

History

With West Auckland's early growth centred around Henderson much of Massey's early settlement was dominated by logging and farming. In the 1850s William Swanson began logging in the Swanson area with farmers coming into the picture in Hobsonville. With the logging came the gum diggers and as the trees were felled men scoured the land for Kauri gum before it began to be farmed. Gum digging was profitable for forty years in the region before advances in technology intervened. The most noteworthy gum-digger camp, run by Don Buck was located near the intersection of Don Buck and Swanson roads.

Brick and ceramics manufacturing began in Hobsonville in the 1860s followed by the expansion into Whenuapai and Henderson when technology and rail networks advanced. Most of the brickyards had closed or moved by the early 1900s.

Farming became Massey's primary business as other industries wavered. These farms began to evolve and by the turn of the century were dominated by market gardens and vineyards, many of which have become part of the area's unique identity.

Though roads and drainage were well developed during the first half of the twentieth century it was not until the construction of the North Western motorway in the 1950s when population growth in Massey and surrounding areas became sustained. By the 1970s Massey's population had reached 1200 and continued to grow, reaching 6500 by 1981. Neighbouring areas, Ranui and West Harbour soon became the Waitakere's fastest growing suburbs.

Early European heritage sites still linger on in Massey ward, many of them homes which remain in private hands. The Clark Homestead, built circa 1902 by a pioneering brick-maker company was built as an experiment by the potteries and is now the home of the Aviation Medical unit. Hobsonville Church was built in 1875 making it one of the earliest buildings in the ward. The neighbouring Hobsonville cemetery contains the graves of many of the ward's earliest settler families, the oldest headstone dating back to 1879. The final notable piece of heritage is the post office building located on the corner of Don Buck and Triangle Roads. Built in 1930 this small building is now one of Massey's oldest.

Playgrounds

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill Moir Reserve | Keegan Park | Spargo Reserve |
| Buckingham Common | Luckens Reserve | St Margarets Park |
| Christmas Beach | Manutewhau Reserve | Starlight Park |
| Connemara Reserve | Marina View Reserve | Starling Park |
| Corran Reserve | Marinich Reserve | Taitapu Park |
| Da Vinci Park | Martin Jugum Reserve | Tatjana Park |
| Don Buck Corner | McClintock Reserve | Tornado Reserve |
| Elvira Walk | Melia Reserve | Triangle Park |
| Emerald Valley Park | Moire Park | Ulrich Esplanade Reserve |
| Ferngrove Park | Oak Park | Waimoko Glen Reserve |
| Flaunty Reserve | Paramuka Lakeside | West Harbour Esplanade |
| Gallony Park | Pooks Reserve | Whenuapai Hall Reserve |
| Hendrika Court | Ranui Domain | Whenuapai Hall Reserve |
| Herald Island Domain | Riverpark Reserve | Zita Maria Park |
| Hobsonville War Memorial | Royal Heights Park | |
| | Sarajevo Reserve | |



Waitakere
MASSEY WARD

Key
 Jetty
 Boatramp

- Massey Ward feature parks
- Massey Ward parks
- Massey Ward boundary
- Railway centreline
- Walkways
- Manutewhau Walkway
- Waipareira Walkway

Manutewhau Walkway



Named after the stream it follows, the Manutewhau walkway winds through some of the lushest remaining bush in urban Waitakere and offers a chance to get away from everyday life. A special treat is a very long footbridge at the eastern end of the walk which crosses Lawsons Creek, linking Allington Road and Realm Esplanade with West Harbour Drive; a good spot to watch the activity on the estuary below. This is a spectacular walk particularly when the surrounding trees change colour in autumn.

HOW TO GET THERE:
 Access at Oriel Ave, Moire Road, Moire Park, Allington Road and West Harbour Drive.

