



Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Vision and Opportunities 2020-2035



caulfield
racecourse reserve

Executive summary

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Land Management Plan (LMP) articulates a vision that is consistent with the core purposes of the Reserve. Whilst recognising the significance of racing, this Plan is shaped around ambitious aspirations to create vibrant, inclusive and accessible public spaces for diverse communities.

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve is a State-significant events and recreation space within the City of Glen Eira. With a long history of use as a racecourse, the Reserve is internationally renowned as a premium race event destination.

Established in 1859 as a public reserve for the purposes of racing, recreation and as a public park, the Reserve more recently came under the protection of The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Act 2017 which secures the land as a public asset into the future. The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Land Management Plan provides guidance for the future use and development of the Reserve.

This document provides a summary of the projects planned for the Reserve. The projects will reshape the Reserve, expand its role as a regional destination, preserve and enhance its use for racing and address the need for local community open space and recreation areas.

Guided by the LMP, the Trust will help deliver a range of spaces and facilities that will be used by many people, from local residents, to sporting groups and the racing community.

Over the next 15 years the Reserve will become an increasingly accessible and activated space, supporting diverse uses and events throughout the year. Access into all Reserve areas will be improved and parts of the Reserve that currently are not accessible to the public will become available to be transformed into exciting new parks, recreational spaces and landscapes.

What does success look like?

Central to the LMP is the vision established by the Trust to create 'a place for everyone'. Through the aspirations outlined within the LMP, the Reserve will be transformed over time to improve both the amenity and the accessibility across the Reserve.



Diverse uses, diverse events

The ability to attract people to visit throughout the year for a broad range of exciting and stimulating cultural or sporting events, while continuing to provide a place for quiet and informal recreation within the landscapes and gardens, walking paths, and wetlands will be indicative of a successful Plan.



Community places and destinations

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve will demonstrate how improvements and additions to both landscape and recreational amenities will provide places and opportunities for community connections for a wide range of people of all ages and all abilities, within local and regional, existing and emerging communities.



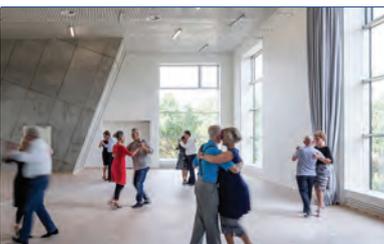
Preserving and enhancing the racing and event experience

Success will be measured by the Reserve's ability to not only continue to offer world-class racing events but to create a place that enhances the racing experience, including the quality of access to the Reserve. The renewal and ongoing improvements to the race experience are planned to protect the international significance of the Reserve.



Sustainable, resilient and innovative

Both flexible and resilient, the foci of the Reserve will evolve dynamically, based on emerging trends and contexts, continually adapting to meet changing needs of the community and the environment. Long-term outcomes will be underpinned by a framework of financial, social and environmental sustainability.

