

Montgomery Park Master Plan 2018



introduction

Montgomery Park is located in the suburb of Essendon within the Buckley Ward and within the Essendon neighbourhood. It is bounded by Tennyson Street to the west, Albion Street to the south, Lawson Street to the east and Hilda Street to the north. The park is located within 100 metres of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

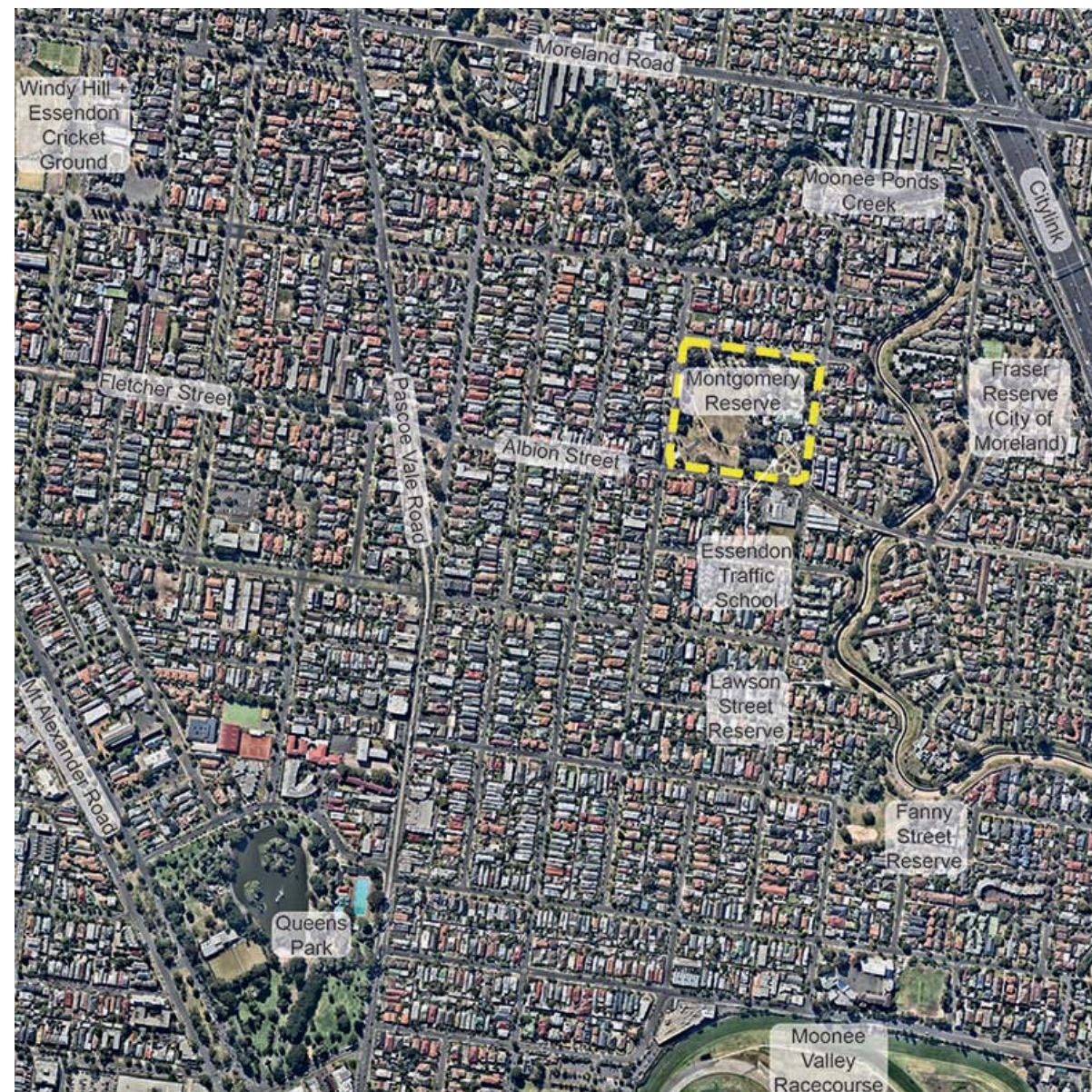
The Park is approximately 3.2 hectares and is defined in the Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy as a 'Municipal' Open Space. Its primary character is classified as 'Informal' and secondary classification as 'Play'.

The site contains:

- Two playspaces
- Two picnic areas with barbeques
- Public toilet
- Central mown grass areas with scattered tree planting
- Tree planting and vegetated embankments
- Gravel paths
- Seating
- Two tennis courts for casual use
- The Montgomery Park Children's Centre, Montgomery Park Kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health Services
- The Essendon Traffic School

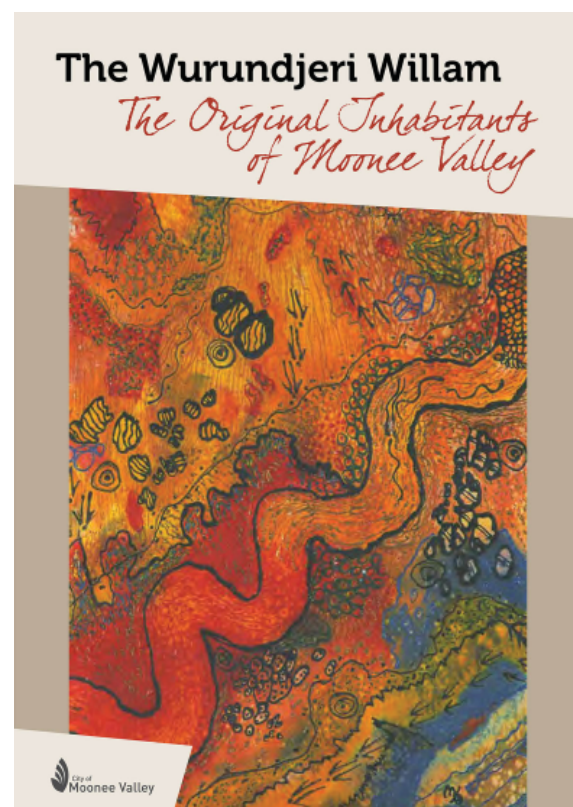
A Master Plan was prepared for Montgomery Park in 2007 and is now due for review. A Notice of Motion 2016-16: Master Plans for the Ordinary Meeting of Council 26 July 2016 included that Council ascertain the status of the Master Plan for Montgomery Park and undertake a refreshed Master Plan.

The MV2040 Strategy 2080 includes the implementation initiative to *Implement the future master plans for Montgomery Park and Moonee Ponds Creek.*



Montgomery Park - open space context

history



The Wurundjeri people are the traditional owners of the land and have inhabited the area for at least 40,000 years. The Maribyrnong River, Moonee Ponds Creek and Steele Creek were important resources for fishing, transport and food.

The Indigenous Australians who lived in the area from Healesville to Kilmore and from Dandenong to Werribee belonged to the Woi-wurrung language and belief group. A sub clan of the Woi-wurrung, the Wurundjeri-willam, meaning 'white gum tree dwellers' claimed the area between the Maribyrnong River and Darebin Creek, stretching up to the Dividing Ranges and including the area now known as Moonee Valley.

More information can be found in Wurundjeri Willam: The Original Inhabitants of Moonee Valley available on Moonee Valley City Council's website.

The Annals of Essendon by R.W Chalmers includes the following entries about the history of Montgomery Park:

18/7/1947 – Albion Street residents, at a Meeting held in the Moonee Ponds Town Hall, discussed plans for the development of the Albion Street Reserve. A petition signed by 157 residents was presented outlining the importance of a reserve in the area to serve the 250 children. The reserve was re-named "Montgomery Park" and reserved for future development by the East Essendon Progress Association

4/5/1962 – The Essendon Traffic School in Montgomery Park . . . was officially opened . . . The School was a project of the Essendon Rotary Club. It covered more than one acre on the corner of the park and comprised over 1,000 feet of 12 foot wide roadway. It was built at a cost of £3,000, with the Rotary Club providing £1,500 and the remaining £1,500 coming from private donations.

6/1962 – The Essendon City Council stood by its decision to lease Montgomery Park to the Ukrainian Lions' Soccer Club for a period of 7 years, despite a letter of protest from the Essendon District Football League Secretary . . .

18/4/1964 – . . the Lions Soccer Club played their first State League Match against Slavia at their new home ground - Montgomery Park . . .

21/2/1977 – The Essendon Council decided not to renew the lease held by the Essendon Soccer Club for use of Montgomery Park. Children from the area handed the Mayor, Cr. Barry Rowe, a Petition signed by 420 young citizens asking that the park be re-developed as a children's playground. A seven year lease with the Soccer Club . . . was renewed in 1970.

12/6/1978 – The East Essendon Community Group organised a tree planting working-bee at Montgomery Park when 196 trees were planted in a 4.5 hour period. The trees were provided by the Essendon City Council.

