

About Trust for Nature

Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation that works to protect native plants and wildlife in cooperation with private landowners.

Our native plants and wildlife provide us with not only important services, such as clean water and resources, but they are important in and of themselves. However, as two-thirds of Victoria is privately owned, many of these species and their habitats are not currently getting the protection they need.

The Trust was established under the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* to enable people to contribute permanently to nature conservation by donating land or money. We have since evolved into one of Victoria's primary land conservation organisations, with several tools to help people protect biodiversity on private land. Those tools include: conservation covenants; land management stewardship; our Revolving Fund; land ownership and management and assistance in arranging native vegetation offsets.

In 1978, Trust for Nature developed conservation covenants as a way to legally protect biodiversity private land, and we have now protected more than 47,000 hectares through over 1,115 perpetual conservation covenants. The Trust has also purchased and preserved more than 55 properties across Victoria through its Revolving Fund, as well as currently owning and managing 46 properties that cover over 36,000 hectares of Victoria.

Our vision

Within two decades, protecting native plants and wildlife on private land will be recognised and valued as a central part of mainstream Australian environmental practice.

There will be a shared expectation and responsibility among communities, landowners and governments that significant natural areas on privately owned land should be conserved, just as national and state parks are protected.

Our work in the North Central catchment

Trust for Nature works in partnership with North Central CMA in the development of strategic landscape-scale conservation projects which include conservation covenants. Trust for Nature provides a stewardship program to support owners of covenant-protected land to manage the native vegetation in their care, and in partnership with North Central CMA have worked successfully to resource works on covenant-protected land through programs such as the Flood Recovery program.

Trust for Nature owns six properties in the North Central region covering an area of 2916 hectares, protecting threatened vegetation communities and species. These properties are sometimes open to the public through events organised by the Trust that educate the community and celebrate our natural environment and the unique plants and animals that live there; in particular Spring into Nature around September each year.

Trust for Nature has protected approximately 8000 hectares of significant and at risk native vegetation with covenants on title in the North Central region.

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