

Unauthorised Mountain Bike Trail Closure – Case of Spades

Plenty Gorge Parklands

Parks Victoria recognises mountain biking as a healthy activity that supports thousands of people to exercise and in turn help support healthy communities. As a large bushland park within Melbourne, Parks Victoria supports cycling in areas of Plenty Gorge Park including on the park's extensive network of management vehicle tracks.

However, mountain bike trails created by park visitors that are not part of an authorised network will be actively closed and rehabilitated by park managers to protect environmental and cultural heritage values consistent with the applicable legislation.

Case of Spades closure

Parks Victoria has a legislative requirement to protect environmental and cultural values within the park under the Crown Land Reserves Act, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The illegally constructed Case of Spades trail will be closed and rehabilitated to mitigate visitor risk and protect environmental and cultural heritage values consistent with legislation and Parks Victoria's legal obligations.

Parks Victoria will continue to be guided by the Public Land Mountain Bike Guidelines and the relevant Acts to manage mountain biking activities, and to make consistent, informed decisions about where and how mountain bike tracks are appropriate and sustainable in a park setting. This includes considering where tracks are unacceptable for environmental, cultural heritage or safety reasons.

A special place

Plenty Gorge Park has a significant history of Aboriginal occupation, with many cultural artefacts and sites officially registered throughout the park. There are also several significant vegetation communities and flora/fauna species resident within the park areas, that trigger the obligation to closely manage recreational activities to protect these values in accordance with the above-mentioned Acts.

The future

In partnership with the Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Club, Parks Victoria is working to establish a 20km network of dedicated mountain bike trail within the park. These will be maintained to IMBA standards, and be well signposted, including risk awareness signage. Cycling will also continue to be permitted to occur on management vehicle tracks throughout the park.

How you can help

If you're interested in being involved in supporting new trails, new trail features or helping maintain mountain bike trails, get in touch with Parks Victoria or the Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Club to volunteer.

More information

For further information or to contact park staff please email info@parks.vic.gov.au or phone 13 1963.