

Connecting Communities Together... literally



Work is progressing well on developing a \$450,000 5km multi-use loop track for Pātea.

Council's Community Development Manager Ella Borrows says in 2019, as part of the Council's Pathways Programme, the Pātea Loop Track was identified and voted on as a priority.

"Council has been working for the better part of a year with Ngāti Ruanui, Department of Conservation and several key stakeholders," she says. "This project is now in the physical works stage where you will start to see things change about the town with footpaths being installed in York and Kent Streets." When work has been completed, at the end of summer, there will be a 5km loop for people to use, with the option of a shorter 3.5km loop.

The route will start either on York Street or at Bourke's Lookout. The 5km pathway from York Street will take our travellers up Bedford Street towards the Garden of Tutunui, left on to Egmont Street, through the Riverview lookout to Bourke's Lookout down the slope to Beach Road and back onto Turi Street to finish the route back at York Street. A shorter 3.5km pathway has also been added for travellers to travel through Kent Street.

There will be sections of concrete footpath, metal and boardwalk, and with the exception of one steep section with stairs, the pathway will be multi use for walkers, runners, cyclists and prams.

"Just so people are aware - the parking area outside of Pātea Area School on Kent Street is going to be brought slightly forward to make it safer for both school students, pedestrians and motorists alike," says Ella. "Please don't worry if you see work happening there, we are not removing the spaces at all, just developing the space so it can accommodate those who use their feet and those who use wheels to get to the school."

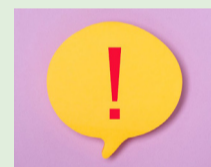
"We are looking forward to seeing this pathway come to fruition and the community being able to enjoy it."

Upcoming meetings

Ordinary Council
Monday 11 December, 4pm
Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera

Can I swim here ?

People heading to our lakes, rivers and beaches this summer are encouraged to first check whether the water is safe to swim in. Until March 2024, Taranaki Regional Council will monitor water quality at 41 sites across the region's popular recreational hot spots. Weekly results and warnings are available on www.trc.govt.nz/can-i-swim-here.



As a rule of thumb you should always avoid swimming for three

days after heavy or prolonged rainfall. If the water doesn't look or smell right, it's safest to not enter the water.

Care for your glass collectors
Keep it level



South Taranaki On the Rise

South Taranaki is the second most hospitable District in New Zealand, according to Airbnb.

The online accommodation marketplace recently released a list of the areas of regional New Zealand based on the highest density of five-star reviews. Carterton claimed top spot with South Taranaki second. Rounding out the top five were Waipa, South Waikato and Matamata-Piako.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said the placing came as no surprise.

"Our unique landscape with the mountain, ocean and mix of town and rural character means we really get the best of both worlds," says Nixon.

"Accommodation providers of South Taranaki know what this District has to offer and take great pride in offering their properties as a friendly home away from home for workers and travellers, from near and afar."

But it's not only Airbnb saying so, latest tourism statistics released by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) showed that South Taranaki saw a massive 328.9% increase in international visitor overnight stays in September 2023, compared to the same period in 2022. This was the largest increase across the region.

Council economic development manager Scott Willson says Taranaki is the choice for travellers looking for 'unique, off the-beaten-path' destinations.

"South Taranaki is on an upward trajectory. These stats show the promising potential the District has to further develop as a destination with plenty to offer domestic and international visitors," he says.



It was awesome to see so many people come along to Arts in the Park last weekend in King Edward Park, Hāwera.



At the time of printing, there were still space available in our Summer Reading Programme, Summer Blast. This programme is open for 5 - 12 year olds and all that is required is that participants read at least 15 minutes day and come into the library to have a chat with one of our librarians about what they've been reading. At the end of the programme, those who have completed it get invited to a Finale Party and will get a book! Registrations are being taken in person at each LibraryPlus. Spaces are limited. To keep up-to-date with activities and entertainers happening throughout summer, head to www.southtaranaki.com/summerblast