



Pest plants are a major and ongoing problem in Knox bushland reserves. Plants such as Sweet Pittosporum, Blackberry, and Cottonaster are invading our bushland reserves. These environmental weeds are often spread through reserves via the droppings of birds that eat the berries from these plants.

Other environmental weeds are spread from garden trimmings and lawn cuttings dumped over fences.

Vandalism is another problem in reserves where vegetation is removed or damaged in order to construct cubby houses, play war games or change the view for a neighbouring property.

In addition, the presence of feral and domestic dogs, cats and foxes impacts on the natural character of bushland. These animals prey on the native animals that live in local reserves such as possums, rosellas and wrens.

Management Issues

The fauna of Knox is mainly common urban species found in many Melbourne municipalities; however, the fauna of Knox is enhanced by its close proximity to the Dandenong Ranges.

Some of the common species found within the municipality include Ringtail and Brushtail Possums, Sugar Gliders and Feather-tail Gliders, Blue Tongue Lizards, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas and Sulphur Crested Cockatoos. In addition to these common species, other animals such as Echidnas, Platypus, Swamp Wallabies, Bush Rats, Bats, Black Cockatoos, Falcons and Gang Cockatoos have been recorded in Knox.

Local Fauna

The native vegetation of Knox is dominated by tall eucalypt forests and scrub bushland. Local forest areas are characterised by an open canopy with dense understorey. Eucalypts found in Knox include Swamp Gum, Mannan Gum, Stringybark, Box Gum and Messmate Stringybark.

Plant communities in Knox tend to become more lush and denser in undergrowth towards the Dandenong Ranges. A contributing factor to this variation is the increase in moisture availability. The rainfall pattern across the municipality varies from under 800 mm in the west where there are low, arid ridges, to over 1,200 mm in the east where the land rises sharply into the Dandenong Ranges.

Local Flora

Some bushland reserves have Friends Groups. These groups are made up of interested people who wish to help maintain and conserve the significance of a bushland reserve. Friends Groups get involved in activities such as the removal of environmental weeds, clean up days, planting indigenous species and conducting nature walks.

Reserves mentioned in this brochure are managed by Knox City Council, Melbourne Water, or Parks Victoria. Maintenance work is carried out each year and considerable effort is made by these organisations to educate the community on the issues threatening each reserve.

Caring for Bushland Reserves:



How You Can Help

Visitors
Please keep to the designated tracks – deviation can destroy small plants, disturb soil and encourage weeds. Also, please take your litter home with you.

Local Residents
Please keep your pets out of bushland reserves, and do not plant environmental weeds in your own garden. If you live next to a nature reserve, do not throw garden refuse such as lawn clippings over the back fence – try mulching or composting it instead.

Friends Groups
Friends Groups are vital in the management of bushland reserves. They provide a sense of local ownership and help educate the community on the importance of bushland reserves. Friends Groups provide people with the opportunity to learn more about their local environment and the plants and animals which live there. If you would like to join a Friends Group, or start your own, please contact Knox Council's Biodiversity Coordinator on 9298 8000 or visit Council's website at www.knox.vic.gov.au



Dogs in Bushland Reserves

- Knox City Council Local Law No. 1 states that**
1. Any dog in or on any road, public place or Council land must be under control;
 2. Any dog must be on a lead in any signed area as determined from Council; and
 3. A person in charge of a dog must not allow any part of that dog's excrement to remain on any Council land or public place.

