

Smithfield Regional Park Management Statement

Park purpose

Smithfield Regional Park was formally gazetted on 23 June 2000 as a conservation park under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. In 2009, a small parcel was excised from the park to provide road access to residential development.

This park was acquired to provide a suitable location for off-road mountain -bike riding in the Cairns region.

Park size	279ha
Bioregion	Wet Tropics
Local government area	Cairns Regional Council
State electorate	Barron River
QPWS region	Northern
Year prepared: 2015	Review date: 2025

Strategic direction for park management

Based on an evaluation of its natural, cultural and presentation values, Smithfield Regional Park has been assessed as having a high priority for management. The park will be managed according to this priority rating.

Park management will be based on the best available local knowledge, professional judgement and published information. The high level means that it will receive a minimum of monthly routine inspections with occasional planned visits to deliver prepared work programs and respond to issues. The focus is largely expected to be on recreation and natural resource management involving a proactive management effort at a high level to understand or protect known natural values.

Cultural values will be managed proactively to protect those values known to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS). Continuing engagement, consultation, collaboration and relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous stakeholders will be undertaken.

This park currently has high levels of visitor use particularly from mountain bike enthusiasts and people walking their dogs. The public may opportunistically have contact with rangers who are likely to be on site undertaking a range of protection and presentation tasks. A high level of infrastructure is provided to support safe and sustainable use. The park accommodates a network of mountain bike tracks for recreational purposes and also accommodates challenging competition tracks including some which are considered amongst the best in the world. Information on the park is provided through an extensive network of park signs and is also available on the Departmental website.

Public consultation on park management will be undertaken through continuing engagement and involvement in management with community stakeholders.

Park assets are regularly maintained to ensure the safety of park users and to protect the natural and cultural values and management capacity. The Cairns Mountain Bike Club has an agreement under section 34 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for the use and management of trails for mountain bike riding on part of the park. This agreement includes the public-use of some of the mountain bike tracks. A restricted access area exists over sections of track for the protection of natural resources. Permits to access this area for competition are required. A 22 kV Ergon power-line transects the regional park.

General park values, uses and management

Regional ecosystems

The park protects 11 regional ecosystems of which two have endangered biodiversity status and four are of concern, Table 1.

Species of conservation significance

Species of conservation significance that are recorded from this park include nine bird species and one plant species, Table 2.

Cultural heritage

All protected areas are recognised as cultural landscapes and Aboriginal people see themselves as inextricably linked to country both spiritually and physically. Although cultural records on physical artefacts and sites of spiritual significance are not well documented for this area, all proposed activities need to meet duty of care requirements under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Non- indigenous historic places will be managed in accordance with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

Priorities for park management

The six regional ecosystems, nine bird species, one plant species of conservation significance and the recreation opportunities are the main values of this park. The priorities for park management will be fire and pest management.

Management actions will be undertaken which aim to ensure:

- mountain biking opportunities continue to be provided at Smithfield Regional Park with the track network managed by the Cairns Mountain Bike Club under a Memorandum of Understanding arrangement
- life and property on and adjacent to the park is protected
- fire is managed to conserve or maintain the condition of the regional ecosystems through the application of planned burn guidelines
- the impacts of existing pest species on neighbouring land uses are mitigated
- pest threats are managed to conserve or maintain the condition of regional ecosystems, plant and animal species of conservation significance.

Appendix 1

Conservation values inventory

Table 1: Endangered and of concern regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystem number	Description	Biodiversity status
7.3.12a	Mixed eucalypt open forest to woodland, dominated by <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> and <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> +/- <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> , (or vine forest with these species as emergents). Lowland alluvial plains	Endangered
7.3.20f	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , or <i>C. intermedia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> , or <i>S. glomulifera</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> spp., or <i>E. cloeziana</i> , or <i>C. torelliana</i> open forest (or vine forest with these emergents) on alluvial fans at the base of ranges	Of concern
7.11.18h	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>Corymbia tessellaris</i> , <i>E. pellita</i> , <i>C. intermedia</i> , <i>Melaleuca dealbata</i> , <i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i> woodland, low woodland and open forest with <i>Acacia mangium</i> and <i>A. crassicaarpa</i> . Foothills and coastal headlands on metamorphics. Wet and moist rainfall zones.	Of concern
7.11.44	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> open forest to woodland on coastal metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.11.49	<i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i> , <i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i> and <i>E. platyphylla</i> open forest to woodland on metamorphic foothills	Of concern
7.12.5b	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i> , <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> and <i>C. tessellaris</i> open forest with <i>Acacia celsa</i> , <i>A. cincinnata</i> , <i>A. mangium</i> and <i>A. flavescens</i> , with a very well-developed vine forest understorey. Very wet and wet rainfall zones. Granite and rhyolite.	Endangered

Table 2: Species of conservation significance

Scientific name	Common name	Nature Conservation Act 1992 status	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 status	Back on Track status
Plants				
<i>Senegalia albizioides</i>	-	Near threatened	-	Low
Animals				
<i>Apus pacificus</i> ²³⁴	fork-tailed swift	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i> ³	cicadabird	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana</i>	double-eyed fig-parrot (Macleay's)	Vulnerable	-	Low
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> ²³⁴	white-throated needle-tail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ²	rainbow bee-eater	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> ¹	black-faced monarch	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Pandion cristatus</i> ¹	eastern osprey	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> ¹	rufous fantail	Special least concern	-	Low
<i>Symposiarchus trivirgatus</i> ¹	spectacled monarch	Special least concern	-	Low

¹Bonn: Bonn Convention³JAMBA: Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement²CAMBA: China-Australia Migratory Agreement⁴ROKAMBA: Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement