

EXPLORE FLAT ROCK GULLY

Covering approximately 10 hectares Flat Rock Gully is rich in both natural and cultural heritage. The name originates from the large flat rock where the creek was crossed (now hidden under Flat Rock Bridge, Willoughby Road).

WALKING TRACK

Track length: Approximately 4km return trip.

Track grade: Easy to medium - on unsealed bush tracks with steep steps in sections. Track is slippery when wet and creek crossings may be impassable after heavy rain. Sturdy shoes required.

Two main bush walking tracks traverse the Gully. Wilksch's Walk travels along the northern face of the Gully whereas the Dawson Street Track passes along the southern side. The two tracks meet near the old sandstone retaining walls along Flat Rock Creek.

HISTORY

The Cammeraygal People lived in the area with the estuarine tidal flats providing their source of food.

The last recorded encampment (1880) of Aboriginal people was to the west of Willoughby Road and known as Struggle Town.

From the 1940s industrial and domestic waste was tipped and burnt in the area on both sides of Flat Rock Gully. This ceased in 1985. The landscaped area on the east side of Flat Rock Drive is situated on 30m of tip and soil fill. Unfortunately the once beautiful Naremburn Waterfall situated just east of Flat Rock Bridge was filled in with Council refuse in the 1930s.

The Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator was built in 1934 and closed in 1967. In 2011 the Willoughby Incinerator re-opened to operate as an art space and artist studios. The art space and studios are run by Willoughby Council and present a diverse range of exhibitions each year. Try the Willoughby Walks App for more information.

VEGETATION

Note the contrasting vegetation types on the sun drenched north-facing and the cool, shady south-facing sides of the gully. Down the south-facing slope (Wilksch's Walk) you pass through stands of She-Oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) and into the closed Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) forest along the creek.

Open forest of Blackbutt, Sydney Peppermint and Sydney Red Gum are spread through the gully, with some small areas of sandstone heath.

The upper section of Flat Rock Gully is where the former tip has been transformed into a series of grassed areas, paths and re-vegetated bushland.

WILDLIFE

Flat Rock Gully forms part of an important wildlife corridor and is home to 13 species of lizards and snakes including the Glebe Gully Skink (or Shade Skink) and Bibron's Toadlet.

Over 100 native bird species are found here, particularly woodland and forest species. Plus a large number of raptors have been recorded in the area including the Peregrine Falcon, White-breasted Sea-eagle and a variety of Goshawks and Kites. The Powerful Owl, a threatened species, also uses this area of bushland.

Ground dwelling animals such as bandicoots and echidnas have been sighted however are less common due to the high level of feral animals and dogs walked in the area.

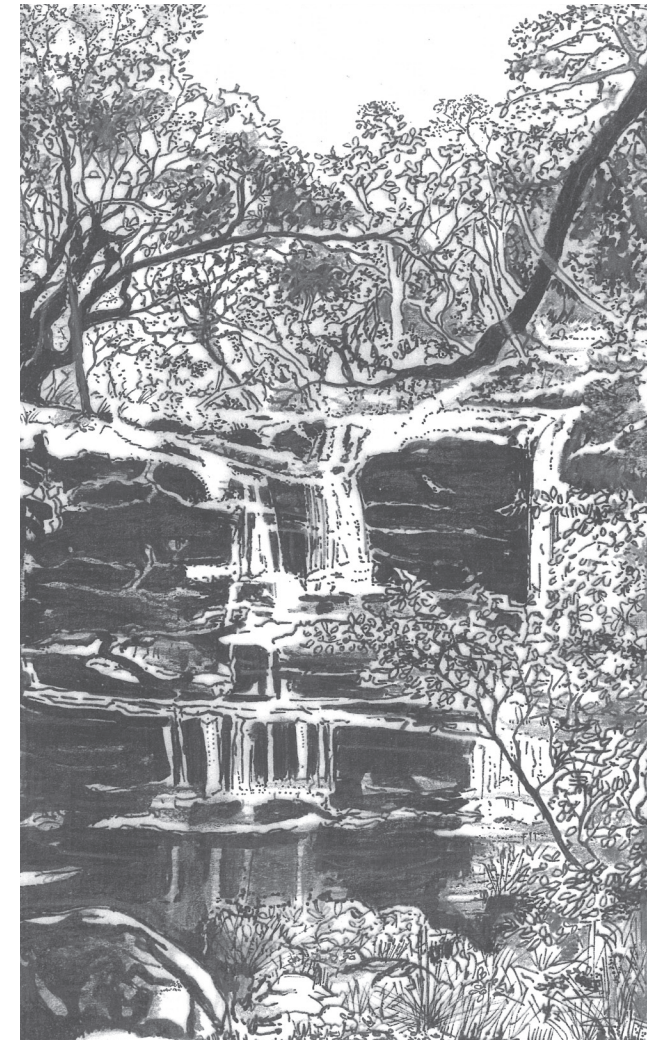
This is a Level 2 Wildlife Protection Area. Residents may walk dogs on a leash.

