

# Small Creek Stage 3 update

March 2020

Council is transforming the current straight concrete channel into a living waterway.

The design for Stage 3 (Briggs Road to Poplar Street Park) is complete and due for construction in the 2020-2021 financial year.

This work will be similar to that completed in stages 1 and 2 (Warwick Road to Briggs Road), which were developed through community-led design.

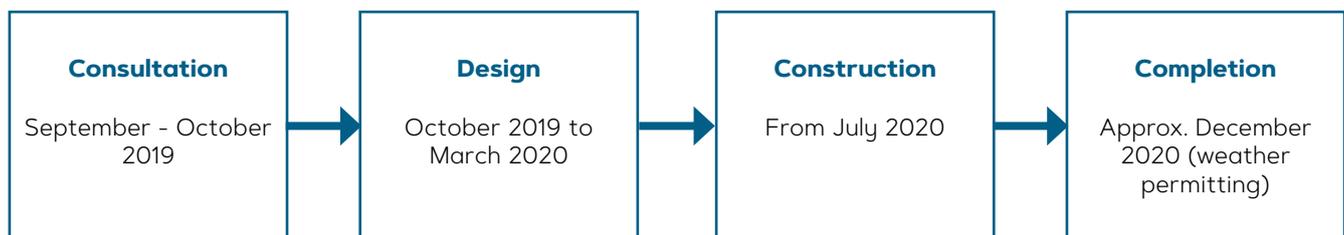
Project neighbours, Raceview residents and the wider Ipswich community had input to the design through online and face-to-face engagement held in September and October 2019.

There were great ideas put forward, and key issues identified, during this engagement. More details on how we incorporated those ideas and addressed key issues is within this fact sheet.

Some important facts about Stage 3 (Briggs Road to Poplar Street Park):

- The existing concrete channel will be recycled and incorporated into the new design.
- 3,600 cubic metres of soil will be removed.
- Native plants including local waterway species such as lomandra, rusty gum and narrow-leaf ironbark, and flowering species such as grevillea and callistemon.
- Creation of community assets such as path and bikeway connections, nature play elements and a viewing platform at Poplar Street Park.

## Stage 3 timing (Briggs Road to Poplar Street Park)



## Contact

If you have questions or would like more information you can contact council:

Phone: (07) 3810 6666  
8.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday

Email: [water@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:water@ipswich.qld.gov.au)

Via the Small Creek page on [Shapeyouripswich.com.au](http://Shapeyouripswich.com.au)

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## What you said about flooding

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(Concerned) that water will still be able to move effectively

...more natural environment but for me not at the expense of movement of water

Water without flooding

I'm not sure why such large amounts of fill had to be removed from the earlier stages

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## What you said about the environment

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The return to a natural setting is environmentally and aesthetically very pleasing

Not enough shading of pathway in afternoon (hot part of day)

Excellent place for people to walk in the local environment, corridor for wildlife

More native trees and shrubs

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## What we have done

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It is the reality of living next to a waterway that flooding will be a risk. It has been a fundamental design consideration – and council's highest priority – that the design will not worsen the flood risk to private properties.

The design includes removing 3,600 cubic metres of soil. Much of that is to create larger 'pond' areas that are deeper and able to hold more water.

Our flood models used the most recent data available (2016) as we know Raceview and surrounding areas have changed even since the last flood.

We first modelled the flood water on the current concrete channel. Then we modelled our design, taking into account the trees and grasses as well. Our modelling demonstrates there will be no worsening of the flood risk to private properties as a result of this project.

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## What we have done

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We have taken the best of what has worked in stages 1 and 2 and applied them to Stage 3. Plants and trees are selected because they are relevant both to the local area and to waterways. Lomandra, for instance, has a large root system perfect for holding soil together and preventing erosion.

Stage 3 will become a corridor for the wildlife already flourishing in stages 1 and 2. The concrete aprons under Briggs Road will be modified to create small 'riffles' that will allow fish to pass during rain events. This is a good thing as juvenile fish eat mosquito larvae and help keep them in check!

The greenery and shading that will grow over time has another important benefit for residents – urban cooling. Corridors of cool water and trees such as Small Creek can help offset the heat generated by our hard urban surfaces such as roofs, roads and concrete.



## What you said about usability

Connection (to adjacent properties) should be maintained safely eg grass not overgrown

Please no play area. This is a really relaxing place

The only issue is rubbish. We have been taking bags down to pick up the garbage that we see

Maybe the occasional seat. Could be logs or rocks. Shielding of unattractive property from view

## What we have done

Sightlines are important for safety. The area directly behind people's houses will be maintained as short turf. Any trees planted here will be single-stemmed to ensure residents have visibility.

Encouraging positive recreational use of the space, such as dog walkers or families on bicycles and scooters, will provide 'passive surveillance' that helps deter unwanted behaviour.

This will be achieved with several elements of the design:

- Concrete footpath connecting Briggs Road to Poplar Street Park
- Viewing deck at Poplar Street Park which will be a wonderful spot to take in the naturalised creek.
- Nature play elements, such as informal paths, stepping stones, logs and sandstone blocks to bring people closer to the creek and to build appreciation for this community asset.

A trash basket will also be installed on the major stormwater drain to help prevent pollutants entering the creek.

## Small Creek Stage 3 – Poplar Street Park



### LEGEND

- |  |                                     |                                      |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ① 2.5m wide shared use concrete pathway                | ④ Maintain existing large gum trees | ⑧ Potential GPT                      |
| ② Pathway connection to Polar Street                   | ⑤ Open grass area                   | ⑨ Turf terracing                     |
| ③ Temporary shared pathway connection to Poplar Street | ⑥ Park trees                        | ⑩ Nature play area                   |
|  | ⑦ Viewing deck                      | ⑪ Small Creek channel rehabilitation |

## FAQs

### Why Small Creek?

Small Creek offers a unique opportunity to enhance the natural beauty of the area, improve waterway health and provide better active transport options and connection networks for the community. It was also unique in that, unlike many concrete channels, there was sufficient space around it to ensure no flooding problems.

### Where will the new creek be?

Small Creek will run in the general location of the current concrete channel, meandering through the area from Whitehill Road to Warwick Road, Raceview.

### Why don't we spend this money elsewhere?

This project is funded by developer contributions under council's stormwater quality offsets scheme. It is a legal requirement that council spend any money collected under the scheme on water quality improvement projects, a primary component of the Small Creek project.

### Why does the concrete channel need to be removed?

The area was originally a creek before it was turned into a concrete channel. In its current state, the channel contributes to the degradation of water in our creeks and rivers, as the hard surfaces in urban areas result in a dramatically increased volume of runoff that contains more pollutants. This dirty water travels very quickly down the channel, causing erosion and poor water quality in downstream Deebing Creek. The Small Creek project will help to reduce these problems.

### What about flooding?

Throughout the design phase extensive modelling has been and will continue to be done on the creek and surrounding area to ensure that Small Creek poses no additional flooding risks to private properties and addresses existing flooding issues where possible.

### How will Small Creek benefit me?

Returning the creek to its natural state will result in:

- improved aesthetics, with the creek appearing as a naturally occurring waterway over time
- cooler water in our waterways, a vital requirement for native fish species. It can also have an urban cooling effect
- improved environmental outcomes via better water quality and habitat for animals and plants
- better active transport connections for residents
- potentially improving the value of property surrounding the corridor by the implementation of a naturalised area.

### Where can I find more information?

Further information on Small Creek is on council's website [ipswich.qld.gov.au/smallcreek](http://ipswich.qld.gov.au/smallcreek)

