Holdsworth

Facilities

- Parking
- Toilets
- Pram accessible (in campground)
- Walking tracks
- Dog walking (on leash)
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Look out
- Bird watching
- Picnic table
- BBQ
- Camping
- Hut accommodation

Highlight

Set against the backdrop of some of the highest peaks in the Tararua Range, Holdsworth is the main entrance to the eastern side of Tararua Forest Park. The picturesque Atiwhakatu Stream is a perfect picnic spot.

Description, values & significance

Holdsworth is the main entrance to the Tararua Forest Park. It offers short walks and longer tramps through attractive forest vegetation and higher up in to the alpine environment. The Atiwhakatu Stream passes through the area and is home to a diverse range of animal, bird and insect life. The summit of Mount Holdsworth is 1470 metres and takes a day to climb. The track climbs beyond the forest up to the tussock highlands, offering expansive views of the Wairarapa farmland and the rugged interior of the Tararua Range.

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

Holdsworth is located in the Carterton District. To get to the main entrance turn off State Highway 2 onto Norfolk Road, 2km south of Masterton. Follow the signs to Tararua Forest Park, approximately 15km from State Highway 2.

Threatened species/species of interest

A forest of towering rimu, kahikatea, miro, and rata is home to kaka, kakariki, tomtit, rifleman, Wainuiia urnula (a carnivorous snail), and over a dozen species of native freshwater fish. The long-tailed bat and the southern subspecies of the lesser short-tailed bat can be found in parts of the Tararua Range. Of note are species once here but now regionally extinct including whio (Blue duck) Powelliphanta travers (giant carnivorous snail), north island robin (toutouwai) huia, kokako and kiwi.

Key threats

Possums are a major threat to the area. Previously the Department of Conservation used the pest control 1080 every 6-7 years to control possums, but not rodents, and so bird populations did not benefit. Project Kaka was established in 2009 whereby a band of the park from Otaki to Holdsworth has been treated every three years, controlling rodents and possums. Red deer, illegally released seka and goats continue to threaten the area and are controlled in some areas by recreational hunting.
Walks (length)
The loop walk to Donnelly Flat takes around 40 minutes.
Rocky Lookout is a 2 hour return trip.
Atiwhkatu Hut is 3 hours one way.
Holdsworth Lookout is 1 hour one way.
A real treat for seasoned wilderness hikers is the Holdsworth Jumbo circuit - a two to three day adventure that involves travelling along the tussock-covered tops of the Tararua Ranges. Backcountry huts provide accommodation on the way.

Walks (grade)
Donnelly Flat: Easy to Moderate walking.
Rocky Lookout: Easy to Moderate Walking.
Atiwhakatu hut: Easy to Moderate Walking.
Holdsworth Lookout: Challenging day or Multi-day tramping.

Manager
Department of Conservation

Protection status
Tararua Forest Conservation Park

Community Involvement
Donnelly Flat Ground Control group undertake pest control on a regular basis.

How to get there