



Suitable for

Active Families	✓
Seniors & Strollers	✓ (Keep to alternative asphalt path)
Pleasure Walkers	✓
Super Striders	✓
Circuit	✓
Seating	✓
Dogs Welcome	✓ (Included off-lead area)
Trail Type	Natural Heritage with Historic Places and Points of Interest



Walk Overview

Ruffey Lake Park is a delightful surprise in the middle of urban Doncaster. The park is well maintained and features gently undulating hills, wetlands, revegetation zones, and interpretation about the extraordinary achievements of our early orchardists.

Time

1.5 hrs

Distance

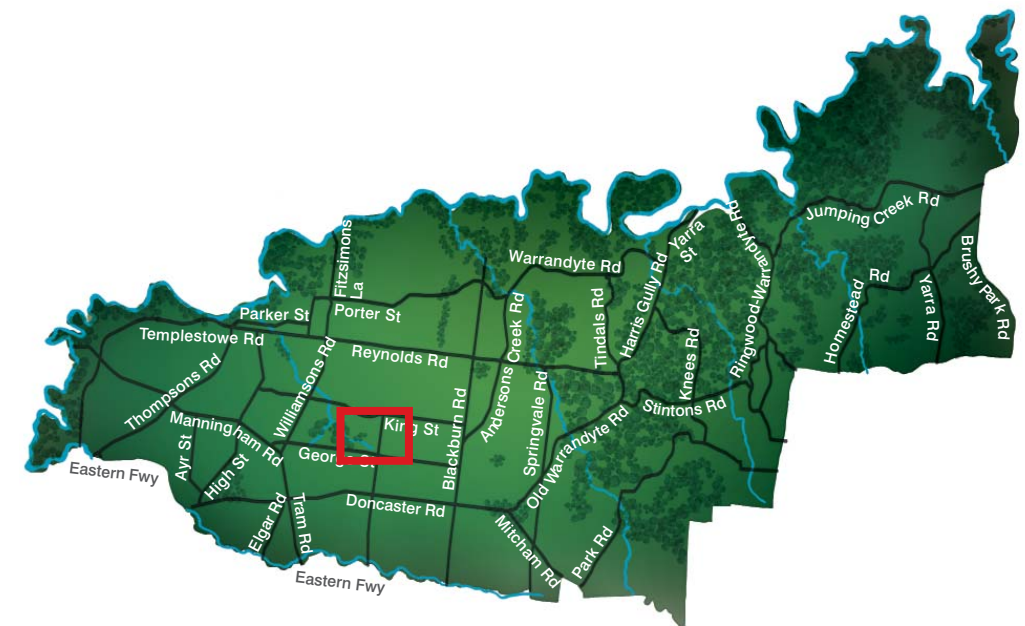
3.5 kms

Difficulty

Easy

Accessibility

Easy



Location

Start and finish at The Boulevard carpark, Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster.

Melway Reference

33 F10

Public Transport

Metlink: t 131 638
www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Ventura Buses: t 9488 2100
www.venturabus.com.au

Parking

At The Boulevard carpark or at Victoria Street carpark.

Fruit, Frogs & Family Fun

Ruffey Lake Park Walk



Manningham City Council

699 Doncaster Road
Doncaster Victoria 3108
t 03 9840 9333 f 03 9848 3110
e manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au
www.manningham.vic.gov.au

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This is a hidden gem—a great walk offering something for everyone, including the dog. The walk is a family-friendly stroll up a gentle hill, around Ruffey Lake and along the Ruffey Creek. Heritage signs show images of the landscape covered in bushland and later, orchards. Bird images help you identify the different resident species and there is also an off-lead area to run your dog. This is the perfect place to combine a walk with a picnic or barbecue. There are also great playgrounds at The Boulevard and Victoria Street.



Facilities

Toilets, great playgrounds, picnic shelters, barbecue, drinking fountains.

Hazards

Track prone to flooding in places
Beware of snakes in summer.

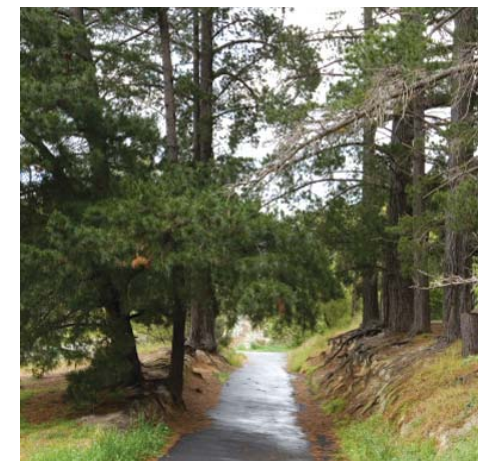


Be Prepared

Sun protection recommended.

Days of total fire ban

Check the fire risk warning before embarking on this walk:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au



Additional Walks

There are 20 walks in the series to choose from. If you liked this walk, you might like the ones listed below:

A Clearing in the Forest

Historic Waldau Village Walk

Art, Artists and Ancient Trees

Banksia to Heide Park Walk.



Wheelchair Access

We have developed three walks specifically for wheelchairs. Look for **A Wheel Pleasure** pamphlet.

