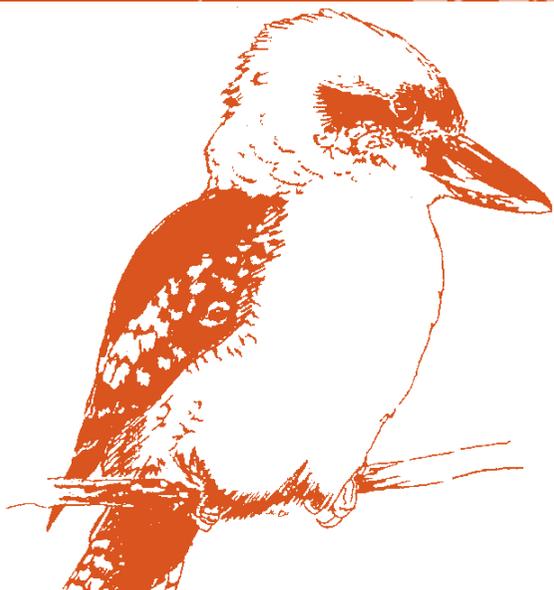


Brownhill Creek Recreation Park



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Government
of South Australia



Situated in the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, only eight kilometres south of the city centre, Brownhill Creek Recreation Park is a popular multi-use recreation area. The 52-hectare park is both historic and picturesque – it features a narrow creek flowing through a steep-sided valley with majestic river red gums, some more than 300 years old.

How to get to the park

The park is located on Brownhill Creek Road, off Taylors Road, Brownhill Creek. A narrow sealed road provides vehicle access into the park from Brownhill Creek Road, or on foot from Northbrook Avenue. Car parking is provided throughout the park. Entry is free.

Facilities

The Mitcham Lions Club picnic area has shaded picnic tables available. Camping is not permitted within the park, but accommodation is available at Brownhill Creek Caravan Park. The caravan park also operates a kiosk. Walking and multi-use trails, catering for horses and bikes, are available.

Bushwalking and shared use trails

Wirraparinga Trail



HIKE

MODERATE

- some moderate inclines
- irregular surface with loose, uneven base
- average level of fitness

(2.3 km one way,
45 min one way)

Enjoy the rugged terrain that takes you through shaded areas of old European trees and note the sections of rare grey box woodland on some of the southern slopes.



Shared Use Trail

(3 km one way, 1 hr one way)

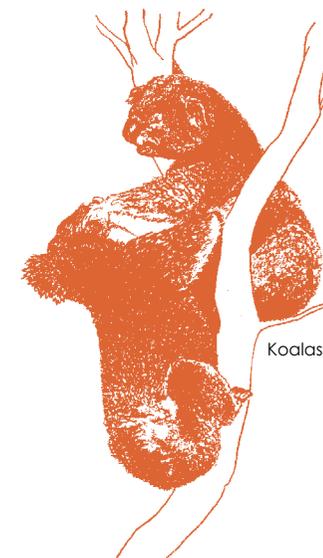
Please respect other trail users, including cyclists and horse riders. Horses and bikes can also use the sealed road, but must not use designated walking trails.

History

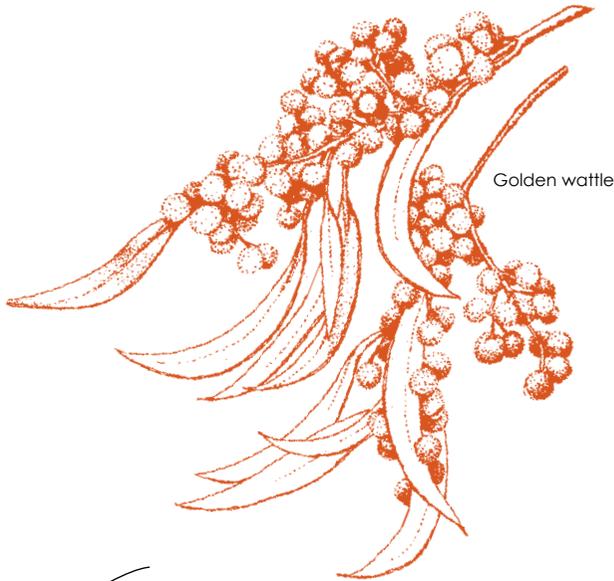
Brownhill Creek was once a favourite camping, hunting and gathering ground for the Kaurna (Garna) Aboriginal people, who called it Wirraparinga (scrub and camping place). As many as 150 people inhabited the area at one time.