3/12/1978 – The Community Centre and public tennis courts at Montgomery Park were officially opened by Cr. Barry Rowe. The fine facilities resulted from the dedication of members of the East Essendon Community Group of which Mr Alan Opie was president

2/2/1981 – The former playgroup headquarters in Montgomery Park . . . began to operate under the direction of Vivian Gabb, assisted by Virginia Poole.

8/3/1986 – The Opies also led public protests when the Essendon Council, during Barry Rowe's Mayoral term in 1977, permitted Montgomery Park, East Essendon's family park, to be used as a soccer ground without community consultation. Playground equipment built from funds raised by the East Essendon Community, was removed to a corner of the park. The Soccer Club unsuccessfully applied to build a Grandstand to accommodate 10,000 spectators.

24/11/1986 – The Essendon Traffic School . . . completed its 10th year since reopening in 1976 . . . during which time it had been visited by over 200,000 people (mainly school children). It was re-opened with the help of the Community Action for Road Education Group, the Essendon Council and the Essendon Rotary Club and 17,000 students and staff attend lessons in Road Safety each year under the guidance of Director, Marion Camilleri and her staff. The complex was originally built by the Rotary Club of Essendon in 1961 . . . but was forced to close down due to a lack of man power.

7/1991 – The Board of Works planned to commence work on Stage 1 of the north western trunk sewer – an 11.7 kilometre tunnel extending from Millers Road, Brooklyn to Montgomery Park . . . Work was expected to begin in two months and would be completed in 1998

10/1992 – The Montgomery Park Children's Centre . . . the first child care centre for public sector employees in Australia, was officially opened. The centre was funded by the Australian Taxation Office, the Essendon Council and the State Government. It caters for 50 children, 20 places to be reserved for children of staff working at the Gladstone Street Taxation Office and the remaining 30 places for local children.

previous master plan

A previous Master Plan was prepared for Montgomery Park in 2007. This has now expired and is due to be updated.

A summary of previous Master Plan recommendations includes:

- Gravel path upgrades
- New planting
- Upgrade of basketball half-court, tennis half-court
- Upgrade of cricket net, replace fencing
- Potential for football or soccer goals
- Retain central open space and new open grass playspace proposed [between south-west playspace and oval area]
- Upgrade and expand north-east playspace for all ages and abilities and upgrade secondary playspace near giant slide.
- Upgrade north picnic area and south-west picnic area
- Enhance kindergarten forecourt with new paving and park furniture. Remove bluestone, fencing, ivy and retain existing trees.
- Investigate removal of disused toilet facility behind kindergarten building
- Improvements to tennis courts to be considered.
- Upgrade lighting including timers programmed to turn off at 9:00pm.
- Additional landscaping around sewer pit covers in compliance with authority guidelines.
- Investigate possible improvements to carpark areas adjacent Lawson Street.
- Remove existing park entry at Hilda Street and enhance the Albion and Hilda Street pedestrian entries with feature paving and reserve signage, and upgrade the north-west entry.
- Ensure entry path grade into the park can accommodate people with mobility aids.
- Investigate possible improvements to Kindergarten facades.

Of the recommendation that were not, or nor fully implemented in the life of the previous Master Plan, a number will be included in recommendations for this Master Plan.



Montgomery Reserve Master Plan 2007

land ownership and planning

Montgomery Park is owned and managed by Moonee Valley City Council. The Park is made up of multiple titles.

Under the Moonee Valley City Council Planning Scheme Montgomery Park is zoned Public Park Recreation Zone (PPRZ).

A Melbourne Water sewer drain runs diagonally across the park. Melbourne Water approval is required for any structures to be built over or near any of its underground assets or easements, or for any installation of utilities or excavation across or parallel to Melbourne Water assets.

A significant proportion of the park is located within 200 metres of the Moonee Ponds Creek and as such, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required to be in place prior to any works being undertaken.

The draft Significant Tree Register 2017 has identified two trees proposed to be protected under the Environmental Significance Overlay. The two *Populus nigra 'italica'* (Lombardy Poplars) are located near Lawson Street.



Montgomery Park zoning and planning

strategic directions



MV2040 Strategy 2018

The MV2040 Strategy is Moonee Valley City Council's long-term plan for improving the health, vibrancy and resilience of our city over the next two decades. It has been prepared to shape the type of city and neighbourhoods we want to live in.

The building blocks of our healthy city and the key themes in the visioning paper, with high level directions, objectives and actions included for each:

- A **Fair** City that values diversity, where everyone feels safe, is included, is healthy and has access to services and housing.
- A **thriving** city with access to jobs, lifelong learning, vibrant and dynamic activity centres.
- A **connected** city of accessible, active and sustainable transport choices.
- A **Green** City that is ecologically healthy and environmentally responsible.
- A **Beautiful** City that celebrates its identity, heritage and open spaces.

The strategy contains the following implementation initiatives of relevance to the Montgomery Park Master Plan:

- Explore opportunities to expand Montgomery Park early years functions to meet long-term kindergarten and maternal child health needs
- Provide pedestrian and cycling connections to Moonee Ponds Creek
- Revitalise Moonee Ponds Creek through naturalisation, flood mitigation, stormwater harvesting and reuse
- Implement the future master plans for Montgomery Park and Moonee Ponds Creek.

Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy



Prepared by
Thompson Board Landscape Design Pty Ltd
in association with
Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd
August 17 2009

1043 8888 | mvcc.vic.gov.au | Moonee Valley

Open Space Strategy 2009

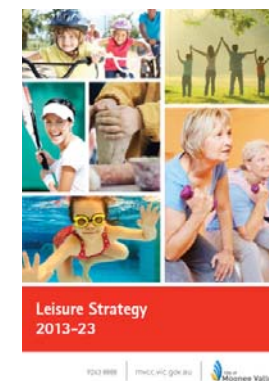
Vision: A linked, sustainable and accessible system of quality open space well used by Moonee Valley's diverse community, comprising the waterway corridors that are highly valued for their native habitat and recreational use, and a diverse range of other open space reserves across the City including historical gardens, large sporting reserves and a network of smaller vibrant open spaces.

The Open Space Strategy 2009 nominates the character of Montgomery Park as 'Informal' (primary classification) and Play (secondary classification) and its hierarchy as 'Municipal'.

The Open Space Strategy 2009 includes the following Community Survey outcomes for the precinct:

- *Need for more facilities and upgrades to the existing open spaces.*
- *Improved maintenance*
- *Additional shade trees*
- *Value the open space that is provided*

The Open Space Strategy recommends to: *Implement the existing Montgomery Park Master Plan (2007).*



Leisure Strategy 2013 - 23

The Leisure Strategy focuses on enabling, supporting and improving people's capacity to be active socially, mentally and physically.

The Leisure Strategy 2013-23 principles aim to;

1. Build Community health and wellbeing
2. Provide access for all; and
3. Social inclusiveness.

MV2040 Action Plan: Draft Water Sensitive City

To create a healthier, more liveable city we seek to use water sensitively and take an integrated approach to water management to support healthy natural environments, waterways and green spaces.

The Draft Water Sensitive City Action Plan sets out targets and to become a Water Sensitive City in line with MV2040 to address challenges including climate change, urban heat, flood risks and pressures on potable water. The plan includes the following action: *Ensure Open Space Master Plans incorporate integrated water management, WSUD elements and are designed for climate resilience.*

The Plan sets objectives and quantifiable targets to:

- Reduce the use of potable (or drinking quality) water
- Improve the quality of stormwater entering waterways
- Reduce the volume and frequency of stormwater discharged to waterways by retaining more rainfall within the urban landscape
- Mitigate flooding impacts

urban ecology

In 2014 an *Urban Ecological Scenario* was prepared for Council to answer the question - What does an urban ecology scenario look like? Using a hypothetical park, with the only requirements being to enhance ecology, a range of interventions were identified as a set of ideas to inform the future open space design.

Montgomery Park was the site of the hypothetical park which gives the ideas increased relevance for consideration for the park's master plan. Key ideas in the document include:

- Harvesting from local stormwater drains including diverting drains to capture more stormwater
- Including a large wetland
- Including a diversity of planting types (woodlands, shrub lands, grassland/flower meadows, wetlands) and habitats
- Nature play and water play
- Social spaces
- Green roof
- Improved connections to the Moonee Ponds Creek

The Draft *Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan – Chain of Ponds* includes opportunities for Montgomery Park including:

- The implementation of a WSUD raingarden within Montgomery Park
- Transformation of roadways fronting the creek as entrances and gateways into the Moonee Ponds Creek Linear Park which may include: raingarden, WSUD tree pits and bio-retention swales, street greening, permeable road pavements, strategies to de-pave and installation of pollutant traps. There are also opportunities for property owners within the 'court' to voluntarily implement: rainwater tanks, lot greening, permeable pavements, green roofs and on site detention.

A number of the above opportunities are reflected in the Montgomery Park Master Plan recommendations.

