



Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Towards 2036 2024/25 Report

Kurna Peoples Native Title Determination Area

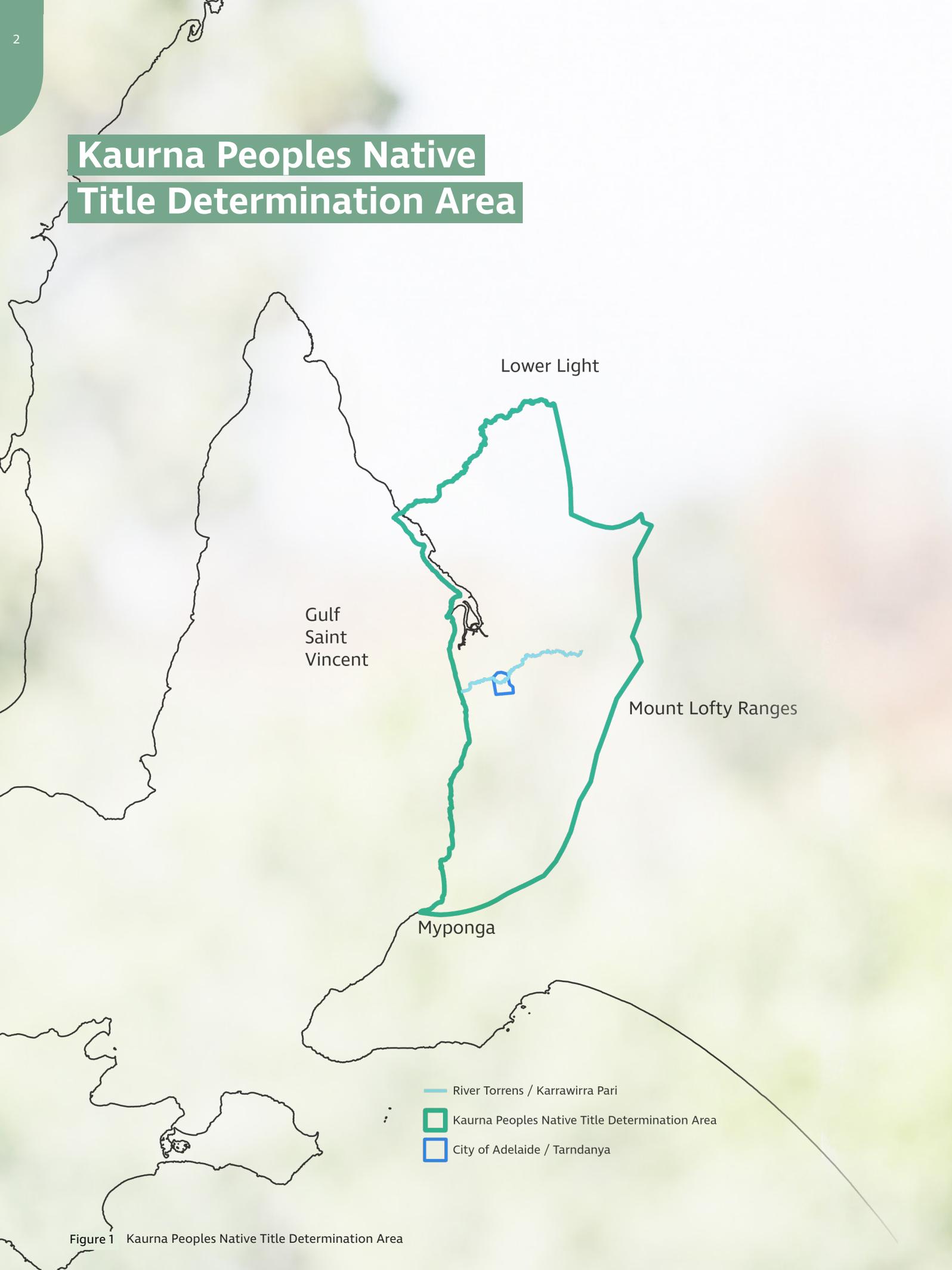


Figure 1 Kurna Peoples Native Title Determination Area

Acknowledgement of Country

The Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority (Kadaltilla) acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. Kadaltilla recognises and respects the cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship which the Kurna People have with the land and acknowledges that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna People living today.

