

PLAYGROUNDS POLICY

Policy Number:	4.1.5
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2023
Date of Next Review:	December 2024
Applicable to Unit(s):	Organisation
Responsible Officer:	Manager Natural Environment and Parks Coordinator Parks Services
Related Policies:	Heritage Policy Litter Bins Policy Public Toilets Policy
Related Documents:	Open Space Plan 2014-2024 Playground Guidelines Youth Play Plan 2019-2029
Statutory Reference:	Nil

OVERVIEW

To establish policy for the management of playgrounds.

THE POLICY

Council maintains a number of playgrounds, which generally fall within the hierarchical structure embraced in this Policy and identified as Regional, District, Neighbourhood and youth-oriented play. This structure is further developed through the Open Space Plan 2014-2024 and Youth Play Plan 2019-2029.

Playgrounds are continually developed and improved in line with current trends, community needs and safety standards. A rolling capital program exists for this purpose.

Council will provide, manage and maintain playgrounds within its jurisdiction according to the following Guiding Principles.

Aim

- To provide a system of diverse play settings equitably distributed throughout the Shire and within reasonable access of every child's home. (as described in the Open Space Plan)
- To complement the play opportunities that are available to local residents in private open space and in the neighbourhood generally, so as to maximise the range of play experiences available.
- To provide specific play settings and conditions within designated areas which help encourage personal growth, enjoyment and make social benefits available to the community, through play.
- To ensure that the physical environment, activities, equipment and social conditions within each play area are designed specifically to meet the needs and wants of children of specified age groups, and that opportunities catering specifically to those age groups are equitably distributed across the Shire.
- To ensure that playground provision caters to children and adults with disabilities, and that a

wide range of play activities within each playground are accessible.

- To maintain all play equipment and designated play areas in a good condition in accordance with current Australian Standards for play equipment and adjacent areas.
- To regularly monitor the use of play areas, the condition and maintenance of play equipment and the provision and quality of play opportunities in the Shire generally.
- To consider the value of natural play in all playground re-fits and new designs through the use of planting and natural materials.

The responsibility to ensure that the maintenance and implementation of the guidelines accords with Council's policy position is vested in the Manager Natural Environment and Parks. Any matter specifically requiring a Council determination shall be reported by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	MAJOR / MINOR UPDATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	Not applicable	No changes applicable at this review
1.1	December 2023	Minor	Date of Next Review updated to: December 2024 Minor formatting changes