



## Romsey Park Sports Precinct Master Plan Process Summary

**A study to develop a new master plan for Romsey Park Sports Precinct has reached the stage where a draft master plan has been prepared and is ready to be placed on exhibition to receive community feedback**

Romsey Park Sports Precinct ('Romsey Park') is located in Park Lane, Romsey, and is the town's main sporting and recreation precinct. A previous master plan was completed for the reserve in 2010 and many of the projects recommended in that plan have now been completed.

### Study Background

Romsey Park is a multipurpose reserve offering residents a diverse range of sporting and recreation activities, including the sports of athletics, bowls, cricket, football, golf, netball, soccer, tennis, and indoor sports, and the recreation pursuits of scouts and a mens shed. The following clubs/groups are based at Romsey Park.

- Romsey Football Netball Club
- Romsey Junior Football Netball Club
- Macedon Rangers Soccer Club
- Romsey Cricket Club
- Lancefield Romsey Little Athletics
- Romsey Golf Club
- Romsey Bowling Club
- Romsey Tennis Club
- Romsey Sporting Association
- Romsey Mens Shed
- 1<sup>st</sup> Romsey Scout Group

The Romsey Primary School utilises Romsey Park East.

The study area primarily includes the sporting precincts around both ovals, and only the interface between the Romsey Golf Course and the sports precinct, and between the Romsey Recreation Centre and the tennis courts.

Romsey Park East is situated on Department of Education land whilst Romsey Park west (main oval area and golf course) is Crown land.

In December 2021, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council commissioned a study to review the Romsey Sports Precinct Master Plan (2010). The aim of the study is to establish a new vision for the reserve to guide the future development of the Romsey Park Sports Precinct

The following key drivers triggered the need to undertake the master plan review:

1. Assess options for soccer to become a new tenant at the reserve
2. Identify a sustainable solution for clubroom facilities for the Romsey Golf Club and the Romsey Bowling Club
3. General adequacy of existing facilities to meet current and future needs, including the future of the former football clubrooms
4. Determine optimum number of tennis and netball courts
5. Consider options to enhance non-sporting opportunities

The study has been undertaken in three stages:

Stage 1: Information gathering, research, and initial engagement with reserve user groups

Stage 2: Issues and opportunities analysis and development of draft master plans for review by user groups and Council staff

Stage 3: Develop final draft master plan; endorsement by Council for community feedback

Council is now inviting community feedback on the draft Romsey Park Sports Precinct master plan. It is on public exhibition until 14 November 2022. To view the plan and give feedback go to Council's website – [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au) and then to the 'Have Your Say' page.

For further information, email: [recreationsubmissions@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:recreationsubmissions@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

Following the public exhibition period, the Romsey Park Sports Precinct master plan will be revised and the final plan presented to Council in early 2023 for adoption.

## Consultation Undertaken

A range of consultative activities were completed during the period February to May 2022 to inform the master plan development.

- 17 February 2022: Review of Romsey Park with Council staff
- March/ April 2022: Initial user group meetings
- 22 May 2022: Community drop-in session (7 attendees)
- 28 June 2022: Workshop with Council staff
- 11 July 2022: User group meeting to review draft plan
- 9 August 2022: Councillor Briefing

The key issues and opportunities identified by the consultant team and raised during the stakeholder and community meetings are grouped into the following themes.

### Town Growth

Romsey's population increased by 24% since 2011 (or by 1,310 people). Whilst the profile ('young' vs 'aged') of the 6,734 population in 2021 remained similar to 2011, there was net growth of 179 people aged under 19 years.

The projected population of Romsey to 2036 is 9,084, or an increase of 2,350 people (+35%). This has implications for sports facility planning, as there will continue to be demand for new and upgraded sporting facilities in Romsey.

### Providing for Soccer

The Macedon Rangers Soccer Club formed in 2019, and despite the COVID-19 pandemic has experienced significant growth; it has 5 junior teams, and will require access to a full-size pitch when it has U14s (projected 2023), and when it transitions into a club with senior teams.



Romsey Park West

The club is now using Romsey Park West as its main base, however, the following constraints are evident: a senior size pitch cannot be marked without incorporating the synthetic cricket pitch; there are no floodlights (Romsey Park East is used for training); the existing 2 change rooms cannot accommodate concurrent boys and girls matches; there is no social/ meeting space; and equipment storage is currently temporary through use of a container.

Council supports the club being based in Romsey to service the soccer needs in the Shire's east, so sustainable soccer facilities are required for the short to medium term.

