

Wombat Bend

An inclusive playspace for children of all abilities



Location:

WOMBAT BEND
Finns Reserve
Duncan Street
Lower Templestowe
(Mel Ref. 33 B4)

A natural space...

Wombat Bend is designed to be a playful landscape that enhances the natural environment and highlights the natural qualities of the rich Yarra River environment. Natural features include the native forest walk with sensory play activities, dry creek bed and the use of natural materials including rocks and timber logs. The forest walk includes an environmental soundscape with bird call recordings, contributed by a local bird observation group.



Play for all abilities

Wombat Bend embraces inclusive designs to demonstrate best practice in providing a play space for people of all abilities. Play features have been selected to foster creative development, inspiration and imagination, and to encourage the mind to explore

WOMBAT BEND PLAYSPACE FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Amphitheatre
- Native forest walk
- Sandpit
- Maze
- Climbing cube
- Two double slides (without steps)
- Sundial
- Sound recordings and scented plants.



The playspace also includes iconic features such as a flying fox and carousel (with harnesses to provide access for all abilities).

Creating Wombat Bend

Wombat Bend playspace, located at Finns Reserve Lower Templestowe, was developed by Manningham City Council and the local community. It was made possible through extensive consultation and the development of partnerships between a wide range of community groups, including local schools, disability groups, community groups and local artists. This collaborative effort helped to inspire, design, plant, create and build the various elements of this heavily used play space.



COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT

From conception to creation this project has been a truly collaborative effort; from the early planning stages right through to getting their hands dirty when planting trees and creating the ceramic tiles.

COMMUNITY GROUPS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT

- 2nd Templestowe Scout Group
- 3rd Templestowe Scout Group
- 6th Camberwell Scout Group
- Bulleen Heights
- Carey Baptist Grammar School
- Heatherwood School
- Kevin Heinze Garden Centre
- Manningham Men's Shed
- Onemda Association Inc
- St Gregory's Catholic Primary School
- Templestowe Park Primary School
- Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association Inc
- Bird Observation and Conservation Australia.



Design principles

- A magical playspace is a canvas for role playing, imagining and pretending.
- A natural playspace enhances natural topography and planting to encourage interaction with the natural environment.
- A friendly playspace encourages social interaction while exploring, role playing, refueling or relaxing.
- A surprising playspace stimulates all senses with sounds, textures and smells.
- A communal playspace involves the local people in its design and construction.
- A creative playspace allows for artist contribution and encourages community art.
- An energetic playspace inspires running, jumping, climbing, sliding, balancing, swinging, reaching, crawling and touching the sky.
- A comfortable playspace has no barriers and makes everyone feel like they belong regardless of ability or age.

Created by:

DESIGNER

Ric McConaghy

DETAILED DESIGN

Simon Ellis

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT COORDINATOR

Anne Riggs

COMMUNITY ART CONCEPT - CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Jeanette Jennings

FUNDING

\$645,000 Manningham City Council
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