

12.2 PERCY STREET RESERVE AND PEPPERMINT GUMS RESERVE**File Number: IC21/141****Author: John Zunis, Manager Infrastructure & Assets****Authoriser: Vincent Cammell, Director Infrastructure & Environment****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council, through adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Business Plan and budget, allocated funding towards the Open Space Strategy design/ consultation for upcoming reserve upgrades. These funds will be allocated towards development of concept plans (obtaining a field survey, tree report, engagement of consultants etc.) and community consultation activities towards Percy Street Reserve and Peppermint Gums Reserve.

This has been determined from the Open Space Strategy Action Plan whereby Percy Street Reserve and Peppermint Gums Reserve are listed for an upgrade in the 2022/23 financial year.

The discussion of the report provides background information on each reserve as well as previous community consultation undertaken as part of the initial Open Space Strategy consultation.

The focus of this report is to outline the upcoming consultation planned for both projects in October 2021, which will be a data collection engagement activity via an online survey where a series of questions will be provided to gather data that will help inform the design and development of draft ideas for Council consideration. As part of this upcoming consultation, there will not be any images or concept plans provided, given the requirement to first establish a baseline and starting point of community expectations of these reserve upgrades.

The benefits of these projects are also discussed as well as identifying some key external stakeholders that will be engaged during consultation stages.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council:**

- 1. Having considered Item 12.2 Percy Street Reserve and Peppermint Gums Reserve receive and note the report.**

DISCUSSION**Percy Street Reserve**

An internal Action Plan was developed detailing which financial year each of the parks will be upgraded. Percy Street Reserve is listed for an upgrade in the 2022/23 financial year.

Percy Street Reserve is located at 65 Percy St, Prospect, close to the Northpark Shopping Centre (Figure 1).

A budget bid will be submitted for construction, estimated at approximately \$101k in the Open Space Strategy Action Plan.

There is approximately \$5,000 available in the 2021/22 financial year to fund the development of a concept plan (obtain a field survey, tree report, soil report, etc.) and community consultation activities.

