

Urban Biodiversity Strategy

Action Plan

BOROONDARA

2024/25 and 2025/26

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Introduction

Boroondara's Urban Biodiversity Strategy 2024–2034 sets the strategic direction to protecting and enhancing Boroondara's biodiversity. This Action Plan does not duplicate background information found in the Urban Biodiversity Strategy but presents tangible actions that Council will undertake over the next two years, either alone or in partnership with our community or other organisations.

Objective 1: Protect and enhance biodiversity on public land

Strategic action number	Strategic action	Action number	Action	Implementation timeframe	Alignment with Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31
1.1	Progressively implement the Biodiversity Sites Plan to improve the habitat condition of remnant vegetation and existing areas under biodiversity management.	1.1.1	Continue maintenance and renewal of all established habitat zones at significant biodiversity sites on Council-managed land, as identified in the Biodiversity Sites Plan.	Every year	Strategies 2.2, 2.4, and 3.6
1.2	Progressively extend revegetation to improve connectivity between biodiversity sites and along corridors as set out in the Biodiversity Sites Plan.	1.2.1	Continue revegetation/ regeneration of additional zones at significant biodiversity sites identified in the Biodiversity Sites Plan to increase habitat by 1 ha per year.	Every year	Strategies 2.2, 2.4, and 3.6
		1.2.2	Develop a plan for applying biodiversity management principles to Parks sites adjacent to biodiversity sites.	2024/25	Strategies 2.2, 2.4, and 3.6
		1.2.3	Establish a flowering grassland demonstration site.	2024/25	Strategies 2.4, and 3.6
		1.2.4	Establish woody meadows at non-biodiversity park sites as a trial.	2024/25	Strategies 2.2, 2.4, and 3.6
		1.2.5	Develop a project proposal for a large-scale revegetation project to offset the biodiversity area that is ultimately lost due to North East Link (future project delivery subject to funding and community consultation).	2025/26	Strategy 3.6
1.3	Ensure a continued focus on the establishment of mid and understory vegetation to support populations of small insect-eating birds.	1.3.1	Approach biodiversity sites with a focus on increased establishment of mid and understory vegetation, where appropriate to the Ecological Vegetation Class.	Every year	Strategies 2.2 and 3.6
1.4	Respond to existing issues (e.g. climate change, pest animals, significant weeds, lighting) and emerging threats (e.g. Myrtle Rust) to indigenous flora and fauna.	1.4.1	Continue to participate in the Eastern Region Pest Animal Network and collaborate to achieve the aims of the Eastern Region Pest Animal Strategy.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
		1.4.2	Undertake a review of biodiversity sites and dog off-leash areas and put forward recommendations to provide greater protection for biodiversity sites if warranted.	2024/25	Strategy 3.6
		1.4.3	Review the necessity for a cat curfew as part of the scheduled review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.	2025/26	Strategy 3.6
1.5	Protect our waterways as natural landscapes and for their ecological values.	1.5.1	Endorse Council's updated Integrated Water Management Plan and implement actions to improve the quality of our waterways.	2024/25	Strategy 3.6
1.6	Use streetscapes to support native flora and fauna, including promoting the use of nature strips to enhance biodiversity and habitat for pollinators.	1.6.1	Release updated Nature Strip Guidelines to encourage residents to plant out their nature strip to enhance urban biodiversity.	2024/25	Strategies 3.5 and 3.6
1.7	Ensure a diverse range of climate-ready tree species are planted.	1.7.1	Develop a list of species for planting in Boroondara suited to local conditions and the future climate, and diversity targets.	2024/25	Strategies 2.4, and 3.6
1.8	Undertake habitat restoration, including the installation of artificial nesting sites, to provide improved habitat for a range of hollow dependant species at appropriate locations.	1.8.1	Monitor and publicly report on Council's log hollow habitat enhancement program for Krefft's gliders and hollow dependent birds and adjust and expand as appropriate.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
1.9	Seek engagement with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation (such as the Narrup team) and other Aboriginal groups in revegetation projects.	1.9.1	Engage with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation regarding interest in collaboration on revegetation projects.	Every year	Strategies 3.6 and 7.8
1.10	Continue to work with other public land managers (Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, VicTrack) to enhance habitat condition and connectivity across the municipality. Advocate for these State Government agencies to actively increase area managed for biodiversity to offset the areas lost as a direct result of State Government projects.	1.10.1	Continue to collaborate with Melbourne Water and other councils on platypus habitat modelling.	2024/25	Strategy 3.6
		1.10.2	Advocate for State Government agencies to actively increase area managed for biodiversity to offset the areas lost as a direct result of State Government projects.	Every year	Strategy 3.6

