

# RIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN REPORT





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Issue	Description	Date	Client
1	Draft Master Plan Report	11/02/2022	City of Unley
2	Draft Master Plan Report	13/05/2022	City of Unley
3	Draft Master Plan Report	7/07/2022	City of Unley
4	Master Plan Report	5/08/2022	City of Unley

## Acknowledgement of Country

Ngadlurlu tampinhi, ngadlu Kurna yartangka inparrinhi. Ngadlurlu parnuku tuwila yartangka tampinhi.  
Ngadlurlu Kurna Miyurna yaiya yarta mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku tampinhi. Parnuku yailtya, parnuku tapa purruna yalarra puru purruna.

We acknowledge that the land we meet on today is the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual connection with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

Kurna Translation provided by Kurna Warra Karrpanthi.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ENHANCING COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AT RIDGE PARK

The Ridge Park Master Plan provides a clear vision for the Park, which demonstrates the Council's strategic aspirations of the Community Plan. From initial community engagement, the vision is realised in four (4) key design directions, that builds on the existing character and amenity of Unley's largest park.

Central to the Master Plan are the four key actions for achieving the vision of the Master Plan:

- 1. Junior Sports Hub**
- 2. Wilding and Nature Play**
- 3. Small Wheel Hub**
- 4. New Paths and Lighting**

The Ridge Park Master Plan sets out a Vision for Ridge Park that is accessible, inclusive and supports a more intense use from a broader range of users and community.

The Master Plan is ambitious in terms of seeking to deliver a significant upgrade to what is an important open space within the City. In this respect, the implementation of the Master Plan will be staged, requiring a long term commitment to the various priorities.

The Master Plan and vision will provide direction for Council to seek additional partners, including peak sporting groups, Federal and State Government department to co-fund many of the majority community infrastructure improvements.



SECTION 01:

# **THE CASE FOR THE RIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN**

## UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES RAISED DURING PREVIOUS COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Following initial community consultation undertaken in early 2021, three themes emerged which would form the basis of the new Master Plan for Ridge Park.

These are:

1. **Junior Sport and Community Recreation**
2. **Wilding, Stormwater Control and Harvesting**
3. **Community Services, Facilities and Infrastructure**

Following a site analysis and investigation process, it is apparent that these issues are evident, and that there is a need for the Ridge Park Master Plan to **implement a strategy** to incorporate these three themes.

Our analysis of Ridge Park suggests that:

- The **natural features** and wilding are an asset, which should be improved and managed, **preserving the existing biodiversity**
- The park has a **well-connected set of paths** of varying terrain, usage, condition, and legibility
- There is a **demand for permanent sport facilities** for various users on the site, facilities which would also have community benefit
- Ridge Park has the opportunity to **attract more (and new) users** to the site, if the facilities were improved and use is planned fairly
- The **community ownership** and sense of place is high



# BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF RECENT INVESTMENTS IN COUNCIL SPORTS & COMMUNITY

The City of Unley has committed to **improvements** to both **Goodwood Oval** and **Unley Oval** through grandstand upgrades, facility upgrades, path and linkage upgrades, and to **encourage greater utilisation** of these public spaces.

**Ridge Park** is the **third open space** within the City of Unley Council area which hosts structured sport. Ridge Park presents an opportunity to elevate its presence of **junior sport** and **community recreation** in the Council area through identifying needs and desires through a Master Plan process. Community as well as family benefit to both new facilities and formalised sports areas would be substantial, raising community ownership and passive surveillance.

## RIDGE PARK'S UNIQUENESS

Whilst providing a full-sized oval, Ridge Park positions itself firmly as a 'junior sport hub', with key users utilising the oval and tennis courts.

The organised sport is set amongst a large reserve, with no structured facilities for sporting users, including grandstands, structured spectator area, and changerooms.



# WEAVING TOGETHER THE SITE'S UNIQUE HISTORY

## “A pleasure resort for the people of the State, and of Glen Osmond” – Miss Gwen Scammell, 1906

Ridge Park embodies a history of **strong culture, community, and inclusivity**. The appreciation of Ridge Park's history has been central to forming a Master Plan that celebrates the foundations of the past, while ultimately creating an active and integrated community destination for a wide variety of recreation and local sports clubs users.



SECTION 02:

# **THE SITE & CONCEPT BRIEF**

## THE PRECINCT TODAY

Set amongst a **established residential community**, Ridge Park functions as a relaxing natural park setting for passive recreation as well as a popular venue for regular community activities, and is also home to junior sports including tennis, cricket and football.

With its eastern edge addressing the **heavy transport route** of Glen Osmond Road, the remaining boundaries are characterised by **residential and aged care properties**, with these leafy streets typically of a **low-density nature**.

The **Glen Osmond Creek** stormwater catchment runs through the site and the immediate locality. This creek is **open in sections**, including the entirety of Ridge Park. This creek links a series of tree-lined green belts through the Myrtle Bank suburb until it reaches Scammell Reserve, where it then enters a culvert system.

Sitting at the immediate **edge of the City of Unley Council area**, Glen Osmond Road also forms a Council boundary to City of Burnside. To the south of the site, and opposite Cross Road, is the City of Mitcham. These **two Council areas** are both **within a 400 metre radius from the centre** of the site, which would suggest that visitors of Ridge Park reside in these two other Council areas. The reserve also functions formally as a district attraction, and informally as a regional reserve.



## THE SITE TODAY

Ridge Park is characterised by its **well-established trees** and native vegetation throughout the park, and along the Glen Osmond Creek.

Ridge Park is home to a large playing oval, tennis courts, outdoor fitness equipment, walking trails, an informal off-leash dog area, skate park, playgrounds and public BBQ areas.

The playing fields and courts are used in organised, semi structured and casual fashion, with the ovals use reflecting mainly junior user groups.

Walking tracks are use heavily for casual recreation, dog walking as well as jogging and exercise for all age ranges. The Scout Hall provides a range of services & the hall is available to hire for the community.

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Playing Oval           | 7 Public BBQ Area                |
| 2 Community Shelter      | 8 Skate Park                     |
| 3 Public Toilets         | 9 Existing Trees                 |
| 4 Glen Osmond Scout Hall |                                  |
| 5 Tennis Courts          | --- Existing Pedestrian Pathways |
| 6 Creek Embankment       | - - - Glen Osmond Creek line     |



## USER GROUP ANALYSIS: WHO USES THE SITE TODAY

Part of the challenge in creating a master plan for Ridge Park is to balance existing demands with potential future opportunities to become a precinct that **caters for all needs** of the community. This will require a careful balance and future programming for use of spaces to share and maximise use.

City of Unley's initial consultation has identified the end user groups experience and the demand on Ridge Park. The user numbers and their purposes for using the Park show a broad and diverse use profile.

### USER GROUPS PROFILE

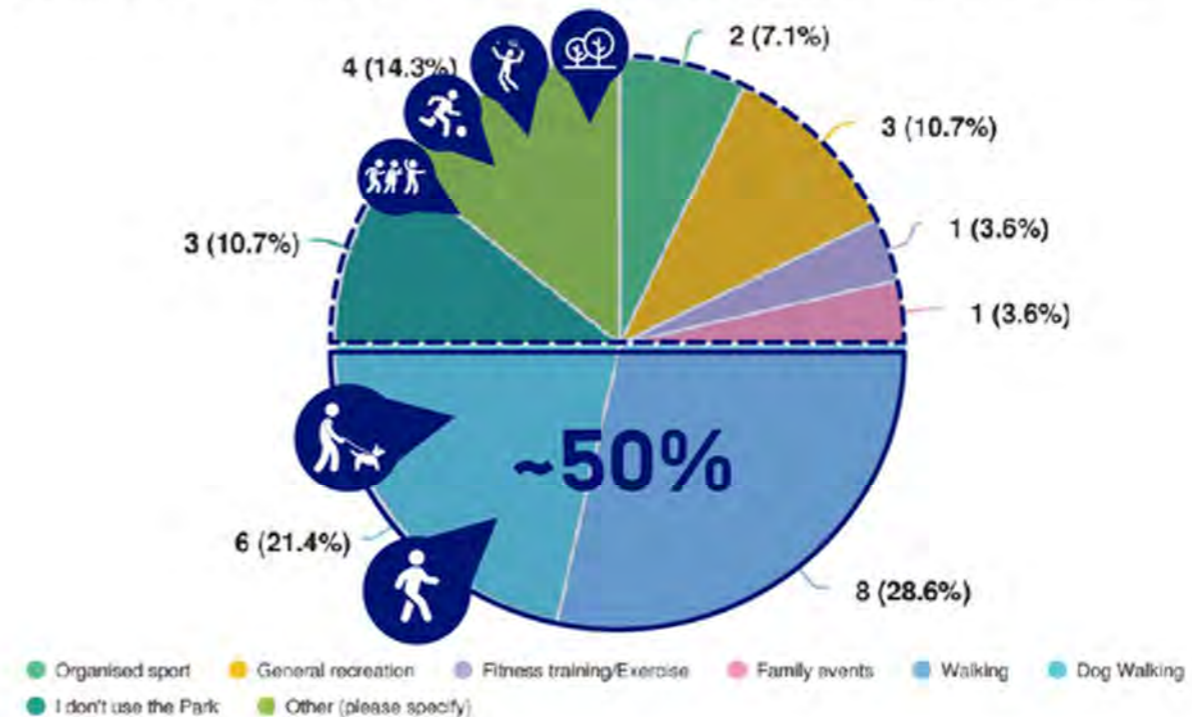
Analysis of the City of Unley's data shows that the greatest user profile are those who use the Park casually for walking, exercise and dog walking at approximately half.

The profile and proliferation of users decreases and diversifies rapidly after this, with the other 50 % mixed between casual leisure, organised sport and general recreation uses.

### IN-DEMAND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Ridge Park has a long history of well-utilised open spaces and in-demand community facilities. As the user group information indicates, those facilities working the hardest are those relating to the largest user groups. Safe Design principles will need to be implemented to cater for these loads, for example in the design of shared pathways for safe travel.

BREAKDOWN OF VISITORS BY USE RIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN CONSULTATION SUMMARY, 2021



# USER GROUP ANALYSIS: IDENTIFYING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Creating a balance in delivering future amenities for Ridge Park requires exploring opportunities within the feedback from User Groups as well as demand. Opportunities come from those user groups perhaps under represented, are a growing demographic, or whose potential might be unlocked if provided with increased infrastructure.

Developing opportunities for **growing sport and leisure participation** will provide an increasingly **multi-purpose place** to allow for **future flexibility**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR USER GROUPS

The user groups identified through the information gathering process that have a high demand of the Ridge Park Area tended to be the casual user / walker group).

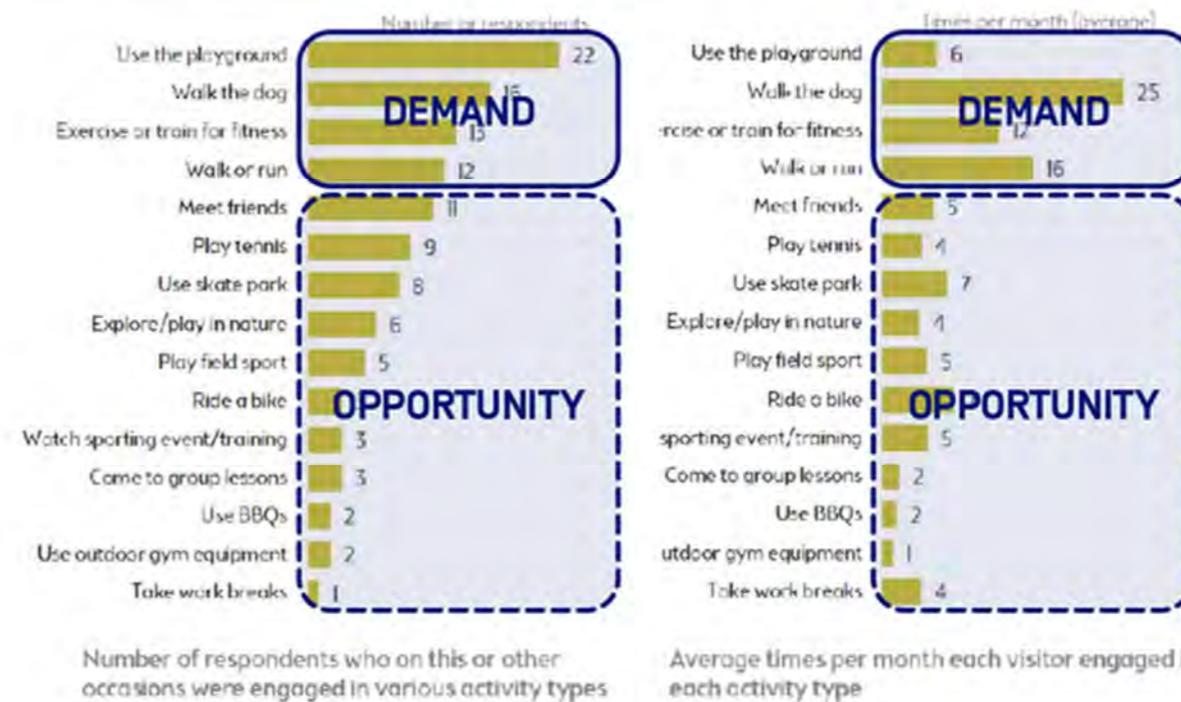
Using this data we see that paths and those features supporting them (lighting, exercise stations, seating, shelter) are those most in demand. Improving their condition, improving options of travel, legibility, wayfinding and accessibility.

