



# Parks & Gardens

Green spaces and retreats in the city



Parks and gardens in the City of Perth are accessible via the free CAT bus service accessing the Swan River foreshore, East Perth, Northbridge and West Perth (excluding public holidays).

## Other City Walking Trails:

- Boom or Bust
- Icons of Influence
- Convicts and Colonials
- The Secret of Point Zero children's trail
- Art City

i-City Information and Police Kiosk  
Murray Street Mall near Forrest Place, Perth  
6000

City of Perth  
Council House, 27 St Georges Terrace,  
Perth WA 6000

This information is available in alternative formats.

[www.perth.wa.gov.au](http://www.perth.wa.gov.au)

## Welcome to the Parks and Gardens trail

Boasting 26 parkland areas and reserves, the City of Perth offers a wide range of peaceful retreats for residents and visitors. The beautifully crafted green open space that covers one tenth of the city area combines heritage, public art and water features to provide a respite from the bustle of city life.

Take some time out to experience the tranquillity of Perth's open spaces...



### Getting Around

Getting around Perth's parklands

need not cost a cent.

The modern CAT buses running on three routes are a great way to travel around the city. All CAT stops have distinctive stands and are easily recognisable, with real-time passenger information that tells you when the next bus is due. You can also take advantage of the Free Transit Zone (FTZ) which operates on regular buses and trains within the city boundaries.



### Stirling Gardens Corner St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street (Red CAT Stop 13)

Stirling Gardens are the oldest gardens in the city. First used by colonial botanist James Drummond as an acclimatisation garden in the 1830s, the reserve opened as a botanical garden in 1845. Stirling Gardens filled this role until 1960, when the Kings Park Botanic Gardens were officially established.

The gardens are named after Captain James Stirling, who founded Perth and established the Swan River Colony in 1829. Kangaroo sculptures, a water feature and the May Gibbs creations Snugglepote and Cuddlepie are some of the interesting aspects of the parkland.

Standing guard over the entrance to Stirling Gardens is the statue of Alexander Forrest, who was both a



Western Australian explorer and an early mayor of the City of Perth.

**Supreme Court Gardens Corner Barrack Street and Riverside Drive (Red CAT Stop 13)**

Merging with the Stirling Gardens are the Supreme Court Gardens, which contain both the Supreme Court (1903) and the oldest building in the City of Perth, the original Court House. Now known as the Francis Burt Law Education Centre, this was the only building suitable for public meetings when it was built in 1836 and served as a church, a law court and as the Perth Boys' School until 1850. The building now houses a small museum, open from 10am to 2.30pm on weekdays, excluding Thursday.

The construction of the two-storey Supreme Court represented a major technical achievement at the turn of the twentieth century, as the difficult site was then on the edge of the river. In fact, the remains of the original limestone river wall can be seen between the Supreme Court and the Francis Burt Law Education Centre. It was not until the 1920s that the shoreline was moved southwards by filling in the river to create the parks now known as The Esplanade and Langley Park.

The Supreme Court Gardens are semi-enclosed by mature trees and gardens. Events such as Carols by Candlelight are held here in the summer months.



**The Esplanade The Esplanade (Blue CAT Stop 18)**

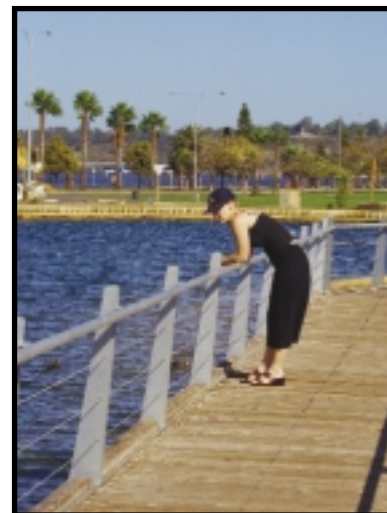
The Esplanade is used for a variety of community sporting and cultural events. Ideally positioned overlooking Barrack Square and the Swan River and close to the new Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, an open air performing arts facility is its latest addition.

An interesting feature of The Esplanade is the Allan Green Conservatory. Built in 1979 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Western Australia, the pyramid-like Conservatory was designed to provide a public facility where exotic tropical plants and rare palms may be seen. The Allan Green Conservatory is open Monday to Saturday from 10.00am to 4.00pm and Sundays and Public Holidays 12.00pm to 4.00pm.

