

# What is a Botanic Garden?

We protect plants through five hectares of living collections, and conservation, research and education programmes. Ōtari is a 'Six Star' Garden of International Significance and NZ's only public botanic garden dedicated to native plants.

## Plant collections

All botanic gardens have a documented collection of live plants, like a living museum. We have roughly half of all New Zealand's native vascular plant species, hybrids, and cultivars - the biggest collection of New Zealand plants in the world! Explore the full list online.

## Conservation and research

Many of the plants we grow in our nursery are provenanced from a wild source, which means they can be used as a safety net for threatened species and can be used to restore wild populations. The Lions Ōtari Plant Conservation Laboratory researches how to grow rare species and store seeds of native plants.

## Education

For schools, plant people, and curious minds of all ages. We share the importance of plants and the stories behind them. Whether you're into science, art, food, or fashion, there's probably a plant behind it.



# Plant collecting

The purpose of our work is to share the story of Aotearoa through its plants. Our plants are from the wild and sourced from remote coasts to alpine peaks. Every collection is done with care, alongside kaitiaki and conservation partners.



## Kaitiaki collaboration

We work in partnership with mana whenua organisations across the motu to guide how and where we collect plants. We support their work in many ways from practical propagation to knowledge transfer.

## Conservation connections

Ōtari is part of a wider network of people and places protecting native plants. From seed storage to plant propagation, we team up with conservation partners worldwide.



# Explore the Garden

## Canopy Walkway

Wander through the treetops on this 18m high suspended walkway. Spot birds, enjoy viewpoints, and experience life in the canopy.

## Viewing Platform

Look out to ancient, remnant forest while nestled amongst the trees. A peaceful, buggy-friendly spot to pause.



## Fun for kids

Wind your way through the hedge maze near the Divaricate Garden, or wriggle through the kareao tunnel in the Native Broom Garden!

## Picnic Lawns

Stretch out on the grass and let the sounds of birdsong work their magic.

# Get involved

Join us in protecting and celebrating the unique native flora of Aotearoa.

## Volunteer

Join our friends at the Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust to care for this special place, connect with others, and learn about Ōtari's plants, history, and conservation work:



[owbt.nz/about-the-trust/volunteering](https://owbt.nz/about-the-trust/volunteering)

## Donate

Help this treasured native botanic garden thrive for future generations through the Trust's endowment fund:



[donorbox.org/otari-wiltons-bush-fund](https://donorbox.org/otari-wiltons-bush-fund)

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# Ōtari Native Botanic Garden

