

Otari-Wilton's Bush



Facilities



Bus (No.14)



Parking



Toilets



Information



Wheelchair accessible
(in part)



Pram accessible



Dog walking
(on leash)



Walking tracks



Bird watching



Picnic table



Water fountain



Bbq



Highlight

Visit the majestic 800 year old rimu tree and experience the largest pre-European rimu, matai and kohekohe forest remaining in the Wellington City area. See flocks of kereru and walk the 11 kms of tracks throughout the reserve.

Description, values & significance

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve (Otari-Wilton's Bush) is around five hectares of cultivated native plant collections and about 96 hectares of mature and regenerating native forest. Otari is the only public botanic garden in New Zealand dedicated solely to native plants and is classified as a *Garden of National Significance* by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. The forest has been a recreation area for Wellingtonians since the 1860's.

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

Otari-Wilton's Bush is about 5km from the city centre, at 160 Wilton Road (between Gloucester and Warwick Streets). You can take the No 14 Wilton bus from Wellington city to Otari-Wilton's Bush. There are two primary entrances to Otari-Wilton's Bush on Wilton Road: the Banks Entrance to the main garden area and the main public Carpark Entrance further north along Wilton Road. Parking is also available off Churchill Drive. Te Marae o Tane Information Centre is open 9am - 4pm daily and is located in a building midway between the two Wilton Road entrances.

Threatened species/species of interest

Dr Leonard Cockayne developed the native plant collection known as Otari gardens, which now contains 1200 species collected from Cape Reinga to the Sub-Antarctic Islands. Wilton's Bush is regenerating kohekohe/ tawa forest hosting majestic rimu and matai. Otari-Wilton's bush has an abundant native bird community including tui and kereru (woodpigeon) as well as some rare species such as kakariki, whitehead and on occasion kaka visiting from Zealandia. Guided tours are available.

Key threats

The key environmental threats in this urban setting are weeds and pest animals, in particular rats, mustelids and feral cats, as they impact on the ability of the forest to regenerate naturally and for the native wildlife to survive. Both animal and plant pest control and monitoring is intensively carried out in the reserve.

Walks (length)

Contains an extensive network of tracks (from 30 minutes to 2 hours) which provide loop walks through forest and clearings and give access to the suburb of Chartwell, to the Karori Cemetery, to Ian Galloway Park, and to the Outer Green Belt Skyline Track and Johnston's Hill Reserve.

Walks (grade)

Contains walks to suit all levels.

Manager

Wellington City Council

Protection status

Scenic reserve

Community Involvement

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

How to get there

