

Flora and fauna

There is a vast array of native birds in the reserve, including robins, kererū, grey warbler, shining cuckoo and long-tailed cuckoo. There are several varieties of skinks and geckos and an abundance of invertebrates and freshwater insects. In the Te Maire stream there are tuna, bully and kōura, and in recent times there have been piharau, kōkopu and black flounder.



Te Maire is a fine example of the podocarp forest that once covered most of the central North Island. It is home to a mosaic of native trees including rimu, miro, tōtara, kahikatea, mataī, rewarewa, hīnau and tawa. It is also home to the rare subterranean plant *Thysanotus rodwayi* which, due to the fact that it can only be found when flowering, is rarely seen.



Blue duck/Whio.
Photo: Matt Binns

Getting there

From Taumarunui, turn left onto State Highway 43 from the north side of the Ongarue River Bridge. After 12 km, turn left onto Paparoa Road and cross the Te Maire Bridge over the Whanganui River. Follow this road for approximately 600 m before turning left onto Te Maire Valley Road. Te Maire car park is 700 m along this road.



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Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111

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leave no trace
NEW ZEALAND

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimise the effects of fire
Check before you light a fire – a ban may be in place
- Respect wildlife and farm animals
- Be considerate of others

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New Zealand Government

Te Maire Loop Track

| Whanganui National Park



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Whanganui National Park

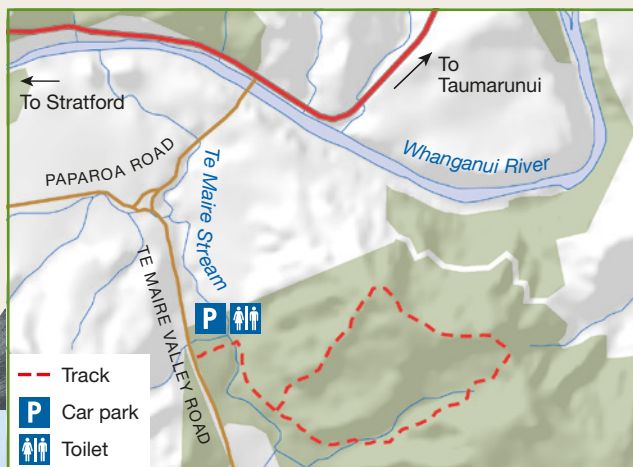
Te Maire is the most northern part of Whanganui National Park. It is the first link in a chain of small reserves along the Whanganui River that comprises part of the park upstream of Whakahoro, where the core of the park begins. Whanganui National Park was gazetted in 1986. The park protects one of the largest remaining tracts of lowland forest remaining in the North Island, and it provides habitat for a wide variety of native wildlife.

Of all of New Zealand's national parks, Whanganui is most closely associated with human settlement. It is dissected by the Whanganui River (Te Awa Tupua), the longest continually navigable river in the country. Although the bed and waters of the river are not included in the park, the river is an integral part of the area and provides an important way into and through the area.



Te Maire Loop Track 2 hr round trip, 2.5 km

The loop track takes around 2 hr and covers only a small part of the 420 ha reserve. This walk is suitable for people of all ages and has a stream crossing near the start of the track. Te Maire Stream flows through the reserve and is usually low enough to cross without getting your feet wet, but can rise rapidly with heavy rain. Please take care and check the weather conditions. The track leads through stream terraces then slowly climbs through majestic old forest onto a ridgeline where it gently loops back to the stream crossing. Keep your eyes and ears open for all the common forest birds; tūī, kārearea/ falcon, korimako/ bellbird and toutouwau/robin. There is a toilet near the start of the track. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Always take rainwear.



Tramping track – mostly unformed surface but has directional markers, poles or cairns. Suitable for backcountry visitors with moderate to high-level backcountry skills and experience.

Know before you go



Stream/river crossings – Streams and rivers can rise quickly and unpredictably, take care and check the weather conditions. Do not be afraid to turn back.



Weather conditions – observe the weather conditions and seek advice as conditions may be wet and slippery, particularly during winter and early spring. Dress to the conditions.



Hunting – is permitted in most places throughout the year, check the DOC website for exclusion dates and zones and special conditions required for hunting dogs. A hunting permit can be obtained at doc.govt.nz, and you must carry a printed copy of your permit with you at all times.



Fires – fires are not permitted in Whanganui National Park.



Communications – this area is remote with no mobile phone coverage. You should carry an emergency alert device (eg PLB/Spot tracker).



Dropoffs – there are multiple dropoffs on this track. Take care passing these.



Windfalls – there may be windfalls on the track after weather events. Take care going around the fallen trees.



Water – during dry periods, carry extra water as the shelter water may be dry or stagnant. Treat or boil all water before drinking.



Wasps – wasps are a known hazard and are particularly common from January until May. Carry antihistamine if you are allergic to their stings.

Trip intentions

Tell someone responsible where you are going and your estimated time of arrival back. Use the online intention system: www.adventuresmart.org.nz/outdoors-intentions

Looking west over
Whanganui National Park
towards Mt Taranaki.