



## Urban Stream Restoration for Ecology and Community – The Upper Stony Creek Story

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The Upper Stony Creek Transformation is one of the largest and most complex urban waterway restoration project undertaken in Victoria, focussed on delivering a fully integrated environmental and social outcome for the community.

This innovative and ambitious waterway naturalisation and green infrastructure project will transform a highly degraded urban stream into a naturalised waterway with enhanced liveability and improved ecological values, providing an open space and recreational experience focused on the restoration of the waterway.

Over 200,000 indigenous trees, shrubs and bank plants will transform the riparian waterway corridor, providing effective passive cooling and a welcoming open space for passive recreation and appreciation of the naturalised waterway and wetland environments.

Key stakeholders including water and environment authorities (City West Water, Melbourne Water and DELP), local government (Brimbank City Council) and green industry providers (Greenfleet Australia) championed this innovative project to naturalise a 1.2 km stretch of Stony Creek.

The key drivers for the project were to replace ageing waterway infrastructure and mitigate flooding impacts, improve community amenity in an area lacking in open space, provide urban cooling in a hot and dry area of Melbourne and provide stormwater harvesting opportunities for local community users through stormwater treatment.

The transformation of the concrete drain into green infrastructure with extensive indigenous vegetation cover will enhance biodiversity and create habitats for bird and animal species. The provision of this new green space will be a step towards creating a sustainable, liveable and healthy community in the west.

This innovative project delivers:

- Integrated stormwater harvesting and treatment to passively irrigate 3.1 ha of waterway corridor and surrounding open space to significantly increase tree growth rates and establishment of riparian and bank vegetation.
- Extensive riparian tree canopy cover along the waterway to enable carbon capture and shade the corridor contributing to cooling 9.7 ha of surrounding area, creating a liveable

environment that will encourage use and enhance community ownership of the waterway.

- Provision of recreational infrastructure integrated into the waterway experience, including a circuit path network, seating with views, passive picnic areas and interpretive signage to encourage use and care of the naturalised waterway.