

# City of Palmerston DRAFT Play Space Strategy 2021 - 2031



Image: Bloodwood Park, Zucoli

*“As adults, we have the responsibility to provide FREEDOM, TIME and SPACE for our children to play freely every day, so they can make sense of the world in their own way, at their own pace.” Barb Champion, Executive Director – Play Australia*

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## Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Larrakia People - and pay respect to their elders, past, present, and future. The Larrakia people are the traditional owners of the Darwin region.

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## Definitions

<b>Amenities</b>	Play spaces include amenities such as water bubblers, seating and other furniture, litter bins, shade structures, shelters, public toilets, BBQs, paths and paving, fencing, lighting, and other items. These elements are intended to add to the play experience for families and children and address risk and safety issues.
<b>Active recreation</b>	Active recreation refers to physical activity undertaken in leisure time and not part of structured competitive sport. This may include walking, running, bike riding, ball games, swimming, or gym/physical workouts. In park or open space settings, equipment or facilities that may support active recreation include tennis hit up walls, exercise stations and basketball half courts that may form part of a play space.
<b>Inclusion and accessibility</b>	<p><b>Inclusion</b> is ‘the act of enabling all groups of people within a society to have a sense of belonging and to be able to participate in community life. It is based on fundamental values of equity, equality, social justice and human rights.’ Inclusion occurs when all people feel valued and respected, are connected to their fellow citizens, have access to opportunities and resources and can contribute their perspectives and talents to improve their community.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Accessibility</b> means that everyone – no matter their age, abilities, background, gender or circumstances – has equal opportunities to participate in their community and to reach their goals and aspirations. Accessibility involves recognising and removing any barriers – physical or otherwise – that make it harder for some people than it is for others to give and receive information, attend events, participate in recreation and social activities, work, study, or volunteer, receive services or otherwise be involved in all aspects of a good and satisfying life. <sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>In an inclusive and accessible play space:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All elements of the play space are disability accessible including the play equipment or play elements, the amenities, and the paths of travel to the play space and within the play space.</li> <li>• All members of the community feel welcome, comfortable, and safe to use the play space.</li> <li>• The surrounding environment is welcoming and accessible.</li> <li>• Information about the play space is easily available.</li> </ul>
<b>Passive recreation</b>	Passive recreation differs from active recreation in that it is less energetic and informal in nature, is pursued alone or with others, requires little if any equipment, and is undertaken primarily for its emotional and wellbeing benefits. Examples include playing with children in play or open spaces, walking, playing card games, picnicking and bush walking.
<b>Play spaces and playgrounds</b>	<p>The term playgrounds and play spaces are often used interchangeably. In this Strategy, the term play space refers to any purpose-built setting for children’s play. Play spaces are typically located in a park or open space area, and frequently include play equipment or ball courts, but they may also include or entirely consist of play elements such as trees, rocks and logs, sand, planting, mounding, or other natural or made elements provided for the purpose of play. Play spaces can include open grass areas, and may also include areas of planting, art works and landscape elements to provide a diversity of play experiences.</p> <p>The term playground is usually used to describe a public place designed to provide an environment predominantly for children that facilitates play. A playground may have</p>

<sup>1</sup> City of Palmerston, 2021, Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework

<sup>2</sup> City of Palmerston, 2021, Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework

	traditional play equipment and infrastructure and complementary facilities in addition to landscaping. A playground may be located within a play space.
<b>Play elements</b>	Play elements include natural or constructed items such as boulders and logs, sand, planting, earth forming, sculptures and play equipment, which typically have other purposes and sources, but have been brought into a play space to support and enhance children’s play.
<b>Play equipment</b>	Play equipment refers to purpose designed structures intended to support children’s play. These may be custom-built items but are purpose-designed and built for children’s physical, creative, imaginative, or social play. Play equipment aims to enable safe, engaging, interactive, challenging, and inclusive play opportunities.
<b>Natural play or nature-based play</b>	This refers to play which occurs in the natural environment. This type of play provides children with opportunities to explore and undertake imaginative play.
<b>Softfall</b>	This is an impact absorbing medium installed on the ground beneath play equipment that slows the falling child down over the greatest possible distance. Typical materials used are rubber surfacing and sand.