**Langley Park and Ozone Reserve Riverside Drive (Red CAT Stops 10 to 12)**

Langley Park was created by land reclamation between 1921 and 1935 and was used as an airstrip when Major Norman Breairey pioneered civil aviation in Western Australia in the 1920s. The airstrip was re-named Langley Park after the Acting Lord Mayor, TW Langley, in 1937.

Today, Langley Park is a popular vantage point for the annual Australia Day Skyworks fireworks display, as well as the venue for many sporting events, exhibitions and marches.



Ozone Reserve continues the sweep of green riverside land towards the eastern end of the city. New works on the reserve have introduced an environmentally friendly irrigation lake, Lake Vasto, named in recognition of Perth's Italian sister city.

**Point Fraser Riverside Drive (Red CAT Stop 5)**

Recent works at Point Fraser have transformed this area at the eastern end of the city.

The new wetland, accessed by a series of interconnecting boardwalks, serves a number of purposes. Stormwater is filtered through the wetland before flowing into the Swan River, helping to preserve the delicate balance of the river. Endemic reeds have been planted to attract native birds and wildlife to the area. Interpretive works



allow visitors to gain an insight into the significance of the site from an environmental, historical and indigenous perspective.

Future developments will include restaurant, café, beach and picnic areas, a children's playground, short-term boat moorings and a jetty for ferries providing river cruises.

### **Heirisson Island The Causeway (FTZ buses)**

Heirisson Island is thought to have been named after a crew member sailing with the French navigator-explorer, Captain Hamelin, in 1801. Francois-Antoine Heirisson explored and mapped parts of the Swan River including the mud flats that formed Heirisson Island.

The early settlers of the Swan River Colony decided to bridge the Swan River, using Heirisson Island as a causeway. Although the first bridge was washed away soon after completion, a new causeway was built by



convicts in 1863. Heirisson Island did not take on the shape we see today until the 1950s when the river banks were realigned, reed beds filled and silt brought up from the river bed to create a single island.

Today, Heirisson Island is the home to a colony of Western Grey kangaroos, which can be seen in the enclosed southern part of the island. The statue of

Nyoongar leader Yagan is also located on the island, which was a significant hunting ground for indigenous people.

Heirisson Island is located under the Causeway at the eastern end of the city. A public carpark located on the northern side of the road allows access via an underpass to the southern half of the island.

### **Queens Gardens Plain Street (Red CAT Stop 5)**

Queens Gardens has been closely associated with the physical and social development of the City of Perth.



Initially it was used for recreation purposes including horse racing and later as a clay mine and brickworks. The bricks produced between 1860 and 1890 went into several of Perth's most prominent buildings.

The main features of the gardens include water lily-filled lakes (the old clay pits), massed displays of flowers and a replica of the Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens, London. The classic English style of the enclosed Queens Gardens, which include a gazebo area, make this a popular venue for weddings.

### **Wellington Square Wellington Street (Yellow CAT Stop 23)**

Like much of the land north of Wellington Street, Wellington Square was originally a swamp. The land was drained and established as a public reserve in the 1830s to provide a space for training and exercising horses stabled in the area. In 1898 the ground was cleared to make a cricket field and it was formally named in honour of the Duke of Wellington. Among locals however, it became popularly known as 'The Rec'.

Wellington Square continues its function as a recreation ground today, with cricket clubs and inner city schools making use of the facility. The park has recently been upgraded with the installation of a new central path, lighting and fitness equipment which is accompanied by an exercise instruction board.

### **Mardalup Park Brown, Royal and Arden Streets (Yellow CAT Stop 19)**

Adjacent to the Claisebrook Inlet in East Perth, Mardalup Park and Victoria Gardens provide a wonderful backdrop for recreational activities. Cyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians favour the wide paths that skirt the river's edge while the family groups that flock to the area make good use of the children's play area and tennis courts at Mardalup Park.

On the southern side of Claisebrook inlet, the landscaped Victoria Gardens are a popular site for social gatherings with public barbecues and shaded benches. A selection of cafés and restaurants can be found within a few minutes walk of the park. Arden Street park sweeps down the hillside from Victoria



Gardens to continue the swath of open space by the river. A tribute to peace in many languages is a feature of this area.

A collection of public artworks, many referring to the significance of this riverside area to the Nyoongar people, is installed throughout these parks and can be explored through the Art City publication, available from the City of Perth.

