



UPPER OXLEY CREEK PLAN

UPPER OXLEY CREEK

Logan City Council values its waterways and natural areas. These landscapes are the backbone to healthy communities and provide a home for our wildlife.

In 2019 and 2020, Council undertook community consultation across the Upper Oxley Creek catchment. The community told us that they are passionate about their lifestyle. They are keen to preserve the low density, rural residential landscape that allows them to live alongside native plants and animals.

Council also undertook a catchment investigation which identified the Upper Oxley Creek as a catchment rich in natural values that needs our support.

Most of the land along the creek is privately owned. By working together, Council, landholders and the wider community can ensure the significant natural and social values of the catchment are maintained and enhanced for future generations.

In recognition of this, Council has developed the Upper Oxley Creek Plan to:

- Celebrate and promote the values of Upper Oxley Creek;
- Encourage broader community stewardship of the creek; and
- Set out Council's ten strategic objectives that will help us achieve our vision

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

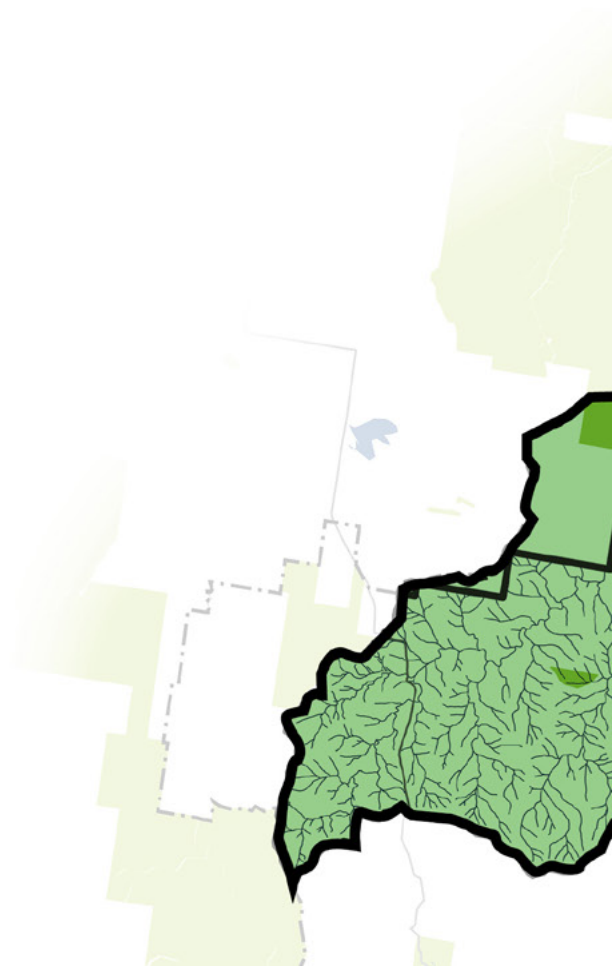
This guiding document has been developed in consultation with the community. Delivery of this vision will be supported by The Upper Oxley Creek Implementation Plan and will align with the [Transformation Master Plan for Oxley Creek in Brisbane](#).

