



This self-guided walk starts from the main entrance at the end of Totara Ave past volcanic rock formations and follows a looping path through native bush.

‘Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints’

‘Haria ko ngā maharatanga anake, waiho ko ngā tapuae anake’.

Local history and volcanic rock formations

The land here was originally settled by Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāti Pou.

The name Roosevelt came from the Roose family who emigrated from Cornwall in 1859 and settled in the area. In 1921 the Roose family sold 27 acres to the local council with the wish that it remain as a reserve to be enjoyed by future generations.

During World War 2, American troops camped on the east side of the park. After the war the area was used as a transit camp for local families due to a housing shortage.

Rooseville Park contains a southern portion of the tuff ring of the Colin Lawrie Fields Crater. This is one of the best preserved sections of a tuff ring in the South Auckland Volcanic Field that extends from Waiuku to Bombay. Tuff rings are formed by explosions caused by hot magma coming into contact with cold groundwater. A tuff ring forms as fragments of bedrock and ash fall to the ground around a volcanic vent. The rock layers are a result of pyroclastic flow, with larger rocks that have been embedded as they were ejected from the crater. Over time the volcanic layers have been covered with moss, lichen and small ferns.

Restoration and conservation

Much of Roosevelt park is covered in mature and regenerating native bush and is considered the most significant stand of forest in Pukekohe today. Auckland Council and a team of volunteers have planted several hundred seedlings to help enhance and widen the forest habitat.

Rabbits need to be controlled as they damage young saplings. Other pests including rats and possums are also monitored and trapped because they eat the seeds, fruit and leaves of native plants and threaten native bird populations.

Take a closer look at a pūriri tree

A large pūriri tree is marked on the map. It is riddled with holes that have been created by mokoroa (pūriri moth caterpillars). You might find circular patches on the trunk or a branch that have caterpillars inside that have yet to emerge. The silky coverings of their tunnels are very fragile so be careful not to disturb them. Adult moths have a wingspan of up to 15cm and most commonly emerge between October and December. Find out more about the pūriri moth by visiting nzacfactsheets.landcareresearch.co.nz.

Look out for epiphytes

As you walk through the forest, take time to observe the different forest layers and the ways in which plants are adapted to find sunlight. Light is needed by plants to photosynthesize, the process by which plants make their own food using light energy, water and carbon dioxide. Plants that find an opening in the canopy and receive more sunlight can grow faster than others. Epiphytes and vines such as kiekie, mokimoki (fragrant fern), northern rātā and kahakaha (perching lily) climb or grow on the trunks and branches of other plants to help them reach the sunlight.

For more information on the structure of conifer-broadleaf forests visit teara.govt.nz/en/conifer-broadleaf-forests.



Get to know your native plants

Rakau Rangatira	Chiefly Trees
Tū Teitei I te Wao Nui	Standing Tall in the Forest
Ki te Kore Koutou	Without you
Mā Wai e Mihi te Rā	Who will greet the Sun

As you wander along the tracks you will see a range of native trees including pūriri, tōtara, rimu, taraire, kahikatea and karaka. The wood of many native trees was highly valued by European settlers to make furniture, fence posts, building supports, railway sleepers, telegraph poles and much more. Traditional uses by Māori include: the soot of kahikatea heartwood used in tāmoko (traditional tattooing); the inner bark of rimu applied to burns; and large tōtara carved to make waka.

Tōtara are dioecious, meaning they have separate male and female trees. In autumn, the female trees produce a green seed that sits in a juicy red base, this was a valued food source for Māori. Mature tōtara take over 100 years to reach 30m tall. A tree that had been selected to make a waka would have been felled using stone axes with the help of fires set near the base of the trunk. The huge log was hollowed out with stone tools and fire, before being further shaped and carved using greenstone chisels. A special ceremony would have been performed before removing a tree to give thanks to Tāne, the god of the forest.

Kawakawa is one of the many plants people have traditionally used for medicinal purposes. The sweet fruits are eaten by kererū and Māori sometimes added them to food after removing the small seeds. The peppery leaves could be used to make tea and brewed to make beer.

A number of native plants are useful as weaving materials for making clothing, building shelter and catching and carrying food for example, nīkau, harakeke, tī kōuka and kiekie. In addition to providing useful weaving material, nīkau leaves could also provide an emergency source of food. The immature leaves at the heart of the palm could be eaten raw or cooked; they were also used medicinally to ease childbirth. Although birds such as kererū, kākā and kākāriki feed on the red fruit, it's mostly made up of hard seed and so not tasty for us to eat.

Bird Watching

The bush provides habitat for a variety of native bird species. You are likely to hear the tuneful song of tūī, they have two voice boxes that enable them to produce a melody of complex ringing sounds, clicks and whistles. Pīwakawaka (fantails) have short sharp repetitive cheeping calls. Riroriro (grey warblers) are more often heard than seen – their song starts with three squeaks and then becomes a long wavering warble. You may hear the noisy chattering of eastern rosella or rainbow lorikeets. These are non-native birds originally from Australia; they threaten our native birds as they compete with them for food and nest sites. At night you would likely to hear the sound of ruru (morepork).

Visit doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds to listen to birdcalls and nzbirdsonline.org.nz is a great tool for helping to identify what you see.

How you can help look after Roseville Park

On your way back to the park entrance you might like to reflect on the things you've discovered on your walk today, including how people can help to protect the biodiversity of forest ecosystems. One important way to increase the number of our native species is to control pests including possums, rats, ferrets, weasels, stoats and hedgehogs that cause havoc in forest ecosystems. Forests with good pest control have higher populations of native animals and a greater diversity of plants. Visit predatorfreenz.org or pestdetective.org.nz to find out how you could help.

Top tips for visiting

- This walk has been designed to take 1.5 hours at a moderate pace.
- Bring a wildlife guide to help identify what you see.
- Insect repellent could be handy to avoid mosquito bites.

To find out how to get involved with projects within the park please email: mylocalpark@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

To report a problem visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-it or call **09 301 0101**.

