

EXPLORE

Self-Guided Walks

Explore the city and surrounds
July 2009



Tidbinbilla



Canberra
Nature Park



Googong Foreshores



Namadgi National
Park



Murrumbidgee
River Corridor

The Explore Program is growing with the addition of a Feature Walk. Each Feature Walk will profile one of our great self-guided walks, which allow you to explore different parts of Canberra's parks and natural heritage at your leisure.

Uriarra Loop Walk, part of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor

From the northern end of the Uriarra East Picnic area, follow the marker posts downstream and adjacent to the Murrumbidgee River. In some places, the track is very close to the river and other times it passes small rocky cliff lines. Near where the Molonglo River flows into the Murrumbidgee, there is a forest of large River Oaks. The track climbs out of the forest into grazing country, with great views of the Molonglo River. Look out for ducks and White-faced Herons here. Cross the Uriarra Road and follow the road back to the picnic area.

Length: 3.5 km

Approximate Time: Allow 2 - 2.5 hours for the walk and to enjoy the sandy river banks and views.

Grade: Mostly flat and easy. There is a steep rocky section along the Molonglo River before the track leaves the river.

Facilities and Services: There are toilets, picnic tables and wood-fired BBQs at the Uriarra East and West Picnic areas. The walking trail is marked by a series of totems though some may be obscured by grass. Interpretive signage is being upgraded to provide more information to walkers. You can download a brochure on the Murrumbidgee River Corridor from the TAMS website.

What will I discover? You may find some Prickly Grevillea flowering. Its bright red flowers attract honeyeaters that use the river as a corridor for moving from higher ground. In the picnic ground, tall River Oaks provide a favourite roosting spot for Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. You may surprise a bird of prey sitting on the cliffs or see one soaring high above looking for food.

What will I learn? The river and adjacent environment is diverse and interesting with surprise views, native wildlife and beautiful shady River Oaks that protect the banks and allow animals such as the Common Wombat and the Platypus to make their homes underneath. Though close to the suburbs, this is a quiet place to enjoy the river.

What do I need to take? Bring a hat, sturdy walking shoes, binoculars and some food and drink.

Other walks/activities links: After leaving the Murrumbidgee River and heading up to Molonglo River, you can cross the Molonglo on a low bridge and head along the track to Shepherds Lookout, passing native Cypress Pines along the way. The lookout has magnificent views down the Murrumbidgee River to the NSW /ACT border. The Woodstock Nature Reserve walk starts about 800 m along Fairlight Road from Uriarra West picnic area and follows the river to the remains of an old sand mining operation.

How to get there? Take the Uriarra Road from Weston Creek, or via Coppins Crossing and Belconnen. You can also walk from Shepherds Lookout which is accessible from Stockdill Drive in the suburb of Holt.

Please Remember: Dogs are allowed off lead at the Uriarra East and West picnic areas but are not allowed on walking tracks, except for the walk from Stockdill Drive to Shepherds Lookout.

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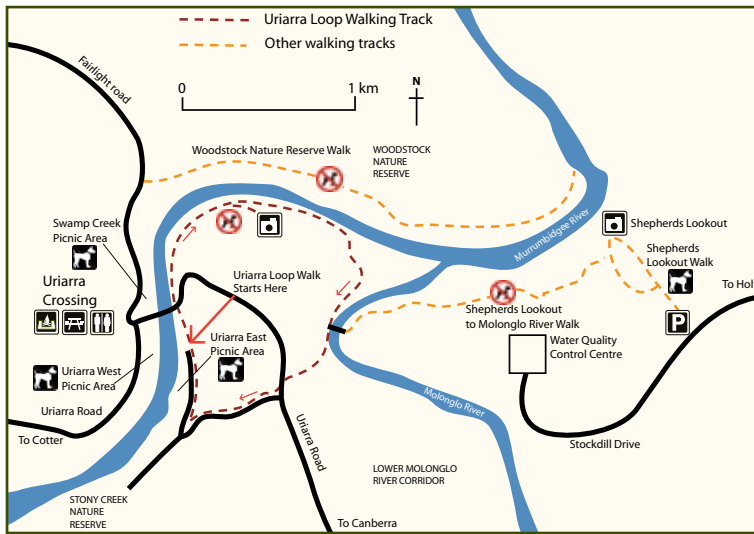


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Uriarra Loop Walk, part of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor



Prickly Grevillea



River Oak cones on
female tree



Yellow-faced Honeyeater



Murrumbidgee River