

Updated Rymill Park Master Plan

Tuesday, 12 July 2022

Council

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 'reimagining' of Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) is identified as one of the 'Big Moves' in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (APLMS) 2015-2025.

At its meeting on 23 July 2019, Council reviewed the Draft Master Plan and approved its release for community engagement. Updates have since been made to reflect the results of community engagement and projects that have since been completed or are currently underway.

At their meeting on 30 June 2022, Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority supported Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan as detailed in **Attachment A**.

This report seeks Council's formal adoption of the updated (final) Rymill Park/ Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Adopts the final Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan as detailed in Attachment A to Item 10.3 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2022.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	<p>Strategic Alignment – Thriving Communities</p> <p>1.1 Leverage the Adelaide Park Lands to promote health, wellbeing and lifestyle experiences.</p> <p>The Rymill Park Master Plan is a high level plan that provides a vision and sets out objectives to guide developments into the future, and defines how the character and quality of the Park can be conserved, improved, and enhanced, to benefit the wider community.</p>
Policy	<p><u>Adelaide Park Lands Authority 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Strategic Plan</u> Strategic Plan Alignment - Environment</p> <p>2.1 Provide advice on plans, projects and policies for the Adelaide Park Lands 2.2 Provide advice in relation to tree canopy cover, biodiversity and environmental sustainability improvements.</p> <p><u>Community Land Management Plan for the Adelaide Park Lands (currently under review – draft for endorsement for the purposes of community consultation)</u> For Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Manage and support improvements to playground, kiosk, picnic areas and lake with regard to the Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan. Support the upgrade of the lake to be more sustainable and water sensitive.</p> <p><u>Water Sensitive City Action Plan 2020-25</u> Key Action 3.3: Investigate opportunities to integrate more natural features into Rymill Lake and Botanic Creek for improved catchment-wide water quality, recreation and nature connection outcomes.</p> <p><u>Adelaide Park Lands Events Management Plan</u> Rymill Park is a premium event space. It is a highly used informal recreation space and festival hub in the summer months and has a number of small spaces for boutique events.</p> <p><u>Adelaide Park Lands Leasing and Licensing Policy</u> Current lease agreements within Rymill Park</p>
Consultation	<p>Key stakeholders and the wider community were consulted as part of the Rymill Park/Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Draft Master Plan and Community Land Management Plan in November 2019. Kaurana community representatives were consulted with on the Draft Master Plan between 2017-2020. Refer to the Appendices of the Master Plan for the Community Engagement Report.</p> <p>Kadaltilla / Park Lands Authority reviewed and supported the updated Master Plan at its meeting held on 30 June 2022.</p>
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	The Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan, once adopted by Council, will inform the new and reviewed Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy, to guide future projects and enhancements within the Park. The CLMP, required under the <i>Local Government Act 1999 (SA)</i> , will reference and support the Master Plan.
Opportunities	<p>Opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> finalise the Rymill Park/Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan further progress one of the key 'Big Moves' and key strategies of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Plan: "Re-imagine Rymill"
22/23 Budget Allocation	<p>Rymill Park Lake: \$33,000 CoA Renewal budget, \$407,000 State Government Grant Funding</p> <p>Event Infrastructure Upgrade: \$2m (\$1.1m State Government Funding through the State Government Open Spaces and Places for People Grants.</p>
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Rymill Park Lake: \$2,548,000 CoA Renewal budget & \$2,024,000 State Government Grant Funding.

Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Subject to Council approval, the Master Plan will provide strategic guidance for progressive upgrades to the Park in future years.
22/23 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	While no direct costs are associated with the Master Plan, it is important to note that the enhanced/upgraded and new features will require corresponding ongoing maintenance budgets. It is highly likely that additional resources will be required to effectively maintain the space.
Other Funding Sources	Once the Master Plan is completed and adopted, it will enable us to seek additional funding from the State Government to complete the remaining stages.

