The NEW City of CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN

Canterbury Open Space Strategy

Draft for Exhibition

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy has been guided by the following Project Control Group members:

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The Strategy Report has been written by Suter Planners (Suzanne Suter and Carina Sidwell). Spackman Mossop + Michaels has identified opportunities relating to open space connections and Salt Pan Creek and IPTS has contributed through the GIS based mapping.

The Strategy Report reflects consultations with a range of sport, community and environmental groups including former City of Canterbury Advisory Committees relating to 'Recreation' and 'Environment and Sustainability'. Input from the broader community is also acknowledged.

FRONT COVER: Stafford Walk along the Cooks River Trail, just off Illawarra Road in Earlwood
Photograph by Carina Sidwell, Suter Planners

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ipts
Integrated Planning & Technical Services

SPACKMAN MOSSOP AND MICHAELS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About the Strategy

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy will assist the City of Canterbury-Bankstown to make informed decisions regarding open space in the former City of Canterbury area. The Strategy relates to all types of open space and provides strategic and specific directions.

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy has been designed to be consistent with the former City of Bankstown Open Space Strategic Plan (2014) and primarily includes:

1. A broad planning framework (with a vision, principles, goals and objectives).
2. Strategies relating to six strategic Themes:
   - Open Space Provision
   - Asset Management
   - Riverfront and Recreation Destinations
   - Open Space Connections and Corridors
   - Natural Areas and Heritage
   - Sports Complexes and Facilities
3. Potential actions and project opportunities in Open Space Planning Districts (four Districts identified as part of the open space planning).

The Open Space Strategy, which is based on a comprehensive analysis of demand and supply, responds to community needs and identifies opportunities for open space and connected facilities.

Due to future population growth and existing gaps in open space provision, a number of areas will have a significant gap in open space provision (as a whole the former City of Canterbury will only have 1.42 ha of open space for every 1,000 people by 2036 if there is no land acquisition). Responding to this gap is a key focus of the Strategy.

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy will guide Council in its future allocation of resources to open space provision and improvements as resources become available and in accordance with other Council priorities.

1. **Broad Planning Framework**
   Vision, principles, goals and objectives

2. **Six Strategic Themes**
   Provision, Management, Destinations, Connections and Corridors, Natural Areas and Heritage, Sports Facilities

3. **Four Open Space Planning Districts**
   Potential actions and project opportunities

The Vision and Principles

The vision for the former City of Canterbury is to achieve:

Diverse open spaces across suburbs that contribute to quality lifestyles and environments.

Eleven key principles have been identified that relate to:

1. Ensuring an appropriate spread of quality open space.
2. Adopting a hierarchy approach to development and management.
3. Achieving community, cultural, environmental and economic benefits.
4. Proactively responding to open space gaps.
5. Achieving usable open space corridors and connections.
6. Supporting and responding to urban growth.
7. Protecting and enhancing natural areas and heritage features.
8. Achieving 'walkable' streets and areas.
9. Managing the built form in open spaces.
10. Enabling public access to open space.
11. Adopting a planned approach to open space.

Theme Goals

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy has six overriding Themes with goals, objectives and strategies developed for each Theme. The following Theme Goals indicate the broad directions in the Open Space Strategy.

Open Space Provision	To adopt a proactive and targeted approach to addressing open space gaps and a conservative approach to land divestment.
Open Space Connections and Corridors	To achieve a network of corridors, linear parks and streetscapes that increase 'walkability' and connect people to destinations.
Asset Management	To enhance the quality and function of open space and related assets through a hierarchy and planned approach.
Natural Areas and Heritage	To protect and manage nature, heritage and the environment including through community involvement.
Riverfront and Recreation Destinations	To provide a spread of accessible quality open spaces and recreation facilities through significant and neighbourhood destinations.
Sports Complexes and Facilities	To improve the quality and function of sports complexes and facilities including through partnerships with sports.

The Strategies

The following chart lists the topics addressed through the strategies for each Theme. The actual strategies should be read in full. The strategies do not commit Council or any other organisation to achieving a particular response or action. The strategies are provided as a guide for ongoing consideration and assessment.

A priority rating has been allocated to each strategy as follows:

Priority	Indicative Timing
High	Generally commence within 5 years
Medium	Could commence in 5-10 years
Lower	May not commence until after 10 years
Ongoing	Ongoing action to continue for life span

Open Space Strategy Topics

Open Space Provision	Asset Management	Riverfront and Recreation Destinations	Open Space Connections and Corridors	Natural Areas and Heritage	Sports Complexes and Facilities
- Local Open Space in Gap Areas - Targeted Land Acquisition - Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor - Community Use of Schools - Land Divestment	- Hierarchy and Service Standard Approach - Buildings and Infrastructure - Play Space Upgrade - Unstructured Recreation Infrastructure - Trees as an Asset - Sustainable Management Practices - Master Planning - Managing Leased Facilities	- Enhanced Riverfronts - Major Recreation Park Destinations - Neighbourhood Recreation Destinations - Salt Pan Creek - Open Space in Urban Centres and Developments - Event Opportunities	- Linear Trail Opportunities - Cycleways - Streetscape Connections - Drainage Line Opportunities - Natural Trails - Vegetation Corridors - Wayfinding	- Natural Area Protection and Management - Riparian Corridors and Waterways - Natural Landscapes - Heritage and Nature - Nature Based Community Projects	- Quality Sports Hubs and Complexes - Sports Facilities Strategic Plan - Outdoor Courts - Field Surfaces - Sports Facility Reviews

Main Priorities

The main priorities in the Open Space Strategy are summarised below. Specific opportunities and priorities for Districts are provided in the Strategy.

1. Address the open space gaps in provision by upgrading existing parks and acquiring land for open space (through a proactive approach to land acquisition).
2. Plan for adequate open space and plazas in the growth and high density areas particularly along the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.
3. Improve the quality of regional/ city wide and district recreation parks and riverfronts (particularly toilets, play spaces, picnic settings and pathways).
4. Provide a spread of accessible neighbourhood recreation destinations, particularly in areas that are lacking open space.
5. Improve trail networks particularly through improved pathways and enhanced streetscapes.
6. Protect and strengthen natural environments, particularly linked to Cooks River, Wolli Creek and Salt Pan Creek as well as tree canopy.
7. Improve the quality of sportsgrounds and achieve some quality sports hubs that benefit communities (particularly building upgrades and surface improvements).

Implementation

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy does not commit Council or any other organisation to fund recommendations in the Strategy. The Strategy is provided as a guide that will be implemented as resources become available and in accordance with other priorities.

However, there is likely to be an ongoing commitment of resources through Council and the use of Section 94 Contributions funds should be considered where appropriate. In addition, grant funding and partnerships with sport and community groups, schools, adjoining Councils and other levels of government will be required.

Overall, there will need to be a coordinated and targeted approach to implementing the Canterbury Open Space Strategy over the next 10 years and beyond.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Strategy

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy has been developed to guide the future provision, development and management of open space across the former City of Canterbury. The Strategy relates to all types of open space including parks, linear connections, sportsgrounds, natural areas, community spaces and streetscapes.

The Open Space Strategy provides broad directions as well as specific opportunities based on an analysis of demand, supply, gaps and opportunities. It considers the diverse character of the area, the current and future needs of communities, the provision and condition of open spaces and the potential to address needs and issues.

In 2014, the former City of Bankstown developed a similar strategy called the Open Space Strategic Plan. The Canterbury Open Space Strategy considers and reflects the approach and directions in the Bankstown Plan to ensure consistency with Bankstown planning.

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy will assist Council to make informed decisions regarding open space in the former City of Canterbury over the next 10 years and beyond. This includes providing recommendations that will assist future Section 94 Contributions planning and land acquisitions.

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy will enable Council to appropriately allocate resources to projects and actions as resources become available and in accordance with other priorities.

Open space has the potential to significantly contribute to people's lifestyle and the quality of the environment, particularly in urban environments with higher densities like the former City of Canterbury.

In particular, open spaces provide:

- Places for people to gather, socialise, play and exercise
- Visual amenity particularly through trees and landscapes
- Opportunities for sports participation and events
- Natural settings to support habitat and enable people to connect to nature
- The potential for safe people movement (walking, cycling, reduced vehicles)
- Opportunities to manage stormwater and urban impacts
- 'Green lungs' for the city (reducing the impact of pollution and noise)

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy identifies opportunities for improving and where required increasing open space, with the ultimate purpose being to enhance people's quality of life, protect and maintain the natural environment and increase the liveability of areas within and around the former City of Canterbury.

The Study Approach

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy has involved a strategic and detailed analysis of open space needs and provision, taking the characteristics of the area, the open spaces and the people into consideration.

The study is based on an analysis of demand and supply that considers whether the provision and standard of open space is adequate to meet the existing and future needs of communities. The analysis has highlighted gaps in provision and identified opportunities to improve various open spaces.

As shown in Figure 1 the study has considered past planning and drawn on mapping and listings provided through Council. The findings of an Open Space Needs Review undertaken in July 2015 have been particularly relevant to the Open Space Strategy. The study has also involved demographic analysis, site visits and in person and on-line consultations with the community.

Figure 1: The Study Approach

Report Focus

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy Report incorporates background information, strategic directions and specific opportunities for future consideration. The main components of the report are as follows:

- Background information on the area and population (The Study Area)
- A strategic framework with a vision, principles, goals and hierarchy guide
- Strategic directions for key themes
- Opportunities in District areas
- Implementation considerations

Figure 2: The Report Focus

THE STUDY AREA

About the Study Area

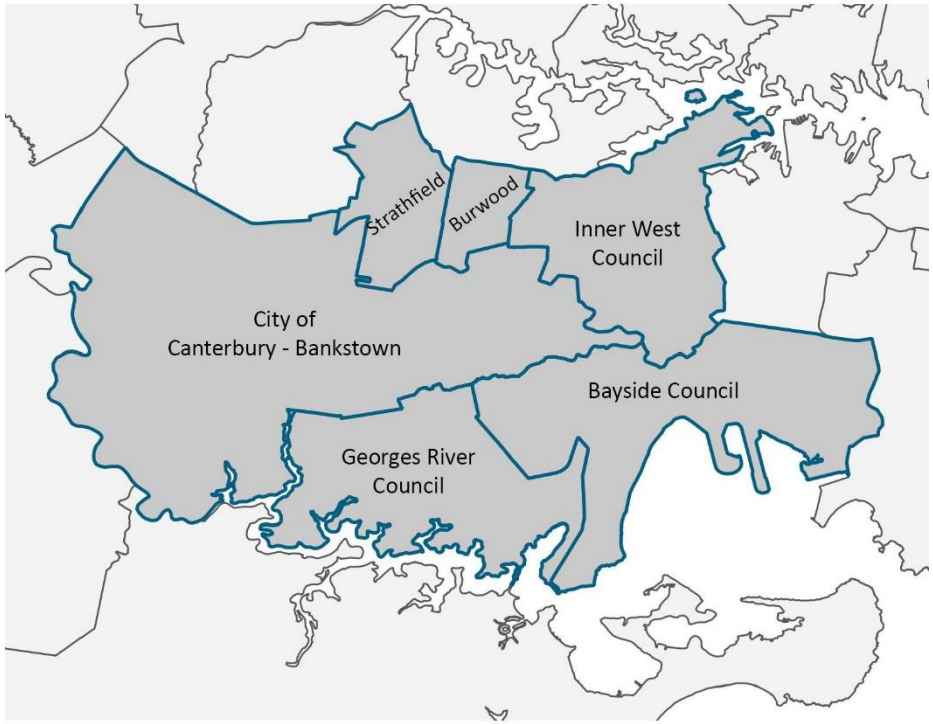
The former City of Canterbury is in the south-west part of Sydney around 17kms from the Sydney CBD. The area is 34 km^2 in size with a relatively dense population of 45.21 persons per hectare (based on a 2015 ERP of 151,746, profile.id). This compares with 26.54 persons per hectare in the former City of Bankstown (2015).

In May 2016, the former City of Canterbury was amalgamated with the former City of Bankstown to create a significant local government area with a current estimated population of 350,983 across 110 km^2. This Open Space Strategy only relates to the former City of Canterbury area.

The study area is adjoined by a number of Council areas including:

- The former City of Bankstown to the west (now part of City of Canterbury-Bankstown)
- Georges River Council to the south (previously Hurstville City and Kogarah City councils)
- Bayside Council to the south (previously City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City councils)
- Inner West Council to the north and east (previously Ashfield, Leichhardt Municipal and Marrickville councils)
- Strathfield and Burwood City councils to the north (merger pending)

Major transport connections exist through the Bankstown Railway Line and M5 motorway and a number of significant roads dissect the area including Canterbury Road, King Georges Road and Beamish Street.



As part of the Canterbury Open Space Strategy, four Open Space Planning Districts have been identified. The Open Space Planning Districts connect suburbs with similar characteristics and consider the implications of major road barriers.

The suburbs in each District are listed below. The Planning Districts are shown on the map on the following page.

Canterbury Open Space Planning Districts (2016)

Western District	Northern District	Southern District	Eastern District
Narwee Punchbowl Riverwood Roselands (part) Wiley Park (part)	Belfield Belmore (large part) Campsie (large part) Lakemba Wiley Park (part)	Belmore (part) Beverley Hills Campsie (part) Clemton Park Roselands (part) Kingsgrove	Ashbury Canterbury Croydon Park Earlwood Hurlstone Park

Former City of Canterbury Open Space Planning Districts
(defined as part of Open Space Strategy, 2016)

The former City of Canterbury has diverse geographic, social and cultural characteristics. In particular:

- The area has a mix of high, medium and lower density housing as well as light industry. Currently the higher density areas are around the suburbs of Canterbury, Campsie and Riverwood.
- The proposed Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor and other developments will increase the density of a number of areas including Canterbury, Campsie, Belmore, Lakemba, Wiley Park, Roselands and Riverwood.
- The area is geographically diverse with natural and treed settings in the Eastern District, residential and commercial settings in the Northern District and residential and light industry in the Southern and Western districts.
- Cooks River and Wolli Creek define the character of the Eastern District with a considerable amount of connecting open space and unique developed and natural characteristics.
- The Eastern District is a higher socio-economic area while various other suburbs support lower income and new immigrant communities including Campsie, Lakemba, Wiley Park, Punchbowl, Roselands and Riverwood.
- The former City of Canterbury is culturally diverse with 48.1% of the population born overseas in 2011 (mainly from non English speaking countries) and strong ancestry connections to China, Lebanon, Greece, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, South Korea, Italy and Indonesia. The Northern and Western districts are particularly diverse culturally.

Population Character

In 2015 the former City of Canterbury had an estimated population of 151,746, which compares with 137,453 on Census night in 2011 (an increase of 10.4%). By 2036, the population is projected to increase to around 239,750 (+74.42% since 2011, Department of Planning and Environment 2016 Population Projections).

The population character is diverse and highly multi-cultural, particularly in the Western and Northern districts. The area is home to diverse age, cultural and socio-economic groups as highlighted in the chart on this page and in Figures 3 and 4 on the following page.

Population Character Considerations

Characteristics	Considerations
Age Profile	The age profile is very similar to Greater Sydney with a mix of age groups although there are slightly larger proportions of young children and young adults (compared to Greater Sydney).
Family Type	The area has a slightly larger proportion of households with children and one parent families and the proportion of couples without children is lower (compared to Greater Sydney).
Cultural Diversity	The area has high cultural diversity with particularly large numbers of people born in China, Lebanon, Greece, Vietnam and Bangladesh. Roman Catholic, Islamic and Greek Orthodox religions are strong as a result. 11,573 people (8.4% of the population) moved to the area from another country between 2006 and 2011.
Income and Employment	Income levels are lower in the area with 25.3% of households earning less than $600 per week compared to 18.3% for Greater Sydney. In addition, unemployment is higher at 8.2% and full-time employment is lower at 57.6% of the labour force (with Greater Sydney being 5.7% and 62.0% respectively).
Housing Density	The area has a larger proportion of medium density housing (33.9% compared to 19.7% for Greater Sydney) which often means small or no backyards. Whilst high density was only 13.8% compared to 20.7% for Greater Sydney, this will increase in the future.
Motor Vehicle Ownership	Motor vehicle ownership is greater in the former City of Canterbury with 14.9% of households having no motor vehicle and 40.1% having only one (compared to 11.8% and 36.8% respectively for Greater Sydney).