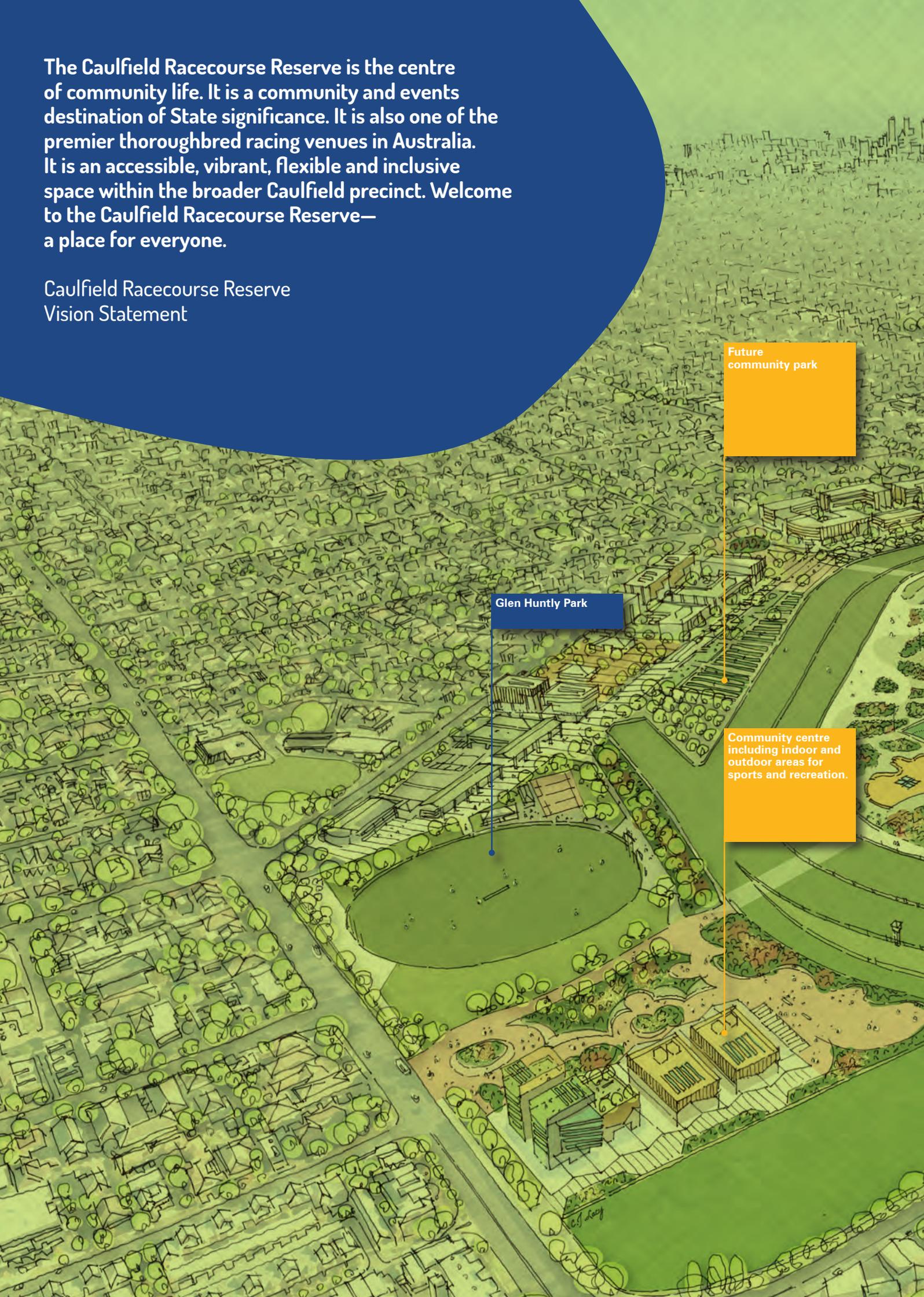


Successful partnerships delivering shared benefits

The LMP aims to facilitate successful partnerships to deliver project outcomes within the Reserve which yield the maximum benefits to the local and regional communities. Projects will align with the vision and principles of the LMP.

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve is the centre of community life. It is a community and events destination of State significance. It is also one of the premier thoroughbred racing venues in Australia. It is an accessible, vibrant, flexible and inclusive space within the broader Caulfield precinct. Welcome to the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve—a place for everyone.

