



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Plan

Revised June 2008



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Council approved managed access into the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Catchments in 2000. Prior to this date, public access was not allowed, to ensure that the quality of the water supply was protected. With the improvements made at the treatment plant, Council felt that limited access could be made to the catchments, as long as strict controls were put in place. An access plan (see appendix 1) was developed at this time, based on the following principles;

- Access to the catchment should be managed in order to protect water quality and public health
- All entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan
- A Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) staff member or an approved guide should accompany groups entering the catchment
- The initial schedule was for one (weekend) day a month for open days (access days)
- Recreational hunting was limited to an annual balloted “Roar Hunt”
- Research by individuals or groups was permitted subject to an approval process

The number of visitors to the water collection area has increased over time and it is now considered that up to 1,200 visitors per year can be managed in the area. A Mainland Island (an environmental restoration project) is now also under way in the Wainuiomata catchment. It is important that the water collection area continues to be managed in a way that protects water quality, public health and the ecological health of the area. The rules listed below allow for managed access, whilst protecting these values.

1.2 General access policies

- (1) The maintenance of catchment security will be the primary responsibility of the Ranger, in conjunction with the Plant Supervisor, Wainuiomata/Waterloo.
- (2) All staff and visitors must undertake a site hazard induction and be informed of the catchment values and safety issues prior to entering the catchment.
- (3) All staff and contractors on official business shall sign-in to the Catchment Access Logbook located in the foyer of the treatment plant.
- (4) Private motor vehicles are not allowed in the catchment, unless permission has been granted by the Ranger, in conjunction with the Plant Supervisor, Wainuiomata/Waterloo.

- (5) Any vehicles entering the water collection area must:
 - Use the vehicle wheel wash facility to ensure that their vehicle has a clean chassis and wheels
 - Ensure that their vehicle does not have any fuel or oil leaks
- (6) For biosecurity purposes, staff and visitors shall check and ensure that their boots are clean prior to going off the road into the water collection area. This is especially important when entering the Mainland Island area.
- (7) The Ranger will inform all visitors, contractors and staff of the catchment's biosecurity provisions when necessary.
- (8) All staff, contractors and visitors are to enter via the main gate.
- (9) Access to the catchment may be stopped for operational reasons or in the event of a plant emergency at the discretion of the Plant Supervisor, Wainuiomata/Waterloo and in conjunction with the Ranger.
- (10) Requirements on all visitors shall include:
 - Staying on the formed roads or marked tracks
 - "Take home" policy on litter
 - No fires
 - No animals (except dogs for professional hunting and management purposes)
 - No removal of plants or plant material from the catchment (except by permit)
 - Instructions of GWRC rangers and/or the Plant Supervisor, Wainuiomata/Waterloo to be adhered to
 - No disturbance of vegetation research plots & markers
 - Only crossing private land with the permission of the landowner

1.3 Guided walks, tramps and field trips

- (1) A maximum number of 1,200 visitors are permitted within the water collection area annually.
- (2) A maximum number of 60 people are permitted on guided walks.
- (3) A maximum number of 25 people are permitted on the guided tramps.
- (4) A maximum number of 100 people are permitted on the field trips.
- (5) The dates of walks, tramps and field trips, and the number of people visiting at any one time shall be approved by the Ranger prior to the visitors arriving within the catchment area.

- (6) All bookings for public walks shall be made at a designated GWRC office.
- (7) The route of all walks, tramps and field trips shall be determined by the Ranger.
- (8) No person shall divert off from the approved route.
- (9) Walking groups and field trips shall have a guide to walker ratio of 1:15.
- (10) Tramping groups shall have a guide to walker ratio of 2:25.
- (11) Every member of a tramping group tour shall be a member of a tramping club or walking club (good fitness level required).
- (12) Every member of the public attending a guided walk, tramp or conference shall report to the water treatment plant first.
- (13) All guides taking public walks, tramps or field trips must complete a resource and training induction before leading visitors through the water collection area. The Resource and Training Information Package shall be supplied to all guides.
- (14) Any litter (whether organic or non-organic) brought into the water collection area by visitors shall be removed from the water collection area.
- (15) Every member of the public attending a guided walk, tramp or conference shall undertake a site induction including being advised of health and safety issues. Each visitor shall be informed of the risk of contamination to the catchment and biosecurity requirements before embarking on their walk, tramp or field trip.

