



City of
KINGSTON



Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan



OCTOBER 2008



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| Purpose of the Study | 4 |
| Methodology | 4 |
| BACKGROUND REVIEW | 6 |
| Literature Review | 6 |
| Demographics..... | 9 |
| Participation | 10 |
| Benefits of Participation and Open Space..... | 13 |
| Barriers to Participation..... | 14 |
| WALTER GALT RESERVE | 15 |
| Municipal Context | 15 |
| Open Space Context..... | 15 |
| Walter Galt Reserve..... | 16 |
| Facilities | 16 |
| Existing Conditions | 17 |
| Community Recreation Infrastructure | 18 |
| Sporting Infrastructure..... | 18 |
| Landscaping and Amenity | 20 |
| Car Parking and Traffic Management | 21 |
| Key Users | 22 |
| Existing Conditions Plan | 23 |
| COMMUNITY INPUT / CONSULTATION | 24 |
| Household Survey..... | 24 |
| Respondent Profile..... | 24 |
| Facilities | 24 |
| Reasons for Use..... | 25 |
| Importance and Quality of Facilities | 25 |
| Household Survey Written Comments | 26 |
| Focus Group Meetings..... | 27 |
| Key Stakeholders..... | 30 |
| KEY ISSUES | 32 |
| Former Use of the Site | 32 |
| Drainage / Flood Mitigation | 32 |
| Car Parking and Traffic Management | 32 |
| Open Space / Third Sports Field..... | 32 |
| Dog Off-Leash..... | 33 |
| Don Tatnell Leisure Centre / Mordialloc Youth and Community Centre..... | 33 |
| Playground | 33 |
| Walking Paths | 33 |
| Multi Purpose Sports Court..... | 33 |
| Condition of Sports Fields | 34 |
| Cricket Nets..... | 34 |
| DESIGN PRINCIPLES | 35 |
| DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS..... | 36 |

Community Recreation Infrastructure 36

Sporting Infrastructure 36

Landscaping and Amenity 36

Car Parking and Traffic Management..... 37

MASTER PLAN..... 38

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 39

INTRODUCTION

Walter Galt Reserve is a sporting and recreation reserve located in Warren Road, Parkdale. The reserve provides a range of sporting, community recreation infrastructure and open space to the local community as well as visitors to the area.

The reserve is owned, managed and maintained by the City of Kingston. Prior to being developed as a reserve the site was used for landfill, before being capped and redeveloped for sporting and recreation purposes in the 1950s.

Over the past 50 years the reserve has been gradually developed with the construction of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre, Don Tatnell Leisure Centre and the sports ovals and pavilion.

The City of Kingston has commissioned this master plan to consider the current and future sporting and recreation needs of the community and propose appropriate improvements to the reserve to meet these needs.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan is to provide the City of Kingston with a vision for the reserve. It considers the current and future recreation and sporting needs of the community and proposes appropriate improvements to the reserve and its facilities.

Consideration has been given to how improvements may be best sited within the reserve to create a space that effectively responds to the community's leisure needs and balances environmental, financial and infrastructure requirements.

The Don Tatnell Leisure Centre and Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre, which are both located on the Walter Galt Reserve, have not been reviewed as part of this master planning process. The facilities have however been considered with regard to how their users interact with the reserve and the infrastructure located upon it.

This master plan responds to the project brief by:

- Identifying trends which may impact on the future use of facilities and infrastructure at the reserve;
- Identifying strategic objectives developed by relevant associations, peak bodies, agencies and government departments which impact on the reserve;
- Assessing and analysing the site and its key infrastructure;
- Assessing existing vegetation (indigenous, native and exotic);
- Determining gaps or surpluses in the provision of sport and recreation infrastructure within the local area; and
- Analysing current population characteristics and anticipated population trends in Parkdale and assessing the impact any identified trends may have on future use and infrastructure requirements at Walter Galt Reserve.

Methodology

The Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan process has been undertaken in accordance with the project brief developed by the City of Kingston. The brief called for a methodology which considered the planning and policy context, the communities needs and requirements, and a development plan which is realistic and achievable.

The steps in the project methodology included:

- Background Review;
- Initial Community and Stakeholder Consultation;
- Issues and Opportunities Analysis;
- Concept Development and Draft Master Plan Development;
- Community Consultation on the Draft Master Plan; and
- Final Master Plan and Report.

The process has been consultative and engaged the community, user groups and stakeholders in the development of the master plan, which has been overseen by the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan Working Group. This group consists of a number of key users and community members that represent the following clubs and organisations:

- Don Tatnell Leisure Centre;
- Kingston City Council;
- Kingston Saints Cricket Club;
- Mordialloc Braeside Junior Football Club;
- Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre; and
- Parkdale Village Committee.

The second phase of the master planning process provided a further opportunity for the community to review the draft master plan and provide input into the process prior to the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan being finalised and put to Council for formal adoption.

BACKGROUND REVIEW

This section of the report provides an overview of the planning and policy context considered in the development of the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan.

It includes details and implications arising from the literature review, demographic analysis, participation trends and identified barriers to participation. Full details are contained in the Appendix.

Literature Review

The purpose of the literature review is to ensure that the directions and recommendations provided in the master plan are consistent with Council's strategic directions, and policies and planning processes.

City of Kingston Council Plan 2007 - 2012 City of Kingston

The Council Plan is structured into five key outcomes to achieve a sustainable future. These outcomes, in addition to strategies relevant to the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan are outlined below.

1. Safe, accessible and appropriate infrastructure assets that meet community needs now and in the future.
 - 1.2 Ensure pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic flow is safe and efficient.
 - 1.3 Establish open space amenities appropriate for all potential user groups.
2. A sustainable environment that enhances the appeal and quality of life in Kingston .
 - 2.1 Ensure land use planning strategies holistically address environmental sustainability, population growth, neighbourhood character and Melbourne 2030's key directions.
 - 2.3 Promote environmentally sustainable practices.
 - 2.4 Foster community pride of the City. (Enhanced visual amenity.)
3. A healthy and secure community.
 - 3.1 Strive to create an environment where people can feel safe.
 - 3.3 Ensure the improvement of health, independence and wellbeing through appropriately targeted community support services and opportunities.
4. A prosperous community.
5. Quality leadership and governance.

Healthy Kingston. Municipal Public Health Plan 2006-2009 City of Kingston

The aim of this plan is to improve health outcomes in the community through a strategic planning process, which is integrated with Council's Corporate Plan and based on local health priorities. Actions relevant to the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan are contained within the health priority of "Physical Activity and Active Living" and include:

- Promote physical activity in the entire community. A multi-faceted approach to improve levels of physical activity.
- Physical activity for families. Promote and facilitate physical activity and active recreation opportunities for families.

- Physical activity in the ageing. Investigate options for improving participation and possible new programs.
- Kingston's sporting needs analysis. Investigate demands and likely future demands for sporting facilities and identify strategies that will set the direction for future sporting facilities development or rationalisation.
- Open Space Strategy. Continue the implementation of the strategy and integrate public health considerations.
- Integrated recreation for people with disabilities. Identify barriers to participation and explore solutions.
- Walking trail improvement and expansion. Investigate options for improving / developing new walking trails, including connectivity, expansion, local walking routes with signage and review of park benches.

**Kingston Bicycle Strategy (June 2003) and Kingston Bicycle Network 5 Year Capital Works Program (2003 – 2008)
City of Kingston**

The Vision for the Kingston Bicycle Strategy is for “a bicycle network that offers a broad range of experiences for users of all ages and abilities in safe and attractive environments.” The Strategy proposes an off road bicycle path through Walter Galt Reserve from Warren Road / Brisbane Terrace to Davey Street.

Regardless of the path surface material, trail development will support the vision of the Continuous Accessible Paths of Travel (CAPT) concept to provide access for people of all abilities. Where concrete is used, it also supports the broader use of the network for other recreational pursuits including inline skating.

**Open Space Strategy Evaluation (2005)
@ Leisure**

The City of Kingston is divided into ten planning areas, which are further divided into a number of Local Areas. The Walter Galt Reserve is located within Local Area 7A (Parkdale North and Mordialloc North East) and was identified as the main park used by residents living in the area (in addition to the beach) which consist of high proportions of 5 to 17 year olds.

The Walter Galt Reserve is 7.06 hectares in size, serves residents in the 'local area', has a primary function of 'sport' and has an 'open parkland' setting. The reserve is also designated as a 'dog off leash area'. The Strategy identifies the following opportunities relevant to the Walter Galt Reserve:

- Walter Galt Reserve: this may present an opportunity for development of a perimeter path, particularly one suitable for wheelchairs, jogging and walking.
- Don Tatnell Leisure Centre: given the range of services targeting people with a disability in the Centre, an enhanced focus on accessible furniture and facilities in this local open space is warranted.
- Play areas: there are seven public play areas as well as those accessible after hours in school grounds. This would seem excessive. Merging several into one larger space may be warranted to enhance play values, add diversity and reduce duplication.

**City of Kingston Playground Development Strategy (2002 Draft)
City of Kingston**

This Strategy aims to guide the management and provision of playgrounds in the City of Kingston. Guiding principles for playground design are proposed within the Strategy and includes:

1. Provision Standards. (Includes development standards for regional, district, local and neighbourhood playgrounds.)
2. Appropriate playgrounds for children across the age ranges (from toddlers to teenagers).
3. Attractive and interesting play spaces.
4. Accessibility.
5. Quality and Community Value.
6. Diversity of Play and Leisure Experiences.

The playground at Walter Galt Reserve is classified as 'local'. Based on the above mentioned design guidelines, 'local playgrounds' provide good standard facilities offering a greater range of experiences primarily for children in the toddler to 12 year age groups. Local playgrounds typically include a small car park (i.e. for 5 vehicles), small public toilets, shade / shelter, picnic tables / seats, and barbeque and 2 seats (3-seaters) for supervising parents.

City of Kingston Pavilion Development Principles Paper (February 2008) City of Kingston

This document provides guidance on Kingston's provision of sporting pavilion infrastructure to support community sport. More specifically, the paper aims to provide an objective method for prioritising Council's capital works expenditure on sporting pavilion development through the provision of pavilion principles, assessment criteria and design guidelines based on a hierarchy of provision (regional, municipal, local).

Kingston Positive Ageing Plan 2008 - 2013 City of Kingston

This five-year plan outlines the strategic direction for Kingston City Council to increase the wellbeing of the older community. The plan focuses on people aged over 55 years, which represents 27.1% of the Kingston population. This is higher than the Melbourne average of 24.5% and is expected to grow with the baby boomer generation increasingly moving into this age bracket. Actions relevant to the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan fall under the themes of "Living in the Community" and "Health and Wellbeing". These include:

- 6.4.1 Promote connecting walking paths and lanes throughout the municipality to promote physical activity and allow residents to pass through their neighbourhoods' without having to traverse roads.
- 6.4.2 Look at ways to increase the availability and use of practical and attractive street furniture within the community. This includes the availability and use of handrails at benches and toilets as well as benches, lights, seats in the shade and resting places.
- 6.6.4 Encourage older people to access existing recreational opportunities at their local leisure, arts and recreation centres.

Explore the option of supporting local sporting and recreation organisations including older adults in their activities.

Investigate options for providing older people with more opportunities to be involved in informal recreation activities and events.

Demographics

City of Kingston

The population of the City of Kingston in 2006 was 134,625, an increase of 5.6% from 2001. The age group which makes up the largest portion of the population is 30 – 44 years, while the 65 years and over age group is proportionally the smallest. The age distribution of the City of Kingston does not differ significantly from that of the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD). This is detailed in Table 1.0, below.

In 2006, 65.1% of the Kingston population was born in Australia, which is similar to the MSD portion of 64.2%. Other countries of birth for people in Kingston include: England (4.1%), Greece (2.3%), India (2.1%), New Zealand (1.6%), and Italy (1.3%).

The median income for individuals, households and families were all higher than the Australian averages. Individuals earned \$484 per week on average, households \$1,045 and families \$1,245.

Parkdale and Mordialloc

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Parkdale and Mordialloc had a combined population of 17,598 at the time of the 2006 census.

The table below details the age structure of these two suburbs and provides comparative information for the City of Kingston and the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD).

Table 1.0 – Kingston, Parkdale / Mordialloc Population by Age Cohort

| Age Cohort | Parkdale and Mordialloc | | | | City of Kingston (2006) | | MSD (2006) | |
|---------------|-------------------------|------|---------------|------|-------------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | 2001 | % | 2006 | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| 0 – 4 years | 945 | 6.1 | 1,197 | 6.8 | 8,175 | 6.1 | 224,707 | 6.3 |
| 5 – 14 years | 1,857 | 11.9 | 2,039 | 11.6 | 15,751 | 11.7 | 452,482 | 12.6 |
| 15 – 24 years | 1,847 | 11.8 | 1,990 | 11.3 | 16,215 | 12.0 | 506,857 | 14.1 |
| 25 – 34 years | 2,363 | 15.1 | 2,446 | 13.9 | 18,278 | 13.6 | 534,173 | 14.9 |
| 35 – 49 years | 3,676 | 23.6 | 4,247 | 24.1 | 30,981 | 23.0 | 812,623 | 22.6 |
| 50 - 64 years | 2,303 | 14.8 | 2,963 | 16.8 | 23,943 | 17.8 | 600,238 | 16.7 |
| 65 – 74 years | 1,249 | 8.0 | 1,190 | 6.8 | 10,248 | 7.6 | 235,474 | 6.6 |
| 75 + years | 1,361 | 8.7 | 1,526 | 8.7 | 11,034 | 8.2 | 226,038 | 6.3 |
| Total | 15,601 | | 17,598 | | 134,625 | | 3,592,592 | |

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In a comparison of the population age profile of Parkdale and Mordialloc with the City of Kingston and the Melbourne Statistical Division, the following observations can be made:

- The proportion of the population has stayed reasonably consistent across age groups between 2001 and 2006, apart from a notable decrease in the 25 – 34 years and 65 – 74 years age groups and an increase in the 50 – 64 years age group.
- There is a lower proportion of 0 – 24 year olds compared to Kingston and the MSD.
- There is a higher proportion of people aged between 35 – 49 years and 75 years and over than in Kingston and the MSD.

Other characteristics of the population of Parkdale and Mordialloc include:

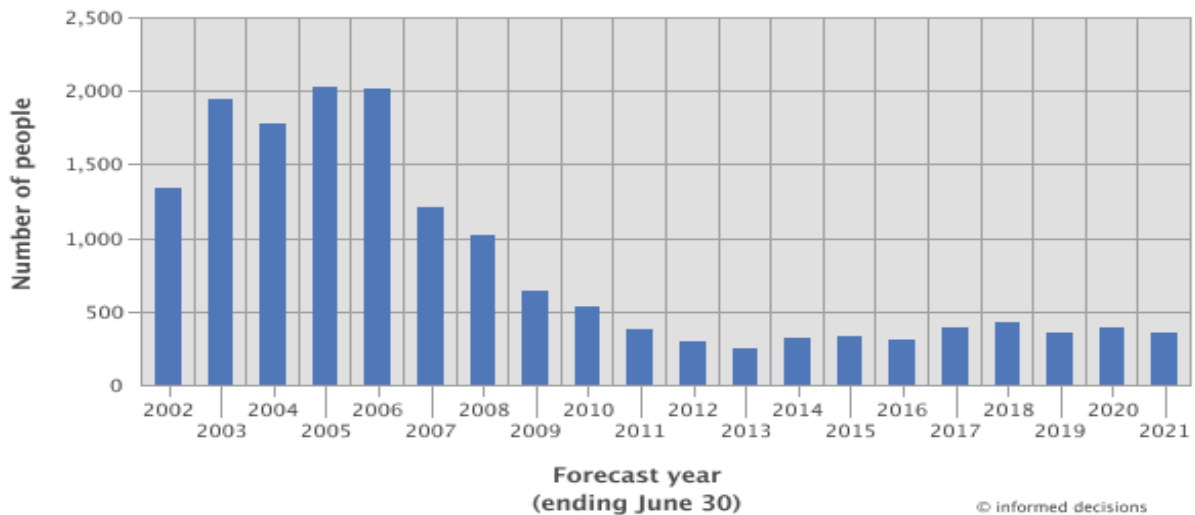
- 45.5% of all families in this area consist of a couple with children, 37.2% are a couple without children, and 15.7% are one parent families.

Population Growth

ID Consulting Pty Ltd has worked with the City of Kingston to determine future growth rates which indicate that the population growth will slow until around 2012 at which stage it will stabilise. Figure 1.0 provides a graphical representation of this growth.

Figure 1.0 – Population Growth 2002 – 2021.

Kingston City forecast population change, 2002 to 2021



Source: i.d. consulting 2002

It is also predicted that the future age structure of the City of Kingston will alter with a decline in the proportion of the population between the ages of 0 – 39 years and an increase in the proportion of the population 40 years and over.

Participation

The Australian Sports Commission's 2006 "Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey" (ERASS) identified the following participation trends for persons aged 15 years and over in activities which fall under the exercise, recreation and sport banner.

- 66% of people aged 15 years and over (10.9 million) participated in exercise at least once a week, down from 69.2% in 2005. 34% either did not participate in any activity, or participated less than once a week.
- 42.8% of people participated in exercise three or more times a week (compared to 44.2% in 2005).
- Females were more likely than males to participate three times per week or more in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport (46.3% and 39.1% respectively).
- People aged 25 to 34 were the least likely to participate three times a week or more (39.1%).
- Women are more likely to be active as they get older with the highest participation levels recorded in the 45-54 year old bracket (52.8%). Participation rates drop significantly for females aged 65 years or older (39.9%).
- Conversely, males are most likely to be active between the ages of 15 and 24 (46.8%), followed by those aged 65 years and over (42.7%). Males aged between 25 and 34 years had the lowest level of participation (34.6%).

The following table (Table 2.0) provides a list of the 'top ten' activities by number of participants including the percentage change from 2001 to 2006. The type of participation for each activity is also shown (i.e. organised and non-organised).

Table 2.0 - Top 10 Activities by Number of Participants

| Rank | Activity | Type of Participation | | Total Participation | | % change 2001 - 06 |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Organised | Non-Organised | Participation Rate | No. of Participants ('000) | |
| 1 | Walking | 1.0% | 35.6% | 36.2% | 6001.7 | 37.9% |
| 2 | Aerobics / Fitness | 8.0% | 12.1% | 19.1% | 3161.3 | 61.2% |
| 3 | Swimming | 1.9% | 12.1% | 13.6% | 2256.9 | -6.6% |
| 4 | Cycling | 0.9% | 9.7% | 10.1% | 1682.8 | 17.0% |
| 5 | Running | 0.8% | 6.9% | 7.4% | 1224.1 | 12.9% |
| 6 | Golf | 3.8% | 3.9% | 6.8% | 1132.0 | -8.7% |
| 7 | Tennis | 2.7% | 4.7% | 6.8% | 1130.7 | -18.2% |
| 8 | Bushwalking | 0.7% | 4.3% | 4.7% | 774.0 | -2.6% |
| 9 | Football (outdoor) | 2.7% | 1.9% | 4.2% | 697.4 | 26.5% |
| 10 | Netball | 3.1% | 0.7% | 3.6% | 593.9 | -3.0% |

Source: Australian Sports Commission ERASS: 2006

NB: Components may not add to totals as persons may report both organised and non-organised activity.

An estimated 4.2 million persons (25.3%) participated at least once per week in a physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport that was organised by a club, association, fitness centre or other type of organisation.

The most popular 'organised' activities are listed in the following table, including the percentage change from 2001-06.

The following participation trends have been identified for traditionally disadvantaged groups:

People with a disability:

In Victoria, 38.8% of the population over 18 years of age has a disability or long term health condition (LTC). The sport participation rate amongst people with a disability or LTC in 2002 was lower (54.6%) than those who did not have a disability or LTC (70.2%). This pattern is irrespective of age. (Source: Sport and Physical Recreation by Persons with a Disability (2006) – SCORS Research Group.)

Migrants participation:

People born in North West Europe had the highest participation rate in sport and recreational physical activity (67.4%), whilst people born in North Africa and the Middle East had the lowest participation rate (31.2%). People who reported their proficiency in spoken English as very good, had a higher participation rate (63.0%) than those who did not speak English well (36.9%) or who did not speak English at all (17.4%).

Migrant's Participation in Sport and Physical Activity, 2006 – SCORS Research Group

The following table (Table 3.0) provides a summary of participation in Victoria's Statistical Regions, including a breakdown of participation type. Participation types indicated are 'organised', such as football or cricket; 'unstructured' such as casual walks; or a combination both.

The City of Kingston lies within the Southern Melbourne region, which has the second highest overall participation rate and the highest level of 'unstructured' participation.

Table 3.0 – Participation Rates in Exercise, Recreation and Sport by Region

| Statistical Region | All forms of Participation (% of Population) | Type of Participation | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | Organised | Unstructured | Both Forms |
| Inner Eastern Melbourne | 83.7 | 14.0 | 41.0 | 28.7 |
| Southern Melbourne | 81.5 | 13.6 | 42.0 | 25.9 |
| Mornington Peninsula | 79.3 | 15.9 | 37.9 | 25.5 |
| Inner Melbourne | 79.0 | 7.5 | 38.8 | 32.7 |
| North Eastern Melbourne | 76.9 | 16.1 | 35.7 | 25.1 |
| Outer Eastern Melbourne | 76.8 | 14.7 | 37.1 | 25.1 |
| Victoria (State Average) | 76.0 | 15.5 | 36.6 | 23.0 |
| North Western Melbourne | 73.3 | 24.4 | 36.2 | 15.6 |
| South Eastern Melbourne | 70.4 | 15.2 | 37.3 | 17.9 |

Adult Participation (National)

At a national level, participation in all forms of recreation is healthy. In 2006, 10.9 million people (66%) aged 15 years and over participated in exercise at least once a week, with 42.8% participating three or more times a week.

In the 12 months prior to April 2007, an estimated 4.5 million persons aged 15 years and over reported that they were involved in organised sport and physical activity. This represents 27% of all persons aged 15 years and over. Persons involved in organised sport and physical activity included 3.8 million players (23% of persons aged 15 years and over).

The most popular 'organised' activities for people aged 15 years and over are listed in the following table, including the percentage change from 2001-06. The ten most popular activities accounted for 76% of participation in 2005-06. Four of the sports being addressed in this analysis are in the top 10 most popular activities (shown in bold in the table below).

Table 4.0 – Participation Rates in Most Popular 'Organised' Activities

| | Activity | Number of Participants ('000) | % Change 2001-06 |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Aerobics / Fitness | 1319.5 | + 36.5% |
| 2 | Golf | 628.5 | - 4.1% |
| 3 | Netball | 516.1 | - 3.2% |
| 4 | Tennis | 446.1 | - 18.7% |
| 5 | Outdoor Football (soccer) | 442.7 | + 15.9% |
| 6 | Cricket (outdoor) | 395.9 | + 41.7% |
| 7 | Basketball | 379.5 | - 4.2% |
| 8 | Australian Football | 347.2 | + 27.4% |
| 9 | Lawn Bowls | 326.9 | + 18.5% |
| 10 | Touch Football | 316.8 | - 7.0% |

Source: Australian Sports Commission ERASS: 2006

Persons aged 15–24 years had the highest participation rate (39%), while the lowest participation rate was for persons aged 65 and over (18%).

Females were more likely than males to participate three times per week or more in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport (46.3% and 39.1% respectively).

People aged 25 to 34 were the least likely to participate three times a week or more (39.1%). Women are more likely to be active as they get older with the highest participation levels recorded among 45-54 year olds (52.8%). Participation rates drop significantly for females aged 65 years or older (39.9%). Conversely, males are most likely to be active between the ages of 15 and 24 (46.8%), followed by those aged 65 years and over (42.7%). Males aged between 25 and 34 years had the lowest level of participation (34.6%).

Adult Participation (Victoria)

In Victoria, 76.0% of the population over 15 years of age participate in sport and recreation activities.

The following table provides a breakdown by age cohort of all participants of sport and physical activities in sport clubs and associations in Victoria. Participation is significantly higher among 15 – 25 years olds, while people aged between 45 – 64 years had the lowest level of participation.

Table 5.0 - Adult Participation in Victoria

| Age Group | Males | | Females | | Persons | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Number ('000) | % | Number ('000) | % | Number ('000) | % |
| 15 – 24 | 177.4 | 49.2 | 154.7 | 44.2 | 332.2 | 46.8 |
| 25 – 34 | 109.0 | 30.1 | 88.1 | 24.0 | 197.1 | 27.1 |
| 35 – 44 | 99.1 | 26.4 | 92.7 | 24.1 | 191.8 | 25.3 |
| 45 – 54 | 66.5 | 19.5 | 71.9 | 20.4 | 138.3 | 20.0 |
| 55 – 64 | 52.4 | 19.1 | 62.1 | 22.6 | 114.5 | 20.9 |
| 65 + | 69.7 | 22.8 | 74.3 | 19.5 | 144.0 | 21.0 |
| Total | 574.1 | 28.5 | 543.9 | 25.8 | 1,118.0 | 27.1 |

Source: Australian Sports Commission, 'Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2006' (ERASS)

Junior Participation (National)

In relation to children, 63% aged 5-14 years participated in organised sport, increasing from 59% in 2000. Boys were more likely than girls to participate in organised sport (69% compared with 58%) and participation in organised sport ranged from 45% of children aged 5 years, to 71% of 10 year olds.

