

5. Seymour Bushland Park



Seymour Bushland Park is a rich place for native plants and wildlife on the edge of Seymour. It was an army camp and training area, but the native vegetation has recovered and the young forest communities support a wide diversity of wildflowers and wildlife including several threatened species. Walking tracks meander through the bushland and pass remnants of the army days. Seymour Bushland Park is protected in perpetuity with a Trust for Nature conservation covenant. The Park is on the Goulburn Valley Highway east of Seymour.

This park is on the land of the Taungurung People. We acknowledge their Elders past and present and emerging, and their care of Country over many millennia. We ask that all people respect this ancient heritage and care for the land we now share.

Directions

The main entrance is on the Goulburn Valley Highway 1.7 km past Kobyboyn Road (coming from Seymour) and opposite Lighthorse Drive (the industrial estate).

A second entrance is a gate on Telegraph Road, 1.3km north of the Goulburn Valley Highway, with space for parking.

Walking Tracks

Long and short loop tracks are available to walkers, along with some old roads that cut through the Park (see tracks and markers on the map).

Short Loop (1360m, blue markers): the track starts at the information board (Point 1) in the main carpark. Follow the track past the remnants of old army buildings, through Grey Box forest down and over a boardwalk across the sometimes-swampy headwaters of South Creek (a branch of Whiteheads Creek). Continue up to a ridgeline and the remnants of more army buildings with roads and many large introduced Sugar Gums (Point 2). To the right (east) is the now former Motocross Track with some intact army buildings. Turn left (west) down a wide old road along the ridgeline. The ridgeline track swings to the left (Point 3) but the route follows a smaller road down the slope to Point 4. From here, a walking track veers left and winds through the trees towards the golf course. It then swings south through very bare open forest with a few Golden and Gold-dust Wattles. It crosses a small swale (Point 5) and up a slope to the ridge, crossing the ridgeline road (Point 6 with a seat). The track runs through a rich wildflower area down to a bridge across South Creek (Point 7). The carpark is a short walk up the hill.

Long Loop (3860m, orange markers): the track begins with the *Short Loop* up to the ridgeline (460m), then continues north through Red Stringybark and Red Box Forest. At the track junction (Point 8), turn right and down to the dam and a seat overlooking the water. Follow the track across the dam wall and through the Grey Box regrowth forest to an old road coming from the Boundary Track (Point 9). Turn left and follow the track signs and arrows to a second old road coming from the Telegraph Road gate (Point 10). Turn left again, across the board walks and a series of bulldozed banks, part of old erosion control works. From here, the track rises and rejoins the loop at the track junction (Point 8) and continues back to the ridgeline road (Point 2). Then either turn right following the short loop (above) back to the carpark (another 900m) or walk from the ridgeline south direct to carpark (only 460m).



Warning: Some sections of tracks are clay and are slippery when damp especially over winter.



Tracks are not accessible to all abilities



Dogs allowed on leads only



Picnic tables are available near the front carpark.



Composting toilet is also near the front carpark.

Landform and Geology

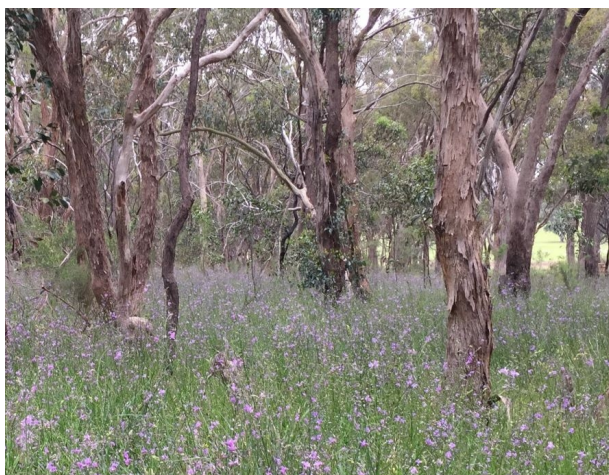
The Park is on a low ridgeline of eroded sandstone, siltstone and shale. Military use of the area caused a lot of soil disturbance with many tracks and other structures and loss of topsoils particularly on west-facing slopes. This has increased runoff and erosion of slopes and waterways.

South Creek runs through the southern part of the Park then runs under the Goulburn Valley Highways through to the Australian Memorial Light Horse Park. The Creek crosses back across the Highway, past the racecourse and through the back of Chittick Park to join Whiteheads Creek north of Wimble Street. In the Bushland Park, the upper sections of the Creek are in a broad swale that holds water after rain. The lower parts follow a more-or-less intact floodplain and gully to the road.

Another creekline runs from the former Motocross area and through the dam to the northern boundary. The lower sections of this creekline are highly modified by erosion control banks and other works.

Vegetation

Early maps describe “hilly ground, sandstone rock, poor gravelly soil” and “thickly timbered with stringybark and box and scrub”. The Park was extensively cleared and disturbed by farmers then the Army with roads, buildings, drains and other works.



