

**RECREATION**  
Beacon Point provides the largest flat open grassed area (180m wide x 250m long) within the narrow coastal reserve east of the boat harbour at Clifton Springs. As identified in the Coastal Management Plan the open grass area is to be retained for informal recreation. Key recommendations include:  
 • Top dress and improve the existing grass surface to facilitate mowing, use for dog walking, informal games and outdoor community events.  
 • Establish a narrow 1.5m wide unsealed all ability path link from High Ridge Drive and along the foreshore reserve to the existing beach access at Cantata Way.  
 • Establish a small picnic area adjacent to the car park overlooking the bay and plant additional indigenous overstorey shade trees.  
 • Eventually complete the link from Beacon Point through to The Dell via the proposed Clifton Springs Foreshore Path.

**PARK FACILITIES**  
Beacon Point is a popular viewing point with spectacular views over the bay. There are limited facilities in the reserve and no shade cover. Key recommendations include:  
 • Establish a new picnic area with upgraded picnic tables and indigenous shade tree planting to the east of the existing car park.  
 • Install new seats at key locations along the coastal reserve.  
 • Upgrade the existing reserve fence at High Ridge Drive and along Beacon Point Road with new post and rail fencing.  
 • Investigate the need for additional vehicle control barriers along the grassed foreshore reserve at Edgewater Drive.  
 • Investigate improvements to the safety of grills at existing drain pits.

Improving beach access at Beacon Point will increase the popularity and number of visitors to the area. Following improvements to beach access at Beacon Point investigate upgrade of picnic facilities to provide a BBQ area and public toilet facility. The new toilet facility, if required, is to be located adjacent to the sewerage pumping station utilising the existing embankment and planting to minimise impacts on views. Design is to be in accordance with current Victorian Coastal Siting and Design Guidelines and management of any future toilet facility will also need to allow for night time closure to minimise potential increased use of the area for illegal camping.

**BARWON WATER PUMPING STATION**  
The existing sewer pumping station is an important asset located to the west of the reserve along Beacon Point Road and services the Drysdale and Clifton Springs area. Liaise with Barwon Water to investigate potential improvements to the exterior of the pumping station building, e.g with timber cladding or integrated public art to soften its visual impact in the reserve.

**BEACH ACCESS.**  
The existing sand beach east of Beacon Point is used for walking, dog walking and the shallow waters are popular for water based activities including swimming and snorkelling. Currently there is no formal access down the steep cliff and coastal erosion on the point west of Beacon Point Road has resulted in closure of access to the beach at high tide. DSE and Council are currently reviewing the existing beach access at Cantata Way (300m west of the car park) and will be replacing the existing timber stair system and completing beach renourishment works west of Beacon Point to improve high tide beach access in 2012/13.

Beach access east of Beacon Point Road around the cliffs at the base of the point will remain inaccessible at high tide and steep, unformed and eroding cliff tracks will continue to be used informally by locals. The steep and eroding coastal cliffs east of Beacon Point are steeper than those along Edgewater Drive. Investigate beach access east of Beacon Point between the existing drain outfall and Scarborough Creek. New access alignment will require specialist geotechnical investigation to determine if access is possible and is likely to be equally expensive and difficult to construct.

**OPTION A** - access alignment along the previously disturbed gully directly east of the existing stormwater outfall as shown on the Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan. This access would be located closest to the picnic area and existing car parking at Beacon Point Road. At high tide a short section of rock work may be required at the bottom of the cliff to ensure access east along the beach.

**OPTION B** - there is an existing steep and eroding informal track to the beach at Scarborough Creek. This route has a more secure landing on the beach at high tide however the existing steep track is subject to extensive tunnel erosion and may present additional challenges from a cultural heritage and indigenous vegetation management perspective.

**LAND MANAGEMENT**  
Beacon Point Reserve is zoned Public Conservation and Resource use in recognition of the conservation values along the coastline zone. The coastal reserve to high tide is owned and managed by the City of Greater Geelong. Residential land adjoining Beacon Point Reserve is predominantly Low Density Residential Zone and Residential 1 Zone, with Farming Zone located to the east of Scarborough Creek. Barwon Water lease and manage the sewer pumping station.

