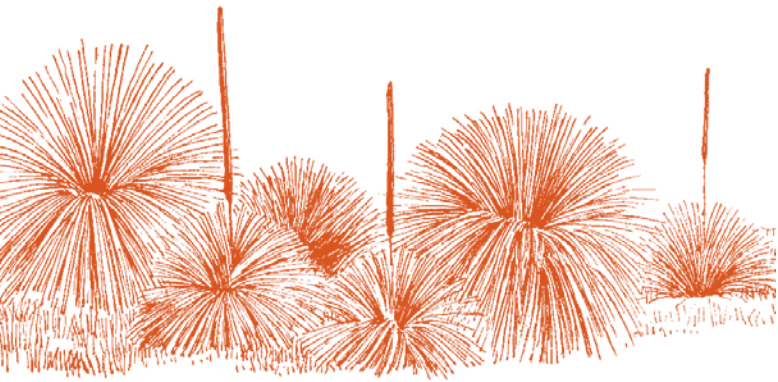


Para Wirra Recreation Park



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*



Para Wirra Recreation Park

Para Wirra Recreation Park is located in the northern Adelaide hills, only 40 minutes from Adelaide and 20 minutes from Golden Grove, Elizabeth and Gawler. The 1507 hectare park was dedicated in 1962. 'Para Wirra' comes from an Aboriginal phrase meaning 'river with scrub'. The bushland park offers many attractions for the day visitor, with its many interesting walking trails, scenic drives and abundant wildlife.

Entry to Para Wirra Recreation Park

Para Wirra Recreation Park is open from 8 am to sunset, every day except Christmas Day. The park may be closed on Total Fire Ban days for public safety. A vehicle entrance fee applies. Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.

Things to do

Bushwalking is by far the most popular activity at Para Wirra, but why not use the bush oval for a game of football or cricket, cook a feast on one of the many gas barbecues, take the kids to the playground or observe the native animals and wildflowers.

Water and food

The nearest shops are at One Tree Hill, Kersbrook and Williamstown. While untreated rainwater is available from tanks next to some shelters and near the park office, visitors should not rely on these sources. The toilets are serviced by dam water and although heavily discoloured by tannins, it is safe for washing and flushing. Ensure you bring sufficient water and food for your activities.

Need a place to stay?

Mack Creek Hut, a rustic bush retreat, can be hired. It has a pit toilet, reasonably reliable solar lighting and gas ring cooking, but no shower or fridge. The hut sleeps eight. Please contact the park office on (08) 8280 7048 for more information or bookings.

Flora

Most of the park is covered with gum trees dominated by long-leaf box, pink gums, South Australian blue gums and scattered native pines. Beneath the trees lie a mosaic of plants such as yaccas and heaths. Golden wattles mark the arrival of spring, when the bush comes alive and welcomes you with colourful displays of beautiful wildflowers.

Fauna

The park supports over 100 species of native birds. The most obvious are the emus that wander around the picnic areas. Listen for their unique drumming calls and watch your food or they will take it from you! Please do not feed any of the animals.

The flowering tree canopies attract flocks of noisy galahs, parrots and lorikeets. Smaller birds like fantails, thornbills and wrens are busy amongst the shrub layer.

The most common mammal you will encounter is the western grey kangaroo, frequently seen grazing at dawn and dusk. As evening falls, the quiet observer may see a short-beaked echidna – they are well camouflaged and hide when disturbed. You will see their diggings throughout the park.

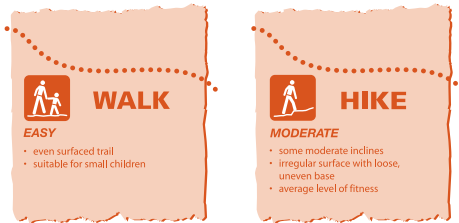
On a warm day you may see eastern bearded dragons, sleepy lizards or eastern striped skinks.

Bush litter, rocks, old logs and trees provide homes for a variety of reptiles in the park.

Walking trails

Walking is one of the best ways to discover the beauty of Para Wirra. Good preparation will ensure a safer, more enjoyable walk. Further trail information is available from the park office.

Trail classification



Walk Safely

Be prepared when bushwalking:

- Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen.
- Carry sufficient food and drinking water. Allow 4 litres of water per person per day.
- Do not rely on tanks or creeks in the park for drinking water.
- Keep to the defined walking trail.
- Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.
- Weather conditions can change quickly, ensure you have appropriate wet-weather clothing.

