



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**

Community and Crown Land Plan of Management – Stage One Consultation

Key Findings and Engagement Evaluation Report

December 2020

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1. Introduction

From **Monday 16 November 2020 until 9am on Monday 14 December 2020**, Council conducted stage one consultation for the Community and Crown Land Plan of Management (CCLPoM).

Council is currently in the process of preparing a new single generic plan of management for all Community and Crown Land under its management. This process will consolidate and update the existing plans of management to ensure that the management framework reflects current legislation, community values and management issues.

Submissions could be provided via email, post, or through a survey accessible on Council's online engagement portal, 'Participate Parramatta'.

It is important to note that this consultation took place throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. While the response rate was strong, the government restrictions that were introduced may have had an impact on overall engagement numbers.

Participate Parramatta Engagement Portal Statistics

- The project page on Participate Parramatta was **viewed 575 times** during the consultation period by 467 visitors, with 43 document downloads.
- Over this time, **116 contributions** were made on the project page by 115 contributors using the online survey option.

2. Executive Summary

From **Monday 16 November 2020 until 9am on Monday 14 December 2020**, Council sought preliminary information about the use, experiences and perceptions of its parks and reserves in order to help inform the drafting of the Community and Crown Land Plan of Management (CCLPoM).

During the exhibition period, **116 online surveys** were completed.

Summary of key findings

- Respondents were asked to select the **top three reasons that they visit Council managed parks and reserves**. The top responses were 'experience nature' (58%), 'walking or exercise' (51%) and 'sport training and/or competition' (35%).
- When asked **how respondents travel to Council's parks and reserves**, the prominent responses were 'walk' (78%) and 'car' (77%).
- Respondents were asked to select the **top five most important features or elements of parks and reserves that should be protected for current and future generations**. The top responses were 'shady trees to provide urban cooling' (76%), 'bushland and wildlife conservation' (61%) and 'free and accessible facilities for people of all ages and abilities' (47%).
- Respondents were asked to select the **top five most important issues impacting the use and management of parks and reserves**. Top responses were 'dumping of rubbish and waste' (63%), 'weeds and pests' (51%) followed by 'maintenance and mowing' (44%) and 'antisocial behaviour and vandalism' (43%).
- When asked **which parks and reserves respondents regularly visit within the City of Parramatta**, there was a spread of locations visited across the local government area, however the prominent responses were associated with parks and reserves in Parramatta and North Parramatta, namely, Parramatta Park (39 respondents), Lake Parramatta Reserve (32 respondents) and Doyle Ground (18 respondents).

Please see **pages 5 to 13** for more detailed information.

3. Engagement Evaluation

The below provides a snapshot of the communications and engagement channels used to promote the feedback opportunity to the community from **Monday 16 November 2020 until 9am on Monday 14 December 2020**.

Numerous channels were activated to reach as many community members as possible, and direct them to the engagement portal 'Participate Parramatta' (participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/) to provide feedback.

Overall, **approximately 69,695** people saw the opportunity to share feedback based on the data captured from the following engagement channels.

Social Media

Promoted across Council's social media channels, including the City of Parramatta Facebook (38,228 followers) and Twitter (8,772 followers) accounts, Participate Parramatta Facebook (6,949 followers) account and Liveable Parramatta Facebook (3,506 followers) account.

It is important to note that **56% of referrals** to the CCLPoM project page on Council's engagement platform came via social media.

The following results were achieved.

	Paid advertisements	Organic advertisements
Reach	18,793	6,430
Link clicks	310	28
Engagements	367	76
Total spend	\$299.94	n/a