The change in participation levels in organised sport in 2000, 2003 and 2006 are detailed in the table below. Overall participation has increased among children; however the rate of increase is lower between 2003 and 2006 than between 2000 and 2003.

Table 6.0 - Junior Participation in Organised Sport

| Year | Boys | | Girls | | Total | |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|
| | Number ('000) | % | Number ('000) | % | Number ('000) | % |
| 2000 | 902.4 | 66.6 | 789.4 | 61.3 | 1,691.8 | 64.0 |
| 2003 | 937.4 | 69.0 | 829.3 | 64.3 | 1,766.7 | 66.7 |
| 2006 | 948.5 | 69.4 | 861.8 | 66.4 | 1,810.3 | 67.9 |

Source: 'Children's Participation in Organised Sport – 2000, 2003, 2006' (October 2007)

Benefits of Participation and Open Space

Sport, recreation and the outdoors form an integral part of Australian culture. Sport and recreation is believed to be an important part of a well-balanced lifestyle and the benefits associated with participating in sport and physical activity, including enjoyment, social interaction, health, personal achievement, national pride and community involvement.

There are five key benefits attributed to participation in recreation / physical activity that are widely recognised within the leisure industry, these being:

- Health benefits;
- Personal benefits;

- Community benefits;
- Economic benefits; and
- Environmental benefits.

Barriers to Participation

Understanding the barriers to participation in physical activity is important when planning and assessing facilities and services. The following is a list of the barriers to participation that have been identified across Australia:

- Lack of knowledge
- Perceived lack of safety
- Fear of injury or health problems
- Lack of self confidence
- Inadequate transport
- Lack of physical skills
- Lack of facilities
- Poor design
- Lack of time or motivation
- Affordability
- Lack of support

Source: *The Benefits of Leisure (2003), Parks and Leisure Australia*

WALTER GALT RESERVE

Municipal Context

Located in Melbourne’s southern suburbs and with approximately 135,000 residents, the City of Kingston is one of Melbourne’s most populous metropolitan municipalities.

The City of Kingston stretches from Moorabbin in the north to Patterson Lakes and Carrum in the south and inland from Port Phillip Bay to South Oakleigh, Heatherton and Chelsea Heights.

Kingston combines substantial residential areas with a strong industrial sector including one of the largest and most concentrated light manufacturing regions in metropolitan Melbourne.

Open space throughout the City includes 13 kilometres of Port Phillip coastline with some of the bay’s best beaches, metropolitan parks and highly significant wetlands.

Open Space Context

Walter Galt Reserve is situated on Warren Road, Parkdale, co-located with Don Tatnell Leisure Centre and Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre. The 6.6 hectare reserve includes unstructured recreational components and active sporting facilities. It has two sporting fields, netball courts, a tennis rebound wall and areas of open space.

Figure 2.0 – Location of Walter Galt Reserve and Nearby Open Space



- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Gerry Green Reserve | Sporting Reserve | 5 | Keeler Reserve (Waratah St) | Local Park |
| 2 | Marriott / McSwan Street Reserve | Local Park | 6 | Kingston Street Reserve | Local Park |
| 3 | McKenzie Reserve (Grey Street) | Local Park | 7 | Duggan Street Reserve | Local Park |
| 4 | Ivy Marriott Reserve (Evan St) | Local Park | | | |

The population of Parkdale increased by 400 persons, or about 4% between 2001 and 2006, due to a small increase in dwelling numbers across the suburb. Major recreation features of the area include the Port Phillip Bay foreshore, Walter Galt Reserve and Gerry Green Reserve. In addition Don Tatnell Leisure Centre and the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre provide a range of community recreation facilities and services. Parkdale has the highest population density of any other suburb in Kingston with 28.1 persons per hectare.

Walter Galt Reserve

Council's 2005 Open Space Strategy Evaluation notes that Walter Galt Reserve may present an opportunity for development of a perimeter path, particularly one suitable for wheelchairs, jogging and walking. In addition, given the range of services offered at Don Tatnell Leisure Centre for people with a disability, an enhanced focus on accessible furniture and facilities in Walter Galt Reserve is also warranted.

The Open Space Strategy categorises Walter Galt Reserve as having a primary function of 'sport' with an 'open parkland' setting. The reserve is also designated as a 'dog off leash area'.

The reserve has had significant settlement and subsidence issues in the past which has stemmed from the reserves previous use as a landfill site. Other incidents relating to this include minor gaseous emissions and the subsequent creation of a crater on the lower playing field at the reserve. Council has since undertaken appropriate investigations into this occurrence analysed the potential public safety risks involved.

Facilities

Walter Galt Reserve has a number of sporting and community recreation facilities.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Recreation Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playground ▪ Tennis Rebound Wall ▪ Open Space |
| Sporting Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main Sports Oval / Field ▪ Secondary Sports Oval / Field ▪ Sports Pavilion ▪ Netball Courts |
| Sports Ancillary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cricket Nets ▪ Scoreboard ▪ Floodlights (Main Oval and Netball) ▪ Storage Bunker ▪ Shipping Containers ▪ Safety Net (Secondary Sports Field) |
| Car Parking and Traffic Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eastern Car Park (MCYC) ▪ Northern Car Park (DTLC) ▪ South Western Car Park (Sports Pavilion) ▪ On Street Car Parking (Brisbane Terrace) |
| Community Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Don Tatnell Leisure Centre ▪ Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre |

Existing Conditions

This section of the master plan document describes the condition of various elements and facilities at Walter Galt Reserve. The condition report has been developed from visual inspections of the key assets at the reserve and subsequent discussions with reserve users, council officers and other key stakeholders.

The condition assessment is divided into the following themes:

- Community Recreation Infrastructure
- Sporting Infrastructure
- Landscaping and Amenity
- Car Parking and Traffic Management

Community Recreation Infrastructure

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Playground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The playground is located on the eastern side of Warren Road, to the south of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre car park. ▪ The playground is wooden with some steel elements and includes a 'liberty swing'. ▪ The playground provides some access to a range of people with mobility issues, such as people participating in the programs at SCOPE (Don Tatnell Leisure Centre). ▪ The condition of the playground is good but does not comply to all current standards. ▪ There is some natural shade (limited) and limited seating at the playground. |
| Tennis Rebound Wall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The tennis rebound wall is located along the northern boundary of the reserve to the west of the Don Tatnell Leisure Centre. ▪ The rebound wall is a solid brick construction approximately 3 metres high. A concrete apron is located on both sides of the wall. ▪ The rebound wall appears structurally sound but is showing its age. |

Sporting Infrastructure

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Main Sports Oval / Field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The main sports oval is located in the centre of the Walter Galt Reserve and has a north south orientation. It is irrigated and drained, and has a pipe fence around the perimeter. ▪ The perimeter fencing and surrounding swale drain shows signs of undulating as a result of surface subsidence. ▪ The main oval is covered with a cool season grass (fescue). ▪ It meets the dimension requirements of senior football and cricket. ▪ The turf wicket is maintained by the cricket club. ▪ It has three floodlights with a capacity to deliver approximately 100 lux. |
| Secondary Sports Oval / Field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The secondary (lower / western) sports field has no irrigation or drainage. ▪ There is an easement running diagonally across the field with pit covers on the NW side of the field. ▪ There is a concrete pitch in the field. ▪ The field is subject to flooding and Melbourne Water has indicated a desire to develop a flood mitigation basin in this locality in the future. ▪ There is no fencing around the field. ▪ The field is used as a dog off-leash area when not being used for sport. ▪ The surface is in poor condition with frequent undulations, weed infestation and patches of bare earth. |

