



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY							
RECREATION POLICY	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Policy No:</td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Adopted by Council:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">20 May 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Next review date:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">May 2030</td> </tr> </table>	Policy No:		Adopted by Council:	20 May 2026	Next review date:	May 2030
Policy No:							
Adopted by Council:	20 May 2026						
Next review date:	May 2030						
Executive Director:	Director Corporate & Community Services Director Infrastructure Development & Works						
Responsible Officer:	Manager Infrastructure Engineering						
Functional Area:	Early Years, Sport & Recreation, Tourism, Economic Development, Assets and Works						
Introduction and Background	<p>Council supports the view that sport, recreation, and leisure pursuits are important to the individual and the community.</p> <p>To promote fitness, general health, and connectivity it is important that adequate opportunities are given for individual and group recreation, similarly, encouragement should be given to all residents in the use of the facilities and services provided. These facilities are a valuable resource, and every appropriate effort must be made to encourage maximum use by an optimum number of persons.</p> <p>The importance of health and healthy eating, physical activity, and social connectivity are identified in the Council Plan initiatives and objectives and should be considered when evaluating recreational opportunities.</p>						
Purpose and Objectives	<p>To ensure adequate provision, management, and encouragement in the use of recreation facilities, and to provide high quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities by encouraging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased sport and recreation participation b) Increased female and junior participation c) Increased access to sport and recreation opportunities d) Better planning of sport and recreation facilities e) Innovative sport and recreation facilities f) Environmentally sustainable facilities and g) Universally designed facilities. 						



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

<p>Response to the Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020</p>	<p>Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.</p> <p>This policy is in response to the following overarching governance principle/s of the Local Government Act 2020:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) the strategic planning principles (section 89)</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>In this Policy, the following terms have the meaning indicated:</p> <p><i>Recreation</i> is defined as an activity that a person chooses to participate in during their free time for the purpose of enjoyment. The range of activities can involve active or passive pursuits, which may encourage a social interaction with other community members. These activities may include outdoor chess, walking, jogging, hiking, bike riding, mountain biking, fitness classes, dancing, and horse riding. In general, recreational activities are less structured than organised sporting activities.</p> <p><i>Sport</i> means sporting activities are generally more structured and involve teams, competitions, and opponents. They generally require specific playing facilities such as an oval, wicket, pitch, courts or playing surface. Organised sports also typically hold regular training and coaching sessions, and often have a permanent location, club room or changing facilities.</p>
<p>Policy Details</p>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>Facilities</p> <p>Recreation areas and facilities should be broad and varied enough to cater for as many sporting, recreation and leisure interests as may be practical. A balance is therefore to be maintained between competitive and non-competitive, group and individual, organised, and free form opportunities.</p> <p>Council supports and encourages the joint use of Council owned and controlled as well as non-Council owned and/or managed recreation areas, school, and other public recreation facilities.</p> <p>Encouragement will be given to the multi-purpose use of facilities rather than providing separate facilities for each community group.</p> <p>Council encourages the participation of clubs, groups, and individuals in jointly providing recreation facilities in the community.</p> <p>In considering the placement or location of facilities, one should consider the population, catchment, ease of access, tourism opportunities, service provision and general security of persons and facilities.</p> <p>Priority will be given to ensuring reserves and developments are environmentally sensitive.</p>



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

2.	<p>Management</p> <p>Wherever public recreation areas and facilities are established, Council will encourage and enable residents and users to take an active role in the overall management. Ideally, if community or Council committee of management, each committee where established is to be encouraged to set a goal or aim for each reserve or facility in terms of its primary function, together with other uses, immediate and future.</p>
3.	<p>Services</p> <p>Council will endeavour to maintain, improve, and maximise the use of Council-controlled facilities. Council will also encourage/support access to non-Council owned/managed assets.</p> <p>The principal contact for service levels for recreation shall be the Director Corporate & Community Services.</p>
4.	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>Recreation structures and buildings, sporting and leisure facilities under Council control are to be inspected regarding safety and maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Maintenance delivery may be negotiated with user bodies and/or community groups but responsibility of service standards remains with Council.</p>
5.	<p>Australian Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Code of Australia (BCA)• AS 1428 – Design for Access and Mobility• AS 2890 – Parking Facilities• AS 1680 – Interior Lighting• AS 1158 – Exterior Lighting• AS/NZS 62560 – Sports Lighting
6.	<p>References</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Access Policy West Wimmera Council Plan 2025-29• Sport and Recreation Victoria
7.	<p>Review</p> <p>The Recreation Policy shall be reviewed every four years or as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.</p>



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

Policy Adopted:	Ordinary Meeting 12/02/97	Minute Book Page 1920	
Policy Reviewed:	Ordinary Meeting 05/09/02	Minute Book Page 10366	
	Ordinary Meeting 06/04/06	Minute Book Page 13682	
	Ordinary Meeting 11/03/10	Minute Book Page 17759	
	Ordinary Meeting 16/07/15	Minute Book Page 31431	RecFind 15/002908
	Ordinary Meeting 16/05/18	Minute Book Page 37943	RecFind 18/001836
	Council Forum 04/05/22		
	Council Meeting 18/05/22		E22/000163
	Council Meeting 20/05/26	SRV Governance – Policies, Procedures, Plans Strategies – Policies and Procedures – Council Policies	