

MOONEE PONDS CREEK CHAIN OF PONDS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018 - 2028

ENVIRONMENT – ECOLOGY

Improve the ecological health of the creek and biodiversity within the creek corridor through the protection, enhancement and restoration of natural systems

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (Lead; secondary)	Funding
1. Retain and protect significant vegetation	Advocate to the State Government to retain, reinstate and sustainably and actively manage remnant vegetation patches and develop baseline data and monitoring programs for remnant natural assets.	Short	C Open Space & Planning; MPCCC	Existing base
	Review mechanisms to strengthen the protection and enhancement of vegetation on public and private land, including options to strengthen planning controls such as the scope of environmental overlays.	Short	C Planning; MPCCC; DELWP	Existing base
2. Increase corridor width to better support the ecological function and integrity of the creek	Investigate strategic land acquisition opportunities to resolve connectivity constraints	Medium	C Open Space & Property; MPCCC	Existing base
3. Explore ways to reconnect fragmented habitats along the creek	Establish riparian creek buffer plantings to a minimum 30m where feasible	Ongoing	C Open Space; MW	Existing base; OSF; External grants
	Respect riparian vegetation by prioritising the location of infrastructure (sealed bike paths, sporting infrastructure etc) outside the 30m vegetated buffer zone (where available)	Ongoing	C; MW	Existing base; External grants
	Encourage adjoining private land owners to restrict weed species and plant and protect indigenous species that contribute to the corridor, especially in constrained areas of the corridor	Ongoing	C Open Space & Planning; MPCCC; MW	Existing base; External grants
	Undertake strategic revegetation to link or create stepping stones between areas of habitat along, and abutting, the creek corridor	Ongoing	C Open Space	Existing base; OSF; External grants
4. Provide greater areas and diversity of habitat across the corridor and improve urban ecology	Provide constructed wildlife crossings that support the movement of animals between fragmented habitats	Ongoing	C Open Space; MW; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Establish a variety of different planting types (eg closed woodland) along the creek corridor and within patches	Ongoing	C Open Space; MW; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
5. Restore aquatic vegetation and instream habitat	Look at opportunities to replace mown exotic grass (with little habitat value) with indigenous vegetation	Ongoing	C Open Space	Existing base; External grants
	Provide increased vegetation and habitat plantings within new and existing infrastructure, such as nesting hollows, to provide protection for a range of species. Ensure appropriate monitoring	Ongoing	C Open Space & Environment; Community	Existing base; External grants
	Explore modifications to sections of the concrete channel to encourage more instream vegetation and slow water velocities	Short	MW; MPCCC	----
6. Encourage ecological resilience to climate change and outside impacts	Explore and introduce new management techniques and concepts aimed at reducing the need for management resources in the future	Ongoing	MW; C; MPCCC	External grants

Responsibilities: C Council; DELWP Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; MPCCC Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Collaboration; MW Melbourne Water; FoMPC Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek; OSF Council's Open Space Fund
Timeframes: Short: 1-3 years; Medium: 4-6 years; Long: 7-10 years

7. Reduce pollution	Explore new plant communities utilising indigenous plants capable of thriving within the urban environment	Ongoing	<u>C Open Space</u> ; MW; DELWP; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Increase canopy tree shade to the channel and creek corridor, to help combat higher water temperatures and reduce the urban heat island effect	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; DELWP; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Investigate strategic research partnerships to investigate the effect of air, noise, light and water pollution on the ecological health of the creek and its flora and fauna.	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; DELWP; University partners; MPCCC	External grants
	Actively work with stakeholders to manage all sources of pollution entering in to the creek through community engagement and the strategic installation of pollutant traps and ensuring adequacy of an emergency pollution response	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; EPA; Sporting Clubs; Schools	Existing base; external grants
8. Research	Work with VicRoads and TransUrban to explore alternative noise wall designs that offer greater habitat benefits and connectivity	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; VicRoads; MPCCC	External grants
	Undertake more detailed and regular research into the ecological operation of the creek	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; DELWP; University partners; MPCCC	External grants
9. Retain and protect significant vegetation	Develop baseline data and monitoring programs for remnant natural assets and revegetation projects.	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; DELWP; MPCCC; University partners	Existing base; External grants

ENVIRONMENT – WATER INVESTIGATION

Promote innovative water management throughout the creek catchment that mitigates stormwater runoff and pollution to improve water quality

