

Parks of the Perth Hills

The place to...

Be...

See...

Do...



John Forrest National Park Flora and Fauna Guide

Landscape

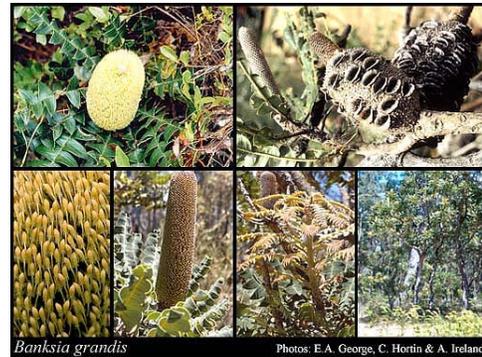
Through the centre of the park tumbles the Jane Brook, and from vantage points on the scenic drive that runs through the almost 1600 hectare park, the edge of the Darling Scarp can be seen dropping away to the coastal plain and Perth. Most of the park is laterite, but where Jane Brook and other streams have cut into the surface, rounded outcrops of granite or the more angular dolerite can be seen.

Flora

John Forrest National Park is set in jarrah forest still largely in its natural state. The uplands are dominated by jarrah and marri. The valley floor features flooded gum, swamp peppermint and paperbarks. On the valley slopes two smooth-barked trees, wandoo and powderbark, intersperse with jarrah and marri. Smaller trees include bull banksia, sheoak and snottygobble. The woodlands and forests of the slopes and scarp edge contain a rich understory with calothamnus, hakeas, grevilleas, dryandras, pimelias, myrtles, sundews, trigger plants, acacias, kangaroo paws and blue lechenaultia.

A common feature of the park is its granite outcrops fringed by heaths. As the soil becomes shallow, annuals and herbs abound, with sundews, orchids and resurrection plants growing through the moss swards.

If it has been a wet winter, various kinds of fungi can be found in leaf litter or on rotting logs, particularly in stream valley.



Banksia grandis

Photos: E.A. George, C. Hortin & A. Ireland



Dampiera linearis

Photos: T.J. Alford, P.G. Armstrong, C. Hortin & J. Scott

Caring for John Forrest National Park



Be Careful: Your safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

Be Clean: Put your litter in bins, or better still take it home with you.

Be Cool: Because of the fire risk, no fires are permitted in the park. Please use the barbeques provided, or bring your own portable gas stove if you wish to barbeque.

Protect Animals and Plants: Dogs, cats and firearms are not permitted in national parks.

Stay on the Road: Public vehicle access is only on the sealed roads leading off Great Eastern Highway. By staying on these roads you will be making an important contribution towards stopping the spread of dieback disease. Normal road rules apply. Mountain Bikes may only be riding on approved management tracks – they cannot be ridden on walk trails, including the Eagle View Walk Trail.

Fauna



Photo. Babs & Bert Wells/Department of Conservation and Land Management

Chuditch



'Twenty-eight' parrot

As well as the fairly common grey kangaroo, there is a population of the euro, normally a species of the dry country, living in the park.

Echidnas are common, although hard to find, and quendas are known from the thick vegetation along the Jane Brook.

Honey possums and western pygmy possums inhabit heathland adjacent to granite surfaces, and mardos are quite common and sometimes visible by day in the forested areas.

Chuditch have been seen there in the recent past, and live in the vicinity of the park.

Woodland birds of the park include the 'twenty-eight' parrots and the less common red-capped parrots. Rufous and golden whistlers announce their presence with their loud and melodious songs from the jarrah and marri trees, and western spinebills and New Holland honeyeaters are commonly seen, especially when wildflowers are in bloom.

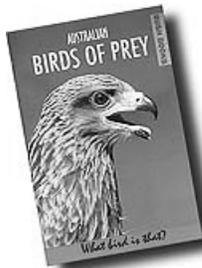
Galahs, which arrived in Perth from further north in recent years, are also numerous in the park.

Racehorse goannas or bungarra are often visible in the open on roads or tracks, and western bearded dragons often bask on fallen timber or on roads.

The aquatic habitats associated with Jane Brook support long-necked tortoises and brown tree frogs.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WA'S PLANTS AND ANIMALS?

The Department of Environment and Conservation have a series of pocket sized field guides available called "Bush Books". They are available at most DEC offices and good bookshops. Titles include;



Bush Tucker Plants of the South-West
Common Trees of the South-West Forests
Common Wildflowers of the South-West Forests
Fungi of the South-West Forests
Orchids of the South-West
Australian Birds of Prey
Bugs in the Backyard
Common Birds of the Backyard
Common Birds of the South West Forests
Frogs of Western Australia
Mammals of the South West
Snakes of Western Australia
Threatened and Rare Birds of Western Australia
Waterbirds of South West Wetlands



Further Information



National Park Rangers are always pleased to help you make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

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Safety is our concern, but your responsibility. Have fun and stay safe.

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