

## Explore Waitakere Playgrounds

(Updated Nov 2009)

Waitakere has some wonderful opportunities just waiting for young children right there in the playgrounds and parks! We have attempted to give you just a glimpse of what is available. Children today miss many opportunities to gain vital fundamental movement skills as the lifestyles they lead are quite different. For some a visit to the park is the only time that they have an opportunity to practice these fundamental skills. The playgrounds in Waitakere generally carry a range of equipment suitable for all age groups. Many of them now incorporate various equipment that allows children to spin, rock and roll – all of these contribute to improving children's balance and a variety of equipment that allows children to develop the important upper body strength that they require.

To the best of our knowledge the information contained in this document is as accurate as possible at the time of writing. Should you discover on your visit that the information is no longer accurate then please let us know by emailing :

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### **New Lynn Ward**

**Parrs Park**, Parrs Cross Road, Oratia



This is an enormous park that stretches between Seymour Road and West Coast Road. It has several playing fields well away from busy roads. There is also a basketball court, skateboard park close by and plenty of pathways for walking, skating or riding trikes and bikes. Gentle slopes surrounding the park are good for rolling down – great for assisting to develop children's balance! Plenty of parking although not on a busy Saturday morning sports day! The playground structure is large with lots of apparatus for upper body strength, climbing, balancing and swinging. There is also a flying fox and fireman's pole.

A separate area is set aside for slides, swings and a seesaw. A covered seating area close by allows for parents and children to take a break !

**Ceramco Park**, Glendale Road, Glen Eden

This multi-activity playground is more suited to older preschoolers and school age children. The play structure has lots of varied activities to increase upper body development, a fantastic flying fox, slides, swings and lots more! The play structure is confined in a raised bark area. The surrounding park is ideal for picnics, has gentle slopes for rolling down and concrete pathways for riding bikes on. For the older children there is a skateboard park. Ample parking is available nearby. No toilets available.



**Harold Moody Park**, Glendale Road, Glen Eden

A concrete pathway leads directly onto rubber safe fall making it easy for pushchairs and wheelchairs. There is quite a variety of apparatus within this playground structure to encourage upper body strength swinging and balancing. This includes a fireman's pole! The playground is fenced along the roadside to prevent any little ones from escaping! The playing fields next door provide ample space for running and catching, throwing and kicking balls. Ample off street parking. No toilets

**Crum Park**, Hilling Street off Golf Road, Titirangi

This park has wide open spaces for children to run around in and play ball games. (although currently undergoing extensive maintenance) If you enter via Ragley Road this will take you directly to the playground which consists of platforms with a variety of slides, wobble bridges, ladders and platforms. A separate higher platform is suitable for the older children as it contains the fireman's pole and rope climbing wall. Seesaws and swings in the park will help develop those balance skills.

**Ambrico Reserve**, Rankin Ave, New Lynn

This park shows off the history of ceramic brick and crockery production in Waitakere with the only remaining kiln in the country. The kiln built in 1926 produced 30,00 bricks a fortnight for the expanding Waitakere and Auckland regions.

The playground has two separate areas. The larger playground is a series of platforms with numerous entry and exit points via ladders, rock walls, rope ladders and cargo nets. The smaller area is a platform with a couple of slides on it. There are also separate swings. Enjoy time on the playground or take along your petanque balls and enjoy a game.

**Olympic Park**, Wolverton Street, New Lynn

Having trouble entertaining the kids? Olympic Park is just the solution you need. Here they can unleash their imagination on the state of the art playground, from web-like rope climbing frames and traditional swings with a twist, children will be easily entertained at Olympic Park. For the younger ones of the family the park offers a sheltered sandpit filled with toys and activities to keep them busy for hours on end. And if all the bright coloured play equipment isn't enough they can search eagerly for a sight of the Avondale spider making most of their homes in their unique wooden sanctuary.



**Patts Reserve**, Patts Ave, Glendene

This reserve is home to a small playground that consists of 2 swings, a slide and wobble bridge. There is plenty of room to kick a ball around and roll down the gentle slope – what better way to improve all your balancing skills!

