

Other Forest Areas

Clubs can access other Regional Council forests for events or organised group rides. Contact the Forestry Department, 1056 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt, telephone 0-4-526 4133, for permits and entry keys.

Parts of the forests may be closed for logging, pest control or maintenance operations. Trails may be closed in wet weather to avoid track damage.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Contact Ranger: 0-4-237 5511

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park is located on the Paekakariki Hill Road, 6km from Pauatahanui. Car and horse float parking, toilets, camping and picnicking facilities are available.

The bush reserve is closed to horse riders. Horses are not permitted in the front paddocks. **Casual riders should not use the horse jumps** which are for organised equestrian events only.



Please leave your pets at home. **No dogs allowed.**

Battle Hill Summit

Distance: 3 km return
Grade: Easy/medium
Time: 1 hour return

This route through farmland leads onto Battle Hill Summit before descending another farm track and returning to the car park.

Transmission Gully-Puketiro Loop

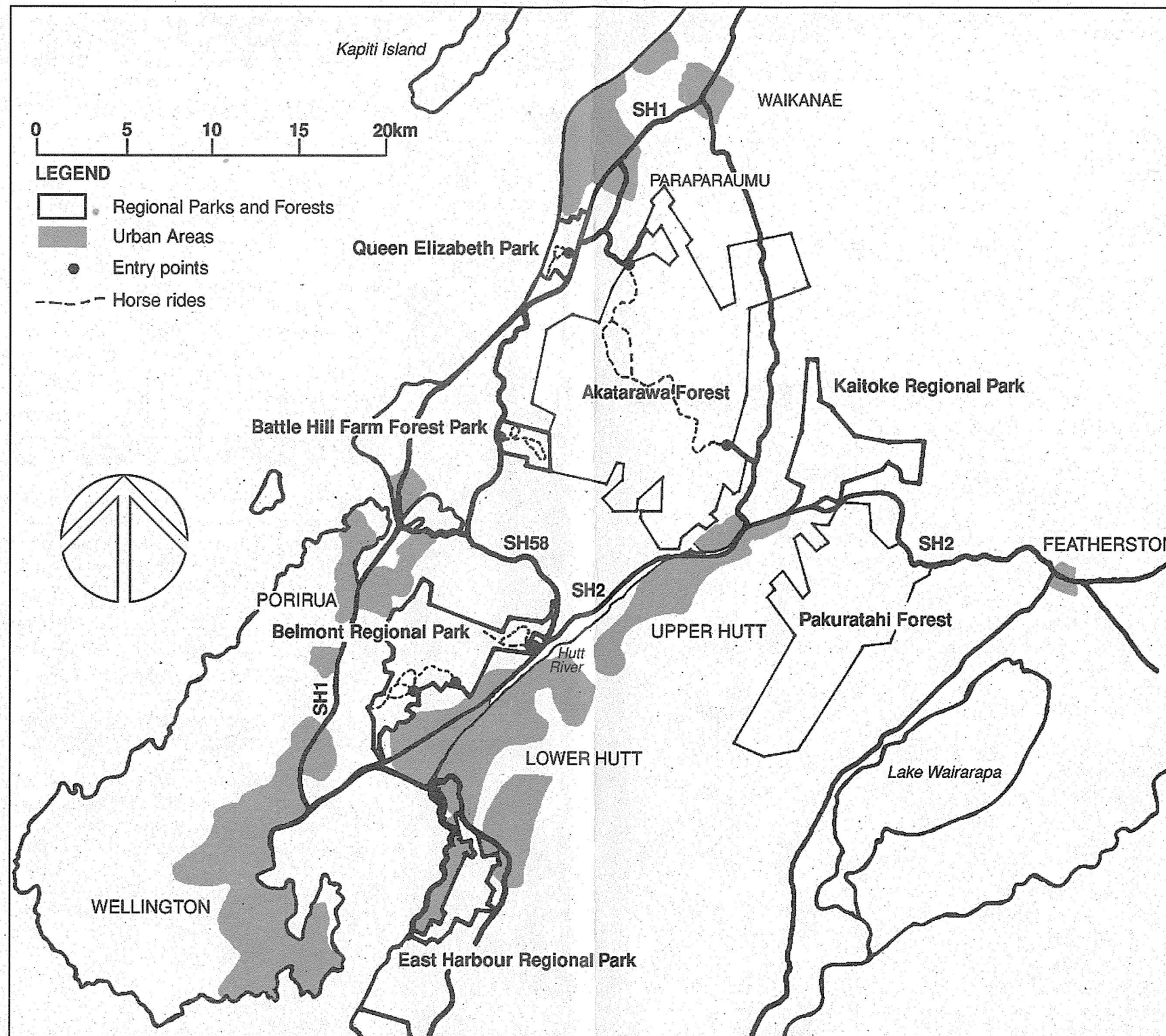
Distance: 10.2 km return
Grade: Medium/hard
Time: 3-4 hours return

Crossing farmland to Transmission Gully, this route climbs up onto the skyline and returns down another track. Views of the South Island on a clear day.

Belmont Regional Park

Contact Ranger: 0-4-586 6614

Belmont Regional Park is located in the hills between Lower Hutt and Porirua. Main access points for horse riding are Stratton Street and Dry Creek, Haywards, where toilets and parking for horse floats is available. Horse riders can also enter from Horokiwi Road and, with Landcorp permission, from Hill Road.



Zone 1 - Horokiwi Bridleway

Distance: 2 km one way
Grade: Hard
Time: 1½ hours one way

This track drops from the end of Horokiwi Road to a stream, then travels up a steep track to near Belmont Trig. This bridleway provides an opportunity for riders to extend their rides from Stratton Street to Belmont Trig. It is a steep ride for confident riders, but worth the effort.

Zone 2 - Stratton Street Rides Stratton Street to Belmont Trig

Distance: 4 km return
Grade: Easy/medium
Time: 2½ hours return

From Stratton Street this route takes the rider on a farm track up to

Belmont Trig. About 50 metres from the top, the track branches off left. Follow the farm track, then take the signposted Horokiwi bridleway. Return the same way or detour via the rolling hills running parallel to the road.

Stream Ride and Middle Ridge

Distance: 4 km
Grade: Medium
Time: 2 hours return

Start from the car park at the end of Stratton Street. Enter the pine forest through the horse gate and take the left hand fork. Follow the stream then climb gradually up towards Middle Ridge. Pass through the gate near the ridge top and pick up the farm track to the junction with Middle Ridge track. Turn left at this junction to return to Stratton Street.

An alternative is to turn right up to Cannons Head, where good views are available. Return the same way.

Pine Forest Ride

Distance: 2 km
Grade: Medium/hard
Time: 1 hour return

A variation on the previous ride. Start at the pine forest but bear right to take the vehicle track up the middle of the forest. Follow the track sign to a horse gate, then ride downhill along the edge of the forest. This track returns to Stratton Street.

Old Coach Road Bridleways

Distance: Varies
Grade: Medium/hard
Time: Varies, 1 hour +

There are several tracks off Old Coach Road that are worth experiencing. Old Coach Road can be reached from Normandale Road. The first track which branches off from Old Coach Road gives access through Sweetacres Recreation Reserve. This provides good riding once through the narrow gorse section of the track.

Horse stiles at Old Coach Road and Sweetacres Reserve (Hill Road) give horses access but restrict trail bikes.

Past this junction on Old Coach Road there are two options to gain access to the Stratton Street valley floor. The first is shorter and steeper, and follows the north edge of the pine forest. The second track descends to a stream gully along a bulldozed track.

All tracks are signposted.

Zone 3 - Waitangirua Farm Rides

Horse riding access to this part of the park is restricted to allow Landcorp farming activities to continue unhindered. Belmont Pony Club has arranged access with Landcorp at Hill Road to the first track junction. Horse riders must exit the main farm road at this point and use the signposted track.

