RECREATION SPACE STRATEGY

2016 | 2020

Executive Summary

The recognition of the importance of public open space, parks and playgrounds is evident in the continued investment from the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley in the development and maintenance of recreation spaces, including playgrounds.

It is essential in reading this document that it is understood that this strategy is specifically addressing designated recreation space. It is acknowledged that other public open space can be used for recreation and play and this has been considered in developing the guidelines however the recreation spaces addressed within the Plan are those that are serviced by the Shire for the specific purpose of recreation as per the definitions below.

This said, while focused on recreation spaces, in the absence of this Integrated Public Open Space Strategy, this Strategy does consider some elements or open public space in the broader sense.

The purpose of this Strategy is to:

- Identify key considerations in the provision of Recreation Space.
- Provide guidelines for Council and staff for the provision of Recreation Space, including levels of service, within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

This Strategy is to be viewed in the broader context of the Shire's Integrated Public Open Space Planning.

It should be noted that there are some Recreation spaces present within the Shire that are not included in this strategy. These include spaces at Schools, Child Care Facilities, and within Aboriginal Communities. The Shire also provides recreation space and playground equipment at both the Kununurra Leisure Centre and Wyndham Swimming Pool however these have not been included in this strategy as users must pay an entry fee to access the facility.

Vision:

A range of recreation spaces within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley that are accessible, meet the needs of the broad community, and provide a range of social and community benefits.

Principles:

The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that Recreation Spaces within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley are provided in a manner that:

- Ensures the community is consulted in the development and management of recreation spaces
- Meets the needs of the community
- Ensures access and opportunity for all residents to access and utilise recreation space that meets a range of needs including:
    - Access for people with disability
    - Access for a range of age groups and ability levels
    - Access to recreation spaces of varied hierarchical levels within reasonable proximity
- Uses resources efficiently and considers whole of life costs when developing recreation spaces

Definitions:

Recreation Space: A developed component within an area of Public Open Space provided for the whole community for the purpose of informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction. (Department of Sport and Recreation) Recreation space recognises the entire space that can be used for recreation including playgrounds, parks, ovals and courts. Recreation spaces where a fee is charged (i.e. swimming pools and their associated facilities) are not included in this strategy as public recreation spaces.

Sport Space: A setting for formal structured sporting activities. (Department of Sport and Recreation).

Nature Space: A setting where people can enjoy nearby nature and protect local biodiversity and natural area values (Department of Sport and Recreation)

Playground: For the purpose of this strategy, a playground is a recreation space with play equipment provided, typically items such as swings, slides and climbing equipment.

Public Open Space: Public Open Space refers to green spaces: parklands, play areas, playing fields, bushland greenways used for the purpose of formal and informal sport and recreation.

Strategic Implications:

Public parks and amenities are addressed in the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley's Strategic Community Plan 2012-2022:

Goal 3: Protection and enhancement of lifestyle values, community facilities and the environment to provide safe and inviting communities

Objective 3.4: Protection and enhancement of community facilities

Strategy 3.4.1: Manage and maintain and upgrade public Parks and amenities to ensure they meet community need and are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Background:

The Shire currently services and provides a range of public open spaces, categorized as Recreations Space, Sport Space and Nature Space. Eleven of these spaces are designated recreation spaces, seven in Kununurra and four in Wyndham.

A Shire Parks Plan was adopted in 2004. While the content is now outdated, the document set the direction for the planning and management of Shire Parks and Playgrounds and a number of recommended actions within the plan have been actioned. While a useful plan, this document did not address the construction of new playgrounds or the tipping points of where a new recreation space may be required. The absence of this information means there is little guidance for the development of new playgrounds with any new recreation spaces guided by opportunity rather than strategy. These opportunities have been through land developments in Lakeside and the result of a community initiatives (Celebrity Tree Park) and through grant funding (St Pauls Way in Wyndham).

This said, as explained further below, even without documented guidance the number and range of recreation spaces in both Wyndham and Kununurra does currently provide good coverage and access for residents.

Designated Recreation Spaces:

The following spaces are designated recreation spaces:

<u>Kununurra</u>

Celebrity Tree Park
Pindan Park
Swim Beach
Nicolson Park
Argentea St Park
White Gum Park
Kununurra Town Oval surrounds (including sports courts)

<u>Wyndham</u>

Bessie Wylie Park
Lions Park/Denman St
St Pauls Way
Clarrie Cassidy Oval surrounds (Wyndham Oval)

Spaces may be added or removed from this list as determined by Council.

Scope:

As identified within the Department of Sport and Recreation Framework for Open Space, Public Open Space *"is generally described as land set aside for the purpose of public enjoyment and protection of unique, environmental, social and cultural values for existing and future generations."*

The functions of Public Open Space are divided into three categories by primary use and expected activities:

- Recreation Spaces
- Sport Spaces
- Nature Spaces

This Strategy is specifically providing guidance on the development and maintenance of Recreation Spaces. This said, while these spaces can be categorised there is a significant amount of cross over and impact of the POS categories on each other and need to be taken into account when assessing needs. As an example, the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley has an abundance of "Nature Space" with bushland, trails and open space within close proximity of most residents. This nature space provides additional opportunities for recreation not typically available to residents of other locations. Access to "nature space" areas is increasingly recognised as an important element in childhood development to the point where specifically designed nature play areas are being designed and constructed in many urban areas.

