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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Where is the reserve?

Talbot Road Nature Reserve is located in the suburbs of Stratton and Swan View within the City of Swan. The reserve is bordered by Talbot Road, Stratton Boulevard, O'Connor Road and Blanchard Road and includes Crown Reserves vested in the City of Swan and the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board.

Why is the reserve important?

Perth's bushland and wetlands provide habitats for a profusion of bright and colourful wildflowers, diverse bird life, fleeting lizards and shy marsupials. Many of the plants that come together to create these habitats are unique to the Swan Coastal Plain and the Darling Range.

The Talbot Road Nature Reserve has been recognised by the State Government as Regionally Significant Bushland that should be retained and protected under the Bush Forever strategy, which aims to protect the array of plants and animals in our region.

Aboriginal significance

Nyoongar people believe that people, the land and the spirits are one. Part of their tradition says that children are spirits before they are born, and that they have a permanent link to the place where their spirits used to dwell. Their spirits will return there when they die.

The area surrounding Talbot Road Reserve contains many archaeological sites as well as burial sites. Blackadder Creek, which runs through the Talbot Road Nature Reserve, is an important spiritual dreaming place for the Nyoongar people. Its connection with the Swan River is of very high cultural significance. It is the home of the Green Bullfrog Dreaming Track, and of the Dreaming Track of the Ancestors, with the nearby Jane Brook being the home of the Sacred Turtles. Stories have been passed down by the Old People and were told around campfires in the times when Aboriginal people lived in the area. Recognition of the meaning of Talbot Road Nature Reserve and the surrounding areas is important.

The management plan

A management plan for Talbot Road Nature Reserve was prepared by CALM, the City of Swan and the Friends of Talbot Road Bushland and released in July 1999. The plan recommends that Talbot Road Nature Reserve be managed to conserve its very high nature conservation values and to protect the significant Aboriginal heritage values. The vision for the reserve is that it remains a haven for native plants and animals and for members of the community.

Our reserve – our responsibility

Talbot Road Nature Reserve is an example of high quality bushland and is the only remaining publicly-owned bushland of its type in Perth. Conservation of this site is extremely important if we want to protect our native plants and animals. With understanding and support from the community, the values of this bushland can be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Friends Group

Help protect the values of the bushland. To join in the Friends Group activities or help in any way contact the City of Swan on 9267 9267.

Contact

Any damage or unlawful activity occurring within the reserve can be reported to Wildlife Watch **1800 44 94 53**. Officers in charge of this reserve can be contacted through the City of Swan Office **9267 9267** (during office hours).

Photos provided by Vi Saffer, Greg Keighery, Val English and the WA Museum.

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Congratulations!

You live near a nature reserve

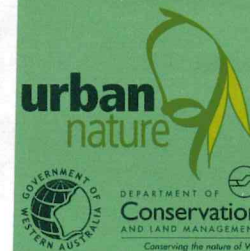
Talbot Road Nature Reserve



"The Talbot Road natural area is one of the few remaining areas of bushland encompassing the soils, plant communities and fauna of the Ridge Hill Shelf. The place is highly significant in its diversity."

(Australian Heritage Commission, 1999).

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Let's make it happen

What can you do to help the bushland?

Unfortunately, many of our actions have undesirable effects on nearby bushland. Here are a few ways that you can help to keep Talbot Road Nature Reserve healthy and beautiful.

