

# Brisbane River Catchment

## Fact Sheet

[www.logan.qld.gov.au/riverrecovery](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/riverrecovery)

### Quick Facts

- Approximately one fifth of Logan City's land flows into the Brisbane River. The majority of this is within the Oxley Creek Catchment.
- Logan City contains the top half of the Oxley creek catchment that flows in to Brisbane City Council.
- Keep an eye out for the following:
  - Important vegetation: Angle-stemmed Myrtle and the Slender Milkvine
  - Important animals: Wallum froglet; Koala, Spotted-tailed quoll; Glossy-black cockatoo; Cotton pygmy-goose; Swift parrot and Green-thighed frog

### Places to visit

- [Greenwood Lakes](#), Forestdale
- [Spring Mountain Reserve](#), Greenbank
- Spring Mountain Forest Park, Greenbank
- Lyndale Reserve, Greenbank
- Ison Park, Greenbank

### Where did the name come from?

The creek was named after John Oxley who first surveyed it in December 1823. Initially Oxley had called the creek Canoe Creek. This was in recognition of the first Europeans to reach the creek, Thomas Pamphlett, John Finnegan, Richard Parsons who reached the area after being shipwrecked on Stradbroke Island. At Oxley Creek the three found two canoes, one of which was used to cross the river and travel downstream. By 1825 it had become known as Oxley Creek.



Oxley Creek, Greenwood Lakes, Forestdale

### Indigenous History

Oxley Creek was known as “Benarrawa” by the Yerongpan tribe who are thought to have once roamed throughout the catchment. Traditional owners in the catchment made use of the abundant natural resources, various plants and animals were used as staple foods and the roots of the bungwall fern a particular favourite.

The local geology played a key role in providing tools for traditional owners, for example sandstones were used for grinding tools and ochre, jasper and chalcedony were used to make stone cutting tools.



Spring Mountain Reserve, Greenbank

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### Land Use

Land use includes rural, rural residential, residential, industrial, sand extraction, waste facilities, and special uses such as Archerfield Airport and rail freight terminals. In the upper reaches, land use is primarily cattle grazing, horticulture, bushland and rural residential estates. The sand of both Oxley and Blunder Creeks has been mined extensively, particularly in the lower and middle reaches. The Catchment is the biggest source of prime building sand for Brisbane's construction industry.

### Landforms and Waterways

The Oxley Creek Catchment covers an area of 260 km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the major tributaries of the Brisbane River.

The creek originates in a valley floor between Mt Blaine and Flinders Peak in Logan City, stretching through hilly, steep, sloped highly erosive country, until it reaches the mid catchment's rolling hills and floodplains of the Greenbank area. At this point in the catchment there is considerable low-lying land.

Oxley Creek has a number of tributaries such as Blunder Creek, Stable Swamp Creek, Rocky Waterholes Creek, Moollabin Creek, Sheep Station Gully, and Crewes Creek. All of these catchments have been highly altered from their natural state by residential and industrial development. Locally significant wetlands are still in existence and are scattered throughout the catchment.



Oxley Creek, Greenwood Lakes, Forestdale

### Flora and Fauna

Vegetation in the middle to lower reaches has been greatly disturbed, with limited natural vegetation remaining. Eucalypt forest remains the main vegetation type of the middle and upper catchment, particularly in poor soil and fire prone areas. Remnants of once thriving rainforest can be found in sheltered, moist gullies.

This catchment contains the Flinders to Greenbank - Karrawatha corridor, a regionally recognised vegetation corridor between the mountains and the coast. Despite development in the rest of the catchment, parts of the catchment such as the Greenbank Military Training Area, Toohey Forest, & Parkinson Bushland are relatively pristine.



Oxley Creek, Hughes Park, Greenbank

The Greenbank Military Training Area in the mid to upper catchment area preserves about 5000 ha of dry open eucalypt forest dominated by blue gums, spotted gums and ironbarks, with an acacia understorey. The eucalypts, in particular the tallwood, make the area a core conservation area for koalas in South East Queensland.

The wetlands and tributaries of Oxley Creek support habitat for many vulnerable, threatened and endangered flora and fauna species. Including the following Angle-stemmed Myrtle; the Slender Milkvine, the Wallum froglet; koala; Spotted-tailed quoll; Glossy-black cockatoo; Cotton pygmy-goose; Swift parrot and the Green-thighed frog.

### What you can do for our waterways

Here are some things we can all do to keep our waterways healthy so we can all enjoy them:

- Don't dump rubbish, weeds or invasive species such as your pet fish in wetlands, local creeks or down the drains
- Whilst visiting these areas with your pet keep them on a leash & pick up after them
- Go and explore your local waterway by walking, riding and bird watching
- Find a local waterway on a map and see how it fits in with the landscape, which catchment and how its connected to other parks
- Join a local bushcare group that cares for waterways, if there isn't one in your area you may even be able to start a group on Council land near you
- If you have a waterway on your property, you can play an important role in protecting and caring for it by learning how the waterways works and how to manage it
- Join Logan's Conservation Incentive Program, where Council helps landholders to achieve their property environmental management goals by providing technical advice, workshops, newsletters and access to funding opportunities

For more information on Logan's Rivers & Wetlands please visit [www.logan.qld.gov.au/waterways](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/waterways) or email [environment@logan.qld.gov.au](mailto:environment@logan.qld.gov.au).