

2 MASTER PLAN CONCEPT PLAN

The landscape masterplan illustrates and incorporates key design initiatives informed by site analysis, issues and opportunities and community and stakeholder workshops.



1.3 Landscape Masterplan

Design initiatives

- Mernda Recreation Reserve is a space for everyone and welcomes the wider community, local community groups, PRACE students and staff and sporting users.
- Retain PRACE in its current location and recognise their recent procurement of the adjoining property.** It is assumed the existing PRACE building will remain and expand next door for both concept designs.
- Retain sports oval in its current location and size.** Refurbish turf extent and install wider cricket pitch and nets.
- Retain Community Hub in its current location and expand** to accommodate for growing services and expansion/new building with a general shed integrated, outdoor storage space and vegie garden.
- Creation of a strong and visible main entrance on Schotters Road with a secondary entrance along Heals Road.
- A shared path network within the reserve with strong internal circulation with a shared track around the existing oval.
- Strong links to Municipal Reserve, Burnside tree Reserve, Plenty River Trail and Mernda Train Station and car park. Including cycle/pedestrian shared council paths.
- Informal car parking within the reserve and additional car parking along Heals Road.
- A multi-use pavilion with sporting facilities, all-abilities and gender accessible changing rooms, toilets, common spaces, training and learning spaces.
- Play Node - Upgrade and expansion of nature and adventure-play playground with sensory elements suited to all abilities.
- Exercise Node - Inclusion of fitness and exercise area.
- Rest Node - Rest and respite area at the high point at the eastern end of the reserve. The area serves as an outlook for Plenty River and intimate gathering space.
- Social Node - Seating, BBQ, and shelter node for the general public to use and enjoy.
- Bush play area utilising the existing trees to learn, explore and play. Inclusion of small details that creates an element of surprise and curiosity.
- Upgraded multi-purpose sports court (netball, basketball & tennis) with colourful and creative line-marking amongst existing indigenous trees. Inclusion of bocce court.
- Solar lighting throughout the reserve to increase safety and create an inviting and welcoming space.

Strengths

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

- Creation of a new and clear main entrance and pathway to the Reserve.
- Improved visual streetscape elements including creative and colour crossing and path graphics. Clear, creative, and inviting wayfinding and signage.
- High-quality path network including main entry path, secondary entry, exercise and walking track, shared path network linking to Plenty River Track and play loop.
- Creation of a bush play and learning area amongst the existing tress for learning, exploration, and play. This area is designed to spark curiosity utilising minimal and nature design interventions.
- Additional car parking spaces along Heals Road and informal car parking within the reserve.

GENDER-NEUTRAL AND ALL ABILITIES ACCESSIBLE SPACES

- Multi-use pavilion offer gender-neutral and all abilities facilities.
- Upgrade to path quality and network suited to all abilities.
- The playground and fitness area offers sensory play and all-abilities accessible elements designed for people with special needs.
- Clear wayfinding and interpretive signage.
- A general shed to accommodate for a diverse range of users, skills and abilities.

SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Sufficient, well-lit and warm lighting throughout the reserve with multiple sources of light.
- CCTV and solar lighting integrated throughout the site.

BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

- Nodes for play, rest and exercise. These nodes facilitate community and social interaction through providing spaces for play, exploration and sharing/cooking food.
- Multi-use pavilion to cater for sports, workshops, training and learning.
- General upgrades to furniture such as bins, seating, bike parking and drinking fountains.

TOPOGRAPHY AND VIEWS

- Space for reflection, respite and mindfulness at the high-point of the reserve.
- Upgrade boundary fencing (south) to accommodate secondary entrance and use of material/colours to create an inviting space.
- Natural screening to Mernda North Sewer Pumping Station.

VEGETATION

- Retain and protect existing trees.
- Enhance biodiversity and habitat through native/indigenous plant species.
- Bush play area introduces native and edible plant ‘patchwork’ or ‘clusters’.
- Increase natural shade provision and biodiversity by increasing native tree and shrub planting species, especially to the east, to form stronger connections and habitat links with the Plenty River’s riparian zone.

Weaknesses

- Play, exercise and rest nodes are contained and are separated zones as there is minimal space to create a combined and interconnected area.
- Nodes are limited in size due to restricted available space.
- Pinch point between the existing oval and Mernda North Sewer Pumping Station. As both elements are constraints, natural screening is proposed to the services to soften the space.

Outcomes and Impacts

The functional layout plan take into consideration the short-term and long-term deliverables for the reserve.

Short term (1 – 5 years)

- Upgrade the existing changing facilities/toilets to be all abilities and gender accessible.

Medium term (5 – 10 years)

- Connecting shard pathways to surrounding reserves and main hubs including Mernda Train Station, Municipal Reserve and Plenty River Trail.

Long term (10 – 15 years)

- Future proofing the multi-use pavilion to allow for extension and expansion to adapt to increased activity at the site.
- The community house is relocated and integrated into the community pavilion.

