



**PLAY SPACES
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
(Final)**

March 2009

Executive Summary

This “Town of Bassendean Play Spaces Implementation Plan” is designed to provide guidance for the provision of play spaces and their associated infrastructure, on public open space within the Town of Bassendean.

The anticipated expenditure for the implementation of the Play Spaces Implementation Plan is \$1.48 million, comprised of \$1,067,000 for play structures and soft-fall and \$416,200 for associated facilities. To ensure compliance with the Town’s Sustainability Policy, it is recommended that the Plan be implemented over a 10 year timeframe, commencing from 2009/10.

The *objectives* of the Play Spaces Implementation Plan are:

1. To prioritise the provision/upgrade/relocation of play structures on the Town’s play spaces.
2. To list the sources of funding available to implement the Plan.
3. To develop a decision making mechanism that facilitates community input, industry knowledge and stakeholder involvement about decisions on the composition of play structures on the play spaces within the Town.
4. To take a strategic approach to the facilities to be made available on the Town’s play spaces, in the context of a hierarchical framework.
5. To link the Plan in with the Town’s organisational processes for the ongoing inspection, maintenance and replacement of its play facilities.

The *outcomes* of the Play Spaces Implementation Plan will be:

1. The provision of three distinct play space precincts within the Town (i.e. Ashfield, Bassendean & Eden Hill) comprising a mix of play spaces, incorporating facilities/activities for different age groups to meet current and future community needs.
2. The provision of play spaces that fosters universal access.
3. The provision of play spaces that provide a safe environment to undertake play.

Introduction

What is a Play Space?

Traditionally, children's play areas have been referred to as playgrounds. The Town of Bassendean has chosen to adopt the term 'play spaces' as it recognises that an entire park or reserve offers play opportunities above and beyond a designated play area and that the landscaping and supporting amenity add benefit to the experience of the user.

A play space can incorporate an entire open space site or a small area within a site. As children get older, they will choose to access more of the site and as such, more play opportunities could be provided. Play opportunities do not necessarily have to take the form of traditional play equipment. Trees, logs, rocks or land forms may offer equally interesting and valuable play experiences.

Why is play important?

Play is an integral component of childhood development and learning. There are numerous benefits which a child attains through play, including:

- Development of social, intellectual, physical and emotional skills;
- Motor sensory stimulation, which enhances the natural learning process;
- Development of imagination and creativity skills; and
- Development of problem solving, communication, negotiation and listening skills.

Through play, children learn about themselves, other people, roles, society and their environment. In addition, play also inspires children to awaken their imagination and develop their creative aptitude.

Play is an important aspect of childhood development as it provides opportunities for individuals to explore, image, experience and grow. Play spaces located within public open space are vital resources and it is important that these areas are developed into environments which support learning.

The design of play spaces has a direct impact on the quality of the user's experience and the degree to which the facility is utilised. In order to achieve maximum usage and quality, play spaces need to provide for a variety of different play experiences and each facility within a precinct needs to offer different experiences to those nearby.

The Town of Bassendean is comprised of 50 areas of public open space, incorporating 30 play structures.

The Town of Bassendean Play Spaces Implementation Plan takes a strategic approach in the provision and management of the asset. The Plan ensures that community needs are taken into consideration to provide for suitably located, quality play spaces.

Public Open Space Within The Town of Bassendean

In 2006 the Town of Bassendean contracted leisure consultants, Jill Powell & Associates, to undertake a review of all of the Town's public open space. The review resulted in the development of a draft Public Open Space (POS) Strategy.

Following consideration of the draft POS Strategy via stakeholder and community consultation, the Bassendean Town Council was able to adopt a POS Strategy for the Town in September 2007. A further amendment was made to the classifications in May 2008, with Council resolving that Sandy Beach Reserve be reclassified as regional open space. The POS Strategy provides a classification for all parks, reserves and open space in the Town at a regional, district, neighbourhood or local level. The POS Strategy also provides guidelines for the level of infrastructure and play equipment recommended for each park and reserve, depending on its classification.

In summary, the Town includes 50 areas of Public Open Space (POS), comprising:

- 3 sites classified as Regional POS;
- 3 sites classified as District POS;
- 3 sites classified as Neighbourhood POS;
- 21 sites classified as Local (developed) POS; and
- 20 sites classified as Local (undeveloped) POS.

Recommended Facilities Provision on the Town's POS

Regional Public Open Space

1. Ashfield Flats/Ashfield Parade Reserve
2. Steel Blue Oval
3. Sandy Beach Reserve

Recommended Infrastructure: Public Open Space receiving a regional classification shall be developed in accordance with Concept Plans developed for the particular site. The Town's Concept Plans should be read in conjunction with the POS Strategy, to ensure consistencies are achieved for the most effective and holistic provision of infrastructure across the Town. It should be noted that the Town has various Concept Plans already in existence, and more may be developed in the future for public open space. In situations where inconsistencies arise between recommended provision, as per the POS Strategy and within Concept Plans, the Council may be asked to adjudicate on the appropriate level of provision.

District Public Open Space

1. Ashfield Reserve
2. BIC Reserve
3. Jubilee Reserve

Recommended Infrastructure: Large playground with a play combination with 5+ play activities; change rooms; toilets; off-street car parking for 20-100 vehicles, large picnic area, shade structures, public art (large); lighting to provide for public safety and unstructured activity in the evening; sealed car parks with overflow parking available for 20-100 vehicles; path network facilities for pedestrian and cyclists with dual use and should be part of the Perth Bicycle Network; ancillary facilities include BBQ and picnic facilities/outdoor gym equipment; in ground reticulation; seats for incidental and social gatherings; mixture of natural and synthetic shade; and barrier/safety fences and spectator fences.

