

Haining Farm

Community Update

April 2018

Community play spaces

Following the community engagement process on the final plan, the community was very supportive of Haining Farm being accessible to the community. We have been working with landscape architects to design an area for the community to use and enjoy.

An initial design of a community play space in the northeast of the site is attached to this plan for your information. The focus of the area is to provide a space for children to play and for the community to use for picnics and family functions. This is an initial design only to provide a picture of what it could possibly look like. This part of the project has not been finalised and there will be the opportunity for community input to the design.

Site clean-up works

As part of the transformation of the site from a dairy farm to an accessible community recreation and conservation space, a range of clean up works have been undertaken at the site. These works include the removal of material containing asbestos, rubbish, dangerous trees and a range of weed species from the site.

Deer -proof fence

The local community consistently expressed concerns about the impact of deer in the area and that the project would not succeed without adequate measure to exclude deer from entering the site. Parks Victoria has developed a design of a 1.8m deer-proof fence which has proven successful in other areas. An image of the fence design to be used is provided below.

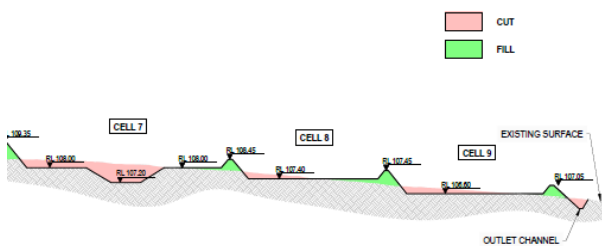


Image: Deer Proof Fence in Gembrook

Artificial wetland

Earthworks will be starting soon to begin the construction of a shallow wetland. The 20-30cm deep wetland is designed to replicate the flooding regime that is required by the vegetation type being implemented at the site.

The artificial wetland will be designed as a series of tiered wetland cells that will cut into the landscape in a similar manner to a traditional terrace. The image below shows a cross-section of the wetland cells to be constructed at the site.



Bushfire mitigation measures

Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning have been working closely with the CFA in the design of bushfire mitigation measures to be included at the site.

A document detailing all the bushfire mitigation measures to be included in the site will be provided to the community in the coming weeks.

The bushfire mitigation measures at the site include a 20m fuel break around the perimeter of the site, access tracks for tankers and slip-ons, additional water points for fire suppression and additional water bodies to increase the amount of water held on the site.

We have also excluded certain vegetation species that would have historically been located on the site due to the potential fire risk associated with these species.

Open Woodland buffer

The open woodland buffer was recommended as a bushfire mitigation measure by two independent bushfire experts. The open woodland will include smooth-barked large tree species planted at a rate of 8 trees per hectare. We have been working with experts to develop a list of tree species that would be suitable in the

open woodland. The list includes both native and non-native tree species and is made up of the following species:

- River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
- River sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)
- Brush Box (*Tristania conferta*)
- Spanish Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)

The community will be given the opportunity to decide on the species of trees to be used and this will form part of the next round of community consultation.

What you'll see next

Over the next few weeks you may see workers onsite undertaking the following works:

- Consolidating old farm equipment for sale
- Installation of temporary fencing and site offices.
- Earthworks for the wetland
- Removing internal fencing
- Removing dead trees
- Installing the 1.8m high deer proof fence

These works will occur during daylight hours between 7am – 5.30pm.

Have your say

We'll continue speaking with locals and community groups to provide information about the project and upcoming works. In the next few weeks we'll be inviting specific feedback to help guide the detailed design including the open woodland and the community use and visitor nodes.

If you are a Don Valley resident, you may also be interested in joining our Implementation Group. This group meets monthly on a Friday morning to guide the implementation of the final plan for Haining Farm. Interested residents should request a nomination form by emailing:

hainingplan@parks.vic.gov.au

For more information about this project visit www.engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea (click on the Haining Farm tab)

Community Picnic + Play Space



- Emergency Vehicle Entry
- Perimeter Track
- Potential Formal Carpark
- Existing Informal Carparking Areas
- Don River
- Visitor Carpark Entry
- Track Network
- Timber Boardwalk
- Conservation Area Gate
- Nature Playscape
- Picnic Lawn
- Barbecue Structure (to incorporate toilet)
- Link to Community Shed

