

Stop Press: Read the latest on Council Plan to destroy 39 Trees in Caulfield Park!



Thank you for your magnificent response, but more is needed

The Councillors have received very many emails in the last week and we thank all those people who found time to send them in. The strength of the reaction surprised Council. They are now considering what to do to find a way out.

The Councillors have been told that to have two standard ovals for all ages they will have to cut down the trees. They may believe that the same size oval is needed for all levels of cricket, but this is not so. 40 metre ovals are acceptable for junior cricket. Recently faced with a similar problem in Fawner Park, where sporting groups wanted more ovals "strong responses from the wider community supported the current level of use". Melbourne Council therefore decided that the current balance of passive and active uses should be maintained, with no expansion of organised sporting activities. There has been no community consultation about the use of Caulfield Park since 1999.

Glen Eira Open Space Strategy has just reported that informal recreation is the largest and most valued use of Caulfield Park (and growing). If you would like to see Council preserve the trees by accepting smaller ovals, then tell your councillors to rethink this upgrade and **to set the ovals up for junior cricket only**.

On the back page is a diagram which shows FoCP's proposal to increase the existing oval sizes, but maintain the trees. This would require the removal of just four trees. This is a solution we would support as it retains the trees along the central path and provides a shady edge for spectators abutting Inkerman Road. It represents a good outcome for everyone.

If you have already emailed Councillors then please do it again, if you have not, now is your opportunity. But it may be your last chance to impress the Councillors so do it now. Support the "four tree solution" See reverse page. Don't forget to copy us so we can put you on our mailing list.

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Whose risk?

There has been a lot of talk about risk minimisation in Council's justification for enlarging the ovals. This begs the question: risk reduction for who?

Council's answer is obviously: the cricket players; but is this just a convenient response?

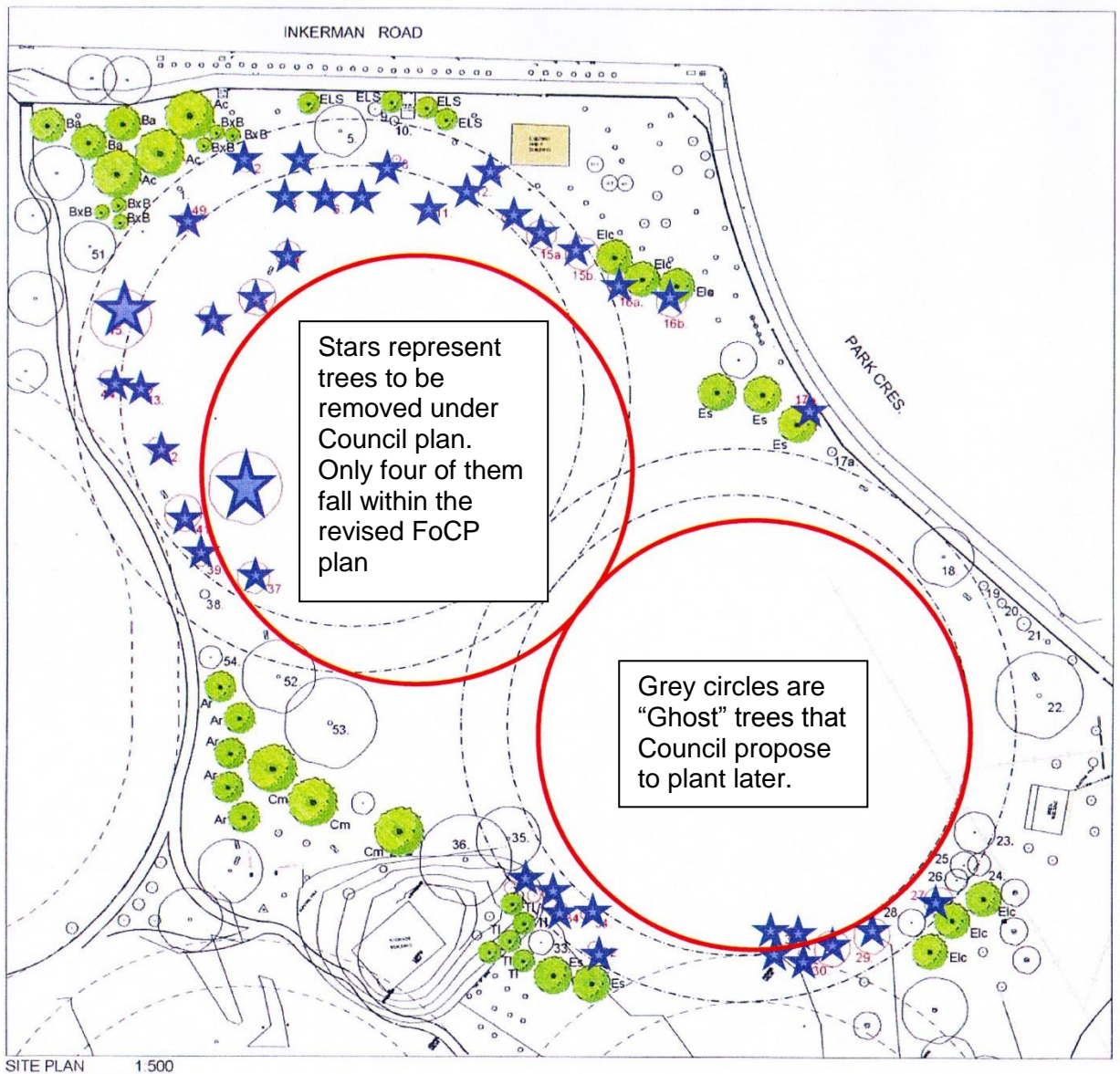
When two teams are playing on adjoining grounds the chance of both batsmen choosing to send the ball in an overlapping direction at the same time is minute: about one in 125 million.

