Taranaki’s title of the Garden of New Zealand dates back to the region’s earliest marketing material.

Pre-European Māori battled for the best land to garden, and early Europeans settlers ambitiously fought the native bush to establish their own crops and gardens.

As the province grew, so did the amount and diversity of public space that was developed for parks and gardens. At the same time, many private gardens of significance blossomed, importing and breeding plants and growing a strong network regionally and nationally.

The feature plants are, of course, the rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas, and a huge range of trees, shrubs and perennials complement these.

Taranaki’s prominence as a garden destination stems from its free-draining volcanic ash soil, reliable rainfall and temperate climate. While picture-perfect Mt Taranaki has undoubtedly got a hand in these factors, the real heroes in the evolution of Taranaki’s gardens are the gardeners themselves.

From insightful town planners to passionate weekend warriors, Taranaki’s amazing range of gardens owes much to these green-fingered visionaries, both past and present.

As a result of the fertile landscape and gifted gardeners, Taranaki today has many parks and gardens worthy of celebration. This guide assembles many of the best, and the region’s garden festivals present many more opportunities to get out there and discover a Taranaki garden experience like no other.
GETTING TO TARANAKI

By air, land or sea, Taranaki is an accessible region located halfway between Auckland and Wellington on the west coast of New Zealand’s North Island.

By Air
Air New Zealand flies direct to New Plymouth from Auckland or Wellington daily. The non-stop 45 minute flight will reaffirm your decision to visit Taranaki. Centred around a picture-perfect mountain, the lush regional countryside fertilised by countless eruptions over the centuries is simply stunning on a perfect day, framed on three sides by the endless Tasman Sea lapping the coastline with world-renowned surf swells. If you are in the South Island, Air New Zealand flies direct from Christchurch to New Plymouth Monday to Friday. The flight takes around 90 minutes.

By Road
There are two main arterial routes into Taranaki. From the north State Highway 3 (SH3) brings you along the dramatic coast of North Taranaki from Te Kuiti, whilst from the south State Highway 3 splits from State Highway 1 at Sanson and brings you north through Wanganui and into Taranaki via Waitotara.

For those who are coming from the east and enjoy adventure and history, the Forgotten World Highway (SH43), New Zealand’s oldest heritage trail, is a must. Starting in Taumarunui the 155km highway winds its way through rugged hill country to Stratford and takes around three hours to drive.

Regular bus services to Taranaki operate from Auckland and Wellington and stop at points in between.
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The Taranaki Parks and Gardens Booklet is part of a collection of publications produced by Venture Taranaki Trust the Regional Development Agency. These booklets and brochures showcase aspects of our region to the many and varied visitors and our communities.

Venture Taranaki is a dynamic organisation working across tourism and conventions, regional marketing and major events, and business and economic development. As such the Trust is the first point of contact for anyone looking to enhance their knowledge of the Taranaki region.

The region’s official website – www.taranaki.info – presents a wealth of information for anyone looking to visit, move to or learn more about Taranaki, or grow a business within the region. The site offers everything from accommodation options to coming events, jobs opportunities in the region to a lifestyle toolkit, and regional intelligence to business assistance programmes.

Venture Taranaki works one-on-one with individuals, businesses, small groups, clusters, media and industry to grow the economic wellbeing of Taranaki. Contact us now to find out how we can work with you.

For more information: www.taranaki.info
There’s somewhere for everyone to lay their head in Taranaki.

From international hotel chains and good value motels, to boutique hotels, lodges, bed and breakfast and quality hostels. Whether you’re after luxury, alpine, aquatic or character-filled accommodation, Taranaki has it all.

For up to date information on accommodation and to book visit
www.taranaki.info/visit/accommodation.php or visit one of the region’s i-SITEs.
TARANAKI MUST DO’S
As voted by the locals

1. Helicopter Flight over Mt Taranaki
See Taranaki’s beloved icon from a new angle with one of the region’s helicopter tours.

2. Dawson Falls
Take a 10 minute walk from the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre through lush native forest to this stunning 18 metre high waterfall.

3. TSB Bank Festival of the Lights
Explore New Plymouth’s plant paradise after dark, as Pukekura Park is transformed into a wonderland of lights over the summer months.

4. New Plymouth Coastal Walkway
Wander or ride the award-winning 11km Coastal Walkway and new Te Rewa Rewa Bridge.

5. Pukekura Park
Wander through the inner-city botanical wonderland to discover a lake, zoo, tea house, playground and countless short walks.

6. Summer Concerts at TSB Bowl of Brooklands
Enjoy a world class concert or festival in scenic surroundings at our natural outdoor amphitheatre.

7. Our Favourite Beaches
Round up the family for some beach cricket, swimming, surfing and fish and chips at our favourite beaches.

8. Puke Ariki
Uncover Taranaki’s rich heritage at this multi-award winning information hub located in the heart of New Plymouth.

9. Climb Paritutu Rock
Get the best views of Taranaki from the top of this volcanic outcrop on the New Plymouth coast.

10. Summit Climb up Mt Taranaki
Discover the legend and landscape of the iconic Mt Taranaki and encounter a view like no other from the summit.

11. Round the Mountain Road Trip
Go town hopping around our magnificent mountain by car or bike.

12. Tawhiti Museum and ‘Traders & Whalers’
Sample Taranaki’s heritage through uniquely realistic and engaging displays, including hundreds of life-size and miniature models, countless artefacts, a working railway and the ‘Traders & Whalers’ experience.

14. Ice Cream from the Iona Dairy
Enjoy super-sized scoops in all your favourite flavours from New Plymouth’s Iona Dairy.

15. Lake Mangamahoe
Pack a picnic and take a picturesque forest walk or fun-fuelled mountain bike ride around the lake.

16. Happy Chaddy’s Charters
Join colourful captain Chaddy on board a restored English lifeboat for a cruise through the Sugar Loaf Island Marine Reserve.

17. Len Lye’s Wind Wand
Watch the iconic 45 metre tall sculpture as it sways on its Coastal Walkway vantage point.

18. Stockcar Night at Stratford
Grab a hotdog and chips and the non-stop action at the Stratford Speedway.

19. Stay in a hut on Mt Taranaki
Take a trek and stay overnight in an alpine hut nestled in the Egmont National Park.

20. Coffee at a Coastal Café
Stop for a coffee or brunch at one of our handily located cosy coastal cafés.
New Plymouth District

Judged the most liveable city in New Zealand by North & South magazine, and the best small city in the world by the UN-backed Liveable Communities Awards, New Plymouth offers a lively cosmopolitan base for exploring the parks and gardens of North Taranaki. New Plymouth sits alongside the sparkling Tasman Sea and has Mt Taranaki at its back. The city doesn’t have an urban area surrounded by a green belt – its 245 parks and reserves sit amidst the urban areas, connected by an acclaimed network of walking and cycling trails. The most prominent of these trails is New Plymouth’s Coastal Walkway, which spans the width of the city along its 11km route. The walkway and the city’s parks and gardens have undoubtedly contributed to New Plymouth’s transformation in recent years.
This charming picnic area was called the Old Water Works Reserve until 1989 when its name was changed to the Audrey Gale Reserve in recognition of Audrey Gale, a retired councillor and huge contributor to the New Plymouth area.

**Audrey Gale** was a New Plymouth District Councillor for 21 years, serving as the parks and recreation committee chairperson from 1965 to 1977. Mrs Gale died in 1992.

The river provides safe swimming, rock jumping and paddling, while the two barbecue areas, with purpose build fireplaces and summer houses, are ideal for picnickers. Dog exercising and horse riding are encouraged and for those wanting an easy but enjoyable walk. Horse riding is permitted on the right hand side of the reserve. The park has plenty of natural shaded areas through native bush growing along side introduced planting. This flora is a perfect home for birds all year round.

**Highlights**

Some evidence of the old water works can be found tucked away in the far-east corner of the park. When first commissioned in 1883, the works pumped more than enough from the Waiwhakaiho River to service the residents of the fast growing town of New Plymouth.

The Waiwhakaiho River which borders the park has its source on Mt Taranaki and is highly valued for its aesthetic, ecological and recreational values, and is particularly important for native fish and trout habitat.

The commemorative bronze plaque, on the left at the park entrance, outlines Mrs Gale’s outstanding career. This serene spot provides an opportunity for visitors to the park to enjoy the native planting and bird life.

For further information contact New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre, refer to page 6.
Points Of Interest

🌟 Park Entrance/Exit

Path

Swimming Area

Dog Exercising

Horse Riding Area

Toilets

Parking

Lookout

Picnic/BBQ area

No Camping

No Golf

No Motorbikes

GPS: 39° 07’ 02” S 174° 10’ 85” E
This is a circular walk in a 36ha blend of open spaces, plantations, bush and a wetland area (Barrett Lagoon). The domain is also a wildlife refuge. Explore 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 in Barrett Domain.

Cowling Plantation Walk (10 mins)
As you enter the domain from Roto St. walk about 200m down a gravel track; the start of this walk is on your right. There is a cemented stone seat, which on 17 February 1966 was unveiled as a memorial to Mr Fred Cowling. These majestic kauri trees he planted are now more than 50 years old and provide a tranquil area in which to walk.

This track continues to Alba St. and exits the domain, or you can instead cross the bridge and walk through the trees until you come to a grassed area. At this point you can continue on to the Rayward Bush Walk or return to the main track.

Rayward Bush Walk (20 mins)
This short bush walk begins from the main entrance off Roto St. Walk down the gravel track past the Cowling Plantation sign until you come to the Rayward Bush Walk sign on your right.

Walk over a grassed area, keeping a small pond on your left. Follow a grassed track up a small hill and enter the bush near the top of the sign. This area has regenerating forest plants which include tawa and kohe kohe.

On exiting the bush you will find yourself in an open grassed area. From here you can continue on to your right towards the lagoon or return to the main entrance. To get to the main track walk across the paddock towards the entrance to the lagoon and then follow a track around to the left towards a gate.

Lagoon Bush Walk (30 mins)
This walk can be entered via the Davies Rd. entrance or from the main entrance off Roto St. Continue down the gravel track until you come to an open grassed area. To your left is the beginning of the Lagoon Bush Walk.

This walk follows the Mangaotuku Stream, which runs through the domain. After reaching the bridge follow the lower track that runs alongside the stream. About 500m along you will come to a T junction.

At the T junction you can either go down to a small gully the stream has carved out (note this is a dead end track), or continue up the hill to your right towards the lagoon. At the top of the hill are three tracks. The track on your right will take you to the Rayward Bush Walk. The other two tracks will take you to Barrett Lagoon.
Map Of Park

GPS: 39° 05’ 05” S 174° 02’ 48” E

Points Of Interest
1. Lagoon Bush
2. Kororako Pa site
3. Rayward Bush
4. Fred Cowling Kauri Reserve
5. Sir Victor Davies Memorial Planting
6. Mangaotuku Stream Gully
7. Riding For The Disabled

For further information contact New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre, refer to page 6.
First settled in the 1730s by the Nga-potiki-taua hapu of the Taranaki iwi, Marsland Hill was originally known as Pukaka Pa. Since then the strategic position of the hill has seen it given many uses and today it is a popular, accessible and scenic recreational reserve.

Designated a cemetery from 1841 to 1842, burials at Marsland Hill included Charles Armitage Brown (3) whose memorial is located on the slope behind St Mary’s Cathedral, after being rediscovered by local historians in 1921 following an extensive search. The cemetery was officially closed in 1908.

In 1855, the top of the hill was levelled, reducing its height by some 12 metres to create the headquarters for the imperial regiments stationed in Taranaki. Between 1874 and 1880, the barracks provided temporary accommodation for newly arrived settlers, and in 1891 the remaining section was relocated to Mt Taranaki as tourist accommodation, where it is now known as The Camphouse.

In 1909 Governor General Lord Plunket unveiled the New Zealand Wars Monument (3), and the South African War Memorial (4) followed in 1911, unveiled by Governor General Lord Islington in memory of the Taranaki men who fell in the Anglo-Boer War.

The Observatory (5) was opened in 1920, following the formation of a local Astronomical Society. The building has expanded from the original 1920 dome with additions in 1936 and extensions for a second telescope in the 1970s.

A 37 bell Carillon (2) donated by George Kibby in memory of his late wife Mable was installed in 1971. It received a major refurbishment in early 2014. Together the brass bells weigh over four tonne and play daily at 10am, 11am, noon, 2pm, 4pm and 5pm.

The surrounding reserve has grown over the decades to now encompass 3.78 hectares, which were declared a historic reserve in 1987. The reserve has many recreational uses and with its great views over the city is a popular picnic, heritage and lunchtime running destination.

For further information contact New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre, refer to page 6.
Map Of Park

GPS: 39° 06’ 15” S 174° 07’ 32” E

Points Of Interest

- Park Entrance/Exit
- Parking
- Path
- Interpretive sign
- Carillon
- New Zealand Wars Monument
- South African War Memorial
- The Observatory
- Charles Armitage Brown Grave

Website: www.taranaki.info/visit
Matekai Park was established in 1980 with subsequent land being purchased to create a 6.5 hectare area that is a popular link between Oakura’s shopping village and the beach.

The Park provides opportunities for walking in bush-like settings, and with its large wetland area and natural open spaces, gives good views of birds and other wildlife. A perimeter track is supplemented by three grass paths with rustic bridges that cross the wetland between the upper and lower tracks. A number of clearings and seats have been established to make the most of the views and landscape.

Matekai Park boasts a wide range of tree species, including puriri, karaka, titoki, pukatea, rewarewa, kahikatea, rimu, cabbage tree, mapou, lemonwood and kowhai. The wetland has been identified as an area of national importance by the Department of Conservation and consists of raupo, flax and carex, creating a habitat for a number of rare bird species.

Over recent decades Matekai Park has been the focus of an ongoing planting programme, which has centred on re-establishing native and introduced trees, which now attract bird life to the reserve.

The Matekai Park loop track can be used to walk dogs without a lead and at the upper end of the reserve is a large area of open space used for horse riding activities, with a large parking area.

Within five minutes drive along surf highway 45 you can explore the popular picnic spot, Lucy’s Gully and the various beaches with world-class surf breaks.

For further information contact New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre, refer to page 6.
New Plymouth District

Points Of Interest

★ Park Entrance/Exit

Path

Parking

Dog Exercising

Oakura Pony Club

website: www.taranaki.info/visit
Set in a magnificent rainforest on the lower slopes of Mt Taranaki, Pukeiti is New Zealand’s premier rhododendron garden.

Established in 1951 when keen horticulturalist William Douglas Cook purchased a 63 hectare hill block with the vision of creating a vast natural garden of rhododendrons, Pukeiti is now recognised as a Garden of National Significance.

Boasting more than 10,000 rhododendrons and azaleas amongst lush native bush, ferns, mountain streams and a lively bird life, Pukeiti features drifts of primulas, hostas, bluebells and the world renowned vireya collection, to provide year-round interest.

Overlooking the gardens, the Gatehouse Café (1) serves morning tea, afternoon tea and light lunches over the summer months.

Designed with seasonal interest in mind, there are three marked trails to explore: Rhododendron Stroll, Valley of the Giants walk and Puketewhiti Trail. Visitors can also wander freely around the gardens, though beyond the established area is the domain for serious trampers.

A fourteen-seater mobility vehicle offers tours between 11am and 11.30am, Friday to Monday.

Pukeiti is owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council, and admission is free.
Further Information:

New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre
Puke Ariki, 1 Ariki Street, New Plymouth
Phone: 06 759 0897 or 0800 639 759
Email: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz
Website: www.newplymouthnz.com

Points Of Interest

1. Gatehouse Café
2. Park Entrance/Exit
3. Parking
4. Toilets
5. Wheelchair Access
6. Shelter

- Rhododendron Stroll (45 min)
- Valley of the Giants Walk (60 min)
- Puketewhiti Trail (2 hours)
- Other Trails
Pukekura Park is a world-renowned park located in the heart of New Plymouth city. Beginning its life as a barren and swampy valley, it has been shaped into one of the best inner-city parks in New Zealand and is the backdrop for the annual TSB Bank Festival of Lights - a free spectacular event held from mid-December to late January. The 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.

To mark the opening of the park in 1876 an oak for Great Britain, a puriri for New Zealand, a Norfolk Island pine for the South Pacific islands and a Monterey pine for America were planted and are still growing on Cannon Hill (14).

The park includes the **Fernery and Display Houses (20)**, a facility recognised internationally by horticulturalists for its house design, propagation expertise and consistently high-quality plant displays.

The garden estate area of Brooklands is the home to the acclaimed **TSB Bowl of Brooklands (46)**, one of the country’s foremost open-air venues. In February 1958 the natural outdoor amphitheater opened with the first Festival of the Pines event and has since been the venue for the annual international music festival WOMAD and many iconic musicians including Lionel Richie, Paul Simon, Sting and Jack Johnson.

A highlight of a visit to the park is **Brooklands Zoo (33)**, a free, family-focused zoo featuring a modern aviary with a chattering of tropical birds, a mini farmyard full of playful animals, a close-up view of swimming and sunbathing otters, and enclosures of cheeky monkeys whose antics will amuse. A children’s playground sits at the centre of the zoo, complete with a picnic area.

The park’s **Sports Ground (2)**, which was a major location for the Tom Cruise movie The Last Samurai, regularly hosts matches between regional teams competing in cricket and football. The

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**Pukekura Park and Brooklands**

10 Fillis Street, New Plymouth
Open 7.30am to 7.00pm and until 8.00pm during daylight savings
grassed terraces provide a bird’s eye view of the ground. Cricket publishers, Wisden, named Pukekura Park one of the six best grounds in the world to watch cricket.

Relax by the Main Lake and Band Rotunda (12) where you can enjoy refreshments with views of the iconic Wisteria Pergola (17) at the recently refurbished Tea House on the Lake (16).

The use of water is a common theme throughout the park including Fountain Lake (5), where the fountain was installed in 1955 to mark the visit of Queen Elizabeth II, the year before. The fountain has 14 spray combinations with its main jet reaching 15 metres. Nearby is the man-made 10 metre high Waterfall (11).

The popular Poet’s Bridge (25) paid for by the generosity of Park Board member J.T. Davis from winnings on a horse called The Poet, crosses the Main Lake, and the upper lake can be crossed by the Boat Shed Bridge.

Two gardens were installed to celebrate the sister city relationships that the New Plymouth District Council has with Mishima (Japan) and Kunming (China). Kunming Garden (31) is a traditional Chinese garden created by Chinese craftsmen and local landscapers, featuring a moongate entrance and pavilion connected by a meandering pathway. The Japanese Hillside (6), designed and planted to reflect a typical Japanese hillside forest, includes the Mishima Gate, a traditional red Japanese torii gate, officially opened by Mishima City Council Chairman Mr Hajime Shimura and Deputy Mayor Peter Tennent to mark the sister city’s 10th anniversary.

Pukekura Park is also home to The Gables (32) - the oldest hospital still standing in New Zealand. Erected in 1848 on the current site of New Plymouth Girls’ High School, the hospital was built on the instructions of Governor Sir George Grey to provide integrated care for Māori and Europeans. In 1904, The Gables was purchased by Mary King, wife of Newton King, and relocated to its present site.

The 2000 Year Old Puriri Tree (37), the largest of its species in New Zealand, sits south of the park and is easy to find, as is the historic giant Ginkgo (41) tree located slightly north-east of the puriri.

Other popular attractions include Monument Hill (28), Lily Lake & The Aotearoa Sculpture (49) and the Chinese Plant Collection(39) as well as the Rhododendron Dell (50), which is fringed by an impressive mixed grove of totara, rimu and kowhai.

For further information contact New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre, refer to page 6.
Map Of Park

LEGEND

- Park Entry/Exit Gate
- Toilet
- Playground
- Parking
- Park paths and tracks
- Lakes, Ponds & Streams
- Park area

Dogs not permitted in the playgrounds, zoo or fernery

Main Entrance Gate

Dogs required to be on leash in the park

1. Ambush Gully
2. 2000 Year Old Puriri Tree
3. Upper Maranui Gully
4. Chinese Plant Collection
5. Maranui Homestead
6. Ginkgo
7. Lower Maranui Gully
8. Scanlan Lookout
9. Bowl Lake
Sculpted from a hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River, Tupare is a beautifully landscaped garden on the outskirts of New Plymouth.

The property’s original developer was prominent businessman Sir Russell Matthews, who bought the gorse-covered property with his wife in 1932. Sir Russell had a strong vision, a good eye for landscaping and liked to be first to acquire fashionable plants, often buying two or three at a time because of the status they afforded the garden. His vision lives on at this grand property.

Tupare features a homestead (1) designed by prominent New Zealand architect, James Chapman-Taylor, which can be visited during October-March for a free guided tour at 11am on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The property’s history can be explored at the Gardeners’ Cottage (2) which is constructed from recycled material from the original home that stood where the tennis court is now located. The cottage is now the information centre and gathering point for garden workshops.

The property’s landscaped garden contains majestic trees, a water feature and extensive plantings in different settings.

Tupare is owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council.
Further Information:

**New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre**
Puke Ariki, 1 Ariki Street, New Plymouth
Phone: 06 759 0897 or 0800 639 759
Email: enquiries@npdc.govt.nz
Website: [www.newplymouthnz.com](http://www.newplymouthnz.com)

**Points Of Interest**

1. Homestead
2. Gardeners’ Cottage
   - Park Entrance/Exit
   - Parking
   - Toilets
   - Playground
   - Wheelchair Access
   - Point of interest
   - The Boundary Walk
   - The Garden Walk
   - The House Stroll

**Map Of Park**

*GPS: 39° 08’ 40” S 174° 10’ 99” E*
Stratford District

Located in the heart of Taranaki, the town of Stratford is indelibly linked to its namesake Stratford-upon-Avon. The works of that town’s favourite son are immortalised in Stratford-upon-Patea’s street names, parks and its distinctive Glockenspiel Clock Tower, which performs passages of the Great Bard’s Romeo and Juliet at 10am, 1pm, 3pm and 7pm daily.

Beyond Stratford itself, the district is the gateway to both Mt Taranaki to the west and New Zealand’s oldest heritage trail, the Forgotten World Highway, which links the central North Island to the east. Each of these attractions are worthy of a day’s exploring in their own rights – the Mountain offers countless walks within Egmont National Park or a night at the Stratford Mountain House, and the Forgotten World Highway a drive back in time with over 30 scenic and heritage points of interest punctuated by the heritage village of Whangamomona.
Stratford District

- Arboretum
- Prospero
- Holiday Park
- Rugby
- Netball
- Tennis
- Strawberry Park Racecourse
Located within easy reach of the town centre King Edward Park is an ideal sanctuary to experience countless varieties of plants, mature trees and birdlife and fast-flowing mountain streams.

