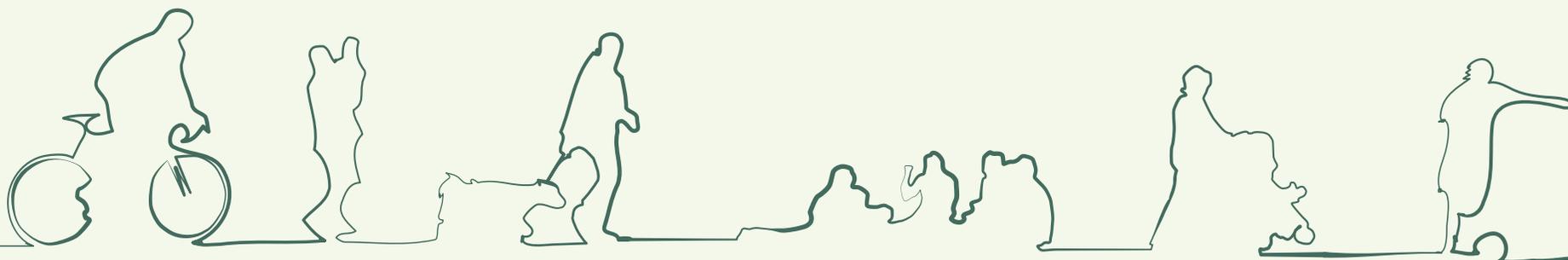




FUTURE **MAYER PARK**

the place
to live

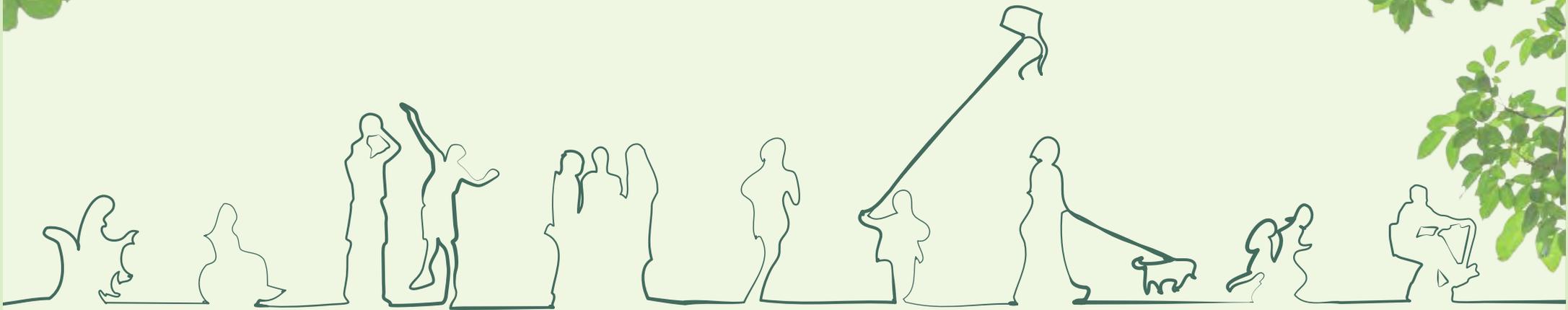


**FINAL MASTER PLAN JULY
2020**

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging. Council affirms that Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people have lived on this land for millennia, practising their ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

Council respects and recognises all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their values, living culture and practices, including their continuing spiritual connection to the land and waters and their right to self-determination.



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Community consultation stalls at the Makers Market



Project Background

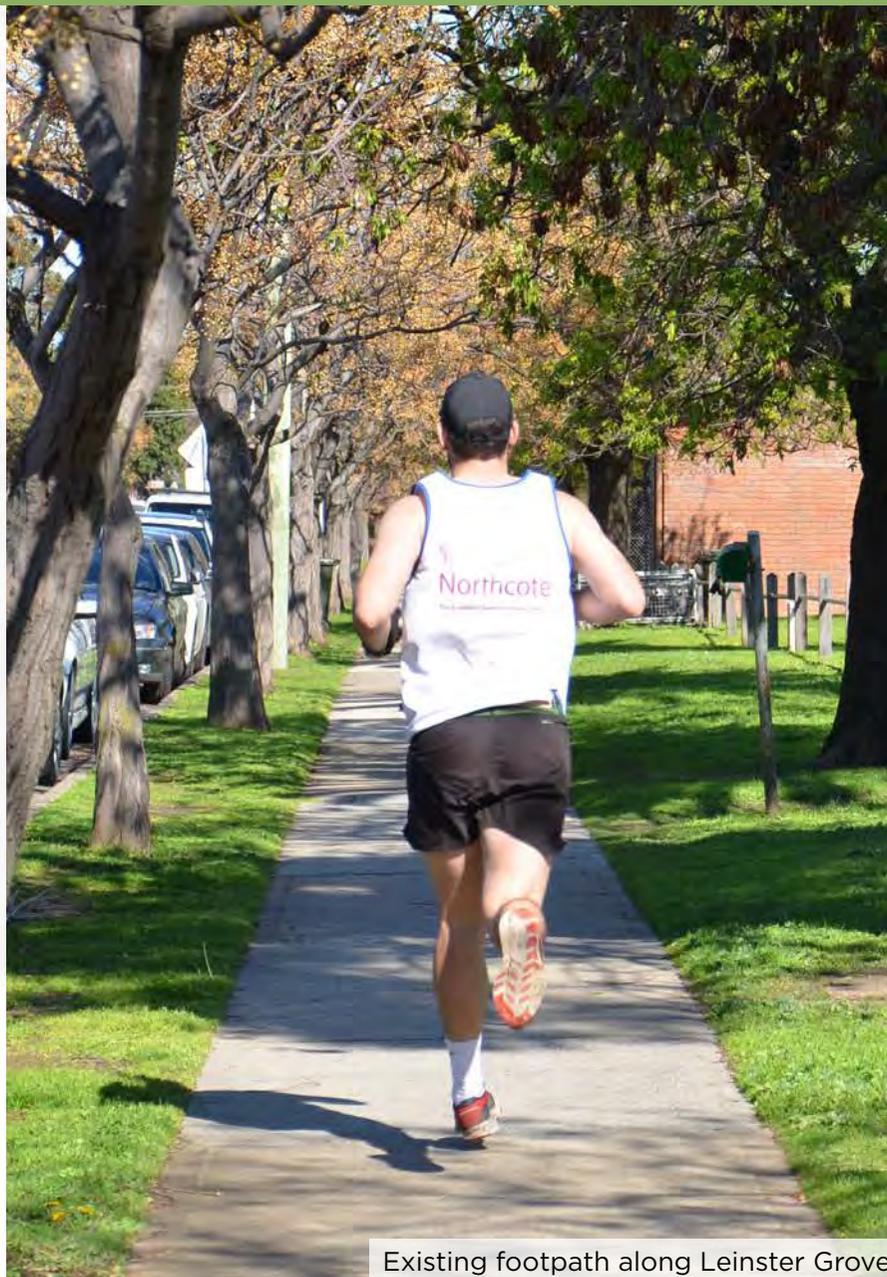
Park History

Mayer Park is located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. The park was founded in the period between 1907 and 1933 following a 1906 Council resolution to 'secure such places (parks) in the interests of the health and recreation of present and future Northcote citizens'. Other parks set aside as parkland during that period included Batman Park, Pender's Park, Johnson Park and Merri Park.

