

The Ōrākei Local Board (the Board) supports increasing and promoting public access to the outdoors through walking, cycling and horse riding.

The Board adopted the Ōrākei Local Paths Plan in 2016 and continues to implement the plan to improve the open space network for walking, cycling and ecological connections. There are many key benefits to increasing walking access, including:

- Recreation
- Environmental
- Transport
- Social
- Health
- Education
- Economic.

The Board supports the role of the Walking Access Commission in overseeing the increase in public access to the outdoors, particularly for recreational, environmental and economic benefits.

The Board notes the crucial role community groups play in developing and maintaining connected public access in both rural and urban settings.

The Board supports mechanisms provided for by the Walking Access Act to community groups and private individuals in developing more public walking and cycling access, particularly when it creates options for better access to other public amenities and recreation areas.

The Board strongly supports the Walking Access easements, in particular, extending this opportunity over unformed legal roads. For example, the Board is investigating options to extend public walking and cycling access through the unformed section of Ballarat Street in Ellerslie which is widely supported by the local community.

The Board supports the investigation of an easement for a public walking and cycling route from Ōrākei Point to Judges Bay via the south side of the rail line across Hobson Bay.