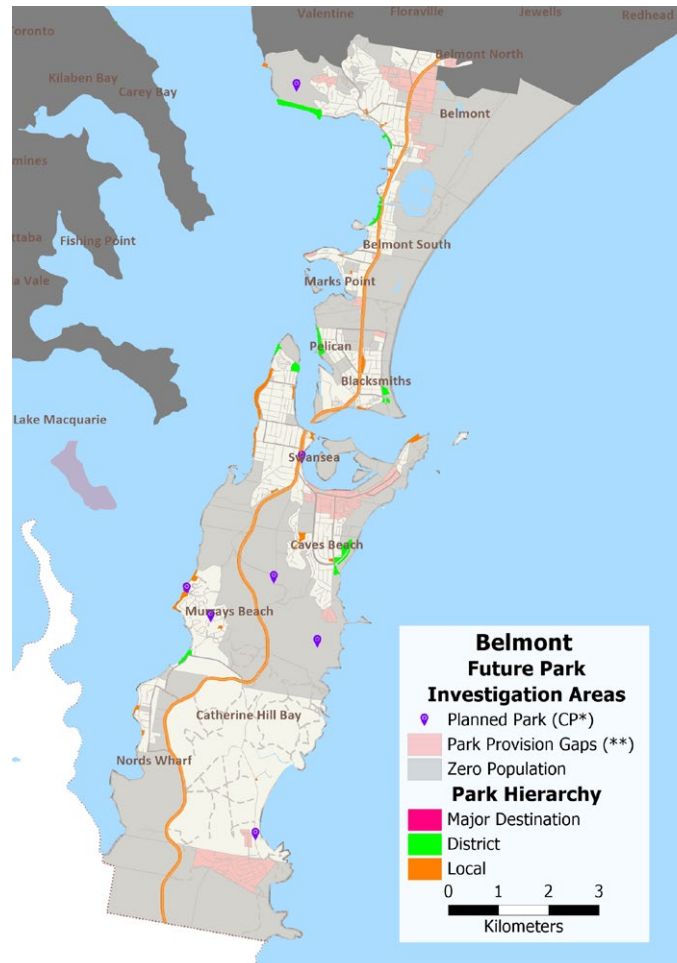
### Playspaces

Upgrade the following local playspaces to neighbourhood level:

- Chapman Oval (Burrigallana Reserve)
- Roy McDougall Park (Flowers Drive).

Upgrade the playspace at Pelican Foreshore Park to District level.

Replace equipment at existing playspaces at end of life to ensure they meet their classified function.



## Develop new parks to address undersupply

Develop new parks identified in Contributions Plans as population growth demands:

- Green Point Foreshore Reserve, Belmont (District Park)
- Bowman Street Reserve Swansea (Local Park)
- Catherine Hill Bay SLSC (Local Park)
- North Wallarah (1 District Park, 3 Local Parks).

Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new local parks/ park nodes** on Council-owned land in Belmont North, Marks Point, Swansea, Caves Beach, Nords Wharf, Pelican, Swansea Heads
- **Land acquisitions**, if required, to improve functionality of existing parks or enable development of new parks.

## Develop new playspaces to address underprovision

Develop new playspaces identified in the Contributions Plan:

- Green Point Foreshore Reserve (District)
- Bowman Street Reserve, Swansea (Local)
- Lake Forest Drive Reserve, Murrays Beach (Neighbourhood)
- Pinny Beach (1 Neighbourhood, 1 Local)

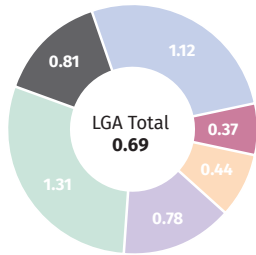
Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new playspaces** to service gap areas of Swansea, Caves Beach North and Belmont.

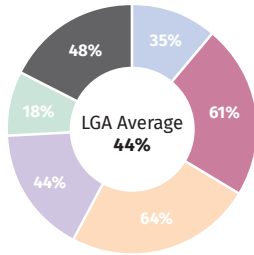
## Population



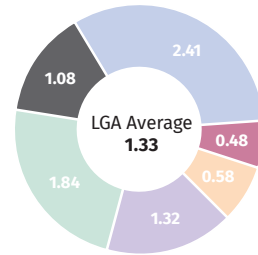
**Local Parks**  
Ha/1000 residents



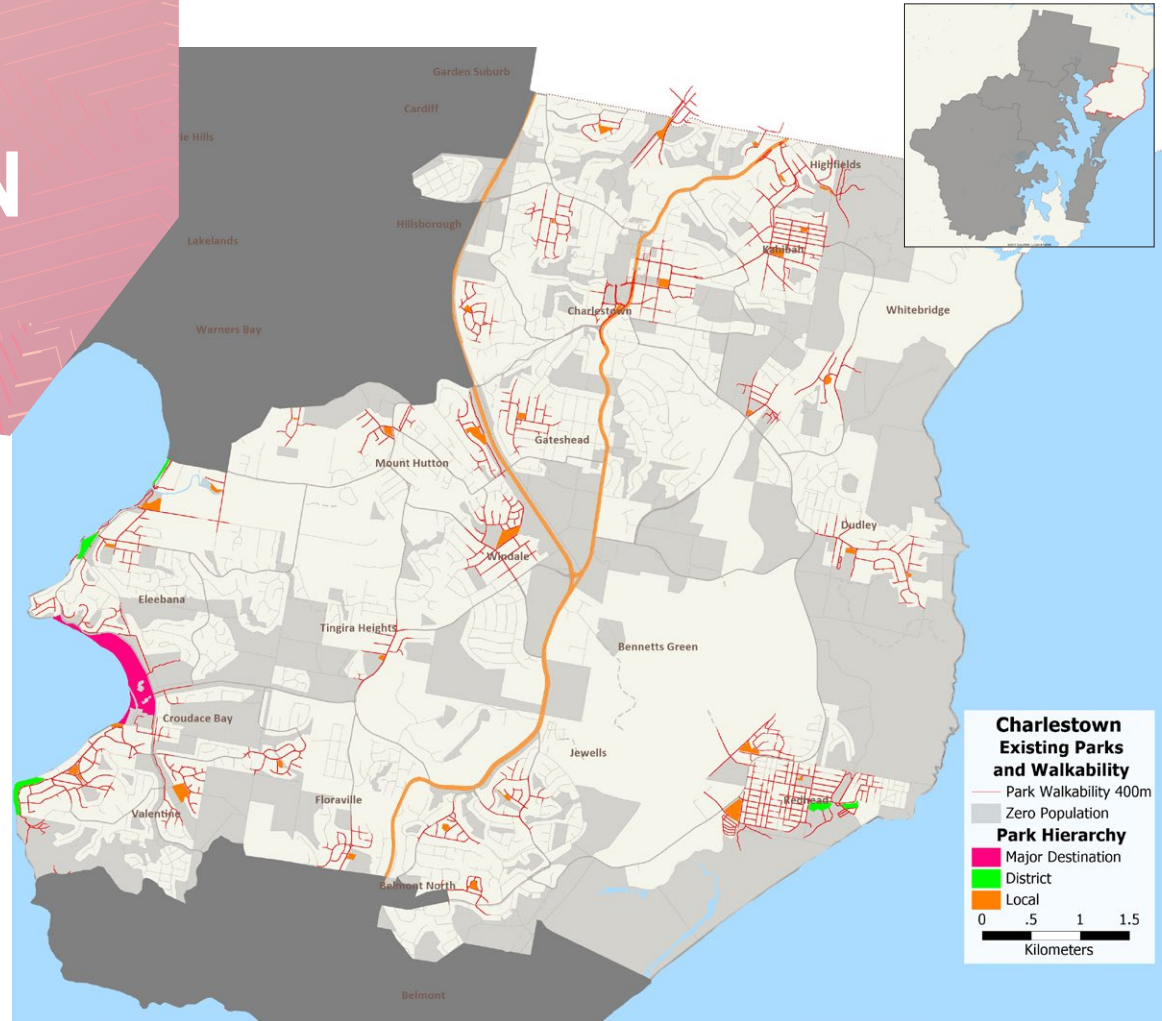
**Local Parks**  
% less than 5000m2



**Local & District Parks**  
Ha/1000 residents



BEL CHA GLE MOR TOR average



## Parks for Recreation

**36** Local Parks

**3** District Parks

**1** Major Destination Park  
(Thomas H Halton Park)

**0.8** Ha/1000 - Total Parks

- Poor local and district park provision
- Very small parks and limited larger, functional parks
- Provision and access gaps in Floraville, Croudace Bay, Tingira Heights, Bennetts Green, Gateshead, Charlestown, Windale, and Whitebridge
- 50% of residents have access to a park within 400m
- Average size of local parks is 0.63Ha
- 61% of local parks are below 0.5Ha
- Bunyah Park, Eleebana has recently been upgraded.



## Playspaces

**35** Playspaces

**1,810** 1 playspace per 1,810 people

**1** District level playspace

- Limited quality and diversity of experience
- Catchment gaps in Charlestown, Whitebridge/ Dudley, Kahibah, Gateshead, Floraville and Eleebana South and East
- 3 new playspaces being planned for at Kaleen Street Reserve, Charlestown Lions Park and Wakool Reserve, Windale
- Some playspaces adjacent to roads require fencing or improved location on site.

# OUR PLAN FOR CHARLESTOWN

## Upgrade existing parks and playspaces

### PARKS

Improve district park provision by upgrading the following existing parks to district level:

- Charlestown Lions Park, Charlestown
- Bennett Park, Valentine
- Bahloo Reserve, Windale
- Eleebana Lions Park (incorporating adjacent land)
- Riawenna Park, Whitebridge (if limited sporting use)
- Reay Park, Dudley.

Upgrade local parks where required to ensure they meet local park functionality.

Implement the master plan for Major Destination Park, Thomas H Halton Park.

### Playspaces

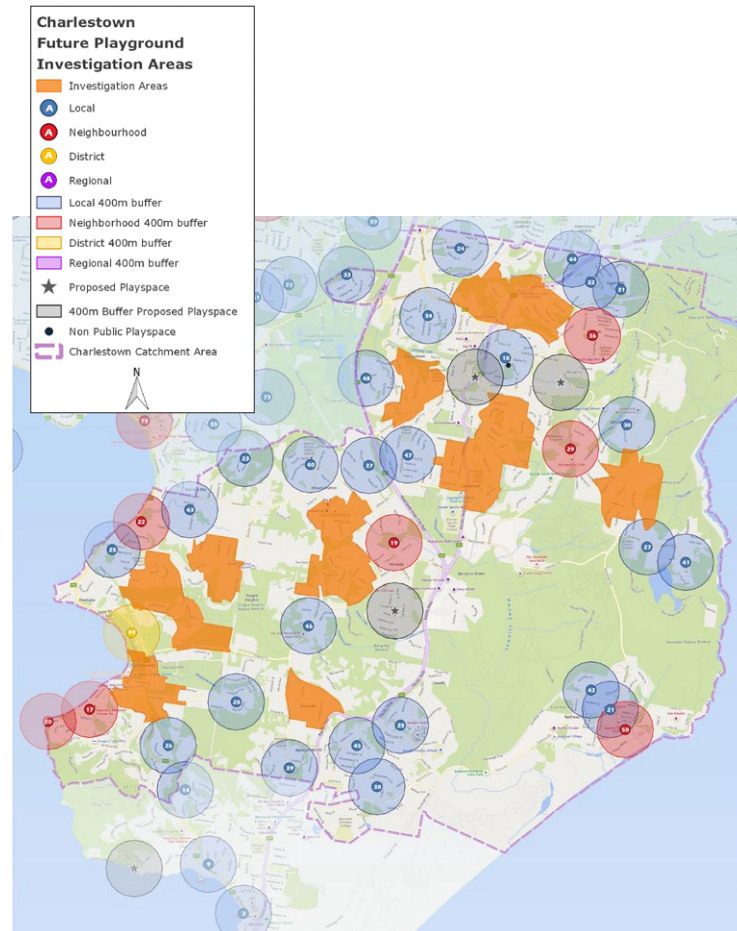
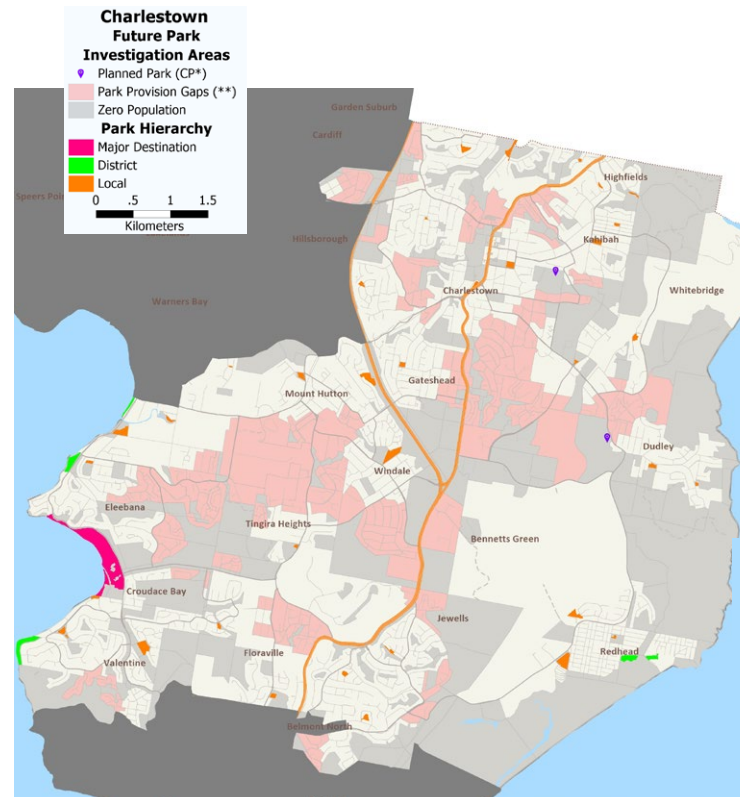
Upgrade the following local playspaces to neighbourhood level:

