



(Left) The diagram demonstrates the tree protection measures which will be put in place around the major avenues and pathways within the park. The combination of post and pipe fencing, extensive mulching, and introduction of compacted gravel pedestrian pathways will greatly enhance tree health.

Interested in finding out more?

To get more information, or to comment on the Draft Yarra Park Masterplan:

- Go to www.mcg.org.au/yarrapark and complete an inquiry form.
- Write to Yarra Park Project, c/- PO Box 175, East Melbourne, Victoria, AUSTRALIA, 8002
- Visit the display located near the main members entrance - Gate 2 and leave your comments in the feedback box.

This update will be provided quarterly at www.mcg.org.au/yarrapark



The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) and the State Government recently announced a \$22m capital injection into Yarra Park as part of a comprehensive Draft Yarra Park Masterplan, designed to greatly improve the parkland. The project involves renewal and rejuvenation of Yarra Park through implementation of the Masterplan, based on the original design themes within Yarra Park.

It will see the addition of new avenues of trees, selected tree planting, mulching on avenues, significant tree protection measures introduced, lawn upgrades, improvements to the playground, additional garden beds established, new pedestrian paths, additional park benches and tables, and the establishment of a small gravel car park area.

As part of the plan, an underground water recycling plant will be installed, which will secure essential non-potable water for use in Yarra Park, the MCG and potentially Punt Road Oval. This water will ensure the park receives sufficient water, regardless of the drought situation.

Premier John Brumby said the initiative was a great example of a partnership for the betterment of the environment.

“This project is an example of organisations working together to reduce water consumption and protect the parklands. The MCC is to be commended for the approach it has taken in this regard.”

The Plan includes:

1. Implementing a Draft Yarra Park Masterplan including the provision of tree planting, mulching, tree protection works, pedestrian paths and grass resurfacing
2. The securing of a non-potable water supply through the mining of water for use on the parklands
3. Retro-fitting the MCG for recycled water use
4. Installing upgraded irrigation in Yarra Park

The MCC will invest \$16 million into Yarra Park to undertake the water recycling project and other greening initiatives.

The State Government will contribute \$6 million to the Draft Yarra Park Masterplan, taking the total investment in Yarra Park to \$22 million. All revenues from car parking and concession operators will be channelled directly to maintaining and improving the Park.

The MCC will significantly cut its reliance on Melbourne’s precious water resources and protect the parkland surrounding Australia’s most famous stadium, the MCG.

The provision of 40ML of non-potable water to the MCG will reduce its potable water usage by 50%, effectively removing it from the list of Melbourne’s top 100 water users.

The water recycling plant will be located underground Yarra Park to minimise visual impact.

Mr Gough said the water recycling facility was part of the MCC’s concerted effort to reduce its ecological footprint.

“The MCC recognises its responsibility to balance the needs of the environment and community with its operations, particularly in this time of drought. We are making a commitment to using less water and energy, and generating less waste,” he said.

The MCC is working with local and state authorities, including City West Water, to finalise the detail of the recycling facility.

Under the agreement, management and maintenance of the Yarra Park will be assigned to the MCG Trust. A consultative group will be established to allow for external input into the Draft Yarra Park Masterplan and its ongoing management.

“The Draft Yarra Park Masterplan was commissioned by the MCC to retain the Park’s integrity and guide the Park’s capital development over the next five years and into the future. This has been developed with assistance from a well-credentialed team of independent experts,” said Mr Gough.

“A recent City of Melbourne study showed that 18% of trees in Yarra Park are “under stress” due to drought conditions. While this was well below the average of 40% shown across all of the City of Melbourne’s parks, we are looking forward to being able to provide sufficient additional water to reduce this even more and greatly improve the overall amenity of the park*.”

A consultation process will be established. Further information for this process is provided at www.mcg.org.au

Great Southern Stand Update

The State Government and the MCC recently announced a \$30 million fund, established with the purpose of funding major refurbishments and improvements to the Great Southern Stand.

The full extent of the refurbishments will be determined in a scoping study to be completed by the end of 2009.

As almost all of the proposed works are internal, it is not anticipated there will be significant disruption caused.

By undertaking these refurbishments and enhancements now, the MCC is confident the lifespan of the Great Southern Stand will be greatly increased.

Yarra Park Facts

- According to a recent City of Melbourne study, Yarra Park has 18% of its trees under stress, the lowest level of tree stress in all the parks in Melbourne by a significant margin.
- Yarra Park is the only park of those named that is subject to regular car parking.
- The sewer-mining proposal will deliver up to 180ML/year of Class A water, providing at least 100 ML/year for the watering of Yarra Park, and 40 ML/year for the MCG.
- This will reduce the MCG’s reliance on potable water by 50%, removing it from the Melbourne’s Top 100 Water Users list.
- The MCC has brought together a well-credentialed team of independent landscape architects, arborists, soil experts and traffic management experts to contribute to this Masterplan.
- 20% of MCG patrons arrive by vehicles parked in Yarra Park on an annual basis.
- As a result of consultation between MCC and City of Melbourne, the volume of vehicles parked within Yarra Park has been reduced from 471,000 in 1991, to 253,000 in 2008 - a reduction of 48%.
- Parking has been allowed for events at the MCG for over 50 years, and for major events at Melbourne Park since 1988.
- Currently, only periodic water supply is available to trees. The MCC does not believe this is sustainable.
- The Class A water which will be generated by the treatment plant is certified by the EPA as being safe for non-potable uses such as watering lawns, gardens and parklands.

*City of Melbourne figures, as quoted in *The Age*, 24 August 2009, p5.

