

Appendix 1: Open Space Standards and Definitions

Quantity

| Type of Open Space | Definition | Requirement |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Children and Teenager's Play Areas | All children and teenager's play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball goals and similar facilities. | 0.3 Hectares/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/1000 population (1.2 Hectares of which is playing pitches) |
| General Recreational Areas | All areas of public open space which have a significant recreational function but do not fall in the other categories. | 1 Hectare/1000 population of which 0.5 Ha should be suitable for children's informal play |
| Allotments | An area containing allotment plots which the occupier uses mainly for the purpose of cultivating fruit or vegetables for consumption by the occupier or their family. | 0.3 Hectares/1000 population |

Quality

| Type of Open Space | Quality Standards |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Children and Teenager's Play Areas | 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 |
|---|--|
| <u>Children and Teenager's Play Areas</u> | |
| Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) | 250 metres (approx. 5 minutes walking time) |
| Swindon Local Landscaped Area for Play (LLAP) | 250 metres (approx. 5 minutes walking time) |
| Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) | 500 metres (approx. 10 minutes walking time) |
| Outdoor Sports Facilities | 600 metres junior pitches (approx. 15 minutes walking time) Adult Sports Facilities (approx. 20 minutes drive time) |
| <u>General Recreational Areas</u> | |
| Local Open Spaces | 2km |
| Major Open Spaces | 5km |
| Allotments | 600 metres |

Open Space Definitions

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.

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.

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

Outdoor Sport Facilities

Outdoor sports facilities for adults and children with natural or artificial surfaces. Typically this includes playing pitches, bowling green, 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.

General Recreational Areas

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 play areas 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. These 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.

Country Parks - Strategic areas of open space serving a large part of the Borough and surrounding area. They contain a range and diversity of facilities, have controlled car parking and are managed by the Council's Ranger Service. (Note: Country Parks do not count towards the Local Plan standard as they are considered to be a Borough wide resource.)

Town Parks - Formal parks and gardens with planting, seating and often other features such as bandstands and ponds. By virtue of the number of features present they generally serve the whole town in addition to the local area.

Golf Courses – Strategic leisure facilities serving a large part of the Borough and surrounding area. (Note: Country Parks do not count towards the Local Plan standard as they are considered to be a Borough wide resource.)

Allotments

An area containing allotment plots which the occupier uses mainly for the purpose of cultivating fruit or vegetable for consumption by the occupier or their family.