

2020-2021 ACT Environment and Nature in the City Grant ACT Environmental Grants Program: Project Acquittal Form Application No. ENV202100014 From Molonglo Conservation Group

Form Submitted 12 Dec 2024, 3:07PM AEDT

Instructions for Grantees

Instructions for Grantees

This form is designed to help us understand the challenges, triumphs and insights you experienced and gained while running your funded project.

We want to know about your successes and challenges. Ultimately we want to see what outcomes you achieved and if they were the intended ones.

Reporting

Reporting against the outcomes and approved budget is a requirement of the deed of grant, and must be completed by an appropriately authorised person on behalf of the applicant organisation or the projects auspicing organisation.

To the best of your knowledge the statements made within this report need to be true and correct, whilst understanding that you as the applicant organisation/auspicing organisation were approved for this grant and accepted the terms and conditions as outlined in the deed of grant or any other deed of variations relating to the project.

Term of the Grant

The Grants are for a specified period as set out in the guidelines unless a **variation** has been approved.

Timeframe

You **have a month** to complete this acquittal form after receiving it by email.

Please fill out the form as directed in the instructions or email your received containing the link to this form.

If there is any reason you are unable to complete this form by the due date please advise us by contacting the Grants Coordinator by phone on 62077331 or by emailing; actnrm@act.gov.au

Please ensure that:

- **Completion of this form has been overseen by those in your organisation that have an intimate knowledge of the funded project.**
- **Financial information is completed by an appropriately authorised person on behalf of the applicant organisation or the projects auspicing organisation.**
- **In filling out this form, that you have attached all supporting documentation where indicated in the reporting process.**

Privacy Statement

All information in this report is public information, except for all personal and financial information which will remain confidential.

We pledge to respect and uphold your rights to privacy protection under the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs) as established under the *Privacy Act 1988* and amended by the *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012*. To view our privacy statement, go to [ACT Government Privacy Policy](#)

Project Report

*** indicates a required field**

Project Title

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Campbell Community Association: The Park Regeneration Project

This question is read only.

Application Number

ENV202100014

This field is read only.

Grant Recipient

CAMPBELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Sponsoring Organisation

MOLONGLO CONSERVATION GROUP

If Grant Recipient and Sponsoring Organisation is the same write as above

Mailing Address

12 River Street,

Phone Number

0427803896

Email Address

president@molonglo.org.au

Project Summary

The project aimed to regenerate the park to achieve the following:

- Enhance the site by planting an under-storey for the remnant trees in the park to provide increased habitat for native wildlife
- Create nature play spaces throughout the park where children from nearby schools can play and learn to recognise different native species and plants common to the ACT
- Create an enhanced natural setting for the community to enjoy which will encourage community use and participation

The park was divided into sectors planted out with ACT native shrubs, wildflowers and grasses thereby replacing the mown under-storey of exotic grasses and weeds in these areas, in particular Chilean Needle Grass. Several natural sandstone blocks were placed in the garden beds as seating and plants were interspersed with rocks and logs to provide increased habitat. The grant originally covered an additional 500m² of planting area, however this has been exceeded.

The whole plan was implemented over several years as funds became available.

Both adjacent schools have reached out with requests for using the park as an educational resource. Teachers from St Thomas More's Primary School undertook a Professional Development session, led by a local indigenous guide, walking through the gardens, identifying the plants and describing their use and importance to the local Aboriginal people.

Planning for activities with the kindergarten class from the Campbell Primary School are underway and should take place next year.

This grant allowed us to expand on a previous start up grant from TCCS.

Must be no more than 250 words.

Please summarise all project activities in relation to the Project Plan.

Project - Duration

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Start Date

07/09/2020

Must be a date.

Finish Date

22/11/2024

Must be a date.

Has this project achieved the activities and milestones required? *

No

Yes

If the project didn't achieve the activities and milestones required please describe why?

The project has achieved the activities and milestones required but not within the reporting period of the grant. This is due to a number of factors:

- Covid lockdowns and restrictions
- The system used for site preparation involves spraying then mulching and planting through the mulch. Both the spraying and the planting have a small window of time when conditions are optimal for success. Spring/early Summer when the weeds are actively growing and late Winter/early Spring for plant growth.
- Dependent on TCCS to provide mulch for the project. Delays meant a slowing of the site preparation and planting. This led to a request for some of the grant monies to be used to buy mulch commercially.
- We were lucky enough to be successful in winning and Adopt a Park grant at around the same time. This grant was fundamental in allowing us to continue to expand on the area to be planted out and furthering the aims of the project, but also extended the time taken to do the work
- The local developer withdrew from the agreement to provide rocks free of charge for the project. Rocks were purchased.

Must be no more than 250 words.

Project - Outcomes

What outcomes were generated as a result of this project?

Outcomes are the changes that have occurred as a result of your project. Generally outcomes can be framed as an increase or decrease in one or more of the following:

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- Skills, knowledge, confidence, aspiration, motivation,
- Actions, behaviour, change in policy.
- Social, financial, environmental, physical conditions.

We also want to learn more about how you tracked the outcomes of your initiative - what you measured and how.

Finally we also want to know if you encountered any unexpected outcomes generated by your project?

Please answer the questions below. Leave blank any fields that do not apply to your project.

What Outcomes were generated by your project?

- The park has been changed visually by the project and there is anecdotal evidence that there is increased community use of the park. All comments regarding the project and the progress to date have been positive.
- Underplanting of garden beds has allowed timber to safely fall and remain in place, thereby returning carbon to the soil.
- Planting and mulching have created a richer soil layer and eased the compaction created by regular mowing.
- The biodiversity of the site has increased due to the planting of an under-storey around the remnant trees.
- The planting of native wildflowers has seen an increase in native insect pollinators.
- Thick plantings across the slope of the site have slowed runoff and accumulation of water in low points. It is expected that there will be further decreases in runoff as the area under planting increases.
- The project has led to a decrease in the area requiring regular mowing.
- The volunteer group numbers fluctuate however the vision for the park has been welcomed by the Campbell community. Our Caring for the Land regular working group also acts as an opportunity for people to come together to enjoy each other's company and to appreciate how the project is changing the park into a much more enjoyable space.
- While there has been some weed breakthrough, the overall effect of the project has been a marked decrease in the amount of weeds in the treated and planted sites. This is particularly true for the Chilean needle grass.
- 10-15 new eucalypts have come up in the planted areas. While it is unlikely they will grow to maturity, they still provide valuable habitat.
- It is noted that some native wildflowers and grasses have spread outside the planted sectors, which is what was hoped would happen. In one of these areas the beds have been extended to protect these plants from future mowing.

How did you track these outcomes?

The biodiversity of the site has increased due to the planting of an under-storey around the remnant trees. ACT Wildlife has also used the beds as a release site for an injured blue tongue lizard from the Campbell area. Superb parrots and gang gangs continue to be regular visitors and rosellas have been observed checking out tree hollows for nesting (this has not happened yet but it is hoped that as the trees are further protected by the garden beds that this will be even more attractive as a nesting site).

Site assessment prior to starting ground work: Professor Mulvaney's original report said that the site comprised about 70% of the mown understorey: "The mown understorey is almost entirely composed of exotic species, with around 70% of the understorey composed of Chilean Needlegrass (*Nasella neesiana*) a major environmental weed. The understorey

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has very little wildlife value, while the mowing is preventing any natural regeneration of the remnant trees.

The planting of native wildflowers has seen an increase in native insect pollinators and photos of these have been added to the Park's NatureMapr site for identification and recording on the Park's dedicated NatureMapr site.

Anecdotal evidence of social engagement: Trish, one of the regular volunteers, wrote the following: "My husband and I were keen to become involved in the local community when we moved from Brisbane to Campbell in late 2019. Working in Violet McKenzie Park has not only provided an activity that we can enjoy together but has also led to the development of friendships within the group. In addition to the social benefits we have both learnt so much about this area's history and ecology and feel a sense of pride in what this group is achieving...."

Project was documented using before and after photos (see attached)

Where any of your outcomes unexpected? If so why?

When we first met with the Molonglo Conservation Group MCG in 2019 we spoke about the dramatic infill of green spaces in the suburb of Campbell. We spoke of our concern about losing the park in Campbell to development. MCG advised us to think about ways of claiming the park for the community and for the environment. We were advised to engage with the local schools and businesses located near the park. We didn't expect to generate the depth of engagement we have, and that four years later the community and the government were still engaging with us in the park.

While we were confident this would always be a worthwhile project we didn't expect the park to be the setting for the launch the 2024 ACT Environment grants.

