

Horse riding in public

Information on horse riding
across the Auckland region



► **Find out more:** For further information on riding horses in public places, visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/animals or ph: (09) 301 0101

Horse riding in public places can be an enjoyable activity for both horse riders and local communities. Public places can include council owned or controlled land such as beaches and local and regional parks. Horse riding can also improve physical and mental health and provide communities with opportunities for social interaction. Here are some guidelines for horse riders.

Public places for horse riding

There are a number of parks and beaches that are available for horse riding across the Auckland region. Riders can enjoy the open space of our regional parks from horseback on designated horse tracks. A horse riding pass, valid for 12 months, is required and is free of charge.

For information on horse riding trails and applying for a pass, please visit regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/horse-riding-trails

Other horse trails available for riding, please visit nzbridleways.nzhorseriders.info/a/nzhorseriders.info/nzbridleways/Home/NorthIsland/auckland/

Guidelines for responsible horse riding

There are general guidelines for responsible horse riding which are in place to protect public health and safety and keep bridle trails and beaches in a good condition for other users. In a public place, horse owners should:

- give other users plenty of space and keep your speed down in areas where there are other public place users;
- be considerate of other public place users and clean up horse manure as you ride, or at a later time if it's unsafe to clean up as you ride;
- stay away from coastal dunes unless there are marked trails that can be used to access the beach;
- stay away from bird nesting areas and be aware of signage indicating closed off areas;
- comply with any signage that places any other restriction on the riding of horses in a public area.

Guidelines for horse riding along the north eastern coast

Beaches along the north eastern coast of Auckland are becoming increasingly urbanised. Where horse riding is appropriate, horses should be ridden below the high tide mark and riders should avoid riding during high tide periods. Other beaches do permit horse riding below the high tide mark, between the times of mid and low tide. Horses are not allowed to be ridden between the hours of 10am and 7pm from December to 15 February at Omaha Beach, Orewa Beach, Algies Beach,

Hatfields Beach, Martins Bay Beach and Snells Beach. Horses are also not allowed to be ridden during Easter and Labour weekends at these beaches.

Guidelines for horse riding at Karioitahi Beach

Karioitahi Beach is located on the south western coast of Auckland and there are conditions in place for a range of activities to manage high use periods of the beach. Horses can be ridden anytime during winter, but restrictions are in place from the beginning of Labour Weekend to the end of March. During these warmer months, horses can be ridden before 10am or after 6pm.

Animal management licence

A horse should only be kept on a property more than 4,000sqm (1 acre). You can apply for a licence to have a horse on a smaller property and this will involve a site visit by Bylaw staff to determine if this will cause any nuisance to neighbours.

A licence application fee is payable and is non-refundable. If the licence is approved, conditions may be attached. If you wish to graze your horse on council owned land, please talk to council Parks staff or Auckland Transport for road reserve areas.

Talk to your local horse riding club

For further advice on bridleways and responsible horse riding, please contact the New Zealand Horse Network at nzhorseriders.info and the New Zealand Bridleways Code at nzbridleways.info

A full copy of the Auckland Council Animal Management Bylaw, effective 1 September 2015, may be seen at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/bylaws