



**CORANGAMITE
SHIRE**

Playground Management Policy

February 2019



Council Policy

Playground Management

Introduction

Council is committed to providing playgrounds that:

- Offer a shared space for children, young people and adults to play, socialise and relax.
- Provide an inspiring and well-designed play space that encourages physical, creative and inventive play.
- Provide an appropriate level of challenge and promotes a sense of adventure.
- Integrate built play equipment with a natural and sensory setting through landscaping design, path networks and associated park infrastructure, and
- Provide an attractive, vibrant and inviting environment for both local residents and visitors i.e. a traveller break.

Purpose

The policy aims to establish funding and management arrangements for public playgrounds owned or managed by Council to ensure equitable community access and a continued provision of high quality facilities.

Scope

This policy applies to public playgrounds which are owned or managed by Corangamite Shire Council and are generally accessible by community members.

Definitions

'Accessible' - A design that encourages use by people of all abilities and ages.

'Playground' - A playground is built play equipment set within a public open space environment which promotes active and passive physical activity, creativity and inventive play for all ages and all abilities.

'Play space' - An environment which integrates built play equipment with a natural and sensory setting through landscaping design and associated park infrastructure to offer a shared space where children, young people and adults can meet and play.

'Play equipment' - Play structures such as swings, slides and climbing frames.

References

Deakin University Australia, *"The REVAMP natural experiment study: the impact of a play-scape installation on park visitation and park-based physical activity"* January 2018

Department of Planning & Community Development, *The Good Play Space Guide - "I can play too"*

Play Australia, www.playaustralia.org.au

Ray Hutchinson, Ray Hutchinson & Associates, Playground Auditor

Policy Detail

1. Design

Council will ensure the development of its playgrounds considers the following design elements:

- Relevant industry benchmark documents including:
 - Australian Standards for playgrounds;
 - Access Audits Australia *How to develop more accessible playgrounds*;
 - Sport and Recreation Victoria play spaces resources
 - Department of Planning and Community Development *The Good Play Space Guide: I can play too*; and
 - National Heart Foundation of Australia, *Healthy by Design: planners' guide to environments for active living*.
- A balance between play value, access, safety and value for money.
- An environment which offers unstructured, exploratory play and low maintenance options for a range of ages and developmental stages.
- A design complimenting the location and layout, and which considers a combination of built and natural elements, links to existing infrastructure including public toilets, car parking, landscape and nearby access points where appropriate or available.
- Provision of an accessible environment which promotes inclusion and offers interactive accessible play opportunities including sensory and tactile components.
- A space providing opportunities for people to meet and play in a comfortable physical environment (shade, seating, etc.)
- Public art may be incorporated within the park design.

2. Maintenance

Council will allocate funds as a part of its annual operating budget to maintain those playgrounds managed / owned by Council.

Playground	Location	Town
Jaycees Park	Princes Highway - Wright	Camperdown
Curdie Street Reserve	Curdie Street	Camperdown
Queen's Park	Pike Street	Camperdown
Apex Park	Manifold Street	Camperdown
Grimwade Park	Hamilton Highway (near Swimming Pool)	Lismore
Jubilee Park	Cnr Glenelg Hwy & Park Lane	Skipton
Derrinallum Recreation Reserve	Hamilton Highway	Derrinallum
Town Park	Mortlake-Terang Road	Noorat
Noorat Recreation Reserve	Noorat Road	Noorat
Thompson Street Playground	Thompson Street	Terang
Apex Playground	Princes Highway	Terang
Apex Park	Cnr Victoria Street &	Cobden

	Shenfield Road	
Cobden Dam	Shenfield Road	Cobden
Snake Track Road Reserve	Snake Track Road	Timboon
Masonic Park	Cnr Barrett & Bond Streets	Timboon
Apex Park	Cnr Morris & Lord Streets	Port Campbell
Princetown Recreation Reserve	Old Coach Road	Princetown
Jaycees Park	Barramul Street	Simpson

Table 1: Council Maintained Playgrounds

Council’s role in managing and maintaining any new and community initiated facilities should be considered in recognition of the existing township playground provision, annual budget allocation and Community Initiated Projects Policy.

2. Risk and Compliance

Council will arrange for a playground inspection to be completed every three years ensure playground equipment is compliant with Australian Standards. This will be provided for all playgrounds within the Shire including those located on Crown Land, such as Recreation Reserves where they are available for general community use but not managed by Council.

These reserve Committees will be eligible to apply to Council’s Facility Grants Fund each year to support ongoing maintenance of their play facilities.

3. Capital Upgrades

Council will make an annual allocation for the renewal of its playgrounds as a part of its budget process and in consideration of the playground renewal schedule as follows:

Town	Playground	Year Proposed
Noorat	Noorat Playground	2019-2020
Skipton	Jubilee Park Skipton	2020-2021
Simpson	Simpson Playground	2021-2022
Lismore	Lismore Playground	2022-2023
Timboon	Timboon Playground	2023-2024
Cobden	Cobden Playground	2024-2025
Camperdown	Camperdown Apex Park	2025-2026
Terang	Terang Apex Park	2026-2027
Camperdown	Jaycces Park	2027-2028
Derrinallum	Derrinallum Playground	2028-2029
Princetown	Princetown Playground	2029-2030
Port Campbell	Port Campbell Playground	2030-2031

The playground renewal schedule will be flexible taking into account funding provision and essential upgrades as they occur.

Council will actively seek contributions from other funding sources such as grant programs and the local community to support the renewal works. Council will consider use of public open space developer contributions to help offset any deficit in grant funding.

Council will consider the retirement of facilities which offer limited play value and experiences and are collocated in close proximity to larger township playgrounds at the end of their reasonable life as governed by the playground inspection process.

Planning for any new development or associated removal will involve community consultation with the relevant user groups and wider community.

Review Date

February 2022

It is considered that this Policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*.