

### **3.1. Streets Alive, Community Garden and HarbourCare Update**

Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care Update

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**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care programs.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- As of October 2023, Council's Streets Alive program has 450 registered volunteers covering approximately 160 sites within the Local Government Area (LGA), ranging from small verges to large open spaces.
- Council has eight official community garden groups across the LGA which are maintained by approximately 150 active community volunteers.
- The Harbour Care program supports volunteers who remove rubbish from the many small beaches in the local government area (LGA). There are currently 21 sites with 87 registered volunteers.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care programs are funded through Council's Environment Levy.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the Streets Alive, Community Garden and Harbour Care Update report be received.

## **LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

1. Our Living Environment
- 1.2 Environmentally sustainable community

## **BACKGROUND**

Green spaces are an important component within an urban environment. They play a fundamental role in climate change adaptation, for example reducing the urban heat island effect in cities, provide spaces for physical activity and wellbeing, create opportunity for social connectedness and help improve the beauty and aesthetic of the local surrounds.

Councils Streets Alive and Community Garden program promote gardening both as a valuable recreational activity and an opportunity to improve social connection and wellbeing in the North Sydney community. The programs provide many benefits to Council including enhancing our natural assets and areas of public open space whilst providing a platform whereby residents can form strong bonds and foster a sense of stewardship over public open space.

Council recognises that many of North Sydney's public gardens are already receiving input from adjacent property owners. The Streets Alive program provides recognition and support to those residents who already contribute to beautifying the area and provide an avenue for further community involvement. This is significant in North Sydney's high-density environment, where opportunities to partake in gardening, are limited.

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Community engagement is not required.

## **DETAIL**

### Streets Alive

As of October 2023, the program has 450 registered volunteers covering approximately 160 sites across the LGA. These sites range in size from small verges to large open spaces with varying numbers of volunteers at each location.

The program encourages residents to partake in recreational gardening on public land while also providing an opportunity for neighbours to meet each other, fostering a sense of community and stewardship. Care is taken to ensure new plantings will maintain the existing character of the surrounding area, while also enhancing the aesthetic quality of the immediate area.

Recently, Streets Alive worked in conjunction with Council's engineers on the installation of a new pocket park in East Crescent St, McMahons Point. The new green space improves the streetscape whilst providing residents the opportunity to garden and meet other neighbours.



*East Crescent St, McMahons Point*



*Carr St, Waverton*



*Carr St, Waverton - Volunteers have transformed Carr St into a vibrant native greenspace.*



*Euroka St, Waverton - Residents plant out a disused grass verge.*



*Balfour St, Wollstonecraft - Native plants are used to attract wildlife and the working bees give opportunities for residents to come together.*

### Community Gardens

Council's Community Garden program plays an important role in fostering a sense of community and social connection as well as providing an educational platform for sustainable gardening practices.

There are a total of eight groups across the LGA that meet on a weekly basis with 150 active volunteers. Community garden groups include the Coal Loader Platform and Aquaponics, Coal Loader Cottage Garden, Kurraba Point, Little Young St, Forsyth Park, Milson Park and Anzac Park Community Garden.

Through the support of Council, volunteers assist in various gardening duties and tasks and get to share in the produce that is harvested. The community garden offers an opportunity to learn fundamental gardening techniques including waste processing such as composting and worm farming, whilst also meeting people through a shared interest. Council builds the capacity of the volunteers through learning opportunities including talks and workshops.