### A solution for Bowls and Golf

The Romsey Golf Club and the Romsey Bowling Club currently share use of the pavilion adjacent to the bowling green. This arrangement worked well when both clubs were relatively small, however, with increased memberships and competition/ tournament days the shared use is creating constraints for both clubs.

In addition, the golf club ideally requires an overlook to the golf course, and to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee specifically, to better accommodate the needs of golfers and tournament play. A condition and compliance assessment of the shared pavilion by Millar Architects rated it as good.

### Tennis and Netball Court Provision

The Romsey Football Netball Club currently has access to one netball court for its 4 senior and 5 junior teams, which is insufficient for its training requirements and does not provide a warm-up court for home and away teams on match days.

The current netball court is overlaid onto two tennis courts, but the tennis club has not required their use since the court was constructed. When providing multiple netball courts, they need to be co-located to gain the most efficient and effective use of them. A second netball court is not able to fit in the space between the existing court and the oval fence, and the long-term needs of tennis in a growing town requires the 2 tennis courts to the south of the existing netball court to be retained, for a total of 5 tennis courts.

Siting 2 new netball courts in another area of Romsey Park East will trigger the need for new netball change rooms and other ancillary spaces, and this creates an opportunity for any new pavilion to be developed as a shared space with golf. Relocating the netball court provides an opportunity to upgrade and expand the main pavilion to the south, to provide facilities not currently available or to be sited in a more appropriate location: first aid room; umpire change rooms; female change rooms; and football/ cricket stores.

### Other Opportunities

The consultation identified that the former football clubrooms are surplus if additional secure storage can be provided at another location, however the steel spectator shelter in front of the clubrooms should be retained.



Former football clubrooms and steel spectator shelter

Whilst the tennis clubroom inside the Romsey Recreation Centre generally meets the needs of the club, the outdoor area between the clubroom and the courts is poor and not functional, and is an opportunity to be upgraded.

The main access into Romsey Park East is via an entry off Romsey Road. This access is not ideal on football days when patrons are required to utilise the car parking at Romsey Park West, as patrons need to make their way to the admittance gate off Romsey Road located adjacent to the bowling green. It was discussed that a second vehicle entry to the oval perimeter road would facilitate more efficient traffic flow, create a second pedestrian connection between Romsey Park West and East, and would enable golf and bowls patrons to better utilise car parking off Romsey Road.

### Key Directions of the Draft Master Plan

The draft Romsey Park Sports Precinct Master Plan includes several key strategic directions for enhancing the sporting and recreational uses of the reserve. The following description should be read in conjunction with the draft master plan.

### Overall Vision for the Reserve

1. Creating new opportunities for sport by providing sustainable facilities
2. Consolidating Romsey Park as the hub for sport by permitting concurrent use by many sports

### Sporting Facilities

#### Soccer

- Expand Romsey Park West oval to enable a full-size soccer pitch
- Extend the Romsey Park West pavilion to provide the necessary off-pitch facilities to enable the Macedon Rangers Soccer Club to continue to grow (and facilities to also assist football, cricket and athletics uses)



Romsey Park West pavilion

- Install floodlights to Romsey Park West oval to enable soccer and football training to take place
- Extend the pedestrian path from the pavilion to the southwest corner of the oval where new spectator terracing and shelters are proposed

### Netball

- Create a new netball precinct with 2 courts and associated off-court facilities, including a new shared netball-golf pavilion to further drive increases in netball participation and program development

### Golf and Bowls

- Construct a new shared netball-golf pavilion adjacent to the golf course to drive increases in golf participation and course usage
- Install a shelter at the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee to contain course information instructions for casual golfers, including the methods to pay green fees
- Enable the bowls experience to be enhanced by removing the shared use of the social room by relocating the Romsey Golf Club to the new shared netball-golf pavilion

### Traffic Management

- Extend the car parking in Romsey Park West
- Provide angled car parking along Park Lane
- Construct a new vehicle and pedestrian entry into Romsey Park East off Park Lane
- Install 2 wombat crossings on Park Lane to calm traffic speeds, and use the crossings to better connect Romsey Park West and Romsey Park East

### Other

- Following the construction of the netball precinct, remove the netball-tennis court and use the space to extend the main pavilion to provide a first aid room, umpire change rooms, female change rooms, and football/ cricket stores, and extend the car park and spectator viewing area
- Remove the old football clubrooms
- Upgrade the tennis outdoor viewing area with shelters, seating and landscaping, and re-surface the 5 tennis courts, when required
- Install a new playground adjacent to the existing steel shelter, and remove the existing southern playground
- Upgrade the Scout Hall
- Install a new unsealed path from the Scout Hall to Lauder Place, to improve the connectivity of the sports precinct with surrounding residents



Outdoor tennis viewing area