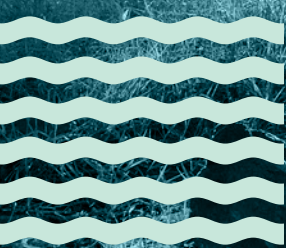
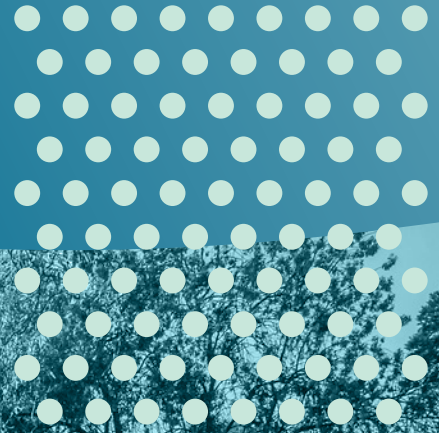


Stony Creek Rehabilitation Plan Annual report card

2019 – 2020



Acknowledgement of Country

Melbourne Water respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which all Australians rely. We pay our respects to Wurundjeri, Bunurong and Boon Wurrung, their Elders past, present and future as Traditional Owners and the custodians of the land and water on which we rely and operate.

We acknowledge and respect the continued cultural, social and spiritual connections that all Aboriginal Victorians and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community have with lands and waters, and recognise and value their inherent responsibility to care for and protect them for thousands of generations.

Melbourne Water acknowledge Aboriginal Victorians as Traditional Owners and in the spirit of reconciliation. We remain committed to working in partnership with Traditional Owners to ensure meaningful ongoing contribution to the future of land and water management.

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1. Overview

A significant amount of work has been undertaken by Melbourne Water, Maribyrnong City Council, the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) and the local community to rehabilitate and protect Stony Creek following the August 2018 Tottenham warehouse fire.



Stony Creek Pedestrian Footbridge in West Footscray



Frog habitat by Friends of Cruickshank Park

Released in 2019, the Stony Creek Rehabilitation Plan (2019-2029) outlines a 10-year program of actions for project partners and the community to work together to restore, enhance and protect the condition of the creek and its surrounding environment into the future. The Plan was developed through close consultation with interested local community members, organisations and government agencies.

This is the Plan's first annual report card, providing an update on the status and progress of actions since 2019.

In total, there are 16 actions being reported on this year. The list includes many important projects, ranging from on-the-ground works and new infrastructure, to education activities, improved water quality monitoring and more resourcing.

Revegetation works along Stony Creek are well progressed, with planting underway for more than 5500 indigenous plants, 20 nest boxes being installed, and two new frog bogs to be installed early in 2021.

The new Stony Creek Pedestrian Footbridge in West Footscray was completed ahead of schedule in May 2020. The new bridge and connecting ramps and paths will improve community safety and accessibility along this section of Stony Creek, and ensure safe linkages between nearby trails and neighbourhoods.



Planting by Friends of Cruickshank Park



Planting by Melbourne Water

Funded through partnerships with EPA Victoria and Melbourne Water, new roles were created at Maribyrnong City Council - an Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment and a Water Sensitive Urban Design Officer. These roles will contribute to delivering timely responses to local pollution and waste issues, as well as improved guidance for stormwater retention and reuse in new developments.

To support the local community to protect Stony Creek, the Friends of Stony Creek and Friends of Cruickshank Park community groups have developed educational resources and activities providing information on nature found in their backyard.

These are some examples of the actions progressed in the past year, with more outlined in the report card. Next year's report card will include updates on projects including installing water quality sensors throughout the catchment and creating more signage along the creek.

The long term rehabilitation of Stony Creek requires a sustained effort to improve the condition of the creek into the future. The actions progressed in the past year lay a solid foundation for the progress of the Plan and bringing the community's vision for Stony Creek to life.

The community's vision

To develop the Plan, the local community contributed their ideas, aspirations and priorities to support the long-term rehabilitation and future protection of Stony Creek:

“ We want to transform Stony Creek to be Australia's best protected, connected and respected urban waterway – a healthy and clean natural community asset that consistently supports a thriving ecosystem. Once it's completed, we want the Stony Creek Rehabilitation Project to be seen as a showcase for how community, government and business can partner to achieve enduring physical, social and ecological health benefits. The final outcome will connect communities to each other, communities with nature, and allow life to thrive in and along Stony Creek for generations to come. ”



Tree facts trail by Friends of Cruickshank Park



Planting at Stony Creek Rehabilitation Plan launch event

2. Actions snapshot

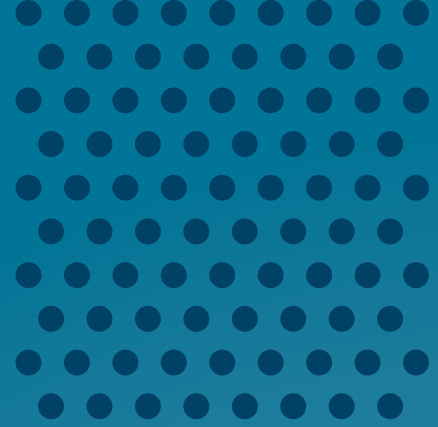


- Melbourne Water regular weed management Action - AM7
- Weed control and tree planting area Action - WH10
- Melbourne Water regular litter removal Action - WQ9

Please note this map includes achievements delivered in the Stony Creek area. A full list of achievements are included in the report card.

