

GREEN HEART RANGER

Warril Parkland



The First Nations People

Running along the western boundary of Warril Parkland, Oxley Creek is known by the First Nations (Aboriginal) People as Benarrawa. For centuries, the First Nations People used Oxley Creek as a connecting pathway between their homelands around Moreton Bay and their tribal meeting places in the ranges and mountains to the west of Brisbane. Walking and camping beside the creek gave First Nations People direct access to fresh water. The fresh water of the creek also attracted animals, which provided a food source for the travellers.

Children often camped together with their families as they travelled along Oxley Creek. The children were taught games that would help to develop their skills and abilities for use later in life. Purru Purru was a game played with a kangaroo skin ball. The ball would be rolled along the ground and players would take turns throwing their spears at the ball. This game was used to improve children's spear throwing skills on a moving target. As the children became older they could use their spear throwing skills to hunt for food.

Warril, in local First Nations Peoples language means creek or watercourse. The name - Warril Parkland - acknowledges the unique cultural and spiritual relationship of past and present First Nations People to Oxley Creek and the lands within the park.

Read the information above and then answer the questions below.

a) What name do First Nations People give to Oxley Creek?

b) Why did First Nations People camp beside Oxley Creek as they travelled?

c) What skill did the game Purru Purru help children improve?

d) What is the name for creek or watercourse in the language of the local First Nations People?



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