



**BOROONDARA**  
*City of Harmony*

# Urban Biodiversity Strategy

Implementation Plan 2017 - 2020

**Responsible Directorate:** Environment and Infrastructure  
**Authorised By:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Date of Authorisation:** 11 August 2017  
**Review Date:** Three years



# Table of contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. Purpose .....</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| 1.1. Purpose  | 3         |
| 1.2. Scope and structure  | 3         |
| <b>2. Background.....</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| 2.1. Biodiversity in Boroondara   | 3         |
| 2.2. UBS Vision and Objectives  | 4         |
| <b>3. Progress highlights from 2013 — 2017 .....</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Objective 1: To protect and enhance biodiversity on public land   | 4         |
| Objective 2: To reduce land use and development impacts on biodiversity   | 6         |
| Objective 3: To increase community support for biodiversity protection and enhancement                          | 6         |
| Objective 4: To ensure policy decision making and actions are based on sound knowledge and up-to-date evidence. | 9         |
| <b>4. Priority actions plan for 2017 to 2020 .....</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>5. Ongoing and continuous improvement activities ..</b>  | <b>20</b> |
| <b>6. Evaluation and Monitoring .....</b>   | <b>21</b> |
| <b>7. References .....</b>  | <b>21</b> |
| <b>8. Contact information .....</b>   | <b>21</b> |

# 1. Purpose

## 1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to present the second implementation plan for the *Urban Biodiversity Strategy for Boroondara (2013-2023)*.

The *Urban Biodiversity Strategy for Boroondara (UBS)* was adopted by Council in June 2013 to set the strategic direction for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Boroondara.

An initial implementation plan (authorised by the Chief Executive in December 2013) included over 22 actions as well as complementary/ongoing actions. This second implementation plan concludes at the end 2020.

## 1.2. Scope and structure

This document highlights progress from the first UBS Implementation Plan (2013-2017) (Section 3), a new action plan for delivery between 2017-2020 (Section 4), a list of ongoing and continuous improvement activities (Section 5) and Appendix 1 which outlines a series of progress indicators for monitoring the UBS implementation.

The structure of the new action plan shows a description and context for the priority actions delegated to a responsible department with timeframe and resourcing implications. This draft UBS Implementation Plan 2017-2020 is to be read in conjunction with the UBS (available to download from [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/biodiversity](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/biodiversity)).

# 2. Background

## 2.1. Biodiversity in Boroondara

Given that Boroondara is highly urbanised, the City has a remarkable diversity of indigenous flora and fauna and a number of sites with remnant vegetation, especially along the Yarra River. These sites provide critical habitat for many fauna species including reptiles, native birds, bats, sugar gliders, possums and kangaroos.

Council's *Inventory and Assessment of Indigenous Flora and Fauna in Boroondara*, published in 2006, documents the native and exotic plant and animal species recorded locally and details 58 significant biodiversity sites. The Yarra River and the creeks running through the municipality function to varying degrees as wildlife corridors allowing fauna to move across the suburbs and out to the Yarra Ranges beyond the City.

*Photo right: Surveys conducted in 2017 found Sugar Gliders feeding and living in many locations along the Yarra (Birrarung) River. Although not rare in Victoria, they are uncommon in urban areas and were last recorded in Boroondara in 1986 in Yarra Bend Park.*



## 2.2. UBS Vision and Objectives

The Urban Biodiversity Strategy's Vision for 2023 proposes that '...As a result of Council's strategic investment... the total area managed for biodiversity in Boroondara has increased from 36 hectares in 2013 to 45 hectares in 2023...' and that '...In Melbourne, Boroondara provides a dynamic example of integrating biodiversity and habitat into a highly urbanised environment...'

The UBS includes a set of eight guiding principles that inform its objectives and implementation:

1. **The community protects what it loves.**
2. **Biodiversity is worth protecting for its intrinsic value alone**
3. **Healthy ecosystems are critical to the health of the community**
4. **Biodiversity is a community asset that should be protected for future generations**
5. **Projects can be designed to deliver multiple benefits rather than single outcomes**
6. **Biodiversity protection can be integrated with other uses of our open space network**
7. **Prioritise action according to impact**
8. **Leadership by Council with the community.**

The UBS sets four overarching objectives that provide a framework for action to 2023:

**Objective one:** To protect and enhance biodiversity on public land

**Objective two:** To reduce land use and development impacts on biodiversity

**Objective three:** To increase community support for biodiversity protection and enhancement

**Objective four:** To ensure policy decision making and actions are based on sound knowledge and up-to-date evidence.

The UBS includes a range of interrelated action strategies that have potential to achieve these objectives.

## 3. Progress highlights from 2013 — 2017

### Objective 1: To protect and enhance biodiversity on public land

#### ***Biodiversity site renewal and extension***

When the UBS was adopted in 2013, Council's Biodiversity and Revegetation Team was managing approximately 36 hectares (ha) of public land for biodiversity outcomes, spread across 45 designated biodiversity sites. Since 2013 Council has:

- Planted 107,189 indigenous tubes at biodiversity sites as part of its renewal activities to replace weeds or dead plants.
- Revegetated open space to create new biodiversity zones at Chandler Park, Markham Reserve, Freeway Golf Course, Hays Paddock, Boroondara Tennis Centre, Koonung Creek, South Surrey park, Welfare Parade, Willsmere Park, Yarra Flats, Outer Circle Linear Park - D Asquith Street.
- Received grant funding of \$104 804 between 2013/14 and 2016/17 from Melbourne Water's Corridors of Green funding program towards revegetation activities along waterway corridors.

As of 30 June 2017, Council's Biodiversity Sites and Revegetation Team is maintaining 40.6 ha of land for biodiversity values.

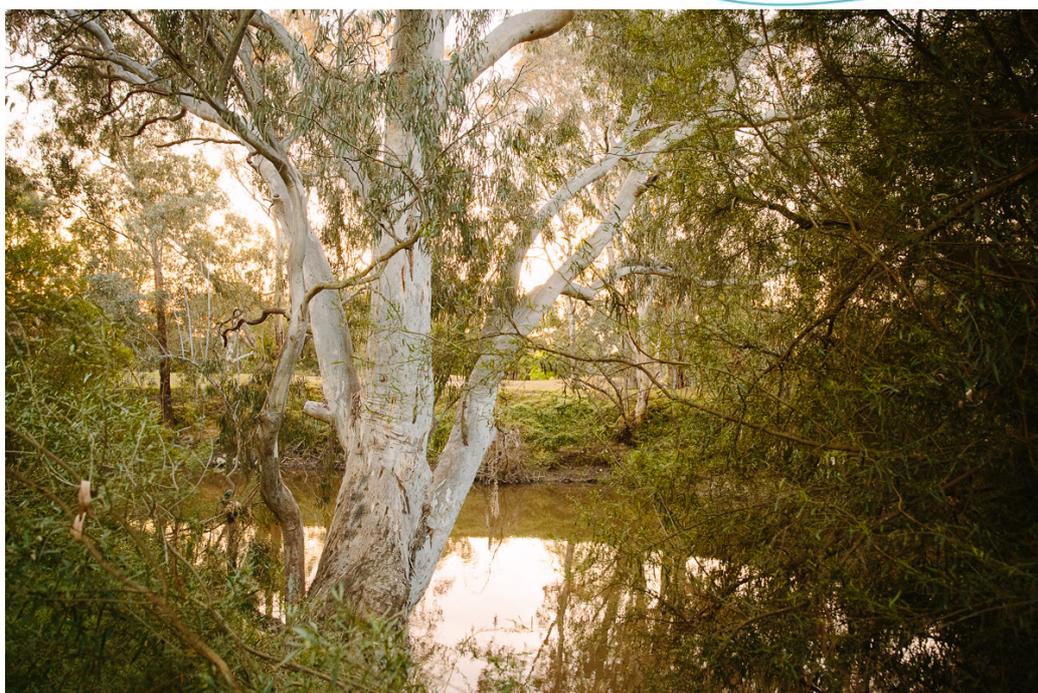


*Photo: A biodiversity extension zone created in 2015 along Gardiners Creek at Markham Reserve*

***Habitat trees on public and private land now listed as significant***

Over three hundred large old indigenous and native trees across Boroondara were assessed for significance. Fifty three trees and stands of trees on private land were recommended for inclusion on the Significant Tree List and a formal update of the Significant Tree Study/List was completed in 2015. Listed trees on private land are afforded extra protection under Council's Tree Protection Local Law 2016.

There are now 183 citations for significant trees on public land, which cover 746 individual street and park trees. Approximately 84% of the listed trees on public land are large or remnant native trees. These trees are mostly managed by Council and have been included in a separate list on Council's website.



*Photo: One of the many large old River Red Gums along the Yarra (Birrarung) River Corridor*

## **Objective 2: To reduce land use and development impacts on biodiversity**

### ***Further protection of the Yarra River's environmental and aesthetic values***

The Yarra River provides valuable habitat and a functioning corridor for wildlife to move between the city and the Yarra Ranges. Protection of the Yarra River corridor from urban development has recently been strengthened through the introduction of new interim planning controls — a Significant Landscape Overlay SLO1 and Design and Development Overlay DDO31, and the Victorian Government's publication of a Yarra River Action Plan. Officers from City of Boroondara's Environment and Sustainable Living and Strategic Planning departments played an active role in this process.

### ***Update to the Municipal Strategic Statement***

The Boroondara Planning Scheme was reviewed and updated in 2015. This process provided an opportunity to incorporate key issues for the natural environment, relevant objectives and strategies from the UBS into the relevant clause (21-03) of the Municipal Strategic Statement, as well as key reference documents and strategies for further work.

## **Objective 3: To increase community support for biodiversity protection and enhancement**

### ***Enhancing visitor experiences at our biodiversity sites***

A suite of new interpretive signs using complementary designs and sizes have been installed at Willsmere Billabong, Koonung Creek, Freeway Golf Course, Burke Road South Wetlands, Hays Paddock, Nettleton Park, Markham Reserve, South Surrey Park and Back Creek (Cornell Road section). The signs feature natural history stories, information on the local environment, messages highlighting key management objectives and photos of local flora and fauna.



*Photo: One of the new interpretive signs at Hays Paddock captures natural history stories and key management messages*

### **Backyard Biodiversity project fostering local learning and action**

The Backyard Biodiversity project builds skills and knowledge of habitat gardening. It helps residents to create a small wildlife-friendly garden using locally indigenous plants, providing access to experts and organised activities with local 'Friends of' groups. Over the past four years, the project has been delivered to specific residential areas near the Yarra River (Kew and Kew East) and Back Creek (Canterbury, Surrey Hills and Balwyn). Two projects have also been open to interested residents from across the whole municipality.

Outcomes from the project include:

- 330 participating households since 2011.
- Over 10,000 indigenous plants planted in home gardens and on public land.
- Establishment of a new 'Friends of' group (Friends of Ashburton Forest).

In 2014, Backyard Biodiversity won the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) World Environment Day Award (Local Government Category).



*Photo: Backyard Biodiversity participants on a group visit to Greenlink Nursery, Box Hill*

### **Building capacity of local 'Friends of' groups**

Council supports five Friends groups who help to manage biodiversity sites and corridors. These groups include: Friends of South Surrey Park, Friends of Ashburton Forest, Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley, Friends of Kergunyah Wetlands (Balwyn Community Centre) and Friends of Greythorn Park.

Council is also represented on the Burke Road Billabong Committee of Management. Burke Road Billabong is an important 10ha biodiversity sites on DELWP land located along the Yarra River between Burke Road Flats and Kew Golf Course.

As well as providing support for group working bees (plants, tools, supervision as required), Council assists and encourages groups to promote their activities and build their membership, for example, by participating in the Boroondara Volunteer Expo and creating and distributing a 'Friends of' promotional postcard.



*Photo: The 'Friends of' group promotional postcard*

### **Connecting schools and kindergartens with local biodiversity**

Council provides indigenous plant vouchers and mulch to Boroondara schools and kindergartens, many of which are located near biodiversity sites and corridors.

Increasing interest in connecting children with nature means more kinders and early learning centres are seeking support to create 'bush kinder' setting within their grounds. Eligible groups have also sought and received funds through Boroondara's Annual Community Strengthening Grants program for biodiversity projects.

Professional development sessions on biodiversity topics have been presented to Boroondara's Teacher Environment Network (TEN). Boroondara schools and kindergartens with exemplary biodiversity initiatives have also been recognised in Council's Sustainability Awards for Schools.

## Objective 4: To ensure policy decision making and actions are based on sound knowledge and up-to-date evidence.

### *Leading the development of a biodiversity monitoring framework for the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action*

Council led a project with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) councils to develop a regional biodiversity monitoring framework – Biodiversity Monitoring in Melbourne's East.

The framework includes tools for gathering data on the following four indicators of biodiversity health in the context of a changing climate:

1. Vegetation condition / change.
2. Area of land under management for biodiversity.
3. Bird species diversity and abundance.
4. Phenology (timing of plant and animal seasonal events - nesting, migration, flowering etc.)

Scientists from the University of Melbourne and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE) were engaged to develop and trial the framework with Boroondara and other EAGA Councils. Project partners include BirdLife Australia and EarthWatch/ClimateWatch.

The project was awarded a 2016 Victorian Premier's Sustainability Award (government category) and a 2016 United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Award (local government category).



The project's resources and reports can be found on the [Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action \(EAGA\) website](#).



## 4. Priority actions plan for 2017 to 2020

Note: Completion of actions and the achievement of performance indicators will be dependent on Council funding.

Acronyms: P&I (Parks and Infrastructure), E&SL (Environment and Sustainable Living), Comms (Communications and Engagement Department), BAMP (Biodiversity Asset Management Plan)

### **Objective 1: To protect and enhance biodiversity on public land**

| Action # | Implementation action  | Description/context  | Timeframe   | Estimated cost  | Responsible department(s)                |
|----------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1.1      | Continue maintenance and renewal of all established habitat zones at significant biodiversity sites on Council-managed land. | <p>Maintenance activities include intensive weed management and other standard 'maintenance tasks' (e.g mulching and brush cutting), to protect the existing condition and function of the habitat.</p> <p>In addition to regular maintenance, most biodiversity sites require periodic renewal, with works including: replacing plants that have died; and infill planting where weeds have been removed. Renewal works aim to improve the overall vigour and condition of vegetation.</p> <p>Additional revegetated / regenerated zones (see Action 1.2) will be added to the maintenance and renewal schedule once established.</p> | Ongoing - as per BAMP maintenance and renewal schedules | <p>P&amp;I operating budget, plus additional allocations from 2017/18 for maintenance of extension areas (refer Action1.2).</p> <p>2017/18 - \$969K<br/>2018/19 -\$990K<br/>2019/20 -\$1,026K</p> <p>Note: These figures include all costs (staff, plant, equipment, etc) associated with the Biodiversity Sites and Revegetation Team operations.</p> <p>Renewal budget for existing biodiversity zones (within P&amp;I operating budget )</p> <p>2017/18 - \$126K<br/>2018/19 -\$124K<br/>2019/20 -\$124K</p> | P&I (Biodiversity Sites and Reveg. Team) |

| Action # | Implementation action   | Description/context   | Timeframe                                  | Estimated cost   | Responsible department(s)                |
|----------|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1.2      | Continue revegetation/ regeneration of additional zones at significant biodiversity sites to increase habitat - and thereby improve connectivity along designated biodiversity corridors. | <p>The UBS has set a target of increasing land actively managed for biodiversity outcomes from 36 ha (2013) to 45 ha by 2023. Council's Biodiversity Asset Management Plan (BAMP) identifies extension zones at each biodiversity site and proposes a schedule for revegetation works consistent with the 2023 target.</p> <p>From 2017/18 creation of extension zones will continue at: Koonung Creek, Chandler Park, Estella St, Markham Reserve, Nettleton Park, Patterson Res, Pridmore Reserve, Stradbroke Park, Welfare Parade, Willsmere Park &amp; Yarra Flats Reserve. This work will take the area of land managed for biodiversity to approximately 43.7 ha by 2019/20</p> | Ongoing - as per BAMP new/upgrade schedule | <p>(Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Vegetation Implementation)</p> <p>2017/18 - \$181,484<br/>2018/19 - \$169,968<br/>2019/20 - \$176, 248</p> <p>Note annual grant applications for 'Corridors of Green' funding (approx. \$30K per anum) will be submitted to Melbourne Water to supplement Council's contribution.</p> | P&I (Biodiversity Sites and Reveg. Team) |
| 1.3      | Undertake the design and implementation of a habitat enhancement program for Sugar Gliders on Council-managed land along the Yarra River.   | <p>Surveys in 2017 along the Yarra River have confirmed the presence of Sugar Gliders on public land and private golf courses.</p> <p>Recommendations to support persistence of Sugar Gliders include planting of local Acacias to increase food (pollen, insects and gum), augmenting existing habitat with additional carved</p>  | 2017/18<br>2018/19                         | <p>(Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)</p> <p>\$5K per annum (approx.)</p>   | P&I in collaboration with E&SL           |