- 1 Community cleanup activities Action - E10
- 2 Creek clean up Australia Day Event Action - E10
- 3 Planned Frog Bog - Option 1
- 4 New shared pathway footbridge Action - AC2
- 5 Planned Frog Bog - Option 2
- 6 Community planting event Action - WH10
- 7 20 nest boxes installed in Cruickshank Park Action - WH10
- 8 Planned Frog Bog - Option 3
- 9 Community information stall Action - E10
- Friends of Cruickshank Park Planting Project Action - WH10

3. Report card





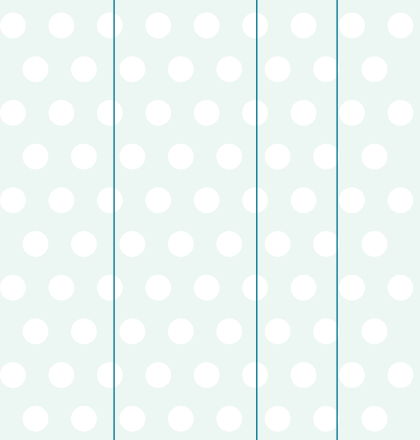
The report card includes status updates on 16 actions. These include actions due in 2019 or 2020, actions to be reported on annually and also actions that have been completed ahead of schedule. For a full list of actions for the 10-year program, please see the Stony Creek Rehabilitation Plan (2019-2029).

As outlined in the Plan, each action has a code (eg. WH 1, WH 2 etc) which indicates its priority (1 being highest priority; 10 being lower priority), in accordance with how the community ranked them.





Key theme	Code	Action	Lead	Support	Timeframe	Status information as at July 2020	Status
Waterway Health	WH 1	Investigate reasons for poor water quality (eg. low dissolved oxygen levels) in Stony Creek and develop options and/or strategies to improve them	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria	Maribyrnong Council	2020	An investigative project is underway with RMIT University to understand key drivers of poor water quality in Stony Creek. A report is being developed which will provide recommendations on feasible options to address water quality issues. The report will be finalised during late 2020. This work is being supported by compliance inspections undertaken by EPA Victoria throughout the Stony Creek catchment.	 In progress
Waterway Health	WH 10	Control weeds throughout Stony Creek to maintain and improve habitat and contribute to overall amenity	Melbourne Water	Maribyrnong Council Community groups (eg. Friends groups) Private landowners Public land managers Parks Victoria Hobsons Bay Council	2020	<p>Weeds are controlled on a regular and ongoing basis through Melbourne Water's and Maribyrnong Council's programmed maintenance regimes.</p> <p>Melbourne Water placed all preventative maintenance along the creek on hold immediately following the Tottenham Fire in 2018. During April 2020, regimes were reviewed and reinstated along the creek. Locations and frequencies can be viewed on the Melbourne Water website: melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/whats-happening-near-me#/map</p> <p>A Melbourne Water habitat and amenity improvement project is currently underway. The project includes riparian revegetation with 2000 plants established, invasive weed control and creation of off-stream habitat features until 2022. More information on this project is available on the Melbourne Water website: melbournewater.com.au/stonycreek</p> <p>The Friends of Cruickshank Park were successful in obtaining a \$19,360 Communities Environment Program Grant for a Junior Park Rangers Community Planting Project. The project will establish 3000 indigenous plants across two sites in Cruickshank Park. The project will provide habitat for local fauna such as skinks and owls.</p> <p>20 nesting boxes were installed in Cruickshank Park with funding obtained through the West Gate Tunnel Project. A monitoring program with Junior Rangers will follow post coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.</p> <p>A community planting event was held at the Stony Creek Rehabilitation Launch at Cruickshank Park in September 2019, with more than 500 indigenous plants established.</p>	 Complete

