

Stevensons Falls campsite and day visitor area upgrade

Community update, July 2023

Forest Fire Management is upgrading Stevensons Falls

What is happening?

Stevensons Falls is one of the most popular State Forest recreation sites in Victoria. Receiving over 80,000 visitors a year before the pandemic, visitation to the site is now greater than ever as more people choose to travel and holiday locally.

You will have noticed that we've been busy making some changes to Stevensons Falls lately. We received funding as part of the Victoria's Great Outdoors program to:

1. **Make the day visitor area more accessible** – Stevensons Falls is one of the most accessible waterfalls in the state with an easy flat walk to the base. Upgrades to the day visitor area and walk will make it accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities, the elderly and young families.
2. **Make the day visitor area a more appealing destination** – Improvements to the day visitor area include increasing the size of the car park, the addition of the Redwoods Boardwalk to link the new carpark to the day visitor area, installation of a disabled toilet, two new short walks, widening of the existing pedestrian bridge and an all-abilities boardwalk and waterfall lookout platform.
3. **Upgrade campground to better handle overcrowding and improve visitor behaviour** - The campground is regularly overcrowded and can often be impacted by poor visitor behaviour which requires police attendance. We are improving the campground to:
 - a. Fix drainage and surfacing,
 - b. Install an additional toilet block,
 - c. Break up large campsites that are often the source of anti-social behaviour,
 - d. Better define camping areas so that more camp sites are available for everyone, and to reduce campground expansion when the site is full.

What has already been done

1. We have completed a large portion of work at the day visitor area, including installation of the new toilet, the new all-abilities accessible waterfall lookout and boardwalks along the river and in the Redwoods. We are still finishing the carpark and picnic area but hope to be done soon.
2. Works are underway at the campground, with improvements to the drainage completed and installation of the second toilet block in progress.
3. We have made good progress since May, but the wet weather has made the site challenging to work on and has slowed progress. Otway Civil and Vary Engineering will continue to work on the site over Winter and into Spring.

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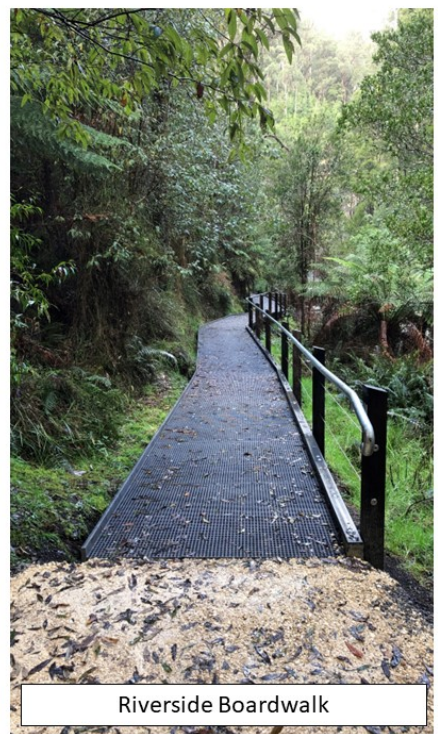
What's next?

Construction will continue until October 2023 but will be weather dependant. Once complete, the site will then need to rest before it will be opened to the public. We are hoping for a November 2023 re-opening and will keep you updated as works get closer to completion.

During this time, the Upper Gellibrand Road will remain closed except to residents and contractors. Stevenson's Falls is also closed to the public while construction continues.

How can I get in contact?

If you would like more information or would like to discuss the project further, please feel free to email the project manager Alex Lines at alex.lines@delwp.vic.gov.au.



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