

APPENDIX B - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO THE RUTHVEN MASTER PLAN

Community feedback collected at the drop in sessions	
#	Drop in Session 1
1	Two names for the park
2	Ruthven name to be referenced
3	Bollards to address dirt bikes
4	Carparking can be managed on street
5	Dogs on lead in park is ok
6	Ensure park is maintained.
7	Car parking issues.
8	Car parking on site
	Drop in Session 2
9	To close proposed opening on Hurley and Wilson
10	Careful of allergenic plants - try to avoid please
11	Like shade for seating areas
12	Overall think its pretty good
13	Bocce ground
14	Angle parking along Hurley Street
15	Lighting-security - surveillance
16	Public vegetable garden
18	Interactive play
19	Different species? Shade Trees
20	Great to have a park and BBQ area
21	Timber park
22	decent public toilet please
23	No basket ball- swimming pool
24	BBQ and playground - then people use it
25	Good keep old gum and other trees
26	Large shade structures
27	Agree keep fence around edge
28	Keep existing play at Hurley Street- build adventure play for teenagers at Ruthven
29	Quicker than 20 years
30	Don't duplicate on kids playground - there's another one nearby, so have different type or one for different ages
31	Farmers market would be nice here
32	Free exercise programs- e.g. tai chi (understand not part of this design).
33	Space, even small, for women's cricket and football, maybe junior -ask relevant bodies
34	Man shed - women's shed
35	Gym at the same time of playground
36	Indigenous community garden
37	Teaching kids and community about bush tucker.
38	Would be good to have oval for women's cricket/football area
39	Love the paths
40	Greensborough Timber Park - lots of timber adventure play & Climbing elements
41	Love the idea of wetland
42	Concerns around sightlines and density of planting regarding safety of people
43	Like the park - will be good for exercise and walks
44	Dog off lead timed areas - for example in the mornings?
45	Suggest a small dog off leash area at different times
46	Local Scout and Venturer groups to get invited to take part in planting etc (1st reservoir at Edwardes Lake)
47	Acknowledge the Indigenous history of the park
48	Work with schools to realise vision- Similar to the 'Green Team" at Northcote High
49	Indigenous references in park
50	Loose parts for Play Area
51	Small fenced off - leash dog area
52	keep it Dog on lead
53	The park needs a cricket/football net/goals
54	Love the park. Make it happen quickly!
55	Changes in topography - mounds
56	Norris Bank Adventure Play - great example of challenging tall elements for kids

57	Keep some of the fencing
58	Wombat Bend Nature Based Play. Great examples for Ruthven
59	I love the new vision of the park
60	Great idea re wetland/water catchment area
61	Fenced off lead dog area
62	Materials to build cubby houses
63	Good leave fence
64	BBQ is in right area
65	Like plan - toilets locked up at night please
66	Large gum tree at entrance near Wilson and Glasgow (?) and needs a tree doctor- branches might fall
67	Outdoor gym first
67	Playground first please
68	Basketball yes - don't need a skate park
69	Lighting, security & patrols

Community feedback from Postcards	
1	Let the community take some ownership of the delivery of the master plan through community planting days.
2	It would be great to 'elect some custodians for the park with the functions of telling the story of the park to younger generations.
3	A playground like at Norris Bank Reserve. We need waterplay are on this side of Reservoir I need get a table at Edwardes Lake Park. Always too busy.
4	I would hope that the name of the VC winner William Ruthven could be placed somewhere in the park as it was on the school.
5	I love the look of the park, but I am genuinely confused by its 'dog-on lead' status. The vast majority of the park users are currently dog walkers. There is a shortage of off-leash areas around and this is a very important use for the 'park' currently. Why ostracise its main group of user for potential people who have plenty of alternatives.

Community feedback - 'Have you Say Page'		
#	Feedback	Officer Comment
1	No disrespect to the environment but I feel that Reservoir has ENOUGH parks. What we really need is more shops and services to cater for both a growing and ageing population because what we have in Edwardes Street is not enough!!	The school was purchased to fill a gap in Darebin's open space network and move towards achieving Council's goal of ensuring that all residents live within a 500m walking distance of public open space. This gap was identified in Darebin's 2009-2019 Open Space Strategy.
