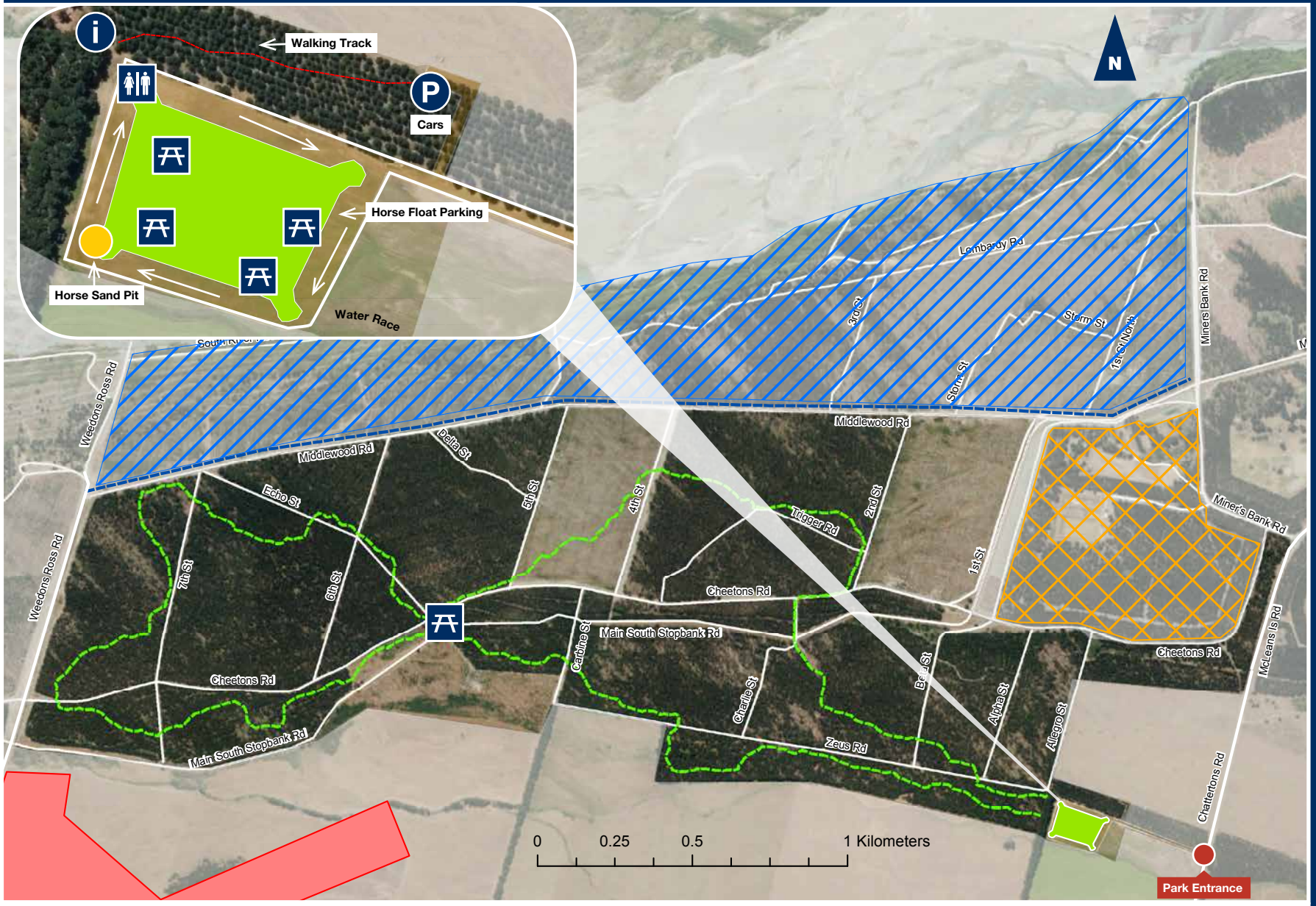


Finding your way

-  Information
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Picnic area
-  Horse Sand Pit
-  Horse Trail
-  Road
-  Fence
-  Trail Bike Area
-  Rifle Range Area
-  Aerodrome
-  Walking track



