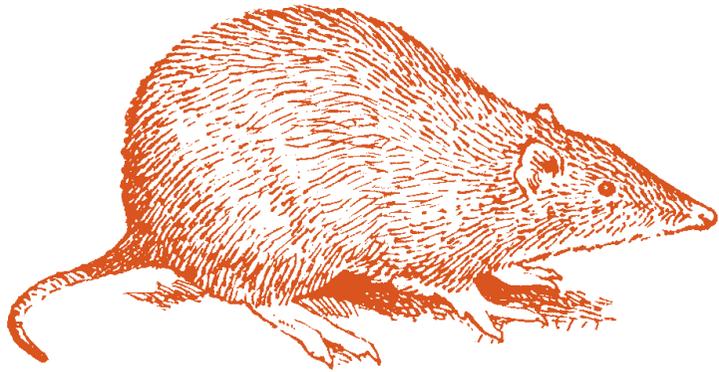


Mark Oliphant Conservation Park



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Featuring tall forest trees, spring wildflowers and relaxing bush sounds, this 189-hectare park is ideal for bushwalking. Typical of an Adelaide Hills forest environment, the park features medium and steep sloping hillsides, rounded ridge-tops and narrow valley floors.

How to get to the park

The park is 22 kilometres south-east of the city centre. It can be reached via the South Eastern Freeway, exiting at Stirling, taking Longwood Road to Heathfield then turning right onto Scott Creek Road. For those approaching from the opposite direction, the park is a 15 minute drive from Blackwood.

Facilities

There are no visitor facilities or amenities in the park.

Bushwalking

Walking trails and access tracks cater for various levels of fitness and bushwalking experience. The northern and western parts of the park are not suitable for walkers due to steep slopes and higher conservation values.



The yellow-footed antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*) feeds on insects, frogs or small lizards and birds.

History

Before European settlement, the area provided food, wood and shelter for the Peramangk Aboriginal people of the greater Adelaide Hills region, and was a major travelling route to the Adelaide Plains and coast.

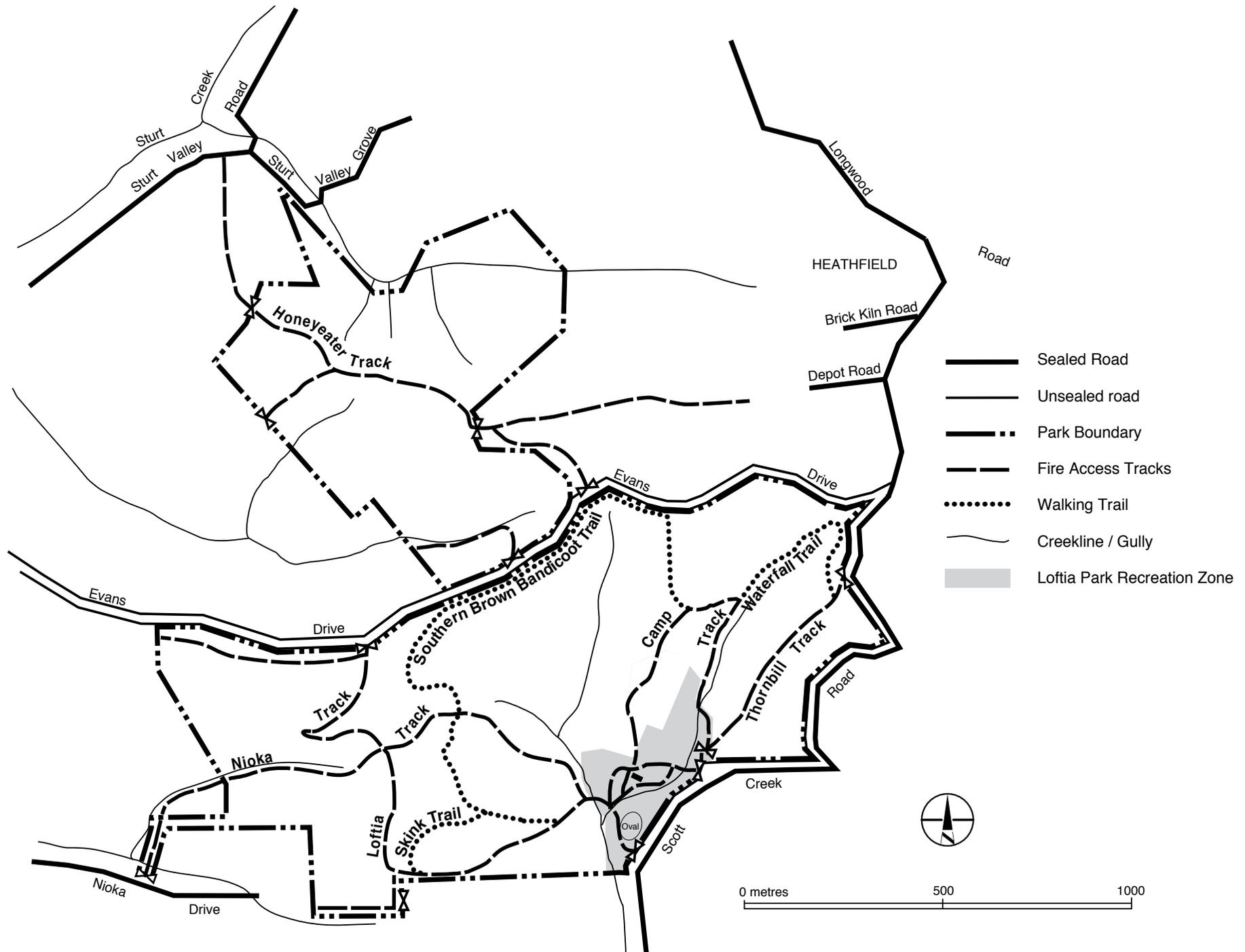
The park was first used for recreation in the 1930s and, in 1945, was purchased by the YMCA. It was acquired by the State Government in 1953 and proclaimed the Loftia Recreation Park in 1972. The park was expanded in 1992 and 1995, and renamed in 1996 in recognition of its conservation values and to honour physicist and humanitarian Sir Mark Oliphant's contribution to conservation.

