

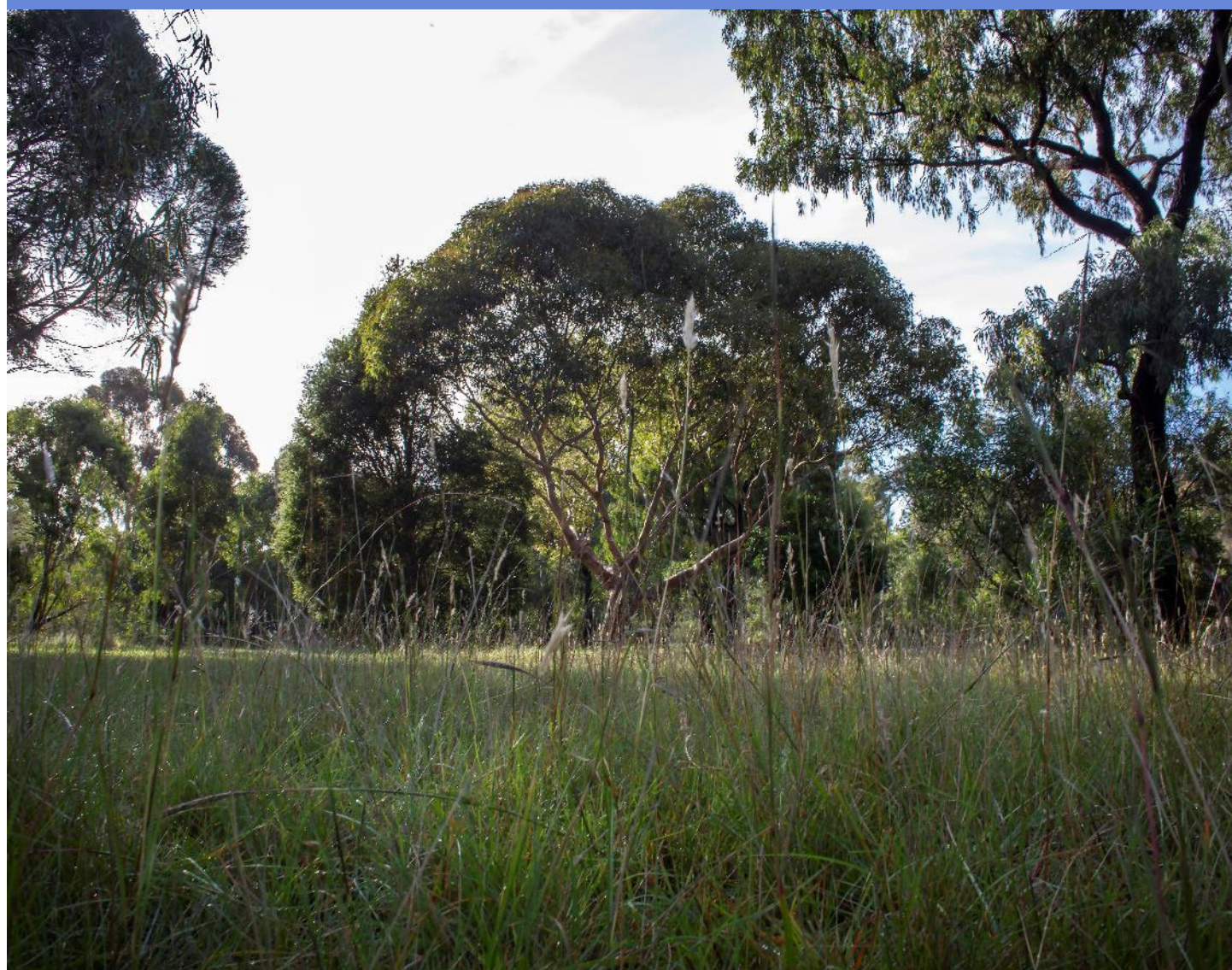


Moreland
City Council

Moreland Nature Plan

Pre-Draft Consultation Report

January 2019



Introduction

About the project

The development of a biodiversity strategy, or Nature Plan, is an action in the Moreland Open Space Strategy 2011-2021 and funded in the 2019-20 financial year.

The Moreland Nature Plan will provide strategic direction to enhance biodiversity and celebrate nature in our City.

Prior to developing the Plan, initial thoughts, suggestions and ideas were sought from the community and key stakeholders for consideration in the Plan. A draft of the plan will also be circulated back to community prior to confirming a Final Plan.

Methodology

Community engagement for the draft Nature Plan was launched through an initial phase on Council's new engagement platform 'Conversations Moreland' in October 2019. It was advertised on the website, through social media and through Council environmental connections such as Friends Groups. Between October 2019 and December 2019, people were asked to respond to the question 'How would you like to see the natural landscape improve in Moreland over the next 10 years?'.

This initial round of consultation also included conversations with key stakeholders such as members of the Friends of Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks and Upfield Urban Forest Group. Interviewees were asked:

1. What does nature in Moreland mean to you and why do you feel it is important?
2. How does your group assist with improving Nature in Moreland?
3. What are some things you think Council is doing well to support Nature in Moreland?
4. What can Council do more of to support biodiversity/your group?

Participation

107 submissions were received through Conversations Moreland webpage.

7 interviews (8 people) were held from a representative of key stakeholder groups including:

- Upfield Urban Forest
- Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
- Friends of Merri Creek
- Gardens for Wildlife in Moreland (facebook group)
- Friends of Edward/Talbot Street
- Brunswick Communities for Nature
- Brunswick Bird Observers

Findings

Conversations Moreland website.

Responses to the question posed on the Conversations Moreland website 'How would you like to see the natural landscape improve in Moreland over the next 10 years?' are summarised into the key themes below. A full list of responses is attached in the Appendix.

- Protect existing vegetation (especially trees and remnant) and plant more large canopy trees
- Continue revegetation programs with indigenous plants, particularly along waterways, and improve maintenance
- Strong interest in support for nature-strip planting
- Plant more wildlife and insect attracting plants – dense, diverse understorey planting
- Retain water in the landscape – wetlands, creek naturalisation and other Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Cat management
- Interest in fruit trees and other edibles in open space
- Work with Traditional landowners.



Stakeholder interviews

A summary of the discussions and ideas raised during the stakeholder interviews is provided below. More detail available in the Appendix.

1. *What does nature in Moreland mean to you and why do you feel it is important?*

Nature in Moreland is an opportunity. Being an urban environment, there is much potential for Moreland to be greener and support greater density. Nature in the city is important for:

- **Intrinsic value**

Nature has a right to continue to exist. Risk of loss of species. Expansion of Melbourne affects movement and habitat for animals, we need to have places for birds and animals to live and corridors to move across the city.



- **Health and wellbeing values**

Ecosystem services – shade, moderating temperatures, clean air, urban heat island, pollination

Important to connect people to nature – the Australian landscape, birds and animals – for health and wellbeing. Good evidence connection for physical and mental health, particularly as Melbourne becomes more urban.

Increased amenity – places to be outside and away from cars, cool areas, ride bikes, take family

2. How does your group assist with improving Nature in Moreland?

- Planting, weeding and environmental restorations along waterways and streets
- Bird surveyers
- Watchdog – advocate for better outcomes for the creek from development etc.
- Employs qualified restoration workers
- Undertakes education activities such as Waterwatch.
- Greening wildlife corridors
- Greening transport corridors - Creating an enjoyable space for all to enjoy, shade for paths
- Participated in projects, grant applications, local and state government plans to improve environmental values
- Demonstrate to community the value of spaces for trees, undergrowth for small birds and insects, need that diversity of full ecosystem to keep in healthy.
- Engaging community and helping people to more connected in the local community/environment/connection to country.
- Art installations and creative activities to raise awareness about local bird species - Joyful activities with a message.

3. What are some things you think Council is doing well to support Nature in Moreland?

Many responders showed general support for Councils current programs and recognition that Councillors, leaders and staff have a good understanding of the importance of tree canopy and nature in Moreland. Some key positives identified include:



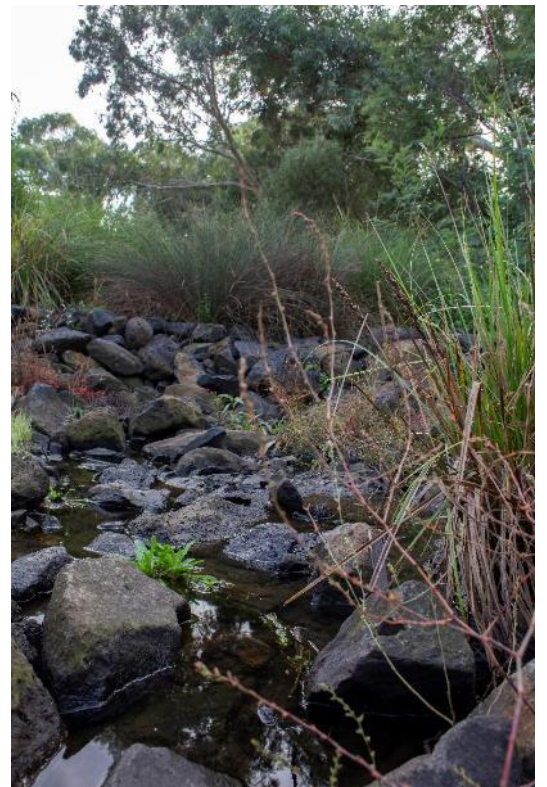
- Supports for Merri Creek Management Committee and Chain of Ponds Collaboration
- Purchasing land along the creek to protect from development and retain open space, wider recreation and habitat
- Number of policies and strategies for increased tree canopy in Moreland such as Urban Forest Strategy and Urban Heat Island Policy. Increased large canopy tree planting as a result.
- Support for community greening programs - plants, mulch, active assistance with expertise (volunteering time).
- Liaison with State Government agencies, such as VicTrack land to legitimise work along Upfield Corridor
- Sustainable gardening booklet – great resource for community.
- Basic framework for street groups to set up .



4. What can Council do more of to support biodiversity/your group?

Many recommended more of the same support/programs continue into the future.

- More east west planting – pleasant corridors for people to walk along and connect the two creeks
- Gardens for Wildlife – a Moreland chapter encouraging people to plant wildlife garden. Botanical demonstration garden in Brunswick/Moreland.
- Nature education and appreciation programs eg nature stewards, bird books
- More protection for vegetation in the private realm – protect tree canopy
- Strengthen the planning scheme to protects the value (amenity and environmental) of open space.
- Expand natural landscape - increase in quantity and quality of open space through land acquisition and enhancement works (biodiversity/habitat/ planting/sustainability/amenity improvements).
- Reintroducing waterways and recycling water
- Legislation and policies to make that happen.
- Place more value on importance of habitat corridors and strengthen through more understorey planting. Improve maintenance programs to support success and reduce vandalism
- Street planting and parks particularly close to creeks should be locally indigenous or at least native to extend habitat
- Better coordination between council units to avoid damage to plantings eg. Naturestrip plantings



Appendix

Moreland Nature Plan

Preliminary community engagement: October December 2019

Raw feedback received via Conversations Moreland community engagement platform

<https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/nature-plan>

>	How would you like to see the natural landscape improve in Moreland over the next 10 years?
1	Greater protections afforded to existing vegetation in the public and especially the private realm.
2	More wildlife and insect attracting plants, including in private yards and on verges where residents can care for them & public food growing
3	Stop the constant removal of vegetation on private land. Keep private tree canopy cover and stop paving Moreland over with infrastructure.
4	Moonee Ponds Creek rehabilitations - litter traps, removal of concrete, weed control and indigenous planting. Street scapes/urban planning
5	Continued work along creek lines to build on fantastic work done by council, removing weedy trees like willows and planting more redgums
6	More trees and shrubs, particularly indigenous to the area.
7	Saving trees not pulling down. Incentives for residents to create natural envs on n/strips.no bldgs without vertical/rooftop indig gardens
8	As a renter, I'm interested in how the Council can work with non-home owners to plant wildlife corridors in their nature strips and gardens.
9	All roof tops be either vegetated or have solar, block streets to cars and convert to green/nature space, carparking tax for non-share cars.
10	More habitat creation for animals, community food production areas and more planting to create a cooler Moreland
	We are very much loving all the new native street tree plantings! Thank you so much
11	Please keep them watered so they survive.
12	Retain more water in the landscape! Napier park is a fabulous example. Next: Fraser and Shiels Reserves. Long term: Daylight Melville Creek.
	Turfed open spaces turned into grassy woodlands.
13	Wetlands reinstated to slow overland water flow, provide habitat, store carbon
14	Plant more understory local indigenous plants to ease mowing and spraying. Work more closely with Wurundjeri to have a closer relationship.
15	No new exotic trees planted. Replace grass on nature strips and elsewhere with native grassland species.
	Keep already established trees.
16	Consider using funding to purchase more indigenous plants and have volunteers plant to save costs?
17	https://brunswickc4n.wordpress.com/ Indigenous plants for every landscape type for habitat, low allergy, climate resilience, biodiversity
18	I live in an apartment, so my access to landscape is through the Pentridge Community Garden. I'd love for them to be given a permanent site.
19	More edible landscapes. Food forests and fruiting trees as street trees. Use unused public space for growing food.
20	Would love to see more native plants out on nature strips. Or have an option for residents to purchase at low cost native plants
21	Blank open spaces turned into native wildlife plantings, restful places for people/kids and food forests. Working with the wurundjeri people

22	Cat management to protect wildlife Indigenous plants in streets, parks, wetlands and waterways School biodiversity involvement
23	Enforce permeability requirements and agreed plantings on new and existing developments.
24	Create Planning Laws that value habitat * Ensure Council plantings are indigenous * Encourage residents to support wildlife in their gardens
25	Council and developers should only be planting natives. Make it more difficult to cut down existing trees; for home owners AND council.
26	More planting of native trees and understory plantings of native shrubs and wildflowers. The Coburg North Linear Reserve is great .
27	More edible landscapes. Use fruit trees and native;bush food; plants on nature strips, and utilise unused public spaces to grow edibles.
28	Ensuring local populations of species don't go extinct, improving habitat in the urban environment as part of large developments
29	More native plants on nature strips/parks* cat management* keep established trees* low cost native plants* edible plants *evidence based
30	Cat management, natives only planted on council land.
31	Find ways to encourage home owners to plant natives. Consider a scheme to make tube stock easily available and let everyone know.
32	I would like to see many more trees planted. Ensure once planted that they are cared for and not left to die due to lack of water.
33	This sounds like a great idea!
34	More native planting
35	More trees planted and maintained so they survive and thrive. More opposition to tree loss from big projects. Understory planting.
36	I would like to see MCC working directly with traditional owners and indigenous experts In local ecological knowledge.
37	Additional native planting and planning to the Haig Avenue and Moreland Road green corridor which extends up to Reynard Street.
38	I would like to see VASTLY more trees and areas of dense, low native vegetation (lomandras, saltbush, dianellas etc) for habitat
39	More trees, mid & understory indigenous plants, rocks & logs in parks, along walking/cycling corridors, in schools, on nature strips please
40	Streets and sidewalks reclaimed for tree planting and plots/verges allocated for community food growing hubs. Biodiversity corridors!
41	I wish we could curtail the Indian minors. The spring babies are everywhere. The native birds are outwitted. Control the cats seriously
42	A tree adoption program for new plantings. Residents can keep them watered in summer while they're getting established and report any issues
43	Engineer our footpaths and roads to deliver more water to plantings and parks, rather than the runoff going down a drain.
44	More trees and plants, less concrete and asphalt. I'd also like to see more capture and use of rainwater, not just in backyard tanks.
45	Prioritise creating/retaining green spaces over developments. Make them into nature habitats not recreation spaces. Plant natives only.
46	Creating more links between existing native vegetation. Particularly along riparian corridors. More diversity and wildflowers.
47	Create and improve wetlands. Maintain and enhance natural the wildlife corridors of Moonee Ponds and Westbreen Creeks. Give us more char :)
48	Increase tree cover, encourage/incentivise green roofs/walls, restore and enhance natural spaces such as waterways and parks.
49	More native trees and plants in streets & wetlands. Stormwater protection to stop rubbish into waterways. possum & bird nest boxes in parks.

50	Turn car parking into green space. No matter how few, dig them up and plant trees. Get rid of asphalt and concrete wherever possible?
51	More efforts to maintain them and remove rubbish from the Merri creek. More natural places for recreation.
52	Make nature strips swales so water is retained for street trees. Have understory native plants in parks, not grass. Keep established trees
53	Local birds and butterflies flourish with indigenous plants. No more exotic trees.
54	Please no more ornamental pears - use more natives and trees that provide more shade, food and habitat for native animals.
55	More trees please! We need a green canopy to keep us cool! Please also introduce a cat curfew, so that wildlife can also enjoy Moreland.
56	There is so much concrete in Moreland. Can we put more trees/flower bed s(for bees) in residential/commerce streets as well?
57	Make the old Kangan sites parks. Incentivise nature strip planting Native street trees, consider edible natives and habitat.
58	hoping this no longer applies, but the use of pesticides, namely roundup/glyphosate needs to cease.
59	Existing open space protected & enhanced for environmental values. Additional open space sought. Connectivity improved for people & biota.
60	Many more shade trees to increase resilience in a warming climate. Our suburbs especially in the north are urban heat islands.
61	More restoration of creek area. More native understory. Modify horticultural practices to improve habitat. Convert low use turf to grassland
62	Regarding Moonee Ponds Creek, Albion St to Turnbull Crt - a gravelled walking trail, native revegetation and rehabilitation of the creek.
63	More on street indigenous plantings, simple consultation for homes to redevelop verges, less car priority- plantings esp. trees in its place
64	Ensure horticultural work (maintenance, plantings, pruning, landscaping, weed mmt) prioritises ecological habitat potential of public land.
65	Cease planting of non-indigenous vegetation on council land. Collaborate with residents/friends groups to provide care for new plantings
66	Replacement of concrete and asphalt parking spaces with water permeable surfaces to increase availability of rainfall to local vegetation.
67	Rapidly increase no. of trees on council land - verges, road reserves etc - from 1 tree per frontage to 2-3+ indigenous trees per frontage.
68	Work programs providing accessible jobs in environmental restoration, with indigenous plants replacing grass lawns and nature strips.
69	Denser planting on nature strips and other council land with indigenous and food plants. Restoration of creeks for habitat.
70	More trees, more beautiful places for people to walk along so people walk more then drive. Flowers for bees; butterflies, more bird boxes.
71	Restore Creeks for habitat, plant indigenous plants, replace concrete with water permeable surfaces also along creeks, more canopy trees
72	I would like to see the recovery of natural waterways in the city of Moreland, particularly waterways that connect to Moone Ponds creek
73	We need more and more trees and flower boxes in our streets to reduce the;concrete jungle; look in streets such as Sydney Rd.
74	Retain the trees in Gandolfo Gardens! Don't allow the Level Crossing Removal Program destroy them for skyrail!
75	Native everything. Why are we using introduced species!
76	Care for Street garden beds, Brunswick West. Locals need mulch and plants to improve these sad beds. Happy to help organise a team.
77	Stricter protection of indigenous and native established trees on public land.
78	All verges should have at least 1 native tree & at least 2 native shrubs suitable for the native birds that use Merri & Moonee Ponds Creek

79	Reduce rates for those residents with lots of properly maintained indigenous plants in their verges
80	Get VicTrack to plant native ground covers on all their land in Moreland to help native birds. VicTrack can still drive their vehicles on it
81	Minimise use of outdoor lighting (incl festive decoration) so as not to disrupt the behaviour of nocturnal birds, insects & animals.
82	Let native grasses; shrubs retain their natural (non-pruned) form to provide vital habitat for insects, lizards and small birds
83	Save Gandolfo Gardens
84	Get a City Ecologist and give her the same power and budget as the City Engineer.
85	Plant 1 new verge tree per address. All should be drought-tolerant; drawn from the pre-1750 EVC for the address. Prioritise habitat value.
86	Encourage developers to put green roofs on new developments. Even shallow rooted ground covers on roofs will help insulate the building.
87	Ensure the mature trees around Glenroy station are kept when the state government level crossing redevelopment happens.
88	Trial replacement of all couch grass in a Moreland Park with indigenous ground covers
89	Some signs encouraging people to pick up their dog poo
90	More native trees on nature strips that will be allowed to go to maturity!
91	I would like nature strips, any low use public areas to be returned to native grasses, plants and trees to the Moreland with local education
92	1. More roads like cumming street in Brunswick west. Well done Moreland council for this. 2. Remove concrete from moonee ponds creek.
93	More native trees and plants and for all parks and reserves to be named by the original landowners.
94	If the skyrail could be built with a method that could save more of our old native trees that would protect Moreland's natural landscape.
95	Beautify laneways with suitable and hardy native vegetation.
96	Ensure that mowing etc crews don't destroy planting efforts - eg spray or mow down planted verges. (see Urquart St 3058 for eg)
97	We must must MUST save as many of the trees as possible at Gandolfo gardens! This is critical in the current times of climate emergency!
98	More natural nature strips making sure they are lower than the footpath, so rain drains into them, it straight down the storm water drain.
99	Due to the small numbers of trees and canopy overall every tree requires protection consideration particularly mature trees in Gandolfo Gds.
100	Please advocate with LXP for the retention of the trees in Gandolfo park and east side of Moreland station. And more tree plantings!
101	plant more native vegetation and taller trees in small parks and playgrounds and nature strips Stop Gandolfo Garden destruction.
102	Protect existing parks & established trees - like gandolfo gardens. Plant street trees & recycle household water to keep watered
103	More large canopy trees, discontinued use of toxic weed killers that harm beneficial insects and replace lawns with native plants & flowers.
104	Please represent our interests and save Gandolfo Park. We need to retain this beautiful space for future generations.
105	Trees and plants that are edible in public spaces. eg lemons, herbs etc. More native trees and grasses
106	Add taps & bowls to all water fountains in parks. Bowls support wildlife; taps support residents in watering saplings during heatwaves.
107	Install extra taps in parks so that residents can increase survival rate by bucket-watering young / vulnerable trees during hot/dry times.