Neighbourhood Public Open Space

1. Mary Crescent Reserve
2. Success Hill Reserve
3. Point Reserve

Recommended Infrastructure: Medium sized playground with a play combination with 3 - 5 play activities; toilets; off-street car parking for 20-100 vehicles, large picnic area, shade structures, public art (medium); lighting to provide for some evening use and public safety standards only; sealed car parks with some street parking to cater for up to 20 vehicles; path network facilities for pedestrian and cyclists with dual use and should link into the Perth Bicycle Network; ancillary facilities include drink fountains and BBQ; in ground reticulation; seats for incidental and social gatherings; natural shade; and barrier/safety fences.

Local Public Open Space

There are two sub-categories of Local POS, namely: Developed Local POS and Undeveloped Local POS.

Developed Local POS

1. Broadway Arboretum
2. The Park Estate (new reserve)
3. Colin Smith Reserve
4. Third Avenue POS
5. Carman Way Reserve
6. Troy Street Reserve
7. Parmelia Way Reserve
8. May Holman Reserve
9. Surrey Street Park
10. Palmerston Square Reserve
11. Freiberg Reserve
12. Hatton Court Park
13. Clarke Way Reserve
14. Gary Blanch Reserve
15. Pickering Park
16. Bindaring Park
17. Freeland Square
18. Padbury Square Reserve

19. Lord/Schofield Reserve
20. Culworth/ Mickleton Reserve
21. Anzac Terrace Reserve

Recommended Infrastructure: Small playground with a play combination with 1 - 3 play activities; lighting to provide for public safety standards only; no formal car park; path network facilities for pedestrian and cyclists with dual use could link into the Perth Bicycle Network; ancillary facilities include: benches, waste bins and may comprise public art (small); in ground reticulation but could be a “brown reserve” dependant on size; seats for incidental use; natural shade; and barrier/safety fences.

Undeveloped Local POS

1. Christie POS
2. Whitfield Street POS 1
3. Bindaring Park
4. Bridson Street/Elder Parade POS
5. Bradshaw Reserve
6. Kelly Park
7. Calnon Street POS
8. Lamb Street POS
9. Hamilton Street POS
10. Lord Street POS
11. Earlsferry POS
12. Anstey Road POS
13. Parnell Parade POS
14. Deakin Street POS
15. Villiers Street POS
16. Geraldine POS
17. 4th Avenue POS
18. Padbury Place POS
19. Chedworth Way POS
20. Ireland Way POS

Note: Undeveloped POS may include small parcels of bushland, POS used in transition such as road or drainage reserves, or POS in close proximity to other developed POS.

Recommended Infrastructure: Undeveloped Open Space shall be retained in its natural state and will not be provided with facilities.

Recommended Play Structures Provision for the Town’s POS

Regional and District POS

Within the regional and district public open space areas of each precinct (i.e. Ashfield, Bassendean & Eden Hill) there should ideally be a combination of play structures provided. It is intended that all precincts will be able to fulfil this criteria over the term of this Play Spaces Implementation Plan.

The top two levels of POS attract visitors from near and far, and in addition to casual recreation, also provide for junior and senior organised sports. It is expected that most people will drive to regional and district spaces and will stay for extended periods of time.

For *Regional POS*, the Council has resolved that it be developed in accordance with the Concept Plans developed for the particular site, and so, the play spaces implementation shall be included as part of this process.

Of the three regional level public open space sites included within the Plan, one site only is recommended to receive a regional playground (i.e. Sandy Beach Reserve). This recommendation is based on the high costs for regional playgrounds (e.g. the Belmont regional playground cost in excess of \$1million). Steel Blue Oval as the second regional site already contains a quality play space comprised of a wheeled sports / skate facility / basketball half court. In addition, it is considered that as Ashfield Flats/Ashfield Parade Reserve is in close proximity to Sandy Beach Reserve, it may not be a sustainable use of the Town's funds to provide an additional playground at this site.

For *District POS*, it is recommended that the play structures comprise 5+ play activities. 'Traditional' manufactured play equipment may or may not meet the needs of the community. For this reason, the community should be consulted on the type of equipment.

It is envisaged that the play opportunities should be provided for a wide age range (junior to teenager) and ensure accessible play opportunities are provided for children with disabilities.

To ensure ongoing sustainability of the Town's resources it is recommended that only one district level play structure be provided within each precinct. See "Play Spaces Master Plan" for more information.

The precincts of Ashfield, Bassendean and Eden Hill have one district level site each (i.e. Ashfield Reserve, BIC Reserve and Jubilee Reserve), so it is recommended that these sites be developed with district level play structures as per the proposed timeline, to provide an equitable distribution of play facilities for the community across the Town. The Town Centre Parklands, being BIC Reserve, is recommended as a priority site for a universal access playground.

Neighbourhood and Local POS

The lower two tiers of the POS hierarchy are usually visited by local residents who stay for shorter durations. Visitors usually walk or cycle to local and neighbourhood spaces. These spaces are popular with carers of children under 12 years.

Within each precinct (Ashfield, Bassendean & Eden Hill) there should ideally be a combination of play structures provided across its neighbourhood and local public open space. Bassendean and Eden Hill will be able to fulfil this criteria over the term of this Play Spaces Implementation Plan. However, Ashfield does not

include any Neighbourhood POS. For this reason, it is recommended to address this issue, by the Town investigating the possibility of forming a partnership with the Department of Education and Training (DEET), to provide for a neighbourhood level play structure on the Ashfield Primary School site.

There are numerous examples around the Perth metropolitan area of partnerships between local government authorities and schools for the shared usage of DEET facilities, including for playgrounds. A good example of a successful partnership is at the Bayswater Primary School site. The City of Bayswater has been able to partner with DEET to provide play equipment on the school grounds, with the benefit of sharing the costs 50/50. An agreement is in place between the two parties which allows for school usage during school hours and community use during after school hours. The City of Bayswater is responsible for the maintenance of the facility. The Town of Bassendean could enter into a similar agreement with the Ashfield Primary School and enjoy similar benefits as stated above.

