In spring and early summer there is a great diversity of insects & spiders. Admire the magnificent colouration of the green and gold dragonflies and camouflaged grasshoppers including one that is easily mistaken for a leaf. Look for the spectacular Christmas Spider a small spider often flecked with green, yellow or orange. Orb-weaver spiders with magnificent webs are also seen.

Ascending through a stand of Wandoo in early Spring, a bright yellow wattle, Prickly Moses (Acacia pulchella) is in full flower.

A boardwalk runs along a granite outcrop to protect this fragile habitat.

The vegetation returns to trees again with excellent wildflowers especially the widespread yellow feather-flower Verticordia acerosa during Spring. This is an excellent area to see birds as they feed on nectar and insects attracted to the flowers. Look out for the Splendid Fairy-wren with the male’s brilliant blue plumage.

A spur trail to the left leads to a lookout with a great view. Mistletoe (Amyema miquelii) can be seen growing from branches of many trees from the lookout. The seeds are spread by the Mistletoebird. There are a large number of orchids found at Paruna, a spectacular group of plants with some unusual names and pollination habits. Look out for the Donkey, Pink Fairy, White Spider and Snail Orchids to name a few.

The understorey has disappeared after 30-40 years of grazing and frequent fires. It is a good area to see a number of small birds flitting around. Look for the Grey Fantail, a small inquisitive bird seen displaying its fan-like tail as it forages for insects.

The vegetation opens out along a sandy trail. Picnic tables are located along the dam to the right. Look for the Rufous Treecreeper, a bird that has just about disappeared from the Perth region. This red-brown bird is often sighted perching or spiralling up the side of a tree and has a distinctive piercing call. It occasionally visits the picnic tables.

A short side trail leads to a large granite outcrop with views across the valley. There is a good example of this fragile habitat.

(0.1) The vegetation opens out along a sandy trail. Picnic tables are located along the dam to the right. Look for the Rufous Treecreeper, a bird that has just about disappeared from the Perth region. This red-brown bird is often sighted perching or spiralling up the side of a tree and has a distinctive piercing call. It occasionally visits the picnic tables.

(0.42) The trail meanders along a creek, an excellent spot to listen for frogs during the wetter months. Look for diggings along the path, they might be from the re-introduced Woylie or the Quenda foraging at night for food.

One of the sundews (Drosera erythrorhiza) appear in the sandy soil after rain. These carnivorous plants have red or green rosette leaves. They are covered by a sticky coating that traps small insects which are digested by the plant to gain important nutrients.

The pretty white trees surrounding the car park and trail are Powederbark (Eucalyptus accedens) & Wandoo (Eucalyptus wandoo). The two species can be difficult to distinguish but Powederbark has a fine powder on the bark which turns salmon pink when freshly shed.

(1.11) Come into an excellent stand of Wandoo and Powederbark. The understory of the Wandoo is fairly sparse as the leaves contain a growth inhibitor, effectively sterilising the soil and reducing competition with other plants. There is a good stand of the grass tree Xanthorrhoea acanthostachya, distinguished by the distinct separation of the brown skirt from the green crown.

There is a massive Powderbark with unusual growths on the trunk called burls, caused by insect or fungal attack. They are highly prized for wood work and are sometimes stolen from live trees.

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(1.75) The trail forks with a seat on the lateritic ridge. Jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata) and Marri (Corymbia calophylla) dominate the canopy giving way to Wandoo on the slopes.

(1.92) Enjoy a picnic on the table surrounded by the small white flowers of tea tree (Leptospermum erubescens). The Avon River and the main East-West Railway line can be seen.

A series of switchbacks lead down the steep hill. This area was “patch” burnt during Autumn 2002 as part of the fire management policy at Paruna.
The bush completely changes from pristine bush to modified vegetation. Extensive grazing at the western end of the sanctuary has left a parkland area of trees with little understorey.

(5.52) The trail comes to a re-vegetation plot. This plot was developed with the help of GreenCorp teams and volunteers from 1999-2002 to enhance the corridor between the two national parks. The fence is to reduce the number of kangaroos, which frequent these open areas in large numbers, making regeneration of understorey very difficult. Please keep the gates shut at all times.

Cross the creek on a small footbridge to the trail junction. The Numbat trail continues on the right track. To the left is the return trail and a picnic table.

(6.01) At the top of a short climb is a seat with good views of the Avon Valley. The hill on the opposite valley is Jumperkine Hill.

After crossing a vehicle track, evidence of a bushfire in Dec 2004 can be seen. The fire burnt out about 700ha including 50ha of Paruna destroying part of the revegetation project.

(6.11) Near the top of the climb is a stone seat built into the side of the trail. Another seat is located 50m further on, at the top of the ridge. Rapids down in the Avon River can be seen and heard in winter.

As walkers climb the hill it is a good area to see Wedgetail Eagles as they glide over the valley. The Greygone is another common bird often heard though rarely seen with a melodious, persistent and somewhat mournful call.

(6.79) There is a 280m spur trail to a spectacular rocky lookout at the western end of the sanctuary.

