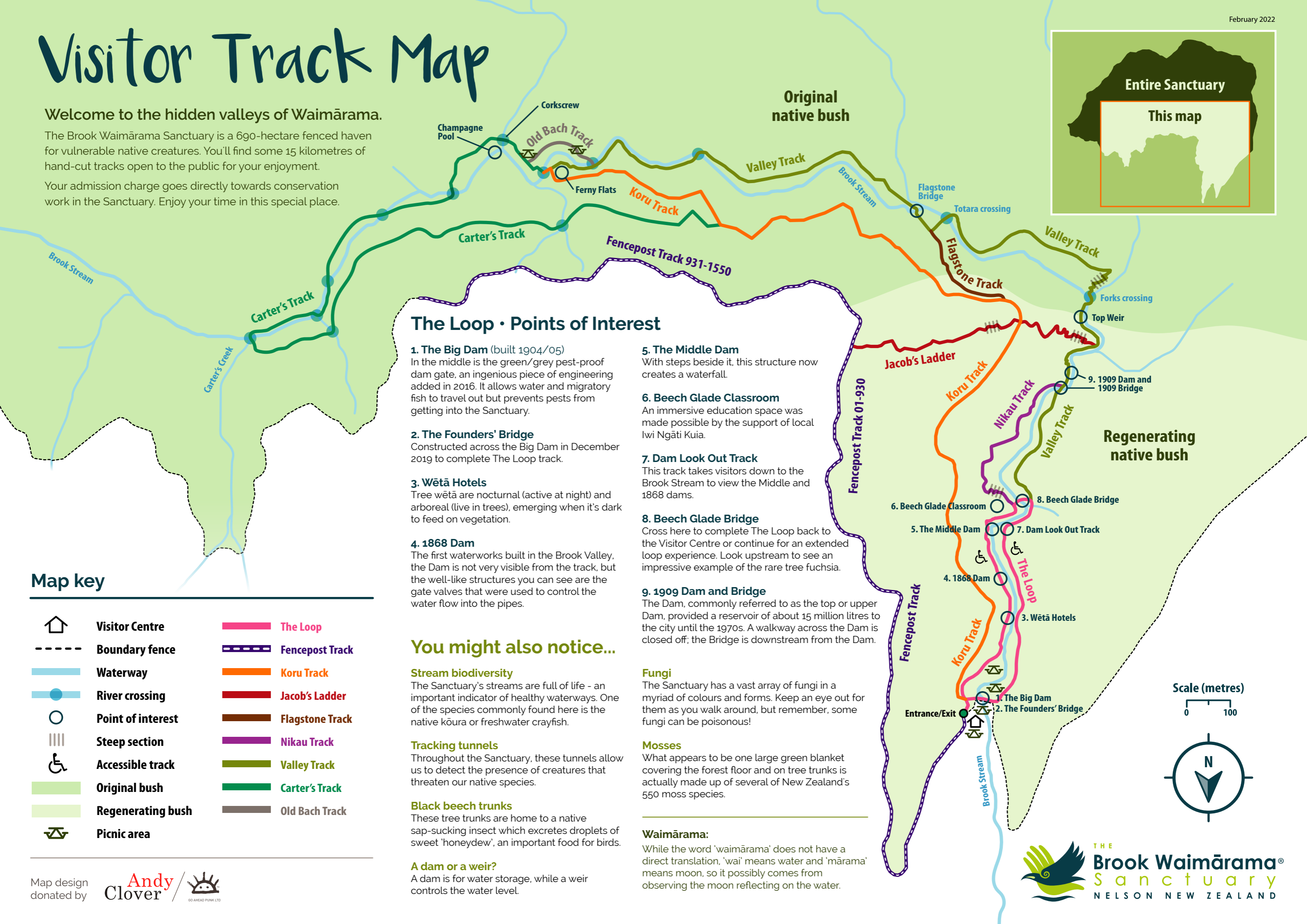
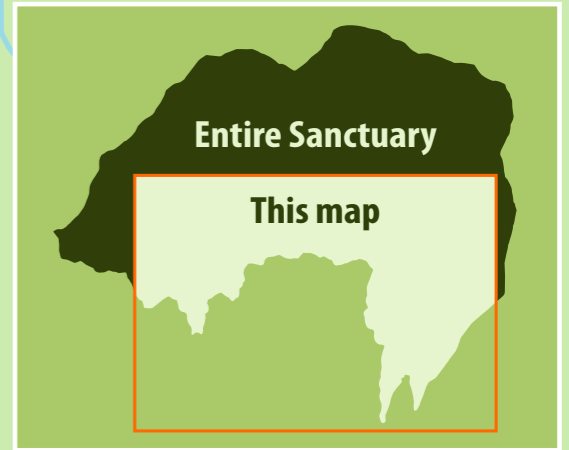


Visitor Track Map

Welcome to the hidden valleys of Waimārama.

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is a 690-hectare fenced haven for vulnerable native creatures. You'll find some 15 kilometres of hand-cut tracks open to the public for your enjoyment.

Your admission charge goes directly towards conservation work in the Sanctuary. Enjoy your time in this special place.



The Loop • Points of Interest

1. The Big Dam (built 1904/05)

In the middle is the green/grey pest-proof dam gate, an ingenious piece of engineering added in 2016. It allows water and migratory fish to travel out but prevents pests from getting into the Sanctuary.

2. The Founders' Bridge

Constructed across the Big Dam in December 2019 to complete The Loop track.

3. Wētā Hotels

Tree wētā are nocturnal (active at night) and arboreal (live in trees), emerging when it's dark to feed on vegetation.

4. 1868 Dam

The first waterworks built in the Brook Valley, the Dam is not very visible from the track, but the well-like structures you can see are the gate valves that were used to control the water flow into the pipes.

5. The Middle Dam

With steps beside it, this structure now creates a waterfall.

6. Beech Glade Classroom

An immersive education space was made possible by the support of local Iwi Ngāti Kuaia.

7. Dam Look Out Track

This track takes visitors down to the Brook Stream to view the Middle and 1868 dams.

8. Beech Glade Bridge

Cross here to complete The Loop back to the Visitor Centre or continue for an extended loop experience. Look upstream to see an impressive example of the rare tree fuchsia.

9. 1909 Dam and Bridge

The Dam, commonly referred to as the top or upper Dam, provided a reservoir of about 15 million litres to the city until the 1970s. A walkway across the Dam is closed off; the Bridge is downstream from the Dam.

You might also notice...

Stream biodiversity

The Sanctuary's streams are full of life - an important indicator of healthy waterways. One of the species commonly found here is the native kōura or freshwater crayfish.

Tracking tunnels

Throughout the Sanctuary, these tunnels allow us to detect the presence of creatures that threaten our native species.

Black beech trunks

These tree trunks are home to a native sap-sucking insect which excretes droplets of sweet 'honeydew', an important food for birds.

A dam or a weir?

A dam is for water storage, while a weir controls the water level.

Fungi

The Sanctuary has a vast array of fungi in a myriad of colours and forms. Keep an eye out for them as you walk around, but remember, some fungi can be poisonous!

Mosses

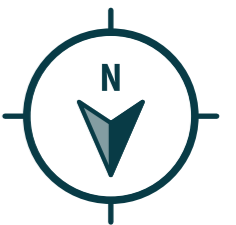
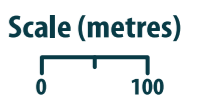
What appears to be one large green blanket covering the forest floor and on tree trunks is actually made up of several of New Zealand's 550 moss species.

Waimārama:

While the word 'waimārama' does not have a direct translation, 'wai' means water and 'mārama' means moon, so it possibly comes from observing the moon reflecting on the water.

Map key

	Visitor Centre		The Loop
	Boundary fence		Fencepost Track
	Waterway		Koru Track
	River crossing		Jacob's Ladder
	Point of interest		Flagstone Track
	Steep section		Nikau Track
	Accessible track		Valley Track
	Original bush		Carter's Track
	Regenerating bush		Old Bach Track
	Picnic area		



Walk suggestions

(All start and finish at the Visitor Centre)

The Loop

30 - 40 minutes

The most popular and well-developed track is also accessible. See over for The Loop's Points of Interest.

Valley Track

60 - 80 minutes

Take The Loop to Beech Glade Bridge, then head up either the Nikau Track or the Valley Track, cross the 1909 Bridge, and back toward the Visitor Centre. Add a spectacular treat (extra 20 mins) by continuing up the Valley Track to Forks Crossing and back.

Koru Track - Valley Track loop*

1.5 - 2 hours

Take the Koru Track up to Jacob's Ladder. Turn right onto Jacob's Ladder and take it down (this is steep) to the Valley Track. Turn right again down the Valley Track over 1909 Bridge and back toward the Visitor Centre over The Founders' Bridge.

Valley Track to Ferny Flats

2 - 3 hours

Take The Founders' Bridge and The Loop then Valley Track. Before Ferny Flats, cross the stream to Old Bach Track and at its end, turn right to the Corkscrew and beautiful Champagne Pool just beyond. Turn back and take the stream crossing to Ferny Flats. **Either** follow Koru Track back to the Visitor Centre (the quickest route) **or**, keeping the stream on your left, take the Valley Track back again.

Carter's Loop*

3 - 4 hours (9 kms)

Take the Koru Track to the end at Ferny Flats. Join Carter's Track over the crossing, keeping left, and over another 8 stream crossings, turning around at the easternmost point to head home. Take Carter's Track to its end point with the Koru Track and proceed toward Jacob's Ladder. **Two options here:** take Jacob's Ladder down (this is steep) to the Valley Track and over 1909 Bridge **or** take the Koru Track all the way back. Both options end at the entrance/exit gate.

*Consider going in reverse order in wet conditions as the steep areas can be slippery.

Safety in the Sanctuary

Ask what time the Sanctuary is closing and plan your walk accordingly.

Keep a careful eye on children; many tracks are uneven and slippery.

Wear appropriate shoes for bush terrain.

Keep to the sign-posted tracks on this map. Keep off the operational tracks marked by pink triangles.

Many of the tracks have stream crossings. All stream crossings need a degree of care. Rocks can be very slippery so avoid 'rock-hopping' and walk through the water on stable surfaces. Don't try to cross if the water is above the knee of anyone in your group. In doubt, don't cross.

Don't touch any traps or devices. They can break fingers if set off.

Play Critter Count

Talk to our knowledgeable volunteers at the Visitor Centre for insider tips and interesting facts about the Sanctuary or to ask questions. Make sure you listen to the bird song recordings before heading into the Sanctuary so you can identify as you walk and play Critter Count!

Report back to the Visitor Centre with your total points to receive a stamp.



Tūi
4 pts



Pīwakawaka
Fantail
1 pt



Post a pic on
Instagram or
Facebook
10 pts



Ngirungiru
Tomtit
6 pts



Tauhou
Silvereye
6 pts



Riroriro
Grey Warbler
7 pts



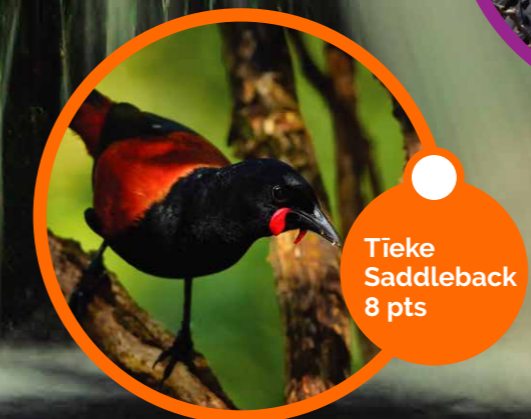
Kākāriki karaka
Orange fronted
parakeet
8 pts



Korimako
Bellbird
5 pts



Wētā
1 pt



Tīeke
Saddleback
8 pts



Kererū
Wood pigeon
9 pts

Support the Sanctuary

Help us restore and develop this unique environment.

Maintaining a sanctuary of this size is an ongoing task of considerable magnitude. We also need to continue developing ways to share this experience, enabling more education about and interaction with our environment. Every year we need to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars through grants, sponsorships, and donations. Get involved.

Be a Sanctuary Supporter

Purchase an annual Sanctuary Supporter card for an individual or family.

Join the Brook Business Club

Become a business partner with an annual gift with a three-year commitment.

Make a Donation

Donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible. We also welcome donations of products or services.

Sponsor a Fencepost

Get a plaque on your very own post, or gift a fencepost to someone else - a great way to show you care about the future.

Follow us and review us on Facebook, Instagram and TripAdvisor

Help us build our online community and spread the vision of the Sanctuary.

Leave a Bequest

Leave a lasting gift to the Sanctuary in your will.

Become a Volunteer

Get your hands dirty, literally or metaphorically. We need your skills and effort (as an individual, a group or a business) to help re-balance and care for our environment. There is a role for everyone, with no fixed commitment or experience necessary.

Get in touch




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 Please review us on TripAdvisor

Thank you to photographers Andy Macdonald, Hannah Shand, Nga Manu Images and DOC.