- Bahloo Reserve
- Bennett Park
- Redhead Winderhouse
- Russell Reserve, Adamstown Heights
- Reay Park, Dudley (minor enhancements)
- Tallowood Circuit Park (minor enhancements).

Upgrade the following playspaces to District level:

- Thomas H Halton Park
- Webb Park.

Replace equipment at existing playspaces at end of life to ensure they meet their classified function.



## Develop new parks to address undersupply

### Develop new parks identified in Contributions Plans as population growth demands:

- Kaleen Street, Charlestown (District Park)
- Wakool Street, Windale (Local Park).

### Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new local parks/ park nodes** on Council-owned land in Belmont North, Charlestown, Eleebana, Gateshead, Hillsborough, Jewells, Tingira Heights, Valentine and Whitebridge
- **Land acquisitions**, if required, to improve functionality of existing parks or enable development of new parks
- Opportunities for **land rationalisation**, where applicable, to fund future park provision.



## Develop new playspaces to address underprovision

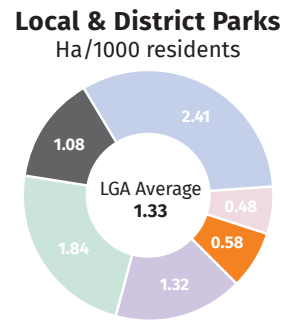
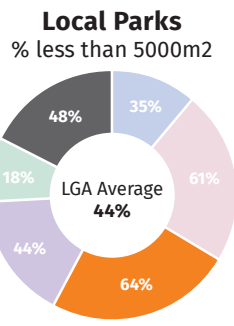
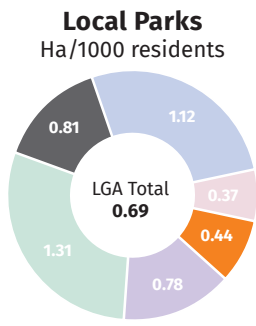
### Develop new playspaces identified in the Contributions Plan:

- Kaleen Street, Charlestown (District)
- Wakool Street, Windale (Local/Neighbourhood)
- Dudley proposed new residential area (Local).

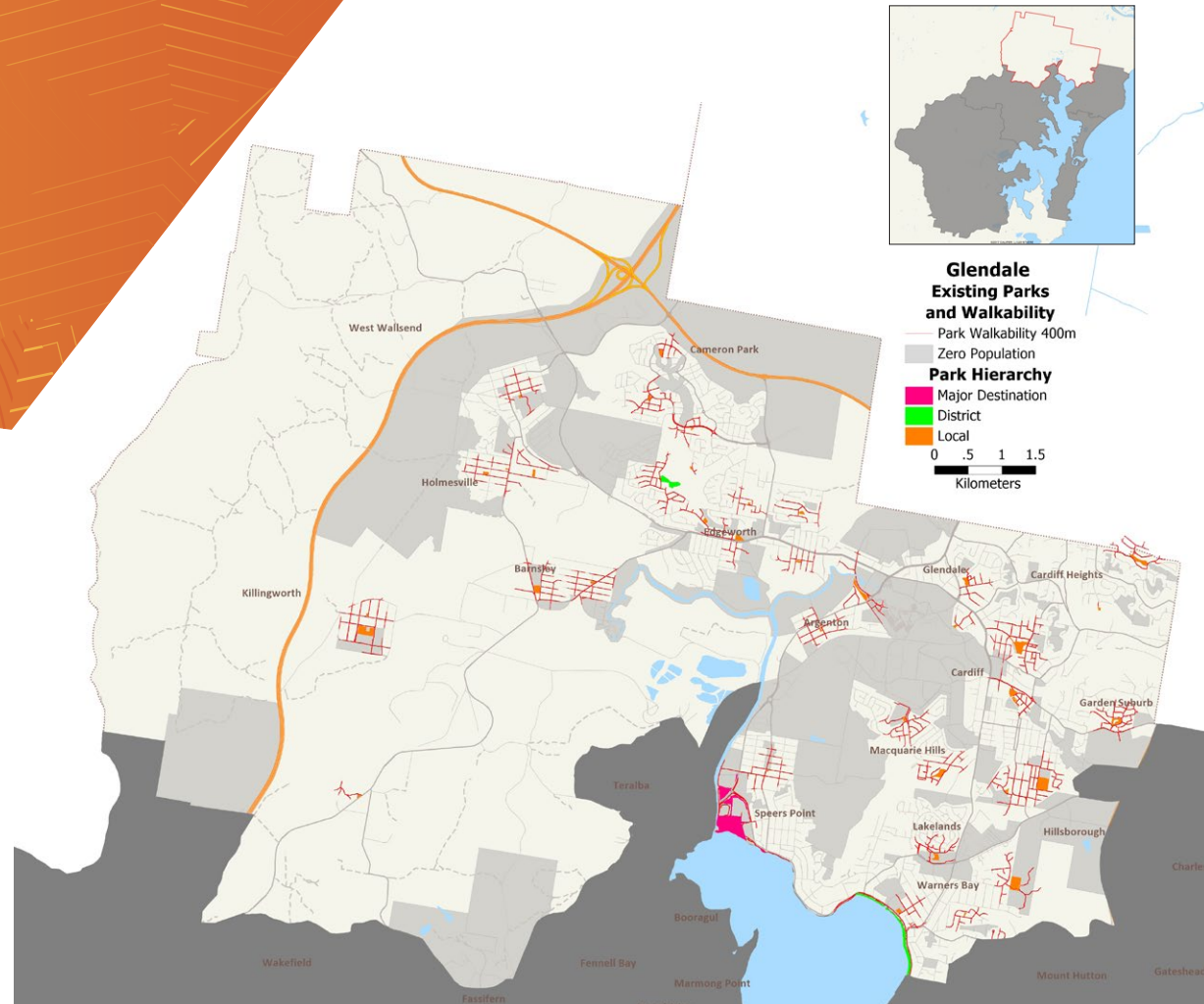
### Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new playspaces** to service gap areas of Charlestown, Whitebridge/ Dudley, Kahibah, Gateshead, Floraville and Eleebana South and East.