Kadaltilla extends that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





Introduction

Kadaltilla/Adelaide Park Lands Authority approved the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 (APLMS – Towards 2036), which was subsequently endorsed by the Council on 12 November 2024.

The APLMS – Towards 2036 was approved by Minister for Planning in June 2025 and will be subject to Parliamentary processes as part of its finalisation in 2025/26.

The APLMS – Towards 2036 identifies three goals, 49 strategies and 26 priorities to be delivered over the next 11 years.

Goal 1

Places and Spaces

Places of activity, creativity and tranquillity for everyone that support our changing lifestyles, health and wellbeing; offer diverse landscapes and natural beauty and provide a range of sport, recreational, sensory and stimulating experiences.

Goal 2

Connections and Networks

A system of connected and legible places and spaces enabling safe movement via paths and trails linking the city to the suburbs, hills and coast.

Goal 3

Natural Systems, Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience

Places that thrive in the face of a changing climate and celebrate Adelaide's unique natural and cultural heritage.

The APLMS – Towards 2036 is delivered by the City of Adelaide through its operating budget. Funding for initiatives above existing service levels are determined annually by the Council through the City of Adelaide's Annual Business Plan and Budget process.

An annual one-page implementation plan sets out the commitments for each financial year. In 2024/25, 17 commitments were identified to deliver against the plan in year one. This report provides highlights and an annual statement of achievement against the 2024/25 commitments.

Of the 17 commitments identified in the implementation plan, the following assessment of status is provided:

- 7 are complete
- 10 are progressing for completion in 2025/26.

Of the 26 priorities in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy, the City of Adelaide delivered or substantially progressed delivery against 12 priorities.

Targets

Target	Update
Goal 1. Places and Spaces	
Return Helen Mayo Park/Tulya Wardli (Park 27C) to Park Lands Purpose	The State Government and City of Adelaide are finalising funding to commence master planning, with preliminary work already underway, including spatial data collation and site history and contamination review.
Clearly identified landscape types appropriate to location	The Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 defines landscape types for all precincts.
Goal 2. Connections and Networks	
Provide clear path hierarchy for all new projects from 2024	Through Master Planning of the Adelaide Park Lands Trail and precinct Master Plans, such as the Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan, clear path hierarchies will be established.
Undertake safety upgrades to all road crossings by 2036	A bicycle and pedestrian actuated crossing (BPAC) was completed at Hutt Street in 2024/25, with Federal funding secured for two more at key Trail crossings on Sir Donald Bradman Drive and Glen Osmond Road in 2025/26.
Increase number of active transport users by improving Adelaide Park Lands pathways, lighting and signage	Data gathering has commenced in Light Square and Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) to determine a baseline. This will support assessing the performance of this target in future years.
Reduce existing car parking on land managed by the City of Adelaide by 5%	No reductions of existing car parking on land managed by the City of Adelaide were recorded in 2024/25.
Ensure connections are maintained and where possible improved with all surrounding bicycle networks with a preference for off-road connections	A bicycle and pedestrian actuated crossing (BPAC) was completed at Hutt Street in 2024/25, with Federal funding secured for two additional key Trail crossings on Sir Donald Bradman Drive and Glen Osmond Road in 2025/26.
Goal 3. Natural Systems, Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience	
Aboriginal people employed to work in the Adelaide Park Lands	The Aboriginal Ranger Program Coordinator commenced in June 2025 and will work to identify opportunities to reintegrate cultural land management practices into the care of the Adelaide Park Lands and waterways in 2025/26.
Across the three receiving water bodies in the City of Adelaide 80% reduction in suspended solids 90% reduction in gross pollutants 60% reduction in phosphorus 45% reduction in nitrogen	A stormwater management plan (SWMP) is currently in development with a gross pollutant trap (GPT) planned for installation in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
Reduce Torrens Lake carp density to 50 kg/ha by 2026 and maintain the density below this threshold to 2030	Through partnership with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) carp removal program, carp density in the Torrens Lake decreased from 20.4 fish/ha-1 in 2024 to 8.7 fish/ha-1 in 2025.

