

# Councillor Noon - QoN - East End Park Lands

Tuesday, 27 February 2024  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Carmel Noon

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Carmel Noon will ask the following Question on Notice:**

'How many weeks of the year were the East End Parklands (between Botanic Road and Greenhill Road) not accessible to the public during 2023 calendar year?'

---

## REPLY

1. For the purposes of this response, the East End Park Lands is defined as:
  - 1.1. Rundle Park / Kadlitpina (Park 13)
  - 1.2. Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14)
  - 1.3. King Rodney Park / Ityami-itpina (Park 15)
  - 1.4. Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16).
2. It is important to note that at no time in 2023 were:
  - 2.1. all four East End Park Lands (Park 13, Park 14, Park 15, Park 16) occupied by events at once.
  - 2.2. entirely not accessible to the public.
3. The following points are provided in response to the question:
  - 3.1. Rundle Park / Kadlitpina (Park 13)
    - 3.1.1. Areas within Park 13 were occupied by events for 20 weeks of the 2023 calendar year.
    - 3.1.2. During this time access to parts of Park 13 were still publicly accessible.
  - 3.2. Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14)
    - 3.2.1. Areas within Park 14 were occupied by events for 22 weeks of the 2023 calendar year.
    - 3.2.2. During this time access to parts of Park 14 were still publicly accessible.
    - 3.2.3. The City of Adelaide's Rymill Park Lake Renewal project commenced in Park 13 in late August 2023, occupying an area surrounding the lake for 18 weeks in the 2023 calendar year to undertake the necessary renewal works.
  - 3.3. King Rodney Park/ Ityami-itpina (Park 15)
    - 3.3.1. Areas of Park 15 were occupied by events for eight weeks of the 2023 calendar year.
    - 3.3.2. During this time access to parts of Park 15 were still publicly accessible.
  - 3.4. Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16)
    - 3.4.1. Areas of Park 16 were occupied by events for 26 weeks of the 2023 calendar year.
    - 3.4.2. The VAILO Adelaide 500 represents 18 weeks of this total period.

3.4.3. During this time access to parts of Park 16 were still publicly accessible.

3.4.4. The 26 weeks of event occupation in Park 16 does not include a variety of small community activities and events that occur in this Park each year that in no way restrict public access to the East End Park Lands.

4. The following points provide further context to these figures:

- 4.1. In 2023, areas of the East End Park Lands were only inaccessible to the public (unable to be reached or entered) when events were under construction or being demounted or Council's Rymill Park Lake renewal works were occurring.
- 4.2. Events rarely utilise an entire Park Land location. When major events were held in the East End Park Lands in 2023, parts of individual Park Land locations were not utilised by each event.
- 4.3. Many major events, such as those held in Parks 13 and 14 as part of the Adelaide Fringe, are free to attend and, therefore, publicly accessible during their event operation.
- 4.4. In cases where some events charge a fee to enter the event, they aren't exclusive and technically remain accessible for the public to attend as audience members.
- 4.5. In the example of Harvest Rock II, the event organisers worked with the City of Adelaide to ensure that the Quentin Kenihan Inclusive Playspace was not only able to be accessed by non-ticket-holding members of the public it was also programmed for children and family focussed entertainment.
- 4.6. In 2023, public event attendance at these significant East End Park Land events exceeded 1.5 million people. This level of attendance and utilisation of the Park Lands is greater than when it is not programmed with this content.
- 4.7. Attendance at events and activities in the Adelaide Park Lands promotes community celebration and showcases the unique Adelaide Park Lands.
- 4.8. The VAILO Adelaide 500 was the longest East End Park Lands event occupancy in 2023, spanning 18 weeks. This event operates under the *South Australia Motorsport Act 1984*. This event implements a staged build process, so for vast periods of their occupation, it only utilised a small portion of Victoria Park, leaving wider areas of the Park Lands accessible.
- 4.9. With assistance from Administration, event organisers have become increasingly proficient at setting up their events in 'increments', and not occupying large areas of the Park Lands for their setup periods when it is not required. Whilst their approval may be for a larger area, they don't always occupy that full area for the full duration of their approval.
- 4.10. The conclusion of Council's waiving of Park Lands fees instituted as a response to COVID-19, saw the reinstatement of Park Lands fees that have been effective since October 2023. Event Organisers have reevaluated how much Park Lands area they require and the period the area is required. Event site fees are charged based on the amount of area used.
- 4.11. The East Park Lands are synonymous with longstanding events and festivals which define Adelaide as one of the world's great festival cities. On this basis, Council has undertaken significant investment into event based infrastructure to support major events within these Park Land settings. In summer each year, the precinct is transformed during the Adelaide Fringe. The entire precinct attracts many local, national and international event visitors. With its proximity to the East End district, it plays an important role in stimulating the local economy and enriching the cultural life of Adelaide as 'the City in a Park'.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply | To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 4.5 hours. |
|--|---|

- END OF REPORT -