

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

Open sanctuary areas:



Prohibited at all times. This covers all areas of the open sanctuary, parkland, campgrounds, foreshore and areas adjoining to the entrance of the park. This includes dogs inside vehicles.

Beach:



Prohibited at all times. This covers all areas of the beaches adjoining Tāwharanui Regional Park.



Auckland Council manages 27 regional parks

For more information on any of these parks:

phone 09 301 0101 or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

When on the park you can use the phone at the park office.

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.

20-PRO-0811

Tāwharanui Regional Park



Tāwharanui
Open Sanctuary
Society Inc



Tāwharanui Regional Park

Set on a remote peninsula, Tāwharanui Regional Park boasts some of the Auckland region's most beautiful white sand beaches, rolling pastures, shingled bays, native coastal forest and regenerating wetlands. It includes the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary and the Tāwharanui Marine Reserve which borders the northern coast line. The 588-hectare regional park was New Zealand's first integrated open sanctuary (mainland island) where farming, public recreation and conservation of native species combine.

The name Tāwharanui refers to "the abundant edible bracts of the kiekie vine". The iconic Anchor Bay is named after the anchor of the Phoenix, a vessel wrecked on the Tāwharanui coastline in 1879.

Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary

The vision for Tāwharanui Regional Park is to create and maintain an open sanctuary that integrates conservation with recreation and farming; free from plant and animal pests; where native plants, birds and animals can live and breed successfully. A 2.5km coast to coast pest-proof fence keeps pests out of the open sanctuary. A pest eradication and monitoring programme ensures we maintain a pest-free haven for native species.

How can you help?

Visitors to Tāwharanui can protect the open sanctuary in a number of ways. Before you enter the park, check your vehicles and camping gear to ensure there are no rodents hidden anywhere. Report sightings of rodents or other animal pests to the duty ranger.

Tāwharanui Marine Reserve

The Tāwharanui Marine Reserve borders the northern coastline. Yours to explore, the marine reserve provides a wonderful opportunity for diving or snorkelling in an unspoilt underwater environment. In return we ask you to help us safeguard this by observing the no fishing and no taking rules.

Plants, animals and birds

Significant restoration and planting has been done with the help of volunteers and much more is planned. North Island brown kiwi, takahē, bellbird, North Island robin, whitehead, New Zealand dotterel, reef heron, spotless crane, pateke, kakariki, saddleback and bittern are all flourishing behind the fence. More species will be reintroduced in the future.

History

Māori lived in this area for more than 800 years. Until the 1870s the park was occupied by a small hapū (sub-tribe) of the Te Kawerau people called Ngāti Raupō.

Tāwharanui provided a rich variety of marine and forest resources, symbolised by the saying: "He whā tāwhara ki uta; he kiko tāmure ki tai." "The flowering bracts of the kiekie on the land; the flesh of the snapper in the sea." Waikōkōwai (Anchor Bay) provided a valued source of kōkōwai or red ochre, which was used for ceremonial and decorative purposes.

The people lived mainly around the catchment of the Mangatawhiri Stream. Near the park entrance was a significant pā known as "Ōpōnuī" and above the stream outlet is "Pā-hi" or "lofty fortified settlement".

After 1870 Tāwharanui was developed as a farm by the Martin, Jones and Young families. Kauri timber was milled and shingle was extracted from the park, creating the so-called Jones Bay Lagoon. The Auckland Regional Authority (ARA) purchased the park from the Georgetti family in 1973.



Park facilities

Prime picnic spots

With 588 hectares of regional park you can easily find your own favourite spot to picnic with friends and family any time at Tāwharanui Regional Park.

Feel free to bring your own gas barbecues. To help protect the open sanctuary please check all vehicles and equipment before entering the park to ensure it is free of pests, vermin and hazardous material and take rubbish and food scraps home.

Groups of 50 people or more are only allowed under special conditions and require a permit.