Horse riding in any other part of this area needs the approval of the farm manager. Contact the park ranger or Belmont Pony Club for more information.

Zone 4 - Dry Creek Rides

Distance: Varies
Grade: Medium
Time: Varies, 1 hour +

All rides are accessed from the track just above the main car park. Follow Buchanans Road up to a plateau, then continue along the marked track to Boulder Hill. Return the same way.

It is possible to ride the loop track, but this requires descending a narrow track through bush then up to a pylon service track.

HORSE RIDING

in Wellington Regional Parks and Forests

Horse Riding Trails

Akatarawa Forest

Contact Forestry Department: 0-4-526 4133

Native and exotic forests cover the hill country between Upper Hutt and Paraparaumu. Much of the area is rugged and isolated. For your own safety enter only with experienced companions, take Topomap R26 and a compass. **Look out for mountain bikes, trail bikes and forestry service vehicles.**

Access points are: Maungakotukutuku Valley, Paraparaumu and Karapoti Road, Upper Hutt.

Maungakotukutuku Stream is part of the water supply for the Kapiti Coast. Please do not ride in or across the stream except to get to Perhams Road.

Whakatikei Loop

Distance: 22 km return
Grade: Medium
Time: 4 hours

Leave Maungakotukutuku Road and follow Perhams Road to Titi Ridge. An 8 km loop descends through exotic forest to the Whakatikei River, returning by another valley.

Karapoti Gorge

Distance: 16 km return
Grade: Easy
Time: 2½ hours

A scenic ride following the Akatarawa River West through native and exotic forest.

Akatarawa Forest Traverse

Distance: 27 km one way
Grade: Hard (experience needed)
Time: 4-6 hours

This route links Maungakotukutuku Valley with Karapoti Road in Upper Hutt. Ride up Perhams Road to Titi Ridge, turn right and then left down Whakatiki Road. After crossing Dopers Creek climb steeply over the Pram Track (530 m) and down to the ford at Akatarawa River West. From here it is a gentle 8 km ride through Karapoti Gorge to Akatarawa Road.

The Wellington Regional Council manages large areas of rural land for multiple uses, including landscape protection and conservation. These areas provide a range of outdoor recreation opportunities within easy reach of cities.

Horse riding gives you a different view of the world, and is a peaceful way to spend a day exploring some of the more beautiful and little known areas of our Region.

General Conditions for Riders

The Regional Council has marked tracks available for horse riding. Remember that these tracks are for multi use - watch out for walkers and mountain bike riders. Some tracks are marked for walkers only and are closed to horse riders.

A variety of tracks are available to horse riders, from steep trails for experienced, confident riders, to gentle valley floor tracks for beginners.

More Information

This guide outlines some of the riding opportunities on Regional Council lands. Further information sheets are being prepared for specific areas to describe the routes in greater detail.

Riding stables and members of local pony clubs are familiar with the areas and can offer advice. Contact:

Belmont Pony Club
P O Box 42 046
WAINUIOMATA

Pauatahanui Equestrian Facility
Paekakariki Hill Road
PAUATAHANUI
Telephone: 0-4-237 8526

Stables on the Park
Queen Elizabeth Park
P O Box 2092
RAUMATI SOUTH
Telephone: 0-4-292 8787

For additional information on individual parks pick up brochures from the park rangers or the Recreation Department, 1056 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt, telephone 0-4-526 4133.

