



WA PARKS  
FOUNDATION

# Lane Poole Reserve, Dwellingup *Prospectus*

*Connecting people to parks*



## *WA Parks Foundation Lane Poole Reserve Prospectus*

Waking up to the sounds of the bush, the smell of the coals in the campfire and the mist rising on the river has long been the lure that sees thousands visit Lane Poole Reserve each year. As WA has grown, the opportunity to experience the camping life has diminished. Children are more likely to be staring at an Ipad than staring at the stars. At the WA Parks Foundation, we want to change that trend by improving our parks and providing more places for families and friends to get outdoors. You can be part of our journey, by supporting our Love Parks program. This booklet outlines a number of projects you can be involved in.

Only 100km from Perth, Lane Poole Reserve is a popular destination offering a wide range of nature-based recreational activities and visitor facilities. The reserve is a key conservation area for the Murray River Valley in the Perth Hills. Covering nearly 55,000ha, it is the largest reserve in the northern jarrah forest and contains the Murray River, the longest permanent river in this region and one of the few major rivers in the Darling Plateau that remains undammed for water supply. The reserve is named after C.E. Lane-Poole, the State's first Conservator of Forests and a devoted conservationist.

Given its proximity to Perth, Lane Poole Reserve is one of the region's most popular destinations for families and school groups seeking nature based camping and recreational experiences. Recent developments in the reserve have created new business opportunities in the park such as the Trees Adventure Park at Nanga and have helped stimulate business opportunities in the area including canoe hire, activity guides, glamping and mountain bike tourism operations.

[ourwaparks.org.au](http://ourwaparks.org.au)



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Information current as at April 2018. Produced by the WA Parks Foundation in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Front cover : Camping at Baden Powell campground. Photo – Chnelbo

Background top: *Calothamnus quadrifidusa*. Photo –DBC A

Back cover: Murray River. Photo – Lynne Whittle/DBC A

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*The trails network is expected to create new business opportunities in the reserve...*

## Mountain biking trails

**Estimated project cost \$900,000**

Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing recreation activities, with the steep forested river valley in Lane Poole Reserve providing a spectacular opportunity to develop a range of mountain bike trails suitable, from easy beginners trails, through to technically challenging trails for the adrenaline seekers. Consistent with the Perth and Peel Mountain Masterplan, this project seeks to establish a mountain bike trails network in the Murray Valley area. Approximately 770 hectares in area, the proposed network will allow up to 20km of trails to be developed as part of the broader network of mountain bike trails around the Dwellingup area. It will complement the construction of a \$4.5M trail centre in Dwellingup townsite by the Shire of Murray.

The trails network will cater to a wide range of enthusiasts and will include a downhill section and cross-country trails with connections to the neighbouring campgrounds and the Munda Biddi Trail.

All skill levels will be catered for and it is expected that the Murray Valley area will become a major destination for mountain bike riders and a significant attraction for visitors to Lane Poole Reserve and the Dwellingup area. The trails network is expected to create new business opportunities in the reserve to provide services such as bike hire, guided tours and mountain bike shuttles.

Above: Mountain biking is popular in the reserve. Photo – DBCA





## Suspension bridge over the Murray River

**Estimated project cost \$1,000,000**

This project seeks to establish a bridge over the Murray River to connect the Dwaarlindjirraap (Baden Powell) recreation site with the Murray Valley mountain bike area.

Developments at Dwaarlindjirraap have established this site as the prime day-visit destination for the reserve with its newly established recreation facility including parking, toilets, gas BBQs and river access steps for swimmers and canoeists. The Bilya Djena Bidi bridge is an essential link between this site and the Murray Valley mountain bike area on the other side of the river.

The new bridge will become both a means of crossing the river and a destination that offers views of the river. It will also enhance business opportunities at Dwaarlindjirraap including food vans, bike hire and shuttle buses.





## Paddling and swimming

**Estimated project cost \$750,000**

This project seeks to establish new river access steps at a number of locations along the Murray River to build upon those already provided at Dwaarlindjirraap. The Murray River is one of the few major rivers in the northern jarrah forest remaining undammed for water supply and it is a popular attraction for visitors for swimming and canoeing.

New steps are proposed at a many sites including Island Pool, Stringers, Yarragil and Charlies Flat. The new river access points will provide safe access for river users, be part of a canoe trail and minimise river bank degradation.

Good quality and safe river access steps are an important facility not only for swimmers and canoeists but also for tour operators and school groups who access the reserve.





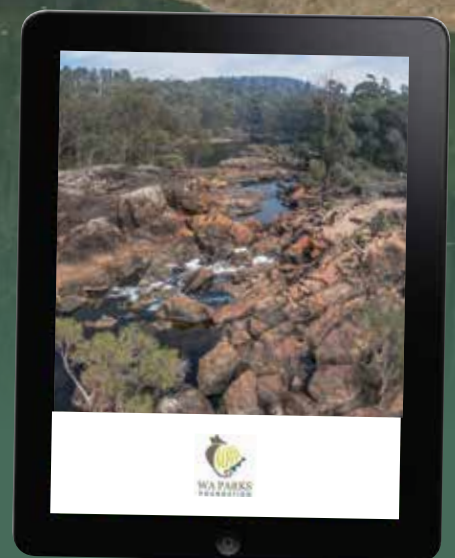
## A guide to Lane Poole Reserve

**Estimated project cost \$80,000**

Lane Poole Reserve is one of the regions most popular destinations for families, individuals and school groups seeking a nature-based experience and the pursuit of adventure activities given its location close to Perth. This project aims to provide visitors with an understanding of the reserve's diverse natural environment, timber town history and extensive recreational opportunities.

