

# City Playground Shade Policy

## City Policy

### Responsible Directorate: Infrastructure Services

**Objective:** To guide the circumstances where artificial shade is to be provided on City managed playgrounds.

#### 1. Application:

This policy shall apply to all playgrounds on parks and public open spaces managed by the City of Joondalup.

#### 2. Definitions:

**'Playground'** - means a set of play elements including infrastructure, landscape, built play equipment and when required, consolidated in a soft fall area which is sufficiently retained.

**'Long stay'** - means the length of time spent recreating on the park by the local and wider community which may extend through the peak periods of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure. That is patrons attending social, community and sporting events and activities, affecting the patronage levels and periods of use on the park playground.

**'Natural shade'** - means the shade provided by tree canopy.

**'Artificial shade'** - means the shade provided by a built structure which can be either an adjustable or fixed system; that is shade sails or a rigid structure with a fixed roof.

#### 3. Statement:

The City acknowledges that Australia experiences high levels of UV radiation which can be harmful to those recreating in the outdoors. The City is also committed to affording the community opportunities to recreate that support social interaction and their overall health and well-being.

In order to afford suitable opportunities for the community to recreate in City Playgrounds; the provision of natural or artificial shade is required. Notwithstanding, users are responsible for recreating at suitable times of the day to minimise the harmful effects of UV radiation.

If artificial shade is provided over playgrounds within parks and public open spaces, it will be recognised only as an interim solution until a time where natural shade is suitable.

#### **4. Details:**

##### **4.1. Natural Shade:**

To maintain the natural amenity of parks and public open spaces the City's preference is to support the use of natural shade provided by trees, over artificial options.

- a) In the development of new playgrounds and renewal of existing playgrounds:
  - Location and design features of the playground should take advantage of existing and appropriate natural shade.
  - If no suitable natural shade exists, appropriate species of trees should be planted in a suitable location that will provide shade.
  - Design should take into account materials that are less conducive to heat conduction while maintaining economic whole of life costs benefits.
- b) In the management of existing natural shade around playgrounds and planning for tree canopy succession:
  - Undertake infill tree planting around existing playgrounds in strategic locations.
  - Identification of trees in decline and undertake tree planting for continuation of tree canopy into the future.

##### **4.2. Artificial shade:**

It is not economically viable to supply artificial shade to all playgrounds across the City. Built shade structures will only be considered if all of the following criteria can be satisfied:

- a) The playground is known to be subject to regular use; high patronage by the local and wider community attending social, community and sporting events and activities. Included may be smaller parks within areas of high housing density.
- b) The playground is located nearby other park amenities that encourages long stay; supporting infrastructure such as BBQ and picnic facilities, sporting facilities and toilets.
- c) In locations where the establishment of natural shade is difficult or impossible; insufficient space for healthy development, rocky or poor soil condition and exposed coastal locations.
- d) The relocation of new playgrounds under existing natural shade is not possible.
- e) Large playgrounds that cannot be effectively shaded by trees; playgrounds with several play items grouped in a large expanse of soft fall.

In the instance where the criteria in section 4.2 (e) is met and artificial shade is provided; at the time of renewal of the artificial shade an assessment is to be completed. If the assessment deems that the natural shade is sufficient, the artificial shade is to be removed from the site.

##### **4.3. Requests for artificial shade:**

All requests for artificial shade will be assessed using the criteria outline in section 4.2.

**4.4. Duty of care:**

Users of playgrounds are subject to their own duty of care when using City managed playgrounds. It is expected that users will use their own discretion when using City playgrounds during peak UV level times. Users are encouraged to avoid exposure between 11am and 3pm and should make effort to prevent sun damage.

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<b>Creation Date:</b>	<mmmm yyyy (adopted by Council)>
<b>Amendments:</b>	<report ref. (if amendments have been made — not just review)>
<b>Related Documentation:</b>	• <title of document, if applicable>

## ANALYSIS OF DRAFT CITY PLAYGROUND SHADE POLICY CONSULTATION

The following provides an analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data gathered from the *Draft City Playground Shade Policy Consultation* conducted with ratepayers and residents between **20 June 2015** and **1 July 2015**.

### BACKGROUND

The City has been proactive in providing natural shade (tree planting) to existing playgrounds since 2010 and has maintained a preference for natural shade over built shade structures. In addition, all replacement playgrounds are being relocated under existing shade where possible and supplementary tree planting undertaken as required.

However, the provision of shade to playgrounds will remain a significant focus with Perth experiencing high ultraviolet (UV) radiation readings throughout most of the year. A petition was received by Council at its meeting held on 20 May 2014 (*C19-05/14 refers*) requesting that the City erect shade sails over the larger of the two playground areas at Mawson Park, Hillarys.

