

Wainuiomata Waterworks Recreation Area



The Wainuiomata Waterworks recreation area is particularly popular for swimming and picnics during the summer months. Other recreation opportunities include walking, mountain-biking and tramping. It is also a starting point of the Whakanui Track into Rimutaka Forest Park and the Orongorongo Valley.

The Water Treatment Plant and catchment area upstream from the recreation area are managed for water supply and conservation. Entry into the catchment area beyond the Water Treatment Plant is strictly controlled to minimise risks to public health. You can arrange to visit the Water Treatment Plant by telephoning 564 7385.

How to Get There

You can reach the Wainuiomata Waterworks Recreation Area from Moores Valley Road and Reservoir Road, or Hine Road. Both roads are signposted on the Main Road, Wainuiomata.

Public Transport

Buses run seven days a week from Queensgate via Hutt Central Waterloo Rail Interchange to Hine Road. For timetables and information about bus and train services, call Ridewell 801 7000.

Water Supply

The water supply potential of the lush forests and clear rivers of the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo catchments was recognised as early as 1878 when an earth dam was built and a pipeline laid to Wellington. Since that time further developments have taken place. These include construction of the Morton Dam in 1912, a weir and pipeline from Orongorongo River in 1926, and a simple water treatment plant in 1964.

By the late 1980s the system had reached the end of its useful working life. Morton Dam was decommissioned and the lake drained. In 1993 a new treatment plant was built taking water from weirs in both Wainuiomata and Orongorongo rivers. The new plant produces up to 60 million litres of high quality water per day and supplies a quarter of the water used by greater Wellington.

Water treated by the plant is collected from a **closed water collection area**. Access to the area above the Treatment Plant is strictly controlled because of the risk of diseases such as typhoid, cholera and giardia entering the water supply.

Attractions and Facilities



You can enjoy a variety of short **walks** such as the Gums Loop, and longer **tramps** including Whakanui Track.



Mountain biking is allowed on the Gums Loop. Please ride considerately, **give way to walkers** and abide by the mountain bike code. Cycles are **not** permitted in Rimutaka Forest Park.



The Triangle is a popular **picnic site**. Light fires only in designated fireplaces or portable barbecue units. Usual fire ban regulations apply - **no open fires in summer**.



Please take your rubbish home.



A number of **swimming holes** in the Wainuiomata River are popular in summer. Be water-wise and **watch your child in the water**.



Camping is allowed at The Gums. No facilities are available. Contact the Ranger for suitable sites.



Brown trout are found in the Wainuiomata River. A trout licence is required. Other streams contain eels.



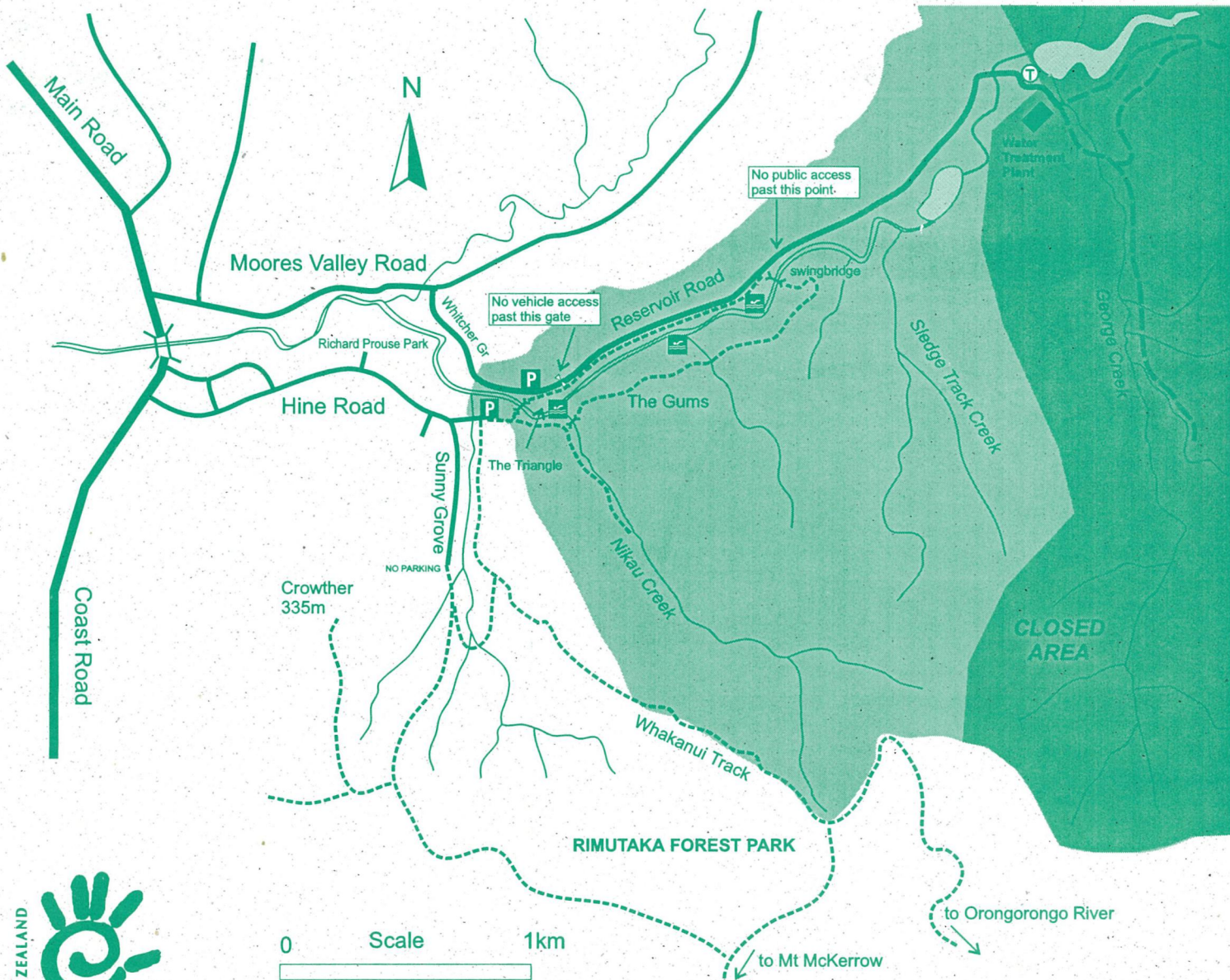
Dogs are permitted in the recreation area but must be on a leash. **Dogs are forbidden in the water collection area.**



Motor vehicles must remain on roads and car parks. Keep off grassed areas. Trail bikes are **not** permitted in the Recreation Area.



- The information in this publication is correct at the date of printing.
- To help us keep these information sheets up to date, please advise us of any discrepancies in the information given.



- NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE**
- 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)

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Tracks

The Gums Loop: This track forms a loop following the Wainuiomata River upstream from Hine Road car park and returning down a sealed road on the other side. On the southern side of the river the track passes through a mature eucalypt plantation and regenerating native bush. The track is bridged at both ends. Side tracks lead to the river. (1 hour, easy - 3km loop)

Nikau Stream Track: From the Triangle, cross the footbridge and follow the track upstream. Shortly after entering the bush a side track leads up beside Nikau Creek. The track passes through regenerating bush before reaching mature beech forest. No exit, return by the same route. (1 hour return, moderate - 2km return)

Whakanui Track: From the Hine Road carpark or the end of Sunny Grove, the Whakanui Track leads into Rimutaka Forest Park and Orongorongo Valley. (3-4 hours one way, moderate/difficult). Tracks also lead to Crowther and Mt McKerrow.

Contact the Department of Conservation for more information about Rimutaka Forest Park.

More Information

For more information contact the Ranger on site:

Wainuiomata Ranger
Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 43 160 WAINUIOMATA
Telephone: 0-4-564 8599
Facsimile: 0-4-564 8943
(call 04 526 4133 if no reply)

For information on Whakanui Track:

Department of Conservation
Rimutaka Forest Park
Catchpool Visitor Centre
Coast Road WAINUIOMATA
Telephone: 0-4-564 8551
Facsimile: 0-4-564 6551

www.wrc.govt.nz

