



How to get here

- Cycle:** Take the Maribyrnong River trail.
- Tram 57:** Stop number 41 on Maribyrnong Road. It is a 2km walk to the wetland.
- Bus 467:** Get off at the stop on the corner of Tilba Street and Brunel Street. It is a 1km walk to the wetland.
- Drive:** Car parking provided in the park.
- Difficulty:** Easy.
- Surface:** Flat gravel, wheelchair accessible.
- Dogs:** Dogs must be on-lead at all times throughout Afton Street Conservation Park. The nearest off-lead park is Chifley Road Reserve Melway 28 A6 (opposite Afton Street footbridge).



The wetland consists of five linked ponds. The sediment pond acts as a natural filter for large pollutants such as dirt and rubbish. The treatment ponds have banks densely covered in native plants that treat and clean stormwater through natural biological processes. The processed clean water then flows to the irrigation pond.

Some of the treated water is used to irrigate local ovals, the remainder flows into the Maribyrnong River and then on into Port Phillip Bay.

Benefits of the wetland include:

- Encouraging greater variety in flora and fauna
- Irrigation supply for local ovals
- Improvements to water quality
- Educational opportunity
- An environment for the community to explore

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Afton Street

Conservation Park Wetland

A self-guided walk through an urban wetland



Afton Street Conservation Park Wetland

was created in 2010 and is part of the Afton Street Conservation Park, located 6km north west of the Melbourne CBD. The park sits along the Maribyrnong River and a small tributary, known informally as Smileys Creek, runs through it. The Maribyrnong River is Melbourne's second largest river and the waters of this river flow to Port Phillip Bay.

The custodians of the land are the Wurundjeri Willam Aboriginal People, a clan of the Woiworong. Activities on the land after the 1850s included farming and later, testing and disposal of munitions by the Department of Defence. In 2004 the land was set aside for public open space and it is now a conservation park which contains significant remnant vegetation. The low lying flood plain at the end of Smileys Creek provided a wonderful opportunity to establish a wetland.

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CVV1457 JohannaVillanDesign

A self-guided walk

This self-guided walk takes you on a journey around Afton Street Conservation Park Wetland.

Take the walk and learn more about the features of this urban wetland at your own pace. Look out for information signs which describe the history, plants and wildlife of the wetland.

It is about a 20 minute return walk if you follow the suggested trail. However if you have time, take a walk around the wider conservation park. There is signage along the way to explain more about the area.

Wetland tour

- 1 Your journey starts at the orientation map at the main entry.
- 2 Walk across the bridge.
 - a. To the right you can see Smileys Creek. Stormwater flows down the creek from surrounding suburbs. The stormwater contains pollutants from roads, roofs and gutters.
 - b. To the left you can see the sediment pond. This pond removes the large pollutants such as soil and rubbish.
- 3 Continue along the path and on your left you will walk alongside the treatment ponds. These ponds are of varying depths; this ensures that the stormwater is exposed to large amounts of sunlight and to the aquatic plants within the ponds. Both act in different ways to clean the stormwater.

Continue along the path and veer left when you reach the directional signpost.



Afton Street Conservation Park Wetland Map



- 4 To the left of the path you will see a sign with a diagram which explains the ecosystem of the wetland. Take a few minutes to look for some of the plants and animals in the diagram, some will be very hard to see, especially the ones that live under the water!

Continue walking around the wetland and to the left you will see a large pond. This is the irrigation pond.

- 5 The cleaned stormwater finally flows into the irrigation pond where it is stored and then used to irrigate sports fields in parks nearby. Using this water for irrigation reduces the need to use potable water and means the ovals can be kept green throughout the year.

If you continue along the path you will come across a boardwalk which crosses over the wetland. Take some time to read the information signs.

- 6 There are several types of duck that will from time to time make the wetland their home. They will use the plants for protection and find food in the water and plants. Ducks should not be fed bread or other human food as it is bad for them and can cause them to have health problems.
- 7 Plants are an important part of the stormwater cleaning process. The plants roots draw up the water and remove the pollution as part of their natural cycle. The micro-organisms that live on their stems also treat the stormwater in this way.