

## How to get there

113km or 90 minute drive from downtown Auckland.

Journey north on SH1 to Wellsford and turn left onto Port Albert Road. Turn right at the intersection with SH16 (the park is sign posted from this point) and head towards Port Albert. Turn left at the junction of Port Albert and Wharehine Roads. Follow Wharehine Road for a further 6km and turn right onto Run Road, Ātiu Creek Regional Park is 5km on the right.

## Please take your rubbish home

Your parks provide open space, fresh air, a home for native plants and animals, clean water, beauty and inspiration. Help keep them this way.

- No bins
- No rubbish
- Better parks
- 

## Dogs

### Park and foreshore areas:



**Prohibited at all times.** This covers all areas of parkland and adjoining foreshore. This includes dogs inside vehicles.

### Estuary:



**Prohibited at all times.** This covers all adjoining waterways from the Oruawharo river and estuary to the park. This includes dogs inside vehicles.

### Campground:



**Prohibited at all times.**

## Farming

Visitors are welcome to wander through the paddocks containing farm animals but should comply with safety signs or restrictions especially during the lambing season. At this time keep your distance from mothers and their offspring. Leave gates as you find them.

## Horse riding

A horse riding pass is required. See the map for horse riding tracks details. See campgrounds and other accommodation under the Park Facilities heading for details on staying overnight with your horse.



## Auckland Council manages 27 regional parks

For more information on any of these parks:  
phone 09 301 0101 or visit [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
When on the park you can use the phone at the information board in the main car park.

### Protect **kauri** for future generations



**SCRUB** all soil off your footwear and gear every time you enter or leave an area with kauri.



**SPRAY** with disinfectant after you have removed all soil.



**STAY** on track and off kauri roots.

# Ātiu Creek Regional Park



20-PRO-0811



## Ātiu Creek Regional Park

Located on the Okahukura (Taporapora) Peninsula, Ātiu Creek Regional Park was officially opened in 2008. At 843 hectares it is one of the Auckland Council's largest regional parks.

This park was gifted by Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat, so that the public might always enjoy access to this part of the Kaipara Harbour. The QEII National Trust open space covenant, will protect the natural and cultural heritage of this land forever. Rolling pasture, majestic stands of rare and ancient native forest, wetlands and panoramic harbour views make Ātiu Creek an ideal place to visit.

## Plants, animals and birds

More than a third of Ātiu Creek Regional Park is covered by mature and regenerating native forest. Large old kauri, totara, pūriri and pōhutukawa can be found on the ridges and coastal reaches. Regenerating kānuka forest, wetlands and estuarine mangroves contrast with exotic species like cypress and cedar.

Native pigeons (kererū), moreporks (ruru), fantails (piwakawaka), grey warblers (riroriro) and tui live in the forest and scrublands and white-faced herons, banded rails (moho-pereru), kingfishers (kōtare) and fernbirds (mātātā) inhabit the pasture, shoreline and salt marshes. The reservoir harbours a few black swans, paradise shelducks (pūtangitangi), and NZ dabchicks (weweia), and the rare brown teal (pāteke) is an occasional visitor.

With a farmed area of 340 hectares, this is the largest farm park in the council network. Many of the paddocks are named after distinctive features or people who have shaped the development of the farm.



## History

The area has a long history of human occupation extending back at least six centuries. Tangata whenua of this land are sub-tribal groups of Te Uri o Hau and Ngāti Whatua, in particular the people associated with nearby Oruawharo Marae. Their stories are told in the carvings of the pou kaitiaki that watch over sacred sites and stand guardian over all who visit the park.

There are numerous archaeological sites including several large pā (fortifications) which defended the strategically important Opou walking and canoe portage between the north and south Kaipara.

The whole of the Okahukura peninsula was purchased by Thomas Fitzgerald in 1877. The remaining stands of timber were milled and the property developed into an unfenced grazing run. Kauri gum was dug throughout the area and oyster farming was briefly undertaken in the adjacent Oruawharo River.

The land was purchased by young British-born Pierre Chatelanat in 1951. Much of the block was sold to the government for development as returned soldier's farms. An extensive programme of land clearance, fencing, roading, tree planting and building was carried out by Pierre, and then by his staff. The property was gifted in 2006.



## Park facilities

### Prime picnic spots

With over 800 hectares of park it is easy to find a spot to picnic with friends and family at Ātiu Creek Regional Park. Feel free to bring your own gas barbecue. No open fires permitted.

Drinking water is limited to two taps on the northern side of the Oruawharo River Trail. For actual locations, see other side of this brochure.

Groups of over 75 people are only allowed under special conditions and require a permit.

