

Murrumbidgee River Corridor



Map and Guide

Managing such a diverse range of land uses in an integrated and sustainable way is a challenge to both government and private resource managers. Nevertheless, with community help, sustainable management of the MRC is an achievable goal.

Recreation by the river—what you can do!

The MRC is an ideal venue for water-based activities such as swimming, fishing and canoeing. It is also a great place for bushwalking, picnicking and watching wildlife. Recreation areas are well serviced with mown areas, playgrounds, picnic tables and barbeques. Use the 'Facilities and Activities Guide' in this brochure to choose the best place for what you want to do.

Dogs, bins and bicycles

- Point Hut has a Dog Exercise Area with areas specifically allocated for 'dogs off leads' and 'dogs on leads'. Dogs are also permitted at the Uriarra picnic areas, Murrays Corner and Shepherds Lookout.
- A 'no bins policy' applies in all areas of the MRC so remember to take out what you take in (that includes dog droppings).
- Bicycles are not allowed on walking tracks, except between Point Hut and Kambah Pools (part of the Centenary Trail), but can be used on formed vehicle trails.

Swimming

Many MRC areas provide great swimming places but please take care.

- Watch the flow! Flowing water is stronger than you think.
- Always supervise children carefully whenever they are in or near water.
- Never dive into any part of the river.

Fishing

You do not need a fishing licence for recreational fishing in the ACT, but you must comply with the *Fisheries Act 2000* which aims to sustainably manage our fish populations.

The Murrumbidgee River downstream from the junction with the Gudgenby River (near Tharwa) is classified as open fishing waters and provides excellent year-round fishing for Golden Perch, Redfin and Murray Cod. However, there are closed seasons for Murray Cod and Trout to allow them to spawn undisturbed.

Protected species include the Murray River Crayfish, Macquarie Perch, Silver Perch, Two-spined Blackfish and Trout Cod. If caught, these species must be returned to the river immediately. Further information on fishing in the Murrumbidgee is available in the brochure *Recreational Fishing in the ACT*. Website: www.environment.act.gov.au

Picnics, barbeques and fire

Recreation areas along the MRC are ideal for relaxing and having a picnic or barbeque. Free electric or wood-fired barbeques are available at most recreation areas. On Total Fire Ban days, no fires are permitted and all gas barbeques will be turned off. Electric barbecues at the Cotter and Pine Island remain on during a Total Fire Ban. Fires can only be lit in approved barbeques or fireplaces and only if there is no Total Fire Ban. Always make sure your fire is out when you leave.

Please bring your own wood. Collecting wood from nearby bushland is prohibited and destroys habitat.

An impressive river

The Murrumbidgee River flows for 1600 kilometres from its headwaters in Kosciuszko National Park to its junction with the Murray River, near Balranald in NSW. The river and its catchment—part of the Murray-Darling Basin—supply water for people, agriculture and wildlife. Water is drawn from the Murrumbidgee River for Canberra's drinking supply so please keep the river clean.

Some 66 kilometres of the river's journey lies in the ACT, from Angle Crossing in the south to just past Shepherds Lookout in the north. The river and a narrow strip of land on either side are managed as the 'Murrumbidgee River Corridor' (MRC). It includes five nature reserves, eight recreation reserves, a European heritage conservation zone and rural leases. The MRC provides easily accessible opportunities for water-based and nature-based recreation close to Canberra.

Enjoy the walking trails

With its sign-posted, well-formed tracks, the MRC provides many interesting walks ranging from easy half-hour strolls to day-long walks. Make sure you are prepared and know the distance and time required for the walk. At the MRC's most popular sites, interpretive signs tell stories of the plants, animals and history of this wonderful river.

Camping

The Cotter Campground is the ACT's most highly serviced bushland camping area, providing hot showers and sheltered electric barbecues. Bookings are not required but a small fee is charged which can be paid to the rangers or left in the entrance 'Honesty Box'. Please bring your own firewood. Sorry but pets are not allowed.

Other camping in the region is at Woods Reserve Recreation Area on Corin Road (no booking required) and Blue Range Recreation Area (bookings required) off Brindabella Road.

Phone (02) 6207 2900 or book online at: www.tams.act.gov.au

River wildlife

More than 600 different plant species occur along the banks, flood plains and dry upper slopes of the Murrumbidgee Valley, including some that are threatened nationally, such as Mountain Cress *Drabastrum alpestre* and Anchor Plant *Discaria pubescens*.

The river corridor also provides wonderful opportunities for birdwatching (more than 200 recorded species), including migrating honeyeaters, hovering birds of prey and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos *Calyptrorhynchus funereus* enjoying their winter roosting areas.

Less often seen are the mammals, reptiles and amphibians that also live here—wombat burrows are common along sandy river banks, bats live in tree hollows, the Common Eastern Froglet *Crinia signifera* can be heard calling in reeds, and almost invisible platypus burrows occur right at the water's edge.

Respecting our heritage

Please remember that all plants, animals, rocks, live wood, fallen timber and Aboriginal or other historic artefacts are protected by law. Respecting the natural and cultural environment will help keep the Murrumbidgee River Corridor a place for everyone to enjoy.



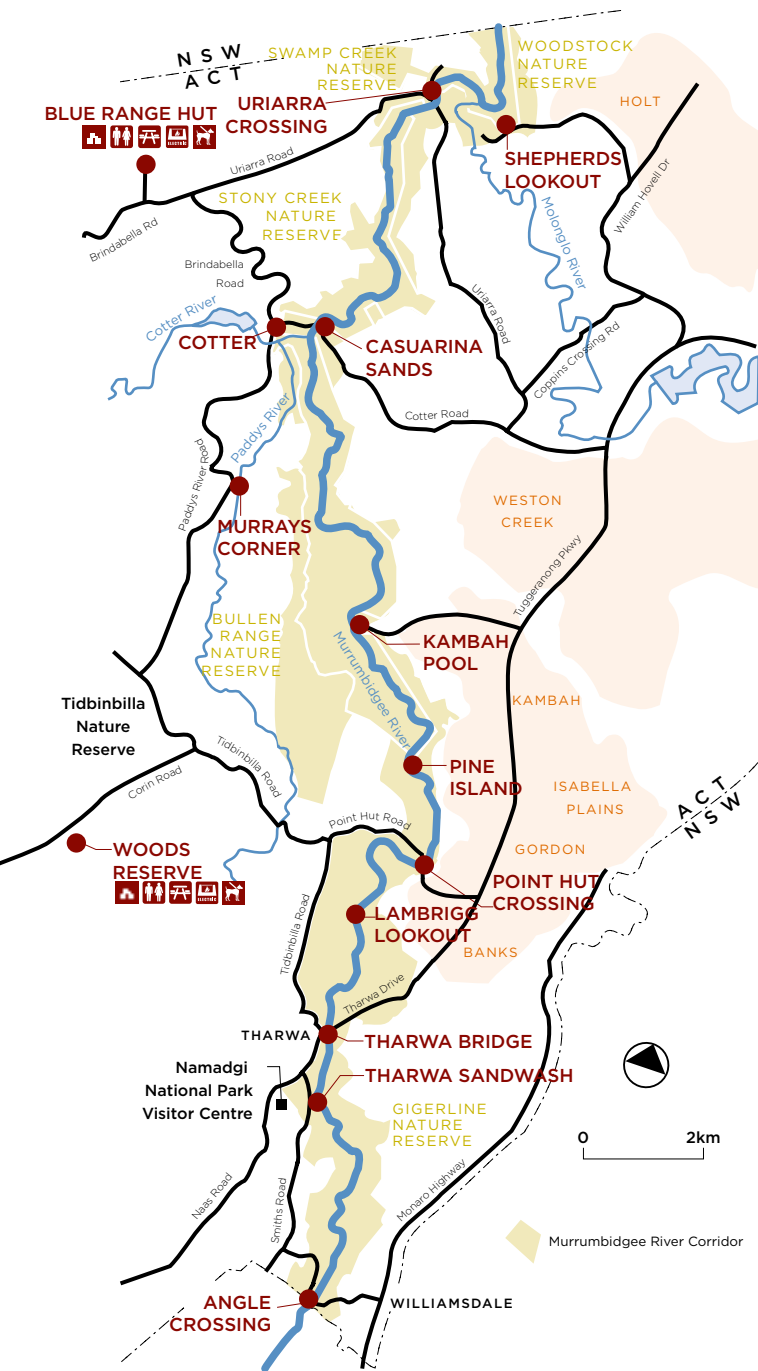
Trout Cod

Guide to Facilities and Activities

Recreation Areas in and near MRC	Wheelchair access	Toilets	BBOs E/G = Electric/ Gas W = Wood	Playground	Drinking water	Shelter	Mown grassy areas	Ranger depot	Campground	Picnic tables	Dog exercise area on leash only	Dog exercise off leash	Fishing	Swimming/walking/ paddling	Nudist area	Walking Tracks	Canoe entry points
	Uriarra West		●	W			●	●			●		●	●	●		
Uriarra East		●	W				●			●		●	●	●		●	●
Swamp Creek		●	W			●	●			●		●	●	●			●
Casuarina Sands	●	●	E	●	●	●	●	●		●			●	●		●	●
Cotter Avenue	●	●	E	●	●	●	●			●			●	●		●	
Cotter Bend	●	●	E		●		●			●			●	●		●	
Cotter Campground	●	●	E/G/W		●	●	●		●	●			●	●		●	●
Murrays Corner		●	G			●	●			●		●	●	●			
Kambah Pool		●											●	●	●	●	●
Pine Island	●	●	E	●	●		●			●			●	●		●	●
Point Hut		●					●			●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Tharwa Bridge	●	●	G				●			●			●	●		●	●
Tharwa Sandwash														●		●	●
Angle Crossing		●					●			●				●		●	●
Blue Range	●	●	W/G			●	●		●	●	●					●	
Woods Reserve	●	●	W/G			●	●		●	●	●					●	
Shepherds Lookout												●				●	

Uriarra
Cotter precinct

MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER CORRIDOR—Reserves



Walks near Uriarra

Uriarra Loop (3.5 kilometres, 2.5 hours return, easy)

From Uriarra East picnic area, follow the Murrumbidgee River downstream towards its junction with the Molonglo River. The trail then follows the Molonglo River upstream, returning through open grazing country.

Woodstock Nature Reserve (4.6 kilometres, 2 hours return, moderate)

This reserve is popular with birdwatchers. Look out for the colourful Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* which breeds here in summer, hovering birds of prey, and waterbirds attracted by the deep pools. The trail starts about 800 metres from Uriarra Crossing on the Fairlight Road and finishes at the remains of Giorgio's Sandwash, a sand mining operation that continued till the early 1980s.

Stockdill Drive to Shepherds Lookout (600 metres, 45 minutes return, easy)

Start at the parking area 3 kilometres from the last traffic island on Stockdill Drive. Walk through Woodstock Nature Reserve to Shepherds Lookout for an impressive view along the Murrumbidgee. The ACT border, 3 kilometres downstream, is marked by power lines over the river. Dogs are allowed on a lead.

Shepherds Lookout to Molonglo River

(3 kilometres, 2 hours return, moderate)

This trail goes from Shepherds Lookout to the Molonglo River. Passing stands of Black Cypress Pine and the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre, it provides excellent views of the river.

Walks at the Cotter Reserve

Cotter Dam Discovery Trail (1 kilometre return, Wheelchair friendly, easy)

This walk allows visitors to get an up close and personal view of the Cotter Dam enlargement. Informative interpretation is provided along the way.

Cotter Explorer Track (2 kilometres, easy suitable for wheelchairs and strollers)

This walk takes you along the banks of the Cotter River as well as around and above Cotter Avenue. A steeper extension track leads to the Cotter Dam Lookout.

The Bullen Track (4.5 kilometre return, moderate)

From Cotter Bend, explore both sides of the Cotter River before climbing up the Bullen Range then down to Paddys River to end at the Cotter Caves.

The Cotter Catchment Lookout Track

This walk follows a management trail to the lookout providing views up the Cotter River and over the lower water supply catchment and Enlarged Cotter Dam reservoir.

Murrumbidgee Discovery Track

This track provides a 27 kilometre continuous walking trail through the Murrumbidgee River Corridor from Casuarina Sands to Point Hut Crossing. Most routes can be walked in either direction and there are regular distance markers.

Casuarina Sands to Kambah Pool (14 kilometres, 8 hours one-way, hard)

The Discovery Track starts at the western end of the Casuarina Sands car park where it hugs the river and passes River Oaks, Red Stringy Barks and Scribbly Gums on the drier slopes. Sometimes moving away from the river across open grazing country, the track climbs high above the river as it nears Kambah Pool. There are great views of the river and surrounding countryside all the way, including the Bullen Range on the other side. The distance and relative difficulty makes this walk suitable only as a one-way excursion, so please plan transport at both ends.

Kambah Pool to Pine Island (7 kilometres, 3 hours one-way, moderate)

The Discovery Track passes through native forest and farmland and takes you above Red Rocks Gorge, one of the most spectacular gorges along the whole Murrumbidgee River. A lookout provides views down the gorge. Further on, after crossing Tuggeranong Creek, the track passes an historic dry stone wall, built in the 1860s to mark the boundary between two early rural properties.

Pine Island to Point Hut Crossing (4 kilometres, 1 hour one-way, easy)

This walk starts at the northern car park at Pine Island and passes through the Pine Island Reserve before reaching open grasslands, providing great river views. Park Carers of the Southern Murrumbidgee carry out revegetation, weed management, erosion control and walking track maintenance along this stretch of river. For more information, phone Canberra Connect: 13 22 81.

