

WALKING AND CYCLING POINTS OF INTEREST

When taking a stroll or cycling along the Waterview Shared Path, check out the wide range of community facilities created by the Waterview Connection project and other points of interest in the nearby area. Click on location number for more information.





1 ERIC ARMISHAW BOARDWALK

This 171 metre long wooden boardwalk crosses the mangrove plantation beside the Waitematā Harbour near the Eric Armishaw Reserve. The boardwalk restores the historic connection that was severed in the 1950s when SH16 was built.

2 WATERVIEW HERITAGE AREA

The archaeological sites to the north and south of the Te Auaunga (Oakley Creek) Inlet provide a unique insight into the history of the Waterview Area. Tāmaki Makaurau was a favourable area for settlement by Māori from the earliest times, with its two harbours, rich and easily accessible marine resources and extensive volcanic fields.

European settlement from 1840 spread rapidly from what is now Auckland's city centre. A number of industries sprang up along the rivers, which provided the necessary water supply as well as a means of transportation. These industries included the early flour mill, tannery and quarry spanning both sides of the tidal stretch of Oakley Creek (Waterview Inlet).

One piece of this history can be viewed to the area just south of the heritage bridge. This is a large Cornish boiler that was used to power a Vicker's steam engine for the Garrett Brother's 19th century tannery at Te Auaunga (Oakley Creek). The boiler sits on a concrete plinth on the southern end of the heritage bridge.

3 WATERVIEW BMX TRACK

The Waterview BMX track design was inspired in part by a similar BMX track in Melbourne and features a series of consecutive jumps in a pump track style loop.

4 WATERVIEW RESERVE PLAYGROUND

Children from the local Waterview Primary School were involved in developing the design for the playground.

There are water play and risk-taking areas, as well as slides, swings, roundabouts and sports courts. Unfortunately the edible playground the children wanted with trees of lollies was not possible so plenty of fruit trees have been planted instead.

5 WATERVIEW RESERVE SKATEPARK

The Waterview Reserve skatepark provides facilities for beginners to advanced and includes a bowled transition area, a three metre high quarter pipe, fun boxes, rails and stairs.

6 ALFORD STREET BRIDGE

The bridge crosses over Oakley Creek to connect Unitec Campus with Great North Road and Alford Street. The bridge is 90 metres long and 16 metres high. At night the LED lighting in the handrail creates a wave effect.

7 NORTHERN VENT BUILDING

The ventilation building and stack, which rises 15 metres above ground level, have been designed as architectural features, and reflect key contributions from the project's Community Liaison Group.

Architects set the project's engineers some tricky challenges – instead of something conventional that's round or square, they designed an oval stack.

8 OAKLEY CREEK

There have been many improvements made to Oakley Creek. These include creating a more natural stream environment, increasing stream capacity and enhancing the landscape and ecology of the creek. Keep your eyes peeled for the Oakley Creek Waterfall.

9 PHYLLIS TO HARBUTT BOARDWALK

The boardwalk links the Phyllis and Harbutt Reserves through a section of bush.

10 SOLJAK PLACE BRIDGE

Soljak Place Bridge crosses over the western rail lines to connect the shared path with Soljak Place.

11 SOUTHERN TUNNEL PORTAL

Spectacular panels of concrete art depicting a Māori legend are located on the southern tunnel portal. Designed by artist Graham Tipene of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei in Auckland, the panels tell the story of two lovers – Hinemairangi and Tamaireia – who escaped underground. The panels are 48 metres long and 1.5 metres high. The story the concrete panels tell begins 30 metres outside the tunnel in the Southern Approach Trench and finishes 18 metres into the tunnel.

12 SOUTHERN VENTILATION BUILDING AND STACK

The southern ventilation structure has two parts. A ventilation building houses the mechanical and electrical gear to operate the tunnels, water tanks for the tunnel sprinkler system and an extraction system for air leaving the southbound tunnel. The second part is a ventilation stack which disperses vehicle emissions in a controlled way.

The ventilation stack is located in the middle of the motorway, between the entry and exit portals and is 15 metres high. The stack has been designed and landscaped to look and feel part of the Alan Wood Reserve.

13 MOKOMOKO BRIDGE

The Alan Wood Reserve includes four new bridges, Mokomoko, Tuna Roa, Raupo and Te Whitinga. These names were decided by the public through consultation.

Mokomoko is named after the native copper skins found in the area.

14 TUNA ROA BRIDGE

Tuna Roa, meaning long eel, refers to the shape of the park being similar to that of the protected Longfin eel.

15 TE WHITINGA FOOTBRIDGE

Te Whitinga (The Crossing) is the official name for the footbridge commonly referred to as the Hendon Footbridge. The architecturally designed bridge spans SH20 at the southern end of the Waterview tunnels. The footbridge has a 110 tonne arch.

The 300 metre long footbridge provides pedestrian and cycling access between the communities of Ōwairaka and New Windsor. It also connects the southern shared path and new sports fields at Valonia Street and Barrymore Road.

16 KŪKŪWAI PARK

This sports field provides a place for people to get out of the house to throw a ball around, kick a few goals or to exercise.

The area had previously been used as a base for the tunnel team during Alice, the tunnel boring machines journey.

Kūkūwai Park was named by the Whau and Albert-Eden Local Boards after public consultation and means wetland.

17 RAUPŌ BRIDGE

Raupō Bridge was named after the bulrushes (large grass like plants) commonly found in wetlands. These form a natural habitat for animals and were historically used for poi as well as thatching homes and rafts.

18 VALONIA WETLAND/RESERVE

Approximately 74,000 native plants were planted in the reserve, including native flax and long grasses, tōtara and kahikatea. These provide a habitat for pied stilts, ducks, pukekos and other birds.

19 VALONIA SKATEPARK

The intermediate-advanced level skatepark was designed with help from local skaters who provided input on the rails, bowls, boxes and terraces.

20 VALONIA SPORTSFIELD

The Valonia sportfield facilities include two fields, sand-turf pitches, a volleyball court, a half size basketball court and changing rooms.