

Wolston Creek Bushland Group

Before the Park

The land now occupied by the park was for many years part of the Wacol Prison Farm. Following the closure of the prison farm, the State government planned two prisons on the land, a move which was opposed by a group called Concerned Residents Against More Prisons (CRAMP). Eventually the new prisons were sited some distance away, and CRAMP directed its efforts to low level agitation for all the land to be made a park.

Julie Attwood, by then the State Member of Parliament, conducted surveys and presented the results to Parliament. Finally in 2003 the Government announced plans for 47 hectares, from the houses backing onto the area down to Wolston Creek to become a park under the control of the Brisbane City Council.

When Councillor Felicity Farmer called a meeting to form a bushcare group, several members of CRAMP felt they had an obligation to become involved, and together with other interested local residents formed Wolston Creek Bushland Group, which currently has 17 active members and 6 very active kids.

About the Park

The park is approximately 1½ kilometers long having an east/west orientation, with a slope downwards from north to south. Mown land, over which high voltage power lines traverse, occupies approximately the northern third of the area. Reflecting its history as “no go” prison land, the park only has entry points at each end off Sumner Road and Riverpoint Boulevard to the west and on the eastern end off Tomkins Road. To the south of the power lines, areas of the park show signs of having been grazing land, with derelict dams and in some areas considerable clearing of the natural wooded land. The remains of barbed wire fences crisscross the park.

For those of a technical mind the park occurs on the terraces and levees of alluvial soils of the Brisbane River, and on the Mesozoic sandstone and shales of the Ipswich basin. The vegetation includes remnant stands of forest red gum and spotted gum, mixed dry sclerophyll, remnant dry rainforest and grassy pasture. A survey of the flora revealed 5 species uncommon in the Greater Brisbane area, one very uncommon and one very uncommon to rare.