To mark the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902, a variety of trees and a suspension bridge were planned to span the Patea 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.

The main access to the park is through the historic Malone Gates (1) on the corner of Fenton and Portia Streets. The concrete gates were built in 1923 as a tribute to Colonel William George Malone, who was killed at Chunuk Bair in 1915. Nearby a commemorative lone pine tree was planted in 1968 with a seedling from Gallipoli’s Lone Pine Ridge.

Rhododendron plants from the Exbury Estate in Southampton were planted in the 1950s along with seeds from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. Named after a Parks and Reserves Committee Chairman, Mr Edward Wallace McCullough, the McCullough Rhododendron Dell (2) includes a pond, selections of rhododendron hybrids, azaleas, hydrangeas and native and exotic shrubs and trees.

Surrounding the Scout Den, a sloping lawn leads to a grassed stage with views of the Patea River. To the east is a shaded picnic area.

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 built in 1949.
Further Information:

**Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre**
Prospero Place, Broadway, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 6708 or 0800 765 6708
Email: info@stratford.govt.nz
Website: www.stratfordnz.co.nz

**Points Of Interest**

1. Malone Gates
2. McCullough Rhododendron Dell
   - Park Entrance/Exit
   - Parking
   - Toilets

- Playground
- Wheelchair Access
- Picnic area
- Park Entrance/Exit
- Parking
- Toilets

- Carrington Walkway
- Three Bridges Trail
- Clemow Walk

**Map Of Park**

*GPS: 39° 34' 16'' S 174° 27' 99'' E*
Named after a character in Shakespeare’s play The Tempest, Prospero Place is at the heart of Stratford’s business district and links the Stratford District and Centennial Library and Percy Thomson Art Gallery to the main shopping area.

Once a large gully with a stream running through it the area was purchased in the 1950s to enable the development of a shopping mall. Though the idea never eventuated, pedestrians began using the area as a walkway, and in the late 1950s a formal pedestrian route had been developed.

Prospero Place has reflected the changing face of Stratford - from concrete planters and raised gardens in the 1970s to the brown timber painted fences and tile-edged lawns of the 1990s. An upgrade and extension of the library took place in 1998 and in 2002 Prospero Place was chosen as the site of the Percy Thomson Art Gallery.

This building, whose architectural feature is an outline of Mt Taranaki, became possible following a bequest from former Stratford mayor Percy Thomson, who died in 1962. The building also hosts the i-SITE Information Centre and a café. In keeping with the mountain theme the landscaping incorporates alpine planting.

The paving has also been upgraded, with specimen trees and the existing gardens and lawn area revamped to create an informal enclosed space in the centre of the business district. This area has now become a focal point of the town with street market days, Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular events and outdoor exhibitions.

Across Broadway stands New Zealand’s only glockenspiel clock tower (1) which plays a five minute sequence from Romeo and Juliet. Overlooking Prospero Place is a bust of William Shakespeare (2), further linking Stratford-on-Patea to its namesake Stratford-on-Avon.
Further Information:

Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre
Prospero Place, Broadway, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 6708 or 0800 765 6708
Email: info@stratford.govt.nz
Website: www.stratfordnz.co.nz

Points Of Interest

1. Glockenspiel clock tower
2. Bust of William Shakespeare

Park Entrance/Exit

Parking
i-Site
Toilets
Wheelchair Access
Developed in 2001, the Arboretum was made possible by a bequest to the community from the late Percy Thomson, a former mayor of Stratford who died in 1962. The bequest also funded a virtual herbarium which can be found at www.taranakiplants.net.nz.

The arboretum represents the native flora of New Zealand. This brief has been expanded to illustrate New Zealand’s ancient connection to the Gondwana land mass, through links to Australia and Chile. A number of plants in the arboretum are the living descendents 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, and covers around 4000 metres, and a looped path provides an easy walk.

The arboretum was planned only a few years ago so it is still very young in terms of plant growth. Plantings of rimu, miro and native conifers will eventually become a patch of rainforest as the trees mature.
Further Information:

**Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre**
Prospero Place, Broadway, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 6708 or 0800 765 6708
Email: info@stratford.govt.nz
Website: www.stratfordnz.co.nz

**Points Of Interest**

- Star: Park Entrance/Exit
- P: Parking
- Red Line: Carrington Walkway
- Blue Line: Footpath
Dating back to 1885, Victoria Park gained its name and many of its trees in 1897, when £5 was spent on the purchase and planting of trees to commemorate 60 years of reign by Queen Victoria.

From its early days, Victoria Park has hosted organised sport - it is home to Stratford’s rugby, cricket amateur athletics and croquet clubs.

The park is divided by a **central lake (1)**, formed by a natural creek and originally developed as a perch pond. The lake was once used by anglers, boaters and swimmers before becoming a refuge for waterfowl. A well established walking track follows the lake edge through native plantings and offers many seats for picnics and reflection.

A poignant reminder of the sacrifice made by Stratford’s young men in the Great War stands at the corner of Fenton and Orlando Streets in the form of the **Victoria Park Memorial Gates (2)**, unveiled on ANZAC Day 1926.

In 1997, the Fenton Street boundary was planted in **rhododendrons and flowering cherry trees (3)**. Now mature, these trees and shrubs give an attractive spring display of colour each year.

A playground and skate park are popular features of the park.
Map Of Park

Further Information:

Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre
Prospero Place, Broadway, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 6708 or 0800 765 6708
Email: info@stratford.govt.nz
Website: www.stratfordnz.co.nz

Points Of Interest

1. Central lake
2. Victoria Park Memorial Gates
3. Rhododendrons and flowering cherry trees

GPS: 39° 33' 85'' S 174° 27' 88'' E
Located on the bank of the Patea River, this small park gets its name from Shakespeare’s play The Merry Wives of Windsor. Gently sloping towards the river, and shaded by established trees, Windsor Park offers a tranquil escape. Sunny grassed areas can also be found and there are many picnic spots.

