

12 August 2020

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Committee Member,

The next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 19 August 2020 in the Council Chamber, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

The attached agenda is presented for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Throssell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Please Note

If an Elected Member has a query regarding a report item or requires additional information in relation to a report item, please contact the senior employee (noted in the report) prior to the meeting.



AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 19 AUGUST 2020

ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this Committee Meeting is to discuss and make recommendations to Council about items appearing on the agenda and other matters for which the Committee is responsible. The Committee has no power to make any decisions which are binding on the Council or the Shire of Mundaring unless specific delegation of authority has been granted by Council. No person should rely on or act on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Committee Meeting.

The Shire of Mundaring expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or the content of any discussion occurring during the course of the Committee Meeting.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING COMMITTEE ROOM, 7000 GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY, MUNDARING – 6.00 PM

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We wish to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

1.1 Announcement of Visitors

1.2 Attendance/Apologies

Staff Ruth Broz Minute Secretary

Apologies

Guests

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Declaration of Financial Interest and Proximity Interests

Elected Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting (Part 5 Division 6 of the Local Government Act 1995).

Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting (Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act 1995).

3.2 Declaration of Interest Affecting Impartiality

An Elected Member or an employee who has an interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting must disclose that interest (Shire of Mundaring Code of Conduct, Local Government (Admin) Reg. 34C).

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held 23 June 2020 be confirmed.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.0 REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES

6.1 Nature and Biodiversity Survey Results

File Code	EV.PRG 1
Author	Briony Moran, Coordinator Environment and Sustainability
Senior Employee	Mark Luzi, Director Statutory Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Nature and Biodiversity Survey Questions 2. Nature and Biodiversity Survey Beauty 3. Nature and Biodiversity Survey Beauty 4. The state of t
	2. Nature and Biodiversity Survey Results J.

SUMMARY

A Nature and Biodiversity Survey was conducted to inform the delivery of current environmental services and review of the Local Biodiversity Strategy.

Findings are summarised for the consideration of the committee.

BACKGROUND

Survey questions were developed by Shire environmental staff (see Attachment 1) to gather information about how people engage with nature, where they look for biodiversity information and conservation activities on private land. The survey was limited to only 10 questions to encourage participation.

Shire residents were encouraged to complete the Nature and Biodiversity Survey between 5 June (World Environment Day) and 12 July 2020. 104 responses were received.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Improving understanding of residents engagement with nature relates to each of the community principles of the Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy:

- 3.1. The Shire recognises that healthy ecosystems and well-managed natural areas support the health and well-being of the community, and the Shire will strive to lead by example as a responsible custodian of public environmental assets.
- 3.2. The Shire seeks to build and maintain effective partnerships to promote environmental awareness, responsible natural resource management and sustainable lifestyles.
- 3.3.Information will be made available for schools and residents on sustainability and local environmental issues through publications, talks, workshops and other mediums.
- 3.4. The Shire encourages enjoyment, environmental stewardship and care of natural areas by residents and community groups.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 2 - Natural Environment

Objective 2.1 – Protecting natural areas and biodiversity

Strategy 2.1.1 – Pursue revegetation and address weeds and other threats to native flora and fauna in partnership with Friends Groups, the wider community, government and non-government organisations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Engaging residents in biodiversity conservation has social and environmental benefits.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The survey was promoted via social media each week of the survey period, including being shared with the very popular Backyard Biodiversity short video. It was also mentioned in a radio interview about the video with an encouragement for listeners in the Shire of Mundaring to complete the survey.

The survey was also promoted in a Shire feature page in the local newspaper (Echo) and in a news section of the Chidlow Chatter. Links to the survey were also sent via emails to some Shire mailing lists including the residents and ratepayers groups. There were 104 community responses to the survey from a range of locations, listed in the comment section below.

The survey was not promoted directly to Friends Groups members as they are already involved in reserve management, highly engaged with biodiversity issues and would have potentially distorted the results. Although there was a minor prize (\$50 gift card) to provide an incentive to complete the survey, it is still to be expected that people with a stronger interest in nature would be more likely to complete the survey.

The results should not be taken as representative of the broader Shire community but still provide some indication of activities undertaken by local residents to engage with or care for nature, and suggestions for Shire activities to support biodiversity conservation.

COMMENT

The survey responses are detailed in Attachment 2 and summarised below.

1. Where do you usually go to enjoy the natural environment? You can choose more than one answer.

The majority of respondents did choose more than one answer, with 93% including 'my backyard' as one of their responses. Four respondents (3.8%) identified other people's backyards / private property. Railway Heritage Trails were chosen by 66% as a place they go to enjoy the natural environment. More than 50% of respondents selected National Park, Lake Leschenaultia, and Local Nature Reserve. 30% chose Local Park or Oval, and 24% chose Café/Venue with Natural Setting.

2. What are the main activities you or your family do in nature, and what benefits do you notice?

The most common activity was walking/hiking, listed by 88% of respondents. Other commonly reported activities were cycling (29%), gardening (19%), photography (11%, often mentioning wildflowers) and picnicking (13%).

The most frequently listed benefits were mental health and relaxation (44%) and a sense of understanding or connectedness from observing nature and wildlife. Physical health was listed as a benefit by 25% of respondents.

3. What would encourage more people to use local parks and walk trails to connect to nature and improve their health?

The most common response to this question was better maps and promotion of trails (27%) followed by better trail identification signage (19%). Interpretive signage for landmarks, historic information or flora and fauna was suggested by 17%. Events and/or guided walks were suggested by 13% of respondents.

Better tracks (including smoother, flatter or better drained) were suggested by 14% while better access to tracks by providing additional parking was identified by 8%. Rest points, benches or picnic tables were suggested by 9% and water taps or fountains by 5%. Several people suggested bins, lights, exercise equipment, playground equipment or sculptures.

4. Where would you look for information about the natural environment? You can choose more than one answer.

The most common response to this question was online search (84%). Just over 40% listed Shire website, social media, or neighbours/friends (between 41-43%). Books or state agencies were each listed by 37% of respondents, while 35% said they would look for a brochure or information sheet. The library was listed by 20% and 17% would look for information from a volunteer organisation. People who listed 'other' specified radio programs, local experts and on-site signage within reserves.

5. What kind of information would help more people care for the local natural environment?

Information on how to identify and look after native flora / fauna was suggested by 24% of respondents. Events or workshops with local experts were mentioned by 15%, with the same number suggesting information about wildlife friendly gardens or using native plants. 14% suggested using social media to share information, including stories with positive role models or challenges to collect weeds or litter. 5% suggested the local paper for sharing stories or information. 12% recommended signage on trails and reserves about local flora and fauna. 8% suggested more videos with activities to follow. Smaller numbers of respondents suggested images and information about the impacts of litter and cats on wildlife, and promotion of local environmental volunteering.

6. Have you done any of these at home to make it better or safer for wildlife? You can choose more than one action. (We haven't included providing food as this can cause problems and is not normally recommended by wildlife experts.)

The most common responses to this question were providing water (93%), planting local native species (86%) and retaining mature trees or bushland areas (83%). Over two thirds (70%) said they had put down rocks or logs for small animals to hide. 63% said they contained dogs or cats and 35% said they had installed native bee or insect hotels. Nesting boxes had been installed by 20% of respondents. 19% said they had taken some action to control feral animals and 6% had undertaken some dieback

treatment. Respondents who listed 'other' actions mostly listed weed control, with several making structures for quenda to hide in and one listing rescue of injured wildlife.

7. Unfortunately our native plants and animals face a range of threats. These include weeds, introduced plant diseases like dieback, feral animals, a drying climate with longer bushfire seasons, and loss of animals that pollinate plants or spread seeds. What do you think landowners find the most difficult to deal with and what could the Shire do to help?

The difficult issues for landowners listed by the most respondents were weeds (26%) and finding the right balance between nature and bushfire safety (23%). 17% thought that foxes and other feral animals were difficult for landowners to manage, with 15% specifically mentioning cats (mainly roaming domestic cats). 11% thought that dieback was difficult for landowners to manage.

Many of the suggestions for how the Shire could help included more accessible information on the Shire website, social media or in print form. Areas where information was considered lacking or hard to find included identifying weeds or pests; identifying native plants; gardening or revegetation with native plants; identifying dieback; and appropriate bushfire risk reduction and burning off practices. There were several suggestions for more active assistance including visits from environmental officers to properties or streets; discounts or incentives for landcare activities; or direct assistance with work (machinery and staff). 9% specifically listed free native seedlings or the former Tree Canopy and Understorey Program, which is now called Seedlings for Landcare and limited to rural zoned properties.

8. Some nature reserves contain rare plants or animals, or sensitive natural areas. Do you think it would be acceptable for the Shire to fence or restrict public access to some areas or reserves, if it was the best way to protect biodiversity?

The majority of responses supported fencing of nature reserves if necessary to protect biodiversity. 63% gave unqualified support for fencing, with a further 22% supporting fencing provided that there was also explanatory signage, or communication of the reason, or maintenance of some public access. Some supported fencing of part of reserves to leave walk trails free.

8% of respondents thought that fencing of reserves was not appropriate, with some giving reasons including vandalism, lack of visibility of the bushland, and restricting fauna movement. Several responded with 'maybe' or 'not sure'.

