

GREEN A ELAIDE

cooler **greener** wilder

Achievements Report 2020 – 21



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Recognition of Kaurna Miyurna and Yarta

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and traditional owners of the Green Adelaide region – the Kaurna Miyurna (Kaurna people) – and pay homage to their ancestors who maintained the natural processes of the land we are on and whose spirits still dwell on Yarta (Country). Mutual respect and trust enables us to walk and work side-by-side to restore Yarta.

Our vision in art form

Kardalta Tarntanya

This artwork is titled *Kardalta Tarntanya* and represents Green Adelaide's vision of a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

During 2020–21, Green Adelaide worked with Kaurna man and artist Allan Sumner to create this Green Adelaide centred artwork to demonstrate our commitment to restoring Kaurna cultural practices. The artwork now forms part of our visual identity.





Welcome to the **first** **Achievements** **Report** for Green Adelaide





Foreword

Our first year has seen significant accomplishments and progress towards our vision of a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Green Adelaide's first year work plan was set out in our 2020–21 Business Plan. The year saw many milestones achieved, including these five significant ones:

- Development of the first Green Adelaide five-year Regional Landscape Plan.
- Launch of Adelaide's push to become the world's next National Park City.
- \$9.4 million provided to our partners to help green, cool and wild Adelaide together.
- New partnerships formed to boost nature as a liveability focus for our city.
- Development of Green Adelaide's visual identity, including a new website and other digital channels to help build awareness of our vision for a cooler, greener, wilder city.

I am proud to showcase the many Green Adelaide achievements during 2020–21 in this report, which reaches across our seven priorities, many partnerships and our projects and programs.

The year was a real time of change and adaption, amidst the formation of new direction for urban environmental management for Adelaide, as well as the hurdles of the pandemic and the associated social changes from it.

I am confident that we will continue to educate, inspire, influence and enact positive change into the future. Let's green Adelaide.

Professor Chris Daniels
Presiding Member of the Green Adelaide Board

What is Green Adelaide?

We are a statutory board established in July 2020 by the Government of South Australia, with a vision to create a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

We were established as part of the 2019 South Australian natural resources management reform, and the introduction of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

We are Adelaide's first dedicated urban environmental specialist organisation. We are focusing on guiding the people of Adelaide's love of and connection with nature, and will practically create a cooler, greener and wilder capital city.

Our area of responsibility spans across Adelaide's 17 metropolitan councils, and includes about a third of Gulf St Vincent. Our mission is to encourage activities and policies for Adelaide that enable pro-environmental behavioural change. This will be achieved by facilitating partnerships, investing in aligned initiatives, educating about nature, and delivering iconic on-ground environmental projects.

Developing our first Regional Landscape Plan

We prepared our first five-year Regional Landscape Plan to identify how to deliver our legislated priorities and monitor our progress towards success.



The creation of the plan included extensive community and stakeholder consultation from November 2020 to April 2021. Our community forum attracted an audience of more than 200 people and was live-streamed to an additional 3,800 views. In creating this plan, we captured the voices and hearts of the urban community.

The Regional Landscape Plan sets the strategic direction for Green Adelaide between 2021 and 2026, and is supported by operational business plans each financial year.

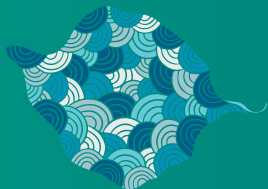
Our role

We have seven goals based on our seven legislated priorities, which guide all of our work.

Each priority is connected, highlighting the important relationship between land, water, sea, plants and animals, and people and culture.



Seven goals



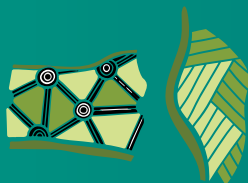
1. Conserve and restore coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity.



2. Water resources deliver environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits.



3. Build industry and community capacity to design cooler and greener urban infrastructure.



4. Increase the extent and quality of urban green cover.



5. Conserve, restore and expand habitats for native flora and fauna.



6. Manage the impacts of pests and overabundant native species.



7. Inspire communities to value, connect with, and care for nature.



Running our business

Our board

Our board members are appointed by the South Australian Minister for Environment and Water.

Ten members formed part of the 2020–21 board. They have diverse expertise and skills which has led Green Adelaide's establishment, innovation and positive outcomes during 2020–21.

Income

Landscape and water levies are our primary sources of funding. The landscape levy is collected from ratepayers by metropolitan councils, and the water levy is collected from water licence holders in our region. These levies enable the board to fund programs and activities outlined in our operational business plans.