## OPPORTUNITY IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES

User data for Ridge Park also identified opportunities in providing new facilities for existing users.

Skating, Nature Play and Junior Sports are user areas that if provided with the right facilities, would increase user intensity.

PARK VISITOR PATTERNS BY USE AND FREQUENCY UNLEY PARKS ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK (DRAFT), 2018



# RESPONSE TO DEMAND & OPPORTUNITIES: DEFINING THE THEMES TO UNDERPIN THE MASTER PLAN

Reflecting on the Demand and Opportunity Analysis there are **four categories of needs and opportunities** that reveal themselves strongly. These are identified as the four main themes to underpin the Master Plan: **destination for junior sports, wilding and nature play, small 'wheel' hub and improving pathways**. One is in response to the greatest demand, with the other three providing great opportunities for the future of Ridge Park.

## DESTINATION FOR JUNIOR SPORTS

The Ridge Park Master Plan project provides an opportunity to reconfigure Junior size AFL oval and multi-line courts to align across the site, increasing uses to include netball, basketball, junior hockey and tennis. The project will create a new community hub at the heart of the site providing permanent offering to sports clubs and spectators.

## WILDING & NATURE PLAY

Ridge Park is characterised by rich, well-established wilding with access points around water infrastructure. The Ridge Park Master Plan project has the potential to build on existing wilding areas to create a nature play precinct. By safely and inclusively capitalising on the static and dynamic elements of the landscape and watercourse,

## 'SMALL WHEEL' HUB

Building on the existing skate bowl, the Ridge Park Master Plan project will provide an opportunity to reimagine the area as a learning space, offering varying users and skills levels appropriate facilities by providing a new scooter pump and BMX tracks.

## IMPROVING PATHWAYS

The opportunity exists to stitch the site together, enhance path conditions, and create new pathways. The possibility further exists to use different material treatments to establish a hierarchy and legibility of paths, increasing usability and safety with upgrades to safe path widths, lighting and wayfinding. Materiality and scale will also feature consistency and similarity in design to integrate with its surroundings seamlessly.



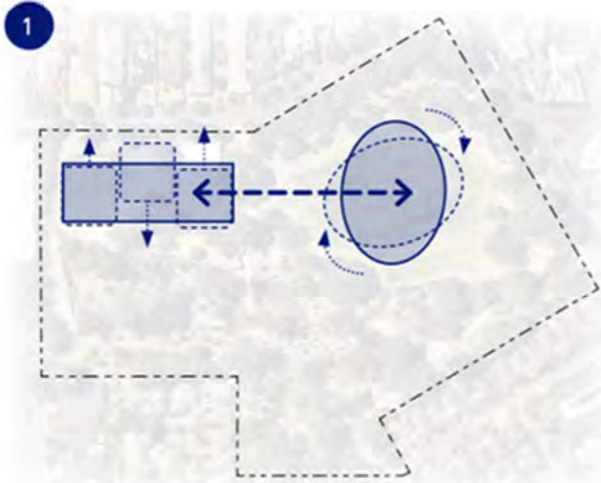
## SECTION 03:

# THE VISION

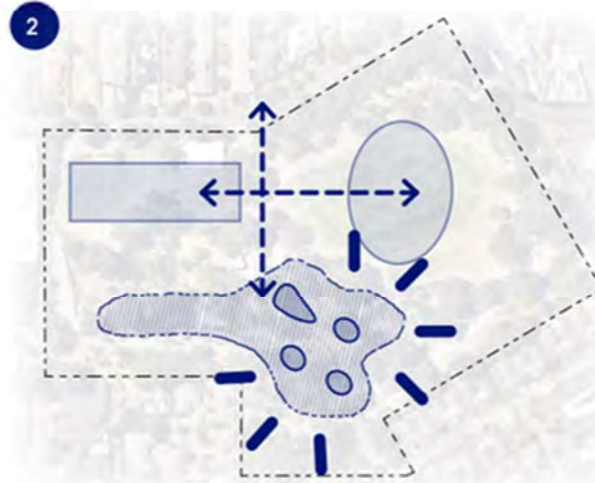
## THE VISION FOR RIDGE PARK

The vision for Ridge Park Master Plan project is to create an **active, integrated** and **community-focused destination** that encompasses the themes of junior sports and community recreation, wilding and stormwater, community services and infrastructure. The Ridge Park Master Plan is underscored by **moments that celebrate the natural topography** of the site and **embrace welcoming & accessible, intergenerational spaces** for the community of today and tomorrow.

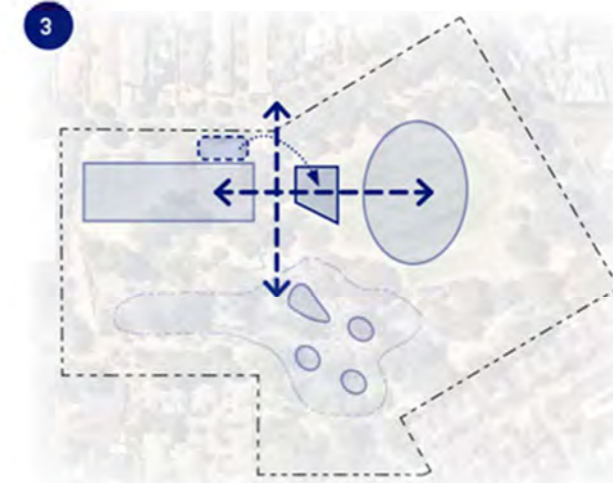
## SIX KEY DESIGN PRINCIPLES: MASTER PLAN



