



Blackburn Creeklands - Chronology of Major Events

Year	Description
1941	Furness Park – Main Street block - 2.66 hectares acquired.
1955-75	Extensive drainage works by MMBW along the central, most flood-prone section of the creek.
1960	Blacks Walk – Middleborough Road block acquired.
1962	Kalang Park – Pakenham Street block acquired (see also 1980). Blacks Walk – Pakenham Street block acquired.
1964	Kalang Park oval established. The oval became used over the years for football, cricket, athletic training & baseball, gridiron and horse shoe pitching. Garie Street Guide Hall constructed. Blackburn Open Air School on northern boundary of Furness Park closed. Laburnum Primary School on southern boundary of Blacks Walk opened.
1965	Furness Park – Blackburn Road block – 0.225 hectares acquired. Kalang Park Oval - pavilion constructed. Concept Plan prepared for Black's Walk by Ellis Stones, Landscape Designer.
1966	Kalang Park – Harry Street block (current sports oval) – 1.976 hectares acquired (but pavilion built in 1965?). Blackburn Bowls Club leased site on the east side of Pakenham St. Kalang Park playground constructed.
1967	Blackburn Bowls Club constructed.
1968	Pakenham Street Scout Hall constructed.
1971	Construction of baseball diamond and back net at Kalang Park. Blackburn Baseball Club established at Kalang Park for winter competition and in 1974, summer competition started. The Club moved to Billabong Park in 1976. Kalang Park was then used by Nunawading Baseball Club in winter and by the Blackburn Church of Christ Cricket Club and the Doncaster Baseball Club in summer.
1976	National Trust of Australia placed a landscape classification on Furness Park, Blackburn Lake and road reserves and front gardens in some local streets.
1979	Kalang Park cricket nets constructed between the oval and the creek.
1980	Kalang Park – Pakenham Street block acquired (see also 1962).
1982	Kalang Park – Acacia Avenue block acquired.

1983	Local community lobbied State government and Council to rezone land between Pakenham and Main Streets from residential to open space and for Council to purchase the land from the MMBW, making a major addition to the park and completing an important link. Much of this area was being used for horse agistment in the 1970s.
1984	Linear Park Committee of Management formed which is now known as the Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee. Draft concept plan prepared by the Committee. House demolished at 64 Main Street to improve park access.
1985-86	Bowls Club car park reconstructed- based on a design prepared by T. Osborn of the Advisory Committee and Club House extended. Blacks Walk footbridge constructed.
1986	Last winter season of Nunawading Baseball Club.
1987	Nunawading Warriors Gridiron & Nunawading Pitcheroos Horse Shoe Pitching Clubs established at Kalang Park. Last winter season of Gridiron Club in 1988. Committee received Bicentennial Grant (\$4,000) to recreate wetland habitat below Waratah Crescent and a Land Protection Incentives Scheme Grant (\$700) for a revegetation project. Garie Street playground redeveloped.
1988	Furness Park – agreement with MMBW to purchase lot 11 and part lot 16 Heath Street – 0.4172 hectares.
1993	The Creeklands obtained Land for Wildlife status.
1996	Bridge at Laurel Grove replaced.
1997	Advisory Committee prepared Blackburn Creeklands Strategic Plan 1997 – 2002. Enhancement of wetland below Waratah Crescent.
1998	Replacement of Furness Park playground. Construction of new cricket nets north west of the oval. Installation of solar lights near Laurel Grove.
1999	Melbourne Water prepared Study for Gardiners Creek. Notice board installed in Kalang Park.
2000	Replacement of Kalang Park playground.
2002	Replacement of Blacks Walk playground.
2006	Extensive rehabilitation work conducted by Melbourne Water along the creek between Blackburn Road and Pakenham Street. This work reduced the threat of erosion and consequent loss of mature eucalypts and other large indigenous trees on the creek banks. Significant follow-up re-planting occurred in 2007.
2010	Completion of Furness Park bridge.

2012	Construction of new paths in the vicinity of the Garie Street playground through to Pakenham Street.
2013	Construction of new paths connecting the Garie Street bridge to Laburnum Primary School and to the southern east-west track. Realignment of path and significant rehabilitation works in the land adjacent to 60 Main Street.
2015	Restoration of the Billabong in Kalang Park from a storm-water feed from Malcolm Street completed. Kalang Park pavilion (1965) demolished ahead of construction of a new pavilion. Extensive Main Street bridge repairs. Temporary cricket nets installed to protect the end of Doogan St and the neighbouring house on Kalang Street.
2016	New Kalang Park Oval pavilion formally opened.
2017	Refurbishment of the Blacks Walk bridge – deck replaced, reinforced and its superstructure was repainted.
2019	Refurbishment of the Laurel Grove bridge – new timbers, deck and a repaint.
2020	Scout Hall renovated and extended. Furness Park playground equipment replaced. New wetland (Council/Melbourne Water) created west of Laurel Grove North. Bowls Club Car Park upgraded. Significant gas main works in Blacks Walk.
2021	Demolition of the Guide Hall. Guides now share the Scout Hall. Replacement of the Main Street road bridge commenced.
2022	Main Street road bridge completed. Garie Street playground replaced. Improved footpath access installed. Former Guide Hall site planted up (trees + grass) Fencing installed/replaced around Garie Street carpark and along Middleborough Road.
2023	Cricket safety nets: following safety audit, Council announced that the barrier nets at Kalang Oval would be significantly extended. Plans later scaled back and cricket pitch realigned. Garie Street Playground update in Blacks Walk completed. Main track realigned both sides of Pakenham Street.
2024	Permanent cricket safety nets installed; oval extended northwards.

Sources:

Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (21/8/2000) - Attachment 1: Land Acquisition
Blackburn Creeklands Master Plan (2002) with updates.
Blackburn Creeklands web-site and Newsletters 2012-present