

ROSS RESERVE, NOBLE PARK MASTER PLAN

Final Report



Prepared for:
Greater Dandenong City Council



Prepared by:
Land Design Partnership Pty. Ltd.



April 2012

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ROSS RESERVE, NOBLE PARK MASTER PLAN Final Report

1. INTRODUCTION

Greater Dandenong City Council engaged the consultant team led by Land Design Partnership in October 2010 to prepare a Master Plan for the existing Reserve, located along Memorial Drive, Noble Park. The Ross Reserve Master Plan will provide Greater Dandenong City Council with an important strategic planning tool in relation to the future development and use of the Reserve.

1.1 Key Aims

The key aim of the master planning process as outlined in the Project Brief is

to develop a Master Plan that will strengthen and progress Ross Reserve's role as a regional, sports and multi-purpose park that is recognized by locals and the broader community as one of the best parks in Melbourne's south east to visit.

In addressing this aim, the Project Brief required consideration of:

- Integration of environmental, economic, sports, facilities and social factors which impact the use and character of the Reserve.
- Sufficient flexibility to cater for a range of actions and uses depending on circumstances and opportunities as they arise.
- The role of sport, including the existing sporting activities, sporting clubs and facilities and the future strategic planning of competition sport within the municipality.
- Local community ideas and aspirations to reinforce a pride of place and provide for accessible public meeting places.
- Strategic opportunities to integrate the Reserve with the Noble Park Activity Centre.
- The diverse community of the City of Greater Dandenong.
- The cultural and natural heritage of the Noble Park locality.
- The outcomes of a comprehensive community consultation process.
- Council's corporate direction and recommendations from major strategic reports and plans including the Leisure Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Soccer Development Strategy, Bicycle Strategy and Playground Strategy.
- The Greater Dandenong MSS and LPP's.
- An implementation strategy which allows for the park to be upgraded or redeveloped in stages over the next 15 years, with initiatives which are achievable in the short, medium and longer term.
- Co-ordinated implementation of initiatives outlined in the Master Plan within Council's Long Term 10 Year Financial Plan and Capital Improvements program.

1.2 Study Process

The steps involved in the development of the Master Plan were as follows:

1. Research and Analysis:

- Site investigation and analysis.
- Background/demographic and leisure trends research and analysis.

2. Consultation with Key Stakeholders

- Meetings with City of Greater Dandenong officers and councillors, the Project Control Group established for the Master Plan, relevant local user clubs and groups, local service agencies and authorities and other key stakeholders.
- Meeting with local residential community.

3. Preliminary Concepts:

- Preliminary concepts, exploring sport allocation, community uses, precinct connections, desirable uses and their functional arrangements on the site.
- Discussion of functional concepts with PCG and Council officers.

4. Draft Master Plan:

- Preparation of Draft Master Plan based upon findings from the research and analysis phase, and review of preliminary concepts.

5. Public Exhibition of Draft Master Plan:

- Exhibition of the Draft Master Plan, seeking comment from Reserve users clubs and groups, agencies and authorities, the local community and other key stakeholders.

6. Final Master Plan:

- Refinement of Draft Master Plan into a staged Final Master Plan based upon feedback received during the exhibition of the Draft.

2. SITE CONTEXT and ANALYSIS

2.1 The Site Context

Ross Reserve is located in Noble Park and is defined by Corrigan and Heatherton Roads to the west and south respectively. These roads provide important district and regional access to the Reserve. Mile Creek provides the northern site boundary to the Reserve. The creek plays a major drainage role through the municipality, as well as acting as a biodiversity corridor. At present Mile Creek is formed as an inaccessible concrete lined channel, however, there may be future opportunities for development of pedestrian and cycle path links along the Creek. There are limited pedestrian bridge crossing points across Mile Creek into the parkland from eastern residential areas. The Reserve is defined to the south-west by the Dandenong – Cranbourne Rail Line, which includes the Noble Park Station to the immediate south of the Reserve. As with Corrigan and Heatherton Road, the rail line provides district and regional access to the Reserve. Several residential properties have boundaries with the Reserve along its western edge and in the south south-east corner of the site. Memorial Drive provides the primary access route through the park to the facilities and car parks. It is accessed from both Heatherton Road and Corrigan Road and transects the site from north to south.

The location of Ross Reserve means that it has direct connection with a number of local community focal points, including the Noble Park Community Centre (located within the Reserve), Noble Park Activity Centre (to the immediate south of the Reserve), the Noble Park railway station, and the Noble Park Aquatic Centre “Noble Park - More Than Just A Pool” (NPAC) Redevelopment Project. The Reserve also has a direct connection with Sandown Park to the north. In addition to these key community focal points, the area surrounding Ross Reserve is made up primarily of residential areas, which include a number of local schools, although access from these residential areas is restricted by the nature of the Reserve boundaries (major roads, rail line and drainage channel). This context has led to Ross Reserve being recognized as playing an increasingly important role within the Noble Park community.

Ross Reserve is classified as a District Park in the City of Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy 2009. District Parks are large sized open spaces, individually designed, which provide opportunities for a range of activities, comprising both passive and active recreation, and organised and informal play. It is also classified as a Sports Reserve, catering for mainly organised (club based) sports with a broad catchment of users. Sports Reserves may contain a variety of sporting facilities and associated infrastructure which are generally used and managed for organised sports. In addition to these broader uses, Ross Reserve also acts as a local Reserve for its adjoining residential communities.



Figure 1: Existing Site Context

2.1.2 Implications for the Master Plan

Consideration of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities associated with the context and setting of Ross Reserve revealed a range of implications for the development of the Master Plan:

- The difficulty of crossing major roads and railway lines for access into Ross Reserve is a major constraint upon potential use of the Reserve by local residents, workers and visitors to the Noble Park Activity Centre. The Master Plan should consider means to encourage and facilitate access into the Reserve.
- Any proposed road work on Heatherton Road, including signalisation of the Lightwood Road roundabout, should take advantage of opportunities to improve pedestrian access into Ross Reserve.
- Despite the difficulty of access into the Reserve, the proximity of the Noble Park Railway Station and the Noble Park Activity Centre, the Reserve presents a positive opportunity to encourage broader community use of the Reserve. This further emphasises the importance of the Master Plan facilitating ease of access to the Reserve.
- The interface of the park with residential neighbourhoods means that the Master Plan should provide for local scale activity and spaces as well as district level activity.

2.2 Policy Context

2.2.1 Strategic Plans

There are a large number of relevant strategic reports, plans and studies, prepared by Greater Dandenong City Council that are relevant to the Noble Park context and have been reviewed as part of the master planning process. Those which have particularly informed the Master Plan outcomes are identified below:

Open Space Strategy 2009

The objectives of the Open Space Strategy are to map out a way to achieve a quality public park and reserve network, to meet the recreational and social needs of the existing and future Greater Dandenong community, over the next 20 years.

The goals of the strategy are to provide:

- A range of public parks and reserves within walking distance from most residents that are attractive, interesting, safe, readily accessible and comfortable places to be.
- A comprehensive open space network that delivers environmental, social, health and well-being, and economic benefits to the community.

The Open Space Strategy outlines broad principles for the open space network, goals for open space provision, park development standards and strengths and issues regarding open space within the municipality.

Council's Open Space Strategy has identified Ross Reserve as a District Park and as a key area for detailed Master Plan development.

Playground Strategy 2010

The Playground Strategy and Action Plan (2010 update) outlines a balanced approach to playground provision within the municipality, with an emphasis on play value as well as maintenance and asset upgrading. It provides clear design guidelines to improved design standards, around play value, accessibility, integration with surrounding park, artwork integration, community safety and environmental considerations.

The Playground Strategy is a key document which has provided guidance to the provision of play spaces within the Ross Reserve Master Plan.

Leisure Strategy (2008 update)

The Leisure Strategy outlines Council's vision for the future direction for the provision of leisure opportunities and facilities within the City of Greater Dandenong for the next 10 years.

The principles relevant to the Ross Reserve Master Plan are:

- Resources available for recreation and sporting activities should increase in line with sustainable demand, with user pay/joint projects and shared/multi-purpose facilities supporting the funding of facilities.

- The community should be involved in the planning and provision of leisure programs, facilities and open space.
- Future leisure facility developments need to be considered within a regional context after extensive investigation and discussions with neighbouring municipalities to prevent duplication.

The report also outlines the four key strategic directions, which have helped shape the direction of the Ross Reserve Master Plan:

- Increased community participation, engagement and pride
- Enhanced community health and well being.
- More well designed multi-purpose facilities.
- Notable sporting venues worthy of Second City status.

City of Greater Dandenong Sport and Recreation Participation Study Consultation Outcomes Report 2011

The Sport and Recreation Participation Study was undertaken to understand the extent of involvement of residents throughout the City of Greater Dandenong in the diverse range of sport and recreation activities on offer. It is also important to understand the factors that prevent or discourage participation so that Council can develop strategies to minimise barriers to participation.

Three of the top four most popular activities in the City of Greater Dandenong (walking, cycling and running/jogging) generally require good linkages and shared pathways to provide the infrastructure required for participation. Given that walking and cycling were also identified in the top ten activities that people would like to do but can't, and 66% of survey respondents agreed with the statement "there should be more pedestrian and bicycle paths for residents to use", Council has an opportunity to improve the network of pathways and trails throughout the City of Greater Dandenong with safe crossings and good access. This area of improvement has been identified in Council's Open Space Strategy "Places for People" (2009). The provision of path networks to allow for these activities has been a key objective of the Ross Reserve Master Plan.

The other activity within the four most popular activities in the City of Greater Dandenong was swimming. With the Nobel Park "More Than Just a Pool" Redevelopment project occurring within Ross Reserve, the Master Plan has the potential to encourage increased participation in a number of key activities.

Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan 2009

Melbourne 2030 classifies Noble Park as a Major Activity Centre. A Structure Plan for the Noble Park Activity Centre has been prepared to support the strategic directions of the City of Greater Dandenong as well as the State Government's Melbourne 2030 strategy. The objective of the Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan is to provide a sound strategic plan to guide and lead significant changes occurring in and around the centre over the next 5 to 10 years.

The vision established in the Structure Plan for Noble Park is *"To create a welcoming, vibrant, safe village centre that responds to community aspirations for Noble Park"*.

The Structure Plan recommends that Noble Park be recognized as:

- A unique suburban activity centre.
- A centre with a village style layout and retail function.
- A centre well serviced by significant community facilities including Noble Park Swimming Pool, RSL, Ross Reserve Community Centre.

Specifically the Structure Plan recommends that:

- Noble Park be acknowledged and actively promoted as a thriving village community with a focus on Noble Park being an ideal place to bring up a family or retire.
- Council builds on community facilities for young people and families.
- Council builds up services and organizations that support older people, including services that promote ongoing learning and reflect older persons needs like family history and historical services.
- Council continues to provide and upgrade suitable open spaces, public spaces and community meeting spaces including a Town Square within the Noble Park Activity Centre.
- Council continues to work to upgrade adjoining community facilities including the Pool, Ross Reserve and Mile Creek.
- Council continues to review and designate appropriate areas within and adjoining the Activity Centre for medium density housing, family housing and alternative forms of aged care accommodation.
- Council continues to actively plan and develop a retail mix for the centre to best meet the retail and employment needs of the community.

Public responses to the Activity Centre Structure Plan called for public toilets to be installed in Ross Reserve. Participants commented on the preservation and enhancement of the existing River Red Gums to the Activity Centre complementing those Existing River Red Gums in Ross Reserve.

The key implications of the Structure Plan for the Ross Reserve Master Plan are the clear emphasis on the provision of community facilities and spaces and the opportunity for improved synergy between the Reserve and the Noble Park Activity Centre.

Sport Facility Plan 2010 (draft)

The Sport Facility Plan aims to provide a well planned approach incorporating practical measures that will help to guide sport within the City of Greater Dandenong into the future. The Plan addresses a range of issues and challenges for Council including facility allocation, development, management and prioritising of funding for sporting facilities. It also aims to guide Councils investment in sporting facilities to ensure that resourcing is equitable and effective in providing sport and recreation opportunities for the whole community. The Plan adopts the Facility Planning Principles from the Leisure Strategy as the Principles for Provision of Sport Facilities. These cover multi use and facility consolidation, accessibility, community based provision, health and wellbeing, participation, financial viability, partnerships and sustainability.

Soccer Development Plan 2010 (Draft)

The overall purpose of the Draft Soccer Development Plan is to provide a strategic direction for the future provision of soccer in the CGD.

More specific objectives for the CGD include:

- Provide strategic direction on the likely future facility and infrastructure requirements to service soccer needs within the municipality.
- Provide direction on possible locations for the provision of synthetic surfaces to service the needs of the soccer community.
- Identify issues, needs and roles in supporting the development and operation of sustainable clubs in the City.
- Provide opportunities for bringing together more community cohesion through involving people in this popular and growing sport.

Community Wellbeing Plan 2010 - 2013

The Community Wellbeing Plan 2010 - 2013 is a key strategic document for CGD that relates to improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for the community. There are three priorities (out of the seven in the plan) which impact on master planning of Ross Reserve.

- Safer Communities Strategies 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.3.3.
- Inclusion and Respect Strategies 5.1.3, 5.2.1.
- Physical Activity, Leisure and Recreation Strategies 6.1.2, 6.1.5.

Social Planning Studies

The Social Planning Unit of the City of Greater Dandenong has undertaken community awareness testing in relation to drinking in public places and instigated a pilot project on this including Ross Reserve.

The Social Planning Unit has identified that community safety issues at Ross Reserve are significant at present. Much of the misuse of the Reserve results from the limited visibility into the Reserve from the surrounding roads and its close proximity to liquor outlets. This particularly relates to under age drinking and other substance abuse. Other existing issues for the Reserve include its reputation as a location for drug dealing. Based on these perceptions it will be important for the Master Plan to apply positive Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles.

The Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Report – ‘Rights of Passage’ included recommendations regarding open space and community safety in Noble Park, taking into account Sudanese community views.

Creative Conversations Project

The aim of the Creative Conversations Project has been to facilitate the community's input into a Project Brief for the artistic treatments and design of the future Noble Park's People (Civic) Space.

Creative Conversations has been carried out over 3 months from mid March to the end of June 2010. The Conversations consisted of 20 workshops with a range of community organisations, including Noble Park Primary School, Noble Park Secondary College, the Drug Action Forum, Youth Links, AMES, Koala Gym, Council's Y-Space programs, Women's Parent Group, Trader's Association, Centenary Committee, Noble Park RSL and Wurrundjeri representatives. The Conversations meetings varied in size, ranging from 2 to approximately 25 participants and reflect a good cross-section of the Noble Park community in terms of age, background, nationality, culture, religion and life experience.

In summary, Creative Conversations identified a range of themes and a diversity of needs for community space in Noble Park, which will overflow into the function and character of Ross Reserve. For example, the project identified the importance of enhancing the cultural and heritage significance of the River Red Gums at Ross Reserve.

2.2.2 Zones and Overlays

The City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme identifies a range of zones and overlays which direct land use and development within Noble Park, including Ross Reserve. These are summarised below.

Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

Purpose:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To recognize areas for public recreation and open space.
- To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate.
- To provide for commercial uses where appropriate.

A permit is required to:

- Construct a building or construct or carry out works. This does not apply to:
 - Pathways, trails, seating, picnic tables, drinking taps, shelters, barbeques, rubbish bins, security lighting, irrigation, drainage or underground infrastructure.
 - Playground or sporting equipment, provided these facilities do not occupy more than 10 m² of parkland.
 - Navigational beacons and aids.
 - Planting or landscaping.
 - Fencing that is 1 metre or less in height above ground level.
 - A building or works shown in an incorporated plan which applies to the land.
 - A building or works carried out by or on behalf of a public land manager or Parks Victoria under the Local Government Act 1989, the Reference Areas Act 1978, the National Parks Act 1975, the Fisheries Act 1995, the Wildlife Act 1975, the Forest Act 1958, the Water Industry Act 1994, the Water Act 1989, the Marine Act 1988, the Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958 or the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.
- Subdivide land.

Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ)

Purpose:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To identify waterways, major floodpaths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas within urban areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.
- To ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage and is compatible with flood hazard, local drainage conditions and the minimisation of soil erosion, sedimentation and silting.
- To reflect any declarations under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989.
- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources in accordance with the provisions of relevant State Environment Protection Policies, and particularly in accordance with Clauses 33 and 35 of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).

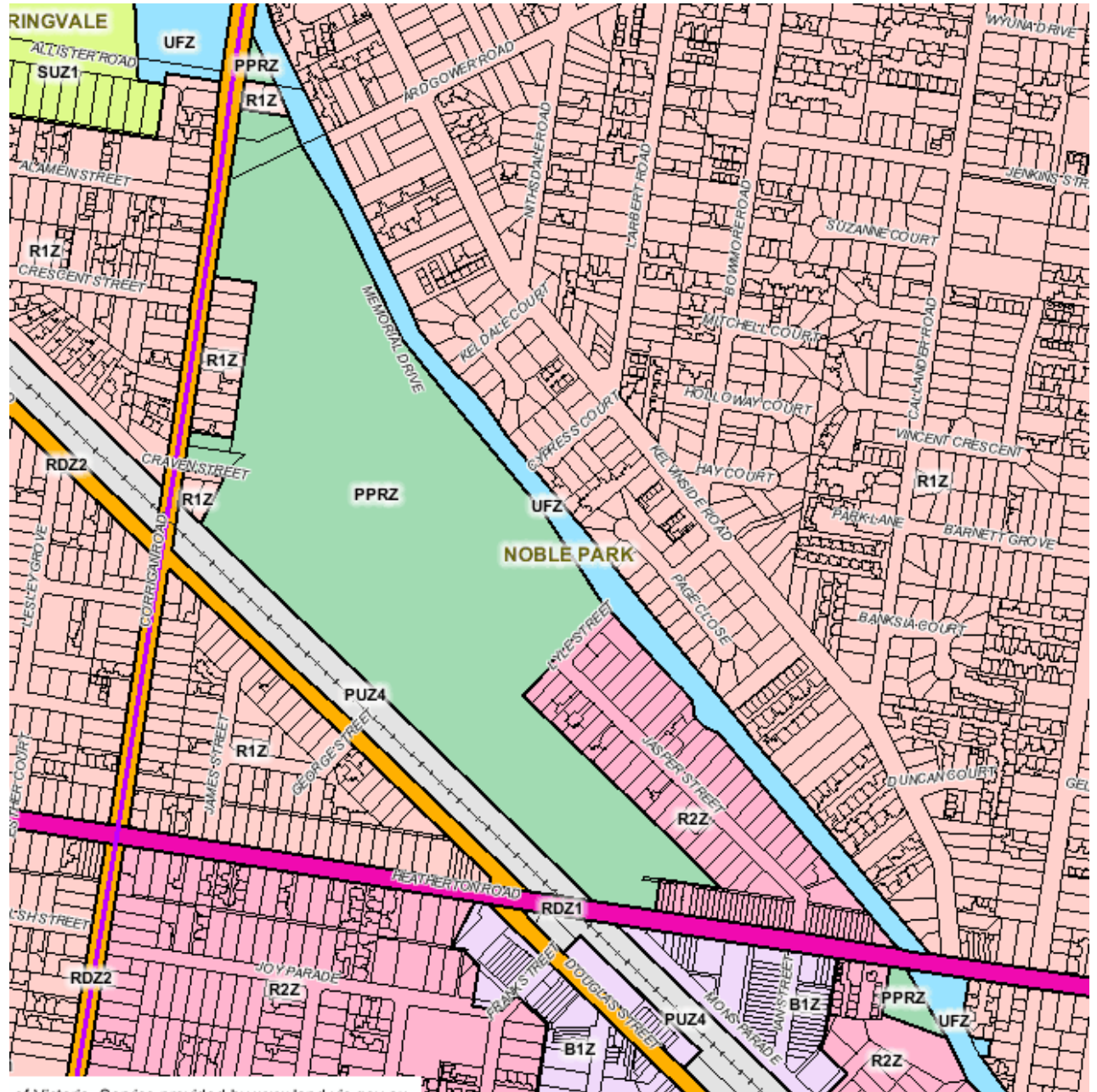
Buildings and Works

A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works, including:

- A fence.
- Roadworks.
- Bicycle pathways and trails.
- Public toilets.
- A domestic swimming pool or spa and associated mechanical and safety equipment if associated with one dwelling on a lot.
- A pergola or verandah, including an open-sided pergola or verandah to a dwelling with a finished floor level not more than 800 mm above ground level and a maximum building height of 3 metres above ground level.
- A deck, including a deck to a dwelling with a finished floor level not more than 800 mm above ground level.
- A non-domestic disabled access ramp.

This does not apply to:

- Flood mitigation works carried out by the responsible authority or floodplain management authority.
- The following works in accordance with plans prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority:
 - The laying of underground sewerage, water and gas mains, oil pipelines, underground telephone and power lines, provided they do not alter the topography of the land.
 - The erection of telephone or power lines, provided they do not involve the construction of towers or poles.
 - Post and wire and post and rail fencing.



NB: This legend can only be used to read the detailed zones and overlays map (it cannot be used to read the index map).

If you position your mouse cursor over a particular **zone** or **overlay** entry IN THIS LEGEND and select it - the appropriate ordinance (text) file will open. The ordinance file will give a detailed description of that zone or overlay. Alternatively, you can view the same ordinance file by returning to the PS Home Page and selecting the appropriate entry from the Ordinance '30 Zones' drop list or the '40 Overlays' drop list.

Business

- B1Z Business 1 Zone
- B2Z Business 2 Zone
- B3Z Business 3 Zone
- B4Z Business 4 Zone
- B5Z Business 5 Zone

Industrial

- I1Z Industrial 1 Zone
- I2Z Industrial 2 Zone
- I3Z Industrial 3 Zone

Public Land

- PPRZ Public Park and Recreation Zone
- PORZ Public Conservation and Resource Zone
- PUZ1 Public Use Zone Service and Utility
- PUZ2 Public Use Zone Education
- PUZ3 Public Use Zone Health and Community

- PUZ4 Public Use Zone Transport
- PUZ5 Public Use Zone Cemetery/crematorium
- PUZ6 Public Use Zone Local Government
- RDZ1 Road Zone Category 1
- RDZ2 Road Zone Category 2

Residential

- MUZ Mixed Use Zone
- R1Z Residential 1 Zone
- R2Z Residential 2 Zone

Rural

- GWZ Green Wedge Zone
- FZ Farming Zone

Special Purpose

- SDZ Comprehensive Development Zone
- SUZ Special Use Zone
- UFZ Urban Floodway Zone

Overlays

- DCPD Development Contributions Plan Overlay
- DDO Design And Development Overlay
- DPO Development Plan Overlay
- EAO Environmental Audit Overlay
- ESO Environmental Significance Overlay
- HO Heritage Overlay
- LSO Land Subject To Inundation Overlay
- PAO Public Acquisition Overlay
- RAO Road Closure Overlay
- SBO Special Building Overlay

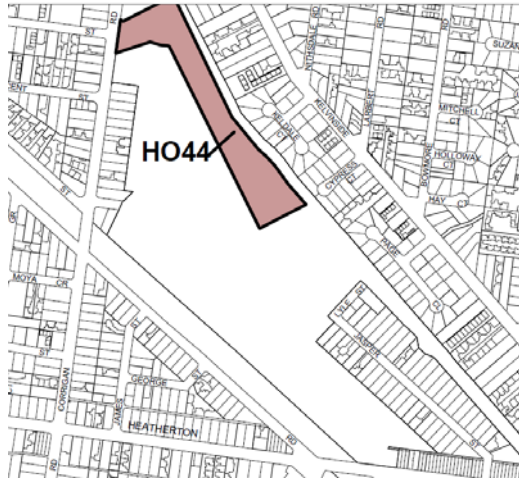
NOTE: You should check the Schedules to each Zone and Overlay for the full provisions that apply to this scheme. These are located in sections 30 and 40 on the scheme's Home page.

Figure 2: Existing Planning Zones

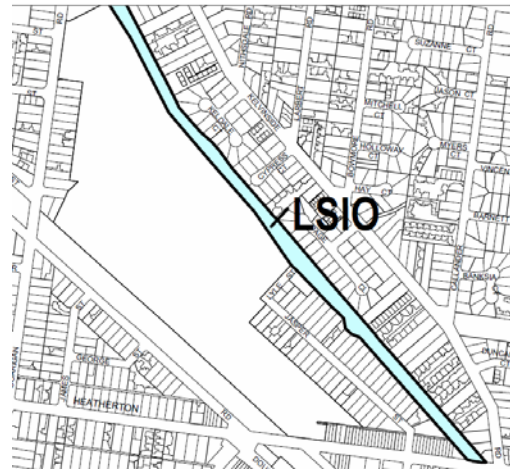
Heritage Overlay HO44 River Red Gums – Memorial Drive Road Reserve, Noble Park

The Heritage Overlay applies to the eucalypts and land beneath the canopy edge of each tree for a distance of five metres from the canopy edge. Authority permission is required to remove, lop or destroy tree.

The Land Subject to Inundation Overlay applies to the Mile Creek and essentially coincides with the Urban Floodway Zone.



Heritage Overlay



Land Subject to Inundation Overlay

Figure 3: Existing Planning Scheme Heritage and Land Subject to Inundation Overlays

2.3 The Demographics of the Noble Park Community and Their Impact on Recreation Demand

2.3.1 Introduction

The history of a community and its cultural origins, religion, value systems and traditions is critical to understanding the social context in that recreation activities are pursued. One only has to look, for example, at an Australian community and compare it with Japanese, Italian, Indian or Indonesian communities, to understand the very different traditions and value systems that exist and the quite different consequences to recreation and leisure provision and needs. Similarly, a review of the changes in the “Australian” community that immigrants from a wide range of overseas countries have engendered shows a wide array of impacts.

As well as the history of communities, their demographic characteristics have wide-reaching influences on leisure and recreation interests and participation.

Whether a community is large or small, homogeneous or culturally diverse, well educated and fully employed, or whether residents live in rental, apartment or stand-alone housing, will have a significant influence on the nature and scope of the recreation interests they have.

The key demographic characteristics that need to be considered in the preparation of an appropriate Master Plan for an open space resource such as Ross Reserve are:

- Population size
- Population distribution
- Population age distribution
- Income
- Employment
- Cultural mix
- Type of housing
- Household make-up
- Education
- Car ownership.

Despite the obvious importance of these factors, care must be taken in evaluating their impact. They should only be viewed as *influences* on recreational interests and behaviour, not as *determinants*. People generally select their recreational activities on the basis of what they enjoy and what gives them a sense of achievement and satisfaction. In fact, many people have life-long leisure interests; in this situation, their demographic characteristics simply influence how they take part, how often they take part and what types of resources they can make use of.

In a similar vein, demographic data at just one point in time must be evaluated carefully as rapid change can occur over less than a decade and if this is ignored, the implications can be misinterpreted.

Thus, at best, the findings of an analysis of the demographics of a community can only be used as a *guide* to a range of possible interests and needs and thence, to possible provision options – *not* as the basis for firm decisions for or against a particular initiative. Thus, provisional conclusions drawn from a demographic analysis should always be tested through consultations with the community and with program and service providers.

The following text provides a brief summary of key demographic characteristics in the Noble Park area, and their implications for the Ross Reserve Master Plan. A fuller description is provided in Appendix A.

2.3.2 The Population of Greater Dandenong and Noble Park

The following text provides an analysis of the overall City of Greater Dandenong demographic characteristics together with a discussion of the specific features of the Noble Park community. In both instances, the possible implications to the planning and use of Ross Reserve are highlighted.

2.3.2.1 Population Size and Change

Greater Dandenong

The id consulting data indicate that from 129,000 residents in 1991, the population of Greater Dandenong declined to around 124,000 in 2001 but that the last decade has seen an increase to an estimated 138,000 people in 2010. Id consulting note that “Recent growth has been mainly in new development sites at Keysborough”. Growth is expected to continue, largely from continuing development in Keysborough and on the former Dandenong Saleyards. That said it is probable that a significant portion of the 14,000 increase in the past 9 years also reflects a shift toward apartment dwellings and the development of multiple occupancies on many traditional house blocks across the City.

Clearly, a city of 140 - 150,000 residents has a capacity to support a wide diversity of sporting and recreation opportunities and will also *demand* substantial levels of provision. While residential densities and population numbers will continue to grow, the capacity for Council to acquire new land for recreational uses will be extremely constrained and it is almost certain that land parcels of the size of Ross Reserve will not be available. As such, planning for the future development and use of the Reserve must ensure that use capacities are optimised and diversified. Any community with 140,000 residents will have a wide mix of recreation interests and needs and a reserve the size of Ross Reserve should seek to cater for as many of these as is practical and sustainable.

2.3.2.2 Population Age Distribution

The id consulting demographic analysis for the City of Greater Dandenong indicates that “in 2006 compared to the Melbourne Statistical Division shows that there was a similar proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17) but a larger proportion of people in the older age groups (60+)”.

The key features of the population age distribution are:

- The City of Greater Dandenong had 23 percent of its total population in the child and teenage years group in 2006 while Noble Park had a slighter lesser percentage in this group, 22.4 percent.
- The absolute number of people in the 17 years and younger age groups fell in both Greater Dandenong and Noble Park between 2001 and 2006. Substantial and often larger falls were also experienced in every age group up to 25 - 34 years in Greater Dandenong and to 50 - 59 years in Noble Park.
- By comparison with the falls, the absolute number (and percentage) of residents in age groups over 50 years grew by over 3,000 in Greater Dandenong as a whole with the increase being such that there was a higher percentage of Greater Dandenong residents in the 60 - 84 years categories than in the 0 - 11 years or 5 - 17 years categories. In Noble Park, a similar growth occurred amongst the older age groups –and especially in the 60 years plus categories. As a result, there were more residents in their 50s, 60s and 70 - 84 years than in any of the younger age categories.
- When compared with the Melbourne Statistical Division, both, Greater Dandenong as a whole and Noble Park, had similar proportions of residents in age groups up to 50 - 59 years. However, they both had greater percentages of residents in the older age groups.

It is evident that a City and suburb with rapidly ageing populations has a number of implications for leisure and recreation provision. These include:

- A continued need for quality play and family environments, facilities and targeted programs.
- A need for substantially more active but non-competitive recreation and exercise opportunities.
- A need for more indoor and possibly, programmed, opportunities, and
- A need for greater provision of culturally and socially focused activities.

