

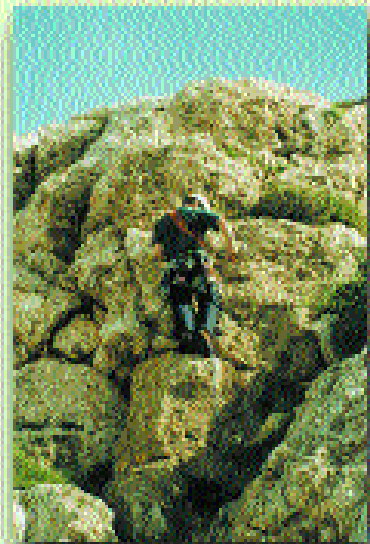


Nature trail

Introduction

Kavo Gkreko was declared a National Forest Park in 1993. It is a relatively unspoiled area with natural beauties, an exceptional and unique environment that offers opportunities for resting, recreation and walking, or just to escape from the daily routine and stress.

A management plan for the area has been prepared and implemented in conformity with the government policy for the establishment of National Forest Parks.



Rock climbing

Aim of the plan



"Kavos" cape

The plan is the result of discussions between government services and local authorities and its main objectives are:

- Protection of landscape, nature and biodiversity.

- Promotion of recreation and tourism.
- Conservation and management of wild life.

Location - Area

Kavo Gkreko is located at the southeast edge of the island, 7 km east of Agia Napa, 20 km southeast of the occupied town of Ammochostos and 50 km east of the town of Larnaka. It covers an area of 385 hectares.

History

In the past, the area was covered by a healthy and dense juniper forest (*Juniperus phoenicea*). The destruction of the forest by man took place in a relatively short period of time (1912 – 1919). It was the time that a lot of steam flourmills were in use in the Paralimni area, burning vast amounts of fuel wood. Since then, this slow-growing species has never been able to recover.



Natural bridge

Recreational facilities

For the accommodation of visitors, a small picnic site has been created at the location "Agioli Anargyroi". In the area of "Konnoi", which is the only sandy bay of Kavo Gkreko, facilities such as a refreshment kiosk and toilets are provided to swimmers. For the convenience of visitors a car park has been constructed near the beach. There are two more parking places found in the park, one near the chapel of Ayioi Anargyroi and another at the old quarry.



Pic-nic site



"Konnos" beach

The viewpoint "Kavos" offers visitors the chance to enjoy a panoramic view of the area. A limited number of roads for visitors and for management purposes exists in the park.

Cyclists may enjoy the beauties of the area using a 4km bicycle-track. A network of walking trails with a total length of 16km is

properly aligned and passes by points of interest giving the visitor a complete view of Kavo Gkreko.



Cycling



Horse riding



Viewpoint

Flora

The area is characterised by sclerophyllous, evergreen vegetation, the well-known "maquis" which is dominated by Phoenician juniper (*Juniperus phoenicea*).

The total number of plant species recorded in Kavo Gkreko is about 400. Among them, 14 are endemic to Cyprus such as *Bosea cypria*, *Allium willeianum*, *Anthemis tricolor*, *Onosma fruticosum*, *Teucrium micropodioides*, *Valantia eburnea* e.t.c.

Another 14 indigenous plant species are considered to be rare. The most important of these are: *Tordylium syriacum*, *Crassula alata*, *Limonium ocymifolium* spp. *bellidifolium*, and *Umbilicus horizontalis*. The latter, is very rare in Cyprus and has been spotted only in Kavo Gkreko and Agios Ilarionas area.

In general the area is covered by low vegetation with the exception of few clusters of Phoenician juniper and pine trees, which attain tree form.



Viewpoint

Fauna

Various species of mammals can be observed in the area like foxes, hares and hedgehogs, several species of reptiles like snakes and lizards and a large variety of butterflies.

More than 80 species of birds, most of them migratory have been recorded in the area. The park is a game reserve area.

A fenced area hired by the French company SOMERA for the operation of a radio station, provides efficient protection to the fauna since trespassing is prohibited.

Sights at the Park

A chapel dedicated to «Agioli Anargyroi» is located next to a small square. Stone steps lead to a sea cave where it is presumed that some hermits may have lived from time to time. «Cyclops cave» is another spectacular cave found at the end point of the trail starting from Konnoi area.

The ruined foundations of an ancient temple devoted to Aphrodite and the ruins of a gipsy village can be seen. At the eastern part of the area there is a lighthouse.

The southeast coast of the park is mostly rocky with steep cliffs.

The bottom of the sea is mostly rocky, with rich marine flora and fauna. Sea caves is one of the most important attractions for visitors.



Lighthouse



Sea caves

Protection of the Park

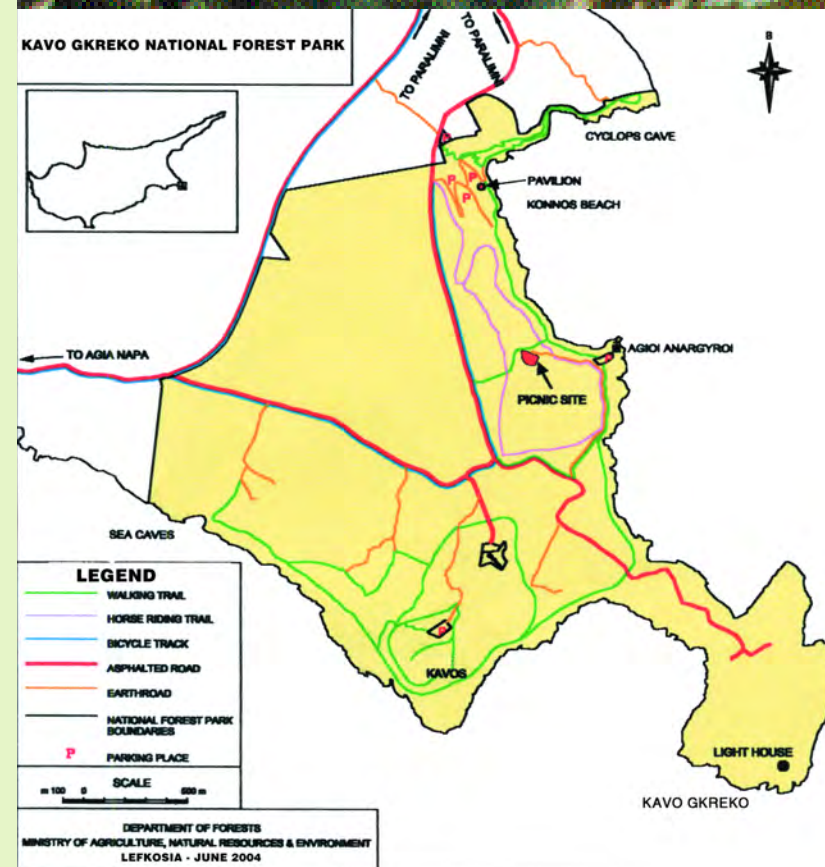
The effective protection of the park is secured through the strict enforcement of the Forest Law and Regulations. The regulations that refer to the management and protection of the park, are placed at strategic points.

Administration - Management Information

The Kavos Gkreko NFP is administrated by the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. For any kind of information, comments or suggestions the public may apply to Lefkosia, Larnaca, Ammochostos Divisional Forest Officer (tel. 22403739).



Refreshment kiosk



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES
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Kavos Gkreko National Forest Park

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