DISCUSSION

1. In 2016 the State Government granted \$75,000 in funding to the City of Adelaide (CoA) for the Rymill Park/Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan to 'Re-imagine Rymill' as one of the 'Big Moves' in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy. This funding was matched by CoA.
2. At its meeting held on 23 July 2019, Council approved the Draft Master Plan for key stakeholder and community consultation, including the vision, principles, actions, and overall plan.
3. Consultation on the Draft Master Plan and Draft Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for the Park was undertaken between September and December 2019 and included a variety of approaches including meetings with key stakeholders, an online survey, a community day held in Rymill Park, and a drop-in session at the City Library.
4. 674 people visited the project website, >100 people attended face-to-face engagement sessions and 102 survey responses were received. The Community Engagement Report is available in the Appendices of the Master Plan (**Attachment A**).
5. As summarised in the Master Plan, there was strong support from those who provided feedback for the proposals in the draft Master Plan, with:
 - 5.1. 89% of the community agreeing with the Master Plan's vision.
 - 5.2. 93% of the community agreeing with Action 1 (Enhance the lake and surrounds).
 - 5.3. 71% of the community agreeing with Action 3 (Strengthen existing and create new event spaces).
 - 5.4. 77% of the community agreeing with Action 4 (Improve entrances and paths).
 - 5.5. 88% of the community agreeing with Action 5 (Reinforce the landscape character and features of the Park).
 - 5.6. 87% agreed that the changes would encourage them to use the Park more often.
6. Feedback was not sought for Action 2 (Create an inclusive playspace) and Action 6 (Create a Place of Reflection) as these projects were underway at the time with separate, project specific consultation processes.
7. The Draft Master Plan and Draft CLMP for the Park were consulted on together due to their linked relationship to the Park. However, the approach to CLMPs has recently changed to provide a more streamlined legislative review process, that addresses not just individual parks but the Adelaide Park Lands as a whole. As a result, the Draft CLMP for this Park will be removed from this report and addressed separately in another report to Council.
8. A variety of past and existing events in Rymill Park have been considered in the development of the Master Plan as outlined in Action 3 – Strengthen existing and create new event spaces to support the Park's role as a premium event venue.

Rymill Park Lake

9. One of the considerations during the development of the Draft Master Plan was the long-term management of Rymill Park Lake, given its well-known maintenance and water quality issues.
10. Engagement on the Draft Master Plan was undertaken with Kaurana community representatives between 2017 and 2020. This engagement found that there was potential use of the site prior to settlement as a possible meeting place and/or camping site associated with a natural creek line (now known as Botanic Creek). This creek fed a waterhole that exists on the site of the Main Lake / Kainka Wirra at the Adelaide Botanic Garden and provided an abundance of food and other resources for the Aboriginal people of the area.
11. Two options for the renewal of the lake were deemed feasible in 2019, during the development of the draft Master Plan: an ornamental lake, and a vegetated wetland using stormwater from the adjacent eastern CBD catchment.
12. The results from the engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community (of over 100 people), showed 45% of respondents preferred the ornamental lake option and 55% preferred the vegetated wetland option. Conversely, key stakeholders (including park-adjacent stakeholders, the kiosk lease holder and major event organisers) were mostly in favour of the ornamental lake option.
13. We considered the feedback received during the community engagement of the Draft Master Plan and further investigated an alternative for the lake renewal, a sustainable lake, that looked beyond the site constraints of Rymill Park. This option is in line with the community's desire for an ornamental lake (open water lake with attractive views, boating and equestrian events) with a sustainable water source. The water source outside of Rymill Park is being investigated as part of the lake renewal project.
14. Kadaltilla/ Park Lands Authority supported the sustainable lake at its meeting held 28 October 2021. Council subsequently approved the Rymill Park Lake renewal option of a sustainable lake at its meeting held on 14 June 2022. This change has been incorporated in the updated Master Plan.

Changes to the Master Plan

15. The Draft Master Plan presented for community engagement in 2019 was a snapshot of a point in time, therefore minor changes have been made to the current Master Plan to reflect projects recently completed or currently underway. All changes in the document have been marked with a pink tab for ease of reference. In addition to the Rymill Park Lake component being updated, changes to the Master Plan document include:
 - 15.1. Inclusion of Kaurana community feedback.
 - 15.2. Minor modifications to the location of the inclusive playspace, to reflect where the Quentin Kenihan Inclusive Playspace has been built and updated inspiration images (project completed in 2020).
 - 15.3. Removal of water play reference (included in Playspace completed in 2020).
 - 15.4. Updated location and updated inspiration images for the Place of Reflection (project currently underway).
 - 15.5. Pump house for lake water reticulation deleted due to alternative infrastructure (rain gardens and tank storage) being considered as part of Rymill Park Lake renewal project.
 - 15.6. Event infrastructure project reference included (project currently underway).
 - 15.7. Reference to the Cycling Infrastructure project included (shared path adjacent Dequetteville Terrace currently underway).
 - 15.8. New 'service plaque' dedicated to the Lepore Brothers (installed in 2020).

Next steps

16. Should the Master Plan be adopted, a final update will be provided to community members including key stakeholders who contributed feedback on the Draft Master Plan.
17. This important strategic document will be linked to the revised Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (APLMS) and will be used to guide future developments in Rymill Park.
18. The adopted Master Plan would also provide a guide for future funding opportunities and enhancements of the Park. Full implementation of the Master Plan will be dependent on future funding.
19. Any anticipated project driven maintenance service level costs increases will be presented as part of the Annual Business Plan and Budget process as and when the Master Plan progresses.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Rymill Park/Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) Master Plan (June 2022) – includes community engagement results in Appendices

- END OF REPORT -