

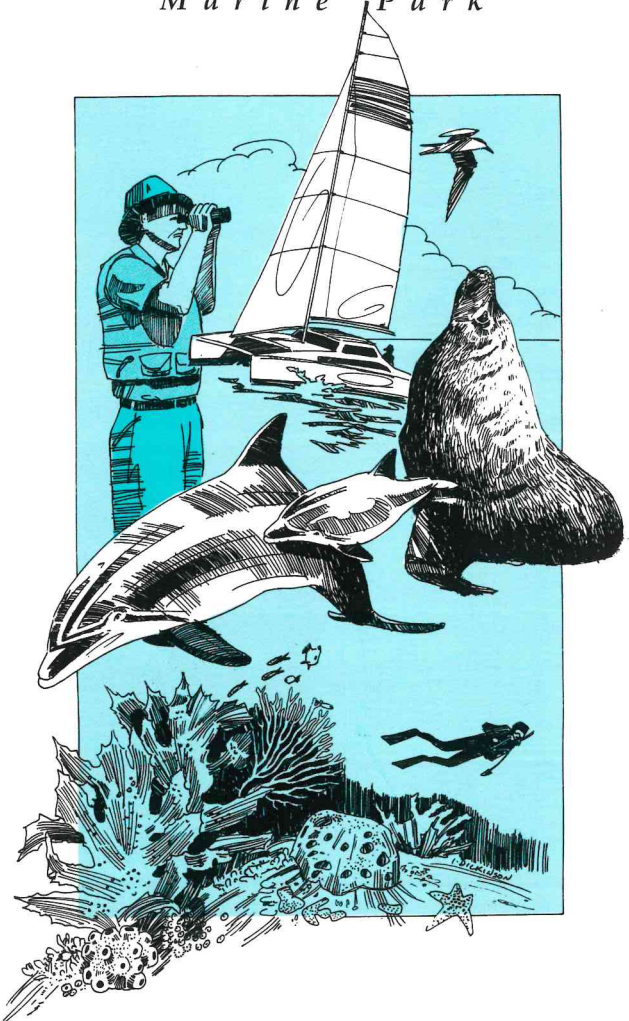
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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MARMION

Marine Park

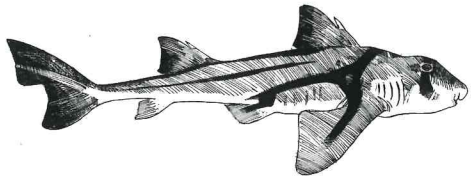


DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

THE SEASCAPES OF MARMION MARINE PARK

Marmion, the State's first marine park, contains extensive reef systems, shallow lagoons, sandy beaches, deep open water and offshore islands. These seascapes host a diverse range of flora and fauna.

The park stretches along the northern metropolitan coastline of Perth from Trigg Island north to Burns Rock and extends 5km seaward. Take time to explore the park and discover its special qualities.



DROWNED DUNES

Twenty thousand years ago the sea level was much lower and Marmion Marine Park was part of the mainland. The dunes that fringed the coast were slowly flooded by rising sea levels. Rainwater leaching through the remaining dunes slowly turned the peaks to limestone. This limestone forms the base of the islands, rocks and reefs off the metropolitan coast.

Today the shallow water and warm temperatures provide perfect conditions for the growth of a large variety of marine life on the caps of the submerged limestone.

ALONG THE BEACH

Along the coastal fringe of the park ancient limestone cliffs separate long sandy beaches.

Hardy dune plants hold the shifting sands and provide shelter for insects, reptiles and birds. Black-shouldered kites often hover over the dunes in the sea breeze, searching for their next meal.



High tides and storms deposit mounds of seagrass and seaweed along the beach. These provide food and shelter for a variety of animals. Fish, such as herring, swim in on high tide to feast on insect larvae, which hatch on this rotting debris. At low tide dotterels and plovers share the spoils.

Today's tides also deposit an unwelcome bounty—rubbish. Plastics, styrofoam and bottles are unsightly and can kill marine life.

At low tide, places like North Trigg, Beaumaris and Burns Beach allow you to explore the exposed reef. A walk along the reef provides a window into life under the waves. You may be rewarded with a view of some marine wildlife temporarily trapped in one of the many rock pools.

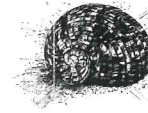
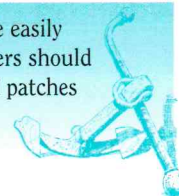
INTO THE WATER

Extensive beds of seagrass have formed in the park's shallow protected lagoons. Their roots stabilise the seafloor and help to prevent sand movement.

Seagrass meadows provide a nursery for young fish, helping to ensure the viability of many species, including the western rock lobster. Seagrasses are at the base of the food chain in the park and the energy they capture from the sun makes them major contributors to the nutrient cycle.

Few animals feed on living seagrass but many feed on the microscopic organisms that thrive on dead and decaying seagrasses. It is these organisms that many fish and other animals feed on.

Seagrass beds are fragile and are easily destroyed. Where possible, boaters should drop their anchors in clear sand patches to avoid uprooting seagrasses.



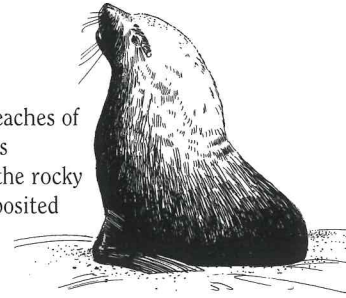
ON THE REEFS

Descend onto the reef and enter a surreal world of colour, shapes, and movement. Here you will find a rich array of plants and animals, particularly invertebrates (animals without backbones).

Sponges, sea squirts, starfish, anemones, and corals cling colourfully to the limestone walls and caverns of the reefs. Multitudes of fish species also abound. Many of the fish have specially adapted body shapes to enable them to shelter in the small reef crevasses.

ON THE ISLANDS

The dynamic nature of the coastline is reflected in miniature by the mobile beaches of Little Island. Winter storms scour the sand away from the rocky base. In summer, the redeposited sand forms the beach where Australian sea lions, crested terns and bridled terns spend time resting.



Little Island is a wildlife reserve for sea lions. People and boats anchored on the island may startle them and can prevent them coming ashore. Visits to the island must be less than 10 minutes and landing of vessels on the island is prohibited. Sea lions may appear docile but they are wild and can become aggressive. Treat them with respect and caution both on the island and in the water.

BEYOND THE REEFS

Here the water depths and habitat vary considerably. Some animals have become especially adapted to particular environments—the basket starfish is found only in deep water. Others are more transitory and move across many habitats in their search for food. Pods of dolphins are common in the park. Humpback whales can also be seen frolicking in these waters on their migration from calving grounds in the warmer waters of north-west Western Australia to feeding grounds in the Antarctic.

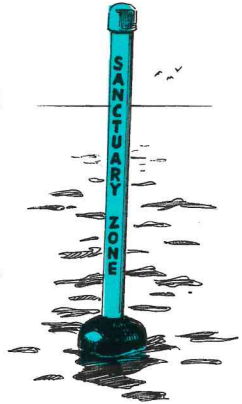
MARMION MARINE PARK ZONES

Zoning separates the park into management units. Zoning schemes are designed to meet the needs of all park users in an equitable way, providing for the widest range of activities while minimising conflicts between different user groups.

SANCTUARY ZONES

The Lumps, Little Island and Boyinaboat Reef are all sanctuary zones. These areas, clearly marked on each corner by yellow spar marker buoys, are assigned protection in order to preserve biological, geographical or historical features which are of special significance. The sanctuary zones provide protection through the exclusion of human activities likely to damage the environment. Specified passive recreational uses consistent with the protection of environmental values are permitted.

ALL COLLECTING AND FISHING ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN SANCTUARY ZONES. PENALTIES APPLY.



RECREATION ZONES

The Watermans Observation Area near the fisheries research laboratory is a recreation zone. This area provides an ecological benchmark where scientists study the onshore reefs and their marine life to compare them with less protected areas. Line fishing from shore is the only collection allowable. All reef life is protected.

GENERAL USE ZONE.

The remainder of the park is designated as general use. This zone allows commercial and recreation uses which are consistent with the conservation of the natural resources. Collecting without a permit or licence is prohibited.

CARING FOR MARMION MARINE PARK

BE WISE: Make it your business to know park regulations and sanctuary zone boundaries.

BE CAREFUL: Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Obtain a local waters forecast before setting out.

DIVE SAFE: Protect yourself and make others aware of your presence by displaying a Dive (A) Flag during any dive or snorkelling activity.

BE RESPONSIBLE: Barbeques and fires are not allowed on the beaches and islands.

BE CLEAN: Please take your litter home with you when you leave.

BE CAUTIOUS: Observe and conserve. Disturbing or feeding marine wildlife can alter their natural instincts and jeopardise their natural well-being.

BE CARING: Pets are not permitted on Little Island but can be exercised on allocated beaches along the eastern edge of the Marine Park.

BE MODERATE: Conserve fish numbers by taking only what you need. Bag limits apply.

COME BACK: Come back with your children to enjoy and learn more about this magnificent environment.

NOTE: All fishing and collecting in sanctuary zones are strictly prohibited. Penalties apply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) protects and manages native flora and fauna throughout Western Australia.

CALM officers regularly patrol the area and are happy to answer any questions you may have. For further information please write or telephone the Department of Conservation and Land Management at:

CALM Marine and Coastal District

47 Henry Street, Fremantle, Western Australia, 6160.
Telephone: (08) 9432 5111

Marmion Marine Park

Things to See and Do

SANCTUARY ZONES

Sanctuary Zones at Little Island, Boyinaboat Reef and The Lumps are protected areas. All fishing and collecting are prohibited in Sanctuary Zones. Penalties apply. These areas are clearly marked on each corner with yellow spar marker buoys. For further information on Sanctuary Zones contact CALM.

BOATING

Boat launching facilities are available at Hillarys Boat Harbour and Ocean Reef Boat Harbour.

DIVING

Reef walls and underwater caves lined with marine life are attractive to divers and photographers. Please remember that all plants and animals are protected except for legal catches taken for personal consumption.

Snorkelling and diving allow you to explore the reefs and spend time in the watery world of their inhabitants. A specially designed underwater nature trail for SCUBA divers and snorkellers can be found at Boyinaboat Reef.

FISHING

All fishing and collecting are prohibited in Sanctuary Zones. Penalties apply. Make it your business to know Sanctuary Zone boundaries.

Line fishing from shore is the only permitted means of fishing in the Watermans Observation Area.

Spearfishing is prohibited within 1800 metres of the shore. Divers using SCUBA or hookah are prohibited from spearfishing anywhere in the marine park.

Netting is prohibited in the Marine Park, except for dropnets for crabs.

