



Rockhampton Regional Council Bringing Nature Back

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program

NRM Program Fact sheet

Council's NRM Program fosters strong local partnerships, leverages external grant funding and delivers targeted restoration works on Council-managed land. These efforts help to protect, maintain and enhance key natural assets and green corridors across the Rockhampton Region.

FY2025-26 project summary

Active NRM sites	8
Current delivery partners	2

Last updated

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Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program

Rockhampton Regional Council's Bringing Nature Back initiative strengthens the community's connection with the natural environment by fostering local stewardship and creating meaningful opportunities for residents to help protect, maintain and enhance the Region's natural assets. The initiative directly supports Council's Corporate Plan, Sustainability Strategy and Urban Greening Policy objectives.

A key component of Bringing Nature Back is Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program, which builds strong local partnerships and actively secures external funding to support social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Rockhampton Region. The Program delivers targeted restoration works across Council's extensive parks and open space network, undertaking activities that extend beyond routine maintenance to improve the condition and resilience of natural areas.

Community participation is central to the Program's success. Council works with community delivery partners to deliver on-ground works and grant-funded projects at nominated NRM sites. Volunteers at Council's Nursery also contribute to seed collection and native plant propagation, supporting the enhancement of parks and open spaces and supplying plants for urban greening initiatives, the annual Native Plant Program and National Tree Day events.

Program objectives

Council's NRM Program has the following objectives:

- Foster strong partnerships to protect, maintain and enhance key natural assets and green corridors across the Rockhampton Region.
- Deliver targeted on-ground works on Council-managed land that increase the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate risks and provide self-sustaining natural areas for our community to enjoy.
- Collaborate with local organisations to create opportunities for community members to develop practical NRM knowledge, skills and experience.
- Build nature connection and awareness of local natural assets, environmental values, flora and fauna within the community.
- Support the soft activation of natural assets to enable a range of passive and active recreation opportunities for the community.

Progress summary

This fact sheet provides an overview of Council's NRM work sites and delivery partners as follows:

NRM Site Name and Delivery Partner	Work status	Commenced
Current work sites		
1. Fraser Park – Bush regeneration – Capricornia Catchments	Active	FY2019-20
2. Frenchville Road – Frenchman's Creek riparian buffer – CQUniversity	Active	FY2019-20
3. German Street Park – Moores Creek riparian buffer – Capricornia Catchments	Active	FY2024-25
4. Eichelberger Park – Moores Creek riparian buffer	Active	FY2019-20
5. Duthie Park – Vegetation buffer	Active	FY2023-24
6. Plover Street – Targeted restoration works	Active	FY2019-20
Maintenance mode		
7. Yeppen Lagoon – Riparian restoration and National Tree Day plantings	Maintenance	FY2019-20
8. Col Austin Park – Moores Creek riparian buffer and infill plantings	Maintenance	FY2019-20

Acknowledgements

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank a wide range of local partners for their contributions to this program. This includes Capricornia Catchments, Central Queensland University, Jobs Queensland, Multicultural Australia, Yadaba Nunthi, Fitzroy Basin Association, Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities, Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees, participating local community groups and volunteers. Further details on Council's community delivery partners and key project sites can be found at Appendix 1.

1. Fraser Park, Mount Archer

Fraser Park is a 44-hectare Council-managed area located at the summit of Nurim (Mount Archer), offering panoramic views around Rockhampton and surrounds. The site is environmentally significant and has been progressively activated in partnership with the community through the Mount Archer Activation Masterplan. This includes the development of the Nurim Circuit boardwalk, nature play area, amphitheatre and long-term bush regeneration supported by regular community planting days.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Encourage nature-based recreation and tourism opportunities
- Support natural bush regeneration using endemic native species
- Increase the fire resilience of vegetation communities
- Reduce weed density and distribution through targeted management
- Undertake litter collection and disposal to maintain site condition
- Enhance environmental amenity and visitor experience
- Improve canopy cover and biodiversity for native flora and fauna
- Strengthen site stewardship through community and volunteer involvement.

