



Upper Harbour walking guide

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Contents

Introduction	3
Albany Scenic Reserve	4-5
Burnside Reserve	6-7
Fernhill Escarpment river walk	8-11
Gills Scenic Reserve	12-15
Herald Island	16-17
Hooton and Gills Road reserves	18-20
Luckens Reserve	21-23
Paremoremo Scenic Reserve	24-25
Rosedale North Reserve	26-29
Sanders Reserve	30-33
Three Streams Reserve	34-37
Upper Harbour overview map	38-39

Introduction

From easy walks to tramps suitable for the more experienced, Upper Harbour's reserves have something to offer every keen walker. The Upper Harbour Walking Guide takes you around some of the area's coastal and bush reserves, pointing out native forests, local beaches, facilities and picnic areas.

Many of the walks in this booklet are suitable for families and some tracks are buggy friendly.

Others are more suitable for experienced walkers, and sturdy tramping boots are recommended. Be sure to take sunblock, a hat and a bottle of water with you to get the most enjoyment out of your walk.



When enjoying our beautiful parks please be mindful that all Upper Harbour parks are smokefree.

Caution:

Please be aware this park is a DoC reserve and they have the ability to restrict access as and when they deem necessary to mitigate the effects of kauri dieback disease.



This is a one way bush walk down into gully forest and back out again. The track passes through many different vegetation types including stands of Kauri, dense gully broadleaf and exposed ridge mixed scrub. Keep an eye out for the large Kauri tree which is alongside the track. It is likely 700 years old.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 45 minutes (each way)

Distance: 1.2km

Terrain: Moderate, undulating. Well defined.

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? No

Car parking

Car parking is limited to the southern side of the intersection of Gills, Lonely Track and Albany Heights Roads.

Local amenities

There are no toilet facilities.

General

This track is maintained by the Department of Conservation. Be sure to wash your shoes with the fungicide provided to stop the spread of Kauri dieback. If you are walking back along Albany Heights Road to your car, please take care.

Dog access:

Dogs must be on-leash and under control.

Burnside Reserve Loop



This is an easy suburban walk.

Experience level: ■ **Beginner**

Length: 25 minutes

Distance: 1.6km

Terrain: Easy, combination of flat grass and suburban footpaths.

Best travelled by: Foot or cycle

Buggy friendly? Yes

Car parking

Plenty of street parking is available throughout the area.

Local amenities

There is a bakery and a café on Rosedale Road opposite Rosedale Park.

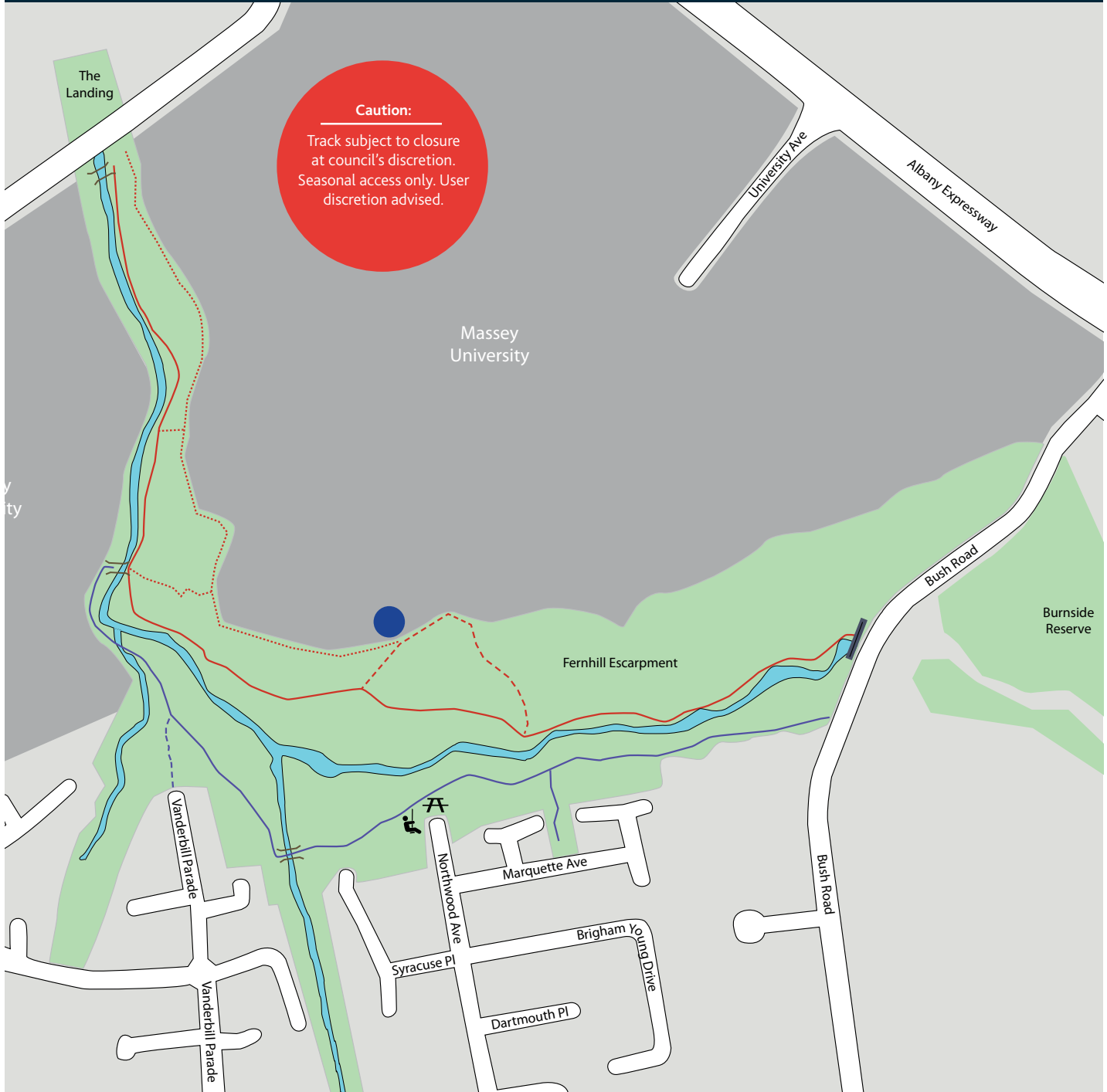
General

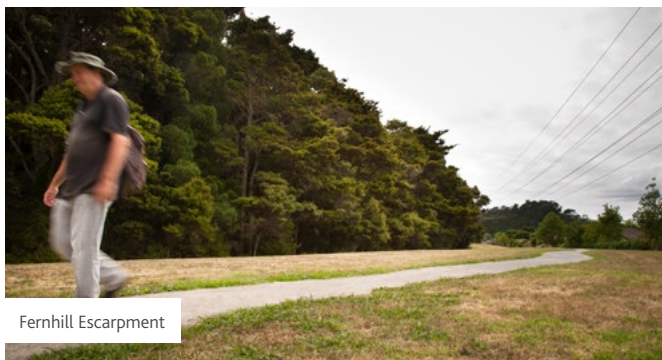
No public toilets are available in the immediate vicinity of the Reserve. The area is suitable for picnics in the summer.

Dog access

Dogs may be off-leash if under control.

Fernhill Escarpment river walk





This is a bush walk through a stand of primarily Totara. The forest is of very high ecological value. Some trees within this reserve likely pre-date Maori arrival in New Zealand. Please show the appropriate respect for this natural environment.

The whole track is 1.7km and approximately 40 minutes (one way).

The track is lightly gravelled and reasonably well defined in most places. A river crossing is located at the concrete bridge. The closest access point to the bridge is from the end of Vanderbilt Place.

Loops can be created by joining the top track, cell tower detour or Northwood/Brookfield track.

Caution – do not cross or congregate beside the river in rainfall events. This river can flash flood and swell to three times its size within minutes.

Use is at walkers own risk.

Albany Highway to concrete bridge

Experience level:	■ Beginner
Length:	15 minutes
Distance:	550 metres
Terrain:	Easy, slight undulations. Reasonably well defined.
Best travelled by:	Foot
Buggy friendly?	No

Concrete bridge to Bush Road

Experience level:	■ Beginner
Length:	25 minutes
Distance:	1,130 metres
Terrain:	Easy, slight undulations. Reasonably well defined.
Best travelled by:	Foot
Buggy friendly?	No

Top Track

Experience level:	■ Intermediate
Length:	15 minutes
Distance:	608 metres
Terrain:	Moderate. Well defined, but very poor surface. Not recommended for small children.
Best travelled by:	Foot
Buggy friendly?	No
Note:	This track is muddy when wet and deeply rutted from water channelling in many places. Mountain bikers will also use the track. East of the cell tower the track turns onto Massey University [private] land.

Cell Tower Detour

Experience level:	■ Beginner
Length:	10 minutes
Distance:	800 metres
Terrain:	Moderate to steep. Winds slowly but surely upwards, in poorer condition than the river walk.
Best travelled by:	Foot
Buggy friendly?	No

Northwood/Brookfield

Experience level:	■ Beginner
Length:	22 minutes
Distance:	1,150 metres
Terrain:	Easy, middle section is concrete footpath.
Best travelled by:	Foot or cycle
Buggy friendly?	No

Car parking

Plenty of street parking is available on the surrounding suburban streets.

Local amenities

There are no toilet facilities available. There is a children's playground in the area and picnic facilities available.

General







To the west, you can link through to The Landing Reserve and on to Kell Park and the Albany Village.

Dog access

Dogs must be on-leash and under control. Dogs are prohibited from all playground surfaces and equipment.

Gills Scenic Reserve



-  Trig
-  Clearing
-  Bridge
-  Large totara
-  Waterfall
-  Seat
-  Nikau Grove
-  Carol Lee Loop
-  Gills Rd Bridge to Carol Lee Pl Track
-  Main Loop
-  Waterfall Track
-  Footpath
-  Exit / Entrance
-  Car park

Carol Lee Loop

This is a bush walk over roughly formed tracks. Most tracks are gravel and narrow. There is one un-bridged crossing of a small stream. Take a one minute detour to the trig and enjoy views over Albany to the south.

- Experience level:** ■ Beginner
Length: 15 minutes
Distance: 600 metres
Terrain: Easy to moderate, undulating.
Best travelled by: Foot – clad with running shoes or better.
Buggy friendly? No

Gills Rd to Carol Lee Place

- Experience level:** ■ Beginner
Length: 15 minutes
Distance: 860 metres
Terrain: Moderate to strenuous.
Steep through the Nikau grove.
Best travelled by: Foot – clad with running shoes or better.
Buggy friendly? No

See also 'Carol Lee Loop' and 'Main Loop' information.

Main loop

Though the nikau grove is steep, it is worth the effort. You are rewarded with very large coastal broadleaf trees such as puriri and the bright textured understory of overlapping nikau fronds. Take a one-minute detour and check out the canopy of the large totara tree and views beyond. There are also views across Albany from the trig. The track coming down from the trig on the eastern side of the reserve is slippery when wet, but there is often a small dry area of gravelled track off to one side.

- Experience level:** ■ Beginner, some fitness required.
Length: 40 minutes
Distance: 1.3 km
Terrain: Moderate to strenuous. Undulating and steep through the Nikau grove and down from Naples Way.
Best travelled by: Foot – clad with running shoes or better.
Buggy friendly? No

Waterfall track

The waterfall marks the upper reaches of the tidal Lucas Creek. Below the waterfall is estuarine (fresh and salt water mixing). Above the waterfall is fresh water only. A park bench allows a rest with a view at the waterfall. There are two exits from this track which lead to the clearing/picnic area. From there you can connect to the main loop.

- Experience level:** ■ Beginner
Length: 5 minutes
Distance: 130 metres
Terrain: Mildly undulating
Best travelled by: Foot – clad with running shoes or better.
Buggy friendly? Yes

Northwood/Brookfield

- Experience level:** ■ Beginner
Length: 22 minutes
Distance: 1,150 metres
Terrain: Easy, middle section is concrete footpath.
Best travelled by: Foot or cycle
Buggy friendly? No

Car parking

Parking is very limited on weekdays with approximately two on-street carparks available east of Gills Road bridge. On weekends, more street parking should be available west of the bridge. Take care when crossing the vehicle bridge on foot.

Car parking is also available at Carol Lee Place and the end of Naples Way.

Local amenities

Cafes, restaurants and shops are located on the western side of Dairy Flat highway. Kell Park is behind these shops and has a public toilet facility adjacent.

Other reserves to link to

Gills Road Reserve – cross the street at the Gills Road bridge and walk through to Hooton Reserve, the North Harbour Tennis Centre. You can also cross the footbridge at Appian Way and link to Albany Lakes and the Albany Mall.

General

The clearing is sloped but with two plateaus. There are good views to the west and a nice sunny place to have a picnic. The clearing can be accessed from the main loop or the water fall track (easiest access).

Dog access

Dogs may be off-leash if under control.



This is an island exploration walk, taking in all of the accessible reserves on Herald Island. Take a one minute detour down to the wharf and do some fishing.

Enjoy Waitemata Harbour views in all directions.

The walk can be started at just about any point along the route shown. If you want to travel by boat to the island, the best places to land are where the causeway joins Herald Island (southern side) or on the northern side Christmas Beach or the boat ramp.

The low tide alternative route is for low tide only and is a bit muddy. Children will love it.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 40 minutes

Distance: 2.7km

Terrain: Easy

Best travelled by: Foot or bike

Buggy friendly? Yes

Car parking

Parking on the road is available in most places. Dedicated car parks are available at the wharf and boat ramp, although these are likely to be busy during summer.

Local amenities

There is a dairy, museum and a library in the middle of the island. The next nearest café is in Whenuapai (Brigham Creek Road).

Dog access

Christmas Beach requires all dogs to be under control and on-leash. Dogs are prohibited from playground surfaces and equipment at all times and must be under control on a leash in the vicinity of any playground when in use. On the rest of the island including beaches and foreshore, dogs may be off-leash if under control.

Hooton and Gills Road reserves



Dual cycleway footpath

This is the all-weather, all-access alternative to the 'bridge to bridge' stream walk.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 40 minutes, 2.5km

Distance: 1.4km

Terrain: Easy, largely flat.

Best travelled by: Any mode.

Buggy friendly? Yes

This is the all-weather, all-access alternative to the 'bridge to bridge' stream walk.

Bridge to bridge stream walk

This is a bush walk which follows the stream. Begin at either the Gills Road bridge (go across the grass east of the bridge) or at just inside the Mills Lane Bridge.

Adult fitness equipment, youth activities and a playground can be found along this walk.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 22 minutes

Distance: 900 metres

Terrain: Easy, slight undulations. Track reasonably well defined but narrow in places.

Best travelled by: Foot – clad with running shoes or better.

Buggy friendly? No

Dog access

Dogs must be on-leash and under control. Dogs are prohibited from all playground surfaces and equipment.



Skate park at Hooton Reserve, Albany

Hooton and Gills Road reserves

Upper Gills Road loop

Add this to your bridge to bridge walk for an extra work out. The clearing offers good views to the south and a sunny spot to have lunch. Link over Gills Road into Gold Street Reserve.

Experience level: ■ Beginner, some fitness required.

Length: 12 minutes

Distance: 755 metres

Terrain: Moderate. Steep when rising off the bridge to bridge walk up to the clearing.

Best travelled by: Foot – clad with running shoes or better.

Buggy friendly? No

Car parking

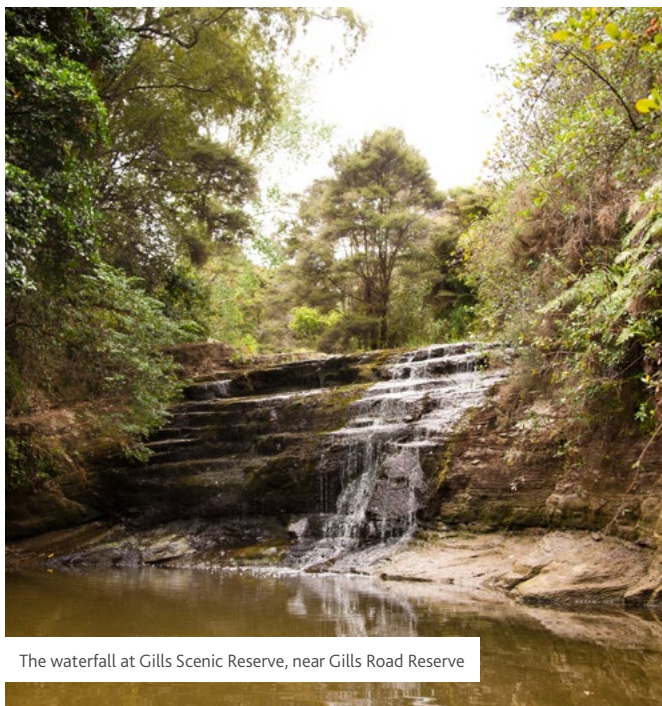
Best place to park is either of the Hooton Reserve carparks (overflow for the North Harbour Stadium).

Local amenities

Cafes, restaurants and shops are located in the Albany Mall, Mega Centre and at the Albany Village. There is also a café within the tennis centre.

General

Gills Scenic Reserve – cross the street at the Gills Road bridge.



The waterfall at Gills Scenic Reserve, near Gills Road Reserve

Luckens Reserve



Playground



Picnic Area



Luckens Coastal Walk



Car park



BBQ



Alternative Walk



Toilets



Dairy



Boat ramp

Luckens Coastal Walk

The whole walkway from West Harbour Drive to the marina is 2.2km and approximately 40 minutes one way.

All sections enjoy intermittent views out to the harbour.

Apart from a short section within Luckens Reserve the walkway is concrete footpath.

Many loops can be created by re-joining the main road and returning to your starting point.

In general, the coast is accessible only at low tide. Little sand exists at the end of each of the three coastal access tracks shown on the map.

Southern section (West Harbour Drive to Luckens Reserve)

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 15 minutes

Distance: 855 metres

Terrain: Easy, slight undulations. Concrete footpath the whole way.

Best travelled by: Foot or cycle

Buggy friendly? Yes, but there is a short steep section at the West Harbour Drive end.

Note You can detour off Renoir Street down to a very small beach, seven minutes return.

Middle section (Luckens Reserve to Marina View Drive)

Enjoy the shade of regenerating forest on a hot day.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 15 minutes

Distance: 520 metres

Terrain: Easy. Concrete footpath the whole way.

Best travelled by: Foot or cycle

Buggy friendly? Yes

Northern section (Marina View Drive to the marina)

Enjoy the shade of regenerating forest on a hot day.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 10 minutes

Distance: 800 metres

Terrain: Easy. Concrete footpath the whole way.

Best travelled by: Foot or cycle

Buggy friendly? Yes

Car parking

There is dedicated parking at Luckens Reserve. Plenty of street parking is available on suburban streets. Parking may be limited at the marina particularly during summer.

