

City of  
**Bayswater**

# Play Space Strategy



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Updated October 2022



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## Acknowledgement

### Noongar language interpretation

***Ngalla City of Bayswater kaatanginy baalapa Noongar Boodja baaranginy, Wadjuk moort Noongar moort, boordiar's koora koora, boordiar's ye yay ba boordiar's boordawyn wah.***

### English language interpretation

The City of Bayswater acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and pays its respects to elders past, present and emerging.

## Executive Summary

The Play Space Strategy was originally identified as an action in the 2017/18 Corporate Business Plan to analyse current play spaces, and guide future planning and provision of play spaces. Council approved the final strategy in July 2019. A review was undertaken in September 2022, to reflect on the outcomes of the strategy, ensure that its guiding principles remained relevant and meaningful, and update the 10 year Implementation Plan (included in Part 2 of the strategy).

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 November 2022, Council approved the revised Play Space Strategy with the following resolution:

*'That Council:*

*Considers the Flora Reserve Play Space replacement in the 2023/24 budget, and*

*Requests the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the playgrounds in the city cater for different age groups (including older children), and that consideration is also given to the materials that are being used in playgrounds and their likely exposure to sun, to increase usability and prevent burn risks for children. As well as the possible use of recycled materials'.*

The document reflects this resolution.

In the last three years, costs of equipment, supply and labour have gone up and budget pressures have increased, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, thirteen play space redevelopments were completed, assisted by the City's *Local Economic and Social Stimulus Package*, State and Federal government funding. Key redevelopments are identified in this document:

- Claughton Reserve nature play and fairy trail, Bayswater
- Gibbney Reserve, Maylands
- Maylands Waterland Redevelopment, Maylands
- Wattle Park – whole-of-park redevelopment, Morley

### What is a play space?

*A place that allows all people, regardless of age or ability, to experience physical and creative play, social interaction and physical activity.*

- *Play spaces can be standalone or co-located with community and sporting facilities; in natural environments, public open space or urban areas*
- *Play spaces accommodate a variety of uses, amenities and elements.*

This definition is the result of preliminary engagement and research into the role that play spaces hold in the City and in people's lives. Previously, the City's policy for play spaces was limited to playgrounds in isolation, and focused primarily on replacement, installation and management of play equipment. Although play can technically happen anywhere, the purpose of this strategy is to build on the analysis provided in the City's Public Open Space Strategy; therefore, the focus is on existing play spaces within parks and reserves.

A comprehensive campaign of engagement activities was conducted between February and November 2018, including online surveys, community drop-in sessions, and ideas sessions with a broad range of community members, including school students. Along with many positive responses and creative ideas for how the City can improve play experiences, other needs highlighted by community members were:

- A broader range of play types and activities outside of the standard plastic play equipment designed for 3 to 10 year olds
- Additional supporting infrastructure around play spaces including shade over play equipment, seating, BBQs and picnic tables
- Improved access to and around play spaces through path networks and connections
- Integration of play into the natural environment
- Mix of play activities to cater for more than one age group in bigger play spaces.

All of the findings were analysed, refined and grouped into focus areas reflecting community feedback, asset management principles, and distribution of play opportunities throughout the City.

Three guiding principles were developed, based on the analysis. These are:

- Quality local provision
- Effective and sustainable asset management
- Annual assessment.

These principles are discussed in this report.

The Play Space strategy recognises the importance of a broad view approach to the planning of play spaces, taking into consideration the environment, and the existing provision of Public Open Space and play experiences offered within a local area.

The strategy includes a 10 year implementation plan. Each year, the City will review this plan and propose a program of play space redevelopments to Council for consideration and budget allocation. Redevelopments will be informed by engagement with the local community and park users. Any proposed redevelopments are subject to change depending on identified local circumstances.

It is anticipated the Play Space Strategy will be reviewed every three years, with a major review in 2029.

# Part 1

## 1. Introduction

The Play Space Strategy (PSS) is the first of its kind for the City, identified as an action in the 2017/18 Corporate Business Plan. The purpose is to provide a framework to guide the planning, design and management of play spaces across the City.

The aims of the PSS are to:

- Be responsive to change and community demand
- Provide a strategic approach to decision-making
- Provide a variety of play experiences in local areas for the whole community to enjoy.

The process for developing the PSS included:

- Assessment of current play spaces to identify gaps and issues and build on the information provided by the City's Public Open Space Strategy
- Extensive engagement with the community to gather data on use, assess demand, generate ideas and determine priorities for future works
- Desktop review and analysis to understand the importance of play, current trends and benchmarking with other local governments
- Audit of 169 parks and reserves in the City, with and without play equipment
- Review of the previous, and development of a new, classification hierarchy for parks and play spaces
- Review of the current Playground Replacement Program
- Developing recommendations for the approach to design, management and provision of play spaces across the City.

### 1.1. Scope

The term *play space* is interchangeable with 'park' and 'reserve', as it refers to a place where people of all ages go to enjoy nature, socialise, walk their dogs and many other active and passive pursuits.

**The important distinction to make in this strategy is that when considering play spaces, we are referring to more than just the play equipment - we are considering the whole space and the purpose it serves in terms of structured and unstructured play and recreation.** Therefore, the term *play space* considers:

- Parks and reserves
- Nature reserves and foreshore.

In addition to play equipment, the strategy considers the following elements in relation to play:

- Outdoor exercise equipment

- Outdoor accessible multi-use ball courts - public tennis, multi half courts
- Supporting infrastructure - seating, picnic shelters, fencing, shade (natural and sails), BBQs, drinking fountains
- Wheeled facilities - skate parks and BMX tracks
- Footpaths, cycle ways, connections, linkages and path networks in and around parks and reserves, in relation to play spaces.

For the purposes of this strategy, the following are not included:

- School grounds
- Non-city owned land
- Land not deemed useable i.e. road or rail reserve Public Open Space without a usage function.

169 parks in the City are open to the public. Play spaces that are not open to the public are excluded from this strategy. These are:

- Childcare, family and outside school hours care (OSHC) centres
- Community facilities such as libraries and community centres.

## **1.2. Context**

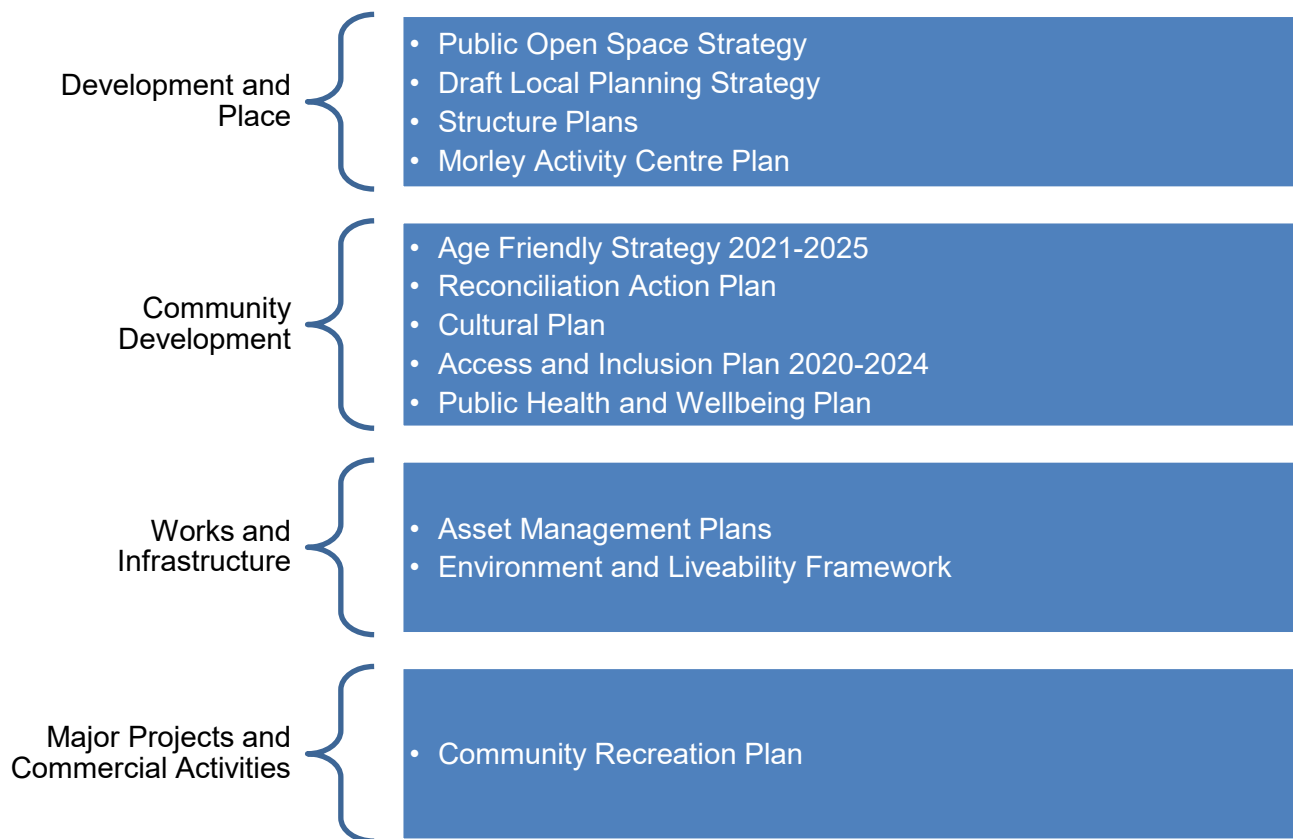
The Strategic Community Plan (SCP) 2021-2031 is the City's principal planning and strategic document, linking the community's aspirations and vision with the Council's strategies. The Play Space Strategy is aligned with the following goals in the current SCP, under the Community theme:

C1 Create safe and inviting places for people to come together

C3 Maximise the use of the City's facilities and parks by all sections of the community

The strategic context of the PSS is very broad due to the universal nature of play and its role in the community as a form of recreation, social activity, community development and physical activity. Consequently, the PSS crosses several strategic areas and is aligned to the following City of Bayswater plans and strategies:

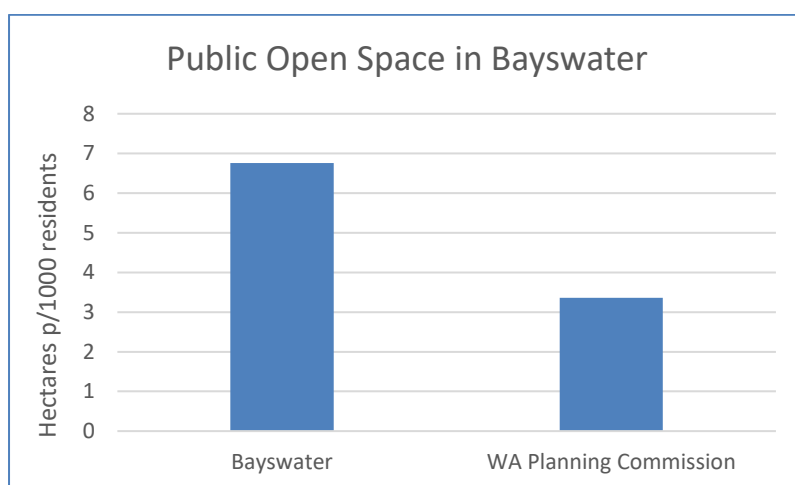




The intention of the PSS is to align with existing strategies and plans, inform the development of new strategies and plans, and guide all complementary projects in parks, reserves and other public open spaces in order to deliver the best outcome to the community.

