

# MARIBYRNONG SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT GUIDE

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Maribyrnong  
CITY COUNCIL

PHOTO: PIPEMAKERS PARK

# NATURE EXPLORER KIT

Become a Nature Explorer and discover your amazing local environment!

Book a Nature Explorer kit through one of our Maribyrnong library branches and begin your journey of wonder as you learn about frogs, bugs, birds and all the incredible things that the environment has

to offer! For children aged 3-8 and families. Nature Explorer kit includes bug viewers, binoculars, night scope, compass torch, journal for sharing your observations, environmental guides and resources.



## ECHIDNA

(TACHYGLOSSUS ACULEATUS)

I can be found around woodland areas like along the Maribyrnong River in Braybrook. I eat mostly ants and termites, so I need lots of fallen logs and leaf litter around, because that's where they live.



## RINGTAIL POSSUM

(PSEUDOCHEIRUS PEREGRINUS)

The City of Maribyrnong is named after me. Maribyrnong comes from the Aboriginal term 'Mirring-gnay-bir-nong', which translates as 'I can hear a ringtail possum'.



## GROWLING GRASS FROG

(LITORIA RANIFORMIS)

I make a long deep growling sound when I'm trying to attract a mate. I can be found in deep wetlands along the Maribyrnong River in Braybrook, which is the closest to the City we can be found.



## LITTLE PIED CORMORANT

(MICROCARBO MELANOLEUCOS)

I love to dive for fish along the Maribyrnong River. You can often find me on jetties or rocks with my wings stretched out along the River in Burndap or Footscray Parks.



## MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL'S PARK RANGER

Council's Park Ranger is here to help with protecting our Parks and Open Spaces, including the valuable natural areas along the Maribyrnong River and Stony Creek. The Ranger helps many areas of Council to plan events and other activities in our Parks and Reserves. The Ranger also works with community to help connect people with their parks and natural areas through supporting Friends groups and others who want to get involved.

## Useful Contacts:

Maribyrnong City Council Park Ranger

**Tel:** 9688 0200

**Email:** [ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

Maribyrnong City Council Environmental Services Team

**Tel:** 9688 0200

**Email:** [environment@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)



## SUSTAINABLE LIVING MARIBYRNONG

The Sustainable Living program is Council's environmental education program. The program aims to provide residents with skills and networking to live simple and sustainable lives.

Stay connected with our Sustainable Living Program via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sustainablemaribyrnong](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablemaribyrnong)

Learn more about the environment and ways to make a difference at [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment)



## COMPOST COMMUNITY

Learn about the different composting systems from bokashi, to worm farming to traditional compost and even chooks! Discover a range of different composting methods to help you decide which system or combination of systems will best suit your family.

Visit the online web portal which includes tutorials, activities and a community forum. Membership is free to Maribyrnong residents. Members have access to subsidised worm farms, compost bins and bokashi bins too! Register at [www.maribyrnongcommunity.net](https://www.maribyrnongcommunity.net)



## MY SMART GARDEN

My Smart Garden is a free program that will help you grow food, shelter your home from the sun and wind, create homes for local wildlife, use water wisely and recycle waste.

It doesn't matter if you have a backyard, balcony, courtyard or only a couple of pots - you will be sure to benefit from gardening more sustainably. Sign up for a workshop.

The My Smart Garden website also offers guides and resources to download and use at any time or follow us on Instagram for garden inspiration.

[www.mysmartgarden.org.au](http://www.mysmartgarden.org.au)

## DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR YOUR OWN VEGGIE GARDEN?

We have several community gardens in the City of Maribyrnong, offering individual or communal garden plots – some even have barbecues, pizza ovens and picnic tables.

For more information on community gardens, contact [CommunityGardens@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:CommunityGardens@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au).

## MY SMART KITCHEN

Food glorious food! We all love eating food, but how much are we throwing out? Australians discard up to 20% of the food they purchase - that's one in every five shopping bags! Food waste can be reduced by composting or worm farming, but by adopting smart shopping you can reduce food waste before it is purchased. Find out more at [www.foodwise.com.au](http://www.foodwise.com.au)

Food Know How has developed a range of smart tools in conjunction with FoodWise that will help you reduce your food waste and save you more money. Food Know How guides you on better food planning, shopping and storing. This will help to get the most out of fresh food, reduce food waste, recycle leftovers in compost bins and worm farms and save money!

Shop at your local farmers' market – you can find out what's in season in your area and you'll be

supporting local growers. Another great way to eat local is to grow your own food.

The Yarraville Village Farmers Market is unique in that it is set in the beautiful historical Beaton Res Gardens. You can enjoy a wonderful, relaxed community environment and sample the freshest products direct from the farmers and producers. Have some breakfast and coffee stock up your pantry with the best value fruit and vegetables delicious artisan bread and pastries, honey and eggs, homemade jams and more.

**Open:** 3rd Saturday of each month 9am-2pm. Beaton Res. Fehon St off Anderson St. Free Entry and parking. [www.farmersmarket.net.au](http://www.farmersmarket.net.au)



## SMART SHOPPING TIPS

**Buy seasonal produce** – On top of being more economical, if it's grown locally, it won't have to travel far which means it usually lasts longer. Find out what's seasonal and local at [www.seasonalfoodguide.com](http://www.seasonalfoodguide.com)

**Write a shopping list** – you can avoid the temptation of buying unnecessary items and special deals that you don't need by being organised. Before you write a shopping list, look for recipes that use up food you already have in your kitchen. Check your fridge, freezer and cupboards before you add items to your list.



Coulson Gardens

Maribyrnong Edible Gardens

**MARIBYRNONG**

Pipemakers Park

Frog Hollow Wetland

Cranwell Reserve

**BRAYBROOK**

Braybrook Commons  
Dobson Reserve  
Community Garden

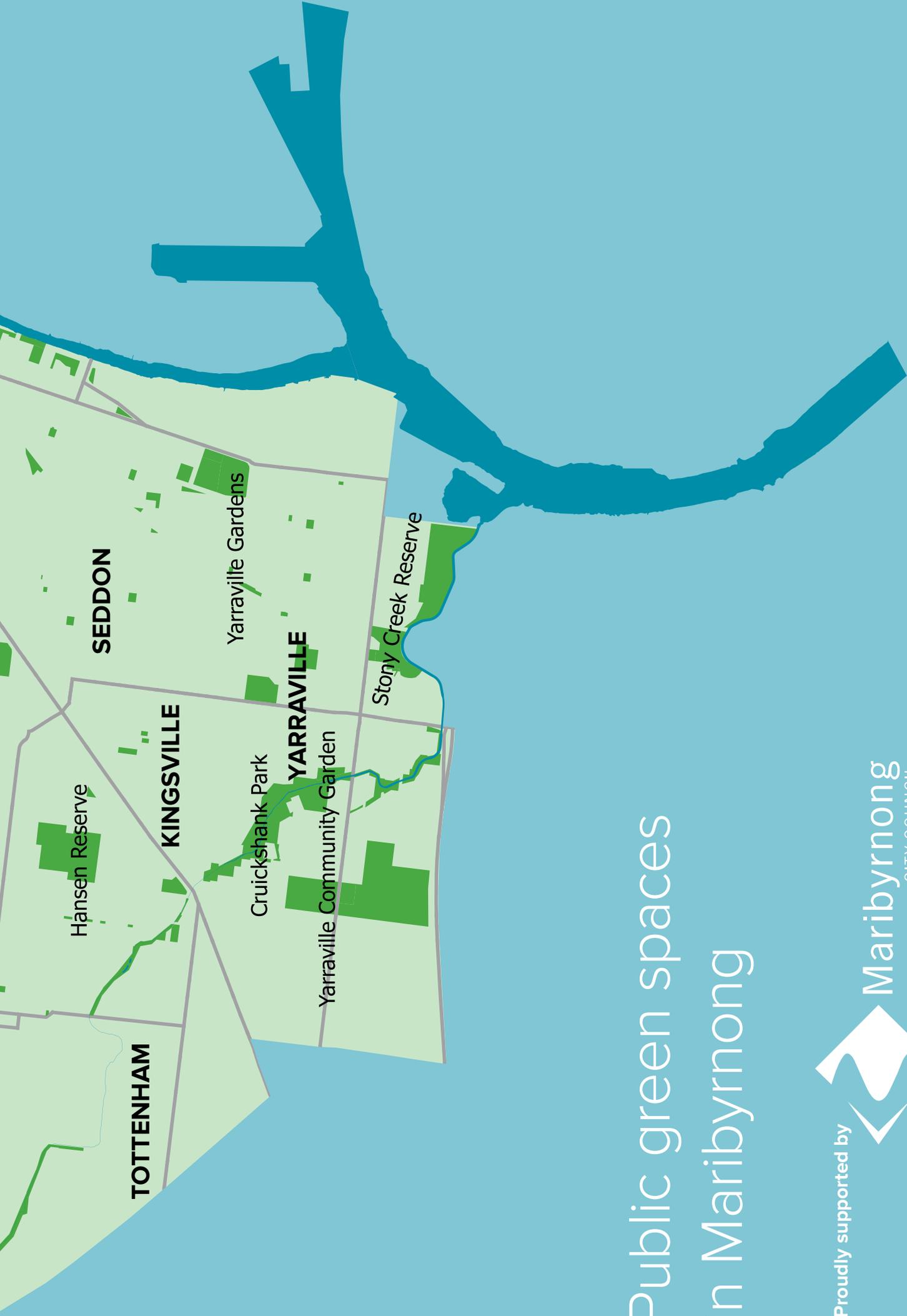
**MAIDSTONE**

Suffolk Triangle Park

**FOOTSCRAY**

**WEST FOOTSCRAY**

Newells Paddock



# Public green spaces in Maribyrnong

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## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

**Consider all your transport options when you are planning to go somewhere. Getting around Maribyrnong on bike, foot or public transport, can be a fun and fast way to explore your neighbourhood, visit friends and travel to work.**

It can also save you money and better connect you with your neighbours. The Maribyrnong TravelSmart Map shows cycling, walking and public transport routes. Council runs Bike Skills training to boost your confidence to ride for transport. MazzaBUG (Maribyrnong Bicycle Users' Group) organises social rides and advocates for better bicycle infrastructure in the Maribyrnong area.

Use your car a bit less by occasionally sharing the driving with a neighbour or work mate. Carpooling programs match you with people with similar travel origins and destinations so you can share your commute and travel costs.

As an alternative to owning a car try using Carshare. As a Carshare member, you can hire cars by the hour. Evidence suggests that each Carshare car takes around nine privately owned cars off the road. Flexicar has 6 vehicles in Footscray, Seddon and Yarraville. GoGet and GreenShareCar operate nearby.

See your sustainable travel as an opportunity to get some exercise and fresh air and to spend time with your family!

## BIKES FOR HIRE!

**Did you know that Council has a fully equipped bike trailer available to borrow?**

This trailer is available to help schools and community groups offer Bike Safety Education to all of their young people. The trailer ensures that everyone has access to a bicycle and safety equipment such as a helmet.

Children who have learnt to ride bikes may use them for transport and to develop independent non-polluting travel habits. The trailer consists of 19 bikes, 20 helmets, 20 visibility vests, tool kit, 2 pumps and 30 Dome markers.

## ACTIVE PATHS PROGRAM:

**“A fun way to encourage communities to walk and ride to school while learning road safety behaviours”**

Active Paths are a tailor made way finding exercise where “way points” lead students from a communal starting point (or points) to the school gate.

Starting points are the areas where students and parents can meet. They are identified with a “start point” marker. At every decision point along the paths, “way point” markers direct students to school using supervised crossings and recommended paths. “Stop point” markers are located on every road crossing to remind students to “Stop, Look, Listen, Think,” before crossing sensibly.

Applied on the footpath only, stamps are brightly coloured, adhesive-backed aluminum signs that glue down on almost any hard surface.



## YOUR SUSTAINABLE HOME

Whether you own your property, are buying a house or renting, there are ways you can reduce your energy and water use through sustainable design.

Find out more about saving energy at home: [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Saving-Energy-At-Home](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Saving-Energy-At-Home)

Are you building, buying or renovating a home? Check out the Department of the Environment and Energy's guide environmentally sustainable homes. This will help you create a comfortable home that is economical to run, healthier to live in and adaptable to your changing needs.

## SUSTAINABILITY FOR SCHOOLS

Maribyrnong City Council provides a range of free waste and environmental education programs and workshops for schools and kindergartens.

Discover how waste and recycling impact on our environment and how you can reduce waste at home and at school. From discovering worms and mini beasts to running a recycling relay.

