



40 THINGS TO DO IN ANSTEY HILL RECREATION PARK

A park that tells a hundred different stories of geology, aboriginal culture, settlement & mining. With a network of trails going through woodlands, grasslands, gullies, creeks, lookouts, & natural treasures worth finding. Old ruins are dotted throughout the Park with quarries, mines, geological marvels & fascinating things to discover. Kangaroos, echidnas, bats, lizards, frogs, & possums call the park home whilst wildflowers & butterflies can be seen in almost any colour.

Anstey Hill Recreation Park is a much-loved park by families, bushwalkers, historians, nature enthusiasts, geologists, birdwatchers, and artists. With a network of trails, steep gullies, ridge tops, creek lines, mines and ruins such as Ellis Cottage and Newman's Nursery dating back to the early 1800's, it's a park that every family should get to explore.

For thousands of years the Kaurna (Gar-na) people lived in areas such as Anstey Hill during the cooler months, using the woodlands for fire, warmth and shelter. During the summer, the Kaurna lived along the coast, taking advantage of cool, ocean breezes.

The Park is home to Western Grey Kangaroos, Tawny and Bearded Dragons, Stumpy and Bluetongue Lizards, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Superb Fairy-wrens, Short-beaked Echidnas, bats, butterflies, beetles, and hundreds of other amazing creatures. The Park has wildflowers that bloom in every season with almost 300 native plants throughout.

The Park is cared for by Park Rangers and the Friends of Anstey Hill Recreation Park. It is also accessible via public transport.

You can download a map for Anstey Hill Recreation Park from environment.sa.gov.au/parks

PARK PROFILE

-  Toilets
-  Wheelchair access
-  Pram access
-  Shared trails
-  Riding only
-  Walking only
-  Scenic views

Name: Anstey Hill Recreation Park

First established: 1989

Size: 362 hectares

Location: 16km east of Adelaide.

Number of plants and animals: 290 plant species, 35 species of reptile and amphibian, 145 species of birds, over 10 species of mammals with countless numbers of invertebrates including butterflies, beetles, and ants.

Some threatened and endangered plants and animals:

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Cunningham's Skink, Lemon Beauty Heads (*Calocephalus citreus*), Compact Bedstraw (*Galium compactum*), Great Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra aristata*), Plum Leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum pruinoseum*), Dainty Maiden-hair (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*), Spotted Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra ixioides*) and Hairy Heads (*Ptilotus erubescens*).

AUTUMN



Autumn in the Park sees new life given to the gullies, bare soil and dry rock faces.

With moss, lichen, orchids, and fungi appearing in hundreds of different places.

- 1 Explore Water Gully Track after autumn rains and spot moss, bright lichen, droplets of rain on fern leaves and notice the smell of damp earth and soft ground beneath your feet 🌿🌧️
- 2 From Gate 8 walk down to the Geological Hike and find the towering quarry rock face that was once used as a venue for performances by the Festival of Arts in 1980 and 1988 🌿🌧️
- 3 From the picnic area at Little Quarry Loop head up to Kaurna Way and spot grazing Western Grey Kangaroos. Take a moment to imagine how the Kaurna people used the gullies, trees, and wildlife around you 🌿🌧️
- 4 Stroll along Water Gully Track listening for Kookaburras & spotting the different coloured fungi such as **Dye Balls**, Collared Earthstars, and Spectacular Rust Fungus 🌿🌧️
- 5 Looking at the Park map and starting from Gate 1, create your own hike using the network of trails throughout the Park
- 6 In late autumn walk the Quarry Views Hike and spot the glistening leaves of the insect-eating Scented Sundew as they begin to emerge 🌿🌧️
- 7 Map your own route to Silver Mine Loop where you'll discover old mine shafts from 1853, keep an eye out for ant mounds – they provide important homes for families of ants 🌿🌧️
- 8 Take a stroll along the Wednesday Loop, named after the day that the Friends of Anstey Hill Recreation Park commit to weeding, revegetating and monitoring flora and fauna 🌿🌧️
- 9 Challenge yourself by taking a hike along the Pink Gum Loop; incorporating Wildflower Wander (walking only) and Ridgetop Track and spot **Tawny Dragons** or the rare Cunningham's Skink 🌿🌧️
- 10 Head to the nearby Angove Conservation Park to explore one of the last remaining stands of Drooping Sheoak. 🌿

WINTER



Winter in the Park sees the rain soak the soil; the creeks start to flow; and fog cover the hills.

