



"My heart is tuned
to the quietness
that the stillness
of nature inspires."

Hazrat Inayat Khan



Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

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Opening hours

8am - 4pm , 7 days a week
(except Christmas Day and Good Friday)

Entry is free

NOTE: No dogs (exception - guide dogs) or other pets allowed in the garden or left in parked cars.



www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/wildflowergarden



Ku-ring-gai
Wildflower
Garden
and
Bushland Education Centre
Map and Information

**Free
entry**



Ku-ring-gai Council

About the garden and centre Track descriptions

The garden

The Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden covers 123 hectares of urban bushland on Sydney's North Shore. Managed by Ku-ring-gai Council, it features heathland and tall forest, sandstone outcrops, ponds, gullies and waterfalls.

The garden is open to the public and has a range of walking tracks, ponds, boardwalks, a fernhouse, picnic areas and plenty of on-site parking.

Bushland Education Centre



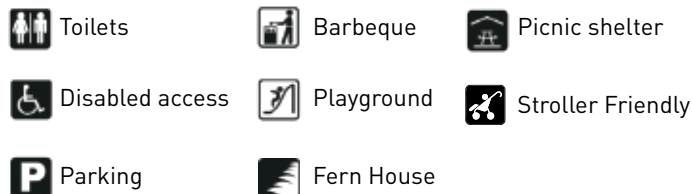
The Bushland Education Centre provides a venue for Council's environmental education programs. Garden maps and environmental community information can be obtained here. Facilities include a teaching and workshop space, a kitchen, environmental displays, toilets, including a disabled toilet and a baby change area. It also features a covered outside patio area with tables, chairs and electric barbeques.

The centre is available for daytime venue hire.

Programs

- Bush Birthday Parties - nature activities for children
- Bush Kids School Holiday Program
- School excursions for primary and high school students
- Nature for the Very Young for pre-schools and playgroups
- English at the Garden - ESL nature excursion program
- Seniors in the Garden Program
- Seeds of Learning Organic Gardening Workshops
- Australian Plants Society Walks and Talks Program
- Festival of Wildflowers - last weekend in August

Facility symbols



Short walks 200m to 500m

Bentham Track

Distance: 300m Time: 15min



An enjoyable short walk taking you through an area that is frequented by the White-faced Honeyeater bird. The track takes you from Lambert's Clearing picnic area and joins up with either the Caley or Smith's Track.

Caley Track

Distance: 200m Time: 10min



A pleasant walk from Lambert's Clearing to Cunningham's Rest. Both the Caley and Bentham tracks take you through open heathland on unusual rocky sandstone outcrops. In winter and spring the track is enhanced by magnificent displays of native flowers.

Smith's Track

Distance: 400m Time: 15min



A pleasant short walk linking the Bushland Education Centre with Cunningham's Rest, passing through Scribbly Gum and Bloodwood trees to an open heathland area.

Brown's Track

Distance: 300m Time: 15min



This is a short sealed walk. Several different types of habitat provide shelter to a variety of birds. Listen for the loud 'crack' call of the Eastern Whipbird followed by the short return call by the female. Access to the start of the Mueller Track is from Brown's Track.

Bank's Track and Boardwalk

Distance: 300m Time: 10min



Take a leisurely stroll along a boardwalk and sandstone track overlooking Donnelly's Swamp. A wonderful walk to spot and hear small birds. Listen for the chattering warble of the Variegated Wren and the sharp 'bark' of the Red Wattlebird.

Senses Track

Distance: 500m Time: 15min



This pleasant sealed track is suitable for strollers, wheelchairs, elderly and visually impaired. The track is located near the entrance to the garden and offers self-guided signage. The shale soil sustains taller trees creating the only area of open woodland habitat in the garden.

Longer walks 2km to 3km

Solander Trail

Distance: 2km Time: 45min



This sealed walk commences at the Education Centre winding its way through typical Hawkesbury Sandstone habitat. The track passes the main picnic area, Lambert's Clearing, where you will also find the Fern House with a collection of ferns and orchids. The track continues down the valley and back up to the Education Centre.

Mueller Track

Distance: 3km Time: 2hrs



From the Education Centre follow the Solander Trail to the start of the Mueller Track off Brown's Trail. The most rugged walk in the garden, the track winds its way down the valley along the Tree Fern Gully and Ku-ring-gai Creek through a variety of habitats and open forest to Phantom Falls. The track continues through tall Sydney Red Gums, crosses the fire trail and proceeds uphill to Cunningham's Rest. This is a walk where the stillness of nature surrounds you and the cares of city living slip away!

