

Shepherds Hill Recreation Park



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*

Shepherds Hill Recreation Park forms part of the Hills Face Zone of the Mount Lofty Ranges foothills. Boasting panoramic views of the Adelaide Plains and coastline, the park is home to a bike jumps track, walking trails and multi-use trails, suitable for horseriding and mountain bike riding. There is also an old railway tunnel, the remains of a viaduct and two winding creeks to explore.

The park protects a variety of habitats altered by past grazing and cropping. Within the park's 78 hectares you can observe open grey box woodlands on the hillsides, and old river red gums and steep rocky outcrops along the creeks.

Along with the adjacent Watiparinga and Saddle Hill reserves, the area forms a significant natural recreation area south of Adelaide.

How to get to the park

The park is in Adelaide's southern suburbs, only 11 km from the city centre. The main entrance and car park is off Ayliffes Road, St Marys, but the park can also be accessed from Ellis Avenue, Eden Hills. There is no vehicle access into the park; however a large car park is located at the Ayliffes Road entrance. Members of the Eden Hills Field Archery Club and the Marion Pony Club are permitted to drive to their leased areas. Entry is free.

Facilities

There are no visitor facilities or amenities. The archery field and pony club facilities located within the lease areas are for club members only.

Things to do

Bushwalking

A network of walking trails and multi-access tracks can be linked to create various walks suitable for different fitness levels and time frames. Walks start at the Ayliffes Road, Ellis Avenue and Hillcrest Drive entrances.

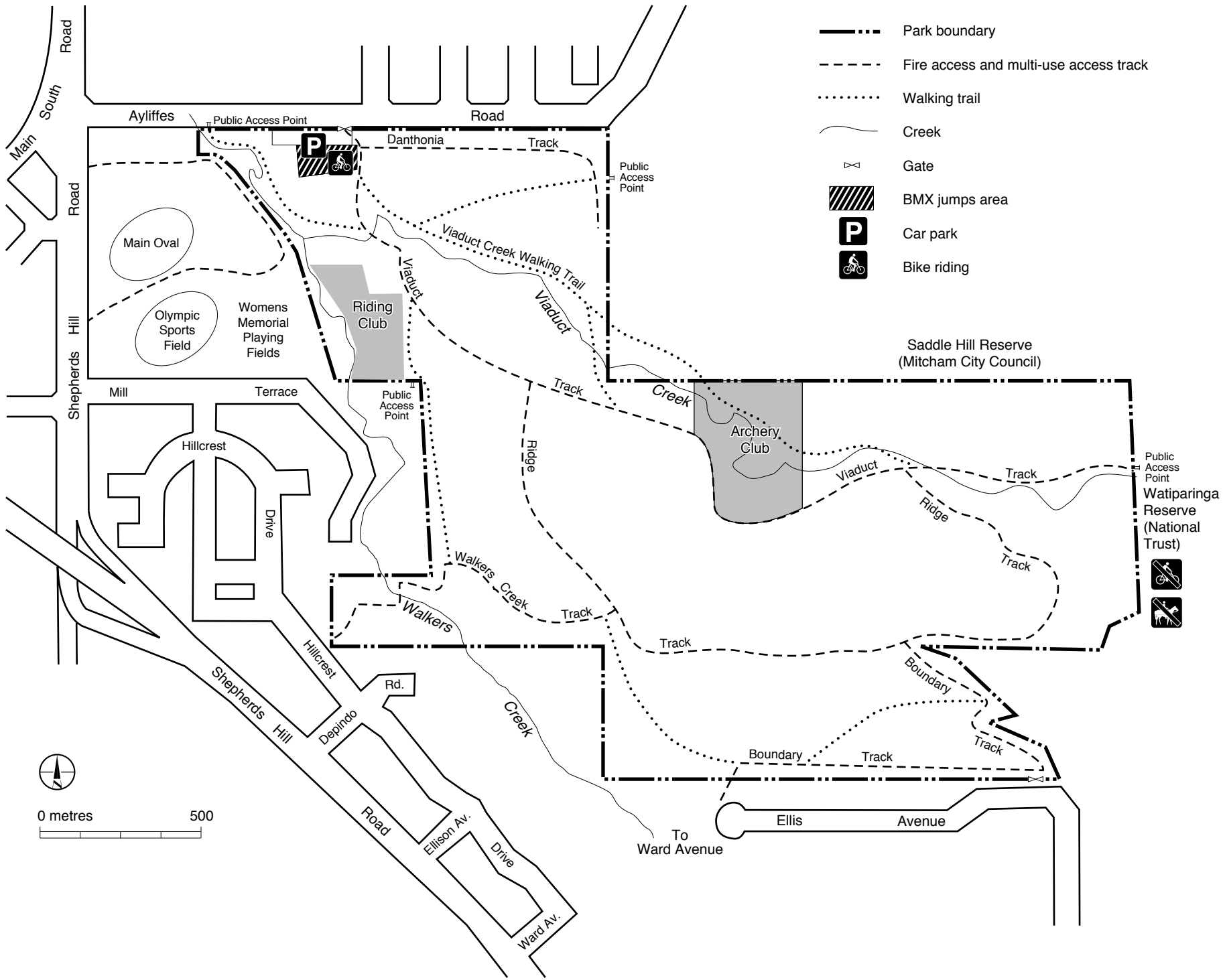
The Viaduct Creek Walking Trail passes through the Archery Club lease area. When red flags are displayed at the boundary it means archery is in progress, and bushwalkers must bypass this area along the Viaduct Track.

