

Reimagining Blind Creek and Lewis Park September 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 transforming Blind Creek from an underground concrete drain into what it should be...a natural waterway.

We're also turning Lewis Park into a cooler, greener space and a haven for biodiversity.

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 Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

LATEST NEWS

Stage 1 of the project is almost complete, and wow – what a transformation! Already we can see:

- A natural flowing creek where there once wasn't! An underground concrete drain has been 'daylighted' and turned into a natural waterway.
- Improvements to biodiversity and habitat, with families of ducks settling into their new home!
- Local residents and visitors are enjoying the newly created shared paths for walking, jogging and cycling.



Aerial view of Blind Creek, new shared paths and revegetation



Ducks enjoy their new home



STAGE 1.1 - COMPLETE



Works for this zone are complete! More than 200 underground pipes were removed and a natural waterway created in their place (what we refer to as 'daylighting'). Revegetation and general landscaping were completed, along with seating overlooking the creek. This stage also saw the renewal of a 450 metre section of the Blind Creek Trail which was widened and replaced with concrete, and a new gravel path was created on the southern side of the creek for people who would like to wander at a slower pace and enjoy the sights and sounds of the waterway. *Thank you to Eco Projects who delivered the works in this zone on our behalf.*



STAGE 1.2 - ALMOST COMPLETE



Works for this zone are almost complete. This stage has also involved the daylighting and naturalisation of Blind Creek, the renewal of a section of the Blind Creek Trail which was widened and replaced with concrete, and construction of an informal gravel path that meanders along the waterway.

General landscaping has been completed and revegetation is in progress; this will be complete by the end of September 2023. *Thank you to State Plant Hire for delivering these works on our behalf.*



PROJECT STAGES



Timeline and activities – This is the biggest project to be delivered under the Reimagining Your Creek Program so far, which is why it's being delivered in two main stages with multiple work zones.



STAGE 1.3 - IN PROGRESS



Works in this zone involve the construction of new wetlands and informal gravel paths. Extremely wet conditions on site during the winter months have delayed the completion of these activities, but we expect that these works will be finished by the end of 2023.

The new wetlands will play an important role in improving water quality in Blind Creek, which flows into Dandenong Creek. The wetlands will act as a filtering system, removing sediment, nutrients and pollutants from the water.

State Plant Hire are delivering these works on our behalf.



STAGE 2.1 - STARTING FROM MID-SEPTEMBER 2023



This is the biggest and most exciting stage of the project and includes the daylighting and naturalisation of Blind Creek, boardwalks around new wetlands, new shared paths, a footbridge and stepping stones over the creek, and lots of native plantings.

We expect that the works in this zone will be complete in mid to late 2024. This works zone, outlined in the map below, will be closed to the public while works are underway to transform this space, but you'll still be able to use the Blind Creek Trail around this area.



STAGE 2.1 - WORKS ZONE





What is 'daylighting'?

Daylighting refers to the removal of underground stormwater drains and transforming them into natural waterways and open spaces. Replacing the existing piped waterway with an open and flowing channel, Blind Creek has been restored to a more natural state.



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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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:

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 www.knox.vic.gov.au/lewispark



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