



CHAIN OF PONDS

Transforming the Moonee Ponds Creek

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung as the traditional custodians of the Moonee Ponds Creek and its catchment. We pay our respects to their ancestors and Elders, past and present. We recognise and respect their unique cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to their traditional lands, which continue to be important to them today.

Chain of Ponds is an ambitious collaboration aiming to **transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne providing high social, cultural and environmental benefits**, with 14 partner organisations committed to achieving this goal.

How does it operate?

- Co-designed governance
- Co-designed commitments
- Co-funded lead role
- Social capital – trust and relationships between partners
- Commitment to deliver beyond business as usual
- Agency and community representation
- Working groups and Project groups

Catchment Aspirations



Cultural

Traditional Owners have a recognised role as custodians of waterways and their cultural values.



Environment

The creek catchment supports healthy and connected ecosystems and sustainable water management.



Social

The catchment supports a vibrant and well-connected waterway and an active, healthy and happy community.



Economic

All investments across the catchment have embedded green infrastructure with social responsibility considerations.

Commitments:

The members will strive to:

- Be transparent in all interactions;
- Be considerate of each organisation's respective circumstances, including but not limited to community interests, commercial imperatives and strategic contexts, and to 'speak with one voice' where possible;
- Collaborate to identify priorities and innovative projects with a best-for-regional catchment environmental and community benefit;
- Bring an 'appreciative' mindset to collaboration, focusing on strengths, abilities and energy of stakeholders to find enduring solutions to challenging problems;
- Share an understanding of all perspectives, to learn together and to build respect and trust between stakeholders;
- Share knowledge and co-create new ideas and solutions that are informed, sustainable and enduring.
- Facilitate suitable representation on the governance group together with active participation to agreed working and project groups.

Strategic Priorities

These priorities have been co-designed and endorsed by collaboration partners to progress towards the vision and objectives. Based on a robust and consolidated understanding of key catchment issues and community aspirations.



Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Recognition of indigenous cultural values and involvement of Traditional Owners

1. Cultural Values Assessment and Uplift
2. Engage Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung with the Collaboration
3. Engage Narrap team in on-ground projects including Djirri Djirri Reserve, Re-imagining Moonee Ponds Creek and the Bunjil and Bandicoots Flight Path Project
4. Indigenous Cultural Heritage Awareness Training, ongoing
5. Develop Reconciliation Action Plan



Impacts of urbanisation and development

Consistent and stronger protection of the Creek and parklands

6. Strengthen Planning Controls through Waterways of the West with DELWP leadership on ESO and DDO controls
7. Participate in the urban renewal of Arden and Macaulay Precincts
8. Create urban design guidelines to influence development along the creek corridor (Moreland pilot)
9. Identify IWM and open space opportunities associated with developments
10. Whole of catchment community and industry education



Naturalisation of the creek environs/corridor

The natural values of the Creek environment are reinstated – vegetation, biodiversity, biolinks, natural alignment

11. Continue removal of concrete for a further 1km from Herbert Reserve in Oak Park/Lebanon Reserve in Strathmore to Esslemont Reserve in Pascoe Vale. (\$14.5m over 3 years, 52 jobs)
12. Pursue opportunities for naturalisation of stormwater drains and former creek tributaries e.g. Herbert St Reserve mini wetlands and swale
13. Co-deliver 'Reimagining Your Creek' project at Oak Park/ Brosnan Crescent
14. Co-deliver reengagement of the Westmeadows Meander
15. Co-ordinate mapping, improvements in vegetation, biodiversity and biolinks



Rubbish and litter

Reduced litter in the waterway and surrounding open space

17. Resource, implement and monitor delivery of the Catchment Litter Strategy including clean-up events, hot-spot reporting and at-source campaigns
18. Partner with Northern Golf Club in Westbreen Creek catchment litter project



Access and connectivity

Improved physical access, connectivity, and social inclusion into and along the Creek corridor

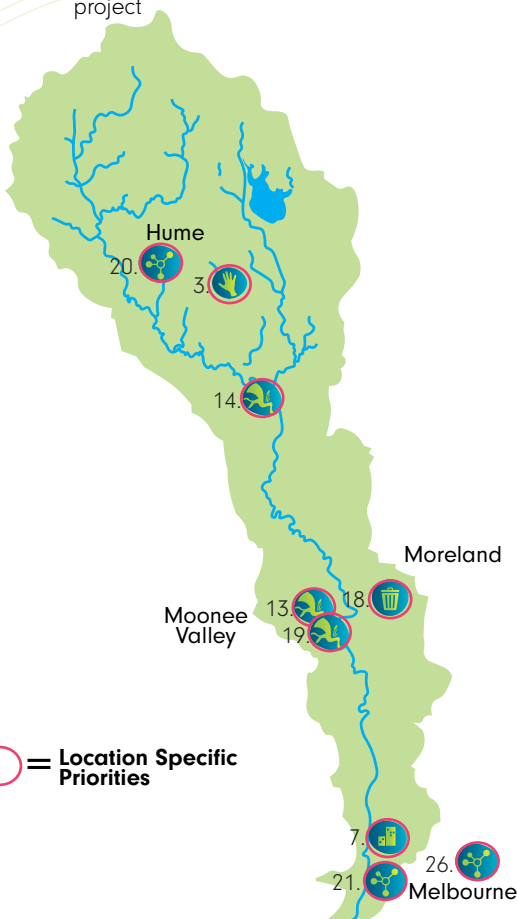
19. Complete Essendon/W Brunswick Bridge and recreational improvements
20. Advocate for, co-design and co-deliver Upper Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path (\$3m over 3 years, 12 jobs) stages,
21. Work with relevant authorities to reinstate Lower Moonee Ponds Creek shared path
22. Conduct a whole of creek accessibility, connectivity and pathways gap and asset analysis
23. Coordinate strategic land acquisition to enhance connectivity
24. Endorse, implement and promote the Trails, Transport & Connectivity Guidelines
25. Develop approach to manage conflicting uses of creek corridor
26. Support delivery of 'Under the Bridge' murals project by Tom Civil (\$489k Stage 1, 2 yrs, 12 pylons, 5 jobs)



Whole-of-catchment future proofing and investment in blue-green infrastructure

Improved integrated water management and sustainability of the creek environs

27. Develop cross-organisational approach to water cycle management (IWM Working Group).
28. Identify priority WSUD/IWM projects of greatest catchment and social benefits
29. Investigate collaborative funding opportunities and models to enable us to respond to evolving needs
30. Support education and demonstrations for leaders, decision makers and developers.
31. Contribute to Maribyrnong Integrated Water Management Plan targets.



Supporting Partners

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne Airport, Friends of Woodlands Historic Park, Northern Golf Club, West Gate Tunnel Project, Loci Environment and Place, Bicycle Network, VicTrack, Launch Housing, Monash University, Swinburne University, RMIT University, Greening the West and Living Melbourne.

Benefits of the collaborative approach:

Attracting project funding

- Essendon/Brunswick West pedestrian bridge (DELWP, Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils, \$1m in total)
- Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek (DELWP, Melbourne Water, Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils \$9.5m in total)
- Litter Study and Assessment (Melbourne Water and IWM)

Shared advocacy and influence internally within the collaboration and externally with other organisations

- Waterways of the West, Acquisition of land adjoining creek (e.g. John St, Oak Park)

Working together on whole-of-catchment, multi-stakeholder and cross-boundary issues, including multiple perspectives and solutions from the start:

- Litter and planning outcomes along the creek
- Design Guidelines for Trails, Transport and Connectivity
- Flood Mitigation and Modelling
- Integrated Water Management

Stronger relationships and understanding between agencies, community and Friends' groups

Access to multiple tools and working relationships to progress issues and align work

- Working for Victoria programs – litter, access, revegetation, path, weed control
- Litter management

“ The group has demonstrated what it takes to achieve true collaboration and how valuable the extra effort put into collaboration can be to achieving different outcomes. ”

“ Everyone is more cognisant of the complexity of the problems in the catchment. ”

Objectives:

- Take a whole-of-catchment approach to governance and management to overcome the limitations that stakeholder and land ownership boundaries impose.
- Develop and implement ideas, strategies and projects to protect, enhance and activate the catchment, including access and connectivity, open space, biodiversity, habitat and biolinks along the Creek corridor.
- Strengthen cultural heritage understandings and traditional owner involvement.
- Better capitalize on opportunities for stormwater management including 'naturalisation'.
- Ensure approaches to development and waterway improvement are consistent with established strategic and environmental directions across the catchment and based on best practice.
- Demonstrate progress and learning through reporting which also considers options for co-investment in projects.
- Enable stronger advocacy for waterway management through appropriate strategic and statutory planning mechanisms.

Visual Timeline – the Chain of Ponds Story