Similarly, however, the continuing substantial number of young residents, family-aged residents and, in particular, immigrant children, means there is a need for:

- Facilities that support active but non-sporting pursuits by young people.
- Opportunities for family-focused pursuits, and
- Opportunities for junior, seniors and masters sports.

2.3.2.3 Cultural Diversity

The demographic review provided on Council's web site indicates that the City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse community in Victoria. Residents come from 156 different birthplaces. Over half (56%) of the population was born overseas and 51 percent are from nations where English is not the main spoken language. This compares with only 24 percent from across metropolitan Melbourne as a whole. Overseas birthplaces include Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India, China, Italy, Greece, Bosnia, Afghanistan, New Zealand and Great Britain. While more recent data is not available, anecdotal information suggests that the number and percentage of residents coming from eastern Africa has increased dramatically over the past few years.

Such a diversity of cultures - with residents having origins across widely-spread regions of the globe - has some potentially substantial implications to the development and use of Ross Reserve if it is to contribute effectively to meeting the leisure needs of the overall community.

These include:

- The assessment of the appropriateness and adequacy of only making provision for athletics, Australian Rule football, soccer, cricket, aquatics (and in the future, fitness programs).
- The need for consultations with representatives of the various cultural communities to identify needs and the relevant opportunities that could/should be provided at the Reserve.
- The provision of pilot sport and activity programs at times and in venues in the Reserve that are attractive to residents from across the diversity of cultures in the community.
- The preparation of appropriate and accessible information about what is to be provided.
- The training and deployment in the Reserve of programmers from relevant cultural backgrounds.
- Liaison with existing sporting groups and the provision of support and information on strategies designed to involve the widest cross section of the community in their activities.
- Working with schools, religious groups and cultural support groups and agencies to highlight the opportunities which the Reserve provides and ensuring that access is facilitated, and
- Recognition that venues *other than* Ross Reserve will continue to have a critical role to play in providing leisure opportunities for the Noble Park community.

2.3.2.4 Immigration

In addition to the cultural and religious mix of the Greater Dandenong community, the Council web site demographic document noted that in 2008/9 alone, a total of 2,470 recently-arrived migrants settled in Greater Dandenong – the largest number of settlers in any Victorian municipality. Nearly a fifth of these people (or 550) were humanitarian immigrants, largely from countries such as Afghanistan, Burma, Iraq, Sudan and Sri Lanka.

The numbers and diversity of these immigrants reinforces a number of the provision implications at Ross Reserve that are outlined above.

2.3.2.5 Household Make-up

A key feature of households in Greater Dandenong is that in 2006, 75 percent of families with young children were headed by overseas-born parents – with many from countries such as Vietnam (18%), Cambodia (8%), India, Sri Lanka and Sudan (4% each). As such, facilities, activities and programs that are offered for the children of these families need to reflect or be acceptable to these cultures and be seen as acceptable and appropriate by their parents.

2.3.2.6 Socio-Economic Status

All measures of educational achievement, occupational status, income and home ownership in Greater Dandenong and in Noble Park point to a community which is disadvantaged. Further, the degree of disadvantage varies quite dramatically between cultural groups. To illustrate, weekly incomes varied from \$ 660 or more among 35 - 44 year-olds from India, to \$ 271 among those from Sudan, and to \$ 231 for residents from Afghanistan. The median personal income amongst residents living within 800 metres of Ross Reserve was \$ 359 in 2006 while the median household income was \$ 686/week.

An id consulting report also notes that “high scores on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage occur when the area has few families of low income and few people with little training and in unskilled occupations. Low scores on the index occur when the area has many low income families and people with little training and in unskilled occupations”.

Based on 2006 Census data, the SEIFA Index for metropolitan Melbourne Councils indicated that the City of Greater Dandenong had the lowest score, at 893.9. Other low scoring Councils were Brimbank, 930.5, Maribyrnong, 948.5 and Hume, 965.2. By comparison, the highest ranking Council was Boroondara, with a score of 1104.5, followed by Nillumbik, 1104.4; Bayside, 1095.8, and Stonnington, 1087.7.

The leisure provision response to disadvantage can be quite diverse and complex and is likely to encompass a number of the suggestions that have been made earlier. These include:

- Targeted programming for residents who cannot afford to use venues away from Noble Park.
- Creation of locales for activities that are easily accessed, attractive and safe.
- Creation of family opportunities and of opportunities that many families cannot pursue at home due to cost, space and other factors.
- Creation of opportunities that are cheap to use.
- Provision of opportunities that enrich the lives of participants and give them experiences they can build on throughout their life, and
- Provision of opportunities that deliver the optimum mix of beneficial outcomes to residents (these include personal, social, economic and environmental benefits).

In many instances, these opportunities can be presented as physical spaces which the community will be encouraged to and will choose to use. In other instances, however, flexible spaces will need to be programmed and residents will need to be targeted, invited and attracted to join in.

2.3.2.7 Disability

In reporting on disability, the demographic profile provided on Council's web site indicated that in 2006 the Census found that 6 percent of residents of Greater Dandenong (and 6.6% amongst residents living within 800 metres of Ross Reserve) were living with a severe or profound disability, requiring them to obtain assistance with mobility, communication or self-care. This compared with a figure of 4 percent - or 50 percent less - across metropolitan Melbourne. The level of disability increased to 33 percent of residents aged 65 years+ and to 66 percent of those over 85 years of age.

Significantly, a quarter of older disabled residents lived alone with major differences being experienced between cultural groups. Thus, less than one in twenty aged and disabled Vietnamese and Cambodian residents lived alone - because their families cared for them - while 38 percent of aged, disabled residents born in Australia lived alone. While these differences obviously reflect differing cultural practices on the part of Australian-born residents when compared with other cultures, it probably also reflects a lack of capacity on the part of other groups or a lack of certainty about or trust in residential care accommodation. Further, with a high proportion of non-Australian cultural groups occupying residential accommodation, it is probable that economic factors exclude living alone as an option.

2.3.3 Implications for the Master Plan

The review of demographic characteristics and their potential impacts on leisure need and the detailed discussion of the demographics of both the City of Greater Dandenong and of Noble Park have highlighted a range of features of importance to the master planning of Ross Reserve.

Key amongst these are:

- The need to assess a range of demographic features in the planning of any community facilities, as they can have such a far-reaching and varied effect.
- The substantial population of Noble Park (33,255 in 2006) and the important position that Ross Reserve has to play in meeting many leisure and recreation needs in the community.
- The significant ageing of the City and Noble Park communities, as well as the retention of substantial numbers of children, teenagers and adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s.
- A wider diversity of cultural backgrounds, countries of birth, languages and religions than almost anywhere else in Australia.
- Substantial numbers of recent immigrants from a broad range of countries and with many coming on humanitarian grounds.
- A large proportion of families having only one parent *but* a higher than average number of couples with children living near the Reserve.
- The vast majority of families with young children being headed by overseas-born parents.
- Nearly one-third of all homes (and one-half within 800 metre of Ross Reserve) being flats, units or apartments and one-third being rented.
- Home ownership varying dramatically between different cultural groups but generally being low, especially amongst residents living within 800 metres of Ross Reserve.
- The lowest socio-economic status across metropolitan Melbourne, as measured by data on employment, education, income and other social measures.
- High levels of disability when compared with the metropolitan Melbourne area, and
- Very high levels of overall criminal offences, drug offences and family violence.

Many of these community attributes are of considerable concern and action to address them is warranted. A redeveloped Ross Reserve can make a significant contribution to this, as engagement in leisure and recreation are increasingly being recognized as key strategies for strengthening a sense of community, building community cohesion and social capital, addressing isolation and overcoming disadvantage.

In this context, some of the critical initiatives for action at Ross Reserve arising from the demographic analysis include:

- Diversifying and optimising use capacities.
- Providing substantially more active but non-competitive recreation and exercise opportunities.
- Provision of more indoor and programmed, non-sporting outdoor opportunities.
- Greater provision of culturally and socially focused activities.
- Provision of facilities that support active but non-sporting pursuits by young people.
- Provision of opportunities for family-focused pursuits.
- Provision of opportunities for junior, seniors and masters sports.
- Consideration of more and better picnic facilities; spaces for outdoor social and cultural *events*; internal Reserve paths for walking and cycling; community gardens and ornamental gardens; seating in attractive settings; better service amenities, and substantially improved access.
- Assessment of the appropriateness and adequacy of only making provision for athletics, Australian Rule football, soccer, cricket and aquatics.
- Consultations with representatives of the various cultural communities to identify needs and the relevant opportunities that could/should be provided at the Reserve.
- Provision of pilot sport and activity programs at times and in venues in the Reserve that are attractive to residents from across the diversity of cultures in the community.
- Preparation of appropriate and accessible information about what is provided at the Reserve.
- The training and deployment in the Reserve of programmers from relevant cultural backgrounds.
- Liaison with existing sporting groups and the provision of support and information on strategies designed to involve the widest cross section of the community in their activities.
- Working with schools, religious groups and cultural support groups and agencies to highlight the opportunities which the Reserve provides and ensuring that access is facilitated.
- Ensuring equity of opportunity for disadvantaged families (due to education, income, culture, housing form etc.) through the proactive, targeted programming of activities, for provision at different times of the day to the norm and for targeted fee subsidies.
- Ensuring that facilities, activities and programs that are offered for the children of multi-cultural families reflect and are acceptable to these cultures.
- Targeted programming for residents who cannot afford to use venues away from Noble Park.
- Creation of locales for activities that are easily accessed, attractive and safe.

- Creation of family opportunities and of opportunities that many families cannot pursue at home due to cost, space and other factors.
- Creation of opportunities that are cheap to use.
- Provision of opportunities that enrich the lives of participants and give them experiences they can build on throughout their life.
- Provision of opportunities that deliver the optimum mix of beneficial outcomes to residents (these including personal, social, economic and environmental benefits).
- Creation of opportunities for people of all ages and cultures who suffer disabilities and ensuring that all provision complies with Disability Discrimination Act.
- Enhanced lighting, security, provision of facilities and programs that generate far higher use levels, fewer "hidden" buildings and security patrols as tools for reducing crime and drug-related activities, and
- Initiation of pro-active, diversionary initiatives to engage those who would otherwise be involved with crime and drug activities.

Despite the above, it must be recognized that venues *other than* Ross Reserve will continue to have a critical role to play in providing leisure opportunities for the Noble Park community and that the contribution of these venues must be co-ordinated with the opportunities offered through the Reserve.

2.4 Leisure Activity and Provision in the Community: Recent Trends

2.4.1 Introduction

The mix of leisure activities pursued by Australians has changed substantially over recent years, as have the ways in which provision is made. Perhaps more importantly, the role that leisure activities fulfil in our community and the expectations put on leisure participation have also changed markedly. These issues are summarised in the Chapter, with a broader overview of leisure trends outlined in Appendix B.

2.4.2 Some Key Leisure Provision and Operational Trends

There are a number of key trends in leisure and recreation *provision* that warrant attention in the strategic planning of Ross Reserve. These are:

A “more than just recreation” objective

The recognition that leisure participation is a key step toward personal health, to social and community wellbeing, to building social capital and to people living longer, happier and more fulfilling lives has meant that a wide cross-section of professionals are now looking to leisure involvement as a tool for achieving the outcomes they seek. These include the health professions, educators, environmentalists, criminologists, economic development officers, migrant workers, youth workers and social planners - to name but a few.

There is now an extensive research literature that demonstrates the personal, community, economic and environmental benefits that flow to a community through increased participation in leisure activities. Further, the types of activities which deliver the most beneficial outcomes are also better known so that programs and facilities can be better targeted and more effectively delivered.

Thus, just as the redevelopment of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre has been characterised by the phrase “more than just a pool”, so the objective of the long term planning, development and management of Ross Reserve should be as much a strategy for achieving community development and wellbeing as one of providing sporting and recreational opportunities. In fact, the opportunity exists to use the strategic plan as an exemplar of community, cultural, recreation and parkland provision, programming and management.

Development of multi-purpose hubs

An increasing number of public sport, recreation and leisure venues are being developed as integrated multi-purpose and multi-user venues. Such venues include a number of often quite different facilities for a variety of sports. The mix of playing fields, lawns and play facilities at Ross Reserve is a good example of this type of initiative in an outdoor context. More recently, however, the model has been extended to incorporate other indoor and outdoor facilities, programs and services to create “community hubs”. This has allowed the venues to become destinations in their own right, rather than an amalgam of single club facilities, and to provide a base for wider programming initiatives, including those provided by other agencies *and* commercial providers.

Community hubs offer significant benefits in the cross-selling of activities and significant savings in planning, land use zoning and the provision of services such as parking, water and power and management. They also have greater viability because of the diversity and greater levels of use and can attract external funding that would otherwise not be available while freeing up Council funds for “core” provision needs.

A creative and positive approach to change over the coming years could see present inefficiencies in parking, building duplication and services duplication progressively eliminated. What will emerge will be better integration of the various parkland settings, better quality facilities, more diverse specialist services, potentially other entirely different activities and use attractions and greatly enhanced management. In the longer term, a “Ross Reserve Community Hub” or “Noble Park Community Hub” could incorporate clubs, the new aquatic and fitness facilities now being planned, community workshop and classroom areas, indoor and outdoor social areas, conference facilities, display areas and showrooms for clubs and other users, lawn and picnic facilities, playgrounds, walking and cycling trails, corporate facilities, retailers and sports fitness testing facilities. Such a mix would clearly attract a far greater and more diverse level of support than can be achieved now.

Application of Professional Management

Councils, state governments and state and regional sporting associations are recognising that a key to the success of recreational provision is the use of professional management skills and personnel. For decades, Councils have had professional teams manage its parks, gardens and sporting fields. Similarly, professionals have been employed to manage libraries, leisure and aquatic centres, youth centres, galleries and performing arts centres. Professionals bring a diversity of skills, including asset maintenance, financial management and budgeting, staffing and operations planning, organisational and event planning, promotion, marketing and industry liaison. Many Council venues, including Ross Reserve, would fail without them.

The opportunity now exists to extend these professional skills to the parklands and playing fields of the Reserve. In fact, it could be argued that these professional skills *must* be extended to the outdoor resources of the Reserve if the optimal benefits are to be delivered to the community. Upgraded and new indoor facilities, playing fields and informal areas will only deliver the greatest benefit if their use is more carefully scheduled and managed. While this will entail some user clubs giving up their “exclusive” use rights to facilities during their seasons or times of competition, this could well be offset by better facilities, reduced fees (as others will be helping to cover costs) and more diverse community use. Further, the wider the use and the longer the daily duration of use, the lesser is the opportunity for vandalism and anti-social behaviour and the greater the capacity to tap into community needs.

Planning

Planning the location, layout, functioning and the positioning and condition of amenities and services is critical to the successful development of any built facility. This ensures that optimal use can occur and that future needs and development can be accommodated.

It is evident that there are quite considerable deficiencies in the past planning of Ross Reserve. These include the positioning and duplication of buildings, the form and nature of internal roads, the scale and positioning of parking and the site-by-site approach to the positioning of playing fields. All have created problems that will now require considerable effort to overcome.

Implications

The issues reviewed above - the development of multi-purpose hubs, the application of professional management, planning, and economic integration - are considered to be critical to the long term future and success of modern community and recreation venues. While they have been widely adopted across built facilities, they have yet to be fully applied to outdoor venues and to indoor-outdoor settings. Their application at Ross Reserve will help ensure that the core objective of the Master Plan - optimising the benefits delivered to a wide cross section of the community - will be achieved.

2.4.3 Trends in Leisure and Sports Participation

Table 1 on the following two pages records data on Australian participation in a wide range of recreational and sporting activities from as far back as 1975 through to 2008. It also records the findings of a recreation participation study conducted by the City of Greater Dandenong in 2010. The Australian data is drawn from collections carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Sports Commission while the City of Greater Dandenong data is drawn from *City of Greater Dandenong Sport and Recreation Participation Study* conducted by Sykes Consulting and released in February 2011. As indicated in the explanatory text following the Table, care must be taken in comparing the Australian and Greater Dandenong data as the collection methodologies and sample sizes were quite different. Blanks in the Greater Dandenong data column indicate that no data was reported on that activity. Similarly, several activities covered by the Greater Dandenong survey were not covered by the ABS or Sports Commission surveys. However, these had low participation rates and are reported in the footnotes to the Table.

The data show a number of interesting points regarding sport and recreation participation of the 33 year period from 1975 to 2008. These include:

- Swimming (on 15.5%) was the most popular recreational activity amongst the Australian population in 1975 and since that time it has risen and fallen but still retains around the same support level (at 13.6% in 2008). In 1975, swimming was followed by fishing (9.2%) and golf (on 7.4%). Since 1975, fishing as a recreational activity has fallen dramatically to a low of 2.1 percent while like swimming, golf has fluctuated, but in 2008 was still on 6.8 percent.
- A number of activities have shown dramatic increases in participation over the 1975 - 2008 period. These include aerobics, that did not register in 1975, was only 4.1 percent in 1996 and attained a high of 19.1 percent in 2008; cycling, that grew from 0.4 percent in 1975 to 10.1 percent in 2008, and most dramatically, walking that was around 3 - 5 percent in 1975 and grew to being pursued by 36.2 percent of all Australian residents by 2008.
- Many other sporting and recreation activities also grew substantially between 1975 and 2008, even though their overall levels of participation were lower than those activities cited above. These included athletics, badminton, basketball, canoeing, dancing, Australian Rules football, soccer, touch, running/jogging, surfing, volleyball, weightlifting and yoga.
- Activities that have seen the most significant falls in participation since 1975 are lawn bowls, shooting/hunting, snooker/billiards and squash.

- Significantly, the data in Table 1 show that many of the activities that are presently accommodated by the indoor and outdoor facilities at Ross Reserve have grown and continue to grow quite dramatically. These include, in alphabetical order, athletics, Australian Rules Football, cricket, cycling, running/jogging, soccer and swimming. Other activities that *could* be accommodated in future – either through the new Aquatic Leisure Centre development, additions to it or new outdoor facilities include aerobics, touch, volleyball and yoga.

The City of Greater Dandenong Sport and Recreation Participation Study data support the previous point in showing well above national rates of participation in a wide range of recreation and sporting activities that are predominantly urban-based. However, rates were well below national levels of participation in resource-based activities such as bushwalking, scuba diving and snow skiing. These differences concur with the demographic characteristics discussed earlier in this report although as has been noted, the extent of the variation between the national and Greater Dandenong data needs to be verified.

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Sports and Physical Activities	1975 % Aust	1996-97 % Aust	1996-97 % Aust Children 5-14 yrs	2000 % Aust Children 5-14 yrs	2002 % Aust	2003 % Aust Total	2008 % Aust Total	Apparent change Aust 1975-2008	City of Gtr Dandenong 2010 %
(Aerobics) (and fitness)	-	4.1	1.5	0.5	10.9	16.0	19.1	+++	10
(Aquarobics)	-	-	-	-	0.3	1.1	1.4	++	1
(Air sports)	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	--	
Archery	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	1
Athletics	0.3	0.3	4.3	3.9	0.2	0.8	0.6	++	
(Badminton)	-	0.3	-	0.2*	0.6	0.8	0.9	++	6
Baseball, softball	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	1
: baseball	-	0.3	1.3	1.7	0.3	0.4	0.3	=	
: softball	-	0.3	2.3	-	0.3	0.5	0.3	=	
Basketball, netball	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
: basketball	-	1.8	9.1	7.6	2.4	3.6	3.3	++	
: netball	-	2.3	9.0	9.1	3.1	3.9	3.6	+	5
Bike riding	-	-	-	63.8	-	See Cycling	-	-	
Bowls –carpet indoor	0.9	0.3	-	-	0.2	0.3	0.3	-	
Bowls -lawn	3.1	2.0	-	-	1.9	2.3	2.2	--	1
Boxing	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.4	0.7	+	2
Canoeing (kayaking)	0.3	0.2	-	-	0.5	0.7	0.7	+	
Car/cycle racing (motor sports)	0.7	0.7	-	-	0.9	1.1	1.2	++	
Cricket (outdoor)	1.5	1.3	6.8	5.3	2.5	3.3	3.2	++	4.2
: indoor	-	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.9	1.2	0.9	=	
Cycling	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	5.7	9.4	10.1	+++	19
(Dancing)	-	0.6	5.5	10.4	1.8	2.2	2.4	++	10
Darts	0.5	0.3	-	-	0.3	0.2	0.1	--	
Exercising, jogging, keeping fit	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Fishing	9.2	0.9	-	-	3.5	2.6	2.1	- +	5
Football (all codes)	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.8	-	
: Aust Rules	-	1.1	7.1	6.6	2.1	2.8	2.7	++	4
: Rugby League	-	-	3.3	3.6	0.7	1.1	1.3	+	
: Rugby Union	-	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	+	
: soccer (outdoor)	-	1.1	8.8	11.4	2.6	1.7	4.2	++	12
: soccer (indoor/futsal)	-	-	1.1	0.9	0.9	4.3	1.9	+	1
: touch	-	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.7	2.3	2.4	++	1
Golf	7.4	3.2	0.9	1.0	-	8.2	6.8	- +	6
Gymnastics	-	-	3.3	2.6	-	-	0.2	-	1

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Sports and Physical Activities	1975 % Aust	1996-97 % Aust	1996-97 % Aust Children 5-14 yrs	2000 % Aust Children 5-14 yrs	2002 % Aust	2003 % Aust Total	2008 % Aust Total	Apparent change Aust 1975-2008	City of Gtr Dandenong 2010 %
Hiking, bushwalking, orienteering	1.5	-	-	-	3.2	-	-		
: orienteering	-	-	0.4	-	-	0.8	0.5	-	
Hockey	0.6	0.5	2.1	2.4	0.5	1.0	1.0	+	1
Horse riding (and equestrian events/polo)	2.2	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	=	1
Ice/snow sports	-	0.4	0.5	0.2*	0.9	1.3	1.1	++	
Lifesaving (Surf lifesaving)	0.1	-	0.7	0.8	-	0.2	-	=	
(Martial arts)	-	1.2	3.3	4.0	1.5	2.3	1.8	+	3
Power boating (Waterskiing)	1.1	0.2	-	-	0.9	1.1	0.9	=	
Rock-climbing	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.6	0.5	=	
(Roller sports)	-	-	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	=	
(Skateboard or rollerblading)	-	-	-	30.9	-	-	-		
(Rowing)	-	-	-	0.2	-	0.3	0.4	=	
(Running and jogging)	-	-	1.0	0.3	4.6	7.6	7.4	++	
Sailing	2.0	0.5	-	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.5		
Shooting, hunting	2.1	0.7	-	-	0.6	0.6	0.5	--	
(Scuba diving)	-	0.2	-	-	-	0.6	0.5	+	< 1
Snooker, billiards (pool)	1.2	0.3	-	-	0.4	0.3	0.2	--	
Snow skiing	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-		< 1
Squash (racquetball)	5.5	0.8	-	0.3	1.7	2.2	1.3	- +	1
Surfing (surf sports)	1.0	0.3	-	0.3	2.0	2.4	2.3	++	
Other surf activity	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Swimming	15.5	1.8	12.8	14.4	10.9	15.3	13.6	=	[pool] 32
Table tennis	0.6	-	-	-	0.6	0.5	0.5	=	
(T-ball)	-	-	2.1	-	-	-	-		
Tennis	5.2	2.7	7.8	8.5	6.8	9.0	6.8	+	11
Ten pin bowls	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.7	=	4
Triathlons	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.2	0.3	=	
Volleyball	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	++	5
Walking dog	4.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
Walking for pleasure (exercise)	3.0	0.3	-	-	25.3	-	-	+++	
Walking (bush)	-	-	-	-	-	5.8	4.7	=	1
Walking (other)	-	-	-	-	-	37.9	36.2	=	52

Sports and Physical Activities	1975 % Aust	1996-97 % Aust	1996-97 % Aust Children 5-14 yrs	2000 % Aust Children 5-14 yrs	2002 % Aust	2003 % Aust Total	2008 % Aust Total	Apparent change Aust 1975-2008	City of Gtr Dandenong 2010 %
(Water polo)	-	-	-	0.2*	-	0.2	0.2	=	
Water skiing (power boating)	1.6	0.2	-	-	0.9	1.1	0.9	=	
(Weightlifting) (training)	-	0.4	-	-	0.9	2.8	3.1	++	4
Yoga	-	-	-	-	2.1	3.1	2.9	++	8
Other sports	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Sports Commission surveys

Notes:

- In column 1, activity names in brackets indicate that these activities were added to the original activity name at some point over the 1975-2008 period; in some instances, an initial group activity name eg: football, was later subdivided into different football codes. These are shown on the following lines. The alphabetical ordering of the data is largely as listed in 1975. Later Australian Sports Commission tables may use different first words e.g.: Bowls rather than Lawn bowls.
- Gaps in the activities for which was collected are common at various points over the 31 year period and are indicated by the minus symbol, '- ', except in the final column.
- Data with one asterisk (*) have an estimated standard relative error of 25-50 percent and should only be used with caution.
- Data with two asterisks (**) have a standard error greater than 50 percent and are too unreliable for general use.
- Columns 4 and 5 refer to participation by children.
- Care must be taken in comparing the City of Greater Dandenong data with the national figures because of the different survey methodologies, different wording of questions, differing lists of activities and vastly different sample sizes. With regard to methodology, the ABS and Sports Commission surveys are conducted by telephone whereas the Greater Dandenong survey was conducted by post. Both have notoriously poor response rates but telephone surveys have a greater opportunity to explain the reasons for and importance of a survey. In terms of sample size, the ABS and Sports Commission surveys use sample sizes of 14,000-30,000 residents whereas the Greater Dandenong survey began with a household survey of 4,000 homes but only achieved a response from 530 or 11 percent of these. That over 3,470 Greater Dandenong residents chose to *not* participate calls into question the extent to which those who did reply represent the views of the wider Greater Dandenong community as evidence clearly shows that where respondents can select whether to respond or not, those who do are generally far more interested in the topic than those who do not. As such, the Dandenong results could well represent the involvement of already-active members of the community rather than of the community as a whole. Even if the 530 Dandenong respondents were an unbiased sample, their responses will be far less accurate than those of the 14,000-30,000 Australian residents. Finally, many sub-regional surveys are adjusted and weighted when compared with national data and this does not appear to have been done in the Greater Dandenong case. A check that could be made would be to take the survey response and test it against club membership and participation data from Greater Dandenong clubs. For instance, the survey data indicate a 13 percent involvement rate for basketball and 11 percent for tennis. On the basis the i d consulting estimate of 138,000 residents in the City in 2010, this equates to 17,940 people playing basketball and 15,180 playing tennis. Checks with registrations and casual facilities use for these sports and a range of others could provide verification of the survey data or a valid weighting figure to be applied to the data.
- The ABS and Sports Commission surveys have a sports participation focus and as such do not cover some activities included in the Greater Dandenong survey. These include gardening (1%); mountain biking (1%); calisthenics, 1%; BMX (1%); skateboarding (1%).

The second last column provides a broad indication of trends in Australia-wide participation in the various sports and physical activities. In the final column:

- One, two or three + signs indicates comparative degrees of growth.
- Negative signs (-) indicate comparative degrees of declining participation, and
- The = sign indicates that there has been no or little significant change has occurred, although it should be noted that there may have been substantive variations in participation rates in the years *between* 1975 and 2006.
- Activities with both + and - signs, indicates that both growth and decline phases appear to have occurred, and
- Where the box has been left blank there is insufficient or conflicting data such that discerning a trend has not been possible.

Table 1: Participation in sports and physical activities, Australia, 1975 – 2008 and in the City of Greater Dandenong, 2010

2.4.4 Implications for the Master Plan

This chapter has reviewed a number of recent trends in sport and recreation participation and provision. The review has identified a range of sports participation trends that should be responded to in the long term master planning of Ross Reserve if it is to effectively meet community needs in the future.

The review also identified four major trends in sports and recreation provision – the development of multi-purpose hubs, the application of professional management, planning, and economic integration - that are critical to the long term future and success of leisure resources. Initiation of action on these trends will contribute significantly to facilitating a range of new uses and users of Ross Reserve and importantly will build economies of scale through the integrated provision of facilities and their professional management, programming and marketing.

2.5 Existing Uses and Activities

2.5.1 Introduction

Ross Reserve is classified as a District Park in the Open Space Strategy 2009. District Parks are large sized open spaces, individually designed, which provide opportunities for a range of activities, comprising both passive and active recreation, and organised and informal play. It is also classified as a Sports Reserve, catering for mainly organised (club based) sports with a broad catchment of users. Sports Reserves may contain a variety of sporting facilities and associated infrastructure, which are generally used and managed for organised sports.

These two classifications accurately reflect the range of existing uses and activities at Ross Reserve, which range from formal sports field and facilities to informal, passive park spaces and playgrounds. The following text describes the range of uses and activities at Ross Reserve and the associated issues to be addressed within the Master Plan.

2.5.2 Sports Spaces and Facilities

In relation to formal sports provision, Ross Reserve is a multi-purpose facility catering for cricket, AFL, soccer and athletics. There are 3 main competition areas comprising 2 grassed sports ovals - O'Donohue Oval (137.5m x 98.7m) and Oval 2 (110m x 90m) - 1 soccer pitch and 1 athletics track. These spaces are all supported by a range of buildings which are described in further detail in Section 2.8 below.

The two grassed ovals play an important role as competition sports venues, with the Calypso Cricket Club, Noble Park Cricket Club, Parkfield Cricket Club, Springvale City Soccer Club, Southern Stars Football (soccer) Club and the Noble Park Junior Football Club all competing or training on these two ovals. Specifically, O'Donohue Oval acts as a venue for both cricket and junior football, while Oval 2 is used for cricket and soccer (both competition and training).

The Athletics Track is the home of the Springvale Little Athletics Centre and the Victorian Masters Athletics Club and is well used by local schools for inter-school competition.

In addition to both track and field athletics, the infield of the athletics track is the home ground and primary competition venue for the Springvale City Soccer Club.

