
11.1 Rushall Reserve Proposed Shared Path

Trim Record Number: D15/75093

Responsible Officer: Manager Recreation and Open Space

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Gaylard

Seconded: Councillor Fristacky

1. That Council:

- (a) notes the extensive feedback received during the consultation process regarding the proposed shared path through Rushall Reserve;
- (b) notes the officer report and recommendation responding to community input on the need for improvements to the underpass at Rushall Station and requests that the officers:
 - (i) advise VicTrack, PTV and other responsible authorities of the extensive community representations (with copies subject to appropriate privacy protections) on the need to improve and upgrade this underpass and seeks their commitment to such upgrade and to also accommodate secure bicycle parking at the station, with a timeframe for implementation; and
 - (ii) report to Council on the above;
- (c) recognises and supports the current uses of Rushall Reserve by the community as valued green open space, the diversity of users, including walkers, joggers, children, dog walkers and bike riders, who would benefit from improved access to the Merri Creek environs;
- (d) notes the importance of health outcomes from dog walking and seeks to enhance amenity by inclusion of a drinking tap for Reserve users and their dogs, including a handwashing facility;
- (e) notes the strategic importance of the shared pathway network as described in the Yarra Bicycle Strategy 2010-2015 allocating a high priority rating to the path (meeting 5/5 criteria), and the Merri Creek Trail Review supporting a pathway through the Reserve;
- (f) notes the range of views on the proposed Rushall Reserve shared path received through community feedback including:
 - (i) opposition to any path through Rushall Reserve;
 - (ii) opposition to a path through the middle of the Reserve;
 - (iii) in principle support for a pathway through the Reserve;
 - (iv) support for a perimeter path following and extending the existing goat track along the railway line and embankment.
- (g) notes the risks associated with use of an informal and unsafe access track at the top of a cliff and along an unfenced railway line and the need for a path to provide safe legal access to the Reserve.
- (h) supports improved access for the community to the rail and bus services at Rushall Station;
- (i) authorises officers to report back to Council on the design of a shared path on the perimeter of Rushall Reserve on the basis that:

- (i) the path alignment follows, as close as is practical, the railway embankment on the west side of Rushall Reserve and limits encroachment onto green open space;
- (ii) the path location, as far as is practical, ensures retention of significant native trees;
- (iii) the design includes treatments to encourage slower cyclist speeds and reduce potential conflict between park users and dogs (e.g. through fencing, planting or other creative solutions);
- (iv) the design considers improvements to visibility, signage, access and revegetation, and to drainage including beneath the Holden Street railway bridge;
- (v) the design ensures appropriate path gradients for walkers, pushers, and bike riders to assist south-bound users; and
- (vi) current park users be consulted on whether the existing asphalt path through the Reserve be (a) retained with signage to show this is a no through path, (b) improved and extended to the Creek, or (c) replaced with turf in order to minimise the loss of green space; and
- (j) requests officers to consider community feedback on the revised designs prior to the report back to Council.

CARRIED

DIVISION

FOR: Councillors Gaylard, Fristacky, Coleman, Stone and Jolly

AGAINST: Councillors Vlahogiannis, Colanzi and Barbour

CARRIED