

Reimagining Blind Creek

Introductory Bulletin January 2023

What's happening at Blind Creek?

In Melbourne, rivers and creeks are essential to our way of life. That's why we are committed to enhancing life and liveability in your local area and reimagining Blind Creek. As well as improving water quality, this project will open the space up for the community to enjoy now and for generations to come.

Blind Creek is a concrete stormwater drain that helps alleviate flooding to surrounding properties. This project aims to naturalise 1.65km of the creek by converting the drainage channel into a natural waterway. Waterway naturalisation can provide a large number of benefits including water quality improvement, ecological restoration, flood mitigation, urban cooling and community recreation and amenity.

Melbourne Water is leading the project in partnership with Knox City Council.

When are the works happening?

The project will be delivered in two stages. Works for Stage1 will begin the week commencing **Monday 30th January** and are expected to finish in July 2023.

To prepare for works beginning, the project team will begin mobilising in the area from Monday 16th January. Stage 1 preliminary works will include weed spraying and cutting, site office set up and the installation of temporary fencing and signs. The site compounds are located at each of the Stage One project areas which include portable offices, toilets and storage for materials. Access to the work areas will via Parkhurst Drive with reduced speed signage in place.

What does the project involve?

The project works include:

- Re-naturalisation of 1.65km of Blind Creek
- Three new wetlands
- Two harvesting ponds
- 6.3km of new paths
- 676,941 plants for improved biodiversity outcomes
- 1,700 new trees for improved shade and cooling
- 65m of boardwalk through the wetland system for improved access and amenity
- An additional 40,000 cubic meters of flood storage in the retarding basin
- A number of new community infrastructure assets such as community viewing platforms, pedestrian bridges, stepping stones crossings, benches and tables.

Stage 1 (February-July 2023)	Stage 2 (late 2023-late 2024)
1.1 Bridge construction	2.1 Stormwater pond for irrigation purposes
1.1 Seating nodes	2.1 Bridge construction
1.1 New concrete/gravel paths	2.1 Informal creek crossings
1.1 General landscaping	2.1 Revegetation installation
1.1 Revegetation installation	2.1 Seating nodes and viewing platforms
1.2 & 1.3 Wetland construction with connection to Blind Creek	2.2 Footpath renewal works
1.2 & 1.3 New gravel paths	2.2 Reinststate vegetation

Project area

The section of Blind Creek to be naturalised extends from Scoresby Road into the Lewis Park Precinct.



What to expect

We're committed to minimising our impact on the community, businesses and the environment as we deliver world-class water supply solutions. Specific information will be provided to affected residents throughout the project but as a guide please see below potential impacts that you may notice throughout construction.

WORKING HOURS - We anticipate that the majority of the works will be completed during standard construction hours of 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and Saturdays between 7am and 3pm when required. Any works occurring outside of these hours will be communicated as required.

PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST - The majority of our works will take place away from any shared paths, so access will be maintained to pedestrians and cyclists at all times. If shared paths do need to be closed for any reason, this will be communicated and we will ensure there are clear divisions in place.

NOISE AND VIBRATION - During construction, noise is expected from trucks and machinery. We will reduce these impacts as much as practicable.

VEGETATION - A small number of trees will need to be removed from the site. Logs from the removed trees will remain on site and be used for habitat purposes. Prior to any vegetation or tree removal, a qualified wildlife handler will complete an assessment. On the day of removal, a wildlife handler will complete a site walk through and if fauna is found, attempt to relocate without chasing or causing distress. As part of this project we will plant 1,700 new trees and plants for improved shade and cooling.

SERVICES - There will be no impacts or interruptions to your water or sewerage services while we undertake the works.

We will continue to maintain contact with directly affected residents, landowners and businesses throughout the project's design and delivery stages. We will also continue to keep the broader community updated on the project's progress.

Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project or our other activities please call 131 722 or visit melbournewater.com.au/building-and-works/projects/reimagining-blind-creek-lewis-park



Interpreter

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