

Community Update

Plenty Gorge Park Fire Recovery

10 February 2020
Issue 3

Following the December 2019 bushfire, we have commenced fire rehabilitation for Plenty Gorge Park. Current park closures remain in place. It's important for people to stay out of the closed area until it is safe and reopened.

Fire update

A fire started in Plenty Gorge Park on 30 December 2019 in the Tanunda Wetlands area. Strong winds drove the fire and embers to the south towards properties on Clovemont Way and affected about 60 hectares of the park before it was contained.

Vegetation in the fire area is already showing signs of recovery, and safety and rehabilitation works have now commenced. This work includes hazardous tree assessment and removal, track stabilisation, containment line rehabilitation and erosion mitigation.

Plenty Gorge Park contains many sites of cultural significance, and we are working with Traditional Owners to ensure recovery works have as little impact as possible on these sites.

Why is part of the park still closed?

For the safety of visitors, and to give the environment the best chance to recover, Plenty Gorge Park will remain closed south of Memorial Drive until rehabilitation works are completed.

We understand some park users and local residents may be frustrated over the extent of the current closures and length of time to reopen. In the immediate area affected by the fire there are still hazardous tree works occurring, as well as more than six kilometres of containment line that will be rehabilitated in the near future. This will require heavy machinery access from surrounding areas. We will progressively reopen closed areas of the park only when it is safe to do so.

Until these works are complete, we need to restrict access to the fire site and also any access routes that heavy machinery will be using.

Care for wildlife

Wildlife carers are continuing to work with Forest Fire Management Victoria staff to care for injured wildlife.

The incidence of injured wildlife has dropped over the past few weeks as injured animals are treated and healthy wildlife moves into unburnt areas of the park.

How can you help?

Volunteer groups have continued to express interest in helping with the recovery effort in the park. We will be working with these volunteer groups, including the Friends of The Gorge and Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Group to plan opportunities to help with recovery works.

We thank these groups for their help to date and look forward to working together to safely reopen the park.



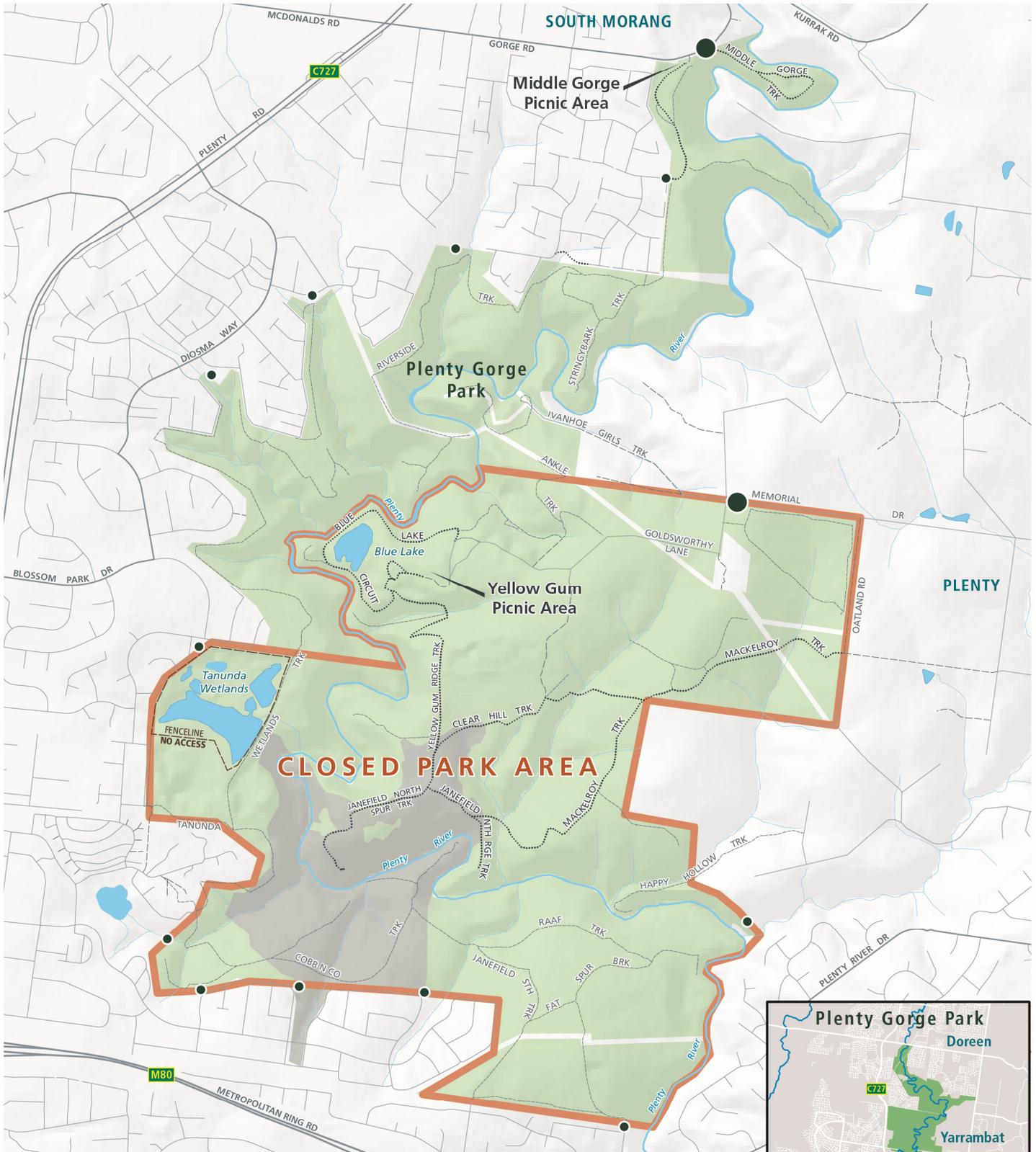
More information

For information on past and future planned burns and the location of our annual slashing program in Plenty Gorge visit the interactive map at ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp (turn on 'fire history' and 'mechanical works' layers).

Visit the Plenty Gorge Park page at www.parks.vic.gov.au for information about fire management activities in the park.

Updates on the recovery of the park and any changes to access will be issued through these newsletters. You can also call 13 1963 for more information.

Plenty Gorge Park South - Closed Park Area



- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|---------------|
| | Plenty Gorge Park | | Fwy/Hwy |
| | Closed Park Area | | Main road |
| | Burnt Area | | Sealed road |
| | Vehicle Entry Point | | Unsealed road |
| | Pedestrian Entry Point | | Walking track |