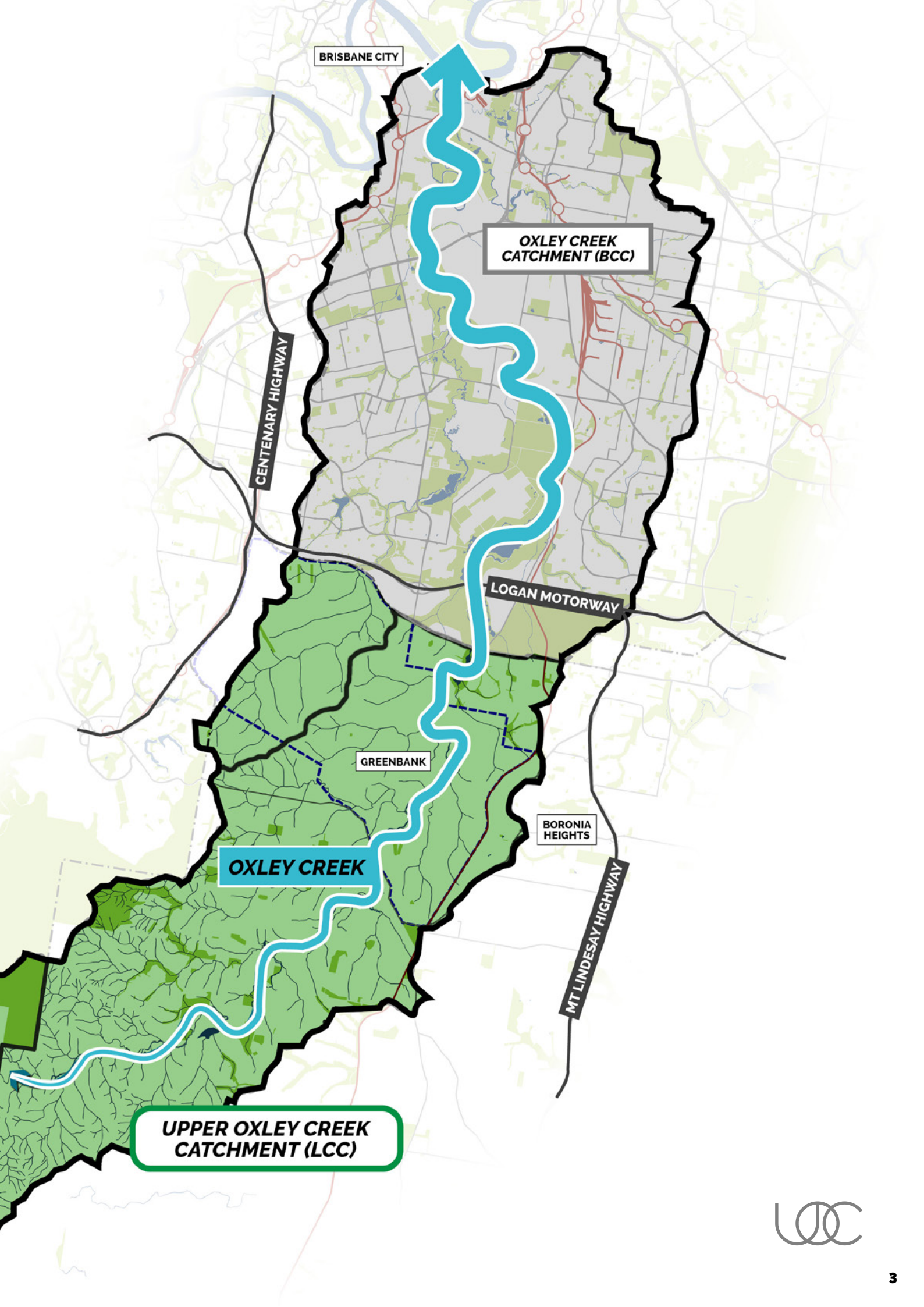
HOW DID WE GET HERE?



WELCOME TO THE UPPER OXLEY CREEK!

It is important to appreciate the role we all play in caring for and improving what we value about our local area for future generations. This document sets out Council's plan for managing the catchment in partnership with the community. It also provides some guidance on how you can take action on your own property or somewhere nearby in your neighbourhood.





BRISBANE CITY

OXLEY CREEK
CATCHMENT (BCC)

CENTENARY HIGHWAY

LOGAN MOTORWAY

GREENBANK

BORONIA
HEIGHTS

OXLEY CREEK

MT LINDESAY HIGHWAY

UPPER OXLEY CREEK
CATCHMENT (LCC)





OUR VISION

A healthy and green Upper Oxley Creek corridor that provides space for nature and people, provides good habitat connections, and is cared for by the community.



KEY DRIVERS

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SOUTHEAST QLD'S LARGEST REMAINING ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR

The Upper Oxley Creek is a significant continuous stretch of open eucalypt forests, an irreplaceable landscape.

THE CATCHMENT CORRIDOR

The Upper Oxley Creek Catchment is part of the Flinders Karawatha Corridor, which is one of the last and most important native landscapes in Southeast Queensland. Starting on the eastern slopes of Mt. Perry, and flowing north to join the Brisbane River, there is significant riparian vegetation along Oxley Creek, which create important links for plants and animals.

The Upper Oxley Creek Catchment is mostly a natural landscape, with forested hills, farmland and large rural lots. It is home to very important vegetation and waterways. Many of these plant species are endangered and need to be protected.

