

# Accessible Nature



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John Forrest National Park

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# Contents

## Before We Go 3

Acknowledgement .....	3
Getting There .....	3
Public Transport .....	3
Parking .....	3
What's There .....	4
Accessibility and Inclusion .....	6

## When We Get There 7

Map .....	7
Nature Engagement and Recreational Activities .....	8
Public Toilets .....	9
Accessible Barbecue .....	10
Nature Playground .....	11
Fairy Huts .....	12
Jane Brook Promenade .....	13
Communication Board .....	14
About Every Kid in a Park .....	15
Statement of Language .....	15
About Nature Play WA .....	15



Carnaby Cockatoo (Karak)



# Before We Go

## You're on Whadjuk Noongar Country

John Forrest National Park is on Whadjuk Nyoongar country.

Whadjuk people are the traditional owners of John Forrest National Park.

Nyoongar people lived here before European settlement, with evidence that the area was once used as a hunting place. Jane Brook Valley was an ancient travel route crossing the Darling Scarp.

Jane Brook is connected to the Dreamtime serpent, the Waugal. The rocks in and along the brook are said to be the droppings of this mythical creature.

## Getting There

The John Forrest National Park picnic area is located on Park Road, Hovea WA 6056.

GPS:  
-31.882625887150365, 116.09242606136779

See Google Map reference [here](#)

*You can colour me in!*

Goanna (Karda)

## Public Transport

The following transport lines have routes that pass near the John Forrest picnic area.



**Bus:** 324 from [Midland Station](#). Catch bus 324 to the corner of Pechey Road and Swan View Road, and enter the park via the Heritage Trail (towards the Swan View Tunnel).



**Train:** Catch a Transperth train to the [Midland Station](#). Bus 330 or 328 is an 11-minute one way journey along Great Eastern Highway. The John Forrest picnic area is a three (3) kilometre walk from the closest bus stop

## Parking

The John Forrest National Park picnic area has several public car parking bays, including three (3) ACROD bays.



## What's There

Welcome to John Forrest National Park, Perth's first and oldest national park.

Located in the Darling Ranges on Whadjuk country, about 30 minutes east of Perth city, John Forrest is rich with both Indigenous and European history. It's also full of natural wonder, just waiting to be discovered!

There is a great selection of short and long trails available here, which will lead you through some of the Perth Hills' most spectacular sights.

A profusion of wildflowers bloom here in the winter and spring months, and the park's two waterfalls, Hovea Falls and National Park Falls, begin to flow (rainfall dependent). There are sections of the park that remain largely undeveloped, giving visitors a real taste of native Australian woodland and wildlife.

The Swan View Tunnel is a 340m structure in John Forrest National Park, originally built for trains to pass through. Now, visitors can walk through the tunnel and marvel at its size, and the fact that it was built using nothing but picks, shovels and dynamite!

While there are many natural spots to lay a picnic blanket around the park, the established Picnic Area is a great place to relax and refuel. There are barbecues (including a universal barbecue), picnic tables and a nature playground, making it a popular spot for families.

Echidna (*Nyingarn*)



## Entry Fees

### Private vehicle with up to 12 occupants

- \$15 per vehicle
- \$8 per vehicle (concession)

### Private vehicle with more than 12 occupants

- \$7 per occupant 6 years or older
- \$2.50 per occupant (concession)

### Motorcycle

- \$8 per vehicle

All revenue collected from park entry fees and Parks and Wildlife managed businesses is invested in biodiversity conservation, maintenance and improvement of John Forrest National Park facilities and services, and the protection of park values.

## Opening Times

John Forrest National Park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.





Scan to download **Every Kid in a Park** App

Explore Jane Brook using the **Jane Brook Interpretive Trail**. The Interpretive Trail follows the Jane Brook Promenade, which is family friendly and suitable for prams and wheelchair users. The Interpretive Trail around the Jane Brook consists of six (6) stops and can be accessed through the Every Kid in a Park app.



Bandicoot (*Kwenda*)

## John Forrest National Park Improvement Project

To ensure visitors can continue to experience and enjoy the park, some improvements will be made which will revitalise and diversify the activities available to visitors. The improvements will make the park more accessible to a broader range of visitors and allow more people to enjoy the natural beauty. For more information visiting the [Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions website](#).



