

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK



How to get there

From SH1/Transmission Gully, take the Pāuatahanui/Hutt Valley exit and head towards Pāuatahanui. Drive through the small Pāuatahanui village and continue north up Paekākāriki Hill Road for 6km to Battle Hill.

Opening hours

The gate opens at 6am every day and closes at 6pm April – September and 8pm October – March.

Large sections of the farm are closed through August to October for lambing. Always check on our website to know which sections are open during this time, and any other notices.



Campground stream

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park is a spectacular example of a park that offers a little bit of everything to visitors. Whether you like walking, tramping, picnicking, horse riding, mountain biking, camping, or seeking stunning scenery, this park offers it all.

The native forest, regenerating bush, farmland and forestry provide a variety of experiences, alongside crystal-clear streams that make your experience one you'll never forget.

As the site of one of the last battles between Māori and early colonial forces in the region, Battle Hill offers opportunities to learn its rich history and see a working farm alongside environmental restoration.

For more information, contact the Greater Wellington Parks department:
parks@gw.govt.nz

Greater Wellington contact centre:
0800 496 734

Metlink
(for public transport timetables and fares)
0800 801 700
www.metlink.org.nz

Walking or cycling to the park?
Check out
www.gw.govt.nz/cycling/
for the most direct route.



Discover forest, farm and wetlands

A small but significant remnant of dense native forest remains near the park's front paddocks. Along with tawa, titoki and kohekohe, the forest supports the swamp-loving kahikatea, pukatea and swamp maire. Approximately half the park is planted in pines, with much of the remainder in pasture, dotted with native and exotic trees. The Greater Wellington Regional Council is working with school groups and the community to restore two large wetland areas and plant along stream banks. These native plantings and ongoing pest control have improved habitats for a wide range of birds on the property. Tūī, pīwakawaka (fantail) and kererū (NZ pigeon) feed on the array of vegetation, while mallards and pūtangitangi (paradise shelducks) enjoy the pasture and wetlands.

If you would like to contribute to the restoration at Battle Hill, please contact the park ranger via battlehillranger@gw.govt.nz

Planning your visit

There is cell phone reception throughout most of the park. The Summit Loop, Wetlands Walk and Puketiro Loop have areas of poor/no reception so be sure to let someone know of your intentions for your visit.

Our website has additional resources to help plan your visit and you're always welcome to contact our park rangers for more information.

Please take care of your park

- Take your rubbish home and recycle where possible.
- Light fires only on the concrete pads in the campground or front paddocks, subject to fire bans. Portable gas BBQs are permitted.
- Use gates and stiles. Leave gates as you find them. Keep to the tracks in wet conditions.
- This is a working farm. Please stay clear of farm vehicles, buildings and livestock.
- Poison and traps may be laid in the park to control possums, stoats and other pest animals. Do not remove notices or disturb baits, lures, traps, trapping lines or carcasses.
- Dogs are not permitted, including those left in vehicles.
- Do not remove, disturb or damage plants or animals.

Swimming

The Horokiri stream is a popular place to cool off in the summer. There are great spots all along the stream near the campsites.

Tuna/eels

Check out our tame native long-fin eels which are called tuna in te reo. Bring your own meat to feed them. To find the tuna, head through the gate on the right before you cross the bridge when entering the park.

Horse riding

Park your horse float in the Dell Loop car park. The jumps are for organised equestrian events only and casual use is not permitted. Please remove all hay, twine and horse manure from the area. The park may be closed to horse riding when the ground conditions are wet.

Picnics

Battle Hill is famous for its picnic spots, and many have full vehicle access. Choose from some of these popular spots: the Dell, alongside the Horokiri Stream, up at the campgrounds, or have your picnic along one of our trails. With plenty of space for the kids to run about and encounter our free-range chickens or climb the old red tractor, we're confident you won't be disappointed.



Farm visits

The mezzanine floor of the Ken Gray Education Centre is open to view the Woolsheds activities from September to April. Contact the park ranger for more information or to arrange school or community group visits.

Facilities

Flush toilets and drinking water are situated at the front of the Ken Gray Education Centre and in our campground.

The Ken Gray Education Centre is available for hire and is a great space for birthday parties, community meetings and workshops. Our Homestead meeting room with projector is also for hire. Visit our website and contact the park ranger battlehillranger@gw.govt.nz for more information.

Camping

There are a range of campsites available alongside the shallow Horokiri Stream, native bush or open grassy fields. Campsites are allocated on a first come, first served basis and booking is recommended during daylight saving by emailing the park ranger battlehillranger@gw.govt.nz. Bring your own gas BBQ or light a campfire on our concrete fire pads, but please remember to check the fire ban notices.

Although there are no powered sites or dumping station, there is plenty of space for motor homes and caravans. See our website for recommendations.

Fees:

- Adult \$8
- Child (5–16-year-olds) - \$4
- Under fives are free.

Campsites are numbered from 1 – 20. Half of these have concrete fire pits.



Tracks and trails

Track	Distance (km)	Time (walk)	Description	Grade (Easy, Intermediate, Moderate, Hard)
Bush Reserve Short Loop	1.1km	15mins	This short, refreshing loop takes you through an immersive glimpse of our native forest. Easy for all ages with short uphill and downhill sections.	E
Summit Loop	3.5km	1.5hrs	Head up through the native forest via the Bush Loop before winding up to the summit. On clear days the view south to Pāuatahanui Inlet is beautiful. Often quite windy at the top, so bring a jacket. Alternatively, walk it in an anti-clockwise direction and follow the Historical Trail to the top. Walking only through the bush reserve. Mt biking and horse riding is allowed through all farmland.	M
Restoration Trail	2.1km	1hr	Head along the farm road towards Transmission Gully before enjoying the views as you traverse the ridge heading south. As you wander through farmland, you'll see and experience the riparian (streamside) restoration planting before reaching the Dell car park again.	I
Wetlands Walk	3.1km	1hr	Follow the farm road up the flats and turn off to follow the stream while appreciating the restoration planting along the way. The western section of the trail follows up and over some gentle hill country to return down to the car park.	I
Farm Loop	3.3km	2hrs	This loop takes you through various paddocks to provide a true NZ farm experience. Pop up to the summit for a quick side trip and enjoy the moderate challenge heading up and down the hills.	I
Puketiro Loop	10km	4hrs	Please travel the loop in a clockwise direction and take warm clothing as the hilltops are exposed to strong winds. This 4wd drive track takes you through pine plantation to the top, from which you'll have stunning views of the Pāuatahanui Inlet and South Island on a clear day. We recommend you check our website to stay updated for closures during logging.	M
Ponds Loop	600m	20mins	Enjoy these easy, buggy-friendly loops around our restored wetland ponds. See if you can spot the special ropes in the culverts which help young fish to travel upstream.	E
Historic Trail	1.7km	1hr (One way)	Starting near the cemetery, learn about the events which took place here at Battle Hill in 1846. The five information panels tell the history of Battle Hill as you head up to the summit via the Summit Loop track (anti-clockwise).	M
Scenic Wetland Side Loop	400m	10mins	This easy side loop offers an opportunity to enjoy the restored wetlands which were first planted in 2005. Prior to that, it was all farmland. For an easier alternative to the Wetlands Walk, use this scenic loop as your turn around point and dodge the hilly parts.	E

Key

- Information kiosk
- Wheelchair access
- Camping
- Horse riding
- Parking
- Picnicking
- Lookout
- Walking
- Toilets
- Fire pad
- Swimming
- Tramping
- Easy cycling
- Intermediate cycling
- Link trails to Akatarawa Park & outside of Battle Hill