

MEDIA RELEASE

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WHITEMAN PARK CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Whiteman Park is celebrating its 25th anniversary during 2011.

Possibly the largest metropolitan park in the world, Whiteman Park, named after local identity Lew Whiteman (1903–1994) who developed the Mussel Pool picnic area, was officially opened to the public on 21 September 1986.

Park manager Steve Lowe said the anniversary was an exciting milestone in the Park's history.

"The Park has grown with the local community over the past 25 years and matured into a landmark attraction for local, national and international visitors alike", Mr Lowe said.

"We are proud to share such a significant occasion with the community and have a full program of special events planned for the second half of 2011 to celebrate the many aspects of the Park."

The first celebration event is *Lew Whiteman Day*, in honour of the man after whom the Park is named.

On Saturday 9 July, Lew's birth date, Revolutions, the Park's transport heritage centre and home to the Whiteman Collection, will showcase the things that Lew loved most – like the American cars, and will offer a sneak peak of the anniversary exhibition *Turning 25: The Importance of Whiteman Park*.

"One of the most important aspects of *Lew Whiteman Day* will be the initiation of a 'story-catching area' at Revolutions, so that we can get the all-important human memories of the Park and Mr Whiteman from those who still remember," said Mr Lowe.

"It will also be the first time that the guided tour *Lew Whiteman's Mussel Pool* will be offered to the public, taking visitors through the development of the Mussel Pool picnic area."

Another first on offer is an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Whiteman Collection. Both tours have strictly limited places, so bookings are recommended.

Whiteman Park is open every day of the year between 8.30am and 6pm. It is owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission and managed by the Department of Planning.

For more information on Lew Whiteman Day, or any of the other events planned to celebrate the Park's 25th Anniversary, contact Whiteman Park on 9209 6000 or visit www.whitemanpark.com.

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Editor's Note: The Whiteman Collection is made up of selected pieces of Lew Whiteman's many antiques and curios that were gifted to the state following his death in 1994.

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