

TreeTops at Yarra Flats



What is a TreeTops park?

TreeTops offers self-guided high-rope courses, that involve climbing through challenging obstacles such as rope-ladders, wobbly bridges, tunnels and cargo-nets all interspersed with flying-foxes (zip-lines). The courses are open to a wide age range from 3 years old to the young at heart.

All courses increase in difficulty as participant's progress through the various levels. All the action takes place in the trees so there is **no requirement for any area to be closed off to the general public**. Outside of operating hours the access ladders to the courses are not accessible.

This uniquely sustainable nature experience is great for the body and mind, exhilarating for the participants and gentle on the environment. The trees are the stars of this attraction. The activities allow the whole family to enjoy a fun, healthy bonding experience in a wonderful forest without any special ability or knowledge.

How will this work in Yarra Flats?

The activities will be operated under a Lease from Parks Victoria, in line with the planning conditions applied by Banyule City Council.

How will it impact the Yarra Flats Park and its visitors?

The new adventure park will have minimal impact on the area.

- Our structures (courses and office) are temporary and will leave no footprint once removed. They are designed to integrate into the forest.
- The design of our activities is based on external assessments and recommendations from arborists and ecologists and strictly controlled by Parks Victoria.
- No trees are removed, minimal undergrowth is trimmed, and branches are only removed when dangerous to the public.
- Existing pathways are used & maintained.
- A bush regeneration plan is developed to restore indigenous species to the site and weeds are progressively removed.
- The toilet block currently locked, will be renovated and open for use during operating hours.
- The existing restricted carpark and road will be restored.
- Families who had never visited Yarra Flats will be provided with the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful area.

What happens for construction?

An independent arborist assesses each tree initially. Once construction is completed the arborist inspects the courses to ensure they were built according to recommendations and verifies the health of the trees is not compromised. Once operation has commenced, the trees are assessed annually. Construction will require no removal of trees.

- No heavy machinery is used for construction on site. The platforms are built in our workshop and mounted on the trees using battery-powered tools.
- We do not drill into the trees; our equipment is built around the trees.
- Small sections of the site are temporarily closed as we install the courses. Most closed off areas are not currently accessible.
- To build a platform, logs are clamped around the tree and decking is put up on the logs.
- Half logs protect the trunk from the pressure of wires, as trees grow, the wires are gradually released so growth is not restricted.
- The decking is installed with sufficient space to allow for the passage of wildlife.
- Eco-friendly material and construction techniques are used.

TreeTops has “a deep understanding and passion for conservation and the natural environment in which they operate,’ ‘here is a best practice example of ecotourism in action.”

The Ecotourism audit, completed February 2019



What are the benefits for the community?

Bringing people into the forest encourages them to protect this unique environment for future generations. Participants enjoy a new perspective of the natural environment, away from electronic devices, connecting to nature and their loved ones. As they experience a healthy outdoor activity, they are more likely to want to protect this natural environment and discover more. Some of the benefits for the community include;

- Learning about the local flora, fauna and history of the site through interpretive signage,
- The chance to challenge themselves and assist others,
- Testing dexterity & exploring physical senses whilst improving fitness,
- Increased money for Parks Victoria via the Lease agreement with Ecoline, to manage this and other public parks,
- Accessing new employment opportunities and new skills, and
- Strengthening bonds with family, friends or work/school mates.

These adventures allow people to stretch and expand, to play and connect in line with Parks Victoria Healthy Parks, Healthy People mission.

Safety

Safety is always our number one priority. While aiming for the ultimate thrilling experience, we control the risks through:

- Design, construction and maintenance of the unique adventure facilities;
- Use of the best safety and protective equipment;
- Compliance with relevant safety standards;
- Comprehensive training & assessment;
- Strict compliance to safety controls by all, workers and visitors, who venture on the activities as well as on the ground.

TreeTops aims to provide a safe recreational environment at all times.

Quality

TreeTops is designed, constructed and managed by our parent company Ecoline. Ecoline is committed to fulfilling customer needs with quality and consistency and maintain a quality management system with a strong customer focus and clear objectives, guiding processes and a commitment to improvement.

This quality management system is compliant with the AS/NZS ISO 9001:2016.



QMS Certification Services

Who is TreeTops?

TreeTops is a multi award winning company that has been operating high rope adventure courses in Australia for more than 10 years. We currently operate successfully in partnership with Forestry Corporation of NSW, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Services, Western Sydney Parklands Trust and Taronga Conservation Society.

Our guiding principles are:

- Offer exciting, safe unique adventures to people of all ages.
- Work toward the protection of the environment.
- Foster educational experiences of the natural environment.
- Participate in the community's well-being.

TreeTops are honoured to have attained Advanced Ecotourism certification. Our ongoing efforts to create and operate the most sustainable adventures in the bush are recognised in this certification program. The Eco Certification program acknowledges products with a commitment to high quality and sustainable tourism experiences that have true conservation benefits.

Check www.EcoTourism.org.au for more information on this label of quality.