Capital City Leadership

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Review

The Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 sets a long-term vision for the Adelaide Park Lands, establishing goals and priorities to protect and enhance this National Heritage-listed landscape. It provides principles, projects, and planning considerations to guide decisions by Kadaltilla, the City of Adelaide, the South Australian Government, cultural institutions, and the community.

Kadaltilla commenced a review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015–2025 in 2022, as required under the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005 (SA). The Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 builds on the 2015-2025 Strategy, strengthening statutory alignment, recognising achievements, and incorporating contemporary priorities.

Key updates include principle-based guidance informed by stakeholder consultation and stronger alignment with strategic plans such as the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, Metropolitan Open Space System, City Plan, and Kadaltilla and City of Adelaide strategic plans.

The updated strategy provides a clear, coordinated roadmap for protecting and enhancing the Adelaide Park Lands over the next decade, ensuring they continue to deliver cultural, environmental, and recreational benefits for current and future generations.

The Minister for Planning approved the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 in June 2025.



Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Towards 2036



Goal 1 — Places and Spaces

Places of activity, creativity and tranquillity for everyone that support our changing lifestyles, health and wellbeing; offer diverse landscapes and natural beauty and provide a range of sport, recreational, sensory and stimulating experiences.

Key Achievements 2024/25:

- ✓ Approximately 500 City of Adelaide residents celebrated Neighbour Day on Sunday 30 March 2025, at 13 grassroots gatherings supported by the Council. In 2024/25 six new hosts volunteered to connect neighbours. A highlight is the Halls Place/ Weil Street Neighbour Day gathering, which featured the launch of a new Little Street Library, an idea that emerged from a brainstorming session in Halls Place in 2024.
- ✓ Progressed the Traffic Impact Study and cost estimates for the Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan options. Traffic monitoring cameras were installed to provide coverage on the southern and eastern sides of the Square.
- ✓ Progressed detailed design for the community oval to be delivered in 2025/26 as part of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre redevelopment.
- ✓ Progressed implementation of the Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan with design documentation for the playing field, path consolidation, and tree planting completed.
- ✓ Completed the final stage of the Rymill Park/ Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) - Lake Renewal Project.

- ✓ Completed detailed design drawings and the lease negotiations for the Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West) Community Sports Building, both of which were endorsed by Kadaltilla and Council in June/July 2025.
- ✓ Progressed concept development for the Mary Lee Park / Tulya Wardli (Park 27B) Community Sports Building.
- ✓ The State Government and City of Adelaide are finalising a funding agreement to commence master planning for Helen Mayo Park, with preliminary work already underway, including spatial data collation and site history and contamination review.

Strategies

The Adelaide Park Lands are a place to meet and enjoy diverse experiences

The Adelaide Park Lands will host diverse events, from small to large, in more places more often

The Adelaide Park Lands are Adelaide's hub for sport and recreation



Project Highlights

Community Buildings

Following Council's adoption of the Adelaide Park Lands Community Buildings (Sport and Recreation) Policy in December 2024, approval was given to progress the Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21W) and Mary Lee Park (Park 27B) projects as the first priority Adelaide Park Lands community buildings initiatives.

Detailed design drawings for the Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West) Community Sports Building were endorsed by Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority in June 2025 and Council in July 2025, with delivery commencing in 2025/26. Concept design for the Mary Lee Park / Tulya Wardli (Park 27B) Community Sports Building is progressing with delivery scheduled for 2026/27.



Adelaide Aquatic Centre Integration

As part of the State Government's election commitment, a new aquatic centre is being designed, built, and operated by the South Australian Government in the northern Park Lands at Pardipardinyilla / Denise Norton Park (Park 2). Council committed \$20 million to the project including funding to restore the former Aquatic Centre site to Park Lands. As part of the project, a new community playing field will be created, providing a recreational space accessible to the wider community.



Reimagined Rymill

The Rymill Park Lake Renewal project was delivered through a funding partnership between the State Government and the City of Adelaide. The Rymill Park Lake Renewal project was a key deliverable of the Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan and enhances sustainability by introducing a new water source and upgraded filtration system, as well as completing pathway and lighting improvements around the lake.

In 2024/25, the final stage of the Lake Renewal project was completed, delivering improved access, additional lighting, greening, and new tree plantings to further enhance the park's amenity and biodiversity.



