

ITEM No ...4.....

REPORT TO: FAIR WORK, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT ON: DUNDEE PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 227-2025

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report seeks approval of the Play Sufficiency Assessment, a statutory requirement of the preparation of the Dundee Local Development Plan (LDP).

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a approves the Dundee Play Sufficiency Assessment as set out in Appendix 1;
- b remits the Head of Planning and Economic Development to publish the Dundee Play Sufficiency Assessment; and
- c notes that the Play Sufficiency Assessment will be submitted to Scottish Ministers as part of Dundee City Council's documentation for the Local Development Plan Gate Check Examination.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of this report.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 came into effect on 19 May 2023. Under these regulations, each Planning Authority is required to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children and young people within its area as part of preparing an Evidence Report. The Evidence Report is the first stage in preparing a new Local Development Plan and sets out the evidence gathered, the planning authority's interpretation of the evidence gathered, and its implications for the preparation of the LDP.

4.2 The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) must be presented as a written report, which may include maps where necessary. The report must contain information on both formal and informal play spaces. Formal play spaces must be detailed by locality and across the wider Planning Authority area, with their locations clearly shown on a map. Informal play spaces, identified either by the Planning Authority or by children, should also be included, however, these locations do not need to be mapped.

4.3 In addition, the PSA must provide an assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities, taking into account the quality, quantity, and accessibility of play spaces. This assessment must also be presented both by locality and across the full Planning Authority area.

4.4 To inform the assessment, Planning Authorities are required to consult with a range of stakeholders. This includes children, parents and carers, Community Councils, and any other community bodies or individuals the Planning Authority deems appropriate. The general public must also be given the opportunity to participate in the consultation process.

4.5 Once complete, the Planning Authority must publish the PSA report digitally, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Regulations.

- 4.6 The Dundee PSA report draws from data collected by the “Play Sufficiency Assessment Survey” between May and August 2024. The survey gathered feedback from children, young people, parents, carers, and professionals on the quality of play and social spaces. Due to low initial participation from young people, it was reopened in January 2025 for an additional eight weeks. In total, 319 responses were received including 12 primary school group responses, aided through the process by their teachers.
- 4.7 Another survey, the “Dundee Place Standard Survey” also provided results to inform the PSA. The survey remained open from April 2024 until August 2024 and invited residents, community groups, businesses, and other stakeholders to assess and better understand the quality of their neighbourhoods, including opportunities for play and recreation. A total of 216 responses were received including a submission from a class at Blackness Primary School which were assisted to complete the exercise by planning officers in June 2024.
- 4.8 Both surveys were designed to be accessible to people of all ages. Dundee City Council Communities officers, the Community Empowerment Team and Education officers were briefed on the surveys and asked to assist anyone facing challenges in completing the survey, for example due to lack of internet access or language barriers. Physical copies were available in libraries and posters were displayed in community centres to encourage participation, and the surveys were shared among community groups such as Tenants and Residents Groups, 'Friends Of' groups, Primary and Secondary Schools, Community Councils, and Community Partnerships/Forums.
- 4.9 The Play Sufficiency Assessment reveals significant variation in the quality, quantity, and accessibility of play provision across Dundee. The planning authority will consider how the Local Development Plan (LDP) can support play by designating parks, green spaces, and areas for play, ensuring these are protected from competing land uses. The ongoing management and maintenance of publicly owned play areas is subject to land use constraints, the availability of future funding opportunities, and statutory responsibilities. To truly enhance opportunities for play, a wider network of partners - including Council services, community groups, schools, housing associations, local businesses, and voluntary organisations - must work together. These partners can contribute ideas, resources, and ongoing stewardship to ensure that play areas are accessible, inclusive, well-maintained, and responsive to the needs of children and young people.
- 4.10 The assessment was conducted during a period of ongoing maintenance and upgrade of play areas led by Neighbourhood Services, through the Build Resilient and Empowered Communities programme, Playground Improvements and the Capital Plan 2024-2029, supported by a significant contribution from the Scottish Government's Play Renewal Fund. This work is also funded by Neighbourhood Services Community Regeneration Fund.
- 4.11 The PSA report also includes an analysis of submissions to the Urban Releaf perceptions app and paper surveys, a citizen-science initiative engaging the community to contribute their observations and perceptions of greenspaces across Dundee. Another data source is the results of a play quality audit of 69 Council-owned play parks conducted by the planning authority between June and August 2024. Finally, network analysis mapping using GIS was undertaken to determine the accessibility of play parks within 5-minute and 10-minute walking times to homes, as well as identifying gaps in provision. Following Committee approval, the report will be made publicly available and the GIS data in the report will be made available electronically on the [Dundee City Council Open Data Portal](#).

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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10 September 2025

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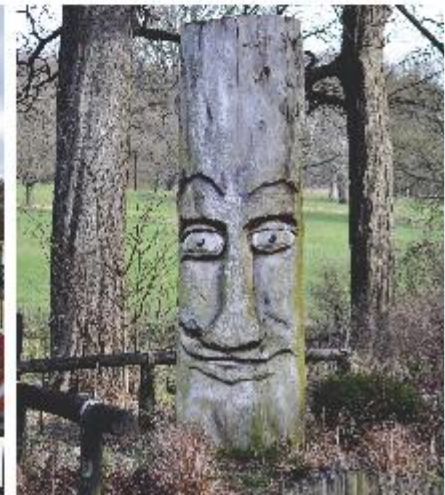
APPENDIX 1



DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2025

 **CHANGING**
FOR THE **FUTURE**



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Dundee Play Sufficiency Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the Play Sufficiency Assessment

The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) has been prepared in line with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which requires Dundee City Council planning authority to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children and young people under the age of 18. This assessment must be carried out during the preparation of the Evidence Report, to provide critical evidence to inform the development of the next Dundee Local Development Plan (LDP). The PSA will help to improve opportunities for outdoor play within Dundee City Council's boundary and inform decisions on relevant planning applications.

1.2. Children's Right to Play

Play is central to children's physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development, and is vital for their overall wellbeing. Importantly, it is also a fundamental right under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

- **Article 31:** The right to play, rest, leisure, and recreational activities.
- **Article 12:** The right to express views on matters affecting them and to have those views taken seriously.
- **Article 15:** The right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

Providing sufficient and accessible play opportunities is a key component of realising children's rights in practice.

1.3. What strategies support outdoor play in Dundee?

[Scotland's Play Strategy](#) sets out a vision for Scotland which values play as a life-enhancing daily experience for all children and young people. It highlights the importance of outdoor spaces, including parks, woodlands, and streets, and supports a balance of structured (formal) and unstructured (informal) play. It recognizes that informal play—like climbing trees, building dens, or imaginative games in natural settings—is just as important as organized activities.

Policy 21 of [National Planning Framework 4](#) aims to encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport. Local Development Plans should

identify sites for sports, play and recreation for all ages, based on community needs and assessments. These spaces should enhance and expand existing blue and green infrastructure, considering related policy frameworks (e.g. flood risk management). New provisions should be well-designed, high-quality, accessible, and inclusive. Loss of children's play areas is not supported unless there is no ongoing or future demand, or it's replaced with a better quality or more appropriate facility. The policy also sets out requirements for development proposals likely to be occupied or used by children and young people, new streets and public realm, and new replacement or improved play/sport provision.

The [Dundee Local Development Plan 2019](#) contains Dundee City Council's land use strategy. The Plan supports the development and management of the City's green infrastructure as an increasingly multi-functional and interconnected network.

The [Dundee Physical Activity Strategy \(2010-2015\)](#) set out the city's priorities for promoting physical activity. The strategy was reviewed in 2016 in collaboration with stakeholders, during which four key frameworks were developed: Active Living, Dance, Play, and Sport & Recreation. [The Play Framework](#) includes the following outcomes for play in the community:

- Outdoor play is prioritised within public planning, including planning guidance and community planning. This should also apply to new housing developments.
- Children, young people and families are effectively engaged throughout the planning process to ensure developments meet their needs.
- Improved provision and distribution of play spaces and equipped areas for play in Dundee are prioritised to the areas of greatest need.
- Barriers to play are reduced or removed. Our parks and open spaces are maintained to a high standard.
- Positive messages and signage about encouraging play in the community are promoted.
- Increased participation of communities playing in their streets, parks, local green and open spaces, such as woodland, water, hills and beaches.
- The needs of looked after children, and children with complex and additional support needs are considered and prioritised in line with our overall GIRFEC approach.
- Areas identified as having insufficient outdoor play provision are provided with temporary solutions until permanent solutions are found.

1.4. Local Context: Dundee

According to [Scotland's 2022 Census](#), Dundee is home to 26,231 children and young people aged 0-17, broken down as follows:

- 0–5 years: 7,948
- 6–11 years: 9,221
- 12–17 years: 9,062

Children and young people make up around 18% of the city's population (Scotland's Census, 2022). Of these, over 43% live in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland, while only 15% live in the 20% least deprived areas (SIMD, 2020). 35.7% of Dundee households do not have access to a car or van (Scotland's Census, 2022). According to the [Scottish Health Survey 2023](#), Dundee has higher-than-average rates of childhood obesity, particularly in areas of high deprivation. This highlights the need for equitable access to safe, engaging, and inclusive spaces to play, especially in communities facing multiple disadvantages.

1.5. Method and Approach

The [Town and Country Planning \(Play Sufficiency Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#) set the statutory requirements as to the form, content, consultation and publication of the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The regulations state the assessment must take the form of a written report including maps as required and statements as regards the overall quality, quantity, and accessibility of formal play spaces and informal play spaces by locality, and in the totality of, the planning authority's area. The regulations define formal play spaces as those (such as equipped play areas and sports pitches) that are specifically designed and maintained for the purpose of play. Informal play spaces, on the other hand, are areas of open space (such as woodlands and parks) but are not specifically designed and maintained for playing. The Scottish Government published [non-statutory guidance](#) for planning authorities in 2023, explaining and expanding the intention of the regulations.

Regulation 4 requires that in preparing the PSA, planning authorities must consult with children, parents and carers, Community Councils, and the general public but there is no prescribed mechanism for consultation.

Dundee City Council has undertaken this PSA through a robust and participatory approach, combining:

- Spatial mapping of play provision and accessibility

- Site visits to assess quality and condition
- Community engagement, including the voices and experiences of children and young people

This assessment evaluates the quantity, quality, and accessibility of play opportunities focusing on outdoor play provision across the Dundee City Council area. It does not include a detailed audit of indoor play spaces or school-based provision, though these may be referenced where relevant.

1.7. Further Information

This PSA supports the preparation of the next Dundee Local Development Plan. For more information on the review, visit:

[Dundee Local Development Plan Review | Dundee City Council](#)

1.8. Structure of Dundee PSA

The remaining chapters of the Dundee PSA have been structured as follows:

- Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology
- Chapter 3: Council Wide Assessment of Play Sufficiency
- Chapter 4: Ward Level Assessment of Play Sufficiency
- Chapter 5: Summary and Conclusions
- Appendices

2. Assessment Methodology

This section sets out the methodology for assessing Dundee City Council's formal and informal play spaces. Three primary data sources were used to inform the Dundee Play Sufficiency Assessment. These were the Play Quality Audit undertaken by the planning team from June to August 2024, and two public consultations on Play Sufficiency and the Place Standard Tool which ran from April to September 2024.

Additionally, a map-based network analysis assessed gaps in provision by measuring the number of residences within a 5 minute and 10-minute walking time of play parks.

Information from other sources, including the Council's Urban ReLeaf project and Open Space Audit 2024 were used to assess informal play opportunities.

2.1. Play Quality Audit

There are 69 formal, equipped play parks across the Dundee City Council area which are both publicly accessible and managed by the Council. These were identified from internal GIS datasets. Between June and August 2024, planning staff visited these play parks and assessed them using a scoring matrix adapted from Play Scotland's "Getting it Right for Play" quality assessment tool. A digital version of the matrix was created using ESRI Field Maps, enabling integration into Dundee City Council's GIS system for data analysis and mapping. Each play space was evaluated based on factors such as condition, immediate outlook, and safety. The version of the assessment tool that was used can be found in Appendix A. Play parks which are not owned by the Council were excluded from the quality assessment due to the Council having limited control over the design and maintenance of these.

The classification of play parks was recorded, i.e. Local Area for Play, Local Equipped Area for Play, and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play, as well as a list of all facilities/equipment, and age ranges covered. The data was verified by Neighbourhood Services colleagues involved with decision-making as to the maintenance and upgrading of play parks in the city. It is important to note that the quality assessments provided a "snapshot in time" of the play parks during an ongoing period of improvements and maintenance. To reflect this, the assessment scores were weighted to emphasize the "play value" of the equipment as a larger proportion of the overall score, while giving less weight to more variable factors, such as the temporary presence of hazardous waste.

As well as formally equipped play areas, infrastructure such as agility and trim trails, outdoor sports facilities, and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) which could also facilitate play were identified from internal GIS datasets.

2.2. Play Sufficiency Assessment and Place Standard Online Surveys

Between May and August 2024, Dundee City Council hosted a Play Sufficiency Survey on its website. The survey gathered feedback from children, young people, parents, carers, and professionals on the quality of play and social spaces. Due to low initial participation from young people, it was reopened in January 2025 for an additional eight weeks. To encourage engagement, education officers asked Headteachers to share the survey with teachers and incorporate it into class activities for students to complete online.

In total, 319 responses were received, comprising both individual and group submissions. Of these:

- 302 were individual responses from children, young people, and their caregivers.
- 17 were group responses, including 12 primary school classes guided through the survey by their teachers.

With an average of 23 pupils per class plus individual responses from children and young people, this represents an estimated 260 children and young people participating overall. Unfortunately, there was low participation from secondary school age young people despite the survey including clear information about its purpose and impact including the need for insights into “hanging out”. The survey was well-publicized in school and youth spaces but this perhaps indicates that young people did not identify with the term “play”, or the language used in the survey did not resonate with their interests. Lessons learned will be taken forward into engagement with young people as part of the Dundee Local Development Plan review. A detailed breakdown of participant demographics is provided in Appendix C.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment survey asked respondents to place a point on a map to identify the place/neighbourhood their answers related to. Respondents were then asked questions about where children and young people usually hang out or play, how often they do so, and what they like and dislike about the places they play.

In April 2024, Dundee City Council launched an online GIS-based version of the Place Standard Tool, known as Dundee's Place Standard Survey. The survey remained open until August 2024 and invited residents, community groups, businesses, and other stakeholders to assess and better understand the quality of their neighbourhoods. In June 2024, two planning officers led a Place Standard session tailored for children and young people at Blackness Primary School, guiding 23 Primary 4 pupils through the process using child-friendly maps of the local area. Respondents were asked to place a point on a map and the feedback gathered from the survey provided valuable insights into the quality of public spaces and opportunities for play and recreation across the city.

Both online surveys were designed to be accessible to people of all ages. Dundee City Council Communities officers, the Community Empowerment Team and Education officers were briefed on the surveys and asked to assist anyone facing challenges in completing the survey, for example due to lack of internet access or language barriers. Posters were displayed in community centres to encourage participation, and the surveys were shared among community groups such as Tenants and Residents Groups, 'Friends Of' groups, Primary and Secondary Schools, Community Councils, and Community Partnerships/Forums. Paper versions of the surveys were available in libraries across the city.

Feedback identifying urgent safety issues and suggesting improvements particular to individual parks, was shared with Neighbourhood Services colleagues responsible for inspecting, designing, upgrading, and maintaining play parks, to help guide their decisions. The quantitative data from the surveys was analysed using spatial analysis GIS tools such as 'Summarize Statistics'. The qualitative data was thematically coded to identify patterns and insights.

2.3. Urban Releaf

Urban Releaf is a city-wide citizen science initiative in Dundee that invites community members to share their insights and experiences of local greenspaces. While data collection is ongoing, this assessment includes contributions gathered up to May 2025. In total, 63 comments relating to play were submitted via the Urban Releaf Cities App, along with 30 responses collected through web and paper-based surveys.

It is important to note that demographic data of Urban Releaf participants is not yet available. However, Urban Releaf officers attended community events including Lochee Easter Fun Day, Dawson Park Community Garden family days, Douglas Park Oasis Day, and Templeton Tree planting activities. During these events, children and young people and their caregivers were assisted to complete the surveys and app perceptions.

The below map shows the location of all survey points placed by respondents to the Place Standard and Play Sufficiency Assessment surveys, and location data gathered through the Urban Releaf perceptions app and paper/web surveys. There is a good distribution of participation across the city.

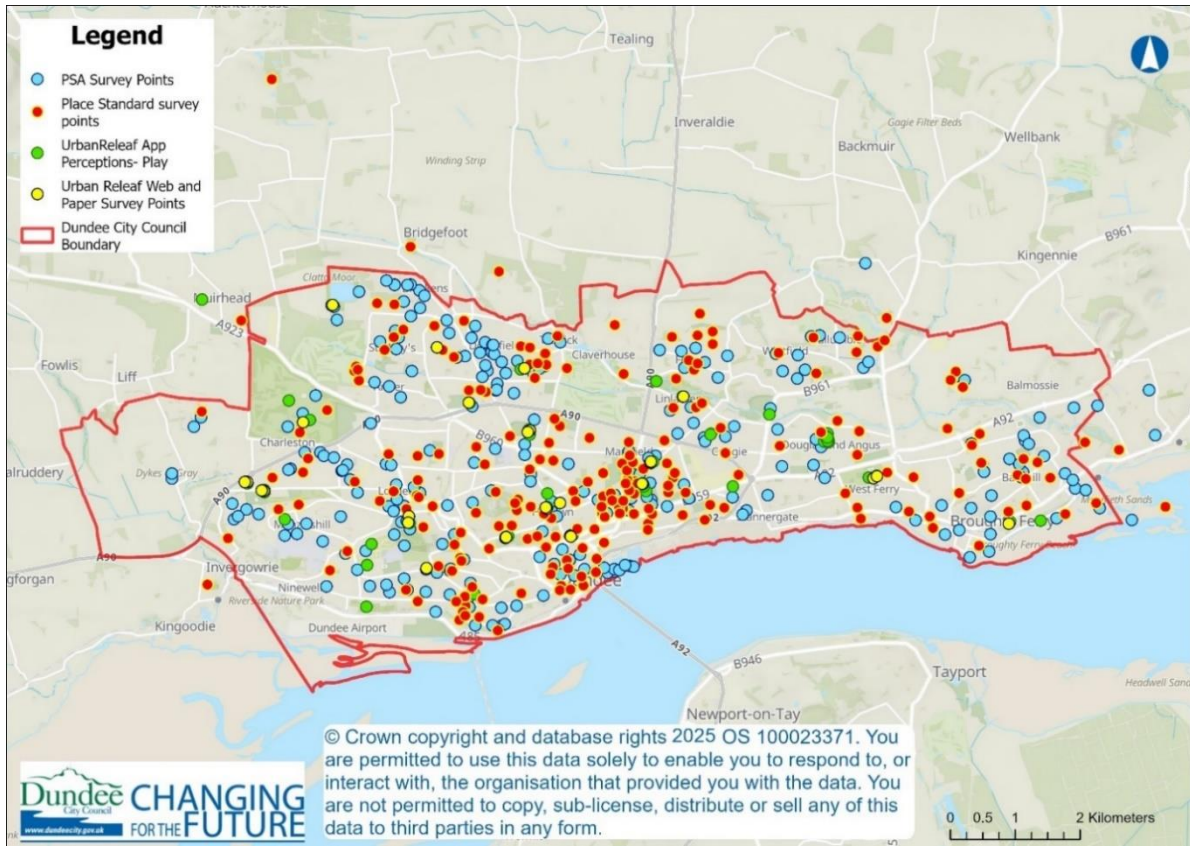


Figure 1: Map of all consultation location points in and around Dundee City Council boundary

2.4. Network Analysis

The locations of play parks were identified using internal GIS datasets and the Ordnance Survey National Geographic Database (OS NGD Sites). It is important to note that non local authority owned play areas were identified by a desktop analysis where they are known to be publicly accessible, and the management of these spaces can support informal play and recreation for children and young people. There may be privately owned play parks in Dundee which have not been identified in this assessment, but all publicly owned provision is accurate, locally held data.

Access points such as gates and entrance points were mapped manually, and network analysis was carried out using the ArcGIS Online Routing Service to generate 5-minute and 10-minute service areas from access points. The network analysis using ArcGIS Online Routing Service was limited to formal infrastructure such as pavements and designated paths. As a result, the analysis did not account for informal routes commonly used by pedestrians, including core paths, desire lines, and shortcuts through green spaces or residential areas. This may have led to an underrepresentation of actual travel behaviours and accessibility patterns, particularly in areas where informal connectivity plays a significant role in local movement.

Nevertheless, this analysis provides a clearer understanding of where accessibility to play parks could be improved. Both Council-maintained and privately maintained play parks—such as those managed by developers or housing associations—were included in the network analysis. Other types of play infrastructure—such as agility trails, sports pitches, and outdoor gyms—were excluded from the network analysis due to time and cost constraints. However, their locations have been mapped and are referenced throughout the assessment to ensure they are still considered in the overall evaluation of play provision. This analysis did not include informal play sites as these will be addressed in the broader Open Space Strategy.

2.5. Open Space Audit

In 2024, Ironside Farrar undertook an Open Space Audit to inform an upcoming update to the Dundee's Open Space Strategy. The audit assessed and mapped the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing open space provision in the city, using Green Flag assessment criteria and Ordnance Survey data. This data informs the assessment of informal play opportunities. Quality scores for informal play sites (i.e. publicly accessible open spaces) were not included in this PSA, as they form part of a broader Open Space Audit. Once finalised, these figures will be provided in the Open Space Strategy.

2.6. Play Improvement Programme 2021/22 Onwards

2.6.1. Overview of Play Improvement Programme

The Council's Environment Service is implementing a structured programme of play improvements across Dundee's parks and open spaces, including play parks, play trails and MUGA facilities. The Play Area Renewal Fund required an audit during 2021/22 to identify areas needing attention and set priorities within each ward. Following this, a play review for 2024-2026 was conducted in 2024 to review the work done so far and help prioritise future actions.

This improvement programme has been delivered using a variety of funding streams, including a significant contribution from the Scottish Government Play Area Renewal Fund, Community Regeneration Funding (CRF), and internal Neighbourhood Services Capital funds.

To date, the renovation, upgrade and installation work has included:-

- Installation of new play equipment and associated hard and soft landscaping.

- Access improvements, including footpath improvements and the installation of DDA compliant paths and play equipment.
- Health and safety improvements, including resurfacing and the installation of soft close gates.
- Improvements to signage, bench and bin provision.
- Installation of open-ended landscape features (e.g. grass mounds, balancing logs, etc.) to encourage physical activity using an alternative to traditional play equipment.

2.6.2. Scottish Government Play Area Renewal Fund

The Scottish Government launched their Play Park Renewal Fund in 2021/22, over a five year period. Any play parks refurbished using this funding were required to meet certain criteria such as:-

- play park to be local authority owned, managed or maintained, designated for play, which are free to access and open to all.
- play areas should include equipment (swings, slides etc) aimed at children aged 0-14.
- other facilities used by the same age group (e.g. pump tracks), but MUGAs (Multi Use Game Areas) or dedicated sports fields were not supported by the funding.

Between 2021/22 and 2025/26 to date, the Council has received £1,464,000 funding from the Scottish Government for the Renewal of Playparks. During this time, 30 play parks have been improved using this funding which equates to 45.5% of the total number of play parks.

Financial Year	Renewal of Play Parks funding received from Scottish Government
2021/22	£125,000
2022/23	£122,000
2023/24	£243,000
2024/25	£365,000
2025/26	£609,000

Of the £855,000 allocated to Dundee between 2021/22-2024/25, all funds are committed to be spent, and all remaining £609,000 budget is proposed to be spent in 2025/26. No funding remains unallocated or has been returned.

2.6.3. Play Audit 2021/22

During the Play Audit 2021/22, all play facilities within Dundee City Council parks and open spaces for children aged 0-14 were assessed against set criteria and prioritised for improvements. The following criteria were given consideration:

- Play area type, i.e. NEAP, LEAP or LAP
- Initial Impression, e.g. access, welcoming, open views, litter, vandalism
- Equipment types
- Health and Safety, e.g. condition of equipment, safe access, condition of site, glass
- Location, e.g. well used, proximity of schools and residential areas
- SIMD percentage for each site

This audit identified 26 play parks as ‘acceptable’ or ‘good’ and a further 41 play parks which were classed as ‘requiring attention’. Refurbishment priorities were based on:-

- Recommendations from Play Officers and involvement of Community Officers
- Site suitability for new equipment
- Deliverability within funding timescales
- A strategic focus on wards with higher levels of deprivation

2.6.4. Play Review 2024-26

The Play Review 2024-26 used the findings of the Play Audit 2021/22 alongside analysis of previous spending to propose ongoing priorities for the 2024-26 budget. Informed by the Scottish Government funding requirements, the objectives of this Play Review were:-

- To consider the whole play estate, using data gathered in the audit, alongside analysis of previous spend.
- To continue the Council’s ongoing programme of upgrades by reviewing upgrade work to date, and identifying playparks as requiring either high, medium or low-level upgrades.
- To ensure spend would be distributed as equitably as possible across Dundee wards, and to focus support on communities identified in the lowest 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).
- To integrate accessibility improvements to support disabled people’s access to playparks across Dundee, and to integrate inclusive and sensory play equipment wherever possible.

- To integrate resilience improvements and engagement where appropriate to reduce the impact of vandalism on playparks across Dundee, especially in areas of deprivation.

2.6.5. Consultation

As the service responsible for design, installation and maintenance of play areas, proposals have been developed by the Environment Service in collaboration with Planning and Communities teams. Children, young people and families have been actively involved in shaping play proposals, this engagement will continue to help ensure future developments reflect community needs as well as promoting inclusive physical activity.

Depending on the scale of a project, there are various levels of community engagement. For small repairs and renewals, the Communities teams are advised of work being carried out. For larger scale projects, the needs and wishes of the local community are always considered by working with the local Communities Teams and local groups to develop strong links with members of the community and give them the opportunity to influence our proposals. This engagement is carried out both at the design stage and later stages (e.g. signage design, planting and opening events) and seeks to secure a sense of ownership amongst the local community for their play spaces.

Engagement has taken place through online consultations, in-person events, school and nursery visits, and targeted discussions at a specialist play facility for disabled children.

It is also acknowledged that further consultation with local communities will be required to continue in the development of ongoing proposals related to the Scottish Government Play Area Renewal Fund, in line with good practice and funding criteria guidance.

2.6.5. Inclusive and Accessible Play Equipment

In order to be inclusive, a playground needs to be accessible, but an accessible playground is not always inclusive.

The Environment Service seeks to integrate accessibility and inclusivity improvements in as many play areas as possible across the city, this includes the installation of inclusive and sensory play equipment and improvements to access routes or removing barriers. Designs or adaption of, or additions to play areas, are shaped by site-specific constraints and therefore the degree of accessibility and inclusivity will vary depending on the constraints of the site, for example barriers, space, level change, and landscape constraints.

From 2021/22 to date, inclusive or accessible elements have been installed at 23 play parks using the Scottish Government Play Area Renewal Fund, this equates to 34.9% of the total number of play areas within the Dundee City Council boundary. Please note that there may have been pre-existing inclusive and accessible elements in the remaining play parks which were refurbished using this funding and hence including additional inclusive elements was not deemed necessary.

In DCC Environment's latest review, 44 play areas are assessed to have a fair or good level of inclusive elements, with the remaining areas being considered, if appropriate, for enhanced inclusive play elements as and when opportunity and funding becomes available.

Dundee's play areas range from local play areas, which are small facilities within a short walk of residential areas, to destination play areas which are larger and have a greater range of play equipment, often located in the same area as other play spaces such as MUGA's and play trails. Whilst it is aimed to install accessible and inclusive play equipment and elements at as many play areas as possible, the destination play areas tend to have a higher number of inclusive items, where available space is greater and a larger range of facilities area available for families to use.

This ongoing programme of play area improvements reflects our commitment to accessible and inclusive play, recognising that outdoor play is essential for child development, wellbeing and bringing the community together.

Further information regarding the Environment Service's approach to inclusive and accessible play can be viewed in Appendix G.

3. Council Wide Assessment

3.1. Overview of Survey Results

This section sets out some of the key findings from the Play Sufficiency Assessment Survey to get a better understanding of where children and young people in Dundee hang out, how often, and how they get there.

The chart below illustrates the frequency of responses to the question “Where do you or your children usually hang out or play?” based on data collected from children, young people, parents, carers, and those who work with them. The responses span a wide range of outdoor and community spaces, reflecting the diversity of play environments across Dundee. Play parks and grassy areas are the most frequently mentioned locations with 196 and 141 mentions respectively suggesting they are vital community assets and likely preferred choices for many. Public places mentioned in the ‘Other’ category included ‘in the street’, ‘outside community centre’, and ‘car park’.

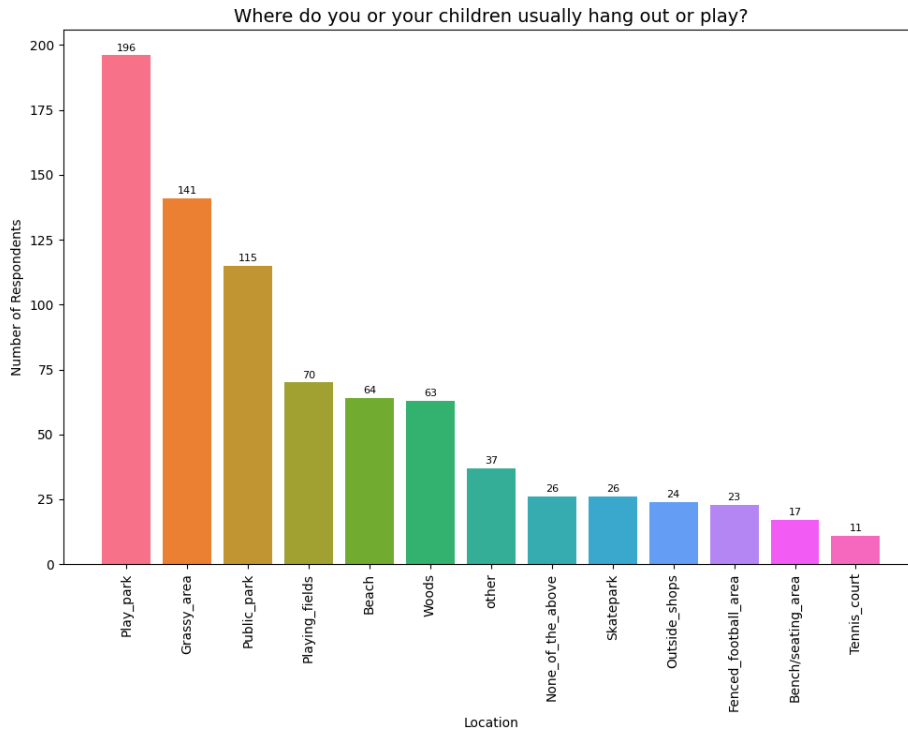


Figure 2: Where do you or your children usually hang out or play? Play Sufficiency Assessment results

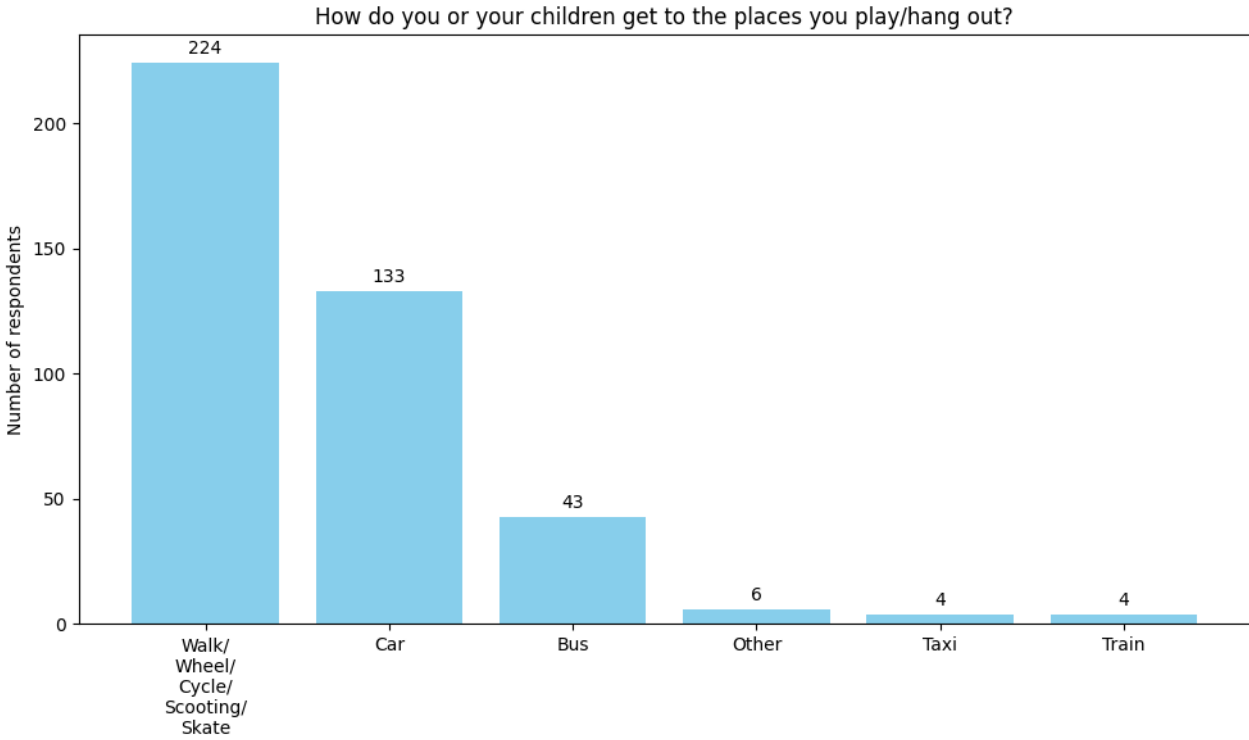


Figure 3: Transport modes to play/hang out spaces, Play Sufficiency Assessment survey results

The chart above provides insight into how children and young people typically travel to the places where they play or hang out. The most common method is active travel including walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, or skating. This suggests that many play areas are within a reasonable distance and that families value the independence and health benefits of active transport.

Car travel follows as the second most frequent mode, indicating that for some families, play areas may not be easily accessible on foot or that driving offers greater convenience or safety. This could also reflect a lack of suitable local options.

Public transport—specifically bus and train—is used less often, possibly due to limited routes, cost, or the practicality of using public transport with children.

Notably, several respondents reported using multiple modes of transport, suggesting that travel choices often depend on the destination and its proximity to home.

