

Craters MTB Park - Wairakei Forest

Grade 2 (G2) - Beginner to Easy

Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.

Inwards Goods

Length: In 0.28km
Out 0.12km

Sponsored by DBCON

Direction: One and two way

Entry from the Tunnel track or the corner of Karapiti Road and links you to Tourist Trap. The first section is two way then becomes a single track which climbs all the way up and pops you out on Tourist Trap.

Tourist Trap

Length: 5.91km

Sponsored by LJ Hooker

Direction: One way

A great learners ride that has bumps, dips and easy climbs. It is basically a 6 km loop back to Craters MTB Park car park. It provides access to the Kids Track, Inwards Goods, Piker, Outwards Goods and Ferret. If you want a short cut to Craters MTB Park car park or to make a shorter loop, then take Piker. You ride through established pines and cleared areas.

Piker

Length: 0.26km

Direction: One way

A fun downhill which is a shortcut back to Craters MTB Park car park if you're not too keen to go all the way around Tourist Trap.

Outwards Goods

Length: 0.20km

Direction: One way

Links Tourist Trap to Wairakei Drive or vice versa. It also gets you to the start of Return to Sender and the end of Kegresse. You can cross Wairakei Drive to get to Heli Café take Junk and Disorderly and get to Huka Falls or back to Taupō via Kev's Track.

Return to Sender

Length: 0.64km

Direction: One way

A short track that takes you from Outwards Goods to link to Tourist Trap so you can hook onto Piker or continue along Tourist Trap to get to Craters MTB Park car park.

Kids Track

Length: 0.1km

Direction: One way

A short fun track for the kids, great for runner bikes.

Bumble Bee

Length: 0.86km

Sponsored by BNZ

Direction: One way

After an initial uphill section this track leads into a flowing downhill single track in the pines. This then heads back to Q Line Road/Kegresse. It has the odd dip and drop so stay alert! For a longer ride hook into BBC.

Scragg's Out

Sponsored by VETPlus

Length: 0.98km

Direction: One way

A very cool track with fun berms great for kids and adults alike, built by Scragg in 2013. This track links you to the start of Beagle Boys (first track on the right). Continue through Scragg's Tunnel and pop out at Managers Corner, options here are SH Fun and Tourist Trap. Work is just beginning on a new section of track to make a loop to take you back to Craters MTB Park car park.

Scragg's Return

Sponsored by ASB

Length: 0.98km

Direction: One way

Work is just beginning on this section of track to make a loop, also a skills areas for kids and adults alike.

Placemakers Hammer It In

Sponsored by Placemakers Taupō

Length: 0.38km

Direction: One way

Named after Placemakers Taupō due to their generous donations of timber and other products used on the structures and signs in Craters MTB Park, cheers guys! A short link track from Craters MTB Park car park to Scragg's (formerly known as Squirt) or head across Karapiti Road to Tank Stand.

Placemakers Nail It Out

Sponsored by Placemakers Taupō

Length: 0.32km

Direction: One way

A short link track from Tank Tunnel lower end of Coaster and Walter's Wiggles to Craters MTB Park car park.

Coaster

Sponsored by Souvenir Outlet

Length: 1.27km

Direction: One way

As the name implies it's an easy fast fun downhill with awesome bermed corners. It is a blast! To get there you have to climb Tank Stand for 1.2km or ride up Incline from The Connection. If coming back from Outback, do it, it's worth it. There are two bridges, an under and an over. Area planted in pines in 2013. The track links to Placemakers Nail It and the start of Tank Stand.

Chain Link

Length: 0.36km

Direction: One way

This is a short link track with a bit of a dip. If you do not want to ride all of Outback you can short cut it here to link into the bottom section of Outback.

Kev's Track

Length: 0.36km

Direction: Two way

Named after Kevin Loe one of the many Taupo pioneers. This track has many links, Western Bypass to Huka Falls, Junk and Disorderly (J&D) to Heli Café or Tunnel track, Redwoods track to get to Huka Falls Rd/Wairakei Drive. Or cross the road at the top of Kev's to Outwards Goods to get into Craters MTB Park. It's uphill from Huka Falls and downhill from Craters MTB Park.

Tunnel Track

Length: 0.71km

Direction: Two way

Live longer and go under Wairakei Drive from the Heli Café to Inwards Goods into Craters MTB Park. The track goes downhill to the tunnel and then a climbs to get out involving a couple of tight corners. Kids love the tunnel and it has an awesome echo, echo, echo.

