

Caring for Rosanna Parklands

A Management Plan - May 2026

DRAFT for community review



Acknowledgement

The project team are working with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation representatives to create an Acknowledgement of Country statement specifically for Rosanna Parklands. The standard Banyule Acknowledgement is below.

Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all First People's Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

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The Framework

Explaining the structure of the framework

Vision

The vision statement describes the long-term aspiration for Rosanna Parklands. It provides overall direction and inspiration for all planning and decision-making.

Guiding Principles

Principles are the core values or commitments that guide how the vision will be achieved. They describe the foundation for decision-making and set expectations for how the Parklands should be cared for and improved.

Actions

Actions are the concrete steps, projects or operational tasks required to implement each principles. They outline what will be done, who is responsible, timeframes, resourcing and stakeholders. SMART actions have been prepared in consultation with various key stakeholders.

A note on the actions

The management plan will feature well-written SMART actions. A SMART action is

S – Specific: clearly states *what* will be done (and ideally *where* and *by whom*).

M – Measurable: includes a metric/indicator so progress can be tracked (e.g., number delivered, % completed, baseline + target).

A – Achievable: realistic given resources, approvals, and capability.

R – Relevant: directly supports the relevant Principle.

T – Time-bound: has a deadline or delivery window.

The draft management plan describes the draft action deliverables and measures for community feedback. Action prioritisation and timelines for implementation will be developed for the final version in consideration of community feedback.

All actions are subject to Council approval and future funding.

Introduction

Rosanna Parklands is a highly valued open space within Banyule, supporting important environmental, recreational and social functions for the local community. This Management Plan has been developed to guide the long-term planning, protection and enhancement of the parklands, ensuring they continue to meet community needs while responding to environmental challenges and Council's broader strategic objectives.

Why are we doing this?

The preparation of this Management Plan responds to the need for a contemporary, coordinated approach to managing Rosanna Parklands. Since the development of earlier planning work, community expectations, environmental pressures and Council priorities have evolved. This Plan provides a renewed framework to:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity, landscape character and cultural values
- Improve accessibility, safety and recreational opportunities
- Address climate resilience and sustainable management practices
- Align with Banyule Council's strategic directions and policies

Ultimately, the Plan ensures that future decision-making is informed, transparent and responsive to both current and emerging needs.

How has the draft document been prepared?

This draft Management Plan has been informed by a combination of technical analysis, strategic review and community engagement. Key inputs have included:

- Site assessments examining environmental condition, use patterns and infrastructure
- Review of relevant Council strategies, policies and previous plans
- Collaboration across Council teams, including open space planning, biodiversity, and asset management
- Consideration of best-practice approaches to parkland management

Together, these inputs have shaped a balanced and evidence-based draft that responds to both on-ground conditions and long-term planning objectives.

What did we hear from the community?

Community engagement undertaken in the first phase (October-November 2025) provided valuable insights into how Rosanna Parklands is used, valued and experienced. Key themes from the community included:

- Strong appreciation for the parklands' natural character, vegetation and sense of tranquillity
- Desire to protect and enhance environmental values, particularly habitat and biodiversity

- Interest in improved paths, access and connectivity throughout the parklands
- Requests for sensitive upgrades to facilities that do not detract from the natural setting
- Concerns about maintenance, safety and sustainability

This feedback has directly informed the development of the draft Plan. It has reinforced the importance of balancing environmental protection with recreational use, prioritising low-impact improvements, and maintaining the parklands' distinctive character.

Previous Master Plan – progress and remaining actions

This Management Plan builds on the previous Master Plan for Rosanna Parklands. Since its adoption, in 2005, a number of key actions have been successfully delivered, including:

- Delivery of priority path upgrades and improved access points
- Targeted landscape and revegetation works
- Selected facility upgrades and maintenance improvements

However, several actions remain outstanding or require refinement in response to changing conditions and community expectations. These include:

- Further connectivity improvements across the parklands
- Ongoing environmental restoration and habitat enhancement
- Upgrades to ageing infrastructure
- Implementation of long-term management and maintenance strategies

This updated Management Plan recognises both completed and outstanding actions, ensuring continuity while providing a refreshed and realistic framework for future delivery.

Vision Statement

Rosanna Parklands is a place where caring for Country guides every decision, honouring Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung knowledge, protecting the park's heritage and natural character, and ensuring all people can access, learn from and connect with this unique landscape now and into the future.

Through shared stewardship, inclusive design and thoughtful management, the Parklands will continue to be a biodiverse refuge, a place for imagination and play, and a welcoming environment where community and Country thrive together.

Guiding Principles

These principles have been developed in response to the key themes raised during the first phase of community engagement. All seven principles are of equal importance with actions to be prioritised under each principle.

Principle 1: Create Space for Aboriginal Self-Determination, Cultural Learning and Leadership

Principle 2: Protecting and restoring the ecosystems that sustain life

Principle 3: Safeguard and celebrate the parks heritage and natural character

Principle 4: Ensure Safety, Access, Dignity and Inclusion for All

Principle 5: Provide Facilities People Need to enjoy the Park

Principle 6: Support children and young people to play in nature

Principle 7: Support community groups and volunteers who look after the park

Principles and actions

Principle 1: Create Space for Aboriginal Self-Determination, Cultural Learning and Leadership

What this means:

Rosanna Parklands is cared for in ways that uphold Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung self-determination, ensuring Traditional Owners guide planning, decision-making and storytelling. It means creating space for cultural learning, expression and leadership, and supporting a park environment that is welcoming, respectful and connected to Country.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
1.01	<p>Caring for Country at the heart of decision making.</p> <p>Embed the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Whole of Country Plan as a core decision-making reference for Rosanna Parklands by ensuring that all capital works, major maintenance and interpretation projects demonstrate alignment with the Plan.</p>	<p>Development of a Whole of Country alignment checklist; 100% of projects include a completed Whole of Country alignment checklist; annual summary report provided to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Corporation outlining decisions influenced by the Plan.</p>
1.02	<p>Embed First Nations land management.</p> <p>By embedding Traditional Owner land and resource management practices, deliver an annual on-Country land management program with Narrap (e.g., cultural burns where appropriate, seasonal harvesting/planting knowledge, and habitat management) and integrate agreed practices into Council's routine maintenance schedules for Rosanna Parklands.</p>	<p>Program agreed and documented (annual workplan + risk/approvals pathway); deliver minimum 4 Narrap-led on-Country activities per year; at least 2 agreed practices embedded into routine maintenance (e.g., seasonal mowing/weed control timings, habitat protection protocols); annual debrief with Narrap and Council to confirm outcomes and lessons learnt.</p>
1.03	<p>Design with First Nations stakeholders.</p> <p>Establish a co-design process with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and other First Nations stakeholders so that all</p>	<p>Co-design protocol endorsed (stages, roles, timeframes and decision points); 100% of new project briefs include a co-design requirement; at least 3 projects per year demonstrate documented</p>

	new park upgrades (e.g., play, paths, signage and habitat works) include early engagement, cultural values input and documented design responses.	co-design outcomes (e.g., meeting notes + design changes + endorsement record).
1.04	<p>Create an on-Country learning program.</p> <p>Partner with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung educators to design and deliver an annual on-Country learning program at Rosanna Parklands for schools, families and the community, including at least one recurring public event and curriculum-linked school sessions.</p>	Program plan endorsed; deliver minimum 6 on-Country sessions per year (including at least 3 school sessions and 1 public/community session); participant feedback collected for each session with ≥80% positive rating (or agreed evaluation method); annual program report prepared with attendance numbers and learnings.

Principle 2: Protecting and restoring the ecosystems that sustain life

What this means

Rosanna Parklands is a living landscape with significant habitat value, rich biodiversity and ecological heritage. Caring for the Parklands means protecting and restoring the ecosystems, wildlife and natural processes that sustain life here, while preserving the bushland character and heritage features that make this place unique.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
2.01	<p>Monitor biodiversity</p> <p>Develop and deliver a Biodiversity Monitoring Program (BMP) (water quality, frogs, birds and vegetation condition).</p>	Baseline survey completed; then 4 seasonal surveys completed within 12 months; annual monitoring report produced.
2.02	<p>Communicate management practices</p> <p>Introduce clear ecological signage that explains why some areas are fenced, closed or undergoing restoration so the community understands the purpose behind protection measures.</p>	Ecological signage is integrated into the wider Rosanna Parklands signage suite.

<p>2.03</p>	<p>Develop a planting plan</p> <p>Develop a holistic park planting plan, informed by the annual Biodiversity Monitory report, with allocated zones featuring indigenous understorey vegetation and seek funding to implement in stages.</p>	<p>Prepare a Park Planting Plan for Rosanna Parklands that maps at least 6 priority planting zones and specifies an indigenous understorey species list for each zone. Complete planting of top 2 priority zones within 24 months of planting plan development.</p>
<p>2.04</p>	<p>Control erosion</p> <p>Working with Melbourne Water, develop a staged creek erosion control program and seek funding to implement.</p>	<p>Prepare and endorse a staged Salt Creek erosion control program that maps priority erosion sites, specifies treatment types and cost estimates.</p>
<p>2.05</p>	<p>Capture stormwater</p> <p>Advocate for a catchment-scale stormwater solution, leveraging the 60-hectare upstream catchment and Melbourne Water's asset responsibilities to expand WSUD and broader stormwater management interventions in and upstream of Rosanna Parklands</p>	<p>Work with Melbourne Water to complete a catchment-scale stormwater opportunities assessment report for the upstream 60-hectare catchment, identifying priority WSUD projects (in-park and upstream) with concept designs and costings.</p>

Principle 3: Safeguard and celebrate the parks heritage and natural character

What this means

Rosanna Parklands will be cared for in a way that preserves its natural character and acknowledges the diverse history that has shaped it. Acknowledging how the land transitioned from early settlement use to a golf course in the early 1900s before strong local support helped establish it as valued public parkland cared for by community volunteers. The park's distinctive landscape reflects the influence of Ellis Stones, who's naturalistic, native focused design philosophy continues to guide how the park's bushland qualities are protected and strengthened.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
<p>3.01</p>	<p>Install interpretive signage</p> <p>Co-design, produce and install an interpretive signage suite (as part of a</p>	<p>Minimum 3 co-design/endorsement workshops with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung representatives; install at least 8 interpretive signs at priority locations (e.g., key entries, Salt Creek, heritage</p>

	complete park signage suite) across Rosanna Parklands that communicates the park's cultural, historical and ecological narratives, with content endorsed by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung representatives.	features and restoration zones); final content pack and location plan endorsed; maintenance/replacement schedule adopted and added to Council's asset register/maintenance program.
3.02	Develop a bushland style guide Develop and adopt a Parklands Character, Materials and Planting Guide (including indicative plant list, material palettes and a tree succession approach) to ensure all upgrades reinforce bushland character and heritage values.	Guide endorsed; includes approved plant list + materials palette; 100% of new works packages reference the Guide in design documentation and procurement briefs.
3.03	Plan and manage trees proactively Prepare and adopt a Tree Management and Succession Planting Plan for Rosanna Parklands that identifies priority tree removals (where required), succession planting locations and species selection, aligned with Council's Urban Forest Strategy and tree management framework, to safeguard the Parklands' natural character.	Plan endorsed and includes: tree condition/risk assessment summary; mapped priority removals and replacement strategy; mapped minimum 5 succession planting zones; species schedule (with climate-suitable indigenous and/or agreed complementary species); and a funded/programmable works schedule. Complete first-year implementation by planting at least 50 succession trees (or agreed number) and achieving ≥85% survival at 12 months.
3.04	Consider a Conservation Management Plan Pending outcome of nomination of the Rosanna Parklands to the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), consider commissioning a Conservation Management Plan prepared by an appropriately qualified heritage landscape specialist. This will ensure that the heritage elements of the parklands are considered.	Planning controls/checklists updated and published; staff briefing delivered to relevant internal referral teams; 100% of planning referrals for works in/adjacent to the Parklands apply the updated guidance; annual compliance check completed with any issues/actions recorded. Development of a Conservation Management Plan, upon unsuccessful nomination to the VHR.

Principle 4: Ensure safety, access, dignity and inclusion for all

What this means:

Make Rosanna Parklands welcoming and accessible for everyone. Access, dignity and safety are essential to Parkland use and should guide all management decisions.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
4.01	Improve access Deliver a Park Access & Path Hierarchy Plan and implement the first package of improvements to address key barriers for all abilities.	Plan completed; top 3 priority access upgrades (e.g., crossing/path connections/accessible nodes) delivered; post-works audit confirms compliance with agreed accessibility standards.
4.02	Install wayfinding and regulatory signage Develop and install a wayfinding and regulatory signage suite (as part of a complete park signage suite) incorporating directional and municipal law information, to provide clear information that supports safe and respectful park use.	Signage strategy and location plan endorsed (including key entry points, decision nodes and sensitive areas); install minimum 10 wayfinding/regulatory signs (or agreed number) aligned with Council standards and universal-access principles (legible fonts, contrast, placement); QR-code or web-based content page published and maintained; 12-month post-installation review shows reduced wayfinding enquiries/complaints and/or reduced incidents of rule non-compliance in priority locations (baseline + follow-up).
4.03	Provide universally accessible areas Identify, design and deliver a network of universally accessible park areas (e.g. rest nodes, viewing points, gathering spaces) to ensure people of all abilities can comfortably access, rest and participate in park life across Rosanna Parklands.	Accessibility audit completed to identify priority locations; Minimum 3 universally accessible areas delivered or upgraded (e.g. compliant paths, seating with armrests, shade, accessible surfaces); All works demonstrate compliance with relevant accessibility standards (e.g. DDA); Post-works audit confirms improved access outcomes.
4.04	Cater for dogs In partnership with Council's Dog Working Group, assess, trial and implement appropriate dog infrastructure (e.g. tie-up poles, water bowls, and dog exclusion barriers where required) to support responsible dog ownership while protecting habitat and managing shared use conflicts.	Options assessment completed with Dog Working Group endorsement; Pilot installation of agreed dog infrastructure at minimum 2 priority locations; Signage installed explaining dog access rules and habitat protection rationale; Reduction in reported dog related complaints/incursions in sensitive areas (baseline + 12 month review).

<p>4.05</p>	<p>Improve path safety</p> <p>Progressively separate main walking paths from playgrounds and picnic areas using alignment changes and natural barriers (e.g. planting, logs, low fencing) to reduce unintended dog access and improve safety without compromising bushland character.</p>	<p>Priority conflict locations identified through site assessment; Minimum 2 high-risk locations treated with path realignment and/or natural barriers;</p> <p>Natural barrier treatments align with Parklands Character Guide;</p> <p>Post-implementation monitoring shows reduced dog intrusion incidents.</p>
<p>4.06</p>	<p>Patrol the park</p> <p>Strengthen local law compliance and education within Rosanna Parklands by allocating an additional Municipal Laws Officer role or dedicated resourcing to focus on parks and reserves, with an emphasis on education, shared use behaviours and habitat protection.</p>	<p>Additional officer role or resourcing model confirmed and operational; Regular scheduled patrols established (minimum weekly presence during peak periods); Delivery of education focused interactions supported by signage and communications; Annual reporting on compliance trends, education activities and incidents.</p>

Principle 5: Provide facilities people need to enjoy the park

What this means:

Rosanna Parklands provides the essential facilities, like toilets, drinking water, shade, seating and good paths, so everyone can visit, stay longer and feel comfortable, safe and included.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
<p>5.01</p>	<p>Provide toilets</p> <p>Complete concept design, approvals and delivery for a new public toilet and supporting amenity node (drinking water, seating and shade) in a sensitively sited location that promotes safety, protects habitat and reinforces the nature-led character of the Parklands. The toilet will be located to service all user groups of the parkland, shared user path and surrounding neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Concept design endorsed; planning/building approvals secured; toilet constructed and commissioned; amenity node includes at least 1 drinking fountain and minimum 3 seats.</p>
<p>5.02</p>	<p>Improve infrastructure</p> <p>Prepare and adopt a Park Infrastructure Improvement Plan for Rosanna</p>	<p>Infrastructure audit completed identifying gaps and priority locations;</p>

	<p>Parklands that identifies priority locations, design standards and servicing considerations for bins, seating, drinking fountains and dog infrastructure, ensuring facilities support safe, comfortable park use, minimise environmental impacts and reinforce the Parklands' natural character. Ensuring ease of maintenance is a key consideration.</p>	<p>Park Infrastructure Improvement Plan endorsed, including location maps, design/typology standards, servicing access principles and staging priorities;</p> <p>Plan identifies at least 5 priority infrastructure upgrades for delivery within the first implementation stage;</p> <p>100% of new infrastructure installations reference and align with the Plan.</p>
<p>5.03</p>	<p>Create an outdoor classroom</p> <p>Co-design, approve and deliver an outdoor classroom / gathering space at Rosanna Parklands, located away from play and picnic areas, to support on-Country learning, cultural programs, community gatherings and small group activities while protecting sensitive landscapes and reinforcing the Parklands' informal, nature-led character.</p>	<p>Site selection and concept design completed through co-design with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung representatives and key stakeholders;</p> <p>Concept endorsed and required approvals obtained;</p> <p>Outdoor classroom delivered, including: defined gathering area, informal seating (logs, boulders and/or benches), shade (trees or structures) and accessible path connection;</p> <p>Positive feedback from users and program partners following first 12 months of use.</p>

Principle 6: Support children and young people to learn and play in nature.

What this means

Rosanna Parklands is a place for hands on nature-based play, providing safe spaces for young people to create, ride, socialise and take appropriate risks; in a way that protects the park's natural character and sensitive areas.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
6.01	<p>Grow a children's forest</p> <p>Co-design and deliver the "children's forest" upgrade at the central playground, including nature-play elements and planting that increases canopy/understorey while protecting sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Minimum 3 co-design sessions with local schools/youth and Wurundjeri representatives; concept endorsed; works delivered; at least 20 indigenous canopy/understorey plantings established (or agreed equivalent) with a 12-month maintenance period.</p>
6.02	<p>Remove the playground on Thomson Drive</p>	<p>Community engagement completed (min 2 sessions + online feedback); decommissioning</p>

	In consultation with the local community, decommission the Thomson Drive playground and deliver a staged bushland restoration and low-key recreation upgrade, including informal nature-play elements and/or a small picnic node, to reinforce the Parklands' natural character.	completed and site made safe; restoration plan endorsed; minimum 300 m ² restored to indigenous bushland (or agreed area) with 12-month establishment maintenance; install at least 3 informal nature-play features (e.g., logs/boulders/stepping elements) and/or 1 picnic setting (table + seating) inspired y Ellis Stone's nature play.
6.03	Support community bike jumps Co-design, approve and implement a Bike Jumps Management and Upgrade Plan (including agreed locations, safety/maintenance standards, and habitat protection measures) with local children and youth users, MTB community representatives and Council engaged professional consultants.	Engagement completed (min 3 co-design sessions incl. youth users + 1 broader community drop-in/online survey); Plan endorsed (maps preferred location(s), no-go habitat areas, build details, risk controls, and maintenance schedule); deliver 1 pilot bike-jumps area (or formalise existing area) with defined boundaries, erosion/soil stabilisation and signage; complete quarterly safety/condition inspections for the first 12 months.

Principle 7: Support community groups and volunteers who look after the park

What this means:

The community are passionate and invested in the past, present and future of Rosanna Parklands. The strong history of community involvement and existing friends of groups will be supported in management of the parklands.

Actions:

Ref.	Action	Measurement of success (how we will know it's done well)
7.01	Support the Friends Group Support, partner with and build on the established work of Friends of Salt Creek and Associated Parklands by coordinating and delivering an annual annual co-designed working bee that enables volunteer participation in planting days, habitat restoration, clean ups and environmental monitoring, aligned with identified restoration priorities and safety requirements.	Increased membership and participation in monthly in FOSCAP led activities. All activities delivered with site-specific safety briefings and ecological guidance.

<p>7.02</p>	<p>Celebrate volunteers</p> <p>Implement a coordinated approach to recognising, celebrating and sharing volunteer contributions at Rosanna Parklands to build pride, visibility and shared responsibility for caring for the Parklands.</p>	<p>Recognition approach established (e.g. signage, digital storytelling, events or acknowledgements); Volunteer contributions featured in minimum 2 Council communications per year (e.g. web, social media, signage or newsletters); Annual “what we did together” update produced and shared with volunteers and the wider community; Positive qualitative feedback received from participating volunteers.</p>
<p>7.03</p>	<p>Support Citizen Science</p> <p>Continue to support citizen science initiatives at Rosanna Parklands (such as City Nature Challenge and Great Southern Bioblitz at Rosanna Parklands to contribute to Banyule’s overall Biodiversity Monitoring Program) to strengthen community connection to Country and improve understanding of ecological health.</p>	<p>Partner with relevant groups to support at least 2 ongoing citizen science activities;</p> <p>Deliver minimum 2 community training or participation events per year;</p> <p>Monitoring data collected and shared through Council or partner platforms;</p> <p>Annual summary produced outlining participation levels and key ecological insights.</p>

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