



Seasonal Splendour 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

This walk draws your attention to what happens in the park at different times of the year featuring the diversity of our native flora and a special focus on marsupials.

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.

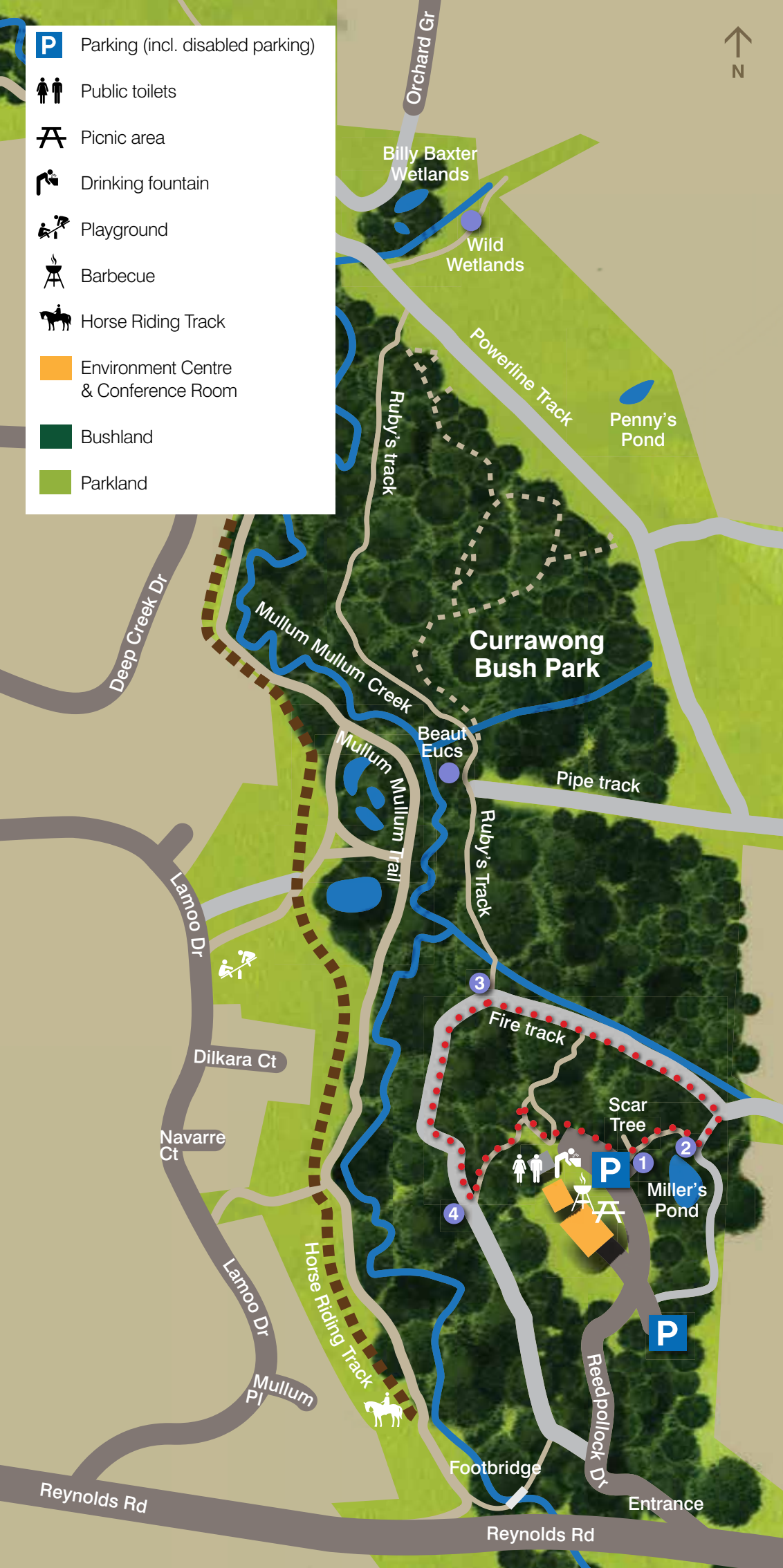


Additional Walks

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’.

