

# Fixing Little Stringybark Creek

## How it can be fixed

### Retaining stormwater to 'disconnect' the catchment

The problem of urban stormwater runoff can be solved by retaining stormwater in the catchment. Instead of allowing stormwater to flow unhindered into the creek, as much as possible should be either captured for use or slowed down and treated. Doing this reduces the **volume** and **frequency** of stormwater flow and improves its quality.

When retaining stormwater our aim is to **'disconnect'** the roofs and roads, meaning they no longer damage the creek.

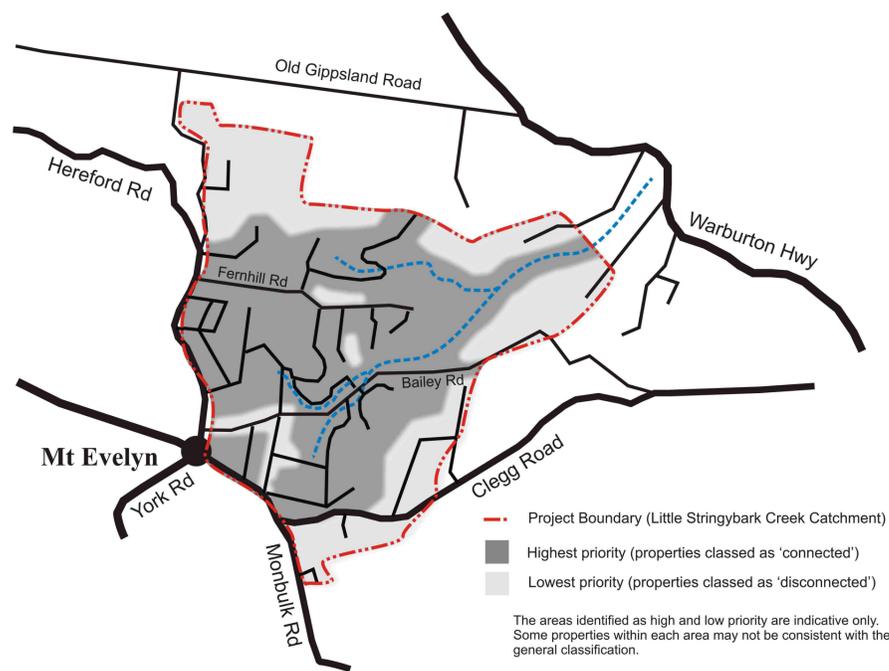


Rainwater tanks are the easiest way to reduce the impact of stormwater, especially if connected for internal uses like toilet and washing machine.

### How do you 'disconnect' a catchment?

The most efficient way of retaining stormwater, or disconnecting the catchment, is to install rainwater tanks and/or rain-gardens. Tanks and raingardens can be used to treat stormwater run-off from both roads and roofs.

- Rainwater tanks provide a storage space in which stormwater to be captured, preventing the excess of water volume from damaging the creek.
- Rain-gardens are landscaping features that hold back and filter stormwater. Rainwater from roofs and paved areas can be directed to a rain-garden, where loose deep soils absorb water and filter pollutants. The plants of rain-gardens also help by taking up water and releasing it back to the air.



### What is being done?

The University of Melbourne and Monash University are leading a collaborative research project that will attempt to disconnect Little Stringybark Creek from the urban catchment.

The project is providing financial incentives (cash rebates) to property owners for the installation of rain water tanks and rain-gardens.

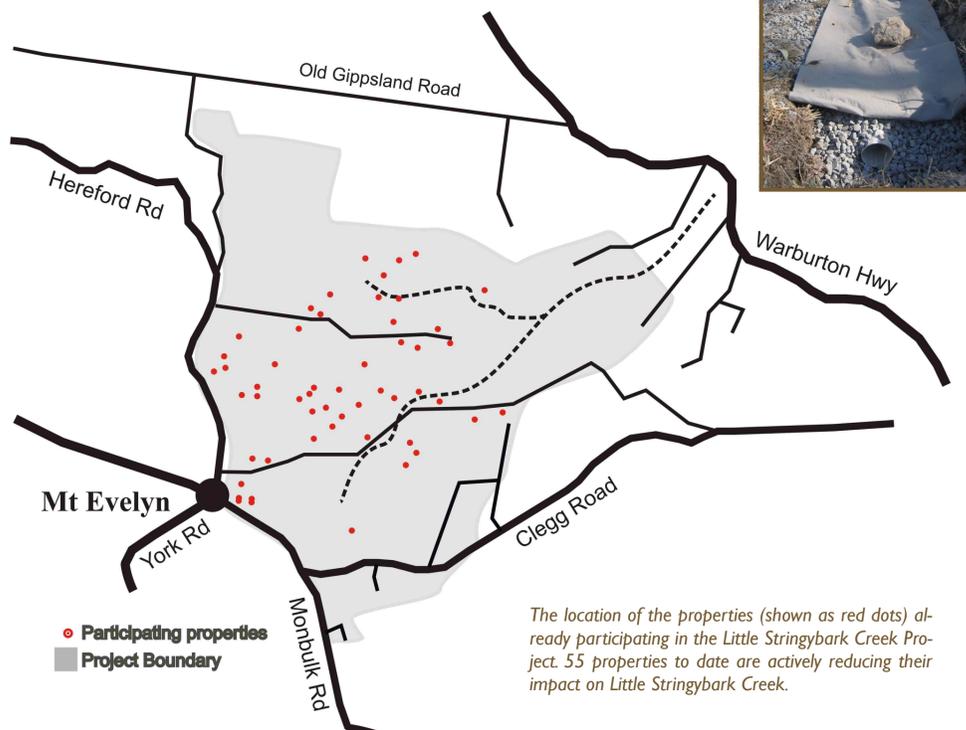
It is also working closely with the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Melbourne Water on the installation of rain-gardens on public land to treat road run-off.



A combination of first flush diverters, (left) rainwater tank (centre) and rain-garden (right) can provide a complete stormwater capture and treatment system.



Raingardens can be designed in many different ways, to suit a variety of situations, from natural looking 'wetlands' (above and centre) to more formal beds and planter boxes. (right and above right). Simple infiltration trenches (bottom, right) are also a very effective (and cheap) way of treating stormwater.



The location of the properties (shown as red dots) already participating in the Little Stringybark Creek Project. 55 properties to date are actively reducing their impact on Little Stringybark Creek.



If you live in the project area, and would like to know more, please contact Darren Bos at: [dbos@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dbos@unimelb.edu.au) or on 0447 551 522