

Dogs

Walking track areas:



On-leash. This includes all areas on the Waiwera Estuary and Kokoru Bay and walking tracks to the north side (Puhoi River) of the Schischka campground and the Perimeter Track between the entrance road to the Waiwera bridge.



Prohibited. All other walking tracks.

Beach and foreshore areas:



On-leash. This covers the Waiwera Estuary and Kokoru Bay.



Prohibited. All other beaches.

Puhoi Estuary:



Prohibited at all times.

All areas north of the service road:



Prohibited at all times. This includes the main car park, beaches and foreshore areas. This includes dogs inside vehicles.

Picnic areas:



Off-leash south of the service road.



Prohibited north of the service road

Bush areas:



Prohibited at all times. This covers all areas within bush headland areas of Wenderholm Regional Park.

Campground:



Prohibited at all times.

Community facility areas



Prohibited at all times. This covers all areas on and near Schischka Bach, Wenderholm Beach House, Puhoi Bach and Couldrey House.



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 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.

Wenderholm Regional Park



20-PRO-0811



Wenderholm Regional Park

Cradled by the Pūhoi and Waiwera Rivers, Wenderholm was the first Auckland regional park opened to visitors and remains one of the most beautiful. Its forested headland, rich in native birdlife is one of Auckland's finest examples. The historic Couldrey House sits in beautiful serene grounds, and a carved pou whenua nearby welcomes visitors to Wenderholm. There are ample sheltered grounds for picnics and games and the fine swimming beach draws the summer crowds.

The park opened in 1965 and took its name from the historic homestead on site, which was formerly known as Wenderholm (winter home).

Plants, animals and birds

The coastal forest on the Maungatauhoro ("mountain with the eroding cliffs") headland is a haven for native birds thanks to intensive pest control and a large-scale restoration of parts of the forest. Kōwhai on the north facing slopes drip with yellow blooms in spring. Pōhutukawa blaze red in summer lighting up the ridgeline and the low-lying sandspit features a grove said to be one of the oldest planted.

Wood pigeons (kūkupa) and tui abound at Wenderholm, feeding on the fruit of the forest. Look out for the kūkupa's dazzling display dives. The rare fernbird and banded rail, which make their home in the saltmarsh on the Pūhoi Estuary, are shy by comparison.

Kookaburra, some say descended from the birds released by New Zealand Governor George Grey on Kawau Island in the 1870s, are still seen and heard in the trees around Wenderholm.



History

Māori lived here for close to 1000 years because of its plentiful natural resources. Wenderholm was the focal point of Māori settlement in the Mahurangi District and the site of an historic peace making agreement (mihirau) between the Kawerau and Hauraki tribes in the 1780s.

Prominent Auckland politician and entrepreneur Robert Graham became the first European owner in 1868. Graham built a homestead (Wenderholm) on the flat, to use while he spent time at his Waiwera thermal resort in winter. The house is now known as Couldrey House after its last private owner. It has been restored and is run by the Friends of Couldrey House as a historic house, open to the public on weekends.

Historic trees are also a feature at Wenderholm with caucasian fir, bunya bunya pine, moreton bay fig, Holm oak, cork oak, magnolia, coral trees and others planted as long ago as the 1860s. Many of these were gifts to Robert Graham from Sir George Grey.

Volunteering

We would love to have your help with work in regional parks. Age and physical ability is no barrier as there are tasks and projects to suit all individuals and groups.

For more information on volunteering:
phone 09 301 0101 or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Park facilities

Prime picnic spots

Find your own favourite spot and picnic with friends and family any time at Wenderholm Regional Park. Use the electric barbecues provided or bring your own gas barbecue. The park has picnic sites that large groups (up to 300 people) can book.

Campgrounds

Located alongside the Pūhoi River is the new Schischka campground which has space for 160 people. Wenderholm beach is approx: 1.5km from the camp.

