

Queen Elizabeth Park covers 647 hectares of coastal land between Paekakariki and Raumati South. Its easy access, safe swimming beach, open country and picnic facilities make the Park a popular coastal playground.

## Attractions and Facilities



There are **picnic areas** for both organised and casual groups at Paekakariki and Whareroa Beach. All are handy to drinking water, toilets and car parks.



Both along the beach and inland, there are many interesting and informal **walkways**. Their gentle contour makes them particularly suitable for all ages. The tracks are signposted at Paekakariki and Whareroa Beach.



Cyclists may use the inland tracks. Please give way to horses and walkers. **No cycles are permitted on the coastal dunes.**



The **motor camp** at the Paekakariki end of the Park has tent and caravan sites, tourist cabins and a seven room lodge. The camp is sheltered and within easy walking distance to the beach. Enquiries and bookings to Paekakariki Holiday Park, Wellington Road, Paekakariki. Telephone 0-4-292 8292.



The beach is ideal for **swimming, boating, windsurfing and fishing**. Shellfish such as pipi and tuatua are found along the shoreline.



In summer lifeguards patrol the beach from the surf club pavilion at Paekakariki.



There is a **children's playground** at Paekakariki.



**Horse riding** is a popular pastime at the Park, both as an organised sport and for casual riding. The New Zealand Horse Society has an equestrian course at MacKays Crossing where events are regularly held. There are also riding stables nearby where you can hire horses. Enquiries to Stables in the Park, Telephone 025 486 764.

## Other Activities

**Tramway Museum:** Call at the Wellington Tramway Museum and take a ride on one of the lovingly preserved trams. Volunteers and enthusiasts have developed the museum at MacKays Crossing, with regular rides on a 2 km tramway to the beach. Telephone 04 292 8361.

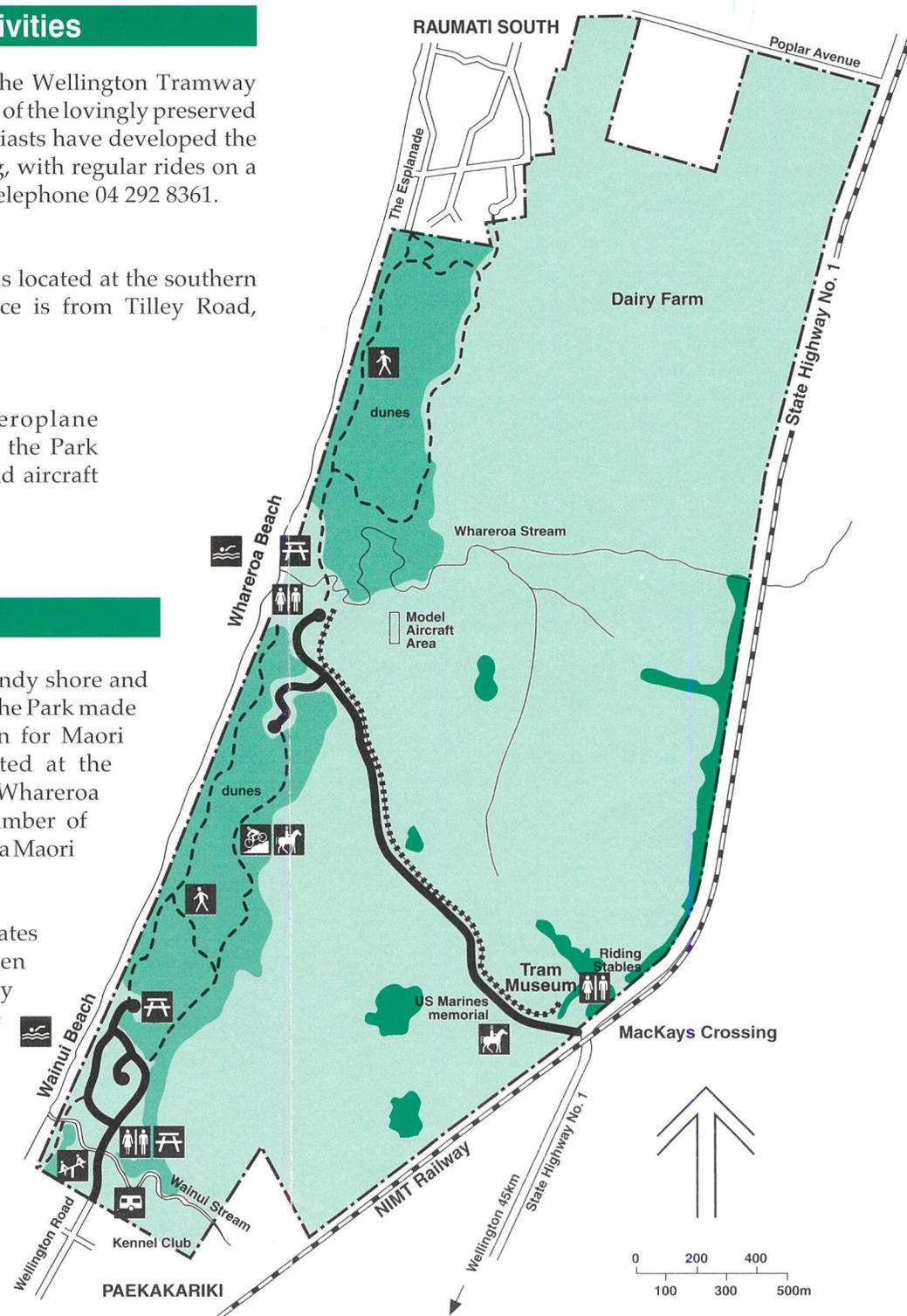
**Kennel Club:** A kennel club is located at the southern end of the park. The entrance is from Tilley Road, Paekakariki.

**Model Aircraft:** Model aeroplane enthusiasts meet regularly in the Park where their model making and aircraft flying prowess can be seen.

## History

Plenty of seafood along the sandy shore and the rocky coast to the south of the Park made the area an attractive location for Maori settlement. Two pa were sited at the mouths of the Wainui and Whareroa Streams. There are also a number of middens (shellfish dumps) and a Maori burial site in the Park.

During World War II United States Marines were based at Queen Elizabeth Park before they embarked for battle in the Pacific Islands. Their presence and activities in the area are recorded in the novel *Battle Cry* by Leon Uris. Memorial gates and commemorative displays are located at MacKays Crossing.



## Ecology

The Park is managed to maintain the natural landscape of the area. Plants growing in the unconsolidated dunes and the wetlands are a haven for birdlife. Plants such as taupata and flax that can withstand harsh coastal conditions are dominant in the dunes. Other trees like kahikatea, matai, pukatea and ngaio thrive inland.

The seaward dunes attract gulls and wading birds which find food along the tideline and use the adjacent open country for nesting. Further inland you will see finches and swallows. Spurwinged plovers may be seen near the wetlands which are home to paradise ducks, pied stilts and herons. Birds found in the bush areas include fantails, silveryeyes and rosellas.

All plants and birds are protected. Please don't disturb them.

## How to Get There

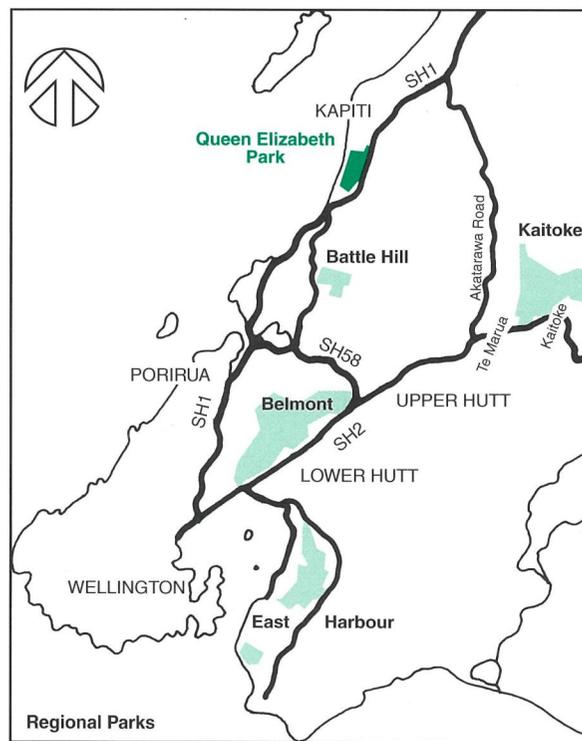
Access to Queen Elizabeth Park is easy from Wellington by either public transport or private car.

