



Lake Macquarie City Council

Development Contributions Plan

Recreation and Land Plan

Toronto Contributions Catchment
2015 – 2030

Version History

Version No.	Date	Description	Amendments	Details
1	18/7/2016	Draft Toronto R&LP	Draft placed on public exhibition	
2	28/11/2016	Toronto R&LP	After exhibition – with changes Adopted by Council	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Recreation and Land Plan has been prepared to identify the needs of future recreation facilities required to serve the projected growth in the Toronto Catchment to 2025. The Toronto Contributions Catchment will experience a projected growth of 5,412 people to 2030 and much of this growth located in and around Toronto.

The plan quantifies the existing provision, considers the type and distribution of provision, and recommends future facilities required for the projected growth. The plan considers local and citywide standards, recommended government standards, planning policies and guidelines, as well as the spatial/service area catchments for facility provision. These various standards guide the development of the local standards of provision.

The existing facilities and existing land were considered first to determine if the existing areas could be reconfigured or expanded to provide the additional facilities required. This results in minimal land acquisition but at key locations.

This recreation and land plan considers a wide range of recreation needs, and attempts to provide an appropriate balance of sport and recreation facilities to cater for the entire population including the increasing proportion of older adults.

Once these new facilities are provided, the overall outcome will assist in providing a 'quality lifestyle' for the future communities of Lake Macquarie.

PART A - CONTEXT

1. Introduction

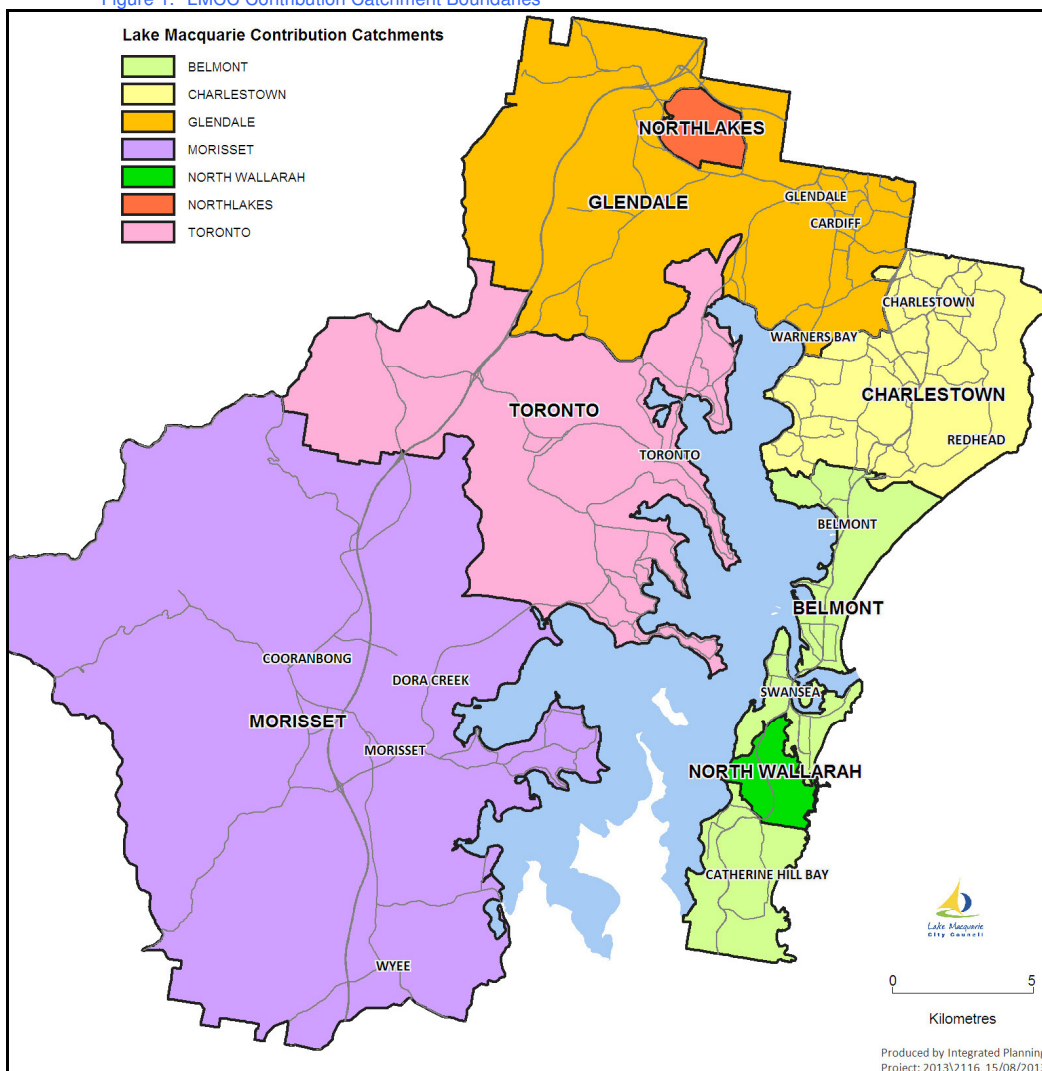
Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) has a large local government area (LM LGA) comprising 787.4 km². It is one of the largest cities in New South Wales and one of the fastest growing cities in the Hunter. The centrepiece of the city is its lake, comprising 110 km², which is about twice the size of Sydney Harbour and recognised as one of the largest coastal saltwater lakes in Australia.

Effective planning of public recreation areas is essential to provide a 'quality lifestyle' for the future populations of Lake Macquarie (LM). Quality parks and recreation facilities are integral to the liveability and successful growth of established and new communities. LMCC requires developer contributions to partially or fully fund new, and/or expand existing facilities resulting from new development. The NSW Department of Planning (DoP) has prepared draft guidelines recommending indicative standards, the nexus, and the contribution required from new development to meet the increased demand for infrastructure resultant from new development.

This plan draws on a range of studies and reports prepared for Council and the plan undertakes a needs assessment to determine standards for service provision in the Toronto Contributions Catchment (Toronto CC) to meet the future needs to 2030.

The Toronto CC is located western side of the LM LGA covering an area from Teralba to Freemans Waterhole, extending to Myuna Bay and Wang Wangi, the pink shaded area in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1. LMCC Contribution Catchment Boundaries



1.1 Mission Statement

Our mission statement '**Quality Lifestyle**' represents and embodies our overarching goal in providing these services, and is simple but instantly accessible.¹ Quality parks and recreation facilities are an essential and critical component in providing a quality lifestyle.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the plan are:

- To provide a living environment that has a strong quality of life, health and well-being focus
- To provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities that keep pace with the changing needs of the community
- To provide quality recreation facilities that encourages community participation into physical activity
- To consider a sustainable approach by expanding existing facilities, where possible, and co-locating facilities to maximise use
- To utilise the City's natural attributes to increase the provision of informal recreation facilities

1.3 Purpose

LMCC has prepared this Recreation and Land Plan to support and inform the preparation of a Development Contributions Plan (CP) for the Toronto CC. The plan has been prepared with an understanding of the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) guidelines.²

The purpose of this plan is to predict the recreation needs for the growth forecast in the Toronto CC and determine if the existing recreation land is able to meet those needs for the future. The plan identifies the facilities required and identifies the land to provide the proposed new or augmented facilities.

1.4 Scope of the Plan

The Toronto CC has an established urban band that follows the eastern boundary of the lake. The catchment has a range of community infrastructure provided by government, non-profit organisations and the private sector. This plan identifies the type, location and range of existing recreation infrastructure used by the population and specific target groups.

The plan also identifies some recreation infrastructure provided by non-profit organizations and the private sector, which may also cater for local needs. Non-Council facilities play an important role in the community, and Council has considered these facilities to reduce duplication and ensure the provision of a range of recreation facilities. Where private facilities are broadly available to the community, and if closed, would result in a major gap in service provision, these facilities have been included in the existing provision.

The existing provision may not include all the available recreation facilities but has focused on those recreation facilities primarily available for public use. This approach is consistent with Council's role as identified in the Local Government Act 1993.

1.5 Policy Context

LMCC has reviewed existing strategies, policies, plans and guidelines, which provide the framework for the development of future recreation facilities across the City and in the Toronto CC.

¹ LMCC (2013) *City of Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023*, p. 8.

² NSW DoP (2009) *Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, and relevant directions/circulars released by the Department of Planning.

State and Federal Government Strategies

• NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one

NSW 2021 is a plan to make NSW number one. It is a 10-year plan to rebuild the economy, provide quality services, renovate infrastructure, restore government accountability, and strengthen our local environment and communities. It is the NSW Government's strategic business plan, and sets priorities for action and guiding resource allocation. The relevant goals, targets or actions include:

- Increase walking and cycling - To increase walking and cycling to help ease transport congestion and build a healthier, more active community³
- Obesity rates - Reduce overweight and obesity rates of children and young people (5–16 years) to 21% by 2015; stabilise overweight and obesity rates in adults by 2015, and then reduce by 5% by 2020⁴
- 'In the next 25 years, the population of people aged 65 years and older in NSW is expected to more than double'
- Increase participation in sport, recreational, arts and cultural activities in rural and regional NSW from 2010 to 2016 by 10%⁵

• Draft Hunter Regional Plan

The *Draft Hunter Regional Plan* provides a framework to guide development and investment in the Hunter region to 2036 and identifies an additional 117,850 people expected to be living in the region. The plan aims to guide the delivery of homes, jobs, infrastructure and services to support the growing and changing needs of the Hunter.

A key element of the Draft Plan in relation to recreation is in:

- Direction 4.2 – Provide housing and services that meet local communities' needs; and
Action 4.2.5 – support retail growth in centres to promote vibrant, liveable communities;

The plan identifies that shopping is now combined with other social and recreational activities and together they contribute to vibrant, liveable communities. Planning of local centres, including new centres, should prioritise the creation of mix-use hubs, with high quality public areas, walking connections, and good transport connections.⁶

• Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City

Developed as a companion to the *Draft Hunter Regional Plan*, the *Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City* is a plan to capitalise on the area's assets and to leverage greater economic and jobs growth, more housing, and better environmental protection.

The Draft Plan identifies the importance of recreation and open space in:

- Direction 1.4 – The City's blue and green network; and
The Hunter City offers excellent access to a range of water features and green spaces. These features make the City an attractive place to live and work with a range of recreational opportunities unequalled by other Australian cities.
Action 1.4.3 – Plan and deliver the Hunter City Green Grid

The objectives relevant to recreation and open space for the Hunter Green City Green Grid include:

- Open Space – Increase access to open space;
- Walking and cycling – Encourage sustainable transport connections and promote active living;
- Public realm – Create a high quality and animated public realm;
- Water sports and recreation – Encourage active living and support tourism development

These features create a 'blue grid', which makes the City an attractive place to live and work, with a range of recreational opportunities unequalled by other Australian cities.⁷

³ NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (2011) *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one*, Goal 8, p. 20

⁴ *Ibid.*, Goal 11, p. 23

⁵ *Ibid.*, Goal 27, p. 51

⁶ NSW DoP (2015) *Draft Hunter Regional Plan.*, NSW Government, p. 70

⁷ NSW DoP (2015) *Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City*, NSW Government, p. 17

Local Government Strategies and Plans

• Lifestyle 2030 Strategy

This strategy provides the long-term strategic directions for the future land use pattern for the City, based on achieving the principles of sustainability. The strategic directions relevant to recreation include:

- Strategic Direction 3 – A well designed adaptable and liveable city
- Strategic Direction 4 - A well serviced and equitable city
- Strategic Direction 6 - A city responsive to the wellbeing of its residents

The outcomes and intent statements relevant for the catchment include:

- **Good quality neighbourhood (destination) parks are provided in close proximity to high density urban development⁸**
- The pedestrian and cycle network is well maintained, more extensive and better utilised, including the completion of both commuter and recreational cycle ways such as the cycleway around the Lake⁹
- The pedestrian and cycle network is well maintained, more extensive and better utilised, including the completion of both commuter and recreational cycle ways such as the cycleway around the Lake¹⁰
- Augment pedestrian systems with improved cycle systems to extend the catchment of urban centres and key public transport systems. Measures will include:
 - Provision of cycleways and/or on-road cycle routes/lanes to all new developments, linking residential areas to: shops, schools, urban centres and public transport systems, such as public transport interchanges and train stations
- Centres are the fundamental building block of the urban structure of the LGA, and intended to be the focus for:
 - Safe, convenient, and accessible pedestrian, cycling and public transport
 - Places for social and community interaction and recreation
 - Higher density housing, and mixed-use development incorporating housing¹¹
- Cycle and Pedestrian Network:
 - LS2030 recognises the importance of the cycle and pedestrian network to the movement system
 - Cycle facilities should be provided so that cycling is an attractive, practical, and safe form of movement
 - Where possible cycle paths should be off road rather than on road, to increase safety and ensure the widest possible range of users¹²

• Community Strategic Plan

The *City of Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2013 – 2023* is a ten-year plan that sets out the main priorities of the community, and sets out the long-term strategic directions of the council, which includes:

- Caring for our Community:

Advocate for and develop opportunities that will ensure all residents have equal opportunity to participate in the economic and social life of the community

How we will know the priorities have been achieved: Delivery of services consistent with the changing demographics of the community¹³

- Sport, Recreation and Culture:

Provide a balanced range of well-maintained and accessible recreation, community, education, sporting, arts and cultural facilities across the City¹⁴

How we will know the priorities have been achieved: Recreation facilities, services and programs meet the growing needs of the community¹⁵

⁸ *Ibid.*, Outcome 3.27, p. 16

⁹ *Ibid.*, Outcome 4.10, p. 18.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Outcome 4.10, p. 18.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 6.1, p. 25

¹² *Ibid.*, 6.2, p. 36 and 37.

¹³ LMCC (2013) *City of Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2013-2023*, p. 41 and 43.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 45 and 47.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 41.

● Ageing Population Strategy

LMCC has prepared an Ageing Population Strategy that identifies that Lake Macquarie has an older population than the NSW average, with the area experiencing a 'premature ageing' of its population, with 18.3% of the LGA's population aged 65 years and over, whereas in NSW 14.7% are aged 65% and older. The population projections up to 2026 show a continued increase in Lake Macquarie's population aged 65 years ranging from 21.8% to 27.7% depending on the area within the City.¹⁶

The Hunter Valley Research Foundation found that 73.3% of people aged 60-69 years were overweight or obese in the Hunter Region and that LM residents had a higher than NSW average of not meeting the physical activity recommendation of 20 minutes exercise five days per week. The strategy identified that parks and foreshore areas are popular with seniors particularly those with picnic facilities, toilets and pathways.

The strategy identifies certain actions such as the need to maintain a range of community and recreation facilities that are access and suitable for seniors and the provision of outdoor exercise equipment in areas with high populations of seniors.

● Youth Strategy

LMCC has also prepared a Youth Strategy which addresses the needs of young people (aged 12 to 24 years) as identified through the community consultation conducted for the development of the strategy. Some relevant responses through the consultation process include:

- Open space for young people to hang out which is designated for young people 12 – 24 years
- Improve cycleways and pedestrian access, improve linkages between locations
- Improve recreational opportunities, maintenance & beautification of amenities, more passive recreational spaces
- Encourage the provision of non-sport recreational opportunities for young people (park facilities)¹⁷

● Recreation Plan

In 1998, LMCC engaged H M Leisure Planning Pty Ltd to prepare a Recreation Plan for the City. The plan analysed existing trends, facility provision, population projections, and it included extensive community consultation. The plan recommends certain strategies and actions, which are included in the relevant sections of this plan. General trends identified include:

- A demand for a greater diversity of leisure opportunities and for sites which permit a greater diversity of socially-oriented, healthy activities
- A greater demand for active, non-competitive and participatory recreation experiences
- Participation in a far broader array of activities¹⁸

● Open Space Strategy

In 2001, Council engaged URS to prepare an Open Space Strategy. A component of that strategy included a Recreation Participation Survey, which involved 1,400 households (200 in each of the seven planning districts¹⁹), and 3,519 residents of the City. Refer to **Appendix 1** for a map of the planning districts. Thirty-two different recreation activities in eight different settings were included in the survey.

Key findings of the survey included:

- The dominance of 'walking for exercise' and 'swimming/surfing at a beach' as the two primary recreation activities throughout the LM LGA, and
- The total participation time for soccer, tennis, football (AFL, RL, RU) and cricket combined, is less than half the total participation time spent 'walking for exercise'.²⁰

¹⁶ LMCC (2008) *Ageing Population Strategy 2014-2017*, p. 14.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 31.

¹⁸ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 2*, prepared by H M Leisure Planning Pty Ltd, p. 27.

¹⁹ The study area of this plan combines the Cardiff and West Wallsend Planning Districts (refer to Appendix 1).

²⁰ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, p. 4-7.

- **Open Space Plan**

In 1996, LMCC engaged Clouston to prepare an Open Space Plan. The recreation demand survey (which included a telephone survey and focus group consultation) revealed that outdoor recreation is a significant activity in the City. Non-organised recreation activities are the most popular with walking and associated family based activities predominating. The recreation survey revealed that the Lake Foreshore is the most popular setting, with beaches second most favoured.²¹ Although one third of the population do not take part in organised sport, sporting activity is popular with the younger age groups. The plan identified that whilst there are many sports venues in the City, these facilities are often not well developed. Improved co-operation and sharing of facilities were identified as important initiatives to pursue as were multiple use.²²

The plan recommends the following principles be considered as the foundation for all future strategies that address recreation in the City:

- Recreation planning should be aimed at capitalising on and conserving the City's natural attributes provided by the beach, lake, bushland and mountains
- A balance of structured and non-structured recreation facilities should be provided²³

- **Council's Community Survey**

LMCC engaged Micromex Research to undertake a community survey to examine community attitudes and perceptions towards current and future services and facilities provided by Council. The survey was conducted during the period 23 February – 12 March 2016 and 1,002 residents aged over 18 years were interviewed.

In relation to recreation, Council's core strengths include the 'appearance of City parks' and 'picnic and BBQ areas' and these were identified as areas that should be maintained or improved as they are clear community needs. Residents were also asked what facilities come to mind when thinking about new community facilities, and by far the highest number of responses, 24% said 'parks and playgrounds'²⁴.

- **Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP 2014)**

The LMLEP 2014 provides the statutory framework for planning in the local government area by identifying land use zones and planning provisions including permitted and prohibited uses within each zone. One of the aims of LMLEP 2014 is to promote the efficient and equitable provision of public services, infrastructure and amenities.

The RE1 Public Recreation zone identifies land to enable the use of public open space or recreational purposes and the RE2 Private Recreation zone identifies land to enable the use of private open space and recreational purposes. This Plan will assist in informing the LMLEP 2014 on the future needs for public and private recreation zoned land.

- **Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan 2014 (LMDCP 2014)**

The LMDCP 2014 was adopted by Council in February 2014 and was prepared to implement the Lifestyle 2030 Strategy and LMLEP 2014 by facilitating ecologically sustainable development. The LMDCP incorporates Town Centre, Heritage, and Precinct Area Plans including the Toronto Town Centre Area Plans, which is relevant for this catchment.

²¹ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, prepared by Clouston, p. 20

²² LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 2*, prepared by Clouston, p. vi

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 26.


²⁴ LMCC (2016) *LMCC Community Satisfaction Research: April 2016, Ibid.*, p. 34.

PART B – DEMOGRAPHICS

The Toronto CC is located on the western side of the Lake Macquarie LGA as shown in Figure 2. The catchment covers an area of 116.2 km² and includes the suburbs of Arcadia Vale, Awaba, Balmoral, Blackalls Park, Bolton Point, Booragul, Buttaba, Carey Bay, Coal Point, Fassifern, Fennell Bay, Fishing Point, Freemans Waterhole, Kilaben Bay, Marmong Point, Myuna Bay, Rathmines, Ryhope, Toronto, Wangi Wangi and Woodrising. The Toronto CC also covers part of the suburb of Teralba, with the remainder of the suburb covered by the Glendale catchment.

Figure 2. Toronto CC – Catchment Boundary



 Land to which plan applies

In 2015, the Toronto catchment had an estimated population of 31,487 persons comprising approximately 15% of the total population of the LGA. This figure includes people living in non-private dwellings such as nursing homes (residential care facilities), tourist accommodation including hotels and motels, hospitals, and moveable dwellings.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics's 2011 Census of Population and Housing identified the following population characteristics:

- The catchment has an older population with a median age of 44 compared to 41 in the LGA. It is the suburbs on the peninsulas south of Toronto that are generally the older areas, such as Carey Bay (median age of 58), Fishing Point (50), Coal Point (49) and Wangi Wangi (49). Those areas that have a lower median age are the in-land areas such as Ryhope (30), Woodrising (33), and Awaba (34);
- The catchment has significantly more people aged 65 years and over, accounting for 20.8% of the population, compared to 18.4% for Lake Macquarie. Suburbs that have a high proportion of people aged over 65 years include Booragul, Carey Bay, Coal Point, and Toronto;
- The suburbs that have a high proportion of younger families (those aged under 10 years of age and those aged 25-40) include Awaba, Balmoral, and Blackalls Park;
- Marmong Point and Ryhope have a high proportion of those aged 10-19 years, and 40-54 years, indicating that these suburbs consist predominately of older families.
- Woodrising has high proportions of all age groups through to 54 years, indicating that this suburb consists predominately of families, both younger and older (it has very low proportions of people aged over 55 years);
- Unsurprisingly, suburbs such as Fishing Point, Coal Point and Wangi Wangi have a very high proportion of 'couple family without children', whilst Ryhope, Awaba and Woodrising have a very high proportion of 'couple family with children). Whereas, Bolton Point, Woodrising and Booragul have a high proportion of 'one parent families'.
- Areas that have a high proportion of single person households include Carey Bay, Booragul and Toronto, which is indicative of the large number of seniors living complexes in these suburbs. Woodrising, Awaba and Ryhope have the highest numbers of average people per household;
- The Catchment has a similar proportion of people born overseas as the LGA however; it has a significantly higher proportion of people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the suburbs of Bolton Point (8.9% of the population), Fassifern (6.0%) and Ryhope (5.8%);
- The Catchment has a slightly lower rate than the LGA for those working full-time, but a similar rate to the LGA for those working part-time. Accordingly, the Catchment has a higher unemployment rate, which is dominant in the suburbs of Bolton Point, Teralba and Toronto;
- Rates of motor vehicle ownership for the catchment are similar to that of the LGA, with an average of 1.8 vehicles per household, and 7.1% of households in the catchment reporting not having a vehicle. Booragul, Toronto, and Bolton Point were the suburbs that have the highest percentage of dwellings with no motor vehicles;
- Toronto is the only suburb that has a higher proportion of apartments (10.5% compared to 5.3% in the LGA), with just 3.7% of dwellings in the catchment being apartments;
- Carey Bay (19.3%), Bolton Point (12.4%) and Fassifern (11.7%) have a higher proportion of semi-detached houses than the catchment (6.9%) and the LGA (7.3%);
- The catchment has a slightly lower rate of households who own or are purchasing their home (70.5% compared to 73.6% for the LGA). Bolton Point, Booragul and Toronto are suburbs that have a high proportion of people who are renting;
- The catchment has a higher percentage of public housing (6.8% compared to 4.9% in the LGA), with the highest number in Bolton Point (32.7%), Booragul (17.9%) and Toronto (14.2%); and
- According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Bolton Point and Booragul experience very high levels of social disadvantage. This is a result of a high proportion of residents being less educated, having lower incomes, less skilled

occupations and higher unemployment levels than those living in other suburbs. The suburbs of Toronto and Teralba also experience high levels of disadvantage, whilst Coal Point, Fishing Point and Kilaben Bay have low levels of disadvantage.

1.6 Future Population

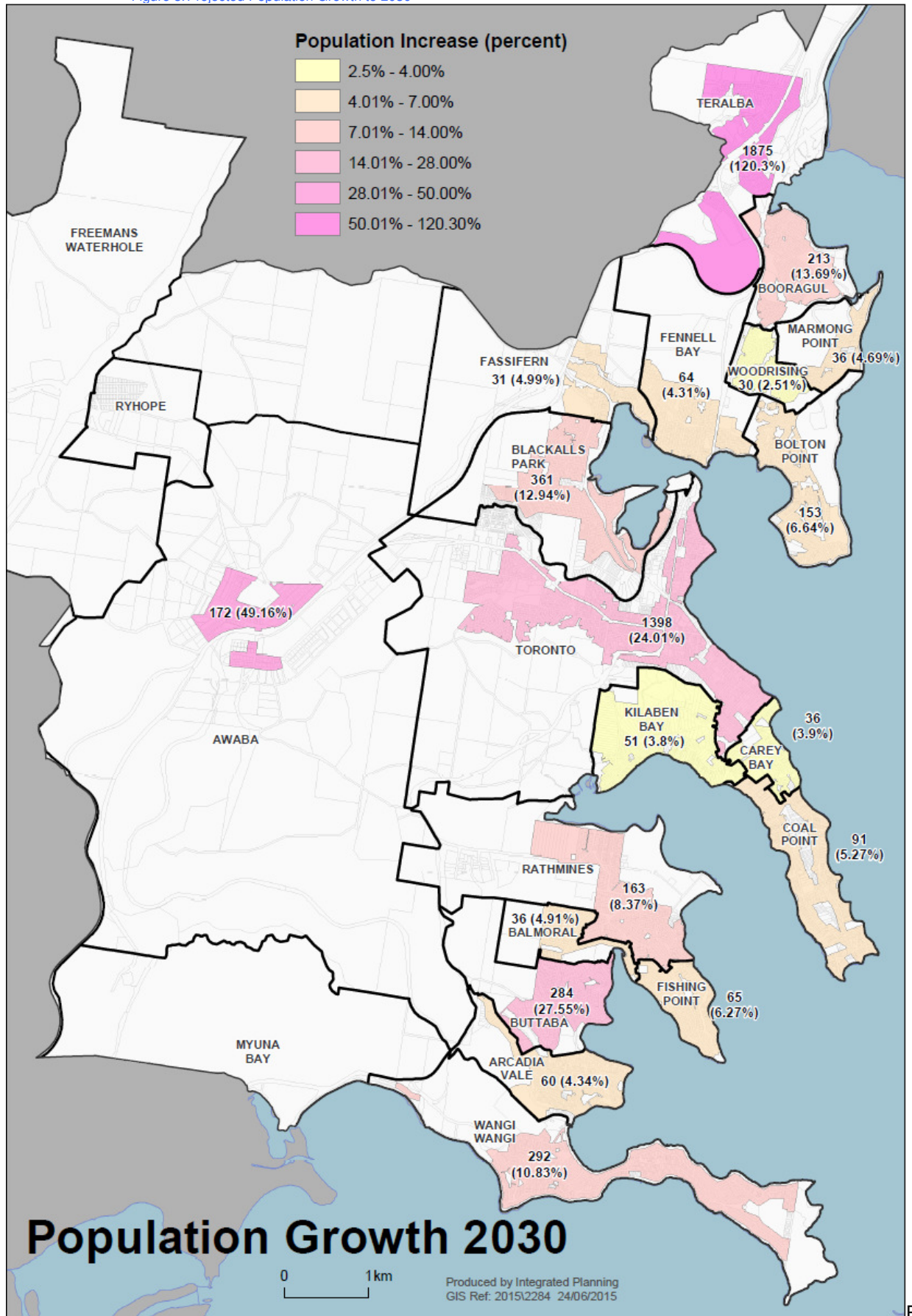
The Toronto CC is expected to reach 36,899 persons by 2030. This population projection is an increase of 5,412 persons from 2015, as illustrated in the following plan.

New residents are expected to be concentrated in the following six (6) suburbs, which account for almost 82% of the total growth in the Catchment.

- Teralba, with an additional 1,875 persons (120% increase) and a total population of 3,434 people, largely due to an approved development within the area;
- Toronto, with an additional 1,398 persons (24% increase) and a total population of 7,223 people;
- Blackalls Park, with an additional 361 persons (12.9% increase) and a total population of 3,151 people;
- Wangi Wangi, with an additional 292 persons (10.8% increase) and a total population of 2,989 people;
- Buttaba, with an additional 284 persons (27.6% increase) and a total population of 1,317 people; and
- Booragul, with an additional 213 persons (13.7% increase) and a total population of 1,767 people.

The suburb of Awaba is also anticipated to experience a significant increase (almost 50%) over the next 15 years, with an additional 172 on top of its current population of 350 people.

Figure 3. Projected Population Growth to 2030



Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Toronto Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

Table 1. Forecast Demographic Profile of Toronto Contributions Catchment

Suburb	Existing Dwellings (2015)	Existing Persons (2015)	Projected additional Dwellings (2030)	Projected additional Persons (2030)	Total Dwellings (2030)	Total Persons (2030)	Growth (%)
Arcadia Vale	599	1,383	31	60	630	1,443	4.3
Awaba	129	350	58	172	187	522	49.2
Balmoral	296	731	21	36	317	767	4.9
Blackalls Park	1,144	2,790	166	361	1,310	3,151	12.9
Bolton Point	936	2,297	84	153	1,020	2,450	6.6
Booragul	667	1,554	106	213	773	1,767	13.7
Buttaba	422	1,032	101	284	523	1,317	27.6
Carey Bay	471	931	21	36	492	967	3.9
Coal Point	773	1,736	44	91	817	1,827	5.3
Fassifern	250	623	14	31	264	654	5.0
Fennell Bay	634	1,476	30	64	664	1,539	4.3
Fishing Point	477	1,045	32	65	509	1,110	6.3
Freemans Waterhole	51	110	0	0	51	110	0.0
Kilaben Bay	551	1,340	26	51	577	1,391	3.8
Marmong Point	323	765	21	36	344	801	4.7
Myuna Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rathmines	817	1,947	78	163	895	2,109	8.4
Ryhope	34	102	0	0	34	102	0.0
Teralba	638	1,559	678	1,875	1,316	3,434	120.3
Toronto	2,764	5,825	766	1,398	3,530	7,223	24.0
Wangi Wangi	1,356	2,697	153	292	1,509	2,989	10.8
Woodrising	424	1,195	13	30	437	1,225	2.5
Total	13,756	31,487	2,443	5,412	16,199	36,899	17.2

Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Toronto Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

The age profile of the catchment is also expected to change significantly, over the period 2015 to 2030, as shown in **Table 2**

- The population will continue in age over the next 15 years, with the percentage of people over the age of 65 years increasing from 20.7% to 23.7%;
- The percentage of the population under the age of 19 is anticipated to decline from 23.7% to 21.9%; and
- Persons of the traditional workforce age are expected to decline from 62.0% to 60.3%. However, this decline is likely to reverse as the retirement age is shifted closer to 70 years old.

Each suburb is likely to reflect this changing age profile however; suburbs with new release areas such as Teralba and Toronto (the western edge) are more likely to attract families. In addition, due to the affordability of housing, the suburb of Blackalls Park is also likely to attract families. The infill development area in Toronto’s town centre is likely to attract a range of different lifecycle groups including young couples, couples starting families, singles, and older couples, whilst development in suburbs such as Booragul, is expected to be largely seniors housing.

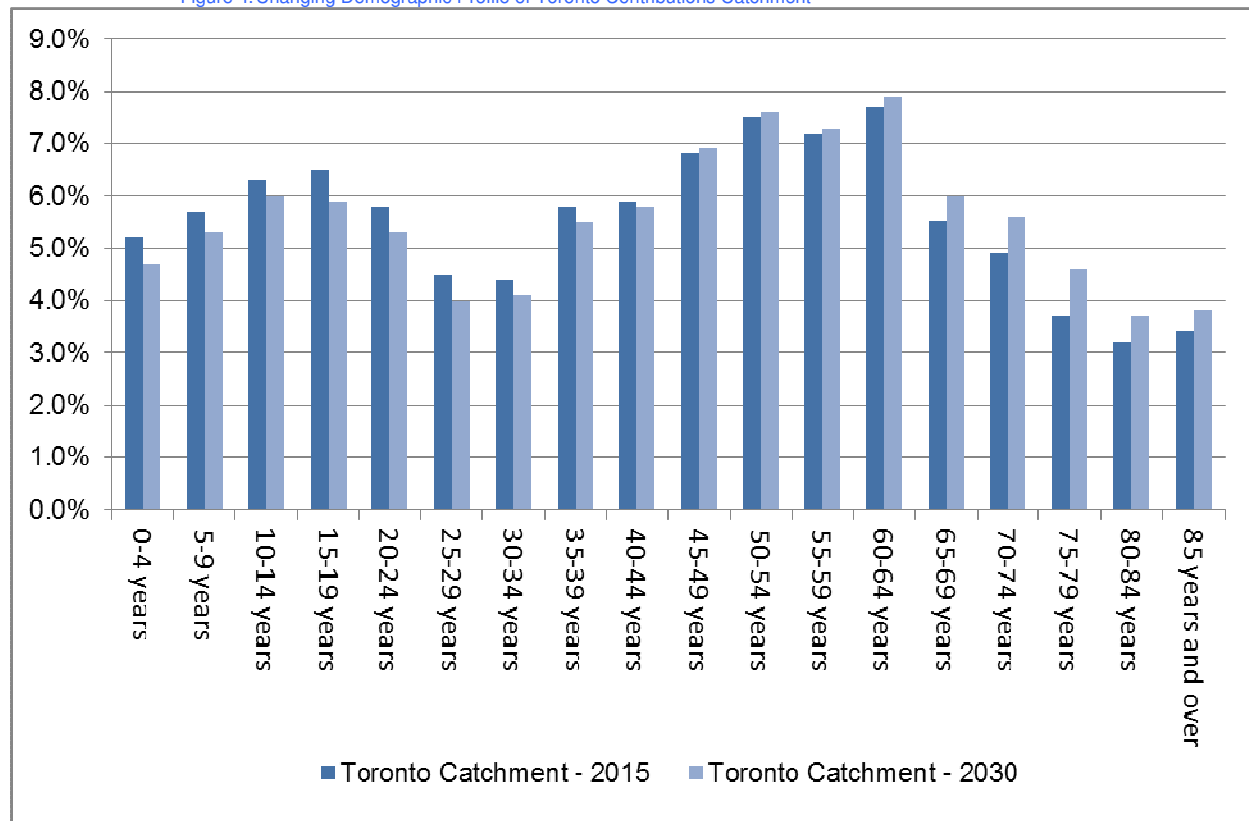
Table 2. Forecast Demographic Profile of Toronto Contributions Catchment

Age Groups	2015		2030		Growth 2015-2030	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% Change
0-4 years	1,637	5.2	1,734	4.7	97	5.9
5-9 years	1,795	5.7	1,956	5.3	161	9.0
10-14 years	1,984	6.3	2,214	6.0	230	11.6
15-19 years	2,047	6.5	2,177	5.9	130	6.4
20-24 years	1,826	5.8	1,956	5.3	129	7.1
25-29 years	1,417	4.5	1,476	4.0	59	4.2
30-34 years	1,385	4.4	1,513	4.1	127	9.2
35-39 years	1,826	5.8	2,029	5.5	203	11.1
40-44 years	1,858	5.9	2,140	5.8	282	15.2
45-49 years	2,141	6.8	2,546	6.9	405	18.9
50-54 years	2,362	7.5	2,804	7.6	443	18.8
55-59 years	2,267	7.2	2,694	7.3	427	18.8
60-64 years	2,424	7.7	2,915	7.9	491	20.2
65-69 years	1,739	5.5	2,214	6.0	475	27.3
70-74 years	1,543	4.9	2,066	5.6	523	33.9
75-79 years	1,165	3.7	1,697	4.6	532	45.7
80-84 years	1,008	3.2	1,365	3.7	358	35.5
85 years and over	1,071	3.4	1,402	3.8	332	31.0

Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Toronto Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

Whilst all age groupings in the catchment will experience an increase in number over the period 2015 - 2030, there will be significant changes to the proportion of the age groupings. As indicated in **Figure 4**, there will be a decrease in the overall proportion of all 5-year age groups up to those aged 45 years, and a significant increase in the proportion of those aged over 65 years.

Figure 4. Changing Demographic Profile of Toronto Contributions Catchment



Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Toronto Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

PART C – RECREATION

2. Background

Lake Macquarie is a coastal council and it has an older population profile compared to federal or state levels, and this trend of an aging population is likely to continue into the future. People in their older years enjoy a wide range of recreation activities. The Recreation Participation Survey of Lake Macquarie residents undertaken in 2001, highlights a strong preference for informal recreation activities such as walking for exercise, swim/surf at beach, golf, spectator at sports, swim public pool, picnic/BBQ, lawn bowls, exercise the dog, cycling, children to playground.²⁵

National Research from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) identified that there is an increasing trend towards non-organised sport. The total participation rate for non-organised physical activity was 70.8% in 2010. Most participants engaged partially or fully in non-organised activity (86.1%).²⁶ In 2010, the total participation rate for organised physical activity was 40.0%. About half of all participation in physical activity was partially or fully organised (48.6%) with the total participation rate in club-based physical activity was 25.7%.²⁷

This plan provides an increase in the provision of informal recreation opportunities, which are particularly appropriate for older adults; however, park and shared pathway facilities are highly used by the entire community.

2.1 Future of Recreation Infrastructure

In developing this plan, several factors were considered including the range of recreation opportunities, current standards, hierarchy, quality, and asset maintenance.

- **Recreation Opportunities**

Historically, recreation facilities provided by Council's were primarily sports fields, tennis and netball courts, parks, and playgrounds. Nowadays, people want a diverse range of recreation opportunities with flexibility as to when they participate, and informal recreation facilities fit this criterion. In addition, a larger proportion of the population is aging, so the need for large parks that provide a range of activities, shared pathways (off-road cycleways), tracks and trails, community gardens and men's sheds is increasing.

- **Standards of Provision**

This plan considers the existing local provision, the existing citywide provision, and compares these with the guidelines prepared by NSW DoP. The *Draft Development Contributions Guidelines* provides indicative population thresholds²⁸ and the *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government* (R&OSG) provides standards for open space planning in NSW based on radius or maximum distance from most dwellings. The R&OSG recommends the development of locally specific provision standards that take into account likely or expressed community needs and local circumstances.²⁹ LMCC has taken this approach of identifying locally appropriate provision standards for various facility types.

²⁵ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, summary of participation by activity - graph 4.2.

²⁶ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport: Annual Report 2010 State and Territories Tables for NSW*, p. 2.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

²⁸ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*.

²⁹ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, Table 4, p. 28.

- **Hierarchy**

The plan aims to provide a hierarchy of provision, which may mean some facilities are more fully developed, providing greater recreation opportunities and a higher capacity. The Lake Macquarie Variety Playground at Speers Point Park and its high level of use demonstrates that people are prepared to travel to a quality facility. Rather than Council providing numerous small facilities with limited recreation value, this plan recommends the provision of some larger facilities that have more supporting infrastructure and provide greater recreation opportunities.

- **Quality**

The majority of the new residential development within the Toronto catchment is infill development within existing areas. New residents have access to existing open space and recreation facilities, which may need to be upgraded to cater for the additional use. This existing infrastructure is often not the same quality provided by new facilities and may require upgrading/redevelopment to meet contemporary standards or current needs. The aim is to provide quality recreation infrastructure to serve the new populations in both greenfield and infill areas. Ensuring that recreation infrastructure is of a reasonable quality to support increased community use is an important component of best practice.

- **Asset Maintenance**

Council is responsible for the continued maintenance of new and existing assets. Asset maintenance is a considerable burden on many Councils and LMCC with its extensive LGA is no exception. Where appropriate this plan recommends the enhancement of existing recreation infrastructure, particularly sporting facilities, playgrounds and parks, which may be expanded to cater for the additional population.

- **Climate Change**

Climate change impacts, such as the increase in the frequency and severity of storms, and sea level rise may require climate change-related risk management, which results in higher maintenance costs associated with heat stress, storms and bushfires.

2.2 Methodology

The following key indicators were considered in determining the level of provision, the range, and location of recreation facilities.

- **Existing Provision** – details on the current facilities provided to the community. Both public and private facilities were considered, as these are the total existing facilities that service the need.³⁰
- **Population Growth** – the location of any development areas, moderate infill development and higher density development was considered
- **Identified Need** – the combination of various surveys, plans, guidelines, strategies and Council reports, demonstrate the needs for the future
- **Comparative analysis** – considers service equity by comparing the provision within the catchment, the provision within the LGA, and the relevant planning standards
- **Best practice** – considers industry standards, best practice guidelines and new service models
- **Analysis** – provides the basis on the locally appropriate standards and the analysis of the above
- **Recommendations** identifies the locations of the proposed new work which is prioritised according to:
 - High priority works – short-term up to 2020
 - Medium priority works – mid-term up to 2025
 - Low priority works – long-term 2025 and beyond

This plan considers all of the above key indicators and provides a broad spectrum of recreation facilities, aimed at encouraging increased participation of its residents. This is consistent with Council's Community Plan goal 'a city responsive to the well-being of its residents'.³¹

³⁰ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines*, Matters for Consideration, p. 92.

³¹ LMCC (2008) *Lake Macquarie Community Plan 2008 – 2018*, section 2.1.

3. Sports Grounds

A sports ground is an area developed with sporting facilities used for organised or competition sport. The ground may comprise one or a number of sports fields, ovals or courts.

The actual area of a sports ground differs from the area of land categorised as sportsground, as detailed in the *LMCC Community Land Plan of Management (PoM)*, and included in **Part D** of this plan. The land categorised sportsground often includes the entire parcel of land which may not be used entirely for sport and it included land identified for the possible future development of a sports ground.

The actual area of a sports ground refers to the total area used for sporting uses with facilities such as, amenities, access road, car park, and spectator facilities. It includes the surrounding grassed area but does not include natural areas within the parcel retained for environmental purposes.

3.1 Existing Provision

Thirteen sports grounds are currently located within the catchment. A portion of the City sporting facilities is also included in this catchment. The LM Regional Football Facility is a significant sporting facility and located just over the catchment boundary at Speers Point.

Table 3. Toronto CC - Sports Ground – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	ACTUAL AREA HA	NO. OF SPORTS GROUNDS
SMALL SPORTS GROUND			
AWABA	Awaba Oval	4	1
BLACKALLS PARK	Todd Street Oval	1.3	1
BOLTON POINT	Pendlebury Oval	2.7	1
FASSIFERN	Croft Oval	2.1	1
FASSIFERN	Newstan Oval	1.1	1
TORONTO	Keith Barry Oval	4.6	1
TORONTO	Ron Hill Oval	2.7	1
WOODRISING	Jarmain Netball Courts	2.5	1
MEDIUM SPORTS GROUND			
TERALBA	Tulkaba Park	5.7	1
TORONTO	Lyll Peacock Oval (No. 1)	4.9	1
	Toronto No. 2 Oval	0	
	Toronto No. 3 Oval	0	
RATHMINES	Rathmines No 1 & No 2 Ovals	6	1
BLACKALLS PARK*	Finnan Oval	7.3	1
	Water Board Oval	0	
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Oval	6.1	1
MAJOR SPORTSGROUND			
CITY SPORTS GROUND			
GLENDALE	Hunter Sports Centre & warm up field	0	1
SPEERS POINT	Norm Johnson Field		
	Old Tredinnick		
	North Lakes		
TOTAL SPORTSGROUNDS		51	14

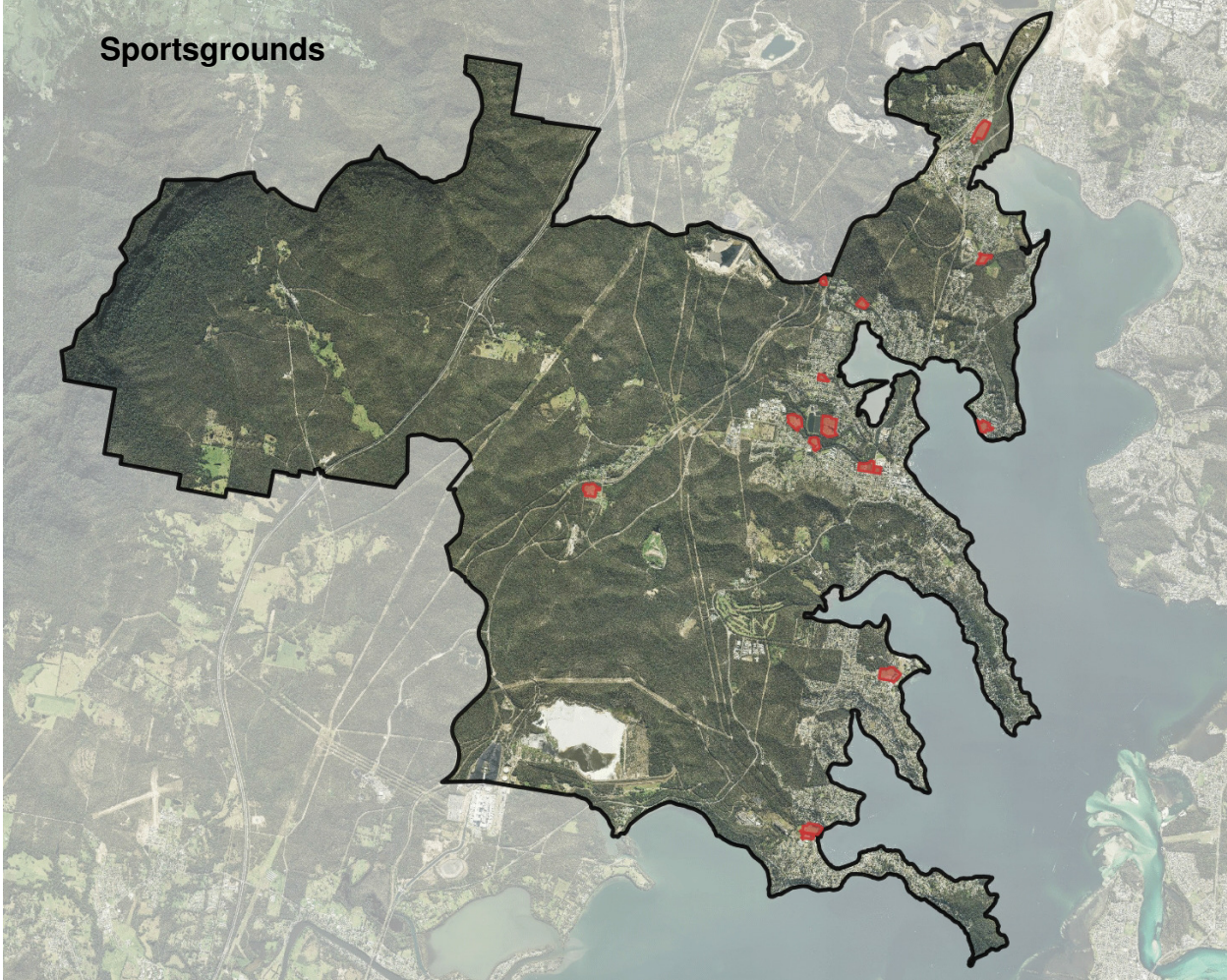
* Land owned by Hunter Water Corporation leased to LMCC, a 10-year lease with options for renewal until 2060

There is a good distribution of sports grounds in the catchment, which are shaded red in Figure 6 and collated according to the following hierarchy. The existing provision includes sportsgrounds with only one field/oval, however, **two sports fields** is the minimum for future provision at any one location.

Table 4. Toronto CC – Sports Ground - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	FIELD/OVALS
Small Sports Ground	up to 5 ha	1 km	1 to 2
Medium Sports Ground	5 to 10 ha	2 kms	3 to 5
Major Sports Ground	over 10 ha	3 to 5 kms	5 plus
City Sports Ground	Any size	City catchment	Any amount

Figure 5. Toronto CC – Sports Ground - Existing



4. Sports Fields

A sports field is a flat area of land used to play sport. It is usually a rectangular or oval area, grassed or synthetic surface developed for a sporting use in accordance with current acceptable standards. Sports fields are located in sports grounds and used for the following sports: AFL, archery, athletics, baseball, croquet, cricket, equestrian, rugby league, rugby union, soccer, and softball.

4.1 Existing Provision

There are 28 fields attributed to the Toronto CC. This includes 24 fields located within the Toronto catchment, a proportion of the fields located just over the catchment boundary at Speers Point, and a contribution to two City facilities (in the adjoining catchment). Three of the fields at Speers Point have been included in this catchment in recognition of the cross boundary use.

In addition, the City has two city facilities, the Hunter Sports (Athletics) Centre, and the Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility and both are located in the adjoining Glendale catchment. These city fields are apportioned to the six CC recognising users travel from all parts of the city to use these facilities.

Table 5. Toronto CC – Sports Fields – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	EXISTING USE	NO. OF FIELDS/OVALS	SUMMER & WINTER USE
SPORTS FIELDS IN TORONTO CATCHMENT (ACTUAL)				
AWABA	Awaba Oval	cricket, equestrian	2	
BLACKALLS PARK	Todd Street Oval	junior cricket	0.5	
BLACKALLS PARK*	Finnan Oval Water Board Oval	cricket, soccer baseball, cricket	3 1	
BOLTON POINT	Pendlebury Oval	baseball, cricket	1	●
FASSIFERN	Croft Oval	cricket, soccer	2	●
	Newstan Oval	archery	1	
RATHMINES	Rathmines Oval No. 1	soccer	1	
	Rathmines Oval No. 2	cricket, soccer	2	●
TERALBA	Tulkaba Park	cricket, AFL	2	●
TORONTO	Lyll Peacock Oval (No. 1)	soccer, rugby league	1	●
	Toronto No. 2 Oval	cricket, soccer rugby league	2	●
	Toronto No. 3 Oval	rugby league, soccer	1	
TORONTO WEST	Keith Barry	rugby league	2.5	
	Ron Hill Oval	cricket, petanque	1	
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Oval	athletics, rugby league	1	
SUB-TOTAL SPORTS FIELDS/OVALS			24	
SPORTS FIELDS IN GLENDALE CATCHMENT				
SPEERS POINT	Walter Park	cricket, rugby union	2	●
SPEERS POINT	Macquarie Field	soccer	1	
CITY SPORTS FIELDS				
GLENDALE/SPEERS PT	Apportionment 6.5 fields* / 6 catchments		1	
TOTAL CITY FIELDS/OVALS (attributed to this catchment)			28	

*Land owned by Hunter Water Corporation leased to LMCC, a 10-year lease with options for renewal until 2060

*CITY SPORTS FIELDS include:				
GLENDALE	Hunter Sports Centre	athletics, soccer	1	●
	Warm up field		0.5	●
SPEERS POINT	LM Regional Football Facility			
	Norm Johnson Fields	soccer	2	
	Old Tredinnick	10 football	2	
	North Lakes	soccer	1	
TOTAL CITY REGIONAL FIELDS/OVALS			6.5	

Within the catchment, there are also junior fields in schools, which may be available for public use.

The Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility is a modern state of the art soccer complex completed in 2014 at a cost of \$11.3 M. The facility includes:

- 10 x 5 a side synthetic football courts
- 2 international standard full size synthetic football pitches
- A multi-purpose administration building of approx. 1,500 m²
- A sealed car park catering for at least 120 cars

The number of sports fields were calculated using a generic sports field model, rather than assessing each individual sporting code. This approach is based on the highest number of fields/ovals used at any period in time, either summer or winter. A junior field is half a field and can include a junior cricket oval, junior soccer field or a mini-rugby league field. **Appendix 2** provides examples of what constitutes a generic sports field and the method of calculating sports fields in LM.

The development of multipurpose sports fields, catering for a range of sporting codes, provides a more efficient use of recreation land. Council can reallocate fields to different sporting codes depending on demand/participation rates, which provides greater flexibility as community needs can change over time.

4.2 Identified Need

The following survey, strategies and plans demonstrate the identified needs for sports fields:

• ERASS

The Exercise, Recreation, and Sport Survey (ERASS) was a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation, conducted on an annual basis between 2001 and 2010.

The ERASS collected information on the frequency, duration, nature and type of activities participated in by persons aged 15 years and over for exercise, recreation or sport during the 12 months prior to interview. This survey included active 'playing' participation, and does not include coaching, refereeing, being a spectator or activities related to work, household chores or gardening duties. It was conducted quarterly in 2010, with an annual 21,603 respondents across Australia.

According to the ERASS 2010 annual report, the participation rates for NSW for Australian rules football is 1.7%, athletics/track & field is 0.7%, baseball is 0.3%, cricket (outdoor) is 3.4%, football (outdoor) is 6.5%, horse riding/equestrian is 0.8%, rugby league 2.1%, rugby union is 1.2%, softball is 0.4%, and touch football is 4.4%.³²

These participation rates would be higher if the survey included children less than 15 years of age.

• Sports Facility Strategy

Council updated its Sports Facility Strategy with the *Lake Macquarie City Draft Council Sports Facility Strategy 2015 - 2020* (Sports Strategy). The strategy provides direction on the future development of most sports facilities in LM. It identifies the sporting clubs in the LGA and includes AFL, athletics, BMX, cricket, football/soccer, netball, rugby league and rugby union but not tennis. A separate tennis strategy is yet to be prepared.

As part of the development of the Sports Strategy, Council engaged with the sporting clubs and associations in the LGA. Issues raised include the need to improve amenities buildings, seating, shade, storage, car parking and improved playing surfaces. Refer to Part 2 of the Sports Strategy for the projects schedule, which identifies the projects to be funded by Council's Capital Works Program and by developer contributions. The Sports Strategy has identified the following projects within the Toronto catchment.

³² ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report: State and Territory Tables for NSW*

Table 6. Toronto CC – Sports Facility Strategy – Projects Schedule

Years 1 - 5	Years 5 - 10	Years 10 - 15
	BLACKALLS Park – Finnan Oval – Playing surface reconstruction, extend fields south	BLACKALLS PARK – Waterboard Oval/Finnan – Amenities building
	RATHMINES – Fishburn Fields – Playing surface	
	TORONTO – Keith Barry Fields – Reconfiguration of fields, upgrade supporting infrastructure	
	TORONTO – Ron Hill Oval – Reconfigure, relocate multi-court & provide additional car parking	
	WANGI – Wangi Oval - Floodlighting	

Source: LMCC (2015) Sports Facility Strategy 2015 – 2020 - Version 4

● **Operational Plan**

The *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017* defines the actions Council will take towards achieving our community’s vision for our City and it involved extensive community engagement. The community told council to ‘plan sports grounds and facilities to cater for the growing communities in or near urban release areas’.³³

● **Open Space Strategy**

The Open Space Strategy recommends the upgrading of existing sports fields and recreation facilities to increase their capacity to provide for more intensive and multiple uses.³⁴

● **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan recommends and identifies certain actions including:

- Plan a hierarchy of sports facilities
- Except in population growth areas, do not create any additional sports grounds
- Upgrade access, car parking and internal road at Ron Hill Oval, Awaba Rd Toronto³⁵
- Improve multi-use capacity of sports grounds³⁶
- Assess the opportunities for the development of the disused quarry on Toronto/Main Rd for recreational purposes³⁷

4.3 Comparative

The DoP in the Draft LDCG has not specified an indicative population threshold for generic sports fields, but rather, it specifies an indicative population threshold for each individual sport. Based on the assumption that each field has a summer and a winter sporting use, the indicative population threshold for a generic field, not including hockey, is one field for every 1,400 population. Refer to **Appendix 3** for the analysis upon which this population threshold has been derived.

The sports fields attributed to the Toronto CC are higher than the citywide (LM LGA) provision and higher than the assumed indicative standard (guidelines). However, if the sports fields in the actual catchment were used, the provision would be closer to the citywide provision and the guidelines.

Table 7. Toronto CC – Sports Fields – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF SPORTS FIELDS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC (attributed to catchment)	31,177	28	1,113
Toronto CC (actual)	31,177	24	1,299
LM LGA	200,849	141.5	1,419
Guidelines *			1,400
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			1,500

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

LMCC uses a recommended standard of provision of one field for every 1,500 persons, which is reasonable and achievable for the future provision.

³³ LMCC (2016) *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017*, Priority 3.2.

³⁴ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, p. 6-1.

³⁵ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan Volume 2: The Research Findings*, p. 33, 53, 55; and Volume 1; p. 57

³⁶ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, 4.3.1, p. 78.

³⁷ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, 4.3.4, p. 82.

4.4 Best Practice

The Draft LDCG recommends the following best practice guidelines:

- Ovals, sports grounds – consideration should be given to co-location of facilities to maximise usage e.g. cricket and AFL
- Recreation amenities buildings – should service more than one field and different sports³⁸

Wherever possible, sports fields should accommodate year round use (summer and winter sport). Dual use arrangements include cricket and football; athletics and AFL; rugby union and rugby league; rugby league and touch football. The most common arrangement is two full sized soccer fields with sufficient area for a cricket wicket in between, and sufficient surrounding area for the cricket oval.

4.5 Analysis

There is a slightly higher supply of sports fields in this catchment, however, approximately 60% of the existing fields/ovals are single use/single season facilities, and many are in poor condition. The best practice approach provides a facility for summer and winter, which maximises the use of the facility and the recreation land. This is preferable rather than providing single use fields, which are idle for half the year.

As population densities increase, the demand for sports fields will also increase. Since land in or near urban growth areas is scarce, there will be an increased pressure on existing facilities to provide the increased capacity required.

The need for good soil profiles, irrigation, drainage, and pest and weed management will increase the carrying capacity. Looking further into the future, where turf fields fail to provide for the demand, synthetic playing surfaces, or a hybrid system or natural grass and synthetic turf, may be required to cater for a more intensive use. Amenities buildings have an estimated 50-year life span and new buildings should be designed to accommodate multiple users.

