

Bold Park

Just 10 kilometres west of Perth CBD, within the suburb of City Beach, lies an area of bushland that boasts spectacular views and protects more than 400 hectares of coastal bushland. A network of trails guides visitors through the park to explore what makes this area special.

At 437 hectares, Bold Park is one of the largest remaining remnants of bushland on the Swan Coastal Plain. The area was once an important site for Nyoongar people, who camped there and made use of the area's plants and animals for food and medicine. Two sites have been registered with the Department of

Planning, Lands and Heritage as Aboriginal Heritage Sites of Significance. European settlers used the area as a limestone quarry and to graze and quarantine cattle. Then, in 1936, the park was protected and named after William Bold – a long-time City of Perth town clerk. In 1998 the park was declared an 'A'-class reserve and is now managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

By mixing and matching the trails, you can tailor a walk to the distance and challenge level that suits you and, with a large number of combinations available, you can do a different route each time you visit. And it seems this is no secret: visitor data shows that 71 per cent of visitors in 2016–17 were bushwalkers and 92 per cent were repeat visitors with 68 per cent visiting more than once a week.

The main walk – the Zamia Trail – is a 5.1-kilometre round trip that connects many of the other walks. It can be completed in roughly 90 minutes, and combines gentle slopes with some challenging uphill sections. Starting at Reabold Hill, which has sweeping views of

Above The stunning view from Reabold Hill.
Photo – Jiri Lochman

Opposite page
Left There are a number of walk trails for visitors to enjoy.
Photo – Rhianna King/DBCA

GUIDED TOURS

With more than 15 kilometres of well-marked trails, which cater to people of all ages and abilities, there are plenty of opportunities to explore the park, and reasons to come back time and time again.



the ocean to the west and Perth city to the east, this walk passes through tuart and banksia woodland with some patches of limestone heath. Much of the trail is lined with the sandplain zamia (*Macrozamia fraseri*), which occurs from Geraldton to Perth, and after which the trail is named. This fascinating plant has ancestral links to a species that lived 250 million years ago, and evolved to have sharp pointed



Discover more about Bold Park

Scan this QR code or visit Parks and Wildlife's 'LANDSCOPE' playlist on YouTube.

“The park has 11 lookouts, which provide vantage points to some of the best views in Perth.”

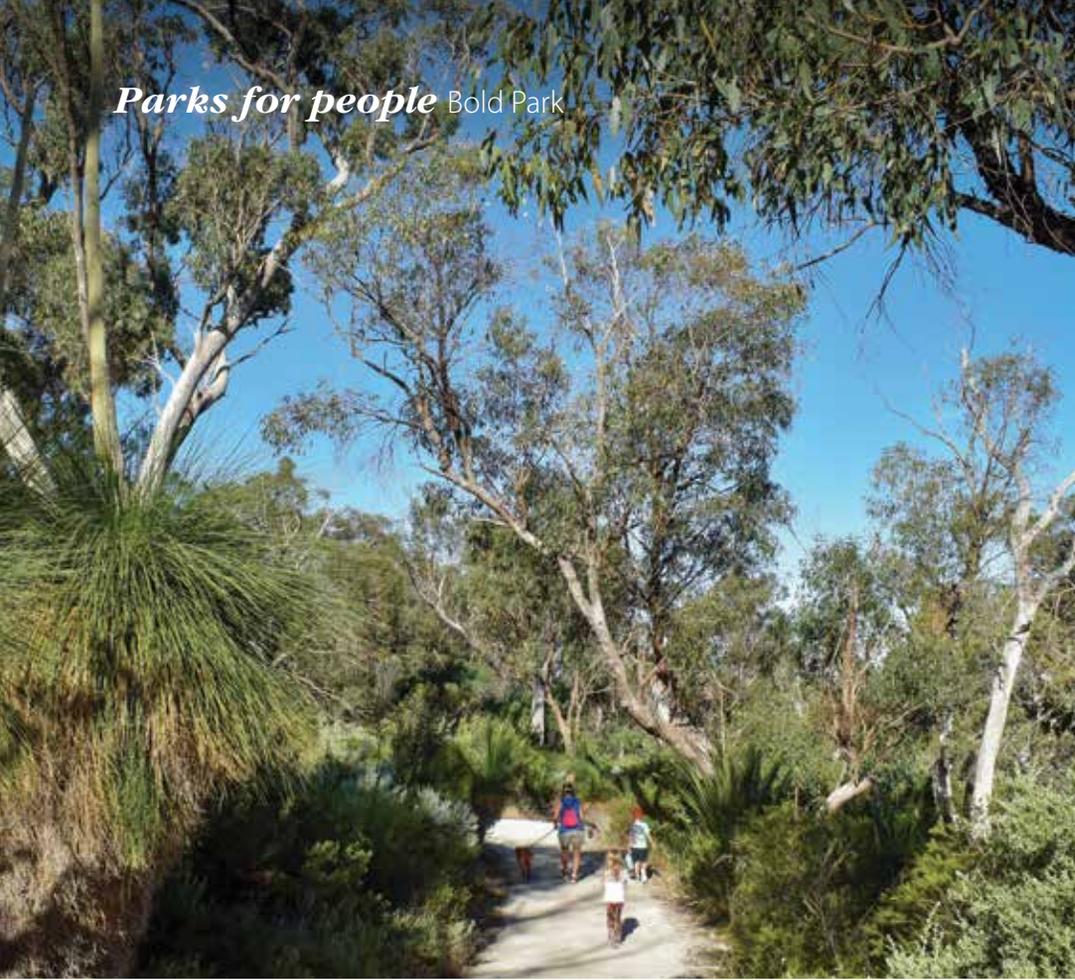
fronds to protect it from being eaten by dinosaurs. In more recent years, this species formed an important part of Aboriginal peoples' diet. During the warmer months, the female zamia grows a pineapples-like fruit, which ripens at the end of summer. Aboriginal people ground the nuts into a

