

Planet Ark's Seedling Bank

LIFECYCLE PLUS
IMPACT REPORT 2024



The Seedling Bank
PLANETARK

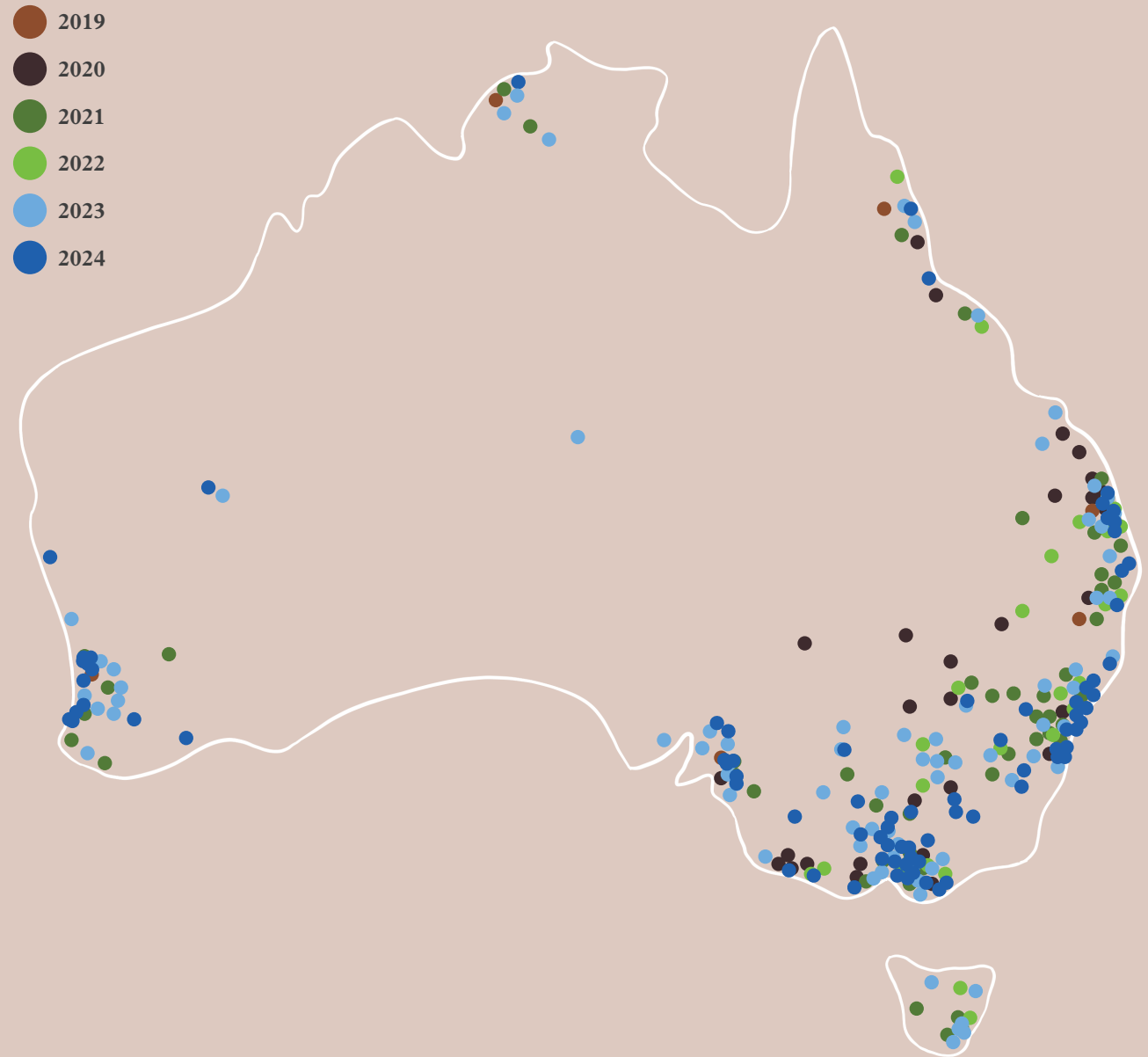
The Seedling Bank Sites

2019-2024

Established in 2019, The Seedling Bank is Planet Ark's restoration grants initiative. It is an evolution of the work we do through Australia's biggest tree planting and nature care event, also known as National Tree Day, which has seen Australians plant over 27 million trees since 1996.

