

Be bush-friendly!

Protecting bushland in urban areas requires only a little bit of effort, but from a lot of people. Most of this effort is in **NOT DOING** things! Here are some of the most important ones.

DON'T dump rubbish in the bush

- It is illegal, dangerous, unsightly and smothers young or small bush plants.
- Councils have services to assist you to find the appropriate place for disposal. Contact Rockdale Council on 9562 1666 (6am-8pm), Canterbury Council on 9789 9300 (9am-5pm).

But, particularly, DON'T dump garden materials in the bush

- Whole plants, prunings, grass clippings and soil can all contain seeds, or other parts that can grow. It's like planting weeds!
- They all add extra nutrients that weeds love. Extra nutrients can also kill local native plants, many of which only thrive on lower nutrient soils.
- Many garden materials can be composted. You can use your local Council's green waste pick-up or drop-off services. Contact local Councils as above.

DON'T take anything from the bush

- Wood, leaves and rocks are vital habitat for local animals and insects etc.
- Local plants are often rare and may be in danger. Taking bits away, especially flowers or seeds, makes it harder for them to survive.

DON'T grow plants that invade the local bush

(Lots of exotics don't, some natives do! - Choose the right ones)

- Creepers and grasses can spread from gardens adjoining the bush.
- Seeds can be blown in or carried by animal fur and human clothing.

- Fruit-eating and seed-eating birds can spread plants from much further away.
- If you are not sure about your plants, ask the Wollie Creek Preservation Society on 9554 3176 for an expert volunteer to come and help you sort the good from the bad.

But DO grow locally native plants:

- They are well adapted to local conditions and so they don't need fertilisers or so much watering as non-local plants.
- They help support native birds, lizards, frogs and other animals which all help to control insect and other pest species in your garden, including flies, insects, slugs and snails.
- The Wollie Creek Preservation Society can advise on suitable native plants, as can Marrickville Community Nursery (Addison Road Community Centre), which is also a good source for them. Contact Helen Knowles Wed-Fri on 0412 435 948.

And DO go further:

- Become a *Backyard Buddy* - begin to make your garden a safe haven for native wildlife. For good ideas on this visit: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Backyard+Buddies
- Keep an eye out for and report anything which shouldn't be going down street gutters into the stormwater drains - it all ends up in Wollie or Bardwell Creeks, and damages creek plants and wildlife. Remember the drains are only for rain, not car washings, grass clippings, paint residues, litter etc. Contact Rockdale Council on 9562 1666 (6am-8pm), Canterbury Council on 9789 9300 (6am-11pm), to get a message to a ranger.
- Join your local conservation group.

Contact the **Wollie Creek Preservation Society** on 9554 3176, email info@wolliecreek.org.au, visit our website at www.wolliecreek.org.au or write to PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206.

