

# Biodiversity Plan

Banyule City Council

(draft) Biodiversity Plan, 2019 – 2022



*Credit: Tom Crawshaw*

# Biodiversity Plan

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# Biodiversity Plan

***“If we don’t take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.” - Sir David Attenborough, COP24 Katowice, Poland, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018***

## Introduction

Biodiversity can be defined simply as the diversity of living things. It can be measured on a genetic level (diversity of genes within a species); on a species level (number of different species); and at an ecosystem level (number of functioning habitat types of different successional stages and ecological vegetation classes). All three levels of biodiversity are intertwined and must be protected, as human civilisation depends on healthy natural systems for survival. **Council recognises that the most imminent threat to biodiversity is Climate Change.**

Biodiversity is an important component in achieving our Council Plan vision of ‘a green, sustainable and vibrant place for a healthy, connected and inclusive community’. The Banyule Biodiversity Plan 2018 – 2021 aims to strengthen the capacity of people in the Banyule City Council area to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity. This Biodiversity Plan provides an overview of Banyule’s biodiversity assets and lists actions and indicators to justify, direct and monitor our management of biodiversity within the municipality. It supports the objectives in Banyule’s Council Plan 2018-21, in particular the Planet: Environmental Sustainability objective:

**“Conduct Council activities in a sustainable manner, and practice sound stewardship of the natural environment to ensure its protection, diversity and enhancement”.**

The Biodiversity Plan gives effect to the Council Plan Planet key direction to ‘Protect and enhance our natural environment’ and also supports other key directions such as ‘Encourage environmental stewardship’. Banyule’s Biodiversity Plan sits within the context of our Policy and Strategy documents alongside the other Plan level documents. It aligns with the Victorian State Government’s Biodiversity plan, “Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037”, supporting its vision that “Victoria’s Biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for”. The two main goals of this plan are for “Victorians to value nature” and that “Victoria’s natural environment is healthy”. The actions outlined in Banyule’s Biodiversity Plan will support the achievement of these key State Government goals. Four approaches will be prioritised to ensure these goals are achieved:

- **Minimise threats to biodiversity** – address threatening processes that impact on biodiversity
- **Engagement and education** – provide programs and resources to ensure the community has the knowledge, attitude and skills to protect and enhance biodiversity in Banyule
- **Manage land for biodiversity** – manage council land for Biodiversity, based on sound ecological principles
- **Partnerships – a coordinated approach** - establish community and program partners to improve capacity to protect and enhance biodiversity on both public and private land

Council’s key Biodiversity activities and programs within these areas include those listed below. These and others are covered in detail within this plan.

<i>Minimise threats to biodiversity</i>	<i>Engagement and education</i>	<i>Manage for biodiversity</i>	<i>Partnerships – a coordinated approach</i>
Take action on Climate Change	Schools Wildlife Corridors and Nature Play programs	Control pest plants and animals	Friends of groups
Control pest plants and animals	“Buy 1 Get 1 Free” Indigenous plant vouchers	Pilot green infrastructure projects	Educational Institutions
Connect fragmented patches of habitat	Spring Outdoors program	Revegetate with indigenous species	Local nurseries
Limit stormwater damage	Gardens for Wildlife	Priority Bushland Management Plans	Other Councils and agencies

# Biodiversity Plan

## Planet and Biodiversity

Banyule Council recognises the intrinsic value of the natural environment and aims to conduct its activities in a manner which ensures its diversity, protection and enhancement.

Council's Planet Policy and Strategy outlines five key directions to help achieve this outcome:

- Protect and enhance our natural environment
- Conserve water and improve stormwater management
- Lead in planning for, and responding to, climate change
- Avoid waste generation
- Be environmental stewards.

This Biodiversity Plan focuses on the "protect and enhance our natural environment" key direction while supporting all other key directions.

## Biodiversity and Council's role

Biodiversity is defined simply as the diversity of living things.

Council's work addresses these asset needs, adopting a lead role in providing direction and expertise:

- **Engagement and education** – increase awareness, support community action, provide resources and training
- **Manage land for Biodiversity** – manage biodiversity assets based on scientific and ecological evidence
- **Partnerships – a coordinated approach** - establish community and program partners to improve outcomes
- **Minimise threats to Biodiversity** - undertake actions to minimise threats to biodiversity

Key activities and programs undertaken in this space are detailed below.

### What we do...

<i>Engagement and education (engagement pic)</i>	<i>Manage land for Biodiversity (pic of )</i>	<i>Partnerships – a coordinated approach (pic of )</i>	<i>Minimise threats to Biodiversity (pest animal pic)</i>
Provide community members with the skills and understanding to protect and enhance biodiversity.	Develop management plans for bushland reserves based on sound scientific and ecological evidence	Leverage partnerships with external stakeholders to build new networks and increase program outcomes, impact and effectiveness.	Take action to limit the effects of pest plant and animal species, including domestic cats
Connect residents to their local parks, open spaces and bushland reserves	Pilot green infrastructure projects in urban settings including green facades and rooftop gardens	Attend regional forums to ensure a catchment wide approach to managing threatening processes	Address fragmentation of habitat by connecting isolated patches through revegetation
Increase awareness of Banyule's unique biodiverse assets through promotion and education	Bushland Management Unit monitor and collect data on biodiversity to improve management practices	Engage ecologists to assist with management of threatened species	Take action to mitigate the threats to biodiversity posed by Climate Change

# Biodiversity Plan

## The community and what we've heard...

We have heard through various community consultation activities about the community's appreciation for the environment and natural spaces within Banyule. Much of the feedback noted that Council played a meaningful role in community education on sustainability and climate change issues. There was support for Council to provide services and incentives for residents to make environmentally-aware lifestyle changes and choices. The community strongly values the natural environment, identifying it as a major reason for attraction to Banyule and wanting it to be protected for future generations.

With the abundance of green open space in Banyule, it's not surprising a significant percentage of people's first response to the question posed at various Council events and consultations in 2017, "What do you love about where you live?" was the greenery and trees. Some even said the greenery was the reason they moved to the area. There was a strong desire expressed by residents for Council to conserve and to continue to improve the green spaces of Banyule.

Some people mentioned the importance of planting trees and shrubs that could reduce problems with pollen allergies and provide streets with more shade. There were many comments about increasing the planting of native flora.

Connected to the love of trees and greenery was an appreciation for the natural habitat and wildlife of Banyule. Feedback even paid homage to Banyule's birdsong. Many people wanted Council to conserve natural habitat for wildlife, including wildlife corridors and parklands. Some called for harsher penalties for those who litter or cut down protected trees without permits

The importance of education for young people about our local biodiversity rated several mentions. It was felt that increasing opportunities for people to connect with, learn about and enjoy nature were very positive outcomes for the community.

### In your words!

*"Banyule has done very well planting street trees the last two years.....but please, plant more trees. We need more shade in Rosanna."*

*"Please, please more trees, anywhere, any size and any type (of course natives are best in general)."*

*"The creek, wildlife and wildlife corridors are fantastic."*

*"Preservation of the environment. We have community groups that plant natives – more would be great."*

*"Put up more nesting boxes. We need to protect bird life. The Council could educate the community on how to make their gardens native bird friendly and encourage people to install nesting boxes"*

*"I would love to see council facilitate bush playgroups, bush school programs and kindergartens and see Banyule leading the way in this growing movement"*

# Biodiversity Plan

## Policy and situational context

The Biodiversity Plan gives effect to the Council Plan Planet key direction to ‘Protect and enhance our natural environment’ and also supports other key directions such as ‘Encourage environmental stewardship’.

Banyule’s Biodiversity Plan sits within the context of our Policy and Strategy documents alongside the other Plan level documents. It aligns with the Victorian State Government’s Biodiversity plan “Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037”, supporting its vision that “Victoria’s Biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for”. The two main goals of this plan are for

- “Victorians to value nature” and that
- “Victoria’s natural environment is healthy”

The actions outlined in Banyule’s Biodiversity Plan will contribute to the achievement of these key State Government goals.

## Implementation

The Biodiversity Plan establishes a four-year framework to guide environmental action across the Council. The action plans detailed in Appendix A will be embedded within the working requirements of relevant departments and be reported on annually.

The vast majority of actions will be implemented using existing resources, as part of general staff responsibilities or through reoccurring budgets. Some actions will be subject to the securing of additional funds.



## ***The Biodiversity Plan***

Council's current approach and delivery of biodiversity programs is provided in the following pages across our four action areas.

### **Minimising threats to Biodiversity**

Council recognises that once genes, species and ecosystems are lost, we can't create new ones, so we must protect what we've got. Taking action to reduce threats to biodiversity is the main mechanism for protecting biodiversity. Limiting these threats will result in healthier ecosystems, which in turn, will provide ecosystem services that sustain life – shade, clean air, water and soil, and pest and disease control.

The main threats to biodiversity in Banyule are:

- **Climate Change**
- Competition from weeds
- Predation by and competition from pest animals
- Habitat fragmentation through urbanisation
- Human created waste and rubbish

Key Council strategies for minimising threats to Biodiversity include:

- **Climate Change action**
- **Knowledge and capacity building**
- **Liaising with neighbouring land managers**
- **Limiting stormwater damage**

#### **Climate change action**

##### **Objectives:**

- **To lessen the effects of extreme weather events**
- **To manage the risk of bushfires**
- **To reduce the impact of heat island effect.**

Banyule recognises the imminent threat to people and the environment that climate change presents. Climate change is leading to more extreme weather events (such as the major flood in Rosanna in 2016), an increased risk of bushfires and a rapid altering of environmental conditions to which local species are adapted. The threat to these species is that they cannot evolve fast enough to cope with these predicted changes, leading to their extinction.

Bushfires have been a long standing feature of our Australian ecosystems but are not acceptable in urban areas where property damage or loss of life may result. Without frequent 'cool burn' fires to which bushland areas are adapted, there can be a build-up of fuel, more intense, difficult to control 'hot burning' fires and a loss of species that are not adapted to this intensity.

The Bushland Management team manages this threat with low intensity, ecological burns to reduce fuel loads, control weeds and regenerate species that have evolved to germinate when stimulated by the chemicals present in bushfire smoke.

Another advantage of greening Banyule is to reduce future heat island effects in urban areas. Increasing the amount of canopy cover can create local microclimates and keep temperatures lower than they would otherwise be. Green infrastructure, such as roof top gardens, play a role in reducing these heat loads (and in turn cooling costs), whilst improving biodiversity outcomes.

# ***The Biodiversity Plan***

## **Climate Change facts**

Did you know that:

\*Atmospheric carbon dioxide has risen from 280 ppm in pre industrial times to 407.18 in March 2017

\*has reached its highest level for 650,000 years (IPCC) - 2007 report or NASA

\*this increase in atmospheric carbon will result in a temperature rise around 0.5 – 1.2 C by 2030

\*the CSIRO predicts a reduction in rainfall in southern Australia of 'up to around 15% by 2030

## **Knowledge and capacity building**

### **Objectives:**

- Raise awareness of threats to biodiversity
- Build capacity of residents to take appropriate actions
- Engage residents to take action to minimise these threats

To address the threats to Biodiversity, council has a range of tools to raise awareness of environmental issues, develop capacity building, and demonstrate skills required to take action. For example, to address weed control, Council has produced a weeds brochure that is available to residents to assist them to identify invasive weeds in their gardens for removal. A video demonstrating weed removal techniques also assists residents to take action.

## **Liaise with neighbouring land managers**

### **Objectives:**

- To facilitate a catchment wide approach
- To increase the range and effectiveness of land management programs

Council liaises with neighbouring land managers to minimise threats to Biodiversity. Banyule shares boundaries with Nillumbik, Manningham and Darebin Councils as well as large areas of land managed by Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and private landowners. An example of how Banyule liaises with these agencies is Council's involvement in the North East Pest Animal Management network. The Bushland Management Coordinator attends these meetings to look for the best ways to work together to control highly mobile species such as foxes and Indian Mynas. Coordinated, catchment wide actions based on strong scientific models and sound data achieves better results for all involved.

## **Limit storm water damage**

### **Objectives:**

- To manage and reuse stormwater
- To decrease the impact of severe storms
- To maintain habitat values of water bodies

Climate change is already creating more extreme weather events such as storms. More severe storms mean increased run off in Banyule, increased erosion and the reduction of the habitat value of creeks and rivers. To address this, Council is committed to:

- Capturing storm water run-off and reusing it for irrigation at the three stormwater harvesting project sites
- Including WSUD in drainage plans - for example, Were Street rain garden in Montmorency
- Retaining water in the landscape in the form of wetlands, for example the re-watering of Banyule Billabong.



## ***The Biodiversity Plan***





# The Biodiversity Plan

## Engagement and education

Council aims to engage the community in a variety of programs which will improve their knowledge and appreciation of local biodiversity. These activities are designed to connect people to their local bushland areas, parks and reserves in an engaging, educational and social way, so that they are more likely to contribute to the conservation of these natural areas. Adults and children are provided with hands on skills and experiences in the natural world, increasing their knowledge base and skills. For example, Banyule's Bushland Management Unit run several nesting box building workshops for residents each year, where residents learn about the habits of local wildlife species.

Council's notable biodiversity engagement and education programs include:

- Schools Wildlife Corridors Program
- "Buy 1, get 1 free" Indigenous plant voucher system
- Spring Outdoors Program
- Gardens for Wildlife program
- Nature Play program

Detail on these are provided below:

### Schools Wildlife Corridors Program

Council runs the Schools Wildlife Corridors Program each year. This is a three step program targeting local primary schools. Steps include a Biodiversity Audit, a community revegetation day in one of Banyule's bushland reserves and a school action day. The program features Indigenous Cultural activities delivered by Wurundjeri elders, a peer learning approach where secondary students mentor primary students and the delivery of a range of hands on environmental activities including revegetation and water quality testing.

#### Objectives:

- Increase awareness of biodiversity in Banyule
- Connect children to their local environment and community
- Address fragmentation of habitat by creating wildlife corridors across Banyule
- Educate students about biodiversity and their local environment

Banyule's environment team partners with schools and other local agencies to deliver the program. The Bushland Management Unit prepares the area and

supplies the appropriate indigenous plants for revegetation.

### Gardens for Wildlife - Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

As part of a focus on raising greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity by Council, a suite of short videos have been produced. The Gardens for Wildlife video is one example. It provides an overview of the program and what Council is trying to achieve by running it. Short interviews with VINC staff and residents explains how the program works. Viewers gain an understanding of the program which starts with an introductory workshop at VINC, a garden site assessment with each participant and a garden report to assist participants with the on ground habitat restoration of their gardens.

The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuNwhly6JjM>

### 'Buy 1 get 1 free' Indigenous Plant Voucher System

The popular "Buy 1, get 1 Free" Indigenous Plant voucher system enables Banyule residents to create habitat in their own gardens by planting local indigenous species. Indigenous plants are used to the local soil and climatic conditions, attract indigenous birds, animals and insects and provide food and shelter for a range of species.

Planting these indigenous plants on private land contributes to the natural wildlife corridors established along local waterways, enhancing and connecting fragmented patches of habitat, enabling wildlife to move through urban areas.