FACILITIES

Toilets and BBQ facilities are available in Hallstrom Park (corner of Small Street and Willoughby Road,) under the Leisure Centre and in Tunks Park.



Flat Rock Gully Walking Track

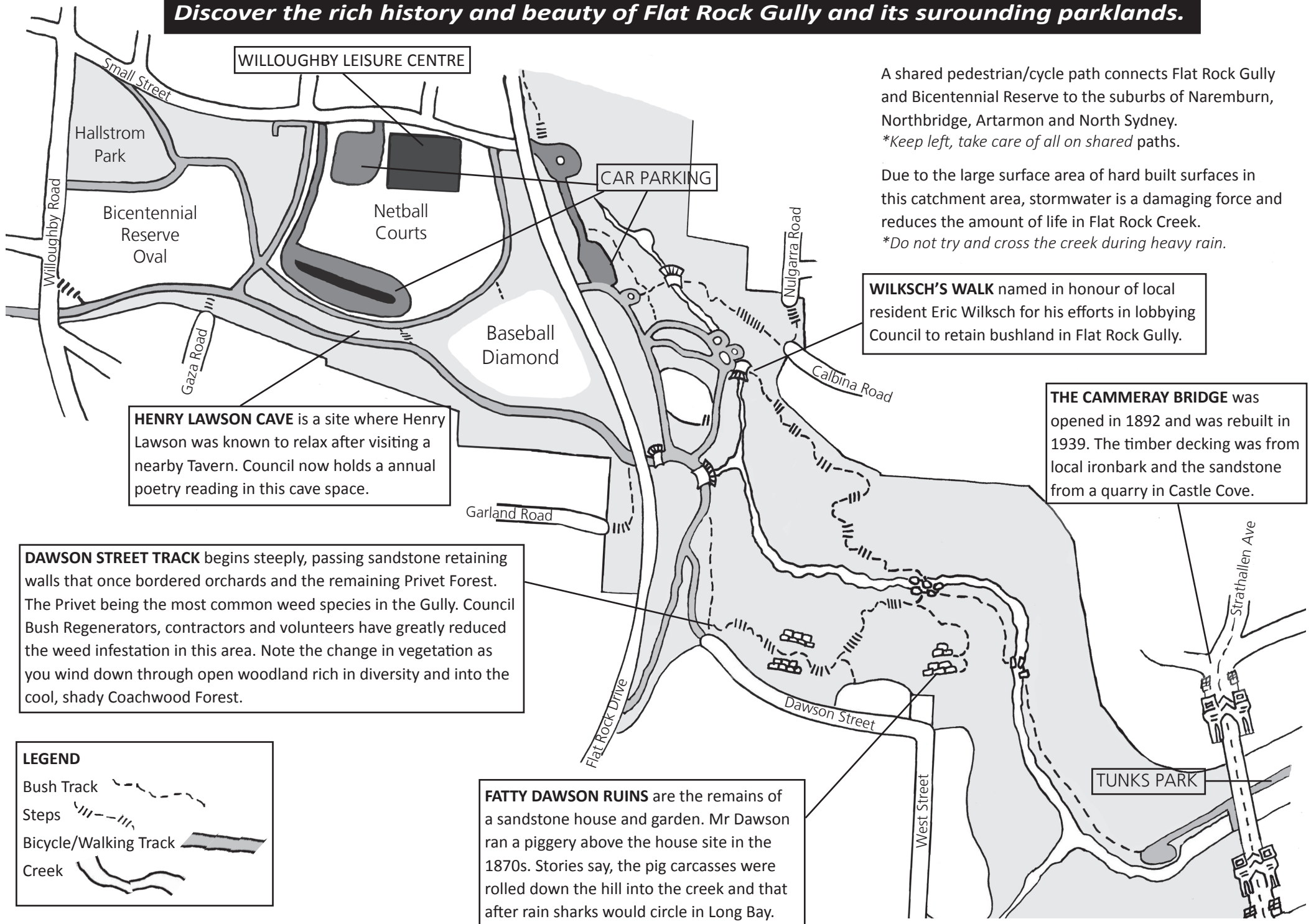


Historic Naremburn Falls 1920s

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Discover the rich history and beauty of Flat Rock Gully and its surrounding parklands.



A shared pedestrian/cycle path connects Flat Rock Gully and Bicentennial Reserve to the suburbs of Naremburn, Northbridge, Artarmon and North Sydney.

**Keep left, take care of all on shared paths.*

Due to the large surface area of hard built surfaces in this catchment area, stormwater is a damaging force and reduces the amount of life in Flat Rock Creek.

**Do not try and cross the creek during heavy rain.*