

# Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve

## MASTER PLAN 2014-2019



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND-----	18
1.2 PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT-----	18
1.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES & SCOPE -----	18
1.4 PROJECT METHODOLOGY-----	18
1.5 STUDY AREA -----	19
1.5.1 ..... Current Reserve Components and Facilities .....	19
1.6 PROJECTED NEED-----	19
MARKET RESEARCH & CONSULTATION-----	20
2.1 INTRODUCTION -----	20
2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW-----	20
2.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION-----	20
OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS -----	22
3.1 INTRODUCTION -----	22
3.2 OPPORTUNITIES -----	22
3.3 CONSTRAINTS -----	22
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS -----	23
4.1 INTRODUCTION -----	23
4.2 DRAFT MASTER PLAN DESIGN-----	23

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve Master Plan has been developed by the Moorabool Shire Council in partnership with the Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and the local Gordon community. The Master Plan aims to provide a strategic basis to guide future planning and development of the public park over the next 3-5 years. Currently the Reserve is under-utilised by the local community due mainly to the degradation of the tennis court surfaces and lack of options for multi-purpose usage. The area is currently utilised for private tennis lessons and practice by the Gordon Tennis Club, but the courts are not up to standard for competition tennis. This means that the Gordon Tennis Club relies on the Wallace tennis courts for their home courts during competition season. The Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve is also the off-site emergency evacuation facility for Gordon Primary School. There are other local community groups, such as a local music group, skateboarding group, CWA and possibly a Scout Group, expressing interest in the Public Park and its facilities, and interest and usage will grow as these facilities are renewed and/or upgraded. The Master Plan is a key resource tool to support the Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to manage and develop the reserve in the future and act as a key resource tool to assist in the identification of funding sources to support development.

The key directions identified for the development of the reserve are:

## **1) Improve sports facilities and ground surfaces**

With interest and participation increasing with regards to the tennis courts and potential future uses of the Gordon Public Park and with numbers expected to increase further, the playing surface of the courts needs to be upgraded and the whole area needs a revamp to enable more multi-purpose usage by the whole community. The recommended works will provide sustainable and safer playing surfaces whilst also catering for interests other than tennis – making the Gordon Public Park truly an area for everyone.

## **2) Vehicle and Pedestrian Management**

More formalised parking areas are required to manage a predicted increasing level of use.

## **3) Increased passive recreation opportunities**

The reserve caters for both active and passive recreation users. Infrastructure is required to support and facilitate any future growth at the reserve. It is recommended that increasing shade provision, seating and upgraded barbeque amenities be installed at the site to cater for its users.

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve Master Plan has been developed to strategically guide future development at the Reserve.

## 1.2 PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

To develop the Master Plan for the Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve to guide future planning and decision-making in relation to the future management, development and use of the Reserve over the next 3-5 years. The Master Plan is an important resource for the Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve to support the Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to manage and develop the Reserve in the future to source funding opportunities.

## 1.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES & SCOPE

The project objective is to provide a clear, comprehensive and logical plan for the future development of all community facilities (active and passive) provided at the Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve including capital improvement requirements and opportunities.

The scope of the project includes:

- Incorporate the views of the community gathered through consultation undertaken by Council Officers.
- Review the site to identify potential opportunities and constraints.
- To develop concept plan options, based upon objective data analysis and consultation, identifying the potential future use of the site.
- To identify and assess the capacity of the site to meet the identified recreation and sporting facility needs.
- To develop a Master Plan for the reserve for which implementation is achievable with recommended developments.

## 1.4 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Preparation of the Master Plan has been supported by the following project methodology tasks detailed below

- Project Clarification
- Community Engagement
- Detailed site assessment
- Issues and options summary paper
- Draft Master Plan
- Community feedback to draft master plan

- Final Master Plan and Report

## 1.5 STUDY AREA

Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve is DEPI owned land managed by an appointed Committee of Management. The Reserve is located on Stanley Street, in Gordon, bordered to the north by Main Street and to the south by Urquhart Street. It is in a prominent position and highly visible to traffic traveling to or through the town of Gordon.

### 1.5.1 Current Reserve Components and Facilities

The following provides a summary of existing infrastructure at the Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve

3 x Asphalt Tennis Courts	Clubroom/Social Rooms/Change rooms
Playground	Barbeque (in disrepair)
Outdoor Toilet Block	

## 1.6 PROJECTED NEED

With the park having potential as a community hub for its residents, community groups and smaller sporting events, the existing infrastructure at Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve requires development in order to facilitate the provision of expected future demand. The town is growing and there is requirement for a greater selection of both active and passive recreational activities. The public barbeque at Gordon Public Park is the only public barbeque in town and is currently in disrepair and in need of upgrading. At present the Public Park caters mainly for social tennis as the courts are not up to competition standards. An upgrade of the courts is required as is the addition of alternative active recreational options in order to truly develop this area as a Public Park.

According the Gordon Structure Plan, 2011, put out by the Moorabool Shire, the annual population growth of the Melbourne to Ballarat corridor has been 3.3% annually since 1997, compared to the overall growth rate of Victoria which has been 1.2% annually. Growth in Moorabool Shire, especially in Bacchus Marsh and Melton, has been considerable and now that Gordon has been connected to the sewerage system it is anticipated that growth and development will increase here as well. This predicted growth is being supported and encouraged by the shire.

# MARKET RESEARCH & CONSULTATION

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

A summary of the consultation methods undertaken included the following:

- Demographic analysis
- User group survey
- Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management workshops

## 2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW

The following section summarises the key population and demographic characteristics and trends likely to impact future participation in sport and recreation in the area and public open space requirements. The population and demographic profiles are based on the 2011 ABS Census data. Supporting data is detailed in Appendix A.

### i. Age Profile

In the 2011 Census, there were 5,415 people in Gordon and the surrounding rural area. Of these, 52.2% were male and 47.8% were female.

The median age of people Gordon was 42.8 years. Children aged 0-14 years made up 19.5% of the population and people aged 45-74 years made up 41.9% of the population.

Gordon as indicated by the tables attached in Appendix A, has a larger percentage of its population aged over 45 years of age and under 15 years of age. This indicates that infrastructure at the reserve needs to cater for those age groups eg. Adequate playground equipment and amenities, a variety of sporting facilities, appropriate pedestrian management and seating.

## 2.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, consisting of user groups of the reserve and community members, was consulted to determine their current membership levels, usage patterns and priority infrastructure needs.

### Consultation undertaken included:

- Completion of a survey identifying possible improvements
- Petition to gauge community interest and support for skate park
- Committee of Management Master Plan workshop(s)

A detailed summary of information submitted in the initial user group consultation process is provided in Appendix D

Key outcomes of the consultation process include:

1. Resurfacing and marking of two competition sized tennis courts

2. Vehicle Management
3. Addition of Skate Park
4. Addition of Basketball Court and/or Ring
5. Fitness Circuit
6. Upgrade to Playground and Barbeque, including a shaded area

# OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The following provides a summary of the opportunities and constraints identified for the ongoing redevelopment of Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve.

## 3.2 OPPORTUNITIES

- Upgrade existing court surfaces to meet Australian standards of run off area and full court dimensions for competitions
- Construction of a new skate park
- Mark out of basketball court and erection of basketball ring(s)
- Re-fencing of tennis courts for separation from skate park
- Formalise parking within the reserve close to the facilities and sports ground
- Formalised entrance to reserve with signage
- Construction of fitness circuit around the perimeter of the park
- Construction of bike path/running circuit around the perimeter of the park
- Upgrade of current playground
- Upgrade of barbeque area
- Install further shade structures at the playground and barbeque
- Investigate pavilion extension to create a hub for community groups and services
- Installation of further seating in front of the pavilion and close to sporting facilities

## 3.3 CONSTRAINTS

- Small population of Gordon may restrict what needs to be installed at the reserve
- Funding opportunities



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

## 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The vision for the Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve is to become a community hub for the town of Gordon. With the provision of active and passive recreation opportunities and improved infrastructure, the reserve can cater for a variety sporting events and the growing community groups that will utilise the facility as the town develops.

## 4.2 DRAFT MASTER PLAN DESIGN

The following details the key elements of the recommended draft Master Plan as attached in Appendix B. The recommended layout will ensure the provision of active and passive recreation infrastructure and the amenities to go with it.

### ◦ **Upgrade of Active Sport Facility Provision**

It is recommended that the current tennis courts and surrounding area be refurbished to improve the facilities. This includes:

- I. Resurface current tennis courts
- II. Improved sports ground surface and drainage
- III. Installation of Skate park
- IV. Markup of basketball court and erection of basketball ring
- V. Construction of bike track/running track around the perimeter of the park area with access to fitness circuit
- VI. Investigate the opportunity to construct and install an active fitness circuit at the Park.

### ◦ **Vehicle and Pedestrian Management**

It is recommended to formalise vehicle and pedestrian paths of travel and parking throughout the reserve to address vehicle and pedestrian risk management issues.

A path network throughout the reserve and to the township will provide safer access to the reserve. It is also recommended that better signage for the reserve be installed which clearly outlines the location.

