



Westminster Park

FINAL MASTERPLAN REPORT
ADOPTED 25 FEBRUARY 2020

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City of Ryde

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 City of Ryde

BACKGROUND

Westminster Park is located in Gladesville. It is a level 2 park with a sportsground, some passive parkland elements and community facilities. It is well utilised by the community predominately for sporting use but also includes recreation and passive uses. The parkland is a former quarry site and includes a variety of existing established vegetation.

The purpose of this Masterplan is to provide Council with a framework for how the park will be maintained and upgraded in the short to medium term. The aim of this Masterplan is to provide a strategic plan that takes into consideration the current and future needs of the community and user groups, while ensuring a sustainable and efficient use and ecological outcomes.

Stage 1 of community consultation for this masterplan was completed between 12 June and 17 July 2019. Information obtained from the first stage of consultation provided community feedback on Westminster Park, its sports field surface, the former scout hall site and was used to inform the draft Masterplan prepared for Stage 2 community consultation.

Stage 2 community consultation was completed between 23 October and 17 November 2019, during which the draft Masterplan was presented to the community for their feedback. Council has given the feedback received during the Stage 2 community consultation careful consideration. This information has been used to inform the strategic planning for this project and the final Masterplan contained within this report and presented to Council for adoption.

HISTORY OF WESTMINSTER PARK

As shown below, Westminster Park was a former quarry, which was dedicated for public recreation in 1926. The quarry was partially filled in to create Westminster Park as part of a depression era relief scheme, along with Monash Park. This took place between 1933 and 1937. In addition to dedicating Westminster Park for public recreation, in 1926 Council also agreed to the construction of a scout hall.



A 1920s photo of Westminster Park when it was still a quarry
Source: City of Ryde

WESTMINSTER PARK TODAY

Westminster Park is located on the corner of Ryde Road and Westminster Road, Gladesville. The park is 1.72 hectares in size. The park has a level 2 sportsground that is used for formal sport, as well as unstructured active and passive recreation and play. As a former quarry, the site has steep embankments on the Ryde Road and Westminster Road sides of the park and residential properties adjacent the park's northern and western boundaries. Within the park there is currently a sportsground with field lighting primarily used in winter for soccer and junior cricket in summer due to the smaller field size; a local sized playground; an amenities building and a community building (not currently in use). Westminster Park has a strong association with Monash Park, which is located on the opposite side of Ryde Road.

A geotechnical report has indicated that the soil in the existing sports field is hard with barely any water penetration. The following Current Features Plan indicates the existing elements within Westminster Park.

CURRENT FEATURES



Existing sports field



Existing playground



Existing amenities building
























Existing community building (Former Scout Hall)

SITE ANALYSIS



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | EXISTING SPORTS FIELD (88m x 58m) |  | EXISTING PAVED PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION |
|  | EXISTING ACTIVE / PASSIVE RECREATION SPACE |  | EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO PARK |
|  | EXISTING AMENITIES BUILDING |  | EXISTING INFORMAL PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION |
|  | EXISTING COMMUNITY BUILDING |  | EXISTING MAINTENANCE VEHICLE ACCESS |
|  | EXISTING AESTHETIC VIEW |  | EXISTING BENCH |
|  | POTENTIAL INVITING AESTHETIC VIEW |  | SPECTATOR VIEWING OPPORTUNITY |
|  | EXISTING ON STREET PARKING |  | DOWN SLOPE |
|  | POTENTIAL INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITY |  | EXISTING UPSTREAM WATERSHED IMPACT |
|  | EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ROAD CROSSING POINTS (REFUGE ISLAND) |  | EXISTING STORMWATER PITS |
| | |  | EXISTING SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING |
| | |  | EXISTING POWER POLE |
| | |  | EXISTING WATER TANK |

SITE ANALYSIS - OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Opportunities

- Existing sports field with lighting for community use;
- Sports field has the scope for upgrade with either a synthetic playing surface or grass playing surface;
- Existing Community Building and spatial provision for future Community Building;
- Existing Amenities Building is in relatively good condition with only minor upgrades required;
- Existing mature trees on site and form part of the park aesthetic, provide shade and biodiversity outcomes. Opportunity to enhance with additional plantings;
- Co-location of Westminster Park and Monash Park which creates a small park/sportsground precinct;
- Existing fig trees in Monash Park provides a visual connection between Westminster Park and Monash Park;
- Existing on street parking on Ryde Road and Westminster Road; and
- Close proximity to playground in Monash Park which has been identified for future upgrade to larger district level playground.