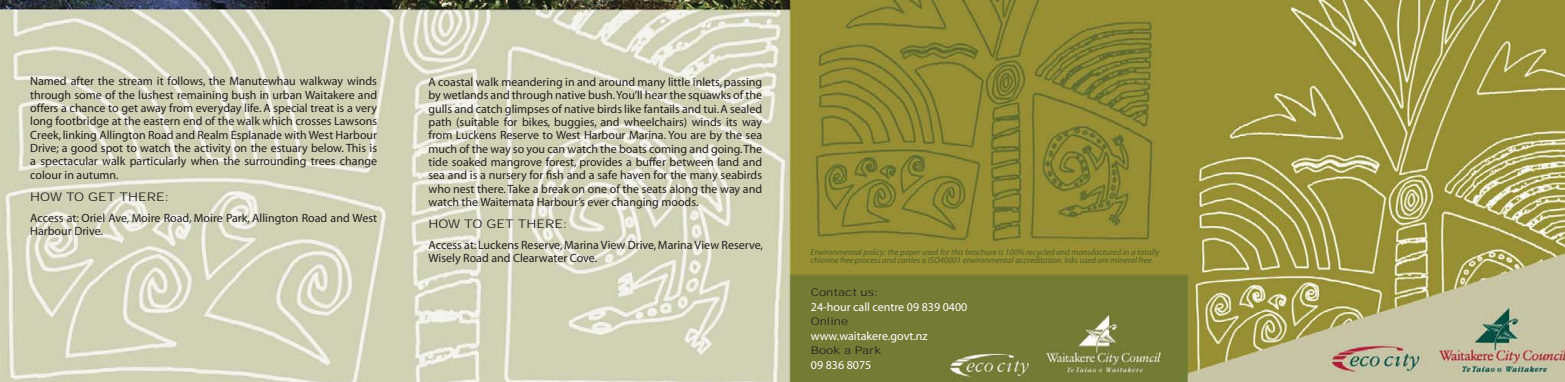
Waipareira Walkway



A coastal walk meandering in and around many little Inlets, passing by wetlands and through native bush. You'll hear the squawks of the gulls and catch glimpses of native birds like fantails and tui. A sealed path (suitable for bikes, buggies, and wheelchairs) winds its way from Luckens Reserve to West Harbour Marina. You are by the sea much of the way so you can watch the boats coming and going. The tide soaked mangrove forest, provides a buffer between land and sea and is a nursery for fish and a safe haven for the many seabirds who nest there. Take a break on one of the seats along the way and watch the Waitemata Harbour's ever changing moods.

HOW TO GET THERE:
 Access at: Luckens Reserve, Marina View Drive, Marina View Reserve, Wisely Road and Clearwater Cove.

Other brochures in this series:
 HENDERSON WARD
 NEW LYNN WARD
 WAITAKERE WARD



Christmas Beach



- KAYAKING • PICNICKING • PLAYING
- BBQ

Hidden on the sheltered side of the quiet Herald Island, Christmas Beach is a coastal reserve perfect for a quiet day in the sun. Take a dip or kayak in the cool harbour waters, relax on the beach or picnic on the grass areas and utilise the free BBQ. Kids can spend the afternoon playing on the playground that inspires imaginations; become a modern day pirate in search of treasures and far away lands on the large wooden ship.

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Hobsonville Road, follow Brigham Creek Road, turn right into Kauri Road, then turn right onto Kingsway Road and over the causeway. Once on Herald Island turn left and follow The Terrace to Christmas Beach.



Marina View Reserve



- WALKING • PLAYING • PICNICKING

Surrounded by lush trees and gardens, Marina View Reserve offers kids the perfect place to unleash their energy. Stay at the reserve or join the Waipareira walkway for a scenic stroll. Take the walkway heading north for a 10 minute walk to the West Harbour marina and shops.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Marina View Road and Wisley Road via Hobsonville Road, West Harbour.



Luckens Reserve



- PLAYING • PICNICKING • WALKING
- JOGGING • BBQ

A large open grass reserve with space for all. Bring the dog, bat and ball and a packed lunch. There are plenty of places to picnic and a free BBQ to cook a delicious meal for friends and family. Luckens Reserve also offers access to the Waipareira walkway with beautiful views of the Waitemata harbour.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Turn right into Luckens Road via Hobsonville or Moire Roads, continue on into Marina View Road and find Luckens Reserve opposite the school.



Moire Park



- WALKING • JOGGING • PICNICKING
- PLAYING • SPORTS

As one of Waitakere's biggest parks, Moire Park offers something for everyone. With approximately half of this reserve covered in dense bush, take a walk or jog through the network of tracks and you will forget that this reserve lies in an urban environment. The other half of this reserve is sports fields busy with rugby in winter, athletics and touch in summer and sports tournaments and cultural festivals throughout the year. The fields are available for hire by the public. A playground and half court are also located near the sports fields to keep all ages entertained. This reserve is a favourite with local dog walkers.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Granville Drive via Moire or Royal Road, Massey.



Massey Leisure Centre & Library



The Massey Leisure Centre and adjoining library is a great example of Waitakere's Eco City philosophy, incorporating innovative environmental features and visual arts throughout the building and surrounding grass reserve. The project won a premier award at the NZ Creative Places Awards in 2002. Sit outside in the grass reserve that surrounds the building and enjoy the water features and stunning views out over the Waitemata Harbour.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Carpark is the first right off Westgate Drive via Don Buck Road, Westgate.



Rush Creek Reserve



- WALKING • JOGGING

Rush Creek Reserve is hidden behind Westgate Shopping Centre away from noisy roads and traffic. Home to an abundance of foliage and birdlife, this reserve offers a calming space to wander, relax and take a break from shopping.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Westgate Drive or Rush Creek Drive via Don Buck Road, Westgate.



Royal Reserve



- JOGGING • SPORTS • WALKING

Royal Reserve offers large grass open space in the heart of an urban environment, with neighbourhood and city views. Practice your ball skills, take the dog for a walk or just picnic and enjoy a good book in the sun. A walkway heading out from the northern edge of the park joins with Rush Creek Reserve and then onto Westgate Shopping Centre.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Beauchamp Drive, via Don Buck Road or Royal Road, Massey.



Triangle Park



- PLAYING • BASKETBALL • WALKING

Triangle Park lies in the heart of Massey and is home to Waitakere's longest flying fox at 40 metres long! This reserve is a must visit, even if only for a few goes on the flying fox. Other facilities at the park include an adventure playground, basketball half court, a large flat grass area for sports and plenty of places to sit down and relax.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Don Buck Road, between Red Hills Road and Triangle Road roundabouts.



Emerald Valley Park



- PLAYING • WALKING • JOGGING

Emerald Valley Park is a quiet neighbourhood park with plenty of space to spread out. A network of gentle footpaths allow kids to whiz around on their bikes and offers a solid surface for those crisp winter walks with the family dog. Kids can run around on the hillside playground, sliding down the slide to the swings and seesaw below.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Garton Drive via Triangle Road, left into Broadfield Street and right onto Killygordon Place, Massey.



Ulrich Esplanade Reserve



- PLAYING • WALKING

Ulrich Esplanade in the Swanson/Ranui area is the home of the Waimoko track which runs parallel to the Swanson stream. The area is lush with restored native vegetation. Trees such as Matipo and Manuka draw native birds and shade the freshwater insects, fish and eels inhabiting the stream. Take lunch and picnic along the stream banks or next to the playground. The walkway extends from Swanson Road for approximately 1km to Glen Road, coming out opposite Te Rangi Hiroa Reserve.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Entry points at Swanson Road, Ulrich Drive and Waitemata Drive, Ranui.



Starling Park



- SPORTS • PLAYING • SKATING • WALKING
- JOGGING

Starling Park is a large flat grass reserve offering recreation for all ages. There is plenty of open grass space to kick around a ball or have a friendly competition with friends. The fields are available for hire by the public. The playground also has a basketball half court and small skate park to keep children of all ages entertained.

HOW TO GET THERE:

Access at Glen Road and Waitemata Drive, Ranui.



Paremuka Lakeside



- PLAYING • PICNICKING • WALKING
- BIRD-WATCHING

Enjoy a walk in the sun and experience ecology at work at Paremuka Lakeside. Restored to its current state, the ponds detain, purify, store and cleanse the water flowing in from the Paremuka Stream. The area also acts as an attractant and sanctuary for birdlife and native fish. Walk or ride a bike around the ponds, play on the playground or launch toy boats from the jetty, joining the ducks and pukekos on the water.

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Sturges Road, turn onto Harvest Drive then right onto Hillwell Drive. There is also access at Charlene Close via Metcalf and Monroe Roads, Henderson.

