



Norman Creek, Brisbane

Norman Creek joins the Brisbane River in the suburb of East Brisbane, flowing under Lytton Road. The creek has a catchment area of 29.8 km² and rises on the southern boundary of Mt Gravatt (192.8m) in Toohey State Forest. Once the creek leaves that source it moves north through residential areas, although there is little water movement except for storm water runoff.

Once upon a time this area was a maze of swamps, with dense hoop pine and vine forest stretching up to Galloways Hill to the east. Smaller creeks have been straightened (1890's) and converted to drains, and much low lying land reclaimed. Still subject to inundation in flood conditions, these areas cannot be built on, and are open space, parklands and sporting fields.

The area at the mouth of Norman Creek is tidal for about 4.5 kilometres up to Old Cleveland Road. Half a kilometre up from where Norman Creek joins the Brisbane River is the Heath Park Canoe Facility, a launch pontoon in the park off Hilton Street. There are rollers on the concrete pontoon to facilitate launch and retrieval, and although the pontoon rises and falls with the tide, there is still a sizeable step up to the platform.

The canoeist has a choice of launching off the side into the creek, or using a "chute" that is a little more friendly for kayakers. Twenty metres left along the bank, downstream, is a wide concrete launch ramp

Canoeists have the option of paddling upstream from the pontoon (to the right facing the water) or downstream to the wide world of the Brisbane River. As this environment is salt water and mangroves, it should come as no surprise that there are occasionally biting sandflies.



Feet in the kayak, sitting down on the pontoon



A hand either side supporting the weight



Sit down in the boat (reverse moves to exit, don't stand up in the boat)



Heath Park pontoon



Heath Park pontoon, looking upstream



New Farm across the Brisbane River, mouth of Norman Creek



Heath Park pontoon, downstream view, late