

Camp Reserve Draft Master Plan

Background

Why is Council developing a Master Plan for Camp Reserve?

Camp Reserve is one of Mount Alexander Shire's major recreation reserves located centrally in Castlemaine. It is highly valued by a range of community members and groups as a place for sport, significant events such as the Agricultural Show and informal recreation such as walking, accessing local facilities and paths, kicking a ball and enjoying the natural environment.

In order to plan well for the future Council has reviewed existing plans for the reserve to ensure that future planning and facility provision is responsive to current needs and future usage trends.

The Camp Reserve Draft Master Plan aims to consider future development that recognises the importance of this reserve as a major venue for senior sport in the shire, while also acknowledging the need for it to remain an accessible and welcoming space for informal activities and community recreation.

The Camp Reserve Draft Master Plan was developed by Council officers using the expertise of a recreation planning consultant and in consultation with key users groups represented by the Camp Reserve Committee of Management. Input to the current draft plan has been incorporated from regular reserve user groups including the football and netball club, cricket club, Castlemaine Agricultural Show and the table tennis club.

The Camp Reserve Draft Master Plan will enable Council to plan the development of facilities at the reserve over the next ten or more years.

The draft Master Plan is now open for community review to ensure that broader community stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback and input to the plan.

Key opportunities and considerations

Opportunities:

- Camp Reserve has a rich history in Castlemaine, being the site of a former Government Camp in the gold rush era. Current groups such as the Castlemaine Agricultural Show and the Castlemaine Football Netball Club have longstanding histories at the reserve and the planning and development should respect this heritage.
- Camp Reserve is located centrally within Castlemaine, in close proximity to the Castlemaine Railway Station, making it a prominent and convenient location for not only local sports and community users but also as a facility servicing the broader community.
- Many of the existing trees around the borders of the reserve are significant, contributing to the amenity of the reserve.

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- Some of the existing structures are aged and in poor condition. The opportunity exists to consolidate some structures and consider developing new facilities that meet current sport facility guidelines and community expectations.
- The opportunity exists to establish a clear pedestrian path linking the reserve to other nearby facilities including Castlemaine Railway Station and Campbells Creek Trail.
- Development of a multi-purpose court facility will encourage and allow community recreation and use of the facility outside of organised sports activities.

Considerations:

The current draft plan has been developed with consideration of some planning constraints:

- The site of the reserve is constrained by surrounding land uses that are not flexible to expansion, namely Forest Creek, Forest and Gingell Streets, and the carpark at the northern end. This influences the ability to expand the width of the oval to meet current AFL guidelines.
- Much of the reserve is covered by a flood overlay, requiring careful consideration of development of buildings and facilities within the flood zone. This has guided potential locations for the development of a new multi-use pavilion.
- Some of the heritage buildings and trees have been assessed as being significant and should be retained. Future proposed developments must consider these features.
- Sports facility guidelines provide recommendations regarding size and development, which have been considered in the draft plan.
- The reserve is located within a residential setting. Development proposals should consider the needs of local residents, including the provision of appropriate levels of car parking.

Where to now?

The draft plan will be open for community review and comment from:

Monday 17 June 2019 to Monday 15 July 2019

View the draft at Castlemaine Library, the Civic Centre, Castlemaine Visitor Information or on Council's website at www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay.

Provide your feedback on the Camp Reserve Master Plan using our online feedback form by Monday 15 July.

All feedback will be considered in the finalisation of the plan. The final plan will be presented at a future Council meeting for adoption by Council.

The master plan is a concept plan to guide future development at the reserve. Works will not be undertaken until further detailed designs are completed, relevant permissions from regulatory bodies are obtained and Council secures funds for the works.

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