Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park

2.2 Zoning of Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park

2.2.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of the conservation park is to conserve and present the area's cultural and natural environment to the public. This includes the management and protection of the park's natural vegetation communities; environmental education; and the provision of opportunities for scientific research and education. University of Queensland scientists and researchers will be encouraged to participate in the park's management.

2.2.2 Strategies

The key strategies to achieve the purposes of the conservation park include:

- Monitoring and managing the park's natural vegetation communities, flora and fauna.
- Conducting environmental education programmes for visitors and the community.
- Providing opportunities for scientific research and education.
- Maintaining the natural condition of the park to the greatest extent possible.
- Incorporating the park's cultural, social and economic needs into the management plan.
- Ensuring that the park's management is consistent with the objectives of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

2.3 Management Directions

The management directions for the conservation park are as follows:

- Ensure that the park's natural vegetation communities are conserved and presented to the public.
- Conduct environmental education programmes for visitors and the community.
- Provide opportunities for scientific research and education.
- Maintain the natural condition of the park to the greatest extent possible.
- Incorporate the park's cultural, social and economic needs into the management plan.
- Ensure that the park's management is consistent with the objectives of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

2.4 Management Objectives

The management objectives for the conservation park are as follows:

- To conserve and present the area's cultural and natural environment.
- To conduct environmental education programmes for visitors and the community.
- To provide opportunities for scientific research and education.
- To maintain the natural condition of the park to the greatest extent possible.
- To incorporate the park's cultural, social and economic needs into the management plan.
- To ensure that the park's management is consistent with the objectives of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

2.5 Management Programs

The management programs for the conservation park include:

- Monitoring and managing the park's natural vegetation communities.
- Conducting environmental education programmes for visitors and the community.
- Providing opportunities for scientific research and education.
- Maintaining the natural condition of the park to the greatest extent possible.
- Incorporating the park's cultural, social and economic needs into the management plan.
- Ensuring that the park's management is consistent with the objectives of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

2.6 Management Plan

The management plan for the conservation park is as follows:

- To conserve and present the area's cultural and natural environment.
- To conduct environmental education programmes for visitors and the community.
- To provide opportunities for scientific research and education.
- To maintain the natural condition of the park to the greatest extent possible.
- To incorporate the park's cultural, social and economic needs into the management plan.
- To ensure that the park's management is consistent with the objectives of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

2.7 Management Agency

The management agency for the conservation park is the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). The QPWS is responsible for the management of the conservation park, including the implementation of the management plan.

2.8 Management Period

The management period for the conservation park is from 1 November 1999 to 30 October 2004.

2.9 Management Review

The management review for the conservation park is a periodic evaluation of the park's management and the implementation of the management plan. The review is conducted by the QPWS and includes a consultation process with key stakeholders.

2.10 Management History

The management history for the conservation park includes the establishment of the park in 1995 and the implementation of the management plan in 1999.
Management plan

Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park

1 Management directions and purposes

1.1 Management directions

Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park is home to one of Brisbane’s most important flying fox colonies. The park covers an area of about 6.34 hectares and is situated on the Brisbane River at Longpocket, adjacent to Indooroopilly Golf Course, about 7 kilometres west of the Brisbane GPO.

Management will aim to protect the park’s resident flying fox colony by implementing weed control and site rehabilitation programs and by developing interpretive signage for the site. Key interest groups such as the Brisbane City Council, the neighbouring Indooroopilly Golf Club and flying fox researchers from University of Queensland will be encouraged to participate in the park’s management.

1.2 Purposes

The major purposes of management will be to ensure that:

• the flying fox colony and habitat is protected;

• fire and weed management maintains the diversity of natural vegetation communities;

• Brisbane City Council and community groups are involved in the management of the park, including special projects such as site rehabilitation and weed control;

• opportunities are provided for scientific research and educational use;

• the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Good Neighbour Policy is implemented.

2 Basis for Management

2.1 Regional and management context

Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park is dedicated under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and must be managed under ss 20 of the Act to:

• ensure that any commercial use of the area’s natural resources, including fishing and grazing is ecologically sustainable;

• the requirements of other legislation will be met where necessary.

Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park was gazetted as a conservation park in 1995 and protects littoral mangrove vegetation and a small section of open forest with forest red gum. The park will be managed to conserve the flying fox campsite situated on and near Indooroopilly Island. The area is used by three of the four species of flying fox on mainland Australia, and is recognised as one of five significant maternity campsites in the Brisbane Region. It is therefore important to flying fox survival. Flying fox numbers are decreasing as their natural habitat is cleared for agriculture and urban development.