The Seedling Bank is our way of giving back to the thousands of Australian volunteers who roll up their sleeves each year to give something back to the environment.

Over 251 school and community groups have planted 130,000 trees, shrubs and grasses since the program's inception. This year, another 129 groups will plant over 50,000 seedlings using funding from The Seedling Bank.



Thank you for your generous donation of 6,000 seedlings.

Meet the groups who have benefited from your kindness:



OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT

Queensland
1,454 seedlings



COROWA DISTRICT LANDCARE

New South Wales
621 seedlings



COTTESLOE COASTCARE

Western Australia
1,200 seedlings



VIRGINIA BUSHCARE GROUP

Queensland
1,002 seedlings
(530 funded by TSB)



AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION GROUP

Victoria
193 seedlings



WOLSTON AND CENTENARY CATCHMENTS

Queensland
510 seedlings



ARMADALE GOSNELLS LANDCARE GROUP

Western Australia
1,000 seedlings



NATURE GLENELG TRUST

South Australia
438 seedlings



WARRAWONG HIGH SCHOOL

New South Wales
60 seedlings

TOTAL
SEEDLINGS
PLANTED

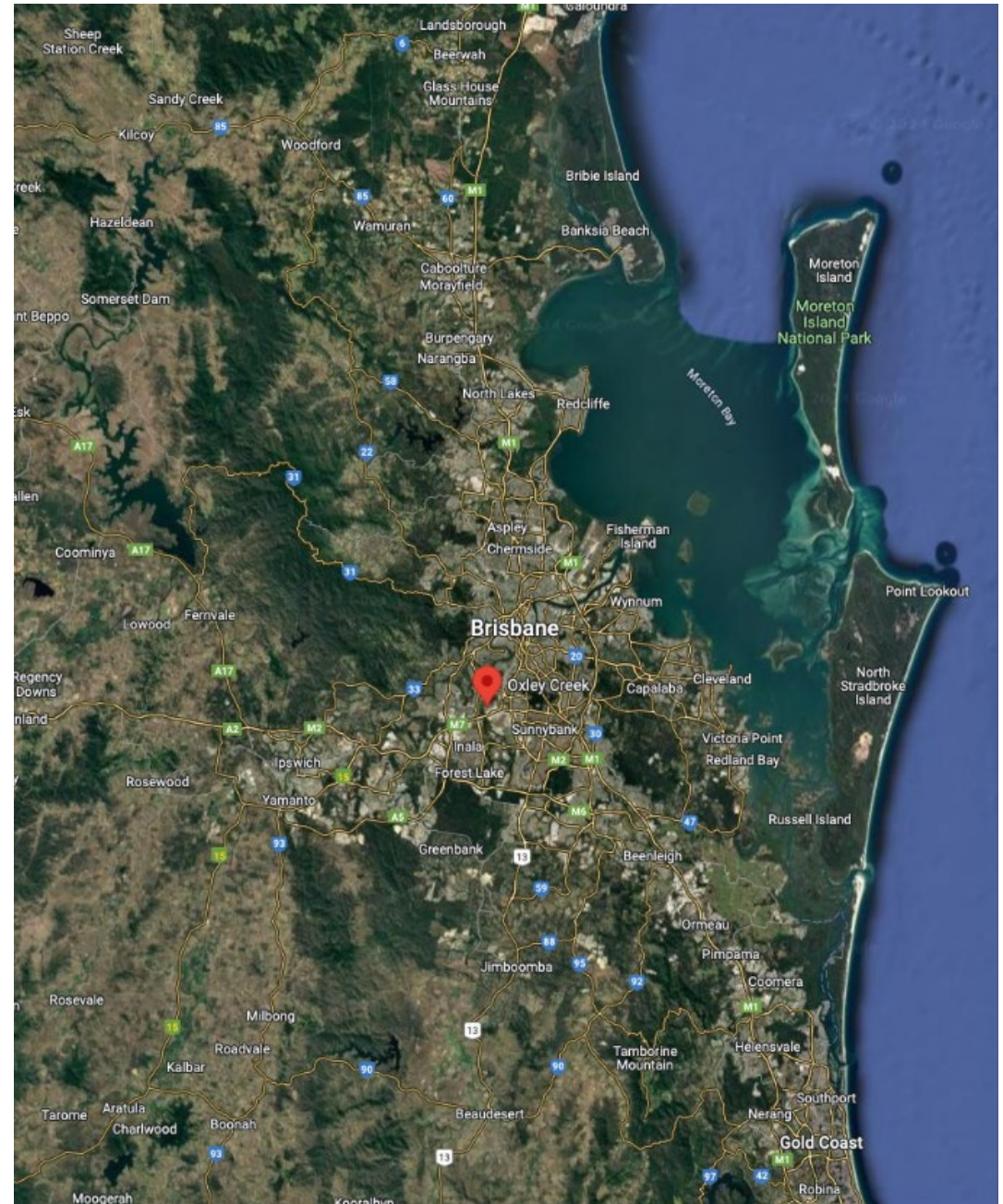
6,006

Oxley Creek Common, Queensland

Oxley Creek Common is a large parkland located only seven kilometres from Brisbane's city centre and is part of the Oxley Creek Catchment area. Thick vegetation growing on the banks of Oxley Creek forms an oasis of green at the park's centre, attracting many human and animal visitors.

The Commons is well-known and loved by Brisbane locals, providing a dose of nature to those wanting to escape the chaos of the city. In addition to the people that flock to the Commons for some time in nature, this area is also an important habitat for a range of native wildlife. The wetlands, grasslands and riparian vegetation along the waterways provide habitat for mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. The birding hotspot is commonly frequented by ornithologists and citizen scientists seeking intimate encounters with some of the world's rarest winged creatures.

However, the area has also felt the impacts of urban development over time, with much of the catchment now part of an industrial hub. Land clearing and flooding over recent decades has also put pressure on the existing vegetation and the ecosystem it supports, highlighting the clear need for reforestation efforts in the Commons.



Oxley Creek Catchment Association, Queensland

REGENERATING AN URBAN OASIS

Date: Sunday 28 July 2024
Seedlings: 1,454

Project Description:

Oxley Creek Common is an important corridor within the Rocklea floodplain, providing native species with a refuge from the industrial and residential areas that have developed along the banks of Oxley Creek. It is also a significant birdwatching site, with over 200 species identified within the parkland.

