

Advice Note

Responsible Officer:	Director Technical Services (9 July 2019)
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2019
Meeting of the:	Ordinary Meeting of Council
Item:	Proposed Notice of Motion – Additional playground equipment at Wireless Hill

Detail

From 2007 to 2009, the City undertook extensive internal and external stakeholder engagement to develop a future strategic vision for Wireless Hill. As a result of this process, the Wireless Hill Vision 2020 was created and is a guide for the future direction and development of Wireless Hill, providing key themes (heritage, access, environment, community facilities and long-term viability) and objectives for the site.

Following the creation of the vision, the City engaged a consultant to prepare an interpretation plan for the site and undertook a variety of planning sessions to identify project outcomes aligned to the vision. This culminated in the Wireless Hill interpretation Plan (Jan 2011) and construction of the playspace in financial year 2015/2016 at a value of \$144,000.

The interpretation plan indicated that the playspace should be reflective of the overall themes for the site which celebrate the history and natural heritage of Wireless Hill and consider the following;

- Aboriginal heritage and connection to the land
- European heritage as a wireless communication site of world significance
- Biodiversity and ecology.

These themes incorporate the interpretive concepts of:

- Remoteness and connectivity
- Intersection of communication and the environment
- Real and virtual space include Morse code, Wireless transmission principles

The playspace is designed to help visitors further interpret the site, making connections to the above themes, which were seen to be important by the community to represent the unique interpretive space which builds on the cultural and environmental significance of Wireless Hill.

The playspace provides opportunities for children of all abilities on many levels including signage, planting, wheelchair accessible experiences, textural surfaces and elements for manipulation and free play, spinning, balancing, seating and perching spots for family members and carers. A key element of the playspace is a basket swing, which is usable by a greater number of children at the same time as a nature play inspired activity.

The playspace was recognised by the Parks and Leisure Australia Association at their WA Awards of Excellence 2017 and awarded a high commendation.



Wireless Hill Playspace



The development and construction of the playspace was an opportunity to diversify the play experience within Melville and create the City's first constructed nature playspace. A significant amount of public consultation took place in the design of the project which recommended a playspace outside of the traditional slide and swing play.

If residents would like their children to enjoy a slide and swing experience in the local area, there is the opportunity to utilise one of three parks which are within 600 – 800m of Wireless Hill that have these facilities including Sid Eaton Reserve, Al Richardson Reserve and Cunningham Street Park.

Sid Eaton Playground



Al Richardson Playground



Cunningham Street Playground

