

Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Precinct Landscape Plan Version 3.0

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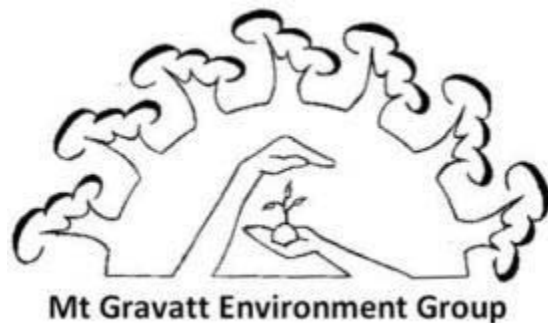


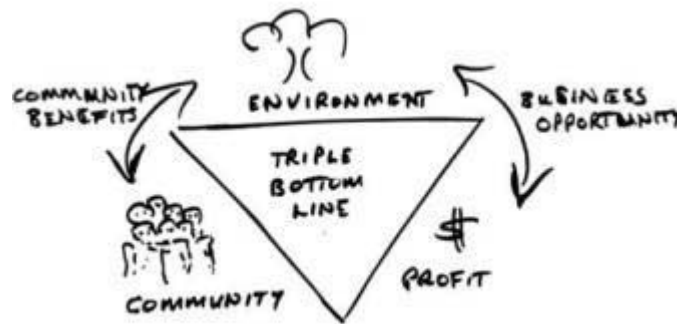
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1 Purpose

The purpose of the Showgrounds Precinct Landscape plan is to guide the restoration, strengthening and protection of a unique urban bushland habitat which currently supports two hundred and fifty four native plant species, forty six butterfly species, as well as, gliders, echidnas and koalas.

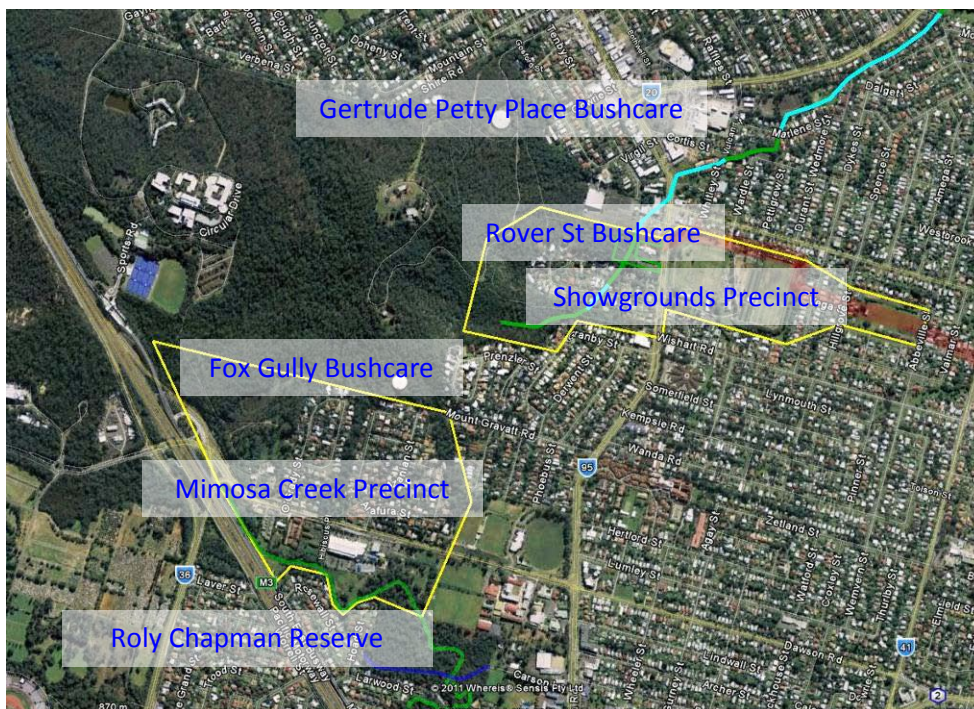
Environment is the key focus of this Plan, however, building and maintaining long term financial and community commitment requires identification of business opportunities and community benefits derived from habitat restoration.



2 Foundation of Plan

2.1 Environment

Environmental restoration is achieved through consolidation of existing habitat parcels and creation of links between habitat parcels.



2.1.1 Consolidation

Consolidation includes restoration of degraded habitat: weed removal/replanting, and strategic expansion of habitat parcels: reduce edge effect with buffers and acquisition of contiguous parcels.