Figure 3: Former City of Canterbury Age Profile Compared to Greater Sydney, ABS Census 2011, Source: .idprofile

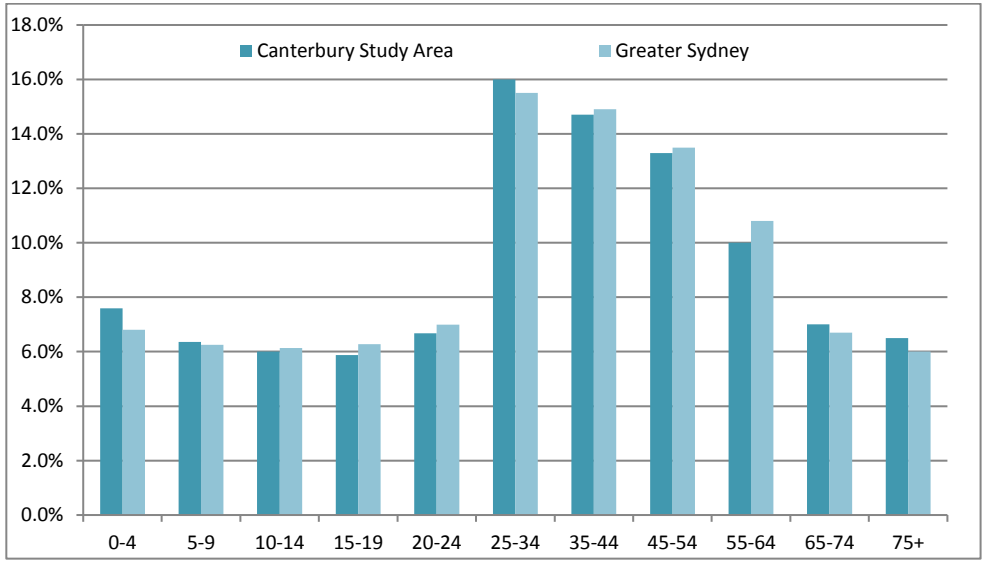
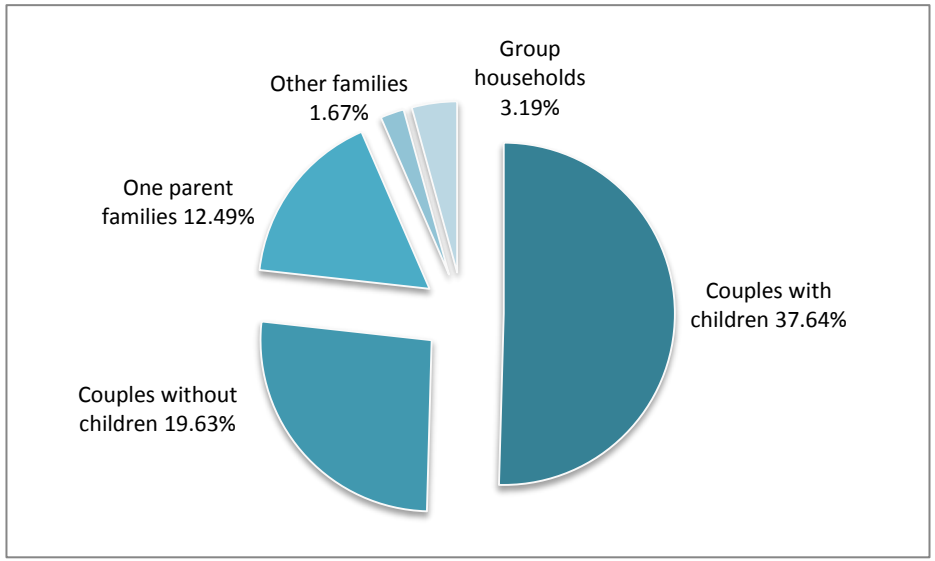


Figure 4: Former City of Canterbury Household Family Character, ABS Census 2011, Source .idprofile



District Characteristics

The main characteristics of the Open Space Planning Districts based on the 2011 ABS Census are summarised below. The implications of the population characteristics are considered under Community Needs for Open Space.

Open Space Planning District Characteristics
(based on ABS 2011 Census)

Western District	Northern District	Southern District	Eastern District
▪ Multi-cultural particularly in Riverwood, Punchbowl and Wiley Park. ▪ Larger proportions of families with children in Riverwood. ▪ Some lower income areas (Riverwood and Narwee). ▪ Riverwood is an existing and future higher density area.	▪ Highly multi-cultural particularly around Campsie and Lakemba. ▪ Lakemba and Belfield have larger proportions of families with children despite the medium and density character of these areas. ▪ A number of lower income areas (Campsie, Lakemba and Belmore). ▪ Campsie is an existing and future higher density area and Lakemba is medium density with low private open space.	▪ A mix of cultural groups and a greater proportion of Australian born compared to the Northern and Western Districts. ▪ Larger proportions of families with children (Kingsgrove and Roselands). ▪ Areas with an older population (higher median age in Beverley Hills). ▪ Generally average to lower income levels. ▪ Medium and lower density area.	▪ Less multi-cultural than the other Districts. ▪ A mix of age groups and family types (including larger proportions of families with children in Ashbury and Eastwood). ▪ Generally a higher income area. ▪ The suburb of Canterbury is higher density.

Community Needs for Open Space

Needs Based on Demographics

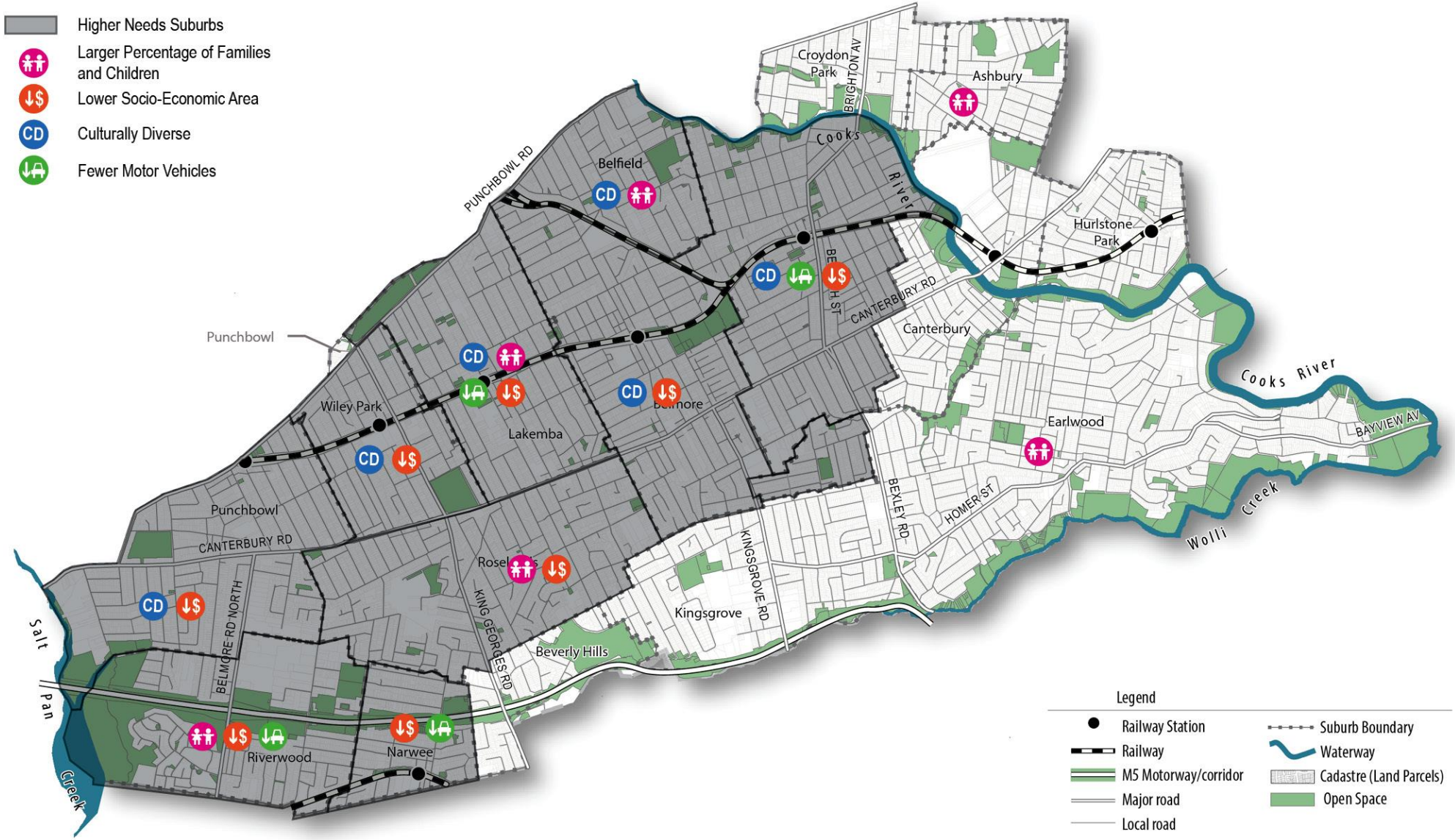
The main 'community need' implications of the demographic characteristics are considered below.

Characteristic	Potential Implications
Age Profile	There is likely to be demand for a range of open space types and recreation facilities to cater for the different age groups including recreation and natural areas, sporting facilities and good streetscapes. The larger proportions of children justifies a focus on providing play, sport and activity opportunities. The larger proportion of young people could increase the demand for spaces and trails that support an active community (outdoor courts, ovals, exercise equipment, paths for walking and cycling).
Family Type	The larger proportion of families with children reinforces potential strong demand for family oriented spaces and sporting facilities.
Cultural Diversity	The highly multi-cultural character of the community will create demand for spaces that support cultural customs and interests. For example, places for larger groups to gather, tennis and outdoor court use, large grassed areas for casual games of sport, spaces for tai chi and exercise, and participation in sports that are connected to people's past culture (soccer or indoor sports vs Australian Rules Football or Rugby sports).
Income and Employment	The lower socio-economic character of a number of suburbs in the Northern and Western districts (Campsie, Belfield, Lakemba, Wiley Park, Riverwood, Narwee) highlights the importance of open space as an affordable recreation opportunity.
Housing Density	The need for open space in the medium and higher density areas is potentially greater due to the lack of backyard space. Play spaces and areas for family and group activity as well as walking and bike riding opportunities will be required.
Motor Vehicle Ownership	Where people do not have access to a motor vehicle they are more likely to rely on local open spaces or spaces and facilities near transport nodes for recreation.

In addition, the former City of Canterbury includes commercial and light industry areas (particularly in the Southern and Western districts), with workers who are likely to benefit from open spaces that support lunchtime and other recreation activities such as a place to sit, eat, walk, jog, play sport.

Areas where there could be greater demand for open space due to the population characteristics were identified in the Open Space Needs Review (2015) and are mapped on the following page.

Suburbs with a Higher Need for Open Space



Needs Based on Community Consultations

Consultations with the community have confirmed and expanded on the understanding of community needs. The consultations involved planning sessions with sport and community groups, on-line feedback and surveys (with 606 responses to a 2012 survey and 198 responses to the 2016 Open Space Strategy Survey).

The main findings are listed below.

- Open spaces are highly valued by the community, and natural areas and riverfront parks are particularly important.
- There is a desire to protect, maintain and further enhance natural areas, particularly along Wolli Creek and the Cooks River.
- There is strong opposition to the potential loss of green space, particularly in the East area. In addition, there is a desire for additional open space in the high density and growth areas.
- There is demand for additional playing fields particularly for soccer, rugby league and Touch Football. In addition, there is demand for a number of sports facilities to be improved in quality.
- Open space connections and linear trails are well used and highly valued for walking and bike riding.
- Local parks and playgrounds are required to support children's play and local community activities (a place to play, relax, read a book, walk the dog).
- Streetscapes are important for activity (walking, bike riding), the safety of residents and the amenity of streets.
- The level of satisfaction for open spaces, facilities and landscapes is not overly high with particular concerns relating to:
  - The condition of the Cooks River
  - The maintenance of public toilets
  - Environmental education
  - The provision of bike paths
  - Services and facilities for youth

Open Space Provision and Gaps

Total Open Space Provision

In 2015, the former City of Canterbury had 341.3 hectares of open space of which 220.6 ha (64.6%) is Council owned and 120.7 ha (35.4%) is Crown or non Council land. The open space represents 2.25 hectares per 1,000 people based on a 2015 ABS estimated population of 151,746. This is a slightly low provision compared to open space benchmarks.

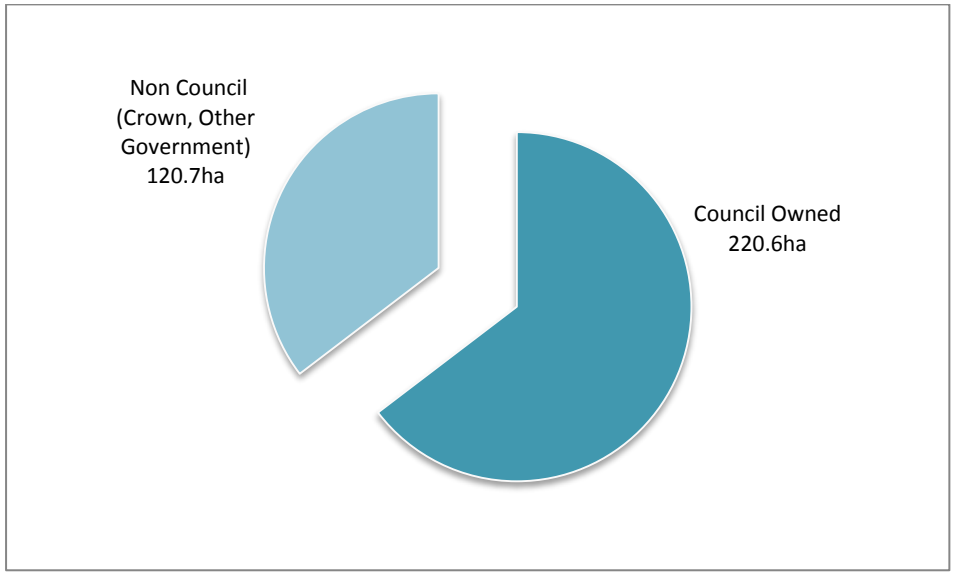
Open space benchmarks used in the industry across Australia range from 2.83 ha/ 1,000 (used in the past in NSW based on a UK benchmark for active open space) up to 5 ha/ 1,000. Planning for higher density areas has found that ideally there will be at least 1.0 ha/ 1,000 people for recreation open space, with sporting open space and natural areas generally provided outside the area.

If additional open space is not acquired, the total open space provision in the former City of Canterbury will be 1.42 ha/ 1,000 by 2036 (based on a projected population of 239,750, Department of Planning and Environment Population Projections, 2016). This will be a very low provision.

The low current and future provision suggests there will be a need for some land acquisition and the provision of high quality parks and open spaces across the former City of Canterbury to compensate for the low provision.

In comparison, the former City of Bankstown has 799.88 ha of open space which represents 3.94 hectares per 1,000 people (based on a 2015 estimated population of 203,202). Whilst 352.28 hectares is Natural Area, the former City of Bankstown has more than three times the amount of sporting open space than the former City of Canterbury yet the population size is only one third more.

Figure 5: Former City of Canterbury
Open Space Land Ownership (hectares as at 2015)



Open Space Provision in Planning Districts

A large proportion of open space is located in the Eastern District and the southern part of the Western District. The Northern and Southern districts are lacking open space as shown in the chart below and Figure 6. This is particularly an issue for the Northern District as it is part of the proposed Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor and a projected population growth area.

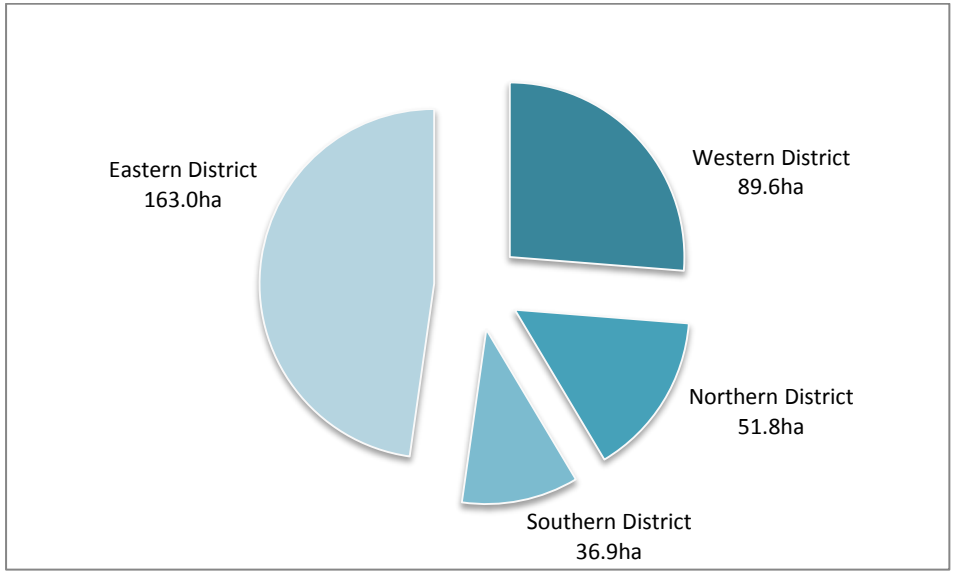
The Southern District figures include the Canterbury Golf Course, which is not available for broad recreation use. As such, the lack of accessible open space provision in the Southern District is more critical than it seems.

Former City of Canterbury Open Space Provision in Planning Districts (as at 2015)

District	Indicative Population Size*	Open Space Provision	Hectares / 1,000 People	% of Total Open Space
Western District	33,700	89.6ha	2.66ha/1,000	26.2%
Northern District	55,500	51.8ha	0.94ha/1,000	15.2%
Southern District	24,200	36.9ha	1.52ha/1,000	10.8%
Eastern District	38,400	163.0ha	4.24ha/1,000	47.8%
TOTALS	151,800	341.3ha	2.25ha/1,000	100.0%

* Population sizes are based on suburb demographics as at 2015 with a total population of 151,765. However the figures are estimated due to the overlap of some suburbs

Figure 6: Former City of Canterbury Open Space Provision in Open Space Planning Districts (totalling 341.3ha)



Open Space Gaps in Suburbs

A listing of open space in each suburb of the former City of Canterbury is provided in the chart below.

