

# Waipoua River

Upper, Middle & Lower Reaches



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Wellington Region

# Waipoua River

The Waipoua River originates in the eastern foothills of the Tararua Ranges and flows southward to join the Ruamahanga River at Masterton. The river parallels SH2 and access is possible via a number of roads off Paierau Road or SH2. There is excellent access in the 'town' section with a good walking track running along the true left for much of the Waipoua's length. An important spawning tributary of the Ruamahanga, this river holds a limited population of resident fish year round. However the best fishing is usually early season before most of the post-spawning trout have moved back into the Ruamahanga. Upstream of Masterton this small river is best fished with nymphs and dry flies. The middle and lower reaches are suitable for spin fishing but most trout are still take on nymphs and dries fished as a dry-dropper rig. Fishing can be particularly productive from River Road (Access point #8) down to the confluence with the Ruamahanga River.

## **ANGLERS!**

Sections of riverbed covered by this pamphlet are in private ownership, which means anglers do not have a right of access. Some landowners have agreed to anglers having access along the riverbed without having to obtain permission first.

Please respect the privilege of access. Once you are on the river, stay within the riverbed and do not wander on to adjacent farmland without the express permission of the landowner. If you require clarification around where you are legally entitled to go, please visit the Walking Access Commission website - [www.wams.org.nz](http://www.wams.org.nz) - and use the public access layers.

## **Conditions of access are:**

- NO dogs. NO camping. NO fires. NO vehicles on the riverbed.
- Leave gates as you find them.

## **Please Note:**

Fish & Game has endeavoured to show where legal public access exists to and along this river. Because of a variety of factors beyond our control, this is a guideline only. The onus of avoiding trespassing on private land rests with the angler and,

where doubt arises, landowner permission should be sought. If any difficulty occurs through the use of this information, please contact Wellington Fish & Game.

## 1 Paierau Road Bridge\*

From SH2 heading south, turn west onto Paierau Road, which is about 10km north of Masterton. When you are on Paierau Road drive for 7km until you reach the bridge that goes over the Waipoua River. Climb down to the river from here. There is gate that is locked. Please note: you must stay within the river bed at all times!

## 2 Railway Tracks

From the roundabout on Chapel Street in Masterton turn west onto Lincoln Road and drive for about 1.1km along Lincoln Road until you reach the railway tracks. Drive over the railway tracks onto Akura Road and about 30m past the railway tracks is an entrance to a gravel drive/track on your right that goes down beside the Childcare Centre towards the river. This track is narrow but wide enough for a vehicle. There is room for one to park and turnaround at the end. It is a stones throw from the river.

## 3 Railway Crescent

From the roundabout on Chapel Street in Masterton turn west onto Lincoln Road and drive for about 1km and turn right onto Railway Crescent. Drive to the end of the street to the cul-de-sac where you can park and walk over the bank to the river. There is plenty of access on foot from here.

## 4 Bentley Street

From the roundabout on Chapel Street in Masterton turn west onto Lincoln Road and drive for about 0.76km then turn right onto Bentley Street. At the northern end of Bentley Street on the corner is an entrance to an open gravel/grass area where access can be gained from here. There is plenty of access on foot which can take you to the points above and below this one.

## 5 Masterton Bridge

There is a parking area beside the river upstream from the bridge on Villa Street. Villa Street is on your left just before the roundabout at the northern end of Masterton when heading north on SH2, also called Chapel Street.

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### 📍 Masterton Bridge downstream

Downstream from the bridge there is also plenty of pedestrian access with the walking track continuing along the true left of the river. At the roundabout exit onto Dixon Street and after just 20m or so is an entrance on your left to Memorial Drive. Queen Elizabeth Park runs parallel to the Waipoua and only requires a short walk over the stop bank down to the river.

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### 📍 Colombo Road Bridge

There are many ways to get to Colombo Road. One way is from the roundabout at the northern end of the Masterton township take the Dixon Street exit and drive for about 0.7km along Dixon Street until you reach either Church Street or Bannister Street. Turn left at either one of these streets and it will take you to Colombo Road. From here turn left again and drive to the bridge. Just before the bridge on your right if heading north crossing the river, there is a parking area beside the covered netball courts. There is plenty of access from here which will take you to the lower reaches of the Waipoua.

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### 📍 River Road

Again there are a number of ways to reach River Road. One way is to turn west onto Church Street from the roundabout on Chapel Street. Lincoln Road is the exit that travels east from this roundabout. Stay on Church Street and drive west for about 1.6km heading straight at all intersections. This will take you to River Road where you turn left and drive to the end which is about 500m from here, park at the cul-de-sac and walk down to the river from here. This location is where the Waipoua River joins the Ruamahanga River.

**Access information online: [www.fishandgamezaccess.org/wellington](http://www.fishandgamezaccess.org/wellington)**

Access online  
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the QR Code



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