

Media Release

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Visitors invited to help shape the future of our parks

Do you enjoy getting out in nature and discovering all that Victoria's beautiful parks have to offer? Now you have a chance to help shape their future.

Victorians are being invited to participate in the first state-wide online survey that has been developed to find out what people value most about these special places and how they benefit from them.

Parks Victoria has joined forces with researchers from the University of South Australia and the University of Queensland to develop a survey that uses an internet based Geographic Information System (GIS) to help gather the information.

Participants will be asked to place markers on a map to identify the parks that they care about and to complete a short survey about what they value and what changes they'd like to see in these parks.

Parks Victoria Manager Science and Management Effectiveness, Tony Varcoe, said this was the first time that such 'geospatial' data would be gathered on a state-wide scale and it would be valuable in helping to guide how parks are managed in the future.

"We're looking forward to getting better insights about the community's priorities for managing specific parks and the things that matter most to them. It will also be good to get an understanding of how these thoughts compare across the state."

"Whether it's climbing to the top of a mountain, going for a bike ride or just finding a relaxing space to unwind, parks are there for everyone to enjoy. This survey will give people a great opportunity to have a say about the places they love and their future.

"The information can then be used to help guide how the parks are managed to best cater for the whole community.

"I encourage people to get online and have a say as we would really like to hear your thoughts," Mr Varcoe said.

To participate in the survey visit: www.parksvictoria.net

Everyone completing the survey by 31 January 2014 will receive a \$10 Amazon voucher, a Hoyts movie pass or \$10 credit to donate to a selection of charities.

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