

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. Please enjoy your time in this special place.

Waimārama:

While the word 'waimārama' does not have a direct translation from Māori into English, 'wai' means water and 'mārama' means moon, so it might come 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		Upper Valley Track

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 gate valves, used to control the water flow into the pipes.

Things you might 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.

Original native bush

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.

9. Kaka Release Aviary

Used to temporarily house birds and species that need time to get used to the new habitat and location before being released into the Sanctuary.

10. 1909 Dam and Bridge

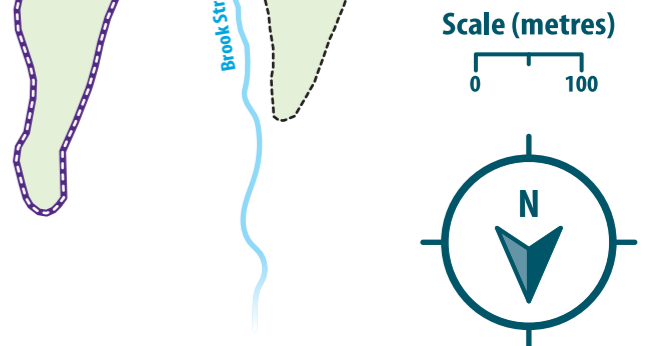
The Dam, commonly referred to as the top or upper Dam, provided a reservoir of about 15 million litres to the city until the 1970s. A walkway across the Dam is closed off. The Bridge is downstream from the Dam.

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.



Regenerating native bush



Walk suggestions

Most start and finish at the Visitor Centre

The Loop 30 - 40 minutes

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

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 Founder's Bridge and The Loop then Valley Track. Before Ferny Flats, cross the stream to Old Bach Track and turn right to the Corkscrew and beautiful Champagne Pool just beyond. Turn back to the stream crossing to Ferny Flats. Follow Koru Track back to the Visitor Centre.

Or walk past the Old Bach Track turn-off, staying on the Valley Track. Before the stream crossing at Ferny Flats, turn left and head back along Koru Track.

Carter's Track - Valley Track Loop* 4 - 5 hours

Take the Koru Track to the end at Ferny Flats. Join The Valley Track over the crossing, keeping left, and over another 8 stream crossings. Join Carter's Track at the Carter's Creek crossing, and head back to where it joins Koru Track. Head toward Jacob's Ladder. **Two options here:** take Jacob's Ladder down (this is steep) to the Valley Track and over 1909 Bridge **or** continue on 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.

Upper Valley Track 2 - 2.5 hours one way. Two start/finish points

Guided walks only: can start at Toutouwai hatch (located on the pest fence at an altitude of about 600m)

From Toutouwai hatch to Carters Creek, follow the source of the Brook Stream through the Sanctuary.

All casual walkers: from Koru/Carter's Track intersection - walk up Koru Track to The Twins POI, then turn onto Carter's Track.

The Upper Valley Track is about 2 km long and it's an easy descent, although it's constant downhill or uphill walking, and at least a medium level of fitness is required. Note the great track formation made by our volunteers, and the flora profile changes along the track.

From Carters Track intersection allow a further 1-1.5 hours to return to the visitor center.

Be safe in the Sanctuary

Please read this safety information before departing on any walks.

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

Keep a careful eye on children; many tracks are uneven and slippery, and they get quite rugged higher in the Sanctuary.

Wear appropriate shoes for bush terrain.

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

Many of the tracks have stream crossings where you're likely to get wet feet. 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. If in doubt, don't cross.

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



Skink

Kākāriki karaka
Orange fronted
parakeet

Korimako
Bellbird

Tauhou
Silvereve

Wētā

Ngirungiru
Tomtit

Piwakawaka
Fantail

Riroriro
Grey Warbler

Kererū
Wood pigeon

South
Island
Robin

Tūi

Post a pic on
Instagram or
Facebook



Enjoy your visit!

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 them as you walk.

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.