Riversdale

Facilities

- Parking
- Toilets
- Wheelchair accessible
- Pram accessible
- Walking tracks
- Dog walking
- Horse riding
- Swimming
- Scuba diving
- Surfing
- Fishing
- Boating
- Kayaking
- Playground
- Picnic table
- BBQ
- Camping

Highlight

Riversdale is the largest beach resort in the Wairarapa, boasting its long sandy gently sloping beach. It has been a popular spot for over fifty years for swimmers, surfers and fishers.

Description, values & significance

This part of the Wairarapa coast has consistently good surf and the four kilometre long beach is sheltered by the natural barrier of the Tararua Ranges. At low tide, a large area of rock is exposed at both ends of the bay creating a natural playground for fishing and snorkelling. An exposed reef two kilometres out to sea is a well known diving site and a good place to catch groper.

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

Riversdale Beach is located on Wairarapa’s east coast, 54 km east of Masterton, about 1 hour drive from Masterton. Turn right into Te Ore Ore Road on the northern outskirts of Masterton. This road becomes Masterton Castlepoint Road and leads directly to Riversdale. The road is sealed all the way out to the beach.

Threatened species/species of interest

Matagouri (Discaria toumatou), a tangle branched, extremely thorny shrub or small tree, is a threatened species that is found here along with other declining species. The beach has Uruti Wetland (a Department of Conservation recommended area for protection) at one end and Motuwareka Stream at the other. Although the vegetation is mostly exotic, significant dune systems of this type in the Wairarapa are relatively uncommon and this system is not grazed.

Key threats

Careless use of vehicles on the dunes can damage the fragile dune ecosystem uprooting plants and damaging seedlings. The wetlands can also be threatened by pollution. Mustelids, rats, and cats can threaten wildlife. Ongoing development of the area for housing increases the pressure on the beach ecosystem through encroachment, increased sedimentation and weed introductions.
Walks
There are no specific walks in the Southern Reserve

Manager
Greater Wellington Regional Council and Masterton District Council

Protection status
Beach Reserve

Community Involvement
Riversdale Ratepayers Association are actively involved in dune protection and restoration

How to get there