

Bush friendly neighbours

Coffs Coast Regional Park

COFFS COAST REGIONAL PARK

Coffs Coast Regional Park (CCRP) is a group of coastal reserves stretching from Corindi in the north to Park Beach in the south, within the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr People. It includes 27 kilometres of coastline that encompasses headlands, dune systems and other coastal features and is a vital north-south corridor for native wildlife.

Management of CCRP is a partnership involving the Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board, City of Coffs Harbour (The City) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The City manages the public facilities in the park like picnic areas and walking tracks, while NPWS manages environmental and fire issues.

The park is popular with locals and visitors alike, catering for many recreational activities including swimming, walking and fishing. Private residences that neighbour the park have the potential to influence the park's environmental integrity.

BEING A BUSH FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR

As a neighbour to CCRP, you are in the unique situation of having native bushland at your doorstep. Our protected area system has been established to conserve our natural and cultural heritage and offer sanctuary for native plants and wildlife, and to provide a place for recreation and peace for all the community.

You can help to keep CCRP a special place in your neighbourhood. Native trees and shrubs are an essential component of the landscape and can improve the character of your property. Suitable vegetation provides scenic and environmental amenity and wildlife habitat and softens the impact of the urban environment.

Dogs are not permitted in national parks and nature reserves in NSW, but they are allowed in some areas of CCRP. Supervise your dog at all times and prevent it from disturbing native animals or disrupting other people's enjoyment. Dogs must be on a lead unless otherwise indicated by signage.

ILLEGAL LAND CLEARING FOR VIEWS AND TRACKS

Unapproved native vegetation clearing has degraded CCRP and left it open for weed invasion and erosion. NPWS works with The City via the *CCRP Damaged Vegetation Policy*, aiming to stop this clearing and has targeted key locations with large signage, banners and shipping containers to ensure no gains from illegal vegetation clearing occur. NPWS wishes to promote increased understanding of natural resource degradation issues in the local community and facilitate restoration of damaged areas.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Keep your backyard in your backyard

Please don't expand your backyard into the CCRP which is public land. Gardens, compost bins, outdoor settings, play equipment, clothes lines, fruit trees, and extended lawn areas all reduce the area of public bushland, creating safety hazards and 'unnatural' areas.

These are termed unauthorised encroachments and are not permitted. Encroachments destroy the bushland's regeneration capacity and actively encourage weeds creating ongoing maintenance problems.



Washing line and boat are unauthorised encroachments

2. Asset Protection Zones (APZs)

These may exist at the rear of your property and are fuel reduced (often mown) areas between your residence and the vegetation in the park. APZs are only located in fire prone areas per the CCRP Reserve Fire Management Strategy. By placing personal property in APZs you are not only at risk of being issued a fine but can also impede access for fire fighters and other park users.



An asset protection zone (APZ) adjacent to houses. The extent of the APZ is determined by Rural Fire Service guidelines.

3. Clearing and mowing impacts on the bush

Most people who clear and mow the bush outside of a designated APZ do so to either extend their backyard or to improve their outlook. Without written permission, this is illegal.

Mowing and/or clearing extensive areas of native bush outside of designated APZs reduces biodiversity as it destroys shrub and ground layers. It creates a haven for weeds such as lantana, asparagus fern and Singapore daisy and can lead to erosion.

4. Garden waste goes to the tip or the green bin – NOT THE BUSH

Please ensure that all your lawn clippings, garden waste, sticks and off-cuts go in your compost heap, green bin or are taken to the tip, and not into the park. Garden waste also destroys shrub and ground layers, looks terrible and introduces exotic weeds.

Exotic garden plants such as asparagus ferns, senna, coral berry and Mickey Mouse plant (ochna), all compete with native plants for space, nutrients and water and may lead to smothering or ecosystem changes as they proliferate.

Scan the QR code to find out about Weeds of the North Coast of NSW – a guide to identification and control.



If you have a large area of weeds at the rear of your property it is likely that:

- the area has been previously cleared and allowed to let regrow to weeds
- someone has dumped vegetation and created a weed-friendly environment
- there is an excess water issue, either from street drainage, sewer line or swimming pool water.

5. Grow “bush friendly” plants in your garden

Some garden plants can escape into the bush and become a serious environmental problem. Unfortunately, there are many examples within the park.

Seventy percent of the weeds in Australia were originally planted as garden ornamentals. Weeds cost Australia billions of dollars each year. Please take care to keep vigorous garden plants under control or replace them with something less invasive.

Growing native plants that are endemic to the area will be more tolerant to local climatic conditions and will attract more wildlife, especially birds. Native regeneration can be a slow process; it can take a few years before some native seeds germinate as they are waiting for the right growing conditions.



A bush friendly neighbourhood in Coffs Harbour

BUSH FRIENDLY PLANTS SUITABLE FOR THE COFFS HARBOUR REGION

The following “bush friendly” plants are recommended for planting in properties adjacent to the park. These plants improve the flora and fauna habitat, landscape quality, drought tolerance, plant growth and native bird and animal attraction.

Scan the QR code for a list of recommended plants:



WHERE TO BUY BUSH FRIENDLY PLANTS ON THE COFFS COAST

Coffs Harbour Regional
Landcare Nursery
02 6651 1308

Bellingen Plant Fair
bellingenplantfair.org
0419 218 800

Boggy Creek Natives
0409 599 090

Lacebark Nursery
0427 071 354

Orara Valley Native Plant
Nursery 0457 406 425

Greenbourne/Pineleigh
Wholesale Nursery
02 6586 2117
or 0478 202 610



Banksia integrifolia. Photo: R. Cleary/DPIE

JOIN A LANDCARE GROUP

The NPWS and Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare can show you how to look after the bush beyond your back fence.

NPWS encourages neighbours to assist us to rehabilitate degraded vegetation areas and remove weeds. Neighbours must obtain permission to undertake bush regeneration in CCRP, through joining a Landcare group and working to an approved site plan



A Landcare Group from the Coffs Harbour region

By joining Landcare you can get mentally and physically fit and meet like-minded people in your local area whilst learning about your local environment.

There are many Landcare sites that operate within CCRP so there is sure to be one near you. NPWS and Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare offer full training and equipment. Good results can be achieved when we all work together.

ANY VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN COFFS COAST REGIONAL PARK NEED TO REGISTER VIA LANDCARE:

coffsharbourlandcare.org.au



FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact National Parks and Wildlife Service or Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare:

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COFFS COAST AREA

Phone: (02) 6652 0900

Email: npws.coffscoast@environment.nsw.gov.au

Web: nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

COFFS HARBOUR REGIONAL LANDCARE

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PO Box 1730

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

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Email: chrl@coffslandcare.org.au

Web: coffsharbourlandcare.org.au



Regular volunteers at Landcare site

Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

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R. Cleary/DPIE

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