Grade 3 (G3) – Intermediate

Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure of the tracks outside edge.

SH Fun

Sponsored by Pack and Pedal
& Phoenix Cyclery

Length: From Q Line Rd entrance 4.39km
From Managers Corner 3.95km

Direction: Two way

Like its name, it's a fun flowing track. Undulating, with some great downhills and a few bumps so keep your wits about you. Starts off at Q Line Road or Managers Corner and links to BBC (Bumble Bee Contact) at the top or the start of Bumble Bee and Kegresse at the end.

Beagle Boys

Sponsored by Jensen Waymouth Lawyers

Length: 2.54km

Direction: One way

First right off Scragg's and is named after the PD (Period Detention) boys who have helped maintain and build the tracks in Craters MTB Park over the last few years (yes, we did get permission from the Minister of Corrections in 2013). Has a bit of a techie uphill and a dipper that takes your breath away when you first ride it. With undulating middle and techie downhill pops you out at Scragg's Tunnel and Managers Corner where you can link to SH Fun or Tourist Trap.

BBC – Bumble Bee Contact

Sponsored by Sign On

Length: 1.73km

Direction: One way

This track is the extension of the Bumble Bee track built by the Mad Engineers from Contact Energy. This is a fun undulating single track with some short sharp up hills that links into Bumble Bee downhill.

Ferret

Sponsored by Taupo Landscape Services Ltd

Length: 2.18km

Direction: One way

Ferret runs off Tourist Trap and has many twists and turns. The track re-joins Tourist Trap and brings you back to Craters MTB Park car park.

Blackberry Duck

Length: 0.21km

Direction: One way

A cool single track (and yes it does have blackberry so watch out!) and you need to duck to get under the tree. It takes you from Wairakei Drive (opposite Q Line Road) to the Redwoods Track which is another option to get back to Taupō.

Junk and Disorderly (J&D)

Length: 0.93km to Heli Café

Direction: Two way

Unadulterated MTB fun, J&D track was built by the Mad Engineers (again!! Top blokes!) from Contact Energy. Check out how many tyres were used to stabilize this track! It is a narrow undulating track which links from Kev's Track to Heli café. This track is beautiful in the autumn when the exotic trees are changing colour and a cool native section as well.

Tank Stand

Sponsored by Matt Jensen Insurance Brokers (MJIB)

Length: 2.29km

Direction: One way

Named after the old water tank that we use to ride past when the track was first constructed. Uphill for over 1km with two bridges (an under and an over) and then a cool downhill to The Connection. This is the main feeder track to the northern tracks (e.g. Outback, Retro) and links you to the start of Coaster (1.2km uphill) and Ground Effect Grinder (1.48km) The uphill track has just been planted in pines (2013), with the downhill section mostly in the trees.

Incline

Length: 0.74km

Direction: One way

Starts at The Connection and is all up hill, all the bloody way, but worth it to get to Coaster. You can also turn right at the first intersection near the top to link back onto Tank Stand, to head back out to the northern tracks. The first section is in the trees and last section in the open for now planted 2013.

Deb's Track

Length: 3.15km

Direction: One way

Deb's track was built by Brendon Reynolds and friends/helpers. The track is named in the memory of Debbie Jaine, a wonderful local biker who passed away while the track was being built. A big long downhill, which will keep you on your toes with a few drops and roots followed by an honest climb. Get there from the top of Ground Effect Grinder and there is an option to hook into the lower section of Mr (2.24km) or head to the top of Deb's where there are a few options, Mr and Mrs (G3) or Buzzard (G4) or Cole's Killer (G5.) Deb's was planted in pines in 2008. You can enjoy the top by taking a moment on a very sensibly placed seat.

Mr and Mrs

Sponsored by Ross Construction

Length:	Mr	1.84km
	Mrs	1.28km
	Total	3.12km

Direction: One way

The track is in two parts. The first having a small section of uphill then all downhill which is over way too soon and the second is undulating and seems to go on forever. It travels through pine forest and is a great flowing all-weather track. The track starts at the top of Ground Effect Grinder with access also from the top of Deb's uphill or Deb's mid-section. Links to Better than P and Young Pines.

Young Pines

Length: 1.67km

Direction: One way

The pines are a lot larger now. Young Pines is an undulating track with a big dipper that takes your breath away the first time you ride it. It will take you back to The Connection and links you to Better than P and Stage Left. You can get to it 3 ways, via the bottom of Buzzard, Mr and Mrs, or ride west up Karapiti Road from The Connection.

