Lagoon reserve



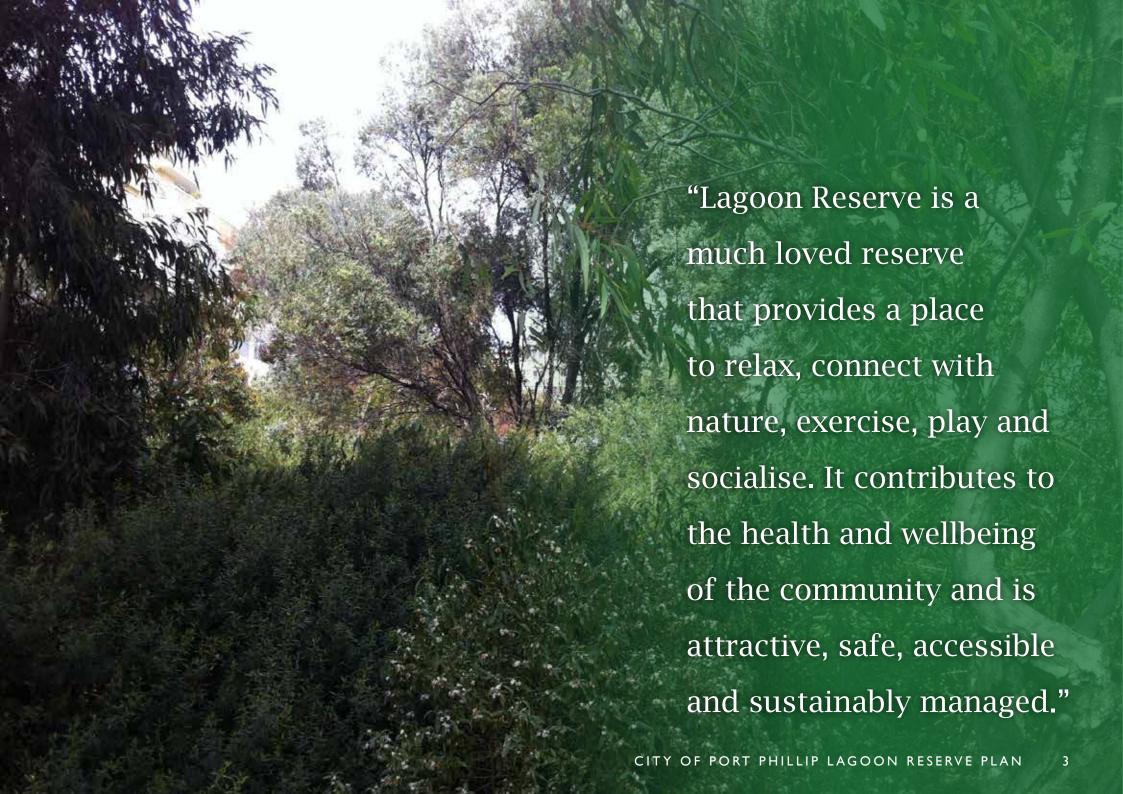
LAGOON RESERVE PARK PLAN 2013

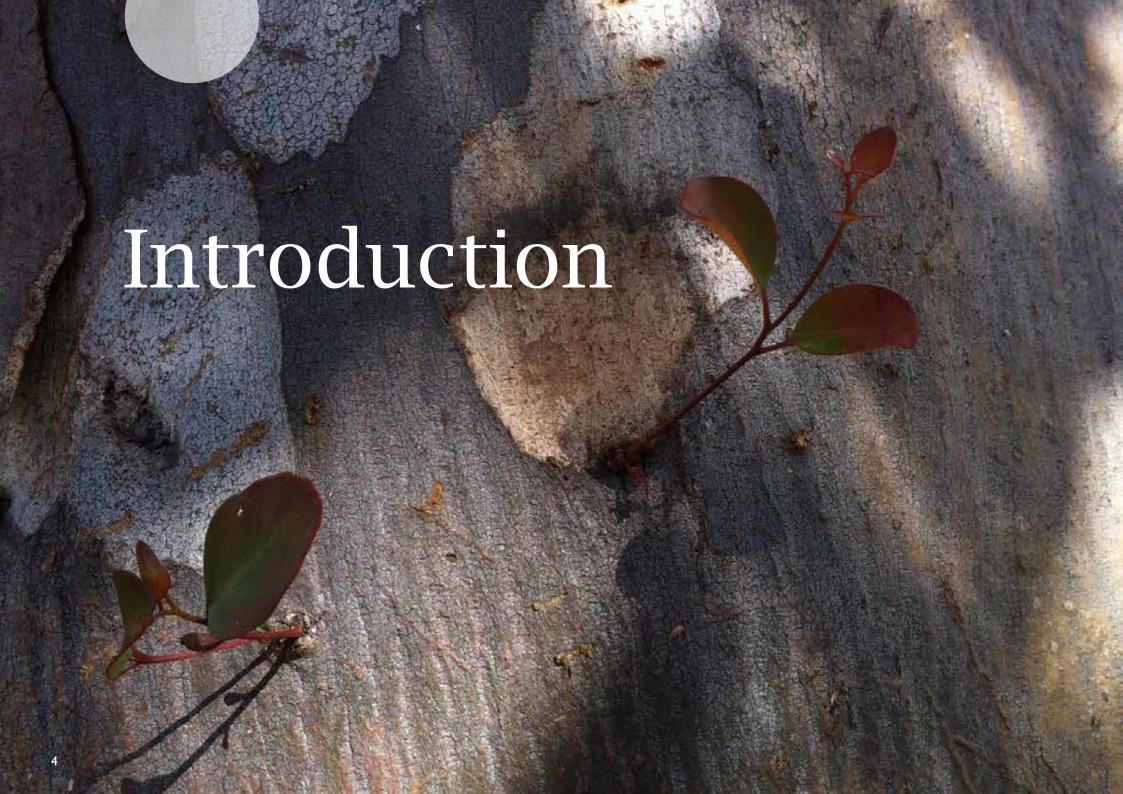




Contents

- 4 Introduction
- 6 Background
- 8 What you said
- 10 Vision
- 12 Principles
- 14 Current Conditions
- 24 Park Plan
- 26 Implementation









The purpose of the Park Plan is to guide the future management, upgrade and development of the reserve as funding becomes available.

The area around Lagoon Reserve is currently experiencing rapid urban growth, a changing population demographic and increasing population density, leading to more people with less access to private green open space. These trends mean that existing public open space will need to adapt in order to continue to cater for the needs of the community.

The Park Plan has been prepared through a rigourous process of community consultation, site analysis, background research on the history and usage of the site, and analysis of surrounding land uses, population trends and adjacent public open space.

Funding of Council's Capital Works Program is based on delivery of Council's priority needs across the municipality. This Park Plan will be considered in the context of priority works across the municipality.





Background

History and site context

Lagoon Reserve is located in a former industrial area of Port Melbourne on the site of a former lagoon. The lagoon was filled in over time as the Port Melbourne area developed into an industrial and transport hub in the early 1900s and was completely filled in by 1929. The area is now dominated by a combination of large residential developments and small single dwelling houses and site of the former lagoon is now a large expanse of green open space that is used by the community for leisure and recreational activities.

The reserve is part of an extensive network of public open spaces within the City of Port Phillip. Edwards Reserve is located directly across the road from Lagoon Reserve and Gasworks Arts Park is located within a five minute walk in the adjoining neighbourhood of Albert Park. Lagoon Reserve is also located a short five minute walk to Bay Street, the main activity centre for commercial and shopping precinct in Port Melbourne.

Infrastructure and facilities

There are no play facilities located within Lagoon Reserve, however a large play space with a range of play equipment is provided in Edwards Park located directly across the road from Lagoon Reserve. Edwards Park has a completely different look and feel to Lagoon Reserve, with formal landscaping and gardens, a Trugo Club with pavilion and fenced playing area as well as a play space and covered seating area. Gasworks Arts Park, located a short walk from Lagoon Reserve provides a different experience again from Edwards Park and Lagoon Reserve. The three different open spaces together provide a wide range of opportunties for different recreation leisure activities and form a significant part of the open space network in Port Melbourne.

Lagoon Reserve is a designated dog off-leash park and is used for a range of recreation activities and community based sports. The majority of park users are local residents who walk to the reserve and stay between 30 minutes to an hour each visit.

The reserve contains a small sports pavilion, with public toilets, a sports field used for cricket in summer and soccer in winter, three cricket nets, barbeque and picnic facilities, seating, pedestrian path and extensive native garden beds.

The native gardens, which contain examples of the indigenous flora of the area are a feature of the park. These gardens have been developed and maintained in partnership with Council and the local community planting group through a series of community planting days and other activities over the past six years.





Community Engagement

A range of community engagement activities were undertaken as part of the development of the Park Plan, including: a Reference Committee with members of the local community and key stakeholders; two on-site Community Ideas Forums; an on-line survey and forum on Have Your Say; a resident and reserve user survey; and community feedback on the Draft Plan via the Have Your Say page.

Feedback

The results of the park survey indicate that the majority of reserve users are satisfied with the accessibility of the reserve, linkages to the area, cleanliness of the reserve, safety and security in the reserve, connection with nature, layout and design, quality of the landscape, and opportunities for sport and recreation. The park survey results indicate that there is less satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of furniture and provision and maintenance of facilities.

Positive aspects of the reserve that where highlighted during the consultation included; the location of the reserve close to home (most reserve users walk less than 10 minutes to the reserve), pet friendliness, greenery and landscaping, open space, community atmosphere and ambience of the reserve.

Improvements to the reserve that were highlighted as priorities included: improvements to amenities (including toilets, pavilion, seats, barbecue, picnic tables and drinking fountains), increased shade, greenery and landscaping, issues with pets, fencing and lighting and playground equipment. Feedback was also received regarding the need for a level sports playing surface and training lights to improve the functionality of the sports facilities to meet the growing demand for use.

"keep diversity of use"







Vision

"Lagoon Reserve is a much loved park that provides a place to relax, connect with nature, exercise, play and socialise. It contributes to the health and wellbeing of the community and is attractive, safe, accessible and sustainably managed."





Principles

To achieve the vision for Lagoon Reserve a number of guiding principles have been developed. These principles will guide all future development of the reserve to ensure the community's vision is achieved over the long term.

Protect and enhance the 'natural' look and feel of the reserve.

- Continue to work with the local community to plant and maintain predominantly indigenous themed gardens throughout the reserve.
- Retain the green open space area and minimise the addition of hard surfaces and infrastructure within the reserve.
- Plant trees to provide habitat, shade and shelter as well as planting feature trees at strategic locations throughout the reserve.
- Reduce the visual impact of reserve facilities through good design and strategic planting of vegetation.
- Investigate non-potable water sources to support the maintenance of green spaces within the reserve.





Encourage and support a diversity of community based sports and recreation activities.

- Create a local community space where all people can undertake a range of sports and recreation activities.
- Develop zones within the reserve through strategic landscaping and placement of facilities to support a diversity of use.
- Ensure the community sports facilities meet FFV Class C facility guidelines.
- Develop energy efficient public lighting that meets user requirements.
- Promote a safe environment for users through good design, provision of adequate facilities and infrastructure and appropriate levels of maintenance.
- Support the development of an active and healthy community through equitable scheduling of access to sports and reserve facilities.

Continue to recognise the important function of the reserve as a dog off-leash socialising and exercise space.

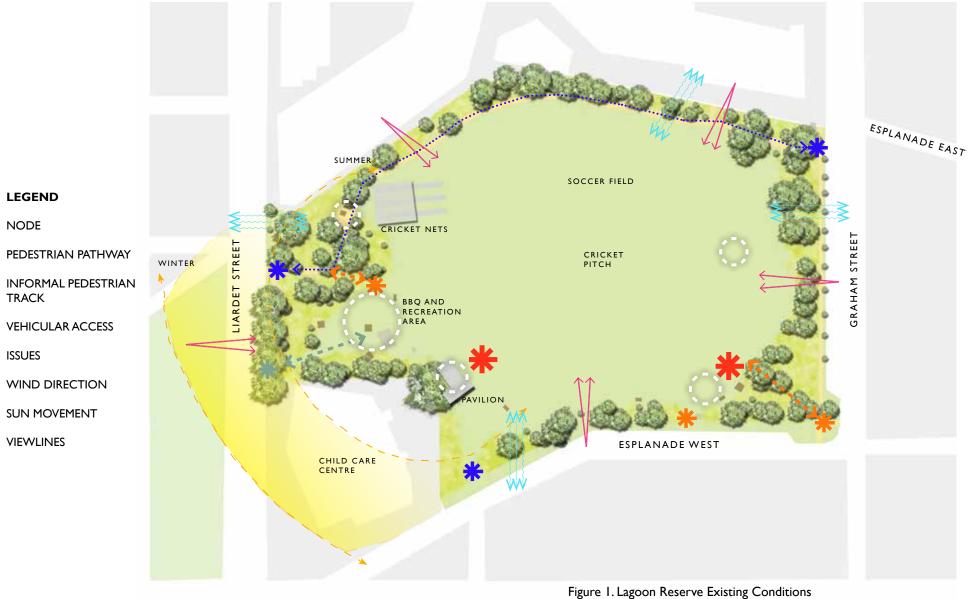
- Maintain the off leash status of the reserve.
- Retain open space for dog socialising and exercise.
- Provide an appropriate number of drinking fountains with dog bowls.
- Ensure litter bins are available for disposal of dog waste.
- Support, promote and enforce responsible dog ownership.





