

MANAGEMENT OF BRISBANE'S NATURAL AREAS

Brisbane City Council manages more than 14,000 hectares of parkland including 7500 hectares of bushland and wetland reserves.

The major threats to our natural areas include weeds, fire, pest animals, unsustainable recreation such as off-track mountain biking, trail bike riding and illegal dumping. An ongoing program of management actions seeks to ensure these threats are controlled.

The primary weeds in the Chermshire Hills Reserves have been introduced from people's gardens through dumping e.g. Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*).

Some sections may be closed on occasions for fire management purposes.

Take a trip to:

- Bayside Parklands
- Boondall Wetlands
- Brisbane Koala Bushlands
- Karawatha Forest
- Mt Coot-tha Forest
- Tinchi Tamba Wetlands
- Toohey Forest
- Whites Hill.



Kerandrenia

HOW TO LOVE YOUR BUSHLAND

- Please keep to the designated tracks.
- All plants and animals are protected, take photos only.
- Watch wildlife from a distance so as not to disturb them.
- Camping is not allowed.
- Fires are permitted in designated fireplaces only.
- Trail bikes are prohibited in the Chermshire Hills Reserves.
- Use of vehicles is restricted to defined public roads.
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- Check shoes and socks for seed or plant material to prevent the spread of weeds.
- Do not dump any waste in natural areas.

Dumping increases the spread of weeds, potential spread of fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) and the risk of fire.

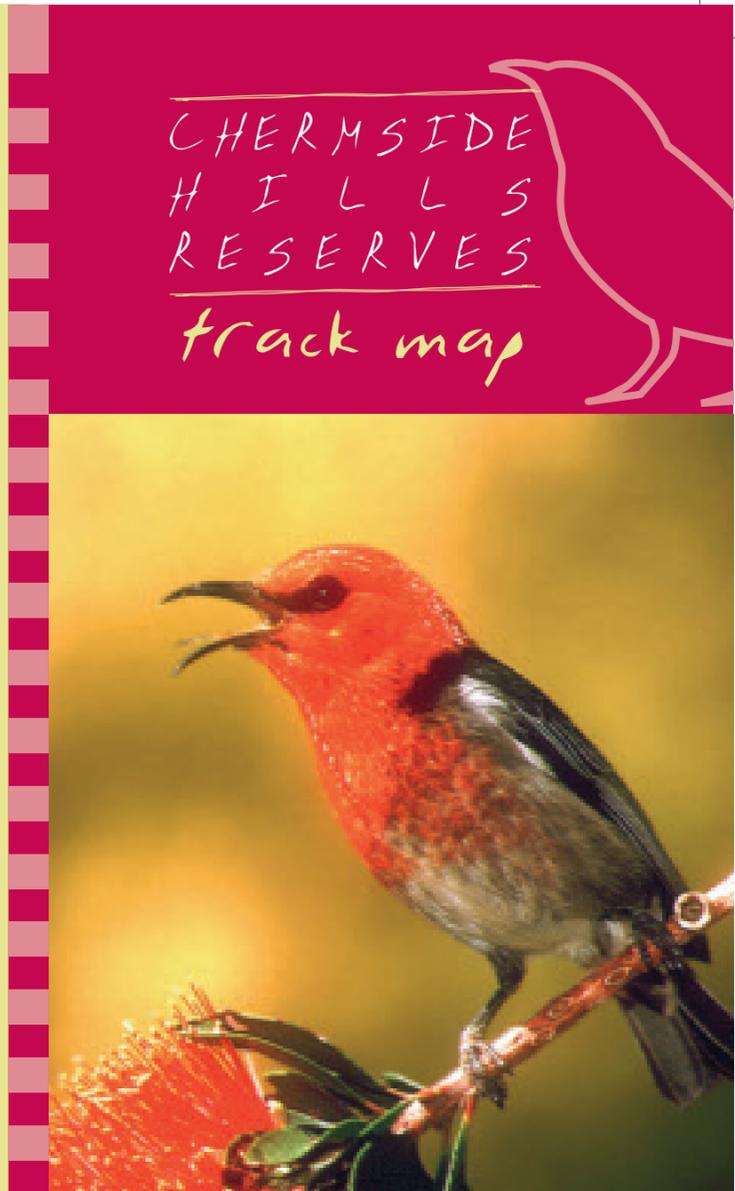
- Manage weeds in your backyard to reduce spread into bushland.
- Dogs disturb wildlife so it is best to leave them at home. Otherwise, ensure they are on a leash and that you clean up after them.



Managing Brisbane's natural areas is another way Council is achieving our vision for the city's future.

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- wear a hat and sunscreen
- always carry water
- exercise caution when on the tracks and wear comfortable footwear
- take insect repellent
- wear protective equipment when cycling.



Scarlet honeyeater (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*), Courtesy Ray Viljoen

CHERMSSIDE HILLS RESERVES track map

Brisbane City Council
Information
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Brisbane Qld 4001



For more information visit
www.brisbane.qld.gov.au
or call (07) 3403 8888.

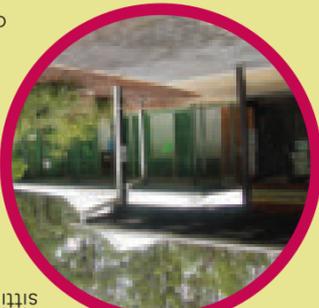


Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Track map

Chermshire Hills is also home to a variety of mammals including swamp wallabies. At night you might see gliders, possums, bats and flying foxes.

Basking in the sunlight you may see blue-tongued lizards, goannas, water dragons, skinks and geckoes. Look out for turtles and fish in the creeks. Listen for striped marsh frogs which call with a 'pop, pop' and the scarlet pobblepop ogs 'bonk, bonk' call.



Downfall Creek Bushland Centre

There are 115 bird species that have been recorded in the area. Watch for honeyeaters, treecreepers, pardalotes, fairy wrens, dollarbirds, rainbow bee-eaters, spangled drongos, grey shrike-thrushes, kingfishers, lorikeets, crested hawks and tawny frogmouths flying through the trees or sitting on a branch.

The reserves provide protection for more than 200 native plant species from 72 families, representing 25 per cent of the native plant families found in Australia. These include grass trees, banksias, casuarinas, weeping myrtles, blueberry ash, small matrush, comb ferns, bloodwoods, rough-barked apples, stringybarks and sheoaks. The Kerandrenia species, rare in this region, is also found within this reserve.

A WEALTH OF PLANT LIFE



Swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*)

Chermshire was once known as Downfall Creek after the prominent creek running through this area. Dairies, slaughteryards, poultry farms, piggyeries, citrus orchards, quarries and even an American army base were all located in the area. Termed 'rubbish' by the early settlers, the hilly bushlands were left as the surrounding lands with rich alluvial soils were cleared for farms and houses.

The intrinsic natural values of these areas have protected them from residential development and led to the establishment of the Chermshire Hills Reserves. They were protected by Brisbane City Council in 1972 and expanded in later years. These reserves together with the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre (established in 1988) provide Brisbane residents with nature-based recreational opportunities.

HISTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Chermshire Hills Reserves are located 12 kilometres north of Brisbane's CBD. Access Chermshire Hills Reserve from Trout Road, Chermshire West. Raven Street Reserve, including the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre (815 Rode Road) is at Chermshire West. For public transport information visit www.translink.com.au or phone 13 12 30. Limited parking is available.

WHERE ARE THE CHERMSSIDE HILLS RESERVES?

In Chermshire West and McDowall, three areas link to create a unique bushland setting known collectively as Chermshire Hills Reserves. Raven Street Reserve contains the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre and is the focus for recreation and education activities. Millie Hill and Chermshire Hills Reserve are linked to Raven Street Reserve via walking tracks. Together these areas form part of the Mountains to Mangroves Corridor – a wildlife corridor that extends from Camp Mountain in the D'Aguilar Ranges to Boondall Wetlands and Moreton Bay. This corridor allows animals to move between different habitats and also provides for a semi-continuous network of walking and cycle tracks.

CHERMSSIDE HILLS RESERVES

SPECIAL FEATURES

Downfall Creek Bushland Centre

This centre has displays, a resource library and helpful staff providing information on bushland and waterways management across Brisbane. There are many nature-based educational programs and activities. Located beside the centre is a Mountains to Mangroves Playground, sheltered picnic tables and electric barbeques.

Little Cabbage Tree Creek Bridge

The bridge over the creek in Chermeside Hills Reserve is a birdwatching hot spot along the Mountains to Mangroves Corridor. Located off Trouts Road, this rainforest area is the place to see an array of beautiful bird species.

Spider Hill Lookout

This hill is one of the highest within Chermeside Hills and has impressive views of Moreton Bay, the city and the surrounding mountains. It is picturesque at sunset and sunrise.

THINGS TO DO

- Visit Downfall Creek Bushland Centre. (closed weekends, public holidays and during activities). Please phone Council on (07) 3403 8888 for information on closure times.
- Have a picnic.
- Go birdwatching or flora walking.

POPULAR TRACKS

Senses Trail 400m (15 minutes)

This circuit track is located within Raven Street Reserve, next to the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre. This track has been especially designed for visitors with special needs and has continuous handrails, tactile signage with braille and raised text. An audio guide is also available for hire from the environment centre. You are likely to see blueberry ash, hovea, bracken ferns, fungus, tree ferns and forest kingfishers in arboreal termite nests.

Grade: Easy, short, flat
Suited to: Wheelchair accessible, visually impaired, bushwalking, all ages including young children
Habitat: Wet gully
Must: Visit Downfall Creek Bushland Centre

Creek Track 770m (30 minutes)

This track leads you to a creek platform that overlooks Downfall Creek. You are likely to see waterhousia and lomandra. Common crow butterflies feed on monkey vine and red ash.

Grade: Easy
Suited to: Bushwalking
Habitat: Dry riparian vine forest
Must: Spend time at the creek platform listening for birds and watching the creek life

Pomax Track 1km (30 minutes)

This track passes through heathland where you can see spectacular plants including pomax, banksia, native irises and keraudrenia. It is named after the locally rare heathland plant pomax.

Grade: Difficult, steep hills
Suited to: Bushwalking, birdwatching, flora walks
Habitat: Heathland
Must: Look for wildflowers in September

Banksia Track 1km (30 minutes)

This track rises to a knoll with westerly views. You will see grass trees and Australian native grasses. If you are lucky you may even see swamp wallabies feeding on the grass.

Grade: Hard, steep climb
Suited to: Bushwalking, flora walking
Habitat: Open grassland, eucalypt forest
Must: See the regionally rare keraudrenia species

Xanthorrhoea Track 1.5km (45 minutes)

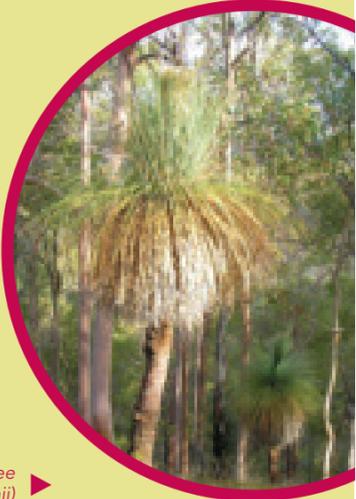
This track passes through mixed heath and woodland species including banksias, grass trees and heath peas. You are likely to see kookaburras, forest kingfishers, red-backed wrens, dollarbirds, lizards and geckoes.

Grade: Easy, but it's hilly
Suited to: Birdwatching and flora walks
Habitat: Heathland
Must: Walk this track in September or at dusk
Recommendation: Combine this track with the Banksia Track for a two hour circuit walk, Pomax Track for another two hour walk or all three for a three hour walk

Giwadha Track 2km (1 hour)

This circuit track explores Chermeside Hills Reserve's open forest with its understorey of heath, grasses and shrubs. The track passes through thick vegetation beside Little Cabbage Tree Creek and climbs to the highest point in the reserve (Spider Hill) with views of the surrounding hills and suburbs.

Grade: Difficult, steep hills
Suited to: Bushwalking, birdwatching, flora walks
Habitat: Open eucalypt forest
Must: A sunset/sunrise walk to Spider Hill for amazing views



Grass tree (Xanthorrhoea johnsonii)