There are up to 30 free waste education sessions available per year. For further information about our Council waste education program, contact [environment@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or sign up to our School Environmental Newsletter.





## BECOME A FRIEND AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your life is on the go 24/7. Feel like you never have time to sit down and smell the roses.

Maribyrnong City Council has formed working sustainable partnerships with local “not for profit friends of” groups and is involved with community gardens throughout the municipality.

In Maribyrnong you could join a local “Friends of Group” to support and help maintain a particular park, conservation reserve or species of native flora or fauna. You can also join one of the community gardens within the council to form new friendships as you plant your fresh vegies and fruit or just create a lovely show of flowers.

Each group offers different and diverse opportunities for you to become a member and work towards a more sustainable and environmental friendly council. You can volunteer as little as you are able or decide to become involved on a more formal nature. We hope to see you soon.

## FRIENDS OF ANDERS TRIANGLE

Anders Park is a small triangle of open space within West Footscray which was set aside by Anders Hansen (who originally developed the area) for the community to have as open space. Since 2012, the Friends of Anders Triangle have worked with Council to develop what was once a vacant triangle of land into an inviting park, community garden and hub for neighbourhood gatherings. The Park now boasts a picnic shelter, rainwater tank and raised garden beds. For more information look up Anders Park on Facebook or email [anderstriangle@hotmail.com](mailto:anderstriangle@hotmail.com)



## BRAYBROOK COMMONS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Braybrook Commons is a community garden located off Churchill Avenue, near the Braybrook Hub and the children's Aeroplane Playground.

The garden is located on council land and is managed by a small group of volunteers. This community garden offers a shared community space for locals to come together and grow and share produce. We welcome people from all corners of globe and with differing levels of gardening ability.

The garden has individual plots and some communal beds with a small annual membership fee. It includes composting, an outdoor kitchen and a large orchard.

[www.facebook.com/BraybrookCommons](https://www.facebook.com/BraybrookCommons)

For Membership enquiries please contact:  
[bccgardens@gmail.com](mailto:bccgardens@gmail.com)



## FRIENDS OF CRUICKSHANK PARK

Friends of Cruickshank Park group is active in park maintenance and improvement, tree planting activities, "Clean Up" days and we consult regularly with Council and it's representatives to work together for the good of the park. Our wonderful park is lucky to have a group of dedicated residents who are willing to give of their time to keep our inner city oasis looking great and serving the needs of the entire community.

[www.cruickshankpark.com.au](http://www.cruickshankpark.com.au)

[cruickshankfriends@gmail.com](mailto:cruickshankfriends@gmail.com)



## THE FRIENDS OF THE HISTORY GARDENS, PIPEMAKERS PARK

The Friends of the History Garden is a group of people who meet at Pipemakers Park Maribyrnong on a Tuesday morning around 9.30am to weed, clean up and occasionally plant. New helpers are welcome – bring gloves and work clothes, tools provided.

Email: [maelor@melbpc.org.au](mailto:maelor@melbpc.org.au)

Phone: (03) 9374 1902



## FRIENDS OF MARIBYRNONG VALLEY

Since 1986, FMV has been actively improving the surrounds of the Maribyrnong River and the valley.

Working on a weekly basis with the Park Rangers at Maribyrnong City Council, FMV are maintaining and planting on several locations around the Maribyrnong Valley Parklands.

We work on a Tuesday morning in Pipemakers Park, Van Ness Ave Maribyrnong or one of the sites below:

- Burndap Park, Edgewater Maribyrnong
- Burton Park, Maribyrnong
- Thompson Reserve, Maribyrnong
- Braybrook Escarpment, Cranwell Park Braybrook

All of this work has resulted in very successful long term outcomes for the environment which is now much greener, more diverse and healthier.

You can contact us via our website

[www.fmvonline.com](http://www.fmvonline.com) and our Facebook page [Facebook/Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc.](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Maribyrnong-Valley-Inc)

Both sites list our monthly meetings and our activities throughout the year.



## MARIBYRNONG EDIBLE GARDEN

The Maribyrnong Edible Garden (MEG) is a community run garden based in Melbourne's western suburbs. MEG boasts 54 raised plots constructed uniquely with wicking beds, where water is held in a reservoir under the bed and drawn up by the plants as required.

