



# **GROWING NATURE TOGETHER **GREATER** **DANDENONG'S** **BIODIVERSITY ACTION** **PLAN 2023-2025****

**YEAR 1 – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

# ACTION PLAN

Based on the information collected in the Ecological Assessment and knowledge review for the City of Greater Dandenong (Ecology Australia 2021), the actions outlined in this plan address Council's biodiversity goals, and have been categorised into the following five key objectives:

1. Care for nature - protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values
2. Share and build knowledge of nature - improving knowledge of biodiversity values
3. Foster care for nature on private land - facilitating and encouraging biodiversity conservation and enhancement on private land
4. Manage threats to nature - managing threatening processes such as pest animals and plants, pollution and climate change
5. Connect with nature - community engagement and education. The timings of each action are as follows:

<b>Immediate actions</b>	Already commenced, or to commence within the next 6 months
<b>Short term action</b>	To commence within the next 6 – 18 months
<b>Medium term actions</b>	To commence within the next 18 months to 3 years
<b>Ongoing</b>	Occurring on an ongoing basis each year, or as opportunities arise

While the actions detailed in the action plan are currently considered within Council's sphere of influence, the Action Plan does not indicate that resources are currently or will be available in the future for any specific action. Council's resources are determined annually by council and other stakeholders.

When resources are available, actions will generally be resourced according to their stated timeline as recommended by this plan.

## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
1.1	Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure biodiversity within Greater Dandenong	1.11 Monitoring and evaluation framework developed that uses standard and repeatable monitoring methods	Parks Asset Management	Short term	<b>On-Track</b> Benchmarking across other LGA's and DEECA has begun as well as further investigation into the AABR national standards.
		1.12 Activity data to be recorded annually. Align with DELWP Biodiversity 2037 Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvements Framework (MERF) (2019a)			<b>Completed</b> Ongoing data is supplied to DEECA to inform the bushland management activities completed against various management programs and conservation projects.
		1.13 Ensure actions from other relevant strategies, such as the Green Wedge Management Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan are incorporated into the framework			<b>On-Track</b> Actions from other relevant strategies, such as the Green Wedge Management Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan are incorporated into the framework as it is developed further.

## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
1.2	Seek to increase cooperation and collaboration between neighboring councils and regional-based land management organisations (e.g. PV, MW, PPWCMA) to focus on regional biodiversity outcomes	1.21 Continue council's membership of Living Links, a regional approach to increasing biodiversity and connection of green spaces across the Dandenong Creek catchment	Parks	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Greater Dandenong has again renewed its membership with the Living Links committee and will continue to represent the interests and aspirations of the community in regard to biodiversity enhancement and protection via collaborative project opportunities within the network.
		1.22 Actively engage with State and Federal Agencies to build relationships and explore grant funding opportunities			<b>Completed</b> Greater Dandenong continues has continued its relationship with DEECA and Melbourne Water through various networks and continues to secure grant funding for biodiversity focused projects. The most recent successful grant

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		1.23 Ongoing participation in the Eastern Regional Pest Animal Network			<p>funding was for the Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve upgrade project, \$220k.</p> <p><b>Completed</b> Greater Dandenong continue to participate and contribute to the ERPAN with a recent commitment of funding for the network to employ a facilitator and project lead.</p>
1.3	Implementation of Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme	1.31 Continue to support vegetation overlays in the Green Wedge	Planning & Design	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Vegetation Protection Overlay in the Green Wedge is in effect.
		1.32 Continue to implement native vegetation precinct plans during development approvals processes	Parks		<b>Completed</b> Dandenong South Native Vegetation Precinct Plans currently guiding future development applications
		1.33 Continue to assess planning permit			<b>Completed</b>

## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		applications against the requirements of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.			Ongoing as part of statutory planning compliance as informed by the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme.
		1.34 Ensure recognition of Biodiversity Action Plan in relevant council strategic and policy documents			<b>Completed</b> Ongoing through the internal consultation process as new Council strategic & policy documents are developed
		1.35 Advocate councils and our community's local priorities to state and federal government and key stakeholders through participation in regional forums			<b>Completed</b> Ongoing participation in Living Links, South East Councils Climate Change Alliance, Eastern Regional Pest Animal Network and Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership networks.
1.4	Implement biodiversity focused land management practices and consider	1.41 Operational works programs are reviewed and updated annually	Parks	Ongoing	<b>Delayed</b> Review & redevelopment of operational work

## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
	biodiversity outcomes when designing and improving public open space	to ensure best practice land management			programs have been delayed due to a broader service review project within the Parks Service Unit. This will resume in July '24.
		1.42 A minimum of 20 000 indigenous seedlings are planted each year			<b>Completed</b> 35,000+ indigenous seedlings were planted in 2023 via community planting days, operational revegetation programs and State Government grant funded conservation projects.
		1.43 Bushland Reserve Management Plans are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to better inform management practices			<b>Delayed</b> Review & redevelopment of operational work programs have been delayed due to a broader service review project within the Parks Service Unit. This will resume in July '24.
		1.44 Implement actions to improve habitat			<b>On-Track</b>
				Short Term	

## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		<p>connectivity for 'Icon species' (see Appendix 8) a) Further refine habitat connectivity maps (Appendix 7) for icon species including works areas b) Cross reference and update operational works plan c) Report progress annually</p>	<p>Parks Planning &amp; Design City Improvement</p>		<p>Ongoing operational work programs to support improved habitat connections for icon species including revegetation, weed management, pest animal management and nest box installation in key habitat corridors and reserves.</p>
		<p>1.45 Implement site-specific recommendations for assessment sites (see Appendix 6), via works programs and continue implementing through appropriate overlays under the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. For on ground works: 1. Year 1 – prepare sites to be planted</p>			<p><b>On-Track</b> Ongoing operational work programs in line with site specific recommendations with a focus on revegetation and habitat conservation through native vegetation precinct plans and reserve management plans.</p>



## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		<p>(weed control) and source species to be contract grown. Apply for grants for relevant sites.</p> <p>2. Year 2 – control weeds and planting, source species. Source/build nest boxes and identify locations.</p> <p>3. Year 3 – continue maintenance and planting. Install nest boxes in identified locations.</p>			
		<p>1.46 Develop an operational rewilding plan, following the refinement of the habitat connectivity and corridor mapping. Plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of parks to be planted and type of species</li> <li>• corridor mapping to be considered during open space</li> </ul>	<p>Parks Planning &amp; Design City Improvement</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p><b>Not Due To Start</b></p>

## #1 Care for nature— protection and enhancement of existing biodiversity values.

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		strategic land purchases determinations • support of nature strip guidelines			
		1.47 Ensure actions developed in the Open Space Strategy are being implemented	Parks Planning & Design City Improvement	Ongoing	<b>On-Track</b> Ongoing implementation of Open Space Strategy Actions as defined in the action plan and reported on annually.
		1.48 Implement the Open Space Quality Assessment Tool as identified in the Open Space Strategy, including the use of ecosystem services as an indicator of open space quality	Parks Planning & Design City Improvement	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Open Space Quality Assessment Tool has been developed and includes ecosystem services as an indicator of open space quality, currently implemented to assist with the assessment of and to inform open space CIP program.

## #2 Share and build knowledge of nature— improving data of biodiversity values

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
2.1	Review and update GIS map data for existing biodiversity values across all land tenures*	2.11 Biodiversity values are mapped across the LGA, including ephemeral wetland sites and fauna values	Parks Asset Management	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Initial areas of biodiversity significance have been identified with work continuing in 2024 to complete this.
		2.12 Information is readily accessible via mapping in council's GIS system		Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>
		2.13 Develop a GIS layer for the distribution of known biodiversity threats			<b>Not Due To Start</b>
2.2	Identify and map habitat corridors to further inform enhancement of biodiversity values across the municipality and surrounding areas	2.21 Biodiversity connectivity mapping developed and incorporated into GIS layer	Parks Asset Management	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Initial areas of biodiversity significance have been identified with work continuing in 2024 to complete this.
		2.22 Biodiversity mapping used to develop a habitat corridors brochure			<b>On-Track</b> Initial areas of biodiversity significance have been identified with work continuing in 2024 to complete this.

## #2 Share and build knowledge of nature— improving data of biodiversity values

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		2.23 Management strategies and habitat enhancement opportunities developed for 'Icon' species			<b>On-Track</b> Initial areas of biodiversity significance have been identified with work continuing in 2024 to complete this.
2.3	Increase biodiversity knowledge and awareness within Council directorates, teams, and Contractors	2.31 Establish an internal Biodiversity Working Group to focus on biodiversity awareness across Council departments	Parks	Immediate	<b>Delayed</b> Postponed to the second half of 2024.
		2.32 Provide biodiversity awareness training to Council staff and contractors	Biodiversity Working Group	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Biodiversity training sessions have been held for various Parks Unit contractors and biodiversity awareness training incorporated into the organisations employee induction program.
		2.33 Bushland staff to utilize temporary signs describing works undertaken on site to educate locals and	Parks	Immediate	<b>Completed</b> Existing bushland & wetland interpretive signage is present throughout many of

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		other teams (e.g. weed management signs)			Greater Dandenong’s bushland areas and specific temporary works signs have been developed (eg. Swooping magpies, ecological slashing, seasonal inundation)
		2.34 Consider establishing a biodiversity community of practice, and hold annual or biannual meetings to increase knowledge, capacity and resilience of local environmental groups	Parks	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Initial benchmarking of similar groups in other LGA’s has begun. The Gardens for Wildlife program is fulfilling part of this action with many local residents having the opportunity to enhance biodiversity in their own garden via a garden guide visit.

### #3 Foster care for nature on private land - facilitating and encouraging biodiversity conservation and enhancement on private land

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
3.1	Continue to implement and support actions in the Green Wedge management plan	3.11 Ensure relevant actions developed in the Green Wedge Management Plan are being implemented including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve water quality within and downstream of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge including advocating to Melbourne Water for regular pollution monitoring:</li> <li>• Investigate options to reinstate and reconnect natural waterways in partnership with Melbourne Water and local landowners</li> </ul>	Parks Planning & Design Regulatory Services	Ongoing	<b>Ongoing</b> and guided by specific Green Wedge Management plan action timeframes with status reported on in the Green Wedge Management Plan 5-year progress report. Opportunities to further protect and enhance indigenous vegetation on private land for residents through the Gardens For Wildlife Program. Ongoing land management programs such as weed control, mowing and habitat enhancement, delivered on Council owned land.

**#3 Foster care for nature on private land - facilitating and encouraging biodiversity conservation and enhancement on private land**

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect existing ecological values, including facilitation of a weed management program and ways to encourage private landowners to protect existing remnant flora and fauna</li> <li>• Enhance ecological values and improve connectivity, including applying planning controls to encourage appropriate revegetation along areas identified to provide habitat links</li> </ul>			

### #3 Foster care for nature on private land - facilitating and encouraging biodiversity conservation and enhancement on private land

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
3.2	Investigate mechanisms to support private landholders to protect and enhance biodiversity values	3.21 Explore options including the development of a Landcare group/ officer, funding opportunities and biodiversity values promotion	Parks Planning & Design	Medium Term	Not Due To Start
		3.22 Deliver "Growing Biodiversity" potting up and plant giveaway activities at Council events (Sustainability Fest, Reconciliation Week, etc.)	Parks	Immediate	<b>Completed</b> Plant giveaways and potting-up activities have been a regular feature at many council events such as Sustainability Festival, Discover Dandenong creek Festival, Keysborough Big Picnic etc.
		3.23 Investigate further options for tree give aways and incentives for landowners such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree giveaways at environmental</li> </ul>	Parks	Short Term	<b>Completed</b> Opportunities to further protect and enhance indigenous vegetation on private land for residents



### #3 Foster care for nature on private land - facilitating and encouraging biodiversity conservation and enhancement on private land

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		education programs • Tree giveaways as part of the Gardens For Wildlife program			through the Gardens for Wildlife Program and free plant giveaways at council events.
		3.24 Advertise and distribute the EVC planting map for the municipality which highlights what species to plant where you live	Parks	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> On-track to commence within latter half of 2024.
		3.25 Consider a nest box purchase program for residents	Parks	Medium Term	<b>Completed</b> Gardens for Wildlife program encourages residents to purchase species specific nest boxes from industry standard organisations as part of the provided report.
		3.26 Investigate options to deliver a biodiversity incentive strategy for private land	Parks	Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>

### #3 Foster care for nature on private land - facilitating and encouraging biodiversity conservation and enhancement on private land

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
3.3	Adopt and implement an affiliate Gardens For Wildlife program with residents	3.31 Gardens for Wildlife program is supported by Council, including free plants for participants	Parks Gardens 4 Wildlife community group	Immediate	<b>Completed</b> A successful Gardens for Wildlife program has been implemented and designed based on resident feedback, expanding to businesses and schools within CGD. 30+ garden visits have been completed with 1,890 plants provided to residents.