The *MV2040 Strategy* contains the following implementation initiatives:

- Provide pedestrian and cycling connections to Moonee Ponds Creek
- Revitalise Moonee Ponds Creek through naturalisation, flood mitigation, stormwater harvesting and reuse



Urban Ecological Scenario 2015 - The Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology & Zoe Metherall

existing conditions and recommendations

Water & urban ecology

Montgomery Park is located less than 80 metres from the Moonee Ponds Creek and is within the creek catchment. As such it presents an opportunity to act as a retention area to reduce local and downstream flooding of the creek. The site also presents the opportunity for the capture of stormwater to irrigate the park.

Montgomery Park is currently un-irrigated. In considering which passive open spaces Council should irrigate Montgomery Park could be considered a high priority given:

- Park hierarchy
- Distance to another irrigated park
- Proximity to an economic precinct
- Proximity to a high use Council facility

There is an opportunity to consider strategies to enable mown grass areas and other planting areas of the park to be irrigated, to provide flood retention and improve Moonee Ponds Creek water quality. These strategies may include one or a combination of:

- Bio-retention system to improve stormwater quality (1,000 square metres is indicatively shown) including the potential to divert stormwater into the park from Albion and/or Hilda Streets
- Raising sections of path around the central mown grass area to retain a dry, accessible path while creating flood retention for times of very wet weather, to protect the waterway environment and community uses downstream
- Creating a natural sub surface storage area under the central mown grass area which can be designed to naturally 'wick up' to irrigate the grass
- Underground tank storage of treated stormwater for park irrigation
- Passive irrigation directing stormwater on Tennyson and Albion Street to irrigate adjacent planted embankments

All the above options are subject to further feasibility to determine the preferred approach.

Feasibility for water sensitive urban design will consider any implications for facilities such as the Integrated Early Years Centre of potential flood retention functions including whether buildings need to be raised.

There is an opportunity to consider treatments to the west end of Hilda Street and Gordon Street to reinforce links to the Moonee Ponds Creek including wayfinding signage and street greening subject to consultation.



*Design for ecological structure image, Urban Ecological Scenario 2015
The Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology & Zoe Metherall*



*Montgomery Park - existing
insect hotel*



Example of bio-retention basin

existing conditions and recommendations

There is an opportunity to incorporate environmental education to the urban ecology initiatives of the Master Plan for children at the Early Years Centre to increase understanding about the park ecology. Education components could take place at various stages including planning and construction and may include park education sessions and a children's ecology trail.

There is an opportunity to consider the provision of water play as part of future playspaces upgrades subject to suitable treatment and budgetary considerations to enhance nature play opportunities within the park.

The park is within 200 metres of a waterway and therefore a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is required to be prepared for the site.

Recommendations - water & urban ecology

- Undertake a study to investigate the feasibility of options for the capture, treatment, storage and re-use for irrigation of stormwater at Montgomery Park including opportunities for flood retention, irrigation and considering cost benefit and ecological outcomes. Implementation to be undertaken, subject to feasibility.
- Implement passive irrigation treatments from Tennyson and Albion Streets to irrigate planted embankments subject to detailed design.
- Implement greening treatments to the Moonee Ponds Creek links on Hilda and Gordon Streets subject to consultation.
- Implement wayfinding signage to reinforce creek links.
- Consider opportunities to incorporate water play into future playspace upgrades.
- Incorporate engagement with children from the Early Years Centre throughout the detailed design and construction of water, planting and other ecological elements at the park.
- Prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the park.



LEGEND

- Existing tree
- Proposed tree
- Existing tree to be removed
- Significant tree
- Existing vegetation
- Proposed vegetation
- Proposed mown grass
- Stormwater harvesting and treatment (subject to feasibility)
- Proposed raised path to create flood retention area (subject to feasibility)
- ▶ Passive irrigation for embankment planting
- * Proposed green street links to Moonee Ponds Creek

Montgomery Park -
existing & proposed planting & water sensitive urban design

existing conditions and recommendations

Planting

Montgomery Park contains informal, predominantly native planting which compliments its informal use. It contains a large central mown grass space area, scattered trees and native embankment plantings along the Tennyson Street frontage and to the western section of the Albion and Hilda Street frontages. There are a number of trees that have been identified as at the end of their useful life.

Two Lombardy poplars located near the Children Centre have been identified as significant trees and are planned to be retained and protected under the Environmental Significance Overlay.

It is proposed to retain a minimum 70 metre diameter central mown grass area to provide for informal games along with a mown grass areas to the north-east corner of the park. There is an opportunity to plant trees in locations to act as goal posts at the north and south ends of this space.

There is an opportunity to increase native planting and plant diversity and to reinforce the bushland planting theme of the park by:

- New tree planting throughout of native and indigenous species
- Locating trees to provide shade to playspaces, picnic areas and seating
- Expanding planting to embankments and Hilda Street western edge
- Providing additional planting around the sewer infrastructure at the south-west and north-east corners of the park.
- There is an opportunity to include trees suitable for climbing, near the junior playspace.

Consideration shall be given to the planting design for replacement of trees that may reach the end of their life within the life of the Master Plan.

There is an opportunity to provide sensory planting within or near the Early Years Services facilities. Selection of plants that typically cause allergies are to be avoided within the Early Years Services facilities and entries.

A small number of trees are proposed to be removed to allow for upgrade works. Local residents will be informed prior to removals.

There is an opportunity to plant new exotic shade trees at key locations within the Early Years Children's Centre and Essendon Traffic School to increase shade. Consideration shall be given to planting that is least likely to cause allergies. Refer to Essendon Traffic School section for further details.

Recommendations - planting

- Retain and protect the two *Populus nigra 'italica'* (Lombardy Poplars) located near Lawson Street in accordance with the Environmental Significance Overlay.
- Increase tree and understory planting to a native theme including tree planting for shade to provide shade to key gathering areas and seating
- Increase planting to embankments and west edge of Hilda Street and around the sewer infrastructure
- Consider opportunities to provide trees for climbing and sensory planting. Retain central mown grass area and mown grass areas to the north-east corner of the park.

Pathways and circulation

The paths at Montgomery Park include a circuit path around the central open space, access paths to picnic and play areas and linking paths to entries on Albion Street, Hilda Street and north of the Children Centre on Lawson Street.

The existing pathways in Montgomery Park are predominantly gravel. The gravel paths tend to become sodden in sections after rain but provide a bushland feel of the park and a preferred surface for running.

It is proposed to upgrade the path network in accordance with the new layout proposed to accommodate proposed elements including water sensitive urban design elements. There is an opportunity to raise some sections of path to form a flood retention area which will assist with path drainage. Path alignment is subject to maintenance and infrastructure access requirements.



Montgomery Park - recent embankment planting



Montgomery Park - existing trees in grass



Montgomery Park - existing Lombardy poplars to be retained

existing conditions and recommendations

A new path and seating area is proposed from the south-west park entry to the top of the giant slide with a stepped connection to the picnic and play area below. Existing accessible paths into the park are located to the east along Albion Street near the tennis courts and at the Hilda and Tennyson Street corner entry.

It is proposed that paths to key destinations be concrete or alternative hard paved surface including to: playspaces, picnic areas, toilets and the north-south connection from Hilda to Albion Street, with remaining paths to be an upgraded gravel surface. The surface of the western section of the oval path is shown as gravel but subject to future raingarden design, may need to be concreted.

