



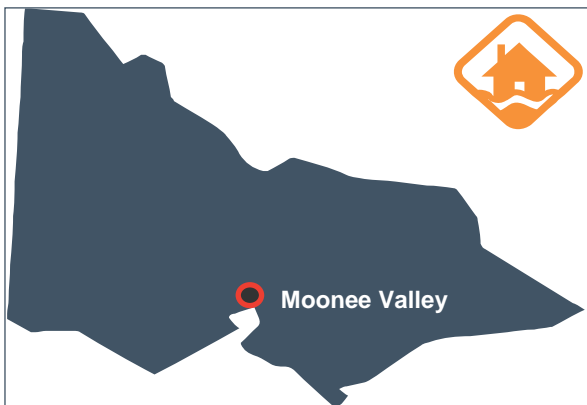
Moonee Valley

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Maribyrnong River in the City of Moonee Valley



Image: Cliff Shipton Photography



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500



The Victoria State Emergency Service respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional owners of the land throughout Victoria and acknowledges their ancestors and elders, past, present and emerging.

Reviewed: October 2020



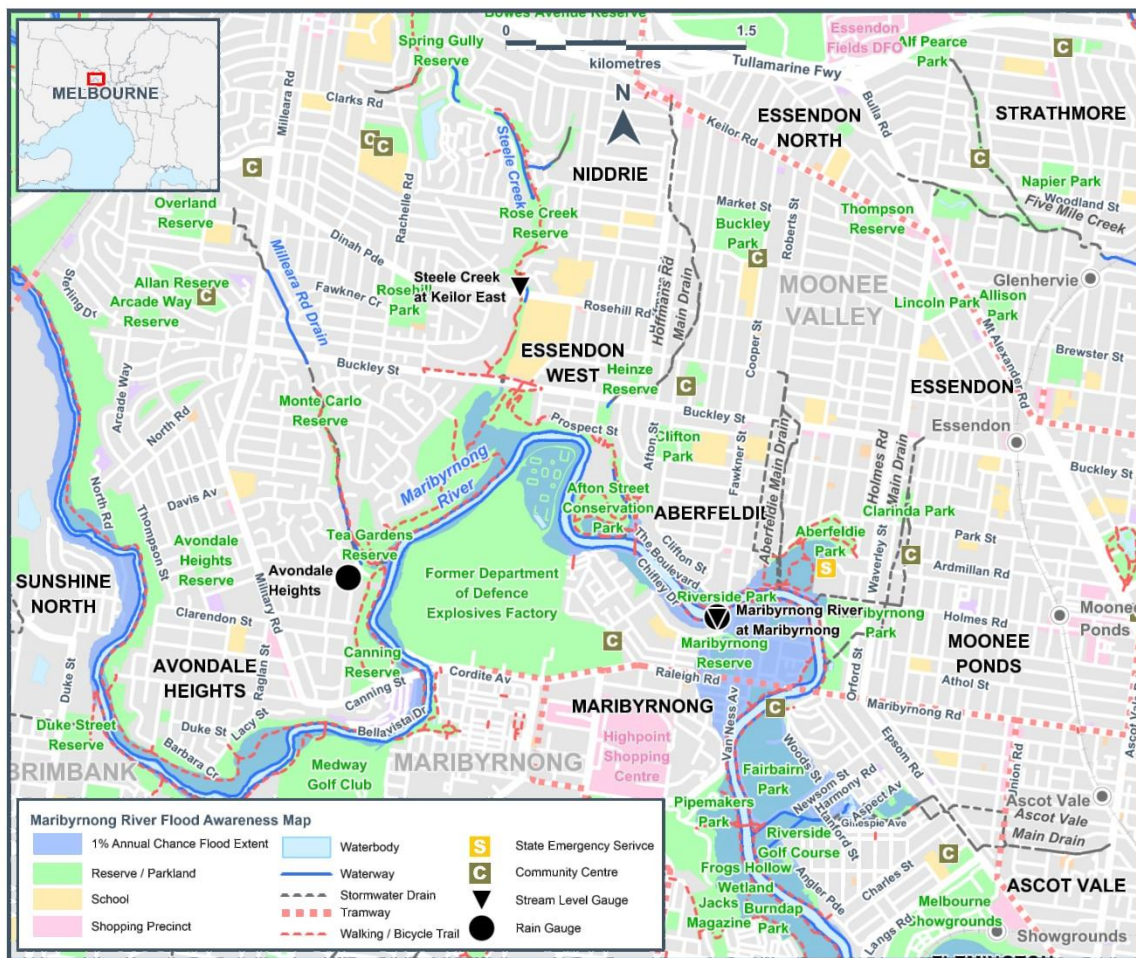
Moonee Valley

This area is prone to flash flooding during heavy rainfall events that can result in road closures and effect private properties. This guide provides an overview of the risk of flood and includes information that can help you to be more prepared in case of an emergency.

The guide focusses on the Maribyrnong River in the City of Moonee Valley, located to the north-west of Melbourne’s Central Business District. Moonee Valley falls within the Maribyrnong River catchment, with the main waterways that run through the area being the Maribyrnong River, Steele Creek, Five Mile Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek. With shopping and food precincts such as Union road, good access to public transport, parks and reserves and being home to the Melbourne Show Grounds and Flemington Racecourse, Moonee Valley is a popular place to live and visit.

Moonee Valley can be impacted by flash flooding from high intensity rainfall or from riverine flooding when prolonged rain causes the Maribyrnong River to flood. These events can be further impacted when they happen at the same time as high tides from the ocean that can flow into the lower parts of the Yarra River which the Maribyrnong feeds into.

The map below provides an indication of flooding that could occur during an extreme 1% flood event, formerly referred to as a 1 in 100 year rainfall event. A 1% flood means there is a 1% chance a flood this size happening in any given year. This map is provided as a guide to possible flooding in the area.



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have not been independently verified by Victoria State Emergency Service. No liability is accepted for any damage, loss or injury caused by errors or omissions in this information or for any action taken by any person in reliance upon it. Flood information is provided by Melbourne Water.