The fact that such areas are available naturally within the Shire has two primary impacts. Firstly, these natural features can be more readily incorporated into designated recreation space. Secondly, while not designated as formal recreation space, the abundance of natural area must not be overlooked as an additional recreation space option (i.e. the PLAWA benchmarks would be set for communities without close proximity to walking trails, rivers, waterfalls, bushland).

With regard to "Sport Spaces". While officially designated as sport spaces, the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley sporting facilities are generally open for public recreational use, adding to the amount of "recreation space". This is particularly important when recreation space can be located adjacent to sport space allowing dual use of services (such as amenities, drinking water, power supplies) and encouraging additional recreational use of this "Sport Space".

Context:

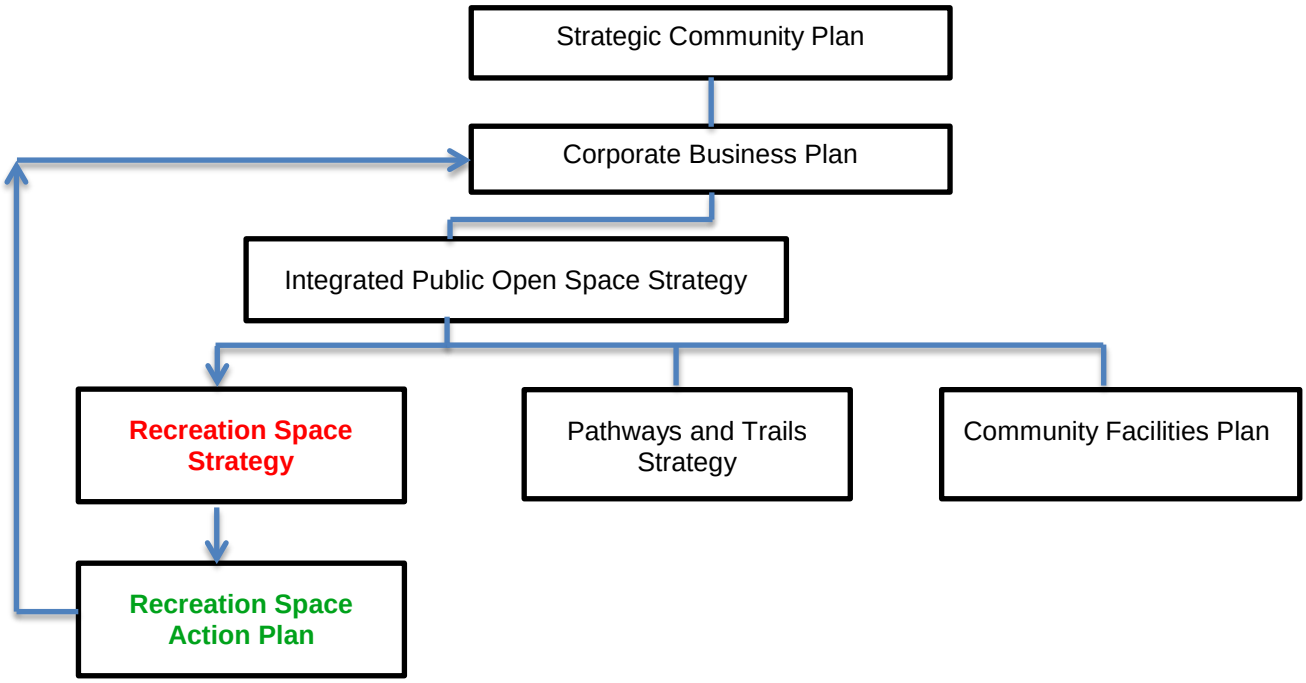
The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Recreation Space Strategy is an informing plan for the Shire's integrated Planning framework. While several key linking documents are yet to be developed, the Recreation Space Strategy will link with a broader Integrated Public Open Space Strategy.

The Recreation Space Strategy provides overarching guidance for all Recreation space which will be used to develop a Recreation Space Action Plan that identifies specific actions required to meet the adopted guidelines.

These actions, in turn, will be incorporated into the Shire's Corporate Business Plan.

It is recognised that for the Shire to comply with the guidelines of this Strategy works to a number of existing recreation spaces within the Shire may be required. As the financial implications may be significant, it should be understood that it will not be possible to carry out all works immediately.

Recommendations to allow the Shire to meet the guidelines will be developed within an action plan, prioritised and included in forward capital works programs.



Demographics:

In the 2011 Census, there were 1,003 people in Wyndham (WA) (State Suburbs) and 5,525 people in Kununurra (State Suburbs).

As recreation space is provided for all members of the community, it is important to consider the age ranges within the towns.

Age Range	Wyndham	Kununurra
0-4	104	489
5-9	101	432
10-14	70	387
15-19	50	285

http://abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/quickstats

Population projections taken from the "East Kimberley @ 25K" indicate that while the population is projected to grow, it is the adult and older age range populations that are expected to increase while the population of young people is expected to remain relatively stagnant. These projections are below:

Table 2. Population Projections – ABS Unofficial Projections, Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley

Age (years)	Year			
	2011	2016	2021	2026
0 to 4 years	728	721	720	720
5 to 9 years	594	675	676	677
10 to 14 years	552	522	577	580
15 to 19 years	458	427	409	441
20 to 24 years	611	587	565	549
25 to 29 years	712	707	686	660
30 to 34 years	588	642	638	622
35 to 39 years	603	563	618	614
40 to 44 years	598	588	569	614
45 to 49 years	583	572	567	556
50 to 54 years	455	491	486	492
55 to 59 years	369	402	416	429
60 to 64 years	319	362	393	411
65 to 69 years	204	261	297	326
70 to 74 years	96	142	187	209
75 to 79 years	58	67	105	141
80 to 84 years	14	26	34	62
85 years and over	24	24	30	34
TOTAL	**7,566**	**7,779**	**7,973**	**8,137**

Source: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing – Unofficial ABS Projections (2010)

Note: The two population figures in these tables differ slightly as the "State Suburb" figures were used in table 1 encompassing surrounding areas rather than just the town sites.

