

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*



Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park has been recognised as a significant area for nature conservation and protects many rare plants. Covering an area of 300 hectares, its natural features include sand dunes, sand blows, mallee scrub, remnant red gum forests, lacy coral lichen and closed heaths.

In such a fragile sand environment people can easily disturb the natural balance causing erosion and damage to vegetation. Please tread carefully and keep on the designated walking trails as you discover Aldinga Scrub's plant communities and the animals living in them.

How to get to the park

Aldinga Scrub is situated on the coastline of Gulf St Vincent between the townships of Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach, 46 kilometres south of Adelaide. From Adelaide take Main South Road and turn right at Aldinga Beach Road or Norman Road. Bitumen and gravel roads provide conventional vehicle access to the park boundary.

Visitors cannot drive into the park. Walkers can enter via stiles or gates at the corner of Wattle Avenue and Acacia Terrace, Quandong Avenue, Fraser Street, Boomerang Avenue and Cox Road west of Camp Kursa. A small car park is located on the corner of Fraser and Dover Streets.

On **total fire ban days** the park is closed for safety reasons.

Facilities

- Visitors to the park must be self-sufficient as there are no facilities provided.
- Camping is not permitted and all types of fires including gas barbecues are prohibited.
- Accommodation is available close to the park at Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach.

Things to do

Walking trails of varying lengths provide the opportunity to explore the park's habitats and unique plant life. Take the time to stop, look and listen for animals and birdlife. You will hear a wide range of sounds and see a variety of plants. During spring the park is ablaze with wildflowers making any walk an enjoyable experience. Allow 20 minutes to walk one kilometre and carry drinking water with you.

Geology

Aldinga Scrub is situated in an area known as the Willunga sub-basin. This was formed by red clays being washed down from the Willunga Hills over several thousand years. Sands from the ocean floor have been deposited over the clays and an older red marine sand deposit.

Mobile sand dunes known as 'sand blows' occur along the western boundary of the park. These mobile dunes are backed by semi-stabilised sand dune ridges which reach up to 35 metres high. Further inland, stabilised dunes up to ten metres high alternate with swales to form an undulating sand plain.

History

Aldinga Scrub was part of the territory of the Kaurna Aboriginal people who used the area during the summer months. The scrub yielded a rich and bountiful supply of food and materials used for utensils. Shellfish, fish, marsupials, reptiles, birds and plant foods such as nardoo, muntries, yams and quandongs were abundant.

The first European settler in the area was Mr F Culley in 1857. Before World War I the scrub was subdivided and several attempts were made to farm the area. Because of the sandy soils, farming did not prove viable.

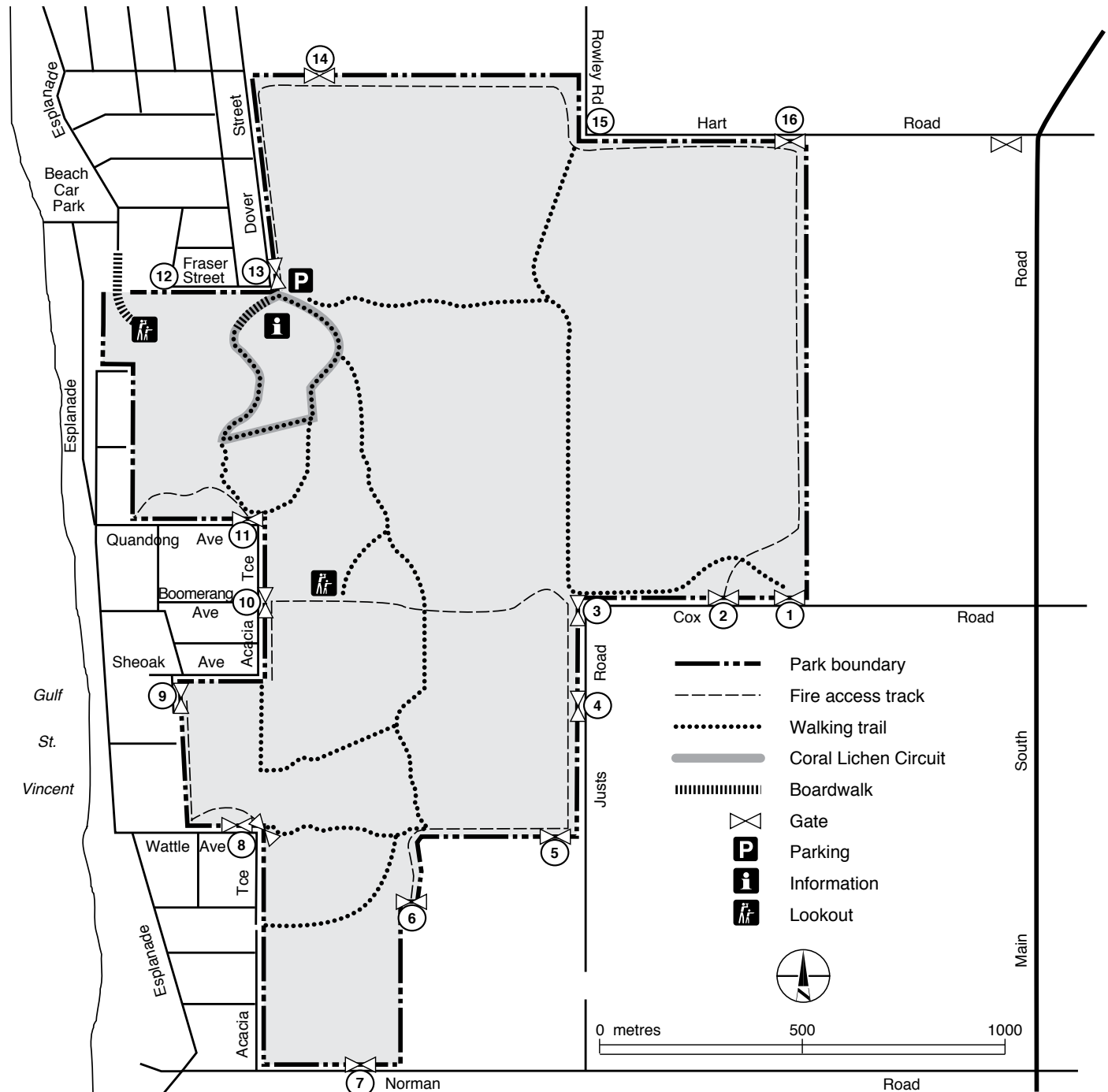
In the 1960s the Willunga Council became concerned that subdivision of the area would cause erosion. Between 1965 and 1982, 300 hectares were purchased at Aldinga to be managed by the State Planning Authority as an Open Space Reserve. In 1985 the reserve was declared Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park.

