

26 April 2021

Dear resident,

Re: Sir Robert Menzies Reserve – Retaining Wall Landscape Works

Work to replace the retaining walls along the southern boundary of Sir Robert Menzies Reserve is now well underway. The engineering work is required to improve the stability of the sloping terrain and ultimately ensure the safety of both park users and neighbouring residents.

To ensure the finished slope profile is in-keeping with the park context, a landscape plan has been developed by Council to revegetate the stabilised slope. The primary landscape goals are to:

- Provide screening of the concrete retaining walls, wherever practicable.
- Increase local biodiversity.
- Improve overall aesthetics and amenity of the reserve.
- Contribute to the safety of park users and residents.
- Provide achievable maintenance goals.

The accompanying zoned plan illustrates the planting palette council will reference in re-vegetating the slope. A combination of native and non-native plants are proposed. The landscape zoning and associated planting is a factor of the location on the slope; proximity to the wall; soil and light conditions; drainage; and future maintenance requirements.

Zones A and B - Ground Level Garden Beds:

The footpath is to be realigned to create larger garden beds allowing for new screen planting in front of the wall. This includes a proposed deck section to span the roots of existing established trees. The proposed planting references existing garden beds in the reserve. Screening shrubs and small trees have been selected for their full canopy and quick growth. Proposed plants provide a combination of hardiness and seasonal floral interest. Shade tolerant planting is proposed beneath the canopy of the existing established trees. An additional garden bed will be created in the southeast corner of the reserve to provide habitat and biodiversity in an under-utilised area of lawn.

Zone C – Mid-Level Retained Garden Bed:

For the bench between terraced wall sections, the proposed planting is directed by a few key characteristics. The selected plants are hardy - able to tolerate shallow soils and no irrigation. Small shrubs are intended to screen the upper-tiered wall, whilst sprawling ground cover plants cascade

over the face of the lower tiered wall. The planting arrangement will facilitate maintenance inspection access and ongoing wall stability. A floral palette of white, purple and yellow compliments the other zoned planting.

Zone D – Upper Level Retained Garden Bed:

As with Zone C, the proposed planting of the upper slope comprises hardy plants, generally able to tolerate direct sun, shallow soils and no irrigation. Selected species are predominantly ground cover plants to ultimately provide a dense coverage, with some plants cascading over the retaining wall face. Climbing varieties are proposed for intermittent sections of chainmesh fence along the southern reserve boundary.

Additional Park Trees:

Small to medium trees are proposed to be planted within the reserve. The selected tree species are native, providing both habitat and additional wall screening when viewing from the north of the reserve

As with all landscaping works, seasonal availability of nursery stock may result in the substitution of some plants. In addition, the planting will require time to fully establish, and we ask for your patience over growing seasons.

Council will continue to keep residents and park users informed as works progress. If you have any comments or queries in relation to this landscape plan please do not hesitate to contact Alex Hogan at urbandesign@stonnington.vic.gov.au or call 8290 1066.

Yours sincerely

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