There are frogs to spot, muddy paths to explore, and hundreds of adventures to fulfill.

- 1 Take your gum boots and stroll along Water Gully Track where you will walk through puddles, hear frogs, and spot a sleeping Koala in their favourite trees – Rough-barked Manna Gums 🌿🌧️
- 2 From Gate 8 stroll down the Geological Hike and spot the different types of fungi, moss and lichen 🌿🌧️
- 3 In late winter, walk along Quarry Views Hike and take time to smell the **Golden Wattle** as it begins to bloom and keep an eye out for the caterpillar of the Wattle Blue Butterfly as they eat new leaves and wattle buds 🌿🌧️
- 4 For a historical morning visit Ellis Cottage (built in 1854), Rump's Bakehouse (built in 1867), and the National Trust Museum then head further into the Park for a short walk to Little Quarry Loop and listen out for the 'chring chring' call of the Grey Currawong – a large black bird with a white tail and yellow eyes 🌿🌧️
- 5 Take a camera or sketch pad along to the Park with you and capture, sketch, or write something about the wintery landscape
- 6 With almost 40 species of native orchids there "are quite a few that emerge in winter, pick a section of the Yellowtail Loop and see how many orchids you can spot. They include **Dwarf Greenhoods**, Winter Gnat Orchids and Mosquito Orchids 🌿🌧️
- 7 In late winter explore Bursaria Hike and spot the array of colourful fungi and yellow sprays of wattles as their buds begin to bloom 🌿🌧️
- 8 Following winter rains discover pools of water in low lying areas in the gully along the Wednesday Loop, some years small waterfalls appear as the water flows into the old quarry area 🌿🌧️
- 9 Choose your own adventure by using the 25km network of sustainable, shared use trails
- 10 Around the picnic area at Little Quarry Loop take notice of the geology in the rock layers. You'll see evidence of exposed folding and faulting that would normally be below the soil surface. 🌿🌧️

DO YOU KNOW?

- Mistletoe is an important part of the park's habitat. It's spread by the Mistletoe Bird that eats the sticky fruit causing its droppings to be sticky. The bird wipes the stickiness onto a branch, which contains the seeds, and Mistletoe can then grow.

SPRING



Spring in the Park sees orchids, lilies, billy buttons and paper daisies line the paths, gullies and ridge tops.

Whilst birds sing, butterflies flutter, lizards bask in the sun and the creeks fill with frogs.

- 1 From Gate 9 walk along Geological Hike to where you'll travel amongst wildflowers and native grasses such as Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby-grass, Spear-grass 🦘 🐸
- 2 For a more challenging adventure head up the Pink Gum Loop using Wildflower Walk Track and spot Purple Cockatoo orchids, Twinning Fringe Lilies, Billy Buttons, Spotted Donkey Orchids and **King Spider Orchids** 🦘 🐸
- 3 Head up the Pink Gum Loop using Ridgetop Track where you will travel through Grass Trees with tall flowering stalks, scented flowering wattles and if you're lucky you may hear the rare Chestnut-rumped Heathwren 🦘 🐸
- 4 From the picnic area at Little Quarry Loop head up Yellowtail Loop using the steep Wednesday Loop where you'll see rocky-covered slope and views across the Adelaide Plains 🦘 🐸
- 5 From Carpark 6 wander along Water Gully Track to the historic Newman's Nursery ruins which was once considered the largest nursery in the southern hemisphere (some parts may be unstable so it's best to observe the ruins and not climb them) 🦘 🐸
- 6 Explore Little Quarry Loop track on your bike or stroll and spot basking Stumpy Lizards as they emerge after winter 🦘 🐸 🦎
- 7 Just north-west from the Little Quarry Loop picnic area take a short walk along Yellowtail Loop where you'll journey through dense Kangaroo Thorn wattles which provide important protection to many small birds such as White-browed Scrubwrens and brightly coloured Superb Fairy-wrens 🦘 🐸
- 8 Head up Quarry Views Hike & spot the **Box Mistletoe** hanging in the trees, you may see birds eating the berries, sipping the nectar of the flowers, or seeking protection from bigger birds 🦘 🐸
- 9 Based on your mountain biking ability, select a bike or shared trail to ride whilst taking in all the natural scenery 🚴 🐸
- 10 For those looking for a day-long hike, walk the Yellowtail Loop and you will no doubt encounter curious wildlife such as the inquisitive Grey Fantail and social Superb Fairy-wren. 🦘 🐸