*Coal Loader Cottage Community Garden – harvest which is distributed among the volunteers.*



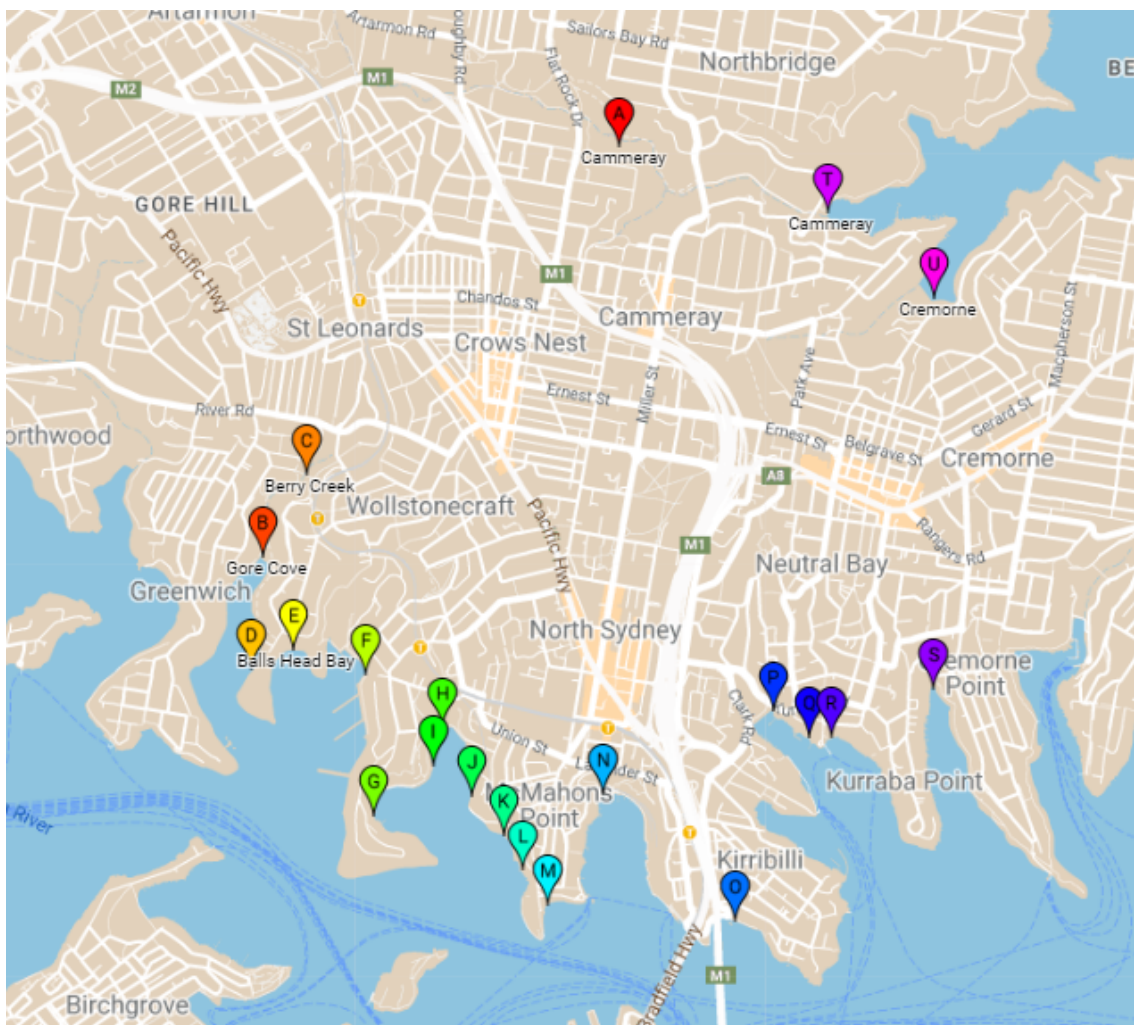
*Community Garden volunteers harvest compost, converting organic waste into nutrient-rich soil which is used on the gardens.*

## Harbour Care

The Harbour Care program formally recognises and supports members of the community who voluntarily collect rubbish along Council's many small beaches. These volunteers are concerned about pollution in Sydney Harbour and the subsequent effects on marine and bird life.

Council provides support through volunteer training, supply of equipment and pickup of collected waste. Since its establishment, the program has been replicated by several other Sydney based Councils including Lane Cove and Woollahra.

Council currently has 21 active sites across the LGA and as of October 2023, 87 registered volunteers in the program.



*A map of Harbour Care sites within the LGA*



*A morning collection from a Harbour Care volunteer.*