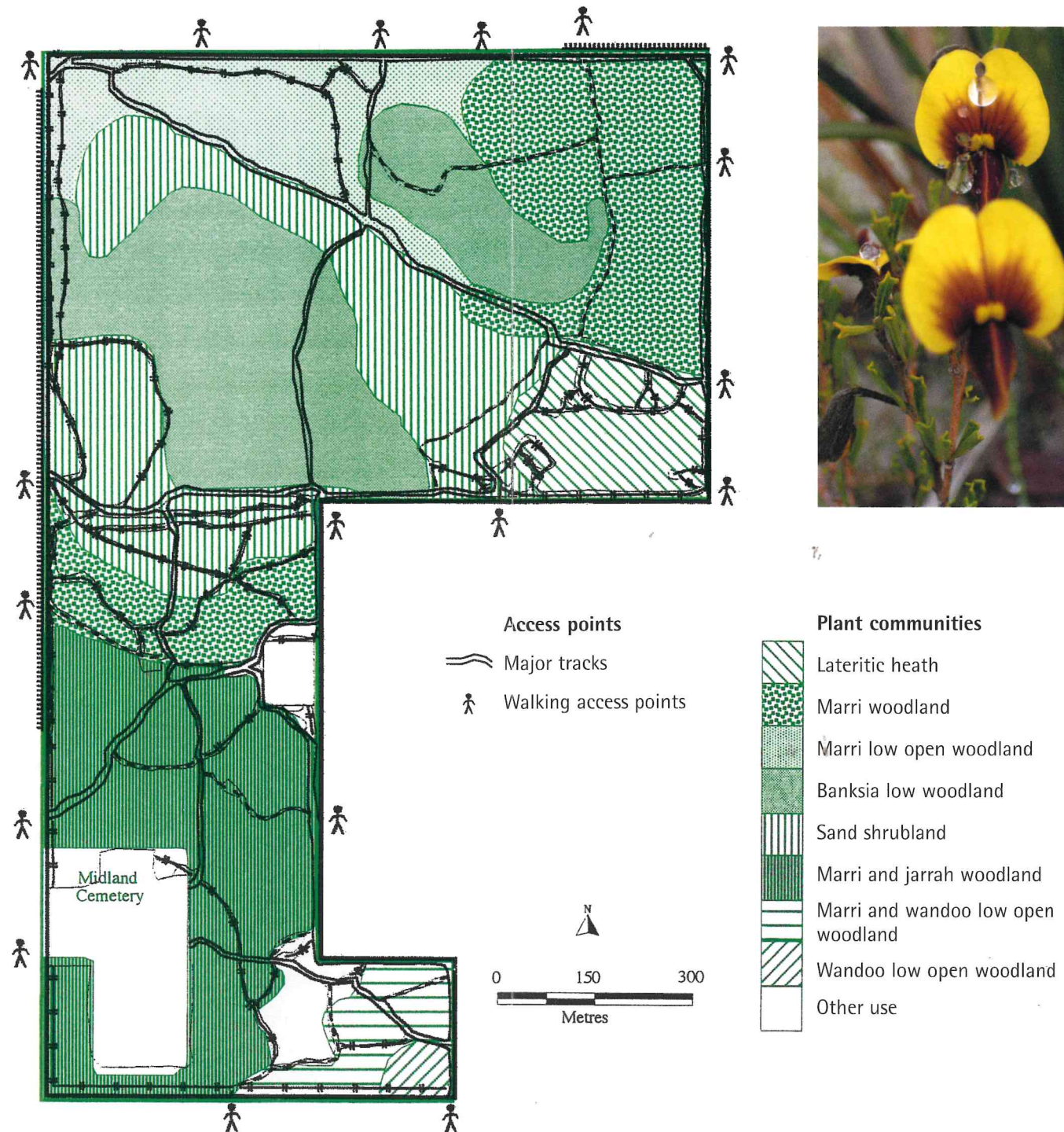
Don't dump rubbish – Dumping rubbish into the bushland looks unsightly and leads to other threats entering the bush. Weeds commonly spread from garden waste, with dumped lawn clippings and prunings producing nutrients that kill native vegetation. Composting your garden waste and prunings and adding them to your garden is a great alternative.

Keep dogs on leads – Small animals such as honey possums and bobtail lizards live in shrublands and low bush vegetation. When dogs run off the lead into the bush they form new tracks which degrade the bush, and can often scare or harm native animals. Amendments to the City of Swan's Local Laws still permit dogs in the area. However they must be restrained on a leash at all times.

Keep to the tracks – Walking off the tracks can break down plants that provide homes for native animals and can encourage weeds to spread into the bare patches that result.

Ride bikes elsewhere – Bike riding in the bushland destroys native plants, assists the spread of weeds and can break up habitat. The community designed BMX track on John Stone Park next to the Stratton Shopping Centre has been set aside for riding.

Report fires – Fires have a huge effect on the bushland environment, affecting both the plants and animals that live there. Talbot Road Nature Reserve has been subjected to repeated arson in the past, which has threatened adjacent properties and impacted on the quality and condition of the vegetation. Please report all fires or any unusual behaviour relating to arson to Fire and Emergency Services on (phone) 000.



Plants

Talbot Road Nature Reserve is incredibly diverse. The 107ha site is located at the base of the Darling Scarp on the soils of the Ridge Hill Shelf. A complex patterning of soils comprising ancient sand dunes, heavier Darling Range clays and iron rich gravels accounts for the wide range of plants found on the site.

The banksia woodlands and shrublands occur on sandier soils. They have many low growing plants and are dominated by medium sized banksias. WA's floral emblem, the red and green kangaroo paw, is a feature of the area.