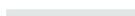
The first European to settle in the area was Pastor William Finlayson who arrived in 1837. By 1840, agriculture, market gardening and quarrying were important local industries. Concrete pits were used to store horse manure for the market gardens and to prevent pollution of the creek, while stone quarries provided sandstone and slate for buildings.

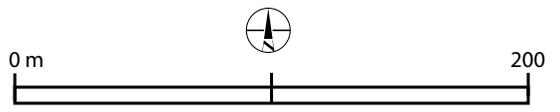
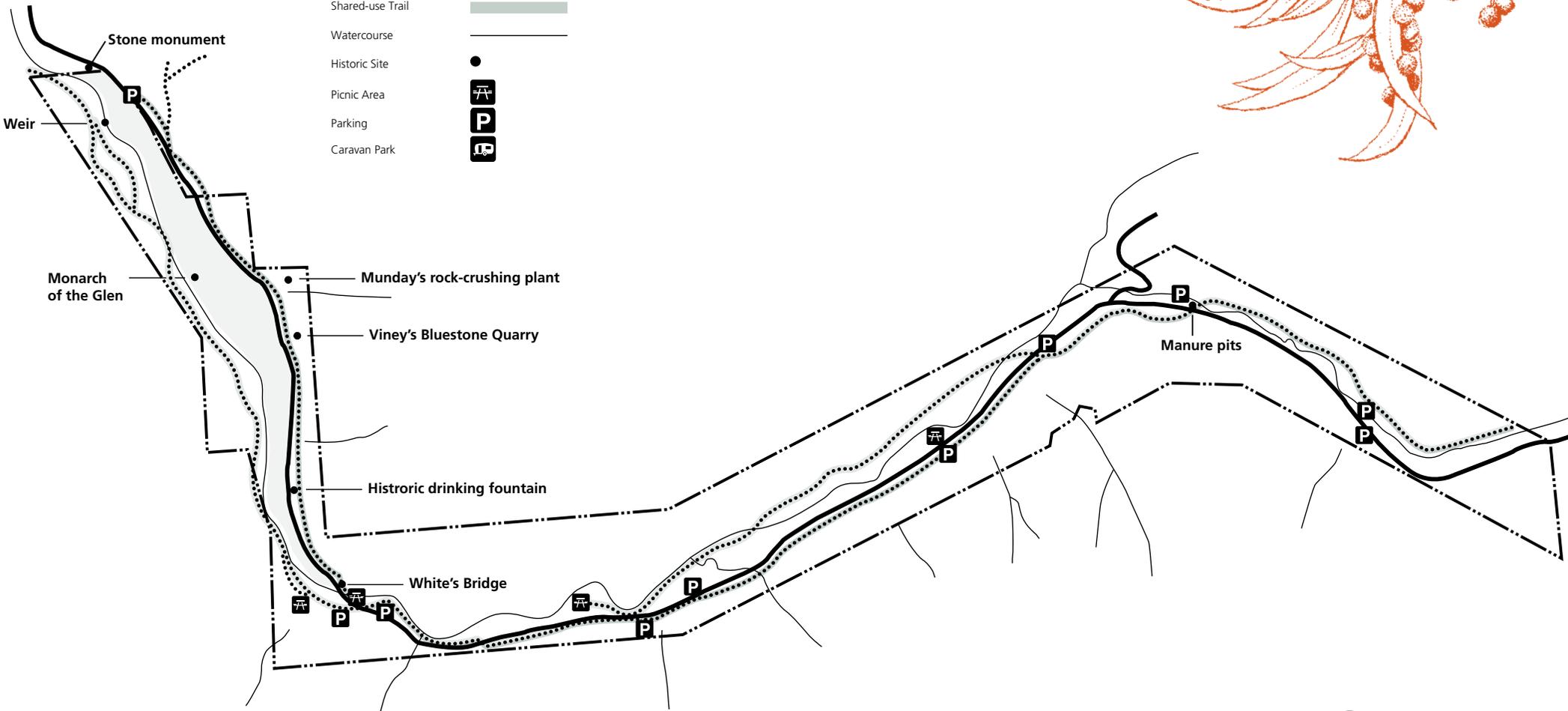
In 1915 the area was declared a National Pleasure Resort, becoming the Brownhill Creek Recreation Park in 1972.



