

Kadaltilla

Adelaide Park Lands Authority

Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan Implementation Projects

**Thursday, 18 September 2025
Board Meeting**

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Public

Purpose

This report provides an update on implementation of the Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan (the Master Plan), endorsed in June 2024 ([Link 1](#)). The Master Plan established a clear vision and improvement strategies to enhance the park's amenity, accessibility, and biodiversity.

In 2025/26, three priority design packages are being advanced to deliver on these strategies:

1. Tree planting plan – a site wide initiative to increase shade and amenity, expand canopy cover, and strengthen habitat and food sources for native fauna.
2. Community playing field reinstatement – reinstatement of a soccer field temporarily removed to enable construction of the Pakapakanthi wetland system.
3. Pathway – completion of the east–west pathway adjacent Wakefield Road to improve pedestrian and cyclist access, particularly during major event setup and pack-down.

Implementation is to be staged, with procurement and delivery of the playing field to be undertaken in Quarter 2 / Quarter 3 and tree planting scheduled to commence in Quarter 4 (April–May) of 2025/26. Delivery of the pathway will be subject to budget becoming available in 2026/25 or through future City of Adelaide's (CoA) annual business plan and budget processes.

Recommendation

THAT THE KADALTILLA / ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AUTHORITY ADVISES COUNCIL

That the Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority:

1. Receives the report and presentation (**Attachment A**) as contained in Item 6.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Board of Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority held on 18 September 2025
 2. Notes that implementation of the priority projects will be staged, with procurement and delivery of the community playing field to be undertaken in third and fourth quarter of 2025/26 and tree planting scheduled to commence for the planting season between April–May 2026.
 3. Notes that delivery of the pathway adjacent to Wakefield Road is subject to budget becoming available in 2025/26 or future consideration through the City of Adelaide's annual business plan and budget processes.
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Implications

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036	Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 The staged implementation of the Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan, is a strategic priority in the <i>Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036</i> (APLMS), to enhance accessibility, amenity, and climate resilience across the park. Key work packages include tree planting to strengthen natural systems, reinstatement of the community playing field to support recreation and wellbeing, and pathway upgrades to improve connections and safe movement. Together, these initiatives advance the APLMS goals of protecting the Adelaide Park Lands character, increasing activation, and improving community access.
2023-2028 Strategic Plan	Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Alignment – Environmental Performance 2.1 Define, protect, and enhance landscape values and design qualities 2.2 Promote ecologically sustainable initiatives and monitor tree canopy cover, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability and design quality
City of Adelaide Strategies	The delivery of the priority projects support the CoA's Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and City Plan – Adelaide 2036, by increasing canopy cover, restoring open spaces, and enhancing pedestrian access, thereby contributing to climate resilience, safer movement, and a more liveable city.
Policy	Expanding tree canopy coverage supports the objectives of the CoA's Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 and the Government of South Australia's Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide 2025–2030.
Consultation	Extensive community consultation informed the preparation of the Master Plan, alongside targeted engagement with stakeholders on priority projects, including the SA Motorsport Board and internal technical specialists. The City of Burnside has expressed support for street tree planting along Fullarton Road, at the boundary of the local government areas.
Resource	Project management for design development is being managed by the Park Lands Planning team, and future capital works will be managed by the Infrastructure team.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC) – Design outcomes improve the existing butterfly conservation zone buffers. <i>South Australian Motorsport Act 1984</i> – engagement with the SA Motorsport Board has occurred in the development of the design packages. Basic search level of the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects is complete.
Design	The design packages have been guided by the principles of Good Design (ODASA) - context, inclusivity, durability, value, performance, and sustainability. The National Heritage Management Plan (NHMP) has been considered, with no anticipated impacts. The proposals include succession planting of poorly located and senescent trees, improving the urban landscape while reducing conflicts between event staging and tree health.
Opportunities	The implementation of the priority projects deliver increased amenity, enhanced climate resilience, improved accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, and expanded formal recreation opportunities