Objective 2: Improve biodiversity on private land through community engagement

Strategic action number	Strategic action	Action number	Action	Implementation timeframe	Alignment with Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31
2.1	Promote and deliver community education projects and activities that encourage positive behaviours and values towards biodiversity conservation.	2.1.1	Deliver the Backyard Biodiversity Project annually to encourage and support residents to create indigenous habitat gardens.	Every year	Strategies 3.1, 3.4 and 3.6
		2.1.2	Deliver biodiversity themed workshops as part of Council's Living for our Future program, including seeking opportunities to showcase gardens that demonstrate habitat gardening principles.	Every year	Strategies 3.1, 3.4 and 3.6
		2.1.3	Offer excursions to Maranoa Botanic Gardens to Boroondara schools.	Every year	Strategy 3.1 and 3.4
		2.1.4	Continue to offer the Schools for Wildlife program for up to two Boroondara schools per year.	2024/25 2025/26	Strategies 3.1 and 3.6
2.2	Encourage and incentivise indigenous restoration, revegetation and gardening across the municipality (including on nature strips).	2.2.1	Provide 5,000 indigenous tube stock to schools, community groups, friends groups and residents.	Every year	Strategies 3.1, 3.4 and 3.6
		2.2.2	Provide vouchers of 20 free tube stock plants for community members to renovate their nature strips to enhance biodiversity.	Every year	Strategies 3.1, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6
		2.2.1	Update the website with information about locally suitable plant species and their required planting conditions.	2025/26	Strategies 3.1, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6
2.3	Maintain (and expand as necessary) educational signage at strategic sites to promote key biodiversity messages and support management objectives.	2.3.1	Review educational signage across all biodiversity sites and determine future needs.	2024/25	Strategy 3.1
		2.3.2	Roll out educational signage across all biodiversity sites as required.	2025/26	Strategy 3.1
2.4	Work with Friends groups and other community organisations that contribute to biodiversity conservation locally.	2.4.1	Continue to support friends groups working in biodiversity sites.	Every year	Strategies 3.1 and 3.6
2.5	Provide the community with a range of citizen science opportunities to increase their knowledge of and connection to nature and contribute valuable data about biodiversity in Boroondara.	2.5.1	Deliver a range of citizen science initiatives for the community (including the Backyard Bird Count, City Nature Challenge, Great Southern BioBlitz and Krefft's Glider hollow monitoring).	Every year	Strategy 3.1
2.6	Engage with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation to provide education and engagement opportunities to the community with an indigenous focus.	2.6.1	Engage with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation to provide education and engagement opportunities to the community with an indigenous focus.	Every year	Strategies 3.6 and 7.8

Objective 3: Reduce land use and development impacts on biodiversity

Strategic action number	Strategic action	Action number	Action	Implementation timeframe	Alignment with Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31
2.1	Encourage private landowners with significant habitat (e.g. golf clubs) to protect, manage and enhance indigenous habitat.	3.1.1	Engage with privately owned golf courses in the municipality to explore opportunities for the enhancement of indigenous flora and fauna habitat.	2025/26	Strategy 3.6
2.2	Strengthen biodiversity protection through the Boroondara Planning Scheme where possible.	3.2.1	Investigate an amendment to the Boroondara Planning Scheme to implement greater protection for native vegetation more broadly across Council.	2025/26	Strategies 4.4 and 4.5
		3.2.2	Review and pursue implementation of Environmentally Sustainable Design policy to support private realm canopy cover.	2025/26	Strategies 4.4 and 4.5
2.3	Investigate the purchase, sub-division and re-selling of land adjacent to river corridors to support better biodiversity access and management. Where this land would be of regional benefit Council will advocate to the State Government for them to purchase.	3.3.1	Investigate any opportunities that arise to purchase (or advocate to the State Government to purchase), sub-divide and re-sell land adjacent to river corridors to support better biodiversity access and management.	Every year	Strategy 2.4 and 3.6

Objective 4: Ensure decision-making is based on sound knowledge and up-to-date evidence

Strategic action number	Strategic action	Action number	Action	Implementation timeframe	Alignment with Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31
4.1	Support the technical knowledge and capacity of staff, contractors, and Friends Group volunteers.	4.1.1	Support training, professional development, and knowledge sharing for staff and friends group volunteers that are involved in biodiversity maintenance/revegetation.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
4.2	Participate in knowledge sharing with other councils and expert bodies. For example, through participation in groups such as the Yarra Collaboration Committee and KooyongKoot Alliance, and collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation.	4.2.1	Continue to participate in the Biodiversity Planners Network.	Every year	Strategies 3.6, 4.4 and 4.5
		4.2.2	Continue to participate in the Yarra Collaboration Committee.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
		4.2.3	Continue to participate in the KooyongKoot Alliance.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
4.3	Undertake regular monitoring of biodiversity sites.	4.3.1	Undertake yearly condition audits at all biodiversity sites.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
4.4	Review and update key guiding documents to address remaining gaps in knowledge and data.	4.4.1	Assess the climate change vulnerabilities of flora and fauna in Boroondara by undertaking an update to the Inventory and Assessment of Indigenous Flora and Fauna in Boroondara.	2024/25	Strategy 3.6
4.5	Incorporate biodiversity considerations into key Council documents as appropriate.	4.5.1	Incorporate biodiversity sensitive lighting principles into the upcoming updated Public Lighting Policy.	TBC	Strategy 3.6
4.6	Contribute data to relevant state and national biodiversity inventories.	4.6.1	Routinely integrate applicable data from audits to relevant state and national biodiversity inventories.	Every year	Strategy 3.6
		4.6.2	Encourage our community to contribute biodiversity data to relevant state and national biodiversity inventories through promotion of citizen science opportunities.	Every year	Strategies 3.1 and 3.6

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