

J.L. Murphy Reserve

- 12ha park located on Williamstown Rd, Port Melbourne
- Largest Council controlled park in Port Phillip
- Predominantly used for active sport
- Also used for broad range of informal recreation activities

Features

- Two football/cricket ovals
- Baseball diamond
- One full size and one half size soccer field
- Soccer pavilion
- Football/cricket baseball pavilion
- Playground
- Community garden – Dig In
- Open grass passive recreation areas
- Large trees
- Depot -storage area for road materials and recycling water

Users of the reserve

- Port Melbourne Community Garden
- Port Melbourne Soccer Club
- Port Melbourne Colts
- Port Melbourne Cricket Club
- Port Melbourne Baseball Club
- Hobsons Bay Dog Obedience
- Professional Trainers/exercise groups
- Walking/jogging
- Dog walking
- Cycling
- Play
- Commuters – through pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Passive recreation – picnics, informal sport
- Open space- looking out onto the park, passing the park in the car/bike

Purpose of this project

To develop:

- A long term strategic vision and principles for development of the reserve
- A concept plan outlining development and improvements to be undertaken over the next 5 years
- An implementation plan detailing proposed development and improvements, next steps and proposed timeline

Why a new master plan?

- The current master plan has expired and needs to be reviewed (1999- 2005)
- Council receives many requests for works to be undertaken from user groups, community groups and individuals
- Many requests regarding turf management, access to water and long term water security
- Need a new plan for the reserve that addresses all, sometimes conflicting, community requests and regional challenges (e.g. climate change and water security)



The New Master Plan

The new plan needs to:

- Be strategic (incorporate regional and local priorities)
- Address current community needs and plan for the future – (higher population and housing density)
- Balance conflicting community needs
- Be inclusive of all users (passive and active)
- Address sustainability including climate change and water security
- Align with the Council Plan and Open Space Strategy



Strategic Context

City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2009-2013

Outlines directions, strategies and actions for Council over the next four years

Key strategic directions:

- Engaging and governing the City
- Taking action on climate change
- Strengthening our diverse and inclusive community
- Enhancing liveability



Strategic Context

Open Space Strategy

“A City where public open spaces define the city’s character and respond to its people’s need for places to rest, recreate and be inspired.”

Open space is defined as:

Outdoor space that is in the public realm and is freely accessible.



Open Space Principles

1. Optimise provision of open space (best use of space for maximum community benefit)
2. Regulate and manage the effects of commercial events in public open space
3. Consider the interface between new residential development and public open space
4. Safe access to public open space
5. Provide access for all (diversity of functions)
6. Streetscapes as public open space
7. Public open space managed by others
8. Manage the supply of public open space
9. Sustainable open spaces



Other Relevant Strategies

- Sport and Recreation Strategy 2008
- Water Plan (Draft) 2010
- Open Space Water Plan (Draft) 2010
- Urban Forest Strategy (Draft) 2010



A Changing Climate

by 2020

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Temperature | ↑ Up by 2.4 °C |
| Days above 35 °C | ↑ From 8-12 up to 20 days |
| Evaporation | ↑ 3% increase |
| Rainfall | ↓ 15% less rain |
| Water | ↓ 25% less available water |
| Storms | ↑ More often, more intense |



Reduced Water Availability

Hotter days and less rainfall leading to increased reliance on watering and ongoing water restrictions

- Trees and other vegetation under stress
- Decreased quality of playing surfaces
- Limited playing and training time on sports fields
- Increased need for shade and shelter in parks
- Reduced access to green spaces – dry and brown

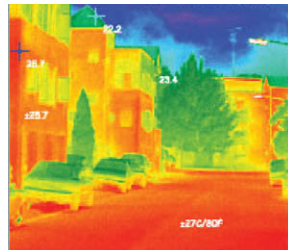


Heat Island Effect

Trees can help mitigate the Heat Island Effect

Studies from Manchester University have shown:

- increasing green space in cities by 10% reduces surface temperatures by 4 degrees due to water evaporating into the air from leaves etc.
- 30% vegetation coverage on a city lot can provide equivalent cooling to air-condition two medium sized houses for about 12 hours.



Changing Population

Increasing population

- Up by 8% 2001-2006

Intensive development

- 4,601 new dwellings (2001-2006)

Increased pressure on open spaces

- High usage
- Competing uses
- Diversity of use
- Changing needs



Aging trees and vegetation

- Trees have a finite useful life expectancy
- They need to be replaced as they reach the end of their lifecycle and start to decline
- Murphy Reserve has a high proportion of aging trees and trees that are declining

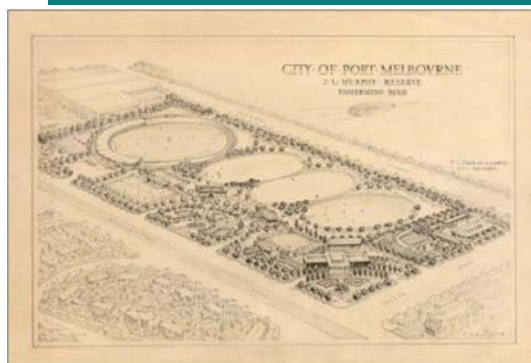
J.L. Murphy Reserve (approx 2000)



J.L. Murphy Reserve (2008)



History of Murphy Reserve



City of Port Melbourne "J.L. Murphy Reserve Fisherman's Bend" sketched map 1948



History of Murphy Reserve

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1901-1937 | Port Melbourne rifle range on Williamstown Rd – exact site unknown. |
| Pre 1940 | Undeveloped land used for unofficial rubbish dumping and informal recreation. |
| 1940 | Request to Victorian Government to reserve land for recreation, town hall and garden purposes. |
| 1943 | American Army storage base for tanks, planes and other military equipment. |
| 1947 | Council plan to convert site into 'tree flanked community play area' (arenas, tennis courts, croquet lawns and bowling greens). |
| 1951 | Site subdivided including a Municipal Depot in north east |
| 1954 | Aanenson Oval constructed first and then three others. Trees planted along Plummer St in the 50s. |
| 1963 | Depot in use. Four ovals and buildings on site. |
| 1965 | Sports pavilion and caretakers residence built south of depot |
| 1960's-1990s | Site grounds and amenity development |



History of Murphy Reserve

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1990/93 | Master Planning undertaken, new pavilion and social rooms built |
| 1999 | Master Plan developed |
| 2002 | Renewal of Anderson oval irrigation |
| 2004 | Initiation of Barry Brothers water recycling plant |
| 2005-2009 | Goal square instant turf replacement at various ovals |
| 2007 | Installation of new scoreboard on Aanenson oval |
| 2008 | Installation of internal paths and lighting Installation of new perimeter fence on Plummer Street Installation of new practice cricket wicket and bowling run ups Installation of water tank for use at Dig In Installation of water tanks for collection of reclaimed water Installation of recycled water irrigation system in Williams Oval Installation of fencing, footpath and safety lighting linking Plummer St with public transportation on Williamstown Road |
| 2009 | Renewal of irrigation ring main |



1999 Master Plan Recommendations

- There were 35 recommendations in the master plan
- 48 % have been completed or partially completed



1999 Master Plan Recommendations

| Recommendation | Complete |
|---|----------|
| Sports Facilities | |
| 1. Erect training lights over Woodruff oval (main football/cricket field) | yes |
| 2. Erect lights over Williams Oval (baseball field) | no |
| 3. Improve lighting over Anderson Oval (main soccer field) | yes |
| 4. Provide more seats and shelter around baseball area | no |
| 5. Provide spectator seating around Woodruff Oval | yes |
| 6. Provide spectator seating on the terracing - soccer field | yes |
| 7. Provide safety netting and lights over batting cage | no |
| 8. Repair boundary fence | yes |
| Sports Landscaping | |
| 1. Install auto irrigation systems in playing fields | yes |
| 2. Extend woodruff oval | no |
| 3. Remove trees in field of play - Williams Oval | yes |
| 4. Top dress oval annually | yes |
| 5. Provide en-tout -cas bases (baseball field) | yes |
| 6. Replace turf species on Woodruff, Aanenson and Williams ovals | yes |
| 7. Remedy drainage problem at front of pavilion | no |
| Buildings | |
| 1. Provide female change rooms and additional storage areas | yes |
| 2. Provide additional public toilets | no |
| 3. Upgrade pavilions internally to a safe and reasonable standard | no |



1999 Master Plan Recommendations

| | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Improve external appearance of main pavilion | yes |
| 2. Provide security lighting around pavilion | yes |
| 3. Provide scoreboard/ kiosk/timekeeper's box | yes |
| 4. Investigate and rectify plumbing problems with football/ cricket/baseball pavilion | yes |
| Recreation Facilities | |
| 1. Upgrade security lighting around playground/BBO area | no |
| 2. Provide more playground equipment | no |
| 3. Investigate possible relocation of playground | no |
| 4. Upgrade BBQ | no |
| 5. Provide new picnic/BBO area on Plummer St side | no |
| 6. New picnic/ BBQ area between soccer pavilion and southern boundary | no |
| Open Space Landscaping | |
| 1. Improve Williamstown Rd frontage | no |
| 2. Improve turf between pavilion and Aaneson oval | no |
| 3. Prune trees and remove suckers | yes |
| 4. Plant additional trees in Plummer St woodland | no |
| 5. Remove council depot and landscape area | no |
| 6. Erect bollard barrier along main access road | partial |
| 7. Install perimeter walking track | no |

Aerial Photo 1931



Aerial Photo 1945



Aerial Photo 1954



Aerial Photo 1963



Aerial Photo 1966



Aerial Photo 1976



Aerial Photo 1984



Aerial Photo 1989



Aerial Photo 2006



Project Scope

2009/2010

- This year – strategic vision and principles for development
- Master plan concept drawings
- 5 year implementation plan

2010/2011

- Detailed designs, cost estimates and seek funding for implementation



Activities This Year

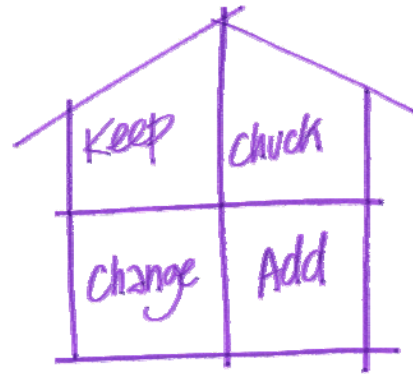
- Tree assessment
- Water assessment
- Desktop soil contamination likelihood assessment
- Community consultation – reference group, story board, community meetings, survey, letter drop
- Development of vision and principles of future development
- Concept map and list of upgrades and developments
- Five year implementation plan
- Adoption of the master plan by council December 2010



Challenges and Opportunities

What does the vision and the principles for development need to consider?

What does the master plan need to include?



How would you renovate J.L. Murphy Reserve?

(Lisa Smith, Minds at Work)