



# **SPORTSGROUNDS**

## **PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

# SPORTSGROUNDS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Management Context**

Plans of Management are important documents providing clear guidelines for the effective short and long-term management of all land owned by Council or under Council's control. Land affected by this Plan of Management is a combination of Council-owned land and Crown reserve land. As such, the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management complies with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998, takes into account the intentions of the Crown Lands Act 1989 and is consistent with the principles of Crown Land Management.

The Sportsgrounds Plan of Management applies to all sportsgrounds in the North Sydney Council area that are owned or managed by Council. This generic Plan of Management looks at the sportsgrounds in a holistic manner, and draws on information contained in other significant planning documents and studies, incorporating them into a useful document that functions as one of Council's primary management tools. Relevant documents and studies include:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- North Sydney Council Delivery Program
- Local Environmental Plan 2013, North Sydney Council
- North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015
- Synthetic Surfaces Business Case Study 2014, North Sydney Council
- NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy 2011
- Sportsground Amenities Buildings Condition Assessment Report 2007
- Open Space Provision Strategy 2009

North Sydney Oval (located in St Leonards Park) is excluded from this Plan of Management, although the general principles of sportsground management set out in this document are still relevant. There are numerous issues including venue management, built facility and future development that relate specifically to North Sydney Oval, and a separate document (the North Sydney Oval Plan of Management) deals with these issues.

This document supersedes Council's Sportsgrounds Plan of Management 2011.

### **1.2 Structure of the Plan of Management**

The Sportsgrounds Plan of Management is divided into 6 parts:

Part 1 examines what a Plan of Management is, outlines the scope of this Plan, its purpose and its core objectives, explains the linkage between this Plan of Management and Council's land management goals, and details the importance of community consultation in the planning process. It also examines the issue of leases, licences and other estates.

Part 2 indicates the location of all Council-owned and managed sportsgrounds, and examines their common characteristics. The function and use of sportsgrounds are also discussed.

Part 3 identifies and examines the major planning issues essential to an understanding of the overall directions of the Plan of Management. Current management policies and practices are also examined.

Part 4 is the philosophical basis for the Plan of Management. It details the significance of sportsgrounds, and establishes the overall directions and objectives of management that guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

Part 5 is the implementation and performance component of the Plan of Management. A matrix sets out the objectives, proposed actions and performance indicators for each issue, and each issue is given a priority rating. An indicative works program further details the staging of all works and actions over a 5-year period.

Part 6 contains the appendices. This supporting material and background information provides an important resource base for appreciating the value of Council's sportsgrounds.

### 1.3 Purpose of the Plan of Management

This Plan of Management has been prepared to provide the managers of sportsgrounds in North Sydney with a useful and consistent set of guidelines governing the direction of management for these important recreation areas for at least the next 5 years.

The production of this Plan of Management is closely linked to North Sydney Council's overall land management objectives, as set out in the North Sydney Council Delivery Program. The following outcomes (encompassed in the Delivery Program under Direction 1 – 'Our Living Environment') describe what Council needs to achieve with regard to management of sportsgrounds:

*1.5 Public open space, recreation facilities and services that meet community needs*

*The following strategies are derived from this outcome:*

*1.5.1 Provide a range of recreational facilities and services for people of all ages and abilities*

*1.5.2 Improve equity of access to open space and recreation facilities*

Public open space is an important component of the urban environment, providing opportunities for recreation and leisure. This Plan of Management provides a framework for management of sportsgrounds in North Sydney over the next 5 years.

The Sportsgrounds Plan of Management examines the present-day character and condition of Council's sportsgrounds. It identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of sportsgrounds. It clarifies direction, both to Council staff and the general public, and provides a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting.

In addition to sportsgrounds, the North Sydney area offers a variety of other facilities for organised sport. (These include tennis courts, croquet lawns etc). Demand is ever-increasing, and the existing facilities need to be managed responsibly to ensure that Council continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

This Plan of Management will be reviewed regularly to assess implementation. A major review after approximately 5 years will allow policy and planning issues to be revisited and updated.

#### 1.4 Land Categorisation and Core Objectives

This generic Plan of Management covers all sportsgrounds in the North Sydney area. Due to the relative similarity in the characteristics, functions and issues associated with sportsgrounds it is deemed appropriate for a generic Plan of Management to encompass them all.

With the exception of Forsyth Park, all sportsgrounds in North Sydney are located on Crown land. As such they do not require categorisation under the Local Government Act 1993. However, all sportsgrounds in North Sydney are included in this Plan of Management as they are all managed by Council.

Council's previous Sportsgrounds Plan of Management, 2011, categorised all sportsgrounds as 'sportsgrounds'. This categorisation will be retained. According to the Local Government Act 1993, land should be categorised as a sportsground under section 36(4) of the Act if:

*The land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.*

The Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 provides core objectives for management of land categorised as a 'sportsground' that are applicable to sportsgrounds.

*The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:*

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and*
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.*

This Plan of Management addresses issues relevant to all the listed parks and reserves by virtue of their function as sportsgrounds. These issues include appropriate use, effects of sportsground use on neighbouring residences and the management and maintenance of the sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities. Other characteristics of the parks and reserves in which the sportsgrounds are situated are addressed in complementary Plans of Management; for 'Foreshore Parks & Reserves', 'Bushland' and 'Playgrounds. Significant parks and reserves with sportsgrounds (such as St Leonards Park) have their own Plans of Management.

It should be noted that it is Council's land management goals that relate to sportsgrounds

that are addressed in this document. These goals are balanced against other key land management goals contained in the complementary Plans of Management listed above, and in Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015.

The land covered by this Plan of Management is detailed in **Appendix 1** - Schedule of Land. The land is zoned a combination of RE1 Public Recreation and E2 Environmental Conservation under Council's Local Environmental Plan 2013, although all sportsgrounds are located in parts of the parks or reserves zoned RE1 Public Recreation. Further information is contained in **Appendix 2** - Explanation of Relevant Zoning.

### 1.5 Use and Management of Crown Land

This Plan also takes into account the principles of Crown Land management as a significant number of North Sydney's sportsgrounds are located on Crown land. The ownership of land in North Sydney that contains sportsgrounds is set out in **Appendix 1** – Schedule of Land. The principles of Crown land management, as set out in the Crown Lands Act 1989 (Section 11) are as follows:

- (a) *that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,*
- (b) *that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,*
- (c) *that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged*
- (d) *that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,*
- (e) *that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and*
- (f) *that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interest of the State consistent with the above principles.*

Uses and activities on land reserved for public purposes are broadly defined by the public purpose of the reservation, in conjunction with any conditions and provisions within the specific zoning in the relevant local Council's Local Environmental Plan. The land uses are then more specifically defined either by Plans of Management, leases and licences or a combination of both.

### 1.6 Leasing of Community Land

Parks and reserves in North Sydney are subject to stringent controls to ensure the land is managed appropriately. The North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 contains information that places restrictions on the use of public land in order to protect it. The Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 place further restriction on the use of Council-owned land.

The granting of a lease formalises the use of community land by groups such as sporting clubs, commercial organisations or individuals who are providing benefits, facilities or services for users of the land. A lease is typically required where exclusive use or control

of all or part of a park or reserve is required. The terms and conditions of a lease should ensure that the lessee undertakes proper management of the facility such that it is maintained in a safe and visually pleasing condition, and that the interests of Council and the public are protected.

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of a park is proposed. A number of licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The term 'estate' is defined as an interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien or encumbrance, whether by law or in equity.

This Plan of Management authorises the granting of leases, licences and other estates for uses of and developments on sportsgrounds that are in accordance and consistent with:

- The zoning of the land under North Sydney LEP 2013;  
*The North Sydney LEP 2013 sets out in general terms what types of developments are permissible within the RE1 Public Recreational zone, and provisions for conservation of heritage items. Any proposed developments within community land must be in line with the LEP 2013. They may require a development and building application in line with the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979;*
- Core values for the land (refer section 4.2.1);
- The objectives of this Plan of Management (refer section 4.2.2);
- The requirements of the Local Government Act 1993;
- The requirements of the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998;
- The categorisation of (Council-owned) community land (refer section 1.4);
- The core objectives for (Council-owned) land in that category (refer section 1.4);

The Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998 sets out requirements for the granting of a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land.

### **General Conditions**

Council may only grant a lease, licence or other estate for use of a sportsground if it is:

- for a purpose specified as a core objective for land categorised as a sportsground (refer section 1.4)
- for activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the community in relation to wide public purposes such as public recreation and cultural development
- for short term casual purposes as listed below:
  - the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
  - engaging in a trade or business



- delivering a public address
- commercial photographic sessions
- picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
- filming for cinema or television

(Note: The use or occupation of a sportsground for any of the above-listed short-term casual purposes is allowed only if the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature.)

Subleasing of land is only permitted for the same purpose as the original lease.

### **Leases, licences and other estates for periods not exceeding 5 years**

In order for Council to grant a lease, licence or other estate for a period that does not exceed 5 years (including any period for which the lease, licence or other estate could be renewed by the exercise of an option), it must:

- give public notice of the proposal, and
- exhibit notice of the proposal on the land to which the proposal relates, and
- exhibit notice of the proposal to such persons as appear to it to own or occupy the land adjoining the community land, and
- give notice of the proposal to any other person, appearing to the Council to be the owner or occupier of land in the vicinity of the community land, if in the opinion of the Council the land the subject of the proposal is likely to form the primary focus of the person's enjoyment of community land.

A notice of the proposal must include:

- information sufficient to identify the community land concerned
- the purpose for which the land will be used under the proposed lease, licence or other estate
- the term of the proposed lease, licence or other estate (including particulars of any options for renewal)
- the name of the person to whom it is proposed to grant the lease, licence or other estate
- a statement that submissions in writing may be made to the Council concerning the proposal within a period, not less than 28 days, specified in the notice

Other requirements

- Any person may make a submission in writing to the Council during the period specified for the purpose in the notice
- Before granting the lease, licence or other estate, the Council must consider all submissions duly made to it
- On receipt by the Council of a written request from the Minister for Local Government, the proposal is to be referred to the Minister

Final approval of a lease, licence or other estate rests with Council, however, in unusual circumstances, the Minister for Local Government has the discretion to ‘call-in’ a proposed lease, licence or other estate and determine the matter in place of the Council.

Leases, licences and other estates for a period of 5 years or less for use of land containing sportsgrounds for cultural or recreational purposes are not required to be tendered.

### **Leases, licences and other estates for periods exceeding 5 years**

Leases, licences and other estates for use or occupation for periods of over 5 years must be tendered unless for a non-profit organisation. The public notification and consultation procedure is as for leases, licences and other estates of 5 years or less. Council must submit leases, licences and other estates of over 5 years (including options to renew) to the Minister of for Local Government for his approval.

Leases, licences or other estates may not be granted for a period exceeding 21 years. (This includes any period for which the lease, licence or other estate could be renewed by the exercise of an option).

### **Uses of Community Land for which leases, licences and other estates are not required**

Exemptions regarding the granting of lease, licence or other estate in respect of land containing playgrounds for terms of 5 years or less may be granted in the following cases:

Use and occupation of the land for events such as:

- (i) a public performance (that is, a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the amusement of the public)
- (ii) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- (iii) playing of any lawful game or sport
- (iv) delivering a public address
- (v) conducting a commercial photographic session
- (vi) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
- (vii) filming for cinema or television

However, the use or occupation of community land for the events listed above is exempt only if:

- (a) the use or occupation does not involve the erection of any building or structure of a permanent nature
- (b) in the case of any use or occupation that occurs only once, it does not continue for more than 3 consecutive days, and
- (c) the case of any use or occupation that occurs more than once, each occurrence is for no more than 3 consecutive days, not including Saturday and Sunday, and the period from the first occurrence until the last occurrence is not more than 12 months.

**Table 1** sets out information about current leases and licences granted for purposes related

to organised sport in parks and reserves covered by this Plan of Management. Note: all leases and licences listed below relate to Crown land, and are administered under the relevant provisions of the Crown Lands Act 1989.

**Table 1 – Relevant Current Leases and Licences**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Tenant</b>	<b>Purpose/ Description</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Land Owner</b>	<b>Type</b>
Cammeray Park, Cammeray	Cammeray Golf Club Limited	Golf Club	01 June 2006 – 31 May 2026	Crown land	Lease
	Cammeray Croquet Club Incorporated	Croquet Club	01 Jan 2012 – 31 Dec 2017	Crown land	Lease
	Cammeray Tennis Club Inc	Tennis Club operations	01 July 2012 – 30 June 2017	Crown land	Lease
Primrose Park, Cremorne	Dalbech Pty Ltd	Primrose Park tennis centre, including 4 courts	01 April 2012 – 31 March 2022	Crown land	Lease
Waverton Park, Waverton	The North Sydney Club Ltd	Bowling Club, occupation, sporting facilities	01 Jan 2013 -	Crown land	Licence

## 1.7 Community Consultation

Community consultation plays an important role in the production of Plans of Management. It provides Council with a sound understanding of relevant local issues from people who are familiar with and use the relevant open space areas. To a large degree, the direction for the future development of open space is based on the views expressed by the general public.

Public involvement and consultation generates an understanding of Council's land management aims, combats misinformation and misunderstanding, and fosters support for Council's programs and policies. The consent and co-operation of users and other stakeholders facilitates management and lends weight to the status of the Plan of Management.

In 2015 a new Recreation Needs Study was undertaken. This Study entailed a high degree of community and stakeholder involvement in its preparation and it provides information regarding community and stakeholder needs regarding sportsground use and management that have been incorporated into this document.

The draft Sportsground Plan of Management is publicly exhibited for 28 days. A further 14 days is allowed to receive submissions. This provides interested parties with the opportunity to comment on and have input into the final document. The following steps have been taken to generate widespread awareness of the draft Plan of Management:

- Inserting regular notices in Council's corporate advertisement in the Mosman Daily to inform the community that the draft Plan is on public exhibition
- Posting the draft document on Council's website for information and comment, and providing details of how to make a submission

- Notifying all Precincts, Council's Sport and Recreation Reference Group and other known stakeholders (including sports clubs, schools and commercial hirers) that a new draft Plan is on display, and inviting comments
- Providing hard copies of the draft document to stakeholders, upon request
- Making hard copies of the draft document available for viewing at Council's Customer Service Centre, upon request

### Writing a Submission

Submissions give the community and other stakeholders an opportunity to express their opinions, provide information and suggest alternatives to Council's proposed management strategies for sportsgrounds over the next 5 years.

To ensure submissions are as effective as possible:

- (1) List all points according to the section and page number in the Plan of Management.
- (2) Briefly describe each subject or issue you wish to discuss.
- (3) State which strategies you agree or disagree with, and give reasons.
- (4) Suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you disagree.

Written submissions should be sent to:

The General Manager  
North Sydney Council  
PO Box 12  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Attention: Ms Megan White  
Landscape Planner

Fax No: 9936-8177

Email: [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Comments regarding this or any other adopted Plan of Management may be submitted at any time. Each Plan is reviewed regularly, and at the time of the review new issues can be incorporated and existing actions amended. Adopted Plans of Management are available on Council's website: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au).

## 2.0 **Sportsground Characteristics and Resources**

### 2.1 **Characteristics and Resources**

This Plan of Management applies to North Sydney's sportsgrounds and to the structures and facilities directly associated with them. Sportsgrounds include marked playing fields that accommodate competitive, organised sports such as cricket, rugby, football and hockey. They also include the marked courts used for tennis and netball as well as croquet courts, bowling greens, cricket wickets and golf courses (Refer **Appendix 3** - Definitions).

Relevant ancillary facilities include clubhouses, change rooms, kiosks, storage facilities and amenities blocks as well as flood lighting, seating, scoreboards, goal posts, nets and shade structures and landscape elements such as shade trees. In some instances, complementary facilities such as exercise equipment may be considered ancillary facilities.

The sportsgrounds covered in this Plan of Management form a network of structured, active recreational facilities that are valuable and important resources in the North Sydney area. Due to the area's hilly topography, many of North Sydney's sportsgrounds are located on reclaimed foreshore land at the heads of bays. Residential areas abut all of the sportsgrounds. Fees are charged for the use of sportsgrounds for organised sporting activities, and bookings must be made to secure their exclusive use.

When not in use for organised sport, sportsgrounds accommodate unstructured recreational activities such as walking, informal sports and games and dog walking.

Council is the owner of Forsyth Park, and is responsible for the care control and management of all other sportsgrounds in North Sydney on behalf of the Crown. **Map 1** indicates the location of all sportsgrounds covered by this Plan of Management, while **Appendix 1** – Schedule of Land details the location, categorisation and ownership of all the sportsgrounds.

### 2.2 **Sportsgrounds in North Sydney**

North Sydney Council manages and maintains a range of sportsgrounds catering for a variety of organised sporting activities.

#### Anderson Park, Clark Rd, Neutral Bay

Anderson Park contains a single, floodlit sports field. In addition, there are cricket nets and an amenities block containing change rooms, public toilets etc.

#### Cammeray Park, between Ernest St, Park Ave and Cammeray Rd, Cammeray

Cammeray Park accommodates numerous organised sporting activities. In addition to the floodlit, synthetic sports field, there are 4 tennis courts, a croquet court and a 9-hole golf course. The amenities building incorporates public toilets, change rooms, spectator seating, a canteen and storage facilities. A skate plaza is also located in Cammeray Park.

#### Forsyth Park, Montpelier St, Neutral Bay

There are 2 sport fields at Forsyth Park, 1 of which is currently floodlit. Other sporting and ancillary facilities in the Park include a long-jump pit, change rooms and toilets. Council is currently preparing plans for a new playground in the Park.

Primrose Park, Grafton St (entrance off Young St), Cammeray

Primrose Park has 4 synthetic wickets for cricket in summer and 3 football fields for soccer and rugby union in winter. Additionally, there are 4 floodlit tennis courts, cricket nets, change rooms, a car park, public toilets, hockey and tennis club houses, seating, a swing set and barbecues. All sports fields are floodlit.

St Leonards Park, Corner Falcon St and Miller St, North Sydney

North Sydney Oval No. 1 is located in St Leonards Park; the Oval has been used for cricket and football since the turn of the century. (Refer North Sydney Oval Plan of Management for more details.) The Park also contains the floodlit Bon Andrews Oval. The associated Cunningham Pavilion which houses change rooms and toilets is newly upgraded. There are also 2 netball courts, 2 cricket nets, a synthetic wicket for junior players and bowling greens with an associated clubhouse. The Park also contains seats, shelters, barbecues and a playground.

Tunks Park, off Brothers Ave, Cammeray

Tunks Park contains 4 synthetic wickets and a turf wicket for cricket in summer, and 2 football fields and 5 mini fields for rugby league, soccer and rugby union in winter. There are also change rooms, toilets, shelter sheds, a car park, barbecues, exercise equipment and a playground.

Waverton Park, Woolcott St, Waverton

This floodlit sportsground is located on the lower level of the Park adjacent to Berry's Bay. There are also change rooms and toilets. The Park also contains bowling greens and an associated clubhouse, and a playground.

Green Park, Cammeray

Green Park contains 2 tennis courts, available for public use, free of charge, on a first-come-first-served basis. There is also a basketball ring and a small shelter shed containing public amenities associated with the courts.

Prior Avenue Reserve, Cremorne Point

This reserve contains a tennis court, available for public use, free of charge, on a first-come-first-served basis. Users must bring their own net. There is also a small playground.

## 2.3 **Significance of the Sportsgrounds**

Council's sportsgrounds are a vital recreational resource; they provide opportunities for organised and competitive team sports to use specialist facilities not available in most parks and reserves. Sportsground are used by the local community, local and district-wide sporting groups, local schools and commercial organisations that provide the North Sydney community with 'pay-to-play' sport and fitness opportunities. By involving groups of people in active recreation sportsgrounds provide health and social benefits, encourage the development of team spirit and bring the community together.

While the primary use of sportsgrounds is to cater for organised sports, be it training or competition, they are also used for informal sports and games as well as for other compatible social and cultural activities when not in use for organised sport. Council's sportsgrounds make a positive contribution to the North Sydney landscape; they provide

significant visual amenity; the landscaped surrounds are attractive not only to spectators but to the many residents whose properties overlook them.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 noted that the level of provision of sportsgrounds in North Sydney is relatively low considering population density and the demographic profile of the area. It also found that membership of most clubs and groups is increasing. Given these facts, it is vital that Council manages its existing sportsground stock efficiently and effectively to best cater for user needs now and in the future.

## 2.4 **Other Significant Sports Facilities in North Sydney**

Although the following venues are not dealt with in detail in this Plan of Management, they are mentioned here as they are significant venues for sport in the North Sydney area, catering for large numbers of regular users involved in organised, competitive sports.

### North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre

The Indoor Sports Centre is located in Crows Nest on top of the Hume Street Car Park. The Centre caters primarily to basketball and can also accommodate sports for the disabled, such as wheelchair basketball. The Centre comprises 4 fully enclosed playing areas, grandstand seating, meeting and change rooms, office space and parking for up to 100 cars.

New concept designs have been prepared for the Hume Street Park precinct (which includes the Indoor Sports Centre). The preferred options involve a whole of block redevelopment that includes over 5,000m<sup>2</sup> of new open space, partial closure of Hume Street and the creation of a new urban plaza and a link to Willoughby Road.

### North Sydney Olympic Pool

Spectacularly located beside the northern pylons of the Harbour Bridge, and overlooking Sydney Harbour in Milsons Point, the Olympic Pool facilities include a 50-metre heated pool, gymnasium, sauna, spa, indoor 25-metre pool and café.

## MAP 1 Sportsfields, Sports Courts and other major Sports Facilities in North Sydney



<b>1</b>	<b>Anderson Park</b> Clark Rd, Neutral Bay	<b>7</b>	<b>Waverton Park</b> Woolcott St, Waverton
<b>2</b>	<b>Cammeray Park</b> Park Ave, Cammeray	<b>8</b>	<b>Green Park</b> Cammeray Road, Cammeray
<b>3</b>	<b>Forsyth Park</b> Montpellier St, Neutral Bay	<b>9</b>	<b>Prior Avenue Reserve</b> Prior Avenue, Cremorne Point
<b>4</b>	<b>Primrose Park</b> Young St, Cammeray	<b>10</b>	<b>North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre*</b> Hume Street, Crows Nest
<b>5</b>	<b>St Leonards Park</b> Cnr Miller St and Ridge St, North Sydney	<b>11</b>	<b>North Sydney Olympic Pool*</b> Alfred Street South, Milsons Point
<b>6</b>	<b>Tunks Park</b> Off Brothers Ave, Cammeray		

\* Not covered by this Plan of Management as not located on public open space



### **3.0 Planning Issues**

#### **3.1 Use**

Sportsgrounds are specialist recreational facilities that cater primarily for people involved in organised sport.

##### *3.1.1 Use of Sportsgrounds for Organised Sport*

The primary role of sportsgrounds is to accommodate organised sports participants for competition, training and other structured forms of recreation. Use of sportsgrounds by sporting clubs, schools, commercial operators and others for the purpose of organised sport is carefully regulated by Council as increasing participation levels in sport, new sports gaining popularity, older players returning to sport and a growing community awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle are all placing increasing demands on North Sydney's sportsgrounds.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 recognised that there is a broad spectrum of sporting interests in North Sydney. As such it is important to consider the big picture, and to offer a wide range of sporting opportunities that meet identified community needs.

While sportsgrounds have traditionally catered for organised sports such as rugby codes, cricket and football, changes in preferences and increased demand for facilities for baseball, softball and other less 'traditional' organised sports must now also be considered.

Council levies fees on sporting clubs, schools, business organisations and other groups who wish to hire sportsgrounds exclusively for the purpose of organised sport. Fees are set annually, and are designed to facilitate broad community access and use. Fees depend upon the type of facility being hired and the user group; there is a commercial rate, senior rate, juniors/schools rate and social/casual rate. The income generated assists with maintenance of the sportsgrounds.

The number of sportsfields in North Sydney is not adequate to cater for existing needs. The shortage of playing fields means that many of the grounds suffer from over-use, particularly during the winter playing season, and have little or no opportunity to rest and recover between sporting seasons. This results in greater costs to return fields to a condition suitable for play. Some sporting groups are unable to find a vacant sportsfield at their desired time; other groups find it is necessary to go outside the North Sydney area to play and/or train. This issue is explored in greater detail in 3.7 Management.

##### *3.1.2 Use of Sportsgrounds for Other Activities*

Council manages its open space network for the use and enjoyment of all members of the community. While the primary use of sportsgrounds is to cater for organised sports, they may also be used for other purposes such as events, informal sports and games as well as for more passive recreational pursuits. The sportsgrounds can accommodate these activities when the playing fields are open, and when they are not being used for booked, organised sport or for maintenance activities.

In recent years, the use of North Sydney's public parks and reserves by fitness trainers has

increased, reflecting a nationwide trend. North Sydney has a Code of Conduct which must be signed by all fitness trainers wishing to operate in North Sydney. The Code sets out 'common sense' guidelines designed to ensure that people involved in these activities do not have a significant negative impact on other park users and neighbouring residents. Fitness activities are currently sanctioned as long as they do not interfere with any Council-approved or booked activity that is being carried out on any sportsground.

If issues arise with fitness trainers or with any other sportsground or park user, Council staff communicate directly with the relevant group. To date the most prevalent issues have been those associated with the need for groups to respect and be considerate of other park users and neighbouring residents. If necessary, fitness trainers and the like may be reminded of their responsibilities under state government regulations regarding noise and advertising on community land.

North Sydney's sportsgrounds may also be used as venues for community and 'one-off' special events. The availability of the sportsground is considered upon receipt of a request, as is the appropriateness of the proposed event and the potential benefits/disadvantages to the local community. Appropriate events could include such things as triathlons and social/charity sports matches.

When choosing to use a sportsfield for informal sports and games, users must keep in mind that these are specialist facilities that require a high level of upkeep to remain in the best possible condition for fee-paying groups who use them for organised sport. North Sydney currently welcomes casual sportsfield users, however the playing fields are easily damaged, and casual groups must be thoughtful and considerate (for example, by not wearing shoes with spikes, and by using different locations to reduce wear patterns). Casual users who cause undue damage to the playing surfaces will be asked to modify their activities.

### *3.1.3 Dogs and Sportsgrounds*

With numerous parks where dogs can be exercised off-leash, North Sydney is a dog-friendly area. However, the Companion Animals Act 1998 imposes some restrictions in relation to dogs and playgrounds.

As per North Sydney Council's 'Local Companion Animal Management Plan', all Council parks and public reserves are off-leash areas with the exception of:

- St Leonard's Oval (No. 1 and 2)
- All playing fields whilst organised sporting events are in progress
- All bushland areas
- Cremorne Reserve, Clark Park and Ancrum Street Park
- The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability

Under the 'Companion Animals Act 1998 (Section 14)', dogs are also prohibited in the following public places:

- In or within 10m of any children's play areas;
- Food preparation and/or consumption areas (unless it is a public thoroughfare such as a road, footpath or pathway);
- Recreation areas where dogs are declared prohibited;
- Public bathing areas where dogs are declared prohibited;

- School grounds (unless with the permission of the person controlling the grounds);
- Child care centres (unless with the permission of the person controlling the centre);
- Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited (unless secured in a vehicle, with the permission of the person controlling the place or going to or from a vet or pet shop); and
- Wildlife protection areas.

All dogs in public places must be under the control of a competent person. Council is required by the State Government to enforce the laws concerning dogs, and Rangers may issue on-the-spot fines for infringements of the regulations listed above.

This information and more about dogs in the North Sydney LGA is available in Council's free booklet, 'Dog Control in North Sydney' which may be obtained through Council's Ranger Services Department or Customer Service Centre.

### *3.1.4 Recreation Needs Study 2015*

Council's new Recreation Needs Study 2015 (RNS) identifies the current and future recreation needs of the North Sydney community by assessing existing supply against demonstrated needs in order to identify shortfalls of provision. The RNS found that while there is a good range of recreation facilities in the North Sydney, maintaining an adequate supply, quality and diversity of opportunities will be an ongoing challenge due to increasing density of development and an increasing residential, student and worker population.

The RNS identified 5 key goals to guide provision of new facilities and services:

1. Increased participation in physical and social opportunities
2. Enhanced use of existing resources, whilst minimising overuse
3. A diversity of recreation opportunities for the widest range of the population, now and in future
4. Maintenance of the green nature and character of the North Sydney LGA
5. Co-operative, effective and sustainable service delivery

The RNS identified 5 key issues that provide the framework for all recommendations:

1. Off road trails for walking and recreational cycling
2. Water-based recreation
3. Social/family recreation space and protection of open space
4. Sport
5. Open Space

Key recommendations of the RNS 2015 that relate to sportsgrounds and increasing opportunities for organised sport were grouped into the following strategies:

**Strategy 1:** Progressively upgrade the quality and carrying capacity of sports facilities and supporting infrastructure (grounds, amenities, lighting, car parking etc.) to meet current standards

- Strategy 2: Seek to provide access to additional sports facilities in North Sydney, including those targeting workers and students
- Strategy 3: Provide resources to assist with club and sports development and information provision, to ensure facilities are programmed and clubs remain viable
- Strategy 4: Consider utilising non-open space assets to provide additional sports facilities, and divert use from playing fields
- Strategy 5: Maintain a good diversity of sports activities in North Sydney, as well as different ways these can be played

Future projects derived from these strategies are included in section 3.8 Improvement Works.

### 3.2 **Parking, Access and Circulation**

Sportsgrounds attract users from a wide catchment. While some Council sportsgrounds are well-placed in terms of public transport (Anderson Park and Waverton Park are both near railway stations), others are more difficult to access, and North Sydney's steep topography is often a deterrent to pedestrians and cyclists. Council encourages people to walk, cycle and use public transport where possible in an attempt to reduce problems with traffic congestion and parking. Government buses criss-cross the area, providing connections to many of the sportsgrounds.

There are designated car parks in Primrose Park and at Tunks Park. Whilst there is often a perceived need for more car parking near sportsgrounds, it is imperative that car parking does not take up open space and prevent public use of land for recreation. For this reason, there are currently no plans to provide additional off-street parking areas at sportsgrounds. Car parking is generally restricted to neighbouring streets and nearby designated car parks. Where problems caused by congestion and illegal parking occur, Ranger patrols may be scheduled to ensure all parking is legal and to protect the amenity of local residents. Ridge Street car park (across the road from St Leonards Park) advertises special rates when major events are occurring at North Sydney Oval.

Traffic congestion in the vicinity of Tunks Park is currently a significant issue, and local residents and other visitors to the area report problems with access, traffic, parking and noise. The problems are caused not only by people coming to play or view sport, but by the presence of excellent boating facilities in this Park, including a modern launching ramp, dinghy storage racks and trailer parking. The upcoming significant area Plan of Management for Tunks Park will investigate these issues further, in the context of establishing appropriate long term management policy and strategic directions for the Park. Access to the Park via public transport is difficult, and due to the location and topography, Tunks Park is only accessible to elite cyclists.

It is important to continue to restrict access to playing fields to emergency or maintenance vehicles only. Access to and through any sportsground by a private vehicle requiring one-off access is at Council's discretion, and may be granted upon receipt of a formal request. Car parking within sportsgrounds is prohibited except on special occasions, again Council may grant permission upon receipt of a formal request. Vehicles on sportsground can damage the playing surface, particularly when grounds are wet. Repairing the damage is

costly, takes time and affects the sportsgrounds availability for organised sport.

Sportsgrounds should be accessible to all. There should be safe and easy access for walkers and for people with mobility impairments or pushing strollers. Community and ancillary facilities adjacent to sportsgrounds should be designed with the needs of all members of the community in mind, and should be accessible to all where possible. Established systems of roads and pathways within and around North Sydney's sportsgrounds provide access for service and emergency vehicles as well as for pedestrians of all levels of mobility.

### 3.3 **Infrastructure and Amenity**

#### 3.3.1 *Provision of Associated Infrastructure*

Buildings and other structures associated with playing fields are an integral part of Council's sportsgrounds. The provision of appropriate and well-maintained ancillary facilities including spectator seating, clubrooms, changing rooms, public toilets, storage facilities, scoreboards and flood lights is crucial in providing a safe, functional and enjoyable destination for all users of the sportsgrounds.

Over the past several years, Council has been replacing its aging sportsground amenities buildings with new facilities that are attractive, practical, functional, and that represent good value for money. Most recently in 2015 Council replaced 3 discrete buildings in Anderson Park with 1 new amenities block. Consolidating facilities in this way reduces the space taken up by built structures in the Park and maximises the amount of open space available for recreation.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 identified the importance of creating 'social/family spaces' in some of North Sydney's larger parks and reserves. These are defined as areas with facilities that appeal to people of all ages and cater for people of all abilities. Facilities found in social/family spaces typically include playgrounds, sportsfields, basketball rings, fitness equipment, seats, picnic tables, barbecues, bubblers, shade, shelter and pathways. Providing some or all of these additional facilities in parks containing sportsgrounds not only enhances the appeal of the sportsgrounds for players and spectators, but enhances the appeal of the whole park for general visitors.

Many of Council's sportsgrounds including St Leonards Park, Cammeray Park and Tunks Park are excellent locations for further development as social/family spaces. Note that the possibility of developing Tunks Park as a social/family space will be explored further in the upcoming significant area Plan of Management for Tunks Park. This document will establish an appropriate strategic direction for any future work in this park.

#### 3.3.2 *Sportsground Amenities Buildings – Condition Assessment*

In 2007, Council commissioned specialist consultants to assess all amenities buildings associated with North Sydney's sportsgrounds and to provide recommendations for their management and maintenance to be implemented over a 10-year period. The project resulted in a pro-active maintenance plan being developed for all amenities buildings.

Facilities at Cammeray Park were not included in the assessment, as plans to design and

construct the new amenities block in this park were well underway when the Condition Assessment Report was prepared. The Report also excluded the amenities and facilities associated with North Sydney Oval No. 1 in St Leonards Park, as these have been the subject of previous detailed studies and reports.

9 years later, the significant majority of the works identified in the condition report have been completed. A summary of the single outstanding project is provided below:

#### Refurbishment of the Cunningham Pavilion – St Leonards Park

The Cunningham Pavilion adjoins the Bon Andrews Oval in St Leonards Park. Major refurbishment of the pavilion was scheduled for implementation in the ‘Long Term’, due to this aging facility no longer effectively meeting the demands of the different groups who use the associated sportsfield.

Work to provide safe, modern and attractive player amenities which meet the needs and expectations of current and future users is currently underway and is scheduled for completion in July/August 2016. The major internal refit includes upgraded player change rooms and provision of an accessible toilet and shower facilities.

#### *3.3.3 Signage*

Signage is needed at sportsgrounds to provide information for sportsground users. Signage should be sensitively positioned, but clearly visible to enable visitors to easily identify each sportsground, and to enable Council Rangers to enforce regulations. The amount of signage at sportsgrounds should be minimised to prevent visual clutter, and required information should be standardised for all fields, and unified on one signboard where possible.

Ongoing problems with groups using closed sportsfields clearly show that Council’s current sportsfield signage needs to be improved. Not only should the ‘sportsfield closed’ message be very clear, but explaining the reason for the closure may assist with compliance.

### **3.4 Relationship with Neighbouring Residents**

All sportsgrounds in North Sydney are at least partially bounded by residential neighbourhoods. Council recognises that living in close proximity to a sportsground can affect neighbouring residents and neighbourhood amenity. Likely positive impacts include having a visually attractive, green outlook and quick and easy access to open space, while potential negative impacts include noise, traffic congestion and loss of on-street parking during sporting events, rubbish and possible glare or reflection from flood lights.

Balancing the needs of sportsground users with the needs of the surrounding residents, and trying to minimise the negative impacts as far as possible is an important part of successfully managing sportsgrounds in North Sydney. Council acknowledges resident concern and acts upon it where appropriate. Residents are encouraged to notify Council if excessive noise or other undesirable behaviour is occurring, and Council officers can then liaise with the relevant clubs in order to ensure more effective self-regulation, or impose more formal sanctions where this becomes necessary.

The potential impacts on local residents are considered when developing and upgrading sporting facilities. New developments need not always have negative impacts on neighbouring residents. For example, advances in technology mean that upgrading existing flood lights not only better meets the needs of sportsground users, but also causes less light spill than many of the existing flood lights.

Potential impacts on neighbourhood amenity are also considered when requests to book sportsgrounds for community or special events are received. Council may recommend an alternate venue for the event or refuse permission altogether if impacts are likely to be significant.

### 3.5 **Community Involvement**

#### *3.5.1 North Sydney Sport and Recreation Reference Group*

First convened in early 2007, the North Sydney Sport and Recreation Reference Group is a Council-led forum that gives key stakeholders including representatives from sports clubs, industry experts and residents an opportunity to provide advice and feedback to Council on matters relevant to sport and recreation in North Sydney.

Outcomes from the Reference Group's quarterly meetings assist Council to provide sporting and recreational facilities as well as infrastructure and services which best meet the often varying and sometimes competing needs of the community. The Reference Group ensures that processes and procedures relating to sport and recreation in North Sydney are fair and equitable and that community and stakeholder input is considered in Council's wider consultation process.

#### *3.5.2 Pre-season Sportsgrounds Hirers' Meetings*

North Sydney Council currently facilitates 2 pre-season sportsground hirer's meetings per year; 1 prior to the start of the summer season and 1 prior to the start of the winter season. The meetings address issues of supply and demand, and any potential clashes with desired sportsfield and court bookings are discussed in an open forum. The meetings not only provide attendees with an opportunity to relay specific issues and concerns to Council, but listening to issues raised by others gives all participants valuable insight into the 'big picture' of organised sport in North Sydney.

The pre-season sportsgrounds hirers' meetings also provide Council with an opportunity to update sportsground users about activities and projects that are occurring in North Sydney. These may be general projects of interest to all or specific projects that will affect users of particular sportsgrounds such as flood lighting improvements, construction of new amenities blocks or levelling and drainage of playing fields. Council also provides updates on the progress of the North Sydney Sport and Recreation Reference Group.

### 3.6 **Maintenance**

Sportsground maintenance includes grass mowing, weed removal, rubbish collection, building repair, painting, graffiti removal and many other routine, ongoing tasks. Council encourages the community to report any maintenance issues or instances of vandalism as

quickly as possible as this minimises the risk of injuries to sportsground users and allows repairs to be carried out in a timely manner.

St Leonards Park receives the highest level of maintenance (it contains the Bon Andrews Oval and North Sydney Oval no. 1, Council's highest-profile sportsground) while smaller mobile crews currently service the other sportsgrounds. The number and structure of maintenance staff working at Council's sportsgrounds varies over time according to changing recreation needs and available resources.

North Sydney closes its turf playing fields at the end of both the summer and the winter seasons to assist turf recovery and to allow seasonal renovations including drainage improvements and aeration of the soil to take place. Without these works the fields would rapidly become bare and unplayable. The works are programmed to have minimal impact on users, however allowing sufficient time to renovate the sportsfields at the end of each season is becoming increasingly difficult as clubs seek to extend seasons and demand for sportsfields continues to rise.

To keep playing surfaces in a good and safe condition, Council restricts the number of hours per week that sportsfields are available for hire, and sportsfields are closed during or after wet weather in accordance with Council's wet weather procedures. Penalties and sanctions may be imposed on hirers who do not respect these restrictions as their actions risk making the fields unplayable for all. It is also important to note that unapproved and informal use can adversely affect the overall condition of sportsfields. Sportsgrounds impose obligations on both the provider and the user. While Council works hard to prepare and maintain safe and reliable playing surfaces, it is in everyone's interest for all users to treat the fields with respect.