UPPER OXLEY CREEK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #1

Council will engage with private landholders to improve connectivity and quality of habitat within the Flinders Karawatha Corridor.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #2

Council will work with regional stakeholders to deliver and review the Flinders Karawatha Management Strategy.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 Extending 60 kilometres and comprising 56,350 ha, the Flinders Karawatha Corridor is one of the largest remaining continuous stretches of open Eucalyptus forest in South East Queensland¹.
- 2 Logan City Council helped develop the Flinders Karawatha Corridor Management Strategy. This plan represents a commitment by State and local governments towards maintaining and enhancing the rural and environmental values of the corridor.
- 3 Logan City Council have three bushcare groups and one trail care group in the Flinders Karawatha Corridor.



CASE STUDY: CLEANER CREEKS AHEAD

John and his family lease 1,200 acres of the upper Oxley Creek Catchment and run cattle. They are concerned about water quality and have restricted stock access to the waterways by fencing and providing clean water in a series of troughs. They find that Oxley Creek stays cleaner by limiting access and that stock grow quicker and are easier to handle by using this watering method. The family are also controlling lantana along Oxley Creek and enjoy seeing the new natural regeneration of rainforest species. John is currently not in any of Council's Conservation Incentives Programs and does not receive any financial assistance for any of the conservation works undertaken on the property. John is in discussions with the property owner to join the program as the property is situated within the Flinders Karawatha Corridor. He understands that this is one of the best ways to ensure the long term protection of this unique location and its flora and fauna.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Council's Conservation Incentives Program gives advice, education and support to landowners. The Voluntary Restoration Agreement helps landowners to improve their land condition in a way that supports lifestyles and productivity. Find out more at: logan.qld.gov.au/CIP
- Join/start a bush care group at: logan.qld.gov.au/bushcare
- Celebrate Oxley Creek by sharing photos and stories with your friends and family.
- Join community environmental events and activities in your local area. Find out what's on at: logan.qld.gov.au/environmentalevents

The Flinders Karawatha corridor contains

28,786 ha

of remnant vegetation

31.3%

of which is of State biodiversity significance².

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

QLD Government Department of Environment and Science:
Flinders: Karawatha Corridor

environment.des.qld.gov.au

RARE SPECIES AND HABITAT HAVENS

The Upper Oxley Creek is a major wildlife corridor supporting a diversity of native mammals, and home to 53 potentially threatened species.

HOMES TO MANY

The Upper Oxley Creek Catchment is home to hundreds of unique and rare native species of plants and animals. These locals are important. Native plants give food and shelter to wildlife and can also help to maintain healthy waterways. Even fallen trees provide habitats to many native birds, reptiles, mammals and insects.

These habitats are not only important to the animals living in the catchment, but also provide important areas for rest and recovery of passing animals, such as internationally recognised bird communities.

UPPER OXLEY CREEK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #3

Council will monitor and manage priority species in the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4

Council will work with community groups and private landholders to support the quality and connectivity of native habitat in the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment.

THREATENED SPECIES

There have been 225 mapped fauna sightings across the catchment including species which are listed as endangered. These include the:

- Swift parrot
- Spotted-tailed quoll;
- Brush-tailed rock wallaby;
- Koala;
- Glossy black cockatoo;
- Powerful owl; and the
- Grey headed flying fox.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 Five of the six known species of glider in Australia are found in the Oxley Creek Catchment.
- 2 The catchment is also home to other endangered species including the powerful owl, and the wallum froglet.
- 3 Logan is home to one of Australia's rarest species of cockatoo - the glossy black cockatoo.
- 4 Councils tree aging program has identified several very large trees in the catchment with some aged at over 400 years!
- 5 The brush muttonwood plant is rare in SEQ but is found here in the Oxley Creek Catchment.
- 6 Greenbank Military Training area contains 4,800 hectares of remnant native forest, and provides a refuge for numerous endangered or at-risk species.

KEY OPPORTUNITY: MAINTAINING HABITAT HAVENS

Much of the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment contains endangered or threatened species. As most of these areas are not on Council land, working with landowners is important for protecting these plants and animals.



Logan is home to

56

native mammal species, and

273

types of birds.



