



parklands

ALBURY WODONGA

Frequently Asked Questions

What does parklands do?

This depends on who you talk to. parklands is a hybrid, all embracing organisation. It is a :-

- **regional park manager** – *integrated management encompassing park infrastructure, signage, tracks, trails and amenities, pest plant and animal control, environmental burns to facilitate regeneration, supplementary planting where regeneration is not an option, license management (grazing, commercial storage, events, etc), risk management*
- **community development facilitator** – *support the establishment, growth and evolution of Friends Groups and others to plan, develop community organizing skills, implement and promote their park projects*
- **land manager** – *pest plant & animal control, fire management, licensee liaison, management & administration,,*
- **service provider** – *provide environmental, heritage and recreation services to public land owners,*
- **contractor** – *provide environmental, heritage and recreational infrastructure services to public and private land owners,*
- **consultant** – *develop environmental, heritage and recreation plans, studies and assessments*
- **fundraiser** – *successfully secured and implemented sponsorships, grants and other sources of funding to work on public land where no other revenue sources.*
- **training provider** – *practicum work for TAFE and University students, hands-on training for work experience participants who are both young or undertaking “tree change” and re-training to shift employment industries*
- **work program partner agent** - *partnerships to implement work programs for youth and unemployed,*
- **diversion program agent** – *partnerships to implement programs for correctional services and other at risk groups*
- **volunteer organizer** – *coordinate volunteer groups to assist other groups / organizations to implement larger community projects*
- **partnership broker** – *bring together a diversity of groups and organizations, working to ensure the diverse needs of these groups are met during the process of involvement and as the partnership evolves and grows*

Who is parklands?

A not-for-profit community managed organization operating as Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd - a company limited by guarantee. This means that all income generated is invested into managing public land.

Where does parklands work?

We work in partnership with the Albury Wodonga regional community to develop, manage and maintain over 4,000 hectares of bush reserves for conservation, heritage and recreation.

We have concentrated on “bush parkland”, which is quite separate from formal urban-centred parks.

parklands works on the three C's: Crown, Council and Commonwealth owned land. parklands is the formally appointed Committee of Management for 2,000 hectares of Victorian Crown land.

What community benefits?

Community and client usage of these parklands is constant and will certainly increase in the future. Ultimately, the beneficiaries of quality park management are regional residents, visitors and the tourist industry.

Who does parklands work with?

Lots of partnerships, such as neighbouring landholders, stakeholders, Friends Groups, Indigenous community, regular volunteers, workplaces, educational institutions, Job Services Australia agencies, over 100 community groups and the wider community. The community has contributed in excess of \$11.1 million worth of time over the past 14 years.

What makes parklands unique?

The community development “process” is as important as the “ends” (well managed parks). We are about investing in social capital and building community capacity at a grassroots level.

The community-driven model we have been actively implementing has been successful in New Zealand (Auckland Regional Park), the United States of America (Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco) and other countries.



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How is parklands different to Conservation Volunteers Australia and Greening Australia?

We are a regional organisation, drawing from and involving the regional community. We are also responsible for 2,000 hectares of crown land as Committee of Management.

PAW works on recreation, conservation and heritage projects on similar scales to GA and CVA.

However, our role is also the ongoing maintenance so our focus is on sustainability in terms of community stewardship and guardianship for the longer term. A Park Stewardship Program continues to evolve.

Why is community stewardship important?

The Park Stewardship Program has evolved through community lead initiatives. We are working towards sustaining a vibrant community of park stewards in the restoration and long-term maintenance of priority parklands. Whether it is protecting an endangered species, restoring a historic feature, or improving a trail, community support is the key to ensuring the long term protection and integrity of these unique reserves.

Because we believe that active engagement in the care of parklands leads to a deeper appreciation of their value, the Park Stewardship Program also works to educate the community, especially youth, about the importance of public lands using the parklands as hands-on experiential classrooms.

What is parklands Vision?

A restored and diverse bush parklands, supporting the spiritual and physical wellbeing of current and future generations, achieved in partnership with the Albury Wodonga regional community.

What is parklands Mission?

parklands engages the regional community in the planned and cost effective development of the regional bush parklands with a recreational and conservation perspective. parklands assists in the creation of the linkage of major parks, trails and facilities throughout all bush parks to enhance the lifestyle for everyone.

What is parklands core business?

To environmentally restore degraded bushland around the cities of Albury and Wodonga to replicate an environment which we reasonably assume to have existed prior to European settlement. This will be achieved by implementing the Objects of our constitution (conservation, education and passive recreation).

How is parklands funded?

We are working to diversify our income sources and reduce our exposure to changes in government policies and programs. Whilst we continue to achieve outcomes on the ground and with the community, we will continue to be kept busy....

37% through informal environmental contracts (three service agreements)

55% through environmental contracts and consultancies (eight main stakeholders)

8% through self generated activities, including merchandise, donations, sponsorships, license fees and other fundraising activities

What is parklands capacity?

The regional community has invested in excess of \$11.1 million worth of time in the regional parklands over the past 14 years. The value of on ground time contributed by staff and volunteers over the last 3 years totals;

- \$463,960 in 07/08
- \$520,153 in 08/09
- \$703,642 in 09/10

Is parklands an NGO?

Yes. Whilst we work with local, state and Australian Government Agencies and work on public land, we are not a government organisation.

We have an honorary Board comprised of a mix of Stakeholder Representatives and Community Members. The Board is skills-based. As at 30 June 2010, there were six full time Rangers and 0.4 FTE administration.

More Information

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