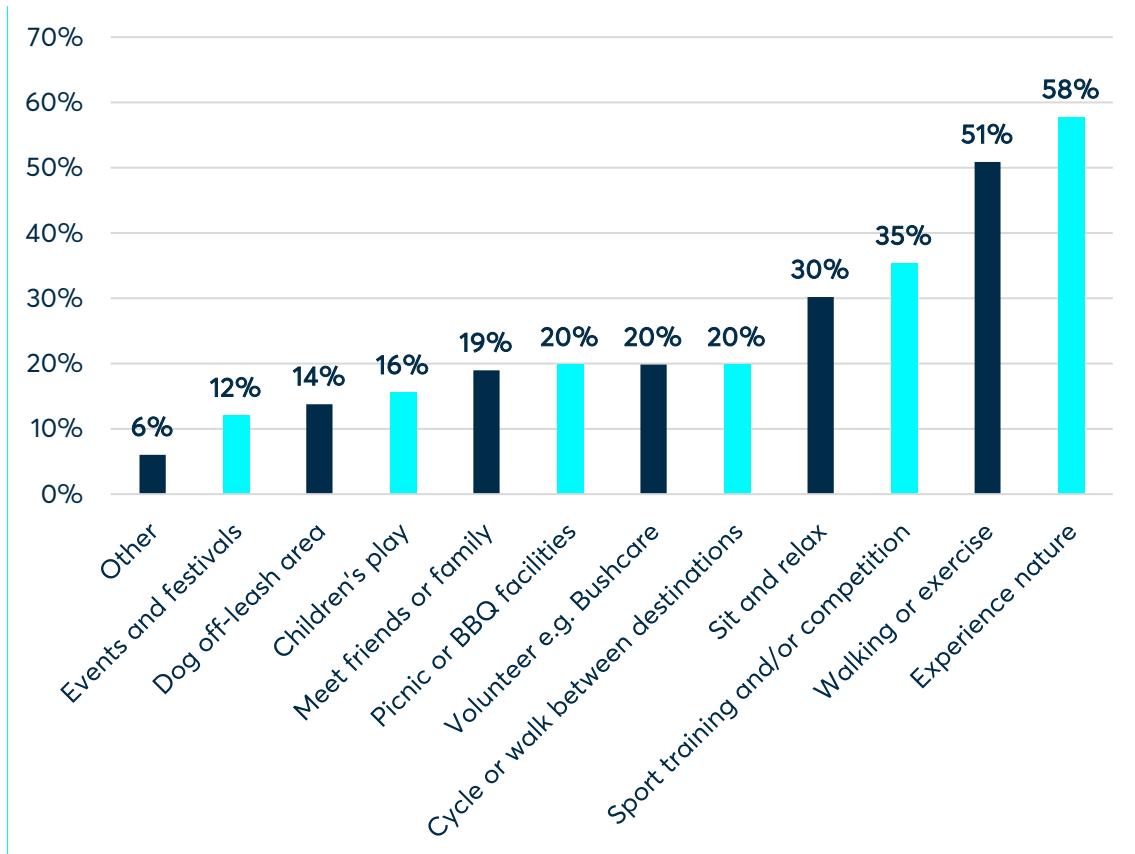
Email Databases

- Information about the consultation was sent to 9,964 Participate Parramatta Online Community Panel members on Wednesday 25 November 2020.
- Information about the consultation was sent to 1,684 subscribers of the Community Connective EDM on Tuesday 17 November 2020.
- Information about the consultation was also sent to Council's Bushland Volunteer Network (40 groups with approximately 300 members), Park Committee (20 groups with approximately 150 members) as well as 142 representatives of 60 sporting user groups.

4. Key Findings

Presented below are the survey questions and responses, of which there were 116.

Q1). Why do you visit Council managed parks and reserves? (Multiple choice – top three responses required)