Current Conditions

Recommendations have been developed to achieve the Lagoon Reserve vision as funds become available. Actions are set out under the following headings: entrances and path network, vegetation, park facilities, pavilion and public toilets, sports facilities, lighting, fencing, sustainability and water security.



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Entrances and path network

There are two main entrances to Lagoon Reserve, located on Liardet Street and Graham Street. Informal entrances are located on the corner of Graham Street and Esplanade West and at three points along Esplanade West. A service vehicle path and entry is located on Liardet Street. This entry and path are in poor condition. Feedback from the community was that park entrances are poorly defined with limited signage, paths and safety lighting.

A concrete pedestrian path links the Liardet Street and Graham Street entrances along the eastern boundary of the park. This path is highly used by park users as well as people passing through the park. Community feedback has highlighted a conflict between pedestrians and bike riders along the pedestrian path, which is too narrow and poorly lit at night to safely function as a shared path.

There are no paths to the pavilion, public toilet facilities or connecting to the rest of the park, restricting disabled access to park facilities. Feedback received from the community highlighted that the lack of paths connecting the various entrances restricts the use of these areas of the park in wet weather by people for exercise and dog walking. Patches of worn grass showing preferred pedestrian routes through the park also suggest the need for additional paths.

Actions: Entrances and path network

- Enhance park entrances on Liardet Street, Esplanade West and Graham Street through vegetation, signage, safety lighting and path upgrades. Historical reference signage and informative signage to be installed.
- Upgrade the service entry and path on Liardet Street to provide an all weather path for service vehicles and to enhance the street interface.
- Provide a path around the inside of the park that connects all of the entrances and the existing concrete path and provides access for all to the pavilion, public toilets, barbeque and picnic facilities.
- Provide an informal pedestrian path into the park through the garden bed at the corner of Graham Street and Esplanade West.
- Pedestrian path to be installed along Esplanade West, adjacent to road.
- Investigate the need for a shared bike/ pedestrian path through the park.





Vegetation

The trees and vegetation within Lagoon Reserve are predominantly indigenous and native species. Council officers and the local community planting group have worked together for the last six years to develop native garden beds that contain representatives of the original flora of the area. This is considered to be a special attribute of the park.

A number of issues were identified through the community consultation and site analysis. One of the key issues identified is the need for increased planting around the perimeter of the park to buffer residents from noise and light spill along one side of the park and as a buffer between park users and the roads that border three sides of the park. A lack of shade opportunities in areas used for passive recreation was highlighted as an issue by the community. There are also significant gaps in the garden beds around the perimeter of the park where vegetation has died and not been replaced.

Actions: Vegetation

- Continue to work with the local community to plant and maintain the vegetation within the park.
- Planting theme to have a focus on indigenous flora to provide examples of the original flora of the area and to provide habitat for native birds, bees and other indigenous fauna.
- Plant trees to provide shade and as features according to the Lagoon Reserve Vegetation Management Plan.
- Supplement the existing trees and garden beds with additional planting according to the Lagoon Reserve Vegetation Management Plan.
- Plant vegetation to provide a buffer between the road and the park and the residential development adjacent
- Plant trees and vegetation that creates a visual link between the streetscape and the reserve.

