

Totara Park

Find out more: phone 09 301 0101
or visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



How to find us:



Entry to Totara Park is from Wairere Road, Redoubt Road and the lookout point off Goodwood Drive/Eugenia Rise.

Car parking is available at each entrance to the park.



Homestead

Converted from the original farm homestead within Totara Park, Beaufords Reception Lounge is a popular venue for weddings and other functions.

Lookout

The lookout off Eugenia Rise gives sweeping views from Rangitoto Island to the north, Manukau city centre, McLaughlins Mountain, and the distant Manukau Heads in the west, over to the Bombay Hills in the south.

Auckland Botanic Gardens

Totara Park is located next door to Auckland Botanic Gardens and you can access the gardens via the walking trail beside the Puhinui Stream.

Alcohol

A liquor ban is in place in the car parks and also at, and within 10 metres of the children's play areas. Check Auckland Council's website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for more information.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome within designated areas at Totara Park, provided they are kept under control by their owners. Dogs are not permitted in the main picnic area off Wairere Road or near children's playgrounds. Dogs must be kept on a leash in all bush areas.

Volunteer groups

Friends of Totara Park – focus on ecology

If you would like to get involved in projects organised by the Friends of Totara Park, please contact us on 09 301 0101.

Totara Park Mountain Bike Club

www.totraparkmtb.com



Welcome to Totara Park

One of south Auckland's premier parks, Totara Park, stretching over 216 hectares, has something for everyone.

Enjoy a tranquil, country atmosphere just minutes away from the Manukau centre, relax and unwind amongst the superb flora and fauna or stroll through rolling farmland, taking in views from Glenbrook and Manukau Heads to Rangitoto.

Those in a more active mood can make the most of the tennis, swimming and barbecue area, trek the bridle trail or explore the many different walking tracks through the large stands of native bush and farmland.

Adventure playground

An adventure playground, designed to reflect traditional kiwi back yard tree huts and sandpits, will keep the kids amused for hours! Local Parks' award-winning adventure playground is located next to the picnic area at the Wairere Road entrance. There is also a second playground just a short walk from the main picnic area along the main bridle trail.

Swimming pool

Cool off during the summer months in the free supervised outdoor swimming and paddling pools.

Walks and bridle trails

A range of shared walkways and bridle trails can be found throughout the park.

A popular route, giving extensive views across farmland, is the three kilometre farm track extending from Redoubt Road car park and along an elevated ridge. The trail then heads down through rolling hills, eventually reaching the Wairere Road picnic area and car park. Wooden stiles are provided for access over the remaining farmland.



Bush tracks

Several pleasant bush tracks can be found on the reserve, ranging from 20 to 45 minutes walking time. All routes are shown on the information board at the Wairere Road entrance. The main bush walks, which meander through the gully of the Puhinui Stream, are signposted off the right side of the bridle trail from Wairere Road. The walks are relatively easy with steps provided at steep points and footbridges across streams. One track connects the main picnic area with Everglade Drive, at the rear of Auckland Botanic Gardens.

For those wanting to undertake a longer, more strenuous walk, the Puhinui Stream Forest Trail is a well-signposted trail linking the forest walking tracks between Totara Park and Auckland Botanic Gardens. The full trail takes approximately two hours to walk and is four kilometres long.

Mountain bike tracks

In the north eastern section of the park, there are a range of newly established mountain bike tracks. These tracks have been constructed with the help of the Auckland Mountain Biking Association and cater for a wide range of abilities, including families as well as expert riders.



Tennis court

The tennis court is freely available all year round. If other people are waiting, please try and limit matches to 30 minutes.

Picnics and barbecues

You are welcome to bring your own barbecue to the park. Picnic tables are located around the main picnic area off Wairere Road.

Vegetation

The native bush at Totara Park is an example of the rich variety of vegetation that once covered the south Auckland area. Large native tree species include pūriri, tōtara, rimu, taraire, tawa, kahikatea and kauri. Along the bush walks, many specimens are labelled for easy identification. You will find māpou, māhoe, thick clusters of nikau palms and tree ferns. Lower down, kawakawa, putaputawētā and mingimingi can be found. The bush floor supports many types of ferns, mosses and fungi. Vines of puawānanga, a native clematis, provide profuse displays of white starry flowers on treetops in spring.

The network of streams throughout the farm park are being replanted with native species as part of an ongoing regeneration programme.

Birdlife

Totara Park is home to a variety of bird habitats. Amongst the native bush you may hear or see pigeon (kererū), shining cuckoo (pīpīwharau), morepork (ruru), fantail (pīwakawaka), grey warbler (riroriro), tūi and kākā.

The open pasture is home to pheasant, harrier hawk (kāhu), pipit (pīhoihoi), yellowhammer, chaffinch and starling. Near streambeds or wetlands you may see pūkeko, kingfisher (kōtare), mallard duck, pied shags (kāruhiruhi) and black shags (kawau).

History

Totara Park was purchased in an undeveloped state by Mr Gillies from the Manurewa Land Company in 1925. Most of the land was cleared using bullocks and then stocked with sheep. During this time the wooden portion of the homestead was built. In 1936, Sir James Gunson, a former mayor of Auckland, bought the property and added the concrete part to the homestead. The next owner, Mr Charles Prevost, made further improvements including the tennis court, swimming pool and stable block. The council purchased the property in 1966 on the death of Mr Prevost. Part of the condition of sale required the homestead and bush to remain in public ownership.

Mountain bike tracks

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|---|--------------|---|------------------|
|  | Pony express |  | Kids' loop |
|  | Zebzag |  | Fatman's revenge |
|  | DIC |  | Easiest |
|  | Gutsa |  | Easy |
|  | Challenger |  | Intermediate |
|  | Scrubber |  | Advanced |
|  | Anaconda | | |



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|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Main entrance + car park |  | Picnic area |
|  | Footpath entrance |  | Wildlife |
|  | Swimming pool |  | Dogs on leash |
|  | Puhinui Stream Forest Trail |  | Barbecue area |
|  | Walkway/bridle track |  | Tennis courts |
|  | Puhinui Stream |  | Lookout |
|  | Toilets |  | Playground |
|  | Beaufords |  | Horsing |