

Community Update

Plenty Gorge Park Fire Recovery

3 March 2020
Issue 4

Following the December 2019 bushfire, rehabilitation for Plenty Gorge Park is continuing. Some park closures have been removed, allowing access to more of the park. 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 slowly recovering, and safety and rehabilitation works are ongoing.

Plenty Gorge Park contains many sites of cultural significance, and we continue to work with Traditional Owners to ensure recovery works protect these precious sites.

Additional areas reopened

Our team on the ground has reopened new areas. Additional areas now open include the area directly south of Tanunda Wetlands, the concrete footpath in the grasslands north of Fitzjohns Drive, Queens Gardens and Clovemont Way and the most south easterly section of the park south of the Plenty River (refer to map on second page).

Neighbours and park visitors can now safely enter these areas.

A large part of the park south of Memorial Drive will remain closed until rehabilitation and safety work is complete.

Six kilometres of containment line will be rehabilitated soon. This will require heavy machinery access from the surrounding areas. Whilst many of the dangerous trees along containment lines and vehicle tracks have been treated, many trees adjacent to walking and mountain bike tracks within the fire affected area are yet to be assessed.

Protecting important park values while we continue to work in the fire affected area is complex. We ask neighbours and visitors for their patience while we continue to work.

Future access for mountain bikes

We are actively working with the Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Group to reopen some of the mountain bike trails as soon as possible. We ask for riders' patience over this time as we need to ensure that the fire affected area is protected from further damage. Mountain bikes entering this area before rehabilitation works are complete may damage the trail footprint and jeopardise the proposed formal trail network.

How can you help?

Volunteer groups have continued to express interest in helping with the recovery effort in the park. We will continue to work with volunteer groups to plan opportunities to help with recovery works.

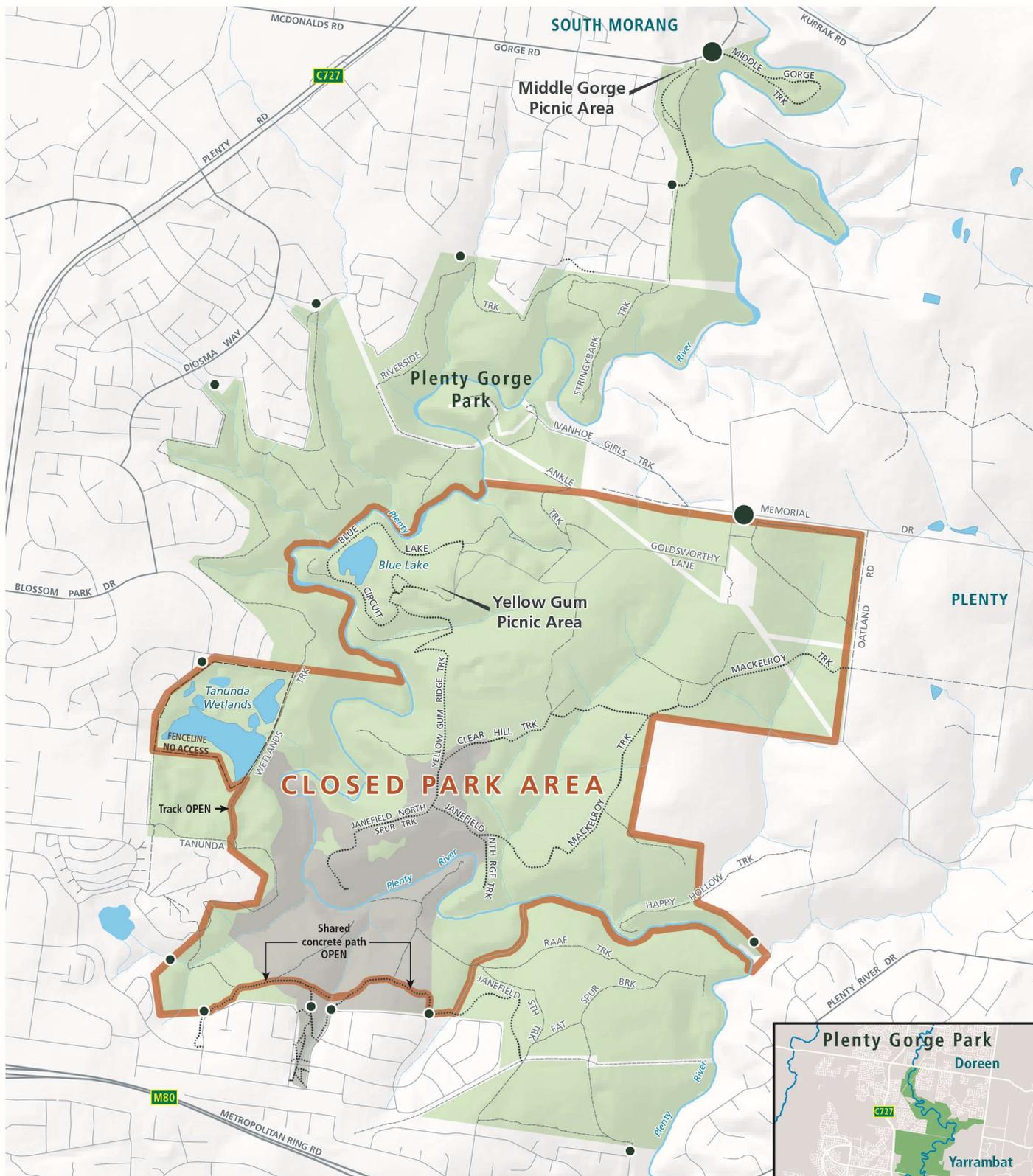


More information

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 or call 13 1963.

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 |