Most of the Park is classed as [Box Ironbark Forest](#), but the patches of forest can actually be subdivided into:

Red Box/Red Stringybark forest is on the central ridgeline and along Telegraph Road. This forest has a rich diversity of shrubs and wildflowers more typical of [Heathy Dry Forest](#) than the mapped Box Ironbark Forest. Sifton Bush was dense on some areas as the forest began its recovery, but this colonizer has died back. Many other native species have now

emerged to take over the understorey and ground cover including fields of Sticky Everlasting and Chocolate Lilies.

Old-growth Grey Box woodlands cover the north-east corner of the Park. This is a less disturbed area and has scattered old Grey Box and a wide diversity of shrubs and wildflowers. This is more a typical of a complex of [Grassy Woodland](#) and *Box Ironbark Forest*.



Grey Box regrowth forests cover most of the drier slopes in the Park. This forest has a few large old parent trees and dense regrowth of younger trees that possibly germinated around the 1960s when the Army moved out. Competition between the trees and the loss of topsoils has restricted the growth of the trees and created a dense dry litter layer that is inhibiting understorey and ground cover species. This in turn enhances runoff rather than absorption of rainwater. These regrowth forests

lack the diverse structure and species of the older growth forest. In the north, one area of sloping land is dominated by Red Gum regrowth.

Grasslands have been maintained by slashing on the slope above the dam. Kangaroo Grass and a great variety of other grasses and herbs can be found here including lilies and orchids and a mass of sundews on the damp edges of the dam in Spring.

Two creekline swales are classed as [Plains Grassy Woodland](#) (Endangered) with tall Grey Box, a few River Red Gums and a sward of Weeping Grass.

Many plants have survived the disturbances and are a highlight of the Park. In August, Golden Wattles, Scented Sundews and Greenhood Orchids appear, followed by many other orchids, lilies, sundews, goodenias, daisies as well as shrubby wattles, peas, guinea flowers and heaths. Late flowering wildflowers and variety of native grasses extend the season well into summer.

Plant lists are in preparation.

Wildlife

The large size of this Park, along with bushlands on the adjoining Seymour Golf Course, the Australian Light Horse Memorial Park and the three-chain corridor along Telegraph Road make this area of Seymour a rich place for wildlife. The area has both good connections across the landscape for the movement of animals and enough large old trees with hollows for hollow-dependent species such as possums, gliders and owls.

Mammals seen in the Park include Sugar Gliders and other possums and the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale. Kangaroos move between the Park and Golf Course and Black Wallabies are often seen (sometimes crossing the Highway).

This bushland area is at the edge of the ranges so attracts a diversity of birds from the ranges and the plains, such as the endangered Barking Owl, the vulnerable Diamond Firetail and the brilliant Red-capped Robin.

Lace Monitors (Tree Goannas) may be seen searching for nests in the old trees. Bibron's Toadlet (also endangered) has recently been identified in the wetter swales.

Fauna list is in preparation.

Aboriginal history

The Park is on the land of the Taungurung People. We currently have no direct information on how the Aboriginal people lived in this landscape, but we can try to imagine people gathering food along the dry ridges and creeklines in different seasons over millennia.

History after colonisation

In the late 1830's pastoralists took over the land and Seymour became established as a town on the crossing place over the Goulburn River. From the 1860's the land was divided into smaller holdings. Military use of the area began as a small training camp for the Victorian Mounted Rifles (VMR) in 1885 through to the South African (Boer) War. The VMR became the Australian Light Horse after Federation. The 360 ha Kitchener Military Camp (Seymour Camp) grew as a training camp during the First World War, with up to 15,000 men and hundreds of tents particularly on the lower northern slopes of the now Australian Light Horse Memorial Park. Use of the Seymour Camp continued through the Second World War and only ceased in the 1960's as Puckapunyal was developed. The old footings of buildings, drains and training facilities can still be seen in the Park.

For several years, it remained a neglected area of rubbish strewn wasteland on the fringe of the Seymour township. In 1978, the old Seymour Camp was sold by the Commonwealth Government to the Seymour Shire Council to be used for community purposes. In 1981 following grass-roots community pressure, 65.4 ha hectares of the purchased land was declared as the Seymour Bushland Park and a local Committee of Management began its rehabilitation and upgrading. Part of the land was also sold as a golf course and another area was retained by Council as a motor sports track.

The Committee with help from the Army began a mammoth task of cleaning up the land, removing much of the unwanted material left behind by the Army while leaving important relics and ruins in place. In 2006 the Seymour Bushland Park was placed under the permanent protection of a Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant by Mitchell Shire Council. The community is now lobbying to

include the adjoining and now unused Moto-cross Park and Granite Park Speedway into the Bushland Park.

Management

The Park is owned and managed by Mitchell Shire Council in collaboration with the Seymour Bushland Park Committee of Management. The Park is protected in perpetuity with [Trust for Nature conservation covenant](#).

Further information

Seymour Bushland Park Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/bushlandparkseymour>.

Mitchell Shire Council:

Notes on the Park at: <https://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/our-region/parks-and-playgrounds/seymour-bushland-park>

Seymour Bushland Park Management Plan: in preparation

Taungurung Land and Water Council at <https://taungurung.com.au>

Goulburn Broken CMA Revegetation Guide: information on different ecological vegetation communities, plant communities and plants in the Sugarloaf zone at <https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/revegetation/zones/sugarloaf>

Acknowledgements

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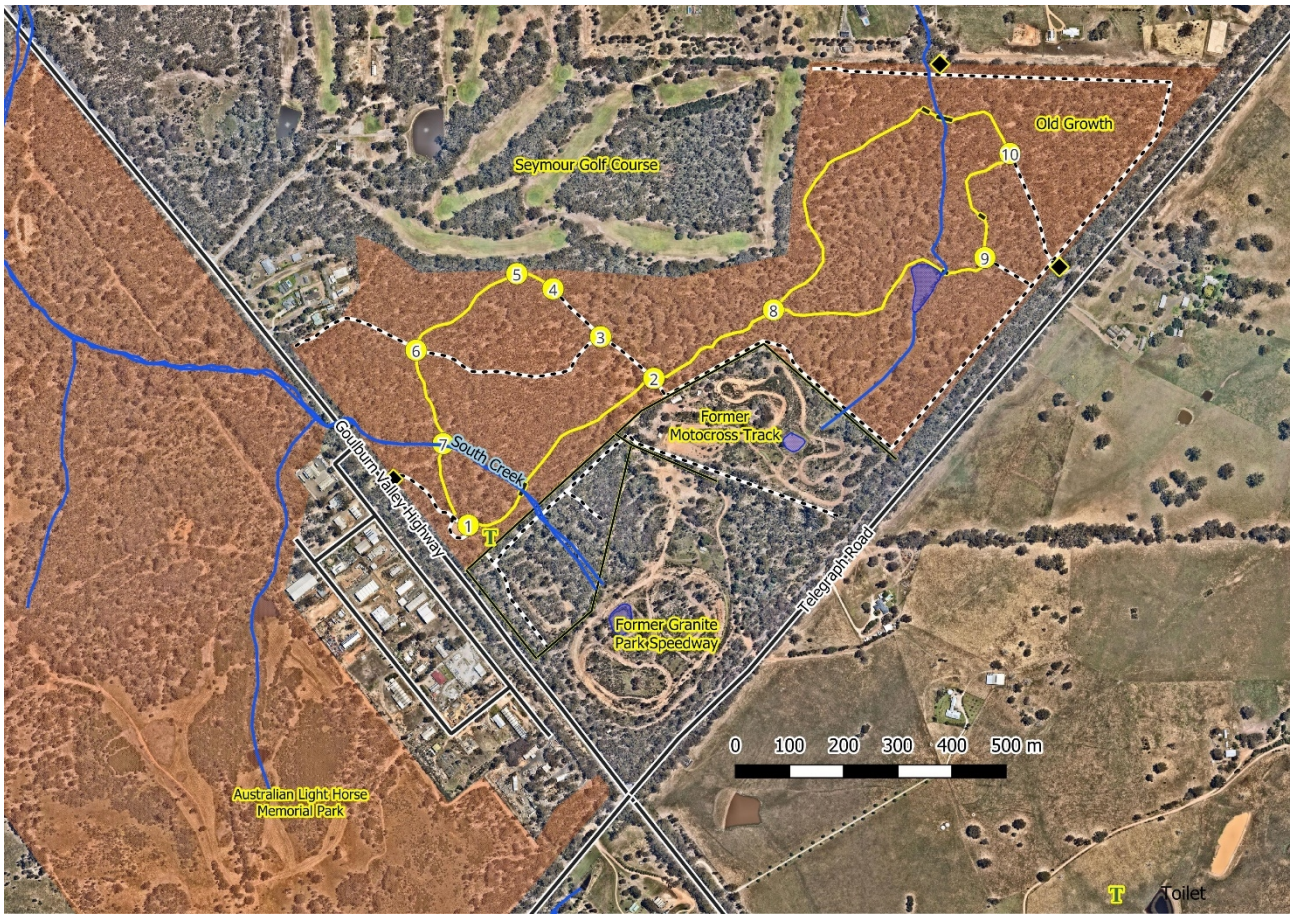
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These notes are a work in progress. If you have any comments or additional information on the nature and ecological history of the Seymour Bushland Park, please contact us at <https://www.beam.org.au/contact>



Seymour Bushland Park



Seymour Bushland Park	Old vehicle tracks	Track markers
Waterways	Walking Tracks	Gates
Roads	Boardwalks	Fences (Motocross, Speedway)