

Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve

The Casuarina Coastal Reserve is on Larrakia country, Larrakia traditional owners have cared for it for millennia. Darriba Nungalinya, the Old Man Rock, a Larrakia sacred site, watches over the area.

The Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve have prepared this map for public interest and information. We work to ensure that the natural values of the reserve and the surrounding areas are recognised, protected, enhanced and cared for. Visit www.fccr.org.au

The Reserve currently comprises about 1360 ha of land, managed by the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission. Over 1.4 million human visitors to the reserve every year enjoy eight kilometres of sandy beaches and dunes, dramatic cliffs and a variety of habitats including seagrass meadows, mangrove forests, monsoon vine forest, monsoon rain forest, eucalypt woodlands, paperbark forest, and grassland. 80% of the NT population lives within 30 minutes drive of the reserve.

The Reserve is home to a wide range of plants, insects, reptiles, mammals and birds including many endangered species. Seagrass meadows in the shallow waters off the Casuarina Beach support many species of fish and crabs, six turtle species, and five dolphin species. Endangered animals including sawfish, dugong, and manta rays feed in the seagrass meadows and creeks, and nesting marine turtles, mainly flatbacks, nest on the beaches. The endangered Gouldian finch has visited the area in large numbers in recent years.

The Larrakia Land and Sea Rangers undertake land and sea management including weed control, shorebird and marine animal surveys, water quality testing, wildlife rescue and marine debris removal.

BirdLife Top End offers community activities centred around the conservation of birds and their habitats. More than a quarter of all Australia's bird species - 269 species - have been seen in the Reserve. Volunteers working with BirdLife Top End monitor migratory shorebirds around the Darwin coastline. Up to ten thousand shorebirds use the beaches in this Reserve roosting at high tide and feeding at low tide on 650 different species of molluscs, crustaceans and worms. The area supports more than 1% of the world's population of the critically endangered Great Knot, where they stop during their epic migration of over 20,000 km each year. The critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew can also be spotted on Lee Point and Sandy Creek beaches.

At the beginning and end of each wet season, **BirdLife Top End** organises community engagement events to welcome and farewell the migratory shorebirds for their journeys to and from the Northern Hemisphere.

Many historic military sites can be found in the reserve, including WWII shoreline bunkers. The best preserved are the Sandy Creek Bunker and Watch Post. Two of the twelve Light Anti-Aircraft stations built in the area during the time of the Indonesian 'Confrontation period' in the 1960s can be seen on either side of Lee Point Road.

The Creek to Creek Walk offers shared walking and bike trails stretching from the Rapid Creek footbridge to Buffalo Creek.

The reserve also includes a separate 6km of dedicated Mountain Biking Trails of different levels of difficulty.

The Darwin Ozfish chapter is a group of recreational fishers working to monitor, protect and rehabilitate fish habitat.



The internationally recognised Shoal Bay Key Biodiversity Area stretches from the beach east of Lee Point/Binybara across Shoal Bay to Tree Point on the way to Gunn Point. It is an area made up of mostly muddy and sandy coast with mangroves fringing the saltmarsh and plains.

- Dogs are allowed on Casuarina beach.
- No dogs are allowed on the beach east of Binybara in the Key Biodiversity Area.
- In other areas a leash is required.

Any disturbance by dogs of migratory shorebirds compromises their ability to travel the vast distances back to their breeding grounds.

The Casuarina Coastal Reserve Land Care Group works to revegetate two sites in the Reserve - the 'Beach block' and the 'Moth block'. Volunteers meet monthly and enjoy caring for the natural values by planting, watering, weeding and learning about the local bush.

At the 'Moth Block' close to the Hospital, they grow and tend host plants for the enormous but endangered Atlas moth.

In 2022 Parks and Wildlife and community volunteers planted over 600 Casuarina trees to replace a forest that was destroyed by wildfire. Arson is an ongoing threat to the natural values of the Reserve. Quick action can limit damage from uncontrolled fires, so visitors are encouraged to phone 000 if they see an unattended fire.

Keep Top End Coasts Healthy works with the community, stakeholders and government to promote the health of Top End coasts including the Reserve.

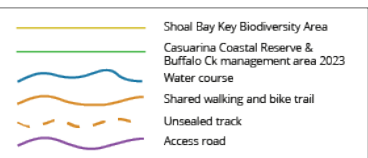
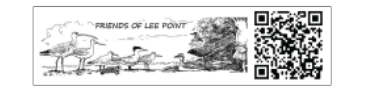
The Rapid Creek Land Care Group works to revegetate and rehabilitate the bush along Rapid Creek from its catchment area which includes the Darwin Airport down to Gurumbai, its mouth at Nightcliff.

Charles Darwin University has devoted an area of bush adjacent to the coastal Reserve, the 'CDU Casuarina campus Savanna block', where ecologists collect internationally significant long-term scientific data. The site, along with the CDU Indigenous dry rainforest Arboretum, are important native animal refuges and critical to the reserve's long corridor of networked habitats.

Royal Darwin Hospital Campus Greening Volunteers have planted nearly 1000 native trees and shrubs around the RDH adjacent to the Reserve. The project highlights species of Larrakia cultural significance and provides restful shade and beauty for hospital patients, visitors and staff. All these plants assist native animals - birds, insects, mammals etc - to thrive and enhance local habitats through and around the Reserve.

The **Planning Action Network** is a volunteer community group working for better urban and rural planning in the Northern Territory including the CCR.

Friends of Lee Point work on saving the natural beauty and biodiversity of Lee Point (Binybara) peninsula.



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