Mangaone Walkway

Facilities

- Parking (at South Mangaone)
- Dog walking*
- Walking tracks
- Bird watching

*Mangaone Stream Walkway, where it passes through the Awapuni Racecourse, has been added as a Dog On Leash Area

Highlight

Follow the old bush tramway along the Mangaone Walkway, historically known as Reikorangi Track, and explore the Kaitawa Scenic Reserve and the low hill country east of Waikanae boarding the Tararua Ranges.

Description, values & significance

The southern half of the track follows the Waikanae River through Kaitawa Scenic Reserve, which protects previously milled podocarp forest in the south and crosses farmland (following a farm road) at its north end. Streams at the southern end are usually easy to ford, but expect to get wet feet. The Wellington Botanical Society describes the Kaitawa Reserve as a significant remnant of the original coastal wetland ecosystem, much of which has been lost.

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

The best carpark is on Mangaone South Road. At Waikanae traffic lights take the route inland towards the Akatarawas, turning off to Reikorangi about 7km down the road. Passing Reikorangi Pottery, a few hundred metres down Ngatiawa Road turn left on Mangaone South Road and drive to the end and park in the carpark.

For Mangaone North, turn inland at Te Horo crossroads 9km north of Waikanae. Go past the school and follow the signs to Mangaone Walkway along Hautere-Cross Road, then turn right on to Mangaone North Road and follow it to the end. The last 4km are narrow, windy and unsealed. There is a small carpark at this end.

Threatened species/species of interest

Once logged, the original podocarp forest is now regenerating. Kaitawa Scenic Reserve features spires of rewarewa trees that will eventually be replaced by the original tall canopy trees including rimu, rata, kaikatea, matai, and miro. Five species of tree fern line the track including katote, wheki, wheki-ponga, ponga, and mamaku. Ground ferns and delicate filmy ferns on tree trunks are also prominent along the track. Volunteers are actively replanting Kaitawa Reserve, restoring its functionality.

Key threats

Development in the valley east of Kaitawa Reserve threatens it by facilitating the introduction of weeds, increasing erosion potential and cutting the Reserve off from the Tararua Ranges, isolating and fragmenting the forest. The Reserve required “rescuing” from a neglected and weed infested state and ongoing maintenance and weed control will be required.
Walks (length)
The track links Mangaone South Road with Mangaone North Road. Mangaone South Road runs off Ngatiawa Road, 8km south-east from Waikanae. Mangaone North Road runs off Te Horo Hautere Cross Road from Te Horo, 9km north of Waikanae. Walking time is 3 hours each way. If you don’t plan to retrace the track, arrange transport from the point of exit. Streams at the southern end are usually easy to ford, but expect to get wet feet.

Walks (grade)
Easy to moderate walking

Manager
Department of Conservation

Protection status
Southern half of track flows through Kaitawa Scenic Reserve

How to get there