2.5.3 Informal Spaces and Passive Recreation

In addition to formal sports spaces, Ross Reserve provides spaces for a range of passive leisure opportunities, including informal open green spaces, often featuring scattered mature trees, many of which are the local river red gum species. These informal open spaces are often large and suitable for community, social and informal sports activities, but suffer from a significant lack of supporting park infrastructure appropriate to their size, including seating, shelters, barbecues, public toilets and, significantly, formed pathways.

The limited pathways which do exist in the Reserve include a local path from Ardgower Road to the north-east with the path linking to Corrigan Road, while a second path links Heatherton Road in the south to Cypress Court in the central east of the Reserve. Observation suggests that these paths are used more for traversing the park to other destinations rather than as park resources themselves.

The Reserve also features 2 formal playgrounds - at the northern entry of Corrigan Road and adjacent to the community centre.

Finally, the Reserve has extensive areas of parking which is predominantly being provided along Memorial Drive, which runs through the site linking Heatherston and Corrigan Roads. There are further smaller parking areas adjacent to the Craven Street entrance, the football/cricket clubrooms, the community centre and the pool. These areas are discussed in further detail in Section 2.9 of this report.

2.5.4 Noble Park “More Than Just A Pool” Redevelopment

As well as a range of formal and informal recreation spaces, a significant community and recreation use within Ross Reserve is the Noble Park Aquatic Centre “More Than Just A Pool” (NPAC) Redevelopment Project. This new community and aquatic complex will replace the previous Noble Park Aquatic Centre and is due to be completed in December 2012. The new facility is being constructed on the site of a number of former youth oriented facilities, including skate facilities and hardcourt playing areas.

The project seeks to provide a contemporary recreation and community facility for residents of the municipality. As such, the new facility will provide:

- 50 metre outdoor pool (including a permanent canopy structure and spectator seating).
- An indoor ‘learn to swim’ pool with beach entry, water play and spa features.
- New wet play area with play equipment.
- New youth play area with water play features.
- Improved water slide facilities.
- Expansive grassed recreational land.
- Enhanced male and female change facilities.
- A barbecue area, cafe and kiosk.
- Recreational staff offices and reception.
- Multi-purpose rooms for use by local community groups.
- Shaded structures placed around the grounds.
- Off street parking facilities.

In this regard the “More Than Just A Pool” Redevelopment project (NPAC) will provide a significant recreation and community destination within Ross Reserve, complementing and enhancing the range of recreation opportunities already being provided.

2.5.5 Urban Plaza/Youth Precinct

The existing pool site, to the south-east of Ross Reserve, has been identified as a precinct for a youth activity space/urban plaza, potentially including new skate facilities, a local level playground, informal sport and recreation facilities and informal meeting and gathering facilities.

This site has particular advantages for a contemporary urban recreation space of this type, being located in close proximity to the Noble Park Activity Centre and the Noble Park Railway Station. Such a space would also create the opportunity for an attractive and high profile entry into Ross Reserve from Heatherston Road.

2.5.6 Playgrounds

Two playgrounds exist at Ross Reserve. A local level playground, barbecue, “Bird” sculptures (Oct 95’) and other furniture are set amongst the predominantly naturally occurring native Red Gum woodland.



The neighbourhood level playground (including spiral slide) and basketball half court are located to the south west of the community centre. There is a separate swing with a small amount of afternoon shade provided by Grey poplars. A stand-alone Barbecue is available east of the community centre.



Both playgrounds contain no artist designed or crafted small play components or painted panels.

2.5.7 Implications for the Master Plan

Consideration of the existing Uses and Activities which occur at Ross Reserve reveals a range of implications for the development of the Master Plan:

- Ross Reserve in its existing form accommodates a range of recreation uses, from formal sport, to passive and informal community activity. It contains a range of spaces to accommodate these uses. It is important that the Master Plan allows for the continuation of all types of uses occurring at the Reserve, providing for both formal and informal visitor facilities and amenities, including shelters, paths, seats and so on.
- In addition to diversity in the type of recreation it provides (i.e. both active and passive recreation), Ross Reserve also reflects a diversity in the scale of usage it attracts. The Master Plan should recognize the need for facilities at both the district and local park scale.
- Soccer, as a particular active recreation activity, is growing within the City of Greater Dandenong. The Master Plan should investigate opportunities to enhance soccer as an activity at Ross Reserve.
- The new Noble Park “More Than Just A Pool” complex will attract a large number of additional visitors to Ross Reserve. The Master Plan should provide facilities and amenities to reflect this increased patronage.
- The construction of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre “More Than Just A Pool” (NPAC) provides a positive opportunity to treat the former pool site in a positive manner which not only replaces uses which formerly occurred on the new pool site (skate facilities, basketball court etc.), but which creates a striking and contemporary park “gateway” from Heatherton Road and the Noble Park Activity Centre.

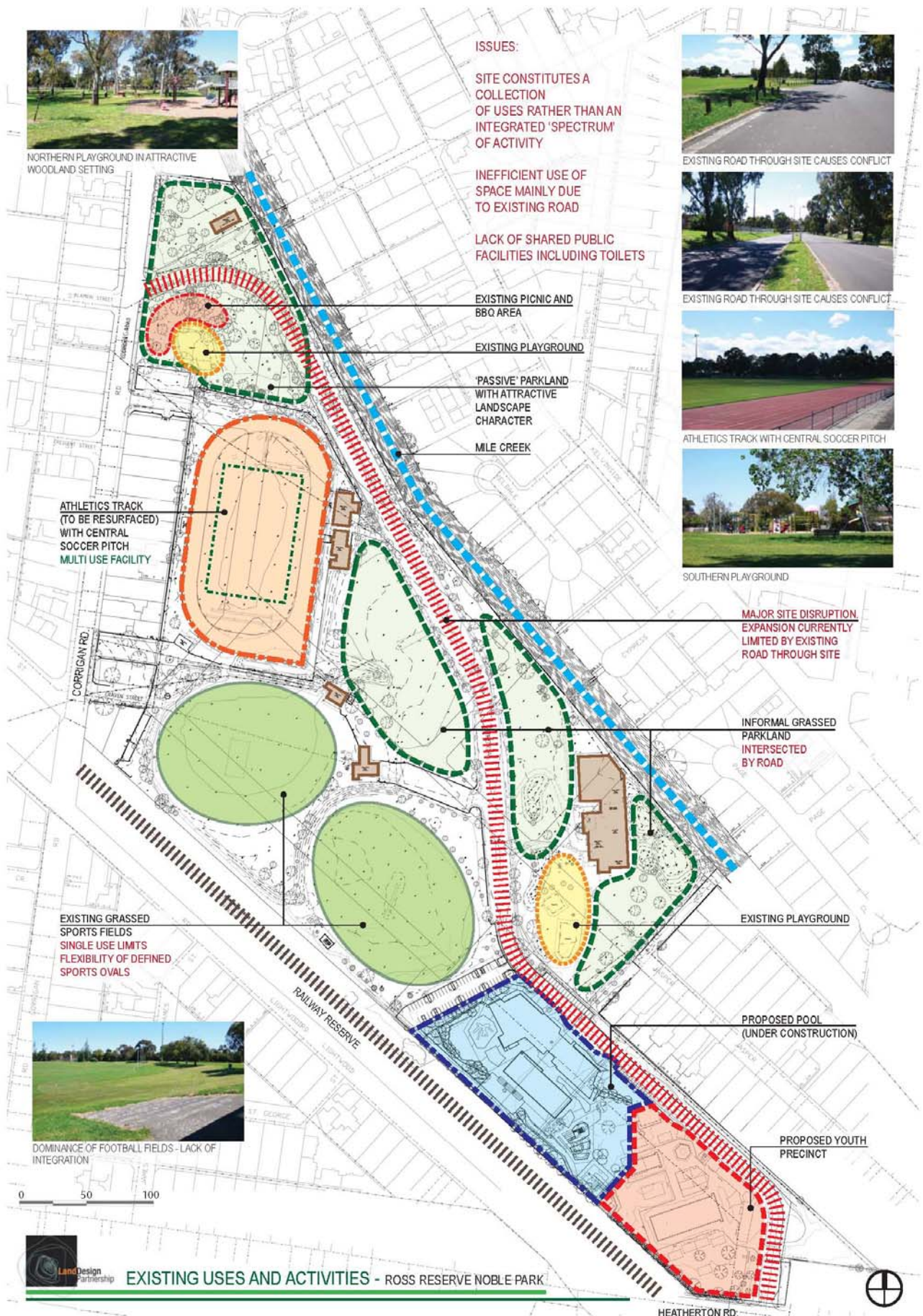


Figure 4: Existing Uses and Activities

2.6 Landscape Character

2.6.1 Overview

The site currently has a strong visual character in terms of landscape presentation, with a native theme, overwhelmingly characterised by River Red Gums trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) of mixed age and quality contrasted with predominantly expansive lawn areas and a low proportion of understorey or feature planting beds (refer to detailed section “Trees” below).

The topography of the site is essentially flat, grading from a high point in the north-west corner of the site of around RL 37.39 to a low point of around RL 33.47 in the south-eastern corner. While this represents a fall of around 3.92m, the distance covered for this fall renders an overall site gradient of around 1:225. Isolated viewing mounds are located around the Athletics Track (north, east and south sides) and O’Donohue Oval (north western edge) at the pavilion. There is gentle landscape mounding surrounding the western edge of the playground south of the Noble Park Community Centre. Larger fill mounds exist to the east of the Community Centre.

2.6.2 Trees

Ross Reserve is predominantly expansive lawn areas with mainly trees and a low proportion of understorey or feature planting beds. Tree stock was divided into twenty-four groups. Groups were defined on the basis of spatial arrangement, species composition and age class and association with built infrastructure. Appendix 4 provides the summative data for all assessed groups.

Tree stock throughout Ross Reserve is of a native theme and overwhelmingly characterised by River Red Gum trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) of mixed age and quality. Areas dominated by River Red Gums are shown in Figure 5 below highlighted blue. The River Red Gum stock includes naturally occurring trees, predominantly located to the north of the site, planted landscape specimens, in both informal and formal arrangements and includes a memorial avenue planting along Memorial Drive, the latter affected by the City of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay. Memorial trees are highlighted by plaques as shown in the image below.





Figure 5: Primary River Red Gum Distribution

In addition to River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) other species recorded in the Reserve and known to be indigenous to the area included:

- Late Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) – planted and naturally occurring.
- Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) - planted and naturally occurring.
- Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) - planted and naturally occurring.
- Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) - naturally occurring.
- Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) – planted.
- Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) – planted.

Planted natives predominantly comprised a mix of Gum trees (*Corymbia spp.*, *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Angophora costata*) and Paperbarks (*Melaleuca spp.*). Relatively few examples of Queensland Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp.*), and Wattle (*Acacia sp.*) occurred throughout the Reserve.

The native theme extends to the adjoining Railway and Mile Creek Reserves. The Railway Reserve is characterised by a screen planting of natives, mostly Gum trees (*Eucalyptus spp.*), and Paperbarks (*Melaleuca spp.*), with some Wattles (*Acacia sp.*) also noted. Several self sown Desert Ash were also among the group. Although the Mile Creek Reserve contained few trees, it notably contained several large River Red Gum trees; a large Swamp Gum was also tentatively identified.

Exceptions to the native themed plantings occur in few areas. Within the grounds of the pool complex Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), a deciduous exotic species have been planted out as ornamental shade trees. The species however has a weedy tendency evidenced by numerous self sown trees along the adjacent Railway Reserve. Lineally configured installations of Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra var. italica*), were located around the western edge of the two ovals and were of varying size and condition. To the north of the site were several specimens of Monterey Pine, (*Pinus radiata*), the oldest a lineal windrow fragment on the Corrigan Road boundary. Other specimens were most likely self sown from this group and demonstrate the species also has weedy tendency.

Visually significant and/or prominent individual trees and tree groups were identified, the latter usually containing one or more individually significant trees and smaller less prominent trees, which due to their group setting collectively provide a greater visual contribution than when considered individually.

As illustrated in Figure 6 below, the most visually significant/prominent trees or tree groups are concentrated around Oval 2, the Girl Guides Hall, the northern playground, and within the avenue planting bordering Memorial Avenue. Conversely with exception of the former Noble Park Pool site, which contains maturing modest sized trees of an average 8m in height, the remainder of the site contains smaller more recent plantings.



Figure 6: Visually Prominent Trees and Tree Groups

Overall trees on Ross Reserve are in reasonable arboricultural condition. Notable exceptions included the Lombardy Poplar which has a relatively high incidence of specimens of inferior health that will likely result in the death of affected specimens. Nearly all the maturing and naturally occurring River Red Gum in the vicinity of the Girl Guides Hall have structural defects located on trunks and primary limbs of a nature that should preclude them from inclusion within high use areas.

In addition, the group of River Red Gum between the northern playground and Memorial Drive are showing signs of stress, evidenced by dieback and thinning foliage cover. Being a long lived species, tolerant of extended periods of stress resulting in inferior health, the condition of these trees is expected to improve with favourable growing conditions.

2.6.3 Furniture and Fixtures

The following items exist at Ross Reserve:

- timber seats with back (no armrests),
- 80 litre round and 140 and 210 litre wheelie bins,
- brick surround stainless plate barbecue,
- treated pine wooden bollards,
- timber benches with picnic table,
- treated pine post and rail fence,
- galvanised bike racks,
- galvanised access gate,
- galvanised chain mesh fence to Mile Creek and Athletic track,
- concrete water bubblers,
- Reserve building list sign at entries.



The furniture and fixtures throughout Ross Reserve contribute little in terms of visual character or amenity and do not encourage use of the Reserve in either their detail or their placement. Overall there is a significant lack of park infrastructure for a Reserve of this size.

2.6.4 Implications for the Master Plan:

Consideration of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities associated with the existing landscape character of Ross Reserve reveals a range of implications for the development of the Master Plan, including the following:

- The overwhelmingly native tree population throughout Ross Reserve provides a strong existing theme on which to build future plantings. The Master Plan should reflect this strong existing character, ensuring that future development does not reduce the positive impact of existing trees.
- While the landscape character of well-treed areas of the Reserve is strong, the character at a number of entry and interface points is poor. The Master Plan should provide guidance on planting at boundaries with the Railway Reserve and with Mile Creek, and at key entry areas, to enhance the visual character at these points.
- While there are areas within Ross Reserve with strong and positive landscape character, the Reserve suffers from a lack of diversity in detailed landscape treatments. The Master Plan should consider areas where detailed landscape development, including mass planting beds, would enhance spatial definition and create a range of user setting, as well as biodiversity.
- Old River Red Gums within Ross Reserve provide important habitat. The Master Plan should consider opportunities to enhance the habitat provided by these trees through additional plantings.
- There is a range of environmental weed species within the Reserve. The Master Plan should consider the removal of these species, and the opportunities this would provide. For example, removal of Monterey Pines to north of site will allow replacement with more appropriate stock and possible strengthening of the overall native tree theme. Similarly, removal of existing Desert Ash around the former pool complex would allow for landscape rejuvenation.
- While not a weed species, there are a number of established Bracelet Honey Myrtle in a state of structural deterioration and nearing the end of their useful lifespan. Removal would allow for new long term tree plantings and should be considered within the Master Plan.
- The location and cross-section of Memorial Drive within Ross Reserve means that the road is visually dominant and divisive. The Master Plan should consider the potential to reduce this dominance in favour of enhanced landscape character, particularly in the centre of the Reserve.
- The range of landscape furniture and fixtures throughout the Reserve is old and lacking in distinctive character. The Master Plan should recommend a new and contemporary range of elements to present a responsive landscape character and image.



Figure 7: Landscape Character and Features

2.7 Existing Facilities

2.7.1 Existing Buildings

2.7.1.1 Overview

Existing buildings within Ross Reserve include a Community Centre and several small community/ sports pavilions. The Community Centre is located in the south-east corner of the site, across Memorial Drive from the new aquatic facility that is currently under construction. The small sporting pavilions are located adjacent to playing fields throughout the Reserve. A small community hall located at the northern end of the site is the home of the local Girl Guides group.

2.7.1.2 Existing Buildings

- Ross Reserve Community Centre.
- Ross Reserve Community Centre Annex (Istrian Club).
- Springvale City Soccer Club.
- Springvale City Soccer Club Change Rooms.
- Public Amenities.
- Scoreboard/Store.
- Football Pavilion.
- Football/Cricket Scoreboard.
- Southeast Piranhas Junior Soccer Pavilion.
- Girl Guide Hall.

2.7.1.3 Summary of findings

All existing buildings date to the late 1960's/early 1970's and are typical of municipal sporting pavilions of that era. Typical construction methodology is generally slab-on-ground, masonry and light framed metal sheet roofing. Some sporting pavilions have been extended and/or altered since originally built. Some buildings have been reasonably well maintained, however, most are in need of upgrade works in the short to medium term. Most buildings would require significant investment in order for Council to provide sporting facilities of a standard commensurate with community expectations in 2011.

Typically, buildings require general maintenance works, including painting, patching/repair of building fabric and upgrade of fixtures and fittings.

Refer to Appendix 1 for full Building Condition Report prepared by Suters Architects. This report includes descriptions and commentary on each of the existing assets within Ross Reserve.

2.7.1.4 Implications for the Master Plan

In recognition of the short – medium upgrade required for all buildings within the Reserve, the Master Plan should consider a response to the condition of buildings. For instance, the number of small pavilions located within the Reserve at present should be replaced with a centrally located shared asset, or two separate shared assets, that would be easier and less expensive to maintain and operate than the existing number of buildings.

2.7.2 Existing Public Lighting

2.7.2.1 Site Infrastructure

There is no established network of site electrical infrastructure. Individual buildings obtain individual supplies from a closest street supply point.

2.7.2.2 Metering

Electrical metering to separately apportion use and payment of power requires consideration. Existing metering is confined to individual metering at each building. This means that energy use billing cost apportionment must either not occur or be constructed on the basis of single bills to assign a usage to individual clubs.

2.7.2.3 Pavilions

Existing pavilions contain basic light and power facilities. Upgrade of the electrical services to meet current safety standards should occur as part of any upgrade or replacement Building. Electrical supply is arranged on the basis of a single tenant at each building.

2.7.2.4 Sports Lighting and Standards Compliance

The existing Australian Rules ovals and Soccer Pitches where lit are generally lit with insufficient floodlights mounted on poles of inadequate height to meet the current Australian Standard AS 2560.2.3.

As such, full replacement is expected necessary as part of an upgraded future use and site planning.

2.7.2.5 Public Lighting and Standards Compliance

There is minimal public lighting within the site. This is in the main connected to the Public Street lighting network of the Distribution Business 'Jemena'. It is primarily confined to the access road butting the Swimming Pool.

Existing Public Lighting is expected to require full upgrade and definition as to extent.

New Public Lighting should comply with AS 1158.3.1, with level and extent determined to support the night time active recreational use proposed.

2.7.2.6 Environmentally Sustainable Design

In view of the minimal lighting infrastructure, there are no evident measures directed at enhancing sustainable design of the electrical services.



Figure 8: Existing Buildings

2.8 Access, Circulation and Parking

2.8.1 Vehicle Access and Circulation

Vehicle access to the site is currently provided predominantly via Memorial Drive, connecting to Heatherton Road in the south and Corrigan Road in the west. Additional vehicular access is provided to car parking areas via Richmond Street and Craven Street, whilst Jasper Street and Lyle Street abut the Reserve but provide no access to parking other than on-street kerbside parking.

No vehicular connections are provided across the railway line or Mile Creek.

As a Primary Arterial Road, Heatherton Road provides direct arterial road connection to the Reserve, though traffic conditions in the vicinity of the Memorial Drive access point are affected by the operation of the railway line and the adjacent Lightwood Road roundabout.

Analysis previously undertaken as part of the Aquatic Centre Redevelopment suggests that additional traffic generated by the proposed redevelopment of Ross Reserve “*would be expected to be accommodated within the surrounding road network without compromising its safety and operation*”.

Memorial Drive bisects the site, providing good access to internal parking areas, although it does not connect to the parking areas off Richmond Street or Craven Street.

Speed humps have been installed along Memorial Drive to control speeding and discourage through traffic. Although street lighting is provided along Memorial Drive, luminaires are placed irregularly and at wide intervals.

2.8.2 Car Parking

Numerous car parking areas are provided around the Reserve, being a combination of sealed formal car parking areas, formal on-street angle parking along Memorial Drive and gravel informal car parking areas. The car parking areas are disjointed, with the majority of spaces accessed from Memorial Drive, though with separate parking areas provided from Richmond Street and Craven Street.

In total, parking for approximately 500 cars is currently provided (or proposed as part of the Aquatic Centre Redevelopment) on-site.

Analysis previously undertaken as part of the Aquatic Centre Redevelopment suggests that “*the supply of parking within the overall precinct would be expected to be sufficient to cater for the demand generated by the existing uses, the proposed swim centre and any future youth precinct*”.

No formalised bus parking areas are currently provided within Ross Reserve, although bus drop-off/pick-up facilities are proposed adjacent to the Aquatic Centre. It is understood that buses currently park within the vacant car parking areas or depart the site once all passengers are dropped-off.

2.8.3 Bicycle and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

In addition to the vehicle access points noted above, additional pedestrian and bicycle access is provided to the site across Mile Creek at the northern end of the site, and adjacent to the Community Centre. No pedestrian access is provided across the railway line frontage, other than via Heatherton Road and Corrigan Road.

Pedestrian operated signals are provided across Heatherton Road adjacent to the Memorial Drive access point.

Noble Park Activity Centre is located adjacent to the site, to the south-west of the railway line, although pedestrian access between the Reserve and the retail precinct is poor, with access paths indirect, requiring negotiation of the railway line and adjacent roundabout.

A formalised off-road bicycle path is provided within the Reserve adjacent to the railway line, connecting Corrigan Road to Heatherton Road via Memorial Drive. Additional internal pedestrian and bicycle connections are limited and Memorial Drive acts as a barrier between the south-west and north-east areas of the Reserve.

The City of Greater Dandenong Cycle Strategy identifies a regional cycle link through Ross Reserve, however there is no current infrastructure to support this link. Similarly, there is a lack of provision for general pedestrian and cycle circulation through the Reserve.

2.8.4 Bicycle Parking

Formal visitor bicycle parking is currently provided adjacent to the Community Centre, with the redevelopment of the Aquatic Centre also proposing 50 visitor bicycle spaces and 4 staff spaces.

Whilst no other formal bicycle parking is provided in the Reserve, opportunity exists for informal visitor bicycle parking in numerous locations.

2.8.5 Sustainable Transport

The TravelSmart Map for the area surrounding the Reserve is shown below.

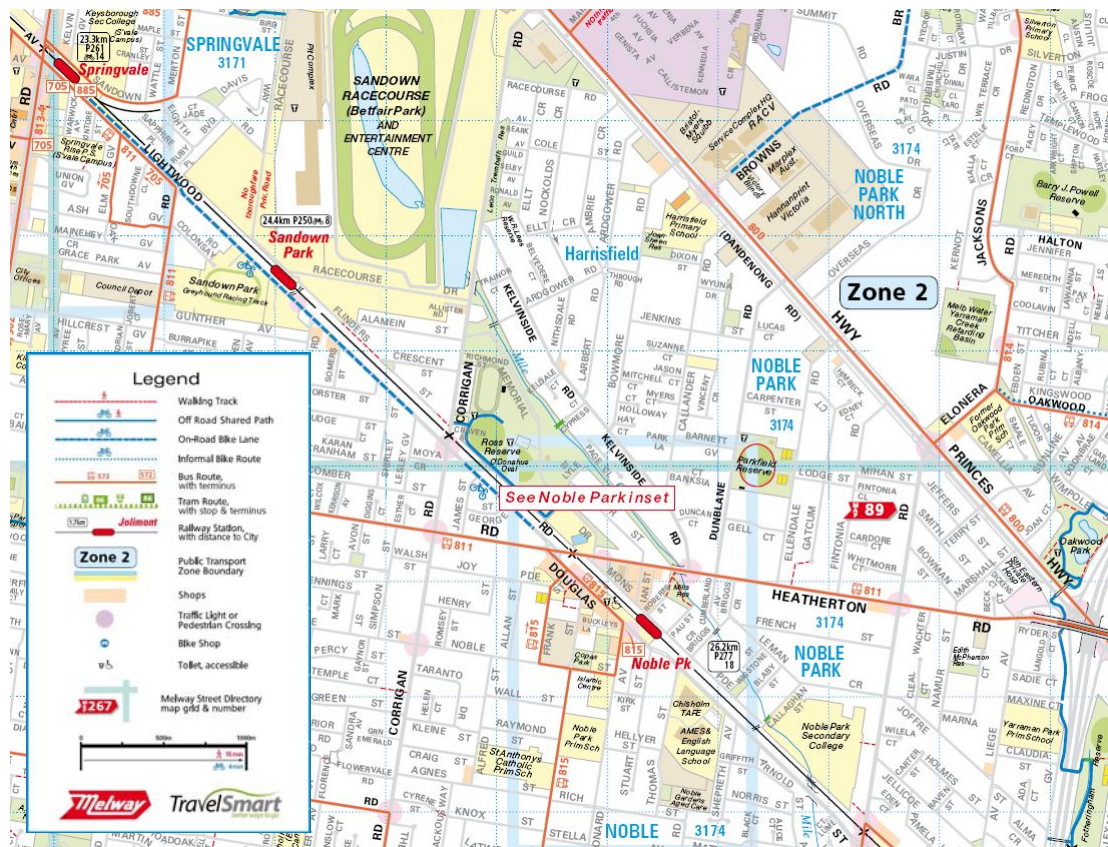


Figure 9: Noble Park Travel Smart Map

The following public transport services are located within close proximity of the site:

- Noble Park and Sandown Park Railway Stations – servicing the Cranbourne and Pakenham Lines.
- Bus Route 811 – Dandenong Station to Brighton.
- Bus Route 815 – Dandenong Station to Noble Park Station.

In particular, Noble Park Railway Station is located within short walking distance to the site, with pedestrian access facilitated across Heatherton Road through the existing pedestrian operated signals.

Existing bicycle facilities are also provided along Lightwood Road, with on-road bicycle lanes providing connection to Sandown Park and Springvale to the north-west. Future bicycle connections are proposed between Kelvinside Road and Heatherton Road, through the park and via the existing pedestrian bridges at Ardgower Road and/or Cypress Court.

2.8.6 Implications for the Master Plan

Consideration of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities associated with access circulation and parking within Ross Reserve reveals a range of implications for the development of the Master Plan. In particular the Master Plan should outline improvements with regard to:

- Pedestrian Connections to Noble Park Activity Centre – through modifications to intersections, rail crossings or through grade separation;
- Internal Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths, and connections to the surrounding network – through the provision of a network of wide shared paths connecting existing and future routes;
- Car and Bicycle Parking Provision – through analysis of peak demands and demand locations. Both car and bicycle parking is likely to be limited in relation to expected future use, especially associated with the Noble Park “More Than Just A Pool” Redevelopment; the Master Plan should outline preferred responses;
- Parking Connectivity and Location – through internal road re-design;
- Accessibility for both vehicle and pedestrians – through encouraging intersection modification/upgrade/signalisation.

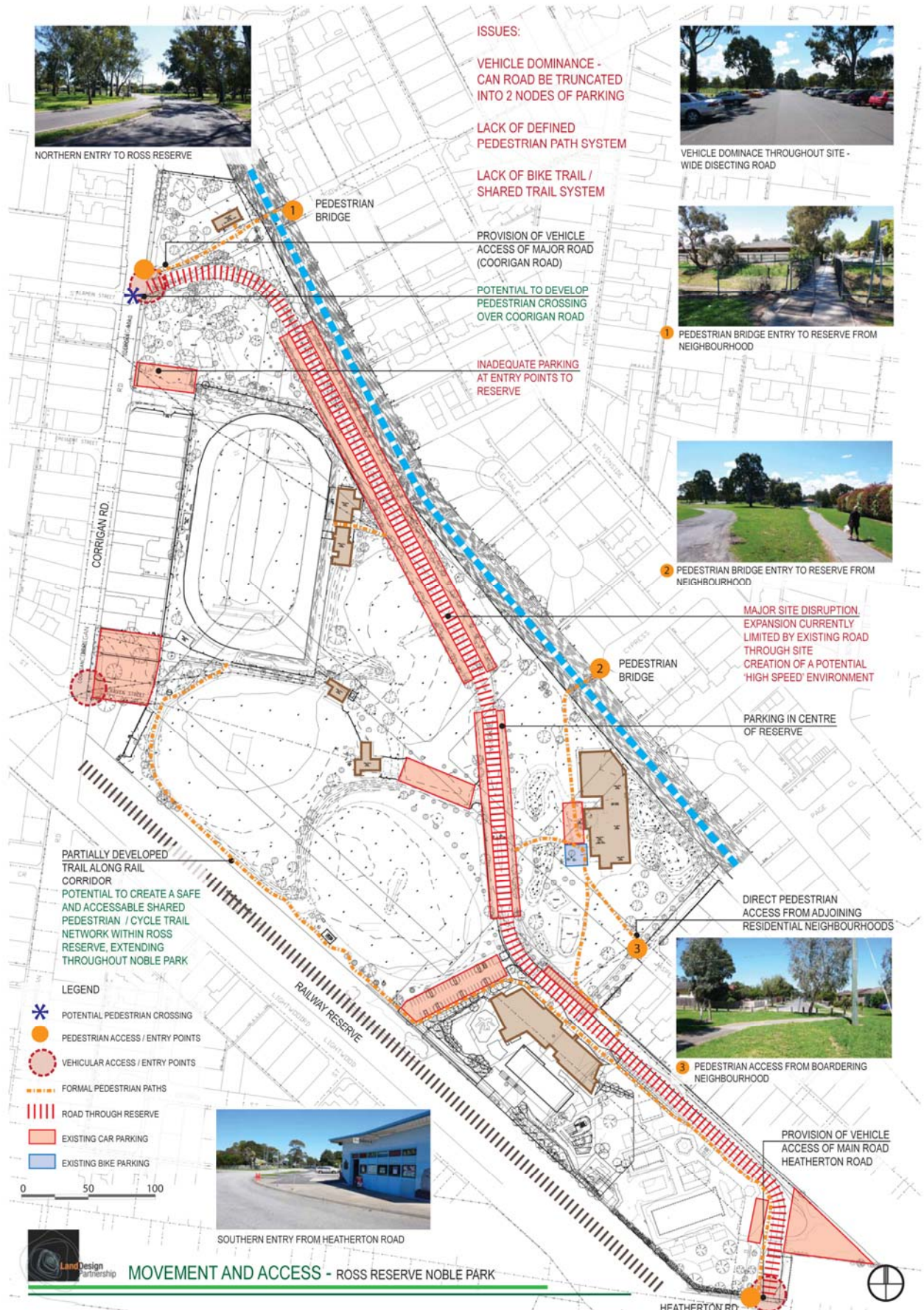


Figure 10: Ross Reserve: Movement and Access

2.9 Hydrology

2.9.1 Overview

Ross Reserve is a 17ha area characterised as 85% (pervious) with ovals covered in warm seasons grasses. The remaining 15% of the site currently consists of impervious surfaces such as buildings, parking areas and memorial drive. The site generally grades South East at a grade of approximately 1:200 towards Mile Creek which defines much of the Eastern boundary of the site.