Plants

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park contains a diverse range of plant communities from sedgeland and closed heaths to pink gum woodlands and mallee scrub. These plants, adapted to the sandy soils, help stabilise the sand dunes and help prevent sand blows.

Low woodlands and heath communities cover most of Aldinga Scrub. In the north-east and far eastern sections of the scrub, a low woodland of mallee box trees grows on brown sandy loam soils. Sedgelands grow in areas where the watertable is close to the surface and the soil is semi-permanently waterlogged. Tall shrublands of drooping sheoak give way to low-growing coastal dune vegetation on the western side of the scrub.

Several rare species of plants are found in the park. They include lacy coral lichen, nardoo, hairy sedge and several species of orchids.



Animals

More than 166 different bird species can be seen and heard within Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park. Some are migratory and visit the area for only a few months each year. If you watch quietly you may spot mistletoe birds, rainbow bee-eaters, brown goshawks and golden whistlers.

The park's vegetation provides a variety of host plants for 18 species of butterflies and 540 species of other insects. Brushtail possums, short-beaked echidnas, bats, geckoes and skinks live in the park. Aldinga Scrub also provides a home for brown snakes and red-bellied black snakes.

Friends of Aldinga Scrub

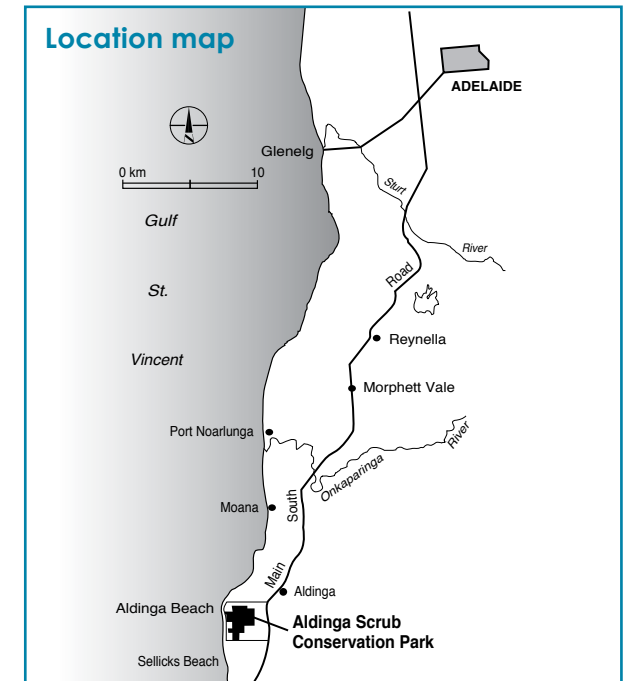
This is a local group of the statewide Friends of Parks. For further information about this group contact: Belair Office Phone (08) 8278 5477.

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.
- All fires including gas barbecues are prohibited.
- Respect geological 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.

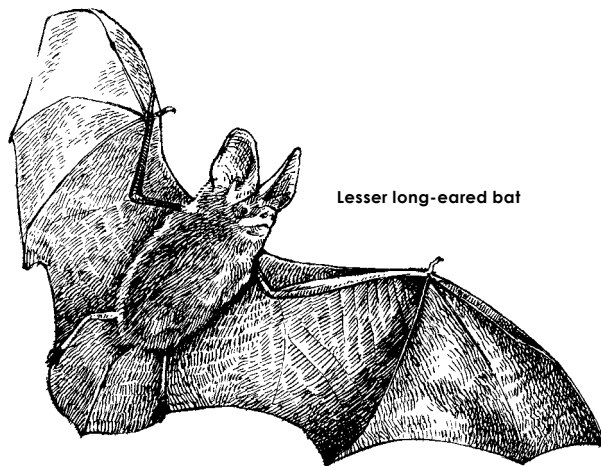
Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.



For further information contact:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Southern Lofty District Office
PO Box 783 Stirling SA 5162
Phone (08) 8278 5477
Fax (08) 8278 8587

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
Email denrinformation@sa.gov.au
Website www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks
Emergency Officer Contact (24 Hr Service):
Phone 1300 650 411 & quote pager number 46 52 83



Lesser long-eared bat