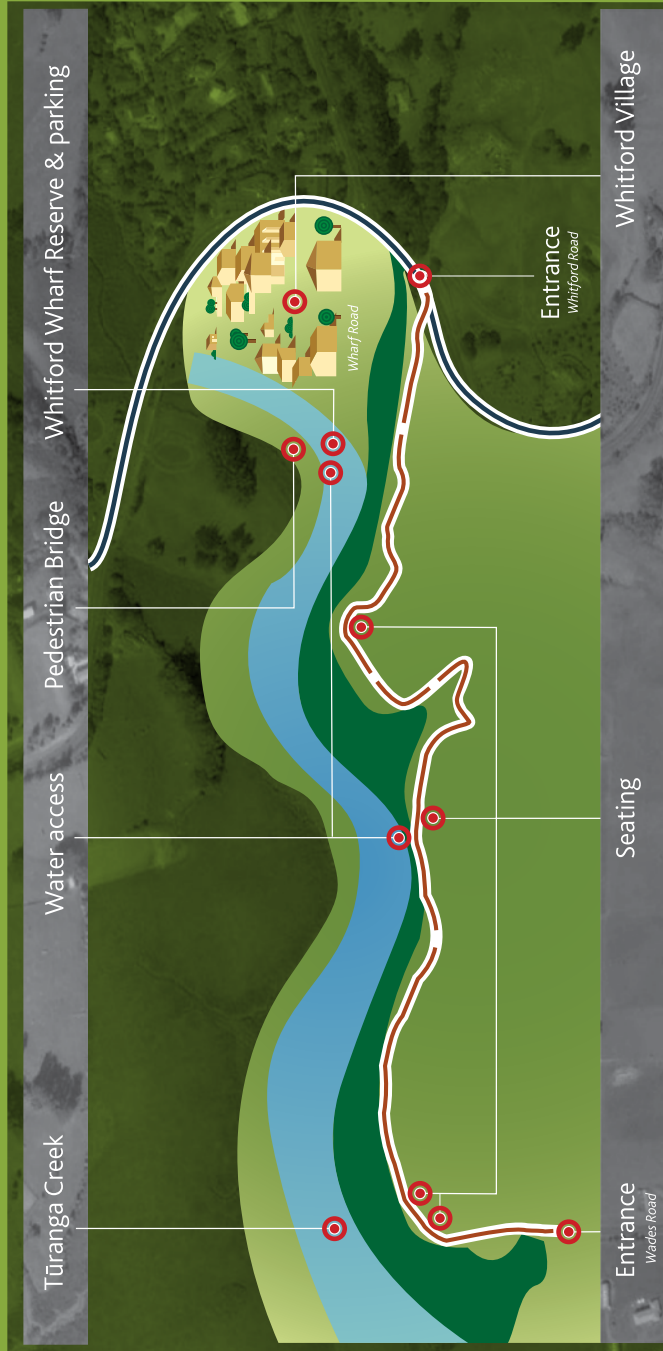


TŪRANGA RESERVE - WADES WALKWAY



RESERVE REGULATIONS

Removal of or damage to any native trees, shrubs, rushes or sedges is prohibited.

Dogs must be under control either on or off leash.

Motorbikes are prohibited from the reserve at all times.

The walkway is a popular bridle trail (horses permitted).

Please share with care.

WALKWAY ACCESS AND WALKING TIMES

Access: The walkway can be entered from the terminal end of Wades Road or off Whitford Road, ~50 metres from the roundabout in Whitford Village.

Car Parks: Wades Road and Whitford Wharf Reserve, Wharf Road, Whitford.

Time: The walkway takes approximately 20 min by foot or 10 min by horse, one-way.

Volunteers contact: Dr Anthony R Bellvé, Chairman, Whitford Estuaries Conservation Society. T: 64 9 530-9009, M: 64 21 671-681

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Alan La Roche MBE - Howick Historian

Auckland Regional Council (now part of the Auckland Council)

Clevedon Community Board (now Franklin Community Board)

Friends of Mangemangeroa, Howick

New Zealand Ferns Limited, Māraetai

Ngai Tai Te Waka Totara Umupuia Trust (representatives of local Iwi)

Whitford Community Charitable Trust, Whitford

Whitford Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, Whitford

Tūranga Reserve - Wades Walkway

Local and Sports Parks South

Find out more: phone 09 301 0101
or visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



DISCOVER THE TŪRANGA RESERVE – WADES WALKWAY

Tūranga Reserve – Wades Walkway was opened officially by Mayor Len Brown, Auckland Council, on Saturday, 9th April, 2011.

The 1.2km walkway (Ara ki te Awa), gently meanders along the water's edge of the Tūranga Creek, providing a peaceful setting to enjoy strolling or horse riding in the heart of Whitford. The reserve and the surrounding areas have a rich Māori and European history, as well as significant scenic and ecological value.



Grey faced petrel once thrived in this area. *Image courtesy of Raeme Taylor and DOC*

ECOLOGICAL VALUES AND CONSERVATION

Early removal of native vegetation and land development in the area have resulted in sediment accumulation in the streams, in turn leading to increased growth of mangroves and reduced depths and widths of the Tūranga and Mangemangeroa Creeks and the Waikopua Estuary.

Since 2009, the council with volunteer support from the Whitford Estuary Conservation Society (WECS) and local schools have planted a range of indigenous coastal plants along the margins of the Tūranga Creek and plan plantings for the banks of other streams in the Whitford catchments. It is hoped native plant restoration in the Tūranga Reserve will increase the numbers and diversity of native birds and fish.



A BRIEF HISTORY

The Tūranga Valley, prior to the arrival of Māori, had substantial indigenous forest covering the hills, with scrub, wetlands and salt marsh near the coast. The primeval forest consisted primarily of kauri, taraire, kahikatea, puriri, totara and kanuka. There was abundant bird life, including petrels and shearwaters, sea birds that made extensive burrows in the headlands, and other sea birds nesting in colonies. Moa and other flightless birds were common.

The Tainui Waka (canoe), according to traditional Ngai Tai korero (local Iwi proverb), was moored to a large rock in this place, leading to the name 'Tūranga' (anchorage or standing place). Members of the Tainui crew stayed on alongside peoples who already were established in the area. Their descendants (Ngai Tai) still have strong connections to and presence in the area.

Māori initially were hunter-gathers of the abundant seafood and birdlife. As the Māori population increased, pa (fortified villages) were established at Tūranga (Broomfield Road) and Awakariki (near Whitford Landfill on Trig Road). The flatlands were used for growing kumara, yam and taro.

Due to intertribal wars there were few Māori living in the area when the first Europeans arrived. William Fairburn as a peacemaker established a Church Missionary Society's 'mission station' at Maraetai where Māori from the area were taught the English language as well as agricultural and domestic skills.

The first European settlers in the Tūranga valley were the Trice and Wade families in about 1843. Isaac Wade assisted the surveyor William Blackburn and consequently bought land, which has been farmed to this day by his descendants. The early settlers initially grew cereal crops such as oats, wheat and hay, but then moved to dairy farming in later years.

A ferry service operated between Auckland and Whitford Village, by using the Tūranga Creek, from the 1860's to 1927, until road transport improved.



The Steamship 'Hirere' leaving Whitford Wharf, c.a 1908
Image courtesy of Howick Historical Village

Three World-War-II slit trenches were dug beside the walkway by the Tūranga Home Guard in 1942. One of these trenches is visible today opposite the Roger Priest Memorial Seat. Roger Priest (1942-2004) was the unofficial "Mayor" of Whitford, and he had a boat building business on the bank of the Tūranga Creek adjacent to Whitford Village. The building and concrete slipway can be seen across from the southern end of the walkway.