



Brushtails and Bush Tales Discovery Circuit

Currawong Bush Park Walk



Suitable for

Active Families	✓
Strollers	
Pleasure Walkers	✓
Super Striders	✓
Circuit	✓
Seating	✓
Dogs	Currawong Bush Park is a protected habitat.
Trail Type	Natural Heritage with Historic Places

Manningham City Council

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Walk Overview

Currawong Bush Park is filled with stories to tell. On the Brushtails and Bush Tales Trail you will hear about our wildlife, discover the pleasure of bird watching, learn about our unique monotremes, explore the interrelationships between plants and insects, and find out where reptiles go in winter.

Time

1 hr

Distance

2 kms

Difficulty

Moderate—there are hills

Accessibility

Medium—unsuitable for wheelchairs



Location

Start and finish at Currawong Bush Park, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East.

Melway Reference

34 H6

Public Transport

Metlink: t 131 638
www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Ventura Buses: t 9488 2100
www.venturabus.com.au

Parking

At Currawong Bush Park, Reynolds Road.

This walk moves you through the Currawong Bush Park's Discovery Circuit. Sculptural Markers dot the landscape and are places to stop for interpretation.

The paths are generally gravel and easy to navigate, but there can be mud after rains. There are hills to climb, ponds to investigate, trees to study, leaf litter to explore, plants to smell and evidence of wildlife to find.



Facilities

Drinking fountain, toilets, picnic tables, barbecue facilities, camping and function rooms for hire

Contact Council for camping permits and room hire.

Hazards

Muddy and slippery in places
Beware of snakes in warm weather



Be Prepared

Sun protection recommended

Carry a camera—wildlife are frequently seen

Good walking shoes are recommended

Good trail for Nordic Walking sticks.

Days of total fire ban

Currawong Bush Park is closed on days of Total Fire Ban.

Check the fire risk warning before embarking on this walk:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au



Opening Hours

Currawong Bush Park is open during daylight hours

The automated boom gate has a 24-hour timer programmed to open and close at 8.00 am–5.00 pm, and 8.00 am–8.00 pm during daylight savings











If you find yourself in the car park after hours, simply driving up to the boom gate will trigger the opening mechanism.