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## Why a play space strategy



*Image: Sanctuary Lakes, Gunn*

**Play is a critical part of growth and learning for children**, helping them to develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. It supports the learning of lifelong skills such as problem solving, independence, self-awareness, creativity, resilience, and the ability to deal with change. Play also provides important motivation for children to become active, extend themselves, and engage with others.<sup>3</sup>

**Play spaces have a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the Palmerston community**, providing important opportunities for children to play, to explore, and to learn. They are also important for young people and adults, providing spaces for socialising, exercise, active recreation, and play. As the primary provider of play spaces in Palmerston, Council has a strong interest in developing and maintaining inclusive, diverse, and quality play spaces. This Strategy outlines Council's commitment to providing play spaces which support and strengthen the health and wellbeing of the Palmerston community.

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<sup>3</sup> International Play Association, 1977 (reviewed 1989) Declaration of the Child's Right to Play

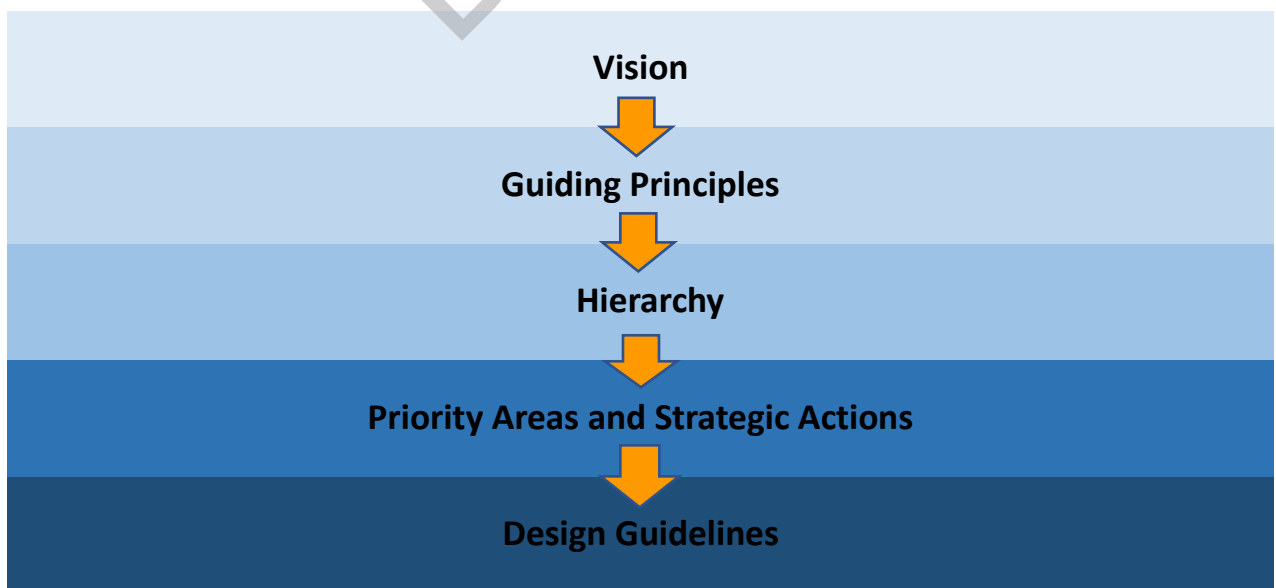
## Strategy outline

The Play Space Strategy will guide Council’s decision making and investment in play spaces over the next 10 years. It is underpinned by significant background research about:

- the value and benefits of play for children;
- the importance of play spaces for supporting physical activity and community connectedness;
- Council’s existing strategic directions and priorities and how they will influence the Play space Strategy;
- the current and forecast demographic profile of the Palmerston community;
- an audit of existing playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston; and
- the approach to playgrounds and play spaces taken by other local governments;
- community views and aspirations about playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston, gathered through a program of consultation and engagement with the community.

In response to the research, the Strategy identifies a vision for play spaces in Palmerston, a hierarchy to help ensure the community has access to a diverse range of play settings and experiences across Palmerston, guiding principles to enable a strategic approach to the provision of play opportunities, and design standards to provide clear guidance for the design of new or redevelopment of existing play spaces.