4.6 Recommendations

This catchment will experience increased growth occurring mainly around the Toronto town centre. The recommended approach is to reconfigure and upgrade the existing sports fields, to cater for this growth. The following fields within the Toronto CC will require infrastructure improvement in order to meet the needs of the growing community.

Table 8. Toronto CC – Sports Fields – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF FIELDS/ UPGRADES	PRIORITY
BLACKALLS PARK	Waterboard Fields	Upgrade field – extend fields south, amenities building	1	Medium
TORONTO	Keith Barry Fields	Upgrade – reconfigure add cricket, amenities, car park	1	Low
TORONTO	Ron Hill Oval	Upgrade – reconfigure, relocate multi-court, and car park	1	Medium
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Oval / athletics	Sports field - upgrade lighting	1	Medium
TOTAL SPORTING FIELDS			4	

³⁸ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 93.

5. Sports Courts

Sports courts are typically tennis or netball courts, but can also include croquet or petanque pistes. The catchment has a relatively good supply of tennis and netball courts. Croquet has a dominant presence in Toronto and croquet and petanque is played at Teralba. To increase the variety of recreation opportunities in the City, the combination of tennis and netball into sports courts allows a more flexible approach for court provision.

5.1 Existing Provision

The sports courts within the Toronto catchment are listed in the following table. In addition, there are a number of sports courts within the schools grounds in the catchment, which are not included in the existing provision. They include 14 multi-purpose courts (used for basketball, netball, volleyball and sometimes football) two tennis courts and three basketball courts.

➤ Tennis

The catchment has 14 tennis courts, which includes four private tennis facilities. In addition, there are two tennis courts at the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, two tennis courts at the Eraring Power Station and one tennis court (in disrepair) at the Wangi Power Station site. These courts have not been included in the existing provision, as they are not available for public use.

Table 9. Toronto CC – Tennis Courts – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	NO. OF TENNIS COURTS
SMALL		
AWABA	Awaba Oval	2
BOLTON POINT	Pendlebury Oval	2
TERALBA	Tulkaba Park	2
MEDIUM		
RATHMINES	Rathmines Oval No 1 & No 2	4
TORONTO	Toronto Workers Club	4
TOTAL TENNIS COURTS		14

The existing provision has been collated according to the following hierarchy, which includes tennis centres with one or two tennis courts; however, a **three-court** centre is the minimum requirement for future provision, as larger facilities tend to have higher levels of use.

Table 10. Toronto CC – Tennis Courts - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	NO. OF COURTS
Small Tennis Centre	0.5 ha	1 km	1 - 3 courts
Medium Tennis Centre	1.2 ha	2 km	4 - 7 courts
Major Tennis Centre	1.5 + ha	5 + km	8 courts +

➤ Netball

Competition netball is played at Wangi Wangi, and this venue contains 12 of the 18 courts in the catchment. Players travel from other catchments to participate in competition and this venue is used for training as detailed in the following table.

Table 11. Toronto CC – Netball Courts – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME / LOCATION	NO. OF COURTS FOR TRAINING	NO. OF COURTS FOR COMPETITION	TOTAL NETBALL COURTS
TRAINING				
TORONTO	Ron Hill Oval	2		2
WOODRISING	Jarmain Netball Courts	4		4
COMPETITION				
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Netball	6	12	12
TOTAL NETBALL COURTS				18

There is also one netball court at the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, which is not included in the above existing provision.

The existing provision has been collated according to the following hierarchy, which is considered appropriate for LM LGA. The recommended minimum requirement for netball is a **two-court** facility.

Table 12. Toronto CC – Netball Courts - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	NO. OF COURTS
Netball Training Centre	1.5 ha	2 km	1 - 6 courts
Netball Competition Centre	4 + ha	10 + kms	12 + courts

➤ **Croquet**

Croquet is a term used for mallet sports played on grass courts. Croquet games include association croquet, golf croquet, gateball and ricochet. The Toronto Croquet Club Inc. currently plays on five croquet greens, which they maintain at Ron Hill Oval.

➤ **Petanque**

There is one petanque piste at Teralba. This previous 4-court tennis centre and was repurposed and is now used for two croquet courts and one petanque piste.

5.2 Identified Need

The following survey, strategy and plans demonstrate the need for sports courts.

● **ERASS**

The ERASS survey is an Australian participation survey and it includes persons aged 15 years and over who participated in physical activity for exercise, recreation, and sport over a 12-month period prior to interview in 2010.³⁹ According to the ERASS 2010 annual report:

Tennis has a 6.8% total participation rate and netball has a 3.0% participation rate.

However, netball is the second highest participated sport in Lake Macquarie, the majority of participants are female, and Netball is gaining in popularity, in NSW⁴⁰

● **Tennis Australia**

In 2010, Tennis Australia undertook the largest national study ever conducted by a sport to gain a clear understanding of the tennis consumer. The sample size was over 8,300 people, covering all capital cities and regional areas within each state and territory and included people aged from five to 75 years. Key insights include:

- Tennis has the highest participation rate of any traditional sport in Australia
- 12% of the population currently play tennis at least once a year
- The highest participation rates are in the 5-9 and 10-15 year age groups
- The sport (tennis) contributes strongly to the social cohesiveness of our community and provides a safe and healthy sport and social environment for Australians of all ages and abilities. Tennis is truly a sport for life and a sport for all.⁴¹

● **Sports Strategy**

The *LMCC Draft Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2020* applies to Council provided sporting facilities, which includes netball courts, but it excludes tennis and croquet courts. The strategy indicates that junior netball participation rates are double the participation rates of seniors, as the participation of females in organised sport decreases noticeably into the teen years.

● **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan recommends and identifies certain actions including the following:

- Assess opportunities for re-developing the abandoned sports field on Awaba Road adjacent to the cemetery⁴²
- Wangi Recreation Reserve – review use and alternative uses of the (previous) grass netball courts⁴³

³⁹ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*

⁴⁰ NSW Netball Association Ltd (2011) *Netball NSW: 2011 Annual Report*

⁴¹ Tennis Australia (2011) *Tennis 2020: Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis*, p. 8, p.1.

⁴² LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 37 and 38.

⁴³ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, 4.3.4, p. 82.

● **Operational Plan**

The *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017* defines the actions Council will take towards achieving our community’s vision for our City and it involved extensive community engagement. A performance measurement identified in the plan is to ‘undertake Wangi Facility lighting upgrade’.⁴⁴

5.3 Comparative

The DoP in the Draft LDCG has specified indicative population thresholds for tennis and netball.⁴⁵

Tennis - the indicative population threshold of one (1) tennis court for every 1,800 persons is high when compared to the actual provision in the Toronto CC and in the LM LGA.

Netball - the indicative population threshold of one (1) netball court for every 3,000 persons is low when compared to the actual provision in the Toronto CC and in the LM LGA.

Croquet and Petanque – the DoP has not specified an indicative population threshold for either croquet or petanque.

These standards are ‘indicative only’ provided as a guide and not intended to be a finite definition of need and not Government Policy.

Table 13. Toronto CC – Sports Courts – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF COURTS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
TENNIS			
Toronto CC	31,177	14	2,227
LM LGA	200,849	97	2,071
Guidelines *			1,800
NETBALL			
Toronto CC	31,177	18	1,732
LM LGA	200,849	98	2,049
Guidelines *			3,000
RECOMMENDED STANDARD SPORTS COURTS			1,100

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The recommended standard is one sports court for every 1,100 persons is close to the actual citywide provision and considered reasonable for the future provision. The recommended standard includes the provision of any sports court, including tennis, netball, croquet and petanque.

5.4 Best Practice

Some councils are adopting a multi-purpose approach where tennis, netball and sometimes basketball utilise the same court space. This approach is common for indoor facilities and provided the practical and management issues are resolved, they may be suitable for some outdoor training facilities. A detailed design is required to demonstrate how both sports will play on the same court given the differences in court sizes, surfacing, and pole removal and management arrangements will need to be determined.

Tennis - Some councils are also building purpose built modified courts specifically for children. This is in accordance with MLC Hot Shots, a strategy by Tennis Australia aimed to increase participation of primary school aged children.⁴⁶ Modified courts can be provided on existing or new courts and can be various sizes to suit different ages and skill levels. One full sized tennis court can accommodate four modified ‘red courts’ (11 m x 5 m - 5.5 m) and two full sized tennis courts can accommodate five modified ‘orange courts’ (18.5 m x 6.5 m). The decision to build a number of modified courts instead of a full sized court will be determined at the design stage.

⁴⁴ LMCC (2016) *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017*, Priority 3.3, SR11.

⁴⁵ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines*

⁴⁶ Tennis Australia (2011) *Tennis 2020: Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis*, p. 5.

Netball courts - can have multiple uses including tennis, netball, soccer, or basketball. This multi-purpose approach may be suitable for training courts but not for competition courts. LMCC has installed a movable basketball pole on the netball court at Gregory Park, West Wallsend. This enables informal use of the court for basketball when the court is not in use for netball.

Croquet - A comparison of other council areas provides an indication of the possible need for croquet facilities. Newcastle City Council has a four-court croquet facility at National Park and Maitland City Council has a four-court croquet facility at Maitland Park. This is in addition to other smaller venues in the council areas.

5.5 Analysis

Tennis - There are four council tennis centres in the catchment with the largest tennis centre comprising four courts at Rathmines. There are private tennis courts at the Toronto Workers Club, Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, Eraring Power Station and the Wangi Power Station site. Only the four-court facility at Toronto has been included, as it is known to be open and available for public use.

The largest council tennis centre at Rathmines is to be upgraded. The design process will investigate the need, uses and car parking requirements. The tennis centre may remain in its current location or it may be relocated within Rathmines Park, allowing additional car parking to be provided which will serve the sports fields and the town centre.

Netball – There are 18 netball courts within the catchment. The West Lakes competition netball venue is to be upgraded to the value of one netball court. This funding may be used to provide car parking at the current competition netball venue at Wangi or alternatively at a new competition netball venue for the Westlakes area. One possible location is the Council land at 356 Awaba Road, Toronto. This site, together with the adjoining unformed road to the east, will cater for future growth and provide up to 24 netball courts, including the required parking, amenities building, and stormwater/drainage requirements.

Croquet – Is one of the few games that can be played by people into their 80's. With the population ageing, the popularity of croquet is likely to increase in the future. The Toronto Croquet Club currently maintains five croquet greens on Ron Hill Oval. The Macquarie City Croquet Club currently play on the ex-bowling greens at Pelican, however, this site has been sold and the croquet club have to find an alternative site.

The *Glendale Developer Contributions Plan* has identified a six-court croquet facility at 118A T C Frith Avenue, Boolaroo. Once constructed, the Toronto Croquet Club and the Macquarie City Croquet Club have indicated they will move to this new purpose built croquet facility.

If however, there is no demonstrated demand for this croquet facility in the medium term, the funding recommended for the croquet facility may be transferred to the establishment of a new Westlakes Competition Netball Venue at 356 Awaba Road, Toronto West.

5.6 Recommendations

Tennis – The plan assumes that the private four-court tennis centre at Toronto Workers Club will continue to operate and to allow public use. If however, this situation changes, a new tennis centre will be required in Toronto. A site large enough to provide such a centre is Toronto Park, located at 1A Renwick Street Toronto. This plan recommends the upgrading of an existing tennis centre at Rathmines, if Council does not have to provide a tennis centre at Toronto.

The recommendations for the Toronto CC for sports courts are:

Table 14. Toronto CC – Sports Courts – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF SPORTS COURTS	PRIORITY
RATHMINES or Toronto	Rathmines Park or Toronto Park	Upgrade or new tennis courts	3 tennis	Medium
TORONTO	Ron Hill Oval	Upgrade netball court	1 netball	Medium
WANGI WANGI	Competition Netball Venue	Upgrade netball car park	1 netball	Low
TOTAL SPORTS COURTS			5	

6. Multi-purpose Half-courts

Multi-purpose half-courts are recreation facilities that contain basketball hoops, netball rings and/or tennis hit up walls. These facilities are provided outdoors for casual recreation use and are usually located in conjunction with a playground, skate park, or a sporting area. In Lake Macquarie, these facilities are usually a half basketball court, however, they may be a full sized basketball court or a smaller half circle, and provide the major opportunities for young people for 'unstructured' play and the 'playground equivalent' for children over 9 years of age.⁴⁷

LMCC has provided some multi-purpose half-courts used for informal basketball, but has not provided any courts for competition basketball. Competition basketball is played at an indoor basketball centre at Broadmeadow.

6.1 Existing Provision

The Toronto CC has two (2) multi-purpose half-courts at the following locations:

Table 15. Toronto CC – Multi-purpose Half-courts – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	NO. OF MULTI-PURPOSE HALF-COURTS
BOLTON POINT	Bolton Point Park	1
TORONTO	Ron Hill Oval	1
TOTAL MULTI-PURPOSE HALF-COURTS		2

6.2 Identified Need

The following plan demonstrates the identified need for multi-purpose half courts.

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions under 4.17 and one strategy identified is:

A variety of play venue sizes is achieved and a greater diversity of age groups and abilities are served including provision of skate facilities, multi-use courts, graffiti walls, 'rage cages', outdoor music performance areas⁴⁸

6.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not specify an indicative population threshold for multi-purpose half-courts; however, it does specify a population threshold for basketball courts, which is one court for every 1,800 persons. The guidelines mention that 'not all facilities for basketball will need to be provided to a competition standard' and 'it may be possible to meet some of the demand through the provision of half courts'⁴⁹

The actual provision of multi-purpose half-courts within the catchment is higher than the citywide provision and both are lower than the guidelines for basketball specified by DoP in the Draft LDCG referred to as 'guidelines' in the following table. However, this standard identified by DoP is not relevant to the community needs in the LM LGA.

Table 16. Toronto CC – Multi-purpose Half-courts – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF OUTDOOR BASKETBALL / MULTI-COURTS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC	31,177	2	15,589
LM LGA	200,849	10	20,085
Guidelines *			1,800
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			15,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The recommended standard of provision of one multi-purpose half-court for every 15,000 persons is similar to the actual provision within the catchment, and considered reasonable for the future provision.

⁴⁷ Hornsby Shire Council (ND) *Unstructured Recreation Strategy: Volume 1*, p. 29, [In Hornsby - these facilities are called ball courts]

⁴⁸ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 38.

⁴⁹ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines*, p. 93.

6.4 Analysis

Based on the recommended standard of one multi-purpose half-court for every 15,000 persons, part of one multi-purpose half-court is proposed for the Hampton Street Reserve at Carey Bay. Alternatively, a movable hoop, which also provides for basketball, may be provided with the re-configuration of the netball courts at Ron Hill Oval.

6.5 Recommendations

The recommendations for the Toronto CC for multi-purpose half courts are as follows:

Table 17. Toronto CC – Multi-purpose Half-courts – Proposed Location

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF MULTI-PURPOSE HALF-COURTS	PRIORITY
CAREY BAY	Hampton Street Reserve	1 new multi-purpose court	1	Medium
TOTAL MULTI-PURPOSE HALF COURTS			1	



Photo of movable basketball netball pole installed at the netball court at Gregory Park, West Wallsend

7. Parks

*Parks near and in our cities breathe peace and tranquillity, sustain fun, family time, exercise*⁵⁰

Parks are 'Reserves which have had their physical character and/or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and wellbeing uses. They include ornamental gardens, play facilities, community gardens, and informal lawns'.⁵¹

Parks are referred to as the green lungs of our cities and towns. Parks play an essential role in public health, as they are the most readily available source of nature for the majority of people who live in urban areas. They offer people the opportunity to be in, or look at greenery.

Parks are for people. Everyone will use a park at some time in his or her lives, whether for a picnic or BBQ, visiting a playground, attending larger celebrations or festivals, walking, jogging, or just sitting observing as older adults tend to do. Parks are places to meet and celebrate with family and friends. They are pleasant places to exercise and improve physical and mental wellbeing for today's sedentary society. Strategies that provide urban growth must also provide urban parks.



Photos of typical parks in Newcastle LGA

Far Left - Civic Park, King St, Newcastle - 2.2 ha;

Left - Gregson Park, Tudor St, Hamilton - 3.88 ha

For the purposes of this section, a park is generally a grassed area, embellished with trees and/or gardens and containing some park facilities. LMCC has numerous areas of land categorised as park, detailed in the *LMCC Plan of Management for Community Land* (adopted 2011). Land categorised as park can also include small and irregular shaped parcels behind houses, buffers to roads, and land used for detention/retention/wet ponds/silt traps. These small or fragmented areas categorised as park, but containing no park facilities are not considered a park, and have not been included in this section, of existing provision of parks. However, they are included in **Part D** the Open Space section of this plan.

The park size includes the area categorised as and used as a park. A park may adjoin a natural area or contain land used/leased for another purpose, such as a bowling club or swimming centre, or contain drainage structures. Those other areas are not included in the park size.

The existing parks have been collated according to a park hierarchy of local, neighbourhood, major and catchment parks as detailed in the following table. The DoP guideline identifies a local park between 0.5 and 2 ha.⁵² Since LMCC tends to identify local parks as 0.5 ha, the hierarchy outlined in the following table is recommended for LM.

In considering how a park fits into the park hierarchy, other characteristics apart from size are also considered. These include location, configuration, aesthetic features, the facilities the park contains, its use, and its catchment (i.e. how far people will travel to use the park).

Table 18. Toronto CC – Park – Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	APPROXIMATE SIZE HA	CATCHMENT
Local Park	0.5 – 1 ha	400 m - 800 m
Neighbourhood Park	1 to 5 ha	2 km
Major Park	5 -10 ha	5 km
Catchment Park	10+ ha	10 km

⁵⁰ Parks Forum (2008) *The Value of Parks*, p. 1.

⁵¹ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 16.

⁵² *Ibid.*

7.1 Existing Provision

The following parks are located within the Toronto CC and shaded pink in the following map:

Table 19. Toronto CC – Park – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	STREET	PARK SIZE HA	NO. OF PARKS	TOTAL
LOCAL					16
ARCADIA VALE	Arcadia Waterfront Reserve	39A Alexander Parade	0.6	1	
BOLTON POINT	Bolton Point Park	68A Middle Point Road	1.7	1	
BOLTON POINT		3A Bay Road	1.5	1	
BOLTON POINT		119 Bay Road	0.6	1	
BOORAGUL	Edwards Park	1A First St & 1A Second St	0.5	1	
BOORAGUL	Lake Macquarie Sculpture Park	1C First Street	1.1	1	
COAL POINT	Wippi Reserve	30 Rofe Street	0.3	1	
COAL POINT	Birraban Reserve	384 Skye Point Road	1	1	
COAL POINT	Gurranba Reserve	308A Skye Point Road	1.5	1	
FISHING POINT		2 Alkington Avenue	1.1	1	
KILABEN PARK	Kilaben Bay Park	132B Kilaben Road	0.8	1	
MARMONG POINT	Defender Close Reserve	11 Defender Close	0.1	1	
MARMONG POINT	Nanda Reserve Foreshore	1A Nanda Street	0.5	1	
TORONTO	Goffet Park	98A Brighton Avenue	0.5	1	
TORONTO	Forest Lake Estate	30 Burrawang Boulevard	0.7	1	
TORONTO	Toronto Park (Toronto Square)	1A Renwick Street	1.3	1	
NEIGHBOURHOOD					5
BLACKALLS PARK	Blackalls Park	1A Blackall Avenue	4	1	
MYUNA BAY	Myuna Bay Foreshore	17 Wangi Road	1.8	1	
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore	11-25B Victory Row	1.8	1	
TORONTO	Toronto Lions Park	2B Anzac Parade	2.9	1	
WANGI WANGI	Dobell Park	148 Dobell Dr & 62 Beach Rd	1.4	1	
MAJOR					0
CATCHMENT					1
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	1 Overhill Road	22.6	1	
TOTAL PARKS			48.3	22	22

7.2 Identified Need

The following surveys, plans, strategies and guidelines demonstrate the identified need.

• NSW State Plan

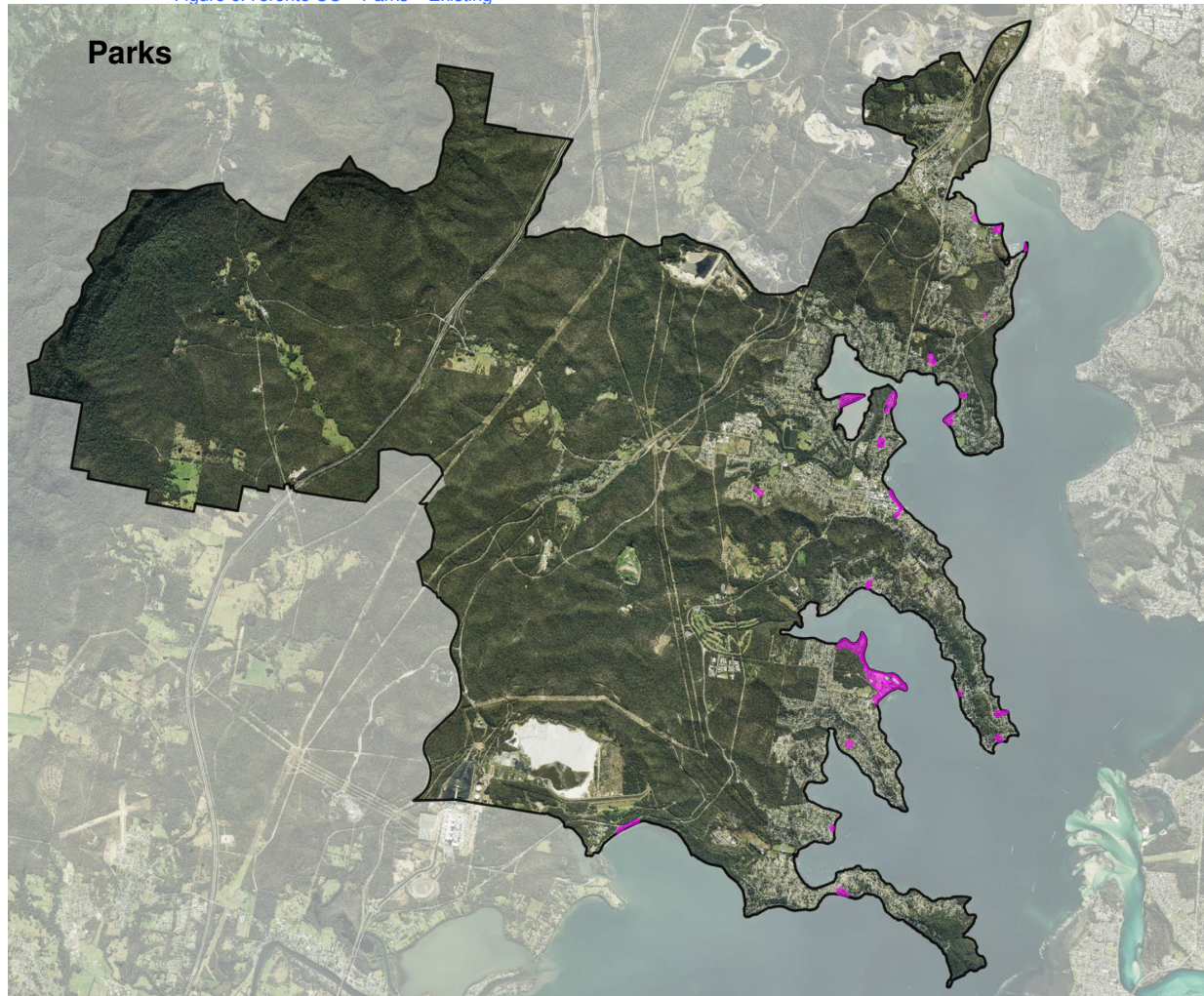
The NSW Government is committed to planning for towns and cities that are not only accessible and viable, but are great places to live and work. The State Plan identifies certain priorities, with priority E8 targeted to:

- Build liveable cities⁵³
- Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreation opportunities, and
- Increase participation in sport, recreational, arts and cultural activities in rural and regional NSW from 2010 to 2016 by 10%⁵⁴

⁵³ NSW DoP (2011) NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one, Goal 20, p.40.

⁵⁴ Ibid., Goal 27, p. 51.

Figure 6. Toronto CC – Parks – Existing



● Draft Centres Design Guidelines

DoP has prepared design principles to guide the future development of centres, including:

- Analyse the opportunities to make new public spaces in the form of parks and squares when planning the renewal or revitalisation of an existing centre
- Parks and squares can give relief from urban environments; provide places for recreation and entertainment, places for meeting people but also places of solitude
- Ensure buildings front onto and overlook parks and squares with openings, balconies and terraces to allow passive surveillance and improve internal outlook⁵⁵

● Operational Plan

The *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017* defines the actions Council will take towards achieving our community's vision for our City and it involved extensive community engagement. The community told council to 'plan and develop playgrounds and parklands' and a performance measure identified is to 'continue implementation of Stage 1 of the Toronto Streetscape Master Plan'.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, NSW DoP (2011) *Draft Centre Design Guidelines*, Department of Planning Sydney, p. 48, and 49.

⁵⁶ LMCC (2016) *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017*, Priority 3.3 and Priority 4.1 - TRD6.

● Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies actions and relevant strategies for the catchment, including:

- Continue improvement of the Toronto foreshore⁵⁷
- Fishing Point/Balmoral - Glasgow St/Bournville Rd/Letchworth Parade reserve: undertake additional planting, provide seating, shade, half-court, junior bike circuit, develop larger playground⁵⁸
- Rathmines Park – provide interpretive signs, more seating and tree planting, walking paths, control vehicular access to Rathmines Reserve⁵⁹

● Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy specifically identified the concept of a Lake Foreshore Regional Park. It states that 'existing sections of Lake Foreshore Park in which paths and other facilities have been developed are very popular open space areas and LMCC is seeking to extend the Lake Foreshore Park along the whole edge of Lake Macquarie. The strategy identifies a number of opportunities to rezone sections of the lake foreshore to add to the Lake Foreshore Park.⁶⁰ The proposal of expanding the foreshore park at Toronto is in keeping with this recreation facility recommendation.

An open space participation survey was undertaken as part of the strategy and the results indicated that:

- 'walking for exercise' – had the highest participation rate of any activity, (almost double that of the next highest activity which was 'swim/surf at beach')
- 'taking children to playground' – had the highest participation rate
- 'informal games' – had the highest participation rate
- 'picnic/barbeque' had the second highest, with a participation rate higher than most sports such as soccer, tennis, cricket football, netball and athletics.

In relation to the future development of the City, the consistent themes included:

- Need for good forward planning to accommodate expected growth
- Acquisition of the lake foreshore is important
- Long term look at all open space – both passive and sports⁶¹

● Open Space Plan

The survey undertaken as part of the open space plan prepared by Clouston identified that:

- The most popular open space settings were developed foreshore parks (25%), natural bushland (19%) and beaches (16%)
- Parks with a large range of facilities (65.3%) were preferred to few large parks (33.2%)
- Lake oriented recreation areas (62.1%) were preferred to beach oriented recreation areas (29.4%)
- Promote Lake Macquarie as a tourist destination, based on its recreation activities
- Land swaps and private owners to bring more foreshore into public ownership
- Acquisition of lake foreshore land seen as important⁶²

● Town Centre Area Plan – Toronto

Council adopted the first Town Centre Area Plan for Toronto in January 2006, which identified that parks and open spaces should be enhanced and linkages established between them. Since then, the plan has undergone a number of changes, however many of the statements are the same or similar to the original plan. They include:

- A key objective – to improve the amenity and connectivity of the public domain
- Generally, the town centre is not well served by pedestrian connections or adequate gathering places. Future development should make north-south connections more readily visible and accessible. It should improve the extent and quality of al fresco space on The Boulevard, and provide pedestrian space with an active frontage
- Future development in the core of the town may provide the opportunity for improved north-south links and for basement or multi-deck car parking.

⁵⁷ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, 4.32p.79.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, Action 4.34, p. 82.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, Action 4.34, p. 82.

⁶⁰ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, p. 6-6, p. 57, 66.

⁶¹ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, refers to Graph 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.20.

⁶² LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, prepared by Clouston, p. 14, 61, 66.

- The desired future character for Toronto is an active pedestrian-friendly centre that supports the economic and cultural activities of the local population, visitors and tourists. The town Centre would be made more vital and pedestrian-friendly by the introduction of increased residential population and strategically located mixed-use development. Victory Parade would be further developed as a restaurant, café and tourist area with tourist and visitor accommodation.
- Toronto development character should reflect the high amenity waterside location and its popularity as a social and recreational destination on the lake.
- Activate the foreshore and Victory Parade as an interface between the lake and the town centre⁶³

7.3 Comparative

The LDCG has not specified an indicative population threshold for the provision of parks. However, the guideline does provide a standard of one playground for every 500 dwellings, or a distance of 400 metres from a dwelling.⁶⁴ If the population threshold for a park is the same as for a playground, then based on an average occupancy of 2.5 persons per dwelling one park per 1,250 persons is the assumed population threshold. Refer to **Appendix 4** for additional information on various standards and guidelines.

