

Submission by Alex Swain

East West Link

Project Assessment Committee

Debneys Park



Open Space?



Loss of space in Debneys park

- Claimed to only be 0.02 Ha
- ie 200 m² , or $\frac{3}{4}$ tennis court
- But:



Open space under freeway?



Open space in Flemington

- Average for Melbourne:
- 6.6 Ha per 1000 people¹
- Flemington:
- 2.6 Ha per 1000 people²
- There is only 10.7 Ha open space in Flem²

Debneys Park- MVCC²



Debneys Park

- Only large, substantial park in Flemington
- Has an oval, informal spaces, community centre and garden, and an adventure playground
- The latter three are threatened

Benefits of Green Space

- Physical activity can help prevent many medical conditions such as diabetes³
- People in urban areas who live near green space suffer less depression⁴
- There is a direct relationship between amount of green space and perceived wellbeing⁵
- Obvious lifestyle and amenity benefits

What are the costs to society of this loss of open space?

- Healthcare costs for a single person with diabetes over 30 years: \$140,000³
- 330 children in Flemington
- If 10% became diabetic- lifetime cost of \$ 4.6 million
- Is this valid? Has anyone checked?

What about Royal park?
Loss of 1.36 Ha realistic?



Loss of bicycle routes

- Napier St route
- Elliot Ave/ Macarthur Rd route
- Route beside Tram route 55
- Capital City trail
- Moonee Ponds Creek trail



NB recommendation by Coroner Spooner to provide off-road bicycle routes⁶

Conclusions

- Loss of open green space is greater than stated and highly significant
- Space under a freeway is not open space
- What are the health/ social/ mental health costs of this loss of green space?
- Bicycle route impacts

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2. MVCC. Moonee Valley Open Space Strategy, August 2009.
Section 17
3. Diabetes Australia. Diabetes: the silent pandemic and its impact on Australia. 2012
4. Alcock et al. Longitudinal effects on mental health of moving to greener and less green urban areas. Environ. Sci. Technol., 2014;48(2): 1247-1255
5. Maas et al. Green space, urbanity, and health: how strong is the relation? J Epidemiol Community Health, 2006;60: 587-592
6. Coroner Heather Spooner, Inquest findings, Coroners Court of Victoria, 10/11/2011