



3.3 UNDERTAKE IMPORTANT CAPITAL WORKS

Improve trails and related infrastructure

A continuous trail along both sides of the Maribyrnong River Valley is highly desirable and feasible except in two key locations:

- > *within the Port length* – although the Port of Melbourne Corporation, Maribyrnong City Council, Bicycle Victoria and VicRoads have agreed on an appropriate non-riverfront route between Lyons and Francis Streets in Yarraville and this is under construction.
- > *along the Woods Street frontage in Ascot Vale* – a decision has been made to reaffirm Moonee Valley City Council’s policy of upgrading trail connections along the street network rather than providing access via the river frontage.

During the 1990s an investigation was carried out about acquiring river front land and/or constructing a pontoon near Woods Street in Ascot Vale to provide continuous public access along this stretch of the river.

However, many residents were opposed to the proposal and engineering tests, also conducted in the 1990s, indicated a boardwalk near Woods Street would be impractical. No further investigation of a riverfront connection along Woods Street is proposed.

More pedestrian and cycling crossings in the upper lengths of the Maribyrnong River would also greatly improve recreational opportunities for river users.

Moonee Valley City Council is currently creating a new trail linking the chain of parks along the north-east escarpment of the Steele Creek river length. Brimbank City Council has negotiated with developers for a pedestrian/ bicycle bridge as part of the River Valley Estate to link Avondale Heights and North Sunshine. Other new developments such as the Defence Site Maribyrnong could also provide trail links and new crossings, but some public capital works will be required to complete these links.

Completing a riverside trail beyond the Urban Growth Boundary to link Brimbank Park with the Organ Pipes National Park is identified as a long term priority in Parks Victoria’s *Linking People and Spaces* strategy. However, significant land acquisition will be necessary to achieve this link.

New trails should also meet *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* standards and other relevant standards. In addition, consistent and adequate signage would help to raise awareness of the Maribyrnong River Valley and improve navigation for walkers and cyclists.

Undertake important capital works

Action	Responsibility	Priority
16. Seek funds to complete the trail network along the river and extend into surrounding areas. Priority works include: > a non-riverfront link between the Maribyrnong trail and the Bay trail (See Action 7) > a connection between Afton Street bridge and a future trail through the Defence Site Maribyrnong as well as works to complete missing links along the western river bank in Braybrook > an improved connection along Woods Street to link Maribyrnong and Fairbairn parks.	Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, PoMC, Parks Victoria	Short to long term
17. Seek funds to develop a secondary trail network along the top edge of the valley open space where appropriate.	Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria	Long term
18. Seek funds for improved pedestrian/bicycle crossings, including bridge approaches, in the following locations: > Shepherd bridge > Lynch's bridge > Maribyrnong/Raleigh Road bridge > Canning Street/Cordite Avenue bridge > review options and priorities for the two rail bridges in the lower Maribyrnong.	Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria, DSE, DOT	Short to long term
19. Seek funds for new footbridges in the following locations: > between Brimbank Park and Sunshine North > between Steele Creek and future open space within the Defence Site Maribyrnong > between Edgewater Lake (Burndap Park) and Fisher Parade.	Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria, DSE, DOT	Short to long term
20. Develop trails to nearby attractions (e.g. Highpoint Shopping Centre and Victoria University) and links to residential areas and schools.	Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria, DPCD	Short to long term
21. Develop and implement a consistent signage plan for the entire valley, including route identification, nearby destinations, facilities along the valley, public transport and interpretation of the valley's history and assets.	Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria, DSE, PoMC	Short term
22. Develop priorities for upgrading ancillary facilities including seats, shade, lighting, fountains, toilets and bicycle parking.	Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria	Long term
23. Seek funds for river-based infrastructure based on the Water and Land Access Plan when finalised. High priority works include: > reinstating the Flemington Racecourse landing > a new pontoon for the Footscray Boat Club > a canoe/kayak landing at Pipemakers Park > a floating landing at the Tea Gardens > a floating landing at Poyntons Nursery > improving access for disabled people.	Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils, Parks Victoria, DSE	Short term

Map 6: Capital works actions

