

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.4

Fawkner Park Pasley Street North Entrance Improvements

19 July 2022

Presenter: David Callow, Director Parks and City Greening

Purpose and background

1. To advise on the recent completion of works at the Pasley Street entrance and at the nearby playground in Fawkner Park, South Yarra.
2. The 2006 Fawkner Park master plan identified the need for improvements to park entrances, including at Pasley Street North, adjacent to the South Yarra Primary school. Fawkner Park is a well-used and much loved park in South Yarra. The 2006 master plan recognised that people used the park for a wide range of reasons and recommended that it continue to provide for a wide range of both passive and active recreation uses.
3. Council endorsed the Pasley Street North entrance concept plan in March 2018. Improvements in the concept plan included resolving long-standing drainage issues, improving tree and landscape health, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and enhancing the overall landscape and amenity of this park entrance.

Key issues

4. Improvement works commenced in December 2021 and the area was re-opened for public use in June 2022.
5. Key works completed include:
 - 5.1. Removal of the existing basketball court at the park entrance and re-landscaping the area.
 - 5.2. Construction of a new multi-purpose court adjacent to the existing picnic and play area located 80 metres from the entrance. While the new court has been line marked for both casual basketball and netball, the design will allow for a wide range of informal play and recreation activities.
 - 5.3. New elements at the entrance including a granitic gravel path, lawn, drainage swales for stormwater management, tree planting and new lighting.
 - 5.4. Minor improvements to the playground and the barbeque,
6. A total of 21 new trees were planted and nine removed as part of the works. All existing mature trees in the area were retained and soil improvement works were undertaken to improve growing conditions for these trees.
7. Currently, specific areas of lawn and planting remain temporarily fenced to allow establishment of the landscaping. This fencing will be removed in coming months.
8. Positive feedback has been received from both local residents and the school community about both the improvements to the entrance, and the relocated court since the re-opening of the area.

Recommendation from management

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the successful completion of the works to improve the Pasley Street entrance and nearby playground in Fawkner Park, South Yarra.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 4)
2. Improvement work photos (Page 3 of 4)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. Fawkner Park is Crown Land and was reserved for public park purposes in 1873. The Council is both joint Trustee and the appointed Committee of Management for the Park.

Finance

2. The cost of the improvement works was \$1.5 million funded by the Council.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In implementing this project, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Stakeholder consultation

5. Stakeholder consultation on the concept plan was undertaken by management in November and December 2017. Public submissions were also received by Heritage Victoria as part of the heritage permit application process in 2019 and further public submissions were also made as part of the subsequent Heritage Council Committee permit review hearing in October 2020.

Relation to Council policy

6. The improvement works are consistent with the Open Space Strategy 2012 and the current council plan objective to enhance Melbourne's unique identify and place.

Environmental sustainability

7. One of the key issues the entrance works addressed was the problem of poor drainage and localised water pooling in this area of the park. The new works include new swales which will slow down and absorbing surface water run off before it reaches the park entrance area.
8. An overall increase in the number of trees and the new swale low level planting will contribute to implementation of both the Urban Forest Strategy and Nature in the City policy objectives.

PASLEY STREET NORTH ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS – PHOTOS



New court and pathway



New seating at entrance area