



Draft Yarra Play Space Strategy Snapshot



Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past and present.

Our vision

Yarra's play spaces will enhance the wider open space network, be engaging and adaptable, connect to place and be welcoming to all our community.

Our goal is to provide high quality play spaces within walking distances of where people live, work and play in Yarra. We want to make sure that Yarra's play spaces can accommodate all ages, abilities and changing needs.

The Play Space Strategy will help us to deliver different types of play spaces across the network that complement each other, reflect local character and provide access to a variety of play types and experiences.

Yarra's population is growing, and we know that access to open spaces is limited. The Play Space Strategy will enable us to prepare for the future by providing a strategic framework to guide the planning, allocation, development and upgrade of play spaces in Yarra over the next 10 years.

The Play Space Strategy will help us to:

- Deliver quality play spaces for the future
- Build an adaptable network which provides access to both structured and unstructured play opportunities.
- Create a network that provides for a diversity of experiences where everyone can play, socialise, recreate, exercise, explore and learn.

- Provide opportunities for our community to visit different parks and open spaces for a range of experiences, including playgrounds, nature play, social gatherings, youth spaces, fitness equipment, agility courses, skate / scoot / wheels, and recreational games.

What do we mean by "play space"?

"Play" means to engage in activity for enjoyment, recreation or wellbeing. Play happens in a range of play spaces and includes both structured and unstructured activities.

'Play Spaces' include:

- Playgrounds and play equipment
- Play facilities like skate parks, multi-use courts, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing walls and spaces for recreational games like table-tennis, bocce, and chess tables.
- Open spaces for informal play, nature play, social gatherings and fitness activities.

Principles and Goals in the draft Play Space Strategy

We've used your feedback to develop a draft Play Space Strategy which includes a set of principles and goals to guide our vision for how we will plan for and deliver a play space network for Yarra.

The 5 principles

1



Respond to changing needs in our community

2



Promote a diversity of experience across the city

3



Support accessibility, inclusion and participation

4



Promote healthy living, through activity and social connection

5



Be well designed and sustainable

Within each of the 5 principles are a set of goals that will help us create a play space network that meets the changing needs of our diverse community.



Principle 1

Respond to changing needs in our community by...

Goals

Creating open ended adaptable play opportunities.

Moving away from single use elements for play, creating opportunities for many different experiences and outcomes.

Planning for population growth and projected demographic changes.

Balancing the needs of all users of open spaces.

Responding to broader impacts on the urban environment that may affect the future of our open spaces.



Principle 2

Promote a diversity of experience across the city by...

Goals

Creating a network of play types that complement each other.

Ensuring differences are offered at each play space across a precinct, responding to the local environment and minimising repetition.



Principle 3

Support accessibility, inclusion and participation by...

Goals

Considering the needs of all age groups.

Considering the needs of people of different abilities, recognising that there is diversity within disability.

Improving physical access to spaces where feasible and appropriate to the level and scale of the space.

Creating spaces that are designed to be welcoming and safe.

Providing a range of 'play' zones, to suit different abilities and preferences (this may include quiet zones, solo play, group play, and sensory spaces).



Principle 4

Promote healthy living, through activity and social connection by...

Goals

Promoting walkability and active travel to play spaces.

Improving access to open space and natural elements (for example: sunshine, shade, greenery, expanses of lawn, and fresh air).

Designing spaces to activate the senses.

Promoting physical fitness and active movement within play spaces.

Providing a range of opportunities for community connection and gathering within play spaces that improves mental health.



Principle 5

Be well designed and sustainable by...

Goals

Ensuring selected play types are suited to existing site conditions and scale and reflect local character.

Designing play spaces that are well integrated within the open space environment, including clear sightlines and the consideration of orientation, passive surveillance, and lighting.

Designing play spaces with materials that are sourced locally, durable, and consider the lifecycle of the material, including its manufacture and its end of life, and disposal.

Providing site suitable amenity and natural shade / canopy to help mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Promoting biodiversity within the open space environment.