



FT9 - Blacktown Creek, Prospect

- Blacktown Creek, Norman Street, Prospect
- Access off Desley Crescent, UBD Map 188 N13
- Best Cumberland Plain vegetation in the upper Parramatta River catchment (1/2 to be developed)
- Top of Blacktown Creek



Site Information

The upper reaches of Blacktown Creek features the largest remnant stand of Cumberland Plain Woodland in the upper Parramatta River catchment. Unfortunately half of this remnant stand of woodland is located on private land, which is scheduled for housing development. Tracks crossing through the woodland are eroding and contributing to weed invasion of the woodland along the edges (edge effect).

A revegetation corridor extends from remnant bushland along Blacktown Creek to Lancelot Street Wetlands. The area features shale and fine silty soils. The creek water is very clear in this upper reach of the catchment. However turbidity levels increase steadily as the creek flows downstream.



Erosion of woodland tracks (right)



Cumberland Plain Woodland



Blacktown Creek riparian regeneration

Site Walk

Stop in Desley Street where it makes a 90° bend.

1. Walk down steps to reserve behind houses. Look across creek to the stand of Cumberland Plain Woodland. Explain that half of this is earmarked for housing development and that this was once the dominant vegetation of the area. Why is there so little of this original vegetation left?

2. Follow reserve downstream. Note the revegetation work.
 Why is this bush regeneration important?
 What will be the benefits for the creek? For the local community?
 Whilst researching this site it was observed that one of the houses had begun a vegetable garden that encroached onto the reserve from their back fence. This had been extended into the revegetation area. Stop and discuss this (particularly if the garden is still in evidence). What is the impact of encroachments like this? What can be done to resolve issues such as this?
3. At the end of the line of houses (bottom of Norman Street) follow track to the creek and edge of the bushland.
 Note the Cumberland Plain Woodland. What signs of human impact can be observed?
 What are some management solutions that could minimise this impact?
4. Continue downstream across the open reserve to a point adjacent to the power line. This provides the best access for water testing. Note that collection of water samples may be difficult if there has been an extended dry period.
5. Note that the creek continues through reserve to the Lancelot Street wetlands. If this has been combined with the Lancelot Street Wetland Field Trip, compare the water quality here with that of the wetland.



Bank stabilisation at Blacktown Creek (above)

Site Activities

- Weeds
- Catchment walk
- Water quality monitoring
- Habitat assessment
- Water bugs
- Endangered ecological communities (Cumberland Plain woodland)
- Transects, quadrats
- Mapping

Links

UPRCT Education kit - Blacktown Creek Fact Sheet

Cumberland Plains Woodland - National Parks and Wildlife Service Website

www.npws.nsw.gov.au