Anstey Hill Recreation Park plays an important role in conserving vegetation and wildlife that was once widespread across the Adelaide Plains and Mount Lofty Ranges. Divided by a number of short creeks and steep gullies, the 383-hectare park forms an attractive backdrop to Adelaide’s north-eastern suburbs. Diverse and historically interesting, it offers bushwalking, birdwatching, photography, painting and nature study.

How to get to the park
Anstey Hill is located in Adelaide’s north-eastern suburbs, approximately 16 kilometres from the city centre. Take Lower North East Road and turn left onto Perseverance Road, opposite the Tea Tree Gully Hotel. The park gate is located on the right – entry is free.

Facilities
There are no visitor facilities in the park.

Bushwalking
An extensive network of trails allows bushwalkers to explore different parts of the park.

**WALK**

**EASY**
- even surfaced trail
- suitable for small children

**Lookout Walk**
(20 min return, 600 m return)
Starting at gate 18, this easy walk takes in superb views of the Adelaide Plains and Gulf St Vincent.

**Newman’s Nursery Ruins Walk**
(1 hr return, 3 km return)
Starting from gate 6, this easy walk takes in the ruins of Newman’s Nursery – once the largest nursery in the Southern Hemisphere.

**HIKE**

**MODERATE**
- some moderate inclines
- irregular surface with loose, uneven base
- average level of fitness

**Geological Hike**
(1 hr return, 1 km return)
Commencing from gate 9, off Lower North East Rd, this trail traverses a short, steep section to the Gun Emplacement, providing superb views of Adelaide, and continues onto the historic stone quarries in the hills behind the Gun Emplacement.
History

Prior to European settlement, the Kaurna (Gar-na) people lived in areas like Anstey Hill during the cooler months, using the woodlands for fire, warmth and shelter. During the summer, the Kaurna lived along the coast, taking advantage of cool, ocean breezes.

Anstey Hill was named after George Alexander Anstey (1814–1895), a local viticulturalist. Ruins throughout the park provide evidence of early European settlement, including Ellis Cottage and Bakehouse and Newman’s Nursery. Restored by the Friends of Anstey Hill, the cottage is located inside gate one. Newman’s Nursery was one of the first commercial nurseries in the Adelaide area.

Dolomite and quartzite was mined in the park for many years, and was used in the construction of roads throughout Tea Tree Gully. Stone quarried at Anstey Hill is featured in the Adelaide War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide Town Hall, St Peters Cathedral and Adelaide General Post Office. The last quarry closed in 1982.

The park was dedicated in 1989 in response to public demand that the government protect the land from development.
Plants
A number of different soil types and landforms support many plant species, providing habitat for animals and birds. Pink gums dominate the lower slopes, while long-leaved box, a vegetation association that is rare in the Adelaide Hills, dominate the higher slopes. Southern cypress-pines and sheoaks adorn the steeper slopes of the park, while button daisies, pugs-tails, needle bushes and silky guinea-flowers are found in the understorey. Spring heralds a fabulous display of wildflowers including spider-orchids and wax-lip orchids on the steep slopes overlooking creeks.

Animals
Up to 35 species of reptiles and amphibians live in the park together with 145 species of native birds, including the superb fairy wren – the males are well-known for their bright blue plumage. Echidnas, brush-tailed possums, western grey kangaroos, bats, carpet snakes, the rarely seen Cunningham’s skink and the occasional koala are also present. Brown tree frogs and common frogs can sometimes be heard along creeks, and the bearded dragon can be seen on sunny days basking on a warm tree trunk or fallen log.

Phytophthora (Root-rot fungus)
Phytophthora is killing our native plants and threatens the survival of animals depending on plants for food and shelter. This introduced fungus can be found in plant roots, soil and water. Please help stop its spread by staying on tracks and trails and by complying with all Phytophthora management signs.

The National Parks Code
Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:
- Dogs are permitted in the park but are must be kept on a lead at all times.
- 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.

Friends of Anstey Hill
The Friends of Anstey Hill is a community-based group of volunteers who work closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to protect Anstey Hill Recreation Park.

For more details please write to:
President, Friends of Anstey Hill Recreation Park
PO Box 653, St Agnes SA 5097

For further information contact:
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Northern Lofty District Office
115 Maryvale Road, Athelstone SA 5076
Phone (08) 8336 0901
Fax (08) 8336 0900

After-hours emergencies
Contact the Duty Officer on 1300 650 411 and quote pager number 465 281

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

Front cover: Superb fairy-wren
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