Table 20. Toronto CC – Park – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF PARKS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC	31,177	22	1,417
LM LGA	200,849	137	1,466
Guidelines *			1,250
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			1,400

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The recommended general park standard of one park for every 1,400 persons is similar to the actual provision within the catchment, but lower than the assumed standard of 1,250. Considering that dog exercise areas and community gardens are often also located in parks, as mentioned further in the plan, the recommended standard for a park is considered reasonable for the future population.

7.4 Best Practice

The guidelines prepared by DoP are a best practice guide to assist Councils in planning their investments in open space and recreation. The guideline identifies opportunities and options such as:

- Acquiring larger sites for multiple and changing uses over time-larger sites can support multiple uses
- Reserving areas for expansion will provide flexibility as new needs emerge. Maintenance costs are minimised where there are fewer but larger open space areas⁶⁵

This plan generally supports the future provision of fewer local parks but larger neighbourhood and major parks as reflected in the park hierarchy.

7.5 Analysis

There are 22 parks within the Toronto CC as illustrated in Figure 6. Based on the recommended general park standard of one park for every 1,400 persons the provision of parks is generally adequate.

Toronto is centrally located within the catchment and it has the highest population in the catchment double that of the next highest suburb Wangi Wangi. The major commercial centre on the western side of Lake Macquarie is located at Toronto.⁶⁶ Toronto has a higher proportion of apartments (10.5%) compared with (3.7%) in the rest of the catchment and it will experience significant growth, 24% of the growth of the catchment. The largest area of infill development is in and around the Toronto town centre, with 40% high and medium density living.

The Toronto Foreshore is well located within this catchment. It adjoins the town centre and provides a variety of recreation and aquatic activities due to its access to deep water. The Royal Motor Yacht Club with private jetty, boat ramp and marina is located at one end and existing marine business with small marina, public boat ramp and jetty is located at the other end. The existing park is rather small and

⁶³ LMCC (2016) *Development Control Plan, Part 10 Town Centre Area Plans – Toronto*, p. 5, 14.

⁶⁴ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 93.

⁶⁵ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 8 and 36.

⁶⁶ LMCC (2016) *Development Control Plan, Part 10 Town Centre Area Plans – Toronto*, p. 3

congested and a larger park is required to serve the projected growth in, around the Toronto town centre, and beyond.

7.6 Recommendations

This plan recommends a significant expansion and upgrade of the Toronto foreshore park, and an upgrade of other existing parks within the catchment recommendations. The upgrade of the Toronto Foreshore Park – is one of the key recommendations for this catchment. The preferred option is to expand the foreshore park. This will enable a feature park to be provided, that supports and enhances the major commercial centre on the western side of Lake Macquarie. This park is proposed to provide the following components:

- A promenade extension with exercise stations, seating, feature tree planting, solar lighting, providing connections to possible future café strip (al fresco dining)
- a major playground (possibly incorporating a nautical theme), interspersed with picnic and BBQ facilities,
- a public domain area (extension of existing wharf area along the lake foreshore,
- a shared pathway extending from Toronto Greenway south through the entire length of the park,
- a park entry feature that enhances the connection from the town centre to the park, and
- a large open area for festivals, markets, celebrations, bands, and civic events.

To provide this feature park, additional land is required which is achieved by relocating car parks back from the foreshore; closing and relocating the boat launching ramp to the northern end of Toronto Lions Park; the possible future part closure of Wharf Road; and the acquisition of land . Additional car parking could be provided by relocating the war memorial from Goffet Park onto the foreshore reserve, if wall or other suitable location was provided. Once developed, this feature park will be a focal point, providing a quality lifestyle for the residents of Toronto and surrounding communities, and stimulating growth in and around the town centre.

Figure 7. Toronto CC – Parks – Existing





The recommendations for parks for the Toronto CC are:

Table 21. Toronto CC – Park – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PARKS	PRIORITY
FISHING POINT	2 Alkrington Ave	Local park - upgrade	1	Medium
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore	Park - upgrade	1	High
TORONTO	Toronto Lions Park	Park – upgrade	1	High
TORONTO	Goffet Park	Park - upgrade	1	Medium
TOTAL PARKS			4	

8. Playgrounds

Playgrounds are recreation facilities usually located in parks or sportsgrounds. Primarily playgrounds are designed to be fun and provide opportunities for different (physical, social, and educational) challenges to help in skill development. Proposed is a range of different playgrounds throughout the City, catering for different themes, settings, and providing a variety of experiences.

Playgrounds are to be provided in accordance with the playground hierarchy as outlined below. The playgrounds range from local with minimal equipment, to a catchment playground providing a wide variety of play equipment and opportunities for a progressive level of risk.

One of the objectives of this plan is to provide recreation facilities to encourage community participation into physical activity. Outdoor exercise equipment is included in this category as it is similar to play equipment requiring regular inspections and maintenance. Outdoor exercise equipment/stations provide more opportunities for people to exercise, designed for a variety of ages including our aging population.

8.1 Existing Provision

There are 18 playgrounds within the catchment as detailed below:

Table 22. Toronto CC – Playground – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	NO. OF PLAYGROUNDS	TOTAL
LOCAL			12
ARCADIA VALE	Arcadia Waterfront Reserve	1	
AWABA	Awaba Oval	1	
BOLTON POINT	Bolton Point Park	1	
BOORAGUL	Edwards Park & foreshore	1	
BOORAGUL	Awaba Park & foreshore	1	
COAL POINT	Birraban Reserve	1	
KILABEN PARK	Kilaben Bay Park	1	
MARMONG POINT	Defender Close Reserve	1	
MARMONG POINT	Nanda Reserve Foreshore	1	
TERALBA	Tulkaba Park	1	
TORONTO	Forest Lake Estate	1	
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Workers Foreshore	1	
NEIGHBOURHOOD			6
BLACKALLS PARK	Blackalls Park	1	
MYUNA BAY	Myuna Bay Foreshore	1	
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	1	
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore	1	
TORONTO	Toronto Lions Park	1	
WANGI WANGI	Dobell Park	1	
OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT			0
MAJOR			0
CATCHMENT			0
TOTAL PLAYGROUNDS			18

Two additional playgrounds are located on Department of Housing land at 281 Awaba Rd Toronto and at the Wangi Point Lakeside Holiday Park in the Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area, which have not been included in the existing provision.

Table 23. Toronto CC – Playground – Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	GENERAL AGE RANGE	CATCHMENT
Local Playground	2 to 8 yrs	400 m to 800 m
Neighbourhood Playground	2 to 12 yrs	2 km
Major Playground	2 to 15 yrs	10 km
Catchment Playground	2 to adult	LM LGA

8.2 Identified Need

The following surveys, strategy and plans demonstrate the identified need for playgrounds.

• Operational Plan

The *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017* defines the actions Council will take towards achieving our community's vision for our City, which involved extensive community engagement and the community told council to 'plan and develop playgrounds and parklands'.⁶⁷

• LMCC Community Plan

The plan identifies directions and progress indicators such as:

- Plan and develop playgrounds and parklands⁶⁸

• Recreation Plan

The recreation plan recommends certain actions including:

- A hierarchy of play facilities across the City
- Develop more imaginative and exciting playgrounds and provide safe bike access
- Family adult and older kids playgrounds
- A larger fenced playground in each city district capable of accommodating Family Day Care groups; fenced picnic areas of appropriate size adjacent to toilets
- Develop a new modern playground at a central location
- Undertake a program of works to expand the range of equipment provided at selected playgrounds in each catchment such that a variety of play venue sizes is achieved and a greater diversity of age groups, abilities, skills are served
- Initiate a program of works to reduce and/or consolidate playgrounds in catchments⁶⁹

• Liveable Communities Assessment

Comments from a survey of residents in Charlestown in 2010, relevant to the Toronto catchment include:

- Bigger playgrounds, more trees around
- Try to find more activity and play areas for children to encourage fitness⁷⁰

• NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan

The purpose of the plan is to guide the sport and recreation industry in addressing priority issues over the next five years. The relevant objectives are:

- To make it easier and affordable for people of all ages to be physically active and involved in their communities⁷¹

8.3 Comparative

The LDCG specifies an indicative population threshold of one (1) playground for every 500 dwellings or 400 metres from a dwelling. Assuming an occupancy rate of 2.5 persons per dwelling the standard is one playground for every 1,250 persons. This standard is a higher level of provision than the existing local is or the citywide standard of provision. Refer to **Appendix 4** for an outline of several of the relevant standards and guidelines.

Table 24. Toronto CC – Playground – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF PLAYGROUNDS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC	31,177	18	1,732
LMCC LGA	200,849	120	1,674
Guidelines *			1,250
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			1,500

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

⁶⁷ LMCC (2016) *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017*, Priority 3.3.

⁶⁸ LMCC (2008) *Lake Macquarie Community Plan 2008-2018*, p. 45.

⁶⁹ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, Action 4.17, p. 33, 37, 38, 49, 81, 89, 81

⁷⁰ Hunter New England Population Health and Hunter Regional Managers Network (2011) *Lake Macquarie Liveable Communities Assessment: Final Report, Hunter New England Population Health*, p. 172, 173.

⁷¹ NSW Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and NSW Sport and Recreation (20?) *Game Plan 2012 NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan: Shaping our Future for a Sustainable Community*, p. 8.

The recommended standard of one playground for every 1,500 persons is close the actual citywide provision and considered reasonable and achievable for the future population.

8.4 Best Practice

The NSW government’s, *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, is a best practice guide to assist Councils in planning their investments in open space and recreation. Key elements of the guidelines include a:

- Local park, size of **0.5 – 2 ha**, within 400 m distance from most dwellings⁷²

A local park would usually include children’s play equipment. The *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government* provide a general direction for recreational planning and the guidelines recommend the development of locally appropriate standards that reflect expressed needs.⁷³ LMCC has used this approach and developed locally appropriate standards for the LM LGA. Refer to **Appendix 7**.

8.5 Analysis

There are 18 playgrounds within the catchment, and based on the recommended general standard of one playground every 1,500 persons, the existing level of provision is slightly under the recommended standard. However, considering to the two additional playgrounds located on Department of Housing land at Toronto and in the Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area, the provision is adequate.

The plan recommends the provision of new playgrounds, playground upgrades and outdoor gyms at seven locations within the catchment.

8.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for the catchment include the following new playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment and playground upgrades.

Table 25. Toronto CC – Playground – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PLAYGROUNDS	PRIORITY
BLACKALLS PARK	Blackalls Park	Play – Local – upgrade	1	Low
FISHING POINT	2 Alkington Ave	Play – Local – new	1	Medium
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	Play – Neighbourhood – upgrade – aeroplane theme – fenced playground	1	Medium
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	Outdoor Gym Equipment – new	1	High
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore	Play – Major– upgrade	1	High
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore	Outdoor Gym Equipment – new	1	High
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Foreshore or Dobell Park	Outdoor Gym Equipment - new	1	High
TOTAL PLAYGROUNDS			7	



Outdoor exercise equipment at Berry Reserve – Warringah Council

⁷² NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 29.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, p. 39.

9. Community Gardens

A community garden is a valued asset of the local community where residents come together to share knowledge and skills, socialise and grow food⁷⁴

A garden is 'a plot of ground where herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables are cultivated'⁷⁵. Gardens are often an integral component of a park and they can include ornamental gardens, annuals or rose gardens, native gardens, edible gardens, bush tucker gardens, or food forests.

Community gardens provide an avenue for the community to learn, connect, be inspired, and to replicate in one's own backyard. They provide a range of social, physical, and psychological benefits and they provide a mechanism for people to interact with others. Community gardens build communities; they teach people how to grow their own food, and eat locally grown produce (recommended in LMCC's Sustainable Eating Guide).

Community gardens can be located in a park, road reserve, and school, beside a neighbourhood/community centre or Men's Shed. In terms of scale, they can range from a few garden beds in a small cul-de-sac to a large City Farm comprising several hectares of land. Community groups can obtain approval to manage/maintain parks or community land and these areas may be a community garden. This concept is similar to sporting groups managing Council's sportsgrounds and Land care groups managing Council's natural areas.

Community gardens can occupy part of an existing park or they can be an entire park or community land parcel. For example, the Randwick Permaculture Interpretive Garden (PIG) is an edible landscaped public park, and referred to as a 'community park'. Such gardens have won Keep Australia Beautiful Awards, and are now an accepted feature in the urban landscape. Many Councils are now developing policies to assist in the development of community gardens.

9.1 Existing Provision

The community gardens in the Toronto CC include:

Table 26. Toronto CC – Community Gardens – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	NO. OF COMMUNITY GARDENS
TERALBA	LM Landcare Resource Office Community Garden	1
TORONTO	Senior Citizens Centre	1
TOTAL COMMUNITY GARDENS		2

In addition, a private garden at L T Creek is operating as a community garden, and they hold working bees monthly.

9.2 Identified Need

There is an increasing demand for community gardens, and council now has 12 community gardens with several more in the planning stage. LMCC's first community garden at Belmont North has been operating since 1995 and the community garden at Morisset operating since 2010. The following groups and documents demonstrate and strengthen the need for community gardens.

- **Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups**

LMCC has established a Sustainable Neighbourhood Program with 14 groups currently operating in the City and more planned throughout the LGA. These groups develop sustainable neighbourhood action plans (SNAPs), which identify actions relevant to their areas. All existing SNAPs have identified one or more community gardens in their action plans.

⁷⁴ Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Group (2011) *Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan*, Objective 3.1, p. 9.

⁷⁵ Definition of garden by Merriam-Webster, also 'an area of ground where plants (such as flowers or vegetables) are grown'; www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/garden

● Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions and strategies including:

- Promote opportunities for community group recreation development initiatives at appropriate sites – specific strategies include community gardens for vegetable growing⁷⁶
- Enhance the provision of opportunities for other leisure activities
 - Initiate a program of facility development and provision to strengthen opportunities for informal leisure opportunities for all age groups including community gardens⁷⁷

● Community Gardens Policy

LMCC has supported the provision of community gardens through a *Community Gardens Policy* adopted in October 2009, and a procedure developed for assessing community garden requests.

● Draft Centres Design Guidelines

DoP has prepared design principles to guide the future development of centres. Principles include:

- Establish community gardens close to the residential areas of a centre for recreation, food source and education
- Investigate the potential of underutilised public parks and spaces and community-owned land near higher – density housing for new community gardens
- Consider innovative ways to include community gardens and urban farming in public spaces and streets, such as ‘edible streets’, to provide greater connection between residents with food production
- Promote access to fresh local and organic produce by supporting community gardens close to centres that could supply produce to local businesses and farmers’ markets
- Explore other innovative ways to include food production into daily life, such as ‘productive roof gardens’ and urban farms⁷⁸

9.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not specify an indicative population threshold for community gardens. Frequently, community gardens can occupy part of a park, a small lot or a larger City Farm facility.

Table 27. Toronto CC – Community Gardens – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF COMMUNITY GARDENS	FACILITY PER PERSON
Toronto CC - Existing	31,177	2	46,344
LMCC LGA - Existing (2012)	200,849	12	16,737
Guidelines *			None known
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			5,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The existing standard may be considered adequate for some Council’s or communities. However, LMCC is committed to sustainability and has implemented a sustainable neighbourhood program whereby communities develop sustainability action plans, which include actions such as ‘increase localised food production through the establishment of community gardens’. Community gardens are an essential ingredient of the transition to a more sustainable society and both the community and Council have indicated their support for these facilities, which is reflected in the recommended standard.

The recommended standard of one (1) community garden for every 5,000 persons is higher than the existing provision, however, considering the population is ageing and community gardens are increasing in popularity, one community garden for every two or three suburbs is reasonable for the future provision.

9.4 Best Practice

In 2012, the Green Building Council of Australia developed a guideline for Green Star Communities and a pilot rating tool. The guideline and tool validates environmental and sustainable initiatives by rating development projects according to a 1-6 star rating and a community garden included in the tool.

⁷⁶ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan Volume 1*, Action 3.3, p. 28.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.* Action 4.2.1, p. 42.

⁷⁸ NSW Government (2011) *Draft Centres Design Guidelines*, p. 60.

As well as community gardens, city farms are growing in significance throughout Australia. There are City Farms established in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Canberra, and a City Farm is in the process of development at St Peters, Sydney.⁷⁹

9.5 Analysis

Community gardens are a recreational activity that are inclusive of the entire community. They are particularly important for an ageing community, for people living alone or who suffer from social isolation, and for people living in high-density vertical communities, with little private open space.

Some basic park infrastructure is required for the establishment of community gardens. Depending upon the scale of the community garden, these park facilities could include the provision of water, bubbler, shade structure, seating, shared pathways to and through the site, public toilets, and if large community garden some car parking may be required. Council may consider funding park infrastructure; but not items used on a regular basis, such as mulch, garden equipment, and plant materials.

Currently, there are 97 suburbs in the LM LGA, and the ultimate aim would be one community garden in every suburb. However, at present the recommended general standard is one community garden for every two to two to three suburbs or one community garden for every 5,000 persons.

The following hierarchy for community gardens is recommended for the future provision:

Table 28. Toronto CC – Community Gardens - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Local	up to 0.2 ha	1 km	1:5,000
Neighbourhood	0.2 - 0.5 ha	4 km	1:50,000
City Farm	over 10 ha	city wide	1:200,000

9.6 Recommendations

This plan recommends that an area of community land categorised as park be retained within each suburb for the possible establishment of community gardens in the future, as this land is required for Council to meet its future community needs. This is particularly important in areas of medium or high-density residential development. The development of a community garden is usually community driven, which provides adequate support for the initial set-up as well as the ongoing operation of the garden.

This plan identifies the following sites, which may be suitable for the development of community gardens. However, they are dependent upon community demand, subject to a site assessment, and these proposed locations may be changed if alternate sites are more suitable.

Table 29. Toronto CC – Community Gardens – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF COMMUNITY GARDENS	PRIORITY
CAREY BAY	Hampton Street Reserve	New community garden	1	Medium
FISHING POINT	2 Alkington Ave	New community garden	1	Medium
TERALBA	Griffen Road (proposed)	City Farm - new	1	Low
TORONTO	Toronto Park, 1A Renwick St	New community garden	1	Medium
TOTAL COMMUNITY GARDENS			4	



Photo Right – Woolloomooloo Community Garden –

Source: Australian City Farm & Community Gardens Network

<http://communitvgarden.org.au>

⁷⁹ <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/meetings/calendar-and-business-papers-2015/2015/may/environment-committee>

10. Dog Exercise Areas

A dog exercise area is an area for dogs to exercise off lead, and to socialise with other dogs. These areas are also known as dog off-leash parks⁸⁰ or dog parks⁸¹. Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world, and for the vast majority of Australians, dogs and cats are companions and much-loved members of our families.

10.1 Existing Provision

LMCC has 28 dog exercise areas across the LGA, eight of which are within the Toronto CC. Most of these areas are available at all times, and only one area the Toronto Lions Park has restricted use.

Table 30. Toronto CC – Dog Exercise Area – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	AVAILABLE TIMES	NO. OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS
BLACKALLS PARK	Blackalls Park Reserve	Leash free at all times	1
BOLTON POINT	Cnr Bay & Quigley Rds	Leash free at all times	1
BOORAGUL	Booragul Foreshore Reserve (part of)	Leash free at all times	1
BUTTABA	Buttaba Foreshore Reserve (part of)	Leash free at all times	1
CAREY BAY	Hampton Street Reserve	Leash free at all times	1
COAL POINT	Gurranba Reserve	Leash free at all times	1
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park (part of)	Leash free at all times, except events	1
TORONTO	Toronto Lions Park	Sunrise to 10 am daily, except market days	1
TOTAL DOG EXERCISE AREAS			8

10.2 Identified Need

Around 63% of Australian homes have a pet, and almost 40% of Australians own a dog⁸². At end the February 2012, there were 42,601 registered dogs and 58,046 dogs including unregistered dogs, in the LM LGA. Over the past ten years, LM has registered on average 4,150 new dogs each year. An increased residential population means an increase in dog registrations and the need for designated dog exercise areas. The following demonstrates the identified need for dog exercise areas.

- **Parks and Leisure Australia**

The importance of dogs as companions is highlighted in the results of a recent online survey of 800 residents in a Melbourne municipality. One of the responses highlights the fact that providing areas for dogs also provides opportunities for exercise for their owners.

I exercise more because I have a dog – 72%⁸³

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions including:

- Improve dog management in parks – define and promote more dog use areas in parks⁸⁴
- Carey Bay, Hampton Street Reserve - provide shade, seating, signposting and develop path links along the drainage easement⁸⁵

⁸⁰ National Heart Foundation of Australia (2011) *Neighbourhood Walkability Checklist: How walkable is your community?* P. 9.

⁸¹ Queensland Government website [Parks 4 People](#)

⁸² Petcare Information and Advisory Service (2006) *National People and its Pet Survey Socially Responsible Pet Ownership in Australia: A Decade of Progress*, prepared by Professor Bruce Headey. http://www.petnet.com.au/sites/default/files/National_People_and_Pets_2006.pdf

⁸³ Parks & Leisure Australia (2013) Fenced Dog Parks: What you probably don't know but need to know! PLA Vic/Tas Region Seminar Series held in Melbourne on 19 March 2013.

⁸⁴ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1, Action 2.9*, p. 26.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.* Action 4.32, p. 80.

• Open Space Strategy

The Recreation Participation Survey undertaken in 2001 indicated that 'walking the dog' was a popular recreation activity with high rates of participation. According to the survey, exercising the dog had more than double the participation rates of the most sports including soccer, tennis, cricket, football, netball, and athletics.⁸⁶ The *LM Open Space Strategy* recommends the further development of a citywide pathway network, which will respond to the demand for suitable facilities for people to walk their dogs.⁸⁷

• Council Policy

In 2005, LMCC adopted a Dog Exercise Areas Policy in response to a growing demand for off-leash dog exercise areas and in accordance with the Companion Animals Act (1998). The policy states that 'Council will provide open space sites for the exercising of dogs off leads'. Dog exercise areas can have disposal bins, water supply with water basin, seating, shade, and some areas may be fenced.

10.3 Comparative

Dog exercise areas can share a park and be available on a part-time basis or they can be fenced and occupy an area on a full-time basis. The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 requires Council to provide dog exercise areas, and most Councils are now providing specific dog exercise areas and dog parks.

For comparison purposes, Hornsby Shire Council has six fully fenced off-leash dog areas. Redland Council has 30 dog off leash areas⁸⁸ (19 of which are fully fenced and two have dog agility equipment) this equates to a provision standard of one dog off leash area per 4,787 population. Gosford City Council has 40 dog exercise areas this equates to a provision standard of one dog exercise area per 4,170 persons. The DoP has not specified a provision standard in its guidelines, but the above comparison provides an indicative guide and the recommended standard is reasonable.

Table 31. Toronto CC – Dog Exercise Area – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC	31,177	8	3,897
LMCC LGA	200,849	29	6,926
Guidelines *			None known
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			7,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The recommended standard of one dog exercise area for every 7,000 persons is similar to the citywide provision, and reasonable for future provision. One fenced dog park recommended for each catchment.

10.4 Best Practice

Dog exercise areas are now a standard provision requirement and some Councils are providing fenced areas and some providing dog agility equipment. Dog owners are also park users, and the need for fenced areas or fencing along park boundaries allows dog owners to exercise their dog's safely off-leash.

10.5 Analysis

There are eight (8) dog exercise areas within the catchment, and based on the recommended standard of one dog exercise area for every 7,000 persons, and one-dog exercise area is required to be upgraded.

10.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for dog exercise areas in the Toronto CC are:

Table 32. Toronto CC – Dog Exercise Area – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS	PRIORITY
CAREY BAY or RATHMINES	Hampton St Reserve or Rathmines Park	Dog area – upgrade to fenced dog park	1	High
TOTAL DOG EXERCISE AREA			1	

⁸⁶ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, Graph 4.2.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 6-5.

⁸⁸ Redlands City Council (2012) *Redland Open Space Strategy 2012 – 2026*, p. 44.

11. Skate Parks

Skate parks are now an important and common recreation facility in most Council areas. Councils provide skate parks, as they are a relatively safe place for people to skate. People skate in shopping centres, on roads, malls and other public places, which is potentially dangerous to themselves and to others. Young males are the majority of users however; some adults regularly skate and now females are getting into the sport. Skate parks can be located in parks, sportsgrounds, or incorporated into public domain/plaza areas. They may comprise vert ramps, bowls, street skate – ramps/rails/steps, a combination of these, or transition area.

11.1 Existing Provision

LMCC has nine (9) skate parks in the LGA, with another four (4) skate parks planned at Charlestown, Windale, Cameron Park and Morisset. Many of the existing facilities are small in scale catering for only local users, whilst larger skate parks attract users from the surrounding areas. The two existing skate parks in the catchment are small facilities and there is no large skate park in the catchment.

Table 33. Toronto CC – Skate Park – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME / LOCATION	NO. OF SKATE PARKS
BOLTON POINT	3A Bay Rd (cnr Bay and Quigley Rds)	1
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	1
TOTAL SKATE PARKS		2

11.2 Identified Need

Considering the requests received for skate parks, the community demand for skate parks has not waned over time. The construction of a new skate park triggers requests for additional skate parks in other neighbourhoods in the City. The following plans and Councils' resolution demonstrate the identified need for skate parks.

- **Operational Plan**

The *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017* defines the actions Council will take towards achieving our community's vision for our City and it involved extensive community engagement. The community told Council to 'plan and develop skate facilities at suitable sites throughout the City'.⁸⁹

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain strategies and actions including:

- Provision of multi-use venues for young people with facilities for roller blade and skate activities such venues should be placed in prominent positions with easy access to public transport and commercial support services such as food outlets and other forms of entertainment⁹⁰
- Develop a skate, multi-use court, and social venue for young people in association with the existing skate bowl at Rathmines Reserve, provide shade, seats, and shelters⁹¹

- **Council Report**

Council at its meeting of 27 April 1999, resolved to support the development of skate facilities throughout the City. The report identified Toronto for the development of a local level skate facility.

However, the current approach of many Council's is to provide fewer skate parks but provide large parks that cater for a range of skill levels. Rather than providing another small local facility, this plan recommends upgrading one of the existing skate park to provide greater variety and opportunity.

⁸⁹ LMCC (2016) *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017*, Priority 3.3.

⁹⁰ LMCC (1998) *Lake Macquarie City Council Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 58

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, Action 4.34, p. 82.

11.3 Comparative

The LDCG specifies an indicative population threshold for a small and large skate park, which is a higher standard of provision than in LM. The guidelines also mention that there is usually only one large skate park provided per LGA. However, many Sydney Council's have a LGA the size of one of our catchments.

Table 34. Toronto CC – Skate Park – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF SKATE PARKS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC	31,177	2	15,589
LMCC LGA	200,849	9	22,317
Guidelines * - small skate park			6,000
- large skate park			10,000
RECOMMENDED GENERAL STANDARD			20,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

As a comparison, the City of Newcastle has ten (10) skate parks equating to approximately one skate park per 15,478 persons. Maitland City Council has five (5) skate parks equating to approximately one skate park per 13,929 persons. Whereas Wyong Shire Council has 16 skate parks, equating to approximately one skate park per 10,000 persons. However, Wyong is now providing larger skate facilities. Their new skate facility planned for Bateau Bay at a cost of \$2.5 M is for beginner to professional skaters and incorporates additional facilities such as spectator facilities, large stage, shade, bubblers, toilet, picnic and BBQ facilities making it a family friendly space inclusive of all ages.

The recommended general standard of one skate park for 20,000 persons is similar to the close to the citywide provision, and considered reasonable by providing fewer skate facilities but of a higher standard.

11.4 Best Practice

Skate parks are best co-located with other community or recreation facilities, in public parks, sportsgrounds, and places with good passive surveillance. Other important considerations are ease of access, transport, user safety, and for the larger facilities public toilets, seating, shade, bubblers and integrating the facility with other family friendly uses to activate the space.

11.5 Analysis

There are two skate parks within the catchment and based on the recommended general standard of one skate park every 20,000 persons the upgrading of one skate park is required.

The following hierarchy is recommended for future provision:

Table 35. Toronto CC – Skate Park - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Small Skate Park	500 m ²	2 to 5 km	1:20,000
Large Skate Park ⁹²	2,500 m ²	5 to 10 km	1 per catchment

Access to affordable youth recreation activities is important for young people. However, considering that skaters do travel to better-equipped facilities, the expansion of an existing skate park is preferred, rather than providing another local facility at a new location.