City of Adelaide Budget Allocation	A total budget of \$434,000 has been allocated to the implementation of key priorities from the endorsed Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan in 2025/26, comprising \$250,000 (capital funding) and \$184,000 from a Government of South Australia Open Space Contribution.
Capital Infrastructure Projects	Community playing field reinstatement - reinstatement of a soccer field temporarily removed to enable construction of the Pakapakanthi wetland system. Pathway - completion of the east–west pathway adjacent Wakefield Road to improve pedestrian and cyclist access, particularly during major event setup and pack-down.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Reinstatement of the community-level playing field (soccer pitch) will require periodic maintenance, including aeration, topdressing, and turf reinforcement every 3–10 years, with a full reconstruction of the rootzone expected every 15–25 years. The concrete footpath has an estimated lifespan of 15–20 years; however, heavy vehicle use during events may reduce its durability.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Enhanced/upgraded and new features will require corresponding asset and ongoing maintenance budgets including: • Standard operational management costs of the replaced soccer field including turf, irrigation and drainage • Watering for establishment of new tree planting • Standard footpath asset repairs and maintenance.
Other Funding Sources	A \$184,000 Open Space Grant from the Government of South Australia.

Discussion

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on implementation of the Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan (the Master Plan), endorsed in June 2024 ([Link 1](#)). The Master Plan established a clear vision and improvement strategies to enhance the park's amenity, accessibility, and biodiversity.

Background

2. In October 2021, Council requested a report be prepared for Kadaltilla outlining the necessary steps toward development of a new landscaping proposal to achieve enhanced greening - in particular tree canopy for shade across Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
3. A report was presented to Kadaltilla on 24 February 2022 ([Link 2](#)) outlining a proposal to develop a Landscape Concept Plan for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
4. At its meeting on 15 March 2022, Council noted Kadaltilla's support for the development of a new Landscape Concept Plan for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16). Key considerations included increasing shade, adapting to hotter climates, respecting cultural and social values, protecting remnant habitat, supporting diverse uses, addressing soil contamination, and creating a sustainable, inspiring landscape.
5. In early 2022, Aspect Studios was engaged to assist the City of Adelaide in developing the Master Plan for Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
6. A presentation was made to Kadaltilla at its meeting on 27 April 2023 ([Link 3](#)) with an overview of the master planning process and to gain feedback on the draft principles and site context for the draft Master Plan.
7. The draft Master Plan was endorsed by Council on 11 July 2023 for the purposes of public consultation. Consultation was undertaken between July and August 2023.
8. A summary of the consultation was presented to Kadaltilla at its meeting on 28 March 2024 ([Link 4](#)).
9. The Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi Master Plan was endorsed by Kadaltilla at its meeting on 27 June 2024 ([Link 5](#)) and by the Council at its meeting on 9 July 2024 ([Link 6](#)).

Master Plan

10. The Master Plan details a vision for a cooler, greener, more biodiverse, and climate resilient park that positively contributes to people's physical and mental health, provides for programmed and unprogrammed community sports and recreation, attracts and supports diverse events and activities, while celebrating cultural and social values.
11. Informed by the vision, the Master Plan identifies eight strategies that respond to the desire for increased greening, historical interpretation, multiple existing activities and recreational uses and the various open landscapes across Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
12. The eight key strategies are:
 - 12.1. Consolidate, Complete and Strengthen the Path Hierarchy
 - 12.2. Strengthen the Neighbourhood Connections
 - 12.3. Reveal the Narrative of Pre and Post-Colonial History
 - 12.4. Reconnect the Grandstand
 - 12.5. Celebrate the Park Lands' Character
 - 12.6. Reveal and Reconnect the Water
 - 12.7. A Park for Year Round Activation
 - 12.8. A Smart Park.
13. The Master Plan includes the following targets:
 - 13.1. Green Infrastructure
 - 13.1.1. Increase tree canopy by 8% to reach the minimum 30% canopy cover for the park. The existing canopy cover within the park is approximately 22%.

13.2. Biodiversity

13.2.1. Measured through the Biodiversity Monitoring Framework, achieve a net increase in biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystems health.

13.2.2. Through landscape changes increase Key Biodiversity Area #1 by 30% (11,735 sqm).

13.3. Hard Stand Reduction

13.3.1. Through the consolidation of path networks achieve an overall reduction of hard stand / impervious surfaces.

Community investment priorities

14. As part of the consultation on the Master Plan undertaken between July and August 2023 ([Link 4](#)), feedback was sought on which initiatives in the draft Master Plan should be prioritised. Based on the consultation feedback, the community's priorities for investment were as follows:

14.1. Improvements to the path network (and cycling infrastructure), including a perimeter pathway, improvements to the Criterium Track as well as a hierarchy, connectivity and disability access of the path network.

