



HAMEL WETLAND WALK TRAIL

A walk trail in the historic Hamel Eco Precinct, with a viewing platform that overlooks the wetland. Home to unique flora and fauna.

0m | 100m | 200m



TYPE



Grade 2

DISTANCE



1.8 kms return

TIME



60 mins

LEGEND

Road

Wetlands Walk

Point of Interest

Starting point

End point

Observation deck

Parking

Bird Watching

Toilets

Picnic Area

Barbecue



Dogs Prohibited

ENQUIRIES & INFORMATION

www.visitpeel.com.au

DIRECTIONS

From Waroona Visitor Centre, travel 4.4 kilometres south along South Western Highway. Turn right onto Cornucopia Street and turn right again at the sign marked Hamel Wetland Walk. Follow the blue directional markers to the Hamel Wetland.

TRAIL INFORMATION

Hamel Wetland was previously part of the State Forest. After the large-scale harvesting of the pine plantation in 2005, the wetland area was reverted back to being a nature reserve, and excluded from the plantation area. The boundary of the wetland was increased and a buffer area created. Shire of Waroona and the Hamel Eco-Historic Precinct working group has been proactive in facilitating the regeneration and conservation of the area with support from the Department of Parks and Wildlife who are the landowners.

This is a gazetted wetland and is protected under the Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992 as a Conservation Category Wetland. For Hamel this wetland is an important remnant of the natural environment within an otherwise altered landscape. Despite the intrusion of weeds within the wetlands, it still consists of many indigenous species, such as *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark), *Melaleuca preissiana*, *Ficinia nodosa* (Club rush), *Eucalyptus calophylla* (Marri) and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (Grass Tree).

Hamel Wetland has also become a part of the Land for Wildlife Scheme. The Hamel Wetland provides habitat for many different types of fauna in an otherwise altered landscape alongside the busy South Western Highway; of particular interest in winter and spring is the birdlife and frogs. This small but important area provides habitat to over 30 species of birds, and 11 species of frogs, particularly in winter and spring. Over 1,000 straw-necked Ibis flock here to breed and build their nests.

With more than 80% of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain destroyed since the arrival of European settlers, and its close proximity to a developed and busy motorway, Hamel Wetland is definitely a unique place.

POINTS OF INTEREST

The interpretive viewing shelter contains information on the types of birds and frogs that can be found here.

The wetland itself is a major point of interest. Wetlands are often thought of as permanent lakes and lagoons, however most inland Australian wetlands (such as Hamel Wetland) are ephemeral. This means they are wet for only part of the time, and dry periodically. The ecology of the native wetland plants and animals is adapted to this cycle of flooding and drying, and in many cases is dependent of this cycle to regenerate and sustain the broad diversity of wetland life. This wetland is essential for breeding and nursery areas for frogs and birds, however is also socially important for education, scientific research, recreation and tourism, cultural and heritage values, landscape and aesthetic values.

To the west of the trail you will find the Hamel Nursery. In the 1890s, Western Australia demand for trees and plants was high and the gold boom led to suburban expansion and the establishment of public spaces.

To meet this demand, Hamel Nursery was established in 1897. It is home to the first arboretum in Western Australia, and one of the first experimental farms that grew rice, artichokes, peanuts, turnips, sweet potato, maize, sesame, coriander, chick peas, wheat, oats, barley, rye, cotton, potato, hops, melons, pumpkins, tomatoes, almonds, cherries, chestnuts, guava, loquats, mulberries, persimmon, quinces, walnuts and many other varieties of fruits.

Many of the trees, which you will see along the trail also, were sent to a number of high profile places around the state, including King's Park, Rottnest Island, Perth Zoo, Hyde Park, Harold Boas Gardens, Queen's Gardens, Beatty Park, Karrakatta and Council House.

To the south of the trail, you will find the pine plantations. These trees were (and continue to be) grown for timber since 1901.

Keep a look out along the trail and see if you can spot a number of unique features as depicted on the signage.

CODE OF PRACTICE

- Be sure to read the trail information before you set out
- Carry adequate food and water for your walk
- Dress appropriately for the trail and weather conditions
- No bins are provided so please take all rubbish home
- Stay on the trail and avoid sensitive natural areas
- Be courteous to other trail users
- No motorised vehicles permitted

USEFUL CONTACTS

Waroona Visitor Centre	9733 1506
Shire of Waroona Rangers	9531 7776
Waroona Police Station	9733 7400



ANYTIME
ADVENTURES

Find out more about Mandurah and the Peel Region here www.visitpeel.com.au

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