parknotes

Shepparton Regional Park



Visitor Guide

Shepparton Regional Park is centred on the River Red Gum forests along the Goulburn River. The 2786ha park lies between Shepparton and Mooroopna



"Gulpa Gaka Anganya - Gaka Yawal Ngulla Yenbena Yorta Yorta Woka"

Welcome friend - Come walk with us the people, on Yorta Yorta Country

The Aboriginal Traditional Owners, the Yorta Yorta people welcome you to Shepparton Regional Park. We ask that you treat it with respect and care for it as an extension of yourself.

Kinship to land is a vital part of Yorta Yorta life. Areas such as the Shepparton Regional Park provide an important opportunity for kinship to land to continue.

"The dreaming gave us our lore that binds us to the land through fundamental values passed on by our creation ancestors. They explained to us how the natural world was created and how the geographical features where formed and must be cared for. To this day our spiritual connection to the woka (land) and walla (water) continues. As keepers of the land we are bound to continue to preserve our cultural connection".-Yorta Yorta Elder

The Yorta Yorta people have a long association with the park. Scarred trees, mounds, stone artefact scatters and middens are some of the sites of significance that can be found in this park, particularly along the lower reaches of the river.

The Victorian Government created Shepparton Regional Park, along with other new and expanded parks, in June 2010 to protect and enhance the River Red Gum forests in Victoria.

Enjoying the park

The forests along the Goulburn River, particularly areas close to Shepparton, are popular for camping, fishing, canoeing, bushwalking and a variety of other recreational activities.

'The Flats' Aboriginal Historic Walk

This 4.3km loop walk starts at the KidsTown carpark (between Shepparton and Mooroopna and highlights the significance of this area, known as *The Flats*, to the Yorta Yorta people. The inhabitance of this area by Yorta Yorta people after the historic Cummeragunja walk off in 1939 was a landmark moment in human rights struggles for indigenous people nationwide. This serene area is filled with River Red Gums, various native grasses and other special flora and fauna species.

Canoeing – conditions for canoeing are enhanced by the summer releases of water from Lake Eildon.

Sightseeing and picnicking – enjoy many scenic views along the river from high river banks.

Swimming is popular, particularly near townships where the river is easily accessible.

Fishing - This stretch of the Goulburn is fairly shallow with plenty of snags, so preferred boating is by smaller craft. Steep banks predominately line the river, with sandbars and access points dotted throughout. Informal boat ramps are scattered along the river at popular access points.

Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Spiny Freshwater Crayfish are found in the river.

A current Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required for fishing in waters south of the Murray River including the Goulburn River. A NSW Freshwater Recreation Fishing Licence is required for fishing in the Murray River.

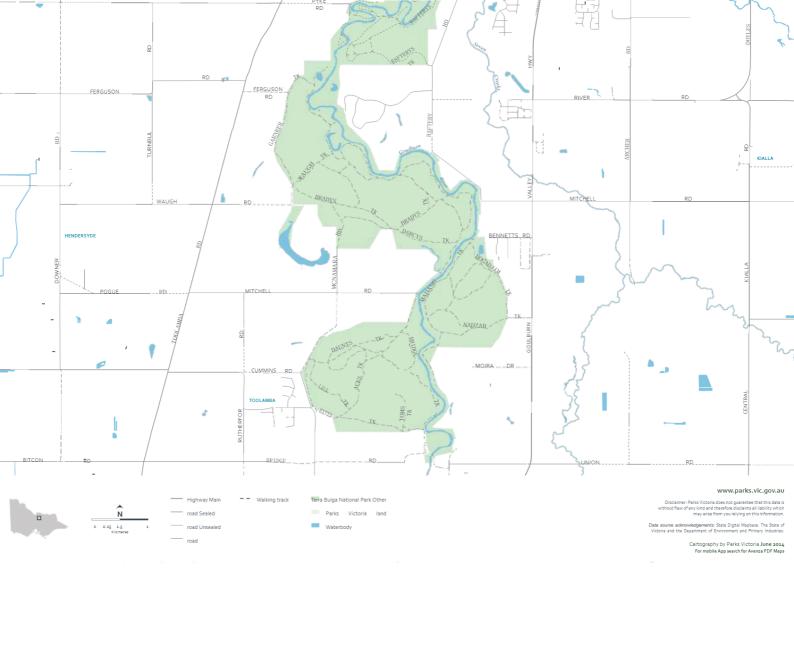




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For further information
Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963
or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Shepparton Visitor Information Centre, Victoria Park Lake Wyndham Street Shepparton VIC 3630 Freecall - 1800 808 839

Caring for the environment
Help us look after your park
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish home with you for recycling or disposal

All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law

> Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

> > Firearms are prohibited

No fires may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban.

Gas or electric barbecues may be used provided:

- a 3 metre area is cleared of anything flammable
- at least 10 litres of water is available for immediate use
- an adult is in attendance at
 all times

Shepparton Regional Park is in the Northern Country Total Fire Ban District

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.

If in doubt call the Victorian

Bushfire Information Line
on 1800 240 667

Collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Be fire ready and stay safe

On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or visit cfa.emergency.gov.au.

Goulburn Heritage River

The Goulburn Heritage River was declared in 1992 in recognition of it unique natural, recreational, scenic and cultural values.

It is Victoria's second largest river in terms of length, catchment area and annual flows.

River flows are highly regulated by two major storages – Lake Eildon and Goulburn Weir.

The Goulburn Weir was the first major irrigation scheme in Australia.

Major flooding now occurs once every ten years, while before regulation, flooding would have occurred at least every two years.



Plants and animals

The River Red Gum forests and Yellow and Grey Box woodlands between Shepparton and the Murray River are notable in terms of size, lack of disturbance, diversity and botanical 'intactness'.

The River Red Gum forest has areas of grassy and shrubby understory, plus a large number of wetlands and billabongs providing habitat for a number of significant fauna species including Brush-tailed Phascogales, Barking Owls, Royal Spoonbills and Musk Ducks.

Areas containing tree hollows and mature Silver Wattle contain habitat of national significance for the rare Squirrel Glider.

Flora species of note include the endangered Grey Billy-buttons, Small Scurf-peas, and Jericho Wiregrass. Reedy Swamp, north of Shepparton, when filled, is a haven for waterbirds including the Glossy Ibis and the Royal Spoonbill.

Unlike many Victorian rivers, the Goulburn River below Shepparton remains largely undisturbed. Instream debris and large snags provide valuable habitat for Murray Cod and other fish species.



Murray Cod

River Red Gums

River Red Gum forests have high natural, cultural and economic values. These forests are coming under increasing pressure from climate change, drought and reduced water flows in the northern rivers. Protecting this precious environment relies on balancing economic and recreational activities with preserving its natural beauty and values.

River Red Gums line the Goulburn River for most of its length. These iconic trees have been known to reach 45 metres and live for more than 500 years. The trees need periods of flooding and can survive inundation for months. Their seeds are washed onto higher ground during a flood and germinate and grow before the next flood reaches them. Hollows and broken branches provide nesting for galahs, cockatoos, cockatiels and various parrots; while fallen branches provide habitat for other animals.

How to get there

Shepparton Regional Park is approximately 2 hours north of Melbourne. Access to the park is from the Midland Highway between Shepparton and Maroondah.

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