

FENCING OF COUNCIL RESERVES POLICY

Policy Reference No.	POL/166
File No.	HCC05/598
Strategic Objective	4.2 Create community pride through a well-designed and maintained City
Adopted by Council	9 February 2015
Re-Adopted	10 May 2021
Date for Review	May 2026
Responsible Officer	Manager City Design
Department	City Design

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1 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Council as owner/manager of public open space will determine the appropriateness of fencing Council reserves containing sportsgrounds based on the following:
 - 1.1.1 for the purpose of major sporting events to ensure members of the community have appropriate access to the open space network.
 - 1.1.2 for the purpose of around the ground fencing of the reserve for new or replaced fencing
 - 1.1.3 for the purpose of providing a 'picket fence' around the ground fencing
 - 1.1.4 for the purpose of providing high ball protection fencing at a sports reserve
- 1.2 Regional Active Recreation Reserves hosting a sporting club will be deemed appropriate to provide permanent perimeter spectator controlled fencing (generally 1.8m) if it is leased and generally occupied by one club.

2 PURPOSE

Provide guidance on the erection of fencing at Council owned or controlled active recreation reserves. This Policy creates a hierarchy of fencing that is relevant to Council sporting reserves.

3 SCOPE

- 3.1 Reserve Perimeter fencing of Active Recreation Reserves (either permanent or temporary) for the purpose of major sporting events will be determined based on the hierarchy of Active Recreation Reserves, whether the site is leased, and/or the function of the reserve facilities.
 - 3.1.1 Given the nature and function of Regional Active Recreation Reserves such as Highgate Recreation Reserve (Craigieburn); Sprint Athletics Centre (Craigieburn) and John Ilhan Memorial Reserve (Westmeadows): permanent fencing (1.8m) will be considered. The Greenvale Recreation Reserve which is home to the Greenvale/Kangaroos Cricket Club (Premier League) is considered a Regional Active Recreation site but due to the lack of demand for spectator fencing for this sport permanent (1.8m) fencing is not required.
 - 3.1.2 District Active Recreation Reserves such as Clarke Oval (Sunbury), Aston Recreation Reserve, Arena Recreation Reserve and Jacana Recreation Reserve (Jacana): permanent fencing will not be permitted, however clubs with seasonal agreements to use a Council reserve may request to temporarily fence the reserve, this could include use for sports finals over a number of weekends, an event such as a show or event.
 - 3.1.3 Sub District Active Recreation Reserves such as D.S. Aitken Reserve (Craigieburn) and Anderson Reserve (Broadmeadows): permanent fencing will not be permitted; however consideration will be given to temporary fencing upon request from a seasonal club. This includes all other sporting reserves.
- 3.2 Provision of boundary fencing of sports grounds will be provided by Council to all sports fields.
 - 3.2.1 where feasible they will be constructed to keep balls inside the field of play so as they do not cause a hazard to other users or passive spectators at a particular site. This includes fencing with a wire insert to assist to deliver this outcome.

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3.3 Provision of a picket fence as a boundary fence for Regional, District and Sub District sports fields:

3.3.1 Consideration will be given to the provision of a boundary picket fence subject to the following issues:

- a) Fit for purpose to the surrounding area
- b) Type of sport being played at the sports field
- c) Is a Regional or District sports field
- d) Application being made by the tenant club with a clear purpose for this type of fencing

3.4 Provision of high ball protection fencing at Regional, District and Sub District Sports fields:

3.4.1 Where the location of the sporting field is in close proximity to existing infrastructure (including buildings, local residents, play spaces and roads) the provision of high ball protection fencing will be considered. A ball trajectory study may be required to confirm the distance from the sporting field.

3.4.2 A risk assessment will first be required to be conducted to consider, items such as distance from the sports fields, identified ball strikes and or reports of concerns from residents.

4 OBJECTIVE

To preserve community access to a variety of open spaces.

4.1 Identify a hierarchy of fencing that is provided to Hume sports fields, which includes asset/community protection where appropriate and or required.

4.2 The community may be restricted from accessing public open space for the purpose of major sporting events no more than three days prior to and three days following the conclusion of the event. The community must be provided reasonable notice where temporary fencing has been approved.

5 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Hume based seasonal clubs tenanting Active Recreation Reserves owned or controlled by Council may apply to Council to erect temporary fencing for major sporting events during the year.

5.2 Sporting clubs will be able to apply to Council to erect temporary fencing for major sporting events at active recreation reserves (e.g. finals) but all costs will be the responsibility of the club.

