

# Sharing SYDNEY HARBOUR



## Parramatta River Walk RYDE BRIDGE TO PARRAMATTA



The River in Parramatta Park (Skyshots)

it's exhilarating & healthy

## Parramatta River Walk Parramatta

**Governor Phillip Walk** follows the route taken by Governor Arthur Phillip on 24 April 1788, the day he discovered desperately needed fertile land for the colony adjacent to fresh water in the river. In June 1791 he called the developing settlement he had established Parramatta, using the local Aboriginal name for a place inhabited for many thousands of years by the Burramatta clan of the Darug people.

This magnificent walk is filled with history and places of natural beauty. From Parramatta Ferry Wharf, cross the weir and proceed along the Aboriginal interpretive pathway to the Visitor Information Centre. Walk over historic Lennox Bridge and enter World Heritage-listed Parramatta Park through the George Street (Tudor) Gatehouse. The route passes Old Government House and the Dairy Cottage before entering Hospital land and reaching the head of the river. Here, at the junction of Toongabbie and Darling Mills Creeks, Governor Phillip camped. (When on Hospital land you must keep to the riverbank track and proceed only during daylight hours.)

**One way 1hr 45 walking 3.5km**

There are a number of options for returning to the Visitor Information Centre and Wharf. You may retrace your steps from the Camp site to the footbridge crossing near the café in Parramatta Park, and proceed on the opposite side of the river past the site of Government Farm (1789) and the old King's School building.

**Both ways 3hr 15 walking 6.5km**

Alternatively, you may return by Redbank Road bridge, and 'The Crossing' over Darling Mills Creek via stepping stones, to a lookout opposite the Camp site. From there walk back along the red route via the Old Gaol, Fleet Street and Parramatta Park.

**Both ways 4hr walking 8.5km**

You can also walk one way in either direction using the well-served bus stop on Church Street near North Rocks Road (**2hr 45 walking**), or divide the walk into shorter sections or loops by use of the two footbridges in Parramatta Park.

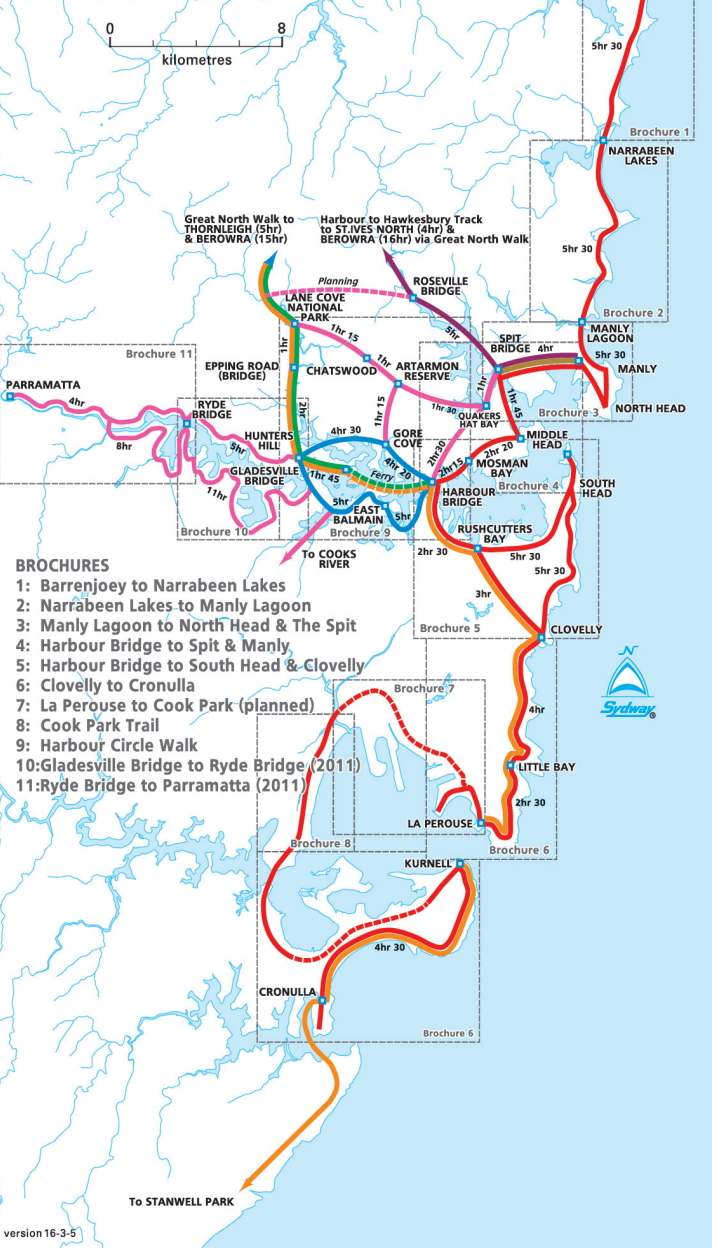
Note: Old Government House is open for tours, Tuesday to Sunday 10.30am - 4pm (Tel: 9635 8149).

