

A guide for community wanting to set up a Bushcare Busy Bee

We need your help to fight the weeds!

The amazing bushland of our region is subjected to many threats, from both humans and the natural environment.

Invasive environmental weeds are one of these threats. Once weeds get a foothold into an area, they can easily take over. Invasive weeds are a significant problem because they are extremely difficult to control, as they:

- Out compete local native species
- Degrade the habitats used by native animals
- Change the structure of the local bushland
- Affect the visual amenity of the region

Got a special spot you'd like to help look after?

We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch at bushcare@albany.wa.gov.au

Getting Started

Step 1. Becoming a Volunteer

- Download the [Volunteer Application Form](#) from the City website to register as a volunteer
- Choose an area you are passionate about. All busy bees on City land must be done with **hand tools only** - so please consider this when thinking about where you want to hold your busy bee!

Note: Not all areas are appropriate for volunteer busy bees. This may be due to land ownership, safety considerations, current or future works etc

Step 2. Defining Your Busy Bee Patch

- After registering, we will meet you at your chosen location to nut out objectives, priorities and agree tasks for the area
- This will form your [Volunteer Position Description](#)

Step 3. Your Induction

- The City will provide you with an induction before running any busy bees, including relevant City policies, health & safety considerations, and importantly all things **weeds vs wildflowers!**



Planning and Running a Busy Bee

Setting up a Group and Time

- We suggest once a month, on a Saturday or a Sunday. A maximum 3hr event seems to work well for most groups, with a break in the middle to share a cuppa and morning tea!
- We will help you with advertising, producing flyers etc to let locals, friends, and family know about upcoming events

Planning Each Busy Bee

- Touch base with the City to agree focus location and tasks for each event beforehand, and to collect any supplies from the City
- Check weather events - it is important to consider risk and safety of the group
- For the first couple of busy bees, a Reserves team member will attend and help get the group up and running on site. This gives us both a chance to talk through what weeds to target, and anything else to look out for.

Running the Busy Bee on the Day

- Provide a short briefing before the group breaks away to commence tasks
- Make sure everyone attending is registered as a volunteer and fills out the [Volunteer Sign-In Register](#)
- Make sure everyone takes a break!

After the Busy Bee

- Check back in with the City after your busy bee and tell us how you went - let us know what green waste needs collecting and where you weeded that week.

Some of the Nitty Gritty

Important Information

For everyone's safety and the protection of our natural reserves please note:

- Only tasks and use of equipment agreed with the City are to be undertaken - these events are strictly **hand tools only!**
- All participants must be registered as a City Volunteer to be covered by insurance

Forms

All the necessary forms to get started can be downloaded from the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au/services/maintenance/maintenance.aspx

Not ready to start your own Busy Bee, but want to lend a helping hand?

Join us at a City run busy bee, fortnightly on a Friday morning 9-11am. For upcoming dates and locations, check out the City of Albany Events Calendar at www.albany.wa.gov.au/events

The City of Albany respectfully acknowledges the Menang Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the City conducts its business, and pays respect to Elders past and present.

