

# Akatarawa Forest



## Facilities

Parking	Swimming	Four wheel driving (permit required)
Information (Information kiosks at all entry points)	Fishing	Look out
Dog walking	Horse riding (see park map)	Bird watching
Walking tracks	Boating	Picnic table (at two entrance points)
Mountain biking	Kayaking	Hut (Orange Hut - for emergency accommodation only)



## Highlight

The Akatarawa Forest is Wellington's back country playground with something for everyone from hunting, 4 wheel driving, trail biking, horse riding, a selection of tramping tracks and the home of the Karapoti Classic (mountain biking race). The Akatarawa Forest has it all.

## Description, values & significance

Covering 15,000 hectares of wilderness between Upper Hutt and the Kapiti Coast, the Akatarawa Forest is a rugged blend of native and exotic forest. Mountain, quad, trail bikers, and 4WD clubs find a variety of gentle and challenging routes along the tracks and old logging roads. Also popular for horse riding, fishing, hunting and tramping, the Akatarawa Forest provides enjoyable and testing terrain. The forest forms a link between the Kapiti Coast, Akatarawa, Tararua, Rimutaka and Orongorongo Ranges.

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

There are a number of different entrances to the park, depending on whether you are walking, cycling or going for motorised recreation. **Public transport:** To reach the Cannon Point Walkway, take a No 111 bus (Mon-Sat) to the end of Totara Park Rd from Upper Hutt Railway Station. **Private vehicle:** Turn off State Highway 2: Karapoti Rd via Akatarawa Rd, Upper Hutt (motorbike and 4WD entrance); Off State Highway 1: Maungakotukutuku Rd, via Waterfall Rd 1km north of MacKays Crossing (motor bike entrance); Via Cannon Point Walkway: Bridge Rd (off Akatarawa Rd); Tulsa Park off Totara Park Rd, Upper Hutt; Bulls Run Rd, off Moonshine Rd.

## Threatened species/species of interest

Some 1,000 hectares of original lowland podocarp forest and 500 hectares of red/beech/miro/rimu forest remain in parts of the park. In addition, small but significant stands of Hall's totara/kamahi and miro/kamahi forest remain on high ridges and peaks. There are also several important wetlands in the Akatarawa and Whakatikei River catchments. All of the regions surviving indigenous forest bird species are found here including kaka and four species of nationally sparse or regionally critical fern.

## Key threats

The 1900's logging (logging equipment can still be seen in the forest) changed the forest by altering wind, light and frost exposure in the forest, and now this forest has the worst weed problem of the four managed forests. Possums and other animal pests are controlled using a variety of methods including aerial 1080 poison drops and professional goat hunting.

## Walks (length)

Karapoti Gorge (3 hours return - easy grade)

Mount Titi (5 hours return - moderate/demanding)

## Walks (Grade)

Easy to hard walking tracks

## Manager

Greater Wellington Regional Council

## Protection status

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

## How to get there

