



DISCOVER  
**ASHHURST  
DOMAIN**

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Nature's Playground

# DISCOVER

Step back into New Zealand, Aotearoa, of generations long gone. Discover lush **natural surrounds** echoing with rich birdsong in one of the Manawatu's precious remnants of native bush; delight in the **wildlife sheltering in the wetlands**. The Ashhurst Domain provides all that nature has to offer whether bushwalking, picnicking, playing, swimming, or camping.

ALL YOU NEED TO  
DO IS GET INTO IT!



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# INTRODUCTION

The Ashhurst Domain lies just 14 kilometres east of Palmerston North on State Highway 3, nestled beside the Manawatu River and the Ashhurst township.

Truly nature's playground, the Domain offers over 54 hectares of picnic areas, camping ground, sports fields, playgrounds, established native bush, wetlands, walking tracks and river access.



## DID YOU KNOW?...

The Ashhurst area used to be the site of a pa or village. Otangaki is the name of this place - it refers to pulling out the weeds to prepare the rich soils for cultivation. In the late 1800s access to the area was by river ferry until the first wooden bridge was built in 1886. When the bridge was badly damaged by severe flooding in 1895, the ferry was brought back into operation until 1909 when a replacement bridge was built. The current concrete bridge was constructed 1969.

# BEFORE YOU WALK

**Choose from a range of easy to moderate walks.** Access to the Domain is via the Cambridge Avenue car-park on SH3 or from the layby besides the SH3 Manawatu River bridge. The Upper Circuit offers a shorter wheelchair-friendly walks, while the lower paths and bush walks are more challenging. Be sure to consider the following:

- 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 walkways are near ponds, streams and rivers. Please remember to take care around water
- Respect walkway 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 walkway



# ASHHURST DOMAIN PATHWAYS



## WALKING MAP KEY

- Full Circuit
- - - Upper Circuit (Large)
- - - Lower Loop
- - - Upper Circuit (Small)
- Linking Tracks
- 1 Windfarm Viewing Platform
- 2 Wetland Viewing Platform
- 3 Cemetery



[Suitable For Upper Circuit Only]

### Rating

(1= very easy, 5 = very hard)

Upper Circuit (large)	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5
Upper Circuit (small)	<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5
Lower Loop	1	<b>2</b>	3	4	5
Full Circuit (excluding Lower Loop)	1	2	<b>3</b>	4	5

### Distance

Upper Circuit (large)	1.88 kilometres
Upper Circuit (small)	1.40 kilometres
Lower Loop	0.90 kilometres
Full circuit (excluding Lower Loop)	2.83 kilometres

### Contour

A flat terrace area with moderate to steep slopes to the riverside

### Surface

Limestone, gravel, grass and forest floor. Board-walks and bridges present on Lower Loop and stiles on Full Circuit

### Access Points

Napier Road and Cambridge Avenue

### Special Attractions

Views of Wetland, Windfarm and Manawatu region, native bush, river access and the cemetery



## NOW GET INTO IT!

In summer take refuge in the cooling waters of the Manawatu River. You can get to the river using the vehicular access past the main entrance, before the bridge. Swimming areas at the base of the Domain are a popular haunt. Or try your luck with the River's many trout – make sure you get a trout fishing licence from a local sports shop first! The Domain also offers an ideal spot for canoeing and kayaking. And you can enjoy jet skiing and other motorised water sports on the River, just not around the swimming areas.

Feeling energetic? Choose from the Domain's numerous walking tracks. Some offer revealing views overlooking conservation wetlands, while others guide you through native bush. Explore the native bush and towering trees or seek out the views over the wetland area or wind farm.

If you're up for a game, the Domain's free draining soils mean that its soccer sports grounds are often open when others in Palmerston North are not.

And an artificial cricket pitch ensures summer-long activity. Toilets, showers and changing rooms are on site as well as floodlighting and carparking.

Contact Palmerston North City Council on 06 356 8199 for details and bookings.

### REMEMBER...

Whatever activity you're planning, be water wise. All rivers can be unpredictable and dangerous at times.



## (HILL) OUT

**Kick back and let the kids, young and old, wear themselves out on the extensive playground facilities.**

It gets as sophisticated as a flying fox or as simple as loads of green space to run around in or play ball.

You'll also find plenty of space to meet with family and friends for picnics and barbecues. Bring your own barbecue or use the Domain's. Toilet facilities and shelter are near by when needed. If you're planning an outdoors event for a big group, remember to book your spot with the caretaker, phone 06 326 8203.



Imagining an earlier time before settlement is easy in the Domain's native bush. Native wood pigeons, tuis, bellbirds, grey warblers and fantails abound, their melodic call echoing through spectacular growth of trees, shrubs and undergrowth.

Enjoy an encounter with endangered waterfowl in the Domain's wetland area. Catch a glimpse of white-faced herons, pied stilts, swans and numerous species of duck from the elevated viewing platform gifted to the city by the Manawatu Branch of Ducks Unlimited with funding from Pacific Conservation and Developments Trust. Important for the conservation of various species, the wetland area also provides a storehouse for plants and insects, and is an important flood control measure.



# SPEND THE NIGHT

## Having such a great time you don't want to leave?

You don't have to. The Domain's camping and caravanning area is equipped with 12 power points, fresh water, showers and toilet facilities. You supply your own cooking facilities. Call the Domain's caretaker on 06 326 8203 for more details and bookings.



# ASHHURST DOMAIN MAP





**Palmerston North City Council**

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