

Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area



Facilities



Public Transport



Walking tracks



Parking



Bird watching



Information



Pram accessible



Highlight

Pass through the gates and step back in time! You will be one of the few people to see lowland forest as it once was and hear the songs of over 20 species of native birds.

Description, values & significance

Never logged, you can expect to see one of the most spectacular and nationally significant, remnant podocarp forests in the lower North Island. The Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area contains rugged, mountainous terrain broken by many streams and narrow, steep sided ridges. Tui, kereru, bellbird, kakariki, whitehead, tomtit and rifleman are abundant here. This environment and the water it provides are important to the region so the area is managed as a remote area with limited access.

Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit

Free guided 'water walk' tours through the Water Collection Area are available one Sunday a month during particular times of the year. The area is only open to the public for these walks - throughout the rest of the year it's closed to protect water quality. To apply for a place on the walk, download an application form at www.gw.govt.nz/events or phone 0800 496 734. Alternatively, there are walks in the adjoining Wainuiomata Recreation Area which are accessible to the public all year round.

Threatened species/species of interest

The forests in the Water Collection Area range from superb rata podocarp, to sub-tropical emergent forest containing hinau, kamahi, rewa rewa and tree ferns through to silver beech on the high ridge-tops. There are ancient pukatea, rimu, matai, beech, rata, as well as ferns, and Dawsonia superba - the world's biggest moss. Kiwi have self-introduced into the catchment from the adjacent kiwi reintroduction programme run by the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust. New species are being identified here on a regular basis.

Key threats

The area has pest control and monitoring programmes for possums, rats, stoats, deer, pigs and goats. Control is intensive in the headwaters of the Wainuiomata River designated a 1000 hectare 'mainland island'. The benefits of this work are evident in the abundant healthy mature rata, and the coprosma, five-finger and tawa dripping with fruit.

Walks (length)

The Wainuiomata Orongorongo Water Collection Area has been closed off to the public since the early 1900's but is now open for guided walks only. The tours start at 9.00am on designated days over the year and run for around five hours over easy terrain (12km long). Participants must be moderately fit to participate and be prepared for the bush environment. Please go to the Greater Wellington website to see what dates the tours are being held. Alternatively, there are walks in the adjoining Wainuiomata Recreation Area which are accessible to the public all year round.

Walks (grade)

Easy

Manager

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Protection status

Fee simple for the purposes of recreation, forestry and water supply

How to get there

