

PROPOSED WIRRAPARINGA LOOP TRAIL

TOURISM:

- Carrick Hill's Multi Purpose Visitor Centre will provide car parking, catering, toilets, tourist information and access to events, creating a tourism hub for the area and a trailhead facility.
- Brownhill Creek Tourist Park could provide expanded accommodation, public toilets, tourist information and light refreshments. DEWNR is supporting this nature-based tourism project.
- Tourists will be able to enjoy a 'hills experience' close to the CBD, with one of the best views of Adelaide from the summit of Brown Hill and a cultural heritage/nature-based walk.
- The Waite Arboretum, Urrbrae House and Mitcham Village can be linked to the Wirraparinga Loop Trail, creating a larger Heritage Precinct.
- The Edinburgh Hotel and Mitcham Square Shopping Centre are close by.
- Convenient access within 8km of the city centre and supported by the SA Tourism Commission.

RECREATION:

- The Wirraparinga Loop Trail network will provide 6.5km to 9.5 km of walking trails, linking to the existing Yurrebilla Trail. Mitcham Council has given in-principle support for the project.
- Trail users will be able to choose the degree of difficulty, from valley walks to steep terrain.
- The Wirraparinga Loop Trail will become a regular exercise favourite with the community, providing physical and mental health benefits.

HERITAGE:

- A Kurna Cultural Heritage Survey is to be undertaken and the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association will be directly involved in the development of interpretive signage, smart phone app information and the anticipated appointment of tour guides/cultural heritage officers.
- The area is rich with European Heritage, reflecting the social, political and economic development of South Australia. Brownhill Creek Recreation Park was first set aside for public purposes in 1841, was marked as a Reserve in 1858, dedicated as a Reserve in 1889, became a National Pleasure Resort in 1915 and was proclaimed a Recreation Park in 1974. Catherine Spence lived for a time in this valley and the first effective Labor Premier Tom Price was present at the 1907 tree planting ceremony, which honoured his significant achievements and left a beautiful avenue of plane trees. The Mitcham Waterworks, Wheal Grainger Mines, quarries, significant trees and market gardening heritage, all tell a fascinating and unfolding story of settlement. This story will be detailed on interpretive signage with QR Codes and supported by a website / smart phone app.

EDUCATION:

- An Education and Revegetation Committee has been formed, involving representatives from BCA, local schools, Urrbrae TAFE, Urrbrae Wetlands, a DEWNR ranger and NRM Education Officers. Shared and coordinated education and community service programmes are being developed now, based around the Wirraparinga Loop Trail. These programmes will be integrated into the curriculum of local schools. An important aim is to develop an ongoing partnership with indigenous students, teachers and Elders. A connection with the land is to be fostered.

NATIVE REVEGETATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION:

- The excellent work of the staff and volunteers of the Waite Campus and Carrick Hill on the northern slopes of Brown Hill will continue on the southern slopes, with the help of the Friends of Brownhill Creek, school based groups, The Green Army and contractors. All work will comply with the Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Management Plan, restoring habitat and enhancing nature-based tourism. Supporting the Southern Brown Bandicoot colony and Grey Box Woodland is vital.