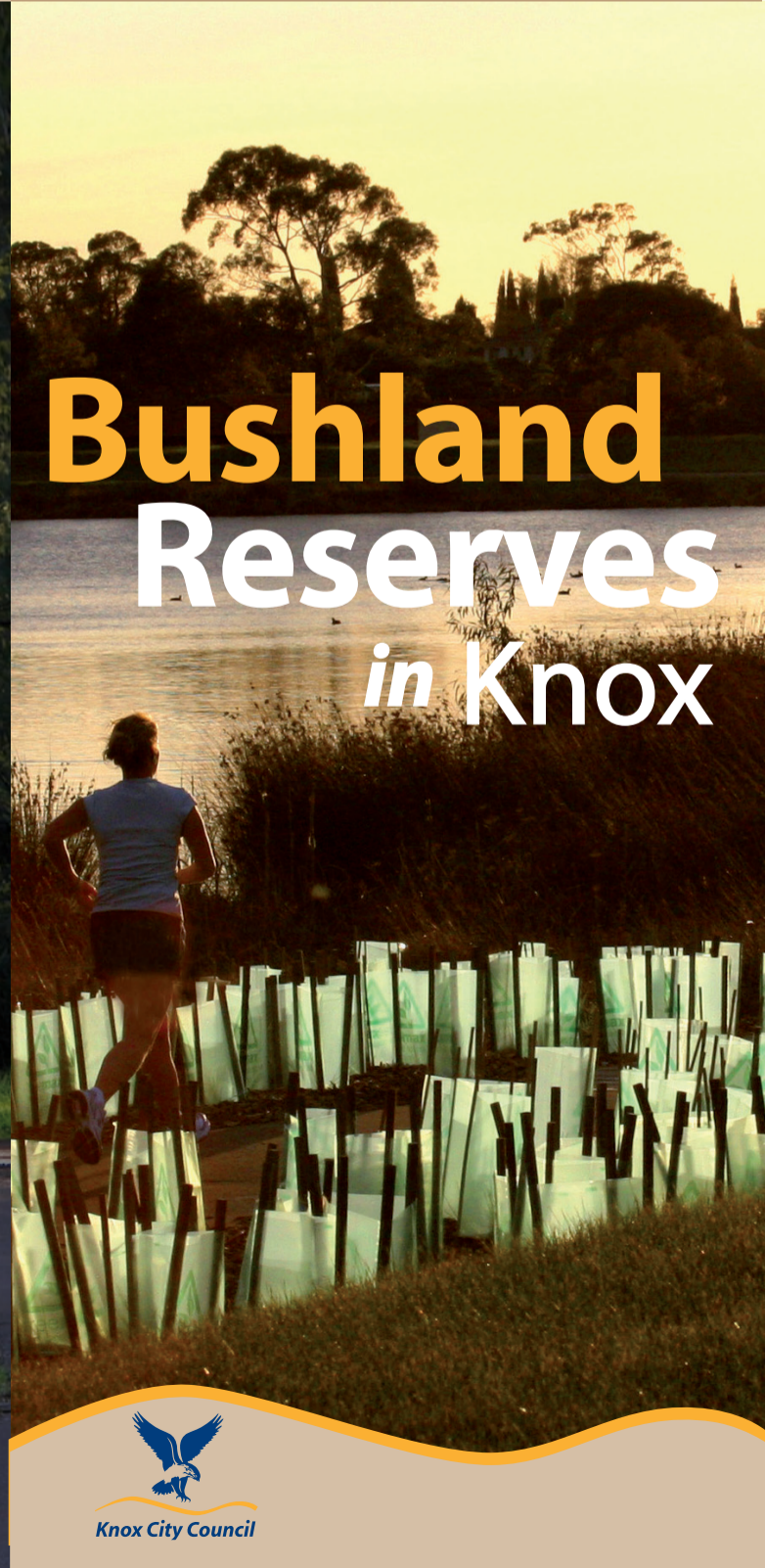
For Further Information

Please contact the Knox City Council, Sustainability Department on (03) 9298 8000.



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Bushland Reserves in Knox



1. Koomba Park
(Melway Ref. 63 C7) **PV**
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Located off Mountain Highway, Wantirna, Koomba Park features walking paths through wetlands around man-made Koomba Lake.

2. Winton Wetlands
(Melway Ref. 63 F3) **MW**

Winton Wetlands are located along Dandenong Creek between Boronia and Wantirna Roads, Wantirna. The Reserve is regionally significant, providing habitat for Latham's Snipe, which is a migratory bird protected under the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, Yellow-billed Spoonbills and many frogs. Winton Wetlands also contain at least two trees used in the past to make Aboriginal canoes.

3. Yarrabing Wetlands
(Melway Ref. 63 F3) **KCC**

Yarrabing Wetlands is located off Magnolia Street in Wantirna. Named after an aboriginal word meaning "white gum", the reserve contains a large number of remnant Manna Gums, which support local wildlife. Wetland development in 2000 has enriched the wildlife and improved the water quality.

4. Stringybark Reserve
(Melway Ref. 63 F6) **KCC**

This reserve located at the corner of Mountain Highway and Petaluna Drive, Wantirna, was formed in the late 1990's as part of a housing subdivision. The reserve contains some significant grasslands and excellent examples of the rare Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*).

5. Bateman St Bushland
(Melway Ref. 63 F4)

KCC & VicRoads
Bateman Street bushland is located on the proposed Healesville Freeway reservation in Wantirna. This site is considered to be one of the largest and richest areas of fairly intact Valley Heathy Forest in the Melbourne region.

Key Responsible Authorities:

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| KCC | Knox City Council | 9298 8000 |
| PV | Parks Victoria | 131 963 |
| CGDC | City of Greater Dandenong Council | 9239 5100 |
| MV | Melbourne Water | 9703 3300 |

6. W. G. Morris Reserve
(Melway Ref. 63 G7) **KCC**

W. G. Morris Reserve is located in Harold Street, Wantirna. This 6 acre reserve contains many significant plant species including Nodding Greenhood and Tall Greenhood Orchids and is important habitat for native wildlife. The local high school uses the reserve for environmental education.

7. Mansons Reserve
(Melway Ref. 63 J3) **KCC**

This open space reserve contains one of the last wetland billabongs in Knox. A 60 metre boardwalk was constructed in 1996, providing close-up views of wildlife in the reserve. Mansons Reserve is linked to the Knox Cycleway and is situated in Selkirk Avenue, Wantirna.

8. Bayswater Park
(Melway Ref. 64 F3) **KCC**
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Located in the heart of suburbia on the corner of Bayswater Rd and Mountain Hwy in Bayswater. It is a very popular reserve for picnics and nature walks due to significant remnant vegetation.

9. Old Joes Creek Retarding Basin
(Melway Ref. 65 A6) **MW & KCC**

Old Joes Creek Retarding Basin features Old Joes Creek, a retarding basin and remnant bushland vegetation. This reserve and Wicks Reserve in The Basin are two sites in Knox that provide habitat for the threatened Sword-grass Brown Butterfly. The Knox Environment Society is linking the two reserves by creating a vegetated wildlife corridor. Attached to this retarding basin is the Lucas Close Bushland which is a small pocket of remnant vegetation. Hova, Flat Pea, Common Heath and Native Fuchsia all take turns to display their coloured flowers throughout the seasons.

10. Lucas Close
(Melway Ref. 65 B5) **KCC**

14. Wicks Reserve & Wicks Reserve East
(Melway Ref. 65 J8) **KCC**
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Wicks Reserve is an open space forest area at the base of the Dandenong Ranges. The reserve is ideal for bushwalking and viewing many plants indigenous to Knox. Of particular interest is *Gahnia sieberiana*, which provides essential habitat for the threatened Sword-grass Brown Butterfly. An oak tree of historical significance is located in nearby Sheffield Road. It is believed that the tree was planted by William Chandler, one of the first Councillors in the district, in 1875. The tree is one of the finest examples of the early English oak in Australia.

20. Sundew Reserve
(Melway Ref. 64 K8) **KCC**

21. Penrith Reserve
(Melway Ref. 64 H8) **KCC**

22. Roselyn Crescent Reserve
(Melway Ref. 64 D10) **KCC**
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This open woodland reserve located in Roselyn Crescent, Boronia, is notable for its wild flower display each spring. Bush peas and orchids are found under the canopy line of the eucalypt trees.

23. Wadhurst Drive Reserve
(Melway Ref. 64 C11) **KCC**

25. Norvel Reserve
(Melway Ref. 64 G12) **KCC**

26. Clyde Reserve
(Melway Ref. 73 F2) **KCC**

27. Lakewood Nature Reserve
(Melway Ref. 73 C2) **KCC & MW**

Located on Lakewood Drive, Knoxfield, Lakewood Nature Reserve consists of open space, significant bushland and a retarding basin. This reserve is completely surrounded by residential development and forms a wildlife sanctuary for many water birds and possums.

28. Egan Lee Reserve
(Melway Ref. 73 A3) **KCC**

Egan Lee Reserve is approximately four acres of open woodland located off Wallace Road, Knoxfield. Features of this reserve include grassland species such as sedges and tussock grass. Many orchids also feature in this reserve flowering in spring.

33. Redcourt Reserve
(Melway Ref. 72 F6) **KCC**

Redcourt Reserve is a small reserve located off Berrabri Drive, Wantirna South. It features a diverse range of wildflowers that may be seen in Spring. These include Golden Billy Buttons, Milkmaids and Chocolate Lilies.

