

## Explore Marlborough's parks and tracks this summer

Marlborough's iconic Wither Hills play host to many of the region's favourite walks - its various options making them a wonderful destination for many. A working farm, Wither Hills Farm Park offers a wide range of both walking and cycling tracks of all levels, providing a unique perspective of Marlborough.

These tracks form part of the daily exercise routines of many of our residents. If you're yet to check them out, here's a guide to some of the most popular areas, beginning low and working up to the more challenging slopes.

### Sutherland Stream

Sutherland Stream offers a gentle introduction to the Wither Hills Farm Park, beginning at Alabama Road and weaving its way through residential areas all the way to the base of the hills

on Redwood Street. The reserve is a designated dog exercise area and a flood control catchment area in times of heavy rain.

### Harling Park

This Japanese-themed park at the base of the Wither Hills is established on just over six acres, offering gentle walking paths and lush grassy slopes. It pays tribute to our region's sister city relationship with Tendo and Otari in Japan, with its Japanese features designed by Tendo City Council staff. Officially opened in 2005, it is named after former Blenheim mayor Sid Harling who held the title from 1962 to 1977.

Harling Park features many shady trees and is dog-friendly, aside from the fenced-off Japanese garden. Entry is via Howick Road or Solway Drive.

### Quail Stream

Quail Stream offers the best of both worlds - a sheltered and steady climb at the base of the hills with the option of looping back toward the Rotary Lookout or carrying on to the Upper Quail Stream track. From there - make your way along Taylor View or Split Apple Peak Track to Mount Vernon. Be mindful to do this one early in the season and not during the heat of the day - it can get very hot at the height of the Marlborough summer.

### Mount Vernon

If you're looking for a short, sharp challenge, Mount Vernon might be the option for you. Steep from the get-go, it's a good three kilometre climb to the top lookout, where you can enjoy stunning views across the region.



Wither Hills Farm Park.

All of these tracks, and more, are interconnected in some way.

**Caution is advised during the height of summer. Keep up to date with fire risk warnings and take note of any warning or closure signage in the area.**

## Have your say on annual plan - closes 20 January

Marlborough residents and ratepayers have two weeks to submit ideas for Council's annual plan budget for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Council is seeking ideas and feedback as part of its annual planning process - simply tell us about your big idea or worthwhile project at <https://dialogue.marlborough.govt.nz>

Council has changed the way it

undertakes annual planning in an effort to get early community input in a simple way. The new engagement process uses user-friendly software to help people submit an idea. You can also vote on what you think about other people's ideas.

The engagement phase of the annual plan process closes on 20 January. People's proposals will be presented to Council's budget meeting in April.

If you need assistance please get in touch with our Customer Service Centre on 03 520 7400.

Full public consultation will take place for the Long Term Plan 2027-37, with a public engagement process beginning in November 2026. Council will however continue to consult the community on major projects and service changes, such as the Water Services Delivery Plan,



part of the Government's new 'Local Water Done Well' proposals.

## Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award nominations close soon

Nominations for the next Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure close at 5pm on 24 January. The 2025 award will be presented at a formal ceremony in April.

It is open to individuals who have made an extraordinary, inspiring and significant contribution to cultural endeavour in Marlborough throughout their lifetime. Ideally, they have also shared their knowledge and passion with the community, helping to inspire future generations.

In 2012, the inaugural recipient of the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award was Peg Moorhouse, Waikawa-based weaver and fibre artist. Most recently, in 2023, artist Clarry Neame joined the distinguished group of treasures.

Throughout the years Marlborough has honoured the contributions of some remarkable living cultural treasures including kapa haka teacher Nan Kahu Chadwick and composer and choreographer Kevin Moseley, whose inspiring musical skills have been shared with many. Others have been weaver Kairaranga Kaiako Margaret Bond, ceramic artist Fran Maguire, artists Clem Mellish, Triska Blumenfield and J S Parker, author Dame Joy Cowley and director and producer Duncan Whiting.

The award was established in 2012 by Marlborough Museum in partnership with Council and the Marlborough Express. In 2023, the Marlborough Heritage Trust closed its operations and in early 2024 Council agreed to take on



guardianship of the award.

For more information go to [www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-living-cultural-treasure-award](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-living-cultural-treasure-award)

## Expressions of Interest sought

Council is seeking expressions of interest from parties wanting to lease the vacant site at 25 Park Terrace.

The site is approximately 424 square metres. It is sealed and fully fenced but does not have any services (water, electricity, waste etc).

Expressions of Interest will be accepted until 5 February 2025.

For further information please contact Council's property managers – APL Property; Ph: 027 2201188, email [joanne.conroy@aplproperty.co.nz](mailto:joanne.conroy@aplproperty.co.nz)

## Assets and Services Committee meeting

The Assets and Services Committee meeting is on Tuesday 28 January at 9am.

It is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

Copies of the agenda will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street.

The time and date may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

### Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm  
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm  
03 520 7400 | [mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@marlborough.govt.nz)

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For careers at Council go to:  
[www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/careers](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/careers)