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| Sports Pavilion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The sports pavilion is currently being upgraded. ▪ The upgrade includes a social area, disability access and amenities, new public toilets, office, storage and an upgrade of the existing change rooms, showers and toilet. ▪ It is proposed that landscaping will include screening plants along the rear of the pavilion to improve the aesthetic amenity. ▪ Contributions towards the development are being made by the Mordialloc/Braeside Junior Football Club and Kingston Saints Cricket Club. |
| Netball Courts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are three netball courts located in the eastern car park to the south of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre. ▪ The netball courts are on an asphalt base and there are undulations in the asphalt. ▪ The courts do not meet competition standards as the 'run-offs' at the ends of the courts are too short. ▪ The courts are lit for training; however the switchboard is located on a light pole and is only accessible with a step ladder. ▪ The courts are in poor condition. |
| Sports Ancillary | |
| Cricket Nets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are five cricket nets located on the northern boundary of the reserve in a north south orientation. The bowler approaches from the south. ▪ Three of the five nets are in poor condition and need significant maintenance. The remaining two nets are in good condition. |
| Floodlights (Sports Oval and Netball) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three floodlights with a capacity to deliver approximately 100 lux are located on the main sports oval. The poles appear well mounted and straight ▪ Netball training lights suitable for training are located on poles above the netball courts. ▪ The switchboard is located on a light pole and is only accessible with a step ladder. |
| Bunker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a bluestone 'bunker' built into the reserve on the north eastern side of the main sport field. ▪ It is approximately 20 square metres in size and two metres high. ▪ The bunker is used by the cricket club to store wicket and field maintenance equipment. ▪ Potential risk management issues exist with people climbing onto the roof of the bunker due to it being built into the embankment around the oval. |

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| Shipping Containers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are two shipping containers on Walter Galt Reserve. These are located between the main sports oval and the cricket nets. ▪ The containers are used as storage facilities for the cricket club and the football club. Storage is for maintenance and training equipment. ▪ The containers are unsightly and do not blend into the reserve. They are in average condition. |
| Safety Net – Secondary Sports Field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an eight to ten high safety net on the western boundary of the secondary sports oval. ▪ The purpose of the net is to minimise the risk of (mainly) cricket balls being hit into the nearby Ellen Street and properties immediately adjoining the reserve. ▪ The net is in average condition. |

Landscaping and Amenity

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Open Space Areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The open space areas on the reserve are of a good size for informal and unstructured recreation. ▪ The grass cover is poor with patches of bare earth and sandy top soil evident in many places through the open space areas. The current weather conditions have no doubt contributed to this. |
| Trees and Plantings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a range of native and exotic species throughout the reserve. ▪ A row of poplar trees exist in the eastern section of the reserve which are in need of attention. ▪ A number of recent plantings at various locations around the reserve are evident. |
| Walking Paths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are no formal walking paths in Walter Galt Reserve but there are a number of informal paths and 'desire' lines across the reserve. ▪ The reserve is well used as a thoroughfare. |
| Park Furniture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is limited park furniture throughout Walter Galt Reserve. ▪ The furniture that is provided is generally well maintained and well presented. |
| Signage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signage on Walter Galt Reserve advisors of the reserve name and clubs located at the reserve. ▪ Additional signage for 'dog off-leash' areas are installed but difficult to read and not readily visible from key access and egress points |
| Fencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a variety of fencing styles around the reserve. ▪ There is a paling fence on southern side adjoining neighbouring residential properties ▪ There is a chain wire and pipe fence (1.1M) along Warren Road with gaps for pedestrian access and egress ▪ The fence along Brisbane Terrace is predominantly bollards |

Car Parking and Traffic Management

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|--|--|
| Eastern Car Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sealed car park with two access / egress point from Warren Road. ▪ This car park is also marked as a netball court. ▪ There are undulations throughout the car park. ▪ This car park is in average condition. |
| Northern Car Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access off Brisbane Terrace. ▪ The use of the space available for car parking is inefficient. ▪ There is only one access / egress point to this car park. ▪ There is a service access point for Don Tatnell Leisure Centre coming from this car park ▪ Significant undulations and cracking is evident throughout the car park |
| South Western Car Park (Pavilion) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unsealed gravel car park. ▪ Only one access point from Victoria / Davey Street Corner ▪ No formal barriers to prevent cars spilling onto grass and lower fields ▪ Car park in poor condition. |
| On Street Car Parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car parking (angle / perpendicular) provided along the southern side of Brisbane Terrace. ▪ Parallel parking along Warren Road. |

Key Users

Walter Galt Reserve is used by a large number of people, clubs and organisations for different purposes. The key users are those clubs and organisations based at Walter Galt Reserve that interact with the reserve on a regular basis.

A summary of these users is presented below.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mordialloc Braeside Junior Football Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affiliated with the Moorabbin Saints Junior Football League. ▪ Approximately 340 junior members. ▪ Hosts an 'Auskick' program that attracts a large number of participants (approximately 200). ▪ Is experiencing growth. ▪ Attracts players from a wide geographical area. ▪ Uses the main oval, secondary oval and occasionally the open spaces areas at the reserve. ▪ Also uses the ground at Gerry Green Reserve. ▪ Has a lease / licence agreement with Council to use the facilities on the reserve |
| Kingston Saints Cricket Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affiliated with the Victoria Sub District Cricket Association and the Federal District Cricket Association. ▪ There are approximately 80 junior members and 70 senior members. ▪ Hosts 'Have-a-Go' program which attracts around 80 participants. ▪ Uses the main oval, secondary oval and the five cricket nets at the reserve. ▪ Has a lease / licence agreement with Council to use the facilities on the reserve. |
| Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ User of the centre mainly use the car park located to the south of the MC&YC. ▪ Netball training (netball courts on car park). ▪ School Holiday Program (ovals and open space). ▪ Occasional fitness classes. ▪ Is managed by a Committee of Management which has an agreement with Council. |
| Don Tatnell Leisure Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Don Tatnell Leisure Centre users mainly use the car park to the west of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre. ▪ Scope provides a program out of DTLC and use the playground and open space areas on Walter Galt Reserve. ▪ Boot Camp Programs. ▪ Is directly managed by Council. |

COMMUNITY INPUT / CONSULTATION

Community consultation was undertaken to assist in the identification of key issues and opportunities and to understand community expectations with regard to the future development of Walter Galt Reserve.

A series of consultation methodologies were used to gather information from reserve users, sports clubs, key stakeholders and local residents. The consultation process included:

- Household Survey;
- Focus Groups;
- Submissions; and
- Key Stakeholder Interviews.

A summary of the consultation results are provided in this section of the report. Full details are listed in the Appendix.

Household Survey

The household survey was distributed to 2,000 houses surrounding Walter Galt Reserve in April 2008. The survey was accompanied by information on the master plan project, a contact number for further information and a 'reply paid' envelope.

Council received 481 returns (24%), which is a fairly typical response rate. In addition over 200 of the residents provided their contact details so they could be kept informed of the master planning process.

Not all questions asked in the survey were answered by all respondents, which creates some minor discrepancies in the data where total percentages may not add to 100%.

In addition to the set questions in the survey there were two 'open-ended' questions which asked residents identify issues with Walter Galt Reserve and improvements they would like to see at the reserve. These results are detailed in the following section.

Respondent Profile

The survey was targeted at 'households' but also collected information on the respondent. The respondent profile indicated that:

- People aged 30 and above are well represented amongst the respondents while those under 30 made up a very small percentage of overall respondents (4%).
- Females (61%) were more likely to complete the survey compared with males (36%).
- The majority of respondents were "couple with children living at home" (49%), although "couple only" (25%) and "single person" (18%) were also well represented.
- More than three-quarters of residents surveyed had lived in the area for more than 5 years, and 44% had lived in the area for more than 20 years.
- 85% of survey respondents had used facilities on Walter Galt Reserve in the preceding 12 month period.

Facilities

Survey respondents were asked to identify the facilities they used at Walter Galt Reserve and how frequently they used them. Table 7.0 below provides a summary of the results to this question.

Table 7.0 – Household Use of Facilities at Walter Galt Reserve

| Facility | % Who use | % Who don't use | Frequency of Use (%) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|-------|
| | | | More than once a week | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | A few times a year | Once a year | Other |
| Open Space Areas | 68 | 11 | 33 | 26 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 1 | 1 |
| Car Parking | 51 | 22 | 31 | 24 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| Playground | 46 | 22 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 3 | 1 |
| Sports Ovals | 42 | 25 | 31 | 29 | 7 | 7 | 19 | 2 | 1 |
| Seating | 41 | 25 | 22 | 28 | 14 | 10 | 19 | 2 | 1 |
| Half Court Tennis Court | 21 | 39 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 49 | 7 | 3 |
| Sports Pavilion | 21 | 41 | 25 | 25 | 5 | 11 | 22 | 4 | 3 |
| Cricket Nets | 16 | 45 | 13 | 19 | 10 | 9 | 35 | 6 | 4 |

The survey results indicate that open space areas were the most popular element at Walter Galt Reserve, with 68% of households surveyed indicating that they used open space at the reserve in the past 12 months. Of these people one-third (33%) used open space more than once per week and a further one-quarter (25%) used open space on a weekly basis.

