

How can you get involved in Landcare?

There are lots of opportunities on offer to get involved in Landcare and caring for our environment.

You can get involved by:

- joining an existing NaturallyGC Landcare or Bushcare group
- attending a NaturallyGC tree planting at one of our project sites, these occur across the city and rotate around priority areas
- joining a Junior Landcare session specifically aimed at kids throughout school holidays
- contacting us to schedule a tree planting in a conservation area with your corporate or school group.

Other Landcare opportunities

There are many opportunities for you to get involved with Landcare on the Gold Coast that are outside the scope of NaturallyGC Landcare. These include:

- [Friends of Queensland National Park Groups](#). These groups work with Queensland Parks and Wildlife within National Park areas that are not managed by the City.
- [Our Beaches Community](#) within the dunes of the Gold Coast
- [Community Gardens](#) – grow your own vegetables, flowers, etc.
- [Friends of Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens](#) – gardening, nursery, and herbarium
- [Conservation Partnerships](#) – private landholder restoration

How Landcare projects are formed

Community Landcare works are strategically planned and carefully guided to ensure long term success of projects, safety for participants, community interests are met, positive ecological outcomes for the environment, and value for money.

Our team identify areas for community involvement through a variety of ways. These may include:

- Following best practice ecological restoration
- Following key selection criteria
- Pre-planning and identifying opportunities city-wide that have the potential for community involvement within the next 5 years
- Utilising specialised mapping tools that identify areas of open space, threatened species communities and areas of high priority, etc.
- On-ground site assessments within Council conservation parks
- Response to community enquiries or interest from local groups keen to participate in select areas
- Ensuring we cater for various interest and local communities by allocating project sites through various suburbs
- Working closely with current Landcare members to identify potential future projects

Below find some of the criteria our team carefully consider before undertaking new projects or committing to new groups:

1. Location must be within a Council-managed Conservation Area or natural area reserve.
2. Proximity to other existing groups or project-based sites. To ensure that we build capacity for existing groups, we do not support the formation of other projects within a minimum 5km radius of current initiatives as it may impact upon volunteering numbers (unless extenuating circumstances). If there are opportunities existing in the local area already, you will be directed to that site.
3. Area is identified as a high conservation value site. This may include location in the landscape with connectivity, corridors, threatened species, vegetation type, etc.
4. While it may seem like a good idea to start new projects, our program is guided by best practice restoration which ensures we invest in long-term projects and adequately resource and complete existing projects before moving to other nearby areas. Each project site requires a funding commitment of a minimum of 7 years ongoing maintenance with skilled restoration teams.

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5. Resources available including funding, coordination and a City staff member to facilitate each session.
 6. Positive opportunities for educational and social outcomes for local community in this area if not already on offer through existing or other organisations such as Friends of National Parks.
 7. For the formation of new groups, there are requirements for a minimum number of interested participants.
 8. Adequate and safe access for volunteers including parking, phone reception, trails, etc.
 9. Site safety is taken into consideration e.g., high fire danger areas, slopes, rockfall, uneven ground, fauna etc.
 10. Access for heavy fleet for watering and City vehicles.
 11. Conflicts of interest which may include interest for the benefit of a private property or for own personal or monetary gain.

Can I undertake works on Council land?

We recognise the community's good intention and willingness to contribute and value the role our community plays in shaping our city and caring for our bushland areas. Unfortunately, unsupervised work by individuals, groups or organisations is not supported within parklands for operational works (tree planting, weed control, vegetation management, etc.) or capital works such as installation of infrastructure which includes, structures, pathways, etc. These projects are managed long term by skilled Ecological Restoration Officers in partnership with the community.

If there are currently no Landcare opportunities within a few kilometres of your area and you have identified an area for potential community involvement you can [submit a request online](#) and our team will provide a response which may include opportunities nearby, opportunities to host a community session on-site, or plans we may have for the future.

Our first preference is however to direct you to existing initiatives, this helps to build capacity within current projects and ensuring volunteer numbers are sustainable.

If we are unable to cater for a community request our team will assess whether the site is suitable for our ecological restoration teams to undertake. Find out what other [ecological restoration works](#) are happening within our City.

If there is a Council managed natural areas park you are concerned about for environmental weeds you can [submit a request online](#). We recognise the impacts of environmental weeds and will consider managing them in specific situations such as high priority environmental areas and when budget expenditure and outcomes can be justified.

If you are concerned about an area that is within State lands you can contact Department of Resources. All general State Government enquiries can be made to 13 74 68.