Short-beaked echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*

Keep your eyes peeled for diggings throughout the park – the sign of the shy Short-beaked echidna!

Lizard Rock Nature Walk

1.3 km return *1 hour return

Trail start: western side of North Oval. This enjoyable loop trail with its easy grades is great for family groups. Pass through stands of pink gum, golden wattle and native cranberry to a large granite outcrop known as *Kadno* or Lizard Rock. Marvel at the colourful array of wildflowers in spring. Points of interest along this trail are numbered, and an interpretive brochure can be downloaded from the DENR website.

Hissey Loop Walk

1.7 km loop *1 hour loop

Trail start: near the lake access road (east side). This short trail is named for the Hissey family who farmed the area for many years. The trail heads down into the valley and creek bed below. Follow the creek upstream, before returning via the edge of the lake to the car park. This trail provides a close encounter with some of Para Wirra's commonly found plants and birds. It is an ideal walk for families, beginners or visitors with limited time. There are numbered signs along the trail, which link to information available from the DENR website.

Victoria Hill Walk

1.4 km loop *45 min loop

Trail start: at Bowden Cottage on Goldfields Road. Declared an official goldfield in 1868, this area quickly became a hive of activity. Two towns sprung up out of nowhere. This loop trail starts at the site of one of the mining towns. Interpretive signs along the route tell the colourful story of the goldfields.

Fossicking is not permitted in Para Wirra Recreation Park. However, permits can be obtained from the Mount Crawford Information Centre for fossicking in nearby ForestrySA land.

The Knob Lookout Hike

























1.6 km return *1 hour return (or 1.5 hour loop via the Scenic Drive)

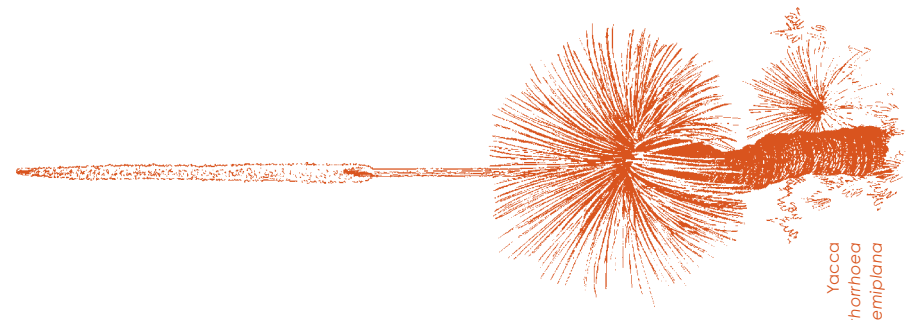
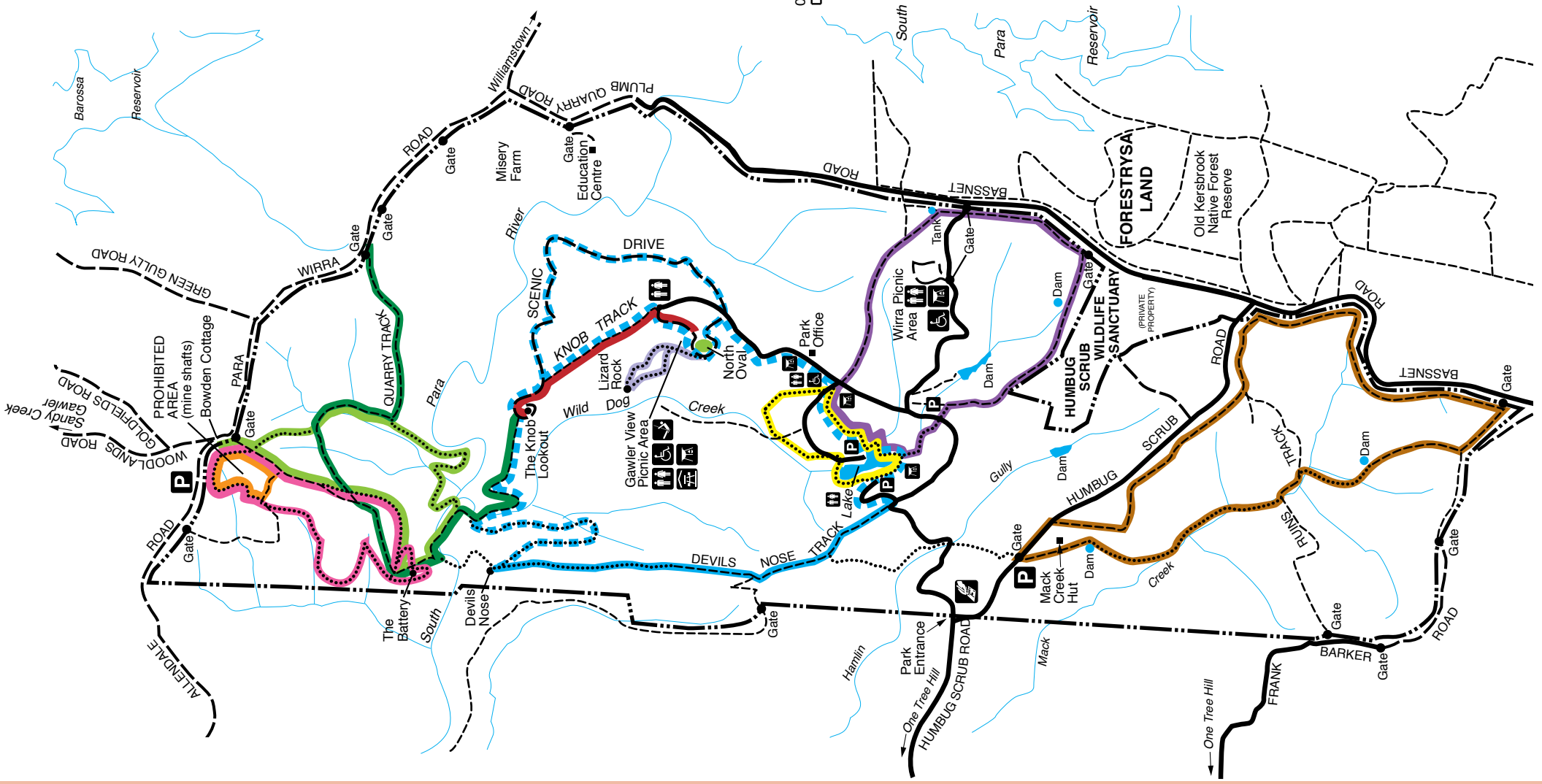
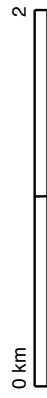
Trail start: next to the shelter north of Gawler View picnic area. Take in excellent views of the South Para River gorge, former goldfields area, Misery Farm, Barossa Range and the Gawler district.