Local amenities

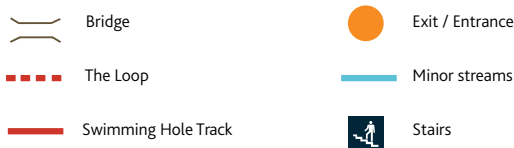
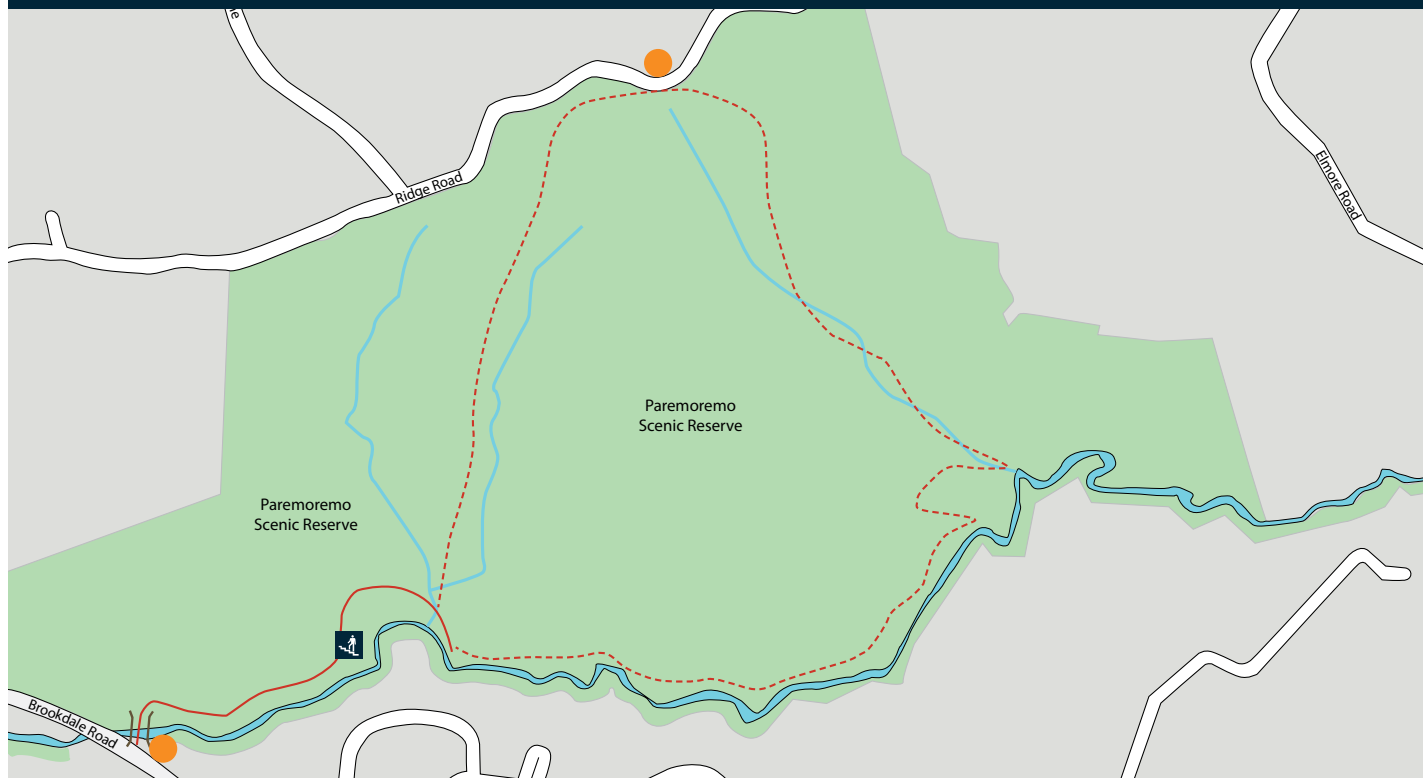
Cafés, restaurants and shops are located at the marina. There are great picnicking facilities at Luckens Reserve.

General

Walk up Picasso Drive to the West Harbour tennis courts.

Dog access

Dogs may be off-leash if under control. Dogs are prohibited from playground surfaces and equipment at all times and must be under control on a leash in the vicinity of any playground when in use.



This is classed as a Scenic Reserve and has a very high diversity of species. The reserve area is steep and largely uncharted.

Swimming hole

Experience level: ■ Intermediate

Length: 30 minutes

Distance: 600 metres (one way)

Terrain: Moderate, slight undulations. Rough and poorly defined in some places.

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? No

Note This is a bush walk through reasonably dense forest. It largely follows the main river.

The loop

Experience level: ■ Experienced – tramping equipment

Length: 2-3 hours

Distance: 3km

Terrain: It is steep throughout with some very steep sections (use the rope or trees to haul yourself up embankments). A medium to high level of fitness is required.

Best travelled by: Foot – tramping boots or similar are necessary.

Buggy friendly? No

Note This is a route rather than a track. It is very poorly defined in most places. It traverses some very dense vegetation.

Car parking

There is some off street car parking on Paremoremo Road.

Local amenities

There are no toilet facilities available.

Dog access

Dogs must be under control and on-leash to prevent the spread of Kauri dieback.

Rosedale North Reserve



Rosedale North Reserve

Rosedale Road – Paul Matthews Drive

This is primarily a through route/cycleway connecting Rosedale Road to Paul Matthews Drive. Cross Paul Matthews Drive (look both ways) into Omega Reserve and on to Unsworth Heights via the footpath or cycleway.