In addition, a series of high levels recommendations have been outlined to direct Council’s resources and decision making about play spaces in Palmerston for the next 10 years.



## How play spaces support community health and wellbeing

Play spaces are important elements of community infrastructure, providing opportunities for personal development at all stages of childhood, as well as places for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, socialise and be physically active.



Image: Bloodwood Park, Zuccoli

### Children

Activities such as rocking, spinning and swinging are important in the development of balance, hearing and vision. Play has a critical role in aiding children to become independent adults as they learn to take risks and conquer challenges. It assists the development of creativity through imaginative play.

Increasingly natural play is being incorporated within play spaces. While playground equipment continues to be important, it is essential that children are able to explore natural environments and not be constrained by manufactured equipment. Providing playgrounds and open spaces which include purpose-built areas together with natural elements, gives children opportunities to explore and undertake imaginative play.<sup>4</sup>

### Young people and adults

Older age groups including young people, adults and older adults share some common benefits with children from participation in play and recreation. Benefits include improved health and wellbeing from participating in physical activities, and benefits associated with social interaction from spending time with friends and family.

### The whole community

Having opportunities to access public outdoor space and to build community connections are particularly important in higher density residential developments where families and individuals may have access to limited private outdoor play space. A public play space gives children an opportunity to play and develop skills they otherwise may not. Larger play spaces in parks and public places where complementary facilities are provided such as barbecues, shelters, toilets, picnic facilities, activities recreation or exercise equipment also cater for families and individuals with limited private facilities.

<sup>4</sup> Play Australia, [Play Library | Play Australia](#)



## Council’s strategic priorities

The Play Space Strategy supports the directions and priorities of Council’s key strategies including the Community Plan, Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Framework, Community Infrastructure Plan, Palmerston Art Strategy, and Sustainability Strategy. The directions and priorities most relevant to the Play Space Strategy are:

<b>A strategic and planned approach:</b>	Council has a strategic and planned approach to guiding the development Palmerston. Playgrounds are vital community assets, and a planned approach including hierarchy and priorities will be consistent with the Council’s overall approach to community infrastructure.
<b>Responsive planning:</b>	Council’s planning recognises that Palmerston is a vibrant and culturally diverse community and seeks to respond to the ongoing residential development and the dynamic nature of Palmerston. Council recognises with continued population growth and young age profile there will be increasing demand for playgrounds and other recreation and sporting facilities.
<b>Liveability:</b>	Council’s emphasis on families and liveability is best evidenced by priorities in the Community Plan. Council has a commitment to providing facilities and services to support families, collaborating with school and community groups, and ensuring access by community members to decision making.
<b>Inclusion and equity:</b>	While Council’s commitment to principles of inclusion and equity is evident in all planning documents, it is most evident in the Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework. Implications for the Playground Strategy are a commitment to inclusion and the potential to include design elements that recognise and celebrate the community’s indigenous history, cultural diversity and heritage.
<b>Sustainability:</b>	Responsible environmental management and a commitment to sustainability principles are clear priorities for Council, as is Council’s commitment to ensuring community facilities are responsive to community needs and are fit for purpose. New infrastructure will be developed sustainably, minimise resource use, and meet ESD guidelines.
<b>Creativity:</b>	A commitment to the arts and creative endeavours is reflected in the Community Plan and reinforced in the Arts Strategy. This includes enhancing the character and identity of public spaces, public art initiatives and by incorporating creative design elements in infrastructure.

## Palmerston community profile<sup>5</sup>

The Palmerston community is characterised by rapid population growth, a young age profile, pockets of disadvantage, many community members who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, and increasing cultural diversity. Key features of the population are outlined below, along with information about how these will influence the development and operation of play spaces in Palmerston.

