

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION POLICY

November 2024

1 POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to define Gardens for Wildlife Victoria's (GWV) research and evaluation ethos, purpose and priorities.

2 POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to research and evaluation activities under the management or control of the GWV and in association with research partners.

3 POLICY STATEMENT

Research and evaluation ethos

The overarching concern of GWV is that the relationships between people and nature are deteriorating. GWV believes that the well-being of people is inextricably linked with the health of nature, the health of their communities and caring for both sustainably. The mission of GWV is to *Create empowered networks of communities connecting with, improving, and caring for nature.*

The research and evaluation approach of the GWV will be research 'with' not 'on', recognising a 'whole-of-system' context, and encouraging partnerships and co-design. We encourage a range of methods, for example qualitative, quantitative, mixed, action research, social science, ecological and evaluation methodologies.

Research and evaluation purpose

The purpose of GWV research and evaluation activities will be to assist GWV to achieve its strategic objectives, primarily:

- Support GWV and its affiliates to monitor, evaluate and improve their work;
- Help to secure evidence of outcomes of the work of GWV and affiliates;
- Contribute to the broad body of research work associated with understanding, improving and sustaining positive relationships between human communities and nature, with a focus on wildlife gardening and affiliated forms of active biodiversity stewardship.

Research and evaluation indicative themes and topics

Themes and topics are listed below, including those identified in joint workshops between GWV and its associates and stakeholders (11 August 2017, 23 November 2017) are noted below. These are not exclusive and may shift from time to time:

1. different contexts within which nature stewardship occurs and the implications;
2. the process for community engagement in biodiversity stewardship, including adoption of its ethos and practice;

3. motivations for engaging in wildlife gardening;
4. development of community capacity for nature stewardship;
5. human and ecological benefits from wildlife gardening and the connection between them;
6. models of effective community-council collaborations and measurements for effectiveness and achieving effectiveness;
7. how to scale up effective wildlife gardening geographically and into policy as well as practice.
8. provide evidence for ongoing governance innovation in relation to biodiversity conservation and stewardship.

Attachment 1 Research/evaluation Mindmap

A mindmap linking the ethos, methods, partnerships / projects and themes is attached as a working, non-prescriptive document.

Research and Evaluation Mindmap

