

### VISION

A healthier, more active community that participates in a diverse range of recreational pursuits regardless of age, gender, ability and cultural background. Infrastructure, facilities, parks and programs will be inviting and accessible to the whole community who will enjoy improved health and wellbeing as a result.

### Purpose

To review the implementation of actions for the 'Active for Life' Recreation Strategy' for 2015/16.

There has been a focus this year on increasing participation in recreation, active travel and encouraging residents to be active in our parks and natural spaces. Significant investment has been made in highball, Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre and sports such as football, cricket, tennis, baseball and bowls infrastructure.

The following attachments give a snapshot of achievements:

- Exciting new playspaces
- Planning for our community
- Showcasing our bushland reserves – Nature Play
- Investing in our active community
- Inspiring the community to get active outdoors
- Getting around on our trails and walking circuits
- Partnering with our community – Active Travel – kids on the move

### FOUR OBJECTIVES

**One:** To increase participation in recreation in Manningham.

**Two:** To ensure the community has diverse recreational choices in Manningham.

**Three:** To provide great places for people to recreate in Manningham.

**Four:** To inspire people to participate in recreation in Manningham.

### Measuring Success

- The *Active for Life Recreation Strategy 2010-2025 Action Plan* is nearly complete. 80% of the project specific actions have been completed, with the final 20% to be completed over the next few years.
- 40% of all the listed actions are ongoing and not project specific. These actions are addressed regularly and ongoing into the future.
- This strategy has not only strategically planned for numerous facility upgrades /developments but has inspired many members of the community to try new forms of exercise, walk instead of drive, and spend more time in our parks.

### Looking Forward

- The Strategy will be reviewed in 2016/17 with a new implementation plan being developed -'Active for Life Recreation Strategy Implementation Plan 2017-2025'
- New focus areas include:
  - Limited financial resources
  - Increasing demand for soccer facilities
  - Increasing density in Doncaster Hill and adjacent (Tullamore housing development)
  - Modified and flexible recreation opportunities
  - Women in sport (State Inquiry)
  - Supporting less recognised recreation groups / clubs



### ✓ Ticking the Actions

#### Action 4.3.42

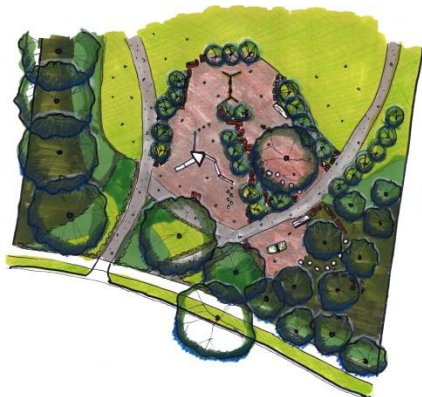
Continue to develop and maintain local, district and regional play spaces with a variety of play opportunities for all ages and abilities, ranging from natural play elements to challenging equipment, in line with the *Open Space Strategy* and *Urban and Park Design Guideline*.

#### Action 4.3.43

Investigate the installation of a range of informal recreation equipment, such as basketball courts, soccer nets, rebound wall in two sites, as appropriate for informal community use.

### ✓ Ticking Priorities

- Increase the levels of recreation participation for children to assist in healthy development and physical and mental wellbeing.
- Increase the proportion of people achieving the national physical activity guidelines.
- Improve communication with the community and increase exposure to recreation opportunities and benefits.



Concept design - Sharon Reserve

### Exciting new playspaces

<b>Reserve</b>	Reserve upgrades include new signage, bollards, additional seating and planting. This year there was an emphasis on innovative landscaping as an integral part of the play component.
<b>Currawong Bush Park</b>	Sculpture trail including life size wooden animal sculptures, woven willow cubby house, giant nest and a stepping stone trail.
<b>Sharon</b>	New play equipment suitable for a range of ages, landscaped stepping stone trail through the garden beds and a circuit path serving adjacent retirement village.
<b>Spring Valley</b>	New play equipment suitable for a range of ages, enlarged basketball pad, new netball/ basketball tower, full length cricket pitch and an improved path network.
<b>Westwood</b>	New playspace (including landscaping and equipment) suitable for young children.
<b>Sandra and Stanley</b>	New paths and landscaping at park entrances and along street frontage.
<b>Tullamore</b>	Work in partnership with Mirvac (property developer) on detailed design of three playgrounds planned within the development.
<b>Playground Inspections</b>	Keeping our playgrounds safe with regular inspections and audit works.

