



TARANAKI

like no other

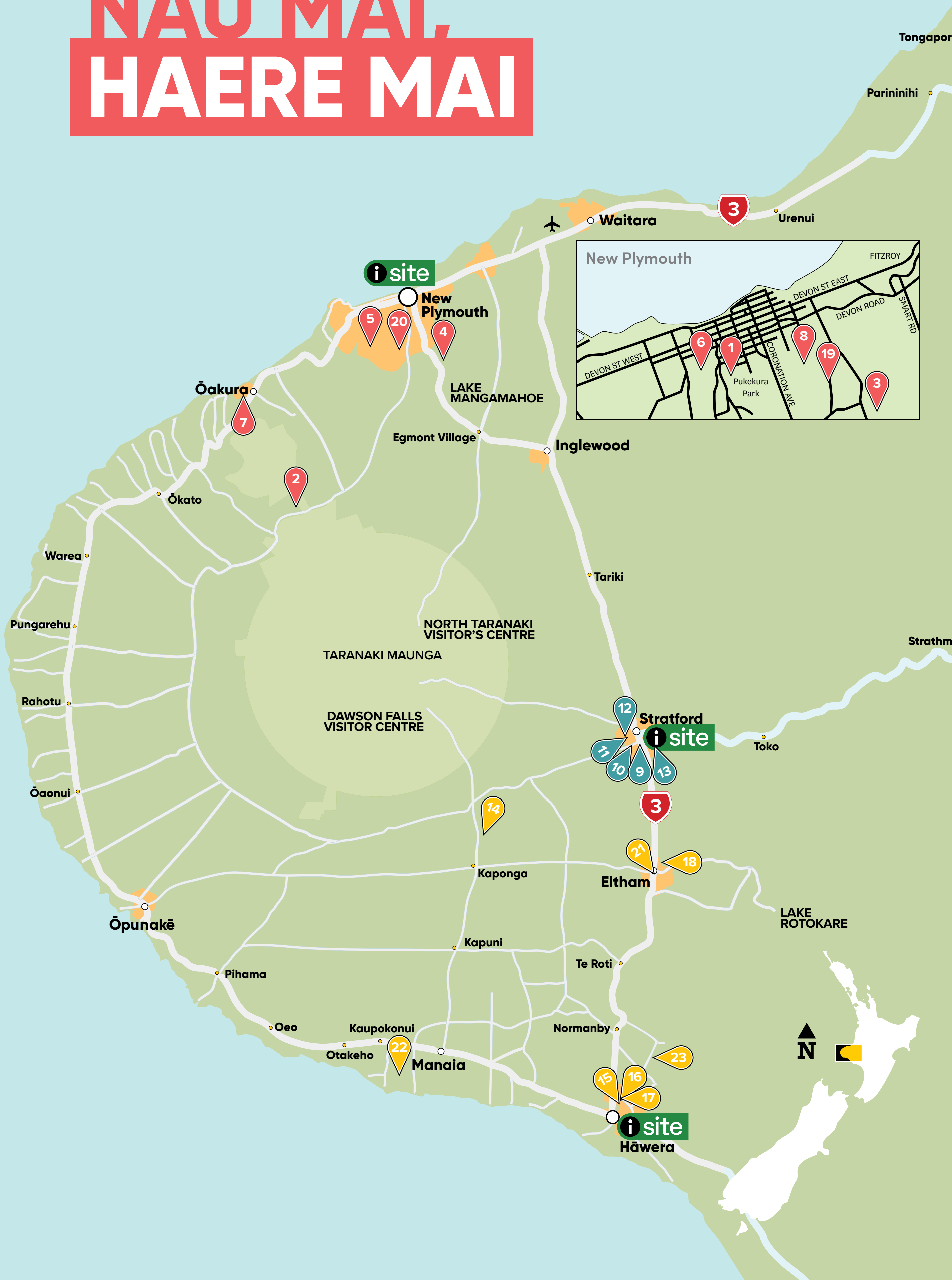
PARKS AND GARDENS

10th edition

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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](https://www.taranaki.co.nz/visit/everything-to-see-and-do/parks-and-gardens)



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/Pūkākā

A historic pā site, Pūkākā/Marsland Hill today 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 tonnes 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, 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, Stratford Bike Park including education cycle track and pump track, BBQ pavilion, half basketball court, 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

A short walk from the town centre, King Edward Park is home to a variety of plants, mature trees, bird life, walkways and recreational facilities. The popular Carrington Walkway starts at the memorial gates for Colonel Malone and meanders through King Edward Park, taking visitors on a scenic route of the Pātea River, through the Rhododendron Dell and along countryside pastures. The Three Bridges Trail within the park is a short walk for families, taking you on a journey over three bridges. Bordering the park is the Stratford Motel & Holiday Park, Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre, a multi-sports complex, a playground, Stratford Primary School and the Centennial Rest Rooms.



12. Thomson Arboretum

The Thomson Arboretum, which adjoins Windsor Park, was created as a bequest from Percy Thomson, a former Mayor of Stratford. The Arboretum represents the native flora and fauna of New Zealand and descendants of plants on the former Gondwana continent; it covers around 4000 metres, with a looped path providing an easy walk and great space for picnics.

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 Waitōtara. At the heart of this lush dairying district is the main centre of Hāwera, a town with a rich history.

14. Hollard Gardens

This garden of national significance features an extensive collection of trees, rhododendrons, shrubs and perennials. The garden buzzes with the sound of insects and manu/birds feeding on the diversity of seasonal flowers, fruits 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

King Edward Park is a premier green space in South Taranaki, with picnic spots, vibrant floral borders, a children's playground and a wide range of amenities and attractions. The park is a haven for families, nature lovers, and garden enthusiasts, and was recognised with the prestigious Green Flag Award in 2019, 2020 & 2023. Boasting a five-star rating from the New Zealand Gardens Trust, the park is a garden of National Significance.



16. Goodson Dell

Situated on the corner of High Street and Cameron Street (Hāwera), Goodson Dell is a small tranquil, woodland setting offering a picturesque walk among native and exotic trees and plants with an interesting history.



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, this charming park is a small amphitheatre that occasionally hosts concerts and community events, while the open green space is perfect for relaxed picnics. Don't miss the quirky charm of the Toy Wall — a colourful and ever-evolving artwork started in 1997 by Fay Young and local children, celebrating creativity and community spirit.

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 six 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 \$15.**

**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 \$5. 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 - 5:30 PM during festival season or by appointment***



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, Centuria 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 ISITE VISITOR CENTRE

Puke Ariki, 1 Ariki Street, New Plymouth

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

Hours: Monday–Sunday 10.00am–5.00pm

STRATFORD ISITE VISITOR CENTRE

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 ISITE VISITOR CENTRE

121 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 isites are closed Christmas Day.

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

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T A R A N A K I
Te Puna Umanga