Little Stringybark Creek

Retaining stormwater to improve creek health

About the project...

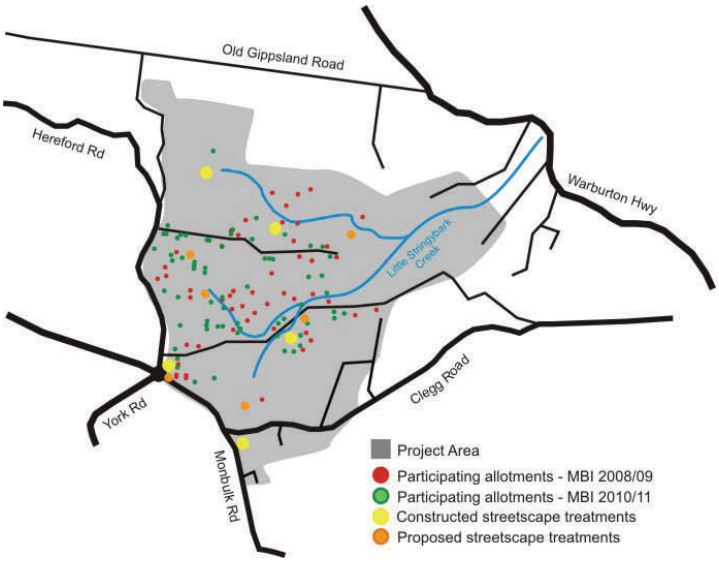
In urban environments, increased stormwater runoff, along with its polluted quality, leads to the degradation of waterways. Importantly, the change in catchment hydrology results in the loss of ecosystems services provided by these creeks.

This project is a world-first attempt to protect and restore a stream (Little Stringybark Creek) through stormwater harvesting, integrated with stormwater filtration and infiltration techniques. The primary aim of the project is to restore both hydrology and water quality to protect receiving aquatic ecosystems.

The *Little Stringybark Creek Project*, which has been operating since 2008, is implementing new stormwater treatment initiatives within the 450 ha catchment of Little Stringybark Creek (see Figure 1) in outer eastern Melbourne. Works are being conducted on a combination of private and public land, at a range of scales.

- For private land owners (both households and businesses), financial incentives and direct assistance (in design and plumbing advice) are offered to install rainwater tanks and other stormwater retention measures.

- For public land owners (local government, schools), staff are being educated on the benefits of stormwater retention measures and financial incentives provided to support on-ground implementation.



To facilitate these works and ensure communication of any lessons, the project is running a comprehensive engagement program, targeting residents of the catchment, the local government authority and the broader water/stormwater management industry.