## #4 Manage threats to nature – key threatening processes that cause biodiversity loss are investigated and mitigated

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
4.1	Continue to implement Council's Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines (adopted from City of Greater Dandenong 2017b)	4.11 Develop improved technical standards and guidelines for the design, construction and management of drainage assets	Asset Management Parks City Improvement Melbourne Water	Immediate	<b>Completed</b> Melbourne Water technical standards & design guidelines adopted
		4.12 Investigate and identify opportunities to recycle stormwater runoff for the irrigation of parks and reserves across the City of Greater Dandenong	Asset Management Parks	Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>
		4.13 Investigate and identify (collaboratively with Melbourne Water) opportunities to rehabilitate channelised section of waterways within the City of Greater Dandenong including Mile Creek at Sandown	Parks Melbourne Water	Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>
		4.14 Engage and work with local businesses to reduce the risk of	Regulatory Services Asset Management	Immediate	<b>Ongoing</b>

## #4 Manage threats to nature – key threatening processes that cause biodiversity loss are investigated and mitigated

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		future pollution incidents			
4.2	Develop a more strategic approach to pest animal management in line with the Eastern Region Pest Animal Strategy	4.21 Local Action Plans developed in conjunction with the Eastern Regional Pest Animal Network including myna, rabbit, cat and fox	Parks Regulatory Services Eastern Region Pest Animal Network	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Work is continuing with the Eastern Regional Pest Animal Network to develop local action plans for specific pest animals.
		4.22 Encourage community reporting of pest animal sightings to continue to build a database of information	Regulatory Services	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Through customer interactions with officers, social media posts, council website content and the use of snap send, solve app; Council encourages the community to report on pest animal sightings
		4.23 Investigate targeted education opportunities for residents within proximity to high biodiversity value areas	Parks	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Environmental engagement events and education programs delivered in biodiversity significant

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
					reserves to target education of residents and the broader community.
		4.24 Develop a cat curfew for community consultation and explore other operational methods, practices and education for managing the impacts to biodiversity caused by cats in the municipality	Regulatory Services	Immediate	<b>Completed</b> A cat curfew has been implemented and now enforced throughout the municipality.
4.3	Undertake Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVAs) to increase our understanding of the impacts of climate change on local biodiversity values	4.31 Commencement of CCVAs for local biodiversity values	Planning & Design Parks	Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>
		4.32 CCVAs results to be incorporated into initial steps in climate change adaptation planning processes	Planning & Design	Medium term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>
		4.33 Conduct quantitative	Planning & Design Parks	Medium term	<b>On-Track</b>

**#4 Manage threats to nature – key threatening processes that cause biodiversity loss are investigated and mitigated**

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		assessments based on traits of wildlife and habitats that might make them more vulnerable to climate change			A Climate Future Plots research project is underway at the Dandenong Wetlands with monitoring to continue over the next 10 years to determine how the same species of plants/trees from different geographical locations across Australia respond to a changing climate.
4.4	Develop a more strategic approach to weed management	4.41 Where possible develop new bushland management plans at a broader scale and in collaboration with surrounding landholders, such as the Lower Dandenong Creek Management Plan	Parks Planning & Design	Immediate	<b>Delayed</b> Review & redevelopment of operational work programs have been delayed due to a broader service review project within the Parks Service Unit. This will resume in July '24.
		4.42 Collaboratively undertake weed control such as through Living Links or the Peri	Parks	Immediate	<b>Completed</b> Council are currently engaged in several partnership programs

## #4 Manage threats to nature – key threatening processes that cause biodiversity loss are investigated and mitigated

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		Urban Weed Partnership			aimed at weed control, including “Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways”, “Our Catchments Our Communities”, “Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership” and “Living Links”.
		4.43 Develop action plans for high threat weeds including site identification	Parks	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Through the delivery of the Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership high threat weed species have been targeted along the Dandenong Creek Corridor.
4.5	Mitigate climate change impacts on biodiversity	4.51 Review, update and prepare new reserve management plans to include consideration of opportunities to increase and enhance resilience of council’s	Parks	Immediate	<b>Delayed</b> Review & redevelopment of operational work programs have been delayed due to a broader service review project within the

