

Dandenong Ranges National Park



TrailRider Visitor Guide

Journey among the tallest flowering plants in the world, the Mountain Ash. Picnic with the melodious song of the Superb Lyrebird in the background. Discover rare orchids and marvel at the tree ferns with their link to ancient Gondwanaland. A TrailRider all-terrain wheelchair is the perfect way for park visitors with significant mobility limitations to explore the magnificence of Dandenong Ranges National Park.



Planning your walk

Before setting off it is important to plan and organise your day – know where you are going and what you might need to take. Use this guide to assess the demands of a particular track against your own personal needs and capability.

The trails listed range in difficulty from easy for first-time TrailRider users to more advanced trails for TrailRider users who have some experience and a reasonable level of fitness. These trails vary in distance and steepness but do not have any steps.

Refer to Parks Victoria's TrailRider advisory guide as to what trail conditions to expect. A key to the trail gates is required for access to the Hardy Gully Nature Walk and the Sherbrooke Loop Walk.

TrailRider chair safety

- The TrailRider must be operated with a minimum of two inducted operators.
- Have a bike helmet ready for the passenger.
- The chair passenger must always have their seat belt fastened while in the chair.
- The chair has a weight limit of 113kg; total of the rider and gear.
- When stationary, ensure the chair is on level ground and the kickstand is on.
- The chair is not designed to go in water deeper than 100mm.

Things to see and do

Walking

Margaret Lester Forest Walk – 300m, 30 minutes return, beginner, 2 chair operators

Located within Grants Picnic Ground, this walk follows a steady gradient weaving through spectacular Mountain Ash forest. The first half has been specially designed for all abilities access and is a good easy walk for first-time TrailRider users.

The returning path consists of an unsealed gravel path that runs parallel to the visitor car park. This walk has several viewing areas, each offering picturesque views of the majestic Mountain Ash trees and large tree ferns.

Hardy Gully Nature Walk – 700m, 45 minutes return, intermediate, 2-3 chair operators

This is a very picturesque short walk that takes you through a beautiful rainforest gully of very old Mountain Ash trees and tall tree ferns.

Start at the trail gate opposite the bus car park and follow the signs to the Hardy Gully Nature Walk. It is recommended that TrailRider chair users take this walk in an anticlockwise direction to avoid a steep hill. Follow Hardy Gully Nature Walk down into the gully. At

the next intersection, turn left onto Lyrebird Track which will lead you back to Grants Picnic Ground.

Sherbrooke Loop Walk – 4km, 2 hours circuit, intermediate, 4 chair operators

Thrilling song and a glimpse of a Superb Lyrebird may reward along this scenic walk through Mountain Ash forest.

Start at the trail gate opposite the bus car park and follow the Lyrebird track. At the end, turn right onto Hall Track and follow it until the track intersects with Neumann Track (vehicle track). Turn right onto Neumann Track and follow it all the way until it reaches Lyrebird Track. Turn left on Lyrebird Track and follow it back to where you commenced at Grants Picnic Ground.

Plants and animals

The Mountain Ash forests at Dandenong Ranges National Park provide the perfect habitat for wildlife such as the Superb Lyrebird, Ring-tailed and Brush-tailed Possums.

Treecreepers, small birds that cling to the sides of trees looking for a meal of grubs and insects, can be seen foraging among the tree trunks. The beautiful and elusive Blue-winged Parrot has also been sighted in Sherbrooke Forest.

A major feature of the park is the magnificent Mountain Ash trees of Sherbrooke. Most of these trees grew after the severe forest fires of the 1920s. Mountain Ash are the world's tallest flowering plants, growing some 100m and living up to 500 years.

Be prepared and stay safe

The Dandenong Ranges National Park is closed when there is a Total Fire Ban or strong winds. Signs may be erected but do not expect a personal warning.

Dandenong Ranges National 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.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

The latest park information is available at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

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.