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (Lead; secondary)	Funding
10. Manage and treat stormwater within the catchment to reduce velocity and improve water quality	Implement a range of stormwater treatment tools within the catchment including wetlands and water sensitive design treatments to treat stormwater before entering the creek	Ongoing	<u>C Environment</u> , MW; Open Space, Transport & Drainage; Transurban	Existing base; External grants
	Enforce environmental management practices on construction sites according to best practice guidelines	Ongoing	<u>C Planning</u> , Asset Protection	Existing base
	Treat stormwater runoff from freeways, roads and sports fields to reduce nutrient loads into the creek	Ongoing	<u>C Environment</u> Open Space & Roads; MW; VicRoads	Existing base; External grants
11. Increase corridor width to better support the ecological function and integrity of the creek	Increase surface roughness of the channel to improve dissolved oxygen levels	Ongoing	<u>MW</u>	---
	Manage tributaries and outlets (existing and proposed) to the Moonee Ponds Creek to mitigate erosion and excessive sedimentation downstream and water quality impacts	Ongoing	<u>MW</u> ; C Drainage; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Implement flood mitigation actions from a catchment wide perspective	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; MW; C Drainage & Environment; DELWP	Existing base; External grants

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Timeframes: Short: 1-3 years; Medium: 4-6 years; Long: 7-10 years

12. Encourage natural processes within the creek corridor	Advocate to Melbourne Water to explore how and when sections of the concrete channel can be removed and replaced with green infrastructure for ecological, social and environmental outcomes	S-M	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C Open Space	Existing base; OSF; External grants
13. Provide greater areas and diversity of habitat across the corridor and improve urban ecology	Explore how to control water entering the channel to slow water velocities, prevent erosion and support the introduction of riparian planting within the creek corridor.	M	<u>MW</u> ; C Environment	Existing base; External grants
14. Monitoring	Undertake better monitoring of flows within the catchment to allow more informed decisions, particularly on supporting long term ecological objectives.	S	<u>MW</u> ; C Drainage; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Undertake updated flood modelling to better understand the current situation, the likely effects of climate change on flooding along the creek and effective mitigation measures.	S	<u>MW</u> ; MPCCC; C	Existing base; External grants
15. Restore aquatic vegetation and instream habitat	Regular monitor and public reporting on pollution and nutrient loads in the creek	Short	<u>MW</u>	---
16. Manage and treat stormwater within the catchment to reduce velocity and improve water quality	Implement a range of stormwater treatment tools within the catchment including wetlands and water sensitive design treatments to treat stormwater before entering the creek	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants

Responsibilities: C Council; DELWP Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; MPCCC Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Collaboration; MW Melbourne Water; FoMPC Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek; OSF Council's Open Space Fund

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SOCIAL – LINEAR PARK

Develop a vibrant and well connected linear park that supports a happy, active and healthy community within a rapidly growing city

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (Lead; secondary)	Funding
17. Provide a wider range of activities and experiences along the full length of the creek that encourage greater usage from people of all ages and interests	Implement a range of opportunities that offer different user experiences eg. shared trails, path and track network and encourage a diversity of activities along the creek that meet a range of physical abilities, cultural backgrounds and interests.	Ongoing	C <u>Transport</u> & Open Space; MW; MPCCC	Existing base; OSF; External grants
	Ensure gender equity in the provision of activities along the creek ie provide more opportunities for female sport participation.	Short	C <u>Open Space</u> & Recreation; MPCCC	Other strategies
	Advocate to State Government to undertake detailed activity and usage surveys that provide more information on the usage patterns to better inform planning of the linear park.	Short	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C Open Space & Recreation; MW	Existing base
	Adopt a suite of path and wayfinding designs for the 'Linear Park' which are consistent along the creek corridor to locate facilities (toilets, aquatic centres, schools, transport, retail centres etc.) that transcend Council boundaries.	Medium	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C Comms, Transport & Open Space; MW	Existing base
18. Provide opportunities for community connections to nature (separation from the urban environment)	Explore opportunities to improve pedestrian access to the water's edge by increasing accessibility and reducing the steepness of the embankment in locations where possible	Ongoing	MW; C Open Space & Recreation; MPCCC	OSF; Existing base; External grants
	Undertake regular community activities that support connectedness with the natural environment, including citizen science, planting days and field days	Ongoing	C Open Space; FoMPC; MW	Existing base; OSF; External grants
	Support friends and neighbourhood groups to become custodians of the creek	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C Open Space; MW	Existing base
	Provide more low level water crossings to allow direct access to and across the creek (during normal flow periods)	Ongoing	<u>MW</u> ; MPCCC	---
19. Improve linear and neighbourhood connectivity	Investigate strategic land acquisition opportunities to improve access, connectivity to support a minimum connected 100m wide open space corridor along the creek to support regular maintenance, emergency and pedestrian access	Medium	C <u>Planning</u> & Open Space; DELWP; MPCCC	OSF; existing base
	Develop implementation plans for pedestrian loops and circuit routes using ford crossing, bridges, ramps and stairs at strategic intervals and practical along the creek	Short	C <u>Open Space</u> & Transport; MW	Existing base; External grants
	Advocate to State to reconstruct the entire shared path to a new and higher standard, rather than continually fixing the patchwork of existing issues	Medium	C Transport; MPCCC	OSF; External grants