### 1.3. City of Bayswater Public Open Space Strategy

The Play Space Strategy adds to the information provided in the Public Open Space Strategy. This document outlines all the Public Open Space (POS) within the City of Bayswater - which is all the land in the City that is accessible by the public. Overall, 86% of residential properties within the City are within 300 metres of POS, and all residential properties are within 2 kilometres of a District or Regional Space. The City's POS provision per resident, measuring 6.76 hectares per 1,000 people, far exceeds the recommended amount identified by the Western Australian Planning Commission, which is 3.36 hectares per 1,000 people.





## 1.4. Resources

The following plans, reports and strategies were reviewed in the preparation of the PSS:

- *'Classification Framework for Public Open Space'* (2012), WA Department of Sport and Recreation
- *'Public Parkland – Planning and Design Guide'* (2014), WA Department of Sport and Recreation
- *'Play Space Guide – Creating valuable places to play and learn outdoors in Western Australian schools'*, UWA Centre for the Built Environment – collaboration with WA schools
- *'Access Guidelines for Parks and Outdoor Spaces Handbook v2'* (2017), Access Institute
- *'Parks and open space: for the health and wellbeing of children and young people'* (2009), Dr Lisa Wood – UWA Centre for the Built Environment and Health and Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
- *Healthy Active by Design*, Heart Foundation
- *'SPARC Report – City of Monash'* (2015), Playce.

These documents provided insight into play types, trends and standards.

## 1.5. Completed Play Space projects

The endorsement of the Play Space Strategy in 2019 signalled a departure from the City's previous approach to play space redevelopments. This also sparked new approaches to community engagement and design of play spaces. The City has undertaken a more holistic and comprehensive approach to park and play space redevelopments, combining these (when resources are available) to achieve maximum efficiency and improved outcomes for the community.

One of the first sites to be redeveloped after the strategy was endorsed; **Claughton Reserve** now boasts imaginative nature play structures, accessible swing, pathways and the City's first fairy trail, inspired by a local resident. The City engaged landscape designers and nature play suppliers to develop the play space, to which the City has now added passive lighting and exercise equipment.







*Redeveloped Claughton Reserve (pictured above)*

**Maylands Waterland** is a much-loved destination playground on the river foreshore, Clarkson Road in Maylands. The City recently completed a \$4.4 million redevelopment of the site, to include dry parkland areas with accessible nature play features, accessible toilets and changerooms, shade, barbecue and picnic facilities, as well as water play elements including splash pad, water creek and wading pool. The whole parkland area including the water play is open and accessible as free entry public open space.



*Redeveloped Maylands Waterland (pictured above)*

**Gibbney Reserve** in Maylands is a district Sporting reserve, adjacent to Maylands Peninsula Primary School. It is a busy reserve, used for organised sport, after school play, dog walking and casual exercise. The engagement for the redevelopment generated significant community involvement and feedback on the draft concept plan, which was highly supported. The project was funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and



included play elements for multiple age groups and abilities, nature play zones, pathways, seating, shade, barbecue and drink fountain. A cluster of exercise equipment was also installed, in place of previous play equipment.



*Redeveloped Gibbney Reserve, Maylands (pictured above)*

**Wattle Park** in Morley was redeveloped in 2021, funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The redevelopment of this neighbourhood park was aligned with the city's classification hierarchy, and included pathways, new play equipment, seating, shade and BBQ, and outdoor exercise equipment. Local tree species were also planted to provide natural shade cover, along with native shrubs and hydro-zoning. Local residents came together and decided not to retain the basketball half-court, but to install exercise equipment and kick-about sports goals instead.





*Redeveloped Wattle Park, Morley (pictured above)*

## 2. Play in general

The International Play Association considers play to be *'one of the best means to ensure the maximum potential development of every individual and the communities in which they live. Play stimulates creativity and is essential to the emotional, cognitive and physical development of the whole child, regardless of their level of ability'*.

There are numerous benefits to be gained from engaging in play – physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. There are different types of play and this strategy considers all types as being beneficial, using the following as a general guide:

- Active play, such as jumping, swinging, balancing and climbing
- Physical play such as kicking a ball, riding a bicycle or skateboard
- Creative or Imaginary play such as make-believe games, building cubbies
- Exploratory play such as tree climbing, bushwalks in natural areas, finding bugs, experiencing different textures through a mixture of objects and materials
- Social play such as sand pits, pair or group swings, group play equipment and hopscotch or ball games.

Parents, carers, families and individuals all benefit from parks and play spaces.

## 2.1 All ages and abilities

Types and components of play will differ according to age group and development. Due to the variety of play types and experiences, it is not possible to satisfy all of these in every play space, however the design of play spaces can target certain age groups or, in larger parks and reserves, a combination.

### 2.1.1 Children

Children learn through play, particularly in the early years. Development stages are outlined below:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Development stage</b>
Toddler (1 to 3 years)	Self-awareness Motor skills Speech, comprehension Interest in other children
Early childhood (3 to 6 years)	Fine and gross motor skills Strength improvement Independence, self-control increases Play, creativity and imagination develop
Middle childhood (6 to 12 years)	Logical thinking Memory and language skills Strength and athletic skills develop
Adolescence (12 years +)	Rapid physical change Peer groups help develop self-concept Abstract thinking and scientific reasoning develops

Source: *A Child's World* by Papalia, D.E. and Olds, S.W, USA: McGraw-Hill, 1993.

### 2.1.2 Adults

Use and enjoyment of public open space is a right afforded to everyone and engagement with young and older adults as part of this strategy divulged insights into how they use and would like to use parks and play spaces. Adults engage in different types of play – interacting with their children, grandchildren and friends; physical activity; rest and relaxation – therefore it is important to also consider the needs of adults in play space design.

### 2.1.3 All abilities and inclusive play

A play space for all abilities does not mean we only consider the equipment, nor does it only cater for children with disability. Some of the features of a play space without barriers include:

- Access – continuous path of travel from carparks; to and around seating, picnic tables, play nodes and public toilets
- Signage and wayfinding – clear symbols and language, tactile and Braille elements
- Gates and equipment at various heights and levels to accommodate people sitting or standing
- Accessible play equipment such as slides and swings
- Shade and shelters.

The Play Space Strategy guides the development of play spaces for use by the whole community and aims to provide a variety of spaces for a range of abilities. In 2015, Council resolved that all district and regional playground renewals would include at least one piece of play equipment that is accessible and inclusive for all children. This resolution is reflected in the *Parks and Play Space*

*Classification Hierarchy* (outlined in Part 2 of this strategy), and in the City's Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024.

Additionally, as part of the strategy, Council resolved to include accessible pathways in all play space renovations and implement a long-term annual program of shading all play equipment, either naturally, with shade sails or a combination of both.

## **2.2 Trends in play**

Due to several factors such as lifestyle changes, early childhood research, resource availability, and adult perceptions of play spaces, play trends and play space design are continually changing at local, national and international levels. In addition, the emergence of green and other outdoor spaces has resulted in an increase in public artworks, outdoor events, pop-up initiatives, cultural heritage and place making.

It is important to consider these trends, recognising the local context to ensure appropriate planning of play spaces. The intent of this strategy is that it is a living document; flexible and responsive to change.

### **2.2.1 Risk**

There is a wealth of information on risk associated with play. Increasingly, healthy levels of risk and challenge are considered a fundamental part of children's play and development. However, risk must be balanced with safety. The City will adhere to the Australian Standards for Playgrounds when planning, designing and maintaining play equipment.

### **2.2.2 Bigger play spaces**

The trend towards large and diverse destination play spaces is evident on a local scale, evidenced by community expectations and more broadly, in the number of these types of play spaces being developed by local governments in association with developers and partners. Funding these destination play spaces has generally been a result of local government partnerships with LotteryWest, philanthropic funding bodies, and various organisations.

These play spaces demonstrate that play is no longer considered a short visit, or an activity that children generally engage in by themselves. Play spaces are considered to be an experience, sometimes for the whole family, hence emphasis is placed on increased availability of play choices for a variety of age groups, higher level of supporting park infrastructure and facilities for parents, carers and families; and access for all abilities and safety.

### **2.2.3 Nature play**

The trend towards (or in some ways, *back to*) nature play can be observed in many play spaces in a number of settings – urban areas, schools and new residential developments. Accompanying this trend is significant evidence of the benefits to children in terms of learning, appreciation of the natural environment, risk-taking and social development. An abundance of nature play elements, such as loose parts play, and physical elements including rocks for climbing, balance logs and steppers made of recycled materials, provide imaginative and exploratory play for a broad age range. Similarly, interaction with the natural environment – puddles, building cubbies and observing wildlife – provides important experiences for children.

Nature play has been highlighted in all community feedback as something parents, carers and children would like to see in play experiences across the City.

