



Be Waste Smart

Achievements 2023

- Sustainability
- Waste
- Natural Areas
- Parks

Looking for a new activity in 2024?



Bushcare volunteering may be just the thing! We are recruiting for new volunteers, just like you, to join our Bushcare Program.

Have fun, meet your neighbours and help improve the local environment. Our Bushcare groups meet at a park near you for two hours, once a month, on weekends and weekdays. Experience is not necessary – our Bushcare supervisors will provide all the training to get started, along with all the tools and gloves.

Bushcare Volunteers:

- Help to improve bushland areas
- Learn about local flora and fauna
- Meet other local residents
- Enjoy a great outdoor work environment
- Participate in a healthy activity
- Learn new skills
- Enjoy a sense of achievement.

For more information please visit
www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/bushcare
We look forward to seeing you at a group soon!

A Year in Review

The 2022/23 financial year for the City of Ryde again, saw some significant achievements being reached for our City and community.

Following the Climate Emergency declaration (2019), adoption of the City-wide Ryde Resilience Plan (2020) and action on climate risk, Council in late 2022, underwent an organisational restructure that saw the 'Environment' team move into a strategic delivery area of council known as 'City Resilience' and Council's Waste Team committing to Circular Economy priorities. These moves demonstrate Council's commitment to prioritising climate risk, circularity to reduce resource issues and impacts and long-term resilience, protecting our citizens and natural environment.

A key focus for the City Resilience team this year was the adoption of the Net Zero Emissions Pathway in 2022 committing to targets for net-zero emissions by 2035 for Council operations, and by 2040 for the broader community. In line with this we then went on to achieve our 100 percent renewable energy target, eight years early! (July 2022) By reaching this goal we have reduced emissions from Council operations by 71 percent (compared to 2018/19 baseline). We established a Green Revolving Fund, a sustainability fund that supports council operational initiatives that actively reduce carbon emissions and deliver long term savings to council (such as energy efficiency upgrades and solar). Money saved from projects is reinvested into the fund to deliver further environmental initiatives.

Council was also successful in obtaining grants funding key initiatives for the City. This includes the NSW Government "Places to Swim program" with a project to deliver a new in-river swimming site at Putney Park in 2024.

Our parks and open spaces team also received grant funding from the NSW Government's "Places to Roam" program to deliver the first all-abilities accessible bushwalk in this area of Sydney, in the Field of Mars (due for completion in 2024). This grant funds important deliverables identified in our Field of Mars Masterplan enabling all of our community to explore and appreciate the wildlife and ecology within the nature reserve.

With the end of health restrictions we had a full schedule of community activities and events, engaging with over 2,400 community members at our annual Sustainability Festival, Granny Smith Festival, Seniors Festival, Expos and Workshops across our Resilience, Net Zero and Home Waste and Sustainability Advisory programs. We also delivered a record 56 community workshops for sustainability education and awareness.

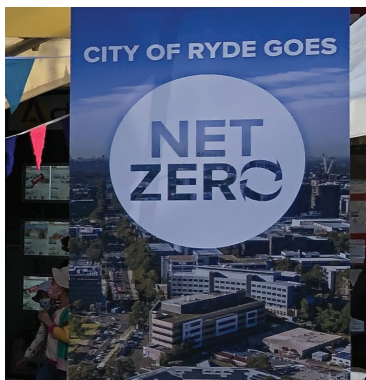
Our parks and open spaces team was busy with several tree planting days, biodiversity protection works, and boosting our Streamwatch program as a part of the Bushcare program, helping us monitor the quality and health of our local waterways. Our Biosecurity Weeds officer inspected a massive 121.6kms of pathways and visited 708 sites throughout the year.

In the Circular Economy team an average of 70,545 bins were collected each week. Over 21,600 tonnes of waste was diverted from landfill through waste services such as kerbside collection, clothing collection bins, the Community Recycling Centre and TV and computer recycling services. In addition to providing comprehensive and efficient waste services, we supported the community to make a difference through a combination of education, promotion and enforcement activities. Council delivered a range of events, programs and workshops to empower residents to make conscious decisions to avoid, reduce and recycle their waste. We also delivered a large-scale project to tackle litter hotspots in high usage parks and along the foreshore. To address targets outlined in the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041, Council continues to assess existing programs and explore opportunities for future service improvements.

