SKY PARKS

A project aimed at greening urban spaces

About this Garden

This Pollinator garden is part of the SkyParks project which is researching the benefits of cooling hot urban spaces, such as carparks, by installing vegetation. This project is being delivered by Waverley Council in partnership with Scentre Group, UNSW, Plantabox and the Gujaga Foundation. The project is assisted by New South Wales Government and supported by Local Government NSW.

Why SkyParks?

Lack of vegetation makes some of Waverley's districts extremely hot during summer, and temperatures are likely to increase further under projected climate change. With limited ground-level space available to establish new parks or canopy, capturing opportunities to grow plants on top of built structures is increasingly important.

The SkyParks project is installing vegetation cover on key sites in Sydney's East to demonstrate and measure cooling, species suitability, as well as habitat and community benefits.

What's in this Garden?

Knobby Club Rush

Ficinia nodosa

A strong grass-like plant that can withstand extreme weather conditions. It grows in coastal habitats.

Wallaby Grass

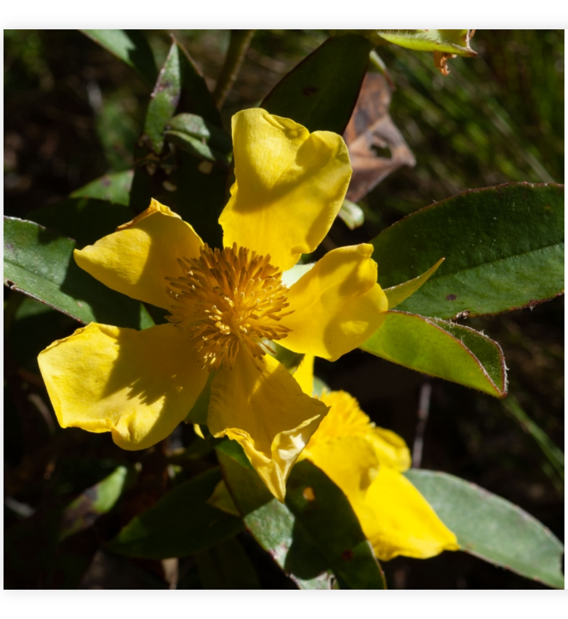
Rytidosperma caespitosum

This grass is native to the southern parts of Australia. It can grow to be 90cm tall and the young seed heads are green with a purplish tinge.

Spiny-head Mat-rush

Lomandra longifolia

Also commonly known as Basket Grass, this strong and hardy grass-like plant is proven to grow in all climates and to withstand a wide range of weather conditions.



Guinea Flower

Hibbertia scandens

The Guinea Flower has golden flowers in late Spring and Summer. It is a scrambling plant that grows as a vine and can be trained across walls and fences.

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra

Indigenous Australians harvested this plant to make bread, as well as string for fishing lines.

Box-leaf Wattle

Acacia buxifolia

The Box-leaf Wattle grows in dry forests in Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

Silver Wattle

Acacia fimbriata

The Silver Wattle is a very tall tree. The sap from the trunk can be used as a dye for clothes.

Sydney Golden Wattle

Acacia longifolia

When flowering, it indicates that humpback whales are on the move and mullet is around. The wood can be used for making tools and musical instruments.

Grey (Swamp) She-Oak

Casuarina glauca

Grey She-Oak has a very strong root system that can be used to stabilise soil. It has the Indigenous name nguumbra. The seed pods are used to make toys and jewellery.

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Benefits of Urban Greening

The need for green spaces is rapidly growing as populations increase and people move towards more urban lifestyles. Creating enough green spaces is challenging but also essential for improving human health and wellbeing and addressing the impacts of climate change. Proximity to gardens, parks and green roofs can improving the air quality around us, improve mental health and increasing the space available for outdoor leisure and social and recreational activities. Increasing urban vegetation trees and plants will also create more shade, create an urban cooling effect and absorb atmospheric carbon.

Benefits to Pollinators

Green spaces are important for pollinators including bees, butterflies, moths and birds. These pollinators provide the essential services of colleting pollen and seeds from plants then distributing them to surrounding areas or into other plants, beginning the process for new plants to grow. Green spaces in urban environments provide food and shelter for the pollinators, protecting them while they complete their important role of pollination.

Waverley's biodiversity corridors extend from the coastline right through to Centennial Park, so providing a habitat rest stops can assist local wildlife to be more resilient to threats such as pests, diseases, and loss of habitat.

Learn more

Media Release

PROJECT PARTNERS