adventure+

Playground Budgeting Guide for Schools

A well designed playground can be a significant investment that requires meticulous planning. This guide will provide insights into the cost of a playground and what needs to be considered when budgeting.

How much does a playground cost?

You know what you want, but are unsure about how much a school playground design and equipment will cost.

The entire project cost could fall between $10,000 to $500,000, depending on a range of factors — from the size of the site, to the playground equipment design, and the features you and your students want. Regardless of the cost, there needs to be value for money and the playground must enhance the appeal of your school. Tall order?

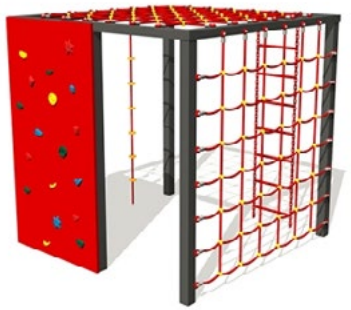
Not for **adventure+**. We are specialists in designing school playgrounds using outdoor play equipment that is fun and development-focused. We know that cost and access to timely information can play a big part in your choice of playground supplier. In this book we will provide guidelines on how much a new playground can cost.

Small sized playgrounds

Small playgrounds are typically found in low use areas or may be an addition to an existing play space. It contains a small play unit such as a climbing cube, swing or rocker, suitable for a few children only. A small playground can cost less than $25,000 to design and install, doesn't need much space and is a fantastic way to use an underutilised space in the schoolyard.

Note: Pricing is indicative supply and installed pricing* only for actual play units. Despatch, delivery and/or travel charges are additional to the prices shown. Also remember to include the cost of site works, edging and undersurfacing in your budget.

*GST not included



2.5m Climbing Cube

Price Range – installed: $10,000 – $15,000

Tallbot Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $20,000 – $30,000

Medium sized playground

An average school playground, whether for junior or senior school, can start from $40,000 or go up to $60,000. As a guide, approximately five to ten playground platforms are included in a medium sized playground.

Note: Pricing is indicative supply and installed pricing* only for actual play units. Despatch, delivery and/or travel charges are additional to the prices shown. Also remember to include the cost of site works, edging and undersurfacing in your budget.

*GST not included

Briarton Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $40,000 – $50,000

Batesford Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $45,000 – $55,000

Large sized playground

A larger school playground can hold more equipment and can cater to two different age groups i.e. juniors and seniors. A large sized playground system typically costs between $60,000 to $90,000.

The playground design can include customisation of the cladding and architectural features. However, this works best for a larger than a 10-platform unit, or a combination of traditional steel or timber equipment and rope play.

Note: Pricing is indicative supply and installed pricing* only for actual play units. Despatch, delivery and/or travel charges are additional to the prices shown. Also remember to include the cost of site works, edging and undersurfacing in your budget.

*GST not included

Waldburg Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $60,000 – $65,000

Harrington Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $75,000 – $85,000

Supersized playground

The supersized is for the adventure lover and for schools with a lot of room. A budget of this size will allow you to explore heights like the Winchester below, standing 6 metres tall, or spread out wide like the Duffield.

Note: Pricing is indicative supply and installed pricing only for actual play units. Despatch, delivery and/or travel charges are additional to the prices shown. Also remember to include the cost of site works, edging and undersurfacing in your budget.

Duffield Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $80,000 – $90,000

Winchester Tower Play Unit

Price Range – installed: $150,000 – $160,000

Factors that influence playground cost

The cost of a playground depends on many factors, including the site or space available, which influences how much playground equipment is installed. Obviously, the larger the site, the more equipment it can contain. A playground can cost anywhere from $10,000 at the lower end to $500,000 at the higher end.

Related site works also need to be taken into account. For example, all playgrounds require some type of edging and undersurfacing. Some sites need to be excavated or retaining walls installed, which all increases the overall expense.

Rubber undersurfacing can add significantly to the total price, sometimes costing as much as the new equipment itself. Mulch or sand is a good option where initial outlay needs to be reduced.

We will discuss these factors and more over the following pages.

Playground Size

The physical size of play equipment and the play area itself has the biggest influence on the cost of a playground. In simple terms: the more play equipment, the more budget required, and the more associated works such as undersurfacing you will need.

Playground Features and Styles

Special features and themed equipment can impact the cost of a playground. Custom elements, such as ramps, bridges, special panels or materials can increase the budget. However, with these features you also get a much more attractive playground, creating a much more complete look.

Site Preparation & Demolition

If the suggested site for your playground isn't level or needs clearing, excavation can bring it to a state that is suitable. You may also need to demolish any existing structures. Site preparation must be a factor when you run the numbers for your playground project.

Undersurfacing

When choosing the undersurfacing material, it's valuable to compare the initial cost against the cost of ongoing maintenance. Rubber surfaces, for example, require more upfront investment but far less maintenance than the alternatives.

Borders

At **adventure+** we recommend having some kind of border to help contain the playground undersurfacing. This helps keep the playground neat and well-maintained.

Shade

Sun protection is an important part of playground safety across the country and as a result, all new playgrounds should be adequately sheltered from the harsh afternoon sun. If your playground is not set under established trees, sails and other shade structures should be included in your cost estimate.

Typical Playground Budget

When planning for a playground, it's important to consider the budget and how to allocate funds effectively.

The tables provided give a breakdown of the typical percentage spent on different elements within a play space.

Taking into account these percentages and making necessary adjustments based on particular project needs can aid in formulating practical and achievable budgets.

Project with borders and loose undersufracing:			
Budget:	$40,000	$60,000	$80,000+
Fixed Equipment	80%	55%	55%
Undersurfacing	20%	15%	15%
Shade Structures		30%	30%

Project with rubber undersufracing:			
Budget:	$40,000	$60,000	$80,000+
Fixed Equipment		55%	40%
Undersurfacing		45%	35%
Shade Structures			25%

Start your playground adventure!

Get in touch with one of our play consultants to start your playground project.

adventure +
taking play seriously

1300 237 587
sales@adventureplus.net.au
adventureplus.net.au

Brisbane • Sydney • Melbourne • Adelaide • Perth

Feb 2024

© Adventure Playgrounds Pty Ltd

ABN 28 120 543 250 ACN 120 543 259