

Community Update

Plenty Gorge Park Fire Recovery

14 January 2020
Issue 2

Following the December 2019 bushfire, Parks Victoria has commenced fire rehabilitation for Plenty Gorge Park. Closures to the southern section of the park are still in place. Unfortunately, rangers are finding damage to signs, barriers and regenerating vegetation due to people entering the closed area.

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. Victoria Police continue to investigate the cause of the fire.

Once the fire was contained, recovery works 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 will be working with Traditional Owners to ensure recovery works have as little impact as possible on these sites.

A community meeting was held at Plenty Hall on Sunday 5 January and attended over 500 people to discuss the incident. Community members had the opportunity to ask questions from fire and land management agencies. See the Plenty Brigade CFA Facebook page for information about future community meetings.

Park closure

For the safety of visitors, and to give the environment the best chance to recover, the southern section of Plenty Gorge Park is closed until rehabilitation works can be completed.

It is not safe to be in this area. Trees or limbs may fall without warning.

The closure includes areas not directly impacted by fire, as these areas are still being used by management vehicles and heavy machinery undertaking recovery activities.

Despite these closures, park rangers have found evidence of people entering the closed area of the park. Not only is this access potentially unsafe, it can cause erosion, impact new vegetation growth and distribute weeds in an already vulnerable environment.

Impacts to wildlife

Wildlife carers have been working with Forest Fire Management Victoria staff to access impacted area and assess and treat wildlife impacted by fire.

We understand that there are people that would like to leave water containers out for animals, but urge people to stay out of the closed area of the park.

How can you help?

We've had interest from many groups in helping with the recovery effort in the park. We will be meeting with the park's two key volunteer groups - the Friends of The Gorge and Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Group shortly to plan opportunities to help with recovery works.

More information

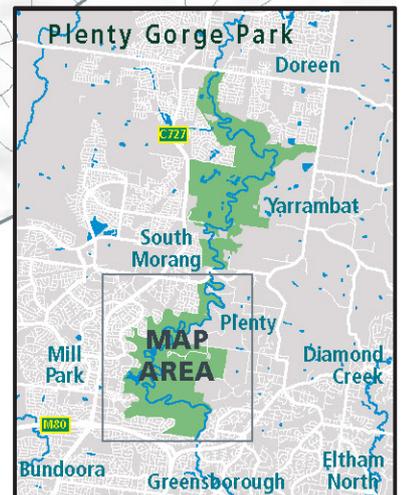
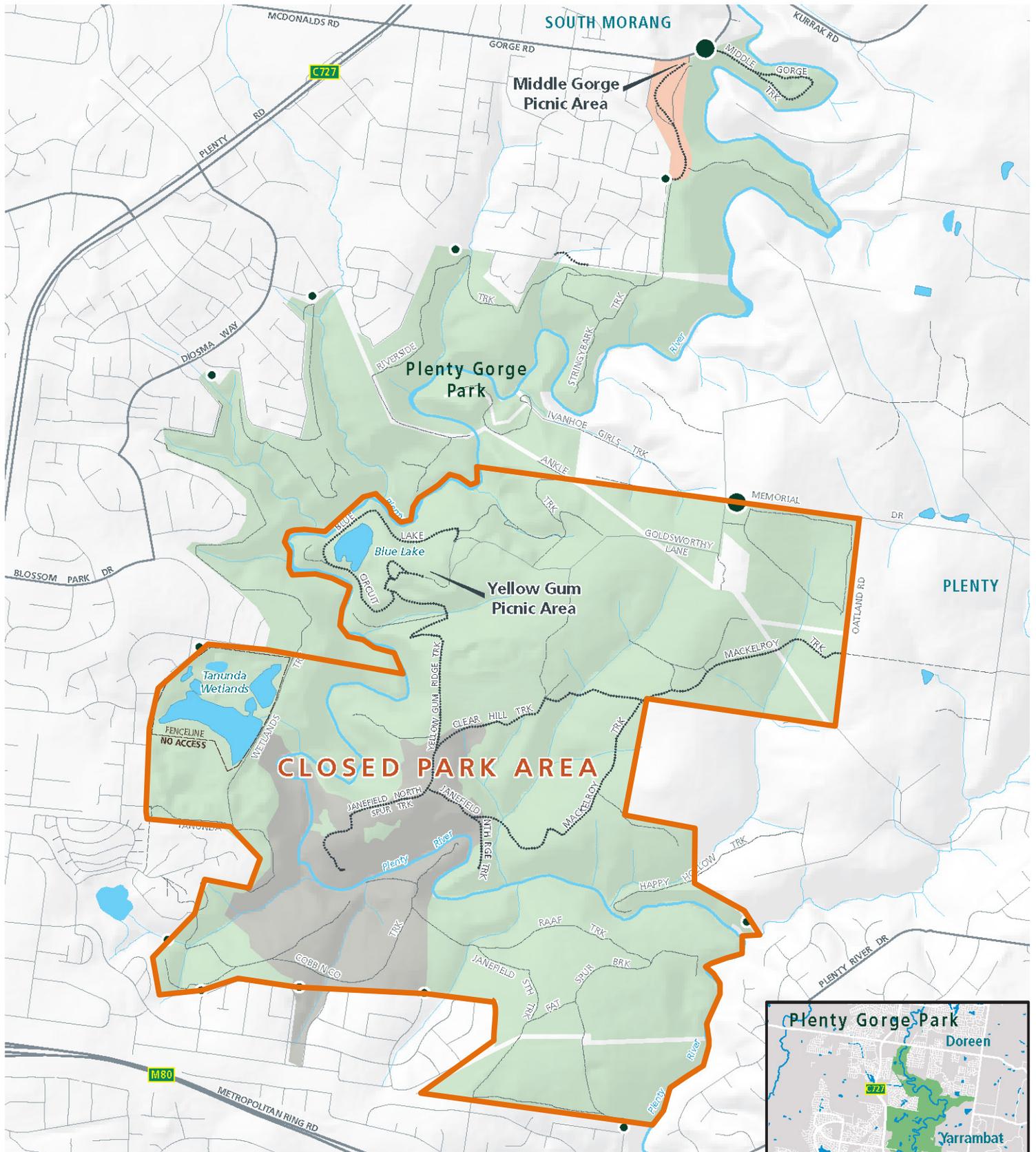
For information on past and future planned burns and the location of our annual slashing program in Plenty Gorge visit the interactive map at ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp (turn on 'fire history' and 'mechanical works' layers).

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

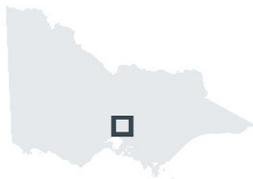
Updates on the recovery of the park and any changes to access will be issued through these newsletters. You can also call 13 1963



Plenty Gorge Park South - Closed Park Area



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



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