

## Park Lands

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## Source Sheet No.

Laid out by Colonel Light in his original plan of 1837, the City's Park Lands have been managed and maintained by the Council since 1852. Public use was controlled by a Park Lands Ranger who patrolled these open areas, supervised depasturing of stock and regulated sporting and recreational activities. However the Park Lands remained largely undeveloped during the nineteenth century, with extensive felling of trees, quarrying and dumping of rubbish contributing to their somewhat unsightly appearance. To rectify this the Council commissioned J.E.Brown, the government's Conservator of Forests, to prepare a blueprint for their beautification. His report was presented in 1880, but it was not until A.W.Pelzer became City Gardener (1899-1932) that major progress was made in planting and landscaping the Park Lands. Further improvements were made by W.C.D.Veale, Town Clerk 1947-1965, including the creation of new gardens and boating lakes. Recent developments have focused on maintenance and upgrading of recreational facilities such as the Aquatic Centre and Municipal Golf Links, and the Greening of Adelaide tree planting and replacement programs.

### Sources

Title of Record	Date	Accession
Master Index [to Town Clerk's Dockets and Special Files]	c1930-1976	2426
Town Clerk's Department Dockets	1856-1976	2530
Town Clerk's Letters Received Books	1862-1976	4182
Index of Town Clerk's Letter Received	1856-1973	4182
Town Clerk's Special Files 47, 260 'Children's Playgrounds'	1919-1974	352
Town Clerk's Special File 71 'Municipal Golf Links'	1920-1976	352
Town Clerk's Special File 132 'Snake Park'	1926-1955	352
Town Clerk's Special File 265 'Future Policy - Park Lands'	1945-1975	352
Town Clerk's Special File 393 'Pinky Flat'	1953-1968	352
Town Clerk's Special File 477 'Development of Park Lands'	1961-1976	352
Town Clerk's Newspaper Clippings - Parks and Gardens	1901-1912	292
Town Clerk's Dockets - Parks and Gardens Matters	1933-1943	1002
Parks and Gardens Department Dockets	1943-1976	1000, 1246, 2906
[Parks and Gardens Annual Number Correspondence Series]	1947-1978	2001
Parks and Gardens Department Docket Indexes	1943-1975	5364
Parks and Gardens Department Docket Registers	1943-1975	319, 5365
Parks and Gardens Department Newspaper Clippings Books	1945-1977	753, 1991

Department of Parks and Recreation Files	1921-1987	1462, 2905, 4416
[Records Relating to Depasturing on the Park Lands]	1865-1980	741, 743, 745, 749, 2117, 2121
Register of Cricket and Other Clubs	1878-1898	437
Instructions Books [City Gardener, Park Lands Ranger]	1928-1973	747, 757
Park Lands Expenditure [Books]	1902-1907	2201
Sport Clubs in Park Lands	1950-1968	746
Sports Permits [Books and Forms]	1895-1957	751,760,2014, 2835
Band Concerts in City Parks [Books]	1922-1955	739
Plans and Maps re Use and Alienation of Park Lands	1899	1096
Map of City of Adelaide and Park Lands - Depasturing	1895	3834
Plans of Park Lands	c1900-1983	1112, 1788, 2351
Plans of Parks Around the River Torrens	1915-1960	1114
‘Where Adelaide Leads’[Press report on Parks and Gardens]	1910	1256
Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands	1880	918
Report on the Purchase of the Adelaide Park Lands	1885	1244

### Further sources

Mayor’s Reports which, from 1901, became Annual Reports provide more information. Minutes and Reports of Council and Committees are contained in the annual Digests of Proceedings. For early material c1850-1870 (includes reports of the Park Lands Ranger) see the *List of Earliest Corporation Records*. A history of the Park Lands has been written by Jim Daly, *Decisions and Disasters: Alienation of the Adelaide Parklands* (Bland House, Adelaide, 1987).

### Photographs

Historic views of Park Lands are contained among prints of the old Town Clerk’s lantern slides collection, the Commercial Department Photographic Collections c1860-1970, and Town Clerk’s and City Engineer’s Photo Albums 1925-1970.

### Access

Public access to records less than 30 years old is not generally available. Access may also be refused to records in poor physical condition, or containing information of an exceptionally sensitive or personal nature.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the Archives Officer –

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**Hours:** Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm