



AGENDA ITEM 5.6 REFERS

NATURE TRAIL  
 OPTIONAL FITNESS AREA WITH COMMUNITY EXERCISE EQUIPMENT UNDER SHADING TREES

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DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

The design for Mills Park is based on nature play concepts which include variations of texture, materials and colour. Research has shown these to enhance children's development, interest, imagination and connection with nature. Nature play philosophy includes the use of natural, loose materials and equipment that can be used in more than one way. It also focuses on a diversity of features beyond the play experience including mounds, trees, grass, seats, sculptural art and the adjacent bushland. These, together with the natural surroundings and plantings of native vegetation, extend play opportunities by being un-prescriptive in their roles. For example, a log on the ground could be a tightrope, a bench, a rocket or a bus.

The plan includes a diversity of play experiences appropriate for a range of ages, abilities and interests.

It addresses the four main types of play, being physical, cognitive, creative/imaginative and social, and the cross over experiences that may occur within and between them. Each type of play assists in the development of invaluable life skills including dexterity and judgement, questioning and understanding, innovation and experimentation, and negotiation and participation.

The design also incorporates the value of loose materials such as sand, mulch and pebbles in play experiences. These have been described as the experiences as they are used in a variety of ways.

It is also important to include quiet and passive areas as well as active play features, together with all-abilities Playspaces for inclusion of the whole community.

The design features raised sandpits for the less mobile, and tactile and sensory features to engage the community. Sculptural art also plays an enormous part in connecting the community and providing meaning in a manner beyond simple need or function. It is hoped that sculptural art celebrating local Aboriginal heritage and connection with nature will be included within the park.

Subtle fencing of the southern edge of the Park is proposed to improve safety for young children. It is not always perceived as visually supervise children and fencing for younger children (2-5) can act as a back up for supervision in that area of the park, although it will still be necessary for carers' to follow their children through the park if necessary.

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By lightly screen planting the fence with native vegetation, seasonal changes in colour and growth can be observed, and niche spaces for resting and enjoying nature or reading books created.

Because Playspaces are not used exclusively by children and young people, but by the whole community, social and recreational opportunities need to be considered. The design therefore also includes the need for provision of BBQs, shelter, pathways and seating, which also encourage longer term stay at the park. These features combine to make the park user friendly for other members of the community.

It is our vision that by creating a diverse, interesting and functional space, Mills Park will serve Amy Mills proudly as it brings together the community of Little Grove and Albany as a whole.

02 CONCEPT PLAN - PARK & PLAYSPACES  
 MILLS PARK LITTLE GROVE

10 m  
 SCALE 1:200 @ A1  
 north  
 north  
 north

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