

LAURA DOUGLAS RESERVE

Vision

"A place of belonging, that celebrates community, welcomes joy and play, offers cool shade and creekside exploration, and is easy to visit, time and time again."

Although it starts north of Barry Road, this is the first part of Merlynston Creek that flows through a residential neighbourhood. Improvements to Laura Douglas Reserve would provide many opportunities for the park to become part of life on a daily or weekly basis, as well as for special events and occasions. Classified as a 'District' park, Laura Douglas Reserve has the potential to bring visitors from further away to enjoy Merlynston Creek Parklands.

Enhancements to Merlynston Creek, including more planting and potential naturalisation, could provide more habitat, more shade, and a focus for walking and cycling. Extending the creekside planting and meandering forms into the park reinforces the sense that all the reserve is part of, and connected to the creek.

Places for recreation, play, sport, events, and gatherings - both large and small, formal and informal - are nestled within the parkland landscape. A network of looped paths and trails allow people to move through at the pace that suits them, from quickly and directly, to slowly and curiously.



Bring the creek character into the parklands

Many ways to walk and cycle, connect and explore.



Precinct Plan N



ACTION ITEMS

ACTION

KEY STRATEGY

WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG CULTURAL VALUES

C1	Findings and recommendations from the Cultural Values Assessment will be integrated into the Final Masterplan.	1.1
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ECOLOGICAL VALUES

E1	Install riparian vegetation and trees along both banks of Merlynston Creek. Retain 3m wide turfed zone behind property fencelines for maintenance access and clear viewlines.	2.3
E2	Undertake native tree planting for habitat and shade, and to draw more creekside character into the park.	2.2
E3	Implement educational initiatives to discourage bird feeding.	2.3

WATERWAY VALUES

W1	Investigate and where feasible implement 'light touch' naturalisation opportunities to improve riparian zone whilst protecting existing trees. Refer Typical Section 1 (see page 40)	3.2
W2	Underground the water storage tank as part of playing field and clubhouse redevelopment.	3.3
W3	Investigate, and where feasible, seek partnership funding to implement naturalisation of Merlynston Creek including widening waterway footprint and integrating with sediment pond and bioretention to deliver water quality improvements. Refer Typical Section 2 (see page 41).	3.1; 3.2
W4	Investigate, and where feasible implement ways for rainwater and stormwater to be stored and used to water parkland trees and plants.	3.1

HERITAGE VALUES

H1	Reuse of bluestone boulders in reserve upgrade	4.2
H2	Provide flexible, shaded and welcoming 'Cultural Carpet' that reflects local cultural diversity and enables multi-purpose use for events (with 3-phase power); markets, large family and community gatherings and celebrations, and overflow parking.	4.1; 5.3
H3	Investigate design opportunities to enhance interface between parklands and Turkish Islamic Cultural Centre.	4.1

ACTION

KEY STRATEGY

COMMUNITY RECREATION VALUES

R1	Enhance the interface between the parklands and the King Street shops - e.g. shade, paving, outdoor seating - so customers can enjoy the parkland setting.	5.2
R2	Provide large welcoming shelter and combine with 'cultural carpet' plaza that can be used for events, markets and gatherings. Seek funding to construct including supporting power, water, public toilet, event vehicle access and signage.	5.1
R3	Investigate, and where feasible implement multiple use opportunities for carpark e.g. painting and hoop at one end to allow use as a basketball half court; or patterns and colours that reflect local groups.	5.2
R4	Provide a range of furniture including picnic settings, seating, rubbish and ash disposal bins	5.3
R5	Establish a District level play space.	5.2; 5.3
R6	Investigate, and if feasible, incorporate a smaller third field (96mx50m) to the south and realign two full sized fields (78x105m). The realignment will retain the central tree avenue including walking loops and viewlines to new footbridge.	5.2; 5.3
R7	Retain small simple playspace for young children to meet high demand when older siblings are playing soccer. This space will be included in the design considerations for the nearby larger district playspace.	5.2
R8	Replace clubhouse when fields are realigned including forecourt. Ensure new clubhouse location does not result in loss of walking loops, trees and other parkland values.	5.2; 5.3
R9	Investigate future long-term opportunities to bring land into public ownership to improve parkland connections, viewlines and visibility from King Street and Berger Street	5.1; 5.3
R10	Maximise parkland interface improvements in any development applications on adjacent land.	5.2; 5.3

ACCESS AND CONNECTION VALUES

A1	Improve information and wayfinding signage at key park entrances to increase awareness of Merlynston Creek and its visitor features.	6.1
A2	Implement an inclusive, Shared Use Path along the length of Merlynston Creek Parklands, on at least one side of the creek, for people who walk and cycle. Investigate lighting on higher use paths for early morning and early evening use. Lighting design is to minimise wildlife impacts.	6.2
A3	Implement secondary trails along the length of Merlynston Creek Parklands, on the side opposite the shared use trail.	6.1
A4	Remove chainlink fence at top of bank.	6.3
A5	Implement loops around the open lawn area for people who walk and cycle, with easy connection to the Shared Use Path, the play space, sports fields and other parkland features. Provide shade trees and seating.	6.1
A6	Install new footbridge for a walking and cycling connection to Dallas Drive, for people who walk and cycle. As part of the design, investigate a viewing area so visitors can see up and down the creek, as well as across the parklands to key wayfinding landmarks such as buildings and the play space.	6.1, 6.2
A7	Provide creekside meeting space under shade trees with views into waterway and parkland, and connection to the Shared Use Path and other trails, paths and loops.	5.3, 6.2
A8	Implement 'discovery loops' - informal paths to enable slower walking and discovery. Provide shade and seating.	6.1, 6.2

LAURA DOUGLAS RESERVE SCENARIOS

SCENARIO
1

SPORTS DAY



All three pitches can be used for games or training without affecting the Shared Use path or movement through the park for people who walk or cycle. A redeveloped clubhouse is located on the centreline of the field for optimal viewing. At the northern end of the clubhouse, a shaded plaza is a welcoming arrival point for members, visitors, or those coming for events. A small play space caters for families with younger children who need to be close to the sporting activities during training, so cannot move away to use the larger play facilities.

SCENARIO
2

MARKET DAY



Flexible spaces allow for small scale markets, larger monthly or seasonal markets, and different events, with three-phase power provided, and access from King Street to bump in temporary stages, food trucks, coffee carts, and market stalls. Ticketed events with temporary fencing could be accommodated whilst still allowing multiple ways for visitors to move through the park and use the play space and other facilities.



Sports ground - Laura Douglas Reserve

