

# Wattle Park

## Visitor Guide



Wattle Park offers a blend of historic buildings, picnic grounds, walking tracks and natural bush spread over 55 hectares. Towering gums, native grasses and seasonal wildflowers make it a popular metropolitan escape. The historic chalet, surrounded by exotic gardens, is available for event bookings.



### Getting there

Vehicle and Route 70 tram service access is from Riversdale Rd, Burwood. Pedestrian access is from Riversdale Rd, Warrigal Rd, Patterson Ave or Elgar Rd.

### Walking and cycling

All paths and trails within Wattle Park are multi-use. Take a walk, jog or cycle beneath the shade of impressive gums, wattles and other indigenous and exotic tree species.

### Dog walking

Dogs are welcome in Wattle Park. To help protect the wildlife and for the comfort of other visitors, please keep your dog on a lead at all times in all areas of the park. Please clean up after your dog.

### Golf course and tennis courts

The nine hole public golf course is a lovely setting to practice your swing. There are also two tennis courts. For booking information for golf or tennis phone 9808 2455.

### Picnicking

Wattle Park is a great spot for a picnic with family and friends. The picnic area beside Wattle Park Chalet has picnic tables, gas barbecues and a children's playground.

### Basketmakers of Victoria

The Basketmakers of Victoria are open 10am-3pm on Wednesdays and Sundays in the Cottage. Members work on their products and there is a small gallery of baskets available for purchase. For information visit [www.basketmakersofvic.com.au](http://www.basketmakersofvic.com.au)

### History

Wattle Park, named after Australia's proposed national floral emblem, the Golden Wattle, officially opened in 1917. It is the only known remaining Australian example of a pleasure park initially established, owned and operated by a transport authority with the dual purpose of promoting transport services and providing a recreational facility at the termini of its lines for the public.

### Wattle Park Chalet

The Wattle Park Chalet was initially constructed in 1928 to provide meals and entertainment for an increasing number of visitors to the park. Built primarily using discarded materials, such as bricks and slate paving from redundant cable tram engine houses, the Chalet largely remains in its original form, offering all the historic charm and splendour of the early 1900s.

The Chalet is set among beautiful gardens and is a popular venue for receptions, functions and meetings. For bookings and enquiries call Provincial Events at Wattle Park Chalet on 9808 0122.

### Melbourne Transit Band

The Melbourne Transit Band has been a feature of Wattle Park since 1941. It provides free entertainment to the public in the rostrum near the picnic area, one Sunday a month from October to April. For dates and information call 13 1963.

### Lone Pine

Overlooking the oval is the Lone Pine. The Lone Pine was planted in 1933 in remembrance of fallen comrades of the 24th Battalion. One of only four plantings in Victoria, the seed was taken from the original Lone Pine, a solitary tree on the battle fields of the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, during the First World War in 1915.

### Trams and tram shelters

The heritage W-Class trams near the picnic area represent a critical stage in Melbourne's tramway history. Built between 1923 and 1956, the family of W-Class trams were designed due to the conversion of cable tram lines to electric and the planned expansion of the Melbourne system. Today the trams can be used as picnic shelters and play areas.

The historical stone waiting shelters, which originally served the tramway, form entrances for pedestrian access to the park on Riversdale Road and on the corner of Warrigal and Riversdale Road.

### Plants and animals

Wattle Park is a haven among the urban surrounds for plants and wildlife. The eucalypts, pines, elms and other trees are home to a variety of wildlife including birds, bats and possums. The park is also a popular breeding area for Tawny Frogmouths.

After rainfall, on the eastern side of the park, the Damper Creek runs freely into the filtration ponds where the distinct sounds of the Southern Bullfrog, or Pobblebonk, can often be heard.

From late winter through spring the eastern slope comes alive with splashes of colour, as the wildflowers bloom. Native orchids, lilies and grasses are common in the area.

The conservation zone in the eastern half of the park plays an important role in protecting the indigenous flora and fauna.

### Get involved

Get involved in environmental activities through groups such as the Friends of Wattle Park. Go to [www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au)

### Caring for the park

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

- Take all rubbish home with you for recycling and disposal
- All native plants and animals are protected
- Coal barbecues are not permitted anywhere in the park. Portable gas barbecues are only permitted in the picnic area.

### Be prepared and stay safe

Wattle Park is in the Central 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](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

Check the latest conditions at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963. For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

Parks Victoria

Phone 13 1963  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)



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|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Information             | Picnic Tables | Memorial    | Tram Shelter | Conservation Area | Shared track  |
| Toilets                 | Playground    | Parking     |              | Park              | Main road     |
| Disabled-access Toilets | BBQ (Gas)     | Family Walk |              | Other park        | Sealed road   |
|                         |               |             |              |                   | Unsealed road |

