WALPEUP RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN 2009 - 2019

















ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council thanks the community for is contribution to the Walpeup Recreation Reserve Master Plan by attending community planning meetings, forwarding submissions and providing feedback on draft documents.

Council also takes this opportunity to acknowledge the many individuals and community organisations that help make the reserve the valuable community asset it is today.

The clubs and organisations that co-ordinate activities at Walpeup Recreation Reserve are also recognised for their commitment to providing a variety of sport and recreation opportunities for a diverse range groups.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of the Walpeup Recreation Reserve Master Plan is to provide a framework to guide the planning and development of the reserve over the next 10 years.

While this is a 10 year plan it is based on a 30+ year vision the community and in particular tenants have for the reserve. Through this master plan the community articulates its aspirations for the reserve and how it wants the park to reflect 'community pride'.

The community also recognise that a long term strategy is necessary to ensure the reserve provides for future generations in a sustainable and responsible manner.

The master plan should be a document that is reviewed regularly and modified in response to changing needs and additional requirements identified over the period of the plan.

1.2 Walpeup Recreation Reserve

Walpeup Recreation Reserve is located 133 kilometers approximately south of kilometers south of Mildura and is approximately 14 hectares in size. The reserve is owned by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (state government) and is managed by a committee under a licence agreement with the department.

The following table provides an overview of these organisations and the facilities they use at the reserve:

CLUB / ASSOCIATION	OVAL 1 (synthetic wicket)		TENNIS COURTS (4 gypsum)		GOLF COURSE		CLUBROOMS	
	S	W	S	W	S	W	S	W
Underbool / Walpeup Cricket Club (Red Cliffs Cricket Association)								
Underbool / Walpeup Football / Netball Club (Mallee Football / Netball League)								
Walpeup Tennis Club (Ouyen Lawn Tennis Association)								
Walpeup Golf Club								

(Code: s=summer, w=winter)

The reserve currently includes:

- 1 sports field that caters for cricket (concrete wicket)
- 4 tennis courts
- 1 pavilion

1.3 Participation Trends

The following provides a summary of sport participation trends at the reserve:

Tennis

The Walpeup Tennis Club has 60 active members, this consists of 45 seniors (50 / 50 split between females and males) and 15 juniors (50 / 50 split between girls and boys). The club has 3 teams / 20 players of (mixed seniors and juniors) that play in Saturday competitions (summer) as part of the Ouyen Lawn Tennis Association.

The club also auspices a Thursday night social / recreation competition which attracts up to 50 players on a weekly basis during the summer. This activity is followed by a meal / social activities.

In 2006 membership of the club dropped to approximately 20 members, however in the past three years membership has been stable at approximately 60 active members.

Golf

There are currently 5 members of the Walpeup Golf Club. The golf club has been successful in recent competitions having won 3 successive pennant competitions over the last 4 years.

The golf course is the preferred course for regional and pennant competitions because it retains its condition better than other courses. Pennant events attract approximately 16 male players (4 teams of 4) for 5 weeks in winter. There are no women's pennant teams. In addition the course attracts a casual use of approximately 20 casual players a week in the winter.

Cricket

The Underbool – Walpeup Cricket Club had 1 senior and 1 junior teams in 2009. Both teams have a regular turn-out of 8 players with an additional 5 players playing on a rotational basis. The club has retained this level of membership for the past 3 years. Approximately 50% of the senior team comes from Walpeup and the remainder comes from the wider region including Underbool and Ouyen. The club has won 7 consecutive premierships in recent years.

Football / Netball

Active membership of the combined Underbool – Walpeup football teams is approximately 60. The club has a senior, reserves and under 16 team. In addition, the club attracted 15 auskick participants in 2009. Numbers have been consistent for the last 3 years however an increasing number of players come from the wider region including Ouyen, Walpeup and Mildura.

In 2009 membership of the combined Underbool – Walpeup netball teams was approximately 50. There was a total of 5 teams – 2 junior and 3 senior teams and all teams made it into the 1st semi-finals. In 2009 the club had 10 participants in its 'net set go' program (4-7 year olds) and 12 in its 'funnet' program (10-12 year olds).

