





Figure 7 - OPEN SPACE IN MELBOURNE'S INNER SUBURBS

- Existing public open space reservation
- Proposed public open space reservation
- Primary trail network (existing and proposed)





Two birds take advantage of the Gresswell Habitat Link in Bundoora. Open space networks also benefit Melbourne's human inhabitants.

The Government is committed to providing a world-class open space system (see Figure 6). Existing facilities will also continue to be enhanced. Open spaces will be linked by a series of off-road trails and paths, mostly in natural settings (see Figure 7).

The Government will also make Melbourne's open space more accessible and diversify recreational opportunities by:

- developing new parks like Plenty Gorge, Cardinia Creek, Mt Eliza Regional Park and Merri Park in urban growth areas and Kararook Park as part of the Sandbelt in the inner south-east
- upgrading venues such as the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne, Gardens of the Dandenongs and Melton Reservoir
- developing the Capital City Trail and other trails to connect otherwise isolated parkland
- establishing the Yarra Ranges National Park, which will include day visitor facilities at locations such as Mt Donna Buang and Dom Dom Saddle
- upgrading visitor facilities at the popular Dandenong Ranges National Park, Mornington Peninsula National Park and You Yangs Regional Park
- establishing an environmentally friendly facility at the Nobbies on Phillip Island enabling visitors to view Australian fur seals and complementing the facilities at the Phillip Island Penguin Reserve
- redeveloping facilities at the Mt Dandenong Observatory
- developing parks and gardens as venues for community and special interest arts and cultural activities.

A major challenge for park and open space management is to enhance recreation opportunities and enjoyment of the natural environment while at the same time protecting that environment and maintaining flora and fauna diversity.

Development of the open space system will require coordinated action by State Government agencies, local councils and community groups. The protection and enhancement of existing assets will be facilitated by measures such as improved management of public and private land and environmental education to raise community awareness. More specifically, the Government will:

- coordinate community programs including Land for Wildlife, Rail Trails, Coast Action and Volunteers in Conservation
- develop a program for landscaping and planting trees and vegetation in strategic locations, including non-urban areas, major roads and metropolitan gateways.

Melbourne's highly regarded tourism and conservation areas – including the Mornington Peninsula, Western Port, the Dandenong Ranges, the Yarra Valley and Macedon Ranges – will continue to be protected.

Minimising and managing wastes

All Melburnians share responsibility for reducing, recycling and, where necessary, safely disposing of the city's wastes. The whole of Melbourne is now covered by a kerbside collection system for recyclables which is widely regarded as Australia's best recycling and waste minimisation system. The Government is encouraging municipal councils to adopt performance-based contracts with collectors to improve the system. Closer regional cooperation between councils will also improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of municipal waste management.

Initiatives like the Victorian Litter Reduction Strategy and the Clean and Green public information campaign will reinforce Melbourne's image as a clean and attractive metropolis. The Government will build on these initiatives by:

- ❑ using the Australia Centre for Cleaner Production and related government grant programs to help industry – including small businesses – develop cleaner production techniques
- ❑ developing a Household Chemicals Collection Program in cooperation with local government and industry
- ❑ implementing Industry Waste Reduction Agreements to reduce the amount of waste going into land fill and meet Victoria's undertaking to halve solid wastes by the end of the decade.

Contractors collect paper for recycling from a Northcote kerbside.