Masterplan Concept Plan

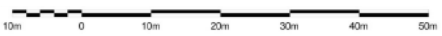
LEGEND

- Site boundary
- Existing tree planting to be retained
- Existing tree planting to be removed
- Refer to Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment prepared by Greenwood Consulting dated 27 June 2022
- Proposed tree planting
- Existing car parking
- 1 Car parking
Additional 35 car spaces within the reserve & 55 along Heals Road
- 2 Existing PRACE
- 3 Removable bollards
- 4 Feature shelter
- 5 Feature paving treatment
- 6 Water Sensitive Design (ephemeral)
- 7 Community pavilion including sports & amenities
- 8 Community Garden
- 9 Garden beds with seating
- 10 Rocky swales
- 11 Boardwalk connection to Parks Vic trail
- 12 Gravel bed with exercise equipment and seating
- 13 Mounded landform
- 14 Viewing deck/platform with shelter and seating in gravel bed
- 15 Screen planting
- 16 BBQ facilities
- 17 Play fort
- 18 Rubber flooring
- 19 Bridge
- 20 Fairy tree circle walk
- 21 Nature play area with nature trail, fairy tree circle walk & natural play elements
- 23 Multi-court and bocce court
- 24 Play areas
- 25 Shared path (bicycles & pedestrian)
- 26 Shared access way (vehicular & pedestrian)
- Proposed signage location
- Potential toilet location
- Potential solar lighting along key routes



Figure 1 Masterplan Concept Plan

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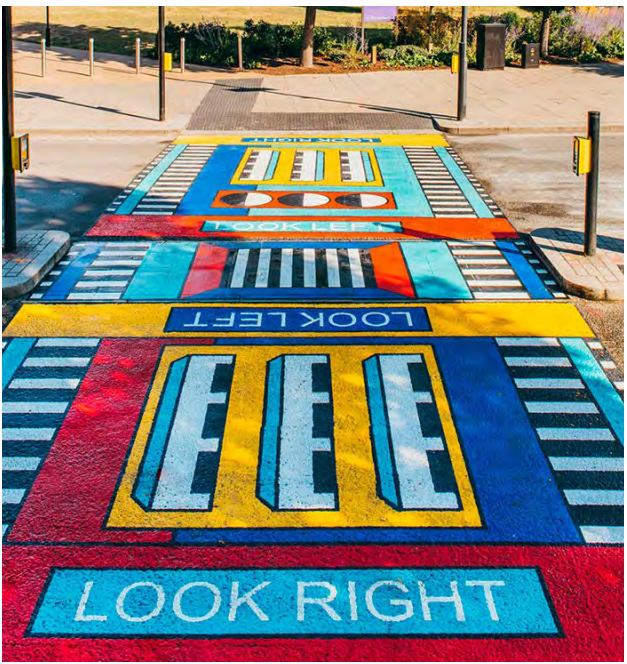


CONCEPT IDEAS
SPORTS PAVILION



PLENTY RIVER

SOLAR LIGHTING
SUSTAINABILITY



RESERVE
CYCLE TRACK ↕

EXERCISE
TRACK

VIEWING AREA

Precedent Imagery

ACCESS & CIRCULATION



TRAFFIC CALMING GRAPHIC



FEATURE PAVING



FEATURE PAVING



PERMEABLE CAR PARK



WALKWAY/ BOARDWALK



RUBBER FLOORING



GRAVEL PATH



SHARED PATHWAY



PATH LINKAGES



REMOVABLE BOLLARD

BUILDINGS, FACILITIES & AMENITIES



SPORTS PAVILION



SHELTER & SEATING



SHELTER & SEATING



BBQ AREA



COMMUNITY HUB



ROCKWORK SEATING



SEATING



SHELTER



SHELTER



BIKE PUMPING STATION

Precedent Imagery

RECREATION



NATURE PLAY



NATURE PLAY



RUBBER MOUNDS



TURF MOUNDS



YOGA/ VIEWING DECK



OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT



MULTI-SPORT COURT



WATER PLAY



BOCCE BALL COURT



PLAY FORT

GENDER-NEUTRAL, ALL-ABILITIES & SAFE SPACES



SENSORY PATH



SENSORY GARDENBEDS WITH SEATING



SENSORY SIGNAGE



MULTI-USE PLATFORM/ DECK



FAIRY TREE CIRCLE



QUIET PLAY



ACCESSIBLE RAISED GARDEN BED



DDA FURNITURE



SOLAR POLE LIGHTING



ACCESSIBLE FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Precedent Imagery

STUCTURES, SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING



ENTRY SIGNAGE



WAYFINDING



WAYFINDING



EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



BRANCH SHELTER



SITE SPECIFIC COMMISSIONED SCULPTURE

VEGETATION



BASALT PLAINS GRASSLAND



RIVER RED GUM GRASSY WOODLAND



SWAMP SCRUB



RIPARIAN FOREST



BOX-STRINGYBARK WOODLAND



MOUNDING



ROCK SWALE WITH WSUD PLANTING



NATIVE SENSORY GARDEN BEDS



BIRD BOXES



PLANTING ALONG PATHS AND BOUNDARIES