

Recommended bike trails and routes

01 Upfield Shared Path

A 10km route linking Royal Park in Parkville to Gowrie Railway Station in Glenroy. The route follows the rail line to Fawkner and includes a mix of off-street shared paths, physically separated on-road bike lanes and back streets where cars and bikes share the road. The route includes 17 intersections, including six with push button crossing lights.

The southern end of the Upfield path connects to the Capital City Trail and all Upfield train stations between Jewell and Gowrie exit onto the path. The path provides an alternative north-south route to Sydney Road and is a popular route for both commuters and cyclists linking up with public transport.

If you intend to use the path at night you should check your bike lights before riding. While sections of the path have dedicated lighting, and other sections are lit by nearby streetlights, several sections (including the section between Victoria and Hope Streets, Brunswick) have no lights and are dark at night.

02 Merri Creek Trail

A 20km trail linking the Yarra River in Collingwood to the Western Ring Road in Fawkner. For much of the way it follows parkland next to the Merri Creek where trees and valleys hide the surrounding suburbs, giving riders a taste of the country while remaining in the inner city.

The trail is a meandering path best suited to relaxed exploration.

Attractions along the trail include CERES Environment Park, the Brunswick Velodrome and Coburg Lake. If you are an observant rider you will also spot public art and the spectacular golden domes of the Russian Orthodox Church on Albion Street.

03 East Brunswick shimmy

A 5km on-road bicycle route linking Coburg and Carlton via the back streets of Brunswick East. The southern end of the shimmy links to the Capital City Trail and the Canning Street bike route to the city. The northern end links to Barrow Street, Coburg, a back street that provides a quiet route to Bell Street and the Coburg Town Hall.

Clear direction signs and intersection treatments at each major east-west road (Brunswick Road, Glenlyon Road and Blyth Street) make it easy for you to find the sneaky back way into Coburg. The key roads on the shimmy are quiet back streets, making the route ideal for riders who are comfortable sharing the road with the occasional car.

04 West Brunswick shimmy

Following on from the success of the East Brunswick shimmy, Moreland City Council is building a second shimmy west of the Upfield Bike Path and providing a route to the city via Royal Park using existing paths that follow the 55 tram line. Direction signs and an upgraded crossing at Victoria Street are currently in place and Council has plans to create a route all the way to the O'Hea Street shared path in Coburg North.

Direction signs show the back street alternatives to busy Sydney and Melville Roads and take advantage of existing push button crossing lights at Moreland Road (near Garnett Street) and Bell Street (near Vincent Street). The route is suitable for riders who are comfortable sharing the road with the occasional car and are confident crossing the occasional busy road.

05 Moreland east-west link

This link provides a connection between Moonee Ponds Creek Trail, Sydney Road and the Merri Creek Trail via the back streets of Pascoe Vale South and Coburg. Attractions include St Fidelis Primary school and The Avenue, a broad leafy boulevard. The Harding Street Bridge provides an attractive crossing of Merri Creek but you must dismount as the road is narrow.

06 Capital City Trail

Following rivers and a former railway line, this trail forms a 30km loop around the city. The northern section runs through Royal Park and links to Flemington Bridge Station (on the Upfield line) in Parkville and Rushall station (South Morang Line) in Fitzroy North.

The trail is a wide path and attracts high traffic volumes. It provides a quality east-west route for cyclists of Parkville, Carlton North, Brunswick, Fitzroy North and Northcote and inner city residents going about their business by bike is a common sight. Along the route you'll find the Melbourne Zoo and the park land adjacent to the trail is popular destination for food vans, garage sales and picnics.

07 O'Hea Street Shared Path

An off street shared path where cyclists and pedestrians have right of way. It links Sussex Street to Sydney Road and provides an ideal route to Coburg North Primary School via the O'Hea Street Bakery. When riding this route be sure to make eye contact with drivers on side streets and be cautious when crossing over streets and driveways.

08 Glenlyon Road – Dawson Street, Brunswick East-West route

If you're a confident cyclist looking for an east-west route you can use on-road bike lanes in Brunswick on Glenlyon Road and Dawson Streets. The eastern section of this route links to the Merri Creek Trail at Sumner Park, and the bridge across the creek provides a link to Northcote High School and various back streets to shops on High Street, Northcote. To the west, Dawson Street crosses Citylink and provides a route to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail via Union Street. On the route you'll find the Brunswick Baths, Brunswick Library and Brunswick Town Hall.

09 Moonee Ponds Creek Trail

A 25km shared path linking Docklands to Tullamarine Airport. It follows the western bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek for much of its length. Scenery includes a mix of river parklands, an industrial-style drainage channel and suburban back streets. The Moonee Ponds Creek occupies a deep valley and most roads to the trail are quite steep. Attractions along the trail include Strathmore Secondary College (just south of Bell Street) the waterslides at the Oak Park Aquatic Centre and the railway trestle bridge in Gowanbrae.

10 Western Ring Road Trail

A 43km off road shared path following the Western Ring Road/Metropolitan Ring Road (M80). The trail connects several other trails in the north and west of Melbourne including the Moonee Ponds Creek and Merri Creek Trails. It is a popular route for recreational cyclists looking for a longer loop ride including two river trails. Attractions along the route include the Jacana Wetlands in Gowanbrae and parklands surrounding Merlynston Creek in Hadfield.

11 Glenroy link to Moonee Ponds Creek Trail

A looping route taking in local scenic beauty spots including the Northern Golf Course and the Westbreen Creek. Shared paths provide ideal routes to local schools including Glenroy Central, Box Forest Secondary College and Pascoe Vale Girls School. The route avoids the steepest hills of Pascoe Vale.

12 Merlynston to Pascoe Vale East-West route

Kent Road Pascoe Vale and the shared path following Westbreen Creek form the key sections of this route which links the Merri Creek Trail, Merlynston Shopping Centre, Merlynston Railway Station (on the Upfield line), Pascoe Vale Girls School, Pascoe Vale Railway Station (on the Craigieburn line) and the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail. Many of the east-west roads in Pascoe Vale have very steep gradients. The Westbreen Creek provides a low gradient alternative.