

Cardinia Reservoir Park and Aura Vale Lake

Visitor Guide



Cardinia Reservoir Park is a great setting for a picnic, barbecue or stroll along the reservoir wall or one of the tracks. The two reservoir viewing areas offer spectacular views over the water and surrounding district. Just north of Cardinia Reservoir, Aura Vale Lake plays a very important role in Melbourne's water supply. It forms part of a drainage system designed to channel run-off water from neighbouring properties and roads and stop it entering the main reservoir.



Opening hours

The park areas open to the public during day light hours. Times vary throughout the year.

For further information on closing times, please observe the entry signs to the park, or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

Getting there

These parks are located approximately 50km east of Melbourne CBD. Cardinia Reservoir can be accessed from Wellington Road or Red Hill Road. A one-way road loops around the main areas of the park.

Aura Vale Lake is located next to Cardinia Reservoir, along Wellington Road.

Things to see and do

Walking

Tea Tree Trail – 2.5km, 45 minutes one way

To discover the park's flora and fauna, there is a self guided walk along the Tea Tree Trail, which goes through bushland from Duffy's Lookout to the Observation Carpark. Signs along this trail introduce a variety of plants and animals.

Kangaroo Viewing Trail – 700m, 15 minutes one way

Cardinia Reservoir Park is home to several groups of wild kangaroos. These are best seen early in the morning or late afternoon. Walk along the Kangaroo Viewing Trail adjacent to the reservoir wall, starting at the Spillway Carpark. The trail heads downhill to Crystal Brook Picnic Area, with information along the trail so that you can learn more about this Australian icon.

Note: Feeding and approaching kangaroos are strictly prohibited. Be sure to stay at a safe distance.

Dog Walking

Dogs are permitted at Cardinia Reservoir Park, but they must be kept on a lead at all times. Dogs are strictly prohibited along the Kangaroo Viewing Trail.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted in the Aura Vale Lake only, however consumption of fish is not advised. A Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) is required for all forms of recreational fishing in Victoria's waterways. Fishing is only permitted from the banks.

Picnicking

There are three picnic areas in Cardinia Reservoir Park, each with its own wonderful views of surrounding bushland and open lawns. They are Crystal Brook Picnic Area, Kangaroo Flat Picnic Area and Duffy's Lookout Picnic Area (no vehicle access). One twin gas barbecue is available at the southern end of Crystal Brook. You may wish to bring your own portable gas barbecue. Portable coal barbecues are permitted on designated gravel areas only. On days of Total Fire Ban, all barbecues are banned in the park.

Aura Vale Lake Park has Henley Picnic Area, with access to boat ramp and areas for fishing. Swimming in the lake is not permitted due to poor water quality and submerged objects.

Ramped paths give good access to all picnic areas. Crystal Brook and Henley Picnic Areas also have accessible toilets.

See the map overleaf for all the facilities available at each area.

Caring for the park

Please take all your rubbish home with you for recycling and disposal, including used coals.

Groups of fifty or more people need to notify the park office of their intended visit. You can contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

