



Stage 3 of Small Creek transformation at Raceview in Ipswich.

Small Creek naturalisation

Small Creek was once a meandering stream characterised by a chain of ponds. It was modified in the early 1980s to be straightened and concreted, to improve the efficiency of the channel and move water quickly out of the waterway corridor. This also eliminated valuable ecosystem services in terms of water filtration, air cleansing and ambient air temperature reduction.

The Small Creek naturalisation involves transforming the channel back to a living waterway, providing clean water and habitat.

About the project

- Returning a 1.6 km stretch of concrete channel back to a living waterway with native vegetation, pools and riffles of shallow running water.
- The project is made up of four stages. Construction started in 2018 and is expected to be completed by 2023.



The Small Creek naturalisation project is being funded by developer contributions under Ipswich City Council's water quality offsets scheme.

The project kicked off in 2016 with a community co-design week which engaged the community in what they wanted for the channel.

Project name:	Small Creek naturalisation
Project manager:	Brett Riches and Jennifer Macaky-Ortiz
Project contact email:	jennifer.mackayortiz@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Project webpage:	www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/smallcreek
Catchment:	Deebing Creek, Bremer River
Timing:	2018 - 2023.
Project Location Latitude	X476704.427
Project Location Longitude	Y6942942.974

Categories
Community and Education
Erosion and Sediment Control
Land Management
Litter Clean up
Revegetation
Science and Research
Stormwater
Wastewater
Water Sensitive Urban Design

Why this project is important

Through an offsets program, Council has had a unique opportunity to naturalise Small Creek, turning it back into a living waterway.

The project promotes groundwater recharge, recreates habitat for terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora and improves water quality. Importantly, it represents the desires of the community and provides opportunities to improve amenity and engage the community in the waterway.

Stage 3 was completed in 2021 and included the removal of more than 5,690 cubic metres of soil and 48,000 plants planted.

Wildlife is already moving back into the waterway, with a variety of water birds, water bugs and fish being seen in the waterway. The entire concrete channel was salvaged and re-used on site, retaining the embodied energy and improving sustainability by reducing the amount of material sent to landfill and associated transportation.



A transformed section of Small Creek.

Objectives

The primary objective of the project is to transform Small Creek at Raceview from a concrete channel to a living waterway. This will provide significant community and environmental benefits.

Outcomes

The project promotes groundwater recharge, recreates habitat for terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora and improves water quality.

Importantly, it has represented the desires of the community and provided opportunities to improve amenity and engage the community in the waterway.

Benefits of the project include:

- Removal of 108 tonnes of sediment, 863kg of nitrogen and 149kg of phosphorous from the waterways annually (Stages 1 and 2).
- Improved aesthetics with the transformation of the creek into a natural waterway.
- Cooler water - a vital requirement for native fish species.
- Reduction in air temperatures by up to two degrees around the creek corridor.
- Improved environmental outcomes and better water and habitat quality.
- Increased value of surrounding property as evidenced by research of similar projects.
- Better path and bikeway connections for active travel.