

Victoria's Public Land Use Categories

The following account describes the main categories of public land use across Victoria and outlines their key characteristics.

Wilderness park

In its Wilderness Investigation the LCC identified the few large remote and relatively unmodified areas remaining in Victoria in order to retain the unique opportunities they provide for natural values and processes with minimal human interference, for self-reliant recreation, inspiration, and solitude, and for their existence value.

National park and State park

National parks and state parks comprise a substantial part of the permanent conservation reserve system, having been selected to represent major land types occurring on public land across the State. They are set aside to conserve and protect biodiversity and natural processes, while providing for recreation and education associated with the enjoyment and understanding of natural environments. State parks are generally smaller and less diverse than National parks.

Other parks (conservation)

Other parks (conservation) includes a range of generally smaller parks under the National Parks Act 1975 set aside to conserve natural or cultural features or landscapes. Apart from passive enjoyment additional recreation activities maybe be permitted. This grouping includes five coastal parks, three historic parks and Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

Marine national park and Marine sanctuary

These are areas of coastal waters specifically set aside to protect important examples of Victoria's marine ecosystems. They contain important species, habitats, marine natural features and formations, scenic values, archaeological sites, and features of historic or scientific interest. A range of recreational activities are permitted but not commercial or recreational fishing.

Multiple use marine protected area

In addition to Marine national parks and sanctuaries, other marine protected areas are set aside to conserve marine (and some coastal) environments while accommodating a greater range of uses, including fishing.

Nature conservation reserve

Nature conservation reserves are managed primarily to conserve and protect one or more specific natural values – such as threatened species or communities, representative vegetation types, sites of high species richness or old-growth forests – as opposed to larger landscapes of natural values. They include areas previously recommended as flora reserves or flora and fauna reserves.

Trust for Nature protected area

As well as land acquired and on-sold with conservation covenants, Trust for Nature retains and manages some blocks to conserve natural values.

Go to www.veac.vic.gov.au for more information to help you make a submission
or call VEAC on **1800 134 803** toll free

Historic and cultural features reserve

Historic and cultural features reserves are established primarily to protect places with highly significant historical or cultural values, including features such as historic buildings, structures, relics or other artefacts.

Natural features reserve

Natural features reserves include public land with a variety of natural values worthy of protection. Typically, these are small reserves with natural values not as significant as those in National parks and Nature conservation reserves. This category encompasses several former or more specific categories, on the basis that they have broadly similar land use objectives – including bushland, geological and streamside reserves and public land water frontages.

Regional park and metropolitan park

Situated close to towns, Regional parks provide opportunities for informal recreation in natural settings for large numbers of people. They provide for recreation and also aim to protect vegetation and fauna habitat. Metropolitan park is the equivalent category in Greater Melbourne.

Forest park

Forest parks support native forest and bushland, and provide for a broad range of opportunities for recreation, nature conservation and compatible minor resource utilisation.

State forest

State forests are the major sources of timber and other forest products from public land, as well as supporting biodiversity and providing for a broad range of recreational activities.

Coastal reserve

Coastal reserve is a multi-use category set aside primarily to provide informal recreation for large numbers of people, including fishing and boating, in a natural coastal environment, as well as protection of natural coastal landscapes, ecosystems and flora and fauna.

Community use area

Mostly located in towns or cities, Community use areas primarily provide for education, recreation or other specific public purposes. The category includes recreation reserves for organised sports (from sports grounds to rifle ranges) or for informal recreation such as picnicking, parklands and gardens such as botanic and other gardens, recreation trails including rail trails, education areas (for environmental education in natural areas) and buildings in public use such as schools, public halls, libraries, and museums.

Alpine resort

This category refers to sites set aside to support recreational activities in an alpine context. The six Alpine resorts provide for development and operation of down-hill and cross country skiing infrastructure, associated facilities, and where appropriate, ski villages.

Plantation

Softwood and hardwood plantations on public land are managed for intensive wood production. Most state softwood plantations are vested in the Victorian Plantations Corporation and licensed to Hancock Victorian Plantations, but comes under the definition of public land.

Water production

This category includes water supply storages, areas used primarily for water supply protection around the margins of domestic supply reservoirs, and offtakes that obtain their supply from catchment flows. This category also includes irrigation drainage and storage, and water drainage and distribution infrastructure.

Earth resources

Most public land other than national and state parks is available for exploration and production of minerals and petroleum, and for quarrying. Where mining or quarrying is virtually an exclusive use, and is expected to operate for some period of time, specific sites have been set aside for that use.

Services and utilities area

Numerous service and utility installations are located on public land, such as transport (road, rail and air), communications, water, sewerage, waste disposal, cemeteries, agricultural research, electricity and gas and other services. Within townships there are hospitals, police stations, court houses, municipal buildings, depots and other utilities on public land. Road reserves, railway alignments, cemeteries and other service and utility areas may retain indigenous vegetation, or significant cultural heritage features.

