

Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Forest tracks

Ara whīkoi ngahere

Nau mai, haere mai ki Ōtari-Wilton's Bush

This is the oldest and most intact forest in all of Pōneke. Ancient rimu and rātā stand tall above a canopy of tawa and kohekohe. Vines, shrubs, and ferns fill the lower layers of the forest.

Restoration supported by our amazing volunteers



Predator control

We control introduced possums, stoats, and rats to allow nature to thrive.



Weed control

Ōtari is mostly weed-free, due to our ongoing control of environmental weeds.



Revegetation

Kaiwharawhara stream banks and beyond have been replanted with locally sourced native plants.

Native wildlife



Listen out for native birds, including kākā, kārearea, kererū, kākāriki, tūi, tiwaiwaka, kōtare, riroriro and ruru.



Keep your eyes peeled for mokomoko (geckos and skinks) and pepeke (wētā and other insects).



Look for tuna (eels) basking in the stream and kōura crawling along the stream bed.

The place of mana whenua

Ōtarikākā (now Ōtari), translates to 'the place of snares to trap kākā'. This area has been a valued mahinga kai, a place for gathering food, connecting with nature and cherished by people since the earliest settlements of Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Today, it remains an important site within the rohe (territory) of Taranaki Whānui, Te Āti Awa, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

The gift of Job Wilton

In the 1800s, settlers cleared much of the land, but farmer Job Wilton chose to protect seven hectares of original forest, fencing it off and keeping it safe from fire. This remnant is the core of what we know as Ōtari today.

Kaitiakitanga Take care

- Respect the forest
- Dogs on short leads
- Carry out what you bring in
- Don't feed the eels
- Light no fires
- Record observations on [inaturalist.nz](https://www.inaturalist.nz)

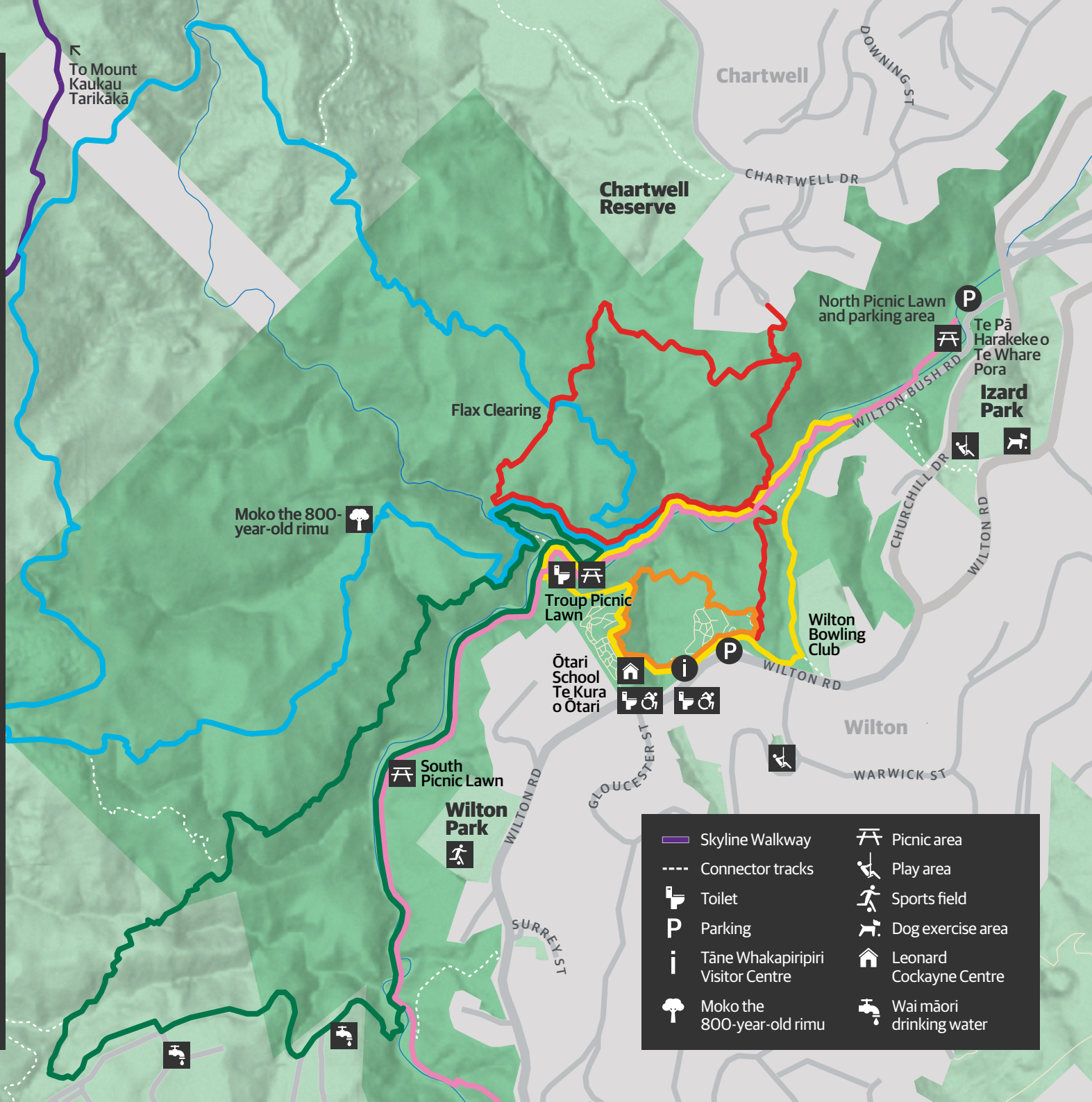
Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust supports the work we do. Donate via this QR code or volunteer at owbt.nz/about-the-trust/



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Ōtari-Wilton's Bush tracks

- Te Ara Porowhita**
 1.6km | 30–60min loop
 Easy | A few steps
 Circular loop track. Our most popular walk. Features stream, native forest and gardens. Go clockwise to walk down steps to Troup Picnic Lawn and return up a more gentle slope.
- Te Ara Pinaki**
 3.25km | 60–90min loop
 Easy | Some steps
 Gently rising walking track which takes you through some beautiful native forest and along the Kaiwharawhara Stream via the Karori Cemetery.
- Te Ara o Tama**
 4.75km | 90–120min loop | Moderate hike
 Moderately rising tramping track with steps and roots, through ancient native forest. You will be rewarded with visiting Moko the 800-year-old rimu and epic views.
- Te Ara Tūpoupou**
 2km | 45–90min loop
 Hard | Lots of steps
 Steeply rising tramping track through some of the best old growth forest in Wellington. Mostly steps with a small stream crossing and some narrow sections.
- Te Ara o Kaiwharawhara Awa**
 2km one way | 60–90min return
 Easy | No steps
 Follow the flow of the Kaiwharawhara Stream along this mostly flat walk through native forest. Keep an eye out for tuna/eels along the way. Buggy friendly.
- Te Ara Koukouoro Nature Trail**
 750m | 15–45min loop
 Moderate | Lots of steps
 Self-guided native forest trail down to small stream and through two main garden areas. Brochures available in te reo Māori and English.



- Skyline Walkway
- Connector tracks
- Toilet
- Parking
- Tāne Whakapiripiri Visitor Centre
- Moko the 800-year-old rimu
- Picnic area
- Play area
- Sports field
- Dog exercise area
- Leonard Cockayne Centre
- Wai māori drinking water