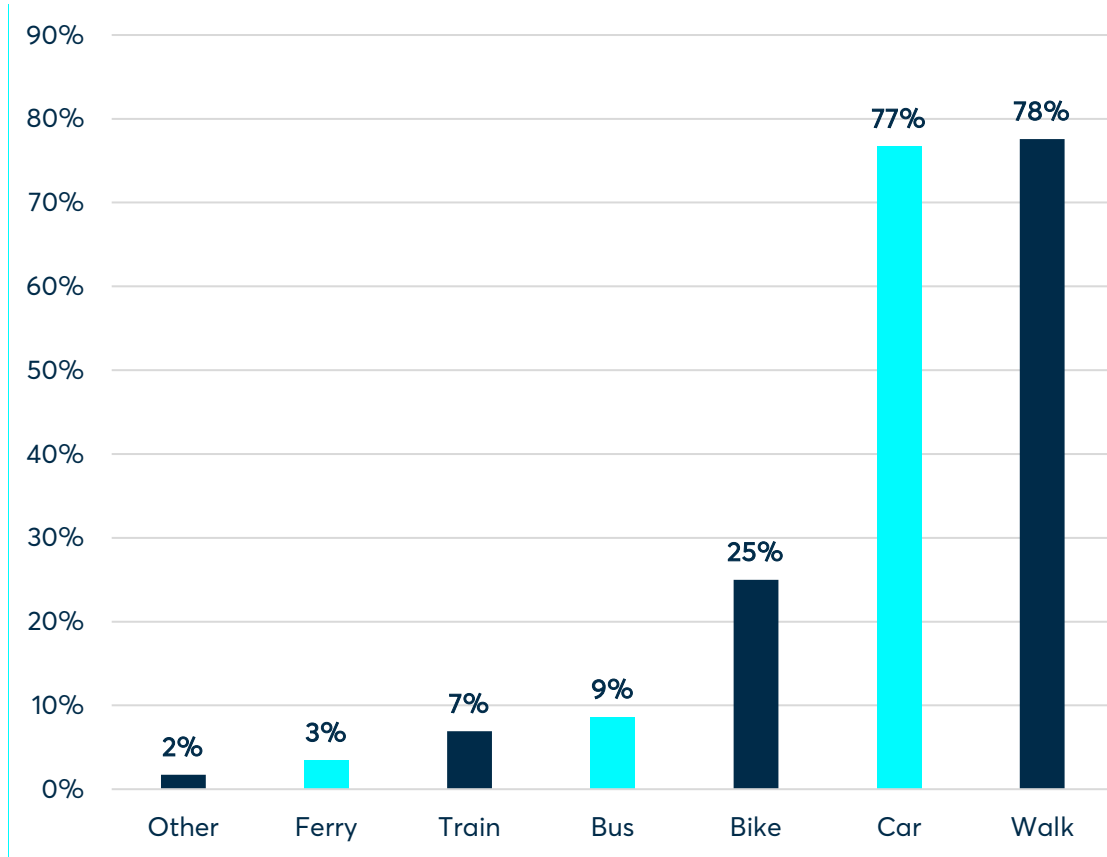


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Other	6.03%	7
Events and festivals	12.07%	14
Dog off-leash area	13.79%	16
Children's play	15.52%	18
Meet friends or family	18.97%	22
Picnic or BBQ facilities	19.83%	23
Volunteer e.g. Bushcare	19.83%	23
Cycle or walk between destinations	19.83%	23
Sit and relax	30.17%	35
Sport training and/or competition	35.34%	41
Walking or exercise e.g. fitness equipment	50.86%	59
Experience nature e.g. Bushwalking tracks	57.76%	67
Total	100%	116

'Other' responses to Q1 included:

- Like to walk, but cyclists have taken over. Cyclists should have identification
- Community garden
- Community Park Committee
- Explore local area
- Just enjoying the green space.
- Mountain bike
- We look after a garden we planted.

Q2). How do you travel to Council's parks and reserves? (Multiple choice – select all that apply)

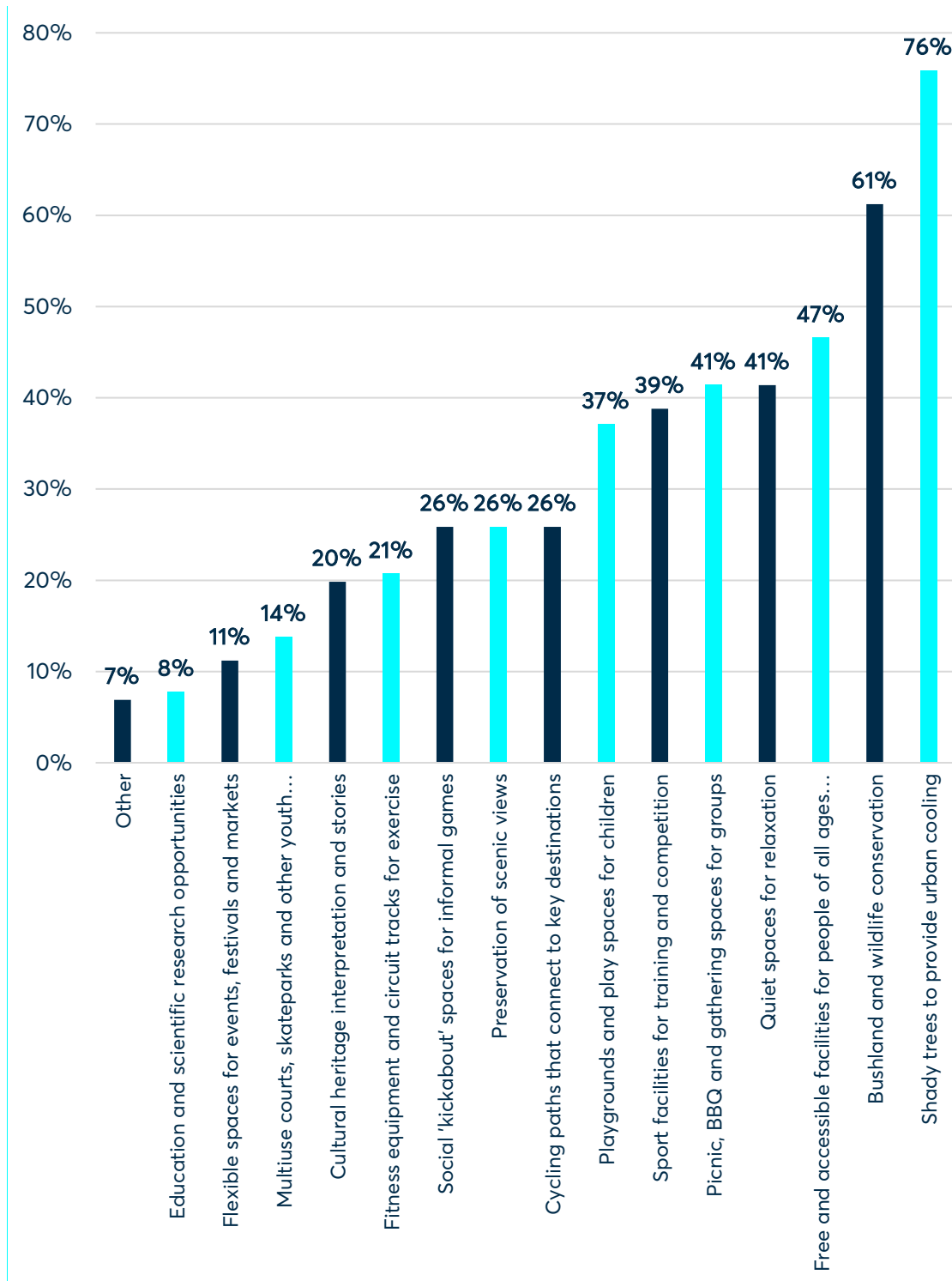


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Other	1.72%	2
Ferry	3.45%	4
Train	6.90%	8
Bus	8.62%	10
Bike	25.00%	29
Car	76.72%	89
Walk	77.59%	90
Total	100%	116

'Other' responses to Q2 included:

- Motorbike
- Motorcycle

Q3). What do you consider to be the five most important features or elements of parks and reserves that should be protected for current and future generations?
 (Multiple choice – top five responses required)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Other	6.90%	8
Education and scientific research opportunities	7.76%	9
Flexible spaces for events, festivals and markets	11.21%	13

Multiuse courts, skateparks and other youth recreation facilities	13.79%	16
Cultural heritage interpretation and stories	19.83%	23
Fitness equipment and circuit tracks for exercise	20.69%	24
Social 'kickabout' spaces for informal games	25.86%	30
Preservation of scenic views	25.86%	30
Cycling paths that connect to key destinations	25.86%	30
Playgrounds and play spaces for children	37.07%	43
Sport facilities for training and competition	38.79%	45
Picnic, BBQ and gathering spaces for groups	41.38%	48
Quiet spaces for relaxation	41.38%	48
Free and accessible facilities for people of all ages and abilities	46.55%	54
Bushland and wildlife conservation	61.21%	71
Shady trees to provide urban cooling	75.86%	88
Total	100%	116