Park facilities

Lagoon Reserve is used for a wide range of sports and recreation activities including soccer, cricket, walking, jogging, exercising, kicking a ball, play, throwing a frisbee, sitting in the sun, enjoying the outdoors, reading a book, socialising, barbeques and picnics. The reserve is a designated dog off-leash park and is highly utilised by the local community for dog off-leash exercise and socialising.

Park facilities include a barbeque and two picnic tables located near the Liardet Street entrance, another picnic table behind the cricket nets beside the concrete path and nine bench seats located at intervals along the concrete path. There is one drinking fountain located near the barbeque. Four rubbish bins are positioned at all park entrances, beside the barbeque and the pavilion.

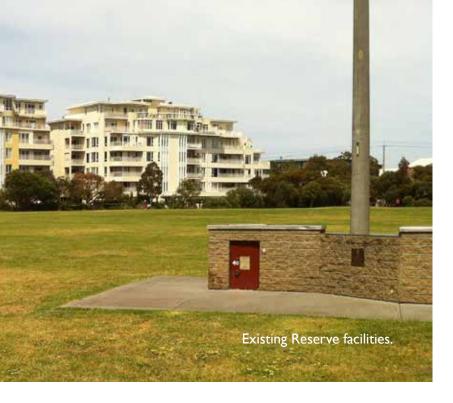
Site analysis and community feedback identified that the existing facilities are aging and in poor condition. Updated and additional park infrastructure will be required to support increased park use and the changing needs of the community, such as an additional barbeque, picnic tables, seating, outdoor exercise equipment and drinking fountains with dog bowls.

Actions: Park facilities

- Relocate and upgrade the existing barbeque and picnic table near the Liardet Street entrance.
- Install a barbeque and picnic table near the Graham Street entrance.
- Install a picnic table near the corner of Esplanade West and Graham Street.
- Install either; an outdoor exercise station that provides exercise opportunities for a range of age groups, to be collocated with the pavilion, barbeque and picnic facilities; or, individual exercise stations located around the reserve to allow for circuit training.
- Upgrade the existing drinking fountain near the pavilion to include a dog drinking bowl.
- Install an additional drinking fountain with dog bowl near the corner of Graham Street and Esplanade West.
- Provide adequate rubbish disposal (bins) throughout the park
- Upgrade existing seating to comply with City of Port Phillip park furniture standards.
- Provide additional park seating at strategic points throughout the park, including wheel chair accessible seating.









Pavilion and public toilets

The existing pavilion is outdated. It contains a small kitchen, two change rooms with showers and toilets, and external public toilets that are opened daily. The pavilion is currently used by the sports clubs based in the reserve. These are: South Port United Soccer Club, Albert Park Spiders Soccer Club, Emerald Hill Cricket Club and South Melbourne Districts Junior Cricket Club.

The site analysis identified the pavilion facilities to be outdated and in poor condition. Feedback received from the community groups that make use of the pavilion facilities was that the pavilion does not currently meet their needs and that updated change rooms, kitchen facilities and a space for social gatherings is much needed.

Council community spaces and meeting rooms throughout the muncipality are fully booked, with groups waiting for access. An opportunity exists to update the pavilion facilities in Lagoon Reserve to accommodate a wider range of community groups and community activities than currently use the facility.

Public toilets are attached to the pavilion and are accessible during daylight hours. The City of Port Phillip Public Toilet Plan lists the Lagoon Reserve public toilets as a low priority for upgrade. Upgrade would occur in conjunction with an upgrade of the pavilion.

Actions: Pavilion and public toilets

- Upgrade the pavilion to comply with Class C FFV facilities guidelines. The Football Federation Victoria guidelines are used to standardise provision of sport facilities across Victoria. They are being used in this instance to provide the minimum requirements for the pavilion to support sports and other users. Lagoon Reserve is a community sports facility classifed as Class C in the FFV guidelines.
- Multifunctional pavilion to include an outdoor undercover area, public toilets with separate access, kitchen facilities, two change rooms with showers and toilets, separate umpire's room and a flexible space that can be used for community meetings, sports club activities and other community uses.
- Public toilet facilities to be upgraded as part of the pavilion upgrade.
- Existing pavilion and toilets to be removed when new facilities provided.
- Incorporate sustainable building design elements to minimise energy and water use.

