

2014 Regional Snapshot

How many people visit parks?


There are more than 60 protected areas in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region (see map at bottom), including national parks, conservation reserves and native forest reserves.

The parks in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region [protect](#) and showcase natural and cultural heritage, including the iconic River Murray, ancient landscapes and fossils, Aboriginal art and engravings, historic European sites, rugged coastlines and ranges, pristine wilderness and unique [plants](#) and [animals](#).

These parks and reserves are also important for [regional tourism](#). They are places where we can all enjoy natural surroundings and the physical, social and psychological health benefits they provide. There is increasing community awareness of these benefits. For example, children develop physically and mentally when they are able to explore and play in natural surroundings.

This report summarises information on the percentage of residents who visited at least one land based park each year. A report on marine parks is available [here](#).

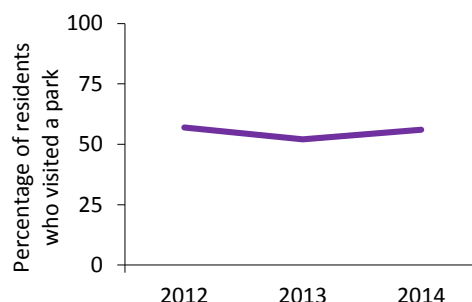


 **State target**
Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2012-14)	Stable	The number of SA Murray-Darling Basin residents visiting parks has been stable
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Within the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region, the percentage of residents who visited a park was between 52-57 per cent from 2012-14 (graph on right).

To encourage more people to visit our parks, the Government of South Australia promotes the physical, social and psychological health benefits of visiting parks and participating in [nature conservation activities](#). For example, [Nature Play SA](#) encourages parents and communities to promote outdoor learning environments.

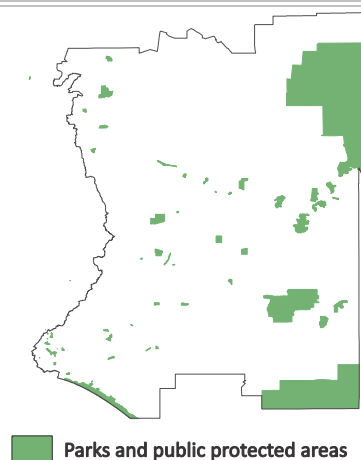


Where we are at (2014)	Fair	In 2014, 56 per cent of residents visited at least one park
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In 2014, the percentage of residents in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region who visited a park was about 56 per cent.

Many of the people who [visit](#) the NRM region from elsewhere also visit a park as part of their trip.

Enhancing visitor experiences and conserving natural and cultural heritage requires careful management. Some of our parks are maintained to protect biodiversity and these parks have few facilities for visitors, but in many cases the Government of South Australia partners with the tourism industry to enhance opportunities for visitors.



Reliability of information  Fair, more standardised information is needed on park visits

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#) and [SA Parks](#)