

5.7 RESERVE STRUCTURES POLICY

Date Adopted	Next Review	Officer Responsible
1 July 2009	2013	Manager, Sports Recreation & Environment

Policy Purpose:

The Reserves Act 1977, and the Local Government Act 2002, enables local authorities to provide various facilities on reserves for the use and enjoyment by the public.

Relevant legislation

RESERVES ACT 1977

[SECT. 53 Powers (other than leasing) in respect of recreation reserves -

- (1) The administering body of a recreation reserve may from time to time, in the exercise of its functions under section 40 of this Act and to the extent necessary to give effect to the principles set out in section 17 of the Act: -
- (g) Erect on some portion of the reserve stands, pavilions, gymnasiums, or other buildings and structures associated with and necessary for the use of the reserve for outdoor recreation, and (subject to paragraphs (d) and (e) of this subsection as to the number of days on which a charge may be made for admission to any such building or structure) may fix reasonable charges for the use of and generally regulate the use and custody of and admission to any such buildings or structures:

Provided that where the Minister considers it to be in the public interest, the administering body may, with the prior consent of the Minister, erect buildings and structures for public recreation and enjoyment not directly associated with outdoor recreation:

- (h) At any time and from time to time set apart any part or parts of the reserve -
- (i) For gardens, open spaces, footpaths, driveways, or picnic grounds, or for the provision of any other like facilities for public recreation or enjoyment or for facilities and amenities necessary for the public using the reserve; and construct or develop those gardens, open spaces, footpaths, driveways, picnic grounds, or other facilities for public recreation or enjoyment or facilities and amenities necessary for the public using the reserve; and fix reasonable charges for the use of those picnic grounds, facilities, and amenities:]

5.7.1 Playgrounds

Policy:

FACILITIES ON RESERVES

Provision of Playgrounds

1. Playgrounds are to be provided that cater for all age groups including pre-school (under 5), Child (5 to 10), and young people (11 to 17).
2. The design of each playground must reflect:
 - The special visual character of the reserve or surrounding area; and
 - The needs of the age group that is being catered for.
3. Playgrounds that cater for pre-schoolers and children should generally be combined in the one site, but ensure that equipment designed for use by pre-schoolers is safely located in relation to other equipment..
4. Playgrounds that cater for young people are to be designed so as to meet the following criteria:
 - Facilities and spaces should be as multifunctional as practicable, allowing unstructured use for a range of activities, including social activities.
 - Sufficient area to cater for a variety of activities.
 - Durability of construction materials and design.
 - Safety and visibility of users.
 - Users and community groups are to be involved in planning and design to ensure community ownership.
 - Where facilities for children and pre-schoolers are to be included, they should be clearly separated from youth facilities to maintain safety, and preserve a sense of place for young people.
5. Playgrounds that cater for pre-schoolers and children are to be located so that access and potential use within a catchment radius of approximately 500m is maximised. Exceptions to this will be when playgrounds are located within lakeside, rural and inner city reserves that have high visitor numbers, but insignificant local residential users within 500m.
6. Playgrounds that cater for young people are to be located within suburban or rural communities so that access and potential use within that suburb or community is maximised.
7. Playgrounds are to be sited on reserves (or other land) according to the following principles:
 - High visibility for safety and awareness and to deter vandalism.
 - Safe and convenient access to roads, pathways, rights of way.
 - Account to be taken of the presence of natural hazards and barriers to use.
 - If possible, sufficient open space should be left around the playground for other activities, and to provide a buffer to residential housing.
 - The area is to be well drained.
 - To take advantage of the best features of the location.
 - Following accepted methods of consultation with neighbouring residents and businesses.

- If located on land that does not belong to Council, then a legal agreement protecting public rights to use the area must be executed
8. An up to date register of all component items of Council Playgrounds is to be kept.
9. The following NZ Standards will apply when constructing or reviewing play equipment:
- NZS 5828, Parts 2 and 3: 1986 “Design and Construction - Safety Aspect” and “Playground Equipment for Parks Schools and Domestic Use”.
 - NSZ 4422: 1996 “Playground Surfacing - Specifications, Requirements and Test Methods”.
 - AS/NZS 4486 “Playgrounds and Playground Equipment Part One: 1997 “Development, Installation, Inspection, Maintenance and Operation”.

Priority Ranking for New Playgrounds

The criteria to determine priority ranking for playground establishment or replacement for young people of all ages shall be based on:

- a) The population within the community or catchment area that will be readily able to access and use the playground.
- b) Future development proposals for the area that will have a direct effect on the population within the community or catchment area.
- c) The incidence of safe, accessible, constructive playing opportunities within the community or catchment area.

Standards for Gifted Recreational Apparatus

All future gifts of playground equipment or other recreational apparatus to be constructed to specifications and of materials approved by Council staff.

5.7.2 Outdoor Furniture on Reserves

Policy:

The construction of any new permanent open fire barbecues on reserve is prohibited

All existing open fire barbecues sited on reserves will be replaced by gas or electric coin operated barbecues at a rate of two per year (commencing 1992/93).

Two new barbecues will be installed per year until current demands are met.

The criteria for determining requirements for new barbecues shall be:

- a) The popularity of the reserve in attracting visitors, picnickers, holiday makers etc.
- b) The popularity of the reserve in attracting group users (eg. family, social, spectators).
- c) The summer seasonal use load on the reserve.

Picnic tables and seating shall be provided at all barbecue and readily identifiable picnic sites within reserves (the number and distribution dependant on the popularity of the site).

Ten new picnic tables and seating will be installed per year until current demands are met (commencing 1992/93).

Parks benches/seating shall be provided at all playgrounds and in areas of higher profile reserves where people relax, congregate or traverse.

Twenty new park benches/seats will be installed per year until current demands are met (commencing 1992/93).

Litter bins shall be provided in reserves at strategic locations where people congregate or traverse and where a potential for litter exists.

The design and placement of all outdoor furniture to be in keeping with the environment and not detract from the amenities of the reserve. Construction to be in a manner and of materials so as to minimise the potential for vandalism. All design and siting to be to the satisfaction of the Parks & Recreation Manager.

5.7.3 Signage on Reserves (new to be added)

Policy:

5.7.4 Walkways and Cycleways (new to be added)

Policy: