

Greater Bendigo National Park



Visitor Guide

Significant gold era and pioneering sites, combined with a wealth of Aboriginal cultural heritage values, provide visitors to the Greater Bendigo National Park with a unique experience. The 17,020ha Box-Ironbark park almost surrounds the city of Bendigo.

Womin-dji-ka (Welcome)

Greater Bendigo National Park is part of the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung People, whose rights were recognised through a Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria in March 2013. The Dja Dja Wurrung People maintain a close and continuing connection to Djandak, their traditional Country.

Greater Bendigo National Park, Hepburn Regional Park, Kara Kara National Park, Kooyoora State Park, Paddy's Ranges State Park and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve are jointly managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria.

Djandak is a cultural landscape that includes both tangible objects such as scarred trees, mounds, wells and stone artefact scatters; and intangible stories. Djandak is a living entity, which holds stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased.

Parks Victoria pays our respects to Dja Dja Wurrung Elders, past, present, and future, and asks visitors to do the same. Aboriginal artefacts are protected by law, and it is prohibited to disturb them in any way.

How to get there

The Greater Bendigo National Park is approximately 188km north of Melbourne. There are several different access routes to the park leading from the Loddon Valley Highway, Midland Highway and the Calder Freeway.

City in the forest

The Greater Bendigo National Park, together with the Bendigo Regional Park, almost surrounds the city of Bendigo making it a unique setting and establishing Bendigo as the 'city in the forest.'

Enjoying the park

Picnicking – the Notley picnic area has picnic tables, fireplaces and toilets. Shadbolt's has picnic tables and toilets. Loeser, Mulga Dam, and One Tree Hill also have basic facilities (no toilets).

Camping – there are campgrounds with basic facilities at Notley, Loeser, Rush Dam and Mulga Dam. Notley has pull through sites suitable for caravans. Campfires are only permitted at these sites and in the fireplaces provided. No campfires are permitted at Notley during summer. Bring your own firewood and drinking water.

Walking, riding and driving – most roads in the park are unsealed, but are suitable for car touring, cycling and walking.

Dog walking – dogs are not permitted except in the One Tree Hill section of the park, where they must be kept on a leash at all times.

Horse riding – horse riding is allowed on tracks through the Whipstick and Mandurang sections of the park.

Other recreational activities include nature study, photography, orienteering and prospecting.

Walking Tracks

Flagstaff Hill – start at the Shadbolt's picnic area. The 1km loop walk takes around 40 minutes.

Old Tom Mine – start at the rear of the Shadbolt's carpark and wander through the historical remains of a once thriving goldmining area. It takes approximately 1hr 30 minutes to complete the 5.3km return trip.

Mulga Dam – start at the picnic area and follow the 1.6km walk through Kamarooka Mallee vegetation passed historical charcoal pits used to produce charcoal early this century and during the Second World War. Allow 45 minutes.

Please take care: there are many old mine workings, such as shafts and tunnels, in the park. Please keep to the tracks to ensure your safety. Bendigo Bushland Trail



This trail consists of 65 kilometres of bicycle and walking tracks as well as some road tracks that link the city of Bendigo to its surrounding bushland.

Follow 'Rex' the the blue and gold Echidna and experience the Box-Ironbark forests of Bendigo.

For more information call **Parks Victoria** on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