Koalas



- Park Boundary 
- Sealed Road 
- Walking Trail 
- Wirraparinga Trail 
- Shared-use Trail 
- Watercourse 
- Historic Site 
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 
- Caravan Park 



Plants and animals

Large river red gums line Brownhill Creek while blue gum woodland climbs the valley slopes.

The creek valley is a natural wildlife corridor for over 40 species of birds and mammals. Permanent residents include kookaburras, bats, possums, water rats, frogs, eastern brown snakes and the occasional koala.

Geology

The Mount Lofty Ranges began to form some 800 million years ago. Siltstone and limestone were deposited in shallow seas that once covered the area. Intense geological activity changed the physical structure of sediments to form slates and quartzite. Over time, Brownhill Creek has carved a steep wide valley, depositing fertile soils through the valley and onto the plains.

Pets

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

Friends of Brownhill Creek

The Friends of Brownhill Creek volunteer group, established in 1985, assists Department of Environment and Natural Resources staff with the maintenance of the environment and facilities within the park. Further details on this group can be obtained through the Southern Lofty District Office.

Fire bans

The park may be closed on Total Fire Ban days.

The National Parks Code

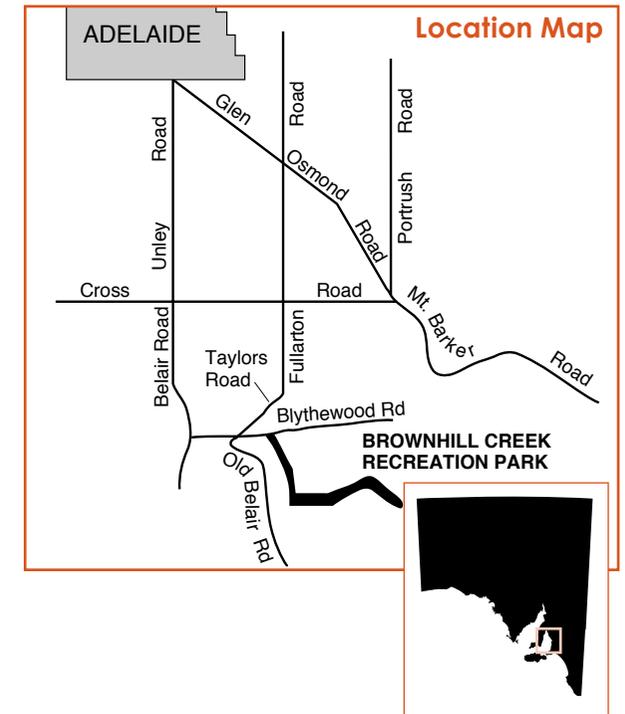
Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- 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.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves/barbecues only. Solid fuel fires 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.

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



Brushtail possums



For further information contact:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Belair National Park Office
 PO Box 2
 Belair SA 5052
 Phone (08) 8278 5477
 Fax (08) 8339 7070

After-hours emergencies

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

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910

Email denrinformation@sa.gov.au

Website www.parks.sa.gov.au

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