Based on the alignment of policy criteria to existing asset management principles, practices and previous positions of Council, a draft City Playground Shade Policy has been developed and adopted by Council (*CJ052-03/15 refers*) for the purposes of public advertising. The results of the consultation process are provided below.

### Consultation Development

All City of Joondalup residents, ratepayers and stakeholders wishing to comment were encouraged to complete an online survey form via the City's website. Details of the consultation and the draft document were also outlined on the City's website and were advertised through the Joondalup Weekender (18 June 2015).

In addition, a personalised information package was also sent to the lead petitioner as well as local parliamentarians explaining the purpose of the consultation and advising them of the consultation period. The City also consulted directly with the Community Engagement Network members who had an interest in Parks & Public Open Spaces Infrastructure.

### SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Response Rates

**(N.b. unless otherwise stated, “%” refers to the proportion of total survey respondents.)**

The City collected a total of 32 valid<sup>1</sup> responses throughout the 21 day advertised consultation period. This data has been summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1 – Responses by type of survey completed**

Type of survey completed	Responses	
	N	%
Hard-copy survey	1	3.1%
Online survey	31	96.9%
<b>Total (valid) responses</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> A “valid” response is one which includes the respondent's full contact details, have responded within the advertised consultation period and for which multiple survey forms have not been submitted by the same household for the same property.

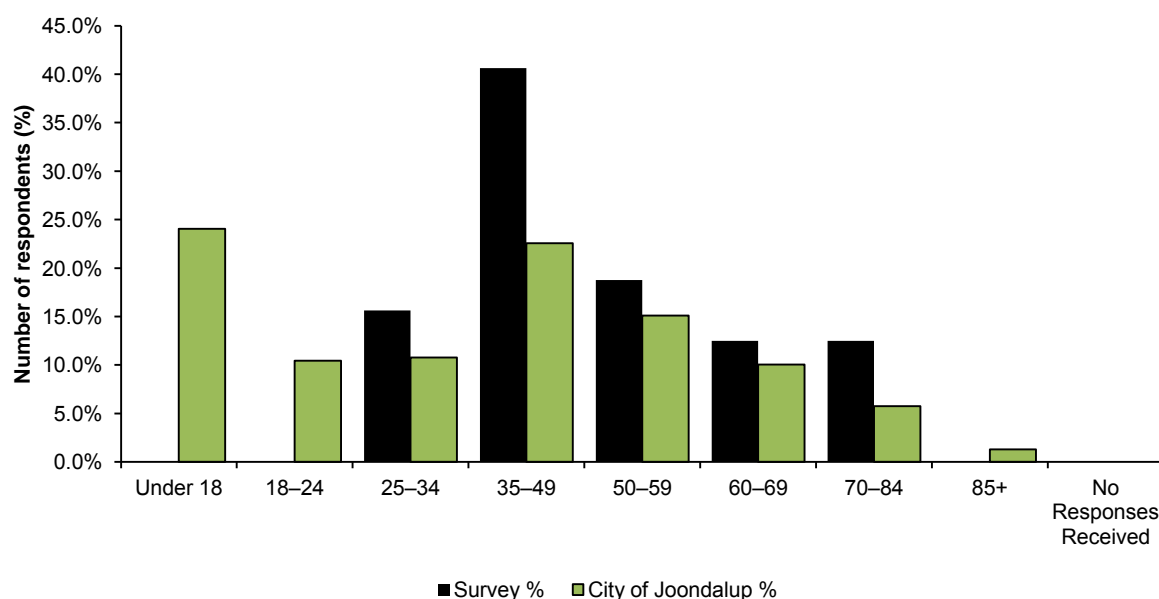
## Age

Of the 32 valid responses, the majority of respondents were aged 35–49 (40.6%), with a number of respondents aged 50–59 (18.8%) and 25–34 (15.6%). The direct percentage comparisons with residents living within the City of Joondalup showed consistency amongst those that responded to the survey. This data is summarised in Table 2 and Figure 1 below.

**Table 2 – Responses by age**

Age groups	Survey Responses		Joondalup <sup>2</sup>	
	N	%	%	
Under 18 years of age	0	0.0%	24.0%	
18–24 years of age	0	0.0%	10.4%	
25–34 years of age	5	15.6%	10.8%	
35–49 years of age	13	40.6%	22.6%	
50–59 years of age	6	18.8%	15.1%	
60–69 years of age	4	12.5%	10.1%	
70–84 years of age	4	12.5%	5.8%	
85+ years of age	0	0.0%	1.3%	
No responses received	0	0.0%	-	
<b>Total (valid) responses</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**Figure 1 – Responses by age compared with the City of Joondalup (%)**



<sup>2</sup> "Joondalup" represents the total proportion of each age group across the City of Joondalup ([Source: Profile Id. 2011](#)).

