



15 organisations



4,510 volunteers



100 private landowners



1,755 hectares
revegetated



61 community
events



1,072,320
trees and shrubs



LEFT: Greg Hunt MP plants the first tree of the Greening the West - 1 Million Trees project along lower Kororoit Creek, Altona, May 2015.
RIGHT: former Lead West CEO, Craig Rowley, and Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek President, Geoff Mitchelmore, plant the 1 millionth tree on the same site in October 2018.



Creating sustainable,
liveable, healthy
communities through
urban greening

Greening the West - 1 Million Trees project partners



This project was supported by Greening the West, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Green Army Program



About Greening the West

Melbourne's western suburbs are growing fast. Compared to other metropolitan areas, it is disadvantaged from both a socioeconomic and community health perspective. These social vulnerabilities are compounded by a significant deficit in urban greening, most notably a lack of trees and quality public green spaces. Melbourne's western suburbs have an average tree canopy coverage of less than 10 percent, compared with the average for urban Victoria of 18.83 percent.

A collaborative think-tank led by City West Water met in 2011 to consider local solutions to these problems and from this the Greening the West program was initiated. Greening the West is a collaboration that aims to deliver positive health and social outcomes and enhanced liveability for communities in the western suburbs of Melbourne through a program of urban greening.

1 Million Trees project

In 2015, the Greening the West project received \$6 Million from the Australian Government to plant 1 Million Trees across Melbourne's west, including \$5 Million from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program - 20 Million Trees Program, and an additional \$1 Million that supported the involvement of seven Green Army teams to deliver the project. Coordinated by LeadWest, an advocacy organisation for Melbourne's western suburbs, the project's focus was to address the shortage of tree canopy cover in the region.

Between 2015 and 2018, 1,072,320 trees and shrubs were planted across 320 parks, reserves, open spaces, roadsides and private land, covering an area of 1,755 hectares. This amazing achievement was due to the hard work of 15 government and community organisations, over 4,500 volunteers and over 100 private landowners, who participated in 61 community events and tree planting days.



WHAT CAN 1 MILLION TREES DO?



What's been achieved

The Greening the West 1 Million Trees project is a shining example of what can be achieved when local, state and federal governments working collaboratively with local communities. The project has made a significant and lasting different to Melbourne's west by creating new natural areas for people and animals, as well as strengthening community connectedness.

Some immediate benefits of the project include enhanced amenity of local open spaces, connecting the community to their local reserves and raising awareness of the benefits of trees and improving community health and wellbeing by connecting people to outdoor spaces

The future

The long-term impacts of Greening the West - 1 Million Trees will not be fully realised until the trees are established in 10 years, but it is already clear that urban greening projects like it offer low-cost, preventive strategies to improve community health, reduce heat stress, increase amenity and foster social cohesion.

The project has improved the quantity and quality of urban green spaces close to residents, which will assist in promoting physical activity and encouraging the use of active means of transport.

In time, the project will bring a broad range of long-term ecosystem services, such as temperature regulation, air quality improvements and carbon-dioxide sequestration, as well as improved habitat and stormwater quality.

Greening the West - 1 Million Trees will also lead to improved natural habitat for local flora and fauna species that have been lost or threatened due to urban sprawl and ecosystem fragmentation.