Staying overnight in selected parking areas

Campervans, vehicle units and caravans with a Self-Containment Certificate (SCC) can stay overnight in selected parking areas. Conditions apply.

Other accommodation

Book a bach escape at one of Wenderholm's three baches. The Wenderholm Beach House, Schischka House, or for a real getaway expectance try the Pūhoi Cottage only accessible by water craft across the Pūhoi River.

For information on park facilities, conditions and restrictions: phone 09 301 0101, from the park use the contact phone at the notice board in the main car park. Following the on site instructions or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/holidayplaces

How to get there

Wenderholm is a 48km or 35 minute drive from downtown Auckland. The park entrance is on SH17 just north of Waiwera. Buses run daily from downtown Auckland to Waiwera. Then it is a 10 minute walk across the Waiwera Bridge to the park boundary.

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

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
- 

Feature tracks and trails

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

Vin's Track - - - -

30 minutes, 2.2km

Named after Uncle Vincent Schishka, the last Schishka descendant to farm the land. Vin's Track enjoys beautiful vistas of the Pūhoi river and requires a moderate level of fitness. Tramping grade track.

Maungatauhoro Te Hikoi - - - -

1.5 hours return, 2.9km

A journey through Maungatauhoro. This is a loop track that begins at the pou whenua (carving) near Couldrey House and includes part of the Perimeter Track and the Couldrey House Track and goes through to the forested headland. This walk offers stunning views and you may get a chance to see native birds.

Te Akeake Walk - - - -

30 minutes return, 1.8km

This walk to the Pūhoi River mouth is not sign posted. From the car park, walk to the beach, head north and enjoy the scenery. Te Akeake is the area at the end of the sandspit headland. You can then walk back along the riverbank to the car park.

Couldrey House Lookout - - - -

15 minutes one-way, 0.6km

To reach the Couldrey House Lookout, follow the Couldrey House Track from the pou whenua (carving). The climb to the lookout is reasonably steep but the track is well maintained. The views of Pūhoi Estuary and Couldrey House are well worth the short climb.

Perimeter Track - - - -

2.5 hours return, 4.6km

This is a loop track that begins at the pouwhenua (carving) and takes you right around Maungatauhoro through areas rich in Māori history and beautiful forest. After the climb to the top of Maungatauhoro, this track descends to Kokoru Bay on the Waiwera estuary. It continues through regenerating bush near the park entrance. Be prepared for varied track quality with some steep parts and an unformed track on the Waiwera estuary side. Tramping grade track.

Te Araroa – New Zealand's Trail - - - -

20–30 minutes one way, 2.2km

Te Araroa – New Zealand's Trail is a 3000km trail that links tramping and walking tracks from Cape Reinga in the north to Bluff in the south. It connects with Whangaparāoa and the East Coast Bays at Long Bay. For more information visit teararoa.org.nz

Schischka Camp Loop Track - - - -

20 minutes, 1.7km

Unmarked flat easy terrain. Push bike and pram friendly. Dogs permitted on leash.

Pūhoi Track - - - -

Other tracks - - - -



Ranger recommendations

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

If you have half a day...

Maungatauhoro Te Hikoi is a wonderful walk that varies with the seasons. Take a picnic with you to enjoy while gazing at the wonderful views. Make sure your visit coincides with Couldrey House's opening hours (1–4pm Saturdays and Sundays and every afternoon from Boxing Day to Easter Monday) so you can look through the historic homestead.

If you have two hours...

Check out the grounds around Couldrey House and the pou whenua nearby, and see how many historic trees you can spot. Take the short walk to the Couldrey House lookout and on your return enjoy a picnic or a swim.

If you have a full day...

The park has an all-weather boat ramp, which is suitable for average sized boats approximately three hours each side of high tide.

Once you've enjoyed the park itself try exploring the area's waterways – Pūhoi River, Hauraki Gulf and Mahurangi Harbour by boat or kayak. Mahurangi Regional Park is just north of Wenderholm and is easily accessible by sea.