

Draft Master Plan 2023

Wantirna Reserve, Wantirna

DESIGN SUMMARY

The Knox Open Space Plan identifies Wantirna Reserve as a Municipal Open Space and Community Hub that accommodates a large number of people and attracts people from across the municipality and beyond.

The 2023 Draft Wantirna Reserve Master Plan is a tool in planning for the future of the reserve which builds on this direction and identifies appropriate site improvements to enhance and upgrade facilities and amenities within the Reserve, whilst aiming to attract new and additional visitors to this fantastic site.

A key strength of Wantirna Reserve is the site's ability to accommodate a range of active and passive recreation user groups amongst the tranquil backdrop of Koomba Park and Dandenong Creek Corridor. The proposed works aim to retain the existing landscape features while enhancing and upgrading facilities and amenities for current and future community needs.

The Draft Master Plan reflects recent works which have been implemented (such as the conversion of the cricket oval and the addition of the hockey facilities), and the current improvements to the tennis courts. It also identifies suitable future improvements and opportunities for the site. The proposed works will be staged and implemented over time as funding permits.



INFRASTRUCTURE & AMENITIES

- 1 Improved entry road and vehicle movement across the site, including a centralised bus dropoff /pickup area to service activities and sporting events at Community Pavilion.
- 2 Consolidation of the existing parking areas (surfaced in asphalt) and upgraded parking areas with raised pavement speed control devices. Additional trees in the car park area to provide shade and reduce the urban heat islands.
- 3 Potential Hockey Facility upgrades (subject to funding), including possible spectator facilities and warm up area.
- 4 Upgraded Tennis Courts (current project) including future stage of court renewal to northern bank of tennis courts. Two additional possible future courts to the west.
- 5 The existing Tennis Club rooms retained and planned for Building Renewal based on building condition / structural assessment (subject to building component condition and subject to funding approval).
- 6 Redesigned and upgraded Tennis Court carpark, including new vehicle entrance and exit points. Bus parking to be marked for flexible use by the public at peak times.
- 7 The future Dog agility park comprising two areas for both small and large dogs.
- 8 Replacement of existing sports pavilion (subject to future funding) with a new sports and community hub to provide an Accessible Toilet and Female Friendly changing facility for the hockey club. New Accessible Public toilets to be either incorporated into the new Changing facility or to be provided as a standalone facility. Provision of outdoor spectator seating in an appropriate location adjacent to the hockey pitch.
- 9 Removal of the redundant cricket nets and revegetation of this area.
- 10 The existing Scout Hall to be retained and drainage issue resolved in this area. Consider possible relocation of Scouts in the future with a possible incorporation of Scouts Hall into new facility hub.
- 11 Upgraded reserve entry signage. Increased visibility of entry signage from Mountain Highway, with potential sculptural element. Provision of wayfinding signage throughout the precinct.
- 12 New park furniture throughout the reserve including seats, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike parking rails and bike repair station.
- 13 Upgrade the existing playground to a neighbourhood level playground with bbq facilities and a picnic shelter.

LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

- 14 Targeted weed control and revegetation works using indigenous species from Ecological Vegetation Class EVC 937 - Valley Heathy Forest to enhance adjacent sites of biological significance and provide for enhanced habitat corridor connectivity. Retention of the significant Eucalyptus yarraensis (Yarra Gum) and removal of the existing redundant roundabout to improve growing conditions for this important tree, passive irrigation and additional low indigenous planting.
- 15 Maintain the current grass while considering potential non-intrusive construction for future proposed activities.
- 16 Improved landscape frontage to the reserve to provide opportunities to better present Wantirna Reserve and improve the presence from Mountain Highway. Significant trees to be protected from works.
- 17 Improvements to the swales for water quality improvements to the site runoff and to enhanced ecological values.

CIRCULATION & ACCESS

- 18 Additional pedestrian pathways to improve connectivity from Mountain Highway to Community Pavilion, Hockey and Tennis facilities, multiple car parking area through the reserve including consideration of maintenance access requirements. Solar powered security and public lighting (indicative) for car parking areas and main pathways.
- 19 Improved road and parking layouts which enhances circulation, reduces ongoing maintenance costs and resolves entrance congestion. Turnaround bay provided to assist traffic circulation. A removable bollard at each end of car park will minimise unwanted parked vehicles but still allow maintenance vehicle access via the gravel pedestrian path.
- 20 Improved path network along front of the reserve through landscape areas.
- 21 New Accessible Public toilets to be either incorporated into the new Changing facility or to be provided as a standalone facility.