

A photograph of a man and a woman walking through a lush, green park. The man is on the left, wearing a grey polo shirt and dark trousers. The woman is on the right, wearing a patterned blouse, a black skirt, and a straw hat. They are walking on a grassy path, surrounded by tall trees and a bench in the background. The sky is blue and clear.

TARANAKI

like no other

PARKS AND GARDENS

8th edition

taranaki.co.nz/visit

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI



Taranaki has been known as ‘the Garden of New Zealand’ since pioneering times, a reflection of the region’s rich volcanic soil, temperate climate and passionate gardeners. From the edges of Mount Taranaki to the sparkling surf coast, you’ll find countless parks and gardens to begin your Taranaki Garden experience like no other.

The parks and gardens listed here are open all hours unless stated otherwise. To access more information and maps of the gardens please visit taranaki.co.nz/visit/everything-to-see-and-do/parks-and-gardens

For more information about the region like no other, see taranaki.co.nz/visit



NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

Sitting alongside the Tasman sea with Taranaki maunga at its back, New Plymouth offers a lively cosmopolitan base for exploring the parks and gardens of North Taranaki.

1. Pukekura Park and Brooklands

Pukekura Park is a world-renowned park located in the heart of New Plymouth. The extensive park covers approximately 52ha and contains a diverse range of landscapes, including many plant collections, exotic specimen trees, formal gardens, lakes and walking trails through native bush. Pukekura Park is home to Brooklands Zoo, a large children's playground and many places to explore. Each year Pukekura Park is lit up for the Festival of Lights (December-January).

Open 7:30am - 7:00 PM and until 8:00 PM during daylight savings





2. Pukeiti

Over seven decades, Pukeiti has built up one of the world's biggest and most diverse collections of rhododendrons and other exotics, their rich colours bursting into life against a backdrop of native rainforest. The 360ha property also boasts a great range of free, family-orientated activities including tree houses, a fitness trail and a lodge. The Piwakawaka Hut can be booked for an overnight stay looking out across the treetops. Owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council, for further information go to pukeiti.nz



3. Audrey Gail Reserve

Once known as the Old Waterworks Reserve, signs remain of the old waterworks that used to service the town of New Plymouth. Access to the Waiwhakaiho River provides safe swimming, rock jumping and paddling, while two wood fired BBQs and many shaded areas through native bush provide perfect picnic spots. Bring your furry friend along to visit the dog exercise area.

Open 7:00 AM till 8:30 PM

4. Tūpare

Sculpted from a hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River, Tūpare is an Arts and Crafts-inspired property featuring a Chapman-Taylor house set in grounds with secluded garden rooms, and majestic trees. Complemented by the sound of the river, complete with free sheltered gas BBQ for picnics. Owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council. For further information go to tupare.nz.



5. Rotokare / Barrett Domain

This is a circular walk in a 36ha blend of open spaces, plantations, bush, and a wetland area (Barrett Lagoon). A wildlife refuge, there is an abundance of native bird life, wetland and lake habitats and indigenous vegetation in this urban oasis. There are three different tracks you can walk – Cowling Plantation Walk, Rayward Bush Walk and Lagoon Bush Walk.



6. Marsland Hill

Originally known as Pukaka Pa, today Marsland Hill is a popular picnic, heritage and lunchtime running destination. Historically significant, the site features the New Zealand Wars Monument, South African War Memorial, an Observatory, and a 37 bell Carillon weighing over four tonne that plays daily at 10am, 11am, noon, 2pm, 4pm and 5pm.



7. Matekai Park

Matekai Park is a popular link between Ōākura's shopping village and the beach. Bush-like settings, and a large wetland area, recognised as an area of national importance, combined with natural open spaces provide good views of manu/birds and other wildlife, nestled within a range of tree species. The Matekai Park loop track allows dogs off leash and at the upper end of the reserve is a large open space for horse riding activities.



8. Te Henui Cemetery

Te Henui Cemetery covers approximately 24 acres and boasts an eclectic mix of plantings lovingly tended to by volunteer gardeners, that provide a year-round display. Pōhutukawa, cherry blossom and crabapple trees enhance the city's oldest public cemetery, and beds of flowers provide vibrancy, attracting native birds and providing a home base for Monarch butterfly.

