

3.3. Informal Bike Tracks/Jumps

AUTHOR: David Manson, Manager Parks and Reserves

ENDORSED BY: Peter Massey, Acting Director Open Space and Environmental Services

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To present information on opportunities to provide a Mountain Bike jump track in the North Sydney LGA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents information for discussion on potential sites within the North Sydney LGA for the installation of a Mountain Bike jump track.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No funding has been allocated to this project

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report be received.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

1. Our Living Environment

1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities

BACKGROUND

During the several Covid-19 lockdowns in Sydney, Mountain Biking and riding bikes in general became a very popular form of exercise due to the shutdown of community sport, gyms, and personal training.

In many areas over the LGA, resourceful children were using what they could to build tracks, ramps and jumps to ride their mountain bikes on and over. Areas such as St Leonards Park, Forsyth Park, Grasmere Reserve and Lodge Road Reserve were utilised for this.

Council was in receipt of several complaints from residents and members of the public regarding these informal tracks. Complaints were mainly around soil and sediment damage being caused, littering as well as potential accidents sustained using these informal tracks.

If the informal tracks were not causing environmental harm and the risk to the greater public was minimal then the council practice was that they were not removed, recognizing the mental and physical health benefit.

At the Council meeting held on the 23rd of August 2021 a Notice of Motion (No. 19/21) was lodged by Councillors Keen and Mutton where it was resolved:

- 1. THAT** Council look for suitable bike jumps within the North Sydney Area, noting that these are separate to official cycleways.
- 2. THAT** Council report back through the Sport and Recreation Reference Group to determine the best locations including consideration of the southern end of Forsyth Park and discuss how to progress this for the North Sydney residents

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

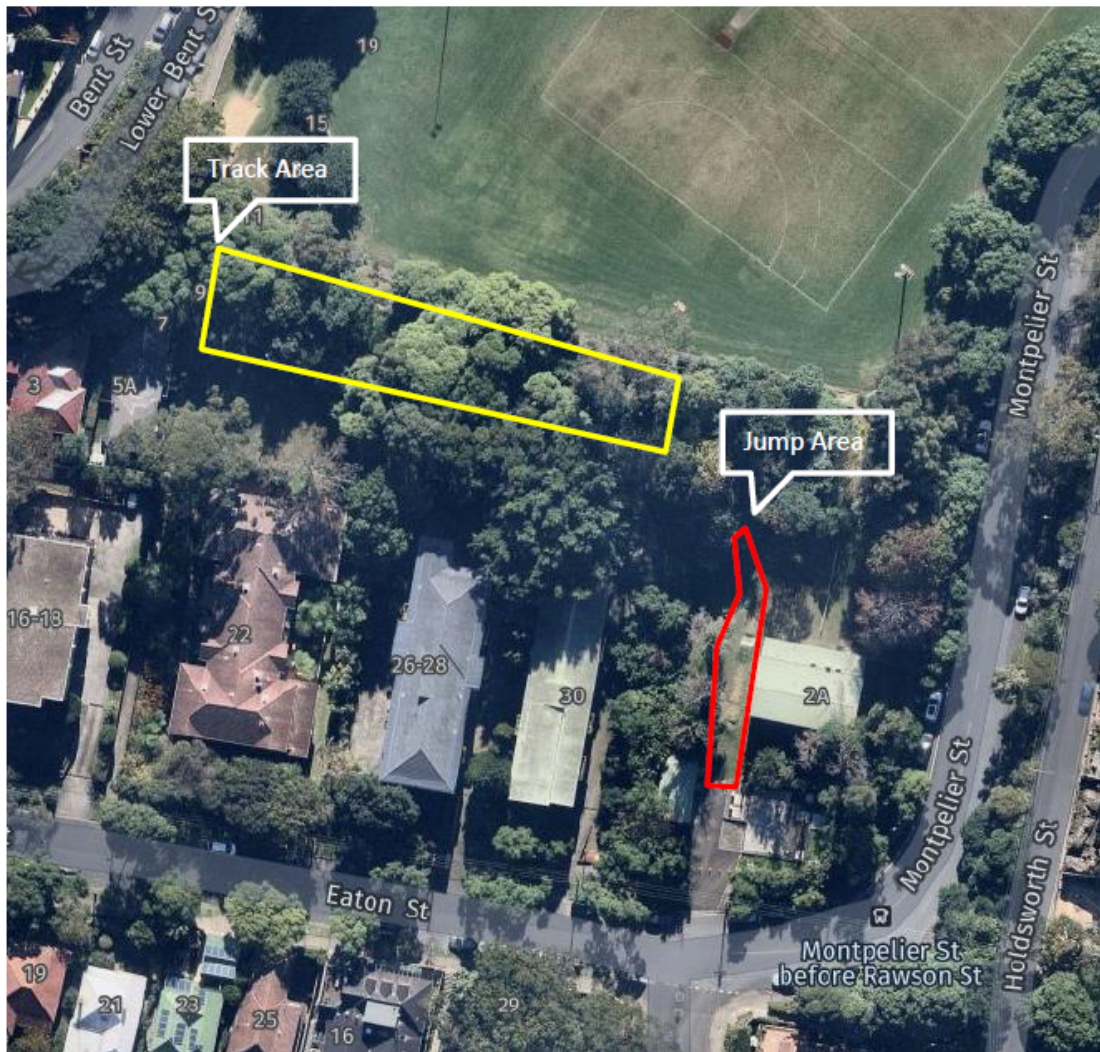
Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

DETAIL

Council staff have taken some time to investigate the potential locations that a formal bike jump track could be installed in the North Sydney LGA.

The following sites have been identified:

- 1. Forsyth Park** – located at the southern end of the park, this is a site that currently has a track and some jumps on it. The jump area is planned to be demolished as it is causing damage to infrastructure and does not appear to be utilized in recent times.



Jump Area



Track Area



2. **Green Park** – located along Cammeray Road, Green Park has an area to the eastern end of the park (highlighted in yellow in below picture) that is currently just a minimally used passive recreation area that runs downhill from the Scout hall.



3. **Grasmere Reserve** – located in Cammeray and runs on a downslope from south to north and could provide a track and/or jumps quite easily. Proximity to residences may provide challenges in gaining community acceptance.



4. **Brightmore Reserve** – located in Cammeray opposite the Primrose Park Sportsfields towards the South of the park (highlighted in yellow) has a slight slope where a track or jumps could be installed. The area is currently being utilised by Sydney Water undertaking repairs to the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS) pipeline