Car parking was the second most used component of the reserve with 51% of respondents using car parking during the past 12 months. Of these people, just under one third (31%) used car parking more than once per week and just under one-quarter (24%) used car parking on a weekly basis.

The playground also proved to be popular with 46% of households surveyed indicating that they has used the playground. The frequency of use was more evenly spread across the year.

The sports ovals at Walter Galt Reserve were used by 42% of households, however only 25% of households surveyed indicated that they did not use them. Of the households that did use them just under one-third (33%) used the sports ovals more than once per week and a further 29% used sports ovals on a weekly basis.

Reasons for Use

Survey respondents were asked to indicate why they used facilities at Walter Galt Reserve. Multiple responses were accepted and the main reasons given were that it is *'close to home'* (74%) and *'the reserve has the facilities I want'* (28%). *'My sports club is located at the reserve'* (17%) was also a noted response.

When asked about getting to the reserve 81% of respondents indicated that they walked, however 35% indicated they (also) drove to Walter Galt Reserve from their home. It is worth noting that the survey area covered a radius of no more that 700m from the reserve.

Other reserves used by survey respondents included Gerry Green Reserve (41%), Marriot / McSwain Street Reserve (14%) and Ivy Marriott Reserve (11%).

Importance and Quality of Facilities

Another key question in the survey was about the 'level of importance' respondents placed on the facilities at Walter Galt Reserve and the 'standard / quality' respondents believed park facilities were performing at.

Table 8.0 – Importance and Quality of Facilities at Walter Galt Reserve

| Aspect | Level of Importance (%) | | | Standard / Quality (%) | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|------|
| | Very Important | Moderately Important | Not Important | Poor | Satisfactory | Good |
| Overall appearance of parkland and facilities | 62 | 22 | 0 | 8 | 41 | 16 |
| Open grassed areas | 60 | 17 | 1 | 8 | 35 | 19 |
| Recreation facilities for children and families | 57 | 15 | 4 | 8 | 32 | 17 |
| Thoroughfare and walking paths | 55 | 20 | 6 | 23 | 31 | 9 |
| Playground | 50 | 15 | 12 | 1 | 27 | 29 |
| Recreation facilities for young people | 46 | 20 | 8 | 12 | 34 | 9 |
| Sporting facilities – ovals, netball courts, cricket nets | 41 | 21 | 12 | 8 | 33 | 13 |
| Spectator facilities (car park, seating, amenities) | 36 | 27 | 12 | 26 | 25 | 5 |

Respondents listed the ‘*Overall appearance of parkland and facilities*’ (62%) and ‘*Open grassed areas*’ (60%) as very important to them.

‘*Sporting facilities*’ and ‘*spectator facilities*’ rated the lowest with only 41% and 36% of respondents considering these elements very important.

When considering the performance of facilities at Walter Galt Reserve survey respondents believed that ‘*Spectator facilities*’ and ‘*Thoroughfare and walking paths*’ performed more poorly than other facilities at the reserve.

Household Survey Written Comments

The household survey provided respondents with an opportunity to provide additional comments. A large number of the comments were in support of the dog off-leash area, walking paths, trees and the environment. A summary of the key points is provided below and a more detailed summary is provided in the Appendices.

| Theme | Issue |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Community Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong support for retaining and improving unstructured use and open space. ▪ Formal picnic and BBQ areas in the reserve. ▪ Improved walking / bike path around the reserve perimeter. ▪ Large areas or sports courts for multiple (unstructured) activities should be developed. |
| Sporting Facilities | <p>Sports Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requests for an additional sports oval on the site. ▪ Improvements to the two existing ovals on the reserve. ▪ Shipping containers are unsightly and do not fit into the reserve. ▪ Netball courts need upgrading and to be separated from the car parking. |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More seating and spectator amenities required. |
| Landscaping and Amenity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reserve could benefit from a couple more “bushy” areas and significantly more planting to provide habitat and shade. ▪ Grassed areas – poor quality. |
| Car Parking and Traffic Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More off-street parking required due to game day traffic that causes huge problems with cars and buses. ▪ Better management of traffic required. ▪ Parking facilities at the sports pavilion are very poor. ▪ Netball on the car park is unsatisfactory for OH&S reasons. ▪ Lack of disabled parking spaces. |
| Dogs Off-leash | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very popular dog off-leash reserve which is highly valued by the community. ▪ Request for options for plastic bags to pick up after dogs. ▪ Separating active reserve users from dogs’ who are off-leash. |
| Playground | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More shade to be provided at the playground. ▪ Maintenance and additional facilities for the playground. ▪ Increase fencing required as the playground is located too close to Warren Road. |

Focus Group Meetings

A series of focus group meetings were held during the development of the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan. The purpose of the focus groups were to gather information on the key issues at the reserve and test some preliminary design principles. A summary of the key issues identified in each of the focus group meetings held is detailed below and a more detailed summary is provided in the Appendices.

Council Officers Focus Group – 23 April 2008

| Theme | Issue |
|----------------|---|
| Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formally a landfill site before it was capped (between 1 and 2 metres). ▪ Movement in the surface of the reserve has occurred with some sinking and a gas explosion in the past. ▪ The car park on the western side of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre is still moving as a result of the landfill. ▪ Significant easement under the reserve (1.8m pipe). ▪ Melbourne Water have flagged the opportunity to place a retarding basin at the reserve and lowering the bottom playing field has been explored. ▪ The reserve is a dog off leash reserve. Dog walkers usually use the reserve in the early morning or in the evening. |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council doesn't supply dog faeces bags at reserves. It is the responsibility of the owner to pick up after their dog. |
| Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower playing field needs improvement. ▪ Former hockey field is used for Auskick and sports training. ▪ The grass on the ovals is fescue, a cool season grass. It needs a warm season grass sown into it. ▪ The bluestone 'bunker' is used by the clubs for storage of maintenance equipment. Council do not have any access to the bunker. |
| Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunity to look at harvesting rain water from Don Tatnell Leisure Centre is an option. This rain water could be used for watering street trees rather than irrigating sports ovals. ▪ Re-plumbing the toilets at the centre may be an option. ▪ Using backwash from the pool may be a very expensive exercise for the value it provides. ▪ Kingston uses approximately 90,000 litres of water per irrigation cycle on the main sports oval. In summer there are up to three irrigation cycles per week. |
| Design Essentials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks to be involved in any discussion on park furniture specifications and plantings. Combinations of indigenous, native and exotic trees are being used. ▪ Circulation is important and always gets left off master plans for sporting reserves. ▪ Pedestrian traffic cuts across the middle of the main oval. ▪ Residents concerned about the new pavilion and screening issues. This needs to be considered in the master plan process. |

Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan Working Group & Key Users – 23 April 2008

| Theme | Issue |
|------------------------|---|
| Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football and cricket club are experiencing growth. ▪ Sporting clubs would ideally like to see a third oval provided at Walter Galt Reserve to meet their increasing needs. ▪ Former hockey field (open space) is being used as a training space. ▪ Netball courts are used three times a week by MC&YC. There are some significant risk management issues with vehicles driving through games and an undulating surface. ▪ Shipping containers at the site are used for cricket club equipment and football club equipment. The cricket club need storage near the nets. ▪ The reserve suffers from subsidence on the main oval and wicket, all car parks, and the bottom playing field. |
| Open Space Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Used by groups that also uses the Community Centre and Don Tatnell. This includes Scope, Bootcamp and general programs. |

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|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council officers previously came up with a plan for walking / cycling paths across the reserve. ▪ Paths on the reserve side of Brisbane Terrace would be beneficial as the ground there is uneven. ▪ More planting around the entire reserve ▪ Walter Galt Reserve is used well by the entire community, not just the sporting clubs. Lots of casual, recreation and sporting use of the reserve and facilities. |
| Car parking and Traffic Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car park at pavilion is inadequate and cars get onto the grassed area. ▪ Brisbane Terrace traffic management works well. ▪ Lighting in bottom car park is needed as it is too dark |

Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan Community Focus Group – 23 April 2008

| Theme | Issue |
|---|---|
| Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look at drought tolerant grasses. ▪ Pressure on clubs and sports fields from surrounding suburbs with limited sports fields. ▪ Dogs off-leash is an issue with active users. |
| Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for additional paths around the reserve and visitor facilities such as BBQ and park furniture. ▪ Park furniture would be used if it was provided, but consideration needs to be given to natural surveillance and design. |
| Car Parking and Traffic Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car parking is a big issue at the reserve and traffic management needs to be addressed on game days. ▪ Bus route along Victoria Street. |
| Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water use and stormwater harvesting opportunities. ▪ There may be an opportunity to look at an underground tank for storing water |

Key Stakeholders

Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water has undertaken an investigation into the placement of a flood mitigation basin on the western side of Walter Galt Reserve.

