



Play Park Strategy

- A Guide for Communities

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Our Strategy is based on international policy and regulations; as well as Highland wide consultation with young people and professionals.

What research tells us

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We know playparks can improve learning and cognition:

Improved Physical and Mental Health

Increased agility and strength, increased community cohesion.

Improved Social Skills

Problem solving, teamwork, conflict resolution, empathy and emotional understanding, risk assessment, cooperation, empathy.

Decreased segregation

Acceptance and knowledge of age, social and physical differences.



What young people have told us they want to see 5

We have spoken with hundreds of children and analysed a Highland-wide questionnaire.

- Local play with some larger play parks
- Equality of play – choice of play for all children
- Swings
- Slides
- Nature
- Risk
- Collaborative Play
- Space to run
- Caring for our Environment
- Young People being involved in their needs of their play spaces

We know children with Additional Support Needs and Teenagers are often excluded from playparks. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states we need to provide play for all abilities and all ages up to the age of 18.

Principle of the Strategy – Play parks should be: 6

- Safe
- Inclusive – in design and use
- Environmentally sustainable
- Financially sustainable
- Designed in collaboration with children

A shared vision

More outdoor play opportunities

All age and ability play

Replace or fix broken equipment

Plant and create nature play

Easily accessible local playparks

Have some larger playparks

Be kind to each other

Community voice

Caring for our planet

Create different sized playparks

Only buy what we need

Increase Natural Play

Increase biodiversity

Repair equipment when funding allows

Reuse equipment when we can

Environmentally friendly

We have defined 3 types of Play Parks

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Destination Park



- Within each Committee Area, it is proposed there will be one Destination Park
- Approximately 12 pieces of equipment
- Larger climbing frame which should have step access included
- At least 4 pieces of quality equipment which could be used by wheelchair users
- Increase of biodiversity, natural boundaries, natural play, quiet spaces and wheeling paths
- Community groups to contribute towards maintenance if they want extensive pieces of equipment
- Cost up to £250,000 (at time of writing and to be reviewed annually)

Settlement Park



- One in each Settlement
- Approximately 10 pieces of equipment
- Larger climbing frame which should have step access included
- At least 3 pieces of quality equipment which could be used by wheelchair users
- Increase of biodiversity, natural boundaries, natural play, quiet spaces and wheeling paths
- Community groups to contribute towards maintenance if they wish for extensive pieces of equipment in regional town parks
- Cost up to £150,000 (at time of writing and to be reviewed annually)

Neighbourhood Park



- Sustain small neighbourhood play parks
- Replacing like for like
- Approximately 6 pieces of equipment
- Doesn't need to have a climbing frame but if it does it should be one to cater for all ages and abilities
- At least 2 pieces of quality equipment which could be used by wheelchair users
- Increase of biodiversity, natural boundaries, natural play, quiet spaces and wheeling paths
- Community groups to contribute towards maintenance if they want more equipment
- Cost up to £80,000 (at time of writing and to be reviewed annually)

The Play Strategist can help with:

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- Talking with children and young people
- Ideas for fundraising
- Choosing appropriate equipment
- Working towards Council's requirements
- Working with play suppliers



Further information

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The Highland Council play park link is:
www.highland.gov.uk/playareas

Play Strategist contact details:
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Thank you Mòran taing

www.highland.gov.uk/playareas

www.highland.gov.uk/playparkstrategy