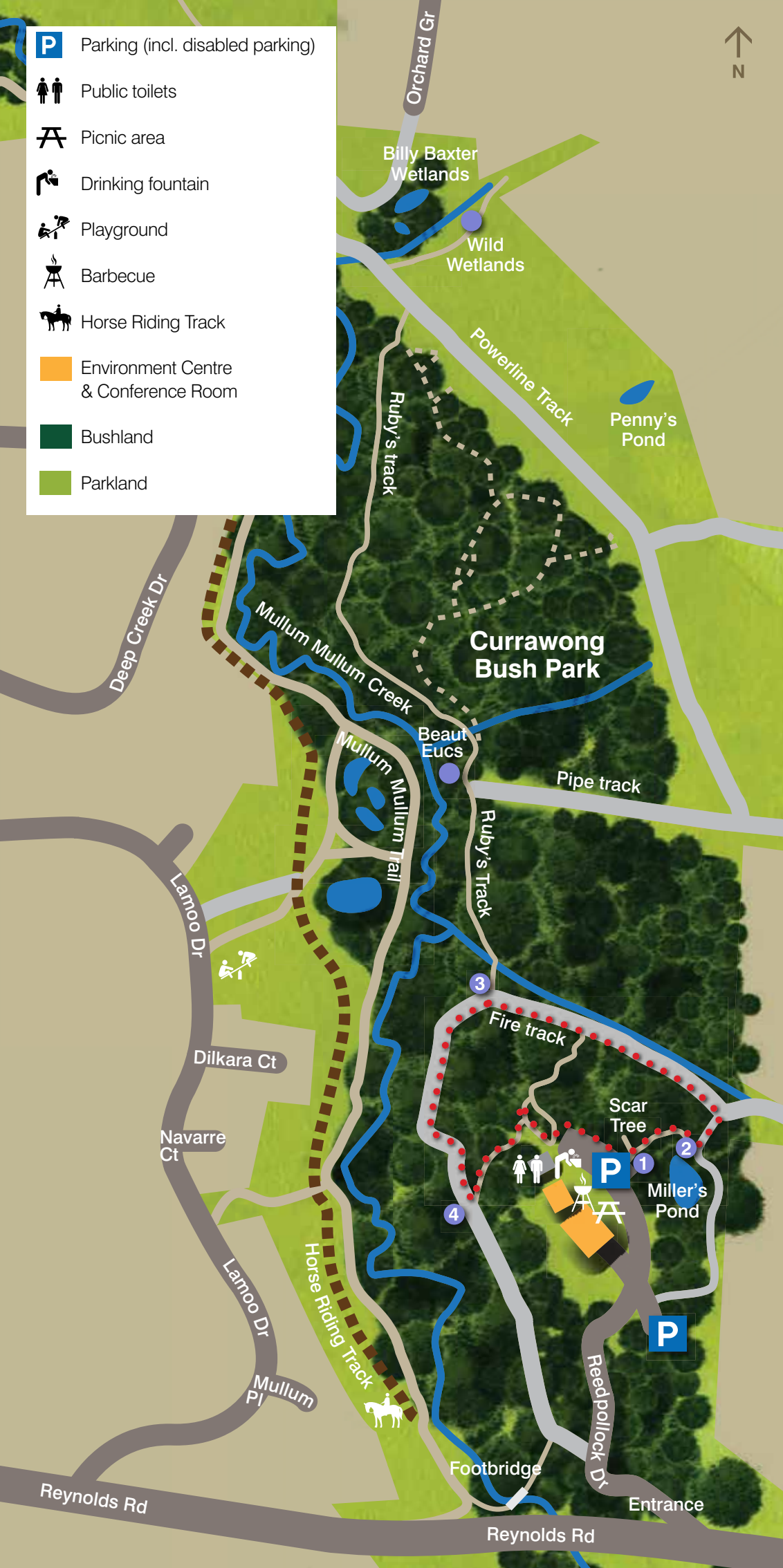


Additional Walks

There are 20 other walks throughout Manningham to choose from, showcasing the city's rich cultural and natural environments and unique heritage.

Copies are available from the Civic Centre or see:
www.manningham.vic.gov.au/walks

-  Parking (incl. disabled parking)
-  Public toilets
-  Picnic area
-  Drinking fountain
-  Playground
-  Barbecue
-  Horse Riding Track
-  Environment Centre & Conference Room
-  Bushland
-  Parkland



Welcome to Currawong Bush Park—the best little wilderness in Melbourne. We acknowledge the *Wurundjeri-wilam* as the traditional owners of this land. The name *Wurundjeri* means ‘Wurun’ the Manna Gum, and ‘djeri’ is the grub that lives under its bark; ‘wilam’ means camp. The language spoken by Wurundjeri people is ‘Woi wurrung’.

The Woi wurrung names for the mammals found here include Marram (kangaroo), Walert (possum), Warin (wombat), Wimbirr (wallaby) and Gurrborra (koala). We also have Dulai wurrung (platypus) and Garwarn (echidna), along with Guyup Guyup (birds), Narrang (lizards), Ngarret (frogs), Kaan (snakes) and Kam-kam-koor (insects).

If you don't see any wildlife, you will most definitely hear them and see evidence of their existence. Remember, all flora and fauna are protected here. Please take only pictures and leave only footprints.

There are toilets and a drinking fountain to prepare for your adventure. Begin your walk from the picnic area carpark and head downhill to the first sculptural marker.

1 Wurundjeri Wisdom

Twitching

If you have never bird watched (called ‘twitching’) before, you are in for a treat. Unlike our sleepy nocturnal marsupials, birds are always doing something—eating, nesting, fighting, courting, dancing, mating, grooming and vocalizing. They are busy little things.

Watch at shrub height for the Superb Fairy Wren. The male is a spectacular blue and black. They move in groups and hop under the scrub ‘chip-chipping’ to each other and looking for grubs. You might see the Willie Wagtail (Djirri Djirri) joining in. They are black and white with a fan-shaped tail that they wag from side to side. They are our bush pied pipers! With a wiggle and a hop they entice you to follow them. Indigenous people knew to be wary of the Willie Wagtail—they could coax you deep into the forest, then with a flutter of their wings, leave you there!

Up in the trees are the best places to find our parrots (Dandan)—some white, some grey, some rainbow coloured—but all noisy!

Take the little track, on the left, to the fallen Aboriginal Scar Tree.

Aboriginal Scar Tree

For thousands of years these forests had provided the *Wurundjeri-wilam* with food, shelter, medicines and tools.

The Indigenous people were (and still are) masters in creating tools without destroying the landscape. The Aboriginal Scar Tree here is one example of this.

A large piece of woody bark was removed in one piece with a stone axe that was ground down to a sharp edge. The width of the cut was not large enough to kill (ringbark) the tree.

The bark was then fashioned into a canoe or shield or ceremonial vessel called a ‘Tarnuk’. Hot ashes were placed under the bark and soil over the top to ‘sweat’ the moisture out slowly. This process allowed the bark to be shaped while not cracking and it also hardened the bark.

Wurundjeri shields were decorated with symmetrical lines in a style unique to Victoria. See the Wurundjeri Wisdom sculpture marker for an example of this design.

The tree has since died and fallen where it will rot and provide nutrients for the next plant generation, contributing to the ongoing bushland cycle of life—something that the Wurundjeri community understand and respect.

Head back to the sculptural marker and follow the track heading downhill.

2 Pond Ponder

A reptile chain of events

Notice how the plants grow thick around the edges of the pond? This provides perfect habitat for our ground dwelling predators to hide and prepare their attack. A snake might be hiding in the grass watching for the lizard, which is crouching behind the sedges waiting for the dragonfly that is flying about looking for a Water Strider to eat.

If unlucky with the dragonfly, the Blue-tongue Lizard also feeds on snails, moths, ants, beetles, caterpillars and anything else small and easily caught.

The Long-necked Turtle can be found at the pond competing for the same food as the lizard, but from under the water. You'll only see them in the warmer months. Like all reptiles they go into low activity mode in winter—something called torpor.

Follow the path heading downhill.

3 Gregarious Grasslands

A host to butterflies and birds

Silver Wattle, *Acacia dealbata* is the shrub that lines much of this creek side path. In winter it is aglow courtesy of its yellow flower puffs.

The wattle is host to several butterfly larvae including the Imperial Blue Butterfly. This pretty little butterfly has light markings and orange spots towards the base of its wings. They lay eggs on the wattle from where the caterpillars emerge and feed.

The caterpillars have an amazing relationship with ants. They secrete a honeydew substance that ants swarm for, in such large numbers they help protect the caterpillars from predators, like the Restless Flycatcher.

Restless Flycatchers hover over the wattle as they pick off the grubs. They are black on top with a fan-like tail and white chest and look similar to the Willie Wagtail, but you won't see these restless creatures on the ground.

Continue around to your left following the access track.

4 Riverside Revelry

Egg laying mammals

The muddy banks of the Mullum Mullum Creek are home to the platypus—which several locals have seen. Platypus build a series of long connected burrows into the bank. One is a regular burrow for males and females, while the other one is more elaborate and lined with leaves. This is the nesting burrow.

The platypus lays two soft-shelled eggs then wraps herself around them for seven to ten days until they hatch. She then feeds them milk, but platypus do not have teats. Instead their milk is secreted onto the abdomen and the young lap it up.

Their close relative, the echidna, may also be found here in the warmer months. Look for scratching in the dirt or a movement in the bushes. Both the platypus and echidna are monotremes, which means egg-laying mammals. They are the only ones in the world and both species live here on the Mullum Mullum.

To complete your walk take a sharp turn to your left and head up the hill to the picnic area carpark.

Or to lengthen this walk, continue until the track meets the road then retrace your steps to the uphill track to your right and return to your starting point.

This finishes your walk.

*Time to plan your return visit. There are eight themed trails to follow with several longer walks that take you to two additional Sculptural Markers: **Beaut Eucs and Wild Wetlands.***