The health of Victoria’s waterways and fish populations will benefit thanks to recreational fishers who are repairing riparian land as part of the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program.

Riparian land is the land that runs along rivers, creek, estuaries, lakes and wetlands. Healthy riparian land is critical for healthy waterways and fish populations by improving water quality, buffering water temperatures, filtering nutrients and sediments from catchment run-off, stabilising river banks, reducing erosion, and providing shade, food and shelter for fish.

The $1 million Angler Riparian Partnerships Program allows recreational fishers to partner directly with catchment management authorities (CMAs), landholders and local communities and deliver works to improve riparian land along waterways that are important to them – for fish in their favourite fishing streams. The program operates across Victoria for 4-years (from 2016/17 to 2019/20).

The Angler Riparian Partnerships Program is funded through the $30 million Regional Riparian Action Plan and is part of the broader $222 million the Victorian Government announced in Water for Victoria to improve the health of waterways and catchments across regional Victoria.

Many Angler Riparian Partnerships Program projects leverage extra funding, for example, from Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence Fees and other state funded programs. Additional activities can then be completed to rehabilitate instream and riparian habitat, improve angler access and complement water for the environment. So, there are even bigger and better outcomes for waterways, fish and communities!

This report summarises the achievements through the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program across Victoria in its first two years.
Little River Tree Planting Day

Over 20 volunteers from the Victorian Fly-Fishers’ Association (VFFA), Taggerty Community Progress Group, local community and Goulburn Broken CMA braved wintery conditions to plant hundreds of tree and shrub seedlings along the Little River at Taggerty in early August 2017.

Little River is a popular place for trout fishing. Trout are sensitive to warmer water temperatures. Bank vegetation alleviates this by shading waterways and providing fish with cooler water, food and shelter.

Over 400 plants, including blackwood, manna gum, prickly currant bush, hazel pomaderris, tea-tree and sedges, were planted and protected by tree guards. These plants add to the 400-plus seedlings already planted at the site by Buxton and Taggerty locals.

“Many members over the decades have stalked these waters and it was an opportunity for us to put something back.” – VFFA member

This site was one of five popular trout streams in the Goulburn Broken CMA region planted as part of the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program during its first two years. Other sites were on the Delatite River, Jamieson River, Steavenson River and Ryans Creek.

For more information, please contact the Goulburn Broken CMA or visit: https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/news_events/big-day-out-to-improve-the-health-of-little-river.html

Merri River Urban Restoration

The Merri River flows through the large regional town of Warrnambool and is used by residents and visitors for many recreational activities, including fishing, kayaking, rowing, walking and cycling. This section of river through town is a popular fishing location for estuary perch, bream and trout.

Since 2015, OzFish Unlimited South West Victoria Chapter, Fishcare Victoria, Warrnambool Coastcare and Landcare Network and Friends of Platypus Park have been working with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and other community groups to improve the ecological health of the Merri River and create recreational spaces. Using funding through the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program, in 2017/18, they undertook over 5 hectares of woody weed control and planted 1,650 native trees, shrubs and grasses during two community tree planting days.

“It’s wonderful to see all the work that has been done. We’ll be able to take the grandkids down to the river and go fishing like we used to.” – Warrnambool Resident

For more information, please contact the Glenelg Hopkins CMA or visit: https://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/projects/current-projects/merri-river-restoration
There are many opportunities for recreational fishers to get involved in the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program. Recreational fishers and angling clubs can join other recreational fishers on upcoming activities or initiate new projects in their local area.

Please contact your local CMA

East Gippsland CMA 5152 0600  Mallee CMA 5051 4377
West Gippsland CMA 1300 094 262  North Central CMA 5448 7124
Corangamite CMA 5232 9100  Goulburn Broken CMA 5822 7700
Glenelg Hopkins CMA 5571 2526  North East CMA 1300 216 513
Wimmera CMA 5382 1544

For more information, visit:
Angler Riparian Partnerships Program

#anglerriparianpartnershipsprogram
#habitatforfish
#makingfishingbetter

Anglers enjoy working together to improve habitat for fish (Photograph: John Douglas)