In 2020–21, our income from landscape and water levies was \$28.8 million. We also received income from the Australian Government totalling \$0.6 million, and other grant funding totalling \$0.2 million, for a total of \$29.6 million.

Expenditure

Our total expenditure was \$27.9 million. Our expenditure was less than our income due to the social restriction impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our operations.

Project investments also attracted additional funding and in-kind support from government, business and the community. By investing with our partners, we leveraged an estimated \$13.9 million (revenue, cash and in-kind), which was directed towards delivering the Regional Landscape Plan.



Green Adelaide Board members (left to right): Greg Ingleton, Dena Vassallo, Adrian Skull, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis, Tobias Turner, Louka Parry, Trixie Smith, Professor Chris Daniels, Claire Boan and Kelvin Trimmer.



2020–21 highlights

How we measure our success

Our annual measures of success have been developed as part of our Regional Landscape Plan.

Here are some of our key highlights for 2020–21:



\$27.9 million

levy dollars invested
plus

\$13.9 million

additional funding
leveraged



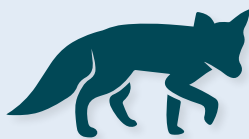
144 grants provided
to the value of

\$9.4 million

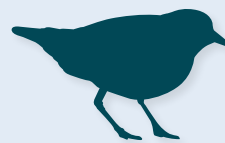




Invested in **pest
plant control** over
2,091 hectares



Invested in **pest
animal control** over
168.5 hectares



Invested in over **65**
species of concern



2 reseach
trials funded with
a total value of
\$39,000



22,535 plants
used to revegetate
a total area of
156 hectares



Engaged with
9,419 students
and educators at
235 schools and
early learning centres



5,182
average **website
views** per month



3,664 followers
on Facebook and
Instagram



125+
stories published



9,252
people attended
89 supported events



Invested in the
employment of
13 people in
council roles



Supported
3 Kurna
cultural events



Worked with
2,010 volunteers

2020–21 success stories

Every day we share the many stories of our collaborative achievements through our social media channels, website, traditional media and newsletters. The following is a small selection of these stories, which highlights the breadth and depth of Green Adelaide's achievements in 2020–21 across our seven goals.

The stories echo the importance of partnerships, education, financial investment, and the delivery of on-ground practical action as core to our service to create a cooler, greener and wilder city.





Conserve and restore coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity

We helped to conserve and restore Adelaide's unique coastline to benefit our way of life, our economy and provide vital habitat for native plants and animals. Here's some of our key coastal management achievement stories.



Watched over
**31 endangered hooded
plover pairs** and helped
14 chicks to fledge



Protecting our precious beach-nesting birds

Adelaide's beaches are home to Australia's most threatened beach-nesting bird the hooded plover.

Our hooded plover conservation program runs in partnership with BirdLife Australia and the cities of Onkaparinga, Marion, Holdfast Bay and Charles Sturt, as well as Fleurieu councils – Alexandrina, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla.

We work with around 70 volunteers to deliver monitoring and education, as well as community events, and install signage and temporary fencing at nest sites to help boost Adelaide's population of these threatened beach birds.

The work is jointly funded through Green Adelaide, local councils and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Inspiring our next generation of coastal champions

Our Coastal Ambassadors Program is an annual coastal education and awareness program which encourages community conservation and advocacy along Adelaide's coast.

As part of our 2020–21 Youth Coastal Ambassadors two-day courses, 31 young people were engaged in hands-on learning about our local coast and marine habitats, and had a strong focus on Kurna Miyunna (Kurna people) connections. The program is delivered in partnership with senior cultural custodian Karl Winda Telfer from Yellaka and Ocean Imaging's Stefan Andrews.

Since completing the courses, many of our newest ambassadors have undertaken advocacy and work in their communities for coast and marine conservation.



Partnerships to boost knowledge about blue carbon

Blue carbon is carbon stored in coast and marine ecosystems like saltmarshes, mangroves and seagrasses, which capture and store large amounts of carbon in plants and sediment.

Our Blue Carbon Futures Fund invests in partnerships that contribute to the Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia 2020–25.

In 2020–21, the fund supported partnerships with Flinders University, University of Adelaide, Airborne Research Australia, EntoSeach and SARDI Aquatic Sciences to deliver research that helps South Australia better understand, conserve and restore blue carbon habitats.

We also invest in coastal saltmarsh and conservation with local councils.



