



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne City Council

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

06 May 2026

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Melbourne City Council (City of Melbourne) is the local government body responsible for the municipality of Melbourne, which includes metropolitan Melbourne's innermost suburbs, including the central city. Our City is rich in biodiversity and a wide range of different habitats, including waterways, marine and estuarine habitats, green infrastructure, residential gardens, formal parks, native ecosystems with remnant vegetation and those which have been restored.

Overview

169860

Population size

Australia

Country

Asia & Oceania

Region



Sally Capp, Mayor of Melbourne City Council

Head of government

Platform engagement statistics



15

Nature Pathway engagements

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
67% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile
0% complete



Frontrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
0% complete



Frontrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Other commitments under this action area

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Manage invasive alien species

Control Pollution

Climate change adaptation and mitigation



Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry

Promote people's access to green and blue spaces



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Other commitments under this action area

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Sustainable production and consumption

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

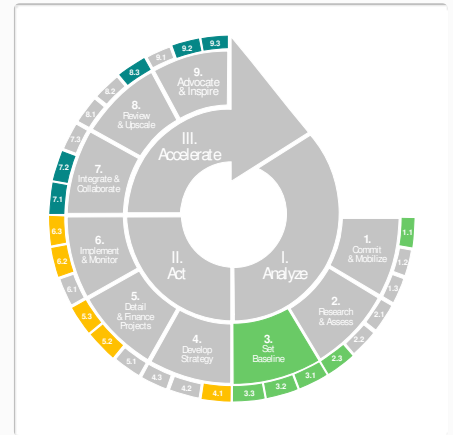
Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

Section 1.1

1 The Nature in the City Strategy was endorsed by the City of Melbourne in 2017. It provides a 10 year blueprint for improving biodiversity, connection people to nature and providing leadership to others.

2. Research & assess

Section 2.3

1 On the City of Melbourne's Open Data Platform, data from research and monitoring is available to the public to access. This includes data relating to Melbourne's urban forest and parks (e.g. tree canopy mapping), biodiversity surveys (e.g. data collected ...

3. Set Baseline

Section 3.1

1 'Quantifying the Benefits of Green Infrastructure in Melbourne' is a literature review which provides an understanding of the potential benefits of green roofs, walls and façades within the public and private realm in Melbourne and the value associated with...

2 'Valuing Green Guide' is a summarised, plain-reading report based on 'Quantifying the Benefits of Green Infrastructure in Melbourne' – which provides an understanding of the potential benefits of green roofs, walls and façades within the public and private...

Section 3.2

1 In 2016, 'The City of Melbourne's Future Urban Forest' report was published. This report analyses the vulnerability of tree species currently planted in the City of Melbourne, and identifies some potential new species that may be more suitable for the City...

Section 3.3

1 'Linking Nature in the City' is a report prepared by the National Environmental Science Program – Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub for the City of Melbourne in 2018. The report illustrates the use of a framework for measuring structural and functional h...

2 Building on the Linking Nature in the City (Part 1) Framework, this report prioritises street segments in the city based on their potential to improve connectivity using the framework.

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

Section 1.1

- 1 The Nature in the City Strategy was endorsed by the City of Melbourne in 2017. It provides a 10 year blueprint for improving biodiversity, connection people to nature and providing leadership to others.
- 2 The Green our City Action Plan (2017-2021) focuses on increasing private sector participation in greening Melbourne. Through working with industry and the private sector, it aims to improve the quality and quantity of green roofs and vertical greening in ...

5. Detail & finance projects

Section 2.2

- 1 The Green Our Rooftop project is a key action from the Green Our City Strategic Action Plan (2017), which sets out the City of Melbourne's vision for increasing green infrastructure. Collaborative research grants and postgraduate scholarships were offered...
- 2 The Woody Meadow Pilot Project has demonstrated the success of using Australian shrubs to improve the appearance and function of low-maintenance landscapes. The project was a collaboration between the University of Melbourne, the University of Sheffield, ...
- 3 In 2020, the City of Melbourne collaborated with the University of Melbourne to create the City's first indigenous wildflower meadow along Gatehouse Street in Royal Park, Parkville. As part of the trials, we are testing six different surface treatments in...

Section 2.3

- 1 Amendment C376: Sustainable Building Design aims to introduce new best-practice ESD Standards into the planning scheme to ensure that new buildings in the municipality respond to climate change. Amendment C376 also implements the Green Factor tool, which ...
- 2 Green Factor is a tool for developers to measure green infrastructure credentials and to help with the design and construction of environmentally friendly buildings. It is free for anyone to use and the assessment will eventually ensure new planning appli...

6. Implement & monitor

Section 3.2

- 1 In 2017, the City of Melbourne created the Urban Forest Fund to provide financial support to new greening projects across the municipality, including green spaces, tree planting, biodiversity projects, vertical greening or green roofs. Projects supported ...
- 2 The Citizen Forester Program is run by the City of Melbourne and seeks volunteers to help collect data about trees, plants and ecology to build a greener Melbourne. Activities have included mapping habitat trees, recording plant-insect pollinator interact...
- 3 The City of Melbourne collaborated with the University of Melbourne to develop and test an understorey plant palette designed to increase streetscape biodiversity. In 2018, the plant palette was integrated into four streetscapes within the municipality. A...

Section 3.3

- 1 Document 1

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

Section 1.1

- 1 In 2019, Resilient Melbourne in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) developed Living Melbourne – a flagship action to extend, link and enhance existing urban greening initiatives across metropolitan Melbourne. Living Melbourne has been endorsed ...
- 2 The City of Melbourne has initiated a local 'Gardens for Wildlife' program which is affiliated with Gardens for Wildlife Victoria, a state-wide network of community group and local government partnerships supporting local residents, schools and businesses...

Section 1.2

- 1 Document 1
- 1 External link 1

2 Developed in partnership with the University of Melbourne, the Urban Nature Planting Guide contains ecological and horticultural information for over 100 species that are suited to urban landscapes. The guide includes plant selection filters to assist la...

3 In 2017, the City of Melbourne created the Urban Forest Fund. The fund aims to build partnerships between government and the private sector to deliver additional greening above and beyond existing Council capital works investment.

8. Review & upscale

Section 2.3

1 The Growing Green Guide is the first comprehensive guide to green roofs, walls and facades in Australia. It was developed in 2014 with advice from industry experts and knowledge from academic research. The Growing Green Guide provides technical advice on ...

2 In 2019, Resilient Melbourne in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) developed Living Melbourne – a flagship action to extend, link and enhance existing urban greening initiatives across metropolitan Melbourne. Living Melbourne has been endorsed ...

9. Advocate & inspire

Section 3.2

1 In collaboration with RMIT, the City of Melbourne has released a children's book that focuses on 30 amazing insects in our city. This book explores the diversity of insects we have within our city's boundaries and examines what we can do to help them surv...

2 The Urban Forest Visual is an interactive website providing the opportunity for the general public to explore individual tree data for City of Melbourne trees and some of the key challenges facing Melbourne's urban forest.

3 The City of Melbourne has collaborated with many local companies, universities and volunteer groups to document our city's fascinating insect biodiversity. The City of Melbourne is excited to share this knowledge through the 'Biodiversity Visual' in order...

Section 3.3

1 In 2019, the City of Melbourne joined 1400 jurisdictions in 27 countries to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency. The Declaration acknowledges that climate change poses serious risks and a temperature rise above 1.5°C will lead to major and irreve...

2 The Edinburgh Declaration seeks recognition of the critical role of local governments in achieving the vision set out in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It also notes the need for immediate and increased efforts to mobilise financial resource...

3 As host city to COP15, Montréal invited cities across the world to make a commitment to protecting biodiversity. 'The Montreal Pledge' challenges cities to take 15 actions to preserve ecosystems, in alignment with the Post-2022 Global Biodiversity framewo...

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points

Melbourne City Council has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points

Melbourne City Council has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points

Melbourne City Council has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

Melbourne City Council has not yet posted any tools and resources



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