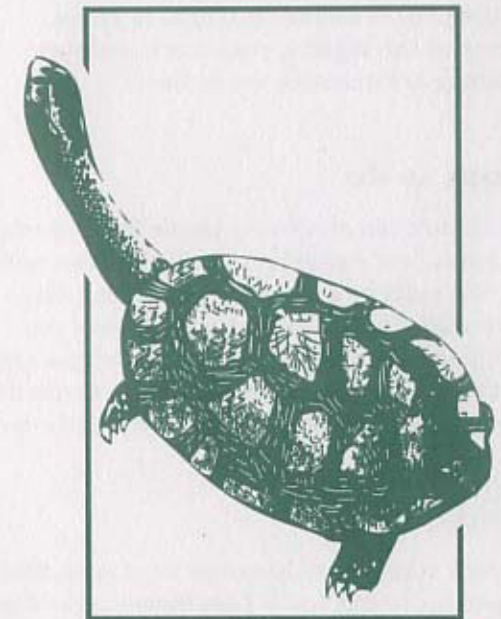


Penola Conservation Park



'Keeping our future alive'

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 (1 November - 30 April)
- conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves
- respect geological or heritage sites
- keep 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
- firearms and hunting is not permitted.

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

For further information contact:

National Parks and Wildlife SA
 Mount Gambier Office
 11 Helen Street
 PO Box 1046
 Mount Gambier SA 5290
 Phone (08) 8735 1111, Fax (08) 8735 1110

For information on other SA parks contact:

The Environment Shop
 77 Grenfell Street ADELAIDE SA 5000
 Phone (08) 8204 1910, Fax (08) 8204 1919
 Email: environmentshop@saugov.sa.gov.au
www.parks.sa.gov.au



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Government of South Australia

A park for all seasons

Penola Conservation Park protects a remnant of the river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) lined swamps that were widespread in the South East of South Australia.

Located 10 kilometres west of Penola this park contains a wide variety of plant associations and bird habitats, with 370 plant species and 97 bird species being recorded. Spring is the best time to visit the park to see native plants in flower, however as the seasons pass there is always something of interest to see or hear.

Things to do

The car park has two rustic picnic tables formed from giant river red gum trees. You can sit and enjoy the quiet or explore the park along the nature trail. The 2.5 kilometre trail takes you through several different plant associations and over the swamp across a boardwalk. Interpretive signs explain some of the features along the walk.

Vegetation

This park consists of the native vegetation that was present in the South East before agriculture and forestry become widespread. Plant associations are related to the varying soil types of the park. On the dunes there is an open woodland of brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus arenacea*). The flats associated with the wetlands support river red gums. Water-ribbons (*Triglochin procerum*) and running marsh flower (*Villarsia reniformis*) grow in the swamps. The low heath area is bright in spring with common fringe-myrtle (*Calytrix tetragona*), flame heath (*Astroloma conostephioides*) and yellow guinea flower (*Hibbertia riparia*). Masses of dainty spider orchids (*Caladenia* sp.) also flower in spring and can be seen beside the nature trail. *Whatever the season, there is something flowering.*

Wildlife

Birds are the most commonly encountered animals at Penola Conservation Park. If you sit quietly you may be lucky to see an endangered red-tailed black-cockatoo or perhaps the elusive restless flycatcher. Flocks of yellow-tailed black-cockatoos squawking raucously can be usually heard as they fly overhead on their way to feed on neighbouring pine trees.

The swamps provide a breeding area for numerous species of waterbirds. If there is water in the swamp, you will probably see herons, ibis

or purple swamphens constantly flicking their tails as they feed in the rushes. If the swamp is dry, magpie-larks may be out on the swamp bed searching for insects.

While walking in the park you may meet an echidna, red-necked wallaby or western grey kangaroo along the way. At night sugar gliders and bats are active. Sleepy lizards can be seen in the park during summer, and you will most likely hear frog calls or see long-necked tortoises in the winter months. *Whatever the season, the park is full of life.*

During autumn the park awakens and you will find that this is a good time to see the parrots feeding. The ground comes alive with small seasonal plants.

In the heat of summer the park appears to sleep. It is cool and peaceful under the shade of a big red gum. Lizards sun themselves on rocks.

In the winter and spring months much of the park is under water. This is a good time to see water birds and frogs.

Spring is the best time to see the wildflowers and honeyeaters feeding amongst the blossoms. Echidnas shuffle under the shrubs for busy ants.