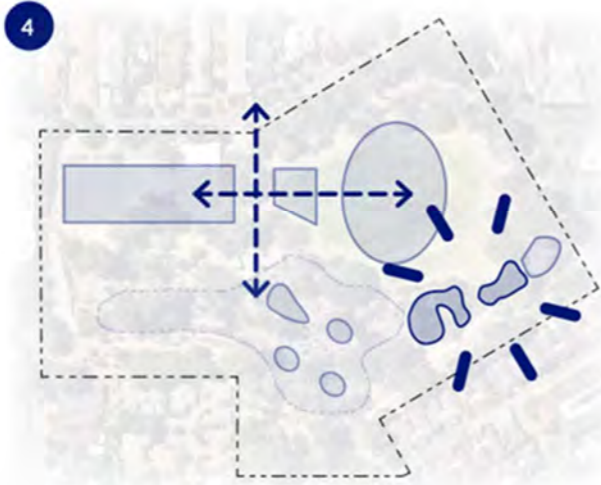
1  
Reconfigure oval and multi-sport courts to align across the site, establishing a junior sports precinct



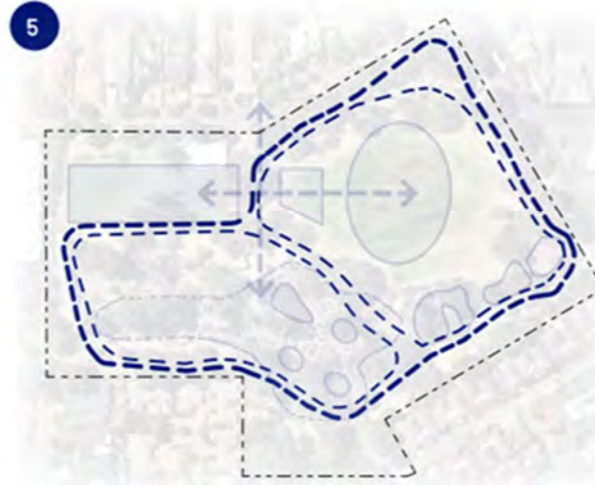
2  
Enhance recreational/wilding areas with new additions, linking into water and nature play opportunities



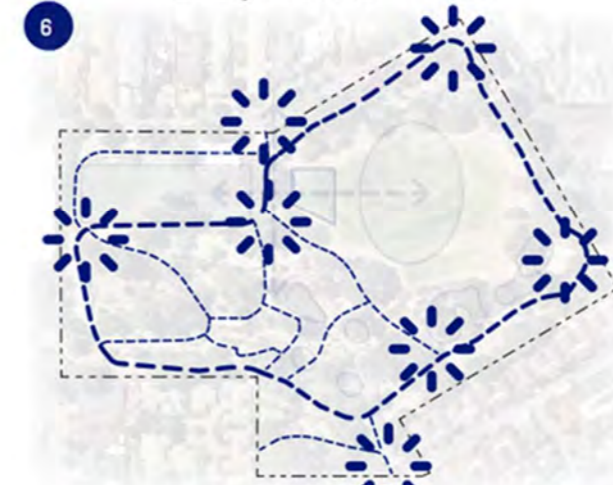
3  
Incorporate the Scout Hall uses in a new Community Hub with shared amenity for community and sporting users, forming the heart of the site



4  
Create a small wheel hub, building on existing skate bowls, to introduce new opportunities for users of all ages, skill level, and ability



5  
Closing the loop on the site through the creation of new and additional paths, bridges and tracks



6  
Enhance path conditions, safety and wayfinding to create new opportunities to celebrate the War Memorial, link nodes, and stitch the site together

# MASTER PLAN



## KEYS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. RECONFIGURED JUNIOR AFL/CRICKET OVAL (80mx60m JUNIOR OVAL PER AFL PREFERRED FACILITY GUIDELINES) | 7. ENHANCED WILDING/PLAY AREAS   |
| 2. NEW MOUND SEATING  | 8. NEW PATHWAY OVER WEIR   |
| 3. NEW COMMUNITY HUB + SCOUT HALL   | 9. ENHANCED PATHS, LIGHTING, WAYFINDING & REST NODES (THROUGHOUT SITE) |
| 4. REFURBISHED MULTI-SPORT COURTS   | 10. IMPROVED LANDSCAPE BUFFER  |
| 5. REFURBISHED/EXTENDED CARPARK   | 11. IMPROVED PLAYGROUND/FITNESS STATION                                |
| 6. NEW SMALL WHEEL HUB (BMX, PUMP TRACK, AND STREET SKATING)  | 12. SURFACE AND LIGHTING UPGRADES TO RIDGE PARK WAR MEMORIAL           |



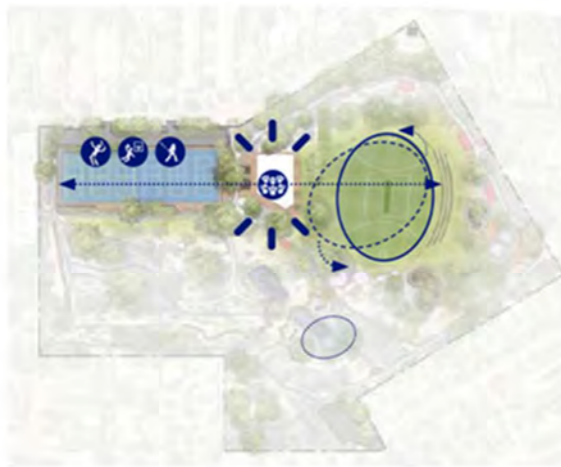
Draft Master Plan  
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SECTION 04:

# **ACHIEVING THE VISION**

## FOUR KEY ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE VISION



### JUNIOR SPORTS HUB

With the growth in demand of local tennis, basketball, netball, cricket and football clubs from near and further afield within the City of Unley are searching for practice and playing fields. The possibility exists to provide change and toilet facilities onsite, consolidating and updating old infrastructure. This would also provide community with much needed improved amenity.



### WILDING & NATURE PLAY

Existing natural areas to be managed for future growth and maintenance. The stormwater and aquifer recharge facility give rise to a terrain that can be used as an exciting nature play opportunity. While improvements are made to the aquifer recharge, small nature installations can help to increase the play opportunity at Ridge.



### 'SMALL WHEEL' HUB

Ridge Park is home to a well recognised asset in the skate bowls near Glen Osmond Road. Skating and scooting are now a great gateway for acquiring skills of agility, balance and dexterity. Expanding the current offering to include a pump track and a BMX track would enable all age and skills to build ability.