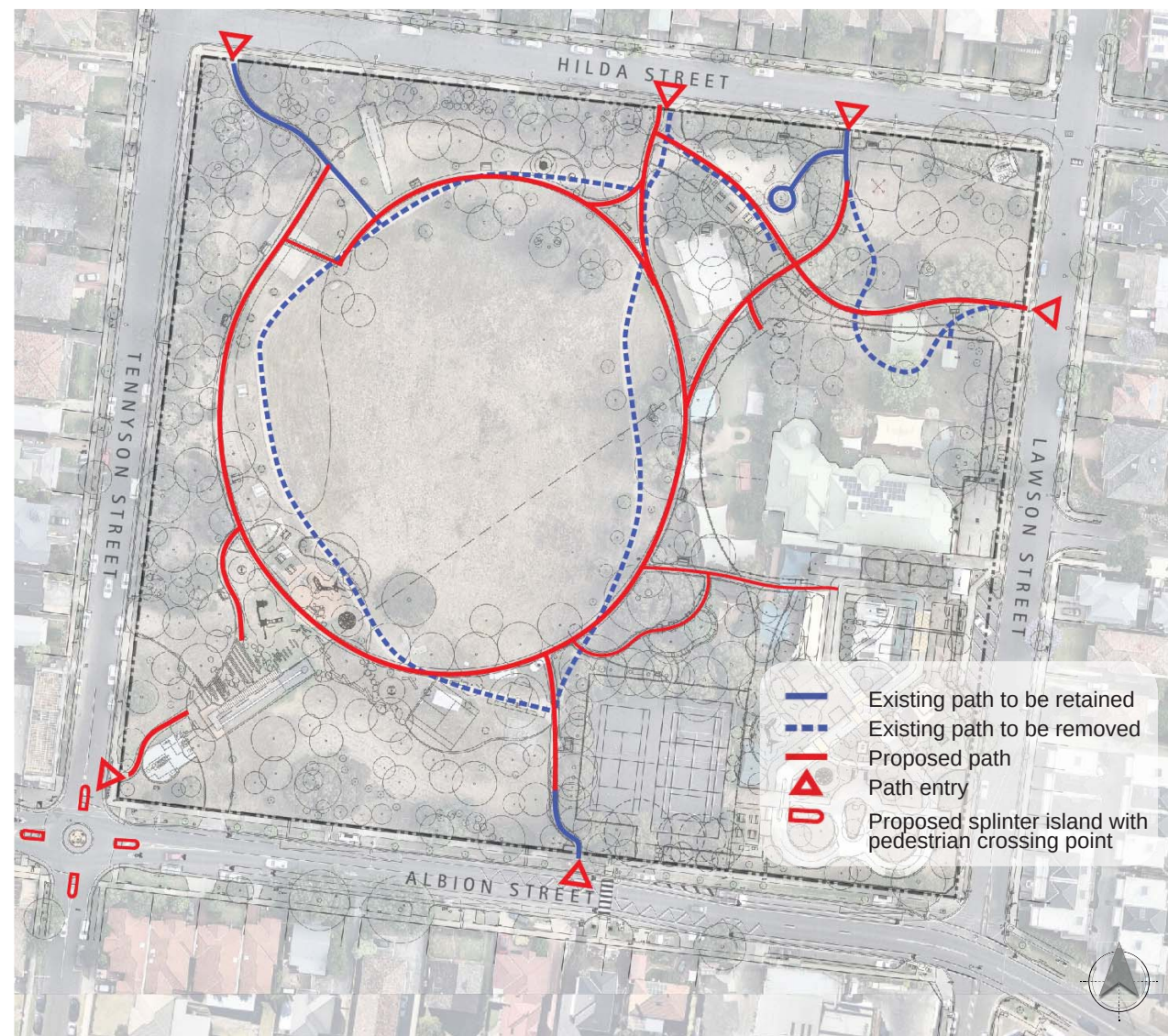
There is an opportunity to extend the existing narrow concrete footpath on the park side of Tennyson Street to the fence line. The path widening design will consider improvements to the Albion Street corner park entry.

Community concerns have been expressed about pedestrian safety crossing Albion Street and at the Albion Street intersections with Lawson and Tennyson Streets. Further investigations of traffic conditions have been undertaken during the master planning process. Council will be installing splinter islands at the Albion/Tennyson Street intersection to improve pedestrian conditions.

There is an opportunity for additional road treatments at the intersection of Albion and Lawson Streets to assist pedestrian crossings and reduce vehicular speeds, subject to further investigation.

Recommendations - pathways and circulation

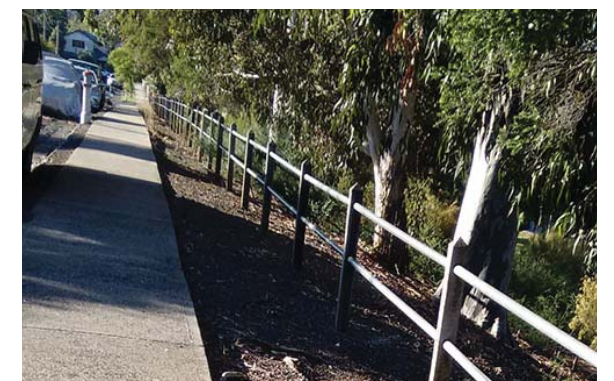
- Upgrade the path network in accordance with the new layout and surfacing proposed to improve access and accommodate proposed elements including water sensitive urban design.
- Consider raising some sections of path and implement subject to stormwater re-use feasibility study and detailed design.
- Extend the existing concrete footpath on the park side of Tennyson Street to the fence line.
- Undertake road treatment to the Albion and Lawson Street intersection, subject to further investigation.



Montgomery Park - existing & proposed circulation



Montgomery Park - existing gravel path



Montgomery Park - existing narrow Lawson Street footpath



Example of splinter island with pedestrian crossing point

existing conditions and recommendations

Active leisure elements

Montgomery Park contains two public, asphalt surfaced, fenced tennis courts. Council's Growth in Tennis Plan 2018 states that both courts are in a poor state with the western court classified as unsafe to play. It recommends upgrading the courts including resurfacing, multi-lining for netball and court lighting.

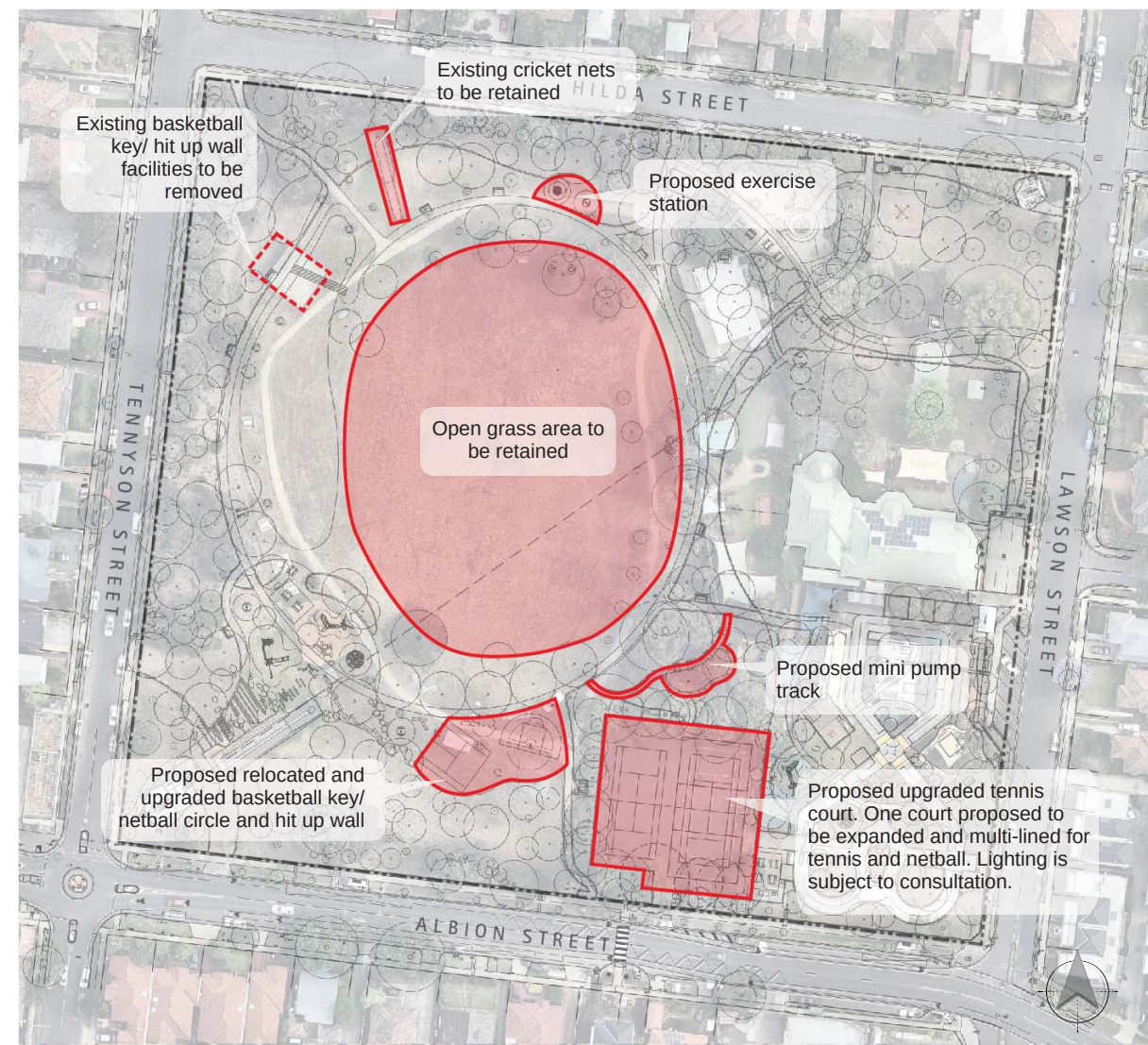
There is an opportunity to upgrade the existing sports courts including:

- Upgrade and re-surface both courts
- Expand and multi-line the eastern court for tennis and netball
- New fencing and upgraded Albion Street entry
- Install court lighting, subject to consultation
- Utilise courts for Traffic School bike skills activities and provide direct gate access from the Traffic School
- Trim trees and vegetation from perimeter fencing
- Consider implementation of book a court system without charging people for use to provide certainty of access without introducing an economic hurdle to use.