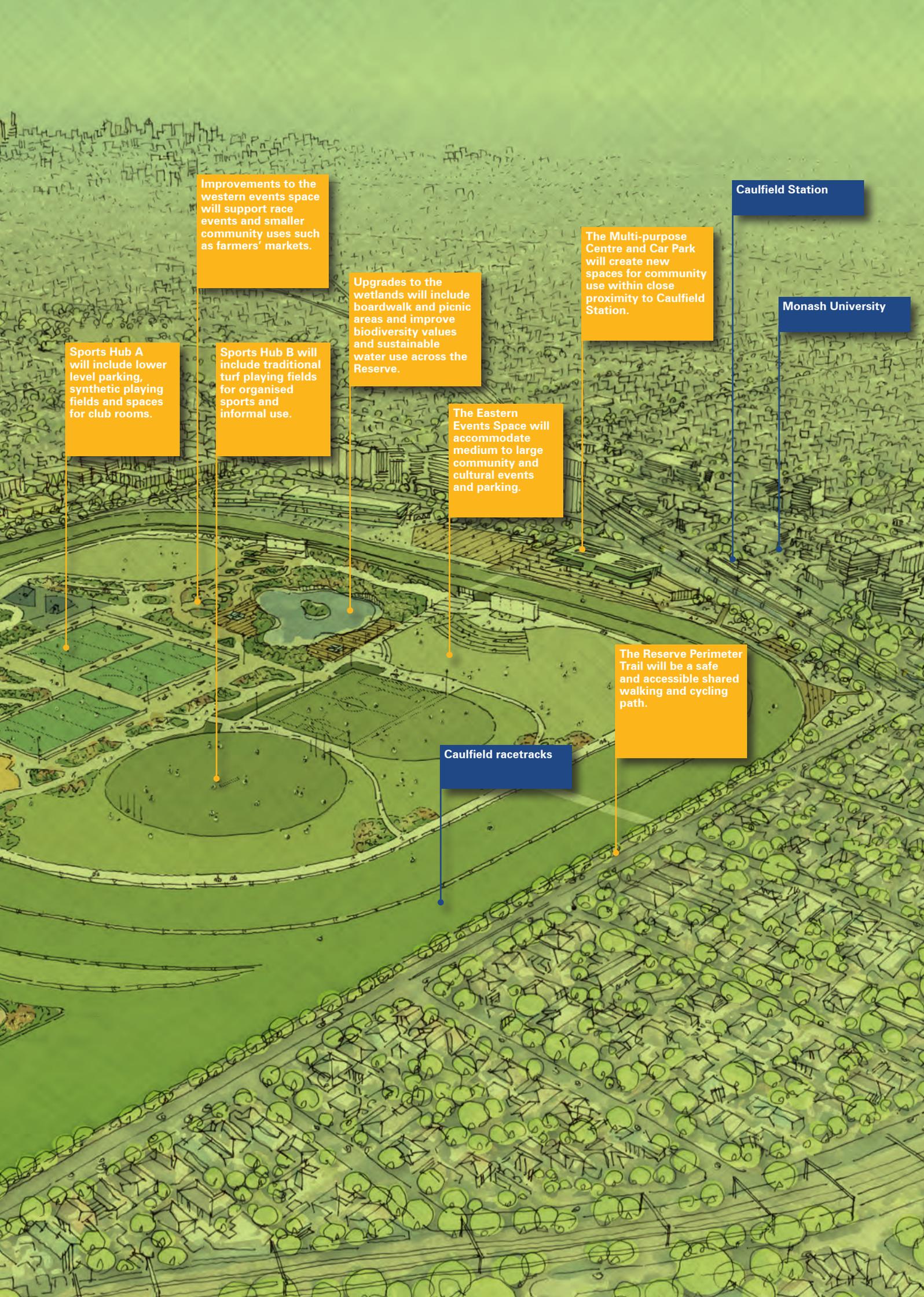
Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Vision Statement



Glen Huntly Park

Future
community park

Community centre
including indoor and
outdoor areas for
sports and recreation.



Improvements to the western events space will support race events and smaller community uses such as farmers' markets.

Sports Hub A will include lower level parking, synthetic playing fields and spaces for club rooms.

Sports Hub B will include traditional turf playing fields for organised sports and informal use.

Upgrades to the wetlands will include boardwalk and picnic areas and improve biodiversity values and sustainable water use across the Reserve.

The Eastern Events Space will accommodate medium to large community and cultural events and parking.

The Multi-purpose Centre and Car Park will create new spaces for community use within close proximity to Caulfield Station.

Caulfield Station

Monash University

The Reserve Perimeter Trail will be a safe and accessible shared walking and cycling path.

Caulfield racetracks

Projects and initiatives

Investment in the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve will ensure any benefits are maximised, reaching a diverse population of current and future users, from community cultural and sporting groups, individuals and local residents, to the international racing community.

These benefits will include:

- Construction projects creating jobs over a 15-year period.
- New inclusive community spaces for all ages and abilities providing safe and attractive spaces in which to socialise and to connect through nature play.
- Renewing and upgrading increasingly important open space in the current post-Covid context to meet open space demands and, in turn, addressing the shortfall of open space planning and provision in Glen Eira and Stonnington.
- The delivery of legacy projects that will establish benchmarks of quality and innovation, providing the foundation for a successful precinct. These could include partnerships projects such as the underground parking near the station as a critical part of the Caulfield and Level Crossing Removal upgrades or the transformation of the Neerim site through the Community Hub project.
- Ownership of a shared vision for the Reserve with community, stakeholders and partners will build on the viability and usability of the various precincts with a ripple effect on local neighbourhoods and within the broader regional context.

