



Somerville Recreation Reserve Masterplan

The study to develop a masterplan for Somerville Recreation Reserve has reached the stage where a draft masterplan has been prepared and is ready to receive community feedback

The Somerville Recreation Reserve is the primary sporting reserve in Somerville and features a range of sport, recreation and community facilities. It is highly valued by the Somerville community.

Study Background

Somerville Recreation Reserve is owned and managed by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. The following clubs/ groups are based at the Reserve.

- Somerville Cricket Club
- 1st Somerville Scout Group
- Somerville Junior Football Club
- Somerville Football Netball Club
- Somerville Junior Netball Club
- Somerville Tennis Club
- Somerville Bowls Club

The masterplan will set the vision and direction for the ongoing development of the reserve to meet the needs of user groups and the broader Somerville community who utilise the reserve for a range of active and passive recreation pursuits.

Key Drivers of the Masterplan

1. To build on past collaborations between the reserve user groups, Council and local Members of Parliament to elevate the status of the reserve to a 'community hub'.
2. To ensure facilities are fit for purpose.
3. To review and assess internal vehicle circulation and car parking.
4. To enhance community facilities and infrastructure to increase the use of the reserve for informal leisure.
5. To improve pedestrian linkages.



Masterplan Process

Stage 1

- Site review
- Review of background information and research
- Prepare site analysis plan

Stage 2

- Meet with user groups
- Community survey and drop-in session

Stage 3

- Issues and opportunities analysis
- Prepare 1st draft masterplan; review by Council

Stage 4

- Present draft masterplan to user groups and Councillors
- Public Exhibition of the draft masterplan
- Collate community feedback and prepare final masterplan
- Final masterplan adopted by Council



We Want Your Feedback

The draft Somerville Recreation Reserve Masterplan is on exhibition for the period 5 November – 3 December 2025.

To view the masterplan and provide feedback, go to the 'Have Your Say' page on [Council's website](#) and then to the project page 'Somerville Recreation Reserve Masterplan'. A short questionnaire is available to register your feedback.

For further information, email Council's Sport and Recreation Project Officer

E: CIOSPAdmin@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Consultation Undertaken



February 2025

Meetings with user groups
Workshop with Council project team



April 2025

Community survey (162 completed)
Two drop-in sessions (50 attendees)
Workshop with Council project team



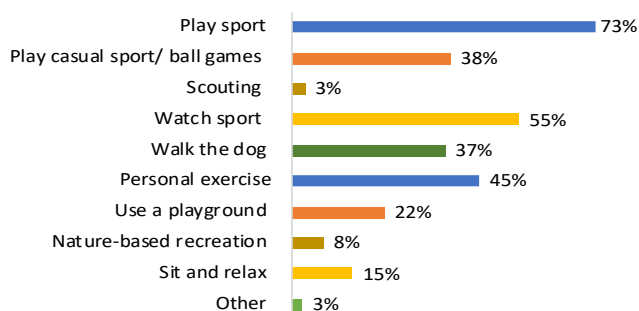
August 2025

Review of draft masterplans by:

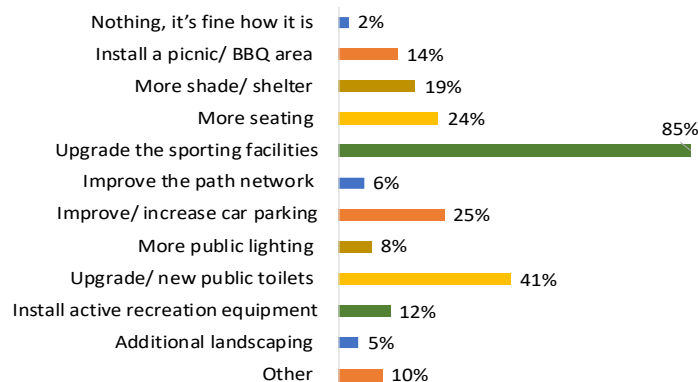
- Council project team
- Executive Management Team
- Councillors

Key findings from the community survey and drop-in sessions included:

1. Nearly three quarters of all respondents (73%) use the reserve to 'play sport' as a member of a club, 55% 'watch sport', and 45% for 'personal exercise'.



2. In relation to reserve improvements, 85% of respondents want 'upgrades to the sporting facilities' and 41% want 'upgraded public toilets'.



Key Directions

The key issues and opportunities identified for the reserve have been grouped into four themes. Several key strategic directions to improve the sporting and community infrastructure throughout the reserve have resulted from the analysis of these key issues and opportunities.

