

# Spot the changes in the Broken River floodplain caused by people



Use these clues and look around.....  
how many can you find?????

<p><b>No wandering off</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Extra through pipes</b></p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b>Tidying up</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Replacing ones that have gone</b></p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b>Invasion by seeds</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Time for a rest</b></p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b>Lazy people</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Thrills and spills</b></p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b>Unwanted four legged visitors</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Across we go</b></p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b>Protecting banks</b></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Wedding spot</b></p> <p>.....</p>



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how many can you find?????

<p><b>No wandering off</b></p> <p><i>2 features: Formed paths and off road vehicle tracks.</i></p> <p>(The formed paths enable people to enjoy the area without causing damage to the environment. You may see evidence of people taking vehicles into the area which does cause damage to the environment.)</p>	<p><b>Extra through pipes</b></p> <p><i>Storm water drains</i></p> <p>(These large pipes release storm water into the river. The water comes underground from local streets after rain or after people wash cars or over water their gardens. Usually it has not been cleaned but in some places in Shepparton there are now gross pollutant traps on the drains before they enter the river)</p>
<p><b>Tidying up</b></p> <p><i>Mown areas</i></p> <p>(Council mow the areas to tidy it up, to limit the weed and grass growth and to limit the fire risks. People can safely use the area and many people think it looks better.)</p>	<p><b>Replacing ones that have gone</b></p> <p><i>Revegetation</i></p> <p>(Planting by community members, McGuire VCAL students and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority near and on the river banks.)</p>
<p><b>Invasion by seeds</b></p> <p><i>Weeds</i></p> <p>(There are many different weeds in the Broken River floodplain. Introduced in many ways such as birds, flood waters, garden escapees)</p>	<p><b>Thrills and spills</b></p> <p><i>Bike jumps</i></p> <p>(Young people use the existing up and downs of the river banks and have also dug soil and made artificial bike jumps which cause erosion and damage.)</p>
<p><b>Lazy people</b></p> <p><i>Litter</i></p> <p>(Includes garden rubbish and household waste that people dump.)</p>	<p><b>Time for a rest</b></p> <p><i>Seats</i></p>
<p><b>Unwanted four legged visitors</b></p> <p><i>Introduced animals e.g. foxes, rabbits, dogs, cats</i></p> <p>(May not see any evidence but possibly may see some scats )</p>	<p><b>Wedding spot</b></p> <p><i>Jackson Park.</i></p> <p>(This natural river habitat has been significantly modified as a park with exotic plants and mown area areas.)</p>
<p><b>Protecting banks</b></p> <p><i>Pole fields, rock stabilisation and bank revegetation.</i></p> <p>(GBCMA have put in vertical wooden poles, plants and piles of rocks at various points where the water flows quickly when river is high, to slow water and stop bank erosion)</p>	<p><b>Across we go</b></p> <p><i>Pedestrian bridge across the river and across other low areas.</i></p> <p>(This gives people much quicker access between the housing estates on either side of the river. It has caused some vegetation loss. The housing estates themselves are built on the floodplain and would have been forested to some extent in the past.)</p>



## Problems on the Broken River flood plain.

People have decided that the Broken River is a great place to put storm water from the streets around the nearby housing estates. This water has litter, grease, oil and nutrients in it that pollute the river. The aquatic plants and animals don't like this. This water also flows into the Goulburn water and is pumped out for our drinking water.

Bindii seeds have come into the Broken River floodplain and now it is growing everywhere and stopping native plants from growing and causing damage to animals' feet. It also gets in people's shoes and causes punctures in bike riders' tyres.

People are coming to the Broken River and walking all over the place. They are damaging the plants and some of the land is becoming bare in places so that when it rains the topsoil runs into the river.

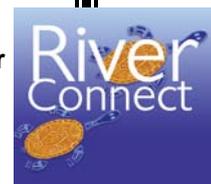
People are coming to the Broken River and just dumping their cans and food packaging in the bush.

Kids are playing in the area and making cubbies under and around the fallen branches. They add to this by pulling down branches off the trees.

People come to the Broken River area to have camp fires and party. They chop down the trees for their campfire and they don't bother to put out their camp fire when they leave.

BMK bike riders come to the Broken River, dig up the ground and make jumps and ride their bikes all over the place, knocking down plants and young trees and digging up soft soil. Eroded soil flows into the river.

People are bringing their dogs to the Broken River and letting them run off into the bush where they chase the native birds and animals and leave their waste to pollute the area and the river water.





## Users' Code for the Broken River floodplain

### Task:

Students are to develop a Users' Code suggesting how people are to behave so they can enjoy the area and have fun and at the same time look after the environment.

Note: this area is not a National Park and is not part of the newly formed Shepparton Regional Park. It is managed by the Local Council so is subject to Council local laws.

HINT: Try and make your code as positive as possible. Make sure you include what people can do and how to do it carefully, rather than simply making up a list of don'ts.

This code can be used in the future as a way to prepare all the Wilmot Road students before they visit their reach.... ("The Broken River between the foot bridge and the Goulburn Valley Highway".)

### Resources:

1. The list of solutions the students developed for the problems they mimed.
2. The Wetland Visitors' code cartoon sheet.
3. The Lower Goulburn River National Park Visitor Guide brochure may give ideas even though the area is not part of the National Park. Also Parks Victoria website may have additional ideas. [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)
4. The area is under Council management and therefore has local laws that apply to it. Mark Eade at Council may be able to give the class a summary of the key issues or may be happy to visit your class for a talk.

<http://www.greatershepparton.com.au/council/locallawsenforcement/locallaws/>

### Presentation:

- To sell the idea to people.... try and make it eye catching and fun.
- It could be presented as a poster, cartoon, PowerPoint etc.
- It could include a slogan, jingle, song, and/or logo.

