



Rockhampton Regional Council Bringing Nature Back

Operational Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program

NRM Program works update

Rockhampton Regional Council's Operational NRM Program delivers targeted on-ground works to help better manage the condition of our Region's key natural assets and green corridors.

Project summary

Major project sites 8
Delivery partners 2-6 pa

Project report as at: 01 March 2022

Natural Resource Management program

Rockhampton Regional Council's 'Bringing Nature Back' program provides an overarching framework for a range of Council activities designed to connect our community with nature and protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment. The Bringing Nature Back program aligns with Council's objectives and targets from both the Corporate Plan and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

The Operational Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program is a key component of Bringing Nature Back. The Program fosters strong local partnerships and actively pursues grant opportunities to support social, environmental and economic objectives for the Rockhampton Region and our local communities. The works occur within Council's extensive parks and open spaces network and deliver activities that are over and above the scope of the routine Parks maintenance schedule.

Program objectives

The Program has the following objectives:

- Foster strong partnerships to protect, maintain and enhance key natural assets and green corridors across the Rockhampton Region.
- Implement targeted on-ground works that help sites to function as resilient, self-sustaining natural areas – this may include site-specific objectives to increase canopy cover and ground cover, improve biodiversity and environmental amenity, stabilise waterways or help achieve mowing reductions on Council land.
- Work collaboratively with local organisations to provide opportunities for members of the community to increase their practical knowledge, skills and experience to support their employment prospects.
- Build nature connection within our local community and raise awareness about our local natural assets, environmental values, flora and fauna.
- Support the soft activation of nominated natural assets that support our community to enjoy a range of passive and active recreation interests.

Delivery partners

Each year, works vary depending on Federal/State government priorities, available grant funding and the capacity of our local delivery partners. To date, delivery partners have included the following local organisations:

Year	Delivery partners	Volunteer hrs
FY2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitzroy Basin Association – Australian Government's Reef Programme (installation of fish hotels) • Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Capricornia Catchments – Restoration works contract (Nurim Circuit) in conjunction with Capricornia Correctional Centre • Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program 	2,600+ hours
FY2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Capricornia Catchments – Restoration works contract (Nurim Circuit) in conjunction with Capricornia Correctional Centre 	6,000+ hours
FY2020-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities (CQACCA) – Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Capricornia Catchments – Parks minor maintenance (Nurim Circuit) 	6,000+ hours
FY2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQUniversity – TAFE students (Frenchville Road) • Capricornia Catchments – Parks minor maintenance (Nurim Circuit) 	In progress
FY2022-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • Capricornia Catchments - Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program • CQUniversity – TAFE students (Frenchville Road) • Capricornia Catchments – Parks minor maintenance (Nurim Circuit) 	Proposed

Project sites

The Program delivers a range of bush regeneration, riparian restoration and other targeted on-ground works at sites across the Rockhampton Local Government Area. Key project sites include:

Project site	Works location	See page
Fraser Park	Nurim Circuit at Fraser Park, Mount Archer (environmental management zone)	4
Yeppen Lagoon	Blackall Street, The Range (Fitzroy River floodplain adjacent to third entry to the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens)	5
Frenchville Road	Frenchville Road, Frenchville (riparian buffer within the Frenchmans Creek corridor)	6
Col Austin Park	Moore's Creek Road, Norman Gardens (riparian buffer within the Moore's Creek corridor)	7
Eichelberger Park	Eichelberger Street, Frenchville (riparian buffer within the Moore's Creek corridor)	8
Springers Lagoon	Sullivan's Road, Gracemere (nature reserve and State significant wetland)	9
Plover Street	Plover Street, Parkhurst (nature reserve and significant remnant vegetation adjacent to Glenmore Water Treatment Plant)	10
Council's Nursery	Charles Street, Berserker (native plant propagation and other nursery support tasks)	11

Fraser Park (Nurim Circuit) - Mount Archer

Fraser Park is located at the top of the iconic Mount Archer. The environmentally significant area has panoramic views of Rockhampton City and surrounds. Council has worked with the community to activate this area through implementation of the Mount Archer Activation Masterplan and the development of the Nurim Circuit, nature play area, amphitheatre and on-ground bush regeneration works.

Key objectives for this site are as follows:

- Bush regeneration works in and around the site footprint;
- Assist with natural regeneration of native species to increase site resilient;
- Manage weed infestations and litter throughout the area;
- Encourage nature-based recreation and tourism opportunities in our parks and open spaces;
- Improve environmental amenity and visitor experience; and
- Encourage involvement of community groups and volunteers to help protect key assets.

Work activities:

- Revegetation (weed control, mulching and planting of native and bush tucker species);
- Community workshops; and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control).

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Species planted	Mulch/groundcover	Weed management
FY2018-19	830	8	1025m ²	11 species / 5000m ²
FY2019-20	850	8	2000m ²	10 species / 5000m ²
FY2020-21	102	8	60m ²	11 species / 5000m ²
FY2021-22	In progress	In progress	In progress	11 species / 5000m ²

Key achievements:

- Rapid naturalisation and regeneration of the Nurim Circuit following construction activities;
- 'Bringing Nature Back' community workshop and planting day hosted in March 2019;
- Reduced weed occurrence across the site and within revegetation areas;
- Increased species diversity and environmental amenity; and
- Significant activation of the site for passive and active recreation.



Key project facts

Delivery: Late 2018 to current

Project status: Active

With thanks to project partners:

Capricornia Catchments, Qld Parks and Wildlife Service, Darumbal, Native Plants Capricornia, Birdlife Capricornia, Multicultural Australia, Queensland Corrective Services, Jobs Queensland

Yeppen Lagoon - Rockhampton

Yeppen Yeppen (now known as the Yeppen Lagoon) is located at the gateway to Rockhampton City. Situated on the Fitzroy River floodplain, the Lagoon links directly to the Great Barrier Reef catchment. Recognised as Rockhampton’s first town water supply in 1861, the Lagoon continues to play an important role in our community today, providing a picturesque backdrop for a popular walking/running/cycling track, fishing and birdwatching area. The site is located on Council land adjacent to the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Zoo and is tipped to become the third formal entrance to the Botanic Gardens.

Key objectives for this site are as follows:

- Skilling and training opportunities for young people and other local volunteers;
- Celebration of our First Nations people through language, stories and interpretive signage;
- Enhanced environmental amenity, bank stabilisation, water quality, sediment management, wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration achieved through targeted wetland restoration works;
- Supporting the creation of new nature-based recreation and tourism opportunities, further activating fishing and birdwatching areas and increasing shade along a popular walking/running/cycling track;
- Improved community connection, wellbeing and nature stewardship fostered through education, activities and events for a diverse range of local residents, community groups and stakeholders;
- Delivering on key linkages with the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens Redevelopment Masterplan.

Work activities completed to date:

- Installation of fish hotels in Yeppen Lagoon; and
- National Tree Day community tree-planting events.

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Other activities
FY2018-19	150	National Tree Day and installation of fish hotels
FY2019-20	0	
FY2020-21	0	
FY2021-22	250	National Tree Day 2021
FY2022-23	Proposed	Proposed Skilling Queenslanders for Work restoration activities and citizen science opportunities

Proposed works:

- Riparian restoration activities;
- Pathway shade plantings;
- Community tree-planting activities; and
- Citizen science activities (water quality, biodiversity, bird watching).



Key project facts

Delivery: Opportunistically from 2018

Project status: Pending new works

With thanks to project partners:
Fitzroy Basin Association, Jobs Queensland, Multicultural Australia and National Tree Day participants

Frenchville Road - Frenchmans Creek corridor

Frenchmans Creek originates in Mount Archer and winds down along Frenchville Road in North Rockhampton. Since 2016, Council has coordinated community plantings along the popular walking track in association with National Tree Day activities. Significant flows come down Frenchman’s Creek throughout the wet season, so the ongoing restoration and riparian improvements in this area are important to the long term stability and health of this urban waterway.

Key objectives for this site are as follows:

- Increase canopy cover, riparian width and biodiversity within the Region;
- Improve environmental amenity and shade across the Region;
- Increase site resilience; and
- Encourage native bush regeneration.

Work activities:

- Revegetation (weed control, mulching and planting); and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control) throughout the establishment phase.

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Other activities
FY2018-19	200	National Tree Day 2018
FY2019-20	200	National Tree Day 2019
FY2020-21	Maintenance	NA
FY2021-22	In progress	National Tree Day 2021 + CQUni TAFE students

Key achievements:

- Frenchville Road is celebrated as a long-term community planting site that provides a cool and shady walking trail for the local community;
- Increased width of riparian zone by 8m across the work area;
- Reduced mowing area by more than 150m²;
- Reduced weed occurrence within revegetation areas; and
- Increased species diversity.



Key project facts

Delivery: 2018 to current

Project status: Active

With thanks to project partners:
 CQUniversity, Native Plants
 Capricornia, Multicultural Australia
 and National Tree Day participants

Col Austin Park - Moores Creek corridor

Col Austin Park is a key corridor and riparian buffer located adjacent to Moores Creek Road. Moores Creek originates on the slopes of Mount Archer and is a short stream that eventually flows into the tidal areas of the Fitzroy River. This park is well used by the community, and has established walkways that lead to Stocklands Shopping Centre. This site was selected for NRM works as it is located beside a major urban waterway and has significant unutilised grassed areas. Works are now complete and long-term site management has been handed back to the Parks Section.

Key objectives for this site were as follows:

- Increase canopy cover, riparian width and biodiversity;
- Improve environmental amenity and shade;
- Deliver mowing reductions (with no net loss of recreational spaces);
- Encourage nature-based recreation in our parks and open spaces; and
- Work with community groups to protect key assets.

Work activities:

- Revegetation (weed control, mulching and planting); and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control) throughout the establishment phase.

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Species planted	Mulch/groundcover
FY2019-20	600	8	300m ²
FY2020-21	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance
FY2021-22	Final maintenance	Final maintenance	Final maintenance

Key achievements:

- Increased width of riparian buffer zone by 15m across the work area;
- Reduced mowing area by more than 2000m²;
- Reduced weed occurrence within revegetation areas; and
- Increased species diversity.



Key project facts

Delivery: May 2019 to Nov 2021

Project status: Completed Nov 2021

With thanks to project partners:
Capricornia Catchments, Multicultural Australia and Jobs Queensland

Eichelberger Park - Moores Creek corridor

Eichelberger Park is located along Moores Creek which flows from the Mount Archer National Park to the Fitzroy River. Revegetation works commenced on site as a discrete grant funded project in 2017. Whilst the park has a sparse selection of large mature trees, the creek banks had limited vegetation within the riparian buffer zones and were dominated by weeds. Further works have extended upon previous works, further enhancing the riparian corridor along this urban waterway. Works are now complete and long-term site management has been handed back to the Parks Section.

Key objectives for this site were as follows:

- Increase canopy cover, riparian width and biodiversity;
- Improve environmental amenity and shade;
- Deliver mowing reductions (with no net loss of recreational spaces); and
- Encourage community groups to help protect key assets.

Work activities:

- Revegetation (weed control, mulching and planting); and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control) throughout the establishment phase.

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Species planted	Mulch/groundcover
FY2019-20	150	6	40m ²
FY2020-21	150	6	100m ²
FY2021-22	Final maintenance	Final maintenance	Final maintenance

Key achievements:

- Increased width of riparian buffer zone by 5m across the work area;
- Reduced mowing area by more than 100m²;
- Reduced weed occurrence within revegetation areas; and
- Increased species diversity.



