

Q: Why is this Masterplan being prepared?

A: The City of Ryde is working to improve our parks and sportsgrounds to better meet the current and future needs of the community.

The Masterplan is being prepared in response to number of Council strategies, plans and resolutions including the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016-2026, Synthetic Sports Surfaces Action Plan 2016 and Community Halls and Facilities Strategy 2019. Council has also resolved to undertake a masterplan for Westminster Park and identified funding for a synthetic surface.

The draft design is informed by the community's feedback provided earlier this year during Stage 1 community consultation. Staff have also undertaken site analysis and various studies which also inform the draft Masterplan presented during Stage 2 community consultation.

The outcomes of the Stage 2 community consultation will be used to update the Masterplan which will then be presented to Council for adoption.

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include a synthetic sports field?

A: Yes. The draft masterplan does include a synthetic sports field for community use. Community feedback during Stage 1 community consultation indicated that some members of the community felt strongly about a synthetic sports field. Many were supportive of a synthetic sports field while some preferred to see a grass field retained.

The current grass field is in poor condition which can result in injuries and ground closures. The inclusion of a synthetic sports field would allow more residents to play more sport, more often by improving the playing surface and reducing ground closures.

Q: Why are synthetic sports fields needed in the City of Ryde?

A: Council is currently working through a range of projects to better accommodate more residents playing sport. Synthetic sports fields are one solution as well as optimisation of various parks including Gannan Park and Meadowbank Park to create new sporting fields.

Synthetic sports fields have a range of benefits including greater carrying capacity (i.e. synthetic fields can be used for over 50 hours per week compared to grass which can only be used for a maximum of 30 hours before the surface deteriorates), higher quality and more consistent playing surface (i.e. synthetic pitches are not affected by drought and are useable during and immediately after heavy rain).

Council works closely with all sporting user groups to address their needs. If a sport is unable to use a synthetic sports field, we work with that sport to accommodate their sport at an alternate park.

Q: Does Council have any other synthetic sports fields?

A: Yes. The City of Ryde has three existing synthetic sports fields in operation including one field at ELS Hall Park in North Ryde and two fields at Christie Park. Westminster Park would be the fourth synthetic sports field in the local government area. Another synthetic sports field is being proposed in the draft Masterplan for Meadowbank Park which is yet to be adopted.

Q: Do synthetic sports fields cost more to maintain?

A: Council's synthetic sports fields are managed in such a way that they are financially cost neutral following construction. Any additional maintenance costs incurred through synthetic sports fields are offset by a higher ground hire fee.

Q: Are synthetic sports fields safe to play on?

A: Yes. The synthetic surface would be required to comply with the appropriate sports standards such as FIFA QUALITY. This standard combines durability, resistance, safety and performance tests. Further information regarding player safety and environmental impacts can be found at: <https://footballfacilities.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2018/10/SyntheticFields-v2-2017.pdf>

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include sports field lighting?

A: Yes. The existing sports field lighting in Westminster Park will be modified to ensure it complies with required standards. Sports field lighting is important so local sporting clubs and associations can continue to use the park in the evenings for training and competition. Hours of lighting operation are in accordance with the approved conditions of consent.

Q: Who will be able to use the sport field?

A: The local sporting clubs, schools and the community will be available to use the sports field for their training sessions, sports competitions and school sport. When the field is not booked, all members of the community will be able to use the field. The design also includes a grass area which is available at all times for kick-about when the sports field is in use.

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include a community building?

A: Yes. The draft masterplan does include a community building. Community feedback during Stage 1 community consultation indicated that the community wanted to see a building onsite for community use. The City of Ryde's Community Halls and Facilities Strategy 2019 also identifies a community building at Westminster Park.

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include a playground?

A: Yes. The existing playground is retained in the draft Masterplan. Community feedback during Stage 1 community consultation indicated that the community wanted the existing playground to be retained. Additionally, Monash Park playground will be further expanded to a district level playground and will include some inclusive playground equipment.

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include any parking and traffic improvements?

A: Following Stage 1 community consultation, Council explored a variety of options to address traffic and parking in and around the park. The draft Masterplan is recommending pedestrian crossing and intersection improvements on Ryde Road and Westminster Road. Council will undertake the necessary traffic studies and approvals once



the Westminster Masterplan has been adopted. The on-street parking adjacent to Westminster Park and Monash Park would be retained, however, the traffic study would give consideration to whether any other local parking or management improvements could be achieved.

Parking requirements for the community building will be further explored when detailed planning for the building commences after Council adoption.

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include maintenance access?

A: Yes. Maintenance access has been retained in the draft Masterplan. The maintenance access enables Council's vehicles to access the south side of the park for maintenance. Gates near the sports field prevent unauthorised vehicles accessing this area. Due to the width of the maintenance access, parking has not been included in this area.

Q: Does the Draft Masterplan include any environmental and water improvements?

A: Yes. The draft Masterplan recommends a range of environmental, sustainability, biodiversity and water improvements. These include more trees, more native plantings, and an avenue of trees on Ryde Road linking with the trees in Monash Park. There will be waste and recycle bins onsite and a new filtered water station to keep park users hydrated and reduce single use plastic bottles. Bike racks will encourage more park users to adopt active transport to site.

Water is an important consideration for Council. The synthetic sports field will significantly reduce city water consumption as irrigation will no longer be required.

Council is aware some members of the community are concerned about heat generation and environmental impacts associated with synthetic fields. To respond to this, Council has used a cork infill, rather than rubber, in other synthetic projects such as at ELS Hall Park. This has reduced the playing surface temperature and improved player comfort. The use of cork, rather than rubber infill, also reduces the potential for non-natural materials entering into the drainage network.

Subject to Council adopting a Masterplan for Westminster Park, Council will engage an external consultant to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors to inform the detailed design for the delivery of the Westminster Park Masterplan. This will include a variety of elements



such as environmental elements, traffic, waste and noise.

Q: How does the Draft Masterplan manage stormwater?

A: Council has undertaken various studies to inform how stormwater will be managed at Westminster Park. The design of the synthetic field will include a sub-surface drainage system and storage tank to detain and improve the management of the stormwater in the park. Additionally, the draft Masterplan includes a vegetated swale below the southern embankment to help improve the management of overland flow during heavy rain events.