This comprehensive guide will contain easy-to-follow information on the reserve's attractions and will make it simple for visitors to choose a campground or a recreational pursuit that suits their needs and ability. It will also provide an opportunity to educate visitors about 'Leave No Trace' principles and the importance of being safe in a natural environment.

The guide will be made available as a downloadable phone application or e-book and/or as a pocket-sized booklet.







## Sealing of Murray Valley Road

**Estimated project cost \$3,500,000**

This project aims to seal 12km of the Murray Valley Road, the main access road through the reserve that connects the two main entry points into the reserve. Lane Poole receives more than 220,000 visits per year and the sealing of the main road is essential for its growth as a visitor destination. This section of unsealed road currently causes access issues for visitors in two-wheel drive vehicles and buses, and those towing caravans. Sealing the road will create improved access and ensure safer conditions for the reserve's visitors and create a more pleasant driving experience.







## Camping

**Estimated project cost \$3,000,000**

This project aims to build on the reserve's reputation as one of the region's most popular camping destinations. The reserve provides families, individuals and school groups with an easily accessible, low cost camping experience within easy reach of Perth.

With eight campgrounds and around 200 campsites, the reserve attracts hundreds of campers every weekend but still does not meet demand at peak visitor periods. The new Baden Powell Campground and upgraded Nanga Brook Campground have been developed. Other existing campgrounds including Chuditch and Nanga require upgrading and/or expanding and there is the opportunity to develop a new campground at Yarragil. This will enable the reserve to meet the increasing demand for camping.



Top: Nanga Brook Campground. Photo – Jamie Ridley/ DBCA Above: Camping at Nanga. Photo – Alex Bowlay/DBCA



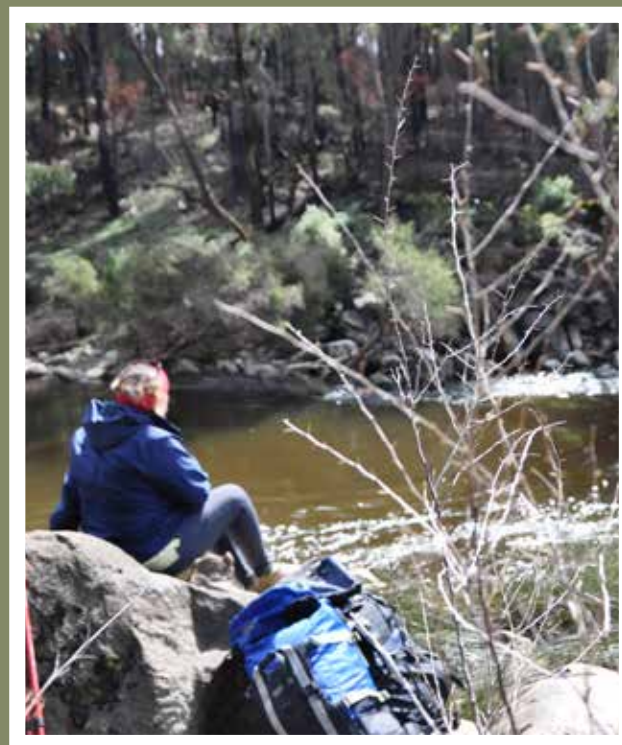


## Walking

**Estimated project cost \$750,000**

For thousands of years, long before European settlement, the Noongar traditional owners walked what is now known as Lane Poole Reserve. Exploring our beautiful bush on foot remains the most popular outdoor recreational activity, and one that is available to both young or old. This project aims to improve existing walk trails and create new walk trails in the reserve that enhances it as a destination for a range of recreational activities.

Currently there are walk trail options in the reserve that provide different grades of trails and cater for a range of experiences. This project aims to improve the trails through improved signage, replacement of bridges and realignment. There are opportunities to create new trails along the Murray River out of the Dwaarlindjirrap site to further enhance this site as a destination for day visitors and development of commercial opportunities.







## New commercial opportunities at Icy Creek

**Estimated project cost \$1,000,000**

This project seeks to establish a commercial hub for the Nanga precinct by developing Icy Creek as a Naturebank site. The opportunity to establish a high level tourism or recreation experience in promotion and delivery of accommodation services that meet the expectations of visitors to the unique Peel region of Western Australia is proposed. The project seeks to find investors able to develop and operate high quality short stay accommodation that helps to optimise visitor experience and appreciation of natural and cultural icon attractions.

Icy Creek was previously a cabin style development built and operated by Parks and Wildlife to cater for environmental studies by schools and community groups. Infrastructure on the site includes six wooden cabins, ablution facilities, a camp kitchen and dining areas, a central outdoor meeting facility, a caretaker's residence, solar and diesel electricity generation and water pumped from Icy Creek. This project can build upon the existing infrastructure or establish new infrastructure at icy Creek.







## *Thank you*

The WA Parks Foundation is an initiative which will involve those who are passionate about Western Australia's natural environment, and who believe that we all should have a sense of stewardship for our national parks and conservation estate. The WA Parks Foundation's vision is for 'WA Parks to be increasingly loved and visited and the plants, animals and landscapes and cultural values they embody to be protected and a source of pride for all Western Australians.