| Action # | Implementation action   | Description/context   | Timeframe         | Estimated cost   | Responsible department(s)                                |
|----------|---|---|-------------------|--|--|
|          |   | hollows or alternatives and a community engagement campaign for residents living close to the Yarra River (see action 3.2).   |                   |  |  |
| 1. 4     | Explore opportunities to incorporate actions in the Domestic Animal Management Plan (2017-2021) to better protect native fauna. | A new Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is being developed in 2017. Potential strategies/actions for inclusion in the revised DAMP could include the review and update of responsible pet ownership materials and messaging to increase awareness of the impacts pets (especially unconfined cats) can have on native fauna.   | 2017/18           | Officer time   | Local Laws in collaboration with E&SL.                   |
| 1.5      | Construct the Chandler Park Wetlands in Kew, creating new wetland habitat within the Yarra River biodiversity corridor.         | Construction of a 4,000m2 wetlands, with associated landscaping, will remove pollutants from stormwater before it flows to the adjacent Yarra River. Project benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New biodiversity habitat for bush/water birds, frogs, lizards, bats etc.</li> <li>• Healthier Yarra River and Bay.</li> <li>• Improved park amenity.</li> <li>• educational opportunities.</li> </ul> | 2017/18 - 2018/19 | (Capital Works - Chandler Park Wetlands)<br>\$1.2 - \$1.3M<br><br>Note: Council has secured co-funding - \$300,000 grant from Melbourne Water Living Rivers program, \$200,000 from the Port Phillip Bay Fund (Victorian Government) and a further \$100,000 from the Melbourne Water's Liveability program. | E&SL (Design)<br>P&S (Construction)<br>P&I (Maintenance) |

| Action # | Implementation action   | Description/context  | Timeframe         | Estimated cost | Responsible department(s)      |
|----------|---|--|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.6      | Work with stakeholders to undertake a billabong watering program for Willsmere Billabong to maintain ecological function during periods of drought.               | <p>Willsmere and Burke Road billabongs along the Yarra River support a diversity of indigenous plant species and vital habitat for native birds, reptiles, mammals and insects.</p> <p>Because of historically altered river flows and changed weather patterns, the billabongs are not reliably being inundated each year. This reduces ecosystem function, enables weed infestations and reduces amenity.</p> <p>Council will collaborate with Melbourne Water and other stakeholders (such as Burke Road Billabong's Committee of Management) to pursue environmental watering solutions at these billabongs.</p> | 2017/18 - 2018/19 | Officer time   | E&SL in collaboration with P&I |
| 1.7      | Incorporate objectives and strategies for biodiversity protection and enhancement in Boroondara's Tree Strategy (2018-2028) and associated operational guidelines | Council's Tree Strategy will be finalised in December 2017. The draft Strategy recognises the important contribution that indigenous and native trees in Boroondara make to biodiversity. The draft also supports planting of native and indigenous trees where appropriate, and tree works to support habitat for native fauna.   | 2017/18           | Officer time   | P&I in collaboration with ES&L |

## Objective 2: To reduce land use and development impacts on biodiversity

| Action # | Implementation action  | Description/context  | Timeframe | Estimated cost   | Responsible department(s)                        |
|----------|--|--|-----------|--|--|
| 2.1      | <p>Apply the interim Yarra (Birraring) River Corridor controls (SLO1 and DDO31) to achieve the following objectives :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect, rehabilitate and expand a continuous corridor of riparian and indigenous vegetation using indigenous species.</li> <li>To protect and enhance both terrestrial and aquatic habitat to allow the movement of wildlife along the Yarra River corridor.</li> <li>To ensure development on visible hill slopes, crests, skylines and ridgelines is subordinate to existing local vegetation and natural landscape character setting.</li> </ul> | <p>The Victorian Government has committed to increasing protection of the Yarra River by introducing legislation, stronger planning controls and a Yarra River Trust.</p> <p>The planning controls are interim to 2021 and include a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1) and Design and Development Overlay (DDO31) applied to new developments along the Yarra River. The new controls specify mandatory set-backs from the river bank, mandatory building heights, vegetation removal, weed and erosion control etc.</p> <p>The Boroondara Planning Scheme currently includes the recently created interim planning controls. Council officers will also contribute to the development and implementation of permanent controls, as well as, a strategic plan for the Yarra Corridor parklands.</p> | Ongoing   | Officer time   | Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning and ES&L. |
| 2.2      | Consider opportunities to encourage the retention of trees and vegetation on private properties where renovations or developments are proposed.  | The Boroondara community is concerned about the loss of established trees and vegetation on private land across the municipality. This pilot project will consider educational opportunities to  | 2018/19   | (Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)<br><br>\$5K (approx..) | E&SL in collaboration with Statutory Planning    |

| Action # | Implementation action | Description/context   | Timeframe | Estimated cost | Responsible department(s) |
|----------|-----------------------|---|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|
|          |                       | encourage homeowners to prioritise tree vegetation retention in their building and renovation projects. |           |                |                           |

### **Objective 3: To increase community support for biodiversity protection and enhancement**

| Action # | Implementation action  | Description/context   | Timeframe                     | Estimated cost  | Responsible department(s) |
|----------|--|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 3.1      | Undertake a 'wildlife not weeds' campaign targeting residents, schools and kindergartens along biodiversity corridors and near biodiversity sites to remove recognised environmental weeds from gardens and grounds and replace with indigenous plants in gardens and on naturestrips. | <p>Environmental weeds pose the most serious threat to biodiversity in Boroondara.</p> <p>This campaign will use existing collateral (Boroondara weeds brochure, naturestrip guidelines and Backyard Biodiversity booklet) to encourage residents to remove weeds from their gardens.</p> <p>Residents will also be offered indigenous plant vouchers to encourage replacement of weeds with locally native plants.</p> | 2017/18<br>2018/19<br>2019/20 | <p>(Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)</p> <p>2017/18 - \$10K<br/>2018/19 - \$5K<br/>2019/20 - \$2.5K</p> | E&SL                      |
| 3.2      | Continue to deliver the Backyard Biodiversity community project, evolving the format to engage new audiences. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus habitat gardening and public land revegetation efforts towards creating habitat</li> </ul>                     | <p>Since 2010, the Backyard Biodiversity project has engaged 330 households, helping residents build knowledge of local flora and fauna as well as gain skills and inspiration for habitat gardening.</p> <p>The project will continue to be rolled out, trialling new approaches to engage wider audiences and building</p>  | 2017/18<br>2018/19<br>2019/20 | <p>(Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)</p> <p>\$14,000 per annum (approx.)</p>                            | E&SL with P&I support     |

| Action # | Implementation action   | Description/context   | Timeframe                     | Estimated cost  | Responsible department(s)      |
|----------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|          | for small native birds (e.g. Eastern Spinebill and Superb Fairy Wrens) and other iconic species (such as Sugar Gliders).                        | partnerships with BirdLife Australia, Melbourne Water and adjacent councils.  |                               |   |                                |
| 3.3      | Deliver nature-based activities to engage new residents in learning about local flora and fauna and the value of biodiversity                   | <p>Boroondara has a surprising diversity of indigenous flora and fauna, and high value biodiversity sites to explore.</p> <p>This project will introduce new residents to local biodiversity sites and opportunities to contribute to biodiversity protection at home and in the community - as part of a Friends Groups or by engaging in some of the citizen science projects underway in the community.</p>  | 2018/19<br>2019/20            | <p>(Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)</p> <p>\$4,000 per anum (approx.)</p>  | E&SL with P&I support          |
| 3.4      | Roll-out interpretive signs and trails and alternative 'interpretive tools' such as 'soundboards' at biodiversity sites across the municipality | <p>Interpretive signs – to enhance visitor experiences and understanding of the local environment and management issues – will continue to be installed at significant biodiversity sites.</p> <p>Interactive 'soundboards' that feature animal (bird, &amp; frog) sounds will be piloted at regional or other large playgrounds near biodiversity sites and corridors (for example, Hays Paddock, Willsmere Reserve, Koonung Creek and Beckett Park).</p> <p>A ClimateWatch trail and audio trail along the Yarra River may be developed pending further</p> | 2017/18<br>2018/18<br>2019/20 | <p>(Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)</p> <p>\$12,000 per anum (approx.)</p> | E&SL in collaboration with P&I |

| Action # | Implementation action  | Description/context  | Timeframe                     | Estimated cost                        | Responsible department(s)                  |
|----------|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|          |  | <p>consideration.</p> <p>Consider piloting a Significant Tree Trail to communicate the values of large old indigenous trees across the municipality. Roll-out to further sites if successful.</p>  |                               |                                       |  |
| 3.5      | Support families, playgroups and others involved in the care of preschool children to engage in local 'nature play' activities, fostering children's connection with and love for the natural world. | <p>Connecting children with nature is critical for children's wellbeing and development.</p> <p>There are a number of biodiversity sites within Boroondara that are suitable for nature play activities. Resources will be prepared to help Early Years Educators and other care givers to access appropriate sites, learn about the flora and fauna found there and enjoy nature play activities.</p>   | 2017/18                       | Within Family Services budget         | Family Services in collaboration with E&SL |
| 3.6      | Continue to deliver community education initiatives to educate and engage residents and schools in biodiversity protection   | <p>Council will continue to deliver community engagement initiatives that inform residents about the natural environment and engage them in actions including citizen science to enhance local biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinating the Australian national Botanic Gardens Open Day event and other public events at Maranoa Gardens.</li> <li>- Habitat gardening workshops through the Living for our Future (LfoF) program.</li> <li>- Teacher Environment Network (TEN)</li> </ul> | 2017/18<br>2018/18<br>2019/20 | Within P&I and E&SL operating budgets | E&SL and P&I                               |

| Action # | Implementation action | Description/context  | Timeframe | Estimated cost | Responsible department(s) |
|----------|-----------------------|--|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|
|          |                       | <p>- Support for and promotion of BirdLife Australia's <i>Aussie Bird Count</i></p> <p>Boroondara's website, Bulletin and local media provide opportunities to highlight engagement activities and key messages.</p> |           |                |                           |