Goal 2 — Connections and Networks

A system of connected and legible places and spaces enabling safe movement via paths and trails linking the city to the suburbs, hills and coast.

Key Achievements 2024/25:

- ✓ In collaboration with the State Government delivered a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Actuated Crossings (BPAC) on Hutt Street and secured Federal Government funding to upgrade two Adelaide Park Lands Trail crossing points at Glen Osmond Road and Sir Donald Bradman Drive with PBAC's.
- ✓ Completed civil works Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) and delivered community education workshops and planting events. Progressed detailed design for Rundle Park / Kadlitpina (Park 13), and King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15) as part of the Botanic Creek rehabilitation Project.
- ✓ Progressed the development of an Adelaide Park Lands Trail - Rest Stop Design Guidelines. The Guidelines aim to enhance accessibility across the Adelaide Park Lands by guiding the installation of rest stops and accessible crossings along the Trail.
- ✓ Delivered the Mistletoe Park / Tainmuntilla (Park 11) shared use path Renewal & Public Lighting Upgrade.

Strategies

The Adelaide Park Lands are a network of connected parks

The Adelaide Park Lands connect the city to the inner suburbs

The Adelaide Park Lands are easily identifiable

The Adelaide Park Lands invite exploration and are safe and easy to access and move around in, day and night

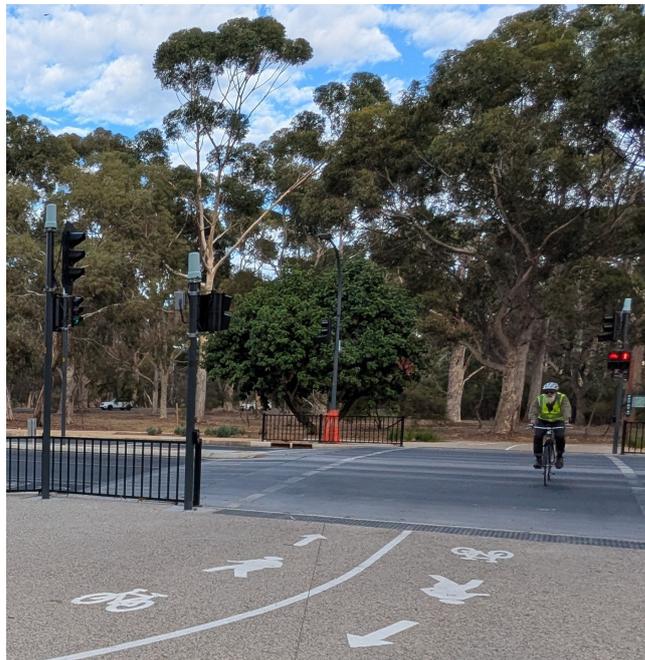


Project Highlights

Adelaide Park Lands Trail Crossing

The Adelaide Park Lands Trail is an iconic recreational circuit that links the Adelaide Park Lands precincts and connects to parts of the Greater Adelaide walking and cycling network. Enhancing the Trail through improved connections, safer crossings, additional greening, and better wayfinding is a key priority in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036, aiming to create a continuous trail and an exceptional visitor experience.

In collaboration with the State Government, the City of Adelaide delivered a bicycle and pedestrian actuated crossing (BPAC) at Hutt Street in 2024/25 and secured Federal Government funding for two additional BPAC's at key Trail crossing points on Sir Donald Bradman Drive and Glen Osmond Road. These upgrades are scheduled for delivery in 2025/26.



Restore Riparian Corridors

In 2024/25, significant progress was made on the Botanic Creek and South Park Lands Creek rehabilitation projects, aimed at enhancing biodiversity, managing water flow, and improving community access to nature.

Civil works were completed at Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14), with community workshops and planting activities delivered in June 2025. Procurement commenced for works at Rundle Park / Kadlitpina (Park 13), King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15), and Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16), with completion of Rundle Park / Kadlitpina (Park 13), King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15) scheduled for 2025/26.

In the South Park Lands, detailed design and civil works advanced at Blue Gum Park / Kurangga (Park 20), with design options for further works at Blue Gum Park and Pelzer Park / Pityarilla (Park 19) presented to Kadaltilla in June 2025. Previous stages have included reshaping creek banks and planting extensive native vegetation across several parks.



