

Everyone can enjoy Golden Valley Tree Park with new all-access path

People with mobility issues now have a better opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Golden Valley Tree Park at Balingup.

The 300m pathway from the World Collection carpark to the BBQ and Duckpond has been up-graded to all-access specifications. The asphalt surface and user-friendly gradients make it easy for variously-abled people to access places in the Park more easily.

The path encircles the carpark, making it easy for visitors to leave and return to their vehicles.

Visitors can now safely reach the picnic and BBQ area near the majestic Cleveland Oaks, to enjoy picnics and barbecues with friends and families.

The path continues along an avenue of golden poplars to the Duckpond. Here benches overlook a delightful pond that features a most attractive Swamp Cypress from Florida.

Many of the trees along the route of the new path are deciduous, and include English Oak, Golden Poplar, Golden and Claret Ash and willow, all contributing to the Tree Park's renowned display of autumnal colour.

Development of the all-access path has been a collaboration between Golden Valley Tree Park Inc and several partners:

- The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup provided \$80,000 of funding through the Federal Governments Drought Relief Fund. They managed the contractor procurement, and the works constructed by a local firm, DBCEC.
- Conceptual design and survey was undertaken by students from SW Regional TAFE, as part of their Certificate IV Surveying and Building Construction study programs;
- The Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions, through their Recreation, Planning and Design Unit produced scoping and engineering drawings ensuring the design complied with current standards for visitation, safety and aesthetics.

Forward plans for visitor infrastructure at the Park include stage 2 of the path, upgrading to all-access standards the return route to the carpark along the Short Sequoia Walk and installing all-access toilet facilities.

DBCA has planned for a table suitable for wheelchairs which should arrive very soon!