

Open tops and hidden valleys

The breathtaking views and bush clad valleys of Belmont Regional Park make it a favourite open space for walking, running, mountain biking and horse riding. Located in the hill country between Porirua and the Hutt Valley, the park features the historic Korokoro Dam, World War II munitions stores and the original coach road from Lower Hutt to Pauatahanui. The climb to Boulder Hill (442m) or Belmont Trig (457m) gives sweeping views over Porirua and Wellington Harbours and the Hutt Valley.

The Korokoro Valley forest contains the last significant stand of rimu-rata-tawa-kohekohe in the southwest of the Wellington region. Pukatea, matai and kahikatea emerge in the remnant forest of Dry Creek, while the pocket of tawa/kohekohe forest at Cannons Creek is the largest on the eastern side of the Porirua Basin.

The Korokoro Valley forest supports a significant diversity of native birds including piwakawaka (fantail), ruru (morepork), grey warbler, rifleman, shining cuckoo and bellbird. Tui and kereru tend to range seasonally throughout the park's native forest and neighbouring gardens in search of food.

In 2015, a strip of the north western area of the park was sold to the government to enable construction of the Transmission Gully Motorway. While park visitors entering at Cannons Creek and Warspite Avenue no longer have access to the Hutt Valley, they can reach a lookout giving an excellent view of the road construction progress through this dramatic stretch of hill country. Links to the rest of the park will be established when the motorway is completed sometime around 2020.



History

Early Maori used two major routes to link the Wellington and Porirua harbours, both crossing the hills of what is now Belmont Regional Park. One began from the Korokoro Stream mouth and wound over the hills, descending to Porirua Harbour. The other ran from the Pauatahanui arm of Porirua Harbour south over the hills, and down Speedy's stream in Belmont. These routes initially linked Ngati Ira living in the Hutt Valley and Porirua and later the Kawhia and Taranaki iwi who had migrated here during the 1820s.



The Old Coach Road was first walked in 1857, before being completed as a dray road in 1872. Coaches from the Hutt used this route to Pauatahanui until the mid 1880s when it was superseded by Haywards Hill Road (now SH58). However, its original road bed can still be walked today.

The growth of Petone borough and the need for a secure water supply led to the damming of the Korokoro Stream in 1903 and the acquisition through the Public Works Act of Te Atiawa's 1,214 acre Maungaraki Reserve. During World War II the Public Works Department built 62 concrete ammunition magazines to store army munitions, much of it destined for use in the Pacific campaign. Spread across just over 1000 acres, the magazines were supposedly laid out to resemble a poultry farm from the air. Belmont Regional Park was opened on 2 April 1989, the first park in New Zealand to combine land for recreation, conservation and farming purposes. In 2005 the entire area was secured in public ownership to be managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Activities in the park

Walking, Running and Tramping

Belmont Regional Park offers walks over rolling hills, through bush-clad valleys and across farmland. Wear strong shoes or boots.

Dogs are permitted in the Korokoro, Stratton Street and Dry Creek valleys. Keep them under control and remove droppings.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is centred on the hillslopes between Stratton woolshed and Hill (farm) Road. The Belmont Area Mountainbike Association (BAMBA) maintains tracks that are used only for downhill biking. The uphill biking tracks are shared with walkers. Information on current and future tracks can be found at [www.bamba.org.nz](http://www.bamba.org.nz).

Horse Riding

The best entry points for horse riders are at **Stratton Street** and **Dry Creek**, both of which have toilets and horse float parking. Horse riders can also enter from Horokiwi Rd, Sweetacres Reserve, and Kaitangata Crescent. Special conditions apply for horse riding access from the Hill Rd and Takapu Rd entrances; contact the ranger for more information.

Picnicking

You may picnic anywhere in the park. There are good picnic spots near the Korokoro Dam, Baked Beans Bend, Stratton Street valley and near the Dry Creek entrance.

Camping and group activities

Camping is allowed in the Dry Creek Valley, please follow the signs in the information kiosk. Register at the camping registration box.

The Stratton Street and Dry Creek entrances are suitable for group activities and events. The Stratton Street classroom can be hired by groups of up to 35 people.

Get involved

Numerous community groups are involved in the protection, restoration and enhancement of the park. See [www.gw.govt/belmont](http://www.gw.govt/belmont) for contact details.

Safety in the park

The park has moderately steep hills and is exposed on the tops to wind, rain and fog. Weather conditions can change quickly, so please

- check the weather forecast before your trip
- carry warm and waterproof clothing, and enough food and drink for your trip
- carry sun protection
- plan your route and tell someone your intentions
- wear strong lace-up boots or walking shoes
- avoid streams during heavy rain

Opening hours

Vehicle gates at Hill Rd and Stratton St are open from 8am to– dusk. Dry Creek vehicle gate remains open through out the summer but in winter is locked between 6pm and 6am. Some parts of the park may be closed for farm management purposes, particularly during lambing, August-October.



