



Developing a
master plan for

Malone Park, Marong

COMMUNITY BULLETIN
OCTOBER 2021

In December 2020 the City of Greater Bendigo called on members of the Marong and wider community to have input into the development of a draft Master plan for Malone Park by completing a survey or by making a submission to the City.

Consultation included delivery of a community bulletin to households in Marong township, signs at Malone Park, social media posts, news articles in the local media and individual engagement with clubs and user groups of the park.

The City received seven submissions and a total of 268 online surveys were completed by respondents to say what they would like included in the draft

master plan. This was a fantastic result that demonstrated the important role Malone Park plays in the life of the Marong and the City would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the project so far.

Using the information provided by residents from the first round of consultation, a draft Master plan for Malone Park has now been produced and is available to view at letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/malone-park-masterplan

Residents are encouraged to take some time to view the master plan and to provide any comments they may have by Friday November 19, 2021.

What is Malone Park?

Malone Park is a large, 20 hectare Crown land site that has been managed by the City of Greater Bendigo since 2015. It is bordered by new residential developments and is in close proximity to the Marong Primary School and the town centre.

There are three entrances to Malone Park, accessed from the Calder Alternative Highway, Malone Park Road and Salvarezza Road. Malone Park is the main recreation reserve in the Marong township and features extensive sports facilities, a children's playground, picnic area, and extensive areas of bushland and grassy areas for recreation and relaxation. The Bullock Creek also runs through Malone Park.

Why has the City developed a draft master plan for Malone Park?

According to .id community demographic resources, the population estimate for Marong – Rural West as of June 30, 2019 was 4,928 with approximately 2,000 people living in the township and immediate surrounds. Since the previous year, the population has grown by 1.70 per cent compared to population growth of 1.37 per cent in regional Victoria.

Marong is one of Greater Bendigo's growth areas with a four-fold increase in population to 8,000 predicted in coming years by the City's Marong Structure Plan. It's therefore important for the City to plan for this growth to ensure Marong has the necessary infrastructure it needs to strengthen community interaction and provide opportunities for residents to lead healthy lifestyles.

A master plan for Malone Park will guide the development and maintenance of this important recreation area in a way that services the needs of the Marong community now and into the future. It will also build on the work previously undertaken by the Malone Park Users Group Association.

The master plan will also consider the sports and facilities that could be provided on the site, and the highest and best uses of the space to encourage residents to live active and healthy lifestyles within their own community and near their homes

What clubs and groups currently use Malone Park?

Malone Park is home to the following groups:

- Marong Football & Netball Club
- Marong Cricket Club Marong Bowls Club
- Marong Light Harness Club
- Greater Bendigo Family Equine Group
- Marong and Wilson's Reef Tennis Clubs
- Marong Swimming Pool

Marong Golf club also manages the adjacent land to the south of Malone Park as part of its back nine.

What were the results of the community consultation undertaken in December 2020 and January 2021?

The consultation showed that the community highly value Malone Park with many respondents using the area for casual use outside of sport.

More than 54 per cent of respondents said they were not members of any club associated with the park. Also interesting was the large number of survey respondents (42 per cent) who said they walked to access the reserve. In addition, 93 per cent of respondents said they had visited Malone Park in the past 12 months.

Survey respondents said their favourite characteristics of the park are:

- the natural environment (50 per cent)
- the oval (47 per cent)
- the walking paths and tracks (37 per cent)
- the playground (35 per cent)

Only 32 per cent of respondents indicated that the reserve met their needs with their suggestions for improvement including:

- Improvements to sporting facilities, pavilion, change rooms and lighting
- Improved play opportunities
- Improve walking and cycling paths, tracks and trails
- Improve roads and parking
- Establishment of an irrigated second oval
- New public toilets
- Establishment of a dog park

What are the key features of the draft master plan?

The draft master plan acknowledges the need for at least one additional oval in the short term with long term needs likely to require a third oval, as well as spaces that can be used for non-traditional sports such as touch-football and other flexible uses for community events, festivals and carnivals.

In order to achieve this the draft master plan recommends the relocation of the Light Harness Club to an alternative site such as the Sebastian Recreation Reserve which could accommodate the club.

Key features of the draft master plan include:

- The development of a single multi-purpose pavilion and community building to service all existing and future users
- Relocation of Marong Light Harness Club
- Redevelopment of the existing harness track into a green playing surface that is irrigated and illuminated and equivalent to two ovals
- Development of two additional multipurpose netball and tennis courts near the pavilion
- Improved walking and cycling connections through the site and connecting Discover Marong (estate) to the Marong School and Town Centre via the existing bridge over Bullock Creek
- Future relocation of other community facilities such as the existing playground into the reserve to increase activation and access by the community
- Development of additional facilities including bike jumps and a dog park;
- Retention of the natural environment as much as possible
- Preservation of the natural amenity and enhancement of passive recreation assets



- 1 Retain existing cricket nets and provide a safety net/fence barrier.
- 2 Construct a new recreation precinct including 'Township Standard' playground, fitness station, multi-purpose half court/hit up wall, shelter, picnic facilities and toilet block. The toilet block will service the play space, informal users and the adjacent tennis/netball courts.
- 3 Provide a network of pedestrian paths throughout the reserve to connect existing and proposed facilities as well as provide recreational opportunities and improved access.
- 4 Provide a multi-use irrigated sports field with the capacity for 2x Australian Football League ovals (e.g. a senior oval 165m x 135m and a junior oval 135m x 110m) with

the flexibility to provide line marking for soccer as required. Scoreboards, coaches boxes and spectator seating to be provided at both ends of the field, as well as sports lighting around the perimeter to support training and multi-use of the space.

