

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

Track length: Approximately a 5km return trip.

Track grade: Easy to medium - on unsealed bush tracks with steep steps in sections. Sturdy shoes required.

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

HISTORY

The local Cammaraygal People lived in this area when food sources were plentiful. For example just before winter, huge quantities of Mullet Fish travel upstream to breed. 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 1880s. 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. These plants have established along the river foreshore since the 1950s, 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.

This riparian zone (plant community along rivers) also features an area around Judy's Arm (see map) with Blackbutts, Ironbarks and Woody Pears.

Sydney Red Gum and Sydney Peppermint dominate the ridges, along with Banksia and abundant Acacia species. The majority of Mowbray Park was burnt by a bushfire in 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. In 2000-2001, 72 species were recorded.

Along the river's 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.

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.

Walk quietly along the boardwalks at low tide to see the small crabs coming out of their holes, or at high tide to see the schools of small fish.

FACILITIES

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

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

For information and timetables, phone the Transport Infoline on 131 500 or visit www.transportnsw.info



Mowbray Park Walking Track



Willoughby City Council

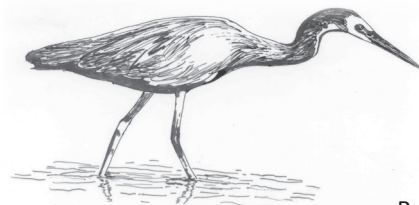
PO Box 57, Chatswood NSW 2057

Phone: 9777 1000

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Follow the Lane Cove River and discover mangroves, sandstone formations and wildflower displays.



White-Faced Heron

JUDY'S ARM

A previously cleared and grassy picnic area that was popular in the 1880s.

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

SWAMP OAK FLOODPLAIN FOREST

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

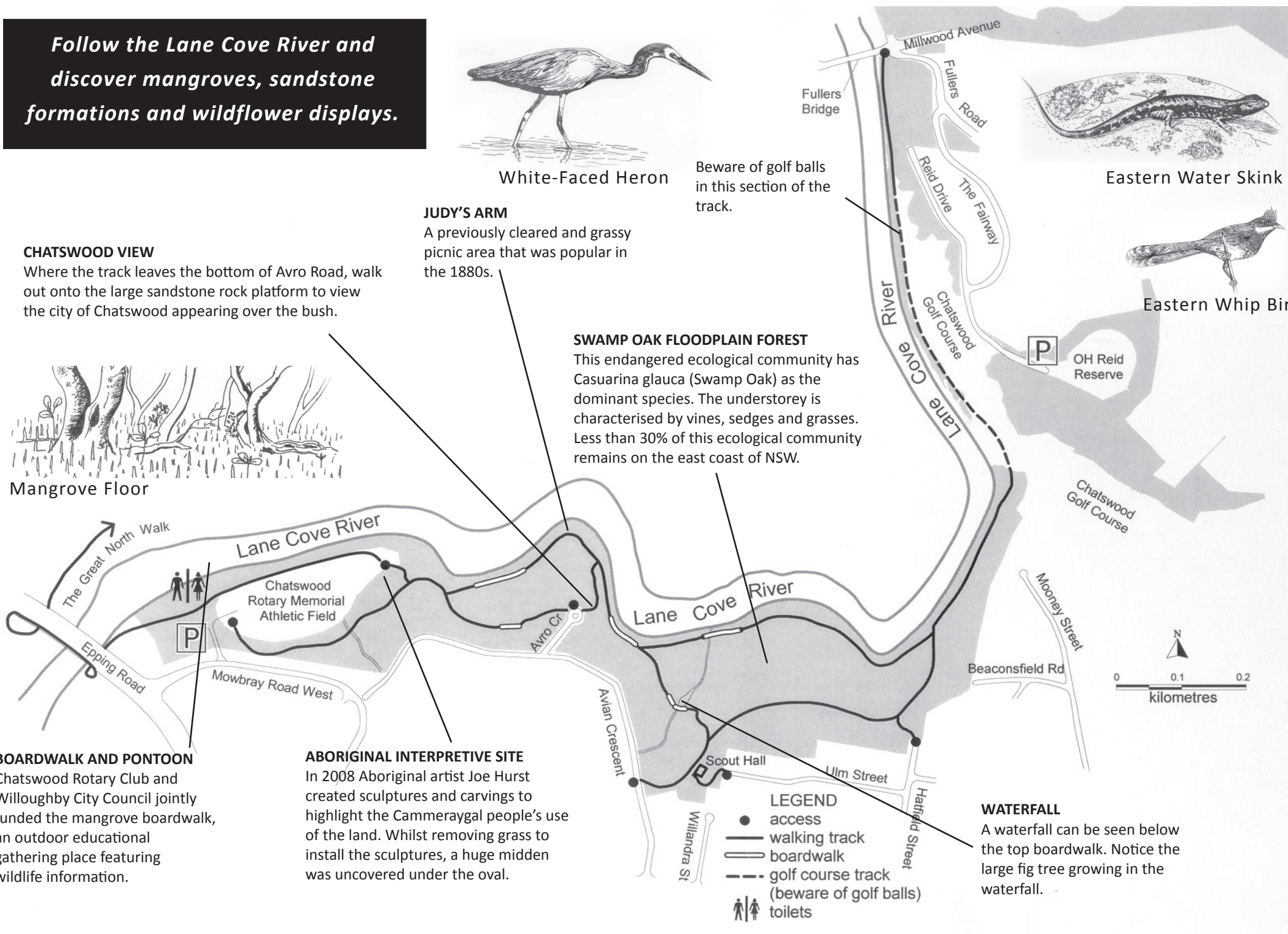
Beware of golf balls in this section of the track.



Eastern Water Skink



Eastern Whip Bird



BOARDWALK AND PONTOON

Chatswood Rotary Club and Willoughby City Council jointly funded the 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 Cammeraygal people's use of the land. Whilst removing grass to install 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