Project summary	
Precinct	Required investment
Reserve Racetracks	\$30.0M*
Outer Reserve	\$10.0M
Northern Reserve	\$32.0M plus \$250.0M*
Centre Reserve and access (Note: includes all Centre Reserve sub-precinct projects and Reserve access upgrades.)	\$173.0M plus \$5.0M*
South Reserve	\$55.0M
West Reserve	\$8.0M
Total investment required	\$278.0M plus \$285.0M*

* MRC investment

Above: Artist impression of the Neerim Community Hub and Indoor Stadium, Reserve South.
Below: Artist impression of the Eastern Event Space and Wetland, Centre Reserve North.



Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Land Management Plan Project Overview



Access and Movement

Improve existing access points into the Reserve and create new ones; create a movement network throughout the Reserve that is integrated with its context, accessible and safe.



Open Space and Recreation

Provide new spaces and amenities for organised and informal or social recreation, including playing surfaces, outdoor and indoor courts, walking paths and picnic areas.



Landscape, Environment and Sustainability

Improve the landscape amenity throughout the Reserve to create places for people to connect with nature to enjoy increased biodiversity values and climate-resilient landscapes and facilities.



Culture, Community and Events

Preserve and celebrate the historic use of the Reserve for racing while creating new event spaces to support community, cultural or sporting events or festivals.



The Digital Experience

Create the opportunity for integrated digital experience of the Reserve through Wi-Fi enabled spaces and digital communication and engagement platform.



Management

Foster partnerships with shared goals to realise the vision for the Reserve; seek innovative solutions to deliver diverse community benefits.

Outer Reserve	1	Perimeter trail, fencing and landscaping					
North Reserve	2	MRC Grandstand and Facilities, Northern Carpark and Multipurpose Building					
Centre Reserve	3	Racetrack					
Centre Reserve North	4	The Reserve Wetlands					
	5	Sports Hub A					
	6	Sports Hub B					
	7	Eastern Events Space					
	8	Western Event Space					
	9	Internal Walking /Cycling Track					
	10	Guineas Tunnel					
	11	Glen Eira Tunnel					
South Reserve	12	Neerim Community Hub					
	13	Neerim Tunnel					
West Reserve	14	Wedge Park					

Reserve Racetracks

The existing racetrack is a key significant asset of the Reserve and intrinsically linked to the historic use for racing and the sense of open space and greenery.



The racetrack was established, and is maintained, for horse racing. It is also accessible to the community for walking and jogging. Continued access, along with new access to a planned second high-quality racetrack to support night racing, will need to be managed to ensure safety, regular maintenance and provide guidance for any conflicts of use.

Outer Reserve

Upgrading the Reserve's interface with adjoining areas aims to increase public awareness of the Reserve and improve its appearance and the experience of it, at its edges.



Reserve Perimeter Trail, fencing and landscaping.

The Reserve Perimeter trail is a new shared path for walking, running and cycling around the Reserve. This 3-km trail runs along Queens Avenue and Station Street and provides a safe and continuous pedestrian pathway. Upgrades to the perimeter fencing and landscaping will improve the appearance of the Reserve at its boundary as well as highlight access points and sightlines into the Reserve.

North Reserve

North Reserve is the home of thoroughbred racing and the Melbourne Racing Club. This well-equipped site caters for large events including racing, functions, exams and community activities. The site is the gateway to the Reserve from Caulfield Station.



Multi-purpose Centre and Car Park

North Reserve will be home to a multi-purpose building with possible indoor sports facilities and underground car parking. The previous on-ground parking area will accommodate uses for events and recreation and provide for an extension of activities within the multi-purpose centre.

Centre Reserve

The Centre Reserve will be transformed to accommodate a wider range of uses. Improved access and landscaping will make it a safe and enjoyable place to be.



Internal Walking and Cycling Path

The internal walking and cycling path will offer users a safe and uninterrupted path that mirrors the shape of the racetracks. As an extension, the path can be upgraded to provide a cycling loops for a criterium circuit creating an ideal cycling event or education space.

Centre Reserve North will be home to events and community life, including festivals, markets, walking around a wetland and enjoying nature. The precinct will be connected to the surrounding streets with improved tunnel access points and excellent lighting, providing opportunities to access the many attributes of the Reserve.



Northern Wetland

The upgrade to the northern wetland includes new boardwalks, outdoor furniture and picnic areas. Landscaping will also be enhanced to better support biodiversity within the wetland and provide a relaxing social and recreation space.



