

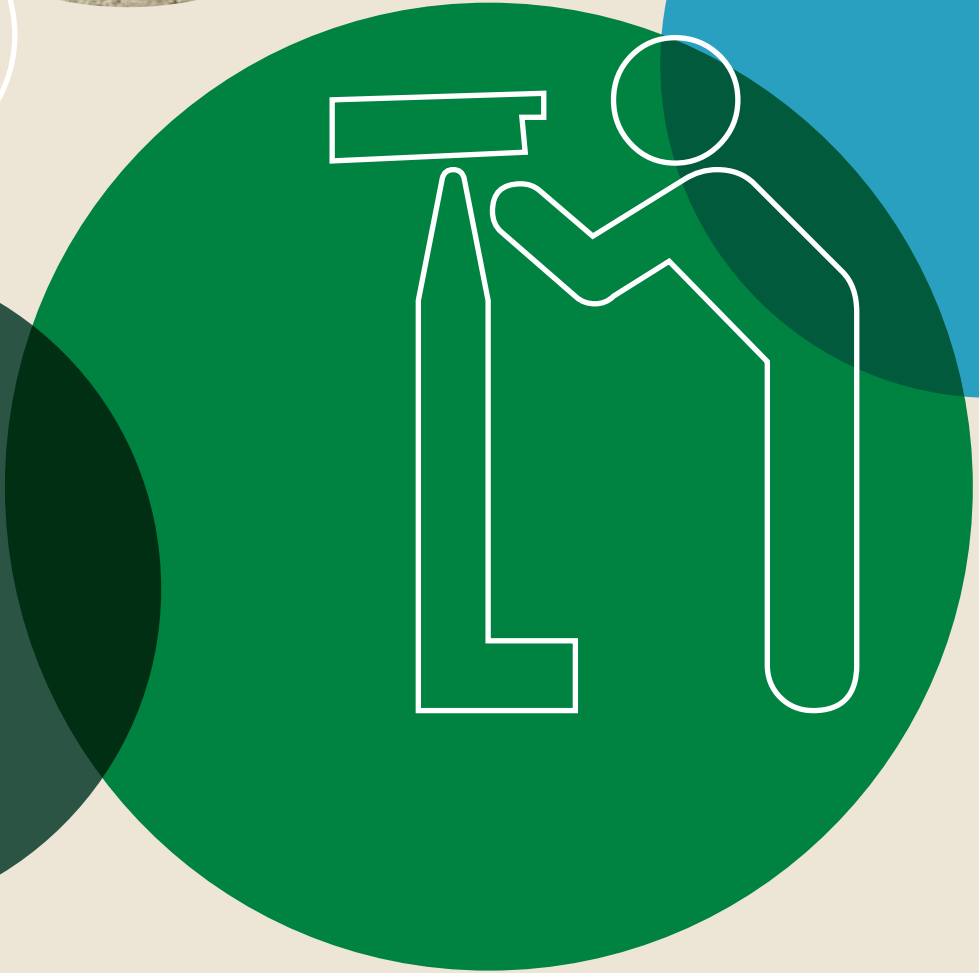
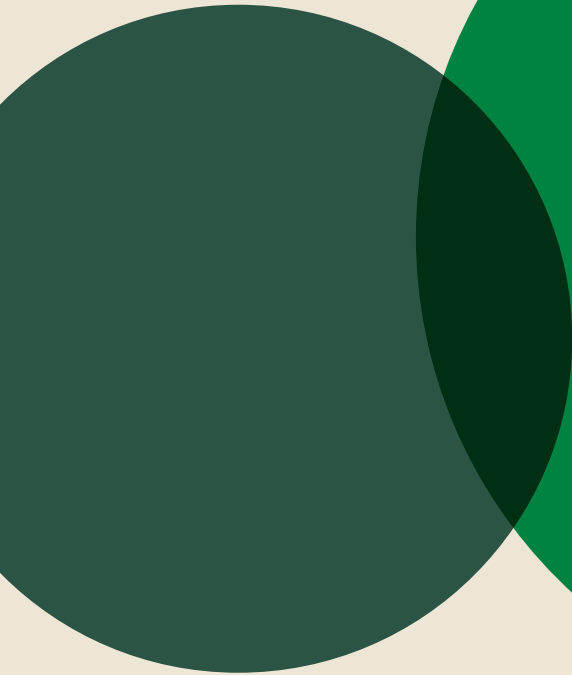


Outdoor Recreation Management Strategy

for Brisbane's Natural Areas 2011-2021



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



A message from the Lord Mayor



Brisbane City Council's *Living in Brisbane 2026* vision reflects the community's desire to create and preserve a clean and green city, and to provide opportunities to be active and healthy in a safe, friendly environment.

As Lord Mayor of this beautiful city, I am committed to encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. Our subtropical climate and wealth of open spaces makes Brisbane an ideal location for residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor recreation activities such as picnicking, bushwalking and rock climbing.

In order for us all to enjoy the benefits of residing in one of the world's most liveable cities, and be able to pass on those benefits to future generations, we must make responsible decisions now to ensure a sustainable future.

Brisbane is Australia's most biodiverse capital city, with more than 8000 hectares of natural areas in Council management. Of this, more than 3000 hectares has been acquired through our Bushland Acquisition program over the past 20 years. This program has contributed to preserving valuable habitat for native plants and animals while also creating some unique opportunities for residents and visitors to our bushland and wetland areas.

To maintain a balance between providing for the management of outdoor recreation and ensuring our environmental values are preserved, Council has developed the *Outdoor Recreation Management Strategy for Brisbane's Natural Areas 2011-2021*.