Better Than P

Length: 1.24km

Direction: One way

Built by Pete Lockwood another track making and maintaining stalwart of the park. This track travels down the middle of Young Pines and again is a great flowing track that keeps you on your toes. If you do this after Mr and Mrs you get almost 3 km of downhill. It links back into Young Pines.

Stage Left

Length: To Slalom 0.36km (bottom track) Direction: One way

Back onto Young Pines 0.35km (top track)

Is a fun side trip on the left hand side of Young Pines, you see riders above you riding along Outback track and ride past a massive old man pine, if you take the right turn you will pop back out onto Young Pines, or straight ahead to connect to Slalom, check for other riders.

Outback

Length: 7.17km Direction: One way

The name says it all, it's a journey to the Outback. It consists of a long uphill, undulating middle and a great descent, with a cool ramp over the fence (Strettons drop) watch it does catch a few riders out. An old style single track, predominately in the pines, it's a blast! The track starts at The Connection, links to Slalom to get you back to The Connection (7.72km) Take Chain Link if you want a short loop or for a longer and harder ride add Retro and Luge.

Slalom (no sign)

Length: 0.55kms Direction: One way

This is a fun track with a few dips and cool bermed corners. This track brings you back from the Luge and Outback to The Connection. Watch for horses when crossing the road.

Walter's Wiggles

Sponsored by Huka Cycles

Length: 1.64km Direction: One way

Hand built by the one and only Peter Manning (when not injured) and friends. It's named after a bloke called Walter who was driving the digger when it was originally built. It takes you from The Connection back to Tank Stand/Placemakers Nail It Home/to Craters MTB Park car park. This is the quickest and easiest way back to the Craters MTB Park car park from the northern tracks. This track was planted in pines 2013.

Grade 4 (G4) - Advanced

A mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and obstacles that are difficult to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track's outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.

Kegresse

Length: 3.65km Direction: One way

A very techie track that seems to never end and you have to wonder about the sanity of the track builders when you see the size of the blackberries. Built by Chris Morris and Eddie Edhouse (two of the Mad Engineers from Contact Energy Ltd) in the summer of 2009. The track starts from Q Line Road or across the bridge at the bottom of Bumble Bee and pops you out onto Outwards Goods.

Ground Effect Grinder

Length: 0.76km Direction: One way

Named after the Ground Effect clothing company who have helped us to build many cool tracks over the years and still do. Climbing up all the way to the highest point in the forest to Deb's Seat, it is worth it. Get to it off Tank Stand and a great choice of tracks from here such as Deb's Track, Mr and Mrs, Cole's Killer and Buzzard.

Buzzard

Length: 1.18km Direction: One way

This is one of the oldest tracks in the forest. It's an awesome downhill, with a couple of narrow boardwalks and some challenging bits to keep you on your toes. It starts at the top of Ground Effect Grinder and links you to Young Pines and creates two options to get onto Tank Stand by following Son of Buzzard or Missing Link. You will eventually come out at The Connection.

Son of Buzzard (SOB)

Length: 0.32km Direction: One way

Head down Buzzard 0.52km take the track right to SOB is a cool downhill which links you to Tank Stand, downhill section.

Missing link

Length: 0.36km Direction: One way

A short techie link track with a very cool downhill section. Links you from Buzzard to Tank Stand to pop you out at The Connection. Great on a wet day!

Retro

Length: 0.77km Direction: One way

Retro is named after the age of the guys who built it. It runs off Outback and is a honest climb to the start of Luge, narrow in places and makes your lungs and legs work. Do not use the hand grip on this one as its barbed wire. The track is in established pines so take care out there on a windy day.

Luge

Length: 1.74km Direction: One way

Great downhill needs good concentration. It's narrow so if you make a mistake, it will eat you up. Half way down is a see saw which will make you tighten up on your saddle. Check it out before you take it on. It can be easily bypassed. All in pines and access is from the top of Retro and you link to Slalom which pops out at The Connection.

Grade 5 (G5) - Expert to Extreme

Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying. Downhill/free ride specific tracks. Extremely steep sections with large drop offs and other unavoidable obstacles. May include manmade structures and jumps.

Cole's Killer

Length: 1.33km Direction: One way

Been around for a while and built by Cole Harris. The Young Engineers have just given it another makeover in 2013. Get there from the top of Ground Effect Grinder and pops you out at The Connection. It has some scary jumps and drops, these can be bypassed by the meek and mild through the chicken shots and ridden on a hard tail. The whole track is in established pines.

