

Penola Conservation Park



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*



This 225-hectare park protects a remnant of the river red gum-lined swamps that were once widespread in the south-east of South Australia. In addition to lush green swamps and river red gum flats, the park is home to brown stringybark woodlands and open heaths, as well as numerous waterbirds and native animals.

How to get to the park

Penola Conservation Park is located 10 kilometres west of Penola, which is 65 kilometres north of Mount Gambier, on the Penola Road. Entry is free.

Facilities

The car park has two rustic picnic tables formed from giant river red gums. The park has a trail with interpretive signs.

Bushwalking

WALK
EASY

- even surfaced trail
- suitable for small children

Swamp Trail

(2.5 km return, 1 hr return)

The trail takes walkers through several different terrains and past the swamp. Interpretive signs explain features along the way.

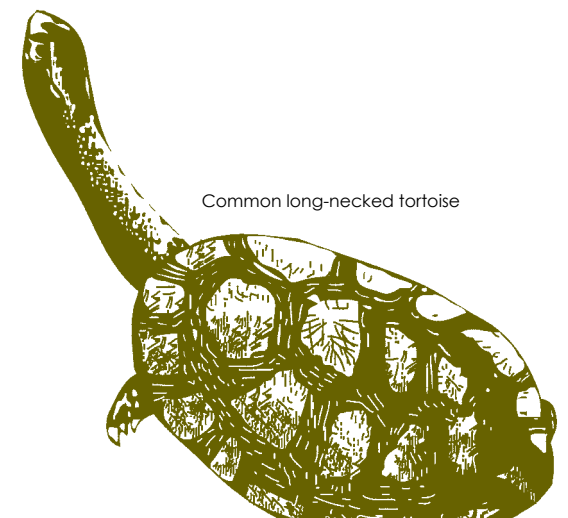
Plants

Native vegetation that was common in the South East before agriculture and forestry became widespread is evident throughout the park. On the dunes there is an open woodland of brown stringybark, while the wetlands and flats support river red gums. Water ribbons and running marsh flowers grow in the swamps. The low heath area is bright in spring with common fringe-myrtle, flame heath and yellow guinea-flowers. Masses of spider orchids flower in spring and can be seen beside the nature trail.

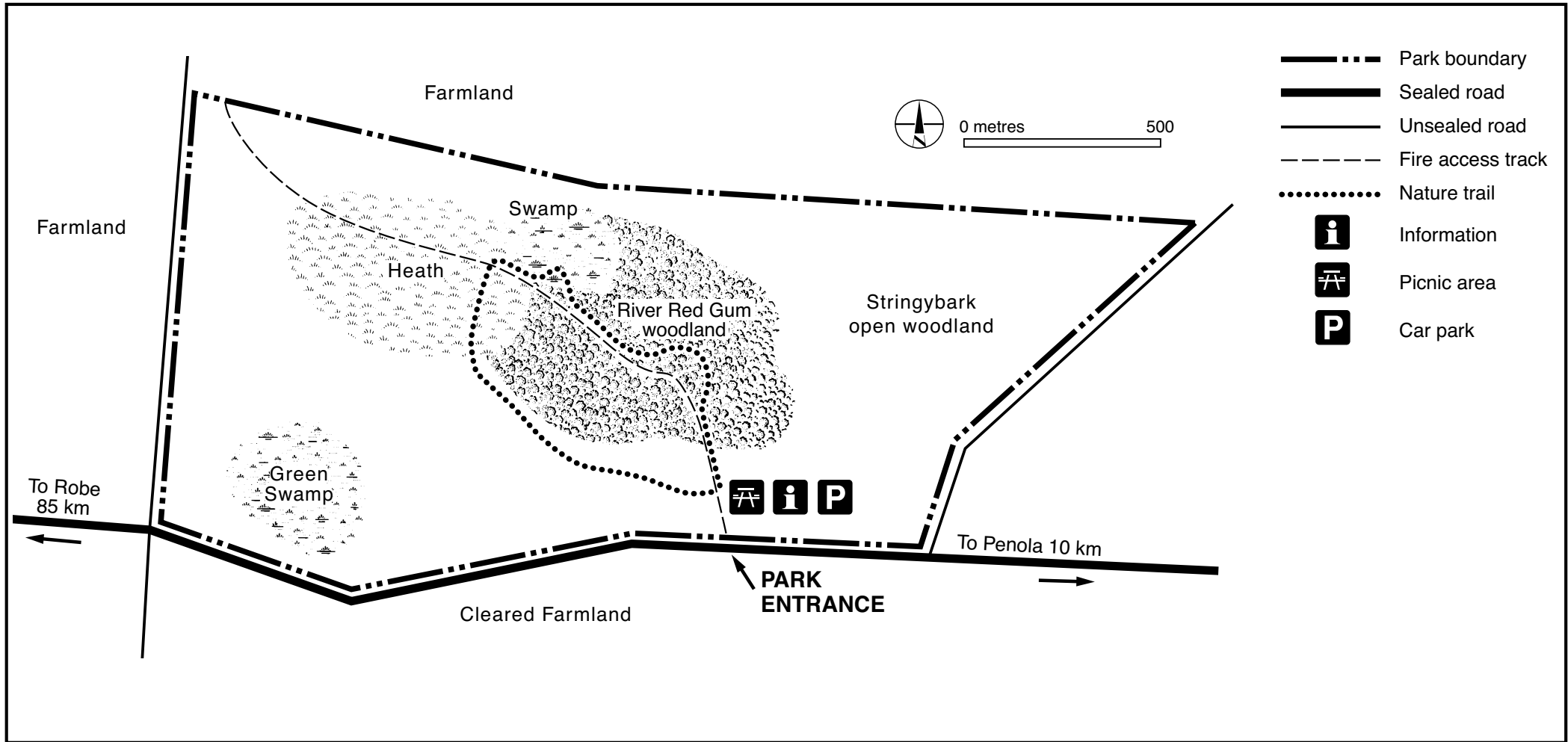
Animals

Endangered red-tailed black-cockatoos, elusive restless flycatchers and flocks of yellow-tailed black-cockatoos are just some of the birdlife that can be found in the park. The swamps attract waterbirds such as herons, ibis and purple swamphens.

Echidnas, red-necked wallabies and western grey kangaroos can often be seen and, at night, sugar gliders and bats are active. Sleepy lizards can be seen during summer and, in winter, common long-necked tortoises are present.



Common long-necked tortoise



Best seasons to visit

The park is attractive all-year round, offering visitors a different experience each season. Spring is the best time to see wildflowers, honeyeaters feeding amongst the blossoms and echidnas searching under shrubs for busy ants. During autumn the park comes alive with small seasonal plants and feeding parrots. In the winter and spring months, much of the park is underwater, making this a good time to see waterbirds and frogs.



Ibis

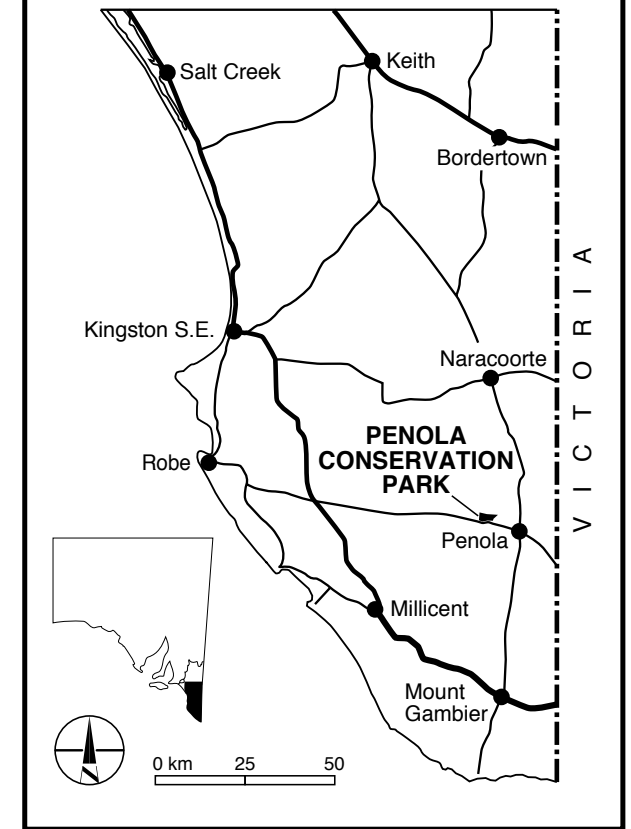
The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361. Gas fires only during this period except on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Respect geological or 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.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited.
- Camping is not permitted.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.

Location Map



For further information contact:

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