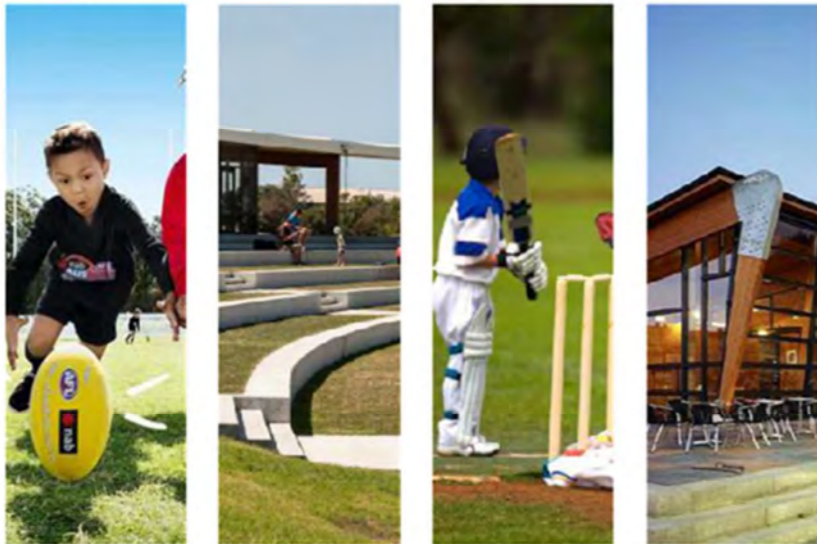
### NEW PATHS & LIGHTING

The substantial use of the pathway infrastructure in Ridge Park is shown in user profiles. The existing network should be upgraded, surfaces improved, wayfinding to be improved, lighting upgraded as well as other peripheral services. Particular attention paid to safe design principles to allow multiple users to safely navigate the park.

## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: JUNIOR SPORTS HUB

### STEPS TO CREATE A HUB FOR JUNIOR SPORTS

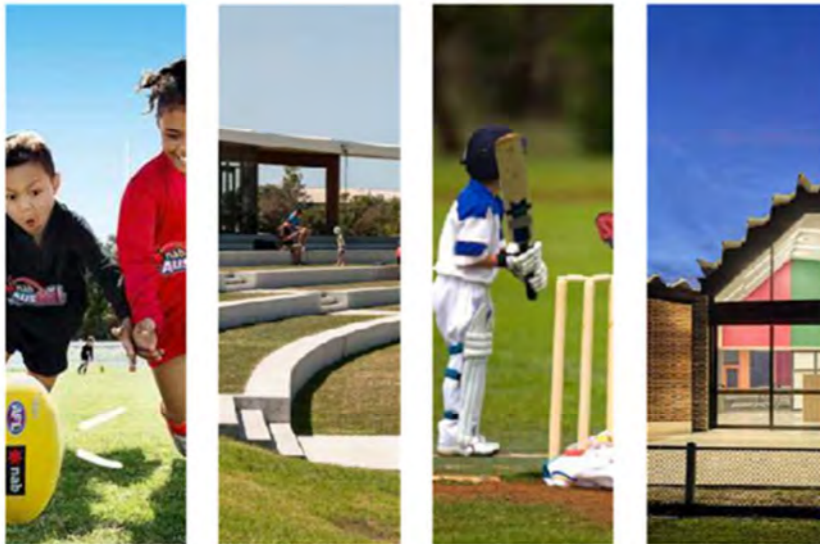
- 01 Reconfigure junior size afl oval for enhanced **orientation and connection to hub to meet relevant peak body standards [SACA, SANFL]**
- 02 New **spectator mounding** for increased spectator viewing
- 03 **Reconfigure and refurbish courts** to accommodate a **wide range of sports**, including netball, basketball, junior hockey and tennis
- 04 Create new **community hub at heart of site**, accommodate community groups, family groups, sports clubs, changerooms/toilets, and spectators
- 05 **Increased onsite car parking** capacity along Barr-Smith Avenue
- 06 Create a **robust program** for use by all including Community, sporting users in casual and structured ways



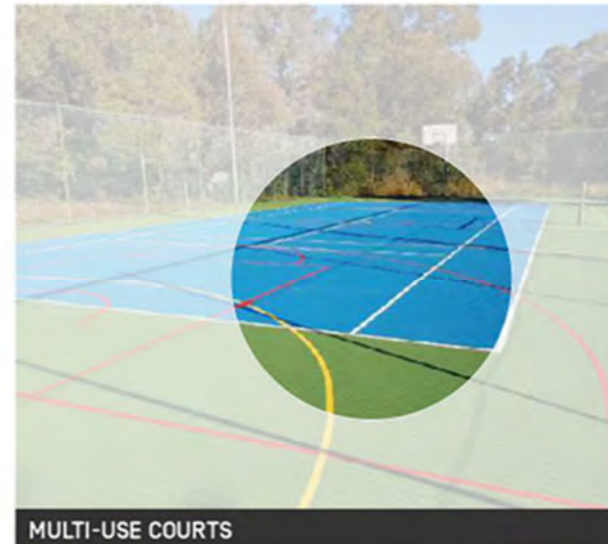
## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: JUNIOR SPORTS HUB (BENCHMARKING)

### STEPS TO CREATE A JUNIOR SPORTS/COMMUNITY HUB

- 01 Provide **changerooms, toilets and community amenity** to cater for Junior Sport and community uses
- 02 Provide a **flexible community space** for sport and recreational users
- 03 Ensure existing **significant trees** are preserved for future generations
- 04 Provide new **perimeter paving** for increased accessibility
- 05 Provide amenity for **Families and Community**