Access and Movement

There is a desire by the sporting clubs and local residents to increase the capacity of the in-reserve car parking. Capacity has been increased in two main ways:

- removing the Cypress hedge along Jones Road and the western netball court will increase the area available for car parking in the northern section of the reserve, and
- sealing all roads and line-marking most car parking results in more efficient use of available parking areas.

The master plan supports a vehicle-free zone being established between the proposed new pavilion, the oval, the netball courts, and the cricket practice nets to improve pedestrian safety and create a community hub and gathering space.

A new path network throughout the reserve increases safety and creates more opportunity for the community to exercise within the reserve; new paths include a sealed oval perimeter path and an extensive gravel path throughout the southeast parkland space.

Sporting Facilities

The two most significant sporting projects supported in the master plan are the proposed new two-story pavilion and the widening of the oval by an estimated 15 metres.

The current pavilion is close to end of life and does not meet all needs of the football and cricket clubs.



The new pavilion will deliver fit for purpose facilities not only for the football and cricket clubs but also all netball players and officials with its relocation closer to the netball courts. The removal of the existing pavilion and the removal of a small section of nose to fence parking creates the opportunity to widen the oval as part of a broader

project to rebuild the oval (new irrigation and drainage, oval surface, floodlights, and behind goal netting).

The western netball court will be removed to achieve parity with Council's standard of 2 netball courts in reserves with football-netball clubs, and the southern court will be upgraded to achieve compliance as a competition court and will become the football netball club's main court on match day (compliant run-offs, player shelters, floodlights, and equipment storage).

Other key sports facility improvement projects include relocating the community cricket practice net, rebuilding all tennis courts to achieve compliant run-offs, a new tennis clubroom in the longer term, and a new external unisex toilet and dedicated car park for the bowling club.

Community Facilities

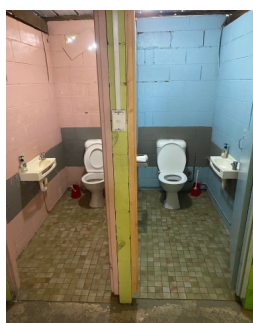
The masterplan supports a realignment of the reserve perimeter fence to the top of the embankment, and the upgrade and embellishment of the southeast parkland area to encourage more community activation of this section of the reserve.



The recommendation to install a fenced dog off-leash area for small and quiet dogs is one strategy to increase the community's use of this area and responds to an identified community need. Other upgrades include:

- new pedestrian paths,
- new treatments to the open drains,
- lowering the reserve perimeter fences along Clarinda Street and Park Lane that enclose the parkland area, and
- most important, unrestricted access to the parkland during Somerville Football Netball Club home games.

Several improvement projects are supported to the 1st Somerville Scout Hall, which will improve the user experience (upgraded toilets) and will increase the functional life of the building (new roof).



Open Space and Landscape Character

The Cypress hedge along Jones Road is adding considerable cost to the maintenance of the netball courts, it is negatively impacting netball activities, and it is constraining the ongoing development of the reserve.

The tree roots regularly cause cracks in the courts surfaces, and the western location and size of the hedge canopy means that the courts are in shadow for considerable periods each day (especially in winter with the lower sun) and the resultant prevailing damp conditions leads to the courts being impacted by moss, lichen and grime during the period of main use of the courts – winter.



The replacement of the hedge with a less invasive tree species will eliminate the main cause of the periodic deterioration of the court surfaces, and will open-up the area to increased sunlight and drier court conditions. As mentioned previously, their removal will also significantly increase the car parking capacity in the northern section of the reserve, which will be important to service the community's use of the function room in the proposed new pavilion to the south.

The masterplan supports new tree planting throughout the reserve and the upgrade of the southeast parkland area, as previously outlined.

Other Master Plan Projects

- Construct a new sealed oval perimeter road with a controlled exit road to Clarinda Street for use on football match days only, and which also functions as an in-reserve vehicle turnaround point.
- Maintain the nose-to-fence car parking outside the new oval perimeter path and also maintain the overflow car parking on the embankment.
- Remove the southern toilet block and rationalise the number of reserve playgrounds from two to one.
- Construct a sealed footpath along Park Lane to connect the western and eastern sections of footpath.
- Install a new sheltered terrace and spectator area on the oval wing, adjacent to Jones Road.
- Retain existing significant trees within the new sports hub/ community area to help preserve the landscape character.