



PLAYGROUND POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: ENG-PR-005

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the City with clear parameters regarding the planning, design, development and maintenance of existing and new playgrounds.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all City officers with responsibility for planning, design, development and maintenance of existing and new playgrounds.

DEFINITIONS

City means the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the City.

District Park means a park with an area greater than 2.5 hectares or which provides a function for an area greater than the immediate neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Park means a park which services approximately 600 dwellings and has an area between 3000m² and 5000m². The park should also be within 400 metres walking distance from most of the dwellings within the catchment area and have streets on all sides or at least the majority of the perimeter.

Local Park means parklands less than 3000m² in area and often containing a small amount of playground equipment and resting areas.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy supports the ongoing development of playgrounds in the City which are safe, compliant and consistently developed and maintained.

POLICY DETAILS



1. Safety and Compliance

- a. The City shall ensure that all playgrounds are designed and installed to meet the relevant Australian Playground Standards.
- b. Playground equipment will be selected to minimise disturbance to neighbouring residents where possible.
- c. The City does not fence all playgrounds. Fencing is appropriate in areas where the playground is considered to be in an unsafe location for example adjacent to major roads.
- d. The City will ensure that ‘Crime Prevention through Environmental Design’ (CPTED) principals are used to manage and design playgrounds to discourage antisocial behaviour.
- e. The City shall use natural shade for playgrounds as the preferred sun smart treatment. Where natural shade is not available, trees will be planted to provide future shade or shade structures may be erected where there are less than two shade structures within the planning areas.
- f. Sofffall will be installed and maintained in accordance with the relevant Australian standards. Sofffall and play surface in new playgrounds areas will generally comprise of a synthetic surface to reduce maintenance and the risk of foreign objects being hidden in the surface.

2. Playground Hierarchy

- a. Playgrounds within the City are classified into a three-tiered hierarchy consisting of District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks and Local Parks, each with minimum development standards and service levels.
- b. The City has identified a level of standard amenity that will be considered at each category of park. Diagram 1 outlines the Recommended (R), Optional (O), Not Required (NR) features at each level of playground within the hierarchy.

Table 1	Categories		
	Local	Neighbourhood	District
Amenities			
Basketball Court	NR	O	O
BBQ	NR	O	R
Large Play / Centre	NR	O	R
Lights	NR	O	R
Medium Play / Centre	O	R	O
Rocker	O	R	R
Seats	O	R	R



Shade Sails	NR	O	R
Shelters	O	R	R
Small Play / Centre	O	O	O
Swing	O	R	R
Toilets	NR	NR	O
Water Fountain	NR	O	R

- c. Optional features can be considered where the park is remote and as nearby parks do not offer a suitable level of amenity.

3. Requests for Playgrounds or Playground Equipment

Each request for a playground or playground equipment will be assessed utilising the Parks Hierarchy and Public Open Space Strategy. The City shall respond in writing as to the outcome of the request.

4. Playground Maintenance and Inspections

- a. Playgrounds will be maintained in accordance with the requirements of play equipment manufacturer's instruction and the relevant Australian standards.
- b. Weekly checks on playgrounds are carried out, although comprehensive checks are done on an annual basis to assess stability, wear and tear, and compliance of relevant Australian Standards.
- c. Comprehensive checks consist of checking the following:
 - Surrounding trees for deadwood, termites and hazards;
 - Wear and tear in shade structures;
 - Sand free from contamination and sharp objects, the depth of sand is appropriate;
 - Rips, tears, missing pieces and burns in turf;
 - Playground parts are checked to ensure all bolts fastened and secure, posts foundation firm and free of corrosion, concrete footings are covered; there are no sharp edges or protruding parts, decks aren't twisting or buckling, no burns on any of the equipment, all welds are free of corrosion and cracks;
 - All handrails are in good condition;
 - Check for graffiti throughout playground;
 - Check swings for damage;
 - Any cracks, splits, roughness and splinters on slides; and
 - Gym equipment bearings, handrails, buffers and any missing parts.



5. Playground Life Cycle

- a. All City playgrounds will operate on a 15 year life span however it should be noted that some play equipment may last longer or less dependent on usage and environmental factors.
- b. The City will undertake detailed, documented inspections at 5, 10 and 15 year intervals to review the functionality and safety of the play elements and space.
- c. Dependent on the age, condition and functionality of the equipment. The City will determine whether an upgrade of the playground equipment is warranted.

6. Budgetary Provisions

The City will make a provision in its Annual Budget for the progressive maintenance, replacement and upgrading of playground equipment, to ensure that equipment is to standard and meets the needs of the community.

7. Community Consultation

The City will endeavour to consult with the community in regards to the installation, refurbishment or removal of playgrounds / play equipment.

8. Temporary Closure of Parks

The City may temporarily close a playground for the purpose of carrying out works of any kind.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

AS 4685:2014 (Part 1 to 6) – Playground Equipment and Surfacing

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Liveable Neighbourhoods Principles (2009)

DOCUMENT CONTROL		
Responsible department		
Date adopted by Council	26 June 2023	



**City of
Kalgoorlie
Boulder**

Date of last review	June 2023	Policy reviewed and amended
Date of next review	June 2025	