Purpose of Recreation Space:

Recreation spaces enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation.
Recreation spaces can be accessed by all to play, socialise, exercise, celebrate or participate in other activities that provide personal satisfaction or intrinsic reward.
Department of Sport and Recreation Framework for Open Space

Purpose of recreation space for children:

Playing outside is not just about letting off steam. It is a vital part of childhood that helps children develop physical strength, coordination and balance. It can also provide opportunities for children to learn and develop:

- Social Skills - when they play with other children they learn to communicate, share, collaborate and empathise with others.
- Imagination and creativity - outside play is often open-ended and children need to be creative about what and how games are played.
- Thinking and problem solving skills - as children assess risks and tackle new challenges they learn about having a go, persistence and perseverance and the success those attributes can bring.
- Sense of self - as they master new skills and play with other children they improve their competence and confidence in their own physical and social abilities.
- Sense of connection - to place, to peers and to their local community and environment.
- Self-care skills - managing physical and social challenges helps children to learn about keeping themselves safe.

Kidsafe WA

Community Engagement:

Strategy Development

The Draft Recreation Space Strategy was publically advertised on the Shire Website, Facebook site and Kimberley Echo from 11 January 2016 allowing feedback for a period of six weeks. During this period the draft was forwarded to a number of key stakeholders for feedback including the Early Years Network and Wyndham Interagency Network. Feedback was received from members of the community as well as the WA Department of Sport and Recreation.

What the Community said:

To the question "Would you prefer one well developed play space and fewer services in other spaces, or services spread across multiple play spaces?"

- *"One well developed in KNX & one in Wyndham"*
- *"Services spread around multiple play areas to stop local children being bored" (Wyndham resident)*
- *"2 or 3 play spaces with higher quality services. Possible water play area would be great."*
- *"Services spread across multiple spaces, or options for different play areas"*
- *"More services spread across multiple spaces – more in town and more creative playgrounds"*
- *"Services/funds should be spread out across multiple play spaces to ensure everyone equally has the opportunity to access play space. Some community members have transportation issues, if play spaces are too far then they will not be able to access them regularly."*
- *"One well developed play space. People in Kununurra rarely walk to anything so access isn't an issue"*
- *"I believe spread is good for use and supervision and parking and overcrowding"*

Other comments:

- *"need to integrate water into play spaces as they cannot be used for a good part of the year due to the weather conditions being too hot"*
- *"Some playground equipment was removed and not replaced in the area where I live. Local residents were not happy. We are happy that the playground is now at least open.*
- *"Drunks in parks children don't have to see"*
- *"Some play spaces in Wyndham are very limited, I think play space areas need to be maintained to a higher level to ensure equipment if safe, sanitary and clear of debris."*
- *"I feel given the climate more fitness equipment opportunities will be well utilised"*
- *"While there is much discussion about the need for more services and facilities, the existing spaces and facilities are underutilised. I think the existing facilities are maintained to a high standard and provide for a range of play experiences across ages. I find it hard to justify increasing facilitates available given the maintenance costs associated while existing services are poorly utilised (in Kununurra)"*

- *"Kununurra is an 'outdoors' town. All playgrounds appear to be well utilised as well as bike/walking tracks, ovals, netball squash courts and gyms. I feel the Shire should be supporting fitness, health and less obesity with free spaces as suggested."*
- *"Although I am not a parent I strongly support a water park/facility as there are hundreds of children in this town who would benefit. I believe you could even charge for this."*
- *"Too many drunk and disorderly at white gum park"*
- *"Wyndham facilities are not maintained to the standard of Kununurra's (i.e. Celebrity Tree Park vs St Pauls Way or Lions Park) they can be too unhygienic for myself and my children to use. Toilet facilities at Kununurra Oval can be extremely repulsive, would like to be able to use them when toilet facilities are unavailable at the Sporties"*

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of a range of features (see appendix 2). While the low number of responses means that it is not possible to draw any meaningful conclusions, there were two stand out features for which all respondents ranked between 8 and 10. These were "sufficient shade and "feels safe".

Interestingly, of the thirteen other features listed, each received at least one score of three or below and one score of eight or higher. This highlights just varied individuals perceptions are of these different features.

Ongoing Engagement

This Strategy will inform the development of action plan that lists the works required to ensure the Shires existing recreation spaces meet the guidelines outlined within this document. The action plans will be developed and reviewed in collaboration with focus groups located within both Wyndham and Kununurra.

The Strategy will be reviewed biennially with action plans reviewed annually and the Shire is committed to ensuring community involvement in this process.

Benchmarks:

Number of recreation spaces per person:

The Parks and Leisure Australia Benchmarks for Community Infrastructure (March 2012) provides guidelines for the provision of a number for community services including playgrounds and recreation space.

Of note is the statement that "It is the objective of PLA WA to reduce the number of recreation spaces and increase the quality of provision in areas where they are to be provided."

It is acknowledged within the document that rural and regional areas do not necessarily align to population benchmarks and recommends that the needs of the community are established on a case by case basis. This said, to provide a guide for the provision of recreation space within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley based on population, the PLAWA guidelines indicate that recreation spaces should be provided at a ratio of:

1:1,000	Local Open Space
1:2,000	Neighbourhood Space
1:8,000 to 10,000	District Space
1:50,000	Regional Space

	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional
Wyndham (benchmark)	1	0.5	0.1	0.02
Wyndham (provided)	2	2	0	0
Kununurra (benchmark)	5	2.5	0.5	0.1
Kununurra (provided)	4	4	0	0

Given the low populations of Kununurra and Wyndham (relative to urban areas) a number of the benchmarks against the population calculate at less than 1. This indicates that the benchmark has not reached the tipping point for the provision of that particular hierarchical category. Given the remoteness of each town however, the provision of this level Recreation space is discretionary for the Shire.

Catchment Hierarchy:

The Department of Sport and Recreation Classifications Framework for Public Open Space, November 2012 provides four levels of catchment hierarchy of public open space:

- Local open space
- Neighbourhood open space
- District open space
- Regional open space

Hierarchy	Purpose and Function (playground context)	Access	Typical size	Activities
Local	Services the needs of the immediate resident population	The majority of residents should live within 400 metres or 5 minute walk	0.4 to 1ha	May include: children's play, dog walking, picnics and family gatherings. Relaxation and rest spots, casual team activities, walking running or cycling.
Neighbourhood	Serve as the recreational and social focus of a community. Residents are attracted by the variety of features and facilities and the opportunities to socialise	Within 800 metres or 10 minute walk	1ha to 5ha	May include a combination of open parkland and bushland with activity spaces for casual play
District	Principally designed to provide organised formal sport. Will likely include substantial recreation space Serves neighbourhoods with players and visitors travelling from surrounding districts.	Within 2 kilometres or 5 minute drive. In regional areas may provide sporting facilities for the wider district.	5ha to 15+ha	May consist of sufficient space to accommodate a variety of concurrent uses including organised sports, children's play, picnicking, dog exercise, social gatherings and individual activities.
Regional	Primarily sporting rather than playground. May accommodate important recreation and organised sport spaces as well as significant conservation.	Serves one or more geographical or social regions and is likely to attract visitors from outside LGA. Users not living within close proximity	Variable dependant on function, should be 20ha+	Should be large enough to accommodate various concurrent uses, including organised sports, children's play, picnicking, bush walking, and protection of natural features.

Adapted from: Classifications framework for public open space, Department of Sport and Recreation November 2012

Benchmarks Summary:

The per person ratio benchmarks indicate that the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is slightly over serviced based on population alone. When viewing the catchment area map however, the recreation space provision catchment coverage is relatively thorough without over servicing one particular area.

Other Guiding Information:

Consideration of suitability of recreation space for age range:

There are no set definitions or requirements for the provision of equipment for specific age ranges. The ACT Government provides a Design Standard for Playgrounds and Play Equipment which guides a number of aspects of the provision of recreation spaces including age groups.

When providing recreation space, consideration should be given to ensuring suitable space and equipment is available within a locality for:

- Early Childhood (0-3): Restricted mobility would normally have full time supervision from an adult.

- Young children (4 to 9): Beginning to explore and test their motor abilities. Typically supervised by an adult.

- Older children (9 to 14): Test their motor abilities and work to master skills. Needs to be a challenge. Limited to no adult supervision.

- Teenagers (15 to 19): Generally utilise facilities such as bike paths, skate parks, sports facilities rather than playground equipment

Additional Services:

As well as the provision of play equipment or space, a number of additional services should be considered to make recreation spaces attractive to young people as well as their families:

Shade: In particular in the local climate, the provision of shade within near proximity to play equipment is an important factor.

Environmental factors: The local environment such as natural slopes and trees to climb can provide additional elements for children to explore and utilise.

Location: Next to busy roads, environmental hazards or water bodies and if so, consideration of mitigating factors to increase the safety and perception of safety.

Signage and rules: Consideration of the exclusion of animals including dogs and horses, smoking and drinking through signage increases the perception of safety within a recreation area.

Fencing: Bollards to designate the recreation area or full fencing to prevent young children wandering away as well as prevent access by dogs.

Lighting: Given the hot climate as well as the relatively early sun set times in the region, the provision of lighting at public recreation spaces should be considered. Lighting should also be considered from a crime prevention perspective.

Fitness Equipment: The inclusion of fitness equipment is a common and positive use of recreation space and should be considered in the development of Recreation Spaces.

Other amenities: Nearby access to drinking water, public toilets, barbecues, seating, accessible walking paths and cycle paths, access to power, space for temporary services such as coffee vans.

Other Considerations:

Cost:

The requirements of the Australian Standards mean that each additional item of playground equipment requires additional time, repairs and replacement costs. The type, size and construction of each item will impact on these costs. Factors such as susceptibility to vandalism including graffiti (how easy is it to clean) and destruction (fire, damage) should also be considered. These whole of life costs must be identified and included in the decision making process when planning any new recreation area or reviewing existing facilities. This includes:

- Construction and replacement
- General maintenance (i.e. inspections, minor repairs),
- Repairs of vandalism, major maintenance

Construction, development and replacement

Construction of recreation space may include:

- Development of land (clearing, reticulating)
- Installation of playground equipment
- Installation of services (toilet facilities, lighting, drinking water)

While construction can be a significant cost, anywhere from thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars, construction and development often attract funding either through grants or community financial assistance. Unfortunately this funding is not as readily available for maintenance or replacement and therefore it is essential to consider the ongoing costs when accepting funding for recreation space development.

