



# Wetlands

Creating wetlands in Moonee Valley provides valuable new habitat for plants and wildlife while at the same time protecting our streets from flooding and our waterways from pollution and erosion damage. Even better, the water in wetlands can often be reused to irrigate nearby parks and sports ovals.

## Where does the pollution in stormwater come from?

When it rains, the water that runs off hard surfaces like roads, driveways and gardens is known as 'stormwater'.

Litter, sediment, dirt, oils, nutrients and other pollution from your street will be carried by stormwater along gutters and drains, to local creeks and rivers and into the bay.

Too many nutrients in water bodies cause excessive plant growth, blocking the light and air needed to keep other species healthy.

## How does a wetland remove pollution?

Wetlands are natural water filters. They can slow the flow of stormwater and store the water for short periods of time. Wetlands contain a series of shallow ponds with aquatic plants, known as macrophytes, that support a complex of algal and bacterial microscopic organisms. This allows litter, sediments and nutrients to be absorbed or filtered out of the stormwater before continuing on downstream.

Wetlands are different from lakes, as they are designed with more shallow areas to support the vegetation that filters pollutants.

## How does a wetland protect us from flooding?

Wetlands reduce peak stormwater flows by storing floodwaters and runoff, so that it can be released gradually at a later time. This helps to keep floodwaters away from properties and also prevents erosion along our waterways. In the case of extreme storms and floods, the wetland will not be able to capture all water, but they will certainly help reduce the impact.

## How does a wetland improve biodiversity?

Wetlands are homes for many species of birds, frogs, fish, invertebrates and water loving plants. Wetlands also provide important breeding grounds and nurseries for a number of fish and water bird species.

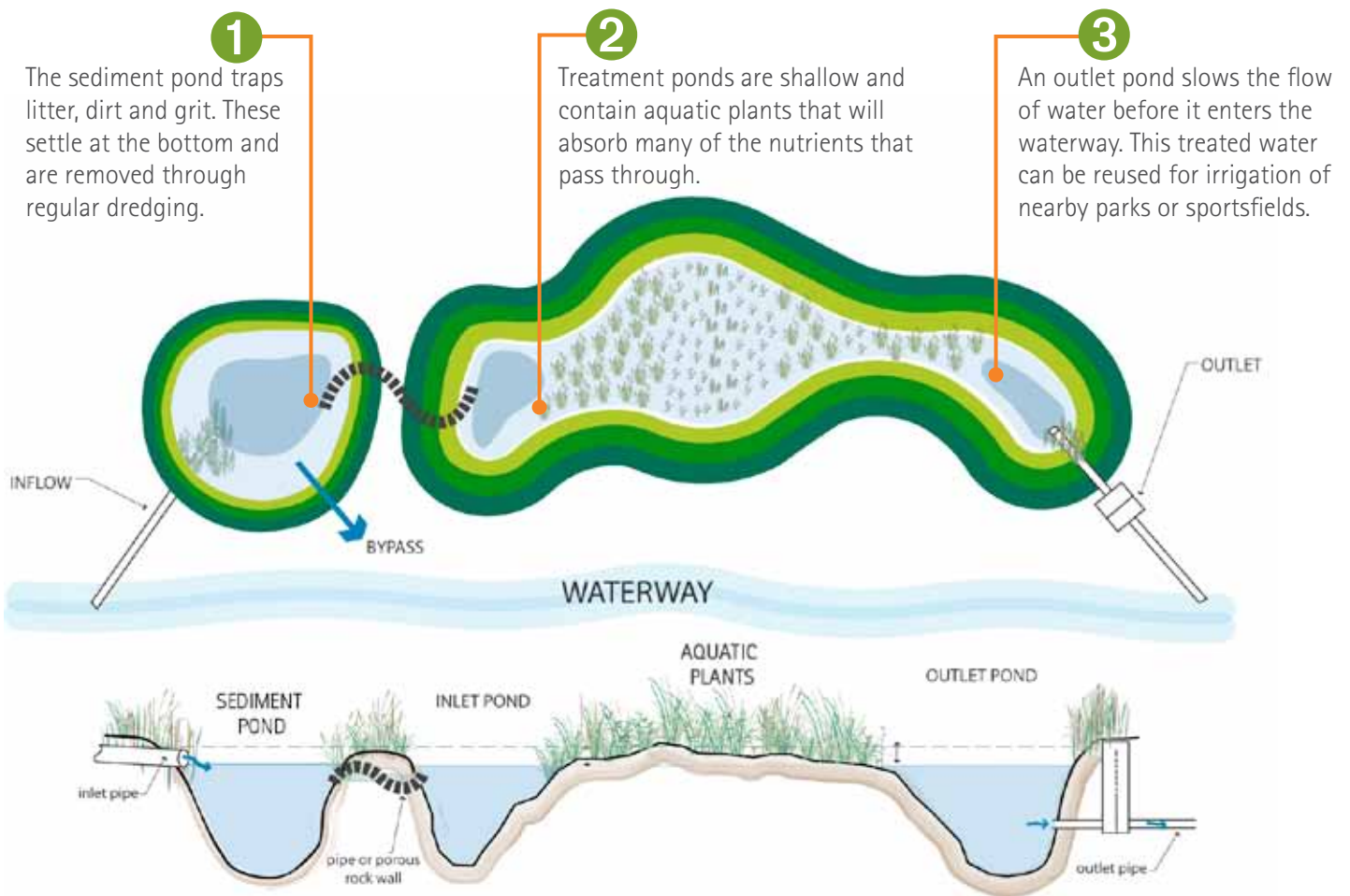
## What can you do to help keep wetlands and waterways healthy?

- Keep our wetlands cleaner by picking up litter you see in the streets. This way, it won't make its way down to the wetland or waterway.
- If you are building or renovating, make sure your rubbish is secured on site, and

that paints and cement are not poured down the drain. This would be like pouring paint directly into our waterways.

- Keep dogs on a leash and clean up after them.
- Protect wildlife at the wetland by not feeding the animals. Let them thrive naturally.

## How does a wetland work?



Please contact Council on 9243 8888 if you would like more information.

### Moonee Valley Language Line

عربي	Arabic	9280 0738	Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 0741	Español	Spanish	9280 0744
中文	Cantonese	9280 0739	Italiano	Italian	9280 0742	Türkçe	Turkish	9280 0745
Hrvatski	Croatian	9280 0740	Somali	Somali	9280 0743	Việt-ngữ	Vietnamese	9280 0746

All other languages 9280 0747

Hearing Assistance 133 677

Moonee Valley City Council  
 9 Kellaway Avenue | PO Box 126 Moonee Ponds VIC 3039  
 Telephone 03 9243 8888 | Facsimile 03 9377 2100  
 Email council@mvcc.vic.gov.au | Website mvcc.vic.gov.au

