



# Wildlife gardening: strengthening community through caring for nature and place

Laura Mumaw  
Gardens for Wildlife Victoria

# From zoos to backyards...

Patrick Kavanagh



# Urban nature



Nutrients  
Water  
Shelter



Reproduction  
Social Needs





## Public land management

Kowarik, 2011; Standish et al., 2012; Ikin et al., 2013



Add features

Plant indigenous  
Plant in layers

Retain mature trees



Remove weeds



Add ponds

## Wildlife gardening

Doody et al., 2009; White et al., 2009; Goddard et al., 2010

# Research questions

How can we involve and sustain residents?

What are the ecological and wellbeing impacts?

How can we scale up efforts?

# Knox Gardens for Wildlife



Knox City and Knox Environment Society (KES)

700 households, growing

Residents garden to support indigenous biodiversity

Events  
Newsletter  
Report  
Vouchers

Garden  
Visit

Join

# Research findings

## Key features

Garden visit

Indigenous plant nursery

Endorsement of garden's contribution



# Key features

Experiential learning

Community involvement

Communication hubs



G4W Member's Garden

# Rewards

A photograph taken from a balcony, looking down into a lush garden. In the foreground, a silver metal railing and a portion of a wooden deck are visible on the right side. The garden below is filled with various trees and plants. Two large, mature trees with thick, textured trunks stand prominently in the center. The foliage is dense and green, with some sunlight filtering through. In the lower part of the garden, there's a wooden deck area and some scattered debris or fallen leaves.

For me there is that element of...discovery.

We're a lot more in touch with what's living in our garden...  
Slowly things around you that are living come into your life.



Taking responsibility for the space I live that belongs to a wider landscape, and all those living within.

It's important to make some connection with the land, you can't just take it.