Campgrounds

Tāwharanui has one basic, sheltered campground around 50m to 150m from the beautiful white sand beach. Remember when walking from the campground to the beach, stick to the tracks and you will help protect the dunes. There are restrictions and conditions that apply.

Staying overnight in selected areas

Tāwharanui has no Self-Containment Certificate (SCC) parking area. Campervans, vehicle units and caravans with a SCC must stay in the Tāwharanui all modes campground. Conditions apply.

Other accommodation

Book your bach escape at Tāwharanui Bach, which sleeps up to six people, and is located at Jones Bay near the entrance to the park.

For information on park facilities, conditions and restrictions and to make a booking: phone 09 301 0101, from the park use the contact phone at the notice board at the park office. Following the on-site instructions or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

How to get there

Tāwharanui Regional Park is an 85km or 80 minute drive from downtown Auckland. Take SH1 north to Warkworth. Follow the signs to Matakana. Just past Matakana, at the Omaha turn off, turn right. Drive along Takatu Road and the park is well sign-posted.

For public transport information: phone Auckland Transport 09 366 6400 or visit at.govt.nz

Feature tracks and trails

Note: colours correspond to painted marker posts on each track.

Ecology Trail

2 hours return, 4km

The Ecology Trail highlights Tāwharanui's precious natural heritage. Start at the Sanctuary Hut at Anchor Bay and follow the yellow markers to many different habitats including the seashore, coastal wilderness, pasture and native bush, streams and wetlands. This is a self-guided trail.

North/South Coast Tracks

4 hours return, 9km

This is a walk for the energetic. You can start at either the Lagoon car park or at the Sanctuary Hut at Anchor Bay. Follow the white markers along the track, which winds up either at the northern or southern coasts (depending on where you begin) and heads out to Tokatū Point at the end of the peninsula. You will be rewarded with stunning views of neighbouring islands. Check out the very rare prostrate manuka on the Tokatū Loop Track.

Fishermans Track

30 minutes one way, 2km

Enjoy a quick and easy walk to access the South Coast (Māori Bay) starting from the Sanctuary Hut at Anchor Bay.

Mangatawhiri Track

20–30 minutes return, 1.2km

This short, mostly flat track includes the Thompson Loop through the regenerating Mangatawhiri wetland, offering the chance to view wildlife.

West End Track

3 hours return, 6km

Follow the blue markers starting at the Sanctuary Hut at Anchor Bay and head up the hills towards the pest-proof fence at the western end of the park for unique views of the coastline and nearby islands.

Māori Bay Coast Walk

4 hours return, 7km

From the Lagoon car park wander around the south coast over rocks to Māori Bay (access from mid to low tide only). At Māori Bay join the South Coast Track for the return trip to the Lagoon car park or Fishermans Track.

Other tracks

Mountain bikes are welcome in the park but please do not cycle on bush tracks – see map for details.

Other walks

For something a little more challenging and off the beaten track, try the mystery walk. This moderate 2 hour walk will take you into areas of the park you wouldn't otherwise experience. Brochures on the mystery walk are available from the information board at the Park Office and the sanctuary hut at Anchor Bay.



Ranger recommendations

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

If you have two hours...

The beautiful Anchor Bay makes even a short visit to the park worthwhile. Swim, surf or snorkel in its clear waters and picnic on the clean white sand. You'll find less crowded, equally beautiful beaches either side of Anchor Bay.

If you have half a day...

You'll have time to add a walk to your itinerary – choose from the Ecology Trail or alternatively explore the park by mountain bike. Head for Tokatū Point or the North and South Coast Tracks, which provide mid to hard grade biking terrain and marvel at the views.

If you have a full day...

If you're feeling energetic get right off the beaten track or alternatively indulge in your favourite watersport, kayaking, sailing, diving, snorkeling or surfing. For a more leisurely day, pack your fishing gear and try your luck on the south side of the peninsula. Remember the waters off the north coast are a marine reserve and fishing is not allowed. For something different, end the day with a walk through the Waterfall Gully where the glow worms put on their evening display.