



caring about you & your environment

Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Plan 2000



| Principles Approved by Utility Services Committee (June 2000) | Access Plan |
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| <p>Interest Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>access to the catchment should be managed, in order to protect water quality and public health</i> • <i>all entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan</i> • <i>a WRC staff member or an approved guide should accompany open day groups</i> • <i>the proposal may be for an initial schedule of one (weekend) day a month for Open Days¹</i> | <p>Interest Groups:</p> <p><i>Phase 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ only groups from <i>bona fide</i> clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only) ➤ access will be granted to the Wainuiomata Catchment only – tour groups must stay on the formed roads or designated tracks ➤ groups must enter and exit at one point (i.e. via the main gate) and fill in the logbook ➤ a Landcare Ranger will accompany/guide the groups ➤ there will be an average of one ‘trip-day’ per month (weekends) ➤ the ratio² of rangers to visitors will be 1:10 ➤ group size: max 20 (e.g., tours of up to 10 people will be run on ‘trip-days’ or two rangers will accompany the group) ➤ maximum number of people in the catchment : 20 per ‘trip-day’ ➤ there are to be no general open days for the public ➤ vetting & training of tripleaders³ will be arranged during this period – tripleaders may require additional training days over and above the ‘trip-days’ noted above ➤ tripleaders will be required to hold a current first aid certificate and be tested for typhoid ➤ tours of the Water Treatment Plant and the Morton Dam are to remain the responsibility of the Water Group ➤ Landcare Ranger to be notified of dates and times of these tours (to aid in planning for catchment tours) ➤ refer to ‘<i>Security and control measures</i>’ below for requirements on visitors <p>Review 30 June 2001</p> |

¹ In this context, open days are the equivalent of access days, not full public open days.

² Ratios have been set after consultation with the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council.

³ A formal tripleader programme (similar to that for guides at the Karori Sanctuary) will need to be established and implemented. It is envisaged that approved tripleaders (potentially from groups such as Forest and Bird, the Botanical Society and tramping clubs) will be considered for ‘honorary ranger’ status.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>access to the catchment should be managed, in order to protect water quality and public health</i> • <i>all entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan</i> • <i>a WRC staff member or an approved guide should accompany open day groups</i> • <i>the proposal may be for an initial schedule of one (weekend) day a month for Open Days</i> | <p><i>Phase 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ in general, only groups from <i>bona fide</i> clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only) ➤ one ‘trip-day’ will be reserved for tours for individual members of the public (i.e., as opposed to groups from clubs/organisations). Individuals will be able to enter a ballot for places on tours run that day. All conditions applying to groups from clubs and other <i>bona fide</i> organisations visiting the Catchment will apply ➤ access will be granted to the Wainuiomata Catchment only - tour groups must stay on the formed roads or designated tracks ➤ groups must enter and exit at one point (i.e., via the main gate) and fill in the logbook ➤ Landcare Rangers (or other Council staff) will accompany/guide the groups ➤ there will be an average of one ‘trip-day’ per month (weekends) ➤ ratio of rangers/tripleaders to visitors : 1:10 ➤ group size : maximum 20 ➤ maximum number of people in the catchment : 40 per ‘trip-day’ ➤ there are to be no general open days for the public ➤ any group accessing the Georges Creek area must always be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger ➤ vetting and training of tripleaders will commence on-site during January 2002 - tripleaders may require additional training days over and above the ‘trip-days’ noted above ➤ tripleaders will be required to hold a current first aid certificate and be tested for typhoid ➤ tours of the Water Treatment Plant and the Morton Dam are to remain the responsibility of the Water Group ➤ Landcare Ranger to be notified of these tours ➤ refer “Security and control measures below for requirements on visitors <p><i>Review by 30 June 2002</i></p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>access to the catchment should be managed, in order to protect water quality and public health</i> • <i>all entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan</i> • <i>a WRC staff member or an approved guide should accompany open day groups</i> • <i>the proposal may be for an initial schedule of one (weekend) day a month for Open Days</i> | <p><i>Phase 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ in general, only groups from <i>bona fide</i> clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only) ➤ one ‘trip-day’ to be reserved for individual members of the public (i.e., as opposed to groups from clubs/organisations). Individuals will be able to enter a ballot for places on tours run on that day. All conditions applying to groups from clubs and other <i>bona fide</i> organisations visiting the catchment will apply. (It may be possible to allow individual members of the public to ballot for places on one or more other tours (i.e., on other ‘trip-days’) reserved for that purpose during Phase 3.) ➤ groups visiting the Wainuiomata Catchment must enter and exit at one point (i.e. via the main gate) ➤ groups visiting the Orongorongo Catchment must enter via the main gate but may exit at an alternative point with the approval of the Landcare Ranger ➤ all visitors must fill in the logbook ➤ a Landcare Ranger or approved tripleader will accompany/guide the groups ➤ there will be an average of one ‘trip-day’ per month ➤ ratio of rangers/tripleaders to visitors in the Wainuiomata Catchment: 1:10 ➤ the ratio of tripleaders to visitors in the Orongorongo Catchment may be reviewed during <i>Phase 3</i> depending on the experience of the tripleader and the groups entering the area (e.g. the ratio for experienced trampers may be changed to 1:20) ➤ group size: maximum 20 ➤ maximum number of people in the catchment: 40 per ‘trip-day’ (but may be reviewed during <i>Phase 3</i>) ➤ any group accessing the Georges Creek area must always be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger ➤ approved tripleaders may take tours through the Orongorongo Catchment (12 trips during <i>Phase 3</i>, which must take place on approved ‘trip-days’) ➤ tripleaders must have taken groups through the Wainuiomata Catchment before they can take groups through the Orongorongo Catchment ➤ only experienced groups, with a good level of fitness will be permitted in the Orongorongo Catchment ➤ access along Moores Valley Ridge Track is dependent on the agreement of private landowners ➤ there will be no general open days for the public during <i>Phase 3</i> but an open day for a limited number of people in a localised area could be considered in future ➤ <i>Review 30 June 2003 – refer ‘Review of Programme’ below</i> |

