



*FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK
AND VALLEY RESERVE
Inc. A0037872K*

Statement of Purpose – Valley Conservation Reserve

Background

This Statement of Purpose is intended as a statement of a community view of the issues and priorities related to management of Valley Conservation Reserve in an environment of increasing usage, urban densification, and climate change.

FSCVR acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we work in, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

We are deeply appreciative of the work by the City of Monash to restore the reserve to its current state, and in creating and maintaining the amenities described below.

Statement of Purpose

Valley Conservation Reserve is a significant remnant in the context of the Greater Melbourne region featuring substantial bushland with a high diversity of indigenous flora across its vegetation types including Valley Heathy Forest, Grassy Woodland and Swampy Riparian communities. These vegetation types provide habitat to a diverse range of fauna that would not typically be present within such an urbanised landscape.

The reserve is utilised for conservation, environmental education and passive recreation. It provides opportunities for schools and the local community to experience the bushland and its associated fauna that encourages an appreciation of the natural environment and history of the reserve. The bushland reserve also provides multiple climate benefits to the community through improving air quality, limiting the impacts of heatwaves through the reduction in urban temperatures, and reduces the likelihood of flooding through excess rain water storage.

We believe that the ongoing management of Valley Conservation Reserve should be respectful of, and consistent with the Reserve's Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles.

Guiding Principles

- The conservation significance of the reserve is maintained through (i) preservation and enhancement of its biodiversity values with a focus on remnant vegetation, and (ii) utilisation of the reserve in a manner that aligns with this significance
- Biodiversity values are continuously monitored, and management strategies are in place and adapted as necessary to ensure its protection
- The ecological condition of Valley Creek and associated drainage lines/depressions are protected and improved through Water Sensitive Urban Design principles and natural flow regimes
- Enhancement of the reserve and its surrounding environs is continued through on-going weed and companion/pest animal management, encouragement of natural regeneration and indigenous revegetation

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- The reserve is utilised for passive recreational activities and events, which connect people to, educate or instil an appreciation of the biodiversity values
- Recreational activities and events are kept within the capacity of the reserve in order to avoid detrimentally impacting its conservation values
- The community is engaged with, and educated on, the biodiversity values of the reserve through a range of forums (e.g. interpretive signage, flyers, activities and events)
- The natural bushland and fauna habitat values are not to be impacted through the establishment of defined pathways (hard surfaces), new infrastructure or any form of artificial lighting
- The protection of the reserve's biodiversity values is considered and weighted when assessing any future development within the immediate surrounding environs