



Connecting Communities Project

Brownhill Creek Association is coordinating a Connecting Communities: Cultural Heritage and Nature-Based Tourism Project, centred around a 9.2km Wirraparinga Loop Trail. The trail will provide a focus for recreation, tourism, built and natural heritage, education, native revegetation and habitat restoration.

Carrick Hill, adjacent to the Waite Arboretum, Urrbrae House and Mitcham Village, is set to become a tourism hub. A proposed multi-purpose visitor centre within 15 minutes of the CBD, will draw visitors to the area and provide a wonderful venue for meals, events and information.

The Wirraparinga trail will begin at the Carrick Hill visitor centre, taking hikers through Grey Box Woodland to the summit of Brown Hill, with one of the best views of Adelaide. From there the trail will descend into Ellison's Gully, which has a remote rural feel and contains the Wheal Grainger Mines, The Mitcham Water Works and a rich market gardening heritage. The final section of the trail will follow Brownhill Creek through one of our state's oldest heritage parks, Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, before returning to Carrick Hill.

The recent documented sighting of a Southern Brown Bandicoot in BHC Recreation Park makes habitat restoration along the trail a priority for the project. The Southern Brown Bandicoot is listed nationally as *endangered* and *vulnerable* in SA.

The Connecting Communities Project is aligned with the SA Government nature-based tourism initiative, 'Nature Like Nowhere Else' and the Federal Government 'Stronger Communities Programme', which "aims to improve local community participation, cohesion and contribute to vibrant and viable communities".

Many organisations and community groups are partners in this project, including the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association. The name of the trail comes from the Kurna word Wirraparinga, meaning place of scrub and creek. Wirraparinga is the traditional name for this area and is still part of a living Kurna culture.

Mitcham Historical Society is playing a key role in the project, in keeping with its motto: "Proud of our history and committed to our future". The Connecting Communities Project will help to promote and preserve Mitcham's built and natural heritage, providing benefits for present and future generations.

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