

West Footscray Community Facilities Plan

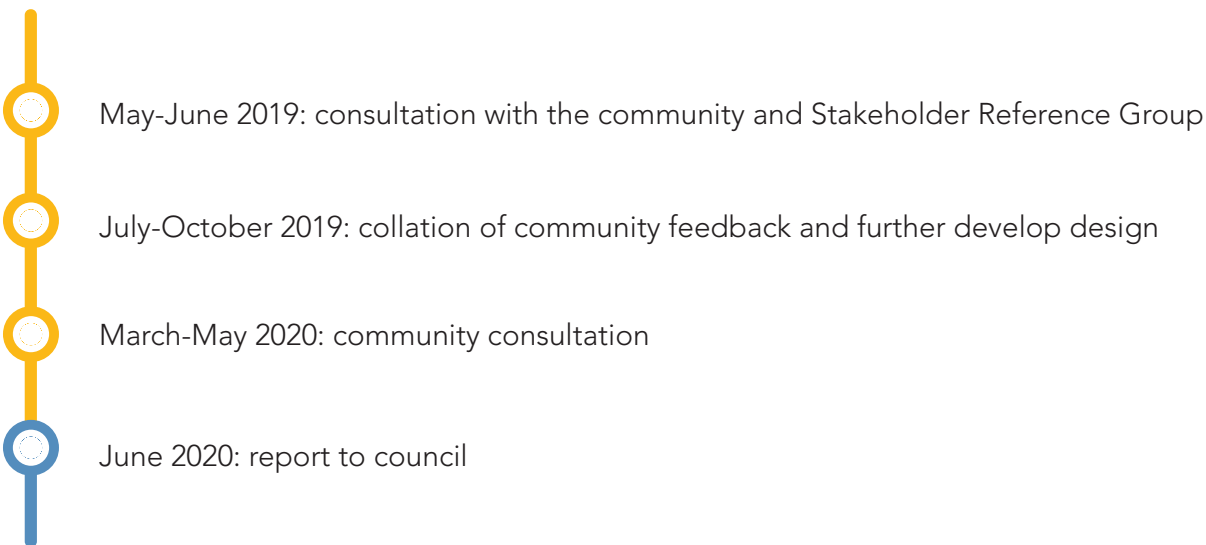
Project overview

Maribyrnong City Council has listened to feedback gathered during a range of community engagement activities and refined the concept designs for the West Footscray Community Facilities Plan.

The draft Plan will enable a \$25 million redevelopment of RecWest Footscray, Shorten and Barrett Reserve, and Johnson Reserve. It provides an overview of the proposed brand-new purpose-built facilities, and a variety of safe and accessible public open spaces for all ages.

Your feedback is needed on the draft plans to ensure these much-needed new facilities meet the community's needs, improve community wellbeing and encourage healthy and active lifestyles for many years to come.

Timeline



How we've incorporated community feedback

After hearing from the community last year, Maribyrnong City Council has taken the feedback gathered during a range of community engagement activities to refine the concept designs for the West Footscray Community Facilities Plan. On the next page we have shown how we have incorporated the feedback.

West Footscray Community Facilities Plan

What we've heard



How we've responded



RecWest

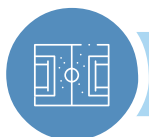
We heard:

- There is demand for an improved facility and quality meeting spaces at RecWest.
- Current groups need a more modern sports stadium, improved kitchen facilities and storage, and flexible spaces for group activities.



A brand-new community facility is proposed with:

- a new \$12M community leisure centre with 32 percent more space
- a new café servicing adjoining new parkland
- a modern state of the art 800 square metre gymnasium
- increased flexible meeting and function spaces, kitchen facilities and storage
- a new multipurpose high ball indoor stadium with spectator seating
- a new multipurpose outdoor court for basketball, netball, tennis and general play
- a new Bocce rink
- new scouts' facilities



Sports facilities

We heard:

- There is strong support for upgrades to RecWest, Barrett, Shorten and Johnson Reserves to meet modern day compliance standards and to provide fit-for-purpose facilities.



The Plan includes:

- improved female friendly pavilion at Shorten Reserve
- a new compliant oval at Shorten Reserve and upgraded playing fields at Johnson Reserve including a junior pitch
- new multi-purpose cricket nets at Shorten Reserve
- new multi-purpose outdoor court at Johnson Reserve
- a new pavilion at Johnson Reserve

West Footscray Community Facilities Plan

What we've heard



How we've responded



Open space

We heard:

- Open space is important to the community.
- There is a demand for an increase in both passive and active open space.