Provision in Former City of Canterbury Suburbs in 2011
Source: Open Space Needs Review 2015

Suburb	Provision (hectares)	Population 2011	Hectares/ 1,000
Ashbury	12.4 ha	3,305	3.75 ha/1,000
Belfield	7.4 ha	4,924	1.50 ha/1,000
Belmore	11.9 ha	13,270	0.90 ha/1,000
Beverly Hills (includes Golf Course)	19.8 ha	1,709	11.59 ha/1,000
Campsie-Clemton Park	13.3 ha	23,815	0.56 ha/1,000
Canterbury	22.7 ha	6,472	3.51 ha/1,000
Croydon Park	12.9 ha	4,505	2.86 ha/1,000
Earlwood	103.3 ha	17,704	5.83 ha/1,000
Hurlstone Park	11.4 ha	4,337	2.63 ha/1,000
Kingsgrove	12.6 ha	6,195	2.03 ha/1,000
Lakemba	12.9 ha	16,374	0.79 ha/1,000
Narwee	6.7 ha	3,393	1.97 ha/1,000
Punchbowl	17.4 ha	11,717	1.49 ha/1,000
Riverwood	60.3 ha	5,323	11.33 ha/1,000
Roselands	5.2 ha	11,627	0.45 ha/1,000
Wiley Park	9.2 ha	10,039	0.92 ha/1,000
TOTAL	341.3 ha	144,709	2.36 ha/1,000

* Based on ABS 2011 Census

A map showing the open space gaps based on 'walkable catchments' is provided on the following page. The map is based on:

- Regional and District open spaces having a walkability catchment of 400m
- Neighbourhood and Local open spaces having a walkability catchment of 300m (recognising that people may not walk as far for smaller parcels of open space)

The suburb data and the map highlight that the greatest gaps are in the following suburbs:

- Campsie/Clemton Park
- Lakemba
- Roselands
- Wiley Park
- Belmore

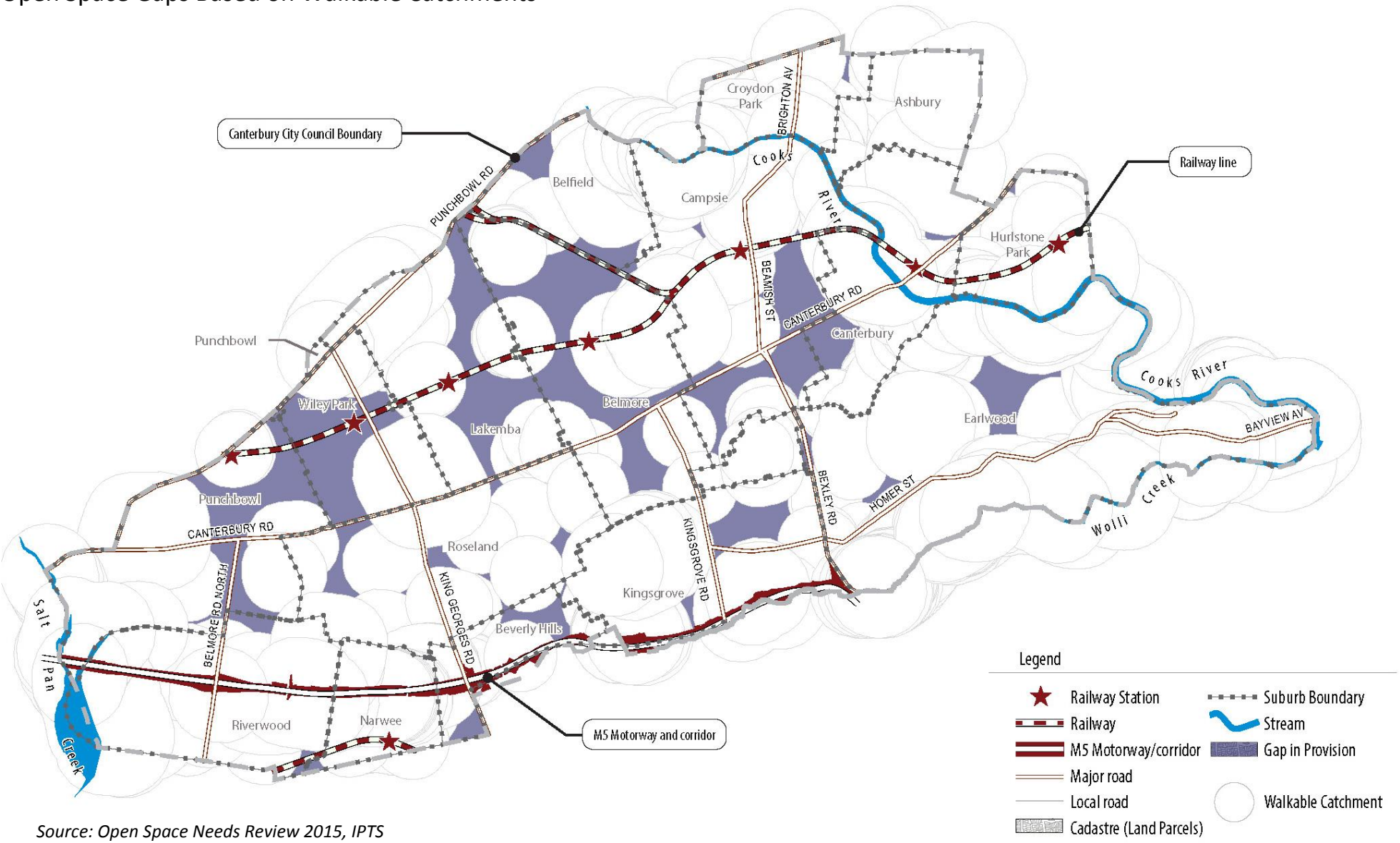
Based on NSW Department of Planning and Environment projections, significant population growth is projected to occur in the following suburbs:

- Belmore (close to 70% increase)
- Campsie/ Clemton Park (90% increase, almost doubling the 2011 population)
- Canterbury (190% growth, more than 3 times the 2011 population)
- Lakemba (over 30%)
- Punchbowl (close to 40% increase)
- Riverwood (over 100% increase)
- Roselands (close to 30% increase)

The provision of open space for the population size will reduce in these areas accordingly. This will be an issue for those suburbs that already have a low provision of open space including:

- Campsie
- Lakemba
- Roselands

Open Space Gaps Based on Walkable Catchments



Source: Open Space Needs Review 2015, IPTS

Open Space Types

A breakdown of the types of open space in the former City of Canterbury is shown in the chart below. The open space type categories are based on the NSW Local Government Act 1993. Consideration of the amount of provision per 1,000 people is provided for 2015 and 2036.

Former City of Canterbury Main Types of Open Space (as at 2015)

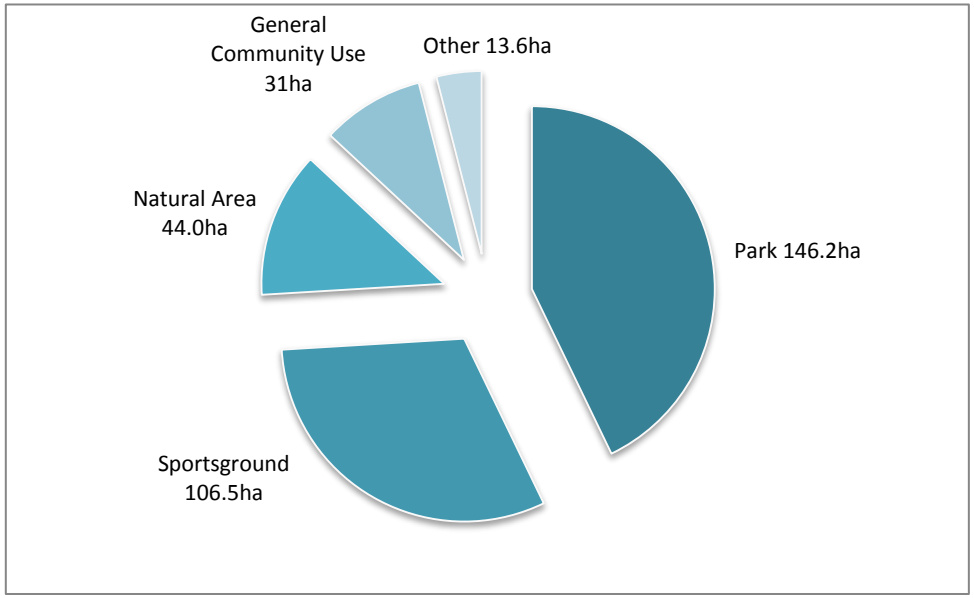
Main Open Space Types	Open Space Provision	Hectares Per 1,000 2015 Population 151,765	Hectares Per 1,000 2036 Population 239,750
Park	146.2 ha	0.96 ha/ 1,000	0.61 ha/ 1,000
Sportsground	106.5 ha	0.70 ha / 1,000	0.45 ha / 1,000
Natural Areas	44.0 ha	0.29 ha / 1,000	0.18 ha / 1,000
General Community Use	31.0 ha	0.20 ha / 1,000	0.13 ha / 1,000
Other	13.6 ha	0.09 ha / 1,000	0.06 ha / 1,000
Total	341.3 ha	2.25 ha / 1,000	1.42 ha / 1,000

Industry benchmarks suggest that ideally there would be 1ha – 1.5 ha / 1,000 people for parks and recreation areas and 1ha – 1.5 ha / 1,000 people for sportsgrounds (i.e. 2-3 ha in total) as well as natural areas.

The data shows that whilst the provision of parks and sportsgrounds in 2015 is almost adequate (close to 1ha / 1,000 each), there will be a substantial gap in provision in the future, particularly for sporting open space.

The data also shows that the former City of Canterbury does not have an overly high provision of natural area. This highlights the need to retain, regenerate and create natural areas.

Figure 7: Former City of Canterbury Main Types of Open Space (as at 2015)



The categories 'Park' and 'Other' have been further categorised as outlined in the chart below. The data highlights the focus on recreation through parks.

Secondary Categorisation of 'Park' and Other' Open Space Types

Open Space Type	Secondary Description	Open Space Provision
Park	Recreation Park	70.4 ha
	Riverfront Park	45.5 ha
	Linear Park (non river)	21.0 ha
	River Linear Park	9.3 ha
	TOTAL PARK	146.2 ha
Other	Drainage	8.4 ha
	Streetscape	3.2 ha
	Undeveloped	1.7 ha
	Cemetery	0.3 ha
	TOTAL OTHER	13.6 ha

Most Natural Areas connect to a water body including Wolli Creek, Cooks River and Salt Pan Creek.

Sporting Facilities

The main sporting facilities in the former City of Canterbury are listed in the chart below.

A comparison with industry benchmarks is not appropriate for the former City of Canterbury as industry benchmarks generally relate to lower density areas and greenfield developments.

Sports Facilities Provision (including per Capita Consideration)

Facility Type	Current Provision (2015)	Per Capita 2015*
AFL Ovals	2 ovals	1: 75,800
Athletics Tracks	2 tracks/fields	1: 75,800
Baseball	2 diamonds	1: 75,800
Cricket Pitches	30 pitches (incl 4 turf)	1: 5,050
Football (soccer) Pitches	33 senior, 16 junior	1: 3,800 (senior fields)
Golf Course	1 x 9 hole	1: 151,765
Hockey	0 Council fields	0: 151,765
Lawn Bowls	14 greens	1: 10,840
Netball Courts	19 courts (incl 10 grass)	1: 8,000
Rugby Sports	14 senior and 2 junior	1: 10,100
Softball	0 Council diamonds	0: 151,765
Tennis Courts	32 courts (incl 6 grass)	1: 4,700
Touch Football	4 Touch fields	1: 37,900

* Based on 2015 population of 151,765

An analysis of sports facility provision compared to potential future demand highlights that by 2036, when the former City of Canterbury has a population of 239,750, there could be demand for additional fields and facilities, particularly to cater for:

- Athletics (the existing facility already has high use)
- Australian Rules Football (assuming interest in the sport will increase)
- Soccer (given this has traditionally been the most popular amateur sport)
- Rugby sports (including Touch Football)
- Diamond sports
- Outdoor court activities including community use (tennis, netball, basketball)

The provision of cricket pitches should be adequate and additional lawn bowls greens should not be required.

Through the consultations in this study, sporting groups have raised the need for additional soccer, rugby league and Touch fields, confirming that additional fields could be required for these sports in the future.

There should be an ongoing assessment of sport and community needs to ensure the provision of spaces and facilities for sport is adequate where possible. However, increasing the number of fields may not be realistic due to the limited availability of large parcels of open space and the cost of land. As such, other opportunities for addressing needs are likely to be required.

In particular, additional sports facility requirements may need to be met through:

- The redesign of existing fields to maximise use and flexible field design in general (allowing for flexibility in meeting future needs).
- Synthetic surfaces to enable increased field use, e.g. for soccer.
- Use of school grounds although opportunities in the former City of Canterbury could be limited (many schools rely on council grounds for sport).
- Adjoining Council areas including through the former City of Bankstown which has a good provision of sporting open space and facilities and where regional facilities exist.

Opportunities for acquiring access to parcels of land such as school sites, industrial sites and part of the Canterbury Park Racecourse could also be considered if the opportunities become available.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Figure 8: The Strategic Framework

The Strategic Framework defines the structure and focus of the Canterbury Open Space Strategy. It includes:

1. An Open Space Vision that indicates desired future outcomes and recognises the former City of Bankstown Open Space Vision.
2. Principles to guide open space provision, development and management.
3. Identified Themes with Goals and Objectives that provide a context for actions and projects.
4. Hierarchy definitions and considerations that provide a basis for developing and managing open spaces.

The approach to the Strategic Framework deliberately matches the framework used in the Bankstown Open Space Strategic Plan (2014).

Open Space Vision

The former City of Canterbury is defined by its significant corridors of open space around the Cooks River and Wolli Creek and various large open spaces including sportsgrounds, Wiley Park and Salt Pan Creek. The developed and natural features within these open spaces are highly valued by the community. However, there is potential to improve the quality of many open spaces and there is a need to increase provision in the Northern and Western districts. The population is increasing including through higher density development and there will be a need for a spread of local and larger parks, as well as sportsgrounds and natural areas that collectively meet diverse community needs.

Taking this into consideration, the Vision for open space in the former City of Canterbury is to achieve:

Diverse open spaces across suburbs that contribute to quality lifestyles and environments.

The Open Space Strategy also aims to achieve the vision defined in the former City of Bankstown Open Space Strategic Plan (2014) which is as follows:

"To provide and maintain a network of quality, accessible open spaces that balance the protection of our environment with the ongoing use and enjoyment by our community and visitors".

Principles

Key principles are listed below to provide a strategic framework for the provision, development and management of open space across the former City of Canterbury. The principles reflect the key findings of the Canterbury Open Space Strategy study.

Topic	Principles
Open Space Provision	A spread of quality parks, sportsgrounds, natural areas, linear open spaces, streetscapes and public realm will be provided to meet the broad range of community and cultural needs.
Hierarchy	Open space will be developed and managed in accordance with a hierarchy approach on the basis that not all open space can or should be the same level of development or standard.
Benefits	Opportunities for community, cultural, environmental and economic benefits will be sought including through open space destinations, higher level sports hubs and place activation.
Addressing Gaps	A focus will be placed on addressing gaps in open space provision through reserve improvements and land acquisition, particularly in the Northern, Southern and Western districts of the former City of Canterbury.
Open Space Corridors	Protecting and enhancing open spaces along Cooks River and Wolli Creek will be a particular priority given the environmental and recreation significance of these corridors.
Urban Growth	Open spaces will be established and upgraded along the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor and near other significant urban developments to increase the liveability and appeal of these higher density places.
Nature and Heritage	Natural areas and places of heritage significance will be protected and managed to retain the unique character of the area and balance the urban environment.
'Walkability'	Opportunities for pedestrian and cycle movement will be provided through a network of linear open spaces, pathways, cycleways and appealing streetscapes.
Built Form	Building footprint and other built form should be appropriate for the size and character of the open space site. This includes ensuring built form does not impact on the usability or function of a site.
Public Access	Open spaces will generally be accessible to the public and any lease arrangements should encourage broad usage and community benefits. Exclusive use and alienated open space will be avoided.
Planning	There will be a planned approach to open space development and management including through the preparation of plans and concepts linked to regional/ city wide and district open spaces.

Goals and Objectives

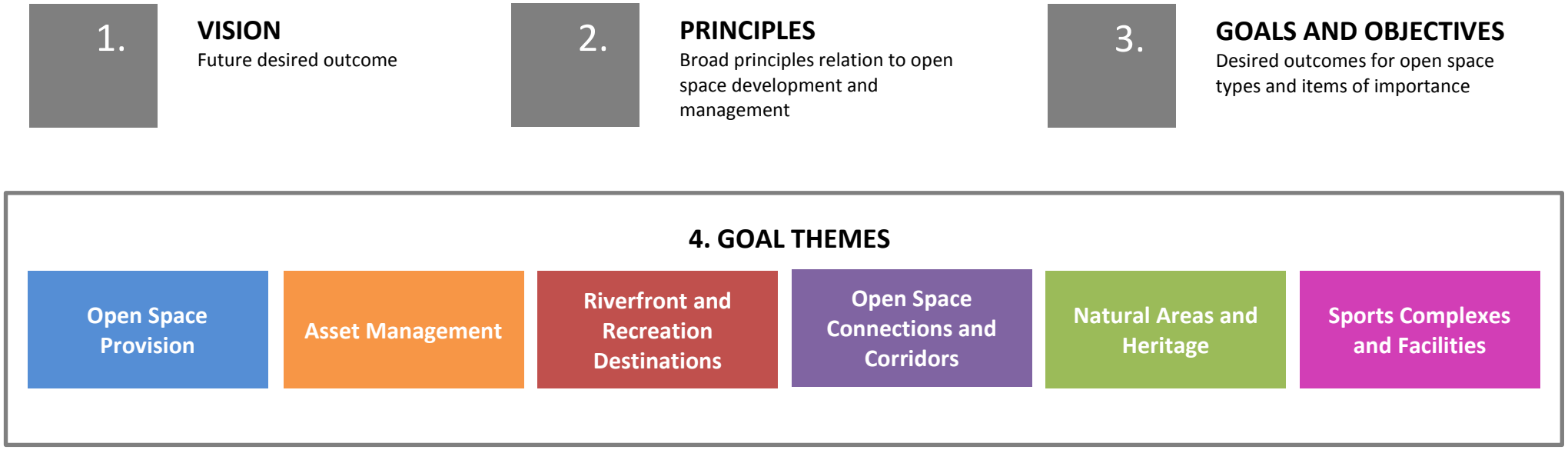
Goals and objectives have been developed for the following items of importance (referred to as Themes):

- Open Space Provision
- Asset Management
- Riverfront and Recreation Destinations
- Open Space Connections and Corridors
- Natural Areas and Heritage
- Sports Complexes and Facilities

The goals and objectives provide a structure for responding to the issues and opportunities identified through the Canterbury Open Space Strategy.