STRATFORD DISTRICT

Located in the heart of Taranaki and the gateway to Taranaki Maunga, Stratford is undeniably linked to its namesake Stratford-upon-Avon, the famous home of William Shakespeare, through street names, parks and the distinctive glockenspiel clock tower.



9. Victoria Park

Victoria Park gained its name and many of its trees in 1897, when £5 was spent on the purchase and planting of trees commemorating 60 years of reign by Queen Victoria. Today the park is home to Stratford's rugby, cricket, amateur athletics, and croquet clubs. Divided by a central lake, a well-established walking track follows the lakes edge through native plantings. Highlights are the playground, skatepark and the poignant reminder of the sacrifice made by Stratford's young men in the Great War that stands at the corner of Fenton and Orlando Streets in the form of the Victoria Park Memorial Gates.



10. King Edward Park

Close to the town centre, King Edward Park is home to a variety of plants, mature trees, bird life and mountain streams. To mark the coronation of King Edward VII, a variety of trees and a suspension bridge were planned to span the Pātea River between the Page Street Reserves and the town centre. The planted area became known as King Edward's Park and later the reserves on both sides of the river were incorporated into the park. Today, the park encompasses the Stratford Holiday Park, TSB Swimming Pool Complex, playing fields, netball courts, a children's playground, and the Centennial Rest Room.



12. Thomson Arboretum

A number of plantings at the arboretum are living descendants of those on the former Gondwana continent, which formed present day Antarctica, Africa, South America, Australia, and New Zealand. The arboretum adjoins Windsor Park and the Carrington Walkway, covering around 4000 metres, with a looped path providing an easy walk.



13. Windsor Park

Located on the bank of the Pātea River, this small park is shaded by established trees, with sunny grassed areas providing many picnic spots. Featuring an “island” of three giant miro trees and other natives, along with plantings of exotic trees, Windsor Park once included a pathway under the rail bridge to Broadway, marked by several large magnolias, which now forms part of the Carrington Walkway. One of the park’s highlights include standing on the stony riverbank beach looking for fish in the river as they travel downstream.



SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT

South Taranaki boasts some of the best tramping, fishing, and surfing in New Zealand, and is home to the remarkable Tawhiti Museum. The district spans a large portion of the region, from Ōkato on the coast, around the maunga to Eltham and south to Waitotara. At the heart of this lush dairying district is the main centre of Hāwera, a town with a rich history.

14. Hollard Gardens

This plant collection of national importance features many rhododendrons and unusual plants, the garden buzzes with the sound of insects and manu/birds feeding on the diversity of seasonal flowers, fruit and seeds. The family corner has an inspiring children's playground with free gas BBQs for picnics. There's Bernie's Home Garden where different food-growing methods are demonstrated, and popular workshops are held. Owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council, for further information go to hollardgardens.nz.

Open 9am – 5pm (winter). 9am to 8pm (daylight saving)





15. King Edward Park

Pleasant picnic spots in tranquil locations, spectacular floral borders and rose gardens, dramatic seasonal changes and a wide range of amenities and attractions.



16. Goodson Dell

Originally part of Charles Goodson's garden, the Dell was first developed as a swimming pool by damming a small spring, becoming a spot where many Hāwera children learnt to swim and paddle a boat. Over the years the garden sadly fell into ruin, until four walking friends from the Hāwera Women's Club – the Goodson Guerrillas – decided to change that and the gorgeous Goodson Dell was created. The Dell's trees, many of which are over 100 years old, include a magnificent Swamp Cypress.



17. Naumai Park

Renowned as a goblin park and a native plant park, Naumai Park offers an overwhelming sense of being in an untouched native bush environment.



18. Stark Park and Bridger Park

A charming centrepiece to Eltham's historic retail precinct. A small amphitheatre provides an occasional setting for concerts and other entertainment and the park is popular for picnics. Discover the story of the children's Toy Wall, a bizarrely beautiful artwork, which began in 1997 thanks to Fay Young and local children.