5.3 Council is responsible for the provision of Sports Ground boundary fencing for its fields and ovals. This policy provides guidance around they type of fencing that is provided.

5.3.1 Sports ground boundary fencing provided:

6 Standard sports oval perimeter fencing:

6.1 Standard sports field fencing

6.1.1 1100 high 2 rail black PVC coated heavy duty (3.15mm) chainmesh fencing.

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- 6.1.2 Also included as required 1m wide pedestrian gate
- 6.1.3 Also included 1 pair (3.5m wide) maintenance vehicle gates.
- 6.2 Steel picket fencing:
 - 6.2.1 900mm height white steel picket fencing
- 6.3 High ball fencing:
 - 6.3.1 A building permit is required for this type of fencing due to height and scale of the fencing, typically this would require the following (but can change in height and length based on a specific site);
 - 6.3.2 generally a 5.0-metre-high chain mesh fence centred across a 'goal to goal' line or at a location adjacent to a sports field to protect assets or community.
 - 6.3.3 The fence shall be 3.15mm heavy gauge black PVC coated chain mesh complete with black powder coated, medium wall thickness (DN 40) 48.3mm (OD) X 3.2mm top, mid and bottom rails & medium wall thickness (DN 80) 88.9mm (OD) x 4.0mm uprights set at nominal 3125mm centres. Qty - 9 -& medium wall thickness (DN 80) 88.9mm (OD) x 4.0mm back bracing posts & back bracing posts set in concrete a maximum 500 out from fence line & back bracing shall be fixed to upright posts at bottom, centre & full height above ground level & generally, in accordance with AS 1725-2010 Chain Link Fabric Fencing.
 - 6.3.4 The fence shall be a minimum 25 metres in length.
 - 6.3.5 All posts, rails and back posts shall be supplied in medium wall thickness pre-galvanised material.
 - 6.3.6 Posts shall be set in 300mm diameter concrete a minimum 1200mm into natural soils. All vertical posts shall have caps securely filled.
- 6.4 Council will review reserve classifications with the development of new venues, giving consideration to sports and wider community open space needs as well as working with peak sporting bodies and leagues to identify the need and opportunity to develop further fenced regional active facilities as the municipality grows.

7 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- 7.1 **Public open space** – All parks, gardens, reserves and other parcels of land accessible to the public, managed by Council or other public authorities, and used for passive, active, formal and/or informal recreation.
- 7.2 **Active Recreation Reserve** – Open space designed and used for the purpose of playing sport.
- 7.3 **Regional Active Recreation Reserves** - provide for high levels of competition, such as Football Federation of Victoria's State League, or AFL Victoria Football League or State League Under 18 competition. Infrastructure at these venues are developed to the highest level of provision and provide for a range of users including a principal tenant, clubs who may train elsewhere and league/associations representative fixtures or competition. A regional facility would generally attract people from the whole municipality or beyond.
- 7.4 **District Active Recreation Reserves** – generally provide for local competitions for a range of functions/sports. In some cases District Active Recreation Reserves provide for a higher

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standard of competition, but the sports' requirements do not warrant a higher level of infrastructure e.g. Cricket Victoria's Premier Cricket competition. A District Active Reserve catchment covers a catchment of 3,000 households.

- 7.5 **Sub District Active Recreation Reserves** – are usually reserves located in sub district open spaces and covers a catchment of three neighbourhoods. Generally, sub district reserves provide one sports playing field.
- 7.6 **Hierarchy of open space** – The levels of provision of open space ranging from neighbourhood (or local) to state significance.
- 7.7 **Seasonal clubs** – are clubs who have an agreement with Council to use a reserve for a season (1 April – 30 September or 1 October – 31 March)
- 7.8 **Leased venues** –provides the right to exclusively possess property for an initial 10-year term.
- 7.9 **Sportsgrounds** – reserves where organised outdoor sport is played, such as athletics, hockey, baseball, Australian Rules Football and cricket.
- 7.10 **Major sporting event/carnivals** – an organised sporting event which is not part of the standard weekly competitions/events e.g. finals, carnivals, not for profit shows.
- 7.11 **Fence** – for the purposes of this policy, fence or fencing refers to a permanent fencing, erected around a reserve for the purpose of management of ball sports, also included is high ball fencing to protect infrastructure or community.
- 7.12 **Temporary fencing** – is generally 1.8m to 1.9m high fencing temporarily erected to control access for a limited time and removed within 3 days once it has served its purpose.

8 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 Hume City Council Leisure Strategy 2013-2018
- 8.2 Hume City Council Open Space Strategy 2010-2015

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