<p><b>Rapidly growing population</b> 39,032 to 50,508 between 2020 – 2031</p>	<p><b>Higher % of children and young people in Palmerston</b> than in Darwin and Northern Territory</p>
<p><b>Highest population growth in Zuccoli</b> notable growth in Farrar, Durrack, Yarrowonga / Palmerston City, and Johnston</p>	<p><b>Highest % of 0 – 9-year-olds live in Bellamack and Johnston</b> followed by Rosebery, Zuccoli and Farrar</p>
<p><b>Zuccoli most likely to see a notable increase in children and teenagers</b> followed by Farrar, Durack and possibly Yarrowonga / Palmerston City,</p>	<p><b>Highest % of 10 – 19-year-olds live in Moulden</b> followed by Driver and Woodroffe</p>
<p><b>Higher disadvantage in Moulden and Gray</b> but the wider Palmerston community is relatively advantaged</p>	<p><b>2.9 % of the community need help with their daily life due to disability</b></p>
<p><b>11.2% of the population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander</b></p>	<p><b>Increasingly diverse population</b> 20.2% born overseas in 2016, up from 15.2% in 2011.</p>

<sup>5</sup> Profile.id, RDA Northern Territory Community Profile. Accessed 29 June 2021: <http://profile.id.com.au/rda-northern-territory/> and <sup>5</sup>; Northern Territory Government, Population Projections – 2019 release. Available online: [Population projections - Department of Treasury and Finance](#); City of Palmerston, Community Infrastructure Plan 2016 – 2026. Available online: [FINAL CoP Comm Infrastructure Plan 2016.pdf \(nt.gov.au\)](#); ABS, 2016 Census Quickstats. Accessed 29 June 2021: [QuickStats \(abs.gov.au\)](#); Australian Early Childhood Development Census, 2018. Accessed 29 June 2021: [Data explorer \(aedc.gov.au\)](#)

## How this will influence planning for play spaces in Palmerston

- Population growth will drive **increased demand for play spaces**, particularly in **Zuccoli**, followed by **Farrar, Durack, Yarrowonga / Palmerston City**, and to a lesser extent Johnston.
- With a young age profile, **play spaces are needed across Palmerston**, not just in the communities experiencing the highest population growth. In addition, they need to support a diversity of age groups from toddlers and pre-schoolers to primary school aged children, teenagers and adults. This requires **diverse play spaces** including equipment-based playgrounds, nature-based play opportunities, active recreation facilities and spaces, exercise equipment, and supporting amenities.
- **Higher levels of disadvantage** suggest **investment in play spaces in Moulden and Gray** is particularly important with families and children having more limited capacity to pay to access facilities and programs, and less access to private transport. In particular **nature-based play** opportunities should be considered as a priority because of the strong links between nature-based play and positive developmental outcomes for children.
- **Play spaces should reflect the diversity and culture of the communities in which they are located**. With a high proportion people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and an increasingly diverse community, there is opportunity to reflect this diversity more effectively in Palmerston's play spaces.

## Existing play spaces in Palmerston



Image: Dunbar Park, Gray

80 play spaces  
across 63 parks

48 local

9 major

3 regional

### What do we know about them

- **Playgrounds and play spaces are generally distributed across the municipality** in all residential areas providing equitable access for residents.
- **While Council has a hierarchy for playgrounds** (local, major, regional) which reflects scale, proximity and target audience, **most playgrounds are designated as local** and there is an opportunity to clarify the rationale for the current designation and location of major and regional level playgrounds. Generally, local playgrounds have basic equipment, are in good condition, have shade from either trees or a structure, and having a neat appearance.

- **Access to playgrounds is generally good**, with many able to be accessed via a concrete footpath. In some instances, access is across a grassed area which is problematic for individuals with limited mobility or for wheeled items such as wheelchairs, prams, and mobility scooters. Lindsay Park and Widdup Park have other access challenges. At Widdup Park, access is limited with only one access point via William Court, and there is poor visibility into the park. At Lyndsey Park, access is via an unsealed laneway which is subject to inundation for parts of the year.
- **There is a lack of play equipment that is universally accessible** / accessible for people of all abilities and this is something Council needs to address.
- **Many playgrounds in newer residential estates have immature vegetation** and limited natural shade. This will improve as vegetation matures which will also improve the character of the area.
- **Many playgrounds have shade structures installed above play equipment** and this has increased in recent years. The vast majority of play spaces have some shade available.
- **Playgrounds typically have rubberised softfall** installed with sand maintained in only a few locations.
- **Playgrounds predominantly contain manufactured equipment** with few offering more natural play elements. Sister Frederick Mangan Park, Digger Park and William Kirby are examples where planting and rocks have been used to add interest and expand play opportunities.
- **There are limited locations where play equipment or environments are suitable for adults.** Typically, this comprises the installation of fitness equipment in a park setting with limited complementary facilities being present.