Regards,

**Resilience, Circular Economy and
Parks and Open Spaces teams**

Net Zero Emissions – Climate Action



In response to the Climate Emergency, the City Resilience team developed a **Net Zero Emissions Pathway** in consultation with the Community, which was officially adopted by the Council in October 2022. Action has commenced for implementation of the Net Zero pathway which includes a comprehensive plan of **118 action items** with the **goal to achieve net zero emissions** for Council's operations by 2035 and extend this achievement to the broader community by 2040 or earlier.

100% Renewable Energy

From 1 July 2022 we transitioned to sourcing our electricity from 100 percent renewable sources for operations, which is eight years ahead of our adopted 2030 target. This remarkable achievement resulted in **71 percent reduction in total emissions from Council's operation** compared to the baseline year of 2018/19 with energy sourced from three solar farms in NSW as part of the largest energy contract negotiated for Local Government.

Energy sourced from three solar farms as part of the **largest energy contract negotiated for Local Government**

City of Ryde is powered by **100%** renewable energy



Fossil Fuel Divestment

City of Ryde's total investment portfolio in non-fossil fuel aligned institutions in 2022/23 is **43.6 percent as of 30 June 2023**.



Energy Use

We reduced our overall annual energy consumption for mains gas and electricity in 2022/23 by 8 percent compared to the 2018/19 baseline.



Streetlighting

Through the Ausgrid Streetlighting Retrofit program the city has replaced 2,671 globes with efficient lighting. **More than 99 percent** of our streetlights have been upgraded to highly efficient lighting solutions like LEDs and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) providing a significant energy, emissions and cost reduction for the City of Ryde.



Community Education and Workshops

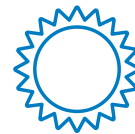
382 community members visited and engaged with the Sustainability and Resilience team stall at the Granny Smith festival in 2022. The stall focused on engaging with our residents for our Net Zero plan consultation and Home Waste and Sustainability Advisory Service.

We further supported our residents to achieve their energy saving goals with three 'In focus Home Sustainability' drop-in sessions at Ryde library. This free service provides residents advice on items from solar installation, electric vehicles, sustainable waste management and biodiversity

Council Efficiency Upgrades

Lighting was replaced with **energy-efficient LED** in the Brush Farmhouse car park and the Eastwood Library Rest Centre in 2023, resulting in estimated savings of 3,850 kWh of electricity and more than **3.1 tonnes of CO² reduction**.

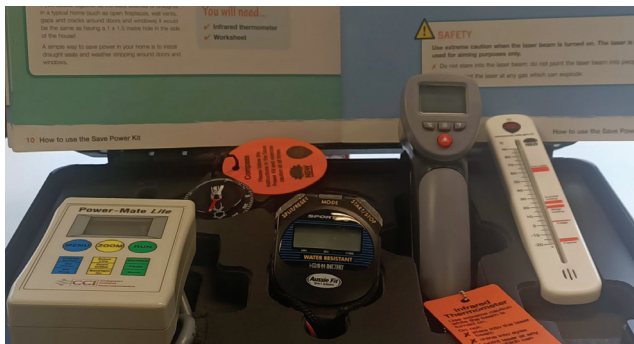
One of the gas hot water systems at the West Ryde Community Centre has been phased out and replaced with highly efficient electrical heat pump starting our electrification journey reducing fossil fuel-based emissions from our operations.



Green Revolving Fund

Council adopted a Green Revolving Fund (GRF) in November 2022. The GRF fund identified sustainability and efficiency projects with the savings from these, rolling into the fund to invest in further efficiency projects **improving our environmental performance outcomes and reducing our emissions**. These works will see the delivery of solar, solar battery and many efficiency projects. To date Council has seen thousands of dollars saved through such initiatives reducing the long term cost to council.

Net Zero Emissions – Climate Action



Save Power Kits

Council continues to offer free **DIY save power kits** to measure energy efficiency in your home. Kits contain a thermal gun, power meter, thermometer, and stopwatch. We have a total of **nine kits available for loan** from City of Ryde libraries.

Home Waste and Sustainability Advisory Service

109 individual tailored assessments were delivered in 2022/23, assisting households to reduce their waste, energy and water consumption and carbon footprints.

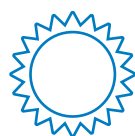
Participating households saved on average over \$355 per year on electricity, over \$546 per year on gas and over \$224 per year on water bills and **reduced their GHG emissions by 62 percent (1.45T)** when compared to the average City of Ryde household.

This program also encourages recycling and composting to reduce waste placed in the household red lid bins. **83 percent of participants are now using, or have taken steps to use, composting or worm farming to manage their organic waste.**

The three annual winners of this year's "Ryde Eco Home Challenge" under the home advisory program, chose to improve the efficiency of their home, reducing their emissions by the installation of insulating curtains, and upgrades to energy efficient fridge and heat pump dryer appliances.

