

Middle Gorge Park

With 250 metre river frontage, Middle Gorge Park has spectacular views of Plenty Gorge and its River. Its open space for creative play and walking trails leading down into the gorge make this park an interesting place for the whole family.

Location

Located two kilometres east of South Morang, along Gorge Road, this 1.8 hectare recreation park is open 24 hours a day, all year round.

(Melway Map 183 J12)

History

The basalt plains and Plenty Gorge were formed in geologically recent times – between about 10,000 and 2 million years ago. Volcanic activity to the north and north-west of the Plenty River re-shaped the river's course.

Aboriginal people were attracted to this area because of the thinly timbered landscapes and permanent water source, which provided a good source of raw materials for food, water and timber.

These qualities also attracted European pastoral settlers in the 1830s. Sheep and cattle grazing were the main agricultural practices in the region.

In the 1850s and 60s 'gold fever' struck the Plenty region. However, it was not the discovery of gold itself which was important to the region but the increased demand for meat and agriculture products throughout Victoria.



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Facilities

Middle Gorge Park has visitor facilities including carparking, viewing platforms and walking tracks.

Toilets and picnic facilities are located on adjacent council parkland along the Plenty River.

Activities

- The wide open spaces of Middle Gorge Park are perfect for kicking a football, having a game of cricket, walking the dog or flying a kite.
- Middle Gorge Park has spectacular views of the Gorge and river, particularly from the viewing platform in the carpark off Gorge Road.
- Paint a picture, take a photograph or simply enjoy watching the world go by in this peaceful setting.
- Follow the loop trail around the peninsula, enjoy the natural bush surroundings of the Gorge and the flow of the river.

Plenty Gorge and the river are alive with plants and wildlife.

In and under the canopy of the Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) a variety of plant and animal species are living with and off each other. From the smallest insect turning the soil to the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos living in the hollows of dead trees and platypus foraging in the river for fish and yabbies, life in the Gorge, is teeming.

Future Developments

A wildlife protection fence commences at Middle Gorge Park and continues southward bordering the Parklands. This fence line prevents domestic cats and dogs as well as feral animals from entering a conservation area.

In the future, as Plenty Gorge Parklands and the housing estates bordering the park continue to expand, new multi-purpose trails along the western edge will be built. This will allow access along the edge of the park from Greensborough to Middle Gorge, opening up the park for all to use and enjoy.



Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

Fires are not permitted

Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it

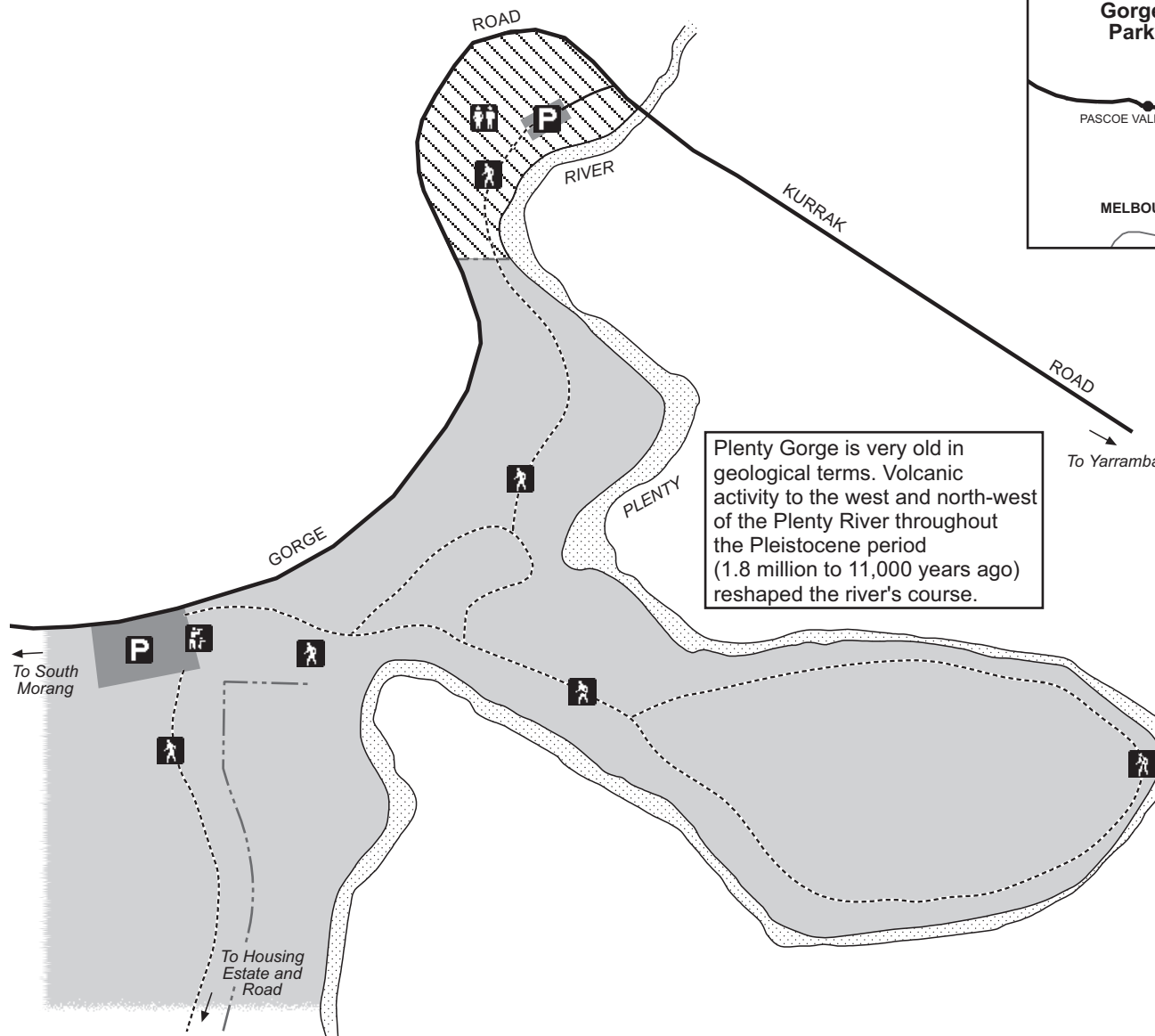
Take all rubbish home with you

Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be restrained on a leash at all times

In the interests of public health and for the comfort of all, you are required to clean up after your dogs

All native plants and animals are protected. Dead trees and branches provide homes to native plants and animals. Please do not remove them

Updated January 2006



Plenty Gorge is very old in geological terms. Volcanic activity to the west and north-west of the Plenty River throughout the Pleistocene period (1.8 million to 11,000 years ago) reshaped the river's course.