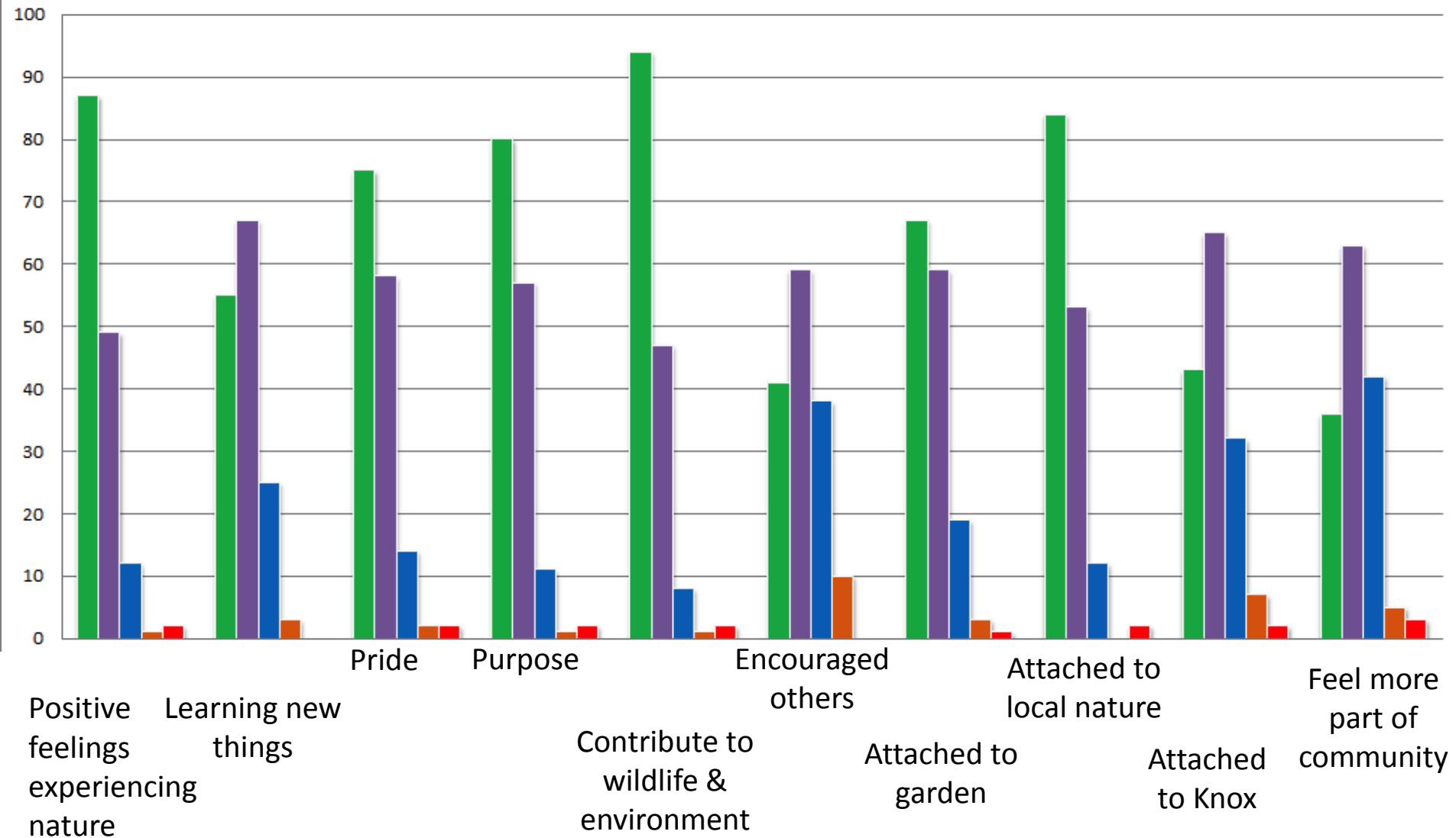


I like to think of the little tentacles out there.

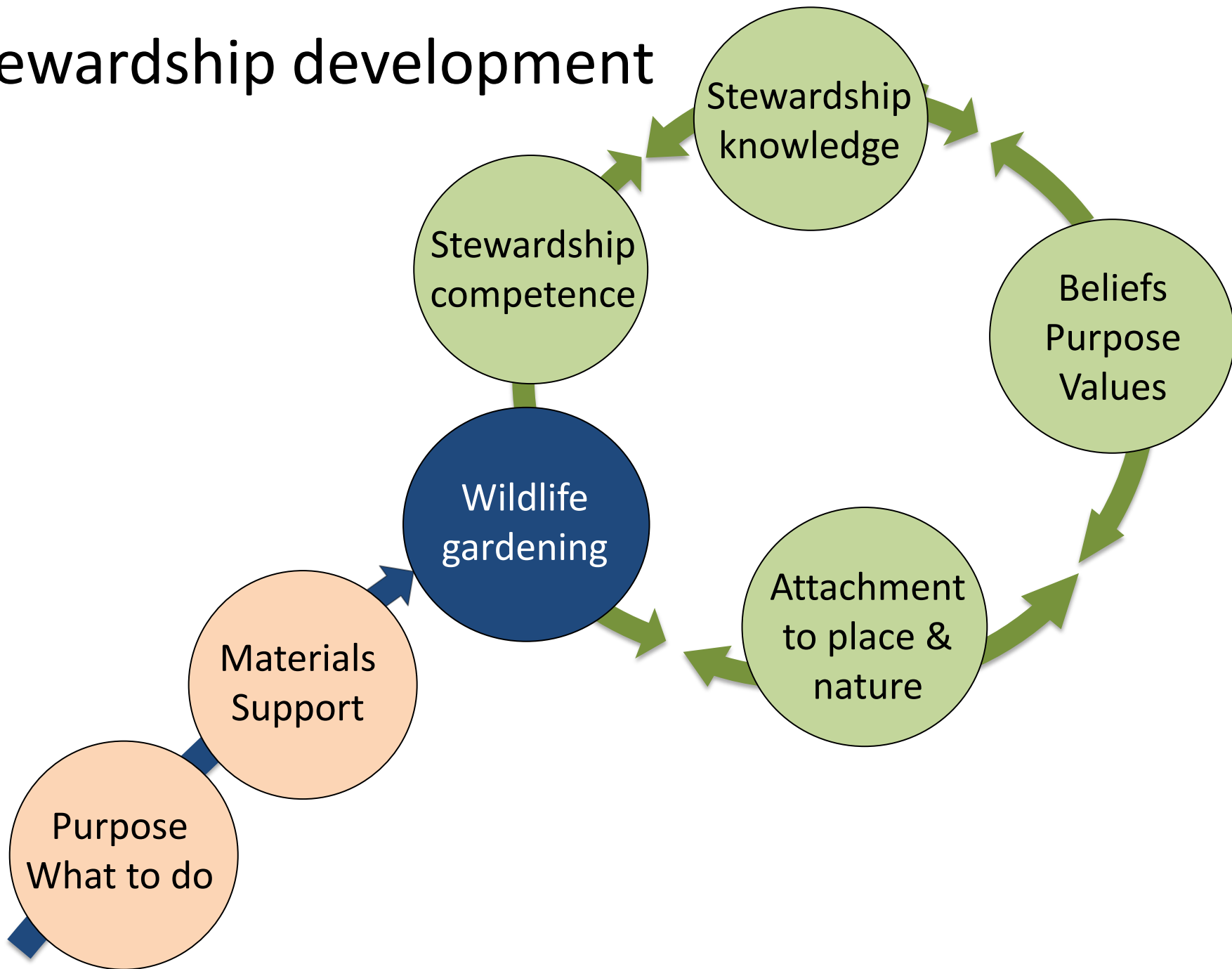
It makes you feel good about your neighbourhood and the people around and it's not all bad and the world's not bad. There's people that are doing the positive things.

