

# Botanic Park Visitor Map



Botanic Gardens of  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Government  
of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

# Botanic Park

est. 1873

Right next to Adelaide  
Botanic Garden is the  
glorious Botanic Park, a  
34 hectare, green oasis ...

Adelaide Botanic Garden purchased the land for Botanic Park in 1866. From 1890 onwards, lively public debate was to be had at Speaker's Corner on a Sunday. This gave Botanic Park a reputation as Adelaide's Hyde Park, the celebrated locale for free speech in London.

Botanic Park is flanked on the Botanic Garden side by a stately avenue of plane trees planted in 1874, and on the northern side by the River Torrens and Adelaide Zoo. Many a lazy afternoon has been wiled away, staring up into the canopy of century-old Moreton Bay Fig trees, with their huge trunks and gnarled buttress roots.

Not just a popular venue for picnics, Botanic Park is also an outstanding venue for major events including WOMAdelaide, Parklife and Moonlight Cinema.

## A little history ...

Director Richard Schomburgk's vision was to lay out the space as an arboretum of the finest specimens of exotic and indigenous trees. The Park was to provide lawned areas and be filled with trees "conspicuous to the eye by their fine foliage or form."

The year of the first plantings, the summer of 1873-1874, was a standard Adelaide summer - very hot and dry. Schomburgk's account of the work records shade temperatures reaching 43°C and the successful planting of 4000 trees (with only 3% losses).

An avenue of Moreton Bay fig trees was planted to link to the avenue planted in the Garden years earlier. These avenues provide a physical link between the Park, the Garden, North Terrace and the City.

By 1877 more than 9000 trees were planted in Botanic Park, including a shady carriageway of Plane trees officially opened in 1884, and Botanic Park became what it is today. A place of relaxation, leisure and of congregation - an egalitarian place for all people and organisations alike.

## Did you know ...

- *The Salvation Army held its inaugural open-air meeting in Botanic Park in 1880 and continued to do so until 1942.*
- *Speakers Corner provided a platform for politicians, activists, unionists and radicals through to the 1950s.*

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and visit again soon.