Note: During the public comment period on the (draft) Play Spaces Implementation Plan, the Town received a submission from the Ashfield Primary School offering “in principal” support to provide for community accessible play equipment at their School site.

Each Neighbourhood and Local site should focus on a specific age category. Together, these spaces will be able to offer a suite of play opportunities tailored toward the toddler, junior or intermediate age category.

For *Neighbourhood POS*, it is recommended that the play structures comprise 3 - 5 play activities. Again traditional manufactured play equipment may or may not suit the community’s needs, so consultation should be undertaken beforehand.

For *Local (Developed) POS*, it is recommended that the play structures comprise 1 - 3 play activities. Again traditional manufactured play equipment may or may not suit the community’s needs, so consultation should be undertaken beforehand.

To ensure ongoing sustainability of the Town’s resources it is recommended that play structures not be provided for all neighbourhood and local public open space. The most effective and sustainable approach is for a “cluster” of neighbourhood level play structures and local level play structures be provided within each precinct. The intention is for the neighbourhood facilities to provide for several age groups and the local facilities to provide for specific age groups. The benefit of this approach is that it will enable all of the community’s play needs to be met, within close proximity of their households. See “Play Spaces Master Plan” for more information.

The final locations for the neighbourhood and local level play structures is somewhat objective. However, it is recommended that the “clustering” principle be followed whatever the case.

Note: Prior to the community consultation period, the Town was of the opinion there were five local play structures surplus to requirements. The first of these

play structures is at the Surrey Street Park. It was determined during the development of the Town's POS Strategy, that this Park will be impacted upon by future implementation of the Town Centre Area Strategy, as far as the proposals relate to Steel Blue Oval, so the existing play structure may require relocation in the future. The second play structure is at Culworth / Mickleton Reserve. This Reserve has an ageing play structure adjacent to a new play structure provided approximately 100m away at Anzac Terrace Primary School. The third play structure is at Parmelia Way Reserve, which again is within a short walking distance to another play structure at May Holman Reserve. The fourth play structure is at Carmen Way Reserve, which is in close proximity to the play facilities at Anzac Terrace Reserve. The fifth play structure is at Third Avenue Reserve, which is surrounded by other Reserves with play structures.

The Town had the opportunity to dispose or relocate the above local level play structures to achieve a more strategic distribution across the whole community. However, during the community consultation phase of the project 15 written submissions were received by the Town, with 12 submissions (including a petition with 46 signatories) objecting to the removal of any existing play equipment within the Town. For this reason, there is adequate community demand for the five local play structures to remain and for them to be incorporated into the Play Spaces Implementation Plan as a level 3 priority.

In summary, to best meet the community's play needs through applying a "clustering" principle across the Town, the following areas of public open space are recommended for neighbourhood and local level play structures:

- Neighbourhood Level Play Structures - Mary Crescent Reserve, Success Hill Reserve, Point Reserve and Ashfield Primary School; and
- Local Level Play Structures - The Park Estate (new reserve), Freeland Square, Colin Smith Reserve, Lord/Schofield Reserve, Anzac Terrace Reserve, Padbury Square Reserve, Troy Street Reserve, Broadway Arboretum, May Holman Reserve, Freiberg Reserve, Palmerston Square Reserve, Pickering Park, Hatton Court Park, Clarke Way Reserve, Gary Blanch Reserve, Surrey Street Park, Culworth / Mickleton Reserve, Parmelia Way Reserve, Carmen Way Reserve and Third Avenue Reserve.

Recommended Prioritisation for Play Structures & Associated Facilities

As stated at the outset, one of the main outcomes of this Plan is for the provision of three distinct precincts within the Town (i.e. Ashfield, Bassendean & Eden Hill) comprising a mix of play spaces, incorporating facilities/activities for different age groups, to meet current and future community needs.

Level One Priorities

District level play structures are lacking within the Town, so it is proposed that the prioritisation for play structures and associated facilities should be undertaken at a district level down to a local level.

The facilities audit undertaken after the development of the Town’s Public Open Space Strategy indicated that the precinct of Ashfield has limited play structures. For this reason (and based on its high usage), it is proposed that Ashfield Reserve be a priority location for a District level play structure. It is then proposed that a District level play structure be provided at Jubilee Reserve (again due to high usage) and then at BIC Reserve. This would result in one District level play structure within each precinct.

See “Play Spaces Master Plan” for more information. The table below lists the parks and reserves that require new/modified play structures and provides a recommended age appropriateness for the structures and the corresponding cost estimates and proposed timelines.

Park/Reserve	Targeted User	Cost Estimates	Implementation
Ashfield Reserve	Mixed (1-15 yrs)	\$150,000	2009/10
Jubilee Reserve	Mixed (1-15 yrs)	\$150,000	2010/11
BIC Reserve	Mixed (1-15 yrs)	\$150,000	2011/12
Total		\$450,000	

Level Two Priorities

Neighbourhood level play structures are proposed next for implementation. Based on current facilities available, the Ashfield Primary School site should be undertaken first, followed by Mary Crescent Reserve, Success Hill Reserve and then Point Reserve. See “Play Spaces Master Plan” for more information. The table below lists the parks and reserves that require new/modified play structures and provides a recommended age appropriateness for the structure and the corresponding cost estimates and proposed timelines.

Park/Reserve	Targeted User	Cost Estimates	Implementation
Ashfield Primary School Site	Mixed (3-12 yrs)	\$80,000	2012/13
Mary Crescent Reserve	Mixed (3-12 yrs)	\$83,000	2013/14
Success Hill Reserve	Mixed (3-12 yrs)	\$85,000	2015/16
Point Reserve	Mixed (3-12 yrs)	\$87,000	2016/17
Total		\$417,000	

Level Three Priorities

A facilities audit undertaken after the development of the Town’s Public Open Space Strategy indicated that Local level play structures are currently well catered for, and in some cases there is an oversupply. For this reason, it is proposed that the Local level play structures receive the last priority for implementation. See “Play Spaces Master Plan” for more information.

