

# Westgate Park



## Visitor Guide

Westgate Park is a nature sanctuary located in the heart of industrial Melbourne. Having undergone many transformations before emerging as one of Melbourne's most visible parks, Westgate Park is a vibrant example of how a wasteland can become a flourishing ecological and recreational wetland environment.

### How to get there

Westgate Park is located along the eastern banks of the Yarra River, under the Westgate Bridge. Access is via Todd Rd or near the end of Lorimer Street, Port Melbourne. Melway reference 56 F1.

### Things to see and do

Westgate Park offers a range of attractions and activities within close proximity to the city. The healthy bird population attracts bird watching enthusiasts, and the park has become a breeding ground for the Australian White Ibis.

Popular with cyclists, joggers & walkers, you may wish to take the winding trails around the lakes and along the river, and link up with both the Port Melbourne Foreshore Trail and the Main Yarra Trail. The pathways within the park are shared pathways so please be mindful of other users.

Westgate Park is home to Lyn Moore's Earth Series Sculptures, which are made from natural materials and provide an interesting contrast, adding to the landscape and character of the park.

Pack a picnic or make use of the barbecue facility (cannot be booked) and come and explore this beautiful environment at the city's doorstep.

Visitors to Westgate Park may wish to travel via the bicycle punt service (weekends only) which allows easy access to Scienceworks and the Williamstown Foreshore Trail or simply enjoy the spectacular views of the mouth of the Yarra, the city skyline, Port Phillip and Hobson Bays and the Westgate Bridge.

### A changing landscape

Originally the area was part of a salt marsh that extended north of the Yarra River, up the Maribyrnong River and finished at the present site of Flemington Racecourse.

Sand mining commenced in the area in the 1930's and continued for at least a decade. Part of the excavated land was filled with water, forming the southern (salt water) lake. The remainder of the park was used as a rubbish tip, which operated for 23 years. During World War II an aircraft factory and airfield occupied the site, and to this date a number of aviation industries continue to operate in the area.

The present day Westgate Park is a 54 hectare wetland and parkland area that was developed in 1984 as part of Victoria's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Of particular interest there has been extensive landscaping of indigenous plant species into the various ecological vegetation communities that represent the south-east coast.

### Bird haven

Parks Victoria and the Friends of Westgate Park continue to carry out revegetation works to protect and enhance the habitat for the many species of birds who call Westgate Park home seasonally and permanently.

As a result of this regeneration, Westgate Park now forms a haven for a variety of bird species from around the world. Wading birds such as stilts, ibis and spoonbills feed on the shores of the lakes. Swimmers and divers including ducks, gulls, coots, pelicans, swans and moorhens venture into the deeper water.

### You can help Westgate Park grow

To help preserve and enhance this flourishing ecological haven you can join the Friends of Westgate Park who regularly conduct tree plantings, participate in Clean Up Australia Day and undertake various other activities which benefit the park enormously.

Contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 963 for more details.





Pier 35 Marina Village

Green 'Emergency Marker' signs are located in this park to help pinpoint your exact location in the case of an emergency. Codes are unique to every marker.

In an emergency, call 000 and quote the emergency marker code. Markers are identified on the map with an **E** symbol

For further information see [www.esta.vic.gov.au](http://www.esta.vic.gov.au)

