

PARK HOLME OAKLANDS PARK MARION

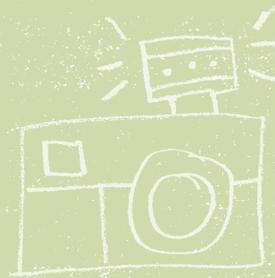
# GREENING MARION

Discovery (so far)

Good things are happening!

This is a big picture snapshot of how well 56 activities – that are helping to make our suburbs greener, cooler and more sustainable – are working together.

You can see where, as a whole, we are doing really well. You can also see windows of opportunities to make our collective efforts go further.



## The back story

We all know green spaces are good for us, wildlife and our planet.

People within the Greening Marion network imagine greener, more sustainable suburbs to have thriving urban biodiversity, community involvement, good water management and smart urban planning.



### **BUT, THERE IS SOME WORK TO DO.**

Rapid loss of greenery due to development, global loss of biodiversity and climate change are just some challenges we face.

## Key points

We spoke to 39 people, from 13 organisations between December 2019 and March 2020

There are at least 56 activities and 43 organisations from across Adelaide that are part of Oaklands Park, Marion and Park Holme's 'greening system'

**Key system strength** – 81% of activities are 'shaking things up' around urban greening, where they are generating passion, creating community conversations and preparing for action



**To further strengthen the system, we need more activities to:**

- **Join up and ripple out** – experiment, collaborate, encourage open discussions, and connect with different views
- **Self-organise and share** – more branding, role models, and sharing information and resources
- **Connect community with government** – align priorities, shape policies, and tap into community know-how and initiatives.

MORE PLEASE!

## A different way

Slowing or reversing the loss of urban green spaces is really tricky, there are lots of reasons why it's happening.

No single organisation or project can fix this, and there is no golden solution. But we do know some things.

To tackle such a complex problem, we need to look at the big picture, and help people who are already working on urban greening, to work together better.

**That's what Greening Marion is about. We are trialling a new, collaborative approach\* to tackling a big problem together, and it's the first time this particular process has been used in South Australia.**

\* For details on the process, visit: [wickedlab.com.au/systemic-innovation-lab](http://wickedlab.com.au/systemic-innovation-lab)



This project isn't about counting trees and birds or looking at temperatures and shading. It's a different approach that looks at the **how** work is being done and **how** we're all working together.

We're starting small. The trial area includes the suburbs of Marion, Oaklands Park and Park Holme.

We're also keen to learn about the benefits of this approach and how it might work in other areas across Adelaide.

## Seeing the system



If you are involved in an activity that helps to make Oaklands Park, Park Holme or Marion suburbs greener, cooler and more sustainable, then you are part of the local 'greening system'.

We've been having conversations with people who are a part of this system. People who are doing things 'on the ground', such as community gardens, workshops and tree management, and others who work 'on the administration side', like developing policies, grants and plans.

From these conversations we can see where, as a whole, we're doing well. We can also see where, with a bit of tweaking, we could strengthen our overall efforts.

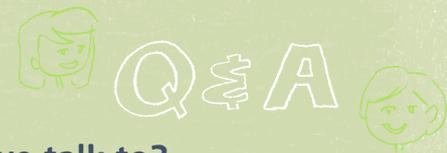


## Why see the system?

Imagine a sports team whose members didn't realise they were part of it, or know what their roles were, or who their team mates were.

Helping people to get to know their own system, its strengths and opportunities, and who else is in it, arms people with handy information to make all their collective efforts go further.





## What we looked for

We interviewed 39 people, from 13 organisations and entities, to look at how 56 initiatives fit within the greening system.

We asked questions about how work is being planned and delivered, then sorted results into **focus areas** that related to **two themes**:

- **Adaptability and Flexibility**
- **Connected Community and Government**



## Who did we talk to?

- City of Marion
- Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board
- Oaklands Park Community Garden Society
- Nadja's Garden
- Oaklands Estate Kindergarten
- St Elizabeth of Hungary Anglican Church
- Friends of Kenton Avenue Reserve
- Friends of Sturt River Landcare
- Westminster School
- Wagtail Urban Farm
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
- Water Sensitive SA
- Alan Shepard

## SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

Lots of good things are happening – many activities are supporting our ability to adapt, and some enhance how we all work together.