The most common response to how frequently children and young people engage in outdoor play outside of school hours was “2 or 3 times a week”, followed by “once a week” indicating that many families incorporate outdoor activity into their weekly routines, though not necessarily daily. A total of 37 respondents reported “Never” or “Don’t hang out or play outdoors,” suggesting potential barriers to outdoor activity. Most of these responses came

from the 35–44 age group, which may indicate challenges faced by parents in this demographic in supporting regular outdoor play for their children. Many parents also commented on their reluctance to allow their children outside on their own until they reached school age.

In the ‘Other’ category respondents highlighted that the number of times per week they go outside was weather dependent and changed seasonally with children and young people more likely to report they played out more frequently in summer than winter and in the school holidays compared to term time.

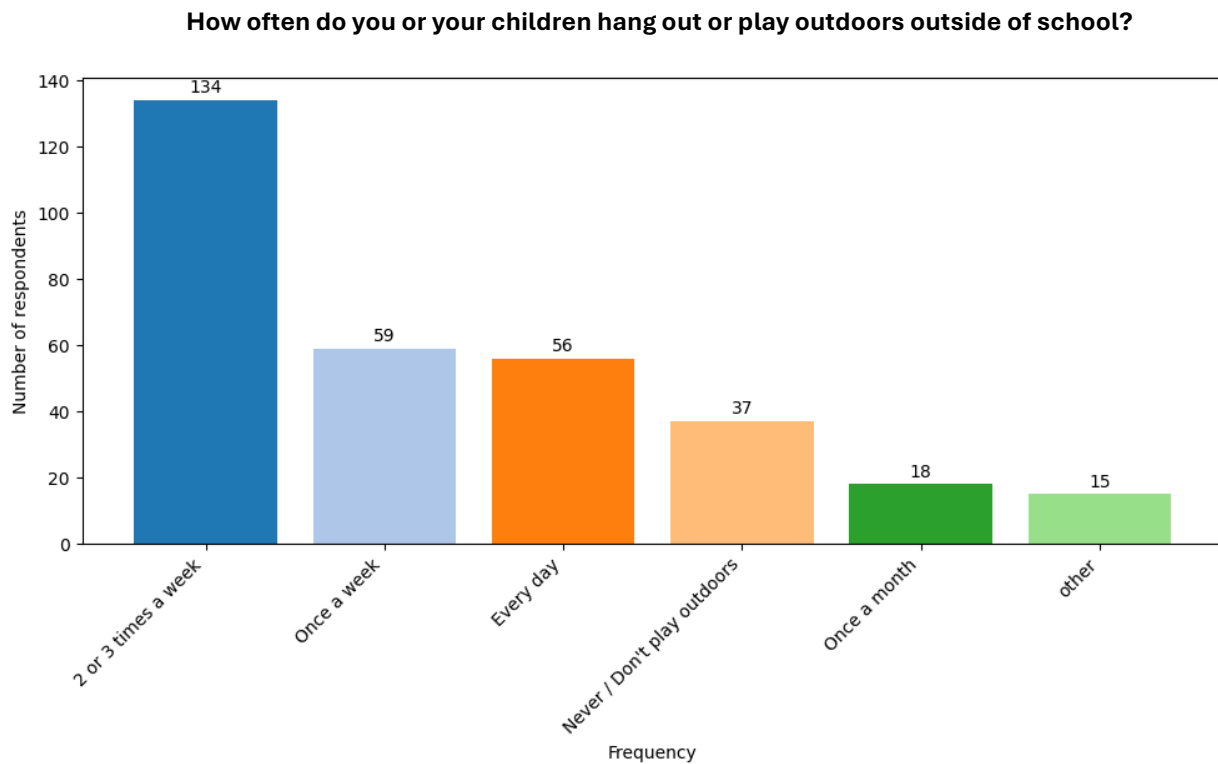


Figure 4: Frequency of play, Play Sufficiency Assessment survey results

3.2. Quantity

Dundee is home to a total of 89 play parks within the Dundee City Council boundary—69 of which are publicly owned and 20 privately managed. While Dundee City Council’s Neighbourhood Services contributed to the design and tendering of some privately managed sites, the majority are maintained by private developers and housing associations.

With an estimated 26,231 children and young people aged 0–17, Dundee has approximately 295 children and young people per play park. Based on the 2022 Census, Dundee has 69,857 households. This equates to around 1.27 play parks per 1,000 households.

The map below shows the locations of all 89 formally equipped play areas across Dundee.

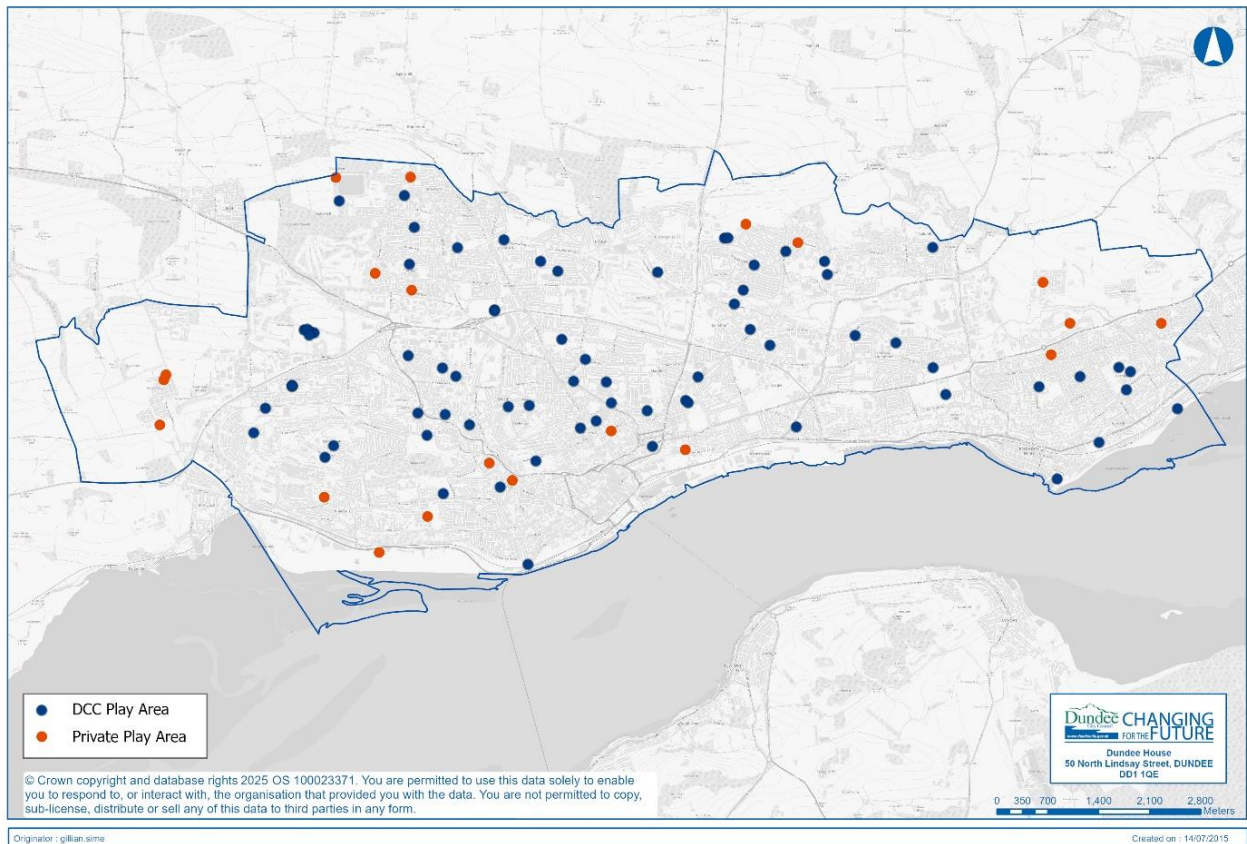
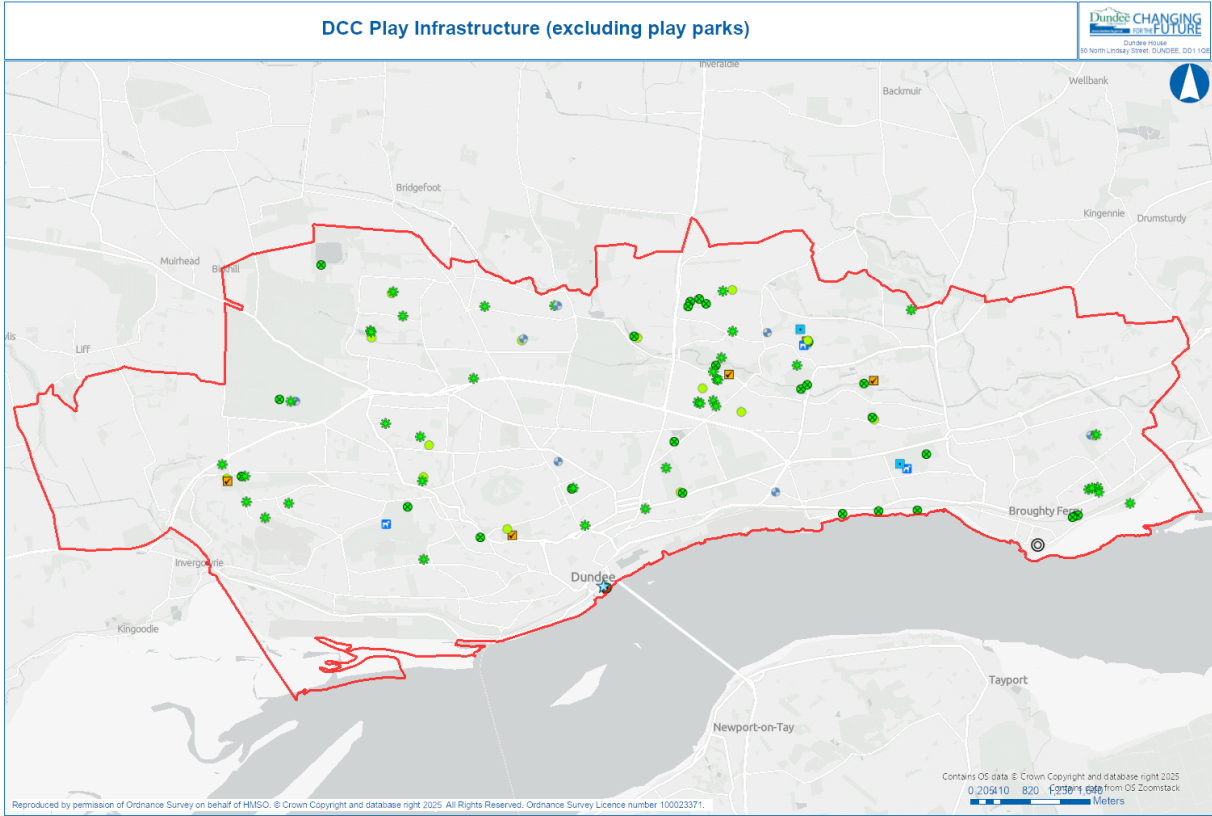


Figure 5: Map of all play parks in Dundee City Council boundary

In addition to formally equipped play areas, Dundee also offers a variety of other outdoor infrastructure that supports informal play and recreation opportunities for children and young people. These include agility trails, sports facilities, outdoor gyms and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs). The map below shows the locations of these additional play and recreation spaces maintained by Dundee City Council:



Play Area, Sports & Recreation













- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | Agility Trail Area | Agility Trail Area |
|  | Basketball Area | Basketball Area |
|  | Interactive Digital Play Area | Interactive Digital Play Area |
|  | Dog Agility Trail | Dog Agility Trail |
|  | Football Area | Football Area |
|  | Gym/Exercise Facility | Gym/Exercise Facility |
|  | Kiddie Car Area | Kiddie Car Area |
|  | Light Water Play Area | Light Water Play Area |
|  | Multiuse Games Area | Multiuse Games Area |
|  | Play Area | Play Area |
|  | Urban Beach Sand Play Area | Urban Beach Sand Play Area |
|  | Skatepark | Skatepark |

Figure 6: Map of other play infrastructure in Dundee City Council boundary

The audit demonstrates that there are a relatively high number of play areas in Dundee. There were mixed views amongst respondents to the Play Sufficiency Assessment survey about whether there are enough places to play/hang out in their areas. This discrepancy between the number of play areas and residents’ perceptions may stem from factors such as poor park quality and condition, barriers to access, and concerns about safety. The next section of the assessment explores these perceptions in greater detail to better understand the needs and suggestions of local people.

The below graph visualises answers to the question “thinking about where you have selected on the map, do you think there are enough places to play/hang out?”.



Figure 7: "Thinking about where you selected on the map, do you think there are enough places to play/hang out?", Play Sufficiency Assessment survey results

3.3. Quality

The planning authority city-wide audit of play park quality was based on criteria such as outlook, setting, cleanliness, vandalism, layout, condition, noise, natural features, and proximity to traffic. The full assessment tool can be viewed in Appendix A. Each Council owned play park was assessed and given a score out of 35. Parks scoring:

- 29 or more were rated as high quality (11 parks),
- 22 to 28 were rated as medium quality (46 parks),
- 21 or below were rated as low quality (12 parks).

It is worth noting that several parks initially rated as “low quality” have since undergone improvements in April and May 2025, including Kinpurnie Place, Spey Drive, and Lochee Park. Additional upgrades are planned for 2025/26.

Among the assessment criteria, seating was the most commonly met, with 67 parks providing some form of seating. In contrast, bicycle stands were the least common, present in only 8 parks. In cases where play parks are within parks and greenspaces, there may be provision of bicycle parking out with the boundary of the play area but in close proximity which were not included in the assessment. A full breakdown of how many play parks met each criterion is provided in Appendix B.

The map below illustrates the city-wide results of the play quality audit:

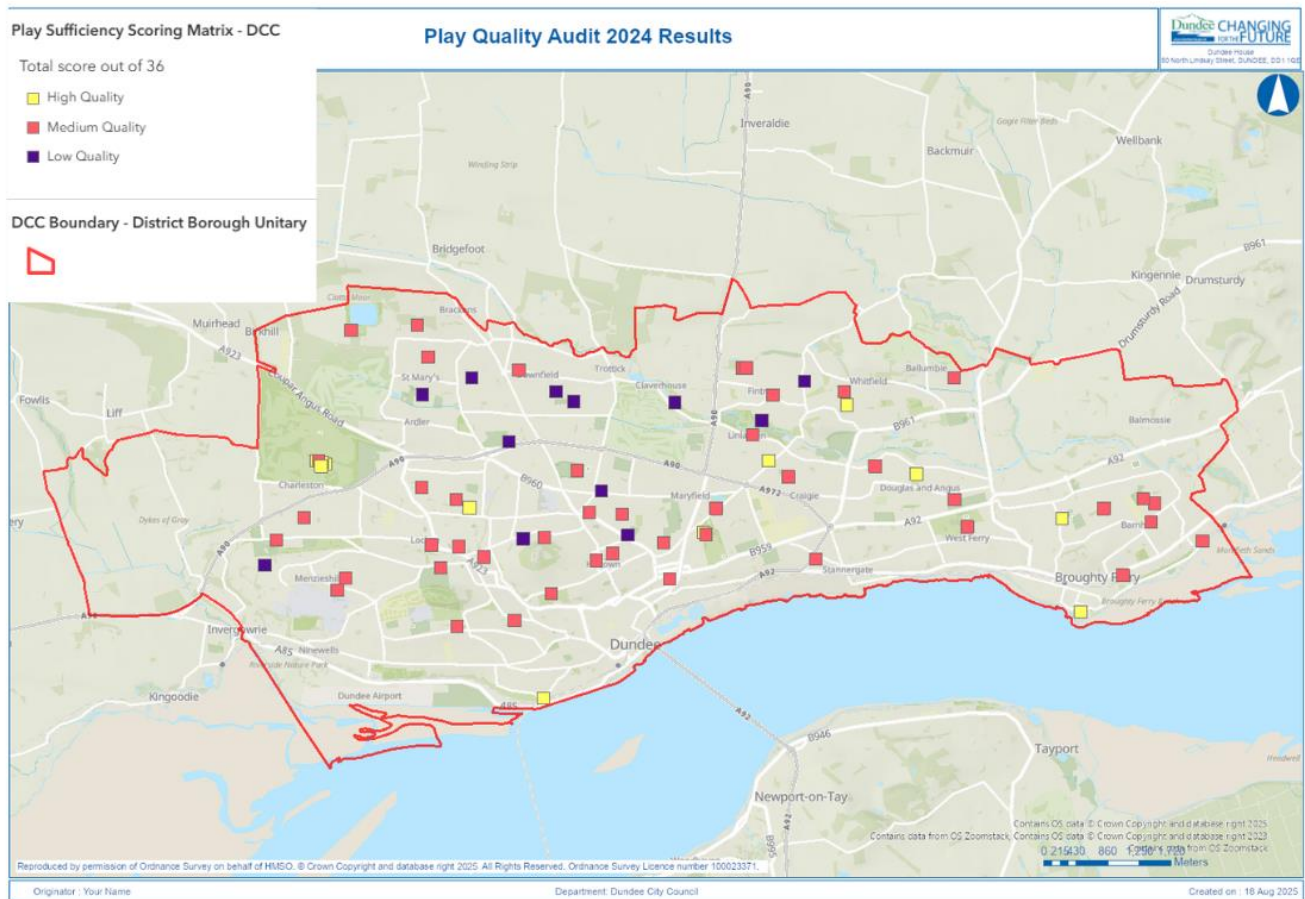
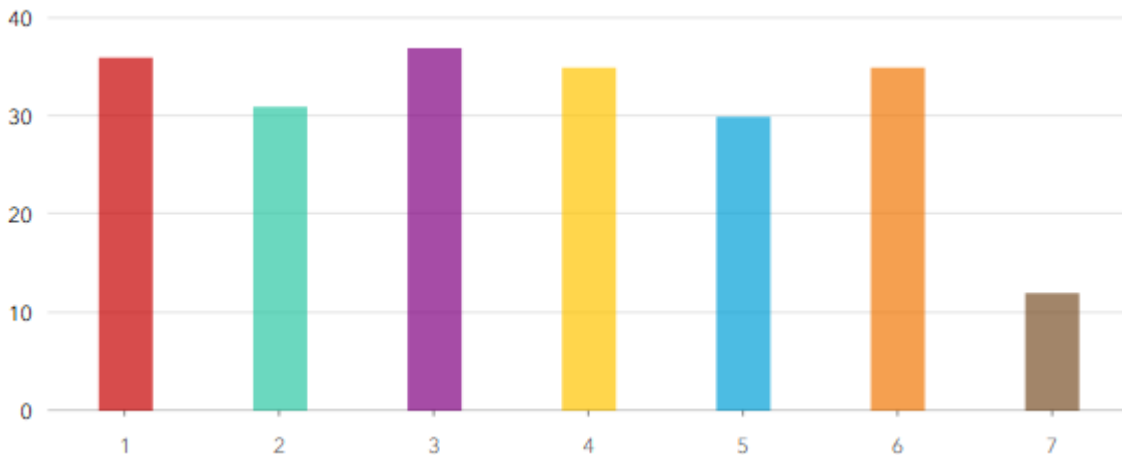


Figure 8: Map of play quality audit results

When asked “How would you rate the quality of the places to play or hang out in your area?”, respondents to the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) survey gave an average score of 2.4

out of 5. The most frequently selected rating was 3 out of 5, chosen by 110 respondents (34.5%), suggesting a general level of satisfaction but with clear room for improvement.

As part of the Place Standard survey, residents were asked: “How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?”. Responses were rated on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 indicated “lots of room for improvement” and 7 meant “very little room for improvement.” The results were mixed, with an average score of 3.69 out of 7 across the city.



Answers	Count	Percentage
1	36	16.67%
2	31	14.35%
3	37	17.13%
4	35	16.2%
5	30	13.89%
6	35	16.2%
7	12	5.56%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

Figure 9: "How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?", Place Standard survey results

When asked “What is good now?” about play and recreation, many respondents highlighted access to nature and public greenspaces as key strengths. Specific parks and open spaces frequently mentioned in a positive light included Balgay, Camperdown, Caird,

Dawson, Dudhope, Fairmuir, Castle Green, Slessor Gardens, Stobsmuir, Magdalen Green, Riverside, Baxter Park, and the Law. Respondents also appreciated the variety of events held in greenspaces during summer and the walkability and cycling access to many local play parks.

Most respondents value play areas that are close to home, easy to access, and offer a mix of equipment. Safety, fun, and natural features like trees and logs are also highly appreciated. Cleanliness, seating, and toilet facilities contribute to positive experiences, highlighting the importance of well-maintained, inclusive, and accessible spaces for play and social interaction.

What are the things you like about the area where you hang out or play?
You can choose as many as you like

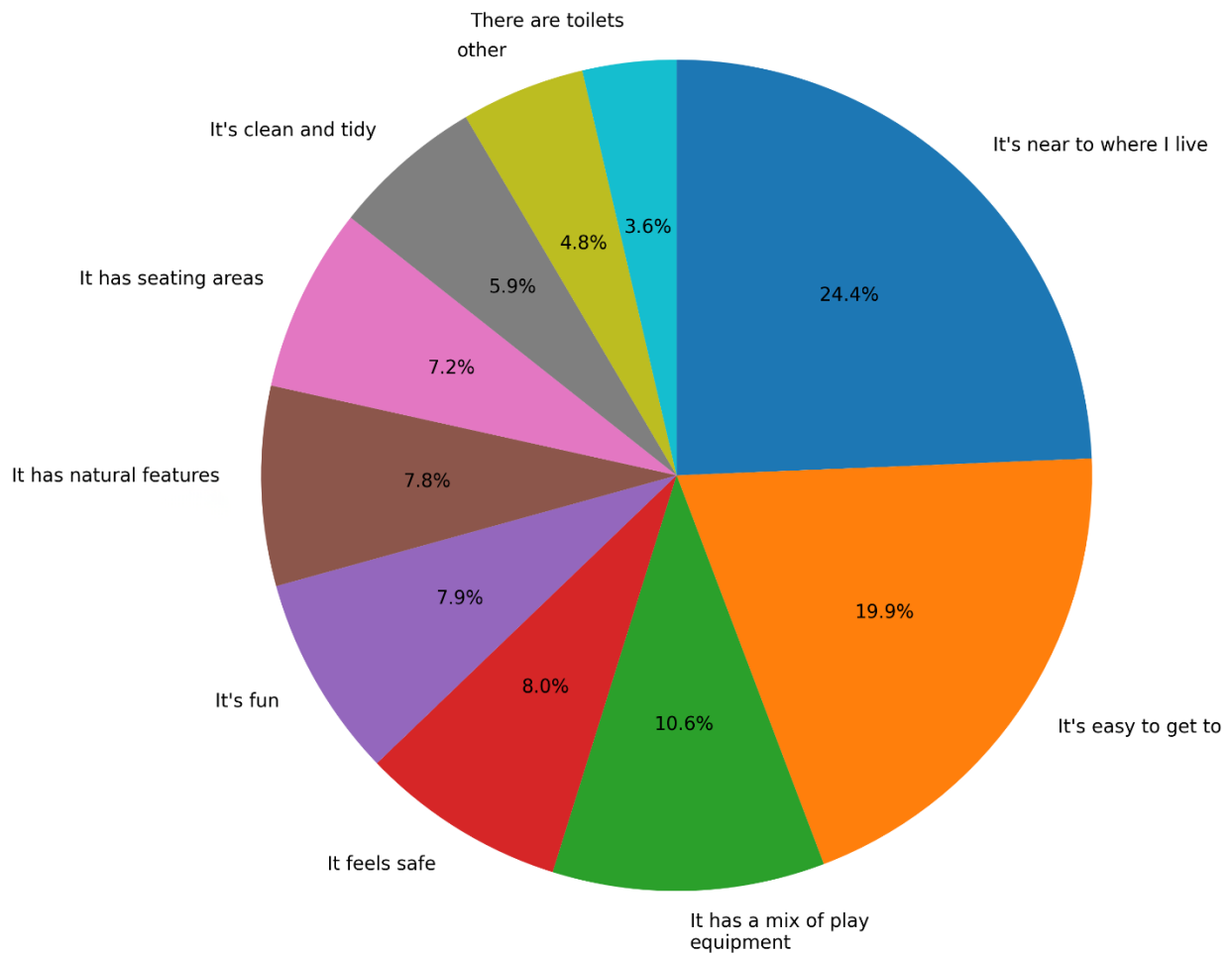


Figure 10: What respondents like, Play Sufficiency Assessment Survey results

Similarly, respondents dislike broken or outdated equipment, untidiness, and poor lighting. A lack of seating, unsafe roads nearby, and limited features for older children also concern

respondents. Some feel unsafe or unwelcome, and others mention difficulty accessing these spaces independently.

What are the things you dislike about where you hang out or play? You can choose as many as you like.

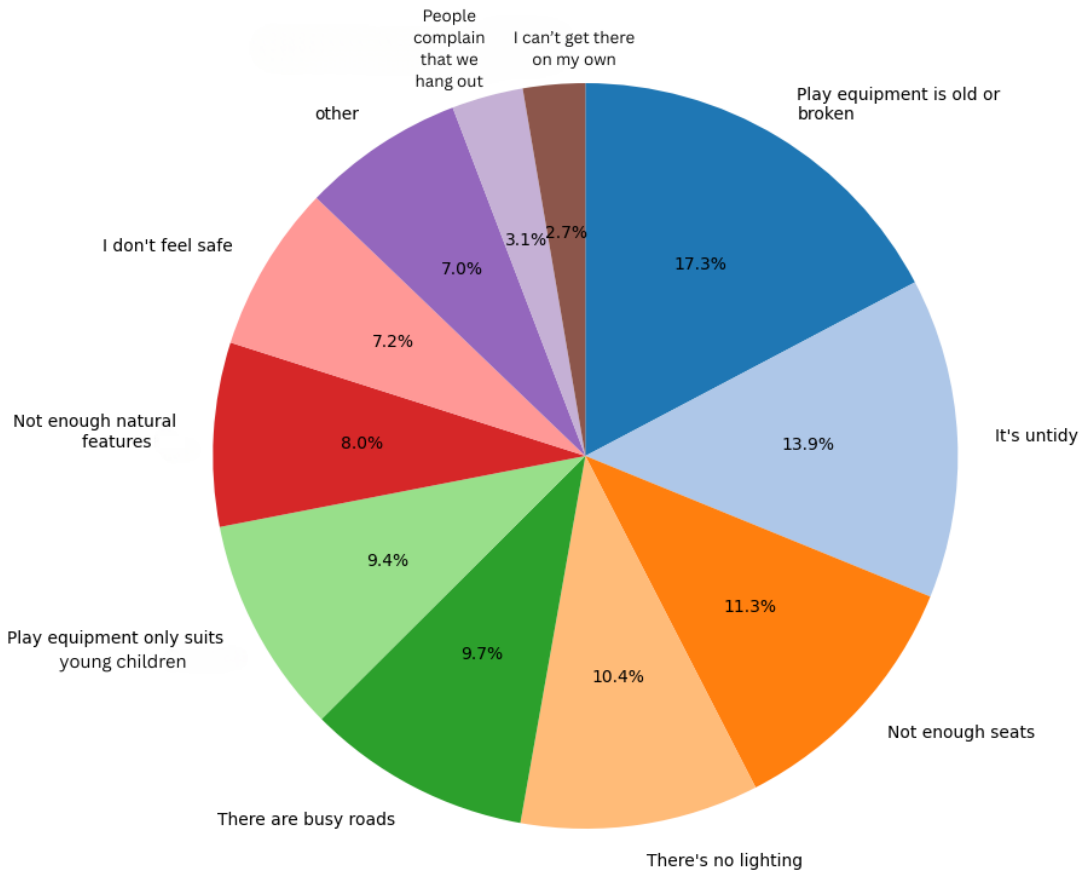


Figure 11: What respondents dislike, Play Sufficiency Assessment Survey results

In response to “How could we make it better in future?”, common concerns for Place Standard survey respondents included a lack of sufficient play areas, particularly in newer or more peripheral developments. Issues such as maintenance, vandalism, and safety were frequently raised, along with accessibility challenges for people with disabilities.

Based on responses from across the city, residents shared a wide range of ideas for improving places where children and young people hang out or play. The most common suggestion was to upgrade or replace equipment, particularly to ensure it is safe, modern, and suitable for children of all ages, including older children and teenagers. Many respondents called for more toilets, seating, and lighting, especially to make spaces feel safer and more usable in the evenings or during colder months.

People also highlighted the need for expanding fenced play areas to improve safety and accessibility, and for designing spaces specifically for older children, such as those aged 8 and above. There was a strong emphasis on inclusivity, with calls for more accessible and sensory-friendly equipment to support children with additional needs. Suggestions also included enhancing surfaces, improving biodiversity, and adding safety features like better crossings and visibility.

Cleanliness and maintenance were recurring concerns, with many pointing to broken equipment, litter, and dog mess as barriers to enjoyable outdoor play.

Several respondents highlighted a lack of safe outdoor spaces for teenage girls and suggestions for improving this included installing grouped seating areas so that they can face each other and chat, access to phone charging points, and places to dance and make videos.

Urban Releaf survey and app respondents highlighted that they enjoyed play areas which had a range of equipment to suit different age groups, lots of places to sit and were located within greenspaces and near schools. Suggestions for improvement included:

- Access to free wifi
- More sheltered areas from the sun/rain
- More opportunities for risky play
- Spaces without adults
- Public toilets
- Equipment for disabled people to use



Figure 12: Word Cloud showing what respondents would like to see improved, Play Sufficiency Assessment results

The above word cloud was generated using Microsoft Copilot. All responses to the question “how would you improve the area(s) where you or your children meet up or play?” were anonymized and processed to identify key themes. Common stopwords (e.g., "and", "the", "of") were removed, along with survey-specific generic words such as "play", "park", and "equipment", which were overly dominant and not helpful for distinguishing different ideas. Words were then normalized (e.g., lowercased), and the frequency of each remaining meaningful term was used to generate the word cloud.

3.4. Accessibility

The service area network analysis map below shows that most Dundee residents live within a 10-minute walking distance of a play park. Areas not covered by this walking distance tend to be industrial zones with few residential properties. Additionally, several gaps were identified near schools, which may be due to the exclusion of school-based play park facilities from this assessment. The decision was taken to exclude these areas due to inconsistent opening hours, but many are open for community use 7 days a week and during school holidays. However, it's important to note that major roads—such as the Kingsway—can act as significant barriers to access, particularly for children and young people. These physical constraints may not be fully captured by the network analysis. Closer inspection of the 5-minute walking time service area indicates poor accessibility for significantly more residential properties. This is further explored in the ward level assessments in Chapter 4.

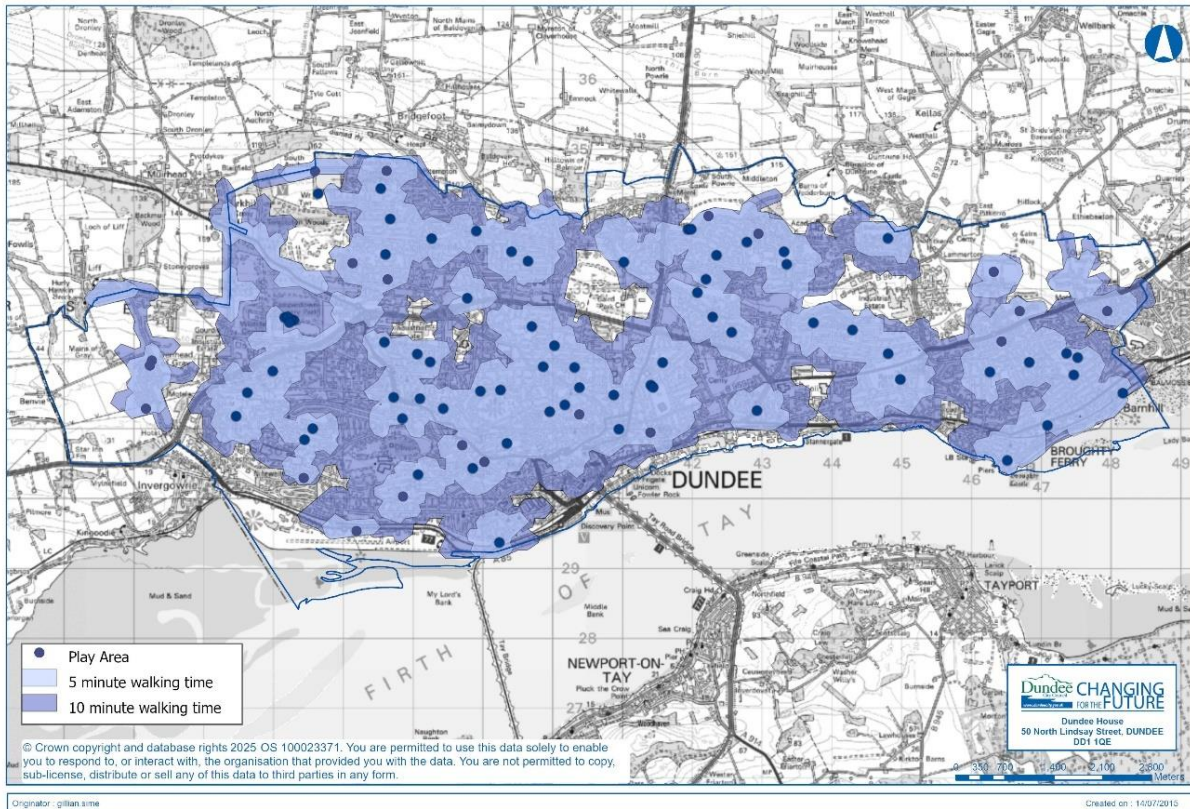


Figure 13: 5 and 10-minute walking travel times from play areas in Dundee (DCC and private)

Local authorities and developers have been using the terms Local Area for Play (LAP), Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP), and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) as long-standing guidelines for play areas across the UK (Fields in Trust, 2024).

Among Dundee’s Council-owned play parks:

- 29 are Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)—primarily designed for children aged 8 to 14. These areas typically exceed 1,000 m² and offer a diverse range of play and informal recreational opportunities suited to older, more independent children who venture further from home. However, they may also include elements suitable for younger age groups. NEAPs should be well-integrated with surrounding open spaces, clearly visible from pedestrian routes, safely separated from traffic, and accessible via firm-surfaced paths. They are generally located within 1,000 metres of residential areas.
- 25 are Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), aimed at children aged 4–8, around 400 m² in size, and equipped for children who are beginning to play independently with friends, without accompanying adults, and for adults with young children. These

should be accessible without crossing major roads and located within 400 metres of homes.

- 15 are Local Areas for Play (LAPs), intended for very young children (up to age 6) to play close to where they live, approximately 100 m², and offering simple, low-key play features. These should be positioned beside well-used pedestrian routes, located within 100 metres of homes, and visible from nearby homes for informal supervision.

