

Agenda Item 3.14

This report will be considered at the City Development Special Committee on 28 November 2017.

HANSEN RESERVE DRAFT MASTERPLAN FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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PURPOSE

To present the Draft Masterplan for Hansen Reserve following preliminary community consultation.

ISSUES SUMMARY

- Hansen Reserve is the largest open space (10 ha) in West Footscray, with multiple playing fields, sporting facilities, and informal recreation space.
- The Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy 2014 ranks improvements to Hansen Reserve as a very high priority to cater for the existing and forecast West Footscray population growth.
- Preliminary community and stakeholder consultation was conducted during June and July 2017 with feedback informing the development of the Draft Masterplan.
- A total of 231 responses were received to the online survey, and three written submissions including a proposal from the Western Riders to re-establish a velodrome at the site. A summary of all consultation is provided (Attachment 1).
- Key principles informing the Draft Masterplan (Attachment 2) are:
 - Enhance pedestrian access through and around the reserve
 - Improve the landscape character of the reserve and its presentation at street edges and entries
 - Maintain the sporting focus and facilitate a greater range of informal recreation opportunities including a children's play area and a learn to ride facility
 - Increase tree canopy and enhance the environmental sustainability of the reserve.
- The Draft Masterplan delivers on high priority recommendations of the Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy 2014 and Play Maribyrnong 2016.
- It is proposed to consult widely on the Draft Masterplan during December 2017 / January 2018 and bring a further report on the outcomes and a final masterplan.
- The Draft Masterplan for Hansen Reserve is now ready for Council consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Summary of consultation feedback
2. Hansen Reserve Draft Masterplan

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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the City Development Special Committee:

- 1. Note the feedback from preliminary consultation on Hansen Reserve**
 - 2. Endorse the Hansen Reserve Draft Masterplan for community consultation**
 - 3. Receive a further report on consultation outcomes and recommendations of a final masterplan.**
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Agenda Item 3.14**BACKGROUND**

Hansen Reserve is a 10ha municipal reserve and is the largest open space in West Footscray. It is bound by Roberts Street to the west, Wattle Street to the south, Glamis Road to the east and industrial uses to the north and north-east. The reserve contains multiple playing fields, sporting facilities, and informal recreation space.

A previous masterplan for the reserve was developed in 2000. The main features of the previous plan which have been implemented since that time are:

- Removal of the velodrome due to demand for increased informal recreation and play space in south of the reserve (2003).
- Enlarged and formalised carpark in the west of the reserve (2006).
- Improved access and circulation via enhanced path network (2014).
- Increased tree planting.

The residential population of West Footscray is growing, with a significant increase in the vicinity of Hansen Reserve. Improvements to Hansen Reserve's informal recreational facilities to cater for the existing and forecast population are recommended as a very high priority in the Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy, 2014 (MOSS).

An updated Masterplan is now required to guide future enhancements to Hansen Reserve.

DISCUSSION/KEY ISSUES**1. Key Issues**

Preliminary community and stakeholder consultation was conducted during June and July 2017 to inform the development of the Draft Masterplan.

Information flyers were delivered to 1550 households in the neighbourhood and to key stakeholders including the West Footscray Residents' Group, Corpus Christi Primary School, sporting clubs, Kingsville Kindergarten and Yarraville Swim School.

An online survey asked respondents about their use of Hansen Reserve and preferred future improvements. There were 543 visits to the website, and 231 respondents to the survey.

Three written submissions were also received. This included a proposal from the Western Riders to re-establish the velodrome at the site and other infrastructure to form a community cycling hub. A subsequent proposal has been received which recommends the cycling hub be located at Quarry Park.

A full summary of consultation outcomes is provided in Attachment 1.

A summary of responses to the survey is:

- 57 per cent visited the Reserve 2 or more times a week.
- The main reason nominated by participants for visiting was 'to exercise informally' (115) followed by 'to use the playground' (101).

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- Most participants walked to the Reserve (166), followed by cycled (76) and then drove (67).
- The improvements/elements rated the highest importance were (in order) public toilets, BBQ's, additional tree planting, picnic shelter, more walking paths.

Mostly common responses to additional questions included:

- Features of the Reserve most liked were 'Wide open space' (105 mentions), followed by 'Paths for scootering and walking' (56).
- The features most disliked were 'Lack of public toilets' (44), followed by 'Lack of trees' (33).
- Most mentioned facilities to encourage visitation were 'BBQ facilities' (54) other visitor facilities including public toilets (48), 'cycling infrastructure/ velodrome' (43), 'shade structures / tree planting' (41) and 'Improved play equipment' (35).
- Most cited additional improvements were 'Cycling facilities/ cycling hub' (27 mentions), followed by 'Improvements to sports facilities' (10).

Cycling Facilities

The submission from the Western Riders detailed the benefits of re-establishing the velodrome in the south-west section of the reserve including:

- Improved health benefits from increased physical activity
- Fostering skills in young or inexperienced riders through inclusion of a traffic school and cycling education centre
- Creation of spaces that could be used to host community and sporting events

Following thorough analysis of the issues, the constraints of the site make it unsuitable for the re-introduction of the velodrome in the south west area of the reserve.