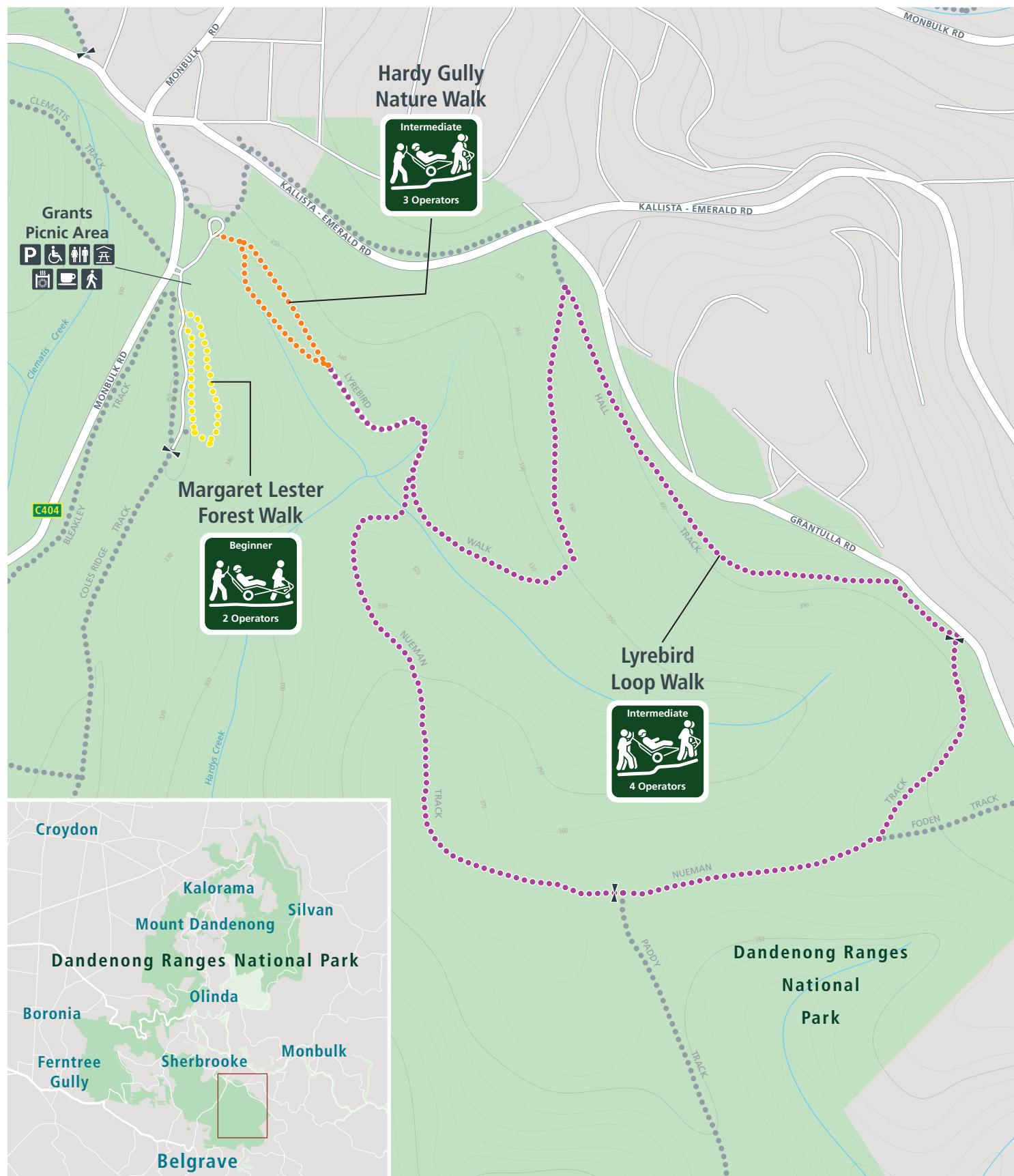
Parks Victoria

Phone 13 1963
www.parks.vic.gov.au



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- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| P Parking | Electric barbecue |
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| Sheltered area | Gate |

Margaret Lester Forest Walk
Beginner
2 Operators
300 metres
30 minutes return

Hardy Gully Nature Walk
Intermediate
3 Operators
700 metres
45 minutes return

Lyrebird Loop Walk
Intermediate
4 Operators
4 kilometres
2 hours return



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TrailRider Track Gradient System

Parks Victoria has developed the TrailRider Track Grading System for motorised TrailRiders to complement the Australian Walking Track Grading System. This independent system details the recommended number, experience and fitness levels of TrailRider operators.

Not all park walking trails are suitable for TrailRider chairs and visitors should always refer to park visitor information for recommended trails.

Trail Rider Advisory Signs



Beginner operators

Suitable for all levels, including those with no or limited experience.
Suitable for most fitness levels. Two to three operators recommended.

Trails attributes:

- Mostly flat or undulating with gentle hills
- Wide, clear access
- Well formed, hard surface
- Occasional steps and tight turns
- Clearly signposted



Intermediate operators

Suitable for people with experience on undulating trails with some obstacles. A moderate level of fitness is required. Three to four operators recommended.

Trails attributes:

- Undulating with occasional short steep hills
- Some narrow sections, medium access
- Formed track, some obstacles
- Short staircases with landings (> 500mm) occasional sharp bends
- Sign posted



Advanced operators

Suitable for people with experience on uneven trail surfaces, with some obstacles, steps and high bends. A high level of fitness is required. Three to four operators recommended.

Trails attributes:

- Undulating with many short steep hills
- Short narrow steep sections, medium access
- Formed track, some obstacles
- Short staircases, mixed landings, many very sharp bends
- Signposted



Highly advanced operators

Suitable for people with extensive experience on uneven trail surfaces, steps, a variety of obstacles and sharp bends. A high level of fitness with strong upper body strength is required.

Navigational skills may be required.
Four operators minimum recommended.

Trails attributes:

- Long, very steep and difficult hills
- Narrow, restricted access
- Rough or unformed surface, many obstacles and soft or loose sections
- Many staircases with small landings and/or uneven steps
- Steep very sharp bends
- Limited or no signage

Trail anomalies where additional operators are recommended

In exceptional circumstances, there may be a variation to the standard TrailRider Signage.

These trails may have difficult obstacles to navigate, be longer than normal or have an extra-long steep slope.

In these instances an additional operator is needed and the adjacent signs mark the trail.



Using a Manual TrailRider

If using a **manual** TrailRider, an additional TrailRider operator should be added to recommended number of operators for the trail grade.

More information

For further information on TrailRider trails and TrailRider safety go to www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963

