

PARTICIPATING IN PLANTING & CARING FOR WETLANDS

You have an opportunity to participate in landscaping this wetland. Just like our nature reserves, a wetland needs a carer group. The group's activities include planting, weed and rubbish removal and water quality monitoring. Opportunities also exist to record birds and frogs.

KEEN TO PARTICIPATE?

If you would like to participate in planting or to become a member of the wetland carer group, please contact us.

CONTACT US

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Website: [www.environment.act.gov.au/
water/constructed_wetlands](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/constructed_wetlands)

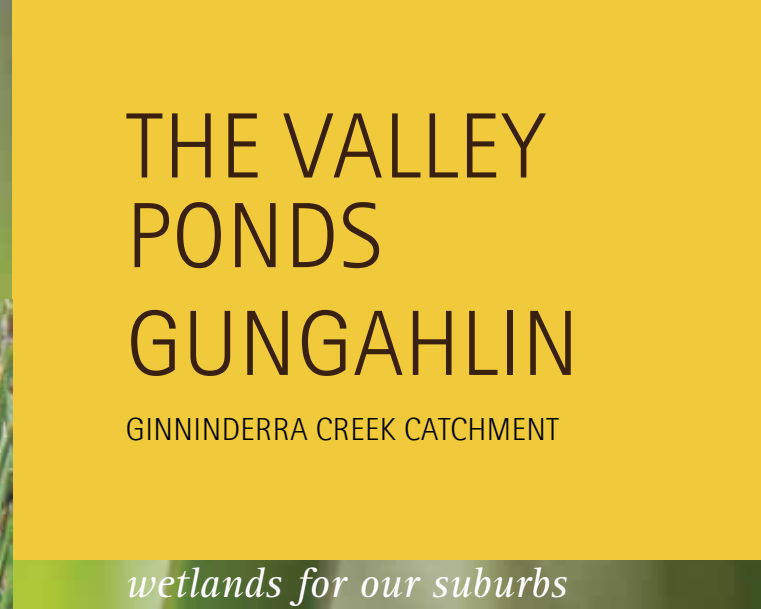


THE VALLEY PONDS GUNGAHLIN

GINNINDERRA CREEK CATCHMENT

wetlands for our suburbs

DESIGN www.design-edge.com.au Printed on recycled paper.



MINISTER'S FOREWORD



The ACT Government is proud to develop The Valley Ponds, Gungahlin and help improve the Ginninderra Creek Catchment. Our

experience with the O'Connor wetlands in David and Banksia Streets has shown that active community involvement greatly enhances the wetlands.

The Valley Ponds will become an invaluable asset for the Gungahlin community and will be well used by nearby schools and scout groups. I hope you will take the opportunity to get involved in planting and monitoring the wetlands.

The Government looks forward to working with the Gungahlin community on this exciting project.

Simon Corbell

Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

THE VALLEY PONDS – A SPECIAL PLACE

The Valley Ponds is home to wading birds like Latham's Snipe which migrate to Australia during the Northern Hemisphere winter, herons, native quail, birds of prey, black swans, grebes and other waterbirds. It also supports a healthy frog population and Eastern Long-Necked Turtles. A remnant stand of native grasses grows on the elevated areas of the site.

Construction of three new wetlands will commence during 2011-2012, while two small existing ponds will provide a refuge to animals during construction. In order to conserve its values, the native grassland will be temporarily fenced off during site works.

This development aims to protect and enhance the ecological values of the site. The wetlands play a role in improving water quality, slowing floodwaters and stormwater harvesting. The development will also make the site more accessible to the community.

ARE WETLANDS SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

The sides of Ponds 1 and 2 will be gently graded so there are no sudden level changes. Once established, thick bands of macrophytes (aquatic plants) will prevent children from accessing the water. Pond 3 will have steeper side slopes and will not be accessible to the public. The surrounds will be densely planted and the pond enclosed by a stock-proof fence.

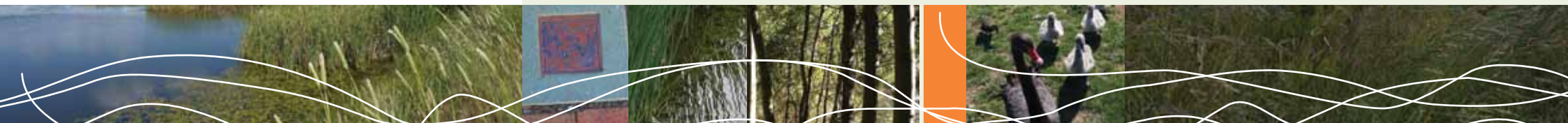
Advisory signs will be erected warning of the dangers associated with both deep and shallow water. Swimming, diving and boating are prohibited.

WILL MOSQUITOES INCREASE?

Mosquito numbers will be controlled by grading slopes to ensure no stagnant pockets of water form, and by incorporating a wide variety of plants and predators.

FERAL FISH

A number of Canberra's waterways have been invaded by the exotic pest fish, *Gambusia*. These small fish prey on native fish and tadpoles and are difficult to eradicate once established. Fish from home aquariums MUST NOT be released into stormwater drains or urban wetlands.



GINNINDERRA CREEK CATCHMENT WETLAND

Three interconnected ponds will be built along this tributary of the Ginninderra Creek, adjacent to The Valley Avenue, Gungahlin.

PONDS 1 & 2

These ponds will be fed by stormwater discharged from the Gungahlin Town Centre and the Burgmann School sub-catchments.

An existing dam will be enlarged to form Pond 1. Together, Ponds 1 and 2 will provide a water quality and flood detention role and habitat for a range of aquatic and terrestrial fauna.

All-weather walking tracks, viewing platforms, bird hides and an outdoor classroom will be constructed around these water bodies.

The ponds will include deeper sections, to around 1.8 metres depth, and shallow sections suitable for wading birds.

Local native reeds, grasses, shrubs and trees will be planted around the edge of the wetland.

A concrete wall will divert high flows through the wetland and prevent the build up of excess sediments and nutrients.

POND 3

This pond will be fed by stormwater discharged from the suburb of Palmerston.

Pond 3 will perform a water harvesting, water quality and flood detention role. Excess stormwater will be pumped from Pond 3 via a filter and stored in tanks.

This pond will be around 2.0 metres deep with steeper side slopes than Ponds 1 and 2. The water level of the pond will fluctuate by one metre.

As a safety precaution, Pond 3 will be fenced from the public and the adjoining scout hall.

It will be densely planted with local native reeds, grasses and shrubs.

Harvested stormwater will be used to irrigate the enclosed oval (to be constructed) and to top up the Gungahlin College pond. The pond water is used to irrigate the school landscape and the Gungahlin Town Park.

NATIVE GRASSLAND

The site contains a ridge of grassland comprising a diverse array of native grasses and forbs (non-woody flowering plants). Grasses include Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and forbs like Blue Devil (*Eryngium ovinum*), Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia*) and *Goodenia*.

Visitors will access the ridge via an informal walking track. A gravel platform will provide panoramic views of the ponds, sub-catchment and distant mountains.