9. Which suburb or area are you from?

Bailup/Wooroloo	4
Bellevue	1
Boya	2
Chidlow	5
Darlington	8
Glen Forrest	5
Greenmount	4
Helena Valley	5
Hovea	1
Mahogany Creek	7
Mount Helena	12
Mundaring	12
Parkerville	10
Sawyers Valley	4
Stoneville	17

Swan View	5
Not a Shire Resident	2
Total	104

10. Suggestions for environmental talks and workshops

Respondents could enter their email address if they wanted to join the Shire's environmental events mailing list and make suggestions for future topics. 77 respondents requested to join the mailing list and a range of topic suggestions were received including native plants and gardening for biodiversity (most common); landcare skills; fauna conservation; burning for biodiversity and Indigenous burning practices; and hands-on workshops to make nesting boxes and bee hotels.

Conclusions

As noted in the External Consulation section above, the survey respondents would have self-selected to some extent based on an interest in nature. The results should not be assumed to represent the broader Shire community. However they do provide an interesting indication of activities undertaken by local residents to engage with or care for nature, and suggestions for Shire activities to support biodiversity. In particular the survey results highlighted areas that landowners found difficult, or were seeking information.

Walking was by far the most commonly reported activity for connecting to nature, with people listing mental and physical health benefits. The majority of suggestions for encouraging more people to spend time in nature related to walk trails rather than parks. Some suggested improvements would require physical works (trail surface improvements, signage, benches etc.) while others related to promotion and producing maps and guides to local flora and fauna. The Mundaring Visitor's Centre has an ongoing 'Trails Tuesday' promotion of existing trails using social media, but no current capacity to map new trails.

The survey results have been provided to Shire staff in relevant service areas and there may be opportunities to seek grant funding to support some improvements to mapping and signage for trails (both trail markings and interpretive signage with information about flora, fauna, landmarks or local history). There may be opportunities in some locations to integrate signage into rest points, sculptural pieces or water stations.

The majority of respondents saw their property or backyard as a place to connect to nature and many showed interest in enhancing its habitat value. The matters that respondents thought were the hardest for landowners to manage were weeds, feral animals, dieback and appropriate bushfire risk management. These are issues that should be addressed in development of the Local Biodiversity Strategy. Common activities already undertaken by respondents to provide or improve habitat can inform initiatives to encourage or support other residents to improve backyard biodiversity, such as 'water for wildlife' messages.

Many of the suggestions for how the Shire could help included providing local information on flora, fauna and management of threats. Common suggestions for topics to cover included weed and native plant identification. The Shire already provides two free books on native plants, a free book on weed identification and control, and a weedy wattles information sheet (all available in printed form or online). The survey findings support the need for these resources but suggest that awareness of them is low, and perhaps they are not easy to find on the Shire website. The Shire's website is currently under review and this will be addressed.

Other areas where information was thought to be lacking included identifying native fauna; identifying and managing pest animals; identifying dieback; and appropriate bushfire risk reduction and burning off practices. There are some existing printed and online materials

and Shire services relating to dieback and bushfire fuel loads. Respondents suggested sharing information in a range of ways – information sheets, videos, social media, local paper, events and guided walks, and hands-on workshops. The findings confirm that residents seek information in a different mediums, from traditional printed materials to short videos shared online. Shire staff will continue to develop and deliver environmental education using a range of formats, including material to help residents identify local fauna.

There were several suggestions for more active assistance including visits from environmental officers. Site specific advice and assistance is limited by staff time and resources, and effort is currently prioritised toward sites with development proposals to inform plans and limit unneccessary clearing. Landowners can be provided with existing materials (including dieback information sheet, weed identification booklet and Landscape and Revegetation Guidelines), but there are few materials to help residents identify local fauna and their habitat requirements. Learning more about native fauna may encourage greater enjoyment and ongoing care of natural areas on private property as well as reserves.

The results from the survey will help direct delivery of environmental education services and inform the development of the Local Biodiversity Strategy.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the results of the Nature and Biodiversity Survey.



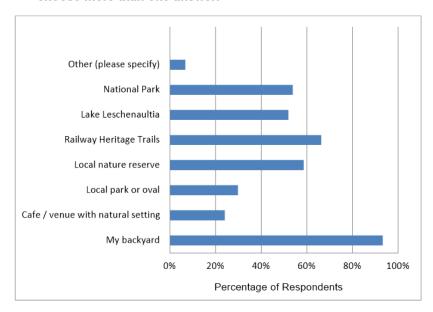
Title: Nature and Biodiversity Survey 2020

Activ	rities in nature
0.1	Where do you usually go to enjoy the natural environment? You can choose more than one answer. My backyard Cafe / venue with natural setting Local park or oval Local nature reserve Railway Heritage Trails Lake Leschenaultia National Park Other (please specify)
).2	What are the main activities you or your family do in nature, and what benefits do you notice?
Jnfoy	What would encourage more people to use local parks and walk trails to connect to nature and improve their health? The state of the st
	Macion about nature Where would you look for information about the natural environment? You can choose more than one answer
).4	Books Library Brochure or information sheet Shire website State agency (e.g. Parks and Wildlife Service) Volunteer organisation Online search Social media Neighbours or friends Other (please specify)
).5	What kind of information would help more people care for the local natural environment?

Main	taining biodiversity
Q.6	Have you done any of these at home to make it better or safer for wildlife? You can choose more than one action. (We haven't included providing food as this can cause problems and is not normally recommended by wildlife experts.) Fill bird baths or water dishes
Q.7 Q.8	Unfortunately our native plants and animals face a range of threats. These include weeds, introduced plant diseases like dieback, feral animals, a drying climate with longer bushfire seasons, and loss of animals that pollinate plants or spread seeds. What do you think landowners find the most difficult to deal with and what could the Shire do to help? Some nature reserves contain rare plants or animals, or sensitive natural areas. Do you think it would be acceptable for the Shire to fence or restrict public access to some areas or reserves, if it was the best way to protect biodiversity?
Q.9	Which suburb or area are you from? Bailup / Wooroloo Beechina / The Lakes Bellevue Boya Chidlow Darlington Glen Forrest Gorrie / Malmalling Greenmount Helena Valley Hovea Mahogany Creek Midvale Mount Helena Mundaring Parkerville Sawyers Valley Stoneville Swan View
Q.10	Not a Shire of Mundaring resident Are you interested in joining the Shire's environmental talks and workshops mailing list? If you would like to be notified of upcoming events, please enter your email address below. If you have an idea for a particular topic please write that down too.

Nature and Biodiversity Survey 2020 Results

1. Where do you usually go to enjoy the natural environment? You can choose more than one answer.



'Other' locations included other people's private properties (4) State Forest (2), Quarry, and Swan River.

2. What are the main activities you or your family do in nature, and what benefits do you notice?

Walk. Photograph plants, pull out weeds.

Go for walks just to keep fit and healthy emotionally and physically.

Walking and bike riding - better moods! Stress release

Bushwalking. It's relaxes me and is good for mental health

Bush walk, ride bikes, swim at the lake, kayak

Walking and cycling. Good for toddlers to burn off energy and social whilst there have been restrictions on socialising

Just wandering around looking at things letting the kids have some freedom to find things

Walking, encourage my children to explore off the path, look at animals tracks, ants nest, creek bed

Walking the heritage trails, getting fresh air, exercise and enjoying the serenity of the surrounding bush. Watching the Quenda's in the backyard.

Walking the dog, running for fitness, cycling to work or enjoying a takeaway coffee from a nearby cafe at Darlington Oval. Each of these activities are good for de-stressing, improving mental and physical health or commuting to get to a community hub or workplace.

Walking/hiking, picnic

Mental health benefits, fitness

where I'm allowed, I walk the dogs, canoe at Lake Leschenaultia & we love picnics in the bush ie. Berry Reserve - it makes u feel refreshed & as if your batteries have been recharged

Walks, photography, education

Bush Walking, benefit is interest in nature, and exercise.

We walk the dog on the railway heritage trail every day. Our 6 month old son comes along too. We see a lot of native animals, which is great for all of us.

We like to spend time at home. We have planted only native plants on our block.

We also like to go for a drive. Just through the bush, around Chidlow, Mount Helena, Gidgeganup, with the windows down.

walking, just being outdoors

Walking

Gardening

Finding Wildflowers

Walk/run

Walking, cycling, kayaking, swimming, camping, animal and plant recognition

Walking, pointing out different wildlife and sounds to children. Makes us happy and children engaged and excited

Maintain the garden. Encourages wildlife.

Walk on the trail.

Picnics, walks with dogs, bike riding, walks

walk, watch bird-life, see flora and fauna where possible

Picnic and walks

Swim, walk in our backyard of 12 acres or ride on the heritage trail. The kids love the outdoors and they explore at their own pace.

walk, take photos, sit and watch the birds in the birdbaths in my garden, chill out and read on the lawn, sit in the sun and enjoy the peace and quiet, prefer not crowded areas Peaceful, recharge my batteries

Walking and bringing our son to nature play escapes such as sculpture park or Whiteman park

Bush walking and observation.

Benefits: being in nature simply makes you feel good!

Walks, meals outdoors and play time with young son. Feel more relaxed and peaceful in nature.

Bushwalking and gardening which reduces stress levels and makes me feel more connected.

Bushwalking, mountain biking, swimming, picnics. Benefits include exercise and increases sense of wellbeing

Walking, taking the dog for a walk

Walking. I like seeing the wildlife

walk and ride

Walking in the bush. The natural beauty

Bush walks along trails, exploring, treasure hunting for railway nails. Benefits: fresh air, space, exercise, kids are energised and not bored.

