

John Forrest National Park



Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



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Above Vista from Park Road entry.

Western Australia's first national park

Originally declared as a conservation reserve in 1898, and proclaimed a national park in 1900, John Forrest National Park is WA's oldest national park. Formerly Greenmount National Park, it became John Forrest National Park in 1947 in honour of the famous explorer and statesman, Sir John Forrest, who was Premier of Western Australia between 1890 and 1901. The first recreation facilities were constructed in the early 1930s making the park a popular day trip by train for the people of Perth. The rail line was discontinued in 1966 and has been converted into the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail for walkers and cyclists.

Flora and fauna

The park is home to a variety of plants and animals. Towards the end of winter and during spring are the best times to view the profusion of wildflowers throughout the park.

While most of the mammal life is secretive and nocturnal, western grey kangaroos are commonly seen around the picnic areas during the early morning and late afternoon. You may also be lucky enough to see an echidna or quenda.



Top Spider orchid. **Above left** Splendid fairy-wren. Photo – Carol Strang.
Above right Mahogany Creek.

Birdwatching is a favourite activity in the park which is home to over 90 species of birds. Twenty-eight parrots, splendid fairy-wrens and magpies are common visitors to the picnic area, while wedge-tailed eagles can be seen soaring in the skies.

Railway Reserves Heritage Trail

The Railway Reserves Heritage Trail, a 41km loop trail, retraces the old Eastern Railway that formerly linked Fremantle to York in the late 1880s. 6km of the trail passes through the park and can be enjoyed by walkers and cyclists. Major features that can be seen from the trail include:

- National Park Falls is an easy 2km return walk or cycle from the main picnic area
- Hovea Falls is an easy 2km return walk or cycle from the main picnic area
- Swan View Tunnel is an easy 5km return walk or cycle from the main picnic area

Please note: the falls are seasonal and dependent on rainfall.

Swan View Tunnel

Visitors can walk through the only historic railway tunnel in WA. Designed by CY O'Connor, the tunnel was constructed in 1894, and took more than a year to build. It was dangerous work for the 300 workers who had only picks, shovels and dynamite to work with. The roof was sealed with more than 330,000 bricks.

The tunnel is 340m long and was considered a major engineering achievement in its day. The bypass around the tunnel was built in 1945 and was used until the line was closed in 1966.



Swan View Tunnel.

Walk trails

All walks start at the main picnic area. Choose a walk that suits your ability and fitness level.

Walking safely

- Take 3-4 litres of water per person.
- Wear sturdy footwear, a hat and sunscreen.
- Tell someone responsible where you are going and let them know when you return.
- Bushwalking is not recommended in hot or other extreme weather conditions due to the risk of bushfires or winter storms.

Walk trail classifications

Parks and Wildlife Service walk trails are assigned a 'Class' to indicate degree of difficulty. Check trailhead signs at the start of walks for classification information.

The walk trail classes range from Class 1 (universal access), which is suitable for wheelchairs, to Class 5, which requires walkers to be fit, experienced and suitably equipped. The walk trails in this brochure range from Class 1 to Class 4.



Class 1 Well-defined walk trail with a firm, even surface with no steep sections or steps. It is suitable for all levels of experience and fitness.



Class 2 Easy, well-defined walk trail with a firm surface. You may encounter gentle hill sections and occasional steps. It is suitable for all levels of experience and fitness but may present difficulties for people with mobility impairments.



Class 3 Moderate walk trail with clear directional signage. You may encounter minor natural hazards such as short, steep sections; steps; shallow water crossings; and unstable or slippery surfaces. A good level of fitness is recommended.



Class 4 Trails are in relatively undisturbed environments and are often rough with few if any modifications. Expect loose and slippery surfaces with some steep sections. A moderate to high level of fitness is required. You need to be prepared and self-reliant.



Above Nature playground.

Trail summary

Jane Brook Promenade ①

Class 1 (Easy ~ 300m loop) – allow 30 minutes

Stroll along the quaint rock-lined paths around the Jane Brook Weir to find a quiet seating nook constructed during the 1930s Depression by sustenance workers. This trail is paved and is suitable for prams and wheelchairs with assistance.



National Park Falls Walk ②

Class 2 (Easy ~ 2.5km loop in anti-clockwise direction) – allow 1 hour

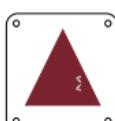
A lovely trail that runs along Jane Brook to National Park Falls and follows the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail back to the picnic area.



Glen Brook Trail ③

Class 3 (Moderate difficulty ~ 2.2km loop in anti-clockwise direction) – allow 1 hour

Follow the path up the valley to the Glen Brook Dam discovering wildflowers, birds and possibly a kangaroo heading in for a refreshing drink. Expect some steps and slippery surfaces.



Wildflower Walk ④

Class 3 (Moderate difficulty ~ 4.5km loop in clockwise direction) – allow 2 hours

A popular walk in spring that highlights the diversity and colour of the many wildflowers in the park. Expect some short steep sections and slippery surfaces.



Above National Park Falls.



Christmas Tree Creek Walk 5

Class 4 (Moderate difficulty ~ 10.5km loop in clockwise direction) – allow 4 hours

Explore a section of the Eagle View Walk Trail before cutting through the middle of the park with a shorter walk option.



Eagle View Walk Trail 6

Class 4 (Moderate difficulty ~ 16km loop in clockwise direction) – allow 5 hours

Discover the serene, less explored areas of the park. A lookout with spectacular views over the coastal plain and city may reveal soaring wedge-tailed eagles.

In spring, walkers can experience a profusion of wildflowers.



John Forrest Bridle Trail 7

(15km loop) – allow 3 hours

The Bridle Trail can be accessed from the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail on the eastern side of the park. There is parking for horse floats on Victoria Road. The trail traverses the southern section of the park and joins the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail to create a loop. Horses are only to be ridden on the marked bridle trail and the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail and are not permitted within the main recreation area.

Caring for John Forrest



Protect our environment

- Please do not feed any native animals or birds.
- Dogs are not permitted in the park.
- Picking wildflowers is prohibited.
- Leave the natural area as you find it.

Be clean

- Take your rubbish with you or put it in the bins provided.
- Remember, cigarette butts are litter too.

Be cool

- Fires and camping are not permitted anywhere in the park.

Be careful

- Tread lightly on slippery gravel and wet surfaces.
- The park contains waterfalls and rock areas. Extreme caution must be taken to avoid slipping and falling in such areas.
- Remember, your safety in natural areas is our concern but your responsibility.



Want to return to John Forrest or go to another national park?

Do you visit national parks often? An extended Park Pass may be the answer. Day entry passes can be used towards the purchase of an annual or holiday park pass for Western Australia. An annual local park pass provides 12 months' unlimited entry for Perth residents to John Forrest National Park, Walyunga National Park and Avon Valley National Park. Please see a ranger or visit exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au for more information.

More information

John Forrest National Park

Park Road, Hovea
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Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

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Perth Hills District
275 Allen Road
Mundaring WA 6073
Ph: (08) 9290 6100

dbca.wa.gov.au

Police: 13 14 44
In the event of an emergency, call 000.
The nearest emergency hospital is located in Midland.



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app that
could save
your life



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Information current at June 2021.

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