

A safer, more enjoyable Belair National Park on the drawing board

It won't be long before visitors to Belair National Park are enjoying improved facilities in the park's Dianella precinct, the area between Creek Road and the old soccer ground.

Named after *Dianella longifolia*, the Smooth Flax Lily which is found in the area, the Dianella precinct is popular with park visitors who enjoy the plentiful picnic areas and tennis courts.

Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) District Ranger James Crocker said the precinct had become quite degraded over time, and the remediation work would deliver improved facilities and also increase visitor safety.

Work on upgrading the precinct began in early November and is expected to be complete close to the end of the 2008–09 financial year.

"The upgrade work will formalise traffic access and seal the access road and parking areas, to make them safer for visitors and to reduce the impact of visitors on the park's environment," Mr Crocker said.

"We'll also be replacing the existing toilets with better located facilities that are family-friendly and can also accommodate people with disability.

"The new toilets will contain baby change facilities and the disabled toilet will double as a parent's toilet, featuring both an adult and a child's pan so that mum or dad can take a young child in with them in a safe and clean facility.

"We'll also be providing high quality, aesthetically pleasing but low-maintenance shelters for tennis courts, and new barbecues throughout the precinct.

"Through-traffic between the Main Oval Pavilion and Main Oval will be removed, to make it safer and less intrusive for visitors using the pavilion.

"Environmental rehabilitation of some degraded areas is also planned, and will be achieved in partnership with the Friends of Belair and other community groups.

"These works will provide greater protection for the conservation values of the area, including the lily after which the precinct is named, but will have no impact on the existing or any possible future routes for the main entry road."

Mr Crocker said access to the Dianella precinct would be restricted, and walking trails through that area of the park closed, until the works are completed.

"These restrictions are necessary to ensure public safety, and allow the contractors to operate effectively," he said.

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"We apologise for any inconvenience that this creates, but seek people's cooperation in complying with restrictions.

"There are a range of other walking experiences and visitor facilities on offer in the park."

Plans detailing the work are on display in the information office at Belair National Park. For more information, please phone 8278 5477, email belairnationalpark@saugov.sa.gov.au, or go to <http://www.parks.sa.gov.au>.

The upgrade of the Dianella precinct is part of a major project, taking place over a number of years, to improve facilities at Belair National Park.