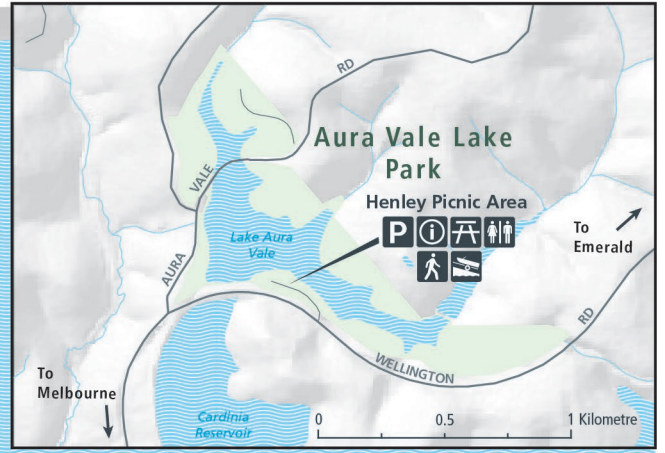
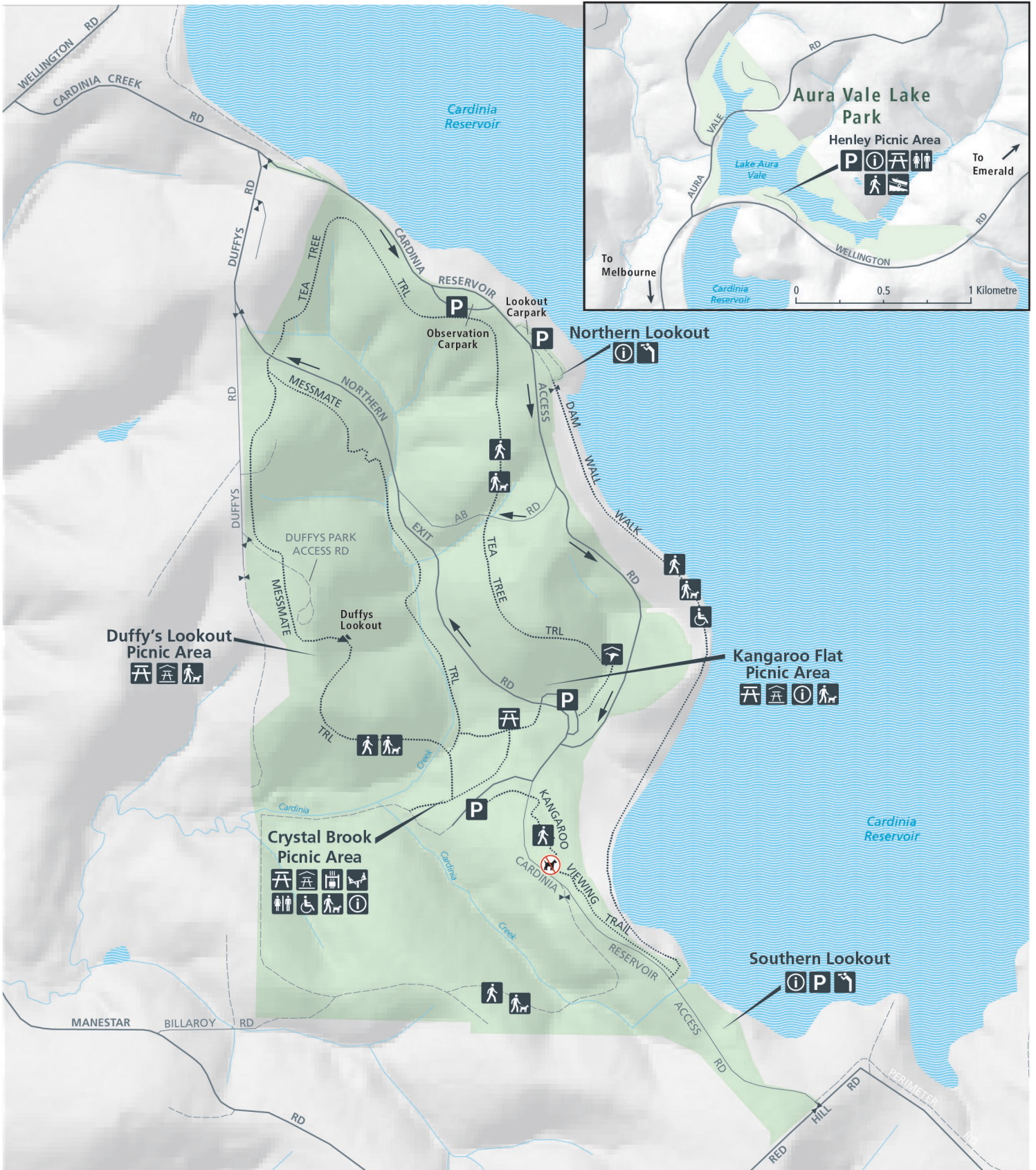
Be prepared and stay safe

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator. Cardinia Reservoir Park and Aura Vale Lake Park are 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 [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning.

Check the latest conditions at parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

Cardinia Reservoir Parks

Emerald



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|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Parking | Barbecue (gas) | Gate | Cardinia Reservoir Park |
| Information | Playground | Other park/reserve | Main road |
| Picnic table | Lookout | Sealed road | Unsealed road |
| Sheltered area | Walking Track | 4WD | Walking tracks |
| Toilets | Dogs on leads allowed | | |
| Disabled access | Dogs not permitted | | |