Bush walks with young family. Exercise and peacefulness being with nature and outside.

Hiking + cycling

Bushwalking, mountain biking, swimming, picnics, nature photography, observation of and research on native birds, especially birds of prey. Spending time outdoors consistently makes our family feel relaxed, fit and healthy, grateful, and inspired to learn more about protecting our precious natural assets. It also makes us all in a good mood and get along well!

Walking, riding, climbing

Walking camping sitting and watching the world. It's very calming and relaxing

Walking, cycling. Has a big effect on mental and physical well-being

Walking, horse riding, feel happier & healthier

I love gardening and walking. My family also enjoy those activities as well as visiting national or local parks. My grandson loves observing nature in our backyards and at the Train Park and community garden.

Hike, Family bike ride, BBQ

Picnics, walking, gardening - feel more peaceful, love to create gardens for the kids to pick flowers or make fairy gardens, bit of exercise

Bike riding on the heritage trails, as well as bush walks in the Mundaring Shire. Our property backs onto the Glen Forrest Superblock, and we get to see visiting kangaroos as well as quendas, black cockatoos, many birds and bob tail lizards. The air is full of oxygen compared with the city (except during local burn offs!). Being in nature and watching it change throughout the seasons is good for the soul.

Mountain biking, hiking and dog walking.

Staying active leads to a better healthier lifestyle. Enjoying nature

Bike riding, walking the dog

Gardening

Walking the rail tunnel track

We like going for bush walks in John Forrest and up to swan view tunnel. Sitting in our front yard overlooking the new lake across the road as the sun sets.

get to be in touch with the local fauna.

There's nothing better than seeing my 4 year old son outside kicking a ball or climbing up a tree. The mental and physical health benefits of being in nature is great

Picnicking, birdwatching and looking for and photographing wildflowers.

I walk with the Perth's Hills Walking Group.

I run on the Trails and Cycle.

I go for walks on the Trails with my family.

The air is fresh. Smelling the plants is lovely especially after the rain. Taking photos of the Wild Flowers.

Bush walking, gardening, horse riding

Walking our 2 dogs on the bridle trail most days or local parks. Health benefits from the exercise and fresh air for all of us. We can see plenty of wildflowers on our walks.

We love to watch the local wildlife exploring our yard and local parks. We laugh together and connect by watching baby magpies swinging on branches, and quenda babies leaping around and digging for fungi and insects. We also love to listen to the sounds of the birds singing. This brings us closer together as a family and our kids closer to nature.

Walking on trails - Exercise, relaxation, less anxiety, talking as a family.

Swimming at the lake - exercise, wearing kids out, socialisation, skin and hair feel cleaner and healthier after a swim in the clean water.

Walking/swimming dogs at Lake Susannah - family activity and good for pets

Visit Mojo - socialisation

Backyard and National Parks/reserves, observe nature and wildlife, kids motor skills and wellbeing Gardening and veggie patch - wellbeing and nutrition

Cycling On trails - exercise and transport, wish there was safer connection to more local streets Sports and dogs at parks/ovals - kids love playgrounds, enjoy shady open space with friends, dog socialisation (wish there were more fenced dog parks)

Wildflower and landscape photography - fun and educational

Events in parks or Kookaburra theatre - we prefer outdoor public events in nature to crowded and expensive city events

Nature is cheaper to enjoy, safer in COVID, better for health.

Walking, for the relaxation, exercise, observation and enjoyment of the natural environment

Hiking and overnight walks. It's great to get back to nature and just enjoy being amongst some amazing places, mental health number one :)

Bushwalking, makes us relax

Walking, enjoying the flowers and bush smells. Finding new plants and insects we haven't seen before

Walking/swimming/planting and bike riding. Feel a togetherness. Everyone is in a good mood; relaxed

At home plant small trees and look after garden. Good for relaxing and the mind.

Walking/ Hiking, lots of gardening. Talking to and observing wildlife, eg. magpies, bandicoots.

We gather together, grandchildren play, family use cycles, scooters etc., we walk

Ramble and observe

Bush walks, engagement with flora and fauna. Observing birds, lizards, Quenda in backyard

Walking. Checking out the plants - especially once the spring flowers come out. Good for health, physical and mental.

Walking, cycling, gardening, just being. Better flexibility, stamina (health), clearer mind, rejuvenated, rested/peaceful

Gardening and work around the home. Good fitness and prompts us to learn more about our surroundings and Shire

Walk or picnic. Generally works as a de-stressor. Encourages me to appreciate where I live and not to take it for granted.

Walk or watch wildlife, insect, flora fauna. Enjoy the peace and space.

Orchid photography, wildflower photography, bushwalking and camping, occasionally.

Walk or cycle, have a picnic. I feel refreshed and happier after spending time in nature. I find my toddler is happier being outside as well, and enjoys picking up rocks/leaves etc and looking at insects and other animals. He seems to be more able to concentrate and focus (without adult input) when he's outside compared to inside

Walking to dog , bush walks , Spending time at the lake and just sitting in the yard listening to the birds

Camping

Walk enjoy the nature and talking about what we see with kids

Walking and riding.

Wellbeing and mental health benefits

Walking enjoying the birds plants and flowers

sitting or walking

Walking along the trails. Gardening in back yard.

Meditate, walk, observe, photography. Helps me in my spiritual path and also keeps me balanced as I have a high pressure job.

Dog walking daily in the local Alp St Reserve or along the railway heritage trail. Horse riding likewise. Weekly walks with Perth Hills Walking Group

walking/bike riding..... we get peace, tranquillity, fitness, reset the body.

relaxing, walking

Walking the dog, Planting local endemic plants in backyard (5 acres) to encourage birds and wildlife. Started to notice Quenda diggings and the odd Quenda recently (only babies). Learning more about birds that are around and from the calls starting to know which ones are visiting

Hiking and cycling

Stargazing, birdwatching, wildflower photos. It is always fascinating watching the local flora & fauna

walks, photography, picnics

enhanced emotional well being, appreciation of biodiversity, understanding of interconnectedness

Walking

Walking and bike riding

Fitness and improves mental health

Picnics, walking and cycling. Refreshing and a good mental health break too.

Cycling-Walking enjoying open space and fresh air

Hiking, running, nature walk with the grandkids. It helps the next generation to love unstandardised & appreciate how important it is to look after nature

Garden. De-stress

Walk dogs, kayaking

Working the garden. Walking. Peace of mind

Enjoy seasonal Flora, sometimes Fauna. Various cockatoos, Pink & Greys, honeyeaters, bandycoots, etc.

Exciting, satisfying, and relaxing.

Gardening, observing, encouraging quenda (bandicoots) and birds.

Ponds for frogs, water baths for birds, plant native plants and remove invasive plants - all increase wildlife activity

Gardening, walking, swimming. Benefits are exercise and connection to nature and the mental health and space that creates

bush walking

Mountain bike riding and how great the trails we have here in the hills

3. What would encourage more people to use local parks and walk trails to connect to nature and improve their health?

Depends - too crowded sometimes ruins the ambience. Depends on behaviour. Some bike riders go too fast

Holding events everyone can come to socialise.

More available parking spaces near heritage trails

A map of the local walking trails. A booklet about the native bird/wildlife species and plants

Guided walks perhaps?

Better signage and information on local walks and footpaths. Have lived in the hills for 3 years and struggle to know where are local walks are other than the heritage trail

Artwork. Have some art installations along the trail to find similar to https://www.pembertonvisitor.com.au/understory-sculpture-walk-northcliffe

Easier access?

I believe better promotion of the fantastic nature facilities that are already available in the Shire of Mundaring. That can be through a number of methods such as partnering with other local governments on cycling tourism, better signage and more prominent recognition through state tourism promotions. Shire of Mundaring is essentially the closest forest area outside of Kings Park and we could use this to our advantage to attract more visitors in the future.

More promotion of their existence and location, particularly the trails.

I think posts on social media with pictures and information about walk trails in the local area (map of the trail, difficulty, length/time and some photos of the trail)

just ensuring they're pram/wheelchair/walking frame friendly with benches to rest on along the way - more information tags that let people know what kinds of birds/animals can be found in that area - if paths need to be paved, use the road base that matches the area ie. red pebble base not bitumen (yuck) - some composting toilets too

Local initiatives to showcase what is available in the Perth Hills and the benefits of understanding the importance of our natural environment.

Sign posting bush walks, offering occasional direction markers to major landmarks or escape roads. Getting lost is people biggest fear.

Better quality tracks on walk trails.

Marketing, maps and information

Dog friendly areas perhaps

Yes

Adequate parking. Clean toilets. Family friendly (safe for young children but also interesting/challenging enough for older kids and adults)

Organised fun days at different spots, to raise awareness they are there

level paths

Better quality paths, gravel to be maintained as it is very slippery especially for elderly

walk brochures like Kalamunda have

Better trail maintenance and picnic areas with tables and bbqs

If they tried it once i think they'd try it again. So an exposure through a group activity?

walking trails - info boards, an app on their phone - interactive so that information about plants, animals and history is available for the area

Have more time to do so. My son gets most of his nature play at his daycare whilst myself and his dad are working.

Parking, signage, water fountain/tap

Yes, less screen time more green time! Good for the mind!

First hand experience- ie being invited by someone who understands the benefits.