- The basin would provide significant benefits to the local community and downstream of Walter Galt Reserve.
- Works would require lowering the existing oval or creating a wetlands area on the western section of the reserve. The main pipe through the reserve would also need to be diverted.
- Melbourne Water also understands that Ellen Street has some local inundation issues which Kingston City Council may need to address.
- If mitigation works are undertaken there will be significant expense involved.

Engineering and Design, City of Kingston

- City of Kingston has done limited work on the design or drainage in the area (of Walter Galt Reserve) in the last 4 years.
- Council has previously requested Melbourne Water to jointly fund a retarding basin at Walter Galt Reserve.
- Cost of diversion and realigning main pipe through Walter Galt Reserve would be very costly and removing and disposing of landfill in the area would contribute to this cost.
- Any retarding basin at Walter Galt Reserve wouldn't be more than a metre deep, as the existing pipe isn't deep in the ground.
- From a drainage point of view Kingston Council would like to keep options open for the development of a retarding basin at Walter Galt Reserve in the medium to longer term.
- The area can still operate as an oval, but may be up to 1 metre deeper than the existing level. In this case it would not be suitable for use in a severe flood event (1:100).
- The car parks at the reserve are problematic due to the landfill on the reserve. They need significant sub base construction to rectify subsidence issues (i.e. slab).
- The majority of the firm land is around the perimeter of the ground / reserve.

Youth Programs Coordinator, Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre

- Centre mainly uses netball courts on the car park at Walter Galt Reserve. The courts are used as a training venue only.
- The courts have significant issues with traffic movement during training; this is very undesirable.
- The community centre also uses the open space area for activities and programs from time to time.
- The centre runs school holiday programs and utilises the open space and sports ovals. The sports ovals are used for cricket and football clinics. The clubs located at the reserve are called upon to assist in the delivery of these.
- The Community Centre would like to see the netball club remain at the site, as the club is part of the programming offered by the Community Centre.
- There may be some synergies between the facilities being considered at Parkdale Secondary College and Mordialloc Community Centre but without knowing what is being proposed at the school it is difficult to identify opportunities at this early stage.

Manager, Don Tatnell Leisure Centre

- The leisure centre patrons mainly use the car park to the rear of the centre or at the corner of Brisbane Terrace and Warren Road.
- The centre runs programs and activities in the reserve from time to time which include 'boot camp' and fitness programs.
- Scope, based at the centre also use the reserve and playground areas.
- The Leisure Centre believes there are benefits to having increase interaction opportunities with the reserve, particularly the 'spill-out' option at the rear of the centre.

Local Schools / Kindergartens

Schools in the Parkdale area have been consulted with about their use of Walter Galt Reserve and improvements they would like to be considered during the development of the Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan.

Below is a list of the schools that provided comments and a summary of the comments provided. Full details can be found in the Appendices.

- Parkdale Primary School
- St John Vianneys Catholic School
- Parkdale Secondary College
- Elonera Kindergarten

Key issues identified include:

- The drought conditions have resulted in bans being placed on schools using sports fields at the reserve. Schools would like to regain the access to the reserve that they have had previously.
- Schools have not previously had access to toilets while using the reserve and would like to see this change.
- Drinking fountains at the reserve would be appreciated.
- More seating is needed under trees (i.e. in the grassed area behind the cricket nets). These would be used by the large number of people who use the reserve for informal recreational purposes.
- A running track around the reserve would be beneficial.
- The current orientation of the oval result in games being played into the sun.

KEY ISSUES

This section of the Master Plan report summarised the details of the key physical and management issues arising from the background review, the condition assessment or the consultation process undertaken.

Former Use of the Site

- The former use of Walter Galt Reserve as a landfill site creates significant limitations for the future use and development of the reserve.
- There has been significant subsidence across the site since the landfill was capped and the reserve was created in the 1950s.
- Limitations can be overcome in some instances; however there is a significant cost impact on the development of infrastructure.
- Continuing the monitoring and maintenance is required for all assets across the reserve.

Drainage / Flood Mitigation

- The City of Kingston and Melbourne Water have both indicated that the development of a retarding basin where the western oval is currently located would solve localised flooding and downstream water management issues.
- The lower area could still be used as a junior sports field if a retarding basin was developed, except in instances of high rainfall. Peak flood events generally occur in summer.
- There is a large diameter drain flowing through the site which would need to be realigned if a retarding basin was developed.
- The intention of the master plan is to ensure that the option of creating a retarding basin at Walter Galt Reserve is not impeded by development proposals.

Car Parking and Traffic Management

- Car parking at the western end of reserve is unable to meet the requirements of sporting users on game days.
- Traffic management and parking is problematic in residential streets surrounding the reserve on game days.
- The car park to the south of Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre is used for netball training, which creates significant risk management issues.
- The car park to the west of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre is in poor condition and has significant undulations.
- Clubs and users need to be educated about appropriate car parking and access to the reserve. Increased walking or riding to the reserve by locals would reduce traffic management issues.
- Greater enforcement of parking restrictions may be required.

Open Space / Third Sports Field

- Walter Galt Reserve offers the only substantial un-programmed open space to residents in the Parkdale area.

- Open space at Walter Galt Reserve is well used and valued by the boarder community.
- The sporting clubs at the reserve have indicated that demand for the sports that they offer cannot be sustained by the existing sports fields available at Walter Galt Reserve.
- The clubs have requested that consideration be given to a third sports field / playing area on the Walter Galt Reserve.
- A third sports field would limit unstructured open space available to non-sports users, increase traffic management issues at the reserve and change the focus of the reserve from a community recreation reserve to a sporting reserve.

Dog Off-Leash

- The community values the practice of allowing dog off-leash exercise in the park.
- This activity needs to be managed as increased activity occurs in the reserve.
- It would be beneficial if there was greater separation between active users / playground users and dog off-leash.
- Dog off-leash areas need to be more clearly defined and responsibilities clearly articulated.

Don Tatnell Leisure Centre / Mordialloc Youth and Community Centre

- These facilities are well used by local residents.
- Classes and programs run at both facilities occasionally use the facilities at Walter Galt Reserve, including the sports ovals, open space, netball courts and rebound wall.
- Increased interaction between the facility users and the reserve would be beneficial.
- Car parking for these facilities need to be provided for on Walter Galt Reserve.

Playground

- The current playground was developed several years ago as a quasi-accessible playground with DHS funding that recognised Scope's use of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre and facilities at Walter Galt Reserve.
- The playground meets the criteria of the Kingston Playground Strategy but this could be reviewed given the level of use and awareness of the playground in the community.

Walking Paths

- There is significant interest in creating walking paths through and around the reserve.
- Walking paths would cater for local pedestrian traffic and bikes across the reserve and create unstructured recreation opportunities.
- Walking paths have the potential to minimise traffic management issues at the reserve by encouraging nearby residents to walk to and across the reserve.

Multi Purpose Sports Court

- Netball is currently played on the car park to the south of Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre. These courts do not meet game standards and there are significant issues with vehicles entering the training area.

- Parkdale Secondary College is currently investigating the provision of an indoor sports facility, which may create synergies that could be investigated after designs are completed.
- There is an opportunity to consolidate some infrastructure and provide two multi purpose sports courts on the reserve.

Condition of Sports Fields

- The sports fields are in average to poor condition. This has resulted from a combination of there age, use, climatic conditions and water restrictions. Subsidence across the site has contributed to the condition of the sports fields.
- The sports fields need to be carefully managed in the future to ensure they can sustain a set level of use.

Cricket Nets

- The current location of the cricket nets impacts on the open space area of the reserve and creates risk management issues for casual users.
- Council's preferred option is to place the cricket nets on the perimeter of the sports oval to ensure that balls are being hit in the active sporting precinct.
- The club and association would prefer the cricket nets be kept separate from the oval to allow games or training to take place on the main oval at the same time the nets are being used.
- Cricket nets need to be provided in a north / south direction to minimise the impact of the sun on the batsman and bowler.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In response to the key issues identified in the previous section of this report a series of design principles were discussed and developed. These principles have guided the development of a series of design options which were considered by the Walter Galt Reserve Working Group to assist in the development of the master plan.

