

City of
Whittlesea

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

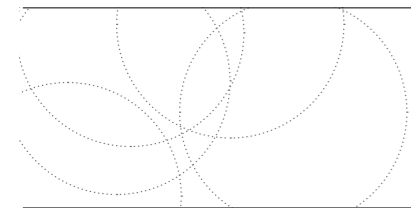
MASTER PLAN

APRIL 2019

The *Redleap Recreation Reserve Master Plan* has been prepared by the City of Whittlesea

VERSION	REVISION	DATE
Draft	V1	April 2019

The adoption of the *Redleap Recreation Reserve Master Plan* by Council does not constitute a decision to proceed with any identified opportunities. It provides a long-term concept to guide decision making and will be subject to future decisions and funding considerations by Council.



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INTRODUCTION

Redleap Recreation Reserve is located at 3-37 Redleap Avenue in Mill Park. The reserve requires a master plan to guide long and short-term improvements.

The reserve has been identified by the City of Whittlesea's Open Space Strategy (2016) as a Municipal Level Open Space and is the most highly visited reserve in the area. The Strategy also identifies a need to "focus on increasing the quality and provision of unstructured recreation and informal facilities to cater for increased use".

This Master Plan will examine the existing uses of Redleap Recreation Reserve as well as the existing site conditions. The Master Plan will address the following:

- Access points and fencing;
- Existing play provision;
- Existing sporting activity;
- Spatial allocation of the reserve for community events;
- Tree and garden bed size and location;
- Passive and active surveillance;
- Public facilities

HISTORY

Redleap Recreation Reserve site is primarily significant for the association with Mill Park as a major early farm in the Plenty Valley. The stables were constructed to provide stabling for the Miller family, early owners of most of the surrounding land.

The Miller brothers were keen racehorse breeders and trainers and devoted much of their property, Mill Park, to that pursuit. At Bacchus Marsh, the Millers had bred a horse to be trained with remarkable jumping ability named Redleap, and he was brought to Mill Park to be trained. The Redleap Stables, named after their champion, were erected in 1890.

In 1939 the Millar family sold Mill Park to Senator Alexander McLachlan. Following his death in 1956, the property was passed to his nephews, who subsequently sold it in 1972 to the T&G Mutual Life Assurance Society LTD which subdivided and developed the Mill Park housing estate. Today the only remaining evidence of Mill Park's halcyon days are the Redleap Stables and dam nearby, now named Peter Hopper Lake which also contains the remnant windmill. Whilst the lake remains tranquil and essentially unchanged, the stables have been absorbed into the new Mill Park Shopping Centre.



Peter Hopper Lake with wind mill



The Stables constructed in 1890

SITE CONDITIONS

Redleap Recreation Reserve is an 8.3hectare (ha) active reserve located within Mill Park, behind the Stables Shopping Centre. The Reserve is accessed directly from Redleap Avenue and linked to Childs Road via The Stables Shopping Centre car park. Pedestrian access is also provided via Moorhead Drive. The reserve neighbours several schools including Mill Park Secondary College and St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School.

The site currently contains the following facilities:

- A. AFL/Cricket oval (with associated infrastructure incl. lights, scoreboard, cricket pitch)
- B. Sports Pavilion
- C. Cricket Practise Nets
- D. Toilets
- E. Two Playgrounds
- F. Basketball Stadium
- G. Picnic facilities
- H. Car parks
- I. Lake (Peter Hopper Lake)
- J. Walking tracks

The Reserve is densely vegetated particularly around the lake. The site also contains several significant River Red Gums which contribute to the nature feel of the reserve. The Peter Hopper Lake attracts a significant amount of visitors with community members coming to feed the resident duck population and to utilise the walking track around the lake.

Unlike other reserves in the municipality, Redleap Recreation Reserve duplicates facilities with two separate playgrounds, picnic facilities and car parks.

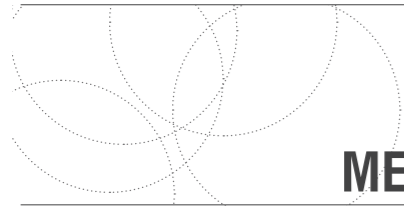


REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE CONTEXT PLAN

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Open space (recreation)
- Open space (park)
- Education
- Community facility
- Retail





METHODOLOGY

The following steps were undertaken to deliver the Master Plan design:

PHASE 1: SCOPING & ANALYSIS

- Background analysis
- Document / Strategy review

PHASE 2: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- Meeting with key Council internal stakeholders
- Meeting with key external stakeholders
- Onsite interviews
- Surveys
- Children's drawing activities

PHASE 3: MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Using the key recommendation from the Community Consultation, plan the objectives and goals of the Master Plan.
- Develop the draft Master Plan

PHASE 4: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- Exhibit the draft Master Plan with key recommendations to the Community for comment

PHASE 5: REFINE MASTER PLAN

- Refine the Master Plan with feedback from the Community

PHASE 6: COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT



REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
SITE CONTEXT PLAN



MOORHEAD DR

Mill Park Secondary
College (Middle
Years Campus)

North Playground

Picnic/BBQ

North Car Park

BLACKMAN AVE

Open Grass Area

Saint Francis of
Assisi Primary
School

Cricket Nets

Lake

BUCKMASTER DR

Mill Park Basketball
Stadium

Sports Pavilion

AFL/Cricket Oval

REDLEAP AVE

Toilet

South Playground

Stables Shopping Centre

South Car Park

Picnic/BBQ

REDLEAP AVE

BUCKMASTER DR

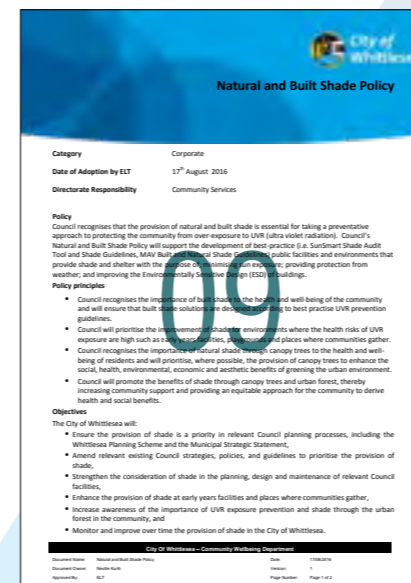
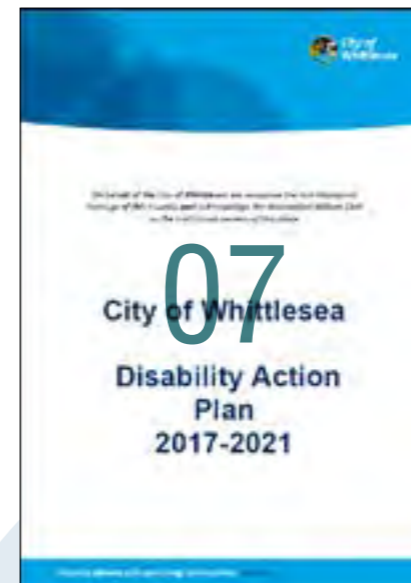


COUNCIL STRATEGIES

A number of existing documents, policies and strategies have influenced the Redleap Recreation Reserve Master Plan. These have been reviewed and summarised (see Appendix 1). The documents reviewed are:

City of Whittlesea

01. Council's 2040 Strategy and findings report (2018)
02. Council Plan: Direction – Places and spaces to connect people
03. Active Whittlesea Strategy (2019-2028)
04. Council's Open Space Strategy (2016)
05. Council's Playspace Framework Policy (2013)
06. Whittlesea 2030 Strategy
07. Disability Action Plan
08. Park Lighting Strategy
09. Shade Policy





REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
ANALYSIS

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
SITE FEATURES PLAN

LEGEND

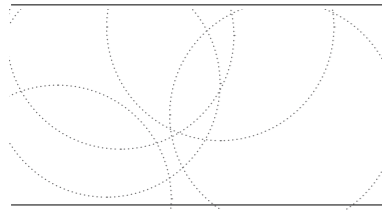
- Site boundary
- Vehicle entry
- Pedestrian entry
- Oval
- Lake
- Boardwalks/bridges
- Cricket pitch
- Playground
- Sign
- Seat
- BBQ
- Coaches box
- Scoreboard
- Picnic table
- Drinking fountain
- Bus stop
- Genetic sand path
- Asphalt/bitumen path
- Brick paving
- Local road network
- Buildings/Shelters
- Bollards/vehicle exclusion
- Ball catching fence/chain mesh fence
- Post and beam fence
- Trees
- Car parking (designated)
- Contours

KEY AREAS

- A** AFL/Cricket Oval
- B** Peter Hopper Lake
- C** Mill Park Basketball Stadium
- D** Pavilion
- E** North Playground
- F** North Shelter
- G** North Car Park (21 spaces)
- H** South Playground
- I** South Shelter
- J** South Car Park (22 spaces)
- K** Main Car Park (145 spaces)
- L** Cricket Nets



SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3



RECREATION

Sports Oval

Redleap Recreation Reserve is part of an existing network of active open space within the Mill Park area. The reserve contains an oval which caters for both football and cricket. The oval is surfaced with turf and contains a synthetic cricket wicket, coach's boxes, sports ground flood lighting and scoreboard. The oval is irrigated utilising treated water from Peter Hopper Lake which is also located on the site.

Football / Cricket Pavilion

The sports pavilion to the west of the oval supports the onsite formal sporting activities. The Pavilion contains kitchen and change room facilities with a large undercover paved spectator space. The Pavilion is not addressed through this Master Plan, but future expansion of the building will be allowed for.

The Mill Park Football Club currently have 240 members although only the junior teams and 'Auskick' operate from the site with the Senior teams operating from Kelynack Reserve, located 1.5km away. Although there are no plans to relocate the Junior and Senior teams to the same site, the reserve will need to accommodate for future growth in women's football.

The Mill Park Cricket Club has 140 junior and senior members all of which operate from the site. The club trains most nights of the week during the cricket season. They have exclusive use of the site recreation facilities (oval and associated amenities) during the cricket season.

Cricket Practice Nets

Cricket practice nets are located to the north west of the oval, and are easily accessible from the car park and users of the Pavilion. An asphalt path separates the cricket nets from the oval. For safety, a gate cordons off the path during use which causes a conflict for other reserve users accessing the area. The cricket club have noted that no additional bays are required but the

rearrangement of the space to accommodate all users would be ideal.

Basketball Stadium

Mill Park Basketball Stadium is also located on the site and features four indoor courts including a main show court which can seat more than 600 spectators. Although the Stadium is outside of the scope of the landscape Master Plan, the large paved forecourt area which surrounds the front of the stadium will be considered. This area is widely used by school groups as a waiting area. The stadium is also close to parking facilities and within easy access of the Stables Shopping Centre.



Figure 1: Sports Oval



Figure 2: Forecourt of Football/ Cricket Pavilion



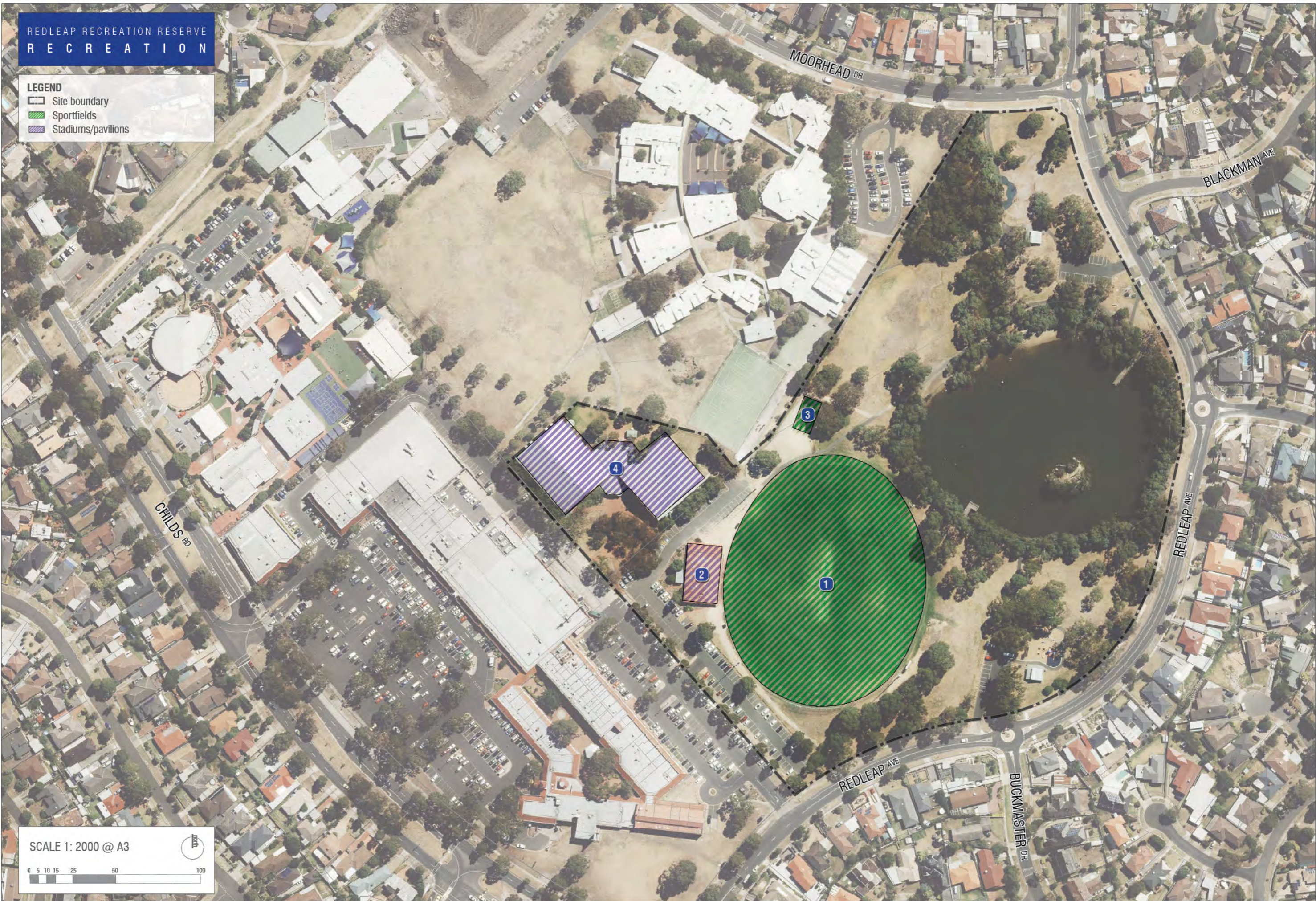
Figure 3: Cricket Practise Nets



Figure 4: Mill Park Basketball Stadium

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
RECREATION

- LEGEND**
- Site boundary
 - Sportfields
 - Stadiums/pavilions



SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AMENITY

Northern Play Space

Redleap Recreation Reserve contains two separate play areas. The northern play area is between the neighbouring secondary school and the bus stop on Redleap Avenue and caters to older children to teenagers. It contains two large rope pyramids and a rope tunnel. This play space is supported by a sheltered picnic area and small car park (21 spaces).

Northern Picnic Area

The northern picnic area contains three tables, two single plated barbeques, drink fountain with dog bowl and a rubbish bin. These facilities are covered by a large custom shelter with timber posts and corrugated iron roof. This area is well used but would benefit from an upgrade.



Figure 5: Northern Playground



Figure 6: Northern Picnic Area

Southern Playspace and Picnic Area

The southern playspace/ picnic area caters to a younger age group and is in close proximity to public toilet facilities, car parking (22 spaces) and the Stables Shopping Centre. Although the equipment is aged, the amount of facilities in this space means that it still receives high usage in comparison to the northern play / picnic area. This is a popular space for children's birthday parties and small scale events.

Toilet Facilities

The toilet facilities are an Exeloo product located west of the south playground. This facility is open to the public every day and closed at night. It has been noted though the community consultation that toilets are an extremely important asset but the reserve could benefit from an upgrade to the facility.



