

References

City of Joondalup, n.d.a, *Being WEEDwise – Environmental Weeds in the City of Joondalup*, Perth, WA.

City of Joondalup, n.d.b, *Being WEEDwise – Garden Escapees in the City of Joondalup*, Perth, WA.

City of Joondalup, n.d.c, *Bushfire Prevention and Firebreaks*, Perth, WA.

City of Joondalup, 2013a, *Pathogen Management Plan 2013-2016*, Perth, WA

City of Joondalup, 2013b, *Warwick Open Space Bushland Management Plan*, Perth, WA.

¹ City of Joondalup (2013a)
² City of Joondalup (2013b)
³ City of Joondalup (n.d.a)
⁴ City of Joondalup (n.d.b)
⁵ City of Joondalup (n.d.c)



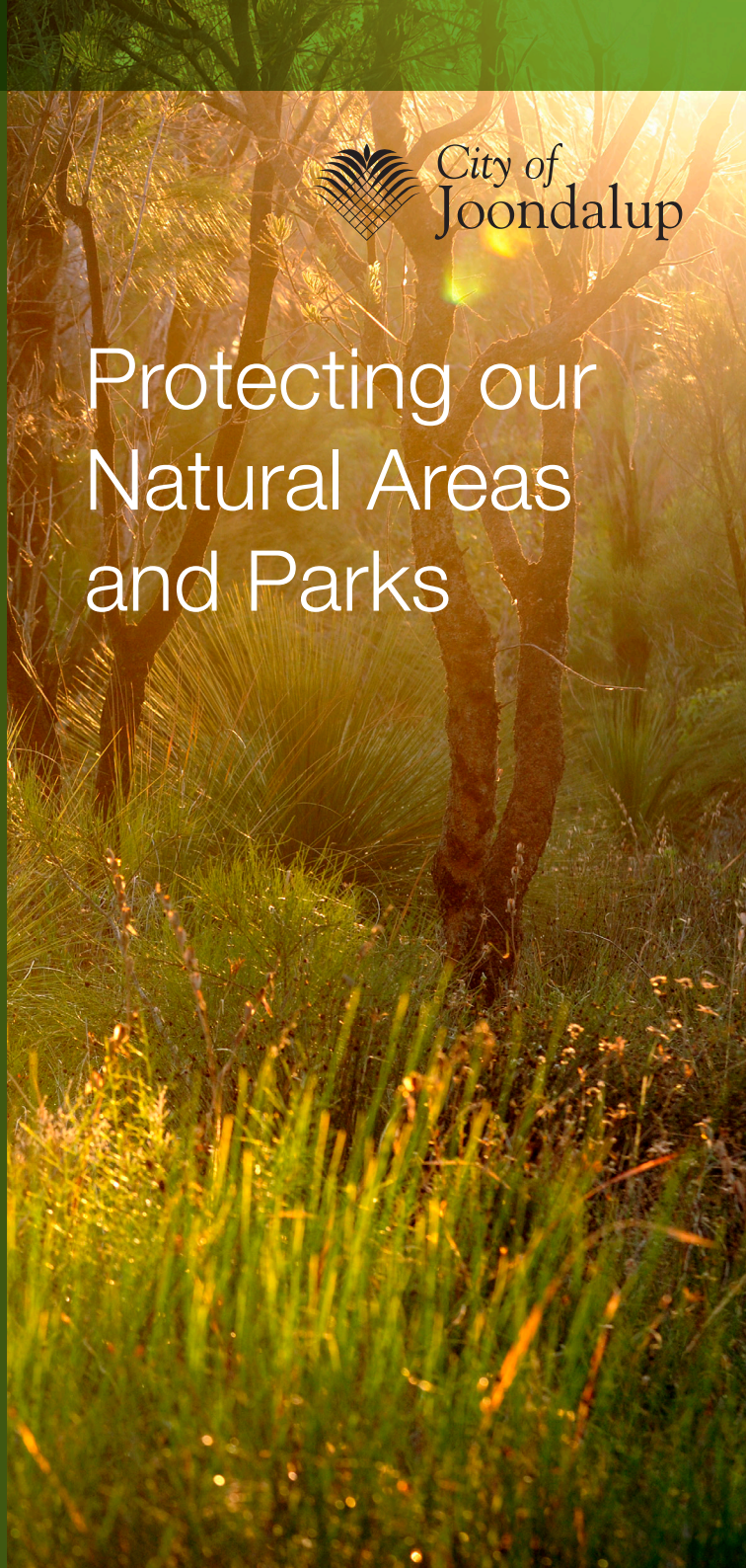
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Protecting our Natural Areas and Parks