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 40 minutes

Distance: 2km

Terrain: Easy and flat.

Best travelled by: Foot or bicycle

Buggy friendly? Yes

Car parking

Ample parking is available around the surrounds of the reserve. Dedicated parking is available within the reserve.

Local amenities

Cafés and restaurants are located close to park entrances on both Rosedale Road and Paul Matthews Drive. Toilet facilities are available.

Other Reserves To Link To

Burnside Reserve to the north and Omega Reserve to the south.

General

Rosedale is primarily a large active sports park. Walking is therefore possible over almost any part east of the stream.

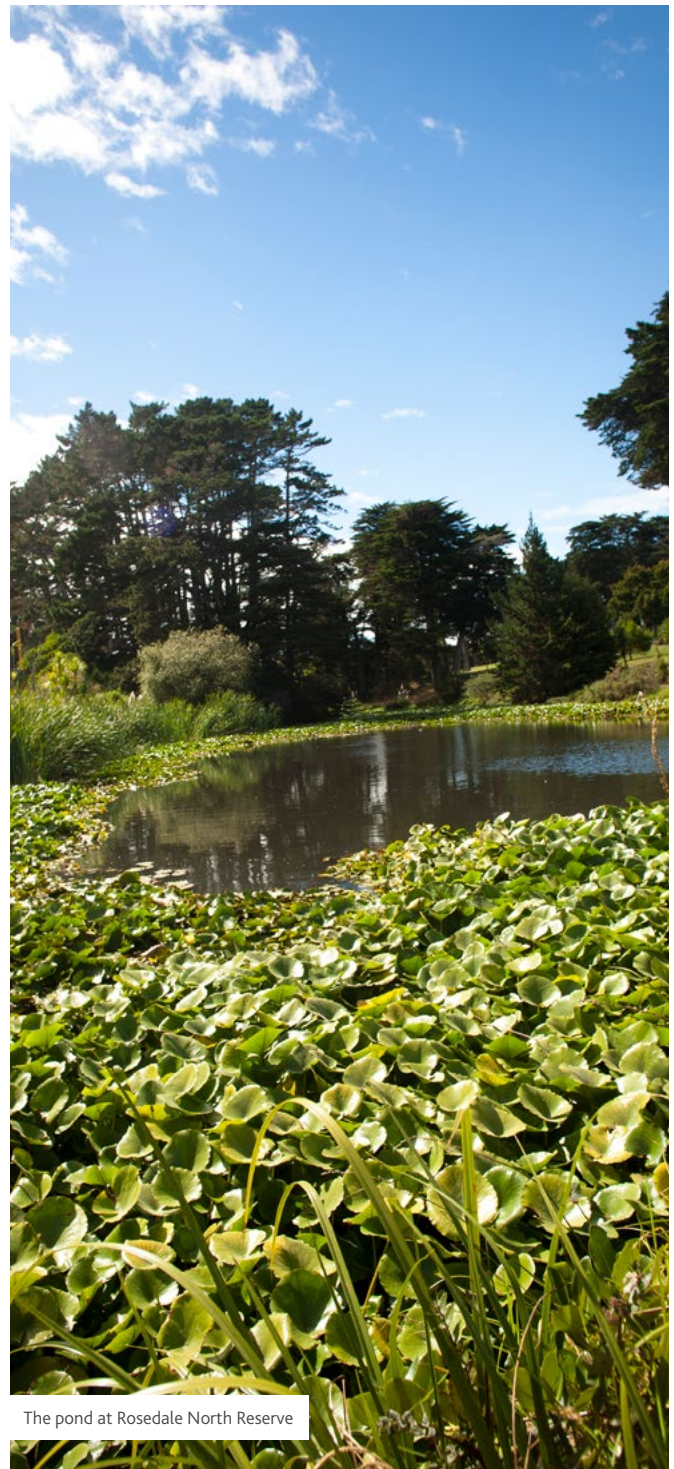
Take some bread and feed the ducks at the pond.

Dog access

Dogs must be under control and on-leash north of the main carpark. Dogs may be off-leash if under control off-leash south of the main carpark. Dogs are prohibited from all playground surfaces and equipment. Dogs are prohibited on any sports surface.



Sports grounds at Rosedale North Reserve



The pond at Rosedale North Reserve



Sanders Reserve

This is a wonderful rustic reserve that caters for walkers, off-road cyclists, horse riding enthusiasts, dog lovers and families.

The playground and kids loop cycling track, near the parking area, cater for younger adventurers. Further into the reserve there is an amazing carved sculpture called the Faraway tree, which will also provide interactive entertainment.

The dog off-leash area provides a space where your four legged friend can run around unhindered.

Most sections of the reserve enjoy intermittent views of the Upper Waitemata harbour and the Paremoremo Creek.

Longer loops can be created for both walking and cycling by joining the tracks. The tracks are roughly formed gravel tracks, so if you want to go for a walk, sensible shoes are suggested.