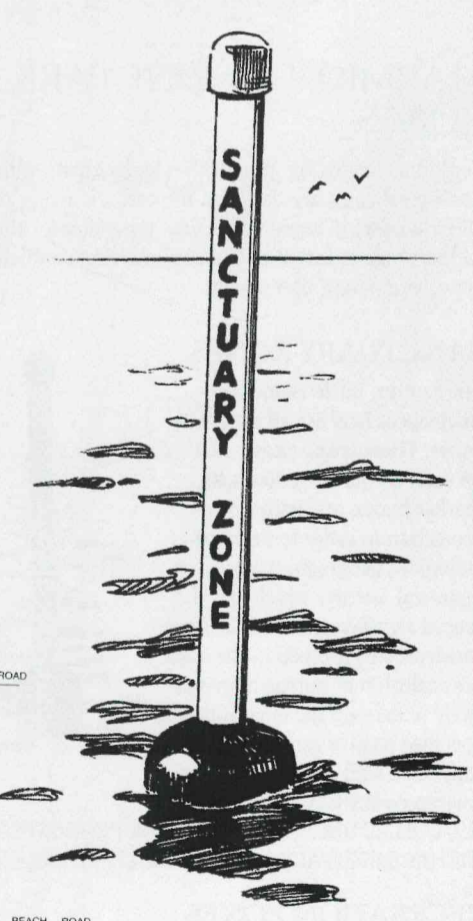
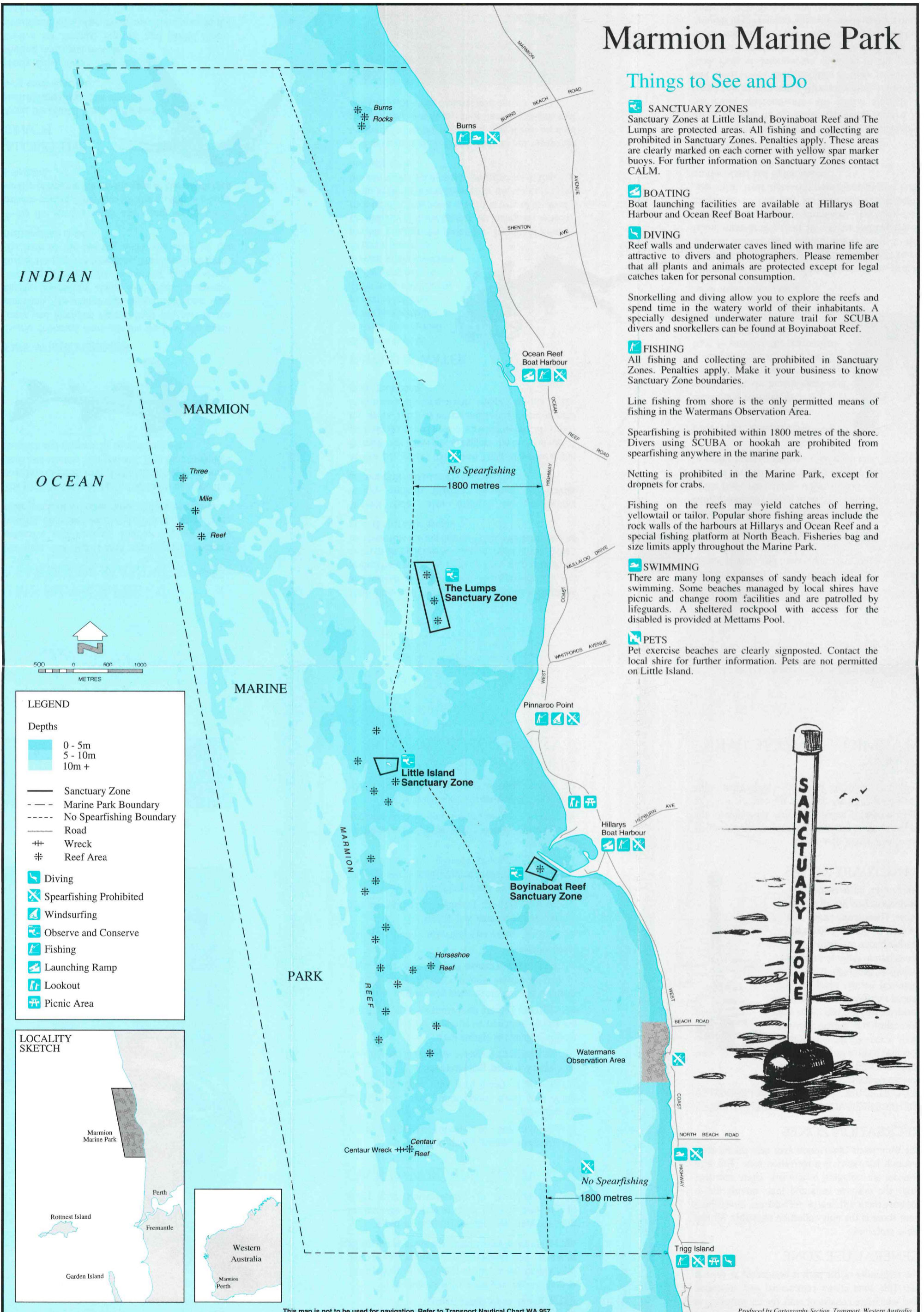
Fishing on the reefs may yield catches of herring, yellowtail or tailor. Popular shore fishing areas include the rock walls of the harbours at Hillarys and Ocean Reef and a special fishing platform at North Beach. Fisheries bag and size limits apply throughout the Marine Park.

SWIMMING

There are many long expanses of sandy beach ideal for swimming. Some beaches managed by local shires have picnic and change room facilities and are patrolled by lifeguards. A sheltered rockpool with access for the disabled is provided at Mettams Pool.

PETS

Pet exercise beaches are clearly signposted. Contact the local shire for further information. Pets are not permitted on Little Island.



LEGEND

Depths

- 0 - 5m
- 5 - 10m
- 10m +

— Sanctuary Zone
 - - - Marine Park Boundary
 - - - - No Spearfishing Boundary
 — Road
 ++ Wreck
 * Reef Area

Diving
 Spearfishing Prohibited
 Windsurfing
 Observe and Conserve
 Fishing
 Launching Ramp
 Lookout
 Picnic Area

LOCALITY SKETCH