

THANK YOU, UBUNTU FOUNDATION

SAILABILITY GRACEVILLE

INTRODUCTION

In 2022 The Ubuntu Foundation made a significant donation to assist Sailability Graceville's recovery from the Brisbane floods.

This story gives a brief insight into Sailability Graceville and how Ubuntu's donation assisted Sailability to return to normal operations in a time of need.

THE ORIGINS OF SAILABILITY GRACEVILLE

In 2014 an enthusiastic group of local organisations and volunteers, including from Oxley Sailing Club, Rotary Taylor Bridge and Pamphlett Sea Scouts came together under the leadership of Sailability Queensland Inc. The group's purpose was to establish a Sailability Group in Brisbane's Western Suburbs, to fill a much-needed gap in outdoor sporting activities for people with disability. Shortly after, Sailability Graceville was incorporated as a charity and, in a sense, joined the community of Sailability clubs operating across some 23 countries.

Feasibility studies showed the confluence of the Brisbane River and Oxley Creek to be an ideal location for Sailability operations. With space made available by the Sea Scouts utilising their existing Brisbane Council premises (the blue building), Sailability Graceville had a home and commenced sailing in first term 2014 with loaned boats and equipment.

TO MATURITY

During those early years Sailability worked to build its own sailing resources and necessary associated equipment, including kitchen supplies to feed guests and volunteers. By early 2022 the association was fully fledged, providing sailing each week for some 35 people with disability. The association's fleet included five dinghies and a 'loan' pontoon boat, the latter supplying cruises for wheelchair users and their carers.

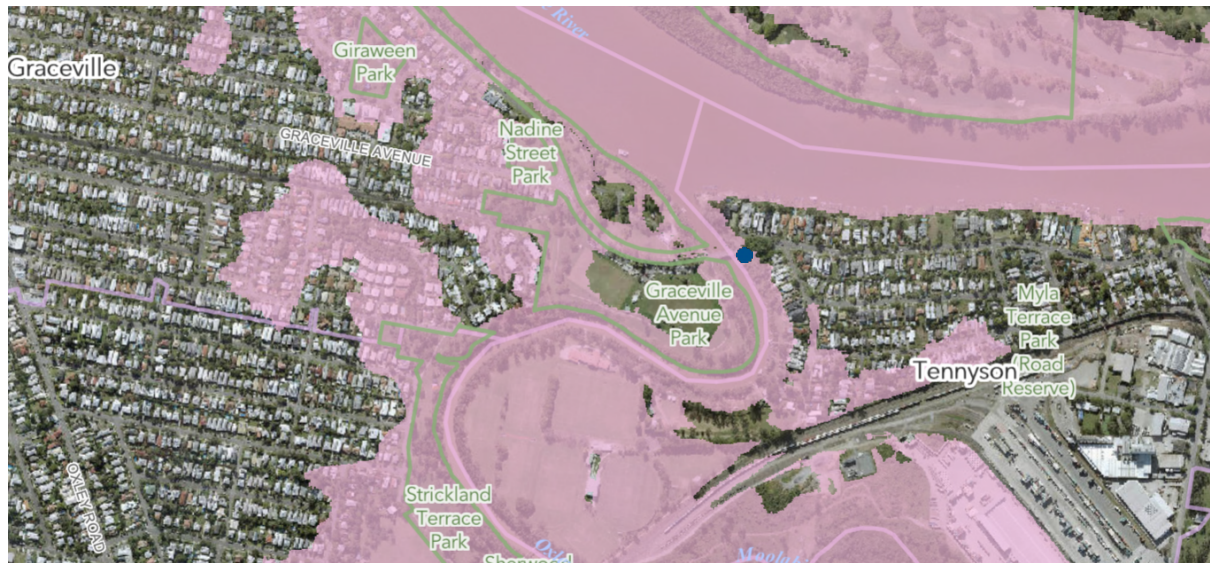
THE 2022 FLOOD EXPERIENCE

In 2022, thousands of Queenslanders suffered damage to their property, amongst other things. Organisations like Sailability Graceville did not escape, experiencing damage and loss to boats, equipment, and infrastructure. Operations were suspended for a significant period following.

With Ubuntu's donation we were able to replace and repair a number of flood damaged items, including a refrigerator, barbeque, cooking equipment, storage facilities, safety gear and boat equipment. These were things not met by insurances and the generosity of others.

Ubuntu's donation made a real difference to recovery and volunteer moral. Sailability was able to use its own resources to cover rents and other ongoing expenses during a period without income.

2022 Flooding – Graceville area – Sailability base (Blue dot) Map courtesy BCC



<https://fam.brisbane.qld.gov.au/?page=Map---Standard>

THE FUTURE

Brisbane City Council established the 'Oxley Creek Transformation Project' in 2017. A council commitment is to 'transform the Oxley creek corridor into a vast multi-use parkland'. Enhancements are proposed over multiple years, including the creation of a hub for waterbased recreation around the Sailability Graceville – Pamphlett Sea Scouts base.

Flood mitigation is an aim of the transformation. So, Sailability is encouraged that future flood events may not be as dramatic as 2022.

THANK YOU

The members and participants of Sailability Graceville say thank you with warm hearts for the generosity of The Ubuntu Foundation, stepping into the breach in a time of such need.



