

CITY OF



WHITEHORSE

Walking and Wheeling in Whitehorse

A Guide to Great Walks in Whitehorse



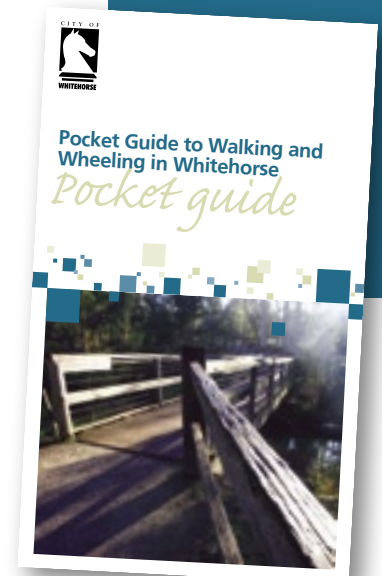


Contents

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Blackburn | |
| • Blackburn Lake Sanctuary | 4 |
| • Blacks Walk | 6 |
| Box Hill | |
| • Bushy Creek Parklands | 8 |
| Burwood | |
| • Gardiners Creek Reserve (North) | 10 |
| Mitcham | |
| • Eastlink Shared Trail | 12 |
| • Halliday Park | 14 |
| Vermont South | |
| • Lookout Trail Park | 16 |
| Heritage Sites | |
| • Old Strathdon Orchard | 18 |
| • Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex | 19 |
| • Surrey Dive and the Federation Street Brickworks | 20 |
| Play Spaces for People of All Abilities | 22 |
| Skate and BMX Facilities | 24 |
| TIS Language Assistance | 25 |
| Useful Phone Numbers | 25 |

Our Pocket Guide to Walking and Wheeling in Whitehorse is also available now.



Introduction

Introduction



The Walking and Wheeling in Whitehorse booklet highlights some of the wonderful parks and walking trails within the municipality.

It includes information on required levels of fitness, disability access, general facilities, and lists the location of some of the BMX tracks, mountain bike tracks, skate parks and playgrounds in Whitehorse.

The booklet has something for everyone including history buffs. Go back in time by visiting heritage sites such as Old Strathdon Orchard; the picturesque Schwerkolt Cottage; and Surrey Dive and the Federation Street Brickworks.

For a comprehensive map of bike routes and walking tracks in the municipality, pick up the *Pocket Guide to Walking and Wheeling in Whitehorse*.

So grab what you need – whether it be walking boots, your bike, your wheelchair or your family, friends or dog – and discover Whitehorse's great outdoors.

Legend

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| | Parking |
| | Information Centre/Board |
| | Toilets |
| | Playground |
| | Seating Area |
| | Shelter |
| | BBQ |
| | Neighbourhood House |
| | Nursery |
| | Building/Facility |
| | Designated Shared Trail |
| | Designated Walking Track |
| | Shared Trail |
| | Walking Track |
| | Major Road |
| | Minor Road |
| | Local Government Area |
| | Bridge |
| | Lake, Pond, Creek |

Maps included in this booklet do not incorporate all facilities found on these walks. Please refer to the *Pocket Guide to Walking and Wheeling in Whitehorse* or Council's website for more information: www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

For more information about the walks included in this booklet, please contact Council's Arts and Recreation Development Department on 9262 6333.

If you would like to find out about more walks throughout Victoria, visit www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au

Levels of difficulty

This indicates degree of difficulty for cyclists and walkers on the identified

track. For walkers and cyclists, degree of difficulty is measured by the potential hindrances that may be encountered on the track i.e. steep inclines that may require a good level of fitness.

Levels of accessibility

This takes into consideration people with disabilities, the elderly and those pushing prams. The tracks were measured using a slope indicator, which determined the steepness of the paths. The Australian Standards Measurements have been used to determine level of accessibility.

Cyclists

At the time of printing, passengers are able to carry foldable bikes onto buses and trams. Metlink requests that passengers taking bikes onto trains use the last carriage to avoid congestion. Please refer to www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au for up-to-date information.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Philomena MacDonald and John Van Delft of the Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee (WDAC) for their assistance with ascertaining the best access into some of the parks. Thanks also to Ian Moodie for his wildlife photography.