This strategy proposes a number of actions for Brisbane's natural areas that Council may take to ensure that we get the balance right between visitor access and the protection of their values. It also introduces a guide on how you can look after your natural areas and assist Council in ensuring outdoor recreation activities are sustainable, safe and enjoyable.

This is an important strategy for Brisbane's future to ensure our city continues to be a great place to work, live and play.



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

Our shared vision –

Living in Brisbane 2026

Council's vision for the future and how we can work together to reach our goals

'Brisbane will be internationally renowned as the 'active, healthy lifestyle city' that allows time for everyone to have an active lifestyle. All Brisbane residents, regardless of age, gender and ability will be encouraged and supported in their choices of physical exercise, play or sport.'

'Brisbane residents will have easy access to waterways for diverse uses – to kayak and canoe in the wetlands and creeks....'

'Brisbane will provide space for 'nature in the city' – with a wealth of native plants and animals – by preserving the critical amount of natural habitat on public and private lands, and by reconnecting ecological corridors for wildlife movement. Brisbane will continue to be Australia's capital city with the highest level of biodiversity. We will achieve this goal through a partnership with the community, business, Queensland Government and local councils from the South East Queensland region.'

'In 2026, Brisbane residents and visitors will value and appreciate all that their city has to offer with little intrusion into their liberties. Brisbane will be a place where everyone feels safe, without fear for their personal safety or property security – in their homes, streets, parks and travelling throughout the city.'





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The Outdoor Recreation Management Strategy at a glance

GOAL	Sustainable outdoor recreation in Brisbane’s natural areas.
HOW BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL WILL ACHIEVE THIS GOAL	
OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage outdoor recreation to ensure the protection of environmental values. 2. Provide a diverse and accessible network of outdoor recreation opportunities. 3. Help create an informed and educated community. 4. Participate in regional collaboration and partnerships.
STRATEGIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 When planning and managing outdoor recreation, ensure environmental values are assessed and protected. 1.2 Manage the impacts of outdoor recreation activities in natural areas. 2.1 Provide a diverse range of outdoor recreation experiences appropriate for the landscape setting of an area and ensure that they are supported by suitable facilities and infrastructure. 2.2 Actively manage and support outdoor recreation activities. 2.3 Be adaptive to new and emerging outdoor recreation activities and trends. 3.1 Where possible and appropriate, engage with clubs and groups involved in outdoor recreation opportunities. 3.2 Provide information on outdoor recreation opportunities. 3.3 Encourage an appreciation of the natural values of our natural areas. 4.1 Maintain regional partnerships for the planning and management of outdoor recreation in natural areas.
ACTIVITY-SPECIFIC ACTIONS	<p>Actions for each of these groups of activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushwalking, cycling and horse riding. • Picnicking and nature study. • Canoeing, kayaking and fishing. • Orienteering and geocaching. • Rock climbing and abseiling.
OUTCOME	To optimise the natural and cultural values of Brisbane’s natural areas while ensuring that visitor access and use is nature-based and sustainable.

1. Introduction and purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to provide a framework to ensure that outdoor recreation management in Brisbane's natural areas can respond to a growing community and an increase in demand for outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting the many values of these areas.

Council owned and/or managed natural areas have significant environmental values that we need to protect and outdoor recreation activities have the potential to impact on these. Council recognises that outdoor recreation in natural areas is a legitimate use, however not all activities can be catered for.

This strategy only addresses outdoor recreation in natural areas owned and/or managed by Council and adopts the Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning definition of outdoor recreation:

'Outdoor recreation includes a range of leisure, recreation or sport activities, undertaken in natural, rural and urban open space.'

Community feedback from the draft strategy, existing Council plans and policies, and outdoor recreation industry reporting and planning (including trends and developments in outdoor recreation across Australia) have been considered in the development of this strategy.

2. Areas and outdoor recreation activities addressed in this strategy

This strategy identifies outdoor recreation activities that Council will consider in accordance with our natural area management principles. The activities in this strategy focus on those that take place in Council owned and/or managed natural areas and have been categorised into the following five main groups.

- Bushwalking, cycling and horse riding.
- Picnicking and nature study.
- Orienteering and geocaching.
- Canoeing, kayaking and fishing.
- Rock climbing and abseiling.

Many of Brisbane's natural areas are relatively small and isolated in comparison with other sites across South East Queensland (SEQ). This is a limiting factor when considering the range of activities and the scale of visitor access and use.

The following activities, while considered to be outdoor recreation, are not permitted in Brisbane City Council natural areas.

- Driving motor vehicles including four-wheel-drive vehicles.
- Riding off-road motorcycles¹ including trail bikes, motocross bikes, enduro bikes, quads and similar motorised vehicles.
- Electric or self-propelled vehicles.
- Hunting, archery¹, shooting.
- Camping, including campervans and caravans.
- Fossicking, collecting.
- Ropes courses.

Brisbane residents are also fortunate to have within easy reach a number of Queensland Government-managed areas such as the Brisbane River, water catchments, state forests, marine parks such as Moreton Bay and national parks such as D'Aguilar National Park. The outdoor recreation opportunities offered by these areas complement those offered in Council's natural areas.

3. Outdoor recreation in South East Queensland

The *South East Queensland Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper 2007* states that each year 170 million outdoor recreation activities are undertaken across SEQ, worth an estimated \$1 billion to the region's economy.

Outdoor recreation activities occur on privately-owned lands, local government lands and state land such as water catchments, national parks and state forests. Council therefore supports a regional approach to the management and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. The following documents support the management of outdoor recreation opportunities across the region and were considered during the development of this strategy.

- *South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2010.*
- *Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy 2010.*
- *Queensland Outdoor Industry Survey 2008.*
- *South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Study 2007.*
- *South East Queensland Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper 2007.*
- *South East Queensland Active Trails Strategy 2007.*
- Plans and strategies by surrounding local governments.

