Australian Capital Territory

Planning (Parks and Recreation Zones) Technical Specifications 2024

Notifiable instrument NI2024–543

made under the

Planning Act 2023, s 51 (Technical specifications)

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1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Planning (Parks and Recreation Zones) Technical Specifications 2024*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 27 September 2024.

3 Technical specifications

I make the technical specifications at schedule 1.

4 Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Planning (Parks and Recreation Zones) Technical Specifications 2023* (NI2023-558).

George Cilliers
Chief Planner
13 September 2024

Schedule 1

ACT Government

ZS5 – Parks and Recreation Zones Specifications

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Parks and Recreation Zones planning technical specifications

The primary assessment consideration for a development application is the assessment outcomes in the Territory Plan. In demonstrating compliance with the assessment outcomes, consideration may be given to the relevant planning technical specifications which may serve as a benchmark. While all assessment outcomes are to be met, not all outcomes are covered by a specification.

Planning technical specifications are used as a possible solution or to provide guidance for identified aspects of a development proposal. The specifications may also be used as a reference or benchmark in the preparation and assessment of development proposals to demonstrate compliance with the assessment outcomes, and the Territory Plan.

Where a proposed development complies with a relevant provision in the planning technical specifications and the development comprehensively addresses the assessment outcome, further assessment regarding those specific provisions will not be required.

The Territory Planning Authority may consider advice or written support from a referral entity to demonstrate compliance with a relevant assessment outcome. Where endorsement from an entity is noted as a planning specification, entity referral may be required.

Consistent with the Parks and Recreation Zones Policy, this Parks and Recreation Zones Specification comprises specifications under seven categories:

- Urban Structure and Site;
- Access and Movement;
- Public Space and Amenity;
- Land Use and Development;
- Built Form and Building Form;
- Sustainability and Environment; and
- Parking, Services and Utilities.

These specifications will primarily be for development within Parks and Recreation zones. However, these specifications may also be used in other circumstances where considered relevant.

Urban Structure and Natural Systems

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in the planning of a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	1. Biodiversity connectivity is maintained across the landscape.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Assessment Outcome	2. Loss of native habitat and biodiversity is avoided and/or minimised.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Assessment Outcome	3. The health and functionality of waterways and catchments is maintained, including through application of water sensitive urban design principles.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Site and Land Use

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in the planning of a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	4. The functionality and usability of the development is appropriate for its intended purpose/use.
Specification	
Uses in PRZ1 zone	4.1. Development in PRZ1 zones achieves all of the following where relevant: a) Municipal depots are only used for the purpose of park maintenance depots. b) Maximum proportion of gross area of any single open space parcel to be used for community activity centre, outdoor recreation facility and municipal depot purposes is 15%.
Uses in PRZ2 zone	4.2. Development for club, guest house, hotel or motel in the PRZ2 zone meets one of the following: a) Is ancillary to the use of the land for recreation purposes; or b) the proportion of the land area for any discrete PRZ2 Restricted Access Recreation zone (i.e. not separated by another zone) used for these purposes and associated car parking and other site facilities is a maximum of 15%.

Assessment Outcome	5. The proposed use and scale of development are appropriate to the site and zone.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Assessment Outcome	6.	Adverse impacts of development on surrounding uses (both within a site and on adjoining sites) is minimised.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.		

Access and Movement

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in relation to access, travel modes and movement to and within a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	7.	The functionality and layout of the development is well connected to the surrounding area. This includes consideration of traffic flow, passive surveillance and active travel.
Specification		
Road network	7.1.	Endorsement by Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) to confirm the road network can accommodate additional traffic likely to be generated by the development. Offsite works may be required to support additional traffic from a development.

Assessment Outcome	8.	Access to, from and within the site permits safe and legible movement while catering for all users (including pedestrians). This includes consideration of vehicle manoeuvrability and access routes.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.		

Public Space and Amenity

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in relation to public areas (areas accessible to residents, visitors and community) and amenity outcomes associated with a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	9.	The development achieves reasonable solar access and microclimate conditions to public areas and streets to support their use by the community.
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.		

Assessment Outcome	10.	Any advertising or signs are suitable for their context and do not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area (for instance due to size or light emission).
Specification		

Signs	10.1. Signs associated with each development or building are: a) Limited to one per frontage. b) Are no higher than the first storey. c) Setback a minimum of 1200mm from the kerb. d) No larger than 6m². e) Not illuminated. f) Are identification of the building/service on site/agency or the like.

