

WERILLYIUP BUSH TRAIL

'WERILLYIUP' means "a swampy place" in the local Aboriginal language. The walk trail will take you around Horse Swamp, named by the early settlers because escaped horses were often found grazing there.

From December to June, the swamp is usually dry. However, after the onset of rains in May or June, the swamp fills with water and the surrounding meadows become waterlogged.

A considerable variety of bird life can be seen during winter, spring and early summer. It is common to see a pair of Black Swans at this time, as they nest and produce offspring each year.

LENGTH:	3 kilometre loop
GRADE:	1 - Easy (suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels)
WALKING TIME:	50 minutes at a leisurely pace
TRAIL MARKERS:	Blue-topped pine poles; lettered poles mark points of interest

CHECKLIST

☒ Hat	☒ Sunscreen	☒ Water
☒ Insect Repellent	☒ Walking shoes	☒ Raincoat (in wetter months)

START: Mussel Pool, in Car Park 23 at the end of the Dog Park, or from Car Park 21.

A: Soon after passing through the second gate, a track to your right leads to the bird hide. You can often see coots and red-legged stilts from here.

B: From the dam wall there are good views along the length of the swamp. Black Swans and Ibis can often be seen.

THE LOOKOUT – Climb the lookout to get a wonderful birds-eye view of the swamp. Look for harriers, ducks and Ibis. In the wetter months, also look for spoonbills, heron, egrets, cormorants and the nesting pair of black swans. If you turn to the east, you may spot one of the Park's bulls in their paddock.

C: At the eastern end of the swamp is a large grove of Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*). This is a favourite spot for many Grey Kangaroos during the heat of the day. Scattered around the drier parts of the swamp are Stout Paperbarks (*Melaleuca preissiana*).

D: Freshwater Paperbarks (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) often stand with their feet in water. A grove of these is favoured by Purple Swamphens and Coots for nesting.

E: Passing through a gate, the trail continues through a large area of Balga, or grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea brunonis*), which differ from the more common grasstree in not having a trunk aboveground.

