

# 5 Creeks



## SHARE A VISION

A clean, green city with restored waterways, cleaner air and a wide range of open spaces that support increased bio-diversity as well as recreational opportunities.

(From Fairfield City Council's Vision)

**DID YOU KNOW** Fairfield City has 5 Creeks running through its neighbourhoods? Maybe there's one close to where you live.

In some places they may look like concrete drains, but many residents can still remember the 5 Creeks as clean playgrounds for young and old: swimming, fishing and picnics on their banks.

**CLEAR PADDOCK CREEK  
AFTER COMPLETION OF  
THE "RESTORING THE  
WATERS" PROJECT**

THE 5 CREEKS  
STRATEGIC PLAN

**CLEAR PADDOCK CREEK,  
ST JOHNS PARK BEFORE  
RESTORATION**



During the 1960s, the creeks began to suffer from stormwater pollution, uncontrolled sewerage and industrial waste. Many creeks were replaced by concrete channels and the natural playgrounds disappeared.

Now we realise that the creeks are more than drains: they are important to preserving the environment and enrich community life.

The "Restoring the Waters" project in the upper reaches of Clear Paddock Creek, St Johns Park, demonstrates clearly what we can do to "reclaim" the 5 Creeks.

Near the St Johns Park Bowling Club, curved grassed banks have replaced a 500 metre section of concrete channel. Stone riffles aerate the water, improving its quality. This careful "restoration" has not only enhanced the natural environment but exists in harmony with its human landscape.



# A VISION for OUR 5 Creeks.....

## Creeks that are “clean”

- good enough for fish to thrive.



CLEAN CREEKS

### PROSPECT CREEK

Mid stream at Fairfield - 23kms

THE 5 CREEKS STRATEGIC PLAN

A Strategic Plan for the 5 Creeks was prepared with active community involvement and has as its vision:

## Creeks in a “safe environment”

- a safe waterway for community use while keeping properties protected from flooding.



SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

### CREEK CROSSING

One of the decorative crossings keeping access to our creeks safe

## Creeks with “people places”

- picnic areas connected by pedestrian and bicycle paths.



PEOPLE PLACES

### CYCLEWAY

One of the well known bicycle paths

## Creeks with an “enhanced natural environment”

- creeks in a natural landscape setting habitat for native animals, birds and insects.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

### BIRD LIFE

One of the many species of bird enjoying the clean environment of our creeks

## Creeks surrounded by “complementary development”

- development that fronts the creek instead of the creeks being considered as a “drain in the backyard.”



COMPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS

JOHNSTON PARK  
Orphan School Creek

# from VISION to PLAN to ACTION *with artistic flair*

We will achieve this Vision through the 5 Creeks Strategic Plan by:

- guiding decision making
- consolidating all Council projects, programs and policies connected with the 5 Creeks System
- producing a prioritised action plan.

The 5 Creeks Strategic Plan includes the values and issues that the community see as important for our 5 Creeks. These have been expressed through creative community consultation, visioning and intensive planning workshops.

An innovative part of this consultation process was the implementation of an arts program involving cultural mapping.

Together with school and community cultural associations, this program explored, by way of stories and myths, the significance of the 5 Creeks.

Excursions were held to identify special community places and artistic impressions made of creek life. The program also researched the unique aspects of each of the 5 Creeks.



GEORGES RIVER Chipping Norton Lake

## KEEPING the 5 Creeks VISION ALIVE

EASILY ACCESSED



LOWER PROSPECT CREEK

The community selected the following three issues as being critical to the success of the 5 Creeks vision:

- Creeks that are well used
- Creeks that are well maintained
- Creeks that are easily accessed



WELL USED

PROUT CREEK 0.8km



WELL MAINTAINED

LITTER BOOM Orphan School Creek

# your PART in the 5 Creeks VISION



Here are simple things you can do that will make a big difference to our 5 Creeks:

- **PICK UP LITTER** in front of your homes and in your street – everything that is dropped into gutters ends up mostly in our creeks.
- **WASH YOUR CARS ON THE GRASS**, not on the street because all detergents washed down the drains end up in the creeks.

- **PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS** – a lot of dog waste ends up in the creeks.
- **WHY NOT JOIN** one of the many community groups who actively participate in making the 5 Creeks Vision a reality:
  - Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group
  - Cabramatta Creeks Flying Fox Committee
  - Carers of Stockdale Reserve
  - Friends of the Farm.

Many school children have also helped plant trees and shrubs by the creeks in our “Kids Environment Education Program (KEEP)”.

Maybe a school near you has participated in an award winning “Kids’n’Creeks” project.

