

Altona Coastal Park is home to some amazing bird species; here are some examples you may see at the park.



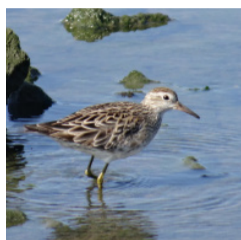
Bar-tailed Godwit
(*Limosa lapponica*)

Godwits wade through the shallows sticking their bills into the mud to find food such as molluscs, worms and aquatic insects. Godwits hold the world record for a non-stop flight of 13,560kms.



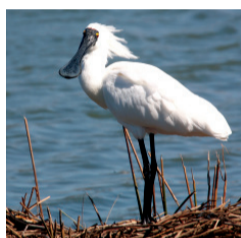
Red-capped Plover
(*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

A resident wader which can be seen throughout the year in Hobsons Bay. They nest by making shallow scrapes with the eggs very well camouflaged.



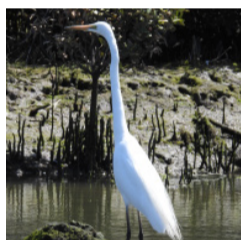
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
(*Calidris acuminata*)

They are generally found in flocks, feeding on aquatic invertebrates and sometimes seeds. One of the more common migratory waders in Hobsons Bay.



Royal Spoonbill
(*Platalea regia*)

The Royal Spoonbill is found throughout Eastern and Northern Mainland Australia in a range of wetland types including shallow freshwater and saltwater wetlands, intertidal mud flats and wet grasslands.



Great Egret
(*Ardea alba*)

Great Egrets prefer shallow flowing, water and can be seen alone or in small flocks. The Great Egret occurs throughout most of the world and is most common throughout Australia.

Photographs: Andrew Thornton and Peter O'Connell



Location

Altona Coastal Park is located on Altona Road, Seaholme. Melways ref: 55 C8.

For those travelling by public transport, the park is about a 10 minute walk from Seaholme Train Station.

Enquires

Hobsons Bay City Council
115 Civic Parade, Altona
PO Box 21, Altona 3018

Phone: 1300 179 944

National Relay Service: 133 677

Language Line: 03 9932 1212

Email: customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Website: www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We wish to acknowledge the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands, rivers and coastal areas in Hobsons Bay. We recognise the First Peoples' relationship to this land and offer our respect to their Elders, past and present.

Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to protecting and enhancing our environment. This publication, when printed, is printed with vegetable inks on recycled, non-chemically bleached stock.

Welcome to Altona Coastal Park

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



Altona Coastal Park is a 70–100 ha intertidal and saltmarsh reserve located only 11 km from Melbourne's CBD.

Altona Coastal Park

Altona Coastal Park is a 70–100ha saltmarsh, intertidal and seagrass reserve located only 11 km from Melbourne's CBD. It is an important recreational and conservation area, providing habitat for a range of faunal species.

The park is a popular place for walkers and cyclists, with the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail passing through the park. There are unrestricted views of Melbourne's cityscape and Port Phillip Bay from across the salt marsh.

At low tides when the seawater recedes, much of the coastal mud flats are exposed. These are ideal feeding grounds for migratory and resident shorebirds.

There are many interpretive signs around the reserve explaining the importance of the local ecosystems and species. The Conservation Team have placed 20 replica birds around neighbouring PA Burns Reserve which comprise our Twitch Hunt, a fun activity for the kids.