Disclaimer

This booklet is a Whitehorse City Council initiative. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is correct and up to date at the time of printing.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary – Blackburn

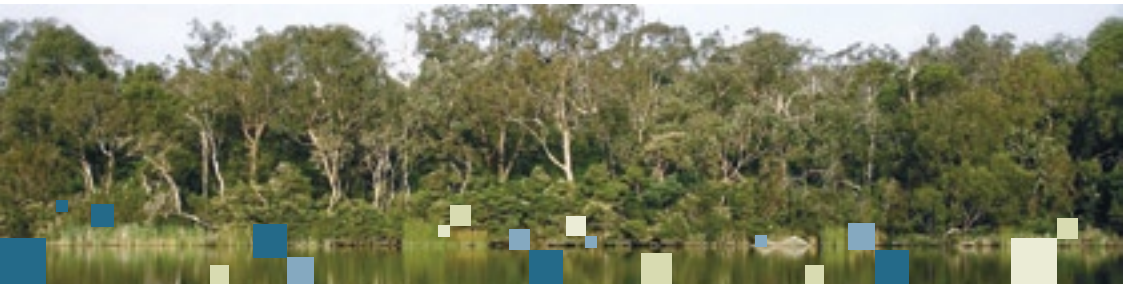
Track type: 1.6km closed bushland circuit walking path around the lake.

Level of difficulty: medium.

Level of accessibility: difficult. Being an unsealed track, there are some accessibility issues with the surface and slope.

Facilities: toilets, playground, picnic tables, information centre, dogs on lead.

Track surface: unsealed tracks and car park – may be slippery when wet.



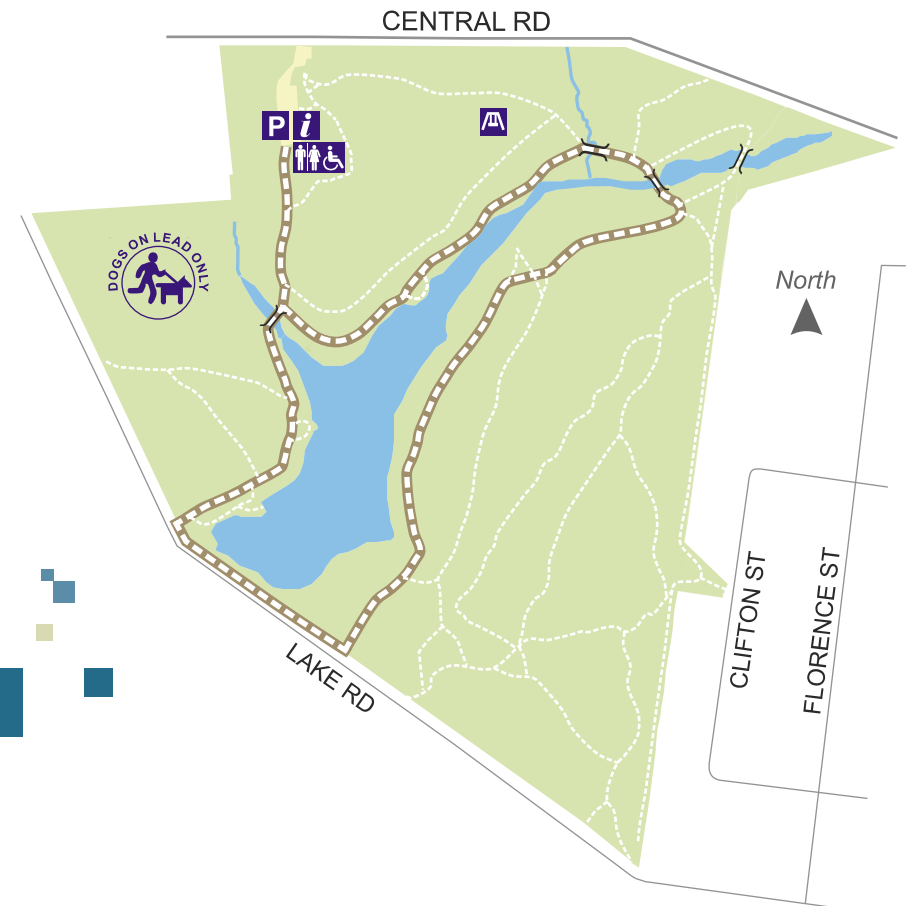
Blackburn Lake Sanctuary is one of the largest bushland sites in the City of Whitehorse. It offers protective habitat for all of the native animals and indigenous plants within its 26 hectares.

Visitors can experience a space that is rich in historical references and has a supportive community advisory group. For details on the advisory group, contact Council on 9262 6333.

Visitors are asked to remain on the paths and not feed the ducks as they have an abundance of food in their natural habitat.

Park highlights

- The lake
- Birdlife
- Visitor Centre open 2.00–4.00pm every Sunday



Blackburn Lake Sanctuary

Transport

Melway ref: 48 A11

- 🚲 There is a network of informal bike routes in the surrounding areas.
- 🚌 Bus 736 runs along Central Road between Mitcham and Blackburn train stations.
- 🚉 Blackburn Station is 0.5km west from the sanctuary.

Blacks Walk – Blackburn



Track type: shared trail.

Level of difficulty: easy. There are no steep inclines on the circuit trail.

Level of accessibility: medium. Unsealed track is smooth and wide. Some sections of the track may be boggy after rain.

