



Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

A short history

Stirling Park and Woorabinda

From 1855 to about 1930 these areas were owned by the Halliday family, who farmed the Stirling Park ('Halliday's Gully') section as a market garden. In 1922, the S.A. Railways Department needed a reliable year-round source of fresh water for its steam locomotives at Aldgate station. A portion of the land was purchased, and a natural depression at the confluence of two streams was excavated to form a large dam. This became known as Woorabinda Lake. From 1960 to the mid 1990's Woorabinda was used as a camp site for disadvantaged children and families. In 1995, the area was finally purchased by Stirling Council. Extensive tree planting by volunteers is gradually restoring the Park to a natural bush setting.

Madurta Reserve

Cattle used to graze the peaceful banks of Madurta Creek. In 1972 the area was subdivided with the proviso that a public open space be set aside. Thus Madurta Reserve was created. Since 1983 local residents have carried out tree planting and ensured the Reserve remains in the hands of the community as a viable natural open space. Easements connecting the Reserve to the main park are now developed as walkways.

Hender Reserve

Some of the district's largest stringybark eucalypts can be found in Hender Reserve. Originally proclaimed in 1879 as a large public reserve, the area is now only a fraction of its former size.

Although separated from Woorabinda by a railway line, the area is integral to the reserves, and features extensive natural vegetation and a variety of interesting birdlife.

Southern Brown Bandicoots and other native fauna also live in the Reserve.

Natural Heritage agreement

Woorabinda Bushland Reserves are a significant and precious remnant of native vegetation, forming part of a much larger area of well-connected core habitat in the Central hills for many native flora and fauna species. For 30 years this area has been nurtured by the Friends of Woorabinda Bushland Reserves, aided more recently by Bush For Life in the Hender Reserve.

With many hours of "hands-on" bushcare work, advocacy, and grants from Local Council, State and Federal Government, much has been achieved. In 2019 this was recognised by the Department of Environment and Water and Adelaide Hills Council, approving a Natural Heritage Agreement to protect and manage the area in perpetuity for biodiversity. The Bushlands consist of 34 hecatres over four reserves: Stirling Park, Hender, Woorabinda and Madurta. All four are now covered by the Heritage Agreement.



- Dogs are only allowed in the reserves on leash, under effective control, and on paths. Dog faeces must be removed from the reserves and disposed of properly. Bins and bags are provided at the main entrances.
- Council prohibits unauthorised activities in the Reserves such as camping, trail bike and mountain bike riding, swimming, diving, boating and fishing. Open fires are not permitted. Horses are not permitted.
- Woorabinda lake is a popular nesting area for waterfowl. Please keep to the trails and stay clear of the reed beds.
- No authorised public access exists within railway easements, except at designated crossing points.

Download the free Woorabinda Nature Walk app.
<https://www.stirlingadelaidehills.com.au/explore/stirling-paths-to-discovery-app>



A walker's guide
to the

Woorabinda Bushland Reserves

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