Constraints

- Current grass field compacted and playing surface is in poor condition;
- Existing Community Building is old, currently decommissioned and not in use;
- Poor connection between Amenities Building and sports field;
- Connection and facility provision between Westminster Park and Monash Park can be improved;
- No on site parking for park or Community Building;
- Existing local playground is small and lacks strong connection to the rest of the park;
- Pre-existing stormwater management issues in the park and in local surrounding area;
- Ryde Road has relatively high traffic volumes at 60km/hour;
- Intersection of Ryde Road and Westminster Road with peanut roundabout is busy and is a constraint in terms of safe pedestrian and vehicle movements; and
- Being a former quarry the site has challenging topography which restricts accessibility and field dimensions.

TALKING TO THE COMMUNITY

Stage 1 community consultation took place on 12 June- 7 July 2019 to find out what people like about Westminster Park, and any ideas or suggestions for how the park could be improved. Community feedback was obtained via online survey, drop in sessions and written submissions which generated 309 comments. A summary of key considerations from Stage 1 community consultation are detailed in boxes below.

Access

- Improved access throughout the park.

Community Building

- Upgrade the former scout hall to a multipurpose community hall, with space available for use / hire by community groups.
- Potentially include spectator seating, cafe or multi-sports facilities.

Facilities

- Various additional facilities were suggested by residents.

Environment

- The many mature trees were a favourable aspect of the park.
- Would like trees retained with more trees and native plantings added to provide shade and habitat

Park Amenities

- Various suggestions received including tiered spectator seating on the embankment, improved park lighting and new fencing

Playground

- Investigate potential to expand and develop the playground.

Parking and Traffic

- The need for adequate parking, especially if a synthetic field.
- Investigate potential for onsite parking.

Sports Field

- The current grass field is in poor condition.
- An upgrade to a synthetic sports field was more supported.
- While others preferred for the grass sports field to be retained.



Draft Masterplan developed following Stage 1 community consultation

TALKING TO THE COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Stage 2 community consultation took place on 23 October- 17 November 2019 to obtain community feedback, ideas and suggestions on the draft Masterplan. Community feedback was obtained via online survey, drop in sessions and written submissions which generated 273 comments. A summary of key considerations from Stage 2 community consultation are detailed in boxes below.

Internal Accessibility and Pathways

- Need for accessible paths to access field and connection to pedestrian crossing.
- Small number of requests for loop path.

Community Building

- Community building to be maintained / upgraded for variety of community activities.

Facilities

- Water station and hit/kick up wall for ball sports favoured.
- Other suggestions for small outdoor fitness equipment and dog facilities.

Drainage / Stormwater Management

- Concerns with drainage in and surrounding the park.
- Adequate solution requested to better manage flooding.

Lighting, Noise and Impacts on Residents

- Some concerns about sports field lighting noting noise and impact on surrounding residents especially during nights.
- Few respondents indicated support for sports field lighting for continuation of training and competition by local sports clubs.

Environment / Natural Elements

- Vegetation swale favoured.
- Volume of trees and plantings to be maintained or increased to provide shade.

Seating

- Some liked seating and/or requested additional seating (such as terraced seating), particularly around sports field for spectators.

Pedestrian Crossing, Parking and Traffic

- Support for potential pedestrian crossings to improve pedestrian safety and access.
- Additional benefit for potential crossings is improved connection between Westminster and Monash Parks.
- Concerns expressed regarding location of potential crossings (eg. too close to roundabout) and impact on traffic.
- Some suggestions to reposition locations of proposed crossings, combine two crossings on Ryde Road into a single crossing or provide a footbridge.

Maintenance Access

- Some residents requested maintenance access is retained to enable rear/side access to properties.
- Few suggested surface for maintenance access could be improved.

Playground Facilities

- Pleased the playground is being retained and would like to see it upgraded (possibly to include a fence).

Synthetic Sports Field

- Common concerns included exclusion of other users (particularly cricket, other sports and general community), environmental impacts, health impacts, increased heat, the suitability of Westminster Park and costs.
- Support for synthetic field included improve the safety and quality of playing surface, maximise usage to better meet demand due to shortfall of sportsgrounds in City of Ryde.
- Some unhappy with transparency and motivations of Council for including synthetic at Westminster Park.
- Additional comments received regarding field height and the need for a larger and/or additional fields.

KEY DESIGN PRINCIPLES BASED ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This Final Masterplan Report has been prepared to support the adoption of the Masterplan by Council. The following design principles were formed based on the site analysis of Westminster Park and feedback received during Stages 1 and 2 of community consultation:

- Provide a local park for community use;
- Provide a park which retains a community feel and retains the character of the park;
- Design a flexible open space that can adapt to the changing needs of the community;
- Enhance the existing environmental qualities within the park; and
- Integrate passive recreation opportunities in the park.