The table below lists the parks and reserves that require new/modified play structures and provides a recommended age appropriateness for the structure and the corresponding cost estimates and proposed timelines.

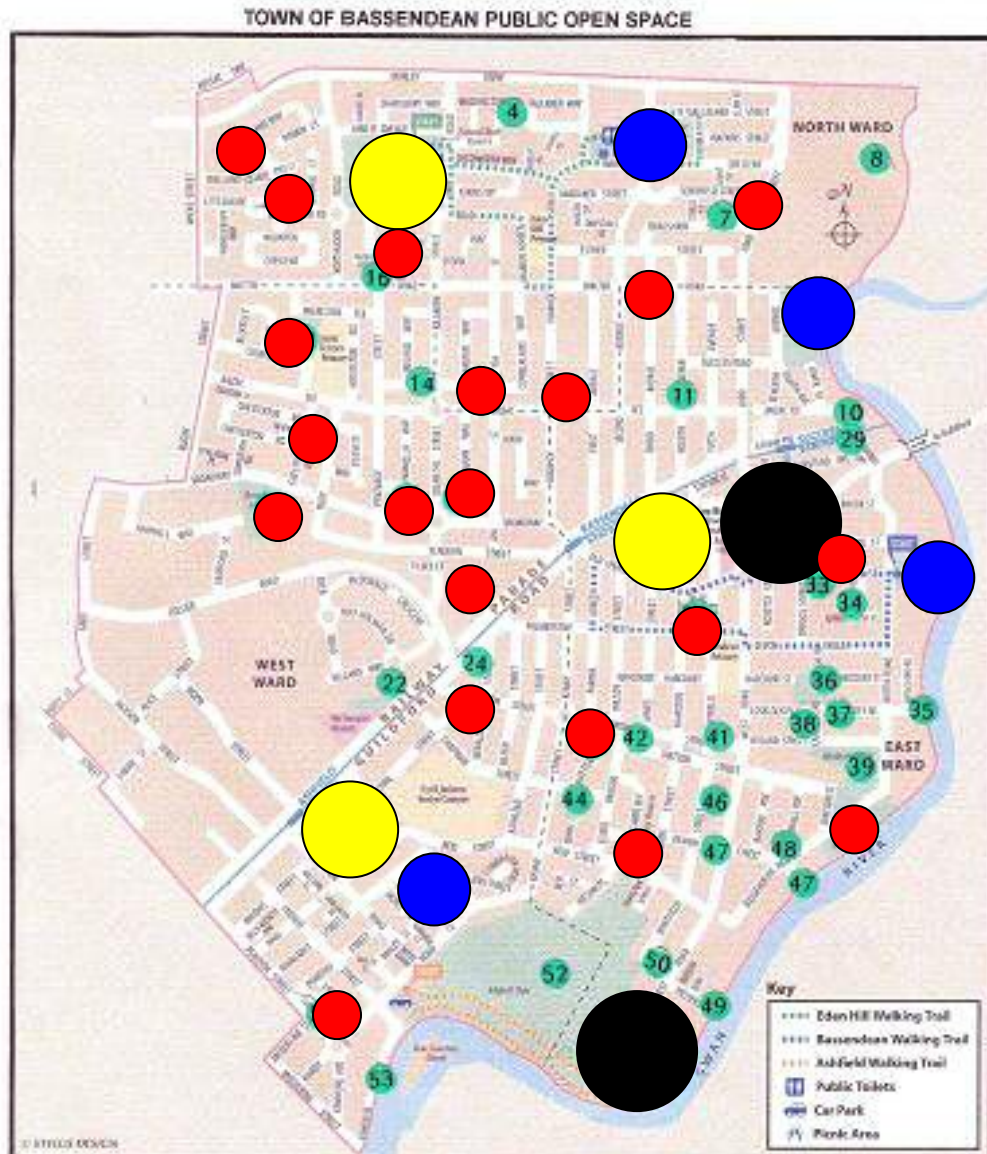
Park/Reserve	Targeted User	Cost Estimates	Implementation
Anzac Terrace Reserve	10 – 12 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Broadway Arboretum	7 – 9 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Clarke Way Reserve	7 – 9 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Colin Smith Reserve	3 – 5 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Freeland Square Reserve	Under 3 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Freiberg Reserve	3 – 5 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Gary Blanche Reserve	Under 3 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Parmelia Way Reserve	10 – 12 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Culworth / Mickleton Reserve	7 – 9 yrs	\$10,000	2017/18
Hatton Court Park	Under 3 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Lord/Schofield Reserve	7 – 9 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
May Holman Reserve	5 – 7 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Padbury Square Reserve	5 – 7 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Park Estate (new reserve)	3 – 5 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Palmerston Square Reserve	5 – 7 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Pickering Park	10 – 12 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Troy Street Reserve	3 – 5 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Carman Way Reserve	3 – 5 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Surrey Street Park	Under 3 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Third Avenue Reserve	10 – 12 yrs	\$10,000	2018/19
Total		\$200,000	

Note: Teenagers have additional access to quality facilities at the Town’s skate park.

Town of Bassendean - Play Spaces Master Plan

Key

- Regional Play Structures ●
- District Play Structures ●
- Neighbourhood Play Structures ●
- Local Play Structures ●
- Other POS (i.e. No Play Structures) ●