The fact that the park is now recognised as a potential refuge for rehabilitating injured wildlife is an unexpected testimony to our claimed outcomes.

Evidence of Outcomes

Please provide two pieces of evidence to show that you have achieved the outcomes of your project. This could be a document created, before and after photos or other similar items. Please contact the Grants Coordinator if you are unsure what evidence to include.

IMPORTANT:

Your evidence of outcomes should reflect and support your project budget as well as any approved project variation.

Evidence 1

Filename: Before IMG_5260 copy 2.jpg

File size: 130.7 kB

Please attach evidence of your on-ground activities

Evidence 2

Filename: Onground works - Photographic evidence v2.docx

File size: 7.0 MB

Please attach evidence of your on-ground activities

Dealing with challenge

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Were there any challenges encountered and, if so, how did they influence the outcomes?

A major challenge to the success of the project has been with mulch delivery. When sprayed, we have found that the mulch needs to be spread within 2 weeks to maximise the suppression of weeds. Either the mulch delivery process needs to be more reliable or extra funding allowed for purchase of commercial mulch.

The presence of critical underground infrastructure running through the park required a professional survey of the area as a DBYD report could not guarantee that it would all be identified or that the position of the infrastructure was accurate.

Must be no more than 100 words.

Outline any actions taken to rectify challenges and/or improve the project outcomes

It is understood that there is only one contractor delivering mulch and logs. At a couple of critical times in the planting, mulch was ordered from commercial suppliers who delivered it within 3 days. A professional surveyor was hired to do a survey of the park's underground infrastructure.

Must be no more than 100 words.

Do you or your organisation have any plans to continue, monitor or further develop this project beyond the funded period?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please outline your plans for the project.

It is hoped that the project will be able to continue until all of the remnant trees are protected by under-storey plantings and that the majority of the park area will be covered by ACT native species. Not only will this increase the biodiversity in the park, it will decrease the amount of exotic weeds and the necessity for regular mowing and lessen the heat island effect. It will also increase the connectivity between the Mt Ainslie and Mt Pleasant reserves.

Must be no more than 100 words.

Project Outputs

What outputs did your project generate?

These are the tangible items a project generates.

Examples would include

- the number of trees planted,
- area of planting (Hectares),
- area of weed treatment (Hectares),
- the number of volunteers engaged in the project,
- the number of pest species eradicated.

List your initiative's outputs below, including numbers and timeframes where possible. Leave blank any fields that do not apply to your project.

IMPORTANT:

Your evidence of outputs should reflect and support your project budget as well as any approved project variation.

Number

List

Type of Treatment

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Must be a number.	Attach documentary evidence of delivery ie: Photos of areas treated or trees/shrubs planted, social media posts, receipts for expenditure, photos from events, attendance record for volunteers	From the drop down list choose achievement output
0.32	Filename: After landscape.jpg File size: 3.6 MB	Hectares Planted/Treated
2700	Filename: Table of outputs (2).pdf File size: 169.3 kB Filename: Table of outputs.pdf File size: 169.3 kB	Plants Planted
670	Filename: Table of outputs.pdf File size: 162.6 kB	Other
2	Filename: Table of outputs.pdf File size: 162.6 kB	Events
36	Filename: Table of outputs.pdf File size: 162.6 kB	Communication items
42	Filename: Table of outputs.pdf File size: 162.6 kB	Other: monitoring
1	Filename: All invoices and receipts.pdf File size: 722.4 kB	Other: File of all project Invoices and Receipts
1	Filename: Cmpbell Park Report May 2024.docx File size: 1.2 MB	Other

Lessons Learned

What did you learn as a result of undertaking this project?

Geographic setting was right and would encourage others to do similar projects in their local urban parks. Covid threw a lot of our timing out, but we probably underestimated fluctuations in volunteer numbers, extensive maintenance or planting time, delays in mulch delivery and seasonal spraying. Was always confident that the project would be worthwhile

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community project, and this has proven to be right. The extra skills required for project management were also a not anticipated eg annual first aid training, Chemcert certification. Additional time not initially factored in included plant selection, picking up plants, preparing for working bees, admin.

Must be no more than 100 words.

We are particularly interested in lessons that may help others undertaking similar work. Think about what you learned about your inputs (money, skills, personnel, time - too much; too little; about right?); your assumptions (were they 100% right, only partly right, or were the results a complete surprise?); and the context of the project/program (timing; targeted beneficiaries; geographic settings - were they right; wrong; about right?)

