



Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve Master Plan

A new Master Plan for Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve has now been developed and is ready for community feedback.

Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve is the primary sports recreation precinct for residents of Riddells Creek and district. The Master Plan will guide the future use and development of the reserve for the next 15+ years.

The reserve is a Crown land reserve managed by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and features a diverse range of sport, recreation and community facilities. The following clubs/ groups are based at the reserve :

- Riddell Football Netball Club
- Riddells Creek Junior Football Netball Club
- Riddell Cricket Club
- Riddells Creek Tennis Club
- Riddells Creek Netball Association
- Riddells Creek Junior Mixed Basketball Association
- Riddells Creek Basketball Club
- Macedon Ranges Volleyball Association
- Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club
- 1st Riddells Creek Scout Group

Importantly, the Riddells Creek Leisure Centre also located at the reserve is a designated Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort.

Study Background

A previous reserve development plan was prepared in 2009 and has underpinned most of the reserve's upgrade during the past 17 years. It is now timely to 'refresh' the plan to reflect the contemporary sporting and recreation needs of the Riddells Creek district community, particularly given the district's projected population growth to 2046 of an estimated 7,800 people (2021 population was 4,750).

Much of the projected population growth can be attributed to the Amess Road Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) and associated Development Contributions Plan (DCP) that were incorporated into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme in August 2025.

The PSP includes the development of local parks throughout the new residential planning area but does not include any provision for new sporting facilities. However, the DCP includes specific requirements for new and improved community sporting and recreation facilities at Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve to accommodate the increased population, and this has also been a key trigger for the development of new Master Plan.

Other Drivers of the Master Plan

- Ensure sporting and recreation facilities are fit for purpose and align with accepted industry guidelines
- Maximise opportunities for multipurpose, flexible and shared-use facilities
- Assess the capacity of existing sporting facilities to accommodate females, particularly change rooms and amenities
- Reflect changing needs of user groups and community
- Ensure the reserve continues to be a desirable destination for residents to engage in social and informal active recreation
- Improve traffic management (car parking and internal roads) and the connection of pedestrian networks

We Want Your Feedback

Community members and stakeholders are invited to review the draft Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve Master Plan and provide feedback.

Visit the [Your Say](#) page on Council's website to view the draft Master Plan and make a submission.

Following the exhibition period, the final draft Master Plan is proposed to be presented to Council for considered and adoption in April 2027.

For further information, email recreationsubmissions@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Consultation Undertaken



December 2025

Meetings with user groups
(combined membership of 1,460)
Meetings with other stakeholders



February 2026

Community Survey
(89 completed surveys)



August 2026

Meetings with user groups to review
reserve concept plans

What the community told us

- 84% of survey respondents use the reserve at least once per week
- Most respondents use the reserve to 'watch sport' (59%) and for 'personal exercise' (58%), whilst 47% use the reserve to 'walk the dog'
- Priority improvements nominated by respondents are:
 - Provide dedicated outdoor netball courts
 - Upgrade change rooms, and provide changing rooms for netballers
 - Upgrade of the skate park
 - Include a fenced dog park, a second indoor court, and a second sports field

Key Consideration for the Master Plan

Amess Road PSP and DCP

Requires that the reserve incorporate the following:

1. New multi-sport playing field
2. Four new outdoor hardcourts
3. Full reconstruction of the main oval
4. District level play space
5. Skate park renewal
6. Upgrade of the oval pavilion
7. Ancillary car parking, footpaths, landscaping, open space furniture, drainage and related infrastructure

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

Access and Movement

- More car parking
- Overflow car parking areas are too wet in winter

- Main entrance upgrades to improve safety
- Expanded and connected pedestrian path network

Sporting Facilities

- Leisure Centre general upgrades, additional storage and provision for a potential future second indoor court.