flour, which they used to make a pancake-like dish that they cooked by the fire. Camel Lake Heritage Trail is another of the park's walks, which provides the opportunity for a relaxing stroll through beautiful jarrah-marri woodlands and then flooded gum. You also have the opportunity to walk alongside some giant and ancient grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*). Interpretive signage along the way provides information about the area and its plants, animals and fungi, as well as what happened to Camel Lake, which is now a seasonal dampland.

The park has 11 lookouts, which provide vantage points to some of the best views in Perth. The universally accessible lookout at Reabold Hill – located 85 metres above sea level – is accessed by a raised boardwalk that guides visitors through bushland.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

If you're in the park at the right time of day, and are prepared to quietly observe the bush, you may be lucky enough to



Left The walk trails are lined by a range of species, including ancient grass trees.
Photo – Rhianna King/DBCA

Above Spotted pardalote.
Photo – Rob Drummond/Lochman Transparencies

spot some of the park's mammal, frog, bird, invertebrate or reptile residents.

The common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) occurs in the park. They are nocturnal but may be spotted during the day in their dens in tree hollows, or when they're more active at the beginning and end of the day. At dusk you may see the park's two other native mammals – the white-striped mastiff bat (*Austronomus australis*) and Gould's wattle bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*).

At certain times of the year, the park's frog residents prove to be far less inconspicuous. The banjo (*Limnodynastes dorsalis*), moaning (*Heleioporus eyrei*) and turtle frogs (*Myobatrachus gouldii*) can be heard 'bopping', 'moaning' and 'croaking' around the park after rain.

The 91 species of birds that have been recorded in the park also delight visitors with their calls and antics. The chatter of white-cheeked honeyeaters, warblings of the magpies and raucous calls of the ravens are staples of the Bold Park soundtrack, but the park also plays host to migrant, vagrant (outside their normal distribution) and nomadic species. Three particularly

special species to look out for include the painted button-quail (*Turnix varius*), which can dash across the track; the variegated fairy-wren (*Malurus lamberti*) and the spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*). Honeyeaters and some birds of prey species, such as the little eagle (*Hieraetus morphnoides*) are also commonly seen.

These species are kept well-fed by the more than 300 species of invertebrates that can be found in the park. These include 47 different species of ant and 11 species of butterfly, such as the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which can be seen in large numbers in spring and early summer. Bees are also a common feature and can be spotted immersed in the flowers of species such as the slender banksia (*Banksia attenuata*) as they gather pollen. There are also 28 reptile species that can be found in the area, including the western bearded dragon and bobtail lizard.

Bold Park has a range of plant communities and houses 310 known locally-native species. Four species – the native cranberry (*Astroloma microcalyx*), *Hibbertia spicata* subsp. *leptotheca*, *Lasiopetalum membranaceum* and

Styldium maritimum – have been identified as priority species.

Due to the park's mixed history, weeds such as veld grass, pelargonium and bridal creeper persist. However, intensive restoration activities are a large component of park management with weed control, greenstock plantings and monitoring focussed on tackling this issue.

So, whether you're drawn to the park to connect with nature, or are venturing there for a rigorous daily walk, there will always be something new to discover at this special, inner-city park.

Do it yourself

Where is it? City Beach, 10 kilometres from Perth CBD.

Total area: 437 hectares.

What to do: Walking, observing nature, enjoying views of Perth and the coast.

Facilities: WA Wildflower Society, Birds Australia WA offices. Toilets and picnic facilities are available in the nearby Perry Lakes Reserve.