



40 THINGS TO DO IN MORIALTA CONSERVATION PARK

The name 'Morialta' is a Kurna phrase 'moriatta' meaning 'ever-flowing'. The Park is rich in Aboriginal, European, and natural history. The area is the traditional lands of the Kurna (Gar-na) people. They used the land for hunting and gathering and obtaining wood for fire and shelter. One of the group's most important tools was fire to aid hunting and encourage regrowth.

Morialta Conservation Park is a well-loved family spot for picnicking, bird watching and bushwalking. It offers family-friendly amenities such as *Mukanthi* (Kurna word for Play and Celebrate)/Morialta Play Space, shelters, toilets, open spaces, car parking, educational signage, easy access to public transport, accessible creeks and amazing views from a number of vantage points such as Deep View Lookout, Giant's Cave and Kookaburra Rock.

Morialta is rich in wildlife including koalas, echidnas, kangaroos, parrots, honeyeaters, skinks and dragons, fish, frogs, bats, insects and possums. Every day there are different wildlife sightings across the Park including threatened species such as the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren and Cunningham's Skink.

The Park is maintained and cared for by Rangers and the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta. For more information such as Park maps visit environment.sa.gov.au/parks

PARK PROFILE

Name: Morialta Conservation Park.

First established: August 1912.

Size: 567 hectares.

Location: 12km east of the CBD.

Some endangered or rare species:

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Peregrine Falcon, Adelaide Hills Banded Pterostylis, Cunningham's Skink.

AUTUMN



Autumn in the park sees new life given to the creeks, bare soil and dry rock faces

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

- 1 Venture along Three Falls Grand Hike to watch the sunset at Deep View Lookout. Keep an eye out for **Superb Fairywrens**, Southern Boobooks and Tawny Frogmouths.
- 2 Fourth Creek is home to the Brown Toadlet with a call that sounds like 'ark...ark' or the Common Froglet which calls 'crick, crick, crick, crick, crick'.
- 3 Have a family picnic at the Stradbroke Rd Picnic Area where you can fly a kite or throw a Frisbee.
- 4 Let the children select a lookout to venture to: Deep View, Eagles Nest, Kookaburra Rock or Second Falls.
- 5 Explore Frog Island in the *Mukanthi Nature Playspace* and have fun cubby building.
- 6 Chose a trail for some early morning bird spotting. You may hear the **Striated Pardalote**, Eastern Spinebill or the mournful sound of the Common Bronzewing.
- 7 For a more challenging hike follow the Yurrebilla Trail up Rocky Hill Track and down Moores Track, across Montacute Rd and up into the neighbouring Black Hill Conservation Park, which offers views across the Adelaide Plains.
- 8 Walk along Fourth Creek to First Falls and look up at the Gum Trees. Count the number of Koalas you can see.
- 9 Bring the family to explore the new *Mukanthi Nature Playspace* and crawl through the Giant Snake.
- 10 Go for an early morning walk to listen and spot the many birds that call the park home, such as the Adelaide Rosella and Rainbow Lorikeet, who you may see using old tree hollows.

WINTER



Winter in the Park sees the creeks and waterfalls flow, fungi emerge as wildflowers begin to wake.

Echidnas are on the move as the Park prepares for spring and is full of life on any path you take.

- 1 Head to the Kookaburra Rock Lookout where you will see the spectacular First Falls as it flows. As you wander along see if you can spot some bird nests.
- 2 Walk the Morialta Falls Valley Walk to the viewing platform at the base of First Falls and see the waterfall at full flow.
- 3 Walk Fourth Creek, to Third Falls and keep an eye out for White-browed Scrubwrens.
- 4 Choose a trail to explore and try to spot Dwarf Greenhoods, Helmet Orchids, Winter Gnat Orchids and a Mosquito Orchids.
- 5 Learn about the Kaurna Heritage represented throughout the *Mukanthi Nature Playspace* and spot the traditional Kaurna artwork.
- 6 Put on your gumboots (and the kids) and explore Fourth Creek and if it's not too cold take them off for a while and feel the cold water between your toes.
- 7 Hike the Second Falls Gorge Hike and cross the bridge overlooking the waterfall in full flow. As you walk along search for any signs of wildlife such as diggings and feathers.
- 8 Enter via Moores Rd to explore the top end of the park where you may notice the beautiful pink and white flowers of the **Common Heath** (*Epacris impressa*).
- 9 Take Woodforde Track off Morialta Falls Rd where you may get a glimpse of **Echidnas** as they forage for ants and form 'Echidna trains'.
- 10 Take the family along the Morialta Falls Valley Walk and spot the different types of Fungi along the way such as Dye Balls, Pixies Parasol and Spectacular Rust Fungus.

