




JUNIOR LANDCARE PROJECT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

PLANT SELECTION

Have you thought about what you will plant?

Consider optimal planting and weed control seasons, which plants are indigenous to your area, threatened species, bird- or butterfly-attracting species.


 Local native plants can be purchased from your community nursery, normally at a cheaper price than hardware stores.

Your [local Landcare Group](#), Council, [Natural Resource Management \(NRM\) Catchment](#), Landcare Coordinator, contractor or local nursery may be able to provide you with advice.

SITE PREPARATION

What site preparation is required before planting?

Consider weeding, improving soil, installing weed mats, mulching and pre-drilling holes. Many local councils and arborists provide mulch for free.


 Weed mats and mulch are used to suppress weeds and retain soil moisture.

Your [local Landcare Group](#), Council, [NRM Catchment](#), Landcare Coordinator, contractor or local expert may be able to provide you with support.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Do you need any tools and equipment to complete your project activities?

Consider: gloves, trowels, buckets, watering cans, wheelbarrows, shovels, secateurs and rakes.

 Local businesses often support community projects through product donations or sponsorship.

Your [local Landcare group](#) or Council may be able to lend you tools or equipment.

Will you need to protect your plants from browsing (e.g. rabbits, kangaroos)?

Consider if tree guards and stakes are required.

Your [local Landcare Group](#) or Council may be able to provide you with advice and support.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

How will your Junior Landcarers be involved?


Consider involving youth in all aspects of your project. Involving youth should be more than just tree planting. Other activities such as planning, researching, measuring and monitoring, can promote curriculum learning and sustained environmental outcomes.

 Did you know [Landcare Australia](#) offers curriculum resources?

EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

How will you engage or collaborate with the local community?

Consider involving the local community through hosting working bees for planting, weeding or site preparation.

 Organising a Welcome to Country provides a great opportunity to engage with Traditional Owners.

Will you need an expert to attend?

Consider an expert speaker or guide: Ecologist, a representative from your [NRM Catchment](#), Council or [BirdLife Australia](#), or an expert in plants, bats, frogs, water quality, fish or local heritage. Some groups may require a fee to be paid, but many are free and happy to present.

How will you promote your event?

Consider using internal newsletters, social media, local newspapers and radio to promote your project. You may wish to invite local media to your event. Remember to acknowledge project supporters and use [#juniorlandcare](#)

Are there sufficient facilities provided for your event?

Consider wet weather planning, shelter, toilets, water, food, etc.

PERMITS / APPROVALS

Are there any permits or approvals required before starting your project?

Consider: site access, vegetation removal, [Dial Before You Dig](#), cultural heritage, parental consent and media (photography, filming, signage, communications, media releases, etc.).



 Seeking permits and approvals can lead to positive engagement opportunities.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Have you thought about the health and safety risks of your project?


Conduct a risk assessment (e.g. Job Safety Analysis / Safe Work Method Statement) for your project activities. Ensure there is a site induction, first-aid kit, sufficient supervision and protective clothing for participants.

BUDGET

Have you included a detailed budget?

Consider all the items that your project will need (including purchases, donations and volunteer hours). Ensure resources for all project activities are reflected in your itemised budget.

A detailed budget is highly regarded by grant assessors, as it demonstrates good planning and helps ensure project success.

 Did you know that you can include volunteer hours as in-kind support?


REPORTING AND MAINTENANCE

How will you record your project outcomes?

Consider plant survival rate, student surveys and setting up photopoints. 'Before' and 'after' photos are a great way to share project success.

Is follow-up maintenance required?

Consider creating a maintenance plan or volunteer roster for watering, weeding, extra mulching and supplementary planting.

 Did you know even young native plants need to be watered regularly over summer?



PLANNING YOUR JUNIOR LANDCARE PROJECT

A checklist for your project



PLANT SELECTION

- Advice sought from [local Landcare group](#) or expert
- Local nursery contacted
- List of plant species created
- Optimal planting time scheduled

SITE PREPARATION

- Site preparation activities determined
- Support of local expert secured
- Any significant weed control planned
- Take 'before' photos of project site

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- Determine what tools and equipment are required
- Decide if tree guards and stakes are required

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

- Youth involved in all aspects of the project

EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Indigenous engagement / Acknowledgement of Country considered
- Local community groups / businesses engaged
- Expert speaker / guide contacted
- Event facilities adequate / organised
- Local media contacted

PERMITS / APPROVALS

- Site access / availability confirmed
- Council contacted to confirm permit requirements
- Parental release form organised

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Risk assessment completed
- Adequate supervision organised
- Protective clothing available

BUDGET

- All project resources are itemised
- Budgeted items link to project activities
- In-kind support included
- Funding amount requested within grant guidelines

REPORTING AND MAINTENANCE

- Decide how you will measure and record project outcomes
- Plant maintenance scheduled over summer/
- Holiday period
- Follow-up maintenance plan / roster scheduled
- Completed project 'after' photos scheduled for media and reporting