

What we heard: Donald McLean Reserve

Landscape surrounds for the new practice cricket nets

February 2020

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



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1. Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the findings from the consultation undertaken in February 2020 specifically for the landscaping, pathways and furniture surrounding the new cricket practice nets.

2. Project overview

The advent of the West Gate Tunnel Project and off ramps have provided Council with an opportunity to revise the 2013 Donald McLean Master Plan.

Following consultation with Spotswood community members, tenant clubs and sporting groups in late 2019 the Donald McLean Reserve Improvement Plan and W. H. & M Couch Pavilion Concept Plan were developed. The works are designed to meet growth in participation, improve visitation and access and meet minimum facility guidelines for Netball Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Cricket Australia and Australian Football League (AFL).

The improvement works will be undertaken over three years with funding support from the Victorian Government. For more information on each project components and frequently asked questions, please click here.

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Image 1 : Donald McLean Reserve: Concept Improvement Plan

2. Engagement overview

Engagement Dates	12 February - 13 March 2020
Engagement activities and statistics	Letterbox drop 7 November 2019 2000 residents Online via Participate Hobsons Bay 12 February – 12 March 2020 617 views of the page 10 contributions to the online engagement Community Information Session 19 February, 6 - 7.30 pm, Roy Picone Pavilion, Donald McLean Reserve Approximately 60 people in attendance

3. What we heard

3.1 Engagement proposition

As part of this round of engagement the community were asked:

- **Pathways:** Take a moment to look at the concept plan below. Are the suggested pathways in the right place for easy access, safety and best use of the Reserve? What are your suggestions?
- **Landscaping:** What are your ideas for the landscape around pavilions, pathways and cricket nets? What should be considered - i.e. planting of trees, shrubs and hedges; ease of access to facilities; safety; easy care; reuse of rocks and bricks from the site etc.?
- **Park furniture:** Take a look at the concept plan below. When thinking about how the reserve is used by locals, visitors and clubs what sort of park furniture would you like to see around the pavilions, pathways and cricket nets? Where should they be located? Examples include water fountains, bike hoops, park benches, signage etc.

3.2 A summary of engagement outcomes

70 community members provided comments over the one month consultation period – ten online via Participate Hobsons Bay and 60 in person at the Community Information Session on 19 February 2020.

The majority of comments received were in relation to the pathways depicted on the Concept Plan provided (Refer to Image One). Most people are keen to preserve and enhance the ability to walk, cycle or run around the ovals with their family and/or dogs. Additional comments included requests for pathway lighting, relocation of paths to reflect direct access routes to pavilions and a request to avoid putting a path between the cricket nets and hardcourts which is frequently used for kick to kick.

Comments received in relation to landscaping included requests for clear lines of sight to ensure the safety of children, lighting, additional trees (particularly along the north and western boundaries of the Reserve) and winding paths to create interest. Respondents are divided as to whether or not shrubs should be placed in front of the cricket net.

Comments received in relation to park furniture include a request to upgrade the drinking fountain including a bottle refill tap, a digital score board, retention of the existing small playground to the east of Piccone Pavilion and several requests for seating around the ovals for spectators.

3.3 Other topics of conversation at the drop in session

The Community Information session held on 19 February 2020 attracted approximately 60 community members, most of whom were local residents. Topics raised by local residents at the consultation have been answered in the statements below:

3.3.1 How is local resident feedback influencing the project?

- **Open space and playground development** - Consistent feedback has been received at all consultations in relation to the importance of the Reserve in providing formal and informal recreation space for clubs and local residents. Consistent themes include the preservation and improvement of trees; additional landscaping; improved pathways and connections into and through the reserve; and improved playground and BBQ facilities. These ideas will serve as an excellent starting point for consultation in May.
- **The Improvement Plan** - Community input received from the consultation in late 2019 has informed the development of the Reserve Improvement Plan as well as planning and development of the various facilities within the Reserve.
- **Pavilions** - The Spotswood Football and Cricket Clubs and the Westgate Golf Club have been engaged in the design development of the new pavilion to ensure this new facility addresses tenant needs. The pavilion design is currently in concept phase progressing into detailed design.
- **Car parking** - Redevelopment and construction of both the Creek Street and The Avenue car parking arrangements have seen some local resident involvement. The car parking works will include accessible car parks, drainage, connecting pathways into the Reserve, protection and replacement of missing street trees. Further community engagement will be undertaken following the establishment of the car park concept plans.

3.3.2 When will Council remove the soil located between the two ovals on the north side?

The soil located between the two ovals on the northern boundary has been capped and Council currently does not have any plans to remove this soil.

3.3.3 Will the multi-purpose courts and new cricket nets be publically accessible?

Both the multi-purpose courts (netball and tennis) and new cricket nets will be publically accessible. In time the multi-purpose courts will be bookable via an on-line portal and further information will be promoted when this is live. The cricket practice nets will be used by the Spotswood Cricket Club as a part of their regular use agreement, however the synthetic practice wickets will be accessible outside of the permitted club use times.

4 How will the feedback be used from this consultation?

Community input has directly influenced the design specifications for the landscaping, pathway creation in and around the cricket nets currently out for tender. The specification includes:

- subtle landscaping located on the southern side of the cricket nets such as screening shrubs
- fixing of drainage issues near the Roy Piccone Pavilion
- installation of a drinking fountain with a bottle refill and dog bowl
- relocation of the proposed pathway closer to the cricket nets to retain the open space between the small playground and the new cricket nets
- preservation of open space and junior playground equipment
- planting of more trees;
- additional seating.

Other information received as part of this consultation that is pertinent to the open space of the rest of the Reserve will be included in the next phase of engagement to commence in May 2020.