



Constructed Wetlands

Melbourne Water manages over 450 wetlands throughout Melbourne to naturally treat stormwater before it enters our creeks, rivers and oceans.

What is a constructed wetland?

Constructed wetlands are a series of shallow, densely-planted, man-made ponds that help filter water through physical and biological processes. They provide a natural way to treat and remove pollutants from stormwater before it enters our creeks, rivers and oceans.

Wetlands are usually located within floodplains and reserves and are designed to treat stormwater from local waterways and drains.

How do they work?

Constructed wetlands typically have three parts that work together to help filter stormwater and protect it from flooding:

- inlet zone – a sediment basin that removes coarse sediment
- macrophyte zone – a shallow area densely planted with aquatic plants and the main part of the wetland, which removes fine particles and dissolved pollutants
- high flow bypass channel – lets excess water flow around the wetland without damaging the plants

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

What are the benefits?

Constructed Wetlands provide a number of environmental and community benefits including:

- Improving the health of our local waterways.
- Encouraging biodiversity and a place for native plants and animals to thrive.
- Improving the amenity of local areas by creating usable public open space for a range of recreational activities.

- For more information about constructed wetlands, go to www.melbournewater.com.au/ or call 131 722