



Playground Strategic Development Plan

2024-2027

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SHIRE OF
KONDININ



Schedule of Changes/Amendments

| Date | Changes/Amendments | Author | Adopted by Council |
|------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
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BACKGROUND

The Shire of Kondinin has a total of 9 public playgrounds and play areas throughout the townsites of Kondinin, Karlgarin and Hyden. All of these playgrounds are owned and managed by the Shire of Kondinin.

The Playground Strategic Development Plan 2023-2027 aims to create valued play environments, to improve the quality and diversity of play spaces within the Shire of Kondinin and to assist in guiding the decision-making process when planning, designing and upgrading play spaces in the future. Council is committed to providing cost-effective high-quality play spaces that are equitably distributed through our townsites.

Play is essential for developing social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills necessary for children to grow into happy, healthy and resilient adults. Playgrounds provide children living in rural areas with essential spaces to play, socialise and build connections. Council are committed to providing play spaces because they offer numerous benefits to children, families and the broader community. The benefits of committing to a Playground Strategic Development Plan include:

- Expanded opportunities for social connection and inclusion
- Improved health and well-being resulting from outdoor play and physical activity
- Improved liveability and daily quality of life
- Opportunities for economic growth resulting from increased visitors to the Shire of Kondinin
- Purpose-built play spaces legitimise play as an activity and act as a catalyst for families to encourage them to go outside and play.

39.9% (*Community Strategic Plan, 2022*) of the population in The Shire of Kondinin are families with children and the Shire believes it is important to improve the daily quality of life for those families. By improving the day to day life for families with young children we will ensure the health of our community and consequently boost the sustainability of our towns. In addition, it is also important to provide visitors with safe and inviting play spaces to promote the tourist experience within our Shire.

The Playground Strategic Development Plan was developed in response to feedback received from the community. After multiple requests to look at the existing play spaces from community members and community groups, the Shire of Kondinin undertook a survey in September 2022 in order to better understand what improvements were needed. The results of the survey are detailed in this Plan.

In addition to the survey, a visual and operational inspection of all play areas within the Shire was undertaken by the Shire administration in 2023 to identify any issues of non-compliance with current Australian Standards, potential hazards, safety matters and general maintenance requirements. The results of that inspection are detailed in the following section.

As result of that inspection Council have identified a set of goals that it would like to achieve over a 4-year period. Council will progressively work towards the actions and goals within the strategy. The plan is designed to be reviewed and updated annually.

This strategy was developed following community consultation that included a community survey and discussions with local families, community groups and organisations. Council will continue to engage with these groups as we implement each stage of the Plan.

WHY A STRATEGY IS NEEDED

Before the development of this plan, the Shire of Kondinin's playgrounds were managed by an asset replacement plan alone. It was identified that there was a need for Council to consider play-scapes and playgrounds in a holistic manner rather than reacting to individual approaches from the community to upgrade or provide new facilities in a disjointed way.

STRATEGY FOCUS

The Playground Strategic Development Plan is based on an assessment of the needs of the community, the adequacy of existing playgrounds and our ability to provide a greater diversity play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Playground Strategic Development Plan is consistent with the following Goals, Objectives and Actions of the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032.

1. Community

1.1 Community members have the opportunity to be active, engaged and connected

1.4 Recreational and social spaces encourage active and healthy lifestyles

2. Economy

2.3. Coordinated planning and promotion of the visitors and tourist experience.

RESULTS OF COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND SURVEY

COMMENTS

In 2022, a request was made by community members for the Shire to look at improving the playground facilities within our Shire. In response, a survey was distributed to the community in 2022, which aimed to identify any significant problems with the existing playgrounds within the Shire of Kondinin and to invite the public to propose ways that they could be developed and upgraded. The main findings from this survey were as follows:

- There was a lack of toilet and changing facilities in close proximity to a lot of the playground areas.
- More shade is required in certain areas to make the playgrounds more usable.

- Playgrounds and play spaces need to be more consistently maintained, with sand and soft-fall areas needing regularly topped up and debris removed.
- There is a need for more seating, bins, water fountains and barbeques in some of the play areas.
- There is not adequate fencing around most of the playgrounds to prevent children running on to the road.
- Need for a space that will entice tourists and local families to spend time there.
- Need for more nature play equipment.
- More age appropriate play equipment was needed for children under 3, as well as play spaces aimed at older children and teenagers.

