

## 4. Goulburn Park



**Goulburn Park** is on a bend of the Goulburn River on the south side of Seymour. Large old Red Gums shade the Park and riverbank, and are home to many cockatoos, corellas and other birds. It is a popular place for picnics and boating with a boat ramp next to the caravan park and rough tracks providing a delightful riverbank walk upstream to Anglesey Street. The Park is on Guild Street off Anzac Avenue.

*This park is on the land of the Taungurung People and Goulburn Park is an area of [Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity](#). 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

Goulburn Park is at the end of Guild Street off Anzac Avenue. Two entry roads lead to the Park, one off the Esplanade and a second down Trevan Street off Progress Street. There is a caravan park and boat ramp at the end of the Trevan Street. The upstream crown river frontage can be accessed from Anglesey Street.

## Walking Tracks

Goulburn Park is a mix of roads, carparks and mown grasslands, with picnic areas, playgrounds, a fishing platform and toilets. The Park contains the Seymour sound shell with covered stage. Tracks of concrete or gravel link these facilities.

**Levee walk (200 m):** a short walking track runs from the boat ramp west along a built levee between swamp land and river west to the quarry fence. There is no access downstream past the quarry to New Crossing Place.

**Riverbank walk (1530 m to Anglesey Street):** A very rough route follows the crown river frontage upstream from the standpipe in the Park through to Anglesey Street. The route skirts a steep slope below The Esplanade then crosses an old river course that may be impassable even in low floods. Bollards on a fenceline mark the edge of paddocks 250m from the Park.



From here, the route is an easier walk along river terraces then along a natural levee of higher ground sloping away from the river and lines of large old Red Gums. An old fence runs beside the river for 200m but does not exclude stock. At the Anglesey Street track, a rough fenced vehicle track heads north back across the old river course and up to the gate on Anglesey Street.

The route from the Park to the Anglesey Street track is about 1130m, with another 400m back across the old river course to the gate on Anglesey Street. Some sections of the walk to Anglesey Street are very steep and rough in places and a reasonable level of agility is needed.

Walk-in camping is available along the river from Anglesey Street – see below.



	Concrete and gravel tracks around the Park are flat and accessible to all abilities, except for some gravel tracks in wet conditions. The walks along the levee and up to Anglesey Street are definitely not accessible to all abilities.
	Picnic table with shelters and barbecues, a playground and a fishing platform with seats are available in the Park.
	The Goulburn River - Seymour walk-in camping area is on the crown frontage downstream from the end of Anglesey Street. It is managed by the Land Management section of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The camping area has no toilets or other facilities.
	Toilet is available in the centre of Goulburn Park.

## Landform and Geology



The Park is in a large amphitheatre created by old courses of the Goulburn. Like New Crossing Place, this Park also shows changes in the course of the river before and during colonial times. An old river has cut into ancient siltstones and sandstones leaving steep slopes up to Progress Street and The Esplanade. Title maps show that the waterfront of the Park has been cut back by the river in more recent times and the low spit has grown on the inside of the bend in the river opposite the Park.



Upstream to Anglesey Street is another old watercourse with another steep slope onto the higher ground of Seymour. This was also the river course in early colonial times. The levees and swales across the upstream floodplain are other signs of past flood scours and deposits. During floods, sands are deposited to create a levee and sand banks close to the river with heavier clays carried further across the floodplain. These patterns are visible on the map.

At some stage in the last 180 years, the river dramatically changed to its present course leaving the old waterways and billabongs gradually filling with silt.

## Vegetation

The land is [Floodplain Riparian Woodland](#) (Status: Endangered). Large old River Red Gums still present. They are a big feature of the Park and have hollows for many species of wildlife. A few Silver Wattles and other shrubs are mixed with introduced trees and a ground cover of mown grass and ivy on the slopes. Upstream, the riverbank has more native species including River Bottle-brush (with a patch of very old plants) and Sweet Bursaria. Old and young Red Gums are along the bank, in the old waterways and scattered across the paddocks.

## Wildlife

Goulburn Park provides similar habitat to the New Crossing Place further downstream, with the river and backwaters, sandbars for birds roosting opposite the Park, and the large old River Red Gums. The waterways and billabongs are used by a wide variety of native fish, turtles, Platypus and Rakali (Water Rats), frogs, reptiles and of course a huge variety of invertebrates including the Murray Spiny Freshwater Crayfish. The trees also provide habitat for a wide diversity of native mammals and birds, including threatened Squirrel Gliders and probably Barking Owls. Reserves like Goulburn Park are important for the survival of many species.

## Aboriginal history

The Park is on the land of the Taungurung People. As with New Crossing Place and Horseshoe Lagoon, the Taungurung people have a special association with Goulburn River. This is recognized in the listing of the river and its banks as areas of [Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity](#). The river and billabongs and floodplains nestled below the surrounding high ground would have been a rich place to live.

## History after colonisation

The land around Goulburn Park was acquired and farmed by a local family from the late 1850s/60s. Around 1926, the owners of the land granted Goulburn Park to the community when most of the property on the higher land was subdivided as the Goulburn Park Estate. Stories from about that time tell of the produce sold around town from the Chinamen's Garden (now the quarry), and how the river was used for swimming with an island separating the swimming area from the main river. Later, the riverbank had slides, diving tower and diving board.

The swimming pool was constructed by community effort in 1963, with a change rooms and kiosk (at the site of the present toilets). The rest of the park was converted from scrublands to park by community clubs and local people. Water was pumped from the river into the pool and pumped out into the lagoon behind the kiosk (now filled in). The pool may have officially closed in 1966 when the Seymour War Memorial Pool was built. The sound shell was built in 1972.

## Management

Goulburn Park is managed by Mitchell Shire Council and the crown river frontage upstream by the the Land Management section of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The waterway is managed by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

The Goulburn River is a Heritage River under the *Heritage River Act 1992*. The Act provides for the protection of environmental, Traditional Owner, recreation, cultural and economic values, and prescribes how the river is to be managed.

The Crown land in the Park is included in the [Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement](#) that recognises the special association Taungurung people have with the Goulburn River. The [Land Use Activity Agreement](#) provides the Taungurung people with a say in its use and management.

## Further information

Mitchell Shire website has a link to the Park at

<https://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/our-region/parks-and-playgrounds/goulburn-park-seymour>

HG Martindale, Niall Brennan and Seymour Historical Society (1982). *New Crossing Place. The Story of Seymour and its Shire*. Shire of Seymour.

John and Virginia Jennings (2003). *Memories of Seymour*. Seymour and District Historical Society.

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

Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/your-rights/native-title/taungurung-recognition-and-settlement-agreement>.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Parks Victoria: information on the Goulburn River - Seymour Camping Area at <https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/land-management/managing-crown-land/camping-on-licensed-crown-water-frontages/goulburn-river-seymour-camping-area-1>

Victorian Environmental Water Holder. <https://www.vewh.vic.gov.au/rivers-and-wetlands/northern-region/goulburn-river>. Information on the values of the river and on environmental flows.

Goulburn Broken CMA Waterways Management.

<https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/waterway-floodplain-management/waterways>.

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

This Reserve Note was prepared by BEAM Mitchell Environment Group. Thanks to Mitchell Shire Council for their assistance and support. Seymour Historical Society provided information on the history of the park.

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Version: 1    19 May 2024


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





# Goulburn Park, Seymour



	Goulburn Park		Roads		Walking tracks
	Goulburn River		Toilets		Rough tracks

**Note:** the title boundaries are not precise due to changes along the course of the river since 1843 and extensions to the caravan park. The Park boundary on the map is approximated along the river. The upstream crown river frontage is not separated from private paddocks by fences.