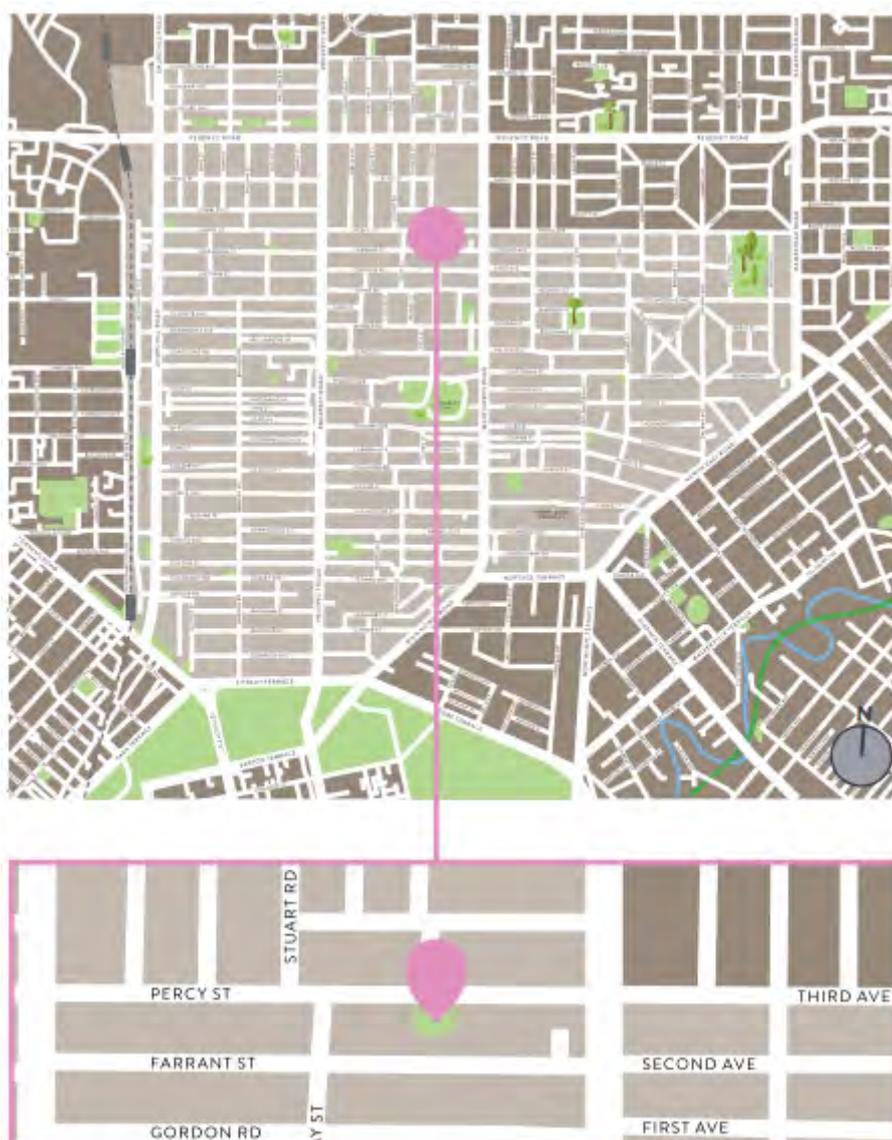


Figure 1: Location of Percy Street Reserve from Open Space Strategy

Previous community engagement

The previous engagement for this park was through the consultation process for the endorsement of the Open Space Strategy in March 2018.

Specifically relating to Percy Street Reserve, responses from the Open Space Strategy included:

- Respondents agree with the Park's classification (2 respondents) and suggested improvements (1 respondent) with a comment to encourage use for ball games and dogs.
- Under question 5 in the survey ('Are there any parks/ reserves you don't visit but would like to and your reason(s) for not visiting'), one comment states "Percy Street Park is very plain and doesn't seem to have changed much for over 20 years, if anything it's become less inviting!"
- Under question 7 ('In general, do you agree with Council's proposed improvements and priorities as listed on page 33-35 of the draft Open Space Strategy'), one comment states "Percy St Estate should be a high priority"
- Comment relating to recommendations for improvements (under question 10 in the survey): "This is the only place in the neighbourhood that you can kick a ball or play cricket. Any new designs should make this is made easier not harder, such as thinking about where the wickets might go, or using plants that stop the balls going into yards and the street."

- The fence is also good for dogs to run around safely. Sometimes homeless people drink or sleep at this park so it would be good to discourage that by making it more attractive for kids and neighbours to use and make it busier.”

Peppermint Gums Reserve

Peppermint Gums Reserve is located at the corner of Dean Street and Barker Road, Prospect, and adjacent to Council-owned Lewis Lane (Figure 2). It is within close proximity to Prospect Oval/ Payinthe Yarta and Main North Road, backing onto some of the businesses on Main North Road.

The 2016 census data from the Open Space Strategy identifies that the socio-economic demographics in the area is very close to the City of Prospect average, with majority of residents' backgrounds being from India (5.6%) and UK (4.5%). The area has a slightly higher population of children under 15 years of age than the City of Prospect average. This can be reviewed once the new census results are released.

The park currently provides informal gathering areas with picnic tables scattered around the park and an open lawn area, and a drinking fountain. The play equipment is more of an “adventure” style with a large embankment slide upon a large mounded area, tyres to climb up the mound and a flying fox, as well as many opportunities for nature play including logs/ rocks/ mulch/ timber animals and debris from many native trees in the park. The park is not fenced from the streets (Dean Street and Barker Road).

An internal Action Plan was developed from the Open Space Strategy detailing which financial year each of the parks will be upgraded. Peppermint Gums Reserve is listed for an upgrade in the 2022/23 financial year.

A budget bid will be submitted for construction, estimated at approximately \$523,000 in the Open Space Strategy Action Plan.

There is approximately \$25,000 available in the 2021/22 financial year to fund the development of a concept plan (obtain a field survey, tree report, soil report, and engage a consultant for the design development) and community consultation activities.



Figure 2: Location of Peppermint Gums Reserve from the Open Space Strategy

Previous community engagement

The only previous engagement for this park was through the consultation process for the endorsement of the Open Space Strategy in March 2018.

Specifically relating to Peppermint Gums Reserve, responses from the Open Space Strategy include:

- 3 respondents agree with the Park's classification and 1 respondent disagrees.
- 3 respondents agree with the Park's suggested improvements and 1 respondent disagrees. One respondent commented "excellent ideas – I would also like to see a toddler sized fence around it as it is so close to Main North Road".
- Under question 2 of the survey, Peppermint Gums Reserve was mentioned as being run down.
- Peppermint Gums Reserve is used by one respondent as a more pleasant waiting room than the medical centre and walking from the library as a green reading space.
- For one individual who does not use the park but would like to, commented that "it's close to home but the park is really old and run down with nothing to do there".

