

Reimagining Blind Creek Lewis Park - April 2023



What's happening at Blind Creek?

In Melbourne, our rivers, creeks and iconic bays are essential to our way of life. That's why we're converting Blind Creek from an underground concrete drainage channel into a natural waterway, and turning Lewis Park into a cooler, greener space and a haven for biodiversity.

The Reimagining Blind Creek - Lewis Park project is part of Knox City Council's bigger plan to turn 40 hectares of Lewis Park into the green heart of Knox, and improve its connection with some of the busiest community hubs.

The section of Blind Creek to be naturalised extends from Scoresby Road into the Lewis Park Precinct. This project follows on from a previous successful project which was completed in 2020, where a section of Blind Creek was 'daylighted' from Manuka Drive to Scoresby Road.

Melbourne Water is leading the delivery of the project in partnership with Knox City Council, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrund Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.



THE PROJECT INCLUDES:



Wetlands for stormwater treatment and harvesting



Naturalisation of **1.65 kilometres** of Blind Creek



1,700 trees planted for improved shade and cooling



6.3 kilometres of new shared paths (concrete and gravel)



Boardwalks and viewing platforms through the new wetlands system



676,941 plants for biodiversity and habitat



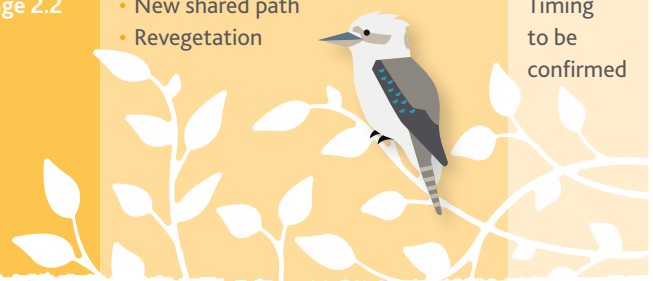
Pedestrian bridges, stepping stone crossings and seating



Timeline and activities – Project works started in early 2023, and are being undertaken in a staged manner. The main construction works are expected to be complete in mid-2024, with minor activities including reinstatement to be completed in 2025. The project is being delivered in two main stages with multiple work zones.

STAGE 1 - January 2023 to September 2023		
Zone	Activities	When
Stage 1.1 (In progress)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylighting and naturalisation of Blind Creek Seating installation New shared paths (concrete and granitic) Revegetation Construction of new bridge General landscaping 	January to August 2023
Stage 1.2 (In progress)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylighting and naturalisation of Blind Creek Revegetation New shared paths (concrete and granitic) General landscaping 	March to September 2023
Stage 1.3 (In progress)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new wetlands/water harvesting ponds New informal shared path (granitic) Revegetation General landscaping 	February to September 2023

STAGE 2 - September 2023 to July 2024		
Zone	Activities	When
Stage 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daylighting and naturalisation of Blind Creek Construction of wetlands and boardwalk Construction of new bridge and stepping stone crossing Seating installation New shared paths (concrete and granitic) Revegetation General landscaping 	September 2023 to July 2024
Stage 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New shared path Revegetation 	Timing to be confirmed



Current progress and what's next

STAGE 1.1 - Works for this zone have progressed exceptionally well since beginning in February 2023, with works ahead of schedule thanks to favourable weather conditions. More than 200 underground concrete pipes were removed and a more natural-looking waterway created in their place.

Remaining works to complete this stage include revegetation, construction of a new bridge, and new shared paths. EcoProjects are delivering the works in this zone on our behalf.

STAGE 1.2 - Works for this zone started in March 2023 and are progressing according to schedule. This section of Blind Creek is currently being 'daylighted'.

Upcoming works for this zone include the construction of new shared paths. State Plant Hire are delivering these works on our behalf.

STAGE 1.3 - Works for this zone started in February 2023 with the construction of new wetlands well under way and making great progress. State Plant Hire are delivering these works on our behalf.



BLIND CREEK TRAIL DETOURS



Please note temporary detours will be in place in May-June 2023 while we upgrade the Blind Creek Trail in the Stage 1.1 and 1.2 zones. Visit the project web page for more details. Thank you for your patience and understanding for these short-term inconveniences as we work to improve the shared path network.

Project benefits

Naturalising Blind Creek will result in:

- a more appealing creek side environment where people can interact with nature in a cooler, healthier environment
- improved waterway health by slowing water flows and establishing aquatic and riparian vegetation
- greater flood mitigation
- activation of open space for the community to use
- enhanced biodiversity and habitat for native species.

The project will boost water security for a growing population by harvesting around one hundred Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of stormwater a year. Water harvesting will reduce the use of potable water from the water supply network.

The wetlands system will treat over 250 megalitres of stormwater for irrigation use on local sports ovals and community gardens. The new wetlands will also improve the quality of water flowing into Blind Creek and through to Dandenong Creek by removing 764 kilograms of nitrogen from the water.

The project will enhance recreational opportunities and community health and well-being through the construction of new sections of shared path and new bridges to improve active transport connections in the area.



MORE INFORMATION



For more information about what's happening on the project, including progress and upcoming activities, please visit the web page.

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 www.melbournewater.com.au/Blind-Creek

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone for direct access to up-to-date project information.



For more information about Knox City Council's Lewis Park Masterplan, contact Knox City Council:

 03 9298 8000

 openspace@knox.vic.gov.au

 www.knox.vic.gov.au/lewispark



For an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 14 50.



Artists impressions of Blind Creek and Lewis Park