### **Lake Street Plateia**

#### **Lake Street (Blue CAT Stop 11)**

The Plateia (public square) on Lake Street celebrates the contribution of the Greek community to the Northbridge area. An eye-catching artwork, Nexus, incorporates columns symbolising classical Greek architecture. Public squares are a central feature of many Greek villages, offering an important meeting place for community members. The Lake Street Plateia will form the focal point for Greek businesses, including restaurants, in years to come.

### **Russell Square Corner James and Parker Streets (Blue CAT Stop 12)**

At the hub of bustling Northbridge, this parkland was officially named Russell Square in memory of Lord John Russell, the Prime Minister from 1846 to 1852. However, from an early stage it became known as "Parco dei Sospiri" - The Park of Sighs. It gained this



title as the favoured meeting place of the Italian community of "Little Italy" whose preferred pub, the Victoria Hotel, was located opposite Russell Square.

Originally, the design of the park was modelled on the square fenced gardens of mid-19th century London. In 1994, Russell Square was upgraded and became home for around thirty original sculptures, designed and constructed by local artists.

Russell Square is the site for city celebrations including live music throughout the summer evenings and many community festivals.



### **Harold Boas Gardens Corner Wellington and Havelock Streets (Red CAT Stop 27)**

Named after architect and former City of Perth Councillor, Harold Boas, these gardens feature several lakes and a waterfall. Dense shrubberies, large grassed areas and ample shade trees, many over 100 years old, give this park its character. Harold Boas Gardens are popular for wedding parties and separate areas are set aside for wedding photography.

### **Kings Park Kings Park Road (Red CAT Stop 25)**

Located on Mt Eliza at the western end of the city, Kings Park offers a wide range of experiences over its 400 hectares. The reserve, managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, supports 250 species of plants and about 100 native animals. A series of bush trails, picnic spots, a fine dining restaurant, cafés and children's playgrounds are found throughout the park, which offers panoramic views back over the city and the Swan River.

A number of significant memorials are located within the parkland and it is a perennially popular spot for family barbecues, photos and sightseeing. A new feature of the park is the elevated Federation Walkway, which rises through the trees and incorporates distinctive artworks in its structure. Kings Park offers a calendar of events throughout the year and the Kings Park Guides offer guided tours of the park daily. The Kings Park Visitor Information Centre on Fraser Avenue can provide further information on all events and activities within the park. Telephone (08) 9480 3659.

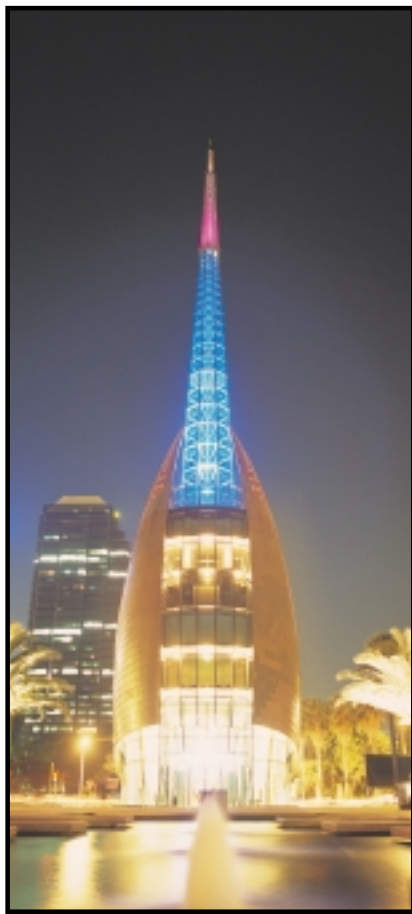
### **Barrack Square**

#### **Riverside Drive (Blue CAT Stop 20)**

Previously known as Flagstaff Square, Harper Square and Union Jack Square, Barrack Square is found at the southern end of Barrack Street. The Square was established in 1883 as part of a large parade ground for government and military use and also formed an

integral part of the river transportation service from the port of Fremantle to Guildford and the agricultural area of the Swan Valley.

When the railways captured most of the river traffic, Barrack Square became a busy ferry terminal and more recently a popular tourist area, with restaurants, cafés and a tavern. Leisure ferries to Fremantle, Rottnest and the public transport ferry to South Perth depart from the Barrack Street Jetty.



The eye-catching centrepiece of the modern Square is the Swan Bells tower, which houses the historic bells of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London and is one of the largest musical instruments in the world. Public art, including the signatures of Western Australian school children to commemorate the bicentenary, is also found at Barrack Square.