## **2.3 Health and wellbeing**

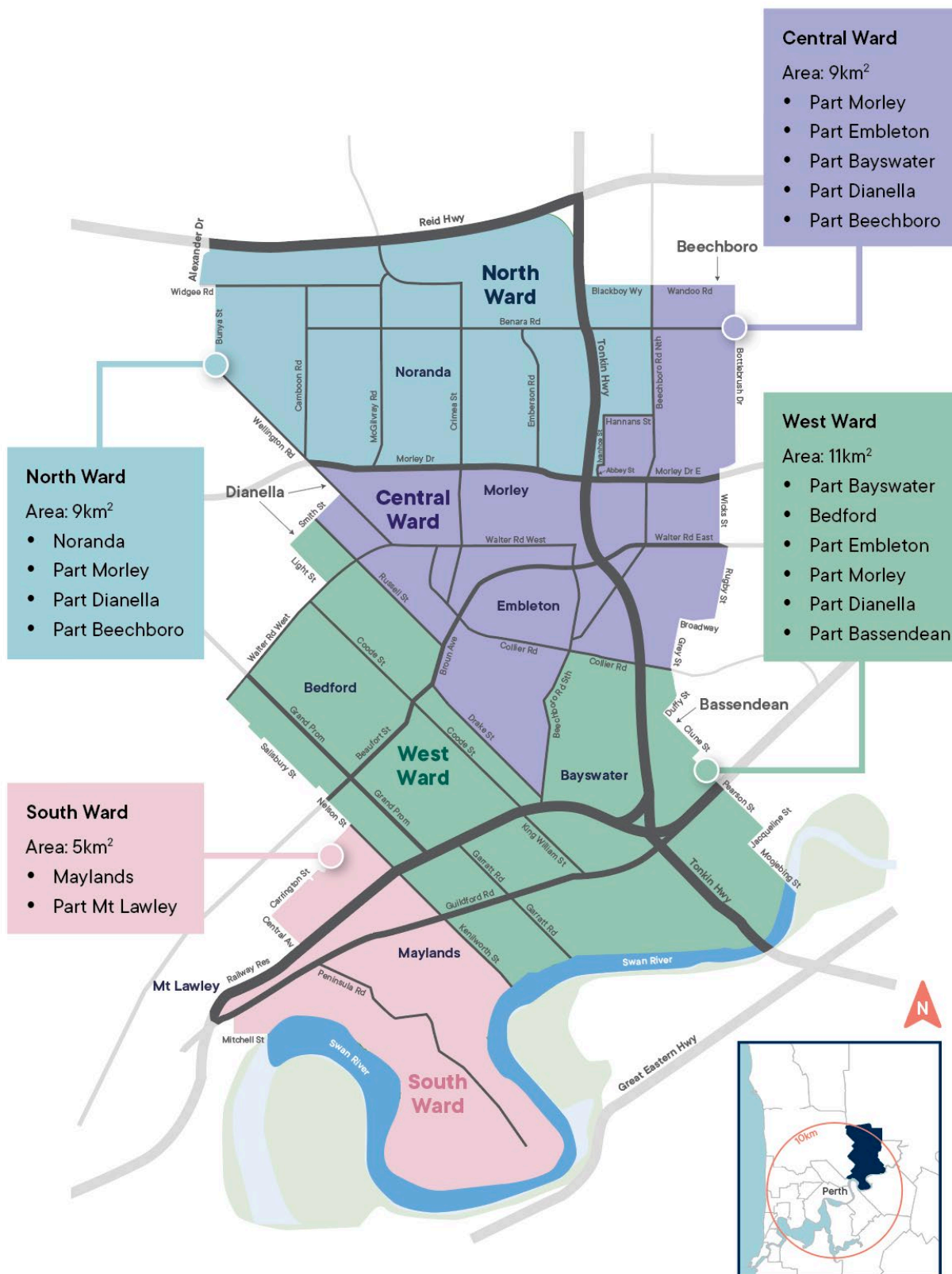
The City recognises the importance of play spaces for everyone, from toddlers to older people. Play spaces hold an important position in the community as places to socialise, relax, exercise and play. Extensive research has been conducted worldwide into public open space planning and design. A number of studies have shown that in Australia, larger, green spaces encourage people to be physically active. Similarly, if people can safely access high quality parks, the likelihood that the park will be well-used increases.

## **3. Snapshot of the City**

Known as the 'Garden City' the City of Bayswater is located 8 kilometres northeast of Perth, covering an area of 34 square kilometres. The traditional custodians of the land are the Wadjuk Noongar people.

According to the 2021 census, 69,283 residents live in the City of Bayswater and enjoy an abundance of green space and natural areas, including approximately 10 kms of Swan River foreshore.

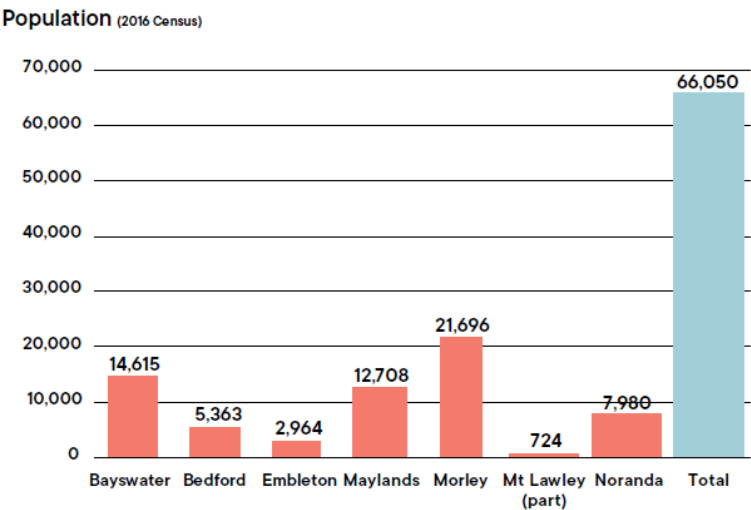




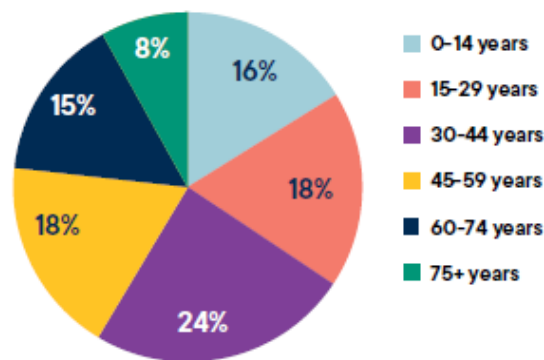
Map 1: Suburb map of City of Bayswater

3.1 Demographics

The forecast population of the City in 10 years is approximately 72,000 people. The role and function of Public Open Space in the City will become more important, particularly as density increases and more people live in medium and high-rise apartments. As at the 2021 census, 42% of the population was born outside of Australia, and 1.6% of people identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Population density continues to be highest in Morley, followed by Bayswater, Maylands and Noranda.

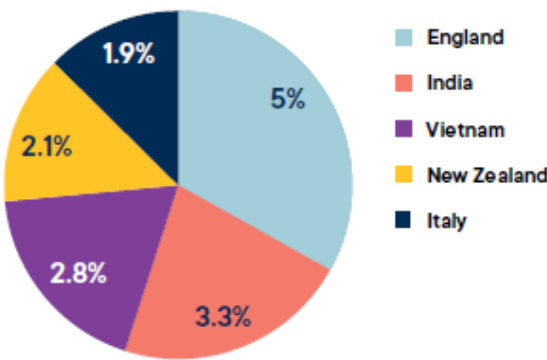


Population by age



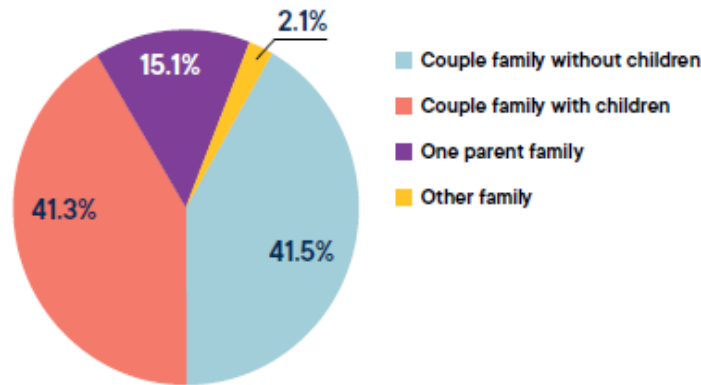
The largest age group is 30-44 year olds. The median age is 38 years.

Country of birth



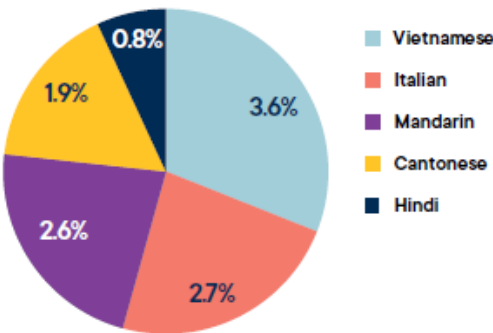
58% of the Bayswater population were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth outside of Australia are shown above.

Family composition



Couple families with children, and couple families without children make up the two largest cohorts in Bayswater.

Languages other than English spoken at home



68.2% of the population only speak English at home. Other languages spoken at home are shown above.

### 3.2 Public Open Space (POS)

All spaces are classified according to function and catchment hierarchy, for the purposes of management and planning. Functions are explained below:

**Sporting** spaces provide a setting for formal or structured sporting activities. Two examples of Sporting spaces are:

Frank Drago Reserve, Bayswater  
Pat O'Hara Reserve, Morley.

**Recreation** spaces provide a setting for informal play, physical activity, recreation and social interaction. The majority of POS in the City has a Recreation function. Two examples of Recreation Spaces are:

Newington Reserve, Morley  
Bardon Park, Maylands.

**Nature** spaces provide a setting for people to enjoy nature and protect local biodiversity. Spaces may be adjacent to reserves and may not be fully accessible to people. Two examples of Nature Spaces are:

Lightning Swamp Bushland, Noranda  
Riverside Gardens, Bayswater.

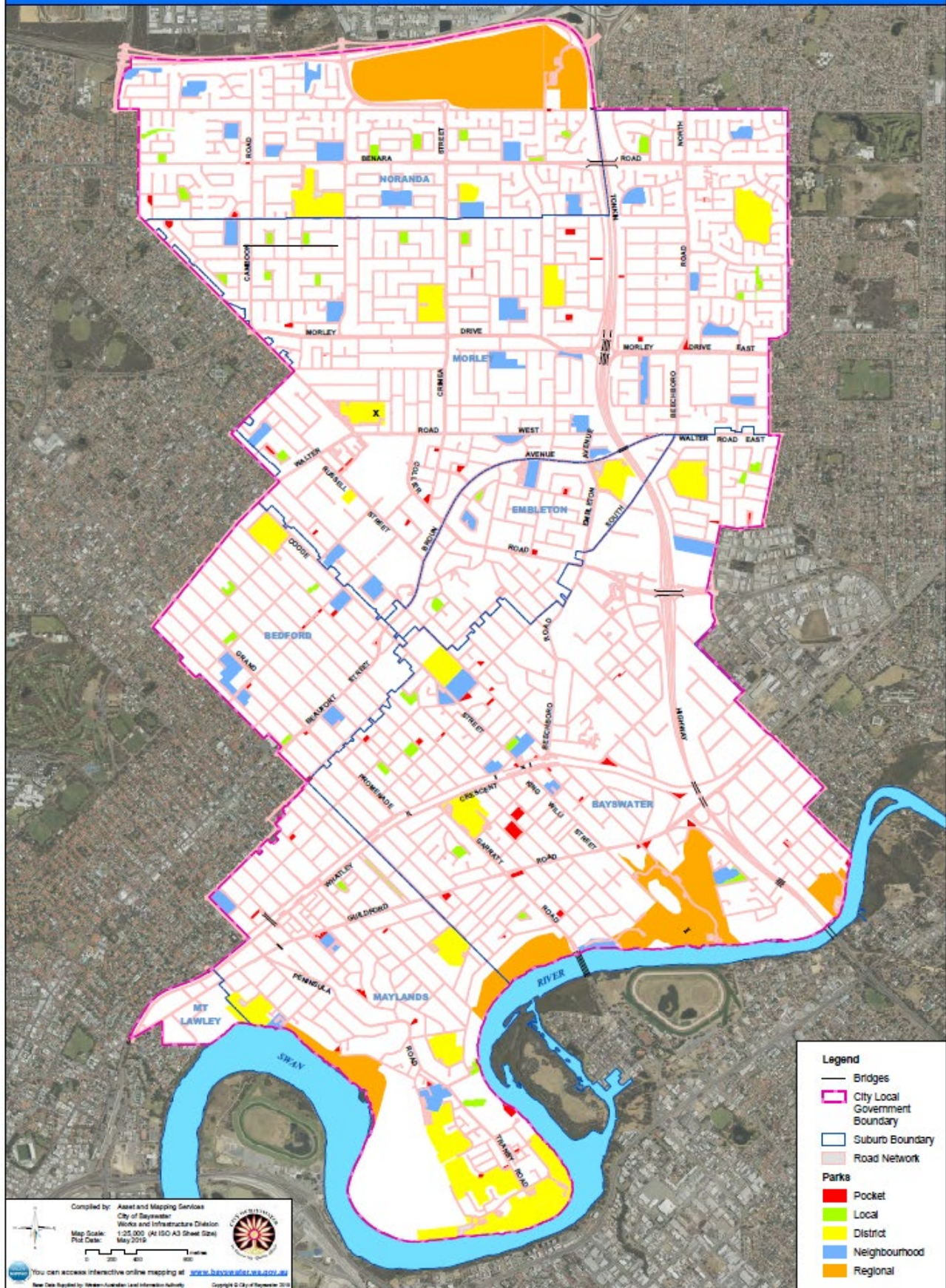
Map 2 also shows the spread of Public Open Space across the City by catchment hierarchy (typical size and potential distance a user might travel). Catchment hierarchies form the basis of the City's *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy*. Further detail on the hierarchy can be found on page 13 of this report.

Some inequalities in the distribution of parks and reserves are noted in various pockets of the City. Bayswater, Noranda and Maylands have over the 10% Public Open Space recommended by the State Government's Liveable Neighbourhoods policy, whereas Morley, Bedford and Embleton have less.

In those areas lacking in POS, existing parks and reserves are more important. This presents challenges for planning and design of parks and play spaces, particularly as population density increases.



# City of Bayswater - Play Spaces



Map 2: Public Open Space classifications

## 4. Play in Bayswater

The following sections give an overview of play in the City of Bayswater.

### 4.1 Audit of play spaces

Overall, the City has an abundance of parks and play spaces of different shapes and sizes.

In order to form a more comprehensive picture of the play spaces in the City, a site audit assessed 169 parks and reserves according to specific criteria. The purpose of the audit was to provide an overall picture of play space performance in each suburb, highlighting good examples and deficiencies in play space design, layout and function.

The audit showed focus areas for the City to address in the Play Space Strategy, namely:

- **Improve diversity in play opportunities** - due to the high incidence of modular, predominantly plastic play equipment, the range of play types across the City is generally low. The previous approach to play equipment and parks infrastructure asset renewal has resulted in similarities between parks and play spaces and consequently, a lack of varied play experiences for the community.
- **Improve access to and around play elements and spaces** - perimeter pathways, connections and around park furniture such as picnic tables and seating are required to accommodate all users.
- **Utilise a holistic planning approach** – improving the layout of parks and play spaces and combining park asset upgrades, landscaping improvements, pathway connections with play space redevelopments.. could further enhance natural features in the City's parks, and achieve greater outcomes.
- **Focus on quality of provision** - there are opportunities to improve the level and quality of provision for some suburbs (Embleton and Morley in particular) by upgrading spaces and aligning them to their correct classification, taking into account the role that play has in each park or reserve and capitalising on points of difference.

The complete audit report can be found in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Play spaces

There are 117 play spaces within the City of Bayswater, including those that are attached to community facilities, including childcare centres, and fee-for-access facilities such as Bayswater Waves. This strategy does not include these in its scope, as planning for these play spaces will be determined by management agreements or other circumstances, and may not necessarily conform to the same principles and classification hierarchy. Similarly, development funding for these sites will be determined separately to the annual budget for play space redevelopments and additional external grant funding may be sought.

Therefore, this strategy focuses on 107 play spaces.

### 4.3 Play provision

An accepted ratio for play spaces per head of population does not exist in Western Australia, however it is useful to note for the purposes of benchmarking against other local governments:

LGA	Number of children aged 1-14 years	Number of play spaces (public)	Ratio

<b>City of Bayswater population – 69,238</b>	11,028	107	<b>1 play space p/ 647 residents, or 1 play space p/ 103 children</b>
City of Vincent population – 37,865	5,246	48	1 play space p/ 788 residents, or 1 play space p/109 children
City of Canning – 95,860	17,402	142	1 play space p/ 675 residents, or 1 play space p/ 122 children
City of Belmont population - 42,245	6,723	48	1 play space p/ 880 residents, or 1 play space p/ 140 children

In comparison with other local governments, the ratio of play spaces to children is relatively high in the City of Bayswater.

#### **4.4 Play equipment replacement**

The City bases its annual replacement of play equipment on asset management principles. Play equipment replacement is informed by an independent audit commissioned by the City, at a minimum of once every three years. This ensures play equipment is aligned with Australian Standards for safety. It also provides a recommended schedule for replacement, based on the age and condition of the equipment, on a 15-year cycle.

The total replacement cost of play equipment assets in the City, including shade sails and surface is approximately \$5.8 million. The total annual depreciation cost (as at 2021/22) is approximately \$351,000. The City will aim to maintain this level of service through considered replacement of play assets, renovation of current play spaces, and improving the spread of play opportunities for the community.

#### **4.5 Maintenance regime**

The City conducts regular inspections of play spaces, according to a specified maintenance regime in accordance with the Australian Standards for Play Equipment. Sand cleansing, and repair and replacement of equipment is carried out on a regular basis to ensure ongoing community safety. Signs are used when maintenance and repairs are underway so the community is aware of how use may be impacted.

#### **4.6 Additional play infrastructure**

The City maintains 14 outdoor half and full size courts (tennis, basketball etc.), and replaces them when necessary in accordance with asset management principles and community demand. In addition, outdoor exercise equipment is installed at 19 reserves. An example of physical play infrastructure is Russell St Park in Morley, which includes a Ninja Warrior obstacle course suitable for pre-teens and young adults. There are two skate parks in the City - Crimea Reserve in Morley and Wotton Reserve in Bayswater. The City also has a small BMX circuit in bushland adjacent to the Lightning Park Recreation Centre.

The City aims to diversify the current physical play infrastructure through renovation, renewal and addition of elements for all ages and abilities, such as parkour apparatus, multi-courts and hit-up walls. These changes will generally occur at larger neighbourhood, district and regional reserves, in line with the City's Community Recreation Plan 2022-2032.

#### **4.7 Other types of play spaces**

Parks and play spaces have a variety of uses including place activation, community events and festivals. The aim of this strategy is to guide planning to make sure community spaces are as flexible as possible to accommodate the changing needs of local communities. Over recent years, parks and reserves in Morley, Maylands, Bayswater and Noranda town centres have become



important spaces used by the local community to help people connect, support local economies and host events. One example of a successful place-making project in Noranda Town Centre is the Noranda Nook, an inclusive nature play space including swing, water and sand play under natural shade, with native planting, reading corner and table tennis table. This was a community-led project, supported by the Noranda Town Centre Activation Plan.



*Noranda Nook (pictured above)*

## **5. Community opinion**

The development of the Play Space Strategy was shaped by community feedback. Throughout the development of the strategy, over 400 people participated online, in interviews, at workshops and drop-in sessions. The full report is included in Appendix 2, and a summary of findings is provided below.

### **5.1 Local play spaces**

Residents in the City of Bayswater highly value their play spaces for a number of reasons. It is imperative the City takes into account the whole community when renewing current play spaces. It is evident that local spaces that are conveniently located within close proximity to people's houses are highly valued and used for children's play, dog walking, community/social activities and exercise. There are unique differences between suburbs and communities which must be highlighted and valued in planning and provision. Ensuring residents have access to a range of different sizes and types of play spaces in their local area will be an important part of the strategy.

### **5.2 Natural environment is key**

The natural environment and open space are important to the overall experience for children and their parents or carers. This matches industry trends concerning nature and water play. For primary school aged children, the most popular play spaces across all age groups are nature-based, with either specific nature play elements, or play in the natural environment.

### **5.3 Play types**

A comprehensive program of engagement activities with school age children provided valuable insight into preferred activities and types of play spaces. Play activities showed a clear trend



towards adventure and challenge, namely climbing, building cubbies and exploring. Older age groups showed a preference for physical play using multi-courts, skate parks and bike tracks, and hanging out with friends. Swings and flying foxes continue to be popular with 8-10 year olds. Survey results from parents and carers identified requests for safe and enclosed play opportunities for toddlers, and a mix of play activities to cater for more than one age group in bigger play spaces.

## **5.4 Safety**

Results also highlighted issues concerning child safety, specifically enclosed play spaces for children in parks designated as off leash dog exercise areas. The City has stipulated that dogs must be on a lead within 20 metres of a playground, for the safety of children, and in accordance with the *Dog Act 1976*, dog owners must have control of their dogs at all times.

## **5.5 Functionality**

People of all ages and abilities enjoy parks and play spaces across the City. Suitable and accessible parks infrastructure including seating, picnic tables, shade and public toilets are important for people's enjoyment of the site. Improved access to facilities and play spaces through path networks and connections is important to ensure the whole community can enjoy them.

## **Part 2:**

## **6. Strategic approach**

This section of the strategy brings together the information that has been analysed and refined throughout the development process. This section comprises:

- Guiding principles
- A classification hierarchy for parks and play spaces
- Parks infrastructure and design elements
- Recommendations.

### **6.1 Guiding principles**

The future planning and development of play spaces will be based on three guiding principles. These are:

#### **6.1.1 Quality local provision**

In order to improve the balance of play experiences in the City's parks, the broader context of the park and its various functions must be considered. The City aims to provide a variety of play experiences in local areas in liaison with the local community users. In pocket parks, this may include meeting spaces for local residents with smaller amounts of modest play equipment, a community garden or similar community-driven initiatives. Similarly, local parks that have modular play equipment may be better suited to natural play elements, such as balancing logs, tree stumps or sand play.

A cornerstone of this strategy is that play is not just about children - play spaces are used by everyone. Families, older people, carers, teenagers and people with disability use play spaces in a number of ways. Play opportunities need to offer variety, interest and challenge for a broad range of ages, supported by parks infrastructure to facilitate a mix of uses, such as seating, picnic shelters, pathways and BBQs.

