

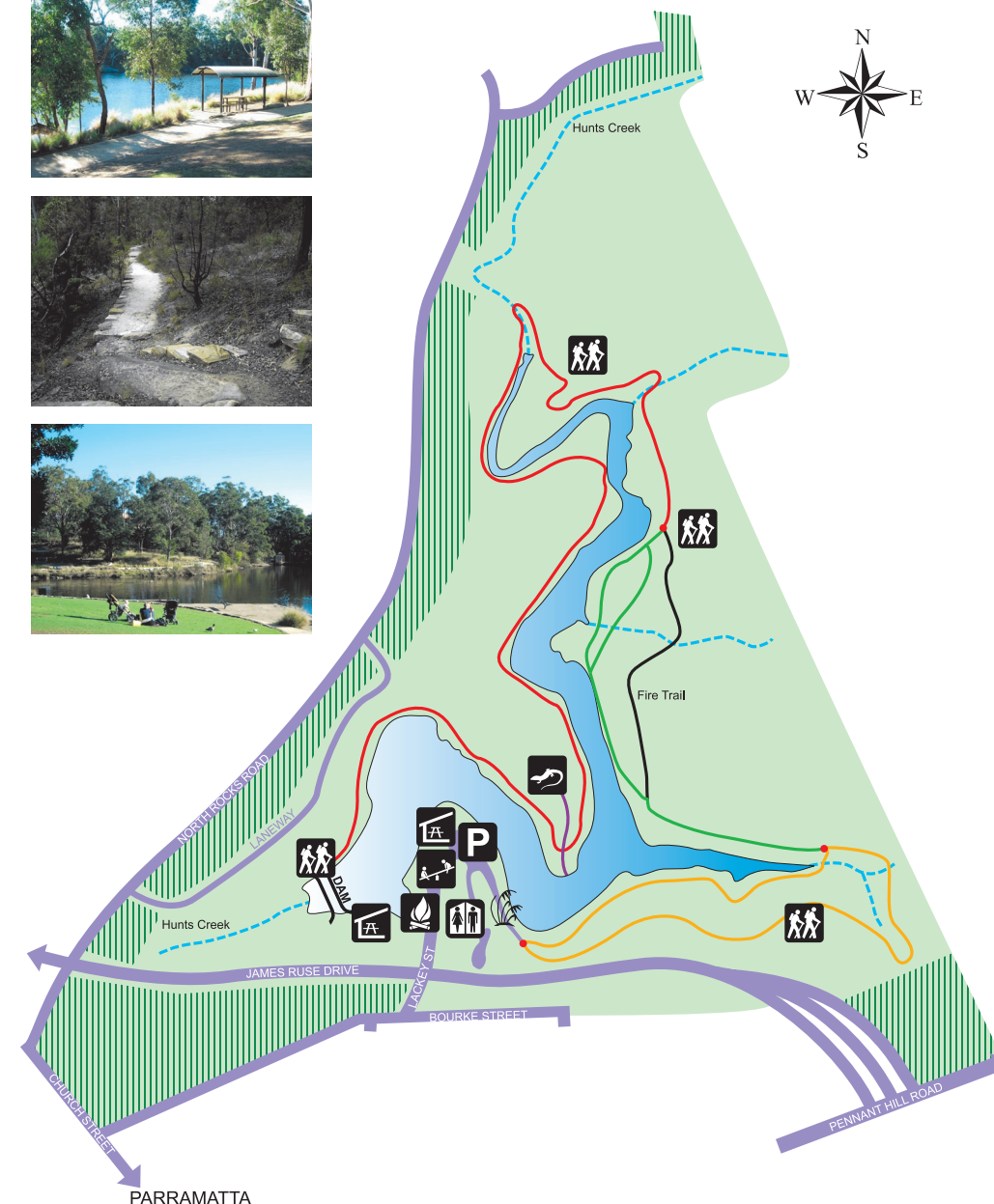


How you can help look after the Reserve

- Join the Park Committee/Bushcare group by contacting a Council Natural Resource Officer on 9806 5000 or visit www.parracity.nsw.gov.au for more information.
- Use local native plants in your garden to provide additional food and habitat for our native fauna. Two free trees can be collected from Council's Nursery in March and September. Keep an eye on the local papers and Council's web page www.parracity.nsw.gov.au for dates and details.
- Dob in a Dumper. Any persons seen dumping grass clippings, garden and building waste in the Reserve are breaking the law. This can be reported to Council on 9806 5000.
- Report vandalism immediately to Council's Customer Service Centre on 9806 5000.
- Keep pets out of the bush and on a leash at all times.
- Remain on the formed tracks when walking in the Reserve. The bushland is fragile and does not tolerate disturbance and the creation of additional tracks.

Enjoy all the reserve has to offer.

Lake Parramatta Bushwalks



Tracks and Trails

She Oak Track

Banksia Trail

Lake Circuit

Creeks

Carpark

Toilets

Playground

BBQ

Arrunga Bardo Bush Food Garden

Picnic Shelters

Heritage Road

She Oak Track

Distance: 1550 m Easy walk along the lake edge that loops back along the bitumen road through She Oaks, majestic Sydney Red Gum and Blackbutt.

Banksia Trail

Distance: 2450 m Moderate walk (uneven surfaces). This trail wanders along the eastern edge taking in views of the lake. Highlights include Old Man and Hair pin Banksias under a canopy of Red Bloodwood and Grey Gum.

