

Native species to encounter



River Red Gum

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

These large, iconic trees of Victoria's Plains Grassy Woodlands are found in moister areas and along streams. The spreading canopy is up to 25 metres tall and 20 metres wide. Ancients can live 500–1000 years, providing ample food and shelter to numerous birds, mammals and insects, as well as reptiles and frogs. Impressive gnarly trunks and limbs form hollows that wildlife nests in. The white flowers over summer supply pollen and nectar.



Tree Violet

Melicytus dentatus (*Hymenantha dentata*)

More of a rounded shrub (2–3 metres tall) than a tree, as the common name implies, this hardy species is found in sheltered stream-sides to dry, rocky exposed escarpments, or is mid-story beneath River Red Gums. It provides excellent wildlife habitat with spiny branches providing safe cover for small birds. Fragrant, bell-shaped flowers in spring attract insects while birds and lizards eat the fruit that ripen over summer.



Milky Beauty-heads

Calocephalus lacteus

This perennial herb is part of the diverse ground-story and is common in Plains Grassy Woodlands. Silvery grey branches and leaves fan out across the ground, up to 50 centimetres wide and 30 centimetres tall. Over summer, the creamy-white flowers are visited by butterflies in search of nectar. They are one of the many wildflowers that rely on spaces being left for nature. Got room to grow them at your place?

Nature conservation reserves contain many unique plants and animals local to the area.

Conserving indigenous species underpins efforts to preserve our precious natural heritage and prevent species extinction. Commonwealth and state environmental laws protect native plants and animals. Nature conservation reserves must be established to leave some habitat for rare and threatened species and ecosystems.

As nature's neighbour, you play an important role in caring for our reserves, parks and waterways. As a community, we value these little bio-diverse havens and enjoy helping them to thrive into the future.

Contact us

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Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, including the Gunung Willam Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and to Elders past, present and future.



Nature is your Neighbour



Living with wildlife

Hume City Council is responsible for managing over 95 nature conservation reserves. These reserves offer many benefits for our community and our environment. As new suburbs are developed, more reserves are set aside for nature.

Council works to manage any risks that are posed by wildlife and natural areas of native vegetation, so our community can feel safe living near a reserve.



Biodiversity, or the variety of life, faces many threats at global, regional and local scales. Climate change, habitat loss, weeds, pests, drought, megafire and pollution to name a few. Nature needs our help!

Nature conservation reserves represent the best patches of native grasslands and woodlands that remain, or protect the riparian vegetation found alongside creeks or in wetlands. The most important sites are fenced and have signs, but it is not always obvious you are in a conservation reserve.

Reserves are left in as natural a state as possible with long grass or fallen timber. Appreciation comes with an awareness of how rare, unique and important these areas are.

Every reserve, park and waterway is shared space. Please do the right thing.

Reserve management

In Hume City, we strive to protect and enhance our natural environment for the community's benefit. It is also important to manage nature conservation reserves to sustain populations of significant flora and fauna that have evolved in this landscape.

Council's Conservation team are professional and passionate in their reserve monitoring and restoration efforts, including:

- Control of declared weeds and pest animals.
- Biomass management and ecological thinning.
- Assisting native vegetation to regenerate.
- Planting suitable species for each site's particular native vegetation community.

Managing fire

The risk of grass and bush fires has been carefully considered during the initial design of these reserves, and through the implementation of conservation management plans. To reduce the risk of fire:

- Wherever possible, roads or shared paths surround the reserves and provide a buffer between the reserve and housing.
- Fire breaks are cut prior to each fire season, where roads and paths are not in place.
- Patches or a mosaic of controlled ecological burns remove fuel loads, while other patches of native plants are left to grow and release seed over summer. Wildlife requires unburnt areas.

Council incorporates Indigenous cultural burning knowledge that has been shared by Elders of the Kulin Nations and Australia's other First Peoples.

What you can do?

Far too many native plants and animals have disappeared or are struggling. All of our nature conservation reserves are crucial to the ongoing survival of those species that remain.

Here are some suggestions for how you can help nature in our neighbourhood:

- Create a wildlife-friendly garden with indigenous species of plants (local-natives).
- Come to a community planting.
- Contribute to citizen science monitoring.
- Take advantage of Council's waste services to get rid of green, hard, and general rubbish. Picking up litter shows we care.
- Contact Council if you witness any illegal dumping or vegetation removal.
- Leave plants and fallen wood in reserves to provide much-needed wildlife habitat.
- Be a responsible pet owner by keeping cats contained to your property and not letting pets go into nature conservation reserves.
- Bread is bad for native animals. Admire them or create habitat, rather than feed them.

Living near nature is a privilege and something to be very proud of! Your consideration and care for our conservation reserves, along with the rest of the community, is both requested and expected. Be kind to nature and your neighbours.

Enjoy and connect with the wonder of life ... turn your senses to nature's beauty.