Facilities: off-street parking.

Track surface: unsealed track and car park nearby, which may be slippery when wet.

Blacks Walk is located in the residential streets of Blackburn and forms part of the well-known Blackburn Creeklands. The walk presents a great circuit trail among towering trees and twittering birdlife that is very popular with lunchtime visitors.

Blackburn Creeklands has an active advisory committee. For more information, contact Council on 9262 6333. The off-street car park in Pakenham Street is busy at school times as it is often used by parents and teachers from the nearby school.

Park highlights

- Large impressive indigenous remnant trees and dead habitat trees (stags)
- Meandering creek line
- Birdlife



Blacks Walk

Transport

Melway ref: 47 G11

- Bikes can be ridden and there are many informal bike routes close by.
- Bus 733 travels along Middleborough Road, between Box Hill and Oakleigh train stations.
- Laburnum Station is 0.5km north of this reserve.

Bushy Creek Parklands – Box Hill North



Track type: 1.7km linear parkland trail.
Shared trail for cyclists and walkers.

Level of difficulty: easy.

Level of accessibility: medium.
While this trail is long, the 1.5m wide track is made of smooth asphalt.
However, transitions over the roads can be steep.

Facilities: playgrounds,
picnic tables, information board,
off-street parking, nursery.

Track surface: sealed track.

Made up of three distinct parks, Bushy Creek Parklands are jam-packed with cultural history and present-day environmental strategies to conserve water in the garden.

The Greenlink Community Nursery, located next to the wetlands, is filled with plants that will survive in all areas of Whitehorse.

Parking is located next to the Evangelical Chinese Church on Elgar Road or in off-street parking bays adjacent to the park in Wimmera Street. Both locations are in Box Hill North.

Park highlights

- Public art in Bushy Creek East
- Remnant bushland in Memorial Park
- Historical sites
- Shared trail with links to other cycling tracks
- Access to Kerrimuir Neighbourhood House in Linda Avenue



Bushy Creek

Transport

Melway ref: 47 C4 to F6

- Comprised of two crossovers including the pedestrian lights at Station Street, this shared trail is accessible from many directions and from a number of informal bike routes.
- There are many buses that travel adjacent to this park:
 - Along Elgar Road – buses 202, 289 and 302
 - Along Station Street – buses 291, 293 and 295
 - Along Dorking Road – buses 270 and 271.

Gardiners Creek Reserve (North) – Burwood



Track type: two circuit walks. Shared trail for cyclists and walkers. Track A is 0.8km beginning at the Bennettswood Bowling Club – a short walk on the southern side of the creek. Track B is 1.5km beginning at the Bennettswood Bowling Club – a long walk around Gardiners Creek.

Level of difficulty: medium for cyclists. Easy for walkers.

Level of accessibility: medium for Track A. Difficult for Track B.

Facilities: picnic tables, BBQs, dog off lead areas.

Track surface: unsealed tracks in most sections except a small stretch near the entrance to the park off Station Street.

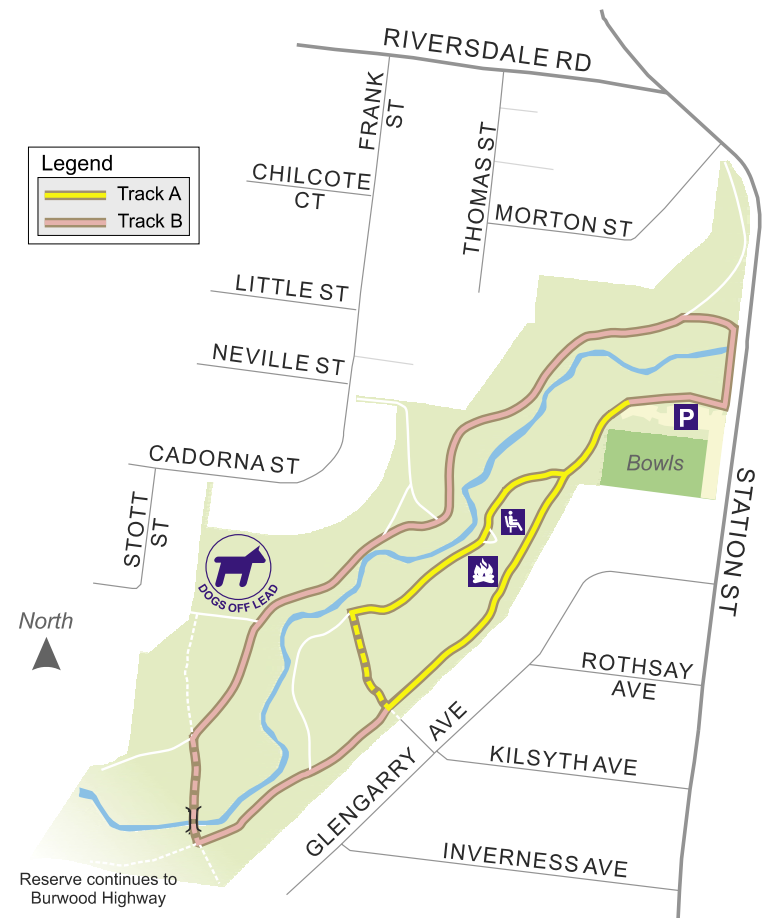
This reserve offers visitors the choice of numerous tracks around the northern section of Gardiners Creek. If travelling close to the billabong, you are likely to see a multitude of open woodland and wetland birds including the Purple Swamphen and the Little Pied Cormorant.

