

WUNANGA BUSH TRAIL

'WUNANGA' means "quiet" or "peaceful" in the local Aboriginal language. Take a deep breath and enjoy the bush beauty and tranquillity that this trail and the Whiteman Park bushland have to offer.

Whiteman Park lies on the Swan Coastal Plain, where the biodiversity is extraordinary. The bushland is unique and special because it occurs nowhere else in the world; it has evolved and flourished in a very challenging environment.

This trail takes you through the beautiful landscapes of banksia woodland and ephemeral wetlands which are home to over 600 species of flora and fauna.

LENGTH:	4.3 kilometres (yellow) or 2.1 kilometres (orange)
GRADE:	Class 3 (suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness)
WALKING TIME:	2 hours (yellow) or 45 minutes (orange)
TRAIL MARKERS:	Yellow/Orange-topped pine poles; lettered poles mark points of interest

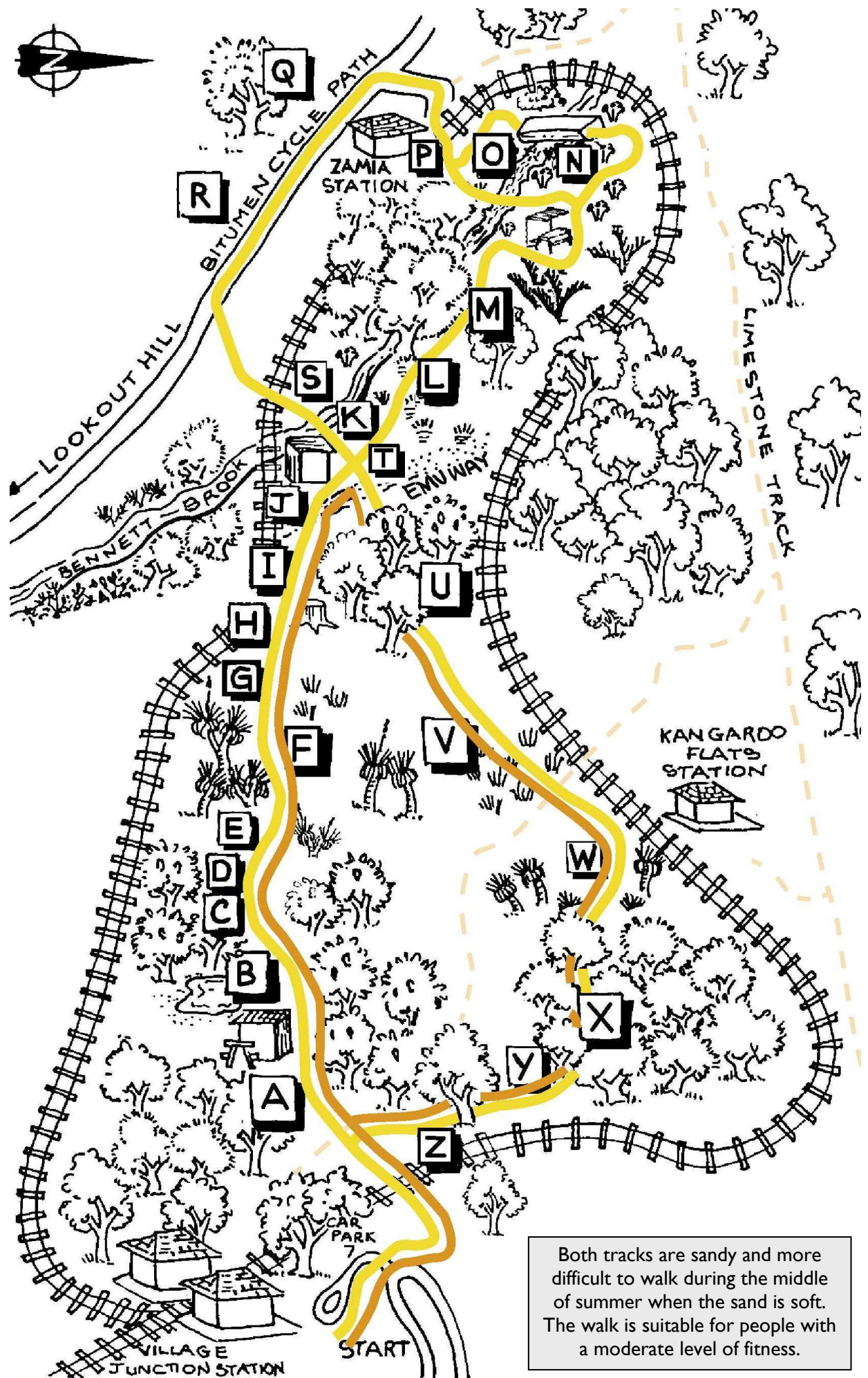
CHECKLIST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking shoes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raincoat (in wetter months)

START: Whiteman Village, in front of the Village Junction Station, car park I.