Pine Island River Loop (1.5 kilometre, 45 minutes return, easy)

Starting at the Pine Island North picnic area, this loop walk provides views, river access and interpretive signs about the area's natural history.

Walks near Tharwa

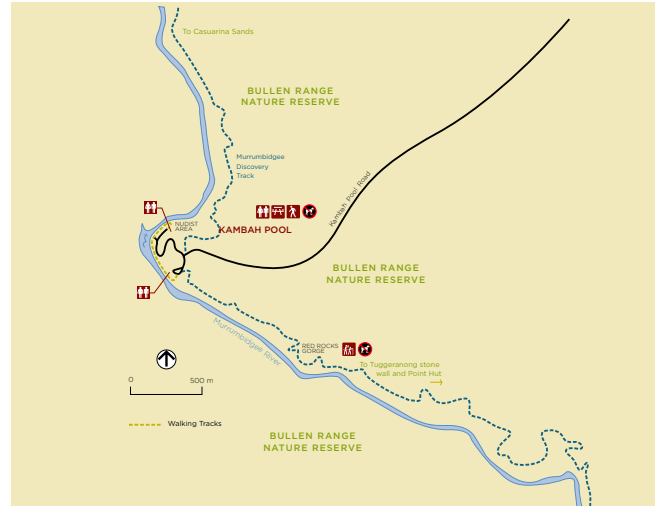
Tharwa Explorer Track (2.8 kilometre, 2 hours return, easy)

From Tharwa Bridge this track follows the Murrumbidgee upstream to a unique nineteenth century cemetery, with interpretive signs telling stories of people who lived on the adjacent Cuppacumbalong property.

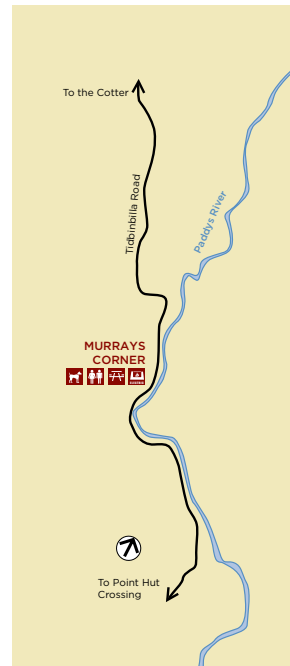
The Tharwa Sandwash Track

The walk goes from the car park at Tharwa Sandwash upstream alongside the river. Watch for some of the 130 species of birds known from this area.

KAMBAH POOL



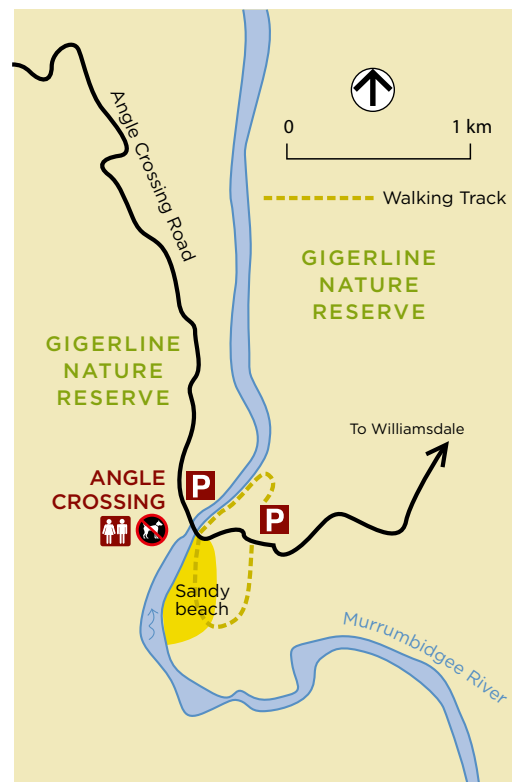
MURRAY'S CORNER



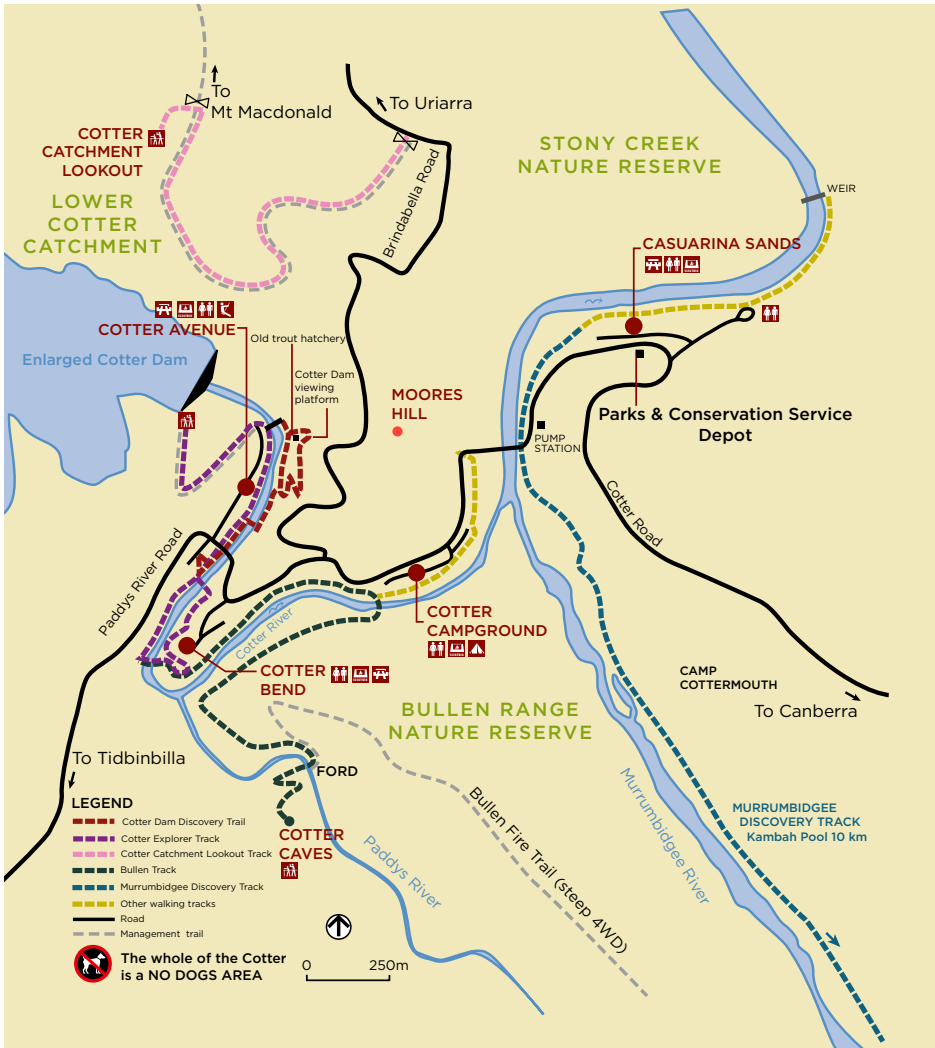
PINE ISLAND & POINT HUT CROSSING



ANGLE CROSSING



COTTER AND CASUARINA SANDS



Map Legend

- Camping permitted - fees apply
- Toilet
- Picnic area
- Wood barbecue
- Electric/Gas barbecue
- Lookout
- Dogs allowed
- No dogs
- Walking trails
- Murrumbidgee Discovery Track
- Road
- Management trail

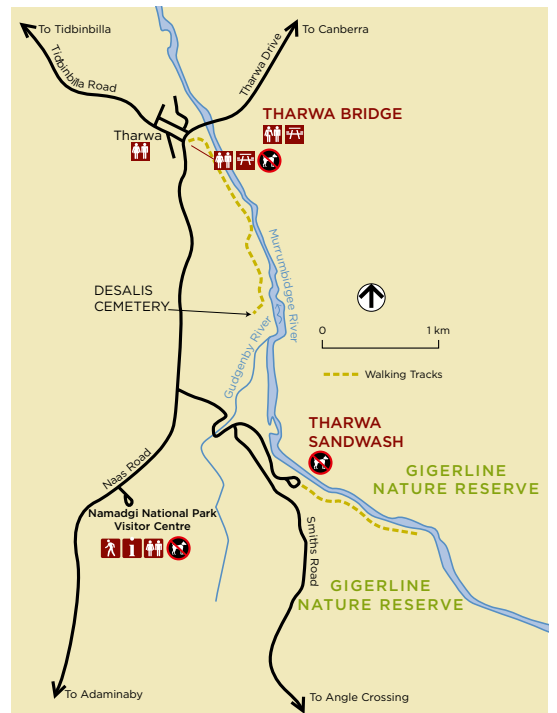
Please stay on walking tracks while walking through rural leasehold land.

Check walking times and distances before setting off.

URIARRA CROSSING AND SHEPHERD'S LOOKOUT



THARWA BRIDGE AND THARWA SANDWASH



Further information

Canberra Connect: 13 22 81
 Website: www.tams.act.gov.au

All information included in this brochure is correct at the time of publication.



ACT
Government