CASE STUDY 1: TREE-HOUSE

Nick joined the Land for Wildlife program after seeing signs on his neighbour's gate and an article on 'Our Logan' oldest tree in Our Logan magazine. He had lived on his bush block for many years. He knew he had many animals which he valued along with his trees, particularly one that he knew must be very old. He registered his interest to have the tree age tested with Council and was very pleased when it was selected due to its size. His old Tallwood tree, 31 mtrs high and nearly 2 metres in diameter was judged to be over 320 years old. Not the oldest tree in Logan but a very valuable tree with many hollows supporting many different native animals.

CASE STUDY 2: FAUNA NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Nicole purchased her property along Crewes Creek in 1999 after it was subdivided by her neighbours and signed her Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) with Council in 2016. Her property has 150m of Crewes Creek within the conservation area and apart from a small lantana infestation is in extremely good condition. Several Endangered and Vulnerable species have been recorded on the property including Koala, Powerful Owl and Glossy Black Cockatoos which is very impressive for a small property. Nicole enjoys sharing her block with the native wildlife as do her neighbours. Nicole regularly reports wildlife sightings on her property using Council's wildlife sightings page logan.qld.gov.au/homepage/693/report-wildlife-sightings. Nicole also receives financial assistance annually to help control weeds on her property.

The catchment contains large areas of high value

Koala habitat



There are

21

near-threatened, vulnerable or endangered plant species in the Logan area.



WHO CAN I TALK TO?

Logan City Council Natural Environment and Sustainability Program:
logan.qld.gov.au/environment

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland: wildlife.org.au

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

- Find out whether your property is eligible for Councils Conservation Incentives Program. This program can help you to protect rare species and create Habitat Havens on your property. For information go to: logan.qld.gov.au/CIP
- Apply for an EnviroGrant to assist unique and rare species through research or habitat creation on council land. For information go to: logan.qld.gov.au/EnviroGrants
- Submit your local wildlife photos on LCC Wildlife Sightings webpage.
- Contact Council if you have a tree that you think is as old as Nick's. For information go to: environment@logan.qld.gov.au
- Take advantage of Councils Free Trees Program and collect free native plants each year. For information go to: logan.qld.gov.au/trees/free

WATERWAYS AND WETLAND HABITATS

The Upper Oxley Creek includes local, regional, and nationally significant wetlands and waterways, providing a home to many Australian native fish.

WATERWAYS + RIPARIAN HABITATS

Waterways and wetlands are an important resource. They provide homes and habitat connectivity for native plants and animals, and clean water and recreation for people.

FLOODPLAINS AND THE FUTURE

Floodplains along the creek corridor are important areas for slowing down and retaining water, providing important habitat, water filtering and reduced flooding downstream. Future development must respect these important areas along the corridor.

UPPER OXLEY CREEK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #5

Council will work with land managers across the catchment to reduce pollutant runoff into waterways.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #6

Council will deliver on-ground waterway health improvement projects in partnership with key catchment stakeholders

UPPER OXLEY CREEK TODAY

Currently, the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment is in good condition. With little urbanisation in the region, and low-key land uses, the upper creek is relatively healthy compared to the lower and middle reaches.

- The majority of the waterways in the catchment are in a natural state. There are a number of sections that have been modified into grass lined channels and very few sections that are rock or concrete lined.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT:

- Potential for these concrete/rock areas to be naturalised to improve ecological condition and connectivity.



KEY OPPORTUNITIES: FRIENDS OF THE CREEK

With the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment sitting within the City of Logan, understanding the health of the waterway is important for its future.

Ongoing care and protection of the creek and catchment is very important. As most freshwater wetlands in the catchment are on private land, landholders can play a role in protecting wetlands. Communities, local and state councils and the Department of Defence need to work together to preserve these waterways and wetlands.

Existing waterway and environment care groups such as the Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) provide a great opportunity to develop waterway health projects in collaboration with the community.

