

Steep Creeks



Definition + importance

- Gullies and steep creeks with ephemeral watercourses host a diverse range of grasslands including, herbs, forbs and some shrub species or Mallee Box grassy woodland with understorey species which supports numerous remnant fauna species. These areas provide an opportunity to integrate natural corridors within new areas of Gawler, cutting their way through the hills to the plains.

Key Considerations

- **Low maintenance to high biodiversity** - The forecast expansion in subdivision and development of the land parcels which the steep creek lines and rivers dissect must ensure that works within these corridors are conducted to maintain and improve their function and reduce Council's and resident's liability for significant ongoing maintenance and fire hazards. Prior to the vesting of land to Council, Council may request the land be an acceptable standard which meets one objective: the site achieves a desirable level of native biodiversity that is self-sustainable, or sustainable with the least possible human intervention. Council require the land is re-vegetated in accordance with Addendum 01 of Councils Standards and Requirements for Land Development / Land Division Guideline and consistent with any Action Plans outlined in the Gawler Biodiversity Management Plan.
- **Staging of Works** - New land developments have the opportunity to stage the restoration of steep creek lines and gullies. Staging of works is to be consulted and agreed upon with Council.
- **Erosion** - Current erodibility studies outline potential high erosion on certain sites, in particular Gawler East watercourses, refer to the Surrounds Stormwater Management Plan.
- **Environmental sensitivity** - Steep creeks and gullies are of high importance and all infrastructure works in creeks is to be minimised where possible. Steep creeks and gully environments are treated to protect native flora and fauna, with stormwater detention infrastructure to be located outside of watercourses and steep creek environments.
- **Vesting of Land in the Council** – Steep creek environments shall be restored to the satisfaction of the Town of Gawler prior to the vesting of land in the Town of Gawler. These environments can typically be susceptible to erosion, contain remnant fallen trees, include hazards from previous land uses, and provide habitat to local and non-local fauna.

Steep Creeks



Open Space Guideline



Biodiversity Management Plan



Best Practice operating procedures for water affecting activities

Maintenance Guidelines

- Generally non-irrigated, all areas to be maintained to a safe and appealing standard.
- Reduction of maintenance and management requirements through appropriate plant and material selection and appropriate maintenance procedures. The Biodiversity Management Plan can be referred to for further information.
- Any structures or amenities such as picnic, playspaces, seating, shelters and pathways to be maintained to a safe and appealing standard and in accordance with Australian Standards.

Documents to reference

- Refer to the Town of Gawler Biodiversity Management Plan and Gawler and Surrounds Stormwater Management Plan for further detailed input into biodiversity restoration and stormwater detention areas in the future.
- Refer to the Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges for further information best practice and procedures within close proximity to water courses.
- Refer to the Gawler Open Space Guideline for a series of guidelines to maintenance of steep creeks and gullies.