

Community Bulletin

9 September 2009

Rehabilitating River Gum Creek in Hampton Park – A Healthy Waterways initiative

In October, the Waterways Alliance on behalf of Melbourne Water will begin the second stage of works to rehabilitate River Gum Creek in Hampton Park.

Similar to Stage One immediately downstream, the project will create a series of vegetated wetland pools along River Gum Creek between Kilberry Boulevard and Quail Court as shown on the attached plan.

Once completed in December 2010 the wetland pools will naturally treat and reduce pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus in River Gum Creek and improve stormwater drainage in the area.

How will the project be constructed and when will works take place?

Construction of the wetland pools and connecting channels is scheduled to begin in late October.

In total about 50,000 cubic metres of soil will be excavated to complete the project with 25,000 cubic metres to be taken off site. At peak times we expect around eight trucks to carry soil from the site per hour.

Drainage and rock work in the creek and wetland pools will follow the completion of the earthworks.

It should take about five months, depending on the weather, to construct the project and prepare the area for revegetation planting.

When will the area be revegetated?

Following construction, the area will be revegetated with over 200,000 native plants creating much improved habitat for wildlife like fish, birds and frogs. The plants will include a large number of aquatic plants, grasses, shrubs and trees.

The majority of planting is scheduled to occur in June 2010 with follow up planting planned for November 2010.

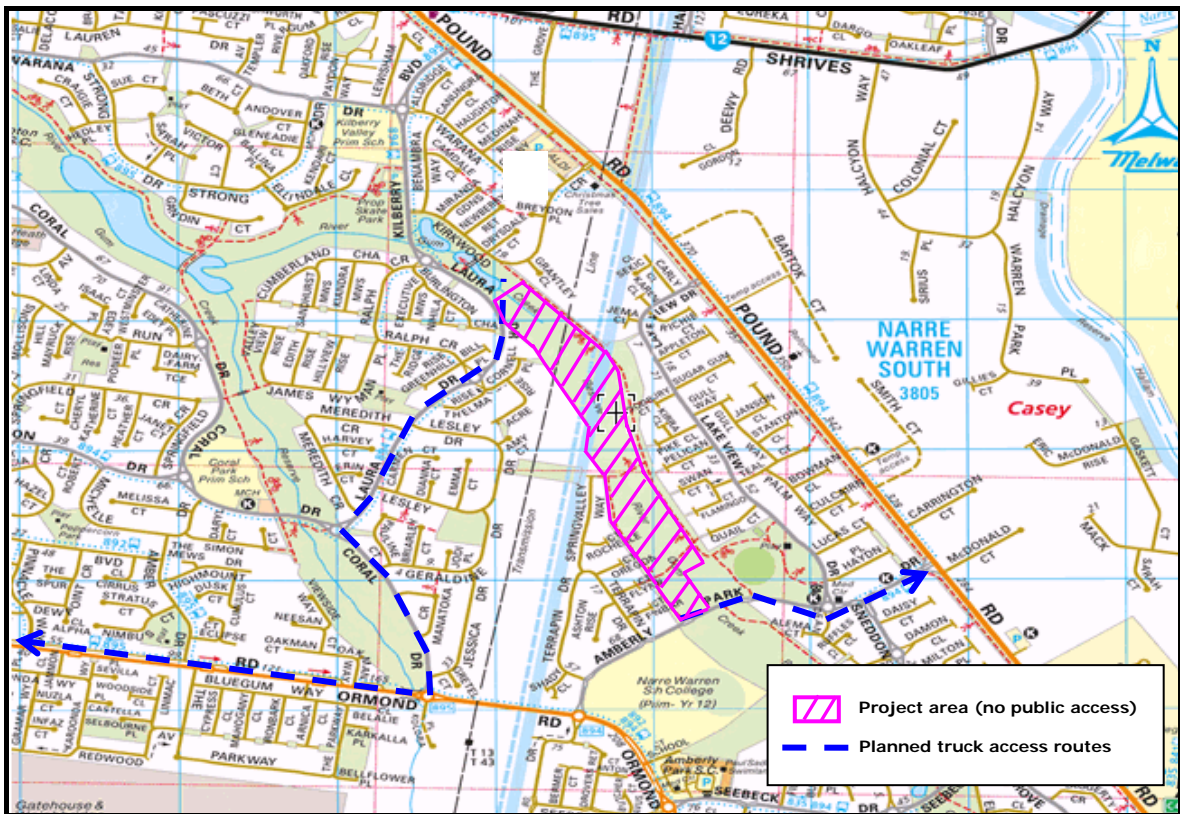
How will the project impact local residents?

We are committed to minimising the impacts of our project on local residents.

The schedule of works has been planned to minimise the amount of soil exposed at any one time to reduce the potential for dust. Water carts will also be used to reduce dust throughout the project and we will stop work during high winds.

Machinery noise is expected during project work hours, 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Planned truck route



Melway reference 96 K10

Access to River Gum Creek Reserve – what will happen to the paths?

Access to the project area in River Gum Creek Reserve will be closed during the works. The shared path on the western side of the creek, which is in poor condition, will be broken up and replaced with a new crushed rock path to be reopened at the completion of the project.

The shared path on the Eastern side of the creek will not be impacted by our project and will remain open during the works.

Will the wetland pools attract more mosquitoes to the area?

We do not expect the wetland to attract more mosquitoes to the area. The new waterway is designed to foster continuous water movement ensuring that the amount of stagnant water in the area is minimised. The improved habitat will support a wide range of wildlife including birds, fish and frogs that will naturally help to control mosquitoes.

Why are we rehabilitating River Gum Creek?

The rehabilitation of River Gum Creek is part Melbourne Water's overall program to improve the health of our rivers and creeks by improving habitat values and reducing pollution levels in stormwater.

The constructed wetland pools are expected to remove about 1,300 kilograms of nitrogen a year and will also treat and reduce other pollutants such as suspended solids and phosphorus.

The project will also improve drainage in the area.

What happened in Stage One of the project?

Construction of Stage One between Seebeck Drive and Quail Court was completed by Melbourne Water in March this year. The area will be revegetated as part of our works in Stage Two.

Meet the Project Manager

Local residents are invited to meet members of Melbourne Water's project team at Hampton Park Library on Wednesday 16 September.

The informal session is a chance to learn more about the project and to ask any questions that you might have.

What: Meet members of Melbourne Water's project team

When: Drop in between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th Sept.

Where: Hampton Park Library, Stuart Ave in Hampton Park (Mel: 96 E8)

Call Martin Stern on 9287 7334 for information about this project. Or call Melbourne Water on 131 722 or visit melbournewater.com.au for general information about other projects to secure a sustainable water future.