Water resources deliver environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits

We worked to protect, enhance and restore Adelaide's rivers, wetlands, groundwater and lakes to help preserve these essential ecosystems and the wildlife that call them home. Here's some of our key water resources and wetlands achievement stories.



3,500 tonnes of rubbish collected by **20 gross pollutant traps** along the Torrens and Patawalonga catchments





River Torrens regeneration milestone 30 years in the making

We are leading the Stage 3 redevelopment of Breakout Creek along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari. This final part of the Breakout Creek redevelopment stretches from upstream of Henley Beach Road to the Torrens Outlet in West Beach, a total of 2.7 kilometres of river.

During 2020–21, we released the final designs for Stage 3 of the project, following extensive engagement with local residents and stakeholders. Stage 3 marks the longest stretch at 1.5 kilometres, and the end of a 30-year makeover for this section of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari.

The project is a partnership between Green Adelaide, the cities of Charles Sturt, West Torrens, the South Australian Attorney-General's Department through the Planning and Development Fund, the Australian Government through the Environment Restoration Fund and SA Water. We are committed to working with the Kaurna people.



Cleaning up rubbish to improve water quality

We help collect rubbish that flows down our creeks and rivers, preventing it from hanging around our waterways and reaching the sea.

Our most common method of catching rubbish is through trash racks placed across a watercourse, as well as floating booms and purpose-built sedimentation basins (all also known as 'gross pollutant traps').

Our gross pollutant traps placed and managed in the Torrens and Patawalonga catchments, collected the equivalent of five Olympic-sized swimming pools of leaves, twigs, vegetation, general rubbish and sediment.

We own and maintain gross pollutant traps across the cities of Adelaide, Charles Sturt, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, West Torrens, Holdfast Bay, Marion, Onkaparinga, and Mitcham.



Getting carp under control in the Torrens

Common carp are a problem for the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari, and many other waterways, as they reduce water quality and cause issues for native fish, irrigation and fishers.

In 2020–21, we worked in partnership with the City of Adelaide to help control carp in the Torrens Lake through the carp harvesting technique of electrofishing.

During 2020–21, eight electrofishing events were delivered removing more than 620 carp from the Torrens Lake in Adelaide city. If repeated annually, it is anticipated that significant water quality benefits can be achieved by 2031.



Build industry and community capacity to design cooler and greener urban infrastructure

We worked with industry and community to build capacity to design cooler, greener and nature-friendly developments and infrastructure. Here's some of our key biodiversity and water sensitive urban design stories.



\$1.3 million in Water Sustainability Grants invested in **9 projects** across Adelaide





Water Sensitive SA partnering with local government and industry to innovate

Water Sensitive SA is the state's water sensitive urban design capacity-building program. We co-fund Water Sensitive SA to boost industry and community capacity to design, build and maintain cooler and greener urban infrastructure.

During 2020–21, Water Sensitive SA released the first *South Australian Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation (MUSIC)* guidelines. This is now a key guide that informs the use and interpretation of water quality modelling in South Australia.



Leading the nation in biodiversity and urban design grants

We are leading the nation with the inaugural Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design Grant Program trial for local government delivered in 2020–21.

The targeted grants were to financially support projects to create better links between urban planning and design with the basic needs and survival of native plants and animals.

During 2020–21, more than \$100,000 in grants was invested in four council biodiversity projects.

From the trial we gathered valuable insights to tailor our support to expand this successful initiative for the future benefit of Adelaide's biodiversity.



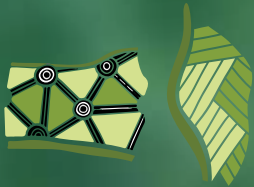
Helping the community get the best value from managing water

Our Water Sustainability Grants Program helps local government and other partners to manage urban water better – including making the best use of rain to water plants, reducing and cleaning up run-off to protect our creeks and coasts, and supporting our street trees and other urban biodiversity by using water sustainably.

During 2020–21, we co-funded nine projects totalling nearly \$1.3 million across the cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Campbelltown, Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Onkaparinga, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, and the Town of Walkerville.

The projects included fit-for-purpose recycled water infrastructure to support major events in the Adelaide Park Lands, improving stormwater management in parks, reserves and streetscapes, research about street trees, permeable paving and stormwater, and supporting Regional Climate Partnerships in Adelaide's east.





Green streets and flourishing parklands

Increase the extent and quality of urban green cover

We worked with our partners to increase tree canopy cover and green spaces to create cooler urban areas that encourage biodiversity and improve community health and wellbeing. Here's some of our key green streets and flourishing parklands achievement stories.