The relevance of the goals and objectives to the Framework is shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Relevance of the Goals and Objectives to the Framework



The Goals and Objectives

Open Space Provision	Asset Management	Riverfront and Recreation Destinations
To adopt a proactive and targeted approach to addressing open space gaps and a conservative approach to land divestment.	***To enhance the quality and function of open space and related assets through a hierarchy and planned approach.***	***To provide a spread of accessible quality open spaces and recreation facilities through significant and neighbourhood destinations.***
Key Objectives: ▪ Address open space gaps by: - Improving existing open spaces and streetscapes to compensate - Acquiring land to address gaps and also strengthen open space connections and natural resources - Creating open space through road closures ▪ Achieve land acquisitions by adopting proactive and targeted approaches. ▪ Ensure the appropriate provision of functional open space within the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor. ▪ Seek community use of school spaces and facilities in gap areas to contribute to meeting community needs. ▪ Consider land divestment to help fund open space acquisition and embellishment, ensuring communities in gap areas are not adversely impacted on and open space opportunities are not lost.	Key Objectives: ▪ Adopt open space and facility standards that match appropriate hierarchy levels (some will justify greater development and higher standards than others). ▪ Improve the quality of open space and related assets across the former City of Canterbury with a particular focus on: - Safe and functional buildings and infrastructure - Quality and diverse play spaces - Improved unstructured recreation services ▪ Achieve safe and functional buildings and infrastructure through ongoing auditing and maintenance. ▪ Strengthen the asset value and recognition of trees and the natural environment. ▪ Adopt sustainable urban water and renewable energy practices to strengthen the function of open spaces. ▪ Plan for destination and key open spaces including through master planning and Plans of Management (where there are lease arrangements).	Key Objectives: ▪ Enhance open spaces along the Cooks River and Wolli Creek corridors to create riverfront destinations and strengthen the recreation and natural value of these resources. ▪ Improve the quality, function and destination value of large recreation parks to benefit communities located away from the riparian corridors. ▪ Provide a spread of neighbourhood recreation destinations to ensure all communities have access to quality open spaces. ▪ Integrate parks and plazas within urban and commercial centres and growth areas to support lifestyles and create vibrant areas. ▪ Provide a number of regional/ city wide and innovative playspaces strategically located across the former City of Canterbury to cater for families and young people. ▪ Achieve activated open spaces that benefit communities through infrastructure, events and activity opportunities. ▪ Strengthen the value of open space destinations through unique and innovative design and landscapes.

Open Space Connections and Corridors	Natural Areas and Heritage	Sports Complexes and Facilities
To achieve a network of corridors, linear parks and streetscapes that increase 'walkability' and connect people to destinations.	***To protect and manage nature, heritage and the environment including through community involvement.***	***To improve the quality and function of sports complexes and facilities including through partnerships with sports.***
Key Objectives: ▪ Increase the walkability of the former City of Canterbury through a network of connected trails and pathways. ▪ Enhance footpaths and streetscapes to support safe walking and bike riding around suburbs and to open spaces and urban centres. ▪ Increase trail opportunities through the potential use of drainage lines (creating paths where feasible). ▪ Provide some natural pathways that connect people to natural environments. ▪ Create and maintain vegetation and riparian corridors for habitat and to mitigate the impacts of the urban environment. ▪ Improve signage and interpretation to support walking and bike riding and promote open space destinations.	Key Objectives: ▪ Protect and appropriately manage natural areas and riparian corridors to strengthen biodiversity. ▪ Improve the quality of natural areas through ongoing management and regeneration in accordance with past planning. ▪ Continue to strengthen the ecological health of waterways to enhance riparian corridors. ▪ Create and strengthen natural landscapes through urban forests and tree cover to provide habitat and enhance the character of the urban environment. ▪ Continue to encourage and support communities to participate in projects relating to natural areas and the environment.	Key Objectives: ▪ Improve the quality and function of sports complexes and related infrastructure to better cater for sports and communities. ▪ Establish some higher standard sports hubs with shared-use club facilities (rather than just amenities). ▪ Improve the standard of playing surfaces to increase safety and support higher competition grades. ▪ Manage the use of sportsgrounds and consider options for supporting future demand to minimise surface impacts. ▪ Improve the provision of sports facilities for women's sport. ▪ Partner with sports to achieve sports complex and facility improvements.

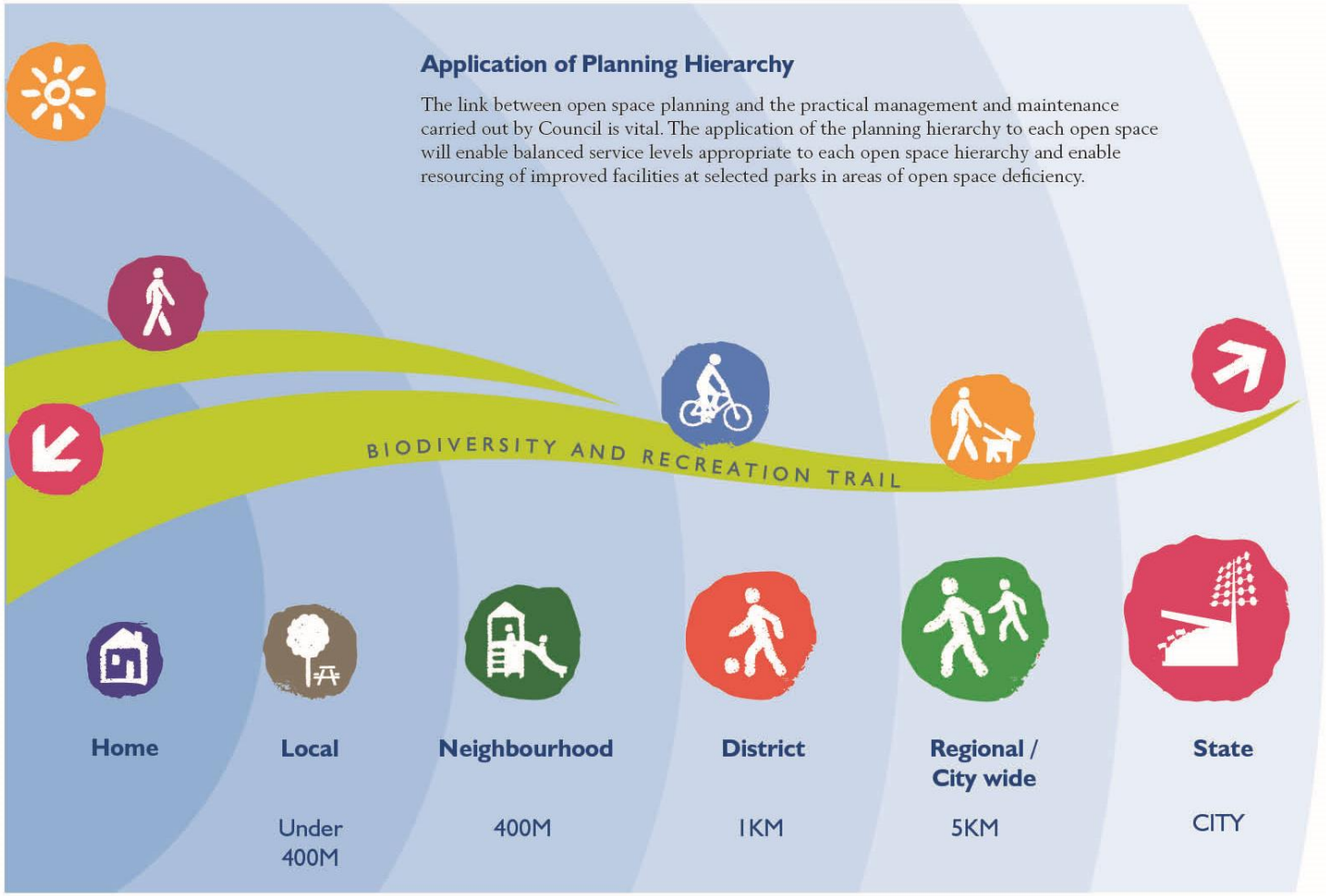
Open Space Hierarchy

Adopting a hierarchy approach to open space provision and development recognises that not all parcels of open space can or should be the same standard or level of development. A hierarchy approach enables high profile parks and reserves to be higher standard and smaller parks and open space to be less developed whilst still being appealing and safe.

The former City of Bankstown has developed a hierarchy framework which is considered to be appropriate for the former City of Canterbury. Using the former City of Bankstown hierarchy framework will ensure a consistent approach across the City of Canterbury-Bankstown. The hierarchy definitions are provided on this page and a visual presentation of the 'application of hierarchy' developed by the former City of Bankstown is provided on the following page.

Hierarchy	Description of Primary Function
State	A facility capable of hosting state or national events. Will be unique within the region and potentially be financially supported by State and Federal Govt grants. Example: Belmore Sportsground
Regional / City Wide	A facility of significant proportion, uniqueness or standard. Usually the only one of its type in the LGA and servicing city wide and regional need. Likely to attract State Government capital funding support. Examples: Wiley Park, Gough Whitlam Park, Waterworth Park Velodrome
District	Typically has organised active sporting facilities and services a number of small areas. Stages citywide competitions for football codes and cricket etc. Most of these sportsgrounds will have a number of secondary functions including park, general community use and natural area. A smaller number of sites will not have sportsgrounds but will still have multiple categories. Examples: Beaman Park, Parry Park.
Neighbourhood	Services a small area population only. May have some qualities of a district park but usually only supports passive recreation for a local catchment within 400m. Examples: Yatama Park, Peel Street Park, Knox Street Reserve.
Local	Services the passive recreation needs of residents and contribute to the natural amenity of local areas. Offering minimal recreation activity they are typically parcels of land less than 0.2Ha surplus from sub-divisions, road reserves or infrastructure easements. Examples: Flora Street Reserve, Sawyer Reserve

Figure 10: Application of Planning Hierarchy
Source: Former City of Bankstown



Source: Former City of Bankstown Open Space Strategic Plan 2014

Hierarchy Provision

Taking the hierarchy definitions into consideration a suggested hierarchy has been allocated to each former City of Canterbury parcel of open space. The hierarchy breakdown is shown in the chart below and in Figure 11. A map of the open space hierarchy is provided on the following page.

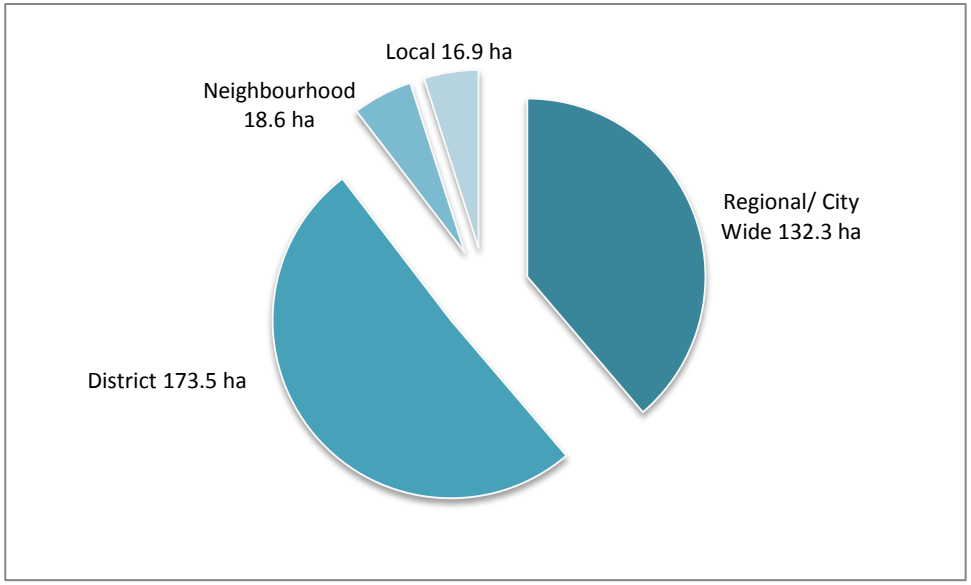
The data highlights that the former City of Canterbury has a large amount of regional/ city wide and district open space primarily due to the Cooks River, Wolli Creek and Salt Pan Creek watercourses and connected open spaces. It will be important for these regional/ city wide and district open spaces to be accessible and designed to meet local community needs.

Open Space Hierarchy (as at 2016)

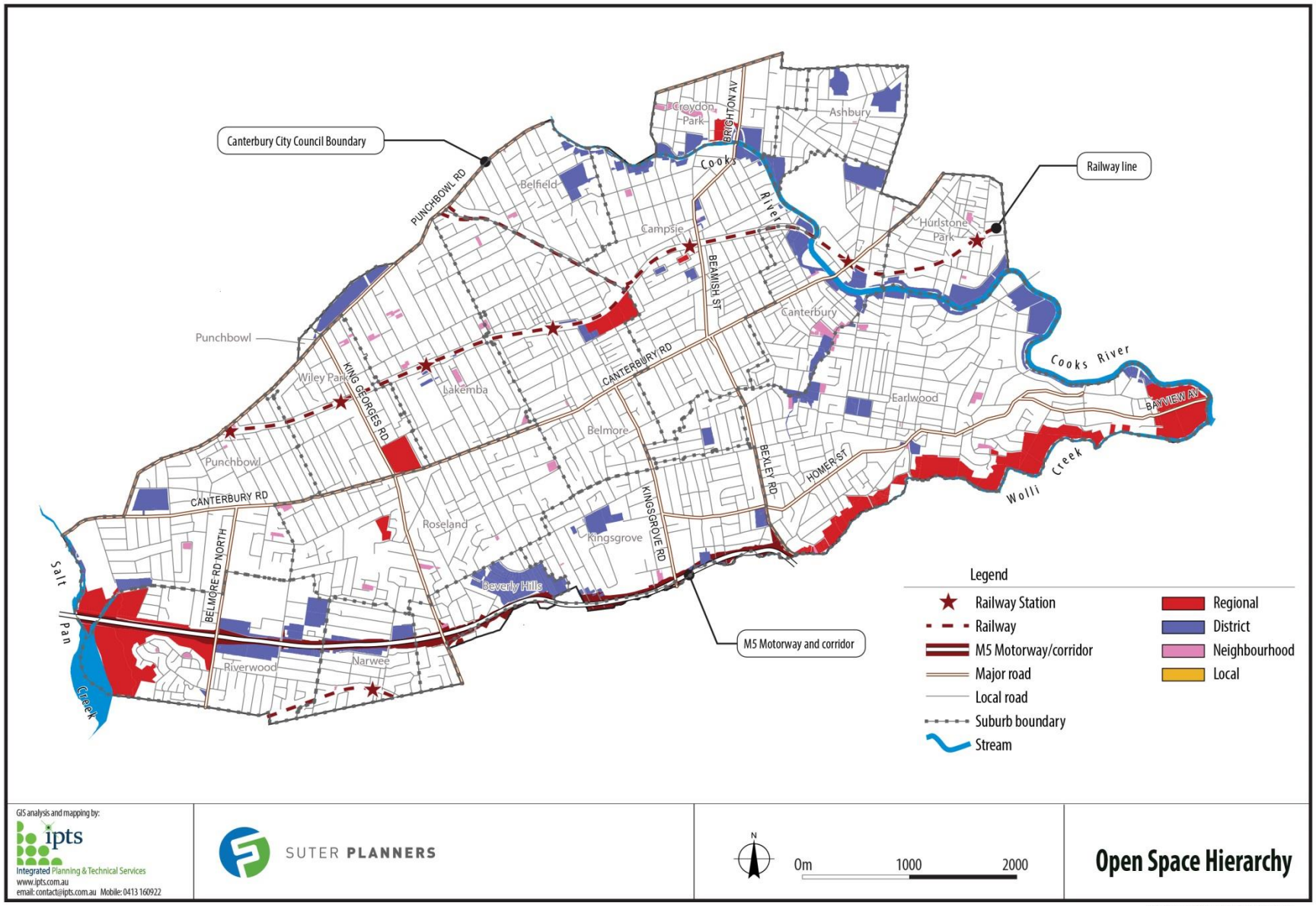
Hierarchy	Open Space Provision*	Hectares Per 1,000 2015 Population 151,765	Hectares Per 1,000 2036 Population 239,750
Regional/ City Wide	132.3 ha	0.87 ha / 1,000	0.55 ha / 1,000
District	173.5 ha	1.14 ha/ 1,000	0.72 ha/ 1,000
Neighbourhood	18.6 ha	0.12 ha / 1,000	0.08 ha / 1,000
Local	16.9 ha	0.11 ha / 1,000	0.07 ha / 1,000
Total	341.3 ha	2.25 ha / 1,000	1.42 ha / 1,000

* Draws on the 2015 Open Space Needs Review and reflects adjustments

Figure 11: Former City of Canterbury Open Space Hierarchy (as at 2016)



Open Space Hierarchy Map



THE STRATEGIES

This section outlines strategies that aim to achieve the goals and objectives. The Strategies section includes the following for each Goal Theme:

- The goals and objectives (reinforced)
- Strategies that respond to each objective
- An indication of the priority of each strategy
- Visual presentation of potential opportunities relating to the strategies

The potential opportunities for strategies are further considered under Main Opportunities in Open Space Planning Districts.