*Google Play Store*



*Apple App Store*



*Web App*



## Accessibility and Inclusion

- There is a continuous path to major features including public toilets, an accessible barbecue and the Jane Brook Promenade (a pram and wheelchair user friendly walk trail).
- There is one (1) set of public toilets situated at the John Forrest picnic area. The toilet block has separate male, female and ambulant toilets. There are no shower facilities on site. Access to this toilet block is via the car park following a mostly flat and even path.
- Key elements of the park are signposted, however there are no Braille translations or options for non-English-speaking visitors.
- There are numerous seating, picnic and barbecue options throughout this section of John Forrest National Park. These sites are mostly shaded by tree coverage and accessed following the flat concrete and dirt pathways.
- The sound of the river flowing can be particularly loud at times, especially in winter and spring.
- Food and drinks are not available for purchase on site. Please bring your own food and water when visiting John Forrest National Park.
- There are no drinking fountains on site. Please bring your own water.
- John Forrest National Park is home to an abundance of wildlife. This means there can be animal droppings on the grass and grounds.
- Dogs and any other pets are not allowed onsite. Guide dogs are exempt from this.
- There is one (1) nature playground on site. This space is shaded by tree foliage and is situated next to an open body of water, and parent supervision is required.

- The playground is a mix of climbing and balancing obstacles and sits on a dirt and woodchip surface. The playground is accessed following the dirt track across a small wooden bridge, or down a short stone staircase.
- John Forrest National Park is a big open space and is not fenced. There is an open body of water (Jane Brook), with no lifeguard on duty.

A communication board has been placed at the end of this document for your use at John Forrest National Park



### Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Cool water
- Nature
- Shared personal space
- Water resistance
- Weather



### Sounds

- Children playing
- Nature
- People
- Traffic
- Water running
- Wildlife



### Sights

- Glare
- Nature
- People
- Varied natural light
- Wildlife



### Smells

- Dust
- Food/drink
- Nature
- Pollen
- Wildflowers
- Bushland

# When We Get There



Toilets



Accessible barbecue



Nature playground



Fairy hut



Jane Brook Promenade



Parking



## Nature Engagement and Recreational Activities

- John Forrest National Park is Perth's first and oldest national park.
- Large native trees include jarrah, marri, flooded gums and paperbark trees. Smaller trees include bull banksia, sheoak and snotty gobble.
- There are 91 species of bird, including galahs, red wattlebirds, honeyeaters, blue fairy wrens and black cockatoos.
- While many of the mammals here are nocturnal, you're likely to see the western grey kangaroo hanging around the picnic area, or lounging in other areas of the park. In lower-traffic areas, you might be lucky enough to spot an echidna or quenda.
- Thick-tailed geckos, southern blind snakes and western brown snakes are among the 23 species of reptiles that live here. And, if you're close to the water, keep an ear out for one (1) of the 10 species of frogs who might be hopping around!
- There is a great selection of short and long trails available here, which will lead you through some of the Perth Hills' most spectacular sights.
- There are over 500 different species of wildflower that grow here, making for a wonderful display of colour in the late winter and early spring months. Keep an eye out for banksias, grevilleas, acacias, blue leschenaultia and kangaroo paws – just to name a few!
- There are sections of the park that remain largely undeveloped, giving visitors a real taste of native Australian woodland and wildlife.
- A variety of walk trails weave through John Forrest National Park. Some of these are short day walks and others are much longer, and require experience.
- Walk trails include the Christmas Tree Creek, Eagle View, Glen Brook and Wildflower walk trails.
- Visit National Park Falls and Hovea Falls in winter or spring (these waterfalls are reliant on rainfall and can only be seen during this time).
- The Swan View Tunnel is a 340m structure in John Forrest National Park, originally built for trains to pass through. Now, visitors can walk through the tunnel and marvel at its size, and the fact that it was built using nothing but picks, shovels and dynamite!



### Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Cool water
- Nature
- Shared personal space
- Water resistance
- Weather



### Sounds

- Children playing
- Nature
- People
- Traffic
- Water running
- Wildlife



### Sights

- Glare
- Nature
- People
- Varied natural light
- Wildlife



### Smells

- Dust
- Food/drink
- Pollen
- Wildflowers
- Bushland

# Public Toilets

**GPS: 31.88361, 116.09212**

John Forrest has one (1) set of public toilets with separate male, female and ambulant facilities.

This toilet block is managed by Parks and Wildlife staff and is regularly cleaned.

Location: Within the car park, opposite the Rangers' Office.



## Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Shared personal space (excluding accessible toilet)



## Sounds

- Door creaking
- Echo
- Toilet flushing
- Traffic
- Water running
- Wildlife



## Sights

- Dim lighting



## Smells

- Bathroom smells
- Disinfectant



# Accessible Barbecue

GPS: -31.883094, 116.092164

John Forrest National Park is a great place to picnic with a variety of public barbecues, shaded and unshaded seating and a nature playground. Some of the public barbecues and seating facilities are accessed following a dirt path that is mostly even.

The park also features a premium wheelchair-accessible barbecue. This barbecue meets all requirements and specifications and allows seated users of all abilities to cook.

This barbecue was sponsored by the WA Parks Foundation and Chevron Australia.



## Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Nature
- Shared personal space
- Weather



## Sounds

- Barbecues sizzling
- Children playing
- Nature
- People
- Water running
- Wildlife



## Sights

- Glare
- Wildlife



## Smells

- Food/Drink
- Nature
- Pollen
- Sunscreen



# Nature Playground

GPS: -31.882819, 116.092399

John Forrest National Park is home to a unique nature play space. It's set amongst advanced native trees next to the Jane Brook, the constructed weir and recreation space. The nature play space incorporates elements of the surrounding natural landscape with a timber staircase, tee pee, and balancing and stepping logs. There are plenty of obstacles for kids to explore and benches for parents to rest and relax.

The nature playground can be accessed following a small wooden bridge, or down a small stone staircase.

The flowing water in Jane Brook may be loud at times, especially in winter and spring when there is heavy rainfall.



## Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Cool water
- Nature
- Shared personal space
- Water resistance
- Weather



## Sounds

- Children playing
- Nature
- People
- Traffic
- Water running
- Wildlife



## Sights

- Glare
- Nature
- People
- Varied natural light
- Wildlife



## Smells

- Dust
- Food/drink
- Nature
- Pollen
- Wildflowers
- Bushland



## Fairy Huts

GPS: -31.883750, 116.093491  
 -31.883814, 116.094123  
 -31.884598, 116.091535

There were once ten or more fairy huts constructed here in John Forrest National Park using tree branches. These were spread throughout the park to create a fairy theme for visitors. Construction of these huts was very meticulous, with small fairy steps built to allow children to play inside.

There are several fairy huts that can be explored at John Forrest National Park with two (2) along Jane Brook Promenade and one (1) near the car park. There is a fourth “secret” fairy hut that is hidden away. We suggest exploring the park to try and find it for yourself!



### Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Shared personal space
- Uneven terrain
- Weather
- Wood