Mile Creek is a major Melbourne Water concrete drainage channel (Mile Creek) along the Eastern boundary of the site. Water drains in a southerly direction.

The internal drainage system for Ross Reserve has four main connection points to Mile Creek as indicated in Fig 16.

There are two external urban residential catchments with outfall drains running across the site, also discharging into Mile Creek with catchment areas totalling 8.35ha. Annual runoff volumes were estimated for each catchment as shown below:

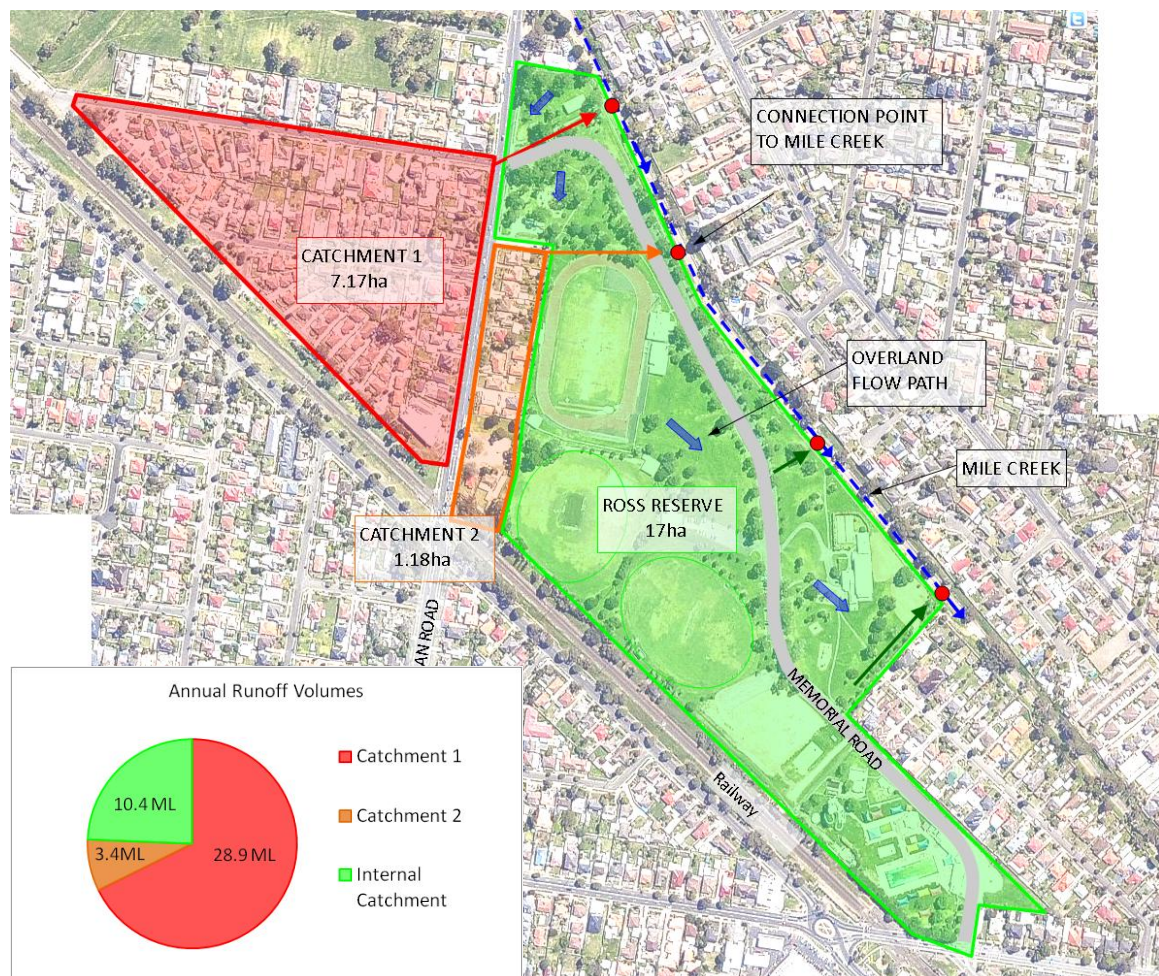


Figure 11: Hydrologic Summary and Catchment Boundaries

The redevelopment of the Aquatic Centre has included keeping the existing swimming pool as a water reuse facility.

2.9.2 Mile Creek Flooding

Melbourne Water advises that based on their current modelling of Mile Creek:

“The 10 year flows are contained in the main channel. The 100 year flows are contained in the main channel between Corrigan Road to western end of Jasper Street. From Jasper Street to Callaghan Street the flows overtop the channel and affect neighbouring properties.”

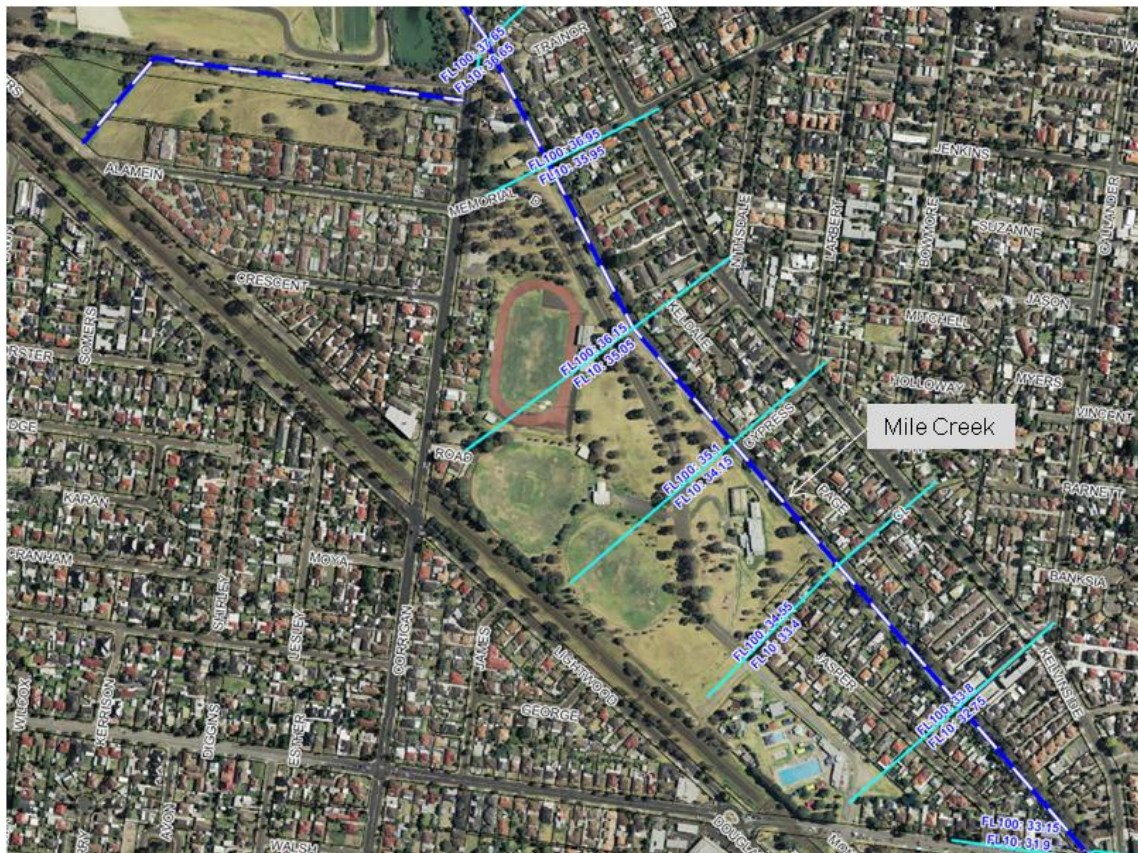


Figure 12: Flooding Along Eastern Boundary

As shown above, there is a level difference of approximately 1 metre between the 10 year Average Return Interval (ARI) and the major 1 in 100 year ARI.

2.9.3 Water Use

Based on discussion with Council staff, Ross Reserve has an annual irrigation demand, of approximately 4.5 ML per oval per year for a sports oval with warm seasons grass coverage. Thus, with three sports ovals, a likely summer irrigation demand is approximately 13.5ML.

Potable water substitution for sports ground and open space irrigation is a major issue for the community and government for a range of reasons:

- **Economic**
Cost potable water is expected to double within the short term and many industry commentators suggest that with the Victorian Desalination Plant coming online, the price could reach up to \$ 4,000 per megalitre. Hence, the cost of maintaining sports grounds using potable water at Ross Reserve could range from \$ 9,000 per annum currently with two ovals to approximately \$ 54,000 per annum if a third oval was developed and the price of water increased to \$ 4,000 per megalitre.
- **Social**
Without adequate water, ovals cannot maintain vigour and do not withstand the stress of usage. Sports grounds are often referred to as the “social fabric” of community and therefore investment in maintaining optimal condition has far reaching effect.
- **Environmental**
Open spaces and sports ovals act as temperature regulators for the local microclimate through the cooling effect of evapo-transpiration and play an important role in combating the Urban Heat Island effect. Providing water for urban heat island mitigation purposes is not currently a high priority, however emerging trends in the industry and government policies are pointing towards this issue becoming important. The implications for Ross Reserve are that increased water use may be required above the minimum oval usage and alternative water supplies for these purposes should be considered.

2.9.4 Implications for the Master Plan: Potential Stormwater Harvesting Opportunities

- Use of alternative sources of water has a high potential at Ross Reserve.
- The interception of stormwater from the existing external catchments offers the ability to capture a large percentage of the 30ML per annum which flows through the site from reliable urban sources.
- Capture of stormwater at this site will also assist in reducing flooding pressure on the downstream properties abutting Mile Creek.

2.9.5 Implications for the Master Plan: Potential Access/Flooding Along Mile Creek

A shared walking trail may be considered to connect local schools and residential neighbourhoods to Ross Reserve via Mile Creek.

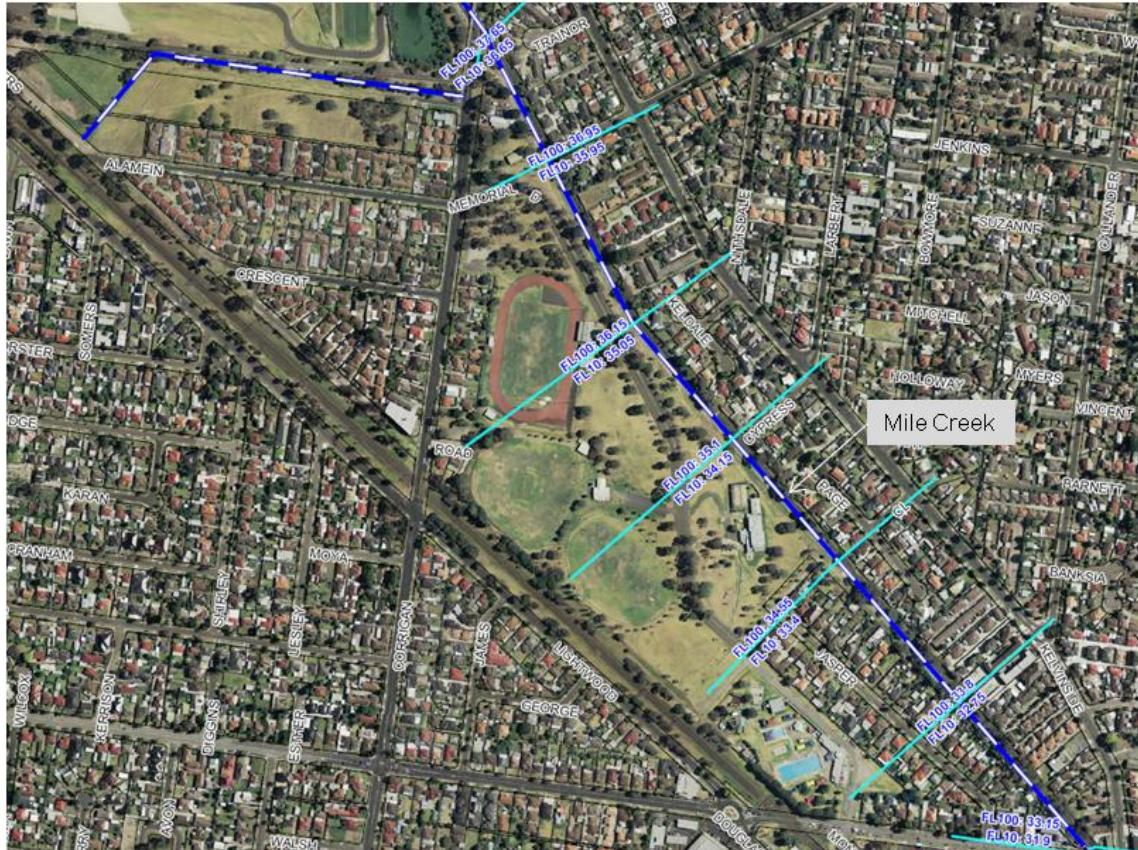


Figure 13: Mile Creek Flood Plan

As shown in Figure 13, the flooding plan indicates approximately 1m of depth between the 1 in 10 year ARI and 1 in 100 year ARI.

Subject to drainage width and structural stability, a cycling/walking track could be installed along the length of the Mile Creek above the 1 in 10 year flood level. Signs can be erected to provide warning to users as per other walking and recreation areas where similar arrangements are in place. Safety would be a key consideration in any proposed development and there would be limitations proposed by Melbourne Water for any such scheme. Safety fencing, for example, would require detailed analysis to ensure no increase of flooding resulted from any works before approval was granted.

2.10 Community Consultation

Community consultation leading to the development of the Ross Reserve Master Plan was undertaken in two primary phases – the first round informing the preparation of the Draft Master Plan, and the second round involving stakeholder and community comment on the Draft Master Plan, informing the refinement of the Draft Master Plan into the Final Master Plan.

2.10.1 FIRST ROUND CONSULTATION: PROCESS

2.10.1.1 Council

Consultations leading to the development of the Draft Master Plan were held with a wide cross-section of individuals, agencies and residents. The consultation process was structured so as to confirm Councillor and officer views and priorities before the views of user groups and the wider community were canvassed. This ensured that the views of the latter two groups could be assessed and responded to in the light of an understanding of wider Council policies, priorities and preferred directions. The consultations included personal interviews, workshops, group discussions, on-site meetings and, where personal contact had proven to be unnecessary, inappropriate or difficult to arrange, telephone and email collection of information.

The consultations mainly occurred between 7th February and 17th February, 2011, including:

- Community Services
- Park Operations
- Sport and Leisure
- Environmental planning
- Strategic Planning/Open Space Planning
- Drainage Planning
- Traffic and Road Safety
- Transport Planning
- Building assets
- Aboriginal Liaison

2.10.1.2 Groups, Organisations and Clubs

The following stakeholders and users have been formally consulted (mainly during week beginning 7th March, 2011):

Organisation	Representative
Springvale City Soccer	Michael Omerovic
Southern Stars Soccer	Tony Kiranci
South Eastern Piranhas Soccer	Ross Caminiti, Kevin De Niese, Joe Marziale
Noble Park Junior Football Club	Trish Marsen, Shaun Connell, General Manager, DDJFL, Steve
Noble Park Cricket Club	Craig Ortland
Parkfield Cricket Club	Tara Hill, Tony Payne

Calypso Cricket Club	Gale De Kauwe, Errol De Kauwe
Springvale Little Athletics	Merle McBean
Istrian Club	Reno Mkas
Victorian Masters Athletics	Alan Bennie Tony Doran, Tony Johnson, Celia
FFV Referees	Terry Bywater
Community Groups	
Noble Park Girl Guides	Chris Leyshan, Helen Smith, Cathy O'Brien
Basketball CALD Youth Group - Ystop	Katharina Verscharen, Matter Machar
Noble Park Community Centre	Nina Springle and 1 staff member
Noble Park Community Centre Committee	Lyn Woodman, Silvester Hipik, Julie Sulocki, Irena Hipik
Hungarian Senior Citizens	Josie Luppino
Italian Senior Citizens	Rosaria Di Mento, Antonio Di Mento
YMCA	Simon Beqir and Manager, Noble Park Pool
Paddy O'Donohue Centre	Andrea, Deputy Manager
Skate Group	Rob Francis, Jon McGrath, Dave Jackson, Harry Lundorf, Luke Lundorf, Rory Lundorf, Mark Winfer
Referral Agencies	
Victoria Police	Cross-referrals between Dandenong and Springvale Police Stations could not locate anyone able to be interviewed
Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau (SCAAB)	Anna Hall, Jill Wilson and the Refugees Action Program Committee members, Esther
YouthLinks program	Martin Sykes, Denise Goldfinch
Noble Park and Keysborough Drug Action Committee	Lee Tarlamis: discussed study but unable to interview
Noble Park RSL	Gordon Murray, President; Mark Wilkinson, Club Manager
Activity Centre Representatives	
Noble Park Retail Traders Association	
Neighbours and Surrounding Residents	
Neighbouring and surrounding residents	23 users of the two playgrounds in Ross Reserve. 15 residents at 2 walk in the park sessions. Jodie Skeels, member of Little Athletics, Junior Soccer, Guides, Paddy O'Donohue Centre. Kyle, user of Paddy O'Donohue. Merle and Eric Mitchell, residents and former Springvale Councillor (Eric).
AMES Adult Multicultural Education Services	Sam Navarria
Schools	
Noble Park Secondary College	Pam Dyson, Principal
Noble Park Primary School	David Rothstadt, Principal.

2.10.1.3 Local Community

In addition to formal meetings with stakeholders as outlined above, two community walks were held within Ross Reserve on 27th March 2011. The purpose of these walks was to allow local residents to meet with the Master Plan design team to discuss their views on the Reserve – what they appreciated about the Reserve and what could be improved. These walks were advertised in local media and through a letter-box drop of local residential streets.

2.10.2 FIRST ROUND CONSULTATION - REPORTING

The consultations program was essentially broken into two sections: first, internal Council officer consultations and second, far wider agency, user and community consultations. The findings of these two sections are reported separately in the following material, as their “approach” to the Reserve were from quite different perspectives. Thus, the professional officers were charged with maintaining, developing or managing the Reserve for the community as part of a wider portfolio of responsibilities, whereas the wider agency, user and community groups tended to approach the Reserve almost exclusively from a use perspective.

Further to the above, the reporting of the findings from the two elements of the consultations has also been treated differently. With the officer consultations, responses have been grouped under a number of sub-headings, rather than reporting them verbatim or on a person by person or group by group basis. Individual comments have not been attributed to those who made them *on purpose*, in order to avoid the potential for conflict between those who raised the issue and others who may disagree with the views that have been provided. By comparison, the views of external agencies, user groups and the wider community are reported individually as these contributors often come from very different backgrounds and have very different needs perspectives and priorities.

It should also be noted that a number of the issues raised through the consultations program are more of an *operational* than *strategic* nature. However, all were recorded. The full outline of consultation findings is found in Appendix 2

2.10.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MASTER PLAN: SUMMARY OF FIRST ROUND CONSULTATION FINDINGS

Viewed in the light of the low SEIFA index and the diverse cultural mix of the Noble Park and district community (reviewed elsewhere in this report), the consultations and planning team assessments indicate that a quite complex mix of strategies will need to be considered at Ross Reserve if it is to effectively meet community needs and contribute to community wellbeing and social development both in the short term and over the longer term. As listed above, the development initiatives range across enhancing and improving infrastructure, services and safety through to the introduction of upgraded and expanded sporting facilities, the development of facilities for new sports and a variety of other recreational activities and perhaps most importantly, a strong focus on targeted programming.

Ross Reserve is one of the larger Reserves owned and managed by the City of Greater Dandenong. Yet, despite being one of few substantial Reserves in Noble Park, its present use is significantly compromised by significant shape constraints, numerous access barriers, ageing infrastructure, generally poor standards of maintenance, severely limited provision for non-sporting uses and the lack of active promotion and programming of the Reserve.

The findings of the consultations reported above suggested very strongly that balanced action on five potentially quite different redevelopment themes was needed for the Reserve to deliver the optimal benefits to the Noble Park community. These themes are:

- **Asset improvement:** upgraded quality of facilities, improved safety, improvement of roads and parking, upgraded lighting to sport areas, provision of signs, increased aesthetic quality.
- **Sports development:** upgrading of existing facilities and provision of additional sports spaces, especially for soccer.
- **Informal use development:** provision of social areas, linked pathways, more and upgraded picnic facilities, upgrade of play areas, provision of skate facility and basketball to replace former facilities.
- **Environmental management:** tree management, more plantings, water management, habitat enhancement.
- **Community development:** programming, in-park placement of services, community cultures reflected in design, newer more creative governance of Community Centre/pool/clubrooms, parkland promotion, control of loiterers, performance monitoring.

Overall, it would seem that the diverse cultural mix and the often dire socio-economic position of many in the Noble Park community means that while careful attention will need to be given to the first two of these themes. To pursue them too strongly would be to the detriment of the social development of the wider community.

In light of the above, a number of key opportunities and needs emerged from the consultations. These were:

Management: Action is needed on the following management issues at Ross Reserve:

- Effective servicing.
- Enhancing asset quality.
- Application of more appropriate governance models.
- Promoting access: information, advertising.
- Protection of cultural heritage.
- Improving amenity (mowing, maintenance, rubbish dumping, truck parking).
- Enhancement of the assets: improved mowing/lawn standards; better toilets; tree maintenance.
- Monitoring of outcomes: casual users; sports; programs; environmental, energy use.

Development: Development is needed to:

- Enhance safety, security: (paths [and their positioning/materials, width], lighting, supervision of users).
- Enhance servicing: (car parking; traffic; toilets [number, format, location/co-location]; signage; mowing; view lines; signage; lighting; paths; taps).
- Retain diversity.
- Achieve greater diversity: trails/pathways; wetlands; events/social spaces; more built facilities at Community Centre; facilities for new sports (skating, cycling, basketball, volleyball, netball; facilities for casual sports and active; facilities for social activities; plazas; indoor/ outdoor performance spaces (incl. replacement of those lost in the past).

- Recognize and acknowledge cultural heritage from Aboriginal to current day immigration: (use of Aboriginal shapes/symbols in design, landscaping, plantings, murals, sculpture/arts trail and non-permanent arts installations).
- Create different user environments: 5-a-side areas; social areas, event spaces, movement corridors, “green rooms”.
- Create indoor/outdoor links and settings: Community Centre, old pool site facing Heatherton Road, new pool/parkland interface.
- Enhance physical access: signs, maps, information, benefits gained, costs, listing user club contacts and use opportunities, paths, lights, security.
- Enhance environmental values: wetlands, formal and informal gardens, “reafforestation”.
- Provision of better and more diverse opportunities for active, non-team/non-sporting uses.
- Provision of better and more diverse social settings: small, large, serviced, natural.
- Building consolidation (pavilions), expansion (Community Centre), relocation (pavilions, Guide Hall).

Programming: Pro-active, interventionist programming of activities is essential to deliver the optimum outcomes, as the physical facilities are simply the *means* to a community wellbeing end and a platform for action. Programming should:

- offer developmental activities to key community groups and all age groups,
- enhance community access to engagement through on-site service staffing, targeted programs and inter-user group/sports liaison,
- ensure cultural relevance through communication, liaison and consultation,
- strengthen sporting uses and the diversity of other uses,
- base program delivery within the park,
- schedule uses carefully to optimise access/use types/user numbers,
- provide opportunities for monitoring outputs and outcomes.

Principles/Values: Some of the key principles to emerge from the consultations are that all initiatives at Ross Reserve should:

- build the relevance of the Reserve to the community,
- provide opportunities for community strengthening,
- build Council’s reputation in the community,
- develop a sense of place,
- strengthen community engagement,
- allow for continuous community engagement,
- encourage proactive and responsive action, and
- ensure sharing facilities and provision responsibilities change.

Where appropriate these implications were embodied in the Draft Master Plan used as the basis for the second round of community consultation.

2.10.4 SECOND ROUND CONSULTATION: PROCESS

Following preparation of the Draft Master Plan, second round consultation was undertaken during October and November 2011. This consultation involved:

- Distribution of the Draft Master Plan to all stakeholders contacted during first round consultation requesting comment.
- Display of the Draft Master Plan on the City of Greater Dandenong website and at the following community venues, with request for comment:
 - Noble Park Community Centre, Memorial Drive, Ross Reserve
 - Paddy O'Donohue Centre, Buckley Street, Noble Park
 - City of Greater Dandenong Council Offices, Clow Street, Dandenong
 - City of Greater Dandenong Council Offices, Springvale Road, Springvale
 - Springvale Library
 - Dandenong Library

The Draft Master Plan was displayed and available for public comment from 24th October 2011 until 18th November 2011.

- Notification of all community members contacted during first round consultation, alerting them to the display of the Draft Master Plan, requesting comment.
- A meeting of referral agencies at the Paddy O'Donohue Centre at 2:30 pm on 8th November 2011.
- A meeting of tenant clubs at the Paddy O'Donohue Centre at 6:00pm on 8th November 2011.
- A meeting of interested community members at the Paddy O'Donohue Centre at 8:00pm on 8th November 2011. All community members contacted during round one consultation and residents adjoining the Reserve were invited to this meeting.

2.10.5 SECOND ROUND CONSULTATION: FINDINGS

In response to the period of consultation on the Draft Master Plan, a number of formal submissions were received. These are summarised below.

Respondent	Comment/Issue	Response
Chuen-Tat Kang (Local Resident)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of recycle bins within Reserve. ▪ Provision of drinking fountains within Reserve. ▪ Provision of a variety of tree types across the Reserve, including some fruiting and medicinal tree types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note in Master Plan Report that recycle bins should be provided, with detail to be resolved at detailed design stage. ▪ Note in Master Plan Report that recycle bins should be provided, with detail to be resolved at detailed design stage. ▪ Note in Master Plan Report that such trees will be desirable at appropriate locations, with detail to be resolved at detailed design stage.

<p>Bruce Pendlebury (Local Resident)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supported initiatives to increase use of Reserve and visual appearance of Reserve. ▪ Encouraged weed eradication and additional planting along western boundary and Railway Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response required. ▪ Note these objectives in Master Plan Report.
<p>John Weeks (Team Leader, Sport and Leisure, City of Greater Dandenong)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noted that synthetic surface within Athletic Track is not a viable option. ▪ Suggested provision of additional synthetic surface multi-use sport field. ▪ Emphasised need for careful design to provide safe access associated with crossing roads and car parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarify intent to retain turf infield to athletics track. ▪ Modify Master Plan to include synthetic multipurpose surface on Oval 2. ▪ Note requirement for safe access across roads and car parking areas in Master Plan Report, to be resolved at detailed design stage.
<p>Springvale/Noble Park Masters Athletics Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supportive of upgrade of facilities, especially athletics track resurfacing and provision of shared community sports building ▪ Particularly supportive of integrated shared trail network across Reserve. Requested additional section of track along the western edge of the athletics track to complete this proposed network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response required. ▪ Modify Master Plan to include additional section of track suggested.
<p>Noble Park Football Club Juniors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasised that the proposed central sports pavilion should not lead to a loss a facilities for the club ▪ Concerned that Master Plan did not allow for larger oval than currently provided (i.e. draft Master Plan included retention of existing O'Donohue Oval) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master Plan to outline space provision within proposed pavilion and floor area ▪ Modify Master Plan to enlarge O'Donohue Oval requiring relocation of sports pavilion, providing improved service and emergency access

3. MASTER PLAN DIRECTIONS

3.1 Objectives of the Master Plan

Based on the key aims of the Project Brief, the site analysis undertaken by the consultant team and consultation with the City of Greater Dandenong officers, stakeholders and the community, the redeveloped Ross Reserve should provide for the following:

Formal Sports

- Increased level of sporting use, with a focus on soccer provision.
- More diverse sporting use – AFL, cricket, soccer, athletics, swimming.
- Local to district sports use.

Community Uses

- More diversity in non-sporting recreation uses.
- Improved provision for passive social activities.
- Active non-sporting activity (skate, jogging, walking, cycling, social cricket, exercise).
- Integration of indoor and outdoor community activity.
- Community events (Festivals etc.).
- Community development and programmes.
- A new Urban Plaza on Heatherton Road.

Natural environment

- Protection of existing significant trees.
- Additional planting of indigenous vegetation/habitat.

Safer environments

- Lighting.
- High profile and visible public toilets.
- Facilities to broaden use of Reserve to provide activity and passive surveillance.
- Well maintained and clear view lines.

Enhanced circulation

- An integrated cycle and pedestrian path network.
- Well-located and connected parking, proximate to activity.
- Re-design of access roads to create a less divisive alignment.
- Slow vehicle environments.
- Ensuring parking and vehicle movement is secondary to park activity.

