

# West End Community Association Inc.

*For passionate West-Enders to have their say about the future*

*SOUTHS Leagues Club and AHMSA HOUSE continue to give WECA access to much-needed venues – we thank them for their great support.*

Newsletter #2 April 2005

Our three goals:

*Community* - Strengthening community connections

*Impact* - Building the community's impact on decisions and plans

*Viability & Vitality* - Ensuring a strong Association.

**24 MAY LOCAL PLAN FORUM - 7.00PM SOUTHS LEAGUES CLUB**  
**JUNE 5 RECLAIM RIVERSIDE DRIVE PARK PICNIC! Noon at the river....**

***10 000 more people, more revenue & profits, but no plans for more parkland!***

On Thursday, 10 March, 90 people attended the WECA forum at Souths Leagues Club on the issue of open space and parkland in the West End peninsula (including West End, Hill End, Highgate Hill, Dutton Park, South Brisbane). **The current parkland does not meet the needs of the existing local population, and local parks are in very short supply.** Parks such as Musgrave Park, Southbank and Orleigh Park / Riverside Drive serve City needs in most instances and have a range of demands on them. Riverside Park as an example accommodates multiple facilities for rowing, sailing, football, boat trailer-parking and City cycling routes. Much of the parkland is dedicated to specific uses, and there is less informal area for local use.

**The West End population is expected to increase by at least 10,000** as a result of existing development trends across this area and particularly in the Riverside industrial areas. New development will benefit from its location alongside riverside parkland. Where the city ratio for parkland is 4ha per 1000 people, West End currently has 1.7 ha per 1000. There are however no plans to add to existing parkland in WE. The predicted shortfall of parkland is 7 to 25 hectares.

**West End Community Association believes that such increases in population are not sustainable without a matching increase in public open space.**

At the forum, WECA sought community views on the following set of recommendations to Council and State Government under four themes:

1. **MORE PARKLAND**
2. **MORE LOCAL NEEDS CATERED FOR IN PARKLAND**
3. **SPECIAL PLANS OF MANAGEMENT FOR KEY AREAS**
4. **NO TRADE-OFFS**

**Agreed Recommendations from 10 March Community Forum:**

1. **MORE PARKLAND**

**No more DA approvals until sufficient improvement in open space ratio.**

Orleigh and Riverside parklands:

- Riverside Drive is not gazette roadway! Between Forbes Street and Davies Park return it to parkland with pedestrian/cycle ways and exclude private motor vehicle traffic. It is not a road but is designated Park. This misuse must be rectified, regardless of population and development issues. Though Riverside Drive is 2 ha of the parkland's 20 ha, its impact on the green space of Riverside parkland is far more extensive.
- Undertake urgent and comprehensive planning to ensure Davies Park's functionalities (parkland, single sports, multiple sports - some, all or none), and condition meet future needs. Community input will be essential about the match between needs in relation to parkland and sporting needs. Questions have been raised about the desired level of formal sporting uses, informal sporting uses and specialised sports in terms of limits they place on general community access and informal use. The condition of existing facilities such as the unfenced oval is also a key concern. The option of acquiring land to expand the Park (through purchase or land swap with other public land in the precinct such as Distance Education land) must be thoroughly investigated and evaluated; schools', sporting groups and general community needs must be addressed in the Davies Park planning process.
- Prepare an Inventory for all non-private land on the peninsula - unformed roads, public freehold, public leased, other land. No sale of non-private land until this review is completed and presented to the community
- Maximise open space by ensuring roads through Montague Riverside precinct are greened - through cul de sac greening or as lanes and footpaths in the

road way - creating green fingers from Riverside Park up into West End.

- Private developments in Montague Riverside precinct (which are more valuable due to their proximity to existing parkland) should contribute land for public open space as well as \$\$\$. Open space in developments must form part of an integrated open space plan, with no exclusive open space areas.

#### Elsewhere in West End

- Major upgrade of all parkland on the peninsula and its facilities, functions, safety, attractiveness, accessibility and ease of access, and connectivity
- Designation of unformed roads and other non-private lands as reserve for open space, green space or parkland
- Buy land for parks for local needs. Many areas are a long way from parkland and the standard recommends local parks within 500 metres of residential areas
- Greening of the wide streets to include open space - reduce car area in streets (Whynot, Russell, Jane, Hampstead etc) to create walkable green areas and to slow cars down; use greening of streets to create green links between Musgrave and Riverside parks, and between West End Central and Southbank; other green links to be determined

#### 2. MORE LOCAL NEEDS CATERED FOR IN PARKLAND

- Control overuse in Riverside and Orleigh parklands
- No more ad hoc expansion of facilities (rowing, canoeing, sailing, cycling, etc) without corresponding expansion of parkland
- No more parkland allocated to parking (for commuters, new City Cat terminal etc)

#### 3. PREPARE SPECIAL PLANS

Master planning initiatives for complex areas of:

- Davies Park
- Musgrave Park
- Kurilpa Point

#### **WECA Executive:**

President: Mary Maher  
Vice President: Jo Bragg  
Secretary: Duncan Lowes  
Treasurer: Phil Vanderzeil

WECA Newsletter #2 April 2005

#### 4. NO TRADE-OFFS

- No trading off additional parkland against public transport or pedestrian/cycle facilities or streetscaping, or main streets enhancement for business areas etc.
- Immediate purchase of land for open space and parkland. Reliance on Infrastructure Charges Plan (ICP) payments will deliver too little, too late. **Council must act now** and borrow or fund in anticipation of revenue from both ICP payments and from rates revenue.

*These recommendations were forwarded to Campbell Newman, Anna Bligh and Helen Abrahams in March.*

#### **WECA receives \$5 000 Community Grant**

In March, WECA was awarded \$5000 by the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, to "assist residents, businesses and community groups of West End and district to understand the current and impending changes and developments in the area; to understand the opportunities and limitations to help shape the future of their community; and to assist disadvantaged residents who often have no voice in local planning processes to have their needs understood and recognised in the planning for this area". WECA kindly thanks Helen Abrahams, Anna Bligh and Joe Hurley for providing references, and the lovely Helen Wallace for writing and submitting the application.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**26 April** - BCC Parks Forum at West End Club

**24 May** - WECA Local Plan Forum at Souths

**June 5** (World Environment Day) - WECA **Reclaim Riverside Drive** Picnic

#### **WECA WANTS YOU!**

The following groups require volunteers to brainstorm, organise, and participate:

- Social and Community
- Communications
- Local Plan
- Montague/Riverside

Please email your interest and availability to:

[weca100@hotmail.com](mailto:weca100@hotmail.com)

*Do you find it hard to get to WECA events? Please let us know if you do, by emailing us: [weca100@hotmail.com](mailto:weca100@hotmail.com)*

Contact and membership details  
PO BOX 3898 South Brisbane 4101  
Register for our mailing list:  
[WECA100@hotmail.com](mailto:WECA100@hotmail.com)