Western Event Space

On the western side of the wetlands is a smaller events space that will continue to support MRC-related events as well as provide opportunities for farmers or arts and crafts markets. The event space will include new landscaping and garden areas, as well as a renovated pavilion offering function spaces with an open terrace overlooking the lake and Reserve.



Eastern Event Space

A large event space is planned for the northeast of the Centre Reserve which will cater for events such as concerts, MRC and community festivals. A well designed pavilion incorporating a stage, back-of-house, green room and small kitchen for catering will be located behind a new second screen to ensure sightline to the racetrack will not be visually impacted. Gently sloping the grassed area towards the stage pavilion will help shape the space, improving sight lines and defining the area.



Guineas Tunnel

The Guineas Tunnel will be upgraded with better forecourt lighting and digital signage. Pedestrian access to each entry will be designed to improve accessibility and safety.

Centre Reserve South

Centre Reserve South provides an ideal opportunity for active recreation to be accommodated at a scale that will enable multiple sports and teams to play concurrently on a mix of synthetic and grass fields, maximising their utilisation. Through seeking sustainable solutions and effective water management addressing water requirements, the impacts upon the environment will be lessened. Car parking will be below the synthetic surfaces, increasing the area available for sports, improving the amenity and removing pedestrian conflict with cars.



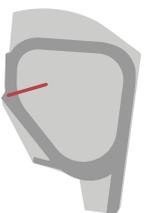
Sports Hub A

Sports Hub A, to the west of the Reserve, will feature synthetic turf sport fields for sports such as hockey and soccer with underground car park accessible from the Reserve's new arrival courtyard. Sports club rooms, storage and cafés as well as spaces for informal sports and recreation like non-competitive ball, outdoor gym and picnic areas will be located in this precinct.



Sports Hub B

Sports Hub B to the east of the Reserve includes areas for natural turf playing surfaces providing an area for organised sports, such as cricket, soccer(football) or AFL football, or for informal recreation. Underground water storage will support irrigation requirements and surrounding areas will have upgrades to landscaping, paths and seating and lighting to support extended-hours use of the Reserve.



Glen Eira Tunnel

The upgrade for the Glen Eira Tunnel will include improved pedestrian and cycle access, separated from vehicles and with improved lighting and new digital signage.

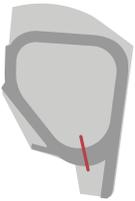
South Reserve

The South Reserve will become an exciting new community space providing both indoor and outdoor spaces, connecting with and expanding on the existing amenity of Glen Huntly Park and all within a short walk to the Glen Huntly activity centre and train station.



Neerim Community Hub

On the southeast end of the Reserve is the Neerim Stable site which, when vacated by horse training, will become home to a new community hub and indoor sports facility. Spaces for community events and social recreation such as workshop areas, meeting rooms, and indoor sports like basketball, netball, futsal and gymnastics will be provided as well as an outdoor skate park and landscaped public space.



Neerim Tunnel

A new pedestrian tunnel will be provided traversing from Neerim Community Hub to the inner part of the Reserve. This new access will be provided with a shared pedestrian and cycling path together with adequate lighting and digital signage.

West Reserve

Wedge Park in the West Reserve precinct, is accessible all year round including race days and will provide space for a local park/community garden with an abundance of natural light. The Wedge area is available for people with all abilities and interests and forms part of a linear circuit around the whole Reserve.



Wedge Park

Wedge Park will become a valuable new informal and social recreation space for local residents as well as providing the space for a critical link for the Reserve Perimeter Trail. Uses can include community garden areas, a playground with a nature focus along with picnic areas and supporting amenities. Landscaping will provide shade in summer, grassy areas to sit on and views across the race track to the east.



Artist impression of the Sports Hub, Centre Reserve South



A fortnight in the Reserve

The Reserve will accommodate a diverse range of uses throughout the year. This will include everyday activities such as walking, jogging or cycling along shared paths and trail as well as regular events, such as racing, organised sports and community events. Access to the Reserve will be managed carefully to ensure safety during events and to provide clarity to the community on which areas and facilities remain open at all times.