### **6.1.2 Effective and sustainable asset management**

The City owns and manages many play assets. Regular review of play assets is required to achieve well-designed and high-functioning play spaces for the community, and to maintain appropriate service levels. When play equipment reaches the end of its useful life and is no longer suitable, or there is an oversupply of similar equipment in a local area, decisions will be made with the community for the design and use of the play space. These decisions will be guided by the *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy* (outlined below in 6.2).

### **6.1.3 Annual priorities**

In conjunction with an independent condition audit commissioned every three to five years, an annual assessment process will help determine implementation priorities. Criteria will include:

- Community profile i.e. demographics
- Surrounding environment i.e. existing parks, reserves and play opportunities in the area
- Available budget.

Collaboration with other service areas to plan, design and implement play spaces and complementary infrastructure will play a vital role in the process.

This approach does not negate the City's ability to respond to community requests for park and play space developments outside of the annual program of play space redevelopments. The purpose of this strategic approach is to remain flexible and responsive to community need.

## **6.2 Classification hierarchy of Parks and Play Spaces**

The Play Space Strategy is based on the theory that play can occur anywhere. In practice, it is necessary to apply parameters for a strategic and consistent approach to planning.

The hierarchy is informed by the State Government's *Classification Framework for Public Open Space (2012)*, which was developed by the previous Department of Sport and Recreation. The purpose of the hierarchy is to guide redevelopments and make sure park and play spaces reflect the intended level of use (the full hierarchy can be viewed in Attachment 1). The hierarchy can be used to achieve a level of consistency between the opportunities available to residents in all suburbs. A summary of each hierarchical level, associated examples of play and park infrastructure, and estimated range of costs can be found below:

### **6.2.1 Pocket park**

*'Extension of my backyard'*

- The City has a total of 59 pocket parks, and 18 of these have play equipment
- The purpose of a pocket park is a short visit for rest, relaxation or play
- The size of a pocket park is generally less than 0.4 hectares; 300m walk from home
- Estimated cost range for a pocket play space renovation is \$40,000 - \$60,000.



*Nellie Tant Reserve, Bayswater*

**Pocket play components:**

- Basic/nature play elements, depending on proximity to main roads.

**Pocket park infrastructure:**

- Shade (natural/shade sail)
- Accessible pathways
- Seating
- Basic landscaping.

## 6.2.2 Local park

*'A place to meet the street'*

- The City has a total of 37 local parks, and 30 of these have play equipment
- The purpose of a local park is a short visit for play, recreation, rest or relaxation
- The size of a local park is generally between 0.4 to 1 hectare; 400m walk from home
- Estimated cost range for a local play space renovation is \$60,000 to \$75,000.



*Feredy Street Reserve, Embleton*

**Play components:**

- Cater for a limited age range
- 1 to 2 types of play e.g. nature play elements, modular equipment, climbing frame, swings.

**Park infrastructure:**

- Shade (natural/shade sail)
- Accessible pathways
- Seating
- Basic landscaping.

## 6.2.3 Neighbourhood park

*'Heart of the community'*

- The City has a total of 47 neighbourhood parks, and 35 of these have play equipment
- The intended purpose of a neighbourhood park is a medium-length visit for community and social activity, such as picnics, dog walking, sport, recreation, and play
- The size of a neighbourhood park is generally between 1 and 5 hectares; 800m walk from home
- Estimated cost range for a neighbourhood play space renovation is \$75,000 to \$90,000.



*Wattle Park, Morley*

**Play components:**

- Cater for a broader age range of children and /or adults
- Mix of play opportunities and types, e.g. outdoor multi-courts, skate elements, adult exercise equipment.

**Park infrastructure:**

- Shade (natural/shade sail)
- Accessible pathways
- Seating
- Picnic shelter
- Drink fountain with dog bowl (where appropriate)
- Barbecue (where appropriate)
- Lighting
- Landscaping.

## 6.2.4 District park

### *'Mix of sport and play'*

- The City has a total of 17 district parks, and 14 of these have play equipment
- The purpose of a district park is, in most cases, organised sport with some recreation and/or nature function
- Visit length will vary depending on sporting function, and activities include dog walking, exercise and children's play
- The size of a district park ranges from 5 to 15 hectares; 1-2 km walk from home
- Estimated cost range for a district play space renovation will be between \$75,000 and \$120,000.



*Wotton Reserve, Embleton*

**Play components:**

- Dependent on the sporting function and space available.

**Park infrastructure:**

- Shade (natural/shade sail)
- Accessible pathways
- Seating
- Picnic shelter (where appropriate)
- Drink fountain with dog bowl (where appropriate)
- Barbecue (where appropriate)
- Lighting.



## 6.2.5 Regional park

### 'Super-sized reserve'

- The City has a total of nine regional parks, and seven of these have play equipment
- The purpose of a regional play space is dependent on specific use. Regional parks and reserves can accommodate important sport or nature functions, such as Lighting Park and Riverside Gardens
- Accommodate important biodiversity principles and environmental management where possible
- The size of a regional park varies, servicing the whole of the City and neighbouring local government areas
- Estimated cost range for a regional play space renovation is \$120,000 +.



*Claughton Reserve, Bayswater*

#### Play components:

- Diverse, servicing different ages and abilities in a large enough area to enable multiple activities and users
- Accessible play elements.

#### Park infrastructure:

- Shade (natural and/or shade sail)
- Accessible pathways
- Seating
- Picnic shelter
- Drink fountain (with dog bowl where appropriate)
- Barbecue
- Lighting.

## 6.3 Park infrastructure and design

The *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy* outlined above identifies essential and optional park elements for each classification, based on the use and function of the space. It is important to provide a range of elements, based on the unique characteristics and location of the park and play space. As a general guide, the following park elements will be included at the appropriate level:

### 6.3.1 Soft fall

According to the Australian standard, all play equipment over 600mm in height requires a minimum of 300mm of some type of soft fall. The majority of play spaces will have sand or mulch. Higher level play spaces (neighbourhood and above) may contain rubber soft fall or a mix of surfaces, depending on the surrounding environment, type of play and feedback from the community.

### **6.3.2 Drink fountains**

Drink fountains with dog bowls have been placed in parks and reserves that are designated as off leash dog exercise areas. Installing drink fountains will be considered at district, neighbourhood and regional level play spaces, taking into account water availability and lifecycle costs.

### **6.3.3 Fencing**

Fencing around toddler play areas will be considered in situations where a barrier is required between the play space and hazards, such as the Swan River at Riverside Gardens play space, or at parks that are designated as off leash dog exercise areas. Enclosed play spaces for younger children can allow for separation from play equipment targeted at older age groups. Fencing of play areas at most levels of the hierarchy will be considered, taking into account the location, surrounding environment, site characteristics and park classification.

### **6.3.4 Seating**

It is important to provide adequate seating in parks and play spaces to cater for parents and carers watching their children, older people, and others wanting to enjoy watching the world go by. Design will vary, depending on the usage of the park, level of play space and community input. At a minimum, two seats should be available in all parks and play spaces, in adequate shade.

### **6.3.5 Picnic shelters**

These are generally not considered essential infrastructure at pocket or local parks and play spaces, if adequate seating and shade is provided. At neighbourhood level and above, visits tend to be longer and therefore often warrant a picnic shelter. If a BBQ is installed at a park (generally neighbourhood level and above), a picnic shelter is ideally located within close proximity, connected by an accessible pathway.

### **6.3.6 Barbecues**

Parks and reserves classified as neighbourhood or district may have a barbecue, depending on the location. In the case of district reserves with a sporting function, there may be constraints on the space available. Some neighbourhood level reserves may benefit from a barbecue if desired by the local community. Regional level reserves may include one or more barbecues, preferably with access to seating/picnic shelter and bin. Installation of barbecues will take into account electrical supply and lifecycle costs.

### **6.3.7 Pathways and connections**

Pathways in parks and around play spaces have a dual purpose:

- Facilitate a path of travel between points, such as carpark to play space, or seating/picnic area to barbecue
- Integration into the play space in accordance with the site characteristics or theme, such as nature play areas or bicycle tracks.

In both instances, accessibility must be considered, therefore choices concerning the material used will depend on the specific requirements of the space. Materials may include concrete, asphalt, crushed limestone, rubber or pavers.

### **6.3.8 Public toilets**

The City aims to provide public toilets at all district and regional reserves. Some parks are in close proximity to public toilet facilities in town centres or community facilities. In the case of pocket and local level parks intended for short visits, public toilets are generally not installed.

### **6.3.9 Car parking**

Bigger parks and reserves often have an increased travel time to get to and encourage a longer stay, so these warrant the need for car parks - either on-street or verge parking, or a dedicated off street car park. District and Regional level parks and reserves will have a dedicated car park including Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled (ACROD) bays, in accordance with the relevant standards.

### **6.3.10 Shade**

In Perth's climate, shade in play spaces is vital. A number of parks and reserves have established, large-canopy trees, however not all of these trees adequately shade play equipment. The high incidence of plastic play equipment in play spaces can exacerbate heat, particularly at certain times of the day. It is a challenge to naturally shade play equipment, and some species of tree can drop significant amounts of leaf litter and there is potential for falling branches. Trees and the anticipated shade cover will be considered in the location of play equipment and seating.

The City is committed to ensuring all play equipment is adequately shaded, either naturally, with a shade sail or a combination of both.

### **6.3.11 Additional infrastructure**

The City aims to provide spaces in parks and reserves that appeal to the broader community by planning and designing elements in a way that creates a sense of place and offers points of difference. If resources permit and the location is deemed appropriate, design of play spaces may include public artwork, themed and/or recycled play equipment, wayfinding and street furniture.

### **6.3.12 Access and inclusion**

The City of Bayswater is committed to furthering the principles and objectives of the Disability Services Act and ensuring that the community is accessible for, and inclusive of, people with disability, their families and carers. The City's Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 is designed to meet the requirements of the *Disability Services Act 1993*. In addition to the Act, legislation such as the Building Code of Australia and Access to Premises Standard under the Disability Discrimination Act, also relate to planning for access and inclusion at facilities and in public open spaces.

The City will aim to ensure that all City facilities and infrastructure and pedestrian facilities in parks and reserves comply with minimum access standards as required by Australian Standards on Access and Mobility (ie. AS 1428 suite) and are physically accessible and safe. Upgrades to park infrastructure will provide access for people with disability through thoughtful planning and design to enable access by the whole community. An example of this is picnic shelters that incorporate an extended end with adequate space for a person seated in a wheelchair to move underneath. In addition, the concrete pad surrounding the picnic shelter should be large enough for adequate circular movement of a pram, wheelchair or gopher.



## 7. Recommendations

This section provides recommendations for the City's play spaces over a ten-year period, in three areas:

- Annual Play Space Redevelopments, focussing on the parks and reserves with play equipment due for replacement in the next three years
- Future Implementation Plan (2025-2035) for all remaining play spaces
- Annual Shade Program

### 7.1 Annual Play Space Redevelopments

This table contains the first three years' of redevelopments, based on the estimated year of replacement. This list is a guide and does not prevent the City from responding to community requests for park and play infrastructure developments outside of the annual program.

