

Information sheet: Dorothy Laver Reserve West Landscape Plan

Background

In 2018 Council conducted community consultation on a proposal to install a synthetic surface at Dorothy Laver Reserve West.

On 10 December 2018, following consideration of community feedback, Council resolved to endorse an amended concept for Dorothy Laver Reserve West, abandoning the proposal for a synthetic surface in favour of maintaining turf sports fields at this location.

In making this decision, Council resolved to undertake the following:

- Provide two senior-sized turf soccer fields.
- Remove two synthetic cricket wickets.
- Install sports lighting.
- Undertake drainage and irrigation works to the sports fields.
- Expand the on-site car park and improve car park drainage.
- Implement a traffic treatment at the entry to the reserve.

These Council resolved works are progressing, and an update on these items is provided later in this Information Sheet.

In addition to the above items, Council resolved to prepare and undertake community consultation on a landscape plan, addressing the following:

- Rationalise fencing on the site.
- Improve the alignment of the bike path near the bridge over the creek.
- Provide additional trees in the passive open space areas.

This Information Sheet provides an update on the Council resolved works, and an overview of the landscape plan elements which Council is now seeking feedback on.

Update on Council resolved works

Below is an update on works resolved to be undertaken by Council. Council is not seeking feedback on these items.

When these works are being undertaken, access to the park may be restricted. Council will install signage in the reserve indicating relevant conditions prior to works commencing. Works are proposed to conclude by March 2020 so that the fields are ready and operational for winter season sporting use in 2020.

Training lights

Council is upgrading the existing six sports training lights at the reserve to sustainable LED 100 lux for use between 5-9pm on weekdays. The new locations are as resolved by Council, and are marked on the proposed landscape plan. Works will occur in early 2020 and are expected to be completed by March 2020.

Sport ground irrigation and drainage

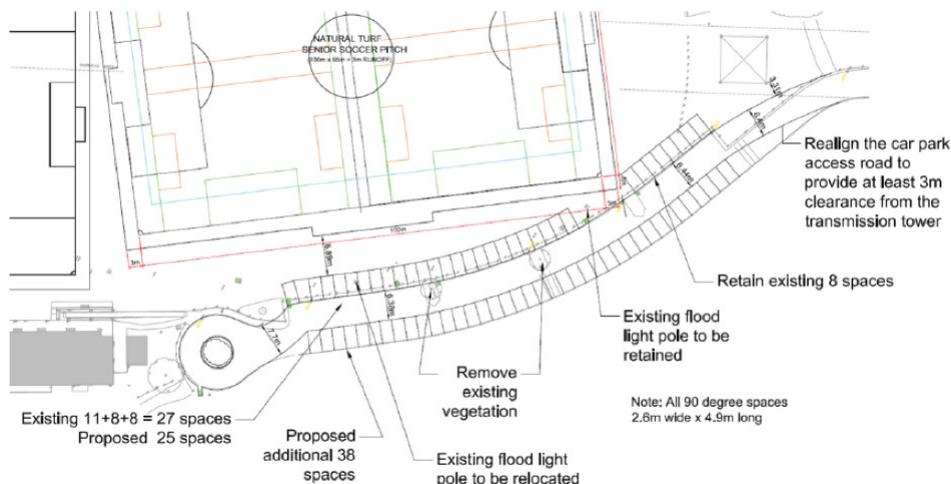
Works are currently underway to upgrade the drainage and irrigation of the two turf soccer fields. These works are due to be completed in November 2019.

Car Parking and Car Park Drainage

Council resolved to implement the car parking design submitted by officers in the December 2018 Council report. This plan provided 87 spaces at the reserve, with 71 spaces in the immediate vicinity of the sports field and pavilion, and 16 on the access road into the reserve.

Council will be implementing this design, as detailed in the Landscape Plan, which provides a total increase of 36 car park spaces in the reserve, from the 51 existing car parking spaces, to a total of 87 car park spaces. The works will also include improved drainage.

A copy of the endorsed car park design from the December 2018 Council report is below:



The Council resolution in December 2018 required provision of an additional 20 car spaces. This will not bring the total up to the 87 spaces supported in the concept plan. The officers have listened to community concerns regarding overspill parking and it is intended to provide the 87 spaces shown on the concept plan in the Council report to ensure community concerns are addressed.

The car park works are planned to occur between November 2019 and February 2020.

Traffic Treatments

The following traffic treatments and traffic improvements will occur:

- A raised platform threshold treatment to regulate speed at the entrance to Dorothy Laver Reserve West (see example below).
- Trimming of vegetation on the approach to Dorothy Laver Reserve West to improve visibility and safety.
- The relocation of Dorothy Laver Reserve West signage for increased visibility and safety.

These treatments are proposed to be undertaken in February to March 2020.

These traffic treatments are not intended to resolve the existing community concern regarding the volume of traffic travelling along Dunlop Street. Dunlop Street has carried traffic since the introduction of the freeway overpass, and the traffic treatments implemented through this project will not resolve that concern. Treatments are aimed at slowing traffic and increasing visibility and safety near the entrance to the reserve.