One can only think that to use risk reduction as a justification to increase the size of the ovals has lost sight of reality.

On the other hand, taking the ovals further out will increase the risk to onlookers, picnickers and people walking around the perimeter – the majority of users of Caulfield Park, even when matches are in progress. Who is being protected by the tree destruction near Inkerman Road and the removal of all the trees along the northern end of the central path (in violation of the Master Plan) – cricketers or the general community?

At present, the fields are used by junior teams who are unlikely to hit the ball very hard. With bigger fields, the players will inevitably be bigger and stronger and balls crossing the boundary at speed will be much more common. On the relocated ovals, the surrounding paths and even the roads will be much closer to the batsmen than is currently the case. On these grounds alone, a change in the ovals that brings them close to passive use should not proceed.

It seems that Council is trying to reduce one kind of risk, where the players are aware of the game and what is going on, whilst increasing the risk to innocent and unaware bystanders of being struck and injured by the balls. With the increasing flow of additional people who will be living in the C60 (opposite Race Course development, It is only matter of time till this happens.



Do you Care about the Future of Caulfield Park?

If you do then we need your support! Renew your membership of the Friends now!

Friends of Caulfield Park is an incorporated group of concerned residents that formed in 2007.

Since then we have successfully engaged with Council on many matters concerning the park: tree labelling, brochure about tree walks, increased tree planting, prevention of fencing, the preservation of historic structures and more.

We believe that as a strong community group we should and will continue to play an important role in monitoring, proposing, and questioning Council's plans and activities in the park. To do this we must have your support. Why don't you join the committee and play a part. It's not hard and it's a lot of fun!

What do we stand for?

- To be an identifiable group representing the broad range of informal users, enjoyers, and appreciators of Caulfield Park
- To be recognised and accepted by the Glen Eira Council as a legitimate stakeholder group to be consulted with respect to any plans and proposals affecting Caulfield Park in any way.
- To be proactive in identifying necessary improvements to the park to reflect changing needs and priorities.

Membership fees are very low but without a financial contribution we are unable to sustain the costs associated with printing and postage of newsletters, insurance, meeting costs etc.

If you want to know more about our future meetings, about our current activities or to provide feedback, then, contact our President – David Wilde on 0417 032 437, or visit our website at www.caulfieldpark.com or email us at caulfieldpark@gmail.com

 Title _____ First Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Annual Individual Subscription: \$20 Family Subscription: \$25

Donation (optional but welcome): _____

Please send your cheque or cash (together with form) to: FoCP, PO Box 2511, Caulfield Junction,