While fees for sportsground hire go some way to assisting with maintenance, money raised in this manner is not nearly sufficient to cover costs. The cost of maintaining, managing and improving sportsgrounds is largely borne by Council, and Council's financial constraints mean that there may sometimes be a gap between the expectations of sporting clubs in relation to preparation of playing surfaces etc and what Council is able to provide. Improved liaison with the North Sydney sporting community through forums such as the Sport and Recreation Reference Group and the 2 Pre-season Sportsground Hirers' Meetings has led to a greater understanding of the issues facing Council, and has helped make community expectations more realistic.

### **3.7 Management**

Council's sportsgrounds are a vital recreational resource for both the local and wider sporting community. Although the majority of North Sydney's sportsgrounds are located on Crown reserves, they are all under the care, control and management of North Sydney Council. This Plan of Management aims to provide guidelines for the development, management and maintenance of all sportsgrounds in North Sydney.

Good management of Council's sportsgrounds is important to ensure that grounds are well-maintained, that they cater for an appropriate range of activities, that conflicts over sportsground availability are kept to a minimum, that non-sporting users still have some access to them, and that any future development is compatible with the character, operation and function of the sportsgrounds.



Changing use patterns and trends in sport and in sports participation all affect use of sportsgrounds and the need for certain types of sporting facilities. Council needs to continue to be aware of and to respond to the changing recreational needs of the community. These could be signalled by changes in the demographic make-up of the community or changes in the registration levels of sporting clubs.

The process of sports field allocation continues to be critical. The Recreation Needs Study 2015 indicates that many clubs are increasing in size, and that older players are returning to sport as part of a growing appreciation of recreation as a key component of health and well being. Council manages all seasonal use of sportsgrounds with an allocation and booking system that divides the year into two seasons; winter (April through August) and summer (September through March). The allocation of fields is determined by considering factors including:

- traditional patterns of use and new trends
- demand from sports clubs, commercial organisations and the community
- the need to provide opportunities for new sports and for minority sports and groups

A Council-facilitated meeting for potential hirers is held before the start of each season to identify potential problems (such as booking clashes) and to find mutually-acceptable solutions.

Providing multi-purpose fields and grounds allows for change in use to be catered for with minimal disruption to participants. Where possible, Council aims to optimise use of sportsfields by encouraging compatible multi-use, however where sports have very specific requirements specialist facilities must be provided. Management strategies aim to maximise use of Council's sportsgrounds within acceptable limits, as defined by their carrying capacity.

In addition to ensuring the fields are allocated in a fair and equitable manner, Council's sportsgrounds bookings procedures aim to ensure that the turf playing fields remain in good condition throughout the summer and winter playing seasons. Measures to achieve this include restricting the hours of use for organised sport to 32 per week per ground (primary school bookings are counted as half the actual usage due to their lower impact on the playing surface), allowing a maximum of 60 people per booking per ground, and encouraging clubs to use sandshoes and avoid studs for pre-season training.

Playing sport on a waterlogged field can be unsafe and can cause considerable damage to the playing surface. When deciding whether to close grounds, Council considers the potential for injury to players, the sport being played and the potential for damage to the playing surface, the weather forecast and the current condition of the ground when inspected. Information regarding sportsground closures is available on Council's Wet Weather Line, which is updated daily. For the benefit of all hirers, it is important that fields are not used when they are officially closed.

Closure of a sportsground applies to all users, including those using the grounds for informal sports and games. People using closed grounds for any purposes will be asked to leave. Clubs, schools and commercial hirers using closed fields will be liable for the full cost of repairs and may lose their booking with Council.

The development and management of high quality sportsgrounds requires a significant financial commitment. Funding for long term improvements to playing fields and supporting infrastructure such as amenities blocks, flood lighting, drainage and irrigation currently comes from sources including Section 94 contributions and general capital reserves. Because the current level of funding is less than that required to meet the expectations of the sporting community, Council keenly explores other opportunities to maximise funding for sports development as they arise. Grants and partnerships can provide Council with an opportunity to fund additional work to improve the quality and sustainability of its assets.

### *3.7.1 Regional Management of Sports Facilities*

It is extremely important to look at the provision and use of sports facilities on a regional basis; most sportsgrounds in North Sydney are more than local facilities, and the issues Council currently faces are not exclusive to this area.

Key issues common to all Northern Sydney Councils include a shortage of community sports facilities, particularly sportsgrounds. This issue will only be exacerbated by continued population growth and greater participation in organised sporting activities. Other issues that limit the ability of Councils to meet current and future needs include lack of space for new facilities and budgetary constraints.

Major reconstructions of sportsgrounds and provision of lights will be required to sustain current usage levels; however, the demand for established sports such as soccer, rugby union, cricket and hockey already exceeds supply. With plans for growth in these sports and in emerging sports such as AFL, Councils need to look at new ways of managing and developing sportsgrounds on a regional basis. There is likely to be a decline in some sports including hockey and soccer if additional synthetic grounds are not provided.

The NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy 2011 was developed help Northern Sydney Councils to collectively deliver a wide range of sports opportunities for local and regional competitions. The Strategy aims to improve co-ordination of community sportsground management across the Northern Sydney region, and to maximise participation opportunities and deliver health and amenity benefits.

While little co-ordinated work has been done to implement the Strategy to date, potential outcomes of the Strategy include:

- Establishing principles for future sportsground development across the region
- Determining a regional upgrade and infrastructure development program (this will include planning, funding and providing synthetic sportsfields and other regional facilities)
- Establishing a governance system and decision-making structure for sportsground allocation
- Establishing a region-wide sportsground information portal, incorporating public information about ground availability, ground closures and other relevant issues

### *3.7.2 Environmental Considerations*

The principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development guide Council's management of

sporting and recreational facilities, allowing the community to use and enjoy North Sydney's sportsgrounds and ensuring the environment is protected.

Many of Council's sportsgrounds adjoin steeply sloping tracts of bushland and/or the harbour foreshore. While these factors add significantly to the visual amenity of the sportsgrounds, proximity to these delicate environments means that careful management and maintenance of sportsgrounds is needed to avoid potential adverse effects.

Issues such as stormwater management and the protection of adjacent vegetation must be considered when significant projects such as playing field resurfacing and irrigation are carried out, as nutrient enriched run-off from sportsgrounds can contribute to the degradation of urban bushland areas (and the growth of weeds) and reduced water quality. Additional issues such as the need for water quality control devices, monitoring of imported soil and materials and alternatives to the use of pesticides are all considered as required.

### 3.7.3 *Promotion*

The Recreation Needs Study identified that there was a need to provide more and better information about Council open space network (including its sportsgrounds), in order to increase community awareness of the range of recreation and sporting opportunities available in North Sydney. Ways of doing this may include printed information, such as brochures, to be available at Council offices, Stanton Library, community centres and so on, clear, easy to find and up-to-date information on Council's website, and improved and consistent signage at sportsgrounds and in other recreation areas.

Council also need to promote facilities that have additional capacity to ensure the community receives maximum benefit from existing infrastructure and facilities. Promotion of sport in North Sydney should focus on:

- Where sports are played
- Existing clubs and what they offer
- Matching available opportunities with suitable and target group needs
- Diverting demand away from overused facilities

## 3.8 **Improvement Works**

Upgrading existing sportsgrounds and associated facilities and constructing new facilities allows Council to better meet the active recreational needs of the community. Many of the projects and tasks identified in Council's previous Sportsgrounds Plan of Management are now complete. Implementing these projects has directly contributed to the improved condition of North Sydney's sportsgrounds that is apparent today. Following are brief descriptions of some of the more significant projects carried out since the previous Sportsgrounds Plan of Management was prepared in 2011.

### Anderson Park

- Minor work to refurbish the amenities block - 2011
- Installation of new ancillary facilities (2 seats) - 2011-12
- Synthetic Cricket Wicket Replacement - 2012-13
- Cricket Net Replacement - 2012-13
- Amenities Block Reconstruction - 2014-15

Design and construction of a new, combined change room/amenities block including an accessible toilet and storage facilities.

- Preparation of a DA for a synthetic sportsfield 2014-15  
Project currently postponed pending preparation of a Plan of Management and Masterplan for Anderson Park

#### Cammeray Park

- Installation of new ancillary facilities (bike rack, picnic table and benches) 2011-12
- Preparation of a DA for a synthetic sportsfield - 2013-14
- Construction of a Synthetic Sportsfield and associated Lighting 2014-15

#### Forsyth Park

- Sportsfield Lighting Upgrade (field 2) - 2010-11
- Minor Refurbishment of Sportsfield Change Room - 2011-12
- Installation of new ancillary facilities (2 seats, bike rack) - 2011-12
- Construction of a path on the western side of the Park linking the upper and middle terraces - 2012-13
- Preparation of a DA for sportsfield lighting (field 1) - 2015-16

#### Primrose Park

- Sportsground Lighting Upgrade – 2010-11
- Amenities Block Upgrade - 2010-11
- Minor Refurbishment of Sportsfield Change Room - 2011-12
- Installation of new ancillary facilities (bike rack, picnic table and benches) - 2011-12

#### St Leonards Park

- Installation of new ancillary facilities (bike racks in 4 locations) – 2011-12
- Upgrade cricket practice nets - 2011-12
- Synthetic Cricket Wicket Replacement - 2012-13
- New Sports Lighting to Bon Andrews Oval – 2013-14
- Netball Courts Resurfacing - 2014-15
- Refurbish Cunningham Pavilion (adjoins the Bon Andrews Oval) – 2015-16

#### Tunks Park

- Amenities Block Minor Upgrade – 2011 - 12
- Sportsfield Levelling and Drainage - 2011-12
- Sportsfield Irrigation – 2011-12
- Sportsfield Levelling and irrigation - 2012-13
- Prepare a DA for Sportsfield Lighting – project postponed pending preparation of a Plan of Management for Tunks Park - 2015-16

#### Waverton Park

- Upgrading of Hexagonal Amenities Building - 2010-11
- Levelling and drainage of sportsfield - 2011-12
- Installation of new ancillary facilities at sportsgrounds (2 seats) - 2011-12
- Synthetic Cricket Wicket Replacement - 2012-13

#### General Projects

- Prepare a Sportsgrounds Ancillary Facilities Report to determine what additional facilities are needed in the vicinity of sportsfields – 2010-11

- Develop and implement a program to increase the number of trees around sportsgrounds - 2012-13
- Carry out a sportsground irrigation improvement program:
  - o Stage 1 – 2010-11
  - o Stage 2 – 2011-12
  - o Stage 3 – 2012-13
- Carry out a synthetic cricket wicket replacement program – 2010-2014
- Develop and implement a fitness code for personal trainers and the like who wish to use Council’s parks and reserves (including sportsgrounds) Rollout of new Code of Conduct for Fitness Trainers operating in North Sydney - 2011-12

Upgrading and improvement works scheduled to occur during the life of this Plan of Management have been largely derived from Council’s RNS 2015. These are listed below according to the broad Strategies developed in the RNS (refer section 3.1.4 Recreation Needs Study 2015). Note that projects involving North Sydney Oval are omitted from this list as there is a separate Plan of Management for this significant facility.

### **Strategy 1**

Progressively upgrade the quality and carrying capacity of sports facilities and supporting infrastructure (grounds, amenities, lighting, car parking etc.) to meet current standards

Specific projects:

- Provide new or upgraded lighting to outdoor sports facilities to enhance flexibility of use
  - o Forsyth Park  
 Levelling and drainage of sportsfield no. 2 – 2016-17  
 Construct new sportsfield lighting to sportsfield no. 1 at Forsyth Park, if DA approved – 2016-17
  - o School Facilities (including aquatic facilities and indoor and outdoor sports courts that can be used by the community outside of standard operating hours)  
 Continue to liaise with schools who have expressed an interest (as part of the RNS consultation process), and identify and progress realistic opportunities. These included:
    - North Sydney Boys High (additional indoor sports courts)
    - Australian Catholic University (various current/future options)
    - Shore School (use of redeveloped indoor pool)
  - o Tunks Park  
 A Plan of Management and a Masterplan will be prepared to guide future major work in Tunks Park - providing floodlighting to one or more sportsfields in Tunks Park will be considered as part of this process
  - o Waverton Park  
 Sportsfield lighting upgrade 2016-17
- Add an additional court to the North Sydney indoor sports centre in Crows Nest
  - o Council is currently working on several options for additional indoor sporting facilities in North Sydney:
    - The redevelopment of existing facilities Hume Street area
    - The redevelopment of Ridge Street car park (it is proposed to incorporate indoor multi-purpose courts)
    - The redevelopment of Holtermann Street car park (the opportunity to

install a multi-purpose indoor court on the roof of this facility is being looked at)

- The redevelopment of the Ward Street car park and surrounding precinct (Ward Street Precinct Masterplan)

These projects need to be considered together, to ensure that new facilities meet identified need. Indoor facilities for the following sports are required (over the range of suggested locations): basketball (at least 1 additional court), netball, futsal, cricket, badminton, squash, gymnastics and dance.

Note: new indoor facilities must be multi-use to maximise community benefit

- Progressively improve all the support facilities at outdoor sportsgrounds to provide high quality, functional and compact shared spaces
  - Carry out a condition assessment of infrastructure associated with sportsgrounds – 2016-17
    - Consider public amenities, change rooms, storage areas, canteens, seating etc
  - Prioritise required works and commence implementation – 2017-18
- Provide a synthetic sportsground suitable for hockey (and other sports) in North Sydney – 2016-onwards
  - An assessment of existing sportsfields in North Sydney determined that the most suitable sportsfields to be converted to synthetic fields were Anderson Park, followed by Primrose Park. A DA was approved for Anderson Park, however the project is current on hold; a Plan of Management and Masterplan are being prepared to guide future significant work in the Park.
- Investigate options for parking, shared path/cycle access and other transport opportunities for existing sports precincts
- Work with the operators of the golf club in Cammeray Park to target a broad range of users including juniors and workers, and investigate opportunities for other sports activities on and around the golf course

## **Strategy 2**

Seek to provide access to additional sports facilities in North Sydney, including those targeting workers and students

Specific projects:

- Investigate options to provide free access outdoor sports courts and/or a basketball facility in or close to the North Sydney CBD, in conjunction with a private or education provider
- Monitor the implementation of the NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy 2011
  - Continue to be involved in sharing of knowledge, joint provision of facilities and joint funding initiatives
- Investigate options to provide a racquet sports centre (for sports such as badminton and squash) in or close to the North Sydney CBD
  - This is being considered as part of Council's Ward Street Precinct Masterplan which is currently being developed
- In conjunction with a hockey association (and potentially an education institution) provide a synthetic hockey facility in North Sydney

### **Strategy 3**

Provide resources to assist with club and sports development and information provision, to ensure facilities are programmed and clubs remain viable

Specific projects:

- Consider employing additional resources to provide Council with a sports development role - 2017 onwards
  - o Council previously employed a Recreation Planner who carried out some of the tasks listed below. Going forward, there would be numerous benefits of again employing a qualified and specialist recreation planner to carry out all of the specialised tasks listed below.
- Liaise with all existing sports clubs and encourage them to provide for juniors, female and male older adults and people of all abilities through offering different forms of the same game.
- Liaise with clubs offering bowls and golf and encourage them to:
  - form multiple code clubs with field and court sports to enhance their viability and appeal
  - provide sports development opportunities in conjunction with schools and corporations
  - explore opportunities for other uses such as fitness and dance
- Liaise with local providers (including Cammeray Tennis Club, North Sydney Tennis and Gym and the Neutral Bay Club) as well as peak bodies including Tennis Australia and Tennis NSW to determine the state of tennis in North Sydney.  
Consider:
  - Opportunities to enhance services
  - Pathways for juniors to high levels of competition
  - Social competitions
  - Opportunities to utilise courts for workers and students
- Liaise with community organisations to expand the range of community-based recreation programs that target specific user groups (especially older people, youth, people with a disability and people from non-English speaking backgrounds)
- Liaise with clubs and encourage them to offer more social facilities (such as petanque and bocce) in conjunction with competition sports activities.
- Consider organising a North Sydney Sports program for Council staff and CBD workers that utilises public sports facilities and parks during the day (eg Park Runs).
- Investigate ways to provide better information to the North Sydney community about sports and fitness facilities and opportunities currently available in North Sydney.

### **Strategy 4**

Consider utilising non-open space assets to provide additional sports facilities, and divert use from playing fields

Specific projects:

- Investigate ways to provide additional indoor sports facilities in North Sydney, particularly near the North Sydney CBD and the education precinct. Current projects include:
  - o Redeveloping the Ward Street car park and surrounding precinct (Ward Street Precinct Masterplan)

- Redeveloping the Hume Street area (including the indoor sports centre)
- Redeveloping Ridge Street car park (proposals include indoor multi-purpose courts)
- Redeveloping Holtermann Street car park (installing a multi-purpose court on the roof is under consideration)
- Note that to maximise community benefit, any new indoor facilities should:
  - Be multi-purpose
  - Offer program-based and ‘pay-as-you-play’ activities
  - Offer some level of community access to practice facilities
  - Offer social sports as well as competitions
- Provide additional cricket practice nets for shared club/community use. Potential locations include:
  - Tunks Park (Plan of Management and Masterplan required first to guide future development in this Park)
  - Primrose Park – consultation required????
  - St Leonards Park (provision of more cricket nets will be considered during development of a Masterplan for the Park – 2016-17)

### **Strategy 5**

Seek to maintain a good diversity of sports activities in North Sydney, as well as different ways these can be played

Specific projects:

- Maintain a suite of sports opportunities from “pay as you play”, short term and conveniently scheduled activities, to suit women, workers and students, and where participants are not expected to volunteer, as well as local club sport, school sport and regional events at Nth Sydney Oval
- Provide facilities suitable to retain a hockey competition in North Sydney
- Seek to retain the range of current sports activities in the LGA, and adopt a “no net loss” principle for sports landuse.

Specific scheduling details for these and other planned works are contained in section 5.2 of this document – Indicative Works Program.



## **4.0 Basis for Management**

### **4.1 Philosophical Basis for the Plan of Management**

This Plan of Management guides the future use, development, management and maintenance of North Sydney's sportsgrounds and provides both short and long term policy. The Plan aims to respond to the changing needs of the community and users for active recreation and organised sport, and it has the flexibility to incorporate and take advantage of changing needs as they arise.

### **4.2 Core Values and Management Objectives**

#### *4.2.1 Core Values*

The following core values describe the qualities that make North Sydney's sportsgrounds important to the whole community. These values are broad and long lasting, and they must be considered when future management objectives, strategies and actions are developed to ensure their protection.

