

6. COMMUNITY ISSUES

6.1 What Are the Issues?

A series of issues have been identified from assessment of the existing environment, review of previous studies, consultation with the community, discussion with Council and consideration of public submissions. Following dot point summary of the issues, a further detailed report is provided in Appendix D.

- Open space is difficult to access due to the topography of the land and the alignment of the blocks.
- Access to schools and buses needs to be improved through the implementation of a good bike/pedestrian/trail network and an elevated walkway for all weather access across South Creek.
- It was recommended that South Creek have a management plan for flooding.
- Bushfire management to be put into perspective with the need to conserve the indigenous flora and fauna.
- Residents are concerned about an increase in traffic, measures to be put in place to control traffic numbers.
- Privacy of neighbouring properties due to the proposed trails. Existing trees and proposed planting will ameliorate views of people on trails.
- The speed of traffic along Golden Grove Road was noted as an issue and a request for traffic calming devices was noted.
- The option of Red Hill Park to offer an “off lead” area for dogs will be considered.
- Future planning to take into account the design of sufficient barriers to trail bikes, motor bikes and four wheel drives.
- Protection of Aboriginal sites on surrounding areas is to be considered in collaboration with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and National Parks.
- Safety and the future of each of the four sedimentation ponds and gross pollutant traps is to be addressed.
- Existing bushland character is to be retained and reinforced during any future works within the open space areas.
- Weed infestation along South Creek is an issue which also requires community assistance. Willows and Camphor laurel trees should be removed in the long term.
- Signage and interpretation were considered high priority, along with historic interpretation of the area.
- The bushland character and sensitive ecologies of the site should determine the appropriate recreational use. There was strong community support to retain the informal recreational uses, such as bushwalking, nature study and viewing, and not to provide formal recreational facilities.

- Whilst not a majority view, it was felt by some people that some play equipment would be required. It was suggested that upgrading of existing facilities may be more appropriate with the character of any future equipment to be “natural”.
- The idea that the two parks should involve some form of representation of Aboriginal themes was generally agreed amongst the people at the meetings.
- There is concern that Brooker Avenue might be extended into the road reserve in the future.
- A range of trails and a variety of surfaces was requested to provide for commuters, bicycles and recreational joggers.
- Noxious weed tree species should be removed along the South Creek corridor.
- The protection of ridgelines was considered a high priority at the community meetings.
- Concern was expressed about the protection of flora and fauna.
- Concern was raised about the pollution in South Creek, rubbish, chlorine from pools, and erosion areas were all noted.
- General lack of maintenance of the existing open space areas.
- There was concern that if the Red Hill Park was developed too much, that “louts” and vandalism would become a problem.

6.2 Priorities

Prioritisation of management issues has been undertaken by considering the views of Council and community, management objectives, patterns of existing use, the existing environment and an assessment of planning objectives. The following list of high and medium priority issues has consequently been developed:-

High Priority:

- Rehabilitation of the Red Hill Park denuded landscape
- Trails to link the parks together, provide access to the school and bus stops, and links to regional park trails
- Bushland regeneration
- Safety of ponds
- Bushfire policy/management
- All weather access across South Creek

Medium Priority:

- Picnic facilities
- Viewing area/deck
- Cleaning up of South Creek

- Weed eradication along the creek corridor
- Environmental interpretation
- Improve the detention basin off Golden Grove
- Upgrading of the Brooker Avenue playground