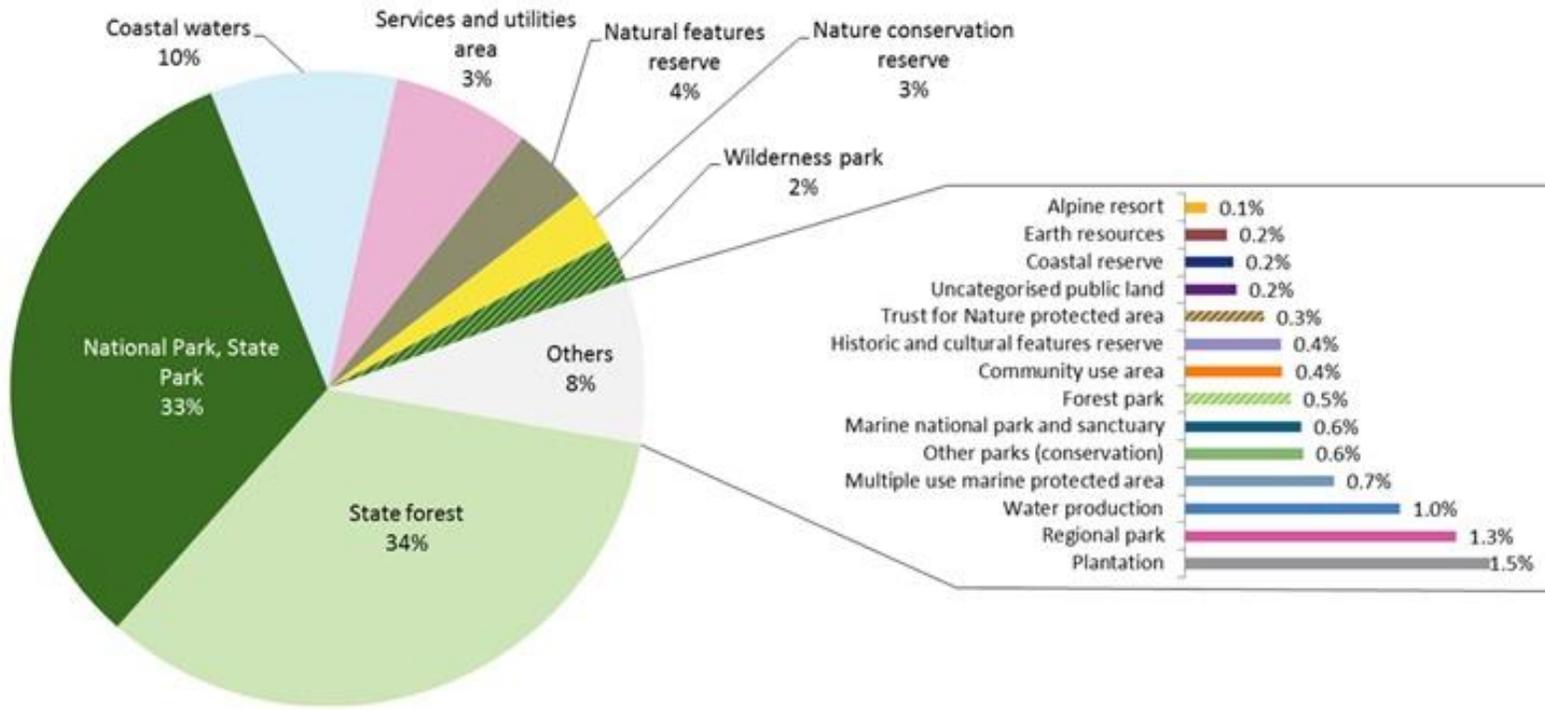
Coastal waters

Coastal waters includes all waters and the seabed below reaching out a distance of 3 nautical miles from the Territorial Sea Baseline (usually the low tide mark). These waters contain the extent of the exclusive Victorian territorial jurisdiction, beyond which are Commonwealth waters.

Uncategorised public land

This category includes public land, often in small rural parcels or in townships, for which no primary public use has been allocated. With new information from digital imagery, subsequent studies or Crown land assessments, many of these areas can be categorised for a particular public use, or if not required, assessed as surplus.

Victoria's Public Land



Public Land Use Category	Hectares
Wilderness park	200,700
National park, State park	3,058,700
Other parks (conservation)	53,900
Marine national park and sanctuary	53,100
Multiple use marine protected area	67,800
Nature conservation reserve	262,300
Trust for Nature protected area	36,200
Historic and cultural features reserve	43,600
Natural features reserve	380,800
Regional park, Metropolitan park	123,400
Forest park	48,100
State forest	3,180,600
Coastal reserve	21,900
Community use area	44,500
Alpine resort	10,000
Plantation	139,000
Water production	98,000
Earth resources	19,200
Services and utilities area	659,300
Coastal waters	896,100
uncategorised public land	23,300
Total	9,420,500