

## Heritage Citation



### The Rafting Ground

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 2328 Moggill Road, Brookfield, Queensland 4069
<b>Type of place</b>	Process (other), Reserve
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Lot plan</b>	L239_SP156734
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2001
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

Originally used by timber getters to float logs to the main Brisbane sawmills in the 1860s and 1870s, the rafting ground reserve was gazetted as a park in 1898 when no longer required by the timber industry. The present

reserve, smaller than the first, replaced the original park in 1919. The park was occasionally used by swimmers and fishers until the 1950s, when a local group was formed to bring the park into condition for public use. The Brisbane City Council took over its management in 1976, creating a masterplan to govern its management in 1996. The area provides recreation and a setting for local events, with the name 'The Rafting Ground' commemorating the early use of the area.

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## History

Known as The Rafting Ground since 1997, in 1975 the reserve was named Rafting Ground Park and previously was known unofficially as Moggill Park. The present reserve was originally part of a much larger recreation area which included the original Rafting Ground, an area used to assemble logs from nearby forest for passage to sawmills down the Creek.

An area adjacent to Moggill Creek, The Rafting Ground was the focal point for the local timber industry during the 1860s and 1870s. Timber harvesting was scaled down as the resource was logged out and the rafting site was no longer required by 1898 when the rafting site and surrounds was gazetted as a park. The reserve was cancelled in 1919 and the smaller current reserve was gazetted at the same time. In 1943 the area of the reserve was reduced by a resumption for road widening along Moggill Road.

Until the 1950s the park received occasional use, with people coming to swim or fish in the creek.

In 1959 local residents formed a committee to bring the park into a condition fit for use as a public park. From 1965 the Scout Association used the Reserve for their activities, and with the local committee struggling to maintain the park, the Brisbane City Council took over the management of the Park in 1976. In 1996 a Masterplan was compiled to guide the management and development of the Park.

Along Moggill Creek there were once stands of Hoop Pine. Along the Brisbane River, in the round scrub at the base of Mt Elphinstone and in the top scrub of Upper Brookfield there were other stands of trees including Crows Ash, Silky Oak, Tulipwood, Cedar, Mahogany and Tallowwood as well as Eucalypt hardwoods. Many of these trees were harvested during the 1860s and 1870s, the peak of the timber getting activities in the area.

The only road to the Brisbane sawmills was in poor condition and road haulage was fraught with difficulties. It was found practical and economical to bring felled logs from the scrubs to the banks of Moggill Creek for rafting downstream to the mills. Bullocks and sometimes horses were used to haul wagons loaded with logs from the scrubs to the Rafting Grounds along the track now known as Rafting Ground Road.

Local history remembers some of the bullockies who hauled the timber including Fred Smith, Richard Meddleton, Sam, George and Harry Wilmott, Patrick and James Pacey, George Logan, John and William Brimblecombe and Sam Heathwood. The horse teamsters included the family names of Burton, Huff, Guymer, Logue and Burnett.

Once at the Rafting Grounds, the logs were rolled from the wagons and down the slope to the edge of the creek. Steel pegs hammered into the logs held the chains rafting the logs together. As the tide rose, the rafts were eased into the stream and as the tide ebbed away they floated out and downstream to the sawmills with sawyers on board to steer them. The operation took at least a couple of tides to complete and often a week. During the making tide, the sawyers tied the rafts up to large trees on the riverbank. Local history reports that Patrick Pacey, whose father cut timber around Moggill Creek from 1852, first went downstream on a raft with the sawyers when

he was twelve years old.

Hard and dangerous work, a number of young men were killed in the Brookfield scrubs felling timber with axes and cross-cut saws.

There are now over 60 different species of trees growing at The Rafting Ground. Over 200 hoop pine trees were planted to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988.

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## Description

Twelve kilometres from the centre of Brisbane, Rafting Ground Reserve is a finger of parkland bounded by Moggill Creek with a small frontage to Moggill Road opposite the junction with Pullenvale Road at Brookfield.

The park covers about two hectares of grass and trees surrounded on three sides by Moggill Creek. The higher ground adjacent to Moggill Road is an open eucalypt forest which provides a grassed and shaded setting for BBQ facilities, picnic tables, play equipment, toilet facilities and a carpark. The lower area is grassed and shaded by densely foliated trees. There is stepped access to the Creek in this area.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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#### Historical

##### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history as a rafting ground for the timber harvesting activities conducted in the area in the 1860s and 1870s.

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#### Aesthetic

##### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance as an open grassed and treed area surrounded by a meandering creek.

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## Social

### CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as a place of informal recreation and a setting for community events.

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## Historical association

### CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as it was named to retain a connection with the timber getting activities undertaken through the 1860s and 1870s in the area and recalls the timber workers who cut and hauled the logs.

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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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