Built Form and Building Design

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in relation to building design and built form, including height, bulk and scale of buildings and structures associated with a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	**11. The height, bulk and scale of the development is appropriate, noting the desired zone policy outcomes.**
Specification	
Gross floor area – PRZ1	11.1. Enclosed buildings or structures in PRZ1 zone do not exceed 200m^2. a) In PRZ1 zone - 1 storey. b) In PRZ2 zone – 2 storeys or 10m in height.
Building height	11.2. Buildings adjacent to residential zones are not more than: a) In PRZ1 zone - 1 storey. b) In PRZ2 zone – 2 storeys or 10m in height.
Setbacks	11.3. Minimum setback of buildings to boundaries of blocks in a residential zone is 6m.

Assessment Outcome	**12. Reasonable solar access and privacy to adjoining dwellings is achieved.**
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Sustainability and Environment

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in relation to the sustainability and environmental outcomes associated with a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	**13. Roofed areas and hard surfaces aim to reduce urban heat island effects and minimise stormwater run-off. This includes consideration of water sensitive urban design measures.**
Specification	

Site permeability	13.1. For development on sites greater than 2,000m² involving works that have the potential to alter the stormwater regime of the site; or development within existing urban areas which increases impervious area by 100m², development achieves a minimum of 20% of the site area to be permeable.
Water sensitive urban design	13.2. Development complies with the *ACT Practice Guidelines for Water Sensitive Urban Design Module 2: Designing Successful WSUD Solutions in the ACT.*

Assessment Outcome	**14. Threats to biodiversity such as noise, light pollution, invasive species incursion or establishment, chemical pollution, or site disturbance are avoided or minimised through good design.**
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Assessment Outcome	**15. Minimise cut and fill to protect natural hydrological function and limit soil erosion and site disturbance.**
Specification	
Site disturbance	15.1. For sites less than 3,000m², the development complies with the Environment Protection Authority requirements regarding construction and land development. For sites 3,000m² or greater, the development prepares an erosion and sediment control plan and obtains endorsed by the ACT Environment Protection Authority.

Assessment Outcome	**16. The development considers and addresses site constraints, including heritage, natural features, topography, infrastructure and utilities.**
No applicable specification for this assessment outcome. Application must respond to the assessment outcome.	

Assessment Outcome	**17. Environmental risks, including noise, bushfire, flooding, contamination, air quality or hazardous materials are appropriately considered for the development on the site.**
Specification	
Noise management – general	17.1. Where any of the following uses are proposed: a) club, b) hotel, c) indoor recreation facility, d) indoor entertainment facility, e) outdoor recreation facility, development complies with a noise management plan prepared by a suitably qualified person and endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Note: The noise management plan will detail the proposed design, siting and construction methods that will be employed to ensure compliance with the Noise Zone Standard as detailed in the *Environment Protection Regulation 2005*, based on the estimated noise levels when the facility is in use.

Bushfire prone area	17.2. All development in the bushfire prone area (identified by the Emergency Services Authority) to comply with the ACT Bushfire Management Standards
Flood risk	17.3. Development complies with the following: a) Residential and commercial buildings are to be excluded from flood liable areas up to the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) Flood. b) Habitable floor levels are to be above the 1% AEP level plus a suitable freeboard (usually 300mm). c) In flood liable areas up to the 0.2% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) Flood, large developments and those with more sensitive uses* are to be referred to ESA, TCCS and EPSDD for endorsement. Note: *Sensitive uses include developments such as hospitals, nursing homes, childcare centres, prisons, archives, libraries and emergency response centres.
Stormwater retention and detention	17.4. For development on sites greater than 2,000m² (other than major roads) involving works that have the potential to alter the stormwater regime of the site, a report from a suitably qualified person is provided demonstrating that the development complies with: a) At least one of the following: i) stormwater retention management measures are provided and achieve all of the following: A. Stormwater storage capacity of 1.4kL per 100m² of the total impervious area of the site is provided specifically to retain and reuse stormwater generated on site as a whole. B. Retained stormwater is used on site. ii) development captures, stores and uses the first 15mm of rainfall falling on the site; and Note: on-site stormwater retention is defined as the storage and use of stormwater on site. b) Stormwater detention measures are provided and achieve all of the following: i) Capture and direct runoff from the entire site ii) Stormwater storage capacity of 1kL per 100m² of impervious area is provided to specifically detain stormwater generated on site iii) The detained stormwater is designed to be released over a period of 6 hours after the storm event. For this rule on-site stormwater detention is defined as the short-term storage and release downstream of stormwater runoff. Note: Calculating on-site detention can include 50% of the volume of rainwater tanks where stormwater is used on-site.
Stormwater management	17.5. For development of roads on sites greater than 2,000m² development meets all of the following: a) The capacity of existing pipe (minor) stormwater connection to the site is not exceeded in the 1 in 10-year storm event. b) The capacity of the existing overland (major) stormwater system to the site is not exceeded in the 1 in 100-year storm event.
Stormwater quality	17.6. For development on sites greater than 2,000m² (other than major roads) involving works that have the potential to alter the stormwater regime of the site, a MUSIC model prepared by a suitably qualified person is provided demonstrating the average annual stormwater pollutant export is reduced when compared with an urban catchment of the same area with no water quality management controls for all of the following: a) Gross pollutants by at least 90%. B) suspended solids by at least 60%.