**Glendene Reserve**, Glendene Ave, Glendene

If you enter from Glendene Ave it is a bit of a steep climb up to the playground thru the mature Macrocarpas and regenerating bush! Once there enjoy the many opportunities to develop upper body strength through the track ride, monkey bars and climbing ladders. Practise your balance skills on the wobble bridge or swing away on the swings whilst listening to the Tuis!

## **Henderson Ward**

### **Hart Domain, Vitasovich Road Henderson**

Hart Domain is situated behind Waitakere Plaza. This is a great playground for all age groups and abilities. Access to the playground is suitable for both pushchairs/prams and wheelchairs. There are 2 playground structures within this complex – 1 designed specifically for smaller children (this allows these children to play without the fear of being toppled by larger more able children) and the other for children of all ages. The playground is designed to allow children of all ages to enter the playground structure with the use of low level ramps. From there they can access a range of equipment to promote upper body strength, balancing, swinging, climbing. The equipment is self regulating in that children can only access what they are capable of.

This park is home to the only “Liberty” swing which is designed for wheelchairs. You must obtain a key for this – please phone Variety on 52041111. The surrounding gardens are beautiful and provide an opportunity to explore the natural environment. The large, ceramic taniwha is always a great hit with the children. Whilst there, check out the bullocks made out of old shopping trollies across the road!

Parking – there is street parking although this can be a little busy. Your best option is to park around the back of the shopping centre and access the park from that entranceway. No toilets

### **Kaikoura Reserve, Kaikoura Rd, Glendene**

This bright red playground is in the shape of a crayfish. The playground is set in a raised bark area. Children can access the playground structure through a variety of climbing apparatus such as ladders and climbing walls. There are no ramps onto the playground structure which makes it a little challenging for younger children. There is a separate swing area. Parking is offstreet with disabled parking available. No toilets.



### **Taipari Strand, Taikata Road, Te Atatu Peninsula.**

This is a reasonably large playground with heaps to do in the nearby park! The playground consists of slides, platforms, a variety of climbing apparatus as well as a range of monkey bars great for increasing upper body strength! Had enough of the playground then enjoy the nearby walks or play off the jetty.

### **Jack Pringle Village Green**

The ocean theme of this playground is in keeping with the community that is surrounded by the sea! There is a range of both natural (rocks for stepping stones) and man made equipment e.g a rocking boat, climbing frame that will assist with children’s balance, upper body strength and general locomotor skills. Whilst there visit the nearby Te Atatu library!





**Waitakere City Stadium**, Central Park Drive  
As Waitakere City's primary entertainment venue, the Waitakere City Stadium Precinct offers fun for all. The playground is suitable for all age groups having two distinct areas – one for the younger children and a more challenging area for the older children. The playground consists of a range of equipment to encourage children's balance as well as some apparatus that encourages upper body strength. Bring along the bikes and let the

children bike around the concrete pathways in the area.



**Te Pai Park**, Te Pai Place, Henderson

This is a great park for all age groups. The playground consists of a number of platforms connected with swing bridges. Access to these can be gained via ladders, climbing nets or gentle ramps. A separate swing area has swings for both toddlers and preschoolers! For the older children there is the large climbing frame which will keep the big kids entertained for hours! Take along the bikes and scooters and make use of the many concrete paths. For those into rolling try rolling down the many slopes and mounds. A skate park is nearby. Plenty of parking on nearby streets.



**Lake Panorama, (Lake Xena)** Lake Panorama Drive via Sturges Rd, Henderson

This is a large playground with many challenging pieces of equipment. Try climbing the cargo net over the "fallen log". There's plenty of logs for practising those balance skills or swing on the tyre round about! For those not so adventurous there's the normal swings, ladders and platforms to climb all over. Finished playing then it's time to feed the ducks on the nearby lake.

## Waitakere Ward

### Piha Domain

Piha Rd via Scenic Drive and follow this road until you reach the township. The entrance to Piha Domain is on your left moments after the campground.

A relatively new large playground offering lots of challenges for all age groups to the age of 13years! Apparatus include equipment to encourage upper body strength, spinning opportunities, balance activities as well as swings and slides and endless platforms to climb!



**Swanson Station Road, Robert Knox Park, Swanson Road, Swanson.**

Whilst the Swanson Station Park caters mainly for older children with one of the few flying foxes for community use, the Robert Knox Park caters for all age groups. This is a large playground with a range of equipment that encourages all the fundamental movement skills. The playground is graded to ensure that children can only access the equipment that they are capable of.



**Titirangi Beach, Titirangi Beach Road, Titirangi**

Enjoy a day at the beach and when the kids have had enough playing in the water there's a fun playground to practice those skills on!. There's equipment that spins and rocks, a great rocking "log" (made of rope) as well as a combination of platforms with ladders, slides, climbing wall and cargo net! The playground is surrounded by some great stepping logs that children can really hone their balance skills on!



## **Massey Ward**

### **Buckingham Common:**

This relatively new playground has lots of exciting equipment for all age groups. Structures include climbing ropes, ladders, track ride, platforms, slides, swings, balancing equipment and swings. A definite must visit for all the family. There is a small amount of seating but unfortunately no shade. Roadside parking is available.



### **Christmas Beach, Herald Island**

This pirate themed playground offers a wide variety of activities that will encourage children's fundamental movement skills and at the same time they can develop their imaginations! Equipment for those pirates to enjoy includes swings, spinning poles, climbing equipment and slides. There is plenty of seating for parents/caregivers and toilets close by.



### **Don Buck Corner, Glen Road, Massey**

This playground has been recently revamped and includes swings for both toddlers and older children and spinning seats to assist in improving balance skills. There is a climbing frame for the older children that includes monkey bars, rope climbing ladders and a fireman's pole. Had enough of playing then try practicing your balance skills along the natural wooden surround.



### **Moire Park, Granville Rd, Westharbour**

Situated in this beautiful park is a large multi tiered playground that has a range of equipment for all age groups such as slides, platforms, swings, balancing equipment and equipment to help build that upper body strength. Small amount of natural shade is provided from nearby trees, there is ample seating, nearby toilets and a drinking fountain. Enjoy some of the many walks nearby. Ample off road parking.

### **Flaunty Reserve: Flaunty Place, Massey**

Take a short walk to the top of the hill and enjoy the stunning views of the Auckland Harbour whilst your older children play on the half court. For the smaller children there are two small slides to while away the time. There is plenty of natural shade and seating. Ample roadside parking.

### **Manutewhau, Jadewynn Drive, Massey**

Follow the beautiful Manutewhau walkway (some parts not suitable for prams) to this playground that is suitable for all age groups. The playground structure consists of swings, slides, track ride (flying fox), fireman's pole, wobble bridge and a climbing wall all designed to assist children develop their locomotor skills, balance and upper body strength. Nearby is the ½ court for the older children. There is some natural shade and seating. For those not walking there is plenty of roadside parking.

**Royal Heights Park:** Royal Road, Massey

Tucked in behind the shopping centre is this small playground to relieve the boredom of shopping! Equipment is limited to a small slide and a couple of swings. The park has plenty of space to kick a ball in or roll down the hill and get that balance system stimulated!



**Luckens Reserve,** Marina View Drive, Westharbour

This is a large castle themed playground that offers a wide variety of opportunities for children to improve their skills. There is a range of climbing frames with plenty of escape routes via the fireman's pole and slides! A separate swing area is nearby that caters for all age groups. The rocking seats will assist to develop children's balance. Enjoy a BBQ following your busy playtime!

**Spargo Reserve:** Spargo Ave, Westharbour

This playground is suitable for all age groups and contains a range of equipment such as swings, platforms, balancing beam, monkey bars that will help your children to build their fundamental movement skills. Enjoy a seat watching your children surrounded by mature shade trees. There is plenty of roadside parking.

**St. Margarets Park** - Access off Truscott Place or Fitzherbert Ave

This large green area can be quite deceiving as it opens into two large grass areas connected by a pathway. The green area off Truscott Place contains a playground consisting of two swings and a slide.



**Triangle Park,** Don Buck Rd, Massey

This large park area is a must. Climb to the top of "Mt Everest" on the rope climbing frame, rock on the various rocking seats to help improve your balance and swing away on the swings! For the older children there is the flying fox and a ½ court to play basketball on! There's also plenty of grass areas to kick a ball around on!

**Westharbour Esplanade,** West Harbour Drive, Massey

This extensive playground has a wide range of equipment suitable for all age groups that includes swings, slides, platforms, climbing wall and a fireman's pole. Parents can sit and watch their children from nearby seating.

