

# PĀKURATAHI FOREST



## How to get there

**Remutaka Rail Trail:** The signposted turn off from SH2 is 9km north of Upper Hutt. The Kaitoke carpark is a further 1.7km along a narrow road. Or you can enter the DOC managed section of the Trail via Cross Creek Road in the Wairarapa.

**Tunnel Gully Recreation Area:** Turn off SH2 at Te Marua, 6km north of Upper Hutt. Follow the signs to the park entrance at the end of Plateau Road.

**Public transport:** Take a No 112 bus from Upper Hutt Railway Station to the end of Plateau Road, and walk 1km to the Tunnel Gully picnic areas. Or catch the train to Maymorn Station and walk or cycle 2km up the track and through the Mangaroa tunnel to the picnic areas.



## Winding streams, historic trails and forest giants

Nestled within the Remutaka ranges between Wellington and the Wairarapa, the Pākuratahi Forest rises to the peak of Mounts Climie and Bawbaw, and feeds the waters of the Pākuratahi River. A blend of native and exotic forest, the area is best known for its walking, mountain biking and swimming, and the historic structures of the 1870s Remutaka railway line.

## Planning your visit

Pākuratahi Forest has many walking, biking, and horse-riding options from easy to advanced. If you're venturing further into the forest, make sure you plan your route and tell someone your intentions.

Our website has additional resources to help plan your visit and you're always welcome to contact our park rangers for more information.



**For more information, contact the Greater Wellington Parks department:**  
[parks@gw.govt.nz](mailto:parks@gw.govt.nz)

**Greater Wellington contact centre:**  
0800 496 734

**Metlink**  
(for public transport timetables and fares)  
0800 801 700  
[www.metlink.org.nz](http://www.metlink.org.nz)



**Walking or cycling to the park?**  
Check out [www.gw.govt.nz/cycling/](http://www.gw.govt.nz/cycling/) for the most direct route.



## Remutaka Rail Trail

Running from Kaitoke to Cross Creek, the 18km Trail is gently graded from Kaitoke to Summit. Once through the 584m Summit tunnel it descends more steeply via the famous "Fell engine Incline" to Cross Creek in the Wairarapa.

## Tunnel Gully Recreation Area

Named for its link with the historic Remutaka railway line, the sheltered Tunnel Gully is now a popular spot for walking and tramping, mountain biking, picnicking and exercising your dog. In summer children also enjoy paddling in the shallow water of Collins Stream which flows through the picnic area.

## Tramping and Mountain Biking

There are many pine plantation forest tracks to explore by foot or mountain bike, in addition to those described here. Take care - unsigned tracks are not maintained and may be in use by plantation contractors.

## Picnics

There are sheltered spots and picnic tables through Tunnel Gully Recreation Area and at spots along the Remutaka Rail Trail.



## Swimming

Enjoy swimming at spots along the Pākuratahi River. Some have access tracks down to them.

## Camping

There is good camping beside the Pākuratahi River near Ladle Bend and at Summit Yards. You may camp elsewhere if you are more than 500m from a mapped track.

## Hunting

Hunting permits are available online at [www.gw.govt.nz/permits](http://www.gw.govt.nz/permits) or call 0800 496 734. Firearms must be unloaded and disarmed outside the designated hunting area. No hunting is permitted in the Tunnel Gully Recreation Area or near the Rail Trail.

## Horseriding

Horseriding is allowed in designated areas of the forest. Contact the ranger for a permit and key. Do not ride in Tunnel Gully picnic area or through the tunnels and comply with all forestry signs. Dismount and lead your horse when going through the SH2 underpass.

## Please take care of your park

Pack in and pack out.

 Take your rubbish home and recycle it where possible.