2	<p>Well done on the progress you have made with our community to date. I noted that buildings were contentious however in reviewing the feedback, only 7 out of 12 comments were against it which tells me that it was a balanced preference. I completely support having an integrated, eco-friendly, sustainable studio building where people can gather and use this as a community space. Whether that be for educational workshops, studio for exercise (yoga etc) and events especially if it's weather contingent. It would be a shame to not have a central point for gathering groups. The purpose of the Ruthven space is to 'bring people together' and a building meets that objective, it completes the space. It would be a half baked experience without a sheltered event space and would inhibit delivery of the pillars of "A Park for All, Contemplation, Education & Appreciation, Creating Play and Sustainability, Resilience & Future."</p> <p>Please reconsider as a 58% vote against the building does not rule out the idea. Similar to a lead free dog zone, more context is required to see how it can work such as the suggestion of it having fenced.</p> <p>I support the native garden but what is missing is a community garden as that does bring people together. In addition, research shows that our kids don't even know where fruits and vegetables come from. Some think they come from a supermarket. Education is key and kinetic learning helps as having something tangible, drives the learning home. Again, having this would also help achieve the pillars of Play, Sustainability, Future and Education mentioned above.</p> <p>It looks like a 'nice' space but it's very disengaging to a local as there is no connection yet. Two things that connect people no matter what background is food and music. While we can't have a music studio, we can at least start with food, especially with the high migrant population. We need to talk their language that surpasses words and phrases.</p>	<p>Council resolved to create a natural park only at its November 2019 Council meeting, following feedback received from the local community and Ruthven Community Reference Group, who did not support the development of community facilities or buildings at this site. However the suggestion for a space which can 'bring people together' can be delivered in other initiatives highlighted in the master plan. For example, the picnic sheltered space and a sheltered seating area can be design so that it considered many community gathering opportunities.</p> <p>As Ruthven will have a biodiverse function, allowing dogs off their lead, compromises this vision. This is reinforced in Darebin's Open Space Strategy Breathing Space.</p>
3	It is great to see more wild areas and indigenous plantings. I grew up in the Eastern suburbs where there was always plenty of bush - with logs, creeks, birdlife, large gums, dense places for kids to play and hide and be in nature. Lovely to see habitat for wildlife. Lighting for safety is very important too.	Support for the master plan is noted.
4	I am wondering if dogs are going to be allowed as I take my dogs there twice a day and there was no mention on the planning board there.	Ruthven is proposed to be a dog-on lead park. As Ruthven will have a biodiverse function, allowing dogs off their lead, compromises this vision. This is reinforced in Darebin's Open Space Strategy Breathing Space.
5	<p>The plan looks pretty good, but I (and others) would like to see the wetland brought forward to very early in the proposal - suggested over a period of the first three years works. This was discussed at a meeting of the Darebin Nature Trust on 22/10/19, attended by Jennifer Louie. It was pointed out at the meeting that it would be easier, cheaper and involve much less upheaval to create the wetland earlier rather than later. The main issue for scheduling it later was to do with budgets and this could be resolved by funding through the Open Space Levy.</p> <p>I believe the suggestion to create the wetland early on and to fund it through the Open Space Levy had the support of the Darebin Nature Trust meeting.</p>	<p>Support for the master plan is noted.</p> <p>Darebin prioritises its stormwater management projects based on evidence outlined in Darebin's Integrated Water Strategy (2017) and the Priority Stormwater Projects for Water Sensitive Design (2017). Ruthven Park is not highlighted as a priority site and will be considered in the future for wetland creation.</p>
6	Looks terrific. Support dog on-lead areas, will need enforcement to make sure that people don't let their dogs off lead and endanger/scare small children, elderly people, etc. Some areas of the park should also prohibit dogs, especially in ecologically sensitive areas. Dogs destroy ground nests and disturb vegetation. Support keeping the park trees and other design features to make it a natural feel.	Support for the master plan is noted.