For National Tree Day, volunteers came together to expand the riparian corridor along Oxley Creek. Endemic species were planted as part of the group's ongoing project to reduce weeds and enhance the quality of wildlife corridors.

Tam, Costa and Charlotte



FLORA AND FAUNA OF OXLEY CREEK COMMON

About a quarter of Australia's native bird species have been spotted here, in addition to migratory birds from as far as Northern Asia and Europe. Black-necked storks are the only species of stork found in Australia. They favour wetland habitats in the north and northeast parts of Australia as they feed on fish, small crustaceans and amphibians. They are less common as far south as Brisbane, but the wetlands at Oxley Creek Common provide a suitable patch of habitat for these long-legged water birds.



Left: Black necked-stork photographed at Oxley Creek Commons by Mat Gilfedder.

Above: Mangrove lined waterway at Oxley Creek Commons.



Photos from National Tree Day



Corowa District Landcare, New South Wales

REESTABLISHING THE UNDERSTOREY

Date: Sunday 28 July 2024
Seedlings: 621

Project Description:

Corowa District Landcare planned a National Tree Day planting event to unite the Howlong community in re-establishing the understorey vegetation in this riverside area. A pathway linking Cross Street to Memorial Park was established, improving accessibility within the reserve.

The project aimed to:

- **Restore the Environment:** Reintroduce trees and understorey vegetation to enhance the local ecosystem.
- **Engage the Community:** Involve residents and stakeholders in Howlong to foster a sense of responsibility and pride.
- **Enhance Biodiversity:** Improve local biodiversity by reintroducing native flora to create sustainable wildlife habitats.



Photos from National Tree Day



Cottesloe Coastcare, Western Australia

CARING FOR THE COTTESLOE COAST

Date: Sunday 16 June 2024

Seedlings: 1,200

Project Description:

Since 1995, Cottesloe Coastcare Association have worked to protect Cottesloe's natural areas by propagating local seeds, replanting degraded sites, removing invasive weeds and cleaning up fragile zones. In 2024, volunteers partnered with the Town of Cottesloe to replant sand dunes with native vegetation, supporting wildlife habitats and erosion control.

Spinifex longifolius was planted at the dune bases, providing essential erosion protection and enhancing the area's natural resilience.



NUTS ABOUT NATIVES

Since 1995, Cottesloe Coastcare Association has worked to protect the area's natural ecosystems by collecting local seeds, replanting degraded areas, removing weeds, and clearing rubbish.

