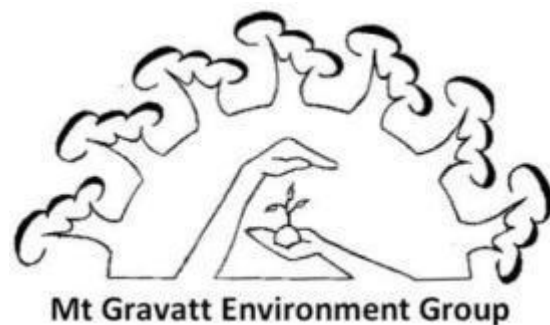


# Mt Gravatt Environment Group Strategic Plan Version 3.1



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# 1. Our Vision

Mt Gravatt is the heart of a special community. Indigenous and European histories both have strong links with the mountain. Although it has been farmed, harvested for timber and increasingly isolated by suburban development over one hundred years, the mountain still supports the most amazing diversity of plant and animal life. This ecological and cultural landmark exists just ten kilometres from the CBD of the fastest growing city in Australia.

Restoring and strengthening the ecosystems of the mountain and its corridors, will have positive community and environmental outcomes, and is increasingly urgent as the population in the area grows. Mt Gravatt Environment Group is already working to actively engage the whole community in consolidating healthy habitat areas and reducing habitat isolation with wildlife links.

Why a whole of community focus?

Wildlife does not recognise human created property boundaries or roads. Effective habitat consolidation and linking requires co-operation of a diverse range of property owners - private, corporate, local/state/federal government, community groups, schools and university. Therefore, a key part of our strategy is to identify investments in the environment that also deliver excellent community and business outcomes.



## 2. Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve

### 2.1. *Conservation Value*

- 66 hectare reserve
- 266 native plant species  
= 11% of native species diversity in United Kingdom – 32 million hectares
- Koalas breeding, Echidnas
- 45 butterfly species
- Native bee species - Sugarbag Stingless, Leafcutter and Blue-banded bees

### 2.2. *Threats*

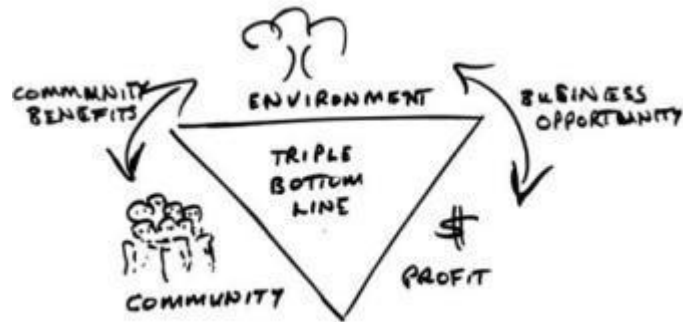
Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve is a tiny “island habitat” surrounded by urban matrix. Tallamy says “... tiny habitat islands have high rates of species extinction ...” and goes on to quote examples like 2,472 hectare Ashdown Forest in the UK which has lost forty seven plant species since the 1920s.

#### Key Threats

- Weeds/Garden Waste/Dumping
- Downhill Mountain Biking, Trail Bikes & Unofficial Tracks
- Feral and Domestic Animals

### 3. Foundation of Plan

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



#### 3.1. Environment

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

##### 3.1.1. 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.

Four Habitat Brisbane Bushcare sites are the current focus of restoration activities:

- Gertrude Petty Place Bushcare
- Rover Street Bushcare – Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Precinct Landscape Plan
- Fox Gully Bushcare – Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
- Roly Chapman Reserve Bushcare – Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan

##### 3.1.2. Habitat Linking

The current focus of linking activities are:

- Mimosa Creek Precinct
  - Wildlife corridor restoration through private properties in Fox Gully and Firefly Gully.
- Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Precinct
  - Pollinator Link between Rover Street Bushcare and Bulimba Creek.

## **3.2. Community**

The BCC Outdoor Recreation Management Strategy for Brisbane’s Natural Areas 2011-2021 identifies a number of recreation activities for our natural areas. The activities relevant to Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve and Roly Chapman Reserve are:

- Walking in the bush and cycling on roads and cycle paths. (Trail activities)
- Picnicking and nature study. (Point-node activities)

Not included is volunteer bush restoration (Bushcare) which, like picnics, is a point-node activity suited to community members, schools, university and corporate groups.

### **3.2.1. Walking in Bush**

Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve represents a unique opportunity to create a place to “walk in the bush” just 10km from Brisbane CBD.

