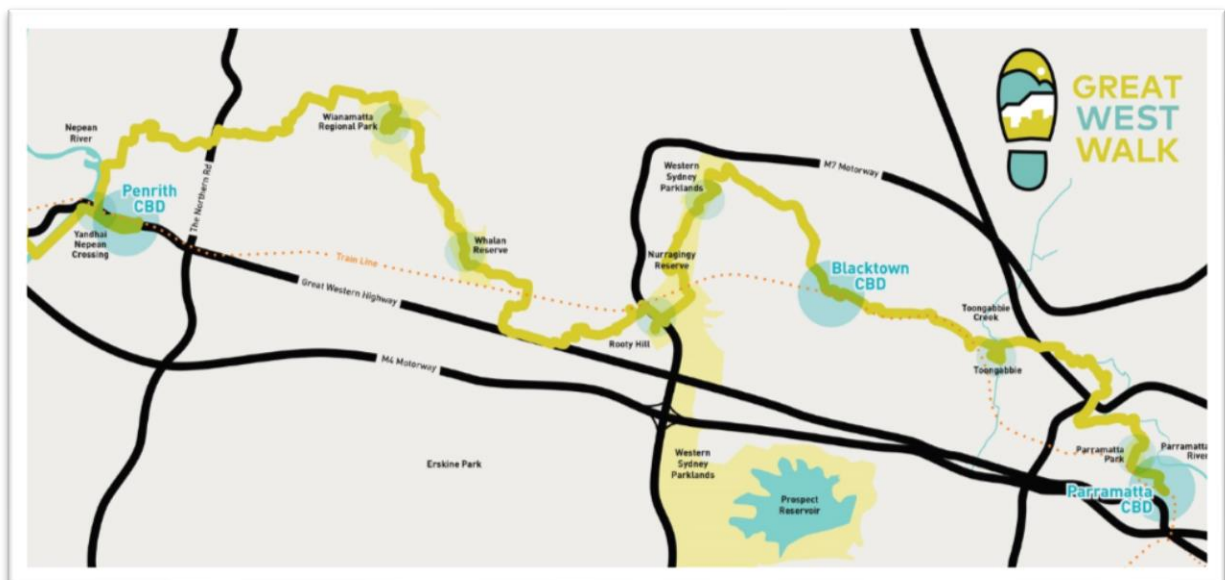


Great West Walk: Information kit

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Overview

This 65-kilometre stretching from Parramatta to the foot of the Blue Mountains, crosses a kaleidoscope of varying landscapes, including protected Cumberland Plain woodland, local river systems, public parklands, some of Australia's oldest architecture and Western Sydney's iconic urban landscapes. While the terrain is relatively flat and an abundance of shared paths make for easy walking, it is the scenery that is the great surprise. From the dense thickets along the creeks to the open remnants of the Cumberland Plains and the reminders of farming and grazing that existed here only a few years ago. It is often hard to believe that you are still in the suburbs of Australia's largest city.

Parramatta Park preserves some of Australia's best and oldest colonial buildings still extant and its broad open parklands make a wonderful contrast to these unique remnants of our past. The wisteria gardens and the Edwardian splendour of "Glengariff" in Cumberland Hospital are a delightful prelude to Phillip's Camp at the Head of Parramatta River while the ruins of the Rogans Hill Railway over Toongabbie Creek come as a surprise to those of us who thought a railway to Castle Hill was a modern idea.

The walking route winds along Toongabbie Creek and there are more surprises with patches of shady regenerated bushland that provides shelter for the bellbirds chiming away in the scrub and the water hens strutting along the creek banks. Further along there is little left of Macquarie's Third Settlement at Old Toongabbie except the stories and at McCoy Park you encounter one the massive flood basins that protect the western suburbs and Parramatta itself from floods. At Blacktown the regeneration of the Blacktown Showground and Francis Park Oval has produced one of the most imaginative parks in Sydney that has become a focal point for families in the surrounding suburbs.

Beyond Blacktown the route winds along Breakfast Creek to the Western Sydney Parklands. This enormous 5,280 hectare park runs from Quakers Hill to Hoxton Park and contains the 27 kilometre Parklands Track which you follow for 7 kilometres from Quakers Hill Parkway to the surprising Nurragingy Reserve with its ornamental lake and beautiful Chinese Gardens. Along the way there are patches of Cumberland Plain woodland, Eastern Creek floodplains, and wide open grasslands.



Another short stretch through the Western Sydney Parklands takes you past Blacktown Olympic Park and across the M7 Freeway to the top of Rooty Hill (yes, there is a hill) where you are rewarded with an unexpected panorama of the Blue Mountains from the Blue Labyrinth to Kurrajong Heights. Below Rooty Hill you will find traces of the historic Government Stock Farmhouse that once existed here.

From Rooty Hill, the Great West Walk follows paths and easements through to the Great Western Highway. Along the park on the northern side of this busy road there are still surprising colonial remnants such as “Neoblie” and the original Colyton Schoolmaster’s Cottage. At Waterholes Reserve (once a major watering point for stock and people on their way across the Blue Mountains) the route heads north-west along Ropes Creek through open parklands, playing fields and woodlands to the new suburb of Ropes Crossing built on the site of Australia’s largest munitions complex. There is a delightful series of paths through local parks including an excellent re-creation of Ropes Crossing Station where thousands of munitions workers poured out into the complex of buildings and bunkers that existed here during World War II. Part of this huge site is now occupied by Wianamatta Regional Park and the Great West Walk wanders through the Eastern Visitors Precinct to cross Ropes Creek and South Creek on new footbridges built on the remains of the old wartime vehicle bridges.

Wianamatta Regional Park houses one of the last remaining stands of Cumberland Plain Woodland and, amazingly, a large population of kangaroos and emus. Wandering through this vast woodland you could be a thousand miles from civilisation although there are occasional remnants of its past with an old barbed wire fence that was part of the old munitions factory. Much of the central section of the park is covered with forest regrowth and in a few years all traces of the munitions factories will disappear.

You leave Wianamatta behind at another new suburb - Jordan Springs - where modern suburbia returns but the street plantings provide shade and shared paths take you along water catchment basins and ponds to the shopping centre where cake and caffeine await. The walking route then winds its way through parks and easements to the lakes and ponds of the Waterside development at Cranebrook. Once again, the local paths and plantings make this one of the more pleasant street walks. At Castlereagh Road, a short walk through an industrial area brings you to the Nepean River and the Great River Walk where tranquillity is soon restored. The reflections of the She-oaks in the smooth tranquil waters of the river and the shady

path along the river's edge take you to the Victoria Bridge and the memorial to the first crossing of the Blue Mountains while the new Yandhai Footbridge links the two sections of the Great River Walk.

Public transport

The Western Line has frequent trains that run to and from Parramatta to:

- **Parramatta:** The Great West Walk starts at the northern railway exit onto Darcy Street.
- **Toongabbie:** The Great West Walk runs along Station Road 400 metres north of Toongabbie Station.
- **Seven Hills:** The Great West Walk runs across the pedestrian bridge over Seven Hills station.
- **Blacktown:** The Great West Walk runs across the pedestrian bridge over the Windsor Line station to the bus interchange.
- **Doonside:** The Great West Walk runs through Nurragingy Reserve which is a kilometre west of the station along Cross Street.
- **Rooty Hill:** The Great West Walk runs to and from this station along Rooty Hill Road South.
- **Mt Druiitt:** The Great West Walk runs through Old Mt Druiitt 600 metres west of Mt Druiitt Station.
- **Penrith:** The Great West Walk runs to this station along Jane Street.

The Richmond Line has less frequent trains that from Parramatta to:

- **Marayong.** The Great West Walk is 800 metres from this station as it crosses Davis Road just south of the Davis Road Bridge over Toongabbie Creek.

