

## Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association, Inc.

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The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide  
Sandy Verschoor  
Chair, Adelaide Park Lands Authority  
City of Adelaide  
GPO Box 2252  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Lord Mayor

### **Project to “green” bitumen in southern portion of G.S. Kingston Park / Wirrarninthi (Park 23)**

The Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association shares the City of Adelaide's goal "to increase green space across the city". At a time of global pandemic, parks and green spaces have never been more important for maintaining physical and mental health. APPA has embraced a current campaign by the global organisation World Urban Parks during this pandemic on the theme "Nature Never Closes".

Long before the arrival of COVID-19, the City of Adelaide identified "Green" as one of the four key themes in the City's Strategic Plan 2016-2020. One of the Objectives in that Plan is to "enhance biodiversity in the Park Lands". One of the City's promised actions in that Plan is to "work with local communities on public greening activities that will beautify streets and parks."

I have previously congratulated you for recent re-vegetation carried out as part of the South Park Lands Creek remediation. I also note the City's recent re-vegetation success in Ellis Park / Tampawardli (Park 24) on the northern side of Sir Donald Bradman Drive.

This letter is to urge you to keep up the momentum in 2020-21 and translate the relevant objective in the City's Strategic Plan into one specific activity that might be at least partially funded within the City's 2020-21 Business Plan. This would also be in line with current Council policy of returning alienated areas of Park Lands back to Park Lands.

In late 2019 we surveyed our members and supporters to identify an advocacy goal for 2020, in relation to potential restoration of areas within the Park Lands. We proposed a priority choice of four sites, each one presently used for car parking or storage.

You can see the results of our survey here: [www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/restoration](http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/restoration)

Survey respondents gave the highest priority to restoration of the former bitumen netball courts (the former "Edwards Park") off Anzac Highway, an area of 1.2 hectares in the southern portion of G.S. Kingston Park / Wirrarninthe (Park 23). This area has been used in recent years for truck parking during the Royal Adelaide Show.

I note that in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-25 ("APLMS") (page 46) one of the "future moves" for G.S. Kingston Park / Wirrarninthe (Park 23) South is described as:

*"The management of the remnant vegetation sites will be primarily focussed on their conservation values rather than activation. This park will continue to support environmental education and provide a space for the engagement of community volunteers and education groups. "*

On page 48 of the APLMS restoration of this area is regarded as a "medium priority".


Consistent with the Objective in the City's Strategic Plan "to work with local communities on public greening activities" and with current policy to restore alienated park lands, I invite the Authority and the City to consider a partnership with APPA, and with other interested organisations such as the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association, the South-West City Residents Association, and Trees for Life (Bush for Life) on a project to restore this bitumen area to a green, open and public space, that would be consistent with the area's status as part of the National Heritage-listed Adelaide Park Lands.

Such a project would also be consistent with the goals of the State Government's Green Adelaide initiative: [www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/green-adelaide](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/green-adelaide) and the associated Greener Neighbourhoods Grants Program [www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/green-adelaide/greener-neighbourhoods-grants](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/green-adelaide/greener-neighbourhoods-grants) (second round, in 2020) which would be available to the City of Adelaide.

I would be pleased to nominate an APPA representative to join a Working Party for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Shane Sody, President



9 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE LORD MAYOR

Mr Shane Sody  
President  
Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association  
PO Box 4053  
NORWOOD SA 5067

Dear Shane

**G S Kingston Park / Wirrarninths (Park 23)**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 April 2020 regarding the return of the former netball courts in G S Kingston Park / Wirrarninths (Park 23) to green, open space.

I agree with your sentiments that the site, on a gateway into the City has the potential for improved presentation and is worthy of a more productive use. As you may be aware, these courts, known as Edwards Park (named after Bert Edwards, former Councilor) were abandoned by the South Australian Netball Association (SANA) in 1998.

In addition to the provision you cite in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy regarding the management of native vegetation, the Strategy also provides the following management direction for the Edwards Park site:

*"consider the feasibility of creating a youth activity hub in Park 23 incorporating adventure play and spaces for fringe sports eg roller derby, bike sports, blowkarting etc including a nature play hub to create and outdoor education and recreation resource".*

The City of Adelaide is not able at this time to commit to funding such a significant project. Your suggestion to establish a working group to explore opportunities for funding is worthy of further consideration. I will therefore ask our Administration to make contact with you to discuss the prospects for a working group and the project in general.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Verschoor  
**LORD MAYOR**

24 June 2020