Sport facilities

Lagoon Reserce contains a sports field that accommodates a cricket oval, and cricket nets and a, soccar pitch with removable goal posts. In addition to the four sports clubs based in the reserve, Albert Park College is also significant user of the reserve for sports activities. The College has restricted access to open space within the school boundary and regularly books Lagoon Reserve for school sports activities.

Lagoon Reserve is the only park in the area providing community access to sports facilities. Scheduling of the sports grounds is currently at near capacity. Other sports facilities are located at Albert Park, Murphy Reserve and Julier Reserve.

Scheduling of sports facilities across the City of Port Phillip is generally at capacity, with demand outweighing supply in most cases. Future demand for access by the community to sports facilities is predicted to increase significantly as population density increases and schools require increased access to public open space to supplement their on-site provision.

The existing cricket nets are old and in poor condition and are located in a position where they intrude into the cricket oval and restrict the length of the soccer pitch. They are quite well utilized by the two cricket clubs based

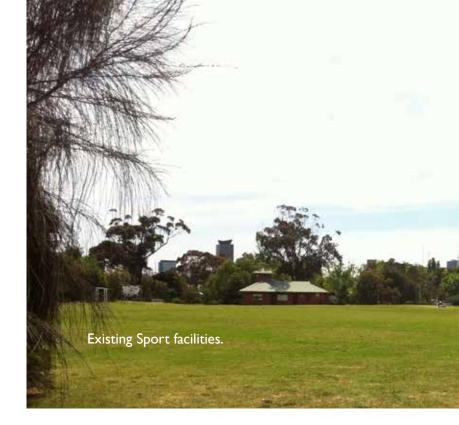
in the reserve as well as by the general public.

The sports field is in poor condition due to subsidence occurring across the reserve. The former lagoon was filled with a range of material available at the time and this fill is subsiding unevenly across the reserve causing the surface to vary quite significantly in height. The subsidence is having a significant impact on the capacity of the reserve to support sports activities.

Soil testing has identified Class A soil contamination within the material used to fill the lagoon. A management plan approved by EPA Victoria is in place to manage the soil contamination by maintaining separation between the contaminated soil and park users. Upgrade of the sports field would require compaction of the fill and relaying of the soil cap and playing surface.

Actions: Sports facilities

- Upgrade the soccer pitch and cricket oval to provide a level playing surface incorporating soil remediation requirements.
- Upgrade the cricket nets and relocate to provide appropriate clearance between the cricket nets, cricket oval and the soccer pitch.









Lighting

There are three lights within the park. One located beside the barbeque and two lights located along the single path through the park near the Liardet Street entrance and the cricket nets. Feedback from the community is that the entrances and the path appear unsafe at night due to the lack of lighting and many local residents avoid the park after dark. A number of accidents have occurred along the path after dark between bike riders, individuals and dogs due to poor lighting along the path and people congregating on the path due to the lack of lighting in the rest of the park. Feedback from dog walkers was that a lack of lighting inhibits where they are able to walk their dogs at night, particularly in winter.

A spot light has been attached to the pavilion by sports clubs to assist with night training in winter. Training in winter is concentrated near the single light source, leading to degradation of the sports field in that area. Feedback from the sports clubs is that current lighting levels significantly restricts their capacity to train in the evenings in winter. Feedback from the community was that the spotlight on top of the pavilion shines into adjacent properties.

Actions: Lighting

- Install sustainable safety lighting along the pedestrian path through the park connecting Liardet St and Graham Street.
- Provide sports ground lighting for training purposes only.
 Scheduling restrictions to be implemented when lights installed to minimise the impact on surrounding residents.