#### Measuring Success

- **6** parks upgraded with **\$370,000**
- **1600** families consulted about park upgrades (3 playgrounds)
- **102** families provided feedback about their local park (3 playgrounds)

#### Looking Forward

- Promote our wonderful new outdoor spaces
- Maintain playground safety through ongoing audit works
- Upgrade our parks to cater for the needs of both children and adults



Currawong Bush Park



Spring Valley Reserve

### ✓ Ticking the Actions

#### Action 4.5.35

Undertake the development and implementation of Management Plans including Rieschiecks Reserve.

### ✓ Ticking Priorities

- Support and encourage community recreation and sporting groups to reach their potential.
- Improve communication with the community and increase exposure to recreation opportunities.
- Ensure future facility development provides for a diverse range of recreation pursuits and flexibility of use into the future.
- Maximising use of existing facilities.

### Measuring Success

- **3,341 households** were consulted about management plans.
- **357 submissions** were made through consultation with the community.

## Planning for our community

This year saw a range of planning projects including a successful regional funding application, and preparation and consultation for a number of community recreation reserves.

#### Domeney Reserve

Project planning, background studies and initial community consultation has been completed.

#### Harold Link upgrade

Development plan endorsed to improve this Council owned reserve, with a shared access to be constructed.

#### Koonung Park

The draft plan based on 2015 consultation went out for public exhibition and is awaiting Council approval.

#### Lawford Reserve

The draft plan based on 2015 consultation went out for public exhibition and is awaiting Council approval.

#### Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy

In partnership with other eastern region Councils, this Council endorsed strategy provides a snapshot of the current provision of regional facilities, identifies future priorities and sets up a collaborative regional planning process.

#### Rieschiecks Reserve

Working with Kevin Heinze GROW to create a landscaped garden for the community when they relocate to Rieschiecks Reserve in 2020.

### Looking Forward

- In partnership with the Eastern Councils, apply for funding for a regional trails network.
- Recreation Strategy review will update priority areas and develop new actions for a healthier and more active community.
- The completion of Domeney Reserve Management Plan will be a guide for the future development and management of the Reserve.
- The finalized Masterplan will transform Lawford Reserve when it is implemented in 2017/18.
- Work with Canoeing Victoria planning a regional paddle sports centre at their state headquarters in Westerfolds Park (State government funding).



### ✓ Ticking the Actions

#### Action 4.5.1

Encourage residents and particularly children to explore the natural environment through interpretative signage, community art and active programming.

#### Action 4.6.19

Promote to residents and community groups state-wide events such as the Premier's Active Challenge, Ride To Work Day and other relevant events.

### ✓ Ticking Priorities

- Increase the levels of recreation participation for children to assist in healthy development and physical and mental wellbeing.
- Increase the proportion of people achieving the national physical activity guidelines.
- Maximise use of existing facilities.
- Demonstrate leadership in relation to climate change to reduce operational and participant greenhouse gas emissions and adapting programs in response to our changing climate.

## Showcasing our bushland reserves Nature Play

Council's Nature Play programs continue to increase in popularity with full programs of both, new and returning (repeat) families.

The programs continue to introduce families to unstructured outdoor play with the aim of such play becoming a regular part of every child's life. In addition, the introduction of Manningham Nature Play Network trains early years and primary school educators to encourage and promote time in nature as part of the curriculum.