Figure 7: Southern Playground



Figure 8: Public Toilet Facility

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AMENITY

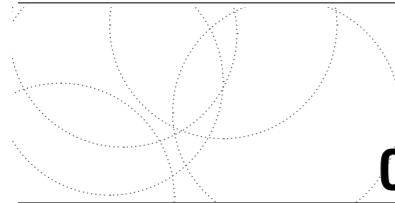
LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Toilets/shelters
- Playgrounds



SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3

0 5 10 15 25 50 100



CAR PARKING

The Stables Shopping Centre Car Park

Redleap Recreation Reserve borders the Stables Shopping Centre where there is the benefit of additional parking facilities. The Shopping Centre contains over 800 car parks with an additional 145 car parks allocated to Redleap Recreation Reserve and maintained by Council. This car park can be accessed from two locations along Childs Road and one access point on Redleap Avenue. This provides ample parking for all site users to the Reserve, Basketball Stadium and Shopping Centre. It was noted through the Community Consultation that additional disabled parking should be provided close to the reserve.

Internal Car Parking Facilities

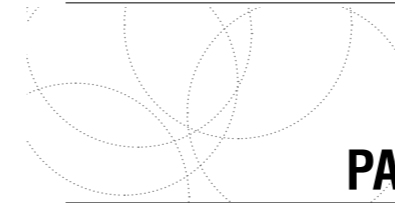
Two additional car parking areas have been provided within the reserve, both accessed from Redleap Avenue. 21 car spaces have been provided in the northern car park with 22 car spaces provided in the southern car park. Although it is uncommon to have two separate internal car parks within a council reserve, there is no motive to consolidate the parking. Each car park services a different area, is convenient for users, making the reserve more accessible.



Figure 9: The Stables Shopping Centre Car Park



Figure 10: Internal Car Park Facilities



PATH NETWORK

Materials

The path network through the reserve is one of the most well used facilities. The network is made up of granitic gravel and asphalt paths. In sections, particularly where there is an adjacent steep grade, the granitic gravel surfaces require improvement or replacement due to erosion.

Networks

The asphalt path around the lake provides a walking and running loop. Although this is highly utilised, the path is insufficient in width and the material has worn and become damaged over time.

In areas there are conflicts between paths and other facilities, particularly around the sports oval and cricket practice nets, whereby this path is required to be closed off during training.

The path which runs along the western periphery of the reserve, adjacent to the neighbouring school is highly utilised by students during week day morning and afternoons. There is little surveillance onto this section of the reserve and the location does not encourage users to spend time within the reserve.

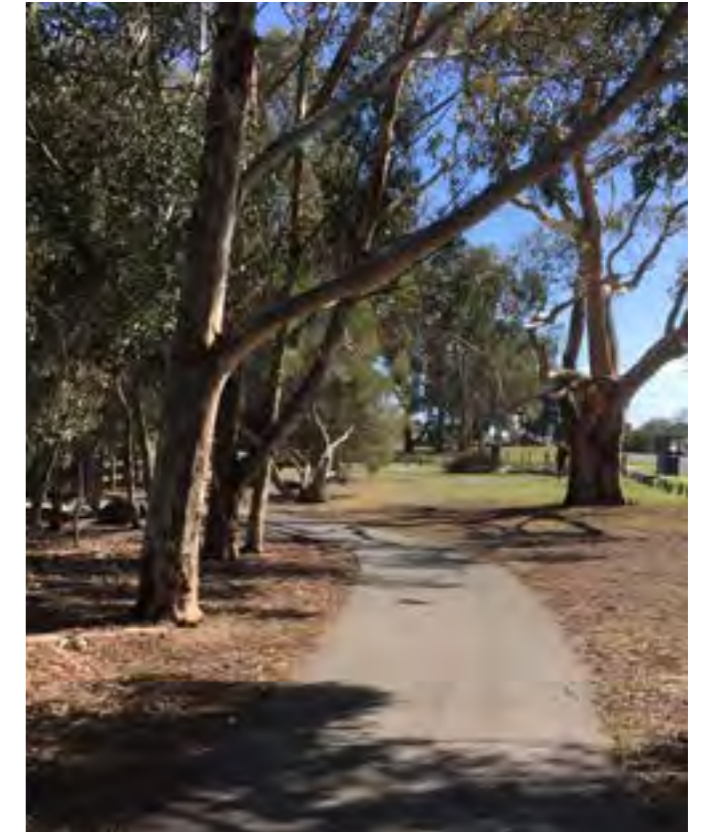


Figure 11: Asphalt Path Network

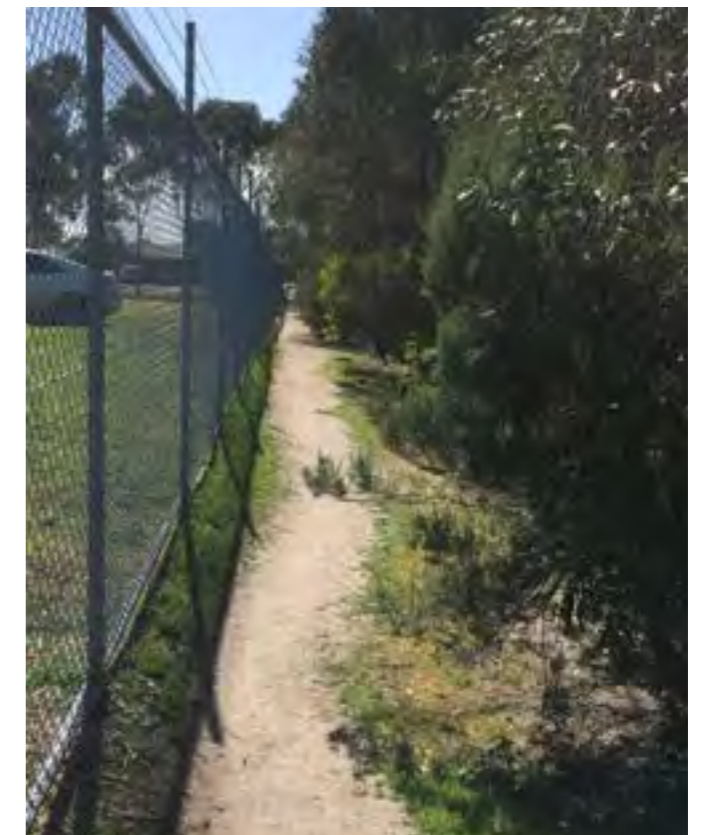


Figure 12: Granitic Gravel Path Network

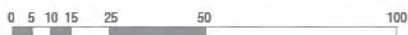
REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
PARKING & PATH NETWORKS

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Car parking
- Paths



SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3



ENVIRONMENT & LANDSCAPE

Vegetation

Redleap Recreation Reserve is highly valued for its environmental value and is characterised by extensive and mature vegetation. A large dry creek bed is located in the north of the reserve and drains into Peter Hopper Lake. Both the dry creek bed and lake are heavily vegetated with native species, buffering the reserve from the street and providing a tranquil environment. Although the vegetation is valued by the community, some clearing of understorey shrubs and grasses would help to improve sightlines through the reserve.

Significant Trees

The reserve is home to significant trees, including River Red Gums. There are also many established large native trees, all of which contribute to the character and amenity of the reserve. Several of the significant River Red Gums are growing within compacted surfaces such as granitic gravel. The Master Plan will address the landscape treatment around the significant trees.

Peter Hopper Lake

Peter Hopper Lake is one of the main features within the reserve. The Community enjoys walking around the lake and feeding the ducks. Originally constructed as a dam to service the dairy farm before Mill Park was established as a housing estate, the lake is now used for stormwater retention and the irrigation of the sports oval. The high duck population and structure of the lake means that the water is of a low quality.

Open Grassed Spaces

The open grassed areas around the southern playspace and picnic area have previously accommodated for events such as Rockin' @ Redleap. Other open grassed spaces such as the area between the lake and neighbouring school are currently underutilised due to the steep grade of the land and lack of surveillance.