The Seedling Bank funded 1,200 seedlings grown by 'Nuts about Natives,' many from seeds collected by Coastcare volunteers. Coastcare prioritise planting native species indigenous to the area, including some species endemic to the suburb.

Several trees, such as *Melaleuca huegelii* and *Callitris preissii*, were designated for planting in the sand dune swales. Fragile and rare seedlings like *Lechenaultia linearoides*, *Acrotriche cordata*, and *Lomandra maritima* were reserved for less exposed areas.

The project will boost biodiversity, suppress weeds, and provide habitat for wildlife, enhancing the ecological corridor along the Cottesloe foreshore and promoting human well-being.



Flowering chemille honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca huegelii*)



Photos from National Tree Day



Virginia Bushcare Group, Queensland

IMPROVING HABITAT FOR FLORA AND FAUNA

Date: Sunday 28 July 2024

Seedlings: 1,002 (530 funded by The Seedling Bank)

Project Description:

Virginia Bushcare Group (VBG) has been working on a revegetation project at Downfall creek reserve. Brisbane City Council approved the site for revegetation and the whole community was invited to take part on National Tree Day.

Before the planting day, weed removal took place to make space to plant native species to improve habitat for fauna and flora and improve the water quality in the creek.



Photos from National Tree Day



Australian Conservation Group, Victoria

MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE INNER-CITY SUBURB OF MELBOURNE

Date: Sunday 28 July 2024

Seedlings: 193

Project Description:

The ACF Inner Melbourne Community Group holds monthly Birrarung working bees with Melbourne Girls College students, focusing on weeding, mulching, and planting to enhance biodiversity.

The tree planting event attracted over 50 participants, including MPs, community members and students, who planted native shrubs and trees to restore habitat for wildlife, such as ringtail possums, and improve urban air quality.

The initiative also stabilised riverbanks, preventing erosion and keeping paths safe for cyclists and walkers, while students studied the carbon sequestered by the trees as part of a research project.



“

Planet Ark’s Seedling Bank grant significantly enhanced our revegetation project by providing funding for native seedlings. This support enabled us to expand our planting efforts, increase biodiversity and restore local habitats. The grant facilitated community engagement, fostering awareness and participation in environmental stewardship among local residents.”

- Kelly Michell, Volunteer ACF group member



Wolston and Centenary Catchments, Queensland

RESTORING HABITAT FOR PLATYPUS, BIRDS AND ECHIDNAS

Date: Sunday 28 July 2024

Seedlings: 510

Project Description:

WaCC is undertaking a habitat restoration project in a riparian zone that supports platypus, echidna, and a variety of other native species. The project aimed to address gaps in vegetation along the creek by establishing a consistent canopy and understorey species throughout the area where platypus have been observed. Increasing vegetation is expected to improve water quality by reducing the temperature of the creek water.

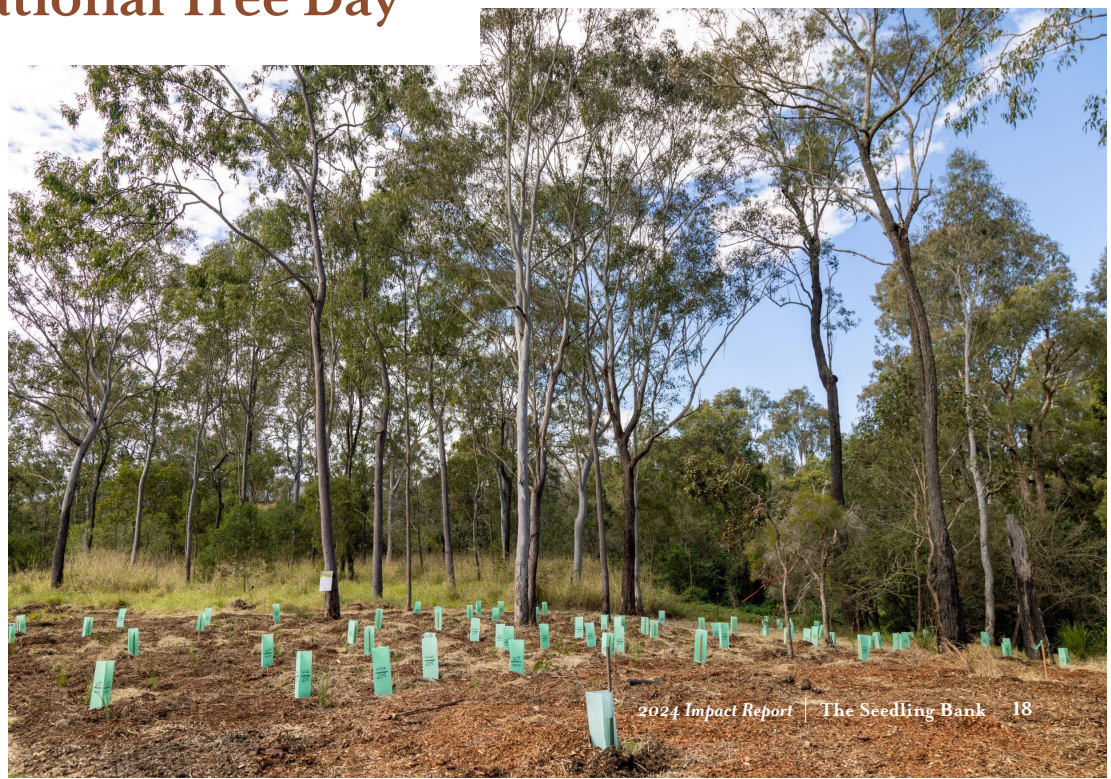
As one of the few creeks in the Brisbane City Council area where platypus still reside, the project seeks to preserve and enhance the creek's condition to ensure the long-term survival of platypus and other native species.