In the 1880s, E Burgess and Sons established the Stratford Sash and Door Company on the site, which included a tunnel to divert the Patea River to a water wheel powering the factory. Adjacent to this was Johnston’s Aerated Cordial factory.

The park was developed in the 1930s by a group of locals with a vision of a riverbank garden. They faced a huge challenge - the area was a wilderness of blackberry and weeds – which eventually overwhelmed them and the Stratford Council took over management of the park.

Featuring an “island” of three giant miro trees and other natives, along with plantings of exotic trees, this park is frequently seen in the background of local wedding photos.

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 (1) while looking for fish in the river as they travel downstream.
Further Information:

**Stratford i-SITE Visitor Centre**
Prospero Place, Broadway, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 6708 or 0800 765 6708
Email: info@stratford.govt.nz
Website: www.stratfordnz.co.nz

Points Of Interest

1. Riverbank beach
2. Park Entrance/Exit
3. Parking
4. Picnic area
5. Path

GPS: 39° 34' 18'' S  174° 28' 79'' E
South Taranaki District

South Taranaki spans a large portion of the region, from Okato on the coast, south around the mountain to Eltham. At the heart of this lush dairying district is the main centre of Hawera, a town rich in history and well endowed with interesting parks and gardens, many of which have a story or two to tell.

The district boasts some of the best tramping, fishing and surfing in New Zealand, and is home to the amazing Tawhiti Museum, regarded as the best private museum in the country. Not to be missed is the museum’s Traders and Whalers exhibit, a unique canal boat ride through the Taranaki region’s pioneering history.

Beyond Hawera the towns of Opunake and Eltham offer friendly communities, cozy cafés and an eclectic array of shops and studios to recharge a day exploring the district’s parks and gardens.
Goodson Dell

Corner Cameron and High Streets, Hawera
Open all hours

Originally part of the home garden of community leader and farmer Charles Goodson, the Dell was first developed as a swimming pool by damming a small spring. The swimming hole was lined by tidy concrete steps (1), and a bridge stretched over the spot where many Hawera children learnt to swim and paddle a boat. The Dell’s trees, many of which are over 100 years old, include a magnificent Swamp Cypress.

Over the years, the garden has been divided and sold. The swimming hole was drained and the garden fell into wrack and ruin until four walking friends from the Hawera Women’s Club - known as the Goodson Guerrillas - decided to do something about it. Together the group created the gorgeous Goodson Dell.

This park offers many pleasant opportunities to sit and enjoy the pretty vistas the Guerrillas have developed and enhanced. There is also a chance of meeting one of them spending an hour or two weeding or pruning, perhaps adding a seedling or two and ensuring the Goodson Dell is picture-perfect for future generations.
Further Information:

**South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre**
55 High Street, Hawera
Ph: 06 278 8599 or 0800 111 323
Email: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz
Website: www.southtaranaki.com

**Points Of Interest**

1. Steps
2. Park Entrance/Exit
3. Path
4. Stream

**Map Of Park**

GPS: 39° 56' 97'' S 174° 25' 37'' E
A horticultural oasis in the heart of dairy country, Hollard Gardens is an intriguing and relaxing destination all year round. Primarily a plant collection, much of the informal four hectare garden is woodland. The gardens are renowned for their repository of plants, representing exotic introductions and New Zealand-bred plants spanning the last 75 years.

Hollard Gardens is the achievement of a lifetime’s work by Bernie and Rose Hollard. Bernie came from a local dairy farming family and began the garden in 1927. An avid plant collector he had a reputation as one of this country’s foremost plantsmen. The garden is a monument to his patience and horticultural skill, and offers intimate gardens, hidden paths, expansive lawns and swamp gardens.

Bernie’s Home Garden (1) features vegetables, herbs, a food forest, chooks and a beehive, and is a venue for regular home gardening workshops.

The children’s playground area (2) offers a free gas barbeque and gazebo, making this garden retreat the ideal spot for a family day out.

Whether you’re an expert gardener or just have a passing interest, the huge array of plants at Hollard Gardens will fascinate and absorb you. There are spectacular mountain views from a number of vantage points.

Hollard Gardens is owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council.

1686 Upper Manaia Road, Kaponga
Open 9.00am to 5.00pm
Further Information:

South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre
55 High Street, Hawera
Ph: 06 278 8599 or 0800 111 323
Email: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz
Website: www.southtaranaki.com

Points Of Interest

1. Visitor Pavilion
2. Park Entrance/Exit
3. Parking
4. Toilets
5. Picnic area

Playground
Wheelchair Access
Bernie’s Trail
Rose’s Trail
King Edward Park offers pleasant picnic spots in tranquil locations, spectacular floral borders and rose gardens, dramatic seasonal changes and a wide range of amenities and attractions. Commissioned in 1875 and opened in 1902, the park commemorates the coronation of King Edward VII. The two oak trees standing near the main entrance were planted during the opening ceremony.

Intended to showcase plants suited to the South Taranaki environment, the park has been designed around a formal base of two intersecting avenues.

Championed by community leader and horticultural enthusiast Charles Goodson, many of the specimen trees and plants he introduced still remain today, notably the totara hedge planted in 1905, along with extensive daffodil beds, of which he was a noted breeder, and scented Luculia, a species he introduced to New Zealand. After his death, the Hawera Horticultural Society created the Goodson Memorial Garden, which offers spectacularly colourful rhododendrons and azaleas.

Equally spectacular is the park’s **boating lake (1)**, an expansive man-made pond that reflects surrounding trees and floral borders, and is home to many ducks and the occasional model yacht or power boat.