The garden focuses on communal produce and participation, including communal stone fruit orchard, citrus orchard, compost bins, pizza oven, BBQ and Herbs, garlic and asparagus plots.

MEG aims to provide an edible and sustainable community garden for all members of the local community, especially those interested in home grown food! MEG encourages gardeners to come together in a harmonious setting to share a sense of community and enjoy their knowledge, culture, ideas and experiences as well as provide education to members and the wider community on sustainable gardening.

For all enquiries email: [megcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:megcommittee@gmail.com) or like us on facebook.



## FRIENDS OF NEWELL'S PADDOCK

Friends of Newell's Paddock run free, fun activities: planting days, BBQs, frog census, working bees, relaxed gardening meet ups, school student volunteering and bird watching.

All welcome - no experience necessary!

We are improving the wetland ecosystem and are nurturing more than 5,000 new plants (from Melbourne Water and Council).

The park is on the Maribyrnong River, (beside the railway line to city), between the Heavenly Queen Temple and Footscray Park.

Keep up to date - like our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/newells.paddock](https://www.facebook.com/newells.paddock)

See [www.newellspaddock.org.au](http://www.newellspaddock.org.au) or email us:  
[Newells.Paddock@gmail.com](mailto:Newells.Paddock@gmail.com)



## PITT STREET PLANTERS

The Pitt Street planter boxes are a community gardening space for residents to grow food and meet neighbours. They were installed as part of a Maribyrnong City Council trial to allow residents to manage planter boxes and to grow food on nature strips and other similar locations.

Each planter is managed by an individual resident. Please respect the effort that people have gone to in order to grow their food and don't take produce unless invited. We will let people know if there's excess up for grabs via posts on our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/PittStreetGarden](https://www.facebook.com/PittStreetGarden)

If you want to get involved and are interested in managing a box, email [pittstreetgarden@gmail.com](mailto:pittstreetgarden@gmail.com)