The priority allocation considers the importance and reality of achieving each strategy in accordance with indicative timing as outlined below.

Priority	Indicative Timing
High	Generally commence within 5 years
Medium	Could commence in 5-10 years
Lower	May not commence until after 10 years
Ongoing	Ongoing action to continue for life span

The strategies and priorities do not commit Council or any other organisation to allocate funds or implement a strategy within the suggested timeframe. Instead the strategies and priorities are provided as a guide that will assist Council to achieve objectives as resources become available and in accordance with other priorities.

Open Space Provision

To adopt a proactive and targeted approach to addressing open space gaps and a conservative approach to land divestment.

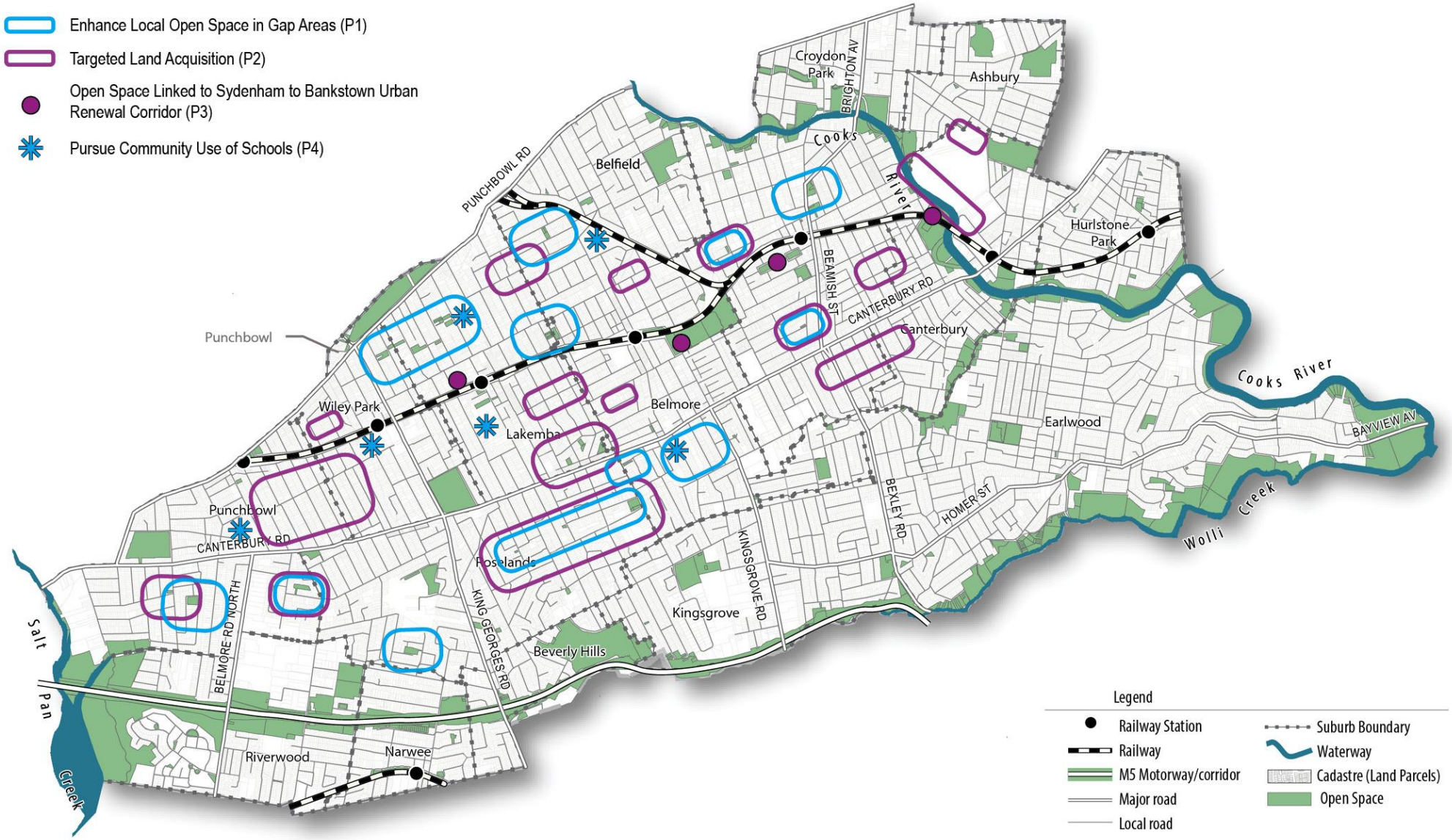
Key Objectives

- Address open space gaps by:
  - Improving existing open spaces and streetscapes to compensate
  - Acquiring land to address gaps and also strengthen open space connections and natural resources
  - Creating open space through road closures
- Achieve land acquisitions by adopting proactive and targeted approaches.
- Ensure the appropriate provision of functional open space within the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.
- Seek community use of school spaces and facilities in gap areas to contribute to meeting community needs.
- Consider land divestment to help fund open space acquisition and embellishment, ensuring communities in gap areas are not adversely impacted on and open space opportunities are not lost.

Open Space Provision

Ref	Strategy Topic	Strategies	Priority
P1	Local Open Space in Gap Areas	Undertake improvements to targeted local parks in suburbs that are lacking open space and where population growth is projected. Priority suburbs are listed below and potential opportunities are identified under 'Opportunities in Open Space Planning Districts' for consideration. - Belmore - Campsie - Lakemba - Punchbowl - Roselands - Wiley Park	High
P2	Targeted Land Acquisition	Undertake a program of land acquisition and negotiation with land owners that is based on: - Addressing significant gaps and growth areas as the first priority - Defined acquisition opportunities (land adjoining existing open space, corner blocks where development is single storey or moderate, large parcels that could be sold in the future and land around existing or future urban centres, key connections or natural sites) - Incentive and support options that benefit land owners and enable a proactive approach - Compulsory acquisition if an agreeable outcome cannot be achieved and the land is a high priority for acquisition, and taking the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 into consideration	High and Ongoing
P3	Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor	Plan for key parks, plazas and linear open spaces along the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor. This could involve encouraging developments around existing open spaces and/or negotiating land swaps to ensure integrated open spaces (particularly around the suburbs of Campsie, Canterbury and Lakemba) as well as potential road closures.	High
P4	Community Use of Schools	Pursue community access to school grounds and recreation facilities (ovals, grassed areas, playgrounds) in the open space gap, growth and higher density areas. This will require negotiations with schools and potential partnerships, and medium to longer term commitment by both parties.	Medium
P5	Land Divestment	Adopt a cautious approach to land divestment in the former City of Canterbury given there is a considerable lack of open space in a number of suburbs. This includes: - Develop divestment principles to guide land divestments (ensuring land that has existing or potential recreation, environmental, corridor or community benefits is retained as open space) - Allocate funds received through land divestment to improving or acquiring other open space in the former City of Canterbury	High and Ongoing

Open Space Provision



Asset Management

To enhance the quality and function of open space and related assets through a hierarchy and planned approach.

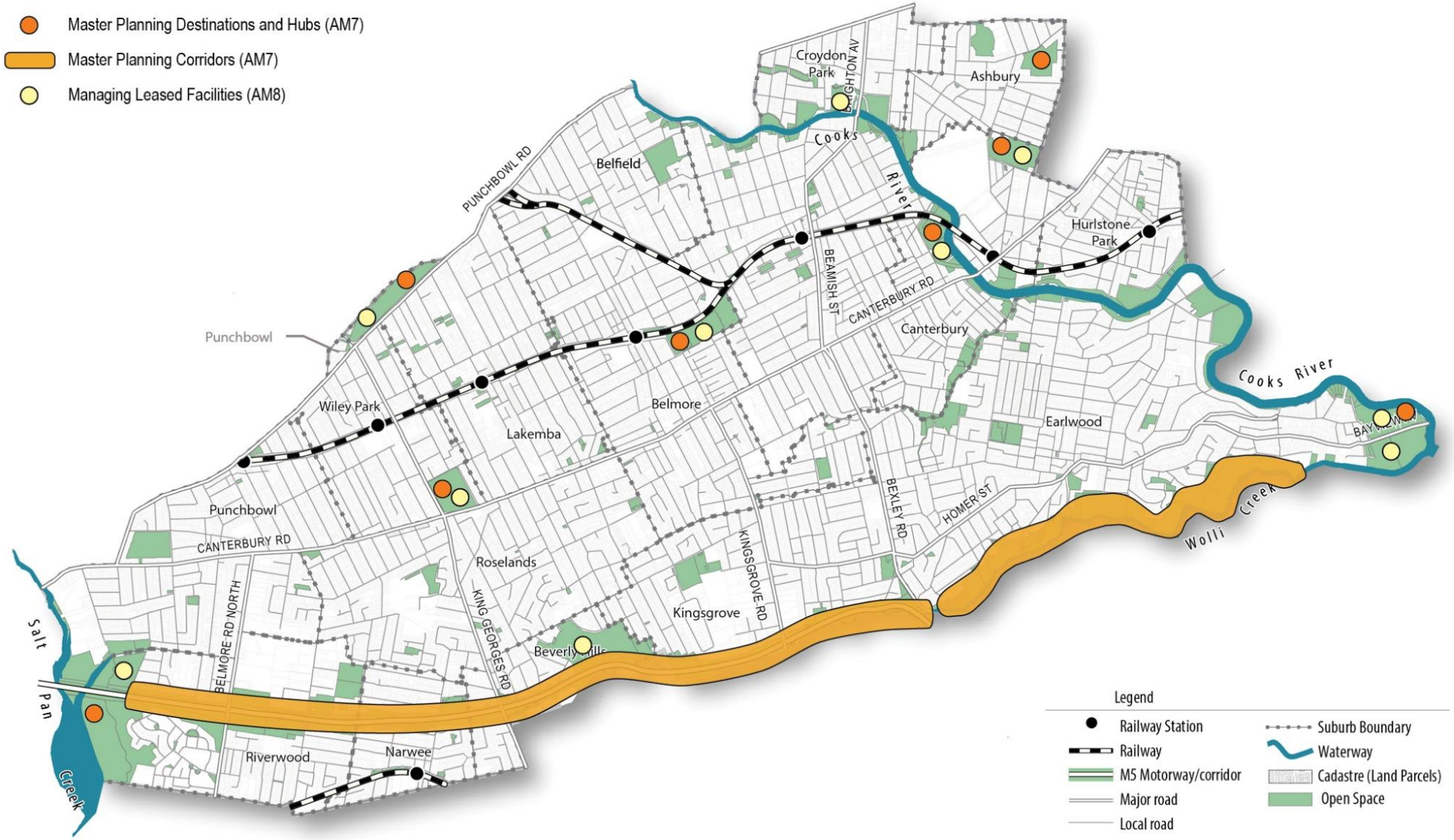
Key Objectives

- Adopt open space and facility standards that match appropriate hierarchy levels (some will justify greater development and higher standards than others).
- Improve the quality of open space and related assets across the former City of Canterbury with a particular focus on:
  - Safe and functional buildings and infrastructure
  - Quality and diverse play spaces
  - Improved unstructured recreation services
- Strengthen the asset value and recognition of trees and the natural environment.
- Adopt sustainable practices to strengthen the function of open spaces and assets.
- Plan for destination and key open spaces including through master planning and Plans of Management (where there are lease arrangements).

Asset Management

Ref	Strategy Topic	Strategies	Priorities
AM1	Hierarchy and Service Standard Approach	Adopt a hierarchy and service standard approach to the development and management of open space and related facilities and assets, using the Hierarchy framework in the Open Space Strategy as a guide.	High and Ongoing
AM2	Buildings and Infrastructure	Undertake an audit of all buildings and infrastructure and review and develop maintenance and upgrade programs and service levels.	High
AM3	Play Space Upgrade	Undertake a program of play space and playground upgrade (including to cater for older children) by implementing the City of Canterbury Playgrounds and Playspaces study 2014.	High and Ongoing
AM4	Unstructured Recreation Infrastructure	Implement service standards to improve the maintenance and quality of open space assets that support unstructured recreation including: - Public toilets (particularly regional/ city wide recreation parks and riverfront destinations) - Pathway upgrade giving priority to riverfront parks, recreation destinations and other linear open space - Seating (consistency in design, accessibility and appropriate location) - Improved reserve boundary fencing (including through negotiations with neighbours)	High and Ongoing
AM5	Trees as an Asset	Determine the asset value of trees in open space and streets and develop a long term maintenance and replacement program that aims to retain and enhance tree quality and canopy.	Medium
AM6	Sustainable Management Practices	Undertake management practices that contribute to open space sustainability where appropriate including through reduced water use, stormwater management, energy efficiency and renewable energy use.	Medium
AM7	Master Planning	Develop Concept or Master Plans for significant and destination open spaces to ensure they are appropriately designed and developed. This includes: - Riverfront destinations - Recreation park destinations - Major sports hubs	High and ongoing
AM8	Managing Leased Facilities	Where required develop site specific Plans of Management to clearly define management directions and responsibilities (generally for significant sites with a number of lease arrangements).	High and ongoing

Asset Management



Riverfront and Recreation Destinations

To provide a spread of accessible quality open spaces and recreation facilities through significant and neighbourhood destinations.

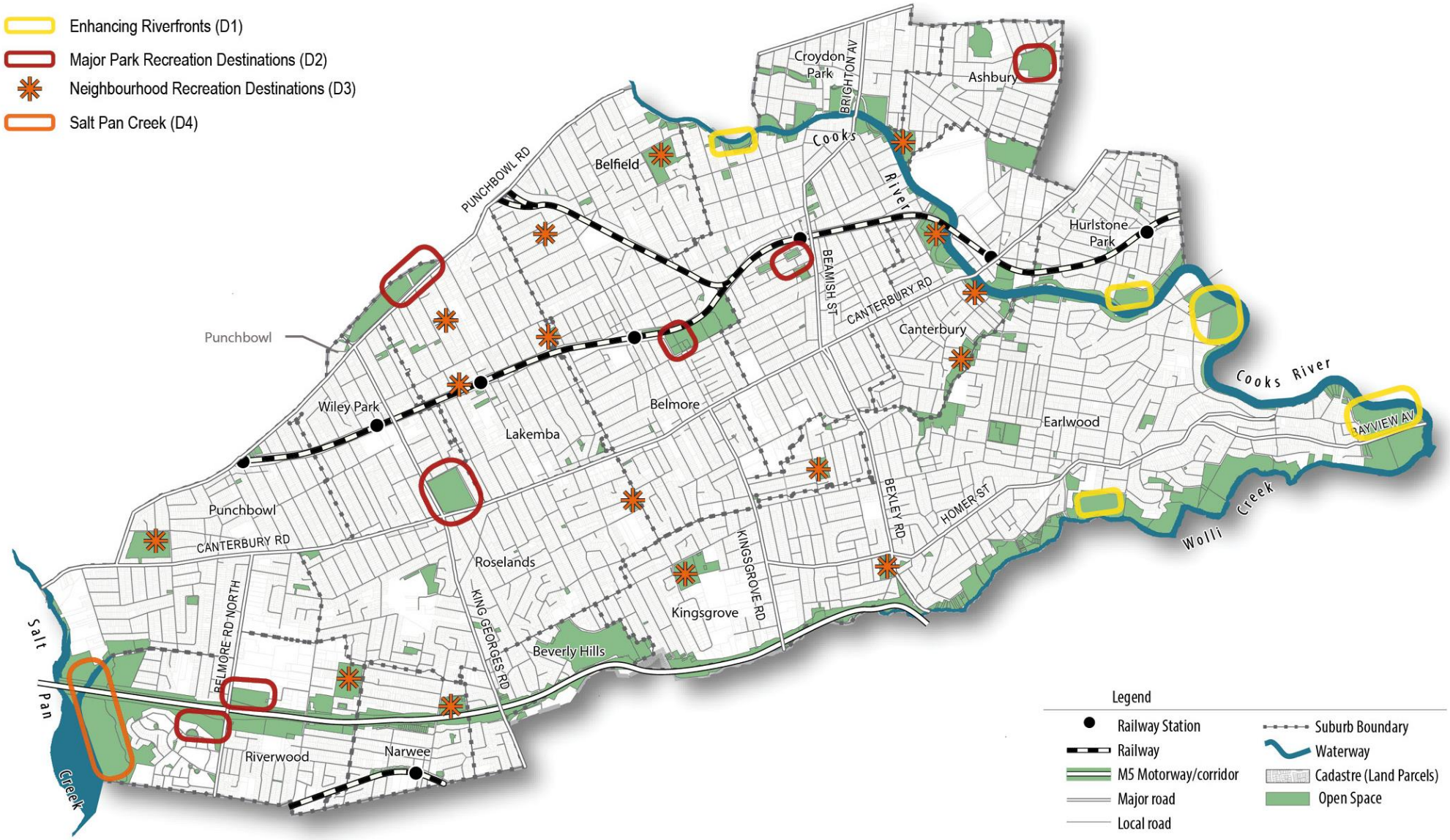
Key Objectives

- Enhance open spaces along the Cooks River and Wolli Creek corridors to create riverfront destinations and strengthen the recreation and natural value of these resources.
- Improve the quality, function and destination value of large recreation parks to benefit communities located away from the riparian corridors.
- Provide a spread of neighbourhood recreation destinations to ensure all communities have access to quality open spaces.
- Integrate parks and plazas within urban and commercial centres and growth areas to support lifestyles and create vibrant areas.
- Provide a number of regional/ city wide and innovative playspaces strategically located across the former City of Canterbury to cater for families and young people.
- Achieve activated open spaces that benefit communities through infrastructure, events and activity opportunities.
- Strengthen the value of open space destinations through unique and innovative design and landscapes.

