



FRIENDS OF G.O. EDWARDS PARK

PURPOSES AND STAKEHOLDERS [REVISED APRIL 2014]

FRIENDS OF G.O. EDWARDS PARK was formed in 2007 by a group of local, like minded residents who came together during the community consultation period relating to the Causeway Precinct Development. The likely impact of development on adjoining parkland and the need to place on record the value to the community of this unique inner city environmental asset was the starting point for the group. Meetings began to be held monthly and FRIENDS OF G.O. EDWARDS PARK (FoGOEP) was established. The group then became affiliated with SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CENTRE FOR URBAN LANDCARE (SERCUL) in 2007.

In May 2008 with financial support from The Town of Victoria Park, FoGOEP held a community information day and barbecue at the park. Assistance from The Town of Victoria Park Council Environmental Officers and presentations by SERCUL and Birds Australia contributed to a successful outcome. Around 50 people attended, indicating community support for the intentions of the group and for community involvement in the park's future development.

As a voluntary group FoGOEP has a well established working relationship with the Town of Victoria Park and Council Environmental Officers attend our monthly meetings. We identify, discuss and report issues relating to park maintenance, development and participate in weeding and planting throughout the park. Members are also involved with environmental groups, regional parks, and habitat restoration and development groups through their employment and other voluntary organisations such as Friends of Kings Park.

FoGOEP have been actively involved in the design and implementation of the recently launched G.O.Edwards Park Concept plan [May 2012] and have been included in consultation with the Town of Victoria Park at each stage since it's development through to the final Landscape plan.



With the recent publication of the Department of Sport and Recreation document “ Public Parkland Planning and Design Guide (WA)” the Town of Vic Park and FoGOEP are supported on a State level to provide a well planned public open space with long-term benefits to the community.

The group has identified the significance of this unique inner urban public space both environmentally and socially. Proximity to the Swan River, connections with storm water distribution, and the provision of natural habitat are key environmental factors. As a social asset the park provides recreational space, an attractive environment for social activity as well as quiet spaces for individuals and families to observe the wildlife and enjoy the natural setting.

The importance to the community of open space and contact with the natural environment is receiving increasing attention and confirmation in social, environmental and health research. A recent review of literature states:

“City living involves an extraordinary disengagement of humans from the natural environment that is likely to be detrimental to health and wellbeing. Parks may be the only means of accessing nature for the majority of people in urban areas....” (Deakin University, Melbourne, 2008).

FoGOEP endorse this position in their commitment to the development and maintenance of the park and their continuing support for staged implementation of the G.O. Edwards Park Landscape Plan.

FoGOEP PURPOSES

- To help guarantee a high quality and sustainable environment.
- Provide guidance on how the park can be developed and maintained to create a balance between diverse community needs and the natural environment.
- Help generate clear objectives within the park development to meet both environmental and community standards.
- Provide a community voice to recognise and contribute to sustaining a healthy and aesthetic open space.
- Support a community which recognises the urgency of the need for protection of environment and particularly the local fauna.



EXISTING STAKEHOLDERS

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Residential community use includes visits for exercise, relaxation, quiet reflection, family gatherings, dog walking, community group gatherings, contact with/observation of nature, assisting with park development and maintenance including reports to Council
- Commercial Community use includes visits during lunch breaks; as a place for informal meetings, exercise, team building activities, relaxation, stress relief
- School Community use includes sporting and exercise groups, science/environmental/ and social studies, special events, (e.g. Clean up Australia Day)

BROADER COMMUNITY

- Visitors and International tourists from outside the immediate area use the park in the same ways as local residential community
- Sporting groups use the open area for informal training
- Function bookings are made by groups outside the immediate community, e.g. for weddings, car clubs, church groups, fund raising groups etc.
- Cyclists move through the park on a regular basis

WILDLIFE

- Wildlife habitat provision was an integral part of the original vision and plan for the park and therefore is embedded in its history and future development. It is a breeding site for a large variety of birds, feeding and roosting site for resident and migratory birds, and a habitat for tortoise, fish and crustaceans which breed and live in the lake.
- Wildlife corridor provision is a vital aspect of habitat management. Birds seasonally and sometimes daily move in and out of the park which provides a crucial link between suburban habitat locations.



FoGOEP OBJECTIVES

Environmental Issues

- Create a space in which individuals can experience the beauty and tranquility of the natural environment;
- Provide planned areas specifically for children to explore the natural environment;
- Sustain a healthy habitat for wildlife as both local habitat and habitat corridor;

Community Awareness

- Provide a place for community members to visit and engage with nature in environmentally appropriate surroundings;
- Provide a place for diverse community needs while maintaining an aesthetically appropriate environment;
- Enable the community to recognise and contribute to sustaining a healthy and aesthetic open space.

CONCLUSION

Friends of GO Edwards Park value this park and its importance to identified community stakeholders. We fully support the balanced approach inherent in the G O Edwards park Landscape Plan, and its agenda for ongoing community consultation. We will continue to provide support for this valuable community asset.

Friends of G.O. Edwards Park

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