Nature play activities this year included:

- simple nature craft
- cubby building
- nature walks led by the nature detectives
- Currawong 'earth walk' as part of Junior Ranger Program

In 2016 designated nature play areas at Finns Reserve and Zerbes Reserve were introduced to encourage children to do their own cubby building with bush materials sourced by Parks and Recreation staff. Located next to playgrounds, these areas are proving popular with positive community feedback. Council encourages the community to create their own cubby building areas and cubby houses have been found on the Mullum Mullum Trail, Ruffey Lake Park and Morris Williams Reserve.

The challenge for the forthcoming year is twofold:

- To promote and successfully encourage Manningham families who are yet to experience our nature play programs to participate
- To instil in those who have already participated in our programs the ease and simplicity for families to incorporate unstructured nature play activities into free time and school holidays themselves.

### Measuring Success

- Over 200 children participated in nature play activities this year.
- All programs were booked to capacity.

### Looking Forward

- Continue using Manningham Active Kids as a tool to get kids outside and in our parks.
- Encourage Council outdoor staff to retain informal cubbies made by local kids in our parks.



Bird watching at Currawong Bush Park



Nature Play at Finns Reserve



Save the Frogs Day at Currawong Bush Park

### ✓ Ticking the Actions

#### Action 4.5.23

Implement the Aquarena Masterplan to better facilitate aquatics in Manningham, with the inclusion of the carpark expansion.

#### Action 4.5.31

Identify three appropriate sites within open space to install stretching and fitness equipment for general community use including older adults, and facilitate an 'activation program' for the general community.

#### Action 4.4.12

Support local sport and recreation groups to apply for funding through Manningham's Community Facilities Capital Works program to address high priority areas as identified in this strategy.

### ✓ Ticking Priorities

- Close the gap in participation levels that currently exist between males and females.
- Provide attractive recreation options for young people aged 12 – 25 years and reduce the participation drop off rate.
- Increase the proportion of people achieving the national physical activity guidelines.

## Investing in our active community

Council has invested in excess of \$14,097,568 on projects that include facility upgrades for sport and recreation clubs and Manningham community. Upgrades to our reserves include:

#### Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre

- Completing the Aquarena Masterplan, 2015/16 works include the pedestrian sky bridge from the carpark, new warm water indoor pool and outdoor water splash play area, new wellness centre and a larger health club.

#### Doncaster Reserve

- Sportsground floodlighting to improve training opportunities for the three football and cricket clubs.

#### Deep Creek Reserve

- Upgrade to baseball field to improve playing conditions for the Doncaster Baseball Club.

#### Donvale Reserve

- Upgrade of all practice wickets to improve the training opportunities for the cricket club.
- Resurfacing and improved irrigation for the male, female junior and senior members of Donvale Tennis Club.

#### Koonung Park

- In partnership with the State Government, exercise equipment for the community (also at Jenkins Park).
- Sportsground floodlighting upgrade for Manningham Cobras Football Club.

#### Mullum Mullum Reserve

- Planning approval to build five new indoor sports courts. Preliminary works, including pedestrian and cycling paths, carparking and landscaping are currently underway.
- Replacement of synthetic green at Donvale Bowls Club.

#### Stintons Reserve

- Sportsground refurbishment with improved drainage and a new irrigation system to benefit the three football and cricket clubs.

#### Ted Ajani Reserve

- Exercise equipment for the community (State Government partnership) with a focus on older adults. Followed up with launch and activation program.
- Protective netting behind the goals to benefit the three football and cricket clubs and protect surrounding properties from damage.
- Extensive tree planting throughout the reserve to improve the amenity.

#### Templestowe Reserve

- Refurbishment of scout hall for the 1st Templestowe Scout group.
- Improvements to the Flat Track facility (remote control car racing)

#### Wonga Park Reserve

- Refurbishment of tennis club pavilion including outdoor social area and new kitchen.

#### Measuring Success

- 2015/16 works have benefitted in excess of 2,000 sports club members.
- \$837,206 external funding has assisted with infrastructure

#### Looking Forward

- Increase female membership rate by 7% in sport clubs through improved infrastructure.
- Fulfill grant obligations of \$750,000 on sports infrastructure at Mullum Mullum stadium and Donvale Reserve sports pavilion.
- Planning for sports infrastructure at 7 reserves has commenced for 2016/17.