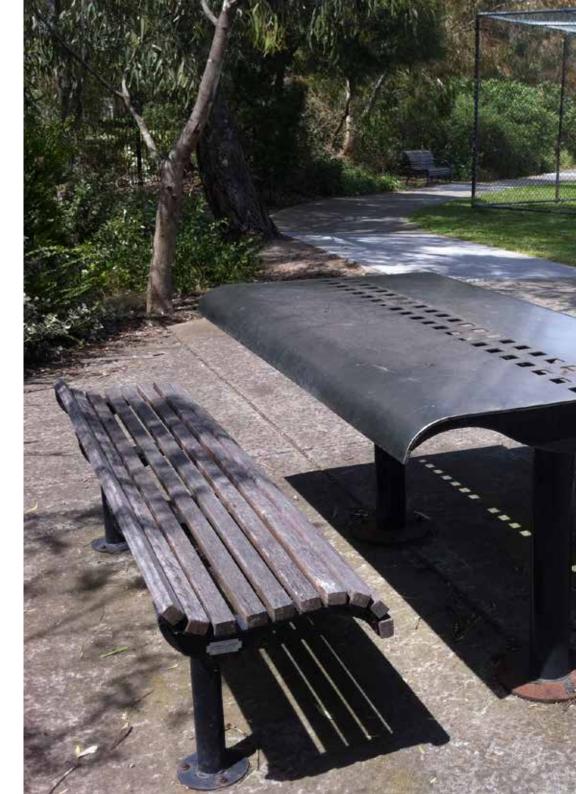
Fencing

The boundary fence along the three sides of the park that interface with the street is an unsightly steel post and rail fence designed to keep unauthorised vehicles out of the reserve. Feedback from the community was that the fence detracts from the visual amenity of the park.

The boundary fence at the interface between the residential building and the park is constructed of chain mesh, providing a visual connection to the park and good passive surveillance. A pedestrian access gate in this fence provides access for residents of the adjacent building. directly into the park.

Actions: Fencing

Post and rail fence to be removed and perimeter planting to replace the function of the fencing as a buffer between park users and the road and as a barrier to unauthorised car access.





Sustainability and water security

There is a strong indigenous planting focus within the reserve. The purpose of the planting is to provide examples of vegetation that once covered the area and ensure their continued survival, provide visual amenity for park users and to contribute to biodiversity in the area by providing habitat for indigenous fauna. Planting for biodiversity outcomes will continue to be a priority in the future.

Tree planting for shade, shelter and cooling to mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect is also a priority for the future. Feedback from the community was that there was not enough shade to support users during summer. There is an opportunity to undertake strategic tree planting of deciduous trees within the reserve for shade, shelter and cooling purposes.

There is an opportunity for harvesting rainwater from the pavilion roof and storing it on-site in a tank located adjacent to the pavilion for use on-site. There will also be an opportunity to invest in energy and water efficient features with the redevelopment of the pavilion that minimise the 'resource footprint' of the building.

Stormwater harvesting from adjacent streetscapes in future could provide an alternative water supply for irrigation. This would increase water security for the reserve and enhance the ability for Council to maintain the green grass cover and other vegetation during extended dry spells and when water restrictions are in place.

Actions: Sustainability and water security

- Continue to plant indigenous vegetation for biodiversity outcomes.
- Undertake strategic tree planting for shade, shelter and cooling.
- Investigate opportunities to supplement water use and irrigation requirements for the park through on-site rainwater capture and storage and stormwater harvesting.
- The existing irrigation system is in fair condition but will need to be replaced when the sports field is upgraded.



Park Plan

The Park Plan was developed in partnership with the community and reflects the Lagoon Reserve Vision and Principles.

LEGEND



- 2 \to Upgrade the existing irrigation system
- 3 Investigate shared bike/pedestrian path through the reserve to link to the bike/pedestrian network within the area.
- 4 Upgrade the service entry and path on Liardet Street.
- 5 Pathway network connecting to the existing paths to a perimeter path around the reserve.
- 6 Upgrade existing barbeque, seating, water fountains and picnic tables and install additional facilities.
- 7 Install sustainable safety lighting along the key pedestrian path connecting Liardet Street and Graham Street and at key entrances to the reserve.
- 8 \bigstar Develop a Vegetation Management Plan.
- 9 Review all reserve signage, install new signs and update existing signs as required.
- 10 Undertake landscaping works to enhance reserve entrances.
- II — Construct a pedestrian access path connecting to the path network.
- Undertake tree and vegetation planting as per the recommendations in the Vegetation Management Plan.
- 13 Install bike hoops at key position within the reserve.
- New Pavilion and public toilets
- 15 Relocate and upgrade the cricket nets.
- 16 k Install sports ground lighting for training purposes only.
- Investigate opportunities for on-site rainwater capture and storage and storm water harvesting from surrounding streets.
- 18 Construct a footpath in the road reserve along Esplande West, linking the Graham Street and Liardet Street footpaths.
- 19 Install an outdoor exercise station.
- 20 Fencing (remove the post and rail fence and replace with vegetation as a barrier and as a buffer between reserve users and the road).