GARDENS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New Zealand Gardens Trust offers a rating system for public and private gardens throughout New Zealand. In addition to the 5- and 6-Star gardens featured in this publication (Hollard Gardens, King Edward Park Hāwera, Pukeiti, Pukekura Park, and Tūpare), the following private 5-and 6-Star gardens are on offer in Taranaki.



19. Te Kainga Marire

Te Kainga Marire, Māori for “the peaceful encampment”, is a skilfully designed native inner-city garden that mimics New Zealand’s natural environment. Recognised as one of New Zealand’s five gardens of International Significance, this peaceful sanctuary features lush ferns, wetland plants, native trees, a colonial bush hut and a fern filled whare. For further information go to tekaingamarire.co.nz. **Entry \$10.**

**Open: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM,
September to May**



20. Nikau Grove

Nestled in the suburbs of New Plymouth this mature one and a half acres has an emphasis on native plants, which link seamlessly into exotic plantings. Ancient pukatea trees with huge buttress roots form a native rainforest canopy along the creek, while hundreds of Nikau Palms set the South Pacific theme. Features include boardwalks, ponds, a large waterfall and weta motels.

*Note, the garden comprises many steps on quite steep hillsides and steep road access with roadside parking only. A golf cart is available on request. **Entry \$10. Open: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM during festival season or by appointment***



21. Hofmans Garden

Spanning four and a half acres, the garden features contemporary twists to traditional aspects. Points of interest include two wetland areas, a woodland garden, a large collection of rhododendrons and hostas, outdoor living areas and a land-art garden. **Entry \$5.**

Open by appointment



22. Oakley Garden

2km from the South Taranaki coast, this established garden shelter creates a haven from prevailing winds. The private garden has developed a style that reflects the owner's formal horticulture and landscape design training complete with hedge-lined paths linking carefully planned garden rooms. **Entry \$4. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM during festival season, or by appointment**



23. Puketarata Garden

Puketarata Garden is a captivating private country garden, 6km north of Hāwera. With an emphasis on greens and texture, the garden planting is a blend of natives, rhododendrons, roses, the usual and unusual. The property is adjacent to Puketarata Pā, and incorporates a grass tennis court, small orchard and fenced off gully. For further information go to puketaratagarden.co.nz. **Entry \$10. Open: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM during festival season or by appointment**



EVENTS

CENTURIA TARANAKI GARDEN FESTIVAL

The region's most spectacular gardens are showcased annually as part of one of New Zealand's longest running garden festivals, Taranaki Garden Festival, including an extensive events programme with guided walks and celebrity speakers.

gardenfestnz.co.nz

TARANAKI FRINGE GARDEN FESTIVAL

A garden festival like no other, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival is New Zealand's largest garden festival with gardens and places of interest ranging from pocket-sized gardens on small town sections, traditional stately gardens, large country gardens, quirkier gardens full of surprises and artistically inspired gardens brimming with inspiration and ideas.

taranakigardens.co.nz

PARKS AND GARDENS



Visitor information, maps, souvenirs, internet facilities, and accommodation, activity and transport bookings for Taranaki and all of New Zealand are available from:

NEW PLYMOUTH i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE ⓘ **SITE**

Puke Ariki, 1 Ariki Street, New Plymouth

Email: info@newplymouth.govt.nz **Phone:** 0800 639 759

Hours: Monday–Sunday 10.00am–5.00pm

STRATFORD i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE ⓘ **SITE**

Prospero Place & Miranda Street, Stratford

Email: info@stratford.govt.nz **Phone:** 06 765 6708 or 0800 765 6708

Hours: Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm.

Saturday 9–1pm, closed Sundays and Public Holidays

SOUTH TARANAKI i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE ⓘ **SITE**

55 High Street, Hāwera

Email: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz **Phone:** 06 278 8599

Hours: Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm.

Weekends and public holidays 10.00am–3.00pm.

All i-SITES are closed Christmas Day.

For more information, head to taranaki.co.nz/visit

venture

TARANAKI

Te Puna Umanga