14.1.1. The proposed east-west pathway along Wakefield Street improves connectivity and accessibility particularly during major events such as the bp Adelaide Grand Final.

14.2. Increased greening and tree canopy (biodiversity), particularly over existing and new paths, to complement the wetlands and strategic open space areas (understorey planting to support biodiversity values).

14.2.1. A tree planting plan has been prepared, with approximately 500 trees to be progressively planted.

14.2.2. The species to be planted include River Red Gum, South Blue Gum, Norfolk Island Pine, Grey Box, Kurrajong, Dragon Tree, Bottle Tree, Claret Ash, and London Plane.

14.2.3. Planting will occur during the seasonal window of April to May, subject to the availability of tree stock and required CoA and / or volunteer resources.

14.3. Rehabilitation of Botanic Creek and erosion control in creek beds.

14.3.1. Botanic Creek Rehabilitation Project is progressing with works in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) completed in 2024/2025 and works in Rundle Park / Kadlitpina (Park 13) and King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15) to be completed in 2025/26.

14.3.2. The project was the recipient of a \$198,000 Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grant from Green Adelaide.

14.3.3. A design for a new Gross Pollutant Trap is complete to improve water quality entering the Botanic Creek system from City of Burnside.

14.4. Short to medium-term investment in interpretation focused on the environment, Kurna culture and historical values of the Park.

14.4.1. In 2024, a Pakapakanthi Interpretative Trail was developed with interactive markers that cover environmental, Kurna, and historic values of the park, taking visitors on an educational journey through the ecosystem types to discover the natural and constructed landscape, before and after European colonisation.

14.5. Short to medium-term investment in a nature-based play space that is sited to reduce possible conflicts with other Park users (away from the Criterium Track).

14.6. Short to medium-term investment in public toilets designed in context with the Adelaide Park Lands setting.

Master Plan Implementation

15. In 2023/24, \$50,000 was allocated in the City of Adelaide's Annual Business Plan and Budget to deliver Master Plan projects, including the Pakapakanthi Interpretative Trail, which has been completed and features interactive markers highlighting environmental, Kurna, and historic values.

16. The 2024/25 City of Adelaide Annual Business Plan and Budget included \$250,000 for detailed design of priority projects identified within the Master Plan.

- 16.1. A series of internal and external stakeholder workshops were held in early 2025 to determine priority projects for design progression that would achieve masterplan objectives utilising available funding. The three priority projects identified were:
 - 16.1.1. Tree planting plan – a site wide initiative to increase shade and amenity, expand canopy cover, and strengthen habitat and food sources for native fauna.
 - 16.1.2. Community playing field reinstatement – reinstatement of a soccer field temporarily removed to enable construction of the Pakapakanthi wetland system.
 - 16.1.3. Pathway – completion of the east–west pathway adjacent Wakefield Road to improve pedestrian and cyclist access, particularly during major event setup and pack-down.
17. The detailed design for the three priority projects is completed and is summarised in the presentation associated with this report. The full design package is provided in [Link 7](#).

Next Steps

18. Implementation of the priority projects is to be staged, with procurement and delivery of the playing field to be undertaken in Quarter 2 / Quarter 3 and tree planting is scheduled to commence in Quarter 4 (April–May) of 2025/26.
 - 18.1. The CoA received a grant of \$184,000 through the Government of South Australia Open Space Grant Program to be utilised for the delivery of projects which will provide important assets for the local community.
 - 18.2. The grant funding has been allocated in 2025/26 towards the reinstatement of the community playing field including turfing, drainage, and amenities to restore the field as a safe and accessible recreational space for community use.
19. Delivery of the pathway will be subject to budget becoming available in 2025/26 or future years through the City of Adelaide's (CoA) annual business plan and budget processes.

Data and Supporting Information

- Link 1** – [Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi Master Plan](#) (Park 16)
- Link 2** – [Agenda item, Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority meeting, 24 February 2022](#)
- Link 3** – [Agenda item, Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority meeting, 27 April 2023](#)
- Link 4** – [Agenda item, Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority meeting, 28 March 2024](#)
- Link 5** – [Agenda item, Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority meeting, 27 June 2024](#)
- Link 6** – [Agenda item, City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee, 2 July 2024](#)
- Link 7** – [Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi \(Park 16\) Detailed Design Projects Package](#)

Attachments

Attachment A – Presentation – Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan Implementation Projects

– END OF REPORT –