10. Neidpath; and military training

This 1910 mansion was home to a TV station for 48 years. Military training camps were held here in Park 1, from the late 1800s until World War One.

11. Calvary Hospital

State Heritage-listed, since 1900 operated by the Catholic order of the "Sisters of the Little Company of Mary."



Calvary Hospital in the 1880s.

12. Carriageways; and future of golf

An 1880 report recommended broad carriageways through this Park. One became War Memorial Drive. They disappeared, as golf courses expanded in the 1950s, but remaining Moreton Bay fig trees mark the north route.



One "carriageway" was still in evidence in 1936 but gone now

A 2018 secret consultant's report (shelved in 2021) recommended a new multi-million dollar golf-themed function centre in this Park. Then, in 2023, plans were drawn up for a mini-golf course, near the Torrens weir.

13. Torrens lake and weir (back to start at #1)

Built in 1881, the weir created Torrens lake; enabling boating and swimming.



The Adelaide "Swim-Through" race start in 1949.

WHO ARE WE?

The Adelaide Park Lands Association is a communitybased, non-profit organisation.

We help you explore with Guided Walks, and inspire you with art and images, as we protect, and restore Adelaide's unique, National Heritage-listed irreplaceable garland of Park Lands.

Please join us, as a member, to support our work, and enjoy free participation in our regular Guided Walks



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EXPLORE

Possum Park / Pirltawardli (Park 1)

Scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet for the full Trail Guide



This Trail Guide traverses traditional lands of the Kaurna people. We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of this land.

1. Introduction and naming

One of the largest Parks: 76 hectares. Its name means the same in English and in Kaurna. The start of the Trail is marked by a possum sculpture.



2. War Memorial Drive

After World War One, this section of the Drive was the last part to be completed, in 1925, but the Moreton Bay fig trees along its edge are much older.

3. Golf - today

There are three courses within this Park: two fulllength and a shorter Par-3 course, along with a driving range, and free-to-use greens for putting and chipping.



4. "Native location"

No trace remains of the site where Kaurna people were "located" or confined from 1838 to 1845. It's now the Par 3 golf course. Lutheran missionaries built this school.



The "Pirltawardli" school established by missionaries

5. Watering

Irrigation infrastructure is coloured purple to denote that it's treated recycled water, piped from the Glenelg North Wastewater Treatment Plant. Don't drink it!

6. First public executions

Near this spot, Michael Magee became the first person to be hanged in South Australia, for attempting to kill the Sheriff. Several others, including Kaurna people were hanged nearby in following years.



Sketch of the first hanging, 2 May, 1838

7. Golf - history

First played in this Park from the 1890s. The City Council operated golf links here from 1921, expanding with the South Course from 1950, and the Par-3 course from the 1960s on the site of the former "native location".



Playing golf in Park 1, in 1923

8. Trees and wildlife

Over 30 species of tree are found in Park 1. Aleppo pines and pepper trees are common. This fairway features a line of magnificent red ironbark trees. Brush-tailed possums are commonly seen here.

9. Tennis courts

The grass courts here off Mills Tce were built in the early 1920s. Tennis SA also operates courts in Park 1, near the corner of Montefiore Rd & War Memorial Dr.