



Darebin Parklands Association Inc

2012 – 2014 ACTION PLAN

Prepared by DPA Committee

May 2013
Final version

Document Control

Group	Darebin Parklands Association Inc
Report Name	2012 – 2014 Action Plan
Status	Final, as endorsed by general meeting of members 28.05.13
File Name	DPAActionPlan_2012-14_Final.doc
Version Date	28.05.13

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1 Purpose and Background

1.1 Purpose of Action Plan

The purpose of the Action Plan is to establish a focus for activities to be undertaken by the Darebin Parklands Association (DPA) over the 20012 to 2014 period. The plan is also intended to serve as an information resource for members of the DPA and to provide a record of the successes of the group.

1.2 DPA Objective and Goals

The DPA's objectives are to protect and improve the bushland character of the parklands, maintaining it as a wildlife haven and a place to appreciate nature. Our long-term goal is to reinstate native animal habitat so that more animals, including the platypus, return to live in and around the Darebin Creek.

2 Background

During February 2012, the DPA Committee identified a list of potential activities for the DPA to undertake, and tabled them at a general meeting of the DPA on 28 February at a facilitated mini-workshop. The results were formulated into a survey for DPA members to seek endorsement and gauge the level of support for each proposed activity. There was an extremely high response rate, with 70 surveys completed, and a range of activities that were clearly supported.

3 Process to Develop 2012 – 2014 Action Plan

The process to develop the new Action Plan has directly involved DPA members to seek their ideas and endorsement. The broad process is summarised as follows:

1. Identified major themes to support our long-term goal through brainstorm workshop at DPA general meeting (28 February 2012).
2. Identified supporting ideas/actions for each theme and developed into survey form.
3. Distributed survey form to members to determine overall levels of support for ideas/actions. Seventy adult members – ranging from new recruits through to our founding members – responded to the survey.
4. DPA Committee reviewed outcome of survey. Results presented to members at meeting (25 May 2012).
5. DPA Committee developed draft Action Plan for 2012 – 2014 and sought champions for actions/projects.
6. Final draft 2012 – 2014 Action Plan will be presented to DPA general meeting for endorsement.

NOTE: This Action Plan was endorsed by the membership at the DPA general meeting on May 28th, 2013.

7. Monitor success of Action Plan. Monitoring will be undertaken through reporting to the Annual General Meeting.

4 Themes for 2012 – 2014

The ideas contributed by DPA members have been developed into five major themes to support our long-term goal:

1. Celebrate the history, heritage and environment of the parklands and the DPA.
2. Support and expand the parklands' role as a centre for environmental education
3. Undertake strategic revegetation work in the parklands
4. Foster greater community involvement in the parklands from a more diverse range of groups
5. Encourage philanthropic support, sponsorship and bequests

The results of the members' survey indicated a strong level of support for a number of initiatives under each of the themes.. The DPA will focus on those projects that had both a high level of support (80 per cent or more) and which were ranked as high priorities by members.

The following table highlights the survey results

THEME ONE: CELEBRATE THE HISTORY, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE PARKLANDS AND THE DPA	% SUPPORT	PRIORITY
1. Investigate conserving historical remnants within the parklands eg the weirs and historically significant vegetation like Pine Ridge and installing interpretive signage	84	1
2. Apply for major awards for the parklands and DPA activities	84	2
3. Catalogue, conserve and make publicly accessible via internet if possible the DPA's historic records	87	3
4. Form a committee to plan the celebration of the DPA's 40th birthday in 2013	80	4
5. Re-introduce the DPA photographic competition as a financially sustainable event, possibly utilising social media	78	5
6. Investigate audio walking tours of the parklands possibly incorporating oral histories	64	6
THEME TWO: SUPPORT AND EXPAND THE PARKLANDS' ROLE AS A CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	% SUPPORT	PRIORITY
1. Advocate for better walking and cycling access to the parklands including completion of the Darebin Yarra shared trail and construction of a new shared path along the east side of Yarana Rd Alphington	89	1
2. Investigate a Bureau of Meteorology weather monitoring station to be used as part of the education program in the parklands	80	2
3. Build financial and political support for a feasibility study of a new catchment environmental and education centre replacing the existing environment centre in the parklands	78	3
THEME THREE: UNDERTAKE STRATEGIC REVEGETATION WORK IN THE PARKLANDS	% SUPPORT	PRIORITY
1. Conduct regular maintenance on previously planted areas	91	1
2. Work with the rangers to identify appropriate sites for strategic revegetation work that creates more native animal habitat	91	2
3. Implement "Adopt an Area" with schools, residents, companies, put in signage and post map and photo on website	77	3
4. Implement master plan recommendation of planting and landscaping the Rockbeare Grove, Ivanhoe, entrance	84	4
THEME FOUR: FOSTER GREATER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARKLANDS FROM A	% SUPPORT	PRIORITY

MORE DIVERSE RANGE OF GROUPS

1. Develop a membership strategy to retain and increase membership and encourage active involvement	93	1
2. Actively promote the activities of the DPA to a diversity of organisations eg groups for people with disabilities, indigenous organisations, different faith groups etc	77	2
3. Investigate creating a “healing place” for meditation and contemplation	78	3
4. Further promote the Spiritual Healing Trail via website and walking tours	70	4

THEME FIVE: ENCOURAGE PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT, SPONSORSHIP AND BEQUESTS **% SUPPORT** **PRIORITY**

1. Investigate independent Deductible Gift Recipient status for the DPA to facilitate bequests and donations	88	1
2. Investigate a tax deductible building fund to support major projects like the proposed new catchment environment and education centre	77	2
3. Investigate engaging a pro bono law firm to advise the committee.	84	3
4. Investigate sponsorship of individual events.	74	4
5. Enlist a patron	67	5

5 Key actions for 2012-2014 Action Plan

5.1 Theme one: Celebrate the history, heritage and environment of the parklands and the DPA

Description

The DPA is one of Australia's oldest and most successful environmental friends organisations. As well, the parklands have a rich and varied history from indigenous uses to early agriculture and industry. The DPA seeks to build on the awareness it created with the publication of its history in 2011 by undertaking a range of projects that further highlight and celebrate the unique qualities of the parklands and the achievements of the DPA.

Projects

Projects supported in the member survey include:

- Investigate conserving historical remnants within the parklands eg the weirs and historically significant vegetation like Pine Ridge and installing interpretive signage
- Apply for major awards for the parklands and DPA activities
- Catalogue, conserve and make publicly accessible via internet if possible the DPA's historic records
- Form a committee to plan the celebration of the DPA's 40th birthday in 2013

Links to member survey

Member comments included:

- *40 years as a strong, effective community environment organisation is a major milestone and should definitely be celebrated!*

Strategy

The DPA will undertake activities including:

- Work with regulatory and management agencies such as Melbourne Water and the DCMC to identify potential to conserve and/or provide interpretative information about natural and built historical remnants in the parklands, such as the weirs and historic vegetation
- Investigate potential for philanthropic involvement with historical conservation projects
- Continue to actively identify and apply for national, state and local awards that recognise the achievements of the parklands and the DPA
- Engage a professional archivist to assess and catalogue the DPA's archival collection
- Lodge donated records with the DPA collection in the State Library of Victoria (where this is the donor's wish) and ensure that other records are securely stored
- Develop a database of materials so that records stored locally and at SLV can easily be identified and located
- Engage a voluntary archivist to advise the committee and ensure that the DPA's archives are continually kept up to date
- Work with the membership and the community to stage an appropriate celebration of the organisation's 40th anniversary, in May 2013.

Monitoring outcomes

The DPA will involve and report back to the membership via channels including quarterly general meetings and the DPA's newsletter, Facebook page and website. Where external funding bodies are involved high quality exit reports will be provided.

5.2 Theme two: Support and expand the parklands' role as a centre for environmental education

Description

Education has played a central role in the parklands since its inception. The parklands is a significant centre for many forms of environmental education, and is used by students ranging from tertiary to pre-school. The parklands hosts Australia's only bush kindergarten program (run by Westgarth Kindergarten)

and offers a highly regarded environmental education program to primary schools from along the catchment and further afield, attended by more than 5000 children a year. These formal education activities are supported by informal opportunities offered by the DPA as part of its Junior Ranger Club, including activities like water pollution action day and a Catch a Carp Day.

The DPA will continue to support the parklands' educational role, and is actively involved in advocating for a feasibility study into a new environment and education centre. As an adjunct, it will work to improve access to the parklands by public transport, walking and cycling.

