Waterwatch Program

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Group Name Curly Sedge Creek Waterwatch
Waterway Name

This Plan will be reviewed yearly and adapted and amended as necessary.

General details

Information about our Waterwatch group

Name of monitoring group	nugal biik conservation volunteers
Name of group leader	Charlotte Gordon
Waterway(s) to be monitored	Curly Sedge Creek
Local Government Area	City of Whittlesea
Commencement date of monitoring	August

Our Members

Group members will be registered on the Waterwatch database. Provide details of ALL group members who participate in monitoring.

Full name	Email	Phone / Mobile
refer to spreadsheet		

Emergency Contact Details

Full name	Emergency Contact Name	Relationship	Phone / Mobile
refer to spreadsheet			

Training Schedule

Your Waterwatch Coordinator will guide you through the first steps of monitoring water quality and assessing the environment.

Event	Proposed date	Complete
Waterwatch Training	03/03/2024	Yes
First site visit: site selection and monitoring plan	13/12/2024	Yes
Second site visit: first water testing and equipment delivery	20/03/2024	Yes
Third site visit: second water testing		
Annual field visit and shadow testing		

Data Confidence Schedule

Waterwatch Network meetings are designed to guide you through maintaining your equipment and testing the accuracy of your data. You will also meet other Waterwatch participants.

Event	Proposed date	Complete
Waterwatch Melbourne Data Confidence Exercise: Shadow Testing In-Field		
Waterwatch Melbourne Data Confidence Exercise: Shadow Testing at Network Meeting		
Waterwatch Victoria Data Confidence Exercise: 'Mystery Sampling' Event	18/03/2024	Yes

A schedule of monitoring is included at the end of this document.

Monitoring Plan and Objectives

A brief description of the history of this area

- Whittlesea Community Connections (WCC) are currently the main organisation managing Curly Sedge Creek.
- We have just completed revegetation works of 4000 grassland species (funded by Melbourne Water and ANZ), and working with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Rangers.
- The site was prepared with chemical weed management and about 1000m2 of jute matting - this was then augered, and planted with community.
- WCC will have long-term weed management responsibility and are currently developing a plan with Melbourne Water.
- The conservation works were completed with out regular conservation group, as well as being integrated into our nugal biik Junior and Mini Rangers Program (working with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from local schools).
- Growling Grass Frog have been recorded in Curly Sedge Creek, but not as yet in this specific site. Curly Sedge Creek naturally grow through this study area, and are an important driver of monitoring works.

The following land uses are present within the catchment

- Community Farm (including a Native Nursery and Seed Production Area)
- Cattle grazing on site, but not in adjacent paddocks to the creek.
- Highway to the north of the creek.
- Adjacent to galgi ngarrk.
- This area is part of MSA biodiversity area 33 and marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands.

The possible concerns for water quality, habitat and biodiversity are

- Increasing presence of Juncus acutus
- Potential runoff and chemical hazards from neighboring estates
- Insufficient habitat for diverse frog populations
- Reducing numbers of Curly Sedge

Monitoring Plan

The following positive changes in the area may be measured through Waterwatch monitoring

- Changes in aquatic life populations
- Understanding of affects of weed/weed-like natives on water quality - therefore influencing management priorities
- Improving dissolved oxygen levels in water
- Improved habitat quality for flora and fauna
- Monitoring conditions that Curly Sedge have been recorded to be sensitive to (e.g. water level and salts)

Reflecting on the above questions, the group wants to know about

- What the effects of different management has on water quality and habitat quality (e.g. revegetation/weed removal)?
- Is there a need for better management upstream (curruntly being managed by Wurundjeri woi-wurrung and multiple housing estates)?

To tell us the answers to these questions we will measure

- Measure indicators of water quality in different sections of the creek, pre and post management.
- Habitat and aquaitic life surveys (frogs and macro-organisms)
- Based on what we find (e.g. turbidity/contamination), we can mitigate this with our partners up and downstream (Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Wurundjeri woi-wurrung, Villawood).

Our Sites (Waterwatch group to receive a copy)

Monitoring at the one or two sites specified below will help us to answer our questions about the health of the area (after the first year of testing additional sites may be added).

Site code (Waterwatch Coordinator to provide)	ME_YMR195	
Site description	Curly Sedge Creek in NW corner of Yarra	
Suburb/town	Wollert	
Melways reference	NA	
Local Government area	City of Whittlesea	
Catchment	Upper Merri Creek	
Management unit	Yarra River	
Sub-management unit	Merri	
Type of waterway	Grassland creek	
Type of land use	Community Farm	
Access to site	Walk (200 m)	
Risks to be aware of at this monitoring site	Snakes, uneven terrain, heatstroke, bad weather	
GPS reading	-37.60578075603, 144.971364770844,	

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Parameters (Waterwatch group to receive a copy)

Please tick which parameters you will monitor, including the frequency of monitoring.

Parameters	Monitoring Frequency			
	Monthly	Seasonally	Spring and Autumn	Annually (date)
Temperature	☑	☑	☐	☐
Dissolved Oxygen	☑	☑	☐	☐
Turbidity	☑	☑	☐	☐
pH	☑	☑	☐	☐
Electrical	☐	☐	☐	☐
Conductivity (Salts)	☑	☑	☐	☐
Phosphate	☑	☐	☐	☐
Ammonium	☐	☐	☐	☑
Macro-invertebrates	☐	☐	☑	☐
Habitat assessment	☐	☐	☑	☐
Photo point monitoring	☐	☑	☐	☐

Data Management

We plan to keep a copy of all data collected in the following location

Entered on the Victorian Waterwatch database

Data we collect will be forwarded to the Waterwatch Coordinator in the following way

Via the Victorian Waterwatch database

We will share the data with our community in the following ways:

Via the Victorian Waterwatch database
At regular intervals (annual) through our seasonal newsletters and annual WQ reports

Monitoring Plan

Our Data Collection Schedule (Waterwatch group to receive a copy)

Include in the calendar below the planned dates of water quality data collection, habitat survey, macro-invertebrate surveys and Waterwatch Network meetings.

January	**February** 28/02/2024 - Water quality data collection	**March** 27/03/2024 - habitat and macro-invertebrates survey
April 24/04/2024 - water quality data collection	**May**	**June** 26/06/2024 - Water quality data collection
July	**August** 28/08/2024 - water quality data collection	**September**
October 25/10/23 - Initial session with rangers and waterwatch participants, habitat and macro-invertebrates survey	**November** 22/11/2023 - Water quality data collection	**December** Frog surveys

How to report pollution incidents

If you notice pollution incidents in the waterway (e.g. coloured water, sewage, bad smell, etc), please call:

EPA Pollution Watch Line

Melbourne metropolitan area – 9695 2777 (24 hours)

Outside metropolitan Melbourne – 1800 444 004 (24 hours)

Please also notify your Waterwatch Coordinator of the incident.