

# 2013 State Report Card

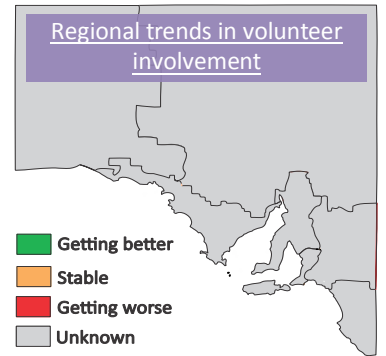
## How many volunteers are involved in natural resource management?

We all have a stake in maintaining the health and sustainability of our natural resources – our plants, animals, soil and water.

One way of engaging and educating people about our natural resources is to provide opportunities for people to volunteer on natural resource management projects. Volunteer projects improve the sustainability of our natural resources and provide opportunities for people to network, learn new skills and improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing.

In South Australia, volunteers are involved in projects on both private and public land. In particular, our parks (national parks, conservation parks, recreation parks and reserves) are popular and accessible places for people to help improve our natural resources.

Volunteer activities include assisting with re-vegetation, soil and land management, native animal and plant surveys, fire management, trail maintenance, weed and pest animal control, heritage site restoration, public education, fund raising, occupational, health and safety training and project administration.

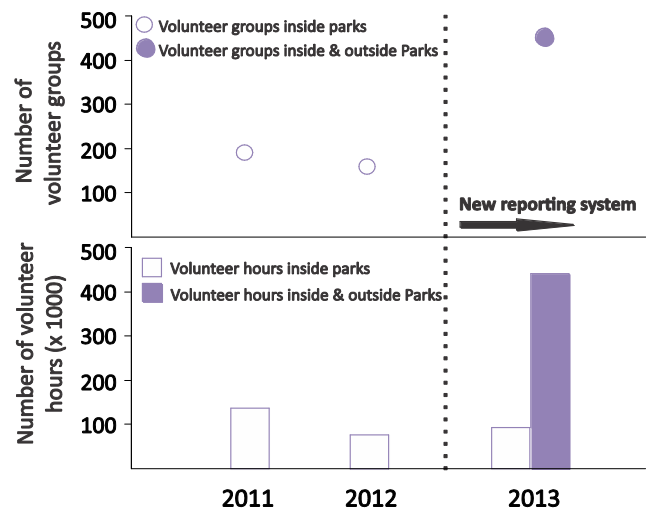


**State target**  
Involve more people in the sustainable management of natural resources

<b>Trend (2011–13)</b>	Unknown	There has been a recent decline in volunteer efforts within parks, but new data collection shows that volunteer efforts outside parks is significant
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Between 2011 and 2012, there was a 40 per cent decline in volunteer efforts inside our parks, and the number of community groups also declined (see graphs on right). The number of hours spent volunteering in parks was stable from 2012 to 2013 (lower graph on right).

From 2013, information has been collected on volunteer activities both inside and outside parks. This highlights the large amount of volunteer work done outside parks across the state — almost four times the number of volunteer hours was spent outside parks, compared to inside (see graph on right).



<b>Where we are at (2013)</b>	Fair	A total of 483 community groups spent over 430,000 hours volunteering on natural resource management projects
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A [survey](#) undertaken by Australian Bureau of Statistics found that more than 60,000 South Australians (about 2.2 per cent) volunteered on natural resource management projects in 2012. These projects included those coordinated or undertaken by private landholders, non-government organisations and government agencies.

In 2013, around 23,000 people from 483 community groups spent over 430,000 hours volunteering on natural resource management projects coordinated or funded by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. About 22 per cent of this volunteer effort was spent on activities in our parks.

**Reliability of information** ★★★★★ Good

**Further information:** [Technical information for this report card](#), [SA Volunteer Strategy](#)