¹ It should be noted that archery and riding off-road vehicles such as trail bikes may be allowed in some Council parks via appropriate lease/licence conditions.

4. Outdoor recreation in Brisbane's natural areas

While it may be desirable to provide opportunities for all outdoor recreation pursuits within our city, the reality is that some activities have to be provided outside of Brisbane or by agencies other than Council. Similarly, the scale of some activities may require them to be accommodated outside of our natural areas.

Brisbane City Council manages more than 8000 hectares of natural areas within a total park estate of more than 14,000 hectares (June 2011). The variety of park types across the city provides the community with a diversity of choice when recreating outdoors. This also provides Council with flexibility when choosing locations for the range of recreation pursuits which the community enjoys. Some activities will be appropriate for our urban parks and others will be suitable for natural areas.

Brisbane's natural areas comprise bushlands, wetlands, waterways and habitat corridors. These areas were originally protected from development for many reasons but the protection and enhancement of areas of ecological and biodiversity value has always been a fundamental management outcome.

In recognition of rock climbing, abseiling and bouldering at Kangaroo Point Cliffs these activities have been included in this strategy. The city's natural areas do not provide opportunities for these activities due to the lack of suitable locations.

This strategy applies to Council reserves that are managed as natural areas. These include:

NORTH

No. Natural area

- 1 Tinchi Tamba Wetlands Reserve
- 2 North-East Wetlands
- 3 Telegraph Road Park
- 4 Boondall Wetlands
- 5 Nudgee Waterhole Reserve
- 6 Kedron Brook Floodway Park
- 7 Chermside Hills Reserve

WEST

No. Natural area

- 8 Banks Street Reserve
- 9 Ashgrove Scenic Reserve
- 10 Levitt Road Park (Keperra Bushland)
- 11 Mt Coot-tha Reserve
- 12 Lake Manchester Road Park and Lake Manchester Road
- 13 Mt Crosby Road Park
- 14 Anstead Bushland Reserve
- 16 Fort Road Bushland (adjoining bushland on escarpment of Rocks Riverside Park included)

SOUTH

No. Natural area

- 15 Pooh Corner and Wacol Bushlands
- 17 Blunder Creek Reserve
- 18 Sergeant Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve
- 19 Karawatha-Greenbank Corridor
- 20 Karawatha Forest Park
- 30 Toohy Forest Park