(6.96) After returning to the trail, follow a series of switchbacks up the hill in open Jarrah/Marri woodland where a picnic table is provided.

(7.11) A seat under the Wandoo is provided for a rest as walkers continue the climb.

A small gate leads back into the re-vegetation plot.

(7.48) The trail reaches the Bilu Lookout (Noongar for river) where the Sanctuary was opened on 4th November 1998. Extensive stonework was done in the area by the previous owner which is seen along sections of the trail.

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(7.81) At the end of the re-vegetation plot follow the trail down a series of switchbacks to a small stream fed by a spring. Glauert’s Frogllet which sounds like rattling a pea in a can and the Quacking Frog can be heard during the day in the wetter months.

(8.42) At the base of the hill is a picnic table near a stream with rock pools and a pretty waterfall during winter.

Look for lichens on rocks along the trail. Lichens are not plants but a combination of fungi and algae growing together often on bare rock. Neither fungi or algae can survive separately in this harsh environment.

The Numbat trail reaches the trail junction encountered earlier. Continues over a small footbridge back along the trail, through the re-vegetation plot and returns to the pristine vegetation. The trail rejoins up with the Quenda trail near the creek.

(9.60) A picnic table is provided before the climb up a series of steep switchbacks. Seats are provided along the climb including a green stone seat from a dolerite boulder, a type of volcanic rock.

(10.03) The trail reaches a junction with a spur trail climbing a further 100m to the John Forrest Cairns and some spectacular views. This cairns, still in excellent condition, was built in 1879 during the original survey trip through the valley. There is a series of these cairns from Walyunga through Paruna and Avon Valley National Parks towards Toodyay.

(10.51) As you make your way through another Parrot Bush thicket and down the stone steps, observe the soil and vegetation along this section of the trail as it changes from a red pebbly soil to white sand over a short distance.

(10.64) The trail joins up with the Possum Loop just past a sandy stream. Reach a stand of Zamia an ancient gondwanan relict which have separate male and female plants. The bright red seeds on the female plant are highly toxic. The Noongar people have a special preparation technique making the seeds an important food source.

A controlled burn was conducted in this area in Spring 2004 with the invaluable assistance from local bush fire brigades.

The trail follows a vehicle track for a short distance.

(11.18) The vegetation opens out again onto a massive granite outcrop called “Pink Rock” named after the pink Feather-flower Verticordia plumosa that flowers in late Spring.

(11.26) Follow the boardwalk in this fragile area to the viewing platform for a well earned rest and a spectacular view. The Avon River can be seen in the centre and the Brockman River valley to the north.

The granite in places is cracked to form sheets, a natural process of weathering caused by the heating and cooling of the rock. Many reptiles such as the Ornate Dragon and the Barking Gecko live under these sheets.

Follow the trail along the fence for a short distance to another beautiful spring wildflower display. Look for the Yellow Buttercups (Hibbertia), Leucopogon with tiny white furry flowers and the White Myrtle (Hypocalymma angustifolium).

Late in spring the Rainbow Bee-eater migrates to the south and is often seen at Paruna through Spring and Summer. Walkers may be lucky to see them emerge from their nests in tunnels on the slopes.

There are toilets located to the right of the trail as walkers come towards the Avon Rd gate.
Welcome to Paruna Sanctuary

Paruna Sanctuary is owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), a private conservation organisation that protects Australia’s threatened wildlife. Paruna forms a vital corridor between Walyunga and Avon Valley National Parks. It has become a safe haven for many of our rare and threatened mammals such as Quenda, Woylie, Tammar Wallaby and Black-footed Rock-wallaby which were re-introduced during 2000-01. A 17km vermin fence extends along the southern boundary to help control feral animal such as foxes, cats and rabbits.

Please recycle your trail notes by returning them to the box at the entrance. Thankyou.

Trail Information

The Numbat trail is a very challenging but rewarding days walk through the western part of the sanctuary. The trail notes are provided to guide walkers through some of the natural beauty of Paruna such as wildlife, streams, wildflowers, lookouts and waterfalls along the way. The trail is marked with yellow markers depicting a numbat at turns and junctions. Distances (km) are marked in brackets in the trail notes.

The AWC would like to thank-you for visiting one of our special sanctuaries. Paruna was chosen as a safe haven for wildlife because of its location between two national parks and the incredible diversity of habitats within the boundaries. We hope you enjoyed some of the natural beauties of Paruna. If you would like further information on the AWC including helping our threatened species, please take a newsletter or contact our booking office on 9572 3169.

Notes for Walkers

- Please carry sufficient water. 2-3 litres per person is recommended.
- No open fires permitted in the sanctuary.
- Please walk on the trail you have booked.
- Please take all rubbish with you including food scraps, there are no bins available.
- Composting toilets are available near the Avon Rd entrance.
- Picnic tables are provided along the trail for your enjoyment.
- Please stay on the trail at all times as many of the areas are very fragile.

Contact Information

Emergency Services: 000
Booking Office: 9572 3169
Managers Residence: 9572 9078

The nearest help is the Managers residence 1 km along Ewing Rd on the right.

Please note that mobile phones only work from the highest points of Paruna and then only intermittently.