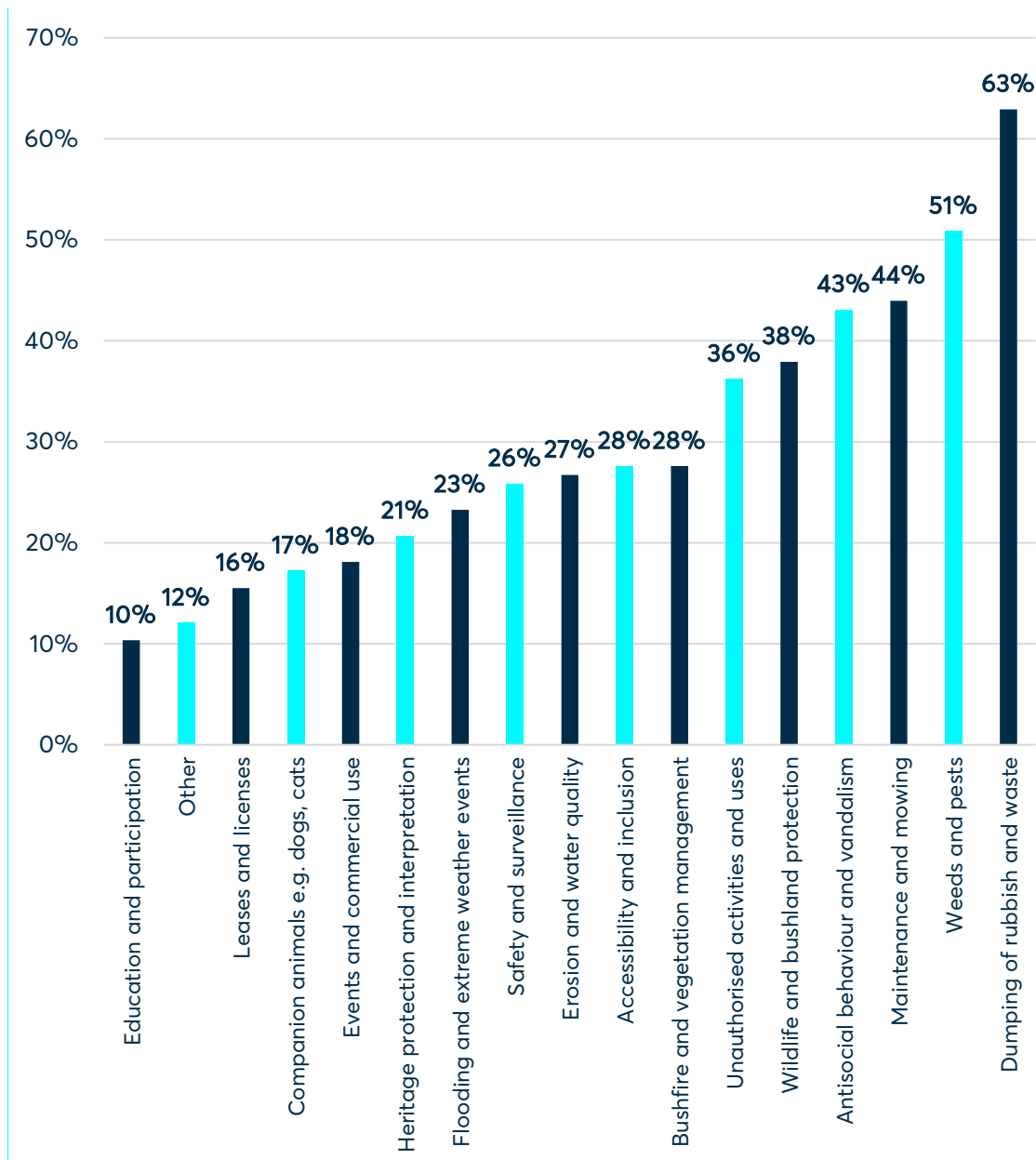
'Other' responses to Q3 included:

- All of the choices are important - depends on the features of individual parks/reserves - impossible to pick just 5
- Community involvement
- Dog off leash walking
- Heritage
- More conservation of native flora and fauna and encouraging programs to increase threatened species instead of selling the land for units
- Mountain bike and walking trails to explore bushland and reserves
- Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Pool! PLEASE
- Public toilets are a must

Q4). What do you feel are the five most important issues impacting the use and management of parks and reserves? (Multiple choice – top five responses required)

Answer choices	Percent	Count
Education and participation	10.34%	12
Other	12.07%	14
Leases and licenses e.g. community and sporting groups	15.52%	18
Companion animals e.g. dogs, cats	17.24%	20
Events and commercial use e.g. food vans, equipment hire,	18.10%	21
Heritage protection and interpretation	20.69%	24
Flooding and extreme weather events	23.28%	27
Safety and surveillance	25.86%	30
Erosion and water quality	26.72%	31
Accessibility and inclusion	27.59%	32
Bushfire and vegetation management	27.59%	32
Unauthorised activities and uses	36.21%	42

Wildlife and bushland protection	37.93%	44
Antisocial behaviour and vandalism	43.10%	50
Maintenance and mowing	43.97%	51
Weeds and pests	50.86%	59
Dumping of rubbish and waste	62.93%	73
Total	100%	116



'Other' responses to Q4 included:

- Growth of units - people need park use and so the parks risk being overuse.
- The constant loss of mature trees in the housing areas all push people into parks risking overuse again.
- Again, impossible to pick 5 - all are important, depending on the features of any particular park or reserve
- Asbestos and toxic hazards

