

Limited mobility access to Long Bay Regional Park

Long Bay Regional Park is a favourite for many Aucklanders. The park provides a backdrop to the great stretch of beach that gives the park its name. A wealth of shady picnic spots, plenty of open space for games, a miniature railway and disability-friendly playground make this a great place for children to enjoy.

The sweeping beach adjoins the Long Bay Okura marine reserve while the park itself also has stands of native bush, the historic Vaughan Homestead and a restaurant.

Getting Around the Park

Long Bay has a great deal to offer people with limited mobility. The southern end of the park is made up of grassed areas bordered by a long sandy beach on one side and a road on the other. Trees provide plenty of shade and wind protection. Three of the separate car parking areas have accessible parking situated near disability access toilets.

Mobility car parks are monitored for unauthorised use by park rangers and are generally available. In summer car parking for all park users is in high demand.

The grassed areas are all on fairly gently rolling slopes, with only a few areas completely inaccessible to wheelchair users. The majority of the grassed area is suited to mobility scooters or power driven wheelchairs. All of the picnic sites are accessible by powered mobility devices and many are accessible by manual wheelchairs.

The beach is wheelchair accessible at the southern most car park in the South Ground. Sand ladders located throughout the North Ground are suitable for prams. There are no handrails.

Picnic Sites

As well as the five publicised picnic sites that can be booked, there is also a special picnic site set aside for groups with limited mobility. Situated in the middle of the park near the children's playground and miniature railway this area is usually busy, so booking is necessary to secure the site.

Children using the miniature railway must be supervised at all times.

The special site is ideal for those with significant mobility challenges as it is located on level ground near car parks and a disability access toilet. The site has a sheltered picnic table and an electric barbecue (\$2 for 30min)

The next best choice of picnic area is Site 2 in the South Ground with an electric barbecue and picnic table. It is also located near a disability access toilet and mobility car park.

Points of Interest in the Park

The large children's playground and miniature railway attract children of all ages. Next to the miniature railway is a flying fox with a wheelchair accessible ramp for the adventurous.

The Vaughan Homestead, a two-storey colonial weatherboard house, is located near the northern end of the park and sits on the side of a steep hill. Built in 1860, the Vaughan Homestead is run by volunteers from the Torbay Historical Society and is usually open on Sunday afternoons. The access road to the Homestead is gated so phone before visiting to arrange access. Parking next to the building can be pre-arranged. The ground floor of the building is accessible by a gently sloping ramp and also has a disability access toilet. The top floor, which houses a small museum, is reached by stairs.

Important Information

- The grass is kept short and the slopes tend to be gentle, however assistance may be required for people in manual wheelchairs.
- Walking tracks to the north of the park have steps and steep slopes. Handrails are not provided on steps.
- The Nature Trail, a boardwalk track near the Vaughan Homestead, has steps further along and becomes inaccessible to those using wheelchairs or powered mobility devices. There is no space for wheelchairs or mobility devices to turn around.
- Access to the northern covered picnic site (Site 5), which has gas barbecues, is restricted to powered mobility devices as there is no path and the ground is quite steep. Vehicle access may be arranged.
- Vehicle access to a picnic site with no nearby car park can be arranged, although cars cannot remain permanently on the site. Cars must be parked in a car parking area after dropping off passengers.
- The restaurant located in the South Ground only has stair access.

Facilities

- Car parks – there are accessible car parks near each of the three toilet blocks.
 - North Ground – grass car parks are flat and accessible
 - Playground – marked mobility car park on tarmac
 - South Ground – marked mobility car park on tarmac
- Toilets – there are three sets of toilets in the park all with disability access toilet cubicles.

Getting There

Long Bay Regional Park is 30kms from downtown Auckland.

From Auckland: Take State Highway 1 north to the Oteha Valley Road off ramp. Turn right and follow Oteha Valley Road to the lights. Go straight ahead into Carlisle Road and follow the AA signs through Torbay to Long Bay.

For more information phone 09 366 2000 or visit www.arc.govt.nz