	C) total phosphorous by at least 45%. D) total nitrogen by at least 40%. Notes: • If a tool other than the MUSIC model is used then a report by an independent suitably qualified person must be submitted demonstrating and confirming compliance. • If parameters that are non-compliant are used then a report must also be submitted by an independent suitably qualified person stating how and why the parameters are appropriate.
Site contamination	17.7. Where development is proposed on a site impacted or potentially impacted by contamination, the development and proposed methods of responding to the contamination is endorsed by the ACT Environment Protection Authority.
Hazardous materials	17.8. Where development is proposed on a site impacted by hazardous materials, the development and proposed methods of managing the hazardous materials is endorsed by the ACT Environment Protection Authority.
Demolition	17.9. Where demolition of commercial or industrial premises for which a certificate of occupancy was issued before 2005 is proposed, demolition is undertaken in accordance with hazardous materials survey (including an asbestos survey) prepared by a suitably qualified person and endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority.

Parking, Services and Utilities

The following specifications provide possible solutions that should be considered in relation to vehicle parking, access and site servicing (including possible requirements by utility providers) for a proposed development:

Assessment Outcome	**18. The development provides appropriate end-of-trip facilities**
Specification	
End of trip facilities – provision of facilities	18.1. This specification applies to: a) New developments. b) Major alterations and/or extensions to existing buildings (if the work affects more than 50% of the floor area of the whole of an existing building). c) Changes of use that require approval of a Development Application. On-site bicycle parking must meet all of the following: a) Spaces for short and long-stay users are to be in accordance with the relevant rates shown in table 1. b) Bicycle parking facility must be Security Level A, B or C as set out in *AS2890.3. Security levels for long- stay* must also be: i) Securely enclosed and separated from publicly accessible areas, including car parking areas. ii) Protected from the weather. iii) Provided on a hard floor surface such as concrete or paving. c) Be clearly visible, well-lit, secure, safe and well ventilated. d) Located: i) Long stay - within one level of the building entrance and no more. than 30m from this entrance.

	ii) Short stay - at-grade and on the main access route to the entrance and not more than 30m from a major entrance or destination. e) Where bicycle parking devices are used: i) Access aisles adjacent to bicycle parking devices must be a minimum width of: • 1.5m for side-by-side bicycle parking; and • 2.0m for multi-tier bicycle parking or bicycle lockers. ii) Access aisles are designed in accordance with *AS2890.3.* iii) Not more than 80% of all bicycle parking spaces are to be multi-tier, in accordance with *AS2890.3.* iv) Bicycle parking devices must accommodate the bicycle space envelope nominated in *AS2890.3.* Net lettable area (NLA) is calculated in one of the following ways: a) In accordance with the NLA definition. b) 85% of a building's gross floor area. Note: Wall-mounted bicycle parking devices located above the bonnet of car parking spaces must not be counted toward the provision of bicycle parking required to meet this specification.

Table 1: end of trip facilities

Land use	Standard rates for end-of-trip facilities	
	Long-stay users (residents, employees, students)	**Short-stay users (customers, patrons, visitors)**
Aquatic recreation facility	1 space per 3000m^2 NLA	1 space per 150m² NLA
Club	1 space per 150m² NLA	1 space per 150m² NLA
Commercial accommodation use, guesthouse, hotel, motel, tourist serviced apartment, resort	1 space per 250m² NLA	1 space per 250m² NLA
Community activity centre	1 space per 1500 seats or 1 space per 1500m^2 NLA	1 space per 15 seats or 1 space per 15m^2 NLA
Indoor recreation facility	1 space per 3000m^2 NLA	1 space per 150m² NLA
Municipal depot	1 space per 2 ha	None

Individual assessments are required for any other development type not listed above.

End of trip facilities – design requirements of facilities	18.2. This specification applies to: a) New developments. b) Major alterations and/or extensions to existing buildings (if the work affects more than 50% of the floor area of the whole of an existing building). c) Changes of use that require approval of a Development Application. The access path to end-of-trip facilities provides a minimum unobstructed width of: a) 1.5m where the number of bicycle movements is less than 30 per hour in peak periods. b) 2.5m where the number of bicycle movements is 30 or more per hour in peak periods. c) The access path to end-of-trip facilities must also be in accordance with *AS2890.3*.

	d) Ramp gradients must not exceed 1:12 where they are to be ridden by a bicycle rider accessing end-of-trip facilities, in accordance with *AS2890.3.* e) Bicycle parking facility users must not be required to walk up or down vehicular ramps to access bicycle parking.
End of trip facilities – shower and change facilities	18.3. This specification applies to: a) New developments. b) Major alterations and/or extensions to existing buildings (if the work affects more than 50% of the floor area of the whole of an existing building). c) Changes of use that require approval of a Development Application. Shower and change facilities must be provided for long-stay users in non-residential development: a) A minimum of one shower is provided for the first 5 long-stay spaces or part thereof, plus an additional shower for each 10 bicycle parking spaces thereafter. b) Shower and change facilities must be rounded up such that an equal number of male and female facilities are provided. c) Separate male and female shower and change facilities must be provided. d) A minimum of one toilet, wash basin and drying area is provided to shower and change facilities. e) A minimum of one change room is provided per shower as one of the following. i) A combined shower/change room. ii) Direct access to a communal change room. f) Where a communal change room is provided, direct access is provided via the shower facility, without passing through a publicly accessible area. g) Separate gender-neutral shower and change facilities are provided where possible. h) Personal storage facilities must be provided for long-stay users in non-residential development i) Personal storage facilities (lockers) must be: j) provided at a rate of 2 for each bicycle parking space provided (lockers may be used by a variety of active travel, recreational and sport user groups i) Of suitable volume and dimensions to allow adequate storage of clothing, towels, helmets, footwear and other personal items ii) Well ventilated, secure and lockable; and iii) Located in one or both of the following locations: • Close to shower and change facilities to provide for the safety, privacy and convenience of the user. • Within communal change rooms.

Assessment Outcome	**19. Vehicle and bicycle parking sufficiently caters for the development while minimising visual impacts from the street or public space. This includes consideration of parking location, dimensions and number of spaces provided.**
Specification	
Number of car parking spaces	19.1. Parking spaces are provided on site at the rate and location in table 2 and 3.

Table 2: Parking provision rates for PRZ zones

Development	PRZ1, PRZ2
Club	15 spaces / 100m^2 GFA
Communications facility	1 space / peak shift employee
Community activity centre	4 spaces / 100m^2 GF
Guest house	0.5 spaces / employee; plus 1 space / guestroom
Hotel	1 space / 2 employees plus; 1 space/guest room or unit for establishments of up to 36 units OR 25 spaces plus 0.3 spaces / guest room or unit for establishments of more than 36 units; plus 10 spaces/100m^2 GFA of bars and function rooms; plus 1 space / 10 restaurant seats; plus 3 spaces / 100m^2 of retail space
Indoor recreation facilities:	
Basketball, netball	25 spaces / court
Skating rink, swimming pool	20 spaces / 100m^2 of actual pool or rink area
Squash courts	2 spaces / court
Fitness centre, gymnasium	3 spaces / 100m^2 GFA
Motel	As per hotel
Outdoor recreation facilities:	
Skating rink, swimming pool	20 spaces / 100m^2 of actual pool or rink area
Bowling green	30 spaces for first green; Plus 15 spaces / additional green
Tennis court	2 spaces / court

Any other permitted land use not specified is subject to individual assessment**.**

Table 3: Parking locational requirements

Location or use[1]	Long stay parking	Short stay / Visitor parking	Operational parking[2]
Other Zones			
PRZ1, PRZ2	On-site or within 200m	On-site or within 200m	On-site

Note

[1] Distances are actual **walking** distance, not radius or direct line distance.

[2] Operational parking is for vehicles used directly as part of the operation within the development.

Accessible car parking spaces	19.2. Accessible parking meets the following: a) Parking spaces for people with disabilities in public car parks of more than 10 spaces comprise a minimum of 3% (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of the total number of parking spaces required for the development. b) Car parking spaces provided for people with disabilities have vertical clearance for the entire width of the space and the adjacent shared area of not less than 2.5m - as described in AS2890.

Dimensions and access for car parking spaces	19.3. Dimensions of car parking spaces, layout and vehicle manoeuvring meet: a) *AS* 2890*.1:2004, the Australian Standard for Parking Facilities, Part 1: Off-street Car Parking* including manoeuvring to and from and within the development, sightlines and gradients. *b)* Australian *Standard AS/NZS 2890.6:2009 Parking Facilities – Part 6: Off-street parking for people with disabilities.*
Safety	19.4. Verge crossings and internal driveways are designed to be safely used by both pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, such as through the use of vehicle speed reduction measures.
Pedestrian and cyclist access	19.5. Pedestrian and cyclist entrances, and driveways to the site are clearly visible from the front boundary, provided through the site to increase permeability, feed into and provides connections to existing path networks and on-road cycle routes. Priority is provided for pedestrian and cyclist access.
Accessible path of travel	19.6. Development complies with the following: a) A continuous accessible path of travel is provided that complies with: i) AS 1428.1 – Design for Access and Mobility. ii) AS 1428.4 – Tactile ground surface indicators for the orientation of people with vision impairment to highlight hazards or provide direction. iii) AS 4586 – Slip Resistant Classification of New Pedestrian Surface Materials for external paving and ground surfaces. iv) Designed so that the placement of facilities does not intrude into the continuous accessible path of travel. b) Walkways and glass adjacent to walkways achieve compliance with AS1428.1 and AS1428.2. c) Internal lighting along the whole of the continuous accessible path of travel designed to meet AS1680.0. d) External lighting along the whole of the continuous accessible path of travel meets AS1158.3.1. e) Directional signage or other wayfinding methods, e.g., tactile indicators, to be in accordance with AS1428.1 and AS1428.4 and must identify the continuous accessible path of travel, accessible parts of buildings and all accessible facilities. f) Doorways and doors are designed to meet AS 1428.1- Design for Access and Mobility for pedestrian entrances and exits; public circulation areas; and any common use areas.

Assessment Outcome	**20. Waste is appropriately managed on site without having a detrimental impact on users and the surrounding area.**
Specification	
Waste facilities	20.1. Developments that propose post occupancy waste management facilities achieve endorsement from Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS).

Assessment Outcome	**21. The site is appropriately serviced in terms of infrastructure and utility services and any associated amenity impacts are minimised.**
Specification	
Servicing and infrastructure	21.1. Proposed development can be sufficiently serviced in terms of infrastructure and utility services. Endorsement is achieved from relevant utility providers (electricity, water, gas, sewerage and stormwater) to confirm that the location

	and nature of earthworks, utility connections, proposed buildings, pavements and landscape features comply with utility standards, access provisions and asset clearance zones
Battery storage	21.2. Where development includes a battery over 30kW, the development is endorsed by the Emergency Services Agency.
Demolition – utility endorsement	21.3. For demolition works, endorsement is achieved from relevant utility providers (electricity, water, gas, sewerage and stormwater) stating that: a) All network infrastructure on or immediately adjacent the site has been identified on the plan. b) All potentially hazardous substances and conditions (associated with or resulting from the demolition process) that may constitute a risk to utility services have been identified. c) All required network disconnections have been identified and the disconnection works comply with utility requirements. d) All works associated with the demolition comply with and are in accordance with utility asset access and protection requirements
External lighting	21.4. Development complies with the following: a) External lighting is provided to building frontages, to all pathways, roads, laneways and car-parking areas in accordance with *Australian Standard AS1158.3.1 Pedestrian Lighting.* b) All external lighting provided is in accordance with *Australian Standard AS4282 - Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.*
Encroachment of easements and rights-of-way	21.5. Buildings do not encroach over easements or rights of way, unless the proposed encroachment is approved in writing by the relevant service provider.