Waterwatch (WW)

Water Quality Site Summary Report 2019

ME_YDA558 Darebin Creek at Darebin Parklands, Dog Ford, Alphington.

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Objectives:

- Track the levels of WQ parameters including 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
Electro conductivity (salinity)
Turbidity (muddiness)
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 occasionally resulted in fish kills.

Summary

Phosphate was the greatest concern for 2019 due to fluctuating results. In July we recorded an ammonium reading of 0.1 mg/L along with reactive phosphate 0.05 mg/L. There was also a turbidity spike on this day of 21 NTU. A good reading for turbidity is 15 and under. The largest phosphate spike was in January with 0.1 mg/L, along with an EC (salinity) reading of 1380 µS/cm. This was the only recording that exceeded SEPP guidelines for the year, besides salinity. The salinity of the Darebin creek regularly exceeds 500 µS/cm which is thought to be due to its location on the eastern edge of the Victorian Volcanic Plains, draining basaltic soils and with the presence of several springs. Turbidity, pH and ammonium were fairly stable.

To view more data, go to the WW data portal site: ME_YDA558