Key project facts

Delivery: August 2019 to Nov 2021

Project status: Completed Nov 2021

With thanks to project partners:

Capricornia Catchments, Fitzroy Basin Association, Greening Australia, Multicultural Australia and Jobs Queensland

Springers Lagoon - Nature reserve

Springers Lagoon is a State significant wetland located at Gracemere within the Fitzroy Floodplain (Gavial Creek system). In the dry season, this area provides a refuge for birds and aquatic species such as turtles and fish, with the site playing a vital role in the breeding cycle of species such as barramundi, bony bream and sleepy cod. Limited natural regeneration and succession of native species has resulted in the banks of the lagoon being highly susceptible to erosion during times of intense rain/flood events. As such, this area has required riparian stabilisation and revegetation works to help the long-term stability and health of this system. Works are now complete and long-term site management has been handed back to the Parks Section.

Key objectives for this site were as follows:

- Stabilise upper and mid banks;
- Revegetation with local native species;
- Increase site resilience and width of riparian buffer;
- Increase shade and biodiversity within the system;
- Encourage nature-based recreation in our parks and open spaces;
- Encourage community groups and volunteers to help protect key local assets.

Work activities:

- Revegetation and bank stabilisation (weed control, mulching, jute matting and planting); and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control) throughout the establishment phase.

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Species planted	Mulch/groundcover
FY2019-20	140	8	2000m ²
FY2020-21	Site maintenance	Site maintenance	Site maintenance

Key achievements:

- Increased width of vegetated riparian zone by 6m and associated bank stabilisation across the work area;
- Reduced bare areas, grass and weed occurrence;
- Targeted weed management undertaken for rubbervine and guinea grass;
- Increased species diversity;
- Activation of the site for local passive recreation.



Key project facts

Delivery: August 2019 to June 2021

Project status: Completed June 2021

With thanks to project partners:
Native Plants Capricornia, Birdlife Capricornia and Multicultural Australia

Plover Street - Nature reserve

Located in North Rockhampton, the Plover Street reserve is significant as one of the only local areas of semi-evergreen vine thicket (SEVT) on a limestone substrate. Local groups, such as Native Plants Capricornia and CQUniversity students, regularly visit and study this area. It has a drainage line and small creek that runs through the site, which feeds directly into the Fitzroy River.

Key objectives for this site are as follows:

- Increase buffer zones as a form of protection for this site;
- Increase biodiversity;
- Increase site resilience;
- Encourage native bush regeneration; and
- Encourage community groups and volunteers to help protect key local assets.

Work activities:

- Bush regeneration and revegetation (weed control, mulching and planting); and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control) throughout the establishment phase.

Work progress:

Year	New plantings	Species planted	Mulch/groundcover
FY2020-21	180	8	10m ²

Key achievements:

- Reduced mowing area by more than 80m²;
- Reduced occurrence of invasive weeds including cat's claw creeper and rubbervine; and
- Increased species diversity.



Key project facts

Delivery: August 2020 to June 2021

Project status: On hold pending new works

With thanks to project partners:

Native Plants Capricornia,
CQUniversity and Multicultural
Australia

Council's Nursery - Plant propagation

As part of Council's Natural Resource Management activities, a number of local organisations provide volunteers to support plant propagation activities at Council's Nursery.

Key objectives for this site are as follows:

- Collect and propagate local provenance materials where appropriate;
- Provide local plant stock for Council's horticultural planting projects;
- Provide local plant stock for Council's Native Plant Program giveaways;
- Provide local plant stock for Council's National Tree Day activities;
- Provide local plant stock for Council's Natural Resource Management activities;
- Assist with salvage and management of local species of significance where associated with Council projects; and
- Partner with local community groups to provide training and upskilling opportunities where appropriate.

Work activities:

- Plant identification;
- Plant establishment (collect seed, propagate plant materials); and
- Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and repotting).

Key achievements:

- Supply of over 5,000 plants per annum for Council's Native Plant Program giveaways for local residents;
- Involvement with National Tree Day community tree planting sites; and
- Salvage, management and reinstatement of grass trees and cycads for Mount Archer redevelopment works.



Key project facts

Delivery: 2019 to current

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council and Native Plants Capricornia

Project status: Active

With thanks to past partners: Multicultural Australia