Folland Park

Bush For Life site in partnership with the Pt. Adelaide Enfield Council

History

Folland Park, owned by the Pt Adelaide & Enfield Council, is a significant remnant of the mallee and native pine woodland that once covered much of the Adelaide Plains. The 3.5 hectares of protected scrub is all that remains of the 8 ha originally set aside for conservation in the 1840s by Charles Folland, the first settler of the district.

Folland Park was used for grazing between 1949 and 1955, and thereafter for various recreational activities. In 1982, a survey showed that the number of indigenous plant species present in the park had dropped from 61 to just 20. One of the biggest problems to affect the park, and one common to all remnant vegetation around Adelaide, is weed infestation.

Following the establishment of a Heritage Agreement in 1989, a 2.1 metre fence was erected around the boundary, restricting public access to the park. Around the same time, a group of volunteers, members of Trees For Life, began working on weed control in the park.

Bush For Life

In 1995, Trees For Life formed a partnership with what was then the Enfield Council and began conducting targeted bushcare work in Folland Park. This program, which later became known as Bush For Life, matches trained volunteer bushcarers with sites that need special attention. Using minimal disturbance bush regeneration techniques, the team of dedicated carers has gradually made a big improvement to the park, ridding some areas of weeds and thereby encouraging 'lost' indigenous plants to regenerate from the seed-bank. By the mid 1990s the number of indigenous species had once again risen to around 60.

In addition to the carers visiting the park on a regular basis, Bush For Life also runs regular group activities in Folland Park where the carers come along and work together with the support of their Bush For Life Regional Coordinator, sharing information and focusing on particular issues.

Bush For Life is a program of Trees For Life

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Trees For Life

Trained Community Volunteers Taking Care of Bushland

Flora

From historical accounts we know that in the 1800s the area had dense stands of *Callitris* and was known as 'The Pine Forest'. *Callitris gracilis* (Native Pine) is still present but in lower densities. The canopy plants are the mallees *Eucalyptus porosa*, *E. socialis* and *E. dumosa*, and there are also small numbers of *Myoporum platycarpum* (false Sandalwood) and *Pittosporum angustifolium* (Native Apricot). The understorey is dominated by *Senna artemisiodes* and a mixture of acacias, and the ground layer consists mostly of various chenopods and grasses, with native grasses, daisies and lilies making a comeback.

Fauna

The original mammal fauna of the Folland Park area would have included echidnas, kangaroos and bandicoots but these have long ago disappeared under the pressures of urban development. It is likely that possums and bats still exist in the area and use the park. There is a significant fox population in and around the park that needs to be regularly monitored and controlled, and cats are also likely to be a problem for native fauna. Despite the issues affecting the park due to its urban surrounds, it is still a valuable refuge for many native birds, reptiles and invertebrates. Many of the old mallee trees contain numerous hollows suitable for our native animals. Keep a look out for sleepy lizards, skinks, bearded dragons, rosellas, pardalotes, wattlebirds, lorikeets, falcons, honeyeaters, native bees, butterflies, ants, spiders and beetles.

***Comesperma volubile* – the love creeper**

This delicate, twining creeper is now very rare on the Adelaide Plains. In fact, the two individual plants occurring in Folland Park may be the last representatives of their species on the Plains. The flowers with two mauve-blue petals can be seen in spring.

***Senna artemisiodes* - Fine leaf desert senna**

Belonging to the legume family, this shrub dominates the understorey in much of the reserve. Thought to be an 'increaser' under cattle grazing pressure, it is possible that the densities seen today are a result of the park's short grazing history.

Revegetation

In the early to mid 1990s a buffer zone was planted using plants propagated from Folland Park seed. The buffer, adjacent to the park on land belonging to the Enfield Cemetary, was expanded in 2005 as part of the SA Urban Forests Million Trees Program. Natural regeneration has been recorded occurring in the buffer zone. This buffer site is now being used as South Australia's first natural burial ground, where people can choose to be laid to rest among the native vegetation with minimal environmental impact

Indigenous Species List

Acacia acinacea
Acacia ligulata
Acacia pycnantha
Aristida behriana
Arthropodium fimbriatum
Atriplex semibaccata
Atriplex suberecta
Austrodanthonia caespitosa
Austrodanthonia sp.
Austrodanthonia tenuior
Austrostipa curticoma
Austrostipa drummondii
Austrostipa flavescens
Austrostipa multispiculis
Austrostipa nodosa
Austrostipa platychaeta
Boerhavia dominii
Bursaria spinosa
Calandrinia eremaea
Callitris gracilis
Calostemma purpureum
Chenopodium pumilio
Chloris truncata
Clematis microphylla var. microphylla-
Comesperma volubile
Cotula australis
Crassula sieberiana complex
Dianella revoluta var. revoluta
Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spatulata
Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa
Enneapogon nigricans
Eremophila deserti
Eucalyptus dumosa
Eucalyptus porosa
Eucalyptus socialis
Goodenia pinnatifida
Hardenbergia violacea
Hypoxis glabella var. glabella
Lomandra densiflora
Lomandra effusa
Lysiana exocarpi ssp. exocarpi
Maireana brevifolia
Maireana enchylaenoides
Myoporum platycarpum
Oxalis perennans
Pittosporum angustifolium
Rhagodia parabolica
Salsola kali
Scaevola albida
Senecio pinnatifolius
Senecio quadridentatus
Senna artemisioides ssp. filifolia
Senna Stackhousia monogyna
Teucrium racemosum
Thysanotus baueri
Vittadinia blackii
Vittadinia cervicularis var. cervicularis-
Vittadinia gracilis

***Arthropodium fimbriatum* - nodding vanilla lily**

The lily *Arthropodium fimbriatum* is increasing in numbers in areas where targeted treatment of soursob has taken place.

Threats to indigenous biodiversity

Annual weed grasses (eg *Bromus* spp., wild oats, veldt) are an issue in the park, as are soursobs (*Oxalis pes-caprae*). Woody weeds are now largely under control, with only a small effort required to remove new seedlings as they emerge. A small number of herbaceous weeds species such as burr medic and mustard weed are problematic in some areas. The team of bush carers working at Folland Park have established several core 'control' areas and weed fronts. They regularly patrol these areas applying Bush For Life techniques to improve and expand them.

The likely significant impact of foxes and cats on vertebrate fauna populations in the park and surrounding areas is also a concern. Feral honeybee colonies sometimes establish in hollows within the reserve and these are dealt with by the council if necessary. Starlings are known to compete with native birds for hollows and food resources, and are likely to be one of the main dispersers of weed seed in the area.

From time to time, other problems such as rubbish dumping and vandalism have an impact on the park but in general the park is well looked after by bushcarers and local residents.

Progress made so far

Weeds that have been eradicated from the park include olive, boxthorn and bridal creeper. However, due to the continual dispersal of these weeds into the park from nearby areas, the carers remain vigilant for new outbreaks using careful spot regeneration work.

Bush For Life bushcarers working on and enjoying the beautiful vegetation at Folland Park Reserve

Supporters:

The Bush For Life program is supported by the South Australian Government through the Adelaide & Mt Lofty and Murray Darling Basin NRM Boards and the Native Vegetation Council, participating local governments, Trees For Life members and donors, and the federal government's Caring For Our Country Coastcare program.

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