

Community Consultation
Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) Section 3
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide SA 5001

12th June 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

The South East City Residents Association (SECRA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) Section 3*. Since its inception, SECRA has been a passionate advocate for the Adelaide Park Lands, with a particular interest in those parks which adjoin our neighbourhood.

Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi

At a recent workshop on the Victoria Park Central Gardens Design, consultant James Hayter confirmed what residents and other regular park users have known for years; that Victoria Park is the most “used” park in the Park Lands for individual informal recreation. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Close proximity to residential areas to the south, east, and west
- Victoria Park was for most of its history a horse race track, and as such lent itself to the idea of walking or running a circuit on the grass track. People are now using the new fitness circuit but others use other longer circuits (up to 3.5 km)
- The sense of open space (it has not, until recently, been bisected by bitumen roads)
- The feeling of safety – you can see who is coming
- The connection with nature through the presence of mature eucalypts which attract birds, the native grasses and lilies, the creek.
- The views to the hills and the city skyline
- Its flexibility and informality. Many activities can be accommodated without needing elaborate infrastructure.
- Its permeability: you can enter the park from most directions.

The Park must continue to be a welcoming place for those South Australians who use the Park for informal recreation (walking, running, walking the dog, using the fitness circuits), sitting and resting and enjoying the views and the peace and quiet of a large green space in an increasingly built-up built landscape.

SECRA welcomes those people who will be using the new playing fields and the criterion track. These people will become our neighbours and as such, we would like to communicate – through the Adelaide City Council staff – to leaseholders some of our concerns.

- **When will the playing fields (5; 7-15) and the criterion track be in use for matches or training?** It seems that Council staff do not stipulate times/days of use to leaseholders. Given that Victoria Park is so close to residential areas, we would suggest:
 1. not before 10am on a Sunday morning; not before 9.30am on Saturday morning; not before 8.30am during the week.
 2. Not after 8.30pm on any evening (except for special sporting events on playing field five, next to the heritage grandstand)
 3. Leaseholders should have to make a special application to use public address systems (for special events only). We accept that hooters may be necessary for sporting events but we don't see the need for muzak.
 4. Leaseholders should not have exclusive use of playing fields and criterion track. Park users, including those walking dogs, should be free to move around these areas outside of formal training or matches. Many people walk a circuit around the entire park; they can avoid those using the criterion track at times outside of formal training or competition.
 5. We would welcome community-based organisations having the use of playing fields and not just schools. This allows a greater diversity of people to use the Park Lands for sporting purposes. Perhaps wealthier organisations should share the lease with less-wealthy sporting groups?
 6. Any fencing should be temporary and only erected for larger events.
 7. Any advertising should be confined to the day of the sporting event
 8. There should be no advertising of alcohol or gambling activities

- **Maintenance of the playing fields (and the Park as a whole).** We suggest:
 1. That Adelaide City Council staff (and not individual leaseholders) maintain the playing fields. There should be a charge incorporated in the lease fee.
 2. All organisations undertaking activities in the Adelaide Park Lands should be required to have procedures in place designed to avoid environmental impacts wherever possible. Where it is not reasonably practical to avoid such impacts, event organisers should be required to ensure damage is minimised and have procedures in place to facilitate speedy rehabilitation of affected areas. These procedures, to be adopted by the leaseholder while undertaking the event and the post event rehabilitation are to be available on the Council's website at least four weeks prior to the date of setting up the event.
 3. An overall standard of amenity must be preserved for the Park and this can only be done by the Adelaide City Council.
 4. Sporting infrastructure (goal netting, line markings, rubbish bins) should: be kept to a minimum: be well-maintained: not clutter the Park; not reduce the sense of open space and views of the hills for park users. In our eyes,

Victoria Park is a park in which some organised sporting activities take place, some (and not the majority) of the time. It is not a “venue”, a stadium or a “sporting hub”. It is a park, primarily for informal recreation of all South Australians

5. To further avoid clutter, Park signage must be kept to minimum.
6. Any signage should be accurate. Two large signs have recently been erected (at Halifax Street and Grant Avenue entrances) showing the Park’s amenities. These signs have left off the Council’s fitness circuit, a major amenity of the Park.
7. The fitness stations need to be maintained by the Council.

Organisations damaging the Park Lands have to pay for the remediation but, as we have suggested, in many cases the damage could be avoided by more careful management of the event. Remediation works are unsightly and can alienate sections of the Park Lands for weeks after an event.

We note that a **public toilet** (Exeloo) is planned for playing fields 7 to 15. We do not support the positioning of a toilet near Beaumont Road (and the cars that park there). Residents know that this is not a safe place for a toilet. The area is also subject to flooding.

We suggest that this new toilet should be positioned near where the existing toilets (now not in use) have been for many years:

- It is close to the playing fields
- It is a safer location for children using the playing fields (better surveillance by parents attending the matches).

SECRA supports the proper protection and management of **biodiversity assets** in the Park. The creation of an ephemeral wetlands for flood mitigation must not be at the expense of these assets.

Clipsal 500 car race

Residents and Park users suffer increasing disruption caused by the Clipsal 500 car race. The car race management seems unwilling to decide on a final footprint in the Park and stick to it. Every year seems to bring more infrastructure, more bitumen and more advertising outside of the five day event (including advertising for the Adelaide Casino).

Many people are asking why it takes so long for the set-up and take-down of this five day event. They also see the Park’s assets degraded during the event.

We have been told that there are 460 car parks next to Victoria Park and that this should be sufficient for most activities held in the Park. Therefore there seems to be no need for people to park in Victoria Park, or drive around the Park. Buses travel down Hutt Street, Fullarton Road, and Kensington Road.

Finally, Victoria Park must not become a series of fiefdoms to be fought over (and fenced off). It is one Park and we must all learn to share it. SECRA meets often with Adelaide City Council staff from a number of different areas (assets, horticulture, events, recreation, safety), and the Clipsal 500 CEO

(twice a year), but we believe that the Council should also provide the opportunity for all Victoria Park users and stakeholders to meet (perhaps once a year at the heritage grandstand) to discuss how best we can share the Park.

We further suggest that Council provide regular information via its website on activities in the Park (including an explanation of why fences are being put up and how long they will stay).

With regard to the other areas of Park Lands covered by these CLMPs we suggest that events held in these areas of Park Lands, for example **Rymill Park** and **Hurtle Square**, should not alienate neighbours and other Park Lands users with intrusive public address systems and fencing which denies access to open space.

Yours sincerely,

Heather Nimmo
Hon. Secretary
SECRA