

Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park

Goals, Strategies and Tasks: 2010-2013

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Goal 1: Creation of STEP botanic garden

Strategy 1.1. Develop master plan for Block 100 and plant understorey gardens.

- Task 1.1.1. Apply for grant for master plan and develop master plan.
- Task 1.1.2. Decide on which ecosystems to illustrate and develop suitable plant list.
- Task 1.1.3. Acquire materials and plant garden.

Strategy 1.2. Develop ecosystem, taxonomic and horticultural policy, procedures and practices.

- Task 1.2.1. Write paper on ecosystem, taxonomic and horticultural policy, procedures and practices.
- Task 1.2.2. Develop policy and guidelines regarding curator, provenance and herbarium specimens.
- Task 1.2.3 Review recently developed guidelines on planting in the ACT.
- Task 1.2.4. Makes links to other botanic gardens.

Goal 2: Development and recognition of patches and linkages

Strategy 2.1. Identify patches and corridors/linkages over which STEP has responsibility/influence.

Task 2.1.1. List patches, location and characteristics. For each patch, identify the patch and design (if necessary) and prepare management plan, consistent with the STEP vision. Patches may include:

16ha woodland.

Area between Block 100 and woodland and Block 100 and new suburb.

Blocks 31-35 and other remnant vegetation sites at Arboretum.

Mallee block.

Partner administered areas:

Aranda Bushland,

Adjoining rural lease,

Adjoining NCA sites,

Black Mountain,

Adjacent blocks at Arboretum and their impacts on the STEP site,

Arboretum Blocks planted with native species.

Molonglo River corridor.

Task 2.1.2. For each corridor/linkage, identify its nature and location, and draw up a design (if necessary) and a management plan. The corridors/linkages will include those:

- Between patches,
- Between Block 100 and other parts of the Arboretum. These links may be physical and virtual (signage)
- Transport links between STEP and other parts of Canberra, e.g. ANBG.

Strategy 2.2 Undertake advocacy work required to create patch and or corridor/linkage.

Task 2.2.1. Identify advocacy issues involved and undertake necessary advocacy work. This will include:

Working with John Hibberd and Sarah Sharp on the Biodiversity Overlay for the Territory Plan (East Molonglo and surrounding Region Section).

Conducting a workshop on the biodiversity overlay.

Lobby for creation of woodland, adjoining areas, etc.

Joining the proposed Molonglo Bush on the Boundary (BoB) group.

Goal 3. Create a suitable physical edge

Strategy 3.1 Ensure a pleasing and secure physical interface between the STEP botanic garden and other STEP assets with the suburb of Molonglo, the rest of the arboretum, and STEP's other neighbours (e.g. rural lessee).

Task 3.1.1. Work with ACTPLA, The National Arboretum and neighbours to ascertain the nature of the proposed STEP's physical border with both non-arboretum and arboretum neighbours; take account of water drainage, fire management and cat containment issues; and design a suitable interface and lobby for it.

Task 3.1.1. Same as component in 2.2.1., join the proposed Molonglo BoB group.

Goal 4. Create STEP as an ecosystem recovery site

Strategy 4.1. STEP has been founded on the vision that it both an ecosystem recovery site, and promotes both good principle and practice in ecosystem recovery/revegetation, including creating a suitable and attractive habitat for fauna.

Task.4.1.1. Prepare a paper setting out the principle and practice of ecological restoration and illustrating how STEP both aspires to and reflects such practices.

Task 4.1.2. Gather literature and/or working with others create fact sheets on good ecological practice.

Task 4.1.3. Include suitable material on website and newsletter.

Task 4.1.4. Conduct field days/ school excursions periodically.

Task 4.1.5. Create suitable displays.

Goal 5. Create STEP as an education centre

Strategy 5.1. STEP promotes the understanding of Southern Tablelands ecology, vegetation communities, by showcasing its assets (botanic garden and other patches) and linkages, and through the provision of material and extension services.

Task.5.1.1. Prepare a paper setting out the principle and practice of the education services that STEP provides or aspires to provide.

Task 5.1.2. Gather literature and/or working with others create fact sheets on good ecological practice.

Task 5.1.3. Include suitable material on website and in newsletter.

Task 5.1.4. Conduct field days/school excursions periodically.

Task 5.1.5. Maintain and update suitable displays.

Goal 6. Put in place suitable ecological monitoring and assessment

Strategy 6.1. To ensure and illustrate how STEP achieves its objectives as an ecosystem recovery site, it is necessary to create baseline data and monitor and assess developments and changes overtime and adapt its ecological practice accordingly.

Task 6.1.1. Hold workshop on ecological monitoring and assessment and introduce suitable fauna and flora surveys.

Task 6.1.2. Regularly publish results of monitoring and assessment work and explain how this may lead to changes in management.

Goal 7. Create suitable partnerships

Strategy 7.1 STEP will undertake most work in partnership, rather than attempting to go it alone.

Task 7.1.1. Identify suitable partners, arrange suitable partnerships and publicise partnerships. The partners identified to date are:

- Partnerships with other botanic gardens.
- Ecological, landscape and horticultural organisations:
 - FOG (ecological, grassy ecosystem knowledge, weeding and management issues, neighbour on Yarramundi Reach).

- ANPS (seed and plant material, horticulture, establishing STEP gardens).
- ANBG (Plant ecology, conservation, and horticulture, growing plants)
- CIT (Jane Cottee, landscape architecture and horticulture)
- ANU Gardeners (landscape architecture and horticulture) and Fenner School (ecology).
- Forestry Group (ANU)(horticulture)
- Canberra University Landscape architects (Diane Firth) (landscape design).
- Seeds and Plants Australia and Yarralumla Nursery (plant material and advice).
- Greening Australia (revegetation and restoration and plant material and volunteer assistance).
- Fauna
 - FOG (on reptiles and GSM)
 - COG
 - ACTHA (reptiles)
 - Frogwatch and Waterwatch.
 - Canberra Institute of Applied Ecology (reptiles and GSM).
- Resourcing, promotion, advocacy
 - Arboretum (major resources)
 - FOG (advocacy and advertising)
 - Conservation Council (meeting place, advocacy)
 - K2C (networks and promotion)
 - Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment
 - Developers
 - Molonglo BoB
 - Molonglo Catchment Group
 - Conservation and Green Volunteers
 - Friends of the Arboretum.

Goal 8. Communications

Strategy 8.1 Develop communications strategy and continue to improve communications.

Task 8.1.1. Continue with website and newsletter.

Task 8.1.2. Review and improve communication strategy.

Goal 9. STEP activities

Strategy 9.1 Ensure that STEP activities are well conducted and meet STEP's objectives.

Task 9.1.1. Continue current STEP activities such as workshops, working bees, and open days, and continue to ensure that they are well designed, suitably documented, and meet occupational health and safety standards.

Goal 10. Recognition

Strategy 10.1. Promote image of STEP to stakeholders and general community.

Task 10.1.1. Continue and develop STEP's talks to other groups.

Task 10.1.2. Participate in planned open garden day at Russell's.

Task 10.1.3. Participate in K2C Open Day on 10 October.

Task 10.1.4. Participate in Floriade.

Task 10.1.5. Review and modify if necessary STEP's promotion.

Goal 11. Governance and reporting, and resources

Strategy 11.1. Keep governance and reporting arrangements under review and improve as necessary.

Task 11.1.1 Continue with tried and tested governance arrangements and reporting.

Task 11.1.2. Ensure that STEP continues to meet the standards required by the Register General.

Task 11.1.3. Continue to develop and plan STEP's goals, strategies and work plans.

Task 11.1.4. Develop a suitable archive policy.

Strategy 11.2. Develop STEP's resources to meet its vision and objectives

Task 11.2.1. Continue to ensure that STEP's chief resource, its people, are recognised and respected.

Task 11.2.2. Continue fund raising activities through membership fees, membership donations, application for grants, garden open days, and raffles.

Task 11.2.3. Look at other funding sources (e.g. tax exemption, bush food promotion)

Goal 12. Indigenous involvement

Strategy 12. Continue to consider ways to improve Indigenous people's involvement.

Task 12.1 Work with FOG in its endeavours, working with Indigenous people, to create cultural awareness programs.

Goal 13. Arboretum Opening 2013

Strategy 13.1 Ensure that STEP is ready to showcase STEP assets at opening and thereafter.

Task 13.1.1. Establish a committee to work with the Arboretum as it develops its various facilities to ensure that STEP acquires suitable facilities and is able to resource them with volunteers.

Task 13.1.2. Establish a committee to plan for the Arboretum Opening in 2013.

Task 13.1.3. Establish a committee to consider how volunteers will be permanently available to promote STEP at Arboretum, and STEP materials will be available on site.