- Availability - i.e. there are insufficient or, rather, too many given over to sport and None for community gardens
- Cafe
- Careless drivers who speed around parks, thus endangering the lives of small children
- Children. Can you please stop cluttering every park with Primary coloured play equipment?
- In Epping there is insufficient space for children to play. Children are playing on the footpaths and obstructing pedestrian access. They are also playing cricket using trees as stumps. This is inappropriate but there is nowhere else for them to play. This question could be misleading. Please protect Heritage Item parks.
- Lights for evening games
- Not enough tennis and basketball courts
- Nothing else
- Over development in the area, dual occupancies, increased parking, strained infrastructure
- Pressure from commercial interests reducing free public space
- Terrible maintenance of existing walking trails

Q5). Which parks and reserves do you regularly visit within the City of Parramatta? (Free text – please list up to 5)

Park/Reserve	Count
Parramatta Park	39
Lake Parramatta Reserve	32
Doyle Ground	18
Balaka Falls/Hunts Creek/Terrys Creek Trail	13
George Kendall Reserve	12
Parramatta River Path/Cycleway	9
Max Ruddock Reserve	8
North Rocks Park	8
Third Settlement Reserve	8
Upjohn Park	8
West Epping Park	8
Boronia Park	7
Rydalmere Park	7
Caber Park	6
Dence Park	6
Eric Primrose Reserve	6
River Foreshore Reserve	6
Belmore Park/Richie Benaud Oval	5
Bidjigal Reserve	5
Ollie Webb Reserve	5

Ray Park	5
Blaxland Riverside Park	4
Dan Mahoney Reserve	4
Dundas Park	4
Epping Park	4
Forest Park	4
James Ruse Reserve	4
John Wearn Reserve	4
Ponds and Subiaco Creek Trail	4
Robin Thomas Reserve	4
Cowells Lane Reserve	3
James Hoskins Reserve	3
Murray Farm Reserve	3
Noller Park	3
Peggy Womersley Park	3
Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve	3
Winston Hills Lions Park	3
All Saints Cemetery	2
Baludarri Wetland	2
Barnett Dog Park	2
Barton Park	2
Binalong Park	2
Cox Park	2
Curtis Oval	2
Edna Hunt Sanctuary	2
Fred Spurway Reserve	2
Gooden Reserve	2
Halvorsen Park	2
Hazlewood Rose Park	2
McCoy Park	2
Mobbs Lane Reserve	2
Model Farms Reserve	2
Newington Nature Reserve	2
Old Saleyards Reserve	2
Pembroke Park	2
Prince Alfred Square	2
Skenes Avenue Reserve	2
Somerville Park	2
Sturt Park	2
Sue Savage Reserve	2
Acacia Park	1
Arthur Phillip Reserve	1

Balcombe Heights Reserve	1
Bicentennial Park	1
Bruce Cole Reserve	1
Caloola Road Reserve	1
Carlingford Oval	1
Corry Court Reserve	1
Don Moore Reserve	1
Douglass Avenue Reserve	1
Frank Hayes Park	1
Freame Park	1
Fred Robertson Park	1
Gallery Gardens	1
Garside Park	1
George Gollan Reserve	1
Hambeldon Cottage Reserve	1
Harold West Reserve	1
Harris Park Playground	1
Hassal Street Park	1
Hazle Ryan Oval	1
Henry Brigg Park	1
Hillcrest Avenue Reserve	1
Homelands Reserve	1
Irving Street Park	1
John Curtin Reserve	1
Jones Park	1
Jubilee Park	1
Keith Willis Reserve	1
Kingsdene Oval	1
Lions Park	1
Loftus Square	1
McMillan Avenue Reserve	1
Merrylands Park	1
Moxham Park	1
Murri-Yanna Walk	1
Northmead Reserve	1
Old Kings Oval	1
PH Jeffery Reserve	1
Queen's Wharf Reserve	1
Rausch Street Reserve	1
Rapanea Community Forest	1
Rockleigh Park	1
Rosella Park	1

Seville Reserve	1
Sherwin Park	1
Silverwater Park	1
St Patricks Cemetery	1
Sydney Olympic Park	1
Talinga Park	1
Timbergetters Reserve	1
Toongabbie Creek	1
Vimiera Park	1
Vineyard Creek Reserve	1
Williams Reserve	1
Winjoy Reserve	1
Wisteria Gardens	1

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