

Glenlyon Recreation Reserve Masterplan Revisit and Refresh Engagement Report Summary – February 2023

Introduction

Council is developing a 10-year Masterplan for the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve to inform the future planning, provision and enhancement of the reserve.

The Glenlyon Recreation Reserve includes the Glenlyon Racecourse and Glenlyon Mineral Spring and covers an area of approximately 50 acres. The Reserve has a Heritage Overlay of Local Significance. The Glenlyon Recreation Reserve includes a pavilion, sports oval with synthetic cricket wicket, cricket training net, playground, barbeque and picnic facilities, public toilet amenities, walking and riding tracks and trails, equestrian cross-country course, equestrian arena, wood chopping area, camping grounds and shooting range with supporting infrastructure. The Victorian Government *Victorian Mineral Springs Strategic Masterplan* provides the direction on the ongoing management, sustainability, opportunities and priorities for the Glenlyon Mineral Spring.

In 2019 Council engaged a consultant to develop the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve Masterplan and a working draft Masterplan was developed after undertaking the initial community engagement phase of the project.

In early 2020 the Masterplan project was paused to undertake an investigation of land contamination at the reserve. The matter was resolved in mid-2022 enabling the Masterplan development to recommence.

Across October to December 2022 community engagement was undertaken to gather insights and feedback on the themes of the working draft Masterplan to determine if community or stakeholder priorities had changed since 2019.

Engagement Methodology

Engagement activities in this phase of community engagement included:

- 34** **Participants at 12 key stakeholder meetings (clubs and organisations)**
- 9** **Participants at 2 drop-in sessions (general community members)**
- 2** **Phone calls**

4

Email submissions

18

Community survey respondents

11

Council staff at one workshop and one key stakeholder meeting

1

Written submission

13

Surveys from young people in Glenlyon and surrounding areas (reviewed from Youth Census)

Engagement Findings

The key findings as identified during the most recent round of community engagement are categorised into previously identified themes.

Access	<p>Internal roadways – it was noted that recent flooding has caused some deterioration to internal roadways so some repair work needs to be undertaken (not asphalt). It was also noted that the roadway may need to be widened to accommodate emergency vehicles and horse floats but being mindful that a widened road does not impact tree roots.</p> <p>Entrance – some people noted that the entrance to the reserve is hard to navigate with horse floats and that a widened entrance would be beneficial.</p> <p>Parking – generally parking is adequate on site, although during periods of flooding parking can be impacted. Some people would like to see the parking area formalised through the installation of gravel and suitable markers. Disabled parking and potentially parking for parents with prams close to the pavilion and playground could be considered.</p> <p>Paths – people noted the need for additional paths at the site, although some people felt that paths were not necessary. There is a need to provide continuity around tracks and paths so everywhere is accessible. Key locations where people felt paths are needed or are required to be upgrade are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral Spring to pavilion area • Inside of the racetrack to the pavilion area • Dressage area to public toilet • Both sides of the pedestrian bridge • Car park to racetrack • Entrances to the reserve • Reserve to the town centre (<i>this is outside the scope of the Masterplan; however, this may be addressed through other Council planning activity</i>).
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	<p>Bridge – people have suggested that Council replaces the timber decking (which is deteriorating) on the bridge behind the pavilion with the same non-slip composite material used by the Landcare Group on the footbridge established across the river, downstream of the Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>Drainage – drainage is considered to be one of the most important issues at the reserve. Flooding of the site is frequent, and when it does occur, buildings become inundated. There are two schools of thought – some who believe that the reserve is built on a flood plain and that the natural flow of the water should not be altered as it will then impact other areas, and others who believe that it is imperative, in order to prevent damage to infrastructure, to undertake flood mitigation works. People are keen to see the appointment of a water engineer to assess best options and for the drains to be cleaned out more regularly.</p> <p>Emergencies – people believe that it is vital to enable helicopters to land on the oval to evacuate sick or injured people by air ambulance. As there are powerlines over part of the racetrack, some form of beacons to alert pilots to the position of the powerlines is important. Similarly, the ability for people to leave the site via the Sutton Lane entrance would be very useful if there was an incident at the site that required a hasty evacuation of reserve users.</p>
Signage	<p>Directional signage – some additional directional signage is supported within the site, providing that it looks professional and is minimal.</p> <p>Regulatory signage – people would like a review of regulatory signage to ensure that appropriate signage is put up (and taken down) as appropriate. People want the signage to have very clear messaging about what is and what is not permitted at the site.</p> <p>Interpretive signage – there is strong support from the community to have interpretive signage around the reserve to inform people about the history of Glenlyon, Traditional Owners, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Community art – Support for community art is limited, but it was acknowledged that a sculpture will be constructed at the nearby dam.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Pavilion – there is very strong support to upgrade the pavilion by enlarging the meeting space and the office, installing a new kitchen, improving the servery area, upgrading toilets and creating storage space. A key challenge with the upgrade is working with the Heritage Overlay (which may inhibit extensions), as well as ensuring that the upgraded pavilion is not subjected to flooding in the future (as it currently is). Given that scenario, some people suggested turning the existing pavilion into a sheltered BBQ area and developing a new pavilion on a raised earth platform above the historical flood levels.</p> <p>Public toilets – there is very strong support to maintain and upgrade the existing toilet block so that it incorporates accessible unisex cubicles, baby change facilities, additional pans and potentially one or two showers.</p> <p>Mineral Spring – a small number of people stated that the Mineral Spring area needs to be upgraded or renewed.</p>