1.4 Educational or special interest groups (depending on resources)

- (1) Educational or special interest group tours may be conducted in the area between the treatment plant and the water intakes. Group sizes will be allowed up to 25 people.
- (2) The number of students and teachers attending an education or special interest group tour and dates of tours shall be approved by the Ranger, in conjunction with the Plant Supervisor, Wainuiomata/Waterloo prior to visitors arriving within the lower Wainuiomata Catchment area.
- (3) A representative from the educational or special interest groups shall register their arrival at the water treatment plant with the Ranger.
- (4) A GWRC staff member or approved guide shall accompany any guided walks within the Wainuiomata Catchment area at a ratio of 1:15. This ratio is in addition to the parent/teacher student ratio of 1:5, up to the age of 15.

- (5) Any litter (whether organic or non-organic) brought into the lower Wainuiomata Catchment area by visitors shall be removed from the area.
- (6) Every student, teacher and parent shall undertake a site induction including being advised of health and safety issues. Each visitor shall be informed of the risk of contamination to the catchment and biosecurity requirements before embarking on their walk or field trip.
- (7) Students with physical disabilities may enter the lower Wainuiomata catchment area via a vehicle with their teachers/parents with prior approval from the Ranger.

1.5 Public hunting

- (1) Access into the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area for hunting will be at the discretion of the Ranger, in conjunction with the Manager, Water Supply.
- (2) All hunting permits will be for a set time and will be allocated via a ballot permit system.
- (3) The New Zealand Arms Code should be followed at all times.
- (4) All hunters must comply with health and safety requirements.
- (5) All hunters shall comply with any biosecurity policies for the water collection area.
- (6) Permission for hunters' vehicles entering the water collection area during the balloted "Roar" will be at the discretion of the Ranger, in conjunction with the Plant Supervisor, Wainuiomata/Waterloo.
- (7) All vehicles entering the water collection area shall comply with the vehicle policies in section 1.2.

1.6 Research projects

- (1) Organisations or individuals may apply to GWRC to undertake scientific, heritage or cultural research within the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area. Any application will be considered by the Manager, Parks in conjunction with the Manager, Water Supply.
- (2) The Manager's discretion when considering an application to undertake research within this area will include but not be limited to:
 - Extent of the research, in terms of duration and area of the catchment involved
 - The type and nature of the research
 - Restrictions on the dates and times researchers are permitted within

the water collection area

- Access to any published research and/or the results of the research
 - Any other conditions that may be necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate any potential adverse effects on either the water supply and general catchment and the Mainland Island.
- (3) The use of vehicles to enter the water collection area for the purposes of research projects may be approved by the Ranger, in conjunction with the treatment plant supervisor. Any vehicles entering the water collection area shall comply with the vehicle policies in section 1.2.

1.7 Police/Search and Rescue

- (1) One police/search and rescue exercise a year may be approved on application.
- (2) The Ranger, in conjunction with the Manager, Water Supply, will determine the date, area and length of any search and rescue operation exercise.
- (3) All search and rescue members must comply with any biosecurity policies for the water collection area.
- (4) Any vehicles operating within the water collection area, as part of the agreed exercise, must comply with the vehicle policies in section 1.2.

1.8 Camping

Camping is prohibited in the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Catchments.

1.9 Concessions

Application for concessions will be considered by the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee, taking into account the *Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Policy*.

For more information on this public access plan, please contact the:

Ranger, Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area

Manager, Water Supply

Appendix 1

Schedule - Access plan 2000 to 2006

Schedule - Access plan 2000 to 2006

Principles Approved by Utility Services Committee (June 2000)	Access Plan
<p>Interests groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Access to the catchment should be managed, in order to protect water quality and public health</i> • <i>All entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan</i> • <i>A WRC staff member or an approved guide should accompany open day groups</i> • <i>The proposal may be for an initial schedule of one (weekend) day a month for Open Days¹</i> 	<p>Interest groups</p> <p><i>Phase 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only groups from <i>bona fide</i> clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only) • Access will be granted to the Wainuiomata Catchment only – tour groups must stay on the formed roads or designated tracks • Groups must enter and exit at one point (i.e. via the main gate) and fill in the logbook • A Landcare Ranger will accompany/guide the groups • There will be an average of one “trip-day” per month (weekends) • The ratio² of rangers to visitors will be 1:10 • Group size - maximum 20 (e.g., tours of up to 10 people will be run on “trip-days” or two rangers will accompany the group) • Maximum number of people in the catchment - 20 per “trip-day”) • There are to be no general open days for the public • Vetting and training of trip leaders will be arranged during this period - trip leaders may require additional training days over and above the “trip-days” days noted above • Trip leaders will be required to hold a current first aid certificate and be tested for typhoid • Tours of the water treatment plant and the Morton Dam are to remain the responsibility of the Water Group • Landcare Ranger to be notified of dates and times of these tours (to aid in planning for catchment tours) • Refer to <i>Security and control measures</i> below for requirements on visitors <p><i>Review 30 June 2001</i></p>

¹ In this context, open days are the equivalent of access days, not full public open days.
² Ratios have been set after consultation with the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council.

Principles Approved by Utility Services Committee (June 2000)	Access Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Access to the catchment should be managed, in order to protect water quality and public health</i> • <i>All entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan</i> • <i>A WRC staff member or an approved guide should accompany open day groups</i> • <i>The proposal may be for an initial schedule of one (weekend) day a month for Open Days</i> 	<p><i>Phase 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, only groups from <i>bona fide</i> clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only) • One "trip-day" will be reserved for tours for individual members of the public (i.e., as opposed to groups from clubs/organisations). Individuals will be able to enter a ballot for places on tours run that day. All conditions applying to groups from clubs and other <i>bona fide</i> organisations visiting the catchment will apply. • Access will be granted to the Wainuiomata Catchment only - tour groups must stay on the formed roads or designated tracks • Groups must enter and exit at one point (i.e., via the main gate) and fill in the logbook • Landcare Rangers (or other Council staff) will accompany/guide the groups • There will be an average of one "trip-day" per month (weekends) • Ratio of rangers/trip leaders to visitors - 1:10 • Group size - maximum 20 • Maximum number of people in the catchment - 20 per "trip-day") • There are to be no general open days for the public • Any group accessing the George Creek area must always be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger • Vetting and training of trip leaders will commence on-site during January 2002 - trip leaders may require additional training days over and above the "trip-days" days noted above • Trip leaders will be required to hold a current first aid certificate and be tested for typhoid • Tours of the water treatment plant and Morton Dam are to remain the responsibility of the Water Group • Landcare Ranger to be notified of these tours • Refer to <i>Security and control measures</i> below for requirements on visitors <p><i>Review 30 June 2002</i></p>

Principles Approved by Utility Services Committee (June 2000)	Access Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Access to the catchment should be managed, in order to protect water quality and public health</i> • <i>All entry to the catchment should be by permit that will include a trip plan</i> • <i>A WRC staff member or an approved guide should accompany open day groups</i> • <i>The proposal may be for an initial schedule of one (weekend) day a month for Open Days</i> 	<p><i>Phase 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, only groups from <i>bona fide</i> clubs/organisations will be granted access (permit only) • One "trip-day" to be reserved for tours for individual members of the public (i.e., as opposed to groups from clubs/organisations). Individuals will be able to enter a ballot for places on tours run that day. All conditions applying to groups from clubs and other <i>bona fide</i> organisations visiting the catchment will apply. (It may be possible to allow individual members of the public to ballot for places on one or more other tours (i.e., on other "trip-days") reserved for that purpose during phase 3.) • Groups visiting the Wainuiomata Catchment must enter and exit at one point (i.e., via the main gate) • Groups visiting the Orongorongo Catchment must enter via the main gate but may exit at an alternative point with the approval of the Landcare Ranger • All visitors must fill in the logbook • A Landcare Ranger or approved trip leader will accompany/guide the groups • There will be an average of one "trip-day" per month (weekends) • Ratio of rangers/trip leaders to visitors in the Wainuiomata Catchment - 1:10 • The ratio of trip leaders to visitors in the Orongorongo Catchment may be revised during phase 3, depending on the experience of the trip leader and the groups entering the area (e.g., the ratio for experienced trampers may be changed to 1:20) • Group size - maximum 20 • Maximum number of people in the catchment - 40 per "trip-day" (but may be reviewed during phase 3) • Any group accessing the George Creek area must always be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger. • Approved trip leaders may take tours through the Orongorongo Catchment (12 trips during phase 3, which must take place on approved "trip-days".) • Trip leaders must have taken groups through the Wainuiomata Catchment before they can take groups through the Orongorongo Catchment. • Only experienced groups, with a good level of fitness, will be permitted in the Orongorongo Catchment. • Access along the Moores Valley Ridge Track is dependent on the agreement of private landowners. • There will be no general open days for the public during phase 3 but an open day for a limited number of people in a localised area could be considered in future. <p>Review 30 June 2003 - refer <i>Review of Programme</i> below</p>

<p>Principles Approved by Utility Services Committee (June 2000)</p>	<p>Access Plan</p>
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Individuals or groups wishing to undertake scientific study may be approved in terms of benefit to the catchment (e.g., greater botanical knowledge or for general scientific research)</i> 	<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications from <i>bona fide</i> organisations to undertake scientific, heritage and/or cultural research may be granted on merit. • A copy of the research report must be submitted to the Council. • A strict approval process will be followed (refer below). • All specified conditions placed on the researcher(s) must be adhered to. • Application assessment and approval - Landcare will assess the application considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is to be studied and why ▪ The likely benefits of the research ▪ How close the research will be undertaken to a waterway ▪ The proposed route to access the research site(s) ▪ The likely effects/impact of the research on the catchment environment and operations (i.e., risks associated with permitting the activity, proposed timing of the research, etc.) ▪ Conditions that would need to be imposed on the researcher(s) • Final endorsement of research proposals will be needed by Water Group Operations (Plant Supervisor) before research can be undertaken. • Research proposal will be reported in the Parks and Forests Managers' reports to the Landcare Committee. • Conditions are likely to cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limits on numbers entering the catchment ▪ Research areas and access route to be defined and mapped ▪ The level of supervision (i.e., initially the researcher(s) will need to be accompanied by a Landcare Ranger but this may not be practical for more than one or two visits when the research is ongoing. Therefore, conditions will need to be specified for the researchers (and these conditions monitored by the Ranger), e.g., specific entry times to be arranged, access via a single entry point, sign in and out of the logbook which will be located in the foyer of the site office. ▪ Parking of vehicles in a specified location ▪ Prohibited zones ▪ No animals permitted ▪ No access along Moores Valley Ridge Track ▪ No historical artefacts to be removed or disturbed ▪ No marking of tracks or disturbing existing plot marks, etc. ▪ All sightings of dead animals, marijuana plots, old camps, bird sightings, i.e., kakariki, falcon and Whitehead, to be reported to ranging staff

Principles Approved by Utility Services Committee (June 2000)	Access Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All botanical finds of significance to be reported ▪ A "take in, take out" policy, so no rubbish, including food, is left in the catchment. • This section on research also relates to filming which will only be permitted if it involves a scientific or historical production relating directly to the area. • The approval process, number of applications approved, etc., will be reviewed during phases 2 and 2. • During phase 3 consideration <i>may</i> be given to allowing limited access to small school groups for education purposes [(approval process would be as above - a teach would be required to be present in addition to the Landcare Ranger and/or approved trip leader(s) and ratio of students to supervisors 1-8 (recommended by New Zealand Mountain Safety Council)]
Hunting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shooting of animals may be allowed on a permit/managed basis, recognising that culling is an important part of catchment management</i> • <i>Recreational shooting will not be allowed</i> 	Hunting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised hunting limited to the "Roar hunt", which may become an annual event (noting PR and security benefits. • "Roar hunt" administration as for the 2000 "Roar hunt" (i.e., public ballot, allocation of hunting blocks, same conditions on vehicle use, removal of animals, etc.) • "No casual hunting permitted. • Professional hunters may be contracted in accordance with the Council Lands Pets Management Plan. This would be part of an agreed strategy between the Utility Services and Landcare Divisions. The work would be managed by the Landcare Ranger.
Camping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overnight stays for camping are not allowed</i> 	Camping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camping.
Vehicles	Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No private motor vehicles - permitted operator and management vehicles only, and professional pest control (limited). • Vehicles for people with limited mobility, undertaking study and during the "Roar hunt" may be approved on application at the Ranger's discretion - these groups will be required to use a 4WD vehicle.
Concessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Access may be allowed for an approved concessionaire in favour of a specific agreement as to area, route and maximum size of party</i> 	Concessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of concessions in the catchment will be considered as part of phase 3. Should special circumstances arise before phase 3, concession applications will be considered by the Utility Services Committee taking into account the <i>Wellington Regional Council Concessions Policy for Parks and Forests</i>. • Casual or concessions for cultural harvesting may be approved on request but applicants will be encouraged to use areas outside the catchment if possible.