It is proposed to relocate the basketball key near the tennis courts and senior playspace and add a netball hoop and separate hit up wall. The key will be line marked with a netball shooting circle behind to allow for basketball and netball use. There is an opportunity for a climbing wall to be located on the back of the hit up wall as part of the adjacent playspace.

The removal of the existing basketball key and hit up wall will free up space for the potential future stormwater treatment area, however it is proposed to retain the existing cricket net in its current location and repair or replace the net.

It is proposed to provide additional active leisure opportunities including outdoor exercise equipment and a mini pump track near the proposed new Traffic School entry to provide skate and bike facilities to complement activities at the Traffic School. There is an opportunity to provide distance markers around the oval path.



Montgomery Park - existing and proposed active leisure elements



Montgomery Park - existing basketball facilities



Example of pump track



Example of multi-lined netball tennis court

existing conditions and recommendations

Recommendations - active leisure elements

- Upgrade the existing tennis courts including new acrylic surface, expand and multi-line eastern court for tennis and netball, new entry, fencing, and gate to Traffic School, lighting (subject to consultation).
- Undertake maintenance to trim trees and vegetation from perimeter court fencing.
- Consider implementation of book a court system without charging people for use to provide certainty of access without introducing an economic hurdle to use.
- Install basketball key, netball hoop and hit up wall facilities, in new location with climbing wall features, subject to detailed design.
- Retain and repair existing cricket nets.
- Install outdoor exercise station, mini pump track and distance markers subject to detailed design.

Playspaces

Montgomery Park contains two playspaces. The playspace to the north-east of the site has a junior play focus and has been recently upgraded. A number of play elements are spread across the south-west corner of the park including a giant slide and a space net.

There is an opportunity to create a consolidated, senior playspace around the giant slide utilising the slope to include more challenging adventure-style play elements which may include (subject to detailed design): flying fox, additional slides, swings, climbing, bridges, and nature play elements. The existing giant slide is proposed to be rectified to improve sliding function and the space net is proposed to be relocated to this area. It is proposed to incorporate universal design play elements to provide for a range of abilities. If possible, an area will be retained to allow for hill rolling.

The existing junior playspace will be retained and upgraded in accordance with scheduled playspace renewal time frames.

There is an opportunity to consider the inclusion of water play elements as part of future playspace upgrades subject to availability of suitable water supply and within budget constraints.

Recommendations - playspaces

- Implement a consolidated senior playspace to south-west corner utilising the slope and including rectification to the giant slide, re-located space net and challenging adventure style, nature play and universal design elements. Subject to detailed design and in line with playspace renewal time frames.
- Upgrade the existing junior playspace in accordance with scheduled playspace renewal time frames.
- Consider inclusion of water play elements subject to water supply and budget constraints.



Montgomery Park - existing junior playspace



Montgomery Park - existing giant slide



Example of giant slide with rock terracing, Royal Park.

existing conditions and recommendations

Picnic facilities & park furniture

Picnic facilities are currently located adjacent to each of the playspaces and include picnic tables and a single burner barbeque. The north-east picnic area includes a large picnic shelter. A bluestone seating area is located at the northern end of the kindergarten. Seating and bins are provided around the park. Drinking fountains are located to the north-east picnic area and at the north end of the tennis courts.

A single unit automated public toilet is located in the north-east corner of the park adjacent to the existing picnic facilities. It is open from 8am to 9pm.

There are some park lights located along paths within the park.

It is proposed to upgrade the south-west picnic facilities including shelter, barbeque, picnic tables, drinking fountain and shelter, and to better integrate this with the adjacent playspace.

It is proposed to upgrade the picnic facilities to the north-east of the park and re-locate to be adjacent to the junior playspace including shelter, barbeque, and picnic tables.

There is an opportunity in both picnic areas for at least one picnic table to be slightly removed from the main picnic area to provide for people without children.

It is proposed to remove the existing bluestone seating area and remnant brick furniture to the north east picnic area.

There is the opportunity for a multi-use pavilion that can function as an early years outdoor classroom as well as a shelter, event space and/or stage for community use. This is subject to further feasibility.

There is an opportunity to incorporate public toilets with a separate access within the proposed redeveloped Integrated Early Years Centre building form. Refer Early Years Children's Services section below.

There is an opportunity to provide some minimal lighting enhancement to the central north-south path to provide for pedestrian access and to compliment the proposed sports court lighting (subject to consultation).

There is an opportunity to provide additional seating throughout the park next to playspaces, picnic areas, active leisure elements and around the oval. Consideration should be given to the provision of smaller sized seating elements for pre school children near the junior playspace.

There is an opportunity to provide a new drinking fountain near the upgraded south-west picnic area. It is proposed to monitor vandalism to the existing drinking fountain in the relatively secluded location north of the tennis courts, and consider possible future removal.

It is proposed that as part of detailed design the quantity and location of all furniture elements are reviewed including:

- Bins
- Bike racks
- Dog bag dispensers

It is recommended to review existing signage to identify opportunities to improve wayfinding information, including to and from the Moonee Pond Creek, and to identify park facilities. There is an opportunity to install educative signage about the park ecology and history.

There is an opportunity to repair fencing and replace sections as required as part of scheduled renewal.

There is an opportunity to install a bike repair station on the Lawson Street frontage to service Traffic School users and cyclists along the Moonee Valley Creek trail. Refer to the Essendon Traffic School section.



Montgomery Park - existing bluestone seating area

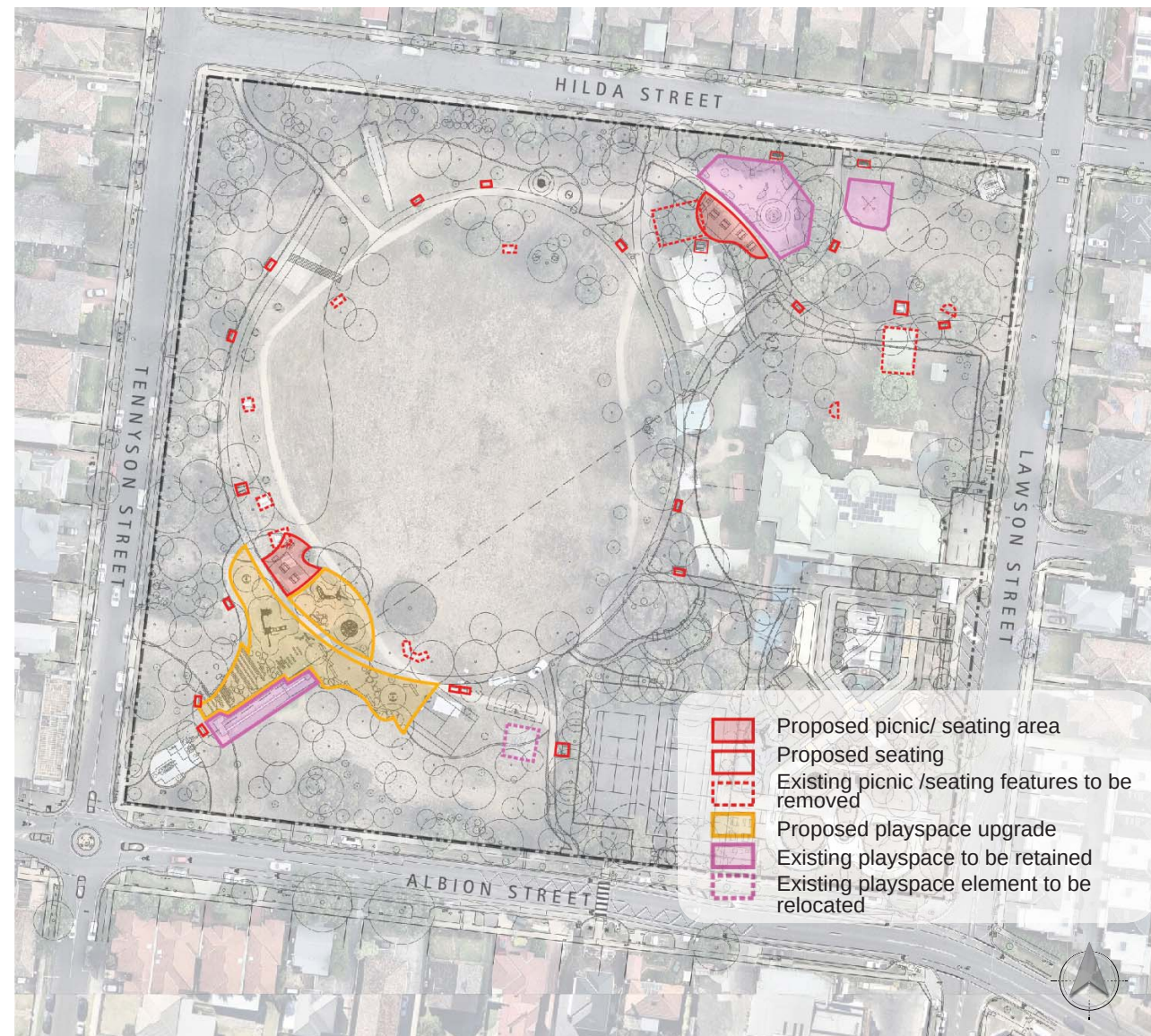


Montgomery Park - view to south - west play and picnic area

existing conditions and recommendations

Recommendations - picnic facilities & park furniture

- Upgrade and re-locate the two picnic areas to include shelters, barbeques, picnic tables, drinking fountains
- Remove the existing bluestone seating area and remnant brick furniture to the north east picnic area.
- Implement a multi-use pavilion to serve as an outdoor classroom, shelter, event space and/or stage for community use, subject to further feasibility and detailed design.
- Upgrade park lighting to central north-south path
- Provide additional seating throughout the park and to key locations
- Provide new and upgraded furniture elements subject to review during detailed design including for drinking fountains, bins, bike racks, dog bag dispensers and perimeter fencing.
- Implement way finding and interpretative signage.



Montgomery Park - existing and proposed playspaces and park furniture



Example of open classroom / event pavilion.
Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne.

existing conditions and recommendations

Early Years Children's Services

Montgomery Park contains Early Years Children Services including:

- The Montgomery Park Kindergarten providing 60 licensed places (Council owned and managed)
- The Montgomery Park Children Centre - Long Day Care providing 85 licensed places (Council owned and managed)
- Maternal Child Health Service – a single room located within the Children Services building
- Outdoor enclosed spaces

The Montgomery Park Kindergarten opened in the 1970s in a converted sports pavilion. The building contains disused public toilets that are in poor condition and are planned to be demolished. The Children's Centre was opened in 1992 and extended in 1998.

Council's direction is to redevelop the Children's Centre into an Integrated Early Years Centre providing a service delivery style that preferences flexible, multi-functional spaces, responsive to future changing needs. The MV2040 Strategy includes the initiative to: *Explore opportunities to expand Montgomery Park early years functions to meet long-term kindergarten and maternal child health needs.*

The Open Space Strategy includes guidelines for buildings in open space that guide future proposals for new or upgraded non-open space dependent facilities such as early years children's services facilities.

There is an opportunity for the Montgomery Park Integrated Early Years Centre to provide an improved, integrated early years' service within the park setting. Any works would be subject to future Council direction, consultation and design, with the opportunity to consider ways to optimise public open space through reconfiguration of building forms and co-location of some functions. The building and outdoor space footprint shown for the Early Years Centre represents a maximum indicative footprint based on national childcare standards, but is subject to future planning and design. Options will be explored to optimise publicly accessible open space in Montgomery Park which may include:

- Multi-level building facility with administrative functions on the upper level
- Shared open space accommodated through retractable fencing
- Bush kinder style approaches where dedicated open space areas are reduced and the general park environs are utilised.

It is proposed that design and implementation of new, reconfigured or expanded buildings, structures and open space for the Early Years Centre be guided by the following principles:

- No net encroachment into open space in accordance with the Open Space Strategy guidelines for buildings in open space
- Considers both indoor/outdoor childcare space requirements in accordance with national standards and alternative approaches such as shared use
- Considers future demand for car parking in response to proposed facilities, planning permit requirements, and how these can most appropriately be accommodated in accordance with the Open Space Strategy guidelines for car parking in open space
- Includes flexible, multi-use, shared spaces and facilities
- Is orientated to maximise northern exposure to increase amenity for building occupants
- Complements the informal, natural character of the park and is well integrated into the park environment including:
 - Being sympathetic in materials and forms, including use of organic forms interfacing with the park environment
 - Consideration for the opportunity for a green roof
 - Buildings and outdoor spaces incorporating physical and visual permeability to the parkland including high quality glazing, permeable and semi-permeable fencing and gates
- Is in accordance with guidelines of the Open Space Strategy including:
 - Use best practice environmentally sustainable principles in siting and design, water and energy
 - Building siting and design should not block prominent public views to the reserve, nor create hidden or unusable areas and reduce passive surveillance of the open space
 - Waste management is adequately provided for including appropriate bin enclosures and recycling initiatives
 - Adequate bicycle parking facilities integrated into the building design
 - All-ability access to Australian Standards
- Include public toilets for park users within the building footprint of the Early Years Centre, to avoid the need for a separate structure in accordance with the Open Space Strategy. The external toilet entry to in a location with good passive surveillance.



Montgomery Park - existing children's centre building



Montgomery Park - existing kindergarten building



Montgomery Park - disused public toilets at rear of existing kindergarten building

existing conditions and recommendations

- Considers inclusion of direct gate access between the Integrated Early Years Centre and the Traffic School.
- Considers external lighting requirements in keeping with the open space context.
- Considers the opportunity for the inclusion of multi-use pavilion that can also be used as a picnic shelter, event space or stage for community use. Refer section above: *Picnic Facilities*.

There is an opportunity to consider consistent high quality pool type fencing treatment for facilities including the Early Years Centre and the Essendon Traffic School.

Future design of building structures should consider the implications of proposals for the park to become a flood retention area. Refer previous section: *Water and urban ecology*.

Council will undertake suitable consultation with users and local residents about future design proposals for the Integrated Early Years Centre at Montgomery Park.

Recommendations - Early Years Children's Services

- Ensure the design for the future Montgomery Park Integrated Early Years Centre is sympathetic to its park setting, with no net encroachment into open space and guided by principles included in the Montgomery Park Master Plan report 2018 and the Open Space Strategy.
- Include public toilets for park users within the building footprint of the Early Years Centre with separate external access and good passive surveillance.
- Install consistent high quality fencing treatment for facilities including the Early Years Centre and the Essendon Traffic School, and consider inclusion of direct gate access between the Early Years Centre and the Traffic School. Consider retractable fencing for shared open space use.
- Consider design implications for future building structures of the park providing a proposed flood retention function.
- Undertake suitable community consultation about future design proposals for the Integrated Early Years Centre.



Montgomery Park - existing early years services infrastructure



Example of Children's Services in park, Barwon Heads.

- Existing early years building to be retained
- Existing public toilet
- Existing outdoor space



Montgomery Park - proposed integrated early years centre infrastructure

- Existing early years building to be retained*
- Existing building to be removed*
- Potential new early years building footprint*
- Proposed early years outdoor space*
- Proposed public toilet location with access from park*

* Indicative only. Subject to future planning, design and investigation into reduced footprint to optimise public open space



Examples of green roofs - The Venny Community Centre, Kensington & Queenscliff Marine Discovery Centre



existing conditions and recommendations

Essendon Traffic School

The Essendon Traffic School is a well-used educational and recreational facility for children located within Montgomery Park. The Traffic School is utilised by school and preschool excursions, during public sessions and hired for children's parties. The adjacent Children Services use the Traffic School facilities.

There is an opportunity to improve integration between the Traffic School and the park by providing a path access directly into the park and gate access into the Integrated Early Years Centre to foster ongoing integration between these programs.

There are opportunities for the Essendon Traffic School to consider upgrade of facilities and the following are proposed:

- Refurbish the tram interior to provide a more usable layout
- Provide a new semi-enclosed classroom/party hire structure/ sheltered seating area adjacent to the tram which may include kitchenette.
- Remove the existing storage shed from central location to improve passive surveillance and replace with designed storage element. This would require adjustment to the northern roadway section.
- Provide village play and stationary train element in central area to enhance transport theme, subject to detailed design that provide additional experiences.
- Provide an additional toilet to meet demands with baby change facilities.
- Provide additional seating throughout.
- Provide seating outside the entry to accommodate patrons waiting to enter the Traffic School
- Upgrade main play area
- Incorporate a walking circuit to include a pedestrian education experience.
- Provide an additional drinking fountain near the sand pit.
- Replace the shade cloth over the picnic tables with a permanent shelter to improve functionality and reduce ongoing maintenance. It is proposed to re-locate this area to accommodate the playspace area and access to the sports courts.
- Provide direct access via a gate to the sports courts to allow use of the courts for practising bike skills.

- Upgrade the perimeter fencing with a higher quality pool type fencing. This should match the fencing proposed for the Children's Services outdoor spaces.
- Provide additional planting with a focus on provision of shade.

There is an opportunity to consider:

- Alternatives to the existing shade cloth over the tram which may include providing protective coating to the tram roof.
- Decorative gate signage for the Traffic School to enhance the entry experience.
- Measures to improve security including possible CCTV or sensor lighting.

There are opportunities for the Essendon Traffic School to consider possible future use by alternative users such as people with disabilities, including offering training through the NDIS. Detailed design for the traffic school upgrade works would need to be undertaken in conjunction with an access consultant to ensure suitability and compliance to access standards.