#### Social

- Sportsgrounds play a major role in the provision of public spaces for social interaction. They are valued for their availability and accessibility to all members of the community. The playing fields act as meeting places for community members and provide people with the opportunity to socialise and build networks in a relaxed atmosphere
- Sportsgrounds provide a wealth of sporting, recreational and cultural experiences for the local and wider community. They are the home venues for many long established sporting clubs and associations. People come to the fields for their weekly sporting competitions, coaching, and school carnivals and occasionally for other community activities and events.
- Organised sports can contribute to both social and life skills through involvement with others and the need for co-operative action to achieve collective outcomes. The benefits of health and fitness can transfer to other activities, particularly for educational outcomes for children and young adults
- Sport can be an agent for community development (in particular youth development). Interaction as part of a team aids individual development as well as broader community development through the learning of skills such as communication, co-operation and negotiation. Spectators can also derive much enjoyment from watching a competitive or social game
- The provision and open accessibility to sportsgrounds for future generations is of paramount importance. The changing roles of sportsgrounds for broader community recreation, as well as increasing participation and rapid growth in participation of some sports, is recognised and needs to be accommodated
- Sportsgrounds are valued for their cultural and historical significance, the role that they play in community life and the contribution that they make to the identity of the community and sense of place
- Sportsgrounds also have value as informal meeting places for other users such as dog walkers and people playing informal sport and games

- Special or larger events held at sportsgrounds can bring benefits to the local economy, through expenditure on local services including food, drink and petrol

#### Health

- Sportsgrounds are valued as areas that can be used for physical activity and exercise that contributes to the health and well being of the community
- Providing a wide range of sporting venues allows various sectors of the community to participate in organised sport, and to enjoy the attendant health benefits
- Increasing levels of physical activity has been shown to help with both physical and mental health problems. Regular participation in physical activity allows individuals to improve their overall health and functioning including balance and co-ordination, mental alertness and stress management. This public health message is currently being promoted through a variety of initiatives such as ‘Healthy Parks, Healthy People’ and ‘Active Australia’
- Belonging to a sporting group or organisation encourages physical fitness, the development of skills, commitment to a team or club, a sense of belonging and the development of a potential life-long interest in a healthy, active lifestyle
- Providing a fun, interactive and stimulating sports environment encourages more people to participate in physical activity

#### Recreational

- Sportsgrounds provide a wide range of active recreation opportunities for the community. The recreational value of sportsgrounds is enhanced when a broad range of high quality opportunities are provided that are capable of meeting the needs of many sectors of the community
- Sportsgrounds which have adjacent dog and other animal exercise areas such as horses provide a range of activities which enable a broad range of the community to benefit from these spaces, although health concerns for those using the playing fields for sports need to be considered
- Sportsgrounds provide opportunities for solitude and quiet relaxation during “off peak” periods. The community may benefit from opening up sportsfields for other uses during these periods

#### Environmental & Aesthetic

- Sportsgrounds comprise a considerable proportion of North Sydney’s total open space network. They are highly valued by the community not only for the open space they offer but for their visual appeal; providing green space as a relief from the urban environment, and a pleasant outlook for nearby residences.
- Many of North Sydney’s sportsgrounds are located adjacent to significant bushland reserves and/or to the harbour foreshore. These environmental and scenic values are important to the community and their preservation and enhancement is of paramount importance in maintaining the quality of life enjoyed in North Sydney.

#### *4.2.2 Management Objectives*

Based on legislative goals, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of the sportsgrounds, the following broad management objectives have been identified:

- To manage the land for public recreation in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Delivery Program;
- To ensure management of the sportsgrounds considers the principles of Crown Land management as set out in the Crown Lands Act;
- To ensure that use and management of the sportsgrounds is sustainable in environmental, social and economic terms, and takes account of environmentally sustainable principles;
- To provide and maintain high quality specialist facilities for organised sport that offer a wide range of appropriate sporting opportunities to meet community needs;
- To encourage and facilitate joint or multiple use of sportsgrounds and associated facilities, where the uses are appropriate, complementary and do not jeopardise the condition of the playing fields;
- To be flexible and respond to the changing recreational and sporting needs and preferences of the community;
- To ensure that opportunities for the use of sportsgrounds and Council's process of sportsfield allocation are as fair and equitable as possible;
- To provide opportunities for informal, unorganised recreation for the local community;
- To permit appropriate community and special events to be held on sportsgrounds;
- To take a consistent approach to maintenance of sportsgrounds and associated facilities and to maintain these areas to acceptable and appropriate standards, within the limitations of budgetary constraints;
- To ensure that maintenance operations interfere as little as possible with organised sporting activities;
- To upgrade the existing sportsgrounds and associated facilities as required in accordance with identified current and future community needs;
- To provide additional ancillary facilities as required in accordance with identified needs;
- To ensure sportsgrounds are accessible to the general community;
- To take a regional approach to the management of North Sydney's sportsgrounds;
- To provide for public safety;
- To minimise conflict between different users of the sportsgrounds;
- To minimise potential negative impacts of sportsground use on surrounding residents;
- To improve linkages between sportsgrounds and other open space areas and community facilities such as schools and shops;
- To provide better information on sportsgrounds and sporting groups and opportunities to become involved to the North Sydney and wider community;

These objectives have been used in the subsequent management issues to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

## 5.0 **Policy, Implementation and Performance**

The policies established in the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated availability of resources and anticipated community trends.

The priority ratings outlined in the following pages are subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds, and may require further modification if special circumstances arise.

### **Codes used to define priorities in the following matrix:**

ST	Short Term	-	Action scheduled for completion within 2 years
MT	Medium Term	-	Action scheduled for completion within 2-4 years
LT	Long Term	-	Action scheduled for completion after 4 years *
O	Ongoing	-	Action is carried out on a regular basis for the life of this Plan of Management
C	Commenced	-	Action has commenced
CP	Completed	-	Action has been carried out

- \* Note:  
The Sportsgrounds Plan of Management is designed to be relevant for a 5-year period, and to be extensively reviewed and updated after this time. As defined by this document, long-term projects are those that are scheduled for commencement but not completion within the life of the Plan.

## 5.1 Matrix

### USE

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
General Use of Sportsgrounds	To maximise appropriate community use of sportsgrounds while maintaining the sportsgrounds in the best possible condition.	Ensure all activities occurring at sportsgrounds are consistent with the 'core objectives' for sportsgrounds (refer section 1.4) and lie within the carrying capacity of the individual sportsground.		O	Condition of the sportsgrounds.	Local Government Act 1993.
		Ensure all activities occurring at sportsgrounds are consistent with the relevant zoning.	All sportsgrounds are located on land zoned RE1 Public Recreation.	O	Annual number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the sportsgrounds.	Local Environmental Plan 2013 NSC.
		Ensure all activities occurring at sportsgrounds on Crown land are compatible with the purpose of the reservation.		O	Annual number of complaints received regarding inappropriate use of the sportsgrounds.	Crown Lands Act 1989.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of Sportsgrounds for Organised Sport	To manage Council's sportsgrounds appropriately for organised sport.	Regulate use of sportsgrounds by sporting clubs, schools, commercial operators and others.	The primary role of sportsgrounds is to accommodate organised sports participants for competition and training on a seasonal basis. Use must be carefully regulated as increasing participation levels, the growth of new sports and growing community awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle are all placing increasing demands on sportsgrounds.	O	All sportsgrounds are booked and used primarily for organised sport.	Sporting Facilities Booking Policy 2013. NSC.
		Facilitate the hire of sportsgrounds for organised sport in accordance with Council's booking policy.	Bookings guarantee exclusive use of a nominated sportsfield. The booking policy aims to be fair and equitable to hirers, and focuses on maintaining the condition of the sportsgrounds. A series of terms and conditions issued with each seasonal booking govern the conditions of use.	O	Council's booking policy implemented.	Sporting Facilities Booking Policy 2013. NSC.
		Manage sportsfield bookings to ensure that user groups are distributed as evenly as possible around the fields.	The process of sportsfield allocation considers: - traditional use patterns and new trends - demand from sports clubs, commercial organisations and the community - the need to provide opportunities for new sports and minority sports	O	Reduction in number of complaints received annually.	Sporting Facilities Booking Policy 2013. NSC. Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Offer a wide range of sporting opportunities to meet identified community needs.	Sportsgrounds have traditionally catered for organised sports such as rugby codes, cricket and football; however, changes in preferences and increased demand for facilities for baseball, softball and other less 'traditional' organised sports must now also be considered.	O	Community satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Continue to implement an efficient and equitable system of ground allocation with clear procedures.	The 2 annual pre-season hirers' meetings give all seasonal hirers a chance to discuss relevant issues including potential booking clashes.	O	2 pre-season hirers' meetings occur annually.	
		Charge fees for sporting clubs, schools and commercial/business hirers and other groups wishing to use sportsgrounds exclusively for the purpose of organised sport.	Fees depend upon the type of facility being hired and the user group and are designed to facilitate broad community access and use. There is a commercial rate, senior rate, juniors/schools rate and social/casual rate.	O	Appropriate fees charged for different user groups.	Schedule of Fees and Charges. NSC.
		Review fees and charges annually.	The income generated assists with maintenance of the sportsgrounds.	O	Fees and charges reviewed annually to ensure they are fair and equitable.	Schedule of Fees and Charges. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Restrict the number of hours per week that the sportsgrounds may be used for organised sport.	This is done to maintain the condition of the sportsgrounds. Restrictions may vary between fields according to condition and capacity. The synthetic surface in Cammeray Park can accommodate more hours of use per week; this field is also not subject to closure in wet weather.	O	Maximum desirable level of sportsground use is not exceeded.	Sporting Facilities Booking Policy 2013. NSC.
		Ensure all pre-season use of sportsgrounds by hirers does not unduly damage the sportsgrounds.	Conditions of sportsground hire include measures such as no use of studs for pre-season games in order to maintain the condition of the sportsgrounds. Rangers and Parks Department staff carry out regular checks to ensure compliance.	O	Reduction in number of complaints received annually.	Sporting Facilities Booking Policy 2013. NSC.
		Close sportsgrounds during and after rain if play is likely to cause damage.	Signs are posted at sportsfields and Council Rangers carry out patrols to ensure compliance. Penalties may be imposed for non-compliance.	O	Decrease in annual number of incidents.	



Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Use of Sportsgrounds for Other Activities	To manage Council's sportsgrounds for other appropriate activities	Accommodate other appropriate recreational activities including events, informal sports and games and other recreational pursuits on sportsgrounds when they are open and not being used for booked, organised sport or for maintenance activities.	Council manages its open space network for the use and enjoyment of all members of the community; events and activities such as kite flying, jogging, dog walking, ball games and informal sport can be accommodated on the sportsfields when they are not in use for organised sport. (Fee-paying hirers are entitled to exclusive use). Use of closed sportsgrounds is prohibited.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate use.	Appendix 3 – Definitions.
		Liaise directly with individuals or groups if complaints regarding their use of the sportsgrounds are received.	Sportsgrounds provide specialist facilities for fee-paying users; they are easily damaged and other users must consider this when using the sportsfields. Other users must also respect and be considerate of other park users and neighbouring residents.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints regarding inappropriate use.	
		Allow fitness trainers to use sportsgrounds.	Fitness activities are currently sanctioned as long as they do not interfere with any Council-approved or booked activity occurring on a sportsground. All trainers must sign up to Council's Code of Conduct which sets out 'common sense' guidelines designed to ensure that people involved in these activities do not have a significant negative impact on other park users and neighbouring residents.	O		Outdoor Fitness Training Code of Conduct 2011. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Allow dog walking on sportsgrounds in accordance with relevant legislation and Council Plans.	The North Sydney Local Companion Animals Management Plan requires dogs to be on a leash on Council's playing fields whilst organised sporting events are in progress, and at all times on North Sydney Oval and the Bon Andrews Oval. The Companion Animals Act states that dogs are not permitted in or within 10 metres of children's play equipment. Other areas from which dogs are excluded are listed in Section 3.1.3.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints regarding dogs.	North Sydney Local Companion Animals Management Plan 2004. Companion Animals Act 1998 (Section 14).
		Allow appropriate cultural activities and 'one-off' special events to take place on the sportsgrounds.	The availability and suitability of a sportsground to host an event is assessed when a request is received. Factors such as type of event, impact on the park and the potential benefits/disadvantages to neighbourhood amenity are all considered. Appropriate events could include triathlons and social/charity sports matches.	O	Condition of sportsfields remains appropriate for organised sport.	

## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Access to Sportsgrounds	To control vehicular access to and through sportsgrounds.	Prohibit and prevent general vehicle access into and through sportsgrounds.	Vehicles on sportsground can damage the playing surface, particularly when grounds are wet. Repairing the damage is costly, takes time and affects the sportsgrounds availability for organised sport. A private vehicle requiring access to or through a sportsground on a one-off basis must make a formal request to Council. Requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	O	General vehicular access is restricted.	
		Allow service and emergency vehicles to enter sportsgrounds.	Removable bollards and gates allow service vehicles to access sportsgrounds.	O	Ease of entry for service and emergency vehicles.	
	To ensure no further public open space is lost to accommodate car parking.	Restrict car parking to neighbouring streets and nearby designated car parks, where off-street parking is not currently provided at sportsgrounds.	Tunks Park and Primrose Park contain car parks. Ridge Street car park (located near St Leonards Park) offers special rates when major events are occurring on sportsfields in St Leonards Park.	O	Car parking occurs in appropriate locations only.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Schedule Ranger patrols as required to minimise problems caused by congestion and illegal parking.	These aim to protect the amenity of local residents and to ensure that all parking is legal.	O	Decrease in number of complaints when major sporting events occur.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To place a higher priority on public and collective transport over private transport and to overcome perceived problems associated with lack of car parking facilities.	Provide more and better information on how to access North Sydney's sportsgrounds on foot, by bicycle and by public transport.	Several maps and brochures are available on Council's website to assist people wanting to walk or cycle to sportsgrounds, including: - 'Walk North Sydney' maps and brochures - 'Bike Map' However there is currently no dedicated information about accessing sportsgrounds using public transport.	O	Decrease in number of complaints regarding lack of parking spaces at sportsgrounds.	<a href="http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au">www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au</a>
Investigate options for shared path/cycle access to existing sportsgrounds and facilities.			O	Options investigated.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.	
Assess the need to install additional bike racks at sportsgrounds and other sports facilities in North Sydney.			MT	Installation of bike racks in appropriate locations if a need is identified.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Circulation	To create and maintain circulation systems at sportsgrounds that are safe, useful and accessible to all users.	Ensure gates and other barriers to vehicle access allow for pedestrian access.		O	Easy access to sportsgrounds is provided for pedestrians of all mobility levels.	
		Use the established system of roads and paths to and through sportsgrounds in North Sydney to provide access for service and emergency vehicles, and for pedestrians of all mobility levels.		O	Road and path systems accommodate pedestrians.	
		Continue to remove any unnecessary pathways, upgrade existing pathways and construct new pathways where a need is identified and the work is viable.	New pathways should be constructed using appropriate materials, and taking the needs of people with mobility impairments into account.	O	Appropriate works undertaken to meet identified needs.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Provide safe and convenient access to sportsgrounds for walkers, and for people with mobility impairments or pushing strollers.	Where possible, sportsgrounds should be accessible to all.	O	Easy access to sportsgrounds is provided for pedestrians of all mobility levels.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Ensure ancillary facilities adjacent to sportsgrounds are designed with the needs of all members of the community in mind, and are accessible to all.	These include seats, picnic tables and paths.	O	Ancillary facilities are accessible to all, where possible.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITY

Note: Specific works to improve existing structures and facilities or to provide new facilities and infrastructure are included in the Issue: ‘Improvement Works’

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Provision of Associated Infrastructure and Facilities at Sportsgrounds	To provide structures and facilities at sportsgrounds that are functional, well-sited, visually attractive and which meet user needs.	Implement the recommendations of relevant studies and reports to meet the identified needs of sportsground users.	Ancillary facilities include spectator seating, clubrooms, changing rooms, public toilets, storage facilities, scoreboards and flood lights as well as picnic tables, BBQ’s, fitness equipment and playgrounds. Future community and ancillary facilities should be attractive, practical and represent good value for money. Ongoing maintenance costs should also be considered.	O	User needs identified and required work prioritised.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Continue to implement the recommendations of the Sportsfields Amenities Building Condition Assessment Report.	This report had an associated 10-year implementation plan that is almost complete. Work on the final major project – refurbishing the Cunningham Pavilion which adjoins the Bon Andrews Oval in St Leonards Park – was completed in September 2016.	O	User satisfaction with new facilities. Project completed on time and to budget.	Sportsfields Amenities Buildings Condition Assessment Report 2007.
		Ensure all new and upgraded structures and facilities are accessible to all.	Work to comply with Australian Standard 1428.	O	New/ upgraded facilities are accessible.	Australian Standard 1428.
		Ensure all new facilities occupy the smallest possible footprint in the park.	Consolidating separate park buildings into a single building reduces the overall footprint on the park and maximises the space available for general recreation.	O	Amount of green, open space available in parks and reserves is maximised.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Submit Development Applications for all proposed new structures in accordance with Council's Local Environmental Plan.	Community notification and provision of the opportunity to support or object to a proposal is an integral component of this process. Additional notification and consultation processes are also undertaken for large projects (Refer Issue 'Community Involvement').	O	Satisfaction of users and the general community with the consultation process.	Local Environmental Plan 2013 NSC.
		Create better social/family recreation spaces at sportsgrounds.	Council's RNS identified the importance of creating 'social/family spaces' in selected larger parks, with facilities suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Facilities may include playgrounds, sportsfields, basketball rings, fitness equipment, seats, picnic tables, barbecues, bubblers, shade, shelter and pathways. Many of Council's sportsgrounds (eg St Leonards, Cammeray and Waverton Parks) lend themselves to further development as social/family spaces.	MT-O	Continue to develop social/family recreation spaces in conjunction with existing sportsgrounds.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Signage	To ensure signage at sportsgrounds is clear, consistent and visible.	Standardise naming and informative signage at all sportsgrounds in North Sydney.	Signs should be located near major entry (entries) to sportsfields. Information on the signs should include name of facility, and any other information required by Council Rangers to enforce relevant regulations.	ST - MT	Signage at sportsgrounds standardised.	
		Ensure 'sportsfield closed' signs are standardised and installed at major entrances to sportsfields as needed.	Wet weather is the most common cause of field closures; however other causes can include irrigation works and between-season repair and improvement works. Use of closed fields for organised sport or any other purpose can cause significant damage to the fields, and is therefore prohibited. Existing issues with people using closed sportsgrounds (for both sporting and other, non-sporting purposes) indicate this is currently a problem.	ST	Reduction in annual number of groups/ individuals using closed sportsfields.	
		Provide clear, succinct information about why the fields are closed.	This should encourage greater levels of compliance. The information should be provided on site, and on Council's website and in any promotional material.	ST	Reduction in annual number of groups/ individuals using closed sportsfields.	



