

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Friday, 20 October 2023

BETTER CONNECTIONS AND OPEN SPACES FOR SYDENHAM PARK

The Allan Labor Government is ensuring everyone has access to green, open spaces - upgrading playgrounds, parks and reserves across Melbourne.

Member for Sydenham Natalie Hutchins today visited Sydenham Park, the latest local park to be upgraded as part of the Labor Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.

Stage one of Sydenham Park's upgrade is now complete and includes a new shared user path that connects the Kings Road-Calder Freeway Interchange with a walking circuit in the park - allowing visitors and locals to enjoy the open space.

The upgrade has also delivered new picnic furniture, a nature play area, viewing platforms and seating.

The Suburban Parks Program is delivering inclusive and all-abilities play spaces right across Melbourne, with up to \$300,000 in funding allocated to local councils to breathe new life into playgrounds and local parks.

There are 38 revitalised local parks being enjoyed by communities, with works on the remaining three well underway.

To date, 94 new and upgraded open spaces have been delivered through the Suburban Parks Program, and there's more on the way thanks to a \$7.4 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* for new and upgraded parks and playgrounds.

Once complete, the Suburban Parks Program will create 6,500 hectares of new parkland, walking trails, bike trails, pocket parks and dog parks – the equivalent of more than 170 Royal Botanic Gardens.

For more information about the Suburban Parks Program, visit environment.vic.gov.au/suburban-parks.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

"It is so important that we make sure Melburnians have access to as much green open space as possible – so that they have a chance to enjoy the great outdoors."

"Whether it's coming together with family and friends for a picnic or going on a walk, this funding will ensure locals and visitors of all ages can comfortably enjoy the beauty of Sydenham Park."

Quote attributable to Member for Sydenham Natalie Hutchins

"We're supporting local councils to provide our communities with opportunities to connect with nature. The upgrades to Sydenham Park are a great example of what can be achieved."