

**1. Does the existing Park Lands landscape meet your expectations of a premier city park?**

No.

**Why not?**

For too long the iconic Adelaide Park Lands has been viewed by successive South Australian governments, City Councils and vested interests, such as property developers, simply as vacant land; vacant land that can be appropriated, exploited, degraded, used for car parking or rubbish disposal; where trees can be cut down or butchered or suffer root compaction to accommodate such events as the Clipsal 500 car race or the Adelaide International Horse Trials.

The uses (and proposed uses) of the Park Lands have taken precedence over the enhancement of the landscape, including the natural systems, such that there has been:

- continuing degradation of the natural systems (often during Events)
- inadequate protection and promotion of pre-European remnant vegetation in situ
- inappropriate built forms (such as the Women's Soccer Clubrooms being erected on Hutt Road)
- not enough emphasis on the needs of residents and other park users requiring rest and so called "passive" recreation. For City and inner suburb residents the Adelaide Park Lands is their local park.
- continuous and continuing threats from State governments and others for "free land":
  - i. the proposed permanent structure for motor racing in Victoria Park
  - ii. widening of Port Road
  - iii. proposed O-bahn extension
  - iv. expansion of Adelaide High campus
  - v. the list goes on.

**2. Do you support the planned approach to managing the Park lands landscape?**

We support **a** planned approach to managing the Park Lands landscape but **not this draft Landscape Master Plan** because it has a central flaw in its methodology.

It uses the word "landscape" to include "human activities and urban context." (page 8) whereas the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (which it is said to "complement", page 8) uses "landscape" only in the context of Managing Enhancement. "Activities" comes under the separate stream of Managing Use (Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy: Towards 2020, page15).

The Management Strategy recognizes – as we do - that there is an essential conflict between the *enhancement* of the Park Lands and its *use*; between the needs of the *natural systems* and *recreation*.

At one extreme the Park Lands becomes a National Park; at the other, an entertainment precinct or de facto stadium.

This Draft Landscape Master Plan avoids this essential conflict by implying, by the use of the word "landscape" in its title, that all management decisions – including the ten guiding principles that will determine development of the Park Lands - will be determined by the needs of the "landscape", and by implication, the natural systems. This is obviously not the case.

This could be seen as a "greenwashing" of what will continue to be highly contested decisions.

**We need an Adelaide Park Lands Master Plan that makes it clear that the landscape, including open space, vistas and the natural systems, will take precedence over proposed use when they are in conflict and thereby will be protected from activities that put it at risk.**

We note that the use of the word *facilities* under the title of Managing Enhancement is also misleading. (APL Management Strategy, page 15). *Facilities* are more commonly seen as connected with *activities*; with *use* of the Park Lands rather than the *enhancement* of the landscape and the natural systems. A better word would be *biodiversity*.

### 3. Any other comments?

The South East City Residents Association has a special interest in Victoria Park, the South Parklands (to King William Street) and Park 15 and Rymill Park.

In our response to the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (April 2008) we were asked to identify the four best things about the Adelaide Park Lands. These were:

- Open Space
- The Park Lands define the City of Adelaide
- They are free, accessible and egalitarian in nature
- Connection with nature

The State Government's 30 Year Plan includes a significant increase in the number of people living in the City and the inner suburbs. There must be no decrease in the amount of open space in the Park Lands for the enjoyment of City and inner suburbs residents, especially those living in flats or houses with small gardens.

We have some concerns about Zone 1 Open Woodlands/Sports and the conflicts that can arise between managing enhancement (Open Woodlands) and managing use (Sports):

- The views across Victoria Park from East Terrace towards the heritage grandstand must be preserved. There must be no permanent structures erected which would destroy this vista. The putting-up and taking-down of erected infrastructure should be done in line with best practice nationally and internationally.
- There are other vistas in the Park which would be destroyed by the erection in the middle of the Park of sporting sheds and light towers.
- The remnant vegetation in Victoria Park must be protected in situ even if this means the reduction in the number of sporting ovals.
- Flood mitigation measures should not threaten the revegetation that has taken place in Park 17
- We are concerned that Victoria Park may become a de facto stadium for commercial interests given that "special" events can happen there. (does "special" means "exceptional" and therefore "rare" or will there be "special" events with extended bump-in and bump-out times and temporary fencing occupying the Park most of the year?).
- As long as the Clipsal 500 car race occupies Victoria Park for six months each year there should be no other large scale event held in Victoria Park.
- Victoria Park is the foremost Park in the Park Lands for so called "passive" recreation – dog walking; exercising; jogging; walking; enjoying a sense of open space and views to the hills. It attracts residents from the City and from the adjacent suburbs of Kent Town, Dulwich, Rose Park, Eastwood, Parkside and Unley. It should be used primarily for passive recreation and community sporting and cultural events.
- There is no mention of "regional sports area" in the CLMP for Victoria Park
- Unlike Centennial Park in Sydney, Victoria Park is not adjacent to "an entertainment quarter" (p38). There is no "activity hub" adjacent to Victoria Park but rather a quiet residential area of the City and adjacent inner suburbs. It is therefore not appropriate to have amplified music festivals or events dependent on public address systems in Victoria Park.
- There should be no increase in the number of amplified music events held in Rymill Park.
- The erection of built forms, such as the Women's Soccer Clubrooms on Hutt Road, should be more closely supervised by the Adelaide City Council.
- We support biodiversity corridors and better pedestrian linkages with suburbs on the other side of Fullarton Road and Greenhill Roads.

## Car parking on the Adelaide Park Lands

We have a general concern with car parking on the Adelaide Park Lands. We note that a major argument for using public land so close to residential areas for stadia/car races/large scale events is the accessibility of the site and therefore the availability of public transport.

If car parking is made available on the Park Lands then this major argument for use of the Park Lands for primarily commercial events is lost and the event should be moved.

We are strongly opposed to any parking on the Park Lands.

We **support the narrowing and closing of streets near the Park Lands** to enhance the natural systems and to protect pedestrians entering and leaving the Park Lands.

There is a **lack of “hard data”** in the Master Plan about both the state of the natural systems in the Park Lands and the amount of alienation:

- inventory/audit of biodiversity
- inventory/audit of alienated land and of existing open space
- hydrology information (for proposed wetlands and storm water catchment)
- building footprint
- current car parking footprint.

We believe that such data should be gathered and made public. **Volunteers** (including school children) could be involved in such data collection and in protection and promotion of the Adelaide Park Lands

The Adelaide Park Lands has achieved National Heritage listing status and is being considered for **State and World Heritage listing**. There is no mention of the requirements for State and World Heritage listing in this draft Master Plan. No actions should be taken that might jeopardize the success of those nominations.

### Where did you get the information to assist you with this feedback?

Customer centre and Council website. Our own records.

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