

Wittunga Botanic Garden Master Plan Community Engagement: Frequently Asked Questions

General

Q. Can I provide feedback online?

A. Comments can be provided by email to: "Wittunga Masterplan Engagement", using the email address: botanicgardens@sa.gov.au or telephone during office hours on 08 8222 9311 before the 1 November 2019.

Q. Is there a summary of what is proposed in the draft Revised Masterplan?

A. Yes, there is a community engagement flier available for download from the Botanic Gardens website.

Q. Will the Masterplan be available as a public document?

A. Yes, the endorsed Masterplan will be available as an electronic publication, downloadable from the Botanic Gardens website.

Q. Will there be an entrance fee for Wittunga Botanic Garden?

A. No the three botanic gardens under the Board's governance - Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens - are free to enter.

Q. Will opening hours be extended?

A. Opening hours will be reviewed as the implementation of the endorsed Masterplan progresses.

Q. Will staff numbers increase?

A. Resourcing will be reviewed as the implementation of the Masterplan occurs.

Q. Will access for people with mobility needs and disabilities be increased?

A. New universal access paths and assisting increased access has been proposed in the draft Masterplan.

Q. Have the traditional custodians of this area, been consulted?

A. The Botanic Gardens are working with representatives of the Kaurna people at Wittunga Botanic Garden.

Q. Have Blackwood Primary and Blackwood High School been consulted?

A. The Botanic Gardens are working with these schools on many education and learning projects at Wittunga Botanic Garden.



01: Natural Play Area

Q. Why a nature play space and is it safe?

A. Nature play areas encourage our children to explore nature and challenge themselves, and are especially designed to provide the balance between risk and safety. The new play area, will be built in consultation with Nature Play and constructed to safety standards Australian Standard on Playground Safety AS4685.1-6: 2014. Parents and caregivers will need to supervise their children at all times when using the nature play areas.

02: Natural Play/ Open Creek

Q. Is there an existing creek in this area?

A. There are ephemeral creeks running through Wittunga Botanic Garden. These works will realign the drainage lines and create natural creeks that can be used for informal exploration targeted at older children.

03: Natural Play Beach

Q. Where does the water for the lake come from? Will the water be safe and clean enough for children to paddle in?

A. The water comes from rainwater and stormwater and is tested regularly. Parents and caregivers will need to supervise their children at all times when using any of the nature play areas, especially the lake 'beach' area. The 'beach' area exists, but the upgrades will make it a nicer area to spend time in.

04: State Flora

Q. When will State Flora Nursery relocate?

A. The relocation of State Flora is outlined in the original masterplan and no decision has yet been made with regard to relocation. This idea is still pending a business case and cost-benefit analysis for consideration.

Q. What will happen to the current State Flora nursery in Belair National Park?

A. Should State Flora Nursery retail outlet relocate in future, the current site and its buildings will be investigated through a different study to the masterplan.

Q. Is the new site proposed large enough to house State Flora?

A. Yes. The proposed site is of a similar footprint to the existing State Flora Nursery, and offers a larger retail space than currently exists at Belair.

05: BGSA Operations

Q. Will a smaller operations area be adequate to service Wittunga Botanic Garden?

A. Yes. When Wittunga was initially developed as a Botanic Garden, it included dedicated facilities including its own nursery. As the operations of the Wittunga, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens have been consolidated, nursery operations now occur at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, making the existing Wittunga nursery and glasshouses redundant. This area can be repurposed to consolidate other facilities in a smaller total footprint.

06: Wittunga House

Q. Will Wittunga House be opened to the public?

A. The Botanic Gardens are investigating the viability of using Wittunga House as a community hub/café in the future.

Q. Will Wittunga House lose its heritage character?

A. No. Any developments of Wittunga House will be subject to heritage assessment and will occur in a manner which is sensitive to the heritage listing.

07: Boardwalks + Decks

Q. Will these boardwalks be slippery in wet weather?

A. No. Site-appropriate materials will be used to minimise slippery surfaces in wet weather.

08: Public Amenities

Q. Will there be more toilet facilities?

A. Yes. The draft Revised Masterplan proposes new toilets be installed. The toilet block near the main carpark would be removed and relocated close to the natural play area and the facility would include a changing room. The toilets near Sherbourne Rd will be retained. Toilets will be refurbished to maximise public amenity value.

Q. Will there be better paths and more table and chairs?

A. Yes. Paths will be repaired or replaced as needed and new table and chairs will be installed.

09: Event Lawn

Q. What kind of events will occur at the Event Lawn?

A. This area will ideally be used to stage up to medium-sized events, including community concerts, activities and markets.

Q. Will the concerts at the proposed event lawn cause high sound levels, impacting on neighbours?

A. All events will be managed by strict noise policy guidelines that meet EPA noise level requirements.

Q. Will there be sufficient toilets and public amenities to support events?

A. Yes, additional toilets and supporting infrastructure will be brought in to cater for events as needed.

10: Wedding Lawn

Q. What kind of events will occur at the Wedding Lawn?

A. Weddings and other intimate family/community celebrations. This space will be hireable.

11: Skywalk

Q. Will the skywalk be slippery in wet weather?

A. No. Site-appropriate materials are used to minimise slippery surfaces in wet weather.

Q. How high will the skywalk be?

A. The elevated boardwalk or skywalk will allow visitors to have a view at the tree canopy layer using the natural topography of the site.

12: Avenue (of trees)

Q. What kind of trees will be planted?

A. All plants in the Botanic Garden must meet the criteria of the Living Collection Policy. The particular species for such an avenue has to yet been determined.

13: Car Parks

Q. Will entering and leaving the car park areas be safer?

A. Yes. The Botanic Gardens are working with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to ensure entrances are located at the optimum locations.

Q. Will there be increased car parking?

A. Yes, there will be four new areas of car parking created on site and future discussions will identify additional parking possibilities for peak visitation times.

We invite you to review the proposed draft Revised Masterplan and then provide comments to the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium on the proposal. Please email your comments to botanicgardens@sa.gov.au with the subject "Wittunga Masterplan Engagement", or telephone during office hours on 08 8222 9311 before 1 November 2019.