

25th February 2011

Mr Stuart Ord
Director, Healthy Parks Healthy People
Parks Victoria
Level 10, 535 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

HEALTHY PARKS HEALTHY PEOPLE IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

Please find attached a submission by LeadWest to Parks Victoria highlighting the most significant proposals for improvements to open space and parks in Melbourne's west.

LeadWest is a regional organisation for Melbourne's west with the objective of fostering and undertaking actions that will support sustainable growth and development of the region. We aim to build on the region's social, economic and environmental capacity and to plan and create a sustainable future for the wellbeing of its communities.

Consequently, LeadWest and the organisations it represents have a keen interest in the contribution of open space and parks to the liveability of Melbourne's west and seek to promote the opportunities for enhancing this contribution.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information on LeadWest and its submission.

Yours sincerely,



Anton Mayer
Chief Executive Officer
LeadWest Ltd

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Brimbank Park

Brimbank Park, managed by Parks Victoria, was opened in 1976 as part of the Maribyrnong Valley Park. The Maribyrnong River Trail starts in Brimbank Park and follows the river for 25 kilometres to Footscray.

LeadWest's member councils seek the support of Parks Victoria on opportunities to develop a trail system connecting Brimbank Park to the Organ Pipes National Park.

Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve

Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve on Tenterfield Drive in Burnside Heights is a new facility and planning for a key district level play space is underway. The district level Community Youth Activity Node has also been identified for this park. It serves a rapidly growing population.

LeadWest's member councils seek the support of Parks Victoria with opportunities to further develop Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve to optimise access to the adjacent Kororoit Creek Linear Parkland, which affords strong links to the neighbouring areas of the City of Brimbank.

Cheetham Wetlands

Cheetham Wetlands, managed by Parks Victoria, is protected through international agreements as important habitats for wildlife and is not open to the public. The only way to view the wetlands is from the observation tower.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria to improve access to the Cheetham Wetlands observation tower through works enhancing the section of the Bay Trail through Point Cook Coastal Park and the Skeleton Creek Trail.

Commonwealth Reserve in Williamstown

Commonwealth Reserve is located in Williamstown, on the foreshore adjacent to Gem Pier and has great views across the bay to Melbourne. A Visitor Information Centre is located in Commonwealth Reserve, as well as several heritage attractions including the Tide Gauge House, formerly at Point Gellibrand, and the Wilkinson Drinking Fountain.

LeadWest's member councils seek the support of Parks Victoria with opportunities to create better off road trail links along the rail corridor, from Commonwealth Reserve to the Coastal Trail to Point Gellibrand, Williamstown beach and the Botanic Gardens.

Federation Trail

Federation Trail is a 24 kilometre shared path between the Maltby Bypass in Werribee and Millers Road in Altona, which opened in October 2007. It is a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians, which mainly follows the old "Outfall Sewer" through Melbourne's western suburbs. The trail meets the Werribee River Trail in the west and provides access to the Princes Highway at this point. Near Hoppers Crossing it intersects with the upper section of the Skeleton Creek Trail.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria to complete the Federation Trail and improve linkages to it from other trails, such as the Kororoit Creek Trail.

Hannah Watts Park

Named in the early 1980s after the town's first midwife and bush nurse, Hannah Jane Watts, the park features native flora and fauna along Toolern Creek and offers walking and biking trails suited to all ages. The park features extensive play equipment, public toilets and barbecues. The walking trail also features a number of historic information points as part of the Melton Township Heritage Trail.

LeadWest's member councils seek the support of Parks Victoria with opportunities to further develop Hannah Watts Park to optimise access provided by the shared path network associated with Toolern Creek which is adjacent to the park.

Hobsons Bay Coastal Park and Coastal Trail

The Hobsons Bay Coastal Park covers approximately 23 kilometres of foreshore land from Stony Creek Back Wash, Newport and the Westgate Bridge in Spotswood to Cheetham Wetlands, Altona Meadows, where it joins the Skeleton Creek Trail.

Spanning the length of the coastal park is the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail which is a sealed and mainly flat shared trail. The trail forms part of the western half of the Bayside Trail which encircles Port Phillip. In the north, at the Footscray end, the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail connects with the Maribyrnong River Trail. In the south it intersects with the lower Kororoit Creek Trail in Altona, then the Laverton Creek Trail and terminates at the Skeleton Creek Trail in Altona Meadows.