Buses run to and from Parramatta Station to:

- **Mons T-way Bridge, Northmead.** Take the T60, T61, T62, T63, T64, T65 or T66 bus from Parramatta Interchange Stand B4. Alight at bus stop 2145562 in

Mons T-way just south of the T-way Bridge over Toongabbie Creek. The Great West Walk runs underneath this bridge

- **Oakes Road, Old Toongabbie.** Take the 606 bus from Parramatta Interchange Stand A4. Alight at bus stop 214687 in Oakes Road near Chircan Street. The Great West Walk crosses Oakes Road 250 metres north of this bus stop at the southern of Oakes Road Bridge over Toongabbie Creek.
- **Johnstons Bridge.** Take the T60-T66 buses from Stand B4 in the bus interchange on the southern side of the station. Alight at stop 214699 Johnstons on the North-West T-way. The Great West Walk runs along the underpass under Johnstons Bridge.

Buses run to and from Blacktown Station to:-

- **Davis Road, Marayong.** Take the 752 bus from Blacktown Bus Interchange Stand 4 and alight at bus stop 214812 on Davis Road near Crudge Road. Walk north 200 metres to the shared path on the western side of Davis Road just before the bridge over Breakfast Creek. The Great West Walk runs west along this path.
- **Richmond Road, Quakers Hill.** Take the 753 bus from Blacktown Bus Interchange Stand 3 and alight at bus stop 276748 on Richmond Road near Hill End Road. Walk west along Richmond Road for 250 metres to cross Quakers Hill Parkway at the traffic lights then walk 120 metres to the Parklands Track entry **GPS0263464348**. The Great West Walk runs south along this path.
- **Power Street, Doonside.** Take the 756 bus from Blacktown Bus Interchange Stand 3 and alight at bus stop 2761145 on Power Road near Kilito Crescent. Walk east 450 metres along Power Street to the Parklands Track entry **GPS0168363022**. The Great West Walk runs south along this path.

Buses run to and from Mt Druitt Station to:

- **May Cowpe Reserve.** Take the 728 bus from Mt Druitt Bus Interchange Stand A and alight at bus stop 27766168 in Rupertswood Road opposite Minchinbury Anglican Church, The walking route crosses Rupertswood Road to Bainbridge Crescent next to the bus stop.

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- **Waterholes Reserve.** Take the 770 or 771 bus from Mt Druitt Bus Interchange Stand H and alight at bus stop 2770595 on the Great Western Highway opposite Mt Druitt Road. The Great West Walk runs along the reserve on the northern side of the highway.
 - **Ropes Crossing.** Take the 780 bus from Mt Druitt Bus Interchange Stand 6 and alight at bus stop 2760266 in Hollows Parade outside Ropes Crossing Shopping Centre. The Great West Walk runs along Ropes Crossing Boulevard 70 metres west of the bus stop.

Buses run to and from Penrith Station to:

- **Jordan Springs.** Take the 783 bus from Penrith Bus Interchange Stand 18 and alight at bus stop 2747379 in Jordan Springs Boulevard before Lakeside Parade. The Great West Walk runs along the southern footpath of Jordan Springs Boulevard.
- **The Northern Road, Cranebrook.** Take the 677 bus from Penrith Bus Interchange Stand 16 and alight at bus stop 274996 near Sherringham Road. The Great West Walk runs along Sherringham Road for 20 metres to Ironbark Reserve.
- **Greygums Road, Cranebrook.** Take the 678 bus from Penrith Bus Interchange Stand 16 or the 786 Bus from Stand 17 and alight at bus stop 274929 near Scenic Circuit. The Great West Walk crosses Greygums Road next to the bus stop.
- **Castlereagh Road, Cranebrook.** Take the 783 or 784 bus from Penrith Bus Interchange Stand 18 and alight at bus stop 2749320 near Waterside Boulevard. The Great West Walk runs along Castlereagh Road south of the bus stop.