Participating households saved on average
OVER \$355
per year on electricity
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62 PERCENT
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SunSPOT

SunSPOT – Solar PV Assessment Tool

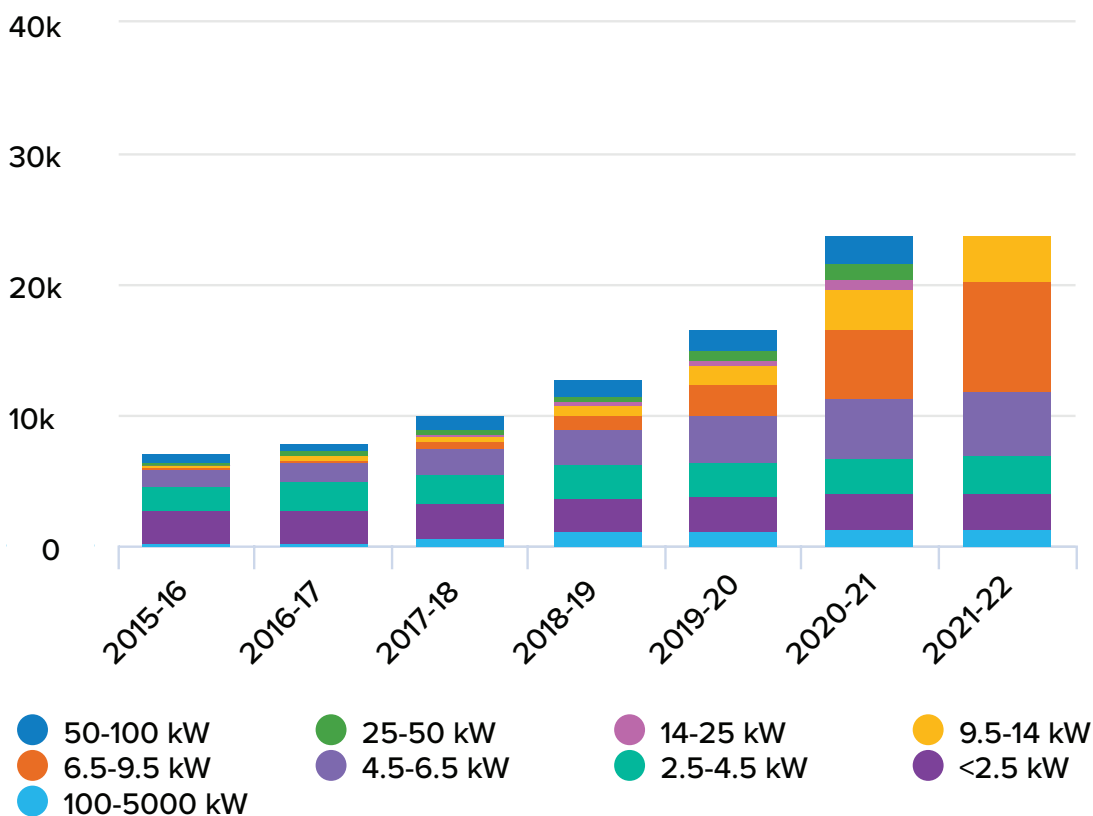
City of Ryde continues to partner with the Australian Photovoltaic Institute (APVI) to take the guess work out of understanding solar. The free online dashboard tool assists residents to make informed decisions regarding solar installations and system sizing, in turn reducing household energy use, living costs and Green House Gas emissions.

Within the City of Ryde there was a total of **841 solar installations** for 2022/23 financial year.

Solar installations in Ryde LGA since 2001

Total installations	5,669
Residential installations	5,052
Commercial installations	611
Power stations	6
Annual CO ₂ offset (all installations)	31,100 tonnes

Ryde LGA: Solar PV Installations by Size



Resilience

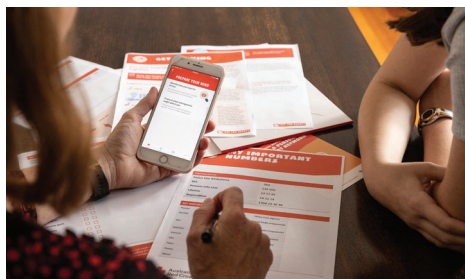
Over the next decade, the changing climate and population growth will put increased pressure on the City of Ryde's natural and urban environment. Our growing and changing City requires considered urban renewal that enhances natural assets and encourages sustainable living that reduces water and energy use, and waste.