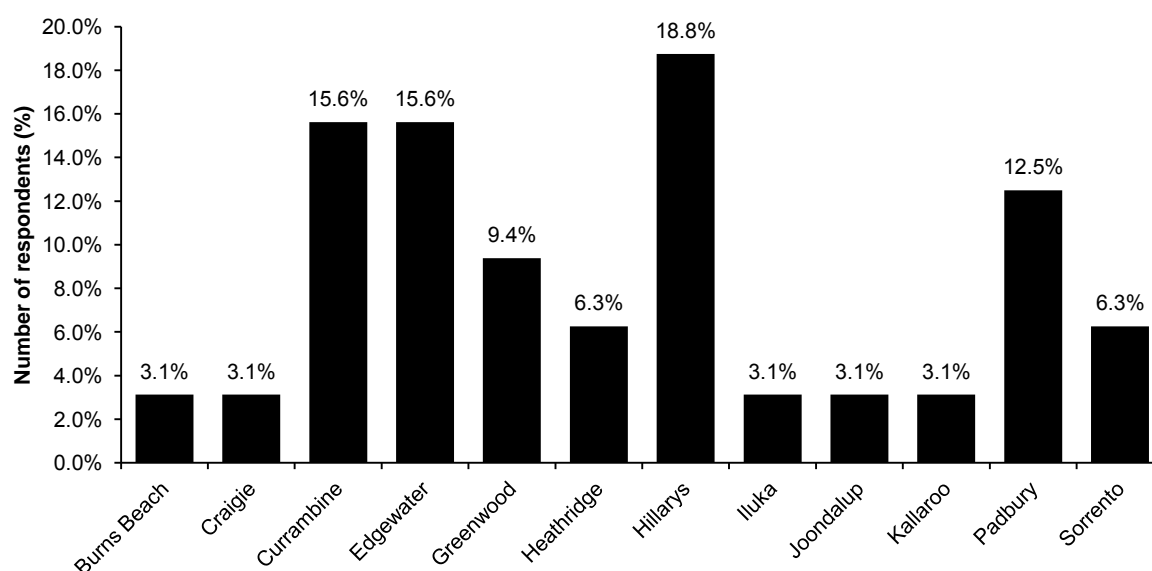
## Suburb

Of the 32 valid responses, there was a consistent spread of response across the suburbs within the City of Joondalup, with the top three most responsive suburbs being Hillarys (18.8%), Currambine (15.6%) and Edgewater (15.6%). This data is summarised in Table 3 and Figure 2 below.

**Table 2 – Responses by Suburb**

Surveys Completed by Suburb	Responses	
	N	%
Burns Beach	1	3.1%
Craigie	1	3.1%
Currambine	5	15.6%
Edgewater	5	15.6%
Greenwood	3	9.4%
Heathridge	2	6.3%
Hillarys	6	18.8%
Iluka	1	3.1%
Joondalup	1	3.1%
Kallaroo	1	3.1%
Padbury	4	12.5%
Sorrento	2	6.3%
<b>Total (valid) responses</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Figure 2 – Responses by suburb**



## SURVEY ANALYSIS

### QUESTION 4 — “PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CITY PLAYGROUND SHADE POLICY.”

Respondents were asked to provide their comments on the City’s draft City Playground Shade Policy. All 32 respondents provided a total of 86 comments. The results have been summarised in Table 4 below.

**Table 4 – Summary of comments on the Draft City Playground Shade Policy<sup>3</sup>**

Comments	Responses	
	N	%
Believe that playgrounds need to be covered with artificial shade (in general)	17	19.8%
Would like artificial shade within their local park (Mawson Park, Delamere Park, Picnic Cove Park, Penistone Park, Tom Simpson Park, Sir James McCusker Park, Broad Beach Park)	16	18.6%
Concern that playground equipment gets too hot without the protection of artificial shade	13	15.1%
Concern that natural shade does not provide adequate protection from UV light exposure	7	8.1%
Believe larger playgrounds should be covered by artificial shade	5	5.8%
Support the Policy (in general)	5	5.8%
Believe artificial shade should be used in the short-term whilst trees become established	4	4.7%
Believe natural shade should be used in all cases	4	4.7%
Believe that artificial shade should be determined by usage	4	4.7%
Concern that natural shade produces more safety hazards (i.e. falling branches etc.)	4	4.7%
Concern that current Policy does not allow for artificial shade	3	3.5%
Concern that playgrounds without artificial shade would reduce the life expectancy of the equipment	2	2.3%
Believe artificial shade would be too expensive to provide for all parks	1	1.2%
Believe that artificial shade should not be determined by usage	1	1.2%
<b>Total comments received</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>3</sup> N.b. some respondents provided more than one reason.