Scout hall



Exercise equipment

### Inspiring the community to get active outdoors

#### ✓ Ticking the Actions

##### Action 4.6.14

Develop a series of six activities to promote our local parks and reserves and play opportunities; including children's play activities with a play facilitator, adventure/nature walk, know your park, informal games, and Council Ward meetings in the park.

##### Action 4.6.1

To promote recreation and sporting opportunities via a diverse range of communication mediums to capture the attention of the specific population segments.

#### ✓ Ticking Priorities

- Increase the participation levels of key target groups in the community including ageing, people with a disability and people from CALD backgrounds.
- Increase participation for people of all ages to achieve the National Physical Activity Guidelines.
- Maximise use of existing facilities.



Bird watching at Currawong Bush Park

The following programs and events were provided free to the community to encourage activity and exercise in our parks and open spaces.

<b>Exercise in the Park</b>	As part of the activation program to create awareness of three new exercise equipment projects (State Government partnership), a personal trainer introduced local residents at Jenkins Park, Koonung Park and Ted Ajani Reserve over two programs; November/December 2015 and March/April 2016.
<b>Walk It Up</b>	The inaugural event was held at Ruffey Lake Park in October 2015 to celebrate walking with the community and walking groups. With a large turnout, the community requested a second <i>Walk It Up</i> during milder weather which occurred in April 2016.
<b>Promoting Exercise and Events</b>	Manningham Active Kids Facebook page, Invigorate (rebranded Rec Wrap) – quarterly health and recreation magazine, Council webpage and Manningham Matters.
<b>Plaza Park, MC Civic Square.</b>	Programs for everyone included; Tai Chi Fridays, Move More Sit Less, School holiday fun, Social Circuit and Social Spin at Plaza Park. Tai Chi was popular so additional sessions were programmed.
<b>Nature Play</b>	Nature Play at Finns Reserve, Save the Frogs Day, Night Bush Walks and Bird Watching at Currawong Bush Park.
<b>National Tree Day</b>	102 people were involved in planting trees together in Ruffey Lake Park, improving Manningham's natural environment and public open space. A great outcome in the middle of winter!

#### Measuring Success

- **187** members on Manningham Active Kids.
- The first edition of Invigorate (quarterly) was published December 2015 with 155 **subscriptions** and a wide distribution to libraries, clubs and community organisations.
- **434** participants registered to attend at least one of the classes on offer.
- **62%** increase in participation for the second *Walk It Up* event; 40 in 2015, 64 in 2016.

#### Looking Forward

- Continue activating the exercise equipment in our parks with a focus on Koonung Park in 2017.
- Continue increasing subscription numbers for Manningham Active Kids and *Invigorate*.
- More involvement from the community to plan events such as junior nature club at Currawong and *Walk It Up* at Ruffey.



Exercise in the Park at Jenkins Park



Social Spin at Plaza Park

### ✓ Ticking the Actions

#### Action 4.3.22

- Continue to support linear trail developments as identified through existing and proposed reserve management plans:

### ✓ Ticking Priorities

- Increase participation for people of all ages to achieve the National Physical Activity Guidelines.
- Increase the levels of recreation participation for children to assist in healthy development and physical and mental wellbeing.
- Maximizing use of existing facilities.

### Measuring Success

#### Principal Pedestrian Network

- 5 projects completed
- 1.8km of pedestrian path constructed
- \$1 million spent

#### Bicycle Strategy

- 4 projects completed
- 520m of shared path constructed
- \$0.6 million spent

## Getting around on our trails and walking circuits

Manningham has shared paths and many walking trails throughout our parks. A snapshot follows of the many works which have been achieved this year as a result of their relevant management plans.

**Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park:** With the completion of the Bellbird steps into Currawong Bush Park, a 4.5 kilometre circuit on both sides of the creek was achieved. Construction commenced of the final one kilometre missing section of the Mullum Mullum Trail, due for completion in March 2017.