Maintenance and vandalism

Maintenance of recreation space is a significant cost to the Shire and may include:

- Playground repair (wear and tear or vandalism)
- Playground inspections
- Playground maintenance (removal of glass from soft fall, rubbish removal)
- Repairs of service (repairs of lights, toilets, drinking water)
- Maintenance of services (cleaning of toilets)
- Mowing, weed removal, works to trees
- Power and water to reticulation

When analysing these ongoing costs it is important to consider all of these factors. It is also important to recognise that the total services provided are more of a factor to total cost rather than the number of recreation spaces. The same space and number of services divided amongst more recreation spaces really only adds to travel time (for mowing, inspecting) and additional pack up and unpack of equipment (mowers etc.).

The location of the recreation spaces can also impact on the maintenance and vandalism costs. Absence of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) factors can increase the amount of damage caused to equipment.

Considerations should also be given to how vandalism resistant and weather resistant items of equipment are. Playground equipment with small moving parts that can be broken off, items that are flammable or that may perish in high heat or moisture should be avoided.

Joint use (in particular of supporting services):

Development of recreation spaces where supporting services (toilets, drinking water) are shared with other purposes (sports, youth services, boating facilities) increases the community benefit of the investment.

Use of recreation space should be monitored:

The best designed or located recreation spaces are of no value if they are not used. Monitoring can assist in identifying where barriers prevent space or service use (no shade, too far to walk), or where space or services are not required (another space preferred, service simply not required). This can be done through seeking community feedback or planned observations.

Integration with Cycling and Walking Paths:

Recreation spaces should be accessible and where possible be located on or near designated cycle or walking paths. The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is seeking to develop a Trails and Paths Masterplan that will provide strategic direction for the provision of these pathways and better inform this component of the Recreation Space Plan.

Tourism:

While the guidelines are based around service provision to residents, it should also be acknowledged that the provision of recreation spaces at locations away from residential properties do have a function in providing a service for tourist or residents that visit these recreational areas.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Guidelines:

With consideration to the information included above, the following guidelines have been developed for the provision of playground equipment within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley:

Guidelines:

1. Community Engagement: As community interest in recreation space provision is high, major changes to provision should not be undertaken unless a community engagement plan has been developed in accordance with the Shires Community Engagement Guidelines. This includes the removal of any equipment, design and purchase of any new equipment or features.

2. Playgrounds must be constructed to and maintained at the relevant Australian Standards:

   AS/NZS 4486.1:1997 Playgrounds and playground equipment Part 1: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

   This includes ensuring playground inspections are done within established timeframes and that staff conducting inspections are suitably qualified.

3. All major recreation space projects will consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design practices. All existing recreation spaces will be reviewed to maximise compliance with CPTED principles.

4. The Shire will maintain a register of dedicated recreation space to make clear to the community the areas that are intended for recreation, as opposed to general “public open space”.

5. There should be a variety of play equipment. The Shire will seek to provide a district level Public Open Space in Kununurra and a Neighbourhood level Public Open Space in Wyndham, ensuring that each town will have a minimum of one:
   - Accessible item of play equipment for people with disability;
   - Designated nature play area; and
   - Item of play equipment for each of the identified age ranges.

Variety should also be considered including:

- Equipment constructed of locally appropriate materials (in particular difficult to damage or burn and able to cope with temperatures and high rainfall periods);
- Variations in type (i.e. slide, swing, climbing frame); and
- Making use of natural features such as trees, ground slopes, boulders, natural water.

6. SWEK Hierarchy service level definitions: In the absence of a current Integrated Public Open Space Strategy (to be developed) this Recreation Space Strategy defines the hierarchy guidelines of all Public Open Spaces. It should be noted that to meet these guidelines, any combination of Public Open Spaces (Recreation, Sport or Nature) may be used.

A fifth category has been created to reflect community desire to ensure specific local spaces contain playground equipment:

	Minimum size	**Minimum level of service (for defined Recreation Spaces)**
Local	0.2 ha	0.2ha of designated maintained recreation space. Does not require equipment if there is access to reasonable open play area and natural features that encourage recreation.
Local Playground	0.2 ha	0.2ha of designated maintained recreation space identified by the community as requiring playground equipment.
Neighbourhood	0.8 ha	2 items of playground equipment servicing two different age ranges. Possible access to one or more additional amenities including public toilets, drinking water, seating, bins.
District	3.0 ha	One item servicing each age range identified. Additional amenities (within 100m), of access to public toilets, drinking water, rubbish bins, and significant shaded area. Consideration of timed lighting to allow evening use.
Regional	15+ ha	One item servicing each age range identified including at least one accessible item. Additional amenities on site of access to public toilets, drinking water, bbq, significant shaded area. Sporting facilities and amenities that may include ovals and sporting fields, sports courts and associated amenities (i.e. change rooms, viewing area).

7. Recreation space will be provided so that the majority of residents living within each town site:
    1. Live within 400 metres, or 5 minute walk from a recreation space.
    2. Live within 800 metres, or 10 minute walk from a neighbourhood (or higher) level public open space. This space is to include a recreation component.
    3. Have access to one district level public open space within the Shire. This space is to include a recreation component.