Projects

Projects supported in the member survey include:

- Advocate for better walking and cycling access to the parklands including completion of the Darebin Yarra shared trail and construction of a new shared path along the east side of Yarana Rd Alphington
- Investigate a Bureau of Meteorology weather monitoring station to be used as part of the education program in the parklands.

Links to member survey

Member comments included:

- *Sustainable transport options for accessing the parklands are essential. It is only going to get more popular, and creating more car parking on site is not an option.*
- *Highest priority – cycling access to Darebin Yarra shared trail*
- *Shared trail is my #1 priority*
- *A weather station needs to be monitored every day unless automatic and would get vandalised easily.*
- *A river gauging site would be more appropriate.*

Strategy

The DPA will undertake activities including:

- Actively supporting the work of the Community Coalition for the Darebin-Yarra shared trail (chaired by former DPA president Graeme Martin)
- Promoting opportunities for community input on the Darebin-Yarra shared trail
- Advocating for the shared trail (eg through submissions to government and supporting relevant planning appeals)
- Continue to advocate with the City of Darebin for improved links to public transport eg a new shared path along the eastern side of Yarana Road, Alphington
- Initiating discussions with the DCMC, the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne Water, the EPA and other agencies regarding the possibility of some form of environmental monitoring equipment in the parklands, with possible tie in with the existing education program.
- Continue its work (initiated under the 2009-11 Action Plan) to advocate for a feasibility study into a new Darebin Creek catchment environment and education centre in the parklands (see section 7.5).

Monitoring outcomes

The DPA will involve and report back to the membership via channels including quarterly general meetings and the DPA's newsletter, Facebook page and website. Where external funding bodies are involved high quality exit reports will be provided.

5.3 Theme three: Undertake strategic revegetation work in the parklands

Description

The DPA will continue to work with the parklands' rangers to identify sites for community revegetation projects which can be undertaken as part of the DPA's calendar of four park care days a year. We will focus on sites and priorities identified in the 2008 Darebin Parklands Master Plan and those that create native animal habitat, in line with our formal objectives.

In addition, we will use our park care days (and other community events such as Clean Up Australia Day) to undertake maintenance on previously planted areas and to undertake general clean up work in the parklands.

Projects

Projects supported in the member survey include:

- Implement master plan recommendation of planting and landscaping the Rockbears Grove, Ivanhoe, entrance
- Conduct regular maintenance on previously planted areas
- Work with the rangers to identify appropriate sites for strategic revegetation work that creates more native animal habitat.

Links to member survey

Member comments included:

- *Great to work with the rangers to harness their expertise, and also to be ensuring that maintenance is done regularly to keep weeds under control*
- *Yes, getting local schools and maybe other local groups to adopt an area for planting, maintenance & weeding is a great idea. Other groups may also be interested eg Neighbourhood Houses, ethnic groups, mental health (ie being outside with nature is a great 'tonic')*

Strategy

The DPA will undertake activities including:

- Liaise with the DCMC to identify sites, particularly those prioritised in the Master Plan, for community planting projects, for the DPA to undertake at its park care days
- Ensure regular maintenance of previously planted sites at park care days
- Promote planting and maintenance activities to a wide variety of community organisations
- Promote opportunities for corporate involvement in the parklands eg corporate Clean Up Australia Day
- Undertake clean up and maintenance activities on a responsive basis eg special post-flood clean up days, as well as the scheduled calendar of park care days.

Monitoring outcomes

The DPA will involve and report back to the membership via channels including quarterly general meetings and the DPA's newsletter, Facebook page and website. Where external funding bodies are involved high quality exit reports will be provided.

5.4 Theme four: Foster greater community involvement in the parklands

Description

The involvement of a wide range of community organisations in the parklands has been crucial to its success throughout its history. The DPA will continue to maintain its focus on promoting opportunities for diverse organisations to get involved in the parklands. At the same time it will actively promote itself to its own members to ensure a strong membership base.

Projects

Projects supported in the member survey include:

- Develop a membership strategy to retain and increase membership and encourage active involvement
- Actively promote the activities of the DPA to a diversity of organisations eg groups for people with disabilities, indigenous organisations, different faith groups etc
- Investigate creating a "healing place" for meditation and contemplation.