The map below shows all Dundee City Council owned play parks by type:

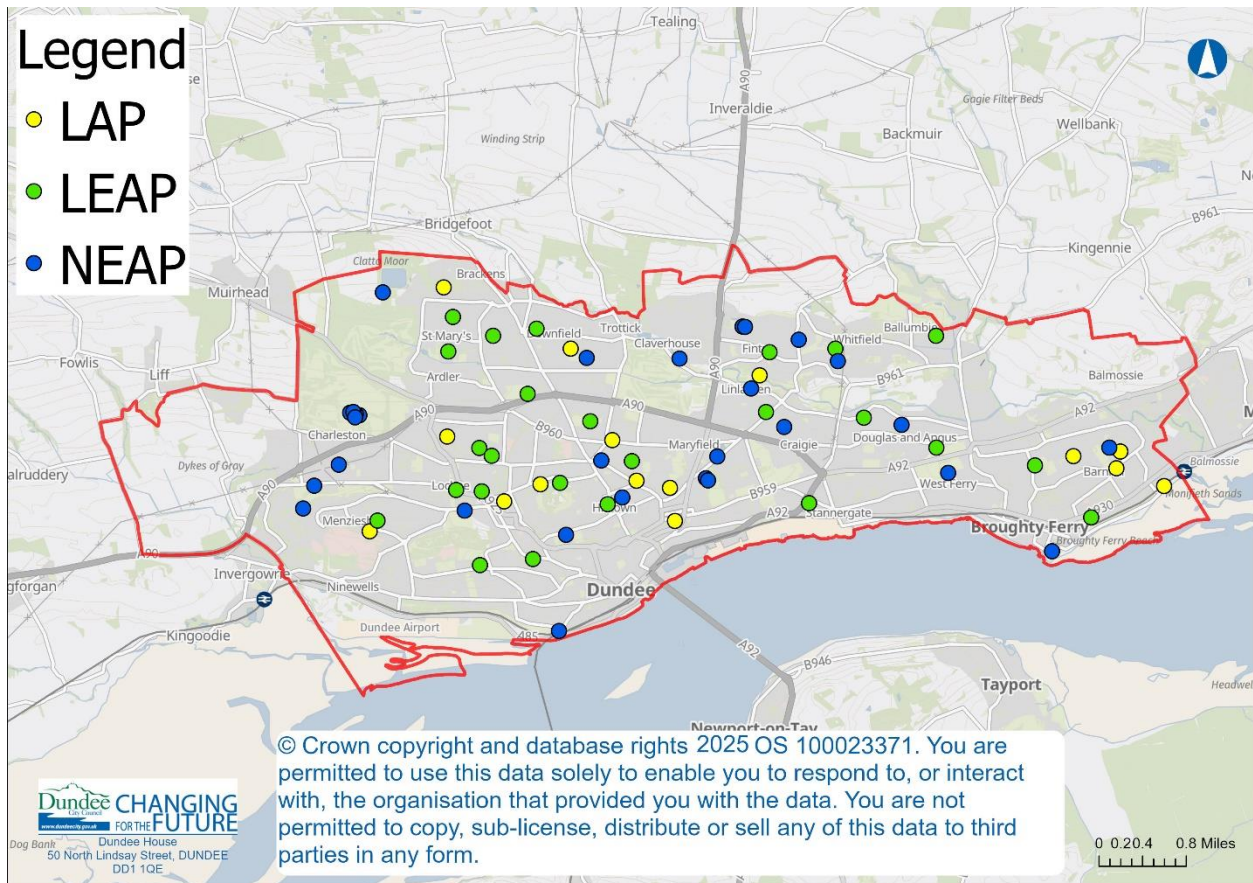


Figure 14: Map of DCC play parks by type

Across the survey responses and datasets, accessibility emerged as a significant concern, particularly for children and families affected by disabilities. Respondents consistently highlighted the lack of inclusive and accessible play equipment, inadequate infrastructure, and environmental barriers that limit participation for children with physical, sensory, and neurodiverse needs.

Key themes:

- Many parks lack wheelchair-accessible swings, roundabouts, and climbing structures.
- Respondents noted that existing equipment often caters only to younger children or those without mobility challenges.
- There were repeated calls for sensory play features, such as musical instruments, tactile surfaces, and quiet spaces for children with autism or sensory processing disorders.
- Access routes to parks are often unsuitable for wheelchairs or prams, with uneven paths, steps, or grassy areas that become muddy.
- Surfaces like bark chips or rubber mulch were cited as difficult to navigate for wheelchair users.
- Some parks are located across busy roads without safe crossings, making independent access difficult or unsafe.
- A major concern was the lack of accessible toilets, particularly those with adult-sized changing tables and hoists.
- Parents and carers expressed frustration that children with disabilities often cannot play alongside their peers due to inaccessible design.

There were suggestions for enclosed, visible, and supervised spaces to support safe, independent play. Other suggestions included designing parks with multi-age and multi-ability use in mind, including quiet zones and sensory gardens and increasing community engagement in park design to reflect diverse needs.

4. Ward Level Assessment

4.1. Coldside

4.1.1. Quantity

There are 12 play parks in Coldside Ward. This equates to approximately 228 children and young people per play park, suggesting a higher provision of play spaces relative to the population than the city-wide average. Of the Dundee City Council play areas in Coldside, four are LAPs, four are LEAPs and three are NEAPs.

There are around 1.17 play parks per 1,000 households in Coldside, below the city-wide average.

There is also one outdoor gym area at Hilltown Park, and two Agility Trail areas at Hilltown Park and Wellgate Park.

As for areas offering opportunities for informal play, there is a kickabout area at D.P.M. Park, and a skatepark and Multiuse Games Area at Dudhope Park.

4.1.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed 11 publicly owned play parks in Coldside, of which 8 were assessed as “medium quality” and 3 were assessed as “low quality”. Of the three assessed as “low quality”, Kinpurnie Place and Fairbairn Street have since been upgraded and Clepington Road is due to be upgraded in 2025/2026. All play parks in Coldside were found to have natural features such as trees, bushes and shrubs either within the boundaries or in close vicinity.

Survey participants assessing Coldside Ward gave the highest score out of all wards for the quality of places to play/hang out (2.82 out of 5).

Residents in Coldside shared a mix of positive feedback and areas for improvement regarding local play opportunities.

Key Strengths

- Football clubs were highlighted as important community assets, offering inclusive opportunities for children and young people to stay active and engaged.
- There was a consensus that local parks are of good quality and well maintained.

- Dudhope Park received praise for its diverse amenities, including a skate park, tennis courts, basketball hoops, a well-equipped play area, and garden spaces.
- Fairmuir Park was noted for its modern play facilities, and Kings Park was appreciated as a valuable space for families.

Areas for Improvement

- A recurring concern was the lack of inclusive play equipment, especially for disabled children and wheelchair users. Families expressed frustration at having to travel outside the area to access suitable facilities.
- Respondents also noted a shortage of seating for adults and insufficient rubbish bins within parks, which affects comfort and cleanliness.
- Some parents described the experience of watching one child play while another, with additional needs, had no accessible options, underscoring the need for fully inclusive design.
- Suggestions included adding see-saws, more colourful and engaging equipment, and accessible toilets to support longer visits.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, the following work has been undertaken:

Play Area	New Equipment	Improvements to Existing Equipment	New Inclusive Equipment	Surface Improvements	Infrastructure & Landscape Improvements
Stirling Street	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Dudhope Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Fairbairn Street	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Kinpurnie Place	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lawton Road	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Moncur Crescent	✓	✓	✓	✓	-

- Upcoming proposals include:
 - Clepington Road – Substantial refurbishment, expected in early 2026.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. Wider community consultation and significant

community engagement will be carried out for Clepington Road, where more substantial improvements are proposed.

4.1.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 79% of Coldside postcodes are within 400m of green space (the second highest of all wards in the city).

The network analysis mapping indicates that most of Coldside is within a ten-minute walk of a play area. However, there are notable gaps in provision near Kingspark School in the Glens area and around the publicly accessible greenspace at Granton Terrace. While some residential parts of the Glens and Fairmuir fall within a ten-minute walk but not a five-minute walk of a play area, these locations still benefit from close access to greenspace and the facilities at Kingspark School.

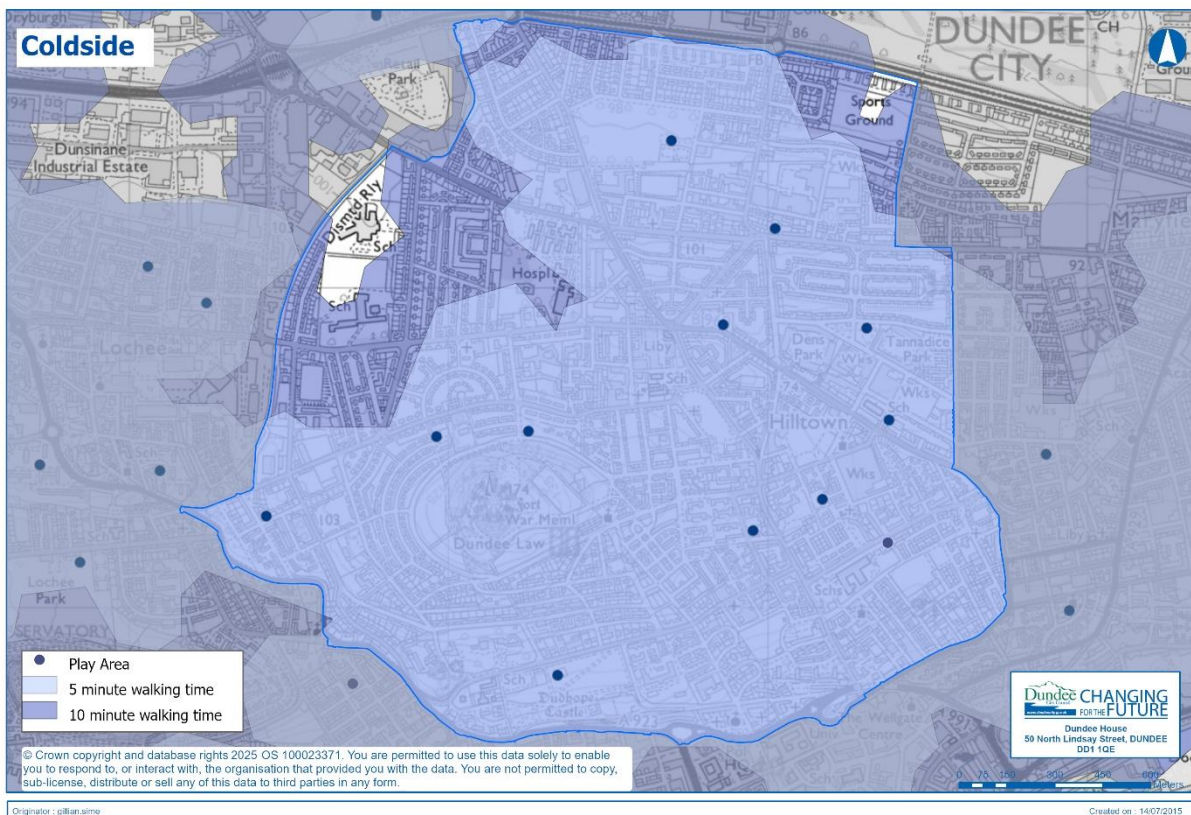


Figure 15: Walking travel time service areas, Coldside

4.2. Maryfield

4.2.1. Quantity

There are six play parks in Maryfield Ward, equating to approximately 403 children and young people per play park. This figure exceeds the city-wide average, suggesting a lower provision of play spaces relative to the population. Of the five Dundee City Council play areas in Maryfield, two are LAPs and three are NEAPs.

There are around 0.65 play parks per 1,000 households in Maryfield, below the city-wide average.

There are two agility trail areas (Baxter Park and Robertson Street), two outdoor gym areas (Stobsmuir Park and Baxter Park) and one Multiuse Games Area (Baxter Park) in Maryfield. The Ward also benefits from the Urban Beach Sand Play Area, Light Water Play Area, Slessor Gardens and Interactive Digital Play Area located at Dundee's Waterfront.

4.2.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed five publicly owned play parks in Maryfield, of which four were assessed as "medium quality" and one (Baxter Park) was assessed as "high quality". Crescent Street and Baxter Park Play Areas are scheduled for upgrades in 2025/26. All play parks in Maryfield were assessed as having "pleasant and attractive settings" and assessors noted the presence of trees, bushes and shrubs within all play areas.

Survey participants assessing Maryfield Ward gave the score of 2.41 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out.

Responses from Maryfield Ward highlight a strong demand for enhanced play provision, particularly for older children and those with additional support needs. Many residents described current play equipment as outdated, damaged, or only suitable for very young children, limiting opportunities for inclusive and engaging play.

Safety emerged as a key concern, with frequent mentions of:

- Antisocial behaviour from older youths.
- Insufficient lighting, making parks feel unsafe after dark.
- Busy roads and poor pedestrian access, especially near popular parks.
- Dog fouling and litter, which deter families from using grassy areas.

There was a clear call for improved toilet facilities, especially in Baxter Park, where toilets are often locked or unavailable during peak times. This was seen as a barrier for families with young children, people with medical needs, and those staying for longer visits.

Respondents also identified the need for:

- More seating and sheltered areas for carers and families.
- Inclusive and accessible equipment, such as wheelchair-friendly swings and sensory features.
- Better maintenance and cleanliness, with regular inspections and community oversight.

Some families reported avoiding local parks altogether, choosing instead to travel to better-equipped areas—limiting children’s independence and social interaction. Others proposed creative improvements, including water play features, youth clubs, and community-led redesigns of underused spaces.

Baxter Park was frequently mentioned as a site with potential for enhancement, with suggestions including a skate park and updated play equipment. Concerns were raised about older children dominating play areas at Baxter Park, making them less welcoming for younger users.

Other valued spaces included the agility trail and green space on Robertson Street, while the sensory gardens at Slessor Gardens were appreciated by families with neurodivergent children.

Finally, several respondents expressed a desire to see more play opportunities within the city centre, to ensure all children have access to safe, stimulating, and inclusive places to play close to home.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, no further work has been undertaken in this ward.
- Upcoming proposals include:
 - Crescent Street – Substantial refurbishment, expected in early 2026.
 - Baxter Park – Extension of existing play area including a substantial new landmark item, due on site autumn 2025.

- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. Extensive consultation with DCC Community Officers and the Friends group was carried out for Baxter Park. Further consultation will be carried out for Crescent Street.

4.2.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 73% of Maryfield postcodes are within 400m of green space.

The network analysis mapping indicates that most of Maryfield residents live within a ten-minute walk of a play area. However, there are notable gaps in provision in the Woodside area to the North and City Quay/the Harbour to the South. However, children and young people living in the Harbour area do have close access to Waterfront Place which offers informal play opportunities provided by the urban beach, water features, interactive digital play area, and cycle hub.

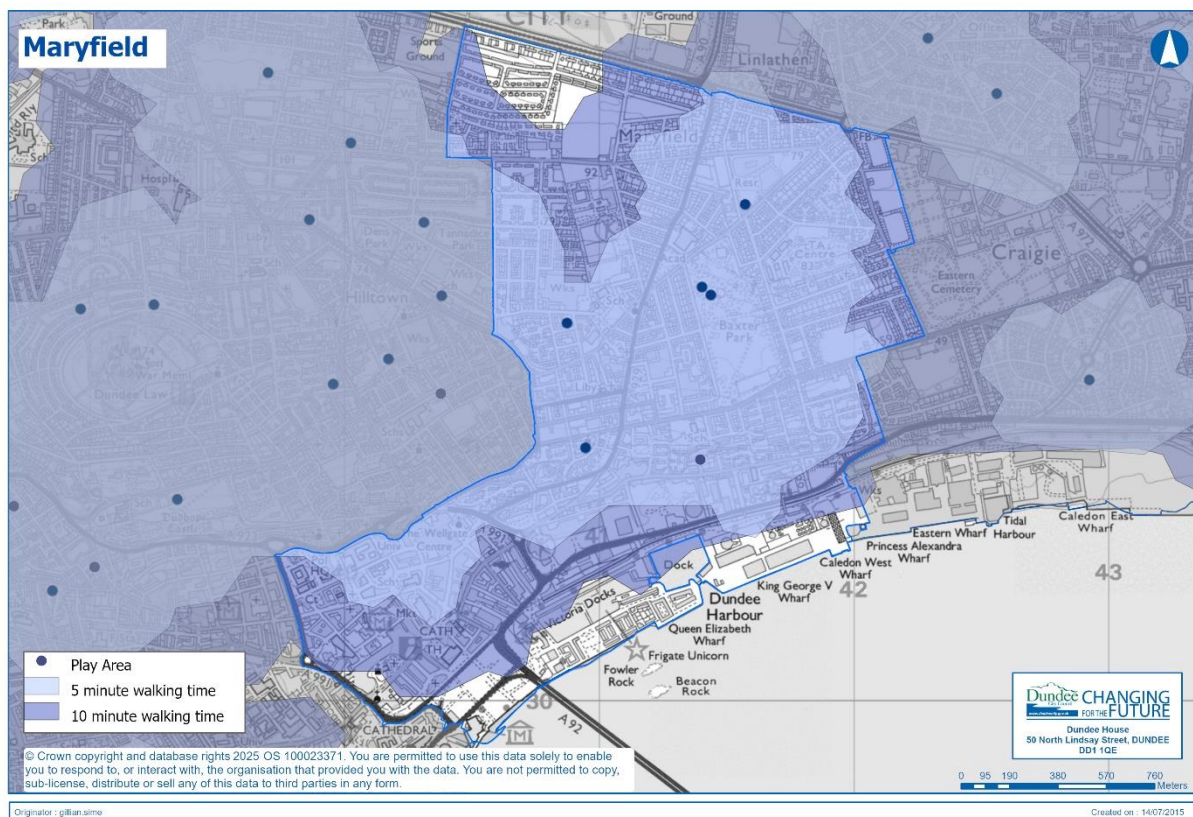


Figure 16: Walking travel time service areas, Maryfield

4.3. Lochee

4.3.1. Quantity

There are 13 play parks in Lochee Ward, equating to approximately 313 children and young people per play park. This figure slightly exceeds the city-wide average, suggesting a lower provision of play spaces relative to the population. Of the 10 Dundee City Council play areas in Lochee, three are NEAPs, 5 are LEAPs and two are LAPs.

There are around 1.37 play parks per 1,000 households in Lochee, above the city-wide average.

There are eight agility trail areas in greenspaces across the ward, an outdoor gym area and skatepark at South Road Park, and three Multi-Use Games Areas (South Road Park, Beechwood and Whorterbank).

4.3.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed 10 publicly owned play areas in Lochee, of which one was assessed as “low quality” (Spey Drive), eight were assessed as “medium quality” and one was assessed as “high quality” (Beechwood). Spey Drive has since received an upgrade which was completed in April 2025. All play parks in Lochee were assessed as being overlooked by housing/offices which can improve perceptions of safety, and assessors noted that all play areas in this ward were within a short walk to public transport links.

Survey participants assessing Lochee Ward gave the score of 2.5 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out.

A few respondents noted that there are some good quality play parks within walking distance, which are appreciated by local families. The South Road play area was frequently highlighted as a safe and secure area enjoyed by children.

There was a perception that recreational spaces are underutilised, often limited to football goal posts and a single tennis court, which restricts diverse play and sports activities.

Several respondents expressed a desire for more safe and accessible play areas, especially for younger children who require adult supervision, and for teenagers to hang out.

Concerns were raised about the lack of inclusive equipment, particularly for children with disabilities, and the absence of basic amenities such as seating, lighting, natural features and bins. Respondents were also concerned about high traffic speeds near play areas.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, the following work has been undertaken:

Play Area	New Equipment	Improvements to Existing Equipment	New Inclusive Equipment	Surface Improvements	Infrastructure & Landscape Improvements
Foggyley Gardens	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Kirk Street	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Whorterbank	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Spey Drive	✓	Complete Refurbishment	✓	✓	✓

- There are no upcoming proposals for local authority-owned play parks in this ward.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. Extensive consultation was carried out with community stakeholders and Community Officers for Spey Drive.

4.3.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 68% of Lochee postcodes are within 400m of green space.

The network analysis mapping indicates that most residential areas in the ward are within a 10-minute walk time of a play area with the exception of the northern part of the Dykes of Gray development around the former Liff hospital. However, residents of this area have good access to high quality green spaces. The other gaps in the network analysis are predominantly industrial areas.

There are significantly more residences located out with a five-minute walk time of play areas including some neighbourhoods within Menzieshill and Charleston.

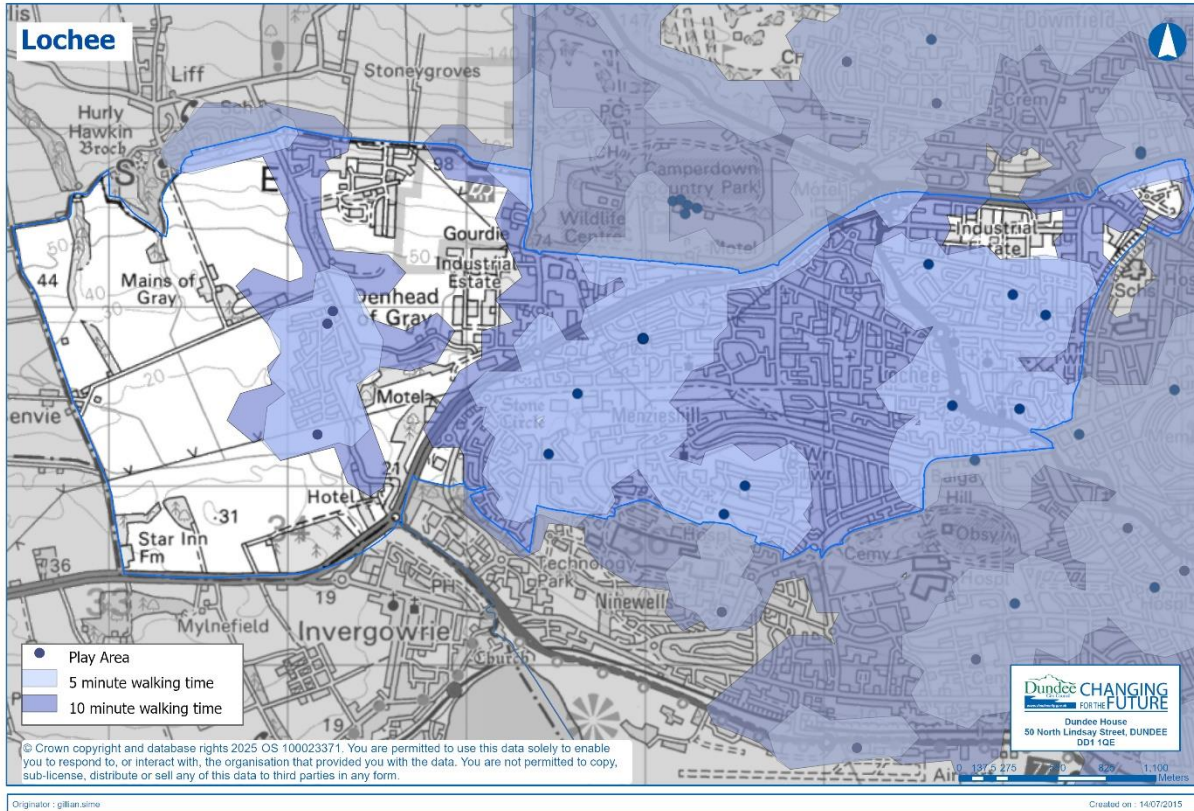


Figure 17: Walking travel time service areas, Lochee

4.4. West End

4.4.1. Quantity

There are nine play parks in West End Ward, equating to approximately 249 children and young people per play park. This figure is lower than the city-wide average, suggesting a higher provision of play spaces relative to the population. It is important to note, however, that only four of these parks are Dundee City Council owned and managed. Of these, two are NEAPs and two are LEAPs.

There are around 0.96 play parks per 1,000 households in West End, below the city-wide average.

Other play infrastructure in the West End includes one agility trail area in Victoria Park, two outdoor gym areas in Lochee Park and Black Street and a dog agility trail in Balgay Park.

4.4.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed four publicly owned play areas in West End, of which Magdalen Green was assessed as “high quality”, and the other three received “medium quality” scores. Lochee Park was the lowest scoring play area but has since received an upgrade in May 2025. All play parks in West End were assessed as having “pleasant/attractive settings” and were considered within a close walk of public transport links.

Survey participants assessing West End Ward gave the score of 2.26 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out, the second lowest of all wards.

Key Strengths

- Some respondents described local play areas as safe, secure, clean, and tidy. Magdalen Green play area was noted as being particularly well used.
- Many respondents expressed that local green spaces such as Balgay Park and Magdalen Green offer great play value for children and young people.

Areas for Improvement

- Lack of inclusive and accessible equipment was a recurring concern, particularly for children with disabilities.
- Several comments highlighted the need for more diverse and age-appropriate play equipment, especially for older children and teenagers.
- Toilet facilities were noted as missing or inadequate in many parks.
- Safety concerns were raised, including the need for traffic lights or safer crossings near parks.
- Suggestions included accessible swings and roundabouts, enclosed sports areas, and water features like those found in other parts of Dundee. There is appreciation for creative and engaging play concepts, with one child respondent suggesting inspiration from international examples like the Angry Birds Park in Finland.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, the following work has been undertaken:

Play Area	New Equipment	Improvements to Existing Equipment	New Inclusive Equipment	Surface Improvements	Infrastructure & Landscape Improvements
Lochee Park	✓	-	✓	✓	✓

- There are no upcoming proposals for local authority-owned play parks in this ward.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community.

4.4.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 44% of West End postcodes are within 400m of green space which is the lowest of all wards.

The network analysis mapping indicates that streets surrounding Ninewells Hospital are under-provided for and out with a 10-minute walk time of a play area. However, residents of this area have good access to Riverside Nature Park and Balgay Park. There are also gaps surrounding the University of Dundee/Nethergate and Technology Park but there are very few residential properties in these areas.

There are significantly more residences located outwith a five-minute walk time of play areas including some in Hawkhill and close to Perth Road. Blackness Primary school playground not being included in the mapping may account for this and provide play opportunities close to home for many in the area.

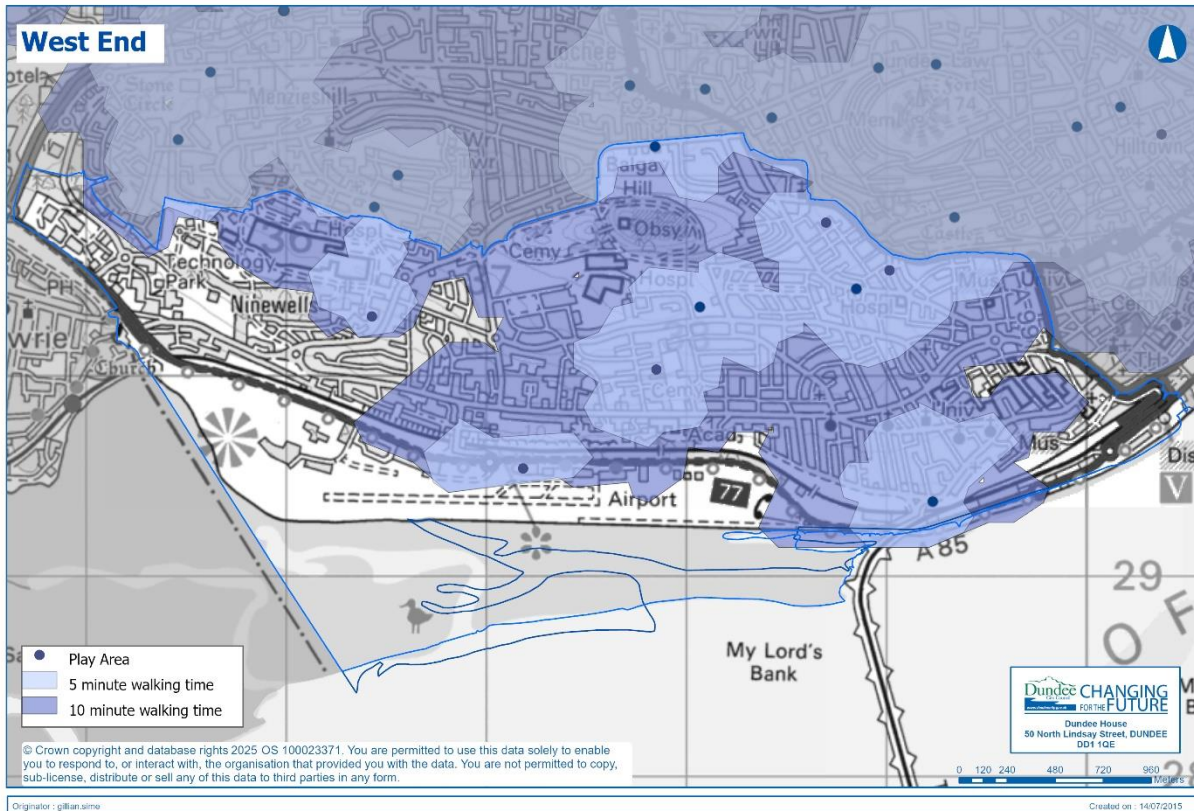


Figure 18: Walking travel time service areas, West End

4.5. The Ferry

4.5.1. Quantity

There are 13 play parks in The Ferry Ward, equating to approximately 261 children and young people per play park. This figure is lower than the city-wide average, suggesting a higher provision of play spaces relative to the population. Of the Council-owned play areas, three are NEAPs, two are LEAPs and four are LAPs.

There are around 1.45 play parks per 1,000 households in The Ferry, above the city-wide average.

Other play infrastructure in The Ferry includes a variety of facilities across several parks. These include six agility trail areas located in Reres Park, Broughty Ferry Esplanade, and Gillies Park; three outdoor gym zones in Dawson Park and Stannergate; and a Kiddie Karts area at Castle Green. Gillies Park also features a Multi-Use Games Area and a kickabout

space. Dawson Park offers additional amenities including a dog agility trail and a dedicated basketball area.

4.5.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed nine publicly owned play areas in The Ferry, of which Castle Green and Fintry Place were assessed as “high quality”, and the other seven were assessed as “medium quality”. All play parks in The Ferry were noted as containing litter bins and seating as well as trees, shrubs and bushes.

Survey participants assessing The Ferry Ward gave the score of 2.33 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out.

Key Strengths

- Many respondents noted that parks are easy to get to and close to where they live.
- Several parks were praised for being clean, tidy, and having natural features like trees and grassy areas.
- Some parks, such as Castle Green, were appreciated for having toilet facilities.
- Respondents often described the parks as fun and enjoyable for children, especially younger ones.
- The Gillies Park refurbishment was well received by a number of respondents.

Areas for Improvement

- Many comments highlighted that play equipment is old, broken, or uninspiring, especially for older children.
- New installations (e.g. Castle Green) were sometimes described as disappointing or not age appropriate.
- Requests for more challenging, imaginative, or interactive equipment were common.
- Several respondents noted a lack of play equipment for children with disabilities.
- Concerns were raised about accessibility of new structures, particularly for children with mobility issues.

- Issues such as broken glass, vandalism, and poor lighting were frequently mentioned.
- Some parks were described as unsafe or poorly maintained, with calls for more regular upkeep and repairs.
- Requests for more seating, bins, and shelter were common.
- Suggestions included skateparks, pump tracks, and sports areas to better serve older children and teens, especially in Balgillo where it was felt these areas are lacking.
- Some respondents expressed frustration at lack of consultation on new park developments.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, no further work has been undertaken.
- There are no upcoming proposals for local authority-owned play parks in this ward.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. Extensive consultation was carried out with community stakeholders and Community Officers for Castle Green, CRF funding was also contributed by the community.

4.5.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 48% of The Ferry postcodes are within 400m of green space, the second lowest of all wards.

The network analysis mapping shows that most residential areas within The Ferry ward are located within a 10-minute walk of a play area. However, two small gaps were identified—one to the northeast of Barnhill and another around West Queen Street. The gap near Barnhill may be attributed to the presence of the Dighty Water, which extends walking distances by limiting direct access. Although the area around West Queen Street appears underserved in the analysis, play facilities at Eastern Primary School—while not included in the network model—are accessible to children living nearby and help to mitigate this gap.

There are significantly more residences located outwith a five-minute walk time of play areas including some in West Ferry and Barnhill.

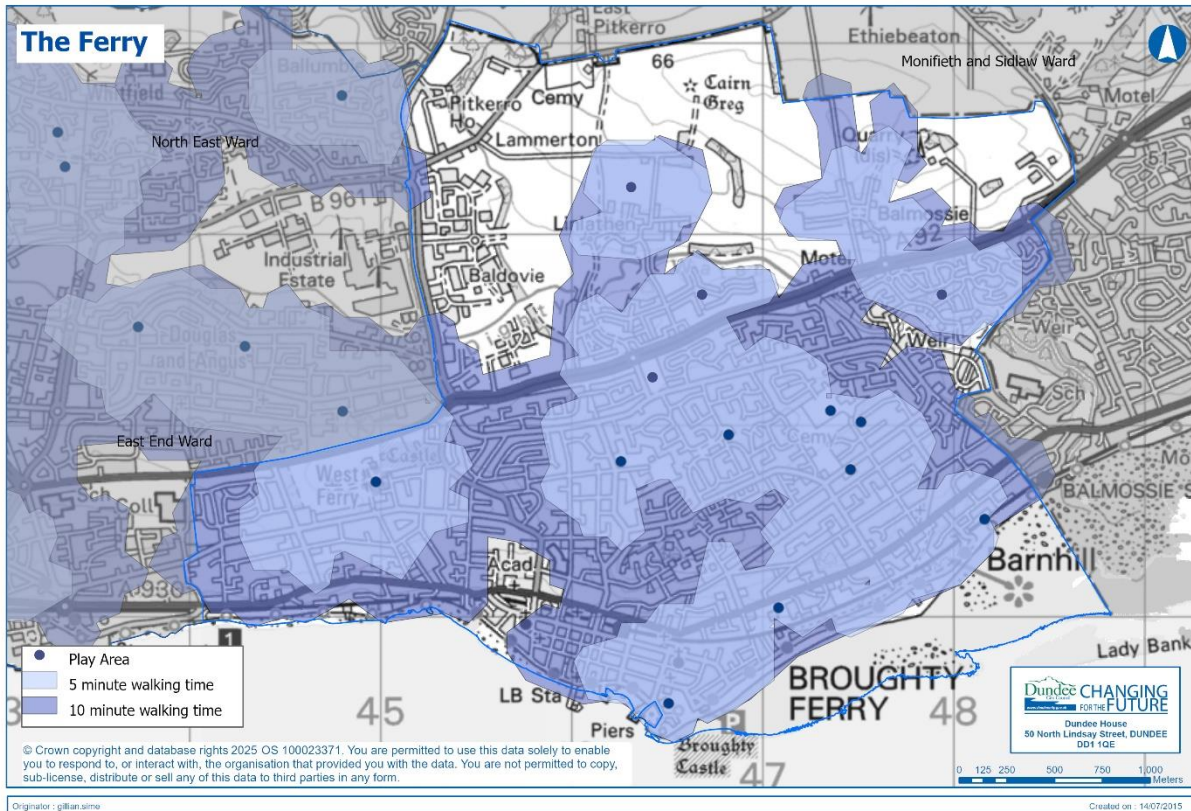


Figure 19: Walking travel time service areas, The Ferry

4.6. Strathmartine

4.6.1. Quantity

There are 18 play parks in Strathmartine, equating to approximately 237 children and young people per play park. This figure is lower than the city-wide average, suggesting a higher provision of play spaces relative to the population. It is important to note that five of these play areas are in Camperdown Country Park.

