NBC Downfall Creek Master Plan

Started in 2017 and formed officially in 2022, North Brisbane Catchments Inc (NBC) covers the catchments of Cabbage Tree Creek and Downfall Creek on Brisbane's northside.

Wildlife includes wallabies (mainly Swamp Wallabies and Redneck Wallabies), koalas, reptiles, birds, butterflies, bats and much, much more.

Downfall Creek has always been a key element of the Mountains To Mangroves corridor vision.

North Brisbane Catchments has developed a plan to restore habitat and wildlife movement to the Downfall Creek corridor. There are currently sections that have concrete drains, underground pipes and inadequate substantial vegetation.

Several NBC bushcare groups are sited along Downfall Creek:

- Huxtable Park bushcare
- 7th Brigade Park bushcare
- Virginia bushcare

Work at these sites stabilises the banks, enhances habitat and also reduces sediment entering the creek.

The Everton Park Anglican Church started this project, but has paused it after the driving force was transferred away.

A proposal by North Brisbane Catchments to renaturalise Downfall Creek upstream of Rode Rd, Chermside West, has attracted $2.5m federal government funding. This involves removing the concrete drain and creating a more natural creek with waterholes etc similar to Hanlon Park on Brisbane's southside.

Work in Huxtable Park has been going on for many years and the result is excellent.

It's worth noting that the Port of Brisbane Authority has funded large plantings in 7th Brigade Park as it was determined to be much cheaper than dredging the sediment when it reached the port after local loss.

Work at Virginia has already improved about half a kilometre of creek bank and continue to work upstream toward Bilsen Road.

Please see the following overview plan/map.



North Brisbane Catchments
Mountains To Mangroves

Downfall Creek Master Plan
Overview

KA 24/Aug/2025

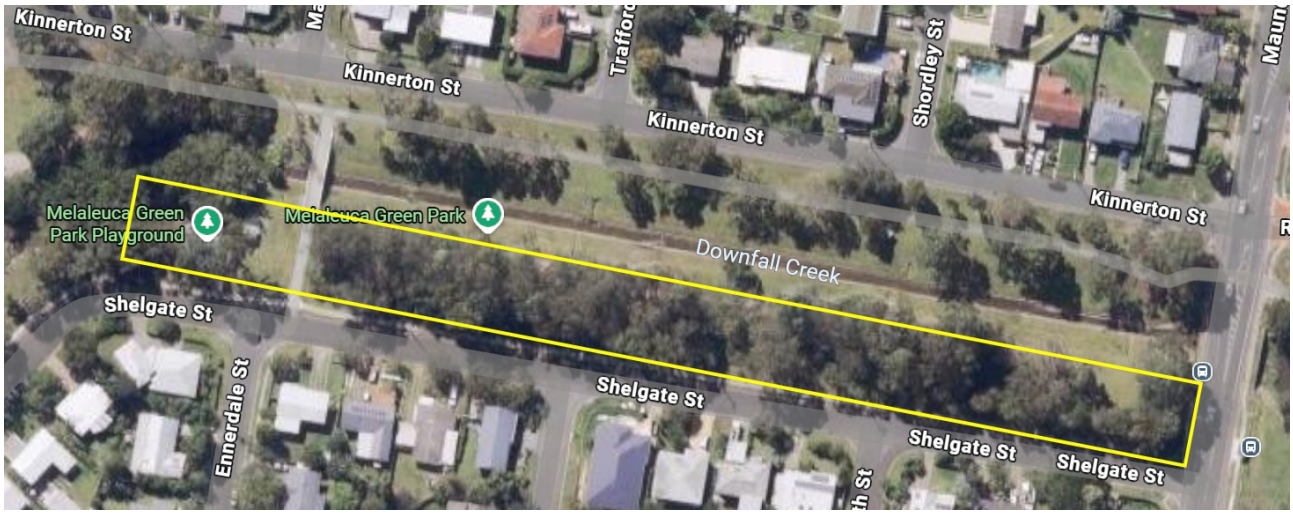
Habitat Connectivity Restoration Priorities

There are two major sections of Downfall Creek that desperately need attention in order to restore habitat connectivity being:

1. Downstream from Raven Street Reserve to Huxtable Park
2. Downstream from Huxtable Park to Webster Road

1. Downstream From Raven Street Reserve To Huxtable Park

This encompasses the south side of Mellaeluca Green, bordering Downfall Creek and the north edge of Shelgate St.



A new bushcare group was approved by BCC.

Relevant factors incude:

- Length is about 300m (x5m = 1500sqm)
- There is wildlife access under Maundrell Tce via culverts.
- There is already a substantial/advanced medium/high vegetated corridor in place, but this falls very short of what's required for successful and sustainable wildlife movement.
- What's missing is an under-story cover to assist ground wildlife to move safely. That also includes the likes of small birds (eg wrens) needing cover from the likes of noisy miners and birds of prey.
- Wildlife guidance fencing will ultimately be essential to direct wildlife under Maundrell Tce where interaction with traffic can/could/would be fatal for the wildlife and a massive hazard to the human drivers/passengers.
- Watering of plantings can be easily and achieved safely by vehicle from Shelgate Street without BCC park access.



Downfall "Creek" Concrete Drain



Sparse Understory



Sparse Understory



Easy Shelgate Street Access For Watering



Sparse Understory



Busy Maundrell Tce and Culvert

Google maps reference point:
https://maps.app.goo.gl/kNJGf33GbZUL6HQd6

2. Downstream From Huxtable Park To Webster Road



Relevant factors incude:

- Length is about 200m (x5m = 1000sqm)
- There is wildlife access under Webster Rd via culverts.
- There is currently only high level vegetation in place.
- The normal “creek” flow is underground in pipes.
- What's missing is medium and low story vegetation to assist ground wildlife to move safely. That includes ground wildlife and also the likes of small birds (eg wrens) needing cover from the likes of noisy miners and birds of prey.
- Wildlife guidance fencing will ultimately be essential to direct wildlife under Webster Road where interaction with traffic can/could/would be fatal for the wildlife and a massive hazard to the human drivers/passengers.
- Watering of tubestock can easily be achieved with BCC granting vehicle access, as they have at other NBC project sites.

Google Maps reference point:
https://maps.app.goo.gl/55ArRMMWkGJ6YqTg7



Looking NE from Dundalli St toward Webster Rd (not visible). Virtually No Low/Medium Vegetation



Underground "creek" looking toward to very busy Webster Rd culverts.



Panorama Looking SE

Eucalypt Selection

Koalas suffer from a range of diseases which can be treated before subsequent release back into the environment. In order to treat them, they need to be rescued which involves bringing them down to ground level using a pole and bluff gadget. That's impossible if they are high up in a very tall tree (eg a Blue Gum).



Eucalyptus Kabiana and Eucalyptus Curtisii are low growing Eucs. Although not offically on the local RE list for the area, they have proven successful in similar situations less than three kilometres away in the NBC/BCC wildlife link project in Goldberg Place Park, Bridgeman Downs. At right is a Moreton Bay Koala Rescue koala rescuer coaxing a koala down to ground level where Beckett Rd crosses Cabbage Tree Creek. Although they are mallee form, NBC has been pruning the Goldberg Place Park Curtisiis with future koala rescue in mind.

Other Relevant Factors

Wallabies and koalas have been sighted in recent years in 7th Brigade Park, by all accounts originating from upstream, so they are trying to get through.

Wildlife guidance fencing will ultimately be essential to direct wildlife under roads where interaction with traffic can/could/would be fatal for the wildlife and a major hazard to human drivers/passengers. Often, this fencing is only needed at crucial points such as where wildlife habitat/corridor goes under a major road via a culvert.

Scope

Rewildling at this scale is beyond the scope of NBC. Substantial funding of contract plantings/watering is required.

These areas could easily become ongoing bushcare sites, backed by Brisbane City Council in the same way that NBCs other bushcare sites are.

Cost

Cost is unknown, but is expected to be in the realm of tens of thousands of dollars for plantings and follow-up watering. NBC will be seeking quotes. The important thing at this point is to get the plants in the ground and growing. Wildlife guidance fencing can then follow.

Brisbane City Council

It is essential that Brisbane City Council are involved, as they have been in previous projects. BCC Land Manager approval will be essential. Approval has never been refused previously.

Summary

Rewilding this Downfall Creek corridor is expected to deliver excellent environmental value and return, reinstating habitat and connectivity that was lost many years ago.

Ken Anderson
31/Mar/2026