Almost 100 years later, Mayer Park still provides essential access to open space for an ever-growing and diverse community of Thornbury for informal recreation, organised sports, picnics and community events, vindicating the foresight and vision of Councillors and the local community at the turn of the twentieth century.



Mayer Park is named after Philip Henry Mayer, who was a City of Northcote Councillor from 1922 to 1928 and was elected as Mayor in 1926-27.



Existing footpath along Leinster Grove

About Mayer Park

Mayer Park is a district park located at 99 Leinster Grove (corner of Normanby Avenue and Leinster Grove), Thornbury. It is approximately 3.98 hectare in size and is primarily used for formal sports, with parkland considered its secondary function.

The park includes two soccer pitches, a turf cricket wicket and a sport pavilion to cater for organised sport. Several community groups use the existing Bridge Darebin Community Hall located at the south-east corner of the park. The park also caters for informal recreation needs of the local community such as walking, using the outdoor gym, BBQ and picnic facilities, off lead dog play and community events including outdoor movie nights.

The existing park vegetation consists of canopy trees along the perimeter of the park, predominantly Eucalypts, with some Canary Island Date Palms and mature Desert Ashes along the eastern edge.

Existing Context



- 1 Mayer Park
- 2 Northcote Golf Course
- 3 Bracken Avenue
- 4 Normanby Avenue
- 5 Leinster Grove
- 6 Merri Creek
- 7 Egan Reserve
- 8 St. Georges Road
- 9 Miller Street
- 10 Turner Reserve Playspace
- 11 Woolhouse Reserve Playspace (Croxton School)
- 12 Merri Creek Trail
- 13 Future Beavers Road Footbridge
- 14 CERES Environmental Park



The creeks formed reliable water sources for Aboriginal people, and so acted as movement corridors north and south through the land.



A Park Central To Thornbury West

Mayer Park is centrally located in the Thornbury West Precinct and is the largest publicly accessible open space in this local community.

The Northcote Golf Course is located immediately to the west and south of the park.

Turner Reserve and Bracken Avenue are located to the north of Mayer Park. An existing playspace that caters mostly for younger children is located at Turner Reserve.

Woolhouse Reserve playspace mostly caters to young and preteen kids and is located further to the south of Mayer Park on the Croxton School ground. The playspace is only accessible after school hours.

Further to the west is the Merri Creek, the natural boundary line with the City of Moreland. The Merri Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance. The Merri Creek Trail provides excellent north-south walking and cycling connectivity along the creek to other networks of open space, parks and attractions, including the neighbouring CERES.

Northcote Golf Club

Mayer Park

Normanby Avenue

Leinster Grove



The basaltic nature of the Merri Creek meant that it was full of basalt boulders, and indeed the Aboriginal name is thought to have been “Merri Merri”, meaning very rocky.



The Northcote Golf Course Gorge is a geological formation of local significance located along the open channel that runs through the golf course.



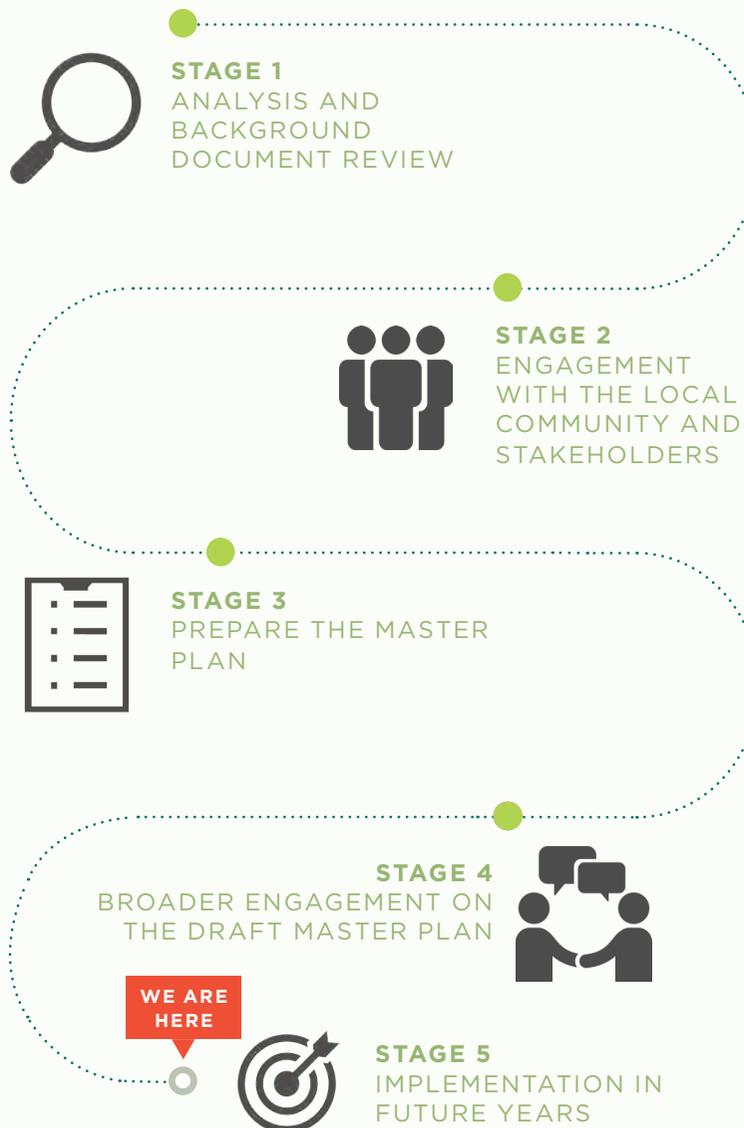
About The Master Plan

Future Mayer Park

Future Mayer Park is a master plan collaboratively prepared by Darebin Council and a community group consisting of local Thornbury residents. The master plan sets out a vision for Mayer Park, identifies elements of the park that require improvements, and provides clear actions to guide the implementation of these improvements over time and in future years.



The Master Planning Process



How Did We Get Here?

- FEBRUARY 2018**
Council endorses a different approach to community engagement and invites expressions of interest from local members of the community to be part of a committee that will guide the creation of a master plan for Mayer Park.
- MARCH 2018**
Council conducted an initial community drop-in session at Mayer Park to promote the expression of interest period.
- APRIL 2018**
Council endorsed eight community members to work collaboratively to advise and shape the master plan.
- JUNE 2018 - FEBRUARY 2020**
Between June and February 2020, the community project control group (PCG) conducted 19 meetings to devise and carry out consultation, develop the master plan and set the priorities for implementation.
- MAY - JUNE 2020**
Broader engagement on the draft master plan.