Goal 3 — Natural Systems, Cultural Landscapes and Climate Resilience

Places that thrive in the face of a changing climate and celebrate Adelaide's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Key Achievements 2024/25:

- ✓ Progressed Tentative List submission for the World Heritage Bid, with a focus on establishing consultation processes with Traditional Owners based on the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.
- ✓ In 2024/25, the City of Adelaide secured a grant from the Capital City Committee to undertake a Strategic Water Resources Study for the Adelaide Park Lands. The Study outlines opportunities to supplement, expand, and integrate water resources in response to future Adelaide Park Lands use, community needs, climate change, and emerging technologies. The draft report is currently under final review. Once complete, an update on the Study will be presented to Kadaltilla in the second quarter of 2025/26.
- ✓ The Aboriginal Ranger Program Coordinator commenced in June 2025 and will work to identify opportunities to reintegrate cultural land management practices into the care of the Adelaide Park Lands and waterways in 2025/26.
- ✓ The National Heritage Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout was approved by Council in November 2023 and received endorsement from the Australian Heritage Council in August 2024. Two implementation projects were completed in 2024/25 relating to mapping historic tree plantings and an archaeological survey.
- ✓ Through Council's submission to the State Planning Commission on the draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, the City of Adelaide continued to advocate to the State Government to include the Adelaide Park Lands as a State Heritage Place.
- ✓ The City of Adelaide has worked closely with Yamagigu to commence the development of an Aboriginal Engagement Strategy grounded in Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles.

Strategies

The Adelaide Park Lands are a place of natural beauty and Kaurna cultural significance

The Adelaide Park Lands celebrate biodiversity

The Adelaide Park Lands are water sensitive, with healthy watercourses

The Adelaide Park Lands are climate resilient

The Adelaide Park Lands are valued as a National Heritage site worthy of World Heritage Listing



Project Highlights

Biodiversity Monitoring Program – Karrawirra Parri Fauna Survey

The Karrawirra Pari aquatic fauna survey was completed in June 2025 following seasonal rainfall, with findings to be added to the City of Adelaide’s biodiversity geospatial database developed through the 2023/24 Biodiversity Survey.

Throughout 2024/25, a series of community planting events were held across the Adelaide Park Lands, fostering community connection to nature. Planning is also underway for spring 2025 planting activities in Key Biodiversity Area 7, in partnership with the Catholic Education Office.



Installation of Interpretive Markers in Pakapakanthi

A series of interpretive markers were installed in the southern half of Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16), creating an interpretive trail as part of delivering in the endorsed Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan. The trail highlights the park’s environmental, Kurna, and historic values, guiding visitors on an educational journey through its diverse ecosystems and exploring the natural and constructed landscapes.

Symbiosis: the Chequered Copper Butterfly, the Rainbow Ant and the Native Sorrel

Did you know that the rare Chequered Copper Butterfly (Figure 1) was reintroduced in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi in early 2019?

Before this, the butterfly was last recorded on the Adelaide Plains in 1922. This rare population was found by local ecologists, a local conservationist and member of Butterfly Conservation South Australia.

The relationship between the butterfly, the common Rainbow Ant (Figure 2), and a small plant - Native Sorrel (Figure 3) is fascinating. It starts when the butterfly lays eggs (Figure 4) on the Native Sorrel leaves. Once the eggs hatch, Rainbow Ants bring the larvae (caterpillars) (Figure 5) into their nest for protection. The larvae are also protected by the ants while they feed on the Native Sorrel. In return for this protection, the larvae give the ants a sugary gift, to sweeten the deal. This relationship is called 'symbiosis' as they rely on one another to survive.

With good weather and lots to eat, the Chequered Copper can lay eggs during the warmer months. Each female usually lays up to eight eggs to ensure (Figure 6).

The developing butterflies, the larvae with the Native Sorrel and Rainbow Ants coexist. The adult antler, in 'wax' and can feed on 'nectar'. However, the butterfly has everything it needs.

These habitats are looked after by the City of Adelaide with help from Butterfly Conservation South Australia, and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

We need to protect these sites both aggressive grass control, such as Kikuyu grass, Capriola, clover, and other weeds, and the Rainbow Ant, and the Chequered Copper Butterfly can thrive.