1 Weekend markets



2 Walking, cycling along shared trail



3 Dog walking and off-leash areas



4 Turf areas for informal sports



5 Open space for social recreation



6 Accessible gardens and paths



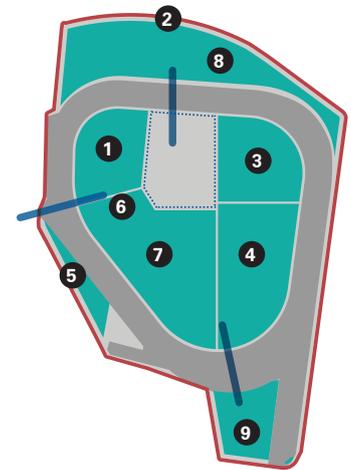
7 Extended hours sports and training



8 Adaptable community spaces

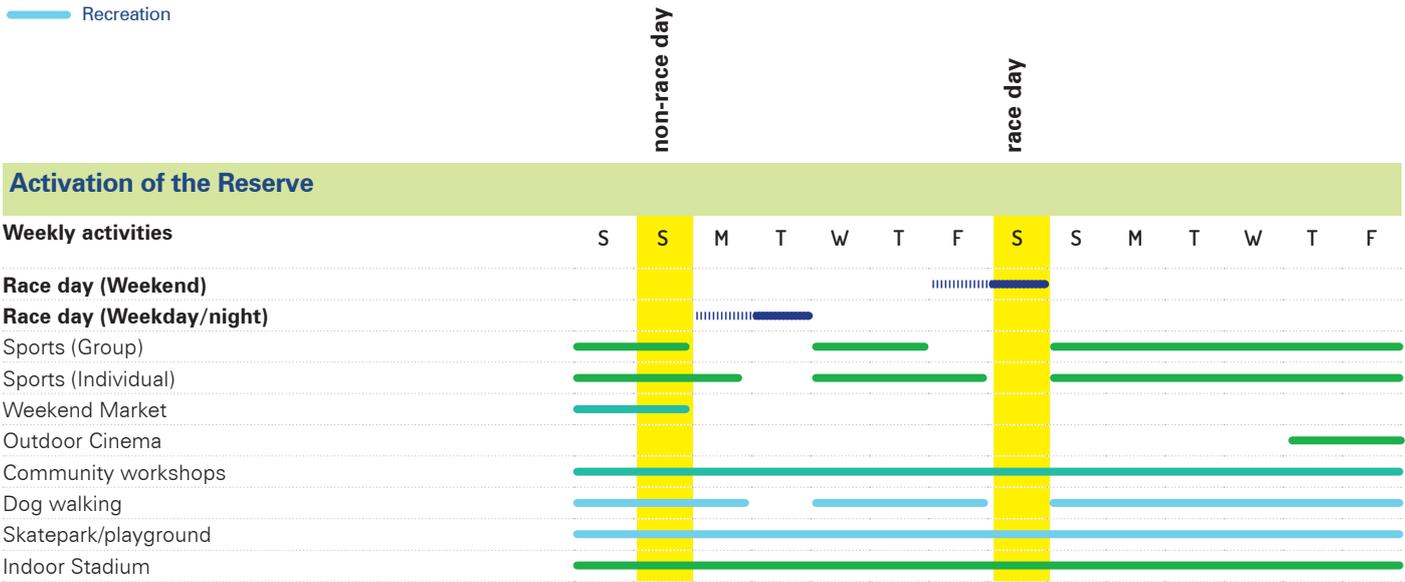
Non-race day:

Weekdays, weekends and night activities for the majority of the year. The Reserve will offer a range of spaces and facilities, across all precincts, for diverse community uses.

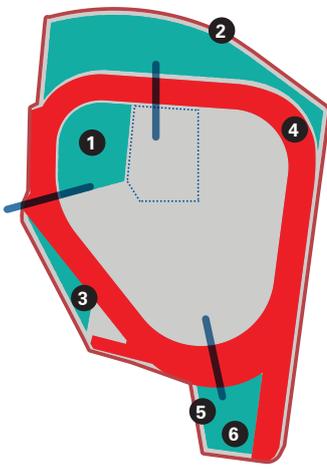


9 Community and cultural events

- Legend:
-  Racing-related events (including preparation)
 -  Events (public)
 -  Sports
 -  Recreation



Race day:
Weekends or weekday night racing will continue to be an important event for the Reserve. Management will ensure safety and security is maintained and to maximise Reserve access.



Race day and night social events



Walking, cycling along shared trail



Nature play playground



Horse racing events and carnivals



Indoor sports and community areas



Skate park and picnic areas



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