**Historic Houses Walk** proceeds from Parramatta Ferry Wharf, over the weir and along the Aboriginal interpretive walkway to the Visitor Information Centre. From there stay on the northern side of the river as far as the first footbridge (Noller Bridge) in Parramatta Park and cross through The Crescent to Old Government House (Tel: 9635 8149). Return via the George Street Gatehouse and join the green loop

## The Trunk Walking Routes of Sydney Harbour and Coast

- Coastal Walk
- Harbour Circle Walk
- Great North Walk
- Federation Track
- Spit to Manly Walk
- Harbour to Hawkesbury Track
- Other tracks

Approximate Walking Times in Hours and Minutes  
e.g. 1 hour 45 minutes = 1hr 45



- BROCHURES**
- 1: Barrenjoey to Narrabeen Lakes
  - 2: Narrabeen Lakes to Manly Lagoon
  - 3: Manly Lagoon to North Head & The Spit
  - 4: Harbour Bridge to Spit & Manly
  - 5: Harbour Bridge to South Head & Clovelly
  - 6: Clovelly to Cronulla
  - 7: La Perouse to Cook Park (planned)
  - 8: Cook Park Trail
  - 9: Harbour Circle Walk
  - 10: Gladesville Bridge to Ryde Bridge (2011)
  - 11: Ryde Bridge to Parramatta (2011)

passing a number of other historic places, including St John's Cathedral, Lancer Barracks, Experiment Farm Cottage (Tel: 9635 5655), Hambledon Cottage (Tel: 9635 6924) and Elizabeth Farm (Tel: 9635 9488). Opening days and times for tours are on the map. Continue back along the river to the Wharf, past the HMAS *Parramatta* Memorial.

**3hr 15 walking 6.5km**

Alternatively, the above can be divided into two return walks, one to Old Government House (**1hr 45 walking**), and the other following the green route to the other historic places (**2hr walking**). You can also proceed directly east along the river for a return walk to Elizabeth Farm, Experiment Farm Cottage and Hambledon Cottage (**1hr 15 walking**).

Another choice is to proceed one way along the route from Rosehill Station or bus stop (M92), and exit at Westmead Station (**2hr 30 walking**).

Check opening times for historic places as they can change. Allow extra time for tours.

**Lake Parramatta Walk** lies within the Lake Parramatta Reserve in North Parramatta and circles the lake created by the damming of Hunts Creek in 1855. This significant reserve of remnant bushland has a high level of biodiversity and evidence of Aboriginal occupation and includes the Arrunga Bardo Bush Food Garden.

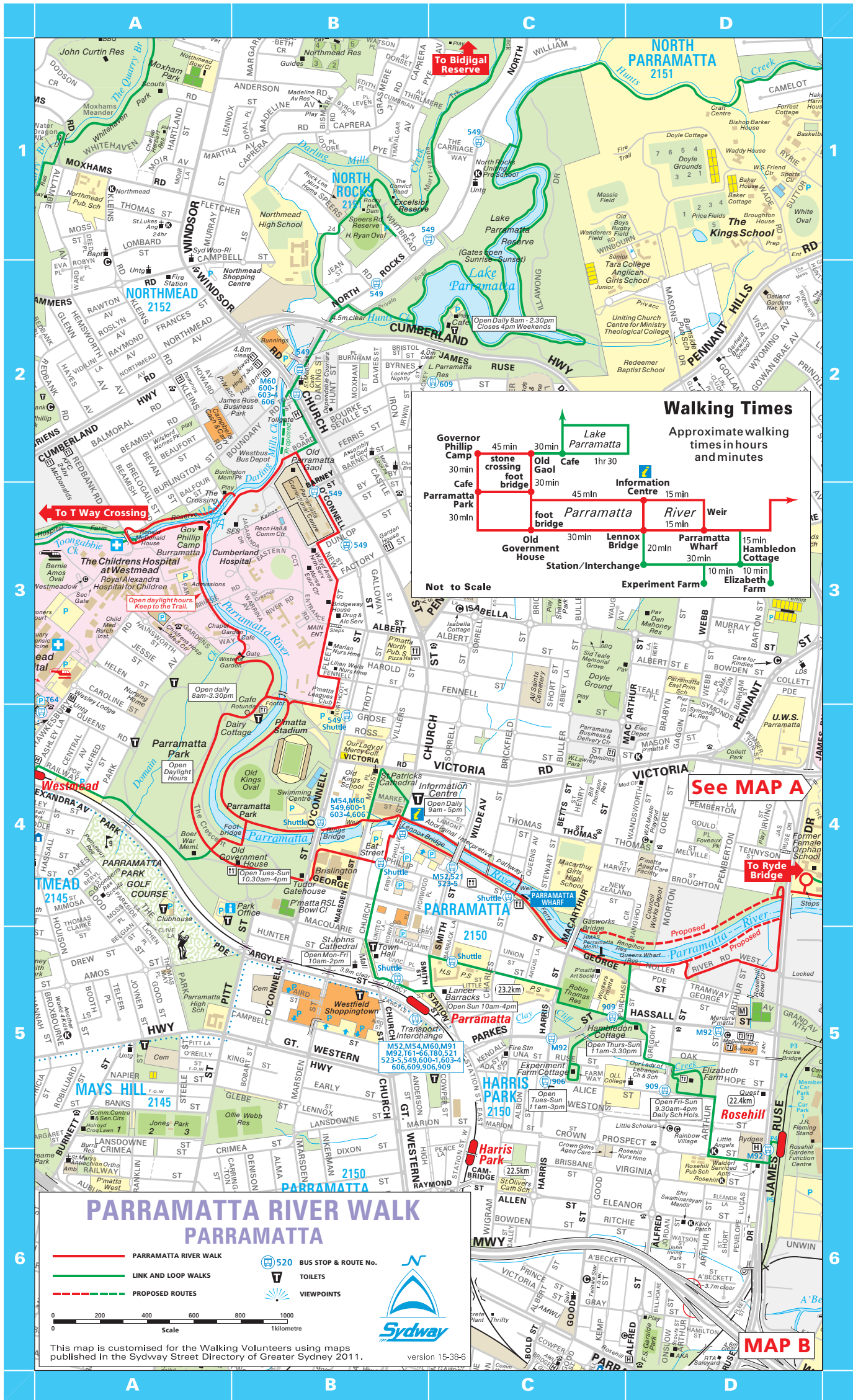
The walk can be accessed by bus stops nearby, particularly the well-served bus stop on Church Street near North Rocks Road, or by car via Lackey Street. See map for bus stops.

**1hr 30 walking 4km**

**Parramatta Themed Trails** are a magnificent series of self-guided walking brochures that have been produced by Parramatta City Council and can be found online at [www.discoverparramatta.com](http://www.discoverparramatta.com)>Events>Tours or at the Visitor Centre. Two of the brochures cover the City's walking and cycling routes, while the others are walks with particular themes, including Aboriginal and colonial history, art and architecture, the local food culture and hidden stories.

## General Information

For information, including places of interest, historic house museums, accommodation, maps, brochures, books and exhibitions relevant to Parramatta and the surrounding areas, visit Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre beside Lennox Bridge at 346A Church Street (Tel: 8839 3311) or [www.discoverparramatta.com](http://www.discoverparramatta.com)



Brochures include *Discover Parramatta* and *Walk Parramatta*, and a series of themed walking trails. There are leaflets on historic places, attractions, accommodation, cafes, restaurants and transport.

There are a number of books that are relevant and useful to walking this section of the Parramatta River. These include: *The River - Sydney Cove to Parramatta* by Gregory Blaxell (Halstead Press 2010), *Pictorial History Parramatta District* by John McClymont (Kingsclear Books 2005), and *Parramatta - A Past Revealed* by Terry Cass, Carol Liston & John McClymont (Parramatta City Council 1996). Books can be obtained from local libraries, selected bookshops and from the publishers.

For Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walks, brochures and maps, see the Department of Planning website [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour) and the Sydney Coastal Councils website [www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au)

## Walking Times

The Walking Times diagram sets out approximate walking times, with a walking speed between 2km and 3km per hour depending on the terrain and weather conditions. Don't forget to add extra time for breaks, lunch or just looking. And remember, you choose how far you walk and for how long.

## Acknowledgments and Suggestions

The Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walk brochures and maps have been developed by the Walking Volunteers, with the assistance of staff from the Department of Planning and other Government Departments and Authorities, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, individual Councils, Trusts, community and private bodies, and Sydney Street Directories.

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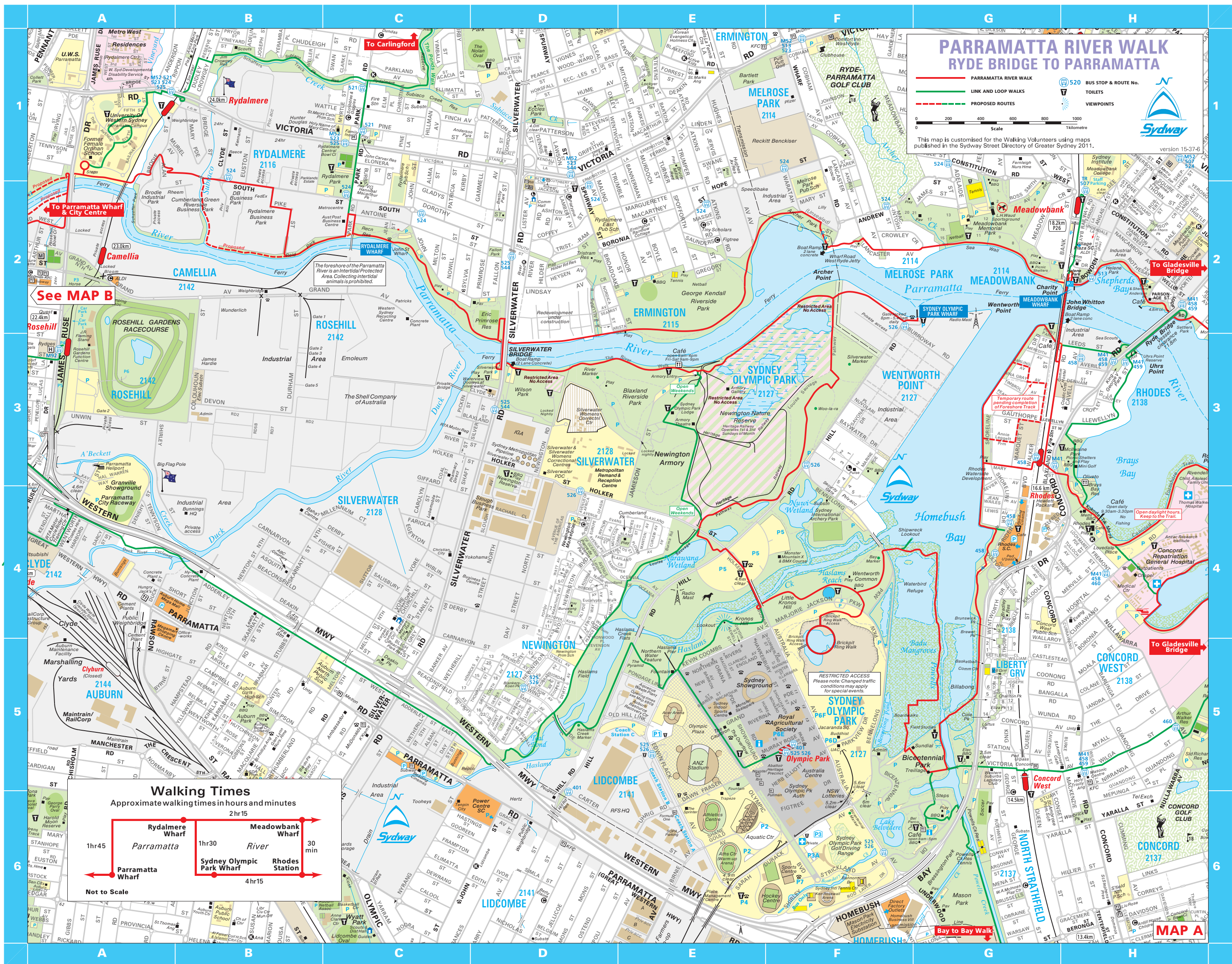
Please email the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program Coordinator at [harbour@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:harbour@planning.nsw.gov.au) about any errors, omissions or suggestions.

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## Parramatta River Walk Ryde Bridge to Parramatta

**Meadowbank to Parramatta Walk** commences at Meadowbank Ferry Wharf, west of the Ryde Road Bridge, and follows the northern side of the Parramatta River passing through a number of parks and reserves, under Silverwater Bridge and on to Rydalmere (John Street) Wharf. The route continues below the former Female Orphan School, now part of the University of Western Sydney, before crossing over the bridge at James Ruse Drive and then heading west to Parramatta Wharf.  
**4hr walking 10km**

**Olympic Park Walk** starts at Meadowbank Ferry Wharf and crosses the river using the former railway bridge to Rhodes. The route passes near the Shopping Centre and enters Bicentennial Park proceeding to the Treillage (climbing tower) with views over Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay and wetlands. There is a convenient café nearby. Following the boardwalk through the Badu Mangroves, you cross Wentworth Common to the Brickpit and Ring Walk. The bridge over Haslams Creek leads to the Narawang Wetlands and a climb up Woo-la-ra for spectacular views to the City and Parramatta, before dropping down to Olympic Park Ferry Wharf. (If commencing the walk at Rhodes Station, delete 30 minutes from the walking time.)

Note that the side green loop through Newington Amory (open weekends) leads directly to the Amory Wharf Café, which is open daily.  
**4hr 45 walking 12km**

**Olympic Park to Parramatta Walk** begins at Olympic Park Wharf and follows the river west passing Newington Amory (open weekends) and the Café at Silverwater Bridge, then crosses the river to take the red route to Parramatta.  
**3hr 15 walking 9km**

**Meadowbank Olympic Park River Walk** connects Meadowbank and Olympic Park Wharves via Silverwater Bridge and follows closely both sides of the Parramatta River.  
**3hr walking 8km**

The Parramatta River Walk is marked red on the maps, and loop and link walks marked green. It is your choice as to what walk or part of a walk to take, for how long, over what distance and in what direction. For example, you could walk for an hour or over a weekend staying in accommodation along the way.

## Public Transport

The Parramatta River Walk is well serviced by Sydney Ferries. There are train stations near the route at Parramatta, Westmead, Rydalmere, Meadowbank, Rhodes and Concord West, and there are bus stops at convenient places along the

way. Metrobus M52 follows Victoria Road north of the river and M41 crosses north/south over Ryde Bridge. Both provide useful connections to the river for walkers. Metrobus services (M52, 54, 60, 91 & 92) and Transitway services (T61-66 & 80) access the Parramatta Transport Interchange. The free Shuttle Bus (900) services the Parramatta City centre precinct. Relevant ferry and bus stops and train stations are marked on the maps. Check for new ferry stops or routes.

For transport information and timetables, contact the Transport Infoline Tel: 131 500 or see [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)

## Personal Care

Be aware that you are responsible for your own safety and that of any child with you. Take care and enjoy your walk.

The walks require average fitness, except for full-day walks (5hrs walking time) that require above-average fitness and stamina. There is a wide variety of pathway conditions and terrains, including footpaths, steps, uneven ground, bush tracks and some hills. Be very aware of cyclists and their activities on pathways shared with bicycles. Observe official safety, track and road signs at all times.

Wear a hat and good walking shoes, use sunscreen and take a daypack, water and some food. Carry a mobile phone. In case of emergency, dial 000 or 112.

## Food and Accommodation

Food and drink is available at cafés, hotels, shopping centres and where the  sign appears, as shown on the maps. Toilets are marked . See [www.discoverparramatta.com](http://www.discoverparramatta.com) for accommodation, and [www.sydneolympicpark.com.au](http://www.sydneolympicpark.com.au)

## Companion Brochure

For further information about the Parramatta River Walk including public transport, food and drink, accommodation, route marking, a full list of acknowledgments; and relevant Government Departments and Authorities, Councils, Trusts, community and private bodies, and their websites, see the companion brochure 'Parramatta River Walk - Gladesville Bridge to Ryde Bridge' or view online at the Department of Planning website [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour) or at [www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au) the Sydney Coastal Councils website.

Photograph: Parramatta Park Trust  
 Logo Photograph: Brian Yap