Recommendations - Essendon Traffic School

- Provide gate connections from the Essendon Traffic School to the park, the sports courts and the Early Years Centre Upgrade and upgrade the perimeter fencing with a higher quality pool type fencing to match proposed fencing for the Children's Services outdoor spaces.
- Refurbish the tram interior to provide a more usable layout and consider alternatives to the existing shade cloth which may include providing protective coating to the tram roof.
- Provide a new semi-enclosed classroom/party hire structure adjacent to the tram, subject to detailed design.
- Remove the existing storage shed and replace with designed storage element.
- Provide village play and stationary train elements in central area and upgrade the main playspace with some additional equipment and village /streetscape elements to match the transport theme.



Montgomery Park - Essendon Traffic School - existing training road and central shed with undercover area



Montgomery Park - Essendon Traffic School - existing tram



Montgomery Park - Essendon Traffic School - existing toilets and storage structures

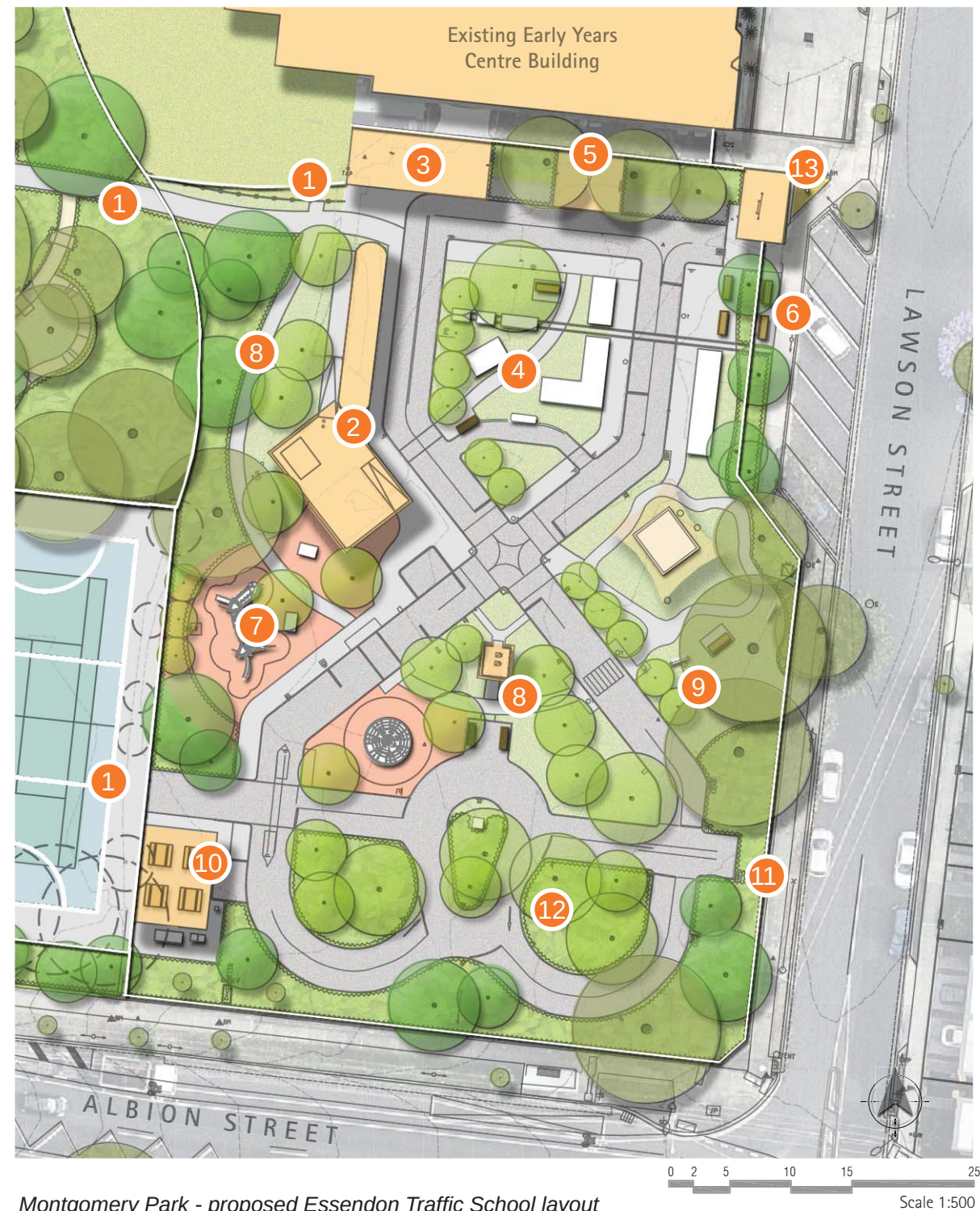
existing conditions and recommendations



Possible design typologies for storage element.

Recommendations - Essendon Traffic School continued

- Upgrade and expand the existing toilets facilities to provide an additional unit and include baby change facilities.
- Provide additional seating including on Lawson Street near the entry and consider an additional drinking fountain and decorative entry signage. Adjust roadway at northern end to provide space for expanded storage and toilet facilities and include a new pedestrian path connection.
- Install a permanent shelter to replace the existing shade cloth over the picnic tables and re-locate southward.
- Provide additional trees including shade trees generally and to seating and play areas.
- Consider measures including CCTV or sensor lighting to improve security.
- Consider possible future use for people with disabilities and undertake consultation with access consultant to ensure suitability and compliance.
- All proposals are subject to detailed design and funding priorities.



Montgomery Park - proposed Essendon Traffic School layout

1. Path access into park, Early Years Children's Centre and sports courts for bike education
2. Refurbish tram interior and provide adjacent undercover classroom/party hire space
3. Replace central storage shed with designed storage element
4. Play village shops and stationary train, subject to detailed design
5. Extended toilet facility
6. Entry seating and decorative gate entry
7. Upgrade main playspace
8. New path link to create pedestrian circuit
9. Additional drinking fountain
10. Upgraded and relocated picnic area with permanent shelter
11. Upgrade perimeter fencing
12. New tree planting throughout including shade trees
13. Bike repair station

existing conditions and recommendations

Maintenance and dog use

Park maintenance is currently undertaken in accordance with requirements as indicated by the existing park elements and the park's municipal hierarchy.

Changes to park maintenance regime will be required in response to the implementation of Master Plan proposals. The most significant of these will be the implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design elements but will also include expanded playspaces, picnic facilities, exercise equipment, shelters and planting.

Changes to park maintenance regimes will be considered as part of detailed design for all proposed Master Plan proposals.

Montgomery Park is designated as a dog on-leash park. The park is well used by dogs and their owners and many dogs are allowed by their owners to be off-leash resulting in some conflict with other park uses. Cross Keys Reserve, located 1.7km to the north of Montgomery Park is the nearest Moonee Valley dog off-leash park.

As part of the master planning process the option for designated off-leash times at the park were explored however are not supported in the Master Plan due to the proximity to the children's services and traffic school, the challenges of enforcing after hours dog off-leash times.

There is an opportunity to review and provide updated signage given significant dog use at the park as part of landscape upgrades.



Montgomery Park - Dog on lead sign near playspace, Hilda Street.



Drawings from children at the Montgomery Park Children's Centre about their perfect park.

Recommendations - maintenance and dog use

- Review maintenance implications as part of the detailed design for all park upgrade element.
- Retain Montgomery Park as an on-leash park.
- Review existing dog signage and update as required.

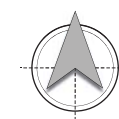
Montgomery Park Master Plan



LEGEND

	Existing Tree to be retained		Mown Grass		Proposed Gravel Path		Proposed Feature Paving
	Proposed Tree (Native)		Proposed Groundcover Planting/ Mulched Area		Proposed & Existing Playspace to be retained		Proposed Seats & Picnic Sets
	Proposed Tree (Exotic)		Proposed Stormwater Harvesting and Treatment		Proposed Exercise Station		Proposed Bike Hoops
	Existing Tree to be removed		Proposed Concrete Paving		Proposed Basketball Key / Netball Hoop & Hit Up Wall		Existing Light to be retained
							New Light (indicative location)