    While it is acknowledged that according to both the PLA WA Guidelines the population of either Kununurra or Wyndham does not actuate the need for a district level Public Open Space, the Shire also aligns with the PLA WA objective to provide fewer, but higher quality recreation spaces. The provision of one space of district level (with recreation component), as opposed to two or more local recreation spaces will allow residents to essentially "spend a day at the park" by providing access to services essential to a "day out":
    - Toilet facilities
    - Drinking water
    - Cooking and eating facilities
    - Play equipment and space for a range of age groups and abilities

8. Management Plans are to be in place and reviewed annually for all designated recreation spaces. Management plans will include:
    - Review of use of the recreation space and specific components of this space
    - Plans for future works
    - Community feedback

9. This Strategy is to be reviewed biennially.

References:

Benchmarks for Community Infrastructure, A PLA WA Working Document, March 2012.

Community Health and Wellbeing Position Paper, Parks and Leisure Australia (WA Region).

Department of Sport and Recreation Classifications Framework for Public Open Space, November 2012.

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure: 15, Playgrounds and Playground Equipment ACT Government

East Kimberley @ 25K, November 2013.

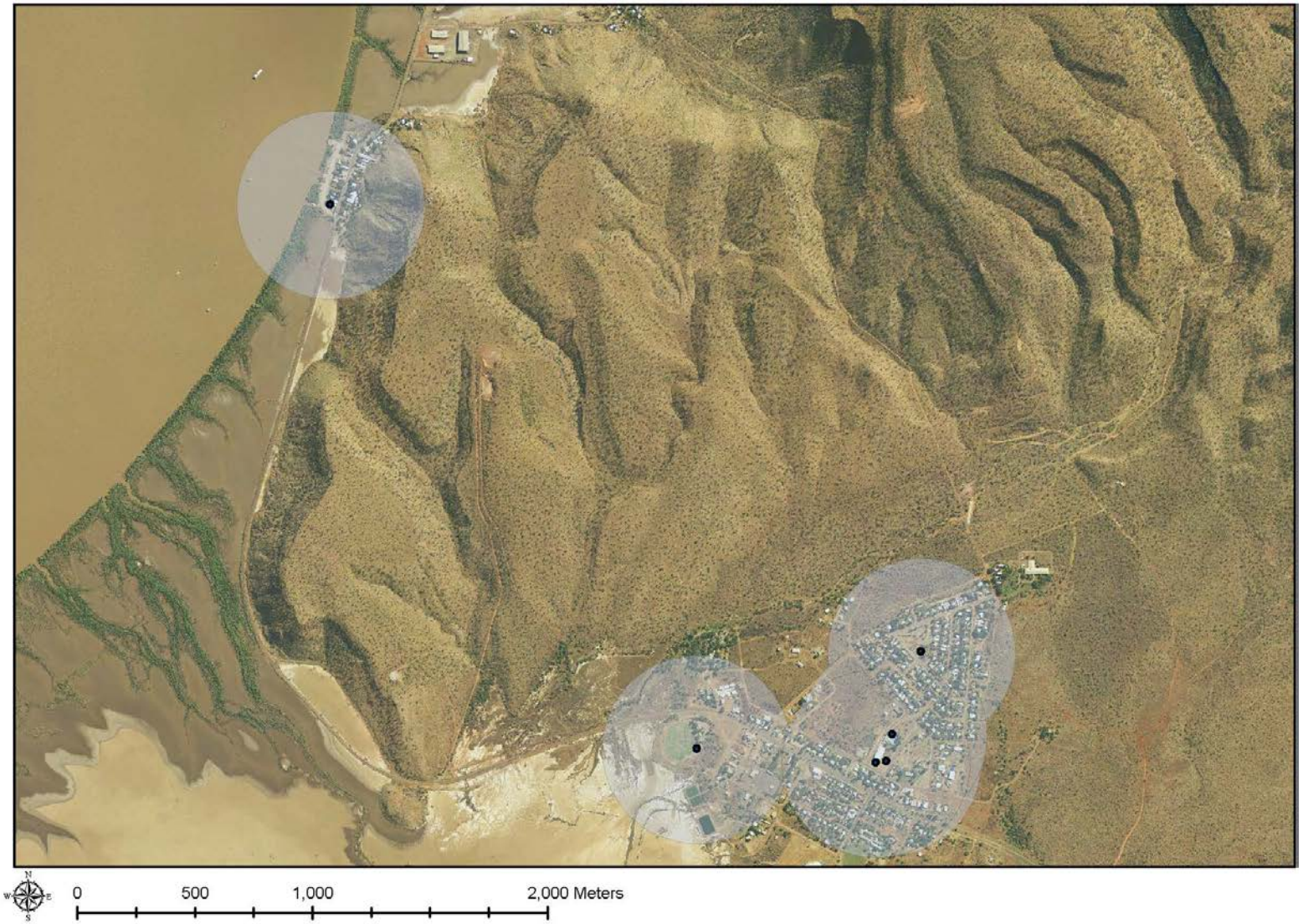
Kidsafe WA http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/playgroundimportance.htm

Appendix 1: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Recreation Spaces 2015