TABLE 1 RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

| Shire of Kondinin Playground Survey | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| | Highly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Highly Dissatisfied |
| Hyden Recreation Centre | | | | | |
| Availability of Shade | 1 | | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Play Equipment | | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| Fencing/Safety | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Landscaping / Setting | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | |
| Access (to and within playground) | 2 | 6 | 3 | | |
| | 9 | 16 | 20 | 11 | 4 |
| Hyden Coronation Park | | | | | |
| Availability of Shade | | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Play Equipment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| Fencing/Safety | | 1 | 5 | | 3 |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Landscaping / Setting | | 5 | 3 | 1 | |
| Access (to and within playground) | | 3 | 5 | 1 | |
| | 2 | 16 | 20 | 14 | 4 |
| Hyden Skate Park | | | | | |
| Availability of Shade | | | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Play Equipment | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Fencing/Safety | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Landscaping / Setting | | | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Access (to and within playground) | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| | 0 | 2 | 19 | 9 | 19 |
| Karlgarin Stafford Park | | | | | |
| Availability of Shade | | | 1 | | |
| Play Equipment | | | 1 | | |
| Fencing/Safety | | | 1 | | |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | | | 1 | | |
| Landscaping / Setting | | | 1 | | |
| Access (to and within playground) | | | 1 | | |
| | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Kondinin Pavilion Playground | | | | | |
| Availability of Shade | | | | | |
| Play Equipment | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Fencing/Safety | 2 | 4 | 1 | | |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Landscaping / Setting | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Access (to and within playground) | 1 | 2 | 4 | | |
| | 5 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 5 |
| Kondinin Country Club | | | | | |
| Availability of Shade | 1 | 5 | 1 | | 1 |
| Play Equipment | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | |
| Fencing/Safety | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

| Shire of Kondinin Playground Survey | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Highly Satisfied | Satisfied | Neutral | Dissatisfied | Highly Dissatisfied |
| Landscaping / Setting | 3 | 2 | | 3 | |
| Access (to and within playground) | 3 | 5 | | 1 | |
| | 9 | 19 | | 9 | 5 |

| Kondinin Skate Park | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Availability of Shade | | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| Play Equipment | | | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Fencing/Safety | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Landscaping / Setting | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Access (to and within playground) | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | 1 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 12 |

| Kondinin Community Garden | | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Availability of Shade | | | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Play Equipment | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Fencing/Safety | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Landscaping / Setting | 4 | 3 | | | |
| Access (to and within playground) | 3 | 3 | | 1 | |
| | 9 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 |

| Kondinin Trembath Park | | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Availability of Shade | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| Play Equipment | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Fencing/Safety | | | | 4 | 3 |
| Infrastructure (e.g. toilets, paths, lighting, BBQ, seating, bins) | | 1 | | 2 | 4 |
| Landscaping / Setting | | 3 | 3 | | 1 |
| Access (to and within playground) | 1 | 6 | | | |
| | 3 | 13 | 8 | 10 | 8 |

SAFETY STANDARDS

The Shire of Kondinin shall ensure that all playgrounds are designed and installed to meet the relevant Australian Standards for Playgrounds.

RESULTS OF THE VISUAL AND OPERATIONAL INSPECTION

All public play spaces were inspected internally by Shire administration and the findings from this inspection were compiled in to the table below. Each playground space was given a score as a result of the inspection.

TABLE 2 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION RESULTS

| AREA | SCORE | AGE | SHADE | PLAY EQUIPMENT | FENCING | PUBLIC TOILETS | FACILITIES | COMMENTS |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Kondinin Pavilion | 4 | c. 1997 | No | Soft fall and play equipment in poor condition. Powder coating on Play equipment is chipping in areas. Minor graffiti. Missing post tops on play equipment. General wear. | Fence was recently removed to allow access to top up sand. | No | No additional facilities | This playground is general aged and worn. Use is tied to use of the Pavilion on sports days. |
| Kondinin Recreation Centre | 2 | c.2010 | Yes | Soft fall depth significantly reduced. Minor scratches and flaking to powder coated surfaces. Damage to plastic balls on the play equipment. One spring ride on was replaced in 2023 due to damage. | Fenced, with one open entrance which faces the car park. | No public toilets. Toilets only available inside Rec Centre when it is open. | Water fountain. Picnic seating available. | Use of this playground is primarily linked to use of the Recreation Centre facilities. |
| Kondinin Skate Park | 3 | c. 2007 | No, however there is a shaded seating area adjacent to the Skate Park. Some panels of this shade are damaged. | Skate ramps are aging and worn, with significant gaps between the ground and ramps, posing a potential hazard to users. | No. Area is beside main road. | Closest toilets are in the Community Garden | Seating area | This area was included in the Shire's Sports and Recreation Plan 2021-2031 for upgrade. The planning stage is detailed in the plan to commence in the 2024-2025 financial year. |
| Kondinin Community Garden | 3 | c.2015 | Some shade over the decking and seating, but none over play area | Nature play and mud kitchen elements installed at various times since 2015. Some equipment donated by community groups/organisations. Wooden climbing frame purchased with grant money from the Federal Government. Digger and rocker purchased by the Shire and the KCRC and installed om 2022. Some significant damage to some of the play equipment, such as the drums and the cubby house, are evident. | Fencing around the perimeter of the garden. Old fencing from when the site was the pool. | Yes Toilets building is remaining from when site was a pool. Aged and in need of maintenance. | Seating, tap, pizza oven, stainless steel bench tops, picnic tables | The Community Garden sits on the main road through town. It is situated beside the Skate Park and an old children's bike track that is in need of maintenance. The Skate Park and bike track could be incorporated into the Community Garden. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------|--|--|----|---|---|---|
| Trembath Park-Kondinin | 3 | c. | Yes, playground is sheltered and there is sheltered seating available. | Soft fall is in need of some attention to meet depth requirements. Some mild wear to the play equipment. The powder-coating is chipping in some areas and the wood on the bridge is slightly buckled. The baby swing has recently been replaced in 2023 due to damage. | No | No, but public amenities are located a five minute walk away. | Picnic table seating | Park sits beside an old practice basketball hoop and concrete pad. Replacement basketball backboard has been ordered for replacement in 2024 |
| Hyden Recreation Centre | 4 | c.1996 | No. | Soft fall is in need of some attention to meet depth requirements. Play equipment showing age and signs of wear. Chipping evident to powder-coating on equipment. Some bolts and paneling needs replacing. | No | No, unless Recreation Centre is Open | Barbeques, picnic tables and water fountain | In 2016 Hyden Sports Council received \$5,632 community grant money from the Shire to purchase and install shade sails over Rec Centre playground. To date, they have not yet been installed. |
| Coronation Park- Hyden | 2 | 2011 | Yes | Play equipment in good condition, with very early signs of wear. Soft fall in this playground is synthetic grass, which is uneven in parts, causing some pooling of water when it rains. | No | Yes, access to public toilets behind Town Hall. | Picnic tables, barbeques, water fountain | |
| Hyden Skate Park | 4 | 2002 | No | Ramps are showing signs of excessive wear and weathering. Ramp surfaces are scratched and paint is chipped. Gaps evident between the ramps and ground, posing potential hazards. | No | Yes, public toilet access close by. | Water fountain | |
| Stafford Park | 1 | 2020 | No | Play equipment consists of one swing and is fairly new and in good condition. | No | | Barbeques Seating | |

Score key

- 1- *In excellent condition with no signs of deterioration or loss of serviceability.*
- 2- *In good condition, but with some early signs of deterioration evident. The deterioration would be minor in nature and causing no serviceability problems.*
- 3- *In fair condition, deterioration would be obvious and there may be some serviceability loss.*
- 4- *In poor condition, deterioration in condition would be quite severe and would be starting to limit serviceability*
- 5- *In bad condition, deterioration would be very severe and limit serviceability significantly.*

IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND MONITORING

The Playground Strategic Development Plan will be reviewed during annual budget preparations and amended to recognise any changes in service levels and/or resources available to provide those services as a result of the budget decision process.

Grant funding opportunities shall be investigated and applied for by Shire administration to assist with funding where available.

The Plan has a life of 5 years and is due for revision and updating as per Council budget discussion and outcomes.

