

Do you know that you live in the Bayswater Brook Catchment?

About Bayswater Brook

The Bayswater Brook is one of the largest urban catchments in the Perth metropolitan area with an area of approximately 27,000 hectares. Many of the current drains were once natural watercourses that have been modified for use as drainage channels. Everything that enters the drains in the catchment is discharged into the Swan River and local wetlands. Bayswater Brook is mainly situated on Bassendean sands, which are poor at retaining nutrients. Any nutrients applied to the surface will seep through the soil and enter the groundwater. This eventually enters water bodies in the catchment creating many problems.

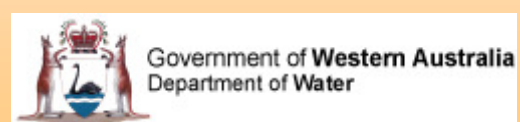
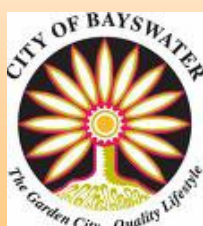


Problems in Bayswater Brook

Did you know phosphorus and nitrogen are naturally occurring, essential nutrients, but in high quantities they can cause many water quality problems? Excess nutrients result in algal blooms, which can lead to fish kills. Water bodies that experience algal blooms also have a foul odour due to the decomposing dead organic matter and are usually unsuitable for you to use and enjoy. This happens in the Swan River and your local wetlands!

Read on to find out how we all contribute to these problems and how you can do your bit around your home to help the environment!

Working together- Caring for the Swan Canning Riverpark

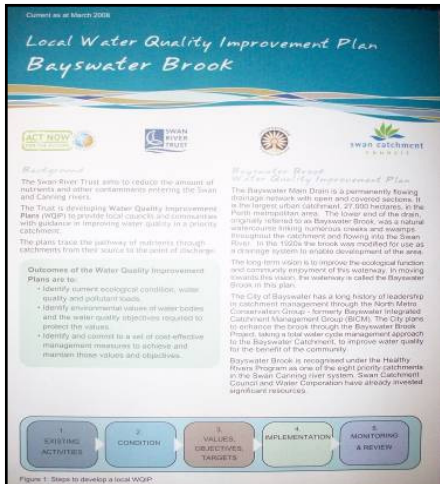


Nutrients and Pollutants: Addressing these problems

How the City has begun to help the Bayswater Brook Catchment

Local Water Quality Improvement Plan

The City of Bayswater is working with the Swan River Trust, Perth Region NRM, Department of Water and the Water Corporation to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the Swan River through a Local Water Quality Improvement Plan. Developed in 2008, the plan targets the current ecological condition, water quality and pollutant loads of the catchment. The five stages of the treatment train approach are applied; prevention, minimisation, reduction, amelioration and treatment to achieve a 30% reduction in nutrients entering the Swan and Canning Rivers by 2015.



Water quality monitoring

In the Catchment water quality was monitored in November 2007, August 2008 and 2009 providing a snapshot of the pollutants in the area. The City and Perth Region NRM will continue water quality monitoring to more accurately determine the location of any hotspots. This will guide future management to improve the quality of the water entering the Swan River.



What the City has already done

The City has already begun to rehabilitate many sites within the Catchment, including Norah Hughes Park and Crimea Reserve. Revegetating these sites with native plant species is helping to remove excess nutrients and heavy metals from the water that flow through these drains and into the Swan River. These sites are now blossoming with plant and animal life and are a peaceful natural escape in such a busy City.

Becoming involved

Weeding and planting projects throughout the Catchment will transform the wetlands into healthy and attractive areas. You can be involved in projects like this near your home. Joining a "friends of" group is a great way to meet people, as well as help the Catchment. Visit the City of Bayswater's website listed on the back of this brochure.



City support for "friends of" groups

Good water quality relies on a healthy catchment. A key to this is the restoration of creeks, bushlands and wetlands undertaken by dedicated members of our community. The City supports groups with these activities through financial help and officer time. Lightning Swamp and Gobba Lake are very successful examples of "friends of" groups!

Great Gardens workshops

For anyone from experts wishing to expand their garden knowledge to those who never manage to keep their garden alive! This workshop is a FREE way to learn more tips on local plants, watering, pruning, mulching, fertilisers and much more. Great displays and freebies will keep everyone entertained. Not only will your garden thank you, but the rivers will too!!



The problem with nutrients and simple ways you can help

How we contribute Phosphorus and Nitrogen to Bayswater Brook

Phosphorus and Nitrogen...the silent killers

Fertilisers and garden care

Most fertilisers contain phosphates and other nutrients which enter our rivers through stormwater drains or even through the groundwater by seeping into the soil. The next time you apply fertiliser to your garden be fertiliser wise and think about these two things; does your garden REALLY need it? Is it phosphorus free?

