

2014 Regional Snapshot

How many people visit parks?

There are almost 70 public protected areas in the South East NRM region (see map at bottom), including national parks, marine parks and conservation reserves, and more than one hundred forest reserves, which are all public places.

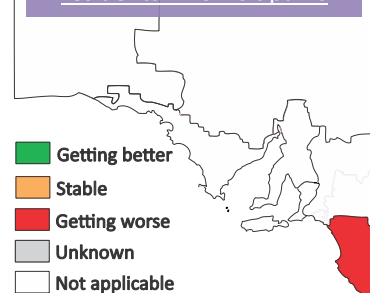
The parks in the South East NRM region [protect](#) and showcase natural and cultural heritage, including ancient landscapes and fossils, Aboriginal art and engravings, historic European sites, rugged coastlines and mountain ranges, pristine wilderness and unique [plants](#) and [animals](#).


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 or reserve each year. A report on our marine parks is available [here](#).



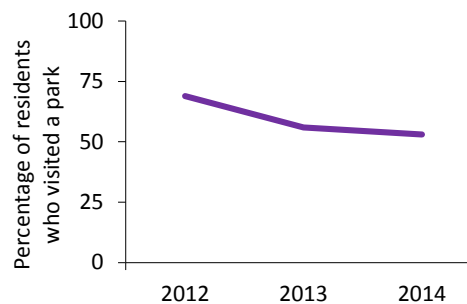
Trend in the number of residents who visit parks



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

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| Trend (2012-14) | Getting worse | The number of South East residents visiting parks has declined |
|------------------------|---------------|--|

Within the South East NRM region, the percentage of residents who visited a park declined from 69 to 53 per cent between 2013-14 (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.

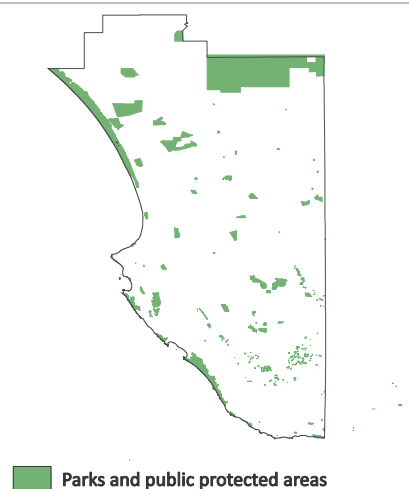


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| Where we are at (2014) | Fair | In 2014, 53 per cent of residents visited at least one park |
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In 2014, the percentage of residents in the South East NRM region who visited a park was about 53 per 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.



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| Reliability of information | ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ | Fair, more information is needed on park visitation |
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Further information: [Technical information for this report](#) and [SA Parks](#)