Existing Recreation Spaces:					
Name:	**Size**	**Playground Context**	**Playground Age Range**	**Other facilities**	**Hierarchy**
Kununurra					
Celebrity Tree Park	3.57ha	Well-equipped large playground within large open space park.	4-9	Public toilets, rubbish bins. Gazebo with access to power. No drinking water.	Neighbourhood
Pindan Park	0.47ha	Nil	Nil	Small recreation space, seating, pathways, some shade from trees.	Local
Swim Beach	2.46ha	Small recreation area	4-9	Public toilets, Barbeque, Undercover seating/gazebo	Local
Nicolson Park	2.28ha	Large range of playground equipment on medium sized open space park.	4-9 9-14	Half-court basketball, walking path (solar lights), undercover seating. Medium size recreation space, shade from trees	Neighbourhood
Argentea Street	0.22ha	Well-equipped medium sized playground	4-9 9-14	Drinking water, shaded table and chairs	Local
White Gum Park	0.71ha	Playground equipment was removed due to vandalism. Skate Park	9-14	Public toilets, rubbish bins, skate park,	Neighbourhood
Kununurra Town Oval	6.7ha	No playground equipment, Oval, sports courts.	-	Public toilets (not always open), access to power, sports courts.	Neighbourhood
Ag Oval	9.97ha	Nil	-	Nil	Local
Lakeside stage 6	0.18ha	Nil	-	Nil	-
Boobialla Way	0.05ha	Nil	-	Cricket pitch	-
Wyndham					
Bessie Wylie Park	0.09ha	Medium playground equipment located at Wyndham Port	4-9	Public toilets 200m walk, seating, shade from trees	Local
Lions Park - Denman St	1ha	Medium sized playground.	4-9	Large recreation space, undercover shade, table and chairs, shade from trees.	Local
St Pauls Way	0.73ha	Well-equipped playground undercover. Skate Park.	4-9 9-14	Located near swimming pool, skate park, outdoor courts, Youth and recreation centre. Bench seating nearby. No public toilets, drinking water made available at Youth and Recreation Centre.	Neighbourhood
Clarrie Cassidy Oval	3.3ha	Small range of playground equipment	9-14	Public toilets, drinking water, undercover viewing area, large recreation space.	Neighbourhood

The maps below show the location of all existing designated recreation spaces with a 400 metre catchment zone.

**Note: The maps include the swimming pools not classified as public recreation space due to entry fees.*



Kununurra Playspace 400m Buffer

Appendix 2: Feedback Summary

Question/Topic	Feedback	Officer Response
Will this Plan impact on your use of play space?	No	This question was just intended to capture the difference between users of the play spaces and other stakeholders that don't use the space, but are able to offer valued input.
	Not my use but all the residents and their children that live around me	
	Yes, the children in the community need space outdoors to learn and explore	
	No	
	Don't know	
	No	
	Yes, given that this includes space for sport, I feel a better maintained walking/riding track is beneficial as well as adding to/creating a fitness aspect to it – bars, steps etc. along the fitness stations. Please use Cairns fitness stations as an example	
Would you prefer one well developed play space and fewer services in other spaces, or services spread across multiple play spaces?	One well developed in KNX & one in Wyndham	
	Services spread around multiple play areas to stop local children being bored	
	2 or 3 play spaces with higher quality services. Possible water play area would be great.	
	Services spread across multiple spaces, or options for different play areas	
	More services spread across multiple spaces – more in town and more creative playgrounds	
	Services/funds should be spread out across multiple play spaces to ensure everyone equally has the opportunity to access play space. Some community members have transportation issues, if play spaces are too far then they will not be able to access them regularly.	
	One well developed play space. People in Kununurra rarely walk to anything so access isn't an issue	
	I believe spread is good for use and supervision and parking and overcrowding	
Do you agree with the benchmarks within the guidelines? Why or why not?	Yes	
	The PLAWA guidelines may work in cities, however in small regional towns, with a large percentage of low income earners, there is little enough for children to do now	
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Again the guidelines may work in cities, but not small towns, with limited services available to youth and children.	

Do you agree with the hierarchy guidelines? Why or why not?	Yes	
	Yes	
Are you happy with the range of activities that can be undertaken at existing spaces?	No – need to integrate water into play spaces as they cannot be used for a good part of the year due to the weather conditions being too hot	Community desire for water play areas is noted. Ongoing financial cost to the Shire is the main concern. This can be investigated further
	Some playground equipment was removed and not replaced in the area where I live. Local residents were not happy. We are happy that the playground is now at least open.	Aware of this and will work maintenance/replacement schedules into Strategy and action plans
	Not really	
	No, drunks in parks children don't have to see. Somewhere peaceful	
	No	
	Some play spaces in Wyndham are very limited, I think play space areas need to be maintained to a higher level to ensure equipment if safe, sanitary and clear of debris.	Noted, and again will work maintenance/replacement schedules into Strategy and action plans
	I feel given the climate more fitness equipment opportunities will be well utilised	Noted, will amend strategy to reflect fitness components.
Any Further comments	No	
	The Lions Park in Wyndham is classified as a local space. Minimal level of service says that it does not require playground equipment. I disagree with this. There are many HomesWest tenants in the area with tiny yards and nowhere for children to play. They need climbing frames, swings, slides and somewhere they can have fun. Last year when the playground was fenced off they were using people's yards as play areas, private residents would come home to find kids in their yard, climbing trees and running amok.	The desire for equipment to be maintained at Lions Park is noted and agreed that the location and demographics of the park warrant amendment of the strategy to ensure similar parks provide a reasonable level of service.
	Water Play area would be fantastic	Feasibility study into water play area required
	Definitely need more options	
	More playground activities in town, ideally at White Gum Park and at Pindan	
	While there is much discussion about the need for more services and facilities, the existing spaces and facilities are underutilised. I think the existing facilities are maintained to a high standard and provide for a range of play experiences across ages. I find it hard to justify increasing facilitates available given the maintenance costs associated while existing services are poorly utilised (in Kununurra)	

	Kununurra is an “outdoors” town. All playgrounds appear to be well utilised as well as bike/walking tracks, ovals, netball squash courts and gyms. I feel the Shire should be supporting fitness, health and less obesity with free spaces as suggested. Although I am not a parent I strongly support a water park/facility as there are hundreds of children in this town who would benefit. I believe you could even charge for this.	

