



## HUMPYBONG TRAIL

### We're all here for the creek

The First Nations People of the Redcliffe Peninsula, as well as Queensland's first European colony and the many birds you see here today were all attracted to this place by the same thing – this creek. Humpybong Creek is the largest freshwater creek on the Peninsula. It is fed by runoff from rainfall and a spring about 500 metres west of here.

The landscape here was described by Surveyor-General John Oxley in his 1820s surveys of the area as tea tree swamp (melaleuca floodplain) and open forest of eucalyptus and pine. A chain of freshwater ponds or waterholes ran from here to the seashore. The trees here in Corscadden Park are typical of what would have grown here prior to European occupation, though in greatly reduced numbers today.

Conserving and improving natural waterways and riparian habitats like Humpybong Creek and Corscadden Park is good for us and the world we live in. It creates beneficial habitat for native fauna, supporting local biodiversity. It mitigates erosion and improves water quality. And it connects us with our natural environment.

*Our first day's Survey terminated a little above Red Cliff Point. The Shores were in general low and covered with Mangroves, off which extend considerable Mud Flats, dry at low water; but to this remark the Shores in the Vicinity of Red Cliff Point are an exception. The water is here deep within a short distance of the Shore, and boats can land at any time of tide. The Country is open forest, of an indifferent quality of clay land, with an admixture of sand. A few miles behind Red Cliff Point, to the west, the country again becomes low, and is apparently wet, but it soon rises into open forest hills of good appearance. There was no want of permanent fresh water, though not in Streams, and in one Inlet navigable for Boats, is abundance of good timber of the Eucalyptus Species, and also great quantities of Pine.*  
Surveyor-General John Oxley

**Image:**  
Healthy natural waterways support local wildlife – like the Great Egret pictured here. They also mitigate erosion and improve water quality.  
**Photo:**  
Toshio Shimokawa, Adobe Stock



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## A natural landscape

A central feature of this section of the park is the Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*). These impressive trees can live for more than 200 years and grow to more than 50 metres in height and width. This one was planted here in 2024.

As the name suggests, the Moreton Bay Fig is our very own local member of a large genus – there are some 800 species of *Ficus* throughout the Asia-Pacific. The Moreton Bay Fig naturally occurs in a small coastal belt of subtropical Queensland and New South Wales. So it's the perfect tree for this City of Moreton Bay parkland!

The Moreton Bay Fig provides an important year-round food source for many native birds, as well as mammals such as possums and flying foxes – the largest flying mammal on earth.

The large gum trees here are Queensland Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). This towering hardwood is highly prized for its durable timber. The leaves can be used to produce eucalyptus oil. The flowers attract nectar feeding birds and bees, producing a distinctive honey. In less urbanised settings with denser bushland, the Blue Gum is a key food tree for koalas.

Other native trees and shrubs you can see here include *Grevilleas*, tuckeroos (*Cupaniopsis* species), paperbarks or tea trees (*Melaleuca* species) and casuarinas or she-oaks (*Allocasuarina* species). Native grasses, rushes and sedges include *Lomandra longifolia* and *Carex appressa*.

**Image:**  
Our very own fig tree, the Moreton Bay Fig, is an important year-round food source for many native animals, such as flying foxes – the largest flying mammal on earth.  
**Photo:**  
Francisco Martins, Adobe Stock

There are many ways we can help to protect our native wildlife, natural environment and waterways. Find out how.



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## HUMPYBONG TRAIL

### Great for native wildlife and home gardens

These native plants provide vital food and habitat for native fauna, from birds to frogs. They also play an important role in improving creek bank stability and water quality. For First Nations People, these plants provided a valuable source of food – from rhizomes to berries and honey – as well as material resources for making utensils such as baskets and fishing nets.

Native plants are ideal for home gardens, backyards, balconies and courtyards, whether in pots or in the ground. They're typically very hardy and easy to maintain. They help to control erosion and suppress weeds. Best of all, they attract and support birds, bees, butterflies, frogs and other wildlife. While large trees like our eucalypts and Moreton Bay Fig may be too big for suburban backyards, they're perfectly at home in large pots and planter boxes, forming lovely, leafy shrubs.

Community nurseries provide a wide range of local native plants and a wealth of advice on what to plant where.

*Image:  
The large gum trees here are Queensland Blue Gums. They provide vital habitat and food for a wide range of native fauna – such as Little Corellas.  
Photo:  
Dallas Ellis*

*See how we can make the most of our homes, climate and natural environment.*



*Scan the QR code for further information*



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### This creek and park are home to many critters

Natural waterways like Humpybong Creek provide vital habitat and food for a wide range of native aquatic fauna.

Among these are Broad-shelled Turtles (*Chelodina expansa*), Long-necked Turtles (*Chelodina longicollis*), Striped Marsh Frogs (*Limnodynastes peronii*), Longfin Eels (*Anguilla reinhardtii*) and Shortfin Eels (*Anguilla australis*).

Along Humpybong Creek and throughout Corscadden Park you will notice many different birds. Many are local residents, others are regular visitors, while some just drop in now and then.

You're sure to see Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*), Pacific Black Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*), Dusky Moorhens (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) and Purple Swampheens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*).

If you have a keen eye, you may also spy a Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*), White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*), Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea alba modesta*), Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*), Australasian Darter (*Anhinga novaehollandiae*) or Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) to name a few.

### Please don't feed the birds or other wildlife

Human food – particularly bread – is bad for birds and other wildlife. It typically has no nutritional value. It can make them sick and shorten their lifespan. Feeding native animals also risks making them dependent and aggressive.

So please don't feed the ducks, moorhens, turtles, fish or any other wildlife. They have plenty to eat here in Humpybong Creek and Corscadden Park. They will thank you by living longer, healthier, happier lives!

Image:  
Humpybong Creek is home to a wide range of native aquatic fauna, like the Striped Marsh Frog. Photo: Ken Griffiths, Adobe Stock Illustration: Dallas Ellis



Meet more of the City of Moreton Bay's local wildlife.



Scan the QR code for further information