Figure 13: Vegetation within the dry creek bed



Figure 14: Significant tree next to the sports oval



Figure 15: Peter Hopper Lake



Figure 16: Open Grass Area

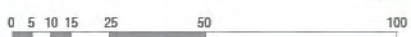
REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
PARKING & PATH NETWORKS

LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Peter Hopper lake
- Grass area
- Trees/vegetation



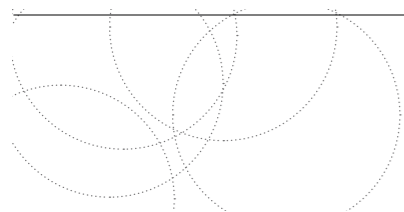
SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3



A photograph of a community event at Redleap Recreation Reserve. The scene is outdoors on a grassy field with many trees in the background. In the foreground, a man in a light green jacket and a red cap is talking to a young girl. To the right, a group of people, including a woman in a red top and sunglasses, are looking towards the camera. In the background, there are various activities, including people playing hula hoops and a tall structure with a red rope. The sky is blue with some clouds.

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



SUMMARY

The purpose of the community consultation was to gain an understanding of how the community use the reserve and how they would like to be using the reserve in the future. Two phases of consultation were undertaken with the results from both phases used to directly inform the key directions of the Master Plan.

Method

A range of methods and tools were used to engage with the community and key stakeholders over the two phases of consultation. These included the following:

- Meeting with key Council internal stakeholders
- Meeting with key external stakeholders
- Onsite interviews with the community
- Direct mail outs
- Surveys
- Children's drawing activities
- Onsite pop-up sessions

Key internal Stakeholders

Several key stakeholder meetings were held with Council staff from a range of departments and with various subject matter expertise.

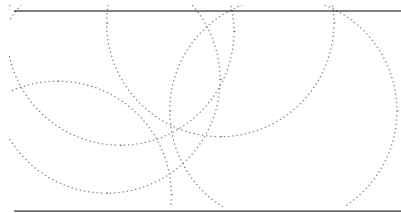
Key external Stakeholders

Meetings were held with representatives from various key external stakeholders including the following:

- Mill Park Football Club
- Mill Park Cricket Club
- Norparrin Centre



Rockin' @ Redleap Community Festival



PHASE 1

Onsite interviews

Onsite interviews were undertaken over a 2 week period and conducted with the following method:

- Two staff attended the reserve on three separate days covering morning, afternoon and after school times.
- Staff undertook surveys on Ipads
- Staff recorded observations
- Two staff attended Rockin' @ Redleap event and undertook surveys on Ipads
- At Rockin' @ Redleap, children were given the opportunity to draw what they wanted to see at Redleap Reserve or to draw their dream playground.

Results

A total of 76 participants undertook the survey with Council staff. Results indicated the following:

- Majority of users visit the reserve daily (21.2%), followed closely by participants who use the reserve several times a week (18.2%).
- The most popular time to visit the reserve is weekday afternoons (48.5%). Weekend mornings are the next most popular time (30.9%) and majority of people spend 1-2 hours at the reserve (46.8%).
- An equal percentage of people walk and drive to get to Redleap Reserve (47.7%).
- The most popular activities at the reserve are playground (61.8%), Walking (41.2%) and using the lake (41.2%).
- The most highly used areas are the lake (47.1%) and the south playground (52.9%).
- The southern play spaces with its proximity to other facilities were very popular. The lake and the natural aspects including trees were then what the community like most about the reserve. Feeding the ducks is one of the most popular activities. Having public toilets are a very important feature in the reserve.

- The most requested improvements to the reserve was to upgrade the play equipment, making it safe and suitable for varied age groups. Improved drink fountains and walking paths were also a high priority.

Recommendations

From the feedback received from the key stakeholders and the community, the following recommendations are made for inclusion in the Master Plan:

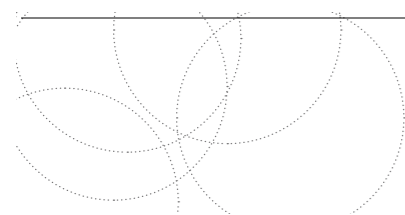
- Upgrade the playspace to include equipment for all ages
- Investigate combining the play spaces
- An allocated space for a dog off leash area
- Allow for future expansion to the Pavilion
- A public use half or full basketball court
- Reconfiguration of the cricket practice nets and surrounds
- Change the surface material to the Spectator space and surrounds of the sports pavilion.
- Provide opportunities to educate the community on the history and ecology of the site (e.g. history pre European Settlement)
- Investigate the health of the lake
- Educate the community on the repercussions of over feeding ducks.
- Upgrade the path network, including ancillary facilities to the walking paths (e.g. lighting and outdoor fitness equipment)
- Ensure safety in the reserve by increase view lines and passive surveillance through the removal of understory vegetation
- Provide a landscaped treatment under significant trees which improve the health of the tree and discourages access.
- Provide additional drink taps
- Maintain the "natural" features of the reserve
- Create safer access into the south car park from Redleap Avenue.



Community Consultation activities undertaken at Rockin' @ Redleap Community Festival



Children's drawings activities sheets undertaken at Rockin' @ Redleap Community Festival



PHASE 2

Results from the first phase of consultation were used to create a design for the draft Master Plan. This plan was then exhibited to the community with the following recommendations:

- 01. Dog off leash area:** Provide a fully fenced dog off leash area located at the corner of Redleap Avenue and Moorhead Drive.
- 02. Grass area:** Retain the open grass area for informal sports and play. Remove shrubs and low vegetation to increase views towards the lake.
- 03. Circuit:** Create a 500m walking/ running circuit around Peter Hopper Lake, including distance markers every 100m.
- 04. Cricket nets:** Upgrade cricket nets and realign their location to cater for users and improve access to walking paths for pedestrians.
- 05. Forecourt areas:** upgrade paving in the forecourt in front of Mill Park Basketball Stadium and in front of the AFL/ Cricket Pavilion.
- 06. Vegetation:** Enhance the landscape character by providing “buffer” planting and improve the landscape treatment around significant trees.
- 07. Basketball court:** Provide a new half basketball court located close to the upgraded playground.
- 08. Paths:** Additional paths are proposed to increase connectivity. Existing paths will be upgraded to concrete.
- 09. Playground:** The southern playground will be improved and expanded by consolidating both playgrounds (north and south) in the reserve.
- 10. Fitness:** Create a dedicated area for a range of fitness equipment.
- 11. Path lighting:** Provide lighting to main path network to improve access and safety.
- 12. Peter Hopper Lake:** Further investigate the health of the lake and provide education opportunities to the community on the lake’s ecology.

Direct Mail Out

The draft Master Plan was mailed out to 700 homes within 500m of Redleap Recreation Reserve. Residents were given the opportunity to provide feedback directly to Council’s Parks and Urban Department or to complete the online survey.

Survey

A total of 113 surveys were completed either online or in person. Participants were asked the following questions:

- What is your age?
- Which suburb do you live in?
- Have you previously shared your feedback on the Redleap Recreation Reserve Master Plan
- Do you support the draft Master Plan?
- If not, why don’t you support the draft Master Plan?
- Which recommendation from the draft Master Plan are the most important to you?
- Do you have any other comments?

Onsite Pop-up Session

Two onsite pop-up sessions were undertaken. Residents were given the option of attending either a weekend morning session or weekday evening session.

The pop-up session provided residents the opportunity to speak directly to Council staff, ask questions, provide feedback or complete the hard copy survey.

Results

The vast majority of participants supported the draft Master Plan (95.6%) with only 4.4% not in support. Majority of objectors disagreed with either the recommendation to have a dog off leash park, or the recommended location. Most responses suggested that the dog off leash area was relocated to the open grassed area next between the lake and school.

The recommendation for an upgraded playground in the southern area of the reserve was the recommendation with the highest support (46%). This was followed the recommendation for the dog off leash area (36.3%) and path lighting (34.5%).

Key Recommendations

The consultation demonstrated that the community supports the recommendations of the Master Plan. In addition, from the feedback received from community members, the following recommendations are made for inclusion in the Master Plan:

- Relocate the proposed dog off leash area to the open grassed area between the lake and neighbouring school.
- Upgrade park infrastructure including barbeques, drink fountain and picnic settings
- Provide additional infrastructure including bins, drink fountains and seating.
- Provide lighting throughout the reserve
- Ensure that the tranquil environment and natural character of the reserve are maintained.
- Upgrade the playground to accommodate for all ages and skill sets.
- Provide partial fencing between the playground from Redleap Avenue
- Investigate other food options for feeding the ducks.