2.0 Background Information

At the last census (2006) the population of Walpeup (state suburb) was 109. This represents a decline in the population of 97 people or 47% from the 2001 population of 206. The most predominant age group is the 25-54 age group however this group represents a significantly smaller group of the population than for the Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) area as a whole (Walpeup 27.8%, MRCC 39.5%). Walpeup also has a significantly higher percentage of its population in the over 65 age group than does MRCC as a whole (Walpeup 24.1%, MRCC 14.8%).

In 2006 census data indicates an unemployment rate of 0 however there is a considerably greater percentage of the population employed part time than for MRCC as a whole (Walpeup 44.7%, MRCC 27.8%). This may indicate a lack of full-time work opportunities for people living in Walpeup. Employment is primarily in managerial professions (42.6%, MRCC 17.3%) and the predominant industry of employment is farming (29.8%).

The most predominant family type is 'couples without children' (Walpeup 55.9%, MRCC 38.8%) which is significantly higher than for MRCC as a whole, followed by 'couple families with children (Walpeup 35.3%, MRCC 43.6%).

It is important that opportunities to cater for the sporting needs of all age groups be considered as part of the master plan, however given the demographic trends for Walpeup it is particularly important that opportunities for people as they age be optimised at the reserve.

References: 2006 Census QuickStats: Walpeup (State Suburb), ABS; Qiickstats: Mildura (RC) (Local Government Area), ABS

3.0 Project Methodology

This master plan is one of 12 master plans prepared for township reserves across the municipality. The project involved workshops with sporting club and reserve representatives, review of project submissions, interviews with stakeholders and workshops with council staff.

Communication with key stakeholders has been ongoing throughout the project to refine the master plan. In addition, this project has incorporated relevant findings and comments from a range of planning sessions conducted with communities over the last 6-8 months in relation to Community Plans and the preparation of the Council Plan. (1) A summary of information drawn from these sources is included in appendix 2.

(1) Council Plan and Community Plan consultation meetings

4.0 Summary of Key Findings Directions

The following points provide a summary of the key directions articulated by the community through the project and through other community planning sessions conducted by council (2)

(2) Council Plan and Community Plan consultation meetings

The priorities for Walpeup Recreation Reserve are:

- Upgrading of the pavilion including:
 - weather-proofing
 - upgrading the kitchen
 - upgrading bar and general storage areas associated with kitchen / bar areas
 - fitting out internal and external storage facilities
- Upgrading of play facilities and establishment of a pedestrian only zone
- Rectifying drainage / rain water and associated debris run-off onto tennis courts
- Terracing of social / spectator area to the east of the pavilion
- Dust suppression and erosion remedies
- Vegetation plantings for dust and erosion management and amenity enhancement.

5.0 Discussion of Issues and Needs

This section provides a discussion of the issues and opportunities raised through various consultation forums. This section should be read in conjunction with the Action Plan as it provides the basis for the tasks and priorities detailed in the plan.

Information in this section reflects feedback received through this project and also through other community planning meetings conducted over the last 6-8 months. (2) Council Plan and Community Plan consultation meetings

Walpeup Recreation Reserve is located approximately 133 kilometers from Mildura and is a large sire of approximately 56 hectares in size. The community of Walpeup is small have decreased by 47% (97 people) between the 2001 and 2006 census to 109 people.

The Walpeup Community Plan reflects the community's priority (priority 2) for upgraded facilities at the recreation reserve. It also outlines strategies to achieve this and more effectively manage facilities. One of the strategies was to complete a master plan for the reserve so as to 'identify needs, wants and priorities for the reserve development'. (2) Council Walpeup Community Plan, page 7

This is a priority for the Walpeup community that wants to upgrade facilities so as to extend and optimise their 'life' so that community engagement opportunities are retained in the local community. This is particularly important given the community has experienced the loss of its own football and cricket teams and wants to ensure that other sport and recreation opportunities are retained for as long as possible.

Until 1997 the Walpeup community managed two separate sport and recreation reserves. The Walpeup Recreation Reserve in Meridian Road which accommodated cricket and football / netball and the Walpeup Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (Walpeup-Patchywollock Rd) which accommodates tennis, golf and cricket.

As a result of the amalgamation of the Walpeup and Underbool football / netball teams due to lack of local participants the Walpeup Recreation Reserve was returned to the Department of Sustainability because it was no longer required for community sport.