**Public Transport:** Trains regularly stop at Paekakariki on their way to Paraparaumu. The southern entrance of the Park is a 1.5 km walk from the station via Wellington Road. Check train departure times at Wellington Railway Station or contact Ridewell on telephone 0-4-801 7000.

Travel by car on State Highway 1 north from Wellington. Exit at Paekakariki, cross the railway lines and turn first right (Wellington Road) which leads to the southern entrance of the Park. Alternatively, continue further north on State Highway 1 for about 3 km to MacKays Crossing. The entrance is directly in front of you as you cross the railway line.



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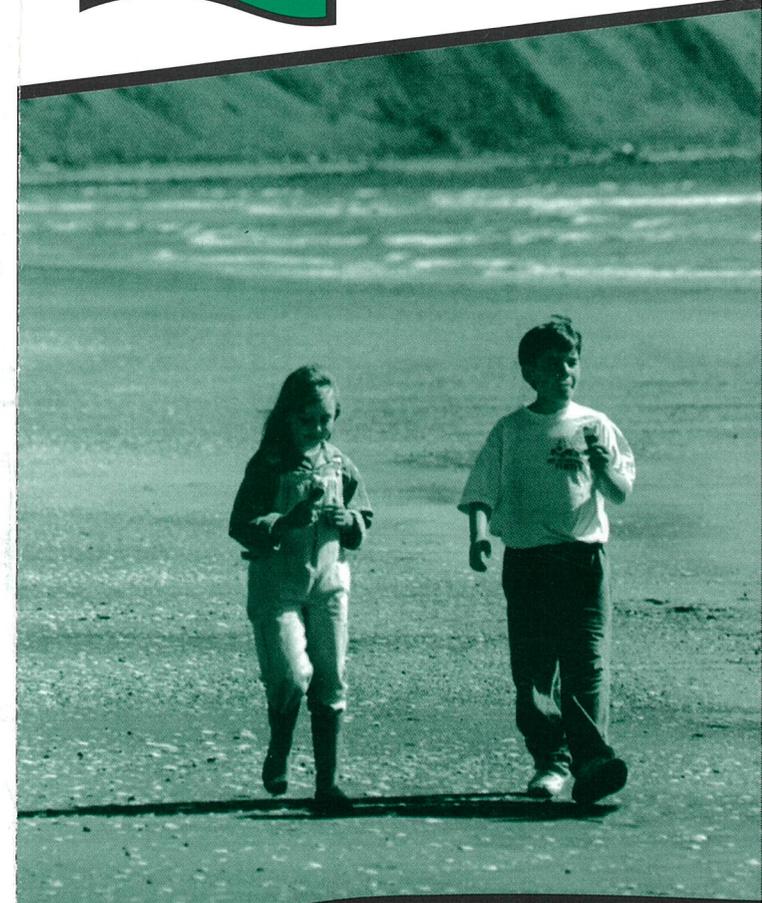
## More Information

For further information or to book picnic areas contact:

The Park Ranger	or	Wellington Regional Council
Queen Elizabeth Park		P O Box 40 847
PO Box 22		UPPER HUTT
PAEKAKARIKI		Telephone: 0-4-526 4133
Telephone: 0-4-292 8625		Facsimile: 0-4-526 4171
Facsimile: 0-4-292 8432		
Mobile: 025-244 5319		



# QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK



*Sea, sun, sand  
... yours to enjoy*

