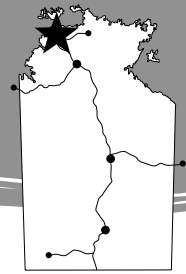


# Howard Springs Nature Park



## Fact Sheet

Want to enjoy nature on Darwin's doorstep? Come and picnic in a natural bush setting, let the kids explore the natural playground and cool off in the rockpools after walking through the monsoon forest.

The spring-fed waterhole is a great place to birdwatch and spot fish and freshwater turtles. You can even hand-feed Barramundi and turtles! (*Mullet or squid is preferred. No bread please.*)

Howard Springs Nature Park protects monsoon forest, paperbark swamps, spring-fed creeks and significant areas of Howard Sand Plains.

### Access (see map)

The Park is located 27 km southeast of Darwin. Turn northeast off the Stuart Highway on to Howard Springs Road and follow it to the end.

### When to Visit

Open all year. Gates are open from 7.30 am to 7.00 pm daily.

### What to See and Do



**Picnicking** - enjoy the shady picnic areas. Free barbecues are provided throughout the Park.



**Walking** - two walking tracks explore the monsoon vine thicket.

#### Howard Creek Walk

A peaceful meandering walk along Howard Creek.

Distance: 1.8 km

Time: 1 hr

Grade: 2 (easy)

#### Spring Walk

A short stroll through rainforest to the springs that feed the waterhole.

Distance: 100 m

Time: 15 mins

Grade: 2 (easy)



**Wildlife** - is prolific. You can spot Mertens' Water Monitors lurking around and File Snakes camouflaged in the waterhole.



**Cool down** - in the toddler pool or shady man-made rockpools and waterfall. *Adult supervision required at all times. Babies and toddlers must wear waterproof nappies.*



**Playground** - Fun, games and challenges for children of all ages abound in the 'nature-based' playground.

**Woorabinda Youth Camp** - is a dedicated youth camp facility managed by Scouts NT - [www.nt.scouts.com.au](http://www.nt.scouts.com.au). Bookings are essential. Enquiries can be directed to [info@scoutsnthq.com.au](mailto:info@scoutsnthq.com.au)

### Recent History

**Late 1800s** - it was part of large pastoral leases.

**1910** - the Springs became a solution to Darwin's unreliable water supply.

**1939** - Spring water was piped to railway dams, overhead storage tanks in Darwin, and Vestey's Meat Works.

**1942** - During World War Two, rest and recreation camps were set up here for up to 120 servicemen from USA and Australia.

**1944** - Weir was built across the waterhole to create better swimming areas by The Royal Australian Engineers.

**1957** - Howard Springs became the Northern Territory's first Reserve.

The elusive Rainbow Pitta, *Pitta iris*, is a popular Howard Springs resident.

### Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Swim only in designated areas and observe all warning signs.
- A smoke and glass free zone exists in and around the waterplay and playground area, see map for details.
- Please do not consume food or drinks in the swimming areas.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Beware of theft. Lock vehicles and secure valuables.

### Please Remember

- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it away with you.
- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Pets are not permitted in this Park.
- A permit is required for Drone use - conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Park.
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Fishing is not permitted.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds and Cane Toads.



### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Howard Springs Park Office  
Ph: (08) 8983 1001

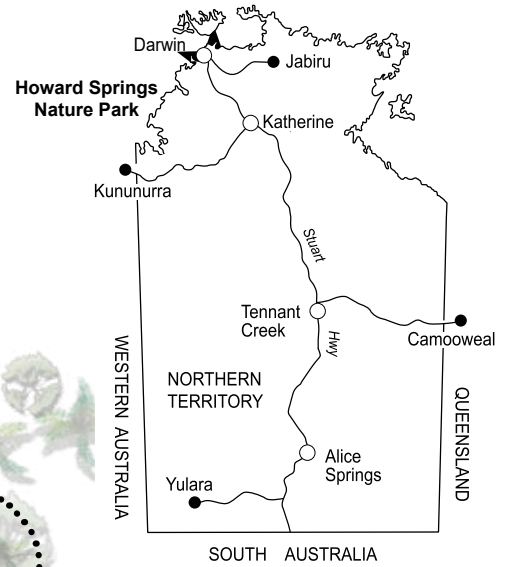
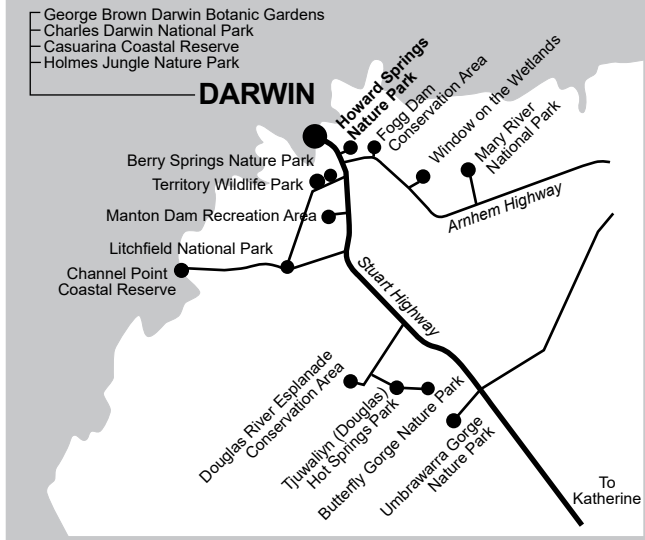
[www.nt.gov.au/parks](http://www.nt.gov.au/parks)

**Head Office** - Level 1, JHV2  
Jape Homemaker Village,  
356 Bagot Road, MILLNER NT 0810  
PO Box 496 PALMERSTON NT 0831

Ph: (08) 8999 4555



# Howard Springs Nature Park



## Legend



Information



Wheelchair Access



Ranger Station



Parking



Toilets



Picnic Area



Barbecue



Toddler Pool



Walking Track



Playground



Rock Pool

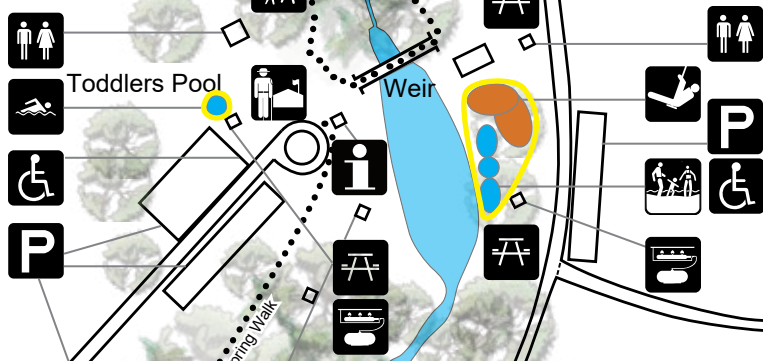


Walking Track



Sealed Road

Smoke and Glass Free Zone



To Howard Springs Road and Stuart Highway