Car parking areas identified include:

- I. Formal parking area close to the courts and clubrooms

### ◦ **Passive Open Space Facilities**

It is recommended that passive recreational infrastructure be installed at the reserve. This includes:

- I. Provision of shade structure over the playground and barbeque area
- II. Upgrade and extension of current playground
- III. Upgrade of the current barbeque
- IV. Provision of seating close to the playground, courts and pavilion

o **Infrastructure (Services & Utilities)**

To cater for increased infrastructure and visitation the following recommendations have been made:

- II. Use environmentally sustainable design for all new works.
- III. Investigate the installation of solar power on the roof of the clubrooms
- IV. Investigate further expansion of the existing clubrooms to provide a community facility within the township

**Table of Works**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Cost (approx)</b>
Improve tennis court surface to plexi pave material	High	\$120,000
Plan and implement improved vehicle and pedestrian management throughout Reserve	High	\$10,000
Installation of Skate Park	Medium	\$80,000
Installation of Basketball practice court & ring	Medium	\$10,000
Upgrade and extension of playground	Medium	\$25,000
Installation of shade structure over playground	Medium	\$15,000
Installation of active fitness circuit	Low	\$25,000
Installation of seating close to courts, sports ground, pavilion and playground	Low	\$10,000

- All projects listed require the development of a business case which includes investigating cost estimates.

## **Gordon Age Profile**

People	Gordon	%	Victoria	%
Total	5415	--	5,354,042	--
Male	2829	52.2	2,632,619	49.2
Female	2586	47.8	2,721,423	50.8

Age	Gordon	%	Victoria	%
0-14 years	1,056	19.5	998,793	18.6
15-24 years	628	11.6	720447	13.5
25-34 years	433	8	760883	14.3
35-44 years	769	14.2	774612	14.5
45-54 years	915	16.9	726477	13.6
55-64 years	861	15.9	611,250	11.4
65-74 years	493	9.1	402,227	7.5
75-84 years	195	3.6	254,358	4.7
85+ years	65	1.2	104,995	2.0
Median age	42	--	37	--

## Appendix B

### Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve Existing Layout





## **Appendix D**

### **Community Consultation Results**

Representatives from the community, user groups and Committee of Management were consulted for the development of the Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve Master plan. The analysis of their feedback is detailed below:

Of the people accounted for in the survey, 14.3% were aged under 5 years, 27.4% were aged between 6–12, 13.1% were 13-18 years, 3.6% were between 19-30, 16.6% were aged 31-40, 20.2% were between 41-55 and 4.8% were aged over 70 years.

Of those surveyed, 14.3% were interested in usage of the tennis courts, 10.7% were interested in the construction of a skate park, 11.9% were interested in the provision of basketball facilities, 4.8% were interested in netball facilities, 14.3% would use a fitness circuit, 20.2% were interested in an upgrade of the playground facilities, 13.1% would make use of the barbeque, 10.7% were interested in using the clubrooms or a Network Hub.

60% of those surveyed would drive to the Public Park and 40% would walk, demonstrating a requirement for more formalised parking as well as footpath access.

A sample of the survey is included with this appendix

Gordon Skate Park Working Group put forward a petition of support for a skate park. 120 signatures were collected over a 3 week period demonstrating support from Gordon community members and residents of surrounding areas. Respondents supported the proposal for a skate park on the basis of the following key benefits:

- provision of alternative recreational options,
- supporting healthy lifestyles within the community,
- contributing towards a more vibrant community.
- Expand opportunities for children to meet socially, thereby developing and strengthening links with their local community.
- Provide an active outdoor space that helps combat the rising rates of childhood obesity.
- Complement and extend existing recreational areas in Gordon.
- Encourage greater use, interest, and ownership of existing recreational areas in Gordon.

**Appendix D Attachment  
Community Consultation Survey**

**GORDON PUBLIC PARK STANLEY STREET**

**Community Member Questionnaire**

The facilities at the Gordon Public Park Stanley Street have, unfortunately, been neglected for some time.

A new committee was established in April 2013, with its main focus being to upgrade and bring new life to the Park.

The Committee is currently canvassing the local community to ascertain what facilities/activities should be included on the 5 Year Master Plan to enable funding from Council/Government.

The Committee would greatly appreciate it if you, as a local resident, could take the time to complete the following survey and return to the school by Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

**We have a great opportunity to turn the Gordon Public Park into a vibrant and exciting Community Hub. Let's band together and do it!!!**

(1) No. of people in household and age group:

0 to 5 years	_____	31 to 40 years	_____
6 to 12 years	_____	41 to 55 years	_____
13 to 18 years	_____	56 to 70 years	_____
19 to 30 years	_____	71 years & over	_____

(2) Please indicate which of the following facilities would be utilised by household members:

Tennis Courts	Yes / No	Playground	Yes / No
Skate Park	Yes / No	BBQ	Yes / No
Basketball Court	Yes / No	General Purpose Room	Yes / No
Netball Court	Yes / No	Lounge/Network Hub	Yes / No
Fitness Circuit	Yes / No	Other _____	_____

(3) Which of the following activities would household members be interested in participating:

Tennis Coaching	Yes / No	Playgroup	Yes / No
Competition Tennis	Yes / No	Boot Camp	Yes / No
Scouts	Yes / No	Other _____	_____

(4) Please circle if you would drive or walk to the Gordon Public Park: Drive / Walk

(5) Any other comments you would like to add?

---

---

---

---

**Thank you for your valued input.**