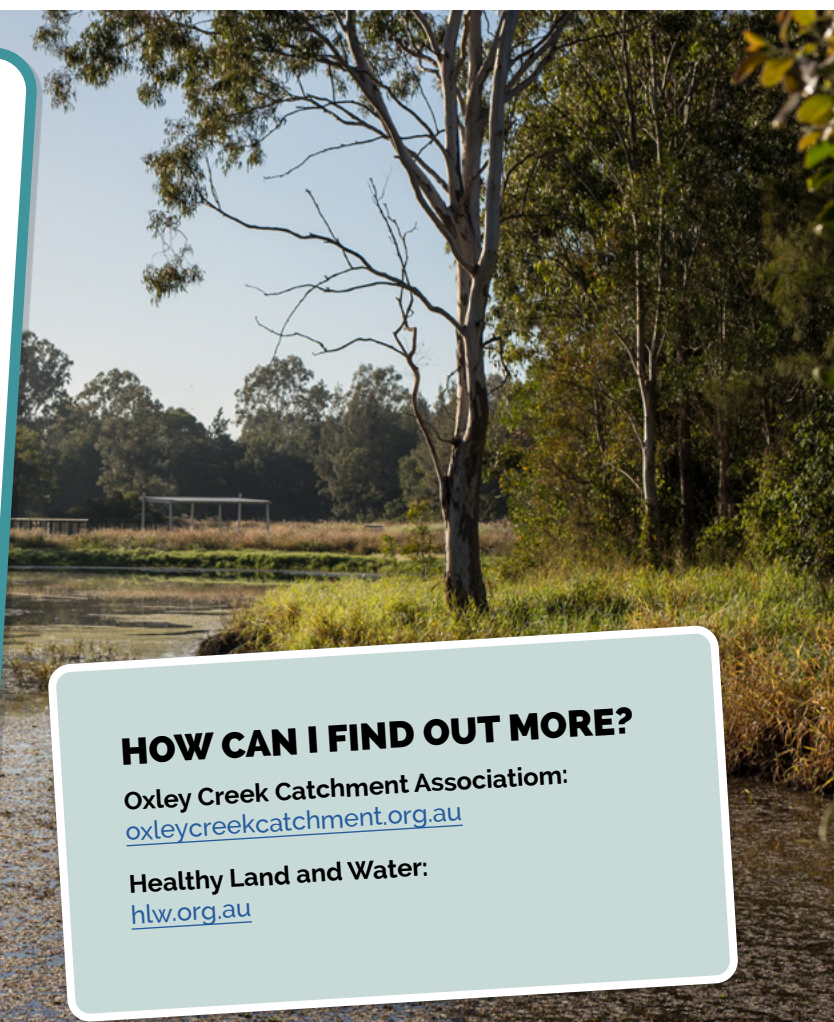
CASE STUDY: SEEDS TO SUCCESS

Funding from Logan City Council's EnviroGrants program has enabled Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) to connect with landholders along Crewes Creek to help develop Property Management Plans and control weeds along their riparian areas. Introduced weeds can contribute to erosion as well as lowering the water quality in our catchment. OCCA also have supplied native plants local to the area to landholders ensuring native vegetation has a chance to re establish after the weeds have gone. Several landholders have also taken advantage of Council's free trees program, for more information please see Council's webpage at: logan.qld.gov.au/trees/free.



HOW CAN I HELP?

- Don't dump rubbish, weeds or invasive species in wetlands or creeks!
- Find out whether your property is eligible for Councils Conservation Incentives Program. This program can help you to undertake actions on your property that support waterway and wetland health. Find more information at: www.logan.qld.gov.au/CIP
- Contact council to find out about how council can help you to improve waterways on your property. There are a variety of options under the Conservation Incentives Program where you can receive tailored property management advice as well as incentives to assist you in improving your waterway.
- Contact Oxley Creek Catchment Association to find out whether they can assist in any way
- Manage and remove weeds from your backyard – to help you identify weeds go to: www.logan.qld.gov.au



HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Oxley Creek Catchment Association:
oxleycreekcatchment.org.au
Healthy Land and Water:
hlw.org.au

PROVIDING SPACE FOR NATURE

The Upper Oxley Creek has many low impact land uses which support a rural living lifestyle. With appropriate management these land uses can sustain a healthy creek.

LAND USE TODAY

The existing land uses in the catchment have relatively low impacts on the waterway and include:

- Rural properties on upper hillslopes with limited potential for intensive farming can allow native vegetation to be established
- Park living / park residential typically with lots of natural ground for infiltration which may contain high value vegetation or wetlands.
- Department of Defence land is currently very well vegetated and contains high value vegetation, wetlands and waterways.
- Acreage residential typically includes retained vegetation and has limits on what is allowed to occur on the land to improve overall environmental value.