34. Linnel Court Reserve
(Melway Ref. 81 H2) **KCC**

35. Delta Court Reserve
(Melway Ref. 81 J3) **KCC**

36. Starlight Reserve
(Melway Ref. 81 G5) **KCC**

Starlight Reserve is located off Canter Street in Rowville. It contains a range of indigenous vegetation, which has regenerated after Knox City Council altered the mowing regime for the reserve. This reserve has an interesting history as part of the land was used as a military camp in World War 2. The reserve also formed part of the first Victorian tobacco farm in the 1860s.

37. Tirhatuan Wetlands Conservation Reserve
(Melway Ref. 81 F6) **MW**

Tirhatuan Wetlands Conservation Reserve is located off Police Road in Rowville and contains remnant wetland species. This reserve also provides important habitat for the Dwarf Galaxia fish which is protected under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

38. Dandenong Police Paddocks
(Melway Ref. 81 J8) **GCDC**
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Located on the southern boundary of Knox, this open space reserve was home to the Native Police Tracker Corps between 1849 and 1853. Police Paddocks is undergoing extensive revegetation and a variety of active and passive recreation options are being developed, which will eventually create a significant regional park. Access is via Brady Road, Endeavour Hills.

39. Churchill National Park
(Melway Ref. 82 C9) **PV**
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This National Park contains considerable bird, plant and animal life unique to the area. The park's entrance is located off Churchill Park Drive, Rowville and is open from 8.30am to sunset all year round.

40. Whitecliff Reserve
(Melway Ref. 82 A7) **KCC**

41. Pinehill Reserve
(Melway Ref. 82 D1) **KCC**

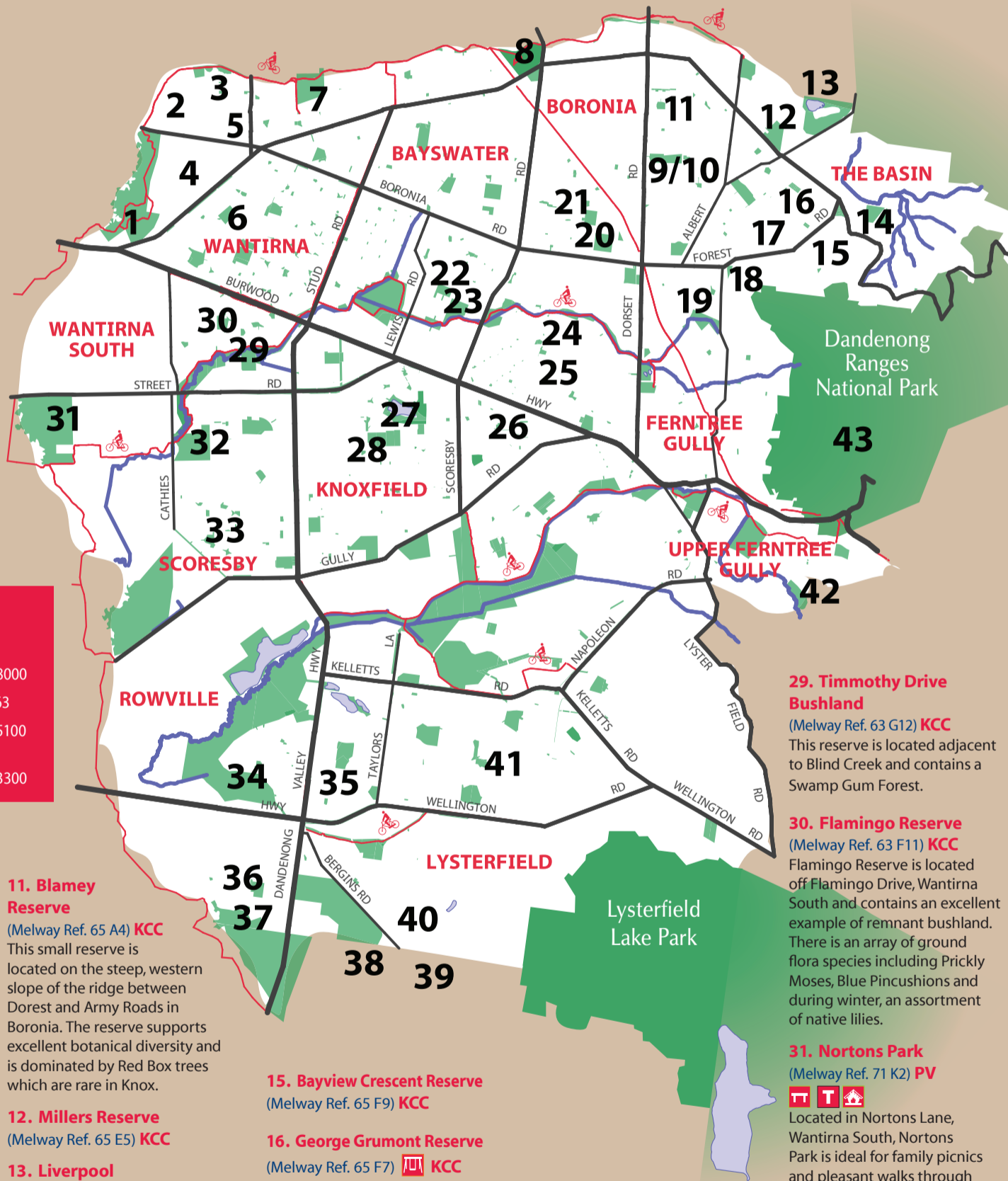
42. Gilmour Park
(Melway Ref. 74 F8) **KCC & MW**