Bike riding

Bike riding is a common activity in the park, with a jumps area located in the north-western section of the park adjacent to the Ayliffes Road car park. **Cyclists and horse riders must remain on existing multi-use tracks only.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources seek cooperation from bike riders to give way to walkers and horse riders, and observe necessary safety conditions. To help protect the natural vegetation, new bike tracks or jumps must not be created.

Horseriding

Horseriding is allowed on multi-use tracks, but not walking trails. Should riders encounter walkers, they must slow down, announce their presence and give them the right of way.



History

Before European settlement the Shepherds Hill area was inhabited by the Kaurna (Gar-na) Aboriginal people. Although little information has been documented about their occupation, important Aboriginal sites, such as scarred trees have been recorded.

As the name suggests, Shepherds Hill has had a long history of sheep grazing, although the park was actually named after William John Shepherd who owned a section of local land from 1853 to 1864. During early settlement of the area, many trees were felled for fencing and building materials. Some prospecting also took place during the gold rush era of the 1860s.

Shepherds Hills Recreation Park was first proclaimed in 1955.

Plants

Although past land use practices such as grazing and cropping have impacted upon the once diverse wildlife of the area, the park supports a variety of habitats. Vegetation includes open grey box woodlands with an understorey of kangaroo thorn, golden wattle, native hopbush and wallaby grass on the hillsides. Old river red gums and South Australian blue gums line the park's two creeks. Wattles, tea-trees, sedges and rushes also line the banks, providing important habitat for birdlife.

Animals

Black-faced cuckoo-shrikes, superb fairy-wrens, striated pardalotes and the occasional falcon can be seen. A number of native animals also inhabit the park, including possums, eastern brown snakes, and several species of skinks and lizards. Koalas are occasionally seen feeding in either grey box or river red gums.

Pets

Dogs are allowed in the park, but must be restrained on a lead no longer than three metres at all times.

Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park

The Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park assist with maintenance of the environment and facilities, in particular restoring the park's vegetation to its natural state by removing weeds and replacing them with locally indigenous species. A working bee is held on the first Saturday of every month. New members are always welcome, contact the Southern Lofty District Office.

Fire bans

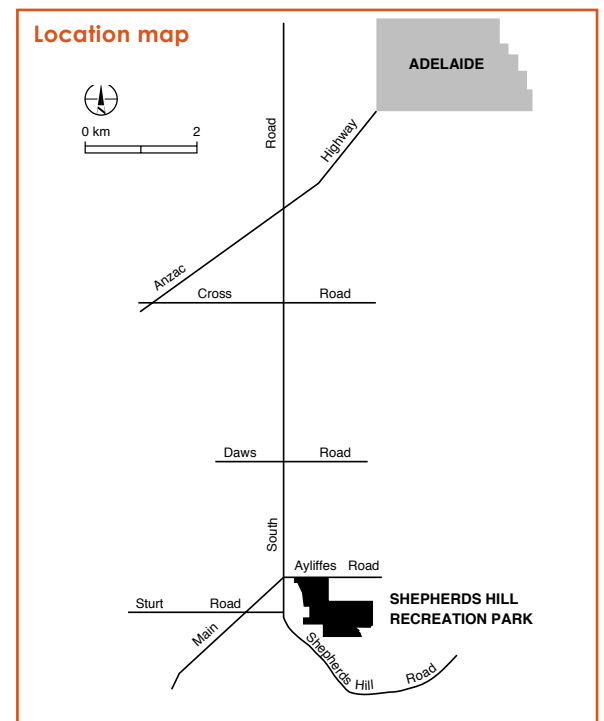
On Total Fire Ban days, the park may be closed.

National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be kept on a lead.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- All fires including gas barbecues are prohibited.
- Respect geological, cultural and heritage sites.
- Keep our 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.
- For your safety, do not enter the archery lease area when the red marker flags are displayed.

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



For further information contact:

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Cleland Conservation Park
PO Box 783
Stirling SA 5152
Phone (08) 8278 5477
Fax (08) 8339 7070

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
Email denrinformation@sa.gov.au
Website www.parks.sa.gov.au

After-hours emergencies:

Contact the Duty Officer on 1300 650 411
and quote pager number 465 283

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Revised October 2010 FIS 90842