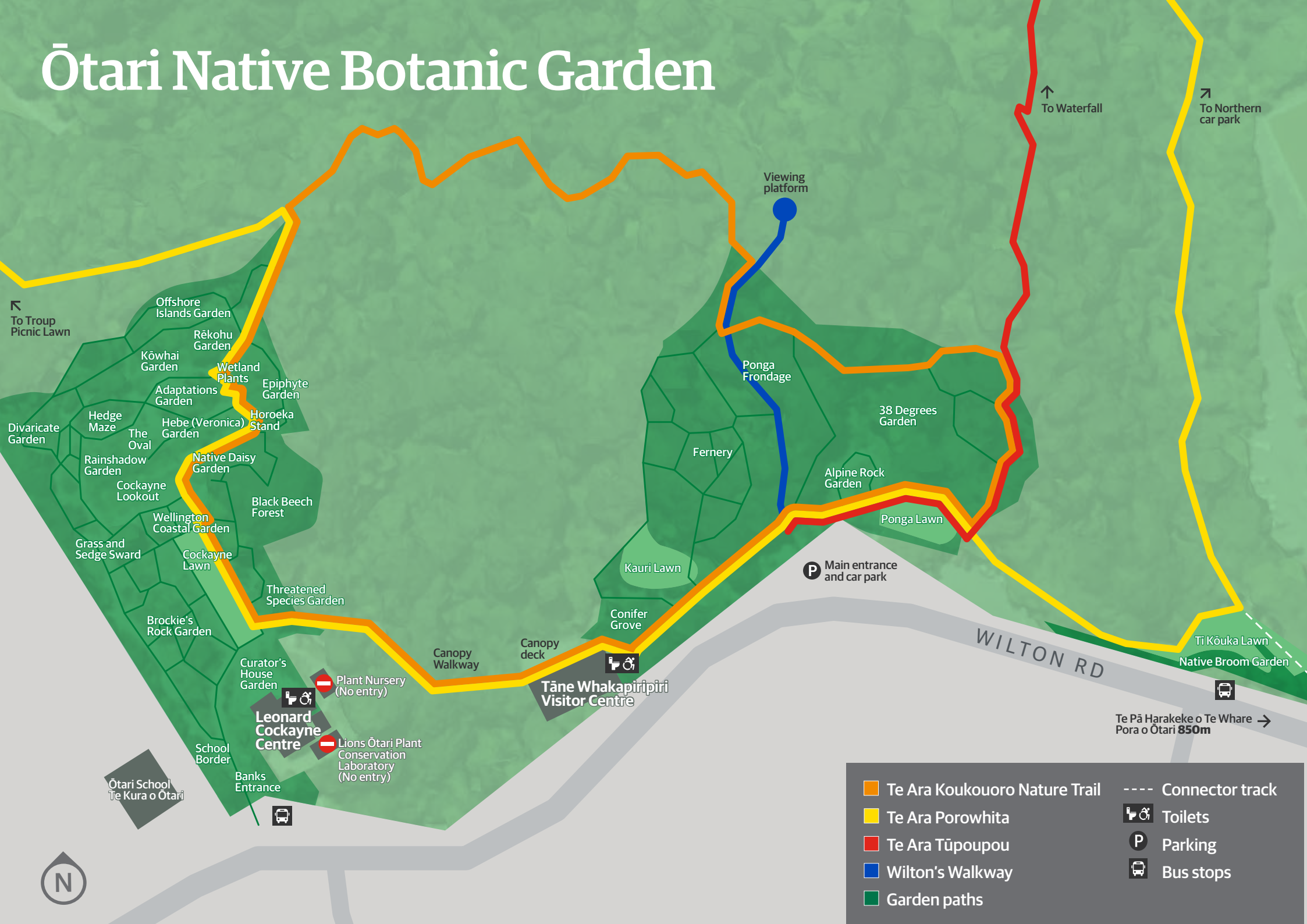
Te Māra Huaota o Ōtari



Wellington Gardens

Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

# Ōtari Native Botanic Garden





# Collection highlights

Our collections contain about 1,200 native species, hybrids, and cultivars from New Zealand's mainland and off-shore islands. They offer a glimpse into the diverse flora and habitats throughout Aotearoa.

## Alpine Rock Garden

Tarns, trickling water, and rugged rocks echo the alpine zones of Aotearoa. Discover hardy native plants from wild mountain habitats, no hiking boots needed.

## Fernery

Lush and still, this shady nook feels ancient. Giant king ferns tower above tiny filmy ferns in a garden that whispers of the old forests of Aotearoa.

## 38 Degrees Garden

Tropical-looking native plants thrive here with their big leaves and bold textures, alongside towering northern rātā. These plants hail from the warm, wet north above the 38-degree south latitudinal line where glaciers never reached.

## Conifer Grove

This grove showcases our diverse native gymnosperms, including including kauri and the "Big Five" native podocarps: rimu, kahikatea, miro, mataī, and tōtara. Take a closer look at *Halocarpus biformis*, with its two distinct leaf forms.

## Threatened Species Garden

Around a third of the native plants in our garden are threatened with extinction. This garden tells the stories of a select few, each one rare, resilient, and worth protecting.



## Brockie's Rock Garden

Low-growing shrubs and hardy herbs thrive here. Designed and built with blood, sweat and tears by former curator Walter Brockie, this bold, beautiful botanical and horticultural triumph is full of texture and colour.

## Wellington Coastal Garden

Windy and salty, that's Wellington's climate! These coastal natives are adapted to thrive where others fail, perfect inspiration for any local seaside home garden.

## Rainshadow Garden

Inspired by the braided rivers of Canterbury, and the drylands of Central Otago. Named for the drier eastern side of the South Island, caused by the Southern Alps drawing most rain down onto the west coast.

## Divaricate Garden

Tangled, twiggy, and full of mystery. These wide-angled shrubs might be moa-proof, or prehistoric climate survivors. New Zealand is the only country where divaricates make up 10% of the woody flora.

## Rēkohu Garden

Rēkohu (Chatham Islands) is home to 47 unique plant species that have evolved in the last 3 million years. See some of them here, including the spectacular kopakopa.

*All photos by Chris Coad*



Explore more collections on our website:  
[wellingtongardens.nz/our-gardens/otari-wiltons-bush/#otari-collection](https://wellingtongardens.nz/our-gardens/otari-wiltons-bush/#otari-collection)