

## 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 and illegal dumping. An ongoing program of management actions seeks to ensure these threats are controlled.

The primary weeds in Mt Coot-tha Forest include lantana (*Lantana camara*) and exotic grasses and creepers.

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

### Take a trip to:

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

## FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- wear a hat, sunscreen and carry water
- wear comfortable footwear if you are going bushwalking. Make sure you let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return
- exercise caution when on tracks. Some tracks cross creek lines and are unsafe to traverse when inundated after heavy rain
- wear protective equipment when horse riding or cycling.

## 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.
- Please do not feed the wildlife.
- Fires are permitted in designated fireplaces only.
- Use of motorised vehicles is restricted to defined public roads.
- Horse riding and cycling are only permitted on designated tracks.
- 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 yard to reduce spread into bushland.
  - Dogs disturb wildlife so it is best to leave them at home. Otherwise, ensure that dogs are on a leash and that you clean up after them.

Mt Coot-tha Lookout



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

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[www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au)  
 or call (07) 3403 8888.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

# MT COOT-THA FOREST track map



Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*)

# track map

- Powerful owls – to spot one is a rare treat. catching insects at night.
- Tawny frogmouths, owls, gliders, possums and micro-bats flitting through the trees grassed picnic areas or in tree hollows.
- Parrots and cockatoos feeding around the darting through undergrowth.
- Wrens, robins and other small forest birds soaring over the forest.
- Goshawks, kites and eagles

### Animals to see:

Mt Coot-tha Forest, with its connections to the D'Aguilar Ranges brings the bushland and its inhabitants virtually to the heart of the city.

## A WILDLIFE REFUGE

The vegetation of Mt Coot-tha is primarily open eucalypt forest. Some plant species recorded are rare or significant e.g. the richmond birdwing vine *Parastrotiochia praevenosa*. Various wildflowers will appear following good rain and warm weather.

## A WEALTH OF PLANT LIFE

Fringed Lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*)



Before the establishment of the Moreton Bay Penal Colony at Brisbane Town in 1824, the Mt Coot-tha area was home to the Tural Aboriginal people.

From the early days of the colony, residents travelled to Mt Coot-tha for the views. The top was cleared, leaving a lone, large eucalypt and was renamed One Tree Hill. In 1873 the forests were declared a timber reserve to supply timber for railways. In 1880 a large part of the mountain was designated a Reserve for a Public Park, and named Mt Coot-tha – a derivation of the Aboriginal word 'kuta' for honey. In 1919 the lands were transferred to Brisbane City Council. The park was expanded in 1920 under Mayor William Jolly.

Gold was prospected and mined at Mt Coot-tha intermittently from 1890-1950. The ore quality was very low and only small amounts of gold were extracted. During World War II the Reserve became a military base and served as a mine storage and assembly depot.

## HISTORY & CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE



Lace Monitor (*Varanus varus*)

Mt Coot-tha Forest is located five kilometres west of the Brisbane CBD. Access is from Sir Samuel Griffith Drive or Gap Creek Road, Mt Coot-tha. For public transport information visit [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au) or phone 13 12 30. Limited parking is available.

## WHERE IS MT COOT-THA FOREST?

Mt Coot-tha Forest is Brisbane's largest natural area, with more than 1500 hectares of open eucalypt forest. It forms the south-eastern boundary of Brisbane Forest Park which is a further 28,500 hectares. Mt Coot-tha Forest is a must for all to explore, with its tracks and trails, spectacular views, picnic facilities, seasonal creeks and waterfalls.

# MT COOT-THA FOREST



## SPECIAL FEATURES

### Mt Coot-tha Lookout

Mt Coot-tha Lookout has sweeping views of the city, Moreton Bay, Stradbroke Islands and the southern ranges. It provides a spectacular view of the city in the day or a fairyland of lights at night. The Summit Restaurant and Kuta Café are popular with visitors.

### Picnicking

Mt Coot-tha Forest has nine picnic areas. Access is restricted at J.C. Slaughter Falls and the Simpson Falls picnic areas each night from 7pm to dawn.

### Waterfalls

After heavy rain the creeks and waterfalls in Mt Coot-tha Forest are spectacular. The best time to view the waterfalls is usually in summer, especially after rain. Care should be taken at creek crossings.

### Diverse tracks and trails

Mt Coot-tha Forest has a diverse network of tracks and trails. There are 31km of multi-use trails which are shared by walkers, horse riders and cyclists, and a further 18.5km of walking tracks specifically for pedestrians, and 12.1km of mountain bike trails specifically for cyclists.

## THINGS TO DO

- Enjoy the spectacular views.
- Take a bushwalk.
- Go spotlighting.
- Ride your horse or bike on the trails provided.
- Have a picnic or BBQ.
- Visit the nearby Brisbane Botanic Gardens and the Planetarium.

## POPULAR WALKING TRACKS

### Summit Track 1.9km (30 minutes)

This track leads from J.C. Slaughter Falls Picnic Area to Mt Coot-tha Lookout (near the roundabout).

**Grade:** Moderate, steep over short sections  
**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forest  
**Must:** Experience the view from the lookout

### Aboriginal Art Trail 1km circuit (30 minutes)

This trail branches off from the Summit Track. It features contemporary art works including tree carvings, rock paintings and etchings, rock arrangements and a dance pit. J.C. Slaughter Falls on East thaca Creek is accessed from this track. Exercise extreme care when walking in the creek to view the art gallery.

**Grade:** Moderate, rough  
**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forest with emergent vine forest along creeks  
**Must:** See J.C. Slaughter Falls and East thaca Creek after heavy rain

### Simpson Falls Track 650m to Simpson Falls (40 minutes)

This track begins at Simpson Falls Picnic Area. It is excellent for wildflower viewing in late winter and spring when the golden wattles and purple hoveas of the open forest understorey burst into bloom. Links with the Eugenia Circuit (additional 2.8km).

**Grade:** Moderate, constant climb uphill over total distance  
**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forest  
**Must:** See the Simpson Falls and West thaca Creek after heavy rain

### Ghost Hole Track 0.6km (15 minutes)

Traces of the old workings can be seen along the Ghost Hole Track at the Gold Mine Picnic Area. Interpretive signage along the track explains the "Hard Yakka" endured by miners in days gone by.

**Grade:** Constant climb upward over total distance  
**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forest

### Honeyeater Track 2.1km (1 hour)

This track begins 375 metres from the Mt Coot-tha Lookout, off Sir Samuel Griffith Drive and provides access to the Chapel Hill area.

**Grade:** Steep over short sections  
**Habitat:** Open eucalypt forest  
**Must:** Visit the Hut Environmental Centre