The Plan includes:

- increased useable open space by almost 4,000m²
- bigger and more play areas for families to enjoy
- more spaces for informal play and relaxation
- new fitness stations and picnic and BBQ facilities
- over 100 additional trees planted to provide shade and attract wildlife



Car parking

We heard:

- The provision of car parking is inadequate at Johnson and Shorten and Barrett Reserves.



The Plan includes:

- Adjusted car parking within recreation reserves and improved on-road parking to maximise efficiency and meet required demand

West Footscray Community Facilities Plan

Frequently asked questions

Why is this redevelopment proposed?

The current facilities are outdated and need replacing. Most of the facilities and infrastructure are ageing and no longer fit for purpose. In particular, RecWest has reached the end of its useful life. The outdoor courts and pitch surfaces are also in poor condition and are currently non-compliant.

The growing population and changes in the demographic of the local community means that people are wanting to use the sites for different purposes than what they were originally designed for and so Council is wanting to invest in more modern and sustainable spaces to ensure community needs are met now and into the future.

What consultation has been undertaken with the community so far?

Council has received valuable information through extensive previous consultation undertaken with the community to understand what is needed. It is hoped the latest designs reflect the input provided. This final stage of consultation is necessary to make any final adjustments that may be required.

Consultation to date has included:

- a letterbox drop to over 7,000 local residents
- 500 responses to two online community surveys through **YourCityYourVoice**
- four community drop-in sessions with 200 people attending and over 150 written submissions received
- regular meetings of the stakeholder reference group who represents community members and various user groups of the facilities and open spaces
- the RecWest feasibility study to develop the project brief
- face to face engagement with local sporting groups and current facility users

What are the opportunities to provide input?

The community are invited to review the proposed concept plans for RecWest Footscray, Shorten and Barrett Reserves, and Johnson Reserve, and provide feedback on the plans to identify what further improvements are needed.

Are these plans final?

No, the concept plans have been created based on initial feedback received from the community. We are now asking the community to provide feedback on the revised plans to enable further adjustments to be made.

West Footscray Community Facilities Plan



Frequently asked questions

How much is the redevelopment likely to cost?

The entire redevelopment of RecWest Footscray, Shorten and Barrett Reserves, and Johnson Reserve is likely to cost approximately \$25 million. Funding for this project will be sought from State and Federal Government as well as Council contribution.

What is the timeframe for this project?

This will be dependent on available funding and is likely to be a staged process over the next 5 years.

What happens to my feedback?

The feedback received during community consultation will contribute to the further refinement of the plans.

Following the community consultation, a report will be presented to Council to seek approval to go to the next stage of the design process.

If this project goes ahead, is there a proposed increase in car parking spaces?

It is proposed that additional on street parking be provided on Blandford Street, Graham Street and off Market Street as well as the northern side of Essex Street for those attending Shorten Reserve.

For RecWest and Barrett Reserve, a new car park is proposed to be constructed with access off Essex Street, and on street parking available on Graham Street.

Those visiting Johnson Reserve will be able to park on View and Suffolk Streets, with lined parking and passing bays added to encourage traffic flow.

Why are you recommending the closure of Market Street?

Closing Market Street will allow for greater connection between Shorten and Barrett Reserve, and will create an increase in open space and community connectedness. Over two thirds of the respondents during community consultation in 2019 supported the closure of Market Street.

West Footscray Community Facilities Plan



Frequently asked questions

How will the potential closure of Market Street affect the surrounding roads?

An independent consultant has reviewed the car parking and traffic management at both locations. The traffic (and parking) anticipated to be re-routed from Market Street to Blandford Street is not expected to have any negative impact on the operation of the surrounding road network. The intersection of Blandford Street and Essex Street is expected to continue to operate under satisfactory conditions.

How will the proposed car parking on Graham Street (off Market Street) affect traffic flow?

This is not expected to negatively affect traffic flow.

Why haven't extra indoor basketball courts been added to the concept designs?

A separate feasibility study undertaken in 2018 determined that RecWest Footscray was not deemed a suitable location for a multi court indoor stadium. An outdoor court has been included in the plan and will be easily accessible and free to use for multi-purpose community use. It will cater for basketball, netball and other sports uses.

What will happen to the current user groups at RecWest?

The current user groups will be catered for in the new facility.

What type of community spaces have the community indicated they want included in RecWest?

Community spaces that can be used for a range of options are needed, such as meeting rooms, social connection rooms, group fitness, events, and co-working to name a few. The designs will provide for multi-purpose rooms that can be adapted to be provide a number of different uses.

Is Shorten Reserve pavilion being redeveloped?

Shorten Reserve pavilion will be upgraded as part of the plan to ensure that it is fit for purpose and female friendly.

What types of activities or uses are possible in the proposed open space areas?

Any activity that increases the health and wellbeing of our community will be encouraged in the open space areas.