Resource management

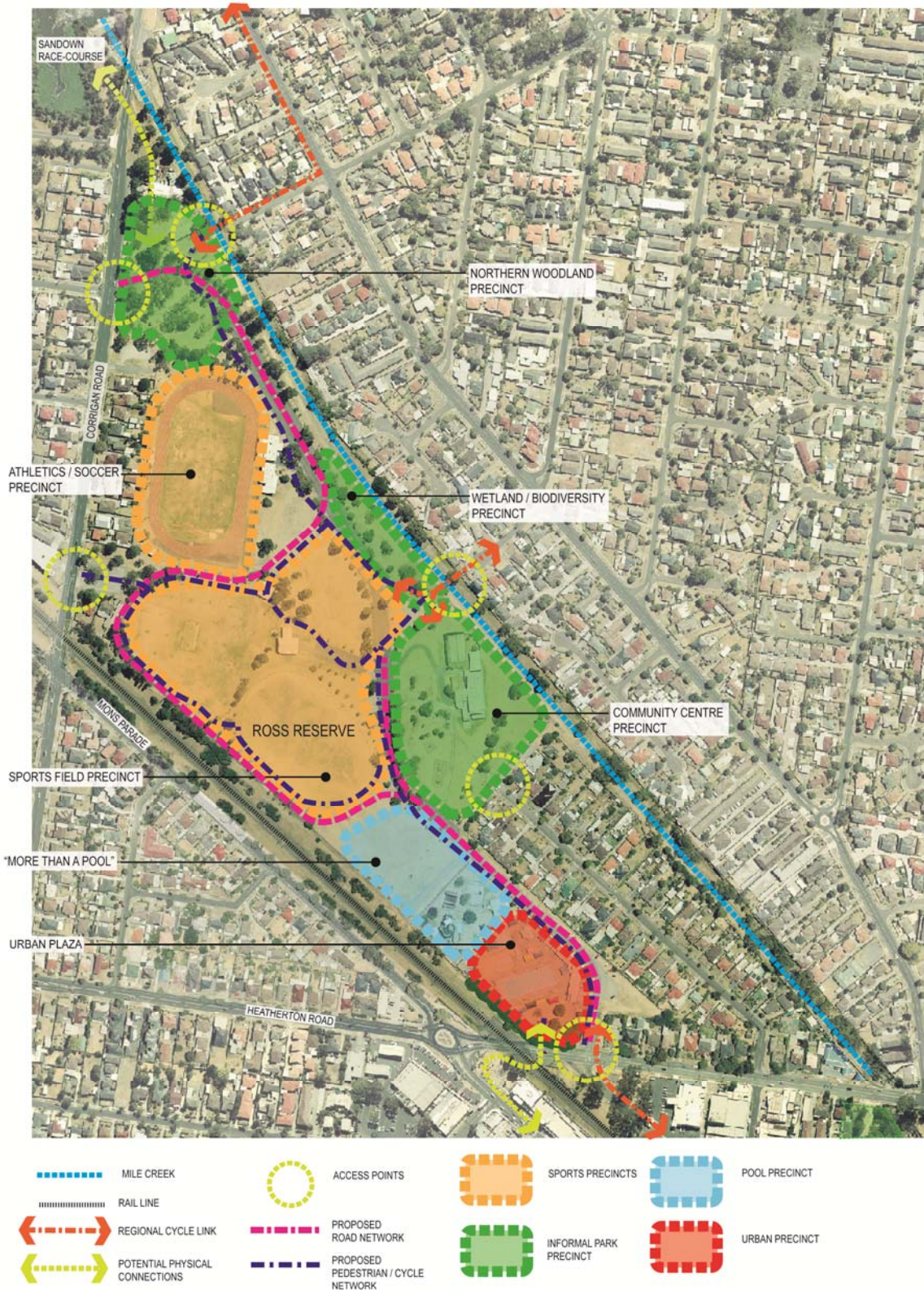
- Collection and treatment of stormwater.
- Reduction in downstream flooding impact on Mile Creek.
- Collection and re-use of rainwater from buildings.

3.2 Master Plan Directions: Land Use Precincts

In addressing these objectives, the Master Plan proposes the retention of a number of existing uses as well as the introduction of a number of new uses. The interaction and proposed distribution of existing and new uses across Ross Reserve, based on the physical setting of the Reserve and community use patterns, is expressed in the Precinct Plan Figure 14).

In summary, the precincts include:

- a) **Northern Woodland Precinct**
Including the northern playground, informal picnic and seating, walking paths and the Girl Guide hall.
- b) **Athletics/Soccer Precinct**
Including the existing turf soccer pitch, the athletics track and supporting buildings.
- c) **Sport Field Precinct**
Including the existing ovals, new soccer pitch, supporting buildings and walking paths.
- d) **Community Centre Precinct**
Including the expanded community centre, central playground, informal picnic and seating areas, and walking paths.
- e) **Wetland/Biodiversity Precinct**
Including the water treatment area and associated planting.
- f) **“More Than Just a Pool” Precinct**
Including the new aquatic centre and external spaces, and supporting paths and parking.
- g) **Urban Plaza Precinct**
Including new urban park spaces, southern playground, skate and basketball facilities, and associated landscape spaces.



PRECINCT PLAN - ROSS RESERVE NOBLE PARK

Figure 14: Precinct Plan

3.3 Master Plan Directions: Overall Master Plan

The layout and expression of the detailed landscape within which the various land uses exist, is outlined on the Master Plan (Figure 15).

The Master Plan provides direction in relation to elements such as:

- Points of entry and community connection
- Sporting fields
- Informal landscape spaces
- Feature areas
- Playground areas
- Tree distribution
- Building locations
- Path layouts
- Roads and car parking
- Revegetation/environmental areas

These elements are described in further detail in the following text.



Figure 15: Master Plan

3.4 Master Plan Directions: Context

3.4.1 Connections

Consideration of the context and setting of Ross Reserve and particularly the relationship of the Reserve with its adjoining uses, leads the Master Plan to make the following recommendations:

- a) Clearly integrate the proposed internal shared trail circulation system with the two existing crossings of Mile Creek, to provide improved accessibility to the Reserve for local residents to the east of the Reserve.
- b) Extend the City of Greater Dandenong Regional Cycle Network through the Reserve. This will connect from Kelvinside Street, via the existing bridge crossing of Mile Creek, to Heatherton Road.
- c) Clearly integrate the proposed internal shared trail network with Jasper Street to the south-east of the Reserve, to provide improved accessibility to Reserve spaces for local residents to south-east of the Reserve.
- d) Pursue with VicRoads the provision of a pedestrian crossing across Corrigan Road to the "Northern Woodland" precinct, providing improved access to the Reserve for local communities to the west of Corrigan Road.
- e) Pursue with VicRoads the provision of modified signalization at the Corrigan Road railway crossing, to provide improved opportunity for pedestrians and cyclists to enter the Reserve via the existing unmade road reserve of Corrigan Road.
- f) Continue discussions with VicRoads on potential removal of the Lightwood Avenue roundabout and replacement with a signalized intersection, pursuing improved pedestrian connection between the Reserve and the Noble Park Activity Centre. This may include integrated upgrade of the Memorial Drive/Heatherton Road intersection, to ensure improved pedestrian crossing ability.
- g) Pursue with Melbourne Water the long term provision of shared trail access along Mile Creek between the Q10 and Q100 flood levels (refer Section 2.9 of this report).



3.5 Master Plan Directions: Uses and Activities

Based on identified strategic needs, community desires and: the physical characteristics of the site, the Master Plan makes a range of recommendations related to future Uses and Activities within the Ross Reserve.

The uses are described in detail below.

3.5.1 Sports Fields

The Master Plan proposes the following in relation to sports fields at Ross Reserve:

- a) **Retention of existing athletics track**
The existing athletics track will be retained, continuing to provide a base for school athletics, Little Athletics and Master Athletics. The track surface will be upgraded during the 2011/2012 financial year, which will see the track able to provide a high level surface for the term of the Master Plan.
- b) **Retention of existing soccer pitch in athletics track and field**
This will remain as turf pitch for up to senior level State League soccer games.
- c) **Reconstruction of O'Donohue Oval**
O'Donohue Oval will be re-constructed in order to provide a larger re-oriented playing surface (150m x 120m), continuing to cater for both cricket and football. O'Donohue Oval also has significant potential as a venue for community events and festivals. This function will be supported by improved access and parking, as described in Section 3.6.
- d) **Reconstruction of Oval 2**
Oval 2, between the Athletics Track and O'Donohue Oval, will be re-constructed as a multi-use field with a synthetic surface, continuing to cater for both cricket and soccer training and competition, but with the potential for more intense use if required. While the current space is not sufficient to provide for its formalisation into a full size oval, the reconstruction of the oval as a multi-use field will not only allow for existing uses to remain, but preserves the future potential for use as a formal soccer pitch. The space will be further activated by the proposed adjacent access road and parking (refer Section 3.6).
- e) **Synthetic Soccer Pitch**
On the basis of the identified need for soccer fields within the City of Greater Dandenong and recognising the existing soccer activity of clubs at Ross Reserve, an additional soccer pitch is proposed. This pitch will be a full size FFV pitch (105 x 68m plus run-off areas) and is proposed to be primarily a district training pitch and so will be synthetic, allowing for more intensive use than would be possible on a turf pitch. The new soccer pitch will be supported by training lights (to 200 Lux), team shelters, adjacent car parking (refer Section 3.6) and a nearby pavilion (refer Section 3.5).

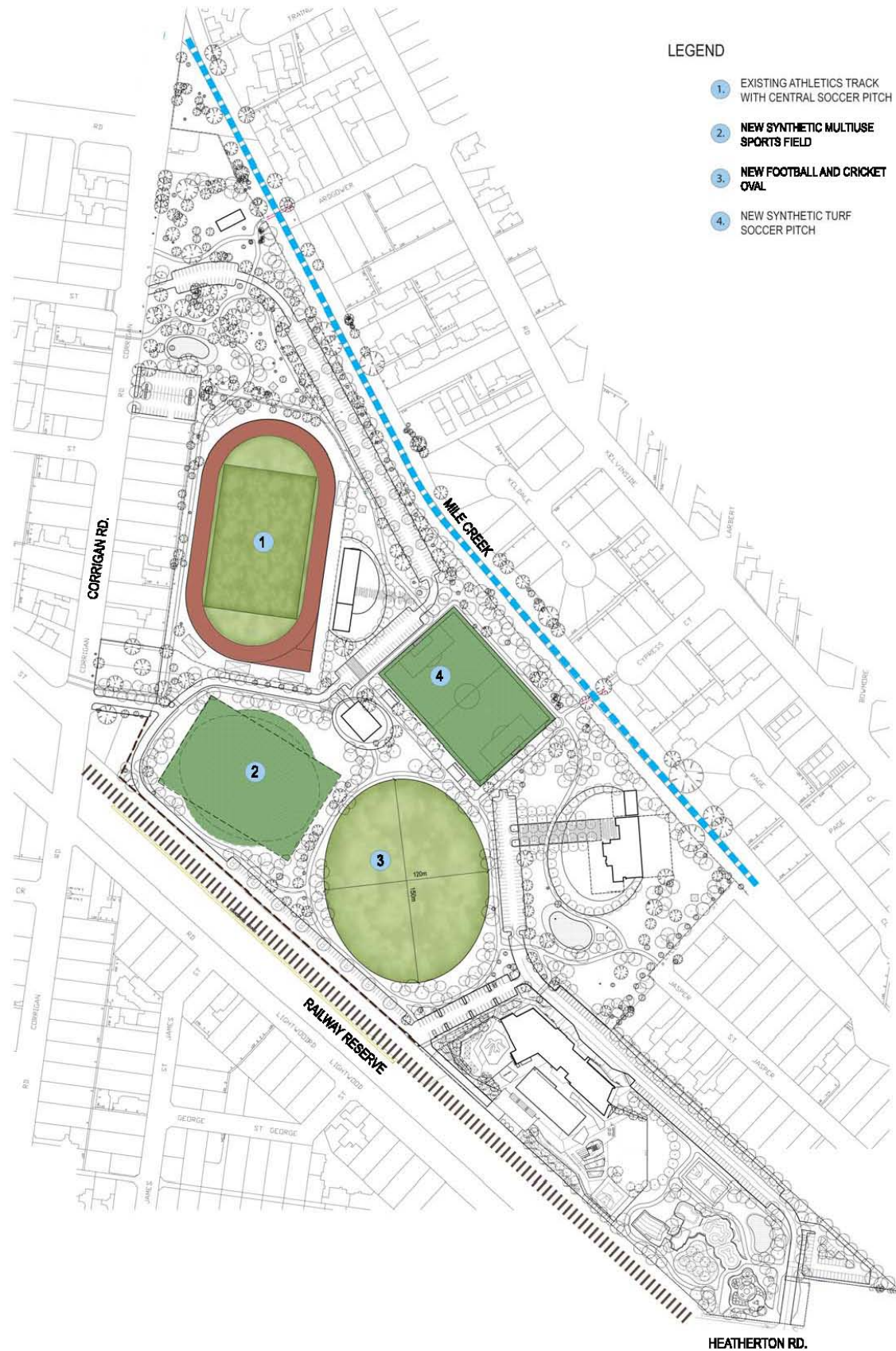


Figure 16: Master Plan: Proposed Sports Fields



Figure 17: Central Sports Precinct

The proposed location of sports fields recognizes the following:

- When not in use the fields will be suitable for informal community use/social sport etc. This potential suggests the proposed location closest to the adjoining residential development connection from Cypress Court.
- Soccer, being the primary use of these fields, is likely to attract a large population of primary school age participants. This further suggests a location away from major roads but serviced with car parking areas.
- Recognising the potential for informal use as suggested above, these fields have been located adjacent to informal open spaces areas in the centre of the Reserve, with associated shelters, barbecue areas and playground facilities at the Community Centre (refer Section 3.32 below).

3.5.2 Informal Recreation Spaces

In addition to retaining existing sports fields and providing for one new synthetic soccer pitch, the Master Plan recommends a comprehensive range of improvements to informal recreation spaces across Ross Reserve.

a) Northern Woodland
The northern woodland refers to the area north of the existing athletics track. This is a popular space with a strong landscape character. The Master Plan recommends enhancement of the space to build upon its existing character and use, through:

- the development of a path system, linking entry points from Mile Creek and Corrigan Road with key elements within the space, including the playgrounds, Guide Hall, picnic shelters and car parks, and connection into the Athletics Track;
- additional park amenities, including picnic shelters, barbecues, seating and public toilet;
- reconfiguration of car parking to make more efficient use of paved vehicle space;
- upgraded playground, including shade and new play equipment;
- additional planting to supplement existing woodland (refer also Section 3.3);
- development of an interpretive signage system explaining both the pre settlement and post settlement history of the site and its natural systems.



Figure 18: Northern Woodland

b) Community Centre Surrounds

While it is a large existing open space, the area surrounding the existing Noble Park Community Centre is lacking in general park amenity. In response, the Master Plan recommends:

- the development of an integrated path system, connecting the area with Jasper Street, the Mile Creek footbridge (at the end of Cypress Court) and Memorial Drive. This path system is intended to be 'shared trail' width of 3,000 mm, of coloured concrete;
- additional park amenities, including picnic shelters, barbecues and seating;
- upgrade of existing playground to provide additional play equipment and shelter;
- additional planting, building upon the "native woodland" character in the northern part of the site. This planting will focus upon providing shade and defining smaller scale park spaces (refer also Section 3.3);
- development of an interpretive signage system explaining both the pre settlement and post settlement history of the site and its natural systems.



Figure 19: Community Centre

In addition to these recommendations, there will be further upgrade of landscape spaces associated with the expansion of the existing community centre. This will particularly include:

- a) the development of a new arrival forecourt, allowing for meeting and gathering and a sense of civic presence;
- b) new courtyard spaces allowing “spill-out” of internal spaces and functions into the Reserve;
- c) external spaces suited to community centre programs, including exercise spaces, external meeting spaces, family play spaces;
- d) extension of the interpretive signage system described above.

3.5.3 Noble Park “More Than Just A Pool” (NPAC)

As noted previously in this Report, the Noble Park “More Than Just A Pool” (NPAC) Redevelopment will be a significant recreation and leisure facility for Noble Park and the surrounding community. The integration between the development and Ross Reserve generally will, therefore, be significant.

In this regard, the Master Plan makes the following recommendations:

- a) Integration of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) forecourt with the general shared path system proposed across the Reserve.
- b) Integration of the regional cycle network link through Ross Reserve with the entry forecourt of the development.
- c) Formalisation of parking along Memorial Drive to support Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) activity (refer also Section 3.6).
- d) Provision of open grassed space to the south of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) Redevelopment, providing a spatial link with the Urban Plaza space (refer also Section 3.3.4 below).



3.5.4 Urban Park

The Urban Park will be a new space within Ross Reserve, provided by the relocation of the former Noble Park Pool. The Plaza will provide a number of key benefits to Ross Reserve, including:

- Reinstatement of youth oriented recreation facilities, removed as part of the “More Than Just A Pool” (NPAC) Redevelopment.
- Creation of a formal “gathering” plaza from Heatherton Road and specifically from the Noble Park Activity Centre and Railway Station.
- Provision of an additional mix of urban park spaces catering for a range of age groups.
- Provision of additional park amenities, including public toilets.

In achieving these benefits, the Master Plan recommends incorporation of a range of elements (In outlining these, the consultants would like to acknowledge Mr. Jon McGrath, a local resident, for his assistance). While the design indicated on the Master Plan is notional, it does reflect a potential arrangement of these elements.

- a) An Urban Plaza accessed directly from Heatherton Road, incorporating paved and sheltered seating spaces, formal planting spaces (including trees and low level planters), a range of contemporary urban street furniture, signage introducing the spaces and facilities within Ross Reserve, street skating facilities as an introduction to other skate spaces. The design of this space will allow for direct physical and visual access into Ross Reserve from Heatherton Road, currently precluded by fencing and planting associated with the former Noble Park Pool.
- b) A range of skate spaces, including
 - plaza/street course
 - pool/bowl element
 - snake run
 - vert ramp
 - beginners bank/bowl
- c) Integrated landscape areas, incorporating mounding, grassing, tree planting and seating opportunities, in order to soften the visual character of the street spaces and integrate them with the park context.
- d) An older age play space, complementing the youth oriented spaces within the Urban Park and supplementing the younger age orientation of the existing play spaces.
- e) A formal hardcourt area, with associated seating spaces, suitable for informal basketball and other court spaces.
- f) An open lawn area at the interface with the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) precinct, suitable for street soccer or informal volleyball and connecting with lawn areas within the NPAC precinct via openable fencing.

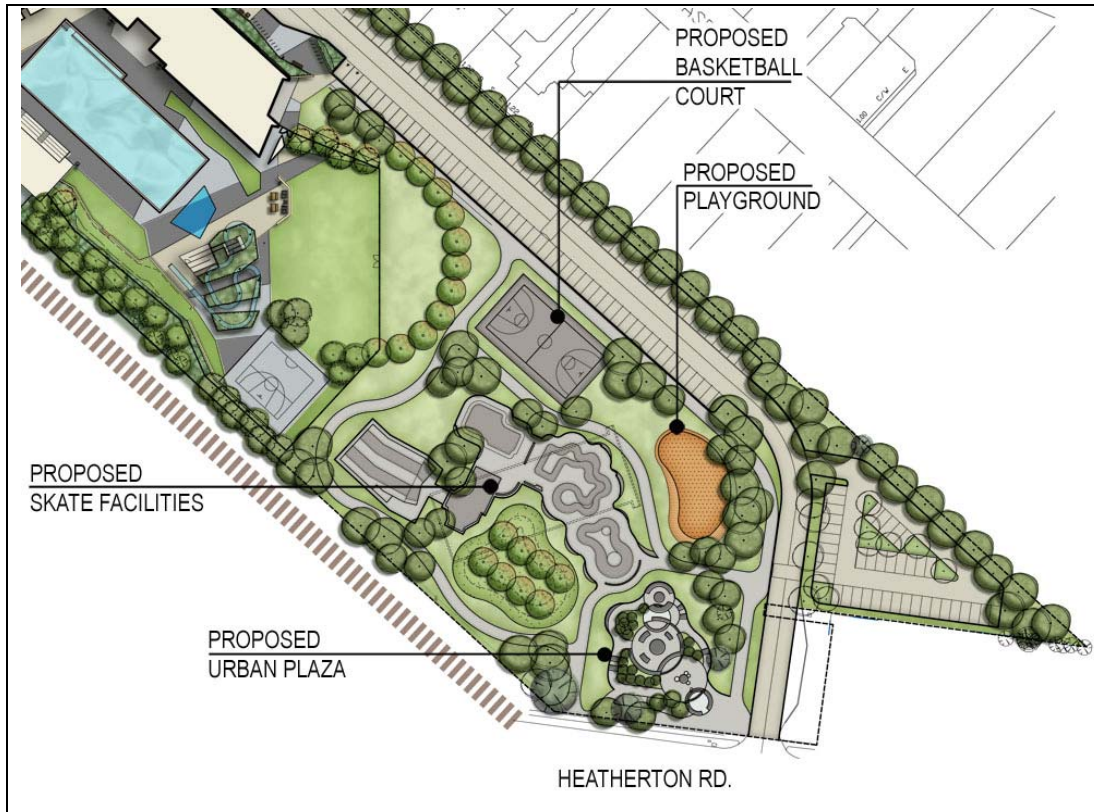


Figure 20: Urban Park



3.6 Master Plan Directions: Landscape Character

The analysis of the existing site characteristics reveals a number of spatial and visual strengths, particularly the scattered woodland of indigenous trees, which characterises the north of the site. Based on these existing strengths and the opportunities presented by the spatial and functional reconfiguration of the Reserve described above, the Master Plan makes a range of recommendations aimed at improving the visual and environmental qualities of the Reserve, particularly through new tree planting to supplement the existing landscape character.

These include:

a) Reinforcement of existing areas of indigenous woodland

Candidate species include: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
Eucalyptus tereticornis
Eucalyptus ovata
Acacia melanoxylon
Allocasuarina verticillata
Allocasuarina littoralis
Leptospermum continentale
Leptospermum lanigerum
Bursaria spinosa
Kunzea ericoides
Lomandra filiformis

b) Supplementing the woodland character in focal areas

Candidate species include: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
Eucalyptus tereticornis
Eucalyptus leucoxylon
Eucalyptus scoparia
Eucalyptus tricarpa
Angophora costata
Allocasuarina verticillata
Allocasuarina littoralis

c) Spatial definition of key sports areas

Candidate species include: *Corymbia citriodora*
Corymbia maculata

d) Reinforcement of key movement corridors, especially roads and car parks, with strong avenue planting, reflecting the Memorial Avenue located along the existing Memorial Drive

Candidate species include: *Corymbia citriodora*
Corymbia maculata
Angophora costata
Eucalyptus leucoxylon
Eucalyptus scoparia

e) Creation of new environmental zones, especially water collection and treatment. Primary among these areas is the proposed water treatment area to the east of the proposed synthetic soccer field.

Candidate species include: *Eucalyptus ovata*
Acacia melanoxylon
Melaleuca ericifolia
Leptospermum lanigerum
Lomandra filiformis
Carex spp
Juncus spp
Themeda triandra
Lepidoptera spp

- f) Creation of strong buffers to prominent boundaries, particularly Mile Creek and the Railway Line.

Candidate species include: *Angophora costata*
Corymbia maculata
Eucalyptus scoparia

- g) Creation of specific nodes with a distinctive planting character including fruiting trees, medicinal trees, flowering trees etc. The location of such nodes will be subject to detailed design, but would be best located in the Community Centre precinct.

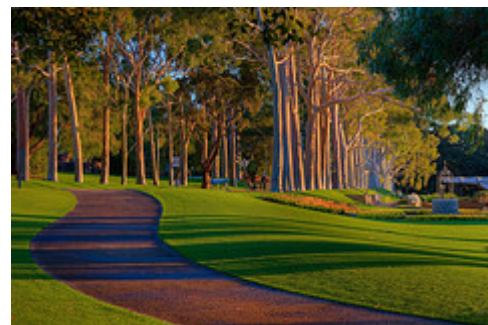
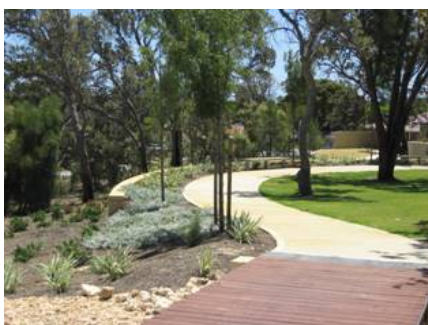




Figure 21: Master Plan: Tree Distribution

3.7 Master Plan Directions: Buildings and Facilities

3.7.1 Upgraded buildings across the Reserve

Flowing out of the analysis of the existing building stock located across Ross Reserve, the Master Plan makes a range of recommendations related to future building construction. These recommendations are based around the principle of consolidation and flexibility of built form, in order to provide fewer, but more adaptable and multifunctional buildings. The key recommendations are:

a) Community Centre Additions and Alterations

- The existing Community Centre will be rejuvenated with substantial refurbishment and extension to create a vibrant social asset. A formal entry foyer will provide access to refurbished community and multi-purpose rooms. The new foyer space will include reception and cafe/bar facilities to cater for both informal and formal gatherings.
- Refurbished amenities and change facilities will serve an extended and refurbished indoor sports hall, sized to accommodate two netball/basketball courts with appropriate run-off space and storage. Provision is made for connection to two outdoor courts adjacent to the new indoor sports hall. New facilities will be located to maintain and strengthen adjacent existing infrastructure that is proposed for retention.
- Integration of non-built facilities, such as the gravel bocce court, with the expanded Community Centre architecture.
- Proposed additional floor area: up to 1,800m²; existing floor area to be substantially refurbished.





Increasingly, it is being recognized that co-location of community and recreation/leisure facilities breeds participation in both to contribute to greater social interaction and community well-being. The close proximity of the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and associated community spaces and the rejuvenation of other Ross Reserve recreation infrastructure and facilities will reflect this rationale.

Demolition of Existing Buildings

The Building Condition Report prepared by Suters Architects in February 2011, indicates that some existing pavilions have been reasonably well maintained, however, most are in need of upgrade works in the short-medium term. Most buildings would require significant investment in order for Council to provide sporting facilities of a standard commensurate with community expectations in 2011. When considered within the context of the proposed Master Plan, and the likely re-alignment of sports fields, it is questionable whether these existing facilities have the capacity to cater for the longer term community demand. In the medium to longer term, the demolition of these existing pavilions, including the Soccer Clubrooms, is recommended. These buildings would be replaced by new buildings as outlined below.

b) Main Community Sports Pavilion

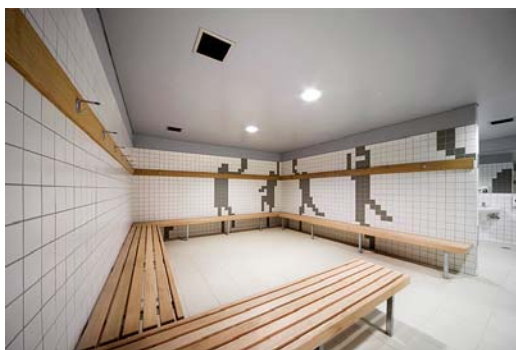
- A new Sports Pavilion is proposed in the location of the existing Soccer Club building, to the east of the existing athletics track and main soccer pitch. Replacing the existing facility, which is near to end of life, the new facility will include community sports change rooms, serving the main soccer pitch, as well as surrounding existing and new synthetic pitches. It is proposed that this building contain six multi-purpose change rooms, including amenities and storage space. The new pavilion will also house public/spectator amenities, umpire change, general storage and a kiosk. Existing grandstand seating between the building and the main soccer pitch and athletics track will be refurbished and/or extended. The building will be located and designed to accommodate future expansion for incorporation of gymnasium space or additional change rooms.

- A 150 seat multipurpose space with associated amenities and kitchen would be located on an upper level for post-match functions, club meetings and community functions.
- Proposed floor area: approximately 1,060m²; 680m² at ground level, with 480m² above.



c) Central Sports Pavilion

- A new pavilion is proposed between the existing ovals and the proposed soccer pitch. The new facility will include club and social rooms, four community sports change rooms, including amenities, public/spectator amenities, umpire change, general storage, a kiosk and ancillary and overflow space.
- Proposed floor area: approximately 450m².



New community and recreation facilities within Ross Reserve must be constructed of economic yet robust materials. Furthermore, the building must be fit for purpose – indoor sports courts will require sprung timber floors to suit community competition and training; function/multi-purpose/library spaces must be comfortable and inviting places to gather. It is critical that change rooms, amenities and storage spaces be constructed of robust materials, such as concrete and blockwork, and that fixtures and fittings be equally as robust. Finishes within the multi-purpose room(s) would be economic yet robust and easily maintained.