Figure 2. Lagoon Reserve Park Plan





Implementation

The Lagoon Reserve Park Plan will guide and underpin all future works within Lagoon Reserve and will inform the City of Port Phillip's long term capital works program.

The projects outlined here reflect the recommended actions listed previously. Works will be undertaken according to the priorities listed in the long term capital works program and as funds become available in the budget. Detailed design including specific item locations and materials will be undertaken for each of the projects when they receive funding.

Each project has been given a priority rating of low, medium or high. It is recognised that all of the projects are important, however due to limited funding availability it is useful to prioritise projects to ensure that the most urgent, or highest impact projects are undertaken first, with medium and low priority projects being undertaken as further funds become available.

Funding of Council's Capital Works Program is based on delivery of Council's priority needs across the municipality. This Park Plan will be considered in the context of priority works across the municipality.

No.	Project	Theme	Priority - low, medium, high
1	Upgrade the sports field to provide a level playing field, including appropriate soil remediation works to stabilise the subsurface and cap the contaminated soil.	Sports facilities	High
2	Upgrade the existing irrigation system in conjunction with the upgrade of the sports fields.	Sustainability and water security	High
3	Investigate the need for a shared bike/pedestrian path through the reserve to link to the bike/pedestrian network within the area.	Entrances and path network	High
4	Upgrade the service entry and path on Liardet Street and ensure service vehicle access to key areas within the reserve via a duel purpose service vehicle/pedestrian path.	Entrances and path network	High
5	Install a perimeter path constructed with porous materials connecting entrances and the existing path.	Entrances and path network	High
6	Upgrade and relocate the existing barbeque and picnic facilities to the new location. Add additional barbeque and picnic facilities near the eastern entrance from Graham Street. Upgrade the existing water fountain and install an additional water fountain near the corner of Graham Street and Esplanade West. Install additional seating in locations as marked.	Reserve facilities	High
7	Install sustainable safety lighting along the key pedestrian path connecting Liardet Street and Graham Street and at key entrances to the reserve as required to supplement street lighting.	Lighting	High
8	Develop a Vegetation Management Plan that: lists the current vegetation; provides recommendations for tree planting for shade, as features, linking the streetscape and the reserve, and as part of a buffer along the perimeter of the reserve; and that provides a list of vegetation appropriate to the reserve to guide future plantings.	Vegetation	High
9	Review all reserve signage, install new signs and update existing signs as required, including reference to the history of the reserve.	Entrances and path network	Medium
10	Undertake landscaping works to enhance reserve entrances.	Entrances and path network	Medium
11	Construct a pedestrian access path on the Corner of Graham Street and Esplanade West where there is an existing informal track through the garden bed.	Entrances and path network	Medium
12	Undertake tree and vegetation planting as per the recommendations in the Vegetation Management Plan.	Vegetation	Medium
13	Install three bike hoops beside the pavilion and near the eastern Graham Street entrance.	Reserve facilities	Medium
14	Demolish existing pavilion and construct a new pavilion to comply with minimum Class C FFV facilities guidelines and provide a flexible community space that can be used by a range of community groups. Public toilets to be upgraded as part of the pavilion upgrade.	Pavilion and public toilets	Medium
15	Relocate and upgrade the cricket nets (Three cricket nets at 3.6m wide x 40m long).	Sports facilities	Medium
16	Install sports ground lighting for training purposes only, located at four points around the sports field.	Lighting	Medium
17	Investigate opportunities to for on-site rainwater capture and storage and storm water harvesting from surrounding streets.	Sustainability and water security	Medium
18	Construct a footpath in the road reserve along Esplande West, linking the Graham Street and Liardet Street footpaths.	Entrances and path network	Low
19	Install either, an outdoor exercise station that provides a range of exercise opportunities, or individual exercise stations around the reserve at appropriate locations. Option to be determined through community consultation at the time funding becomes available.	Reserve facilities	Low
20	Remove the post and rail fence and replace with landscaping and vegetation as a buffer between park users and the road.	Fencing	Low



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