Please refrain from allowing dogs to splash through these areas as they are precious habitat. However, enjoy the quietness of the reserve with a book, a stroll, wheeling or with friends.

Best point of access to the park is via the Bennettswood Bowling Club car park, located in Station Street, Box Hill South.

Park highlights

- Gardiners Creek
- Naturalistic surroundings
- Historical sites
- Billabong



Gardiners Creek Reserve

Transport

Melway ref: 61 C4

- 🚲 From the southern end of this reserve, there are links to Gardiners Creek Trail and the Yarra Trail to Melbourne CBD. Approximately 18km.
- 🚌 Buses 732 and 735 travel along Station Street past this park.
- 🚊 Tram 75 runs along Burwood Highway, past the southern end of Gardiners Creek Reserve.

Eastlink Shared Trail – Mitcham



Track type: 2km linear trail. Shared trail for cyclist and walkers.

Level of difficulty: difficult for cyclists in sections. Medium for walkers.

Level of accessibility: difficult – as well as being long, the track gradients are very steep in places (1:13).

Facilities: information boards, toilets at Schwerkolt Cottage.

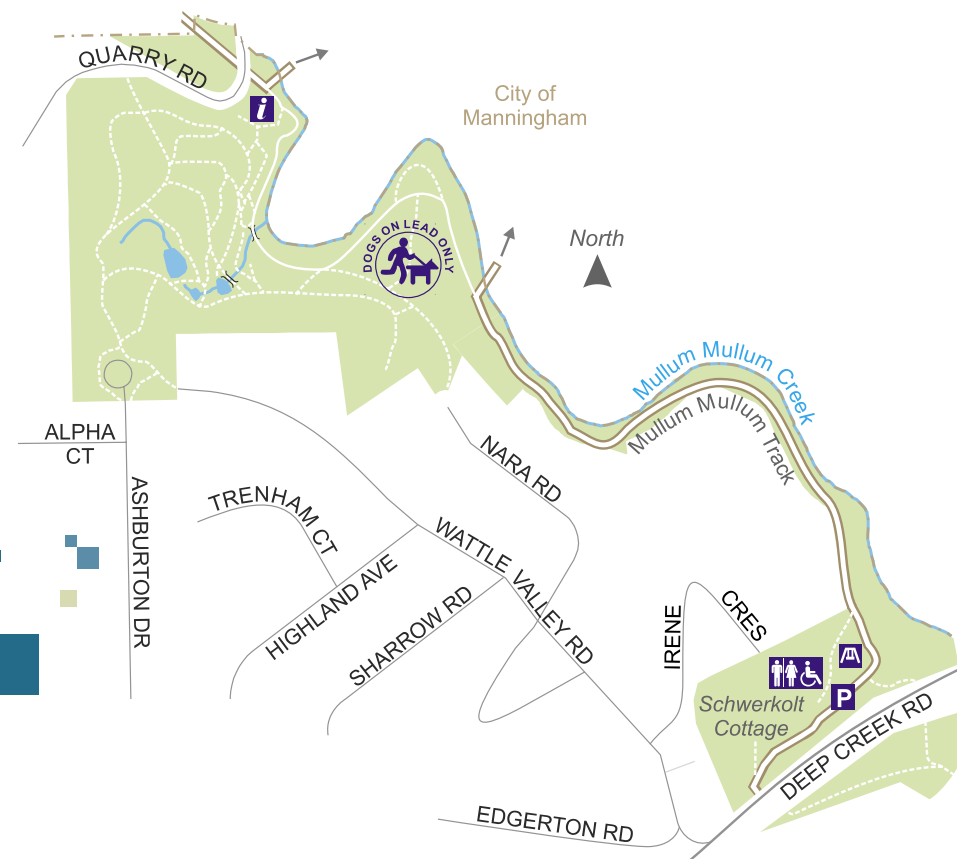
Track surface: sealed path and boardwalk; however, parking near Schwerkolt Cottage is unsealed and steep.