Retain open grass areas as 'dog off lead' in accordance with the outcome of the City of Greater Geelong Domestic Animal Management Plan. The narrow public open space reserve along Scarborough Creek is recommended to be made dog on lead to protect the existing environmental values in the creek and to reduce potential disturbance of dogs and livestock in adjoining properties.

**FLORA AND FAUNA**  
Vegetation assessment for Beacon Point Reserve and the lower section of Scarborough Creek was completed by Mark Trengrove Ecological Services as part of the 2008 Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan. The existing vegetation communities identified are classified as either Endangered or Vulnerable and include the *Dune Shrubland (EVC 311)* located adjacent to the existing beach, *Plains Brackish Sedge Wetland (EVC 891)* occurring predominantly in the bottom of Scarborough Creek, *Bellarine Coastal Complex (EVC 10001)* located along the cliffs and *Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 175)* located in flat areas above the coastal reserve and adjoining Scarborough Creek. Refer Existing Values Plan BPMP-02.

There is limited information on land based fauna values at the site however it is anticipated there is a range of fauna present including reptiles, avifauna and mammals. It is anticipated that improvements to the vegetation values along the coastal reserve will improve the native fauna habitat values. The adjoining coastal waters are valued for their marine life and contain some of the best examples of intertidal and sub tidal seagrass (*Hetzostera tasmanica*, *Zostera muelleri*) in the Geelong Arm of Port Phillip Bay and are an important area for settlement of larval fish, including King George whiting and shark. The intertidal zone is frequented by waterbirds including Pelicans, Cootes, Cormorants and ducks, however, there are no specific surveys of the species present at Beacon Point.

Key recommendations include:  
 • Protect existing areas of indigenous coastal vegetation, increase fencing setback and continue staged weed control and revegetation using locally sourced low coastal vegetation consistent with the prevailing EVC.  
 • Liaise with adjoining landholders and the local community to carefully plant additional indigenous trees and shrubs along private property boundaries to improve habitat values and landscape amenity while maintaining views and passive surveillance of the adjoining coastal reserve.  
 • Continue staged weed control to spread of high priority weeds including gorse and boxthorn using specialist contractors to minimise risk on the steep and eroding cliffs along the coast and Scarborough Creek. Undertake next stage removal works only when completed revegetation works provide equivalent habitat cover and cliff stability.  
 • Protect the natural geomorphological values of the cliffs and Scarborough Creek minimising potential threats to erosion and water quality from urban stormwater.  
 • Monitor rabbits and foxes coordinating control programs with adjoining landholders and DPI if numbers impact on native vegetation or cause accelerated erosion.

**SCARBOROUGH CREEK**  
Retain existing informal walking and maintenance access along the west bank. Liaise with adjoining landholders to minimise weed invasion and undertake revegetation works along rear property fencelines using indigenous species to maximise habitat values. Monitor water quality and minimise impacts of urban stormwater.

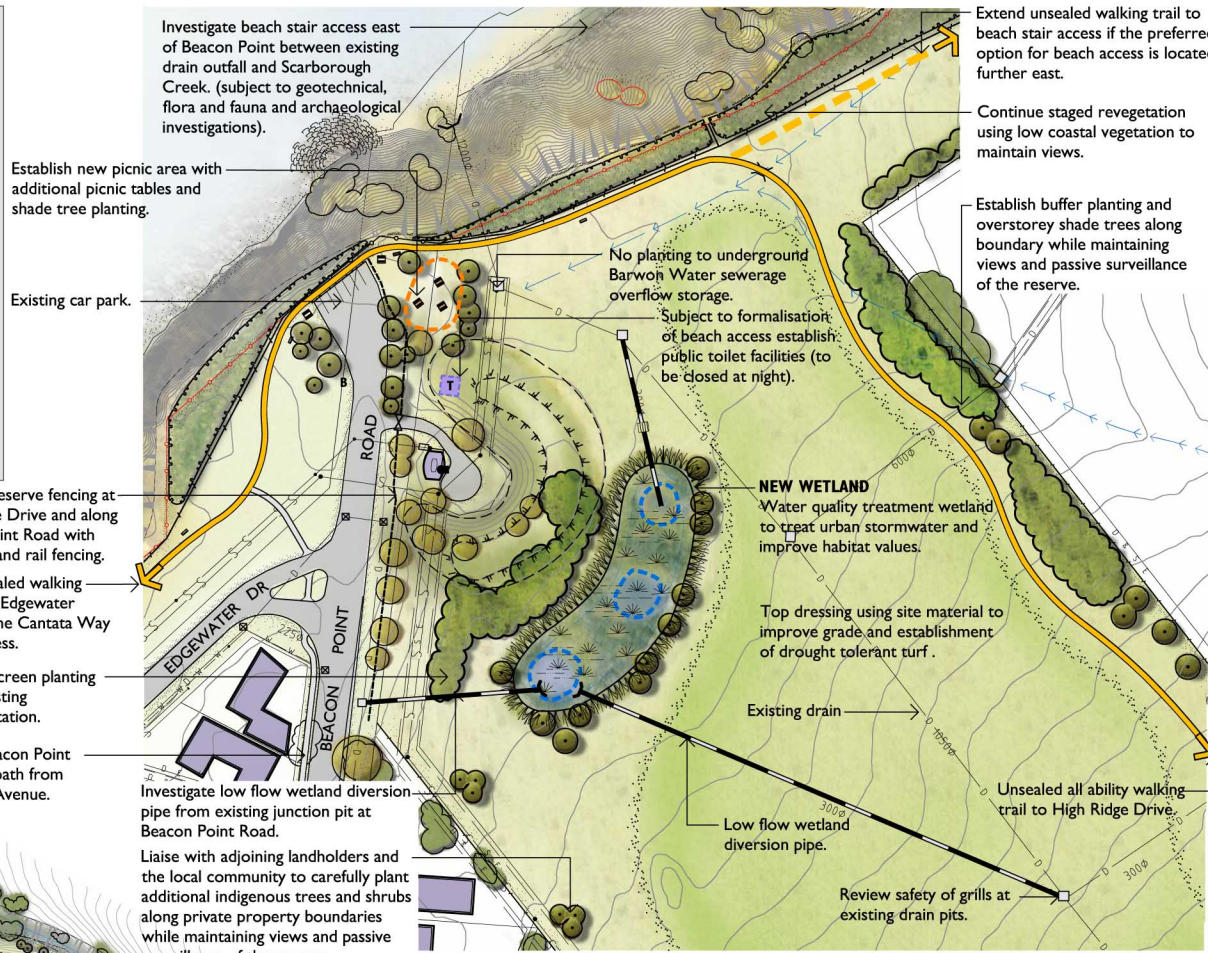
If properties at the southern end of the creek system are redeveloped in the future investigate provision of an open space link through to Portarlington Road and High Ridge Drive.

**OVERALL DESIGN INTENT**

Beacon Point Reserve, including the adjoining open space corridor along Scarborough Creek, is a coastal reserve that provides significant recreational, cultural and environmental values for the Clifton Springs community. The reserve is the largest flat open space area east of the boat harbor and provides magnificent 180 degree views across Port Phillip Bay.