Reid, Guerin & Walker report that “A BWV project ... found from focus group discussions that “bushwalking” implies something serious involving special gear and remote places, as distinct from “walking in the bush” which people felt they could do.”(2008)

A range of walking tracks already exists in the Reserve. Development of more self-guided walks and improving physical access and track information will enhance visitor experience.

#### **3.2.1.1. Self-guided Walks**

The Summit Track is currently the only self-guided walk in the Reserve and no complete track map is readily available. Expansion of the self-guided walk network and introduction of new technology like QR codes with internet support, will increase community use of the Reserve.

### **3.2.2. Improving Physical Access**

Existing access points to the track network include Gertrude Petty Place picnic area/parking and Griffith University Busway Station/Mt Gravatt Campus.

Existing informal parking at the Rover Street Bushcare site and the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds can be linked with the existing track network by bridging Jo’s Creek behind Blue Care. (Refer - Showgrounds Precinct Landscape Plan)

Future cycle/walking path link between Roly Chapman Reserve and Klumpp Road will improve access from higher density residential areas near Garden City.

## **3.3. Business Opportunities**

Identification of business opportunities is expected to focus on tourist activities – utilising enhanced track network, sporting events and improved property values.

## 4. Legal Structure

Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C) provides the legal framework for Mt Gravatt Environment Group including sponsoring grant applications, providing public liability insurance cover for non-Habitat Brisbane events and financial control.

## 5. Target Activities & Funding

### 2012/13 Projects

Nest boxes to restore safe habitat

- Fox Gully Bushcare – 10 boxes to be provided by BCC Habitat Brisbane – October 2012
- Fox Gully & Firefly Gully wildlife corridors – 12 boxes made by Men's Shed
- Nest box monitoring equipment – Southside Sport & Recreation grant 2012
  - Digital camera, aluminium extendable pole and iPad

Pollinator Link – Mt Gravatt Reserve to Bulimba Creek – via Showgrounds

- Pollinator Link brochure – BCC Environmental Grant 2012
- Pollinator Link landscaping Mt Gravatt Girl Guides hut (Showgrounds)
- Community Education
  - Display and workshop (27 participants) Mt Gravatt Library – September 2012
  - Pollinator Link website established

Self-guided Walks

- Station markers and signs, brochure – Everyone's Environment Grants – Round One (2012)
- Linking Rover Street Bushcare/Mt Gravatt Showgrounds to track network
  - Bridging Jo's Creek - Everyone's Environment Grants – Round Two (2013)
- Promotion to local walk guides eg. Brisbane's Best Bush Bay and City Walks

Toilets/BBQs Mt Gravatt Lookout (Summit)

Cycle/walk Path connecting existing Roly Chapman path to Klumpp Road Park & Ride

- Mimosa Creek Precinct Landscape Plan
- BCC budget allocated

Community Gully Day – Fox Gully wildlife corridor (19 private properties committed)

- Winter planting and nest box installation – September 2012
- Permanent spring restored with removal of Indian Rubber Tree

Photography Workshop – Fox Gully Bushcare – September 2012

- 17 participants

Fundraising

- 2013 Mt Gravatt Environment Group Photography calendar

Online publication of *Flora & Fauna of Mt Gravatt Reserve* – Susan Jones & Michael Fox

## Ongoing Projects

Future projects/funding to be detailed as further Landscape Plans are prepared and habitat restoration progresses. Projects will include:

- Wildlife corridor in alignment between Clairvaux MacKillop and Park & Ride
- Fauna movement solutions – glider poles/wildlife bridges
- Environmental shelter at Rover St Bushcare
  - Information – environment/indigenous & European history/tracks
- Parking facilities
  - Grass friendly parking at Rover St Bushcare for walkers

Main Roads Department land parcel

- Cnr Klumpp & Mains Rds – beside Motorway
- MRD cleared a large area of Toohey Forest/Mimosa Creek when University Road depot expanded.

Land parcel behind Klumpp Road Park&Ride

- Add area surrounding Mimosa Creek to Roly Chapman Reserve
- Currently private ownership but subject to resumption negotiations

Old Klumpp Road farm

- Staged purchase of farmland for restoration
- Restoration Plan to be prepared by Griffith University - Environment School



## 6. References

Reid, David, Guerin, Barbara and Walker, Tony *Creating Trails that Walkers Will Want to Walk* (2008) 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Tracks and Trails Conference - Sunshine Coast Australia

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