

10 MOUNTAINBOARDING VICTORIA PETITION TO HAVE A NEW TRACK CONSTRUCTED IN BEACONSFIELD

FILE REFERENCE INT1782535

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RECOMMENDATION

Council consider the benefits of constructing a multi-use dirt track that can be utilised for Mountainboarding, Mountain Bike and BMX riding at either Holm Park Recreation Reserve or Kath Roberts Reserve in Beaconsfield and determine whether Council officers should proceed in obtaining a design and a cost analysis for the track.

Attachments

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| 1 Mountainboarding Victoria signed petition circulated to councillors only | 15 Pages |
| 2 Aerial view of two proposed locations for a potential BMX/mountainboard track within Beaconsfield | 2 Pages |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mountainboarding Victoria have addressed a petition to Council that contains 223 signatures in support of a new shared use track that caters for mountainboarding, mountain bike and BMX riding to be constructed to the north of the netball courts at Holm Park Recreation Reserve.

A majority of the signatures are from school aged residents who reside in the Beaconsfield and Berwick area that have been introduced to the sport of mountainboarding or have an existing interest in mountain bike or BMX riding.

This report provides an overview of the history of Mountainboarding Victoria, what is required in the construction of a new track, potential locations for such a facility and the cost implications associated with the design and construction.

BACKGROUND

Mountainboarding is a sport that allows participants to ride a wide variety of terrain (natural ground surfaces similar to a BMX track, hills and slopes) in the same way they might skate, surf or snowboard on without the need for concrete, waves or snow. A mountainboard is shaped like a snow board and fixed to four inflatable all terrain tyres with the riders strapping their feet to the top of the board.

Generally, the sport is undertaken on a dirt BMX track, grassy hill in parkland, skate park or on a 'mobile mini-mountain' that consists of ramps that enable mountainboarders to generate speed and perform different tricks. The ability to generate a mountainboard track in almost any location is an attractive component of the sport and enables beginners to practice their skills prior to attempting a track with jumps, rails and quarter pipes.

Mountainboarding Victoria was established several years ago as a subsidiary of Mountainboarding Australia by local Beaconsfield resident Dylan Warren. Dylan has created an impressive website showcasing the sport and his trips to places such as China and Europe where the sport has a

greater following. He has been involved in the design and construction of new Government funded tracks in China that are aimed at increasing tourism to the country. Through organised demonstrations of the sport throughout Australia, he hopes to showcase the benefits of providing a new outdoor activity aimed at attracting children and young people to participate in. This sport also attracts adults as participants.

In recent years, Mountainboarding Victoria have hosted the 'Beaconsfield Bash' at Hilltop Reserve which is located beside O'Neil Road in Beaconsfield. The event generally attracts around 50 people who range from experienced riders to novices, looking to get an understanding of what the sport entails.

In October this year, the event was cancelled by Council's Compliance Services team as a result of Mountainboarding Victoria not having the correct Council permits required to host the event on public land. As a result of this cancellation, representatives have worked to understand Council's requirements, and hope to hold this event again in the future, with the required permit in place.

Representatives of Mountainboarding Victoria have met with Council officers and expressed their desire for a facility that would support their sport, and have since worked to build the profile of the sport within the local area by developing a petition was created consisting of 223 signatures requesting that Council consider the construction of a new mountainboarding track at Holm Park Reserve in Beaconsfield.

he submitted petition provides a design example of a mountainboard facility at Holm Park. The proposed track is suggested that it can be shared use for both BMX, mountainboards and mountain bikes.

Representatives of Mountainboarding Victoria have been involved in the design of the new skate park to be constructed at Holm Park Reserve. They are aware of the cost implications to Council in removing the spoil from the construction for the new skate park at Holm Park Reserve and have suggested it could be utilised in creating the proposed mountainboarding track to the north of the existing netball courts. Council's environmental engineers have confirmed that the area outlined for the construction does not pose any environmental concerns.

Further the Holm Park Reserve Master Plan had proposed this area for walking trails and other recreational uses, therefore it would be reasonable to suggest a possible mountainboard/ BMX track in this location.

Throughout the consultation for the new Beaconsfield Skate park, Council officers have identified a strong community appetite for the development of an improved BMX track within Beaconsfield, with Kath Roberts Reserve BMX track underutilised due to its small and simple design. There is clear evidence of this need for a more advanced BMX track within Beaconsfield, with Council officers removing an illegally built BMX track at the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House some 3 plus months ago, and quite a bit of online chatter expressing the need for a BMX facility for the local children and young people.

Council officers have considered both the Holm Park Reserve and Kath Roberts Reserve BMX Track as potential locations for a future mountainboarding/ BMX track to support community demand.

Both sites are large enough to construct a multi-purpose track that could be utilised for mountainboarding, BMX and mountain bike riding.

Further site investigations would be required to determine structural requirements for such a facility and construction/ maintenance costs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

This report relates to the following sections of the Council Plan:

Our Environment

- Develop new and existing, parks, gardens and reserves in a sustainable manner
- Provide accessible facilities to meet identified community needs

Our People

- Support children, young people, families, older adults and people with disabilities by providing a range of accessible facilities and services
- Provide active and passive recreational facilities to meet the needs of our residents; and
- Increase opportunities for participation in a range of sport and leisure activities.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Recreation staff have met with representatives of Mountainboarding Victoria to establish a relationship with Council and discuss their requirements relating to the long term sustainability of their sport.

The consultation has highlighted the passion the group has for their sport and their positive approach in providing younger residents with an opportunity to get active.

The consultation with members of Mountainboarding Victoria in the design process for the new Beaconsfield skate park also highlights their willingness to be involved in community projects and eagerness to provide their experience from utilising such facilities.

The community consultation process initiated for the Beaconsfield Skate park design also highlighted strong community interest for an improved BMX facility within Beaconsfield

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding would be required to undertake detail design and construction of the proposed mountainboard facility at Holm Park Reserve.

The construction of the proposed Mountainboard track for Holm Park Recreation Reserve would require a competitive quote process to determine the costs associated with the works.

The Bunyip BMX track was constructed between 2011 and 2013 at a total cost of \$54,000 and is the closest example to what the proposed track may cost.

Council has an annual allocation of \$30,000 within the capital works program for the asset renewal of exiting BMX tracks throughout the Shire.

External funding available through State Government supported programs such as the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund may provide an opportunity for funding and Mountainboarding Victoria have expressed their desire to contribute through fundraising activities and in-kind labour.

CONCLUSION

Council consider supporting Mountainboarding Victoria in investigating the most appropriate location and obtaining a design and cost analysis for a new multi use dirt track to be constructed in Beaconsfield that will determine a future for the unique sport within Cardinia.

Location 1 - Kath Roberts Reserve, Beaconsfield

Available space for potential bmx/ mountainboard facility in blue square = 1216m²



Location 2 - Holm Park Reserve, Beaconsfield

Available space for potential bmx/ mountainboard facility in blue area = roughly 500m²