## As a result of participating in Wildlife Gardening I...

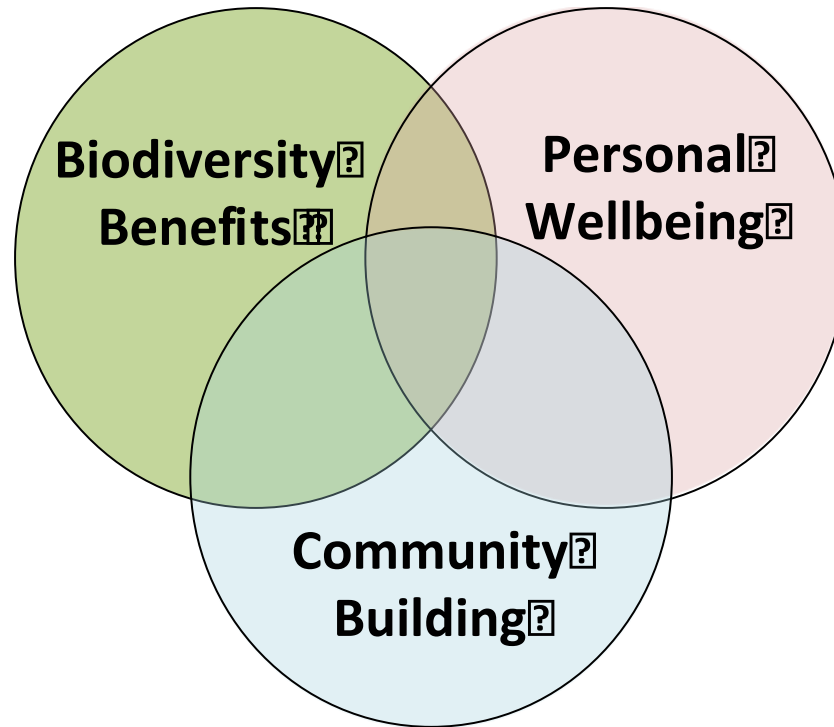
Strongly Agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree



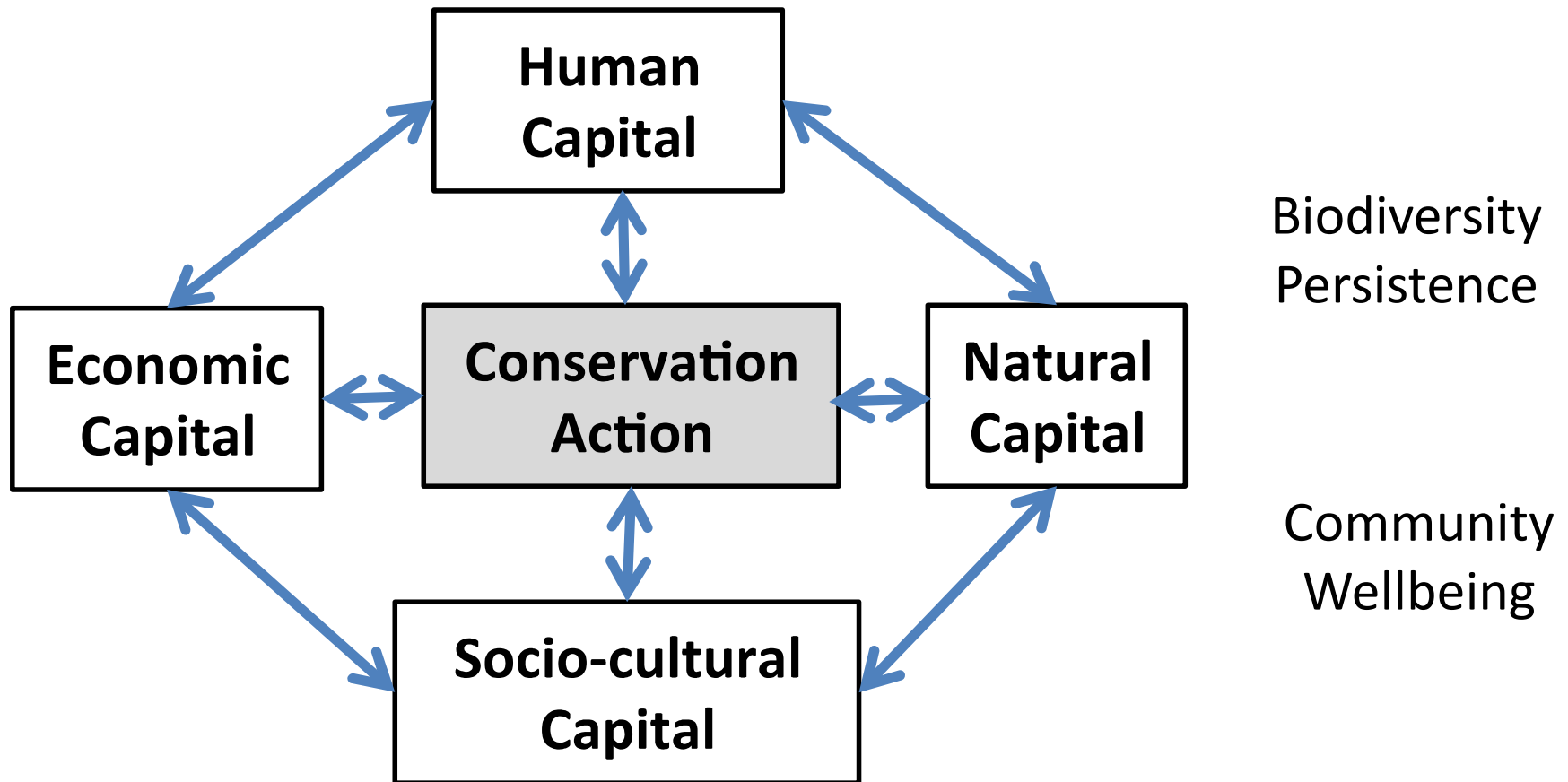
# Stewardship development



# Contribute to nature, place, community



# A community capacity building framework



Emma's Story

<https://youtu.be/RQF376rIQmw>



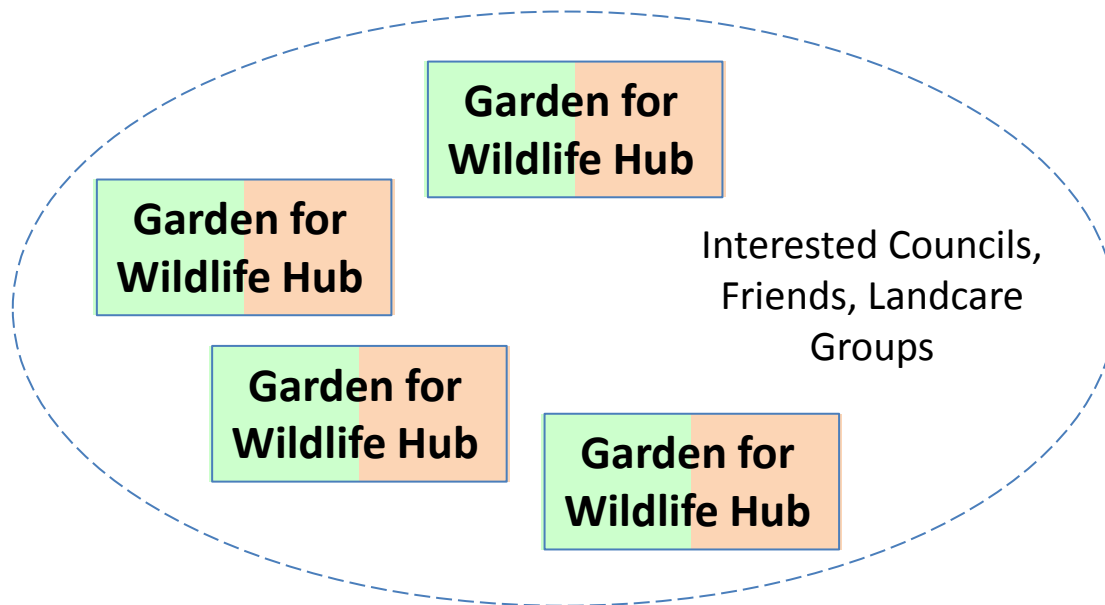
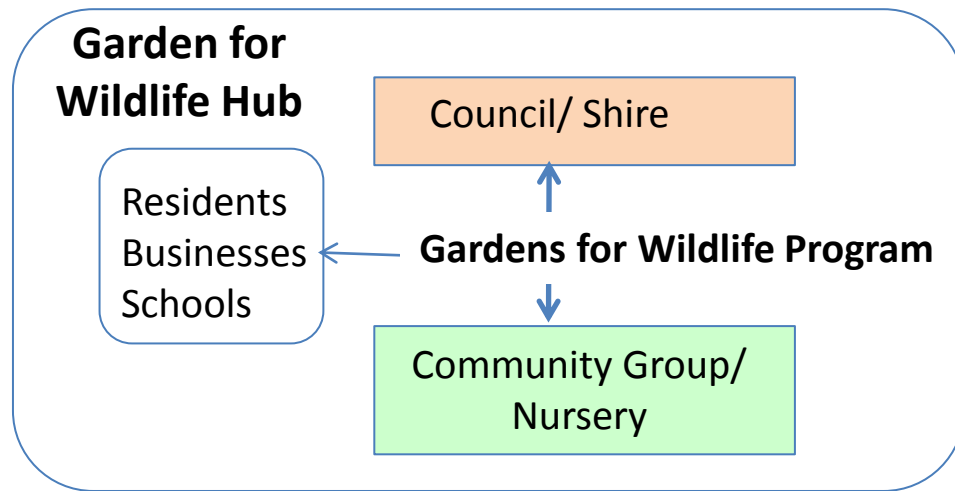
Partnerships

Co-design for local needs

Social and ecological goals

Link community groups, city, state

Monitor



**Gardens for Wildlife Network**

**Coordinating group: state, city, community**

## Botanic Gardens

Specialist knowledge  
Propagation, seed storage  
Volunteers  
Partner  
Communications



Connections  
Educate and engage  
Grow knowledge, skills  
Policy contribution  
Conservation contribution

# Thank You

[www.gardensforwildlifevictoria.com](http://www.gardensforwildlifevictoria.com)



Patrick Kavanagh