The newly developed Eastlink Shared Trail, partly follows the old (unmade) Mullum Mullum Creek Track that skirts the Mullum Mullum Creek. Joining Schwerkolt Cottage and Yarran Dheran Reserve, the sealed track diverts into the City of Manningham at the north-western corner of Yarran Dheran then crosses back to the City of Whitehorse near Quarry Road.

The Eastlink Shared Trail boasts beautiful scenery and picturesque views. The backdrop of the new Eastlink ventilation stacks glimpsed through the Valley Healthy Forest south of Schwerkolt Cottage is eye-catching.

Park highlights

- Historical sites
- Mullum Mullum Creek
- Animal/birdlife along track



Eastlink Shared Trail

Transport

Melway ref: 49 D7

- 🚲 Bike lane along Deep Creek Road runs parallel to Schwerkolt Cottage access point to the Eastlink Trail.
- 🚌 Bus 270 travels along Wattle Valley Road and Deep Creek Road past Schwerkolt Cottage from Ringwood Station en route to Box Hill Station.
- 🚉 Heatherdale Station located approximately 1.2km south of trail.

Halliday Park – Mitcham

Track type: 0.5km circuit trail.
Shared trail for cyclists and walkers.

Level of difficulty: easy.

Level of accessibility: easy –
off-street parking located behind
Mitcham Bowls Club.

Facilities: picnic tables, BBQs,
playground, toilets.

Track surface: predominantly a
smooth, unsealed track.

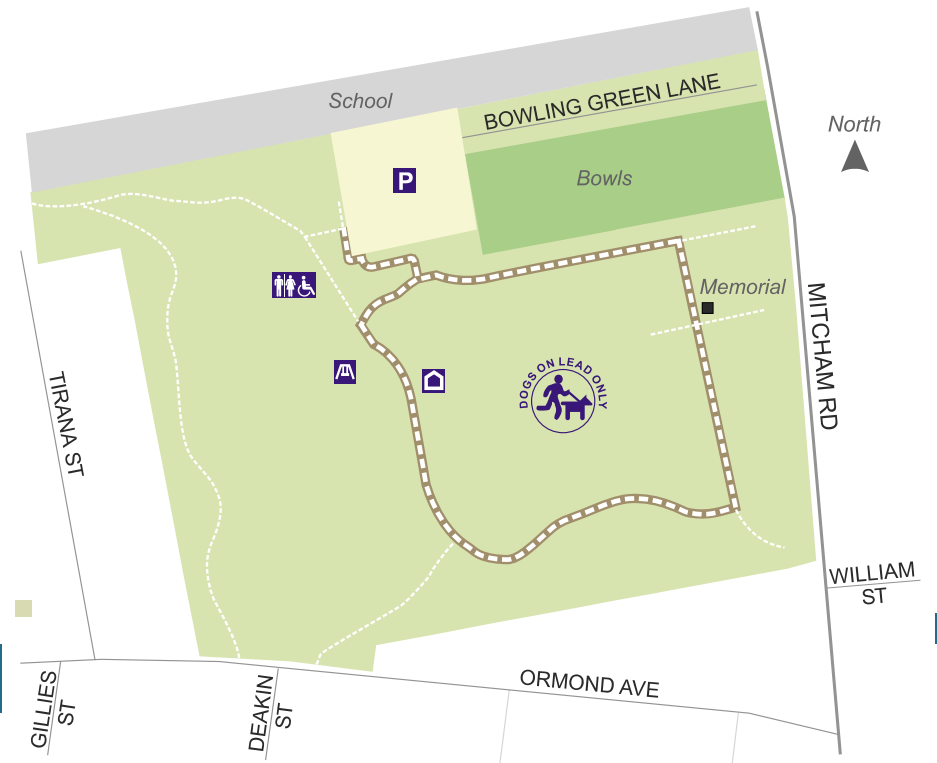


This is a great place for a picnic or a BBQ. This easily accessible reserve is a wonderful destination for everyone, with an all ages playground. There is also a memorial plaque dedicated to the late Councillor Robert Ramsay Halliday located near the main entrance on Mitcham Road.

The Halliday Park Advisory Committee is actively involved in the park's management. New members are welcome. Contact Council on 9262 6333 for more information.

Park highlights

- Historical sites
- All-ages playground
- Large BBQ and picnic area close to playground



Halliday Park

Transport

Melway ref: 49 J7

- 🚲 Using the Koonung Creek Trail and the Bushy Creek Trail link, cyclists can access this reserve via the bike lane that runs east-west along Springfield Road.
- 🚌 Buses 270, 303 and 307 travel along Mitcham Road, past the main entrance to this reserve.
- 🚉 Mitcham Station is situated 1km south of this reserve.

Lookout Trail Park – Vermont South



Track type: 1.3km linear trail from Burwood Highway to Highbury Road. Shared trail for cyclists and walkers.

Level of difficulty: medium. There are some small walking tracks that are steep and unsuitable for bikes. However, the main track has good sightlines and gradients are gradual.