It is important that any new works associated with this redevelopment be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

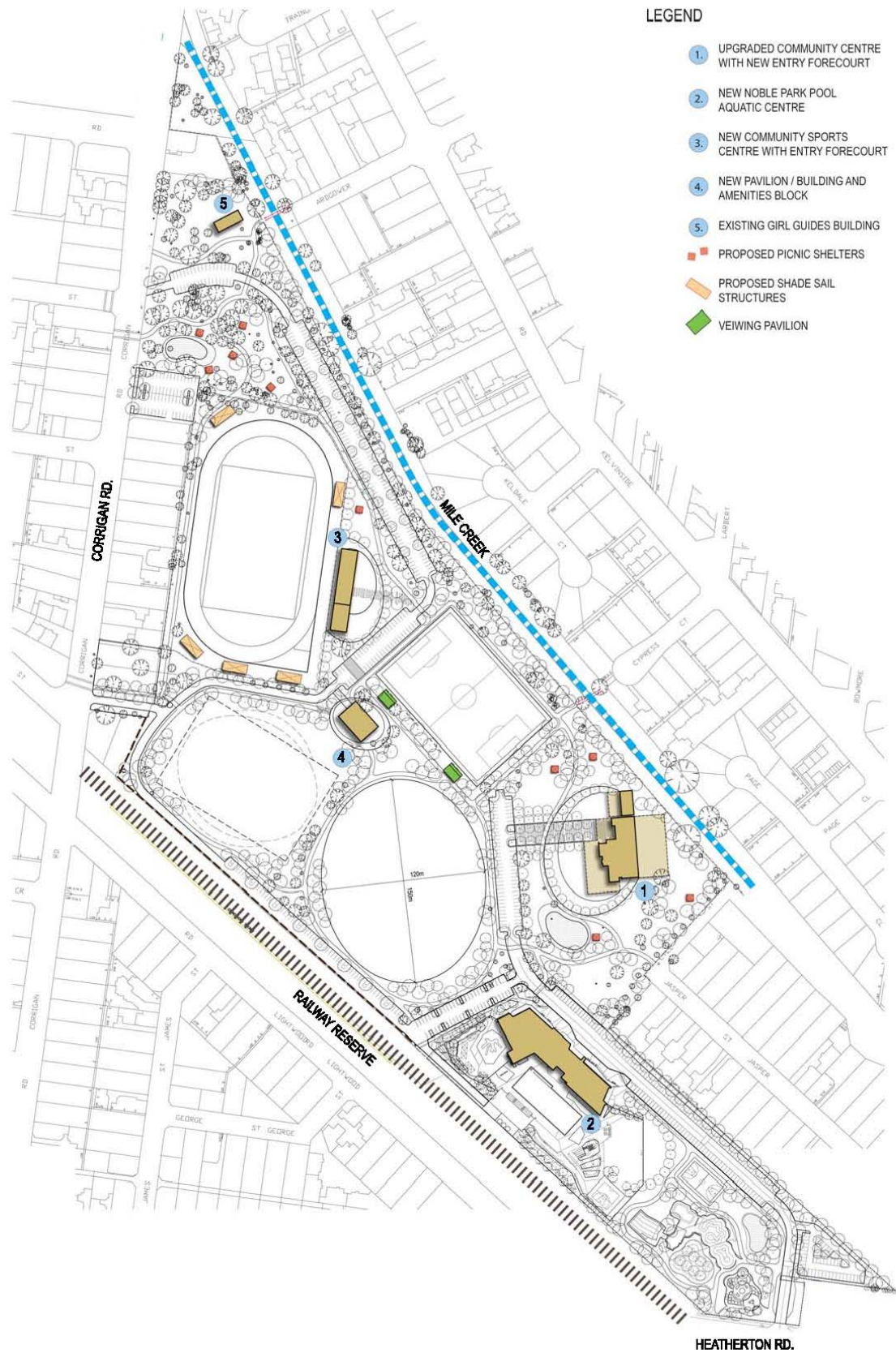


Figure 22: Master Plan: Proposed Buildings and Shelters

3.7.2 Upgraded lighting across the Reserve

As noted in Section 2.8 above, there is a distinct lack of lighting within Ross Reserve, impacting upon both the use of the Reserve and the perception of its safety. The Master Plan therefore recommends upgrading of public lighting across Reserve, for both sports facilities and general landscape areas, including paths. Requirements in both of these areas are outlined below.

a) Sports Lighting

- Lighting to new and proposed sports fields will require new Poles in the range of 25-30m.
- As a district facility it is probable that a specification of 200 Lux for semi-professional competition standard (either soccer or AFL) will apply. Design will typically require 24 Floodlights for a 200 Lux design and 12 No for a 100 Lux. This will typically see up to 48 x 2 kWh Floodlights applied on a full size oval and require a substantial power supply.
- Training level venues are now routinely lit to 100 Lux and thus half this quantity of floodlighting would need to be catered for even where a lesser standard is adopted.
- Pole locations need to consider compliance with Australian Standard AS 4282 'Control of the effects of Obtrusive Lighting'. Key considerations include:
 - Light Spill to Residences to North at Corrigan Road.
 - Glare Control to Railway on Western side.

b) Public Lighting

Key areas where public lighting is required at Ross Reserve include:

- Security lighting along key transit pathways used as 'shortcuts' by commuters to and from Noble Park Station.
- Security lighting along all proposed formed pathways across the Reserve, designed to encourage cycling and pedestrian use.
- Lighting to the urban plaza to improve security as well as encourage broad use.

c) Feature Lighting

Key areas where feature lighting would be beneficial at Ross Reserve include:

- Entrance identity signage lighting.
- Focal lighting at key furniture and fixtures e.g. exercise stations where introduced as part of the proposed pathway network.
- Specific lighting to interpretative signage.
- Feature lighting in support of heritage listed Red Gums - selected trees only.

d) Electrical Services

As Ross Reserve develops, and the Master Plan is implemented, a new site electrical infrastructure plan is anticipated. Detailed electrical and lighting design will therefore need to be undertaken as part of the implementation of the Master Plan.

This plan will need to address the following:

- Consolidation of Electrical Supplies and Metering at the site.
- Plan new and upgraded electrical supplies to cater for upgrade to Sports field Lighting at each Soccer Pitch and Australian Rules Football Oval.
- Consider the likelihood that a centrally located on site electrical substation will be required to cater for the sports precinct developed usage. It is expected this would be located centrally along Memorial Drive with the High Voltage indeed cabling run along this road access.
- Provide new and upgraded electrical supplies to Pavilions and proposed site buildings.
- Plan new points of distribution to service upgraded public lighting and power within the park aimed at promoting improved public access and recreational activity.
- Provide for telecommunications infrastructure to service each Pavilion Building.
- Remnant services form Reserve overlay above a template of subdivisional streets.

It is expected that the sports lighting use rather than site pavilions will represent the main electrical load component. It is therefore important that the sports use and intended levels of play are clearly defined. Measures which would recognize and seek to mitigate the large load components that future sports floodlights would require would include:

- Multiuse of lit ovals to maximise effective usage of installed lighting infrastructure.
- Multiple switching odes with the Floodlighting installations selected as 50, 100 and 200 Lux with equalised lamp hours running to improved maintenance performance through life.
- Sports Floodlight Lumen maintenance strategies e.g. 'Active Reactor', to reduce initial phase energy use and improve long term maintenance.
- Sports Floodlight specification of high efficiency floodlights with good ingress protection to avoid the need for over specification to compensate for dirt accumulation.
- Curfew controls to limit the operation of floodlights past set agreed times.
- Energy management system integration with irrigation systems to permit remote monitoring and control of sports floodlighting operations.

Public Lighting initiatives to reduce recurring cost would include:

- High efficiency 'white' light public luminaries using latest technology high efficiency luminaries and likely to be based around LED technology.
- Timed control to regulate operation to active times of use and provide options to turn off or reduce substantially lighting run after hours.

3.8 Master Plan Directions: Vehicle Circulation and Parking

In order to achieve and service the recommendations listed above, a range of modifications will be required to the vehicle circulation system existing within Ross Reserve. These modifications will not only allow the development of new spaces and facilities, as outlined above, but are also intended to address the range of issues associated with the existing circulation system. On this basis, the Master Plan recommends:

a) **Removal of Memorial Drive and provision of a new access road.**

As noted in Section 2.6 of this report, the current alignment of Memorial Drive through Ross Reserve is divisive of the park space and is spatially a dominant element. The alignment of this road through the centre of the Reserve also leaves insufficient available space for the proposed synthetic soccer pitch. On the basis of achieving these multiple benefits (a less divided park, a new synthetic soccer pitch and a less dominant road), it is proposed to remove part of the current Memorial Drive through the centre of the Reserve and construct a new road running along the western boundary of the Reserve.

This alignment will:

- provide sufficient undivided space for the proposed synthetic soccer pitch,
- provide for unimpeded park space (without a divisive road) through the centre of the Reserve,
- provide additional parking in proximity to the two sports ovals being retained to the west of the Reserve,
- retain key sections of Memorial Drive associated with significant existing trees,
- provide a formal edge to the Reserve along its western boundary,
- provide paved maintenance, emergency and service access to more areas of the Reserve than the current alignment.

b) **Provision of new parking cells located to support Reserve functions and spaces.**

Associated with the new road alignment described above will be a number of discrete parking cells, providing parking locations more closely related to individual activity areas. Along with the formalized parking areas outlined below, it is anticipated that total parking supply on the Reserve will accommodate around 700 vehicles, compared with around 500 formalized spaces currently.

c) **Formalisation of parking along the southern section of Memorial Drive.**

Along with the parking cells described above, additional parking will be provided by formalizing existing informal parking along Memorial Drive south of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC). This will not only allow for more efficient use of the existing parking space, but will enable the creation of a planted buffer between parking and the adjacent residential boundary.

d) **Creation of new parking on unused land to the south of Memorial Drive.**

The small triangle space to the east of Memorial Drive is currently unused and will also be formalized as car parking, providing convenient additional parking for both the Pool and the Urban Park.

Vehicle circulation and parking across Ross Reserve should be guided by the following design parameters and guidelines.

- General minimum dimensions for parking spaces should be 2.6m wide, by 4.9m long, with a 6.4m aisle.
- The circulating road through the Reserve should have a pavement width of 7m to accommodate buses. This would allow for 2 x 3.5m lanes, sufficient for access to parking, bus bays etc. The corners through the site may need to be widened to accommodate buses. Pavement widths of 7m will allow for traffic volumes far in excess of that expected, with the capacity of the roads restricted and calmed by the operation of the parking areas.
- Some forms of speed control will be required along the straight sections of roadway (speed humps, or chicane type treatments).
- Whilst parking along the circulating road is efficient in terms of minimising car park area, it makes circulation difficult (i.e., there is nowhere to turn around, other than using vacant bays). For the dead end parking aisle near the community centre, it is recommended to provide a roundabout style turnaround area.
- For the two internal intersections, simple T-intersections are the most appropriate. Adjacent to the community centre, it may be preferable to provide priority movement towards the rail line, rather than to the community centre (especially given that buses accessing the pool will need to circulate through the site). A roundabout at this location may be considered in detailed design, but will need to be large enough to cater for buses (a mountable island).
- At the intersections with Corrigan Road, the internal road should provide two exit lanes (a right turn and a left turn lane).
- At Heatherton Road, the queuing area should allow for the potential signalisation of this access point, should this be desired.

It is noted that the design of all roadways and parking areas will need to carefully consider pedestrian movement and provide safety and traffic management initiatives in order to provide a safe environment providing priority of movement to pedestrians.

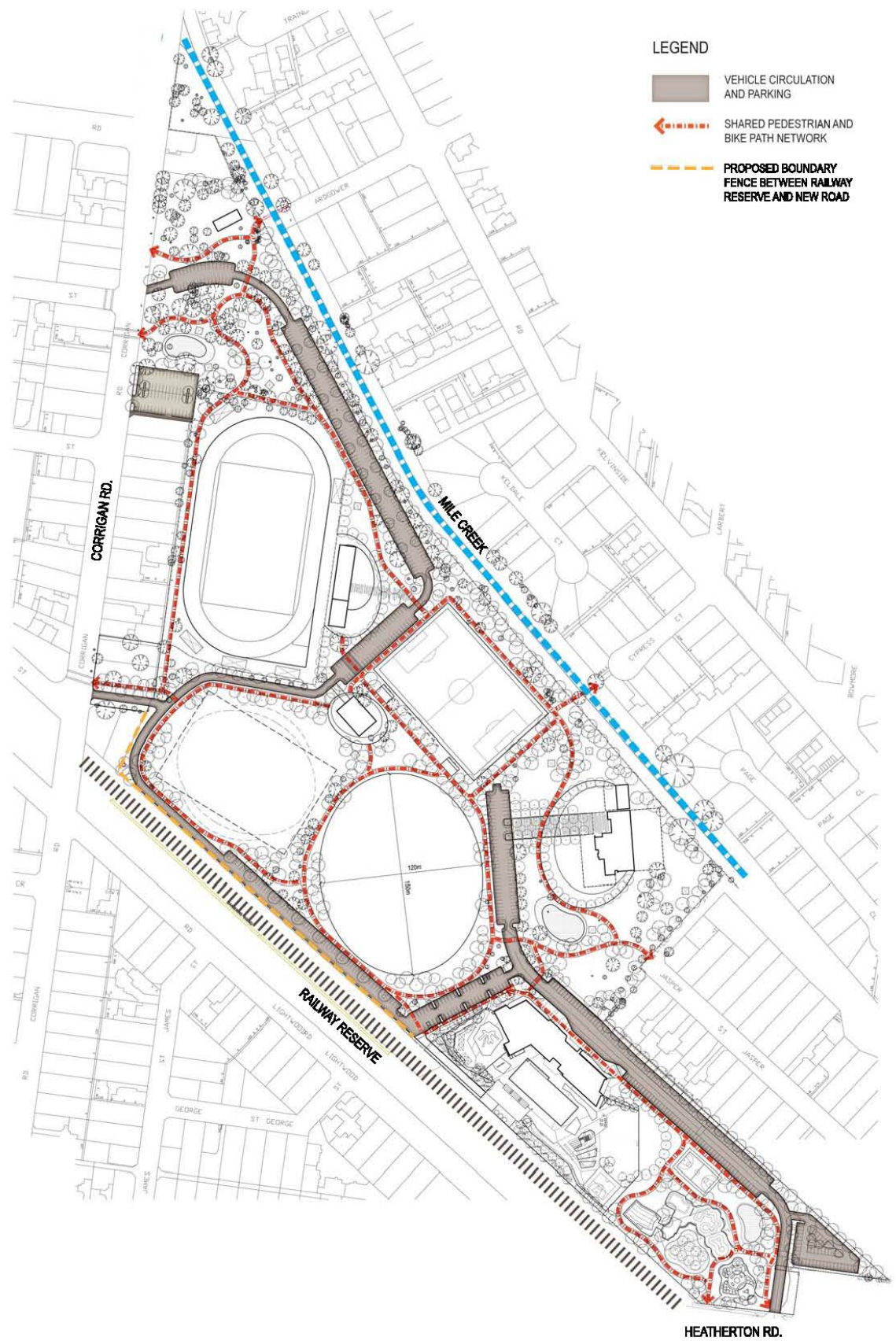


Figure 23: Master Plan: Proposed Circulation

3.9 Master Plan Directions: Hydrology

Consistent with both state government priorities and community expectation, the preparation of the Ross Reserve Master Plan has involved investigation into opportunities to collect, treat and re-use stormwater falling onto the site and its surrounds. These opportunities are outlined below.

Stormwater Harvesting Opportunities

Ross Reserve covers an area of about 17 ha. A large part of this area is taken up by the three large sports ovals. Each of these ovals require about 4.5ML of water per year, hence it has been assumed a total irrigation demand for the site of 13.5ML per year.

The existing site is predominantly grassed and relatively flat, making stormwater harvesting from the internal site difficult. As outlined in Section 2.9 of this report, however, there are two external catchments at the north end of the site which drain across the site. A summary of the internal and external catchments is provided in Table 2 below.

	Area (ha)	% Impart.	Yield (ML/yr)
Catchment 1	7.17	65	28.9
Catchment 2	1.18	65	3.4
Internal Road Catchment	0.3	100	1.7
Total	8.65		34
Annual Rainfall Depth	655	mm	(melba 1959)
Annual Irrigation Demand	13.5	ML	
Available pool Volume	1	ML	

Table 2: Stormwater catchment in Ross Reserve

It is clear from this analysis that Ross Reserve has potential to utilise stormwater for reuse in sports field irrigation. A potential system for harvesting the stormwater from the external catchments, as described below. In summary, the concept of this potential system involves:

- Installation of a gross pollutant trap for Catchment 1 near the northern entrance of Ross Reserve (adjacent to Corrigan Road) to remove primary litter;
- Construction of a large underground storage tank in the vicinity of the existing Girl Guides building to act as a buffer for water transfer to a central treatment area within the Reserve;
- Installation of a smaller gross pollutant trap on Catchment 2;
- Connection of Catchment 2 to the underground storage tank;
- Installation of a pump in the storage tank to transfer stormwater to a treatment area in the central area of the Reserve. The treatment area could take the form of a bio-retention bed or a small wetland;
- Transfer of treated stormwater via gravity to the existing swimming pool to provide a 1ML reuse tank for the new Aquatic Centre and reticulation to the sports ground irrigation system.



Figure 24: Overall Stormwater Re-use Conceptual Layout

As described above, the implementation of the stormwater re-use concept would see stormwater diverted from existing drains using diversion weirs. After passing through a Gross Pollutant Trap the stormwater will drain into an underground storage tank which incorporates a sedimentation chamber. Potential location of the tank and diversion points are indicated in Figure 25 below.

The water would then be pumped into an ornamental wetland/shallow lake. Pumping is required due to the depth of the existing drains and the relatively flat nature of the site. The wetland would also contribute to improved biodiversity and landscape values, and would help to minimise the volume of required underground storage.

The top 300mm of water in the wetland/lake would be allowed to fluctuate to receive the stormwater. An overflow weir at normal top water level would drain the incoming stormwater into a pumping chamber which will feed a bio-retention/water treatment area. Treated water would then drain by gravity to the former Noble Park Pool to contribute to stored water for irrigation within Ross Reserve.

There is also further opportunity to capture up to 0.5ha of internal road runoff.

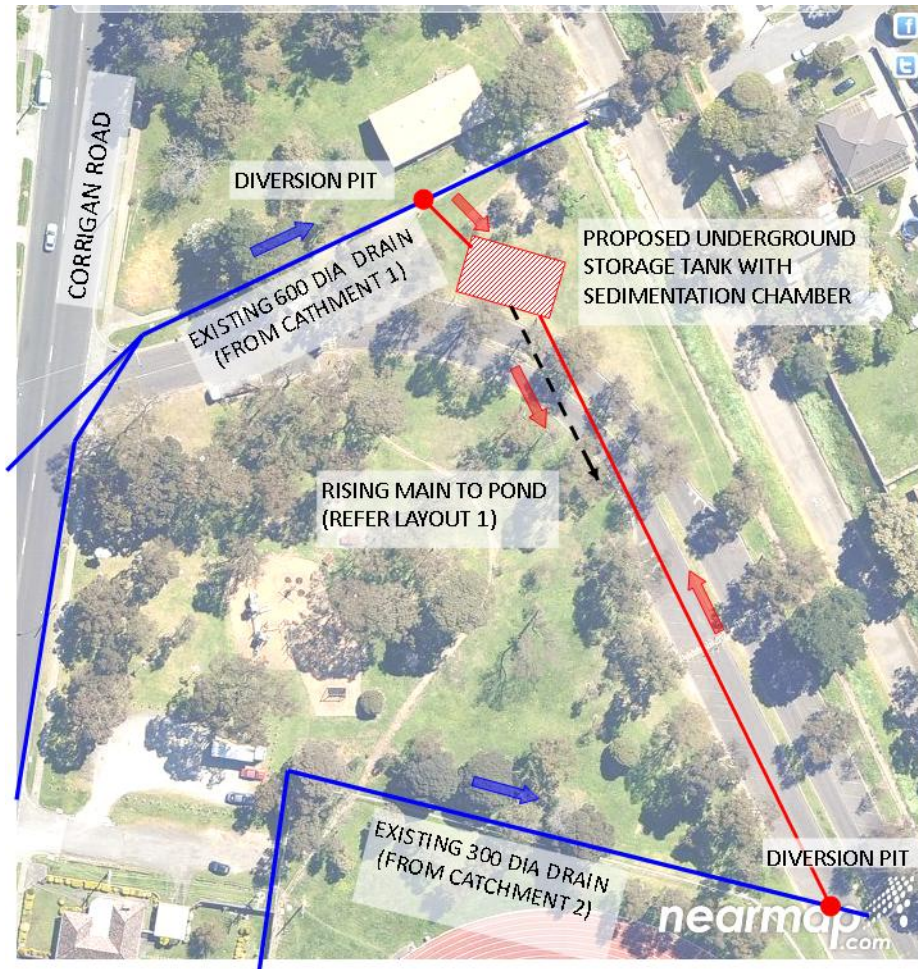


Figure 25: Conceptual Layout of External Catchment Diversion.

Initial Investigation Results

An initial investigation was undertaken using XPSWMM to model the system. The following table shows the results of this modelling:

Primary Tank Volume	100	m3
Pump rate from tank to pond	18	L/s
Pond Surface Area	500	m2
Pump Rate from pond to filtration area	15	L/s
Bio-retention/filtration area	200	m2
Volume Supplied to Storage	11.3	ML
Approx reliability (i.e. vol supplied/demand)		
	84%	

Table 3: Initial Investigation Results

3.10 Master Plan Directions: Possible Extension of Reserve

In both analysing the existing Ross Reserve and in developing the proposed Master Plan, it has become clear that there would be benefit to the Reserve in the possible addition of a number of parcels of privately owned land into the Reserve, should these ever become available on the open market. While the Master Plan is not contingent upon the acquisition of these parcels of land, it suggests that their purchase should be investigated should they become available.

Any land purchase would be subject to a future decision by Council.

The land parcels which may present the potential to extend the Reserve, and the potential benefits in adding these parcels to the Reserve are described below:

1. The residential lot to the north of the existing Girl Guide Hall to connect Ross Reserve to intersection of Mile Creek and Corrigan Road, providing the potential for future pedestrian and cycle connection to Sandown Park.
2. The two residential lots at the intersection of Corrigan Road and the railway line, to provide improved visibility into the Reserve, the potential for additional car parking, and improved pedestrian and cycle entry into the Reserve at this point.
3. The residential and commercial lots on Heatherton Road, east of the intersection with Memorial Drive, to provide improved visibility into the Reserve, and to provide potential to straighten Memorial Drive and improve the separation of the intersection from the railway crossing of Heatherton Road. This would not only provide an improved queuing distance, allowing easier egress from Ross Reserve, but also provide the potential for more direct pedestrian connection with Mons Parade to the south and increased space in the area of the Urban Plaza.

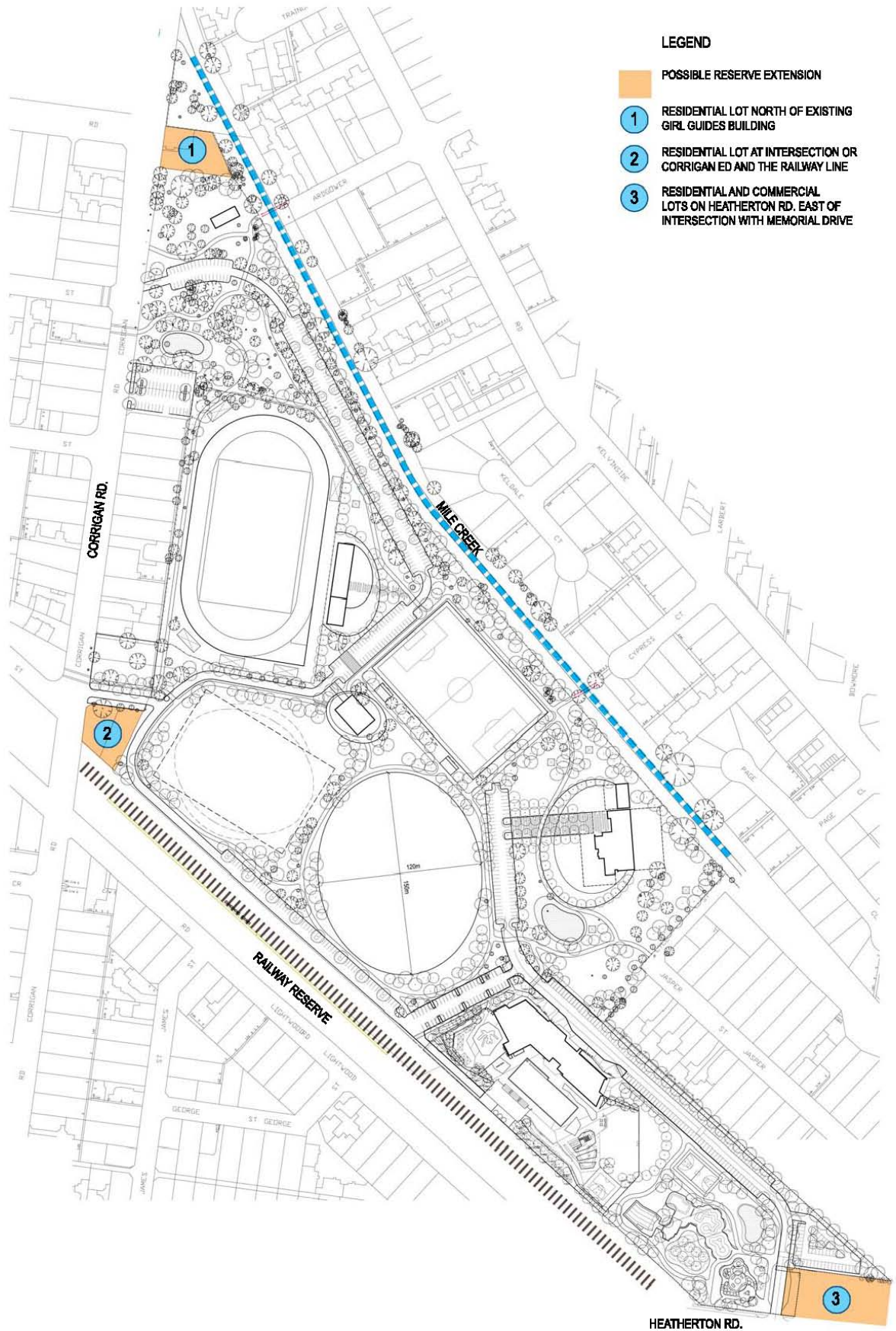


Figure 26: Master Plan: Possible Extension of Reserve

3.11 Master Plan Directions: Community Engagement Opportunities

The program of community consultations, the analysis of the demographics of the Greater Dandenong and Noble Park, and the review of leisure and recreation participation and provision trends have indicated that many residents who could benefit from using Ross Reserve do not use it. This is as equally due to shortcomings in the management and programming of the assets of the Reserve as it is to facility deficiencies.

The research showed that many children, teenagers families and older residents and many members of ethnic minorities do not use the Reserve because of the traditional approaches to management that are applied by Council and because there is little if any proactive identification of user needs and provision of targeted programs. Developing upgraded and new facilities and services will certainly assist in overcoming this situation but far-reaching changes are also made to the management and programming of the Reserve, if the outcome is to be more than simply providing better opportunities for existing users. The actions recommended are listed below.

- a) Develop a new, integrated governance and management model that encompasses all components of Ross Reserve including, in particular, Noble Park Community Centre, the new Noble Park aquatic complex, the proposed new sporting club buildings and the redeveloped parkland
- b) Adopt a proactive and responsive approach to the development of a diverse array of programs that are attractive to all key community groups and all age groups in the Noble Park community as a means of building social capital, strengthening community engagement, developing a sense of place, building Council's reputation in the community and broadening the relevance of the Reserve to the community.
- c) Enhance community access and engagement through park-based program and service delivery by a range of agencies.
- d) Establish a process to facilitate liaison amongst user groups.
- e) Ensure the cultural relevance of programs and services delivered through the Reserve through enhanced communication, liaison and consultation.
- f) Initiate a more rigorous scheduling of use and the sharing of resources in order to optimise access, use types and user numbers.
- g) Initiate a formal program of monitoring inputs, outputs and outcomes at the Reserve in order to optimise use of Council resources and the beneficial outcomes in the community.

4. IMPLEMENTATION (To be confirmed through Council programming and budgets)

In implementing the Ross Reserve Master Plan, a process of both design and construction actions will need to be undertaken. The actions outlined below are numbered according to the sequential order required to implement the Master Plan in a ten year time frame.

Year 1 (already funded) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Current year projects - athletics track upgrade, athletics track lighting, sports oval fence. <p style="text-align: right;">approximately \$720,000.00</p>

Year 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Design and document the urban plaza/park.Formalisation of parking to Memorial Drive south (pool precinct), including parking in SE triangle and planting.General park and landscape improvements.Corrigan Road crossing (part funding). <p style="text-align: right;">\$800,000.00</p>

Year 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">First stage construction of new road, from Pool to top of Oval 2.Fencing along Railway Corridor and around Oval 2.Car parking to new road. <p style="text-align: right;">\$850,000.00</p>

Year 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Design and documentation of synthetic pitch.Second stage construction of new road from Oval 2 to Memorial Drive.Early earthworks, site preparation and removal of Memorial Drive road section.Stage 1 Construction of urban park (opportunity for grant funding). <p style="text-align: right;">\$1,100,000.00</p>

Year 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete stage 2 of urban plaza (opportunity for grant funding).Fencing and general park improvements. <p style="text-align: right;">\$800,000.00</p>
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Year 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Construct synthetic sports pitch, including lighting (will pursue grant funding opportunities).<ul style="list-style-type: none">General park and landscape improvements. <p style="text-align: right;">\$1,050,000.00</p>
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Year 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">General park and landscape improvements, including biodiversity zone, paths, shelters, lighting. <p style="text-align: right;">\$600,000.00</p>

Year 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community sports building forecourt and landscape setting.General park and landscape improvements (trees, paths, shelters, lighting etc). <p style="text-align: right;">\$500,000.00</p>

Year 9	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Centre forecourt and landscape, including wetland and biodiversity zone. 	\$500,000.00

Year 10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design of future landscape and sports fields. ▪ New synthetic surface to oval 2. ▪ O'Donohue Oval upgrade and expansion. 	\$2,000,000.00

TOTAL (Stages 2 - 10)	\$8,200,000.00
CONTINGENCY (Stages 2 – 10)	\$820,000.00
GRAND TOTAL (Stages 2 - 10)	\$9,020,000.00

BUILDING WORKS FUNDING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New community sports pavilion design. ▪ New sports pavilion design. ▪ Construction of new sports pavilion. ▪ Construction of new community sports pavilion. ▪ Community centre extension and upgrade. 	
Approximate cost for all buildings -	\$10 million (subject to final design)
Buildings are funded out of the building facilities budget, steered and directed by the Sports Facility Plan and Asset Renewal Program	

PLAYGROUND STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM	
Playground upgrade	\$200,000.00

APPENDIX 1 BUILDING REPORT (refer separate report)

APPENDIX 2 FIRST ROUND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A2.1 SCOPE

Consultations were held with a wide cross section of individuals, agencies and residents. The consultations process was structured so as to confirm Councillor and officer views and priorities before the views of user groups and the wider community were canvassed. This ensured that the views of the later two groups could be assessed and responded to in the light of an understanding of wider Council policies, priorities and preferred directions. The consultations included personal interviews, workshops, group discussions, on-site meetings and where personal contact had proven to be unnecessary, inappropriate or difficult to arrange, telephone and email collection of information.

A2.2 CONSULTATION FINDINGS

The consultations program was essentially broken into two sections: first, internal Council officer consultations and second, far wider agency, user and community consultations. The findings of these two sections are reported separately in the following material as their "approach" to the Reserve is from quite different perspectives. Thus, the professional officers are charged with maintaining, developing or managing the Reserve for the community as part of a wider portfolio of responsibilities whereas the wider agency, user and community groups tend to approach the Reserve almost exclusively from a use perspective.