	<p>BBQ / picnic area – people are keen for new BBQs on site that are constructed closer to the play equipment and which feature a shelter. There is a desire to install new picnic tables that are accessible for people with mobility devices such as wheelchairs.</p> <p>Camp site – some people are supportive of camping on site and others are not. Powered sites have been suggested as a way for the reserve to increase its revenue. Similarly, some people would like to see an RV dump point on site and others do not.</p> <p>Water tanks – additional water tanks have been suggested for both irrigation purposes but also for firefighting.</p> <p>Lighting – people believe that if the pavilion is going to be used more in the evenings, then security lighting (on a timer) should be installed, along with solar lighting along the roadway to the car parking area.</p>
Recreation	<p>Equine – equine groups are very keen to see the horse yard upgrade undertaken as a matter of priority (using the grant that has been made available for this purpose) as well as the purchase of an accessible mounting platform. Club members would like to see a fully enclosed round yard for horse riders (particularly young riders) approximately 15m-20m in diameter. At an aspirational level, people would like to see an all-weather arena developed.</p> <p>Sports oval – the sports oval is currently being used by the equestrian clubs for dressage events and was previously used by the cricket club. Some people believe that a cricket club may potentially come back to the site, or a cricket club from a neighbouring town may want to establish their second ground at the site, hence cricket infrastructure (pitch and nets) should be retained. Others would like to see the oval turned into a fenced off-leash dog area.</p> <p>Field and Game Association – some people support the Field and Game Association to remain at the site, whilst others do not. There is some concern that recyclable ammunition will not be used nor collected once spent. Council has passed a resolution which commits to transition Daylesford Field and Game Association off the Reserve to an alternative site but approves renewal of the Association's licence at the Reserve for a 3-year period, on specific conditions.</p> <p>Play space – people spoke favourably about the play space but would like to see it upgraded to include more nature-based play and to cater for slightly older children. Items mentioned to potentially incorporate into the new design include flying foxes. People would ideally prefer a fence around the play space.</p> <p>Half basketball / netball court – there is some support for a half basketball / netball court (in an area that does not flood) and some people who don't believe this is required. No young people completed the survey or took part in engagement activities. The youth census did not specifically ask questions about the need for such a space; however, young people did mention the need for more locally based free activities to do and gathering spaces.</p>

	<p>Outdoor fitness equipment – there is mixed support for outdoor fitness equipment at the site. Some people are very supportive, while others question how well it is utilised elsewhere.</p> <p>Other activities – people have suggested a range of other sport and active recreation activities at the site, each of which requires its own infrastructure, e.g. tennis, BMX / pump track and bocce.</p>
Vegetation	<p>Revegetation – some people suggested that they would like to see additional plantings including understorey plantings in the centre of the racetrack. There is also a strong desire to remove weeds such as gorse. It is acknowledged that the Glenlyon Upper Loddon Landcare Group plays an important role in weed eradication and tree planting. It is assumed that any revegetation will be undertaken in accordance with Council’s Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Tree planting – people very much value the large oak trees at the reserve, but at the same time want to see future plantings of indigenous trees. Rather than cutting down some of the trees at the end of their life, some residents would like to see fences placed around these trees so that they can remain a habitat for birds and wildlife. A tree planting succession plan is considered to be very important.</p> <p>Wetlands – there is mixed support for a wetland area. Some people are very much in favour of it and believe that it could form part of a walk around the site incorporating an accessible boardwalk. Others don’t see the value.</p>
Fencing	<p>Equine fencing – people feel that all equine fencing should be improved, particularly around the car park area near the horse yards.</p> <p>Woodchopping area – although it was suggested that the fence around the woodchopping area could be removed, with temporary fencing installed on the day of the New Year’s Sports Day event, there is general support to retain the fence as the space is currently being used by equine activities such as learn to ride programs for children, as well as the annual woodchopping event that occurs as part of the New Year’s Sports Day event. Suggestions have also been received to enable the space to be used for other activities such as dog obedience classes.</p> <p>Wildlife fencing – the community values the wildlife that shares the recreation reserve and want to ensure that fencing does not cause injury to the native wildlife.</p>
Other	<p>Ambience – there is a strong desire from the community to retain the rural character of the reserve and not to change things too much (minor upgrades as opposed to major changes).</p> <p>Purpose – there is a balancing act that needs to occur between maintaining the recreation reserve in a natural state versus maintaining it as a recreation reserve suitable for sport and active recreation.</p>

	Traditional Owners – there is strong support to provide recognition of the past, current and future role of Traditional Owners at the site.
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Next Steps

The information collected from the various engagement activities undertaken between October to December 2022 will be used to inform the final draft Masterplan.

The final recommendation regarding what ultimately occurs in relation to issues such as those described above, will be informed by, including but not limited to:

- demonstrated need (strong community need is evidenced through engagement and previous strategic planning);
- alignment with Council and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action strategies and policies;
- legislation (e.g. the Reserve's Heritage Overlay);
- risk assessments (e.g. potential for flooding and subsequent damage to investments);
- existing Council resolutions (e.g. Council has passed a resolution which commits to transition Daylesford Field and Game Association off the Reserve within the Club's 3 year Licence to an alternative site); and
- resource availability (ability for community groups and Hepburn Shire to fund the initiative and the project's alignment with various grant programs).