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| <p>Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>individuals or groups wishing to undertake scientific study may be approved in terms of benefit to the catchment (e.g. greater botanical knowledge or for general scientific research)</i> | <p>Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ applications from <i>bona fide</i> organisations to undertake scientific, heritage and/or cultural research, may be granted on merit ➤ a copy of the research report must be submitted to the Council ➤ a strict approval process will be followed (refer below) ➤ all specified conditions placed on the researcher(s) must be adhered to ➤ <i>application assessment and approval</i> - Landcare will assess the application considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ what is to be studied and why ▪ the likely benefits of the research ▪ how close the research will be undertaken to a water-way ▪ the proposed route to access the research site(s) ▪ the likely effects/impact of the research on the catchment environment and operations (i.e. risks associated with permitting the activity, proposed timing of the research, etc) ▪ conditions that would need to be imposed on the researcher(s) ➤ final endorsement of research proposals will be needed by Water Group Operations (Plant Supervisor) before research can be undertaken ➤ research proposal will be reported in the Parks and Forests Managers' reports to Landcare Committee ➤ <i>conditions are likely to cover the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ limits on numbers entering the catchment ▪ research areas and access route to be defined and mapped ▪ the level of supervision (i.e. initially the researcher(s) will need to be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger but this may not be practical for more than one or two visits when the research is ongoing. Therefore, conditions will need to be specified for the researchers, (and these conditions monitored by the Ranger), e.g. specific entry times to be arranged, access via a single entry point, sign in and out of the logbook which will be located in the foyer of the site office) ▪ parking of vehicles in a specified location ▪ prohibited zones ▪ no animals permitted ▪ no access along Moores Valley Ridge Track ▪ no historical artefacts to be removed or disturbed ▪ no marking of tracks or disturbing existing plot marks, etc. ▪ all sightings of dead animals, marijuana plots, old camps, bird sightings, i.e. kakariki, falcon and whitehead, to be reported to ranging staff |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all botanical finds of significance to be reported ▪ a 'take in, take out' policy, so no rubbish, including food, is left in the catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ this section on research also relates to filming which will only be permitted if it involves a scientific or historical production relating directly to the area ➤ the approval process, number of applications approved, etc will be reviewed during <i>Phases 2 and 3</i> ➤ during <i>Phase 3</i> consideration <i>may</i> be given to allowing limited access to small school groups for education purposes (approval process would be as above – a teacher would be required to be present in addition to the Landcare Ranger and/or approved tripler(s); ratio of students to supervisors: 1–8 [recommended by New Zealand Mountain Safety Council]) |
| <p>Hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>shooting of animals may be allowed on a permit/managed basis, recognising that culling is an important part of catchment management</i> • <i>recreational shooting will not be allowed</i> | <p>Hunting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ organised hunting limited to the 'Roar Hunt', which may become an annual event (noting PR and security benefits) ➤ 'Roar Hunt' administration as for the 2000 'Roar Hunt' (i.e. public ballot, allocation of hunting blocks, same conditions on vehicle use, removal of animals, etc.) ➤ no casual hunting permitted ➤ professional hunters may be contracted in accordance with the Council Lands Pest Management Plan. This would be part of an agreed strategy between the Utility Services and Landcare Divisions. The work would be managed by the Landcare Ranger |
| <p>Camping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>overnight stays for camping is not allowed</i> | <p>Camping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ no camping |

