

Tick off the animals you see

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Possums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Frogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bats | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Tick off the habitat you see

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logs | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hollows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Photo by: Peter Ridgeway



Get Into Nature

City of Parramatta Council's
Bushland Interpretive Program 2021



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**



Photo by: Ann Sanchez



Photo by: Mark Fuller

For more information visit
cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

*City of Parramatta Council acknowledges the
Traditional Owners of this land the Darug peoples.*



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**

How do you find wildlife?

Where do Australian animals live? How can I find them? Why are native trees and shrubs so important? How are they used by animals? Discovering amazing creatures in your local bush or backyard is easy.

All you have to do is "Get into Nature" and use your senses: Look, Listen and Smell and start exploring!

LOOK!

First think about:

- where the animal lives (tree, water, ground)
- how they move (fly, swim, slither or walk)
- what they eat and where that food is found
- when the animal is active (day-time, night-time or nocturnal only)
- whether this animal hides or blends in (camouflage)

Look for clues such as sudden movements, tracks or diggings—these hint at animals possibly being nearby! You can use field guide books to find out more about your favourite Aussie animals, or research on-line before you head out.

LISTEN!

Try to describe the sounds you hear. Is it long and slow? Is it sharp, quick and repeating? Is it a leaf crunching, a stick snapping or little beaks clicking?

Why not take a notepad with you when bushwalking and spend time sitting, listening and taking notes like a real environmental detective? There are also great recordings available to help you learn specific animal noises e.g. frogs, birds, and possums. Think about what the animals might be communicating to each other.

SMELL!

Did you know that Australian animals have their own unique smell? Some animals have concentrated urine (wee) to save water. This helps them to survive in such a hot and dry landscape. Flying Foxes and Brushtail Possums have a very strong smell, and this could hint that they live nearby!

Smell will also help you to know what flowers or fungi are around in different seasons. This will be a good clue for finding birds, bats, Sugar Gliders and insects that eat these plants.

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Environmental detectives like rangers, scientists and educators use equipment to help find wildlife such as animal sound recordings, or photographs at night with infra-red cameras. Why not use a magnifying glass, a field guide, notepad and pencil, binoculars or taking photos to help discover wildlife in your backyard, school or local park?

Your very own "Animal and Habitat Checklist" is printed on this guide for you to use!



Discovering what lives
in an area tells us
about the health of
the local environment.

*"Spending time in nature
improves your physical
and mental health"*

Get Into Nature 2021

MARCH - JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

Womens Walk on Country

Date: 7 March

Time: 10am - 12pm

Event: To celebrate International Women's Day, join other women in your community to discover how Aboriginal people care for this land. Learn how this is relevant in a modern urban environment, and how you too can Care for Country.

Suitable for women, and girls over 7 years.

All participants must be registered to attend.

Location: Lake Parramatta Reserve

(Meet near carpark next to café)

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-womens-walking-on-country-tickets-138212127193

Acro-bats of the Night

Date: 26 March

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Event: The most amazing acrobats perform every night above our heads. The inner bush of the city hustles and bustles and brims with life. We may not see any animals on our walk, but you will learn about the wildlife that live in your neighbourhood. Join our guides on this nocturnal safari and take a walk on the wild side.

Suitable for adults, and children 7 years or older. All participants must be registered to attend. Please bring a torch.

Location: Lake Parramatta Reserve

(meet at carpark)

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-acro-bats-of-the-night-tickets-138213031899

APRIL

Lazin' in the Shade

Date: 10 April

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Event: Get outdoors these school holidays and join us at a beautiful local reserve for some nature based games, activities and a short stroll in the bush. Bring a picnic rug and some afternoon tea, and spend a relaxing afternoon under the shade of the trees.

Suitable for families with children 7 years and older.

Location: Edna Hunt Sanctuary (Meet at reserve opposite 9 Hillside Crescent, Epping)

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-lazin-in-the-shade-tickets-138715392473

Nocturnal Night Safari

Date: 16 April

Time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Event: The inner bush of the city hustles and bustles and brims with life. We may not see any animals on our walk, but you will learn about the wildlife that live in your neighbourhood. Join our guides on this nocturnal safari and take a walk on the wild side.

Suitable for adults, and children 7 years or older. All participants must be registered to attend.

Location: Lake Parramatta Reserve (meet at carpark)

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-nocturnal-safari-tickets-13870591011

MAY

Source of Life

Date: 8 May

Time: 10.30am - 11.30am

Event: It's Mothers Day weekend and we want to celebrate 'Mother Nature' on this guided bushwalk about the Source of Life ... Water! This easy bushwalk will explore some of the ways plants and animals find, use and store water. Learn how we can protect our urban waterways and safely provide water for the critters that share our suburbs.

This tour is aimed at adults and families with primary school children, aged 7 years over. The track includes uneven terrain, unfenced waterways and it may be slippery. Carers must supervise any younger children in their care, who must be able to keep up with the pace of the group.

Location: Vineyard Creek Reserve

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-source-of-life-tickets-138717701379

JUNE

Parramatta World Environment Day 2021 (Bush Tucker Trek)

Date: 5 June

Time: 10am - 12pm

Event: World Environment Day falls on 5 June each year, and this year to celebrate we are hosting a guided Bush Tucker Trek. On this relaxed walk along a beautiful stream, you will be introduced to a variety of native plants that sustained the traditional Aboriginal custodians of this area, the Darug people. Learn about the many food and medicinal plants that grow in your local bushland and discover some of the other resources provided by our beautiful trees and shrubs.

Suitable for adults (the content will not be targeted to children).

Location: Hunts Creek Reserve, Carlingford (meet on opposite 50 Parkland Road, Carlingford)

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-world-environment-day-2021-bush-tucker-trek-tickets-138720493731

Biodiversity Bushcraft

Date: 30 June

Time: 10am - 12pm

Event: This school holiday craft activity allows budding artists to create some decorative items to keep or give as gifts. Delve into the secret lives of local rare and endangered wildlife, and learn what you can do to help protect these creatures.

Suitable for children 7 years and older, and their parents or guardians.

Location: John Curtin Reserve Meeting Room, Winston Hills (near Dodson Cres)

Registration: eventbrite.com.au/e/gin-biodiversity-bushcraft-tickets-138721336251

All activities are free to attend, but registrations are ESSENTIAL as places are strictly limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

To register for an event visit Council's Event Calendar at cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

For more information email bushcare@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

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