



Waterways Local Update 2017-18

Melbourne Water's work to enhance waterways and build resilience to flooding in the **City of Moonee Valley**.



15.8 KM
WEED CONTROL
ALONG WATERWAYS



COLLABORATING
TO MANAGE STORMWATER



\$397,090
IN COMMUNITY
FUNDING

Melbourne Water plays an active role in the daily lives of Melburnians. We contribute to Melbourne's famous lifestyle by protecting and enhancing over 25,000 km of rivers and creeks, and more than 479 stormwater treatment systems and wetlands in the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

The Waterways and Drainage Charge, which is paid by property owners and collected by retail water companies on our behalf, funds this work. It is an important part of ensuring a thriving natural environment.

Melbourne Water cares for many waterways. Some in your local area include:

- Monee Ponds Creek
- Steele Creek
- Maribyrnong River

Healthy waterways

Maintenance and new projects

We are the caretakers of waterway health in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. Each year, we create and maintain healthy waterways by removing litter, debris and excess sediment. We remove and spray weeds, cut grass and plant native trees and shrubs.

What we have done

Why

0.6 km Revegetation

We plant native trees and shrubs along waterways to provide habitat for birds and animals. Revegetating waterways and replacing weeds with native plants prevents erosion and improves water quality.

15.8 km Weed control

Introduced and noxious weeds can choke waterways and take over from plants that provide healthy habitats for birds and animals.

9.6 m³ Sediment, silt, litter, debris removal

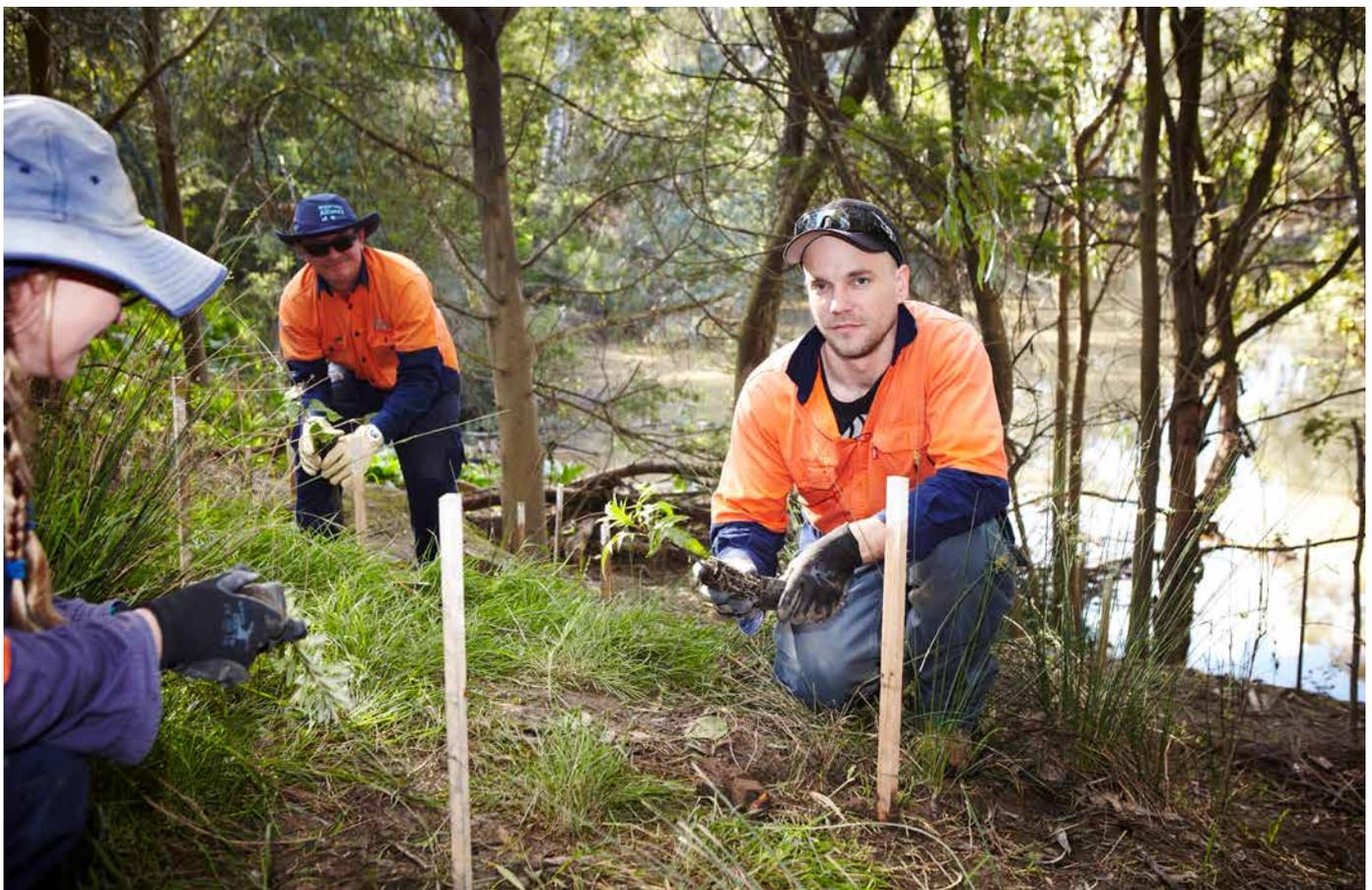
Silt, sediment, litter and debris is removed for drainage and flood protection, and to prevent pollution building up in our waterways and wetlands. An excess of these can impact the habitat for platypus, fish and other animals, as well as native plants.

Carried out works to remove weedy grasses and plant native groundcovers and shrubs along the Maribyrnong River

The work will improve vegetation and amenity, provide habitat for birds and animals, prevent erosion and improve water quality in our waterways.

Carried out works to protect the Milleara Road drain at its outlet to the Maribyrnong River

We removed the failed structure, battered the banks back and installed large rocks to protect the bank from high energy water flows to prevent erosion and improve water quality in our waterways.



Stormwater

Rainwater, stormwater and recycled water are valuable resources. We work closely with Council and local communities to protect our rivers, creeks and bays, provide alternative water sources and improve the stormwater that flows into local waterways by integrating stormwater into the urban landscape.

What we have done

Living Rivers provided funding for a stormwater treatment and harvesting system at Woodlands Park

Why

The system provides a reliable alternative water supply, and reduces stormwater pollution and runoff to improve the health of Five Mile Creek, while constructing the system provides an opportunity for training in water sensitive urban design.

Living Rivers provided funding for a feasibility study to harvest and treat stormwater for irrigation at Overland Reserve

The study will investigate the feasibility to harvest and treat stormwater for sustainable water supply to maintain sports fields at Overland Reserve.

Living Rivers provided funding for holistic water management as part of the new local Environmental Sustainable Design policy, and for water sensitive urban design practices through a collaboration with Moreland, Moonee Valley, Melbourne, Yarra, Brimbank and Greater Geelong councils

Greater understanding of best practice stormwater management and sharing information across the region improves waterway health, amenity and liveability. It reduces the risk of flooding, and stormwater and pollution entering waterways and bays.

Living Rivers provided funding for a functional design to harvest, treat and store stormwater for irrigation of the sports fields at Buckley Park, Debneys Park, Etzel Street Reserve and Hansen Reserve

Improving stormwater quality and reducing stormwater quantity enhances waterway and bay health, offers an alternative supply to preserve drinking water, reduces pollution, improves bird and animal habitat, and creates awareness of the importance and benefit of integrated water management.

Through the Clearwater program, we supported Council to take a whole-of-water cycle approach by providing a wide range of tools and resources, and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities

This work helps to improve skills, increase knowledge and foster better networks across councils to change the way we manage water for healthy, connected communities.



The Living Rivers program offers councils funding, expertise and guidance to build their understanding, skills and commitment to manage stormwater within an integrated water management approach. We contributed \$362,500 to projects in your area.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/livingrivers

Environmental water

Working with government agencies, councils, industries, landowners and the community ensures we provide the allocated water needed in rivers to maintain healthy natural ecosystems.

What we have done

Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Southern Rural Water on environmental outcomes for river systems in Integrated Water Management forums

Why

Advocating for environmental outcomes for river systems and tributaries improves the health of waterways.

Monitoring and research

We improve local waterways by undertaking regular and extensive monitoring, investigations and research to better understand them.

What we have done

Why

Monthly monitoring of water quality at three sites within your area. These tests measure:

- water temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- salinity (conductivity)
- pH level
- nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, Kjeldahl nitrogen, soluble reactive phosphorus and total phosphorus)
- indicators of faecal contamination (*E. coli*)
- metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc)

Our water quality monitoring program is designed to assess broad-scale, long-term trends in water quality (typically over 8 - 10 years). We use this data to help identify pollution sources and inform the community about local water quality.

Undertook fish surveys at Steele Creek

The surveys helped evaluate the benefits of new vertical-slot fishways installed in 2012 and complemented another monitoring program of fishway performance.

Weekly monitoring at one site to better understand recreational health risks during summer

We use this data to identify any pollution sources and provide information to the community.

Planning for future development

We ensure local waterways aren't threatened by growing communities and that new developments do not increase flood risk through planning, and by providing advice to assist future development.

What we have done

Why

149 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

Ensure proposed land subdivisions meet current standards for drainage and stormwater quality.

43 development applications reviewed

Ensure that growing communities don't contribute to an increase in flood risk.

122 flood information requests reviewed

Provide flood information to property owners and people interested in purchasing or redeveloping property.

11 applications for works near Melbourne Water assets and works such as bridges, shared pathways and jetties reviewed

Ensure waterways, and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of building works.

16 stormwater connection applications reviewed

Ensure waterways and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of construction works.

Flood protection

While floods are natural and we can't stop them all from occurring, we can build our resilience to them and minimise the damage they cause to people, places and communities.

We manage the regional drainage system and work with Council, the Victorian State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology, property owners and developers to make sure flood information is up to date. We provide flood warning services, prepare flood response plans, and identify and construct new flood protection projects in areas with the greatest need.

What we have done

Continued collecting hydrological data

Why

Data is used to analyse flood warning during emergency situations, as well as for such things as development referrals and projects to reduce the risk of flood.



Five volunteers in your area provide us with rainfall data by recording information from a rain gauge in their backyard. These figures and the data from our automated gauges provides us with valuable rainfall information.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/communityrainreaders

Working with the community

Working collaboratively with community groups, volunteers, land managers and farmers allows for better management of local waterways, natural environments and regional drainage systems. It protects the environment and promotes conservation. If you'd like more information about funding opportunities, please call 131 722 or email river.health@melbournewater.com.au

Funding provided

\$34,590

Grant

Community Grants

For

Volunteer and community groups for works that protect or enhance riverbanks on public land, raise awareness, and provide training and education to protect local waterways.



We also worked with the local community on several events and initiatives throughout the year.

Who we worked with

St Bernard's College

Friends of Steele Creek

City of Moonee Valley

Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Hume councils

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek

Kensington Association

Living Colour Studio

Swinburne & RMIT universities

Parks Victoria

Yarra Valley Water

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Greening the West/City West Water

Victorian Planning Authority

Moonee Bicycle Users Group

What we did

Supported teachers to participate in the River Detectives program, with the loan of a water quality kit and training to enable them to take students to test water quality in Steele Creek.

Hosted a Melbourne Water stall at the Steele Creek Dreaming festival to create awareness of citizen science programs and waterway management of Steele Creek, as well as record macroinvertebrate data from Steele Creek for the Waterbug Census.

The Moonee Ponds Catchment Collaboration pilot project established a governance group with stakeholders who are collaborating to transform the creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne.



Our Space Your Place is an app that helps you find land managed by Melbourne Water to use for projects that benefit the wider community, such as community gardens. We encourage communities to apply to use the land. Find out more at

melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace or call 131 722.



Our citizen science programs harness the power of community through **Waterwatch** programs. They support people to collect and analyse data on platypus, frogs, waterbugs and water quality in their local river or creeks and advocate for waterways to help protect them and promote conservation.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch or call 131 722.