Links to member survey

Member comments included:

- *You could achieve some of these goals by partnering with other local community organisations e.g. Alphington Community Centre*
- *The spiritual Healing Trail is such a wonderful initiative; it would be great to expand on it with a Healing Place for quiet contemplation.*
- *Also strongly agree with promoting the DPA/parklands to a wider diversity of people. New viewpoints and experiences can only enrich the park.*
- *Getting a broad cross-section of groups looking after the park & using the park is great*
- *More advance notice of events would be great and may increase participation. Suggest contacting local schools and asking to put things in their newsletters.*

Strategy

The DPA will undertake activities including:

- Review its membership strategy, in consultation with members, to ensure effective communication
- Continue to promote events via local schools, kindergartens and childcare centres as well as other channels
- Actively identify and engage with community organisations and groups to offer the opportunities for a more diverse range of people and organisations to get involved with the parklands and DPA
- Work to supplement the Spiritual Healing Trail with a “healing place” for quiet meditation and contemplation.

Monitoring outcomes

The DPA will involve and report back to the membership via channels including quarterly general meetings and the DPA’s newsletter, Facebook page and website. Where external funding bodies are involved high quality exit reports will be provided.

5.5 Theme five: Encourage philanthropic support, sponsorship and bequests

Description

A number of major projects in this and earlier Action Plans, such as conservation work on historic remnants in the parklands and the feasibility study of the proposed catchment environment and education centre, may require philanthropic or other donor support. Currently the DPA can offer donors tax deductibility via a partnership arrangement with Landcare Australia, but obtaining DGR (Donor Gift Recipient) status in its own right via the Australian Taxation Office would allow it to expand its fundraising activities, if required. Making an application to the ATO and other administrative requirements would require specialist support and assistance, which could be provided by a pro bono law firm.

Projects

Projects supported in the member survey include:

- Investigate independent Deductible Gift Recipient status for the DPA to facilitate bequests and donations
- Investigate engaging a pro bono law firm to advise the committee.

Links to member survey

Member comments included:

- *There are many local residents who would love to contribute to the parklands either in their wills or through major donations. The DPA should get the expert advice it needs to set up systems to facilitate this.*

Strategy

The DPA will undertake activities including:

- Identify law firms with pro bono legal practices that may be interested in partnering with the DPA to offer support and advice on obtaining DGR
- Initiate steps to obtain DGR in partnership with legal advisers and utilising other external expertise as required
- Promote opportunities for donations and bequests to members.

Monitoring outcomes

The DPA will report back to the membership via channels including quarterly general meetings and the DPA's newsletter, Facebook page and website.

6 Outcomes of 2009 – 2011 Action Plan

This section provides a summary of the key actions identified for 2009 – 2011. Each action was supported by a project champion or champions. In 2009 – 2011 the key actions were:

- Revegetation of areas along the creek where willows have been removed, as well as areas outlined in Master Plan.
- Develop a Concept Plan for a new environmental education centre.
- Work to improve water quality.
- Monitoring of dog on and off-leash areas.

6.1 Revegetation

Description: To continue with the revegetation of the parklands, in collaboration with the park rangers. Priority for revegetation were the areas along the creek where willows have been removed, as well as park entrances as outlined in Master Plan. This was highly supported in the 2008 member's survey with 89 per cent of people wanting revegetation project along the creek to improve areas where willows were removed, and 89 per cent also supporting the Master plan's recommendations for revegetation sites.

Outcomes: During the life of the 2009-11 action plan the DPA delivered on a major undertaking, the Ivanhoe riparian revegetation project as well as using its park care days to maintain and revegetate significant sections of the Alphington floodplain. This restored the area's habitat values and improved it aesthetically.

The Ivanhoe floodplain project was funded by Melbourne Water (\$10,000) with a \$1,000 contribution by Banyule Council and involved revegetating a 221 metre long, 2000 square metre section of the creek bank between the Clifton Bridge and the Ivanhoe wetlands. This is an area that had been cleared of woody weeds in 2008 as part of the Melbourne Water project concept plan.

The DPA worked on this site at eight park care days with the assistance of community organisations including the multi-faith organisation Global Club, St Bernadette's Primary School in Ivanhoe and Brunswick Cycle Club. The area was weeded, eroded areas stabilised with jute matting and approximately 10,000 native grasses, trees, shrubs and groundcovers planted.

