

South Waikato Spring Creeks Trout Fishing

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO



www.fishandgame.org.nz

Continued angler access – it's primarily up to you!

Less than 50% of the rivers in the Auckland/Waikato region are covered by esplanade reserves (the "Queens Chain"). But notwithstanding the presence or absence of an esplanade reserve, anglers are dependent upon landowner goodwill to fully enjoy angling opportunities.

Accordingly make sure you take the time to extend to landowners the common courtesies that you would expect:

- Ask their permission before you cross their land.
- **Don't**
 - * clamber over fences
 - * walk through crops
 - * disturb stock
 - * leave gates other than as you found them
 - * deposit rubbish
 - * take your dog onto a landowners property unless you square it away with them that it is OK to do so. Hydatids and sheep measles can pose a serious threat to a farmers livelihood; so leave your dog at home unless you're certain that the farmer doesn't object to it on their land.

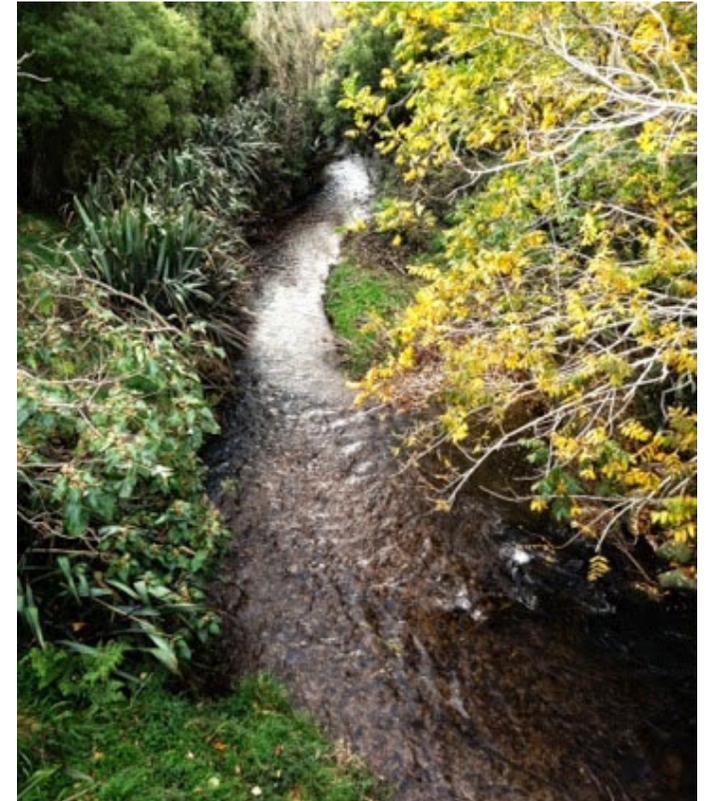
In our experience very few landowners will refuse access to genuine anglers.



For further information

The pamphlets shown below contain more detailed information and maps pertaining to the various types of fisheries in the Auckland/Waikato region. These are available on the website.

- The Mighty Waipa.
- Waitomo & Kawhia.
- Whanganui Headwaters.
- Coromandel Ranges.
- Waikato Rivers.
- Auckland/Waikato Lakes.
- Getting started in freshwater fishing.



Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

156 Brymer Road, RD9

Hamilton

Telephone (07) 849 1666

aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz

South Waikato Spring Creeks

Spring creeks abound throughout the South Waikato District providing many kilometres of fishing with good access and numerous trout. These “spring creeks” vary from small rivers with considerable flows, but all are spring-fed and offer a fishing experience quite different from rain-fed rivers. Typically, South Waikato spring creeks hold abundant populations of rainbow trout and although many fish are small, there are generally good numbers of large trout.

Dry fly fishing is often the most successful method on spring creeks due to the clarity of the water. Popular dry flies include “attractor patterns” such as the Royal Wulff and beetle imitations (brown grass beetle and the green manuka beetle). Light nymphs can also be very successful including Hare and Copper, Halfback Nymph and Pheasant Tail. Spin fishing is popular on the larger rivers, generally with light lures such as the smaller soft baits or spinners.

The Waihou and Waimakariri Stream are open to anglers all year, the other waters are closed during the winter spawning season. Please check the current angling regulations in the “Sports Fishing Guide”, provided free when you purchase a licence.

Waihou River

One of the country’s best spring-fed rivers providing classic trout fishing in very clear water. Typically, rainbow trout are very abundant with 600-1000 fish per kilometre and although most fish are small, there is still a good population of large trout.

Between Okoroire and State Highway 5 there is no public access to the river (aside from 1.5kms of paper road just below HW5) and permission should be obtained from local landowners on Somervilles Road or SH5. Upstream from SH5, the river is wadeable over cobblestone bed, and the stretch of water between here and Whites Road gives a good days fishing. A “fishing reserve” provides public access on both sides of the river, except for the first kilometre above SH5 where the reserve is restricted to the true left bank (left bank looking downstream).