Question:	Feedback	Officer Comment
Which of the play spaces/playgrounds is your favourite and details of use	**Celebrity Tree Park** – well equipped, access to toilets, beautiful location Distance from park 8 minute+ walk Attend with children, Kids play on play equipment, walk the dog, swim, meet up with other families	
	Lions Park Wyndham. It gives children in the area somewhere to go and play as many live in tiny yards with no trees to climb or any space to play. It keeps the kids occupied in the playground so the instances of children entering private property to play in trees and the garden are reduced to practically zero. Distance from park Less than 2 minute walk Children use the spaces unattended The kids use the climbing equipment, swing, grass area and all the playground equipment that is there.	
	Argentea St. not too crowded, room to run, trees to explore etc. 2 to 5 minute walk away Attend with children Climbing, running, exploring, making new friends	
	Celebrity Tree Park is nice and quiet, peaceful, good for kids to run around. A lot of space away from gambling and drinking 8+ minute walk away Attend with children Like: Let the kids run free, playground equipment, kick the footy	
	Celebrity Tree Park – Shady, more things for Kids to play on – on weekends 8+ minute walk Attend with children Like: Watch the kids play on equipment, push them on swings, talk with friends Dislike: It should be fenced	

	Bessie Wylie Park: It's always clean and safe for children to play on the equipment and the grass is always kept down and debris (branches are removed quickly). Kids love the swing, it's always cool and shady, good place for a picnic and there is seating available. 8+ minute walk away Attend with children, attend by myself or with similar age friends Like: Playing with children, walking, jogging or other exercises, use play equipment. Watch local football matches and watch softball matches	
	Celebrity Tree Park: Variety of activities, wide open green space with outlook and access to the water 5 to 8 minute walk Attend with children, attend by myself or with similar age friends Utilise the playground equipment, kick a ball, run across the grass, see what fish we can see in the lake I go to Celebrity Tree Park because there is rarely damage to the equipment or people around drinking or yelling I would like to see the path between the town and swim beach upgraded. I think the existing play spaces within Kununurra are underutilised so don't see the need for more spaces that require SWEK maintenance	
	With friends or family usually only Argentea St or Celebrity Tree. I use the netball courts, Swim Beach and Maggies Oval Less than 2 minute walk to Argentea St 8+ Minute Walk to Celebrity Tree Park Attend with Children Attend by myself, or with similar age friends Walk, ride through, exercise at. Take children to play equipment, not regularly as not my children.	
	Maintenance of equipment, lack of drinking water, too hot most of the year Sometimes parks like celebrity tree park smells strange is not pleasant	
	Too many drunk and disorderly at white gum park	

What do you not like at these play spaces?	Wyndham facilities are not maintained to the standard of Kununurra's (i.e. Celebrity Tree Park vs St Pauls Way or Lions Park) they can be too unhygienic for myself and my children to use. Toilet facilities at Kununurra Oval can be extremely repulsive, would like to be able to use them when toilet facilities are unavailable at the Sporties	
Other suggestions	Coffee shop at Celebrity Tree Park. Water play at CTP. Drinking water at CTP and Swim Beach. Remove the equipment at Swim Beach. Add equipment to White Gum Park (swings) and fix social issues so it is not so filthy and stinky :)	
	Lions Park Playground equipment to be maintained and if possible improved to accommodate the many 0 to 10 year olds that live in the area and use the play space.	
	Water Play Area, Nature play area (see nature play WA)	
	St Pauls Way: The playground could be cleaned with a high pressure hose and disinfectant quarterly and the sand at the base of the playground turned through a couple of times a year and replace (add) sand yearly. Lions Park: Watered Regularly, trees and grass are important when selecting a safe play area for my children. The playground could be clean with a high pressure hose and disinfectant quarterly and the sand at the base of the playground turned through a couple of times a year and replace (add) sand yearly. Maintenance of the bike track could be done after the wet season to secure ground, replacing dirt, filling in holes etc. Trees could be better maintained (must be watered) and should be trimmed twice a year to ensure safety of community members, could be fenced off where the playground area is (for safety of unsupervised children) Kununurra town oval; Toilet facilities need to be upgraded, very little if any airflow, should be cleaned to a higher standard, and painted.	
	Fitness stations and water equipment at one location	

Importance - 1 – not important to 10 – extremely important								
	Location of Recreation Spaces addressed							
	Kununurra	Wyndham	Kununurra	Kununurra	Kununurra	Wyndham /Kununurra	Kununurra	Kununurra
Close to home	8	10	7	6	9	1	3	10
Range of playground equipment	7	8	10	8	4	4	3	10
Disability access	5	6	9	10	0	5	6	10
Lighting for night use	6	3	4	10	0	4	1	0
Close to shops/food/drink/coffee etc.	8	1	5	5	7	3	2	0
Cooking facilities	6	1	3	8	6	5	3	5
Access to drinking water/seating	8	7	7	10	1	10	7	10
Dogs allowed	7	5	7	1	0	5	7	5
Dogs not allowed	0	5	0	10	2	5	3	5
Sufficient shade	9	9	10	10	8	10	8	10
Reticulated and mowed lawn	5	7	7	8	3	10	8	7
Fenced area	5	1	3	5	0	8	2	5
Close to public toilets	8	1	5	10	5	10	6	5
Access to power supply	1	1	3	5	3	5	2	5
Feels safe	8	10	10	10	10	10	8	10