

# Explore Mowbray Park

Mowbray Park forms a beautiful bushland corridor along the Lane Cove River. It provides a vital home to a great variety of plant and animal species.

## WALKING TRACK

Approx. 5km return trip.

Grade: easy to medium - on unsealed bush tracks with steep steps in sections. Sturdy shoes required.

## HISTORY

The original owners of this region were the Camaraigal Clan of the Guringai family group. Evidence of occupation sites, art works, middens and axe grinding grooves are found throughout the park and are a reminder of its ancient human history.

After European settlement of the area, the drier flats along the river were cleared for picnickers and campers who rowed up the river from Fig Tree Wharf in the 1880's.

From 1909 the upper Lane Cove Ferry Company operated along the river, stopping at Frankston Wharf which was located below Willandra Street. The wharf was removed in 1952 due to vandalism.

## VEGETATION

As you walk along the river bank you will notice the extensive stands of Grey Mangroves (*Avicennia marina*). These plants have established along the river foreshore since the 1950's, due to sediment build-up from clearing and development. The mangroves now provide habitat for a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial animals.

Behind the mangroves on the river flats are rushlands (*Phragmites* and *Juncus* spp.) and the endangered ecological community - Swamp oak floodplain forest (*Casuarina glauca*). This riparian zone (plant communities along rivers) also features an area around Judy's Arm (see map) with Blackbutts (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus paniculata*) and Woody Pears (*Xylomelum pyriforme*).

Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*) and Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*) dominate the ridges, along with *Banksia* and abundant *Acacia* species. Flannel flowers line the tracks in spring.

The majority of Mowbray Park was burnt by bush fire in the 1994 and sections of the reserve were burnt in early 2009. Notice the blackened *Eucalyptus* trunks.

## WILDLIFE

Mowbray Park is home to a large variety of bird species. Seventy-two (72) species were recorded in the reserve in the years 2000-2001.

Along the rivers edge look out for the White-throated Treecreeper hopping up a *Casuarina* tree. In the mangroves Cormorants are often seen drying their wings, White-faced Herons and Pacific Black Ducks are also commonly found around the salty water.

Listen for the distinctive whip crack from the Eastern Whip bird and see if you can spot the brilliant blue of the male Superb Fairy-wren darting through thick bushes.

The abundant sandstone rocks provide habitat for many species of reptiles. In the summer months you will spot Eastern Water Skinks along the track edge and the larger Eastern Water Dragons around the river and creeks. You may hear a Blue Tongue Lizard rustling through dense leaf litter near the tracks or a Goanna up a tree.

Walk quietly along the boardwalks at low tide to see the small crabs coming out of their holes, or at high tide see the schools of small fish. While on the boardwalk search for the brown jellybean shaped droppings from the Brush-tail and Ring-tail Possums.

## FACILITIES

Toilets, BBQ and parking facilities at the Rotary Memorial Athletic Field.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Phone State Transit for timetables on: 131500

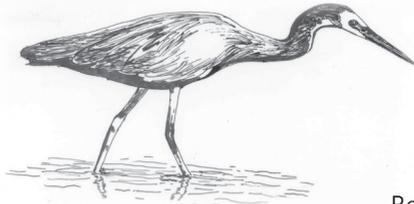
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# Mowbray Park Walking Track



Follow the Lane Cove River and discover its mangroves, water birds, skinks, sandstone formations and wildflower displays.



White-Faced Heron

**Judy's Arm**  
A previously cleared and grassy picnic area that was popular in the 1880's.

Beware of golf balls in this section of the track.



Eastern Water Skink



Eastern Whip Bird

**Chatswood View**

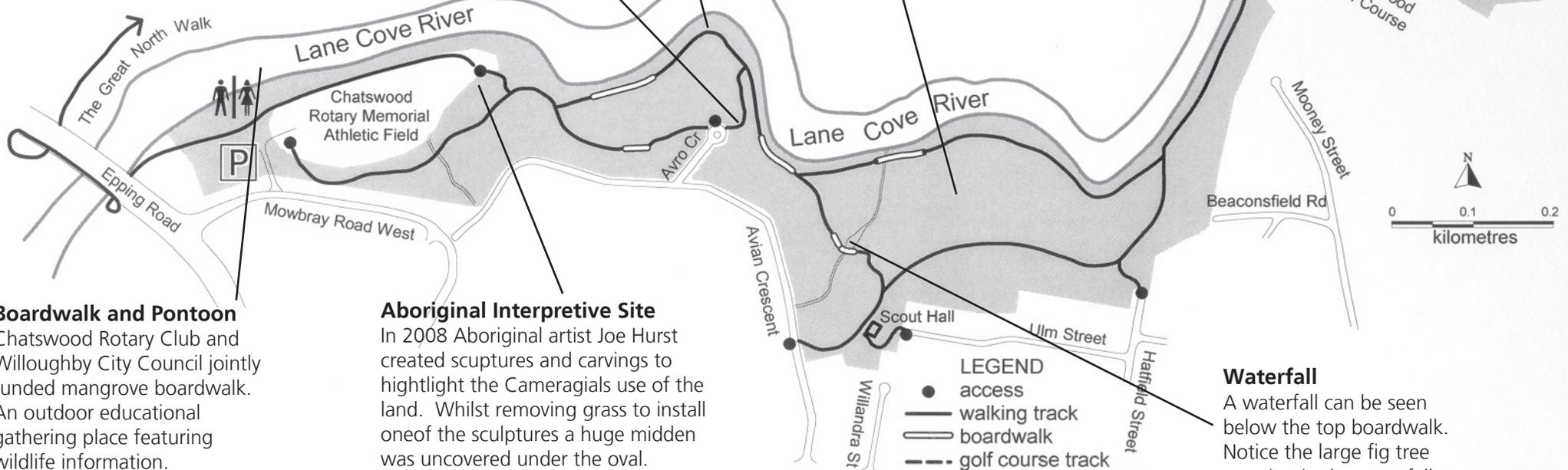
Where the track leaves the bottom of Avro Road walk out onto the large sandstone rock platform to view the city of Chatswood appearing over the bush.



Mangrove Floor

**Endangered Ecological Community: Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest**

This community has *Casuarina glauca* (swamp oak) as the dominant species. The understorey is characterised by vines, sedges, grasses and leaf litter. Less than 30% of this ecological community remains on the east coast.



**Boardwalk and Pontoon**

Chatswood Rotary Club and Willoughby City Council jointly funded mangrove boardwalk. An outdoor educational gathering place featuring wildlife information.

**Aboriginal Interpretive Site**

In 2008 Aboriginal artist Joe Hurst created sculptures and carvings to highlight the Cameragials use of the land. Whilst removing grass to install one of the sculptures a huge midden was uncovered under the oval.

**Waterfall**

A waterfall can be seen below the top boardwalk. Notice the large fig tree growing in the waterfall.

- LEGEND**
- access
  - walking track
  - boardwalk
  - - - golf course track (beware of golf balls)
  - ♂ ♀ toilets