Further to the above, the reporting of the findings from the two elements of the consultations are also treated differently. With the officer consultations, responses have been grouped under a number of sub-headings, rather than reporting them verbatim or on a person by person or group by group basis. Individual comments have not been attributed to those who made them *on purpose* in order to avoid the potential for conflict between those who raised the issue and others who may disagree with the views that have been provided. By comparison, the views of external agencies, user groups and the wider community are reported individually as these contributors often come from very different backgrounds and have very different needs perspectives and priorities.

It is stressed that the responses recorded below are the opinions of the respondents and are not the *endorsed* views of the Council of the City of Greater Dandenong, its officers or of the authors of this report. Where the authors of the report express an opinion regarding views expressed during the consultations, it is reported in italics. Further opinions regarding the consultation findings are expressed into the section following the findings, "Discussion".

It should also be noted that a number of the issues raised through the consultations program are more of an *operational* than *strategic* nature. However, all have been recorded here and it is recommended that Council officers and others responsible for the direct delivery of services and programs in the Reserve review the listing to identify those issues that need shorter term action.

A2.3 OFFICER RESPONSES

A2.3.1 The Reserve as a Whole

This first group of issues are those relating to the Reserve as a whole. Following sections refer to more specific elements of the Reserve or to topics and issues such as transport, management and programming.

- The Reserve layout means that it functions as a number of unrelated parts rather than as a single, integrated venue. There is a need to link and better integrate the existing provision and to "fill in" the un-used gaps.
- The Reserve design must allow flexibility of uses throughout.
- Drug use in the Reserve, especially late in the afternoon. This was seen to deter other users and to reduce community safety. It was suggested that rather than simply trying to push this off to somewhere else, the opportunity should be taken to develop support programs and social activities for existing or potential drug users through better use of the physical and human resources based in the Reserve. It was suggested, for instance, that drug amelioration programs and services provided by Council and other agencies be delivered at the Reserve
- There is a need to relate changes and provision at the Reserve to the characteristics of the district population. There is a significant level of residential redevelopment in the area and this is generating significant numbers of flats and apartments, with limited private outdoor space. As a result, the Reserve is increasingly important to residents in these homes.
- A significant portion of the population is ageing while newer families have large numbers of children. Both these demographic groups need attractive offerings at the Reserve.
- Initiatives that increase use of the Reserve must be a main driver of the Master Plan.
- The opportunity to develop a series of differing precincts in the Reserve should be pursued, and
- The visual quality of the Reserve needs to be improved so that it is "warm and inviting".

A2.3.2 Retention of Existing Uses

- Retain all existing uses so the diversity of opportunities offered by the Reserve is preserved.
- Soccer and AFL need additional playing fields.
- Retain the Guides building and site (although it was acknowledged that the building is aging and needs repairs, that the path from residential areas to the east brings the general public close to the site, and that the lack of public toilets in the areas means that people often resort to using the rear of the building for that purpose).
- Integrate the Guides facilities into the Community Centre or the new spaces at the pool. This will provide them with a better, safer facility and link them with other programs and activities.

It is acknowledged that the Guide hall sits as a distinct and separate use unit in its present attractive location. However, it is poorly serviced and at the least, initiatives to improve services to the nearby play and picnic facilities should be designed to serve Guides as well. Further, the hall acts as a barrier to within-park access to Ross Reserve to the north along Corrigan Road.

An alternative strategy (say, when the Guide hall has reached the end of its useful life), would be to relocate Guide activities to an upgraded or new Community Centre, either at the centre's present location or in association with the new aquatic facilities.

A2.3.3 Adding New Uses

- The capacity of the Reserve to accommodate new and additional uses was questioned due to the existing high demand on facilities.

A2.3.4 Infrastructure

1. New and appropriately located toilets

- Provide additional and appropriately-located toilets using toilet “pods” or “excel loos” at key use points, not toilet blocks. They should be strategically placed so they are accessible to walkers, picnickers and other users of the park.

It was noted that while there are toilets in the sports club buildings, the Community Centre and the aquatic centre, access depends on the hours of operation of the relevant facilities. Some interviewees claimed that public use of the existing facilities was often denied by venue management. As a consequence, the only facility consistently available to the public is the outdated block on the south-west corner of the athletics track. However, even this is locked at times, is in an inconvenient location and is considered to be unsafe because of its location.

- Provide toilets that are always open.

2. Disability Access

- Ensure disability access throughout the Reserve, particularly given the major regional disability school nearby.

3. Rail Reserve

- Land along the Railway Reserve could be put to more effective use as part of the park.

4. Drinking Fountains

- Drinking fountains should be co-located with toilets, barbeques and pathways.

5. Drainage

- Improved soccer pitch drainage.

6. Reserve Entrances

- Reserve entrances need better definition and treatment. The Corrigan Road entrance is particularly poor.

7. Lighting

- Three forms of lighting are needed. These are:
 - a. Security lighting around buildings and in remote areas of the Reserve.
 - b. Along pathways to allow safe use at night, and
 - c. Flood lighting to allow night sporting uses.

8. Fencing

- There is a lack of perimeter fencing in the Reserve, particularly along Corrigan Road near the northern playground and along the full length of the railway line. Council officers are reluctant to program activities in the Reserve because of the lack of fences. It was proposed that in both situations, low, unobtrusive fencing could be installed or alternately, dense, prickly, but not tall native vegetation that would deter children and others.
- Assess allowing property owners to open back fences onto the Reserve as a means of enhancing access and breaking down the barriers that the fences create.
- Use repetition of plantings to define the boundaries of the Reserve and sections of it and to “tie” the Reserve together.

9. Adjoining Housing

- Provide buffers between the Reserve and surrounding housing.
- Acquire housing on Heatherton and Corrigan Roads to allow better access and egress, to enhance visual presentation of the Reserve and to provide additional space as there are too many narrow and “crowded” sections in the Reserve.

10. Visual Appearance

- Improve the visual appearance and presentation of the Reserve.
- There is no sense of “arrival” at the Reserve and there is a need to develop a central entrance point.
- Improve sightlines through the Reserve. Remove the soil mounding to the rear of the Community Centre as part of this process as it reduces safety.

11. Signage

- Provide signage throughout the Reserve.

12. Water Management

- Use the dam and the lake resources of Sandown Park as part of water management.

A2.3.5 Management

1. Club/Committee Roles

- The view that clubs and committees “own” the assets they use/manage must be broken down as this works to exclude others.

2. Use Scheduling

- More use could be achieved from the existing sporting facilities if tighter use scheduling was implemented. This would ensure that more user groups gained access to the facilities rather than them being treated as the property of user clubs.
- Involve users of the barbeques near the Community Centre with the Centre, not seek to deter them.

3. Pool Management

- The YMCA is not applying sufficiently high standards of supervision to the use of the Noble Park Pool. It was claimed that there were occasionally nappies, broken glass and cigarette butts in the pools or surrounds.
- Use signs in a range of languages and tighter supervision to better delineate areas for different use activities at the pool.
- Make the management of community spaces in the new pool complex multi-use, not only YMCA-programmed.
- Make sure the pool is effectively *programmed* and that use is scheduled to allow optimum use.

4. Community Centre

- The management of the Community Centre acts to restrict access and use by groups outside the normal range of users.
- Centre management does not do enough to encourage use by wider community organisations.
- Management restricts toilet use by the general community despite it being a *community* centre.

5. Promotion

- Promote the programs and activities offered at the Reserve through signage and other means.
- Provide an advertising board detailing Reserve opportunities and user group contacts.
- Hold open days to promote the Reserve.
- An off-leash dog area should not be provided as the Reserve is used by too many children playing sport and there are other venues elsewhere.

6. User Liaison

- Establish a mechanism whereby different user groups and agencies can communicate with each other in terms of needs and provision opportunities.
- Take action to resolve conflicts over the scheduling of pre-season training.

7. Asset Maintenance

- Many user groups with long term leases do not take adequate care of the assets they use and quality is thus poor. Asset maintenance responsibilities should be written into leases.
- Enhance maintenance standards of drinking taps, paths, toilets etc.

8. Staffing

- Providing programming staff in the Reserve is important to success and some staff should have a connection with the local communities.

9. Security

- Install gates to exclude cars after a certain time at night.

A2.3.6 Traffic and Parking

Traffic management and the positioning of car parking were seen to be major problems in Ross Reserve by the majority of those consulted.

The most significant traffic and parking issues/suggestions were:

- Access to and from the Reserve at the Memorial Drive - Heatherton Road intersection. Left-out only turning was suggested as were traffic lights.
- The inadequacy of parking near the pool on hot days.
- The inadequacy of parking at the Community Centre, the difficulties caused by the Blood Bank when it visits and the distance to walk without a pathways from Memorial Drive parking to the Centre, especially for older users.
- The inadequacy of parking accessible to both playgrounds.
- Uncertainty regarding the rights of northern playground users, regarding parking on Corrigan Road due to the lack of line markings designating parking or traffic lanes.
- The danger to pedestrians of through traffic using Memorial Drive.
- The danger to pedestrians using the driveway to the Community Centre due to the lack of a footpath from Memorial Drive.
- Poor pedestrian access to Ross Reserve from the Noble Park shopping centre due to the need to traverse both the rail line and Heatherton Road. A pedestrian overpass was suggested as one solution to this problem.
- The use of the reserve roads and car parks (especially at the northern end) for private truck parking. While this is not necessarily illegal, depending on truck size, it takes up public parking spaces, reduces Reserve amenity and raises concerns re community safety.
- The long median strip along Memorial Drive to the east of the athletics track which makes it very difficult for playground users (and others) to do a u-turn.
- The need for bus parking bays.
- Provision of sufficient parking for the new pool.
- Provision of zebra crossings on Memorial Drive.

- Provision of a new road access bridge from the east via the easement used for the pedestrian bridge near the Community Centre. *(This would also facilitate relocation of the pool entry to the north side, not facing housing to the east)*
- Concern regarding future indoor pool users occupying parking spaces outside the RSL and thus limiting member access.

A2.3.7 Programs

1. Community-Specific Programs

- The high population of recent immigrants and refugees living in the areas surrounding Ross Reserve suggests a need for the Reserve to be used to provide a range of programs and social activities for these people. Involve local residents in devising programs.
- Many residents live in large households, often with as many as 4 - 6 children, cannot afford cars (and do not have driving licenses), and/or live in public housing or urban renewal housing where a number of apartments have replaced former single dwellings. These residents are therefore unable to access private open space and cannot easily travel away from the local area to access recreation opportunities and community services.
- Recognize that some community groups do not want to engage in recreational activities as they have other priorities or what is presently offered does not “fit” either socially or with their traditional ways.
- The Noble Park Community Centre should be involved in the programming of the new community spaces to be provided through the redeveloped Aquatic Centre.
- Provide community art, music, displays, street art and attractions in a flexible space on Heatherton Road.
- Provide opportunities for activities by youth groups, churches, etc.
- Use the Community Centre as a base for walking groups and link these to the playgroups that use the Centre.

2. Paddy O’Donohue Centre

- Develop programming synergies between the Paddy O’Donohue Centre, Ross Reserve, and Noble Park Community Centre.

3. Sports Programs

- Provide an array of introductory sports training programs targeted at different cultural and age groups in the surrounding community.
- Liaise with Chinese, Sri Lankan, Greek and African community leaders to develop appropriate activities.
- Sports programs and participation are a priority for the local CALD communities. Clubs should be encouraged, promoted and supported in involving CALD community members and financial and governance support should be provided.

4. Recreation Programs

- Provide recreation programs for older residents whose children had moved away from the area.
- Make sure that programs offered reflect *assessed community needs*, not what providers *think* should be provided.
- Provide recreation programs for children of new families moving into the area. A non-secular approach was seen to be important as it was felt that (by comparison) church groups tend to become isolated from the wider community. It was felt that "independent" programmers would be more effective and that they could provide feedback to wider community support organizations and to Council than religious or ethnic groups could.
- To be effective, programs developed for ethnic groups should use multi-purpose facilities so that immigrants did not feel they were using venues "owned" by others.
- Multiple-use facilities and programs need to be able to accommodate whole families as it is children who are "mediators" on behalf of wider family members.
- There are not enough opportunities in the Reserve for young children: either facility or program-wise.
- "Many ethnic groups do not want to engage (in leisure and recreation activities) as it does not fit with their social and traditional ways of social interaction". This highlights the fact that the redevelopment of Ross Reserve cannot be seen as the sole solution to the social and economic disadvantage faced by many Noble Park residents.
- Sports provision should not be left to individual clubs as these provide what their members want, not necessarily what the wider community wants or needs. As such, Council has an important role to play in assessing and responding creatively to community needs and opportunities and in providing a diversity of experiences rather than simply responding to the demands of individual sports for more provision. As part of this, some form of centralized management and provision will be needed to achieve an appropriate and equitable outcome.
- Council should provide and promote school holiday sports programs at the Reserve and that to do this effectively, as diverse as practical a mix of facilities and programs at different skill levels is needed.
- Support programs that promote awareness of different ethnic groups and their needs and interests.
- Programs provided at Ross Reserve should, as at Paddy O'Donohue Community Centre, promote a sense of self- esteem, acceptance and belonging.
- Y-Stop youth services programs need to have a greater presence in Noble Park. Some programs are delivered but the service does not have an office there.
- Provide school holiday programs for sports and non-sports and involve sports clubs. A multi-use court would assist this.
- Establish programs that bring different cultural groups together.
- Provide a "zone" rather than a fenced area for off-leash dog exercising.

A2.3.8 Expanded/Upgraded Facilities

1. Picnic facilities

- Although very popular, the picnic and play facilities at the northern end of the Reserve needed upgrading through the provision of additional picnic tables, a covered weather shelter, additional and improved car parking, sealed areas around the barbecues and tables and sealed paths from car parking areas.
- More barbeques and bins are needed at both playgrounds.
- Provide additional picnic facilities at several additional locations throughout the Reserve depending on the final layout and use configuration. A priority was seen to be adjacent to the Community Centre so it could be used by both the general community and by Community Centre users with the existing play and barbeque facilities being better integrated with the Centre.
- Improved parking for both playgrounds.

2. Play

- Upgrade both playgrounds.
- Relocate the southern playground closer to Heatherton Road and make it more interactive. Develop a modern theme.
- Make the southern playground more suitable for families.
- Use informal materials including logs and rocks for play settings.

3. Community Centre

- Better integration of the Centre with the Reserve is needed

At present, the Community Centre has a very limited relationship with the wider Reserve, suggestions being made that the Centre management has been constrained by Council from making use of park areas outside the building. Every opportunity should be taken to use the Reserve for Centre programs and to use the Centre as a base for programs delivered in the Reserve.

In the longer term, consideration should be given to integrating the operation of the Community Centre with community facilities at the new pool complex. Consideration should also be given to strategies for delivering services from the Paddy O'Donohue Centre, some 200 - 300 meters away in Buckley Street through Ross Reserve and to consolidate programming of the Community Centre, Aquatic Centre and the O'Donohue Centre facilities, so as to eliminate any duplication of programming and management.

- The Community Centre supports strong multi-cultural group use although this tends to be focused on more established cultural groups and older members of the community rather than newer arrivals.
- The Community Centre supports calisthenics training but there is no capacity for competition or performance. Facilities are good at the Drum in Dandenong but access is limited.
- In its present form, the Centre cannot provide optimum opportunities for the community as the spaces available are not able to be used effectively, are often too small, poorly located in the building and difficult to supervise.

- The Community Centre building is isolated and as a result, subject to vandalism. The aged nature of the building makes security a continuing problem. More support is needed from Council.
- All types of opportunities for co-location and program sharing with the new aquatic centre should be assessed.
- The Community Centre Committee of Management and staff should be given greater autonomy in terms of programming, renovations, facilities and space development and the like.
- The Centre would benefit substantially from provision of an indoor/outdoor cafe and social area and from the development of indoor and outdoor programming initiatives.
- Relocation of the bike racks and the development of outdoor lawns for yoga and other activities and perhaps, the closer integration of the nearby play facilities, would assist in linking the Centre to the wider Reserve.
- The diverse multi-cultural mix of Centre user groups is a strength of the venue as is the diversity of use types with this including senior citizens, play groups, sports training and the like.
- Some members of the Committee of Management tend to resist change and new ideas.
- There is not strong support in the Noble Park community for the Centre.

4. Aquatic Centre

- A community cafe at the new Aquatic Centre could impact detrimentally on kiosk sales at sports club venues.

5. Sports Grounds

- Sports grounds should be multiuse not single use.

A2.3.9 New Facilities

1. Additional Soccer Pitches, including a Synthetic Pitch

- Provide additional multi-use soccer pitches such that a complement of four could be achieved. One or two synthetic fields should be considered.

It was explained that providing four courts would be sufficient to meet Football Federation requirements for a regional or sub-regional venue.

- Soccer use must be retained as participation in Dandenong is amongst the highest in Victoria and Ross Reserve has always been a key sporting hub in the City.
- Consider providing additional soccer at Tatterson Park rather than at Ross Reserve.

2. Sports Club Buildings

- Sports club service buildings are aging and several require extensive redevelopment if they are to be effective in meeting club needs over the coming years.
- Consolidate club buildings into one or more integrated facilities that can serve both club and wider community needs.

- Different clubs could share a canteen although stock storage would need to be separated.

3. Facilities for Other Sports

- Give consideration to provision for other sports at the Reserve. Suggestions included orienteering, a rebound wall, basketball (reinstatement of previous court/multi-user sports courts), tennis netball, skating, cycling, running trails, rugby.
- Reinstate the outdoor basketball court.

4. Pathways

- Provide more paths *to* the Reserve.
- Provide more paths *within* the Reserve and link these to key activity points.

Apart from a footpath into the Reserve from Heatherton Road and a sealed path from the bridge in the north-east corner to Corrigan Road, Ross Reserve has no pathways. The picnic barbecues in the north are not linked to car parking with paths and the study team has seen families with children in pushers and disabled people in wheelchairs struggling to reach the facilities. Many of those consulted called for the provision of a network of compacted gravel (as at several other Council reserves) walking and cycling paths linking to and through the Reserve. They stressed that the paths should be of varying length, link key features of the Reserve, be lit at night, be signposted as to destinations, and have clear view lines so they are safe for users and families.

- Provide more defined path link to Sandown Railway Station.
- Provide new toilets and drinking fountains in proximity to the pathways.
- Wayfinding and Safety by Design principles should be applied in the siting of new pathways, with these including sightlines, connectivity, information, directional signs, use of colours to indicate routes and transitions and the use of culturally-diverse signage
- Consider using brick pathways with the names of local residents as a means of engaging the local community. Use the pathways to present themes relating to the origins of local residents.

5. Indoor Lap Pool

- Provide an indoor lap pool at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre.

6. Youth Precinct

- Pursue the proposed youth precinct on the Heatherton Road entrance with seats, stage, pool building access, half court.
- Ensure the Heatherton Road entrance to the Reserve is attractive to all potential Reserve users, not just pool users.

7. Performance Platform and Weather Shelter

- Provide a "performance platform".

A "performance platform" is a stage (constructed from wood, concrete or other materials) that is serviced with power, toilets and water and a removable weather shelter (e.g. like a folding shade screen).

8. Picnic Settings

- Establish picnic areas/settings for families.

9. Public art

- Provide public art in the Reserve.

10. Community Gardens

- Provide a community gardens.

11. Fitness Trail

- Provide a set of fitness stations on a trail around the Reserve.

12. Multi-purpose Meeting /Activity Spaces

- Provide a range of indoor and outdoor multi-purpose spaces for use by the community, clubs and programmers.
- Provide a multi-purpose informal sports area using a synthetic surface so all year/all weather use is possible.

13. Aboriginal Heritage

- Although the aboriginal heritage of the region has been “trashed”, the plan should use wetlands, tree lines, pathways, plantings and traditional shapes in landscaping, plantings and murals to reflect that heritage.
- Use plantings of bush tucker plants.
- Develop wetlands to filter runoff, attract birds and protect native wetlands species.
- Provide heritage displays, interpretive materials/information and landscaping as a journey through time from the aboriginal through to the logging of forests for bridges and sleepers and on to new immigrants.
- The Dandenong region has 4 - 5,000 aboriginals and members of the Dandenong aboriginal co-operative would make use of more accessible community facilities in Noble Park.
- The Reserve should be used for community festivals and events rather than Sandown Park.
- Provide boomerang-shaped mounds for quiet seating areas throughout the Reserve, and larger mounds for a large amphitheatre near e.g. the Community Centre. Provide a sand base with some mounds for aboriginal dancing.
- Make park furniture out of traditional district timbers (perhaps using chainsaw artists).
- Develop a forest focus in the south to balance that near the northern playground.

It was noted that district roads such as Stud Road and South Gippsland Highway follow former aboriginal travel routes, often along higher land between the region's swamps and along waterlines. The traditional regional shapes included boomerangs, diamonds, chevrons, hatchings and lines and these could be used to represent past cultures and uses.

- Tree planting in the Reserve should “recreate” the idea of the aboriginal wetlands trails and traditional migrations from the Dandenong Ranges to the coast.

A2.4 SPORTS AND OTHER USER GROUPS

A2.4.1 Skate Group

- Replace the former skate facilities with a new venue as the old facility was “unique”.
- Provide some elevation on the site as this improves spitting and drainage.
- Do not provide a “street” course as this exists already in Dandenong, 3 kilometres away.
- The key element of a successful venue is surface quality so an experienced professional contractor should be employed to build the facilities.
- Run events and programs to encourage wider use and CALD community use.
- *Note submission from skate rider group.*

A2.4.2 Southern Stars Football Club (soccer)

The Club has 150 - 160 playing members. It uses Ross Reserve for competition games by its Reserve and Senior teams (1 of each) and Chadwick Reserve in Dingley for all training and for its 8 junior teams. The senior team is at State 1 level, immediately below the Premier team level of Dandenong Thunder.

The Club uses the toilet block on the south-west corner of the field as toilets and for storage and also has the use of both the Little Athletics change/toilets and the Springvale Soccer Club function facilities on match days.

The main issues and needs identified by the Club are:

1. The positioning of the playing field in the centre of the athletics track as all players have to cross the tracks, the ball goes well out of play too easily, and there is a significant separation of the field from spectator areas and change facilities/toilets.
A fence would only need moving twice a year due to the different seasons of competition of athletics and soccer.
Fencing behinds the goals would at least be a good “minimal” position.
2. Upgrading of the field in the middle of Little Athletics to Premier League standards, which would require lighting, seating (for 500[no. to be confirmed]), fencing, and player and coaches races.
3. Provision of a second soccer pitch on the Reserve, preferably with a synthetic surface and with lighting to training standards .This would allow the Club to consolidate all its operations to the one venue and leave Chadwick Reserve in Dingley.
4. Provision of upgraded change/toilet and function facilities.

Other provision opportunities and issues identified by the Club were:

1. Provision of running/training tracks around the Reserve (partially as a means of reducing casual use of the soccer field and athletics track.
2. Provision of spa, sauna and hydrotherapy pool facilities in association with the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre as a means of attracting older residents and negotiated regular sports club use sessions.
3. Rejection of proposals for an off-leash dogs area as too many people do not clean up after their dogs.

A2.4.3 Calypso Cricket Club

Calypso Cricket Club is a strong family-based sports club with 70-80 members. The Club uses the southern (non-turf wicket) oval *on Sunday afternoons* and has a strong family attendance/following. Club building is used for social activities on Sunday evenings. The Club has two competition grades and through the season has one team playing away and the other at home each week. One ground is sufficient to meet club needs.

Parking provision is sufficient for the Club as there are spaces adjacent to the change building and the oval used is adjacent to the main car park, allowing some supports to park and watch from the main car park.

The needs identified by the Club were:

1. Major upgrading of the large toilet/change/club building (used by several clubs) over both Saturdays and Sundays.
2. Provision of women's toilets (*not* using damaged and locked external toilets at rear of building).
3. Provision of cricket practice nets: no user club has any nets at Ross Reserve. These should be separate from the ovals and not have run-ups reaching into the oval(s).
4. Reinstatement of compliant perimeter fences around both ovals.

Other proposals for the wider Reserve:

- Realign the main road from Heatherton Road to the *rear* of the Community Centre so as to free up all the central section of the Reserve and allow space for an additional playing field.
- Redevelop and expand the Community Centre by:
 - provision of additional full sized indoor sports courts for basketball, badminton, indoor cricket, futsal (indoor soccer), volleyball, gymnastics,
 - conversion of the existing court to a functions (community/hire), theatre, performance space,
 - addition of outdoor beach volleyball,
 - upgrading of and linking to outdoor play facilities,
 - incorporate of bocce club facilities,

- provision of clubrooms for a range of community service organisations and sporting groups e.g.: Youth Link, Masters Athletics,
 - relocating lawn bowls to the site,
 - using the Centre as a base for outdoors parkland programs/programming,
 - develop a physical link to the new pool by extending the Community Centre toward the road and new pool, thereby ensuring better access to car parking.
- Develop programs to address the congregation of drug users under the football club scoreboard adjacent to the railway line

A2.4.4 Football Federation of Victoria, Referees

A group of 20 - 30 soccer referees, including 6 women, use the first 4 lanes of the athletics track for training on Tuesday and Thursday nights throughout the year. The track is good as it can be used in all weather conditions. The trainers also occasionally use the inner grass playing field for a training variation. Springvale City Soccer Club facilities are used.

The trainers have trouble turning the floodlights on as these require use of a keyed switch behind the Soccer Club bar and a club member has to be in attendance to turn the lights on.

The referees feel that the Club change facilities are “not posh” but that they are “adequate”. Cleaning of toilets and amenities is adequate, there is plentiful parking at the time of their use and they have problems with other users. If other people are using the athletics track, they are generally happy to take the outer lanes to leave the others for the soccer referees.

A2.4.5 Little Athletics

Little Athletics presently has around 120 members which is a large fall on the 600 of the past. Much of the drop appears to be a lack of parental permission on the part of recent migrant groups, even though they pursue the activities at school and are good athletes (thus the need for proactive programming).

Needs:

1. All sections of the club building but the office and canteen need to be upgraded.
2. Bigger toilet facilities.
3. Provide full female toilets and ensure adequate separation of male and female toilets.
4. Consolidation of storage so the toilet building on the south-west corner of the track does not have to be used.
5. Provision of a permanent discus ring/cage.
6. Installation of a second permanent discus ring and two more long jump pits to qualify for regional track and field championships.
7. Rebuild the high jump area: the asphalt is slippery and dangerous.

8. Repair the deteriorating concrete seating and provide new seating for inter-school users.
9. Provide competition lighting.
10. Policing of soccer positioning of mats on the track to protect the surface.
11. Policing of the use of the athletics track by soccer referees and others to minimise damage and wear and tear.
12. Improve drainage, and especially around long and triple jump pits. Problems are caused by the failure to pick up mowing clippings which then block the drains.
13. Relocate the storage shed area for high jump mats to a site closer to the starting area.

Other issues:

The suggestion to fence the inner field for soccer would require provision of too many gates (although it may be possible to leave narrower gaps or overlap fence positioning).

A2.4.6 Piranhas Soccer Club

Piranhas Soccer Club is a juniors club which has 150 members up to the under 18 years category. The Club has 10 teams.

The Club has been moved between venues three times in recent years due to a lack of fields and last played on the turfed oval adjacent to the athletics track. This was in poor condition on the west side and overuse (by the Club and other users) badly damaged the field. The Club now uses Fotheringham Reserve on Cyril Grove/Alexander Avenue, Noble Park near the Heatherton Road-Princes Highway intersection (Melways 89 K4) although the clubrooms there are seen to be too small and inadequate.

The Club has met with Council officers and called for more fields at Tatterson Park on Cheltenham Road, but have been told that the venue is being retained for overflow needs.

Needs:

1. Provision of a new multi-field soccer complex and an integrated multi-club service building at Tatterson Park.
2. Provision of adequate club storage at all sports venues.
3. Provision of quality *men's and women's* toilet, kiosk and program room at all venues.
4. If soccer is to use Ross Reserve, provision of a synthetic playing field.
5. If soccer is to use Ross Reserve, consolidation of football and cricket on to one ground and development of the other as a soccer pitch.

A2.4.7 Noble Park Junior Football Club

Noble Park Junior Football Club is 47 years old and a strong history of involvement with the Noble Park community. It has nine teams, one of which is a girls-only team of 13 - 17 year olds, plus an OzKick program. In total, the Club has 240 children enrolled, 85 of whom have joined in the past year as the outcome of the development of a strategic plan. A copy of this has been provided to the present study. The Strategic Plan has focused on family involvement, strong multi-cultural memberships and a strong promotional program. It is projected that there will a further two teams by 2012.

The Club uses the southern of the two Ross Reserve ovals and shares this with cricket (while soccer shares the northern oval with cricket).

The Club has shared the toilet/change building for 40 years and added the northern section of this around 17 years ago.

Needs:

1. Access to a second oval. Training has to be split between Ross Reserve and a second Reserve as the number of Australian Rules team members vs e.g. soccer, increases ground pressure. The affiliated senior club is based at Moodemere Reserve (Moodemere St, Noble Park, Melways 89 D5) where there is only one playing field to accommodate both seniors and colts.
2. Upgraded and larger support facilities including provision for women and supporting parents.
3. Provision of facilities and activities in the Reserve for families who visit: good spectator facilities, walking paths, play areas, kick-to-kick area.
4. Provision of facilities suitable for players of all abilities as this is a direction the club is moving in.

Other proposals for Ross Reserve:

1. Make changes to maximise the diversity of uses.
2. Provide better and safer access into the Reserve, especially for users coming from the railway station.
3. Develop liaison between user clubs and groups so for instance, the Junior Football Club could make programmed use of the new pool and the Community Centre for parts of its activities.
4. Establish a Reserve users liaison and consultative group so users can work more effectively together and with Council.
5. Build paths for walking, jogging.
6. Expand the Community Centre facilities toward Memorial Drive and the playing fields to encourage joint use.
7. Possibly consider developing new sports facilities and club rooms as part of the Community Centre.

It was noted that the recent change in the Victorian State Government has led to some rethinking of the funding of football and that there is a likelihood that greater funding will become available at the local level. The Club and the General Manager of the Dandenong and District Junior Football League, Shaun Connell, indicated that the Club would be working to tap into these resources.

