

WURUNDJERI WALK

Welcome to Wurundjeri Walk, a twenty-hectare park owned by Whitehorse City Council and dedicated to providing a mix of recreational activities in a natural setting.

This guide leaflet provides information on points of interest as you walk through the park.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to Wurundjeri Walk. If you want to help in park community activities please contact David on 9890 7915.

The trail begins at the Information Board, proceeds east along the south side of Wurundjeri Creek returning in a loop via a path on the north side of the creek (see map over).

Sites of interest are sign-posted on the main path.

From the footbridge at Site 7 you can conclude your walk or continue west through the Bush Block and Fulton Reserve before returning to the Information Board.

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WHITEHORSE

Site 1

Horses were agisted here until the early 1990s and a horse corral was located near Fulton Road. The gum tree near the road has a horseshoe embedded in its trunk to mark the location.

The horses caused severe creek bank erosion near here but little evidence remains due to extensive revegetation.

The park was officially named Wurundjeri Walk in a naming day ceremony in 1992 and the occasion was marked by the planting of a Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) by an Elder of the Wurundjeri Tribe. Wurundjeri means Witchetty Grub from the Manna Gum so the tree has special significance for local Kooris.



grey butcherbird



Site 2

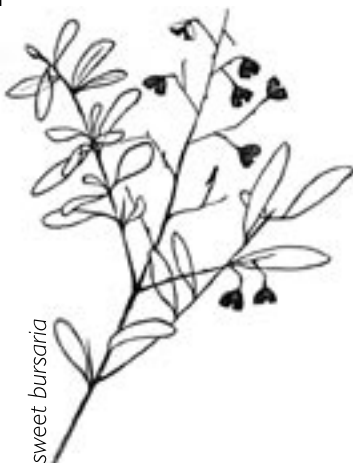
Pause here and soak up the atmosphere. Of the 60 bird species found in the park those commonly encountered include Galahs, Magpies, Eastern Rosellas, Kookaburras, Magpie Larks, Wattlebirds, Noisy Miners, Swallows, Masked Lapwings, Butcherbirds and Blue Wrens. Local remnant bushland plants include Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) a small tree with straggly branches, tiny leaves and masses of flowers in summer. Also several eucalypts including Long-leaved Box (*Eucalyptus gonicalyx*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*). The predominant wattle is Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*).



white faced heron

Site 3

Look across the creek to the dam, which attracts many water-loving birds. Can you see any birds in the water or perching on the dead tree nearby? The furrows on the slope beyond the dam indicate evidence of an old orchard. The shrubs between the dam and the creek are Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*).



sweet bursaria

Site 4

Alongside Fulton Road you can see superb specimens of Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*).

A BMX bike track will soon be located between Fulton Road and Mirrabooka Oval. Work needs to be carried out on the creek bank erosion and exposed storm-water drains in this area.

Site 5

Enjoy the view overlooking the dam, creek, bush remnants and planting beds. All recent park plantings consist of indigenous species planted by Friends of the Park and Whitehorse City Council staff. Nearby was once the site of a farmhouse and dairy and more recently



yellow box

a horse riding school. The several old gum trees near the path bear testament to these past activities.

Wurundjeri Walk was once destined to be part of the Healesville Freeway connecting Riversdale Road with the Scoresby Freeway, but this plan was scrapped in 1983.

Continue your walk along the path to the west, down the hill and over the small creek to the next site.

Site 6

Recent planting activity and the existing remnant vegetation attract many different birds to this location. Make a list of native and introduced bird species spotted here.

Site 7

You can complete your walk here by crossing the footbridge back to the start point. Please replace the leaflet in the box provided. For an extended walk continue walking west along the path through the Bush Block.

This part of the park contains good quality remnant bush that has regenerated successfully since horses were removed in 1988. Indigenous species include Yellow Box, Sweet Bursaria, Black Wattle, Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass and native orchids. Weed invaders are a threat to this area and include Blackberries, Gorse, Watsonia, Spanish Heath, Angled Onion, Ash and grassy weeds. Cross Indra Road to Site 8 near the playground.

Site 8

The long bed on the northern border was planted in 1988 when over 100 people planted 800 plants in three hours. A Retarding Basin/Wetland habitat was constructed here in 2001 to provide a bird habitat and flood protection and to reduce stormwater pollution. The wetlands were officially opened in March 2002. Walk around the wetland and back to the intersection of Indra and Fulton Roads.

Please don't feed the ducks — bread doesn't agree with them!

Site 9

The large grille near Fulton Road covers structures that control water flow into the wetland and prevent the entry of rubbish. The tall Yellow Box near Fulton Road is the home base for a family of magpies. Continue over Indra Road and walk east along Fulton Road to the next site.

Site 10

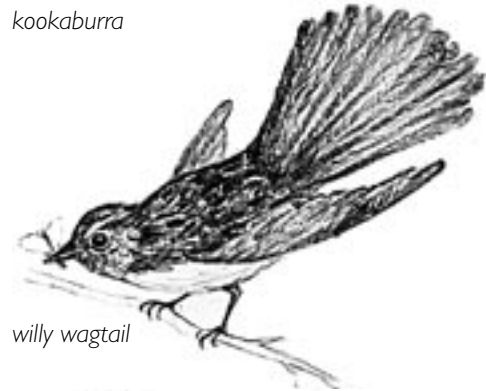
You can see where the Wurundjeri Creek disappears into an underground drain that runs under Fulton Road. Rubbish tends to build up on the grate over the drain entrance, particularly after heavy rainfall.

Where do you think this rubbish comes from? How can it be minimized?

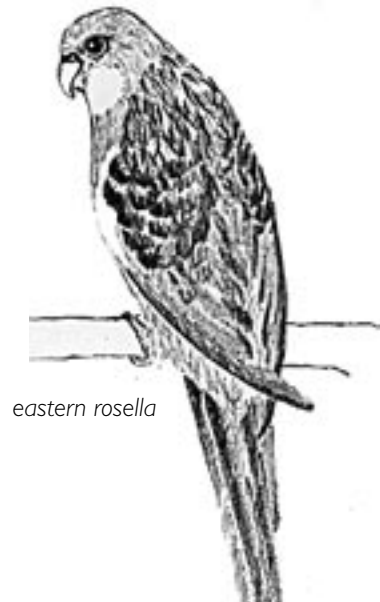
There is a lovely stand of Yellow Box between the road and creek but the trees are in danger. Why is this so? Depending on the season you may be able to see two weeds (Angled Onion and Creeping Buttercup) growing in profusion near the creek.



kookaburra



willy wagtail



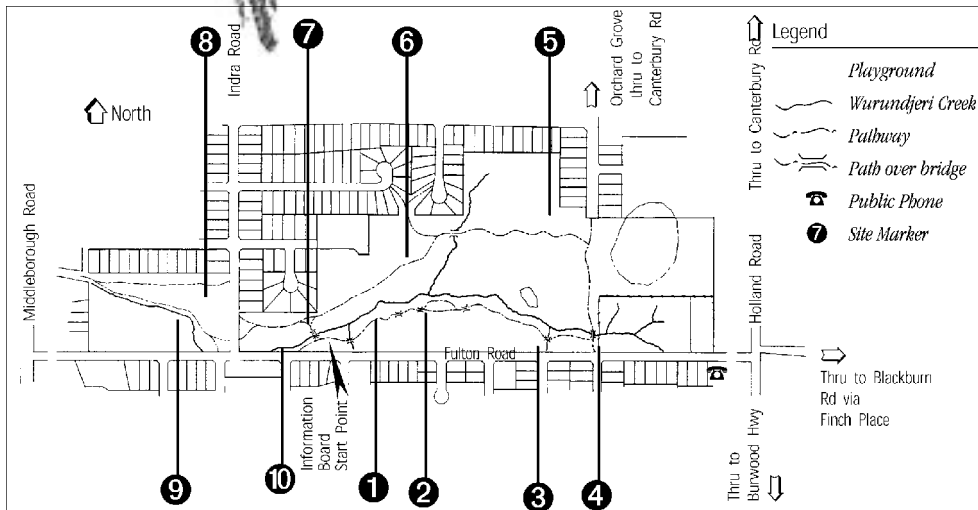
eastern rosella



common skink



allocasuarina



Continue back to the Information Board. You have now completed the guided walk through Wurundjeri Walk.

Please replace the leaflet in the box provided.

Thank you for visiting Wurundjeri Walk - please come again and enjoy what the park has to offer. For further information about the park please contact: David Berry (9890 7915)