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E16/5270

West Melton Forest



Waimakariri River Regional Park



Waimakariri River Regional Park – West Melton Forest

Introduction

West Melton Forest is a section of the Waimakariri River Regional Park, covering approximately 350 hectares of pine forest between Chattertons and Weedons Ross Roads. The park entrance is off Chattertons Road, where a night gate is opened at 7am daily. During daylight savings the gate is locked at 10pm, outside of this time it is locked at 7pm.

Background

The pine trees of West Melton Forest were originally planted as a flood protection measure, giving the stop banks a first line of defence against a flood.

The development of the forest as a park was undertaken due to the increasing demand for safe horse riding facilities in the Selwyn District. Environment Canterbury worked in partnership with the Selwyn District Council to create an area where recreational horse riding is possible away from motorised activity while still maintaining flood protection.



What you can do here



Horse riding – There is a 10km marked trail which is suitable for most levels of riding ability.



Horse carriage driving – Horse and cart driving is permitted within West Melton Forest. There are roads within the forest which carriages are welcome to explore.

- Horse carriages are not permitted on the marked horse-riding trail
- Please give way to horse riders
- We have allowed a 1.8 metre spacing for carriages to enter the forest. If you wish to take a bigger carriage, please contact us on (03) 353 9007 to ask about our key issue system



Walking – While there are no formal walking trails within West Melton Forest, this type of activity is always welcomed. Walkers please note that horses have right of way, and dogs must be under effective control at all times.



Picnicking – There are several tables around the main parking oval. There is also a picnic area within the forest with hitching rails available for horses.



Safety

Fire – Fire is a constant threat within our parks. The lighting of fires is prohibited year round. If you see smoke or fire call 111 immediately and leave the Park. As you leave West Melton Forest Park stay out of the smoke and use forest roads rather than the trails. Staying out of the smoke might mean you are unable to return to the main entrance. In that case exit the Park on Middlewood Rd riding West or East depending on where the fire is. Park Rangers will assist you to exit and recover your vehicles. A fire risk sign at the entrance to the park will outline that day's fire risk. If the risk is too high the Park will be closed. Please check our Environment Canterbury website for any park closure notices.

BBQ's – Gas BBQ's are permitted within the West Melton Forest parking oval area. BBQ's may only be used with a minimum 2 metre clearance to any dry vegetation.

Dogs – Dogs are permitted but must be under effective control at all times. It is important not to spook horses as this can put riders and other members of the public in danger.

Caring for your Park



Fire – Fire is a constant threat within our parks. Lighting fires is prohibited year round. If you see smoke or fire call 111 immediately and leave the park.



Camping – Camping is not permitted anywhere at West Melton Forest.



Vegetation – Do not remove, disturb or damage any plants.



Rubbish – Take home all rubbish you bring in and recycle where possible.



Kowhai Dryland Savannah

To the north of the main parking oval is a significant and protected biodiversity area, known as the Kowhai Savannah. This savannah has high conservation values due to its mixture of native grassland with indigenous trees and shrubs, representing what much of the Canterbury Plains would have looked like in the past. With the cultivation of soils and introduction of hardy exotic trees, these remnant patches of Canterbury Dryland are now a rare sight.

The Kowhai Savannah is home to a range of rare and endangered mosses and lichens and plants including: *Carmichaelia australis*, *Carex comans*, *Cheilanthes distans*, *Convolvulus verecundus*, *Coprosma petrei*, *Cordyline australis*, *Discaria toumatou*, *Gonocarpus aggregatus*, *Melicytus alpinus*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, *Olearia adenocarpa*, *Ophioglossum coriaceum*, *Poa cita*, *Pyrrhanthera exigua*, *Sophora prostrata* and *Zoysia minima*.