Public Access continues upstream from Whites Road where a walkway runs alongside the river to Leslie Road with parking at either end. This section is easily accessible but heavily fished. The Waihou meanders across open farmland with short, deep pools and long cobblestones runs offering a variety of attractive fishing water. About 4 kilometres above Whites Road, the river enters a series of large springs that provide challenging fishing for larger but wary rainbows. Above the springs, the Waihou rapidly diminishes in size to a small stream offering limited fishing opportunities, although there is a “Do Not Enter” sign at bridge on the upstream end of the track there is legal public access for another kilometre upstream.

Oraka Stream

A large spring-fed stream with several stretches providing good fishing with easy access. Access to the lower reaches is generally difficult but there is some reasonable fishing water near Tirau with access from Okoroire Road. Public access from Okoroire Road only extends 300m upstream and 400m downstream on the true left bank so make sure you ask the landowner if you venture further. Upstream of Tirau that is public access for almost 2.5kms.

In the headwaters there is good public access with an esplanade reserve starting 1km downstream from Putaruru and extending upstream from SH1 for about 2.5kms. At Putaruru a public walkway follows the river that is popular with local anglers. At Domain Road a reserve provides public access on the true left bank to the rail bridge where a reserve covers both banks for 3.5kms above Pinedale Road. This upper section is overgrown and hard to fish.

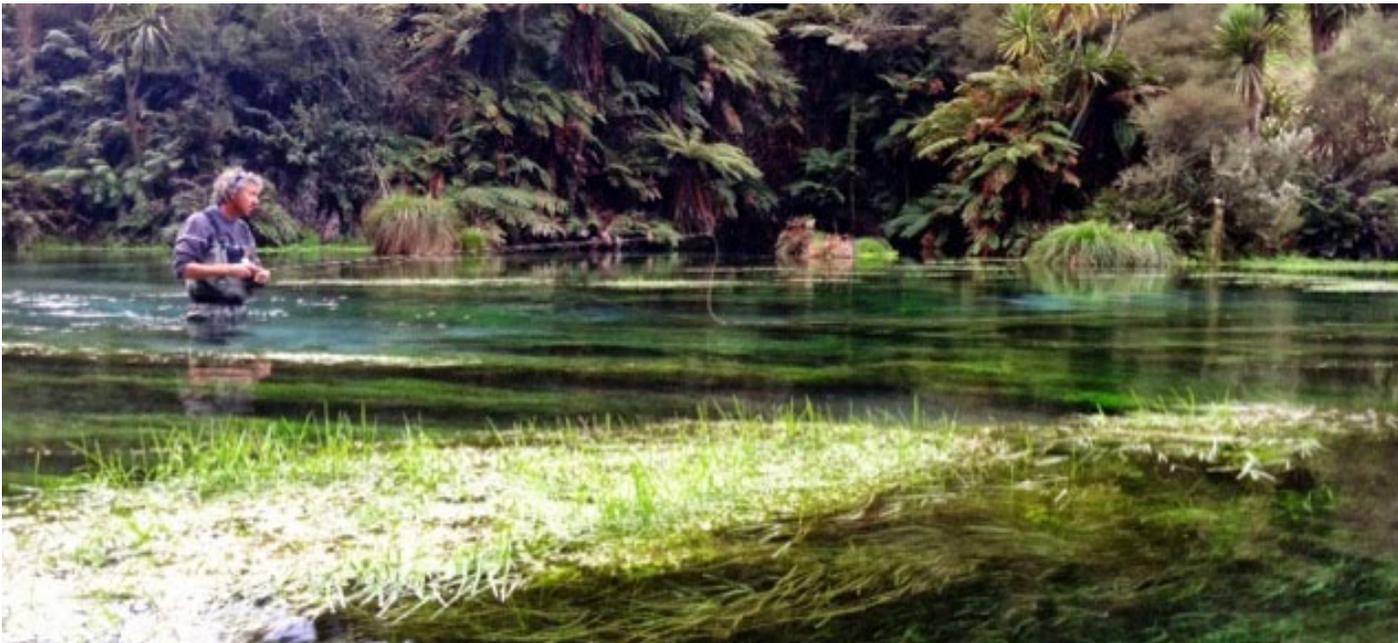
Waiomou Stream

A popular river, highly valued by local anglers, with an abundant trout population and good public access in the upper reaches.

The lower reaches can be reached from Tauranga Road. Downstream from Tauranga Road there is no public access and permission should be obtained from landowners on Tauranga Road or Old Te Aroha Road. This section is not heavily fished but holds an attractive sequence of pools and runs over a predominately cobblestone bed. Upstream from Tauranga Road, there is no formal access but there is a reserved upstream of SH20.