Policy Context

The Future Mayer Park masterplan is based on the following Council strategies and policies

Breathing Space – Darebin Open Space Strategy (2019-2029)*

- Darebin’s Open Space Strategy ‘Breathing Space’, will guide the function and level of investment for the park.
- Mayer Park is designated as ‘District Park, Type A’, i.e., draws visitors from surrounding suburbs as well as people who live within walking distance.
- Some of the “should-have” requirements for a District Type A park include public toilet, lighting, informal path network, playspace, canopy trees and garden beds.
- Along with the Northcote Golf Course, it is Darebin’s largest tract of open space.
- Plant palette will use plant species of local provenance and enhance local biodiversity.
- Return to nature – emphasis on native vegetation.
- Multifaceted – open spaces to have multi-use function.
- Creating a resilient environment responding to climate change.
- Creating a park which balances the needs of different users in open space.
- Minimise the fencing of public open spaces.
- Use planting and other well placed barriers as boundaries to playspaces. Sections of fencing for playspaces may be considered along busy roads.
- Make sporting grounds available for public use when games or training sessions are not in session.

Natural Heritage Strategy (2015-2025)

- Continue to use indigenous species of local provenance in all landscaping along waterways or habitat corridors.
- Create habitat for bees through the inclusion of flowering plants.
- Educate residents about local flora and fauna to promote Darebin natural heritage.

- Continue to maintain and improve the quality and extent of indigenous vegetation by allocating more resources for replanting programs and weed control.

Darebin’s Urban Forest Strategy (2013)

- Increase tree coverage on public land to at least 25% over 15 years in the City of Darebin.
- Increase indigenous and native tree diversity, enhancing local habitat for native animals and birds.
- Broaden tree species selection to develop a diverse urban forest, focusing on species from warmer and drier environments. Consider trialing new species.
- Plant the largest tree suitable for each location to achieve the canopy cover targets.
- Develop and maintain a healthy, resilient, diverse and safe Urban Forest which will provide multiple, long-term benefits to the community and the environment.

Darebin Walking, Safe Travel and Transport Strategies

- Normanby Avenue is a Primary Pedestrian Route (PPR) on the Principle Pedestrian Network (PPN) and requires a level of service to match – e.g. footpaths on both sides of the road, safe crossing points no more than 400m apart across any road and planting of the largest possible tree every 10m along all PPN routes.
- Leinster Grove is a designated cycling corridor that is part of the Great Western Shimmy.
- Develop high quality key pedestrian and cycle links across Darebin.
- Develop pedestrian-friendly design and maintenance standards.
- Install secure bicycle parking and facilities where it is lacking in key public destinations.

Access and Inclusion Plan (2015-2019)*

- Reduce barriers to people with a disability accessing places, goods and services.
- Creating open spaces which are inclusive, accessible and equitable, responding to the needs, rights and priorities in our communities.

Playspace Strategy (2010-2020)

Closest existing playspaces are at Turner Reserve which caters to younger children, and Woolhouse Reserve on the Croxton Special School, which generally caters to preteens and is accessible to the public only after school hours.

Four key principles for future directions for Council's playspaces:

- Darebin's playspaces will provide an environment where children, youth, older people and people of all abilities and backgrounds are welcome.
- Council will endeavour to provide for play within 500 metres of every home.
- Council will create sustainable and safe playspaces that are evolving, dynamic and challenging.
- Darebin's playspaces will be developed with and for the community reflecting the diversity of local neighbourhood communities.

Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy (2011-2021)*

- Reduce barriers to people with a disability accessing places, goods and services.
- Creating open spaces which are inclusive, accessible and equitable, responding to the needs, rights and priorities in our communities.

Towards An Age Friendly Darebin (2019)*

- Create an age friendly outdoors environment
- Safe and accessible 'walking and wheeling' paths and routes are designed for the park.
- Seats with backs are provided.
- Seats are plentiful and grouped to encourage conversation and exchange.

Darebin Leisure Strategy (2010-2020)

- Providing diverse leisure opportunities for a diverse community. Due to the aging population and a decrease in leisure participation, ensure access and activities for older generations.
- Celebrate different communities through a variety of recreation, sport, festivals and events.
- Focus on popular casual activities such as walking, gym/ weight training and cycling.

Darebin Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework (February 2020)

- This framework aims to guide future capital contributions for redevelopment of sporting facilities in Darebin that are of a suitable standard to meet the demands of a growing population that includes increasing numbers of female and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) participants.
- High level findings include: existing pavilions do not meet current guidelines; fields of play are at or approaching capacity; female friendly change rooms must be provided at more pavilions and current provision is poor.
- The OSIF provides a list of prioritised works to upgrade or improve outdoor sports facilities. At Mayer Park, the pavilion is not deemed a high priority due to a recent upgrade undertaken in 2012. The cricket nets are flagged for reconstruction as a medium priority.

*These strategies and plans bring to life Council's commitments to social justice identified in *Towards Equality - Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-2029*.

Community Consultation

What We Have Done So Far...

-  **70** people at initial community drop-in session
-  **1500+** people at Makers' Market consultation session
-  **1500+** dots placed on consultation boards
-  **2200+** virtual dots in online survey
-  **130** people submitted online feedback
-  **50+** social media interactions
-  **35** comment cards filled out
-  **18** emails direct to Council
-  **28+** key stakeholders consulted with directly

Common values shared

- The openness of the park
- Shared space for all
- Formal sports and informal recreation
- The existing trees
- Community events

Common ideas raised

- Park amenity needs to be upgraded
- Lacks a playspace for kids of all ages and activities for teens
- More natural shade and vegetation
- Access and safety



Summary of Consultation

From October to December 2018, a community engagement process was conducted to gather feedback and comments from the wider community. This included:

- having a stall at a Makers' Market event held at Mayer Park that was promoted online and with promotional posters placed on site;
- an interactive online survey;
- comment postcards distributed to approximately 4,000 households
- electronic mail-outs to stakeholders;
- face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders;
- Facebook posts on the Friends of Mayer Park page;
- engagement activities and consultation milestones that were promoted on Council's social media streams, for example, a dedicated YourSay page on Darebin Council's website

Responses and comments were collated by the PCG and communicated back to the community both online and at the following Makers' Market held at Mayer Park on 1 December 2018.

A Snapshot Of Feedback And Comments

"...retain exercise station..."

"Undercover BBQ area utilized by the public and the sporting groups"

"... trail around the exterior but with better lighting."

"The park is great as it is."

"Shaded play areas."

More Trees at Mayer Park - it looks bare and more shade

"Space for young and old."

"Love the movie nights!"

"Pavilion and community hall need a serious upgrade."

"More nature play and native revegetation would be good."

"...Mayer Park is one of very few parks that are uncrowded and open. So, people can fly kites (like I did as a kid and with my kids)..."

"...I like that a broad cross section of the community has the opportunity to use the space in a variety of ways..."

"...activities for young adults..."

"Better seating and barbeque facilities..."

"...Indigenous, hardy planting and screening along Normanby Ave"

Most important is to retain and promote parkland as havens for humans as well as biodiversity

"Please keep the open space - it's rare and it's special."

"...one of the best features is the visual openness, wide horizon and the unimpeded green connectedness to the golf course. (not to mention the galahs who nest in the golf course but feed on the sports ground)"

"My children play soccer it has been amazing to have this available for them to walk to training - such a valuable sport space..."

"..It really needs a running track. Not necessarily with lanes but even a gravel track around the perimeter of the park would be great. Perhaps it could have distance markers so distance run can be measured."

The design should focus on spaces that have activities that build health, wellbeing and social connection. It is critical to have activities for young adults and teenagers and not just toddlers and small children



Community Vision Statement

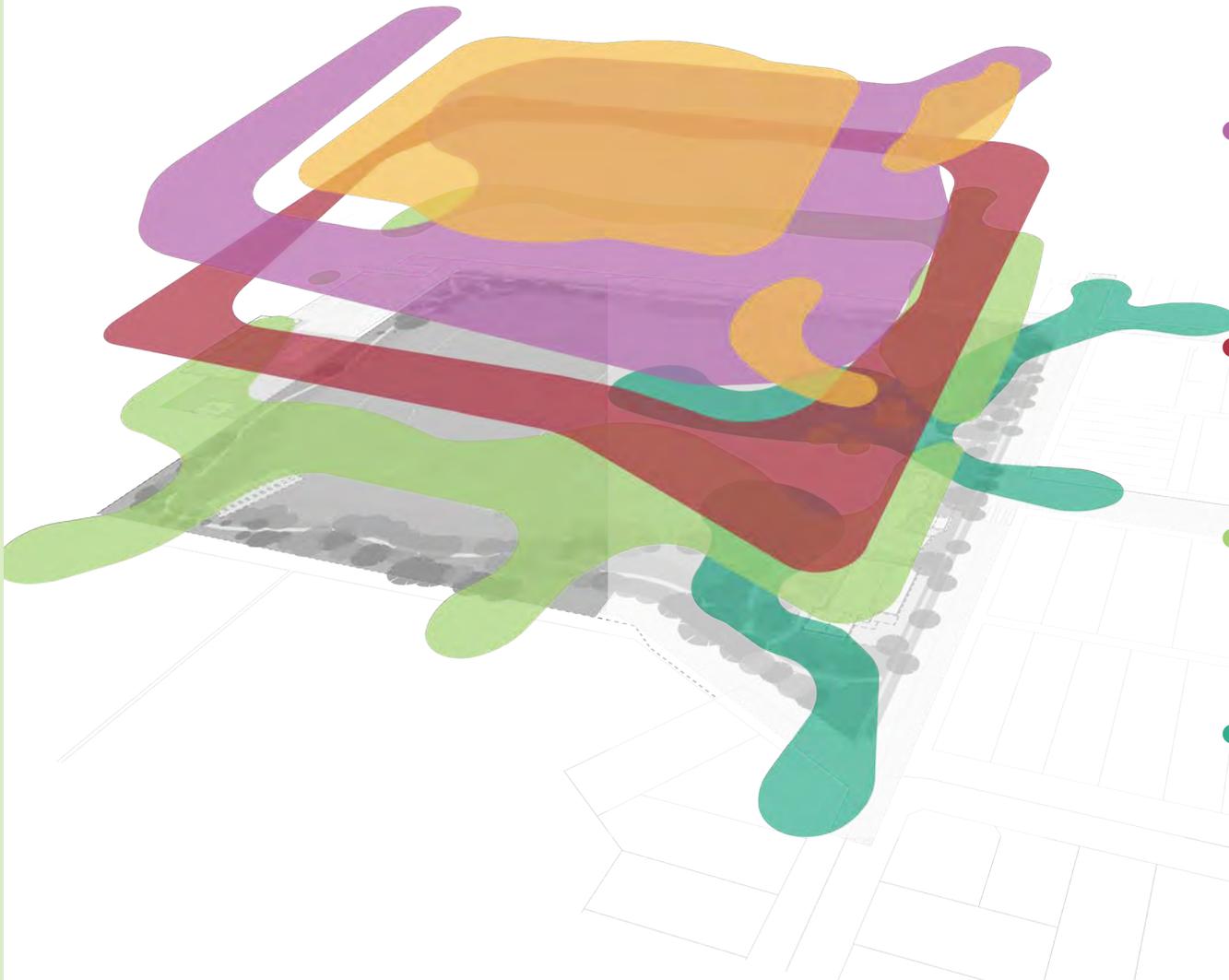


Mayer Park is a welcoming and inclusive space offering a range of experiences that enables the community to come together to be happy and healthy.





Design Principles



- **A Shared Park**

A park that hosts many activities, enabling the community to share a range of experiences while also building on the value of the existing uses

- **Better Park Amenity**

A park with great amenities and facilities for all to enjoy while retaining what makes it great - its open green space

- **An Open and Welcoming Park**

A park that is open, welcoming and draws the community in while being inclusive of all users

- **Nature and Environment**

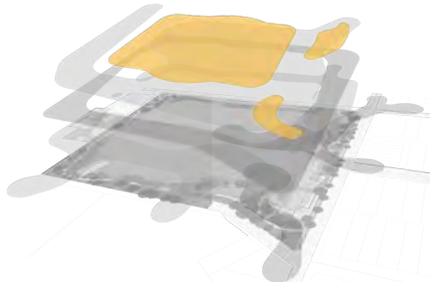
A park where the community comes to have a break from urban life and to connect with nature

- **Better Links**

A park that plays a key role in improving links between people, flora and fauna and other open spaces in the Thornbury neighbourhood, wider Darebin area and beyond

Design Principle 1: A Shared Park

A park that hosts many activities, enabling the community to share a range of experiences while also building on the value of the existing uses



Retaining Green Open Space

The community strongly expressed the need to retain open space at Mayer Park. Ensuring that Mayer Park remains a space that can be used for informal activities such as walking, jogging, and dog walking, formal sports as well as functioning as a large community space that can be programmed by the community for events and gatherings.

The open nature of the park provides the local community a much needed respite and escape from the dense urban environment.

Formal Sports

Mayer Park's primary character as a sporting field was supported by recent upgrades to the playing field, the addition of a second formal soccer pitch, the installation of a turf cricket pitch and the installation of six new sports light towers to replace the existing two light towers.

Play And Active Spaces

By building on the existing popular outdoor gym, the active recreation space is to be extended to include a new basketball half-circle for casual games.

The proposed new playspace will cater for all age groups through its selection of play equipment, and incorporate elements of nature play and references to existing natural and cultural heritage values.

INFORMAL RECREATION



Running



Jogging



Cycling



Cycling

FORMAL SPORTS



Soccer



Women participation in sports

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Outdoor performances



Community markets



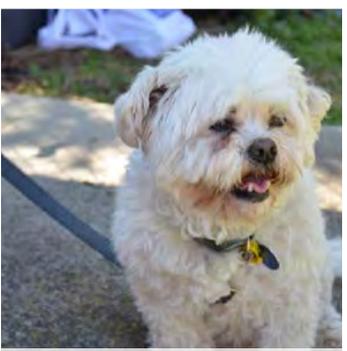
Quiet space for reading



Walking



Unprogrammed spaces for relaxation



Dog walking



Children participation in sports



Cricket



Cricket



Pavilion



Community markets



Community gatherings

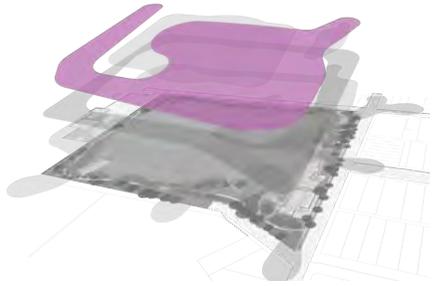


Community makers markets



Design Principle 2: Better Park Amenity

A park with great amenities and facilities for all to enjoy while retaining what makes it great – its open green space



Park Amenity Improvements

The existing park furniture is dated and is up for renewal. This includes bench seats, wheelchair accessible picnic tables and the BBQ area.

Some of the proposed park amenity improvements include:

The proposed BBQ and picnic shelter located adjacent to the new playspace will create a central community space that is intergenerational, where people of all ages meet and socialise.

Improved landscaping and seating arrangement around the existing outdoor gym will make this popular amenity more inviting, shaded and accessible.

The proposed informal walking track along the western and southern perimeter of the park will provide a defined walking loop suitable for children and prams.

The existing cricket nets will be relocated to reduce the layers of fencing and open up the space adjacent to Bridge Darebin community hall for community activation.

The opening hours of the existing public toilets will be extended, including maintenance and cleaning to cater for increased use of the park.

EXISTING AMENITY



Existing drinking fountain



Existing bins



Existing bench seat



Existing public toilets



Existing picnic table



Existing BBQ area at the south-east park entry to be relocated



Existing outdoor gym



EXAMPLES OF PROPOSED NEW AMENITY

PLAY & FITNESS



Accessible play equipment for all ages



Active recreation for all ages



Natural play elements



Informal compacted gravel walking track

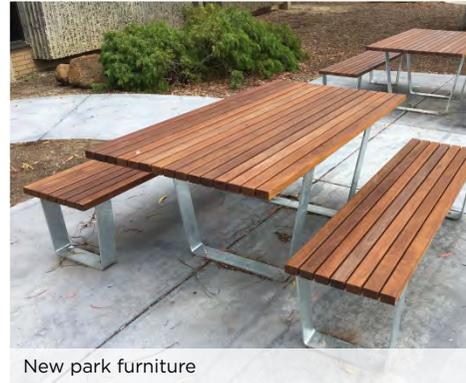
COMMUNITY



Shelter with accessible tables and seats



BBQ and drinking fountain



New park furniture



New pedestrian/cyclist shared path

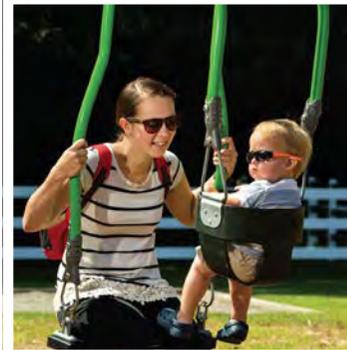
INTERGENERATIONAL



Spaces for kids and adults



Adult play



Family interaction

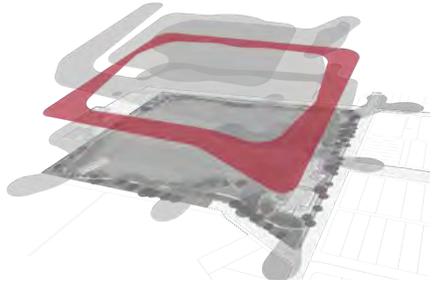


Social interaction



Design Principle 3: An Open and Welcoming Park

A park that is safe, open, welcoming and draws the community in while being inclusive of all users



An Open And Welcoming Park

All of the park features, including buildings, fences and vegetation are located along the perimeter of the park, with the central area remaining open to accommodate the sports fields.

To retain the open and welcoming feel of the park, remove the barbwire fencing around Bridge Darebin Community Hall. Investigate removal of the fencing to the west of the hall to improve visual connection, access and building outlook with the park.



Existing park interface with Normanby Avenue

Existing Park Boundary Conditions

Currently, the site has high perimeter fencing at the south and west sides of the park, as well as high ball stop fencing behind one of the soccer pitches.

There is an existing low post and rail fence along the road to the north and east of the park, as well as other existing buffers to the roads such as existing footpaths, trees, car parking bays, sloped embankments and the sports pavilion and community hall buildings.



Drawing key

- Existing high fence
- - - Existing post and rail fence
- Existing buildings
- - - Existing vegetation/ trees
- - - Existing embankment



Existing post and rail fence along north and east



Existing buildings along Leinster Grove

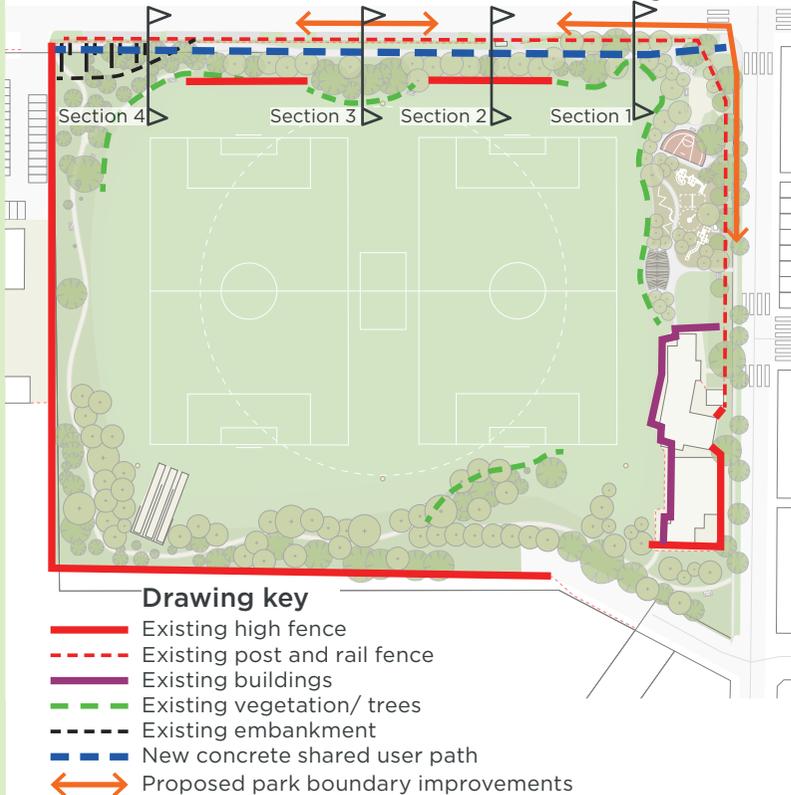


Existing high ball stop fence

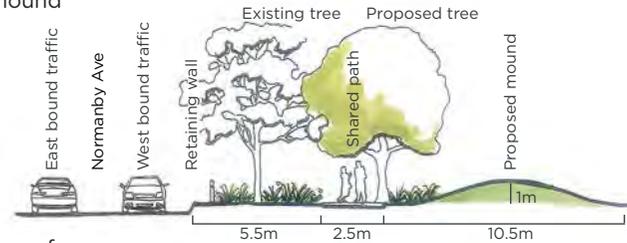
Proposed Park Boundary Improvements

The existing post and rail fence along Normanby Avenue and Leinster Grove will be upgraded to a low post and mesh fence with additional trees and dense shrubs along the fence. The fence design is to align with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to retain views and passive surveillance into the park and provide easy to locate exit points in case of emergency.

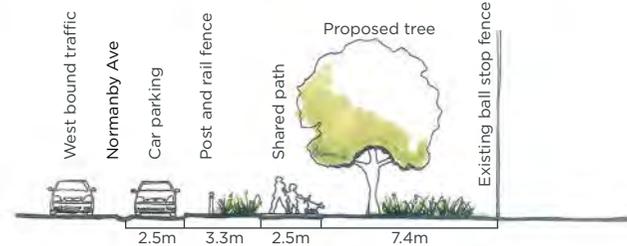
A new ball stop fence for the second soccer pitch, as well as the realigned path to the north of the site which will act as further buffer to Normanby Ave. The new playspace and shelter will also create additional buffer to Leinster grove.



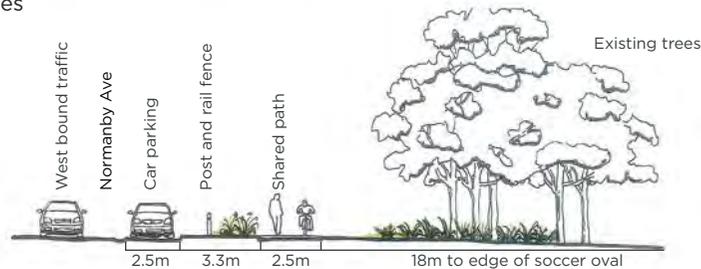
Section 1 - Proposed mound



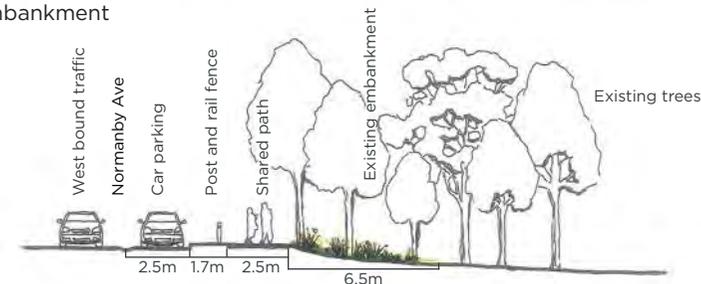
Section 2 - Existing soccer fence



Section 3 - Existing trees



Section 4 - Existing embankment



EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE PARK BOUNDARY TREATMENTS



Example of buffer between playspace and road



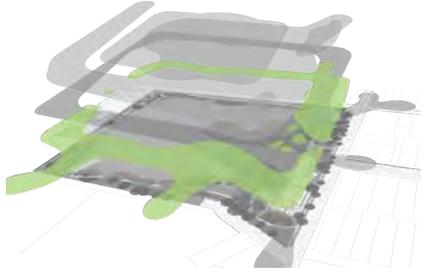
Example of planting and mesh infill to fence



Example of dense planting to existing fence

Design Principle 4: Nature and Environment

A park where the community comes to have a break from urban life and to connect with nature



Existing Park Trees

The existing park vegetation consists of predominantly canopy trees - a mix of mostly native trees - mainly Eucalypts. Some exotic trees - Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) are located along the eastern boundary of the park.

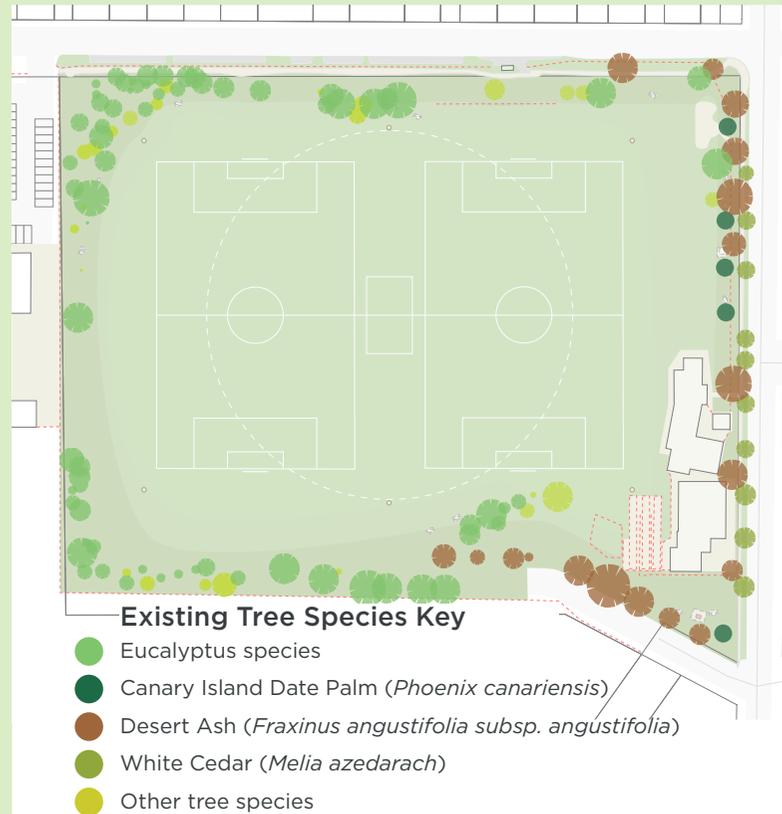
Mature Desert Ash trees (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) are also located along the eastern and southern boundary. Classified as environmental weeds, these trees will require succession planting to be eventually replaced with native species as they decline in health over time.

The introduction of several new native and indigenous species of trees over time will increase canopy cover significantly, providing:

- additional shade for the whole park, especially along new footpaths and walking tracks
- enhanced habitat and biodiversity values
- more robust connection with the Plains Grassy Woodlands character of the park
- opportunities for nature play

Understorey Planting

Understorey planting in line with the Plains Grassy Woodlands character (EVC 55) will be introduced in the woodlands areas along the south-west through to the north-west corner of the park, increasing habitat and biodiversity values and links. Planting palette to include a mix of native and indigenous species. Plant selection is to consider retention of sightlines and passive surveillance.



Yellow Box
(*Eucalyptus melliodora*)



Canary Island Date Palm
(*Phoenix canariensis*)



Desert Ash
(*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

Tree Canopy Coverage

Trees provide shade, habitat and generally contribute to the reduction of urban heat effect. The proposed aim of doubling the existing canopy cover at the park will contribute towards Darebin's target of overall 25% municipality wide cover.

Proposed Planting Palette

Based on Plains Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC 55)



Matted flax lily
(*Dianella amoena*)



Kangaroo grass
(*Themeda triandra*)



Bristly Wallaby-grass
(*Rytidosperma setacea*)



Creeping bossiaea
(*Bossiaea prostrata*)



Golden wattle
(*Acacia pycnantha*)



Hedge wattle
(*Acacia paradoxa*)

Other proposed draught tolerant feature species for additional contrast and colour



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
(*Sedum Herbstfreude*)



Blue chalk sticks
(*Senecio mandraliscae*)



Topaz aloe
(*Aloe 'topaz'*)



Rosemary grevillea
(*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*)

Habitat And Biodiversity Links

Mayer Park is to become a key connecting space that enhances and links existing habitat and biodiversity corridors north towards Bracken Avenue and south along the Preston Main Drain that meets with the Merri Creek.

Local streets can be planted with native trees to enhance habitat links to Merri Creek.

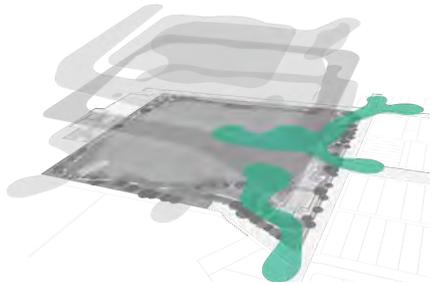
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- 8 St. Georges Road
- 9 Miller Street
- Existing habitat corridors
- Enhance habitat corridors
- Enhance biodiversity in local streets
- Potential new habitat corridors



The existing Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) located at Mayer Park were established in the early 1930s, at the inception of the park, at the same time as other parks with similar character such as Batman Park and Merri Park.

Design Principle 5: Better Links

A park that plays a key role in improving links between people, flora and fauna and other open spaces in the Thornbury neighbourhood, the wider Darebin area and beyond



Improved Paths

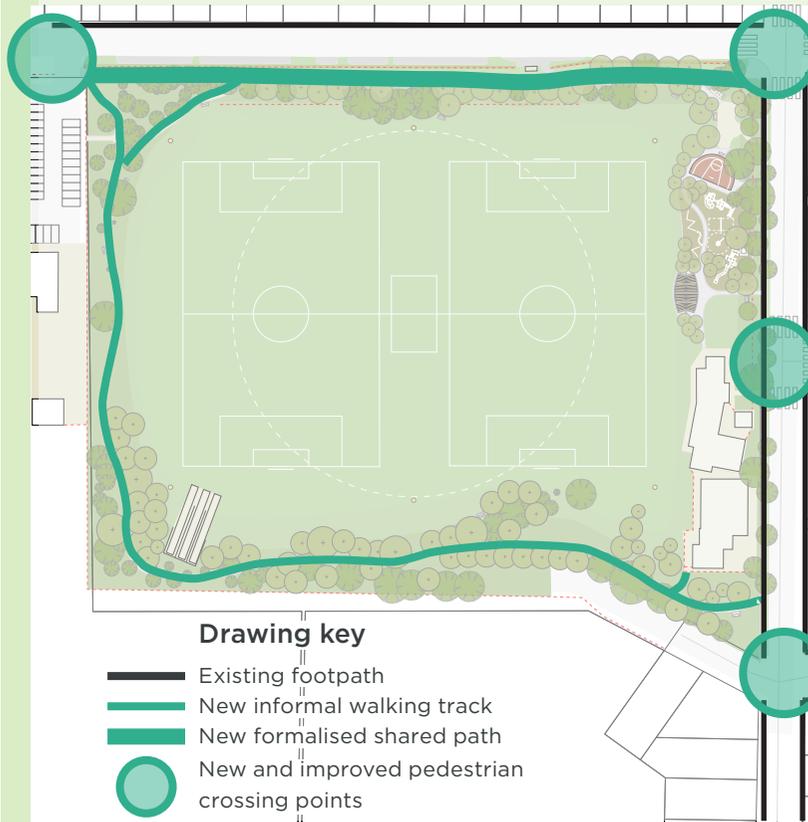
Normanby Avenue is a Primary Pedestrian Route (PPR) on the Principle Pedestrian Network (Darebin Walking Strategy). The formalisation of the shared path along the northern boundary of the park completes a missing link in the shared user path connection to the Merri Creek Trail, at the same time providing an accessible footpath for walking and jogging, in line with the level of service required for the PPR.

Combined with the proposed informal walking track within the park, Mayer Park users will be able to complete a 700m walking circuit around the park.

New And Improved Pedestrian Crossing points

A new pedestrian crossing on Normanby Avenue, to the north-west of Mayer Park will improve connectivity and access to the park, subject to VicRoads approval.

Improvements to crossing points into the park along Leinster Grove will be investigated as part of Council's Streets For People project. Potential improvements could include a review of the intersection of Normanby Avenue and Leinster Grove and installation of new 'wombat crossings' at the intersection of Leinster Grove with Shaftesbury Parade and Woolton Avenue.



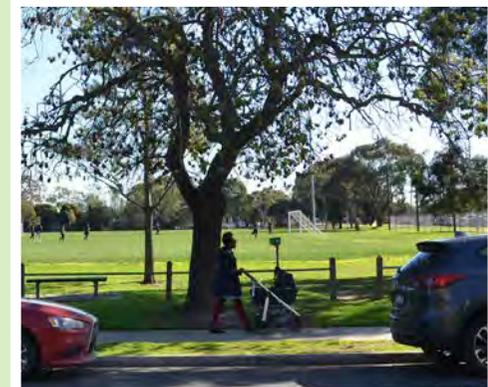
Example of improved crossing points



Improve paths for walking and jogging



Active transport to access the park such as bike and scooter riding



Linking Mayer Park

Mayer Park can be accessed through several modes including active transport modes such as cycling, running and walking; public transport (510 bus route) and by car.