Plants

Messmate stringybark and brown stringybark dominate the forest canopy, and there is a small stand of candlebark gums near the oval. This tall eucalypt with white bark is rare and only found in the higher rainfall areas of the Adelaide Hills. Tiny patches of pink gum, manna gum and blue gum also occur in the park. In the forest understorey there are many spring-flowering shrubs, including myrtle-leaved wattle, beaked hakea and large-leaved bush-pea. The park's flora was affected by bushfires in February 1980 and January 1995, but weeds are the main threat to native plants.

Animals

The rare southern brown bandicoot and yellow-footed antechinus, along with several lizard, snake and frog species, inhabit the park, but most are rarely seen. Birdwatchers might see the superb fairy-wren, scarlet robin, golden whistler, Adelaide rosella and honeyeater species. Invertebrates are the smallest but most abundant and diverse animal group. Look closely at the shapes, colours and behaviours of ants, beetles and butterflies.



Fire bans

This park may be closed on Total Fire Ban days. Check the CFS hotline 1300 362 361.

Friends of Mark Oliphant Conservation Park

An active Friends group assists with management of this reserve. New members are always welcome. For more information contact the Southern Lofty District Office.



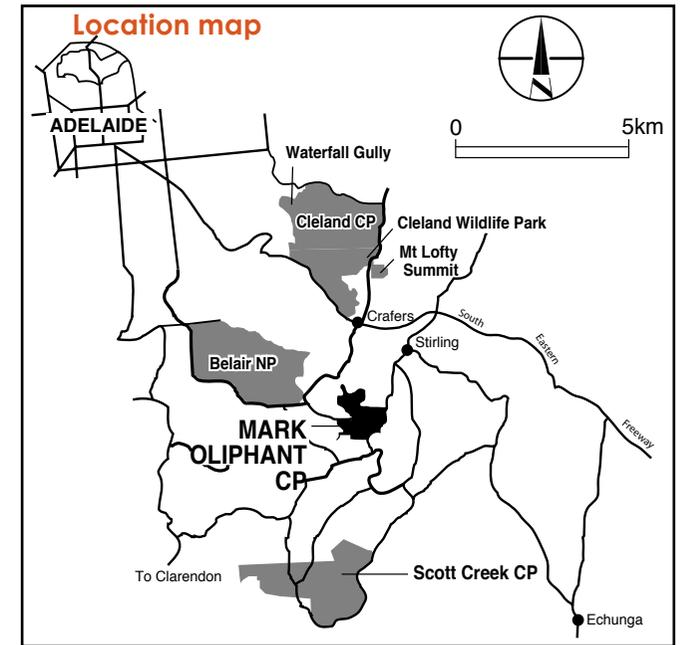
Mark Oliphant Conservation Park

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, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check the CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- All fires including gas barbecues are prohibited.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our 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.

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



For further information contact:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Southern Lofty District Office
Cleland Conservation Park
PO Box 783
Stirling SA 5152
Phone (08) 8278 5477

After-hours emergencies

Contact the Duty Officer on 1300 650 411 and quote pager number 465 283

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910
Email denrinformation@sa.gov.au
Website www.parks.sa.gov.au

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