

Maribyrnong Valley Parklands



Visitor Guide

Just a short drive from the heart of the city is the Maribyrnong Valley Parklands featuring Brimbank Park, Greenvale Reservoir and Horseshoe Bend Farm. The parklands offer ideal settings for picnics, walks along the extensive network of trails, fishing, canoeing and bird watching, all set within peaceful parklands surrounded by prolific birdlife.



Brush-tailed possum

Brimbank Park

Recreation

There is a network of cycling and walking tracks, playgrounds, self guided trails and an orienteering course within the park.

The 25km Maribyrnong River Trail follows the river from Keilor to Footscray Road.

Picnics

There are several picnic areas in the park (see map). Gas barbecues and picnic tables are available.

The Leaping Lizard Café at the visitor centre is open during park hours with indoor and outdoor eating areas.

Bird watching

Along the river bank you can spot blue wrens, yellow-tailed Thornbills and flame robins as well as many species of waterbirds.



Black Duck with young © VET

History of Brimbank Park

Europeans first settled Brimbank Park in the 1830s, soon after Melbourne was founded. It derived its name from the practice of the locals driving their stock 'around the brim of the bank' of the Maribyrnong River.

Archaeological surveys at Keilor indicate that Aboriginal occupation extends back 40,000 years, making it among the oldest known human inhabited sites in Australia.

This area was home to the Wurundjeri people. They led complex social and cultural lives interacting with other tribes of the Kulin nation.

Since the early 1840s, what is now called Brimbank Park has been used for various farm activities. In the early years, sheep and cattle were grazed to be sold at the Melbourne market.

From the 1880s, dairy farms and apricot trees took advantage of the rich river terraces.

Plants and animals

Native grasslands sweep across the open plains with majestic river red gums lining the Maribyrnong River.

The wildlife consists of a large variety of birds including parrots, galahs, large wetland birds and birds of prey.

Brush-tail and ring-tail possums dwell within the large river red gums.

How to get there

Brimbank Park is approximately 15km north-west of Melbourne in Keilor East. Follow the Calder Freeway to the Keilor Park Drive exit. The park entrance is 500 metres on the right. (Melways Map 15 B10).

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Horseshoe Bend Farm

In 1854, this land served as the Kellor Village Reserve, allowing it to be used for grazing and any travellers passing through the area. From 1854 up until the early 1900s the farm land was subdivided.

In the early 1900s William O'Neil Jr purchased the property to be used as a dairy farm. After O'Neil's death in the 1930s the farm was subdivided into three to five acre lots. During this time there were various owners and the land was mostly used for orchards and market gardening.

In 2005, Parks Victoria entered into a partnership with WestNet to manage the operations of Horseshoe Bend Farm. WestNet is a not-for-profit organisation providing a range of services for people with disabilities across the western suburbs of Melbourne.

For bookings and information please contact the Allara Centre on (03) 9361 8500.

Animals – A range of farm animals including pigs, dairy cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, peacocks, ducks and other birds live there.

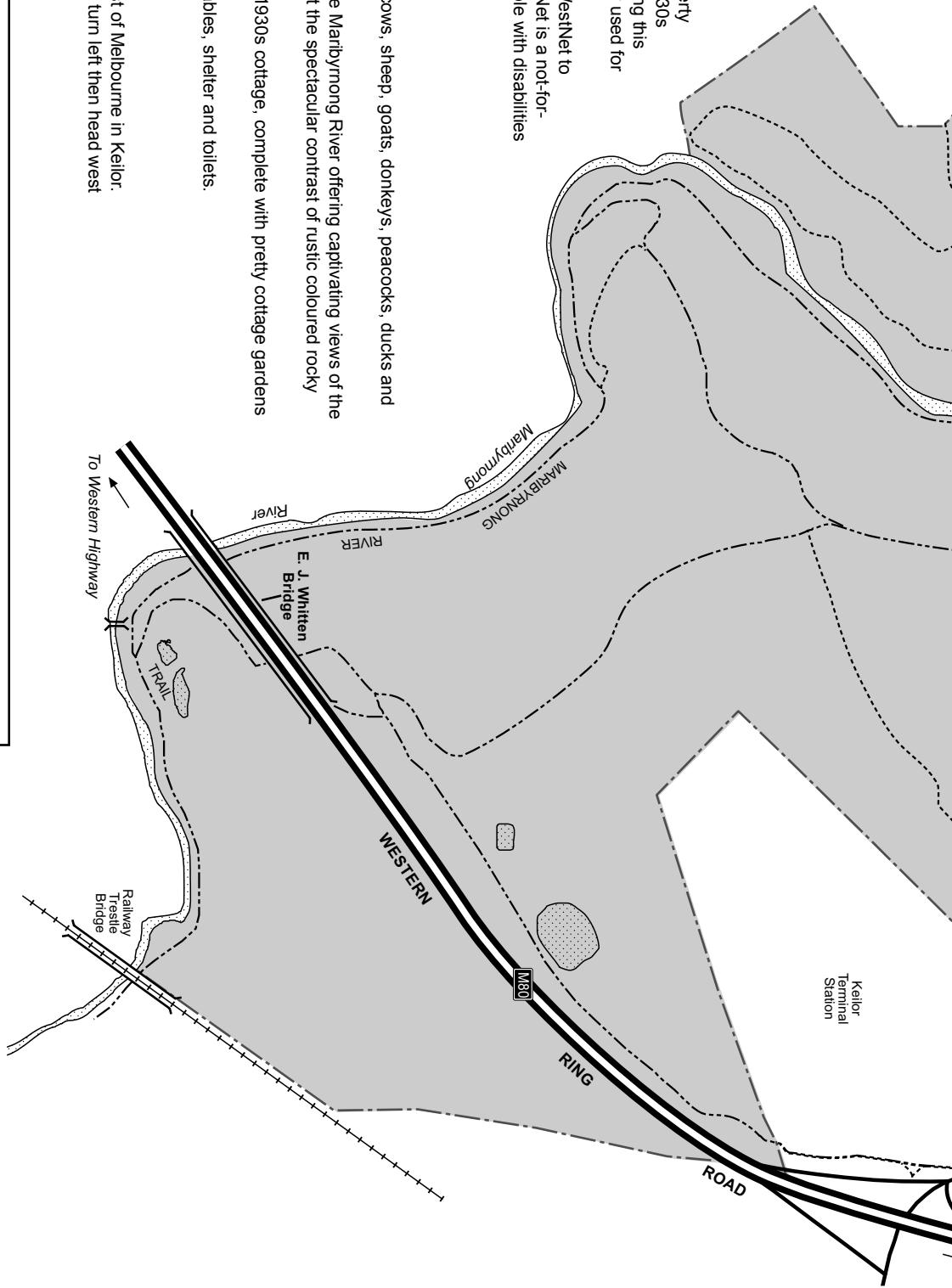
Walking – A 2km walking track runs along the edge of the Maribymong River offering captivating views of the river lined with majestic river red gums against the spectacular contrast of rustic coloured rocky escarpment.

Buildings – The farm features an original weatherboard 1930s cottage, complete with pretty cottage gardens and farm outbuildings.

Picnics – the farm has several picnic areas with picnic tables, shelter and toilets.

How to get there

Horseshoe Bend Farm is approximately 15km north-west of Melbourne in Kellor. Follow the Calder Freeway to the Kellor Park Drive exit, turn left then head west onto the Old Calder Highway (Melways Map 14 K8).



Brimbank Park & Horseshoe Bend Farm

- Freeway
- Highway
- Sealed road
- Walking track
- Shared cycle / walk track

- Park
- Farm area
- Gate

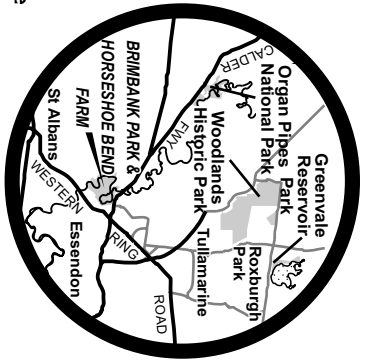
Recreational Facilities

- Baby change area
- Barbecue - Gas
- Cafe
- Carpark
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic table
- Playground
- Toilets
- Toilets for disabled
- Walking trails
- Welland

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M E T R E S
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2006
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Parks VICTORIA



Opening hours

Brimbank Park and Greenvale Reservoir Park are both open seven days a week from 8.30am to 5.00pm (8.30am to 8.00pm during Daylight Savings).

Horseshoe Bend Farm is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. An open day is held every third Sunday of the month except for January. Entry is free.



- 1 Farm Animals
- 2 Animal Nursery
- 3 Duck Pond
- 4 Orchard
- 5 Cottage
- 6 Stables
- 7 Barn
- 8 Pigs

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963

or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Brimbank Visitor Centre
Keilor Park Drive
Keilor Vic 3036
Tel: (03) 9334 0500

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 are permitted at Brimbank
Park and Greenvale Reservoir
Park, but must be kept on a
lead at all times