The restoration also benefits the local community by improving shade along a popular walking area and providing opportunities for residents to participate in a planting activity. Furthermore, the project boosts volunteer morale by securing essential funding to support their efforts.





Photos from National Tree Day



Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, Western Australia

PLANTING HABITAT FOR RAKALI, POSSUMS AND WATERBIRDS

Date: Wednesday 31 July 2024

Seedlings: 1,000

Project Description:

The Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group organises community-led river restoration, bushland management and community awareness programs.

This team with grade 2 and 3 students from Kelmscott Primary School to do infill planting along the Canning River, marking six years of restoration work with the school.

The project aimed to enhance biodiversity, support canopy species regeneration, and provide habitat for wildlife like Rakali, possums, and waterbirds. Students learnt about environmental restoration and threats to urban reserves while contributing to erosion prevention and improved riverbank health.



“

Planet Ark’s Seedling Bank grant allowed us to continue a long-standing relationship of planting along the Canning River with Kelmscott Primary School. These funds have been essential in engaging students with nature and finishing off years’ worth of restoration in the area.”

- Talen Stroot, Community Landcare Officer



Nature Glenelg Trust, South Australia

PLANTING HABITAT FOR THE SWAMP ANTECHINUS

Date: Friday 23 July 2024

Seedlings: 438

Project Description:

Nature Glenelg Trust grows the seedlings by collecting seeds from within and around the area the plantings are intended for. The seeds are collected, processed and planted in Nature Glenelg Trust's community nursery which sees a regular group of 15-20 community members meeting every week. There is a strong sense of community, a passion for conserving nature, within the group, and the volunteers gain so many benefits from attending the nursery each week.

Mammal trapping during 2021 in the small area of remnant tea-tree heath surrounding the Hutt Bay wetland captured swamp antechinus (*Antechinus minimus maritimus*). The seedlings grown and planted for National Tree Day will add to the habitat of this vulnerable species.



Warrawong High School, New South Wales

EXPANDING THE SCHOOL GARDEN TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

Date: Friday 26 July 2024

Seedlings: 60

Project Description:

The Seedling Bank grant enabled Warrawong High School to expand the school garden by providing vital resources for planting native species and plants suitable to the location. This support enriched student-led initiatives, enhanced biodiversity and promoted sustainability through hands-on learning and community engagement. The space has been transformed into a thriving educational environment. Students are now able to enjoy an area that promotes wellbeing and enjoyment of natural spaces.



“If we can have more and more people witnessing firsthand these community tree planting days – thanks to the likes of Planet Ark’s Seedling Bank – we will encourage more and more communities to be aware of why trees are the answer.”

*Branden Barber
CEO Rainforest Rescue*



Thank you, Lifecycle Plus

The program's impact has grown each year since launching in 2019. We are proud to share the stories of some of the beneficiaries of these grants, highlighting the important work of community-led environmental projects across Australia. It is through the generosity of businesses like yours that we are able to support these planting projects.