#### 2022/23 financial year

The following sites are included in the City's 2022/23 budget. Comments and recommended actions are based on preliminary analysis and preliminary engagement to date:

<i><b>Park name</b></i>	<i><b>Suburb</b></i>	<i><b>Classification</b></i>	<i><b>Dog off leash exercise area?</b></i>	<i><b>Shade requirement – Natural or shade sail</b></i>	<i><b>Comments</b></i>	<i><b>Recommended action</b></i>	<i><b>Budgeted Municipal funding \$</b></i>
Birkett Reserve	Bedford	Local	N	Shade sail (existing)	Existing rubber softfall. Community to inform level and type of play equipment	Enhance landscaping and natural shade. Potential to reduce area of rubber softfall to allow additional play equipment	\$100,000
Lower Hillcrest Reserve	Bayswater	District	Y	Natural	Popular local play space used by nearby residents and Hillcrest Primary school children. Existing play space at Upper Hillcrest.	Maintain level within potential constraints imposed by Drake St path placement. Await outcome of Drake St pathway project before	\$60,000

						opening community engagement.	
Feredy Reserve	Embleton	Local	Y	Shade sail (existing)	Situated in drainage basin with sloping ground. Accessible pathway not viable. Basic play upgrade only	Maintain current local level. Current shade sails and natural shade provided.	\$65,000
Kelvin/Sherwood Reserve	Maylands	Pocket	N	Natural	Limited space, minor play and landscaping required.	Maintain current level of green space/basic play	\$30,000

In the case of the sites proposed for redevelopment in 2023/24 and 2024/25, an estimated range has been applied to each play space, based on anticipated level of service as guided by the *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy*.

#### 2023/24\*

<b>Park name</b>	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Dog off leash exercise area?</b>	<b>Shade requirement – natural or shade sail</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>	<b>Estimated \$ range</b>
Flora Reserve	Bayswater	Local	N	Shade sail / natural	Potential for nature play, adult exercise equipment / active play elements. Lacks pathways and seating. Facilitate connection to McWhae Gardens	Enhance. Potential for Drainage for Liveability program. Space for active play / soccer goals.	\$60,000-\$75,000
Gobba Lake	Bayswater	Local	N	Shade sail	Friends of Gobba Lake group involvement with concept plan drafted in 2019.	Liaise with Friends of group in relation to half court, shade sail and play space.	\$60,000-\$75,000
Toowong Reserve	Bayswater	Local	N	Natural	Potential to relocate play to take advantage of natural shade.	Seating required.	\$60,000-\$75,000

RA Cook Reserve	Bedford	District	Y	Shade sail	Busy sporting reserve.	Consider adjacent water catchment in planning. Potential for shade sail – lacking natural shade.	\$75,000-\$120,000
Battersea Reserve	Morley	Neighbourhood	N	Natural	Community request for shade sail over play equipment. Additional nature play elements installed in mulch pit in 2019.	Potential to enhance play, incorporating natural elements. Could liaise with local residents and/or school students in design.	\$75,000-\$90,000
Kennedy Reserve	Morley	Pocket	N	Natural	Small, well-landscaped, lacking shade. Limited budget required.	Maintain. Close to Rudloc and RA Cook Reserves.	\$40,000-\$60,000
Rhodes Reserve	Morley	Local	N	Natural	Play space lacking shade and accessibility. Area well provisioned for parks.	Maintain. Could consider goals pending community demand. Grassed area approx. 50m x 60m.	\$60,000-\$75,000
Ivory Park	Noranda	Local	Y	Natural	Current outdoor court. Reserve is lacking passive surveillance. Sloping ground, difficult to access.	Maintain. Recent landscaping and hydro-zoning around play space and seating areas.	\$75,000-\$90,000

2024/25\*

<b>Park name</b>	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Dog off leash exercise area?</b>	<b>Shade requirement – natural or shade sail</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>	<b>Estimated \$ range</b>
Headley Place Reserve	Bayswater	Pocket	N	Natural	Investigate proximity to road and position of play equipment	Maintain. Consider nature play elements in linear design in tree shade.	\$40,000-\$60,000

Joan Rycroft Reserve	Bayswater	Neighbourhood	Y	Natural	Reserve used for overflow soccer training.	Enhance. Requires pathways and seating.	\$75,000-\$90,000
Riverside Gardens	Bayswater	Regional	Y	Shade sails	Part of larger concept plan incorporating Hinds Reserve	Potential for external funding and larger play / recreation redevelopment.	TBA (depends on funding for larger project)
Swan Lake Reserve	Bayswater	Local	N	Shade sail	Liaise with Friends of Group; potential to improve the space.	Maintain. Liaise with Sustainability, Environment and Waste team.	\$60,000-\$75,000
Bardon Park (Lower)	Maylands	District	N	Natural	Potentially part of larger redevelopment plan to construct walkway and transform ponds into living stream.	TBA	TBA (part of a larger budget)
Alan Hill Reserve	Morley	Local	N	Natural	Exercise equipment installed in 2019; ball court removed.	Potential to incorporate natural elements into surrounding environment	\$60,000-\$75,000
Boxhill Reserve	Morley	Local	N	Natural	Ball court replaced in 2018/19	Maintain. Requires connecting pathways, seating.	\$60,00-\$75,000
Jakobsons Reserve	Morley	Local	N	Natural	Develop relationship and access to adjacent reserve. Established trees, adjacent to drainage site (revitalised).	Maintain. Potential to shift play space to the larger reserve and install a shade sail / connect to adjacent water ways	\$60,000-\$75,000
Robert Thompson Reserve	Noranda	Neighbourhood	N	Shade sails (existing)	Exercise equipment (4 stations) installed in 2020/21. More variety requested in play equipment – innovation, nature play. Expand to include more shaded seating; water play; fenced; shade.	One of the City's most popular reserves, particularly for young children. Consider Noranda Nook.	\$100,000+

					Play Equipment Spinner fixed in August 2022.		
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\*Programs are subject to budget approval and available resources.

## 7.2 Future Implementation Plan

The following plan is proposed to guide play space redevelopments in the remaining period to 2037. The plan was informed by the original play equipment audit, taking into account community feedback during the initial engagement phases. **Estimated play equipment replacement date** has been determined by the independent audit, conducted in 2022. The year of replacement is subject to change, depending on condition and available resources. The next audit is anticipated to occur in 2025.

**Recommended actions** are noted as follows:

- **Maintain** - Maintain the play space at the specified classification level. Play equipment to be replaced and play space redeveloped in line with the estimated replacement date, based on community feedback and further analysis
- **Enhance** - Enhance play space to bring it up to classification level and align with the *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy*. Play equipment to be replaced and play space redeveloped in line with the estimated replacement date, based on community feedback and further analysis.

These recommended actions are preliminary, based on information to date. Further planning and analysis will occur prior to the estimated year of replacement, along with community engagement.

<b>Park suburb and name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Dog off leash exercise area?</b>	<b>Estimated play equipment replacement</b>	<b>Comments from community feedback</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>
<b>Bayswater</b>					
Alf Brooks Park	Pocket	N	2034/35	Increase tree canopy, improve connectivity and replace play elements at existing level. Retain shade sail.	Maintain
Bert Wright Park	Neighbourhood	N	2031/32	Popular park for events; future projects will further activate community use. Outdoor multi-court	Maintain

Donald Way Reserve	Local	N	2026/27	Address pathway and connection.	Maintain
Frank Drago Reserve	District (Sporting)	Y	NIL	Reserve does not currently contain a play space; future development of the site may include play equipment	Enhance
Gordon Reserve	Pocket	N	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18	Maintain
Halliday Park	Neighbourhood (Sporting)	Y	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18	Maintain
Hamilton Reserve	Pocket	N	2028/29	Potential for adult exercise; consider tree issues and leaf litter. High dependence area	Maintain
Hinds Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2030/31	Site included in broader concept plan for Riverside and Hinds Reserve foreshore redevelopment. May be combined with Riverside works in 2024/25.	Enhance
Houghton Park	District (Sporting)	N	2026/27	Site has potential for play variety e.g., nature play elements, adult exercise equipment. Outdoor multi-court.	Enhance
Nellie Tant Reserve (formerly The Strand Reserve)	Pocket	N	2024/35	Re-named to honour Nellie Tant, first female councillor in Bayswater. Future redevelopments to align with Pocket level.	Maintain
Norco Way Reserve	Pocket	N	2030/31	Explore potential to develop the space for community initiatives. Improve maintenance level	Maintain
Paterson Reserve	Local	N	2031/32	Explore potential to develop the space with adjacent school students and residents.	Maintain
Upper Hillcrest Reserve	District (Sporting)	Y	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18. Investigate potential to combine with Lower Hillcrest.	Maintain

<b><i>Park suburb and name</i></b>	<b><i>Classification</i></b>	<b><i>Dog off leash exercise area?</i></b>	<b><i>Play equip. replacement due</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>	<b><i>Recommended action</i></b>
<b><i>Bedford</i></b>					
Alan Lehmann Reserve	Local	Y	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18. Play space well-utilised by kindergarten.	Maintain
Beaufort Park	Neighbourhood	N	2031/32	Dependant on sporting function	Maintain
Browns Lake Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2025/26	Wayfinding to assist links to Rudloc Reserve and Nora Hughes.	Maintain
Grand Promenade Reserve	Neighbourhood (Sporting)	N	2027/28	Potential to activate space with play areas around the perimeter, BBQ, community events space. Outdoor multi-court	Maintain
Gummery Reserve	Local	N	2028/29	Play equipment to be improved	Maintain.

