

What is a Metropolitan Regional Park?

Metropolitan Regional parks are usually large (100hectare+) parks that provide for different visitor experiences within natural or semi natural settings. They provide a more immersive outdoor experience than local parks by enabling people to experience a more natural environment and provide a break from the urban surrounds. They are of state or regional significance and generally accommodate visitation from a larger area (up to 30-minute drive).



Examples of regional parks in the metropolitan area of Melbourne include Brimbank Park, Braeside Park, Point Cook Coastal Park, Westerfolds Park, Lysterfield Park and Woodlands Historic Park.

These parks are important for community health and well-being, providing opportunities to engage with a natural setting or cultural heritage through informal recreation, volunteering, education or play. They also play a vital role in improving urban ecosystem for example, providing biodiversity corridors, flood mitigation and providing urban cooling.

FACILITIES

Facilities will vary but usually regional parks have car-parking, toilets, shelters and picnic facilities, walking trails, viewing points and areas to support social gatherings and community events. Organised sporting facilities are often located next to regional parks, but not within them.

Many regional parks have well organised volunteer groups and significant volunteer programs which play a critical role in the protection, management and enhancement of parks and natural values. Given the size of regional parks and the key landscape features they provide significant places where Traditional Owners can continue to connect Country.

Three of the key management objectives of regional parks in the metropolitan area are to:

1. Conserve and protect biodiversity, natural landscapes and scenic values to the extent that is consistent with informal recreation
2. Provide for informal recreation for large numbers of people associated with enjoyment of natural or semi-natural surroundings
3. Protect significant cultural and historic sites, landscapes and places, including Aboriginal cultural sites and places.