LANDUSE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Leases, Licences and Other Estates	To facilitate the use of sportsgrounds in North Sydney for a range of appropriate recreational and cultural activities.	Grant leases, licences and other estates to recreational and cultural organisations for use of sportsgrounds as venues for appropriate organised sporting activities.	<p>Most sportsgrounds in North Sydney are located on Crown land, and Council is not directly involved in the issuing, management or renewal of leases to the various sports clubs. However, all leases and licences should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The zoning of the land</li> <li>- the objectives of this Plan of Management, and</li> <li>- The core values and objectives for sportsgrounds (4.2).</li> </ul> <p>For sportsgrounds on Council-owned land the following also applies: Occasional or one-off use of a sportsground may not require a lease, licence or other estate – refer section 1.6 ‘Use of community land for which leases, licences and other estates are not required’.</p> <p>Proposed uses must comply with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements of the LGA 1993</li> <li>- Requirements of the Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998</li> <li>- The categorisation of the land</li> <li>- The core objectives for land categorised as ‘sportsground’ (1.4)</li> </ul>	O	Leases, licences and other estates granted for the use of sportsgrounds and facilities for the purposes of organised sport.	Local Government Act 1993. Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Grant leases, licences and other estates to recreational and cultural organisations for use of sportsgrounds as venues for other appropriate recreational and cultural events and activities.	Council assesses all applications for use of sportsgrounds for other recreational and cultural events when they are received. Proposed events and activities must comply with the zoning of the land, and be consistent with the core values and objectives for sportsground management as set out in section 4.2 of this document. Council also considers the likely impacts of the event/activity on neighbourhood amenity.	O	Leases, licences and other estates granted for appropriate purposes.	
	To raise revenue by granting leases, licences and other estates for appropriate activities.	Use funds raised by granting leases, licences and other estates to offset the costs associated with ongoing sportsground maintenance.		O	Revenue raised contributes to sportsground maintenance.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Relationship with Neighbouring Properties	To minimise real and perceived adverse impacts on neighbourhood amenity caused by use of sportsgrounds for organised sport and other events and activities.	Balance the needs of sportsground users with the needs of the surrounding residents.	Trying to minimise the negative impacts as far as possible is an important part of successfully managing sportsgrounds in North Sydney. For example, Council's Code of Conduct for Fitness trainers operating in North Sydney sets out expected standards of behaviour and lists actions that are unacceptable in all of Council's parks and reserves.	O	Liaison occurs as required.	Outdoor Fitness Training Code of Conduct 2011. NSC.
		Continue to liaise with sportsground user groups and residents as required to foster a positive and harmonious relationship.		O	Liaison occurs as required.	
		Respond promptly to complaints and other feedback received from neighbouring residents and others.	Council officers liaise with the relevant clubs/groups in order to ensure more effective self-regulation. More formal sanctions may be imposed if necessary.	O	Level of community satisfaction with Council response times.	
		Encourage groups using the sportsgrounds to promote the use of public transport, bicycles and car-pooling to their members.	This aims to reduce the number of cars parking in neighbouring streets as well as general traffic congestion in local streets.	O	Reduction in vehicle congestion in surrounding streets.	
		Patrol streets surrounding sportsgrounds to prevent illegal parking at peak use times.	Patrols are carried out by Council Rangers in association with NSW Police.	O	Annual reduction in number of residents' complaints.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Ensure flood lighting operates only when sportsfields are booked.	All flood lighting is designed to meet the relevant standards. Advances in technology mean that new flood lights not only better meet the needs of sportsground users, but also causes less light spill than many of the existing flood lights. Council staff are responsible for ensuring lights are turned on and off according to the booking schedule.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints received regarding floodlighting.	AS 2560 – Guide to Sports Lighting. AS 4282 - Guide to Obtrusive Lighting.
		Ensure flood lighting does not operate if grounds are closed.	For example, in wet weather. Council staff are responsible for ensuring lights are turned off when fields are closed.	O	Reduction in the annual number of complaints received.	
		Control or prohibit activities that may result in excessive noise.	Permission for activities and events on sportsgrounds is at Council’s discretion, and considers the likely impacts on neighbouring residents. Council may recommend an alternate venue for the event or refuse permission altogether if impacts are likely to be significant.	O	No activities that may result in excessive noise held at sportsgrounds.	
		Manage and control noise at the source.	Noise levels for proposed special events are measured to ensure compliance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.	O	Number of complaints received from neighbouring community.	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
		Schedule street sweeping and other required cleaning to take place immediately following major sporting fixtures.	This is particularly relevant around St Leonards Park.	O	Number of complaints received from neighbouring community.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Community Involvement	To provide opportunities for local residents, sporting organisations, schools and other stakeholders to be involved in the development and implementation and of the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.	Encourage community involvement by widely publicising the draft Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.	Council's Sport & Recreation Reference Group, Precincts and other stakeholders including sporting clubs are notified when the draft Plan is on public exhibition and invited to comment. Regular advertisements in the Mosman Daily inform the community that the draft Plan is on public exhibition. The draft Plan is available on Council's website for viewing and comment, and hard copies are available from Council free of charge, upon request.	O	Public exhibition of the draft Plan of Management widely publicised. All comments considered prior to adoption of the final Plan of Management.	<a href="http://www.northsytney.nsw.gov.au">www.northsytney.nsw.gov.au</a>
		Encourage stakeholders to provide written submissions to Council that can be incorporated into the regular reviews of the Plan of Management.	Details of how to make a submission are contained within section 1.7 of this Plan of Management.	O	Review of Plan of Management considers all submissions from stakeholders.	
	To provide opportunities for the public and user groups to become involved in new projects at sportsgrounds.	Consult with stakeholders prior to and during the development of significant new proposals for Council's sportsgrounds and consider comments.	Depending upon the nature of the project, stakeholders may include sportsground users, peak sporting bodies, general park users, local Precincts and neighbouring residents. Consultation methods include public exhibition of draft plans, information packages sent to relevant stakeholders, letterbox drops and information posted on Council's website.	O	Community and other stakeholder satisfaction with the consultation process, as gauged from feedback.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Lodge Development Applications where required for new works at sportsgrounds.	Community consultation is an integral part of the Development Application process.	O	Development Applications lodged for relevant new works.	North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013.
	To involve the community in the management of Council's sportsgrounds.	Respond to public suggestions, attend to public enquiries promptly, and provide accurate and useful information to the community as required.		O	Level of community satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	
	To provide forums for key stakeholders and community members to provide advice and feedback to Council on matters relevant to sport and recreation in North Sydney.	Continue to hold quarterly meetings of the North Sydney Sport & Recreation Reference Group.	The Reference Group was convened in 2007 in response to Council's previous Recreation Needs Study. Members include Councillors, relevant Council staff, and representatives from sports clubs, industry experts and interested North Sydney residents. The Reference Group gives these key stakeholders an opportunity to provide advice and feedback to Council on matters relevant to sport and recreation in North Sydney.	O	Meetings of the North Sydney Sport & Recreation Reference Group occur quarterly.	Recreation Needs Study 2007.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Continue to convene 2 pre-season Sportsground Hirer's meeting each year; 1 prior to the start of the summer season and 1 prior to the start of the winter season.	The meetings address issues of supply and demand, and potential clashes with desired sportsfield and court bookings are discussed in an open forum. The meetings not only provide attendees with an opportunity to relay specific issues and concerns to Council, but listening to issues raised by others gives all participants valuable insight into the 'big picture' of organised sport in North Sydney.	O	2 pre-season hirers' meetings occur each year.	Recreation Needs Study 2007.
		Update sportsground users about activities and projects that are occurring in and around North Sydney's sportsgrounds.	These may be general projects of interest to all or specific projects that will affect users of particular sportsgrounds such as flood lighting improvements, construction of new amenities blocks or levelling and drainage of playing fields.	O	Updates provided twice annually at the Sportsground Hirer's meeting.	
		Updates sportsground users on the progress of the North Sydney Sport and Recreation Reference Group.		O	Updates provided twice annually at the Sportsground Hirer's meeting.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Relationship between Council and Sports Clubs	To work with sports clubs to provide opportunities for the North Sydney community to be involved in a wide range of active recreation programs.	Liaise with all existing sports clubs in North Sydney and encourage them to provide for juniors, females, older adults and people of all abilities through different forms of the game.	A qualified Recreation Planner could most appropriately carry out this task.	O	Ongoing liaison between Council and clubs occurs.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Liaise with clubs and encourage them to offer more social facilities (such as petanque and bocce) in conjunction with competition sports.		O	Ongoing liaison between Council and clubs occurs.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Liaise with clubs offering bowls and golf to offer additional opportunities to enhance their viability and appeal.	For example: - offer sports development opportunities to schools and corporations - target juniors and people who work in North Sydney - explore opportunities for other uses such as dance and fitness	O	Ongoing liaison between Council and clubs occurs.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Liaise with local providers of tennis and develop opportunities to enhance services.	This may include more social competitions, and encouraging people who work in North Sydney to use the courts.	O	Ongoing liaison between Council and clubs occurs.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.



Note: Maintenance relating specifically to North Sydney Oval and the related infrastructure is dealt with in the North Sydney Oval Plan of Management.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Maintenance	To maintain all sportsgrounds and associated facilities to appropriate standards to respond to the needs and expectations of organised sporting groups, and commensurate with Council resources.	Carry out regular maintenance work at all sportsgrounds to appropriate standards.	Sportsground maintenance includes grass mowing, weed removal, rubbish collection, building repair, painting, graffiti removal and many other routine, ongoing tasks. The level of maintenance varies from field to field, based on the profile of the various sportsgrounds.	O	Maintenance programs implemented on time and to budget. Standard of sportsgrounds and associated facilities.	
		Undertake emergency repairs and additional maintenance work as required.	Council staff are pro-active, identifying problem areas and responding to public requests.	O	Speed of repair or other emergency work.	
		Carry out general sportsground irrigation work on a rolling basis.	Significant works are regularly required to improve and maintain the quality of all sportsgrounds in North Sydney.	O	General sportsground irrigation works are carried out.	
		Continue to close turf playing fields at the end of both summer and winter seasons.	Closures assist with turf recovery and allow for seasonal renovations such as drainage works and soil aeration. Closures are programmed to have the minimal impact on organised sports.	O	Turf playing fields closed twice annually.	
		Monitor the cost of maintenance and replacement work in order to provide adequate resources to facilitate the above actions and prevent future problems.	The high cost of sportsground maintenance (which is largely borne by Council) means there may be a gap between the expectations of sporting clubs and what Council is able to provide. Better communication (eg at the pre-season hirer's meetings) is helping to overcome this.	O	Annual cost of maintenance monitored.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Management	To manage and administer Council's sportsgrounds in an efficient, effective and accountable manner.	Manage sportsgrounds in North Sydney to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- they cater for an appropriate range of activities</li> <li>- they are well maintained</li> <li>- they are accessible to other (non-sporting) users</li> <li>- that future developments are sensitive to their character and functions</li> </ul>	Although the majority of North Sydney's sportsgrounds are located on Crown reserves, they are all under the care, control and management of North Sydney Council.	O	Level of community satisfaction with sportsground management as gauged from feedback.	
		Manage the process of allocating sportsfields for organised sport to maximise their use (within acceptable limits), as defined by their carrying capacity.	Council manages all seasonal use of sportsgrounds with an allocation and booking system that divides the year into two seasons; winter (April through August) and summer (September through March). In the event of any sportsgrounds being under-utilised, actively seek users.	O	Level of use of sportsgrounds for organised sport is at or near capacity.	
		Liaise with sporting clubs and other hirers to monitor and respond to the changing recreational needs of the community.	These can affect use of sportsgrounds and the need for certain types of facilities. They may be signalled by changes in the demographic make-up of the community or changes in the registration levels of sporting clubs.	O	Satisfaction of user groups as gauged from feedback.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Undertake measures to ensure that turf playing fields remain in good condition through the summer and winter playing seasons.	Measures include: - restricting the hours of use for organised sport on turf fields to around 32 per week per ground (primary school bookings are counted as half due to their lower impact on the playing surface) - allowing a maximum of 60 people per booking per ground - encouraging clubs to use sandshoes and avoid studs for pre-season training.	O	Turf playing fields remain in good condition throughout the playing seasons.	
		Consider all relevant factors when deciding whether to close sportsgrounds.	Factors include: - the potential for injury to players - the sport being played and the potential for damage to the playing surface - the weather forecast and the current condition of the playing field Information regarding sportsground closures is available on Council's Wet Weather Line, updated daily.	O	Sportsgrounds are closed according to need.	
	To increase opportunities for the community to participate in organised sport.	Identify and pursue opportunities to optimise use of existing sportsfields.	Opportunities may include: - Installing synthetic sportsfields - Installing new or improved flood lighting - Installing irrigation and field drainage systems - Multi-use of facilities for compatible activities Note: Opportunities are limited by the carrying capacity of the sportsfields.	O	Ways to optimise use of existing sportsfields identified and investigated.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Develop and maintain a suite of sports opportunities from 'pay-as-you-play', short term and conveniently scheduled activities where participants are not expected to volunteer to complement traditional local club and school sport.	This action could best be implemented by a qualified Recreation Planner.	MT-O	Opportunities developed for 'pay-as-you-play' activities.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Identify and pursue innovative and economically feasible ways in which new organised sport facilities may be provided for community use.	Opportunities include: - Partnering with neighbouring Councils to provide regional facilities - Leasing suitable land from schools or other private land owners - Dual use of land not dedicated as public open space (eg car park roof tops)	O	Appropriate new ways to provide new facilities identified and investigated.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Explore opportunities to maximise funding for sports development as they arise.	Grants and partnerships can provide Council with an opportunity to fund additional work to improve the quality and sustainability of its assets.	O	Opportunities to maximise funding acted upon as they arise.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
	To ensure all work at sportsgrounds is consistent with the objectives of this document.	Circulate the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management to all relevant staff and contractors to ensure they are familiar with the document and its objectives.	All Plans of Management are available on Council's web site.	O	Staff and contractors are aware of the Plan of Management.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Regional Management of Sportsgrounds and Other Facilities	To consider region-wide issues in the management of sportsgrounds in North Sydney.	Consider provision and use of sports facilities on a regional level.	A Recreation Planner working with other northern Council's could most appropriately undertake this action. Issues common to all Northern Sydney Councils include: - a shortage of community sports facilities, especially sportsgrounds - lack of space for new facilities - budgetary constraints	O	All future planning of major sports facilities considers regional perspectives.	Regional Sportsground Strategy 2011 NSROC.
		Consider major reconstructions of sportsgrounds, construction of synthetic fields and provision of flood lighting.	Some or all of these measures will need to be implemented to sustain current use levels. Sports including hockey and soccer are likely to decline if additional synthetic fields are not provided.	O	All future planning of major sports facilities considers regional perspectives.	Regional Sportsground Strategy 2011 NSROC.
		Consider new ways of managing and developing sportsgrounds on a regional basis.	This will be needed to cope with growth in established sports (especially sports like soccer where demand already exceeds supply), and growth in emerging sports such as AFL.	O	All future planning of major sports facilities considers regional perspectives.	Regional Sportsground Strategy 2011 NSROC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Continue to be involved in the implementation of the Regional Sportsgrounds Strategy.	<p>The Strategy was prepared in 2011 to assist 7 Northern Sydney Councils to collectively deliver a wide range of sports opportunities. The Strategy identified the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish principles for future sportsground development across the region</li> <li>- develop a regional upgrade and infrastructure development program</li> <li>- establish a governance system and decision-making structure for sportsground allocation</li> <li>- establish a region-wide sportsground information portal, incorporating public information about ground availability, ground closures etc.</li> </ul>	O	Involvement with implementing the Regional Sportsground Strategy continues.	Regional Sportsground Strategy 2011 NSROC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Safety and Risk Management	To identify, measure and manage potential hazards in a timely manner to minimise Council exposure to complaints, compensation claims and litigation.	Continue to carry out an inspection program to identify potential hazards.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'. The ongoing maintenance inspections also function as risk assessment inspections.	O	Inspection program regularly carried out.	
		Carry out maintenance and risk management as required.		O	Decrease in annual number of issues/claims.	
	To minimise vandalism at sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.	Carry out regular patrols of the sportsgrounds.	Council Rangers carry out the patrols.	O	Decrease in annual number of incidents reported.	
		Remove all graffiti as soon as practical.	Quick removal of graffiti from public and private property signals that facilities are well cared for. Visitors are encouraged to alert Council staff to the presence of graffiti.	O	Speed of removal work.	Graffiti Management Plan 2007. NSC.
		Repair vandalised items and facilities as soon as practical or remove and replace if damaged beyond repair.		O	Speed of repair work or removal and replacement work.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Landscape Amenity and Environment	To manage existing vegetation at sportsgrounds using best-practice horticultural techniques.	Carry out regular, cyclical maintenance works as required to conserve appropriate vegetation at sportsgrounds.	Refer Issue 'Maintenance'.	O	User satisfaction as gauged from feedback.	
	To ensure the sportsgrounds have a high amenity value.	Continue to plant additional trees in association with sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities if a need is identified.	For example, to provide shade near barbecues, seating and picnic tables.	O	New trees planted as required.	
		Consider views out of the sportsgrounds when carrying out tree planting and other landscaping works.	Many of the sportsgrounds are located on the harbour foreshores. Council aims to strike a balance between the preservation of existing views (both out of and into parks and reserves) and the need to provide shade and amenity for park users, and habitat for wildlife.	O	Potential impact on views considered when tree planting works are undertaken.	
		Consider the impact of any new landscape works on existing pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns.	Consider the safety and security of park users.	O	New landscape works considers existing circulation patterns.	
	To control noxious and environmental weeds at sportsgrounds.	Undertake weed removal programs when and where required.	Weed removal is a standard component of Council's cyclical sportsground maintenance operations. Many of the sportsgrounds adjoin bushland areas, and it is important to prevent weeds from spreading into bushland.	O	Reduction in weed levels at sportsgrounds.	Noxious Weeds Act 1993.



Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
	To ensure that management and maintenance of sportsgrounds does not adversely impact surrounding bushland and foreshore environments.	Consider, as and when required: - the need for water quality control devices - the need to monitor imported soil and other materials - appropriate use of pesticides	Many of Council's sportsgrounds adjoin steeply sloping tracts of bushland and/or the harbour foreshore.	O	Condition of surrounding bushland and foreshore environments.	
	To ensure all new construction at sportsgrounds occurs in a manner that is not detrimental to the surrounding environment.	Consider relevant environmental, issues when planning carrying out new works.	The principles of ESD guide Council's management of sporting and recreational facilities, allowing the community to use and enjoy North Sydney's sportsgrounds and ensuring the environment is protected. Relevant issues may include: - water management (nutrient enriched run-off from sportsgrounds can cause weed growth and degrade bushland areas, as well as reducing water quality) - protection of adjacent vegetation during construction.	O	All new construction work carried out in a sensitive and sustainable manner.	

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Promotion	To increase community awareness of Council's sports facilities and other sporting opportunities.	Provide more and better information to the general public about Council's sports facilities and other active recreation opportunities available in North Sydney.	Ways of doing this include: - more and better information on Council's website - brochures distributed to community centres, libraries, and sports venues including the Olympic Pool and North Sydney Indoor Sports Center - information in Council's newsletter - posts on social media including Council's Facebook page and twitter feed.	ST-O	Comprehensive information is readily available to the community.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Provide targeted information to ensure the community receives maximum benefit from existing sports facilities.	Information provided should include: - where the different sports can be played - existing clubs and what they offer - venues that currently have capacity to accommodate more players/users	ST-O	Targeted information provided to relevant sports clubs and others as needed.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Improvement Works	To progressively upgrade the quality and carrying capacity of sports facilities and supporting infrastructure	Prepare and lodge a Development Application to construct new lighting at Forsyth Park (sportsfield no. 1).	Providing new or upgraded flood lighting to outdoor sports facilities gives Council and users greater flexibility.	ST	DA lodged.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Install new lighting to sportsfield no. 1 at Forsyth Park if DA is approved.		ST	New lighting installed if DA approved.	Delivery Program, NSC.
		Upgrade the existing sportsfield lighting at Waverton Park.		ST	Lighting upgraded on time and to budget.	Delivery Program, NSC.
		Continue to liaise with interested schools and identify and progress realistic opportunities to improve school sports facilities capable of accommodating some level of community use.	As part of Council's Recreation Needs Study the following were identified: - North Sydney Boys High (additional indoor sports courts) - Australian Catholic University (various options) - Shore School (aquatic centre)	O	Ongoing liaison and realistic opportunities progressed.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Carry out levelling and drainage of sportsfield no. 2 at Forsyth Park.		ST	Levelling and drainage works completed on time and to budget.	Delivery Program, NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Carry out a condition assessment of infrastructure associated with sportsgrounds.	This is the first step to progressively improving the quality and functionality of support facilities at sportsgrounds. The assessment should consider: - public amenities - change rooms - storage areas - canteens - seating, etc	ST	Condition assessment complete.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Prioritise required infrastructure works and commence implementation.		ST-O	Required works prioritised for implementation.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Further investigate provision of an additional synthetic sportsfield suitable for hockey and other sports.	A DA was approved to construct a synthetic sportsfield in Anderson Park, however this project is currently on hold, pending preparation of a Plan of Management and a Masterplan for the Park.	O	Continue to monitor this option.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Development of Other Sports Facilities	To provide additional sports facilities for community use.	Investigate options to provide free outdoor sports courts and/or a basketball facility in or close to the North Sydney CBD.	This could be done in conjunction with a private or education provider.	ST-O	Continue to look for sites/ opportunities to achieve this.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Provide additional cricket practice nets for shared club/community use.	Potential locations identified in the RNS include Primrose Park, St Leonards Park and Tunks Park.	ST-O	Further analysis carried out to determine preferred locations. Implementation plan developed.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
	To utilise non-open space assets to provide additional sports facilities in North Sydney, particularly near the North Sydney CBD and the education precinct.	Include an active recreation component in plans for the redevelopment of the Ward Street car park and surrounding precinct (Ward Street Precinct Masterplan).	Using non-open space assets for active recreation diverts use from (and thus reduces pressure on) outdoor playing fields. Note that to maximise community benefit, any new indoor facilities should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be multi-purpose</li> <li>- Offer program-based and 'pay-as-you-play' activities</li> <li>- Offer some level of community access to practice facilities</li> <li>- Offer social sports as well as competitions</li> </ul> The RNS suggests badminton or squash courts are needed near the North Sydney CBD.	ST-O	Active recreation is included as a component of this car park and surrounding precinct redevelopment.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
		Include an active recreation component in plans for the redevelopment of the Ridge Street car park (proposals include indoor multi-purpose courts).		ST-O	Active recreation is included as a component of this car park redevelopment.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Include an active recreation component in plans for the redevelopment of the Holtermann Street car park (installing a multi-purpose court on the roof is under consideration)		ST-O	Active recreation is included as a component of this car park redevelopment.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.
		Consider additional opportunities for active recreation in the redevelopment of the Hume Street precinct.	This site includes the North Sydney Indoor Sports Centre.	ST-O	Opportunities are considered as part of the design development process.	Recreation Needs Study 2015. NSC.