More footpaths on roads leading to reserves eg Walker Rd and Stevens St leading to Black cockatoo reserve, more interp re flora and fauna, heritage on trails, less dogs off leash.

Good tracks, maybe more signed trails like in John Forrest. My friend and would love to do like ~10 to 15 kilometre walks, but it is hard to know in different parts of the hill how long it will take and tracks are not well signed.

Solar Lights

Greater awareness of the improvements, accessibility and location of the parks and walk trails in the area. As a Hills resident for 40 years I am still finding easily accessible and enjoyable area I had no idea existed.

Periodic events. Guided bush walks.

Something that caters for everyone. Accessibility, signs with interesting facts, rest stops, viewing benches. Community groups... all things that are already out there. Maybe more nature hunts or orienteering type activities.

Charity walks, local tours

Easy access to trail guides online

This is a very difficult question to answer because I don't feel I have my finger on the pulse of what 'more people want'! However my feeling is the most effective means to encourage people to head outdoors is creating access to parks, providing new information through interpretative signage, and possibly an increase in local activities such as guided walks.

Good weather

Maybe a separate path for cyclists

Accessibility

A brain transplant. I will never understand why more people don't enjoy the bush but I've read that, historically, there have been long periods in which people in various cultures have hated and distrusted the natural environment. I used to think everyone felt the same overwhelmingly positive vibes from getting out in the bush but, alas, some simply don't notice the bush and some have a real problem with it. Some are 'bushphobic.'

Parking at strategically placed entrance points along the trail.

I would be interested in activities organised by the shire that would teach me about our local area, ie nature walks including some nocturnal ones, to learn more about the flora and fauna. Also local history, particularly Aboriginal history of the area. This would open up educational opportunities for young Aboriginals to engage with the community and teach us about their culture. Maybe family days that could finish with a sausage sizzle. I have been impressed with the increased use of the Train park by families and I think that is because of the improvements by the shire and the work at the community garden.

so good for u

We are enjoying the car park at the arena at the moment as there isn't many open safe places for kids to learn to ride bikes and scooters that are big areas. Even just big dirt (not paved areas). Hunting for fairy homes on the trees gets my kids out hunting too:) there is a little painted yellow door on a tree near the bmx area near Kalamunda on mundaring weir road that my kids like to stop and look at. As an adult I would love a native flower trail

Better signage. Little kids can last a lot longer on a walk when there is something close to look forward to, eg. educational signs. The ones in the GF Superblock are poorly maintained, missing, and I have no idea where the trail and little mini trails go, and how long the walk is estimated to take. The signage needs to be entertaining/educational, give accurate information about distance between key stops and estimated time to get wherever, easiness of the walking, wheelchair access etc. There is a lot of historical information signage around the heritage trail near the tunnel, which I love, but that's about it.

Better sign posted and maintained trails more promotion of parks and trails in the local shire

Placards explaining different plants that can be seen.

Let them know they are there. So many people don't know what's on our doorstep

A water tap to refill on those long trails. Regular park clean ups and checking the playground sand

Local neighbourhood footpaths and more trails

Advertising on local TV how beautiful it is. Bring back the Trek to Trail again.

More bridle paths and on lead dog walking areas

Maybe more plantings of local native vegetation alone the trails and around the parks. Sculpture Park could benefit from more native vegetation. I notice the walk we do at John Morgan Park in Glen Forrest has new indigenous plants being put in by volunteers. Very impressed by her hard work. We stopped and chatted to her and she explained the importance of the plants she was putting in. Θ

Maybe information signs with pictures of local wildlife and landmarks with descriptions.

Better connection of neighbourhoods with footpaths to trails and parks.

Regular local outdoor seasonal events and more night markets in summer.

Shire sponsored movies on occasion at Kookaburra.

Clean, well-maintained toilets in more locations.

A greater diversity of playground age ranges including teenage activities like climbing walls, parkour, fixed table tennis, handball walls. Also exercise equipment for adults and mobility activities for elderly.

Friendship seats in parks.

Access to clean drinking water in more locations.

Free talks or kids activities in nature

Simon Cherriman's video is a cracker, every child should see this. Maybe provide it to the schools? And more school excursions into our parks and bushlands. Shire run holiday programmes restoring

habitat for families

Also, often this time of year the air pollution from people burning off is terrible and a deterrent to being outdoors. I suggest a restriction on burning days to 2 or 3 a week, so there are a number of smoke free days to enjoy.

It's all about getting to know your own backyard and what's just around the corner, encouraging people to explore the bush and just enjoy the moment. It's all about education and people aren't aware or choose to ignore the health benefits. But maybe more family oriented group walks to show people what's on offer.

Information about the environment

Water points for dogs. The railway heritage trail on mahogany side needs grading. More areas to sit along the way for elders.

Events and word of mouth. Activities like bike track at Lake Lesch.

control trail bikes, put in some seating.

More signage, shorter trails for more achievable goals for newbies to the hiking experience.

Only being able to influence their belief that there is joy to be had and that physical exercise and nature together is a double blessing.

Trail brochures with info, including photos, on flora and fauna likely to be seen; organised walks e.g. bird id, botany, fungi, history with knowledgeable person

Advertising walk trails, signage, information on an app

Maybe advertising aimed at children to inspire them to get parents to take them into the bush etc. Printed material they can download for a 'treasure hunt' of things to look for, with written info about that plant or animal.

More rubbish bins - especially near reserves. Also more access to dog poo bags, not just at bigger parks. Signage - historic facts to connect to a place, biological regarding flora and fauna in the area (especially indigenous cultural links), more sustainable infrastructure (worm/composting toilets)

Better walk paths, clearly labelled and easy to see. Rest stations or feature points along the way

Maybe water fountains on the bridle path

Schools to provide students info on local flora and fauna incorporate in studies our local wildlife and first Australians respect for environment

More workshops for residents to respect and protect the land become guardians.

Instilling a sense of wonder and curiosity in children, getting people to away from their gadgets. Not sure if we want extra carparks.

I don't know! I think the nature play app has some good ideas (like nature bingo) but I haven't used it a lot. Perhaps things like geocaching or some sort of nature based scavenger hunt would encourage people to get out and spend time in nature

I think most people Are very visual . Videos / photos of local walks flora and fauna on social media of our local area. I think people are looking for more time out in nature especially during isolation and with covid going on

Free access to national parks

Signage with explanations of local animal and plants so can learn as walk.

Nature play playgrounds at picnic spots.

More amenities and walk trails

More easily followed and marked trails

Maybe education

Local advertising of the area.

Cafe, guides, activity such as hiking with a club. Meditation groups, yoga

With the walking group the members love to be able to enjoy a good cup of coffee and use toilet facilities nearby

publicised trails, maybe marked with colours along the trails to guide people, that show length etc... signs that explain some of the flora and fauna they might see.

I have no idea

Better walk trails that are easy to navigate - not having rocks to climb over or water logged in the winter. Walk trails I also mean walk trails a few trails are great but too many cyclists also use them and some trails should be restricted to walkers or joggers not bikes.

Interactive trails

Not sure.

more parking near heritage trail, include trail maps in Echo

People like Simon could do walking tours. Facilities like a kiosk at some venues for coffee etc.

Send Simon around the local schools

Parents should already be encouraging their kids as this being the reason to live in the area in the first place.

More guide tours & more promotion of the health benefits of connecting with nature

If more trails were available

Less regulations, motorbikes banned

Keeping them as natural as possible. Enjoying the 'bush orchestra' and being in nature's lounge room.

More or better fit for purpose signage. Parking. Seating at strategic locations.

Elderly people, such as myself, like lots of spots to sit down and just enjoy the ambience after a leisurely walk.

Maybe place natural play-areas near or along major attractions such as the railway reserves

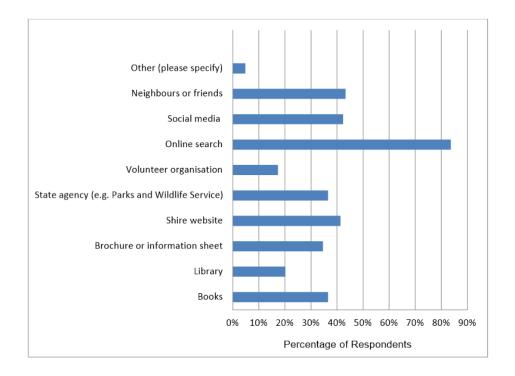
Trail end points at cafes, ability to take dogs on leash

walking through self guided tracks

COVID!!! Sad but true.

Understanding the many trails already available and linking these up to destination /tourist points of interest

4. Where would you look for information about the natural environment? You can choose more than one answer.



5. What kind of information would help more people care for the local natural environment?

By having information about caring for the natural environment on social media so the younger generation can learn.

Education on local flora and fauna and what to do to look after it

Perhaps encourage people to adopt a cleanup spot for litter, make a fb community environment group

Again, connection with local experts

More information on wildlife friendly gardens and reputable stores and trades that can assist

Weekly FB post animal of the week/month? Plant of the week

Maybe a live feed video in a secret locale where animals get water..?

Pictures

Any information that gives the flora and fauna some context. It's historic indigenous uses and where else it can be found for example.

Promotion of local environmental groups and the work that they do and how people can become involved

Education on what can be done in our own backgardens, what native species are best to use for the local area

pointing out how everything helps/interacts with other plants/animals - show the damage/death that littering can cause

Education on how important it is for the native wildlife and overall environment.

