## A guided walk through Mangrove Walk Brooklyn







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## Mangrove Walk – Brooklyn

Location: Entry from Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Road Facilities: BBQ and picnic areas, skateboard ramp next to oval Walk Length: 15 minutes. Easy track. Wheelchair access

**Getting there:** Access by car or train. Brooklyn Park is approx. 20 minutes walk from Hawkesbury River Station (note: train station does not have wheelchair access)

Also: Explore the village of Brooklyn, take a ferry to Dangar Island, or visit McKell Park and the Federation interpretive walk through the bushland

Brooklyn's Mangrove Walk follows a part of the Hawkesbury River and foreshore not previously known to many people. This scenic walk takes around 15 minutes and meanders through mangroves and estuarine habitats.

- The walk begins in Brooklyn Park, off Brooklyn Rd, just up from the War Memorial. Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and Broad-leaf Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) were once common but are now represented only by a few remnant trees.
- 2 Further along the boardwalk the mud flats come alive with tiny crabs scurrying out of holes in search for food at low tide.
- 3 Brooklyn's oyster industry has been operating since the 1800s. Some oyster leases can be viewed from the lookout platform.
- Further along the boardwalk saltmarsh grows in the intertidal zone behind the mangroves. Unlike mangroves they are not regularly covered by the tide. A shallow layer of brackish water provides the ideal habitat for insects such as dragonflies and water beetles.

Coastal Saltmarsh is listed as an endangered ecological community in this part of NSW.

- 5 The threatened Glossy Black-cockatoo visits Brooklyn Park to feast on the seeds of the Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) which can be found furthest away from the salt water.
- Towards the end of the boardwalk mangroves (Avicennia marina & Aegiceras corniculatum), are the first trees that meet the water. They are adapted to high salt levels and the covering of their root system by water.
- To survive tidal flows mangrove roots, or peg roots, grow upwards and act as a 'snorkel'. These are called pneumatophores and can be seen at low tide.