- Two outdoor netball courts are required with netball change rooms
- Second sports field is required to better meet future needs for football and cricket, and any emerging field-based sports
- New tennis clubroom, and additional courts required

Community Facilities

- Support for a fenced dog park
- Surface of the Dog Club training and competition area is poor



Open Space/ Landscape Character

- Improved security lighting
- Stormwater management across the reserve requires management



Key Directions of the Master Plan

The draft Riddells Creek Recreation Reserve Master Plan includes several key strategic directions for enhancing the sporting and recreational uses of the reserve.

It is important to note that the new vision for the reserve is a **long term plan**; with the timing of the delivery of the new/upgraded infrastructure reliant on Amess Road DCP funding being wholly dependent on this residential growth and development occurring, whilst other projects will rely on Council and/or external funding becoming available.

Second sports field

The consultant team investigated various locations and layout plans to accommodate a second sports field within the reserve. The proposed field is intended to support training, junior sport and overflow use, helping address capacity constraints and future demand. A key design requirement was that the field be capable of accommodating senior cricket matches, some junior football matches (Under 15 and below), and senior soccer matches (if required in the future).

The nominated location of the proposed second sports field will require the Dog Club and Scout Hall to be relocated to the eastern side of the reserve, and the skate park. Whilst its east-west orientation is not ideal, a north-south orientation could not be achieved without removing the existing tennis courts, which remain in good condition. The loss of the western side of the central sealed car park is offset by the additional car parking along the reserve road to the north.

Netball Courts

The proposed two netball courts with courtside shelters, lighting and perimeter fence, and the new netball change rooms as an extension to the current Amenities and Canteen building, will deliver fit-for-purpose facilities for netballers and consolidate all football-netball club activities.

The new netball courts will require the existing stand of cypress trees to be removed, however, significant additional tree planting is proposed throughout the reserve to offset this loss.

Tennis Courts

The two new tennis courts and clubroom will deliver fit-for-purpose facilities for tennis players, and will help future-proof the club against expected additional demand for tennis from the increased population, whilst at the same time providing flexibility to meet any future demand for pickleball or other allied racquet sports.

Riddells Creek Leisure Centre

The draft Master Plan supports upgrades to the existing Leisure Centre indoor court, improved ventilation, and additional equipment storage.

The draft Master Plan also allows for a future second indoor court, however, it will be a long term project subject to future demonstrated demand, indoor court utilisation trends, population growth, and funding availability; the recent expansion of the indoor stadium at the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct (10 minutes away) is expected to meet indoor sports demand for the foreseeable future.

Playspace and active recreation

A new district-level playspace with BBQ and picnic facilities will help activate the north-eastern section of the reserve and includes a new local skate park in accordance with Council's Skate and BMX Strategy (2023). The provision of a unisex public toilet and dedicated car parking will be investigated during the detailed design stage, subject to the outcomes of the Macedon Ranges Play Strategy, to support the long-term use and popularity.

Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club

With a relocation from its current site required, the master plan shows a new Dog Club facility with the dog training and event space doubling as a publicly accessible fenced dog park when not required for authorized club activities. The dedicated car parking will enable the club to continue to grow without the current challenges of sharing parking and space with football, netball, tennis and Leisure Centre uses.

Scouts

The new sports field requires the 1st Riddells Creek Scouts to also relocate to the eastern side of the reserve. The master plan shows a dedicated scouting space with its relocated Hall (subject to engineering assessment), a new external store, and outdoor activities area.

Traffic and Car Parking

New car parking and the upgrade of existing overflow car parking areas will ensure sufficient new parking will be available to accommodate increased usage of the reserve commensurate with the town's growth. Other important inclusions are improvements to traffic flow and the installation of pedestrian safe-crossing points.

Pedestrian Path

The draft Master Plan supports a new and integrated path network of both sealed and unsealed paths to better connect the various sport and recreation sub-precincts within the reserve. The path network is also designed to encourage increased personal exercise by local residents (walking, jogging, cycling) with its range of looped path options to vary distances and levels of interest.