Social media posts are very good, in prompting people to look for different flora and fauna. Signage on or around certain sites, similar to Strettle Road block prompts people to be more aware.

Laws preventing cats from roaming free with tougher fines. Cats and wild rabbits have just about pushed our quenda population out. We have done everything we can to keep them in our yard. We have tried trapping. Domestic cats are hard to trap as they aren't starving, they just want to catch little mammals for sport. We are waiting for myxomatosis to kill the wild rabbits.

spelling out what they would lose and maybe telling them what is there to begin with.

Gardening groups

Guided tours at the parks and walk trails

2

Understanding the complexity of the ecosystem and how urbanization has made this difficult for a lot of plant and animal species. Show how simple it can be to make changes and that every bit of positive change does make a difference

Information boards with pictures to name common plants, birds, wildlife seen in at area they are using. Also local history of area.

Where to obtain local plant species.

Info about sustainability in their home and back yard

brochures and information sheets

Maps showing threatened areas and clear walking trails

Awareness.. through social media? Brochures in letterbox?

workshops, get people hands on - kids making bee hotels

How we can care for our environment in our own backyard. Information packs/resources/videos for families of things to do with their children (like what was in the shire video about making a pond from a plant pot). Could also have some engagement of these on social media such as 'post a photo of you backyard plant pot pond' for example.

Info about how most species of fauna are not actually dangerous and what to do if bitten by a snake.

Learning about the importance of native flora and fauna, the destruction from introduced species, the local Noongar knowledge, especially of the local Noongar seasons and traditional uses of plants

Specific actions that are helpful, or specific events that could be run online. E.g. photo competition (post photos online) of a full bag of rubbish picked up in local park.

Understanding the complexity and need for biodiversity in ecosystems

More articles in the local paper re how to avoid negatively impacting native animals and plants and practical solutions to issues like possums in roofs (We have installed nesting boxes and are using lights in the roof as a deterrent), also installing rat poison in baiting stations that possums can't access. Highlight one reserve each week re what lives there, why it's important etc.

When arriving in Australia 10 years ago we followed some free workshops for gardening and birds, waste management, that gave us a good perspective what is important in this different natural environment. And we definitely take even more care.

More tip passes maybe?

increased awareness of the existence of local fauna and flora in the location

Positive stories about how we are conserving and looking after our biodiversity. Influential role models

Pictures, short easy practical ideas/strategies like the video that was offered at the start of this survey. Fun hands on activities and events that speak to caring for the environment.

Videos shared on social media

Rodent baiting techniques that cause minimal chance of causing secondary poisoning or that target the wrong species.

I feel two key themes are missing from publicity about the environment:

- 1) Emphasis of the huge role a healthy environment plays in influencing human health.
- 2) Emphasis of the huge damage seemingly small actions (e.g. litter) can cause to environmental (and human) health.

More bins

Better quality info. For example the Hakea laurina image used on this questionaire is not local to the Shire of Mundaring- it is from the Sth Coast so could not be considered part of local biodiversity. It is things like this that really annoy me. If you are going to do something at least get it right and pay attention to detail

Being shown how is it is to care for the local environment and how important it is

Education, understanding how connected everything is. Something to help them get over their fear of nature.

Plant & animal identification sign-boards along the trail or at parking spots.

I think it always comes down to education and awareness. I've lived in the hills for 35 years and have observed a better awareness of the impact of thing like cats, invasive plants and protecting habitat that wildlife need. I would love some education evenings at the shire on these subjects to learn more myself especially with regard to what plants to put in my garden. I watched Simons video, it was very informative and some school holiday activities incorporating ideas like that would be a great way to educate the next generation.

Having greater knowledge of the effects of rubbish and misuse

Information about why it's important (specific) and tips via social media. Challenges with a #phrase and selfie on social media of the people implementing the tips / advice and challenge to get the word out to people

I'd like to know all the different animals that inhabit our area....where I can find an echidna or emu....what are all those wildflowers that I see at different times called?...what bush plants are edible?...where is the nearest bin? doggy bags? What kind of nesting boxes dimensions are good for the different species around here?

Simple everyday ways to reduce human impact on the local environment

Education for younger people about not littering. Maybe EHSHS could do rubbish pick up as the rubbish around there is terrible.

Also encouraging people to compost at home to minimise landfill

Signs of what wildlife live in that area and a description of said animal

Understanding the importance and uniqueness of the flora and fauna

Articles in the Echo on how and when to plant plants, shrubs to attract wildlife into their properties.

Infographics and information on social media

People should know the benefits of planting local plants rather than roses. Local plants give shelter & food to our native wildlife.

Information about the damage caused by cats allowed to roam around and kill native wildlife, including pictures of cats carrying native wildlife in their mouths. That's what we see in our yard here in Lesmurdie unfortunately with neighbourhood cats (we don't have a cat or dog here). We see tiny defenceless quendas and birds killed by cats, who go home later to eat dinner and don't need to hunt for food.

The impact of loss of biodiversity on them and their families 'imagine the world without...'

Identification guides for kids and non-scientists to get to know nature.

Gardening activities like community gardens - people share knowledge.

Free talks and holiday activities in nature.

Shire sponsored environment projects involving local schools, businesses and community groups. Tree canopy program but also accompany with native planting skills sessions esp. for larger free plant allocations.

Sessions on planting gardens and maintaining blocks for bushfire safety - balance nature and risk. More tourism info and activities about nature in the community lift the public profile of the values.

Again, need to start with the school kids and projects to engage their whole families.

It all comes down to education and understanding nature, the more people get out; explore and enjoy nature the more they will respect the environment. I personally think more school groups should be utilising what we have on offer in our hills and education for the kids on bush survival and environmental respect.

Getting to know the names of plants and animals

Consequences of it not being there. Info about how many different flora and fauna species are actually there like story of young kid in echo newspaper who lives in Parkerville. Maybe Simon Cherriman having a regular feature on shire Facebook page, or Eric Mccrum.

Impacts of bad behaviour- pictures of animals affected etc.

Try to get more children involved, so that they can teach their parents.

A competition. Like a trail find your way competition. Find a certain flower or a granite outcrop etc.

Information which increases their appreciation of how vital the natural environment is to our well being and how essential it is to care for it.

information sessions with locally made videos on wildlife/botany/regeneration projects available from the Libraries or even shown at sessions held in local halls .. evenings, weekends - would need to be well advertised

Information on local groups, highlight what damage can be done to biodiversity from weeds and other threats

Showing people (with stark pictures) the effects of dumping of rubbish affecting animals, drying of environment therefore animals dying, removal of corridors of bush due to building projects which prevent animals moving from place to place. (last one for builders info)

Signage - historic facts to connect to a place, biological regarding flora and fauna in the area (especially indigenous cultural links), more sustainable infrastructure (worm/composting toilets)

Free workshops, pop up stalls or info booklets in the mail

Where to find flora and fauna - why it is important - but in lay terms

Give reduction in rates or incentives for property owners to protect and not clear understorey and habitat, Review fire guidelines to include protection for wildlife and habitat, landholders are over clearing ,confused and not educated in the importance of biodiversity for a healthy enviro. Employ more environmental staff , more funding for workshops like Simon's video how all of the eco system is important. Employ indigenous Australians to guide landholders of the importance of preservation. Start resolving 4wd, motorbike and land clearing issues. Allow residents to be heard who are concerned of vandalism to habitat and NP. More education in schools and more workshops. Shire also needs to address issues of clearing of sensitive areas and how it deals with general public who ring concerned, Start endangered species for landholders program where habitat trees etc can be documented and numbered to be protected, also include rd reserves etc, Get western power and others onboard to stop habitat and cockatoo nest trees being destroyed.

Names and contact numbers of local voluntary organisations. Being encouraged to adopt a patch of bush to look after.

Evidence based information about how human actions are affecting the environment and what they can do themselves to help

For the people that aren't already interested in what's going on around them, then for the others they need to feel that it will affect them personally or how they live their lives. If they don't start caring about the small things, how that can affect their homes / land / families and the bigger picture.

More local tv content

Understand if extra special animals or plants in area that need protecting. And practical advice as to how to help.

Information readily available on social media as well as at parks etc

I'd love to see information at local waterways to explain to people to not feed water birds bread.

Workshops

what is out there, bird, bug and bloom watching guides

Information about programs that help improve such as tree planting and such

Show them the impact of poor management and carelessness. Explain health benefits

Probably Facebook posts

interesting info about local area, not just general Australia

info about native animals

More knowledge and seeing the local birdlife and animals

Workshops and liaison officer

information easily available on weeds etc, landcare sessions on site, information boards

Incursions at schools

Good signage

Information boards

Education in undergrowth reduction and a greater awareness amongst residents in regard to the destruction of fire season in the event they do not pull their weight.

Organised nature walks with well informed guides

Programs

Support from the Shire when looking after areas for them - such as the GF Fire station garden. Insurance cover for the workers.

I would have thought good old fashioned Common Sense would be the answer, but some people need to be reminded not to interfere with nature, and apart from taking your rubbish home. Leave only footprints, take only photographs.

Lists of common and rare flora and fauna, and their habitat, seasonal appearance, nutrition, etc.

Habits of fauna, how to grow flora such as boronia etc.