2.2 Values of Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park

Plants and animals

Situation of the Brisbane River since the 1974 floods has led to the linkage of Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park to the river bank at low tide. The dominant mangrove species on the park are the grey mangrove (Avicennia marina) and the river mangrove (Aegiceras corniculatum). The river mangrove protects the site from erosion and provide important nursery habitat for several estuarine fish species. A small area is dominated by forest red gum Eucalyptus tereticornis. Both the mangroves and forest red gum are used by the flying foxes for roosting. The flying foxes defoliate their roosting trees and this degrades the natural vegetation in the park and surrounding area. Severe weed invasion by a variety of invasive species such as molasses grass and siratro is preventing the canopy trees from regenerating.

Flying foxes roost in trees by day usually in congregations known as camps. Campsites are very important for the survival of the flying fox as this is where they are born, grow, form relationships and learn to survive. The area needs to be large so the flying foxes can choose alternative trees as defoliated roosting trees recover. Indooroopilly Island is known as a ‘traditional camp’ because the black flying fox Pteropus electus and grey headed flying fox P. Poliocephalus occupy the site on a permanent basis. Numbers fluctuate between 3000 and 200 000 depending on the availability of flowering eucalypts and melaleuca species. The park is an important breeding site for the black and the grey-headed flying foxes and peak numbers usually coincide with the birth of young between August and December. The little red flying fox P. scapulatus occupies the campsite on a seasonal basis generally between October and March. Their numbers range from 1000 to 10 000 although they do not occupy the campsite every year.

The Indooroopilly Island campsite is one of five maternity campsites in the Brisbane Region. The campsite is especially important because it is isolated from the general public due to the buffering effect provided by the golf course. Consequently, the campsite is the only place where flying foxes are not disturbed by human activities. The importance of Indooroopilly Island increases as other flying fox colonies in south-east Queensland are disturbed or destroyed.

Small bird species such as the white-breasted waterhen and the rufous whistler, red-backed fairywren, Melithreptus rubricollis and double-barred finch, Taeniopygia bichenovii use the park’s dense understorey of lantana lantana, wattle and grass as habitat and for protection from aggressive birds such as the noisy miner Manorina melanophrys, which is common in the surrounding open areas.

Cultural heritage

The island is a significant site for the Turbal people. A native title claim which covers Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park has been lodged with the Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the Turbal people.

Scenic and aesthetic

As its summer peak the flying fox colony may contain several hundred thousand individuals. The camp is easily viewed from the river by boat with minimal disturbance to the animals. At sunset the bats fly out to commence their nocturnal foraging. The sight of thousands of bats flying into the sky is impressive and familiar to many Brisbane residents.
### 3 Management strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current situation</th>
<th>Desired outcomes</th>
<th>Proposed policies, guidelines and actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native plants</strong></td>
<td>The biological diversity and integrity of the natural ecosystems are conserved in the long term.</td>
<td>A rehabilitation plan for Indooroopilly Island Conservation Park will be developed. This should incorporate surrounding areas as much as possible. Therefore, it will be prepared in connection with Brisbane City Council, Department of Natural Resources, the Indooroopilly Golf Club, Turbal peoples, University of Queensland and local community groups. It will focus on the requirements of the flying fox colony and aim at restoring a canopy. It will include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native animals</strong></td>
<td>Knowledge of the faunas using the park and surrounding habitat is improved.</td>
<td>Identify native and introduced fauna species utilizing the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduced plants and animals</strong></td>
<td>The impacts of introduced plants and animals on the park’s natural biodiversity is minimized.</td>
<td>As part of a long term rehabilitation plan for Indooroopilly Island a weed control strategy will be prepared. It will include:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fire management</strong></td>
<td>Fire does not threaten the park’s native flora and fauna.</td>
<td>Develop a fire management plan for the park which includes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural heritage</strong></td>
<td>Any native title rights are not compromised by management actions.</td>
<td>Aboriginal groups or individuals will be provided with opportunities to participate in the management of the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recreation and tourism</strong></td>
<td>Recreational and educational activities have minimal impact on the native faunas of the park.</td>
<td>No facilities will be developed on the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education, interpretation and research</strong></td>
<td>People’s understanding and appreciation of the park’s values are increased resulting in more sympathetic use of natural areas.</td>
<td>An interpretation plan will be developed for the park and will include:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complementary management of adjoining areas</strong></td>
<td>Surrounding land use buffers and complements the conservation values of the park.</td>
<td>Liaise and work closely with the Indooroopilly Golf Club and Brisbane City Council regarding management of Indooroopilly Island and the surrounding area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan implementation and monitoring</strong></td>
<td>The management plan is successfully implemented and desired outcomes achieved.</td>
<td>Develop an implementation schedule for the plan which will consider available staff and resources and priorities management actions. This will be linked to annual budget allocations. Priorities for management will include:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### References


![Nature Conservation Act 1992.](image-url)