



Plant a tree

Simply planting a tree in a safe location can provide our native animals with a home. Check Council's website for tree giveaway events or buy one of the below species from a local nursery for the best biodiversity benefits

Local native trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Two-veined Hickory	8m
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	Sydney Green Wattle	5m
<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lilly Pilly	8m
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black She-Oak	5m
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Forest-Oak	30m
<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth-Barked Apple	25m
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Rough-Barked Apple	20m
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	Grey Mangrove	4m
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coastal Banksia	10m
<i>Banksia serrata</i>	Old Man Banksia	8m
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Swamp Oak	20m
<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>	Coachwood	20m
<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>	Red Bloodwood	20m
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	Blueberry Ash	10m
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Bangalay	18m
<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>	Scribbly Gum	15m
<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	Blackbutt	30m
<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>	Sydney Peppermint	15m
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	Grey Gum	30m
<i>Eucalyptus resinifera</i>	Red Mahogany	20m
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp Mahogany	30m
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig	15m
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Cheese Tree	8m
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	Turpentine	20m

How else can I help preserve biodiversity?

Re-use rainwater and greywater

Installing a rainwater tank will save money in the long run and any rainwater collected is exempt from water restrictions. Similarly, 'greywater', or water recycled from washing machines, sinks and showers can be re-used to water your garden. Further information on recycling water can be found at www.sydneywater.com.au

Provide homes for our native animals, big or small



You can help by buying or building an 'insect hotel', owning native bees or simply providing habitat such as logs with woody hollows and leaving water in a protected, shaded location.

To learn how to build a simple insect hotel, you can view a short how-to video on the Biodiversity page of Council's website.

Alternatively, you can buy cheap and effective insect hotels from various garden centres and hardware stores.

Find out more...

Council releases environmental education events and how-to videos, including beekeeping and plant propagation workshops. These events are available digitally and in-person.

Check the What's On and Environment pages of Council's website for more information.



For more information, please contact Council on 9330 6400

georgesriver.nsw.gov.au    

Backyard biodiversity guide



Georges River has many bush reserves and canopy trees supporting native wildlife.

The following data also applies to our area:



CLIMATE

Average temperatures will increase by **1.9°C** by 2070, with an average of 11 more hot days per year



FLORA

21 vegetation communities were recorded in the LGA in 2021, **17** of those native, including **7** threatened ecological communities.



TREES

Over **30,000** canopy trees, including **15,000** street trees, provide **29%** canopy cover (2018). This cover jumps to **38%** when including mangroves.



FAUNA

127 fauna species were recorded in the LGA in 2021, including **87** bird species and **8** threatened fauna species.



PESTS

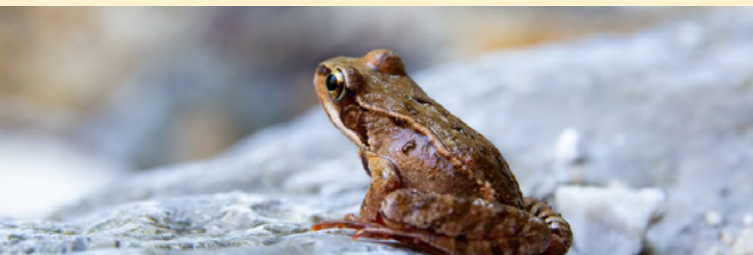
Foxes and cats are common in the area and threaten native animals and pets. The common Noisy Miner also aggressively excludes other native birds.

Our vision

Georges River can be a local government leader in bio-diverse areas, known for its abundance of leafy streets, reserves and private land, where backyards connect to our existing green corridors and add to the biodiversity potential of the area.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of life on Earth. On a local level we can improve biodiversity by providing habitat with native plants and artificial structures or just creating spaces for animals to call home.



Why do we need biodiversity in backyards?

Globally, biodiversity is under threat. It is unknown exactly how many species go extinct daily, however, it is estimated to be in the dozens. Locally, urbanisation has meant rapid and expansive habitat loss across most of Georges River, originally home to Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest on mostly shale soils. Of this vegetation, less than 10% of the original amount remains* in Hurstville Grove, Penshurst, Peakhurst and Oatley.

This habitat and the wildlife it supports is critical for a variety of reasons, including;

- creating oxygen
- storing carbon from the air
- filtering water
- pollinating plants
- dispersing seeds.

Biodiversity is all linked, so if even one species is affected, the delicate balance is disrupted which can lead to greater impacts.

What can we do?

For us, it's as simple as providing spaces for vulnerable species to use, as conserving local populations is the only way to ensure genetic diversity critical for a species' long-term survival. This can mean doing something as little as:

- placing sticks, logs and pots around for ground-dwelling species like lizards
- limiting the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides to help our insect pollinators.
- providing a shaded water source
- creating a simple artificial fish or frog pond with a black plastic base weighed down with natural rocks
- planting native climbers next to fencing or lattice; or
- re-using old household items like wheelbarrows or gumboots as garden features.

Choose local native plants

Local plants are preferred by native fauna and need less watering than other plants. By simply adding some tall, native grasses and dense shrubs, you can transform your garden or balcony into a biodiverse habitat.



Street Tree Corridors

The 2021 Biodiversity Study mapped key Street Tree Corridors linking bush reserves. Residents in these streets may be eligible for tree giveaways. To see if you are eligible, contact us on **9330 6400**. You can also request a free native tree for your street verge by pressing the **Log it/Fix It** button on our website homepage

Local native plants

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height
<i>Acacia falcata</i>	Hickory Leaf Wattle	4m
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle	4m
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Blackthorn bush	1-2m
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse bitter-pea	2m
<i>Dillwynia parvifolia</i>	Small Parrot-pea	1m
<i>Dodonea triquetra</i>	Hop Bush	1m
<i>Lasiopetalum parviflorum</i>	Velvet Bush	1m
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	Everlasting	1m
<i>Persoonia hirsuta</i>	Geebung	1m
<i>Pultenaea villosa</i>	Hairy Bush Pea	1m
<i>Rapanea variabilis</i>	Mutton Wood	3-4m
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue Flax Lily	Sedge
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Mauve Flax Lily	Sedge
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Blueberry Lily	Sedge
<i>Echinopogon</i>	Tufted Hedgehog Grass	Grass
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat-rush	Sedge

