wetlands for our suburbs

SULLIVANS CREEK CATCHMENT

DICKSON & LYNEHAM WETLANDS

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND WATER

ACT GOVERNMENT

DESIGN www.design-edge.com.au Printed on recycled paper.

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KEEN TO PARTICIPATE?

If you would like to participate in planting the wetland or become a member of a care group to look after the Banksia St, David St, Dickson or Lyneham Wetlands, please contact the Urban Waterways Coordinator.

landscaping these wetlands. Just like our nature reserves, a wetland needs a carer group. The group's activities will include ongoing planting, weeding, mulching, rubbish removal and water quality monitoring. Opportunities also exist for recording birds and frogs.

PARTICIPATING IN PLANTING & CARING FOR WETLANDS

You have an opportunity to participate in

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

The ACT Government is proud to develop the Dickson and Lyneham wetlands and help return the Sullivans Creek Catchment to a 'living system'. Our experience with the David St, O'Connor wetland and the recently constructed Banksia St, O'Connor wetland has shown that active community involvement greatly enhances the wetlands.

The Dickson and Lyneham wetlands will become an invaluable asset for the inner north community. I hope you will take the opportunity to get involved in planting and monitoring the wetlands.

The Government looks forward to working with the inner north community on these important projects.

Simon Corbell

Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water

DICKSON AND LYNEHAM WETLANDS

The Hawdon St, Dickson and Goodwin St, Lyneham wetlands are the two newest wetlands planned for the Sullivans Creek Catchment. As well as providing water quality improvements and enhanced urban habitat, these water bodies will supply stormwater to irrigate nearby sportsgrounds and schools.

Both wetlands will experience fluctuating water levels. Pond levels will be highest during and after a storm event and at their lowest after extended dry periods. The water bodies have been designed to ensure sufficient water depths will be maintained to allow plants and wildlife to flourish and to ensure the wetland edges remain attractive.

Studies have shown enhanced biodiversity is achieved with well managed water level changes.

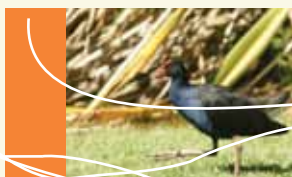
A number of trees will be removed prior to construction. Large logs will be used to create habitat, smaller branches and leaves will be mulched and reused on site. At each site more trees will be planted than are removed.

ARE WETLANDS SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

The sides of the wetland will be gently graded to 1 in 6 so there are no sudden level changes. Once established, thick bands of macrophytes (aquatic plants) will prevent children from accessing the water.

WILL THERE BE AN INCREASE IN MOSQUITOES?

Mosquito numbers will be controlled by grading slopes to ensure no stagnant pockets of water form, and by incorporating a wide variety of plants and insect predators.



SULLIVANS CREEK CATCHMENT WETLANDS

BANKSIA ST O'CONNOR

This is Canberra's first retrofitted urban wetland to incorporate an ephemeral section which dries out in summer. Ephemeral wetlands occur throughout southern Australia. These shallow areas are inundated after rainfall and dry out during hot weather. Spiky sedges, native grasses and broad leaf plants grow in ephemeral wetlands and adapt to both wet and dry conditions. Community planting of the wetland commenced in March 2010. Once plants become established the wetland will attract water birds, turtles, yabbies, water bugs and frogs.

DAVID ST O'CONNOR

The wetland at David St, located behind the O'Connor shops, was built in 2001. The wetland provides an attractive water feature for passive recreational activities. A diverse array of terrestrial and wetland birds have been recorded at David St, including Welcome Swallows. On a number of occasions pelicans and black swans have also been observed.

INNER NORTH WETLANDS MAP

Not to scale. Note: shape and size of wetlands indicative only.

WETLAND BENEFITS

- Restoration of concrete channels to living systems
- Improved water quality – reduction of excess nutrients and suspended solids
- Improved flood protection – by detaining water and releasing it slowly
- Creation of aquatic habitat – planted wetlands attract water birds, frogs, turtles, water bugs and yabbies
- Provide opportunities for 'natural' recreational experiences in our suburbs
- Provide the community with education and volunteer programs
- Harvested stormwater instead of drinking water is used for irrigation of local sportsgrounds and school grounds
- Increased values of surrounding properties