



DISCOVER
**VICTORIA
ESPLANADE**

A Royal Gateway

DISCOVER

From the splendour of lofty trees, the lush elegance of ferns, to the glory of abundant blooms in the Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden, Victoria Esplanade offers **year-round delight**. Named to commemorate Queen Victoria's 60th Jubilee, the Esplanade provides **walking opportunities aplenty** mingled with playgrounds, a paddling pool, a miniature railway, beautiful garden beds and magnificent trees.

ALL YOU NEED TO
DO IS GET INTO IT!



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DID YOU KNOW?...

Running 19 hectares along the Manawatu River at Palmerston North's southern entrance, the Esplanade is a striking city gateway offering a wealth of recreation and leisure pursuits.

FUN FOR FAMILIES

With the city's most extensive playground, the Esplanade is the place to play.

There are all the old favourites – swings, slides, trampolines and climbing frames. Kids will also love the mouse wheels, whisper dishes, fireman's pole, jump pit, three-storey pole house and flying fox. For safety, younger children have a separate play area.

Tots can also frolic in the Esplanade's paddling pool. Open from October through April, the Esplanade's large Art Deco style pool was gifted to the city's children by the Returned Services Association in the late 1930s.

Catch a ride on the miniature railway in the playground for a round trip through native bush, past the hockey turfs and the historic Victoria House. Established in 1969, the railway is run by the Miniature Railway Society between 1pm and 4pm weekends, and public and school holidays. Bookings can be made outside these times by calling 06 365 4091.



Take a stab at identifying the 55 birds varieties at the Esplanade's aviary.

See if you can spot kea, kaka, the blue Indian ringneck, the rare antipodes island parakeet, the sulphur crested cockatoo and vividly coloured Australian parrots. The endangered native blue ducks and brown teals also call the Esplanade home in a specially created natural habitat designed to help repopulate the species.



DID YOU KNOW?...

The Esplanade began life in 1897 as a gravel footpath. The form it more closely follows today is largely attributable to Peter Black, Palmerston North's Curator of Reserves between 1908 and 1946. Peter Black's tree plantings are a legacy still much in evidence – the Arboretum, which contains a number of protected trees, the flowering cherries along the Esplanade drive and the *Phoenix canariensis* palms of Palm Drive.

A WALKER'S WONDERLAND

From native bush and established gardens, to the calm riverside idyll, the Esplanade's pathways offer a variety of settings for exercise and leisure. Pace yourself on the Esplanade's two measured pathways. The pathways are clearly signposted so you know where and how far you're going! Take the 1350-metre Route A (follow the red markers) or the 900-metre Route B (the green markers), which is part of the national KiwiWalk initiative.

If you're after a serious exercise session, you can access the 9 kilometre riverside pathway from the Esplanade. The Esplanade comprises 3 kilometres of this pathway, which extends from Paneiri Park to Riverside Drive (off Te Matai Road).

Prefer a sociable amble through the natural environment? Try the 45 minute, one-kilometre Forest and Bird Nature Trail through the Esplanade's bush (entrance off the central playground car park). Created by Forest and Bird Protection Society, the walkway celebrates the native flora of the area. Signs posted throughout the walk pinpoint the highlights.



BEFORE YOU WALK

- Plan where you are going, how long it should take, and account for the return trip!
- Tell someone where you are going.
- Take someone with you.
- Many of the pathways are near ponds, streams and rivers. Please remember to take care around water.
- Respect pathway signs, fences, flora and fauna, and the property of those who live nearby.
- Be a tidy kiwi.
- Dress for the weather.
- Slip on a shirt, slap on a hat, and slop on some sun block.
- Wear suitable footwear.
- Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints!
- Enjoy yourself! Talk while you walk.
- Please be aware that at any time we may need to close a pathway.

Now pick a pathway!

Pathway A (Red Markers)

Rating	1 2 3 4 5 (fairly easy)
Distance	1.35 kilometres
Contour	Flat with minor undulation
Surface	Fine gravel
Access Points	Victoria Esplanade Drive
Conveniences	Car park, toilets, picnic areas, BBQ's, paddling pool, and playgrounds nearby
Special Attractions	Native bush, established gardens Nearby: Miniature railway, duck ponds, river access, conservatory, aviaries, café

Pathway B (Green Markers)

Rating	1 2 3 4 5 (very easy)
Distance	0.9 kilometres
Contour	Flat
Surface	Fine gravel
Access Points	Victoria Esplanade Drive
Conveniences	Car park. Toilets, picnic areas, BBQ's, paddling pool, and playgrounds nearby
Special Attractions	Native bush, established gardens Nearby: Miniature railway, duck ponds, river access, conservatory, aviaries, café



A GARDENER'S DELIGHT

Roses and blossoms, shrubs and ferns, trees and bush, the Esplanade is home to a profusion of flora.

Explore the Esplanade's living museum and discover how the Manawatu looked over 100 years ago. This five hectares of native bush is home to rare and endangered plant species and to a wealth of animals and birds, including bellbirds, falcons, grey warblers, morepork, shining cuckoos, tui and wood pigeons.

A New Zealand icon, ferns of many varieties thrive in The Fernery. Nearby is The Arboretum in which you can find a dazzling array of exotic and native trees, some of which are rarely found in New Zealand. Spring brings the delight of the Esplanade's cherry trees. First planted in the 1950s and 60s, 100 new Awanui trees were planted in 1997 to reinvigorate this glorious springtime vision.



Flower beds provide year-round colour. The annual beds around Palm Drive are replenished twice yearly to maintain spectacular all-year blooms. The extensive plantings of herbaceous perennials and bulbs throughout the more established gardens provide seasonal interest.

From October to April the Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden brims with colour and fragrance with over 5,000 plants and 100 rose varieties. Varieties include 'Victoria Esplanade' bred by local woman Nola Simpson to celebrate the Esplanade's centenary in 1997. Recognised as one of the world's top five rose gardens in 2003, the Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden is home to New Zealand's National Rose Trial Gardens and the Plant Variety Rights Trial Beds.

After something more exotic? Seek out the Peter Black Conservatory and Lath House for a wide range of tropical and subtropical plants. Orchids feature as the largest single collection. The conservatory's copper water mister created by sculptor Bob Munro was gifted by Palmerston North's Horticultural Society to mark its 75th anniversary in 1997.





A GATHERING PLACE

If you're making it a family day out, use the park's free twin electric barbecue facilities, seating and picnic spots to chill out and restore your energy. Or you might prefer the hot and cold food, ice cream and coffee on offer 9.30am to 4.30pm, seven days, from Café Esplanade. The Café is housed in Victoria House, Palmerston North's former post office relocated to this site in 1989.

There's always plenty more happening at the Esplanade. Check out the summer concerts programme from the Information Centre. Every year there's fun and action to suit all tastes.

And the Rose Gardens, Conservatory and other locations are ideal for all kinds of private functions such as weddings, birthdays and corporate events. Contact the Palmerston North City Council Customer Service Centre on (06) 356 8199 for bookings.



VICTORIA ESPLANADE

OPENING HOURS | OPEN 7 DAYS

Winter

(April - September) 8am - 6pm

Summer | Daylight Savings hours

(October - March) 8am - 9pm

VICTORIA ESPLANADE EDUCATION CENTRE

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