## What the community has told us

To help inform the development of the Play space Strategy the community was engaged through an online survey and community listening posts, and children from local primary schools shared information about what they like the most about their favourite playground, what they would like to change about the playground, their top three play activities and also designed their own playground.

<p><b>157 surveys completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77% by females</li> <li>• Most aged 25 – 49 years</li> <li>• More than 50% from Zuccoli, Bellamack, Rosebery and Durack</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 community listening posts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brekkie in the Park</li> <li>• Gateway Shopping Centre (x 2)</li> <li>• Palmerston Library</li> </ul>	<p><b>55 primary school children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray Primary School</li> <li>• Sacred Heart Primary School</li> </ul>
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**It is important to have access to playgrounds and play spaces close to where people live.** The main activities community members undertake when visiting playgrounds and play spaces are playing on the equipment, socialising, and exercising. Having access to spaces and environments which support these activities close to home is important to the community. The survey results indicate that proximity to home is one of the top two reasons why people visit a playground or play space.

**Playgrounds and play spaces are an important place children and families spend time socialising.** One of the top play activities children like to participate in at playgrounds is hanging out with their friends. For adults, one of the top activities they undertake when they visit playgrounds is socialising e.g. meeting friends or family.

**High quality playgrounds and play spaces are extensively used and highly valued.** Many people use playgrounds and play spaces once a week or more often, usually close to where they live. But they will travel to access high quality playgrounds and play spaces such as Sanctuary Lakes in Gunn, William Kirby Jones in Zuccoli and Marlow Lagoon. They select these playgrounds or play spaces because of the type of play equipment or play experience they offer.



Image: Sanctuary Lakes, Gunn

**For the community, key features of high-quality playgrounds and play spaces are:**

- Play and active recreation opportunities offer a range of play experiences and cater for a mix of age groups e.g. playgrounds, exercise equipment, basketball courts, large open spaces for informal play, walking / cycling paths, water play, places to walk or exercise dogs.
- The broader environment is inviting and adds to the play experience e.g. a natural setting, a lake or bushland environment.
- Amenities are readily available and high quality and include shade throughout the day, seating, picnic and BBQ facilities, toilets, and water bubblers.
- Equipment, amenities and spaces are well maintained and clean.
- Play experiences, supporting facilities and access ways are inclusive and accessible for all children and families. It feels like a welcoming and appealing place and is designed to support families and children of all abilities.
- People feel safe using the play space and surrounding areas. Aspects that help people to feel safe are having fencing around the play equipment, particularly to support young children and children with additional needs, lighting, there is little or no antisocial behaviour, materials selected reduce the risk of harm e.g. soft fall rather than sand.



*Image: Redmond Park, Durack*

**The community has expressed a desire for Palmerston to offer more diverse play experiences and environments** including:

- Nature-based play environments rather than predominantly off the shelf play equipment.
- Play experiences which challenge children and teach them to how to manage risk. The primary school aged children engaged through the consultation are looking for play experiences that allow them to have fun, try new things and take risks. They want to climb, to swing, to fly on a flying fox, and play in water.
- Incorporating creative design elements about local First Nations people and culture, and local flora and fauna.
- Offering more active recreation spaces such as basketball courts, skate facilities, water play, exercise equipment.

**Demand for play experiences that support older children.** There is a perception that most of the playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston cater for younger children with few available for children and teenagers aged 10 years or older. In contrast, some in the community have suggested they would like to see more play experiences for children under 2 years of age.



*Image: Bloodwood Park flying fox*

**Children have some different ideas to adults about what supports play.** Children want to see more sand in playgrounds whereas many adults expressed a strong desire for sand to be removed because of concerns about it being unsafe and dirty. Children are interested in softer surfaces and finishes identifying materials like soft pillows or matting used around trampolines whereas adults are more interested in materials such as rubberised soft fall. Adults have a stronger interest in amenities and the wider play environment, whereas children are more interested in play equipment or play experiences.