York Reserve	Pocket	N	2025/26	Enhance natural shade through planting and improve connectivity to play elements. Potential for sand play.	Maintain
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<b>Park suburb and name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Dog off leash exercise area?</b>	<b>Play equip. replacement due</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>
<b>Embleton</b>					
Broun Park	Neighbourhood	Y	2030/31	Potential for engaging, nature-based play space to complement natural assets. Good location to attract families and children (adjacent to Bayswater Waves). Investigate a staged process of upgrading play space including pathway network and access from carpark and local streets; picnic, seating, BBQ; play nodes for 2-3 age groups.	Enhance
McKenzie Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18	Maintain
Ockley Square Reserve	Pocket	N	2026/27	Build community initiatives	Maintain
Wotton Reserve	District (Sporting)	N	2031/32	Future placement will depend on skate park project and facility upgrades.	Maintain

<b>Park suburb and name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Dog off leash exercise area?</b>	<b>Play equip. replacement due</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommended action</b>
<b>Maylands</b>					
Bardon Park (upper)	District	Y	2029/30	Potential to combine two play spaces, enhancing current play spaces / expanding area, based on outcome of redevelopment plan.	Enhance
Bath Street Reserve	Local	N	2027/28	Park currently provides a high level of service and interest due to site location and topography.	Maintain
Charles Reserve	Local	N	2027/28	Potential to improve play equipment and infrastructure to complement the surrounding environment.	Maintain
Clarkson Reserve	District	N	2031/32	Consider in broader planning of Maylands Peninsula.	Enhance
De Lacy Reserve	District (Sporting)	Y	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 2018/19	Maintain



Gibbney Reserve West	District (Sporting)	Y	2035/36	Current climbing net to remain (2015), additional play installed in 2021/22.	Maintain
Lake Bungana	District	N	2031/32	Consider in development of Brickworks Park	Maintain
Margaret Reserve	Pocket	N	2030/31	Park and play improvements community led.	Maintain
Maylands Foreshore	Regional/District	N	TBA	Pending stage 2 works Maylands Waterland. Potential for BBQ, seating, picnic, play upgrade	Enhance
Maylands Waterland	Regional	N	2037/38	Asset life applies to play equipment within the park only; water play elements based on a different asset plan.	Maintain
Plowmans Park	Local	N	2027/28	Well-designed and maintained local space for surrounding residents.	Maintain
Puntie Crescent Reserve	Pocket	N	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 2017/18	Maintain
Shearn Memorial Park	Neighbourhood (Sporting)	Y	2029/30	Reserve used as a quasi dog park; bunker leased to women's hub. Anticipate high community interest and involvement in play space redevelopment.	Maintain
The RISE	Neighbourhood	N	2025/26	Surveillance and activation could be improved. Ample shade over play equipment.	Maintain

<b><i>Park suburb and name</i></b>	<b><i>Classification</i></b>	<b><i>Dog off leash exercise area?</i></b>	<b><i>Play equip. replacement due</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>	<b><i>Recommended action</i></b>
<b><i>Morley</i></b>					
Abinger Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2028/29	Consider play space for future placement of basketball court	Enhance
Arbor Park	District	Y	2025/26	Basketball court removed and extra exercise equipment installed 19/20. Play space redevelopment to complement the Our Park Our Place developments – dog agility equipment, nature elements, landscaping and native planting.	Enhance
Charlwood Reserve	Local	N	2026/27	Requires significant tree planting and landscaping for shade.	Maintain
Chesney Reserve	Pocket	N	2033/34	Play equipment upgraded in 2018/19	Maintain
Crimea Park	District (Sporting)	Y	2029/30	Potential to expand skate park to include mini ramp. Shade to be installed over play equipment. Current outdoor court. Consider mix of play elements depending on community input	Maintain
Crowhurst Reserve	Local	N	2027/28	Established trees providing decent shade; scope to develop from existing pathway	Maintain

Emberson Reserve	District (Sporting)	N	2026/27	Potential for improved play, parks infrastructure and shade to complement usage	Enhance
Farnham Reserve	Local	N	2031/32	Play equipment upgraded in 2016/17	Maintain
Fedders Reserve	Pocket	N	2031/32	Play equipment upgraded in 2016/17	Maintain
FJ Beals Park	Neighbourhood (Sporting)	Y	2028/29	Used for overflow sporting activities.	Maintain
Gus Weimar Park	Local	N	2035/36	Play space redevelopment in 2019	Maintain
Hampton Square Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2030/31	BBQ requested by local residents. Install barbecue in close proximity to existing seating, picnic shelter and play equipment. Outdoor court upgraded in 2018/19.	Maintain
Jakobsons Reserve (North)	Pocket	N	2024/25	Develop relationship and access to adjacent reserve. Established trees; play equipment to requires shade	Maintain
Kanimbla Reserve	Local	N	2025/26	Potential for play equipment to cater for young children, depending on community input	Maintain
Mahogany Reserve	Local	N	2035/36	Play space redeveloped in 2021	Maintain
Moses Saunders Park	Local	N	2026/27	Potential to connect play spaces in a 'tour' through wayfinding and connecting pathways - Arbor, Moses Saunders, Gus Weimar, Allan Hill, Newington	Maintain
Newington Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	203/32	Path for riding bikes; bench seat on opposite side of playground. Fences around playground for safety	Enhance
Pat O'Hara Reserve	District (Sporting)	Y	2035/36	Play space redeveloped in 2020	Maintain
Peters Place Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2026/27	Play equipment could be upgraded to complement Living Stream and revegetation.	Enhance
Rudloc Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2028/29	Play for broader age range of children requested – toddler and older children due to close proximity to John Forrest Secondary College. Enhance with seating, barbecue, play nodes and connectivity.	Enhance
Russell Street Reserve	District	N	2032/33	Ninja play equipment, with some play elements for younger children. Broader use of space to be considered in play space redevelopments.	Enhance
Shadwell Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2033/34	Play equipment upgraded in 18/19. Increase natural shade, consider bike paths and connectivity.	Enhance
Silverwood Reserve	Pocket	N	2031/32	Liaise with childcare centre.	Maintain
Stanbury Reserve	Pocket	N	2035/36	Play space redeveloped in 2021.	Maintain
Tom Cameron Park	Neighbourhood	N	2026/27	Needs upgrading for use by children in the area; lighting to be improved.	Enhance
Trewin Park	Local	N	2030/31	Play equipment to be shaded	Maintain
Waltham Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2033/34	Play space redeveloped in 2019	Maintain

Wattle Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2035/36	Play space redeveloped in 2021.	Maintain
Weld Square Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2031/32	Play equipment to be more challenging - cater for older kids. Improve community safety.	Enhance

<b><i>Park suburb and name</i></b>	<b><i>Classification</i></b>	<b><i>Dog off leash exercise area?</i></b>	<b><i>Play equip. replacement due</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>	<b><i>Recommended action</i></b>
<b><i>Noranda</i></b>					
Belstead Reserve	Local	Y	2035/36	Play space developed as part of City's COVID stimulus funding package, as a whole-of-park redevelopment.	Maintain
Bohemia Park	Neighbourhood	Y	2033/34	Play equipment upgraded in 18/19	Maintain
Bramwell Reserve	Local	N	2033/34	Play equipment upgraded in 18/19	Maintain
Corderoy Reserve	Local	Y	2028/29	Large under-utilised area; more planting and shade required	Maintain
Deschamp Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2026/27	Liaise with neighbouring primary school students	Maintain
Fitzpatrick Reserve	Local	Y	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18	Maintain
Holden Reserve	Local	Y	2031/32	Large under-utilised area; could make use of existing trees for shaded seating and pathways	Maintain
Kirkpatrick Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2025/26	BBQ and lighting; good local meeting place. Fenced playground, shade, seating, coffee	Enhance
Lightning Park Recreation Centre	Regional (Sporting)	N	2022/23	Play space will consider main sporting use and available space	Maintain
Logan Reserve	Pocket	N	2031/32	Potential for community garden allotments	Maintain
Luderman Park	Neighbourhood	Y	2033/34	Play equipment upgraded in 18/19	Maintain
McPherson Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18	Maintain
Millerick Reserve	Neighbourhood	Y	2027/28	Play space could be enhanced to reflect neighbourhood level.	Enhance
Nederpelt Reserve	Local	N	2027/28	Current outdoor court. Consider court provision in the area before replacing	Maintain
Noranda Avenue Reserve	Pocket	N	2032/33	Play equipment upgraded in 17/18. Consider fence for safety.	Maintain
Noranda Nook	Pocket	N	2036/37	Liaise with surrounding clubs and Noranda Vibes in relation to any play space redevelopments in future	Maintain
Noranda Sporting Complex (SE corner)	District (Sporting)	N	2030/31	Liaise with user clubs and stakeholders in the first instance to determine location and type of play.	Maintain
Noranda Sporting Complex (SW corner)	District (Sporting)	N	2034/35	Play space redeveloped in 2019	Maintain

Sherbrooke Reserve	Local	N	2027/28	Consider safety aspect of play in close proximity to Benara Rd	Maintain
Strutt Reserve	Neighbourhood	N	2031/32	Some issues with dogs off leash. Request for BBQ and exercise equipment stations. Current outdoor court.	Maintain

### 7.3 Annual shade program

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2019, Council resolved to include an action in the Play Space Strategy to:

*‘Develop a long-term program to progressively shade all of the City’s playgrounds, including through the use of shade sails and/or the planting of large canopy trees close to play equipment (where it is possible).’*

The following program has been developed based on detailed analysis of current natural shade cover of play equipment, using the City’s LIDAR data capture (Light Detection and Ranging) in the City Spatial Portal. The system, developed in February 2018, allows observation of shadows cast from nearby trees over a 24-hour period. Supporting information has been sourced from ‘The Shade Handbook: A practical guide for shade development in Western Australia’ (2012).

To inform the Annual Shade Program, data was collected on natural shade cover of play equipment between 9am and 6pm in the month of January, including:

- Duration of natural shade (hours)
- Times of natural shade e.g. 4pm to 6pm
- Partial or full shade over play equipment.

The data does not show the extent of coverage by shade sails, only tree shadow. Therefore, it was not possible to glean the benefit provided by shade sails alone.

As at the 2022 review:

- **19** play spaces currently have shade sails. Depending on the location of the play, height and position of shade sails and nearby trees, the sails may or may not provide full shade. Approximately half of the play spaces with shade sails also benefit from at least two hours of natural shade from nearby trees, generally in the afternoon between 1pm and 6pm.
- The total number of play spaces recommended for tree planting to increase natural shade over play equipment (as at 2022 review) is **61**. Tree planting is recommended at sites with shade sails as well in some cases, to provide additional shade where necessary.
- The total number of play spaces recommended for shade sails in future play space redevelopments that do not currently have them (as at 2022 review) is **22**.

#### 7.3.1 Natural shade

Seedlings will be planted, rather than mature trees, as younger trees develop a stronger root system more quickly. The growth period could be between five and ten years to reach maturity and provide optimal shade over play equipment. Species selection is based on a range of factors including soil type, surrounding environment, consideration for biodiversity and improving fauna habitat. Specialist advice from the City’s arborist recommended seedlings be planted rather than mature age trees to ensure a faster growth rate, providing optimal shade within a shorter period of time. In addition to planting trees specifically to shade play equipment, trees will be planted at identified sites to support existing shade sail coverage of play equipment.

#### 7.3.2 Shade sail

Sizes of shade sails vary, depending on the size of the play space, height of equipment and the required shade coverage. The amount of shade provided also depends on the angle and height of the sail. Depending on the location of the play space, there will be times of day when the equipment cannot be shaded to full capacity. Existing shade sails are positioned in such a way as to protect users during peak UV periods - generally 12pm to 1pm, when the sun is directly overhead.

### 7.3.3 Costs

Costs illustrated below are based on the average price from several suppliers for the supply and installation of various shade sail sizes. Ongoing costs are based on historical information and an average rate from several suppliers. The City has an annual agreement with a supplier to remove and repair shade sails in winter months. This is important to prevent damage in unpredictable weather conditions.