Suitable for pedestrians and cyclists, the coastal trail passes through large tracts of parkland, the maritime precinct of Williamstown, and the beach and foreshore areas of Williamstown and Altona. Many of these areas have been identified as important habitats for native plants, animals and bird life, and are designated conservation reserves.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria to re-establish indigenous plants and grasses throughout the Hobsons Bay Coastal Park.

Kororoit Creek Corridor and Trail

Kororoit Creek is a major waterway in Melbourne's north-west region, and is approximately 80 kilometres in length. Its upper reaches begin near the township of Sunbury, it traverses Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary and new suburbs such as Caroline Springs and Cairnlea, meanders into the older suburbs of Sunshine and Deer Park, then runs through industrial areas in Brooklyn and Altona before entering Port Philip Bay between Williamstown and Altona.

Intensive work by many stakeholders over the last ten years has seen a vast improvement in the many natural and recreational values of the creek and a change in how the local communities value the Kororoit Creek Corridor. The *Kororoit Creek Regional Strategy 2005-2030* provides for a continuous walking and cycling trail along the full length of the creek corridor.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria undertaking improvements to the riparian environment associated with Kororoit Creek as well as to complete the Kororoit Creek Trail and realise new shared trails extending from it and linking with open space in the Shire of Melton, the City of Brimbank, the City of Hobsons Bay and the City of Wyndham.

Laverton Creek Corridor and Trail

The Laverton Creek Trail, starting at a point on the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail, is a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians, which follows Laverton Creek in the outer western suburbs of Laverton and Altona.

LeadWest's member councils seek the support of Parks Victoria in undertaking improvements to the riparian environment associated with Laverton Creek.

Maribyrnong River Valley

The Maribyrnong River is one of Melbourne's largest rivers, stretching 130 kilometres from the Macedon Ranges to Port Phillip Bay. Beginning as Deep Creek in the Shire of Macedon Ranges, the Maribyrnong gathers Emu Creek, Jacksons Creek

(south of Bulla), Taylor's Creek (near Keilor), and Steeles Creek (near Essendon) before joining the Yarra River at Footscray.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria through resourcing the Maribyrnong River Valley Coordinating Committee (MRVCC) to ensure this body can progress the action plan associated with the Maribyrnong River Valley Design Guidelines (MVRDG) as well as of Parks Victoria support for the Draft Maribyrnong River Master Plan.

Navan Park

The key feature of Navan Park in Melton West is a walking track that is a circuit around a body of water and wetland area that is home to local fauna and birdlife. It is fast becoming a major attraction on account of its scenic qualities and the construction of a community built playground. The park not only attracts recreation activities but is also a site for local fauna, particularly birds.

LeadWest's member councils seek development of the key district level play space which will provide an 'access for all' site.

Skeleton Creek Corridor

The Skeleton Creek Trail is a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians, which follows Skeleton Creek in the outer western suburb of Point Cook. The northern end of the path comes within 800 metres of the Federation Trail. The trail connects to the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail in the south.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria for implementation of the Skeleton Creek Master Plan.

Stony Creek Corridor

Within the City of Maribyrnong, Stony Creek flows downstream from Matthews Hill Reserve in Braybrook, and through the Tottenham industrial precinct. From here it bisects the residential areas of West Footscray and Yarraville, before entering the Yarra River near its confluence with the Maribyrnong River. Due to its lower reach being at a gateway to Melbourne's west, it is important to the region from an 'image' perspective.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria in updating the master and management plan for the Stony Creek corridor.

Williamstown and Altona Beaches

The sand beaches at Altona and Williamstown are the only two swimming beaches in Melbourne's west and thus are of regional significance, and potentially a metropolitan significance. Visitation levels during summer pose significant stress on existing parklands and associated amenities.

Altona Beach and associated parks along this strip including Logan, Frazer, Weever and Lee Reserves require integration and a master plan, as noted in the Altona Beach Urban Design Framework.

Williamstown Beach requires improvements to achieve a high degree of accessibility, seating and shade, including access to the water for people in wheelchairs. This could include resolving the placement of an accessible playground in the vicinity.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continuing support of Parks Victoria to realise improvements in linkages to the beaches.

Williamstown and Altona Piers

Gem Pier in Williamstown is one of the most highly utilised piers in Port Phillip Bay. It is currently used for much of the ferry traffic that docks at Williamstown from other activity nodes in Port Phillip. Ferguson Street Pier is active for boat mooring.

The Altona Pier provides future potential to establish ferry services connecting Altona with other bay side locations and central Melbourne.

LeadWest's member councils seek the continued support of Parks Victoria as manager of the Altona Pier and the Ferguson Street Pier and Gem Pier in Williamstown.