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Priority	Performance Indicators	References
Monitoring of Management Systems	To review the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management regularly to conserve, maintain and enhance the values and characteristics of the sportsgrounds.	Review Plan of Management regularly, and comprehensively update the Plan after approximately 5 years.		O	Achievement of Plan objectives within the stated time frame. Relevancy of the Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.	

## 5.2 Implementing the Indicative Works Program

Council's Plans of Management identify clear objectives and directions for planning, resource management and maintenance of public open space. They inform the community about upcoming projects and works; not only clarifying what will be happening, but explaining why, and assigning priorities.

However Plans of Management also have the flexibility to respond to new opportunities as well as to changed circumstances and community needs. While significant shifts in policy or planning issues during the life of a Plan of Management (approximately 5 years) are extremely unlikely, it is possible that individual works and projects or the order in which works are undertaken may vary.

### 5.2.1 *New Opportunities*

Implementing many of Council's 'visionary' objectives and goals (contained in policy documents such as the Delivery Program and the Open Space Provision Strategy) requires Council to react to plans proposed by other organisations or individuals.

For example, Council has a long-term vision to achieve continuous public access along the foreshore. Opportunistic acquisition of a link or open space as a result of redevelopment of a foreshore site is one of the most realistic ways of working towards this goal. When such an opportunity arises, swift Council action is needed.

Although the work to acquire the foreshore land and to develop it for public use and access may not be directly identified as an action in the relevant Plan of Management (in this case the Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management), it is consistent with the core values and the stated management objectives expressed in that document, and is therefore appropriate. The fact that the objective of continuous foreshore access is also referenced in the relevant high-level policy documents (Delivery Program and Open Space Provision Strategy) further justifies taking quick action.

### 5.2.2 *Changed Circumstances and Community Needs*

It is important to recognise that the process of reviewing and revising Council's set of 12 Plans of Management is cyclical, and that other significant studies completed 'between Plans' may identify actions and works that can appropriately 'leap frog' over and ahead of existing Plan of Management actions. This is particularly appropriate when the study in question has been prepared with a very high level of community engagement and involvement.

Council's Recreation Needs Study 2015 (RNS) is an example of such a Study. Generally, actions identified in the Recreation Needs Study are inserted into the relevant Plans of Management when those Plans are reviewed. However because Plans of Management are reviewed only every 5 years, it may be appropriate to undertake some works identified in the RNS as of the highest priority before the next review takes place. Again, as long as the 'fast-tracked' action is consistent with the core values and stated management objectives expressed in the relevant Plan of Management, it is justified and appropriate.

5.3 INDICATIVE WORKS PROGRAM

WORKS/ACTION	SHORT TERM						MEDIUM TERM						LONG TERM							
	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017			Jan 2018 - Dec 2018			Jan 2019 - Dec 2019			Jan 2020 - Dec 2020			Jan 2021 - Dec 2021							
Assess the need to install additional bike racks at sportsgrounds and other sports facilities in North Sydney.																				
Create better social/family recreation spaces at sportsgrounds.																				
Standardise naming and informative signage at all sportsgrounds in North Sydney.																				
Ensure 'sportsfield closed' signs are standardised and installed at major entrances to sportsfields as needed.																				
Provide clear, succinct information about why the fields are closed.																				
Provide more and better information to the general public about Council's sports facilities and other active recreation opportunities available in North Sydney.																				



WORKS/ACTION	SHORT TERM								MEDIUM TERM								LONG TERM			
	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017				Jan 2018 - Dec 2018				Jan 2019 - Dec 2019				Jan 2020 - Dec 2020				Jan 2021 - Dec 2021			
Provide targeted information to ensure the community receives maximum benefit from existing sports facilities.																				
Prepare and lodge a DA to construct new lighting at Forsyth Park (field no. 1).																				
Install new lighting at Forsyth Park if DA is approved.																				
Upgrade the existing sportsfield lighting at Waverton Park.																				
Carry out levelling and drainage of sportsfield no. 2 at Forsyth Park.																				
Carry out a condition assessment of infrastructure associated with sportsgrounds.																				
Prioritise required infrastructure works and commence implementation.																				
Investigate options to provide free outdoor sports courts and/or a basketball facility in or close to the North Sydney CBD.																				
Provide additional cricket practice nets for shared club/community use.																				

WORKS/ACTION	SHORT TERM						MEDIUM TERM						LONG TERM					
	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017			Jan 2018 - Dec 2018			Jan 2019 - Dec 2019			Jan 2020 - Dec 2020			Jan 2021 - Dec 2021					
Include an active recreation component in the Ward Street Precinct Masterplan.																		
Include an active recreation component in plans for the redevelopment of the Ridge Street car park.																		
Include an active recreation component in plans for the redevelopment of the Holtermann Street car park.																		
Consider additional opportunities for active recreation in the redevelopment of the Hume Street precinct.																		
Carry out a major review of the Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management after 5 years.																		●

## 6.0 Appendices and Supporting Material

### 6.1 Appendix 1 - Schedule of Land

The following parcels of land are relevant to this Sportsgrounds Plan of Management.

Description	Street Address	Categorisation	Zoning
Anderson Park	Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay	Crown Land	RE1 Public Recreation
Cammeray Park	Ernest Street, Cammeray	Crown Land	RE1 Public Recreation
Forsyth Park	Montpelier Street, Neutral Bay	Park / Sportsground / Bushland	RE1 Public Recreation/ E2 Environmental Conservation *
Primrose Park	Young Street, Cremorne	Crown Land	RE1 Public Recreation/ E2 Environmental Conservation *
St Leonards Park	Cnr Miller and Falcon Streets, North Sydney	Crown Land / Sportsground	RE1 Public Recreation
Tunks Park	Brothers Avenue, Cammeray	Crown Land	RE1 Public Recreation/ E2 Environmental Conservation *
Waverton Park	Woolcott Street, Waverton	Crown Land	RE1 Public Recreation/ E2 Environmental Conservation *
Green Park tennis courts	Green Park, Cammeray	Crown Land	RE1 Public Recreation
Lodge Road tennis court	Lodge Road, Cremorne Point	Park	RE1 Public Recreation

\* Note: Sportsfields/courts are all located in the part of the park zoned RE1 Public Recreation

## 6.2 Appendix 2 – Explanation of Relevant Zoning

### Zone RE1 Public Recreation

#### 1. Objectives of the Zone

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- To ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of residents of, and visitors to, North Sydney.

#### 2. Permitted without consent

Environmental protection works.

#### 3. Permitted with consent

Building identification signs; Business identification signs; Community facilities; Environmental facilities; Information and education facilities; Kiosks; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (outdoor); Roads; Water recreation structures.

#### 4. Prohibited

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

### Zone E2 Environmental Conservation

#### 1. Objectives of the Zone

- To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.
- To protect and preserve bushland to provide representation of the natural state and to enable existing animal and plant communities to survive in the long term.
- To allow, where appropriate, for low-impact recreational opportunities, which will protect the value of bushland.

#### 2. Permitted without consent

Environmental Conservation works

#### 3. Permitted with consent

Environmental facilities; Roads

#### 4. Prohibited

Business premises; Hotel or motel accommodation; Industries; Multi dwelling housing; Recreation facilities (major); Residential flat buildings; Restricted premises; Retail premises; Seniors housing; Service stations; Warehouse or distribution centres; Any other development not specified in item 2 or 3

*Source:* North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013.

## 6.3 Appendix 3 – Definitions

### **Organised Sport**

Organised sport refers to sporting activities that require use of a marked playing surface provided and maintained by Council. Typically, organised sport is played by clubs, schools, commercial hirers and the like who have an organised administration and/or who are participating in formal competitions.

Fees are charged for exclusive use of marked playing surfaces by the groups listed above, and bookings must be made through Council's Customer Services Department.

### **Informal Sport and Games**

Informal sports and games are those that do not require use of a marked or designated playing surface. They may be played in Council's parks and reserves (including sportsgrounds when these are not being used for organised sport) free of charge, on a first-come-first-served basis, as long as they comply with the requirements of the relevant Council Plan of Management, and do not significantly compromise the amenity of other park users.

In order to ensure the sportsfields continue to cater for needs of organised, fee-paying sporting groups, Council's sportsground maintenance activities take precedence over use of the sportsfields for informal sports and games. In addition, informal users must ensure they do not unduly damage the designated playing surfaces. No activities are to occur on sportsfields that are designated as 'closed'.

### **Sportsground**

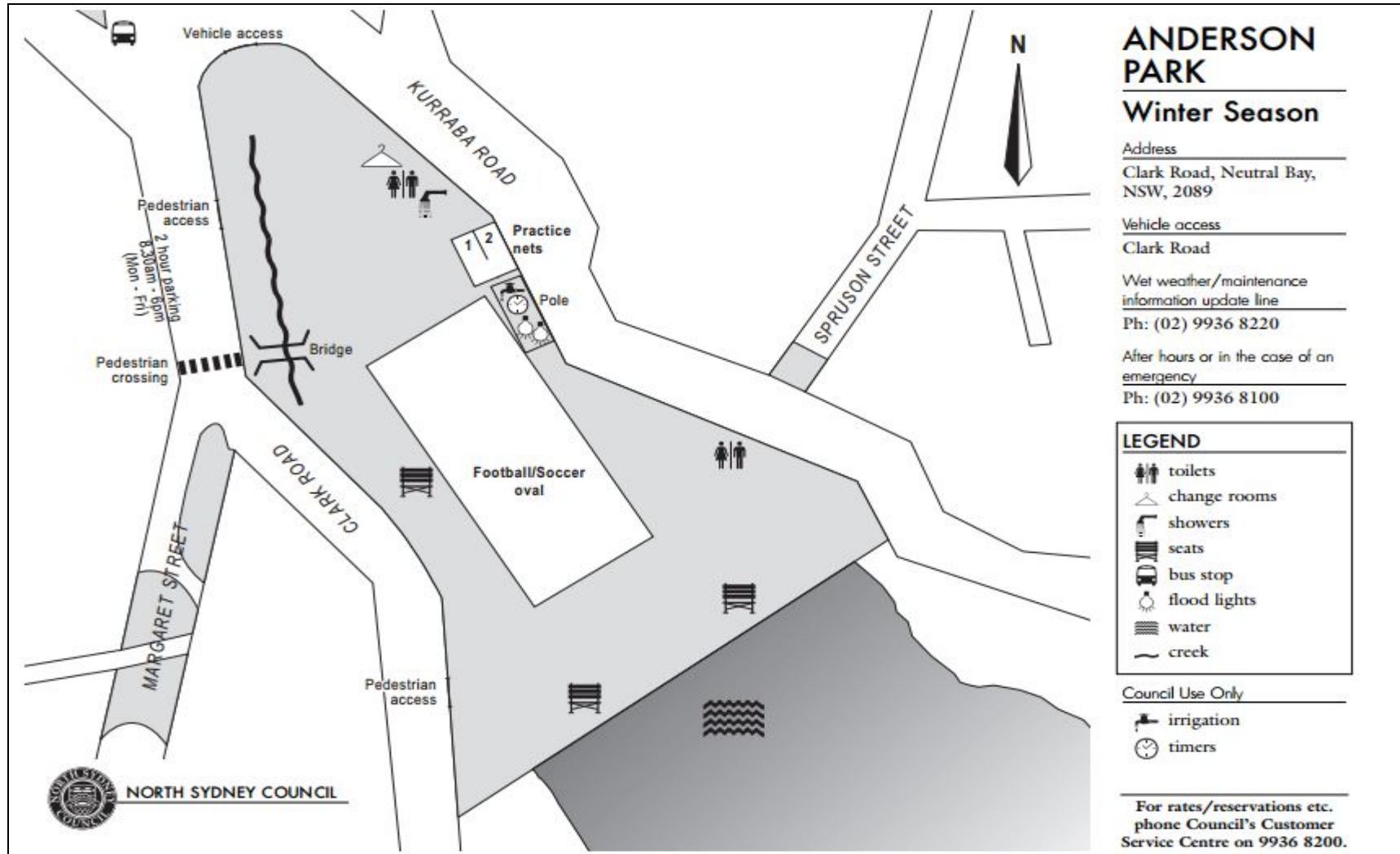
Sportsgrounds are areas of land used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports. Sportsgrounds include the playing surface as well as related ancillary facilities including infrastructure (flood lights, goal posts, nets etc), amenities buildings (clubhouses, toilets, change rooms and storage areas), and other amenities (seating, shade, shelter, barbecues and picnic facilities).

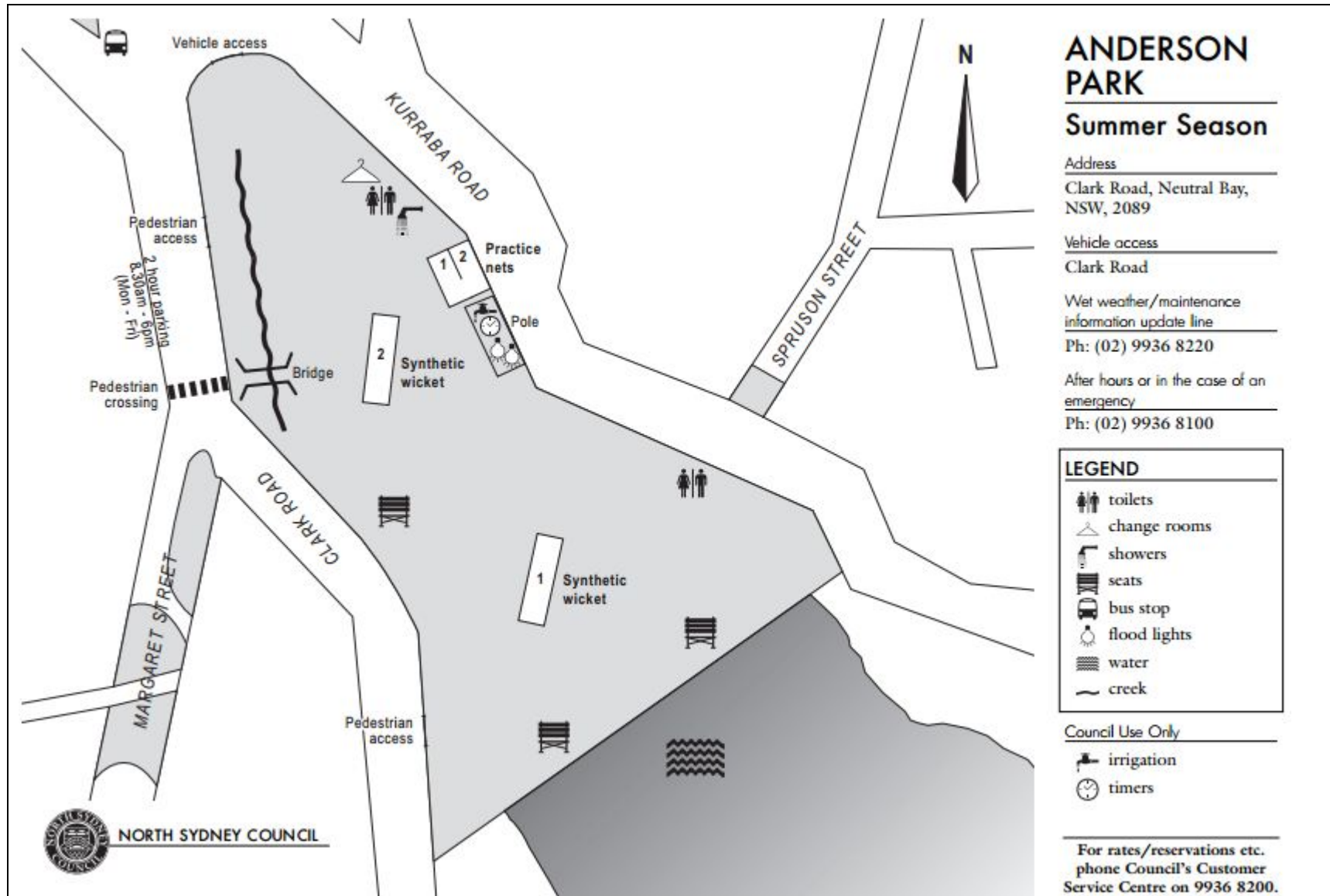
### **Sportsfield/ Sports Court**

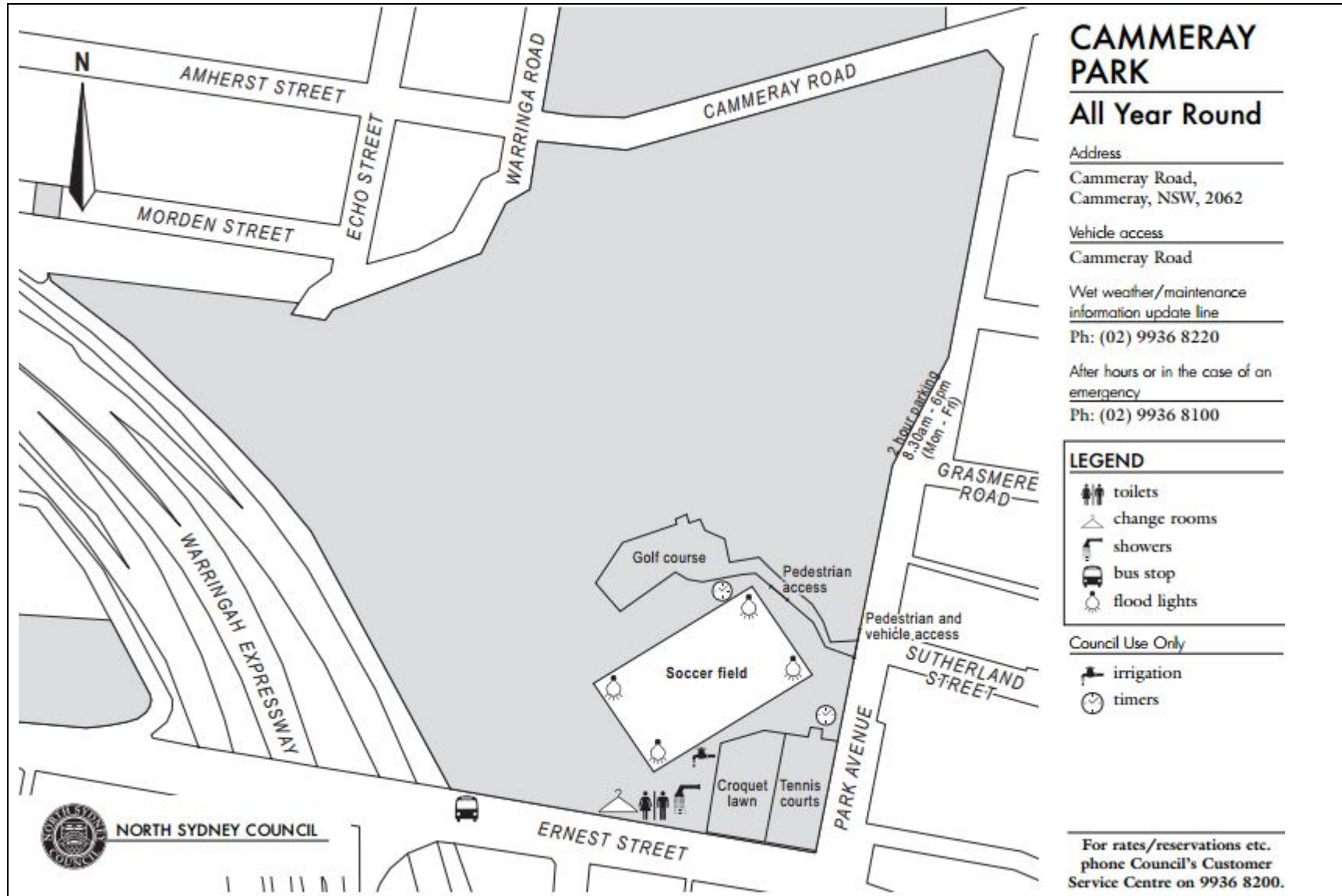
The actual marked or designated playing surface used for playing organised sport. While most playing surfaces in North Sydney are turf, other surfaces can include asphalt, acrylic/hard court and synthetic grass.