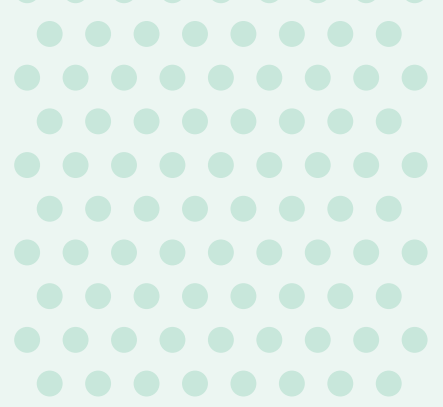




Key theme	Code	Action	Lead	Support	Timeframe	Status information as at July 2020	Status
Water Quality	WQ 2	Install water quality sensors throughout the catchment to investigate sources of pollution and litter, and enable a targeted response	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria	Maribyrnong Council	2019	<p>An Officer for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE) has been embedded into Maribyrnong Council offices since October 2019, and within Brimbank and Hobsons Bay Local Government Areas since February 2018. OPLEs are employed by the EPA and they respond to small scale and low risk pollution and waste reports. These include dumping, litter, noise, dust, odour and illegal chemical and waste stockpiling from small-to-medium businesses and industry. The OPLE role contributes to delivering timely responses to local pollution and waste issues and also supports EPA's work to prevent illegal waste stockpiling and activities as part of their focus on waste crime.</p> <p>A water quality sensor project is kicking off in September 2020 in partnership with Monash University. The project will deploy sensors over a 8 month period to monitor dry weather flows in the Stony Creek stormwater network. The aim of this project is to develop our understanding of when and where pollution events are occurring in the catchment, and will provide authorities with information to target inspections to problem areas in the catchment.</p>	 In progress
Water Quality	WQ 8	Appoint a dedicated resource to coordinate new stormwater quality assets, inspect new assets and ensure appropriate maintenance	Maribyrnong Council	Melbourne Water	2020	<p>A Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Officer commenced at Maribyrnong City Council in November 2019, with support from Melbourne Water's Living Rivers program. The WSUD Officer has developed draft WSUD Guidelines providing guidance for all new development to maximise retention and reuse of stormwater on site. The WSUD Officer is coordinating Council's internal management of stormwater assets and advancing stormwater capture and treatment in Council streetscape and park projects.</p>	 Complete
Water Quality	WQ 9	Place litter traps in appropriate places throughout the Stony Creek catchment	Melbourne Water	Maribyrnong Council EPA Victoria Brimbank Council	2021	<p>Melbourne Water is leading the development of a litter source reduction plan to determine major types and sources of litter (e.g. 'hotspots') in the Stony Creek catchment (including the Brimbank Council area). This plan, developed by RMIT researchers, will help to target activities to reduce litter. A background report was published in July 2020. The final plan is due late 2020.</p>	 In progress





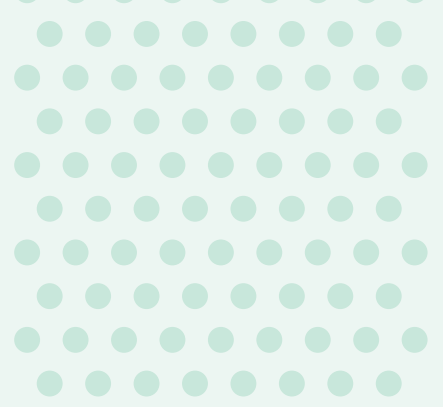
Key theme	Code	Action	Lead	Support	Timeframe	Status information as at July 2020	Status
Water Quality	WQ 10	Regular reporting by Council and EPA on compliance with stormwater management regulations across the catchment	Maribyrnong Council EPA Victoria	—	2029 (Annual)	<p>Maribyrnong Council and EPA Victoria will work to improve compliance activities based on data received from the sensor network project (refer Action WQ2).</p> <p>During 19/20, the EPA received six water pollution reports for Stony Creek. All of these reports were inspected by EPA Officers as a priority.</p>	 In progress
Education & Participation	E 1	Engage and educate industry about better practices	EPA Victoria	Maribyrnong Council	2029 (Annual)	<p>Increased industry understanding of stormwater quality control obligations has been targeted during routine inspections of industrial areas in the Stony Creek catchment. This work has been supported by EPA Victoria's Industry Guidance Unit along with other units including the OPLEs. EPA Victoria has been actively engaging with a wide range of industry groups across Victoria.</p> <p>The EPA will develop an industry engagement strategy specifically for businesses that interact with Stony Creek to provide information about best practice stormwater management and the new laws under the EPA Act 2018 which will come into effect on 1 July 2021.</p>	 In progress
Education & Participation	E 4	Community education around rainwater harvesting on residential sites – support for residents to invest in hardware	Maribyrnong Council	—	2020	<p>Maribyrnong Council is planning a Sustainable Living workshop on rainwater harvesting and water-smart gardening during late 2020, depending on coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.</p> <p>Public workshops will be advertised through channels such as Council's website, social media and community bulletins.</p> <p>Maribyrnong Council has developed new Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines to assist developers and home-builders to understand their obligations in the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme to retain and treat stormwater on-site.</p>	 In progress






Key theme	Code	Action	Lead	Support	Timeframe	Status information as at July 2020	Status
Education & Participation	E 5	Use the Community Garden Centre as a hub for communication, education about supporting native flora and fauna, stewardship programs, encouraging folks to use more sustainable practices in their own gardens, etc	Maribyrnong Council	Community groups Interested community members	2020	Maribyrnong Council's 'My Smart Garden' program ran two Frog Bog workshops and one self-watering garden workshop during 2019. The 'My Smart Garden' program is ongoing and promotes habitat planting and sustainable gardens to the community.	 Complete
Education & Participation	E 6	Create a creek-wide map of actions currently underway and planned	Melbourne Water Community groups	Maribyrnong Council	2020	<p>Melbourne Water has developed a map identifying actions and other progress against the rehabilitation plan, displaying the location and distribution of these activities along the creek's length. Melbourne Water is working towards developing a more sophisticated mapping tool for future reporting.</p> <p>Melbourne Water projects and maintenance activities are viewable on the Melbourne Water website: melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/whats-happening-near-me#/map/Melbourne</p>	 In progress
Education & Participation	E 7	In partnership with Traditional Owners; returning Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing to waterways and the land	Melbourne Water Maribyrnong Council Traditional Owner groups	—	2029 (Annual)	Engagement with Traditional Owner groups is a continual and ongoing process, as outlined in the 2019-2029 Healthy Waterways Strategy and Melbourne Water's commitment to protect and promote cultural and historical connections to waterways.	 In progress



Key theme	Code	Action	Lead	Support	Timeframe	Status information as at July 2020	Status
Education & Participation	E 8	Routine publishing of test results on publicly available websites	EPA Victoria Melbourne Water Maribyrnong Council	Community groups (eg. Friends groups)	2029 (Annual)	<p>The EPA has monitored water and sediment quality in Stony Creek since August 2018. The results show that the surface water and sediment quality has significantly improved, with the creek within Cruickshank Park again safe for our community to enjoy. More information is available at https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/current-projects-issues/active-environmental-issues/western-metro/tottenham-fire/tottenham-fire-monitoring-and-health</p> <p>Community water quality monitoring is not currently underway due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. Data and information on community water monitoring is available at vic.waterwatch.org.au</p>	 In progress
Education & Participation	E 10	Have more frequent community 'pop up' information events in Cruickshank Park for residents to find out about the creek	Maribyrnong Council Melbourne Water Community groups (eg. Friends groups)	EPA Victoria Community groups Interested community members	2029 (Annual)	<p>The Friends of Stony Creek hosted a stall at the Yarraville Festival in February where the group handed out information, sold books and plants, and answered local residents questions on health of Stony Creek. A second event was hosted on Clean Up Australia Day, where local residents collected rubbish along the Creek at Sara Grove, Tottenham.</p> <p>Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, community groups have not planned an annual event in Cruickshank Park this year. An online event will be considered to celebrate the Plan's progress.</p> <p>Future events will be held annually to educate the community on waterway health and provide information about the creek e.g. education on urban impacts to local waterways, indicators of waterway health, as well as plants, macroinvertebrates, fish, birds and frogs living in and near the creek.</p> <p>Events will be centred around community activities such as planting days, and will coincide with annual report card updates to report back to the community on progress of rehabilitation actions.</p>	 In progress



Key theme	Code	Action	Lead	Support	Timeframe	Status information as at July 2020	Status
Education & Participation	E 12	Develop regulations holding industrial groups accountable for damage, continue to inform and support these groups to make better choices in their industrial practices	EPA Victoria	Maribyrnong Council	2020	<p>This will be achieved through legislation under the new <i>Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018</i>. Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) the implementation of the new Act has been delayed and is now due to start on 1 July 2021. More information is available here https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws</p> <p>EPA Victoria activities to engage and educate industry about better practices are outlined under E1.</p>	 In progress
Amenity	AM 7	Improved weed management along the creek corridor (eg. adjacent to Hyde Street Reserve and the creek beyond Francis Street)	Melbourne Water	Maribyrnong Council Parks Victoria Hobsons Bay Council West Gate Tunnel Project	2020	<p>Weeds are controlled on an regular and ongoing basis through Melbourne Water's and Maribyrnong Council's programmed maintenance regimes. These regimes have been reviewed and updated where required to ensure adequacy of timing and coordination of weed control objectives.</p> <p>Weed control is being carried out between Paramount Road and Francis Street as part of a revegetation and frog pond project. This project commenced in April 2020. More information on this capital project is available on the Melbourne Water website: melbournewater.com.au/stonycreek</p>	 Complete
Access	AC 2	Construct a footbridge for all active transport modes connecting Park Avenue and Cala Street	Maribyrnong Council	Melbourne Water	2022	The Cala Street shared user path bridge was completed and open to the public in May 2020.	 Complete



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