For the purpose of further discussion the reserve has been divided into a number of precincts.

Pavilion Precinct

The declining Walpeup population and subsequent decrease in sporting participation in the town cannot justify a major redevelopment of facilities at the reserve, nor could the community resource this level of development.

However, a staged upgrade of facilities is required to cater for community needs in a safe and secure pavilion that is of an appropriate standard, and that complies with relevant regulations.

The basic construction of the building and in particular the extensions means that it is not weatherproof. This together with the prevailing weather conditions and the lack of ground cover around the pavilion results in dust / dirt / sand settling in the building. This then requires a major cleaning of the building, in particular food preparation and serving areas, prior to use.

In addition, the kitchen, bar, servery and storage areas are basic and attention is required to ensure they are upgraded to comply with relevant health and safety requirements. Significant works are required to achieve this and the first step should be an audit to clearly identify options for weather-proofing and upgrading the pavilion and to detail tasks, costings and timelines.

Shelving in the small storage room is required to optimise storage space and address risk management issues associated with the current storage conditions. Provision has been made in the master plan for the upgrade of the toilets. Toilets are in a good and presentable condition but will require modernising in the future.

The master plan supports the initiative of the committee to terrace the area in between the pavilion and the tennis courts. This will provide casual seating and will remove the need to provide a safety barrier along the top of existing retaining wall.

The master plan recommends the provision of a concrete skirt along the north and west sides of the pavilion and for this to be complemented with vegetation plantings. This will minimise mud and dust in the immediate vicinity of the pavilion and make it easier to keep this area and the inside of the pavilion clean.

The master plan recommends progressive tree and ground cover plantings to the west of the pavilion as a priority to reduce dust and erosion and provide a windbreak. The challenge in establishing vegetation because of the extreme weather conditions including the lack of water is recognised. It should however be a priority over time so as to improve the appearance and amenity of the reserve.

Tennis Court precinct

The tennis courts are significantly impacted by the gradient of the large area of land that drains to the tennis courts. Attempts have been made to remedy the incursion of water, mud and leaf debris onto the courts, however this has not been successful in the area to the south of the pavilion. Significant run-off onto the courts occurs 4-6 times a year

It is proposed to extend the terracing in between the pavilion and the courts along the remaining courts to the south of the pavilion. This will assist with water run-off onto the courts and will provide for car parking in the area. Tree planting is recommended in the car park along with the progressive removal of the sugar gums in the precinct.

The master plan makes an allocation for the upgrade of the tennis courts (crushed gypsum rock). The committee of management is considering the laying of a synthetic grass court. Prior to this, consideration should be given to the cost of ongoing maintenance and replacement, ensuring drainage issues will not impact on the court and heat generated by synthetic surfaces. In terms of the latter it will be necessary to clearly define how / when the court will be used and whether a synthetic court will provide significant additional benefits.

Cricket Oval Precinct

The master plan proposes the removal of building debris and the old water tank to the south of the oval and the upgrading of the cricket shelter. It also recommends the cleaning of dead vegetation and the planting of trees to ensure the area continues to provide shade over time for cricket participants and spectators.

The oval's watering system is 20+ years old and is no longer functional. Given the cricket club's amalgamation with the Underbool Cricket club the community could not justify allocating resources to upgrading the system. An allocation has been made for the replacement of the synthetic wicket cover as part of the master plan.

Golf Course Precinct

The master plan does not recommend any works to the golf course. Although the golf club has a small membership (5 members) the golf course is popular with casual users and for regional tournaments. This is because the course retains its grass cover better than other courses in the region and as a result is preferred because of its consistency and 'speed'.

Pedestrian Only Precinct

Clubs and the committee have made some basic provision for children and families by erecting a shade shelter and installing and swing and cubby house. The master plan recommends the establishment of a pedestrian only zone between the north end of the pavilion and the bank of trees / vegetation. This will provide a family friendly environment where new playground facilities can be installed. Attention must be paid to ensure all aspects of the new play area complies with relevant regulations / guidelines particularly in relation to the siting of equipment, under surfacing and proximity to other structures.

The provision of shade sails over play equipment has been recommended given the lack of natural shade in the area and until newly planted trees become established. Provision will be made for service and emergency vehicle access into the precinct

Other Items

Future drainage works to manage water and debris run-off onto the tennis courts works should be based on a drainage design plan that responds to the site conditions. This will minimise the need to continually address drainage issues and undertake court-clearing works prior to tennis activities. The need for constant clearing of the courts discourages their use (casual tennis) and makes them less appealing for both competition and casual tennis activities. Works at the reserve that encourage casual participation in sport and recreation and preserve these opportunities should be a priority.

The master plan also recommends the upgrading of the road from the gate to the pavilion, including the roadway and parking area to the west of the pavilion. Significant erosion has occurred to the roadway behind the pavilion and this will continue to occur if remedial works are not undertaken. These works together with vegetation plantings will reduce dust and better manage water run-off around the building.

It is also recommended that the second entry to the reserve be close to prevent the creation of multiple entry routes and further erosion.

The general tidying of the site is proposed with the removal of the old water tanks and building materials and a more appropriate site for the storage of wood. The approach to the pavilion is from the utility side of the building which includes a storage shed, rubbish bins and the recycling receptacle. Allocation has been made in the master plan for the creation of an enclosure to accommodate the utility area. Vegetation plantings proposed will further enhance the approach to the pavilion.

The need for effective signage to the reserve along major access roadways and at the reserve entry was also identified as a priority for improved way-finding and to better profile opportunities and activities at the reserve.

6.0 Review and Implementation of the Master Plan

This master plan has been prepared to provide a guide for the development of Walpeup Recreation Reserve. It is important that the master plan be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it responds to the current priorities of the community, to changing community sport and recreation participation trends and to funding availability and opportunities.

The timing of various tasks outlined in the master plan may vary depending on a number of factors including:

- the capacity of the community to raise local funds
- the availability of state and federal government grants
- the availability of council grants and other competing council budget items and
- changing community priorities and needs.

7.0 Action Plan

This section contains the 'action plan' that lists tasks required to guide the development of Walpeup Recreation Reserve over the next 10 years. Some actions will fall outside the 10 year scope of the plan. They have however been documented so they are retained for future consideration.

The action plan also identifies the key stakeholders responsible for facilitating / resourcing the tasks, cost estimates and timelines. Priorities identified for any given year do not commit any potential funding partners, government or community. Rather they provide a guide for future planning, government budget allocations and community fund-raising.

Priorities have been determined according to whether the action:

- has any risk management implications
- has significant implications for the future / survival of the sport
- caters for a priority need in the broader community
- was significant throughout the community consultation process
- has health and wellbeing implications for the broader community
- has particular implications in relation to the demographic profile of the area
- has been identified as a priority by Council, state and federal government agencies.

The cost items in the master plan are estimates only. Final costs will be subject to the final scope of works approved / agreed and detailed design findings. They will also vary depending on fluctuations in the price in materials and labour, access to volunteer labour and in-kind support, and environmental conditions identified as part of detailed design process.

WALPEUP - MASTER PLAN ACTIONS & COST ESTIMATES									
No.	TASKLIST	YEAR	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING PARTNERS	COMMENTS				
	Pavilion Precinct								
	Internal								
1	Allocation for power upgrade to the pavilion	1	\$20,000	council, CoM, community, state govt.					
2	Weatherproof windows and doors, eaves etc	1	\$55,000	CoM, community, state govt.					
3	Provide / upgrade internal cladding & insulation to kitchen, bar and small storage area	1	\$40,000	CoM, community, state govt.					
4	Install new kitchen	2	\$40,000	CoM, community, state govt.	Includes semi commercial oven / hotplates, extraction system / rangehood, cupboards				
5	Upgrade bar servery and associated amenities	2	\$25,000	CoM, community, state govt.	Includes benches, wet area, shelving				
6	Install additional & upgraded storage	2	\$10,000	CoM, community, state govt.	In existing storage area				
7	Allocation for services upgrade	2	\$15,000	CoM, community, state govt.	Plumbing, electrical for new appliances				
8	Painting of kitchen / bar / store areas	2	\$1,000	CoM, community					
9	Upgrade floor coverings in kitchen / bar / store areas	2	\$5,000	CoM, community	Risk management, compliance with OHS requirements				
10	Update toilets	8	\$20,000	CoM, community	Retiling, painting etc.				
11	Provide storage cupboards / shelving in the main store room	2	\$2,500	CoM, community	Risk management, optimising space				
12	Provide shelving in external store room & secure access	4	\$2,500	CoM, community	Optimising space				
	External								
13	Paint shelter / veranda / pavilion timber work and support uprights	3	\$5,500	CoM, community					
14	Terrace / landscape area to the east of the pavilion	3	\$15,000	council, CoM, community, state govt.	To improve amenity, eliminate high retaining wall (risk management) and better manage run-off onto tennis courts				
15	Improved drainage / water run-off management between terracing to the east of the pavilion and tennis courts (Refer 34)	2	\$10,000	council, CoM	Note: tennis courts are set at lower than ground level hence water, soil and debris run-off onto courts (risk management issue)				
16	Provision of a concrete skirt around building around the north & east sides of the pavilion	2	\$6,500	CoM, community	Dust suppression / mud				