#### **Objective 4: To ensure policy decision making is based on sound evidence and up-to-date evidence**

| <b>Action #</b> | <b>Implementation action</b>   | <b>Description/context</b>  | <b>Timeframe</b>              | <b>Estimated cost</b>  | <b>Responsible department(s)</b>               |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 4.1             | Continue to implement the Biodiversity Monitoring in Melbourne East framework. Undertake further vegetation assessments and analyse data for bird species and vegetation change indicators in 2019/20. | Biodiversity Monitoring in Melbourne's East was developed for the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to provide a framework for councils to gather data on biodiversity health in the context of a changing climate. The framework focuses on four indicators of biodiversity health: vegetation extent, vegetation change, bird species abundance and phenology.  | 2019/20                       | (Priority Project - Urban Biodiversity Strategy - Implementation)<br><br>\$10k (approx.) | E&SL   |
| 4.2             | Provide support as required to the Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative to establish local populations of rare and threatened plants across the municipality.                                    | The Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative (VINC) received a City of Boroondara Triennial Strengthening Grant to work with Council staff and Friends Group to create 'seed orchards' of rare and threatened plants across Boroondara. Once established, the sites will provide healthy genetic material for propagation ensuring the viability of the focus species into the future. The project's community engagement activities will enable community members to assist with propagation and monitoring. | 2017/18<br>2018/18<br>2019/20 | Officer time   | P&I (Biodiversity Sites and Revegetation Team) |

## 5. Ongoing and continuous improvement activities

In addition to the priority actions listed in Section 4, a range of additional activities are undertaken by the Parks and Infrastructure and the Environment and Sustainable Living Departments on an ongoing basis.

### Biodiversity site management

- Development of vegetation management plans to guide contractors and staff working on biodiversity sites.
- Continual improvement of management processes including capture and storage of field data, reports and photos from contractors and staff.
- Management of Green Army or equivalent groups working in biodiversity sites.
- Threatened plant propagation.
- Installation of bollards to alert mowing contractors to sensitive vegetation.
- Supplying resources (rocks, tree branches, logs and other natural and artificial materials) to enhance habitat for insects, reptiles and other wildlife.

### Tree Protection

- Promotion of the Tree Protection Local Law to raise awareness of measures to protect large trees and seek compliance by residents as well as arborists working in the municipality.
- Habitat pruning of damaged or dead indigenous trees in parks and reserves to encourage habitat resources such as hollows.

### Community engagement and education

- Distribution of biodiversity resources to the community.
  - Indigenous plant vouchers.
  - *Backyard Biodiversity* booklet.
  - *Recognising and Managing Environmental Weeds* brochure.
  - Naturestrip Guidelines.
  - Connie's cards and posters.
- Support for 'Friends of' groups (overseeing working bees, provision of plants, assisting with community engagement activities).
- School support
  - Provision of indigenous plant vouchers and resources to assist schools and kindergartens with habitat gardening and revegetation projects.
  - Provision of speakers for the Teacher Environment Network.
- Supporting and promoting citizen science opportunities to the community.

### Stakeholder engagement and capacity building

- Ongoing liaison with other crown land managers and agencies (VicTrack, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, DELWP etc.)
- Participation in the Burke Road Billabong Committee of Management.
- Partner in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Strategy (PPWCMA) Regional Strategy Leaders.
- Participation in Biodiversity Planners Network and other relevant professional networks.
- Liaison with relevant NGOs.

## 6. Evaluation and Monitoring

Appendix 1 lists progress against a series of indicators that were identified in the first UBS Implementation Plan 2013-2017. These and other indicators are reported on annually through Council's annual plan reporting processes.

In addition, Council is implementing the *Biodiversity Monitoring in Melbourne's East* framework (see Action 4.1) to gather data on vegetation extent and change, bird communities, phenology across the EAGA region. This long term project is collecting data for analysis on a regional basis to show changes to flora and fauna in the context of a changing climate.