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	Advocate to the State to resolve existing missing links along the shared user path, including the Vanberg – Hopetoun Precinct, through a detailed investigation and community consultation	Medium	C Transport & Open Space; MPCCC	External grants
	Remove fencing along the creek corridor as part design improvements to increase accessibility and connectivity, for example, at Hilda and Gordon Streets Essendon and Hopetoun Avenue, Brunswick West	Short	C <u>Open Space</u>	Existing base; External grants
20. Increase safety for park users	Promote the range of uses for the creek to encourage more participation, and in turn, protection and surveillance	Ongoing	C <u>Open Space</u> ; MW; MPCCC; DELWP	Existing base; OSF; External grants
	Review lighting strategies to ensure they meet a range of users and improve navigation with consideration of potential fauna impacts	Medium	C <u>Transport</u> & Open Space; MW; DELWP; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Where possible, reprofile steep sections of channel embankment to create safe, shallow and slow water velocity sections throughout the creek by undertaking modifications to the concrete channel	Ongoing	<u>MW</u>	---
	Implement an education strategy on considerate path and open space use to help resolve conflicts between different users	Ongoing	C <u>Transport</u> ; VicRoads; MPCCC	External grants
	Undertake more detailed and regular pedestrian and cycle counts at key locations along the shared user path.	Ongoing	<u>VicRoads</u> ; C Transport; MPCCC	Existing base

SOCIAL - FLOODING RISK

Resolve flood risk through innovative and holistic design solutions

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (Lead; secondary)	Funding
21. Manage the quantity of water entering the Moonee Ponds Creek through a catchment wide approach	Implement the set of tools for options for flood mitigation and management, including re-profiling the creek embankment, detention of water, rainwater tanks, increasing permeable surfaces and WSUD interventions (see water investigation section of this document)	Ongoing	<u>MW</u> ; C Environment, Transport, Drainage & Open Space; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Explore how sports fields can be lowered to provide additional floodplain capacity to allow for creek improvements and mitigate downstream flooding with consideration to the vital role they play for active community participation.	Medium	<u>MW</u> ; DELWP; Victorian Planning Authority; C Drainage & Open Space; MPCCC	External funding
22. Realise flood management within the catchment through strategic acquisition, retention of land and investing in infrastructure that delivery multiple outcomes.	Undertake a strategic land use review based on flood modelling results and State Government Smart Planning Reforms, including investigating opportunities for acquisition of strategic properties in flood zones.	Short-Medium	MW; C Planning, Property, Open Space & Drainage; MPCCC	External funding; OSF

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	Advocate for the retention of open space that can mitigate flood risks throughout the catchment	Ongoing	<u>MW</u> ; DELWP; C Open Space; MPCCCC	Existing base
	Prioritise green infrastructure options (wetlands and WSUDs) in place of traditional grey infrastructure (drainage pipes) asset renewals and upgrades within streetscapes and open spaces across the catchment	Ongoing	<u>MW</u> ; C Drainage, Transport & Open Space; MPCCCC	OSF; Existing base; External grants
23. Increase permeable surfaces within private and public landholdings	Implement permeable pavements where possible to reduce stormwater flows entering waterways	Ongoing	C <u>Environment</u> & Transport; MW	Existing base; External grants

SOCIAL - URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Protect the creek and creek corridor from inappropriate urban development and infrastructure encroachment