1. Freeland Square	20. Parmelia Way Reserve	39. Bindaring Park
2. Colin Smith Reserve	21. May Holman Reserve	40. Pickering Park
3. Jubilee Reserve	22. Tonkin Park	41. Whitfield Street POS 2
4. Drainage (WAWA)	23. Freiberg Reserve	42. Bridson Street/Elder Parade POS
5. Mary Crescent Reserve	24. Geraldine POS	43. Pinzone Park
6. Lord/Schofield Reserve	25. BIC Reserve	44. Berry Court POS
7. Bradshaw Reserve	26. Palmerston Sq Reserve	45. Clarke Way Reserve
8. Pyrtou	27. Third Avenue POS	46. Whitfield Street POS 1
9. Success Hill Reserve	28. Seventh Avenue POS	47. Deakin Street POS
10. Kelly Park	29. Earlsferry POS	48. Parnell Parade POS
11. Fourth Avenue POS	30. Steel Blue Oval Bassendean	49. Villiers Street POS
12. Anzac Terrace Reserve	31. Point Reserve	50. Ashfield Primary School site
13. Carman Way Reserve	32. Surrey St Park	51. Sandy Beach Reserve
14. Drainage (WAWA)	33. Christie POS	52. Ashfield Flats
15. Padbury Square Reserve	34. Calnston Street POS	53. Ashfield Parade Reserve
16. Padbury Square POS	35. Anstey Road POS	54. Gary Blanche Reserve
17. Culworth/ Mickleton Reserve	36. Harcourt POS	55. Ashfield Reserve
18. Troy Street Reserve	37. Carnegie POS	56. The Park Estate (new reserve)
19. Broadway Arboretum	38. Anstey Rd POS	

Funding Sources

There are four main funding sources that may assist with the implementation of this Play Spaces Plan, namely:

Partnering Opportunities

The Town may be able to pursue partnering opportunities with land developers to assist with the provision of play equipment on BIC Reserve and Steel Blue Oval Bassendean. The Department of Education and Training may also be willing to contribute towards the proposed play structure at Ashfield Primary School.

External Funding

Lotterywest provides funding opportunities for the provision of community play equipment, and so, will be pursued by the Town to assist with the implementation of this Plan.

Cash in Lieu Funds

Funds totalling approximately \$1million should be available within the Town's cash in lieu account from all developer contributions. The allocation of all these funds is yet to be determined by Council. According to the DPI's Planning bulletin, the purchase of play equipment is an acceptable use of cash in lieu funds. Any expenditure of cash in lieu funds requires the consent of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure beforehand.

Council Budget Allocations

Funds may be sought within the 2009/10 Council Budget and Strategic Financial Management Plan to implement this Plan.

Play Space Design Principles

The following principles should underpin the design of play spaces within the Town of Bassendean. As such, consideration of these principles should be given prior to any design works commencing.

Choice of site

Play spaces should not be considered as individual, stand alone projects. Within a precinct, each play space should offer different experiences and cater for a different age category. It is therefore essential to determine the following, prior to any design decisions being made.

- How does the site relate to the other open space within the precinct?
- What are the key functions of the site, for example if the primary function is conservation, play opportunities may not be appropriate. However, if the primary function is active play or a training space for junior sport, then intermediate or senior play opportunities may be more appropriate.
- Are there any factors which may contribute to one age category using the site more than others, for example is the site en route to a school.

Location within the site

The entire site needs to be considered in terms of play opportunities and be designed with play in mind.

- Which age group is being catered for?
- What elements within the site can be retained to enhance the play opportunities such as interesting land fall, trees, other vegetation or rocks?
- In terms of safety and play value, what are the most appropriate locations for play opportunities?
- Can play value be offered through non equipment play opportunities?

Landscape Design within play spaces

The term landscape elements is used to refer to aspects of the natural environment such as vegetation, grassed areas, logs, rocks, water, sand, landform and spaces, as well as built elements in the landscape such as low walls, paving and other surfaces. One of the key benefits of landscape elements is that they are 'open ended', in that the individual seeking a play opportunity is able to determine how they are used.

A close relationship between play equipment and the landscape setting can enhance and stimulate the play experience. For example, leaves, sticks and flowers may be utilised and manipulated in imaginary play and trees and shrubs may be incorporated in hiding games etc.

- Landscape elements should be complementary to the primary function of the site.
- Planting can be used to define spaces, provide play materials, attract fauna, improve visual aesthetics of a site and contribute to sensory experiences.

- Vegetation adjoining the play space should be hardy enough to withstand children 'borrowing' flowers, leaves etc for play.
- Landform such as mounds and undulations are valued by children.

Age Appropriateness

Children's physical capabilities, interests and play behaviour change with age. The greatest value will be derived from play opportunities which recognise appropriate skill levels and developmental milestones. Below is a brief outline of the play preferences and some design implications which relate to each age category.

Toddler (under 3 years)

- This group enjoy the sensory experiences of play in sand, mud, water and dirt and the manipulation of loose elements from the surroundings such as leaves.
- They experiment intensely within their physical ability and receive great benefit from exposure to a variety of stimuli.
- They also enjoy small scale, physical activities such as stepping, climbing, running, swinging, rolling, spinning, rocking, pushing, pulling, moving under and over and activities with cause-and-effect experiences.
- The scale of opportunities needs to be of appropriate size and height, e.g. toddlers will require smaller diameter hand grips than older children.
- The use of ride-on and small wheeled toys along paths is popular.
- Children of this age group will only engage in activities that they can see, therefore activities need to be located in clear sight lines.
- Under three's may not be able to perceive the implications of their behaviour, therefore hazards need to be predicted and provided for. For example, a child may climb too high, get scared, therefore requiring the carer to retrieve them.
- Easy adult access needs to be provided for all elements.

Young Child (3 to 5 years)

- This category are becoming agile climbers and are developing good balance and coordination.
- Their language skills are developing, therefore enabling more social interaction. Play spaces which allow for group activities such as cubbies, boats and trains are therefore popular.
- Imaginative play and pretending are popular and as such so are components which facilitate role play , including cubbies, boats and fire engines.
- They will enjoy a range of physical challenges such as swinging, rocking, climbing, balancing and spinning.
- They enjoy being able to manipulate elements within their environment such as sand, water, leaves etc. Places in which to play with these loose materials should be located away from the main traffic areas, so that the activities are not disturbed by more active play.
- Open grassed areas for active play such as ball play, running and rolling are valuable.

