

3.15 PLAYGROUNDS

OBJECTIVE

The Shire of Gingin is committed to providing high quality, well-maintained playground equipment that complies with current Australian Standards, whilst recognising constraints (environmental, social and economic) on the Shire's resources.

This policy:

1. Addresses the importance of accessibility and walkability to playgrounds, particularly within a local context.
2. Promotes safe use and enjoyment of playgrounds through appropriate siting and design.
4. Provides guidance on the standards of provision, future direction and management for playgrounds.

POLICY

Scope

This policy applies to playgrounds within the Shire of Gingin.

Policy Statement

1. Safety and Compliance

Playgrounds are highly used and valued amenities which are predominantly provided for children.

- An annual allocation will be provided for in the Shire's Budget in order to undertake a regular maintenance/replacement schedule to ensure safe and high quality playgrounds are provided. All playground inspections are completed by accredited Playground Inspectors;
- If there are playgrounds that have equipment which does not comply with Australian Standards, replacement will be scheduled within the Ten Year Playground Replacement Plan and, until that occurs, regular maintenance on the equipment will be undertaken;
- Council's Ten Year Playground Replacement Plan will be the guiding document and will be reviewed annually to ensure that playgrounds comply with Australian Standards and are provided in accordance with the Shire's Playground Policy;
- The Shire will install fencing around playgrounds where, in the Shire's opinion, they are considered to be in an unsafe location for example, adjacent to major roads;

2. Playground Consolidation

When considering playground consolidation, the Western Australian Planning Commission's Liveable Neighbourhood Policy has been taken into regard.

Liveable Neighbourhoods Element 4 – Public Parkland – Policy requirements stipulates:

Most dwellings be located within 400m of a park:

- *Larger district and neighbourhood parks located on edge of neighbourhood;*
- *At least one neighbourhood park per neighbourhood;*
- *All parks (public open space) landscaped to a minimum standard; and*
- *Some ovals can be shared with schools.*

A “best fit” approach in regard to the above policy is necessary when considering playgrounds in rural areas. (neighbourhood = town/rural residential area)

It is the intention of Council to provide the following:

Rural Residential/Rural Living

One playground/play area adjacent to community facilities (ie halls etc) generally located on suitable community land.

Townsites

A playground will be provided within an approximate 400m walkable distance from a residence within a townsite where suitable community land is available.

Where possible, preference will be given to consolidating multiple playground facilities into a main playground area.

GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	Nil
Industry Compliance	Australian Standards for Playgrounds
Organisational Compliance	Ten Year Playground Replacement Plan

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Review Cycle	2 years	Next Review	2023
Department	Operations and Assets		

Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis
1.	20/09/2011 Item 11.1.4	Policy adopted
2.	21/09/2021 Item 11.1	Policy amended.