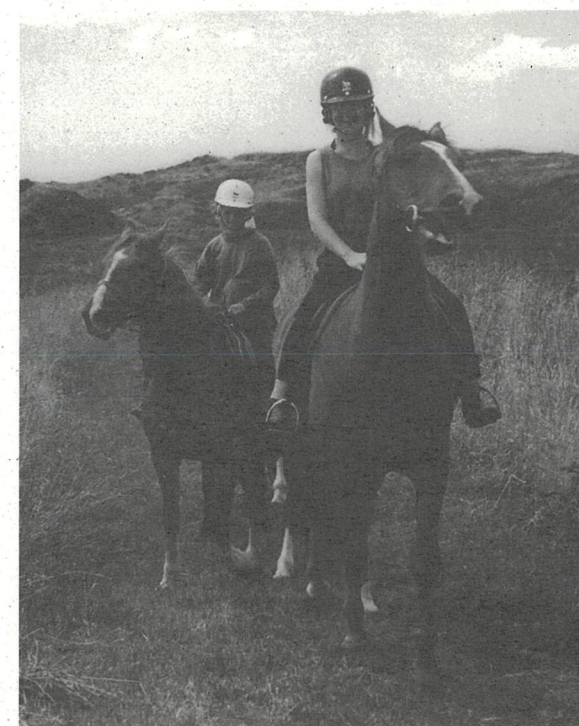
Safety in the Outdoors

Our weather is notoriously changeable. Cold wet winds chill very quickly so a wind and waterproof jacket is essential on longer rides. It is a good idea to wear several layers of clothing which you can peel off as you get hot and put on again as you cool. Take high energy snacks with you, drinking water and a first aid kit.

Weather forecasts are charged for, telephone 0900 999 followed by 04 for Wellington and Kapiti Coast, or 06 for Wairarapa. Advise someone of your intended route and when to expect you back.

Horse Riding Code

1. Give way to walkers. Be aware of other users - mountain bikers, farm and service vehicles.
2. Stay on designated tracks - do not take shortcuts. Leave gates as you find them and seek permission to cross private property.
3. Avoid disturbing wildlife or stock. Give animals a chance to move out of your way.
4. Think safety - always wear a helmet. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return. Be prepared for rapid weather changes.
5. The busiest time in the parks are Sundays and fine evenings. Consider planning your ride outside these times if you wish to avoid meeting other users on your route.
6. Familiarise yourself with park information at entry points before beginning your ride.



Queen Elizabeth Park

Contact Battle Hill Ranger: 0-4-237 5511
or Kapiti Coast District Council: 0-4-298 5139

Queen Elizabeth Park, on the Kapiti Coast, is accessed from Paekakariki, MacKays Crossing and Raumati South. The Park offers a safe swimming beach, picnic areas, walks, toilets, tramway museum, children's playgrounds and a motor camp at Paekakariki.

The main access for horse riding is at MacKays Crossing, off State Highway 1, where horse float parking is available. You can join escorted horse treks or take riding lessons at the nearby **Stables on the Park**, telephone 0-4-292 8787.

The coastal dune tracks, picnic areas and beach are closed to horse riders. Casual riders should not use the horse jumps which are for organised equestrian events only.

Equestrian Area - Paekakariki

Distance: 4 km one way
Grade: Easy
Time: 1 hour each way

A route loops south around the perimeter of the equestrian area and returns to the sealed road. Follow the track beside the road to the beach and turn left to join the inland dune track to Paekakariki. Alternatively you can turn left again a short way along the track and go through the gate into the farm paddocks. Ride across the paddock past the water tanks and follow the trail to the sealed road. Return through the equestrian area or beside the sealed road.

Whareroa Stream Loop

Distance: 4 km return
Grade: Easy
Time: 1 hour

From the equestrian area follow the track beside the sealed road to the beach. Turn right across the tram lines before the beach picnic areas. Head north to Whareroa Stream and follow this loop track. Return the same way. Alternative routes through the farmland may be arranged with Park staff or the riding stables.

Hutt River Trail

The Hutt River Trail is being developed along the river banks from Petone to Te Marua. Horse riding is permitted on formed roads that are part of the Trail. Picnic areas, sports fields, stopbanks and planted berm areas are closed to horse riders.

Main access points for horse riding are at Belmont and Totara Park.

The Hutt River is popular, especially at weekends. Watch out for vehicles, motor bikes and dogs using the area.



Protect plants and animals.

Remove rubbish.

Bury toilet waste.

Keep streams and lakes clean.

Take care with fires.

Camp carefully.

Keep to the track.

Consider others.

Respect our cultural heritage.

Enjoy your visit.

Toitu te whenua
(Leave the land undisturbed)