SUMMER



Summer in the Park sees kangaroos and koalas sleeping all through the day to escape the heat.

Whilst flowering bluebells and white flowers of the Christmas Bush some of the best nature you'll see.

- 1 As the sun rises explore the Geological Hike (from Gate 9), read the interpretive signs to learn what the Gun Emplacement is, take in the views and spot the Common Brown butterflies 🦘 🐸
- 2 From Carpark 6 head onto Yellowtail Loop where you can explore the spring-fed creek, spot tadpoles and listen out for Brown Tree Frogs as they hide amongst the Bulrush 🦘 🐸
- 3 For a short relaxing walk head in from Gate 18 to The Lookout where you can look out over the Adelaide Plains and Gulf St Vincent. Listen out for the call of male Koalas as spring and summer is their mating season 🦘 🐸
- 4 For an early morning challenge head up to Wildflower Wander (walking only) or Ridge Top Walk using the Pink Gum Loop where you may see kangaroos grazing and purple Garland Lilies flowering 🦘 🐸
- 5 Hike along Bursaria Loop and take some time to smell the white flowers of the Sweet Bursaria (also known as Christmas Bush) 🦘 🐸
- 6 Hike up Quarry Views Track and find the corridor of **Drooping Sheoak** trees. Beneath canopies you'll find their cones on the ground – a key food source for the **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** 🦘 🐸
- 7 At sunset head up to Quarry Views Hike or Geological Hike and find a place to watch the sky change colour as the sun sets 🦘 🐸 🦎
- 8 Start the day early and go for an adventure along Water Gully Track and spot the many birds along the creekline as they sing in canopies, hide in the ferns and feed on eucalypt blossoms and insects 🦘 🐸 🦎
- 9 Have a morning picnic at Little Quarry Loop. Watch for grazing kangaroos and keep an eye out for Common Garden Skinks as they emerge to get some morning sun 🦘 🐸 🦎
- 10 If you're an experienced rider and up for some downhill excitement try Wildside Downhill track which is categorised as a black diamond run. 🚴 🐸

L: Tawny Dragon (JT)
R: Dye Balls (JT)



L: Dwarf Greenhood (JT)
R: Golden Wattle (JT)



L: King Spider Orchid (JT)
R: Box Mistletoe (JT)



L: Drooping Sheoak (JT)
R: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos (JT)



LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

- 1 Keep wildlife wild:** We must never feed wildlife as it can be unhealthy for them and impact their natural behaviour. If you encounter wildlife always keep a safe distance so you don't frighten them and always keep your dog on a leash.
- 2 Leave things as you found them:** If you discover ant mounds, decaying logs or bark hanging off trees they all provide important habitat and should be left undisturbed. The old ruins help tell us a story of the past like an outdoor museum and pieces should never be taken, moved, or damaged.

- 3 Leave nothing but footprints:** Always take your rubbish with you or even better pack a litter-free lunch. Stick to designated pathways as many of the plants, rocks and other geological features are fragile and easily damaged.
- 4 Share my trail:** If bike riding in the park remember to keep left, ride slow, and say g'day.
Old ruins throughout the Park may be unstable and should never be climbed.

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This resource is part of the Park of the Month, an initiative run in partnership between Nature Play SA and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Photos by Jason Tyndall (JT). Writings by Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA.