Urban Ripple Project

2024-2026

Restoring the Yarrowee River and its Little Creeks

Victorian Government's Green Links Grants Program Round 1: $701,584
Project Reach: 9.8 km of waterways | Sites Restored: 13 sites | Area Improved: 45.5 ha

Site 7 Canadian Creek

Friends of Canadian Corridor



Site map: Site 7 is located north of Hocking Ave in the Canadian Creek Reserve, Mount Clear.

The Challenge

The area adjacent to Canadian Creek contained patches of native vegetation planted in the 1980s but lacked a diverse native understorey. The creek corridor remained sparsely vegetated, with weeds such as willows reducing habitat quality. Additional planting was required to increase shade, strengthen habitat values, and improve the ecological values of the area.

Ecological Target

Native plant species historically occurring at this site were identified using a vegetation mapping tool based on Floristic Mapping Units (FMUs). Mapping indicates that the site previously supported a Valley Grassy Forest or **FMU 23702: Alluvium Transitional Plains Grassy Forest**, a vegetation community characterised by a mixed eucalypt forest or woodland with scattered shrubs and a groundlayer containing heathy plants, grasses and forbs.

Project Aims

- Restoration of understory native habitat
- Improve local amenity next to a residential area and the Canadian Creek trail
- Build on previous restoration works along Canadian Creek

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$31,371	**$34,800***	**$66,171**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 1160 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The City of Ballarat prepared the site by mowing.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by:

- Wadawurrung Indigenous Nursery and Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery





Volunteers planting at Canadian Creek.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
3450	3.2 ha	489	12

Community Impact

Planting days were strongly supported by both Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC) volunteers and local residents. The high level of interest from children led to a dedicated Children's Friendship Forest planting day, where nearly 50 children, assisted by family and friends, planted 100 trees in Canadian Creek Reserve despite Ballarat's winter conditions. Eight year old Willow Thomson delivered the Acknowledgement of Country, Buninyong Foodworks provided fruit for participants, and each child received a "Spikey" hat to commemorate the day.

The planting events were designed to be inclusive, providing opportunities for people with limited mobility to participate. Rotary Clubs of Ballarat East and Ballarat West supported the days by coordinating volunteer registrations and providing a community barbecue.



Young volunteer busy planting in their 'Spikey' hat which was inspired by the Friends group logo.

"So many children joined the early planting days that we decided to organise a dedicated Children's Friendship Forest planting day just for them"
– Jeff Rootes, Friends of Canadian Corridor

Project Highlights

- Attracting new volunteers from the local neighbourhood
- Supporting habitat connectivity along Canadian Creek
- Creating inclusive planting opportunities for people with limited ability
- Childrens Friendship Forest

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Continue weed control and seedling maintenance • Maintain access requirements for City of Ballarat maintenance • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Remove willows from the creek • Plant native species in the riparian zone after willow removal	• Expand revegetation works along Canadian Creek

Before and After





Project Partners

Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC) • City of Ballarat • Rotary Clubs of Ballarat East and Ballarat West • Wadawurrung Indigenous Nursery • Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery • Buninyong Foodworks • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

A partnership project between the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance and the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group.