There are around 2.15 play parks per 1,000 households in Strathmartine, above the city-wide average.

Strathmartine offers a variety of other play infrastructure, including an outdoor gym, agility trail, and kickabout area at Camperdown Park; an additional outdoor gym at Clatto Country Park; seven more agility trails across the ward; three Multi-Use Games Areas; and two further kickabout areas.

4.6.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed 14 publicly owned play areas in Strathmartine, of which four at Camperdown Country Park were assessed as “high quality”, four were assessed as “medium quality” and five were assessed as “low quality”. However, since the play quality audit was undertaken, St Leonards Place Play Park has been upgraded, and Keswick Terrace is due an upgrade in 2025. All paths to play parks in Strathmartine were noted as in good condition and the immediate outlook for most play areas was mainly green/open space.

Survey participants assessing Strathmartine Ward gave the score of 2.42 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out.

Key Strengths

- Proximity to home and ease of access.
- Presence of natural features like trees.
- Feeling of safety in some areas.
- Cleanliness and tidiness in select locations.
- Fun and engaging play experiences for younger children.
- Seating areas available in some parks.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Upgrade and repair equipment: Many parks have outdated, broken, or unsafe play structures.
- Improve accessibility: Calls for wheelchair-friendly paths and inclusive play equipment.
- Add lighting: Especially for winter months to improve safety and usability.
- Increase seating and shelter: More benches and covered areas for rest and socialising.
- Expand play options: More equipment for older children and teenagers, including skate parks, football goals, and climbing structures.

- Enhance safety: Address vandalism, antisocial behaviour, and install CCTV or park wardens. This was seen as a particular issue in Kirkton.
- Improve cleanliness: Regular maintenance, litter removal, and dog waste management.
- Create more green and nature-based spaces: Including sand pits, sensory gardens, and nature trails.
- Add toilets and refreshment facilities: Especially in larger parks like Camperdown and Clatto.
- Better community engagement: Involve local residents in park design and maintenance.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, no further work has been undertaken.
- Upcoming proposals include:
 - Keswick Terrace: Substantial refurbishment is expected in early 2026 and is to include; new paths, safety surfacing, Robinia climbing frames and agility trails, inclusive items, seating and trees.
 - Camperdown Park: Renewal of a large section, to include more inclusive items and higher play value to replace old and worn equipment.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. There has been extensive consultation carried out with community stakeholders and Community Officers for Keswick Terrace.

4.6.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 65% of Strathmartine postcodes are within 400m of green space.

The network analysis mapping shows that most residential areas within Strathmartine ward are located within a 10-minute walk of a play area. There are some small gaps around Harestane Road and Pitempton Road. Although the area around Harestane Road appears underserved in the analysis, a play area and agility trail at Sidlaw View primary school—while not included in the network model—are accessible to children living nearby and help to mitigate this gap. There are significantly more residences located outwith a five-minute walk

time of play areas including some in Kirkton, Brackens and Trottick areas. However, these areas have good access to high quality greenspaces including Clatto Country Park, Trottick ponds, and Caird Park.

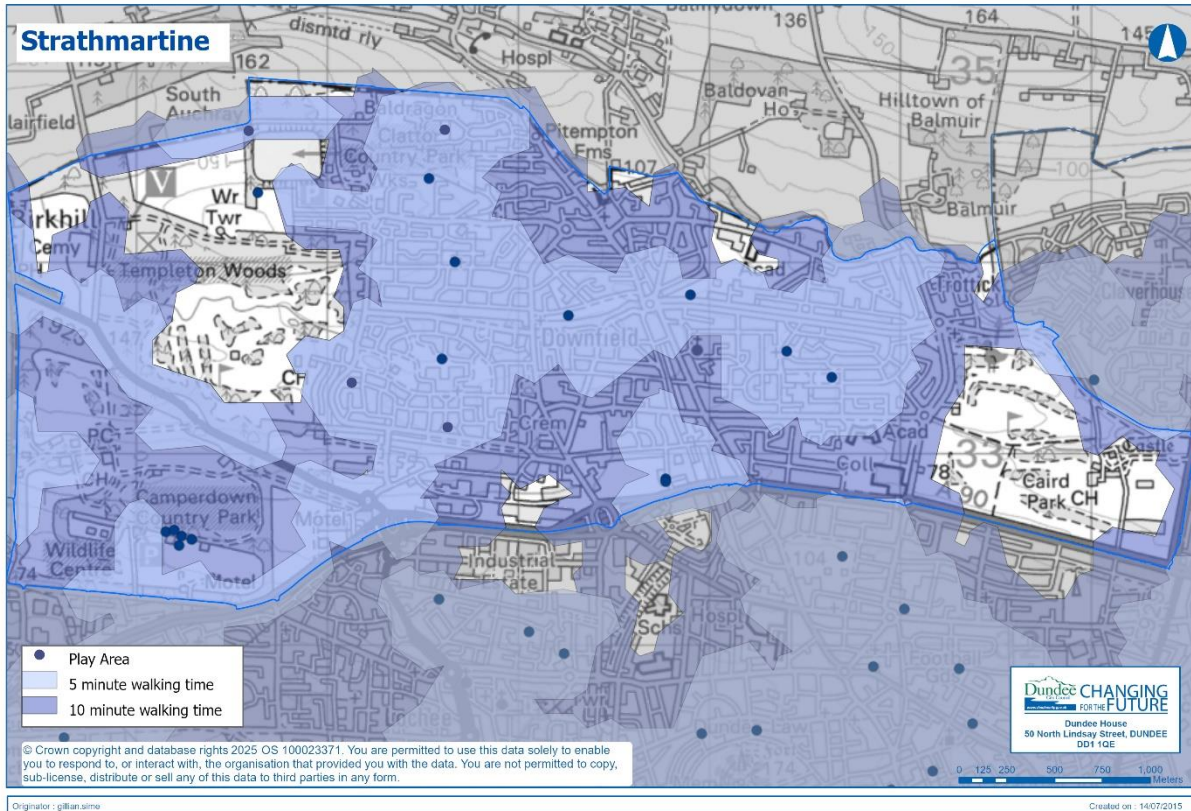


Figure 20: Walking travel time service areas, Strathmartine

4.7. East End

4.7.1. Quantity

There are seven play parks in the East End, equating to approximately 465 children and young people per play park. This figure is higher than the city-wide average, suggesting a lower provision of play spaces relative to the population.

There are around 0.96 play parks per 1,000 households in East End, below the city-wide average.

The East End Ward features a diverse range of play infrastructure, including seven agility trails, a skatepark at Finlathen Park, outdoor gyms at Finlathen Park, Stannergate, and Douglas Community Park, three Multi-Use Games Areas, and the Greendykes Kickabout area.

4.7.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed seven publicly owned play areas in East End, of which two (Douglas Community Park and Pitkerro Pirate) were assessed as “high quality”, and the remaining five were assessed as “medium quality”. The lowest scoring park Pitairlie Road is due to be upgraded in 2025/2026. All play parks in East End were assessed as having “pleasant and attractive settings” and were overlooked by housing/offices which can improve perceptions of safety.

Survey participants assessing East End Ward gave the score of 2.24 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out, the lowest of all Wards.

Strengths Identified

- Many respondents noted that play parks are easy to get to and close to where they live.
- Some play parks are perceived as safe and tidy.
- A few responses appreciated the presence of trees and grassy areas, noting that there are good communal green areas for children to enjoy informal play.
- Play parks were described as fun and offering a mix of play equipment.

Areas for Improvement

- Multiple comments highlighted broken, old, or unsafe play structures.
- Lack of lighting was a recurring concern, especially for winter months.
- Requests for public toilets and better maintenance of existing ones.
- Need for more accessible equipment for children with disabilities.
- Issues with dog mess, litter, and vandalism were frequently mentioned.
- Lack of engaging equipment for pre-teens and teenagers.
- Desire for more sheltered seating and covered areas for families.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, the following work has been undertaken:

Play Area	New Equipment	Improvements to Existing Equipment	New Inclusive Equipment	Surface Improvements	Infrastructure & Landscape Improvements

Balindean Road	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Pitairlie Road	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- There are no upcoming proposals for local authority-owned play parks in this ward.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. There has been extensive consultation carried out with community stakeholders and Community Officers for Pitairlie Road.

4.7.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 48% of East End postcodes are within 400m of green space.

The network analysis mapping showed that the majority of residents are within a ten-minute walk of a play area with the exception of a small area surrounding Craigiebarns Primary School. However, Craigie Community Sports arena and a play area located within the school grounds which were not included in the network analysis may help to account for this. Some parts of Craigie and Linlathen are outwith a five-minute walk of a play area but are reasonably well served by greenspaces at Caird Park and the Eastern Cemetery.

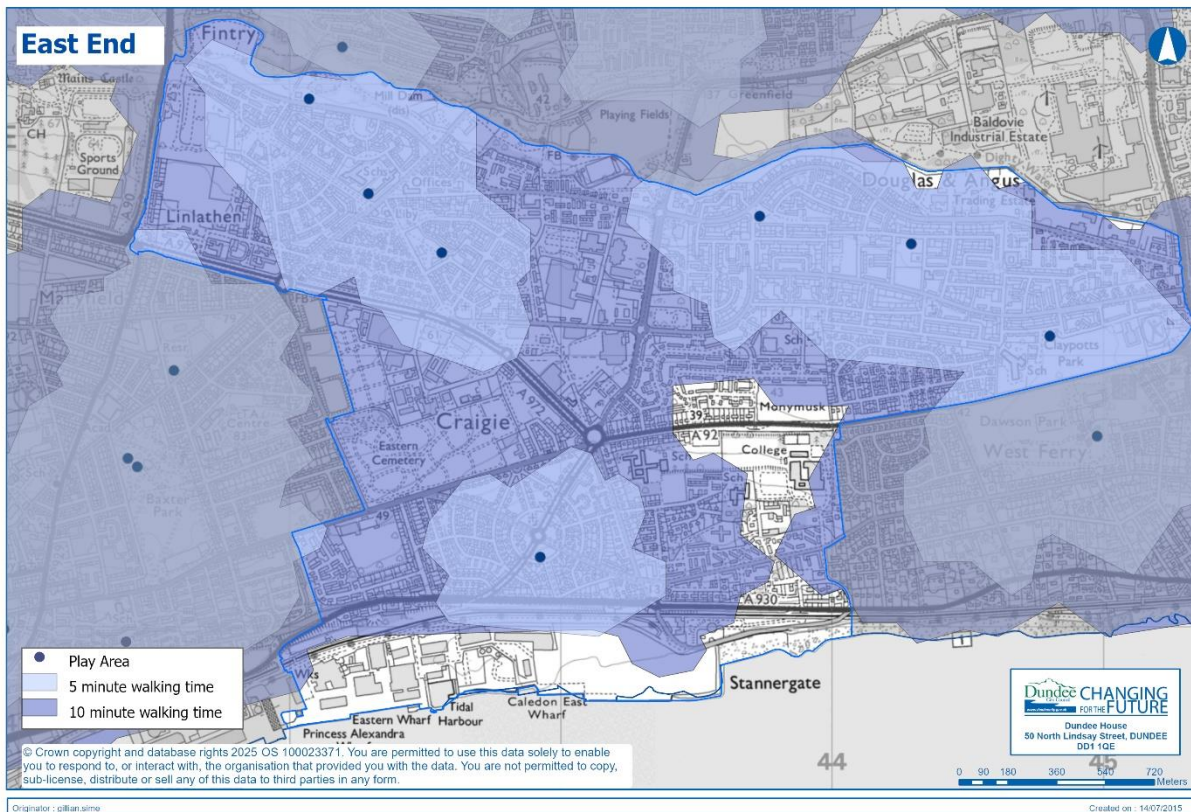


Figure 21: Walking travel time service areas, East End

4.8. North East

4.8.1. Quantity

There are 11 play parks in the North East, equating to approximately 350 children and young people per play park. This figure is higher than the city-wide average, suggesting a lower provision of play spaces relative to the population.

There are around 1.62 play parks per 1,000 households in North East, above the city-wide average.

The North East Ward features a diverse range of play infrastructure, including nine outdoor gym areas, five agility trail areas, two skateparks at Baldovie and Whitfield Green, a dog agility trail, a basketball area, two kickabout areas and three Multiuse Games areas.

4.8.2. Quality

The Play Quality Audit assessed nine publicly owned play areas in North East, of which Whitfield Green play area was assessed as “high quality”, five were assessed as “medium quality”, and three were assessed as “low quality”. Longhaugh Road has since been significantly upgraded. Tranent Grove play area will be considered in the future and will be dependent on nearby new development. The majority of play parks in North East were assessed as being free from traffic pollution and containing trees, shrubs and bushes.

Survey participants assessing North East Ward gave the score of 2.55 out of 5 on average for the quality of places to play/hang out, the second highest of all wards.

Strengths Identified

- Many respondents appreciated the large green spaces nearby to their homes.
- Drumgeith Park was identified as a local asset with opportunities for informal play.

Areas for Improvement

- Longhaugh Park and Peebles Drive play areas were repeatedly described as run down, unsafe, and neglected.
- Requests for fencing around playparks to protect children from dogs and traffic.
- Need for enclosed play areas and better lighting to improve safety and usability.
- A common theme was the lack of engaging equipment for children beyond toddler age.
- Vandalism, safety, and lack of routine maintenance were concerns across many respondents.

Progress

- Since the play quality audit was carried out from June to August 2024, the following work has been undertaken:

Play Area	New Equipment	Improvements to Existing Equipment	New Inclusive Equipment	Surface Improvements	Infrastructure & Landscape Improvements
Longhaugh Road	✓	Complete Refurbishment	✓	✓	✓

- There are no upcoming proposals for local authority-owned play parks in this ward.
- Consultation and engagement included communication with DCC Communities Officers to discuss priorities within the community, develop proposals and share these with the local community. There was extensive consultation carried out with community stakeholders and Community Officers for Longhaugh Road.

4.8.3. Accessibility

According to the Open Space Audit 2024, 83% of North East postcodes are within 400m of green space, the highest of all wards.

The only residential area in North East Ward out with a 10-minute walk of a play area is an area to the north-west of the ward in Claverhouse. This area does have close access to a play area and agility trail at Mill O' Mains primary school which could account for the gap in provision. Some parts of Whitfield and Ballumbie are out with a five-minute walk of play areas but facilities at the new Drumgeith Community Campus may provide additional play opportunities for children and young people who reside in these areas.

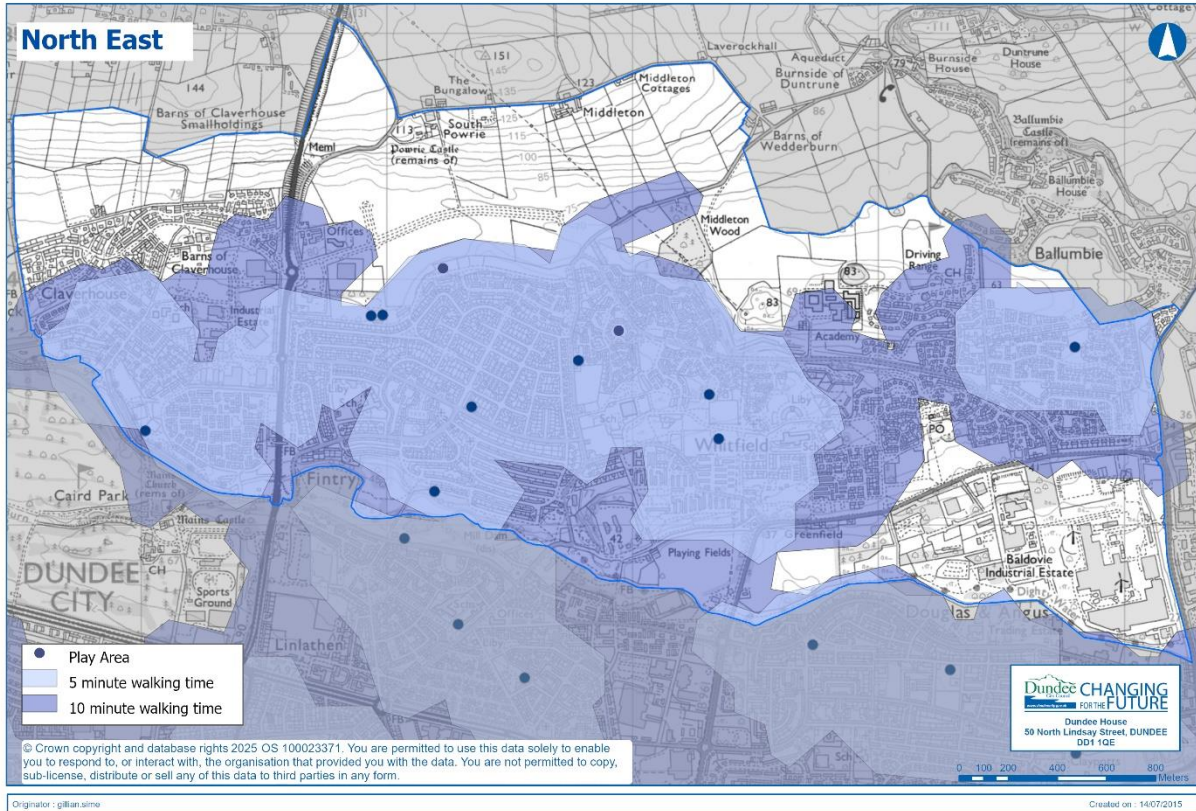


Figure 22: Walking travel time service areas, North East

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary of findings

The Play Sufficiency Assessment reveals significant variation in the quality, quantity, and accessibility of play provision across Dundee's eight wards.