Lake Circuit

Distance 4200 m Moderate walk (uneven surfaces). Displays of wildflowers abound Autumn to Spring, a small rainforest remnant can be enjoyed at the rear of the lake, and, encounters with native birds and animals are ensured.

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Lake Parramatta Reserve



Lake Parramatta Reserve is a 73 hectare bushland and parkland reserve located within two kilometres of the Parramatta CBD. The original function of the reserve was to protect the water quality in the Lake as it was Parramatta's water supply until 1909. The bushland is now recognised as one of the most significant and beautiful bushland remnants in western Sydney.



Location and access

The catchment area for the Lake is bounded by North Rocks Road, James Ruse Drive and Pennant Hills Road. The bushland extends beyond the boundary of the reserve along the banks of Hunts Creek. Access is from Lackey Street off Bourke Street, North Parramatta.

The Reserve is open all year round. The main gate is opened at 6am and closed at 6pm (8pm during daylight saving) with ample parking, picnic and BBQ facilities, playground and bushwalking adventures.

An ideal location for any family outing.

History of the Reserve



There remains evidence today of the regular usage and occupation by the aboriginal clan, Burramattagal within Lake Parramatta Reserve and Hunts Creek in the form of shelter caves, hand-stencils, stone flaking, tree scars and midden deposits. It's possible that other sites were inundated with the construction of the dam in the 1850's.

The Upper Parramatta River catchment was originally home to the Dharug Aboriginal people who had inhabited the area for more than forty thousand years before British settlement in 1788. The local clan in the catchment was the Burramattagal, from which the name Parramatta came, (burra meaning place and matta meaning eels).

In 1846 a committee of prominent citizens investigated Parramatta's water supply. Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General chose Hunts Creek for the construction of a dam in 1851. Percy Simpson and later Edward Moriarty (Engineers) led the construction of the dam which was completed in September 1856. The single arch design of this dam was only the second constructed in modern times and the twelfth since Roman times 100BC.

During the 1880's depression unemployed labour was used to build a road network the remains of which can be seen on the western edge of the lake. Lake Parramatta remained the major water supply for the district until 1909 when the Nepean became the preferred water supply facility as it had much greater storage and supply capacity.

Lake Parramatta remained a very popular swimming spot right through until the 1950's; hundreds of locals used the reserve on hot days and until the 1930's Australia's largest Freshwater Lifesaving Club oversaw the safety of swimmers.

However, in the 1970's due to increased development in the catchment, water quality began to decline. Pollution came from sewerage overflows and leaks, litter, nutrients, pesticides and other chemicals from stormwater outlets and siltation from suburban development in the headwaters of the catchment. By the late 1970's the water in Lake Parramatta had declined to such an extent that it was not suitable for swimming. Much work has been done in recent years to address this decline in water quality.

Flora and Fauna

Lake Parramatta Reserve is the largest bushland remnant surviving in the Parramatta LGA. The bushland is representative of the shale/sandstone environment occurring between the Cumberland Plain and the Hornsby Plateau consequently it has a high level of biodiversity and is regionally significant.

In surveys undertaken in 1990 and 2001 there were 56 species of native birds, 7 species of reptile, 5 frog species and 10 native species of mammal, plus several exotic species of birds and mammals.

Epacris purpureascens, Eastern Free-tail bat, Greater Broad-nosed Bat and Grey-headed Flying Fox are endangered plants and animals in the reserve. Regularly sighted in the reserve are Lace monitors, Sugar gliders, Water dragons (photo below) and a profusion of wild flowers.

Help us protect these fragile reminders of our past!!

Lake Parramatta directly connects to bushland along Hunts Creek toward Carlingford providing a large habitat corridor.

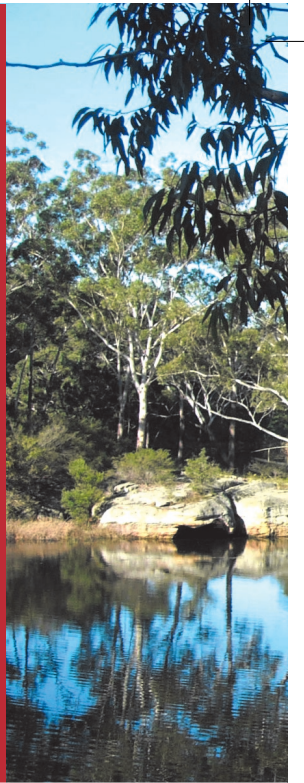
Bush foods

The local Aboriginal Community and Parramatta City Council have recently established a Bushfoods garden and walk. Brochures are available at the Lake.



Things to do

- Aboriginal Bushfood garden
- Bushwalking tracks of varying length and grades
- Free BBQ's
- Recently upgraded Picnic Facilities
- Playground
- Viewing Platforms



What is Council doing in the Reserve?

- Bushland Restoration
- Planned Park upgrades
- Fox Control
- Aquatic noxious weeds program
- Park maintenance
- Waterways restoration addressing stormwater impacts
- Plan of Management

In 1998 the Lake Parramatta Water Quality Management Plan was completed. The plan sets out the steps that need to be taken to improve water quality in the Lake during dry weather. The plan showed that water quality will improve if we all make a small effort to reduce our impact on the water in the Lake.

This plan has been adopted by Baulkham Hills Shire Council, Parramatta City Council and the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust.

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