The recently restored **park gates (2)** were erected to mark the Hawera Industrial Exhibition of 1904 and the District’s troops lost in the South African War. The statue of pioneer farmer **Albert Arthur Fantham (3)** has surveyed the park for a century. The 167 year **old naval cannon (4)**, which never fired a shot in anger, and the **park’s observatory (5)**, which began life as a band rotunda over a tea kiosk, were both installed in 1912.

A unique feature is the **Wendy Statue (6)**, created in England to commemorate Hawera mayor James Campbell, who died in office. The sculpture is the companion piece to the statue of Peter Pan in London’s Kensington Gardens and has been in place since 1951.

Built by the local Lions Club the **pirate ship and tree fort (7)** continue the Peter Pan theme and offer a popular playground.
Further Information:

South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre
55 High Street, Hawera
Ph: 06 278 8599 or 0800 111 323
Email: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz
Website: www.southtaranaki.com

Points Of Interest

1. Model boating lake
2. Park gates
3. Albert Arthur Fantham
4. Old naval cannon
5. Park observatory
6. Wendy Statue
7. Pirate ship
8. Park Entrance/Exit
9. Toilets
10. Parking
11. Picnic area
12. Wheelchair Access
Renowned as a goblin park and a native plant ark, Naumai Park offers an overwhelming sense of being in an untouched native bush environment.

Formerly known as the Horse Paddock, Yarrow Park, Miro Park and East End Park, it was officially named Naumai Park in 1926. Despite its largely native plant content, Naumai Park is not a natural feature of the Hawera landscape, but a man-made transformation of a former dump site, created by a group of dedicated volunteers in the 1920s.

Developed around a central core of three small lakes (the upper of which has been abandoned), Naumai Park contains several notable features. These include the 1927 Kauri grove (1), a comprehensive collection of native plants and impressive stone walls, the waterfall (2) which operates through a re-circulating pump in the upper lake, and the whare-like summerhouse (3), built in the 1940s and decorated with a striking mural.

The ornamental gates (4), from the original Hawera Hospital, were donated to the park in 1932.

The park provides a popular summer picnic destination, though its tall trees limit the number of sunny spots at other times of the year. The park has also been used to stage both theatrical and musical events and recently provided a film set for the movie Predicament based on the book by Hawera author Ronald Hugh Morrieson.
Further Information:

South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre
55 High Street, Hawera
Ph: 06 278 8599 or 0800 111 323
Email: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz
Website: www.southtaranaki.com

Points Of Interest

1. Kauri grove
2. Waterfall
3. Summerhouse
4. Ornamental gates
5. Park Entrance/Exit

Toilets
Parking
Picnic area
Path
Stark and Bridger Parks provide a charming and restful centrepiece to Eltham’s historic retail precinct.

The younger of the two, Stark Park commemorates local icon Jack Stark and is built on the site of a grocery business established by Jack in 1945. The store was demolished after a fire and the site served as a car park for many years, though a remnant of the original building remains to form Stark Park’s northern wall.

Opened in December 2005, nine months before Jack’s death, Stark Park was the first project by landscape architect Alice Cullen. The design inspiration was Eltham as “the town of firsts” and the park’s grassed area is in the shape of an eye, representing the eye of the firsts. The park also features several distinctive mosaics.

Bridger Park, named after Ira Bridger, Eltham Mayor from 1923 to 1938, is a pleasant valley park that straddles the Manawharawhara Stream. Originally a wasteland of blackberry and tangled willows, it was transformed into an attractive park as a project devised by Mr Bridger to provide work for the unemployed during the depression. With predominantly native planting, the park is especially attractive when the kowhai are in bloom in early spring.

A small amphitheatre (1) provides an occasional setting for concerts and other entertainment and the park is a popular picnic venue.

The children’s Toy Wall (2) is a bizarrely beautiful artwork began in 1997 when the late Fay Young, a long term employee of Jack Stark, found a child’s toy car on the ground outside her home. She put the toy on a concrete wall for the child to find, but when the unclaimed toy kept falling off, she cemented it on. After that, other children asked her to add their toys to the wall and even after her death in 2000, the wall’s collection has continued to grow.

A photograph of Fay Young is attached to the roof of a dolls’-house-sized church built in the shrubbery behind the wall. Inside is an urn holding her ashes.

This park is currently being extensively redeveloped after suffering storm damage in early 2012.
Map Of Park

Further Information:
South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre
55 High Street, Hawera
Ph: 06 278 8599 or 0800 111 323
Email: visitorinfo@stdc.govt.nz
Website: www.southtaranaki.com

Points Of Interest

1. Amphitheatre
2. Toy Wall
   • Park Entrance/Exit
   • Parking

GPS: 39° 42' 95'' S 174° 29' 28'' E
Situated just 2km from the South Taranaki coast, this established garden shelter creates a haven from prevailing winds. The striking private garden has developed a style that reflects owner Jenny Oakley’s formal horticulture and landscape design training and is recognised as a Garden of National Significance.

Jenny and her husband Guy began to plant shelter when they bought the property in 1984, while Jenny was working at Hollard Gardens. Initially the property had no shelter around the house, so Jenny gardened in a hollow in the paddock with the intention of shifting some of those plants to the garden when the shelter grew. However, by that time, the plants were all far too large to shift so had to stay where they were originally planted.

It wasn’t until Jenny left work with children on the way that the couple began developing the garden from a bare slate consisting from only a walnut tree (1). Most of the hard work was done while the Oakley children were still babies - Jenny recalls putting her young children to bed and rushing outside in the hope that they would stay sleeping while she was working.

To counter the foliage burning of the salt-laden onshore winds, a lot of hardy natives have been planted, namely Pittosporum crassifolium - one of the hardiest hedge plants for Taranaki - along with boxthorn hedges used as farm hedges around the garden.