History

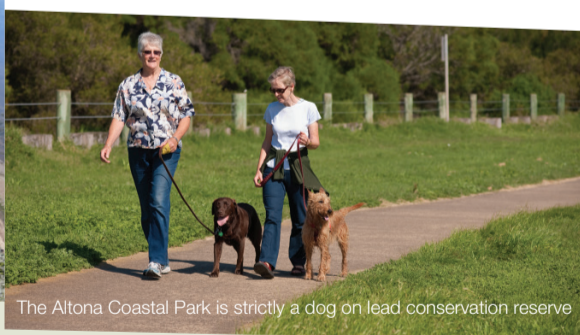
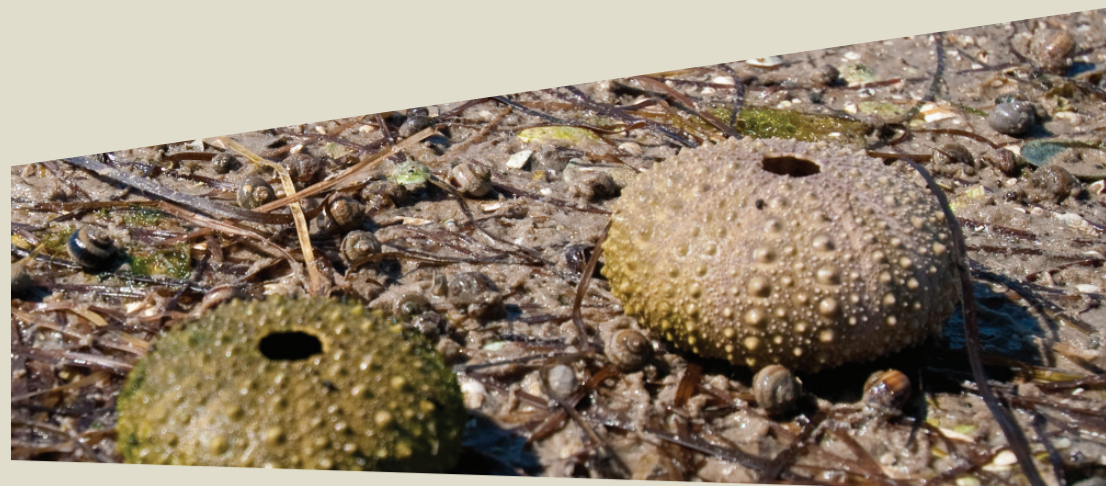
Altona Coastal Park was the site of the Williamstown Racecourse from 1864 to 1940. In 1940, the racecourse was closed to make way for an army camp during World War Two. Over the ensuing years the site was extensively modified by land filling and site development, and was known as the Altona Sports Park before its current name was adopted.

The remnants of the Williamstown Racecourse Grandstand and a palm tree at the entry to the grandstand, are the main features which remain. A four metre sculpture called Requiem for a Champion is located near the entrance to the park at the ford, to commemorate the location of the former Williamstown Racecourse.

Altona Coastal Park

Flora and Fauna at Altona Coastal Park

Altona Coastal Park consists of saltmarsh vegetation including Shrubby Glasswort and Beaded Glasswort which are important food plants for seed eating parrots. Saltmarsh and seagrass are also important for capturing carbon. Known as Blue Carbon, these ecosystems can store carbon at quantities five times higher than terrestrial ecosystems. It has at least eight regionally rare plant species including the White Mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) along the southern banks of Kororoit Creek. Tiger snakes may be found in the grasslands and rocky outcrop. There is also prolific marine life to be found in the water at Altona Coastal Park.



Dogs at Altona Coastal Park

Responsible dog owners and their dogs are welcome at Altona Coastal Park. There are areas found within the Altona Coastal Park where both dogs and people are not permitted. This for the protection of significant biodiversity values. Please familiarise yourself with the attached map which identify these areas. However, the neighboring PA Burns Reserve is a permitted off lead space.

Wildlife and Dogs

The mere presence of dogs can stress wildlife as they perceive any canine species as a potential threat. This coastal area is frequented by highly significant and sensitive wildlife.

Reduce the risk to your pet from snakes. Snakes are present at Altona Coastal Park and a bite can be fatal.



Management

The Conservation Team work together with community volunteers to rehabilitate the park. Revegetation using local indigenous species takes place annually generally from May–July. Persistent ongoing weed control assists with the establishment of revegetation and protects remnant areas.

In summer, works include plant maintenance and mulching to further assist weed and habitat management.

To become involved with community volunteer days please email: ranger@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

Birds at the Park

There have been over 160 bird species recorded here, of which over 15 are rare or endangered. The area is a very important feeding ground for resident and migratory shorebirds and many can be seen in and around the park.

The aquatic birds include Black Swans, Pacific Black Ducks, Pelicans, Black-winged Stilts, Pied Oystercatchers, Red-kneed Dotterels and Egrets.

Terrestrial birds include Nankeen Kestrels, Striated Field Wrens, Singing Honeyeaters, Superb Fairy Wrens and White-fronted Chats.