Our priority is to protect and increase natural areas and parklands, and address climate-related challenges such as extreme weather patterns, bushfires and flooding.



Governance with Direction, Collective Leadership and Collaboration

The movement of the former Environment team into the strategic planning division of Council known as 'City Shaping' and the newly named 'City Resilience' department is a local step recognising the priority of City-wide resilience and the organisational priority of this outcome. This new move demonstrates Council's recognition of critical issues impacting our community and environment, embedding our commitment to resilience and in achieving Net Zero emissions outcomes into the future planning of our City.



Emergency Preparedness, Responses and Recovery

With an increase in extreme weather events, the City Resilience team continued to prioritise educating our community on emergency preparedness and response and building awareness of key issues impacting residents, so they are better equipped and resilient into the future as a 'Ryde Resilient Ready Resident'.

With a focus on community engagement, we met with the general public as well as **vulnerable members of our community including seniors, new Australians and Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** community members providing information on how to prepare for heatwaves, storms, floods, bushfires and other emergency events.

Through our presence at City-wide expos and festivals throughout the year we engaged with more than **360 community members**. The highlights being the Sustainability Festival, Granny Smith Festival, Neighbour Day, Seniors Safety and Resilience Expo as part of Seniors Festival, Refugee Week Community Expo and Intercultural Community festival. **The Red Cross, SES and Fire and Rescue and NSW Police** are key partners of Council and presented at some of these events. They provided practical information and answered questions to assist our community with emergency preparedness.

435 residents attended fourteen 'Resilient Ready Resident' workshops held in collaboration with the Red Cross and State Emergency Service (SES). Eight of these were aimed at assisting our CALD community.

To show our gratitude to the SES Ryde Unit, ongoing support and dedication to building community emergency resilience in our area City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Sarkis Yedelian OAM and CEO Wayne Rylands presented two co-branded table covers to Local Commander Keiran Gibson and Community Engagement Officer Warren Smith on behalf of the NSW SES Ryde Unit in March 2023.





Health and Wellbeing

A webinar on Building resilience and Suicide Safety in partnership with community support organisation Lifeline, held in conjunction with the Northern Sydney Region of Councils (NSROC).



Stormwater Improvement Program

Addressing stormwater influences and infrastructure is vital in how our City can manage and safely move water in flash or significant rain events. Council provides significant annual investment to limit risk to community and assets from these events through undertaking ongoing condition assessments of pipes, renewal and upgrade projects. Condition assessments are now undertaken using AI technology increasing assessment time across larger areas to inform projects.

Stormwater improvement and delineation works at Kittys Creek are helping protect the fragile riparian zone and reduce sedimentation. Stormwater drainage and road improvements have begun in Hedgeland Close, Meadowbank, to enhance the efficiency of the drainage network.



Engaging our Businesses

Two Net Zero for Businesses workshops were held demystifying and empowering local businesses to accelerate their transition towards net zero emissions while reducing their operational costs. These workshops explored renewable energy options for business transition and measuring carbon emissions towards zero emissions.

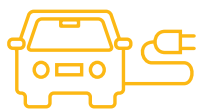
Two Emergency management webinars centred around preparing business for unexpected emergencies or events, reducing down time and allowing the return to business as usual as soon as possible were held.



Resilience and Climate Change Extreme Weather Events and Natural Hazards

The Hunter's Hill/Lane Cove/Parramatta and Ryde Draft Bushfire Risk Management Plan was reviewed to ensure planning for bushfire risk is actively monitored and considers latest data on fire preparedness. The inclusion of additional neighbourhood safer places was proposed. The Draft plan was placed on public exhibition in July 2023.

Sustainable Transport



Charging stations

The community used **more than 16,800kWh** of renewable energy by using the three Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations across the City **2,630 times**.



Fleet Electric Vehicles

Our number of electric and hybrid vehicles continues to grow in Council's fleet aligning with our priority to reduce emissions from transport in our City which contributes to the second largest source of carbon emitted in Ryde.

Electric Vehicles	4
Hybrid Vehicles	20



38,548 trips

Shop Ryder Passenger Trips

Shop Ryder Bus provides critical links for our key town centres that have limited access to train and major bus services, helping our community to reduce their reliance on single person car usage. We continue to see demand increase for this service. **38,548 passenger trips** were taken by community in the 2022/23 financial year.



25 existing council operated car share spaces avoided

542t Co² emissions

Car Share

We continue to expand our Sustainable Transport initiatives such as further building our Carshare program increasing community provider options for car share and adding 13 new carshare spaces in 2022/23.

Visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/CarShare to view locations.

The 25 existing council operated car share spaces in the City of Ryde **avoided 542t Co² emissions and reduced the on-street parking demand by 198 spaces** in the 2022/23 financial year. For every one car share space provided seven cars are removed from the streets improving air quality and reducing traffic congestion in our City.



Promotion of Public Transport

During the 2023 Sustainability festival public bus operator group, Busway held tours of one of their new Zero Emissions Buses (ZEB's) along with an information stall about bus routes and timetable information for our city.



Bicycle Repair and Safety Workshops

In partnership with councils' traffic team – 'Fix and Ride' conducted **48 bicycle safety checks** as part of June 2023 Sustainability Festival encouraging community to consider cycling over emissions based transport options.



Cycling Skills Workshop

The cycling workshops held in November for adults improved the confidence and boosted basic skills of those who know how to ride to improve their enjoyment and encourage them to ride more often.

Putney Beach Grant

In July 2022 Council was successful in obtaining \$698,475 in funding through the NSW Government Places to Swim program with a project to deliver a new in-river swimming site at Putney Park.

This funding will enable us to provide our residents and visitors swimming infrastructure, safety mechanisms and a brand-new water play space improving access to the community.

This will be a great place for all to enjoy and cool down close to home as we grow into the future.

216 survey responses were received during the 'Have your say' period supporting the new site. The opening of this site will relaunch the first original location of a swimming site in Ryde in the 1920s before it was closed in the 1970s.

Council has been partnering under the Parramatta River Catchment Group's 'Our Living River/Swimmable by 2025' campaign since 2017 to assess and then test the water quality to confirm safety and suitability for public swimming. The launch of the site will assist in providing a natural in-river location for cooling off for community and tourists alike.



Water Quality Monitoring

Water Quality Monitoring was conducted along **Shrimptons, Archers, Buffalo, Terrys, and Porters Creek catchments** in Spring 2022 and Autumn 2023 with results published on the Council's website.

In addition, our new **Streamwatch Alert Kit** allows our bushcare volunteers to regularly collect data from our creeks, testing the dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, phosphate, nitrate, turbidity of the water. This program provides useful data as a part of Streamwatch – a citizen science program enabling community groups to monitor the quality and health of local waterways – and contributes to our understanding of catchment health.



Education



Storms and stormwater drain education was promoted as part of the 'River Aware' campaign with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG). Water conservation was promoted via our newsletter and social media for world water day.

At the Sustainability Festival, the PRCG and Sydney Water provided community education to promote healthy waterways and pollution impacts and promote the future swim site at Putney Park. A workshop about river health and plastic pollution in our waterways was provided by educator Kelly Winnings.



Addressing Pollution in our Waterways

"Get the Site Right"

A total of **56 building sites** were inspected as a part of a targeted campaign in **October 2022 and May 2023** to protect our waterways from erosion and sediment run off from building sites across the City of Ryde.



"See it, Report it, Stop it"

Six media screens at bus stops and promotion in shopping centres near our catchment areas displayed educational information on reporting pollution incidents under our "See it, report it stop it" website **increasing direct webpage visits by 40 percent** over that time period.

Community Programs



Meadowbank and Putney Litter Reduction Project

Council received NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) funding for a **litter reduction project** in Meadowbank Park, Kissing Point Park and along the Parramatta River foreshore. This project involved local litter checks and installation of a storage cage, three solar compaction bins, street litter bins, barrier vegetation, signage and educational decals.

The **three solar compaction bins** were installed at the Meadowbank Park skatepark and children's playground, and Kissing Point Park. These solar powered bins have six times the capacity of normal street litter bins. A rubbish compactor activates when the bin is full, creating more space for rubbish in the bin resulting in fewer collection trips, lower costs and less emissions.

The vegetation installed along the foreshore has shown to be successful in preventing litter from entering waterways, contributing to the long-term health of our river as we work towards 'making the Parramatta River swimmable by 2025'.

The project has resulted in a **27 percent reduction in the volume of littered items in the area**. These assets will help our community to continue to reduce the impacts of litter for years to come.

27%
reduction
in litter



Anderson Park Anti-Litter Mural

In 2020 and 2021, an anti-litter art competition was held for local children aged 5 to 12. Over **200 submissions** were received with 12 winners selected.

Council commissioned an anti-litter mural to be installed based on the winning submissions. Two concept designs from the winning artworks were selected and presented for community consultation. The community selected a concept inspired by a Ryde Public School student, which was installed in March 2023 by Sydney mural artists Blackbook Ink with the message '**Litter harms our natural spaces**'.

51
participants
reusable nappy
program

72
participants
reusable menstrual
product program



Reusable Health Products Program

We expanded our **reusable nappy program** and introduced **reusable menstrual products**. The new reusable health products program allowed City of Ryde residents to trial free reusable products and attend tailored workshops and Q&A sessions.

71 percent of survey respondents indicated they would continue to use reusable products.



Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP)

City of Ryde's Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP) is an environmental art competition aimed at raising awareness of waste, resource recovery and other environmental issues.

Workshops were held encouraging participants to enter the SWAP Competition. These workshops inspired creativity and imagination and taught techniques to create art using reclaimed and recycled materials.

75 artworks were included as a part of the Exhibition. **2,028 people** visited the exhibition held as a virtual tour and in person at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank.



205
physical
exhibition
attendees and

1,823
viewings of
the digital
exhibition

145
entries

75
artworks
selected and
exhibited

11
workshops
and

97
workshop
attendees

Community Programs

Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN)

The REEN network aims to provide schools and their teachers with learning opportunities, tools, resources, ideas and support to embed sustainability across the school curriculum.

As a part of the REEN program environmental education incursions were offered to schools on topics including saving water, sustainable energy, and backyard biodiversity.

161 students benefited from attending these workshops run in collaboration with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, Scienza Viva and Australian Environmental Education.

147
members of REEN



Schools Waste Education Program

969 students from kindergarten to year 11 attended schools waste education workshops run in collaboration with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. Topics included lunches unwrapped, composting/ worm farming and school waste audits.

969
students from
kindergarten
through to year 11

7
primary and
high schools





World Clean Up Day

150 volunteers from the City of Ryde and City of Parramatta worked together to clean up the Parramatta River foreshore between Meadowbank and Ermington. Their combined efforts resulting in the collection and removal of **more than 150 bags of rubbish** along with large items from the foreshore.



Clean up Australia Day

During this year's Clean Up Australia Day events, City of Ryde provided help with additional equipment and collected **900kg of rubbish** cleaned up by volunteers. Locations included Meadowbank Ferry Wharf, Kissing Point Park and Field of Mars Reserve.

40 community groups made up of

14
Community Groups

12
Business Groups

5
Youth Organisations

9
Schools

900kg
of litter collected by Council

Environmental Education



Sustainability Festival



The Sustainability Festival is a community education and engagement event run by the Circular Economy, City Resilience and Parks and Open Spaces teams to celebrate World Environmental Day. The event held on 4 June 2023 at Ryde Park was successful in engaging with the local community and raising awareness of waste and environmental issues impacting the local area.

There were more than **40 informative stalls** and **16 interactive workshops** and activities promoting best waste management practices, compost and worm farming, sustainable living and transport, biodiversity, water conservation and carbon reduction.

Over 1,000 visitors attended, responses to the survey conducted on the day, showing that over 90 percent agreed that they learnt new information on how to live more sustainably, were inspired into action and will become more involved in the local community and environment after attending the festival.

Overall 95 percent were satisfied with the festival for the convenient event location, a variety of free family activities and sustainability workshops.



Smarter, Cleaner, Greener Newsletter

The Smarter Cleaner Greener e-newsletter is your one stop shop to learn about councils' sustainability, resilience, waste, and environmental news. It contains useful information including green living tips, weeds management, workshops, and council run events.

To sign up visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SCGNews

3,500

subscriptions





Community Workshops

The Circular Economy team held 15 interactive face-to-face workshops educating **206 attendees** to reduce waste and live more sustainably. Topics included recycling practices at home in multiple languages, food waste reduction, reducing single use plastics and small space gardening.



Apartment living

Over half of the residents in the City of Ryde live in apartment buildings. We are continuing to work to improve resource recovery and waste collection outcomes in apartment buildings while increasing engagement with building managers and strata members.

To do this we have introduced new and engaging educational resources to help reduce contamination of household recycling and promote Council services including multi-lingual signage. **2,000 packs** have been distributed and **600 signs installed**. In addition, we have attended **80 onsite meetings** which provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with members of the community and receive useful feedback for integration into our future programs.



Educational Resources for Residents

The City of Ryde continues to provide a wide range of educational resources to our diverse and growing community. This year **175 requests** were made online and by phone for signage and educational resources. Council completed the second stage of the installation of our recycling guide stickers on residential bins to improve recycling outcomes.

25,500

households received stickers resulting in a

28%

reduction of contaminated bins

Waste and Recycling

Problem Waste Stations

Council provides nine problem waste stations to help residents easily dispose of problem waste items for free. **3,420kg** of household problem waste items were collected through drop-off stations and taken to the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre (CRC) in Artarmon to be recycled. For more information visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/ProblemWaste

Problem waste items collected	Kilograms/diversion from landfill
Batteries	2,329
Mobile phones and accessories	247
Ink cartridges	454
Light globes and bulbs	390



Chipping and Mulching Service

911 Bookings



Composting and Worm Farming

Number of items sold

25

Compost bins

23

Worm farms



Household Chemical CleanOut

This year City of Ryde held two Household Chemical Clean-out drop-off days in conjunction with an e-waste collection service trial. Residents safely disposed of hazardous waste that cannot be collected through kerbside bins or clean-up collection services. Items collected included chemicals, paint, oil, batteries and electrical items.

1,184 people attended

40 tonnes total household hazardous items dropped-off



Household Recycling



7,001

Tonnes of recycling from



55,816

Households

Household Garden Organics



9,908

Tonnes of garden organics from



49,653

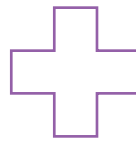
Households



Clothing Bins

118 tonnes

of unwanted clothing diverted from landfill via the clothing bins collection



Medical Waste Service

1,518 kg **14**

medical waste collected from

participating pharmacies



Community Recycling Centre

28,700

Ryde residents visited CRC Artarmon

70,883 kg

Estimated kilograms (combined materials) by Ryde residents

TV and Computer Collection Service



923 | **2,325**

Bookings

Total items

44,972kg

Total weight

Items	Total	
	No. items	Kilograms
Monitors	332	8,300
Hard drives	29	669
Keyboards	74	37
Televisions	846	32,790
Stereos	37	750
Other	1007	2,426



The Bower Collection and Rehoming Service

21 | **1,034kg**

Collections

Diverted from landfill

Natural Areas



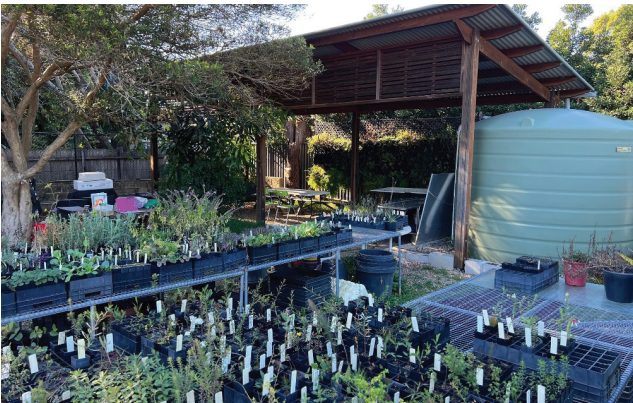
National Tree Day

This year's National Tree Day attracted **181 enthusiastic volunteers** who came together to help improve the biodiversity of our natural areas.

A total of 985 plants were planted!

This included 75 trees at ELS Hall Park along Shrimptons Creek. Shrimptons Creek is an important wildlife corridor in the City of Ryde and this event will enrich our native flora and fauna.

The Habitat – Community Nursery and Garden



1,579

Visitors in 2022

73

Volunteers

4,079

Volunteered hours

Produced

11,457 plants

including natives and food plants

Distributed

7,796 plants

including a proportion at no cost to schools and Bushcare groups



Community Partnership Activities

Volunteers from Tzu Chi, EnviroPacific and Terumo participated in mulching, weeding and planting of **418 plants** at Settlers Park, Meadowbank Park, and Myall Reserve during this year's community partnership activities.



Bushcare Program



The Bushcare program assists Council to care for the City's **205 hectares** of natural areas, waterways, catchments and ecosystems involved by collaborating with volunteers, businesses and community.

A huge thank you for the enormous effort of members of our community who volunteered **3,453 hours** of their time in 2022/23! In April 2023 Streamwatch was introduced as a part of the Bushcare program to help monitor the health of our creeks and streams.

Our bush regeneration contractors and Bushcare Volunteers are currently maintaining **112ha** of our local bushland. This is helping to restore and enhance biodiversity.

Members of our community volunteered

3,453 hours

of their time in 2022/2023

Totalling

11

hectares

Natural Areas



‘Weed Watch Ryde’ – Working with the Community to Tackle Priority Weeds



The grant funded program focuses on educating and working with businesses and community around weeds classified as ‘priority weeds’ by the Local Land Services (LLS), minimising priority weed incursion and assists with the eradication of known hotspots within our natural areas.

A dedicated Weeds education stall at the Granny Smith Festival and the Sustainability festival provided a unique opportunity for our community to seek advice and obtain information about weed identification and management.

Our Weed Watch Ryde brand has been integral in providing educational material including weed identification, and safe removal methods to our community via videos, social media and newsletters, as well as workshop on ‘lookalikes – weed or native plant.’

Control activities were undertaken for Alligator Weed, Boneseed and St Johns Wort.

Priority weed inspections totalled:

401

High risk site inspections

121.6 km

High risk pathways including creek lines, rivers, trainlines and the M2 Motorway

255

Private property inspections

52

Online marketplace reviews



Field of Mars Nature Trail Grant Award



The City of Ryde was **successful in securing a grant for an upgrade to the Field of Mars Reserve Nature Trails**. This initiative, aligned with the Field of Mars Reserve Masterplan 2021, aims to **enhance accessibility, safeguard biodiversity, and heighten community awareness**.

The project will enhance trails, upgrading up to **1,080 metres of boardwalk** to provide safe access for mobility users (wheelchair and pram) ensuring all abilities access so everyone can explore and enjoy the rich flora and fauna in the area and to gain a deeper understanding of the local environment. The boardwalk will also prevent unnecessary pedestrian damage to existing native vegetation.

The initiative aligns with Council priorities, increasing passive recreation opportunities while preserving the site's ecology. It includes promotion of the all-abilities track, signage installation and creating teaching spaces to enhance education opportunities for the community and the 18,000 students who visit the Environmental Education Centre on the site annually from Greater Sydney.

This project marks a milestone in realizing the Masterplan's goals, transforming the Field of Mars Reserve into a city treasure.



Biodiversity

Delineation works were undertaken at Lynn Park in Denistone West to protect critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest.

22 different vegetation communities have been mapped, with **over 570 species of native plants recorded in Ryde bushland**.

Community education about wildlife friendly netting took place with an update to Council's website and social media posts to protect our native wildlife.



Signage

Regulatory signage and delineation was installed at Ivanhoe Reserve and 'No Bicycle' signage installed along the popular Terrys Creek walking trail in Marsfield.

Signage was installed along Shrimpton's Creek wildlife corridor at Santa Rosa Park, North Ryde, advising that dogs are required to be kept on leash to protect local wildlife.

Suitable locations were identified for educational signage to help the community learn more about the small birds that inhabit our wildlife corridors.

Parks



Guided Walks

24

Children and their families participated in two of our guided walks and tree planting days during the winter school holidays. An additional 30 participants enjoyed our two summer guided walks.



Park Improvements

Works were undertaken at Anderson Park to improve park drainage. Access improvements were made at Memorial Park in line with the Meadowbank and Memorial Park Master plan.



Tree Canopy

1350 Street trees were planted

working towards Council's 40 percent canopy coverage by 2030 target.



Spring Garden Competition

58 entries for the Spring Garden Competition across nine categories and **200 registered seed growers** in the children's seed growing competition.

258
Participants

9
Categories





Field of Mars Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Draft plan updated and Ministerial approval obtained to place on public exhibition.



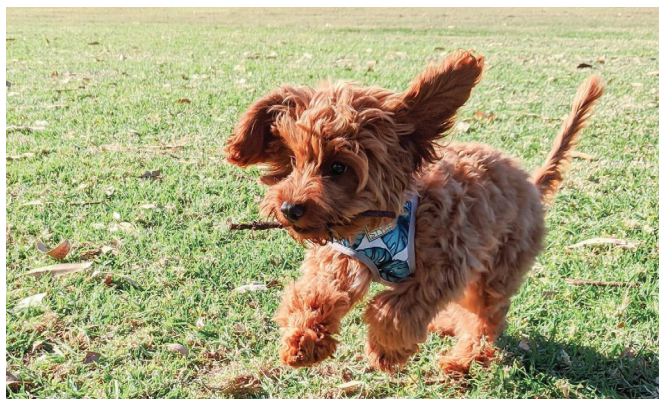
Green Links Masterplan Adopted with amendment in July 2022



Strategies

Sports field Action Plan – Towards 2036 adopted in June 2023.

Urban Forest Strategy was adopted in April 2023.



Additional Dog Off-Leash Areas

12 month trial for **Additional Dog Off-Leash Areas** at Brereton Park, Fontenoy Park and Warrawong Reserve adopted in March 2023.



Be Waste Smart

 **City of Ryde**

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SCGAchievements