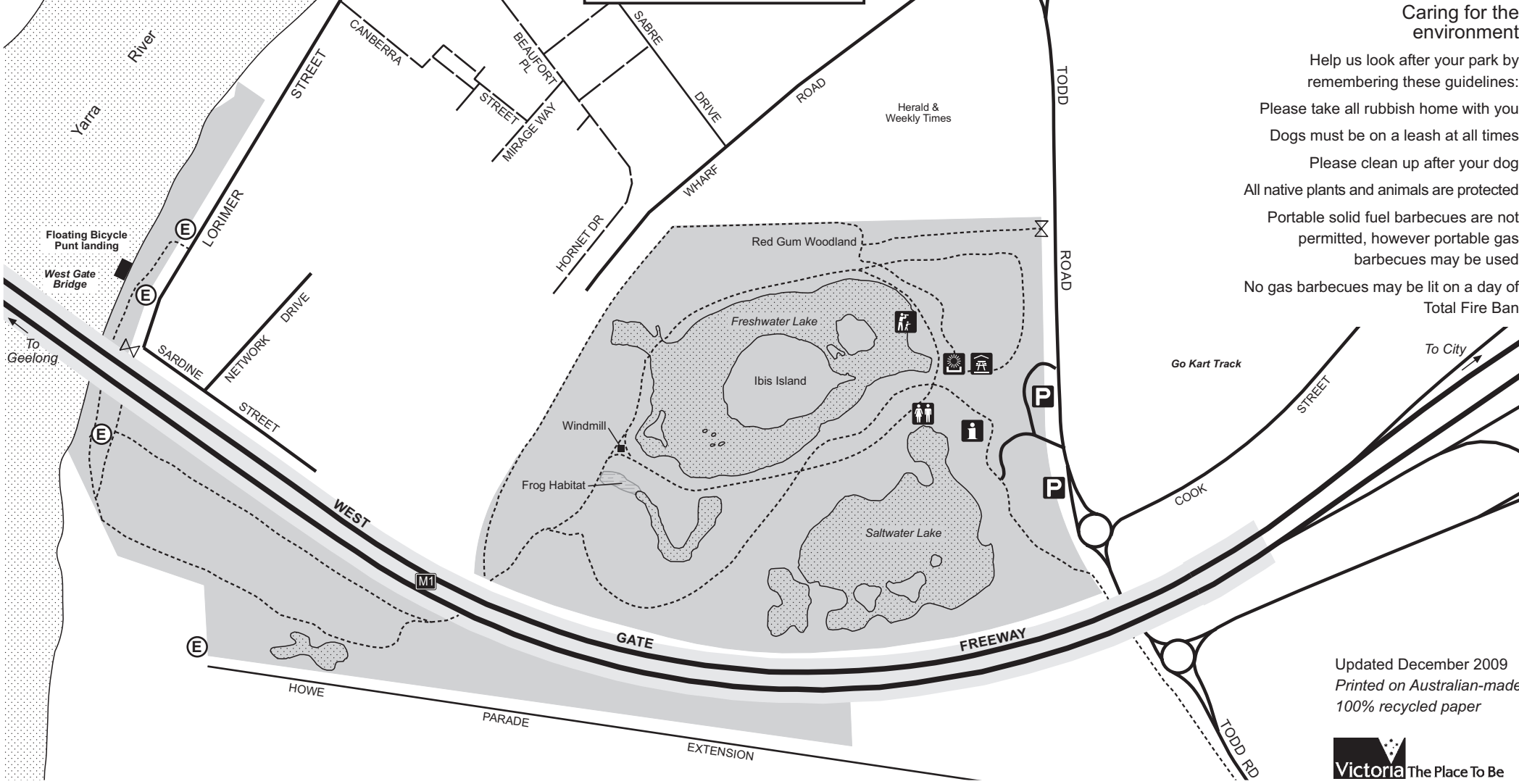
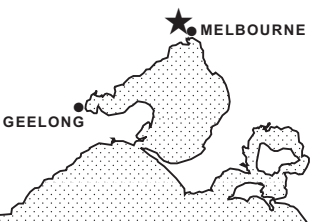
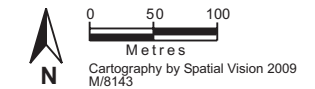
**Emergency Marker**  
Call 000 and quote  
**KNP001**

**Westgate Park**

- Freeway
- Sealed road
- Shared cycle / walk track
- Park
- Water body
- ESTA Emergency marker

**Recreational Facilities**

- Barbecue - Electric
- Carpark
- Park information
- Toilets
- Viewing platform



**Caring for the environment**

Help us look after your park by remembering these guidelines:

- Please take all rubbish home with you
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times
- Please clean up after your dog
- All native plants and animals are protected
- Portable solid fuel barbecues are not permitted, however portable gas barbecues may be used
- No gas barbecues may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban

Updated December 2009  
Printed on Australian-made  
100% recycled paper