In general, the coast is accessible only at low tide. Little sand beaches exist at the end of Library Point, on the 'walkers only' track.

Keep in mind that this reserve is reasonably exposed to the elements, so a hat, water and sun screen are recommended.

There is a small kiosk that can be hired for family festivities or just a picnic outing, for more information contact the service centre in the Albany Village on telephone number: (09) 414 2680

Tracks

Recreational loop

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 1hr

Distance: 4km

Terrain: Undulating track, a few smaller hills

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? Yes, of the more robust kind

Is relatively exposed and hence hot in summer. Take a hat and water.

Walking track

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 30minutes

Distance: 2km (return to car park)

Terrain: Easy, undulating gravel track

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? Yes, of the more robust kind

The Faraway Tree is an amazing carved sculpture. Beaches for swimming (at high tide).

Shortcut home

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 5 mins

Distance: 300m

Terrain: Mild slope

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? Yes, of the more robust kind

Car parking

Lots of parking opposite the playground. If using the leash free dog park, cars can be parked at the cul-de-sac end of Sanders Rd.

Local amenities

None close by however cafés restaurants and shops are located in the Albany Mall and Mega Centre and Albany Village.

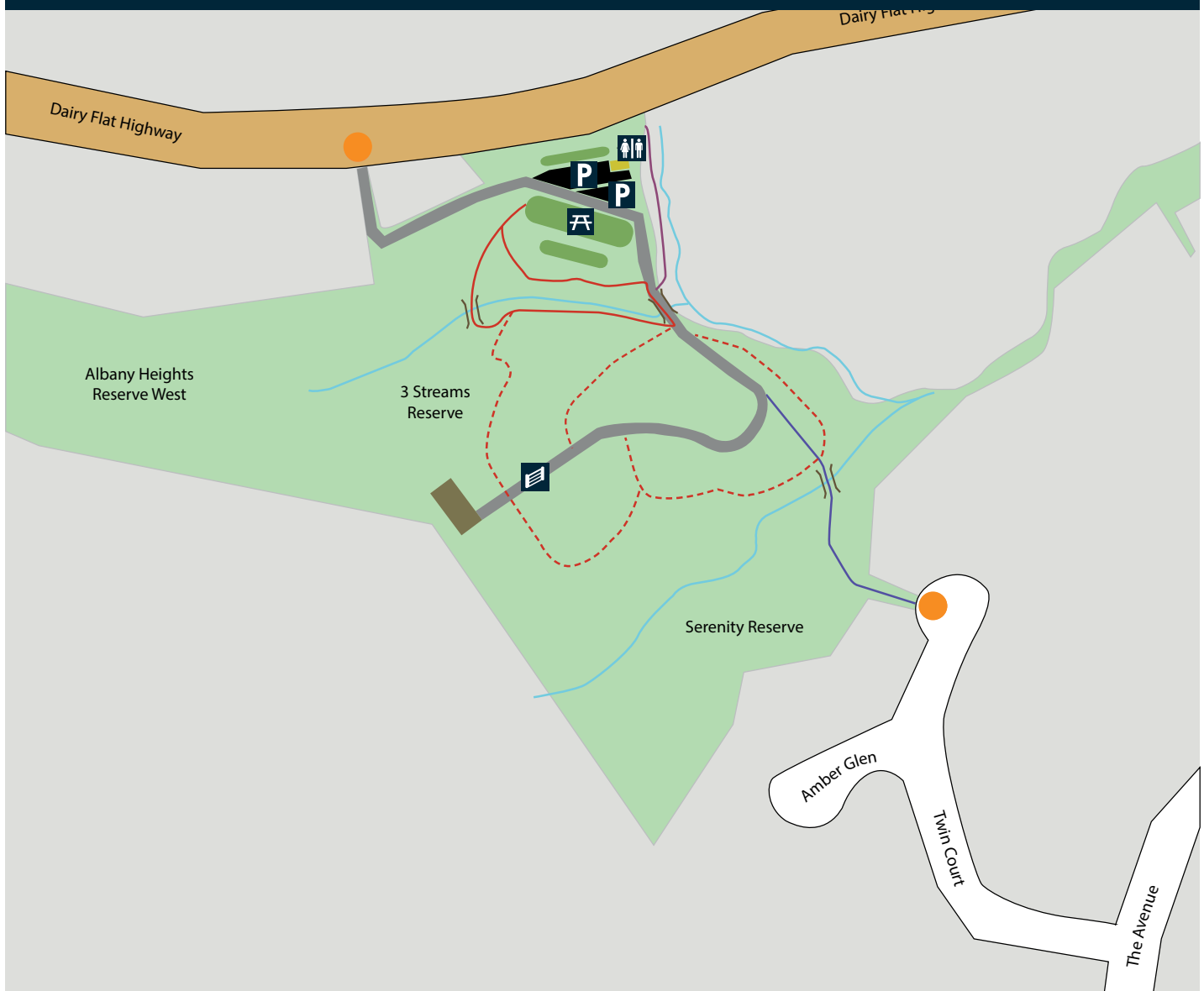
Dog access
















Dogs are allowed off-leash in Sanders Reserve within the fenced South Eastern corner of the reserve. Dogs are allowed under control on-leash in all other parts of the reserve.