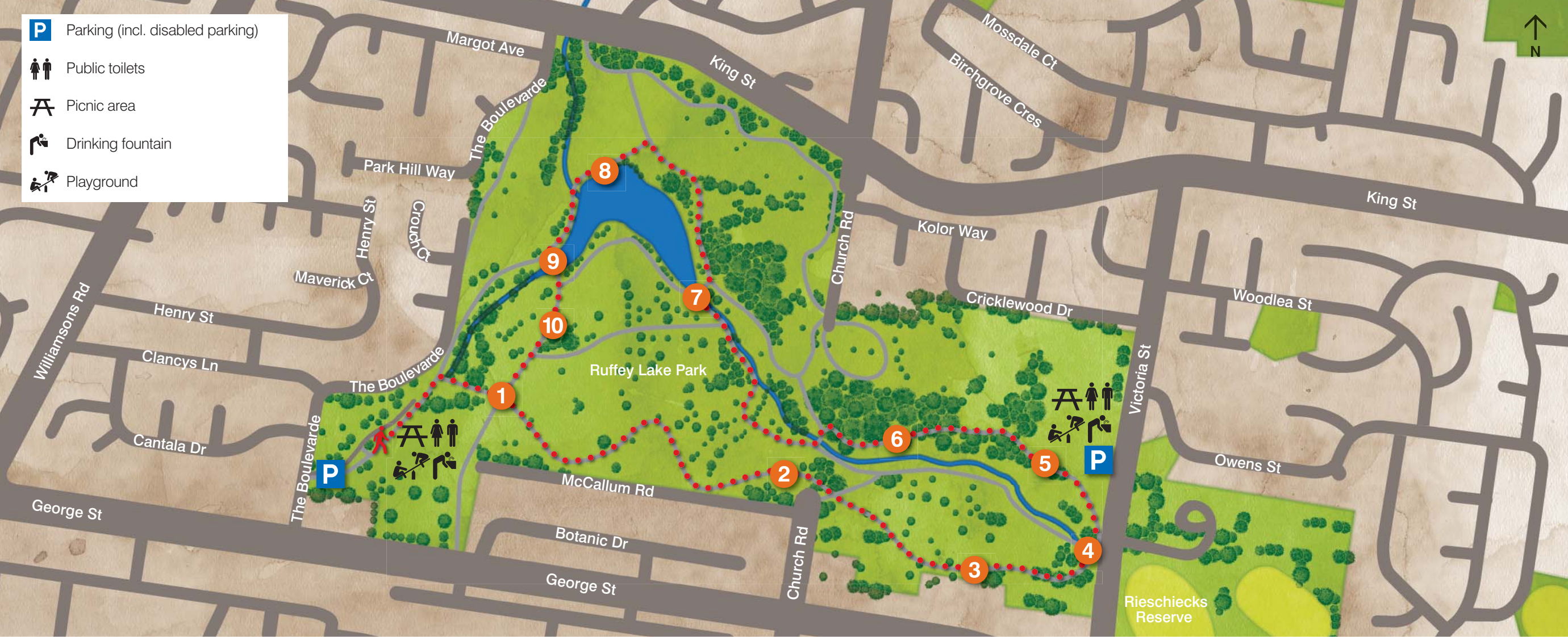
P Parking (incl. disabled parking)

 Public toilets

 Picnic area

 Drinking fountain

 Playground



Start your walk at The Boulevard carpark. If you have a dog, it must be on a lead near picnic and play areas, and under effective control at all other times. There are off-lead areas to run your dog (under effective control)—check signage within the Park for details.

Take one of the gravel paths up to the sealed path and turn left.

1 At the crossroads you will be in front of a row of trees. This used to be filled with fruit trees. Orchards were dotted over almost half of Doncaster and Templestowe. Today very few remain.

Walk through the trees and head up the hill for sweeping vistas across the park.

2 The path passes a Yellow Box revegetation area. Yellow Box, *Eucalyptus melliodora* was once prolific throughout Melbourne. It produces a bird-attracting fragrant white flower in spring. Common birds seen and heard here include Rainbow Lorikeets, Bell Miners and Laughing Kookaburras. The first of several heritage signs begin here and illustrates the lives of past orchardists at Ruffey Lake Park.

Keep to the upper side of the Yellow Box revegetation area.

3 The Thiele family arrived in 1853 and built this cottage known as 'Friedensruh'. They were one of several German Lutherans who planted orchards here and developed into a tight-knit community. There are heritage signs along the path that tell the story of their lives.

Follow the path downhill towards Ruffey Creek.

4 There is a choice to make here. To stay on our walk you cross the creek and veer left. If you have a pusher or are walking with seniors you might prefer to stay on the sealed path this side of the creek. Both paths converge at the next bridge.

There is a playground, a toilet block and picnic area here. Historic Schramm's Cottage is just across Victoria Road and offers a step back in time. Open on Sunday afternoons and public holidays.

5 Your walk now follows the old cart track, a road dug by the early pioneering orchardists over a hundred years ago. They dug the track to carry rock from the quarry to build their house as well as transporting fruit and other supplies.

6 The quarry to your right was where the Thiele family cut rock for the foundations of their home. The row of pines along the top formed a windbreak to protect precious fruits in neighbouring orchards.

7 You are now at the lake. The Monterey Pines to your right formed another windbreak and are as old as some of the resident native trees. Begin your wetland bird watch here. Look for Dusky Moorhens, Purple Swampheens, and Australian Wood Ducks and White-faced Herons. There is a bird identification chart at the next stop.

The track follows the perimeter of the lake.

8 This waterside platform creates another great bird watching station with images of the most common visitors. You might see an occasional pelican here.

9 You now have the lake on your left and wetlands on your right. The wetlands are a protected sanctuary for birds, frogs and turtles. Wetlands are vital habitat for many of our native animals. Several species of native plants filter toxins from the water helping to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

10 This area is called The Magic Mountain and is a great place to exercise your dog more vigorously. Throwing balls or frisbees for your dog to chase helps you and your dog become stronger and healthier.

Return to the path and head back to your starting point.

This finishes your walk. Time to relax and plan your next adventure.

The Ruffey Creek Trail begins at the far end of Ruffey Lake and takes you all the way to the Main Yarra Trail.