



Their Day, Our Night 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 is perfect for those who are curious about what happens in the bush at night. Find out who is active, what sounds to listen for and where to look for wildlife. Return at night to really explore these nocturnal bushland habits.

The park is closed to vehicle traffic after dark, but pedestrians are welcome anytime.

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.

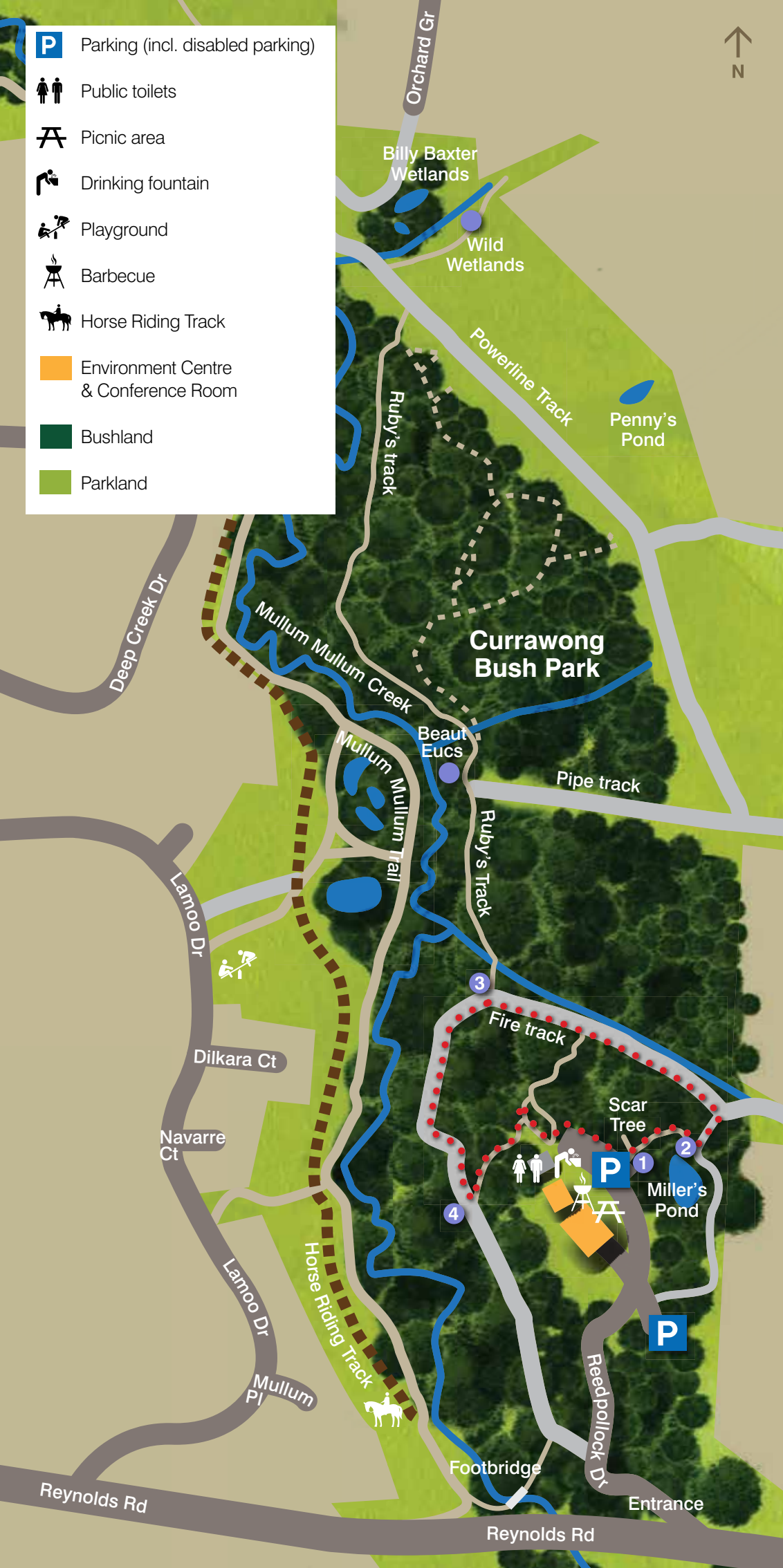


Additional Walks

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

Silent night?
Night is not silent here. As the sun sets, the bush fills with activity as our nocturnal animals begin their ‘day’.

Finding our nocturnal marsupials is difficult. Their colouring of browns and greys is an effective camouflage, especially at night.

By day the Eastern Grey Kangaroos are perhaps the easiest to find. Track them by following clumps of dark greenish round droppings. If they see you first you will hear a thump, thump, thump as they disappear. They can move at speeds of up to 65 kilometres per hour, but only at a sprint.

Kangaroos live on grasses and roots. Currawong has a large ‘roo population; you may notice that the grass here is kept reasonably short from our resident hoppers. Like cattle, kangaroos swallow their food whole, later regurgitating a cud and chewing on it. Best kangaroo spotting is here or up at Billy Baxter Wetlands.

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

Frogs and flappers

At night things are ‘hopping’ at the pond “weeep, eep, eep, eep, eep, eep” can be heard coming from the Brown Tree Frog and “bonk, bonk, bonk” from the Pobblebonk Frog. Mosquitoes and moths might be annoying to us, but they are much needed food for frogs and are eagerly snapped up.

The insectivorous White-striped Mastiff Bat also voraciously eats them. You’ll know this little creature is about if you hear what sounds like two coins being tapped together, “tap-tap, tap-tap”.

Follow the path heading downhill.

3 Gregarious Grasslands

Sharp eyes and a strange squeal

Suddenly a silent predator swoops past, grabs a Ringtail Possum and disappears. Why didn't the little possum hear it coming?

The large, Powerful Owl has hairy edges on its flight feathers and extra soft body feathers that help prevent any rustling as it make its deathly swoop. Their sight and hearing are extraordinary—powerful enough to accurately pinpoint small movements in the long grass.

A squeal like a pig is heard from the dark forest. Ah, that must be a koala.

At night they awaken for just four hours to feed.

It is extraordinary that they survive so close to suburbs and on such a toxic diet. Their specially designed digestive tract helps eliminate the toxins from eucalyptus leaves, but the process is slow and the nutrient level low, which causes their great lethargy.

Continue around to your left following the access track.

4 Riverside Revelry

Currawong ringies

As dusk falls, the Ringtail Possum sleepily appears from a mess of twigs known as a ‘drey’. The ‘ringy’ is an avid little nest builder, but will also rest in tree hollows or anywhere snug and up high—they’ll only come to ground if they have to.

Like koalas, the ringy loves eucalyptus leaves. They also eat flowers and fruits of both native and non-native plants like roses, which make them unpopular urban visitors.

They will also eat their own fecal pellets. This adds bacteria to aid digestion and allows them to extract a second lot of nutrients from their food. If you see a ringtail possum with a joey on its back, it might be dad taking his turn while mum has a feed.

Now that is something you don't see very often in the animal kingdom!

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.***