### Campgrounds

Located near Solomon's Bay is the only campground in the regional parks network where you can stay overnight with your horse. Conditions apply.

Tents and all other modes of camping, up to 8 metres in length, are allowed. The overnight horse paddock is alongside the campground with a horse loading area outside the campground as horses are not allowed in the campground. Some sections of road are steep and require a suitable vehicle if towing.

### Staying overnight in selected car parks

Campervans, vehicle units and caravans with a Self-Containment Certificate (SCC) can stay overnight in an approved SCC carpark. Conditions apply.

### Other accommodation

Extend your stay at Ātiu Creek Regional Park by booking a few nights at the large Courtyard House. This is the only bach in the regional parks network where you can stay overnight with your horse, conditions apply. The overnight horse paddocks are alongside the bach.

## Feature tracks and trails

These trails and tracks are multi-use two-way farm tracks, shared by walkers, mountain bikers, horse riders, park vehicles, sheep and cattle. For your safety keep to the left and be aware of other users. **Note: colours correspond to painted marker posts on each track.**

### Oruawharo River Trail - - - -

**2.5–3 hours return, 7.8km**

This loop trail can be walked or biked in both directions. Note most of the trail is shared with horse riders. It allows you to explore the whole park and provides great views of the park, the Kaipara Harbour and plentiful picnic spots. The trail can be extended by taking the side trail to Ti Tree Point.

### Reservoir Walk - - - -

**1.5–2 hours return, 5km**

This pleasant loop starts from the car park, passing the pou kaitiaki, and turns off below the pā passing the reservoir, a great spot for picnicking and bird watching. From the reservoir return via the Clearfell Track.

### Kauri Point Track - - - -

**1 - 1.5 hours return, 3.7km**

A multi-use track that loops around Kauri Point. Fitted with mountain bike/buggy ramps around the whole loop.

### Ti Tree Point Trail - - - -

**20 minutes one way, 1km**

A short side trail leads out to Ti Tree Point from the intersection with the Oruawharo River Trail. It provides great views of the Oweka Tapu pou, Solomon's Bay and Ātiu Creek inlet. The park opening plaque can be found here.

### Clearfell Track - - - -

**45 minutes one way, 1.8km**

This track connects points on the Oruawharo River Trail offering alternative loop options.

### Horse riding tracks - - - -

Tracks start from the horse-float parking off Run Road, 600m past the main park entrance. With 15km of shared tracks, riders can enjoy a variety of easy and challenging rides. Riders are free to ride in any of the farm paddocks the horse riding tracks go through. Riders require a horse riding pass.

### Mountain bikes – one way tracks only

Pump Track - - - - 500 metres return  
Down Hill - - - - 1km

Nestled through the pine forest there are two new mountain bike tracks, both start from the car park just past the toilet block. A learners/family Pump Track that returns to the start, and the other following the Pump Track for a while and then turning off on to a medium grade, down hill track to the bottom of the valley, returning via the Clearfell Track, or go on to any number of tracks or trail loops with different challenge levels. Take note of any track or seasonal restrictions.

### No mountain bikes or horses on Heretoka Pā

### Orienteering

Explore the park with the challenge of finding control points along the way. Grab an orienteering brochure from the notice board. Please stay out of restricted areas.



### Key

- Campground
- Cottage
- Disabled access
- Drinking water
- Gate, may need horse riding key to access
- Historic site
- Horse riding
- Information
- Lookout
- Mountain biking
- Nesting birds
- Parking
- Phone to contact ranger
- Self-containment Certificate (SCC) carpark
- Toilets
- Walking
- Woolshed
- No dogs
- No vehicle access
- Authorised vehicle access
- Roads
- Streams
- Parkland
- Bush
- Wetland
- Campground
- Non parkland
- Over night horse paddock

## Ranger recommendations

Tips on how to make the most of your visit to Ātiu Creek Regional Park.

### If you have two hours...

Find your way to the Heretoka Pā site, enjoying the fantastic views along the way. Try heading to the reservoir for a spot of tranquil bird watching or wander down to the woolshed.

### If you have half a day...

Don't miss the chance to head out to see the Oweka Tapu pou in its beautiful surrounds overlooking Solomon's Bay. Take in more fabulous views of the Kaipara Harbour by extending your route and taking the side trail to Ti Tree Point. Or grab an orienteering map from the notice board and challenge yourself to find as many controls as you can.

### If you have a full day...

Explore the park at your leisure on foot, by bike or horse. Pack a picnic and find the perfect spot to relax, enjoy and escape. There are plenty of track and trail choices that can be combined to provide a full day adventure.