It comes down an individuals interest and care factor

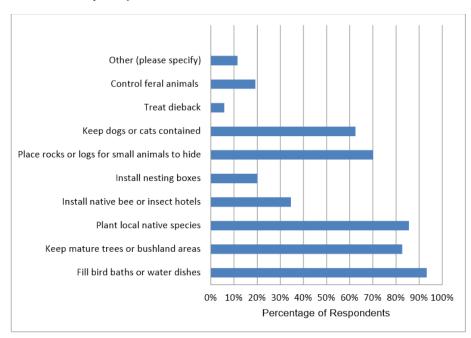
Information on weeds, appropriate local plantings for native birds and animals,

signs in parks and along trails

Better understanding of the invasive weeds and need to prevent and address these as soon as they appear. How to tips - just can't snap them off need to be dug up properly.

Send out, simple message be coordinated with the seasons -identify and target and pull up a weed today! Focus on one species that is highlighted. Keep supporting Friend Groups and use these groups to also spread the message

Have you done any of these at home to make it better or safer for wildlife?
You can choose more than one action. (We haven't included providing
food as this can cause problems and is not normally recommended by
wildlife experts.)



7. Unfortunately our native plants and animals face a range of threats. These include weeds, introduced plant diseases like dieback, feral animals, a drying climate with longer bushfire seasons, and loss of animals that pollinate plants or spread seeds. What do you think landowners find the most difficult to deal with and what could the Shire do to help?

Weeds, Weeds and more weeds!!! More effective control, Better fire management so as not to encourage weeds - ie good burning off practices teamed up with weed management. Feral animals like European Honey Bees - and not just the wild swarms. Those in beehives should not be kept in bushland/ forest as they fail to pollinate many plants and they also rip an important energy source out of the ecosystem - to the detriment of local bird, insect and mammal species.

I don't know maybe the weeds

Knowing which plants are native to the area - shire could provide this on their website so we can plant and revegetate with local natives

Have more stricter cat laws. Cats shouldnt be allowed to roam and prowl on other properties and kill wildlife.shire should encourage responsible trapping of feral animals and educate people on how to do it provide an infosheets on how to ID and remove local common pest weeds in the shire. Educate people on how to look for dieback and how to treat/prevent spread. Even if this info is sent out electronically in an email program like MailChimp to reduce costs to the shire.

All of the above... again, connection with each other through landcare groups & access to local experts through workshops & talks!

Managing bushfire threat whilst still maintaining bush habitats for native wildlife

Maintenance on shire land/verges. Many 'weeds' are cutback but not removed or killed and its upto the closest land owner to maintain or request for them to be removed. However the remainder of the street is left alone- set up a schedule to go street by street clearing weeds.

Improve the website to be more user friendly to find images of most common weeds/pests found in shire. And how to deal with them.

Include information with the rates that go out so those not online can still refer to info and those unaware to even look for it are provided it.

Discounts to purchase local plants/bee hotels etc from local businesses?

Blocks sizes are getting smaller and smaller. Shires should allow for such small sizes

Expanding the native plant/tube stock program to residential properties rather than just larger rural properties. This would bring the trees to the actual populations, serving as an educational tool as well as helping to achieve better tree canopy in areas that have been developed.

Unsure

As a landowner who is not an experienced gardener I don't know what species are best to plant in the garden to help with natural pollinators/birds etc. I would find a list of native plants good for our local area very useful. Also maybe a list of weeds common to the area and a list of local businesses (e.g. arborists, nurseries etc) where I could get help getting rid of weeds and choosing native plants

possums - maybe if the shire delivered pamphlets with info re proper removal, how to build a possum box (I got my details from WIRES website), how to discourage them from moving into your house, etc - bring back the understorey program for everyone

Recognition and control of introduced species is a real problem as is the increasing loss of natural habitat. The Shire needs to increase efforts to remove non native plants from the verges as these spread into properties and owners do not necessarily recognise them. More easily accessible education, workshops for example, on how to maintain the native bush would be beneficial. The

Shire urgently needs to stop the urbanisation of the land in the Shire and find ways of using what we have for the benefit of all, including native animals and plants.

continue to offer landcare advice via social media and leaflet (for those who dont have internet access). The controlled burn workshops are great, a land care workshop may also help.

Tougher restrictions on domestic cats. They should only be outside if in a cat run. Owners need to be more responsible.

weeds and dieback. A clean up day once a year with the council offering machines and labour.

Keeping leaf litter under control.

Helping locals keep the verge areas under control

?

Perhaps make a brochure with basic information about the pests etc that should not be around so owners can remove them. A website with more detailed information and subsequent links. Often people lack the knowledge of what these issues are. It could come out in the rates pack or even just a letterbox drop

Neighbourhood cats stalking birds in my garden. Educate importance of keeping cats indoors

The weeds!

Shire can give landowners more information on how to deal with issues. Encourage sustainability.

controlling weeds and feral animals

Neighbours cats and dogs. The shire should run a campaign about the owners responsibility and increase fines

Workshops? Provide the materials ie plants to plant or innoculation for bora etc?

Which is the wrong wattles to have growing - I can't tell which is the weed version and which is local to WA

Weeds and feral cats are our biggest problem. I think the shire are very good at helping with the cats issue. I'm unsure of what else can be done about weeds.

I think most landowners these days are more concerned with making their properties look like a "show home garden" rather than actually nurturing the native flora and fauna.

This involves the use of excessive water and chemicals such as roundup. Landowners do not need to do this and more education is required.

I only recent learnt what 'dieback' was, so this probably isn't well understood by many. I also see foxes in my yard and I know these will take quendas.

Financial outlay to regenerate or maintain property and lack of education. Small grants for regenerative projects would be helpful.

Many people don't fence their vegetated areas from stock or other non native grazing animals. I think there is a lack of understanding of the importance of understorey and maintaining intact bushland. Maybe further education /grants. What to do about rabbits??? We have had some seedlings from the tcup program in the past but they definitely needed tree guards which can get pretty expensive.

Drying climate with longer bushfire seasons!

I would like more information about how to support native bee species

roaming cats. There are lots of community groups addressing a lot of the mentioned issues however there is little discussion about the damage cats do and how residents can manage cats that come onto their property.

Knowing how we can all support our local environment. Information about small things people can do in their local area would help to make people feel more hopeful and connected.

Smoke haze during burn off seasons as everyone is doing it at once. A lot of people are not educating themselves on how to carry out a burn off effectively and end up pushing sand and wet leaves into their piles which then smolder. I think the shire is doing what it can, maybe opportunities for more info sessions? Education sessions on threats and issues.

Not sure sorry

Rats and weeds. Giving free native seedlings away to compete with weeds helps, so giving residents access to the tcup would help!

It's hard to pick one... but I feel fire management is one of the most important landscape-scale management tools, but one that is used incorrectly on so many scales. I know the Shire conducts free burning workshops but I feel this isn't enough to create a culture where fire is used correctly. Too many people burn wet leaves instead of dry fuel; too many leave piles smoking for days; too many create huge 'bonfires' that destroy refuge used by wildlife during dry periods prior to burning. Heavy penalties should apply and there should be an increase in compliance regarding this issue, such as mandatory attendance at burning workshops for those residents wishing to burn.

Secondly, the management of domestic stock (horses, cows, sheep, etc), particularly its use of waterways, is poor and more emphasis needs to be placed on the landscape-scale influence that stock, its grazing pressure, its degrading impacts to native vegetation, and its effluent have on both biodiversity, waterways and human health.

The Shire's Tree Canopy Understorey Program should be reinstated as this was not only effective at educating the community about the range of LOCAL native plants suitable for home gardens, but it empowered people with practical activities leading to visible outcomes: "WE made a difference!" - one of the most effective ways to enhance social cohesion.

Fire. Don't go ahead with north Stoneville

Watering plants maybe provide grants or subsidies for rainwater tanks. Soil preparation especially of clay soils

Removal of rubbish and litter; fire preparedness. Becoming more self-reliant and resilient in the face of various disasters. If more people were prepared for disasters they would require less assistance from government and would be in a better position to help their friends, neighbours and complete strangers.

Weeds. Information about how to control different types of weeds, & when is best to do it.

Removing feral weeds can be a challenge. Maybe we need a community effort, ie streets getting together to tackle the problem together, would also be a great way to meet neighbours. I think a fear of increased fire risk is causing some people to remove too much natural debris from their properties, which is home to wildlife. Finding the right balance is hard. Again good information helps and I would love to see Aboriginal knowledge and involvement.

Education on how to deal with them

I'm not sure really. Maybe just create more of a fuss and make people more aware of the issue and what we can do to help but in an every day family way. People are more likely to do recognise an issue if it's on social media and in their face but have the knowledge I fb that to do than if they only find out if the see a brochure at a library of shire website

Our local creek (Mofflin Bridge) has couch grass growing through it and it's choking everything. It needs to be controlled. If I find watsonia growing in my area am I allowed to poison it or do I have

to get permission? The Shire needs to continue its seedling program and make it more flexible to choose what's needed in my situation.

All of the above are difficulties faced everyday unfortunately i dont have a solution for that. One thing i will say is the shire should stop urban sprawl and the destruction of native species and vegetation

Ideas for combating weeds, encouraging people to change their verge into a safe native garden for pedestrians and wildlife.

Dry climate - subside grey water systems and rain water tanks

Not sure

Dieback and fox and cat control. Options to help tackle these would be most welcome. Many properties are facing death by a thousand cuts through ongoing loss of vegetation and extreme over burning (e.g. burning bush every year is not uncommon). The shire has been extremely reticent to tackle either issue in my experience. Presumably because of the community pressure around fire safety.