The Great Western Shimmy Bike Route connects Reservoir and Northcote via Preston and runs past the park on Leinster Grove. The route traverses quiet back streets and is designated by signs and bike symbols showing which way to go. Local bike routes connect to Thornbury East, across St Georges Road.

To promote active transport to the park, improvements are required not only to destination facilities such as bike parking, but also to the shared user path network. Formalising the shared user path along the northern perimeter of Mayer Park will provide a missing link in the network.

Off street walking links provide safe walking routes separated from vehicles. The potential off street walking routes north of the park through the existing Preston Main Drain easement and south along the eastern boundary of the golf course towards the new Merri Creek footbridge and the Merri Creek Trail are to be investigated, subject to further consultation with Melbourne Water, Northcote Golf Course and adjacent property owners.

- 1 Mayer Park
- 2 Northcote Golf Course
- 3 Bracken Avenue
- 4 Normanby Avenue
- 5 Leinster Grove
- 6 Merri Creek
- 7 Egan Reserve
- 8 St. Georges Road
- 9 Miller Street
- 10 Turner Reserve
- 11 Woolhouse Playspace

-  Existing arterial road
-  Existing shared user path
-  New shared user path
-  Great Western Shimmy bike route
-  Informal local streets bike route
-  Potential new off street walking access
-  Future Pedestrian footbridge
-  Darebin Open space
-  Moreland open space



The Preston Main Drain is a major underground pipe that carries stormwater from the north of the municipality. The drain is underground along Bracken Avenue through to Mayer Park and the outlet located south of the park, flowing in an open channel to the Merri Creek.

The Master Plan At A Glance

Implementation of the master plan actions will require further targeted consultation, detailed investigations and detailed design as required



1. New playspace for all age groups. ●●●●●
 2. Concrete shared path along northern boundary. Investigate shared path lighting. ●●●●●
 3. New intergenerational space including new BBQ, shelter, picnic tables and seating. ●●●●●
 4. Informal walking track to west and south with distance markers. Upgrade timber steps at north-west entry. ●●●●●
 5. New cricket nets with improved amenities. Remove existing nets after new nets are in place. Upgrade existing park furniture. Landscaping around existing gym, with additional cycling facilities including bike hoops and bike repair station. ●●●●●
 6. ' = 4? - 12 = 2?6 2A2? 32; 02 Ak = <@A - ; 1 : 2@5 f2; 06 g with low height planting, and in line with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. New high netted ball stop fence to service western soccer pitch. ●●●●●
 - Advocate to VicRoads for decreased speed limit on Normanby Avenue. ●●●●●
 - Improve access along Leinster Grove as part of Council's Streets For People Croxton West project. ●●●●●
 - Remove barbwire fencing around community hall. Investigate and implement improvements to security prior to fencing being removed. ●●●●●
 - Extend opening hours of public toilets. ●●●●●
 - Investigate shared use of Northcote Golf Course car park at non peak golf times and/or game days at Mayer Park. ●●●●●
- A Shared Space ● Nature and Environment ● Better Links
● Better Park Amenity ● An Open and Welcoming Park

- 15. Improve access between car park and park by replacing existing fence with post and rail. ○ ○ ● ○ ○
- 16. Plant native trees to improve biodiversity and shade and aim for 25% canopy cover. Replace ageing and declining Desert Ash trees over time. ○ ● ● ● ○ ○
- 17. Plant shrubs and understorey based on Plains Grassy Woodlands EVC to enhance biodiversity and habitat values. ○ ○ ● ● ○ ○
- 18. Improvements to south east park entry including access, landscaping and signage. Retain open area for community events. ○ ● ○ ○ ● ●
- 19. Advocate for new pedestrian crossing on Normanby Ave. ○ ○ ● ● ○ ○
- 20. Consult with Northcote Golf Course on the establishment of a walking trail between Mayer Park and new Merri Creek footbridge. ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ●
- 21. Investigate feasibility of new multi-purpose building to replace existing sports pavilion when it is due for replacement. New building to include a sports pavilion, community facilities, golf course facilities and public toilets. Design building to blend into the landscape with new trees planted to soften the built form. ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○
- 22. Return sports pavilion footprint to green space if multi-purpose building is built. The community hall is to remain as a community space. ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○
- 23. Redesign existing golf course car park and include electric charging station. ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ●
- 24. Investigate access through Preston Main Drain north of the park to provide off street walking and cycling link to Bracken Avenue. ● ● ○ ○ ● ●
- 25. Advocate to Melbourne Water for regular cleaning of the gross pollutant trap at drain outlet south of Mayer park. ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○
- 26. Weed control and rehabilitation works along the Preston Main Drain corridor to improve flora and fauna values and habitat links. ○ ● ○ ○ ● ●



Staging of Improvements

The proposed staging of the implementation is indicative only to show the possible distribution of the proposed improvements over multiple years. This is subject to change and will be dependent on yearly Council funding.

Improvements Completed in 2019-2020

through other Council initiatives

- Playing surface upgrade
- New turf cricket wicket
- High netted ball stop fence upgrade
- New sports lighting

Short Term (1-5 years)

- a. New playspace for all age groups
- b. New footpaths
- c. Upgrade park furniture
- d. New cycling infrastructure
- e. Improve park entries
- f. Landscape buffer improvements
- g. Extend opening hours of public toilets
- h. Investigate security improvements to community hall
- i. Tree planting
- j. Understorey planting
- k. Improve access along Leinster Grove as part of Council's Streets For People project



Medium Term (6-10 years)

- a. New BBQ and shelter
- b. New high netted ball stop fence
- c. Relocate cricket nets
- d. Tree planting
- e. Understorey planting
- f. Consult with Northcote Golf Course on the establishment of a walking trail between Mayer park and new Merri Creek footbridge



Staging of Improvements

The proposed staging of the implementation is indicative only to show the possible distribution of the proposed improvements over multiple years. This is subject to change and will be dependent on yearly Council funding.

Long Term (10+ years)

- a. Investigate access through Preston Main Drain north of the park to provide off street walking and cycling link to Bracken Avenue
- b. Rehabilitation works along the Preston Main Drain corridor
- c. Plant trees
- d. Plant understorey

Future Years & Advocacy

- e. Investigate feasibility of new multi-purpose building between park and golf course to replace existing sports pavilion when it is due for replacement
- f. Return sports pavilion footprint to green space if multi-purpose building is built
- g. Redesign existing golf course car park and include electric charging station
- h. Advocate with VicRoads for decreased speed limit on Normanby Avenue and additional pedestrian crossing point at the north-west end of the park
- i. Advocate with Melbourne Water for regular cleaning of the gross pollutant trap at drain outlet south of Mayer park





This Master Plan is a unique culmination of Community and Council working collaboratively to rethink and reimagine the planning of improvements in your local parks.

Thank you

to all members of the Darebin community that have contributed to this unique project.

For any enquiries, please contact Darebin City Council on 03 8470 8888.

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