

MANAGEMENT OF BRISBANE'S NATURAL AREAS

Brisbane City Council manages more than 13,000 hectares of parkland including 7000 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, illegal dumping and vandalism. An ongoing program of management actions seeks to ensure these threats are controlled.

The primary weeds in Toohey Forest are lantana (*Lantana camara*), umbrella trees (*Schefflera actinophylla*) and ochra (*Ochna serrulata*).

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

Take a trip to:

- Bayside Parklands
- Boondall Wetlands
- Brisbane Koala Bushlands
- Chermside Hills Reserves
- Karawatha Forest
- Mt Coot-tha Forest
- Tinchi Tamba Wetlands.

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

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

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.
- 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 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 own yard 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.

View of the city from Toohey Forest



Growing a clean and green Brisbane as part of *Living in Brisbane 2010* - a vision for our city's future.

TOOHEY FOREST

track map



Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*)

Brisbane City Council
Information
GPO Box 1434
Brisbane Qld 4001

Printed on recycled paper



N2006-01321
© Brisbane City Council 2006

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



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Toohy Forest
Courtesy of Bruce Cowell, Queensland Museum



mountains.

shaped the ancient ocean floor sediments, and resulting

Toohy Forest is located just ten kilometres south of Brisbane's CBD. Access is from Toohy Road, Tarragindi and Outlook Drive, Mt Gravatt. Buses travel to Griffith University's Nathan and Mt Gravatt Campus. For public transport information visit www.translink.com.au or phone 13 12 30. Limited parking is available.

WHERE IS TOOHEY FOREST?

Toohy Forest has extensive walking tracks through open eucalypt forest and heath. The vegetation is typical of the forests that once covered Brisbane and provides a vital habitat for many native plants and animals once common across South East Queensland. Mt Gravatt Outlook provides spectacular views of Brisbane and surrounding suburbs.

TOOHEY FOREST

Toohy Forest is a unique and large forest remnant of approximately 260 hectares and is a refuge to over 400 identified plants and animals.

The forest is named after James Toohy, an Irishman made wealthy in the California gold rush. He selected these lands in 1872 and his family held the forests until Council gradually acquired them after 1945. Mt Gravatt is named after Lt. George Gravatt who was in charge of the Moreton Bay Penal settlement at Brisbane Town in 1842.

Toohy Mountain and Mt Gravatt are made of tough, very old quartzite formed 380 million years ago when the coastline was far to the west and the region was deep under ocean. Within the cutting along Outlook Drive at Mt Gravatt, you can see the tightly folded bands of quartzite – an indication of the enormous forces that shaped the ancient ocean floor sediments, and resulting



Nathan Ridge Track

A WEALTH OF PLANT LIFE

The vegetation of Toohy Forest is typical of the forests that once covered Brisbane. There is also some vine forest and closed scrub along the creeks and gullies. It is predominantly forest with an understory of acacias, sheoaks, heath species, creepers, grasses and in sandstone areas the distinctive grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*). The woodlands with heath understory plants such as grass trees and banksias are particularly beautiful around Griffith University.

A WILDLIFE REFUGE

Toohy Forest has almost a complete absence of native ground-dwelling mammals. However, it has over 75 species of birds, five tree-dwelling mammals and a diversity of reptiles, butterflies and frogs. This is unique for an area with such a close proximity to the city centre.

Animals to see:

- At night watch out for tawny frog-mouths, gliders, possums, bats and flying foxes.
- During the day you might spot kookaburras, grey shrike-thrushes, white-throated treecreepers, rainbow lorikeets, eastern spinebills and yellow-faced honeyeaters.
- Basking in the sunlight you may see lizards, goannas, skinks and geckos.

Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)
Courtesy of Nicole Sinden



SPECIAL FEATURES

Mt Gravatt Outlook

Mt Gravatt Outlook provides spectacular views of Brisbane and surrounding suburbs. The Moreton Bay Islands, the D'Aguilar Ranges and the Glasshouse Mountains can be seen on a clear day.

Bushwalking

Toohey Forest is a great place for families to enjoy the pleasures of bushwalking. There are several kilometres of tracks to follow and explore.

Griffith University (Nathan and Mt Gravatt Campus)

Griffith University campuses adjoin the land owned by Council. Visit the Griffith University EcoCentre to find out more about the environment. Phone (07) 3875 7124 for opening hours and further details.

THINGS TO DO

- Enjoy a picnic or BBQ at the picnic areas.
- Go birdwatching.
- Cap off an early evening picnic at Mt Gravatt Picnic Area with some spotlighting. You may be lucky to see gliders or tawny frogmouths.
- Go wild about wildflowers. Best viewing times are late winter and spring, when the heath flowers are in bloom.
- Enjoy the spectacular views of the city and suburbs from Mt Gravatt Outlook, Pegg's Lookout and Sandstone Lookout.
- Enjoy a guided bushwalk. Call Council on (07) 3403 8888 for further details.

POPULAR TRACKS

Nathan Ridge Track 3.5km (1 hour to walk)

This track leads from Toohey Ridge Track and connects to the Griffith University Ring Road. An all weather track, it is also a gateway to other interesting tracks within the Forest.

Grade: Easy

Suited to: Bushwalking, cycling

Habitat: Open eucalypt forest

Must: Look for birds

Toohey Ridge Track 3km (1 hour to walk)

This track extends from Toohey Picnic Area to the South East Freeway. A small track to the right joins you to the main bikeway.

Grade: Easy

Suited to: Bushwalking, cycling

Habitat: Open eucalypt forest

Must: Picnic at the Toohey or Mayne Estate Picnic Areas

Sandstone Circuit 1km (30 minutes)

This track begins at the Toohey Picnic Area and meanders up the sandstone knoll. A side track leads to a lookout where you can obtain a view over Tarragindi and Salisbury. On a fine day Archerfield Airport can be seen.

Grade: Easy, contains steps, not recommended for people with restricted walking

Suited to: Bushwalking

Habitat: Open eucalypt forest

Must: Visit Sandstone Lookout

Toohey Mountain Track 1.5km (50 minutes)

This track leaves from the Mayne Estate Picnic Area. It follows the ridge to the south to Pegg's Lookout. From here you overlook Archerfield towards Ipswich, Flinders Peak and ranges beyond.

Grade: Hard, steep, rough and not recommended for the elderly or unfit

Suited to: Bushwalking

Habitat: Open eucalypt with sandstone ridges

Must: Visit Pegg's Lookout

Summit Track 1.2km (40 minutes)

This track begins at the base of Mt Gravatt Mountain at Gertrude Petty Place and leads to Mt Gravatt Outlook. You will see creepers, ferns, shrubs and large trees on this winding track up the mountain. Once you reach the summit a breathtaking view is your reward.

Grade: Hard, gradual climb upwards

Suited to: Bushwalking

Habitat: Open woodland with rocky outcrops

Must: Admire the spectacular views from Mt Gravatt Outlook



TOOHEY FOREST
Track map