**#4 Manage threats to nature – key threatening processes that cause biodiversity loss are investigated and mitigated**

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		bushland reserves against loss of biodiversity from climate change. This includes maintenance, experimentation and modification where necessary to maintain or enhance ecological functioning areas of biodiversity			Parks Service Unit. This will resume in July '24.
		4.52 Investigate opportunities to improve existing wildlife corridor links and establish new ones where appropriate, including through the implementation of the Open Space Strategy	Parks Planning & Design Asset Management Governance	Short Term	<p><b>On-Track</b> Ongoing revegetation programs and a 10Ha canopy cover projected implemented as part of the Our Catchments, our Community grant project.</p> <p>Further grant projects are currently being investigated with a focus on further habitat enhancement works and opportunities for the</p>



## #4 Manage threats to nature – key threatening processes that cause biodiversity loss are investigated and mitigated

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
					creation of fauna diversion and wildlife corridors in key high traffic areas across the municipality utilising iNaturalist data.
		4.53 Continue to seek external funding grants to increase local biodiversity and the urban forest	Parks	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Presently participating in several multi-year environmental grants while actively pursuing new opportunities as they emerge.
		4.54 Investigate and report on available opportunities to utilise council's trees and reserves to offset its carbon emissions and draw down carbon	Planning & Design Parks	Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>

## #5 Connect with nature - community engagement and education

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
5.1	Review, update and expand the Environmental Education & Engagement Program with an education and community capacity building focus that caters to all levels of biodiversity awareness for residents, schools, early learning centres, staff and councillors.	5.11 Environmental Education & Engagement Program is updated and better aligns with the desired outcomes of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Other inclusions: nature play, bush kinder and consideration of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.	Parks	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Initial benchmarking and internal consultations have begun with the commencement of the program development on track to begin in the latter half of 2024.
		5.12 Promotion of the Environmental Education and Engagement Program is increased	Parks	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Environmental Education and Engagement Program promotions have increased through the utilisation of social media and the “Our Bright Green Future” E-News.
		5.13 Run a minimum of six annual community planting days within reserves, and a	Parks`	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Over the past year Council has delivered,

## #5 Connect with nature - community engagement and education

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		minimum of 2 with corporate groups			7 community planting days, 1 corporate planting day and 2 plant giveaways to businesses through the Gardens for Wildlife program
		5.14 Run a minimum of five annual indigenous planting days in schools			<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>In lieu of the 5 individual school planting days, 800 students from 20+ primary schools participated in the One Tree Per Child Greater Dandenong program at Springvalley Reserve and collectively planted over 2,000 trees &amp; shrubs.</p>
		5.15 Run a minimum of six "Adopt a Park" programs with local schools annually			<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>2023/24 Programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haileybury ELC – Tatterson Park</li> <li>• Shalimar Park Pre-school – Purely reserve</li> </ul>

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springvale Cub Scouts – Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Lyndale Greens PS – Booth Crescent Reserve</li> <li>• Silverton PS – WJ Turner Reserve</li> <li>• Rosswood PreSchool – Thronton Reserve</li> </ul>
		5.16 Run an annual staff and councillor biodiversity awareness program	Parks	Short Term	<p><b>On-Track</b> Biodiversity training sessions have been held for various Parks Unit contractors and biodiversity awareness training incorporated into the organisations employee induction program.</p>
		5.17 Gauge local levels of interest for bush	Parks Planning & Design	Short Term	<p><b>On-Track</b> Weekly Nature Play sessions hosted by</p>

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		kinder, and allocate a potential space			Council at the Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and informal natureplay sessions occurring at Tirhatuan Reserve. Ongoing monitoring of numbers will inform the resourcing and available spaces for future programs.
5.2	Collaborate with key stakeholders and partners to deliver best educational outcomes, and to ensure educational material and resources are more accessible to culturally and linguistically diverse communities to increase awareness of biodiversity	5.21 Translate existing educational material into other commonly spoken languages	Parks Media & Communications Community Services	Medium Term	<b>Not Due To Start</b>
		5.22 Continue to work with other environmental education providers for best educational outcomes, including Field Naturalists, Birdlife Australia, Dolphin Research Institute and Greater Dandenong Environment Group	Parks Community Services	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Ongoing partnerships and professional networking with other environmental education providers is occurring regularly at the many council run environmental engagement events & education programs such as Sustainability Festival, Discover

## #5 Connect with nature - community engagement and education

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
					Dandenong Creek Festival and Alex Wilkie Spring Opening.
5.3	Promote biodiversity values within Council reserves	5.31 Continue incorporating the use of citizen science projects like iNaturalist "Biodiversity Blitz", Frog ID and WaterWatch to support data collection and engage residents	Parks	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Ongoing participation and promotion of iNaturalist within the community and engaging in initiatives like "Citizen Science" and "Biodiversity Blitz" to aid in data collection for future utilisation.
		5.32 Seek funding opportunities to continue to deliver the Bushland & Wetland Interpretive signage program		Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Current opportunities to fund these projects are being explored through various state & federal government programs and existing network relationships.
		5.33 Facilitate nature play, open days, and guided ranger walks at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve & Visitors Centre		Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Ongoing Council facilitated guided tours and Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Open Days every Friday and third

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
					Sunday of the month, along with nature play sessions every Tuesday.
5.4	Develop a biodiversity focused media plan	5.41 Review and update of website content and messaging	Parks Media & Communications	Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Ongoing content review and development occurring, (e.g. 'other animals', 'Finding Biodiversity' etc.)
		5.42 Bi-monthly "Growing Biodiversity" E-newsletter distributed to registered community groups, schools and residents		Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> The recently rebranded "Our Bright Green Future" E-News is distributed monthly to registered community groups, schools and residents
		5.43 Social media posts utilised to promote biodiversity events and awareness of key environmental days (World Wetlands Day, National Tree Day, etc.)			<b>Completed</b> Environmental Education and Engagement Program promotions have increased through the utilisation of social media posts.
		5.44 Increase promotion of reserve		Immediate	<b>Completed</b>

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		<p>success stories such as the Flying Fox colony, Latham's Snipe, Swift Parrot and Blue billed duck sightings</p>			<p>Environmental Education and Engagement Program promotions have increased through the utilisation of social media and the "Our Bright Green Future" E-News.</p>
5.5	<p>Engage with and develop partnerships with Traditional Owners to include Aboriginal values and traditional ecological knowledge in biodiversity planning and management</p>	<p>5.51 Partnerships that inform the protection, management and access to biodiversity values across the LGA</p>	<p>Parks Community Development</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p><b>Completed</b> Council has continued the partnership with Traditional Owners through ongoing engagement and consultations with the Bunurong Land Council (BLCAC). This partnership has led to codesigned environmental projects such as the Connecting to Country Grant, Cultural Burn plans, Fotheringham Billabong enhancement opportunities and</p>



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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
					potential project scopes developed for future grant funding opportunities.
5.6	Continue to actively encourage participation in educational/ volunteer programs to build awareness and undertake bush regeneration activities.	5.61 Continue to provide support for Friends of Fotheringham Reserve and the Greater Dandenong Environment Group, as well as any new groups	Parks	Ongoing	<b>Completed</b> Council is continuing to support, foster and develop community groups and volunteering programs such as the Friends of Fotheringham, Gardens for Wildlife and Greater Dandenong Environment Group through ongoing partnerships, working bees, volunteering days, knowledge sharing sessions and involvement in environmental events.
		5.62 Update guidance on the council website about how to volunteer in bushland		Short Term	<b>On-Track</b> Ongoing work to further promote and streamline volunteering

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#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
		reserves, and how to create a new group			opportunities and the development of new community groups is on track. There is continued uptake with the Gardens for Wildlife program with a new ranger volunteering opportunity in development.
5.7	Continue to provide support through Council's community grants program for community events, capacity building activities or programs focused on biodiversity improvements that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to Council's vision and strategic priorities</li> <li>• Enhance community capacity in</li> </ul>	5.71 Grants provided through the community grant program that include a focus on biodiversity	Community Services	Ongoing	<b>Ongoing</b> The Community Grants Program provides opportunities for Council to work in partnership with the community for the benefit of Greater Dandenong. Council provides financial assistance (\$2,000 - \$80,000) to community groups and individuals to undertake projects and activities in the city to help foster this partnership.

## #5 Connect with nature - community engagement and education

#	Action	Deliverables	Responsibility	Timeframe	Annual Comment
	responding to local needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase community collaboration, partnerships and intercultural connections</li> <li>• Contribute to improvement of community safety, health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Have the best sustainable outcomes for the local community</li> </ul>				

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