

Upper Redwood Park 2025

Description of Park Care Area

- The territory covered by the Upper Redwood Park Care Group covers parkland adjacent to Prince Henry Drive from the Bridge Street intersection, down to the lookout known as Lovers Outlook, a distance of around 850 metres.
- The terrain is escarpment land, with relatively confined and narrow areas of gentle slope, giving way to steep embankment.
- Over 250 species of native dry rainforest plants, including ground covers, flowers, shrubs and trees, are represented in the area covered. A near-pristine area of rainforest has been uncovered in a specific area around 80m down the escarpment. This rainforest is growing on rock talus, suited for the long roots of rainforest species such as figs, giant stinging trees, bloodwoods, etc but not suitable for shallow-rooted invasive trees such as privet.
- At the time of commencement of Park Care activity in Sep 2020, severe infestation of Redwood Park adjacent to Prince Henry Drive had occurred over many decades. Privet and lantana had substantially choked off native dry rainforest vegetation, with intertwining of vines making access difficult and slow.
- Progressively work is extending up and down the length of PHD, as well as penetrating further down the escarpment.

Vision 2030

- By 2030, a 60m wide section extending one kilometre down Prince Henry Drive from the Bridge Street intersection down past the lookout known as Lovers Outlook (roughly 6 ha):
 - will be free of privet and lantana, as well as other invasive weeds notably cobbler's pegs, blackberry nightshade, fleabane, climbing asparagus, tree pear and others,
 - will be thriving natural ecosystems, representative of the original dry rainforest margin with flourishing bird and animal life,
 - will have walking trails to enable the enjoyment and experience of the public
 - will require minimal ongoing maintenance (due to persistence in eradicating the seed bank of invasive species)

Maintenance activities:

- Once an area is cleared of invasive privet or lantana, weeds flourish due to additional sunlight, and lack of protective ground cover.

- *Bidens pilosa* (cobblers pegs) seeds can still germinate for up to 5 years, whilst *Solanum nigrum* (blackberry nightshade) can last up to 10 years. Deeper burial in soil can extend life even further, so disturbed soil (eg bandicoots digging) will often result in a flush of weed regrowth.
- Mild winters result in year-round growth and germination of weeds.
- Heavy persistent maintenance is required for an extended period of time until the seed bank is exhausted and regrowth of weeds arrested.
- Broadleaf weeds such as cobblers pegs, blackberry nightshade, and fleabane are sprayed with Starane (fluroxypur). Woody weeds and green panic are sprayed with Glyphosate.
- The most effective control for privet and lantana is applying 50% glyphosate immediately to the stump after cutting at ground level. Both will resprout without herbicide treatment.
- In warmer months, patrolling and spraying is every 2 weeks. Frequency is vital to prevent weeds flowering and seeding.
- In cooler months, germination still occurs, particularly following rain, and patrolling periods may be extended slightly to 3 or 4 week intervals. Spraying is less effective in cooler weather and is best done mid to late morning to optimize plant absorption.
- Around 20-25% of total activity time is generally spent on weed control.

Detail of work undertaken to date

- Sep 2020: Work commenced
- 2021: Roughly 20m-wide strip cleared opposite 342 to 350 PHD
- 2022: Area widened and extended down to opposite 338 PHD
- 2023: Area opposite 338 and 340 cleared 80m down to rainforest
- 2024: Triangular area adjacent the exit gate cleared
- 2025 (to date): Additional 25m to 30m depth clearing from 344 to 350 PHD, plus clearing road reserve adjacent 310 to 318 PHD
- Vigilance is controlling weeds prior to flowering and seeding is yielding dividends with significant reduction in volumes of weeds in maintained areas
- Total area cleared to date is approximately 30,000m² involving 2600+ man-hours of effort
- It is pleasing that during the current year, the group has expanded to 3 regular members who are working in the road reserve near Lovers Outlook

- The group also hosted 6 students plus 2 teachers from Clifford Park Special School in May / June 25. They had a highly satisfying experience whilst aiding the clearing of the road reserve near Lovers Outlook
- The renaming of the 2000m² section of park opposite Lovers Outlook to Dr John Swarbrick Park has been approved-in-principle by the Council, who are now inviting public comment

Plans for coming 12 months:

- Clear (of invasive species) a portion of Prince Henry Drive Park and the adjacent road reserve opposite Lovers Outlook. This area totalling 0.6 ha is heavily infested with lantana, privet, climbing asparagus with patches of cat's claw creeper. Blackberry nightshade, cobblers pegs and stinking roger are also prevalent weeds which require heavy maintenance via spraying. The area is largely level to gently sloping with some loose basalt rock. A feature of this area is the multitude and diversity of mature dry rainforest trees which escaped clearing activities for farming and housing.
- Clear area opposite Robertson Crescent intersection and further up towards Bridge Street. This area is heavily infested with privet. This area is moderate to steep rocky slopes. Whilst presently covered with privet, the natural terrain is sparsely populated with eucalypt and dry rainforest trees with grasses (mainly kangaroo grass and poa).
- Overall, the aim is to clear around 0.8 ha in total of the above areas over the 12-month period.
- The triangular section adjacent to the exit gate was cleared in calendar 2024. It was heavily infested with lantana and privet which is resulting in seedling regrowth. This regrowth, along with green panic grass, requires manual pulling, as it is emerging amongst native ground covers.
- Remaining cleared sections still require vigilant maintenance to prevent flowering and seeding particularly of cobblers pegs, blackberry nightshade and fleabane.

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