TO-DO LIST:

- Keep the weeds at bay
- Build nesting boxes for local wildlife
- Maintain the fences to keep the dog in at night
- Plant out your property with native species
- Develop a bushfire management plan for your property

UPPER OXLEY CREEK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #7

Council will work with community groups and businesses to celebrate, maintain and enhance the natural values of the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #8

Council will engage with private landholders to assist them in integrating current land uses while providing space for nature.



KEY OPPORTUNITY: WORKING TOGETHER

Encouraging existing community ties, and stewardship over land is very important for the ongoing protection and management of the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment.

Large lot landowners have the potential to help with agricultural erosion and sediment control on their properties by allowing space for natural regeneration along their waterways.

There is currently a high number of Land for Wildlife properties in the upper catchment, and around 4,800 hectares of remnant native forest in the Greenbank Military Training Area. Partnerships with conservation groups and major stakeholders like the Department of Defence will help ensure the future of the catchment is cared for.

CASE STUDY: FISHING FOR BASS

Rachel and her partner Shane bought their property situated along Oxley Creek in 2015. They moved from the big smoke and were looking for a few acres to bring up their 2 kids. The property they chose had a nice part of a creek and that was the real draw-card. They really didn't know about all of the plants that were growing but a friend of theirs suggested they contact Council's Environment Officers for advice, which they did. A Council Officer attended the property armed with maps and information that they would find helpful over the next 5 years as they enjoyed the property and the kids grew up. It was awesome to hear that Rachels partner caught and released an Australian Bass in the creek, it was a nice change from the introduced carp he had caught previously.

A true testament that they are on the right track to care for the creek. The kids love it too! Rachel could apply for an EnviroGrant to enhance the riparian area on their property. The EnviroGrants program gives support to the community to help deliver environmental projects. Through community awareness and participation, this program aims to enhance and protect the natural environment and encourage environmentally sustainable practices in Logan. An EnviroGrant could pay a contractor to remove lantana and Singapore daisy in the riparian area and also to plant native species of tubestock to protect the banks of the creek.



Maintaining space for nature will be critical to the health of the catchment, with approximately

+500,000

additional residents estimated to soon be living in the Logan, Greater Ipswich and Brisbane Urban Growth Corridors which border the catchment.

“ Keep the creek and nature at the forefront of planning... making a beautiful place for animals will benefit humans. ”

- community survey respondent

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Have your say with what happens in the Oxley Creek Catchment and participate in community surveys.
- Report Wildlife sightings. Help us keep track of our important wildlife by reporting your sightings or evidence of wildlife!
- Report sightings of sick or injured wildlife to the RSPCA Logan Wildlife Ambulance on 1300 ANIMAL (07 1300 264 265).
- Find out whether your property qualifies for Land For Wildlife at: logan.qld.gov.au/CIP

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The Upper Oxley Creek, its wetlands and park linkages can support community activities and recreation that align with the cultural values and nature conscious lifestyle of the area.

EXPLORING OUR CULTURAL VALUES

Oxley Creek was known as 'Benarrawa' to the Yerongpan people, which means 'a rich source of food'². While there is little documented history of the significance of the upper catchment, the creek and the surrounding landscape would have provided abundant resources for indigenous Australians.

Future planning within the Upper Oxley Creek Catchment will work with local Traditional Owners to ensure that both tangible and intangible cultural values present within the catchment are protected and preserved now and into the future.

UPPER OXLEY CREEK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #9

Council will work with key stakeholders to develop the cultural heritage story of the Upper Oxley Creek.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #10

Council will work with the community to promote and enhance stewardship of Upper Oxley Creek.