	WALPEUP - MASTER PLAN ACTIONS & COST ESTIMATES								
No.	TASKLIST	YEAR	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING PARTNERS	COMMENTS				
17	Install bollards to manage access along south side of building	3	\$7,500	CoM, community	Keyed access for emergency vehicles				
18	Planting of shade trees / grass / grasses along boundary with the golf course to the west of the pavilion	1	\$7,000	CoM, community	Traffic management, erosion control & dust suppression				
19	Planting of shade trees / grass / grasses to the west side of the pavilion	1	\$5,000	CoM, community	Dust suppression, wind / dust barrier for pavilion. To extend from proposed concrete skirt				
20	Planting of shade trees to the south of the pavilion	4	\$7,500	CoM, community	Shade & improved appearance of the reserve				
21	Shade tree plantings in and around car park area to the south of the pavilion	4	\$5,000	CoM, community					
22	Creation of an enclosure along the south-west end of the pavilion	2	\$3,500	CoM, community	As a secure storage space and to improve the presentation of the pavilion / area				
	Tennis Courts Precinct								
23	Resurfacing of tennis courts	6	-	council, CoM, community, state govt.					
	- option 1 - crushed gypsum rock		\$11,400						
	- option 2 - artificial grass surface		\$35,000		Dependent on ability to manage run-off and cost of relevant maintenance regimes and suitability of existing under-surfacing				
24	Extend terracing / landscaping (form pavilion) to the west / front of all courts, including water run-off drainage provision (Refer 34)	2	\$10,000	council, CoM, community, state govt.	Prevent water runoff from hill and resulting soil incursion on the tennis courts. In conjunction with terracing in front of pavilion				
	Cricket Precinct								
25	Demolition of existing cricket shelter & associated structures	5	\$3,500	CoM, community					
26	Replacement of cricket shelter	5	\$15,000	CoM, community					
27	Replacement of synthetic wicket cover		\$5,000						
	Golf Course Precinct								
28	Upgrading / replacement of tractor / slasher	3	\$12,000	CoM, community					
	Pedestrian Only Precinct								
29	Creation of a pedestrian only zone to the north of the pavilion and to incorporate the play area	2	\$7,500	CoM, community	Bollards and landscaping				
30	Relocation of swing set	2	\$1,500	CoM, community					
31	Relocate and upgrade play facilities to the pedestrian zone created between the pavilion and the trees to the north of the pavilion	2	\$50,000	council, CoM, community, state govt.	To include shade sails, additional play equipment and appropriate under surfacing				

	WALPEUP - MASTER PLAN ACTIONS & COST ESTIMATES							
No.	TASKLIST	YEAR	COST ESTIMATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING PARTNERS	COMMENTS			
32	Planting of shade trees	3	\$4,000	CoM, community				
33	Grassing / vegetating of precinct	5	\$3,000	CoM, community				
	Other Items							
34	Allocation for design work required to ensure effective management of water run-off	3	\$7,000	council	Design needs to consider management of run-off from adjoining land and effective channeling of run-off around tennis courts and to prevent roadway erosion			
35	Upgrade roadway from the gate and behind the pavilion	4	\$12,200	council, CoM, community	To manage drainage issues & minimise runoff onto the tennis courts. Crusher dust and gravel including infill & spoon drains			
36	Directional signage at entry	1	\$10,000	council				
37	Directional signage on highway	1	\$10,000	council				
38	Removal of old water tanks	1	\$5,000	CoM, community				
39	Creation of wood storage area	2	\$700	CoM, community	To remove firewood from the immediate vicinity of the pavilion (risk management & amenity)			
40	Removal / relocation of excess building materials	1	\$4,000	CoM, community	Risk management & amenity			
41	Close second access gate into the reserve and revegetation to manage erosion and dust	1	\$7,000	CoM, community	Gate located to the north of the main entrance. To prevent access across the golf course, minimise erosion and encourage vegetation re-establishment (erosion management)			
42	Progressive removal of sugar gums	3	\$15,000	council, CoM, community				
43	Planting of trees and ground cover along west boundary	ongoing	\$10,000					
	Total		\$547,300					

8.0 Site Plan

The site plan provides a graphic representation of the master plan.

9.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Photographs



Viewing / outdoor social area



In between sugar gums and south end of the pavilion



Tennis courts



West side of the pavilion – concreting / vegetation of immediate pavilion surrounds recommended



Between pavilion and first hole of the golf course – erosion control measures recommended



North end of the pavilion – concreting of immediate pavilion surrounds recommended



Area between pavilion and cricket viewing area – vegetation of area recommended & relocation of the playground to this area



Old disused water tanks

– to be removed



Play area shelter



Kitchen – upgrade recommended



Bar serving area – upgrade recommended



Outdoor storage area – shelving recommended



Indoor storage room – shelving recommended

Appendix 2 - Relevant Information from Council Plan and Community Planning Meetings

COUNCIL PLAN (Consultation Meetings, February 2009. Note meeting was a combined Walpeup / Underbool meeting)

The following is a summary of information / comments from council consultation meetings (Feb 2009) relevant to the master plan:

Priorities

- Maintain sporting facilities and associations football, tennis and other sports are the heart of the community
- Having trouble getting people on committees and involved potential for burnout amongst those who do get involved
- Could be better/ more successful/ more proactive at applying for and getting grants
- Maintain sporting facilities and associations football, tennis and other sports are the heart of the community
- Places to congregate is an important factor for well-being and social connectedness
- Youth sport is very important. Social / builds community and keeps them out of trouble
- Harvest storm water direct storm water into storage tanks
- Problems with weeds on roadside/ footpaths/ nature strips/ parks bridle creeper, urban weeds, box thorn
- Planting of trees has dropped off
- Greening the Line keep it going, promote it

Sustainability

- City looks terrible at the moment street trees, gardens
- Add "environmentally sustainable into Council vision"
- Council support to buy water for sporting grounds

Recreation and Sport

- Maintain sporting facilities and associations football, tennis and other sports are the heart of the community
- Administration and organising of sport is time consuming and costly and difficult to get people involved to keep it going financial support needed
- Sporting facilities upgrade
- Sports important but numbers declined / Lack of numbers but high percentage of participation
- Committee of Management don't have access to larger amounts of money
- Water for oval
- Coaching/ training for children Youth sport is very important / keeps them out of trouble
- Need steps for Underbool facility
- Community Vision includes:
 - 'A community in which volunteering is valued and supported'
 - 'People are encouraged to participate in recreation'

COMMUNITY PLAN - 'Walpeup Community Plan' (2006 / 07)

The following is a summary of information from the Community Plan that is relevant to the master plan:

- There are 6 priorities identified in the Community Plan. Priority 2 has implications for the master plan
 - Priority 2 Recreation Reserve Development
 Facilities at the reserve are rundown and in need of a redevelopment. The community is looking to form one umbrella sporting club to be known as "Walpeup Sporting Association" so that the running and maintenance of the new facility is more easily managed
 - Objectives of priority 2 To upgrade facilities at the recreation reserve to provide for a more enjoyable experience for users and spectators; to encourage participation in sport and recreation activities; to form one umbrella community sporting organisation to manage the reserve.
 - Immediate actions to achieve priority 2 Determine needs, wants and priorities for the reserve development and formulate a master-plan.