

# Discover Rooseville Park self-guided walk

Nau mai, haere mai

The native bush at Roosevill Park is an example of the diverse vegetation that once covered this region.

On your walk today you'll learn about the geological history of the area, discover the importance of forest and find out about the special plants and animals that live here.

## 1. Local history and volcanic rock formations

Use the signs at the entrance to the park and next to the volcanic tuff formations to discover how the land here has been used in different ways and changed over time.

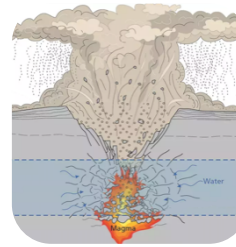
Can you discover...

- Who arrived in 1879 from England and purchased land here?
- Why is the area known as Doctor's Hill?
- Which family sold land to the council to become a reserve?
- What was the east side of the reserve used for during World War 2?
- What else has the land been used for?
- What type of geological feature does the park sit on?

## 2. Follow the path straight ahead in line with Totara Ave until you reach a stile.

Take the sloping path to the left of the stile that will take you down to large moss-covered rock formations on your right-hand side and a sign where you can discover more about the geological history of these volcanic rocks.

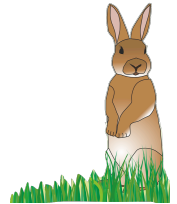
- Which crater does Roosevill Park contain a part of?
- How are tuff rings formed?
- What are the rock layers a result of?



## Did you know?

A tuff ring is a raised rim which occurs around a volcanic explosion crater. The tuff ring here resulted from a vent 500m to the north. The vent was one of about 100 that make up the South Auckland Volcanic Field. Eruptions from this field occurred between 0.5 and 1.5 million years ago.

**3. Follow the track towards the fence, then turn right, following the fenceline up the hill, past the water reservoir back up to the stile. On your way watch out for large holes that have been dug by rabbits.**



## Become a pest detective

Look out for coloured tags on trees that help park rangers and volunteers identify where they've placed tracking tunnels and traps to identify and catch pests including rats and possums. Why do you think it's important that pests are controlled? You can become a pest detective by visiting [pestdetective.org.nz](http://pestdetective.org.nz) where there are lots of fun activities and resources to download.

**From the stile, turn left following the path into the forest, following the orange markers that will take you around the outer tracks of the park.**

## Play a game of I-Spy

Use these words to play the game as you walk:

aka (vine)	hua (berry)	kākano (seed)	kiri rākau (bark)
manga (branch)	manu (bird)	ngahere (forest)	pakiaka (roots)
putiputi (flower)	rākau (tree)	rau (leaf)	tinana (trunk)

You could make a collection of forest treasures by picking up interesting fallen leaves, flowers, feathers and seeds as you walk. Please do not pick living parts of the plants.

## 4. Take a closer look at a pūriri tree

Look for holes in the branches and trunk caused by mokoraoa (pūriri moth caterpillars). They live inside the holes for up to 7 years and grow up to 10cm long before emerging as a large green moth.



## 5. Look up for epiphytes

Plants that grow on the branches and trunks of trees are called epiphytes. Look up into the canopy for kahakaha (perching lily) growing on the large branches of trees. Be careful not to stand directly underneath one though - they've been known to fall down when they grow too big!



Also look for kiekie, a woody vine that grows on the trunks of many different trees. The long leaves are traditionally used for weaving.

## 6. Get to know your native plants

As you walk through the park you'll find lots of signs to help identify native plants. Can you spot the following species and find out more about them?

- Pūriri      What colour are their flowers?
- Rimu      Can you find a fallen rimu branchlet to feel?
- Kawakawa      Why do birds visit this plant?
- Para      What is the English name for this endangered fern?
- Taraire      What colour are the fruits of this tree?
- Pukatea      Check out the huge buttress roots of this tree.
- Nīkau      What did Māori use the leaves to make?
- Māhoe      When would you see this tree in flower?
- Kahikatea      Why do birds like to visit our tallest native tree?
- Mataī      What colour are the fruits of this tree?
- Tōtara      What did Māori value the timber for?



### Did you know?

Kawakawa leaves have many traditional medicinal uses for example: a cure for cuts, wounds and stomach pains; relieving toothache, aches and pains; treating bruises and colds; they could also be used as an insect repellent. Try tasting a leaf, they have a peppery flavour. The holes in the leaves are made by the caterpillar of the Kawakawa Looper Moth. See if you can spot one hiding under a leaf.



## 7. Bird spotting

Find a place along the track to spend a few minutes looking and listening for manu (birds). Close your eyes and each time you hear a new bird call hold up a finger.

Common species you are likely to be able to identify include:

- kererū (wood pigeon)
- pīwakawaka (fantail)
- tauhou (silveryeye)
- tūī



Which bird would you probably hear calling at night in the forest?

### Did you know?








Friendly pīwakawaka are often seen following people in the bush. They come close to in the hope of catching insects that are disturbed as people walk. It's thought they fan their tail and flick their wings to frighten insects into moving so they can catch them. Fantails feed their young about 100 times a day!

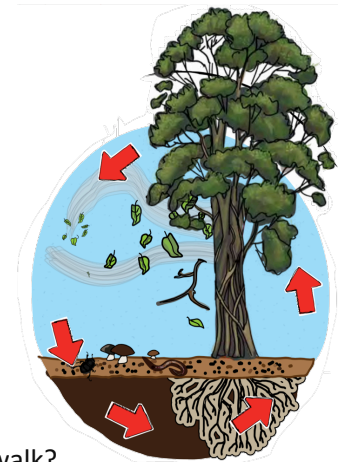
At one of the track junctions you'll find a bench and opposite a collection of rotting branches. Stop to investigate them to discover what's living there...

## 8. Investigating invertebrates and leaves

Decomposers including millipedes, slaters, worms and beetles break down plant material, turning it into rich soil that can be used to help forest plants grow.

Can you find any of these creatures in the leaf litter?

- waimano (millipede) 
- wakapihau (centipede) 
- tunga rere (huhu beetle and grub) 
- papapa (slater) 
- noke (worm) 
- hātaretare (snail or slug) 
- pōpokorua (ant) 



How many different leaf shapes can you find on your walk?

See if you can find leaves at different stages of decomposition.

e.g. old māhoe leaves have a very defined skeleton leaf form.