Access

- Formalise access between Ryde Road and the sports field.
- Provide stronger pedestrian connection between Westminster Park and Monash Park, subject to traffic study and necessary approvals.
- Investigate providing improved pedestrian refuge / crossing to the park from the intersection of Ryde Road and Westminster Road, subject to traffic study and necessary approvals.
- Include DDA access to the sports field.
- Include DDA access to the amenities building.
- Retain informal pedestrian and community access to the park.

Playground

- Retain the existing playground in Westminster Park until the end of its functional life.
- Upgrade the playground in Monash Park (adjacent to Westminster Park) to a district level playground as identified in the City of Ryde's Children's Play Implementation Plan.
- Investigate providing a stronger pedestrian connection to Monash Park's playground from Westminster Park subject to traffic and necessary approvals.

Environment

- Retain the mature trees within park.
- Enhance existing tree canopy with more trees planted on embankment slopes.
- Provide more native plantings for shade and habitat.
- Provide avenue planting of trees on Ryde Road, reflective of tree species in Monash Park.
- Retain sightlines and views into the park from Ryde Road.
- Include vegetated swales to the base of embankments to help manage slope overland flows.

Park Amenities

- Provide spectator seating on embankment near amenities building.
- Provide seating opportunities.

Community Building

- Provide a multipurpose community building on-site to allow for a variety of different community activities.

Facilities

- Provide filtered water station.
- Provide hit / kick up wall for unstructured play.
- Provide bike racks.

Parking and Traffic

- Retain on-street parking.
- Encourage the local community to walk or cycle to the park with improved access and pedestrian crossings, plus the inclusion of bike racks.
- Investigate the feasibility for inclusion of some off-street parking and accessible parking as a component of the community building, subject to traffic study and necessary approvals.

Sports Field

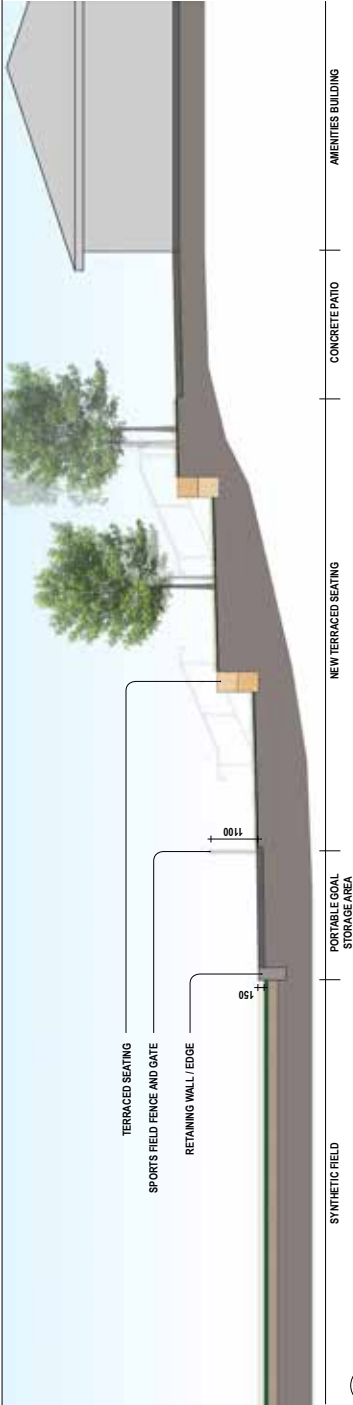
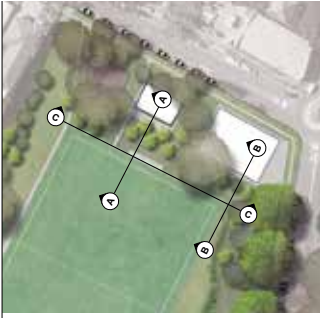
- Upgrade sportsground to a synthetic sports field with field drainage, upgraded field lighting and rectangular field (88m x 58m).
- Due to site constraints the rectangular sports field will maintain the existing field dimensions (88m x 58m) suitable for training and club/association competition.
- Include active / passive recreation area for unstructured activities and warm ups.