### Population



BEL CHA GLE MOR TOR average



### Parks for Recreation

**36** Local Parks

**2** District Parks

**1** Major Destination Park  
(Speers Point Park)

**0.85** Ha/1000 - Total Parks

- Significant provision and access gaps in Cardiff Heights, Garden Suburb, Lakelands, Cardiff, Glendale, Cameron Park, Edgeworth
- 53% of residents have access to a park within 400m
- Average size of local parks is 0.69Ha
- 64% of local parks are below 0.5Ha.



### Playspaces

**32** Playspaces

**735** 1 Playspace per 735 people

**1** Regional Playspace  
(Speers Point Park)

**1** District Playspace  
(Pasterfield Sporting Complex)

- 84% classified as local
- 60% of playspaces are over 15 years old
- Catchment gaps in Boolaroo, Speers Point South, Cardiff, Glendale, New Lambton Heights
- 1 new neighbourhood playspace being planned for McKendry Drive Reserve.

# OUR PLAN FOR GLENDALE

## Upgrade existing parks and playspaces

### PARKS

Improve district park provision by upgrading Lakelands Oval to a District Level Recreation Park, retaining informal sporting use.

Investigate opportunities to upgrade larger local parks to district level to improve district park provision.

Upgrade local parks where required to ensure they meet local park functionality.

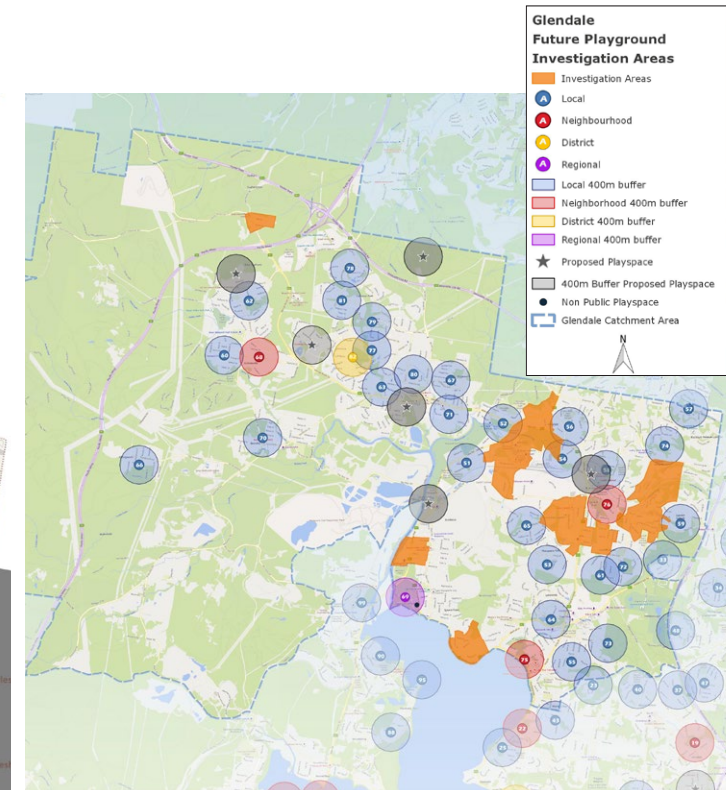
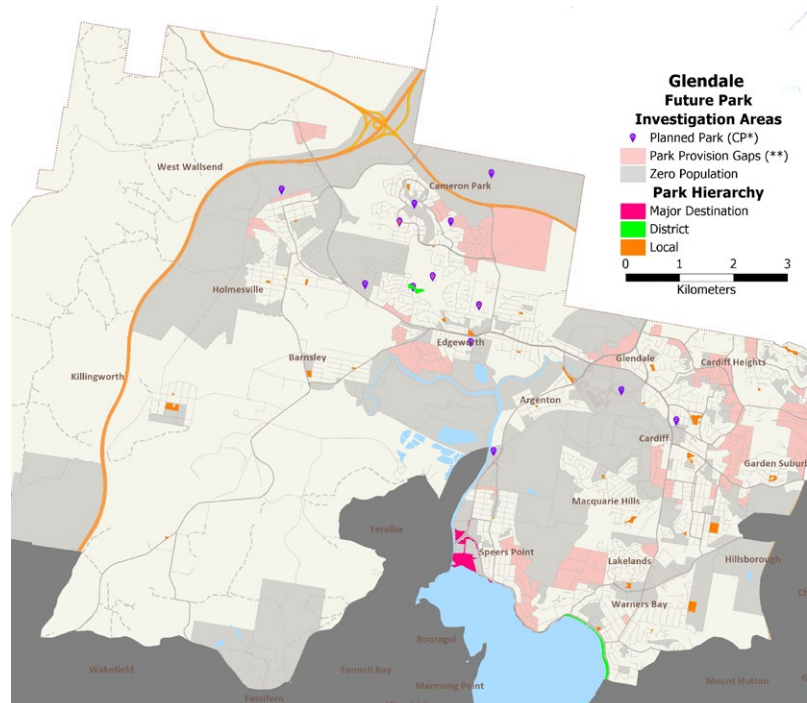
### Playspaces

Upgrade the following local playspaces to neighbourhood:

- Turnbull Street Reserve
- Clarence Street Reserve
- Ulinga Park
- Gregory Park
- Vermont Place Park
- Northlakes Drive Reserve (minor enhancements).
- Bill Bowler Oval

Investigate potential upgrade of Wilkinson Park playspace to district level.

Replace equipment at existing playspaces at end of life to ensure they meet their classified function.



