

History

There are signs of Māori occupation all along the coastline. This is most easily seen in the grassland below Whitireia Road on the northerly slopes where shadows highlight the steps of kumara-growing terraces.

From the mid-1820s the area was dominated by the Ngāti Toa Rangatira tribe of Te Rauparaha. Ngāti Toa continue to have an important role in managing the park.

Whitireia Park was established in 1976, made possible by the acquisition of land from the Otaki and Porirua Trust Board, plus a donation made by Smith and Smith Ltd celebrating its centenary of business in New Zealand. The Raukawa Trustees and Ngāti Toa people did not give up their association to the land of Whitireia but generously cooperated in this acquisition taking place. To form the park, this land was combined with adjacent Radio New Zealand and Department of Conservation lands, and later included Ngāti Toa Rangatira treaty settlement land. The current Park Board took over administration of the park on 1 March 2011.

The anchor stone of the canoe of legendary Māori explorer Kupe is believed to have lain in the park for centuries. Kupe left the stone, named Maungaroa, to mark the spot in the bay where his canoe beached on the inward tide after floating out to sea. Maungaroa is now in Te Papa for safekeeping. A replica was installed in the park beside the carpark in Onehunga Bay.

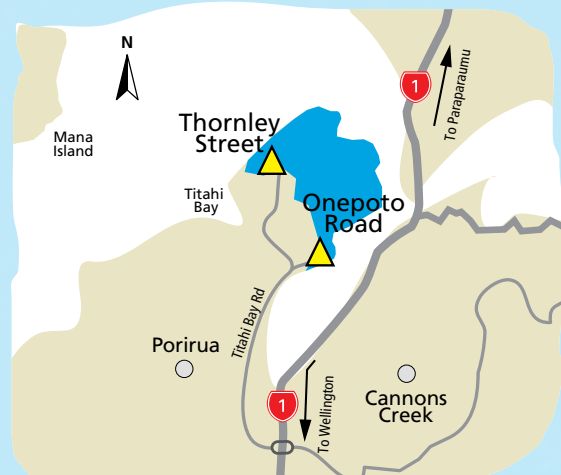
Ngāti Toa installed the Kaitawa Pou as part of the year 2000 millennium celebrations to commemorate the history of this site as an important settlement area and to show their continued connection to the land here.



Kaitawa Pou

Park Board

Comprising representatives of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Whitireia Park Board meets quarterly to discuss park management. These meetings are open to the public – for dates and times see www.gw.govt.nz/park-board.



How to get there

▲ Thornley Street entrance

Turn off State Highway 1 at Porirua and follow Titahi Bay Road to the end of Main Road. Turn right into Bay Drive and then left into Thornley Street. Thornley Street becomes Transmitter Street, then turn left into Whitireia Road to enter the park.

▲ Onepoto Road entrance

Turn right off Titahi Bay Road onto Onepoto Road and park at the end of the road.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Take the route 220 bus from Porirua Station to the bus stop at Onepoto Road entrance.

For information, timetables and fares: www.metlink.org.nz or 0800 801 700

Please take care of your park

- Take your rubbish home and recycle it where possible. Rubbish bins are not provided
- All vehicles, trail bikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) must have a current warrant of fitness and registration and stay on sealed roads at all times
- Do not remove, disturb or damage native plants or animals. Keep to the tracks
- No camping allowed
- Light no fires. You are welcome to use a portable gas BBQ



Whitireia Park



Whitireia
PARK

www.gw.govt.nz/parks



TE RŪNANGA O
TOA RANGATIRA



Greater
Wellington
Te Pane Matua Taiao



For more information, contact the Wellington Regional Council's Parks department 0800496734

Follow the Wellington
Regional Council



June 2013
(Reprinted 2022)
GW/PK-G-13/51



Please recycle
Produced sustainably

Whitireia Park is a headland with commanding views over Mana Island and Porirua Harbour. The park comprises around 180 hectares of coastal cliffs and beaches, open grasslands, streams, wetlands and regenerating scrub with a remnant of native bush. Te Onepoto Bay estuary is a good place to observe coastal birds feeding at low tide.

Walking/mountain biking tracks

Te Onepoto Loop Track

(1 hour 20 minutes)

This 4.2km track runs up the hill from Onehunga Bay down through the inland valley to Te Onepoto Bay and circles back along the coast to the start point. A branch track from Te Onepoto Bay takes you to the Onepoto Road carpark, 1km away.



Dog walking

Dogs are welcome. Keep them under control and on a lead when required and remove droppings.



Swimming

Onehunga Bay is popular with families because of its safe and sheltered swimming beach.



Fishing

Fishing from the rocks is popular between Onehunga Bay and Kaitawa Point.



Kite surfing

Kite surfing is very popular at the entrance to the Porirua Harbour in north-west winds. People often launch their kites from Onehunga Bay.



Snorkelling/scuba diving

The reef around Kaitawa Point provides a good environment for snorkelling and scuba diving. The best conditions are found in a calm sea and light southerly or no winds.



Rock climbing

The rock climbing area has grade 9 to 23 climbs with cliff heights between 20m-42m. Climbing is a potentially dangerous activity. Please seek professional advice or contact www.nzalpine.wellington.net.nz for further details.



Other activities

Whitireia Park Restoration Group

A dedicated community group working to restore the sand dunes, streams and wetlands in Whitireia Park. See naturespace.org.nz for contact details and how to get involved.

Titahi Golf Club

The clubhouse and golf course are accessed via Gloaming Hill. Green fee players are welcome during the week, most Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. www.titahigolf.com

The Wellington Model Aeroplane Club

Members visit the park regularly to fly their model aeroplanes from the western-most terraces. www.wmac.org.nz

Parks are always open to foot traffic.

Vehicle gates are open:

6am - 6pm from 1 April to 30 Sept
6am - 9pm from 1 Oct to 31 March.

Staying safe

- Always watch children near the water
- Please be aware of narrow roads within the park and be courteous to other vehicles and pedestrians
- Observe the speed limit at all times
- Whitireia Park has a three-day-a-week ranger service



Exploring Onehunga Bay

KEY

Natural features

- Duneland
- Coastal scrub
- Native bush
- Grassland
- Pine trees
- Stream
- High point

Other features

- Public entrance
- Road
- Walking tracks
- Locked gate
- Building
- Radio mast

- Information kiosk
- Parking
- Toilets
- Bus stop
- Dog walking
- Mountain biking
- Swimming
- Golf
- Fishing
- Rock climbing
- Kite surfing
- Lookout
- Bird colony
- No horseriding



No vehicles off-road in all park areas