EAST

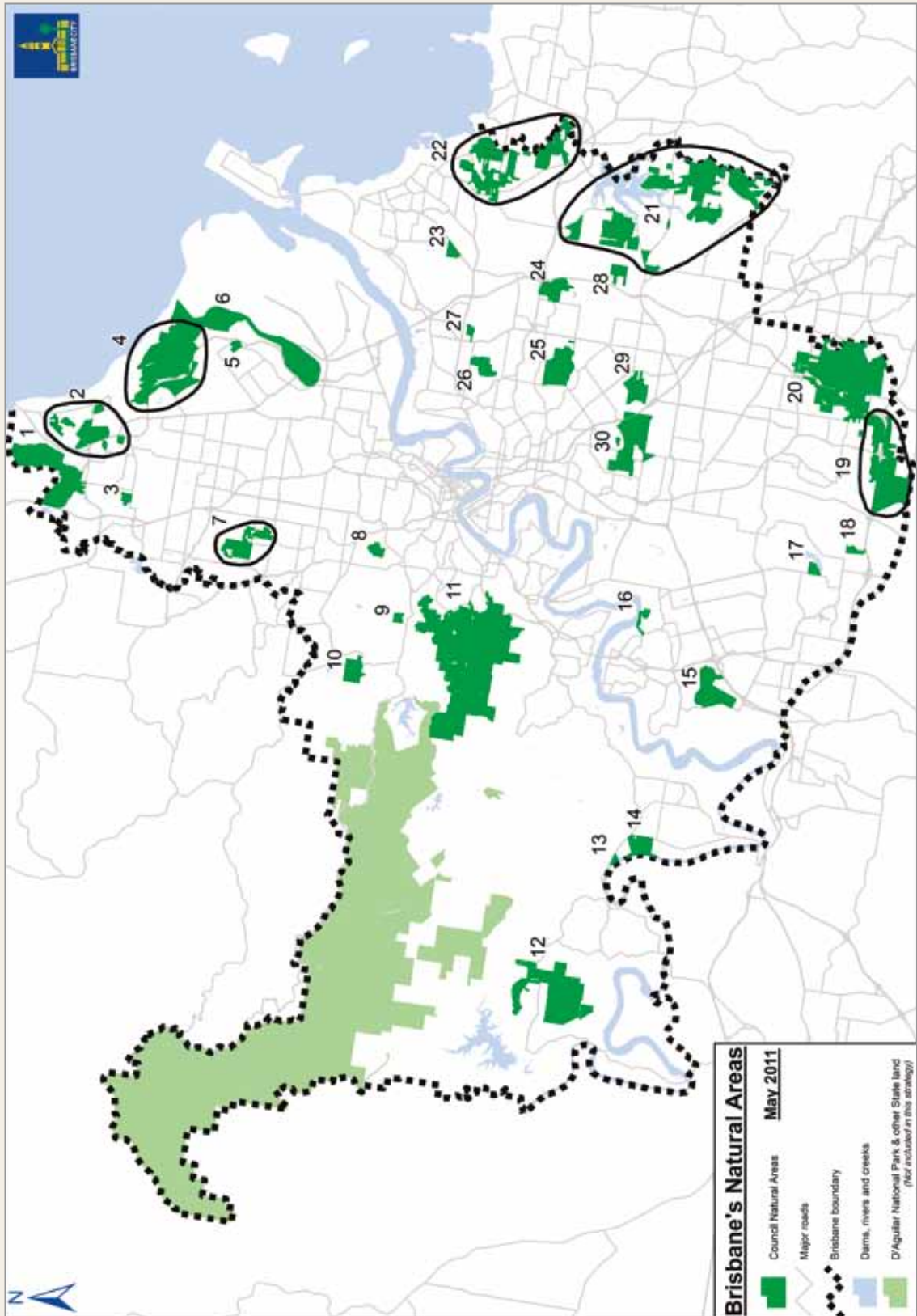
No. Natural area

- 21 Brisbane Koala Bushlands
- 22 Bayside Parklands
- 23 Fleming Road Park (Hemmant Quarry Reserve)
- 24 Belmont Hills Bushland
- 25 Whites Hill Reserve
- 26 Seven Hills Bushland Reserve
- 27 Cannon Hill Bushland Reserve
- 28 Mt Petrie Road Park
- 29 Mt Gravatt Outlook Reserve

(see Map 1 for further details)



Map 1 – Natural areas included in this strategy



5. The strategy

The goal of this strategy is **'sustainable outdoor recreation in Brisbane's natural areas'**.

The underlying principles that contribute to sustainable planning and management of our natural areas include the following.

- Protecting and conserving biodiversity.
- Recognising and protecting ecosystem services.
- Providing a diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Providing safe and accessible recreational opportunities.
- Planning for and managing desired user experiences and demand for activities.

- Engaging the community in planning and management of natural areas.
- Encouraging participation in outdoor recreation.
- Partnerships with private landholders and industry.
- Monitoring activities and implementing adaptive management.
- Being responsive to changing ecological, economic and social objectives.
- Complying with relevant legislation, standards, policy and guidelines.

The objectives, strategies and actions of this strategy set clear direction on how Council will achieve the goal of sustainable outdoor recreation in our natural areas.

Objective 1

Manage outdoor recreation to ensure the protection of environmental values

Strategies

- 1.1 When planning and managing outdoor recreation, ensure environmental values are assessed and protected.
- 1.2 Manage the impacts of outdoor recreation activities in natural areas.

Priority actions

- Apply environmental assessment methodology to plan and manage outdoor recreation activities across the network.
- Continue to use existing and new Council plans, policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure environmental values are protected when planning and managing outdoor recreation.
- Use information gathered from outdoor recreation, biodiversity monitoring and research programs, and adapt management practices to ensure the protection of environmental values.

Objective 2

Provide a diverse and accessible network of outdoor recreation opportunities

Strategies

- 2.1 Provide a diverse range of outdoor recreation experiences appropriate for the landscape setting of an area and that are supported by suitable facilities and infrastructure.
- 2.2 Actively manage and support outdoor recreation activities.
- 2.3 Be adaptive to new and emerging outdoor recreation activities and trends.

Priority actions

- Implement the Landscape Classification System across the natural area network and apply the outcomes to future planning and management.
- Provide high-quality, safe and sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and facilities appropriate to the activity selected for the landscape setting.
- Develop policies, procedures and guidelines that assist in the implementation of this strategy.
- Develop and/or update natural area management plans to include implementation of this strategy and associated policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Monitor, assess and plan how we manage new outdoor recreation activities, trends and demands.



Objective 3

Help create an informed and educated community

Strategies

- 3.1 Where possible and appropriate, engage with clubs and groups involved in outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 3.2 Provide information on outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 3.3 Encourage an appreciation of the natural values of our natural areas.

Priority actions

- Improve systems and processes to ensure that clubs and/or groups conduct well-managed activities.
- Help promote Council-supported club and group codes of practice.
- Explore new ways to inform the community about where to go, what to do and how to do outdoor recreation activities sustainably.
- Continue to deliver environmental education programs focussing on natural area values through our environment centres.
- Promote nature conservation and sustainable visitation through improved information and community engagement.

Objective 4

Participate in regional collaboration and partnerships

Strategy

- 4.1 Maintain regional partnerships for the planning and management of outdoor recreation in natural areas.

Priority actions

- Work with regional outdoor recreation partners including the Queensland Government, other local governments and non-government organisations to plan for outdoor recreation on a regional scale.
- Continue to work with regional partners as part of ongoing training and development of staff and outdoor recreation participants.

6. Looking after natural areas

Council has developed a list of desired behaviours listed in Appendix 1, with the aim of educating natural area visitors about how they can help protect the natural values of these areas and ensure that everyone enjoys their outdoor recreation experience.

Such information can also be found in Council's track map series for natural areas. For details refer to the 'Links and further information' section.

Some groups and clubs have developed minimum codes of practice for the safe and sustainable conduct of specific outdoor recreation activities. Knowing how these standards apply to activities can ensure they are safe, enjoyable and sustainable. For details refer to 'Links and further information' section.

7. Outdoor recreation activities and actions

The implementation of this strategy and future planning for outdoor recreation in our natural areas will incorporate a broad range of planning tools including new plans and policies, an environmental assessment framework, the Landscape Classification System (LCS), latest industry updates and results from on-ground surveys, auditing and monitoring programs.

In March 2010, Council commissioned external consultants (led by Lloyd Consulting) to complete the *BCC Bushland Trail-Based Outdoor Recreation Assessment* report to determine the suitability of seven of our natural areas to accommodate additional mountain biking opportunities. The assessment methodology applied an ecological assessment framework to provide direction. This framework, as well as the results of this report, will be adapted for future planning.

One of the strategy's aims is to provide a diverse and accessible network of outdoor recreation opportunities and the LCS is one way this can be planned and managed. The LCS is currently used by the Department of Environment and Resource Management and is a tool for determining the type of experience that visitors can expect, based on the level of 'naturalness' of a setting (or a place). The naturalness is determined by biophysical, social and managerial features of a site.

Ongoing management of activities will include an adaptive approach based on audits and monitoring the level of use of recreation infrastructure and facilities. These audits and monitoring will assist in determining maintenance regimes and resourcing requirements.

The outdoor recreation activities that Council will plan for and manage are listed below. They have been grouped based on similarities in where activities are carried out, e.g. tracks/trail-based.



7.1 Bushwalking, cycling and horse riding

Brisbane's natural areas provide hundreds of kilometres of different paths, tracks and trails that are used by a large number of people whether they are walking, cycling or horse riding. With increasing use of these trails by different user groups, it is essential that the trail network is managed to ensure that facilities are safe and sustainable.

Council promotes trail-based recreation through the popular track map series, which currently covers nine natural areas. Within our natural areas we have walking tracks that offer great views from lookouts, allow people to get up close and experience waterways and wetlands, and see a diversity of ecosystems.

Our natural areas also offer a variety of cycling facilities, from sealed pathways to unsealed multi-use trails and single-width mountain bike trails. Mt Coot-tha Reserve is currently the only Council-approved site in Brisbane with designated single-width mountain bike trails.

Horse riding is also a popular activity in natural areas and surrounding semi-rural areas. Mt Coot-tha Forest and Brisbane Koala Bushlands offer trails for use by horse riders. There are also many other opportunities within South East Queensland, including regional trails in the Brisbane Valley.

Council's priority actions.

- Implement a track classification system across the city.
- Where possible, provide multi-use trails for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and utilise appropriate facility design, codes of practice and regulatory signage to reduce conflict between users.
- Continue to educate the community that if dogs are walked in reserves, they need to be on a leash and that there are approved off-leash areas in some Council parks.
- Where possible, create linked tracks and trails with adjoining state and local government natural areas.

Case study

Mt Coot-tha Trail Care program

Council runs a volunteer-based program to look after trails in Mt Coot-tha Forest. Volunteer mountain bike riders are working in cooperation with Council to protect and restore natural areas through the maintenance and improvement of the recreation track and trail network. Sustainable trails protect the environment by minimising the impact of visitors and recreation.



7.2 Picnicking and nature study

Brisbane's natural areas provide a range of picnicking opportunities from local bushland reserves to the more iconic picnic areas of Mt Coot-tha. According to *Outdoor Recreation Trends in South East Queensland 2007*, picnicking is the most popular outdoor recreation activity, with 57% of the Brisbane population having had a picnic in a natural area at least once in 2007.

Nature study is also a popular pastime. Brisbane is Australia's most biodiverse capital city and is home to a variety of native flora and fauna. You can wait in a bird hide at Boondall Wetlands to view the migratory wader birds or find a scenic lookout and appreciate the sweeping views across the city.

Council's priority actions.

- Provide facilities and community engagement opportunities to encourage picnicking and nature study in natural areas.
- Design facilities appropriate to the setting of an area.

Case study

Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre

The Boondall Wetlands area is Brisbane's largest wetlands covering 1000 hectares. The Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre opened in 1996 and offers a range of opportunities to learn more about wetlands and flora and fauna. Facilities include an information desk, display area and interpretive material, as well as walking and cycling paths (with wheelchair access), bird hides and picnic areas.

The environment centre runs a volunteer guide program, supporting volunteers to learn about the plants, animals and the wetlands. Guides lead walks each Saturday and Sunday morning through the wetlands, sharing this knowledge with visitors.



7.3 Canoeing, kayaking and fishing

Brisbane's bayside and tidal and freshwater creeks provide a variety of opportunities for water-based recreation. Creeks meander through our wetland areas and provide unique opportunities to view birds and other wildlife.

Fishing platforms are provided at a number of our natural areas.

A number of Queensland Government agencies have a role to play in the management of water-based outdoor recreational opportunities. Council is not responsible for the regulation of water-based activities such as fishing or motorised activities. Council does however manage the access points to waterways from Council-owned and/or managed natural areas.

Council's priority actions.

- Where necessary provide sustainable access to creeks in natural areas to manage impacts to creek banks.

Case study

Tinchi Tamba Wetlands

Tinchi Tamba Wetlands is over 380 hectares in size and is bordered by Pine River and Bald Hills Creek on the northern edge of Brisbane. The Deep Water Bend picnic area provides a variety of facilities for activities in the outdoors, including fishing platforms, self-guided walking tracks, a bird hide and a boat/canoe ramp. Canoeists can explore the wetlands at high tide on the Island Trail or Eagle Trail, exploring the islands, channels and mangrove forest habitats that are home to a variety of birdlife.





7.4 Orienteering and geocaching

Orienteering and geocaching in Brisbane occur in a range of urban and natural settings. Orienteering is generally undertaken through clubs and groups, and geocaching is undertaken by small groups or individuals.

There are some limitations on the level of orienteering and geocaching opportunities in Council owned and/or managed natural areas. This is due not only to the difficulty in managing the impacts of activities that involve off-track use but also to the relatively small size of our natural areas, which makes them more susceptible to overuse. These activities require a well-coordinated management approach between Council and the orienteering and geocaching communities.

Council's priority actions.

- Develop an event management procedure to coordinate, support and manage group and club activities.
- Work with peak geocaching groups to manage geocaching activities, in particular the placement of geocaches in natural areas.

Case study

Recreation programs

Council offers residents of all ages and abilities an exciting and diverse range of recreation programs. These Council initiatives encourage residents from all walks of life to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. Brisbane is the backdrop, with its many parks, pools, waterways and venues. Activities offered range from fun and relaxing events such as meditation to higher energy activities like abseiling, orienteering and exercise classes. Some of the programs include Gone Walking, Real Adventure Women (RAW) and Growing Old and Living Dangerously (GOLD).



7.5 Rock climbing and abseiling

Rock-climbing and abseiling are specific recreation pursuits requiring a high-degree of specialised training, skill and equipment. They are largely undertaken through organised clubs and groups.

There are limited opportunities for rock climbing and bouldering within Brisbane City due to our geology and topography. However, we are lucky to have the popular Kangaroo Point Cliffs conveniently located across the Brisbane River from the Central Business District for abseiling, top-roping, lead climbing and bouldering.

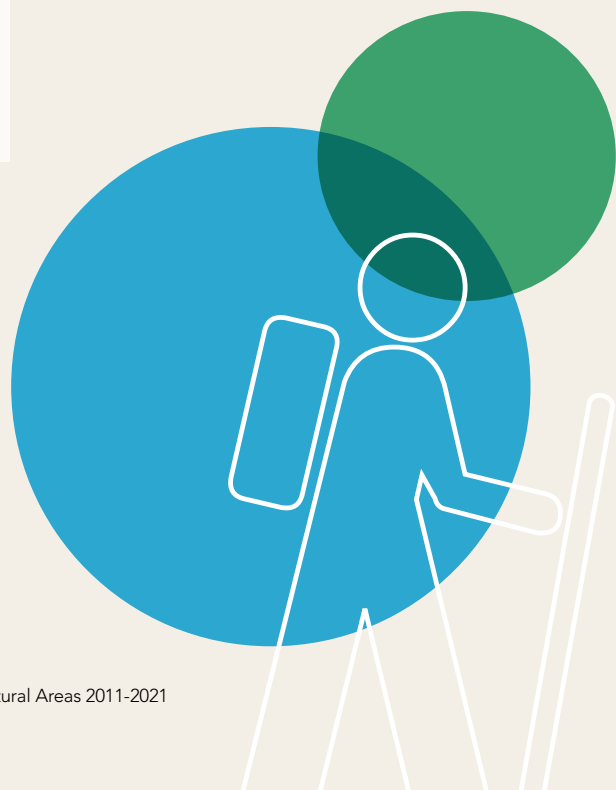
Council's priority actions.

- Continue to support and improve rock climbing and abseiling experiences at Kangaroo Point Cliffs.
- Assess the popularity and impacts of bouldering in natural areas to inform management actions.

Case study

Kangaroo Point Cliffs

Brisbane is unique with a central urban climbing crag. The cliffs at Kangaroo Point have been used for rock climbing from the early 1960s and are known internationally by climbers. Council regularly undertakes geo-technical assessments, scaling, bolting and testing of top anchors to provide a safe cliff structure for climbers.



8. The way forward

It will take a combined effort from many sections of Council to deliver the goal and objectives of this strategy. A balance between managing the growing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and protecting the environmental values of our natural areas will remain paramount during its implementation.

This strategy will be regularly reviewed and updated based on changes in outdoor recreation demand and the natural area estate including the acquisition of new reserves through our Bushland Acquisition program. It is a long-term document with timeframes dependent on the availability of resources and funding.

The success of the strategy will also depend on a strong partnership between the community and Council, encouraging activities to be carried out in a sustainable manner. Natural area visitors can stay aware of emerging outdoor recreation information and opportunities by visiting Council's website or calling Council on **(07) 3403 8888**.

How you can get involved

If you are interested in having your say on issues in Brisbane in your neighbourhood, there are a few ways that you can do so.

- Join Your City Your Say. You will receive regular newsletters and invitations to consultation activities for lots of Council projects and get to hear what other people think.
- Visit Council's website to join online discussion forums on ever-changing topics.
Visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/yoursay
- If you're under 25, visit www.visible-ink.org and www.generate.qld.gov.au for ways that you can help shape the community.
- Get involved in planning your local neighbourhood.
Visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning to find out where local plans are developing.
- Go along to a Green Heart program event.
There's lots of information on local issues and how to live sustainably in Brisbane.
Visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/environment for dates and locations.

If you do not have access to a computer, they are available for public use at Council libraries.

Otherwise, please phone Council on **(07) 3403 8888** for more information.

Developing an Outdoor Recreation Management Strategy will provide a sustainable balance between conservation and recreation and is another way Council is achieving our shared vision for a clean, green Brisbane.



I ♥ BNE
That's why I cherish our natural areas

9. Links and further information

For more information about Council's natural areas (including track maps) and programs visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

Federal, state and regional contacts

Brisbane Valley Rail Trail <http://www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au/>
Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation <http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com/default.asp>
Queensland Department of Communities <http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/>
Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/>
Queensland Department of Local Government and Planning <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/>
Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation <http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au/>
Seqwater <http://www.seqwater.com.au/public/home>
Queensland Health <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/>
Tourism Queensland <http://www.tq.com.au/>
Outdoor Council of Australia <http://www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au/>
Forestry Plantations Queensland Pty Ltd <http://www.fpq.net.au/asp/index.asp?sid=5&page=recreation>

Regional planning references

South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2010
<http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/SEQ/seq-outdoor-recreation-strategy.pdf>
Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy 2010
<http://www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/greenspace/draft-greenspace-strategy.pdf>
Queensland Outdoor Industry Survey 2008
http://www.qorf.org.au/_dbase_upl/Outdoor%20Industry%20Survey%20Report%202008.pdf
South East Queensland Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper 2007
http://www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/SEQ/SEQRORS_Discussion_Paper_07.pdf
South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Study 2007
http://www.qorf.org.au/_dbase_upl/2007%20SEQORDS%20small.pdf
Active Trails: A Strategy for Regional Trails in South East Queensland 2007
http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/SEQ/Active_Trails_Strategy.pdf

Some outdoor recreation groups, clubs and associations

Queensland Horse Council <http://www.qldhorsecouncil.com/default.aspx>
Australian Trail Horse Riders Association <http://www.athra.com.au/Index.aspx>
Bicycle Queensland <http://www.bq.org.au/>
Orienteering Queensland <http://www.oq.asn.au/>
Australian Climbing Association Queensland <http://www.climb.org.au>
Brisbane Rock Climbing Club <http://www.brisbanerock.org/>
Bushwalking Qld (visit for a list of groups in Brisbane) <http://www.bushwalkingqueensland.org.au/>
Gap Creek Trails Alliance <http://www.gcta.asn.au/>
International Mountain Biking Association <http://www.imba.com/>
Mountain Bike Australia <http://www.mtba.asn.au/>
Pony Club Australia <http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au/>
Queensland Canoeing Inc (also kayaking) <http://qld.canoe.org.au/>
Queensland Endurance Riders Association <http://www.aera.asn.au/qera/>
Queensland Horse Council Inc <http://www.qldhorsecouncil.com/default.aspx>
Trail Running Association of Qld <http://runtrails.org/articles/>
Sunfish <http://www.sunfishqld.com.au/>
Geocaching Australia <http://www.geocaching.com.au>
Queensland Rogaine Association <http://www.qldrogaine.asn.au/qraonline/>
The Australian Recreation and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Inc. <http://www.recfish.com.au/>

Standards and codes of conduct

For activity-specific codes of conduct, refer to the websites of (or contact) the relevant groups, clubs or associations above.

Queensland Adventure Activity Standards (Queensland Department of Communities)

http://www.qorf.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=1048#2974

Leave No Trace Australia <http://www.lnt.org.au/>

10. Glossary

For the purpose of this strategy:

Abseiling

The controlled descent on a rope using friction obtained by passing the rope through any of various devices, e.g. rack, descender, karabiners.

Bushwalking²

Involves walking on-trail or off-trail in natural settings for pleasure, challenge, experience and/or educational outcomes. The term 'bushwalking' is appropriately applied to long (multi-day) as well as short (an hour or two) walks that can be experienced in diverse environments including coastal, mountain, outback and remote regions.

Canoeing³

Encompasses a wide variety of activities undertaken in canoes or kayaks, ranging from white-water racing on rivers to surfing on the sea and sea kayaking. Canoeing involves single-blade paddling of water craft (typically open craft) in flat or open water environments (e.g. Canadian canoes). Kayaking involves double-blade paddling of water craft (typically closed craft) in flat, open or white water environments.

Climbing⁴

Rock climbing is the process of ascending natural cliffs. Associated activities include bouldering, single- and multi-pitch lead climbing and single-pitch top rope climbing. The activity of bouldering is described as rock climbing where the lowest part of the body is no more than 1.2m above the impact zone and where adequate safety can be provided by 'spotting' rather than with the aid of additional systems involving harnesses, belay mechanisms and ropes.

Council

The term Council refers to Brisbane City Council.

Cycling⁵

Includes riding of bicycles for touring and/or riding of mountain bikes for touring and cross-country riding.

Fishing

Only includes line fishing.

Geocaching⁶

Geocaching is a treasure hunt where global positioning system (GPS) enabled devices and GPS coordinates are used to locate geocaches (sometimes know as 'caches'). Geocaching combines location-based gaming, social networking, treasure hunting, GPS navigation and outdoor recreation.

Horse riding

Includes recreational trail riding and endurance competition.

Landscape Classification System (LCS)⁷

The Landscape Classification System (LCS) is a tool for assessing the naturalness of landscape settings from a visitor use and management perspective. Naturalness is expressed on a range from completely untouched, wild, natural or remote to completely modified, built or developed depending on the proportion of natural and human modified elements (post-1788) in the landscape.

Mountain bike riding⁸

Generally involves riding on unsealed surfaces such as gravel roads, fire trails, single track, or open or rocky ground, and can involve manoeuvring through or around obstacles such as fallen or narrowly-spaced trees, creeks, mud, rocks, man-made structures and other technical trail features.

It may also be divided into three likely types of mountain bike users and their preferences:

1. Recreational riders. These riders are likely to be of mixed ages, preferring wide hardened trails, grassy areas or board walks and sometimes fire management trails.
2. Active riding or traditional mountain bike riders. These are generally males, aged 25-40 years old who tend to prefer to use informal and formal narrow trails, as well as fire trails. Traditionally flat trails are not appealing.
3. Extreme/free riding or down-hill bikers. This group consists predominantly of males 13-25 years old, which prefer informal and formal narrow trail as well as fire trails. They like to use and construct trail-technical features. Flat trails are not appealing.

Natural areas

Any land classified as a natural area by Council and owned by, or under the control of, Council. These areas are primarily bushland and wetland areas managed for the intent of nature conservation and protection of biodiversity for the long term. They also provide for nature-based and sustainable visitor access and use.

Nature-based recreation

Activities for which the natural setting is critical for the participants, which foster an appreciation of natural resources and which do not require substantial modification of the natural environment.

Nature study

Studying elements of nature in a natural setting.

Orienteering¹⁰

Combines outdoor adventure with map reading and navigational skills. It involves navigating through the bush, parks or streets with the aid of a specially produced map and orienteering compass, with the aim being to locate checkpoints (controls) on various natural and man-made features along the way, such as a boulder, track junction, bench seat or street lamp. Controls are generally represented by distinctive orange and white flags.

Setting¹¹

The Landscape Classification System is based on settings. A setting is a measure of naturalness. Naturalness is expressed on a range from completely untouched, wild, natural or remote to completely modified, built or developed depending on the proportion of natural and human modified elements (post-1788) in the landscape.