Riverfront and Recreation Destinations

Ref	Strategy Topic	Strategies	Priority
D1	Enhanced Riverfronts	Develop masterplans to guide the enhancement of riverfront parks and reserves along Cooks River and create and reinforce recreation destinations and 'stop off' nodes, with quality picnic settings, natural settings, play and activity opportunities, pathways, lighting and creative design (landscape, art works).	High
D2	Major Park Recreation Destinations	Develop Plans of Management to enhance, maintain and create major recreation park destinations. This includes providing: - Well located activity, exercise, social and event spaces that cater for diverse age, cultural and socio-economic groups - Diverse and unique play spaces and opportunities (innovative, challenging and nature based play for all age groups and levels of ability) - Shelters and spaces that support larger group gatherings - Integrated and unique landscapes and natural shade Wiley Park, Peace Park and Anzac Square are existing major destinations that should be further enhanced and Parry Park provides a potential opportunity for a recreation destination.	High
D3	Neighbourhood Recreation Destinations	Establish and enhance neighbourhood recreation destinations across the former City of Canterbury to provide accessible unique spaces for local communities. This includes integrating quality and diverse play spaces and activity opportunities (exercise and group activity areas, paved and court areas, walking and bike tracks, games areas) as well as quality landscapes and infrastructure (seating, shelters, paths).	Medium
D4	Salt Pan Creek	Implement master planning for Salt Pan Creek and redesign the open spaces to create quality and unique natural and recreation areas and improve 'place activation'.	High
D5	Open Space in Urban Centres and Developments	Establish accessible and usable plazas and community spaces within urban centres and developments (including through Voluntary Planning Agreements). Focus on: - Urban centres near railway stations - Main road commercial centres (Canterbury, Beamish, Lakemba, Burwood roads)	Medium
D6	Event Opportunities	Provide event opportunities as part of riverfront, recreation and sporting destinations, including: - Create a major event space through Belmore Oval Complex and Terry Lamb Reserve (including the adjoining lawn bowls facility and the Peter Moore Fields) - Integrate smaller event spaces (with access to power, water and toilets) within riverfront and recreation destinations	Medium

River Front and Recreation Destinations



Open Space Connections and Corridors

To achieve a network of corridors, linear parks and streetscapes that increase 'walkability' and connect people to destinations.

Key Objectives

- Increase the walkability of the former City of Canterbury through a network of connected trails and pathways.
- Enhance footpaths and streetscapes to support safe walking and bike riding around suburbs and to open spaces and urban centres.
- Increase trail opportunities through the potential use of drainage lines (creating paths where feasible).
- Provide some natural pathways that connect people to natural environments.
- Create and maintain vegetation and riparian corridors for habitat and to mitigate the impacts of the urban environment.
- Improve signage and interpretation to support walking and bike riding and promote open space destinations.

Open Space Connections and Corridors

Ref	Strategy Topic	Strategies	Priority
C1	Linear Trail Opportunities	Investigate and plan for linear trail opportunities including: - Develop a design and implementation strategy for a shared use trail along the Bankstown Rail corridor for the City of Canterbury-Bankstown (as part of the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor) - Undertake pathway improvements along Cooks River, giving particular consideration to the riverfront destinations and parts of the network that have condition issues - Implement plans for a trail on the southern side of the Cooks River (including to create loop trails and potential separation of walking and bike paths) - Develop a concept for the M5 link to the former City of Bankstown identifying stop off parks and vegetation and pathway opportunities - Plan for a trail along Salt Pan Creek that is accessible, safe, inviting and connected to natural and developed settings	High and Ongoing
C2	Cycleways	Implement the Bicycle Route Network included in the Draft Canterbury Bike Plan 2016 and place a particular focus on achieving connections along and to the significant corridors (i.e. Bankstown Rail corridor, Cooks River, Salt Pan Creek and M5 motorway where realistic).	High and Ongoing
C3	Streetscape Connections	Through open space Plans of Management and masterplans, plan for walkable streetscape connections (shady trees, street lighting, level pathways, accessible kerbs, safe crossings, art works) to riverfront parks, recreation park destinations, sportsgrounds and urban and commercial centres.	Medium
C4	Drainage Line Opportunities	In consultation with Sydney Water consider opportunities relating to stormwater drains, including: - Potential paths or boardwalks to create walkway and bike connections - Increased and improved access points over canals - Crossings over canals where a concrete canal divides open space	Lower
C5	Natural Trails	Establish, improve and maintain natural surface trails to enable and manage access to natural areas and increase people's appreciation of and connection to nature. Opportunities include: - Maintain the Wolli Creek section of the Two Valley Trail as a quality natural trail - Create nature trails and boardwalks around Salt Pan Creek as part of site master planning	Medium
C6	Vegetation Corridors	Create, strengthen and manage vegetation corridors along waterways, greenways and walking and cycle trails. Particular opportunities include: - The Cooks River and Wolli Creek corridors (with additional tree planting where appropriate) - The M5 motorway - Other linear open spaces such as Pat O'Connor Reserve and Knox Street Reserve	Medium
C7	Wayfinding	Establish signage and interpretation that depicts the character and heritage of areas and open space sites and encourages the use of trails, streets and corridors for recreation use.	Medium

Open Space Connections and Corridors

Natural Areas and Heritage

To protect and manage nature, heritage and the environment including through community involvement.

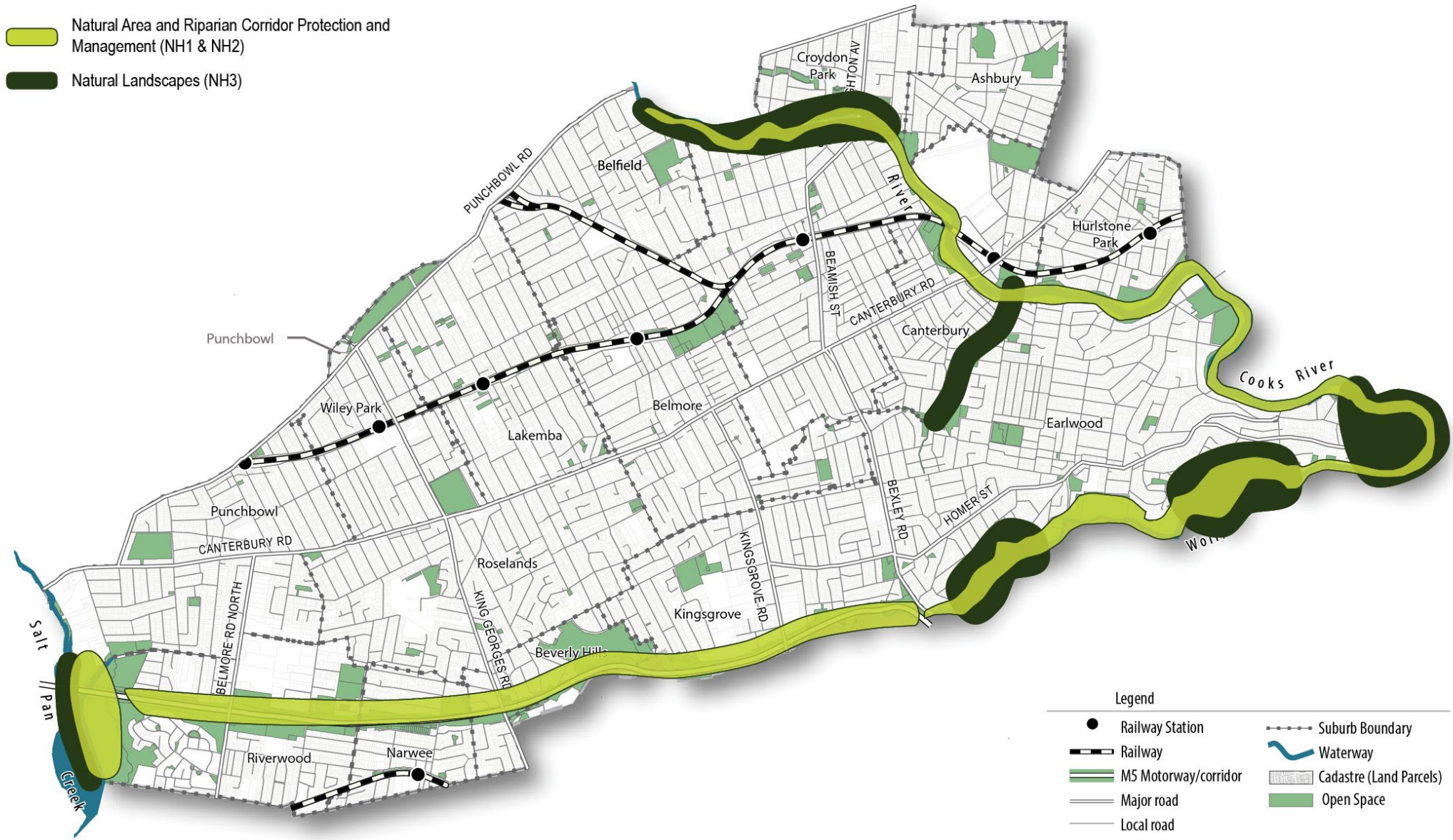
Key Objectives

- Protect and appropriately manage natural areas and riparian corridors to strengthen biodiversity.
- Improve the quality of natural areas through ongoing management and regeneration in accordance with past planning.
- Continue to strengthen the ecological health of waterways to enhance riparian corridors.
- Create and strengthen natural landscapes through urban forests and tree cover to provide habitat and enhance the character of the urban environment.
- Continue to encourage and support communities to participate in projects relating to natural areas and the environment.

Natural Areas and Heritage

Ref	Strategy Topic	Strategies	Priority
NH1	Natural Area Protection and Management	Retain, protect, regenerate and manage natural areas with a particular focus on: - Campsie Bushland Remnant, Campsie - Nature reserves and river edges along the Cooks River in the suburbs of Campsie, Croydon Park, Earlwood and Canterbury - Wiley Park remnant vegetation - Open space connected to Wolli Creek, Earlwood - Reserves along Salt Pan Creek, Riverwood and Punchbowl	High and Ongoing
NH2	Riparian Corridors and Waterways	Undertake and support projects and initiatives that contribute to the management and enhancement of riparian corridors and waterways including: - Riverbank stabilisation and naturalisation - Wiley Park ponds treatment - Water quality projects particularly for Cooks River, Wolli Creek and related tributaries	High and Ongoing
NH3	Natural Landscapes	Increase natural landscapes and create canopy and habitat opportunities through reserve and street tree planting programs. A particular focus should be placed on areas with reduced open space and tree canopy, or greater intensity of heat such as around Punchbowl, Wiley Park and Lakemba.	Medium
NH4	Heritage and Nature	Protect and promote the natural character and Indigenous and European heritage of the area by: - Developing open space mapping (including web based) that identifies areas worthy of protection and utilise to promote heritage and natural values - Integrating art works and interpretation at key heritage sites and nature reserves (e.g. Campsie Bushland Remnant, Gough Whitlam Park, Wolli Creek Reserve, Salt Pan Creek Reserve)	Lower
NH5	Community Projects	Continue to support community projects and community volunteer initiatives linked to site conservation, regeneration and area beautification such as: - Adopt a Patch' initiatives (bushcare sites, natural patches) - Resident involvement in naturalisation and bushcare projects - School commitment to conservation projects - Heritage promotion	High and Ongoing

Natural Areas and Sustainability



Sports Complexes and Facilities

To improve the quality and function of sports complexes and facilities including through partnerships with sports.

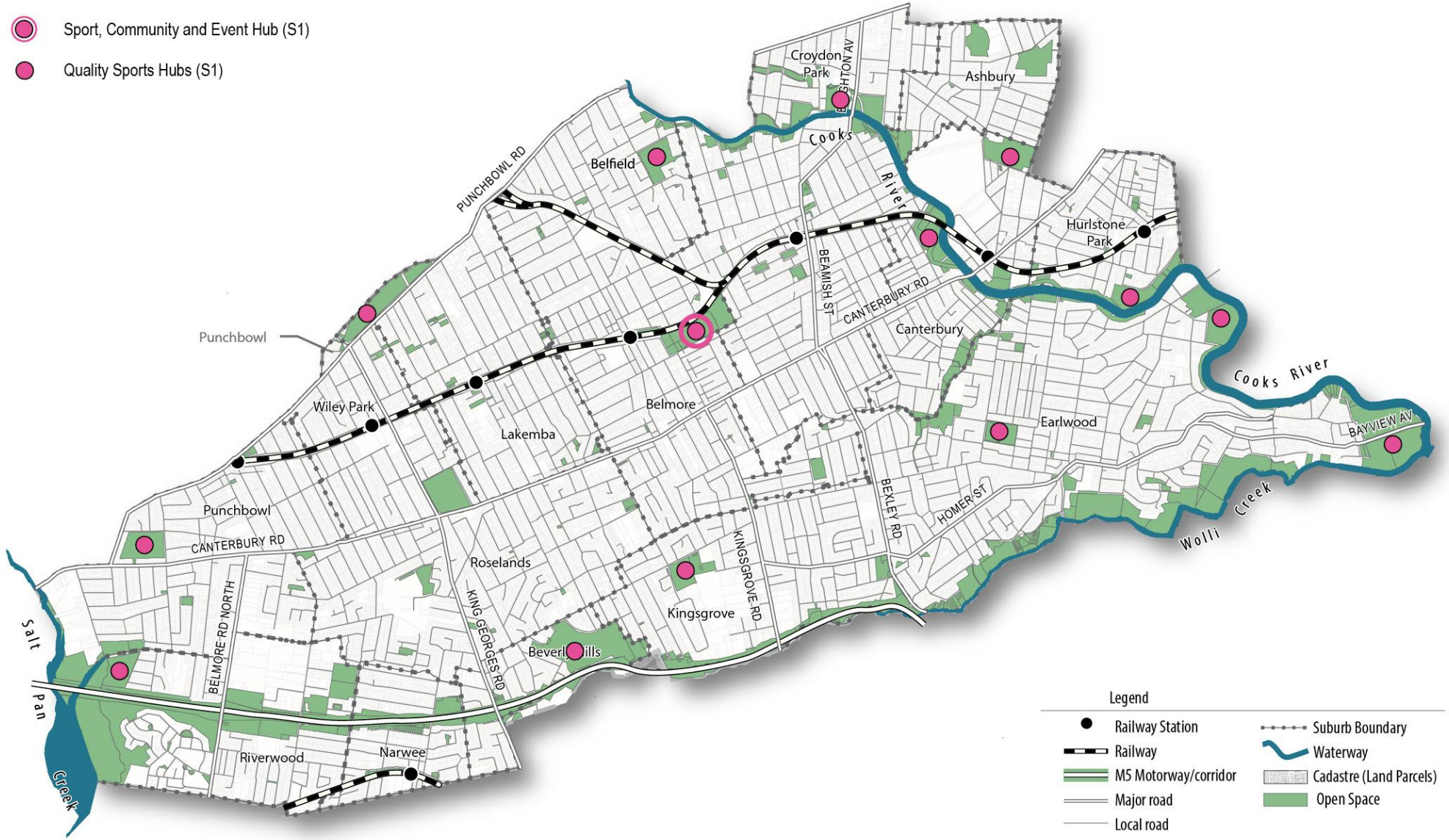
Key Objectives

- Improve the quality and function of sports complexes and related infrastructure to better cater for sports and communities.
- Establish some higher standard sports hubs with shared-use club facilities (rather than just amenities).
- Improve the standard of playing surfaces to increase safety and support higher competition grades.
- Manage the use of sportsgrounds and consider options for supporting future demand to minimise surface impacts.
- Improve the provision of sports facilities for women's sport.
- Partner with sports to achieve sports complex and facility improvements.

Sports Complexes and Facilities

Ref	Strategy Topic	Strategies	Priority
S1	Quality Sports Hubs and Complexes	Establish and strengthen sports hubs with multi-use and shared-use sports club facilities that collectively cater for diverse sports. This includes considering opportunities for: - Belmore Sportsground and surrounding reserves to provide an integrated sport, community and event hub - Larger sportsgrounds to incorporate quality multi-use facilities and cater for diverse sports - Partnerships with sporting bodies and grant funding	High and Ongoing
S2	Sports Facilities Strategic Plan	Develop a Sports Facilities Strategic Plan for the City of Canterbury-Bankstown that draws on the findings of the Canterbury Open Space Strategy and previous planning undertaken by the former City of Bankstown. Consider the following: - Determine the appropriate development and improvement of each sportsground taking hierarchy into consideration - Consider the capacity of each playing field and the appropriate level of use - Determine a program of sports field drainage and irrigation upgrade - Plan for club facilities that support the function of clubs beyond toilets and change rooms - Provide amenities that support female participation - Address issues associated with field quality including land fill, drainage and irrigation - Consider lighting standards including options for supporting night games and training	Medium
S3	Outdoor Courts	In consultation with tennis and netball associations, review the provision and quality of outdoor courts and develop a strategy for the future. This includes considering options for multi-use and community use courts and contributions by clubs and associations to future court provision and surface upgrades.	Medium
S4	Field Surface	Investigate the viability of installing synthetic surfaces including one or two soccer pitches and training areas.	Medium
S5	Sports Facility Reviews	Where sports facilities are ageing or a financial burden, undertake a review of the appropriateness of retaining facilities and whether alternative uses should be considered. This includes: - A review of the Waterworth Park velodrome and the need to retain this facility - A review of the Canterbury Golf course - A review of lawn bowls facilities	High

Sports Complexes and Facilities



OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN SPACE PLANNING DISTRICTS

The main opportunities in the Open Space Planning Districts are listed and presented on the following pages. The opportunities are based on the goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the previous sections.

Former City of Canterbury Open Space Planning Districts (defined through the Open Space Strategy, 2016)

The opportunities are identified to assist the City of Canterbury-Bankstown with its identification of works and future budgeting. Other opportunities are likely to be identified by Council over time.

The opportunities are 'high level' and many will require detailed planning and costings before they can be implemented by Council. Grant funding and partnerships will be required to achieve a number of the opportunities.

Consideration has been given to priorities in accordance with the indicative timing used for the strategies, i.e.:

Priority	Indicative Timing
High	Generally commence within 5 years
Medium	Could commence in 5-10 years
Lower	May not commence until after 10 years
Ongoing	Ongoing action to continue for life span

The main criteria for identifying potential 'neighbourhood recreation destinations' are as follows:

1. Larger parks with existing infrastructure or potential to support facilities
2. Good location and profile (distributor road, high profile site, accessible)
3. Appealing landscapes and settings
4. Areas where open space is lacking (to compensate)
5. Generally district or neighbourhood open space hierarchy
6. Equitable spread across Districts

Suggested local park upgrades are based on the following criteria:

1. Lack of open space in the area (to compensate)
2. Valued local park or potential to be valued (appealing setting or site)
3. Existing condition issues or potential enhancement
4. Reasonable size (at least 0.3ha) to justify upgrade
5. Accessible location

Western Open Space Planning District

Area Character and Potential Priorities

The southern part of the Western Open Space Planning District including Riverwood and Narwee has considerable open space through Salt Pan Creek Reserve and large tracts of land along the M5 motorway. Various improvements have occurred on this land over recent years although sections of Salt Pan Creek Reserve are relatively isolated and perceived as being less desirable to use.

The northern part of Western District including Roselands, Wiley Park and Punchbowl have less open space, although Parry Park and Wiley Park are located nearby in the Northern District and Punchbowl Park is an important sport and recreation resource.

Salt Pan Creek reserve and the land along the M5 motorway include some important natural areas that have potential to be enhanced in quality. These areas should be retained and regenerated.

With this in mind, the overriding priorities for the Western District are:

- Increase the quality, function and accessibility of open space in the southern part of the area.
- Obtain additional open space and improve existing open space to better cater for the northern area.
- Investigate the potential for additional recreation destinations in the area.
- Strengthen the linear connections in the south (along the M5 and Salt Pan Creek corridors).
- Enhance streetscapes to increase walkability and connections to open space.
- Retain and strengthen the natural areas.

Area Snapshot

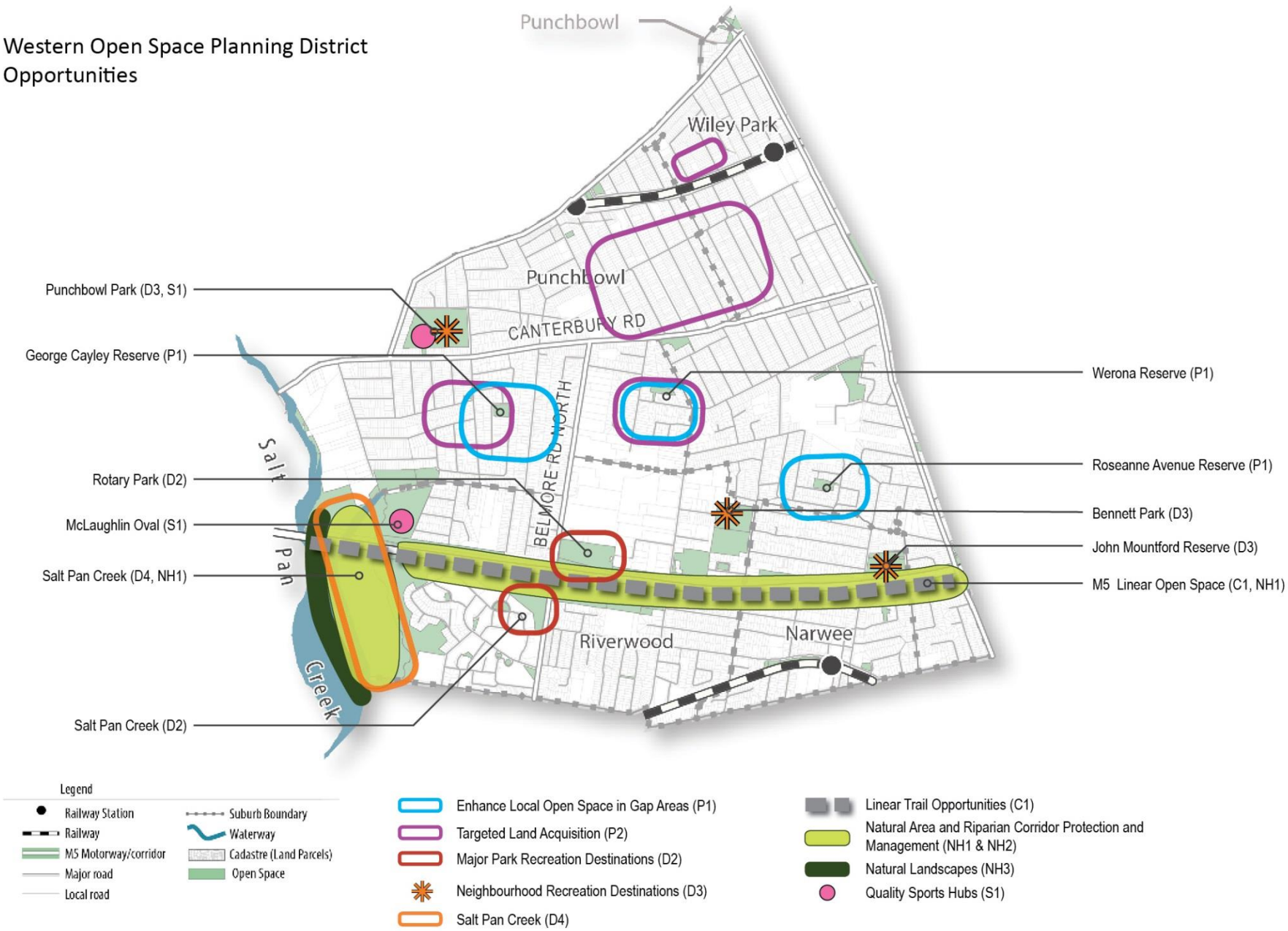
Demographic Characteristics	Approximately 33,700 people living in the Western District in 2015 A mix of age groups including children and older people A mix of family types including families with children A mix of cultural groups (with some suburbs being highly multi-cultural and some having strong Lebanese or Chinese focus) Some lower income and higher unemployment communities A mix of high, medium and lower density housing
Open Space	Provision: 89.6 ha Open Space Types: 40.4ha park, 22.5ha sports, 20.4ha natural area, 3.0ha general community use and 2.6ha other Hierarchy: 45.9ha regional / city wide, 35.9ha district, 3.2ha neighbourhood, local 4.5ha
Key Open Spaces	Park: Rotary Park, Salt Pan Creek land around Community Centre (Belmore Road) Sport: Punchbowl Park, McLaughlin Oval Other: Salt Pan Creek Reserve (sport, recreation and natural areas), linear along M5
Schools	4 public primary schools 2 public secondary schools 1 private/catholic primary school 1 private college (primary and secondary) A number of the schools have limited open space and use Council reserves
Key Non Council	Riverwood Park to the south in Georges River Council
Other	Open space connection to former City of Bankstown , particularly Salt Pan Creek land (now within City of Canterbury-Bankstown)

Western Open Space Planning District Opportunities

The main opportunities in the Western Open Space Planning District are listed below and mapped on the following page.

Focus	Main Opportunities	Priorities	Related Strategies
Local Park Upgrade	Upgrade George Cayley Reserve, Werona Reserve and Roseanne Avenue Reserve to compensate for the lack of open space in the northern areas.	High and ongoing	P1
Acquisition	Pursue land acquisitions in the suburbs of Wiley Park, Punchbowl and Roselands (refer District map).	High	P2
Major Park Recreation Destinations	Continue to landscape and improve Rotary Park as a key recreation destination.	High	D2
Neighbourhood Destinations	Establish or maintain Bennett Park, John Mountford Reserve, and Punchbowl Park as neighbourhood recreation destinations.	Medium	D3
Salt Pan Creek	Undertake improvements to the Salt Pan Creek reserves to create safe and appealing spaces as part of planning for urban development and site master planning.	High and ongoing	D4
Connections	Create and maintain linear open spaces along the M5 and the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.	Medium	C1
Connections	Enhance streetscapes to improve the walkability of suburbs and connect to destination open spaces.	Medium	C3
Nature	Retain and strengthen natural areas and corridors along Salt Pan Creek and the M5 including through tree planting and increased urban forest canopy.	Medium	NH1, NH3
Sport	Undertake improvements to create McLaughlin Oval and Punchbowl Park as a quality sports hubs.	Medium	S1

Western Open Space Planning District Opportunities



Northern Open Space Planning District

Area Character and Potential Priorities

Whilst the Northern Open Space Planning District incorporates Wiley Park, the Belmore Sports Complex and three other large sportsgrounds:

- The area is considerably lacking in accessible local open space (particularly around Lakemba and Campsie).
- The Belmore Sports Complex is not freely accessible to the general public.
- The sportsgrounds are dominated by sport.
- Easy access to Cooks River and quality riverfront open space is limited to the eastern part of the District.

In addition, many parts of the Northern District will experience higher density development and significant population growth over the coming years and these areas generally lack open space. This includes the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.

As such the greatest overriding priorities for the Northern District are:

- Increase the amount of neighbourhood and local recreation open space, particularly around Lakemba and Campsie.
- Improve existing open spaces and streetscapes to compensate for the lack of provision.
- Maintain and create quality recreation and sporting destinations to provide a focus for surrounding communities.
- Enhance linear connections and streetscapes to increase walkability and connections to open space.

Area Snapshot

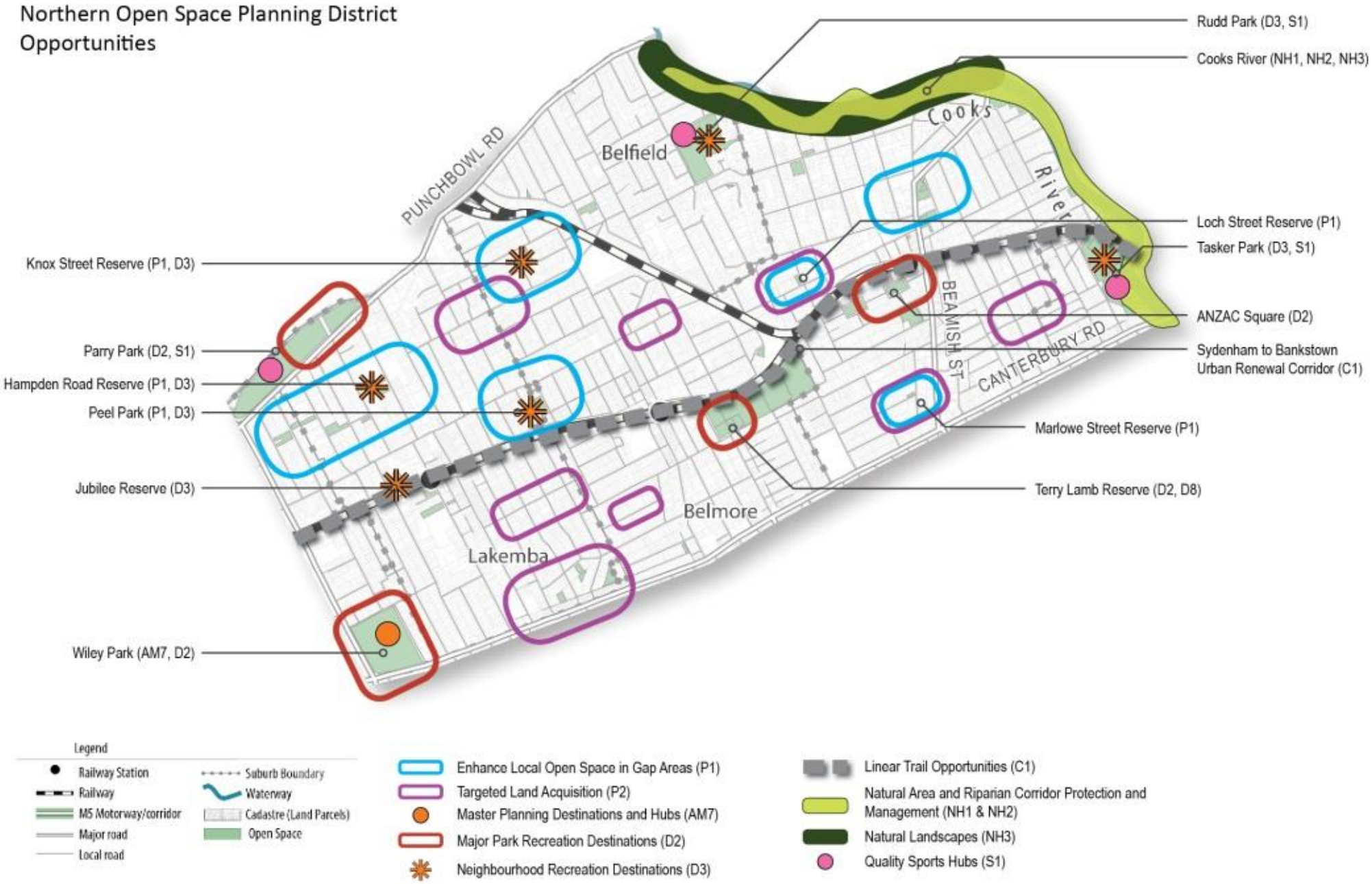
Demographic Characteristics	Approximately 55,500 people living in the Northern District in 2015 Younger median age and larger proportions of households with children despite medium density character Culturally diverse and particularly Chinese and middle eastern cultures New migrants focus in a number of suburbs Lower income areas with higher unemployment Medium and higher density areas
Open Space	Provision: 51.8 ha Open Space Types: 26.2ha park, 19.1ha sports, 3.8ha general community use, 2.7ha other Hierarchy: 16.2ha regional / city wide, 27.6ha district, 4.8ha neighbourhood, 3.3ha local
Key Open Spaces	Park: Wiley Park, Terry Lamb Reserve Sport: Belmore Sportsground, Tasker Park, Rudd Park, Parry Park
Schools	6 public primary schools 1 public secondary school 7 private/catholic primary schools 1 private high school/ college A number of schools have limited open space and use Council reserves
Key Non Council	Railway land along Bankstown line (potential linear connection as part of proposed Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor) Cluster of sports grounds north of Punchbowl Road (Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Bark Huts Reserve)

Northern Open Space Planning District Opportunities

The main opportunities for the Northern Planning District are listed below and mapped on the following page.

Focus	Main Opportunities	Priority	Related Strategies
Local Park Upgrade	Upgrade Knox Street Reserve, Hampden Road Reserve and Peel Park to compensate for the lack of open space.	High and ongoing	P1
Reserve Expansion	Redesign and undertake improvements to Loch Street Reserve and Marlowe Street Reserve following the adjoining land acquisition.	High	P1
Acquisition	Pursue land acquisitions in the main open space gap areas in Lakemba and Campsie (refer District Map).	High and ongoing	P2
Sydenham - Bankstown Urban Corridor	Seek the creation of plazas and community spaces linked to urban centres developments and higher density, particularly in Campsie and Belmore.	Medium to Lower	P3, D5
Major Park Recreation Destinations	Undertake improvements to strengthen the destination value of Wiley Park following a master plan and also continue to strengthen the destination value of Anzac Square and Terry Lamb Reserve.	High	AM6, D2
Major Recreation Destinations	As part of any Plan of Management for Parry Park, investigate the potential to create a recreation destination on part of the park (play, picnics, landscape, recreation activity).	Lower	D2
Neighbourhood Destinations	Establish or maintain Knox Street Reserve, Hampden Road Reserve, Jubilee Reserve, Peel Park, Tasker Park and Rudd Park as neighbourhood recreation destinations.	High and ongoing	D3
Connections	Maintain and create trail and pathway opportunities including along the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor.	Medium	C1
Connections	Enhance streetscapes to improve the walkability of suburbs and connect to destination open spaces.	Medium	C3
Connections	In consultation with Sydney Water consider opportunities to create pathway connections along drainage lines.	Lower	C4
Nature	Continue to protect and manage natural areas and also increase tree planting and the urban forest canopy on open spaces connecting to the Cooks River.	Medium	NH3
Sport	Undertake improvements to create quality sports hubs at Tasker Park, Rudd Park and Parry Park (including building and field upgrades).	Medium	S1

Northern Open Space Planning District Opportunities



Southern Open Space Planning District

Area Character and Potential Priorities

The Southern Open Space Planning District is a less distinctive area with lower density housing and light industry as well as some medium density and infill development.

The District lacks open space, particular in the area of Roselands, and it also lacks significant and unique open spaces and usable linear corridors. The district has little recreation park open space and no natural areas. No open space is considered to be regional/ city wide (the Canterbury Golf Course is defined as a District facility due to its 9 hole character).

A large proportion of the open space is within the Canterbury Golf Course which is not accessible for broader recreation use (walking, play, sports). There is a need to address the open space gaps and improve the quality and function of the open spaces that exist. There is a particular need to create some additional recreation parks and natural settings, including larger areas where practical.

The greatest overriding priorities for the Southern District are:

- Provide some additional and larger local recreation open space, particularly around Roselands.
- Improve existing open spaces to compensate for the gaps in provision and the lack of significant recreation open spaces.
- Consider opportunities for some unique recreation destinations and natural settings.
- Enhance and increase linear connections and streetscapes to increase walkability and connections to open space.

Area Snapshot

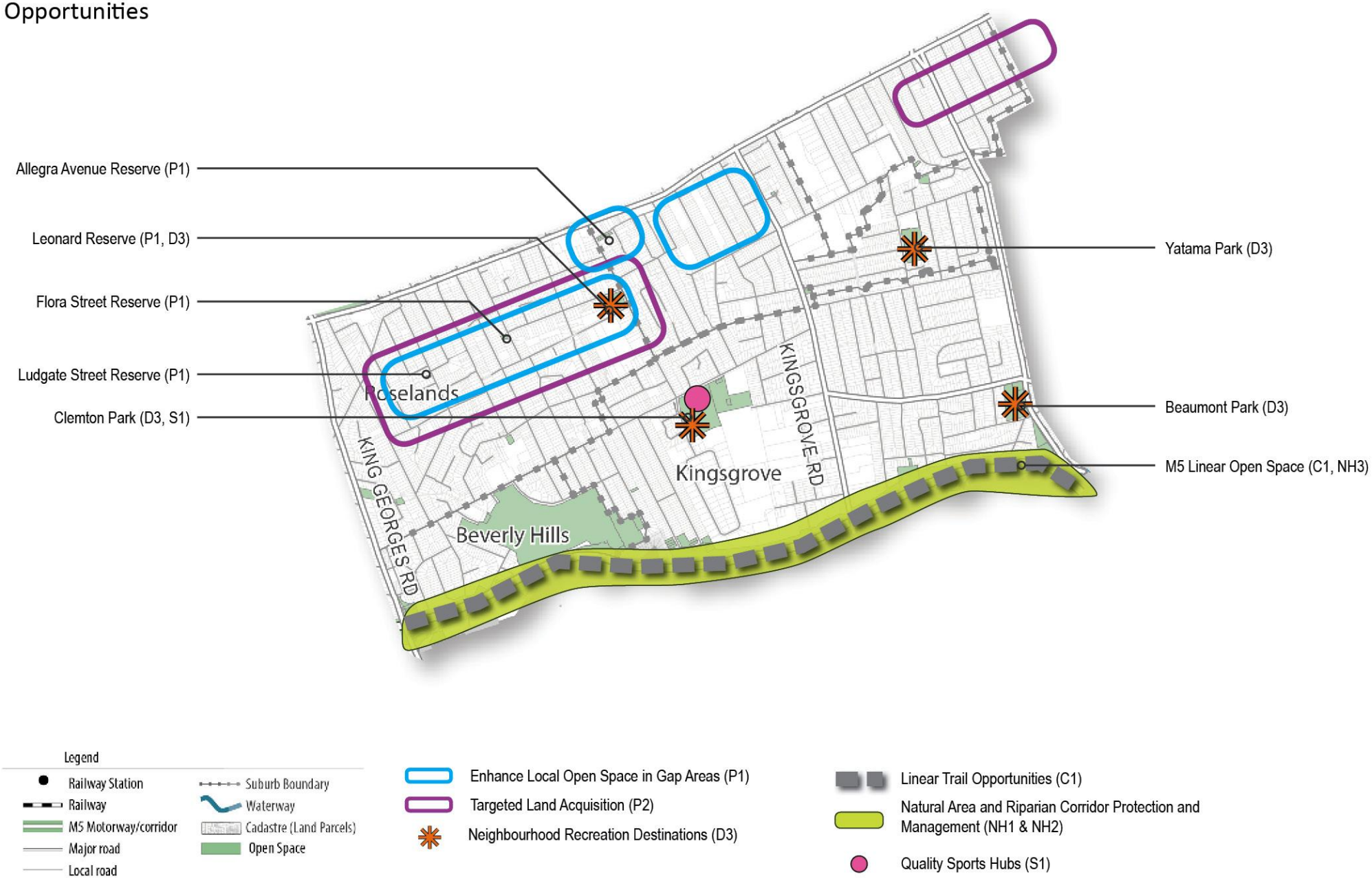
Demographic Characteristics	Approximately 24,200 people living in the Southern District in 2015 Diverse age groups including children and older adults Less culturally diverse compared to the Northern and Western districts, although larger proportions of Lebanese around Roselands Varying household income levels including medium and lower incomes Lower density compared to other districts (Northern and Western)
Open Space	Provision: 36.9ha Open Space Types: 18.8ha general community use (including Canterbury Golf Course), 8.9ha sports, 4.4ha park, 4.7ha other Hierarchy: 31.2ha district, 2.0ha neighbourhood, 3.7ha local
Key Open Spaces	Park: Beaumont Park (also sport) Sport: Clemton Park, Yatama Park Other: Canterbury Golf Course
Schools	4 public primary schools 1 public secondary school 1 private/catholic primary & secondary school A number of schools have limited open space and use Council reserves
Key Non Council	Beverly Grove Park and Beverly Hills Park to the south in the adjoining Georges River Council.

Southern Open Space Planning District Opportunities

The main opportunities for the Southern Open Space Planning District are listed below and mapped on the following page.

Focus	Main Opportunities	Priority	Related Strategies
Local Park Upgrade	Upgrade Ludgate Street Reserve and Allegra Avenue Reserve to compensate for the lack of open space.	High and ongoing	P1
Reserve Expansion	Pursue land acquisitions adjoining Flora Street Reserve and Leonard Reserve and undertake upgrades to integrate the land within these reserves (following land acquisition).	High	P1
Acquisition	Pursue land acquisitions in the open space gap areas within Roselands (refer District Map).	High and ongoing	P2
Neighbourhood Destinations	Establish or maintain Leonard Reserve, Clemton Park, Beaumont Park and Yatama Park as neighbourhood recreation destinations.	High and ongoing	D3
Connections	Maintain and create trail and pathway opportunities along the M5 open space corridor.	Medium	C1
Connections	Enhance streetscapes to improve the walkability of suburbs and connect to destination open spaces.	Medium	C3
Connections	In consultation with Sydney Water consider opportunities to create pathway connections along drainage lines.	Lower	C4
Nature	Increase natural settings and the urban forest canopy through tree planting and landscapes along the M5 open space corridor and within other open spaces.	Medium	NH3
Sport	Undertake improvements to create a quality sports hub at Clemton Park (including building and field upgrades).	Medium	S1
Sport	Review the Canterbury Golf Course as part of future planning for community and recreation open spaces.	Lower	S5

Southern Open Space Planning District Opportunities



Eastern Open Space Planning District

Area Character and Potential Priorities

Much of the Eastern Open Space Planning District is endowed with significant open spaces linked to Cooks River and Wolli Creek. This includes a number of sportsgrounds, major recreation parks and natural areas located along the riparian corridors. The open space provides walking and cycling opportunities for the wider region and a quality environment for people living and working in and around the area.

The suburb of Canterbury will require additional open space to address higher density development and population growth. Otherwise the area is well catered for.

The overriding priorities for the Eastern District are:

- Continue to improve the quality and function of existing open spaces and particularly the riverfronts, key recreation parks, linear open space and sportsgrounds.
- Provide additional open space in urban development areas such as Canterbury.
- Continue to retain and regenerate natural areas and strengthen biodiversity.

Area Snapshot

Demographic Characteristics	Approximately 38,400 people living in the Eastern District in 2015 Less culturally diverse than the other District areas A mix of age groups including children and older adults A mix of family types including lone persons and families with children Generally higher income and good employment Lower density compared to other District areas
Open Space	Provision: 163.0 ha Open Space Types: 74.4ha park, 56.0ha sport, 23.6ha natural area, 4.7ha general community use, 4.3ha other Hierarchy: 70.1ha regional/ city wide, 78.9ha district, 8.6ha neighbourhood, 5.4ha local
Key Open Spaces	Park: Gough Whitlam Park, Ewen Park, Peace Park Sport: Canterbury Park , Waterworth Park, Beaman Park, Picken Oval, Croydon Park, Earlwood Park, Lees Park, Whitfield Reserve Natural: Girrahween Park, Turella Reserve, Illoura Reserve, Cup and Saucer Creek reserves (Pat O'Connor)
Schools	5 public primary schools 1 public secondary school 2 private/catholic primary schools Most schools have limited open space and generally use Council reserves
Key Non Council	Wolli Creek Regional Park (National Parks) Canterbury Park Racecourse Kogarah Golf Club, Bayside Council area Henley Park, Burwood Council area Marrickville Golf Club, Inner West Council Other Inner West Council land along Cooks River (Steel Park, HJ Mahoney Memorial Reserve, Mackey Park)

Eastern Open Space Planning District Opportunities

The main opportunities in the Eastern Planning District are listed below and mapped on the following page.

Focus	Main Opportunities	Priority	Related Strategies
Acquisition	Pursue land acquisitions around the higher density development in the Canterbury suburb and around the Canterbury Racecourse if this area is developed in the future (refer District map).	High and ongoing	P2
Planning	Develop Master Plans for Peace Park and Canterbury Park.	High	AM6
Riverfront Destinations	Undertake improvements to strengthen the destination value of riverfronts e.g. Beaman Park, Girrahween Park, Gough Whitlam Park and Ewen Park.	High and ongoing	D1
Major Park Recreation Destinations	Undertake improvements to strengthen the recreation destination value of Peace Park following the master plan.	Medium	D2
Neighbourhood Destinations	Establish or maintain Lees Park, Pat O'Connor Reserve and St Mary MacKillop Reserve as neighbourhood recreation destinations.	Medium	D3
Connections	Undertake pathway improvements along the Cooks River linear trail.	High	C1
Nature	Protect and manage nature reserves and river edges along the Cooks River in Campsie, Croydon Park, Earlwood and Canterbury, along the Cup and Saucer Creekline and open space connected to Wolli Creek.	High and ongoing	NH1
Nature	Increase habitat through tree planting and native vegetation at Sando Reserve, Cup and Saucer Reserve, Gough Whitlam Park, Illoura Reserve and Turella Reserve.	Medium	NH2
Sport	Undertake improvements to create quality sports hubs (including building and field upgrades) at Canterbury Park, Beaman Park, Ewen Park and Waterworth Park.	High and ongoing	S1
Sport	Undertake a feasibility assessment and develop a concept plan for the Waterworth Park Velodrome including the identification of future sports and appropriate facility and site design.	High	S5

Eastern Open Space Planning District Opportunities

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

Approach to Implementation

The Canterbury Open Space Strategy will be implemented over time in accordance with the availability of resources and taking other City of Canterbury-Bankstown priorities into consideration.

An integrated approach to implementing both the Canterbury Open Space Strategy and the Bankstown Open Space Strategic Plan will be required to ensure an equitable allocation of resources across the City of Canterbury-Bankstown.

To achieve implementation, it is recommended that Local Area Plans are developed as a 'next step' as has occurred with the Bankstown Open Space Strategic Plan. The Local Area Plans should draw on the opportunities and potential projects identified in the strategies and district opportunities.

Overall, the Canterbury Open Space Strategy will assist Council with its strategic decision making and guide the identification and implementation of future works and projects. The strategy and district opportunities and suggested priorities aim to assist this process.

An across Council commitment to implementation will be required as highlighted in the strategy listings (implementation roles). Identified teams will be responsible for progressing, guiding and achieving the various strategies and opportunities.

To ensure a coordinated approach to implementation, Council's Urban Policy and Planning Team should develop the Local Area Plans, guide the overriding implementation of the Strategy and liaise with the other Council Teams as required.

The Priorities

Overriding Priorities

There are a number of overriding priorities in the Canterbury Open Space Strategy as listed below. Various recommended strategies and opportunities connect with these priorities.

1. Address the open space gaps in provision by upgrading existing parks (to compensate for the low provision) and by acquiring land for open space. A proactive approach to land acquisition is recommended where the gaps in provision are significant.
2. Plan for adequate open space and plazas in the growth and high density areas including through State Government and developers. Open space strategically located along the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor is a particular priority.
3. Improve the quality of regional/ city wide and district recreation parks and riverfronts with a particular focus on toilets, play spaces, picnic settings and pathways.
4. Provide a spread of accessible neighbourhood recreation destinations, particularly in the areas that are lacking open space.
5. Improve trail networks particularly through improved pathways and enhanced streetscapes (footpaths, trees, good street lighting).
6. Protect and strengthen natural environments, particularly linked to Cooks River, Wolli Creek and Salt Pan Creek as well as tree canopy.
7. Improve the quality of sportsgrounds and achieving some quality sports hubs that benefit communities. Particular priorities include building upgrades and surface improvements (drainage, irrigation, surface levels).

Specific priorities for the Districts are listed on the following page. All of the District priorities link back to the overriding priorities.

The main considerations used to identify the priorities are:

1. *Level of benefit to existing and future communities.*
2. *Level of equity for open space provision.*
3. *Addressing condition and safety issues.*
4. *Environmental benefits.*

Priorities for Open Space Planning Districts

The suggested main priorities for each District are summarised below.

Western District	Northern District	Southern District	Eastern District
1. Land acquisition in the suburb of Wiley Park. 2. Rotary Park further enhancements (landscape, shade). 3. Enhancement of neighbourhood recreation destinations, particularly Punchbowl Park. 4. Enhanced streetscapes, particularly linked to regional/ city wide and district open spaces. 5. McLaughlin Oval and Punchbowl Park improvements as sports hubs. 6. Natural landscape improvements along the M5 and Salt Pan Creek.	1. Local park upgrades to provide neighbourhood destinations, particularly Knox Street Reserve and Loch Street Reserve. 2. Land acquisition to create additional recreation open spaces, particularly in Campsie and Lakemba. 3. Improvements that strengthen the destination value of Wiley Park (following a master plan) and Anzac Park. 4. Trail opportunities, particularly linked to the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor. 5. Streetscape upgrades, particularly linked to urban centres and regional/ city wide and district open spaces. 6. Tasker Park and Parry Park improvements as sports hubs and recreation destinations.	1. Enhancement of neighbourhood recreation destinations, particularly Leonard Reserve and Yatama Park. 2. Land acquisitions to create additional recreation open spaces in Roselands, southern Campsie and Kingsgrove. 3. Enhancements to sports facilities at Clemton Park including netball and club facilities. 4. Natural landscape improvements and linear connections along the M5.	1. Riverfront improvements for recreation, particularly Ewen Park and Gough Whitlam Park. 2. Open space and network creation and improvements to support high density around the Canterbury suburb. 3. Peace Park redesign and upgrade. 4. Waterworth Park development as a sports hub and recreation resource. 5. Canterbury Park upgrade as a sports hub. 6. Cooks River Trail upgrade.

Partnerships and Funding

A key source of potential funding for implementing the Canterbury Open Space Strategy is Section 94 funding. Section 94 funds can be allocated towards the provision and embellishment of open space where additional or improved facilities are justified to support residents within new urban developments (for which the Section 94 funds have been collected).

The allocation of City of Canterbury-Bankstown funds will also be required through Works budgets in accordance with available funds and other priorities. Council will need to consider potential open space projects in the former City of Canterbury annually as part of budgeting, giving consideration to the priorities.

Other sources of funding include:

1. State and Federal Government grant funding including:
   - Department of Sport and Recreation funding for sports projects
   - Environmental and greening funding programs
2. Contributions to projects by sporting associations and clubs, particularly for sports hubs, buildings and multi-use facilities.
3. Contributions to projects by community organisations and groups, including environmental and cultural groups.
4. Developer contributions through Section 94 and Voluntary Planning Agreements.
5. Funding for school related projects.
6. Community fund raising for specific projects, initiatives and events.

In addition to funding, a coordinated partnership approach will be required to achieve a number of the strategies and opportunities in the Canterbury Open Space Strategy. This includes the need to:

- Work closely with the State Government in planning for and the provision of open spaces in future development and high density areas such as the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor and developments around Salt Pan Creek.
- Partnering sporting groups to achieve sports facility improvements. This includes the involvement of groups and clubs in planning and 'in kind' contributions as well as funding contributions.
- Negotiate with schools to achieve access to school spaces (including for recreation use) particularly in areas that are lacking open space.
- Continue to encourage and support volunteers, community groups and schools to undertake environmental and community projects and activities.

The success of the Canterbury Open Space Strategy will be determined by Council's ability to negotiate and achieve these and other funding and partnership opportunities. This can be achieved through a Team based approach to implementing the strategies and opportunities and working with potential partners and funding bodies.