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 down the hill to the first sculptural marker.

1 Wurundjeri Wisdom

Seven seasons

Wurundjeri-wilam were (and still are) skilled at reading the landscape and making connections between seasonal events. For instance, when the Manna Gum bloomed it was time to set eel traps.

For Currawong Bush Park the Wurundjeri-wilam identified six to seven seasons:

1. Kangaroo Apple Season occurs in December. This is the time Cherry Ballarts (Bulait) and Kangaroo Apple are in fruit, goannas (Dhulin) are active and bats (Balayang) appear in large numbers and eagles (Bunjil) breed
2. Dry Season happens in January and February. At this time of year Tussock Grass is long and dry, Brown Butterflies are flying
3. Eel Season is in March. This is when the Manna Gum flower and the eels (Uik) are fat and ready to eat
4. Wombat Season runs from April to August. At this time soft tree-fern (Kombadick) can be eaten, wombats (Warin) are basking in the sun and lyrebirds (Buln Buln) perform
5. Orchid Season is in September. Orchids (Gulin) and Silver Wattle (Muyan) are in flower, Brown Butterfly caterpillars (Ae-noke) feed on grasses (Buath) and koalas (Gurrborra) mate
6. Tadpole Season happens in October. The Myrmong (Yam Daisy) tubers (Barrn) are ready to eat, Flax Lilies are in flower and the Pied Currawongs call loudly
7. Grass Flowering Season is in November. Kangaroo Grass and Coranderk (Christmas Bush) are in flower and the Brown Butterfly (Balam balam) is in flight

(This version produced by the Koorie Unit, Museum Victoria)

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

Aboriginal Scar Tree

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.

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

2 Pond Ponder

Question: Why did the mushroom get invited to all the parties?

Answer: Because it was a Fun-Guy (fungi).

You'll need to be at Currawong from autumn to winter to see these fun-guys. Look around the base of trees where there is rotting matter and along the creek line just down from Millers Pond.

There are so many varieties of fungi that very little is known about them. In Australia we could have more than 250,000 species, but have only identified ten percent of these.

Fungi are neither plant nor animal. They exist on organic matter and are found on all land habitats. Many fungi form mutually beneficial relationships with plants and are the recyclers of forest nutrients.

Some, like the native truffle fungus feed several of Victoria's ground dwelling marsupials. They, in turn, distribute the fungi spores through their droppings ensuring a future food supply.

Winter is a quiet time at the pond, but come spring, wildflowers bloom, sedges and rushes grow, duckweed spreads and insects multiply creating perfect habitat for our bushland mammals, reptiles and birds to breed.

Follow the path heading downhill.

3 Gregarious Grasslands

Mating season

The idea that spring is the season for birth and regrowth does not quite fit the marsupial calendar. Wombats give birth in autumn, kangaroos generally in summer and koalas can give birth anytime from September to March.

All produce a single underdeveloped, jellybean sized joey. With no sight, no hearing, no fur and not even formed limbs they crawl through the fur, into the pouch and attach to a teat where they remain for several months.

All female marsupials have pouches; however wombats and koalas have pouches that open backwards. This makes good sense if you are a wombat.

Imagine having all that dirt flicked in your face?

However the koala climbs trees and sits upright, and having a backward facing pouch might pose a problem. So the entrance of the pouch has a strong sphincter muscle that holds the entrance shut.

This is a good thing if the koala has to make a speedy departure which can happen when summer brings the threat of fire.

Continue around to your left following the access track.

4 Riverside Revelry

Summer fire

Summer brings flowers, foliage and the possibility of fire. Some Australian plants have evolved various regenerative responses to fire.

Look for a eucalypt with a thick reddish, fibrous trunk. These are the Stringybarks and can withstand fire. The thicker the bark the better rate of survival.

Once a fire has passed eucalypts have ways of regenerating. Some have epicormic buds protected beneath their bark that will shoot after fire. Others regenerate from lignotubers at ground level. Look for eucalypts growing in clumps; this is a possible result of growth by lignotuber.

Others are solely dependent upon regeneration by seed. The intensity of a fire's heat forces gum nuts to release their seed and the ash base provides a good foundation for the seeds to grow.

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.