- 5 Construct a multi-use pavilion to service the needs of all the clubs using the reserve. Pavilion works to include upgraded asphalt carpark and pedestrian forecourt.
- 6 Provide 2x dedicated fenced netball courts.
- 7 Landscape the central area around the pavilion, forecourt and car park area to provide vehicle control and improve pedestrian amenity.
- 8 Better define / formalise car parking spaces around the main oval.
- 9 Downgrade existing road and provide vehicle exclusion infrastructure to prevent through traffic whilst retaining pedestrian and emergency vehicle access.

- 10 Modify the existing car park, pedestrian and vehicle access, and landscaping at the western entrance to the reserve to continue to support the use and access of Men's shed, pool, playground and wayside stop. Existing playground, toilet block and pool forecourt area to be retained.
- 11 Construct a sand profile dressage arena (ideally 20m x 60m, subject to detailed design and site constraints i.e. trees and topography). Existing access, stables and stalls to be retained and upgraded as required.
- 12 Create a dedicated fenced dog off-lead area with signage, dog waste bags and dog waste disposal bins.
- 13 Upgrade and refurbish existing main oval as required.
- 14 Potential area for future BMX track subject to detailed design and vegetation considerations.
- 15 Consider upgrading an existing bowling green to a synthetic surface with lighting subject to future demand assessment.



Why is the City recommending the trotting track be relocated?

The Marong Light Harness Club has been a user of the site for over 40 years. Marong has grown steadily over that period and is expected to more than quadruple its size in the foreseeable future.

Marong already has need of a second oval. This is shown by the Marong Cricket Club who already have to play home games at other grounds in Greater Bendigo. This is expected to worsen as Marong grows and more pressure is put on the existing oval and the poor current surface in the centre of the harness track.

The relocation of the Marong Light Harness Club would open up the space for the development of a playing surface that could accommodate up to two additional football/cricket ovals, or alternate sports such as soccer or touch football. This surface would be irrigated and eventually illuminated, allowing year-round use and participation in

sport and physical activity by Marong residents. It would also reduce the safety risks of conflict between people and horses using Malone Park.

The Marong Light Harness Club could be accommodated at alternate facilities such as Sebastian Recreation Reserve or Lords Raceway in Bendigo and the opening up of the space currently accommodating the track would create many new opportunities for the Marong community to participate and recreate.

Who developed the draft master plan?

The draft master plan has been developed by the City of Greater Bendigo in conjunction with consultants Insight Leisure Planning and Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architecture over the last 12 months following consultation with key stakeholders, user groups and the community.



Where can I view the full draft master plan?

The draft master plan is available to view online on Let's Talk Greater Bendigo website letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/malone-park-masterplan at the City of Greater Bendigo Service Centre in Hopetoun Street Bendigo and the Marong Community House until Friday November 19, 2021.

How can I have my say on the draft master plan?

You can have your say on the draft master plan via an online form on the Let's Talk Greater Bendigo website at letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/malone-park-masterplan via a direct email to activecommunities@bendigo.vic.gov.au or by post to PO Box 733, Bendigo 3552.

You can have your say on the draft master plan via an online form on the Let's Talk Greater Bendigo website at letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/malone-park-masterplan or via the QR Code, you can also email your comments to activecommunities@bendigo.vic.gov.au or post them to PO Box 733, Bendigo 3552 until Friday November 19, 2021.

If you have any queries regarding the draft, please call Fraser Neele on 5434 6000. The draft master plan will be available for comment until Friday November 19, 2021.

The City will also hold an onsite listening post at Malone Park from 5pm to 7pm on Tuesday November 2, 2021 (Melbourne Cup Day) Covid-19 restrictions permitting. If this is not possible due to restrictions interested people can attend an online session from 5pm to 7pm on Thursday November 4, 2021. You can book your attendance for the online session at letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/malone-park-masterplan or by using the QR code.

What are the next steps?

Once the exhibition period of the draft master plan is complete, all feedback will be considered and a final version of the plan will be produced and presented to Council for adoption in early in 2022.

Following the adoption of the draft master plan by Council the City will commence preparations to implement the plan including undertaking targeted consultation with stakeholders and detailed design work. The City will also investigate grant and funding opportunities with other levels of government and set timelines for implementation of priority works.

View the draft master plan and have your say



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