DID YOU KNOW?

Winter is the breeding season of the Echidna. They can form 'trains' where several males follow a female around hoping to mate.

SPRING



Spring in the Park sees the air fill with the scent of hundreds of wildflowers and the soft hum of insects.

The warm sunshine, drifting clouds, and deep blue sky set the scene for adventures that you'll never forget.

- 1 Walk the Morialta Falls Plateau Hike and enjoy the view of First Falls from Eagles Nest Lookout. Keep an eye out for the **Australian Painted Lady butterflies** as they flutter along the path.
- 2 Explore the new *Mukanthi Nature Playspace*, climb up Eagle's Nest and take the slide back down.
- 3 Have a picnic on the lawn near Stradbroke Rd and make use of the free bbq facilities.
- 4 Bring your camera and take some photos of wildlife in the park such as Koalas, Kangaroos, Lizards and a range of bird species.
- 5 When standing at Eagles Nest Lookout see who can coo-ee the loudest.
- 6 For a more challenging adventure go beyond Deep View Lookout up Rocky Hill Track. Keep an eye out for orchids such as Dwarf Greenhoods and **King Spider Orchids**.
- 7 Cross the creek onto Frog Island in the *Mukanthi Nature Playspace* and see how many tadpoles you can spot.
- 8 Enter via Gate 19 off Montacute Rd and walk up Fox Hill Track to see the yellow flowers of the Golden Wattle.
- 9 From the Stradbroke Rd Picnic Area count how many Kookaburras you can see and hear.
- 10 Bring a torch and go on the Morialta Falls Valley Walk at night to catch a glimpse of the nocturnal wildlife such as Ringtail Possums and Gould's Wattled Bat.

SUMMER



Summer in the Park sees families and wildlife seeking the shade of old trees,

Whilst the Christmas Bush blooms as their beautiful scent drifts through the summer breeze.

- 1 Hike to Deep View Lookout (approx. 700m) where you'll look out over the Adelaide CBD and northern suburbs. Keep an eye out for Peregrine Falcons soaring across the gully.
- 2 Head to Giant's Cave and imagine what it may have been used for by the Kurna people.
- 3 Explore Fourth Creek and keep an eye out for Garden Skinks as they scurry along the pathway.
- 4 Visit the *Mukanthi Nature Playspace* and practice your climbing skills on the climbing boulders. Find the handprint in the rocks.
- 5 Head along the Morialta Falls Plateau Hike and keep an eye out for **Stumpy Lizards** basking in the sun.
- 6 Head up to Kookaburra Rock Lookout and watch the way the sun catches the rocks – see how many different colours you can see.
- 7 Make use of daylight savings and the cooler summer nights to take your dog for a walk on a lead from the Stradbroke Rd Picnic Area to the First Falls carpark.
- 8 Choose a vantage point such as Eagles Nest Lookout to take a photo from the same point each season to see how the park changes.
- 9 Choose a walk for some early morning bird spotting. You may see Crescent Honeyeaters, Striated Thornbills and **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos**.
- 10 Visit the park after summer rain, take in the smell of damp soil and watch how the rocks change colours along the cliff faces.

L: Superb Fairywren (SW)
R: Striated Pardalote (JT)



L: Short-beaked Echidna (JG)
R: Common Heath (JT)



L: King Spider Orchid (JT)
R: Australian Painted Lady butterfly (JT)



L: Stumpy Lizard (JT)
R: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (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 lead and pick up after them (refer to the Park map for dog walking zone).
- 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.
- 3 Care for wildlife:** Always be quiet around wildlife and keep your dog on a lead as they can scare and sometimes harm wildlife (refer to the Park map for dog walking zone).

- 4 Take the Lead:** Always pick up after your dog and only walk them on lead from the picnic area and up to First Falls car park (refer to the Park map for dog walking zone).
- 5 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.

The Park is closed on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger and may be closed on days of Extreme Fire Danger and Severe Weather.

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 (DEWNR). Photos by Jason Tyndall (JT), Jeremy Gramp (JG), Steve Walker (SW) and DEWNR (front cover). Writings by Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA.