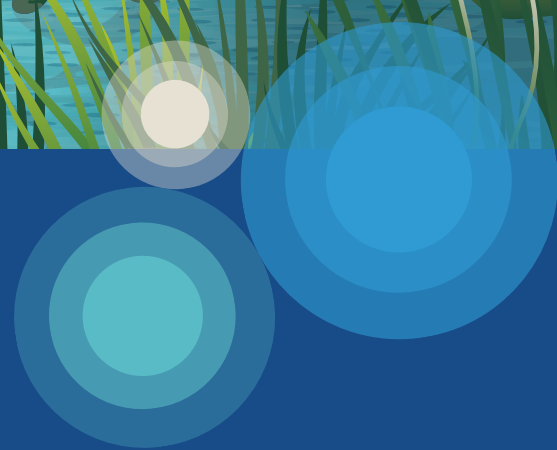




MILL PARK WETLANDS UPGRADE PROJECT

Community Bulletin - February 2024



Project overview

To continue our vital work of safeguarding our waterways, Melbourne Water is set to begin work to enhance the Mill Park Wetlands, located in The Lakes Reserve.

A constructed wetland is a series of shallow, densely-planted, man-made ponds that help filter stormwater. Wetlands act like ecological kidneys, filtering out pollutants that wash into stormwater from roads, concrete, parks and gardens.

This project will make sure that the Mill Park Lakes and Wetlands keep working the way they were meant to, filtering out nitrogen and harmful pollutants and keeping our rivers and creeks healthy.



Why is this work necessary?

The Mill Park Lakes and Wetlands do not meet standards for stormwater treatment quality and need to be upgraded to function more effectively.

- The wetlands are currently too deep for plants to grow.
- The wetland levels will be adjusted to create a healthy environment for plants to thrive.
- 120,000 additional plants will be added to the wetlands to filter water and improve the water quality.



What do the works involve?

- Removing vegetation within the current wetland where it is creating bottlenecks and preventing water flow.
- Reducing the water level of the lakes temporarily drying the wetlands so work can be completed.
- Reshaping the base of the wetlands with machinery to reduce water depth and support plant growth.
- Upgrading the wetland inlets, outlets and pipes to renew old infrastructure and better manage water flow.
- Revegetating the wetlands with new plants which will support the filtering of pollutants.

Local impact of the works

We will make every effort to minimise the impact of these essential works on the local community and the environment, however during construction you may notice:

- Closures of the pedestrian board walk and other paths around the wetlands. Diversions will be in place to safely guide the community around the work site.
- Noise from construction activity.
- Dust.
- Increased truck movements.
- Some odour as stockpiled sediment dries out.
- Removal of some vegetation.





What is a wetland?

Wetlands are not merely constructed lakes. They have a specific function in removing pollutants from stormwater.

Without wetlands, pollutants would flow directly into Darebin Creek and the Yarra River, and eventually into Port Phillip and Westernport Bays, where they can be more harmful to the community and environment.



HOW DO WETLANDS WORK?



They typically have three parts that work together to help filter stormwater:



1 The inlet zone is where water from your nearby river or creek flows into the wetlands. This makes it easier for debris, sediment, and other contaminants to sink to the bottom.

2 Water is filtered by micro-organisms and algae that grow on the plants, especially nitrogen, to help reduce algal blooms.

3 After water has spent 1-3 days in the wetland, it is released back into the local river or creek.

These parts all work together to treat stormwater and improve the quality of water entering our local waterways.

How is a wetland different from a lake or pond?

Many new developments have wetlands, which provide open spaces for the community. They also play an important role in stormwater treatment.

Unlike lakes or ponds wetlands remove pollutants from stormwater before it reaches rivers, creeks and eventually the ocean.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE



Commencing works mid 2024 with works in two stages:



STAGE ONE - Reshaping the bed of the wetland will commence in late 2024 and take approximately 18 months to complete.



STAGE TWO - Revegetating the wetlands. Over 120,000 wetland plants are expected to be planted by late 2026.

Working hours will be between 7am and 6pm (weather permitting), Monday-Friday and Saturdays from 7am to 1pm with the approval of Melbourne Water in accordance with EPA guidelines. Quiet work will take place outside these hours including arriving and leaving work, cleaning up and office work.

What are the benefits?

Healthy wetlands are good for the environment and the community in many ways. They:

- Improve the health of our local waterways.
- Encourage biodiversity and a place for native plants and animals to thrive.
- Make the area more attractive, creating a place where people can exercise, explore and relax.

POP UP INFORMATION SESSION



Have a coffee catch up with the project team

Come and visit us at our pop up information session:

1 The Promenade, South Morang (grassed area opposite)

Saturday, 24 February 2024

9.30am–11.30am

There will be project team members available to answer any questions you might have about the project.

We will keep you informed about the progress of this project. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the project team on the details below.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING



For more information you can scan the QR code and visit the project's webpage. If you are interested in other projects that are happening near you, visit Melbourne Water's website.



1800 931 140



MillParkWetland@melbournewater.com.au



www.melbournewater.com.au/MillParkWetlands



To access the TTY and Interpreter Services: TTY 133 677
Interpreter: 131 450

