



Urban Refuges incentive program

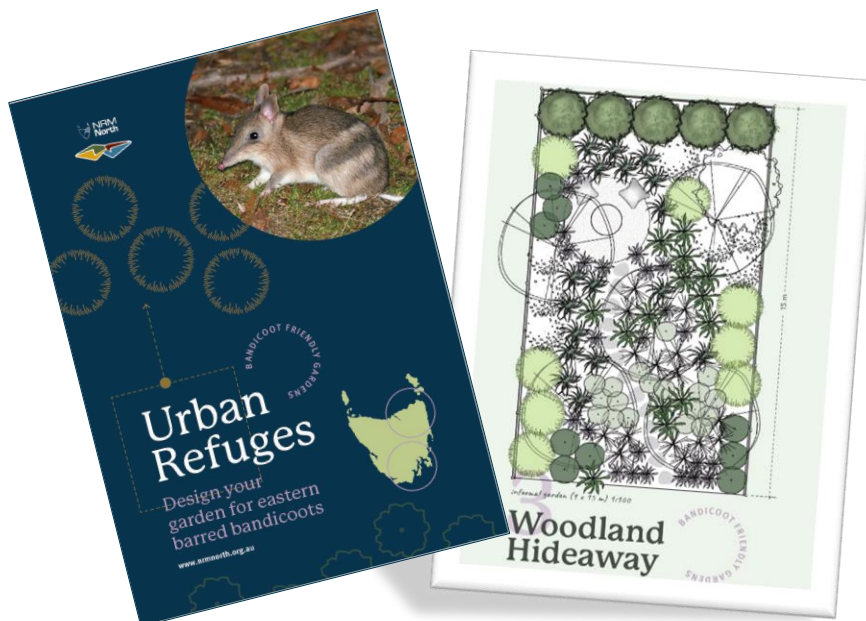
Designing your garden for eastern barred bandicoots

NRM North has been working with rural and urban landholders, as well as partners including the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, West Tamar Landcare Group, and the University of Tasmania, to create and enhance habitat for threatened eastern barred bandicoot in northern Tasmania.

Bandicoots are quite at home in many of Tasmania's urban areas and townships, where well-watered gardens, parklands and grassy roadsides provide excellent feeding grounds. However, living in our populated areas can be perilous for this threatened species, which is at risk from cats, dogs, cars, and cases of mistaken identity.

Five unique, specialised, and beautiful garden designs have been created to inspire gardeners and landscapers to create habitat for eastern barred bandicoots and other wildlife. These Urban Refuges are designed to fit in any size yard and can be designed to suit your lifestyle.

NRM North, supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, has funding available to supply plants to eligible landowners who wish to create an Urban Refuge on their property.



Download the booklet,
including the garden
designs here:



Guidelines

for planning, planting and maintaining your Urban Refuge garden



Where to create your Urban Refuge

The best location for your Urban Refuge will depend on the size, shape, and location of your property, as well as how you use it for entertaining and access, and whether you have pets that spend time in the yard. As a rule, you should plant your bandicoot refuge in a quieter part of the yard, away from vehicle traffic or areas frequented by pets. An Urban Refuge can easily incorporate entertaining and play areas or quiet places to relax.

Can bandicoots get in and out?

Another important factor to consider is how bandicoots will access your Urban Refuge. Bandicoots need to be able to move freely between your garden and the surrounding landscape, which solid Colorbond or paling fences will prevent. Wire, picket or slat fencing with gaps of at least 75mm is ideal. Alternatively, multiple access tunnels such as 100mm PVC pipe can be positioned under or through a fence to allow bandicoots to move around without compromising the security of pets or occupants. A single access point for bandicoots should be avoided, as predators will quickly learn where to ambush them entering and leaving the yard.

Bandicoots and pets

Dogs and cats are the biggest threat to bandicoots in an urban environment. Consider planting in a part of your yard that pets don't frequent, or pet-proofing the area that you wish to plant with fencing that still allows bandicoots to pass through. Don't allow pets to access your Urban Refuge unsupervised and keep them inside at night when bandicoots come out to feed in the open. Cats are happiest and safest when kept indoors or exercised in an outdoor enclosure. Dumping used kitty litter in the backyard can spread the disease toxoplasmosis, to which bandicoots and other wildlife are highly susceptible.

How to prepare your site

Once hard landscaping such as garden edging or retaining walls are complete, any existing grass or weeds can be dug out, or killed using a herbicide such as Roundup, so they don't compete with the new seedlings. For best results, soil should be loose and friable with good drainage. After planting, well composted organic mulch will help retain soil moisture and increase soil health and invertebrate activity, in turn providing more food for bandicoots.

When to plant

Autumn and Spring are the best times to plant your Urban Refuge. Plants for approved gardens in round two will be available in September 2022 or April 2023.

Looking after your Urban Refuge

An Urban Refuge is a low maintenance option for your property. Provided initial site preparation is sufficient, usually all that is required is occasional weeding, trimming to maintain plant shape and topping up of mulch as needed. Excessive use of fertilisers and chemicals should be avoided. As the plants used grow naturally in the area, watering should only be needed during initial establishment or in particularly dry weather.

Following collection, seedlings should be stored outside and planted in a timely manner (within 3-4 weeks of collection). While stored, seedlings should be protected from animal browsing or disturbance, and watered at least every 48 hours.

If you have significant numbers of wallabies, possums or rabbits frequenting your property, it may be necessary to protect newly planted seedlings with tree guards. These can be removed once plants are established.



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Expression of Interest

Eastern barred bandicoot Urban Refuge garden scheme

Expressions of Interest for Round 2 are due by 5 pm on Monday 22 August 2022

Contact details

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address where the Urban Refuge will be planted:

Tell us a little bit about your property and why you would like to plant an Urban Refuge garden:

Have you seen bandicoots on your property or nearby in the past 5 years? Y N

Do you know which species? Eastern barred bandicoot Southern brown bandicoot

What pets or domestic animals do you have, and how many?

___ Cat(s) ___ Dog(s) ___ Other (specify).....

How often do your pets have access to the proposed Urban Refuge site?

All the time Sometimes Only during the day

Only at night Never N/A (no pets)

What are the approximate dimensions of the area available for your Urban Refuge?

___ metres x ___ metres.

Note: Please include a photo of a hand drawn map with the location of the garden on your block, or draw the location onto an aerial image e.g., Google Earth

Which garden design would you like to plant*?

The Nook Bandicoot Retreat Woodland Hideaway

Suburban Getaway Bandicoot Terrace

*Garden designs can be adapted to suit your individual site.

Important: please read the Terms and Conditions overleaf.

Terms and Conditions

Participant eligibility and selection

Eligibility for project funding will be assessed by NRM North based on:

- Property location being within the target areas for NRM North's Eastern Barred Bandicoot project;
- Verifiable evidence of eastern barred bandicoot living in reasonable proximity to the property; and
- Compatibility of the proposed garden with any pets kept at the property, i.e. do pets access the area, including at night?

You can discuss your likely eligibility with the NRM North project coordinator prior to applying.

In the event of the program being over-subscribed, successful applicants will be selected based on the eligibility criteria above, with preference given to properties which:

- are in proximity to existing projects sites for NRM North's Eastern Barred Bandicoot Project; and
- have no or minimal access by domestic cats or dogs to the area to be planted.

Conditions

1. NRM North's decision on successful applicants is final. Unsuccessful applicants may be contacted in future and offered the opportunity to participate if other participants withdraw.

2. NRM North recognises the importance of keeping the personal information that you entrust to us private and confidential. A copy of the NRM North Privacy and Personal Information Policy is available at nrmnorth.org.au/privacy/
3. Seedlings will be made available for collection at a central location at specified times. A range of times will be offered in order to accommodate varied working hours etc. Successful applicants must arrange collection during these specified times.
4. NRM North will supply seedlings only. Participants are responsible for all preparation of their site, planting seedlings, any hard landscaping components, supplying suitable tree guards if required, and all ongoing maintenance.
5. Seedlings provided are all local native species, sourced from a reputable specialist native nursery and suitable for the target region. NRM North takes no responsibility for the survival of seedlings once collected, and no replacement for losses will be supplied.
6. Participants agree to inform NRM North as early as possible if they become unable/unwilling to plant seedlings as proposed.
7. Evidence of completed planting of seedlings is required. Participants should forward one or more photos of the completed Urban Refuge to the Project Coordinator (sizzard@nrmnorth.org.au).

Signature: _____

By signing, you acknowledge you have read and understand the terms and conditions above.

Please email the completed form along with at least one photo of the intended site for your Urban Refuge to sizzard@nrmnorth.org.au or mail to NRM North, PO Box 1224, Launceston TAS 7250.



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