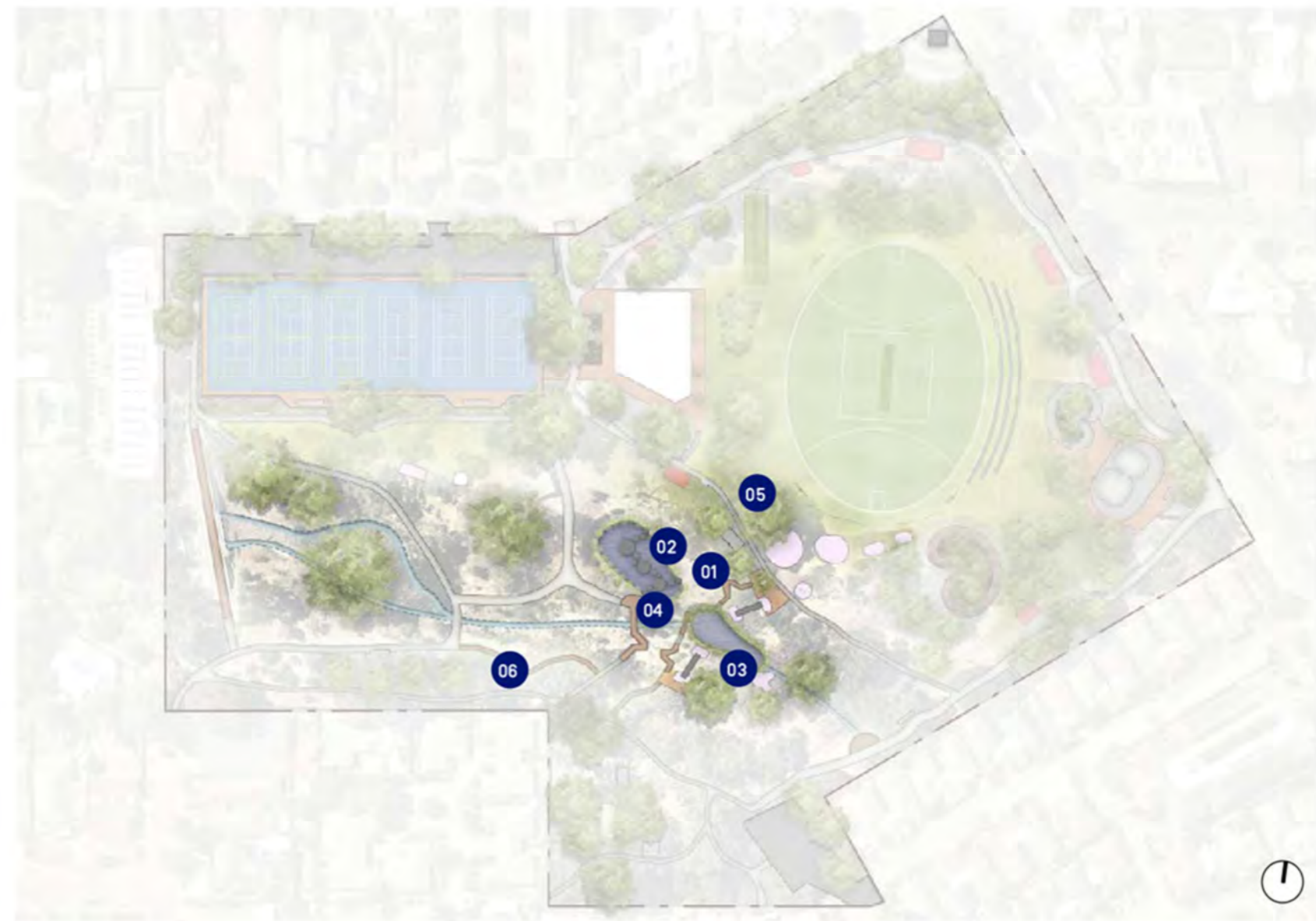
# FOUR KEY ACTIONS: JUNIOR SPORTS HUB HOW OTHERS HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE



## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: WILDING & NATURE PLAY

### STEPS TO CREATE A DESTINATION FOR NATURE PLAY

- 01 Extend off of existing play spaces to **formalise a nature play precinct**
- 02 Utilise existing and new water infrastructure to create new accessible, safe and inclusive **paths, bridges, exploration, and risky play** opportunities
- 03 Use **static and dynamic** elements of water course to encourage water play
- 04 Create new installations such as slides and climbing structures to **engage with the natural topography**
- 05 Explore **Kaurna engagement**, connection & story telling
- 06 **Strengthen existing Biodiversity** through managing, planning and replanting the existing wilding areas



## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: **WILDING & NATURE PLAY** HOW OTHERS HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE





## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: **WILDING & NATURE PLAY** WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE AT RIDGE PARK

### PROMOTE EXPLORATION

Access to the creek corridor via  
a network of paths and trails

### UTILISE EXISTING FEATURES

Build upon the existing stormwater  
infrastructure and undulating topography  
to encourage exploration and adventure

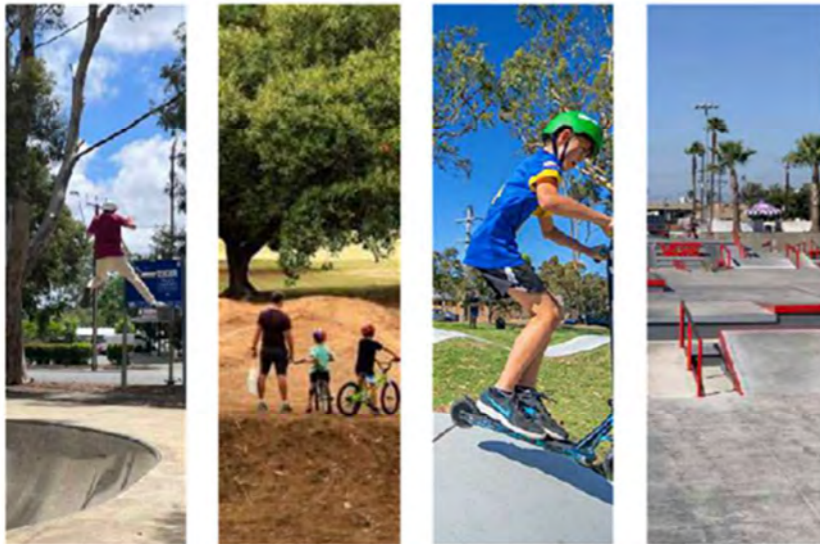
### NATURE PLAY

Encourage engagement with the  
natural environment through a  
variety of landscape interventions

## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: 'SMALL WHEEL' HUB

### STEPS TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE 'SMALL WHEEL' HUB

- 01 **Expand existing** skate bowl precinct to create small wheel Hub
- 02 Create new **scooter pump track** for skill building
- 03 Use **trees and landscape** to inform new Pump and **BMX track**
- 04 Accommodate **range of ages and skill levels** through varied equipment and tracks
- 05 Strengthen link to bus stop and role as **gateway node**
- 06 Use safe **design principles** for managing multiple users on pathways and infrastructure.



## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: 'SMALL WHEEL' HUB

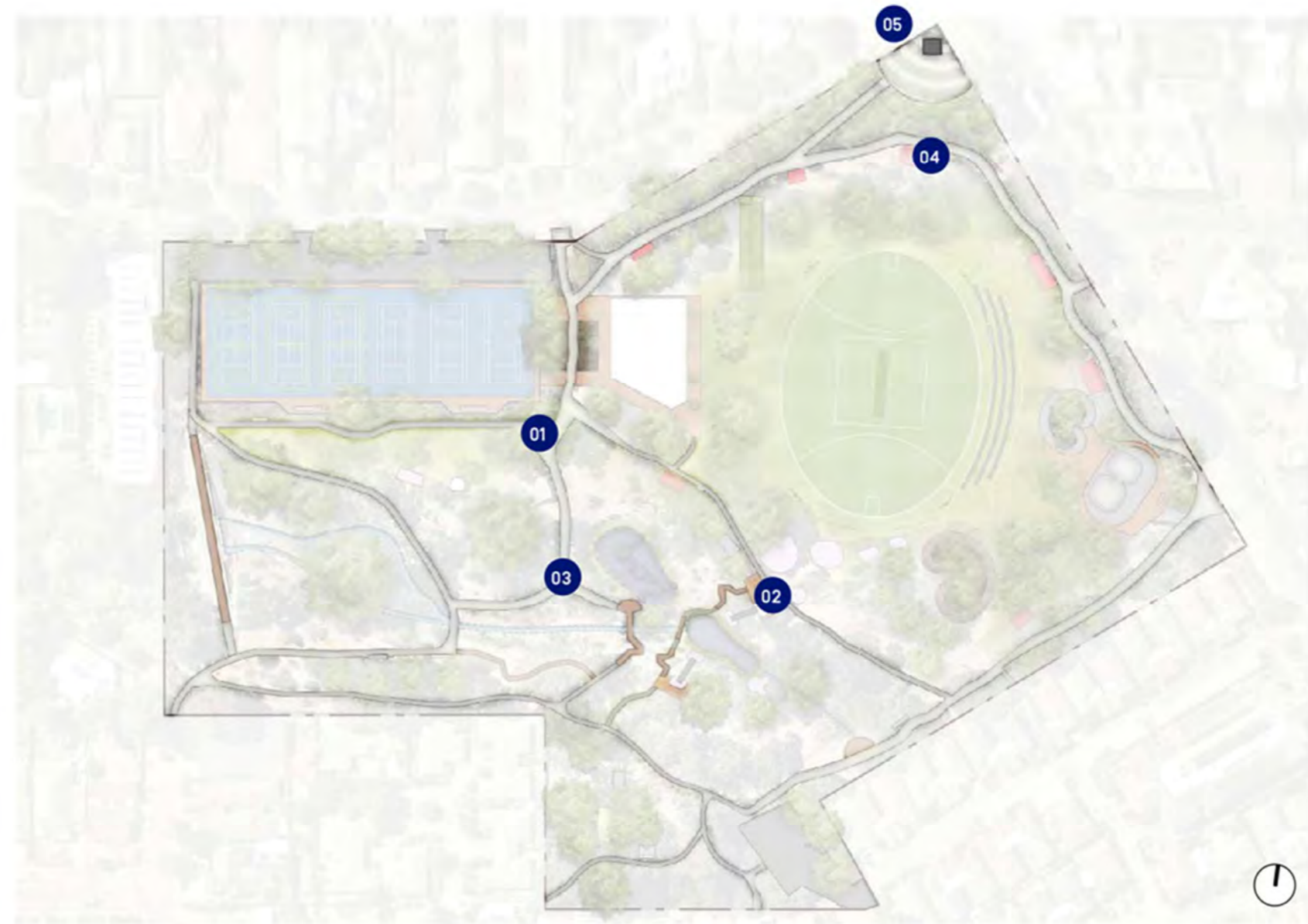
### WHAT THIS COULD LOOK LIKE AT RIDGE PARK



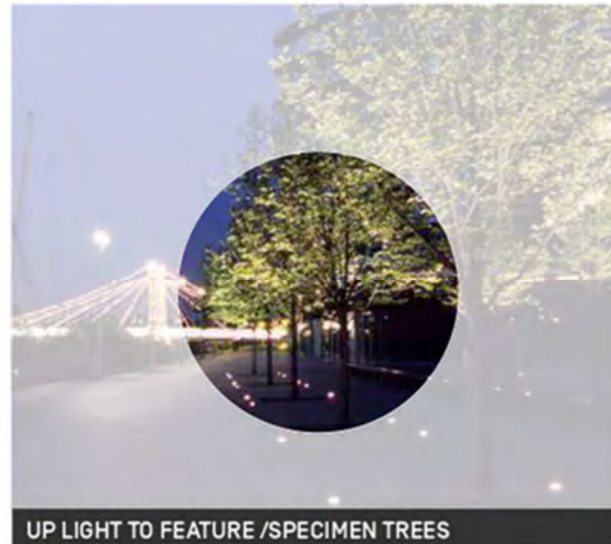
## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: NEW PATHS & LIGHTING

### HOW TO CREATE A SERIES OF NEW PATHS & LIGHTING

- 01 **Refurbish and add new paths**, to accommodate a wide user base and **range of activities and user groups** (exercise, dog walking, cycling, etc) Use safe design strategies to avoid conflicts with users
- 02 Using different material treatments to establish a **hierarchy of paths aiding site navigation** and increased longevity
- 03 Increasing **usability and safety** with **wayfinding, shelters and seating** throughout site, enhancing facilities for all ages
- 04 Implementation of a site-wide **lighting** strategy for consistency, safety and legibility of travel
- 05 Improve the **public visibility** and pay due deference to the **community significance** of the War Memorial



## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: NEW PATHS & LIGHTING HOW OTHERS HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE



UP LIGHT TO FEATURE /SPECIMEN TREES



PATH TREATMENTS FOR A VARIETY OF USES



WAYFINDING AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



PARK SHELTER



REST NODE TREATMENTS



PICNIC AND BIKE PARKING FACILITIES



BOLLARD LIGHTING ALONG PATHS



ACCESSIBLE PARK FURNITURE

## FOUR KEY ACTIONS: USING CPTED TO CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We acknowledge that the size and scale of Ridge Park create very distinct challenges, and we have to acknowledge in this report the importance of CPTED design principles in **safe paths, lighting, line of site, isolation** and **entrapment areas**. We believe that these principles can be achieved in Ridge Park through considered design moves.

Primary to this is pathways, wayfinding, lighting and may incorporate places for duress.



**01 Primary Path**  
Bitumen path to the heavily trafficked primary precinct routes



**02 Tertiary Paths**  
Compacted rubble for ancillary paths suitable for bike riding, as well as loose gravel paths for informal pathways



**03 Sport and Field Lighting**  
Oval Lighting and Tennis Court lighting suitable for training and games



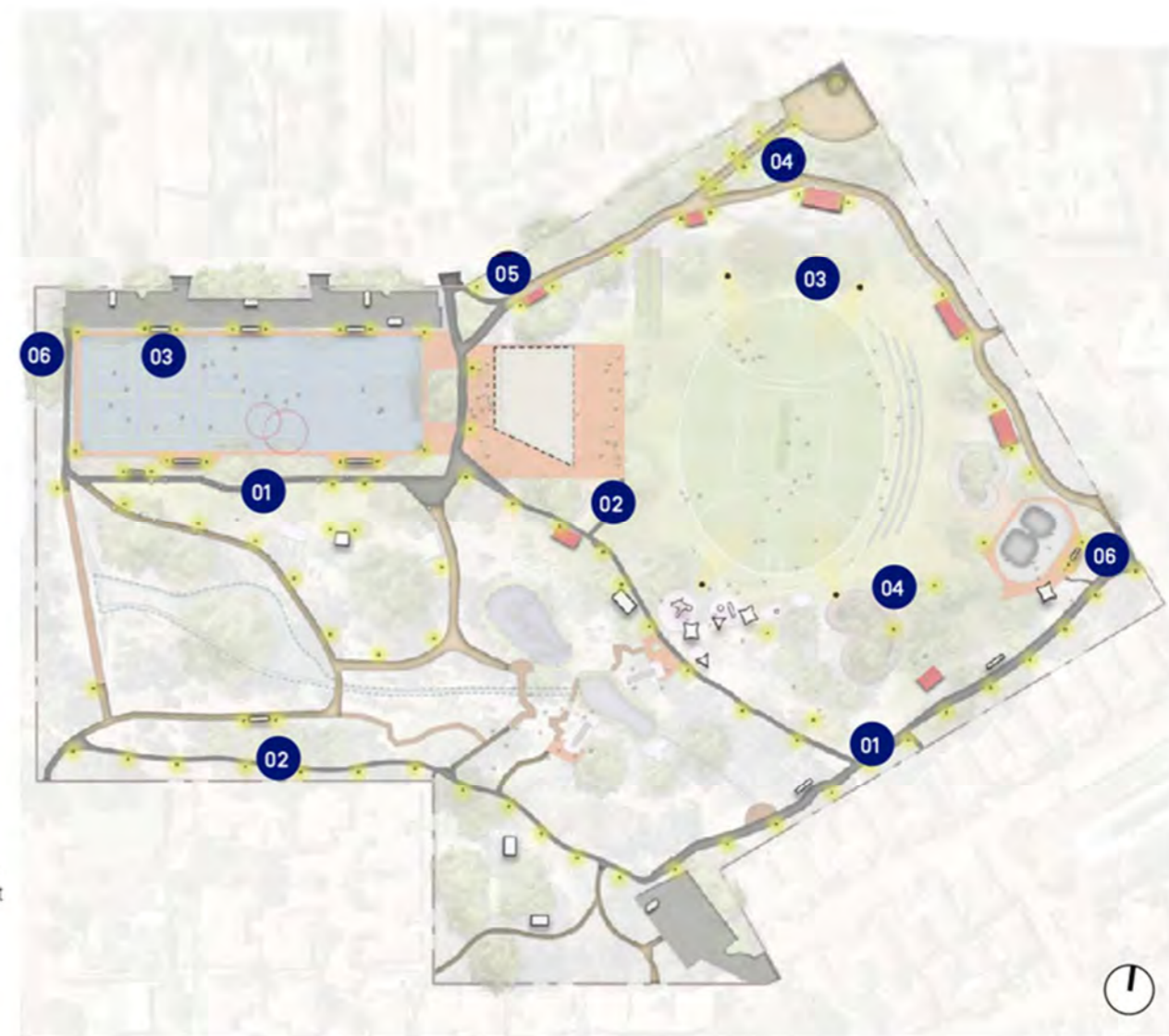
**04 Bollard & Area Lighting**  
Bollard lighting to less trafficked primary and secondary pathways.



**05 Bollard & Area Lighting**  
More substantial lighting for high use and dark areas of the park, and bollard lighting to less trafficked pathways



**06 Wayfinding**  
Create a cohesive series of wayfinding moves that help tell the Ridge Park story and increase the legibility of the site.



## SECTION 05:

# IMPLEMENTATION

# MASTER PLAN TIMELINE

The below outlines a timeline and process summary for the creation of the Ridge Park Master Plan. The project is expected to be **implemented in a multi-step process**, broadly outlined below and over page.

With the first four steps now complete, this **Master Plan** represents a significant milestone in the project timeline. Following endorsement of the Draft Master Plan by Council, the project team will work towards taking this draft to the public at a future **Community Engagement** stage.



# MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The **Master Plan** and key actions have the **flexibility to adapt** to change over time as different opportunities and priorities arise, reflective of community expectations, Council's budget priorities and funding partnership opportunities through grants.

## PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Draft Master Plan recognises a range of improvements that can be implemented as part of Council's annual renewal programs, as well as new smaller scale investment in the park. These improvements could include:

- Path upgrades and new path connections
- Path Lighting
- Tree planting and biodiversity
- Wayfinding Signage
- Nature Play
- Furniture replacement and new park Furniture and exercise facilities for all ages
- Aquifer recharge system improvements

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Many of the actions are considered to be larger infrastructure changes that will require a substantial commitment from Council which should only be progressed once grant funding is received.

Even then, this is more than likely going to have to be matched on a 'dollar-for-dollar' basis. These infrastructure projects could include:

- Community Hub
- Nature play area
- Oval realignment
- Contoured oval seating
- Court replacement
- Car parking
- Pump track
- Skate plaza
- BMX track

The Draft Master Plan is a strategic document that provides for funding opportunities that support funding partnerships with peak bodies and local stakeholders, adjacent Councils as well as State and Federal Governments.

The actions will be refined into a time schedule to consider future funding requirements, following future community feedback from all users and ages. The time schedule will serve as a guide and is not intended to be "fixed" in order to be able to respond to funding opportunities as they arise