

MOONEE PONDS CREEK complete REVEGETATION Project concept

Where?

Moonee Ponds Creek catchment, Melbourne – rises in the vicinity of Gellibrand Hill, Greenvale, Victoria and enters the Yarra in the Docklands area.

The Moonee Ponds Creek is a creek and major tributary of the Yarra River running through urban Melbourne, from the northern to inner suburbs. In 2004 a reporter for the Age newspaper described it as "arguably the most abused tributary of the Yarra River, and part of the true underside of Melbourne".(1)

(1) Margaret Simons (January 18, 2004). "City creek continues its fight for survival". The Age. Retrieved 20 March 2011.

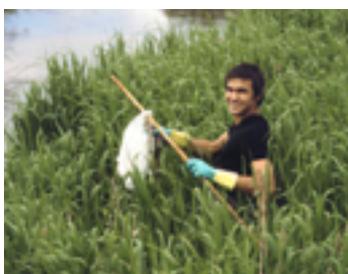


What?

To complete the restoration of Moonee Ponds Creek to a biodiverse functioning waterway. Moonee Ponds Creek is a very prominent waterway and key recreation area for the suburbs of Westmeadows, Meadow Heights, Tullamarine, Broadmeadows, Gowanbrae, Glenroy, Strathmore Heights, Oak Park, Strathmore, Pascoe Vale, Pascoe Vale South, Essendon, Brunswick West, Moonee Ponds, Ascot Vale, Flemington, Parkville, North Melbourne before joining the Yarra River at Melbourne Docklands.

Who?

- Aboriginal cultural heritage advisors via Wurundjeri consultation
- Wurundjeri elders, Eco artists - visual artists, performers, musicians, multi-media, craftworkers to work with local communities to create wayfinding methods of orientation, identification of culturally significant spaces and objects along the Creek, destination points and navigation methods along the Moonee Ponds Creek.
- Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Catchment already improve the vegetation corridor along the Moonee Ponds Creek. These Friends' groups also get involved in activities such as Clean-Up Australia, National Tree Day and Waterwatch. Last year the 'Creating Creek Communities' program planted nearly 11,000 plants involving CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse communities)
- UrbanLandcare groups.
- Melbourne Water
- Port Phillip and Western Catchment Authority



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Why?

Work began years ago on this very prominent waterway which is a key recreation area for many neighbourhoods in northern and western Melbourne. These values can be increased. Through the heavily urbanised areas the Moonee Ponds Creek flows through concrete stormwater drains, which could become a biodiverse functioning waterway.

With the changing climate there is likelihood of flooding, threatening stream side and adjacent properties. This project can reduce these threats with government investment in major works, collaboration between ecoartists and ecologists in cross disciplinary eco arts and scientific research in community engagement in citizen science.

Already significant community networks exist along the Moonee Ponds Creek with 13 Friends groups, Urban Landcare Groups, through recent restoration works who participate with local councils and Catchment Authorities to improve diversity. This is a great opportunity to broaden community-collaborative work practices between the arts and environmental science – including university sponsored research by Post-graduate and PhD students.

How?

- Wurundjeri elders participation in Project Management Government investment in major works – further planning, demolition, reshaping
- Government investment in ecoarts, citizen science in adjacent communities, including Monitoring, community education and biodiversity training workshops
- Community participation in revegetation of our own backyards and waterway through cultural events - co-ordinated by Landcare
- Connect revegetation in Moonee Ponds catchment with similar activities in neighbouring basins, such as Merri Creek and the Maribyrnong rivers