Constraints include:

- The south west area is the only space for informal recreation space in the reserve otherwise dominated by structured sporting uses.
- The velodrome is a 'single use' piece of infrastructure.
- Its inclusion would preclude the development of a regional scale playground and associated visitor facilities, such as picnic and barbecue areas as recommended in the Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy and Play Maribyrnong.
- Safety issues associated with locating other activities within the centre of the velodrome and people accessing this space when the velodrome is in use.
- Past use of the site as a quarry and landfill making ground conditions unsuited to maintaining pavements of the quality required.

The concept of supporting children's riding skills and increasing cycling and physical activity is strongly supported. It is thought these objectives can be achieved by including a cycling skills track in the masterplan. This track would include fun and educational elements within a winding series of paths and intersections, incorporated into the overall landscape.

Vision and Key Principles

Based on the feedback received through consultation, the following vision has been developed.

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Hansen Reserve will be a key open space destination for the residents of West Footscray south of the rail line. The reserve will provide a high quality landscape in a wide open space setting, a variety of active and informal recreation, and park facilities in keeping with municipal reserve standards.

The key principles driving the Draft Masterplan are:

- Enhance pedestrian access through and around the reserve.
- Improve the landscape character of the reserve and its presentation at street edges and entries.
- Maintain the sporting focus and facilitate a greater range of informal recreation and community activity opportunities.
- Increase tree canopy and enhance the environmental sustainability of the reserve.

Draft Masterplan

The Draft Masterplan is provided in Attachment 2. The main features of the plan are:

- Improved pedestrian entries at Robert Street and Glamis Road and new entries at the Robert / Wattle Street and Wattle/ Glamis Road corners.
- New circuit path around the existing soccer fields in the north east corner of the reserve to allow for extended walking and activate the northern edges.
- Lighting of the main east-west shared path between Glamis Rd and Robert St
- Cycling facilities in the form of a bike skills track.
- Extensive new tree planting.
- Select areas of new garden bed planting to provide visual identity and increase landscape diversity.
- An expanded playspace offering junior and senior elements with a variety of active and nature play features, relocated to the centre of the reserve to maximise connectivity between uses.
- Picnic and barbecue facilities including shelters at two locations overlooking the playspace and the playing fields.
- Facilities for older children and adults including an exercise station, a full sized basketball court; ½ size netball court and some skate edges/elements.
- Future redevelopment of the sports pavilion to better address multiple playing fields, which will incorporate a public toilet.
- Off-site relocation of the EPA air monitoring station.
- Dog off-leash activity maintained on the playing fields and on-lead activity maintained in the south-west area.

2. Council Policy/Legislation**Council Plan 2017-2021/Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan**

This report contributes to Council's strategic objectives contained in the Council Plan 2017-2021, and the wellbeing priorities contained in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan by considering:

- Strategic Objective:
 - Quality places and spaces - lead the development of integrated built and natural environments that are well maintained, accessible and respectful of the community and neighbourhoods.

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- Wellbeing Priority:
 - Clean and green - Climate change, air pollution, tree planting

The draft masterplan delivers on high priority recommendations of the Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy 2014 and Play Maribyrnong 2016.

Conflicts of Interest

No officer responsible for, or contributing to, this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to this report.

Human Rights Consideration

This report complies with the rights listed in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

3. Engagement

It is proposed to consult with the community on the Draft Masterplan and its recommendations during December 2017 and January 2018. Consultation would include:

- Signs on the site and information on Council's website.
- A public information session.
- Letterbox drop to residents within the reserve catchment area (Bounded by Sunshine Road, Geelong Road and Somerville Road).
- Direct communication to those who have participated in consultation to date.
- Seeking feedback from other stakeholders including:
 - MAWFRAG (Maidstone and West Footscray Resident Action Group)
 - Cricket Club
 - Kingsville Tennis Club
 - Soccer Club
 - Football Club
 - Western Riders
 - Yarraville Swim School
 - Corpus Christi Primary School
 - Kingsville Kindergarten.

All feedback would be collated and considered in finalising the recommendations. A further report to Council will present consultation outcomes and a final masterplan.

4. Resources

Development of the Masterplan is being funded from the 2017/18 operational budget.

The recommended works will be costed and prioritised in the Final Masterplan to guide in implementation of the plan.

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The recommendations of the Draft Masterplan will improve the environmental condition of the site by increasing tree canopy cover and diversity of plant species and planting types.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Masterplan will further improve the accessibility of Hansen Reserve and create a richer and more diverse community space incorporating a regional playground and a variety of unstructured and informal recreation activities to complement the existing sporting facilities.

Whilst a formal velodrome is not proposed, a major feature of the plan is a bike skills track introducing learners to riding and encouraging children to cycle.

Consultation on the Draft Masterplan will allow Council to consider community feedback on the Draft. A final Masterplan will then be prepared and presented to Council in February 2018.