Where to find these special places

You can find Moonee Valley’s native grassland parks at three locations:

• Arcade Way, East Keilor
• JH Allan Reserve, East Keilor
• The Crossway South, Avondale Heights

Each park offers play equipment. JH Allan Reserve, the largest of the parks, also features picnic areas with barbecue facilities, toilets, bocce courts and a soccer field.

Victoria’s Volcanic Plains

Native grasslands once covered Western Victoria’s volcanic plains. The Traditional Custodians, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, walked these wide open plains, hunting emu, wallaby and kangaroo, and collecting and growing plant food. The tubers of the Murnong Daisy were a particular favourite after roasting over an evening fire.

Early Colonists valued grasslands for sheep and cattle grazing. These hard-hoofed animals compacted the soil which restricted the regrowth of native plants. The land was then sown with non-native pasture grasses.

Today, less than 1% of native grasslands remain. We are lucky to have small pockets of original native grasslands still surviving.

Encouraging grassland diversity

Australia’s grassland flora, such as orchids, peas, lilies, and daisies have adapted to depend upon a low-heat burn to grow and bloom. Council manages these nationally threatened grassland reserves through regular weed control and occasional burning—there will be plenty of warning before fire is used.
BUILD YOUR OWN NATIVE GRASSLAND

Home for wildlife

A spectacular range of colourful wildlife frequent the grasslands to feed and breed. Grasslands act as a nursery for butterflies, moths, frogs, skinks, lizards, native bees and wasps, flower spiders and bird species—with some spending their entire lives there.

Be careful where you tread—you may be near someone’s breeding or feeding ground.

Variety and Colour

Most nurseries will sell some native flora. Some, like these listed, specialise in it:

- CERES Nursery, Brunswick East
- Newport Lakes Nursery, Newport
- Victorian Indigenous Nursery Co-op, Fairfield
- Saint Kilda Indigenous Nursery Co-op, Port Melbourne

Learn Woi wurrung, the language of the Traditional Custodians, the Wurundjeri People. Their language appears next to the plant names.

Grasslands are places of low rainfall, rocky foundations and clay soil.

Critters need water, so build a Frog Bog in your grassland. Frog bogs add sound and interest, plus they offer a big bonus—frogs eat mosquito larvae!

Hollow logs provide shelter for lizards and frogs.

Volcanic rocks look great and double as protection for small critters.

Add year round colour:

- Spiny Rice-flower
- Murnong Daisy
- Blue Devil
- Kurranungun
- Dalak-dalak
- Grass Trigger Plant
- Autumn-Winter
- Murnong
- Summer
- Winter–Spring
- Spring–Summer
- Autumn–Winter
- Water–Spring
- Summer
- Button Wrinklewort
- Weeping Grass
- Kangaroo Grass
- Windmill Grass
- Silky Blue Grass
- Kangaroo Grass
- Wallaby Grass

You’ll need different grasses:

- Windmill Grass
- Kangaroo Grass
- Wallaby Grass
- Silky Blue Grass
- Weeping Grass
- Marbled Gecko
- Growling Grass Frog
- Children’s Stick Insect
- Blue-tongue Lizard
- Australian Painted Lady Butterfly
- Blue Banded Bee
- Button Quail
- Flower Spider