11.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for the Toronto catchment are:

Table 36. Toronto CC – Skate Park – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SKATE PARKS	PRIORITY
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	Skate park – upgrade existing or relocate within Rathmines Park (as determined by master plan)	1	Medium
TOTAL SKATE PARKS			1	

⁹² Based on the size of Swansea Skate Park, which is 2,700 m² for the actual skating area of the park.

12. BMX Tracks

BMX (Bicycle Motocross) is fast becoming a recognised sport and has increased its profile since its introduction into the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. BMX can include racing or freestyle, and freestyle BMX includes dirt, flatland, park/street and vert. BMX tracks can be located in parks, sportsgrounds, natural areas, or a community group may request land to build a facility that they manage.

BMX riding is increasing in popularity and since BMX cycling was added to the Olympic program in 2008, Australia has celebrated multiple podium finishes at BMX World Championships and the 2012 Olympic Games.

12.1 Existing Provision

There are no authorised BMX tracks in this catchment. The two authorised BMX tracks in the City are located at Argenton and Cameron Park. The BMX facility at Argenton is fenced and use is restricted to members of the Lake Macquarie BMX Club, other than during interclub competitions. The track at Cameron Park is fenced but is open and available to the public at all times for BMX use.

12.2 Identified Need

The need for BMX is demonstrated by the number of unauthorised informal BMX tracks constructed in bushland areas, and by number of community requests for these facilities.

The following demonstrates the identified need for BMX tracks.

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions and strategies including:

- Promote opportunities for community group recreation development initiatives at appropriate sites⁹³
- Ensure consideration of the needs of minority sports⁹⁴
- Evaluate opportunities for developing near or within urban sites for both BMX club activities and informal riding⁹⁵
- Provision of informal BMX facilities preferably in association with other recreation venues, which serve other activities and age groups so that infrastructure can be shared⁹⁶

- **Hornsby Shire Council**

Hornsby Shire Council funded the preparation of an *Unstructured Recreation Strategy*, which identified:

- The expressed demand for BMX freestyle in Hornsby is estimated to be of a similar size to skateboarding
- BMX may have a greater growth potential than skateboarding, however this demand is dispersed across a number of different disciplines that require different facilities.
- BMX use is likely to continue to be as strong as skate parks⁹⁷

12.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not specify an indicative population threshold for BMX tracks, however BMX is included as key community infrastructure, and the population threshold for a skate park is linked to BMX. The guideline acknowledges that 'the need for BMX tracks can be reduced by sharing facility with skate park'.⁹⁸ However, these uses are quite different i.e. dirt tracks for BMX versus smooth sealed surfaces for skate.

This plan recommends providing two separate facility types, one BMX track for every 20,000 persons and one skate park for every 20,000 persons. This is comparable to the DoP's indicative standard for one large skate park per 10,000 persons and one small skate park for every 6,000 persons (which include BMX).

⁹³ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan Volume 1*, Action 3.3, p. 28.

⁹⁴ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 41.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, Action 4.20, p. 56.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, Action 4.20, p. 57.

⁹⁷ Hornsby Shire Council (ND) *Unstructured Recreation Strategy: Volume 1*, p. 39.

⁹⁸ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 94.

Table 37. Toronto CC – BMX Track – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF AUTHORISED BMX TRACKS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Toronto CC	31,177	0	0
LMCC LGA	200,849	2	100,425
Guidelines* (DoP 2009)			combined with skate
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			20,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

For comparison, Cairns Regional Council with an Estimated Residential Population (ERP) in 2011 of 162,740 has 11 skate parks and 18 authorised BMX tracks. In addition, Cairns Regional Council has a large number of unauthorised BMX tracks and several private BMX tracks such as Cairns BMX. The Council BMX tracks equate to a provision standard of one BMX track every 9,041 persons.

For LMCC the recommended standard of one BMX track for every 20,000 persons is reasonable for the future provision as it reflects the identified need for these facilities as evidenced by the number of unauthorised facilities found in bushland reserves.

12.4 Best Practice

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) in their *Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy* identified that the provision of a small number of high quality mountain bike areas is a key strategy for reducing unauthorised mountain biking and track construction.⁹⁹ The same principle is applicable to BMX tracks.

12.5 Analysis

There are no authorised Council BMX tracks in the catchment. However, the construction of unauthorised tracks at numerous locations demonstrates a need for an authorised facility. The recommended standard is an acceptable level of provision for the City, considering Council’s on-going maintenance liability.

The following hierarchy is a general guide for future provision:

Table 38. Toronto CC – BMX Track - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Small BMX Track	2,000 m2	2 to 5 km	20,000
Large BMX Track	5,000 m2	5 to 10 km	One per catchment

Based on the recommended general standard of one BMX track for every 20,000 persons, two new BMX tracks are proposed within the catchment.

12.6 Recommendations

A new BMX track (or BMX upgrade) is recommended within Rathmines Park. A future master planning process, which will include community engagement and consideration on heritage matters, will identify a suitable location.

At Toronto, a new BMX track is proposed at the community land possibly at either 1A Cook Street or at the old pony club ground at Hampton Street Reserve. An off-leash dog exercise area is also located at the Hampton Street Reserve, which is to be upgraded with fencing. Once funding is available, suitable sites will be investigated to determine the best location for the BMX facility.

The recommendations for the BMX tracks for the Toronto catchment are:

Table 39. Toronto CC – BMX Track – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF BMX TRACKS	PRIORITY
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park	New BMX track	1	Medium
TORONTO	1A Cook St OR Hampton St Res	New BMX track	1	Medium
TOTAL BMX TRACKS			2	

⁹⁹ NPWS (2011) *NPWS Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy*

13. Shared Pathways

Shared pathways are off-road sealed paths that cater for a variety of users including walkers, joggers, bicycles, roller blades, and people with strollers or people walking the dog. They are wider than footpaths and usually located on community land in parks, sportsgrounds, or through natural areas, such as the Fernleigh Track. The most popular shared pathway is the Lake Macquarie foreshore route, extending from Booragul to Eleebana.

In this plan, the term 'shared pathways' also includes separated or segregated pathways; however, to date these have not been provided in LM.

13.1 Existing Provision

There are 13,248 lineal metres of shared pathways in the Toronto CC as detailed in the following table. Of particular note is the Toronto/Fassifern Greenway, a shared pathway located on a former rail corridor that connects the Toronto town centre with a major train station at Fassifern.

Table 40. Toronto CC – Shared Pathway – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	LENGTH IN METRES
SPEERS POINT / BOORAGUL	Lake foreshore – Five Islands Rd – Creek Reserve Rd to First St	1,400
BOORAGUL	Along Toronto Rd – First St to Rens St	350
BOORAGUL	Booragul Foreshore – Five Island Rd to First St	930
TERALBA	York St under pass Five Islands Rd	312
TERALBA	Tulkaba Park to Lake Crescent	400
BOORAGUL	Along Marmong St from Aspinall St to Nanda Street	780
BOLTON POINT	Bolton Point Park	200
TORONTO/FASSIFERN	Toronto Greenway, Fassifern station to Toronto Foreshore Reserve	3,830
TORONTO	Toronto Greenway to Toronto Workers Club, Cook St	316
TORONTO	Stony Creek – Cook St to William St, & High School, Ron Hill Oval	1,200
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore Reserve	280
RATHMINES	Rathmines Park, Overhill Rd to the town centre	1,930
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Foreshore Reserve, Wangi Workers Club to town centre	1,320
TOTAL SHARED PATHWAY		13,248

13.2 Identified Need

The following survey, strategy, plans, guidelines, and policy demonstrate the identified need for shared pathways.

- **Operational Plan**

The *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017* involved extensive community engagement and identified the actions Council will take towards achieving our community's vision for our City. The community told Council to 'plan and develop cycleways/pathways to improve linkages'.¹⁰⁰

- **ERASS**

According to the ERASS Report 2010, NSW participation rates for 'walking (other) was 34%; (and does not include bushwalking); cycling was 10.6% and running was 9.1 %. The participation rate of walking (other), cycling and running is 53.7%. Shared pathways provide for all these activities. Over the 10 years the surveys were conducted, walking (other) consistently had the highest participation rate far exceeding any of the other 165 activities identified. Walking has the highest participation rates for both males and females and people continue this activity well into their older age.

¹⁰⁰ LMCC (2016) *City of Lake Macquarie Operational Plan 2016-2017*, Priority 3.3.

• Open Space Strategy

A recreation participation survey was undertaken as part of the open space strategy. The survey results indicated that walking for exercise had by far the highest level of participation and the next highest was 'swim/surf at beach'. This can be compared to the total participation time for soccer, tennis, football (AFL, RL, RU) and cricket which is less than half the total participation time for 'walking for exercise'. The results also indicated that cycling has a much higher participation rate than any sport including basketball, soccer, tennis, cricket, football, netball and athletics.¹⁰¹

• Cycling Strategy

The *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, identifies the future provision of both on-road and off-road cycleways. As part of the cycling strategy, a community survey was undertaken and the results included:

- "I'd like to ride on a dedicated path...away from cars – they are the biggest potential danger"
- Of the regular and infrequent cyclists who said they didn't ride because available facilities aren't safe or comfortable enough, 70% said there aren't enough separated bicycle paths¹⁰²

In relation to bicycle crashes, the strategy identified that there is a cluster of bicycle crashes in the Toronto Fennell Bay area and a hotspot identified as critical at Anzac Parade / Main Road through Toronto and Fennell Bay¹⁰³

The strategy recommends that Council:

- Require future private development in Lake Macquarie to make adequate provision of cycling infrastructure and facilities
- Maximise off-road routes where roads have speed limits of 60 mph there is a strong desire for off-road routes completely separated from motorised traffic.
- Maximise off-road routes to serve both transport and leisure trips.¹⁰⁴

• Liveable Communities Assessment

Comments from a survey of residents in Charlestown in 2010 include.

- Large linked pathways are needed within the Council area
- More cycle ways that connect up, biggest problem is accessing places around the lake
- Good job with the walkways going around the lake keep going
- Spend serious money on making a serious effort on redesigning pedestrian and cycleways separate from motorcars¹⁰⁵

These comments are relevant for the Toronto catchment.

• Recreation Plan

The recreation plan identifies specific strategies including:

- Improve the provision of on and off-road cycle and walkways in the catchment
- Continue the path from Edward Park to Marmong Point and thence to George St picnic area
- Develop local walking/cycle track along Marmong Creek reserve; through parks in Woodrising
- Develop walking/cycle paths between The Ridgeway and Toronto Rd/Main Road (Fennell Bay)
- Assist with the development of local paths through Bolton Point SRA (State Recreation Area)
- Continue the development of the Toronto-Fassifern Greenway
- Develop a local walk along Wangi Creek from Wangi Oval, Dobell Drive to the cycle/walking path along Wangi Wangi Bay¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, Graph 4.2, 4.7

¹⁰² LMCC (2012) *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, p.18.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, p. 30, 31.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 74, 168.

¹⁰⁵ Hunter New England Population Health and Hunter Regional Managers Network (2011) *Lake Macquarie Liveable Communities Assessment: Final Report*, Hunter New England Population Health, p. 172, 173.

¹⁰⁶ LMCC (1998) *LMCC The Recreation Plan, Volume 1*, p. 46, 77, 79, 83.

● **Open Space Plan**

The survey undertaken as part of the open space plan prepared by Clouston identified that:

- Cycleways (57.9%) were preferred to sportsgrounds and facilities (37.1%)¹⁰⁷

The plan identifies:

- City walkways for acquisition or designation including the Lake Macquarie Walk
- Use disused rail corridors to provide access to open space e.g. cycleways and trails at Toronto¹⁰⁸
- Tourist opportunities to take advantage of cycleways, walking trails and boating facilities (such as Toronto)

● **Guidelines for Walking and Cycling**

The NSW government strongly supports walking and cycling facilities through the various plans that have been prepared including the *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*. Key elements of the guidelines include:

- Improving conditions for walking and cycling not only reduces local traffic problems, but saves us money and improves our health and quality of life
- Creating a walkable and cycleable city is an important element in creating a sustainable city
- Redevelopment should aim to improve and expand the extent of public walking and cycling access
- Development assessment processes improve consideration of walking and cycling, and improve the provision of bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities¹⁰⁹

● **NSW Bikeplan**

The plan aims to encourage more and safer cycling specifically:

Double the use of cycling to get to work across all of NSW, between 2006 and 2016¹¹⁰

● **Draft Centres Design Guidelines**

DoP has prepared design principles to guide the future development of centres to improve liveability.

Principles include:

- End-of-trip facilities in buildings to encourage walking and cycling. Locate secure bicycle storage in well-lit, visible locations
- Promote ‘active living’ within parks and squares by connecting walkways and cycleways to local networks to improve health and well-being
- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists within centres¹¹¹

13.3 Comparative

The LDCG has identified shared pathways as key community infrastructure, although there is no indicative population threshold for shared pathways. LMCC has prepared a cycling strategy identifying off-road cycleways, which in LM all are shared pathways. The recommended standard of shared pathways of 0.42 metres per person, this is the same as the actual provision and considered reasonable for the future provision.

As a comparison, Canberra has a population of 367,000 and has 343 km¹¹² of off-road cycle paths throughout an area of 814.2 km² which equates to 0.93 metres per person, and this does not include the 403 km of on-road cycle lanes.

Table 41. Toronto CC – Shared Pathway – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	METRES OF SHARED PATHWAYS	METRES PER PERSON OF SHARED PATHWAY
Toronto CC	31,177	13,248	0.42
Guidelines*			Shared Pathways & Cycleways Plan
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			0.42

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

¹⁰⁷ LMCC (1006) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan*, prepared by Clouston, p. 14.

¹⁰⁸ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, Figure 1.7.

¹⁰⁹ NSW Government (2004) *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*, p. 3, 15, 33, 39.

¹¹⁰ NSW Government (2010) *NSW Bikeplan*, p. 5

¹¹¹ NSW DoP (2011) *Draft Centre Design Guidelines*, Department of Planning, Sydney, p. 38, 49, 74.

¹¹² ACT Government (2012) *Territory & Municipal Services Annual Report 2011-2012 Volume 1*, p. 15.

13.4 Best Practice

Shared use pathways are used in areas of low volumes of pedestrians and cyclists.¹¹³ According to the Austroads Standards, separated paths are used where there are large numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using the same path, **sites include promenades along a foreshore** or river frontage.¹¹⁴ A segregated path i.e. an exclusive bicycle path and a parallel exclusive pedestrian path, permits fast bicycle travel and is the most desirable of the off-carriageway alternatives, particularly for commuters.¹¹⁵

Austrroads has a model to provide guidance on when to provide on-road and off-road infrastructure for cyclists according to traffic volumes and traffic speed. A similar model could be developed for shared pathways to provide guidance on when **an additional separated pathway** based on volumes of use, is required.¹¹⁶

13.5 Analysis

The catchment has Lake Macquarie as its eastern boundary. Since the lake foreshore route is very popular, this plan recommends providing shared pathways in key several locations around the lake.

One significant shared pathway is the lake foreshore route located along the northern part of the catchment. This route is to be extended past the Art Gallery to Marmong Point.

As the popularity of the lake foreshore route increases, the need to provide two pathways or to separate cyclists and walkers will be required. The planned upgrade of the Toronto Foreshore identifies two such pathways, a promenade along the lake foreshore and an extension of the Toronto Greenway, which is proposed to continue along the park boundary on Victory Parade.

13.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for shared pathways within the catchment are:

Table 42. Toronto CC – Shared Pathway – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	CYCLING STRATEGY OR OTHER PLAN	LENGTH METRES	PRIORITY
BLACKALLS PARK	Blackalls Park to Faucett Street	Blackalls Park 1	485	Low
BOLTON POINT /FENNELL BAY	Bolton Point Park to Elizabeth Street	Bolton Point 1	2,020	Medium
MARMONG POINT	Marmong Point Foreshore Reserve – end pathway to Marmong Street	Booragul 1	900	High
TORONTO	Toronto Greenway – upgrade & extend to Wharf Road	Kilaben Bay 1	770	High
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Foreshore Reserve – extend north to Dobell Dr	Arcadia Vale 1	130	Medium
TOTAL SHARED PATHWAYS			11,280	

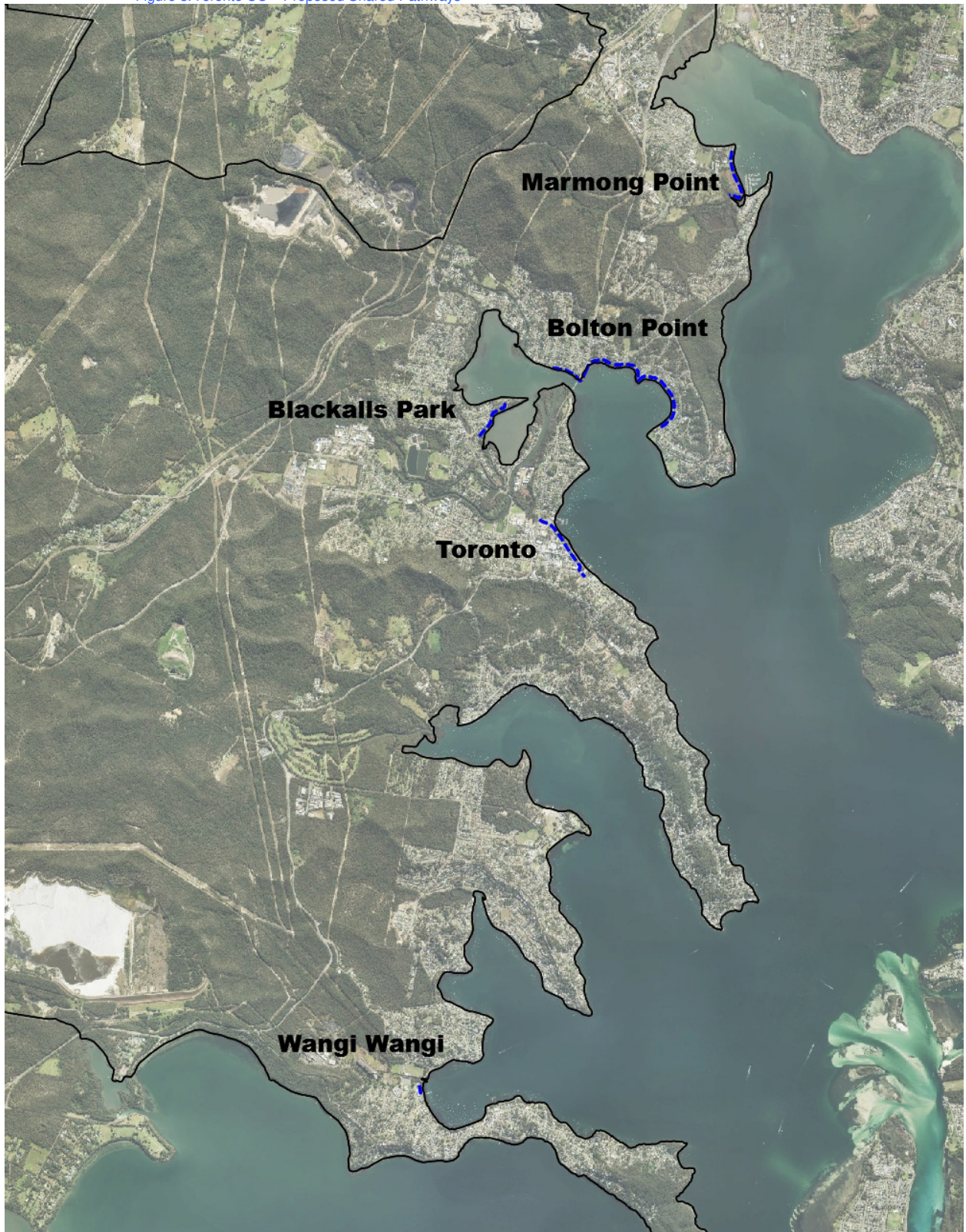
¹¹³ Department of Infrastructure and Transport (2012) *Walking, Riding and Access to Public Transport: Draft Report for Discussion*, P. 109.

¹¹⁴ Austroads Standards Australia (1999) *Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 14 Bicycles*, a separated path is where cyclists and pedestrians are required to use separate designated areas of the path.

¹¹⁵ Austroads Standards Australia (1999) *Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 14 Bicycles*, p. 86, 90

¹¹⁶ Austroads 2009, *Guide to Traffic Management: Part 4: Network management*, report AGTM 0409, Austroads, Sydney, NSW – Figure 4.7.

Figure 8. Toronto CC – Proposed Shared Pathways



14. Tracks and Trails

Walking tracks and recreational trails provide opportunities for people to access natural areas, promoting physical activity, which lowers the incidence of obesity, depression and other illnesses related to sedentary lifestyles. A walking track is a track provided for walkers, whereas a recreational trail caters for walkers, joggers, bicycles and sometimes horses.

Tracks and trails may be located on varied terrain, on narrow tracks where access is limited, or utilise fire trails or unsealed roads. The frequency and volume of use are the main factors dictating the width of the trail. If use is expected to be high, some tracks may require a more durable surface. Decomposed granite and other forms of fine crushed rock may be used where the frequency and volume of use is low and a less visually dominant pathway construction is required.¹¹⁷

*Recreational trails can offer you an exhilarating experience*¹¹⁸

14.1 Existing Provision

There are numerous tracks and trails in LM. The following table includes the tracks and trails identified in Council's mapping system.

Table 43. Toronto CC – Tracks and Trails – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	LENGTH IN METRES
BLACKALLS PARK	Blackalls Park	582
BOLTON POINT	Main Rd to under Fennell Bay bridge, Macquarie St to Bolton Point Park	460
BOORAGUL	First St to Marmong St	680
CAREY BAY	Jarrett St to ex Pony Club ground	680
COAL POINT	Whitelock St along ridgeline, Gurramba & Birriban Reserve	1,559
FASSIFERN	Toronto Greenway Pathway – access from Lake St, Wangi Rd, Cooper Ave, Reynolds St, South Pde, Blackall Ave, Fennell Cres, Sara St	969
FISHING POINT	Reserve at end of peninsula	108
KILABEN BAY	Ridge Rd, lookout to Centennial Parkway, Wangi Rd to Kilaben Ck, Wybalena Cl to Kilaben Rd	2,164
MYUNA BAY	Foreshore Reserve	750
RATHMINES	Dorrington Rd to Kilaben Creek	714
TORONTO	Ron Hill to Keith Barry Oval	290
TORONTO WEST	Toronto Cemetery, opposite the cemetery	5,860
WANGI WANGI	Wangi Ridge Reserve	735
WOODRISING	Old BMX track to Woodrising shops, Bolton Quarry, Defender Cl, Courageous Cl, Express Circuit, The Ridgeway, Enterprise Way, Freemantle Dr	3,122
TOTAL TRACKS AND TRAILS		18,684

In addition, there are two National Parks located close to or within the catchment providing some tracks and trails that are not included in the existing provision. They are:

- BOLTON POINT - Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area (SCA) at Bolton Point – Ridge Trail, Alexanders Trail, Hepplewhites Trail
- WANGI (on the Peninsular) - Lake Macquarie SCA at Wangi - Wangi Point Circuit Walking Track, Wangi South West Trail, Wangi Point Ridge Walking Track, Wangi Point Botany Walking Track, and the Wangi Point Gully Walking Track.
- WANGI (beside Myuna Bay) Lake Macquarie SCA

¹¹⁷ Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (2005) *Sydney Metropolitan – Regional Recreation Trails Framework Final Report*, prepared by Hassell Pty Ltd, section 2.2 and 2.3.

¹¹⁸ Trails SA (ND) *South Australian Trails: Your Guide to Walking, Cycling, Horse Riding, Diving, Canoeing*, p. 2. www.southaustraliantrails.com

- AWABA, FREEMANS WATERHOLE, RYHOPE, WAKEFIELD - Sugarloaf SCA - was created in 2006 and covers an area of 3,926 ha which is located in the Glendale catchment. The Great North Walk, a significant walk from Newcastle to Sydney is located through SCA and through the catchment.

14.2 Identified Need

The following surveys, strategy, plans, and policy demonstrate the identified need for tracks and trails.

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions including:

- Develop signposted and interpretive walking trails through the ridge line reserve accessible from Lorrone Close, Coal Point¹¹⁹

• Open Space Strategy

The open space recreation participation survey indicated:

- Forward planning to allow to have land available
- Walking trails are scarce and not integrated with other potential trails
- Lack of public ownership of open space – lack of funding to redress this
- People feel bushland is protected yet often it is in private or corporate ownership¹²⁰

• Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines

The guidelines identified:

- Three main standards for open space which include, parks, outdoor sport and linear and linkages
- Strategic land acquisition to improve linkages and maximise the open space resource¹²¹

• Growth Centres Development Code

The code provides the basis for the planning and design of precincts in the North West and South West Growth Centres in Sydney, which will provide around 181,000 new homes. The code specifies that:

For each precinct an open space system should be established as an integrated network, incorporating parks, squares, plazas, riparian corridors, playing fields, and **recreational trails**¹²²

• Cycling Strategy

As part of the Cycling Strategy, a community survey was undertaken in October 2011 and results of the survey include:

- Regular and infrequent cyclists were also asked to indicate what journeys they usually use for cycling
- 82% of infrequent cyclists and 78% of regular cyclists use cycling for leisure on off-road paths
- while 35% of regular cyclists and 15% of infrequent cyclists cycle on mountain bicycle trails¹²³

Among all cyclists, regardless of cyclist type, gender and age, the most commonly reported trip purpose is cycling for leisure on off-road bicycle paths (e.g. the Fernleigh Track). Comments from survey respondents indicated that this was almost always because riders felt safer being separated from traffic' (p.10). Also off-road shared paths were the most commonly used facility by all cyclists (79%).¹²⁴

14.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not have an indicative population threshold for bushland tracks, however bushland tracks are included as key community infrastructure, and the matters for consideration indicate that they would be acceptable if they form part of an established recreational network.¹²⁵ The recommended tracks and trails standard of 0.60 metres per person is equal to the local provision and considered reasonable for the future provision for the catchment.

¹¹⁹ LMCC (1998) LMCC The Recreation Plan Volume 1, Action 4.32, p. 80.

¹²⁰ LMCC (1996) Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1, prepared by Clouston, p. 57, 58.

¹²¹ Department of Planning (2010) Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, p. 29 and 34.

¹²² Growth Centres Commission (2006) Growth Centres Development Code, p. B-71.

¹²³ LMCC(2012) LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021, p. 10.

¹²⁴ Ibid., p. 12.

¹²⁵ NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines, p. 92.

Table 44. Toronto CC – Tracks and Trails – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	TRACKS & TRAILS IN METRES	PERSONS PER METRE OF TRACKS & TRAILS
Toronto CC	31,177	18,684	0.60
Guidelines *			Where part of an established recreational network
LOCAL TRACKS & TRAILS STANDARD			0.60

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

14.4 Best Practice

The NSW government’s, *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*, strongly supports the provision of walking and cycling facilities. Key elements of the guidelines include:

- Walking and cycling access is provided to and along natural areas such as ridges and creeklines
- Councils are encouraged to raise the priority of path and trail projects to increase overall funding levels.¹²⁶

The South Australian Government has prepared a guideline for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails in South Australia¹²⁷, which would also be applicable for NSW.

14.5 Analysis

Council has been progressively acquiring land along the ridgeline of Coal Point for many years. This acquisition is funded through another funding source, (Council’s open space reserve fund), and the upgrading of the track will be undertaken once the land is in public ownership.

14.6 Recommendations

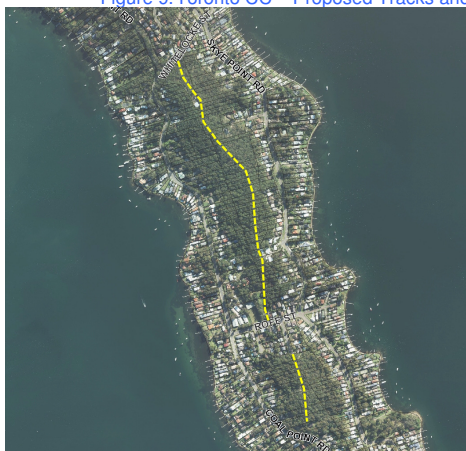
The recommendation for tracks and trails in the Toronto CC is to upgrade the track along the Coal Point ridgeline once Council has acquired all the land.

Another key track that requires upgrading is the track along the foreshore at 120 The Ridgeway, Bolton Point. This track is within the Lake Macquarie SCA and NPWS is responsible for its upgrade. Council may then investigate the possibility of providing a track along the crown foreshore reserve, 1C Wattle Street, Bolton Point, from the end of the LM SCA to Bolton Point Park. This is a difficult section and is a longer-term proposal considered in a subsequent plan.

Table 45. Toronto CC – Tracks and Trails – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH IN METRES	PRIORITY
COAL POINT	Coal Point Ridgeline	Upgrade track	1,260	Low
TOTAL TRACKS AND TRAILS			1,260	

Figure 9. Toronto CC – Proposed Tracks and Trails Munibung Hill



Left – Recommended Track along the Coal Point Ridge

¹²⁶ NSW Government (2004) *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*, p. 23, p. 58.

¹²⁷ Trails SA (N.D.) *Sustainable Recreation Trails: Guidelines for the Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Recreational Trails in South Australia*.

15. Mountain Bike Areas

Mountain bike areas have tracks specifically constructed for mountain bikes. Tracks can include a number of broad styles: cross-country, all-mountain, downhill, free riding, dirt jumping and trials.¹²⁸ Cross-country and all-mountain riding are the most popular styles of mountain biking. There may be short wide tracks for the beginner, longer single tracks for endurance, one-direction technically challenging tracks, or tracks designed for high-speed. Bike parks, also known as bike skills parks, are purpose built playgrounds for bicycles. They include natural and constructed features to build skills through progressive challenges, they cater for the whole family, from beginner tracks to technically challenging tracks, and even some have velodromes.

15.1 Existing Provision

There are no authorised mountain bike areas in the catchment although mountain biking, like bushwalking occurs on various tracks and trails in bushland areas throughout the City. The mountain bike areas with purpose built tracks are currently located:

- Glenrock SCA - cycling is authorised in the northern zone. This area has designated bicycle only tracks indicating the level of difficulty and the direction of cycling.
- Awaba State Forest (Mt Faulk Rd, Cooranbong) – comprises a downhill racing track and a cross-country track. This facility is located just south of the Toronto catchment.

In addition, some other areas used by mountain bikes are:

- Green Point Foreshore Reserve
- Catherine Hill Bay, Caves Beach and Cams Wharf bushland
- Munibung Hill
- West of Holmesville
- North of Whitebridge
- Between Hillsborough and Warners Bay
- North of Redhead

15.2 Identified Need

The following survey, plans and strategy demonstrate the identified need for mountain bike areas.

- **ERASS**

The number of people who participated in recreational cycling at least three times per week increased by 35% from 2001 to 2009 in NSW, and by 43% from 2001 to 2008 in Sydney.¹²⁹

- **NSW Bikeplan**

NSW Bikeplan aims to encourage more and safer cycling specifically:

Promote cycle access to and through designated NSW National Parks and Crown reserves, including the use of sustainable mountain bike tracks¹³⁰

- **Nature-based Outdoor Recreation**

Mountain bike riding in Australia is becoming increasingly popular. In a 2008 survey, NSW residents said they had participated in cycling and mountain biking on an unsealed road or track 26 million times in the preceding year. In Greater Sydney, 15% of residents had participated in the past year, while in the Southern Tablelands and South Coast 20% of residents had participated. There is evidence of unmet demand for opportunities for mountain bike riding on an unsealed road or track with between 9% and 30% of residents saying they were interested in participating more frequently by identifying a lack of local opportunities.¹³¹

¹²⁸ NSW Government Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (2010) *Discussion Paper: National Parks and Wildlife Service Cycling Policy Review and Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy*, p. 7.

¹²⁹ Australian Sports Commission (2009) *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey, 2009*.

¹³⁰ NSW Government (2010) *NSW Bikeplan*, p. 23.

- **Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy**

The *NPWS Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy* (2011) has identified that the provision of a small number of high quality mountain bike experiences is a key strategy for reducing unauthorised mountain biking and track construction.

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions under 4.26, and a strategy identified is:

Assess informal reserves capable of supporting informal local mountain bike and BMX activities¹³²

- **Cycling Strategy**

The *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021* identifies that mountain bike trails are the second highest priority in key destinations for cycling trips.¹³³

15.3 Best Practice

Trails SA has produced a guide *South Australian Trails: Your Guide to Walking, Cycling, Horse Riding, Diving, Canoeing* that identifies and specifies the use of each trail. Certain trails provide for multiple uses whilst other trails (such as racing tracks) have sole use.

Mountain biking is a popular recreation activity undertaken all year round unlike some sports that have either a summer or winter use.

15.4 Analysis

The high use of the area at Glenrock SCA indicates that this recreation activity is growing in popularity. Since many of the other areas used for informal mountain biking are subject to residential development in the future, of primary importance is the security of land tenure which is essential to ensure mountain biking can be provided in the future.

15.5 Recommendations

The land currently occupied by the Awaba Waste Management Facility at 367 Wilton Road, Awaba is a site considered as a possible mountain bike area for the longer-term. Once this rubbish tip draws to the end of its lifespan, Council is required to identify an end use for the site. The redevelopment of this site into a mountain bike area or bike park is a recommended outcome.

The recommended standard of provision for this 15-year plan is one mountain bike area per ward, with a long-term provision of one mountain bike area per catchment.

¹³¹ NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Water (2009) *Nature-based outdoor recreation demand and preferences quantitative research findings*, prepared by Ipsos-Eureka Social Research Institute.

¹³² LMCC (1998) *LM Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 49.

¹³³ LMCC (2012) *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, prepared by GHD, p. 16.

16. Other Recreation Facilities

In addition to the recreation facilities identified in the plan, there are a number of other recreation facilities in the catchment. They include other Council recreation facilities, such as boat ramps and jetties, community-based facilities, and private recreation facilities. Some are located on crown land, Council owned community (CL) or and operational land (OL) and others on private land. Some of these other recreation facilities include:

16.1 Existing Provision

• Golf Courses

One golf course is located in the catchment:

- Toronto Country Club, 120 & 122 Wangi Road, Toronto, - 18 hole golf course (59.4 ha) – crown land, Reserve 93515 for Future Public Use

• Bowling Greens

The following bowling greens are located in the catchment:

- Rathmines Memorial Bowling Club – 2 bowling greens, 1 Stilling Street, Rathmines – LMCC CL
- Teralba Bowling Club, – 2 bowling greens, 2C York Street, Teralba owner LMCC CL; and 2A York Street, Teralba - crown land, Reserve 75 for Public Purposes, and the Teralba Bowling Club have a special leave over the land with crown lands
- Toronto District Workers Club - 2 bowling greens, 11 James Street, Toronto – owner Toronto District Workers Club Limited
- Wangi Wangi Bowling Club – 2 bowling greens, 4A Minnamoora Street, Wangi – 2 bowling greens - LMCC CL

• Lake Facilities

The catchment has a good distribution of public boat ramps and jetties including:

• Boat Ramps

- BALMORAL – Balmoral Place
- BOLTON POINT – Middle Point Road
- COAL POINT – Birriban Reserve
- MARMONG POINT – Nanda Street
- RATHMINES – Rathmines Park, Seaplane Ramp
- RATHMINES – Styles Point
- TORONTO – Toronto Lions Park
- TORONTO – Wharf Street
- WANGI WANGI – Dobell Park
- WANGI WANGI – Kent Place

In addition, a private boat ramp owned and maintained by the Royal Motor Yacht Club is located at Bath Street.

• Jetties

- ARCADIA VALE – Arcadia Vale Public Jetty (Arcadia Park)
- BALMORAL – Barmoral Public Jetty (Balmoral Place)
- BOLTON POINT – Bolton Point Baths (off Prospect Ave)
- BOLTON POINT – Bolton Point Public Jetty (end of Middle Point Rd)
- BOORAGUL – Booragul Public Jetty (off First St)
- COAL POINT – Coal Point Public Jetty (East end of Rofe St)
- KILABEN BAY – Kilaben Bay Baths/Jetty (Kilaben Park)
- RATHMINES – Fuel/Bomb Wharf Rathmines (off north end of Stilling St)
- RATHMINES – Officers Baths Rathmines (off north end of Stilling St)
- RATHMINES – Rathmines 'F' Jetty (off Dorrington Rd)
- RATHMINES – Styles Point Public Jetty (Styles Point Reserve)
- TORONTO – Toronto Baths (Regatta Walk Foreshore Reserve)
- TORONTO – Toronto Public Wharf (end of Wharf St)
- WANGI WANGI – Little Wangi Public Jetty (Behind H No. 155 Watkins Rd)
- WANGI WANGI – Dobell Park Wangi Jetty (off Dobell Park)
- WANGI WANGI – Wangi Tourist Park Jetty (off Watkins Rd)

- **Sailing, Rowing or Windsurfer Clubs**

- Booragul - Teralba Amateur Sailing Club, 1D First Street, Booragul – crown land
- Booragul - Hunter Rowing Club, 1B First Street, Booragul – LMCC CL
- Marmong Point – Windsurfer Club – 1A Nanda Street, Marmong Point – crown land
- Toronto Sailing Club – 33 Victory Parade, Toronto – LMCC CL
- Toronto – Royal Motor Yacht Club, 6 Arnott Avenue, Toronto – private land
- Wangi Sailing Club – 269 Watkins Road, Wangi – owner Wangi Wangi RSL Sub-Branch Club

- **Swim Centre**

The Toronto Indoor Swim Centre is located at 1 Carleton Street, Toronto, LMCC CL and provides a 25 metre 8 lane lap pool and a hydrotherapy pool. This facility was private but is now a Council owned facility.

- **Caravan Parks**

Three caravan parks are located in the catchment include:

- Carey Bay - Paradise Palms, 42 Ambrose Street, Carey Bay, private facility
- Teralba Lakeside Caravan Park –19 Anzac Parade Teralba, private facility
- Wangi Point Lakeside Holiday Park, 2A Watkins Road, Wangi – owner NPWS leased to LMCC

- **Camping Areas**

Whilst there are two sites in the catchment where overnight stays for motor homes are permitted (Awaba Oval, and Myuna Bay), these sites are only available if booked as part of an organised chapter for meetings and/or rallies for motorhome, campervan and caravanning associations/clubs.

The *Recreation Plan* has identified the need to provide opportunities for camping that are not located at caravan parks.

Identify and promote recreation development sites, opportunities and needs in LMCC, e.g. restaurants, bed and breakfast accommodation, motor home and camping sites¹³⁴

- **Other Recreation Facilities**

Other recreation related facilities within the catchment include:

- Newcastle Lake Macquarie Clay Target Club, 468 Wilton Road, Awaba, crown land
- Marmong Cove Marina, 1A, 3A, 5A & 5C Nanda Street, Marmong Point – crown land
- Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation Centre, 21A Wangi Road, Myuna Bay – owner The State Sporting Venues Authority, outdoor swimming pool, 2 tennis courts, netball court, accommodation
- Rathmines – LM Heritage Boat Shed (Men's Shed) - 1 Overhill Road, Rathmines – LMCC CL
- Teralba – Westlakes Amateur Radio Club, 6A York Street, Teralba – LMCC CL
- Various boy scouts and girl guides halls.

16.2 Identified Need

The following survey demonstrates the identified need for some other recreation facilities within the Toronto CC.

- **ERASS**

According to the ERASS 2010 annual report, golf has a 7.6% total participation rate¹³⁵ and golf is ranked ninth in the ten most popular sports and physical activities for adults (survey undertaken of persons aged 15 years and over) in NSW in 2007.¹³⁶ Lawn bowls has a 2.3% total participation rate and this participation rate has increased by 20% over the period 2001 to 2010.¹³⁷

¹³⁴ LMCC Recreation Plan (?) Recommended Action 3.4, p. 34.

¹³⁵ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*

¹³⁶ NSW Sport and Recreation (2007) *Sport and Physical Activity in New South Wales*

¹³⁷ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*, p. 35.

16.3 Analysis

Golf – The LDCG identifies a golf course as key community infrastructure and specifies an indicative population threshold of one golf course for every 30,000 people.¹³⁸ There is one 18-hole golf course located at Toronto, and based on the LDCG guidelines it adequately serves this catchment. LMCC does not provide for golf in its LGA as the private sector has provided these facilities. If however, any of these golf courses are redeveloped for another purpose, Council may reconsider the need to provide for golf in the future.

Bowling Greens – There are four bowling clubs and eight bowling greens in the catchment. Three of these facilities are located on public land. Over recent years, Council has reclassified many of these sites, enabling the sale of the land to the respective bowling club. However, in the event that a bowling club ceases to operate, the land may then be on-sold, and the community loses the recreation facility and the future use of the (community) land. The netballers use part of the land leased to the Wangi Bowling Club, for car parking and the land is required for this use.

Men's Sheds – Council has provided land for various clubs and community organisations including scouts and girl guides, and more recently for men's sheds. There are two men's shed in the Toronto catchment located at 33 Brisbane Street, Awaba (opposite the Awaba train station) and at the Wangi Oval. In addition, there are two men's groups with a specific interest, the wood turners occupy part of the Marmong Point Community Hall and the Rathmines boat builders occupy part of the Rathmines Community Hall.

16.4 Recommendations

Golf – There is one 18-hole golf course within the catchment and no additional golf courses are required.

Bowling Greens – Lawn bowls is a recreational activity popular with older adults and with the increased aging population, participation rates should increase. The Rathmines, Teralba and Wangi bowling clubs are located on land that is part of larger sporting and recreation areas. If these clubs cease to operate, Council should retain these sites, as the land can be repurposed for another recreation use. Alternatively, the building can be removed/demolished and the land categorised as park or sportsground, e.g. Rathmines as park and Wangi as sportsground.

Camping Areas – Some selected sites may considered as part of a citywide strategy that promotes tourism opportunities by approving overnight stays at certain locations. Possible sites for investigation could include Toronto Lions Park, Rathmines Park, and Myuna Bay.

Men's Sheds – There are a range of recreational uses that require public land. Currently, Men's Sheds are increasing in popularity with some facilities i.e. the Belmont Men's Shed, experiencing waiting lists and users have time limits to use the facility. The need for Men's Sheds is likely to increase in the future, as the population ages and Council should retain suitable public land for this purpose.

Such a site is the LMCC owned CL shown below opposite the Booragul Railway Station. This triangular site is 2,650 m² has a road frontage on each of its boundaries, is a reasonably flat cleared site, and has a main road frontage with a pedestrian set of lights at the site, an overpass to the train station. A shared pathway is located along Toronto Road and another is currently under construction along Fourth Street. These provide a link to a network of cycleways including the Glendale to Speers Point route and Lake Foreshore route currently providing a link between Booragul to Eleebana.

This site is large enough to provide a men's shed, parking, and the co-location of another community facility, such as, a community garden. The close proximity to public transport makes this site accessible to a wider user group outside this immediate catchment. Noise is a common concern with some locations for Men's sheds but this site has traffic and train noise few neighbours, so noise concerns may not be an issue at this location. This site is very close to the wood turners group currently occupying part of the Marmong Point Community hall. If the membership of this group increases or they broaden their activities and need a larger area, this site may be suitable, subject to funding becoming available for the construction of a shed.

¹³⁸ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, Indication population threshold, p. 88.

Sites such as these are not easy to replace, if sold. Even though the current population projections of this catchment does not provide funding for a men’s shed within the next 15 years (the life of this plan), other funding sources, i.e. grant funding, may provide a facility at this location, depending on the need. This site is identified for the possible development of a men’s shed or other community facility in the future and should be retained for that purpose.



Land identified for a future Mens Shed and possible community garden:

105 Toronto Road, Booragul – Lot 82 Sec 6 DP 14421, LMCC CL and classified as park

PART D – OPEN SPACE

Public open space is important because it contributes to the physical health and social wellbeing of a community.¹³⁹

Open space is public land owned or managed by Council set aside for leisure, recreation, and sporting activities and for conservation, biodiversity and scenic values. Open space includes public land managed by other organisations, such as national parks, conservation areas, botanic gardens and zoological gardens. It also includes community title land, which is open and available to certain landholders within a subdivision. Whereas private open space is, land in private ownership and can include parks, gardens¹⁴⁰, sporting areas, tennis courts, or golf courses.

Open space areas have long been recognised as a basic requirement of human settlement planning. These areas are an important resource for social interaction, rest and recuperation and for pursuing healthy activities.¹⁴¹

For LMCC, the nature of its LGA, its extensive existing natural resources, including the Lake Foreshore, coastal beaches, bushland hinterland, and steep terrain has resulted in a significant provision of open space. LMCC has undertaken several studies to assess the type and distribution of its open space and determine a strategic direction for the appropriate and effective provision of recreation facilities in its LGA.

Community Land

Community land is meant for public access and use and though it is a small share of the total, it is the open space that is 'closest to the community' and is fundamental to liveability and the quality of life in neighbourhoods¹⁴²

Community land¹⁴³ is the term used to describe the open space land owned or managed by Council. Community land is land such as a public park owned by LMCC and classified as community land¹⁴⁴ and crown land reserved for public recreation or for a public purpose, which permits public access.

LMCC owned land classified as operational land,¹⁴⁵ crown land where LMCC is not the trust manager, or crown land reserved for other purposes, such as a garbage dump or quarry, is not community land, and not included in the PoM.

LMCC adopted a *Plan of Management for Community Land (PoM)* in 2011, which lists and maps the community land in the City. The data contained in this PoM, current as at November 2011, forms the basis of this section. Since that time, Council has reclassified some of the community land (listed in the PoM) to operational land, and the consequently sold the land. In addition, Council has also purchased or received developer-dedicated land, which was not included in the PoM.

The purpose of this plan is to determine if the existing community land within the Toronto CC is adequate to serve the needs of the existing and future community. The location of the existing community land and recreation facilities was considered in relation to the projected growth to determine if the existing land and facilities were able to meet the future demand.

Since the projected growth in the Toronto CC is comparable to an entire urban release area i.e. Cameron Park, and there is insufficient land in the growth areas to meet the future needs, this plan identifies suitable land for acquisition for the intended recreation purpose in an appropriate location.

¹³⁹ Growth Centres Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, p. B-71.

¹⁴⁰ The Hunter Valley Gardens, in Pokolbin, is an example of a privately owned formal gardens comprising 25 ha.

¹⁴¹ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 6.

¹⁴² *Ibid*, p. 29.

¹⁴³ Community land would ordinarily comprise land such as a public park or public reserve, land conveyed or transferred to council under s340A of the LGA 1919, or any land dedicated or taken to be dedicated as a public reserve s340C or s340D of the LGA 1919, or any land dedicated or taken to be dedicated under s49 and s50.

¹⁴⁴ On the commencement of the Community Land Management Act 1998, the following land that is vested in or under the control of a council is taken to have been classified as community land. a) land comprising a public reserve; b) land subject to a trust for a public purpose; c) land dedicated as a condition of a development consent under s 94 of the EP&A Act 1979; d) land reserved, zoned or otherwise designated for use under an environmental planning instrument as open space; and e) land controlled by a council that is vested in the corporation constituted by s 8(1) of the EP&A Act 1979.

Within 1 year after the relevant commencement, a council may, by resolution, classify, as community land or operation land, any public land that is vested in it or under its control and that is not classified by subclause (2). Any public land that maybe classified by resolution under subclause (3) and that is not classified within 1 year after the relevant commencement is taken to have been classified as community land.

¹⁴⁵ Operational land would ordinarily comprise land held as a temporary asset or as an investment, land which facilitates the carrying out by a council of its functions, or land which may not be open to the general public, such as a works depot or a council garage.

17. City Wide Provision

17.1 Existing Provision of Community Land

LM LGA has approximately 4,098 ha of community land or 20 ha/1,000 population as detailed in the following table. However, the LM LGA is 758 km² and the community land represents only 5.4% of the total area within the City.

The Community Land Management Act was introduced in 1998, which required Council's to classify public land, (land owned or managed by Council), into community land or operational land and to categorise community land into the designated categories of Natural Area, Park, Sportsground, or General Community Use. Council's community land has been categorised to reflect the dominant existing use of the land or the proposed future use of the land. For example, a playground located in a sportsground was categorised sportsground as this is the dominant use of the land and some community land may have been categorised sportsground as this is the intended future use of the land.

Table 46. LM LGA – Community Land – Existing

COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORIES	AREA HA	% OF TOTAL COMMUNITY LAND	HA/1,000 POPULATION ^A
Natural Area	3,058	75	15.2
Park	489	12	2.4
Sportsground	379	9	1.9
General Community Use	172	4	0.9
TOTAL	4,098	100	20

Note: ^A Based on an existing population of 46,811

- **Natural Area**

Within the City community land categorised as natural area, comprises 3,058 ha and 75% of the total community land in the City, or 15.2 ha/1,000 population. Land categorised natural area includes bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse, and foreshore. Whilst there may be some permissible recreation uses within some natural areas, such as, bush walking and mountain bike riding, a large proportion of the land is steeply sloping, contains creeks, watercourses, or vegetation communities, including wetlands that preclude most recreation uses. As such, Council does not consider natural areas to be usable recreation lands, and Council will not accept these lands as an offset, for the requirement to provide land for open space under section 94 of the EPA Act.

- **Park**

Community land categorised as park comprises 489 ha and 12% of the total community land in the City or 2.4 ha/1,000 population. However, this is not a true indication of the parks in the City as many of the lands categorised as park include miscellaneous lands. These include road buffers, drainage reserves, detention/retention basins, small or irregular shaped parcels (residue lands from subdivisions), flood prone/low lying land, electricity easements, or land with other restrictions that limit the use of the land for recreation. Since Councils were required to use the categories specified in the LG Act 1993, and there was no category to describe these miscellaneous lands, any land that appeared to be mowed and maintained, or any land containing detention basins or wet ponds, was categorised park.

- **Sportsground**

Community land categorised as sportsground comprises 379 ha and 9% of the total community land in the City or 1.9 ha /1,000 population. Land categorised sportsgrounds includes existing sports fields/ovals, netball and tennis courts, and land proposed for future sportsgrounds. Small areas comprising a playground, skate park, or BMX track located within a sportsground were categorised according to the dominant use of sportsground.

- **General Community Use**

Community land categorised as general community use comprises 172 ha and 4% of the total community land in the City or 0.9 ha/1,000 population. Land categorised general community use includes land leased or licensed or land proposed to be leased or licensed and usually contains community buildings. Council has reclassified some leased community land (mainly lands containing community buildings) to operational land and some of this reclassified land has now been sold. The above information reflects the existing community land that is leased/licensed, not the operational land that is leased/licensed.

- **Recreation Land**

Recreation land is land categorised as park or sportsground. Of the community land in the City, 868 ha or 21% of the land is categorised park or sportsground or 4.3 ha/1,000 population. This land includes existing parks or sportsgrounds, land proposed as park or sportsground, and other miscellaneous lands (categorised park as there was no other suitable category). Therefore, only a portion of this recreation land is considered usable recreation land.

18. Toronto CC

18.1 Existing Provision of Community Land

The Toronto CC has approximately 523 ha of community land or 17.2 ha/1,000 population. The total area of the catchment is 116.2 km² and the community land represents 4.5% of the total area within the catchment. The land is categorised according to the categories specified in the LG Act 1993 as detailed in the following table. Refer to **Figure 10**, for a plan indicating of the community land and the categories of the land within this catchment.

Table 47. Toronto CC – Community Land – Existing

COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORIES	AREA HA	% OF TOTAL COMMUNITY LAND	HA/1,000 POPULATION ^A
Natural Area	324	62	10.4
Park	116.2	22	3.7
Sportsground	52.4	10	1.7
General Community Use	30.6	6	1.0
TOTAL	523.4	100	17.2

Note: ^A Based on an existing population of 31,177

- **Natural Area**

Community land categorised natural area includes approximately 324 ha comprising 62% of the total community land in the catchment or 10.4 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded green in **Figure 10**. In addition, the catchment also contains some state conservation areas (SCA) managed by NPWS. The Lake Macquarie SCA includes areas at Bolton Point, Wangi (on the Wangi peninsula) and at Wangi (beside Myuna Bay). The Sugarloaf SCA is located in the north western of the Toronto catchment and located in the Glendale catchment. LMCC has no management responsibilities of these areas, and they are not included in the above table.

- **Park**

Community Land categorised park includes approximately 116.2 ha comprising 22% of the total community land in the catchment or 3.7 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded pink in **Figure 10**. This is more than the citywide level of provision, which is 2.4 ha/1,000 population. The Toronto catchment does have one significant park, Rathmines Park, 1 Overhill Rd, Rathmines comprising 22.6 ha, which is a considerable proportion of the total land categorised park. Rathmines Park is also categorised area of cultural significance. Additionally, the catchment contains numerous miscellaneous lands (as previously discussed) which are not used or developed as park.

- **Sportsground**

Land categorised sportsground includes approximately 52.4 ha comprising 10% of the total community land in the catchment or 1.7 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded yellow in **Figure 10**.

Some of the lands categorised sportsground are not used/developed as sportsgrounds and these areas are detailed in the following table.

Table 48. Toronto CC – Community Land – Land Categorised but not Sportsground

LAND CATEGORISED SPORTSGROUND NOT USED/DEVELOPED AS SPORTSGROUND ¹⁴⁶	AREA HA
32 Hayden Brook Rd, Booragul	1.7
68 Excelsior Pde, Carey Bay (old pony club ground)	2.6
TOTAL	4.3

The land categorised sportsground and not used/developed as sportsgrounds is approximately 4.3 ha. In addition, part of Keith Barry Oval was classified incorrectly and is used as a sportsground i.e. 2.4 ha. Therefore, the land categorised and developed/used as sportsground is (52.4 ha minus 4.3 ha plus 2.4 ha) = **50.5 ha** or **1.6 ha/1,000 population**.

¹⁴⁶ Land proposed for future sportsgrounds and other miscellaneous lands categorised sportsground

- **General Community Use**

Community land categorised general community use includes approximately 30.6 ha comprising 6% of the total land in the catchment or 1 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded orange in **Figure 10**. There are several large areas of land categorised general community use but are not used/developed as general community use and these areas are detailed in the following table.

Table 49. Toronto CC – Community Land – Land Categorised but not General Community Use

LAND CATEGORISED GENERAL COMMUNITY USE NOT USED/DEVELOPED AS GCU	AREA HA
Bolton Quarry, 260 Main Rd, Fennell Bay	13.5
356 Awaba Rd, Toronto (old Little Leagues Field)	2.0
1 Overhill Rd, Rathmines (natural area adjoining Rathmines Park)	8.2
TOTAL	23.7

The land categorised general community use and not used/developed as general community use is approximately 23.7 ha. Therefore, the land categorised and developed/used as general community use is (30.6 ha minus 23.7 ha) = **6.9 ha** or **0.2 ha/1,000** population, very different to the 30.6 ha outlined in Table 47.

- **Actual Recreation Land**

Of the 523 ha of community land in the Toronto CC, only a proportion of this land is actual recreation land. The actual recreation land is the land categorised park or sportsground as detailed in Part C the Recreation section of this plan under ‘existing provision’.

Within the Toronto CC the actual recreation land is 102 ha or 3.3 ha/1,000 population, as detailed in the following table.