Are you prepared for a flood?

This guide contains important information on the key agencies that can provide assistance, where to find flood warning and storm information, helpful websites and practical information on how to be better prepared.

Experience shows that those who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact of the emergency and can recover quicker afterwards.

Further information on 'Preparing for Flood Emergencies' is also available at ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready

Are you at risk of flood?

The Moonee Valley area has a history of flooding due to its location on the Maribyrnong River and close proximity to other creeks. The municipality can be affected by rising levels of the rivers and creeks (riverine flooding) or flash flooding caused by heavy rain over a short period of time.



Certain areas of Moonee Valley were established prior to 1914, when there were no regulations covering building in flood-prone areas. This means that in the older areas of Moonee Valley some buildings are located where it is likely to flood.

Along the Maribyrnong floodplain there are homes, properties and businesses at risk from floods. Historically, a large flood occurs every 10 to 20 years with 27 recorded floods in the area since 1871. So another large flood could occur at any time. Suburbs at the greatest risk of flooding are those along the southern bank; Aberfeldie, Ascot Vale, Avondale Heights and Essendon West.

Streets in Moonee Valley at risk of flooding from the Maribyrnong River in a 1% flood event include:

- The Boulevard, Aberfeldie
- Angler Parade, Ascot Vale
- Aspect Avenue, Ascot Vale
- Gillespie Avenue, Ascot Vale
- Harmony Road, Ascot Vale
- Newsom Street, Ascot Vale
- Stanford Street, Ascot Vale
- Woods Street, Ascot Vale

Key community infrastructures at risk of flooding from the Maribyrnong River in a 1% flood event include:

- Aberfeldie Park, The Boulevard, Aberfeldie
- 15th Essendon Sea Scouts, Woods Street, Ascot Vale
- Riverside Golf and Tennis Centre, Newsom Street, Ascot Vale
- Maribyrnong River trail in various locations
- Riverside Park, The Boulevard, Aberfeldie
- Aberfeldie Park Athletics Track, Corio Street, Aberfeldie
- Essendon Rowing Club and Boat Ramp, The Boulevard, Moonee Ponds
- Walter Reserve, Walter Street Ascot vale
- Fairbairn Park, Woods Street, Ascot Vale
- Afton Reserve, The Boulevard, Essendon West



Did you know?

