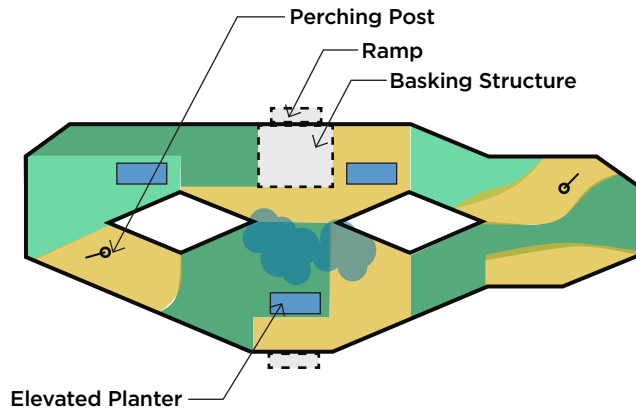


SPECIES SELECTION

The lower reach of the Yarra River-Birrarung was once a rich ecosystem of riparian vegetation and seasonal wetlands. This former landscape has been described as a “temperate Kakadu”. Its diverse range of species made it an important place for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and the people of the broader Kulin nation.

Most of this biodiverse landscape has vanished due to the development of the contemporary city and its port.



Turning Basin Inland wetland plant community

Ground Covers <35cm

<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Water Buttons
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby club rush
<i>Isolepis cernua var. cernua</i>	Nodding Club rush
<i>Mimulus repens</i>	Creeping Monkey-flower
<i>Montia australasica</i>	White Purslane
<i>Samolus repens</i>	Creeping Brookweed
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>	Warrigal Greens

Wet meadow & tall grasses 0.5-1m

<i>Machaerina arthropphylla</i>	Fine Twig-sedge
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Lomandra
<i>Lycopus australis</i>	Native Gipsywort
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	Slender Knot Weed
<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Frog's Mouth

Rushes and sedges 0.5-1m

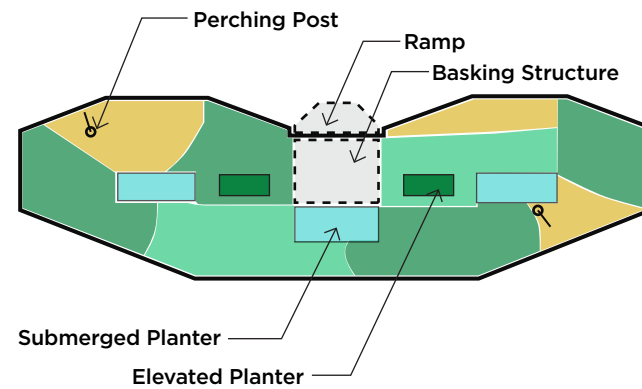
<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>	Basket/Common Sedge
<i>Cladium procerum</i>	Leafy Twig Rush
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby club rush
<i>Machaerina arthropphylla</i>	Fine Twig-sedge
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>	Three-square Bulrush

Shrubs 0.5-1.5m

<i>Myoporum insulare</i>	Common Boobialla
<i>Acacia retinodes</i>	Swamp Wattle
<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>	Coast Flax Lily
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Lomandra
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club Rush

The selection of species for the trial floating wetland project was guided by the City of Melbourne's 'Pre-colonial plant list', a comprehensive report by expert botanists from the Arthur Rylah Institute.

This report identifies the plant species that likely occurred in Melbourne prior to European colonisation. Some of these selected species hold cultural significance for the the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.



Yarra's Edge Coastal wetland plant community

Ground Covers <35cm

<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Karkalla/pig face
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Water Buttons
<i>Isolepis cernua var. cernua</i>	Nodding Club rush
<i>Montia australasica</i>	White Purslane
<i>Lobelia irrigua</i>	Salt Pratia
<i>Puccinellia perlaxa</i>	Plains Saltmarsh Grass
<i>Sebaea albidiflora</i>	White Seabea
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>	Warrigal Greens

Wet meadow & tall grasses 0.5-1m

<i>Alsima plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain
<i>Isolepis inundata</i>	Swamp Club-rush
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby club rush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Lomandra
<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	Slender Knot Weed
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Seablite
<i>Triglochin striata</i>	Streaked Arrow-grass

Rushes and sedges 0.5-1m

<i>Bolboschoenus caldwelii</i>	Marsh Club rush
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby club rush
<i>Isolepis inundata</i>	Swamp Club-rush
<i>Juncus krausii ssp. Australiensis</i>	Salt Marsh Rush
<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	Common Rush
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coastal Banksia
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club Rush
<i>Leucopogon parvifolius</i>	Coast beard heath
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Black Paperbark
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>	Warrigal Greens
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet

Submerged Plants

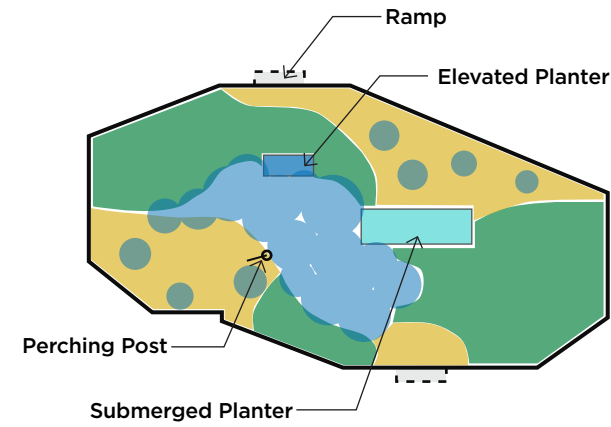
<i>Ruppia megacarpa</i>	Sea Tassel
<i>Ruppia polycarpa</i>	Widgeon grass
<i>Stuckenia pectinatus</i>	Sago pondweed

WILDLIFE MONITORING

During the trial period, the floating wetlands will be closely monitored for a period of two years, followed by evaluations.

Numerous species of birds have been observed using the floating wetlands for perching, roosting and foraging habitat. Among these, the wetlands have been particularly popular with **Eurasian Coots** and **Dusky Moorhens**. We also have records of **Little Pied Cormorants**, **Little Black Cormorants**, **Black Swans**, **Pacific Black Ducks**, **Chestnut Teals**, **Silver Gulls**, **House Sparrows**, **Rock Doves** (ie pigeons) and **Welcome Swallows** on the wetlands.

There are signs that **Rakali** (native water rats) have been using the floating wetlands to feed.



Victoria Harbour Lower Yarra plant community

Ground Covers <35cm

<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Water Buttons
<i>Disphyma clavellatum</i>	Rounded Noon-Flower
<i>Distichlis distichophylla</i>	Australian Salt-grass
<i>Isolepis cernua var. cernua</i>	Nodding Club rush
<i>Limosella australis</i>	Austral Mudwort
<i>Samolus repens</i>	Creeping Brookweed
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	Beaded Glasswort
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Seablite
<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>	Warrigal Greens
<i>Threlkeldia diffusa</i>	Coast Bonefruit
<i>Triglochin striata</i>	Streaked Arrow-grass

Rushes and sedges 0.5-1m

<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby club rush
<i>Gahnia filum</i>	Chaffy Saw Sedge
<i>Juncus krausii ssp. Australiensis</i>	Salt Marsh Rush
<i>Machaerina juncea</i>	Bare Twig rush
<i>Puccinellia perlaxa</i>	Plains Saltmarsh Grass

Shrubs 0.5-1.5m

<i>Atriplex cinerea</i>	Coast/Grey Saltbush
<i>Atriplex paludosa</i>	Marsh Saltbush
<i>Frankenia pauciflora</i>	Southern Sea-heath
<i>Leucophyta brownii</i>	Cushion Bush
<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>	Seaberry Saltbush
<i>Suaeda australis</i>	Austral Seablite
<i>Avicenna marina</i>	Grey Mangrove

Submerged Plants

<i>Ruppia megacarpa</i>	Sea Tassel
<i>Ruppia polycarpa</i>	Widgeon grass
<i>Stuckenia pectinatus</i>	Sago pondweed

SELF-GUIDED TOUR



BIRRARUNG TRIAL FLOATING WETLANDS



This is your opportunity to explore the Birrarung Trial Floating Wetland for The Greenline Project, and to understand the aquatic ecology of the Yarra River-Birrarung.



APPROX. HOURS



APPROX. KILOMETERS



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TURNING BASIN

Inland wetland plant community

Before colonisation, this location marked the transition point between freshwater marsh ecosystems upstream, and salt marsh ecosystems downstream. Today, fresh water and salt water interact at this site, potentially allowing species of both freshwater and salt marsh ecosystems to co-exist.

This site includes several flowering species to support insect diversity and food sources for birds. Some of these species are also found further upstream in the Yarra - Birrarung catchment.



YARRA'S EDGE

Coastal wetland plant community

These plants form a tidal freshwater wetland community, which occurs along rivers and estuaries in brackish areas that experience tidal variation.

This floating wetland has the most complex planting structure of the three trial locations, with multiple raised and submerged planters.

The overlap between fresh and brackish water can lead to high biodiversity in these ecosystems. These species are characterized by grey and silver foliage and include succulents and mangroves.



VICTORIA HARBOUR

Lower Yarra plant community

Victoria Harbour has the highest water salinity of the three trial sites. These plants are typically found in the saltmarsh and mangrove forest ecosystems of coastal Victoria. Saltmarshes tend to be dominated by dense stands of salt-tolerant (halophytic) grasses, rushes, herbs and low shrubs, along with mangrove forests. Many of these species are characterized by grey and silver foliage.

This ecosystem provides important feeding, breeding and habitat functions for fish, crustaceans and birds.

BIRRARUNG TRIAL FLOATING WETLANDS

City of Melbourne has installed floating wetlands in the Yarra River - Birrarung as part of a trial funded by the Victorian Government. This marks an important milestone for The Greenline Project.

This project provides an opportunity to reintroduce planting to the lower reach of the river, and to gain further knowledge of the plant and animal life these wetlands could support. It will inform future opportunities to improve the health of the river system and the experience of our city landscapes.

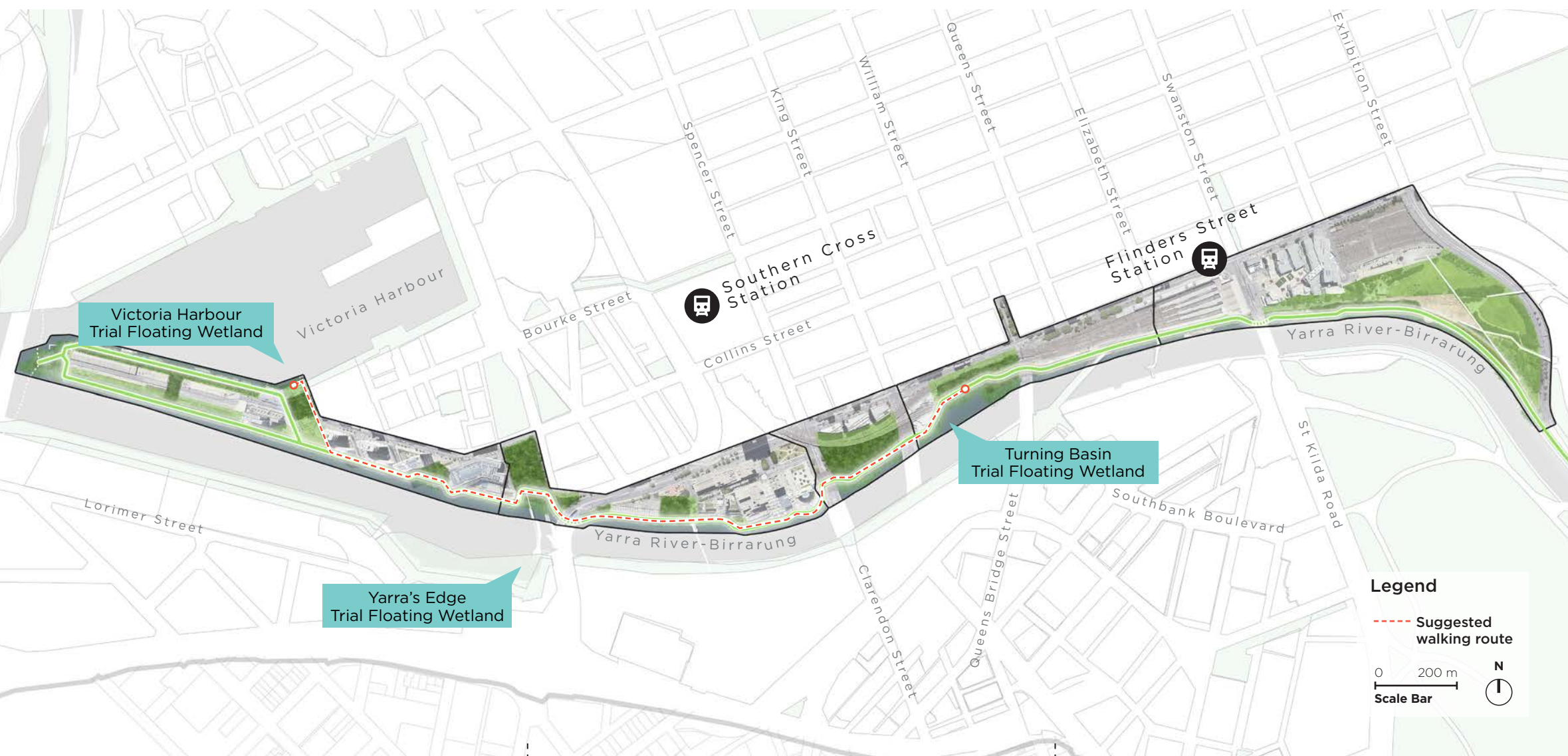
During this walk, you will explore the floating wetlands that are being trialled along the Yarra River - Birrarung.

You can record observations of wildlife using the wetlands online via iNaturalist. This will contribute to the monitoring data for the project and help build our knowledge of the ecology of the river:

inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/birrarung-trial-floating-wetlands



Learn more about The Greenline Project + stay up to date with Participate Melbourne.



Floating wetlands were installed in December 2022 at the following three locations:

- Turning Basin (near Enterprize Park)
- Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands (in front of Library at the Dock)
- Yarra's Edge, Docklands (next to Webb Bridge)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wadawurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin have to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.



Learn about key places of Aboriginal cultural and historical significance within the City of Melbourne.

Legend

--- Suggested walking route

0 200 m
Scale Bar