Ban all outdoor cats. I am an animal lover and don't dislike cats but it makes me sad when you see them out hunting at night killing Bandicoots etc. Grrr. We should be living with the animals, not harming them. If you want to let your cat roam then maybe Ellenbrook could be a good place to live

Information on telling the difference between quenda and rat. It is often asked in local pages

Die back is a problem on our 4 acre block. Our native grass trees are dying. Introduced weeds blown in from other blocks. Jarrah trees dying and our marri trees now also have a disease where the bark is exploding. We have Land for Wildlife status on our block as we have left a lot of natural vegetation and trees. Many wildflowers as well.

I think feral animals are difficult to deal with, because a lot of them are other people's pets that are allowed to roam around. Maybe the shire can put out information for pet owners about what their pets are doing to native wildlife which isn't cute, like they think their pets are.

Landowner knowledge about dieback, what to look for, prevention and treatment.

Conducting burn off education with reference to the ecological risks and minimising.

Containing pet cats. Info sessions, workshops on cheap cat-enclosure Building, sponsored desexing of cats, cheap bell/ruffle collars for indoor/outdoor cats supplied with info about keeping them indoors instead

Dealing with rats. How to treat and not impact wildlife. Mixed messages in community about baiting. Traps not always successful

Shire sponsored fox/rabbit control or workshops.

Sessions on native gardening, successful tube stock use, weed id and burning practices.. maybe backyard sessions like local VBFB do on fire.

A lot of tree clearing is happening as homeowners seek to reduce fire risk to buildings. Education on firesafe, biodiverse plantings that support wildlife would be useful. A restriction on further subdivision and protected wildlife corridors, particularly around water sources

I think identifying what is a pest and what is native, maybe a handy guidebook would be good to refer to for plants. As what may be native to other parts of Australia may be a pest in the hills Encouraging people to plant native trees with incentives as people seem to need a reason for everything. Also encouraging native bee keepers to have hives on private land (with owners approval) to increase bee numbers.

remove weeds from road verges, provide information and support to landowners, keep the TCUP program going, find more ways for volunteers to help

A much more stringent method of controlling feral animals particularly cats, feral and supposedly owned

Dieback and feral animals. Most locals can do things on own property to help ie provide water, plant local plants etc. be good to educate residents about fire and how too much clearing and fire can alter dominant vegetation etc.

Weed control and illegal logging. With the help of Police, Forrest Department and government to use drones to catch the so and so's. All wood delivered must have two receipts, one for owner and one for shire. Also ATO should check all advertising phone numbers, to stop cash jobs, which would also to stop logging.

Landowners are scared of bush fires. So they cut all mature trees down, bulldoze the place flat, built unsuitable, far too large houses and drive the wildlife out. Then they start controlling the weeds by spraying glyphosate and killing the last of the wildlife left. Shire should introduce proper back burn programs even for smaller properties. Bring back the tree canopy program. I was not happy that you scrapped the program. I had great success with your plants.

Weed infestations, feral animals for some, drying climate with longer bushfire seasons, risk of fire and mitigation measures as people age, and loss of bees.

All of the above - particularly if the property has been cleared for primary purposes. The Shire could carry out weed control on shire reserves, roadside verges (or provide incentives for property owners to do so). Competition for the most weed free road verge (or section for long ones) in non urban area i.e. not 'village' centres

Provide native seedings, understorey program. From seedlings we planted from this program have noticed an increase in fauna, birds and number of species

Builders clearing land to build. There should be more encouragement for new builds to maintain especially mature local native trees and bush land to help keep local fauna in the area. The Shire's TCUP program was brilliant to encourage re-vegetation with native plants. Perhaps more community driven identification of common weeds that are not as easy to identify. Protection of natural environment around existing water ways and encouragement to landscape man-made water catchment. Perhaps more community engagement/ education regarding prescribed burns and their benefit to the local environment (other than protecting man-made infrastructure).

loss of animals that pollinate plants or spread seeds. We need to protect the bees pls!

The non native wattles are a nightmare to control on verges - if the Shire could clear them it would help a lot. Also easy to access info on what is weeds and how to get rid of them safely for animals and other plants would be useful

Foxes and feral cats and peoples pets. We have purchased fox cage traps and wildlife cameras, We continuously see fox come usually twice a day and see them crossing Rds usually uses creeklines, Need ongoing funding for fox and cat control. A new pet law needs to be made that all pets need to be inside with a completely enclosed out door run if needed, include dogs, All dogs must be on a lead at all times. Also greater access to people who can help diagnose dieback or drought effects on property at reasonable rates. Street trees and plantings to be endemic local native plants including housing develpments. No bores allowed. Native verges and creeklines protected /wildlife corridors by shire offices. Incentives for people to purchase local natives. Wildlife corridors thru private property.

Not sure about this one.

One thing we found challenging was that we had to remove so much vegetation from our property for bushfire safety. It was a bit upsetting that we were removing habitat for native animals. But given the safety issues and the importance of keeping our own family and pets safe, we were happy to do it. I have no idea how the Shire could help with this!

Perhaps some info about what sort of plants (if any) could be replanted to provide habitat but with a reduced fire risk

I think weed control is difficult for many people up here in the hills . There is also a lot of fear around the use of pesticides in controlling them .

People have very little time I think getting information out to people that is short and compressed (flyer in the mail perhaps or a quick post on Facebook / Perth hills group) short and sweet. One post at a time about how to tackle these problems or ways people can limit or contribute.

Not sure

Shire can encourage native verge strips

Council can introduce no roaming cats rules.

Beehives in national park

Packet of Wild flower seeds given to all rate payers

Not sure

Burning off is a big worry to me. The shire could offer help at a cost that could go back into the volunteer brigades

foxes. Not sure how you control them

Lack of water to help plants grow.

The drying climate. Make waterways protected on private land, as in the UK so farmers and landowners cannot clear these areas or run livestock on them. This is where a large percentage of native animals collect during the hotter months.

Treating weeds and dieback. Stricter control of roaming cats (I am a cat owner and lover but keep my cat indoors all the time and also have an outdoor enclosure).

not knowing difference between WA native and other state natives

It would be great to have an expert visit my home/garden to help with weed/bug identifying/control Just an hour would already help. Other than that, a green bin would be great.

perhaps a visit from a bushcare officer to look over property and give ideas. Help with the cost of say nesting boxes or offer discounts on these and bird baths. Provide ideas how to help protect quendas - quenda runs? I know foxes are in the area but don't know how to stop them.

Help with clearing fallen trees

Knowledge of what is a weed?

le blackberry is native to England hedgerow but considered weed in Australia

Feral animal eradication - cat traps?

knowledge of weed species especially those Aust natives that constitute weeds here eg Flinders Ranges Wattle. Shire could offer neighbourhood visits for education eg on a street basis

Developers and bulldozers are the biggest threat

Weeds

Keeping people informed of ways of dealing with these threats and managing their properties. Offering a service to help individuals

Reducing undergrowth to reduce bushfire risk

Ensure there is responsible housing in high fire risk zones.

More housing in the hills more fire danger ie the reason for tragedy under bushfire is an increase in housing and lack of reduction burning. Nothing to do with drying climate.

More control burn offs

Tree planting program - with the right type of trees

Threats of urban development

Use less toxic sprays, advise people ahead of time when you are going to use them. Stop destroying creeks (end of Hudson St) - now concreted over and bridge removed.

Although most landowners do their best to keep their properties clean and clear during the summer months, it can be disappointing when Shires do not do their bit as far as controlled burning of reserves, or weed control.

Encouraged, not forced, to tackle all of the above.

Shire to provide incentives to encourage participation.

Shire to link all reserves / habitats in a way that is fauna safe. The Shire to be prepared to buy back land to create better and/or new wildlife corridors.

Increase support for research into control of feral animals and weeds. And support for Seed Saver and like organizations.

Feral cats and foxes are our biggest threat. Licence cats and introduce rules to keep them on the owner's property.

Dieback is becoming a larger issue so providing a free dieback treatment/prevention program would help us maintain our trees

Balancing keeping mature trees and undergrowth in place vs bushfire risk mitigation measures. It kills me to see how many mature trees are cleared from blocks being developed for housing. Better information and resources on managing mature trees to reduce fire risk (reducing height, etc) would be great. Also all the developed blocks are just bulldozed and all the native undergrowth is lost. Could local community groups clear and replant natives, especially the kangaroo paws into street scapes to preserve the native flora and help provide nature strips.

weeds, provide up to date advice and information on what to use. Importance of native dead trees, don't use them for firewood

The balance been BAL/Bush fire guidelines and the outcome of having raked parklands instead of bushland. There is a huge clash here and our local environment is going to be "safer" but more barren because of it.

8. Some nature reserves contain rare plants or animals, or sensitive natural areas. Do you think it would be acceptable for the Shire to fence or restrict public access to some areas or reserves, if it was the best way to protect biodiversity?

Perhaps - a very complex question!!. It is more about size, quality of remnants plus linkages and dealing with all the threats

Yes I think that would be fine as long as it's not on a private property

Yes

Yes there's more than enough bushland to go around and species need protection especially against feral animal attack

Yes, totally acceptable if community know why the restriction is in place.

