



Ready, Aim, Click Forest 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

699 Doncaster Road
Doncaster Victoria 3108
t 03 9840 9333 f 03 9848 3110
e manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au
www.manningham.vic.gov.au

This brochure is printed on Australian made, 100 per cent recycled Revive Laser carbon neutral paper which has helped reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by more than 110kgs CO²-e.



Walk Overview

This is a trail especially designed for those interested in photography. You will need a camera or phone with a camera. The trail focuses on different habitats and bush features then challenges you to find a series of things to photograph.

If you prefer sketching this trail can easily be adapted to suit your needs—choose one of the three options that appear at each of the walking stops.

Time

1.5 hrs

Distance

3.7 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 Forest 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.

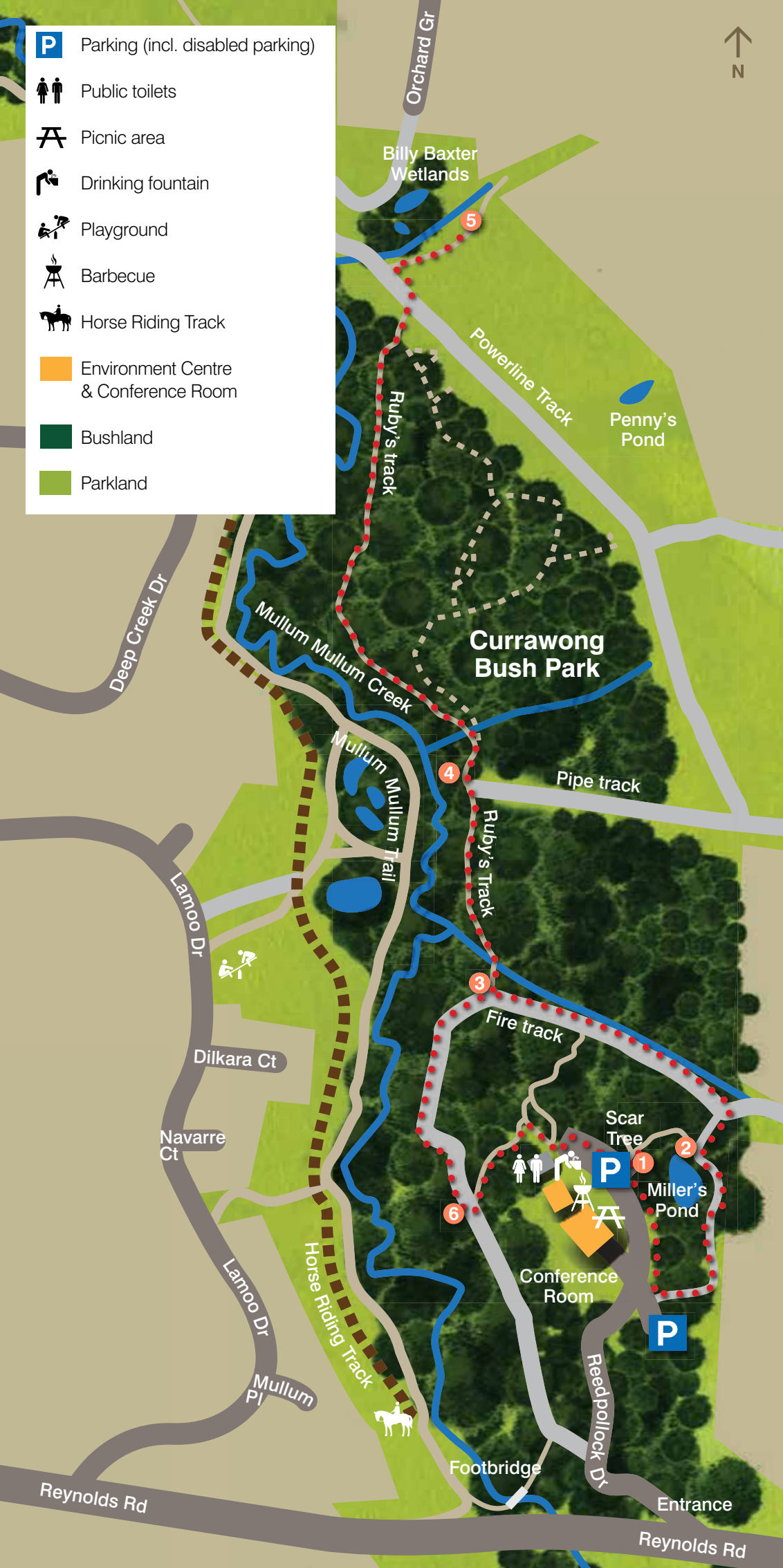


Additional Walks

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 walk ahead.

Begin your walk from the picnic area carpark and head downhill to the first sculptural marker.

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

1 Wurundjeri Wisdom

Bushland survival
The Aboriginal Scar Tree is one of several in the park.

A large piece of woody bark was removed in one piece. The width of the cut was not large enough to kill (ringbark) the tree. The bark was then fashioned into a canoe (Gurrong) or shield (Gayaam) or ceremonial vessel (Tarnuk).

Ready Aim Click

With your phone or camera photograph:

- A close up of the oval shape
- Evidence that the tree is rotting
- Something that was probably here when the scar tree was formed

Don't be afraid to get right down on the ground. Aim for that fantastic close up that you can frame or post online.

From the sculptural marker head up to the access road, turn left and walk to the second carpark. Here take the track heading downhill on the left.

2 Pond Ponder

Pond life

Now it is time to work your eyesight. There are more than 2,000 species of insects in Currawong Bush Park, including grasshoppers, cicadas, dragonflies, damselflies, beetles, moths, butterflies, praying mantis, stick insects and ants.

The pond also services the resident kangaroos. You will see them at dawn and dusk. They chew on the grass,

flatten the stalks when they lie down and their droppings are round, green and clumped together.

Ready Aim Click

With your phone or camera photograph:

- An insect—any sort you can find
- Evidence that kangaroos have been here
- The strangest thing you can find at the pond

Follow the path heading downhill.

3 Gregarious Grasslands

The good oil on grasses

Grasses boring? Not so! Grasses are vital to a forest; they provide food and shelter for wildlife and breeding sites and food for insects.

On the hillside next to the track are a staggering number of different native grasses—there are 22 species and varieties in the park! One is a tussock called Kangaroo Grass, with long slender stems with tufted reddish seeds produced in summer, that are fan-like and look a bit like a kangaroo's paw.

Ready Aim Click

With your phone or camera photograph:

- Kangaroo Grass
- Another variety of grass
- Something that grows with the grasses, but is not a grass

Continue downhill and over the footbridge.

4 Beaut Eucs

Koala Manna's

You are now standing in the home of our most charismatic resident, the koala. To find them look for Manna Gums. They are tall trees with white trunks, and their bark falls off in ribbons to make it look like they are wearing a sock.

If there are no koalas perhaps you can find evidence that they have been here, including broken twigs with fresh leaves on them, and droppings—olive shaped largish, hard droppings.

Ready Aim Click

With your phone or camera photograph:

- A Manna Gum
- A close up of the Manna Gum's 'sock'
- Possible evidence that a koala has been here

Be careful at the creek's edge and watch for snakes in summer.

Continue ahead until you reach the powerline track, turn left walking downhill, turn right at the next track to the last sculptural marker.

5 Wild Wetland

Wetlands that rock!

At first glance this area may not seem to be very interesting, but there is plenty going on!

All the rainwater from the surrounding neighbourhood gets washed down here. It pours into three settling ponds with plants that help remove toxins from the water, so by the time it flows into the Mullum Mullum Creek the water is much cleaner.

Ready Aim Click

With your phone or camera photograph:

- A settling pond
- A close up of a wetlands plant
- Something that you have never seen before

Retrace your steps back to the Gregarious Grasslands marker and continue ahead on the access track.

6 Riverside Revelry

Canopy competition

Time to stop and 'feel' the bush. Close your eyes, listen for birds, leaves rustling, branches falling, animals scattering.

Now look up and about. Every plant is trying to gain the attention of just one very important element—the sun!

All plants need sun to photosynthesise—a process that converts sunlight into energy—or they will die. So there is an urgency to capture sunlight.

Notice the trees, the shrubs and the ground cover. In a forest there are different layers that make up these competitive groups including the 'sun-seekers' and those that only need a small amount of light.

Ready Aim Click

With your phone or camera photograph:

- The canopy of the forest
- A mid-level of trees and bushes
- A close up of plants trying really hard to grab the sun's attention

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