Picnic areas

Lambert's Clearing



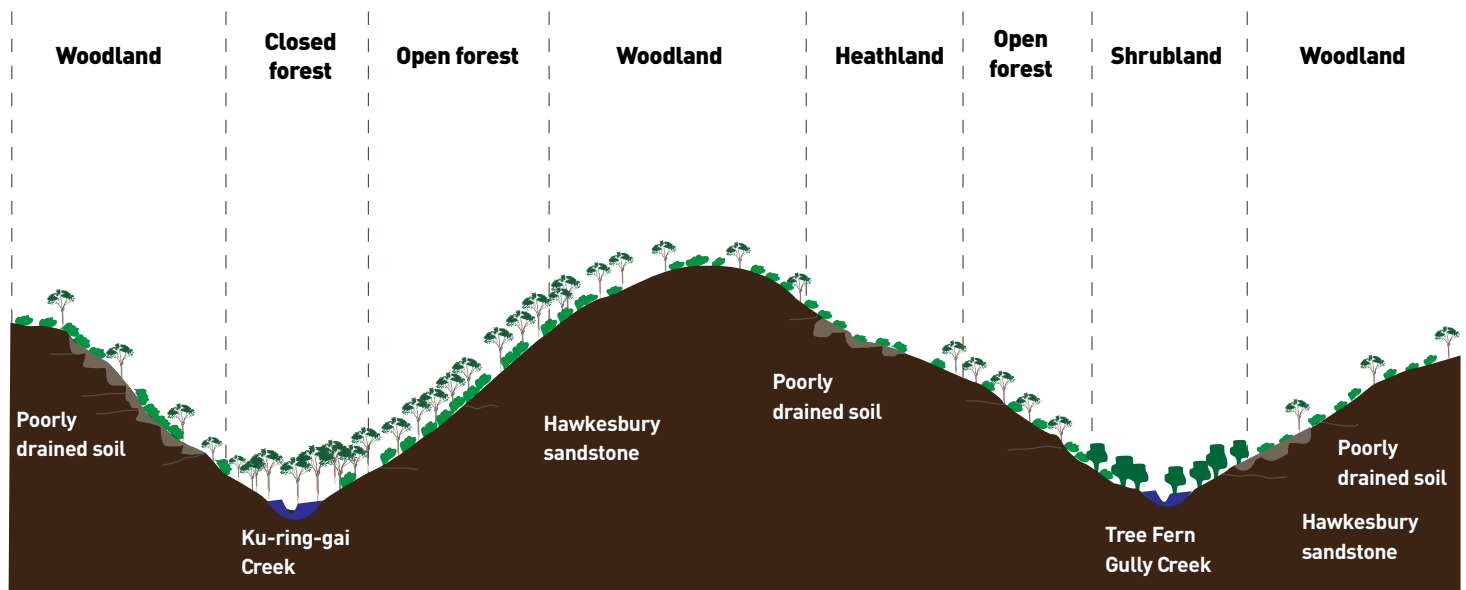
The largest picnic area offering a shelter, toilets and children's play equipment. For a close-up look at native ferns and orchids visit the Fern House. Lambert's can be accessed from the Solander, Banks, Bentham and Caley tracks. The most direct route from the Education Centre is along the Banks Track starting at the pond boardwalk.

Dampier's Clearing



Adjoining the Senses Track at the top of the garden is a large picnic shelter and an electric barbeque. This area is secluded, offering easy level access and a paved walking path along the Senses Track that is suitable for wheelchairs, strollers and the elderly.

A Slice of Life in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden



Scale: Vertical: 10mm = 20metres Horizontal: 10mm = 60metres

Habitat

Ridge tops carry woodland habitat:

- Exposed rock and thin soil
- Wind stunted plants

Well drained slopes carry open forest habitat:

- Deeper soil than on ridges
- Sheltered from wind

Poorly drained slopes carry woodland and heathland habitat:

- Pockets of soil retain water
- Water is plentiful with minimal drainage

Creeks with good water supplies support closed habitat:

- Creek beds are sheltered from wind
- Water is abundant and micro-environment cool and moist

Plants

Ridge tops carry

- Shrubs like banksias and tea-trees
- Scattered trees like scribbly gums (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) and red bloodwoods (*E. gummifera*)

Well-drained slopes carry

- Trees like smooth-barked apple (*Angophora costata*) and Sydney peppermint (*E. piperita*), with red bloodwood and black ash (*E. seeberi*) on west facing slopes
- Shrubs like banksias and Christmas bush

Poorly drained slopes carry

- Woodlands/shrubs with trees like yellow-top ash (*E. leuhmanniana*) and black ash
- Heathland with dwarf apple (*Angophora hispida*), banksias, hakeas and grevilleas

Creeks support

- Trees like coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) and water gums (*Tristaniopsis laurina*)
- Understorey of ferns like coral fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa*) and moss

Animals

Ridge-top woodlands support

- Mammals – Ringtail possums, Sugar gliders, Swamp wallabies
- Birds – Australian ravens, Sulphur-crested cockatoos, Brush turkey
- Reptiles – Leaf-tailed geckos

Open forests on well-drained slopes support

- Mammals – Grey-headed fruit bats, echidnas
- Birds – Red wattlebirds, New Holland honeyeaters
- Reptiles – Lace monitor also called goanna

Poorly drained slopes support

- Mammals – Brown antechinus, Brushtail possums
- Birds – White-throated treecreeper, Crimson rosellas
- Reptiles – Blue-tongue and Shingle-back lizards

Creeks support

- Mammals – Bush rats, Long-nosed bandicoots
- Birds – Eastern whipbirds, Spotted pardalotes, Superb Lyrebird
- Reptiles – Water dragons, Long-necked turtles

