

# Warrandyte State Park

## Visitor Guide



Just a 45-minute drive from Melbourne's CBD, Warrandyte State Park is the perfect setting for picnickers, bushwalkers, canoeists, birdwatchers and those who enjoy peace and solitude.



### Getting there

Warrandyte State Park is 24km north-east of Melbourne.

Access is mainly via three roads including Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road, Research-Warrandyte Road and Ringwood-Warrandyte Road.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking



#### **Pound Bend River Walk – 2.4km, 1 hour return**

Starting from the northern end of the picnic area, this gentle and easy walk will take you upstream along the Yarra River. Listen to the calls of the many birds as you walk through riparian forest dominated by towering manna gums. At the turnaround point the walk will open to a grassland area where Eastern Grey Kangaroos can be frequently sighted. Return to the picnic area via the same trail.



#### **Jumping Creek to Blue Tongue Bend Walk – 3.5km, 2 hours return**

This moderately challenging walk offers a chance for solitude as you weave your way along the Yarra River corridor. This walk takes in a variety of landscapes from dry rocky cliffs to river level riparian forest. At the halfway point you will find Blue Tongue Bend, a wide sweeping section of the Yarra River.



#### **Mount Lofty Circuit Walk – 4.7km, 2.5 hours circuit**

Located in Wonga Park, the Mount Lofty circuit walk begins at Wittons Reserve. The walk takes you upstream along the Yarra River corridor before ascending steeply to the highest point in Warrandyte State Park (Mount Lofty). Featuring spectacular views of the river, the Yarra Valley and the Dandenong-Yarra Ranges, this walk will take your breath away in more ways than one.



#### **Fourth Hill Gold Heritage Circuit Walk – 1.5km, 1.5 hours circuit**

This walk takes you around landmarks and remnants of yesteryear when those down on their luck sought riches from

the gold-laden hills of Warrandyte. Fourth Hill is also known for its colourful springtime wildflower display.

For more information on walking in Warrandyte State Park, visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 1963.

#### Picnicking

Pound Bend is a delightful picnic area set amongst the manna gums that line the Yarra River. Bring your own picnic blanket or use one of the tables provided. Other facilities include toilets, a canoe launching ramp and access to easy walking trails for visitors with limited mobility.

Jumping Creek also provides picnicking opportunities close to the Yarra River. This site features tables, a shelter and toilets. For those more adventurous, launch a canoe or enjoy the river views from the walking trails.

#### Gold discovery

Relics of the gold mining era can be found at Pound Bend, Fourth Hill and Black Flat. Some of the more prominent features include Geraghty's mine, Victory mine and the Evelyn Tunnel.

Prospecting within the Warrandyte State Park is only permitted in the beds of the Andersons, Stoney and Jumping Creeks (upstream of Jumping Creek Road bridge). A Miner's Right is required and the use of mechanical tools is prohibited.

#### Canoeing/Kayaking

Experience the beautiful bushland of Warrandyte Gorge via the water. Grade I to III rapids can be experienced depending on the river section and water levels.

River access for launching is located at Mt Lofty, Jumping Creek, Pound Bend and Norman Reserve.

#### Bike riding

The extensive Management Vehicle Only tracks scattered throughout the park provide great mountain biking opportunities. Please note, riding on walking trails and informal tracks is prohibited due to the significance and sensitivity of the environment.

## Plants and animals

Warrandyte State Park is one of the most significant remaining areas with remnant indigenous flora and fauna in the north-east Greater Melbourne area. The park protects a diversity of flora and fauna habitats including riparian forest and woodland as well as dry foothill woodland.

The park is home to a variety of eucalypts, the most common of which is Red Box. This eucalypt, along with Red Stringybark and Long-leaf Box, dominates the hilltops, while large Manna Gums line the Yarra River. A large diversity of wattles, orchids and wildflowers are a spectacular sight in the usually hard, dry landscape of Warrandyte.

Living around the Yarra and other parts of the park are a variety of native animals such as the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale (Tuan), a small, nocturnal, carnivorous marsupial. The park is also home to a range of species including Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, Short-beaked Echidnas, Common Wombats, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders and Platypus.

Within the riverine and woodland environment of Warrandyte State Park more than 120 bird species have been recorded, including the rare Powerful Owl, Kingfishers, Robins, Honeyeaters and various birds of prey.

Ducks, cormorants, waterhens and other waterbirds are quite often spotted on the river.

There are snakes in the park, if you do see one, don't panic but keep your distance. Remember that all plants and animals, including snakes, are protected.

## Exploring the history

The area now known as Warrandyte State Park is located within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri (Woiwurrung) people. For many thousands of years, the Wurundjeri (Woiwurrung) people visited the area on a seasonal basis to exploit seasonally available flora and fauna. These served many purposes, for example: temporary shelters, transport (canoes), food, medicine, clothing, jewellery, hunting implements and many other culturally important items. The confluence of the Brushy Creek and Yarra River (Birraring), near Mount Lofty, is said to be the birthplace of William Barak, a prominent leader and spokesperson. Whilst the lifestyle of Wurundjeri (Woiwurrung) people has changed significantly since the arrival of Europeans, contemporary Wurundjeri (Woiwurrung) people still maintain a very strong spiritual connection to their ancestral land.

In 1839, James Anderson established a cattle station in an area that became known as Anderson's Creek, just west of the present town of Warrandyte. The name of Andersons Creek was eventually changed to Warrandyte as a result of a petition in the early 1900's.

Warrandyte State Park has a rich gold history. It is believed to be the site of Victoria's first gold find in 1851 and remnants of the gold rush remain throughout the park predominantly at Fourth Hill. A cairn on Andersons Creek at Gold Memorial marks this site.

In 1870, the Evelyn Tunnel at Pound Bend was completed for the purpose of diverting the Yarra River so that 5km of

exposed river bed could be worked for gold. After 12 months the project was abandoned as expenses were too high and returns poor.

## Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Dogs are not permitted except on lead only at Norman, Tarroona and Koornong Reserves.
- All other pets are not permitted in the park.
- Please take your rubbish home.
- All plants, animals, natural features and cultural sites are protected and must not be disturbed or removed.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited. It is an offence to feed or leave food for wildlife. Penalties apply.

## Be prepared and stay safe

Warrandyte State 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), on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, Warrandyte State Park will be closed for public safety.

Severe Fire Danger Rating days and above will result in some visitor areas of the park being closed.

Severe Weather days will also result in some visitor areas of the park being closed.

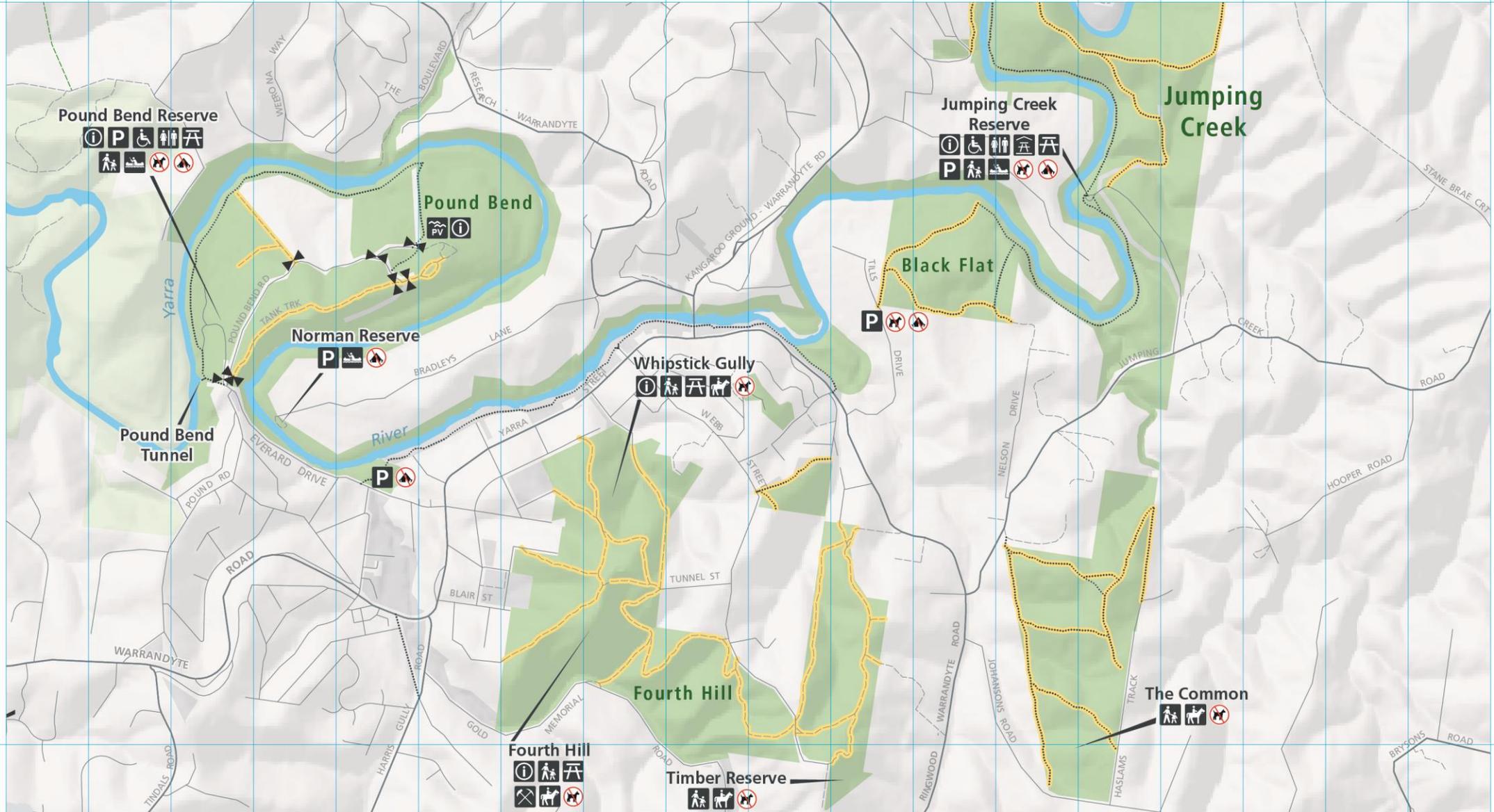
Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning.