Today, the large family garden is complete with hedge-lined paths linking carefully planned garden rooms, brick walls and pillars, exuberant cottage style borders, early flowering roses, a vegetable potage and many hanging baskets.
Further Information:

Jenny & Guy Oakley
79 Lower Normanby Rd, Manaia
Phone: 06 274 8060
Email guy.oakley@xtra.co.nz

Points Of Interest

1 Walnut tree
★ Park Entrance/Exit
P Parking

Map Of Park

GPS: 39° 54’ 85” S 174° 10’ 04” E

NORTH

Oakley Garden

website: www.taranaki.info/visit
Covering an acre and a half, on the brow of a north-facing hill, Puketarata Garden is a captivating private country garden 6km north of Hawera that offers fantastic views of inland Taranaki and Mt Taranaki.

Owners Ken and Jennifer Horner started their home and garden project in 1983 with a bare paddock and a shared passion for native New Zealand plants. This passion, almost 30 years on, has resulted in increased native bird life including tui, bell birds and kereru. Jennifer’s grandfather, Griff Williams, was the founding chairman of the Pukeiti Garden Trust and Jennifer’s earliest memories of gardening are those spent with her grandparents at their home in Ohangai.

The property features a large lawn adjacent to the home, a grass tennis court on a level below the home, connected by a haha, and small orchard under-planted with daffodils. A vegetable and herb garden and a berry house can be found behind the home.

The gully below the house was fenced off and systematically planted with a mix of natives, deciduous trees and rhododendrons, which can be viewed from the haha and gully tracks. With an emphasis on greens and texture, the garden planting is a blend of natives, rhododendrons, roses, the usual and unusual garden shrubs and perennials.

The garden and home are adjacent to the Puketara Pa, one of the many pa sites in this area, constructed some 400 years ago. Evidence of the trenches, house sites and midden are still visible.

Puketarata Garden is recognised as a Garden of National Significance.
Further Information:

Jennifer & Ken Horner
14 Ngawhini Road, Hawera
Phone: 06 278 3081
Email: info@puketaratagarden.co.nz
Website: www.puketaratagarden.co.nz

Points Of Interest

🌟 Park Entrance/Exit
🚗 Parking
🚽 Toilets
Te Kainga Marire, Māori for “the peaceful encampment,” is a skillfully designed native inner-city garden that mimics New Zealand’s natural environment.

Situated in a once weedy New Plymouth valley, Te Kainga Marire is recognised as one of New Zealand’s five Gardens of International Significance by the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

In 1972, Valda Poletti and Dave Clarkson began their battle with half an acre of clay, kikuyu grass, gorse, fennel and blackberry. In an area of old pa sites, they built their own home - a “posh hut” designed to blend into the landscape.

Keen outdoor adventurers, the couple wanted a bird-friendly garden designed around the ecological groupings they had observed in the wild. Grasses, climbers, herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees have been nurtured around rustic fences, a pond, a colonial bush hut (1) and a cool, fern-filled whare (2).

Carefully planned native plantings on the property were designed to increase the number of tui and other native birds.

Opened to the public in 1990 the garden wraps around the family home and sits between a coastal swamp forest remnant and pa site, opening onto the neighbouring river reserve and Te Henui Walkway.

This is a harmonious garden that weaves subtle textures and colours with quirky forms. Lush ferns, wetland plants, alpine treasures and native trees make up a microcosm of the New Zealand landscape.

Te Kainga Marire was selected for inclusion in the prestigious BBC documentary Around the World in 80 Gardens.
Further Information:

Valda Poletti & David Clarkson
15 Spencer Place, New Plymouth
Phone: 06 758 8693
Email: valda@tekaingamarire.co.nz
Website: www.tekaingamarire.co.nz

Points Of Interest

1. Colonial bush hut
2. Fern-filled whare
   - Park Entrance/Exit
   - Parking

Toilets
Path
Te Henui Walkway
Te Henui Stream
Taranaki Garden Spectacular

Taranaki’s most spectacular public and private gardens are showcased annually as part of the Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular.

The annual festival is one of New Zealand’s longest running garden festivals, attracting thousands of people to the region’s gardens every year.

The iconic event presents over 50 of New Zealand’s most stunning garden environments ranging from large park-like country gardens, geometric and intimate inner city potager gardens, sub tropical and rainforest gardens. An extensive events programme including guided walks and celebrity speakers ensures there really is something for everyone.

However, it’s not just the gardens that make this festival so special – it’s also the warm welcome you’ll receive from our region’s most gifted gardeners. Renowned for their hospitality, expertise and dedication to their art, their gardens reflect an enormous amount of care, imagination, and sheer hard-work.

We invite you to feast your senses at the Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular – like no other!

For more information or a free programme go to www.gardenfestnz.co.nz or email enquiries@gardenfestnz.co.nz or call 0800 746 363 or +64 6 759 8412.
TARANAKI FRINGE GARDEN FESTIVAL

A garden festival like no other, the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival brings together an amazingly eclectic array of experiences.

The Festival, New Zealand’s largest garden festival with more than 90 gardens and places of interest on offer, includes small to large gardens, art and sculpture displays, and tools and machines of yesteryear, in all corners of Taranaki.

Behind the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival’s success are the gardeners themselves, and the Festival offers plenty of opportunities to tap into their experience and insight. They love to share their innovative ways of growing and are likely to offer an abundance of handy hints to anyone who asks.

There is a huge range of gardens in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival, including pocket-sized gardens on small town sections, traditional stately gardens, large country gardens with mature trees and special interest gardens with a focus on specific plant types. There are quirkier gardens full of surprises and amazing artistically inspired sculpture gardens brimming with inspiration and ideas to take home.

For more information on the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival, visit www.taranakigardens.com.
### Parks & Gardens

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www.taranaki.info

This publication was produced by Venture Taranaki with assistance from New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council and Taranaki Regional Council.
All efforts have been made to ensure information provided in this publication is accurate, but track conditions and situations do change and some tracks in this guide require a high level of skill and technical knowledge. If you are unsure then we advise you to seek expert guidance.