

IMPROVING IRONPOT CREEK AND ITS CATCHMENT

Ironpot Creek and its catchment is a focus of Ipswich City Council and we are looking at ways we can improve the waterway and surrounding area for the community and the local environment.

Council will be carrying out a number of projects in partnership with other organisations and the community in and on the waterway. However - we cannot do this alone. Most of the land in the catchment is privately owned and we need your help. By helping the creek and its catchment, you can also help protect your own land and property. This fact sheet has been designed to help you understand ways surrounding properties can affect the Creek and its catchment, and provide advice around managing water on your land or property. For more information on any of the topics contained in this fact sheet, please visit www.ipswich.qld.gov.au.



STORMWATER IN YOUR BACKYARD

In urban areas, stormwater is generated by rain runoff from roofs, roads, driveways, footpaths and other impervious or hard surfaces. This causes a dramatic increase in the volume of stormwater runoff compared to pre-development conditions.

Stormwater can have a huge impact on creeks and catchment areas. Stormwater is a term given to the water draining off a site from the rain that falls on the surrounding land, and includes everything it carries with it. The soil, organic matter, litter, fertilisers from gardens and oil residues from driveways it carries can pollute downstream waterways. On its journey it also has the potential to erode soils and surfaces forming deep rills, gullies, head cuts and tunnels.

As well as being potentially problematic, stormwater can also be a valuable resource. Capturing and reusing stormwater can reduce reliance on potable water and reduce downstream environmental impacts.

SOIL IN THE IRONPOT CREEK CATCHMENT

The Ironpot Creek catchment is quite steep in areas and made up of predominantly dispersive or easily eroded soil types called Kandasols, Kurosols and Sodosols. These are soils that do not hold together well and, when exposed, can erode and wash away, making good stormwater management even more important. More detailed information on soil types and characteristics can be found within the Ipswich Soils Guide available online at ipswich.qld.gov.au.

LAND IN THE IRONPOT CREEK CATCHMENT

A homeowner can take simple steps to manage stormwater and reduce its environmental impact and increase its usefulness.

During building works

During building works, construction, earthworks or landscaping, land and water management is of particular importance. Loose or exposed soil and materials are prone to being picked up and washed away. There are many ways you can manage and lessen the risk.

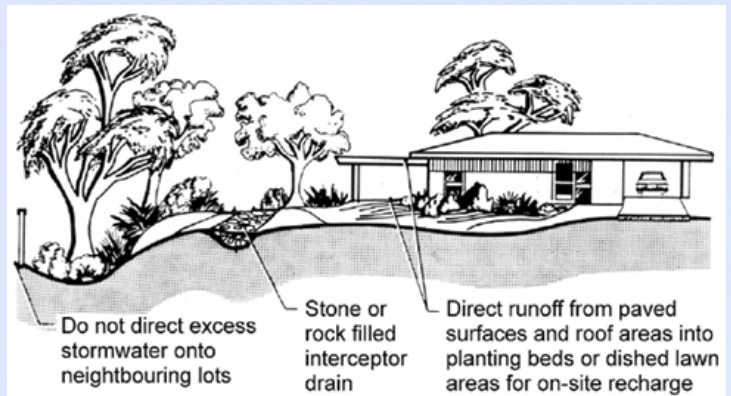
- Retain vegetation, particularly deep-rooted trees, think about planting native trees to provide cover for the future
- Use organic fertilizers and compost to improve the soil and increase the capacity of the soil to hold water
- Reduce erosion potential on site during any works by minimising the time that land is left in an exposed, unstable condition
- Diversion of clean water should be done using lined clean water drains or diversion bunds
- Grade impervious surfaces, such as driveways, to drain to vegetated areas.
- Avoid cut and fill on your block if it is not required
- Avoid creating steep gradients, build terraces where possible or construct shallow batters
- Prevent rain from washing sediment (e.g. sand, soil stockpiles) into stormwater by covering them with a roof, tarpaulin or awning

Established sites or gardens

On established sites consider the following actions.

- Retain and store stormwater on or in your block where practical and appropriate, harvest and store rain water from roofs and impermeable surfaces in tanks or dams
- Consider installing, upsizing or repairing existing rainwater tanks
- Use mulch on garden beds to protect bare earth and retain soil moisture
- Try to avoid concentrating stormwater/overland flows into small drains and narrow channels
- Find out where any overland or underground drainage on your property is being discharged and the condition of any drainage structure. A quick check now could prevent major problems in the future
- Be aware that badly managed or neglected runoff can cause damage not only to your property but also to your neighbours

- Take care with the substances (eg. fertilisers) used on your land as they can end up in the storm water
- Increase plant coverage
- Don't overuse fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides; follow application instructions and look for organic alternatives
- Take care in the proper disposal of other chemicals such as oils, chemicals, paint fuels. Ipswich City Council has specific chemical waste disposal sites at waste transfer sites across the city



Landscaping and thoughtful block design can moderate the speed and volume of run-off water entering gullies and waterways in response to rainfall events, this in turn can reduce erosion and improve filtration and infiltration. It can also improve the look of your block or garden.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR PROPER STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Ensure there are no illegal cross-connections of sewer and stormwater drains, i.e. the stormwater drain discharging into the sewer system.
- Divert stormwater from driveways, paths and other impervious surfaces to vegetated areas to catch, filter and infiltrate water rather than directing water to the stormwater system.
- Divert excess overflow from hard surfaces such as driveways, patios and roofs through downpipes to a rain garden to filter water before it enters local waterways through the stormwater system.
- In areas of dispersive soils, there are treatments available including the addition of gypsum and organic matter that can improve the soils structure and aid in long term stability.

Ipswich City Council is looking to work with land owners on or near the creeks in the catchment to make improvements to the waterway by offering help and advice on good stormwater management - for the good of your land and the waterway. If you are interested in this or have a creek on your property and would like to become a waterways partner, contact Council on (07) 3810 6666 or email council@ipswich.qld.gov.au.