

Fact Sheet:

Planning a Play Space in the Adelaide Hills

Council has nearly 30 play spaces that we are responsible for maintaining and upgrading throughout the region. See www.ahc.sa.gov.au/discover/parks-recreation

Defining a Play Space

The classification of the play space determines what goes into the space, the type of equipment and any associated facilities within the space.

Most play spaces in our council area are 'local or neighbourhood' play spaces which are accessible within a short walk or 5-10km radius.

To find out more refer to our Sport and Recreation Strategy and Play Space Framework on our website.

Promoting play

Council want to provide opportunities for play for a wide variety of users at our play spaces. We want our play spaces to reflect local community and provide opportunities for active and passive play, link with natural surrounds, offer elements of risk and be accessible.

In the hills we are surrounded by places for and opportunities to play in nature. We are lucky that nature play can be organic in our region, and not necessarily have to be created at our play space sites. However, our built play spaces could still include natural play elements like logs, trees, stepping stones and other natural materials that allow children to play in an unstructured way.

A play space should be unique to each community and users of the space. When you're asked about what you might like to see in your local play space, let your imagination wander beyond traditional equipment to how you and your community want to use the space.

Existing equipment

Whilst the equipment might look ok, playgrounds have strict standards which we must abide by. Due to the responsibilities council has in keeping the community safe, it is necessary that we decommission and dispose of old playground equipment.

Exclusions

BBQs, lighting, toilets, artificial shade over a play space and fencing are generally not including in a play space upgrade. Fencing should be provided only where absolutely necessary and for safety purposes.

Community engagement

There are two main stages for you to be involved in.

1. Ideas gathering
2. Opportunity to view the draft concept plan

You will find out about your local play space upgrade either via email, our website, signage on site or a local letter box drop.

Budget

The budget for a play space depends on its classification.

Budget needs to cover design of playground, landscaping works (plants, stone works, paths), site preparation (demolition, hire of machinery, labour), seating, planting and purchase and installation of play equipment.

Deciding an upgrade

A play space is upgraded based on a number of criteria:

- equipment reaching the end of its useful life (which is determined by an audit)
- demographics of the area
- the strategic outcomes associated with the site, including analysis of the current supply of other play spaces & recreational opportunities in the area
- the value of the play space to the community
- a cost benefit analysis of play space replacement

Get in touch

You can always provide feedback to Council by:

- Calling 8408 0400
- Emailing engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
- Mailing 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152
- Visit engage.ahc.sa.gov.au