A2.4.8 Noble Park Thunderbirds Basketball Club

The Noble Park Thunderbirds Basketball Club trains at the Noble Park Community Centre and could use more court time if it was made available.

The court is not large enough for competition use. Additional courts are needed for training and competition.

The Keysborough District Basketball Association is constrained by a lack of indoor courts and the nearest to Noble Park are two courts at Heatherhill High School. Leagues based in Dandenong and Chelsea cannot meet demand so provision of additional courts in Noble Park would help alleviate the demand for facilities.

A2.4.9 Noble Park Guides

Noble Park Guides uses the timber log hall at the northern end of the Reserve. Membership is growing with 36 children present members and a further 12 projected. There are 6 leaders and a helper. The group meet every Monday and Wednesday evening. A church group also uses the hall twice a week.

The Guides group maintains a small garden fronting Memorial Drive and uses outdoor areas surrounding the hall for guide activities.

Needs:

1. Lighting and improved security around the hall and throughout the Reserve.
2. Action on loiterers who have threatened community members, break bottles, block roads, set up needles in toilets to injure users, urinate behind Guide hall etc.
3. Toilet provision throughout the Reserve.
4. Drainage upgrading around hall and between hall and Corrigan Road.
5. Formed road access to the Guide hall.
6. Improved car parking, banning of truck parking and signage re preferred parking format (i.e. angle, parallel, where etc).

Other issues:

1. Improved communication and acceptance of responsibilities for action between Council and South East Water regarding tree maintenance along the creek.
2. Higher standards of mowing throughout informal areas of the Reserve and around the Guide hall. The building, steps and plants have been damaged by mower operators cutting too close.
3. Do not provide an off-leash dog exercise area as too many children use the Reserve.

A2.4.10 Italian Senior Citizens Club

The Italian Senior Citizens Club has 60 - 70 members and uses the Community Centre on Wednesday and Friday afternoons for social programs and afternoon teas. The Club has lunches 4 times pa. The Club is 20 years old and most members come from Noble Park.

Issues identified:

1. Community Centre needs air conditioning and fans for summer, especially in the hall when used for lunches, social activities.
2. Parking near the building needs to be expanded, including more disability parking bays.
3. Club assistance grants. The Club gets no assistance for its programs from Council.
4. Improved lawn mowing throughout the Reserve. The grass is generally rough cut and dried cuttings eventually get into and block drains.
5. More opportunities are needed for children in the Reserve. These should include better play facilities, seating, shade, toilets and bike paths.

A2.4.11 Hungarian Senior Citizens Club, Committee of Management

The Hungarian Senior Citizens Club has 190 - 200 members drawn from a very wide eastern suburbs catchment. It uses the Community Centre one day fortnightly for social activities and chess, cards, billiards etc.

The Calisthenics Club uses the Centre and has 50 members.

Issues identified:

1. Only the Community Centre is used by the Hungarian Senior Citizens Club as the lack of facilities elsewhere in the Reserve detracts from use.
2. There is a lack of appropriate parking for the venue, especially as many users are aged.
3. More disability parking is needed.
4. Toilets need to be provided throughout the Reserve.
5. The toilets in the Community Centre need upgrading.
6. The issue of community access to the Centre's toilets needs to be resolved. Different committee members seem to have different views and there are competing reports from the community.
7. Significant building improvements are needed:
 - air conditioning,
 - roof replacement,
 - sewerage connection upgrade as this floods when there is heavy rain,
 - improved site drainage,
 - reduction of draughty stage,
 - replacement of weathered and twisted side doors,

- air conditioning upgrade in the kitchen for cooking activities including stronger oven fans,
 - building painting to give a refreshed appearance,
 - cleaning of internal walls,
 - improved acoustics in the main building including perhaps, installation of carpet on the walls (as at St Anthony's).
8. Council does not allow the Committee of Management to maintenance works.
9. Wider Reserve improvements needed are:
- more rubbish bins throughout the Reserve and especially near the barbeques,
 - upgrading of the formerly gravelled area near the Community Centre (left over from 100 year celebrations),
 - shading of playground near Community Centre,
 - tree maintenance: a number of the older trees are starting to lose branches,
 - more tree planting throughout the Reserve.

A2.4.12 Istrian Club

The Istrian Club occupies a small fenced building with bocce rinks immediately adjacent to the north side of the Noble Park Community Centre. Istria is a province on the Adriatic Sea that borders Italy and Croatia. The province has been part of both these countries and was previously part of Yugoslavia. It is now part of Croatia again.

The Club has around 45-50 members and only meets on Sundays to play bocce. The clubroom is used for afternoon teas.

The Club would want a discussion between Council and its committee if things were to be changed from the present arrangements.

Dependent on the Final Master Plan prepared for Ross Reserve, it is probable that the Istrian Club could continue on its present site for the foreseeable future. It is probable that this could continue until major changes are made to the Community Centre or if the Centre is to be demolished and replaced. That said, discussions may be warranted to identify opportunities for wider community use of the Istrian Club meeting rooms by the Community Centre.

External proposals to use the club facilities for other purposes should be rejected at this stage.

A2.5 SERVICE PROVIDERS

A2.5.1 Schools

Considerable difficulty was experienced in contacting schools and despite numerous telephone calls and emails setting out a number of issues of interest, only one response was received, this being from Noble Park Secondary College.

The teacher responsible for the school's sports programs indicated that the school did not use Ross Reserve because of the teacher numbers required to supervise students visiting the venue were prohibitive and because the school had its own sports ovals. It was indicated, however, that the venue would be used of two dedicated soccer pitches were available.

A2.5.2 Noble Park Traders Association

No issues were raised in relation to Ross Reserve but further development to allow wider and more community use was seen to be a “good idea”.

A2.5.3 Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau

A number of issues were raised by staff:

- Do not try to deliver *welfare* services through the Reserve but rather case work programs.
- Community development activities are to be strongly supported e.g. women’s groups, discussions, inclusive swimming programs.
- Too many new arrivals and those involved in refugee action programs do not get access to the Reserve’s facilities or if access is offered, it is often too costly.
- The Venue, a former youth activities centre adjacent to the Noble Park Aquatic Centre, should be re-established through the Community Centre.
- Though “brilliant” for some uses, the Paddy O’Donohue Centre is too over-regulated for many users/uses and is too costly for some community members.
- Some Greater Dandenong Council venues are over-regulated and have an excessive focus on appearances and making money/covering costs than on servicing community needs. As such, programs and activities should offer free initial access and should not be overly concerned about making a mess.
- Retaining flexibility of programming and use will be essential to success.
- Use of public transport for access is important.
- Pathways and signs need improving.

A discussion group held for the present study by Refugee Action Program participants gave the following feed back:

- Develop a Sports Centre that communities could use free of cost.
- Provide free access to a venue (either existing or newly developed) for community groups to hold large and small activities including meetings.
- Provide shared office spaces.
- Provide equipment to support user groups e.g. photocopier, computers etc.
- Provide a funded support worker who could assist the communities to be more productive.
- Allocate funds to better support the communities so that they can better support their members.

A2.5.4 AMES Education

Mr. Sam Navarria from AMES indicated a desire for:

- AMES use of the Noble Park Community Centre and parkland facilities for classes, workshops and student activities.
- Development of a community gardens so students could extend food growing and cooking activities.
- Continuing liaison between AMES and the programmers/operators of facilities in Ross Reserve as a means of involving AMES students in community programs.

A2.5.5 Youth Links Program

Mr. Martin Sykes and Ms. Denise Goldfinch indicated that Youth Link is based in 3 shopfronts in Noble Park shopping centre and has severely restricted space. The largest room is around 20 sq m. The organisation attracts over 800 visits per month from across a wide catchment. It is a preferred destination for many young people in Noble Park who do not see facilities and services in either Dandenong or Springvale as being relevant to them as the communities are different.

Youth Links would like to relocate its base and its activities to Ross Reserve, perhaps being based in the new community rooms being built as part of the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre complex.

If Youth Link could move into a new Council venue, it would commit its present rent payments to employing additional staff and running programs.

Youth Link would like to see the “More Than Just a Pool Venue” used as a youth development and employment venue with part-time jobs being focused on youth learning.

The new pool should offer a wide range of community-focused activities and programs e.g. homework club, one-stop-shop for youth activities, information and services, integrated adult, parent and young people swim classes etc.

Other opportunities:

1. More soccer provision.
2. Volleyball/beach volleyball in the pool precinct (it is the national sport of Afghanistan).
3. Urban camping programs for homeless kids and as part of youth, school and similar programs.

A2.5.6 YMCA

The following points were raised by Mr. Simon Beqir, Manager, Dandenong Oasis, who is responsible for the management of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre:

- The three community rooms at the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre will have a limited programming capacity as each is only 9 m x 9 m. Two of the rooms have a sprung floor and can be joined via an operable wall while the third will be carpeted
- All three spaces will be available for community functions.
- The YMCA would be willing to partner with other agencies in the use of the new facilities although this would need to be on a case-by-case basis to ensure a 'fit' with YMCA programs and to avoid conflict with the contract. Establishing a consultative committee across potential users could be a useful way of addressing this.
- The pool and the Reserve should be managed and programmed as a 'community hub' with this encompassing each of the Community Centre, the Aquatic Centre and the Paddy O'Donohue Centre. The YMCA would be willing to act as the co-ordinator across all three venues.
- The YMCA would like to extend its activities to the programming of the open space areas of the Reserve. It could manage skate facilities (as elsewhere in Melbourne) and run activities, clinics and training programs in the parkland. This could help develop links between casual and structured uses of the Reserve and strengthen processes of community development.
- This initiative would require Council to finance additional staffing.
- The YMCA would be happy to see Youth Works relocate to the new pool complex and believes that there would be office space available for them.
- It should be noted that Noble Park is the physical/geographic centre of the Council and is more accessible than many other parts of the City.

A2.5.7 Noble Park RSL

Noble Park RSL is located on the south side of Heatherton Road, opposite Ross Reserve. The RSL has a significant connection with the local community through support programs and activities. The RSL undertakes fundraising for programs such as Learn to Swim for the local Vietnamese community and provide financial support for the basketball club using the Community Centre.

Issues and action proposals raised by Mr. Mark Wilkinson, Manager, and Mr. Gordon Murray, President, of the RSL were:

- Potential use of parking in RSL bays by visitors to the new Aquatic Centre to the detriment of access to the RSL.
- Support for the provision of a community gardens in association with the Noble Park Community Centre for multi-cultural groups with associated provision of cooking classes and cultural activities.
- Provision of more family picnic areas throughout the Reserve.
- Provision of daytime activity programs for socially-isolated older adults in the local community. These should provide support for elderly ethnic residents and provide social and exercise activities.

- Provision of free swimming lessons for new immigrant groups to reduce drownings.
- Volunteer training through the new pool and the Community Centre.
- Use of the new pool and the Community Centre for TAFE educational programs.
- Preservation of the original plaque on the old pool. The RSL was instrumental in getting the pool built and it was originally initiated as a War Memorial Pool.
- Action to engage the community by Council. Staffing and programming will be important to the success of any redevelopment plans.

A2.6 RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS

A2.6.1 On-site Meetings

The following issues and suggested actions were identified at two on-site meetings attended by a total of 15 people:

1. Strengths:

- Retain and protect the open nature of the Reserve.
- The Reserve is excellent for walking, dog exercise, barbeques, children's play.
- The size is excellent and allows a diversity of uses.
- The attractiveness of the Reserve generates respect amongst users.

2. Issues of Concern/Actions Needed/Proposed:

- Numerous groups use hidden corners and the rear of buildings for drinking, leaving empty bottles and casks behind; the growth of drinking groups needs to be managed.
- Grass mowing is of a very poor standard with whole sections being missed, no grass raking is undertaken, and trees and buildings are often damaged by the mower going too close.
- The Reserve is roughly kept and is not "pretty" or attractive.
- The power pole near the Corrigan Road entrance serves no purpose while there is an abandoned street light fitting lying on the ground at its base.
- Many of the gum trees with plaques are in poor condition or have died. These need to be managed and/or replanted. Management of trees is also needed to avoid branches falling.
- More trees and shade are needed adjacent to the barbeque adjacent to the Community Centre.
- No more buildings should be built in the Reserve, especially as the new Aquatic Centre will be big.
- Use the old pool site for a mix of opportunities across all age groups.
- Retain Memorial Drive as it serves as an important access "outlet" in the district.
- Close Memorial Drive as it is not needed as a through road.
- Making Memorial Drive too narrow could cause safety problems for children.
- Make the road narrower and winding in order to reduce traffic speeds.
- Do not use the old pool site for car parking.

- The amount of parking available for the new pool will be inadequate and traffic will impact on the rear of adjoining homes. Buffer planting and management of lights will be needed.
- There a high number of itinerant families in the local area and they need attractive programs, information, and support. These should be provided free.
- Consider providing free public bocce and lawn bowls areas.
- Provide more shade around the southern playground.
- Install a fence between the southern playground and Memorial Drive.
- Some user groups need more formalised use areas as they are gathering in quite large numbers in inappropriate areas e.g. next to the Guide's hall. Some drinkers are now sleeping over in the Reserve so more supervision and policing is needed.
- Do not restrict the activities that can be pursued in the Reserve e.g. golf practice, dog walking.
- Allow dogs off leash: there are no areas available in Noble Park. Maybe consider banning bigger dogs.
- The significant growth of population in the local area means that more facilities and opportunities need to be provided. Attractive opportunities bring users and this reduces loitering, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- The Reserve has "nothing that attracts and keeps people there". Provide nooks and corners for social activities.
- There is a need for a venue for large community gatherings.
- Develop wetlands to manage excess water flow. Much of the northern end of the Reserve was flooded by the Creek during the heavy rains of January and February 2011 and action is needed to avoid this in future.
- The skate facilities should be replaced.
- Develop a skate venue as part of a diverse multi-use plaza with seating, shade, sculpture park, lighting, barbeques, viewing areas, toilets, water tap, plantings and landscaping (see submission from Mr. Jon McGrath).
- Provide more picnic settings and barbeques throughout the Reserve.
- Create variation between different areas of the Reserve so that different sections serve different purposes e.g. develop more barbeque facilities in the north but do not duplicate them in the south. *While the intent of this proposal is understandable, the northern picnic/barbeque area cannot always accommodate demand and so more provision, (as sought by other residents), is warranted. However, provided additional barbeque provision does not restrict other types of provision, establishing a number of sites of different sizes and settings would allow different styles of use and different group size.*
- Consider strengthening the division of the Reserve into a western and eastern sector, on either side of Memorial Drive. The west would focus on sport and the east on community.
- Take account of the low socio-economic standing of the surrounding community.
- Do not ignore the different age groups in the community.
- Provide more bins adjacent to barbeque areas.
- Provide more toilets but design and locate them so they do not attract undesirable activities; consider linking them to the Community Centre, new Aquatic Centre and Guide hall.

- Do not close the views into the Reserve off from Corrigan Road with fences or plantings: the openness adds to the appeal of the Reserve and allows passive surveillance.
- Rubbish dumping along Memorial Drive and near the sports scoreboard needs to be addressed.
- The spectator seating at the athletics field/soccer ground needs to be upgraded.
- An additional soccer ground is needed but a synthetic playing field would be “too developed”.
- Pathways need to be improved and added to. A key need is a proper pedestrian bridge across Mile Creek on Corrigan Road as the narrow verge is very unsafe.
- Ensure pathways allow disabled access.
- Improved path signage is needed. These should show maps of the Reserve while posts showing distances could also be provided.
- Fitness stations should be provided along the pathways.
- Add more drinking fountains: there are only two at present.
- Consider relocating Guides hall in order to open up the northern end of the Reserve.
- Develop a community art theme to build on the history of the past works around the northern playground and build in aboriginal and recent immigrant cultural references; install more sculptures.
- The soil dumped behind the Community Centre reduces the appeal of the Reserve.
- The Community Centre is very dark and uninviting.
- The Community Centre is not good at making contact with the community.
- The Community Centre area needs more outdoor benches under the trees.

A2.6.2 Merle and Eric Mitchell

Mr. and Mrs. Merle and Mr. Eric Mitchell are long-term Noble Park residents, with Mr. Mitchell being a former City of Springvale Councillor. They have a deep knowledge of the district’s history and have recently mounted an exhibition and prepared a report on the Enterprise Migrant Hostel in Springvale for the Victorian Immigration Museum.

Issues identified:

1. Pick up on the early 1990s Three Stations project that focused on a community-based planting program (“Put your roots down”) along the railway from Westall to Yarraman and continue with the planting (see appendices for details).
2. Manage water runoff to create wetlands in the Reserve, possibly using water from Mile Creek.
3. Develop a walking path along the creek.
4. Develop playground facilities beyond the present pre-school only standard and establish an “adventure” playground using natural materials and allowing interactive use (see Ardeer Playground by Mary Jeavons as an example).

5. Provide an interpretive board/mural/ display that provides information on the history of Springvale/Noble Park and which reviews the history of settlement reaching from Aborigines through to Europeans, Asians who came through the Enterprise Hostel in Springvale (see www.enterprisehostel.org for history) and on the recent African residents.
6. Provide indoor and outdoor performance spaces.
7. Link to the RSL memorial on Heatherton Road which recognizes the deaths of all soldiers as well as children and nurses in past wars.
8. Pursue implementation of the actions recommended in the report *Honouring the Enterprise Hostel* (Jan 2011).

A2.6.3 DISCUSSION

Viewed in the light of the low SEIFA index and the diverse cultural mix of the Noble Park and district community (reviewed elsewhere in this report), the consultations and planning team assessments indicate that a quite complex mix of strategies will need to be considered at Ross Reserve if it is to effectively meet community needs and contribute to community wellbeing and social development both in the short term and over the longer term. As listed above, the development initiatives range across enhancing and improving infrastructure, services and safety through to the introduction of upgraded and expanded sporting facilities, the development of facilities for new sports and a variety of other recreational activities and perhaps most importantly, a strong focus on targeted programming.

Ross Reserve is one of the larger reserves owned and managed by the City of Greater Dandenong. Yet despite being one of few substantial reserves in Noble Park, its present use is significantly compromised by significant shape constraints, numerous and access barriers, ageing infrastructure, generally poor standards of maintenance, severely limited provision for non-sporting uses, and the lack of active promotion and programming of the Reserve.

The findings of the consultations reported in the foregoing pages suggest very strongly that balanced action on four potentially quite different redevelopment themes will be needed if the Reserve is to deliver the optimal benefits to the Noble park community. These themes are:

1. Sports development.
2. Conservation and habitat.
3. Community strengthening and cultural development.

Overall, it would seem that the diverse cultural mix and the often dire socio-economic position of many in the Noble Park community means that while careful attention will need to be given to the first two of these themes, to pursue them too strongly would be to the detriment of the social development of the wider community. In fact, a strong case can be put that a failure to vigorously pursue the third theme will be detrimental to the first two and that balanced pursuit of the first two will contribute substantially to achieving the third.

In light of the above, a number of key opportunities and needs can be seen to have emerged from the consultations.

These are:

Management: Action is needed on the following management issues at Ross Reserve:

- Effective servicing.
- Enhancing asset quality.
- Application of more appropriate governance models.
- Promoting access: information, advertising.
- Protection of cultural heritage.
- Improving amenity (mowing, maintenance, rubbish dumping, truck parking).
- Enhancement of the assets: improved mowing/lawn standards; better toilets; tree maintenance.
- Monitoring of outcomes: casual users; sports; programs; environmental, energy use.

Development: Development is needed to:

- Enhance safety, security: (paths [and their positioning/materials, width], lighting, supervision of users).
- Enhance servicing: (car parking; traffic; toilets [number, format, location/co-location]; signage; mowing; view lines; signage; lighting; paths; taps).
- Retain diversity.
- Achieve greater diversity: trails/pathways; wetlands; events/social spaces; more built facilities at Community Centre; facilities for new sports (skating, cycling, basketball, volleyball, netball; facilities for casual sports and active; facilities for social activities; plazas; indoor/outdoor performance spaces (incl. replacement of those lost in the past).
- Recognize and acknowledge cultural heritage from Aboriginal to current day immigration: (use of Aboriginal shapes/symbols in design, landscaping, plantings; murals; sculpture/arts trail and non-permanent arts installations).
- Create different user environments: 5-a-side areas; social areas; event spaces; movement corridors; "green rooms".
- Create indoor/outdoor links and settings: Community Centre; old pool site facing Heatherton Road; new pool/parkland interface.
- Enhance physical access: signs, maps, information, benefits gained, costs, listing user club contacts and use opportunities, paths, lights, security.
- Enhance environmental values: wetlands; formal and formal gardens; "reafforestation".
- Provision of better and more diverse opportunities for active, non-team/non-sporting uses.
- Provision of better and more diverse social settings: small, large, serviced, natural.
- Building consolidation (pavilions); expansion (Community Centre); relocation (pavilions, Guide hall).

Programming: Pro-active, interventionist programming of activities is essential to deliver the optimum outcomes as the physical facilities are simply the *means* to a community wellbeing end and a platform for action. Programming should:

- Offer developmental activities to key community groups and all age groups.
- Enhance community access to engagement through on-site service staffing, targeted programs, and inter-user group/sports liaison.
- Ensure cultural relevance through communication, liaison, consultation.
- Strengthen sporting uses and the diversity of other uses.
- Base program delivery within the Reserve.
- Schedule uses carefully to optimise access/use types/user numbers.
- Provide opportunities for monitoring outputs and outcomes.

Principles/ Values: Some of the key principles to emerge from the consultations are that all initiatives at Ross Reserve should:

- Build the relevance of the Reserve to the community.
- Provide opportunities for community strengthening.
- Build Council's reputation in the community.
- Develop a sense of place.
- Strengthen community engagement.
- Allow for continuous community engagement.
- Encourage proactive and responsive action, and
- Ensure sharing facilities and provision responsibilities.

APPENDIX 3 TREE SURVEY SUMMARY DATA

Tree Group Locations



Tree Group Assessment Detail - Ross Reserve Noble Park

The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) range provided for each group is calculated using the formula provided in the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites (Radial TPZ = Trunk diameter measured at 1.4m above grade (DBH) x 12). The TPZ forms an area around a tree or group of trees inside which construction and worksite activity may need to be controlled to preserve tree condition.

Tree #	Species composition	Common Names	No. Trees	Predominant Tree Type	Predominant Age Class	DBH Range (cm)	H (m)	W (m)	Indicative Radial TPZ (m) AS4970	Comment
1	<i>Corymbia maculata</i> <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Spotted Gum Southern Mahogany River Red Gum Yellow Gum Bracelet Honey Myrtle Monterey Pine	15	Victorian native	Semi-mature	30-80	13-18-	5-12	3.6-9.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly established semi-mature or early maturity specimens. • 1 x naturally occurring River Red Gum. • Spotted Gum in NW corner a prominent signature tree in good condition. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.
2	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> <i>Acacia decurrens</i> <i>Pinus radiata</i> <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> <i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	River Red Gum Blackwood Early Black Wattle Monterey Pine Sweet Gum Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	43	Mixed	Semi-mature	20-80	5-20	4-16	2.4-9.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturally occurring large mature River Red Gums are structurally defective. • 1 x remnant Swamp Gum (<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>) beneath River Red Gums • 1x Pine in lineal planting dead, exposing structural defects of surrounding trees. • Single Monterey Pine to south of group has lightning strike damage and associated basal trunk decay. • Several small exotic fruit trees. • Sweet Gum in state of structural decline. • Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.

Tree #	Species composition	Common Names	No. Trees	Predominant Tree Type	Predominant Age Class	DBH Range (cm)	H (m)	W (m)	Indicative Radial TPZ (m) AS4970	Comment
3	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Angophora costata</i> <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> <i>Eucalyptus spathulata</i> <i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> <i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	River Red Gum Smooth-barked Apple Lemon-scented Gum Swamp Mallet Snow In Summer Sweet Bursaria	68	Australian Native	Semi-mature	10-95	3-20	2-16	2.0-11.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed age stand of mostly naturally occurring River Red Gum irregular spacing and spatial layout. Trees generally well structured. Stressed specimen within central northern cluster. Largest specimen immediately south of playground. Collectively the most significant feature in the Reserve. Mass planting of natives opposite common fenceline shared with sports field. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.
4	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	100	Indigenous	Semi-mature	20-85	7-15	2-17	2-10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late semi-maturity to early maturity (large specimens at southern end). Fragmented Avenue affected by Heritage Overlay. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.
5	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	River Red Gum Blackwood	15	Indigenous	Semi-mature	28-35	6-8	6-8	3.6-4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliments Group 3
6	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> <i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i> <i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> <i>Eucalyptus bancroftii</i> <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> <i>Callistemon 'Harkness'</i>	Queensland Brush Box Gippsland Mallee Red Flowering Gum Southern Mahogany Bancroft's Red Gum Willow Myrtle Harkness Bottlebrush	10	Mixed	Semi-mature	35-60	6-8	5-8	4.2-7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal boundary planting mixed age. Generally unremarkable specimens.

Tree #	Species composition	Common Names	No. Trees	Predominant Tree Type	Predominant Age Class	DBH Range (cm)	H (m)	W (m)	Indicative Radial TPZ (m) AS4970	Comment
7	<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Pinus radiata</i> <i>Eucalyptus bancroftii</i>	Red Flowering Gum River Red Gum Monterey Pine Bancroft's Red Gum	5	Mixed	Maturing	30-65	7-13	4-10	3.6-7.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disparate collection of trees within and surrounding car park. River Red Gum prominent specimen.
8	<i>Angophora costata</i> <i>Corymbia maculata</i> <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> <i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i> <i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Smooth-barked Apple Spotted Gum Lemon-scented Gum Southern Mahogany Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint Snow in Summer Cherry Plum	11	Australian native	Maturing	30-75	9-18	5-18	3.6-9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visually significant grove of established gum trees. Contains large specimens of Spotted and Lemon-scented Gum, generally in good health and well structured. Under storey specimens of weedy Cherry Plum. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.
9	<i>Angophora costata</i> <i>Corymbia maculata</i> <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> <i>Populus nigra var. italica</i>	Smooth-barked Apple Spotted Gum Bracelet Honey-myrtle Lombardy Poplar	12	Mixed	Maturing	50-70	7-22	9-14	6-8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 large Spotted Gums in good health and generally sound structure. Lombardy Poplars visually prominent. Bracelet Honey Myrtle at or nearing end of useful life. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.
10	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	5	Indigenous	Semi-mature	10-18	4-7	3-4	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linear plantings - regular spaced. Contains 1 Yellow Gum and 1 Bancroft's Red Gum
11	<i>Angophora costata</i> <i>Eucalyptus bancroftii</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i> <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> <i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	Smooth-barked Apple Bancroft's Red Gum River Red Gum Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint Southern Blue Gum Bracelet Honey-myrtle Snow in Summer	16	Australian native	Semi-mature	30-60	5-9	3-9	3.6-7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grove of establishing trees. Generally well structured specimens. Collectively significant stand of trees.

Tree #	Species composition	Common Names	No. Trees	Predominant Tree Type	Predominant Age Class	DBH Range (cm)	H (m)	W (m)	Indicative Radial TPZ (m) AS4970	Comment
12	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	21	Indigenous	Semi-mature	14-18	4-6	4	2-2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linear plantings - generally regular spacing. Contains 1 Yellow Gum and 1 ?Bancroft's Red Gum
13	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	7	Indigenous	Semi-mature	25-45	6-7	4-7	3-5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linear Installation of varying spaced establishing trees
14	<i>Angophora costata</i> <i>Eucalyptus bancroftii</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Smooth-barked Apple Bancroft's Red Gum River Red Gum Black She-Oak	8	Australian native	Semi-mature	30	8	9	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grove of establishing trees. Generally well structured specimens. Collectively visually significant stand of trees.
15	<i>Populus nigra var. italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	7	Exotic deciduous	Semi-mature	20-40	8-11	2-3	2.0-4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several specimens in decline. Significantly diminished visual impact
16	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	2	Australian native	Semi-mature	50	8	8	6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual landscape specimens. Contains individually visually significant and/or prominent trees.
17	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> <i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i> <i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i> <i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> <i>Fraxinus angustifolia subsp. angustifolia</i> <i>Schinus areira</i>	Lemon-scented Gum Gippsland Mallee Brittle Gum Swamp Gum Bracelet Honey-myrtle Desert Ash Peppercorn	23	Mixed	Semi-mature	31	7	6	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few specimen trees. Contains few garden beds of mass planted natives. Contains individually visually significant and/or prominent trees.
18	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> <i>Angophora costata</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i> <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> <i>Populus Xcanadensis</i> <i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Blackwood Smooth-barked Apple River Red Gum Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint Yellow Gum Forest Red Gum Queensland Brush Box Grey Poplar Snow in Summer Prickly-leaved Paperbark	34	Mixed	Semi-mature	10-60	2-14	2-20	2-8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large River Red Gum abutting Mile Creek. Large Poplar west of Playground displaying significant root damage. Young Sycamore (<i>Acer</i> sp.) 1m x 1m planted around playground. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.

Tree #	Species composition	Common Names	No. Trees	Predominant Tree Type	Predominant Age Class	DBH Range (cm)	H (m)	W (m)	Indicative Radial TPZ (m) AS4970	Comment
19	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	18	Indigenous	Semi-mature	14-25	5-7	2-5	2.0-3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linear boundary planting, except for cluster of naturally occurring specimens at NE end.
20	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	6	Indigenous	Semi-mature	10-18	4-5	2-4	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fragmented stand.
21	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Bracelet Honey-myrtle Prickly-leaved Paperbark	88	Australian native	maturing	20-45	7	7	2.4-5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close spaced screen planting. Bracelet Honey Myrtle nearing end of useful life. Contains individually and collectively visually significant and/or prominent trees.
22	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	River Red Gum Manna Gum Black She-oak	10	Victorian native	Semi-mature	14-35	5-9	2-6	2-4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She-oaks in decline.
23	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Queensland Brush Box	3	Australian native	Semi-mature	22-34	5-6	4-5	2.6-4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape specimen trees
24	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia subsp. angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash	10	Exotic deciduous	Maturing	23-60	7-9	6-12	2.7-7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape specimens - shade trees. Weedy tendency - problematic given proximity to Mile Creek.