Photo courtesy of Daniel Smart



**DEFREITAS WETLAND**  
Prospect Creek 23kms

**TREE PLANTING**  
Burns Creek 1.9kms

## Parks and Recreational Facilities and cycleways

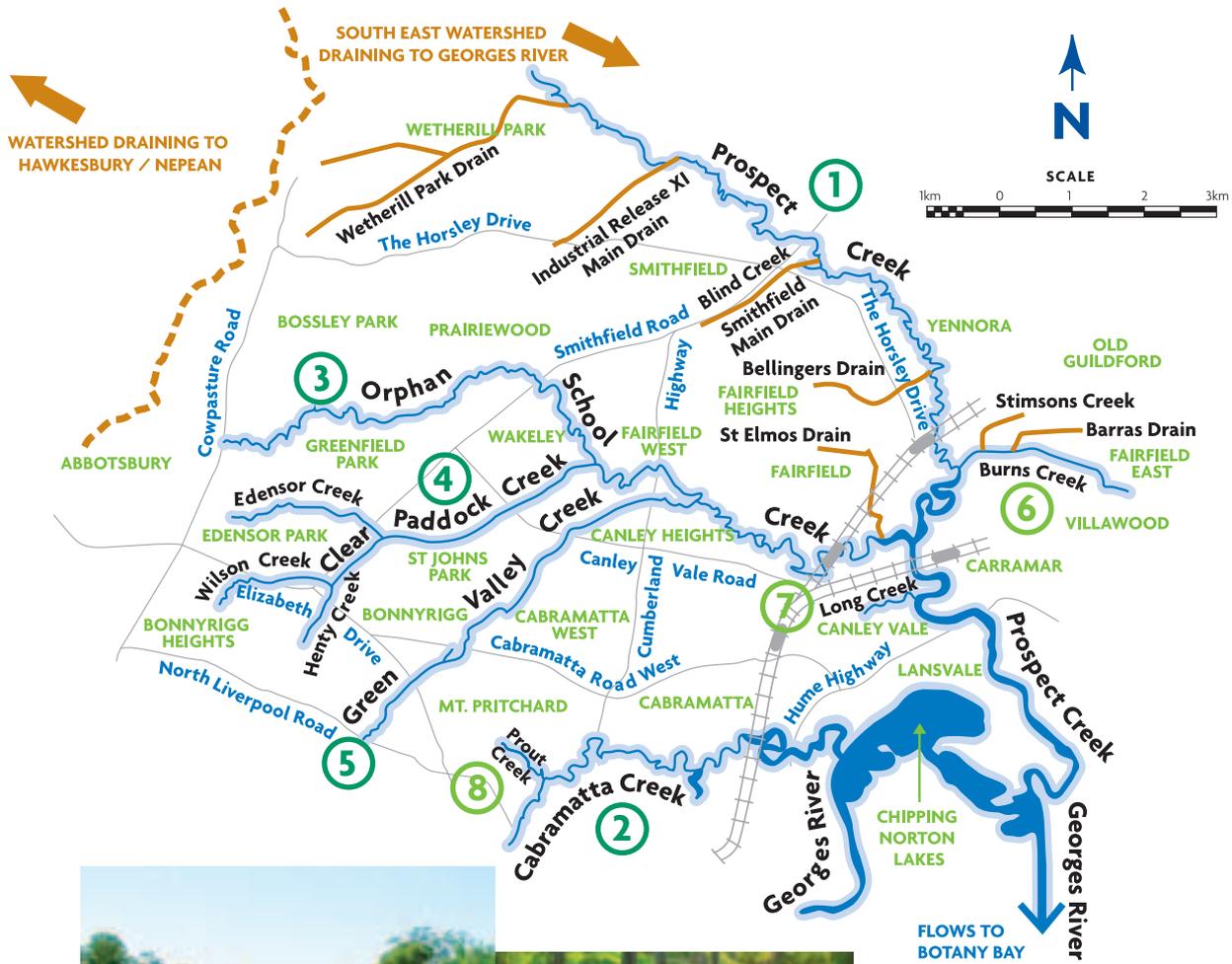


**ESTIMATED  
CREEK  
LENGTHS**

# Introducing OUR 5 Creeks



- ① Prospect - 23km
- ② Cabramatta - 7.9km
- ③ Orphan School - 11.6km
- ④ Clear Paddock - 3.6km
- ⑤ Green Valley - 5.6km
- ⑥ Burns - 1.9km
- ⑦ Long - 0.9km
- ⑧ Prout - 0.8km



⑤ **GREEN VALLEY CREEK**  
5.6 kms long



④ **CLEAR PADDOCK CREEK**  
Home of the "Restoring the Waters" Project 3.6kms long



③ **ORPHAN SCHOOL CREEK**  
11.6 kms long



② **CABRAMATTA CREEK**  
7.9 kms long



① **PROSPECT CREEK**  
Historic Lansdowne Bridge 23kms long

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY



View of Upper Prospect Creek as it winds through the residential and industrial areas of Smithfield

## MORE INFORMATION

**THE KIDS ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM** Call our Bush Regeneration Officer on 9725 0394

**CONCERNED COMMUNITY GROUPS** Call our Catchment Management Branch on 9725 0869

**THE STRATEGIC PLAN** Call our City Outcomes Department on 9725 0860

**POLLUTION SPILLS IN YOUR STREET OR LOCAL CREEK** Call our Environment & Health Branch on 9725 0298 or the Department of Environment Conservation on 131 555 (24 hours). **For serious pollution spills, call the Fire Brigade on 000.**

**LOCAL STUDIES CENTRE** Whitlam Central Library 9725 0347

Visit Fairfield City Council website  
[www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)