

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Symonds Reserve Aldinga Beach playground upgrade and tree planting

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### Why is this reserve being upgraded?

The playgrounds at this reserve have reached the end of their expected asset life and have been identified for renewal.

### How are our parks and reserves planned?

Our Open Space Strategic Management Plan 2018-23 (OSSMP) guides the development of our parks and reserves. You can view the plan on the Your Say page under Documents. The OSSMP is currently under review.

This park has been identified by the OSSMP as a District Family Park, which is designed for stays from two to four hours and can be accessed by shared use paths, footpaths, public transport and cars.

Our open space network can be viewed [here](#) and is an interactive map to show each park and reserve and their category as determined by the OSSMP. The left-hand column explains each category type and the level of service provided for that category.

### What is planned for this reserve?

The plan shows the removal of the two existing playgrounds and the establishment of a bigger and better playspace in a single location visible from most aspects of the reserve. The proposed plan is to provide a fenced playspace, with shade and accessible play elements suitable for all ages and abilities. Additional to the playground renewal the proposal is to renew the existing shelter and BBQ, while introducing a new drinking

fountain, with a dog bowl, and an outdoor table tennis table.

To make the reserve cooler, greener and to improve habitat for nature, we will also include a whole bunch of new tree planting, revegetation, passive irrigation and the irrigated turf area will be extended adjacent the existing soccer goals. The design proposes a partial realignment of the path network to allow for the continuation of the extended turf area from the existing turf.

### Why are the playgrounds being combined?

We are proposing to provide one large quality playground that would meet the standard of a district family park, instead of two smaller playgrounds. The proposed location considers parking, accessibility and visibility from most locations /activities within the reserve.

### Will there be any changes made to the dog parks?

There will be no changes to the dog parks as part of this project.

### Will there be any changes made to the skate/BMX area?

There will be no changes to the skate/BMX areas as part of this project.

### Will the public toilets move closer to the playground?

The public toilets will remain in their current location, behind the community centre and next to the courts.

## What is happening with the fitness equipment?

The focus of this project is the playspace and urban greening. There will be no changes made to the existing fitness equipment within the reserve.

Alternative fitness equipment is available at Snapper Point on the Esplanade which is approximately a 12 minute walk from Symonds Reserve.

## Why is the soccer goal being moved?

Since we are extending the irrigated space adjacent the soccer goals, we propose a slight realignment to best utilise the modified shape.

## What carparking is available?

The proposed new location for the playground is nearby the Aldinga Community Centre carpark and extended carpark adjacent.

## What infrastructure will not be included in the upgrade?

There will not be any lighting included within the project.

There will also not be any changes made to the existing fitness equipment, dog parks or skate/BMX as they are all outside of the scope of this project.

## What trees will be planted and how big will they grow?

To support an increase in tree canopy, enhance habitat and provide natural shade while allowing winter sunlight to penetrate, a diverse selection of native and non-native tree species is proposed. This mix will include both evergreen and deciduous trees of varying sizes, carefully chosen for their suitability to the location and soil type, as well as their resilience across a range of conditions.

The selection includes large gum trees capable of reaching heights of up to 30 metres with canopies spreading 20 metres wide, as well as smaller species such as Silver Banksias and Crepe Myrtles, which typically grow between 3 to 8 metres high with canopies up to 5 metres wide.

## What is revegetation planting?

Revegetation planting is the process of restoring plants to areas where natural vegetation has been lost or disturbed. It helps bring life back to the land by planting a mix of native grasses, shrubs and trees that belong in the local area.

This kind of planting:

- rebuilds habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife
- improves soil health and helps prevent erosion
- cleans the air and water by filtering pollutants
- adds natural beauty to local parks, reserves, and streetscapes.

By choosing the right plants for the local soil and climate, revegetation helps nature bounce back and creates greener, healthier places for the whole community to enjoy.

## How does a passively irrigated rain garden work?

As shown on page 5 of the draft concept plan, we propose converting the existing garden bed adjacent to the community centre car park into a rain garden. This modification will enable the infiltration of stormwater collected from the car park, with any excess or overflow directed back into the adjacent pit and stormwater pipe system. The project will enhance on-site stormwater capture while reducing runoff and limiting the flow of harmful pollutants into our oceans and natural ecosystems.

## What shade will be provided for the playground?

The draft concept plan shows the provision of shade sails over the '6 Way Touch Swing' area. The 'Forest' platform and slide structure has inbuilt shade structures within the play element.

There is also an existing tree to the west of the proposed playground location that will provide shade to some elements within the proposal. Additionally, we are proposing to plant a number of new trees nearby the playspace that will provide further shade in the future as they mature.

## When will it be constructed?

Construction is expected to be undertaken during the 2026-27 financial year subject to Council approving the annual budget process.

## What will happen to my feedback?

We will collate all feedback received, review common themes and include them in a feedback report. This feedback will help determine the final design of the renewal in line with the scope and budget.

Following engagement, we will complete the final design and incorporate any changes. This final design will be shared with the community via the Your Say page. To stay updated about this project click '+ Follow' at the top of the page.

## How much does this project cost and how is it being funded?

This project will be considered as part of Council's 2026-27 Budget process.

Council's contribution is estimated to be \$828,000 which would be 0.34% of Council's 2025-26 overall budget. The project is funded by rates income and equates to 0.46% of the overall rates collected, or \$9.88 of your individual council rates.

Council has also successfully secured an additional \$304,000 'Cooler, Greener, Wilder' grant towards the project from Green Adelaide to improve greening, cooling and biodiversity outcomes at Symonds Reserve, Aldinga. This funding will support the tree planting, revegetation, stormwater capture and irrigation components of the project.

Therefore the total budget for this project is \$1,132,000.

## How will the grant funding be spent?

Council has successfully secured \$304,000 through the 'Cooler, Greener, Wilder' grant towards this project from Green Adelaide to improve greening, cooling and biodiversity outcomes at the reserve.

It is non negotiable that the \$304,000 can only contribute to the tree planting and irrigation components of the project.

## Need more information?

If you have a question or would like further information, please contact us:

Email: [yoursay@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:yoursay@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au)

Phone: 8384 0666