## Develop new parks to address undersupply

### Develop new parks identified in Contributions Plans as population growth demands:

- 9 Hadlow Drive and 30 Jupiter Circuit, Cameron Park (Local Park)
- Kelton and Veronica Streets, Cardiff (Local Park)
- Cockle Creek, Boolaroo (Local Park)
- Edgeworth Park, Edgeworth (Local Park)
- Cameron Park Urban Release Area (sufficient local parks to service population)
- Johnson Park, West Wallsend (District Park)

### Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new local parks/ park nodes** on Council-owned land in West Wallsend, Glendale, Garden Suburb, Cardiff South, Hillsborough, Warners Bay, Speers Point, Edgeworth, Holmesville and Seahampton.
- **Land acquisitions**, if required, to improve functionality of existing parks or enable development of new parks
- Opportunities for **land rationalisation**, where applicable, to fund future park provision.

## Develop new playspaces to address underprovision

### Develop new playspaces identified in the Contributions Plans:

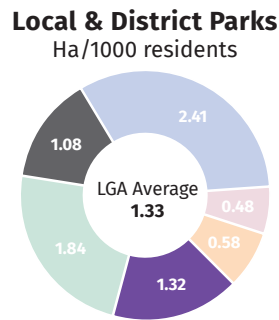
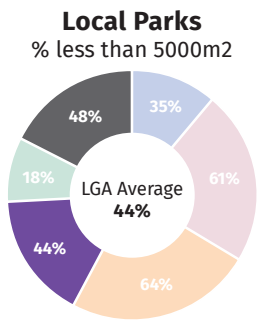
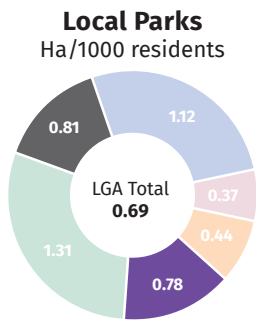
- Cockle Creek, Boolaroo (Local)
- Edgeworth Park, Edgeworth (Neighbourhood)
- Johnson Park, West Wallsend (Neighbourhood)
- McKendry Drive, Cameron Park (Neighbourhood)
- Harry Ford Park, Cardiff (Neighbourhood)
- Coal and Allied Land Development, Cameron Park (Local).

### Investigate:

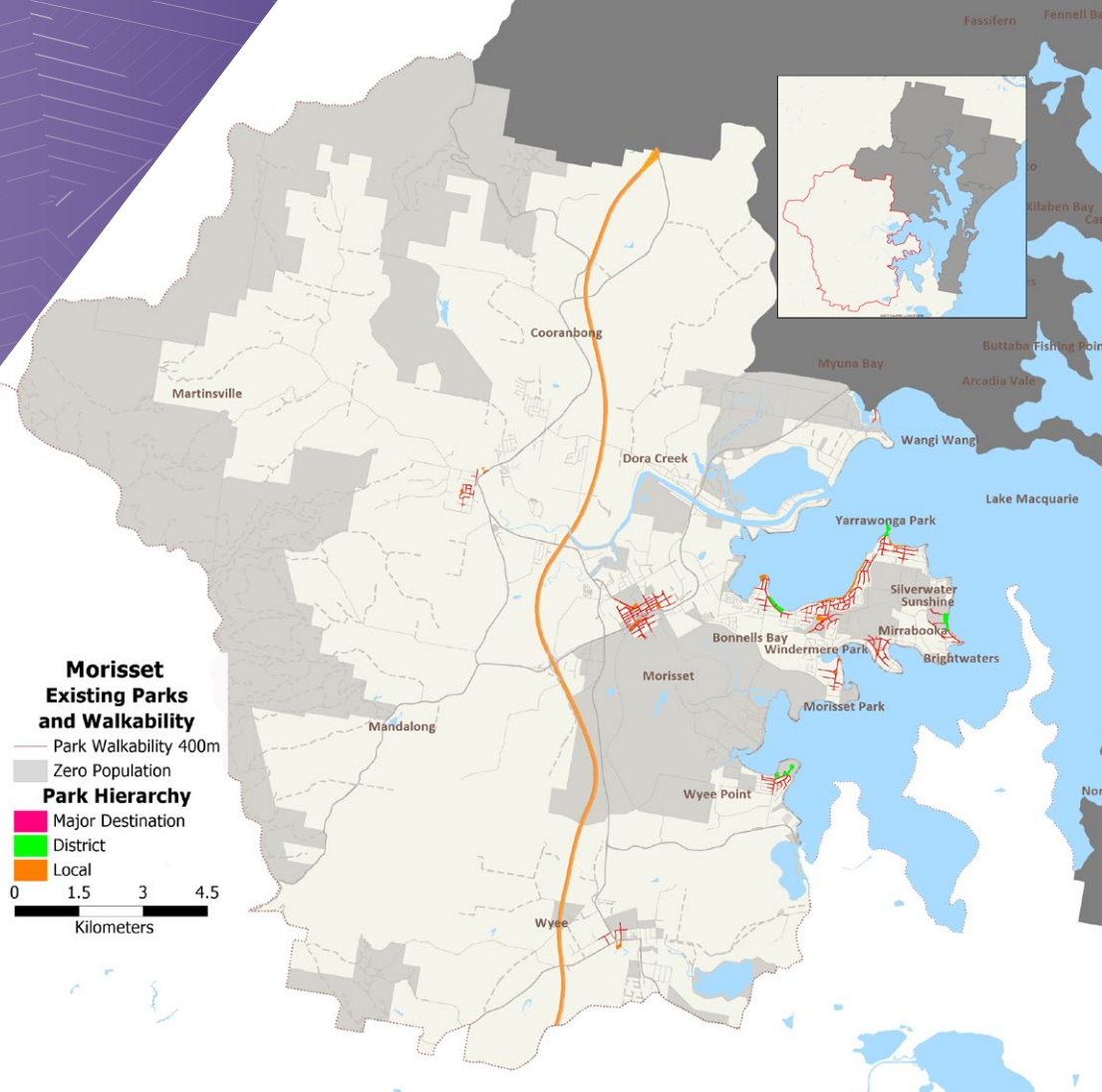
- Opportunities to develop **new playspaces** to service gap areas of Boolaroo, Speers Point South, Cardiff, Glendale, New Lambton Heights and Seahampton



## Population



BEL CHA GLE MOR TOR average



## Parks for Recreation

**16** Local Parks

**4** District Parks

**1.32** Ha/1000 - Total Parks

- Supply linked to established communities and foreshore areas
- Future growth of North Cooranbong will increase demand
- Provision and access gaps in Windemere Park, Morisset Park, Mirrabooka, Silverwater and Dora Creek
- 38% of residents have access to a park within 400m
- Average size of local parks is 1.16Ha
- 44% of local parks are below 0.5Ha
- Recent park and playspace upgrade to Bernie Goodwin Reserve, Morisset.



