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Planting spree at Mt Majura

MORE than 50 Canberrans joined forces to plant about 8000 native grasses around eroded dams on Mount Majura on October 9 to mark the start of the Environment ACT's Project Dragonfly.

The Friends of Mount Majura (FOMM) Park Care Group were awarded an ACT Government environment grant and were joined by Australian Conservation Volunteers to plant the native grasses.

Volunteer project co-ordinator Tim Deveson said the aim of the project was to create a thriving wetland in the Mount Majura area.

Mr Deveson said the presence of dragonflies — a species high on the food chain — indicated a healthy ecosystem.

FOMM volunteer Jen St Clair said the two dams being rehabilitated were originally built to trap silt in the wide gully that separates Mount Majura from Mount Ainslie and now offered permanent water to wildlife including long-necked turtles and the rare glossy black cockatoo.

She said the dams attract many visitors and over time, the surrounding area had become compacted, leading to erosion.

John Castley, Peter Miller, Alison Inglis and Patrick, Natalie and Tristan Miller helped plant native grasses on Mount Majura.

Ms St Clair said Project Dragonfly also aimed to improve water quality in the dams, which would have a positive effect on the stormwater flowing into Sullivans Creek.

She said FOMM volunteers were working closely with ACT Parks and Conservation officers, who would soon start placing large boulders and logs in and around the dams to improve wildlife habitat and provide seating.