Further upstream the river flows across open farmland and there is some good water above Rapurapu Road where an esplanade reserve extends past Waiomou Road.

From Waiomou Road, a fishing reserve provides public access to both sides of the river for 5kms upstream. Here the river is narrow and typically fast flowing, but fish numbers are high and this is attractive water. Good water can also be reached by crossing farmland on the Te Poi-Tapapa road—landowners permission must be obtained.

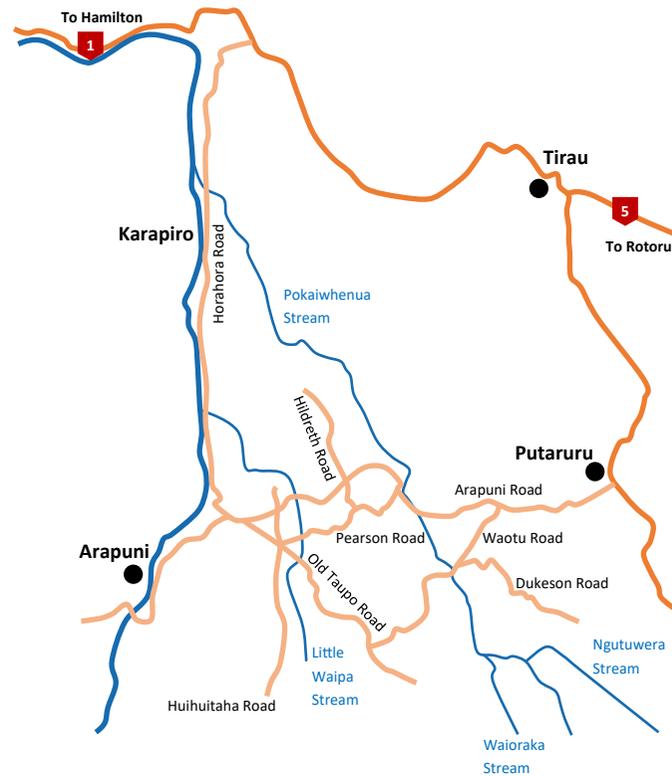


Little Waipa Stream

A tributary of Lake Karapiro, the Little Waipa is a spring-fed stream offering clear water and an abundant trout population. The trout are river-resident as a steep gorge about a kilometre upstream from the mouth is a barrier to trout movement from Lake Karapiro. Below the gorge, the stream is generally inaccessible and fish numbers are low. However, the stream-mouth is a popular fishing location with access from Hirahora Road.

Drift five surveys of the Little Waipa above the gorge have reported that trout are numerous, but it is a difficult water to fish because of an extensive coverage of aquatic weeds coupled with very clear water—the fish are there but they are hard to catch. Trout will frequently be observed feeding from the surface, especially on hot summer days, and often the best approach is to use a dry fly, perhaps a Royal Wulff or a Twilight Beauty and considerable stealth.

The Little Waipa Stream is located about 8km west of Putaruru. There is no public access and permission should be requested from land-owners. The Little Waipa crossed the Putaruru-Arapuni, person and Old Taupo Roads. Good water that is seldom fished can also be reached across private farmland from Huihuitaha Road. For most of its length the Little Waipa flows deep over a pumic sand and rock bed; it is therefore wadable in few places. Both rainbows and browns are present, the latter not common.



Pokaiwhenua Stream

The Pokaiwhenua Stream is a major tributary of Lake Karapiro and is therefore one of the few rivers in the region where anglers can tackle lake-run trout. In addition, the upper Pokaiwhenua offers 20kms of good fishing on river resident trout.

Waterfalls adjacent to the Putaruru-Arapuni Road divide the Pokaiwhenua Stream into two sections. Above the falls there is a high population of river-resident rainbow and brown trout, the streambed consists of bedrock, gravel and pumic sands, and is wadeable in most places. About 1.5kms upstream from Waotu Road an extensive esplanade reserve extends along the stream for at least 5kms, however there is no public access to this reserve. Consequently, permission to cross private land is required from the landowner on Watou Road or on the Putaruru-Arapuni Road. Access can also be obtained across private farmland on Dukeson Road.

Below the falls, there is 12kms of river. Here the Pokaiwhenua runs through a steep valley with the occasional inaccessible gorge, nevertheless there is still a considerable length of good fishing water. This section usually holds high numbers of trout late in the season, though at this time of year the river takes a long time to clear after moderate rain. Access to the lower Pokaiwhenua is across private farmland and thus the landowners permission must be obtained. However there are many farms that provide access to the river, either via the Putaruru-Arapuni Road, SH1 (Longview farms), Horahora Road and Hildreth Road.

Access to the mouth is via Horahora Road and this is a popular location for anglers fishing Lake Karapiro.