Recent traffic monitoring has indicated the modelling of the projected future use of Dorothy Laver Reserve West, as two turf soccer fields will not adversely impact the traffic within surrounding streets.



Landscape Works Community Consultation

On 10 December 2018 Council resolved to implement a range of landscape works which would be addressed in more detail in a landscape plan, and that it would undertake community consultation on the landscape plan.

Council is now seeking community feedback on a proposed landscape plan for Dorothy Laver Reserve West. Commentary of the key elements of the landscape plan is provided below.

Additional Trees

To enhance shade and complement the existing landscape character of the reserve, the landscape plan proposes 40 additional trees.

The trees are selected from the recommendation within *the Inventory and Assessment of Indigenous Flora and Fauna in Boroondara (2006)* using ecological vegetation classes 53 and 56 of the botanical species list such as:

- Bursaria spinose.
- Acacia melanoxylon.
- Eucalyptus camaldulensis.
- Melicytus dentatus.

Revegetation Areas

To improve the biodiversity value and further complement the existing landscape character of the reserve, the landscape plan proposes to provide increased planting of flora from the existing ecological vegetation classes 53 (Swampy Scrub) and 56 (Floodplain Riparian Woodland) at locations detailed in the landscape plan.

Shared Path Alignment at Gardiners Creek Bridge

To improve the visibility and safety for users of the shared path, the landscape plan proposes to widen the turning circle and realign the shared path at the 90 degree bend onto the creek bridge approach from the reserve to June Crescent.

The shared path is proposed to be retained in its current location through the southern and eastern parts of the reserve.

Fencing Changes

To improve the functionality of the active open space and maximise residual passive open space, the landscape plan proposes a number of changes to the existing fences that are currently located at Dorothy Laver Reserve West. These changes are described below.

Around the northern field: The relocation of all existing fencing, currently located at the perimeter to the mown grassed area, to be relocated to abut the active sports field. The intent is to provide improved passive use of the area outside of active sporting areas. Six pedestrian gates with spring loaded opening/closing mechanisms will be installed

around the northern sports field to allow passive park user access outside of programmed active sporting times. The area in front of the pavilion will remain unfenced, with match day temporary fencing required for certain levels of competition.

The shared path near the bridge: To ensure safety of shared path users, a portion of shared path fencing is proposed to be replaced and realigned where path users exit the bridge and enter the reserve.

Between the southern field and the shared path: No change to the existing fence.

The southern end of the southern field: The existing bollard fencing will be removed. No replacement fencing will be installed.

Between the southern field and the new car park: The existing fence between the car park and sports field is proposed to be relocated as part of the car park works and replaced with a new 1.1m black chain mesh fence.

Between the two sports fields: To address the functional needs of community sport, safety netting between the two playing fields is proposed. The safety net will be 3m high and 40m wide and is designed to prevent balls passing between the two fields of play. This consultation invites feedback on two options:

- Permanent steel poles, with a temporary safety net to be erected when required.
- Temporary poles and temporary safety net, to be erected when required.

How can I provide feedback?

Council welcomes the community's feedback through completion of its online survey at:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/dlrw-landscape-plan

The consultation will remain open until **6pm on Sunday 3 November 2019**.

How will Council make a decision?

The community's voice is important in determining the outcome of the landscape plan. All feedback received through the landscape plan consultation process will be submitted to Council for consideration at a Services Special Committee meeting, prior to Christmas. A decision on what aspects of the plan will proceed, be amended, or abandoned, will be made at this Services Special Committee meeting.

Anyone wishing to speak in support of their feedback can do so at the Services Special Committee meeting. Please register your prior interest in speaking, by nominating this option through the consultation survey. You will then be sent a form prior to the night, which you will need to complete, in order to speak at this meeting.

A date for the Services Special Committee meeting will be confirmed on Council's website following the conclusion of the consultation period.

When will the landscape works begin?

No works will commence until Council has fully considered the community's feedback through the consultation process, and a decision has been made at the Services Special Committee meeting. These works are proposed to be undertaken in 2020.

Further questions:

There will be a number of opportunities provided for the community to speak directly with officers, to clarify any aspect of the landscape works proposal, as detailed on the landscape plan. These include:

A Community Information and Planting Day will be held on **Sunday 20 October** at Dorothy Laver Reserve West, 22 Dunlop Street Ashburton. The information session will commence at 10:30am and the planting day will run between 9am and 1pm.

A public information session will be held on **Friday 25 October**, 6.00pm in the Boroondara Room at the Camberwell Civic Centre, Inglesby Road Camberwell.

A second public information session will be held on **Thursday 31 October**, 6.00pm in the Parkview Room at Camberwell Civic Centre, Inglesby Road Camberwell.

For general queries about the proposed landscape plan, please contact Gary Bennett on **9278 4444** or email Boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au quoting reference CRM:592336.