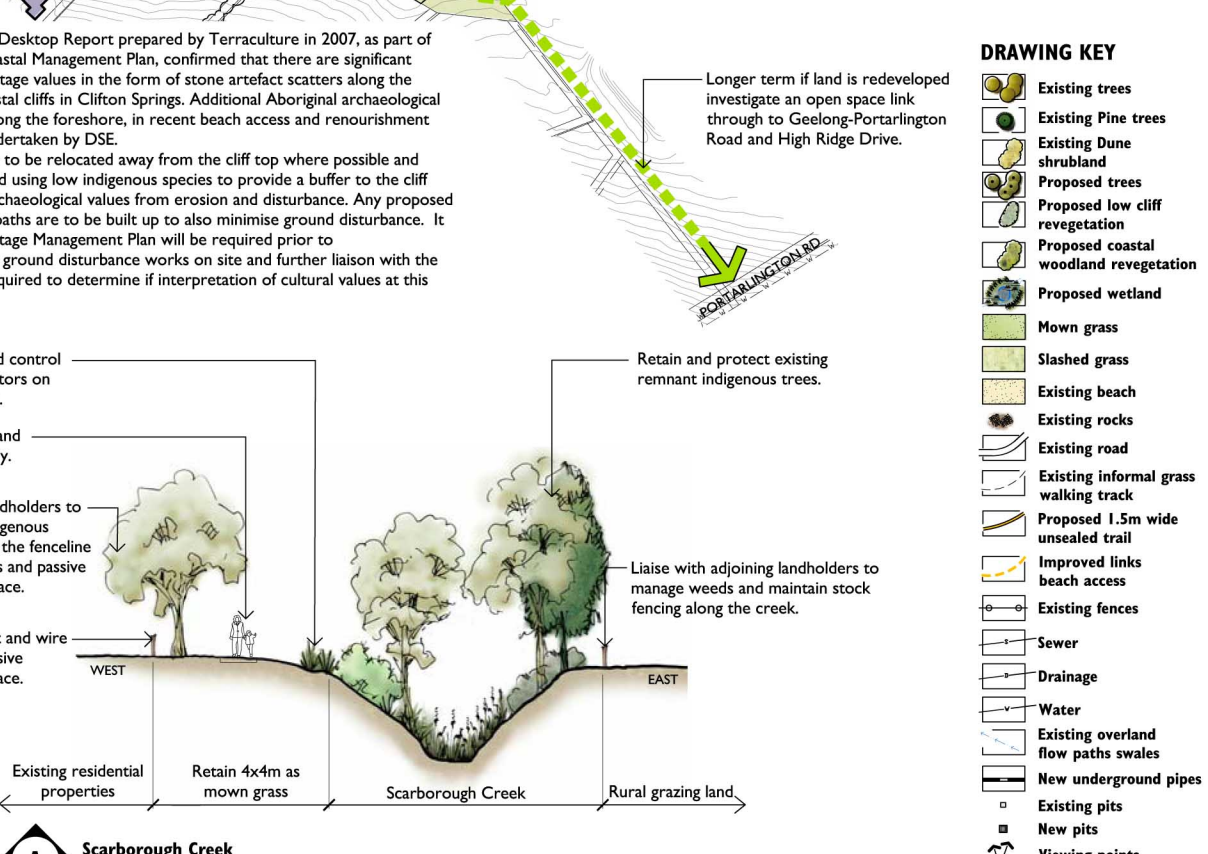
As identified in the Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan 2008, the overall design intent for Beacon Point Reserve is to:

- Protect and improve the coastal biodiversity values undertaking additional carefully sited indigenous revegetation and landscape planting while maintaining significant views.
- Protect and interpret, where appropriate, the Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage values.
- Improve recreational access to the beach and coastal reserves for the existing and planned future residential population and visitors to the region.
- Protect and where possible maintain the natural geomorphological values of the cliffs and coastal processes while considering the impacts of climate change and public safety requirements.
- Involve the local community in the development of the plan and its ongoing implementation.



**BEACON POINT PICNIC AREA SCALE 1:1000 @ A1**

**WATER QUALITY TREATMENT WETLAND**  
The existing large 1050 dia stormwater drain running through the reserve discharges untreated to the beach and Port Phillip Bay. Investigate establishment of a water quality wetland to treat low flows from the existing stormwater drains in the reserve and Beacon Point Road and improve biodiversity and habitat values. Use the natural topography to minimise required earthworks and undertake additional planting to screen the existing sewer pumping station in key views across the open space.



**A Scarborough Creek**

**DRAWING KEY**

- Existing trees
- Existing Pine trees
- Existing Dune shrubland
- Proposed trees
- Proposed low cliff revegetation
- Proposed coastal woodland revegetation
- Proposed wetland
- Mown grass
- Slashed grass
- Existing beach
- Existing rocks
- Existing road
- Existing informal grass walking track
- Proposed 1.5m wide unsealed trail
- Improved links beach access
- Existing fences
- Sewer
- Drainage
- Water
- Existing overland flow paths swales
- New underground pipes
- Existing pits
- New pits
- Viewing points