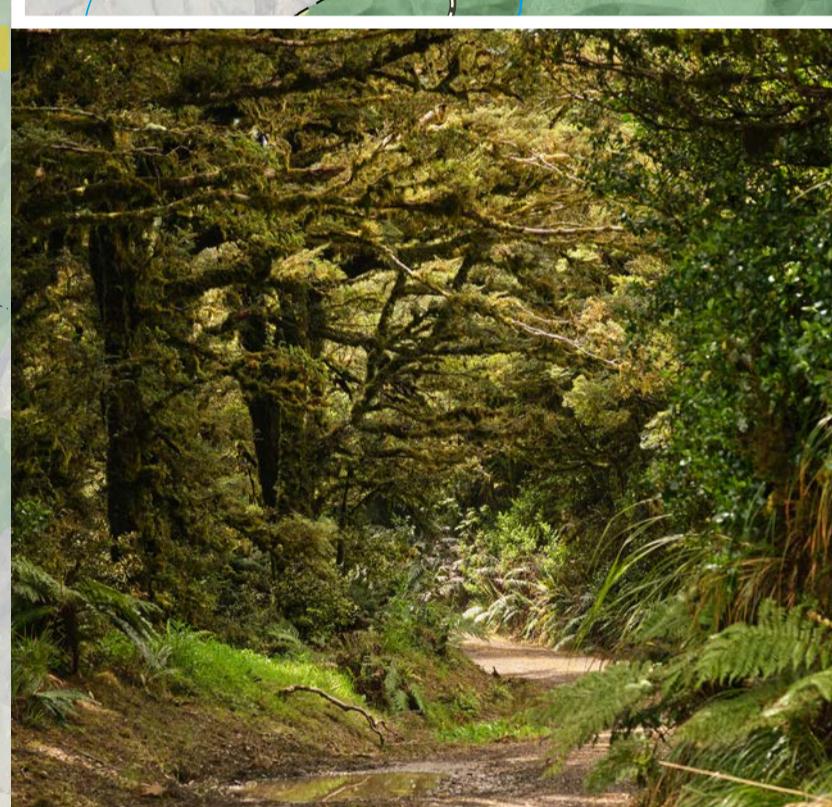
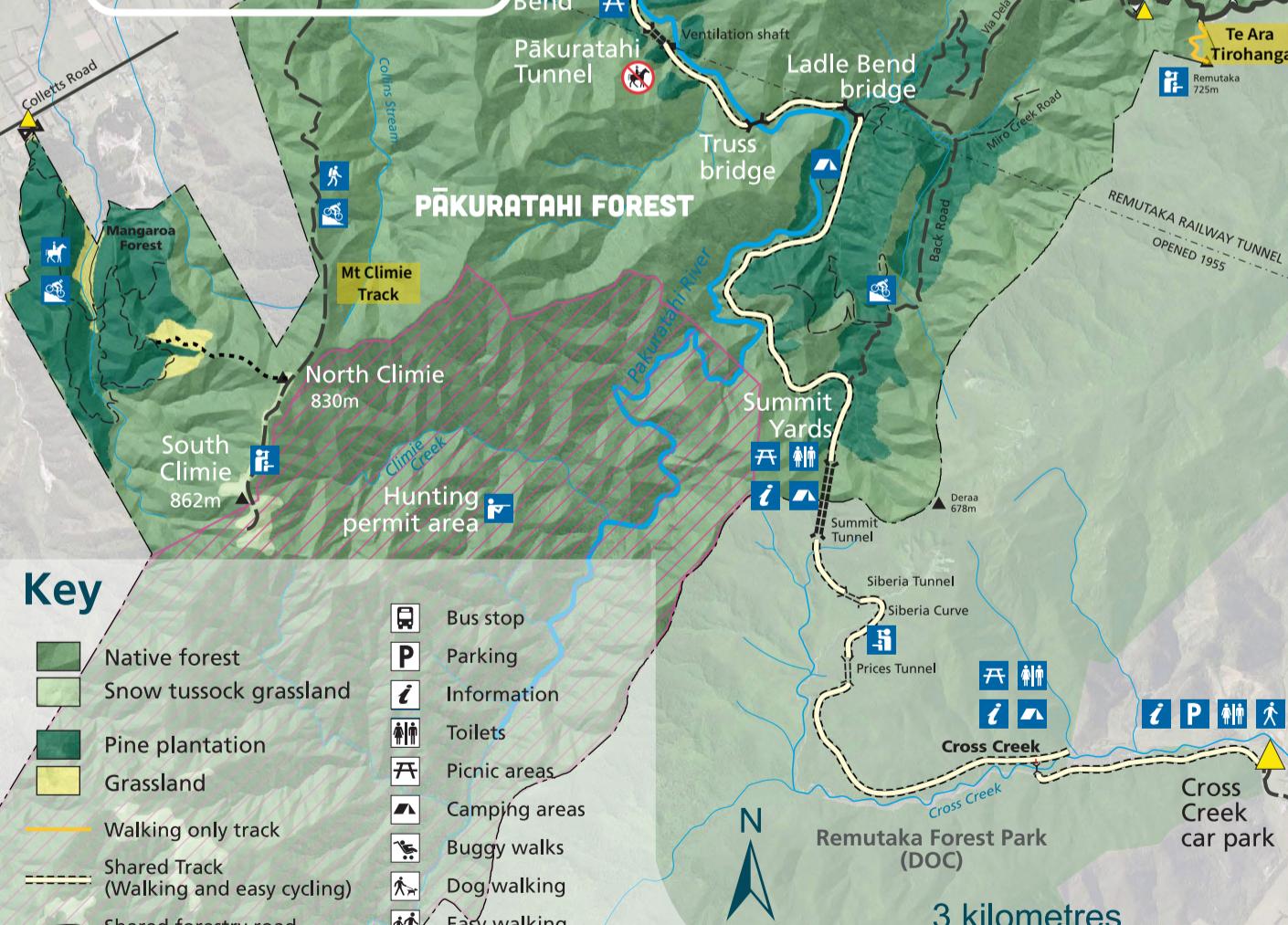
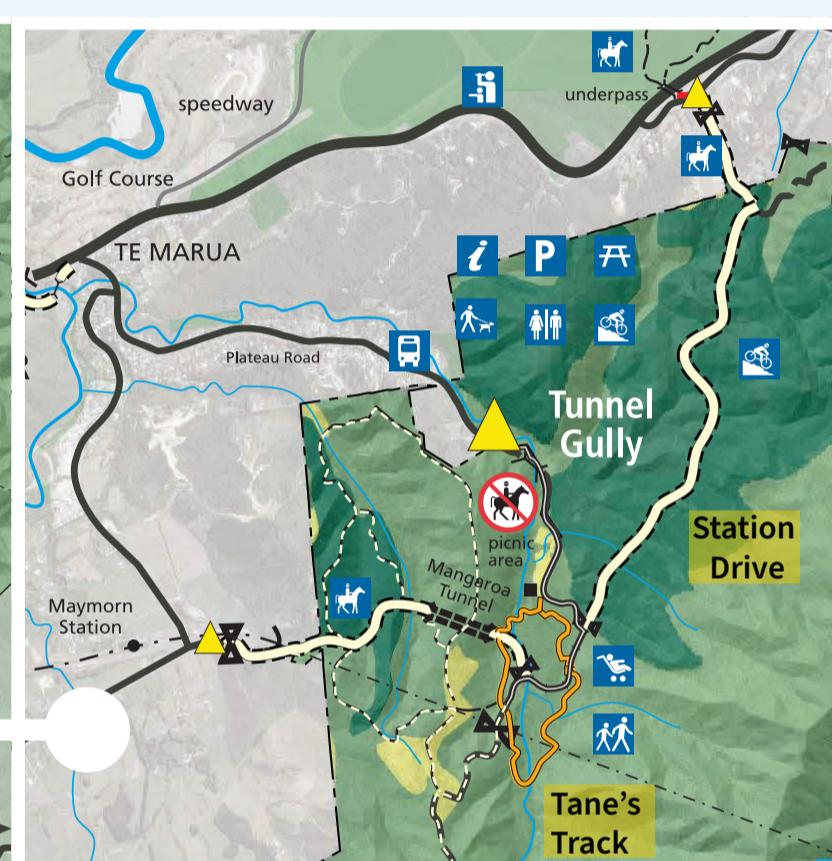
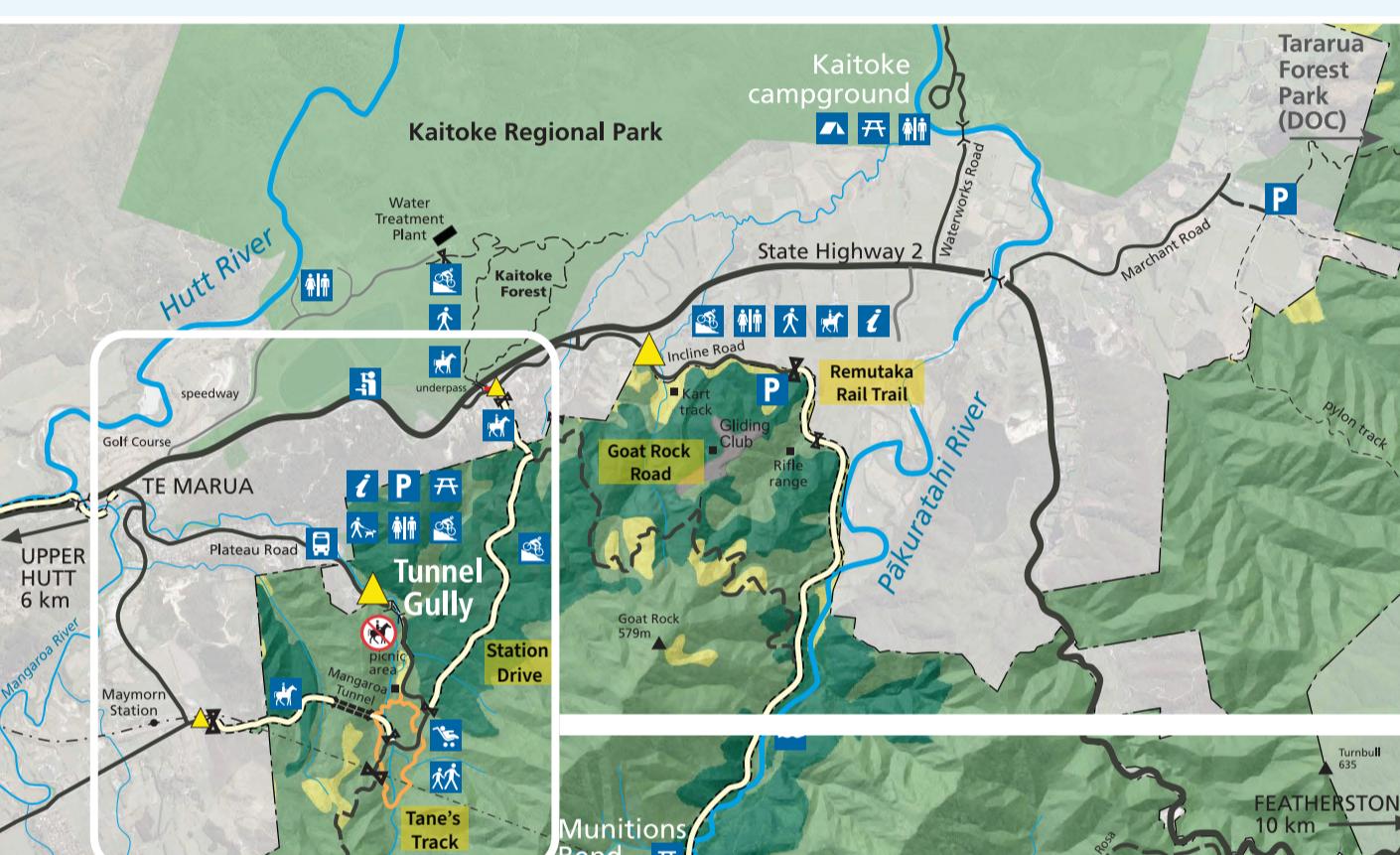
 Dogs are welcome. Keep dogs under control and remove droppings. Dogs must be leashed in the tunnels.

 Do not remove, disturb or damage plants or animals.

 Light no fires. You may use a portable gas stove.

## Tracks and trails

Track	Distance (km)	Time (walk)	Description	Grade
				Easy, Intermediate, Moderate, Hard
Tane's Track	2.3km	1 hour return	This track follows Collins Stream and passes through regenerating bush before reaching mature beech forest. Return the way you came.	E
Te Ara Tirohanga	0.8km	1 hour return	The track starts from the State Highway 2 carpark on the Hutt side of Remutaka summit carpark (555m). It climbs steeply to the subalpine crest of the Remutaka range (725m) with its superb views of southern Wairarapa. Wear good walking shoes and a windproof jacket as the Remutaka Hill is very windy, especially near the crest. Do not attempt the climb in windy conditions.	H
Remutaka Rail Trail	18km	5 hours one way	The 18km Trail was a railway line between Kaitoke and Cross Creek, in the Wairarapa. The Trail features restored railway bridges and historic tunnels. It is best done from Kaitoke with its gentle 10km gradient up to Summit Yards. From the long Summit tunnel, it descends steeply down the historic "Fell engine Incline" to Cross Creek. That side is managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC).	E
Station Drive	4.4km	1 hour return	This easy pleasant walk is along the former railway line. It is popular with horse riders in summer and mountain bikers use it to ride between the mountain bike tracks through the pine plantation forests above and below Station Drive. Both the Remutaka Rail Trail and Station Drive are part of the 3 to 5 day Remutaka Cycle Trail.	E
Mt Climie Track	12km	3 - 5 hours return	Start from the Tunnel Gully upper picnic area carpark. This easy 12km return tramp is a steady climb of 460m up a 4 wheel drive road to the summit of South Climie (862m). There are magnificent views of the Hutt Valley and of the more distant Wairarapa. You go through a range of vegetation, from regenerating broadleaf forest near the start to diversifying shrubs, astelia species and snow tussocks in the native grassland of the alpine tops.	M
Goat Rock Road	4.9km	1½ hour one way	Goat Rock Road serves as a winding forestry connector between the Tunnel Gully and the Remutaka Rail Trail. Add Station Drive to create a loop for hiking and horse riding. The final drop down to meet the Remutaka Rail Trail is steep and twisty, making for a fun descent (or a difficult climb) on mountain bike.	



**Be considerate.** Shared tracks are popular with cycle tourers, with families and dog walkers, and with mountain bikers.

**Take care.** You may encounter service vehicles on the Remutaka Rail Trail and on forestry roads.

### Safety in the forest

Most parts of the forest are isolated, exposed to wind and rain and without cellphone coverage.

Weather conditions can change quickly so please:

- check the weather forecast before your trip (southerly weather conditions make the Remutaka Rail Trail extremely cold)
- wear strong lace-up footwear and carry warm and waterproof clothing and enough food and drink for your trip
- carry sun protection
- plan your route and tell someone your intentions
- take a torch for the tunnels