Quarry Hike

8.4 km return *4 hours return

Trail start: below The Knob Lookout. Take a walk back in time through a landscape dotted with old gold mining shafts and tunnels. Take care when walking in this area. Venture down to the South Para River, then up the very steep slope, past the 'Battery' site to the ridge top. Explore where gold-bearing ore was crushed and washed. Continue on to Para Wirra Road (park boundary). From here retrace your steps back to the lookout.

-  Lizard Rock Nature Walk
-  Hissey Loop Walk
-  Victoria Hill Walk
-  The Knob Lookout Hike
-  Quarry Hike
-  Devils Nose Hike
-  Mack Creek Hike
-  Wirra Loop Hike
-  Phoenix Hike
-  Lady Pearce Hike
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Fire track
-  Walking trail
-  Park boundary
-  Watercourse
-  Gate
-  Building
-  Toilet/wheelchair access
-  Barbecue
-  Parking
-  Shelter shed
-  Playground
-  Self-registration station



Yacca
Xanthorrhoea semiplana

Devils Nose Hike

4.4 km return ***1.5 hours return or alternatively:**

- via Scenic Drive, ■■■■
10 km loop *5 hour loop
- via The Knob to North Oval, ■■■■
9 km loop *4.5 hour loop

Trail start: Devils Nose car park above the western side of the lake. A rewarding ridge top walk to the Devils Nose Lookout with stunning views towards Gawler and the South Para River Gorge. Have your breath taken away as you stand atop the unique sandstone outcrop of the Devils Nose. Information signs mark points of interest along the trail.

Mack Creek Hike

7.5 km loop ***4 hour loop**

Trail start: Mack Creek car park, southern section of the park off Humberg Scrub Road. A pleasant walk that follows Mack Creek downstream through a valley of magnificent river red gums and an abundance of birdlife.

