

Sports Grounds Guidelines for MacDonnell Regional Council

Working toward Best Practice

2020 - 2023



Effective August 2012

Review conducted January 2020

Next Review to be conducted January 2022

Sports Grounds six (6) level implementation program

2020-2023

The MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Sports Grounds Guidelines, providing the basis for a six (6) level implementation plan for Sports grounds. This outlines the service level standards that we will aim to achieve within the various timeframes, taking into account the Council's Goal of Healthy Communities; and, also in accordance with the *NT Local Government Act*.

Intent: to achieve best practice in Sports grounds across the Region.

In commencing this six (6) level development plan, it should be noted that all Regional Council Service Delivery Centres (SDCs) do not start with equal Sports grounds and infrastructure. Additionally, there have not been any documented practices and standards for staff to adhere.

Some SDCs have made significant advancements in improving Sports grounds over the past twelve (12) years. This is in part due to initiatives by MRC; Special Purpose Grants from the NT Government; having reasonable infrastructure and assets to work with; and, Local Authority project funding.

In outlining the targets of the six (6) level plan, we note that some SDCs have already achieved some of the targets for various levels. These sites will be required to continue implementing acceptable standards and practices that have not yet been met. The objective is for all SDCs to meet each service level's targets for Sports grounds. Achieving the next level's targets is encouraged.

Eleven (11) priority actions have been identified for all communities in the Regional Council area. These actions are to be achieved in every community by the end of the six (6) service level periods that this plan applies. You will note that successfully achieving service level six is dependent upon receiving sustainable funding.

Priority Actions

1. Shade shelters	SL1	7. Parking area	SL3
2. Wheelie Bins	SL1	8. Fencing	SL4
3. Seating/Stands	SL2	9. Lighting	SL5
4. Backstop netting	SL2	10. Irrigation	SL6
5. Drinking water	SL2	11. Grassed	SL6
6. Shade trees	SL3		

Note: Long term service levels subject to sustainable funding

Service Level One: Shade shelters and wheelie bins

Actions are to be taken to commence and complete Service Level One requirements in the timeframes below.

Service Level One Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
Shade Shelter		
Identify suitable location(s) for shade structures at the Sports facility	12 months	
Source an appropriate sized shade structure	12 months	
Erect the shade shelter	12 months	
Wheelie Bins		
Install a double wheelie bin holder adjacent to each shade shelter and supply two wheelie bins	3 months	
Staff Management		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	On-going	
Staff are trained in construction and concreting, using appropriate plant and equipment and other skills	12 months	



Service Level Two: Seating/Stands, Backstop netting and Drinking water

Planning should have resulted in an area appropriate for installing some seating/stands, as well as providing backstop netting for the softball field. The overall area to be fenced at a later time should allow for a suitable area for developing a car park at the next service level. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Service Level Two Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Seating/Stands</i>		
Order appropriate seating or stands	12 months	
Install seating/stands to specifications	12 months	
<i>Backstop</i>		
Order poles, fencing materials for backstop	12 months	
Install backstop in accordance to specifications	12 months	
<i>Drinking water</i>		
Identify location of water pipes and run irrigation to an identified place for installing a water bubbler	12 months	
Install a drinking water bubbler to specifications	12 months	
<i>Staff Management</i>		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	On-going	
Staff are trained in the safe digging irrigation trenches, basic plumbing, concreting, levelling and other appropriate skills	12 months	



Service Level Three: Shade trees and Parking area

Actions at this level will include basic landscaping by planting appropriate shade trees to an arid zone and completing a car park, identified earlier, to Technical Services standards. Waste bins are to be placed adjacent to the shade structure and regularly emptied as a part of routine waste management. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Service Level Three Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Shade trees</i>		
Identify and source appropriate shade trees for an arid zone	12 months	
Plant out the shade trees	12 months	
<i>Parking area</i>		
Develop a car park to Technical Services specifications	12 months	
<i>Staff Management</i>		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	On-going	
Staff are trained in the safe digging of holes, concreting, levelling and other appropriate skills	12 months	



Service Level Four: Fencing

At this level, actions are aimed at improving the sports grounds to encourage usage by community members. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Service Level Four Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Fencing</i>		
Source funding for suitable boundary fence for Sports	12 months	
Install fencing around boundary of football oval or softball field to Technical Services specifications	12 months	
<i>Staff Management</i>		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	On-going	
Staff are trained in fencing, concreting and other appropriate skills	12 months	



Service Level Five: Lighting, Irrigation

At this level, actions are initially aimed at improving the community facilities at Sports grounds around the Council. Low energy lighting could be made available to shade structures at the Sports grounds. However, adequate lighting for night time use at any Sports facility would require major capital input and would most likely be the result of a special purpose grant.

Irrigation may be in this same category. It may be reasonably easy to run irrigation lines to the site for watering trees, etc. and providing a source of drinking water. However, if the irrigation is ultimately to provide for a grassed venue, then coordination between numbers of Government agencies would be necessary. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Note: The attainment of this service level will require significant start up and sustainable operating funding.

Service Level Five Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Lighting</i>		
Install low energy lighting in shade structure(s)	12 months	
Investigate feasibility of lighting of Sports facility for night time use.	12 months	
<i>Irrigation</i>		
Provide irrigation to shade trees as necessary	12 months	
Investigate feasibility of providing some form of irrigation to the Sports facility	12 months	
<i>Staff Management</i>		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	On-going	
Staff are trained in basic horticultural and landscaping techniques and other appropriate skills	12 months	



Service Level Six: Grassed

Actions at this level would require major capital input and would most likely be the result of a special purpose grant. Actions should be dealt with in months, rather than deadlines.

Note: The attainment of this service level will require significant start up and sustainable operating funding.

Service Level Six Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
<i>Grassed</i>		
Investigate the options whether it is feasible to grass any of the Sports grounds.	Long term	
<i>Staff Management</i>		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	3 months	
Staff are trained in the use of plant and equipment and other appropriate skills	12 months	

Full cooperation and support with the Sports grounds Guidelines will deliver better and consistent standards of Sports grounds across the Region. It will provide residents and visitors with better public facilities, adding to a safer, healthier and liveable environment.