

# Sadie retreat fear

Adrian Bernechich

ONE of Mt Waverley's last remaining natural sanctuaries would be lost if a prized parcel of council-owned land was sold, community activists fear.

Three local groups have raised concerns over Monash Council's intentions for parkland to the rear of properties between 12 and 24 Sadie St.

The council bought a \$400,000 block at 22 Sadie St in June last year to allow road access should a proposed residential development on neighbouring land proceed.

But Sadie Street Action Group spokeswoman Susan Stringer said she was horrified by the plan, which she said would destroy local bird- and plant-life.

"We have to put up with the freeway noise so the thing that makes life a little more liveable is the birdsong," Ms Stringer said.

"But it would be gone if they were to start substantial earthworks."

Earlier this month, State Government botanist Dr Steve Sinclair conducted an independent study of the park and neighbouring Fairway Reserve and found more than 46 species of natural and rare plants.

"Its destruction would effectively decrease the extent of vegetation in Fairway Reserve, with possible impacts on fauna habitat," the report said.

Friends of Damper Creek's Campbell Miles as well as Friends of Scotchmans Creek and the Valley Reserve president Ted Mason have also joined the fight. "I think the whole thing is atrocious and is just a money grab from council," Mr Myles said.

Monash Mayor Paul Klisaris said council would consider the results of an ongoing survey in 2009 and would consult the public before a decision to sell the land was made.

The sale of the land would contribute funds to for the new Oakleigh pool.



Susan Stringer from Sadie Street Action Group and the peg marks used to survey the park for future developments.

Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN N24WG301

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