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (Lead; secondary)	Funding
24. Protect the creek environs from the encroachment of urban development.	Implement a water sensitive city approach to planning which manages development and water, ensuring positive environmental outcomes for the creek corridor through local policy and advocacy to State planning regulations	Short	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW	Existing base
	Review planning controls to ensure development complements and protects the creek corridor, including resolving zoning anomalies of Council properties within the open space corridor and introducing design guidelines.	Short-Medium	C <u>Planning</u> & Open Space; DELWP; MPCCC	Existing base
	Advocate to State Government to work with adjoining Councils to introduce consistent planning controls along the creek corridor.	Short-Medium	C <u>Planning</u> & Open Space; MW; MPCCC; <u>DELWP</u>	Already noted
25. Ensure new and upgraded infrastructure does not compromise the creek environment.	Advocate for the protection of the creek from inappropriate urban and infrastructure encroachment, including freeways and sports fields that do not contribute positively to the creek environs	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW; DELWP	Existing base
	Advocate for good design outcomes for the creek during the planning processes for new or expanding infrastructure which include management of stormwater, pollution (air and noise) amenity, ecology and public safety	Ongoing	C <u>Environment</u> , Open Space & Planning; MW; MPCCC	Existing base
	Investigate and implement ecological sports fields and turf management practices to minimise the use of fertilisers and other nutrient run-off into the creek	Medium	<u>MW</u> ; C Environment, Open Space & Recreation; MPCCC	External grant
	Work with VicRoads and Transurban to identify outlets to the Moonee Ponds Creek which are at risk from freeway contaminants and implement a program to treat water before entering the creek	Medium	<u>MW</u> ; VicRoads; C; MPCCC	Existing base
	Prepare and submit submissions to planning and infrastructure projects that impact upon the creek catchment	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW; MPCCC	Existing base

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	Develop project briefs for improvements to the creek environs that can leverage resourcing from new infrastructure projects	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW; MPCCC	Existing base
	Apply Melbourne Water best practice guides for the development of creek infrastructure such as stormwater outlets	Ongoing	C <u>Drainage</u> & Environment; MW	Existing base
26. Celebrate the unique nature of the urban stream environment	Explore creative ways to celebrate, enhance and utilise the unique infrastructure along the creek, such as with public art and potential recreational pursuits (rock climbing walls, skate boarding).	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C Arts & Open Space; MW	External grants

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Respectively acknowledge and celebrate the Wurundjeri and other cultural heritage of the Creek

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (<u>Lead</u> ; secondary)	Funding
27. Respect the tangible and intangible Indigenous cultural heritage along the Moonee Ponds Creek.	Ongoing and collaborative consultation with the Wurundjeri regarding upgrades and improvements to the creek to ensure meaningful outcomes led by the Wurundjeri in the ongoing custodianship, design, interpretation and experience of the Moonee Ponds Creek	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW	Existing base
	Engage the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Conservation Council to undertake 'Welcome to Country' ceremonies at significant events	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW	Existing base; External grants
28. Share traditional and other cultural heritage knowledge about the creek and landscape	Develop Interpretive signage at key locations which celebrate Indigenous culture and the history of the creek	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C Arts & Open Space; MW; DELWP	External grants
29. Undertake due diligence and prepare Cultural Heritage Management Plans where required	Undertake due diligence cultural heritage checks when undertaking any significant earthworks within the creek corridor.	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; VicRoads; TransUrban	Existing base
	Develop a cultural heritage management plan where required	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MW; VicRoads; TransUrban	Existing base

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ECONOMIC

Quantify the value of the creek corridor to better advocate for protection and improvement and support the economic and social vitality of the communities and businesses located along the creek

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (Lead; secondary)	Funding
30. Quantify the value of the open space along the creek to better advocate for protection and improvement	Identify points of access, pinch points and areas for expansion to increase visibility of the creek	Short	C_Open Space; MPCCC; MW	Existing base
	Promote the Moonee Ponds Creek as a key destination for nature, recreation and access	Ongoing	MPCCC; C; MW	Existing base; External grants
31. Quantify the social and environmental outcomes of the Chain of Ponds to advocate for delivery	Undertake a cost benefit analysis of the Chain of Ponds Plan to quantify the economic value of delivering these outcomes to the community	Short	MPCCC; C; MW	External grants
32. Support the economic and social vitality of the communities and businesses located along the creek.	Improve wayfinding signage and investigate opportunities for the sensitive and complementary activation of open space adjoining the creek corridor	Ongoing	C Planning & Open Space; MPCCC; MW; DELWP	Existing base
	Undertake large scale infrastructure projects which improve access to the broader community including, for example a land bridge connecting Royal Park to Travancore Park, with activation opportunities	Medium	C; MW; VicRoads; TransUrban	External grants; OSF
33. Protect and enhance urban biodiversity for its environmental, social and economic benefits to the City and its community.	Utilise precincts such as the revitalised Moonee Ponds Creek to promote healthy lifestyle initiatives such as walking and cycling	Short	C Transport & Open Space; MW; VicRoads; TransUrban	External grants
	Deliver enhanced community spaces and diverse landscape outcomes which will attract tourists and visitors from surrounding areas and retain local involvement in the area	Ongoing	C_Open Space; MW; DELWP; VicRoads; MPCCC; TransUrban	External grants; OSF
	Identify and deliver cool green spaces along the Moonee Ponds Creek linear park to reduce heat stress for the community in time of extreme weather conditions.	Medium	C Environment & Open Space; MW; DELWP; MPCCC	External grants
34. Deliver infrastructure which can resolve multiple outcomes.	Prepare briefs for infrastructure projects to deliver catchment wide outcomes for water quality, flood reduction, habitat, access and shared use community spaces (eg toilets integrated within pavilions, urban wells).	Short	MPCCC; C; MW	Existing base
	Invest in green infrastructure across the city to relieve existing infrastructure, create cool green spaces for the mental health and wellbeing of the community.	Ongoing	C; MW; DELWP	Existing base; External grants
	Advocate to the water authorities to investigate and invest in sustainable, lower cost sources of stormwater harvesting for open space irrigation	Ongoing	C; MPCCC	Existing base