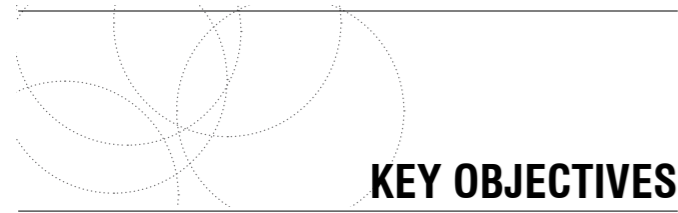
Onsite pop-up community consultation



Onsite pop-up community consultation activity

The background of the cover page is a photograph of a park. On the left, a large, mature tree with dense green foliage stands prominently. To its right, a colorful children's playground with slides and climbing equipment is visible. In the background, there are residential houses with solar panels on their roofs. A paved path leads from the foreground towards the right side of the image. A semi-transparent blue circle is overlaid on the right side of the page, containing the title text.

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
MASTER PLAN



KEY OBJECTIVES

The site analysis and consultation work undertaken has resulted in 5 key objectives which inform the design and actions of the Master Plan.

1. Enhance the value of play with improved opportunities for varied age groups and skill sets

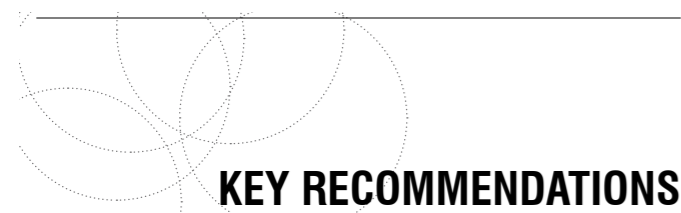
2. Encourage community use by providing opportunities and spaces for events

3. Maintain and support active recreation and encourage and provide for passive recreation

4. Maintain and enhance the natural and cultural landscape

5. Create an inviting park where the community feels safe and welcome





KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Master Plan was developed with consideration of the feedback from the community and key stakeholders following exhibition of the draft plan. The key recommendations from the key objectives are:

Enhance the value of play with improved opportunities for varied age groups and skill sets

1 PLAYGROUND

Remove the north playground and upgrade the south playground to a municipal level playspace which caters to varied age groups and skill sets.

Encourage Community use by providing opportunities and space for events

2 OPEN GRASS AREAS

Retain the open grass areas to offer space for community led events

3 UPGRADE OF RESERVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Provide additional / upgraded infrastructure including drink fountains, picnic settings, seating and bins.

Maintain and support active recreation and encourage and provide for passive recreation

4 CRICKET PRACTICE NETS

Upgrade cricket practice nets and realign their location to improve access for pedestrians and general reserve users.

5 BASKETBALL COURT

Provide a new multi-use basketball half court.

6 DOG OFF LEASH AREA

Provide a dedicated dog off leash area which is fully fenced and includes a drink fountain with integrated dog bowls, rubbish bins, bench seating and sensory elements.

7 FITNESS

Create a 500m walking/ running circuit around Peter Hopper Lake, including distance markers every 100m. Create a dedicated area for a range of fitness equipment

Maintain and enhance the natural landscape

8 PETER HOPPER LAKE

Conduct stormwater review and incorporate water sensitive urban design initiatives to improve the quality of the water.

9 VEGETATION

Remove dense under-storey vegetation to improve view lines through the reserve. Enhance the landscape character by revegetating garden beds and the periphery of the lake with native low story species and improve the landscape treatment around significant trees.

Create an inviting park where the community feels safe and welcome

10 PATH LIGHTING

Provide lighting to the main path network and solar bollard lighting to the fitness circuit around Peter Hopper Lake to improve access and safety.

11 FORECOURT AREAS

Upgrade paving in the forecourts of Mill Park Basketball Stadium and the AFL Cricket Pavilion.

12 PATHS

Establishment of additional paths to increase connectivity and upgrade of existing granitic gravel and asphalt paths to concrete.

13 ACCESSIBILITY

Improve the pedestrian access between the reserve, the Stables Shops and Mill Park Basketball Stadium.
































1A. Example of Municipal level playspace

1. ENHANCE THE VALUE OF PLAY WITH IMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES FOR VARIED AGE GROUPS AND SKILL SETS

OBJECTIVE	ITEM	ACTION	PRIORITY
Remove the northern playground and upgrade the southern playground to a municipal level playspace	1A	<p>Remove the existing playspace in the southern play area and replace with an upgraded municipal level playground. The playspace is required to be inclusive and cater to varied age groups and skill sets.</p> <p>The playground should be representative of the character of the reserve and incorporate nature-based elements, integrated with traditional forms of play. The playspace should also be expanded to utilise existing site features (e.g. slope, shade, etc.).</p> <p>Increase the safety of the area by partially fencing the playspace from Redleap Avenue.</p>	High
	1B	Once the new playground has been constructed in the southern playspace area, decommission and remove the northern playspace and re-grass area for general park use.	Medium

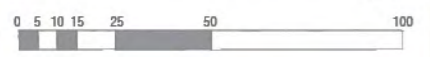
REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

LEGEND

-  Site boundary
-  Oval
-  Lake
-  Dry creek
-  Boardwalks/bridges
-  Cricket pitch
-  Playground
-  Seats
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Windmill
-  Dog off lead entry
-  Priority lit path
-  Existing path (upgrade)
-  Concrete path (new)
-  Pavilions/Shelters
-  Trees
-  Dense planting
-  Car parking
-  Contours
-  Dog off lead
-  Exercise
-  Landscaped area
-  Concrete viewing area
-  Basketball Court
-  Grass
-  Public toilet
-  Circuit markers
-  Access points
-  Pedestrian link to Stables Shopping Centre



SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3





2B. Retain the existing picnic shelters
































2C. Example of park bench with back and arm rest

2. ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY USE BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES AND SPACES FOR EVENTS			
OBJECTIVE	ITEM	ACTION	PRIORITY
Upgrade the north and south picnic areas to provide further opportunities for social gathering	2A	Upgrade both the north and south picnic areas with new accessible table settings, barbecues, rubbish bins, bike rails and drink fountains.	High
	2B	Retain the existing shelter structures, undertaking repairs as required.	Medium
Improve facilities to cater for small to medium scale events	2C	Maintain and enhance open grassed areas and explore the option of utilising the water from the lake to irrigate these areas.	Low
		Provide accessible public furniture (e.g. bench seats with arm and back rests) Investigate the option of providing Wi Fi to the picnic and playspace area.	
Continue to manage and maintain toilet facility	2D	Findings from the community consultation demonstrated the current toilet facility at Redleap is sufficient to site use. The City of Whittlesea Public Toilet and amenity plan is currently being undertaken. Once endorsed, this plan will provide future direction for the Redleap Recreation Reserve Master Plan which will adopt any relevant recommendations.	Low

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

LEGEND

-  Site boundary
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SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3





3B. Example of cricket practice nets
































3H. Example of a fully fenced dog off leash area

3. MAINTAIN AND SUPPORT ACTIVE RECREATION AND ENCOURAGE AND PROVIDE FOR PASSIVE RECREATION

OBJECTIVE	ITEM	ACTION	PRIORITY
Maintain and improve facilities for active recreation	3A	Maintain the sports oval for junior / senior cricket and junior football. Conduct ongoing assessments of the surface condition and perform improvement works as required.	Ongoing
	3B	Upgrade the cricket practice nets and realign their location to reduce conflict with other reserve user groups.	High
	3C	Upgrade scoreboard to include storage area and umpire change facilities.	Low
Provide opportunities for passive recreation	3D	Retain open grassed areas for passive recreation and informal sporting opportunities and improve by providing irrigation.	Medium
	3E	Provide a dedicated area for a range of multi-use fitness equipment in the north of the reserve.	High
	3F	Construct a multi-use basketball half court adjacent to the southern playspace.	High
	3G	Create a 500m walking/ running circuit around Peter Hopper Lake with distance markers every 100m.	Medium
Provide a fully fenced dog off leash area	3H	Provide a dedicated dog off leash area which is fully fenced and includes a drink fountain with integrated dog bowls, rubbish bins, bench seating and sensory elements.	High

REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

LEGEND

-  Site boundary
-  Oval
-  Lake
-  Dry creek
-  Boardwalks/bridges
-  Cricket pitch
-  Playground
-  Seats
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Windmill
-  Dog off lead entry
-  Priority lit path
-  Existing path (upgrade)
-  Concrete path (new)
-  Pavilions/Shelters
-  Trees
-  Dense planting
-  Car parking
-  Contours
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SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3





4D. Example of dry creek bed with low vegetation
































4H. Example of River Red Gum with landscape treatment

4. MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE			
OBJECTIVE	ITEM	ACTION	PRIORITY
Improve the water quality and environmental value of the Peter Hopper Lake	4A	Conduct a stormwater review and incorporate water sensitive urban design initiatives to improve the quality of the water.	Medium
	4B	Upgrade boardwalks and bridges. Remove the lookout structure and rectify the surrounding landscape.	Medium
	4C	Monitor the duck population. Provide opportunities for sustainable feeding of the ducks and investigate partnerships with local businesses for the marketing of alternative food options which are safe for duck consumption.	High
	4D	Remove dense under-storey shrubs and bushes surrounding the lake. Revegetate gaps in garden beds and on eroded embankments with native wetland grasses and sedges.	High
	4E	Develop and implement a site specific weed removal program.	Low
	4F	Develop a consistent signage suite which educates the community on the ecology of the site and cultural heritage.	High
	4G	Empower local schools and community groups to undertake educational programs within the site and facilitate a greater level of participation as well as a sense of ownership in the management of the lake.	Low
Protect and enhance vegetation	4H	Retain and enhance the landscape character. Enhance the Landscape treatment under significant trees to improve the health of the trees and deter site user access.	High
Celebrate the history of the site	4I	Appropriately and respectfully represent the history of the site prior to colonisation.	Medium

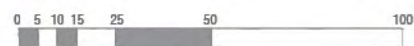
REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

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SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3





5B. Example of bollard solar lighting
































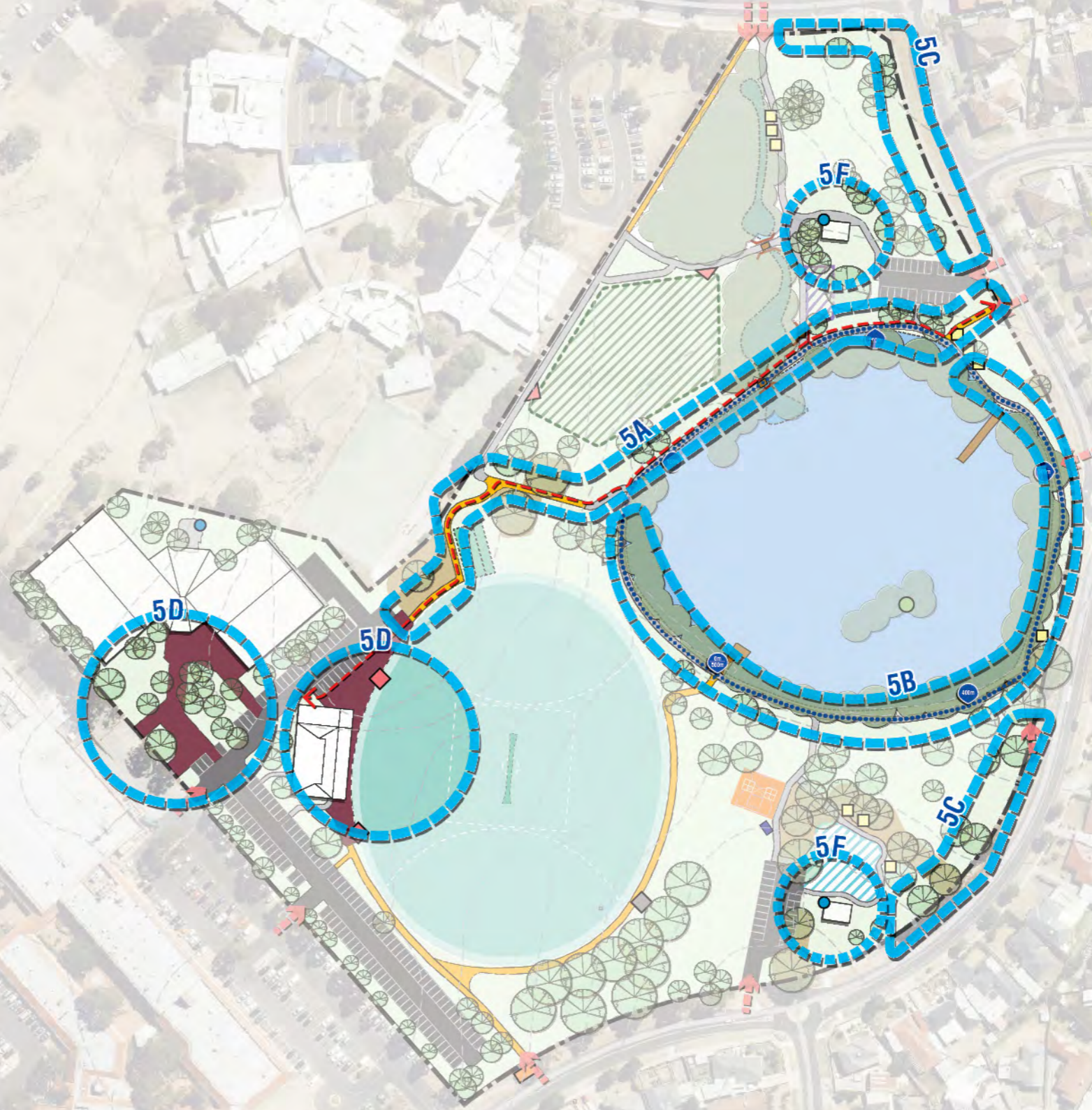
5E. Example of a reserve with clear view lines and passive surveillance

5. CREATE AN INVITING PARK WHERE THE COMMUNITY FEELS SAFE AND WELCOME			
OBJECTIVE	ITEM	ACTION	PRIORITY
Improve lighting to the reserve	5A	Provide lighting to main path network.	High
	5B	Provide solar bollard lighting to path network around lake.	Medium
Vehicle exclusion fencing	5C	Upgrade vehicle exclusion fencing. Investigate areas where vehicle exclusion fencing is not required due to other site features deterring access	Low
Forecourt areas	5D	Upgrade paving material of the forecourt to the cricket/football pavilion and basketball stadium.	Medium
Increase passive surveillance	5E	Improve passive surveillance to the reserve by performing necessary cleaning/thinning of understorey vegetation and uplifting of tree canopy to improve sight-lines and enable passive surveillance through the reserve.	Medium
Infrastructure upgrades	5F	Provide additional/ upgraded infrastructure including drink fountains, picnic settings, seating and bins.	High
Improve accessibility	5G	Upgrade asphalt and granitic gravel paths to be concrete in line with Council's current practice.	Medium
	5H	Improve pedestrian access between the Basketball Stadium, the Stables Shops and Redleap Recreation Reserve through upgraded walking paths, pedestrian crossings and way finding signage.	High

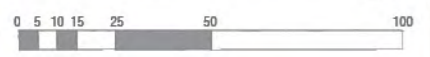
REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE

LEGEND

-  Site boundary
-  Oval
-  Lake
-  Dry creek
-  Boardwalks/bridges
-  Cricket pitch
-  Playground
-  Seats
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Windmill
-  Dog off lead entry
-  Priority lit path
-  Existing path (upgrade)
-  Concrete path (new)
-  Pavilions/Shelters
-  Trees
-  Dense planting
-  Car parking
-  Contours
-  Dog off lead
-  Exercise
-  Landscaped area
-  Concrete viewing area
-  Basketball Court
-  Grass
-  Public toilet
-  Circuit markers
-  Access points
-  Pedestrian link to Stables Shopping Centre



SCALE 1: 2000 @ A3





REDLEAP RECREATION RESERVE
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 01

Relevant Strategies and Guidelines

A number of existing documents, policies and strategies have influenced the Redleap Recreation Reserve Master Plan. These have been reviewed and summarised. The documents reviewed are:

City of Whittlesea

- 01. Council Plan: Direction – Places and spaces to connect people
- 02. Council’s Recreation Strategy (2012-2017)
- 03. Council’s Open Space Strategy (2016)
- 04. Council’s Playspace Framework Policy (2013)
- 05. Whittlesea 2030 Strategy
- 06. Council’s Draft 2040 Strategy and findings report (2018)
- 07. Disability Action Plan
- 08. Park Lighting Strategy
- 09. Shade Policy



City of Whittlesea
Council Plan: Shaping our future (2017-2021)

‘Shaping our Future’ is the name given to our long and medium-term strategy for the future of the City of Whittlesea. It is a program that describes the type of municipality our community can expect in the future. This plan establishes a planning framework for the medium term and represents the Council’s commitment for their four-year elected term.