Sportsfields and sports courts in North Sydney include ovals and other grassed playing fields, tennis courts, croquet courts, netball courts and the like.

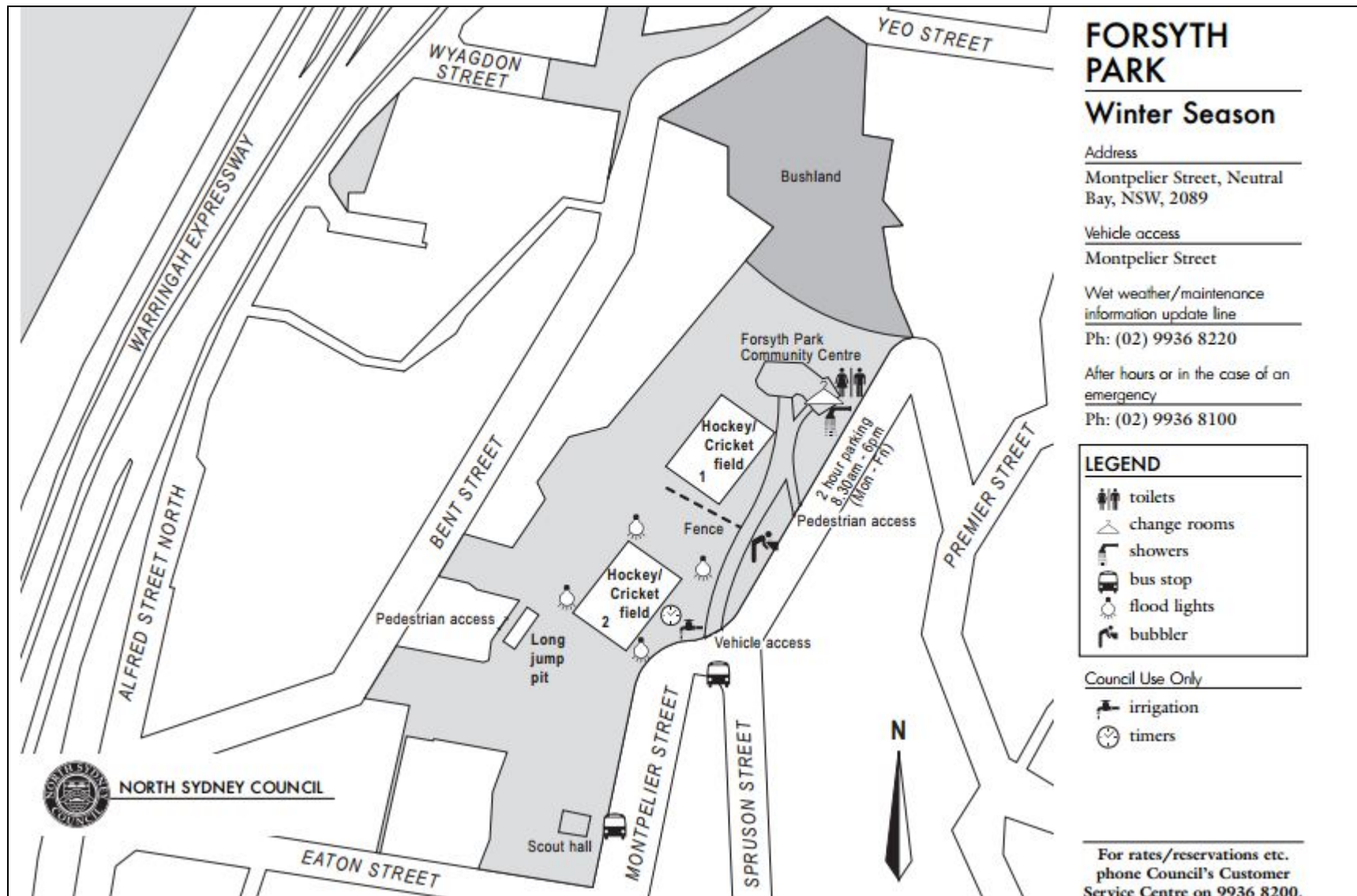
6.4 Appendix 4 Seasonal Configurations of Sportsfields in North Sydney