In 2012 a formal launch of the project was held, attended by members of the community and local government representatives. A time capsule was buried near the Ivanhoe wetlands, commemorating the role of volunteers in this project and the development of Darebin Parklands.

6.2 Concept Plan for Environmental Education Centre

Description: Create a high level Concept Plan or Project Brief that summarises the requirements for a new building, from a community perspective. The building would be primarily for use as an education centre, but could include DCMC offices, WaterWatch offices, etc. To liaise with possible funding bodies to gain support for the concept.

Outcomes: The DPA made significant progress on this major project during the life of 2009-11 Action Plan. Working in partnership with the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) the DPA has:

- Presented to each of the councils along the creek catchment, securing their support in principle for the concept plan and feasibility study
- Secured funding from each of the local councils along the catchment
- Secured philanthropic support from the family of former premier and parklands patron Sir Rupert Hamer via the Hamer Family Fund
- Raised \$18,000 in community funding, which will allow an application to the Victorian Government's community grants scheme for matching funding

- Undertaken preliminary consultation and research into the community grants scheme and secured agreement from Darebin Council to auspice an application.

These are significant achievements and lay the groundwork for an application to the community grants scheme which will allow the study to proceed during the life of the next action plan.

6.3 Improve Water Quality

Description: To undertake activities and education to improve the water quality within the Darebin Creek, and the leachate system to see cleaner and healthier water within the Darebin Parklands that is better able to support a wide variety of native animals, including platypus.

Outcomes: The DPA has undertaken a range of initiatives to improve water quality during the course of the 2009-11 action plan. These include:

- Running six Junior Ranger activities, including Catch a Carp Day and JR water pollution action day, to raise awareness and support for the need to improve water quality. These events were attended by up to 70 children
- Invited Melbourne Water to speak at information evenings and supported its willow removal project in and upstream of the parklands
- Hosted Australia's pre-eminent platypus expert, Dr Geoff Williams, of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, as a guest speaker at an information evening
- Reported major water pollution incidents and advocated for strong enforcement action directly with the EPA
- Organised community clean up days following major floods to remove rubbish from the creek and also staged well attended Clean Up Australia Day events.

6.4 Monitoring of Dog Areas

Description: Encourage enforcement of new dog off leash, on leash and dog and cat prohibited areas. Advocate for improved local council education and enforcement to encourage responsible dog ownership. Support safe and equitable access for all users and protect the park's habitat values.

Strategy: The DPA participated in the Darebin Council 'dog working party' which met from January 2009 until January 2010, which investigated the need for a second dog swimming area in the parklands. It continues to raise issues on a needs basis since the working party concluded in January 2010.

7 Ongoing Action Plan Projects

The Action Plans for the period 2005-2008 and 2009-2011 contained some projects which continue to be on an ongoing basis. These projects are outlined below with a short description of the current status.

7.1 Junior Rangers

Name: Maintain and further develop the DPA's Junior Ranger Club.

Goal: To continue to renew the DPA's membership base by offering a program of activities and events through the Junior Ranger Club that foster active involvement in the DPA of local children and their families.

Outcomes: Junior Ranger events such as ranger-led wildlife spotlighting walks, Catch-a-Carp Day and bonfire night continue to be popular, particularly with primary and pre-school aged children. New activities such as creek water sampling with the WaterWatch officer, visits from the Melbourne Water educational trailer, platypus stencilling on drains, nature-based scavenger hunts at park care days and park care day poster competitions are some of the new activities that have been introduced. A dedicated Junior Ranger page has also been introduced in Darebin Parklands News and it continues to attract contributions from young members.

7.2 Community events

Name: Maintain and further develop the DPA's calendar of community events.

Goal: To maintain and further develop the DPA's calendar of community events, including the Darebin Parklands Picnic Races, ensuring they continue to meet the organisation's long-term goal of increasing membership and active participation.

Outcomes: The DPA's events for adults and children continue to be well attended and are helping to foster more active community participation on the parklands. Events include the Darebin Parklands Picnic Races, bonfire nights, four park care days each year and information evenings with guest speakers. In addition range of Junior Ranger activities are offered.

7.3 Completion of Shared Trail to the Yarra

Name: Completion of connection of Darebin shared trail to the main Yarra River trail.

Goal: To continue to lobby for completion of the shared trail to connect to the main Yarra trail by 2010.

Outcome: The DPA is a member of the community coalition (former president Graeme Martin chairs the organisation) and continues to be involved in lobbying and supporting applications to VCAT.

In December 2012 the Victorian Government announced that funding had been allocated and that the link would be completed within three years.

7.4 History of Parklands and the DPA

Name: Document and publish history of the parklands and DPA.

Goal: To document of the history of the parklands and the DPA for the information of the local community, historical records and other community groups.

Outcome: In 2011 the DPA's history, *Darebin Parklands: Escaping the Claws of the Machine*, by Dr Sarah Mirams, with foreword by Professor Tim Flannery, was launched at a major community event in the parklands attended by approximately 300 people.

The book attracted significant media coverage from outlets including The Age and The Sunday Age and environmental publications such as VNPA News.

The DPA secured approximately \$25,000 in corporate, government and local government funding for the project from organisations including the Public Records Office of Victoria, Melbourne Water, Banyule Council, Amcor and Darebin Council and raised more than \$6000 through the sale of fundraising greeting cards.

Melbourne Books published the book, with an initial print run of 2000. The book is for sale through local bookshops and via the online store on the DPA's website.

7.5 Concept Plan for Environmental Education Centre

Name: Concept plan for new Darebin Creek Catchment environmental education centre

Goal: Create a high level concept plan or project brief that summarises the requirements for a new building, from a community perspective. The building would be primarily for use as an education centre, but could include DCMC offices, Waterwatch offices, etc. To liaise with possible funding bodies to gain support for the concept.

Outcomes: The DPA made significant progress on this major project during the life of 2009-11 Action Plan. Working in partnership with the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC) the DPA has:

- Presented to each of the councils along the creek catchment, securing their support in principle for the concept plan and feasibility study
- Secured funding from each of the local councils along the catchment
- Secured philanthropic support from the family of former premier and parklands patron Sir Rupert Hamer via the Hamer Family Fund
- Raised \$18,000 in community funding, which will allow an application to the Victorian Government's community grants scheme for matching funding
- Undertaken preliminary consultation and research into the community grants scheme and secured agreement from Darebin Council to auspice an application.

These are significant achievements and lay the groundwork for an application to the community grants scheme which will allow the study to proceed during the life of the next action plan.

Appendix 1: Status of Actions from Ideas Surveyed in 2009

Initiative	Y	N	Status
Continue to help improve Darebin Creek's habitat values with targeted revegetation along the creek, including in areas where Melbourne Water has removed willows and other woody weeds as part of its parklands concept plan.	100%	0%	Complete and ongoing
Encourage pride and ownership of revegetated areas by having groups adopt a planted area. Groups can maintain the area by weeding, watering and mulching, and supplying photos and updates to the DPA website.	100%	0%	Not undertaken
Offer training for members on best practice planting methods as part of Park Care Days, potentially in partnership with Greening Australia or a similar organisation.	100%	0%	Not undertaken
Relaunch the <i>Home Cats Safe Cats Safe Wildlife</i> brochure to encourage responsible cat ownership.	100%	0%	Undertaken in modified form (brochure promoted through social media and website)
Undertake revegetation projects in areas recommended in the master plan (such as along the creek, the Separation St entrance and the Rockbeare Grove entrance).	100%	0%	Complete and ongoing
Develop walking tours of the park using podcasts downloadable from DPA website. Have different types of walks (heritage, plant life, animals and birds, waterways and leachate system, etc).	96%	4%	Not undertaken
Appoint patrons for the park to aid publicity, grant applications, etc.	92%	8%	Not undertaken
Undertake an oral history project with recordings/transcripts available from DPA website. Undertake an oral history project with recordings/transcripts available from DPA website.	100%	0%	Not undertaken
Organise more wildlife walks in the park, working with other groups such as Birds Australia, Waterwatch, Froggers group, etc.	100%	0%	Not undertaken
Support the master plan's recommendation for a new environmental education centre by using community expertise to develop a concept plan and seeking funding and support from local government and other organisations.	96%	4%	Underway and ongoing