## Playspaces

**14** Playspaces

**1,691** 1 playspace per 1,691 people

**1** 1 District level playspace at recently upgraded Bernie Goodwin Park

**3** Playspaces over 15 years old

- Most located along lake frontage
- Generally newer level of playspace
- Gaps evident in Bonnells Bay, Mirrabooka and Windemere Park
- 1 new local playspace being investigated in Wyee.

# OUR PLAN FOR MORISSET

## Upgrade existing parks and playspaces

### PARKS

Improve district park provision by upgrading Shingle Splitters Point Park, Balcolyn to District level.

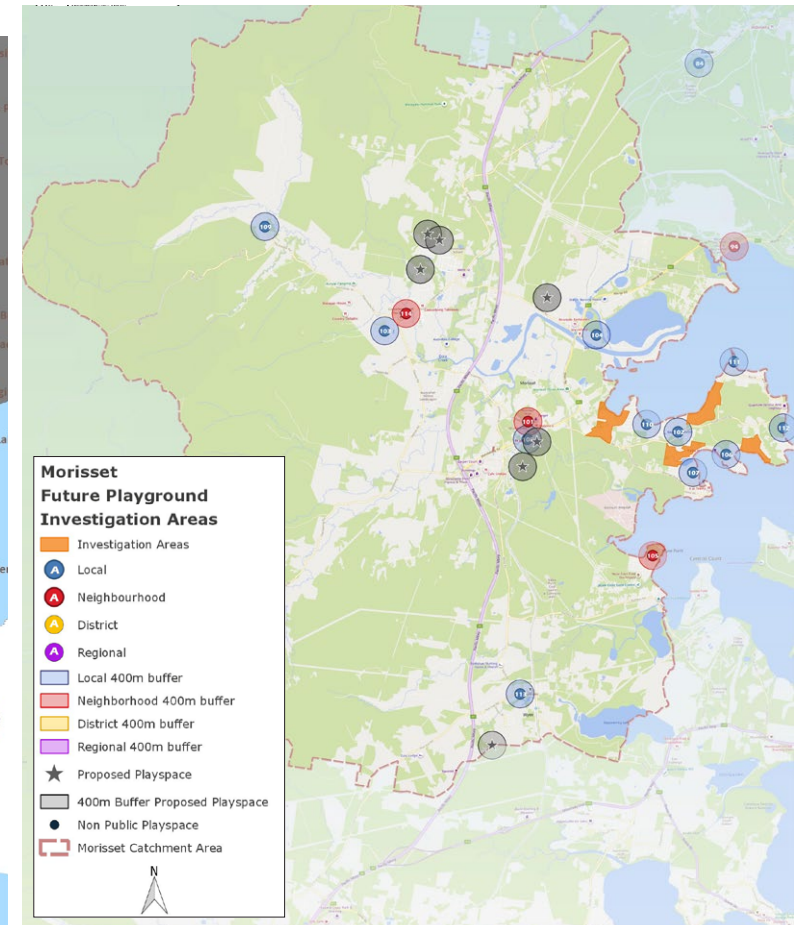
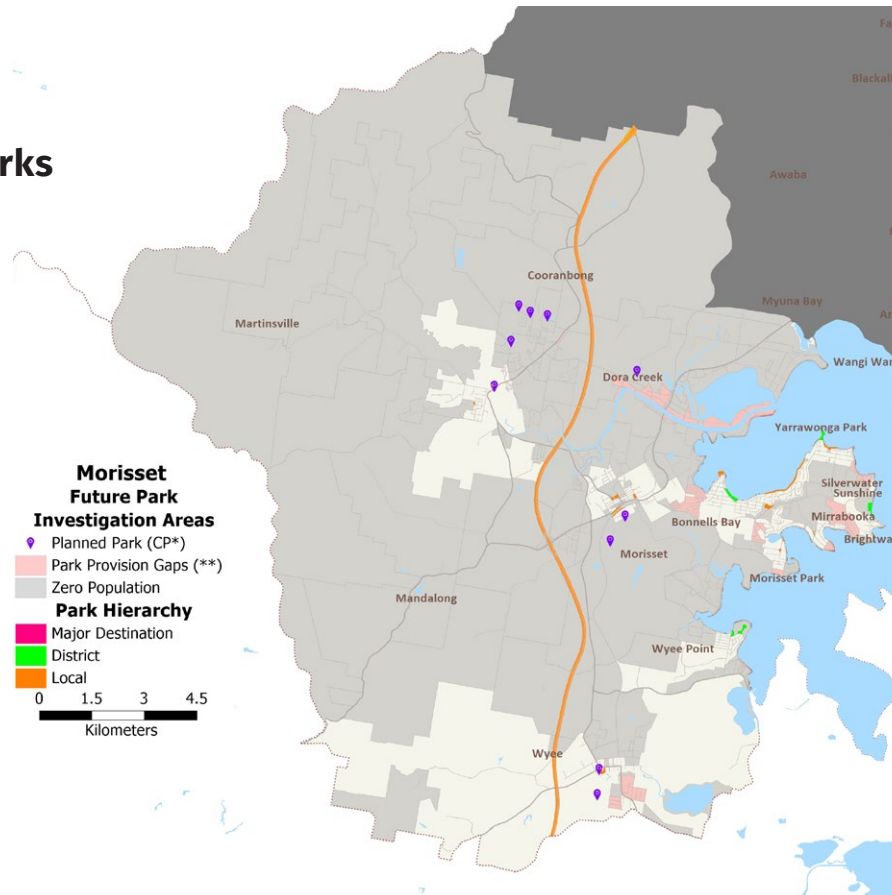
Upgrade local parks where required to ensure they meet local park functionality.

### Playspaces

Upgrade the following local playspaces to neighbourhood:

- Martinsville Sporting Complex (minor enhancements)
- Wyee Community Hall Reserve.

Upgrade Cooranbong Park playspace to district level.



## Develop new parks to address undersupply

**Develop new parks identified in Contributions Plans as population growth demands:**

- 95 Gradwells Road, Dora Creek (Local Park)
- Morisset (Local Parks if and when demand requires)
- 1499 Hue Rd, Wyee (District Park)
- North Cooranbong (Local and District Parks to service new population).

**Investigate:**

- Opportunities to develop **new local parks/ park nodes** Council-owned land in Wyee Point, Morisset, Cooranbong, Dora Creek
- **Land acquisitions**, if required, to improve functionality of existing parks or enable development of new parks.