Faraway Tree at Sanders Reserve

Three Streams Reserve



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  Car park |  Picnic area |  Gate |  Twin Court Access (Pedestrian Only - No Parking) |
|  Clearing |  Educational building |  Driveway |  Small stream |
|  Bridge |  Private residence (no access) |  Childrens Discovery Walk |  East Stream Track |
|  Exit / Entrance |  Toilets |  Loop Walks | |

Three Streams Reserve

Both of these walks are easy grade, short loops through re-establishing native vegetation.

Children's discovery walk

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 5 minutes

Distance: 250m

Terrain: Easy, mainly gravel paths.

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? Yes

Large loop

Experience level: ■ Beginner

Length: 10 minutes

Distance: 300m

Terrain: Easy, rough but well-defined gravel paths.

Best travelled by: Foot

Buggy friendly? No

Car parking

Car parking is available within the reserve opposite the main picnic area.

Local amenities

Toilet facilities and picnic area available.

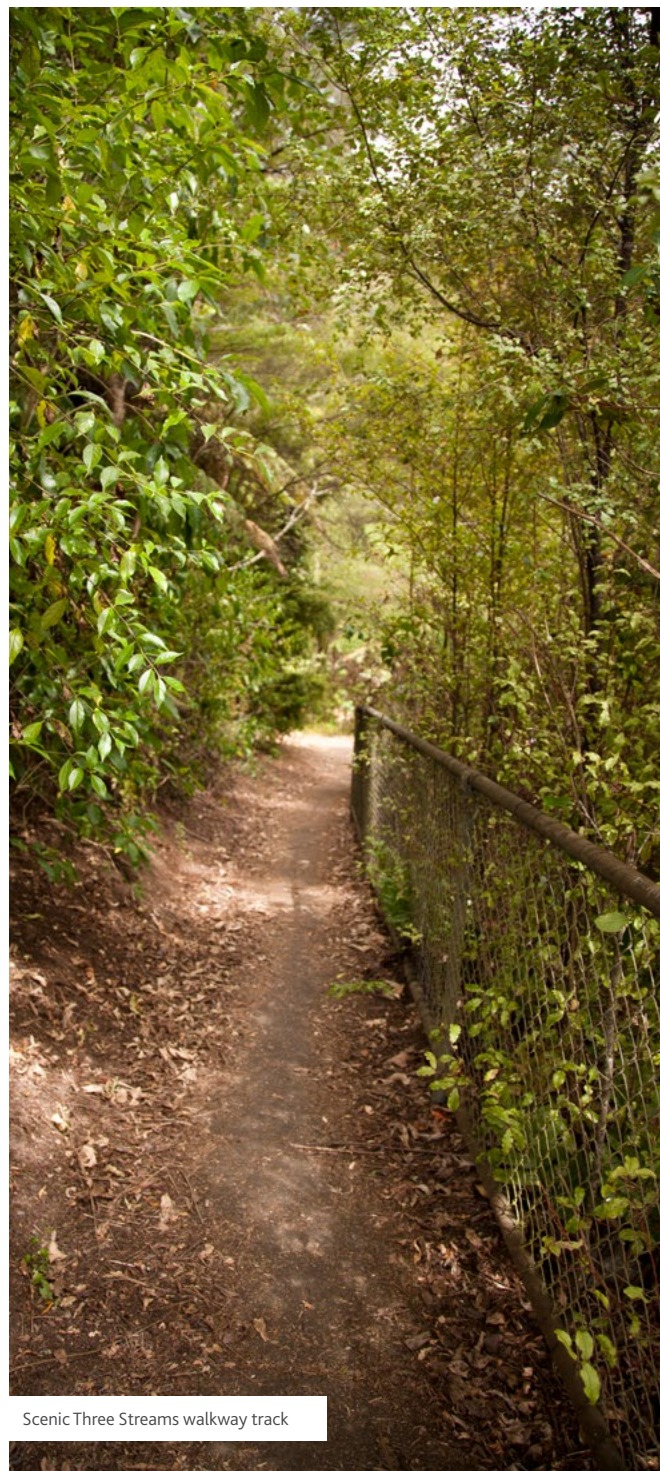
General

In 1990 John Hogan, the landowner, gifted the 3 Streams Reserve to the QEII National Trust and in 2004 it was transferred to the then North Shore City Council. Maintenance and development of Three Streams, and the adjoining Kauri Grove Reserve, are now the responsibility of the Auckland Council.

The name of the reserve comes from the three streams that flow through it and soon after empty into Lucas Creek near Albany.

Dog access

Dogs must be on-leash and under control.



Scenic Three Streams walkway track

Upper Harbour overview



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Find out more: visit
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