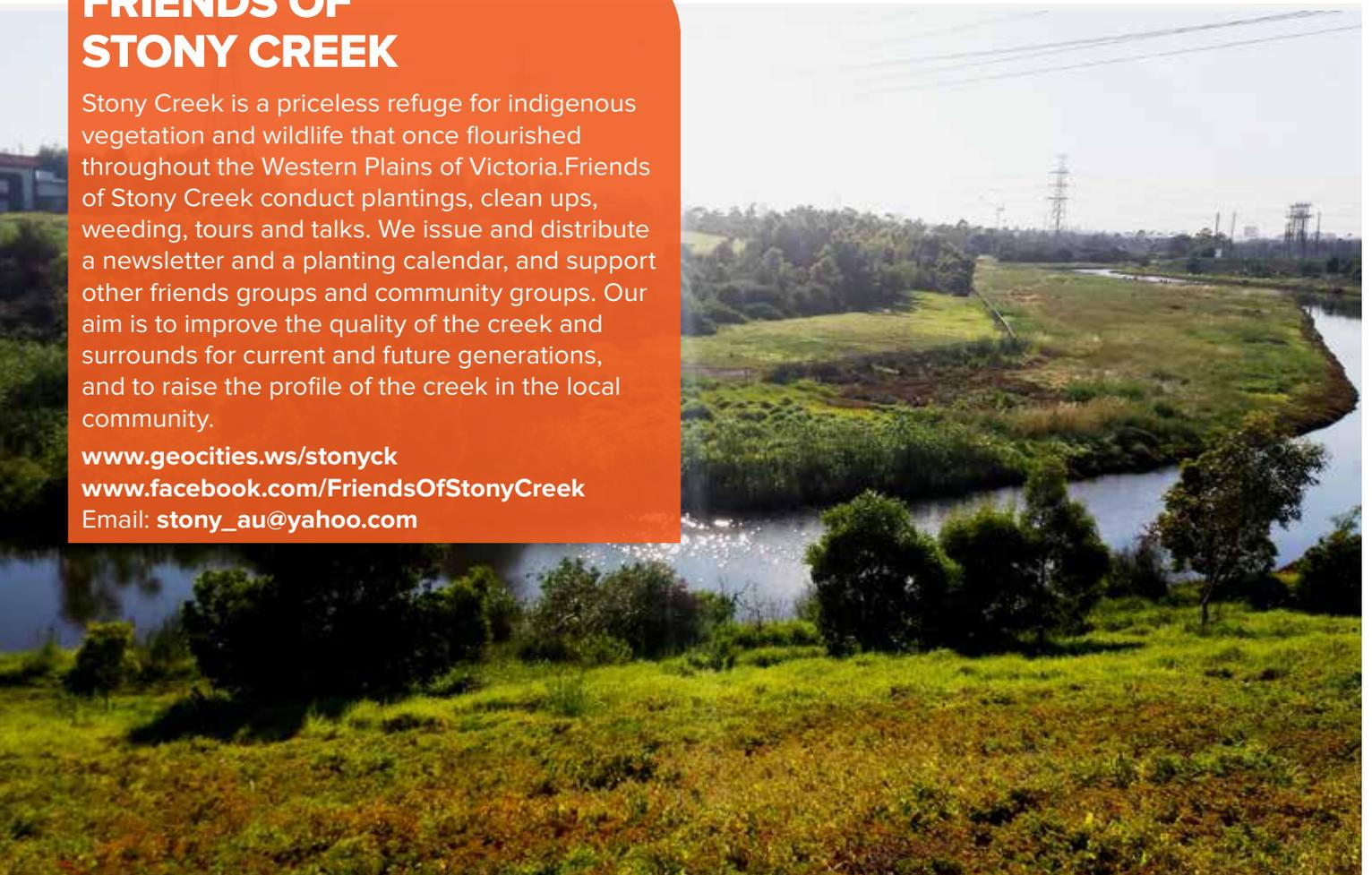
## FRIENDS OF STONY CREEK

Stony Creek is a priceless refuge for indigenous vegetation and wildlife that once flourished throughout the Western Plains of Victoria. Friends of Stony Creek conduct plantings, clean ups, weeding, tours and talks. We issue and distribute a newsletter and a planting calendar, and support other friends groups and community groups. Our aim is to improve the quality of the creek and surrounds for current and future generations, and to raise the profile of the creek in the local community.

[www.geocities.ws/stonyck](http://www.geocities.ws/stonyck)

[www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStonyCreek](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfStonyCreek)

Email: [stony\\_au@yahoo.com](mailto:stony_au@yahoo.com)



## FRIENDS OF SUFFOLK TRIANGLE

Friends of Suffolk Triangle Park have worked over the years to transform an unused parcel of land into a well-loved and used community park. Assets of the park include a labyrinth, seating, a table, lots of trees and plants, a path, and a water foundation. Community partnering is vital to the ongoing success of the park. An avenue of honour of trees situated beside the path has been established between the Council, the friends group and West Footscray Primary School acknowledging Year 6 graduation students. The park is well established but still needs the care and support of the community.



## YARRAVILLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Yarraville Community Garden (YCG) is a welcoming community hub where interested people from across our diverse community come together to relax, learn and garden. We share and grow our knowledge, demonstrate support and respect for each other and create a safe, fun environment. Yarraville Community Garden is a place to come together to create a vibrant, healthy, attractive, and chemical free garden, strong and sustainable for the future. The Yarraville Community Garden was opened in Spring 2014. It is located in McNish Reserve, Yarraville opposite 30 Court St.

Email: [yarravillecommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:yarravillecommunitygarden@gmail.com)



# My Sustainable Maribyrnong



Become a Nature Explorer and discover your amazing local environment!



Make your home more sustainable – reduce power consumption and water use  
[www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Your-Sustainable-Home](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Your-Sustainable-Home)



Join Compost Community for subsidised home compost systems:  
[www.compostcommunity.com.au](http://www.compostcommunity.com.au)



Discover how to be a Smart Gardener:  
[www.mysmartgarden.org.au](http://www.mysmartgarden.org.au)



Record local frogs and create your own frog friendly habitat garden:  
[www.melbournewater.com.au/frogensus](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/frogensus)



Reduce your food waste by shopping sustainably and planning your shop:  
[www.foodknowhow.org.au](http://www.foodknowhow.org.au)



Book a Nature Explorer kit through one of our Maribyrnong library branches



Nurture the environment and care for your patch – join an environment group



Bring your own cup to the café for coffee on the go



Travel smart – walk, cycle or catch public transport to your destination: [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Sustainable-transport](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Residents/Our-environment/Sustainable-transport)