We can help grow the Chequered Copper Butterfly populations in the Adelaide Plains through protecting their habitat. With the help of the community and neighbouring councils, we can create open native grassland ecosystems with the right plants and ants, such as the one.

The Chequered Copper Butterfly

- Family: LYCAENIDAE
- Also known as: Chequered Copper or Grassland Copper
- Absence in Adelaide area: Rare
- Flight season: September - April
- Wingspan: 16-18 mm
- Weight: 10-12 mg, larvae 20 mm

Figure 1: Chequered Copper Butterfly (Image credit: Butterfly Conservation South Australia)

Figure 2: Rainbow Ant (Image credit: Butterfly Conservation South Australia)

Figure 3: Native Sorrel (Image credit: Butterfly Conservation South Australia)

Figure 4: Chequered Copper Butterfly eggs (Image credit: Butterfly Conservation South Australia)

Figure 5: Chequered Copper Butterfly caterpillar (Image credit: Butterfly Conservation South Australia)

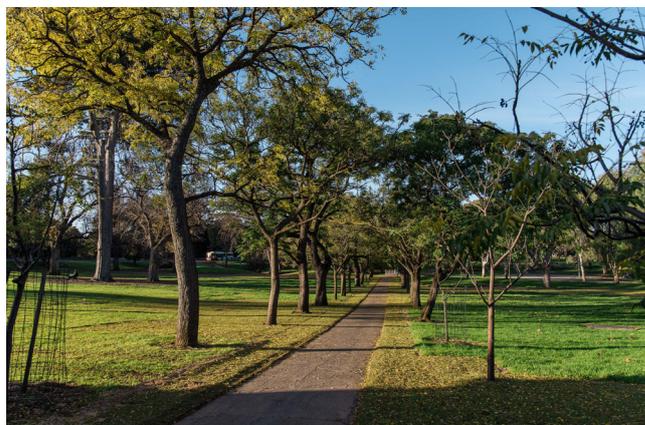
Figure 6: Chequered Copper Butterfly pupa (Image credit: Butterfly Conservation South Australia)

THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

CITY OF ADELAIDE

Heritage Designed Landscapes and Historical Plantings of the Adelaide Park Lands

A management plan identifying and spatially mapping historically designed landscapes and plantings in the Adelaide Park Lands was undertaken as part of the City of Adelaide’s implementation of the National Heritage Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout. This is being integrated into organisational processes and management systems, including Forestree, a tree asset management system.





Targets

2024/25 Commitments

- Deliver the Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan
- ✓ Detailed design for the Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16) Master Plan
- Deliver Park Lands Community Buildings Upgrades
- Progress Tentative Listing for Adelaide and its Rural Settlement Landscapes World Heritage Bid
- ✓ Achieve endorsement of the National Heritage Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout by the Australian Heritage Council
- ✓ Complete a Historic Plantings Plan, heritage survey of landscapes and archaeology assessment for the Adelaide Park Lands
- Continue to advocate to the State Government to establish the Adelaide Park Lands State Heritage Area
- Partner with the State Government to undertake a Master Plan for Helen Mayo Park (Park 27) to return to a Park Lands purpose
- ✓ Deliver Mistletoe Park/Tainmuntilla (Park 11) Shared Use Path Renewal and Public Lighting Upgrade
- Partner with the State Government on improvements to the Adelaide Park Lands Trail
- ✓ Deliver the Adelaide Park Lands Strategic Water Resources Study
- ✓ Deliver the Botanic Creek Watercourse Rehabilitation project
- Design an Aboriginal Rangers Program for the Adelaide Park Lands to support traditional land management practices
- Establish a Protocol for Aboriginal Engagement
- Develop a biodiversity monitoring program for the Adelaide Park Lands, including guidance/protocol for partnering with the community on greening and biodiversity projects
- Undertake detailed design for Bonython Park/Tulya Wardli (Park 27B) – Community Sports Building
- ✓ Undertake detailed design for Golden Wattle Park/Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West) – Community Sports Building
- **Icon Key:** ✓ Complete | ● In progress (for completion in 2025/26)

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