Our key priorities over the next four years are:

- Roads, Access and Public Transport
- Community Safety
- Health and Wellbeing
- Jobs and Investment
- Organisational Sustainability
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Environmental Sustainability

The Planning and Infrastructure priority (most relevant to Redleap Recreation Reserve) closely aligns with the Whittlesea 2030 Strategic Community Plan Future Directions of ‘Places and Spaces to Connect People’, ‘Accessibility in, out and around our city’ and the strategic themes of ‘Open Space’, ‘Community Hubs’,

‘Planning our Space’, ‘Leisure and Recreation’ and ‘Built Environment’.

The relevant Strategic Objectives of this priority are:

- We have open spaces that are welcoming and safe for public gathering
- We have public spaces and community hubs that bring people together around programs, services and entertainment experiences
- Urban design helps build connection to place, the natural environment and the community
- Recreation facilities and open spaces are accessible and respond to local need
- The built environment in our community is universally accessible
- Our neighbourhoods are designed to be well-connected and create cohesive communities



City of Whittlesea
Recreation Strategy (2012-2017)

The City of Whittlesea’s Recreation Strategy 2012-2017 recognises and responds to the unique characteristics, individual settlements and challenges facing the City and provides Council and the community with a clear direction for creating and achieving an overall vision for leisure in the City of Whittlesea.

The aim of the Recreation Strategy 2012-2017 is to provide Whittlesea Council, in partnership with the community, with a clear direction on how to create and fulfil a vision for leisure. The strategy reflects a changing philosophical approach to the way Council engages and partners with the community. In developing this strategy, Council has adopted a strength based community development approach that supports communities to identify and build on their strengths and successes.

The Strategy is intended to act as a framework for the delivery of recreation programs, facilities and services within the Municipality. It also acts as a strategic reference document to support higher order strategies and statutory planning documents, like the Precinct

Structure Plans and the Community Plan as well as Council policies, plans and documents such as the Open Space Strategy and Playspace Strategy.

Under the existing facilities inventory within the Recreation Strategy Redleap Recreation Reserve is located within an established/existing area with one playing field (oval) that provides for both Aussie Rules and Cricket use.

The diverse demographic profile of the community has resulted in demand for a varied range of recreation and leisure programs, facilities and services.

The Recreation Strategy notes the following which is relevant to Redleap Reserve:

- Public open space design will need to incorporate opportunities for informal family gatherings and social interaction.
- Demand for opportunities for family group participation in a range of recreation and leisure opportunities will remain high (e.g. swimming pools, leisure centres, parks and playgrounds).
- Provision of a range of recreation and leisure opportunities in established suburbs (i.e. those with an increasing proportion of one-parent and lone person households) will become increasingly important in helping to minimise social isolation.
- Demand for early childhood leisure and recreation services will increase.
- Access to appropriate facilities and programs for pre-school aged children will be high, including playgrounds, parks and leisure programs.
- There is a need to continue to provide access to an appropriate range of recreation, leisure and open space facilities that appeal to all residents, including those with a disability.

Another recommendation of the Strategy reinforced the importance of stakeholder involvement in facility planning and development as well as the ongoing engagement of the likely users, particularly in rural and established areas to help create a sense of community belonging and pride.



City of Whittlesea
**Open Space Strategy
(2016)**

The City of Whittlesea Open Space Strategy 2016 outlines the strategic direction for the future planning, provision design and management of open space in the Municipality until 2026. The City of Whittlesea’s public open space network is expected to fulfil a number of key roles including provision for formal and unstructured recreation, passive outdoor enjoyment and play, ecological improvement and conservation, mitigation of the urban heat island effect and climate change as well as the protection and promotion of the community’s cultural heritage values.

The open space survey undertaken for the Strategy identifies low levels of open space use in established urban areas which is attributed to a number of reasons including a lack of diversity in open space character, poor visibility of open space, lack of trees and shade, lack of path access to existing facilities and the poor condition of facilities. The Strategy therefore focuses on improving the quality of existing open space to improve and encourage usage by the existing and forecast community.

The Redleap Recreation Reserve has been identified by the Open Space Strategy as a Municipal level open space and the most highly visited reserve in the area.

The Open Space Strategy states:

*Municipal open space provides for the recreational needs of the municipality and includes sporting facilities, historical gardens and major recreational facilities such as large play spaces and skate/BMX facilities. Examples include Harvest Home Recreation Reserve, **Redleap Recreation Reserve** and Edgars Creek Linear Park. The preferred size is 7 hectares with a minimum of 3 hectares, and the travel catchment is within one kilometre radius of 95% of all dwellings and workplaces.*

Major events have been and are held within Redleap Recreation Reserve such as Carols by Candlelight and Rockin @ Redleap. The strategy also identifies a need to “focus on increasing the quality and provision of unstructured recreation and informal facilities to cater for increased levels of use”.

The Strategy recommends a prioritised program of upgrades to the open space network to make open space more appealing and accessible. The upgrades are proposed across all levels of open space including Municipal, Neighbourhood, Local and Small Local open space. This will achieve a well distributed system of quality open space that the majority of the community can easily reach including those with limited mobility.

The upgrades will focus on:

- Increasing the diversity of facilities for unstructured recreation, including fitness stations; looped path and trail networks; multi use courts; diverse play environments; improved playgrounds; picnic facilities and open grassed areas for informal games, events and social gatherings.
- Establishing a range of landscape character types with different planting styles and types of materials used (for example natural or contemporary) to provide a variety of experiences.
- Improving safety in open space by selectively trimming vegetation at entry points and along paths to open up views.
- Including facilities and settings within the open space for relaxation, contemplation and for

socialising. This includes a diversity of scales with some catering to large groups and other more intimate spaces for a few people to enjoy.

- Ensuring any future upgrades to structured sporting facilities (as recommended in the Recreation Strategy) have multiple-use benefits and promote unstructured recreation and informal use of open space.

The Strategy also specifically notes Redleap Recreation Reserve stating:

The most popular of these in the open space survey undertaken for this Strategy is Redleap Recreation Reserve, due to its diversity of facilities and landscape settings including the lake. Its proximity to the school and shopping precinct makes Redleap Recreation Reserve an ideal destination point for a range of recreational activities and informal uses including community events. The Strategy has therefore proposed a major upgrade to Redleap Recreation Reserve to build on and strengthen it as a key destination point for the surrounding community.



City of Whittlesea
Playspace Planning Framework and Policy (2013-2016)

The City of Whittlesea’s Playspace Planning Framework and Policy 2013-16 is a comprehensive document aimed at informing Council officers and developers responsible for providing or maintaining playspaces within the Municipality with an understanding of the value and principles of play. The Policy reflects current research into the importance of play and nature play for children as well as adults and acknowledges that play happens everywhere while providing direction on how to design and provide best practice play environments in delineated municipal playspaces and playgrounds.

As Redleap Recreation Reserve is identified as a Municipal level open space as part of the Open Space Strategy. The Playspace Planning Framework and Policy defines a Municipal Reserve as a district playspace. A district playspace is a space that provides a broad range of play opportunities and amenities, which allows for a longer stay, and is often co-located with a sports reserve or a passive recreation reserve with a range of parkland features. A district reserve is likely to have more amenities than smaller parks and provide for a range of play and social opportunities for

all ages and abilities.

playspace as a large signature playspace for the whole community with unique physical and natural qualities. A regional playspace is expected to attract visitors from a radius of ten kilometres or more, as well as from all parts of the metropolitan area, the playspace and reserve are required to include facilities that cater for stays of half to a full day.

