

Oxley Creek Catchment — A Guide for Teachers

About Oxley Creek

Contained within the local government areas of Beaudesert Shire, Logan, Ipswich and Brisbane Cities, Oxley Creek drains an area of approximately 260km².

Rising on the northern slopes of Mt Perry south of Ipswich in the Flinders Peak region, Oxley Creek flows into the Brisbane River near Tennyson.

Land use within the catchment includes rural, rural residential, residential, industry, sand extraction, waste facilities, and special uses such as Archerfield Airport and rail freight terminals.

The catchment contains a regionally significant core habitat area, the Greenbank Military Training Area and a corridor linkage from this core area via Parkinson Bushland to Karawatha Forest.

An endangered plant, *Austromyrtus gonoclada* is found in the catchment at Corinda.

Water quality in the creek is generally poor, although some areas in the upper catchment are rated fair to good. The creek contains a high level of suspended solids due mainly to sand extraction within the catchment but also as a result of urban runoff and bank erosion. Downstream of the Inala Waste Water Treatment Plant, the creek contains high levels of nutrients. Pollution events are common in the industrial subcatchment of Stable Swamp Creek. Poor water quality in the lower urbanised part of the catchment is due to a large extent to the degradation of the riparian vegetation.



Figure 1. Oxley Creek Catchment

Why do we need catchment management?

Water quality along Oxley Creek is generally poor. Urban growth, sewage treatment plants, sand extraction and stormwater pollution has increased pressure on the waterway and surrounding environment. While there are a number of existing programs to address some of these problems, **catchment management** links these, encourages new initiatives, identifies information gaps and provides an overall perspective, through a whole-of-catchment decision making process.

The protection and enhancement of Oxley Creek catchment is a long-term project involving community, government and industry in actions to improve the health of Oxley Creek and its tributaries and the quality of life of everyone in the catchment. This is the role of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc (OCCA).

OCCA is a non-profit joint government, industry and community organisation. Its activities are managed by a Coordinating Committee. This committee contains representatives from government, industry and community.

The Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan is a document that sets out the responsibilities of all parties in achieving agreed environmental values for Oxley Creek.

How can you get involved?

Achieving healthy waterways and a cleaner environment is the responsibility of everyone - government, industry, businesses, schools and individuals.

Bushcare, Waterwatch, environmental best practices, environmental education, sponsoring of events and programs, volunteering time and skills ..these are some ways to become involved.

Become active in the Oxley Creek Catchment Association — and let your views be heard.

An Excursion in Oxley Creek Catchment

Oxley Creek catchment provides an ideal study unit as it is small enough to traverse in one day, and contains numerous issues for catchment management.

Sites for excursion stops are listed in Appendix 1. These are provided as a guide and can be adapted to suit the thrust of your learning experience.

Oxley Creek Catchment Association operates a Resource Centre with numerous books, magazines, maps, brochures, some videos, posters etc. Upon joining the Association a school has access to borrowing of these resources for classroom use. In 2001 we hope to produce catchment management information in ArcView format for GIS learning applications.

The Oxley Creek Know Your Creek Booklet is popular with schools and class sets are given out to schools free of charge.

The Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan is available for purchase (\$50 incl GST) or is located at local libraries. A CD Rom version will be available in the near future.

The Oxley Creek website contains much information about the catchment and can be accessed at **www.brisbane-stories.powerup.com.au**

Schools have the opportunity to take part in real time catchment management through the collection of data, conducting research projects, participating in the Oxley Creek Water Festival and other environmental arts events or activities.

We encourage schools to establish a database at school for the collection of information about the catchment that can allow comparison with information collected by students in subsequent years.

Please note that our staff are part time and on short contracts! OCCA runs largely on volunteer time. We are happy to provide a guide for excursions or a presenter at your school, however to cover our costs there will be a charge of \$30 per hour.

For more information contact:
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Caring for our Catchment
Oxley Creek Catchment Association