Level of accessibility: difficult.

Facilities: picnic table, seats near the lookout.

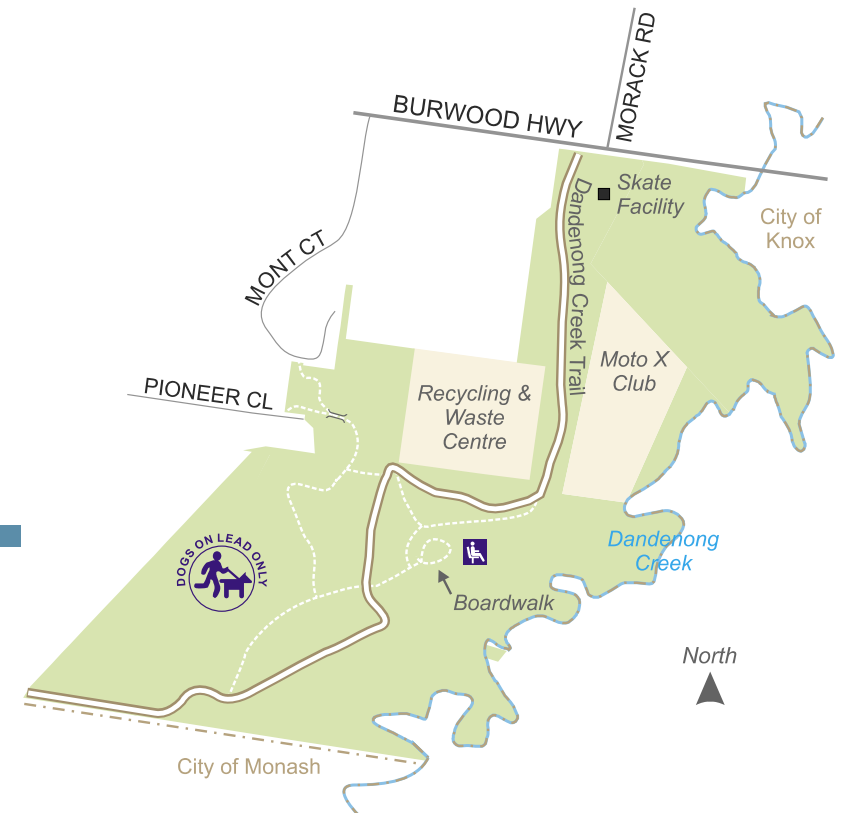
Track surface: the main track is unsealed. The narrow steep tributary tracks have steps and the lookout may be inaccessible for some people.

The pathway that extends alongside the skate ramp and is adjacent to the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre roadway marks the beginning of this trail.

The actual entrance to the Lookout Trail Park is approximately 0.4km along the path. Indicative of this site's earlier years as the Nunawading tip, the soil throughout the park is scattered with bricks and open woodland regrowth. In the late 1980s to the early 1990s, a wooden lookout was built as part of an APEX community project to showcase the beautiful landscape within the Dandenong Creek Valley and Dandenong Ranges.

Park highlights

- Lookout with boardwalk, accessible via stairs



Lookout Trail Park

Transport

Melway ref: 62 K9

- 🚲 There are links to the Dandenong Creek trail via neighbouring municipalities to the north and south of Whitehorse.
- 🚊 732 and 736 travel east-west along Burwood Highway.

Heritage Sites: Old Strathdon Orchard – Forest Hill

Strathdon image courtesy of Whitehorse Historical Society.



Today, Old Strathdon Orchard is a 2.5 hectare property surrounded by outbuildings and fruit trees on Springvale Road, Forest Hill.

Jack Frankhauser cleared eight hectares of virgin bush in the early 1890s to build a home for himself and his family. The homestead is built of brick and timber and is surrounded by fruit trees.

In 1914, Charles Matheson, a master mariner, purchased the house and land and named it 'Strathdon' after a ship on which he sailed as an apprentice. The Matheson family worked this land until 1988 when the former Nunawading Council acquired it as part of a bicentennial project.

Old Strathdon Orchard was the last working orchard in the municipality. In 1886, 1000 acres in this area was covered with orchards, surpassed only by Bulleen and Echuca. Nowadays, Old Strathdon is the only orchard remaining in the City of Whitehorse that gives the community a glimpse of the past.

Melway ref: 62 E5

Heritage Sites

Heritage Sites: Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex – Mitcham

August Schwerkolt, a German-born pioneer and family man, was one of the first settlers to build a solidly constructed home in the Mitcham area (circa 1864).

Built from rocks and wood quarried alongside the Mullum Mullum Creek, it is one of the few stone cottages in metropolitan Melbourne that still stands on its original site.

Restored in 1964, the three-roomed home and surrounding landholding offers a museum of farming, house-keeping and traditional artefacts. Managed by the



Schwerkolt Cottage image courtesy Whitehorse Historical Society.

Whitehorse City Council, Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex is open to the public on the weekends and most public holidays, between the hours of 2.00pm and 5.00pm.

Melway ref: 49 D7



Heritage Sites: Surrey Dive and the Federation Street Brickworks – Box Hill

Heritage Sites

Formally known as Irish Town, between 1860 and 1880, the hinterland around Surrey Dive was the home of Box Hill's first major industry, Haughton Park Brick Company.



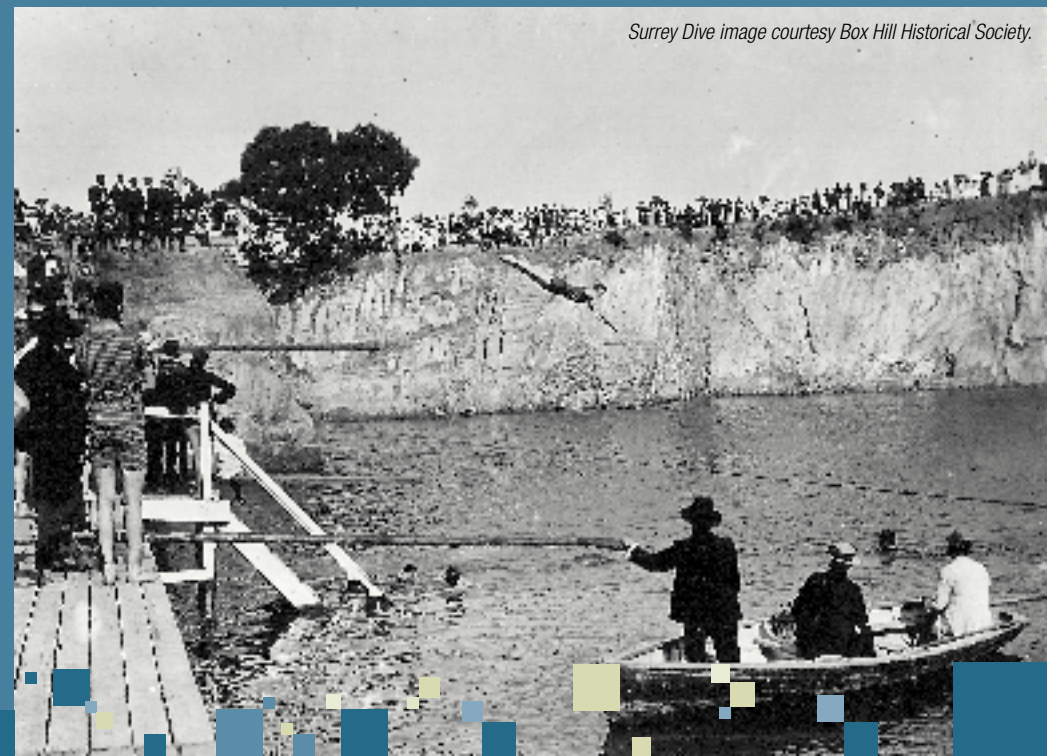
Surrey Dive image courtesy Box Hill Historical Society.

Haughton Park Brick Company employed a substantial proportion of the wage-earning community during that era. In 1891 the clay pit reached a depth of 80 feet. However, difficult times forced the brickworks to close the following year and over the next five years the clay pit was filled.

In 1910-1911 the Standard Brick Company was set up next door and a new clay pit was excavated.

Surrey Dive, as it was christened, was later purchased by the Council to be used as an official inland swimming pool. This was a novelty as inland swimming pools were almost unheard of at this time.

Between 1907 and 1925, only club members were allowed to bathe in the Surrey Dive and initially membership was available only to men. At that time, no one would have ever dreamed of ladies using the dive. However, in 1925 the Surrey Park Ladies Swimming Club was established.



Surrey Dive image courtesy Box Hill Historical Society.

In 1933 the dive was considered the first Olympic length pool in Australia. A new 33-metre pool was opened nearby six years later; however, the dive remained the only Olympic-sized pool in Melbourne.

The drought of 1967–1972 resulted in the demise of the dive. The remaining water was used to clean the drains and irrigate the street trees. By the late 1980s, the dive had been drained and filled. Stakeholders, including the then Box Hill Council, agreed that the major bicentennial project of that time would be the construction of an ornamental lake to celebrate its history.

At the time of this booklet going to print, access to the dive track is considered difficult. The tracks around the water hole are unmade and the slope is steep in places. The best access is via Surrey Drive car park.

Enter off Alexander Street or Brougham Street, Box Hill.

Melway ref: 47 C11

Play Spaces for Children of all Abilities

Play Spaces



Tunstall Park – Nunawading

Tunstall Park has unmade tracks traversing the park. The large eucalypts offer habitat to the local wildlife and are spread throughout the park. The beautiful trees beckon the visitor to sit near them with a good book. The off-street car park on Luckie Street has a disability car space at the entrance and a wide unmade entry point into the park. There is a wheelchair accessible swing.

Melway ref: 48 E8



Hanover Reserve – Vermont South

This reserve offers a great playground for children of all abilities. There is ramp access to the structure and also a swing that is accessible for all children. Entry to the playground is via a wide pathway that can be accessed from the footpath.

Melway ref: 62 H6

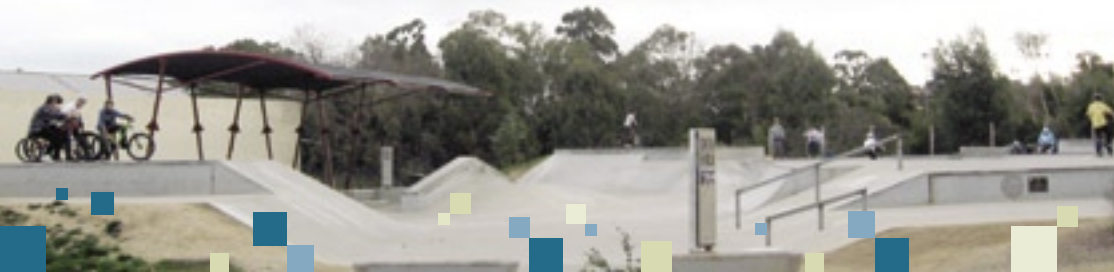


Skate and BMX Facilities

Skate and BMX Facilities

The Skate Park and BMX Facility in Box Hill

Here is a place to test your skating and BMX ability. The uninterrupted flow from one element to another enables the rider to fully experience the park's unique design. Elements within the park include a figure-eight bowl, a bank ramp with a ledge and a euro gap, half pyramids with various ledges and two bowls joined by a spine.



Skaters are advised to use the correct safety equipment when using these facilities such as a helmet, elbow pads, knee pads and appropriate footwear.

This park caters for skaters of all abilities and ages. There are toilets, seats, shade and plantings surrounding the park to ensure spaces are provided for all users of this facility. A drinking fountain has also been supplied on site.

The skate park and BMX facility in Box Hill is located on the corner of Middleborough and Canterbury Roads.

Melway ref: 61 G1

The Half Pipe in Vermont

The half pipe was first made to resemble a wave so that when there was no swell at the beach, the half pipe was the next best thing. The half pipe is for the skilled skateboarder.

Melway ref: 63 A8



TIS Language Assistance

TIS Language Assistance

For language assistance, call Translating Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Whitehorse City Council on (03) 9262 6333.

如需語言協助，請撥翻譯服務處TIS的電話131 450，然後要求接通白馬市政府的電話(03) 9262 6333。

Για βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας καλέστε την υπηρεσία μετάφρασης και διερμηνείας [TIS] στον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία του Whitehorse [Whitehorse City Council] στον αριθμό (03) 9262 6333.

Per avere assistenza con la lingua chiama il TIS al numero 131 450 e chiedi di essere connesso col Comune di Whitehorse al numero (03) 9262 6333.

Muốn được giúp đỡ về ngôn ngữ, xin gọi cho TIS qua số 131 450 và yêu cầu họ gọi cho Hội đồng Thành phố Whitehorse qua số (03) 9262 6333.

Useful Phone Numbers

Useful Phone Numbers

**Ambulance,
Fire, Police**
dial 000

Poisons Information
13 11 26

**Box Hill Hospital
– Emergency**
(03) 9895 3333
Nelson Road
Box Hill 3128

RSPCA
(03) 9224 2222

Wildlife Victoria
0500 540 000

Help for Wildlife
0417 380 687

**Yarra Valley Water
Emergency**
13 27 62

**Environment
Protection Authority**
(03) 9695 2722

**24 hour pollution
watch line**
(03) 9695 2777



Contacting Council

Postal Address:

Whitehorse City Council
Locked Bag 2
Nunawading Delivery Centre 3131

Telephone: 9262 6333

Fax: 9262 6490

TTY: 9262 6325

(Service for deaf or hearing impaired people)

TIS: 131 540

(Telephone Interpreter Service. Call and ask to be connected to Whitehorse City Council)

Email: customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Website: www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Service Centres:

Whitehorse Civic Centre (main Service Centre)
379-397 Whitehorse Road
Nunawading 3131

Box Hill Service Centre
Box Hill Town Hall
1022 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128

Forest Hill Service Centre
Shop 130, Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre
Canterbury Road
Forest Hill 3131

For a large print version of this brochure,
please call 9262 6124

Sustainable and Proud of It

This publication is printed on 100% recycled paper
Publication no. 120008018