Other characteristics of a district playspace, as described in the Policy, are listed below:

- District playspaces should be located within a 15-minute cycle trip - around two kilometres from residents’ homes.
- Catchment populations are estimated to be around 8000 persons.
- Embellishment costs for the playspace (not including amenities that may be provided for if it was located within a reserve with existing amenities) could range from \$300,000 to \$500,000
- District playspaces provide a range of play and social opportunities for all ages and abilities. Taking into account the disability design features of local and neighbourhood playspaces, district playspaces could provide specialised facilities, for example, a playspace designed to cater for children with specific disability such as hearing impairments. It is known that play opportunities and equipment designed for children and young people with a disability provide greater variety, stimulation and play value for all children and young people.



City of Whittlesea
Shaping Our Future Whittlesea 2030 Strategic Community Plan

The City of Whittlesea’s Shaping Our Future 2030 Strategic Community Plan describes the community’s vision for the future of the Municipality and details clear desired outcomes that will assist in guiding Council. The Community Plan outlines seven Future Directions for the community:

Future Directions

1. Inclusive and engaged community
2. Accessibility in, out and around our City
3. Growing our economy
4. Places and spaces to connect people
5. Health and wellbeing
6. Living sustainably
7. Good governance

The community consultation undertaken for the Community Plan identified twenty-two key themes which were then categorised under the seven Future Directions. Strategic outcomes were then listed against each of these themes.

The fourth Future Direction, places and spaces to connect people, has direct relation to the provision, maintenance and improvement of current and future open space.

Listed below are the key themes related to this as well as their associated Strategic Objectives/Outcomes:

- **Open space** - We have open spaces that are welcoming and safe for public gathering
- **Community hubs** - We have areas that bring people together
- **Planning our space** - Urban design helps build connection to place, the natural environment and the community. We have neighbourhoods defined by attractive, well connected streets and public spaces.
- **Leisure & recreation** - We can access recreation facilities and open spaces that reflect and respond to local need.



City of Whittlesea
Whittlesea 2040
A place for all

Whittlesea 2040: A place for all, builds on the achievements of Shaping Our Future Whittlesea 2030 and provides a new long-term vision for the City of Whittlesea.

Over 10 months, we conducted research, workshopped priorities, and spoke with thousands of people as well as community groups and organisations across the municipality.

The goals of Whittlesea 2040: A place for all identify clear community outcomes. It is important to understand how well the community believes we are collectively meeting the goals of the Whittlesea 2040 Vision. To measure our success, we will focus on a select number of priority indicators for each long-term goal. We will also continue to monitor how we are tracking on other indicators and we will regularly report on our progress

Goal 1: Connected community

- Social cohesion
- Physical activity

- Safety in public areas
- Civic participation

Goal 2: Liveable neighbourhoods

- Commuter travel time
- Ease of walking and cycling
- Use of town centres
- Access to services and facilities
- Housing supply and demand

Goal 3: Strong local economy

- Local jobs
- Access to education
- Gross Regional Product

Goal 4: Sustainable environment

- Use of open space
- Tree canopy cover
- Energy use
- Water use
- Waste minimisation



City of Whittlesea
Disability Action Plan
(2017-2021)

The City of Whittlesea Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2017-2021 details how Council will work with the community to meet the vision of an inclusive municipality where people of all abilities are encouraged and enabled to lead satisfying, fulfilling and contributory lives.

The Disability Act Victoria 2006 requires each Local Government to develop a DAP. Section 38 of the Act states that a public sector body must ensure that a DAP is prepared for the purpose of:

- Reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities
- Reducing barriers to obtaining employment
- Promoting inclusion and participation in the community
- Achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.

Vision

The City of Whittlesea is an inclusive municipality where people of all abilities are encouraged and enabled to lead satisfying, fulfilling and contributory lives.

Principles

The Disability Action Plan is underpinned by the following principles:

- A. The actions will be shaped and driven by the people for whom it has relevance,
- B. Access to contributory living through the development of inclusive communities is the right of everyone who lives, works, studies, attends events or visits the City of Whittlesea,
- C. Universal access is fundamental to all community facilities and premises, 26 in The City of Whittlesea,
- D. Access to wellbeing, education and meaningful employment are universal rights,
- E. Council will advocate for and collaborate with all levels of government as well as with community agencies for the best possible outcomes for people with disabilities, their families and friends, and;
- F. Progress on actions and outcomes will be monitored and regularly reported to Council and the community.

Relevant Actions

4.3.2 Investigate the development of Playground communication signage at parks and gardens across the municipality for use by people with autism.



City of Whittlesea
**Park Lighting Strategy
(2006)**

Council’s Park Lighting Strategy provides a strategic framework for the inclusion of lighting within public open space areas. The Strategy also provides direction for Council in relation to the provision of lighting in existing open space areas, should the need be identified. In this case, the level of implementation will be subject to available Council funding. In the case of major parkland redevelopment proposals, funding for the provision of lighting will be funded from project budget allocations.

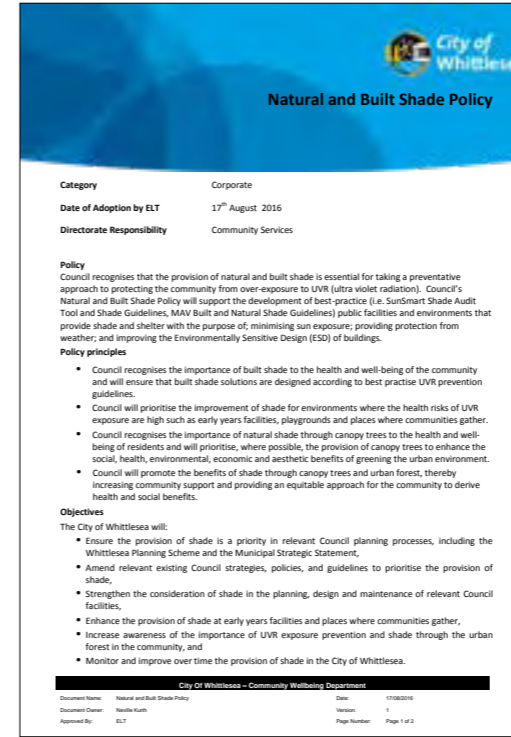
Redleap Recreation Reserve is identified as a District Park within the Park Lighting Strategy. To this point in time no major consideration has been given to the provision of lighting within Council’s District Parks. Within the context of Council’s Open Space Strategy, District Parks are designated to provide recreational experiences for residents within a two kilometre catchment area.

By virtue of this fact, they all contain other elements which would be embellished by the provision of an integrated lighting system, including:

- Toilet, BBQ & picnic facilities

- Major landscaped features
- Significant trees
- Extensive circulating and lineal connector path systems
- Interpretive signage
- Playgrounds
- Dedicated car park facilities
- General accessibility
- Seats / viewing platforms
- Visual profile

In the context of a district level park, lighting of major landscape elements could be used to create a visual amenity that benefits the night time character of the local neighbourhood as well as providing an opportunity for recreational pursuits.



City of Whittlesea
**Natural and Built Shade Policy
(2016)**

Council recognises that the provision of natural and built shade is essential for taking a preventative approach to protecting the community from over-exposure to UVR (ultra violet radiation). Council’s Natural and Built Shade Policy will support the development of best-practice (i.e. SunSmart Shade Audit Tool and Shade Guidelines, MAV Built and Natural Shade Guidelines) public facilities and environments that provide shade and shelter with the purpose of; minimising sun exposure; providing protection from weather; and improving the Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) of buildings.

Relevant policy principles

- Council recognises the importance of built shade to the health and well-being of the community and will ensure that built shade solutions are designed according to best practise UVR prevention guidelines.
- Council will prioritise the improvement of shade for environments where the health risks of UVR exposure are high such as early years facilities, playgrounds and places where communities gather.
- Council recognises the importance of natural shade

through canopy trees to the health and well-being of residents and will prioritise, where possible, the provision of canopy trees to enhance the social, health, environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits of greening the urban environment.

- Council will promote the benefits of shade through canopy trees and urban forest, thereby increasing community support and providing an equitable approach for the community to derive health and social benefits.

Relevant objectives

The City of Whittlesea will:

- Strengthen the consideration of shade in the planning, design and maintenance of relevant Council facilities,
- Enhance the provision of shade at early years facilities and places where communities gather,
- Monitor and improve over time the provision of shade in the City of Whittlesea.