0 5 10 20 30 50m



December 2018
Scale 1:500@ A1, 1:1000 @ A3



- Stormwater harvesting & treatment.** For park irrigation and to improve creek water quality. Includes diversion of stormwater. Subject to feasibility.
- Passive irrigation.** Capturing stormwater from Tennyson & Albion streets to irrigate the planted embankment.
- Flood retention area.** Create an occasional flood retention area around the oval by raising paths. Subject to feasibility.
- Underground storage.** Potential natural sub-surface or tank storage for irrigation and/or flood retention. Subject to feasibility.
- Concrete paths.** Improve access to key locations and as a north-south link through the park. New path entry from south-west corner. Widen Tennyson Street footpath.
- Gravel paths.** Realigned and upgraded to improve drainage
- Park lighting.** Add new lights along the central north-south path.
- Mown grass open spaces** for informal games.
- Native planting** to embankments extended.
- Tree planting.** Native trees. Some exotic shade trees within the Traffic School and Integrated Early Years Centre.
- Park furniture.** Additional seating and other park furniture.
- Picnic area** upgraded with shelter, barbeque, tables and drinking fountain.
- Senior playspace** consolidated & upgraded with more challenging equipment. Giant slide to be rectified and space net relocated.
- Basketball key/ netball circle & hit up wall** relocated
- Tennis/netball courts.** Upgrade courts. Expand and multi-line one court for tennis and netball. Lighting subject to consultation. Consider implementation of book a court system without charging people for use. Upgrade court entry. Gate to traffic school for court use for bike education.
- Junior playspace** retained.
- Picnic area.** Relocate next to playspace. To include shelter, barbeque, tables. Existing picnic facilities and bluestone seating area to be removed.
- Integrated Early Years Centre.** Indicative maximum footprint for improved integration into park setting, subject to future planning and design. Opportunities to optimise public open space to be explored.
- Public toilet.** Incorporated within future Integrated Early Years Centre building with separate entry. Remove stand-alone toilet.
- Multi-use pavilion.** For outdoor classroom, gathering and events.
- Exercise station.**
- Mini pump track.** For skateboard and BMX use
- Moonee Ponds Creek connections.** Greening and signage.
- Intersection treatment.** To improve pedestrian access and reduce vehicle speeds.
- Essendon Traffic School.** Improved connections into the park. Refer separate plan for more information.

All elements proposed are indicative and subject to detailed design and budget processes.

consultation

Round 1 consultation - Information Gathering

A first round of consultation gathered information, ideas and concerns. Consultation included:

- Feedback forms, letter box drop with reply paid envelopes to 1,300 surrounding addresses.
- A community session at Montgomery Park 9am to 11am on Saturday 25 November 2017

A total of 92 submissions were received including feedback forms, emails, facebook posts, letters and comments made at the consultation event. Feedback received was used to guide the preparation of a draft Master Plan.

Key feedback included request for:

- Upgrade and expansion of playspaces
- Dog off leash park / Concern about dogs off leash activity
- Upgraded tennis courts
- Exercise equipment
- Soccer or football goals
- Skate facilities
- More shade and shelters
- More planting
- Upgraded basketball facilities
- Resurfaced paths
- Improved grass area
- Improved lighting

In addition, specific feedback was received from children and staff from the Early Years Children Services and specific feedback was collected about the Traffic School.

Feedback received was used to guide preparation of a draft Master Plan.

Round 2 consultation - Draft Master Plan

A second round of consultation sought feedback on the draft Master Plan. Consultation included:

- Feedback forms, letter box drop with reply paid envelopes to 1,300 surrounding addresses.
- A community session at Montgomery Park 9.30am to 11.30am on Saturday 16 June 2018.

A total of 157 submissions/comments were received from the community including feedback forms, emails, and comments made at the consultation event. In addition a total of 11 feedback forms were received about the Traffic School proposals and comments and drawings from children at the Children's Centre and Kindergarten were received.

Key feedback included:

- A significant amount of feedback both for and against dog off leash
- Concern with pedestrian crossing and other traffic issues on Albion Street
- Feedback on the sports court proposals
- Requests to retain cricket nets
- Request for improved lighting
- Comments about playspace proposals
- Request for improved mown grass surface
- Support for proposed stormwater capture treatment and re-use proposals
- Request for path access from the south-west corner
- Comments about basketball facilities

Feedback received was used to guide preparation the final Master Plan.

Stakeholder consultation

Internal stakeholder consultation has been undertaken through the master planning process with the following internal departments:

- City Design
- Children and Family Services
- Engineering Services
- Operations
- Property Services
- Research & Facilities Planning
- Regulatory & City Compliance
- Sport and Recreation
- Transport and Major Projects
- Sustainability



Montgomery Park - community consultation November 2017



Help shape the future of Montgomery Park

Council is developing a master plan to help shape the future of Montgomery Park, Essendon.

The master plan will guide design, development and management of the park over the next 15 years. Council is keen for local residents and stakeholders to contribute to the plan.

As a first step, Council is holding an information gathering and ideas session at Montgomery Park from 9am to 11am on Saturday, 25 November. This will be a chance for you to discuss ideas and possible options for improving the park.

The Essendon Traffic School is also planning an upgrade and welcomes any ideas you may wish to contribute about this facility.

Feedback gathered at the session will be used to help develop a draft Montgomery Park Master Plan which will go out for public consultation in 2018.

Have your say

You can provide your feedback by Friday, 15 December 2017 in the following ways:

- attending the community ideas session
- emailing parkimprovements@mvec.vic.gov.au
- mailing to City Design, Moonee Valley City Council, PO Box 126, Moonee Ponds 3039.

For more information contact Council's City Design team on 9243 8888 or parkimprovements@mvec.vic.gov.au or visit mvec.vic.gov.au/parkplans

Community ideas session

Where: Montgomery Park, Essendon

When: Saturday, 25 November, 9am to 11am

Montgomery Park - community consultation feedback form

implementation

Implementation Plan			
Short Term 2022/23 - 2025/26		Cost Estimate \$	Maintenance/programmed replacement
2022/23	Design: Investigate and design possible road treatments for the Albion and Lawson St. Intersection.	10,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
	Feasibility: WSUD feasibility study for potential stormwater harvesting, irrigation and storage.	30,000	Review recurrent maintenance requirement
	Design: Traffic School main playspace, picnic area, paths, furniture and planting design.	In-house + 30,000	Recurrent maintenance required
2023/24	Design: Stormwater harvesting, treatment, storage & irrigation including possible grading and drainage for oval and associated paths, subject to feasibility. Includes passive irrigation.	180,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
	Design: Paths (includes Tennyson St. footpath extension), northern picnic area, signage, exercise station, mini pump track, basketball key and wall, fencing, lighting, planting, water play feasibility, Moonee Ponds Creek links and consultation, early years engagement process and Cultural Heritage Management Plan.	In-house + 90,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
	Design: Tennis/netball court upgrade subject to sports development capital works priorities.	35,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
	Construction: Traffic treatments, subject to further investigation.	60,000	Recurrent maintenance required
	Construction: Essendon Traffic School main playspace, picnic area, paths, furniture and planting, signage, subject to capital works priorities.	175,000	Recurrent maintenance required
2024/25	Construction: Tennis/netball court upgrade, subject to sports development capital works priorities.	325,000	Recurrent maintenance required
	Design: Senior (south-west) playspace and southern picnic area. Includes re-location of space net, play equipment, rockwork, stairs, planting.	In-house + 50,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
2025/26	Construction: Stormwater harvesting, treatment, storage & irrigation including diversion, oval regrading, reseeding, associated paths, drainage, subject to feasibility and detailed design.	1,825,000	Recurrent maintenance required
	Design: Essendon Traffic school design of storage elements, classroom structure, toilet extension, tram refurbishment, central play area, fencing, subject to capital works priorities.	125,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
<i>Subtotal short term:</i>		<i>(2,935,000)</i>	
Medium Term 2026/27 - 2030/31			
2026/27	Construction: Paths, exercise station, mini pump track, basketball key/netball hoop, distance markers, cricket net and lighting. Includes Tennyson Street footpath extension.	680,000	Recurrent maintenance required
	Construction: Senior playspace and southern picnic area including south-west path entry and steps. Includes re-location of space net, new play equipment, rockwork, planting.	1,035,000	Allow for playspace renewal within approximately 20 years.
	Design: Multi-use pavilion design.	10,000	Plan for recurrent maintenance
2027/28	Construction: Northern picnic area, fencing and planting. Includes Moonee Ponds Creek links and wayfinding and interpretative signage.	560,000	Recurrent maintenance required
	Construction: Essendon Traffic School storage elements, classroom structure, toilet extension, central play area, tram refurbishment, bike repair station, fencing subject to capital works priorities.	1,240,000	Recurrent maintenance required
2028/29	Construction: Multi-use pavilion.	115,000	Recurrent maintenance required
<i>Subtotal medium term:</i>		<i>(3,640,000)</i>	

The Montgomery Park Master Plan Implementation Plan has been developed based on the current facility upgrade needs and feedback received from the community.

The purpose of Master Plans for open spaces such as Montgomery Park is to provide a document that can carefully guide any future development that may occur within the Park.

The Master Plan implementation will occur over a period of approximately fifteen years. Timelines are indicative and subject to detailed design.

All Master Plan proposals are be subject to budgetary considerations and possible external funding opportunities. Cost estimates are based on the master plan concept level design and are subject to revision during detailed design.

- The stormwater harvesting system and WSUD items are subject to further feasibility studies.
- The implementation and timing of upgrades to the Essendon Traffic School are subject to capital works funding priorities.
- The implementation and timing of upgrades to tennis/netball courts are subject to sports development capital works priorities.
- Upgrades to the Integrated Early Years Centre (and associated public toilets) have not been included. Implementation and timing are subject to future Council direction and funding.