

# Unity Park Wetlands



SUSTAINABLE SALISBURY | WETLANDS SERIES  
Salisbury, the sustainable city







The Unity Park wetlands are a hidden gem. They were originally constructed in the early 2000's with a significant upgrade undertaken in 2011. The park is now a popular location for residents and visitors of the City of Salisbury to undertake recreational and social activities.

More than six hectares in size, the park includes a skate park, BMX facility, dog friendly park, junior accessible playground, duck pond, constructed wetlands and six experimental bio-filtration cells for stormwater harvesting.

## Unity Park has it all...

- Family friendly park
- Skate park, BMX facilities and BBQ areas
- Dog friendly park
- Junior accessible playground

Stormwater run-off from the Tea Tree Gully and Modbury area is collected in Dry Creek. The water is harvested at two sites; a weir behind the Yatala Prison and the trash removal racks behind the Bridgeway Hotel. The stormwater is piped to the fenced holding basin at Unity Park for the removal of litter and coarse contaminants. The water is then distributed to the wetlands and bio-filtration cells for further, more refined treatment. The cleansed water is then pumped to the Montague Road Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) facility for storage in the Tertiary 2 aquifer. The MAR facility consists of nine wells, hidden in the road reserve trees along Montague Road between Main North Road and Port Wakefield Road.

If you are walking at Unity Park, take the time to follow the tracks to the South Western side down to Main North Road. Here you will find an additional five bio filters that are part of Salisbury's ongoing research and development program.

The footprint required for bio-filtration is 5 to 10 times less than traditional constructed wetlands, making this form of treatment attractive where open space is limited. Stormwater flows over the surface of the bio filtration cell, which is planted with plants that can tolerate a constant transition from dry to saturated conditions. The

water then percolates down through a sandy loam media which acts as a filter, before being collected at the base. The bio-filtration cell is then allowed to dry enabling physical and biological processes to break down and remove contaminants. This process is then repeated with another flooding cycle.

This end of the park is also home to the public art sculpture *Winds of Change* by Annalise Rees. Resembling the form of a windmill, *Winds of Change* is a heritage marker in recognition of the Gepps Cross abattoirs and stockyards that employed numerous Salisbury residents over the past 90 years. At the peak of its activities, the 'Meatworks', as it was known, was the largest individual government employer in South Australia.

The artwork features a combination of representational and symbolic references to the butchery trade, livestock auctioning and the geographical location. The nature of the original site and the methods and materials of its construction are integral to the overall aesthetic of the artwork. An audio history is activated automatically when standing under the structure.

