

Project Update

Murray River Adventure Trail

October 2023

Planning continues for the Murray River Adventure Trail

When fully complete, the Murray River Adventure Trail will encompass a series of connecting walking, cycling and watercraft trails. This new long-distance nature-based experience will run along the river and its banks all the way from Lake Hume in the east, near Wodonga, to Mildura in the west.

A \$10.3 million investment by the Victorian Government will create new and upgraded trails and a range of other new visitor facilities between The Gulf in Barmah National Park and Koondrook as part of Stage One of the trail. The trail will pass through Lower Goulburn National Park, Murray River Reserve, Echuca, and Gunbower National Park.

Project progress

Flooding in late 2022 meant that the planning and assessment works for various approvals were delayed. Flooding affected works scheduled at that time and the overall program.

Now that we have assessed the impacts of the flooding on the proposed trail alignment, planning has recommenced and is well underway right along the trail from The Gulf in Barmah National Park to Koondrook.

Work is also continuing on detailed designs for the trail, small bridges, kayak launches and facilities including toilets, signage and carparking.

These detailed plans need to be completed so that we know exactly what we are proposing to create, and where. Once that information is known we can finalise the environmental and cultural heritage assessments and plans.

We will share detailed plans with neighbours and the community once they are available. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback on some elements of these designs.

Assessments are underway now and if you live nearby you may have seen people out on the trail checking different items. This includes what species and cultural items are present. These assessments are crucial to ensure that any new sections of trail and visitor infrastructure are best placed to minimise impacts to the environmental and cultural landscape.

We are also working on planning for the on-water trail and key visitor locations. This includes considering points where people can get on and off watercraft such as canoes and kayaks, as well as signage and safety aspects that will need to be put in place.



Photo 1 – Engineers assessing a section of trail.

Project timeline

Due to the delays with flooding, the project is now expected to be completed by the end of 2025, rather than in 2024. Construction work is expected to begin onsite in early 2025.

Impacts to local residents

The new trail will be close to some residential properties. We have been in touch with nearby property owners on sections where the trail will be constructed or upgraded. We will continue to communicate with local residents as we design and construct the trail.

This will include explaining any impacts of the trail or its construction and working together to minimise these.

Who we are working with

As the land manager of most of the land this section of the trail is located on, Parks Victoria is leading the project. We are working closely with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation as joint managers of Barmah National Park.

We are also working with the Murray Regional Tourism Board, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, and other partners including Traditional Owner groups, Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, and local governments including Moira Shire Council, Campaspe Shire Council and Gannawarra Shire Council.

Trail updates

After working closely with Traditional Owners, the on-land trail alignment will begin at The Gulf Campground in Barmah NP and finish in Koondrook.

We are doing the planning and detailed designs for all sections of the trail, however some sections of trail and associated upgrades or new facilities will not be constructed until further funding is available to deliver the work. The trail between Echuca and Torrumbarry is likely to fall into this category. More information about construction priorities will be available in 2024.



Photo 2: Middens are shell deposits that have built up over time as the result of Aboriginal people gathering, cooking, and eating shellfish and molluscs. The shells may be the remains of just one meal, or many meals eaten over an extended period of time. Shell midden material has been further exposed during the recent floods and must be identified and protected during trail design.

Stay up to date

We are currently engaging with community members who live close to the trail and other key stakeholders. The wider community will be invited to have input on the project in 2024.

We will share updates on our webpage as the project progresses. For more information and to subscribe for updates, please visit:

www.parks.vic.gov.au/murray-river-adventure-trail

You can also reach the project team by email on engage@parks.vic.gov.au or by phone on **131 963**.