



Moreland
City Council

DRAFT

Moreland Nature Plan

Summary for consultation

The City of Moreland offers wonderful nature experiences despite many years of urbanisation. Stands of highly significant original (remnant) vegetation and large tracts of revegetation, particularly along the creek corridors, provide important habitat for a range of native birds and animals. In addition to their important biodiversity value, these areas offer treasured opportunities for community to recreate and seek respite from the busyness of the City.

Council and our partners (Friends groups, creek committees and Melbourne Water) have been investing in land restoration and revegetation programs since the late 1970s, re-establishing much of the valuable natural landscapes we have today. Council recognises that we are now in a state of climate emergency; global temperatures continue to rise, and huge numbers of species are now on the brink of extinction and there is an urgent need, more than ever, to protect and build resilience in our environment.

The (Draft) Moreland Nature Plan has been developed to provide a heightened strategic direction to enhance biodiversity and celebrate nature in our City for the next four years and beyond. The Plan highlights challenges including climate change, habitat fragmentation, loss of diversity and impacts from increasing urban development. It also identifies many opportunities, particularly in supporting community connection to nature such as the inclusion of nature in parks, schools, nature-strips and private backyards. These programs will not only have biodiversity benefits but are increasingly being recognised as having significant health and well-being benefits for community.

Council is currently seeking community feedback on the Draft Nature Plan. A summary of the vision, themes and actions is contained within this document but the full document is available for viewing at: <https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/nature-plan>.

An online submission form is available on the website but open, written submissions are also welcome and can be directed to:

Email: openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au
Mail: Open Space Design and Development
Locked Bag 10, Moreland Vic. 3058 Australia.

Printed copies can be made available on request via above email or by calling 9240 1111.



DRAFT MORELAND NATURE PLAN

Vision:

The City of Moreland will support a more diverse, connected and resilient natural environment where native birds and animals thrive. Our residents will value the local environment and appreciate opportunities to explore and connect with nature in the City.

Goal 1: To protect and enhance biodiversity on Council managed land

Context

As the largest public land manager, Council will manage its land to not only protect, but enhance its natural assets to build biodiversity value and to strengthen resilience to climate change.



Strategic Direction

To strategically plan and deliver natural resource management programs that protect significant vegetation and habitat, reduce the impact of threatening processes (as outlined above) and contribute to a stronger, more connected ecological landscape.

Example actions:

- Develop a habitat connectivity plan for the City
- Continue maintenance and renewal programs for conservation sites
- Continue revegetation programs in partnership with stakeholders
- Construct wetlands and naturalise creek corridors.

Goal 2 : Seek opportunities for the private realm to contribute positively to biodiversity

Context

Land use change and urban development has the potential to impact biodiversity values in Moreland through loss of vegetation, changes to water regimes and domestic animal management to name just a few. Council is responsible for ensuring development outcomes enhance natural values particularly adjacent to waterways and designated habitat corridors.

Example actions:

- Establish a Gardens for Wildlife program in Moreland
- Undertake a review of planning control mechanisms for waterways to strengthen the protection of vegetation and amenity values
- Investigate the impacts of domestic animals, particularly cats, on biodiversity in Moreland and consider the adoption of a cat curfew.

Strategic Direction

To implement planning and governance mechanisms that protect natural values on private land through incentives and other support programs that encourage the uptake of indigenous and wildlife gardening.



Goal 3 . Connect people to nature

Context

The health and well-being of our community is influenced by our environment and the ways in which we interact with it. We also know that people care for things they know and understand. Delivering programs that support meaningful connection to nature for diverse audiences will have lasting benefits both within our community and in wider contexts.

Example actions:

- Deliver a program of nature-based community engagement activities
- Expand supports for schools, early years centres and community groups to engage in nature-based learning activities
- Develop and deliver a 10 year capital program for access and amenity improvements along waterway corridors.

Strategic Direction

Promote and deliver a range of nature engagement and education activities for residents, community groups, schools and pre-schools. Implement capital improvements that support public interaction and safety in natural areas such as improved access and path networks, wayfinding and interpretive signage



Goal 4: Improve governance and collaboration in natural resource management

Context

Moreland has a long history of community activism in nature enhancement that stretches over 3 decades. We are also still learning about traditional land management techniques and how we can apply these in an urbanised setting. Working closely with Traditional Owners (Wurundjeri Tribe Council), community, other land managers and research experts will continue to assist us to refine our processes to improve efficiencies and likelihood of success.

Strategic Direction

Council will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders and community in decision making and stewardship in relation to nature enhancement in Moreland and the delivery of actions outlined in this Plan. We will research, review and adapt our processes accordingly to improve efficiencies and on-ground outcomes.



Example actions:

- Partner with Traditional Owners in undertaking Natural Resource Management programs
- Continue support to Merri Creek Management Committee and the Chain of Ponds Collaboration
- Establish an ongoing biodiversity monitoring program, including opportunities for citizen science.
- Investigate the potential for alternative funding sources for revegetation and conservation work

