

NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas include forests, national parks, wildlife reserves, creek corridors, flora reserves and bushland areas. Council works in partnership with land management agencies and Friends Groups to ensure that natural values are recognised and preserved.

The protection and management of natural areas and sites with flora and fauna and cultural heritage significance is critical in the planning scheme and park management plans.

The management of natural areas will be governed in most cases by legislation and regulations for national parks, State Forests and Crown Land Reserves. In addition, park management plans will be prepared and adhered to. This will ensure natural areas are managed so they primarily protect the natural asset, while providing recreation and tourism benefits to the community and region as a secondary purpose.

Council's Tourism Strategy supports the development of nature-based recreation tourism activities in Yarra Ranges. The region's significant bushland, ranges and rivers are able to support nature-based recreation tourism activities and this should be explored by Council.

Priorities

- Explore opportunities for nature based recreation activities.

**“NATURE-BASED
RECREATION
ACTIVITIES ARE
SUPPORTED IN
YARRA RANGES.”**