

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Shade Over Playgrounds</b>
<b>Policy Number</b>	TS10
<b>Responsible Section</b>	Parks and Gardens
<b>Responsible Department</b>	City Assets
<b>Date Last Adopted</b>	14 March 2023
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	March 2026
<b>Applicable Legislation</b>	Nil
<b>Related Governance Documents</b>	Active Recreation Facilities Plan 2020 Open Space Strategy 2021-2026
<b>City Plan Theme</b>	Environment - A City which cares for its natural environment and heritage

## **PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this policy is to guide the circumstances where shade will be installed over playgrounds. The policy does not guide the provision of playgrounds.

## **SCOPE**

This policy relates to all playgrounds within reserves that are under Council care and control.

## **POLICY**

### **1. Implementation of Shade over Playgrounds**

- 1.1 Playgrounds should be located to take advantage of existing and appropriate natural shade.
- 1.2 Where no suitable natural shade exists, appropriate species of trees should be planted to provide for long-term shade purposes.
- 1.3 Where it is not viable for playgrounds to take advantage of natural shade options, shade structures may be appropriate for implementation in accordance with the below criteria:
  - Higher use playgrounds categorised as 'Destination' or 'Community'; as defined in Council's Active Recreation Facilities Plan (and background report)
  - Playgrounds that are a reasonable distance from residential properties
  - Playgrounds that lack nearby naturally shaded areas

- Playgrounds that lack nearby shade refuges (e.g. shelters, verandas etc.)
  - Areas identified as 'heat islands' in accordance with Adapt West Urban Heat Mapping Project 2017
  - Reserves licensed for use by adjacent schools.
  - Where natural shade will not occur within 10 years from the replacement date.
- 1.4 Council should consider implementing shade structures for new playgrounds or reserve developments in line with the criteria in 1.3.
- 1.5 The implementation of shade structures should consider impacts to adjacent residential properties. Consultation should be undertaken with residents whose homes have views directly onto reserves or are in close proximity to where shade structures are proposed.

## 2. Shade Design

- 2.1 Shade structures should not have footholds or grip surfaces which would allow for climbing.
- 2.2 The roof of shade structures should provide for an adequate head clearance above the deck of the play equipment.
- 2.3 Shade structure roofs should provide sufficient clearance from the highest accessible point of the play equipment, and rooflines should extend beyond the edge of the deck of the play equipment, to prevent children gaining access to the roof.
- 2.4 Tree trunks and upright posts of shade structures should be located a suitable distance away from the most fully extended part of the play equipment to prevent the ability to climb onto shade structures.
- 2.5 Shade structures should be designed in accordance with *AS 4685 SET: 2021: Playground equipment and surfacing set* and *AS 4174:2018: Knitted and woven shade fabrics*.

## 3. Natural Shade

- 3.1 Trees utilised for the provision of natural shade over playgrounds should:
- a) be well suited to the soil and climatic conditions; and
  - b) be fast growing and able to achieve a suitable height; and
  - c) have a low risk of falling limbs.

## 4. Performance Standard

Natural shade and shade structures should aim to provide maximum shade provision over playgrounds during the hours of 10am and 2pm, or 11am and 3pm during daylight saving.

## DEFINITIONS

Nil