Historically, several major floods have affected people living in this area, such as:

- During the December 1st - 4th 2017 weather event, SES Essendon Unit responded to 57 calls from within the Moonee Valley City Council area. 18 were for flooding and included SES volunteers saving a wedding reception from flooding at The Boathouse, Moonee Ponds by sandbagging and providing planks for guests to enter the venue safely.
- In 2011 on the 15th of January, the Maribyrnong River reached a height of 2.21 meters at the Maribyrnong gauge on Chifley Drive, Maribyrnong after receiving 44 millilitres of rain in 28 hours. The usual height of the river at that gauge point is 0.5 meters.
- The highest flood recording at the Maribyrnong gauge is 4.5 meters on the 8th September 1906.
- Other significant historical floods include February 2005, September 1993, July 1987, October 1983, August 1978 and May 1974.



No two floods are the same. Floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property

If you require assistance during a flood or storm, contact SES on 132 500. Your local SES Essendon Unit will be able to assist you.

Staying Informed and Further Information

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| ■ Current warnings (VicEmergency) | emergency.vic.gov.au | 1800 226 226 |
| ■ Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) | bom.gov.au/vic/warnings | 1300 659 217 |
| ■ VicRoads Traffic | traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au | |
| ■ Emergency Broadcasters | ABC 774 AM SKY NEWS Television | |
| ■ VICSES Social Media | facebook.com/vicses twitter.com/vicsesnews | |
| ■ SES Essendon Unit | facebook.com/SES-Essendon-Unit/ | |
| ■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies | ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready | |
| ■ Creating an Emergency Plan | redcross.org.au/prepare | |
| ■ Melbourne Water | melbournewater.com.au | 131 722 |
| ■ City of Melbourne | Melbourne.vic.gov.au | 9658 9658 |




**Life-threatening
Emergency
000**



Flood warnings and emergency checklist

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place.

|  A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can: |  A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can: |  A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can: |
|---|--|---|
| Spill over river banks and cover nearby low lying areas. | Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land. | Cause widespread flooding. |
| Come up through drains in nearby streets. | Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings. | Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level. |
| Require the removal of stock in some cases. | Require evacuation in some areas. | Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water. |
| Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks. | Affect traffic routes. | Closes major roads and rail routes. |
| Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low level bridges. | Require the removal of stock in rural areas. | Require many evacuations. |
| Affect backyards and buildings below floor level. | | Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc). |

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when there is potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by BoM when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

Flash Flooding

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [BoM website](#) and warnings through [VicEmergency](#).



VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. Communities can also access this information through VICSES social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood that the emergency could impact on the community.

WARNING LEVELS

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category</p> |
| | <p>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.</p> |
| | <p>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p> |

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p> |
| | <p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.</p> |
| | <p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p> |

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time and with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact and recover faster.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly, have more control and make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



ARE YOU READY?
DO ONE SIMPLE THING TO MAKE YOU SAFER

- Remember, you may not receive any official warning.
- Emergency assistance may not be immediately available. Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.
- Never wait for a warning to act.



Emergency Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with supplies for 3 days:



Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:

I need to add:

Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

| | |
|--|--|
| Special needs (eg, babies, elderly and people with a disability) | |
| Photos | |
| Family keepsakes | |
| Valuables | |
| Other | |



Emergency Checklist

- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers in your mobile phone.
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan.
- Emergency plan, see <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>



Before Flooding

- Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- Listen to the radio and check the VICSES website for information and advice.
- Go over your emergency plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your emergency kit and take this with you if you evacuate.

During Flooding

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly; roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater.

Evacuating in Flooding

- Flood water is dangerous. Never enter floodwater. It can take just 15cm of water to float a car.
- Find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.
- Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen trees. If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains and floodwater.

After Flooding

- For recovery information, contact your local council, go to the VicEmergency Relief and Recovery-emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief page or call the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- Stay away from damaged and flooded buildings, fallen trees and powerlines and damaged roads until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- When cleaning, protect your health and safety. Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance,
call **132 500**, or **Triple Zero (000)**
in life threatening emergencies.