<b>Park Classification</b>	<b>Shade requirement</b>	<b>Install Cost</b>	<b>Ongoing Annual Maintenance Cost</b>
Pocket	1 medium shade sail OR	\$15,000	\$270
	2 trees	\$840	<i>NIL – initial cost covers supply, planting, mulching, watering for the first 3 years</i>
Local	1 large shade sail OR	\$20,000	\$340
	2 – 3 trees	\$840 - \$1,260	<i>NIL – initial cost covers supply, planting, mulching, watering for the first 3 years</i>
Neighbourhood	2 small shade sails OR	\$25,000	\$470
	3 trees	\$1,260	<i>NIL – initial cost covers supply, planting, mulching, watering for the first 3 years</i>
District	3 medium shade sails OR	\$30,000	\$680
	2 – 3 trees	\$840 - \$1,260	<i>NIL – initial cost covers supply, planting, mulching, watering for the first 3 years</i>
Regional	5 medium shade sails OR	\$60,000	\$1200
	4+ trees	Min \$1,680+	<i>NIL – initial cost covers supply, planting, mulching, watering for the first 3 years</i>

### 7.3.4 Decision criteria

Based on the data analysis, shade type will be determined by the criteria shown below:



<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Existing shade sail	Shade sail	Existing shade sails will not be removed; they will be replaced when they have reached the end of their useful life. Additional trees can also be planted to further increase shade.
Current shade is limited - 0 to 2 hours per day	Shade sail	Generally indicates a lack of surrounding trees therefore shade sail is required
Play space / equipment prevents natural planting	Shade sail	Natural planting may be restricted by certain factors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placement near a sporting reserve</li> <li>• Housing in close proximity / obstruction of residents' view</li> <li>• Adjacent roads / foreshore</li> <li>• Underground services</li> <li>• Overhead power lines.</li> </ul>
Current shade will be complemented by additional planting - 3+ hours full shade per day	Natural	Planting will complement current shade over time
Play equipment / play space design prevents shade sail	Natural	Height e.g. climbing net, or flying fox; location of play space is on undulating or sloping ground
Current shade is adequate – more than 5 hours full shade per day	NIL required	Shade over play equipment is sufficient

### 7.3.5 Implementation

It is recommended that, where shade sails have been identified for installation over existing play equipment, that this takes place in conjunction with the planned play space redevelopments. This will allow for maximum flexibility in shade design and coverage when planning the overall site and play equipment placement. It is anticipated the cost of shade sails will be funded separately each year, in accordance with annual budget approvals.

Tree planting will commence immediately at reserves identified for natural shade. Costs are covered by existing identified budgets such as the street tree planting program. Sites to be planted will be prioritised by size and level of usage over a two to five year period subject to stock and planting capacity.

Each year (commencing 2020/21), a program of sites to be redeveloped will be submitted for Council consideration in the draft budget based on the following information:

- Site, location and classification level
- Shade type – sail or natural
- Anticipated schedule of implementation

Park name	Suburb	Classification	Shade type
Birkett Street Reserve	Bedford	Local	Shade sail - retained
Lower Hillcrest Reserve	Bayswater	District	Natural – play equipment in full shade most of the day
Feredy Reserve	Embleton	Local	Shade sail - retained
Kelvin/Sherwood Reserve	Maylands	Pocket	Natural – play equipment in full shade most of the day

## 2023/24

Park name	Suburb	Classification	Shade type
Gobba Lake	Bayswater	Local	Existing shade sail
Toowong Reserve	Bayswater	Local	Natural
RA Cook Reserve	Bedford	District	Shade sail
Battersea Reserve	Morley	Neighbourhood	Natural – play equipment partially shaded
Kennedy Reserve	Morley	Pocket	Natural / shade sail – potential to shift play space into natural shade (pending budget)
Rhodes Reserve	Morley	Local	Natural
Ivory Park	Noranda	Local	Shade sail

## 2024/25

Park name	Suburb	Classification	Shade type
Flora Reserve	Bayswater	Local	Natural – potential to shift play space into natural shade (pending budget)
Headley Place Reserve	Bayswater	Pocket	Natural
Joan Rycroft Reserve	Bayswater	Neighbourhood	Natural
Riverside Gardens	Bayswater	Regional	Shade sails
Swan Lake Reserve	Bayswater	Local	Shade sail
Bardon Park (Lower)	Maylands	District	TBA – dependant on larger park redevelopment
Alan Hill Reserve	Morley	Local	Natural – park full of established trees
Boxhill Reserve	Morley	Local	Natural
Jakobsons Reserve	Morley	Local	Natural
Robert Thompson Reserve	Noranda	Neighbourhood	Shade sails – retained

## 8. Conclusion

The Play Space Strategy was developed in response to an identified need for strategic direction in the planning and design of play spaces in the City of Bayswater. It is the result of comprehensive community engagement, data collection and analysis, and was influenced by current research and trends. It was then refined into three guiding principles:

- Quality local provision
- Effective and sustainable asset management
- Annual priorities.

The *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy* is a valuable tool to guide the planning of the function and hierarchy of parks and reserves, taking into consideration the role that play has in a park - along with other purposes including exercise, recreational activities and family gatherings. Analysis of these factors, the surrounding environment, existing provision in the local area, and demographic profile, will assist the City to make strategic decisions for play that benefit the whole community.

## 9. Evaluation and review

This strategy is a living document, adaptable to change and subject to regular review. The first desktop review was completed in 2022, primarily to update informing documents for the strategy, provide information on the outcomes of the first three years, and update cost ranges for play space redevelopments.

It is important to measure the success of the Play Space Strategy to ensure that the City adheres to the guiding principles and provides play spaces that are aligned with community expectations.

Measures of success include:

- The community is engaged in the planning and design of play spaces
- Appropriate resources are allocated to play space redevelopments each year
- Shade over play equipment is included in every play space redevelopment
- Accessible pathways are included in every play space redevelopment
- The *Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy* is used as a guide for all play space redevelopments and other infrastructure works in parks and reserves

Reporting will include:

- Regular updates to the City's Executive team
- Reports to Council on play space redevelopments, lessons learned and challenges to be addressed
- Regular updates to the community through the City's online engagement platform, 'Engage Bayswater', social media and other communication mechanisms.

## 10. Attachment 1

# Parks and Play Space Classification Hierarchy

City of Bayswater

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	Pocket Park	Local Park	Neighbourhood Park	District Park	Regional Park
Catchment Area	Approx. 300m walk from home	400m walk from home	800m walk from home	1 - 2 km from home	Whole of City, service neighbouring LGAs
Site characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 0.4 ha in size</li> <li>Most often used as Recreation and/or Nature space</li> <li>Intended for short visits for rest and relaxation</li> <li>Assist in preservation of local biodiversity and natural environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally 0.4 ha to 1 ha in size</li> <li>Recreation and/or Nature function</li> <li>Responsive to natural features</li> <li>Good passive surveillance</li> <li>Assist in preservation of local biodiversity and natural environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally 1 to 5ha in size</li> <li>Recreation and social focus for community</li> <li>Provide a variety of features including bushland, play infrastructure, sporting infrastructure (if appropriate)</li> <li>Sport, Recreation or Nature function/s</li> <li>Responsive to natural features</li> <li>Good passive surveillance</li> <li>Assist in preservation of local biodiversity and natural environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally 5 to 15ha in size</li> <li>Primarily used for organised sport with some Recreation and/or Nature function</li> <li>Service several neighbourhood areas</li> <li>Located centrally to maximise accessibility</li> <li>Located on district distributor roads with public transport</li> <li>Good passive surveillance</li> <li>Safe pedestrian and cycling connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services one or more geographical region/s</li> <li>Well connected by major road and public transport networks</li> <li>Accommodate important Sport and Recreation functions as well as significant conservation and/or environmental features</li> <li>Accommodate biodiversity principles and environmental management goals where possible</li> </ul>
Play characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic play infrastructure or nature play elements may be provided, depending on proximity to main roads, surveillance and size.</li> <li>May reflect local character, community-led initiatives aligned with City policies for Public Open Space</li> <li>Intended for short visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic level play infrastructure, nature play elements or exercise equipment</li> <li>May reflect local character, community-led initiatives aligned with City policies for Public Open Space</li> <li>Intended for short visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive play opportunities and choices for different age groups including a mix of types</li> <li>Intended for medium length visits by surrounding residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play opportunities dependant on sporting infrastructure and space availability</li> <li>Visit length generally dependant on sporting use/outside sporting hours exercise, dog walking and children's play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity of play opportunities for different ages and abilities</li> <li>Area should be large enough to enable multiple activities, play types and users simultaneously</li> </ul>
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe pedestrian and cycling connections</li> <li>Accessible pathways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe pedestrian and cycling connections</li> <li>Accessible pathways</li> <li>Sand or mulch soft fall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe pedestrian and cycling connections</li> <li>Accessible pathways</li> <li>Accessible seating and picnic furniture</li> <li>Accessible play elements</li> <li>Sand and/or mulch soft fall</li> <li>Lighting - general security and pathways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe pedestrian and cycling connections</li> <li>Accessible pathways</li> <li>Accessible seating and picnic furniture</li> <li>Accessible play elements</li> <li>Sand and/or mulch soft fall</li> <li>Lighting - general security, pathways and play areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe pedestrian and cycling connections</li> <li>Accessible pathways</li> <li>Accessible seating and picnic furniture</li> <li>Mix of accessible play elements</li> <li>Mix of surfaces, including sand, mulch and rubber soft fall</li> <li>Lighting - general security, pathways and play areas</li> </ul>
Shade/shelter	Natural/shade sail	Natural/shade sail	Natural/shade sail	Natural and/or shade sail	Natural and shade sails
Supporting infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seating</li> <li>Bin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seating</li> <li>Bin</li> <li>Picnic shelter (negotiable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seating node/s</li> <li>Picnic shelter</li> <li>Bins</li> <li>Drink fountain (with dog bowl)</li> <li>BBQ (negotiable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seating node/s</li> <li>Picnic shelter (where appropriate)</li> <li>Bins</li> <li>Drink fountain (with dog bowl)</li> <li>BBQ (negotiable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple seating and picnic shelter nodes</li> <li>Bins</li> <li>Drink fountains (with dog bowl)</li> <li>BBQs</li> </ul>
Public Toilets	Not required	Not required	Negotiable, depending on surrounding provision	Required	Required (fully accessible)
Parking	Not required	Street or Verge (as appropriate)	Street or Verge	Car park required (minimum 5 bays)	Car park required with ACROD bays
Fencing	Negotiable (depending on hazards)	Negotiable (depending on hazards)	Negotiable (depending on hazards, separation of areas)	Negotiable (depending on hazards, separation of areas)	May apply to some play areas for separation; hazard-dependant