Yes definitely. There's a lot of bush to enjoy

Yup- clear signage on why maybe even a plaque with information on the plants etc.

Yes, that is what they have done in bushmead and it's no issue

It depends on how drastic the closures were, Provided there is effective communication to those impacted beforehand, or if it was initially presented as a trial, I believe the public would understand that such measures are required.

Yes, I think it would be appropriate for the Shire to do this to protect rare plants and animals.

Yes

absolutely yes

Yes absolutely. This could be one opportunity to showcase those special areas through managed access which could also generate revenue.

Yes, as long as people are informed on why. Shire website notes are all that is required so ratepayers can feel part of the solution.

Yes, definitely

An information board with what is being protected would be a better idea. People that go into theses area aren't going to stomp on plants just because they can and knowing what to look out for is a win win. The public get to use the area and maybe see/find the rare plant or animal and the plant/animal gets better known.

Yes !

Yes

Yes

Yes, but shire can also offer plants to community to help increase the numbers in everyone gardens

YES!

Yes

no, if people don't see it they won't look after it

Yes absolutely

What about the shoe brushes to clean shoes prior to entry to the areas?

Yes, and to let people know the reason why the area is blocked off.

We have public open space next to us and years ago had people taking fallen logs for fire wood they were an older couple and not happy when we told them that they couldn't do that - education is the key

Also people on motorbike/dirt bikes thinking they can ride anywhere there is open space - a real problem near the John Forrest National Park/Hidden Valley/North Parkerville site - always people on motorbikes

Absolutely! This may also educate people as to what is actually in the nature reserve and how important it is to protect it.

Yes I believe so, but I don't think this would be a popular choice.

What about fencing off areas but having fenced walkways through a part of the space as well or places that are restricted but are accessible for school excursions/guided walks?

Yes!

Yes I think that is reasonable. Also having fences paths with signage about different plants and their rarity in these places might help further educate.

Yes, but maybe not the entire reserve if possible.

Yes, definitely agree! As long as there is also restricted access/education opportunities to inform the public about the Why.

Yes

yes

Yes. But these need to be clearly identified along with information about why the area needs protecting

Yes. Maybe it could be enjoyed from a distance with some well positioned benches and some information pictures nearby of what species and plants might be hidden inside and the important reasons why it is protected from people walking through it.

Yes, as long as it was signposted and obvious why

Yes

I don't believe fencing is an effective way to protect natural areas. It creates obstructions for fauna needing to be mobile across the landscape and an incentive for vandalism, and does not achieve the desired protection anyway. Nothing beats physical presence of local Friends groups, working together with rangers etc, to report undesirable activities and enforce compliance.

Yes

Yes restriction of public access please

Yes! There are plenty of other places people can use.

Yes.

Definitely yes

yes, please do

depending on the area

Yes, as long as it's not a popular recreation area such as Lake Leschenaultia.

Yes definitely

Yes definitely

Definitely

Yes

Yes! 100% acceptable.

Yes!

No. Biodiversity will happen naturally if home owners just keep up with educating themselves on keeping their properties cleaned up against bushfires, and be respectful of their environment.

I don't think restriction is the way but giving more education around different areas and why we need to look after the environment. Restrictions and fences just encourage the wrong people trying to enter those areas

Yes, definitely. Maybe just let walkers in but no horses or dogs. Maybe put up an information board at the beginning of the trail to alert the walkers on which plants they can spot with their photo on the laminated signage.

Yes

Yes

Signage too with education materials about the area or closure

Absolutely

I think restrict just like Paruna but don't shut off completely, everyone deserves the chance to see these beautiful places:)

Yes

Yes

Yes but provide education too

yes, for short time.

I don't think fencing it in is a good or sustainable approach. Signage and education is better. Get qualified volunteers involved to look after the places. Hefty penalties for people destroying sensitive natural areas.

If it's absolutely necessary and explanation is given so people understand why.

Fencing in animals is problematical, fencing other areas or restricting access would need to be monitored - signage is mostly ignored

Fencing of reserves is ok but maintaining walk trials should be allowed.

Yes.

Yes

yes

Yes - with an explanatory notice on any fencing

Yes and gate fire breaks to stop 4wd and motorbike destruction, Helping keep out peoples dogs which roam and kill gendas bobtails etc

It may be for some, but it also attracts attention, vandalism, and people jumping the fence to see what's being protected. Certainly useful for the control of feral animals... please do keep fox and cat numbers down.

Yes

Yes I The general public aren't to know if it's produced area unless signposted. I know the shire will do their part legally by signposting. But most people probably don't take notice or will understand what long term affects it might have. I feel as the shire have the knowledge and responsibility to act on our behalf to take these matters into their hands.

We move to the hills for a certain way of life which I believe most of us want to preserve

Definitely not.

Yes, with signage not just saying protected area but going a step further and spell out what protecting and importance

Yes

Yes definitely

not sure

Yes

Yes, perhaps have viewing platforms or areas, or have supervised access only.

Yes but with photographic detailed information boards so people can see understand and respect the restrictions

i'd hope not... signs and education are better than restriction

yes, definitely

With appropriate signage explaining what is being done and why.

Yes

Or put notices up to the public to explain

Restricting access is not a good idea - education is the answer.

yes if notices were placed to advise reasons (without identifying plants at risk)

Look at how some people treat Quokka's on Rottnest Island. I don't think a fence will help. Education and harsh penalties work. Use cameras

Yes absolutely

I'm sure it can be done in such a way that people can still see and visit

Yes

yes

Yes

Yes

Put signage up so people are aware.

Yes, it would be acceptable providing the areas concerned are not neglected.

Yes, but with the privilege of special access by arrangement. Descriptive signage of what is being protected.

Use a QR code icon for mobile phone access to a website for details.

A balance could be had if Rambler Trails with guides were added.

Yes, however, fencing encourages vandalism so more threat to the environment may occur.

I think it is acceptable to fence if absolutely necessary, but perhaps a more inclusive method might be signage and providing pathways through the sensitive area that would encourage people to limit their access and impact

yes and include informative signage

Yes but no - the best way is to increase what we have is not keep destroying it nor allowing high density development throughout the Hills area.

9. Which suburb or area are you from?

Bailup/Wooroloo	4
Bellevue	1
Boya	2
Chidlow	5
Darlington	8
Glen Forrest	5
Greenmount	4
Helena Valley	5
Hovea	1
Mahogany Creek	7
Mount Helena	12
Mundaring	12

Parkerville	10
Sawyers Valley	4
Stoneville	17
Swan View	5
Not a Shire Resident	2
Total	104

10. Are you interested in joining the Shire's environmental talks and workshops mailing list? If you would like to be notified of upcoming events, please enter your email address below [removed from table]. If you have an idea for a particular topic please write that down too.

77 respondents requested to join the mailing list for environmental talks and workshops. Suggestions for topics are listed below.

Maybe- depends on quality. How to create a biodiverse garden??

Regenerative agriculture

Dam construction and water saving eg grey water

Responsible land management

Native animal care- a hands on work shop building possum or bird boxes. Insect hotels etc

Collecting seeds/ propagation.

IDing pests friend/foe in the garden-insects- rodents

Composting/wormfarms

Where to RecycleRight within the Shire

topic: what people should/shouldn't be feeding local birds/animals

the devastation by feral and household pets on wildlife

Expanding the what Simon showed on the video - would love to make nesting boxes - maybe as a workshop, bee hotels etc

I'm really interested to find out more of how I can engage my family at home in regards to natural, local environment. Some education on what we can be doing at home particularly to involve our son. Thank you

Yes. I'm interested in how we can work to protect our local environment from development that is not sustainable.

I don't like doing these as I get to much junk mail from things like this and it's as a result I don't check my email much

Verge gardens!

Best native species for pool areas

Possibly but time may be an issue. Would love to see a talk on burning for biodiversity.

The bridle trail can benefit from a clean up of dead burnt bushes. It is starting to look very unkept and unloved especially after the fires. Maybe set up a volunteer group to get rid of the unsightly dead burnt bushes and plant fresh young seedlings. Fire resistant ones would be great. The worst section is in front of Lacey Road heading towards Mundaring. 3

Workshops on above issues would be great.

Also in more depth on local ecology, wildlife, geological history and waterways.

Hands on sessions for kids.

Indigenous speakers and site visits would be awesome.

Impacts of clearing on property. Education on a Balanced Fire practice instead of burning everything with a hot fire.

Benefits of controlled burn-offs to the natural environment

Identification of rare and endangered flora and fauna

Identification of weeds

Fauna counts

First Australians reconciliation, Indigenous people working in shire and reserves acting as guardians for the land, help residents learn to respect their land and parks. Indigenous mosaic fire control not DFES and others destructive hot burns and clearing, which burn cockatoo trees etc. Softer approach to maintaining the land. Residents learn how to conserve the land. The importance of Large granite rocks survey and protect, understanding connection with indigenous culture, artefacts documented and conserved. Numbering and collating habitat trees on private and public land for protection

Weed management/ dieback issues and conservation of native species

Planting for biodiversity.

topic: what is eating my plants and how to control bugs

Anything to do with growing plants in this landscape

Red tail cockatoo protection

We are looking at making the fire station garden a showpiece as a fire retardant garden - would love help regarding that.

7.0 URGENT BUSINESS (LATE REPORTS)

8.0 CLOSING PROCEDURES

8.1 Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The next Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 6.00pm in the Committee Room, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

8.2 Closure of the Meeting