

Community Infrastructure Accessibility and Sustainability Program: Patterson River

Funding announced in the May 2022 State Budget will support a significant uplift to community facilities at Patterson River. We're investing in improved trail access, picnic facilities, water safety and shared use zones. Safety and accessibility works will start immediately using the best of Victoria's local suppliers and businesses.

Patterson River is a bustling waterway located in Melbourne's southeast, surrounded by the suburbs Carrum, Bonbeach, Bangholme, and Patterson Lakes. It spans two council areas – Kingston and Greater Dandenong. Visitors and locals alike are drawn to the protected waterway for fishing, kayaking, walking, and cycling. When the sun is shining (and the fish are biting), Launching Way is a hive of boating activity. It supports the safe passage of an endless stream of fishing boats heading into Port Phillip. The river and surrounding trails draw diverse recreationalists year-round, creating a unique and popular open space for everyone to enjoy.

The river has two distinct precincts separated by the weir at Wells Road/Mornington Peninsula Freeway. Below the weir is the tidal Lower Precinct and above the weir is the freshwater Upper Precinct that includes the National Water Sport Centre.

MASTERPLAN IN THE MAKING

Existing plans, including the Concept Plan 2018 and National Water Sport

Centre Landscape Plan 2020, will be merged to create a comprehensive Patterson River Masterplan. This plan will be released mid-2023. The masterplan will utilise the community input provided through 2018-2020 while also bringing new ideas to the area. Once released, we'll invite interested community members to provide additional detail to shape each project, turning aspirations into on-ground works.

UPGRADES FOR THE LOWER PRECINCT

Patterson River's Lower Precinct is defined between Station Street and Wells Road bridges, including Launching Way and shared trails. The recently announced \$3.5 million in funding will deliver trail access improvements from side streets, new picnic facilities and detailed plans for new visitor attractions such as boardwalks on the northern side.

Trail access ramps

Multiple access points from surrounding streets will be redesigned to provide a gradual rise to allow easier access for pedestrians, bike riders, and visitors with limited mobility. This means fewer steep ramps, which reduces the need for stairs and bulky handrails where possible. Priority will be given to delivering new ramps at Riversdale and True Avenues, as well as completing designs for all street access ramps on the northern and southern sides of the river trail.

Launching Way entrance road redesign

Pedestrian and vehicle traffic will be separated along Launching Way entrance road (McLeod Rd to the ticket





kiosk), supporting safer transit to and from the river. The current toilet block and redundant ticketing kiosk will be consolidated into a proposed new shared building, freeing up space for additional car and trailer parking. Understanding the peaks and troughs of this site will help us create open space that better caters for the varied uses of the shared waterway.

New picnic spaces

More shade and shelter will be coming to the shoreline of the river, providing areas of reprieve from the ever-changing elements. New spaces for resting and picnics will be designed to better connect with the Carrum Promenade and surrounding trails.

Improved trails

Widened trails and increased wayfinding signage will create an easier commute for all who chose to take the river trail, be it by bike, on foot or with four-legged companions. Problem spots causing erosion or trip hazards will also be managed.

Paddle access

A new paddle craft launching facility will be created downstream of the Launching Way boat ramp to cater for kayaks, canoes, and SUPs. The paddle launch zone will connect to existing clubs and help separate powered and non-powered craft.

Community hub

Design of a new community facility located at the current Parks Victoria office will propose a single modern facility offering attractive space for potential new services. The scope of this new facility will be informed by local residents and businesses. Note that

only design, not construction, is currently funded.

Pop-up spaces

Embracing the transient nature of the river's visitors, new pop-up areas will be built into different zones of the precinct. These can potentially be used for market stalls, coffee vans, clinics, educational events and more.

UPGRADES FOR THE UPPER PRECINCT

Patterson River's Upper Precinct is defined from Wells Road bridge to Pillars Road, including the National Water Sports Centre. In addition to the \$3.5 million funding for the Lower Precinct, an additional \$3 million will deliver parking, pathway and facility enhancements, while also increasing water access and viewing areas.

Road entrance and parking improvements

Improvements to the grass carpark at the National Water Sports Centre will include landscaping, pedestrian trail and storm water management works. Investigations will also inform the creation of a new small 24hr public carpark at the River End Road entry. This will enable relocation and installation of a new automatic gate to allow more space for queued turning vehicles, avoiding potential congestion on the main road.

Safer and more accessible trails

Trail upgrades and road resurfacing throughout the precinct will improve access from the carparks over the levee bank. Reducing trip hazards and installing new ramp access will create Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)



compliant walkways to key spectator zones.

Improved spectator facilities

Shade and picnic areas will be upgraded, with more vantage points placed periodically along the northern riverbank. Working with Melbourne Water, detailed plans will be developed for terraced seating on the levee banks.



Powered vessel berthing

New powered vessel pontoons will enable additional berthing options adjacent the main boat ramp, suitable for varied vessels including coaching ribs and drag boats. Pontoon upgrades will also be made at the Ski Club and emergency ramp.



Safety and security upgrades

Continued improvements to security systems will deter vandalism and support prompt incident response.

The look and feel of the grass car park area will be improved with subtle barriers. Options such as garden beds, bollards and low rail fences will be prioritised over current barbed wire fencing. A new pedestrian trail will connect the parking to the main precinct.

Water course improvements

Hydrographic surveys and sediment analysis will inform the dredging requirements to maintain the rowing course and the feasibility of a second water course upstream. Note that dredging is currently not funded.

New community facility

Significant progress has been made towards the design of a new community building supporting multiple user groups

under the one roof. The intention of a new facility is to replace and consolidate decrepit buildings, improving the overall amenity of the National Water Sports Centre and allowing for more diverse use.

The current funding will update these designs, incorporating best practice for all ability access, so we're spade ready. Note that construction is currently not funded.

WHEN WILL WORK START?

Improvements will be delivered across a two-year period, with designs, approval and tendering already started.

WHO IS LEADING THE PROJECTS?

Funding has been provided to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to lead project delivery. Melbourne Water will maintain oversight of the flood protection scheme, ensuring new developments maintain the integrity of levee banks. Parks Victoria continue their role as waterway manager. Parks Victoria have an on-site presence at both precincts and remain a conduit for public and stakeholder enquiries to DEECA and other agencies.

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

Subscribe to receive our newsletters and updates and to register your area of interest. To subscribe, email Patterson.river@delwp.vic.gov with the subject "subscribe" to be added to the mailing list.

Project signage will be installed at key locations within the precinct to inform of upcoming opportunities to be involved and schedule of works.



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