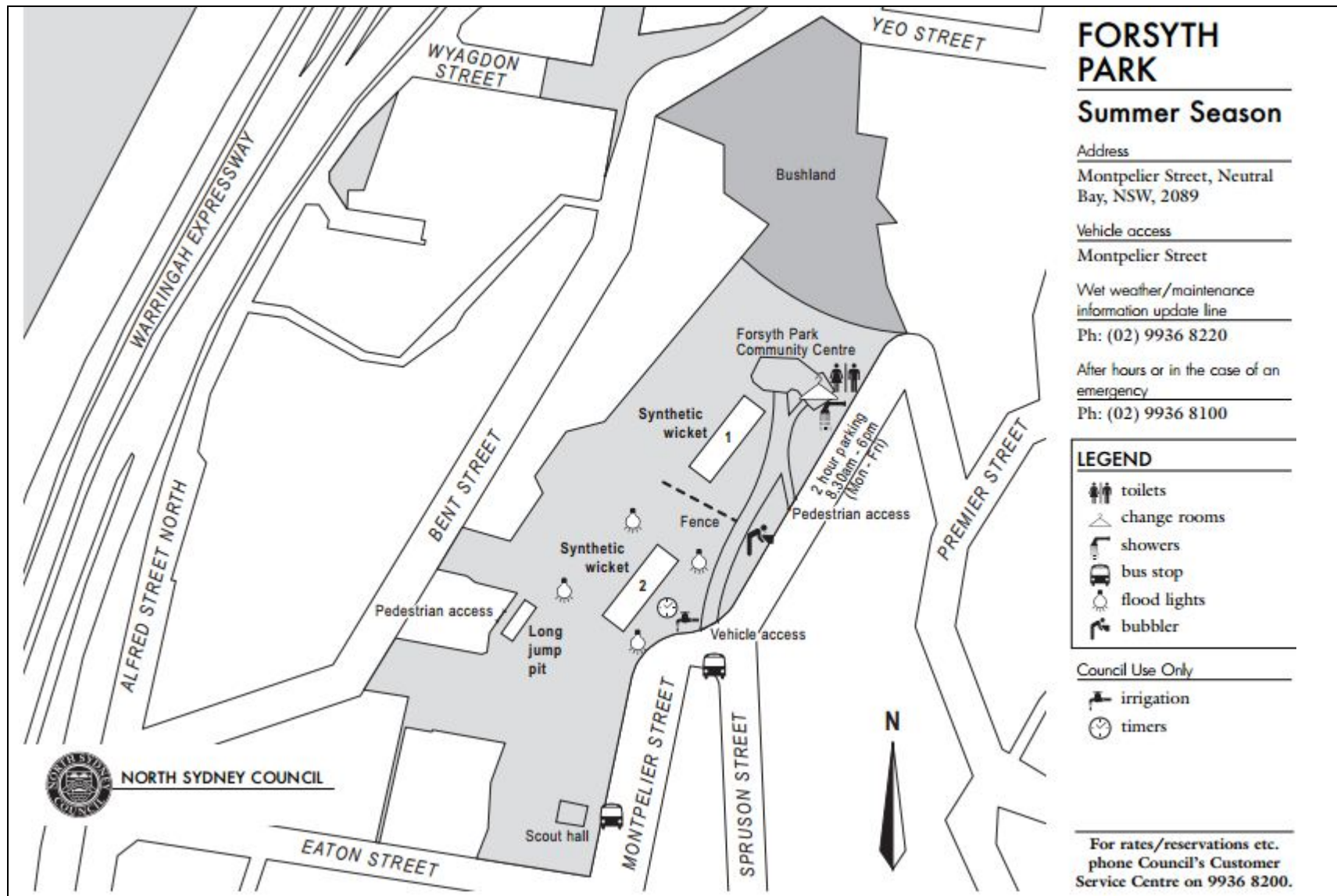


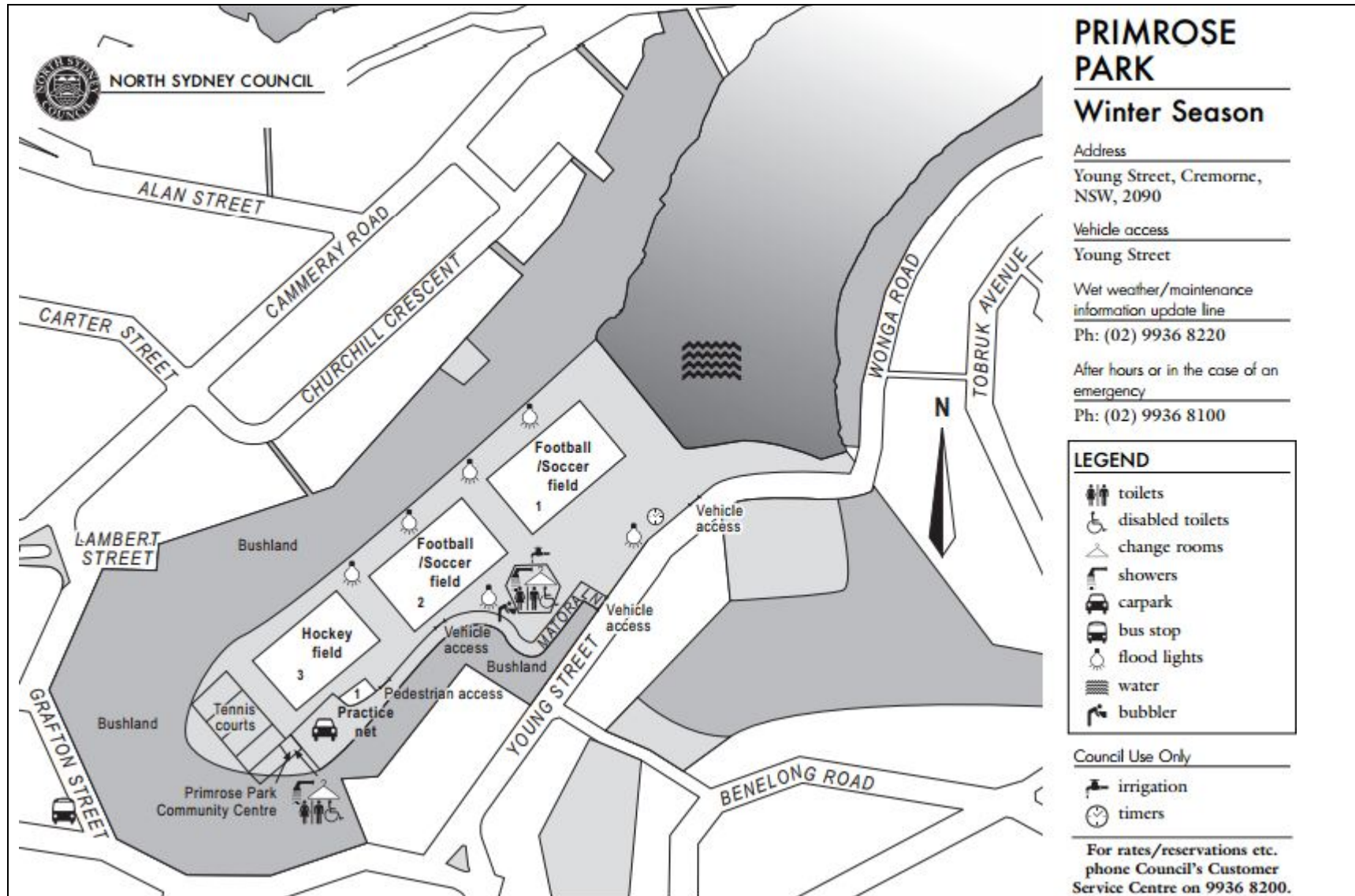




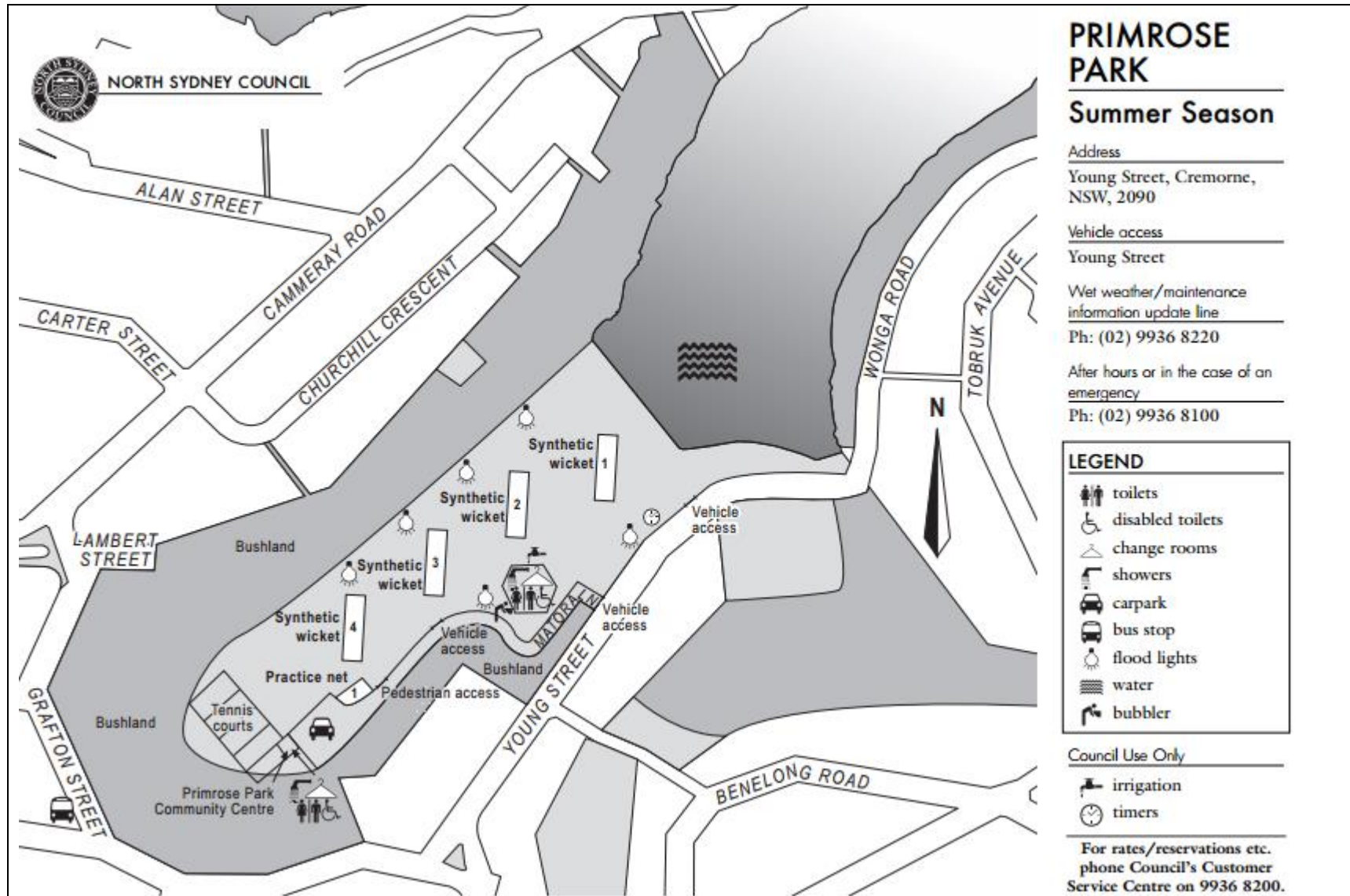


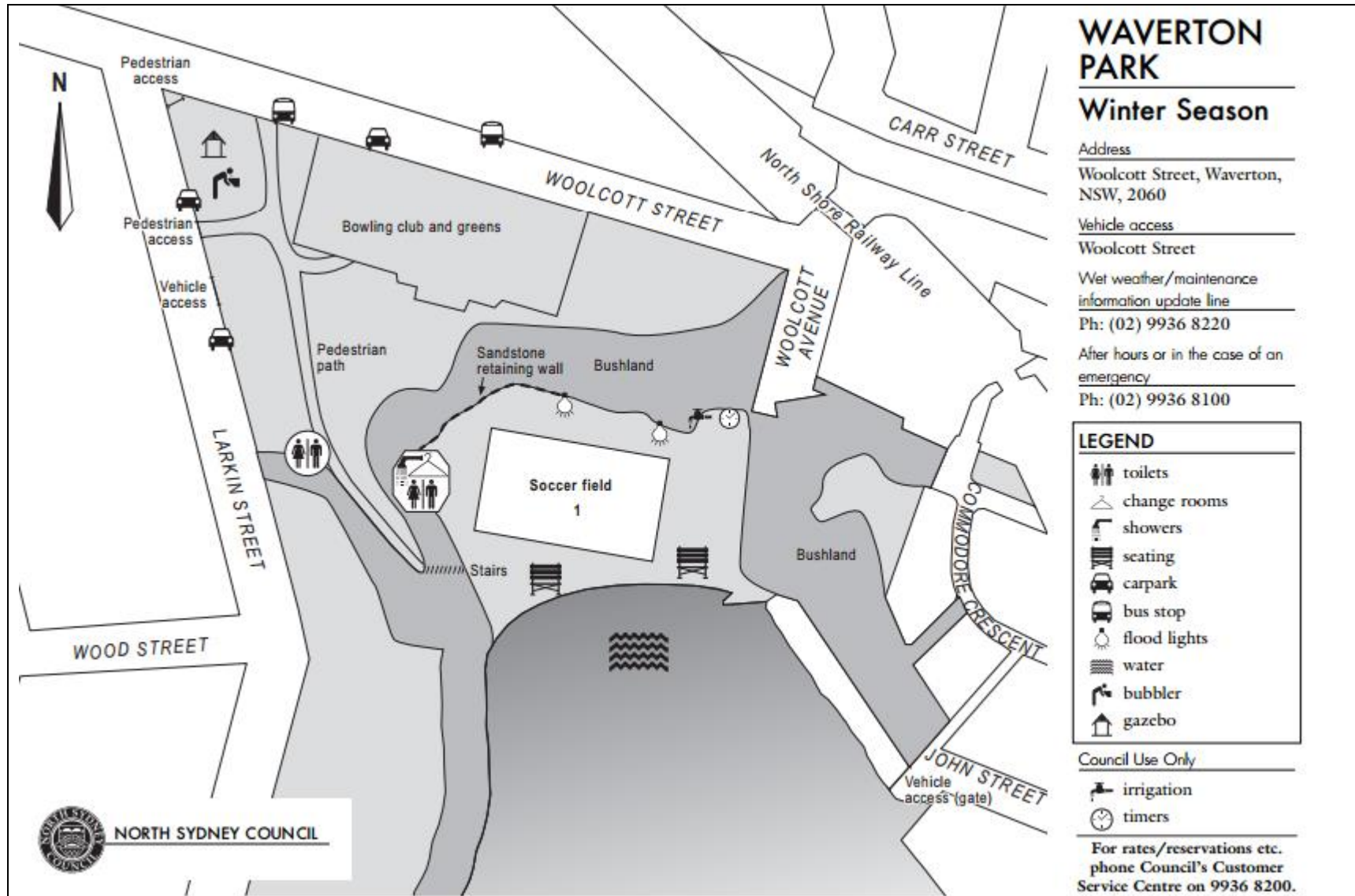


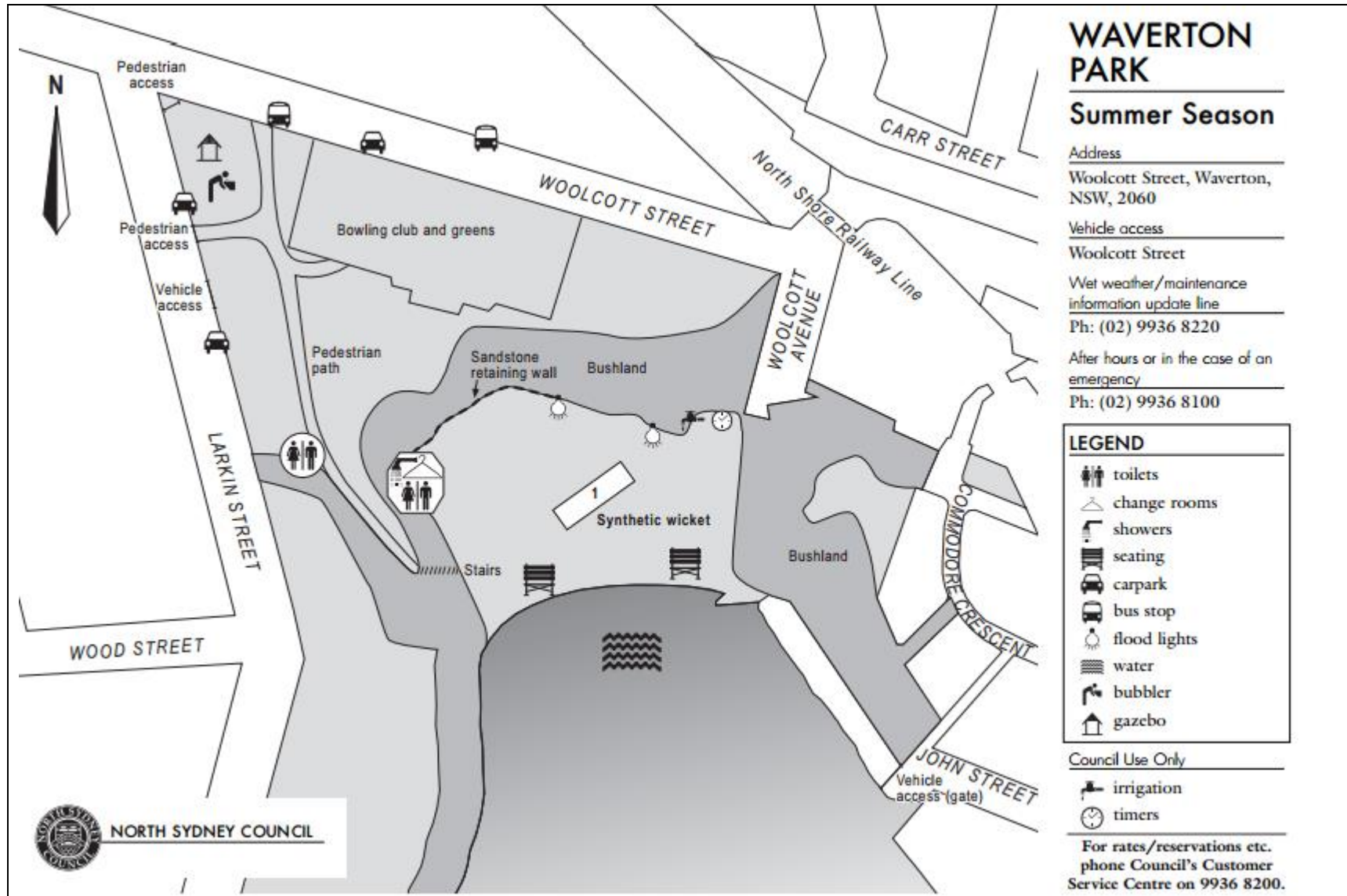




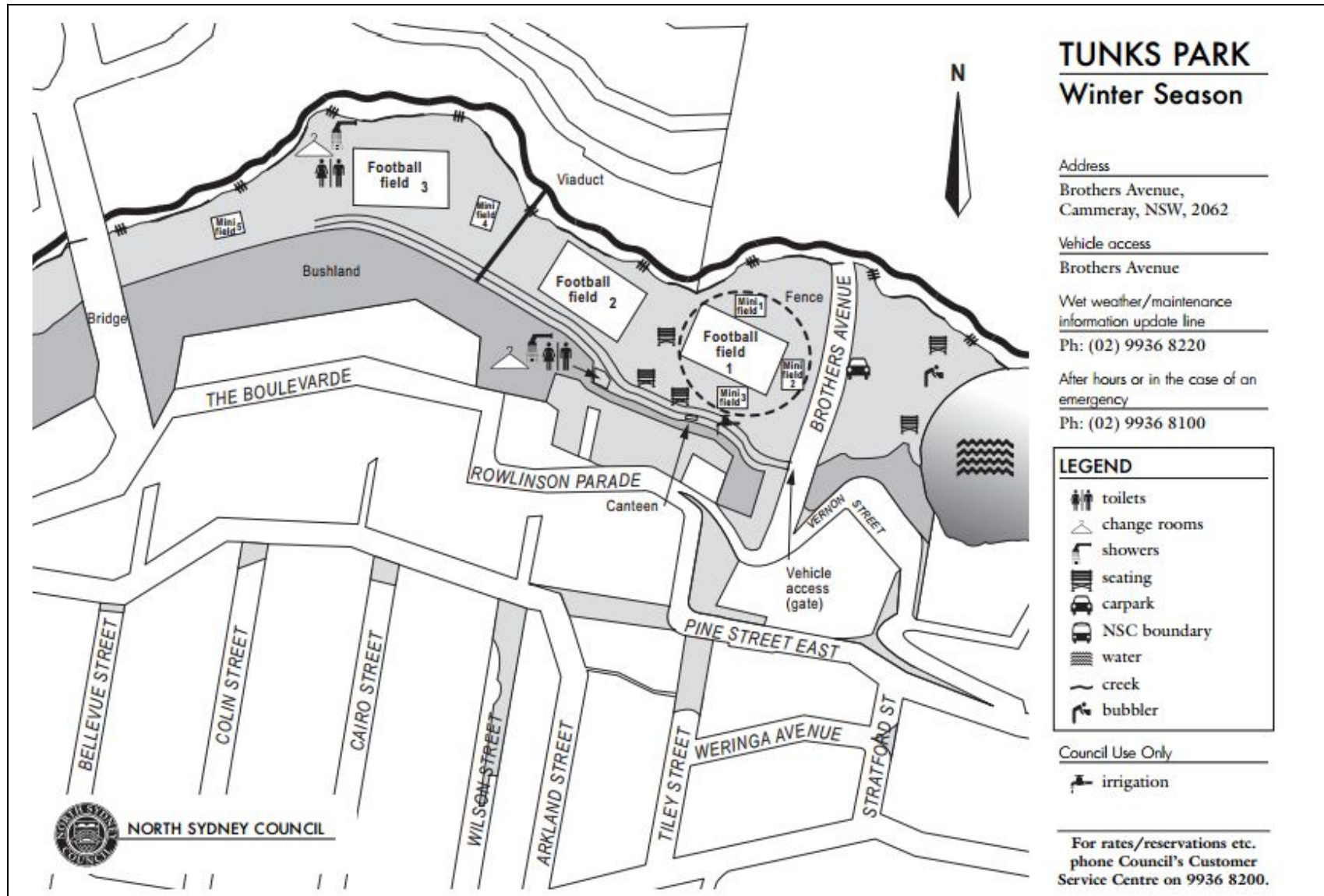


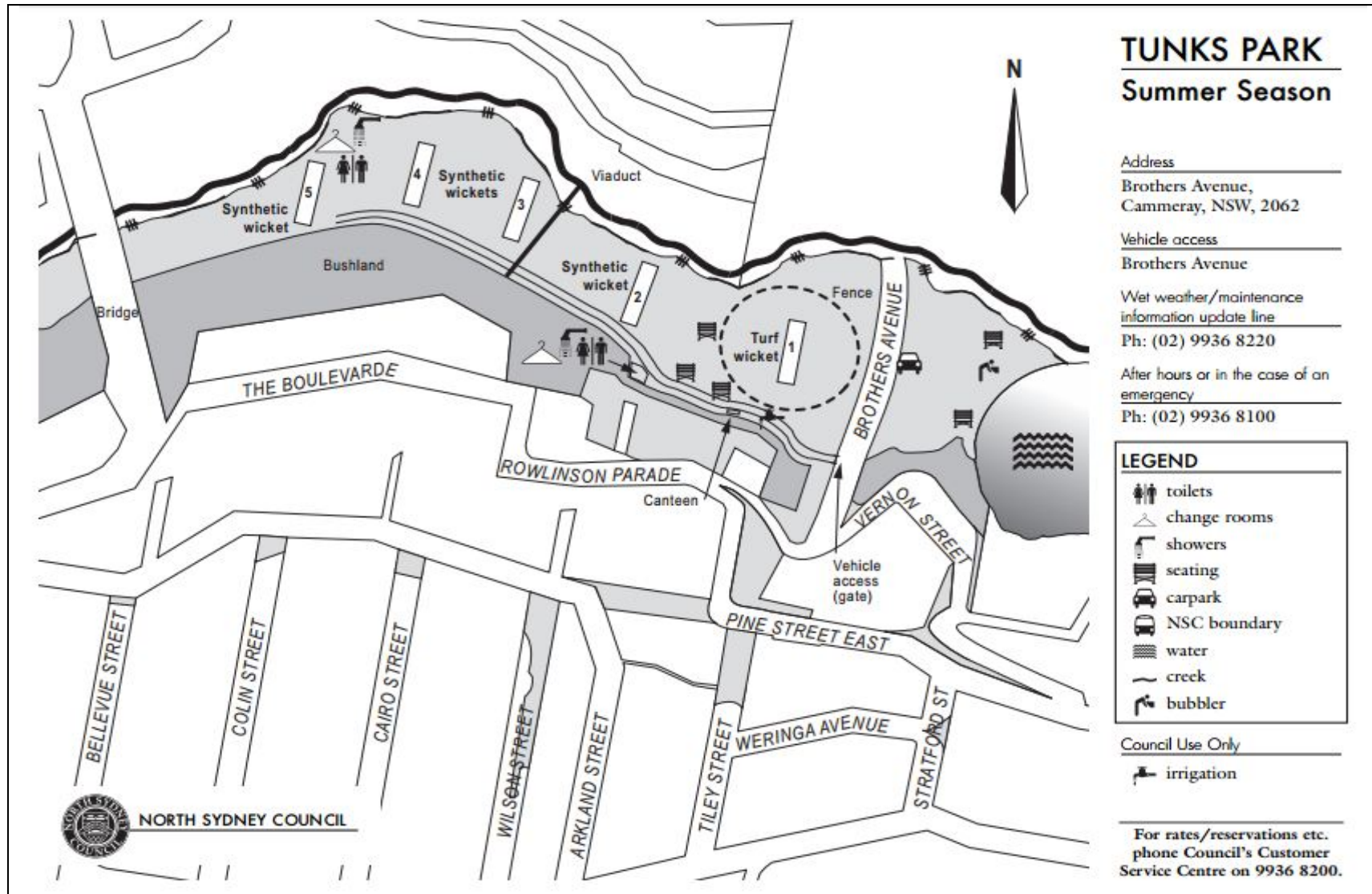














## Recreation Facilities and Programs

### Community Centres

The local Community Centres offer a range of recreational activities. Pick up the Community Centres in North Sydney brochure in Customer Service or Stanton Library or see the website for further details: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/communitycentres](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/communitycentres)

### Parks and Playgrounds

There are a wide range of parks and playgrounds in the North Sydney area ranging from children's playgrounds to preserved bushland. For further details visit: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks)

### Recreation Programs & Events

Both Council and Community groups hold a number programs and events throughout the year. Pick up a Arts & Culture in North Sydney brochure from Customer Service or Stanton Library or check the events on the homepage of Council's website [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au) in Council and Community Events.

### Walking in North Sydney

The possibilities for walking in North Sydney are endless, both in terms of the historical, public art and bushland walks. For further details and maps visit: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/walking](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/walking) or for public art go to: [www.northsydney.gov.au/publicart](http://www.northsydney.gov.au/publicart)

### Youth Centres & Activities

#### Planet X Youth Centre

St Leonards Park, Cnr Miller and Falcon Sts  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/youth](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/youth)

#### North Sydney PCYC

224-230 Falcon St, North Sydney  
[www.pycynsw.org/northsydney](http://www.pycynsw.org/northsydney)

#### North Sydney Skate Plaza

Cammeray Park, off Ernest St  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/skatepark](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/skatepark)



## Sports Fields

North Sydney Council maintains and manages a wide range of local sports fields. Many have timed lights to allow for their use at night.

The fields operate on a user-pays system, levying fees on local schools, organisations and sporting groups who wish to hire sports fields exclusively for the purpose of organised sport.

### Sports Fields available for hire

**Anderson Park**, Clark Rd, Neutral Bay  
Football and cricket

**Cammeray Park**, Between Ernest St, Park Ave & Cammeray Rd, Cammeray  
Golf Course, football & cricket field, tennis courts

**Forsyth Park**, Montpellier St, Neutral Bay  
Hockey, cricket, Scout Hall

**Primrose Park**, Young St, Cammeray  
Tennis Courts, football, hockey, cricket fields

**St Leonards Park & North Sydney Oval 1 & 2**, Cnr Miller St & Ridge St, North Sydney  
No.1 Oval has been used as a cricket and football grounds for over 100 yrs. No.2 Oval is close to St Leonards Park. Also in St Leonards Park: bowling green, netball courts and cricket nets.

**Tunks Park**, Off Brothers Ave, Cammeray  
Large park with cricket, soccer and football fields

**Waverton Park**, Woolcott St, Waverton  
Football and cricket field

For further information on hiring a sports field, checking whether a ground is open, or an electronic version of this brochure go to [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/sports](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/sports).

**Wet Weather Hotline 9936 8220**

**Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 13 14 50.**

Ask for an interpreter in your language to contact

**North Sydney Council on 9936 8100.**

This is a **free** Service for Council related information.

Reprinted in October 2015. If you detect an error or have any comments email: [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au) or tel. 9936 8100 and ask for the Community Information Officer.

# Sport and Recreation in North Sydney



[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/sports](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/sports)

Sport, recreation and open spaces play an important role in the health, liveability and character of the North Sydney area.



North Sydney Council  
Website: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)  
Telephone: 02 9936 8100  
PO Box 12, North Sydney NSW 2059  
200 Miller St, North Sydney



## Sport and Recreation Organisations

For more information on other sports in the area go to [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/sports](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/sports) and click on **Search the Community Directory** or contact Customer Service: 02 9936 8100

### AFL Football

North Shore Australian Football Club  
[www.northshorefc.com.au](http://www.northshorefc.com.au)

### Badminton

North Sydney Badminton Club  
[www.badmintonnorthsydney.websyte.com.au](http://www.badmintonnorthsydney.websyte.com.au)

### Baseball

North Sydney Leagues Baseball Club  
[www.northsydney.baseball.com.au](http://www.northsydney.baseball.com.au)

### Basketball

Northern Suburbs Basketball Association  
[www.nsba.com.au](http://www.nsba.com.au)

### Boules

Artistes Boules Club in Kirribilli  
[www.boulesartistes.org.au](http://www.boulesartistes.org.au)

### Bowling (Lawn Bowls)

North Sydney Leagues Bowling Club 'The Greens'  
[thegreensnorthsydney.com.au](http://thegreensnorthsydney.com.au)  
Waverton North Sydney Club  
[www.wavertonbowlingclub.com.au](http://www.wavertonbowlingclub.com.au)  
The Wollstonecraft Club  
[www.wollstonecraftclub.com.au](http://www.wollstonecraftclub.com.au)

### Cricket

Northern Suburbs Cricket Association  
[www.northscricket.com](http://www.northscricket.com)  
North Sydney District Cricket Club  
[www.northsydneycc.com.au](http://www.northsydneycc.com.au)

### Croquet

Cammeray Croquet Club  
[www.cammeray-croquet.org.au](http://www.cammeray-croquet.org.au)

### Cycling

Further information and maps  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling).  
Cycle track for kids in **Brightmore Reserve**  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks)

### Golf

Cammeray Golf Club  
[www.cammeraygolf.com.au](http://www.cammeraygolf.com.au)

### Fencing

The Swords Club  
[www.theswordsclub.org](http://www.theswordsclub.org)

### Hockey

North Shore Woman's Hockey Association  
[www.nshockey.com](http://www.nshockey.com)

### Netball

North Sydney Netball Club  
[www.northsydney.netballclub.com](http://www.northsydney.netballclub.com)  
Northern Suburbs Netball Association  
[www.northernsuburbs.netball.asn.au](http://www.northernsuburbs.netball.asn.au)

### Oz Tag

Northern Sydney Oztag  
[www.northern Sydneyoztag.com.au](http://www.northern Sydneyoztag.com.au)

### Rugby League

North Sydney Junior Rugby League Football Club  
[northsydney.leaguenet.com.au](http://northsydney.leaguenet.com.au)  
North Sydney Brothers Junior Rugby League Football Club  
[www.nsbrothers.com.au](http://www.nsbrothers.com.au)

### Rugby Union

Northern Suburbs Rugby Football Club NSRFC  
[www.northsrugby.com.au](http://www.northsrugby.com.au)  
Norths Pirates Junior Rugby Union Club  
[www.northspirates.rugbynet.com.au](http://www.northspirates.rugbynet.com.au)

### Running

Northside Running Group  
[www.nrg.asn.au](http://www.nrg.asn.au)  
Norths Joggers Club  
[www.runnorthsydney.com](http://www.runnorthsydney.com)  
Sydney Striders  
[www.sydneystriders.org.au](http://www.sydneystriders.org.au)

### Soccer

North Sydney United Football Club  
[www.northsydneyunited.com.au](http://www.northsydneyunited.com.au)

### Sailing

Sydney Amateur Sailing Club  
[www.sasc.com.au](http://www.sasc.com.au)

### Swimming

For details of swimming clubs at North Sydney Olympic Pool  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/pool](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/pool)  
MacCallum Pool  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/maccallumpool](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/maccallumpool)  
Big Blue Swimming  
[www.bigblueswimming.com.au](http://www.bigblueswimming.com.au)  
Sydney Emeralds Synchronised Swimming Club  
[www.sydneysynchroclub.com](http://www.sydneysynchroclub.com)

### Tennis Courts

**Cammeray Tennis Club**  
Cammeray Park (4 courts/lighting/book online)  
[www.cammeraytennis.asn.au](http://www.cammeraytennis.asn.au)

### Green Park Tennis Courts

Cnr Warwick Ave & Warringa Rd (free/no bookings)  
[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/parks)

### Kirribilli Tennis Centre

1A Little Alfred St, Kirribilli (3 courts/lighting)  
Phone 9371 9952

### Neutral Bay Tennis Club

3 Westleigh St, Neutral Bay (4 courts/lighting)  
[www.neutralbayclub.com](http://www.neutralbayclub.com)

### Primrose Park Tennis Courts

Matora Lane, Cremorne (4 courts/lighting)  
[www.primroseparktennis.com.au](http://www.primroseparktennis.com.au)

### Tennis World North Sydney

Level 2, 37 Ridge St, North Sydney (4 courts + gym)  
[www.NSTG.com.au](http://www.NSTG.com.au)

### Touch Football

Cammeray Touch Football  
[www.cammeraytouch.com](http://www.cammeraytouch.com)