

Appendix 3: Open Space Standards

The standards for open space support Policy EN3 of the Swindon Borough Local Plan. They are also detailed in the Open Space Audit and Assessment (Update 2014) which assesses the quantity, quality and accessibility of all public open space in the Borough.

Quantity

For the purposes of assessing the overall quantity of open space provision the standard of 3.2 hectares per 1000 population will be used as set out below:

Category of Open Space	Definition	Requirement
Children and Teenager's Play Areas	All equipped children's play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball goals and similar facilities.	0.3 Hectares (0.75 Acres/1000 population)
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Includes all outdoor sports facilities whether naturally or artificially surfaced e.g. playing pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts.	1.6 Hectares (4 Acres/1000 population) of which 1.2 Hectares (3 acres/1000 population) is playing pitches
General Recreational Areas	All areas of public open space which have a significant recreational function but do not fall in the above categories e.g. parks and gardens, amenity areas, accessible wildlife areas.	1 Hectare (2.47 Acres/1000 population) of which 0.5 Ha should be suitable for children's informal play
Allotments	An area containing allotment plots which the occupier for the purpose of producing fruit or vegetables for consumption by individuals and family wholly or mainly cultivates. Allotments are defined more precisely by the Allotments Act 1922.	0.3 Hectares (0.75 acres/1000 population)

Types of Open Space Provision

The Borough Council consider that a far reaching network of connected and multi-functional green spaces will make a key contribution to the quality of life for both existing and future communities in Swindon Borough, as highlighted and defined below.

Children and Teenager's Play Areas

Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP): A LEAP is an area of open space specifically designated and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently close to where they live, usually within 5 minutes walking time.

Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP): A NEAP is an area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but with play opportunities for younger children as well.

Swindon Local Landscaped Area for Play (LLAP): A LLAP is an area of open space designed for play by children and young people. It provides flexibility to consult with local communities to reflect community needs and aspirations in design, incorporating design for natural play, biodiversity and access for all, whilst considering maintenance requirements as an integral part of the design.

Outdoor Sport Facilities

Outdoor sports facilities for adults and children with natural or artificial surfaces. Typically this includes playing pitches, bowling greens, athletics tracks and tennis courts.

Playing pitches are further defined as areas formally laid out and maintained for organised sports (generally football, rugby, cricket or hockey). This includes clearance zones around the playing area.

Local Open Space (LOS)

These spaces are located within housing areas to serve the informal recreational needs of the immediate community and the play requirements of children. Local open spaces will have equipped play areas for children aged 2-6 (LEAP) and 6-14 (NEAP) and may contain multi-use games areas. They may also provide seating, paths, site information and associated landscape.

Major Open Spaces (MOS)

These spaces are designated principally for passive recreation serving recreational needs and providing connectivity to surrounding areas. May vary in size, shape and degree of formality and may be used to preserve and enhance retained landscape features such as woodlands, lakes or watercourses. MOS may contain more formal provisions, pitches or play areas as secondary uses.

Quality

Type of Open Space Provision	Quality Standards
Children's and Teenager's Play Areas	NPFA Six Acre Standard - Locally Equipped Area for Play and Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play Swindon Local Landscaped Area for Play (LLAP) - Fields in Trust (FIT) 2008
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Local standards based on Sport England guidance
General Recreational Areas	Local standard
Allotments	Local standard

Accessibility

Type of Open Space	Accessibility
Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) Swindon Local Landscaped Area for Play (LLAP) Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	250 metres (approx. 5 Minutes walking time) 250 metres (approx. 5 Minutes walking time) 500 metres (approx. 15 Minutes walking time)
Outdoor Sports Facilities	600 metres for junior pitches (15 Minutes walking time) 20 Minute drive time for adult sports facilities.
Local Open Spaces	500 metres
Major Open Spaces 2 to 20 Hectare sites Greater than 20 Hectare sites	2 km 5 km
Allotments	600 metres

Natural Green Space	Accessibility
2 ha site	300 metres
20 ha site	2 km
100 ha site	5 km
500 ha site	10 km