**Perception that playgrounds in established areas of Palmerston receive limited investment.** Of particular concern to some members of the community are the condition of playgrounds and play spaces in Bellamack. Sites identified were Father Gerry Remie Park, Flynn Park and Bellamack Lakes.

**The key things the community would like to be different about playgrounds and play spaces:**

- **For children** priorities are flying foxes including having more, fixing existing ones and making them longer. Also important to change are slides and swings including bigger slides for bigger children.
- **For adults** the top priorities are the type of play equipment or play experience and the amenities available, followed by the quality and condition of the play equipment or play experience and the type of active recreation equipment e.g. half basketball court. Other aspects are maintenance of the equipment, amenities and surrounding environment.



## Key issues and opportunities

The key issues and opportunities identified through the research and analysis of play spaces in Palmerston are:

- **The population growth projected in Palmerston will drive increased demand for playgrounds and play spaces**, particularly in Zuccoli, Farrar, Durack, Yarrowonga / Palmerston City, and Johnston. But with a young age profile, playgrounds and play spaces are needed throughout Palmerston.
- **Playgrounds and play spaces are valuable for the play experiences, the socialisation opportunities** they provide, and the overall **contribution to community health and wellbeing**.
- **A clearer hierarchy of playgrounds and play spaces is needed** to ensure a consistent and planned approach to investment and facility design, and allow a considered response to community requests for upgrades.
- **An increased focus is needed upon providing more accessible and inclusive play experiences** for children, teenagers and adults with a disability in Palmerston. Universally accessible play spaces, equipment, amenities, and paths of travel to spaces and equipment, are important for all playgrounds.
- **Consider incorporating a benchmark or commitment** to ensure all households have access to playgrounds or play spaces within a certain distance of their home
- **A need for more diverse play experiences** including nature-based play opportunities, play and active recreation experiences that appeal to older children, teenagers and adults, and creative elements that celebrate the diversity of local communities.
- **A focus upon improving the safety and perceptions of safety** for play spaces e.g. addressing poor sight lines, fencing play equipment, lighting, reducing antisocial behaviour, and materials selection.
- **Increasing Council's investment in the surrounding landscape and amenities** that support play spaces. There is extensive opportunity to improve the look, feel and experience by improving the planting and landscape surrounding playgrounds. This could assist with providing more shade and with incorporating nature play opportunities.
- **Increasing investment in playgrounds and play spaces in communities experiencing disadvantage** e.g. Moulden and Gray.
- **Improve Council and the community's understanding** of the extent of investment in playgrounds and play spaces in established suburbs.
- **Strengthen the connectivity between playgrounds and play spaces and other community infrastructure and activity centres.**
- **Strengthening the sustainability of playgrounds and play spaces.**
- **Improve the information available to the community about playgrounds and play spaces in Palmerston.** Ensuring the information responds to what families will be looking for is essential including making sure the information is up to date, providing clear information about the features, equipment, amenities, and accessibility, and providing photos and maps.

## The planning framework

The planning framework has been developed to guide and support the City of Palmerston's decisions about the planning, design and provision of play spaces in Palmerston. The framework consists of a vision statement, guiding principles, hierarchy, and design principles. The design principles are provided in Appendix A.

### Vision

Play is an important part of community life and the City of Palmerston is committed to providing a network of play spaces to enable children, young people, adults, and families to play, meet and socialise, be closer to nature and be active. Our quality play spaces will be welcoming, creative and accessible to all and positively contribute to the liveability of our City.

### Guiding principles

1. **Importance of play:** We will invest in play spaces because play is critical to childhood development and to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.
2. **Play environments as community gathering spaces:** We will design our play spaces not only for play, but also to provide spaces for our community to meet and socialise.
3. **Diverse and quality play spaces:** Our play spaces will provide diverse and quality play environments. Our play spaces will offer positive challenges and opportunities for risk taking. The surrounding landscape will make our play spaces easy and attractive to use.
4. **Access for all:** We will provide play opportunities that are inclusive and can be accessed and enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. All members of our community will have access to play spaces consistent with the indicative catchments outlined in the hierarchy.
5. **Community involvement and influence:** Our community will be actively involved in designing play spaces, and our play spaces will be reflective of our diverse communities and cultures.
6. **Engagement with nature:** Nature play will be a core part of play spaces. We will utilise the surrounding landscape or landform in the design of play spaces to ensure unique and diverse play experiences.
7. **Sustainability:** We will ensure sustainable planning, development, and renewal of play spaces including materials selection, capital renewal program and responsive maintenance.
8. **Partnering:** We will pursue opportunities to co-locate, share, engage or partner with others to provide play environments with schools, the development industry and other institutions.