The design principles, and a series of actions for each, are listed below:

Provide for unmet community demand in the Walter Galt Reserve

- Provide paths for access, commuting and exercise including fitness stations.
- Remove netball courts from the eastern car park and replace with new multi purpose courts in the reserve.
- Retain open space where possible to provide for unstructured leisure and recreation activities which aren't provided for at other reserves in Parkdale.

Create an environmentally sustainable approach for the reserve

- Employ water-sensitive urban design principles to capture rainwater for use in garden and tree maintenance.
- Remove turf in key areas (such as steep slopes and areas not used for recreation) and replace with native vegetation.

Build upon the existing major infrastructure in the reserve

- Maintain the central oval in its current location.
- Maintain recently refurbished pavilion in place and develop the sporting precinct around it.
- Provide for improved interaction between the Don Tatnell Leisure Centre and the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre and the reserve.

Locate uses according to appropriate synergies and adjacencies

- Keep off-leash dog area separate from the playground and active playing fields.
- Consider relationships between reserve users and other facilities being considered nearby (ie Parkdale Secondary College).

Encourage healthy, active lifestyles in community

- Encourage users to travel to reserve using alternative means of transport by encouraging walking and cycling and by providing quality paths and linkages throughout the reserve
- Promote unstructured exercise by providing a perimeter path around reserve including exercise stations.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Key components of the master plan are detailed below and indicated in Figure 3 on the following page.

Community Recreation Infrastructure

- Develop a network of paths throughout the reserve to provide access within and across the reserve.
- Provide a series of exercise stations, at strategic locations around the reserve which are accessible from the path network.
- Provide seating in key locations around the park, accessible from the path network as well as in some more vegetated areas.
- Relocate the playground (in the longer term) to the area near where the cricket nets are currently located.
- Provide picnic and BBQ facilities adjacent to the proposed playground site.
- Provide an enclosed pool 'spill-out' space on the western side of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre.
- Relocate the dog off-leash area to the upper open space area to keep separate from the active sporting zone.
- Retain open space for non-programmed and 'social, family recreation' activities.

| Master Plan Reference Number |
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| 15 |
| 15 |
| All |
| 11 |
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Sporting Infrastructure

- Retain and improve the existing senior sports oval in its current location.
- Reshape and improve the (lower) sports field, into a junior oval to allow rooms for adequate sports facility car parking to the immediate south of the lower sports field.
- Retain the existing sports pavilion in its current location
- Provide for additional external storage which will eliminate the need for the storage containers and bluestone 'bunker' which are currently located on the reserve. These should be removed / demolished upon new storage being constructed.
- Relocate the cricket nets to face onto the western sports oval in a north-south direction.
- Provide two new multi purpose (netball) courts in lieu of removing the three courts from the car park to the south of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre.

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| 9 |

Landscaping and Amenity

- Eliminate unnecessary grassed areas along the southern sloping banks of the reserve by planting up with trees and native grasses. This includes screen planting around the redeveloped sports pavilion.
- Where possible, avoid removing vegetation or existing trees.
- Retain the existing row of poplar trees, or replace with another exotic species, in the upper open space area in acknowledgement of the heritage of the reserve.

| Master Plan Reference Number |
|------------------------------|
| 19 |
| All |
| 18 |

Car Parking and Traffic Management

- Develop a formal car park in the south western corner of Walter Galt Reserve (approximately 55 spaces) to cater for sports field users. The car park will have separate access and egress points to enhance traffic flow.
- Formalise the 'nose in' angle parking along Brisbane Terrace to allow more efficient car space management and reduce risk management issues associated with maintaining the area at present.
- Realign the car park located to the south of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre to a single isle car park to create space immediately to the south for multi purpose courts. This car park will have its capacity reduced from 78 car spaces to approximately 60 spaces.
- Formalise the car park on the west side of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre. This car park will cater for up to 80 car spaces, up from 45 spaces currently provided.

| Master Plan Reference Number |
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| 4 |
| 17 |
| 8 |
| 12 |

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

| Time Frame | Action | Description | Funding | | Cost Implications |
|----------------------------|--|--|---------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | Council | Partnership Opportunity | |
| Short Term Years 1 - 3 | 01 | Develop a network of paths throughout the reserve to provide access within and across the reserve. Paths should be granitic sand material with consideration given to coloured concrete in key pedestrian zones between car parking and facilities. | ✓ | | \$150,000 |
| | 02 | Provide a series of exercise stations, at strategic locations around the reserve which are accessible from the path network. The exercise stations should provide a range of activities for able bodied people and consideration given to components which are also accessible to people with a disability. | ✓ | | \$30,000 |
| | 03 | Provide seating in key locations around the park, accessible from the path network as well as in some of the more vegetated areas. Seating and park furniture should be consistent with suite of park furniture used by Council in other parks. | ✓ | | \$20,000 |
| | 04 | Eliminate unnecessary grassed areas along the southern sloping banks of the reserve by planting up with trees and native grasses. Plant species should be selected from Council's preferred species list. | ✓ | | \$90,000 |
| | 05 | Provide planting (screening) and minor landscaping between the sports pavilion and residential properties to the south. Plant species should be selected from Council's preferred species list. | | ✓ | <i>Incl in item 04</i> |
| | 06 | Develop a formal car park in the south western corner of Walter Galt Reserve (approximately 55 spaces) to cater for sports field users. The car park will have separate access and egress points to enhance traffic flow. Where possible avoid removing existing vegetation trees. Revegetate grassed area in south west corner between car park and Davey Street with trees, shrubs and native grasses. | ✓ | | \$224,000 |
| | Total Capital Cost Implication – Short Term Actions | | | | |
| Medium Term Years 4 - 6 | 07 | Retain the existing row of poplar trees, or replace with another exotic species, in the upper open space area in acknowledgement of the heritage of the reserve. | ✓ | | \$2,500 |
| | 08 | Formalise the 'nose in' angle parking along Brisbane Terrace to allow more efficient car space management and reduce risk management issues associated with maintaining the area at present. | ✓ | | \$135,000 |
| | 09 | Reshape and improve the (lower) sports field, into a junior oval to allow room for adequate sports facility car parking to the immediate south of the lower sports field and to allow for retention of site stormwater. | ✓ | | \$230,000 |

| Time Frame | Action | Description | Funding | | Cost Implications |
|--|---|---|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Council | Partnership Opportunity | |
| | 10 | Relocate the dog off-leash area to the upper open space area to keep separate from the active sporting zone. Minor fencing along the eastern side of this area has been included until the playground is relocated in the longer term. | ✓ | | \$6,000 |
| | 11 | Retain the existing senior sports oval in its current location. | ✓ | | nil |
| | 12 | Improve open space for non-programmed and 'social, family recreation' activities. | ✓ | | \$120,000 |
| Total Capital Cost Implication – Medium Term Actions | | | | | \$493,500 |
| Long Term Years 7 - 10 | 13 | Provide an enclosed pool 'spill-out' space on the western side of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre. | ✓ | | \$80,000 |
| | 14 | Formalise the car park on the west side of Don Tatnell Leisure Centre. This car park will cater for up to 80 car spaces, up from 45 spaces currently provided. | ✓ | | \$100,000 |
| | 15 | Relocate the cricket nets to face onto the secondary sports oval in a north-south direction. | | ✓ | \$30,000 |
| | 16 | Remove the bluestone 'bunker' and containers and provide for storage to the rear of the new nets. Approximately 30 – 40 square metres, built with brick with small roller door access.. | | ✓ | \$100,000 |
| | 17 | Provide picnic and BBQ facilities adjacent to the proposed playground site. | | ✓ | \$80,000 |
| | 18 | Relocate the playground (in the longer term) to the area near where the cricket nets are currently located. | | ✓ | \$80,000 |
| | 19 | Provide two new multi purpose (netball) courts in lieu of removing the three courts from the car park to the south of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre. | | ✓ | \$183,000 |
| | 20 | Realign the car park located to the south of the Mordialloc Community and Youth Centre to a single isle car park to create space immediately to the south for multi purpose courts. This car park will have its capacity reduced from 78 car spaces to approximately 60 spaces. | ✓ | | \$100,000 |
| | Total Capital Cost Implication – Long Term Actions | | | | |
| Total Capital Cost Implications – Walter Galt Reserve Master Plan | | | | | \$1,760,500 |