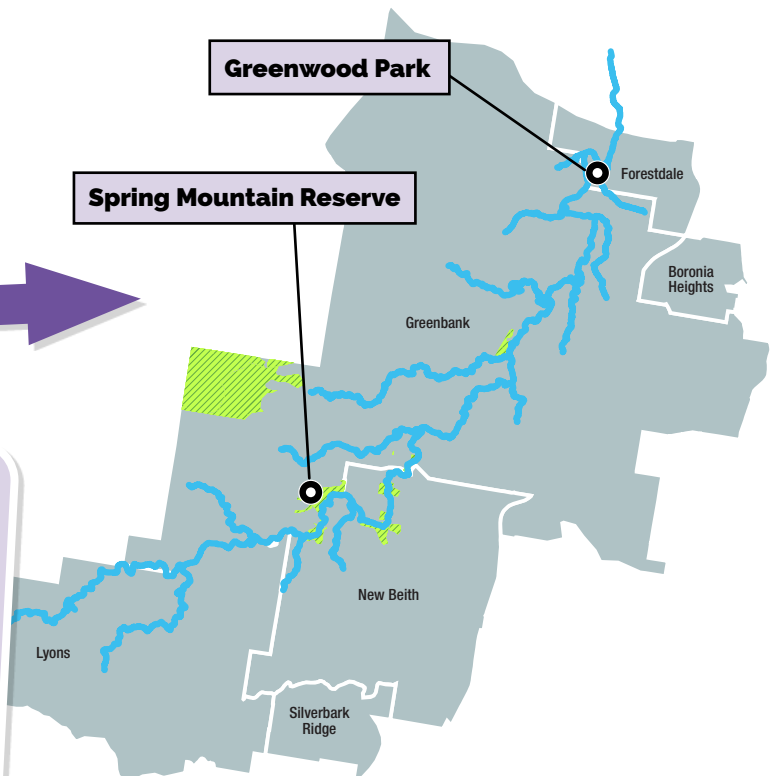


DID YOU KNOW?

There are two key locations where you can connect to the creek itself – Greenwood Lakes Park and Spring Mountain Reserve

“ Creeks must be connected and made accessible to wildlife and the public if there is to be any hope of a future for any of us. ”

- community survey respondent





WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Logan City Council regularly supports community workshops and activities related to improving creek and catchment health. These have included nature walks, weed management workshops and fire management talks.

The Peaks to Points Festival is held every two years as a two-week program of sustainable activities for the community to celebrate and promote the natural values of the whole Oxley Creek corridor.

Find out more at: peakstopoints.com.au

Sign up to our Environmental Events newsletter to stay up to date! Find out more at: logan.qld.gov.au/environment/events-and-activities

CASE STUDY: BACKYARD HABITATS

Francis has lived in Forestdale with her partner for 8 years. They enjoy the serenity of the heavily wooded creek adjoining their property and wanted to learn more about what they could do to ensure they were enhancing their backyard to complement the natural area. After contacting Council they were thrilled to find out that their property was eligible for Council's Habitat Connections program, a conservation program aimed at smaller blocks who adjoin waterways and nature corridors or who have a mapped waterway on their property. Since joining the program they have received free trees annually and also information on what they can do encourage native flora and fauna to use the area and provide natural food sources to a range of native animals, birds and insects.



HOW CAN I HELP?

- Join Habitat Connections to get support to create backyards that are good for our wildlife. logan.qld.gov.au/CIP
- Attend community events and workshops.
- Apply for EnviroGrants to deliver community environmental education logan.qld.gov.au/EnviroGrants
- Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) - Come along to the City of Logan's largest sustainable living festival and share your knowledge on how to create a greener future. Meet environmental enthusiasts and experts from across the City and find out how they care for their local catchment.

WHO CAN I TALK TO?

Interested in volunteering to undertake habitat improvement actions with others in your community? Find your local Bushcare or Trailcare program at: logan.qld.gov.au/parks/volunteers.

Other groups you may be interested in connecting with to learn more about the natural, recreational and community values of the Upper Oxley Creek catchment include the Greenbank Rural Fire Brigade; Big Country Endurance riders and Wat Thai Buddhist Temple

