



Environmental Restoration in the ACT and St Marks Grassland

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Environmental Restoration Design and Planning (ERDP)
and ACT Natural Resources Management (ACT NRM)

Who we are

ACT NRM is the regional delivery partner for Natural Heritage Trust projects administered by the Commonwealth.

Environmental Restoration Design and Planning are in our first of a four-year tender working to deliver restoration projects for the ACT Natural Resource Management team (ACT NRM).

ERDP works with a **network of local subcontractors and partner organizations** including catchment groups and Landcare ACT.

Model is to capitalise on strengths of each group we are supporting small businesses and getting value for government money and the best possible environmental outcomes.

Key Focus Areas

- Planning – 65+ Plans
- Restoration
- Monitoring and Maintenance



22

Project Sites



37040

native grasses, trees
and shrubs planted.



4.65km

fencing to protect plants
and riparian corridors.





Grasslands

Plans

- NCA Grasslands Plan
- Gungaderra Grasslands Plan
- Molonglo Gorge Reserve – grassland areas
- St Marks Grassland

Crace Grasslands Restoration

- Burning, spraying and seeding to reduce Phalaris and increase native grass diversity.





St Mark's Grassland

An Environmental Action Plan for
St Mark's Grassland, Barton ACT



July 2025

St Mark's Grassland, An Environmental Community Action Plan for St Mark's Grassland, Barton ACT

Draft V1 31st May 2025

Draft V2 4th June 2025

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Final Draft V2 18th June 2025

Final Draft V3 7th July 2025

Final 26th July 2026

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Cover Photo: <https://stmarks.edu.au/event/st-marks-grassland-work-party/> 2020

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Ngunnawal people and all Traditional Owners of the land where we work, learn, celebrate and live. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their elders past, present and future. We value their knowledge, insights and connection to the land and waters that we care about.

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Disclaimer

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St Marks Grassland Plan



St Mark's Grassland Landscape Improvement Plan - Overview

- Leaf Debris
- Pest Control
- Revegetation
- Woody Weeds
- Weed Control
- St Mark's Grassland



Map prepared by Environmental Restoration Design & planning. While all care is taken to ensure accuracy, it cannot be guaranteed that it is free from errors. Base layers were obtained with permission from the ACT Government spatial database. Date 2 May 2025

St Marks Grassland



St Mark's Grassland Improvement Plan - Biomass Management Activities

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Medium Priority C3 |  Pale Flax Lily |
|  High Priority C4 |  Button Wrinklewort |
|  St Mark's Grassland | |


0 0.01 0.03 0.06 Kilometers



**ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION
DESIGN & PLANNING**

Map prepared by Environmental Restoration Design & planning. While all care is taken to ensure accuracy, it cannot be guaranteed that it is free from errors. Base layers were obtained with permission from the ACT Government spatial database. Date 17 June 2024

Site	SMG1
Description	This is a relatively small area near the northern edge of the grassland. There are several patches of bare ground, possibly due to prior weed removal. It is lower botanical value than other parts of the site but still retains a good level of plant diversity.
Recommended Actions Priority: Low	Planting or seeding in this area is required to increase diversity and groundcover. Revegetate with Kangaroo Grass thatch from adjacent high thatch areas. This is best done by hand (e.g. with loppers or shears) to avoid loss of seed. Take the seed heads off a selection of plants when they are seeding (late summer months). Retain the plant mulch with the seed. Other species may be used also. Another option is to buy seed with mulch providing biosecurity measures are adhered to. There are local collectors who sell seed with mulch. Plant Button <u>Wrinklewort</u> and Yam Daisy seedlings. These need to be grown in advance from a specialist grower such as Greening Australia, Gondwana Land Services or the Australian Native Plant Society.
Other Considerations	An eco burn may also trigger germination of grasses and forb seed in the soil seed bank. It is important to note that in areas with lower levels of biomass, this may also include the germination of weed seeds which should be monitored and controlled without delay. Revegetation activities should be monitored and maintained ongoing. This may include replacement planting and weeding around the plants. Planting is a good activity for community engagement.

Site	SMG2
Description	This area runs along the northwest perimeter of the grassland. It is thickly covered in Oak tree leaves which is suppressing regeneration of grassland plants. The native <u>forbs in particular, are</u> being smothered by the mulch.  Photo 14 Oak leaf mulch
Recommended Actions Priority: High	Install a silt fence (or similar) between the edge of the Grassland and the CSU campus to trap exotic tree leaves and reduce their encroachment onto grassland. The barrier needs to be visually appealing as well as functional. It is important to use materials that don't break down into microplastics over time. Leaves will need to be regularly collected from along the fence to prevent excessive build up and 'composting' which will ultimately break down into soil and become messy.
Other Considerations	It is recommended that the Friends of St Mark's Grassland investigate funding sources to properly design and implement a barrier that is visually appealing and could even double as a

St Marks Grassland

Action	Priority	Area
Undertake weed control - African Lovegrass.	Very High	SMG8
Install a silt fence to trap exotic tree leaves and reduce their encroachment onto grassland.	High	SMG2
Undertake woody weed control.	High	SMG3, SMG6
Establish an interpretive garden with signage.	High	SMG4
Undertake herbaceous weed control.	High	SMG7
Conduct biomass management burns every 3-5 years.	High	SMG13
Monitor all weeds, biomass levels and Button Wrinklewort numbers.	High	All
Conduct biomass management burns every 6-8 years.	Medium	SMG12
Remove Pine tree seedlings.	Medium	SMG10
Remove leaf litter.	Medium	SMG11
Plant Button Wrinklewort and Yam Daisy seedlings in clumps.	Medium	SMG1, SMG12, SMG13
Undertake planting or seeding in bare/ degraded areas	Low	SMG1
Monitor rabbit, hare and fox numbers and their impacts, particularly on native forb populations.	Low	SMG5, SMG9



Funding

~\$20000 on ground

- Weed control
- Plants
- Seeds
- Other?



Next Steps

- Community led
- Who wants to be involved
- Workshops / walks / talks
- Site planning e.g. garden
- Other funding