- ❖ Only apply fertilisers when nutrient deficiency can be seen, such as yellow patches.
- ❖ Use fertilisers sparingly and ensure they are low soluble phosphorus.
- ❖ Sweep paved areas clean rather than hosing them down.
- ❖ Plant trees that don't shed their leaves seasonally.
- ❖ Use fertiliser in spring/autumn when the grass grows fast and there is less rain to wash it away.
- ❖ Grow WA native plants! Exotic species are not suited to our soils and climate and use more water.
- ❖ Use organic fertilisers and/or soil amendments rather than chemical fertilisers to improve the soil retaining nutrients and water.
- ❖ Worm farms, compost and mulch return nutrients to your garden and improve the soils ability to retain nutrients and water.



Car washing



Do you wash your car on your driveway? Cars that are washed on hard surfaces are contributing pollution to our rivers and wetlands. The soapy water runs off your driveway and into your street drains, which are linked directly to our rivers! This waste water is adding excess dirt and nutrients to our waterways. Large quantities of nutrients can cause algal blooms, which can harm the animals and plants that live in the water and can also stop you from using and enjoying the area.

- ❖ Wash it on the lawn as the grass uses the nutrients, instead of being washed down the drain.
- ❖ If your house does not have a lawn, why not wash your car with a friend who does.
- ❖ Use a commercial car wash bay as the wastewater is treated before it is disposed of.
- ❖ Use a bucket to save water and switch the hose off when you are not using it.
- ❖ If you use detergents use them sparingly and make sure they are phosphorus free.
- ❖ Better still just use some water and elbow grease!
- ❖ Do the environment a favour and only wash your car once a month ☺

Pet waste

When you take your dog for a walk, do you pick up the droppings? If droppings are left on footpaths, parks and gardens this can be washed into stormwater drains and end up in our rivers and wetlands. In residential areas about 10-20% of the phosphorus loads in our waterways are from pet faeces, which adds to the problem of algal blooms. It is easy to reduce the phosphorus input that your pet contributes to our waterways.

- ❖ Pick up after your dog by carrying a plastic bag with you when you go for walks.
- ❖ Create a worm farm to compost the droppings.
- ❖ Use a rubbish bin.



Household cleaners

Many of the cleaners you probably have around your home will be toxic and contain high levels of phosphorus, which are harmful to our waterways. These cleaning products end up in our rivers and wetlands through washing cars, clothes, dishes and watering gardens. Think about the jobs you do around your home - do you know where your water goes?

- ❖ There are alternative cleaners that you can use in your home that are not only better for your health, but also the environment. Why not try some of the cleaners listed on our website that you probably already have in your home!



Native species you can plant in your garden

Do you have any of these species in your garden?

Why not brighten up your garden by planting some of these native species that not only look stunning, but help the environment. WA native species require less fertiliser and water! So save yourself time and money and plant a native species today!



Corymbia ficifolia



Patersonia occidentalis



Alyogyne huegii



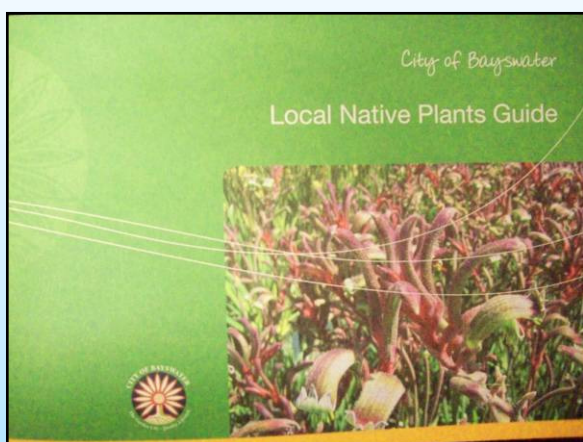
Beaufortia squarrosa



Pimelea ferruginea



Scaevola aemula



Recycled Paper



Refer to the City of Bayswater's Local Native Plants Guide for more information available from the Civic Centre 61 Broun Avenue, Morley WA 6062.

All of the ideas in this pamphlet and more can be accessed from the City of Bayswater's website and the Phosphorus Action Group's website:



www.bayswater.wa.gov.au

www.sercul.org.au



For waterwise hints and tips for the home and garden go to the Water Corporations website: http://www.watercorporation.com.au/P/publications_water_saving.cfm?uid=1824-6338-0121-6842

Check them out to help your health, save you money and save the environment!