How to get there

Entrances off SH2

- ▲ **Cornish Street, Oakleigh Street** and **Stratton Street** via Dowse Interchange
- ▲ **Hill Road** via Belmont Interchange
- ▲ **Kaitangata Crescent**, Kelson
- ▲ **Dry Creek** near the intersection of SH2 and SH58
- ▲ **Old Coach Road** via Normandale Road

Off SH1

- ▲ **Cannons Creek** via Mungavin Ave
- ▲ **Takapu Road**, Grenada North

Off SH58

- ▲ **Belmont Road**

Public transport

From Petone Railway Station, walk over the pedestrian overpass and walk 10 minutes along Pito-One Road to the **Cornish Street** entrance or take bus #150 to **Oakleigh Street**.

From Melling Station take bus #158 to the junction of Sweetacres Drive and Hill Road. Enter the park at the **Sweetacres** track 100m up **Hill Road** or continue 0.7 km up Hill Road to the park entrance.

From Waterloo Interchange take bus #150 to the top of Major Drive, Kelson. The entrance is 1km from the intersection with **Kaitangata Crescent**.

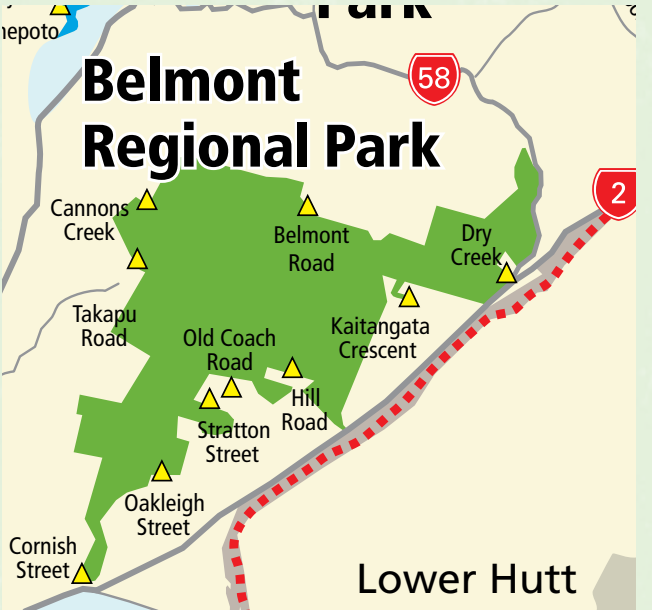
From Manor Park Station walk 10 minutes to the **Dry Creek** entrance.

From Porirua Station, take bus #63, #64 or #61 to **Cannons Creek**.

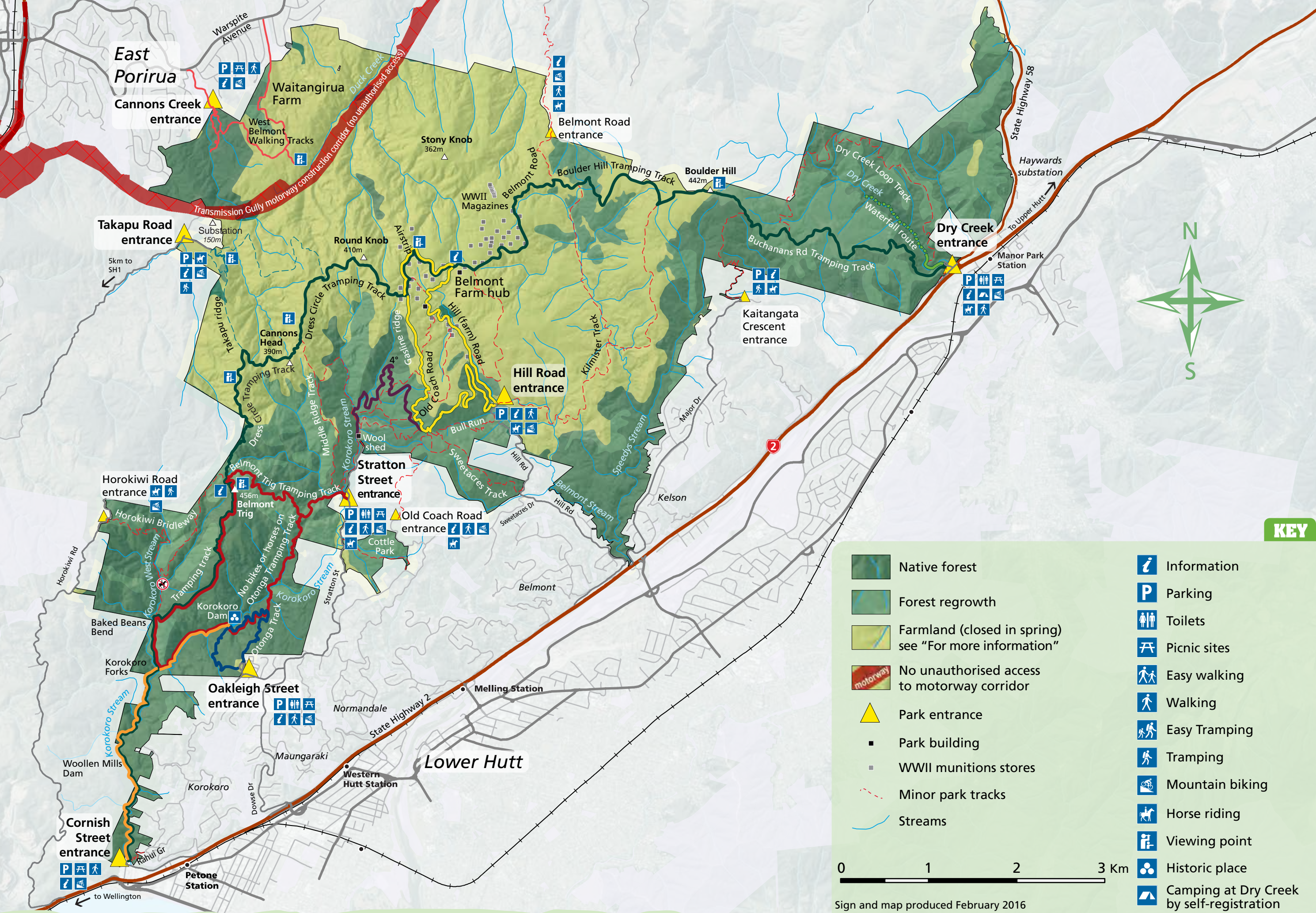
For information, timetables and fares; [www.metlink.org.nz](http://www.metlink.org.nz) or 0800 801 700

Please take care of your park

- Take your rubbish home and recycle it where possible.
- Dogs are permitted in the Korokoro and Dry Creek Valleys. Keep them under control and remove droppings. **No dogs on or near farmland.**
- Do not remove, disturb or damage native plants or animals.
- Light no fires. You are welcome to bring a portable gas barbecue.
- Use gates and stiles. Leave gates as you find them.
- Poison may be laid in the park to control possums. Do not remove notices or disturb baits, lures, trapping lines or carcasses.







## Tracks and Trails

### ▲ Cannons Creek Entrance

#### Maara Roa Loop Walk

\*(30 minutes)

A short walk in the area the Friends of Maara Roa are replanting after a fire swept through in 2003. Along the walk there are lovely views across and down Cannons Creek

#### Motorway View Loop Walk

(2 hours)

This loop walk from Warspite Avenue, Porirua, is up to and through farmland in the park. It has a good viewing point over the Transmission Gully motorway construction..

### ▲ Takapu Road entrance

#### Viaduct View Loop Walk

(15 minutes)

A short walk to the best point for following the progress of the viaduct being built across Cannons Creek. This bridge is part of the construction of the new Transmission Gully motorway

#### Cannons Head Loop Track

(2.5 hours)

This trail circles through the steep farmland of the Cannons Creek headwaters. There is a good view point over the motorway corridor.

### ▲ Cornish Street entrance

Discover an historic dam and remnants of the original forest or journey up for the views from the open tops.

#### Korokoro Stream track

(3 hours return)

A graded track follows the old water pipeline up to the historic Korokoro Dam.

### ▲ Oakleigh Street entrance

Wander past nikau palms in remnants of the original forest, discover an historic dam, or tramp up to the open tops for the views.

#### Korokoro Dam Loop Track

(1 hour)

A medium walk winds down through cool native forest to the historic dam.

### ▲ Old Coach Road entrance

Local access to the Stratton and Belmont farm walking, biking and horse riding tracks.

### ▲ Belmont Road entrance

Local access to the Belmont Road and Boulder Hill tramping tracks.

### ▲ Stratton Street entrance

Explore this patchwork of grassland and regenerating native bush, spread across hills and valleys hidden from the city.

#### Belmont Trig Loop

(4 hours)

An energetic round trip, taking in panoramic views from the highest point in the park, along with native forest in the middle part of Korokoro Valley.

#### 4 Degrees

(1 hour one way)

This winding uphill mountain bike and walking track starting from Stratton Woolshed links the upper Korokoro Valley with Old Coach Road on the ridge above.

### ▲ Hill Road entrance

Experience a working farm set on rolling hills and rugged valleys, encounter WWII munitions stores and be astonished by the views.

#### Belmont Farm Loop

(3 hours)

A trip through some of the high rolling hills of Belmont Farm. Dogs are not allowed in farmland.

### ▲ Dry Creek entrance

This is a main entry to the park for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Explore the Dry Creek valley or head up to Boulder Hill for the views and discover the rest of the park beyond.

#### Waterfall Route

(1 hour return)

Try this short safe route for a taste of back country tramping. It is an easy scramble for all ages through native bush up to a small waterfall. Expect to get wet feet, perfect for a sunny summer's day.

#### Puke Ariki/ Haywards Korokoro Traverse

7 to 8 Hours one way

Take the challenge! This day trip traverses the valleys and ridge tops of the eastern side of the park. About half of it is through farmland. The views are tremendous and there are also a variety of historic features to discover.

\* All times refer to walking