## Play space hierarchy

Features	Play space classification		
	Local	Major	Regional
<b>Indicative catchment</b>	Located within 500 metres of every resident.	Located within 2km of all residents.	Strategically located to provide access by bicycle, car or public transport by all residents.
<b>Setting</b>	Local play spaces meet the needs of the local community, provide for passive recreation and have a minimum level of support amenities and facilities.	Major play spaces cater for a broader catchment, provide a range of play experiences, and are supported by adequate support amenities and facilities.	Regional play spaces are destination sites being large spaces with specially designed play spaces and play elements featuring a diversity of play opportunities and with extensive support amenities and facilities to meet the needs of large numbers of people arriving by car or public transport.
<b>Play elements</b>	A playground feature, natural play element, and suitable for people of all abilities.	Several playground features, several natural play elements, facilities for active recreation, and suitable for people of all abilities.	Extensive playground features, extensive natural elements, facilities for active recreation, and suitable for people of all abilities.
<b>Landscape and plantings</b>	A well-maintained park setting including canopy trees for shade.	A well-maintained park setting including canopy trees for shade and additional plantings of interest.	A well-maintained park setting over a large area including canopy trees for shade and a mix of plantings.
<b>Path of travel</b>	Shared paths to playground.	Shared paths to playground and additional paths through park.	Shared paths to playground, additional paths through park and to connect with other open space or play areas.
<b>Amenities</b>			
Water bubblers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seating	Yes	Additional	Extensive
Litter bins	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tables and chairs		Limited	Extensive
Shelter		Yes	Yes
Public toilets		Yes	Yes
BBQs		Yes	Yes
Bike racks		Yes	Yes

## Priority areas

Priority Area		Strategic Actions
Priority Area 1	Implement the play space planning framework	Actively use the guiding principles and hierarchy in this Strategy alongside referenced design guidelines to guide the location, design, and development of new play spaces.
		<p>Complete an audit of all play spaces in Palmerston:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify where changes and improvements are required to deliver universally accessible play spaces, amenities and surrounding environments.</li> <li>To assess how they relate to the play space hierarchy.</li> <li>To identify where investment will be required to improve the provision and quality of play spaces across the network.</li> </ul>
Priority Area 2	Increase the diversity and quality of play experiences and environments	Increase nature-based play opportunities in play spaces across the City of Palmerston.
		Assess the feasibility of establishing water play facilities in open space.
		Prepare and implement a program that will increase the provision of play opportunities for older children, teenagers, and adults including active recreation and exercise equipment.
		Prepare and implement a program of landscape upgrades to improve the quality of landscape settings and play space surrounds.
		Identify opportunities to incorporate creative elements into the design of play spaces
		Increase investment in play spaces in areas experiencing a high level of disadvantage to support community health and wellbeing.

Priority Area		Strategic Actions
Priority Area 3	Increase community involvement and information.	Develop and document a process to guide Council and developers to actively involve the community in the design of play spaces.
		Identify opportunities to engage the community in the design of play spaces, ensuring the design reflects the local community in which it is located.
		Review and improve the information available to the community about play spaces in the City of Palmerston.
		Promote the network of play spaces using a range of media to increase awareness about the range of play opportunities available.
		Develop and implement a playground activation plan with a focus on regional, major and new or upgraded playgrounds.
Priority Area 4	Improve connectivity and linkages	Identify opportunities to improve the connectivity between play spaces and other community infrastructure or activity centres.
		Review path access to play spaces to enhance accessibility, provide connections to surrounding neighbourhoods, and other open space areas.
Priority Area 5	Improve maintenance and resourcing	Review maintenance arrangements for play spaces with a focus upon ensuring they are more responsive to community needs.
		Review and increase the level of resourcing for play space inspections, maintenance, and upgrades to deliver higher quality play spaces that are more sustainable and responsive to community needs and expectations.