Consolidation opportunities and threats for Showgrounds Precinct include:

- Rover Street Bushcare
 - Restoration – Rover Street Bushcare Plan
 - Formalisation of parking using native grass species and grass paving solutions like Boddingtons' PodPave85
- Showgrounds
 - Pollinator Link
 - Indigenous landscaping and creation of wetlands habitat north-western corner (Logan Road adjoining Shell service station). For example, mulching around existing tree complexes and planting out with shrub and understorey revegetation for tree protection, human safety, and enhanced landscape amenity.
 - Indigenous landscaping/habitat creation behind Guide Hut and golf driving range.
 - Installation of Men's Shed nest-boxes for birds.
 - Parking/driving near habitat trees will damage the soil. It takes 100 years for the processes of nature to make one millimetre of soil. Compression from vehicle traffic kills fungi, micro-organisms, insects and worms which work together to decompose mineral and vegetable matter for use by plants.
 - Location of new Men's Shed near gate house on northern boundary will result in loss of large old-growth habitat tree.



2.1.2 Linking

Two potential Pollinator Links exist between Mt Gravatt Reserve and Bulimba Creek – See Appendix A: Showgrounds Precinct Map & Wildlife Corridors

- Showgrounds – Rover St Bushcare > Showgrounds > Abbeville St Park > Newnham Road > Brisbane-Adventist College > Mansfield SHS > Bulimba Creek
- Appendix C: Showgrounds Pollinator Link
- Corridor follows the existing BCC Ecological Buffer Zone linking Mt Gravatt to Bulimba Creek - Appendix E: BCC Ecological Buffer Zone
- Jo's Creek – Rover St Bushcare > Fairland St (park) > Graham Lord Park > Bunnings > Bulimba Creek (Tillack and Edwards Parks)
- Appendix D: Jo's Creek Pollinator Link
- Jo's Creek is named for Jo Nash who fought developments that have put large sections of this wildlife link into pipes underground.

Pollinator Links are urban ecological corridors that link parcels of bushland allowing insects such as Sugarbag Stingless, Leafcutter and Blue-banded bees (all recorded on Mt Gravatt) to move between fragmented habitats. Birds like Grey Fantails and Golden Whistlers, butterflies like Orchard Swallowtails and Tailed Emperor will also utilise these links, thereby returning these species to our backyards.

Pollinator Links bring birds, butterflies and native bees back to our backyards.

Pollinator Links can be created through areas fragmented by housing or along urban creeks with long sections piped underground: Buff-banded Rails have been observed nesting in Jo's Creek where it cuts through Bunnings. Importantly Individual house/unit owners or businesses can be part of a Pollinator Link without waiting on local council or neighbours to take action.

Property owners can become part of the Pollinator Link by:

- Removing weed species – Privet and Chinese Elm attract high densities of exotic and generalist native bird species which often force out or prey on smaller native birds.
- Planting species indigenous to local area – planting species which are already found in Mt Gravatt Reserve will ensure appropriate food sources for local birds, butterflies and bees.
- Providing fresh water or suitable nest boxes. Note that feeding birds will limit the species visiting your backyard to species dependent on that type of food: water is required by all bird species as well as butterflies.

2.2 Community

Benefits for local community members typically relate to access, education, nature-based recreation, community relationships and land values. The broader Brisbane community benefits typically relate to recreation and tourism.

- Bringing birds, butterflies and bees to our backyards
 - Enhancing liveability and property values.
 - Pollinate home vegetable gardens.
- Promotion of Bushcare as a recreational activity similar to a family picnic.
- Walking tracks for active engagement with bushland:
 - Showgrounds Mountain Link Track – Appendix B
 - Existing tracks can be linked with two bridges over gullies in Rover Street Bushcare site.
 - Circuit routes include:
 - Link Track > Federation Lookout Track > Mt Gravatt Lookout.
 - Return via Summit Track to Gertrude Petty Place > Link Track.
 - Link Track > Federation Lookout Track > return to Logan Road via Scout Hall.

- Picnic/parking area – Rover Street Bushcare
 - Picnic in the bush right beside Logan Road
 - Interpretative shelter providing information on local Indigenous and European histories, walking tracks and the diversity of our unique piece of Australian bush in the middle of suburbia.
 - Parking for access to Reserve - complement existing Gertrude Petty Place parking.
- Abbeville Street Community Garden
 - Creation of a Pollinator Link is expected to enhance the productivity and amenity of the Community Garden.



2.3 Business

Mt Gravatt Corridor – Neighbourhood planning

- Higher density housing:
 - increased population will increase value of bushland for recreation and health, and
 - unique local bush habitat will increase property values.

Tourism

- Showground/Mt Gravatt Reserve linked
 - Potential for annual “King of the Mountain” style events.
 - Guided walks associated with annual Mt Gravatt Show. Possibly linked to First Contact and Echidna Magic.

3 Issues

3.1 Mimosa Creek Precinct – Baseline Flora & Fauna Assessment

The current research project being conducted by Biodiversity Assessment & Management Pty. Ltd. (BAAM) will provide vital input into planning habitat restoration and linking for the whole Mt Gravatt Reserve. The research information will be incorporated into the Showgrounds Precinct Landscape Plan as it becomes available.

3.2 Renaming Rover Street Bushcare

Development of the Showgrounds Precinct Landscape Plan with a focus on linking the Showgrounds with the Mountain for both wildlife and community members will create an opportunity to rename our existing Rover Street Bushcare group. Consideration is being given to use of an indigenous name for a key local species like the Echidna, Scribbly Gum or Tallowwood (Koala food trees).

We hope to engage the local indigenous community in helping us develop a name with greater relevance to our restoration work.

3.3 Property Ownership

The Showgrounds Precinct includes a complex range of different property ownerships presenting different opportunities and risks.

- Mt Gravatt Reserve – BCC managed in trust
- Showgrounds – Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust (not Brisbane City Council)
 - Mt Gravatt Show Society
 - Men’s Shed facilities
 - Girl Guides
 - Golf Driving Range
- Tallowwood Estate – adjoining Mt Gravatt Reserve (opposite Showgrounds)
- Abbeville Street Park – BCC Parkland - Abbeville and Kingsway Streets
- Graham Lord Park – BCC Parkland – Creek & Newnham Roads
- Blue Care – lease – 1541 Logan Road
- Scout Hall – lease - 1593 Logan Road
- Hillsong – Rover Street
- Dept of Communities – Creek Rd and Fairland Street (beside Cat Clinic)
 - public housing land bank – no projects currently planned
- Private ownership (houses)
 - Santley Street adjoining Reserve
 - Along Showgrounds Pollinator Link through to Newnam Road
 - Along Jo’s Creek Pollinator Link including Bunnings

3.4 Brisbane City Council Ecological Link

The BCC have mapped important ecological links between significant habitat areas to facilitate long term management of our green spaces which are important for the health of a rapidly growing population. Pollinator Links are an achievable way to strengthen these links in the short term while building community awareness of their role in the liveability and health of urban environment and, increasingly important, pollination of food plants grown in Community Gardens and/or backyards.

4 References

Flora & Fauna of Mt Gravatt Reserve – Sue Jones and Michael Fox – Mt Gravatt Environment Group

Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan – Michael Fox – Mt Gravatt Environment Group

Ecological Protection Report for Mt Gravatt Precinct - March 2006 - Prepared by David Gasteen (Brisbane Region Environment Council) for Brisbane City Council.

An Island in Suburbia – The Natural and Social History of Toohey Forest – Edited by C.P. Catterall and C.J. Wallace

What is a Pollinator Pathway? – www.pollinatorpathway.com

Create More Butterflies – Frank Jordan and Helen Schwencke

Best Practice Guidelines for Enhancing Urban Bird Habitat: Scientific Report – Holly Parsons – Birds in Backyards Program – www.birdsinbackyards.net

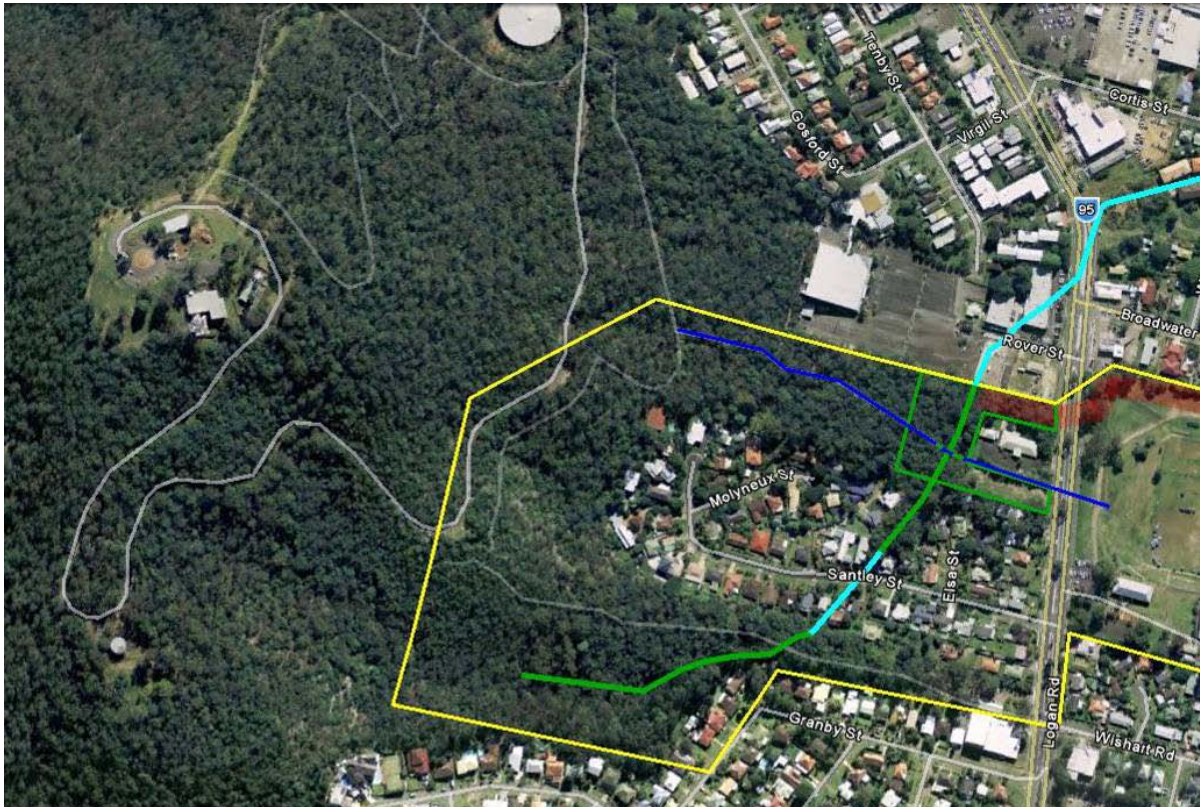
Mt Gravatt Corridor Neighbourhood Plan (Draft) – Brisbane City Council

Appendix A: Showgrounds Precinct Map & Wildlife Corridors



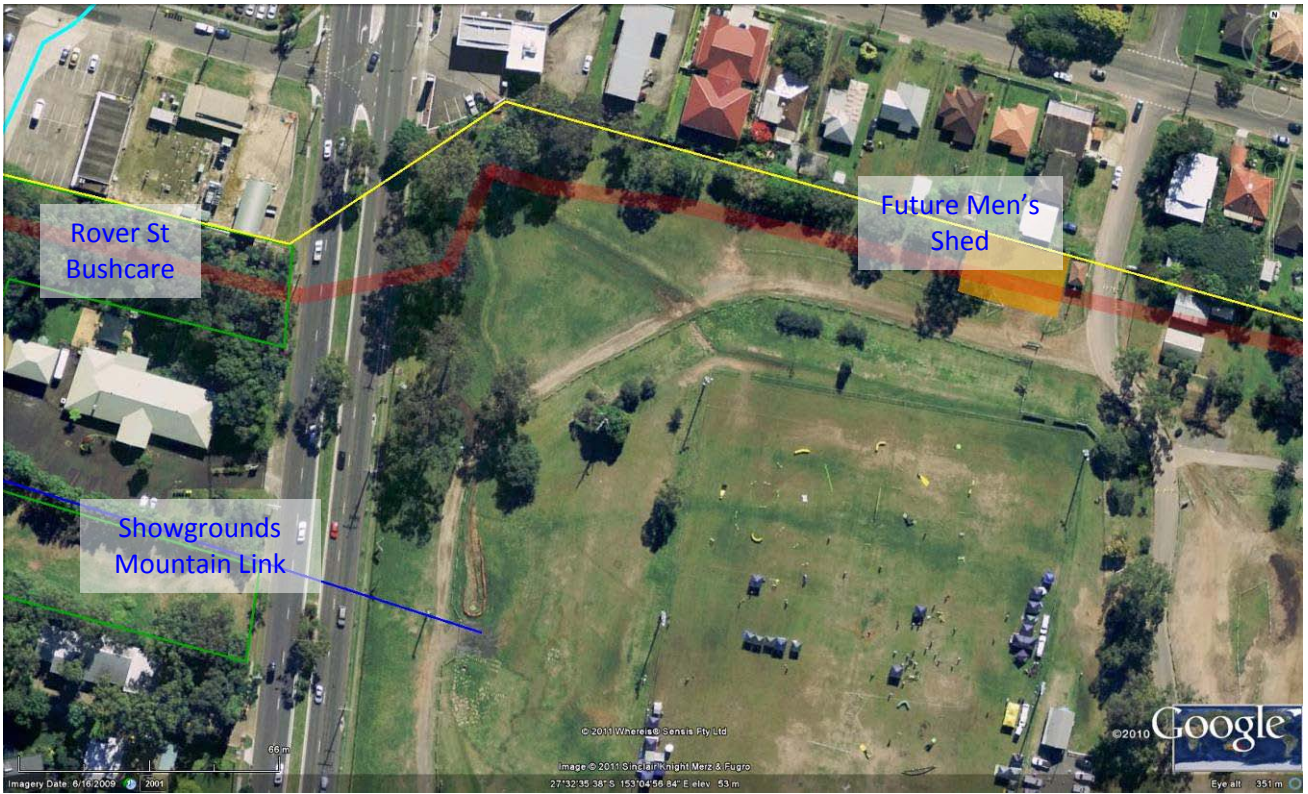
- Pollinator Pathways –
- Mt Gravatt to Bulimba Creek
- Showgrounds Pathway
- Jo's Creek - open
- Jo's Creek - underground
- Showgrounds – Mountain
- Link Track

Appendix B: Showgrounds – Mountain Link Track



Showgrounds – Mountain Link Track —
 Timber foot bridges —
 (Wheelchair accessible)

Appendix C: Showgrounds Pollinator Link



Showgrounds Pathway —



Showgrounds Pathway —

Appendix D: Jo's Creek Pollinator Link

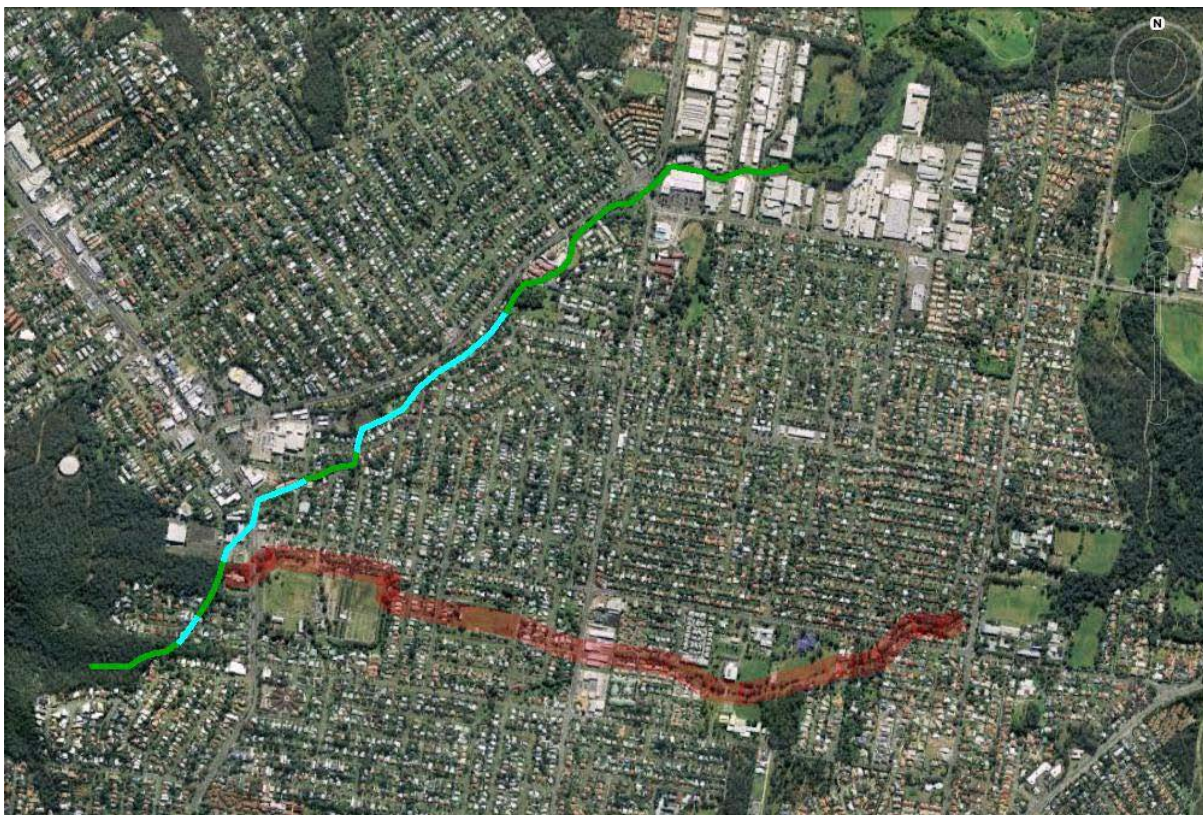


Jo's Creek █
 Jo's Creek piped █



Jo's Creek █
 Jo's Creek piped █

Appendix E: BCC Ecological Link



BCC Ecological Buffer Zone

Appendix F: BCC Ecological Link Map

