

## 2.1 MULGRAVE RESERVE MASTERPLAN (JG)

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

1. *Notes the community feedback received on the Draft Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan;*
2. *Endorses the final Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan (Attachment B) and considers progressing elements of this plan for consideration through future Council budget allocations; and*
3. *Directs Council's Horticulture Unit to facilitate an initial meeting for residents who indicated they would be interested in establishing a Friends of Mulgrave Wetlands.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides an overview of the feedback received in response to the public exhibition of the *Draft* Mulgrave Reserve Master Plan and recommends Council endorse the Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan (May 2018) and considers progressing elements of this plan through future Council budget allocations.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its 27 March 2018 meeting, Council approved a *Draft* Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan for public exhibition and invited community feedback on the draft plan. As detailed in the March 2018 report, an extensive range of consultative activities were conducted to inform the preparation of the masterplan.

Mulgrave Reserve is an important sporting, passive recreation and environmental space for the residents of Wheelers Hill, and the broader Monash community.

The reserve is located on the corner of Wellington Road and Garnett Road, and is a unique reserve that offers traditional sporting and recreation facilities and spaces in combination with a high quality bushland, wetlands, environmental and conservation zone.

The Dandenong Creek, the Melbourne Water Wetlands, and the Dandenong Creek Trail are significant features that have an interface with the reserve, and the Mulgrave Walking Track starts in Mulgrave Reserve and continues along the Dandenong Creek Trail through to Jells Park.

The reserve is also a popular open space and recreational area for local residents, particularly as a destination for personal exercise (walking and jogging) and for dog exercise.

### **DISCUSSION**

The draft Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan was exhibited on Council's website from Tuesday 10 April through to Tuesday 8 May 2018 for community review and feedback. Local residents and

tenant clubs who had been involved in the consultation were also contacted on 10 April 2018 inviting them to provide comment on the draft masterplan by completing an online survey or emailing their comments through to Recreation Services. At the close of the public exhibition period on 8 May, Council had received 23 submissions in relation to the draft masterplan.

Overall feedback received on the draft masterplan has been positive with 22 generally supporting the directions of the masterplan, and one not supporting the masterplan (Refer Attachment A for a detailed summary of feedback received). Two amendments were made to the plan as a result of the feedback as follows:

- Consider the installation of seating under the shelter with views to the southern sports fields (annotation 10) and
- Consider investigating options to mitigate cricket balls going into the bushland along the eastern boundary' (annotation 21).

The overall aim of the masterplan is to establish clear directions for possible future use and development of Mulgrave Reserve for Councils consideration for the next 10-20 years. It is recommended that Council adopt the final masterplan for Mulgrave Reserve as presented in Attachment B: Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan (May 2018).

Masterplans such as this one, are aspirational in nature and the final Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan highlights possible long-term opportunities for the reserve. In addition to identified long-term opportunities, there are range of opportunities captured in the Masterplan that will increase the functionality and usability of the reserve that are practical in nature. Works such as (pavilion redevelopment, playspace upgrade and shared trail safety improvements etc.) can be undertaken in a staged approach in light of the current fiscal constraints. Other works such as (interpretive signage, upgrade of dam setting, multi-sport court with lights etc.) are considered by officers as low priorities.

### ***POLICY IMPLICATIONS***

The Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan is consistent with relevant Council policy, strategy and plans including the Council Plan and A Healthy and Resilient Monash: An Integrated Plan 2017-2021.

### ***SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

The recommendations in the Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan, when implemented, will enhance social connectiveness and community wellbeing by providing improved and accessible amenities and facilities at the reserve.

### ***HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS***

No human rights implications inform this proposal.

### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

The development of the Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan was funded through the 2017/18 operational budget as a Councillor priority. Work to progress recommended improvements identified in the adopted Masterplan can be considered and prioritised for funding through Council budget processes.

**CONCLUSION**

The masterplanning process has involved extensive consultation with the community and a range of stakeholders. A combination of meetings, interviews and site inspections were carried out with various stakeholders during the study, including user groups, potential new user groups, residents and visitors to the reserve, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Council staff and the draft Masterplan was exhibited for community feedback.

Feedback on the draft masterplan following the public exhibition period was very positive and only two minor changes to the draft have been proposed. It is recommended that Council formally endorse the final Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan (Attachment B) and considers progressing this plan for possible funding through future Council budget allocations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A** - Summary of Stakeholder Feedback on Draft Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan

**Attachment B** - Mulgrave Reserve Masterplan (May 2018)