Junior (5 to 7 years)

- This group is becoming very coordinated and seeks more physical challenge. These children enjoy testing themselves physically.
- Imagination and role play is still popular amongst the 5 to 7's.
- This age group will develop complex play incorporating more than one opportunity within the space, therefore careful consideration needs to be given to arrangement and placement of opportunities.
- They enjoy taking part in construction and manipulation activities such as sand play.
- They will venture into the park and interact with the wider environment much more than younger children, therefore opportunities within the wider area will be of value. This could be as simple as interesting planting, opportunities for balancing, places to hide and trees to climb.
- Open grassed areas are valuable active play areas.

Intermediate (7 to 9 Years)

- This age group is becoming more independent, although attendance at play spaces still requires adult supervision.
- Physical motion such as spinning, swinging, rocking, climbing and gliding is popular.
- Play also will take the form of small groups socialising, for example, two friends swinging and talking together.
- Chasing and challenging and more boisterous games are popular.
- Hard surfaces for ball games etc are popular.

Senior (10 to 12 Years)

- This age group is more independent and may be beginning to attend play spaces without adult supervision. Safe routes to the space, facilitate this age group attending with friends.
- Chasing and challenging and more boisterous games are popular.
- Open areas for active play are valuable.
- Play incorporating basketball and bike riding are also popular.

Teenager/Young Adult

- This age group value their privacy and strive for independence. Provision of safe spaces to 'hang out' and socialise recognises their needs and helps to make them feel important and valued.
- Parks located en route to secondary schools will become popular meeting places and should include quiet places from which to observe others or sit quietly and talk.
- Location of teenager / young adult spaces should incorporate other focal points of social activity, for example a shop or a public transport connection point.
- Spaces for ball games are valued.
- BMX and skate facilities with advanced skill demands will be popular.
- Equipment which provides rapid movement such as spinning, rocking, and that which is physically challenging will appeal to this age group.
- They will also be encouraged to partake in activities which have a perceived risk, for example, climbing very high.

Ideas for non equipment play opportunities

Play opportunities do not necessarily have to take the form of traditional play equipment. Trees, logs, rocks or land forms may offer equally interesting and valuable play experiences. This list is by no means extensive; however, it does provide direction for the types of non-equipment play opportunities that are commonly in use.

- Bike paths with varying textures and levels.
- Walls.
- Stepping stones, rocks, logs.
- Defining small spaces through the use of planting, furniture, rocks, changes in levels.
- Undulating ground, mounds.
- Trees, mini forests, shrubs and vegetation.
- Hard surfaces, rebound walls.
- Sand and water.
- Sound wall, amphitheatre, human sun dial.
- Sculpture.

Supporting Amenity

The success of any play space is as dependant on the supporting amenity as the play opportunities offered within it.

Shade

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and as such shade needs to be integral to any play space design. Ideally play spaces should be designed so as to maximise existing shade opportunities. Additional planting of trees should occur as early as possible so they may become sufficiently established prior to the facility being utilised.

The most critical time of day for effective shade to be provided is between the hours of 10am and 2pm, however depending on the context of the site, shade also needs to be provided:

- From the east, for morning use.
- From the west for afternoon use.

Shade should be provided for adjoining seating, to ensure the comfort and safety of carers.

Seating

Well placed seating and tables make supervision easier and more comfortable for carers. Seating should be positioned with a clear view of play opportunities. Positioning of seating to encourage social interaction helps to increase the value of the visit for adults.

Informal seating opportunities may also occur within the landscape design. Low walls, logs and rocks can offer multiple functions within a play space.

Provision of some seating with back and arm rests will be of benefit to older adults visiting the site.

Fencing

Ideally play opportunities should be located in spaces which are free from hazards and as such do not require fencing. However, if hazards are present, a barrier fence between the play space and hazard may be required.

Small fenced compounds within a park are undesirable. It is preferable to seek more appropriate sites.

The Town should endeavour to fence play spaces which are attached to community buildings. This is to ensure the needs of groups who hire such facilities are met. In this instance, a magnetically triggered self latching gate should be installed. This will enable the facility to remain secure whilst a user group is occupying the area, however, still permit community access to the play space for the extensive amount of time that the facility is not being occupied by user groups.

Safety and Challenge

Good design of play spaces is a valuable strategy in reducing risk. Inappropriate use often occurs in play spaces that lack interesting features. Children are excited by the idea of risk; therefore, a carefully designed perception of risk will provide the element of challenge and reduce the risk associated with inappropriate use. Other safety hazards arise from poor location and site layout. In reducing risk, designs should:

- Encourage good supervision by making the site welcoming and comfortable for adults as well as children.
- Plan with hazards in mind, for example, make access to roofs and shade structures difficult.
- Ensure that a range of choices are offered to cater for differing skill levels within each age grouping.
- Locate play opportunities with informal surveillance in mind.
- Avoid uninteresting play spaces which lead to boredom and risk seeking.

Standards

The following standards will require compliance:

AS 4685 2004	Parts 1 to 6.
ASNZS 44861997	Playgrounds and Playground Equipment part 1 Development, Installation, Inspection, Maintenance & Operation.
AS/NZS 4422 1996	Playground Surfacing Specification, Requirements & Test Methods.

Play Space Evaluation

In order to ensure that play spaces continue to be located appropriately and designed to meet the needs of the local community, a program for replacement has been developed.

Once a play space nears the end of its lifecycle, an analysis is undertaken to determine the most appropriate course of action for the Town. This analysis will confirm whether a need exists for play opportunities in the precinct and the nature and most appropriate location of a replacement facility.

In some circumstances, analysis may determine that it is not appropriate to proceed with a replacement facility, in which case the aged play equipment would be removed and the space returned to a parkland setting. Refer Appendix 3 for Play Space Replacement Process.

Universal Access

Each type of disability has its own implications and design considerations for play spaces. In many instances, barriers to inclusion can be reduced through a more thoughtful approach to detail. At a district and large district level, additional expenditure is warranted to ensure children or carers already disadvantaged by their disability are not further disadvantaged by a lack of accessible play opportunities.

