



Project Cultivate



Improved soil quality



Increased biodiversity



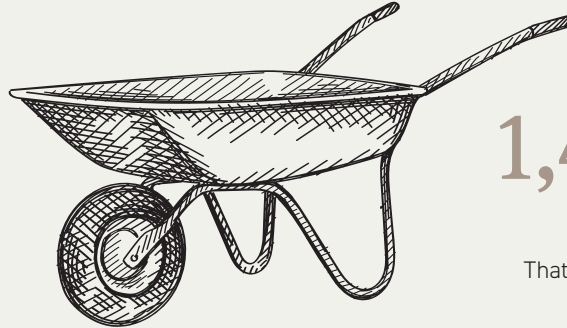
Increased sustainability



Reduced heat island effect

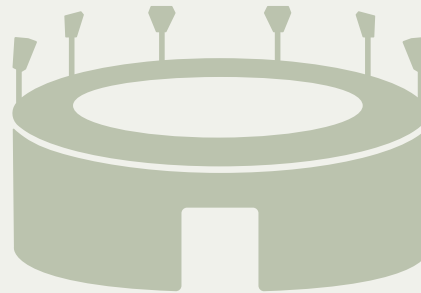


Reduced use of herbicide



1,400m³ of mulch

That's enough to fill 14,000 wheelbarrows.



Equivalent to 3.76x Melbourne Cricket Grounds

of revegetated land.



127,000 locally native plants

To recreate a grassland.



15% of Melbourne General Cemetery will be planted

That's 66,783.5m² of soon to be planted land.



Project Cultivate

Enhancing the natural surrounds of key historical cemetery sites



What is happening

Project Cultivate explores innovative horticultural possibilities at key historical cemetery sites managed by the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT). Our long-term aim is to enhance the natural surrounds of these sites in a way that supports the unique needs of our heritage locations, community and environment.

A pilot program at Melbourne General Cemetery allows us to explore and establish an understanding of community expectations and inform our future vision as well as testing the practical application of innovative plant selections and landscaping approaches in a cemetery environment.

Why we're using locally native plants and grasses

Our pilot at Melbourne General Cemetery will enhance the current landscape with an array of locally native plants and grasses that are expected to deliver a number of benefits, including:

- Improved soil quality and reduction in runoff
- Reduced reliance on herbicide to manage weeds
- Increased biodiversity with an expected increase in insects, birds, lizards, and more
- Eventual increased canopy coverage to mitigate the heat island effect of the site
- Increased sustainability and resilience to the effects of climate change

The planting will result in a developing native grassland in the heart of the city which can be enjoyed by all.

How the community will benefit

Project Cultivate adds to the current landscape of key historical sites in a way that complements existing graves, pathways and monuments and ensures sites maintain a respectful atmosphere for reflection in perpetuity.

Project Cultivate is consistent with the City of Melbourne's 'Urban Forest Strategy' which aims to adapt our city to climate change and mitigate urban heat island effect.

What you can expect

The pilot will begin by improving existing soil quality through the application of organic mulch. We will then plant around 127,000 carefully selected locally native plants, including Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grasses, Tufted Bluebells and Clustered Everlastings - plants that existed upon this site prior to its current use as a cemetery.

When works will occur

Horticultural works are taking place from 7am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday. Visitors can continue to access the cemetery with detours provided for any temporary path closures.

For more information about Project Cultivate, please visit our website at smct.org.au/cultivate or contact us at community@smct.org.au

