Playgrounds Policy

Contents

1. Scope
2. Purpose
3. Policy
4. Definitions

1. Scope

This policy applies to the provision of playgrounds provided on Council owned or managed land (excluding childcare centres).

2. Purpose

Council recognises the importance of play in facilitating the healthy physical, psychological and social development of children. This policy aims to ensure that inclusive play opportunities are equitably provided for children of all ages and abilities throughout the City.

3. Policy

3.1 Council will aim to provide a network of high quality playgrounds which incorporate a stimulating play and learning environment for all children regardless of ability or age.

3.2 Playground design shall reflect the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness to provide quality play opportunities for all children.

3.3 New or upgraded playgrounds will seek to increase accessibility for children with disabilities in a shared and inclusive environment that encourages participation.

3.4 Playgrounds will be equitably distributed throughout the City and be located within an easy walking distance for all children to encourage healthy living and independent access.

3.5 Council will undertake meaningful engagement with the community, particularly children, to inform inclusive playground design.

3.6 Playgrounds will provide children with an appropriate level of risk and challenge whilst complying with relevant Australian safety standards.

3.7 Nature play is to be incorporated into playgrounds to maximise play value through opportunities for exploration, imagination and creativity.

3.8 Council will aim to maximise shade provision at all playgrounds through the planting of advanced size trees.

3.9 New or upgraded playgrounds will incorporate natural or artificial shade provision based on individual site characteristics.

4. Definitions

Inclusiveness - Opportunities for participation that create a strong sense of belonging, where, regardless of difference, prejudice and persecution is not tolerated.

Nature Play – Elements from the natural environment such as trees, plants, sand, logs and boulders.

Playground – An area containing equipment and other elements that facilitates opportunities for children's play.

Associated documents

- Playground Shade Sail Assessment Criteria

History

- Version 1 – Council Minute 6550 (8 October 2002)
- Version 2 – Council Minute 686 (10 July 2017)
- Version 3 – Council Minute 1457 (16 July 2018)

REFERENCES	Disability Discrimination Act 1992 AS 4685 (Playground Equipment) AS 4422 (Playground Surfacing) AS 1428 (Design for Access and Mobility) AS 4174 (Shade Fabrics) AS 4373 (Pruning of Amenity Trees)
POLICIES	Asset Management Policy Public Art Policy Sun Protection Policy
ATTACHMENTS	Playground Shade Sail Assessment Criteria

Playground Shade Sail Assessment Criteria

Score	0	1	2
Surrounding Density	Low	Medium / High	
Existing Shade (Summer)	High (50+%)	Moderate (20% – 50%)	Low / None (<20%)
Tree Planting Opportunities *(If no existing shade)*	Yes	No	
Playground Classification	Local	District	

Total Score	1 – 2	3 - 5
Shade Sail Requirement	No	Yes

CITY OF PARRAMATTA