- A: Most of the trees here are banksias and many are dead, overcome by frequent fire and the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (Pc). Pc destroys the function of a plant's root system. This walk trail traverses both dieback affected, and dieback free areas.
- B: A dam lies at the end of this side track. Look closely around the edges for animal tracks.
- C: Candle banksias (*Banksia attenuata*) flower during the middle of summer. Look for their distinctive thin, yellow flower heads.
- D: Holly-leaved banksias (*Banksia ilicifolia*) flower during winter and spring.
- E: The Firewood banksia (*Banksia Menziesii*), or Menzies banksia, begins flowering during February and continues to flower through to winter.
- F: The bushland in Whiteman Park faces stresses including drought, fire and plant disease. The vegetation here is suffering from drought. Perth's 30-year average rainfall is 740mm, well below the 100-year average of 869mm,
- G: Fires occurred here during 1980, 1984/85 and 1993. The 1993 fire was ignited by a spark from a tractor. The driver was irresponsibly operating during 'extreme' fire weather conditions.
- H: To the left of the trail, a jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) sapling has sprouted from a stump. Jarrah are endemic to southwest WA. The jarrah stump to your right was aged around 200 at the time it fell.
- I: There are a number of orchid colonies on the ground in this area. The orchids flower only briefly in spring.
- Emu Way: This is the crossroad of the longer yellow trail and shorter orange trail. For orange, turn right along Emu Way & follow the yellow/orange poles. For the longer yellow walk, follow the yellow markers that veer left off Emu Way.

- J: These clearings were established to halt a wildfire that occurred in summer 2000. Now the clearings are used by researchers to study birds. There are 100 species of birds that spend time in Whiteman Park.
- K: The trail is dropping into a winter-wet dampland. Notice the change in flora from the drier areas you've already walked through.
- L: You are walking past an area containing the wetland sedge *Cyathochaeta teretifolia* which is believed to occur in large stands at Whiteman Park. Sedges are important within the ecosystem as they filter nutrients and stabilise the banks of waterways. The golden wreath wattle (*Acacia saligna*) and the stout paperbark, or modong (*Melaleuca preissiana*), occur here.
- M: Being close to Bennett Brook, this area is rich in birdlife. Look for zamias, a large prehistoric palm-like plant here.
- N: A dense patch of bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*) occurs here at the headwaters of Bennett Brook. As you approach the log crossing over the Brook, look for triangle-shaped diggings made by the quenda, a small native mammal with a long pointy nose.
- O: Swamp banksia (*Banksia littoralis*) flowers during Autumn, a time when birds are common visitors.
- P: You can either turn left and loop back to 'N' or turn right to continue the walk. A left turn will take you across the Brook, through a picturesque stand of paperbark trees. Sedges and rushes grow thick beneath the trees. Black-gloved wallabies and quendas find the thick vegetation a perfect hiding place. If you turn right you will pass Zamia Station and the yellow poles will lead you onto a bitumen cycle path.
- Q: This is the Western Australian native Christmas tree, *Nuytsia floribunda*. It erupts in brilliant yellow-orange flower masses in late November/December.
- R: This area, known as Santa Maria paddocks, was grazed by cattle until the late 1990s. Vegetation is sparse compared with the remnant bushland ahead.
- S: You are crossing Bennett Brook. Look for tadpoles in the pools of water. Ten species of frogs are found at Whiteman Park. Can you hear the distinctive sounds of the motorbike frog (*Litoria moorei*) or moaning frog (*Heleioporus eyrie*) calling?
- T: Marks the trail crossroad. Look for a variety of wildflowers, including the pink summer starflower (*Calytrix fraseri*) which blooms almost year-round, offering some lovely colour as you follow the trail through the bushland.
- U: Here is a bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*) and jarrah tree. Masses of cowslip orchids (*Calendia flava*) flower here during spring. This is a lovely spot to stop and take a rest.
- V: As the trail leaves the trees, it passes through clumps of *Phlebocarya ciliata*, a low, tufty sedge-like plant related to the kangaroo paw. Cross the limestone road ahead.
- W: Kangaroo Flats Station is on your left. Kangaroos graze here at dusk.
- X: You are within a grove of modong paperbark trees. This indicates that the area is a dampland.
- Y: See the termite mound. Termites play a role of 'decomposer' in the banksia woodland ecosystem.
- Z: Marri, also known as red gum. There are a number of 'grand marri' found within the Park, as well as 'grand jarrah'. The 'grand' title refers to the sheer size and age of these magnificent trees.



Both tracks are sandy and more difficult to walk during the middle of summer when the sand is soft. The walk is suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness.