

Herring Island Environmental Sculpture Park



Visitor Guide

Surprisingly hidden just 3 km from the city, Herring Island is the only island located on the Yarra River. City dwellers can enjoy a taste of the bush right in the heart of the city at Herring Island which has become home to several outdoor sculptures celebrating the natural environment. Using only natural materials in their construction, these sculptures have become an integral part of the islands landscape.

Things to see and do

Walk the sculpture trail

Explore native flora, fauna and environmental sculptures along a walking trail loop around the island. The walk is accessible for wheelchairs and is approximately 20 minutes as a casual stroll.

Enjoy a picnic or BBQ

A grassy picnic area features free electric BBQs and picnic shelters and is a great location for picnics. Drinking fountains and toilets are also accessible on the Island.

Visit the Gallery

The old Scout hall was renovated to form the Herring Island Gallery. It is open for the summer arts festival and available for functions and exhibitions.

A Natural Haven

Herring Island forms an environmental corridor of wildlife and regional vegetation. The island consists of indigenous forest remains and grassland communities.

The dominant vegetation includes River Red Gums around the perimeter, Silver Wattle, Manna Gum, Southern Mahogany and Wallaby and Spear grass.

The varieties of birds that occupy this vegetation commonly seen include honeyeaters, willie wagtails, cormorants, kookaburras, magpies, wattlebirds and white-faced Herons.

Waterbirds such as the Pacific Black Duck, Dusky Moorhen and Maned Ducks also shelter and forage within the reeds. Possums and lizards are also found on the island.

Location and Access

Herring Island is only accessible by boat. A punt service operates from Como Landing on weekends during summer. (Melways Ref. 2M C3)

Enjoy a river cruise along the Yarra, bypassing the Island with one of several commercial tour operators departing from Southgate. Several commercial tour operators depart from Princes Bridge occasionally stopping at the Island. For more information, contact these service providers.

Alternatively, you can navigate your way along the Yarra River to Herring Island in your own boat. Boating maps are available from the Parks Victoria Information Centre or website.

Swimming is not permitted in the Yarra River and is not permissible for accessing Herring Island.

History

In the early 1900's the bank of the Yarra River, near Como landing was used as a basalt quarry. In 1928, Como Island was formed to help alleviate the likelihood of the Yarra River flooding.

During the 1950's and 1960's the Scouts leased the Island, which was renamed Herring Island, in honour of the President of the Australian Scout Association, Sir Edmund Herring.

From 1970 until 1994 the Friends of Herring Island, Government and local council representatives formed a committee which endeavoured to re-establish indigenous vegetation on the island. Since 1994, Parks Victoria has established Herring Island as a haven for native wildlife and a passive recreational park for Melburnians.



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal.

All native plants & animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way.

Dogs and any other pets are not permitted on Herring Island.

Bikes are not permitted on the Island.

Camping is not permitted on the Island at any time.

Environmental Sculptures

Herring Island is home to a series of environmental sculptures, which are scattered throughout the park. The original concept of bringing sculptures into the park was inspired by the European tradition of placing artwork into recreational spaces. The artists have focussed upon the history and landscape of the site to create pieces from natural materials such as stone, earth and wood and become part of the landscape.

1. Audience

Designed and constructed by Julie Collins, from bluestone rock. *Audience* was designed to represent an arena for visitors to come and perform in.

2. A Hill a River, Two Rocks and a Presence.

Designed and constructed by John Davis, this sculpture represents elements of the past and the spirit of the land, using materials such as timber, vegetation and limestone.

3. Cairn

Designed and constructed by Andy Goldsworthy, using Castlemaine Slate the sculptor has created a monument to growth.

4. Stone House

Designed and constructed by Andy Goldsworthy, using materials such as Dunkeld Sandstone the sculptor has highlighted the importance of discovery and concealment of the island.

5. Steerage

Designed and constructed by Jill Peck, using Harcourt Granite. *Steerage* represents a large-scale boat formed from the western point of the island. Used as a metaphor for journeys, water and knowledge.

6. Tanderrum (Coming Together)

Designed and constructed by Ellen Jose'. Using materials such as Castlemaine slate and indigenous plants the sculpture represents the union of the Kulin nation.

7. Ramp

Designed and constructed by Robert Jacks, from the remains of a 250-year-old red gum tree. *Ramp* makes comment on rural architecture and the era of colonisation.

8. Scaled Stem

Designed and constructed by Robert Bridgewater using Monterey cypress. The stem represents the relationships between form and pattern, depicting the link of nature and culture.

9. Falling Fence

Designed and constructed by John Gollings with Samantha Slicer, using Cypress pine timber. The sculpture is a combination of earthwork and environmental art.

Functions and events

The gallery and some areas of the island can be hired for exhibitions, artistic events and some private functions. Contact Parks Victoria for more information.

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Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today! Herring Island Environmental Sculpture Park

