

Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

RESERVE MAINTENANCE:

It has been a busy summer with hot dry periods interspersed with heavy rain encouraging plenty of weed growth in the reserve. The big storm in February dumped about 120mm in 24hrs on the suburb of Highbury which, along with high winds, caused a lot of damage to fences and trees. The storm also exacerbated some already existing erosion causing a lot of silt runoff into the River Torrens. Fortunately we have been able to address these problems fairly swiftly and will continue to do so in the coming months.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

Detailed designs are nearly complete for the five stormwater projects identified in the Master Plan (available from the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Office at 115 Maryvale Rd, Athelstone or by phoning 8336 0901). Work on Sites 6 and 8 adjacent Country Lane will start next financial year using Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board funding. Site 4, between Kent Rd and Conifer Place, is the next priority and will be tackled the following financial year depending on funding.

VISITOR ACCESS:

The funding required to develop a trail and open more of the reserve has not yet been received, but we are continuing to work with the relevant stakeholders (Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, City of Tea Tree Gully and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board) to make this happen. In the meantime we have mapped out a trail running the entire length of the reserve and are applying for State and Commonwealth grant funding to enable the trail to be constructed over the next few years. As recommended in the Master Plan the trail will follow the alignment of the aqueduct channel making occasional detours to ensure that it stays away from houses and steep slopes.

REVEGETATION:

In the last newsletter there was some information about plans to revegetate parts of the reserve. This is progressing well with work to commence at the first site (Zone 1) in early May.

This will involve scraping about 5cm off the top soil and depositing it in the aqueduct channel before sowing with native grass seeds a few weeks later. The reason for doing this is to remove weed seeds and high nutrients loads (particularly Nitrogen and Phosphorus) from the soil. Native grasses have evolved in low nutrient soils and so generally don't do well in soils with high nutrient loads. Weeds, on the other hand, flourish in these conditions and out-compete native grasses. This approach is a little bit experimental but has worked well in other places. Tubestock will be planted into this area the following year to give the grass 12 months to establish properly.

More conventional revegetation is planned for the remaining sites as identified in the table below. These areas will be sprayed with herbicide in late May / early June and then planted with tubestock in June / July.

Zone	Location	Action
1	South of Torrens View Ct	Scrape soil in early May then sow native grass seeds in May/ June. Tubestock will be planted the following year in June/July.
2	South of Torrens View Ct	Infill existing revegetation with tubestock in June/July.
3	North of Fillipo Ct	Plant tubestock in June/July * Community planting day
4	South of Freshford Ave	Infill existing revegetation with tubestock in June/July. * Community planting day
5	South of Valley View Drive (West)	Infill existing revegetation with tubestock in June/July.
6	South of Valley View Drive (East)	Infill existing revegetation with tubestock in June/July.

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

A Community Planting Day is planned for **Saturday 28 June** at sites 3 and 4 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. We will meet from 10:00am in the area between Freshford Ave and Fillipo Ct (UBD 97, B11). Please bring sun/rain protection, gloves for planting, sturdy footwear, snacks and water. Hot drinks and lunch will be provided so if you are interested in attending please RSVP to Dave Fraser on david.fraser@sa.gov.au before 13 June. Any assistance to revegetate is appreciated so if you can't make this date please contact us anyway because you may be able to help on another occasion.

RESTORATION

A new Bush For Life site in the remnant blue gum woodland adjacent Valley View Drive has been formally established and a 'Come and Try' day was held on 26 November last year and another one held just a few weeks ago on 9 April. Both days were well attended by local residents and the site has been adopted by a couple of keen bush carers. However, the work has only just begun and more 'Come and Try' days will be held in the coming months to encourage more people to get involved (refer to flyer attached).

CONTACTS

If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding the opening of the reserve please contact **Dani Boddington on 8336 0933**. If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding maintenance issues or volunteering opportunities please contact **Dave Fraser on 8336 0908**.