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| Vehicles: | Vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ no private motor vehicles – permitted operator & management vehicles only & professional pest control (limited) ➤ vehicles for people with limited mobility, undertaking study and during the ‘Roar Hunt’ may be approved on application at the Ranger’s discretion - these groups will be required to use a 4WD vehicle |
| Concessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>access may be allowed for an approved concessionaire in favour of a specific agreement as to area, route and maximum size of party</i> | Concessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the introduction of concessions in the catchment will be considered as part of <i>Phase 3</i>. Should special circumstances arise before <i>Phase 3</i>, concession applications will be considered by the Utility Services Committee taking into account the WRC Concessions Policy for Parks and Forests ➤ casual, or concessions for cultural harvesting may be approved on request but applicants will be encouraged to use areas outside the catchment if possible |
| Police/Search and Rescue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>exercises may be approved if requested but they will be encouraged to use other areas outside the catchment</i> | Police/Search and Rescue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ one exercise a year may be approved if requested but applicants will be encouraged to use other areas outside the catchment |
| Access to WRC Staff on Official Business | Access to WRC Staff on Official Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ sign for key and fill in logbook before accessing catchment (Landcare Ranger to continue to have access to logbook) |

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| <p>Security and Control Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the existing unofficial access should be acknowledged as a potential risk and reasonable steps taken to reduce this access to a minimum</i> | <p>Security and Control Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ maintaining catchment security will continue to be a core function of the ranger service ➤ the security of the catchment must not be compromised. All visitors are to enter via the main gate where the ranger or approved tripleaders will meet them and fill in the logbook. (A combination lock may be feasible during the ‘Roar Hunt’) ➤ rangers/tripleaders are to ‘meet and greet’ visitors to inform them of the catchment values and safety issues before each tour (literature to be provided and reminder to check bags, etc.) ➤ tour groups/visitors are not to enter closed or additionally restricted areas ➤ requirements on <i>all</i> visitors to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ stay on the formed roads or marked tracks ▪ ‘take home’ policy on litter ▪ no fires ▪ no smoking in the catchment when the fire risk is high ▪ no animals (except dogs for professional hunting) ▪ no removal of plants or plant material from the catchment ▪ instructions of WRC rangers to be adhered to ▪ do not disturb vegetation research plots & markers ▪ only cross private land with the permission of the landowner ➤ there will be close liaison between the Landcare Ranger and the Plant Supervisor to ensure that for any operational reason or in the event of a plant emergency, public access can be stopped for an appropriate period of time |
| <p>Areas Off Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>areas of the catchment above the intakes should be off limits to visitors at all times</i> | <p>Areas Off Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ no access in immediate vicinity of intakes ➤ restricted areas to be marked on maps (distributed to all visitors) |

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| <p>Review of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>these guidelines will be monitored and reviewed annually to assess benefits/disbenefits and possible changes</i> | <p>Review of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Multi-phase approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Phase 1 – guided walks (rangers, Wainuiomata Catchment only); training of trileaders; scientific, heritage & cultural research on application; ‘Roar Hunt’. Review Phase 1, 30 June 2001</i> ▪ <i>Phase 2 – consider trileaders, Orongorongo Catchment; possible additions to scientific, heritage & cultural research on application (depending on success of Phase 1); ‘Roar Hunt’. Review Phase 2, 30 June 2002</i> ▪ <i>Phase 3 – all of the above with possible addition of concessionaire(s). Review Phase 3, 30 June 2003</i> ➤ <i>The proposal is to take one stage at a time, with regular review meetings between Landcare and the Water Group to assess the programme (e.g. initially six monthly) and formal reports to the Utility Services Committee – 30 June 2001, 30 June 2002, and finally 30 June 2003. This phased approach means progress can be monitored and controlled.</i> ➤ <i>Once Phase 3 has been successfully implemented there will continue to be ongoing monitoring by Landcare and the Water Group (to build up a history on groups going through for future access planning, and to assess effects on the environment)</i> |

For more information on this Access Plan please contact:

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Cover Photos:

Tararua Tramping Club members on inaugural tour with WRC Rangers in the Wainuiomata Catchment, December 2000.