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GOVERNANCE - COLLABORATION

Facilitate ongoing dialogue, collaboration and coordination across multiple local governments, state government agencies, land managers and community stakeholders while providing an inspiring advocacy document for key stakeholders that will help protect and manage the creek environment into the future

Goal	Action	Timing	Responsibility (lead; secondary)	Funding
35. Develop an appropriate governance model to manage the creek effectively.	Develop the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration in to a more formal structure with an agreed Terms of Reference and clear designated responsibilities	Short	<u>MW</u> ; C; Community and other stakeholders	\$10,000 pa
	Continue advocacy to Melbourne Water and State Government for improved stormwater catchment planning.	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MPCCC	Existing base
36. Take necessary steps in coordinating a catchment approach to the waterway in line with the Maribyrnong Integrated Water Management Forum.	Councils and Melbourne Water to work together in prioritising projects based on mitigating water quantity entering into the creek and further utilising excess stormwater for social and environmental outcomes	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; <u>MW</u> ; MPCCC	Existing base; External grants
	Melbourne Water/State Government to appoint a catchment coordinator to oversee projects are delivered across the variety of landowners and ensure investment is secured for priority areas	Short	<u>MW</u> ; DELWP	Existing base
	Seek resources to deliver projects and funding opportunities across neighbouring Councils	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C	External grants
	Advocate to State Government for leadership in preparing planning controls with LGAs within the catchment	Short - Medium	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; <u>MW</u> ; DELWP	Existing base
37. Take necessary steps in coordinating land management across the multiple municipal boundaries	Undertake a consolidated review of all land ownership, lease agreements, easements etc. along the creek to assist in future project implementation, management and maintenance	Short	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; <u>MW</u> ; DELWP	Existing base
	Resolve maintenance agreements and land ownership anomalies to allow better management of the creek	Short – Medium	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; <u>MW</u> ; DELWP	External grants
	Advocate for the protection, and retention of, publicly owned and accessible land along the Moonee Ponds Creek	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; <u>MPCCC</u>	Existing base
38. Support the Collaboration Group as a clear voice to advocate for improvements to the Moonee Ponds Creek	Collaboration Group to disseminate information to networks to inform and engage community.	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u>	Existing base
39. Utilise Chain of Ponds document for ongoing activities relating to the Creek	Gain endorsement from Melbourne Water and Collaboration Group for the document	Short	<u>C</u>	Existing base
	Utilise document to inform broader planning controls and urban design guidelines	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; DELWP; <u>MW</u> ; MPCCC	Existing base
	Advocate to state government on large infrastructure projects and initiatives	Ongoing	<u>C</u> ; MPCCC	Existing base

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	Encourage Melbourne Water and Councils to extend the study area to include the entire creek catchment (City of Hume and City of Melbourne)	Short	<u>MPCCC</u> ; DELWP	Existing base
	Encourage Melbourne Water and Councils to continue investigating the catchment and develop projects to realise the vision for an urban water sensitive city.	Ongoing	<u>MPCCC</u> ; MW; C	Existing base
40. Undertake pilot projects to demonstrate removal of the concrete drain and naturalisation of the creek	Advocate for the naturalisation of the concrete channel in the Brosnan Crescent precinct to provide a symbolic moment in the history of the Moonee Ponds Creek	Short	<u>MPCCC</u> ; C; MW	Existing base; External Grants
41. Take necessary steps to coordinate land management across the multiple municipal boundaries 0	Support coordination groups across Councils and other key stakeholders to strengthen communication and collaboration	Short	<u>MPCCC</u>	Existing base
42. Monitor and review progress to measure success	Establish an effective and coordinated review process of the implementation plan of the Chain of Ponds	Short	C; <u>MPCCC</u>	Existing base

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