Communication Material

Has the project produced any visual, audio representations, documents, or advertising?

- Yes
 No

Please provide an example of your communication

Filename: Table of outputs.pdf
File size: 162.6 kB

and/or

Provide web link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/7pr4b5PRZVPd6Em7/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

Must be a URL

and/or

Provide additional details:

Please include captions, if relevant

Have you obtained permission from participants/volunteers to use the images in any media in regard to the project?

- Yes
 No

Financial Report

*** indicates a required field**

Project Income Expenditure

IMPORTANT:

Financial Reporting against the Projects Approved Budget is a requirement of the Deed of Grant or any Deed of Variations and must be completed by an appropriately authorised person on behalf of the applicant organisation or the projects Auspicing Organisation.

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Please complete the Financial Report for all actual expenditure including government, nongovernment and private, as well as any in-kind contributions.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Project Income

In accordance with the Deed of Grant or any Deed of Variations you have been provided with funding to this value. Please complete the financial statement of all actual income per your Approved Project Budget, including government, nongovernment and private, as well as any in-kind contributions.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Project Income Item (as per Deed of Grant Project Budget)	Project Budget Approved Item - (\$ Allocated GST Exc)	Actual Budget Item Income (\$ GST Exc)	If different from Application Approved Budget Item indicate approval of change
Select the category from the dropdown list. Oone per line	Must be a dollar amount	Must be a dollar amount.	
ACT Nature in the City Grant Funding	\$14,800.00	\$14,800.00	
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	

Project Budgeted Expenditure Items	Budgeted Expenditure Amount (\$ GST Exc)	Actual Expenditure (\$ GST Exc)	Notes
		Must be a dollar amount.	
Project Budgeted Item	\$11,500.00	\$11,998.18	Plants and guards
Project Budgeted Item	\$1,000.00	\$1.69	Administration - waived administration costs and funds used for mulch and weed control
Project Budgeted Item	\$200.00	\$160.00	Dial Before You Dig
Project Budgeted Item	\$1,250.00	\$2,640.13	Site Preparation and Planting

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In-Kind Contributions	\$7,414.00	\$23,548.02	calculated 670 volunteer hours x 433.71/hr - Project Management by CCA
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Income Expenditure Totals

Income Total	Expenditure Total	Income - Expenditure
\$14,800.00 This number/amount is calculated.	\$38,348.02 This number/amount is calculated.	-\$6,564.00 This number/amount is calculated.

Please attach a signed letter from a financially authorised delegate of your organisation (or sponsoring organisation), stating that the grant was acquitted as per the project budget or any subsequent approved variation.

Filename: Cambell Park Regen final acquittal.xlsx
 File size: 27.0 kB
 NOTE: Max 5mb per file

BUDGET DISCREPENCIES

Please explain reasons for any major variances, or for providing incomplete information:
 Must be no more than 100 words.

Certification and Feedback

*** indicates a required field**

Certification

This section must be completed by an appropriately authorised person on behalf of the applicant organisation or the projects Auspicing Organisation.
I certify that to the best of my knowledge the statements made within this report are true and correct, and
I understand that:

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- the applicant organisation/Auspicing Organisation has been approved for this grant;
- that we are required to accept the terms and conditions of the grant as outlined in the Deed of Grant or subsequent Deeds of Variations.
- Project Reporting and Acquittal is a requirement of the Deed of Grant or any approved variations and must be completed by an appropriately authorised person on behalf of the applicant organisation or the projects Auspicing Organisation.

I agree

Yes No

Name of authorised person *

Dr Karen Williams

Must be an Authorised Member of the applicant/auspicing organisation who has delegation to certify funding and expenditure

Position *

President

Position held in applicant/auspicing organisation (e.g. CEO, Treasurer)

Contact Phone Number *

0427 803 896

We may contact you to verify that this application is authorised by the applicant organisation

Contact Email *

president@molonglo.org.au

Must be an email address.

Date *

12/12/2024

Must be a date

Feedback

You are now nearing the end of this form. Before you review your application and click the **SUBMIT** button please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the acquittal process:

Very easy Easy Neutral Difficult Very Difficult

Did you find the reporting process useful in helping to understand your own work?

Yes
 No

How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this form?

240

Estimate in minutes (i.e. 1 hour = 60)

Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to this form that you think we need to consider:

Must be no more than 100 words.

