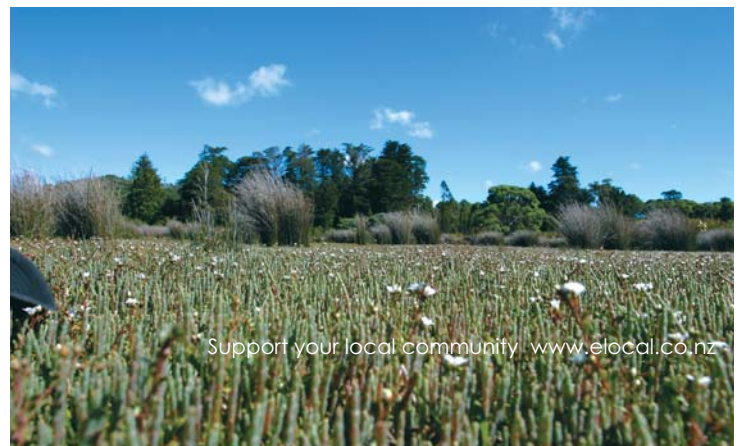




The Hunua Ranges make up Auckland's largest forested landscape. The park itself features tramping tracks, mountain biking, amazing scenery, fishing, swimming pools and waterfalls. Situated on the Firth of Thames/Tikape Moana is the small and undeveloped Whakatiwai Regional Park. Some remnant patches of the original kowhai forest can still be seen, while Whakatiwai also features a shelly foreshore, which attracts migratory birds. Waharau Regional Park extends from the Firth of Thames into the eastern foothills of the Hunua Ranges. For further information and directions on how to get there. Log onto [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz) or call iSite Pukekohe 09 238 4081 or Bombay 09 236 0580.

Franklin is rich in parks, with many well maintained areas to get outdoors in the fine summer weather. Take a park cruise around your own and neighbouring towns and pick your favourite. Then unpack the picnic, send the children off to play, spread out a blanket and relax! A full list of local parks and reserves can be found on Franklin District Council's website.

For a real outdoors adventure, grab your boots, hat and knapsack, get out there and walk Franklin! Walks include the Waiuku Forest; Puni Bike Park, (150 meters up the road behind the clubrooms at the intersection of Blake and Attwell Rd, just off the Waiuku Road); Matakawau walking track – 20 mins fast walk; Whangamarina Redoubt walkway, a 3km loop, starting at a rest on Orams Rd; Meremere-Rangiriri trail, a 3 hour walk, starting at Northern end of Dragway Rd; Mt William Walkway at Bombay, part of the New Zealand Walkway; coastal walk to Hamilton's Gap from the Signal Station (240m steep descent) on the Awhitu Peninsula takes 4-5 hours (check tides); Harbour walks from Grahams Beach to Wattle Bay, Awhitu, with the choice of stopping at Big Bay or Orua Bay on the way. (Check tides.)



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