Vehicle access

It is also very easy to walk the Great West Walk using two vehicles or one vehicle and public transport. Convenient access points are set out below. Sydway map references are page number and grid square; Satnav is the address that you enter into your Satnav device (e.g. Tom Tom, Navman, Garmin etc.); GPS Co-ordinates are the 10 digit grid reference shown on your GPS (e.g. Garmin, Navman):

| Access Point | Sydney | Satnav address | GPS Coordinates |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| Parramatta Station | Map 80 P16 | Parramatta Station | 56HLH15331 56355 |
| Briens Road Bridge | Map 252 D9 | 237 Briens Road, Northmead | 56HLH13111 58198 |
| Oakes Road Bridge | Map 252 B1 | 81 Oakes Rd, Old Toongabbie | 56HLH12341 60032 |
| Access Point | Sydney | Satnav address | GPS Coordinates |
| Johnstons Bridge | Map 231 Q20 | 352 Old Windsor Rd, Old Toongabbie | 56HLH118026022 2 |
| Seven Hills Station | Map 231 C18 | Seven Hills Carpark, Terminus Road, Seven Hills | 56HLH08894 60930 |
| Blacktown Station | Map 230 J15 | 42 First Ave, Blacktown | 56HLH06304 61620 |
| Davis Road Bridge | Map 230 E8 | 36 Davis Road, Marayong | 56HLH05249 63382 |
| Richmond Rd & Quakers Hill Pkwy | Map 229 L4 | 479 Richmond Road, Quakers Hill | 56HLH02634 64348 |
| Colebee Centre, Nurragingy Reserve | Map 229 G13 | 41 Knox Road, Doonside | 56HLH01806 62128 |
| Rooty Hill station | Map 229 B17 | Rooty Hill Station | 56HLH004046 1059 |
| Rupertswood Road | Map 228 M20 | 94 Rupertswood Road, Rooty Hill | 56HKH99084 60232 |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|------------------------|
| Waterholes Reserve | Map 228 D20 | Mt Druitt Park, Great Western Highway, Mt Druitt | 56HKH97070 60350 |
| Forrester Road, Ropes Crossing | Map 227 M4 | Lot 5 Susannah Drive, Ropes Crossing | 56HKH94830 64421 |
| Ropes Crossing Shopping Centre | Map 207 K20 | 8 Central Place, Ropes Crossing | 56HKH94391 65348 |
| Wianamatta Regional Park (East Precinct) | Map 207 H17 | Mainwaring Street, Ropes Crossing | 56HKH9409 666041 |
| Wianamatta Regional Park (West Precinct) | Map 206 18M | Bungendore Circuit, Jordan Springs | 56HKH905386 5842 |
| Access Point | Sydney | Satnav address | GPS Coordinates |
| Jordan Springs Shopping Centre | Map 206 18E | 13 Lakeside Parade, Jordan Springs | 56HKH89121 65695 |
| The Northern Road | Map 206 C20 | 90 Sherringham Rd, Cranebrook | 56HKH88695 65411 |
| The Waterside | Map 205 K18 | 15 Gannet Drive, Cranebrook | 56HKH86561 65733 |
| Nepean Rowing Club | Map 225 E8 | 11 Memorial Avenue, Penrith | 56HKH85322 63356 |
| Penrith Station | Map 225 K9 | Penrith Station north side parking | 56HKH865936 3149 |

Parking

- **Parramatta Station.** The only parking near the station is in commercial carparks.
- **Seven Hills Station.** Parking near the station is difficult on weekdays but there is a large carpark on the northern side of the station.
- **Blacktown Station.** Parking near the station is difficult on weekdays but there is a large carpark on the northern side of the station.
- **Nepean Rowing Club, Penrith.** There is plenty of parking but it may be full on weekends when there is a rowing regatta.
- **Penrith Station.** Parking near the station is difficult on weekdays but there is a large carpark on the northern side of the station (access via Castlereagh Road and Thornton Drive).

Parking at all other locations is good.

Food and drink

- **Parramatta.** This large regional centre has a very large shopping centre with department stores and a multitude of cafes and restaurants. There is a very large supermarket in Westfield on the southern side of the station that is open 24 hours, seven days a week.
- **Seven Hills.** There are several cafes and a supermarket on the southern side of Seven Hills Station as well as a Centro Shopping Centre west of Prospect Highway.
- **Blacktown.** There is another large shopping centre located on the southern side of the station.
- **Blacktown Showground Precinct.** There is a café open on weekends and some weekdays.
- **Marayong.** This small shopping centre is 900 metres north of the Great West Walk along the Marayong Station Link (see Chapter 7). It has a small supermarket, chemist, newsagent, post office and a couple of takeaways.
- **Nurragingy Reserve.** There is a kiosk open every day at the Colebee Centre.

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- **Rooty Hill.** There is a tavern on the corner of Manis Street and Rooty Hill Road South that has a bistro. On the southern side of the station there is an IGA supermarket, several cafes (Chinese, Indian, and Filipino) and a couple of takeaways while a larger shopping centre is located north of the station.
 - **Minchinbury.** There is a McDonalds and a Subway on the southern side of the Great Western Highway opposite Mt Druitt Road. There are pedestrian lights at the junction of John Hines Avenue and the highway just to the west of Mt Druitt Road to reach these fast food outlets.
 - **Ropes Crossing.** There are 3 cafes, a supermarket pharmacy and medical centre at Ropes Crossing.
 - **Jordan Springs.** There is a supermarket and cafes at this shopping centre which is on the walking route.
 - **Weir Reserve, Penrith.** Nepean Rowing Club just north of Victoria Bridge has a bistro and good coffee. The entrance to the club is on the eastern side of the club building.
 - **Penrith.** This large regional shopping centre has a large shopping mall and numerous cafes and restaurants.

Water and toilets

Town water and toilets are not frequent along this route but they are available at:

- **Parramatta.** There are toilets in the station and at the Church Street Mall.
- **Third Settlement Reserve.** There are toilets 150 metres north of the walking route where it reaches Oakes Road.
- **McCoy Park** playing fields (only open during games).
- **Seven Hills Station.**
- **International Peace Park, Seven Hills** (only be open during games).
- **Blacktown Netball Complex** (only open during games).
- **Blacktown Railway Station**
- **Francis Park Blacktown.** Near the café.

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- **Marayong Park, Davis Road Marayong** (only open during games).
 - **Harvey Park, Marayong** (only open during games).
 - **Nurragingy Reserve.** There are toilets near the western entrance at the Colebee Centre. There are also water taps near each picnic area.
 - **Charlie Bali Reserve, Doonside** (only open during games).
 - **Blacktown City Soccer Club, Eastern Road Doonside** (only open during games).
 - **Rooty Hill Station.**
 - **Dr Charles Mackay Reserve** (water fountain only)
 - **Waterholes Reserve** (only open during games).
 - **Old Mt Druitt.** There is a toilet block in Innes Crescent behind the shops on the western side of Mt Druitt Road near the pedestrian overpass.
 - **Whalan Reserve** (only open during games) but there is a tap on the outside of the changing sheds.
 - **Ropes Crossing Shopping Centre.** There are toilets in the supermarket.
 - **Wianamatta Regional Park.** There are toilets near the entrance and at the picnic area in Kangaroo Clearing.
 - **Jordan Springs Shopping Centre.** There are toilets in the supermarket.
 - **Grey Gums Oval** (only open during games).
 - **Weir Reserve, Penrith.** There is water in the toilets in the park and also in the Nepean Rowing Club nearby.



Maps

You can access a detailed map of the Great West Walk and its local loops and links by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1mt22bpj0pKfXnhcmJ4yKf6qhGsQ&ll=-33.786690836110864%2C150.86711455968646&z=12>

DOWNLOAD TO PC

On your PC just click on this link and it will open. Use the +/- button in the bottom LH corner of the map to zoom into any scale that suits you. If you want to view the map in Satellite mode, use the slide on the LH panel and slide down to the satellite button in the LH corner of this panel.


The red lines on the map are the main walking routes - Sydney Harbour & Coast Walk, Great West Walk, Great North Walk (to Thornleigh) and Federation Track (to Cronulla). The green lines are the local links and loops that are so important to local walkers. The blue lines are future walking routes. There are also layers for toilets, water fountains, T-way stations and B-line stations and the boxes for those layers may be clicked when needed.

PRINT

Use the snipping tool to select the area you want to print (NEW) and then click on FILE, PRINT to print off your map. Note that you must select a rectangular area if you want to print on one A4 page. If you want to ensure that your map only prints on one page click on SAVE AS rather than print and save the selected area as a .jpg file on your PC and then insert the .jpg file into an MS Word page.

DOWNLOAD TO SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

You can also download the link onto a smartphone or tablet:

- On an Android phone (Google, Samsung, LG, Sony, HPC, Huawei, Xiaomi, Acer and Motorola) click on this link. You may be asked if you want to open the map in Google Maps. If so, enter "Y". If it doesn't ask you, close the direct link and:-
 1. Click on the Google Maps app .
 2. Tap Menu ≡ > Your Places > Maps.
 3. Tap the map "Sydney Walking Tracks" which should now be on the Maps menu



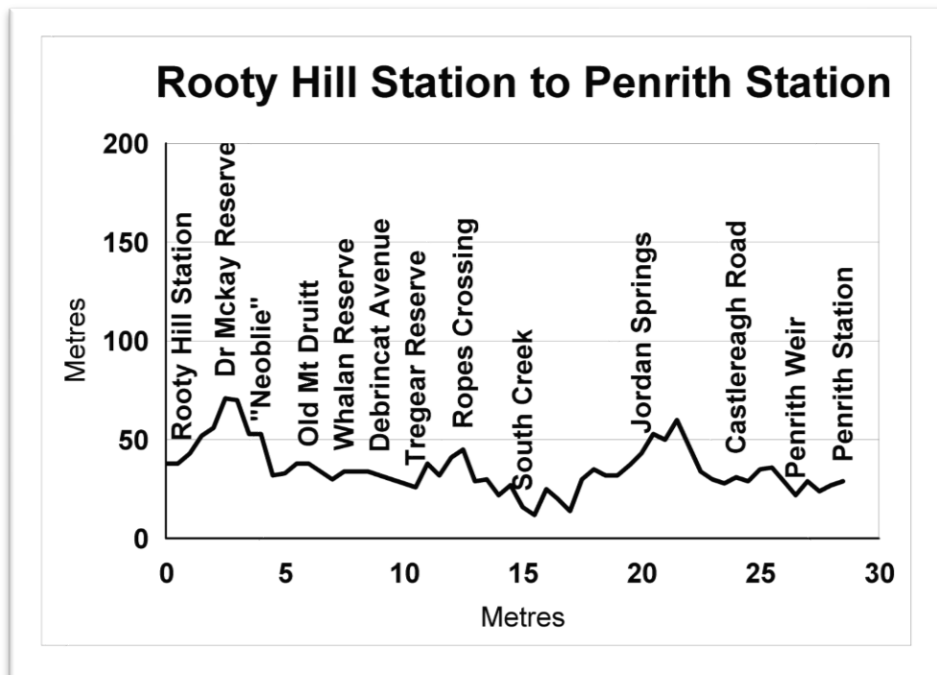
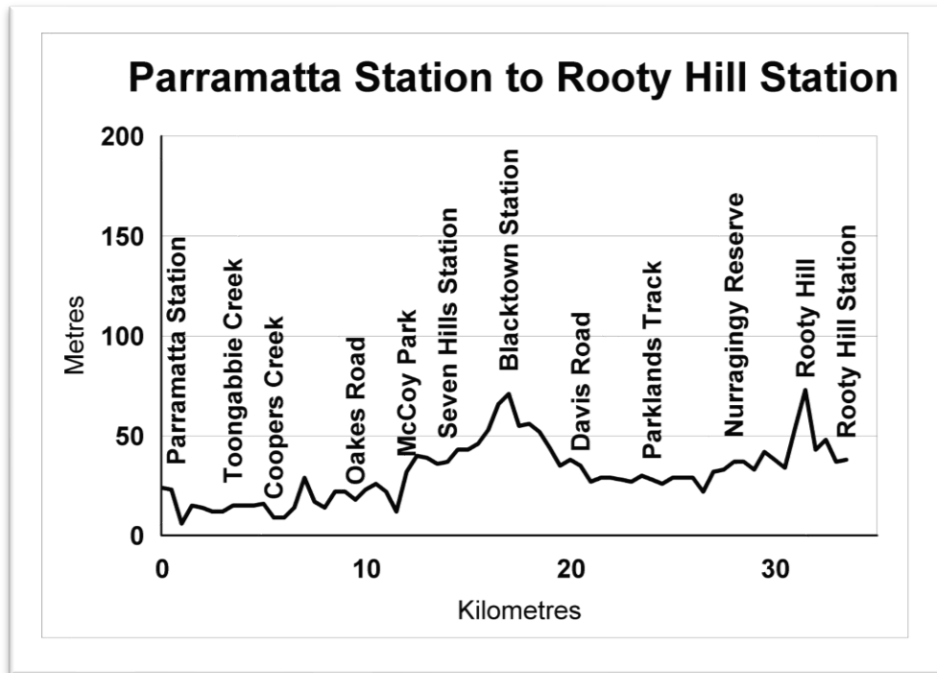
-
4. You will now be able to follow any walking route as it will show your location on the map,
 - On an iPhone or iPad just click on this link and it will open but it will not show your location on the map.

