

News From The Commons



Autumn 2024

Autumn Upgrades



The Caulfield Commons has been a hive of activity in recent weeks as a range of exciting new facilities and upgrades have been delivered.

A popular addition will be the introduction of a dedicated dog wet play space that will be located in the southern section of the off-leash dog area. This space will be landscaped to create an exciting and interesting space for dogs to swim and explore, and includes an island and range of plantings.

There will also be new shelters and seating installed in the off-leash dog area to make it a nicer space to relax and enjoy while also providing weather protection.

New park furniture has also been installed around the Northern Lake, and fencing installed to improve safety and protect the wildlife. Recent community feedback, including an overwhelming response to the Strategic Management Plan, identified the need to protect and celebrate the Reserve's biodiversity features. This included fencing and protecting the Reserve's wetlands and trees. The public toilet block and boardwalk is also getting a face lift, with the boardwalk to be re-decked and new seating installed to optimise the prime bird watching location and area to relax near the public bbqs and pavilion. This area will also feature new drink fountains, seating and a dedicated art wall to feature local artists.

"The Caulfield Commons is a place for everybody, and these upgrades will make a difference to a broad range of users. Whether you're coming to walk the dog, photograph the birdlife, enjoy the markets or events, or go for a run these

improvements will make it easier and more enjoyable for everyone," said Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust Chairperson, Sam Almaliki.

The design and location of the new facilities has been developed in coordination with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Heritage Victoria to maintain the Reserve's heritage characteristics and values and best utilise the existing services and facilities.

Exciting Times in the Reserve

As we say goodbye to summer the cooler weather will be welcome change to come and explore the wide variety of activities and changes within the Reserve. In recent weeks there has been a large amount of construction and activity within the Reserve as new seating, paths, shelters and infrastructure is delivered within the centre of the Reserve or Caulfield Commons space.

We have recently launched a new website to help share information and promote the Reserve as it continues to transition from its former horse training roots. This will be the central space to find out what's happening at the Reserve and see upcoming events. Check out the new site at CaulfieldCommons.com.au and we look forward to seeing you at Commons soon!

Feasibility Study

Melbourne Football Club has recently commenced a feasibility study in partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria and Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust. This feasibility study will assess the benefits of a partnership with Melbourne football club utilising some of the new community sports field infrastructure planned in the reserve's Strategic Management Plan (SMP) and create administration and training facilities outside of the racetrack area.

The SMP provides an exciting vision for the precinct, including a broad range of community focussed infrastructure, with a Nature, Arts and Events Precinct and a Sports Fields Precinct in the centre of the Reserve. The feasibility study will be an important step in understanding how this vision can be supported and implemented, and what role Melbourne Football Club could play in realising the potential of the Reserve whilst ensuring community access is maintained.

The Strategic Management Plan also includes a range of community infrastructure that will be investigated as part of the overall project. This includes walking, running and cycling tracks, revitalisation and enhancement of the access from the south with the completion of the new Glen Huntly Station, dedicated community focussed events spaces, and a range of

multipurpose natural turf sports fields.

With horse training facilities now removed from the centre of the reserve, more space than ever is available for all users and the community. All areas within the infield will be open to the public and available to everyone to enjoy and will not be set aside for exclusivity of any users. Prior to the relocation of horse training, the Reserve was only open between 9:45am and 1:30pm and from 4pm to sunset. It is now open sunrise to sunset throughout the year except for declared horse racing events.

The feasibility study has just commenced and will involve stakeholder engagement. Further updates on the feasibility study will be provided to the community as the study progresses.



Disc Golf at Caulfield Commons

Caulfield Commons has a fun new attraction thanks to the team at Melbourne Disc Golf. A new four-hole course has been installed at the course and is free and open for everyone to try. The course is largely designed for beginners but also features several more challenging holes and configurations for more advanced players. Disc golf is closely related to ball golf, including the major elements of ball golf, with the only primary difference being you throw a frisbee-like disc in place of hitting a ball. Just like ball golf, there is a fixed starting place – the 'tee' for each hole and somewhere to finish – the disc must land in a metal 'basket'. The intention of course, is to get from tee to basket in as few throws as possible. Holes may vary in length from 40m to over 300m with pars between 3 and 5 depending on length and other difficulties.

The Caulfield Commons course is located to the south of the public carpark, on the inside of the racecourse, and about a five minute walk from Caulfield Station. Players can warm up at the practice tee near the public barbecues, wetlands and shelter area. With several courses popping up across Melbourne, Disc Golf has become an increasingly popular sport and a great way to exercise and socialise at the same time.

For more information on Melbourne Disc Golf, the course or to purchase discs, visit the website below: melbournediscgolf.com/caulfield-racecourse



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