Punga Trails – under construction

Length: Direction: One way

Access is off Tourist Trap and not far from the Craters MTB Park car park. Some very scary jumps require riders to make sure you know what you are doing on these babies. Built and maintained by Connor Halligan and crew, awesome effort guys.

The Budda – Under construction

Length:

Direction: One way

Under construction, if you're keen to help out with this cool downhill track please contact Nigel at Phoenix Cyclery/Pack and Pedal.

Meeting points

Craters MTB Park car park

This is the main car park and has two toilets and a shelter. The shelter houses the Craters MTB Park – Wairakei Forest map.

Access the southern tracks by riding across the bridge at the shelter or through the tunnel/Placemakers Hammer it into Scragg's.

Access to the Northern tracks via the tunnel/Placemakers Hammer It/to Tank Stand. Enjoy the ride.

Managers Corner

Sponsored by NZ Forest Managers

Is the intersection of Q Line and Powerline Roads. Access is from Scragg's or Beagle Boys tracks and links to SH Fun and Tourist Trap.

Deb's Seat

At the top of Ground Effect Grinder, it is the start of Deb's Track which has a great view and a good excuse for a breather. A choice tracks of from here – Mr and Mrs (G3), Debs (G3), Buzzard (G4) and Cole Killer (G5).

The Connection

Sponsored by Avantiplus and Taupo Residential

Outback, Incline and Walter's Wiggles start from here and Tank Stand, Stage Left, Cole's Killer and Young Pines all finish here. Has a portable shelter here with the latest map thanks to Taupo Residential.

Loops

Short Loops - great for beginners and kids

1. Kids Loop

Direction: One way

From Craters MTB Park car park ride through the shelter across the bridge to Tourist Trap. Head to the top of the first hill then turn left onto Kids Track which will take you back to the start.

2. Scragg's

Direction: One way

From Craters MTB Park car park and head out through the left tunnel. Follow Scragg's then when once you have travelled thru Scragg's Tunnel head across the road to Tourist Trap which will take you back to the car park.

3. Tourist Trap/Piker

Length: 3.5km

4. **Tourist Trap/Ferret**
Length: 5.5km
5. **Tourist Trap - great for beginners**
Length: 5.91km

Medium Loops

1. **Craters Car Park/Placemakers Hammer It/Scragg's/SH Fun/Bubble Bee/BBC/Tourist Trap/ Craters MTB Park car park**
2. **Craters car park/Placemakers Hammer It/Tank Stand/Connection/Incline/Coaster/Placemakers Nail It/Craters MTB Park car park**
3. **Craters car park/Placemakers Hammer It/Tank Stand/Grinder/Mr and Mrs/Better than P/Rail/Young Pines/Incline/Coaster/Placemakers Nail It/Craters MTB Park car park**
Length: 10.09km

For a more techie ride try these loops

4. **Craters car park/Placemakers Hammer It/Squirt/SH fun to top/BBC/Kegresse/Outwards Goods/Return to Sender/Tourist Trap/ Piker/Tourist Trap/Craters MTB Park car park**
5. **Craters MTB Park car park/Placemakers Hammer It/TankStand/Connection/Outback/Retro/Luge/Slalom/ Incline/Coaster/ Placemakers Nail It/ Craters car park**
6. **From Heli café/Café track to Huka Falls/Western Bypass/Kev's Track/Junk & Disorderly back to Heli Café**
Length: 6.5km

Long Loops

1. **Aratiatia Loop from Spa Park (County drive) on to Rotary Ride/Aratiatia track/Aratiatia Dam across bridge turn left on to True Left Aratiatia Track/past entrance to Contact Lookout track/Steam Bridge turn left/ Wairakei Tourist track/ head up to Karatoto Road past Volcanic Centre/ Fergusons / Te Totara Gully/Café Track/Huka Falls/Western Bypass/Kev's/Redwoods/Rural Delivery/Acid Drop/Bungy Track/Spa Park**
2. **Craters MTB Park car park/Placemakers Hammer it/Scragg's/SH fun/BBC/ Kegresse/Outwards Goods/Return to Sender/Tourist Trap/ Piker/Tourist Trap/Craters MTB Park car park/Placemakers Hammer It/Tank Stand/Grinder/Deb's/Buzzard/Connection/Outback/Retro/Luge/Slalom/Incline/Coaster/P lacemakers Nail It/Craters MTB Park car park**