Coldside Ward emerged as the highest-rated area for play quality (2.82/5), with well-maintained parks and a strong sense of community value placed on local green spaces. In contrast, East End Ward received the lowest average rating (2.24/5), with residents highlighting outdated equipment, safety concerns, and a lack of inclusive features.

North East Ward performed relatively well in terms of accessibility, with 83% of postcodes within 400m of greenspace—the highest in the city—and a strong presence of diverse play infrastructure. However, concerns were raised about the condition of specific play parks like Longhaugh and Peebles Drive, and the lack of engaging equipment for older children.

Strathmartine Ward had the highest number of play parks (18), including several in Camperdown Country Park, but also recorded a high number of low-quality sites. Residents called for better maintenance, lighting, and inclusive design, particularly in Kirkton and Brackens.

The Ferry Ward had a relatively high number of parks per household and some high-quality sites like Castle Green, but accessibility and inclusivity were recurring concerns. Respondents noted a lack of challenging equipment for older children and limited provision for disabled users.

Maryfield and West End Wards both scored below average in play quality, with residents citing antisocial behaviour, poor lighting, and limited age-appropriate equipment. Despite this, areas like Baxter Park and Magdalen Green were valued for their natural features and community use.

Lochee Ward showed a mixed picture, with a good number of parks and recent upgrades, but also concerns about underused spaces, lack of inclusive equipment, and safety near roads.

Overall, while some wards benefit from strong provision and community assets, others face challenges in quality and accessibility. Despite these challenges, residents across the city value proximity to green spaces, natural features, and the potential for creative, inclusive design. The assessment underscores the importance of involving children and young people in shaping play environments that reflect their needs and aspirations. Moving forward, collaborative efforts across planning, environment, community, and education sectors will be essential to deliver high-quality, inclusive, and resilient play spaces across Dundee.

While significant community consultation, including input from children, has been conducted for several newer play areas, it is acknowledged that ongoing collaborative efforts across planning, community, and education sectors are essential. These efforts, in addition to the services that deliver and manage public play parks, will be crucial in continuing to provide high-quality, inclusive, and resilient play spaces throughout Dundee.

Some key quotes from children and young people consulted on this assessment:

- *"It would be nice to have park stuff that makes me think and maybe looks better (like the Angry Birds park in Finland since Dundee makes games too)."*
- *"More green space and nature spots in the city. Bring back ziplines!"*
- *"We don't feel safe around bigger nasty kids so we don't go out to play. This affects our childhood."*
- *"Add a see saw and toilets, and more colour."*
- *"Fix things when they break. Roseangle zip wire has been broken for a long time."*
- *"Why is there not a traffic light at the park to help us cross the busy road?"*
- *"Having more equipment for more ages. More basket swings. More crossings near parks. More slides. More bins."*
- *"The parks near me don't have good stuff. I would like something like the enclosed football, basketball pitches that I've seen in other parks."*
- *"It's fun to be outside, it can be scary at night. Older teenagers can be an issue."*

5.2. Commentary

Between 2021/22 and 2025/26 to date, the Council has received £1,464,000 funding from the Scottish Government for the Renewal of Playparks. During this time, 30 play parks have been improved using this funding which equates to 45.5% of the total number of play parks.

As the service responsible for designing, installing and maintaining public play areas, the Environment Service seeks to integrate accessibility and inclusivity improvements in as many play areas as possible across the city, which includes the installation of inclusive and sensory play equipment and improvements to access routes or removing barriers. Designs or adaption of, or additions to play areas, are shaped by site-specific constraints and therefore the degree of accessibility and inclusivity will vary depending on the constraints of the site, for example barriers, space, level change, and landscape constraints. Appendix G provides further information about the Council's approach to inclusivity in play areas.

Considerable community consultation and engagement has been undertaken in both design and implementation stages, particularly at larger refurbishment projects with local people and children through a variety of methods; both digital and in person events.

5.3. Next steps

Dundee City Council will consider how the Local Development Plan (LDP) can support play by designating parks, green spaces, and areas for play, ensuring these are protected from competing land uses. The LDP may also introduce policies requiring new housing developments to include accessible and high-quality play provision, and/or strengthen path connections to existing provision. Embedding play in placemaking can be achieved through the Place Principle, which recognises play as a core component of healthy, liveable communities. Local Place Plans are a formal mechanism which are considered during the preparation of Dundee's Local Development Plan and where communities can recognise play provision as a local priority.

Although Dundee does not currently have a standalone play park design manual, play provision is guided by broader planning and open space strategies. Developers are expected to provide accessible, safe, and inclusive play areas, with age-appropriate equipment and surfacing, and integration with green infrastructure and active travel routes. Developer contributions are required when new developments increase demand for local services, including open space and play provision. These requirements will be reviewed during the preparation of the next Dundee Local Development Plan.

Dundee City Council will also review the classification of play areas from LAP, LEAP and NEAP to Local, Neighbourhood and Destination. The working definitions of these are:

- Local - walkable, small scale, small amount of play items, short stay, generally younger age group
- Neighbourhood – walkable / bikeable or short bus / car, medium amount of play for most ages and abilities, short to medium stay
- Destination - take a bus or car, as a resident or tourist more variety and amount of play experience for all abilities and ages, longer stay

The new classifications will drive investment opportunities and the delivery of play elements.

In summer 2024, Ironside Farrar conducted an audit of open space in Dundee to inform the forthcoming Open Space Strategy. This strategy will provide a framework for the development, maintenance, and use of green infrastructure across the city. The new strategy will include goals for enhancing neighbourhood play provision, connecting parks via pedestrian and cycle corridors, and maximising informal play opportunities through blue and green infrastructure.

Dundee City Council is currently enhancing playparks through the Build Resilient and Empowered Communities programme, Playground Improvements, and the Capital Plan 2024–2029. This work is supported by funding from Neighbourhood Services Capital, Community Regeneration Funding, and the Scottish Government’s Play Renewal funding. The objectives of this review include ensuring equitable distribution of funding across Dundee’s wards, incorporating inclusive and sensory play equipment wherever possible, and implementing resilience measures to reduce the impact of vandalism. Several upgrades are scheduled for 2025–2026, with some already completed. These include improvements to Longhaugh Road, Kinpurnie Place, Moncur Crescent, Lawton Road, Rosebank Street, and Lochee Park play areas. Enhancements range from new inclusive equipment and agility trails to sensory panels, communication boards, and sheltered seating.

An example of community-led design is the upcoming redevelopment of the Keswick Drive play park in Kirkton. In 2025, engagement sessions were held at the greenspace, local nurseries, schools, a sheltered housing complex, and community events, involving 210 participants. The resulting vision includes four distinct zones catering to different age groups and uses, such as dog walkers, families, pre-school children, and young people aged 10 and over. These areas will be connected by a path network prioritising active travel.

The influence over play spaces is often limited by land use constraints, funding priorities, and statutory responsibilities. To truly enhance opportunities for play, a wider network of partners—including community groups, schools, housing associations, local businesses, and voluntary organisations—must work together. These partners can contribute ideas, resources, and ongoing stewardship to ensure that play areas are inclusive, well-maintained, and responsive to the needs of children and young people.

Children and young people must be at the heart of shaping the future of play in Dundee. Their voices offer valuable insights into what makes play meaningful, inclusive, and fun. Involving them in the design, planning, and evaluation of play spaces ensures these places reflect their real experiences and needs. Their participation is not only a right but essential to creating spaces that truly serve the whole community.

Appendix A

Play Quality Audit Scoring Matrix

Use this checklist to assess the quality of play parks. Tick the box if the criterion is met.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasant setting/attractive site | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Stands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signage welcoming play | <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing/ gates (if appropriate) in good condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area is overlooked by housing/offices | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees, bushes, shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate outlook is mainly green/open space | <input type="checkbox"/> Short Grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Dog Mess or Nuisance | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Grass (a habitat for wildflowers, insects and wildlife) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny/Shady/Sheltered areas (all 3 required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazardous Waste (needles, glass etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Undulating ground/mounding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play area is more than 20m from a road and is unfenced | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocks, Boulders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to Public Transport links (less than five-minute walk) | <input type="checkbox"/> Free from Traffic Pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paths in Good Condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Free from Noise Pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play surfaces safe and in good condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Play value (High)- based on number of equipment and type of play opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Roads have safe crossing points | <input type="checkbox"/> Play value (Medium)- based on number of equipment and type of play opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrance and layout accessible to all in accordance with Disability Discrimination Act | <input type="checkbox"/> Play value (Low)- based on number of equipment and type of play opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overall Condition well maintained and clean | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Bins | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seating | |

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Appendix B

Play Quality Audit, Number of Parks Meeting Criterion

Criterion	Number of Parks Meeting Criterion	Criterion	Number of Parks Meeting Criterion
Seating	67	Pleasant setting/attractive site	52
No Dog Mess or Nuisance	65	Entrance and layout accessible to all in accordance with Disability Discrimination Act	45
Short Grass	65	Close to Public Transport links (less than five-minute walk)	45
Litter Bins	63	Area is overlooked by housing/offices	43
Paths in good condition	63	Long Grass (a habitat for wildflowers, insects and wildlife)	40
Fencing/ gates (if appropriate) in good condition	60	Undulating ground/mounding	36
Trees, bushes, shrubs	60	Rocks, Boulders	16
Free from Noise Pollution	57	Signage welcoming play	15
Free from Traffic Pollution	57	Sunny/Shady/Sheltered areas (all 3 required)	10
Play surfaces safe and in good condition	57	Play area is more than 20m from a road and is unfenced	10
No Vandalism	54	Adjacent Roads have safe crossing points	9
Overall condition well maintained and clean	54	Bicycle Stands	8
Immediate outlook is mainly green/open space	53		

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Appendix C

Play Sufficiency Assessment and Place Standard surveys demographics

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Type of Respondent

- On my own: 302
- In a group: 17
- Child or young person: 9
- Parent or carer: 241
- Grandparent or other relative: 33
- Work with children (for example, childminder): 18
- Primary school class: 12
- Community group: 1
- Other group (e.g. families): 4

Age Group (individual responses)

- 5–11 years: 7
- 12–15 years: 2
- 16-17 years: 0
- 18-24 years: 1
- 25-34 years: 70
- 35-44 years: 140
- 45-54 years: 51
- 55-64 years: 22
- 65 and over: 9
- Prefer not to say: 0

Gender Identity (individual responses)

- Female: 244
- Male: 48
- Prefer not to say: 7
- Non-binary: 1
- Other: 2

Disability Status (individual responses)

- No: 239
- Yes: 49
- Prefer not to say: 1

Number of responses per ward:

Maryfield Ward	99
Strathmartine Ward	55
West End Ward	39
Lochee Ward	34
The Ferry Ward	33
North East Ward	20
East End Ward	17
Coldside Ward	17
Outwith DCC boundary	5

Place Standard survey

Type of Respondent

- Member of the public: 211
- Community Council or group: 3
- On behalf of an organisation/business: 2

Age Group (individual responses)

- Under 16: 0
- 16-24 years: 10
- 25-34 years: 35
- 35-44 years: 64
- 45-54 years: 38
- 55-64 years: 42
- 65-74 years: 17
- 75 and over: 3
- Prefer not to say: 2

Gender identity (individual responses)

- Female: 127
- Male: 74
- Prefer not to say: 7
- Other: 2
- Non-binary: 1

Disability Status (individual responses)

- No: 163
- Yes: 37
- Prefer not to say: 11

Number of responses per ward:

Maryfield Ward	52
Strathmartine Ward	31
West End Ward	24
Lochee Ward	17
The Ferry Ward	30
North East Ward	18
East End Ward	14
Coldside Ward	27
Outwith DCC boundary	3

Appendix D

How would you rate the places to play/hang out in your area out of 5? Play Sufficiency Assessment survey average results by Ward

The mean score was calculated by summing all ratings given by respondents in each ward and then dividing by number of respondents.

- **Coldside Ward:** 2.82
- **North East Ward:** 2.55
- **Lochee Ward:** 2.50
- **Strathmartine Ward:** 2.42
- **Maryfield Ward:** 2.41
- **The Ferry Ward:** 2.33
- **West End Ward:** 2.26
- **East End Ward:** 2.24

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Appendix E

Scotland's Census 2022 Age of Population by Ward for Dundee Wards

Ward	Under 12	Age 12-17	Under 18 total
Coldside	1,877	855	2,732
East End	2,129	1,125	3,254
Lochee	2,797	1,272	4,069
Maryfield	1,719	700	2,419
North East	2,429	1,420	3,849
Strathmartine	2,643	1,622	4,265
The Ferry	2,027	1,372	3,399
West End	1,551	687	2,238
Whole City	17,172	9,053	26,225

Scotland's Census 2022 Households Count Per Ward

Ward	Households Count
Coldside	10,294
East End	7,271
Lochee	9,519
Maryfield	9,227
North East	6,796
Strathmartine	8,390
The Ferry	8,974
West End	9,384
Whole City	69,857

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Appendix F

Percentage of postcodes within 400m distance of greenspace by Ward,
Open Space Audit 2024

Ward	% of postcodes within 400m
Coldside	79
East End	77
Lochee	68
Maryfield	73
North East	83
Strathmartine	65
The Ferry	48
West End	44

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Appendix G

Inclusive Play in Dundee

“All children need and have a right to play. Play is vital for children’s health, wellbeing and happiness – particularly for children facing barriers like discrimination and exclusion.

A positive, solution-focused attitude is essential to include disabled children – listening and engaging with families, prioritising the needs and wishes of disabled children, making adaptations to increase accessibility and remove barriers, changing public attitudes, creating a welcoming space and maximising the range of play opportunities offered by the equipment and the environment as a whole.”

Joint Children’s Play Policy Forum and UK Play Safety Forum Position Statement (2022).

Recognising that outdoor play is essential for child development, wellbeing and in helping to bring the community together, inclusive design is a core principle when upgrading play facilities and equipment across Dundee. This supports the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' approach to ensure all children can access quality play and that a child's right to play is upheld (Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Following an internal Play Audit 2021/22 and Play Review 2024-26, the Environment Service has assessed the condition of all play areas and prioritised improvements based on asset need. This and analysis of historic investment in play parks helps ensure spend is distributed equitably and in areas of greatest need.

In the context of the play improvement programme being delivered by the Environment Service, wherever possible the department has installed elements of inclusivity which ranges from sensory play panels, basket swings, flush roundabouts to multi-unit which has accessible ramps and wide slides. There is no specific standard or classification for an inclusive piece of equipment, one type of play equipment may be inclusive to one disability but not for another. Accessible means “easy to approach, reach, enter, speak with or use”. Inclusive is defined as “all encompassing, all embracing or covering everything or everyone”. Both these words can each describe an individual item or a play area as a whole but ideally they should always come together to some degree.

The answer is to provide variety – a mix of physical, sensory and social activities, provision of play at various ability levels in close proximity. An inclusive playpark is one that has an aim to make it not only accessible, but to encourage and enable children to engage with one another.

The Environment Service strives to look at each play area independently in terms of making it a place where all abilities are able to enjoy the space and feel included within it. Landscape elements such as planting and mounds, seating, boulders, safe enclosure, spin cups, or sensory panels all contribute to the comfort and useability of a space by all. A piece of equipment such as a multi-unit can be considered partly inclusive if a child can get so far on it and then enjoy coming down a slide. An agility trail can provide thrill for a child with disability if helped along by a steady hand. In this regard, some play areas across the city will be considered more inclusive and accessible than others (i.e Castle Green and Finlathen park) but others, especially those much smaller in scale, will be less so, but will likely have a small element of inclusivity within it,

such as sensory play panels and or a basket swing and or a flush roundabout. The larger Destination or NEAP Play areas are more likely to have more inclusivity and accessibility due to the wider footprint and footfall, especially when people are prepared to travel to them.

When a new play area is designed from scratch, accessibility and inclusivity are prioritised, but with subtlety in mind. Inclusive equipment and inclusive elements should not be separate or so obvious that it looks 'different'. More often however, the Environment department has had to look at existing play areas, assess the existing play value and make provision to enhance that play value while increasing accessibility and inclusivity wherever possible, also in a subtle manner. Going forward with the remaining funds, we will continue to do this and consult as much as possible for the proposed larger play areas.

The majority of Dundee's publicly managed play areas are accessible in terms of footways and surfacing getting into and within, in some cases it is just not feasible due to reasons laid out above.