Almost **\$1 million** given to **8 councils** to support planting **4,200 new trees**



Making Adelaide greener with council grants

Our Greener Neighbourhoods Grants Program is aimed at helping to support metropolitan councils to keep Adelaide's streets cool and green through plantings and revegetation works.

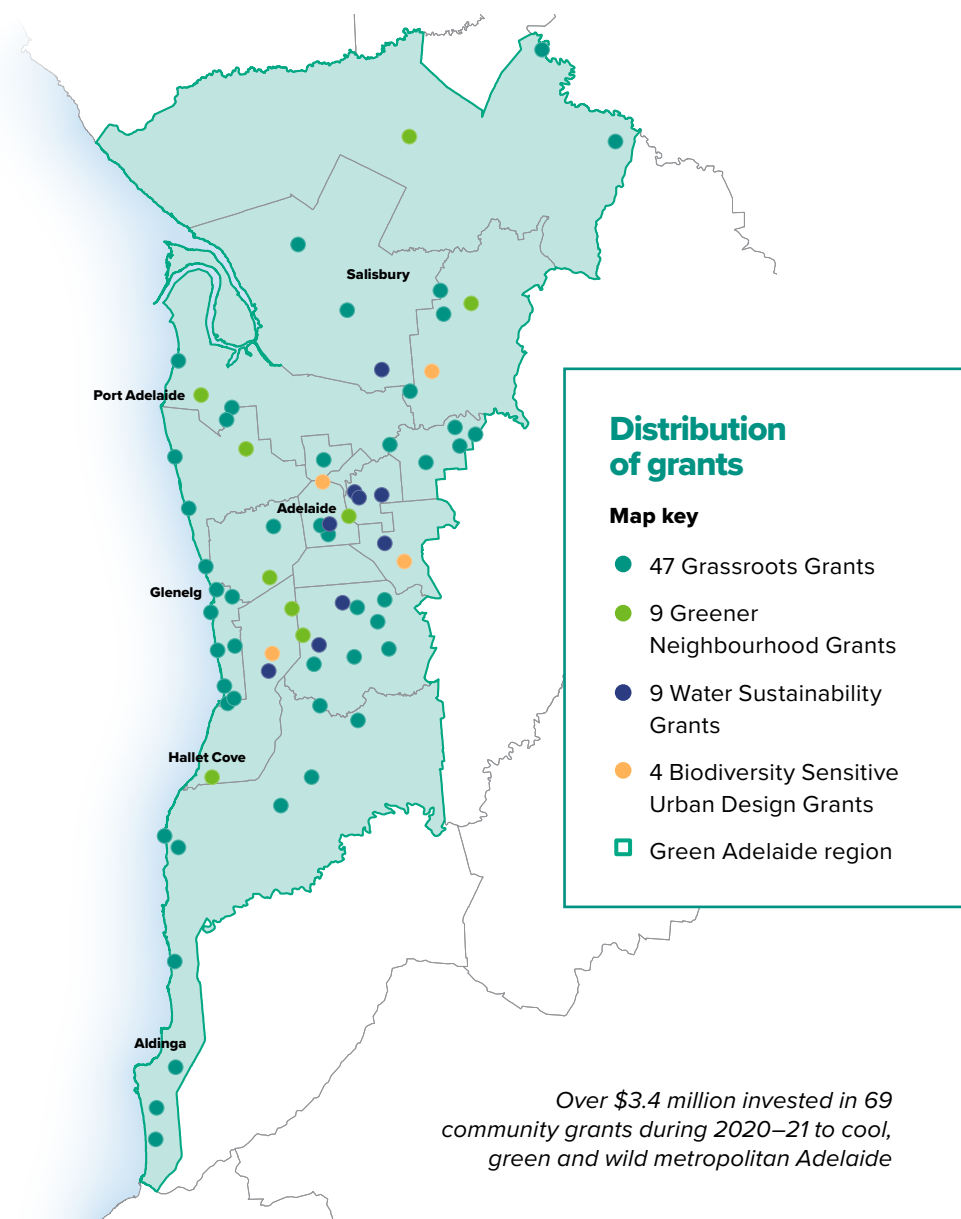
During 2020–21, through the second round of the program we supported nine projects worth almost \$1 million, to plant trees along roadsides in the cities of Playford, Marion, West Torrens, Port Adelaide Enfield, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Mitcham, Charles Sturt, and Tea Tree Gully.

The funded projects included large-scale street and open space plantings to increase Adelaide's tree canopy and create more biodiversity corridors.

Helping locals create resilient coastal gardens

We ran a series of free workshops to help locals create stylish coastal gardens that cope better with harsh coastal conditions by using native plants. The workshops help raise awareness of common garden plants that can become invasive weeds along our coast too. The workshops targeted coastal residents and business owners. Participants walked away with our new *Coastal Gardens Planting Guide* to support on-ground action.

We also ran, with the cities of Onkaparinga, Marion, Holdfast Bay and Charles Sturt, Gazania Free Gardens Plant Giveaways at nurseries along Adelaide's coastline. These events raised awareness about the impact of gazanias, which is an invasive coastal weed.



Over \$3.4 million invested in 69 community grants during 2020–21 to cool, green and wild metropolitan Adelaide



Flora, fauna and ecosystem health

Conserve, restore and expand habitats for native flora and fauna

We helped to create more urban spaces for plants and animals to thrive in, which in turn provides a better quality of life for people.

Here's some of our key flora, fauna and ecosystem health achievement stories.



\$1 million in Grassroots Grants given to support **47 projects** to create a cooler, greener, wilder Adelaide





Helping to cool our grey-headed flying-foxes

We partnered with the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, Fauna Rescue SA and the University of Adelaide to conserve and manage around 30,000 threatened grey-headed flying-foxes based in Adelaide's Botanic Park.

The management of this nationally threatened species is challenging as they experience heat stress during the hot summer months and many die. To watch over this species, we guided the funding for a range of projects, provided advice and facilitated collaborations.

We supported key on-ground tactics to help these bats cope during summer heatwaves such as planting trees and shrubs to provide shade, and installing watering systems to cool the flying-foxes struggling with the heat.



Empowering the community to green Adelaide

Round one of our Grassroots Grants Program delivered \$1 million in funding to community organisations, schools and volunteer groups.

The grants supported wide-ranging efforts by individuals and groups to maintain and improve their local environments. These grants recognise the importance of local action at the grassroots level.

The 2020–21 funded projects included upgrades to the Marine Discovery Centre to improve educational outcomes for students and to allow it to open up to the public for the first time, as well as dune restoration work at Holdfast Bay and along Adelaide's northern coastline, urban greening at suburban Ottoway, a Kaurna-led cultural burn in the Adelaide Park Lands and support for a community Landcare nursery at Campbelltown.



Bringing back yellowish sedge-skipper butterflies

We partnered with the cities of Onkaparinga, Salisbury, Port Adelaide Enfield, Adelaide Plains Council and Entosearch to restore habitat and reintroduce the yellowish sedge-skipper butterfly.

The once locally extinct butterfly now has a foothold back on the coast, with skippers successfully breeding at Aldinga Washpool. Pupae have also been released at the Greenfields Wetland, with more introductions to follow here and at other restoration sites.

This is the result of two decades of work restoring habitat, to make it suitable for the butterflies. They rely on thatching grass, a *Gahnia* sedge that has been largely lost from the Adelaide Plains.

Our work has involved large-scale plantings, trialling ecological burns as well as finding and assessing populations of healthy butterflies outside of the region.





Controlling pest plants and animals

Manage the impacts of pests and overabundant native species

We helped to coordinate the management of invasive pests to support an Adelaide that is rich with healthy biodiversity. Here's some of our key controlling pest plants and animals achievement stories.



Invested in **pest plant and animal control** over **2,260 hectares**



Keeping on top of new and emerging weeds

We partnered with the State Herbarium of South Australia to better understand and remove buffel grass infestations from Port Adelaide's public and private land.

Our monitoring revealed new outbreaks and these were acted on quickly, with contractors engaged to eradicate the new infestations.

Buffel grass is a new and emerging weed declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. We created a plan to prevent this weed from establishing in metropolitan Adelaide.



Taking control of pest plants and animals

We partnered with 12 metropolitan councils to help reintroduce the Urban Animal Plant Control Program. The program stations authorised officers across Adelaide to provide community advice and support to effectively control pest plants and animals.

We assisted with training council staff through education sessions and communication materials to provide best practice animal and plant control for the community.

The Urban Animal Plant Control Program is an initiative of Green Adelaide with the cities of Adelaide, Campbelltown, Burnside, Marion, Charles Sturt, Port Adelaide Enfield, Tea Tree Gully and Salisbury.