PROTECTING OUR NATURAL AREAS AND PARKS

The City of Joondalup has a diversity of coastal foreshore, bushland and wetland areas including the regionally significant Yellagonga Regional Park and a number of Bush Forever sites. The City also includes numerous passive and active park areas for recreation and leisure.

The City's natural areas and parks are highly valued for:

- Providing habitat for flora and fauna including iconic local species such as the South-western Snake-necked Turtle, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and Quenda.
- Improving ecological function such as air quality, carbon capture and soil health.
- Decreasing erosion, salinity, water pollution and noise pollution.
- Providing the opportunity for recreational and cultural experiences.

The Major Conservation Area logo is used on signage in the City's major conservation areas.

The City is committed to maintaining the health and viability of its natural areas and parks. To do this all users of the City's natural areas and parks need to take care to minimise the impact of environmental threats.



Photo: Raana Scott



ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

Environmental threats have the potential to degrade natural areas and reduce biodiversity values.

Environmental threats include:

- Pathogens
- Weeds
- Fire
- Non-native animals
- Human impacts.

Pathogens

Pathogens are organisms that cause plant disease and include fungi, bacteria and viruses. Plant diseases are usually spread through infected soil from footwear, vehicles, tools, dumping of garden waste or planting infected plants.¹

The City has identified the presence of a number of plant pathogens and disease in some key natural areas and parks.

What can you do to help?

You can help reduce the spread of plant pathogens and disease by:

- Keeping to paths and tracks when walking and cycling.
- Cleaning soil from your footwear before and after entering natural areas.
- Avoiding walking in wet soil conditions.
- Never removing plant or soil materials from bushland areas.

Weeds

Weeds are exotic species or native species in ecosystems in which they previously did not exist. Weeds are commonly introduced and spread through:

- Seed dispersal (water, wind and animals such as birds)
- Fire
- Dumping of garden refuse
- Pedestrian or vehicle movement in natural areas.²

What can you do to help?

- Recognise *Environmental Weeds*³ and *Garden Escapee Weeds*⁴ and manage them effectively on your property.
- Plant a native garden using local endemic plant species.
- Do not dump garden waste in bushland areas.

Fire

Fire is an important natural feature of the West Australian landscape and many plants have adapted to fire over time. Human activities, including arson, have resulted in increased incidences of fire within many urban bushland reserves which can have negative effects on biodiversity. Frequent fire events can also encourage the growth of invasive weeds and destroy habitats.

What can you do to help?

- Comply with bushfire related laws and regulations.
- Do not start any fires in natural areas.
- Safely dispose of cigarette butts.
- Report suspicious behaviour to the WA Police on 131 444.

For further information refer to the *Bushfire Prevention and Firebreaks* brochure.



Non-native animals

Non-native fauna, including cats and dogs, impact native fauna and flora through predation, competition for food and shelter, spreading diseases and destroying habitat. These impacts can result in the diminishing or extinction of native species.

What can you do to help?

- Keep cats contained, particularly at night, and comply with the *Cat Act 2011*.
- Only walk your dog in areas where they are allowed and ensure they are kept on a leash.
- Clean up after your dog.

Human Impacts

Inappropriate use of natural areas can result in degradation of the bushland. This includes creating informal paths, building cubby houses, littering, removing native plants or planting non-native species.

What can you do to help?

- Dispose of litter in a bin or take litter with you when leaving parks or natural areas.
- Avoid touching or feeding wildlife and picking wildflowers.
- Do not remove native plants from the area.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Visit the City of Joondalup website for information on Friends Groups in your local area.
- You can register with Clean Up Australia Day or Adopt a Spot through Keep Australia Beautiful to host or join a clean up event in your local bushland or park.