Residents receive the voucher along with a plant list relevant to the particular indigenous plant community that covers their property. This helps them in plant selection when redeeming their voucher from one of the two participating local nurseries

### Spring Outdoors Program

The Spring Outdoors Program is another program designed to connect residents with their natural environment and appreciate biodiversity in their local area. Run in partnership with Manningham Council, the extensive program of events encourages people to shake off their winter hibernation and get active in the outdoors, improving their health, wellbeing and knowledge of biodiversity. Some of the key events in the annual Spring Outdoors program include the 'Breakfast with the Birds' event, 'Malahang Festival' and a 'Hollows for Habitat' nesting box building workshop.

# ***The Biodiversity Plan***

## **Gardens for Wildlife program**

A recent addition to Banyule's suite of biodiversity activities is the 'Gardens for Wildlife program.' A pilot program was delivered in autumn 2018 with excellent results. The program aims to encourage residents to learn more about their local biodiversity through developing gardens with habitat value for local birds, animals and insects. Residents are recruited through an online process using the Facebook platform, with a maximum of 25 residents per intake. Run in partnership with VINC at Fairfield, the program begins with a workshop at VINC nursery, where residents learn about site preparation, indigenous plant species, soil and garden design. They are then signed up for a garden assessment with a specialist garden guide, who suggests ways to improve their gardens and leaves them with a garden plan. Residents are given vouchers for 20 indigenous plants and start their on-ground actions. A celebration day, held in partnership with a local 'Friends of' group, rounds out the program. An online community of practice is formed on the Gardens for Wildlife Facebook page, where participants can share photos of their gardens, tips and hints and seek advice.

## **Nature Play Program**

In response to recent research on nature deficit disorder and the rise of anxiety and depression in young children, Banyule has committed to run a yearly program of seven Nature Play events. The program is linked to the seven seasons of the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of Banyule, with one event held in each of the seven seasons in one of Banyule's bushland reserves or parks. Early childhood aged children and their parents are encouraged to attend and take part in a range of activities that engage them in the natural world. Activities include nature walks with the Bushland Management staff, bark painting using ochre, water bug investigations, building cubbies and weaving with local grass species. Banyule's Leisure, Arts and Culture, Bushland Management, Environment and Early Childhood teams collaborate to deliver these events.

# The Biodiversity Plan

## Manage land for biodiversity

Council is committed to managing land for biodiversity. Protection of biodiversity requires active management to maintain genetic diversity and to maintain the integrity and functionality of wetlands, waterways and wildlife corridors. Council continually reviews programs within these areas to ensure tangible outcomes are being achieved.

Council's key programs in this area include:

- Priority Bushland Management plans
- Control of pest plants and animals
- Wildlife Corridors Program
- Green infrastructure in urban areas

### Priority Bushland Management plans

#### Objectives:

- Control of invasive weed species
- Promotion of regrowth of indigenous species
- Record lists of flora and fauna
- Monitor ecosystem health

Each year, Banyule engages an ecologist to write Bushland Management Plans for different sites around Banyule. Over the last four years, these plans have been developed for Andrew Yandell Habitat reserve, the Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve at Heidelberg West, the Montmorency Bushland reserves and in 2018, the Plenty River bushland reserves including Partington's Flat, Anthony Beale Reserve and Fricker's Hill reserve. The ecologist advises the Bushland Management Unit on the best ways to manage this land for biodiversity. Flora and fauna surveys are carried out at different times of the year and threatened flora species mapped using the GIS system, to ensure the Bushland staff are aware of the location of these plants. They can then take appropriate care of them to conserve the species for the future.

Case Study: The Banyule Northern Grasslands encompass approximately 6 hectares of Plains Grassy Woodland. The grassland is located along the Darebin Creek in Heidelberg Heights, Victoria, approximately 13 kilometres from Melbourne CBD. These grasslands form part of the Darebin Creek Trail Park and part of a wildlife corridor between the Darebin Creek and the Yarra River. Cattle have previously been grazed in the area and earthworks have occurred to batten the side of the creek and install water drainage. The grassland is bordered by factories to the east, La Trobe University grasslands to the north, Darebin Creek trail to the south and the Darebin Creek to the west. The surrounding area has been cleared for development and the vegetation in these areas has been modified greatly, with the introduction of non-indigenous species. The closest area of remnant grassland is located approximately 8 kilometres away in Bundoora Parklands. Less than 1 percent of Victoria's remnant indigenous grasslands remain today, so this area is carefully managed by the Banyule City Council Bushland Management Unit to ensure this unique vegetation community is conserved for the future. Grasslands are important habitat for skinks, birds of prey, insects and small marsupials. Grassland species that occur in this area include Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Matted Flax Lily (*Dianella amoena*), Blue Devil (*Eryngium ovinum*) and Slender Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium varians*).

# The Biodiversity Plan

## Biodiversity in Banyule – Current Status

Banyule City Council:

- \*Covers an area of 890 ha

- \*has 606.4 ha of Council-owned and managed open space and 285 ha of state government owned and managed open space

- \*Includes more than 30 sites designated as bushland reserves - staff trained to care for biodiversity values manage these

- \*has 22 biosites (sites of regional, state or national environmental significance), managed as bushland reserves where they are council owned.

- \*To retain and improve biodiversity, we include all of the city of Banyule in our planning, also advocating to State Government regarding the land they manage

Flora:

- \* Banyule has 401 indigenous vascular plant species, some common and some found only in isolated patches (recorded through surveys between 1995 and 2000, Beardsall, 2000)

- \*170 species that are likely to have been present in Banyule but have not been recorded here

- \* many non-vascular plants and other non -vascular life forms such as fungi and lichens that have not been surveyed but which add value to the to the ecosystems in which they are found through their interactions with plants, animals, water and soils

Remnant vegetation:

- \* Remnant flora describes stands of vegetation that has persisted on site continuously since before European settlement.

Banyule retains less than 10 percent of its original vegetation cover (Beardsall, 2000)

Indigenous canopy cover contributes to Banyule's liveability by:

- \*Helping to identify the municipality and enhance a sense of place

- \*contributing to the community's positive feelings about living in the area

- \*providing greater recognition of and planning control over, large remnant trees of age, size and habitat or landscape value through Banyule's Significant tree register

- \*protecting remnant bushland areas supporting a diverse range of middle and understorey plants, including many flowering herbs, lilies and terrestrial orchids

- \*Banyule City council commissioned a study to locate vegetation sub communities in 1999. It identified 34 vegetation sub communities. This data is used to select species for revegetation projects

Fauna:

Indigenous vertebrate animal species recorded in Banyule include:

- \*214 birds

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\*20 mammals

\*23 reptiles

\*12 frogs

\*9 Freshwater fish

Many of these species will utilise habitat outside Banyule. These means connected wildlife corridors with a good cover of Indigenous trees are critical for their survival.

### Control of pest plants and animals

#### Objectives:

- Control environmental weeds on Council land to prevent their spread
- Control pest animals on Council land to prevent negative impacts on biodiversity
- Prevent the proliferation of feral cats

Flora that is not Indigenous to Banyule may be a weed species.

These weeds are categorised on the basis of their invasiveness and method of spread. There are:

- 240 plant species established in Banyule
- 25 noxious weed species as defined by the Catchment and Land Protection Act of 1994 (CaLP Act)
- 58 regional priority weeds

Council works hard to control weeds on Council land. The Bushland Management Unit use a variety of techniques to manage weeds, including spraying with herbicide and hand weeding in sensitive areas. Wash and blow down procedures are being improved to prevent the spread of weeds from site to site, with a wash down bay to be installed at the parks depot and blow down procedures implemented as part of the working routine of teams in 2018 - 2021.

The environment team works closely with Local Laws on weed infestations on private land, with a weed letter sent to the resident requesting removal and outlining consequences. A new local law is in development to ensure residents follow through with weed removal requests or risk a heavy fine.

Pest animals can have a highly damaging effect on the biodiversity of Banyule, so Council takes action to control them on Council land. The NEROC report lists 31 introduced vertebrate pest species active in the Banyule area. They predate on local plants and animals, compete with indigenous animals for food and breeding sites, spread weeds and can spread diseases to local animals and humans.

The main pest animals in Banyule are foxes, rabbits, birds (such as Indian Mynas) and feral and domestic cats. Rabbits and foxes are targeted with baiting programs on Council land. Some residents participated in the Indian Myna community trapping trial in 2017 with mixed results. Council conducts a cat de-sexing program to ensure cats cannot breed and increase feral cat numbers.

Keeping cats inside at night can have a hugely positive effect on local fauna species, as cats are instinctive hunters and prey on native birds, lizards and small marsupials, killing millions of small native animals across Australia each night.

### Engagement and Education

#### Wildlife corridors

#### Objectives:

- Create habitat for native wildlife
- Support genetic flow



## ***The Biodiversity Plan***

- **Connect fragmented patches of habitat**

Many areas of natural habitat occur within Banyule and on adjacent land, providing important refuges for indigenous plants and animals. Clearing for agriculture and urbanisation has meant that these natural wildlife corridors have been fragmented over time, meaning species range is restricted and genetic flow reduced. The Bushland Management unit work to create and maintain natural wildlife corridors along the Yarra and Plenty rivers and the Darebin Creek throughout the municipality. This connects fragmented patches of habitat and gives indigenous plants and animals greater chances of survival.

### **Green infrastructure in urban areas**

#### **Objectives:**

- **To encourage biodiversity in urban spaces**
- **To address the urban heat island effect**

In the coming four years, Banyule will pilot green infrastructure projects on Council buildings. Green infrastructure involves the use of plants to shade the built environment, creating micro climates that reflect sunlight, cool buildings down and combat the heat island effect. These projects will take the form of green facades and rooftop gardens. The projects will increase the amount of biodiversity in urban areas by creating habitat for small birds and insects in places where there was none.

# ***The Biodiversity Plan***

## **Partnerships – a coordinated approach**

Biodiversity protection and enhancement cannot be achieved without collaborating with partners. Council recognises that interest and expertise within the community, particularly within our environment and ‘friends of’ groups, neighbouring councils and other agencies. By partnering with these groups, Council is able to have a wider impact and achieve its goals more readily. As a result, many of our programs are delivered in partnership with organisations including Nillumbik and Manningham councils, ‘friends of’ groups, Darebin Creek Management Committee and agencies such as Yarra Valley Water, Melbourne Water and DELWP.

Key programs that demonstrate a coordinated approach include:

- Facilitation of ‘friends of’ groups
- Schools Wildlife Corridors Program
- Banyule and Nillumbik TEN
- Spring Outdoors Program

### **Facilitation of ‘friends’ groups**

#### **Objectives:**

- To build knowledge, skills and capacity in the community
- To complement the work of the Bushland Management Unit

Council recognises the huge amount of volunteer hours provided by local friends of groups in the rehabilitation and maintenance of our local parks and reserves. The Bushland Management Unit supports friends groups in specific projects, for example, helping the ‘Friends of Darebin Creek’ create habitat by running a nesting box building workshop each February. These activities not only support community conservation efforts, contribute to wildlife corridors and complement the Bushland team’s works program, but provide Council and other organisations such as Melbourne Water with vital information and help improve the biodiverse quality of a site.

### **Schools Wildlife Corridors Program**

#### **Objectives:**

- Connect school students with their local environment
- Build a resilient, connected community
- Contribute to enhancing Banyule’s network of wildlife corridors and biodiversity

The Schools Wildlife Corridors Program is another example of partnerships delivering better outcomes for Council. The program is run in partnership with the Wurundjeri Tribal Council, Darebin Creek Management Committee, the Bushland and Environment teams and local schools.

Each of these agencies work together to deliver hands on, environmental education activities to local Banyule schools, raising awareness of local Banyule biodiversity, connecting students to their local environment and to helping them to take practical action to protect and enhance biodiversity.

## ***The Biodiversity Plan***

### **Banyule and Nillumbik Teacher Environment network (TEN)**

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase capacity of teachers to provide quality environmental education
- Increase skills and knowledge of teachers in the environmental education area

The Banyule – Nillumbik TEN celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2017 and continues to provide teachers in the two council areas with inspiration, ideas and educational resources to assist them to run environmental education programs with their students. There are two meetings a term held at either Edendale Farm in Eltham or at local schools, to better showcase school environmental programs in action. Guest speakers are engaged, resources demonstrated and afternoon tea is provided to promote informal networking.

Another aspect of the network is the annual Kids Teaching Kids day held at Edendale Farm each year in September. The event is a peer learning event where students deliver creative presentations on the environmental theme chosen for that particular year.

### **Spring Outdoors program**

#### **Objectives:**

- To connect residents with their local environment
- To raise awareness of Banyule's unique biodiversity
- To encourage residents to take action to protect and enhance biodiversity
- To gather data about the health of the local environment

Each year, Banyule City Council partners with neighbouring council Manningham to present the Spring Outdoors program. This program is designed to get people outside, connecting with nature and improving their knowledge of local biodiversity in the warmer Spring weather. The suite of activities in the three month program ranges from smaller boutique events such as 'Backyard bee keeping' to larger festivals such as the Malahang festival in Heidelberg West. The flag ship of Banyule's contribution to the calendar of events is 'Breakfast with the Birds' which is held at Banyule Flats on the fourth Sunday of October each year. Over one hundred people attend and are guided by Birdlife Melbourne guides on a bird watching walk, then return for breakfast and a bird count. The data gathered at the count is used to gauge the health of the ecosystems along Banyule Flats.

#### **Nesting box building in Chelsworth Park**

Each year as part the Spring Outdoors program, a nesting box building workshop is held at Chelsworth Park in Ivanhoe. The aim of the session is to create habitat for local wildlife and raise awareness amongst local residents about the importance of wildlife corridors in urban areas. Residents are encouraged to take their newly created nesting boxes home and put them in trees in their backyards. A range of nesting boxes are created for species such as microbats, possums, sugar gliders and a variety of birds.

## ***The Biodiversity Plan***

### ***ACTION TABLES***

Key actions will be listed here as part of the Plan's finalisation. Due to their operational nature, these have not been included in the consultation process.

	<p><b>Interpreter service:</b></p> <p>If you need an interpreter, please contact TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule Council on 9490 4222.</p> <p>إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم، الرجاء الاتصال بالخط القومي لخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية TIS على الرقم 131 450، واطلبوا إيصالكم ببلدية بانايول على الرقم 9490 4222.</p> <p>若你需要口譯員，請致電131 450聯絡TIS National，要求他們為你致電9490 4222接通Banyule市政廳。</p> <p>Ako vam je potreban tumač, molimo vas, nazovite TIS National na broj 131 450 i zatražite da vas se spoji sa Vijećem općine Banyule na broj 9490 4222.</p> <p>Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήστε στην Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων Μεταφραστών στον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία Banyule στο 9490 4222.</p> <p>Se hai bisogno di un interprete chiama TIS National al numero 131 450 e chiedi di essere messo in comunicazione con il Comune di Banyule al numero 9490 4222.</p> <p>Ако ви треба преведувач ве молиме јавете се на TIS National на 131 450 и замовете да ве поврзат со Banyule Council на 9490 4222.</p> <p>如果你需要一名翻译，请打电话到国家电话翻译服务处 (TIS National) 131 450，再转接到Banyule市政府9490 4222</p> <p>Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS 131 450 weydiina in lagugu xiro Degmada Banyule tel: 9490 4222.</p> <p>Nếu cần thông dịch, xin gọi cho TIS Toàn Quốc qua số 131 450 rồi nhờ họ gọi cho Hội Đồng Thành Phố Banyule theo số 9490 4222 giúp quý vị.</p>
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