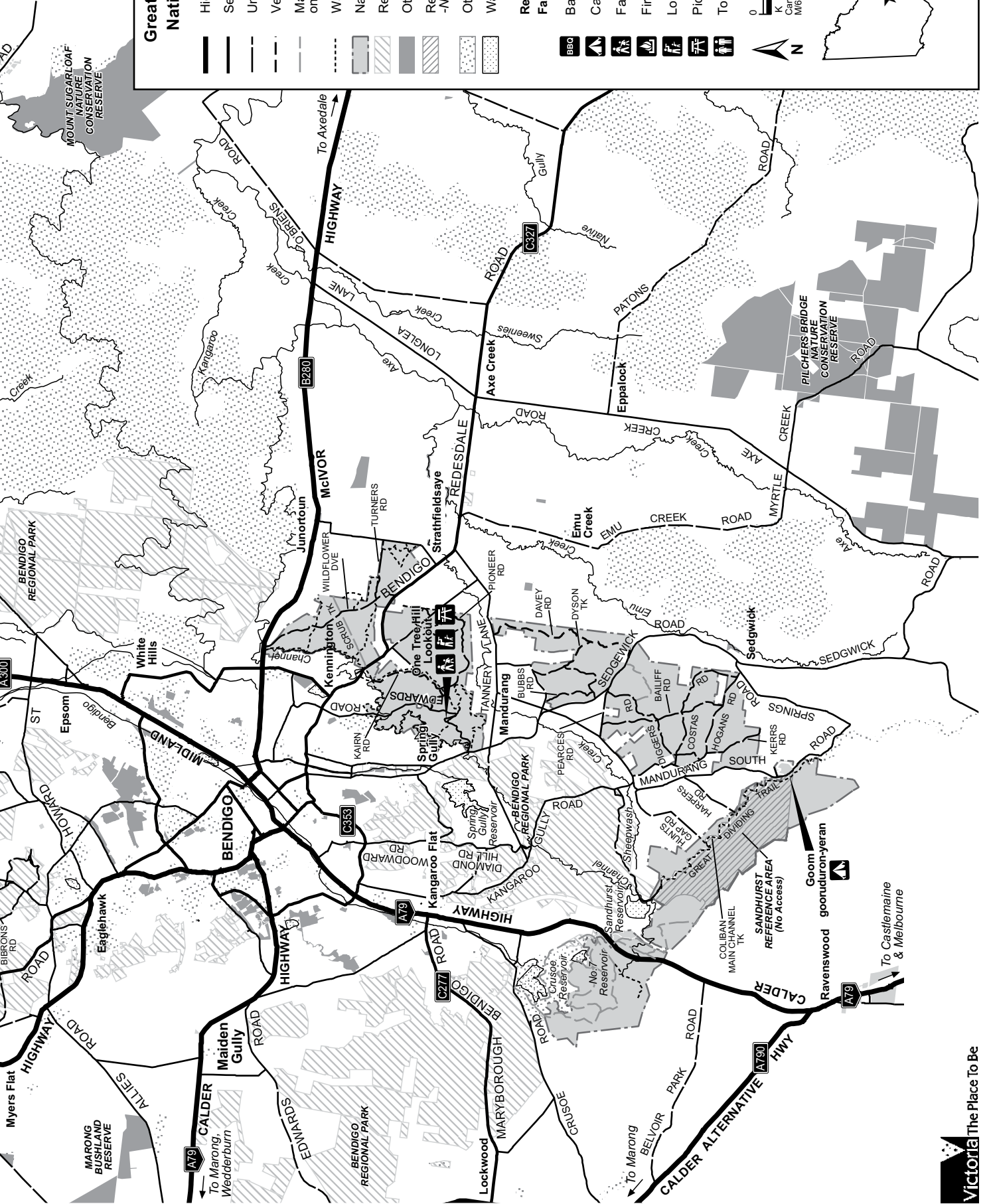


Greater Bendigo National Park

- Highway
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicular track
- Management vehicle only track
- Walking track
- National Park
- Regional Park
- Other reserves
- Reference area -No Public Access
- Other public land
- Water body

Recreational Facilities

- Barbecue
- Camping
- Family walk
- Fireplace
- Lookout
- Picnic table
- Toilets



or further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963

or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Bendigo Visitor
Information Centre
51-57 Pall Mall
Bendigo Vic 3550
Freecall: 1800 813 153

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling or disposal

All native plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law

Firearms are prohibited

Light fires only in fire places provided. Bring your own firewood.

No fires may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban. Gas or electric barbecues may be used provided that:

- a 3 metre area is cleared of anything flammable
- at least 10 litres of water is available for immediate use
- an adult is in attendance and within line of sight at all times

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Prospecting is permitted in designated areas. Prospectors must hold a Miner's Right.

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today?



Parks of yesterday become one

This park includes the former Whipstick and Kamarooka State Parks, One Tree Hill Regional Park, Mandurang State Forest and Sandhurst State Forest.

The Kamarooka and Whipstick sections protect a unique tract of mallee vegetation known as the 'Whipstick scrub' and some of the best stands of distinctive Box-Ironbark forests of north central Victoria.

The Mandurang and Sandhurst sections are renowned for coppice regrowth forests and grassy woodland understorey.

One Tree Hill, with its relatively steep terrain, provides panoramic views of Bendigo and the surrounding bushland. The area is known for its colourful wildflower displays featuring wattles, wax-flowers and orchids, which are of great interest to wildflower enthusiasts.

Plants and animals

The forest is a result of 150 years of coppice regrowth forests of Red Stringybark, Red Ironbark, Yellow Gum, Red Box and Long-leaf Box.

The brilliantly flowering Whirrakee Wattle is unique to the Bendigo area. The parks are famous for their spectacular spring wildflower displays, which includes the nationally endangered Whipstick Westringia.

Over 170 species of birds have been recorded in Greater Bendigo National Park. The beautiful calls of the Grey Shrike-thrush, Crested Bellbird and Gilbert's Whistler can be heard.

The park is home to a diverse range of animals and has the only Victorian population of Pink Tailed Worm Lizard. Animals most likely to be seen are the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Black Wallaby, Echidna and Common Dunnart. The rare Brush-tailed Phascogale or Tuan can also be found.

A vibrant history

Aboriginal association with the Box-Ironbark forests dates back many thousands of years. The forests provided food, material for tools and shelter. The close association with the forests continues today and significant Aboriginal sites can be found throughout the area.

The park also has a colourful European history, particularly in relation to gold mining and eucalyptus oil production.

The gold rushes in the area began in 1857 and continued through the 1860s. Many signs of the rushes, including alluvial diggings, old mining dams and water races, shafts and mullock heaps are scattered throughout the park.

Mining of the Bendigo goldfields generated a huge demand for timber and the surrounding forest was extensively cut over or cleared.



Spreading Wattle in Box-Ironbark Forest

Since European settlement, the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands have been extensively cleared for agriculture, gold mining, urban development and timber. Today only 17 percent of the original Box-Ironbark vegetation of north central Victoria remains.

The eucalyptus oil industry dates back to the 1860s and old eucalyptus can still be seen in the area. Most of the picnic areas have been built on old eucalyptus distillery and homestead sites.

Rebuilding the links

The Victorian Government created Greater Bendigo National Park, along with other new and expanded parks across central Victoria, in October 2002 to conserve and enhance what remains of the Box-Ironbark woodlands.

Many of the most intact stands of Box-Ironbark remain on private land. With private and public landholders working together, we can rebuild the links between the fragmented remnants of these forests to encourage the return of endangered plants and animals. Contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963 to find out how you can be involved.

Emergencies

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

Greater Bendigo National Park is in the Northern Country fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days this Park will be closed for public safety. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the Park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

May 2023

Healthy Parks
Healthy People®

