



# Oxley Creek Transformation Project – Draft Master Plan Community Engagement Report

August 2018

## Introduction

In March 2016, the Lord Mayor announced the vision for Oxley Creek to transform the corridor from the Brisbane River to Larapinta, along Oxley Creek, into a world class green, lifestyle and leisure destination. Oxley Creek will be a citywide destination, showcasing some of Brisbane's natural assets and unique biodiversity values, with enhanced connectivity for the community and wildlife, while recreation and leisure attractions will encourage day-long stays and repeat visits by locals and tourists alike.

The project will build on the achievements of the Lord Mayor's Oxley Creek Catchment Taskforce, as well as past on-ground works delivered through Habitat Brisbane, Community Conservation Partnership programs, and many other projects and programs championed by both Council and community groups over the years.

## The Master Plan

The Oxley Creek Transformation (OCT) Master Plan is the first step in achieving the transformation of Oxley Creek. The Master Plan is a blueprint that informs corridor precincts, with a focus on new leisure and sport-based recreation activities, economic hubs, tourism, cultural heritage interpretation, environmental education and connections for people and wildlife.

The Master Plan explores opportunities to improve flood resilience and water quality, restore wildlife habitats, stormwater reuse and other measures that allow the natural environment to thrive.

The Master Plan goals are:

- **Environment** - Champion environmental protection, enhancement and resilience, inspire environmental conservation and demonstrate leadership in sustainability.
- **Social/Community** - Capture social and community benefits by activating existing spaces and creating new places for people to gather, relax, play and connect with others and nature.
- **Economic** - Inspire sustainable economic uplift, establish partnerships and attract business interest and investment to fund activation and ongoing environmental revitalisation to boost the local economy.

## Draft Master Plan Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

The development of the draft Master Plan was informed through collaboration with external consultants, community engagement with identified key stakeholder groups (see Attachment A) and use of past and current technical studies. Advice and feedback was also sought from Brisbane City Council branches such as Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Economic Development, Development Services, Connected Communities, Transport Planning and Strategy, Asset Management and City Projects Office.

## Release of the draft Master Plan for Community Review

The draft Master Plan was publicly released on 26 April 2018 by the Lord Mayor and was followed by a four-week community engagement program, including a range of face-to-face and online engagement activities.

### Key Community Engagement Period Statistics

<b>17 Face-to-face</b> engagement activities	<b>354 online surveys</b> received	<b>57 written submissions</b> received	<b>8,308 web page</b> views
<b>110 customers</b> visiting us at our engagement events	<b>28 organisations</b> were invited to form part of our key stakeholder reference group	<b>89% overall support</b> for the draft Master Plan	<b>1,259 draft Master Plans</b> downloaded from the website

### Raising Community Awareness

A postcard was mailed out to 28,571 households across 20 suburbs within proximity to the Oxley Creek Transformation study area. This postcard promoted awareness of the draft Master Plan document and encouraged residents to have their say on the draft Master Plan.

Community awareness of the project was further enhanced with advertisements in four local newspapers, displays at seven libraries, and engagement with local primary schools through a colouring competition, in which 16 schools took part.

### Face-to-Face Engagement

During the community engagement period, OCT maximised opportunities to engage with the community through 17 face-to-face engagement activities. These activities included:

- Key stakeholder drop-in session
- Tree planting events at locations within the corridor
- Presentations to schools, P&C committees, environmental groups and neighbourhood watch groups
- Information kiosks at local events and in areas of concentrated pedestrian movement, in the suburbs of Sherwood, Rocklea, Heathwood, Acacia Ridge, Corinda and Oxley.

### Online Surveys

Two online surveys (a short-survey and long-survey) were undertaken during the community engagement period. A summary of the feedback statistics is as follows:

- The feedback from the combined online surveys demonstrated positive support for the draft Master Plan, with 89% of respondents in overall agreement.
- Strategic Ideas received a significant amount of support and interest including:
  - The Greenway
  - Oxley Creek Common Bird Sanctuary
  - Multipurpose Regional Sport Recreation and Event Centre
  - Archerfield Wetlands Parkland and Interpretive Centre
  - Nature-based Adventure Parkland
  - Strategic Corridor Restoration Plan



- Oxley Creek Adventure Hub
- Support for the six Priority Projects, which form the foundations of the Oxley Creek Transformation project, was high with 86% of respondents in agreement.

## Key Feedback Themes

The review of the community feedback identified several key themes requiring further consideration in the Master Plan document:

- Provision of facilities for people of all abilities
- Conceptual mapping that was interpreted as impacting residential properties within the study corridor or within the boundaries of Strategic Ideas
- Potential conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists on The Greenway
- Potential impacts to habitat areas and fauna corridors through the provision of additional movement corridors for people
- Providing horse trails in sensitive habitat areas
- Concern that there might be additional layers of planning control
- Further consultation with members of the local community as projects commence
- Creating additional recreation opportunities within the corridor
- Acknowledging and considering flooding constraints when planning new infrastructure and improvements in the corridor.

## Addressing Key Feedback

A significant number of individual written submissions on the draft Master Plan were received during the engagement period. Written feedback was also provided by the community through the free text sections within the online surveys.

A comprehensive review of both the written submissions and survey responses identified several common feedback themes requiring further consideration. These themes represent the key areas of community interest and concern. These common feedback themes, and the key amendments made to the Master Plan document, are outlined below.

### ***Key Feedback Theme: Provision of facilities for people of all abilities***

While the draft Master Plan mentioned all abilities use, the community commented that they would like to see a greater emphasis on the provision of facilities and activities for people of all abilities.

The text within the Strategies section of the Master Plan has been updated to reinforce the importance of acknowledging all abilities use in the design of new parkland infrastructure and the development of future community activities.

### ***Key Feedback Theme: Private properties shown located within the study corridor or within the boundaries of Strategic Ideas***

The highly conceptual and diagrammatic maps within the draft Master Plan were interpreted by some property owners as impacting their privately-owned homes and backyards.

The study corridor boundary lines have now been removed from all maps in the updated Master Plan document and the diagrammatic lassos and lines that depict Strategic Idea boundaries and alignments have been reduced in size and realigned to avoid residential and private properties where suitable.



***Key Feedback Theme: Concern over possible pedestrian & cycle conflicts on The Greenway***

The Greenway walking and cycling trail was identified by the community as one of the most popular Strategic Ideas. However, there were concerns that the potential speed and number of recreational and commuter cyclists may result in conflicts with pedestrians.

An update has been made to the text of The Greenway Priority Project indicating that separated path facilities for pedestrians and cyclists would be investigated in areas of high use.

***Key Feedback Theme: Concern over The Greenway corridor bisecting fauna habitat areas***

Members of the community raised concerns about The Greenway's alignment and were worried that it may physically bisect, or otherwise affect, pockets of vegetation that provide habitats for specific types of fauna, thereby reducing the habitat area or creating the need for animals to cross The Greenway to access their full habitat.

Updates have been made to the Strategies within the Master Plan to reinforce the need to identify opportunities to both improve habitats and separate fauna and human movement corridors. Detailed planning for The Greenway will include environmental studies to assist in determining a final alignment.

***Key Feedback Theme: Role of the Master Plan as it relates to Council's wider planning instruments***

Some members of the community expected the Master Plan to be an impetus for greater development regulation through the corridor, while others viewed the Master Plan as another layer of onerous planning control over landowners.

Additional information has been provided within the Context section of the Master Plan document outlining that it is the *Brisbane City Plan 2014* that directs how land in Brisbane can be used and developed and that the Master Plan outcomes and initiatives are guided by its framework of policies and provisions.

***Key Feedback Theme: Provision of additional recreation opportunities within the corridor***

The community viewed the Master Plan, and in-particular the priority project outcomes, as being too conservative in the provision of additional recreation opportunities for residents. They felt that open space areas, such as Oxley Creek Common, should provide for a greater range of activities. Some specific requests included greater recreational off-road cycling opportunities, more playgrounds and outdoor gyms, and outdoor spaces for festivities, dance, visual arts and drama.

Updates have been made to the concepts for the Oxley Creek Common and the Nature-based Adventure Parkland Priority Projects. Both concepts now include an event and activity lawn, with a children's playground and outdoor gym also proposed for Oxley Creek Common.

***Key Feedback Theme: Horses and horse riding***

Some members of the community supported the idea of providing horse riding trails within the corridor, while others viewed the proposal as problematic. Support for horse riding stemmed from the idea that the open space corridor should be used for a greater number of recreation pursuits. Concerns about horse riding focussed on issues such as the spread of weeds from horse manure, path damage, car and horse trailer parking and conflicts with pedestrians on high pedestrian trafficked routes. The primary focus of concerns related to areas of the corridor north of Ipswich Road.

The Master Plan now offers a balanced approach to horse riding with proposed locations for riding trails focused on the southern section of the corridor, with links to a possible future Equestrian



Centre at Pallara, and connections to future horse trails in the Oxley Creek to Karawatha Corridor forest reserves.

***Key Feedback Theme: Future community engagement & consultation***

Concerns were raised that the Master Plan would be the last opportunity to provide feedback towards some of the future projects and outcomes identified within the document. The Project Delivery and Next Steps sections of the Master Plan now reinforce Oxley Creek Transformation's commitment to ensure the community and stakeholders are informed, consulted and have the opportunity to provide feedback and local knowledge on a range of future projects.

***Key Feedback Theme: Adverse impacts on residential areas***

Some members of the community were concerned that by promoting the corridor as a high-quality recreation destination there would be an increase in people from surrounding regional suburbs parking in residential streets to access the creek.

In response to these concerns, Creek Gateway outcomes at locations such as Cliveden Avenue, Corinda, have been scaled-back. These end-of-street residential gateways are now only identified as neighbourhood walking/cycling connections into the creek corridor.

Future promotion of corridor recreational activities by Oxley Creek Transformation will focus on the proposed signature parklands, at locations such as Archerfield Wetlands and Oxley Creek Common, as the major gateways into the creek corridor. Adequate facilities, such as parking and toilets, will be provided at these locations.

***Key Feedback Theme: Worsening flood impacts on private property***

Concerns were raised that new infrastructure delivered by Oxley Creek Transformation may worsen the impacts of flooding on private properties within the corridor and wider catchment.

Updates have been made to the Strategies within the Master Plan to reinforce acknowledgement and consideration of the existing flooding constraints in planning the location of new infrastructure and improvements.

***Key Feedback Theme: Damage to parkland infrastructure during flood events***

Respondents suggested that further detail was required in the Master Plan on how Oxley Creek Transformation were acknowledging and planning for potential damage to new parkland infrastructure caused by inevitable flood events.

Several of the Strategies within the Master Plan have been revised to provide more detail on flood resilient design, flood preparedness and planning for recovery.

***Key Feedback Theme: Provision of space within the corridor for an Equine Therapy Centre***

A number of submissions requested that Oxley Creek Transformation make space available within the corridor for an Equine Therapy Centre to treat conditions such as autism and posttraumatic stress disorder. One submitter suggested that the Therapy Centre could also include functions such as a children's animal farm and plant nursery.

The concept plan for Oxley Creek Common has been revised to include a Community Lease Facility. The facility is earmarked for activities that are complementary to the site and corridor values, e.g. research facility, educational space, urban farm, native plant nursery. It is possible that an Equine Therapy Centre could be situated in this location, subject to successful lease negotiations, relevant stakeholder support and planning consent.