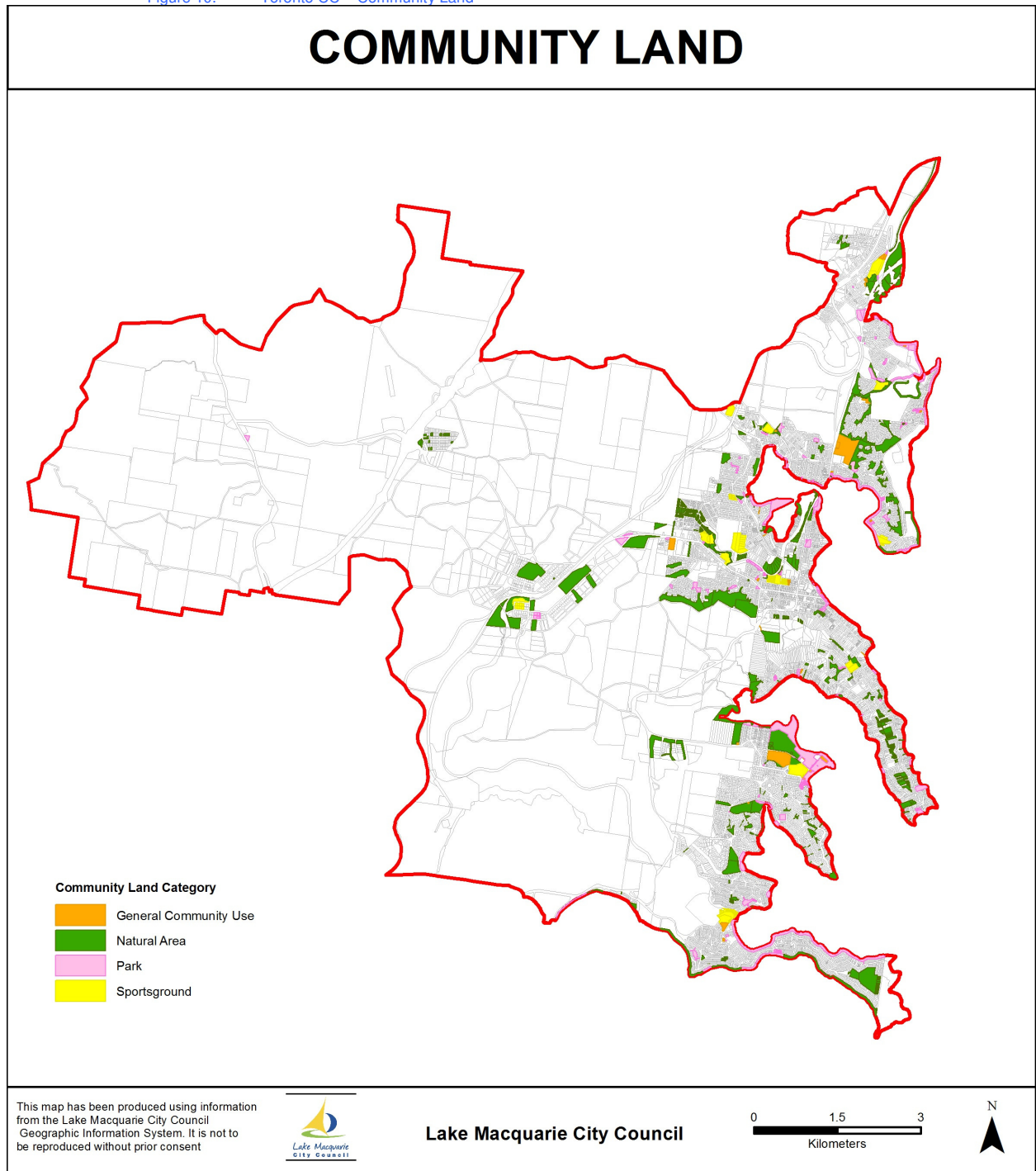
Table 50. Toronto CC – Actual Recreation Land

CURRENT RECREATION LAND USE ^A	AREA HA	HA/1,000 POPULATION ^B	% OF URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA ^C
Sportsground ^D	51	1.6	
Toronto Workers Club – 4 tennis courts ^E	0.5		
TOTAL SPORT LAND	51.5	1.7	2.9%
Parks ^F	48.3		
Dog Exercise – Hampton St Reserve	2.6		
TOTAL PARK LAND	50.9	1.6	2.8%
TOTAL RECREATION LAND	102.9	3.3	5.7%

Note: ^A Current recreation land, use is detailed in Part C of this plan, this recreation use can change depending on current needs
^B Based on an existing population of 31,177
^C Urban residential area in the Toronto CC includes land zoned RU4, R2, R3, and E4 = 1,802 ha
^D Total area of sportsgrounds in Table 3, includes land leased from Hunter Water, Finnan & Water Board Ovals (7.3 ha)
^E Area of tennis courts at Toronto Workers Club included as are available for public use, Council likely to provide similar facility if it closes
^F Total area of parks in Table 19, includes skate, multi-courts, does not include dog exercise area at Hampton St Reserve

The Toronto Catchment has a similar proportion of land used for sport (often described as organised or active recreation), to the amount of land used for park, (often described as unorganised or passive recreation). The provision of Rathmines Park, a 22.6 ha park, means that there is a more even balance of recreation land (land for sport and land for parks) in this catchment.

Figure 10. Toronto CC – Community Land



The above plan identifies the location of existing community land categories in the Toronto CC. The scale of the above plan makes it difficult to distinguish the categorisation of some of the smaller land parcels. Refer to *the Plan of Management for Community Land 2011* for larger scale plans.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷ LMCC (2011) *Plan of Management for Community Land 2011*.

18.2 Issues

The issues identified for community land include:

- The majority of existing community land is categorised as natural area (324 ha or 62% of the CL) and has limited recreation opportunity
- Toronto currently has a high proportion of apartment living and is identified for projected growth and the site of the Toronto Foreshore Park is constrained, linkages do not connect to places, and the park is in need of revitalisation

18.3 Identified

The following survey, guidelines, and plans demonstrate the identified need.

• NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan

The purpose of the plan is to guide the sport and recreation industry in addressing priority issues over the next five years. The relevant objectives are:

- To increase the availability of useable open space to ensure facilities are of a quality standard to meet community expectations
- Success measure: Two per cent increase in access of useable open space¹⁴⁸

• Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy undertaken by URS revealed that the LM LGA has one of the highest allocations of open space. However, a substantial proportion is natural area covered by remnant vegetation with significant biodiversity conservation values. Consequently, the potential for development of new recreation facilities in these areas is more limited than the number of hectares per head of population implies.¹⁴⁹

• Open Space Plan

The Open Space Plan undertaken by Clouston identified that:

- Half of the City's reserves are less than 0.5 ha accounting for only 3.5% of the total area of open space in the City. Many of these small reserves are dedications from developments over the years and are providing limited recreational opportunity, often being of poor quality, little used and difficult to maintain.
- There are significant numbers of very small reserves in the City, some as small as 300 m².
- Reserves with a size less than 0.2 ha = 30% of the numbers of reserves but less than 1% of the total area of public open space in the City.¹⁵⁰

• Recreation Plan

The recreation plan identifies specific strategies including:

Undertake land / site acquisition and enhancements as deemed appropriate¹⁵¹

In new residential areas, land acquisition for recreational uses should occur where possible, prior to subdivision and development so that the areas acquired reflect an understanding of the community(ies) to be served and the uses to be supported.¹⁵²

18.4 Comparative

DoP have provided two guidelines for local government. The *Local Development Contributions Guidelines* lists the key community infrastructure type and provides an indicative population threshold for each recreation facility whereas the *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government* provides the area requirements for open space types.

There are a number of different standards for recreation and open space provision including:

¹⁴⁸ NSW Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and NSW Sport and Recreation (20?) *Game Plan 2012 NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan: Shaping our Future for a Sustainable Community*, p. 12.

¹⁴⁹ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, Executive Summary.

¹⁵⁰ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, p. 20; *Volume 2*, p. 5; Table 2.4.

¹⁵¹ LMCC (1998) *Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 22.

¹⁵² *Ibid.* p.14.

● **Area Standard – 2.83 ha /1,000 population**

A common standard for the provision of open space is 2.83 ha/1,000 population. This is derived from a British standard of the early 1900s, requiring 7 acres/1,000 population or 2.83 ha/1,000 population to provide adequate playing space for children¹⁵³. The standard **excluded** school playing fields, verges, commons, golf courses, indoor facilities, woodlands, gardens and parks, and large areas of water.¹⁵⁴ This standard came into general use in the Sydney Region during the 1960’s although it had not been accepted and implemented everywhere. The standard was developed from an earlier version where a total of 10 acres or 4 ha/1,000 population was made up of ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘local’ open spaces. The local component of 7 acres or 2.83 ha was endorsed by the NSW courts in the 1970’s as the amount of open space to be contributed by developers at the time of subdivision.¹⁵⁵ The Growth Centres Development Code uses this standard to guide the precinct planning in the North West and South West of Sydney providing some 181,000 new homes.¹⁵⁶

Based on the actual recreation land of 102.4 ha and an existing population of 31,177 the Toronto CC has 3.3 ha/1,000 population, which is more than the (British) standard of 2.83ha/1,000 population. However, the urban development within the catchment extends along the eastern boundary, which hugs lake foreshore. The catchment has a number of peninsulas, which make the provision of public infrastructure difficult. Refer to Figure 9.

● **Catchment/Access Based Standard**

A catchment/access based standard is the service area radius or maximum distance, which residents should have to travel to access recreation facilities.¹⁵⁷ The *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines* provides the area requirements for open space and the distance of these types from most dwellings:¹⁵⁸

- Local Parks – 0.5 ha – 2 ha, 400 m buffer
- District Parks – 2-5 ha, 2 km
- Local Linear and Linkage – up to 1 km
- District Linear and Linkage – 1-5 km
- Local Outdoor sport – 5 ha, 1 km buffer
- District Outdoor sport – 5-10 ha, 2 km buffer

Generally, this guideline is used when planning for new residential development areas.

● **Percentage of Residential Area**

The *Recreation and Open Space Guidelines* also identifies the recommended recreation area of land (excluding regional recreation areas) as a percentage of the residential area. The following table compares the percentage of community land with the urban residential area in the catchment to the actual levels of provision in the suburban outer areas of Sydney. However, for Sydney, the actual level of provision does not include regional recreation areas, whereas in LMCC they do include regional areas. The results indicate that the Toronto CC has a lower level of provision of both parks and sport to the suburban outer of the Sydney Metropolitan. According to this standard, the Toronto CC should have around 8.8% of recreation land whereas it has 5.8%.

Table 51. Toronto CC – Recreation Land – % of Urban Residential Area Standard

COMPARATIVE	PARKS, LINEAR & LINKAGE	OUTDOOR SPORT	TOTAL
	% OF URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA ^A		
Toronto CC ^B	2.8%	2.9%	5.7%
Guidelines ^C	4.2%	4.6%	8.8%
Sydney Metropolitan - Suburban Outer ^D			8%

Notes: ^A Urban residential area in the Toronto CC = 1,802 ha and includes land zoned RU4, R2, R3, E4
^B Refer to Table 50, Actual Recreation Land
^C NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 29
^D *Ibid.* The average level of provision of non-regional recreation areas in different parts of metropolitan Sydney, p. 27.

¹⁵³ Veal, A. J. (2008) *Open Space Planning Standards in Australia: in Search of Origins*, Playing space is defined as space for outdoor sport and children’s play, p. 14.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.* p. 11.

¹⁵⁶ NSW Growth Centre Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, Table A.4 p. A-11.

¹⁵⁷ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 28.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

18.5 Best Practice

The *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines* provides the area requirements for local open space and the distance of these local open space types from dwellings:

- Local Parks – 0.5 ha – 2 ha, 400 m buffer
- Local Outdoor sport – 5 ha, 1 km buffer
- Local Linear and Linkage – up to 1 km

The guideline also identifies the proportion of open space as a percentage of the urban residential area for different open space types.¹⁵⁹

- Parks/Linear and Linkage = 4.2%
- Outdoor Sport = 4.6%
- Total = 8.8%

In relation to community land, the guidelines advise:

- Larger sites can support multiple uses – a better use of space...Reserving areas for expansion will provide flexibility as new needs emerge
- Open space of different types needs to be provided to accommodate different needs¹⁶⁰

18.6 Analysis

The Toronto CC is a very large catchment with areas of projected growth around the commercial centre on Toronto. The catchment has a good distribution of sporting facilities and parks, however the Toronto foreshore park is currently constrained and is not of a size that delivers the facilities and the lifestyle opportunities required. Toronto already has a high proportion of apartment dwellings, and development is expected to increase around the town centre and the lake foreshore. Toronto with its northern lake aspect and close proximity of a major train station, makes it is a very desirable location.

The plan recommends predominantly building and expanding on existing facilities, thereby, reducing the quantum of open space/recreation land needed to provide the additional recreation facilities required for the projected growth.

18.7 Recommendations

This plan has identified the recreation facilities according to a needs based approach considering the projected population growth to 2025. The plan considers the existing facility provision (both public and private), the future trends and future needs, and attempts to provide a wide spectrum of recreation opportunities close to the projected growth. This plan recommends the provision of quality recreation land to fulfil specific recreation needs in the required locations as opposed to a quantitative approach to open space provision. The additional recreation land to be acquired to provide the identified recreation facilities is listed in **Appendix 9** and **10**.

¹⁵⁹ DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 18.

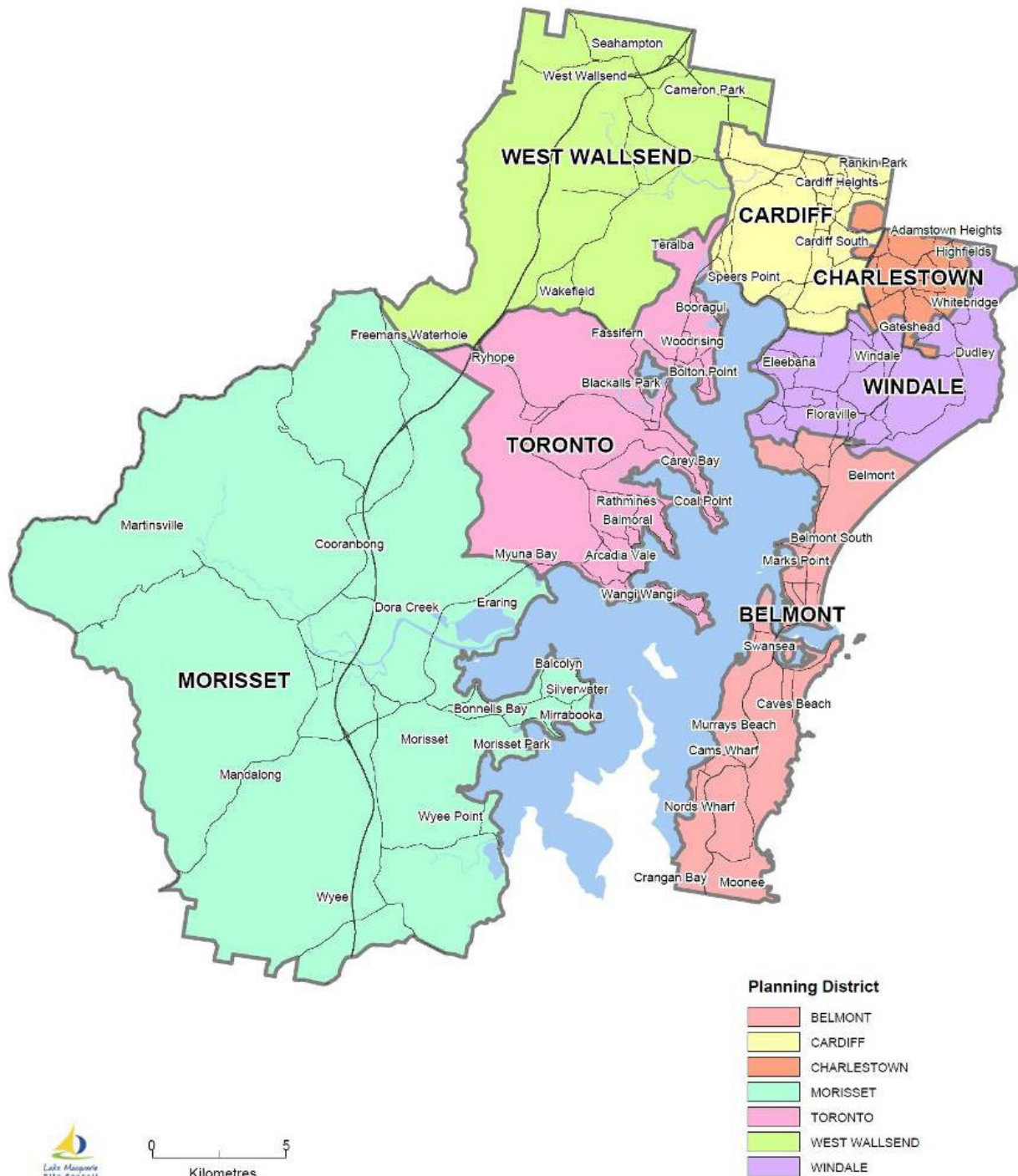
¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 36 and 27.

PART E – APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Planning Districts

Lake Macquarie LGA has been divided into seven Planning Districts (PD) to assist in census and planning analysis. The study area of this plan is the Toronto Planning District.

Figure 11. LM LGA - Planning Districts



Produced by Integrated Planning
Project: 2009/1293 14/04/2009

APPENDIX 2 – Sports Field Calculation

Council has used the following methodology to calculate the number of generic sports fields in the City. A generic field could be a soccer or rugby league field or it could be a larger area, such as a cricket or AFL oval, or athletics track/field. If the cricket oval has two fields occupying the same space, the number of fields is calculated according to its highest number of fields i.e. two generic fields. If a cricket oval has an AFL oval or an athletics track overlayed, then it is one generic field. A junior field can include a cricket oval, junior soccer field or a mini-rugby league field, which is 0.5 of a field.

One Field –

Sole use, usually one season use, for example:



Wyee Oval, Wyee
1 sole use cricket oval
= 1 field



Michael Bird Field, Windale
1 sole use league field
= 1 field



Park Ave Res, Caves Beach
1 sole use equestrian
= 1 field



Neegulbah Pk, Macquarie Hills
1 sole use athletics track
= 1 field

One Field –

Dual use, one field/oval for summer, and one field/oval for winter use, for example:



Charlestown Oval

1 cricket oval (summer) &
1 soccer field (winter)
= 1 field



Hillsborough Oval

1 cricket oval (summer) &
1 AFL oval (winter)
= 1 field

One Field –

Multiple uses, one field used for athletics, cricket and football, for example:

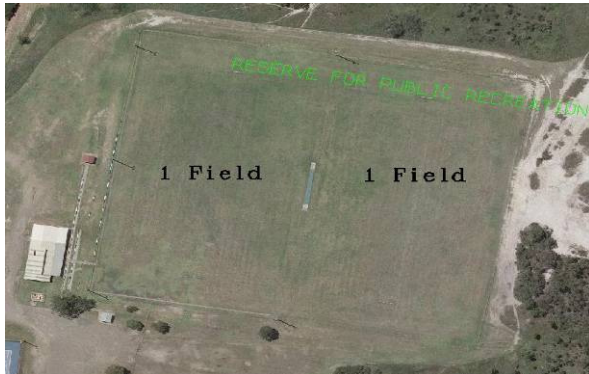


Neville Thompson Oval, Dora Creek

1 cricket oval (summer) &
1 athletics track (summer) &
1 league field (winter)
= 1 field

Two Fields –

One field/oval for summer use and two fields for winter use, for example:



1 cricket oval (summer) &
2 League Fields (winter)
= 2 fields

Hunter Barnett Fields, Windale

0.5 Field –

Junior fields can include a junior cricket oval, mini-rugby league field or a junior soccer field:



1 junior cricket oval
= 0.5 field

Riawena Park, Whitebridge



1 mini rugby league field
= 0.5 field

Keith Barry, Toronto

A Sports Ground is an area that may contain a number of fields /ovals and courts, for example:



2 soccer fields (& cricket oval) &
2 rugby league fields (& cricket oval);
1 junior soccer & 1 mini rugby league = 5
fields,
Also 4 tennis courts and 5 netball courts.

Croudace Bay Sportsground

This method is used to calculate the number of generic sports fields in the recreation and land plans. If the number of fields/ovals were calculated according to uses or sports played, then the total number of sports fields would be considerably more than indicated in the plans. This is an alternative approach to the indicative population threshold for each sport as outlined in the *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*.

APPENDIX 3 – Indicative Standard for Sports Fields

DoP has developed a guideline to identify indicative population thresholds for key infrastructure¹⁶¹ in relation to community facilities. DoP uses population thresholds for individual sports fields as detailed below. LMCC has used a generic sports field approach. To determine an indicative population threshold for a generic sports field a sample population of 50,000 persons was used. The guideline does not identify the population threshold for a generic field (as used in this plan) that is why the following analysis has been undertaken.

Table 52. Toronto CC – Sports Fields – Standards

SPORTS FIELDS/OVALS	INDICATIVE POPULATION THRESHOLD ¹⁶² 1 facility per	FOR A POPULATION OF 50,000 No. of fields/ovals
AFL (winter)	50,000	1
Athletics Track (summer)	25,000	2
Baseball/Softball (winter/summer)	25,300	2
Cricket (summer)	2,500	20
Hockey (all year)	5,000	10
Rugby League (winter)	3,000	16.7
Rugby Union (winter)	25,000	2
Soccer (winter)	5,000	10
TOTAL NO. OF FIELDS/OVALS		63.6

The guideline states that 'consideration should be given to co-location of facilities to maximise usage e.g. Cricket and AFL'.¹⁶³ Competition sports played in summer include athletics, basketball, cricket, softball, whereas competition sports played in winter include AFL, baseball, football (soccer), rugby league, and rugby union. Based on the standards identified in the DoP's guideline (table above) and if all sports fields have a summer and winter use, wherever possible, then the total fields required for a population of 50,000 is approximately 48 sports fields, as outlined in the following table:

Table 53. Toronto CC – Sports Fields – Standards – Possible Dual Use Arrangements

POSSIBLE USE ARRANGEMENT	TOTAL GENERIC FIELDS	AFL	ATHLETIC TRACKS	BASE/ SOFT-BALL	CRICKET	RUGBY LEAGUE	RUGBY UNION	SOCCER
Athletics & Cricket	2		2		2			
Cricket & Baseball	1			1	1			
Cricket & Softball	1			1	1			
Cricket & AFL	1	1			1			
Cricket & Soccer	10				5			10
Cricket & Rugby League	17				9	17		
Cricket & Rugby Union	2				1		2	
TOTALS	34	1	2	2	20	17	2	10

The provision for hockey has been deleted from the above table since LMCC does not provide hockey fields due to a synthetic hockey centre at Broadmeadow provided within the Newcastle City LGA. However, LMCC does provide for equestrian and archery that are not included in the above provision standard. In order to make an allowance for these fields the generic standard has been rounded down.

Table 54. Toronto CC – Generic Sports Field – Standard

INDICATIVE STANDARD	TOTAL FIELDS REQUIRED	FOR A POPULATION OF	FIELD/OVALS PER 1,000 POPULATION	APPROX. EQUAL TO
Fields/Ovals	34	50,000	1,460	1,400

If the indicative population thresholds (for each sport identified in the guideline, excluding hockey) is applied to a population of 50,000, a standard for a generic field is one (1) field per 1,400 persons. This is comparable to the citywide standard of one (1) field per 1,419 persons.

¹⁶¹ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 92-93

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ *Ibid.* p. 92.

APPENDIX 4 – Park and Playground Standards

Various planning documents provide guidelines for the provision of parks and playgrounds as detailed in the following table. The standards or measures used to assess the provision of parks or playgrounds are size, distance and population. The Draft LDCG state that ‘they (the standards) are not intended to be a finite definition of need’ and all facilities must be considered in the context of the population characteristics of the LGA with the population thresholds applied on a case-by-case basis.¹⁶⁴

Table 55. Toronto CC – Guidelines for Parks and Playgrounds

GUIDELINES	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	DISTANCE FROM DWELLINGS	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Draft LDCG ¹⁶⁵	Playground	None specified	400 m	1 per 500 dwellings (1,250)
R & O/S Guidelines ¹⁶⁶	Local park	0.5 – 2 ha	400 m	
	District park	2-5 ha	2 kms	
Growth Centres Development Code ¹⁶⁷	Local park	None specified	400 m	
	Neighbourhood park		2 kms	
Open Space Design Guidelines for Landcom Projects ¹⁶⁸	New parks	0.5 ha		
	Smaller parks	0.5 ha – 1 ha		

The common theme in the above standards is the 400 m distance from most dwellings to a local park or playground. The Toronto CC covers an area of 116.2 km², compared to the City of Sydney’s entire LGA, which covers an area of 26 km². A distance of 400 m would be an appropriate standard for the City of Sydney, but not for the urban and outlying areas of LM LGA.

The LDCG also recommends providing a playground for every 500 dwellings. Based on the assumption of 2.5 persons per dwelling¹⁶⁹ the population threshold would be one playground for every 1,250 persons. If one playground for every 1,250 persons was used, then 160 playgrounds would be required for the City. Whereas, the existing provision throughout the city is 120 playgrounds, or one playground for every 1,670 persons. This plan recommends an alternative approach of providing a hierarchy of playgrounds including several higher quality areas with multiple play opportunities.

● Comparative

A comparison of playground provision within some other LGA’s revealed that the City of Sydney conforms to the distance from dwellings criteria but not the population threshold. If there is a high population in a small area then the average distance from each dwelling may be less than the 400 m standard and the population threshold may be more than the above standard. For the City of Sydney, the average distance from dwellings to a playground is 319 metres (less than the standard of 400 m) but one playground is provided for every 2,098 persons (considerably more than the standard).

Wollongong, Tweed, and Coffs Harbour Council’s conform to the population threshold but not to the distance from dwellings criteria. Newcastle City Council’s standard of provision is similar to the recommended standard for LM LGA. The following table provides a summary of the playground comparative analysis.

¹⁶⁴ DoP (2009) *Local Development Contributions Guidelines*. p. 91.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 93.

¹⁶⁶ DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 29

¹⁶⁷ Growth Centres Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, B-79

¹⁶⁸ Landcom (ND) *Open Space Design Guidelines for Landcom Projects*, p. 5.

¹⁶⁹ Based on 2011 Census Quick Stats: Lake Macquarie(C) [LM LGA] the average number of people per household is 2.5

Table 56. Toronto CC – Comparison of Other LGA's

COUNCIL AREA	LGA POPULATION	AREA Km ²	NO OF PLAYGROUNDS	AVERAGE AREA Km ² /PLAYGROUND A	AVERAGE DISTANCE FROM DWELLINGS $r = \sqrt{A/\pi}$	PLAYGROUND PER POPULATION
Guidelines ¹⁷⁰					400 m	1,250
City of Sydney	176,255	26	84	0.310	0.319 m	2,098
Wollongong	201,215	714	153	4.667	1,219 m	1,315
Tweed	91,000	1,303	83	15.699	2,235 m	1,096
Coffs Harbour	72,115	1,174	56	20.964	2,583 m	1,288
Newcastle	154,896	187	92	2.033	804 m	1,684
LM LGA	200,849	758.0	120	6.317	1,418 m	1,674
RECOMMENDED STANDARD					400 - 800 m	1,500

The above figures are to be used as a general guide only as the entire area (catchment and LGA) was used in the calculation. There has been no consideration for employment land or bushland of which there is no requirement to provide a playground.

● **Identified**

The National Health Survey (NHS) results from the 2007/08 survey run by the Australian Bureau of Statistics released in 2009 revealed that approximately 600,000 Australian children (aged 5 to 17 years) or 25% of all children were overweight (17%) or obese (8%).¹⁷¹

The Heart Foundation recommends as a general guide:

- Adults include at least 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity (such as brisk walking) on most, if not all days of the week. This amount of activity can be accumulated in shorter bouts, such as three 10-minute walks per day.
- For children, it is 60 minutes.¹⁷²

The following table details the average time taken to walk certain distances as a slow, medium or fast walking pace.

Table 57. Walking Distance Calculator

Walking Speed	Time/Distance		
	10 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes
Slow	0.6km	1.2km	1.8km
Medium	0.9km	1.8km	2.7km
Fast	1.1km	2.2km	3.3km

Source: <http://www.travelsmart.qld.gov.au/Travel-alternatives/Walking.aspx>

According to Austroads Standards, the practical limit for most non-recreational walking trips is approximately 1.5 km, equating to a 15-minute walk. School children may walk up to 2 km to school and people walking for recreation and exercise may walk up to 4km.¹⁷³

● **Analysis**

Based on a slow walking speed it would take 13 minutes to walk 800 metres or less if walked at a medium walking speed. By providing a local playground 800 metres from most dwellings, would take about 26 minutes for the return journey if walked at a slow walking speed. This alone does not provide the recommended 60 minutes daily exercise for a child.

Shared pathways within an open space network connected to playgrounds (and other key destinations) provide good access and encourage walking. Thus, the walk or cycle to the playground significantly adds to the recreational experience of the playground.

By providing fewer but better playgrounds, the walk to the playground contributes to the individual's daily exercise requirement, and if the playground is of a higher quality, the distance travelled to the playground makes the journey worth the additional effort.

¹⁷⁰ DoP (2009) *Local Development Contributions Guidelines*. p. 91.

¹⁷¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) *National Health Survey, 2007/08* (ABS Cat. No. 4364.0)

¹⁷² <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/healthy-eating/mums-united/getting-active/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁷³ Austroads Standards(1999) *Guide to Traffic Engineering Practices, Part 13: Pedestrians*.

- **Recommendation**

The following provision standards are considered reasonable for the life of this plan. However, these standards are a guide and will need to be reviewed as population densities increase.

In suburbs or areas where population densities are moderate or low, a catchment (or distance from most dwellings) of 800 m is considered reasonable, however, in areas where population densities are higher and there is a significant proportion of apartment dwellings, a catchment of 400 m from most dwellings is more appropriate, e.g. around town or city centres.

In addition, where communities have high levels of social disadvantage or where communities are physically isolated, i.e. Awaba, a higher provision standard is appropriate. In these instances, the LDCG standard may be more appropriate.

The aim is for each catchment to have one major playground, several neighbourhood playgrounds, at least one fenced playground, possibly a learner cyclist circuit, and at least one outdoor gym. All playgrounds are to have good connections, preferably be located near shared pathways providing easy walking and cycling access.

For parks, the standard is slightly higher, as not every park has a playground. The focus is also on the provision of more neighbourhood or major parks and fewer local parks and this as provides the greatest diversity of recreation opportunity.