## 7. References

### Related documents

- *Urban Biodiversity Strategy for Boroondara 2013-2023*
- *Inventory and Assessment of Indigenous Flora and Fauna* (2006), Lorimer G
- *Backyard Biodiversity: A guide to creating wildlife-friendly and sustainable gardens in Boroondara* (2010)
- *Recognising and Managing Environmental Weeds in Boroondara* (2017)

Please visit [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/biodiversity](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/biodiversity) to access these resources. Copies of the Backyard Biodiversity and Environmental Weeds booklet are available from libraries and Council Customer Service Centres.

## 8. Contact information

For all queries or feedback regarding this document, please contact Andrea Lomdahl, Senior Sustainability Officer, Environment & Sustainable Living, by telephone on (03) 9278 4011 or e-mail: [environment@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@boroondara.vic.gov.au)

# Appendix 1: UBS annual performance indicators

| <b>Indicator</b>   | <b>Baseline<br/>(where available)</b> | <b>2013/14</b>  | <b>2014/15</b>   | <b>2015/16</b>   | <b>2016/17</b>   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Area actively maintained for biodiversity outcomes (hectares). <sup>1</sup>  | 36 hectares                           | 36.8 hectares   | 38.2 hectares  | 39.6 hectares  | 40.6 hectares  |
| Annual operating budget for biodiversity site maintenance. <sup>2</sup>  | n/a                                   | \$886, 258  | \$908,965  | \$937, 155   | \$969,361  |
| Number of infill plants at sites targeted for renewal to improve habitat condition.  | n/a                                   | 27,387  | 16,084   | 35,862   | 27,856   |
| Annual budget for biodiversity site renewal.   | 0                                     | \$3,000   | \$16,000   | \$60,000   | \$123,000  |
| Area of extension zones revegetated or regenerated to increase area under management for biodiversity values.                                      | 0                                     | 10,690m2  | 13,922 m2  | 13,305 m2  | 8,083m2  |
| Annual budget for biodiversity site extension.   | 0                                     | \$30,000  | \$58,292   | \$149,999  | \$238,000  |
| No. of indigenous habitat trees/stands on the Significant Tree Register (trees on private land only).  | 7                                     | —   | —  | 164  | —  |
| Number of permits issued for naturestrip renovations.  | 13                                    | 16  | 20   | 12   | 23   |
| Number of residents attending activities designed to engage residents in learning about local biodiversity protection and enhancement <sup>3</sup> | n/a                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maranoa Gardens events (700)</li> <li>• LfoF workshops (42)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maranoa Gardens events (950)</li> <li>• LfoF workshops</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maranoa Gardens events (250)</li> <li>• LfoF workshops</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maranoa Gardens events (360)</li> <li>• LfoF workshops (130)</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> Target for Urban Biodiversity Strategy is 45 ha of land managed for biodiversity values by 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Operating budget includes all costs ( staff, plant, equipment, etc) associated with the Biodiversity Sites and Revegetation Team operations. Increase in budget across years reflects CPI and the addition of new sites to achieve the target of 45ha.

<sup>3</sup> Decreased attendance at Maranoa Gardens events reflects shift to a different style of engagement activity and adverse weather over past two years.

| <b>Indicator</b>   | <b>Baseline<br/>(where<br/>available)</b> | <b>2013/14</b> | <b>2014/15</b> | <b>2015/16</b> | <b>2016/17</b> |
|--|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |   |                | (99)           | (166)          |                |
| Backyard Biodiversity booklets printed and distributed.  | 0   | 2,500          | -              | 2500           | -              |
| Number of indigenous plants donated to 'Friends of' Groups for planting activities. <sup>4</sup>                                 | 11,443                                    | 14,526         | 8848           | 4300           | 3810           |
| Number of indigenous vouchers for five plants provided to residents.   | 9   | 80             | 80             | 120            | 120            |
| Number of indigenous plants (tubestock) provided to schools and kindergartens.   | 650                                       | 450            | 1450           | 1300           | 2100           |
| Number of households registered for the Backyard Biodiversity project. NB two projects were run annually in 2013/14 and 2014/15. | 52  | 60             | 56             | 32             | 29             |

<sup>4</sup> While the Biodiversity Sites and Revegetation Team have in the past 'donated' large numbers of plants for Friends Group planting activities, the Friends Groups now work alongside the Team to plant extension zones as part of the BAMP roll-out, and plants are supplied as part of that program. Some plants are still donated for school and National Tree Day planting activities.