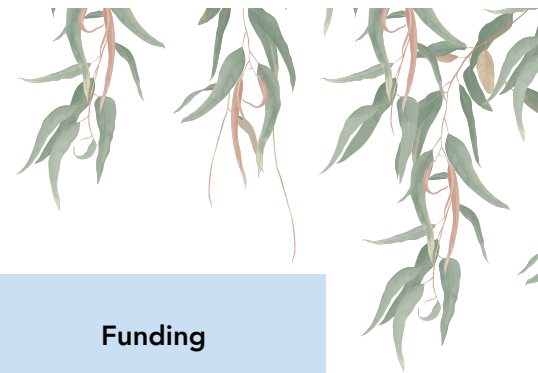


## Nature Plan Action Plan 1: implementation for years 1 to 3 (2026 – 2028)

The following Action Plan is the first of three proposed plans that are designed to implement the Nature Plan.



Action	Cost Estimate	Frequency	Funding	
<b>Guiding Principle #1: Conserve, manage and restore biodiversity</b>				
<b>1</b>	Undertake vegetation surveys and mapping of Natural Areas and the indigenous grassland patch (Skinner Reserve), including vegetation communities, indigenous and native flora and weed species (in alignment with Action 5.3A of the <i>Open Space Strategy 2014</i> ).	\$\$	once	Within existing budget
<b>2</b>	Undertake fauna habitat surveys and mapping throughout Natural Areas and within the indigenous grassland patch (Skinner Reserve).	\$\$	once	Within existing budget
<b>3</b>	Create site-specific restoration/management plans for the Natural Areas and the indigenous grassland patch (Skinner Reserve).	\$\$	once	Further funding required
<b>4</b>	Continue indigenous planting program, with a particular focus on Natural Areas and Natural Multiuse Areas.	\$\$	yearly	Partly within existing budget, further funding required
<b>5</b>	Continue current weed control program in high value areas and explore opportunities for expanding weed control works in additional areas.	\$\$\$	yearly	Partly within existing budget, further funding required
<b>6</b>	Undertake a regular pest animal control program in high value areas, such as fox and rabbit control. This should also include a program of inspection, maintenance and clear-out (when relevant) for pest species in nest boxes.	\$\$	yearly	Further funding required
<b>7</b>	Investigate the suitability of zoning for Newell's Paddock Wetlands Reserve to ensure the continued protection of the site's biodiversity values.	\$	once	Within existing budget

Action	Cost Estimate	Frequency	Funding
<b>Guiding Principle #2: Increase connection and engagement with nature</b>			
<b>8</b> Develop and publish on Council's website a wildlife-friendly garden and nature strip planting guide for residents.	\$	once	Within existing budget
<b>9</b> Empower the community to be custodians of nature.  Develop, promote and support activities and programs that engage the wider public with positive biodiversity outcomes e.g. 'Friends of' groups planting/weeding days, citizen science events and biodiversity focussed workshops as part of the My Smart Garden program.	\$\$	ongoing	Partially within existing budget, subject to further funding
<b>10</b> Provide greater information and data relating to the City's nature on Council's website.	\$	once	Partially within existing budget, subject to further funding
<b>11</b> Develop an Interpretive Plan for signage in Natural Areas.	\$	once	Within existing budget

Action	Cost Estimate	Frequency	Funding
<b>Guiding Principle #3: Collaborate with Traditional Owners, private land managers, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, VicTrack and other relevant authorities</b>			
<b>12</b> Ensure collaboration on biodiversity matters are included in the regular Council meetings with Traditional Owners (in alignment with Action 6.2 of the <i>Heritage Strategy 2024</i> ).	\$	ongoing	Within existing budget
<b>13</b> Advocate to the Federal Government and State Government agencies for strong biodiversity outcomes in the future development of the Defence Site Maribyrnong. This should include maintaining a large riparian habitat corridor alongside Mirrangbamurn/ Maribyrnong River (in alignment with Action 5.1A in the Open Space Strategy 2014).	\$	ongoing	Within existing budget
<b>14</b> Identify and pursue external funding and partnership opportunities for biodiversity programs within the City.	\$	ongoing	Within existing budget

Action	Cost Estimate	Frequency	Funding
<b>Guiding Principle #4: Embed the conservation and restoration of nature into Council practices and decisions</b>			
15 Develop a standardised framework for Council collection and storage of biodiversity data.	\$	once	Within existing budget
16 Engage ecological specialists to review street tree plantings palette in order to identify high habitat value species and ensure no species used are classified as weed species. Use findings to prioritise high value habitat street trees near existing Natural Areas and Natural Multiuse Areas.	\$	once	Further funding required
17 If lighting is required in or near Natural Areas, its design and installation is required to follow the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife.	\$	ongoing	Within capital works
18 Consider opportunities to remove existing hard surfaces (i.e. 'depave') as part of project scopes to increase habitat, permeability, cooling and greening e.g. consolidate infrastructure as part of masterplans, undertake urban design greening projects or investigate as part of road renewals.	\$	ongoing	Within existing budget
19 Ensure that biodiversity priorities are included in Council's environmentally sustainable development (ESD) guidelines for council buildings and surrounds.	\$	once	Within existing budget