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Police/Search and Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exercises may be approved if requested but they will be encouraged to use other areas outside the catchment</i> 	Police/Search and Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One exercise a year may be approved if requested but applicants will be encouraged to use other areas outside the catchment.
Access to WRC Staff on Official Business	Access to WRC Staff on Official Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign for key and fill in logbook before accessing catchment (Landcare Ranger to continue to have access to logbook).
Security and Control Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The existing unofficial access should be acknowledged as a potential risk and reasonable steps taken to reduce this access to a minimum</i> 	Security and Control Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining catchment security will continue to be a core function of the ranger service. • The security of the catchment must not be compromised. All visitors are to enter via the main gate where the ranger or approved trip leaders will meet them and fill in the logbook. (A combination lock may be feasible during the "Roar hunt". • Rangers/trip leaders are to "meet and greet" visitors to inform them of the catchment values and safety issues before each tour (literature to be provided and reminder to check bags, etc.). • Tour groups/visitors are not to enter closed or additionally restricted areas. • Requirements on <i>all</i> visitors to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stay on the formed roads or marked tracks ▪ "Take home" policy on litter ▪ No fires ▪ No smoking in the catchment when the fire risk is high ▪ No animals (except dogs for professional hunting) ▪ Conditions that would need to be imposed on the researcher(s) ▪ No removal of plants or plant material from the catchment ▪ Instructions of WRC rangers to be adhered to ▪ Do not disturb vegetation research plots and markers ▪ Only cross private land with the permission of the landowner • There will be close liaison between the Landcare Ranger and Plant Supervisor to ensure that for any operational reason or in the event of a plant emergency public access can be stopped for an appropriate period of time.
Areas Off Limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Areas of the catchment above the intakes should be off limits to visitors at all times</i> 	Areas Off Limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access in immediate vicinity of intakes. • Restricted areas to be marked on maps (distributed to all visitors).

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<p>Review of Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>These guidelines will be monitored and reviewed annually to assess benefits/disbenefits and possible changes</i> 	<p>Review of Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-phase approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phase 1 - guided walks (rangers, Wainuiomata Catchment only); training of trip leaders; scientific, heritage and cultural research on application; "Roar hunt". Review phase 1, 30 June 2001. ▪ Phase 2 - consider trip leaders, Orongorongo Catchment; possible additions to scientific, heritage and cultural research on application (depending on success of phase 1); "Roar hunt". Review phase 2, 30 June 2002. ▪ Phase 2 - all of the above, with possible addition of concessionaire(s). Review phase 3, 30 June 2003. • <i>The proposal is to take one stage at a time, with regular review meetings between Landcare and the Water Group to assess the programme (e.g., initially six monthly) and formal reports to the Utility Services Committee - 30 June 2001, 30 June 21002 and finally 30 June 2003. This phased approach means progress can be monitored and controlled.</i> • Once phase 3 has been successfully implemented there will continue to be ongoing monitoring by Landcare and the Water Group (to build up a history on groups going through for future access planning, and to assess effects on the environment).

For more information on this access plan, please contact the:

Ranger, Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area

Manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy and Marketing)