APPENDIX 5 – Park Hierarchy

Table 58. City – Park Hierarchy

FUNCTION	LOCAL	NEIGHBOURHOOD	MAJOR	CATCHMENT
	Taylor Memorial Park	Wilkinson Park, Cardiff	Warners Bay Foreshore	Speers Point Park
USABLE PARK AREA	0.5 ha to 1 ha	1 to 5 ha	5 to 10 ha	10 + ha
DISTANCE FROM RESIDENTS STANDARD	400 to 800 m	Usually 2 km	Usually 5 km	Usually 10 km
AREA SERVED	One per suburb	Two or three suburbs	Several per catchment	Catchment (10-15 suburbs)
USAGE	Minimal	Moderate	High	Very High
GROUP USE	Individuals, carer with children	Small – medium sized groups	Large groups, functions	City festivals, civic events, circus
USES/ACTIVITIES	Park with some facilities often a playground	Playground, picnic/BBQ, multi-court, skate, BMX, fete/markets	Playground, picnic/BBQ, skate, BMX, informal cricket/soccer, kite flying, fete/markets, weddings	Playground, picnic/BBQ, skate, BMX, informal cricket/soccer, kite flying, fete/markets/circus/wedding
TRAVEL TO PARK	Mostly walk	Walk or cycle	Walk, cycle or drive	Walk, cycle or drive
DURATION	Short (10-15 mins)	Up to 30 mins	Up to 1 hour	Up to several hours
ACCESS	Maybe accessible	Some parts accessible	Mostly all accessible	Extremely good accessibility
PARK FACILITIES	Very limited	Some	Moderate	Large number
QUALITY	Basic	Moderate	Good quality	High Quality
Public toilet	No	Yes	Several	Large number to cater for large events
Seating	One park bench	Several park bench seats	Numerous park bench seats	Park bench seats throughout the park
BBQ	No	One	Several	Numerous, some covered
Rubbish bin	No	One	Several	Numerous
Picnic table	No	One	Several	Numerous
Covered picnic table	No	One covered picnic table	Several and a covered group area	Numerous and covered group areas
Shade structure	No	Not usually	Yes	Yes
Pathways	Pathway to play equipment	Shared pathway to play equipment & beyond	Shared pathway to play and through park, may incl. separated pathways	Numerous shared and separated pathways linking activity nodes
Parking	On street	On street	Off street, perimeter parking	Off street, parking bays
Signage	Park sign	Park sign	Park & directional sign	Park, directional & interpretive sign
Other features	Not generally	Minimal	Yes	Sculptural art, fountains/water features
Landscaping	one or two large trees	Several large trees	Numerous significant trees with minor landscaped areas	Many significant trees in expansive grassed park area with landscaping
PLAYGROUND	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age range	2 to 8 years	2 to 12 years	2 to 15 years	2 years to adult
Equipment	Slide, rocker, climbing equip	Large range of equipment	Several different areas of age related equipment, themed playground	Large scale, purpose built, many different play areas or special features i.e. themed, water play, nature play, adventure play
Bubbler / tap	One bubbler	At least one bubbler	Several bubblers	Numerous bubblers
Seating	One bench seat at playground	Two bench seats at playground	Numerous bench seats at playground	Bench seats throughout the playground
Fencing	Not unless required	Not unless required	Probably	Yes
OTHER FAC. bicycle circuit, outdoor gym, skate park, BMX track	No	Possibly	Generally more than one	Several

APPENDIX 6 – Recreation Land Requirements

The DoP in their guidelines recommend that Councils take care to ensure that the land they are receiving for open space purposes is appropriate for the end use¹⁷⁴.

Parks are:

Reserves which have had their physical character and/or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and wellbeing uses. They include ornamental gardens, play facilities, community gardens and informal lawns¹⁷⁵

A sports ground is an area comprising sports fields, ovals or courts used for organised, competition or sports training.

Considering the purpose of a park and a sports ground, and how they are to be used, the land dedicated is required to be 'fit for purpose' and not comprise the following:

- any endangered vegetation communities, endangered flora, nest/roost trees, senescent trees or any tree species known to drop limbs,
- any flood prone land,
- have drainage conflicts,
- any contaminated land or water, and
- transmission line easements

The land must:

- be located on flat land
- be predominantly square in configuration,
- have extensive street frontage on at least two of its site boundaries
- have good visibility into the area and good surveillance i.e. residential dwellings overlooking the land
- be centrally located to the catchment population served,
- have good access, located on a shared pathway, or cycleway network,
- have good solar access (winter sun),
- have good shade (in summer),
- for **parks** - slopes generally <1:15, some areas of steeper slope <1:4 may be permitted for a park,
- for a local park minimum size of 5,000 m² of usable space
- for **sports grounds** the land is to provide a minimum of two senior full sized fields and a cricket oval, oriented north/south with the required safety zone, dead ball areas and buffers and to provide for additional supporting infrastructure. Field grades between 1:70 and 1:100 depending upon the nature of the growing media and subsurface drainage system.
- the entire parcel of land is to be categorised as 'sportsground' or 'park' according to the L G Act (1993), and

Refer to Council's specification templates for specific design requirements.

¹⁷⁴ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 74.

¹⁷⁵ DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 16.

APPENDIX 7 – LMCC Rates of Provision – Standards

The following table details the locally appropriate standards for recreation facilities for the Toronto CC. It also identifies the recommended number of facilities required based on the projected population.

Table 59. Toronto CC – Standard of Provision

RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	RECOMMENDED STANDARD	NO. OF RECREATION FACILITIES FOR A POPULATION 5,412
Sports Fields	1,500	4
Sports Courts	1,100	5
Multi-Courts	15,000	0.4
Parks	1,400	4
Playgrounds	1,500	4
Community Garden	5,000	1
Dog Exercise Area	7,000	0.7
Skate Park	20,000	0.3
BMX Tracks	20,000	0.3
Shared Pathways	0.42	2,354 m
Tracks and Trails	0.6	3,211 m
Mountain Bike Areas	1/ward	1

APPENDIX 8 – Recommended Standards

The following indicative standards are the locally specific provision standards for applicable for LMCC. They are based on the citywide existing provision in the LM LGA and take into consideration changing use patterns, expressed community needs and anticipated future needs.

Table 60. Toronto CC – Recreation Standards

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD	FACILITIES
SPORTS FIELD			1:1,500	
Small Sports Ground	up to 5 ha	1 km		1 to 2 fields/ovals
Medium Sports Ground	5 to 10 ha	2 km		3 to 5 fields/ovals
Major Sports Ground	over 10 ha	3 to 5 km		5 + fields/ovals
TENNIS			1:2,200	
Small Tennis Centre	0.5	1 km		1 - 3 courts
Medium Tennis Centre	1.2 ha	2 km		4 - 7 courts
Major Tennis Centre	1.5 + Ha	5 + km		8 courts +
NETBALL			1:2,000	
Netball Training Centre	1.5 ha	2 km		1 - 6 courts
Netball Competition Centre	4 ha	10 + km		12 + courts
MULTI-COURT			1:15,000	
PARK				
Local Park	0.5 to 1 ha	400 m - 800 m	1,400	
Neighbourhood Park	1 to 5 ha	1 km	5,000	
Major Park	5 to 10 ha	5 km	Up to 50,000	
Catchment Park	10 + ha	10 km	50,000 +	
PLAYGROUND				
Local Playground	2 to 8 yrs	400 m - 800 m	1,500	
Neighbourhood Playground	2 to 12 yrs	2 km	5,000	
Major Playground	2 to 15 yrs	5 km	Up to 50,000	
Catchment Playground	2 to adult	10 km	50,000 +	
COMMUNITY GARDEN				
Local	up to 0.2 ha	1 km	1:5,000	
Neighbourhood	0.2 - 0.5 ha	4 km	1:50,000	
City Farm	over 10 ha	city wide	1:200,000	
DOG EXERCISE AREA			1:7,000	
SKATE PARK			1:20,000	
Small Skate Park	500 m ²	2 to 5 km		
Large Skate Park	2,500 m ²	5 to 10 km		
BMX TRACK				
Small BMX Track	2,000 m ²	2 to 5 km	1:20,000	
Large BMX Track	5,000 m ²	5 to 10 km		
SHARED PATH			1:0.37 LIN METRES	
TRACKS AND TRAILS			1:0.60 LIN METRES	
MOUNTAIN BIKE AREA			1:CATCHMENT	
SURF LIFE SAVING FAC.			1:60,000	
BOAT RAMP			1:20,000	
JETTY			1:20,000	
SWIM POOL			1:12,000	
INDOOR SPORT & RECREATION CENTRE			1:60,000	

APPENDIX 9 – Recreation Land – This Plan

Additional land is required to expand the Toronto Foreshore to cater for the additional growth. A number of potential sites have been identified as listed in the table below:

Table 61. Toronto CC – Open Space Land Acquisition

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	Approx. m ²	TOTAL AREA	PRIORITY
PARKS					
Toronto Foreshore – Potential sites for land acquisition include:					
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore Reserve	151, 153, 155, 155A Brighton Avenue, Toronto	4,950		Very High
TORONTO	Toronto Foreshore Reserve	1A, 1B Victory Row, 4 Bath Street, Toronto	2,980		Very High
TORONTO	Goffet Park	98 Brighton Avenue, Toronto	940		High
LINEAR & LINKAGE					
FASSIFERN	Land adjoining Croft Oval	Part Macquarie Rd, Fassifern – Part Lot 631 DP 1027743	2,200		Low
WANGI WANGI	Land adjoining Wangi Sporting Complex	Part of 80 Donnelly Road, Arcadia Vale – Part Lot 101 DP 880089 (7,900 m ² + 2,000 m ²)	9,900		Low
SPORTS GROUNDS					
TORONTO	Ron Hill Oval	8 Woodale Street, Toronto – Lot 318 DP 246215	600		Medium
Keith Barry Fields					
TORONTO	Keith Barry Fields	299 Awaba Road, Toronto – Lot 230 DP 36739	721		Medium
TORONTO	Keith Barry Fields	301 Awaba Road, Toronto – Lot 229 DP 36739	626		Medium
TORONTO	Keith Barry Fields	303 Awaba Road, Toronto – Lot 228 DP 36739	702		Medium
TORONTO	Keith Barry Fields	16 Sunderland Road, Toronto – Lot 12 DP 36739	702		Medium
TORONTO	Keith Barry Fields	Part of 14 Sunderland Road, Toronto – Part Lot 14 DP 528017	880		Medium
TOTAL (m²)				21,181	
TOTAL RECREATION LAND (Ha)				2.12	

Based on the acquisition of the largest of the three sites identified in Toronto, the land required to provide the recreation facilities in this plan is **2.12 ha**, which is considerably less than any other open space standards. If the smallest site in Toronto was acquired, the recreation land would be **1.72 ha**.

As a simple comparison, based on the project growth of 5,412 population and using the widely accepted (British) standard of 2.83 ha/1,000 population **15.3 ha** of usable recreation land is required to be provided according to the open space standards.

APPENDIX 10 – Recreation Land Acquisitions

The Draft LDCG identifies matters for consideration the guidelines recommends that if in a Greenfields situation land acquisition may also need to be included however it is preferable that this land be gained through dedication. If in a Brownfield’s situation and land acquisition is required, council should identify the land to be acquired.¹⁷⁶ The following land is required to be acquired, dedicated or easements created to provide the facilities recommended in this plan.

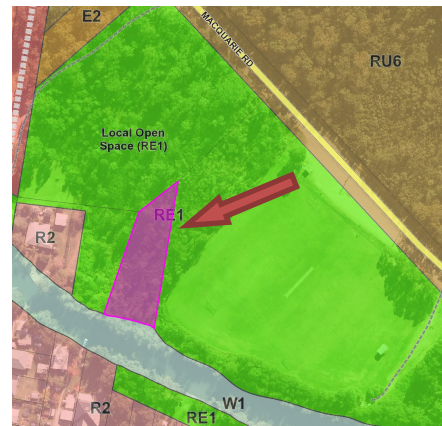
1. Fassifern – Linkage

The land required for acquisition includes:

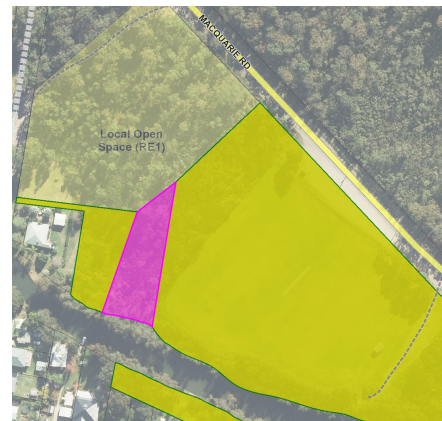
Part 94 Macquarie Rd, Fassifern – Part Lot 631 DP 1027743, approx. 2,200 m²

The identified land is zoned RE1 and is part of a larger parcel of land that is marked for acquisition for local open space in the LMLEP 2014. The land is located between two parcels of community land and it adjoins Croft Oval and L T Creek. Only part of the land marked for acquisition is required as identified by the pink shaded area on the plans opposite.

The land is required as it forms a linkage between two parcels of community land; it adjoins an existing developed recreation area; and L T Creek. The land is required as having good attributes for future development as a local park.



Land zoned RE1 is shaded green. Land marked for acquisition is indicated by the black boundary. Land identified for acquisition is shaded pink.



Community land is the area shaded mustard. Proposed linkage – identified by pink shaded area

2. Toronto – Sports – Keith Barry

The land required for acquisition includes:

Part 14 Sunderland Rd, Toronto – Part Lot 14 DP 528017 – owner Hunter Water, allows a 4 m wide access to be retained for Hunter Water, approx. 880 m²

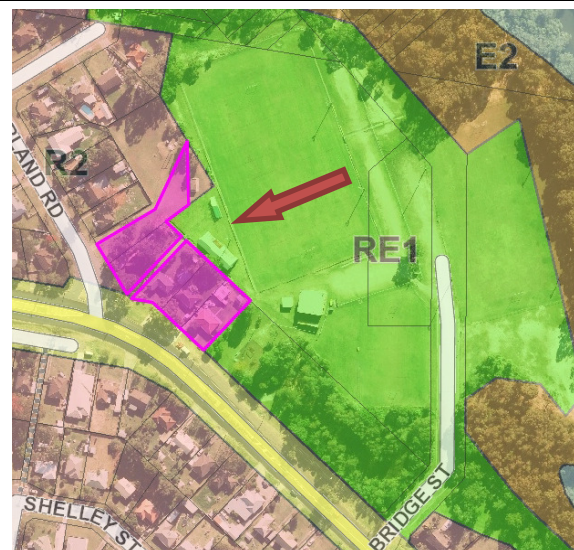
16 Sunderland Rd, Toronto – Lot 12 DP 36739 – NSW Land & Housing Corporation, approx. 702 m²

303 Awaba Rd, Toronto – Lot 228 DP 36739 – approx. 700 m² private owner, approx. 702 m²

301 Awaba Rd, Toronto – Lot 229 DP 36739 – NSW Land & Housing Corporation, 626 m²

299 Awaba Rd, Toronto – Lot 230 DP 36739 – NSW Land & Housing Corporation, approx. 721 m²

The land is required as adjoins existing community land currently developed as sports fields. The reconfiguration of the site will gain an additional field enabling summer and winter use and provide additional access and car parking. The additional land will increase the street frontage increasing visibility and passive surveillance into the recreation area.



Land identified for acquisition is the pink shaded area

¹⁷⁶ NSW Department of Planning (2009) *Draft Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 93.

3. Toronto – Sports – Ron Hill

The land required for acquisition is:

8 Wooddale St, Toronto – Lot 318 DP 246215, approx. 600 m²

The identified land is part of a larger area of land zoned RE1 and marked for acquisition for local open space in the LMLEP2014. Only one parcel marked for acquisition is required.

The land adjoins existing community land currently used as a sports field and is required to provide for additional car parking and/or spectator facilities and amenity.



Land identified for acquisition is the pink shaded area

4. Toronto – Park expansion

Potential land identified for acquisition is identified and includes Southern end option:

151, 153, 155, 155A Brighton Ave, Toronto, 1,239m²

153 Brighton Ave, Toronto – Lot A DP 412432, 424 m²

155 Brighton Ave, Toronto – Lot B DP 412432, 860 m²

155A Brighton Ave, Toronto – Lot 28 & 29 Sec 15 DP 2505, 2,327 m²

Or

Northern end option:

1A and 1B Victory Row Toronto and 4 Bath Street Toronto – 2,980m².

Expansion to the foreshore park may be to either the north or the south. It is understood the Brighton Avenue site may be developed and unavailable for park and recreation. Both options have been detailed in this study to afford an option, that should the development at Brighton Avenue not proceed, for this site to be used to expand the foreshore park.

The potential sites to cater for the additional growth in Toronto are identified by the pink shaded areas on the following plan. The Toronto Foreshore is centrally located within the catchment; it adjoins the town centre with higher residential density in the surrounding area. The park provides good walking opportunities along lake foreshore, and links to the Toronto Greenway and the Fassifern train station.

The additional land together with, the removal of the boat launching ramp, the possible future part closure of Wharf Road, and the relocation of two car parking areas off the foreshore, will enable a significant expansion of the park. This will enable the existing playground to be upgraded to incorporate elements of a boating theme and shade sails. Also planned is a park entry - connecting the town centre with the park; a promenade extending to Bath Street - with outdoor exercise equipment; a public domain area with seating, picnic, BBQ facilities and possible outdoor ping-pong table; a shared pathway along Victory Parade; a large open area for public events/markets, outdoor cinema; and parking.



Potential land identified for acquisition is the land with pink boundary line

5. Wangi Wangi – Linkage

The land identified for acquisition includes:

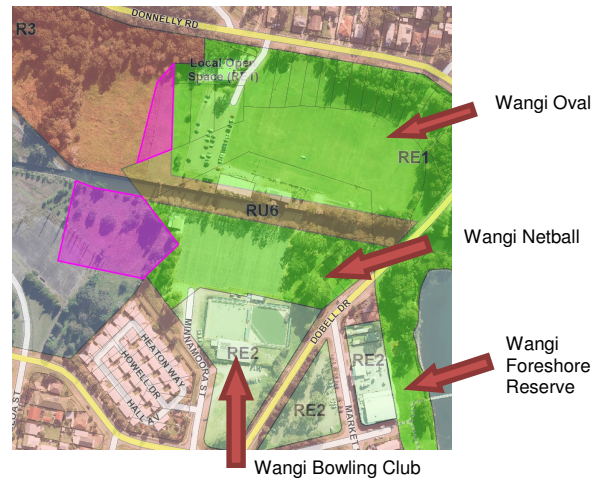
Part 80 Donnelly Rd, Acadia Vale – Part Lot 101 DP 880089, land zoned R3 – approx. 2,000 m², and the

land zoned B4 – approx. 7,900 m² = total 9,900 m².

The land is identified for the possible future expansion of the existing sporting facilities and a linkage along the canal.

The land is part of the (disused) Wangi Power Station site and it adjoins existing LMCC CL (zoned RE1 and RE2) currently used for sporting facilities and includes Wangi Oval, Wangi Netball and Wangi Bowling Club. This sporting area joins the Wangi foreshore reserve containing an existing shared pathway. A planned extension of this shared pathway (along the canal) will provide a direct link to the town centre.

The land occupied by the Wangi Bowling Club is CL leased to the bowling club. Netball currently use this land for car parking. If in the future the bowling club folds, then this CL is required to be retained for expansion of the recreation area.



Green shaded land is LMCC CL zoned RE1 or RE2

APPENDIX 11 – Planned Recreation Facilities

The recreation facilities proposed and included in the Toronto Developer Contributions Plan are:

SUBURB	RECREATION FACILITY	PRIORITY
BLACKALLS PARK	BLACKALLS PARK	
	Play - local - upgrade	Low
	Shared path (485 lm)	Low
	WATERBOARD FIELDS	
	Sports Field - upgrade - extend fields south, amenities building	Medium
BOLTON POINT	BOLTON POINT FORESHORE RESERVE	
	Shared pathway - new - Middle Point Rd to Fennell Bay Bridge (2,020 lm)	Medium
CAREY BAY	HAMPTON ST RESERVE	
	Dog Exercise Area - upgrade to dog park	High
	Multi-court - new	High
	Community Garden - new	Medium
	BMX Track - new (or alternative site if not suitable)	Medium
COAL POINT	COAL POINT RIDGE RESERVE	
	Tracks & trails - upgrade (1,260 lm)	Low
FASSIFERN	CROFT OVAL (LAND ADJOINING)	
	Linkage (L T Creek)	Low
FISHING POINT	2 ALKRINGTON AVENUE	
	Park - local - new	Medium
	Playground - local - new	Medium
	Community Garden - new	Medium
MARMONG POINT	MARMONG POINT FORESHORE RESERVE	
	Shared pathway - extend past Art Gallery to Marmong St (850 lm)	High
RATHMINES	RATHMINES PARK	
	Playground - upgrade Neighbourhood - Aeroplane theme	Medium
	Outdoor gym equipment - new	High
	Skate park - new or upgrade	Medium
	BMX track - new	Medium
	Tennis - upgrade	Medium
	Community garden - new	High
	CITY FARM - GRIFFEN ROAD (PROPOSED)	
	New City Farm	Low

SUBURB	RECREATION FACILITY	PRIORITY
TORONTO	TORONTO FORESHORE RESERVE	
	Park - upgrade	High
	Playground - major upgrade - Sailing Boat theme	High
	Outdoor Gym Equipment - new	High
	Shared Pathway - upgrade & extend Greenway to Wharf Rd (770 lm)	High
	Potential land acquisition	Very High
	TORONTO LIONS PARK	
	Park - major upgrade	Medium
	TORONTO - GOFFET PARK	
	Park - upgrade	Low
	Potential land acquisition	High
	TORONTO - 1A COOK STREET (OR HAMPTON ST RES)	
	BMX - new (possible site)	Medium
	TORONTO PARK - 1A RENWICK STREET	
	Community Garden - new (or alternate site Wangi)	Medium
	KEITH BARRY FIELDS	
	Sports field - upgrade - reconfigure, add cricket, amenities, car park	Low
	Land acquisition	High
	RON HILL OVAL	
	Sports Field - upgrade car park, relocate multi-court	Low
	Netball - upgrade	Medium
	Land acquisition	High
	TORONTO - 356 AWABA RD (EX-LITTLE LEAGUES FIELD)	
	Competition Netball Venue - possible alternate site to Wangi	Low
WANGI WANGI	WANGI FORESHORE RESERVE	
	Outdoor Gym Equipment (or Dobell Park)	High
	Shared pathway - extend to Dobell Drive (130 lm)	Low
	WANGI OVAL AND COMPETITION NETBALL VENUE	
	Sports field - upgrade - oval lighting	Medium
	Competition Netball Venue - either at Wangi - upgrade, or other venue - new	Low
	Community garden- new (possible alternate location)	Medium
ARCADIA VALE	Land Acquisition (adjoining Wangi Oval and Wangi Netball)	Low

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APPENDIX 13 – Glossary of Terms

Best practice	Considers service issues, industry standards and new service models
Citywide standard	Means existing standard of provision within the City of Lake Macquarie
Club-based physical activity	Physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by a sport or recreation club or association that required payment of membership, fees or registration. This is distinct from fitness, leisure or sports centres that required payment for participation. Excludes all aerobics/fitness participants
Community garden	A public garden used for growing edible plants and herbs maintained by the community
Community land	Land retained for public use such as a park or public reserve
Comparative need	The need based on service equity and provision across the LGA, between LGAs and based on planning standards
Contribution catchment	The contribution catchment is the boundary of the Toronto Contribution Catchment as defined by Figure 1
Dog exercise area	A dog exercise area or dog park is a facility set aside for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners
Estimated Resident Population	Estimated Resident Population (ERP) – is the official ABS estimate of the Australian population. The ERP is based on the results of the census and is compiled for each census and updated quarterly between census. The ERP is calculated by applying the following adjustments to the 'usual residence' census counts: - Include Australian residents who were temporarily absent overseas on census night; - Adjust the census counts for undercounting using results of the Post Enumeration Survey and; Backcast the resulting estimates, which relate to 6 August 2001 to 30th June 2001 using births, deaths and migration data.
Identified need	Is based on the outcomes of consultation with residents and key stakeholders
Football	Football refers to a number of sports that involve, to varying degrees, kicking a ball with the foot to score a goal. The most popular of these sports worldwide is association football, more commonly known as just "football" or "soccer". Unqualified, the word football applies to whichever form of football is the most popular in the region
Futsal	A scaled down version of outdoor soccer mainly played indoors
Gateball	A mallet sport, like croquet, played on courts with a level grass cover, ideally, croquet courts are excellent. It is a fast moving game played by people of all ages.
Local standard	Existing standard of provision within the respective catchment i.e. Toronto CC
Multi-purpose half-court	A hard surface area usually a half basketball court used for informal games of basketball, netball goal shooting, and could include a tennis hit up wall
Multi-purpose sports court	A hard surface court with different line markings to enable a number of different sports to be played on the one court e.g. futsal, basketball, netball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, or badminton
Non-organised physical activity	Physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was non-organised in full or in part (that is, not fully organised by a club, association or other type of organisation)
Normative need	The socio-demographic profile of the area, relative social disadvantage and resultant social issues
Open space (public)	Public land set aside for sport, recreation and community purposes, including parks, sports fields, playgrounds, skate parks, civic squares, plazas, and bushland
Organised physical activity	Physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by (1) a fitness, leisure or indoor sports centre that required payment for participation, (2) a sport or recreation club or association that required payment of membership, fees or registration, (3) a workplace, (4) a school, or (5) any other type of organisation
Organised sport	Organised sports are those that are organised in full or part by a club, association or other type of organization.
Operational land	Land held as a temporary asset or as an investment, land that facilitates the carrying out by a council of its functions or land, which may not be open to the general public, such as a works depot or a council garage.
Park	An area of land with a town, set aside for public use, often landscaped with trees and gardens and with recreational and other facilities: Hyde Park.

Participation rate	For any group, this is the number of persons who participated in the activity, expressed as a percentage of the population in the same group
Passive open space	An area of land, generally in an urban context, which is landscaped, beautified and set aside for the enjoyment of the public, excluding sporting activities
Public land	Any land (including public reserves) vested in or under the control of the council, but does not include a public road, land subject to the <i>Trustees of school of Arts Enabling Act 1902</i> , or a regional park under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
Recreation	Recreation is an activity, voluntarily undertaken primarily for pleasure and satisfaction, during leisure time
Recreational trail	A recreational trail maybe a narrow unsealed track or an unsealed fire trail. These occur mainly in natural areas on steeply sloping land or on land with constraints and are used by cyclists with wide tyres and walkers
Shared pathway	A shared pathway is an accessible sealed pathway provided though parks or sporting areas but can also be provided through natural areas. It is a multi-use pathway for walking, cycling, skates/ roller blades, people with walking aides, mobility scooters and parents/carers with strollers
Sport	An activity requiring some physical degree of prowess, usually of a competitive nature, such as racing, baseball, tennis, golf, bowling, wrestling, boxing, hunting etc
Sports ground	A sportsground is an area of open space which may comprise one or more sports/playing fields, ovals or courts used for organised or competition sport
Sports field	A sports field is a flat usually grassed area used to play sport and it includes synthetic surfaced fields
Walking (bush)	Includes bush walking only, excludes other types of walking which are categorised as walking (other)
Walking (other)	Walking but does not include bushwalking

APPENDIX 14 – Key to Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFL	Australian Football League
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
CC	Contributions Catchment
CL	Community Land
Community Plan	<i>LMCC Community Plan 2008-2018</i>
CP	Developer Contributions Plan
Cycling Strategy	<i>LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021</i>
DCP	Development Control Plan
DoP	NSW Department of Planning
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
EPA Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
ibid	Ibid. (Latin, short for ibidem, meaning "the same place") is the term used to provide an endnote or footnote citation or reference for a source that was cited in the preceding endnote or footnote.
LDCG	<i>(Draft) Local Development Contributions Guidelines (2009)</i>
e.g.	For example
ERASS	Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey
Ha	Hectares
kms	Kilometres
LHRS	<i>Lower Hunter Regional Strategy</i>
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Act
LM	Lake Macquarie
LMCC	Lake Macquarie City Council
LM LCA	<i>Lake Macquarie Liveable Communities Assessment</i>
LM LGA	Lake Macquarie Local Government Area
NCC	Newcastle City Council
NPWS	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
NURA	Northlakes Urban Release Area
PCYC	Police Citizens Youth Club
PD	Planning District, (refer to Appendix 1)
PoM	Plan of Management
Pop	Population
PSDM	Pool Service Delivery Model
Recreation Plan	<i>Lake Macquarie City Council Recreation Plan</i>
RL	Rugby League
RU	Rugby Union
SCA	State Conservation Area
SEIFA	Socio-economic Indices for Areas
SLS	Surf Life Saving
SLSF	Surf Life Saving Facility
SNAP	Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan
Social Plan	<i>Lake Macquarie Social Plan 2009-2014</i>
Sports Strategy	<i>Lake Macquarie City Council Sports Facility Strategy 2009-2014</i>
SRA	State Recreation Area
R&O/S	Recreation and Open Space

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