Gilmour Park's 6.7 hectares are quite unique in Knox as they contain a natural, forested creek; a lake and wetland setting with a woodland backdrop; open grassland; and a cricket oval. Gilmour Park is a refuge for many plants and animals that have been threatened by urban development. It forms an important link with other refuge habitats around Ferntree Gully National Park.

43. Dandenong Ranges National Park
(Mel Ref. 74 H5) **PV**
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Dandenong Ranges National Park is located off the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Upper Ferntree Gully. It is a large eucalypt forest (Ferntree Gully, Doongalla and Sherbrooke) that features waterfalls and fern gullies. It is very popular for picnics, walks and drives.

Knox Bushland Reserves



29. Timothy Drive Bushland
(Melway Ref. 63 G12) **KCC**

This reserve is located adjacent to Blind Creek and contains a Swamp Gum Forest.

30. Flamingo Reserve
(Melway Ref. 63 F11) **KCC**

Flamingo Reserve is located off Flamingo Drive, Wantirna South and contains an excellent example of remnant bushland. There is an array of ground flora species including Prickly Moses, Blue Pincushions and during winter, an assortment of native lilies.

31. Nortons Park
(Melway Ref. 71 K2) **PV**
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Located in Nortons Lane, Wantirna South, Nortons Park is ideal for family picnics and pleasant walks through rural/bushland reserves. The park is accessible via the Knox Cycleway.

32. Llewellyn Reserve
(Melway Ref. 72 E3) **KCC**

Located off Cathies Lane, Wantirna South, Llewellyn Reserve sits on a reclaimed brickworks site and includes playing fields constructed on clay fill. The perimeter of the reserve, and particularly the north-east corner, retains native vegetation, including a number of significant species.

11. Blamey Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 A4) **KCC**

This small reserve is located on the steep, western slope of the ridge between Dorest and Army Roads in Boronia. The reserve supports excellent botanical diversity and is dominated by Red Box trees which are rare in Knox.

12. Millers Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 E5) **KCC**

13. Liverpool Retarding Basin
(Melway Ref. 65 G5) **MW**

Liverpool Retarding Basin is located on Liverpool Road, The Basin. It includes two lakes and seasonal wetlands and is one of Knox's largest and most diverse areas of intact indigenous vegetation. The reserve's patch of swamp scrub is undoubtedly one of the richest and most ecologically healthy in the Melbourne region. Nine plant species of regional significance are found in this reserve, as is the threatened Swamp Skink.

15. Bayview Crescent Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 F9) **KCC**

16. George Grumont Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 F7) **KCC**

17. Mortiboy Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 F8) **KCC**

18. Wirrianda Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 D10)

19. Koolunga Native Reserve
(Melway Ref. 65 C11) **KCC**
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Koolunga Native Reserve is located on Forest Road, Ferntree Gully. It is a 9 hectare reserve that was purchased from Chandler's Daffodil Farm in 1968 and named after an aboriginal word meaning 'banks of a stream'.

24. Blind Creek Billabong
(Melway Ref. 64 H11) **KCC**

This reserve runs adjacent to Blind Creek in Ferntree Gully and can be accessed from Springfield Rd, Boronia. Two vegetation communities are present - a seasonal wetland (the billabong) and forest dominated by Swamp Gum and Silver-leaved Stringybark. This reserve contains 16 plant species that are regionally or locally significant to Knox.