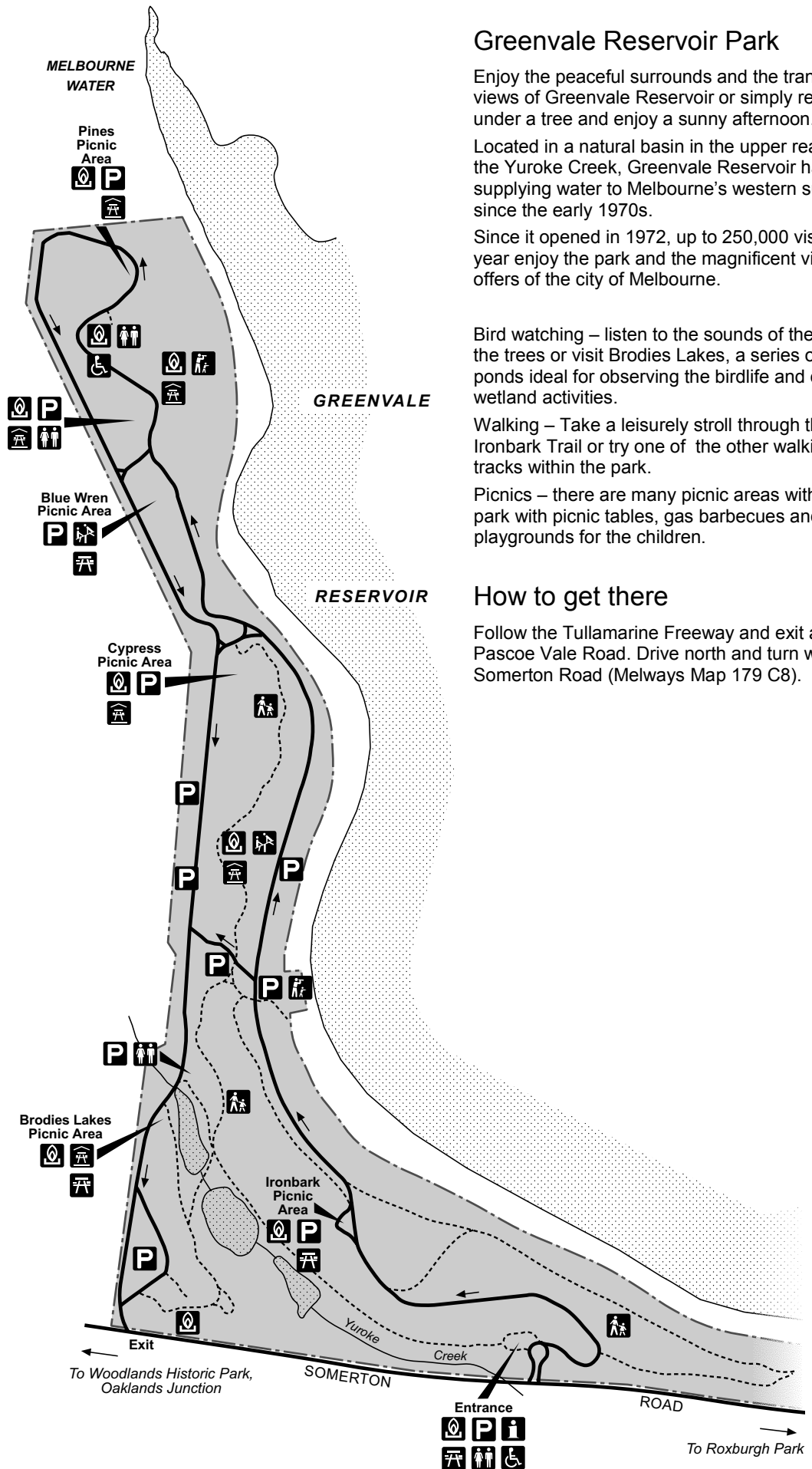
Dogs and other pets are not
permitted at
Horseshoe Bend Farm

Firearms are prohibited

No fires, including barbecues,
may be lit on a day of
Total Fire Ban

Brimbank Park and Greenvale
Reservoir Park are in
the Central Fire Ban District

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



Greenvale Reservoir Park

Enjoy the peaceful surrounds and the tranquil views of Greenvale Reservoir or simply relax under a tree and enjoy a sunny afternoon.

Located in a natural basin in the upper reaches of the Yuroke Creek, Greenvale Reservoir has been supplying water to Melbourne's western suburbs since the early 1970s.

Since it opened in 1972, up to 250,000 visitors per year enjoy the park and the magnificent views it offers of the city of Melbourne.

Bird watching – listen to the sounds of the birds in the trees or visit Brodies Lakes, a series of three ponds ideal for observing the birdlife and other wetland activities.

Walking – Take a leisurely stroll through the Ironbark Trail or try one of the other walking tracks within the park.

Picnics – there are many picnic areas within the park with picnic tables, gas barbecues and playgrounds for the children.

How to get there

Follow the Tullamarine Freeway and exit at Pascoe Vale Road. Drive north and turn west into Somerton Road (Melways Map 179 C8).