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Site Name and Description

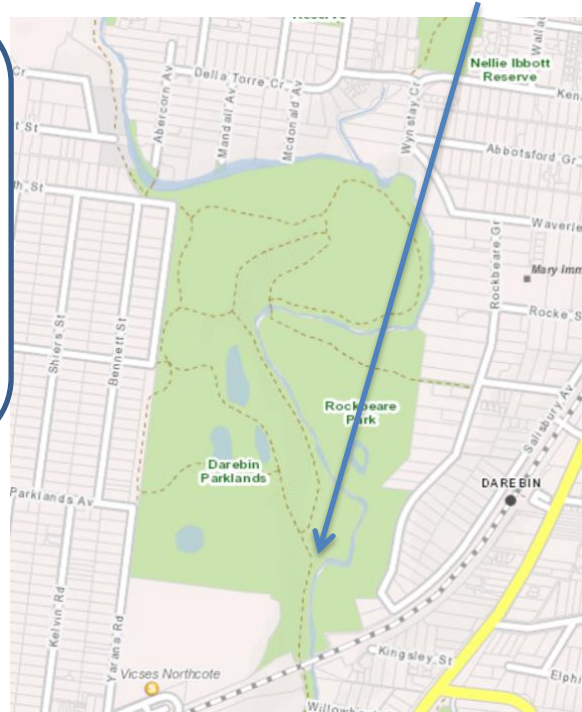
ME_YDA558 Darebin Creek at Darebin Parklands Dog Ford, Alphington.
Monitors: Peter Grenfell, Margaret De Kam, Penny Arvaniti, Allison Smith and Zak Zephyr.

Objectives

- Track the levels of turbidity and phosphate in Darebin Creek over time.
- Identify potential pollution source points.
- Involve the community in water monitoring.

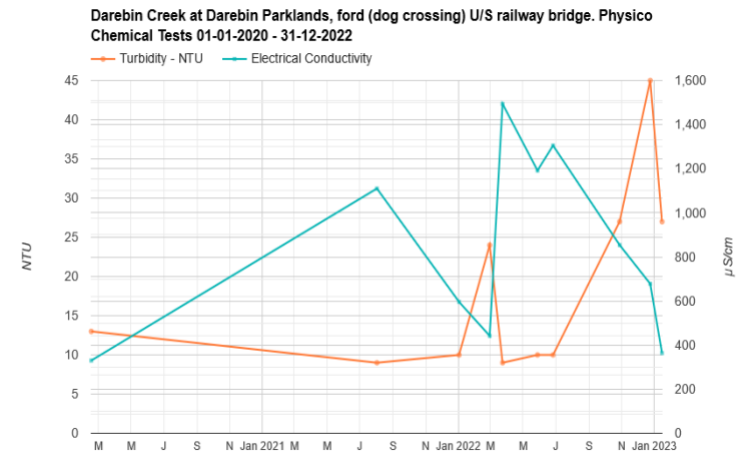
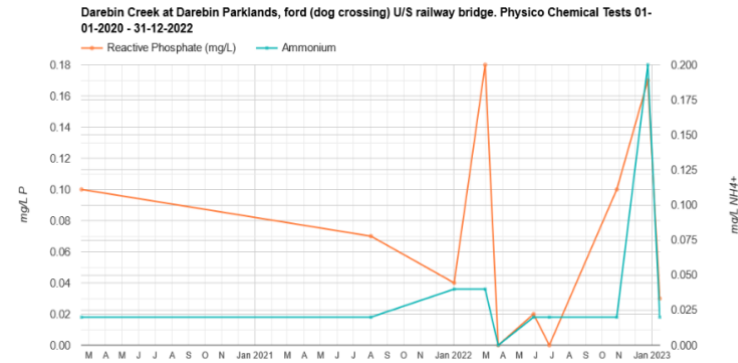
Monthly Parameters

Temperature
Dissolved Oxygen
pH
Electroconductivity
Turbidity
Reactive Phosphate
Ammonium



Site Introduction

Darebin Creek flows along a 50 km course from its headwaters in farmland north of Woodstock, through a number of highly urbanised suburbs until it reaches the confluence with the Yarra River. It often sees polluted water coming through the stormwater system. Previous events have involved high turbidity, surfactants and pesticides. These events have sometimes caused fish kills.



Summary

Ammonium levels were high on one occasion (0.2 on 24/11/22).

Phosphate levels were high (>0.11 mg/L) on two occasions. There is a pattern between a rise in **turbidity** and often a corresponding rise in **ammonia** and **reactive phosphate** readings. Possible reasons could be due to higher rainfall periods and resultant stormwater runoff. Phosphate particles bind to soil, which is a major source of high turbidity.

pH levels were high (>7.9) on two occasions.

Conductivity (salinity) levels were above Environmental Quality Indicator levels (<500 µS/cm) on six occasions out of ten visits. This is consistent with the Darebin Creek normally being salty due to geological and pollution factors.

Dissolved oxygen was at acceptable levels (>70% sat.) on all occasions. This can be explained by the excellent riffle section at this site.