## Develop new playspaces to address underprovision

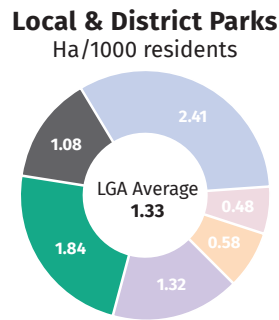
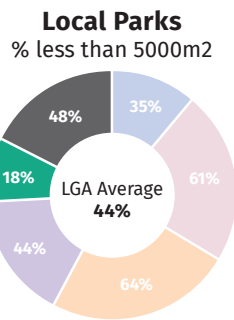
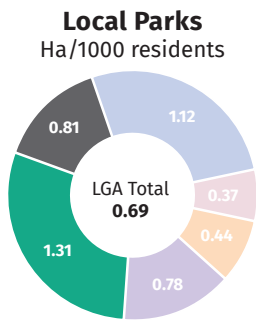
**Develop new playspaces identified in the Contributions Plans:**

- Gradwells Rd, Dora Creek (Local)
- Koopahtoo, Morisset (Local)
- South of Railway, Morisset (Local)
- Hue Road, Wyee (Neighbourhood)
- Saltro Development, Wyee (Local)
- North Cooranbong development (2 local, 1 neighbourhood).

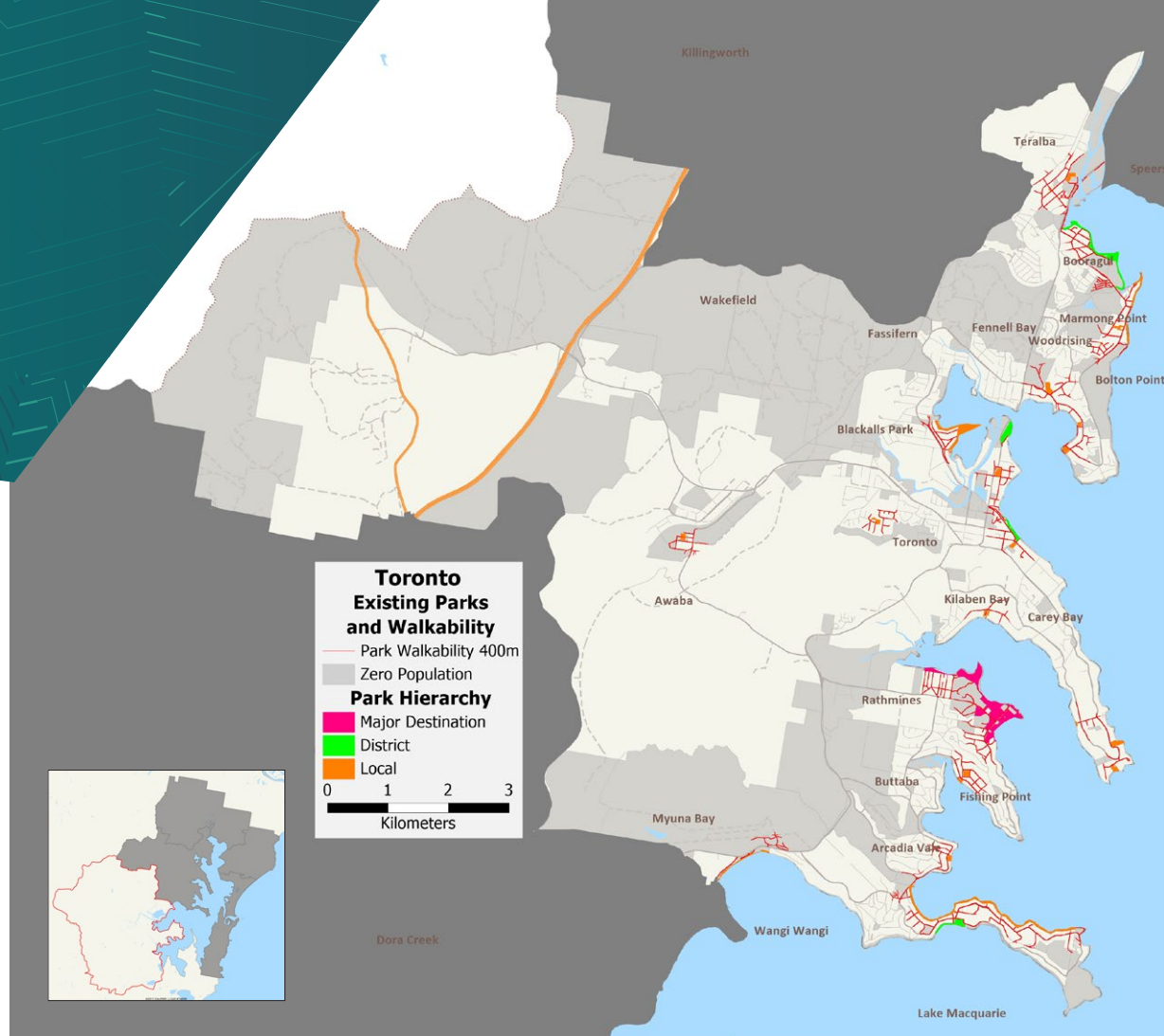
**Investigate:**

- Opportunities to develop **new playspaces** to service gap areas of Bonnells Bay, Mirrabooka and Windermere Park.

## Population



BEL CHA GLE MOR TOR average



## Parks for Recreation

**22** Local Parks

**4** District Parks

**1** Major Destination Park  
(Rathmines Park)

**2.72** Ha/1000 - Total Parks

- Good supply of parkland, particularly on foreshores
- Provision and access gaps in Wangi Wangi (Pearl Beach end), Arcadia Vale, Buttaba, Balmoral, Fishing Point, Carey Bay, Toronto, Fennell Bay, Woodrising, Booragul, Blackalls Park
- 44% of residents have access to a park within 400m
- Average size of local parks is 1.83Ha
- 18% of local parks are below 0.5Ha.



## Playspaces

**18** Playspaces

**1,711** 1 playspace per 1,711 people

**12** Local playspaces

**6** Neighbourhood playspaces

- No district playspaces
- 5 playspaces over 15 years old
- Gaps evident in Fennell Bay, Toronto, Coal Point, Buttaba, Arcadia Vale and Wangi Wangi
- New local playspace proposed at Alkington Rd Reserve, Fishing Point.

# OUR PLAN FOR TORONTO



## Upgrade existing parks and playspaces

### PARKS

Upgrade District Parks as needed to ensure they meet district park functionality.