<p>7</p>	<p>The plan does not seem to address the issue of parking. Car parking. Tracey Street is already used as a race track due to the lack of speed humps. There is no regard for the 40km speed limit since the old school building was removed. I had daily "discussions" with parents of children at the school who ignored the 5 min parking "rule" when the school was in use. They did not even mind parking across my driveway when I was trying to leave for work. Tracey St is not wide enough for parking on both sides. It would be completely unworkable to restrict parking on the housing side of Tracey St between Glasgow Ave and Hurley St. I can see a huge issue in regard to parking with the plan. Even if you do put up posts with limits on parking, no one will take any notice as it won't be policed. Wasn't before when the school was in use, so no doubt it won't be when a park.</p> <p>I absolutely condemn the placement of netball or basketball hoops. NO NO NO. The idea of Reservoir youth bouncing balls night and day is not appealing. AT ALL. I beg you NOT to build those. Never ever.</p> <p>A green space is what it should be and remain to be, with the native and bee friendly planting you speak of. With a dog section off lead or on who cares. People will let their dogs off the leash regardless. Seats and covered areas is brilliant. Make it a reflective space more so than an action space. I also reject wholeheartedly the placing gym equipment. Edward's Lake park has them, and it's only a stone's throw away. When planting, think about making it impossible for motor bike and monkey bike riders to have any length of space to race up and down like they love to do every Saturday and Sunday now. I totally support renaming the park in the Woiwurrong language. I would love to see a Woiwurrong welcome to country ceremony when the new green space is ready to roll. BBQ areas and picnic space and grass underfoot to walk barefoot and embrace a serene community space is brilliant. I applaud it.</p>	<p>Support for the bushland vision of the master plan is noted. Support for renaming the park in Woiwurrong language, BBQ area, open lawn areas, shaded seating areas and it being a reflective space is noted.</p> <p>Carparking and traffic conditions will be regularly monitored as the master plan is implemented over a 20 year period.</p> <p>The intergenerational play area will be subject to a detailed design and consultation process, where the proposed function and activities of this play area can be determined with the local community. All local residents and park users will have an opportunity to shape this play area.</p> <p>An outdoor gym was highlighted by the local community as a top idea during the initial phase of consultation. Again the detailed design of this will help determine how this use looks and functions.</p> <p>Support noted for renaming the park in the Woiwurrong language and will consider a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony for future community events.</p>

Community feedback - EMAIL		
#	Feedback	Officer Comment
1	Great to see that something is going to be done with the old Ruthven school area. This is a great opportunity to create something wonderful for the residents and we thank you! For the reminder of the space somewhere for families to go and relax, gated play ground for the kids, BBQ area, seating, covered area for parties to be held. Lots of trees for shade and maybe a walking track around the outside. My suggestion for part of it would be to make a kids bike traffic school/path. Hopefully with working traffic lights, but somewhere safe and fun for the kids to ride their bikes that isn't on the road. I lived near one as a child and it was wonderful.	Support for the master plan is noted. Feedback in relation to the playspace will be used to inform the concept design of this area.
2	I've grown up in Reservoir and live just around the corner in Lawley street. I used to go to Ruthven primary school, so the land has lots of sentimental value to me (as it would to many other locals who've grown up in the area). I think it's an absolutely wonderful idea to create a bush land sanctuary! Great choice !	Support for the master plan is noted.
3	I like the plan. Very keen on play ground and nature play spaces and the BBQ picnic area. Wondering if bikes will be allowed to cycle around main path? Concerned about the noise during construction to the main gate close to our house and the increased level of traffic in front? Very excited to see this plan and hope it gets built sooner than the 17 years on the Billboard.	Support for the master plan is noted. The main path will a pedestrian focussed path. However young families and children under 12yrs will be able to cycle on this path. Future construction will need to adhere to Government regulations.
4	Need more for the kids/teens in the area. They are forgotten. Heaps of stuff for the little ones and seniors but the youth are forgotten. The locals are really looking forward to a lovely usable space and the kids/teens really need something for them, it would be a shame if they were overlooked again. I know our family can't wait for it to begin. A small contained area for dogs to run around off lead. No where local to do that now. A mini soccer pitch would be great. The one at the lake is always busy. A skate dome or mini skate run would be good too. Norris Bank Park is a good example. How about a bocce court?Also a couple of years before any works start and 20 to 30 years for it to be completed.	Support for the master plan is noted. The draft plan nominates an intergenerational play area, which will include activities for young people and teenagers. This idea will go through a more detailed design process, including more opportunity for the local community to help shape the function and design of this space. The timeframe for delivering the master plan is subject to the annual council budget process, ensuring we balance the open space needs across the municipality.