Wirra Loop Hike

5 km loop ***2.5 hour loop**

Trail start: Wild Dog car park, east of the main park road. The trail heads south through pines, drooping sheoak and pink gum into the SA blue gums of the Humberg Scrub boundary, then along the eastern boundary of the park and Old Kersbrook Forest. Make your way back past the northern side of Wirra Picnic Area and its dense bullock stands, before returning to the main Para Wirra Road. This trail is great on its own, or can be incorporated into other trails in the ForestrySA network.

Phoenix Hike

4.2 km loop ***2 hour loop**

Trail start: at Bowden Cottage on Goldfields Road. Taking in most of the Victoria Hill Walk, this loop trail continues to the greater goldfields, visiting the major mines. Some of the trail follows the old tramway tracks from Menzies Mine where – with some imagination – you can almost see the trolleys rolled from the poppet head through the tunnel to the bins and slides of the rock crushing battery. Follow the pickaxe symbols, found every 200 metres along the trail. Lots of good interpretive signs.

Lady Pearce Hike

5 km loop ***3-4 hour loop**

Trail start: at Bowden Cottage on Goldfields Road. Taking in parts of the Victoria Hill Walk and Phoenix Hike, the trail follows an old bullock track along a deep ridge to the South Para River. A superb walk going down, but a solid climb back past the battery site. Take in the fantastic views of the gorge and lovely scenic river scenes, soft glades and mining history.

*Time is generously estimated for an average walking speed of 2 km per hour – allow extra time for resting and sightseeing.

Phytophthora (Root-rot fungus)

Phytophthora (fy-TOFF-thora), otherwise known as root-rot fungus, is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter. This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Please help stop the spread by staying on tracks and trails and by complying with all *Phytophthora* management signs.

Want to help?

If you love the great outdoors and would like to lend a hand, contact the Friends of Para Wirra. The Friends assist with the maintenance of the environment and facilities within the park. Their activities include seed collection, weed control, planting for revegetation projects, marking walking trails, heritage research and conservation, fundraising and lots more!

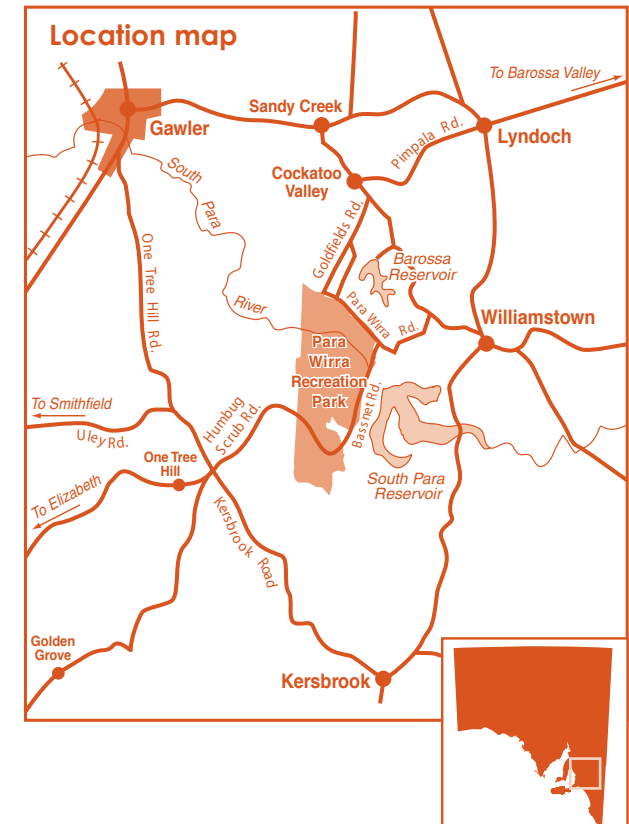
The Friends of Para Wirra can be contacted at the park office on (08) 8280 7048 or post to Para Wirra Recreation Park, RSD Humbug Scrub Road, One Tree Hill SA 5114. New members are always welcome.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS Hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves/barbecues only. Solid fuel fires are prohibited.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.



For further information contact:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Para Wirra Office
 RSD Humbug Scrub Road
 One Tree Hill SA 5114
 Phone (08) 8280 7048
 Fax (08) 8280 7826
 Duty officer 1300 650 411, quote 465281
 Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
 Email denrinformation@sa.gov.au
 Website www.parks.sa.gov.au

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