At local and neighbourhood levels, the intent is to ensure play spaces are accessible for people with a range of disabilities and, where appropriate, contain experiences designed for their use. This will require the installation of barrier free paths, with appropriate gradients, into and around the park, linking play opportunities and supporting amenity. Additionally, all supporting amenity such as seating and tables should be free of barriers for people with disabilities.

It is intended that play facilities within district and large district open space are accessible for people with a full range of abilities, including those with any type of disability. It is important to note that play opportunities should be designed to be integrated for all users, rather than segregating opportunities for people with disabilities. Refer Appendix 3 for specific suggestions for improvements to both park and play space design, relating to different types of disability.

Consultation

Community consultation is a valuable contribution to the play space design process. Consultation provides an insight into community needs and potential usage of the play space. It is recommended that designers take all available opportunities to consult with residents prior to commencing design works and where possible, involve the potential users in design decisions.

Consultation should:

- Occur prior to plans being commenced.
- Involve local residents and existing and proposed user groups of the site.
- Inform of any strategic or compliance issues which will affect the final outcome, for example the site's classification in the Hierarchy of Public Open Space.
- Ensure a balanced community view is achieved as opposed to the personal preferences of a vocal minority.
- Avoid raising expectations beyond a deliverable level.
- Avoid a 'shopping list' type exercise where people are asked to choose from a limited selection or a catalogue.

Note: The Town's newly established Children and Family Services Committee may provide a valuable resource throughout the implementation of the Town's Play Spaces Implementation Plan.

Regional / District Play Space

For Regional and District play space, consultation should be conducted with residents within the local catchment area. The local catchment consists of a 500m radius of the play space. Where an access barrier such as a major road, water course or land form exists within the 500m radius, consultation would normally occur with residents only within the barrier.

In addition, consultation should be conducted with all registered user groups of the site, for example, local sporting groups using adjoining playing fields or local community groups using halls, pavilions and community centres.

Neighbourhood / Local Play Space

For Neighbourhood and Local play space, consultation should be conducted with residents within the local catchment area and known regular users of the site. The local catchment consists of a 500m radius of the play space. Where an access barrier such as a major road, water course or land form exists within the 500m radius, consultation would normally occur with residents only within the barrier.

Consultation should consist of written information indicating that a new play space is intended and outlining any constraints that may exist with the project. Interested parties should be invited to provide comments and participate in the design process.

Appendix 1 - How does the Play Spaces Implementation Plan link with the Town's Corporate Plans?

The Play Spaces Implementation Plan links to four previous corporate level plans undertaken by the Town relevant to the provision of play spaces, namely: Play Structures Development Plan, Public Open Space Strategy, Facilities Plan and 2007 – 2017 Strategic Plan.

Play Structures Development Plan

The Play Structures Development Plan was developed in 2002, following the facilitation of three community consultation workshops on playground development. The Plan echoed the need to involve the community in future decision making about playgrounds. Much of the information gathered during this process was fed into the development of the POS Strategy.

Public Open Space Strategy

The POS Strategy was endorsed by the Bassendean Town Council in 2007, following a comprehensive review of the Town's public open space. The primary outcome of the Plan was the development of a classification system for all parks, reserves and other areas of public open space and recommendations for the type of facilities for each (see "Hierarchy of Public Open Space" for more information).

The Town has recently completed a facilities audit of its public open space against what is recommended within the Council adopted POS Strategy. Funds are being sought within the Town's Strategic Financial Management Plan to bring the facilities up to the recommended levels of provision. The table below lists the parks and reserves that require facilities and provides the corresponding cost estimates and proposed timelines. The cost estimates are for a range of facilities, including: BBQs, benches, lighting, paths, picnic shelters, rubbish bins and water fountains, however, it does not include provision for play structures.

Public Open Space - Facilities Estimates

	BBQs	Benches	Lighting - Picnic Area	Outdoor Gym Equip	Path Network	Picnic Shelters	Rubbish Bins	Water Fountain	Totals
Ashfield Reserve	\$25,000		\$5,000	\$25,000	\$120,000	\$7,000		\$1,200	\$183,200
Ashfield Primary School		\$1,600							\$1,600
Jubilee Reserve			\$5,000	\$25,000	\$150,000			\$1,200	\$181,200
Sandy Beach Reserve			\$5,000	\$25,000					\$30,000
Point Reserve			\$5,000						\$5,000
Anzac Terrace Reserve									\$0
Bindaring Park		\$1,600					\$300		\$1,900
Broadway Arboretum									\$0
Carman Way Reserve									\$0
Clarke Way Reserve							\$300		\$300
Colin Smith Reserve									\$0
Culworth/Mickleton Reserve		\$800					\$150		\$950
Freeland Square Reserve		\$1,600							\$1,600
Freiberg Reserve									\$0
Gary Blanch Reserve		\$800							\$800
Hatton Court Reserve							\$300		\$300
Lord/Schofield Reserve									\$0
May Holman Reserve							\$300		\$300
Padbury Square Reserve									\$0
Palmerston Square Reserve		\$1,600					\$300		\$1,900
Parmelia Way Reserve		\$1,600							\$1,600
Pickering Park									\$0
Surrey Street Reserve		\$1,600					\$150		\$1,750
The Park Estate		\$1,600					\$300		\$1,900
Third Avenue POS									\$0
Troy Street Reserve		\$1,600					\$300		\$1,900
									\$416,200

Facilities Plan

The Facilities Plan was endorsed by the Bassendean Town Council in 2007. One of the key recommendations within the Plan was for the Town to support the development of additional facilities for unstructured sport and recreation as a priority (including for play spaces), in recognition of the changing nature of people’s participation in sport and recreation.

2007 – 2017 Strategic Plan

The Town’s 2007 – 2017 Strategic Plan lists four key result areas. The provision of effective play spaces cuts across the four KRA’s, and so, fulfils the Town’s strategic objectives in a number of ways (see table below).

Key Result Area	Strategic Objective
Environmental Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the Town’s parks and reserves. Maximise community accessibility.
Community Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective support for young people. Effective support for families and children. Maximise use of community facilities and sporting grounds. Improve community safety and health.
Economic Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster tourism in the Town and Eastern Metropolitan Region.
Leadership in Business Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective planning for the sustainable management of the Town’s financial resources and assets. Effective community consultation and engagement.

Appendix 2 - Glossary for Play Spaces Terminology

Play Opportunities: A play facility comprises a number of opportunities for children to experience and interact with their surroundings and others. Play opportunities can take the form of manufactured equipment, naturally occurring opportunities within the landscape, or opportunities for interaction with others. For example a swing and log on which one can balance, could both offer equally valuable play opportunities.

Play Space: “Play space” is a term that recognises that an entire site is a play facility. It takes into account the surrounding landscaping and supporting amenity. A play space comprises a number of play opportunities.

Play Structure: A Play Structure is a modular structure incorporating one or more play activities, such as: slides, swings, climbing apparatus etc. As play structures are modular, they can be age specific or incorporate a range of activities for different age groups.

Precinct: A precinct refers to a local area defined within a boundary. The boundary would usually prevent easy access to adjoining precincts. For example, a precinct may be bounded by major roads, fences, or natural barriers, such as a river.

Non Equipment Play

Opportunities: Play opportunities do not necessarily have to take the form of traditional play equipment. Trees, logs, rocks or land forms may offer equally interesting and valuable play experiences.

Appendix 3 - Process for Play Space Replacement

The recommended process for Play Space Replacement Program is as follows:

On an annual basis the following review process will be required:

	Action to be undertaken	Responsible Officer
1	Prior to annual budget figures being submitted, review and confirmation of following year's replacement program	Manager Leisure Services
2	Site visits to determine any constraints that are likely to impact on budgeting	Manager Leisure Services, Recreation Development Officer, Parks & Gardens Supervisor, Building Maintenance Supervisor
3	Confirm budget figure for annual budgeting process	Manager Leisure Services
4	Undertake community consultation to determine preferred design option	Recreation Development Officer
5	Undertake final design of individual sites	Manager Leisure Services, Recreation Development Officer, Manager Children's Services, Manager Youth Services
6	Undertake tendering and contract process	Contracts Supervisor
7	Undertake replacement program for the year	Building Maintenance Supervisor
8	Update asset register	Accountant

Appendix 4 - Making Play More Accessible: The Design of Play Areas for Users with Disabilities

Each type of disability has its own implications for play space design. Some specific suggestions for improvements to both park and play space design, relating to different types of disability, are outlined below. Although this list appears to be extensive and expensive to implement, many suggestions are simply better ways of providing what is already common place. We suggest that in the early stages of design, a more thoughtful approach to detail will result in a much more successful outcome for all children, regardless of their abilities. In some situations, particularly district and large district sites, additional expenditure is warranted as additional play opportunities will need to be provided.

Wheelchair access

Some simple additions that would make spaces more accessible and more interesting to many disabled users include the following:

- Permanent path access into the park.
- Eliminate all stepped level changes and provide a path system with barrier-free surfaces.
- Provide turning spaces large enough for wheelchair use.
- Provide wheelchair access to at least some play settings but in particular to the focal points of the play space where every child would want to play. Include cubbies, dramatic/imaginative play areas and musical opportunities.
- Eliminate barriers such as log borders, steps or stairs to any of these sections.
- Design activities in such a way that it is possible to allow a person in a wheelchair to face the activity front-on, and to get their knees under a shelf, shop counter, or similar.
- Incorporate surfaces that make wheeled play interesting and fun.
- Include ramps allowing wheelchair access to elevated areas.
- Provide synthetic impact absorbing surfaces in key areas allowing access across mulch to play structures.
- Provide access to creative opportunities such as music and sand.
- Provide opportunities to experience texture, sound, smell and other sensory delights.
- Incorporate seats immediately adjacent for carers to assist in the play.
- Provide opportunities to leave the wheelchair, and to lie or sit in an alternative supportive position.

Ambulant Disabled Children

- Provide coloured hand grips at changes of level within structures.
- Design hand rails along paths and to steps and stairs that will aid balance.
- Incorporate flat treads and stairs instead of, or as well as, rung ladders.
- Provide smooth surfaces without trip hazards.
- Ensure that easily negotiated choices of route within climbing structures are provided.

- Ensure that particular care is taken with design for safety so that children with balance problems and visual impairments do not inadvertently fall through openings in guard rail or cross the paths of swings.
- Provide back support with simple back support structures on seats, swings, see-saws and in sand pit areas. This is also important for carers with children.

Visitors with Low or no Vision

Children with low or no vision need orientation cues such as:

- Texture codes on paths.
- Strongly-coloured cues on level changes, key parts of structures and as a warning.
- Coloured hand grips which provide a strong luminance contrast with the surroundings.
- Other sensory cues such as scented plants. A limited palette of only one species flowering at a time is preferable, to avoid sensory bombardment.
- Use of sound, texture and different spatial qualities for interest.

Fine Motor Disabilities

It is important to include manipulable elements for creative play that are accessible and do not require great physical strength or fine motor skills to operate such as:

- Steering wheels.
- Musical opportunities, and
- Levers, pulleys and other gadgets.

These must be within reach for a child in a wheelchair and able to be used front-on from a wheelchair.

Intellectual/Cognitive Disabilities

For children with intellectual disabilities:

- Spaces may need to be fenced off from hazards.
- Sites need to be easy to orient around.
- Seats on play components, usually provided for young children, may need to be of a larger scale so that older but developmentally delayed children can use these.
- Imaginative play items may need to be very obvious so that children know what they are for and how to use these.
- Entry and exit points may need to be graded in challenge and be obvious to users.
- Incorporate 'Retreat Spaces' where a frustrated child can have 'time out' with dignity.