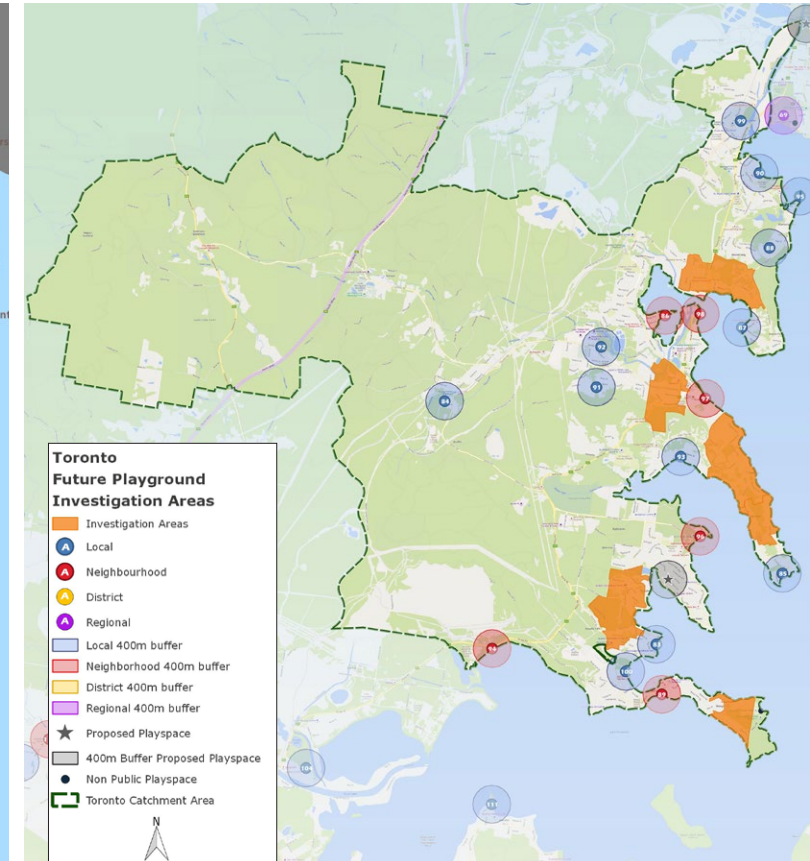
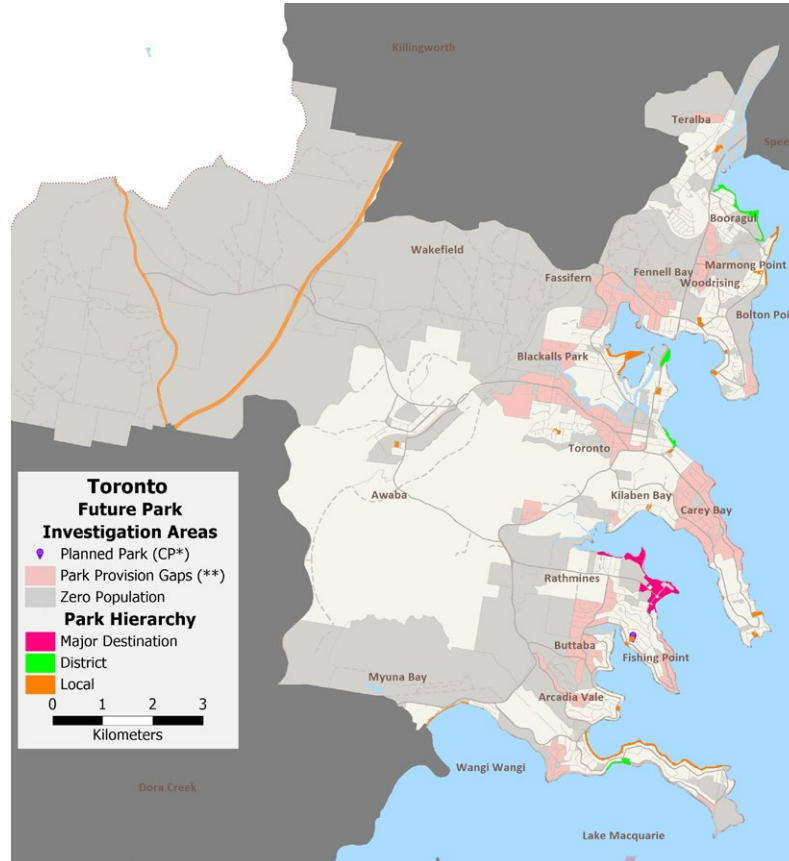
Upgrade local parks where required to ensure they meet local park functionality.

### Playspaces

Upgrade the Awaba (Dutchy) Oval playspace to neighbourhood level.

Complete the planned upgrades to Rathmines and Toronto Foreshore playspaces to District level.

Replace equipment at existing playspaces at end of life to ensure they meet their classified function.



## Develop new parks to address undersupply

### Develop new parks identified in the Contributions Plans as population growth demands:

- Hampton St Reserve, Carey Bay (District Park).

### Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new local parks/ park nodes** Council-owned land in Wangi Wangi, Buttaba, Fishing Point, Balmoral, Kilabon Bay, Blackalls Park, Toronto, Fassifern, Fennell Bay, Marmong Point, Booragul, Teralba, Bolton Point and Carey Bay.
- Investigate the potential development of a **District Park** in Buttaba and upgrade of Blackalls Park to district function.
- **Land acquisitions**, if required, to improve functionality of existing parks or enable development of new parks.



## Develop new playspaces to address underprovision

### Develop new playspaces identified in Contributions Plans:

- Alkrington Reserve, Fishing Point (Local).

### Investigate:

- Opportunities to develop **new playspaces** to service gap areas of Fennell Bay, Toronto, Coal Point, Buttaba, Arcadia Vale and Wangi Wangi and Carey Bay.



## 13. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The implementation of the Lake Macquarie Parks and Playspace Strategy will be undertaken on a priority basis over a 15-year timeframe within available resource allocations. A review of implementation will be undertaken annually with progress measured by the percentage of actions commenced or completed.

The Prioritisation Framework will help inform capital works programs and contributions planning.

Financial resourcing will be a critical factor in resourcing the Strategy implementation, including, but not limited to, general revenue, developer contributions and grants.

The Parks Rationalisation Guide recognises the opportunity for divestment and rationalisation of parks as a plausible avenue for revenue generation to support implementation. The reinvestment strategy's core principle is that savings within a particular catchment are reinvested to service park need within that same catchment. Reinvestment strategies require careful consideration of a range of factors, including community benefit, and it is important that transparency of the process is maintained.

Ongoing partnerships and collaboration with a range of internal and external stakeholders will be essential to ensuring implementation of the Strategy.



[lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au)  
[otiumplanning.com.au](http://otiumplanning.com.au)