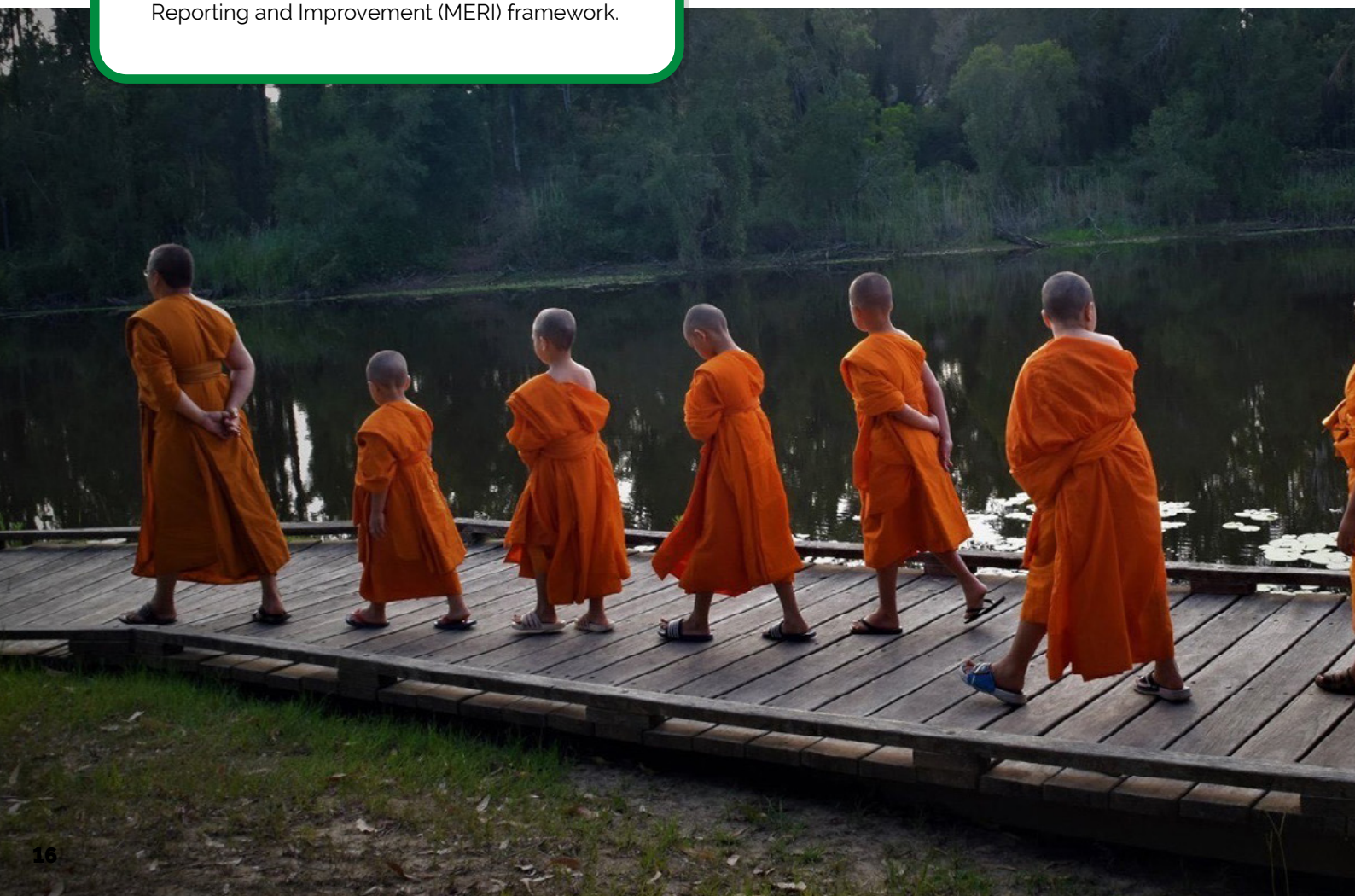
WHERE TO FROM HERE

We all have a part to play in the management of the Upper Oxley Creek corridor.

The Upper Oxley Creek Plan provides a blueprint to guide community stewardship and inform Council priorities across the creek catchment. Council will work with community, business and government to identify emerging risks, opportunities, and community priorities with regards to the ecological health and connectivity of the creek corridor.

Delivery on the ten strategic objectives will be achieved through the implementation of the actions and projects identified throughout this plan in partnership with the community.

Success will be measured through the development of an implementation plan that will be measured using a Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework.





REFERENCES

- 1 Department of Environment and Science, 2014. Flinders Karawatha Corridor Management Strategy 2014–2019 - a Five Year Plan. [online] Available at: https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/90643/flinders-karawatha-management-strategy.pdf
- 2 Steele, J.G. 1984. Aboriginal Pathways in Southeast Queensland and the Richmond River. University of Queensland Press: St Lucia.