Marri, jarrah and wandoo woodlands occur on the heavier soils. The woodlands are open with tall trees and low growing understorey plants. Plants found on the higher parts of the slope include common woollybush, yellow buttercups and common brown pea.

Within these woodlands, patches of scrubland or heathland occur. Refer to the map for a more detailed graphical representation of these communities.



Plant communities in danger

Talbot Road Nature Reserve contains two Threatened Ecological Communities which are critically endangered. They are the eastern shrublands and woodlands, and the marri and grass tree (balga) woodlands and shrublands.

A critically endangered community is one that faces the risk of total destruction in the immediate future. Major threats include clearing, weed invasion, dieback, too frequent fire and illegal rubbish dumping. All of these threats affect the health of plant communities.

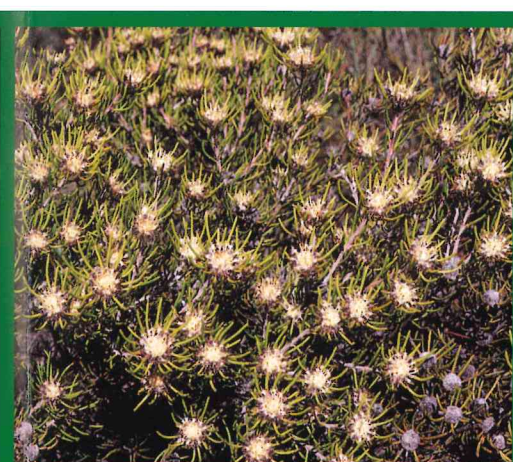
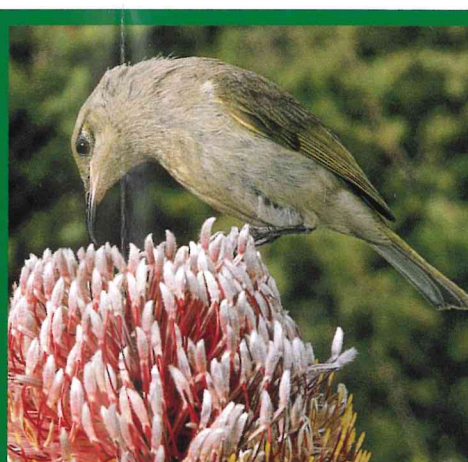
Threatened Ecological Communities are important because they are the last remaining examples of these plant communities in Western Australia. The Department of Conservation and Land Management works closely with the City of Swan, other government agencies and private landowners to protect and manage these communities.



Special plants

Talbot Road Nature Reserve contains more than 366 native plant species and subspecies.

There are also 16 species of significant flora. Two particularly important examples are *Isopogon drummondii* and *Conospermum incurvum* (plume smokebush) with the smokebush being the southernmost occurrence of this plant species in the Perth region.





Animals

The Western Australian Museum has carried out several fauna surveys in Talbot Road Nature Reserve. They have found that the bushland has a high species richness containing 47 birds, three native mammals, 13 reptiles and seven frogs.

Frogs

Frogs are particularly good environmental indicators of healthy bushland and wetlands. Of 17 sites studied on the Swan Coastal Plain, Talbot Road Nature Reserve has the richest grouping of frog species.

The quacking frog, sand frog and moaning frog have been found in the bushland. Each male frog has a special call. The quacking frog makes a loud quack sound. The sand frog makes a high-pitched trilling purr while the moaning frog makes a low rising moaning call.

Listen for them on your walks!

Mammals

Talbot Road Bushland is home to one particularly special mammal, the honey possum. This tiny mouse-sized mammal lives in bushland that has low, dense shrubs such as banksias, grevilleas and eucalypts.

They and bats are the only mammals in the world that feed solely on nectar and pollen. They have a long snout and brush tipped tongue to probe into flowers. They can be found in cooler months feeding on banksias and eucalypts during the day.



The honey possum's size and its habitat in the low dense shrubs of the bushland makes it vulnerable to attack from predators, in particular dogs and cats.

Reptiles

The southern shovel-nose snake and black-headed monitor are two reptiles found here and on a few other sites in the Perth metropolitan area.

Birds

More than 47 bird species have been recorded in the bushland. Five of these species live in specific habitats with only small numbers remaining on the Swan Coastal Plain. The high plant diversity of the bushland and the large number of flowering plants provide ample food source and habitat for the bird population, with honeyeaters, wattlebirds, parrots and cockatoos commonly sighted.



If you would like to know more about the Talbot Road Nature Reserve or would like to participate in any activities coordinated by the Friends Group, contact the City of Swan phone 9267 9267.