Queen Elizabeth Park
Podocarp Forest Remnant

Description, values & significance
The 650 hectare park encompasses the last remaining area of unmodified sand dunes on the Kāpiti Coast, a working farm, wetlands and a one-hectare kahikatea remnant (one of only two remaining examples of this type of lowland forest on the Kāpiti Coast). Maori lived in the area for hundreds of years taking advantage of the plentiful food supply and central location. Before the wetlands were drained, the numerous waterways were an important waka (canoe) travel network.

Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit
The park is bordered by Paekakariki, Raumati South, State Highway One, and the North Island Main Trunk Railway. Main entrances are near the Mackays Crossing overbridge of State Highway One over the railway (MacKay’s crossing, main entrance) and in Raumati South and Paekakariki. Queen Elizabeth Park is open daily from 8am to dusk.

Threatened species/species of interest
The forest remnant is dominated by kahikatea and pukatea, with some tawa, swamp maire and matai. Forest, wetland and shore birds can all be found at the park including shags, oystercatchers, pukeko, fantail, silveryeye, tui, kereru and even bellbird and kakariki. The forest remnant provides an ecological link with Whareroa Farm and Akatarawa Forest. It is being gradually restored, expanded and monitored to improve its resilience and sustainability.

Key threats
Because of its small size and fragmented nature the podocarp forest remnant is vulnerable to pests, lack of seed source, weed infestation, and wind damage. Changes to the water table could threaten the composition of the forest making it too dry to support kahikatea. Possums, rabbits, mustelids, and rats are being actively controlled.
Walks (length)
A coastal walkway (4.9 km) and an inland walkway (5.5 km) run the length of Queen Elizabeth Park from Raumati South to Paekakariki. Near the main entrance, a loop walkway leads through a wetland area and bush remnant with mature kahikatea.

Walks (grade)
Easy short walks.

Manager
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Protection status
Recreation Reserve

Community Involvement
Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park
Raumati South Residents Association
Paekakariki Surf Lifesaving Club

How to get there