

# Toohey Forest - Nathan

Looking for a bushland experience without leaving the city? Toohey Forest is a beautiful 640ha open woodland forest located only 9kms from Brisbane City Centre. The area has been spared from the widespread urban development of South East Queensland by the complicated will left by 19th Century landowner and namesake, James Toohey.

Unique is the word to describe Toohey Forest. Despite its small area, the forest covers several distinct habitat types ranging from remnant rainforest to sandstone areas containing stunning rock formations. The diversity of habitats within the forest has allowed biodiversity to flourish. Not only are there species that are found exclusively in Toohey Forest, there are also many species present that are uncommon to the region.

A pair of binoculars will never go astray in Toohey Forest which is teeming with birdlife. If you're lucky you might even catch a glance of the rare Powerful Owl.



For the native plant lovers Toohey Forest provides specimens in abundance. One of the forest's most interesting residents is the rare plunkett mallee (*Eucalyptus curtisii*). This endemic species is easy to spot in late spring with a spectacular showing of creamy-white flowers. Other floral features include magnificent ground orchids, brightly coloured pea species and an abundance of grass trees.

All the wonders of this forest can be experienced through the walking trails located throughout the forest. The trails range from easy to difficult, so there is something for everyone! Particularly rewarding are the trails leading to the summit of Mt Gravatt and Pegg's Lookout on Toohey Mountain which end with a spectacular view.

To promote community understanding of the forest, the walking trails include a general introduction as well as specific information at locations with trail station markers. Trail guides for the most popular tracks are available from the Griffith University EcoCentre and BCC Information Centres.