

# Silver Creek

Please enjoy your stay in Guilderton  
~ Take only photos and leave only footprints ~



## KEY



## WALK TRAILS

**Snake warning!** Dugites and other venomous snakes live in the dunes.  
**Remember!** Wear a hat, sun cream and closed shoes. Take plenty of water with you.

1. Silver Creek trail 1.3km return (not signposted)
2. Riverside trail to boardwalk car park 800m return (not signposted)
3. Riverside trail 6km return (not signposted)

## Marvellous Melaleucas



Silver Creek's Paperbarks are important for ecology

The tree species you see in and around Silver Creek is mostly *Melaleuca raphiophylla* or Swamp Paperbark. It gets its name from its paper-like trunk which can be pulled off and used like paper. Historically it was useful for the Aboriginal people who used it as bandages, cradles, sleeping mats and wrapping food when cooking.

The Swamp Paperbark has a bushy form and ranges from 0.2-10m tall. It has white/cream flowers near to the end of the stem and blooms from June to January. It is often a dominant mid storey species and can be a canopy species in wetlands. Mildly drought and salt tolerant and extremely tolerant of waterlogging/inundation. It is an important food source for a range of fauna while it's dense nature, and papery bark provides ideal fauna habitat. Its shallow roots stabilise wetland soils, trap sediment and slow the speed of floodwaters thereby decreasing erosion.

Info: [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au)

## What Bird is that?

On the south side of the Silver Creek reserve are two bird observation platforms with seating which were installed by LMRWG. At each platform is interpretative signage explaining what birds you might see in the estuary. Take your time, have a seat and enjoy watching the birds.



## Here are some birds you might see



Eastern Reef Egret  
*Egretta sacra*

There are two colour forms of the Eastern Reef Egret - white form and dark form. They usually inhabit rocky shorelines and coral islands and reefs, where they forage for fish, crustaceans and molluscs by using a mixture of stealth and surprise.



Australasian Darter  
*Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Because of its long and slender neck, the Australasian Darter is sometimes called the snakebird. Darters forage by diving to depths of about 60 centimetres, and impaling fish with its sharp, spear-like beak. Small fish are swallowed underwater, but larger ones are brought to the surface, where they are flicked off the bill (sometimes into the air) and then swallowed head-first.



White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucogaster*



Eastern Osprey  
*Pandion cristatus*

## Birds of Prey

The Osprey is a medium-sized fish-eating raptor. It has dark brown upperparts contrasting with pale underparts. There is a black band through the eye, separating the white throat from the pale crown. The White-bellied Sea-Eagle is much larger and soars with up-swept wings, rather than the sharply bowed wings of the Osprey



All photos by R Wolmaley unless indicated

"Moore River is a unique piece of Western Australia's environmental and historic heritage. I know of nowhere else in the world where it is possible to experience a close approximation to pre-settlement conditions."  
Professor George Seddon's 'A Sense of Place', 1972

## Silver Creek Seclusion

The Silver Creek reserve is an eleven hectare tranquil spot where you can picnic in peace, launch a canoe or catch a fish. Silver Creek gains its name perhaps from observations by pioneering local farmers of the 'silvery' waters of the creek. The waters of the system were (and still are near) pristine, and in particular because "the creek" being shallow, was actually crystal clear and in most lights the surface was mirror like or silvery.

Rehabilitation works to conserve and promote the Silver Creek reserve have been carried out over the years by dedicated volunteers of the Lower Moore River Working Group (LMRWG) including construction of the Silver Creek walk trail, construction of the canoe launch pad and fishing platform, revegetation using native plants, and installing bird watching signage and seating.



This 2015 signage project was delivered by Moore Catchment Council in consultation with these partners and funded by Northern Agricultural Catchments Council through the Federal Government's National Landcare Programme.