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). If a green emergency marker sign is near you, relay the marker information to the operator.

# Warrandyte State Park

Map 1



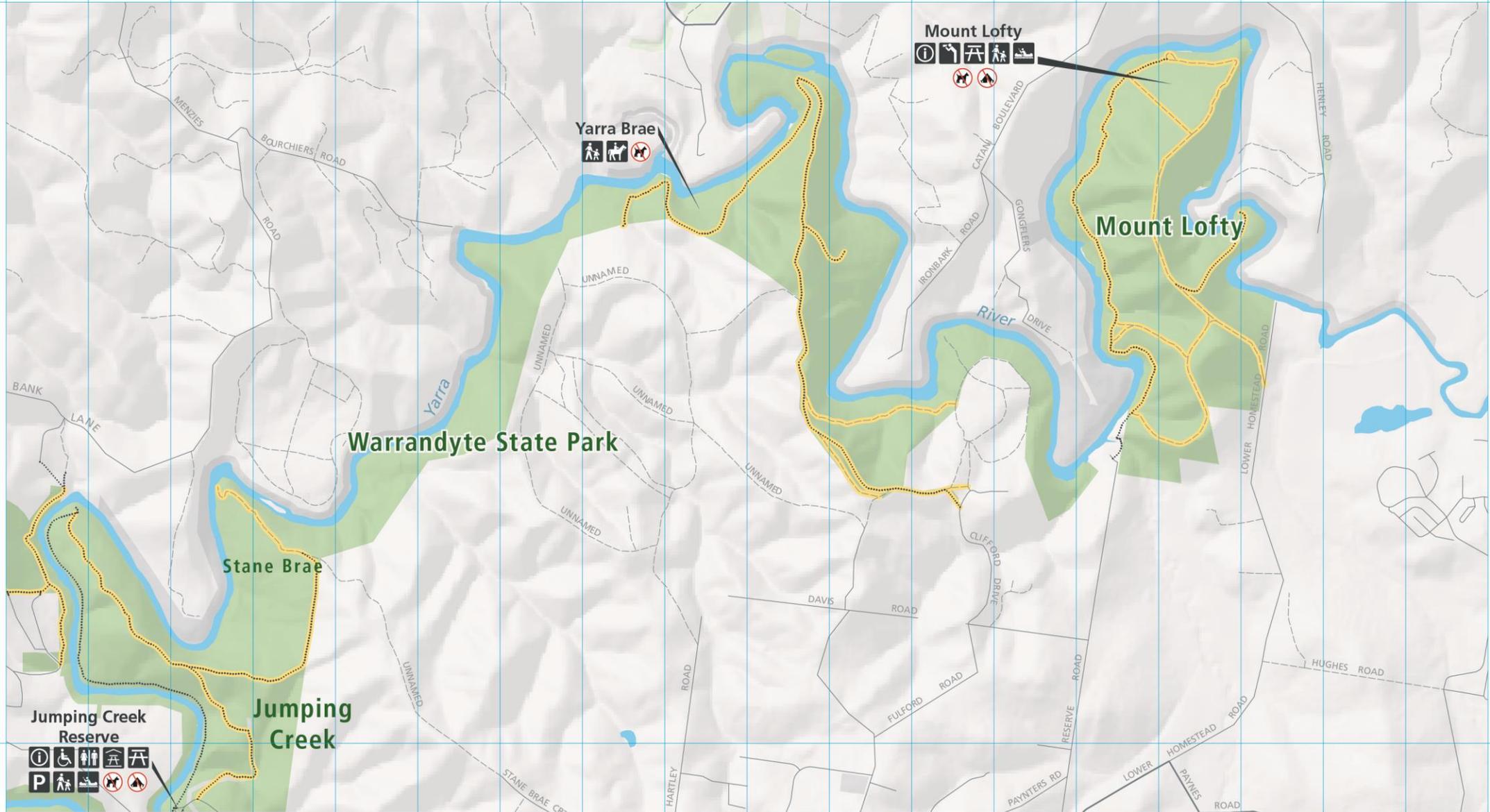
Parking	Disabled access	Parks Victoria Office	Walking track	No dogs	Main road	Unsealed road	Management vehicles only	Warrandyte State Park
Picnic table	Toilets	Information	Canoeing	No camping	Sealed road	Walking track		Other parks
								Public land

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# Warrandyte State Park

Map 2



- Parking
- Disabled access
- Parks Victoria Office
- Walking track
- No dogs
- Main road
- Unsealed road
- Management vehicles only
- Warrandyte State Park
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- Information
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