

Turtons Creek Reserve



Visitor Guide

A small waterfall set amongst a spectacular forest of giant eucalypts, wattles and ferns, is the jewel in this reserve's crown. Turtons Creek Reserve is the ideal destination to enjoy a stroll, a picnic or simply sit quietly and enjoy the sounds of nature.

Location and access

Turtons Creek Reserve is located approximately 20 km north of Foster. Heading east along the South Gippsland Highway, 2.5 km past Foster, turn left onto the Foster – Boolarra Road. Turn left at the next intersection – approx 2km. After 6 km, you will come to an intersection with a gravel road, the road is signposted 'Turtons Creek', turn left. Head straight through the next intersection, then turn right (around 1km) into Turtons Creek Road. Follow Turtons Creek Road for 6 km until you reach Turtons Creek Falls.

Things to see and do

The picturesque drive to Turtons Creek Reserve winds down gullies, through wet forests of tall gums and wattles atop a forest floor of ferns and tree ferns. The area is dominated by the majestic Mountain Ash and Blackwoods, with Rough Tree-fern and Smooth Tree-fern along the creek.

Picnicking and walking

Arriving at the waterfalls, you can relax and enjoy a picnic while watching the falls trickle down in summer or wildly cascade following heavy rainfall. For the more energetic, a walking track runs beside the creek for 500 metres, toward the camping area.

Camping

Campers should be self-sufficient and bring their own firewood and drinking water. Gas or fuel stoves are preferred as they reduce the environmental impacts. As there are no toilets provided, please bury your waste at least 50 metres away from the camp area and/or creek.

Birds and wildlife

The area surrounding Turtons Creek is home to Swamp Wallabies, Wombats, Platypus, Ringtail Possums, Bush Rats, and Swamp Rats. Birds to look out for include Lyrebirds, Currawongs, Magpies, Kookaburras, Crimson Rosellas and Blue Wrens.

Fishing

Recreational fishing can be enjoyed in Turtons Creek with the streams of the southern Strzelecki offering trout, blackfish and eel. A recreational fishing licence is required to take fish (including bait and shellfish) in all Victorian marine, estuary and freshwaters. The Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide specifies bag limits and seasons for different fish.

Driving

Logging trucks regularly use the roads around Turtons Creek so please drive carefully. Recreational vehicles are only permitted offroad for the purpose of camping within the reserve.

Fire

Remember that campfires, gas barbecues, gas lights and portable stoves, even in a tent, are all prohibited on days of Total Fire Ban.

An end of an era

Gold was first discovered in the Turtons Creek area in 1872. Visible in the surface soil and along the creek bed it was reported to be 'waterworn, and brilliant in colour' (Collett 1994).

Once the first claims were registered, the rush for gold saw men streaming out of Foster up into the hills. The 16 miles from Foster to Turtons Creek was just a rough cut track. The dense overhanging scrub made it impossible for the sun or wind to penetrate so miners were forced to endure mud up to their knees. Packhorses would often slide down into the gullies.

It soon became clear that the surface gold (auriferous ground) was limited. By the end of 1873 only a few fossickers were left and the collapse of the gold rush was an anti-climax. Over 130 years later the forest has reclaimed the past and little evidence remains to indicate a gold rush occurred at this site.

For further information

Parks Victoria
 Information Centre
Call 13 1963
 or visit the
 Parks Victoria website
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Foster Office
 Cnr. Victory Avenue and
 McDonald Street
 Foster VIC 3960

Caring for the environment

Help us care for our parks by remembering these guidelines:

All plants and animals in the reserve are protected

Bins are not provided; please take your rubbish home

No fires including barbecues may be lit on days of Total Fire ban

This park is located in the West & South Gippsland Total Fire Ban District

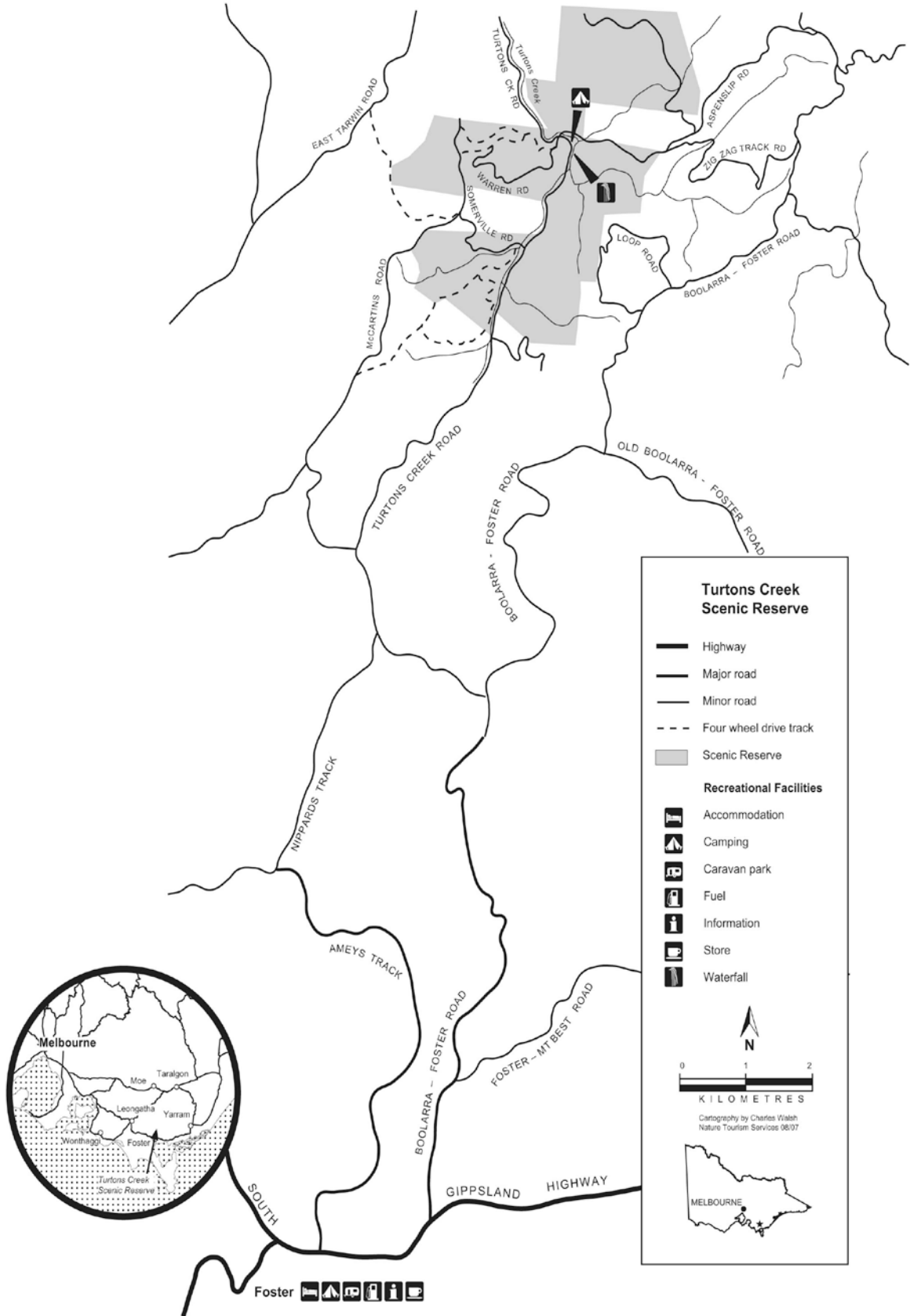
Gas or fuel stoves reduce environmental impacts

Ensure that the fire is cool to touch before you leave the campsite

Dispose of soaps and detergents at least 50 metres from the creek

Consider your neighbour – no loud noise please

Dogs must be restrained on a leash at all times



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