Investigate opportunities for better linkages to the Darebin Enterprise Centre site (park access, office, etc), and the terms and conditions under which Darebin Council appropriated the land.	96%	4%	Likely to be undertaken as part of enviro centre feasibility study
Work towards improved water quality in the creek. e.g. stencilling stormwater drains, reporting water pollution to the Environmental Protection Agency, promoting litter traps, etc.	100%	0%	Complete and ongoing
Continue to support on- and off-leash dog walking in Darebin Parklands in appropriate locations. Advocate for improved local council education and enforcement to encourage responsible dog ownership, allow safe and equitable access for all users and protect the park's habitat values.	92%	8%	Complete and ongoing
Strengthen links with other similar environmental groups such as Friends of Darebin Creek, Friends of Wilson's Reserve, Landcare, Darebin Creek Froggers, etc.	100%	0%	Complete and ongoing
Look into relaunching Junior Rangers and creating a leaflet promoting the program. Possibly add a new tier to the Junior Ranger program for older children (say, 11 to 16 yrs). Organise activities for Junior Rangers at Park Care Days and other DPA events via a sub-committee.	100%	0%	Complete
Approach other organisations of young people (Scouts, schools, etc) and promote the park as a venue for education and activities.	96%	4%	Complete and ongoing
Try some new events in the park, such as an orienteering, an 'amazing race' or a 'Birdman Rally' type event with children creating gliders and launching them from Mount Puffalo.	96%	4%	Not undertaken

Appendix 2

Status of 2006 – 2008 Action Plan Ideas

The following table highlights that most projects and issues that were well supported by members in the 2005 survey have been actioned. In many cases this work has been undertaken by the Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC).

#	Activity	Yes	No	Status
1	Select a new revegetation target area	90%	3%	Complete
2	Expand plant nursery to grow plants for neighbouring landowners, schools and farmers along the creek	83%	3%	Complete
3	Raise awareness of environmental weeds and promote appropriate indigenous species for gardens and streets	97%	0%	Trying
4	Spread knowledge on native vegetation propagation and planting through website and training courses	97%	3%	Complete
5	Continue to hold community events including Picnic Races	100%	0%	Complete
6	Expand Junior Ranger activities	97%	0%	Complete
7	Expand website www.dpa.org.au	77%	3%	Complete
8	Promote awareness of existing native animals such as echidna through web, media and local government	77%	10%	Underway
9	Promote responsible dog ownership in the parklands to balance the needs of all park users, ensuring their safety and reasonable access to the park	97%	0%	Underway*
10	Work with rangers to improve dog zone signs, and find practical means to keep the barbecue shelter and picnic area dog free	87%	7%	Underway*
11	Raise awareness of water quality problems and lobbying for better storm water management upstream	100%	0%	Complete
12	Raise awareness of climate change and things that everyone can do, especially tree planting	80%	13%	Not done
13	Lobby for completion of bike path to connect to Yarra trail	93%	0%	Underway
14	Survey park users and use the results to lobby local and state government for better funding for Darebin Parklands	87%	7%	Complete
15	Investigate a name change for the Darebin Parklands to reduce confusion with broader areas right along the creek valley that share similar names	90%	33%	Not done
16	Defend integrity by objecting to inappropriate development in areas impinging on the parklands and Darebin Creek valley	90%	0%	Ongoing
17	History of parklands and the DPA	82%	18%	Underway

*Denotes project where most/ all work undertaken by DCMC/local government

Appendix 3:**Summary of Recommendations from Masterplan 2008**

Table below taken from Masterplan August 2008, page 32

Column 'DPA Action Plan' added to assess whether the DPA could be involved in implementing each recommendation.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS			
What	Cost	Who	DPA Action Plan
Eradicate weeds, provide planting, signage and community notice board to the Separation Street entrance.	\$5,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	Y for planting bit
Provide interpretive signage and planting to the Rockbeare Grove entrance and Ellis Stones planting.	\$11,000	B.C.C. D.C.M.C.	Y for planting bit
Replace the logs with vertical timber bollards, rocks and pedestrian stile gates to the Yarana Road car park.	\$7,000	D.C.C. D.C.M.C.	N
Prepare concept plans of the main entrance area and the picnic area.	\$37,000	D.C.C. D.C.M.C.	N
Improve the surfaces of paths where they are of a sub-standard condition.	\$10,000	B.C.C. D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	N
Close the existing informal access path from Rockbeare Grove to the Ivanhoe Wetland.		B.C.C. D.C.M.C.	N
Install directional, interpretive, behavioural and regulatory signage at key points within the Parklands.	\$90,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C. B.C.C.	N
Identify and implement appropriate strategies to minimise pedestrian / cyclist conflict on the shared trail.		D.C.M.C.	N
Remove and replace the existing public toilet.	\$130,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	N
Investigate the use of sustainable technologies in any improvement to the Parklands.		D.C.M.C. B.C.C. D.C.C.	N
Consult and educate the community in weed control and revegetation methods.	\$5,000	B.C.C. D.C.M.C.	Y
Prioritise weed control and eradicate high risk weeds.	\$30,000	D.C.C. B.C.C. D.C.M.C.	Y
Undertake revegetation projects.	\$70,000	D.C.C. B.C.C. D.C.M.C.	Y
Manage the olive grove.	\$2,000	D.C.M.C.	N
Remove dry fuel leading up to each fire season.	\$2,000	D.C.M.C.	N
Educate local residents in fire management techniques and strategies.	\$3,000.	D.C.M.C	N
Undertake mosaic burns to reduce the fuel load prior to each fire season.	\$7,000	D.C.M.C.	N
Investigate the feasibility to connect the existing sprinkler system on the eastern slope to water tanks.	\$3,000	B.C.C. D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	N
Work in conjunction with Melbourne Water to widen and plant out the edges of the Billabong and other reaches of the Darebin Creek.	\$10,000	D.C.M.C. B.C.C. D.C.C.	Y
Selectively remove trees to regain views from the lookout.	\$2,000	D.C.M.C.	N

The D.C.M.C. should continue to be a referral body to the Responsible Authority for planning permit applications.		D.C.M.C.	N
Retain the historic Pinus radiata and Pinus canariensis that line the Cobb and Co wagon track. Consider succession planting. Construct a path to reduce erosion of the existing track.	\$50,000	B.C.C. D.C.M.C.	N
Create links to former land uses		D.C.M.C.	N
Identify possible funding opportunities from Heritage Victoria		B.C.C. D.C.M.C D.C.C.	Y
Provide funding for an educational officer		D.C.M.C.	N
Investigate sources of funding for educational programs		D.C.M.C.	N
Strengthen enforcement of the dogs on-lead regulations.		D.C.C. B.C.C.	N
Provide an incident reporting box at the Ranger's office for people to report infringements of the dog off-lead regulations.	\$500	D.C.M.C.	N
Provide a single suitable area designated for dogs off-lead. Erect fencing along the shared trail edge.	\$15,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	N
Manage the avenue of Mulberries including succession planting and vegetative propagation.	\$2,000	D.C.M.C.	N
Construct a formalised path to the Ivanhoe Wetland and Pobblebonk Pond from Rockbeare Grove.	\$30,000	D.C.M.C. B.C.C.	N
Construct a formalised and informal path network.	\$90,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C. B.C.C.	N
Construct a path along Donaldson's Creek.	\$15,000	D.C.M.C. B.C.C.	N
Investigate a link between the southern end of the Parklands and Alphington Station.	\$65,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	Y
Remove and replace the existing picnic shelter.	\$86,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	N
Provide additional landscape treatment to the picnic area.	\$5,000	D.C.M.C.	N
Remove and replace the existing Environment Centre.	\$430,000	D.C.M.C. D.C.C.	N
Provide seating and solar powered lighting to key areas	\$60,000	D.C.C. D.C.M.C. B.C.C.	N
Removal of remaining willow trees.	\$10,000	D.C.C. D.C.M.C. B.C.C.	N
Map and monitor weed infestations.	\$10,000	D.C.M.C.	N
Retain the existing crossing stones. Investigate the opportunity to construct a footbridge over the creek.		D.C.M.C. D.C.C. B.C.C.	N
Consider purchasing a property adjoining the Rockbeare Grove entrance.		B.C.C.	N
Remove the bluestone pitches and replace with an asphalt surface in the Yarana Road car park. Consider partial removal and re-surfacing to provide disabled access as a cheaper option.	\$140,000	D.C.C. D.C.M.C.	N
Investigate a shared trail link through the leachate	\$55,000	B.C.C.	N

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area, along Old Yarana Road to the western boundary of the Parklands behind the Environment Centre.		D.C.C. D.C.M.C.	
Investigate the feasibility of supplying the Ivanhoe wetland with stormwater from Rockbeare Grove.	\$3,000	D.C.M.C.	N
That future planting be done in a way that does not impinge views from lookout areas.		D.C.M.C.	Y