The snapshot (right) provides an indication of how the system is performing. It hints towards where – collectively – we are strong, as well as where we might want to focus on to become even stronger.

The information is broken down across the two themes and nine focus areas. It shows the percentage of activities that are contributing to each focus area, through the way they deliver their activity.

The more activities that contribute towards a focus area, the better. It means the overall system is more connected and adaptable. It can self-organise, learn collectively and respond to changes quickly.

### This is how our local greening system is currently going:

#### THEME: Adaptability and Flexibility

##### Focus Area 1 Shake Things Up



##### Focus Area 2 Join Up and Ripple Out



##### Focus Area 3 Self-organise and Share



##### Focus Area 4 Embed, Watch and Respond



##### Focus Area 5 Build Collective Knowledge



#### THEME: Connected Community and Government

##### Focus Area 6 Align Government and Community



##### Focus Area 7 Shape Policies with Community Voice



##### Focus Area 8 Tap into Community Know-how



##### Focus Area 9 Promote Community Initiatives



## System strength

Collectively, we are doing a lot to 'shake things up'. Most initiatives are generating passion, creating community conversations and preparing for action.



## Windows of opportunity

To further strengthen our collective efforts, we need more activities to:

- **Join up and ripple out** – experiment, collaborate, encourage open discussions, and connect with different views
- **Self-organise and share** – use branding, support role models, and share information and resources
- **Connect community and government** – align priorities, shape policies, and tap into community know-how and initiatives.

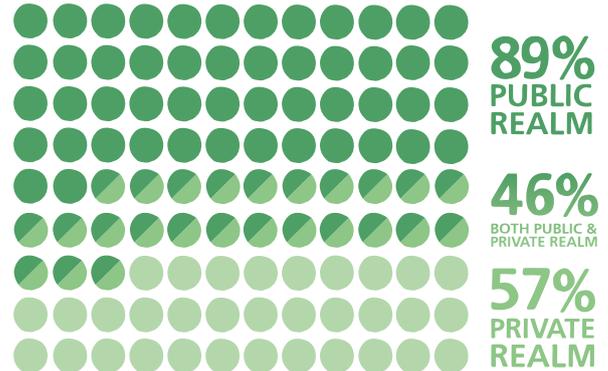


MORE PLEASE!

## Public vs private – where the work is happening

Most of the activities (89%) related to greening our public areas, compared to 57% that impacted or influenced privately owned areas, such as people's yards.

The difference between the two is actually greater, as many council activities were 'packaged up' and counted as one big activity, instead of lots of smaller ones, to help with data collection.



Over time, it would be good to see more activities that support greening in private areas, especially as private areas are so important to urban biodiversity.

## What's next?

Come along to two Greening Marion workshops.

These workshops are open to everyone – whether you're already involved in a greening activity in Park Holme, Marion or Oaklands Park, or keen to start something in the area.

### 1. Discovery workshop

10am – 12pm, Friday 12 June

We'll explore these findings and create a collective vision of how we all want to experience greener, more sustainable suburbs.

### 2. Strengthening workshop

10am – 12pm, Friday 19 June

We'll tweak and adapt current greening activities, or consider bringing new ones into the mix, to make our whole system stronger.

Register today: xxxxxxxx

## Want to know more about this project?

Visit [naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adalaidemtloftyranges](http://naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adalaidemtloftyranges) and search for 'Greening Marion'.

## Contact

Tania Macdonald, Natural Resources  
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges  
E: [Urban.Sustainability@sa.gov.au](mailto:Urban.Sustainability@sa.gov.au)  
P: 8273 9124

Rebecca Neumann, City of Marion  
E: [environment@marion.sa.gov.au](mailto:environment@marion.sa.gov.au)  
P: 8375 6624

Greening Marion is a  
partnership between:



Government of South Australia  
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges  
Natural Resources Management Board



