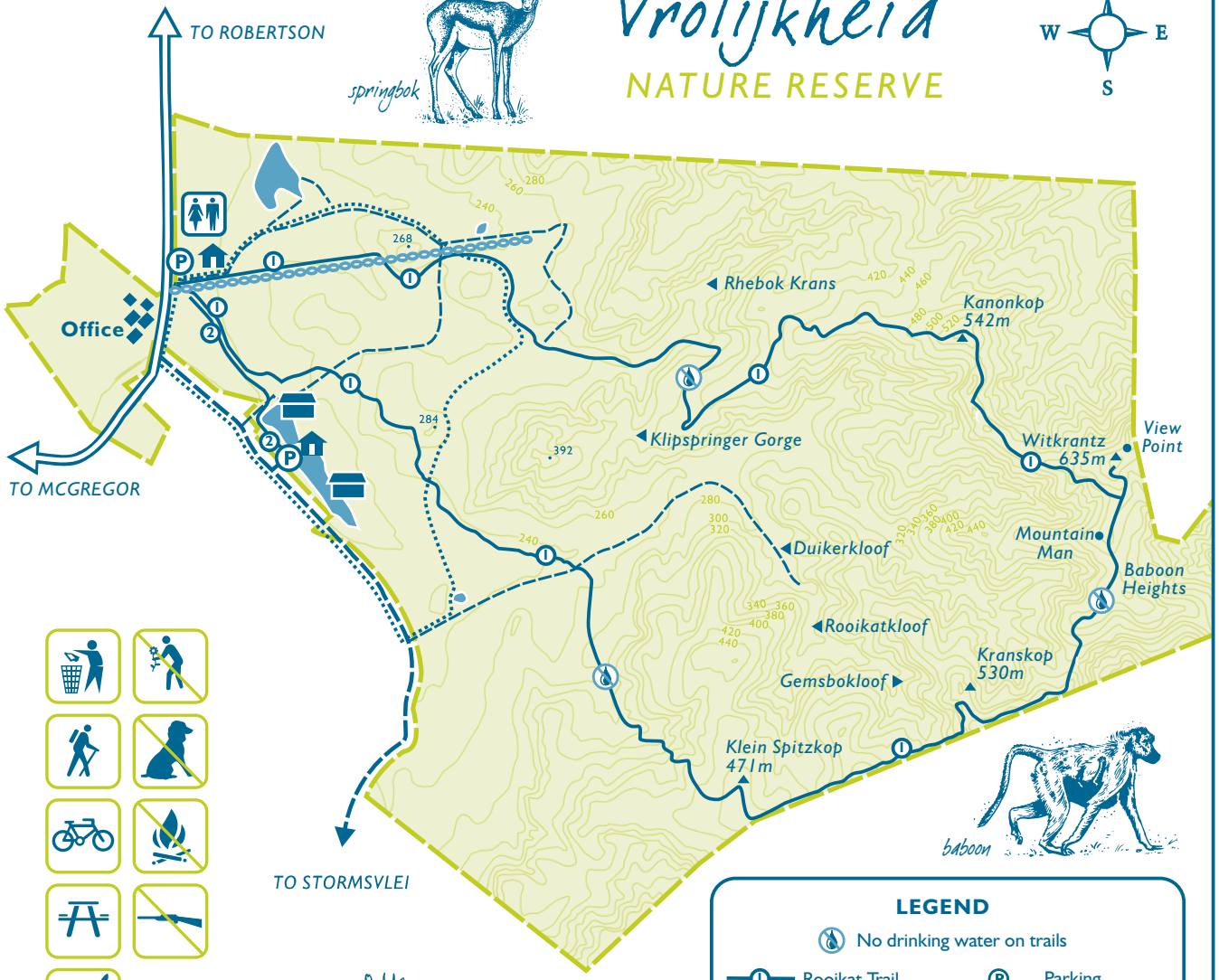
Vrolijkheid
NATURE RESERVE



VROLIJKHEID

NATURE RESERVE

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VROLIJKHEID NATURE RESERVE

Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve lies in the Breede River valley, about 15km south of Robertson on the McGregor road. The landscape here is rugged and striking with its geology of sandstone and underlying shale formations.

Vegetation

The vegetation in this rocky part of the Little Karoo is known as arid Robertson Karoo. Succulents dominate, including numerous dwarf trees and shrubs such as guarri, karee and melkbos, while grasses are scarce. Patches of mountain renosterveld are found on the higher ridges and hills, and sweet-thorn trees along the seasonal watercourses. Sheets of botterblom daisies create a splash of orange in spring.

Animals

Klipspringer, grysbok, grey rhebuck and springbok are common at Vrolijkheid. Caracal (rooikat) also occur but are rarely seen. Birds are well represented by a total of 175 species including the jackal buzzard, African and pale chanting goshawk and the spectacular black and African fish eagles. The dams on the reserve also attract a variety of waterbirds. Amphibians and reptiles are abundant, a highlight being the rare Robertson dwarf chameleon. Species lists are available at the Reserve entrance and office.

Heron

Activities

The Heron Trail is an easy 3km walk that takes about an hour to complete. The route follows fairly flat terrain to two dams, each with an attractive bird hide.

The Rooikat Trail is a circular 19km trail that winds through the Elandsberg mountains, offering scenic views of the Robertson landscape, the Langeberg and Riviersonderend mountains. The route is fairly strenuous and takes 7 to 8 hours to complete. No water is available on the route so hikers must carry their own (2 litres or more per person). The path is rough underfoot and sturdy hiking boots are recommended.

Vrolijkheid also has an 8km mountain bike trail that meanders through a section of the reserve and takes about an hour to complete. Please stay on the marked route.

Precautions

Extremely high temperatures are common from November to March, during which hikers are advised to set out early in the morning and avoid walking during the hottest part of the day. A sunhat is essential. Hikers can collect self-issued permits at the reserve entrance.

Accommodation

Vrolijkheid offers limited accommodation for environmental education groups.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

All persons entering this conservation area and using its facilities, do so entirely at their own risk. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and/or its employees and/or agents and/or its successors in title shall not be liable for any damage, loss, theft, injury, accident or death suffered by any person, howsoever caused.

Right of Admission Reserved.

ENQUIRIES & RESERVATIONS

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