

Brush Farm Park

A Bushland Oasis in Eastwood

With its remnant bushland, rare rainforest species and sportsfield, Brush Farm Park is a great place to explore. The natural and cultural heritage of this area sets it apart from other parks and reserves in Sydney.

There are three different plant communities in the park:

- Critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest located on the upper slopes;
- Critically endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (upper slopes) &
- Impressive Coastal Warm Temperate Rainforest on the lower slope and in the gullies.

Why not explore the rainforest gullies along the Brush Farm Loop Path or head further south to Lambert Park?



Brush Farm House 1910
Source: City of Ryde



Gregory Blaxland (1778-1853)
Source: State Library of New South Wales

History of the Brush Farm Estate

You are standing on land that was known as The Brush Farm Estate, purchased by Gregory Blaxland in 1807. It originally extended all the way to Victoria Road covering an area of 455 acres. In 1813 Gregory Blaxland, along with William Wentworth and William Lawson pioneered the first successful crossing of the Blue Mountains by European settlers. Brush Farm House, visible on the northern side of Lawson Street was built by Gregory Blaxland around seven years after this historic feat. It is one of Australia's oldest surviving houses and one of the most substantial houses surviving from the Macquarie Period.

Gregory Blaxland was an explorer and agriculturalist who turned his hand to wine making, importing grape vines in 1805. He won a silver medal from the The Royal Society of Arts in London for the wine he produced in 1823 followed up with a gold medal in 1828.

During 2005 Brush Farm House underwent a meticulous restoration by the City of Ryde. Today Brush Farm House is used as a centre for cultural and community events.

Imagine what it would have been like in the 1820s with farmland, grape vines and views all the way to the Parramatta River.

Aboriginal History

The traditional owners of this area were the Wallumedegal. The name Wallumedegal or Wallumattagal was derived from Wallumai the Snapper Fish, combined with matta, a word used to describe a place, usually a water place, as with Parramatta.

Bushcare

Bush regeneration by local volunteers started here in the 1970s and is ongoing. The hard work and dedication of the volunteers have helped regenerate and protect the bushland in the park. It is hard to believe that the bushland you see here was once infested with weeds. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out. For more information please call City of Ryde Customer Service on 9952 8222.



Bushcare Volunteers in the rainforest gully
Source: City of Ryde

Brush Farm Historical Society

Brush Farm Historical Society was formed in the 1980s to encourage the study of local history with a special focus on the Brush Farm Estate. The society promotes the interpretation of Brush Farm House to the wider community through school group tours and open days.



Did you know?

The term 'Brush' refers to dense rainforest vegetation which can still be seen while exploring the walking trails!

Map Legend

- Entry points
- Car park
- Bridge crossings
- Steps

Walking Path Legend



Brush Farm Loop Path
930m, 20 minutes return
Grade: Moderate

Starting at the carpark, wander beneath the canopy of beautiful turpentine trees down into the rainforest gully. Loop back to the starting point along the eastern gully or venture west to the Bowling Club Path or south onto the Lambert Park Path.



Lambert Park Path
380m, 6 minutes one-way
Grade: Easy

Continuing south from the Brush Farm Loop Path, you will notice a change in the vegetation as you walk through a valley that was filled in the 1980s for slope stabilisation. Exit at the southern end near the Guide Hall or head up the steps to John Street.



Bowling Club Path
350m, 6 minutes one-way
Grade: Moderate

From the carpark descend into the gully along the loop path and follow the signs to exit at the Bowling Club.



Marsden Road Shortcut
220m, 3 minutes one-way
Grade: Easy

From the carpark take a shortcut to the Bowling Club along the Marsden Road edge.