Key achievements to date:

- More than 3,400 native plants established since NRM works commenced in 2018
- Strong community participating through workshops and planting days
- Significant reduction of lantana along the Grasstree track
- Post-fire assessment (September 2025) recorded evidence of fire-resilient vegetation communities
- Improved shade and environmental amenity across key visitor areas
- Sustained community involvement in bush regeneration and litter collection activities
- Rapid naturalisation of the Nurim Circuit following its construction in 2018

Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2018-19	830	Community workshops, mulching and site preparation works
FY2019-20	850	Restoration activities (weeding, mulching, planting)
FY2020-21	102	Restoration activities (weeding, mulching, planting)
FY2021-22	90	Restoration activities (weeding, mulching, planting)
FY2022-23	182	Restoration activities (weeding, mulching, planting)
FY2023-24	629	Regeneration works along Nurim Circuit, Nature Play Area and Grasstree Track by Capricornia Catchments and Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees
FY2024-25	744	Continuing bush regeneration works and community planting day (Cap Coast Eco-Warriors)
FY2025-26	In progress	Continuing bush regeneration works by Capricornia Catchments



Capricornia Catchments Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees working along the Grasstree Track and Nurim Circuit at Fraser Park, planting natives and supporting long-term bush regeneration efforts at Nurim.

2. Frenchville Road, Frenchville – Frenchman’s Creek

Since 2018, Council has worked closely with volunteers and delivery partners to undertake riparian restoration along Frenchville Road, adjacent to Frenchman’s Creek at the base of Mount Archer National Park. Ongoing works on Council land beside the creek continue to establish a healthy resilient riparian buffer across several priority areas along the creek corridor.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Strengthen existing native vegetation buffer along the creek line to improve flood and fire resilience, and enhance habitat for native species
- Reduce weed density and distribution by shading out invasive plant species
- Improve environmental amenity and shade along the creek corridor
- Support improved waterway health through strengthened riparian vegetation and reduced runoff.



Key achievements to date:

- National Tree Day community planting events delivered to support continued riparian restoration and community involvement
- More than 1,100 native plants established throughout the riparian zone
- Frenchville Road recognised as a long-term community-activated site, providing shaded walkways for recreation and nature connection
- Expanded riparian zone up to 10 metres in targeted areas.
- Significant reduction in Guinea Grass, supported by improved shading and native canopy growth
- Enhanced species diversity and habitat quality for local wildlife
- Partnering with CQUni to provide practical training opportunities provided for local students studying Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management
- Special thanks to Dr Bob Newby for his dedication and continued commitment to restoration activities.

Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2018-19	200	National Tree Day 2018 – community planting event
FY2019-20	200	National Tree Day 2019 – community planting event
FY2020-21	n/a	Maintenance of previously planted areas
FY2021-22	400+	National Tree Day 2021 – community planting event and CQUni targeted works
FY2022-23	136	CQUni targeted restoration works and routine maintenance (watering, weeding)
FY2023-24	113	CQUni targeted restoration works and routine maintenance (watering, weeding)
FY2024-25	75	CQUni targeted restoration works and routine maintenance (watering, weeding)
FY2025-26	In progress	CQUni targeted restoration works and routine maintenance (watering, weeding)



Progress at Frenchman’s Creek, showing the transformation from degraded riparian edge to a healthy native vegetation buffer delivered through this Council and CQUniversity collaboration.

3. German Street Park, Frenchville – Moores Creek

German Street Park is a popular community space and a key access point to the First Turkey Mountain Bike Reserve and bushwalking tracks that follow the upper reaches of Moores Creek into Mount Archer National Park. The site contains high-value vegetation and habitat for threatened species, making it an important natural asset for the Region.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Support natural bush regeneration using native species
- Increase awareness and protection of threatened species
- Reduce weed density and distribution through targeted management
- Support litter control and disposal
- Improve environmental amenity and visitor experience
- Reduce erosion and sedimentation within the catchment
- Improve canopy cover and shading
- Increase biodiversity for native flora and fauna
- Strengthen site stewardship through community and volunteer involvement.

Key achievements to date:

- Expanded community awareness and action through Capricornia Catchment's 4C's (Conservation, Creeks, Cycling and Community) project, funded via the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grant (Round 8 - Conservation Outcomes for Watercourses)
- Delivered a successful community tree-planting event in 2025
- Strengthened community engagement with active involvement in on-ground works
- Restored riparian vegetation up to 10 metres where possible along Moores Creek
- Increased shade and amenity for park users
- Established more than 350 native plants, contributing to long-term habitat and canopy growth
- Improved flood and fire resilience of the creek
- Reduced invasive pests through weed management activities.

Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2023-24	150	Targeted weed control and revegetation works (weeding, mulching, planting and watering)
FY2024-25	200	Targeted weed control and revegetation works, supported by a community planting activity
FY2025-26	In progress	Maintenance activities including quarterly inspections, photo monitoring, weeding and watering as required



Community-led riparian restoration works provide a vegetated buffer to increase biodiversity, enhance the resilience of Moores Creek and improve canopy cover and shade along local walking and mountain bike trails.

4. Eichelberger Park, Frenchville – Moores Creek

Moores Creek is one of Rockhampton's key nature corridors, holding significant cultural heritage value linked to ancient Darumbal storylines. Its headwaters originate in Mount Archer National Park before flowing through urban areas to the tidal reaches of the Fitzroy River. Eichelberger Park sits within the mid-reaches of the Moores Creek catchment, where initial externally funded revegetation works in 2017 established native plantings and targeted invasive species reduction. Ongoing restoration efforts have since expanded the riparian zone (up to 10m wide) along the southern bank of Moores Creek adjacent to the park.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Reduce invasive weeds and distribution
- Assist natural bush regeneration, using native species
- Increase fire and flood resilience (ability of bounce back)
- Increase biodiversity (native flora and fauna)
- Reduce risk of erosion and sediment runoff
- Encourage local community groups and volunteers to help protect key local assets.

Key achievements to date:

- Expanded riparian buffer through the installation of 1600 native plants
- Reduced invasive weed density and distribution, including removal of targeted invasive species
- Improved flood resilience by stabilising creek banks and reducing erosion and sediment entering the waterway
- Enhanced biodiversity, with increased species diversity and natural regeneration occurring within the riparian zone.

Year	Plantings	NRM Activities
FY2017-18	n/a	Riparian restoration works
FY2018-19	n/a	Riparian restoration works
FY2019-20	150	Riparian restoration works
FY2020-21	150	Riparian restoration works
FY2021-22	n/a	Routine maintenance
FY2022-23	256	Targeted riparian restoration (weeding, mulching, planting and watering)
FY2023-24	1019	Targeted riparian restoration of previously restored areas
FY2024-25	25	Routine maintenance (watering, weeding, mulching and litter control)
FY2025-26	In progress	Routine maintenance of previously restored areas



Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees helped re-establish a vegetation buffer along a section of Moores Creek at Eichelberger Park, gaining hands-on experience in species identification, establishing native plants, mulching, watering and weeding activities.

5. Duthie Park, Frenchville

Duthie Park is a well-used community space valued for its facilities and established walkways. NRM works at this site focus on re-establishing a vegetative buffer along the non-perennial overland flow path (drainage line) to improve environmental conditions and long-term resilience.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Improve environmental amenity, canopy cover and shade
- Increase biodiversity within the park and surrounding area
- Promote vegetation cover to stabilise the overland flow path and reduce invasive species
- Encourage community involvement in protecting, maintaining and enhancing key natural assets.

Key achievements to date:

- Enhanced the riparian buffer along natural overland flow path
- Improved habitat for native wildlife including significant local bird species
- Reduced weed density and distribution through targeted management
- Increased shading and amenity with the establishment of more than 300 native plants.

Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2023-24	309	Targeted weed control and revegetation works
FY2024-25	39	Targeted weed control and revegetation works
FY2025-26	In progress	Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control)



Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees helped re-establish a vegetation buffer along a drainage line at Duthie Park, gaining practical experience through weed and litter removal, planting natives, watering and follow-up maintenance activities.

6. Plover Street, Parkhurst

Located adjacent to the Fitzroy River at Parkhurst, the Plover Street site protects one of the Region's few remaining examples of remnant Semi-Evergreen Vine Thicket (SEVT) on a limestone substrate. This ecologically significant area attracts local groups, who visit and study its unique environmental values. Ongoing restoration works focus on maintaining and enhancing this important SEVT ecosystem to ensure its long-term resilience and conservation.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Restore and protect remnant SEVT Regional Ecosystem
- Increase fire and flood resilience, strengthening the landscape's ability to recover after natural disturbances
- Manage and remove invasive pest species and litter to support ecological recovery
- Increase biodiversity of native flora and fauna
- Improve environmental amenity and shade across the site
- Reduce erosion and sediment runoff entering the Fitzroy River
- Encourage community and volunteer involvement in protecting this high-value natural asset.



Key achievements to date:

- Successful establishment of more than 950 SEVT plant species through bush regeneration and targeted revegetation
- Expanded native vegetation buffer, strengthening habitat and ecological function
- Effective management and removal of invasive pests and weeds across priority areas
- Increased species diversity, supporting improved habitat for native flora and fauna
- Ongoing monitoring and recording of local flora and fauna, contributing to improved understanding of the site's ecological values
- Continuing interest and involvement of local groups including Native Plants Capricornia, Birdlife Capricornia and CQUniversity students
- Special thanks to Kelvin Wykes for his dedication and continued commitment to restoration activities.

Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2020-21	180	Assisted natural bush regeneration works
FY2021-22	120	Assisted natural bush regeneration works
FY2022-23	200	Assisted natural bush regeneration works
FY2023-24	210	Assisted natural bush regeneration works
FY2024-25	240	Assisted natural bush regeneration works
FY2025-26	In progress	Assisted natural bush regeneration works



Native vegetation steadily returning to the Plover Street site, showcasing the positive impact of sustained restoration and weed-management efforts.

7. Yeppen Lagoon, The Range

Yeppen Lagoon (historically known as Yeppen Yeppen) sits on the Fitzroy River floodplain and drains into the Fitzroy River and ultimately the Great Barrier Reef. Once Rockhampton's first town water supply in 1861, the lagoon remains a valued community destination for outdoor recreation. This significant wetland provides critical feeding and breeding habitat for a wide range of water-birds, while shaded walkways and cycling paths offer popular connections to the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and Zoo.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Increase shade and amenity along walking/cycling tracks
- Establish a healthy riparian buffer using native species
- Improve habitat quality for important water-birds and migratory species that rely on the lagoon for feeding and breeding
- Strengthen community connection and nature stewardship through tree-planting events and activities involving local residents, community groups and stakeholders
- Increase flood resilience of vegetation communities
- Reduce weed density and distribution through targeted management
- Undertake routine litter collection and disposal
- Align with key linkages identified in the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens Redevelopment Masterplan.



Key achievements to date:

- Four successful National Tree Day community planting events, strengthening local stewardship
- Installation of fish hotels, improving aquatic habitat and shelter
- Extensive riparian restoration completed along the northern riparian zone
- More than 3,400 native plants established since project inception in 2018
- Demonstrated flood resilience, with plantings surviving multiple inundation events
- Increased shade and environmental amenity along key recreation corridors
- Improved habitat for water and migratory bird species, supporting long-term ecological health.

Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2018-19	150	National Tree Day 2018 – community planting event; installation of fish hotels
FY2019-20	n/a	Maintenance of previous plantings
FY2020-21	n/a	Maintenance of previous plantings
FY2021-22	250	National Tree Day 2021 – community planting event
FY2022-23	1800	National Tree Day 2022 – community planting event; commencement of riparian restoration and maintenance of previous plantings
FY2023-24	1350	National Tree Day 2023 – community planting event; continuation of riparian restoration and maintenance of previous plantings
FY2024-25	n/a	Routine maintenance
FY2025-26	In progress	Routine maintenance



Progress at Yeppen Lagoon showing strong revegetation and expanding riparian plantings along the northern bank.

8. Col Austin Park, Norman Gardens – Moores Creek

Col Austin Park is an important corridor and riparian buffer located along Moores Creek Road. Moores Creek originates on the slopes of Mount Archer and flows through urban areas before entering the tidal reaches of the Fitzroy River. The park is well used by the community, with established walkways providing access to Stockland Shopping Centre. This site was selected for NRM works due to its proximity to a major urban waterway and the presence of large, underutilised grassed areas. Restoration works are now complete.

Site objectives are as follows:

- Increase shade and amenity along popular walking and cycling tracks
- Reduce weed density and distribution through targeted management
- Undertake litter collection and disposal to maintain site condition
- Improve canopy cover across the park
- Increase biodiversity by supporting native flora and fauna
- Assist natural bush regeneration using endemic native species
- Work with community groups to help protect and enhance key local assets.

Key achievements to date:

- Creation of a healthy riparian buffer along the edge of Moores Creek
- Establishment of 600 native plants, improving shade, amenity and ecological function
- Reduction in mowing requirements
- Significant reduction in weed presence following targeted restoration and maintenance activities.



Year	Plantings	NRM activities
FY2019-20	600	Revegetation and restoration works (weed control, mulching and planting)
FY2020-21	-	Routine maintenance (watering, weeding and litter control)
FY2021-22	-	Routine maintenance
FY2022-23	-	Routine maintenance
FY2023-24	-	Routine maintenance
FY2024-25	-	Routine maintenance
FY2025-26	In progress	Routine maintenance



Progress at the now completed Col Austin Park, showing the establishment of native plantings and a healthier riparian buffer along Moores Creek.

APPENDIX 1 - Overview of Council's NRM Community Delivery Partners

To date, Council's community delivery partners have included the following local organisations:

Year	Delivery partners	Effort
FY2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitzroy Basin Association – Australian Government's Reef Programme (fish hotels) Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees (Armstrong Street Community Garden) 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 (Springers Lagoon Nature Reserve, Eichelberger Park, Armstrong Street Community Garden) Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees Capricornia Catchments – Restoration works contract (Nurim Circuit) in conjunction with Capricornia Correctional Centre 	6,300+ hours
FY2020-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees Central Queensland Aboriginal Corporation for Cultural Activities (CQACCA) – Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees Capricornia Catchments – Minor maintenance contract (Nurim Circuit) 	6,000+ hours
FY2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQUniversity (Frenchville Road) Capricornia Catchments – Minor maintenance contract (Nurim Circuit) 	4,200+ hours
FY2022-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees CQUniversity (Frenchville Road) Capricornia Catchments – Community Sustainability Action Grant (Nurim Circuit) Capricornia Catchments – Minor maintenance contract (Nurim Circuit) 	10,200+ hours
FY2023-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multicultural Australia – Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program (Yeppen Lagoon, Eichelberger Park, German Street Park, Council's Nursery) CQUniversity (Frenchville Road) Capricornia Catchments – Community Sustainability Action Grant (Nurim Circuit Mount Archer), Minor maintenance contract (Fraser Park, Mount Archer), Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees (Grasstree Track, Yeppen Lagoon, Duthie Park) Yadaba Nunthi – Youth engagement program (Nurim Circuit, Fraser Park) Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program 	39, 200+hours
FY2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQUniversity (Frenchville Road) Capricornia Catchments – Bush Regeneration (Fraser Park and Grasstree Track). Jobs Queensland - Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees 	3,100+hours
FY2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQUniversity (Frenchville Road) Capricornia Catchments – Bush Regeneration (Fraser Park and Grasstree Track) Capricornia Catchments – Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees (Grasstree Track and Duthie Park) Capricornia Catchments – 4C's grant-funded project (German Street Park) 	In progress