

Advice Note

Responsible Officer:	Director Technical Services
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2019
Meeting of the:	Ordinary Meeting of Council
Item:	Petition – Degraded State of Entrance Areas of Troy Park and Associated Alfred Cove Nature Reserve

This Advice Note has been prepared in response to a petition received regarding the above from Mr Gary Crawford. The petition states:

“The problems are (but not limited to) flooding and ponding that occurs during winter months of grassed entrance area and roadway; that the road is not level and has no associated drainage and hence the left side is subject to flooding which reduces availability of accessible parking; the lack of safety lighting and the clearing out of the area (including removal of dead trees etc.) on the right side of the entrance road so that a junior playground can be installed.”

Officers have responded to each of the issues raised in the petition.

Flood and ponding of grassed entrance and roadway

This section of foreshore is part of the naturally occurring Swan River floodplain and is subject to periodic and short term flooding during the winter months, particularly after storm events when the ground is fully saturated. Floodplains are important river features and a necessary part of the river ecology. Removal of floodplain areas results in the loss of valuable and ecologically important floodplain flora and fauna, it is important to note this area is located immediately adjacent to the Alfred Cove Nature Reserve.

The area of the reserve mentioned, falls within a zone that is only 1.0m to 1.5m above the water table. Therefore during above average rainfall conditions, this area will always be subject to inundation. The shared path and the road still remains trafficable under these conditions. Due to the close proximity to the river, any form of drainage intervention, will be dependent on the river level. Should the level of the river rise, then the potential to drain the area reduces until such time that the river level subsides.

Investigation will be carried out to remove vegetation from the headwalls of the drainage swale located just before the formalised parking bays at Troy Park.

Road is not level and has no associated drainage, reducing availability of accessible parking

The access road follows the contour of the natural surface and is therefore subject to some minor and temporary flooding during periods when the grassed floodplain area is at capacity before naturally subsiding. The access road is not adversely impacted in terms of condition or functionality during temporary flooding events and can be easily traversed to access the Troy Park car park and associated facilities. Car parking is provided in close proximity to the oval and community building with overflow parking permitted on the entry road as well as Burke Drive.



The City will investigate reshaping and raising the access road to reduce the potential for ponding water. As the area is part of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Development Control Area any proposed works will require their approval.

Lack of safety lighting

The current lighting facilities focus on the clubrooms and active recreational areas, with footpath and road lighting provided by street lights. It should be noted that there is a conscious effort to minimise light spill into the adjacent Alfred Cove Nature Reserve in order to minimise disturbance to wildlife that use this regionally significant habitat and conservation area.

Clearing of entrance on right side so that junior playground can be installed

The area to the right of the entrance road contains a mix of grassed and rehabilitated bushland areas adjacent to the nature reserve where native reeds and other riverine species are naturally repopulating selected areas. The Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group (SERAG) works in partnership with the City in the restoration works at this location and other areas within Alfred Cove aimed at providing habitat and restoring areas back to a more natural state.

There is currently an existing playground, located 180 metres away from the proposed location in this petition, which is meeting local needs. There are no plans to establish an additional playground at this locality as the current playground is deemed suitable, in a location close to the sporting grounds and change rooms that allow guardians to watch sport and monitor the children playing on the playground.

Officer Recommendation

The Officer Recommendation is *that the petition to be acknowledged* as further investigation will take place on the reshaping of the road and removal of vegetation in the drain near the entry into Troy Park. Any identified works will be completed from existing budgets.