² http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/_dbase_upl/AAS%20Bushwalking.pdf

³ http://www.qorf.org.au/_dbase_upl/AAS%20Canoeing%20%28with%20PDF%20Update%20as%20Note%29.pdf

⁴ http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/_dbase_upl/AAS%20Rockclimbing.pdf

⁵ http://www.qorf.org.au/_dbase_upl/OR%20definitions.pdf

⁶ <http://geocaching.com>

⁷ <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/publications/docs/p203740.pdf>

⁸ http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/_dbase_upl/AAS%20Mountain%20Bike.pdf

⁹ Lloyd Consulting, 2010. BCC Bushland Trail Outdoor Recreation Assessment report

¹⁰ <http://www.orienteering.asn.au/gfolder/newcomers/intro%20to%20orienteering.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/publications/docs/p203740.pdf>

Appendix 1

How to look after your natural areas

General

Visitors to Brisbane's natural areas can help everyone enjoy these special places by being aware of some simple behaviours and acting responsibly.

- **Enjoy and protect.** Enjoy and respect what makes the place special – be responsible in protecting it for the future. Leave no trace of your visit. Take your rubbish home.
- **Be a good ambassador.** Always set a good example for others. Show that you are a responsible visitor for your chosen activity. Avoid disturbing wildlife or damaging plants as they are protected.
- **Follow the rules.** Understand what you can do, where and when. Know and follow the regulations and expectations that apply to your chosen activity.
- **Observe the signs and follow directions from Council employees.** Signs are there to provide information and to assist in protecting you and the environment. From time to time, Council may close areas for safety reasons such as fires and fallen trees.
- **Stay on track.** Keep to designated trails or within the areas provided for your activity. Keep to plan so others know and appreciate group activities. Protect trails, avoid the edges, don't cut corners and avoiding taking short cuts. Check your equipment, shoes and socks for seeds and plant material before and after a visit to reduce the possible spread of weeds.
- **Share the area.** Respect other users you may encounter and their activities. Protect your and their quality of experience.
- **Limit the impacts of your activity** on the site and other users. Loud noises and bright lights will detract from the natural experience and disturb wildlife. Visit in small groups or split larger parties and visit at different times. Avoid using areas and trails during or immediately after wet weather. Leave your dog at home or take it to a dog off-leash area.
- **Be safe.** You must be in control at all times, wear appropriate, approved and suitably checked safety gear and if relevant, manage your speed safely. You are responsible for the protection of the environment and for your safety and that of others. Don't forget to take sunscreen, a hat, water and repellent and stay within designated areas.
- **Plan ahead.** It is your responsibility. Some areas and activities will have limitations on use and/or group sizes. Be prepared for the outdoors. Also, if going alone, let someone know the details.
- **Groups and clubs** planning an activity need to contact Council to discuss requirements.
- **Report damage or problems** to Council on (07) 3403 8888. In an emergency dial triple zero (000).

Activity-specific

If you're cycling

- Give way to horses, walkers and runners.
- Only ride on designated multi-use and mountain biking trails.
- Avoid skidding – it reduces your control and damages the track.

If you're picnicking

- Don't feed the wildlife – for your sake and theirs. Wildlife can become dependent on this food and lose their ability to forage for natural food. The food they are being fed may make them sick and they may become a nuisance to other picnickers.
- Leave picnic areas clean and tidy – take your rubbish home with you or ensure you dispose of it where bins are provided.

If you're studying nature

- Remember that all plants and wildlife are protected, consider if your activity will disturb wildlife or cause damage.
- Watch animals from a distance so you don't disturb them.
- All plants and animals are protected – take photos only.

If you're canoeing or kayaking

- Protect creek and river banks. Enter and exit canoe trails only at designated access points (e.g. canoe ramps, boat ramps and pontoons).
- Consider your skill level and fitness. Assess the condition of water prior to and during canoeing.
- Keep an eye on tides – some canoe trails are only accessible at high tide.
- Wear appropriate safety gear.
- Check equipment, remove and appropriately dispose of any water weeds to prevent the spread of weeds.

If you're fishing

- Carry out responsible and sustainable fishing habits.
- Know the fishing ethics codes of practice, treat fish humanely, look after our fisheries, protect the environment and respect the rights of others.
- Follow the recreational fishing rules and regulations for Queensland developed by the Queensland Government http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Fisheries_RecreationalFishing/Rec-fishing-regs.pdf

If you're orienteering or geocaching

- Contact Council to know what areas may be available for your activity and if there are any other requirements.
- Watch your step. Be careful not to damage plants and cause erosion.
- Check your shoes and socks for seed or plant material before and after events to reduce the possible spread of weeds.
- Keep everyone safe by ensuring participants are appropriately trained and are aware of safety plans and procedures.
- Be prepared to change plans if there is wet weather.
- When setting up checkpoints and caches, ensure plants and natural features are not damaged, are not located in sensitive areas and are removed following an event.

If you're rock climbing or abseiling

- Join a club to maximise your knowledge of the activity and suitable locations.
- Use accurate/current guide books and climb descriptions.
- Your life is precious. Know your skill level. Always wear a helmet and ensure your equipment is safe and suitable.
- Respect climbing traditions:
 - protect geological features and avoid erosion
 - don't place bolts next to cracks or other natural features
 - changes to existing climbs are unacceptable.
- Avoid hogging climbs and cliffs. Share the cliffs and surrounds with other users.
- Avoid vegetation in rock faces. Vegetation in rock environments is easily damaged.
- Do not rely on the adequacy of bolts, pitons or anchors. You are responsible for your own actions regarding the use and installation of any fixed anchors.
- Climbers should exercise care and restraint in the installation of fixed hardware. Minimal bolting is acceptable but not encouraged. Installation should only be in line with best practice and local approvals and protocols.
- Avoid marking routes or excessive chalk use.
- Update written climb descriptions through clubs and groups.



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