We would appreciate any feedback on the app or the walking routes. Also, please feel free to pass on the link to anyone who might use it.

Walking Volunteers Inc.

02 4784 2002

Ascent/ descent graphs



Great West Walk highlights

- Bicentennial Square, Parramatta
- Eat Street (Church Street), Parramatta
- Brislington House, Parramatta
- George Street Gatehouse, Parramatta Park
- Old Government House, Parramatta Park
- Old Observatory, Parramatta Park
- Governor's Bathhouse, Parramatta Park
- The Old Dairy, Parramatta Park
- Wisteria Garden & Glengariff House, Parramatta Park
- Governor Phillip's Camp, Parramatta Park
- Toongabbie Creek, Winston Hills to Toongabbie
- Westmead Children's Hospital, Westmead
- The Lost Rogans Hill Railway Line, Northmead
- Backhousia Reserve, Northmead
- Third Settlement Reserve, Winston Hills
- McCoy Park Retarding Basin, Seven Hills
- Blacktown Sale Yards, Blacktown
- Francis Park & Showground Precinct, Blacktown
- Blacktown Native Institution, Oakhurst
- Nurragingy Reserve, Western Sydney Parklands
- Chang Lai Yuan Gardens, Western Sydney Parklands
- Blacktown International Sports Park, Western Sydney Parklands
- Rooty Hill Historic Site, Rooty Hill
- Government Stock Farm, Rooty Hill

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- Rooty Hill School of Arts, Rooty Hill
 - Dr Charles Mackay Reserve, Rooty Hill
 - Neoblie historic cottage, Rooty Hill
 - Colyton Schoolmaster's Cottage, Rooty Hill
 - Mt Druitt Waterholes, Mount Druitt
 - Federation Forest, Mount Druitt
 - Tregear Reserve, Tregear
 - St Marys Munition Factory, St Marys
 - Ropes Crossing Station Reserve, Ropes Crossing
 - South Creek, Wianamatta Regional Park
 - Cumberland Woodland, Wianamatta Regional Park
 - Central Pond, Jordan Springs
 - Penrith Lakes, Castlereagh
 - Craithes House, Penrith
 - Great River Walk, Penrith
 - Emu Ford, Penrith
 - Penrith Weir & Cox's Cutting, Penrith
 - Yandhai Bridge, Penrith
 - Nepean River, Penrith