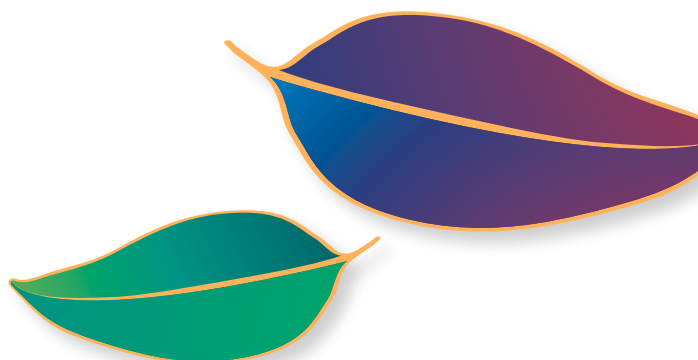


Controlling olives in the northern foothills

We partnered with the City of Playford to remove the last 380 metre section of remaining mature weedy olive trees along the Gawler-One Tree Hill Road.

The removal of this declared weed has multiple benefits, including a reduction of the bushfire risk, reduced pressure and threat to the native vegetation, improved stormwater drainage and improved sightlines for road users.

We also provided funding and on-ground support for follow up treatment of juvenile olives and seedlings along nine kilometres of roadside, which included the entire length of Humbug Scrub Road to the main entrance gate at Para Wirra National Park.





Nature education

Inspire communities to value, connect with and care for nature

We helped to grow nature and sustainability education in Adelaide to support children and adults to connect with the environment. Here's some of our key nature education achievement stories.



1,200 Adelaide National Park City **pledges** in one month



Launching Adelaide's push to become a National Park City

A National Park City is a cultural movement to better connect people with nature in a city. The concept started in the United Kingdom, with London coined the first National Park City in 2019.

We are leading Adelaide's push to become the world's second National Park City. The title will make Adelaide an even more liveable city, through a better connection between people and nature, where everyone plays their role in looking after the urban landscape.

We launched Adelaide's push to become a National Park City on 5 June 2021. The push was backed with a promotional partnership with *The Advertiser*, a new website (adelaidenationalparkcity.org), an online community petition gaining pledges of support and a digital media campaign.

It is expected that Adelaide will become a National Park City in late 2021, following endorsement from the international National Park City Foundation.

**ADELAIDE
NATIONAL
PARK CITY***



Trialling innovative ways to improve wellbeing through nature connection

We ran South Australia's first Nature Prescription Trial in 2021 in partnership with Appleton Institute, City of Adelaide, Hindmarsh Bowden Health Clinic, Adelaide City General Practice, Green Social Work Practice Group, research institutions and conservation agencies.

The trial aimed to study how connecting with nature in Adelaide's green spaces can improve a person's health and wellbeing.

It involved health professionals providing suitable patients with written advice, or a 'nature prescription' for activities in nature.

The program received local and national media attention, and much interest from the local health and wellbeing community. A range of health professionals referred over 30 suitable patients (i.e. mild to moderate anxiety, depression, diabetes or obesity) to the program of which six people participated in this innovative trial. Participants were provided with the skills and motivation to connect to nature in their local environment to help improve their health.



Helping schools and communities connect with nature

Our nature education work in schools engaged with students and educators across metropolitan Adelaide early years, primary and high schools, as well as the wider community through community events and the inaugural 2020 Nature Festival.

Our key school programs included Climate Ready Schools which was a finalist for the Premier's Climate Change Council 2020 SA Climate Leaders Award, and our Youth Environment Council where 50 secondary students participated to grow their environmental and leadership skills, and become positive change-makers in their communities. The Climate Ready Schools Program is a partnership between Green Adelaide, City of Onkaparinga and Resilient South, City of Salisbury, Resilient East and Adapt West.



The 2020 Nature Festival was a 10-day program of activities and experiences all dedicated to celebrating South Australian nature in positive, creative, and meaningful ways. We were the principal sponsor to seed this first Nature Festival for South Australia, and also ran five events contributing to 168 people enjoying and connecting with nature at the festival.



We are also a significant investor in Nature Play SA, a not-for-profit organisation, which delivered 29 events across metropolitan Adelaide to better connect kids with nature through events such as Cubbies in the Creek at Belair National Park and Outdoor Classroom Days at Athelstone Primary School.





Get involved **Let's green Adelaide**

Green Adelaide is committed to working in partnership across our diverse communities and providing opportunities for everyone to be involved in learning about and caring for our environment.

We welcome you to get involved, share your ideas and partner with us to help us on our pathway to achieve a cooler, greener, wilder and climate resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Get in touch

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 **@GreenAdelaide**
 **@GreenAdelaideSA**
#GreenAdelaide



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