### Sounds

- Water running
- Wildlife
- Wind/Weather



### Sights

- Dust
- Glare
- People
- Varied natural light
- Wildlife
- Wood



### Smells

- Dust
- Nature
- Pollen

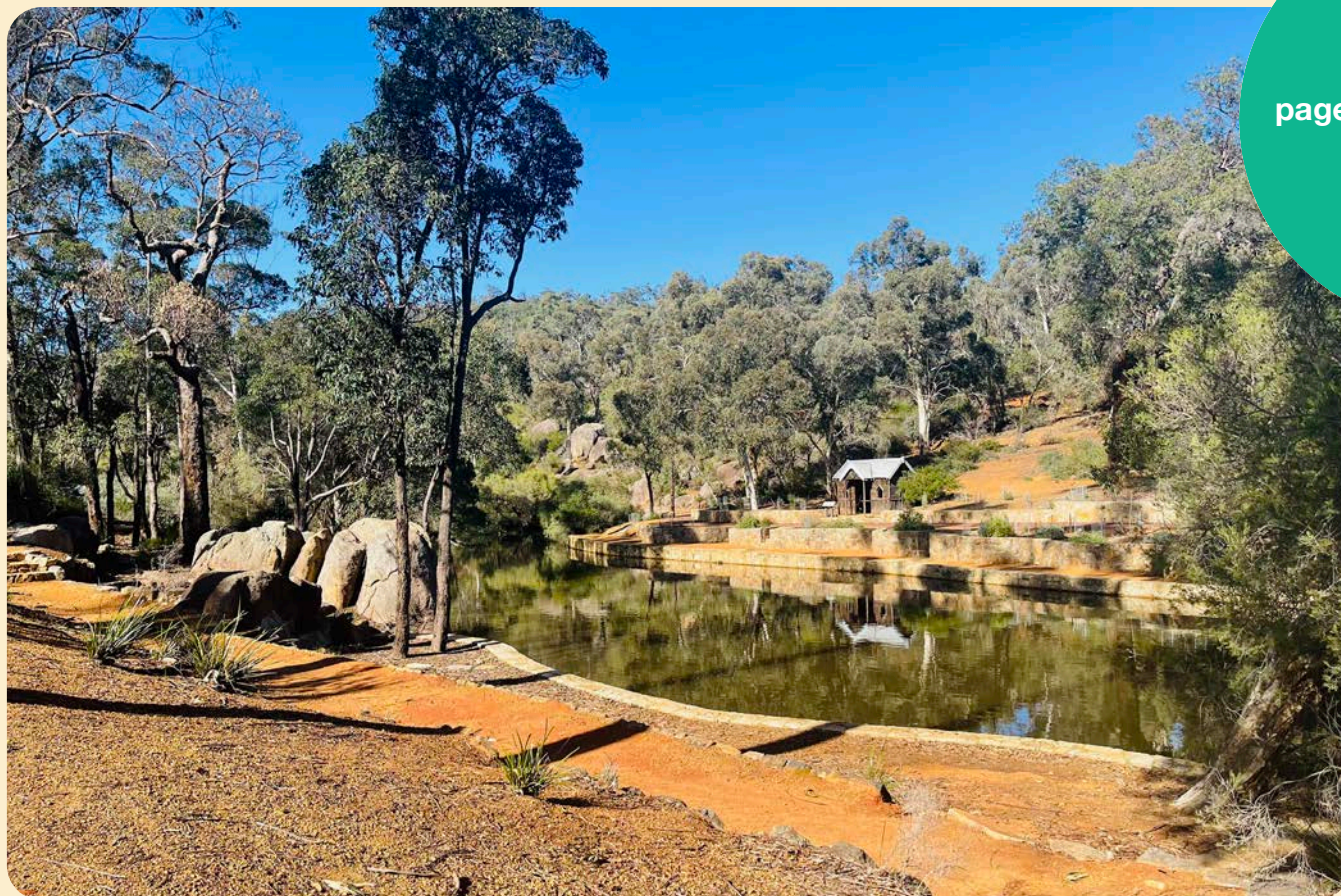
# Jane Brook Promenade

GPS: -31.882954, 116.092190

The Jane Brook Promenade is a short 300m loop walk following a flat, even pathway exploring the recreation area in John Forrest National Park. This trail is suitable for wheelchair users and prams and provides an opportunity to walk around the dam visiting two (2) fairy huts along the way.

Follow the pathway to explore the beautiful natural landscapes and parts of the original recreation area, including limestone stairways and structures created many years ago.

Explore Jane Brook Promenade using the Jane Brook Interpretive Trail. The Interpretive Trail consists of six (6) stops and can be accessed through the Every Kid in a Park app.



## Feel

- Change in ground surface
- Increased body temperature
- Increased heart rate
- Shared personal space
- Uneven terrain
- Weather



## Sounds

- Trees rustling
- Water running
- Wildlife
- Wind/Weather



## Sights

- Dust
- Glare
- People
- Varied natural light
- Wildlife



## Smells

- Dust
- Nature
- Pollen



Question



I need help



Where is



I want to



Time



Yes



No



I don't speak English



Deaf/Hard of hearing



Toilets



Water



Trail



Playground



Flora and fauna



Rest area



Bushland



Fairy hut



Picnic



Quiet place



Social Story





Scan to download **Every Kid in a Park** App

## About Every Kid in a Park

This Accessible Nature guide has been developed for John Forrest National Park. This document is available online to help you plan your visit.

Download the Every Kid in the Park app for more information on John Forrest National Park. The App is free to download and use, and is a tool developed for families to plan their visit and navigate their way through the park.

Every Kid in a Park is a project to support families of children of all abilities in accessing and enjoying the outdoors (like local parks, nature reserves, beaches, and national parks) around Western Australia.

## Statement of Language

Nature Play WA supports the Social Model of Disability. We are proud to work with families and industry professionals within the disability community, who continue to assist us in our approach to access and inclusion.

For more information about the Social Model of Disability, visit [People With Disability Australia](#).

## About Nature Play WA

Nature Play WA Inc. is an incorporated not-for-profit association established to increase the time Western Australian children spend in unstructured play outdoors and in nature.

For more information on what we do and who we are, visit the [Nature Play WA website](#).



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