FINAL MASTERPLAN

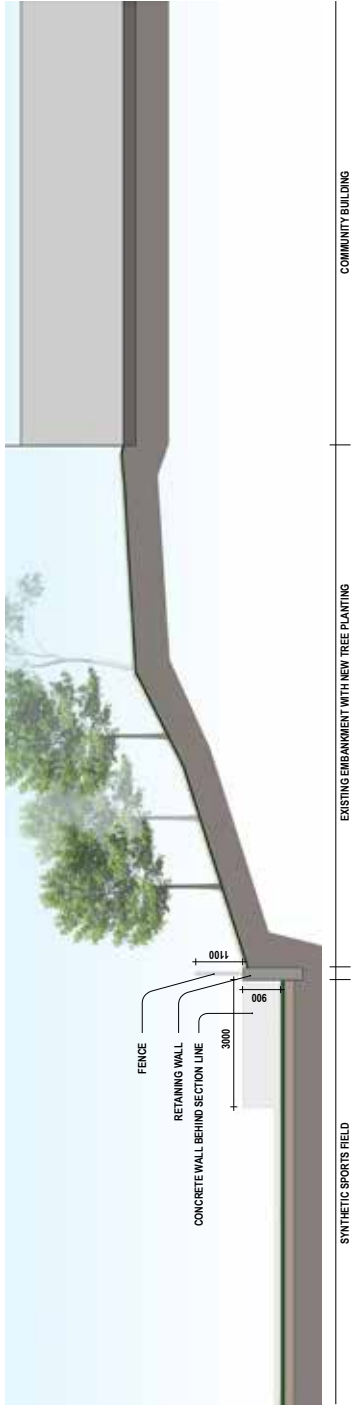


	SYNTHETIC SPORTS FIELD PLAN WESTMINSTER PARK, GLADESVILLE - MASTERPLAN			
	CITY OF RYDE ISSUE: ADOPTED 25 FEBRUARY 2020	DATE: 06/01/20	SCALE: NTS	

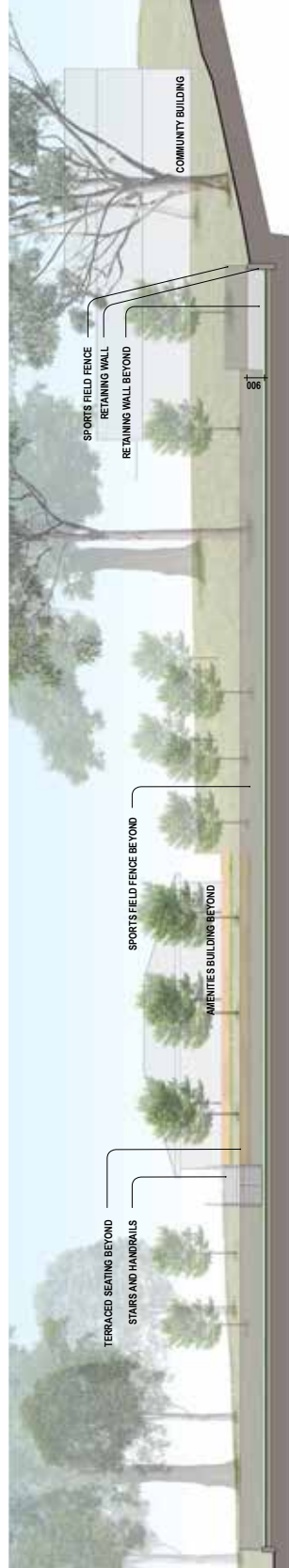
FINAL MASTERPLAN SECTIONS AND ELEVATION





AA SECTION AA - SYNTHETIC SPORTS FIELD
SCALE 1:100@A1



BB SECTION BB - SYNTHETIC SPORTS FIELD
SCALE 1:100@A1



CC SECTIONAL ELEVATION CC - SYNTHETIC SPORTS FIELD
SCALE 1:100@A1

	SPORTS FIELD SECTIONS AND ELEVATION WESTMINSTER PARK, GLADESVILLE - MASTERPLAN		CITY OF RYDE ADOPTED 25 ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2020	DATE: 06/01/20 SCALE: NTS	

KEY FEATURES

SPORTS FIELD

Synthetic sports field with field drainage and field lighting.



ACCESS

Informal pedestrian access and embankments maintained and enhanced.



ENVIRONMENT

Increased tree canopy.



Increased tree canopy to augment existing trees providing additional shade, habitat and amenity.

FACILITIES

Water filter station.



Vegetated swale.



Vegetated swale at the base of the southern embankment to assist with the management of some of the overland flow.

SEATING

Informal seating.



Terraced spectator seating using sandstone blocks and informal seating around the park.

Formal seating.



Park benches around the park.

SEQUENCE OF WORKS

The Masterplan for Westminster Park will be delivered in two Phases. The proposed works will occur in a sequenced and logical order pending budget and funding availability. Refer to plans below.



Phase 1

Stormwater mitigation works; vegetated swale; synthetic sports field with associated drainage, lighting, fencing, and retaining wall; and surrounding park embellishments including stairs, DDA path, water station, tree planting, passive park improvements and any ancillary works.

Note: subject to design analysis, approvals and funding availability for stormwater mitigation works.



Phase 2

Community building and associated parking; amenities building upgrade; and pedestrian safety improvements.

Note: subject to design analysis, approvals and funding availability.