

The Paddocks Wetlands



SUSTAINABLE SALISBURY | WETLANDS SERIES
Salisbury, the sustainable city





The Paddocks is a picturesque community facility featuring a scenic lake, trails and a popular dog park which can be accessed from Maxwell Road. The Paddocks wetlands cover an area of six hectares and includes meandering channels, open ponds and grassed swale sections amongst native vegetation.

Stormwater runoff collected from the Para Hills catchment enters an open channel, spilling into a grassed swale and finally into a large open pond. The catchment area is almost all residential, with only some commercial land use. One of the first examples of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), the Paddocks wetlands were constructed in 1975 following a community led initiative to prevent the area from being fully developed for housing.

Discover The Paddocks...

Family friendly
Dog friendly park
Scenic lake and walking trails
Great for picnics

When visiting the wetlands you will notice the landscape is now well established with a variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Some of the plants and animals that make themselves at home in the wetlands include flowering trees and shrubs, which have attracted many birds, native fish, frogs, yabbies and aquatic invertebrates.

For those wanting to go for a walk to discover the landscape and its inhabitants, there is a flat trail that circles around the wetlands. Around the wetlands you will discover a beautiful mix of water and greenery.

Most of the wetland areas of the Paddocks are shallow and usually dry out in summer. The wetland's plants are adapted to this wet/dry cycle and some plant species actually germinate and grow as the water recedes, covering the floor of the wetland. The dry period plants become food for aquatic life when the wetlands flood again.

The dog park, situated on Maxwell Road, is designed to challenge your furry friend. You can park your car on the side of Maxwell Road to

access both the dog park and the wetlands. Please note, the nearest toilet facilities are located at the local service station or the Community Club to the North of the wetlands on Bridge Road.

The wetlands have been progressively improved over the years. Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) trials were commenced by the former Mines and Energy Department in 1994. The original trial well continues to operate to this day. The water recovered from this site is used to irrigate the adjacent sports fields. The Paddocks ASR Scheme is a small system and is supplemented by larger scale schemes such as the Parafield Stormwater Harvesting Scheme and Bennett Road.

The Bennet Road ASR scheme, a recent initiative of UniSA and the City of Salisbury, receives significant overflows from the Paddocks wetlands. The more productive ASR wells at Bennett Road make it far more cost effective as a harvest and storage site than the Paddocks.