Upcoming Community Engagement on both Reserves

Round 1 community consultation will be undertaken for both Percy Street Reserve and Peppermint Gums Reserve to ascertain in current times what the community would like to see as part of the upgrades. This is purely a data collection exercise without any images or concept plans to support at this stage. A series of questions via a survey will be used to gather data that will help inform the design and development of draft concept plans for both reserves. These questions will be based on the following areas of information:

- Frequency of visit to the park
- What facilities they currently use, or value
- Age range of children
- What they like about the reserve
- What elements do they want to see in the reserve (list suggestions to tick from or prioritise in order of preference)
- Allow them to provide other suggestions, ideas and feedback
- Provide their details (email address) if they want to be notified of updates on this project

An online survey will be used as the engagement activity for this Round 1 consultation for the respective reserves. A mail out in the form of a postcard will be distributed to all residents within the target radius for each site, inviting them to fill out the online survey using Engagement Hub. The online survey will be advertised on Council's website and social media, as well as on a poster to be located onsite by the entry gate. The poster will be designed in-house, and printed by an external company.

These online surveys for each respective project are scheduled to occur in October 2021 with results to be presented to Council in December 2021.

Importance/ benefits of the projects

Both of these facilities are currently outdated, have reached the end of their useful life and no longer meet the needs of the community. The expected outcome are new spaces that respond to the community's needs and incorporate up-to-date facilities and amenities, adding strength to Council's portfolio of active and passive recreational offerings. It is important for these upgrades to occur for the community who will benefit through increased use of the facilities and further support healthy lifestyle and wellbeing opportunities.

External Stakeholders

A number of external stakeholders have been identified to be included as part of the community consultation around the development of these reserve upgrades. There may be opportunities to become involved in the design or delivery of components of the projects by these external stakeholders. Identified stakeholders include:

Percy Street Reserve

- Lions Club
- Rotary Club
- Prospect North Primary School

Peppermint Gums Reserve

- Lions Club
- Rotary Club
- Businesses on Main North Road, particularly the ones adjacent to the park
- 1st Impressions Early Learning Centre (located on the east side of Main North Road)
- Nailsworth Primary School – perhaps visit and engage with them separately? (located on the east side of Main North)
- Prospect Community Village

Risk Management

Area of Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Insufficient number of responses	A draft concept plan will be developed from the responses that have been received, from the Open Space Strategy consultation and this consultation.
Majority of responses include items that are not feasible to install (e.g. Large play structures that are outside of the budget of the respective playspace)	Structure the survey to show images of equipment and items that are feasible to install in Round 2 (the next round) of consultation.

Relevance to Core Strategies / Policy

Percy Street Reserve upgrade and the Peppermint Gums Reserve upgrade are linked to the Open Space Strategy which identifies every park/ reserve in our Council area and defines the priority parks for upgrades.

The Open Space Strategy classifies Percy Street Reserve as a 'local' park which captures the local residents within 400 metres of the Reserve and is designed for short frequent visits. The space is aimed for informal/ low key activities, flexible spaces, predominantly passive recreation and offering safe and appealing maintenance.

Peppermint Gums Reserve is classified as a 'neighbourhood' park which captures the local residents within 600 metres of the Reserve and is designed for short frequent visits. The space is aimed for purposeful visitation (longer stays) with flexible active and passive areas, gathering areas, play area with both junior and senior play elements and irrigated garden beds/ lawn.

Community Plan: Towards 2040**2 to 5 year timeline**

- CC2.4 Ensure greater recognition and support of precincts and neighbourhood gathering places such as Collinswood Precinct, Broadview Sports and Recreation Precinct / Yarnta Tutu yarta, Nailsworth Hall, Charles Cane / Parndo yerta Reserve, Howard Street precinct across the City:
 - CC2.4.1 Make these great places and create promotional campaigns
 - CC2.4.2 Install wayfinding signage (and 'digital trails') in key locations to highlight important and historic sites, as well as shopping and recreational opportunities in those neighbourhoods
 - CC2.4.3 Develop new place-making and urban renewal initiatives in those neighbourhoods
 - CC2.4.4 Facilitate the attraction of a key 'anchor' or 'hero' business to each of those key locations

► Active & Engaged**FY 20/21 Measures**

- AE1.2 Develop model governance frameworks for sporting and community groups to facilitate greater opportunities for involvement and access by residents to their facilities across the city

2 to 5 year timeline

- AE2.2 Create a dog walking track through the City, with wayfinding signage and relevant infrastructure (eg bags) along the route

2 to 5 year timeline

PP2.1 Promote and reward design excellence through local design awards

PP2.2 Celebrate the achievements of Council and its community in the preservation and conservation of our rich heritage whilst also promoting innovation in built form and design

2 to 5 year timeline

RS2.7 Demonstrate innovation in the supply and delivery of infrastructure projects

Intelligent Community Indicators

5. Sustainability: Economic growth while reducing the environmental impact of that growth
6. Advocacy: Engaging leaders and citizens, businesses and institutions, in identifying opportunities to champion positive change

ATTACHMENTS

Nil