5	Pathways - Materials: We remain concerned about the large amount of concrete that is being proposed for the site. The reason that was given to the Community Reference Group for having such extensive concrete pathways was to ensure that the park would be accessible to users of all abilities. Concrete is one of the highest producers of greenhouse gasses in the world. There is, however, an alternative to concrete which could be explored such as an earthen pathway like this one in Ocean Grove, only somewhat narrower to suit the site. Now, the new track will mean that everyone can enjoy the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve Terry spent six years in the past regularly using a wheelchair and walking sticks. He found earthen pathways to be quite adequate, with the added benefit of not being slippery for the walking sticks in rain, compared with when leaves or grass and other debris falls onto concrete pathways. Location: We would like to see the layout of pathways at the Southern end retained as it is well-established and leads naturally to the raised area that overlooks the site. The general idea of the layout for the rest of the paths looks fine, though it might be worth trying to map them out before they are laid by keeping in mind the principles of desire lines. The two green metal seats at this end of the park should be retained and refurbished. Ephemeral wetland Darebin Nature Trust has recommended that the ephemeral wetland be established earlier in the evolution of the park. If there is going to be earthmoving and disturbance it may as well be done at the same time as concrete removal from the rest of the site. Zone planning and shelter Each zone of the park will need a detailed plan and the key issues that need to be kept in mind are shelter from the sun and from wind, especially in the conversation corners and play areas. Whether this could be done with some mounded areas as suggested by DNT or some other way needs further discussion. However, we do not support using rubble from the concrete removal for use in the landscaping - there are enough issues with contamination in Darebin's parks. There are some good examples of shelters in the draft Master Plan. This shelter, which Serena found in a park in Epping, is interesting because it is spacious and also has a slat wall towards the end that would protect people from wind. The slat design allows for planting underneath the structure. Soil issues Serena recently visited Michael Brennan, the former deputy principal of the former Ruthven Primary School, to give him an update on the Master Planning process for the new park. When the school was newly established (circa 1968) he said they would have to ring a bell so that the children would run indoors when there was blasting of the volcanic rock in the area. The blasting took place so the sewerage system for the new estate near the school could be installed. Similar rock under the Ruthven site may be something that will need to be thought about in relation to water and sewerage for the park. He then told her that the kids would be sent out at playtime with magnets to collect metal out of the cricket pitch. He said they made a few hundred dollars from the collection. Metal?! It turns out that the area was landscaped using foundry sand - a foot or two deep, with a few inches of top soil from the Merri Creek spread on top. This was the first we have heard of it, and we doubt that Darebin Council has done any soil testing. There may be low level contaminants to consider and also the salt content of the sand.	Path network materials: Will look into the design of the all ability gravel track and reference this in the master plan. The material of the pathway network will be subject to detailed design and additional consultation with our parks maintenance and Age and Disability team, ensuring that we have the right material to suit the location in the park. Path layout in the south and green metallic seats will remain. The site will be future proof to allow for the future development of the wetlands, and will include a 10m wetland buffer, ensuring that no trees or substantial landscapes are built here. Zone planning & shelter: Each project will be subject to detailed site assessments to help inform the design, where wind and shade will be explored in detail and the appropriate landscape response provided (ie mound, planting plan etc) Image of shelter has been included in the master plan. Soils issues: Soil and Geotechnical surveys will be undertaken through the detailed design of each project.
	Biodiversity Plan The site will need a detailed Biodiversity Plan which would usefully be designed in conjunction with Darebin Nature Trust and other groups with specialist expertise. Getting this plan right is critical to the overall project. Spotted gums are listed as a possible tree for the site when 1) there are already spotted gums on the site (which will be retained) and 2) they are not species of local provenance. A suitable alternative from the region would be yellow gums. That spotted gums could have slipped into a Master Plan that promotes indigenous plants is an example of why we need expert input into the Biodiversity Plan. The significance of using species of local provenance is well known for the importance of preserving genetic diversity and is aptly summed up by Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc as follows: "Indigenous species provide habitat for native wildlife and birds and can improve the condition of soils and water. Indigenous plants will generally grow with little assistance, will be most likely to withstand the prevailing conditions of your site, and over time are likely to begin regenerating themselves." We note with concern that Darebin Council has started planting on the nature strips around the park without consulting the people responsible for designing the new park. If the park is going to have an integrated appearance then the nature strips need to be part of the overall design. Planting should be done from seedlings for two reasons: 1) they are vastly cheaper and can be sourced from several indigenous nurseries such as the one run by nearby La Trobe University; 2) they will quite quickly outstrip more mature trees in terms of height and will be more robust in the long term. Areas that are planted out may need to be fenced off while trees are getting established, due to the possibility of attack by vandals. The biodiversity plan will need detailed work on the location of flowers so that they are not overlooked in favour of trees and shrubs. Bike Racks The worst choice for bike racks for park would be the big, individual metal hoops that are concreted into the ground. They take up a lot of space, are imposing and are quite hard to tie a bike up to - especially an electric bike. Ideally it would be a great project to get a bike rack that is also a piece of public art such as the following installation by artists Marianne Lovink and Scott Eunson. If this is not possible then at least some bike racks with a lower profile than the metal hoops would be good.	Comments noted for the Biodiversity Plan and bike racks. The biodiversity plan is being finalised and will be shared with DNT and Ruthven CRG for feedback during June-July and help inform Stage 1 planting for the 2020 planting season. Bike Rack image supplied has been included in the master plan.

<p>6</p>	<p>1. Masterplan? Let's focus on the important elements of an agreed concept. There is probably little point in arguing the toss about whether the draft Masterplan fulfills the essence of its title. Rather, the most important initial function of the document is to provide a vehicle to achieve agreement about an overall concept for the site, as well as concepts for specific site functions. However, importantly, this role of the Masterplan would be better reinforced if additional clarity about the planning steps to follow could be provided. Without this clarity, there is doubt about whether these still yet-to-be-confirmed concepts can be taken forward. There is some appearance that the Masterplan will remain as the key planning tool for the site, when it should be seen as just a first step along a planning path to enable implementation. Nonetheless, at this stage, it would appear that a number of key elements have achieved some level of agreement. It would appear that the park should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overall and primary function as passive parkland with no accommodation of organised sport and only a minor degree of informal sports facilities; • a strong emphasis on provision of a biodiversity function with predominant (perhaps even exclusive) use of indigenous species and removal of exotic weed species; • provision of a playground designed for children and perhaps another with a more natural or 'wild play' feel; • provision of walking trails throughout, either via more formal hard surface paths (a range of surfaces are possible including porous) or informal "bush tracks"; • a community use area where social activities within the site could be focused with provision of services such as BBQs, shelter, seating, tables, drinking fountains, toilets, etc.; • provision of one or two conversation pits or more contemplative areas; • at least one significant grassed area of a more open nature that allows for activities such as kite flying and offers a vegetative contrast with the remainder of the site that would be more heavily vegetated; and • an ephemeral wetland fed by local stormwater. <p>While the staging of works at this stage may lower the priority of some of these elements, they are nevertheless still recognised as important park features. Figure 6 in the Masterplan lists 29 elements as proposed for inclusion across the park. However, it is these eight elements that are fundamental features and appear to have achieved a reasonable level of agreement. Hence the Masterplan seems to offer a basis for settling on an overall concept and a number of conceptual parts. These can now be taken forward into additional stages of design and will continue to be the components that the park needs to be shaped around. If the Masterplan does nothing else, it could be judged to have succeeded if it simply performs this conceptualisation role, which it clearly has.</p>	<p>As highlighted on 4 of <i>Remagining Ruthven</i>, it states that the master plan provides a clear long term vision for the park. Each project will be subject to further site assessments, community consultation and detailed design, prior to any construction.</p> <p>A new section called ' what happens next' on page 4 has been included to clarify these next steps for the implementation of the master plan.</p>
