

DEMAND GROWS FOR GREEN SPACE IN BRISBANE AS LOCALS TEAM UP ON NEW PARK PROJECT

Strawberry Fields Parklands Project

MEDIA RELEASE

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The race for seats has begun in the lead up to Queensland's first major state election since COVID and green space is proving a key issue for voters.

In the key McConnell district, Fortitude Valley locals have teamed up on the Strawberry Fields Parklands Project - a community project campaigning for the local government to restore commercially owned land into much needed green space.

Led by Valley resident, Kellie Nealon, the Strawberry Fields Parklands Project team has done its research, making sure the proposed park would not only fit within the Brisbane City Plan 2014, but bring key elements of Brisbane's CityShape 2031 to life.

Kellie explains: "The Fortitude Valley Neighbourhood Plan makes it clear that the Valley should be developed into a 'nationally recognised destination' by enhancing local heritage and culture while supporting day and night-time economic growth. It also recommends additional community facilities around Church street and new urban commons.

"However, the Council has yet to do anything about this. There have been no official steps taken to create community greenspace, parkland, or other community facilities in the area. We are so lacking in open greenspace here in the Valley, and I've spoken to so many of my residential and commercial neighbours who all say they would benefit from greenspace. The Council has the power to change this! So, I have gathered some friends together and we have developed a plan for a smart park council should seriously consider."

Formed by a small collective of Fortitude Valley residents, the Strawberry Fields Parklands Project is a development proposal and business plan that they believe Council should use to create a smart greenspace. According to the plan:

"The SFPP concept enhances local heritage and culture by integrating existing historical sites that are not yet well known; supports local day and night-time economic growth with flexible parkland designs and an emphasis on family-friendly evening activities; and also creates new event and entertainment spaces alongside sustainable community facilities, for instance by developing a community garden and smart outdoor music venue.

"The collective has nominated a space that it believes Council can reclaim and proposes the SFPP concept as a greenspace solution that will create an additional hub of musical and cultural activity between the Valley Heart and the Triffid Special Entertainment Precinct, by integrating public parkland activities with neighbouring commercial enterprise."

You can find Strawberry Fields Parklands Project on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/strawberryfieldsparklands/>

Find the petition on Brisbane City Council website here:

https://www.epetitions.brisbane.qld.gov.au/petition/view/pid/949?fbclid=IwAR0wsrNd_bvuzpStiFzfiEoaNZHSLZlo8RKIQMzLvtMEXTzfXMzOpal5AM8

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