

2014 State Report Card

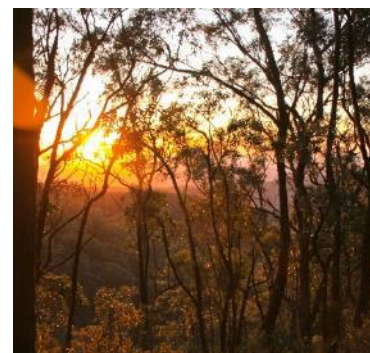
How many people visit parks?

There are more than 400 public protected areas in South Australia (see map at bottom), including national parks, conservation areas, marine parks and native forest reserves.

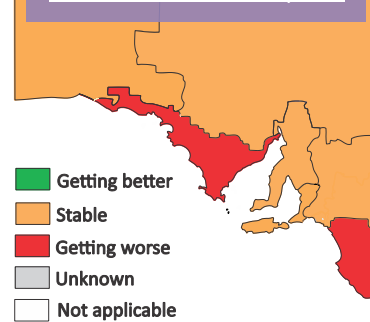
South Australia's parks [protect](#) and showcase our natural and cultural heritage, including ancient landscapes and fossils, Aboriginal art and engravings, historic European sites, rugged coastlines and mountain ranges, pristine wilderness and unique [plants](#) and [animals](#).


Our parks are also important for [regional tourism](#). They are places where we can 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 card summarises information on the percentage of South Australians who visited at least one land based park each year. A report card on our marine parks is available [here](#).



Regional trends in the number of residents who visit parks

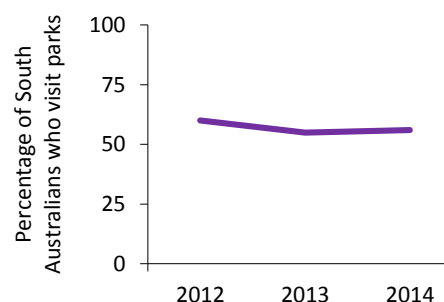


 **State target**
Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2012-14) Stable The number of South Australians visiting parks has been stable

Across South Australia the percentage of residents visiting parks was stable between 2012-14. Since 2012, between 60 and 55 per cent of South Australians visited at least one park each year (graph on right). This trend was not consistent across all regions. The Eyre Peninsula and South East NRM regions had decreasing numbers of residents visiting parks (map above).

National visitor surveys by the Bureau of Tourism Research indicate that domestic overnight trips to parks has declined in Australia. The international visitor survey shows a similar decline in the percentage of international visitors that visit parks or go bushwalking.

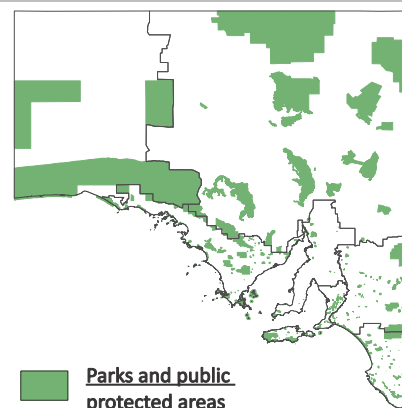


Where we are at (2014) Fair In 2014, 56 per cent of South Australians visited at least one park

In 2014, the percentage of residents who visited a park was highest in the Alinytjara Wilurara (74 per cent) and Kangaroo Island (69 per cent) NRM regions. In the other NRM regions, between 51-57 per cent of residents visited a park.

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.

To encourage more people to visit our parks, the Government 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.



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

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