	<p>2. Next Steps? The Need for Functional and Detailed Design Phases If we accept that the Masterplan has played an important role in achieving agreement about initial conceptual elements, then the setting out of the way forward becomes equally important. The Masterplan contains a short section (see p. 42-3) at its end that briefly outlines "next steps". The first dot point makes mention of: "detail design of spaces within the park" as part of the next steps. This perhaps doesn't completely fill the reader with confidence that subsequent design is to be tackled systematically and for the whole of the site. Instead, what is required is an unequivocal commitment by Council to both functional and detailed design phases. These two critical steps are conventional components of any larger scale project and critical for projects to succeed in meeting their objectives. The functional phase delivers a bridge between the concept and the detailed design. It tests concepts and ensures feasibility. Detailed design enables implementation via a though detailed of works. It provides a near-complete understanding of costs and is a basis upon which jobs can be tendered. Both phases are very different but both are essential. Undertaking both these steps will enable proper project budgeting and sensible staging over a number of financial years. Their preparation will also deliver potential cost savings as inadequate investigation of project elements will be avoided and risks and cost blow-outs minimised. It will also avoid re-work. This might especially apply to the ephemeral wetland where the site for its establishment will be subject to certain uses should it be delayed for 20 years. It could potentially be difficult to undo these uses should the wetland then be constructed. Similarly, the removal of asphalt and concrete from the site could be avoided with thorough planning. Such material could be buried under earthen mounds once their location and dimensions are confirmed. This would avoid transport and disposal costs with the remaining cost factored into initial site earthworks to shape the site. Earthworks must also not be under-estimated out of poor planning. The best vegetation outcomes will result from ripping and application of gypsum and green compost to planting areas. For a park of this size and with the intended scope of new planting, significant earthworks will therefore be required whether earthen mounds are created or not. Darebin would be foolish to avoid this two-phase design work to confirm the park's design and enable smooth implementation. In terms of other aspects of vegetation design, the functional design phase would examine a number of key issues including: • weed management, with <i>Romulea</i> a massive problem; • the comparative economics of scalping, alongside incremental control with chemicals and the staging of indigenous grassland re-establishment; • species selection for planting within the drip zone of the site's large established <i>Eucalypts/Corymbias</i>; • incremental removal of non-indigenous trees and shrubs; • staged removal or retention of deciduous exotic trees on the east and north side including control of Desert Ash; and • the extent to which conventional mowing of an exotic grass sward is to be employed, if at all. The previous submission from the DNT community members argued that tree and shrub planting at the southern end of the site (on the leeward side of the mound), could be more varied and form a more gardenesque style with emphasis on areas of smaller, showy shrubs and groundcovers. It could also include elements such as a butterfly garden and a small bird garden. Further investigation of these issues would be part of the functional design phase. The functional design phase also presents the opportunity to resolve issues around trails through the park, their surfacing, the extent of different surface types and the timing of construction. The ephemeral wetland would also be investigated and its feasibility and design approaches confirmed (see further below). The basic layout of the community use area and its associated facilities and services would also be investigated and issues resolved.</p>	<p>Page 4 of the master plan has been updated to include a diagram outlining next steps.</p> <p>Comments notes regarding site future site management considerations.</p>

<p>3. Earthen Mounds for Wind Protection. These must be more extensive and can meet safety concerns more than just dense shrub planting. While Figure 6 is not entirely clear, it would appear that the extent of earthen mounds for wind protection is very limited in the draft Masterplan. The reason cited is the need to meet safety requirements. CPTED is mentioned in this regard. Though an internationally recognised concept since the 1970s, CPTED in a Victorian context is supported by Victoria Police and is aimed at businesses and households to prevent break-ins. This would appear to have little relationship to open space environments, though its principles could be applied to open space design. The challenge then is to design earthen mounds that perform the function of site windbreaks (see: http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/soil-and-water/erosion/shelterbelt-design), but don't unduly compromise safety. Firstly, it should be remembered that the earthen mounds as outlined in the previous DNT submission were proposed to be 1.6m. high as an approximate average but with some points higher (and some lower) to avoid uniformity and perhaps contain lookout areas. The importance of the mounds would be to generally provide a solid barrier to wind at the height of a human. This would be added to with vegetation on the windward side to deflect wind upward, away from the ground and people. The higher the vegetation, the greater the distance protection can be provided on the leeward side. Tall trees would therefore be best used near the top of the earthen mound. It is important to note that the shrub layer on the windward side would not need to be dense to facilitate deflection up into canopy trees that would then perform the main function of wind deflection. It is also critical to note that the most effective windbreaks are those that have a reasonable degree of porosity. It is recommended that design should aim for a medium density of planting at around 40-60%. By contrast, a very dense windbreak forces wind to be pulled down on the leeward side creating turbulence, but as the density of the windbreak is reduced, more air passes through the windbreak and reduces turbulence and leeward areas enjoy more protection. Similarly, the shrub layer on top of the mound would also not need to be overly dense, nor would vegetation on the leeward side where lower growing plants could mainly be used. The earthen mounds that need to provide protection both from northerly and southerly winds would have a similar shrub layer on both sides, but would not need to be dense as explained above. This would especially be so where a varied shrub layer was extended out some distance from the earthen mound – say 30m. although this could be less where required. Over this area, taller shrubs with denser foliage could be used comparatively sparsely to permit sight lines through and across the planted area. Occasional smaller trees could also be used. The main objective from a safety perspective would be to discourage the potential for the shrub layer to harbor and hide potential law-breakers. Prickly foliage would also be important in this regard. By contrast, the Masterplan appears to come down on the side of dense vegetation, rather than use of earthen mounds, to provide wind protection. This has the potential to offer less safety than mounds with less dense vegetation. It is therefore recommended that extensive areas of earthen mounding are incorporated into the functional design phase to optimise shelter from winds as they can be designed to address safety issues. The previous submission from DNT indicated locations for these mounds. They would also help define zones within the park for particular design needs and protect assets and human activities within those zones.</p>	<p>Earth mounds will be applied to select areas as identified through the detailed site investigations and design as the the master plan is implemented.</p> <p>A safety (and CPTED) lense will also be applied through the detailed design phase of each project.</p>
<p>4. Ephemeral Wetland – Small Part of Total Earthworks for Site Shaping and Preparation of Planting Areas As indicated above, significant earthworks will be required to properly prepare planting areas. Given this, earthworks to create an ephemeral wetland area will only be a small addition to total earthworks. It would be cost-ineffective to avoid the creation of this comparatively small area in initial works and rather defer it to a later date. It is therefore recommended that the ephemeral wetland proceed to the functional design stage, as it can be a significant and valued feature within the park which should become part of the park at an early stage. 5. Planting Plan – Functional and Detailed Design It is proposed that the design of planting be incorporated into each of the functional and detailed design phases. The functional design for vegetation would recommend a type of vegetation for the zone (or particular parts thereof) and a potential species list. Detailed design at the next stage would indicate detailed planting plans for each zone with species, numbers, densities etc. The functional design phase would resolve lingering issues such as extent of grassland re-establishment and their locations (currently 3 – could be better to have just one single area if so desired due to future management ease including burning). It would also resolve the extent to which adherence to the Grassy Dry Forest EVC was to be observed, or whether the site would be better managed into the future with an adaptation of the local flora to provide for visual and amenity ends, human needs and management objectives and not just faithfully replicate the EVC. 6. Recommendations (i) That Council commit to the next stages of planning for the Ruthven site via functional and detailed design phases. (ii) That the budget allocation for funding a project of DNT's recommendation be directed to assisting functional and detailed design phases at Ruthven and that DNT community members be actively engaged, as far as possible, along with the CRG, in the design work with any appointed consultants. (iii) That DNT encourages Council to accept the Draft Masterplan as a first stage in planning for the development of the Ruthven site as a park and endorse it as a document that captures key concepts that will be subject to further planning and investigation.</p>	<p><u>Ephemeral wetland:</u></p> <p>Darebin prioritises its stormwater management projects based on evidence outlined in Darebin's Integrated Water Strategy (2017) and the Priority Stormwater Projects for Water Sensitive Design (2017). Ruthven Park is not highlighted as a priority site. The master plan seeks to future proof the wetlands, allowing it to be developed in future years. A 10m buffer will be applied to the future wetlands area, ensuring that no significant trees or capital work projects are planned for this area. This will be reflected in Councils internal GIS system and now reflected in the master plan.</p> <p><u>Planting plan</u> - comments noted. A planting plan is still being finalised and will be shared with the RUTHVEN CRG and DNT for further input, as part of the implementation of the master plan.</p> <p><u>Recommenations</u> - noted.</p>