

Greenfields Wetlands



SUSTAINABLE SALISBURY | WETLANDS SERIES
Salisbury, the sustainable city





Greenfields wetlands are the most recognisable wetlands within the City of Salisbury and a popular destination for people all ages. Spanning more than 114 hectares in size, the Greenfields wetlands extend past the Salisbury council area into the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

The wetlands are divided into three stages. Stage one spans 25 hectares and was completed in 1990. It is the most recognisable section known as the *Watershed Sustainability Precinct* housing the Watershed Café and the 2km wetland trail. Stage two consists of 17 hectares and was completed in 1993, while Stage 3 spans across an expansive 72 hectares and was completed in 1995.

A great day out...

Family friendly
Accessible paths
Café, toilets and parking

The term 'Watershed' reflects an abiding concern for sustainability, and in particular water management. The Watershed Café building, located onsite, was once the Delfin Land Sales Office. The Watershed Café is open from 8am to 4pm daily. The expansive decking and tranquil surroundings offer a perfect backdrop to sit back and enjoy a drink or bite to eat before walking through the wetlands.

From the Watershed Café, if you wander to the far North West side of the carpark you will discover the access gate to the wetlands trail. To access the trail, just push the gate to enter between 8am and 4pm daily. As you wander along the 2km wetland trail, which is a mixture of boardwalks, bridges and gravel/mulch paths, you may be lucky enough to spot one of the many reported species of birds, fish, frogs, yabbies, long neck tortoise and numerous aquatic invertebrates. As you meander through the wetlands, you will be amazed at how immersed in the habitat you will feel, while being situated between two of South Australia's busiest roads.

A spur trail near the start of the trail leads to a small wooden hut. This hut is known as a 'bird hide' and serves as an observation area where you can get a closer view of the birdlife without scaring them away. The artistic identification charts inside help you to identify the diverse variety of birdlife.

The wetlands are now a thriving natural habitat for much flora and fauna, however, prior to the 1980's the Greenfields wetland site was known as 'Elders Stock Paddock' and was used for holding stock before

sale at the nearby Gepps Cross abattoirs and sale yards. By 1980, this land was no longer necessary for the livestock industry and the concept of the wetlands was conceived.

Drainage and flood protection was recognised as a significant issue in the area with the spread of urbanisation and the large expanses of non-permeable areas in our suburbs including roads, roofs and paved areas. As such, the need for a large detention basin(s) to protect the dwellings and the Salisbury Highway and Port Wakefield Road intersection was recognised. In 1984, the initial wetland concept report and plan was prepared, and was formally adopted in 1989 with construction occurring from 1990 to 1995.

Upon exiting the wetlands trail you may notice a large water tank to your left. This is the Mawson Lakes water tank which holds 2.6 megalitres of water – that's enough water to fill an Olympic size swimming pool. Treated wastewater from the *Bolivar Treatment Works*, known as reclaimed water, is mixed with treated stormwater from the Parafield Stormwater Harvesting site. The reclaimed water is then supplied to Mawson Lakes residents through a purple pipe system for toilet flushing, watering of gardens and vehicle washing.

As you continue past the water tank you will see the lush kick and catch grassed area where children and adults alike are encouraged to play. This area is also home to the public sculpture *Together Woven* by the artist team Marijana Tadic and Alexis West. The artwork represents a hunting boomerang within a flock of birds.

The Greenfields site was chosen for the artwork as it is an area of archaeological significance. A number of archaeological sites have provided evidence that this estuarine tidal basin was once a significant communal food resource area. This shows that the area once supported significant numbers of Kurna people. The Kurna people are the original inhabitants of the area and the foundation of the social history of the Salisbury area.

Guided tours of the Greenfields wetlands are offered on request to community and sporting groups. If you would like to book a tour, please contact the City of Salisbury on 8406 8222.