**Green Gully Linear Park:** New steps at Roscoe Drive, retrieving public open space with a new connection at Dickens Close and three stations of exercise equipment at Jenkins Park are the first improvements actioned from the 2014 Management Plan.

**Koonung Creek Linear Park:** Actions implemented from the 2011 Management Plan this year include upgraded connections in Doncaster and Donvale.

**100 Acres Reserve:** Interpretive and way finding signage throughout the path network have been installed to enhance the visitor experience and make dog and horse regulations in the park clear for local residents.

**Zerbes Reserve:** A new walking circuit around sportsground and upgraded path network in the Taunton Street vicinity.

**Ruffey Trail:** As part of the review of the Ruffey Creek Linear Park Management Plan, project planning, background studies and initial community consultation has been completed.

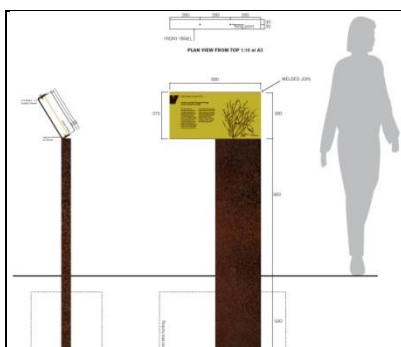
**Finns Reserve:** Footbridge to complete the loop walking circuit within the Reserve.

**Doncaster Hill:** New link between Doncaster Primary School and Hummell Way to improve pedestrian safety in the Civic Precinct.

**Sharon Reserve and Spring Valley Reserve:** New paths creating better links through our neighbourhood parks to bus stops and the street network.

### Looking Forward

- More paths to be built at Zerbes Reserve in 2016 will complete the path network at this Reserve.
- Review of the Ruffey Creek Linear Park Management Plan will ensure further improvements are endorsed.
- Promote the 42 kilometre continuous circuit around Manningham created by the completion of the Mullum Mullum Trail.



Interpretative signage



Bellbird steps



Koonung Creek Linear Park

### Partnering with our Community Active Travel – kids on the move

#### ✓ Ticking the Actions

##### Action 4.3.35

Assess the VicHealth Walking School Bus Program and the outcomes of the Doncaster PS pilot project to establish active school travel programs.

##### Action 4.3.36

Monitor the success of the VicHealth Streets Ahead program and implement their findings to increase active travel.

##### Action 3.2.2

(Walk Manningham Plan). Encourage and support the development and implementation of Active School Travel Plans.

#### Planning, Promotion, Programming

Provided support to 5 primary schools who are actively implementing their active travel plan to their school community (exposure to 2900 students).

Facilitated the process for two primary schools to develop an active travel plan (exposure to 813 students).

Promoted national days, such as Ride to School Day and Walk Safely to School Day to 22 primary schools.

Facilitated an Active Travel Plan program evaluation with Serpell, Milgate and Park Orchards Primary Schools, including the development of new priority areas and action plan.

Supported the Doncaster Hill Mode Shift project.

Facilitated two active travel school forums with the aim to encourage more schools to promote active travel and to create a supportive local active travel schools network.

Supported the coordination of a regional planning and networking forum.

#### ✓ Ticking the Priorities

- Increase recreation among children.
- Increase the proportion of people achieving the national physical activity guidelines.
- Increase recreation for young people 12-25 years old.
- Improve communication and promotion.

#### Measuring Success

- 4,600 students exposed to active travel (behavior change) program.
- 54% local primary schools engaged in Council led active travel initiatives.
- Over 50 school activities were held to promote active travel during Walk to School Month.
- 12 schools participated in VicHealth Walk to School Month.
- 2 active travel forums held.

#### Looking Forward

- Active travel program evaluation.
- Developing a partnership with Deakin University.
- Inaugural Bike It Event – Eastern Inter-school Bicycle Skills Competition.
- Regional planning and networking meeting.
- Doncaster Hill Mode Shift project.