TABLE 3 PLAYGROUND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024- 2027

2023 – 2024 Financial Year – GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONAL

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.0 | Remove dead vegetation and litter from park and playground spaces. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 1.1 | Regular checking and cleaning of BBQ and water fountains and picnic tables. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 1.2 | Monitoring of sand levels and top-up when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 1.3 | Regular inspection of playground equipment and processing repairs when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 1.4 | Removal of fencing at Pavilion playground in Kondinin to allow for surface maintenance. | Pavilion Playground, Kondinin | Jan 2024 | General Maintenance |
| 1.5 | Maintenance and replacement of broken equipment to be undertaken at Skate Park and Recreation Centre areas. | Hyden Skate Park & Hyden Recreation Centre | March 2024 | \$14,000 |

2023-2024 Financial Year – NEW IMPROVEMENTS

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|--|----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 2.0 | Water fountains have been purchased for installation at Hyden Skate Park, Hyden Netball Courts, Hyden Hockey Field and Coronation Park. | Hyden | In Progress (2024) | \$30,000 |
| 2.2 | Undertake community consultation about any potential improvements to the Graham Street Playground area, including the Community Garden, Skate Park and Bike Track. | Kondinin | 2024 | General CDO |

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|--------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 2.3 | Undertake community consultation about any potential improvements to Coronation Park. | Hyden | 2025 | General CDO |
| 2.4 | Access to Coronation Park – Easement organised and lodged with Landgate | Coronation Park | In progress (2024) | \$3000 |
| TOTAL | | | | \$33,000 |

2024-2025 Financial Year – GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONAL

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|--|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3.0 | Remove dead vegetation and litter from park and playground spaces. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 3.1 | Regular checking and cleaning of BBQ and water fountains and picnic tables. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 3.2 | Monitoring of sand levels and top-up when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 3.3 | Regular inspection of playground equipment and processing repairs when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |

2024-2025 Financial Year – NEW IMPROVEMENTS

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|--------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| 4.0 | Engage a consultant to aid in the redesign of the Graham Street Playground area, including Community Garden, the Skate Park and Bike Track areas. | Kondinin | 2024 | \$20,000 |
| 4.1 | Engage a consultant to aid in the redesign of the Coronation Park area. | Hyden | 2025 | \$20,000 |
| 4.2 | Implement Stage 1 of the Graham Street Playground redesign. | Kondinin | 2025 | TBC (Grant funding options to be investigated) |
| 4.3 | Access to Coronation Park – Construction of laneway | Coronation Park | 2025 | \$56,000 (indicative cost only) |
| TOTAL | | | | TBC |

2025 – 2026 Financial Year – GENERAL MAINTENANCE

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|--|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 5.0 | Remove dead vegetation and litter from park and playground spaces. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 5.1 | Regular checking and cleaning of BBQ and water fountains and picnic tables. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 5.2 | Monitoring of sand levels and top-up when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 5.3 | Regular inspection of playground equipment and processing repairs when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |

2025 – 2026 Financial Year – NEW IMPROVEMENTS

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|--------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 6.0 | Implement Stage 2 of Graham Street Playground upgrades. | Kondinin Community Garden | 2025 | TBC (Grant funding options to be investigated) |
| 6.1 | Implement stage 1 of the Coronation Park redesign. | Hyden | 2025 | TBC (Grant funding options to be investigated). |
| TOTAL | | | | TBC |

2026 – 2027 Financial Year – GENERAL MAINTENANCE

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|--|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 7.0 | Remove dead vegetation and litter from park and playground spaces. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 7.1 | Regular checking and cleaning of BBQ and water fountains and picnic tables. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 7.2 | Monitoring of sand levels and top-up when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |
| 7.3 | General monitoring of playground equipment and processing repairs when required. | All Locations | On-Going | General Maintenance |

2026 – 2027 Financial Year – NEW IMPROVEMENTS

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|---|----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 8.0 | Implement Stage 2 of upgrades at Coronation Park. | Hyden | 2027 | TBC |

| No. | Action | Location | Target Date for Completion | Estimated Budget |
|-----|---|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| 8.1 | Install fencing around Coronation Park playground | Coronation Park | June 2024 | \$22,000 (indicative costing for the supply and installation of 160m of 1200mm high flat-top pool fencing and 3 gates with child-proof latches) |