

Spencer Park and Brooklands Lagoon

Picnic areas

There is plenty of space to enjoy yourself at Spencer Park, with a large sheltered picnic area with tables, shelters, a free barbecue area, children's play equipment (including wheelchair swing) and toilets. A delightful area in any season. For bookings and enquiries please phone: 03 941 8999.

Birdwatching

Brooklands Lagoon is an important wildlife area, with many species of birds recorded here. Common resident birds include oystercatcher, black-billed gull, spotted shag, white faced heron, banded dotterel and pied cormorant. There are two wildlife observation platforms and a bird hide alongside the lagoon.

Horse trekking

Horse enthusiasts have their own beach access from the horse-float carpark off Heyders Road. There is also a horse park, and two horse trails start from here. One goes alongside Brooklands Lagoon and onto Brooklands, and the other into Bottle Lake Forest.

Mountain biking

Mountain bike trails start from the picnic area at Spencer Park and connect up with Bottle Lake Forest. The Southern Pegasus Bay Track also provides excellent mountain biking along the shoreline. See the Bottle Lake Forest brochure for the full network of mountain bike trails.

Vehicle access to beach

4WD vehicles are permitted to go on the beach from Heyders Road to the Waimakariri River mouth for fishing access. Permits and key available from Spencer Park Rangers.

Sand dunes

Please keep to the marked tracks, as walking off-track can seriously damage the plants that stabilise the sand dunes.

Dogs

The beach is a great place to exercise your dog, but not between the surf club flags or near swimmers. In all other areas of Spencer Park dogs should be kept under effective control. Please remember that Brooklands Lagoon is an important bird habitat and wildlife should not be disturbed.

Adrenalin Forest

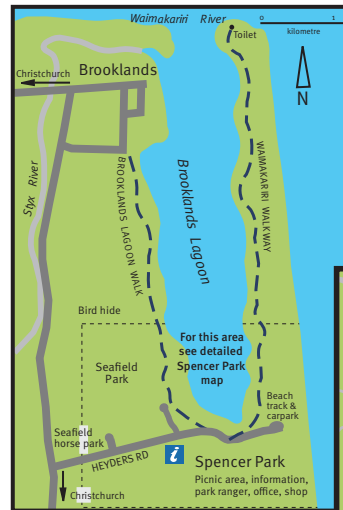
Test yourself against gravity, balance and agility on this private, commercial, multi level aerial obstacle course. Bookings phone: 03 329 8717, or email: contact@adrenalinforest.co.nz

Animal area

The animal area is home to a variety of different birds, small animals, Arapawa sheep and Kune Kune pig – great attractions for the children.

Holiday park

The Spencer Beach Holiday Park is a beautifully sheltered campground with a range of accommodation to suit all budgets. For bookings and enquiries please phone: 03 329 8721, email: spencerpark@xtra.co.nz or visit our website: www.spencerbeachholidaypark.co.nz



Kids stuff

- Sandy beach and safe swimming between the flags
- Children's play area
- Paddling pool
- Mini-golf and Tennis court
- Animal Park



Orienteering Course

Spencer Park offers four permanent graded orienteering courses. The courses are of varying degrees of difficulty to suit people of all ages and levels of fitness. A map pack can be purchased from Spencer Park Store.

Learning through Action

Rangers offer free education programmes for schools. Contact our teachers for bookings: email: learningthroughaction@ccc.govt.nz or check out the website: www.ccc.govt.nz/learningthroughaction

How to get there

Spencer Park is 14 km north-east of Christchurch, and the main access is off the Lower Styx Road and Heyders Road. Well signposted. You can catch bus 480 from the Palms bus area to Kainga. (no Sunday service) Feel free to bring your gas BBQ's, but remember the park is rubbish free. For more information on Spencer Park, and other Christchurch parks, please contact: 03 941 8999, fax: 03 941 8033 email: leisureandparks@ccc.govt.nz website: www.ccc.govt.nz/parks



Spencer Park and Brooklands Lagoon

Spencer Park is an outstanding recreational facility, and a great place for a family day trip or a weekend stay. It has sheltered picnic areas, wetland walks, animal area, children's play ground, paddling pool, bird lookout platforms, and many short and long walks. You can explore the sand dune coast on horseback, or cycle the mountain bike trails of Bottle Lake Forest. The variety of walks at Spencer Park are impressive, with short easy tracks around the Park, and longer tracks connecting to Bottle Lake Forest and the Southern Pegasus Bay Track. Some suggested walks are indicated here.

Short walks

20–40 minute walks on easy, flat terrain

Wetland Pond Circuit: 20 minutes return.

Starting from the carpark beside the pond, this is a beautiful track and boardwalk around two ponds (one seasonal) with plenty of birds to be seen. This track is wheelchair/pushchair accessible.

Beach and Surf Club Circuit: 20 minutes return.

From the beach carpark walk onto the wide sands and go south to the Surf Club building. Toilets here. An easy stroll back to the carpark.

Brooklands Lagoon Bird Hide: 40 minutes return.

Start from the picnic area beside the animal park, follow the track along Brooklands Lagoon to the bird hide. Great views of the lagoon.

Longer walks

3–4 hours, suiting the well-equipped

Waimakariri River Mouth and Spit: 3–4 hours return.

From the beach carpark the Waimakariri Track wanders between Brooklands Lagoon and the beach. At several points you can go onto the beach and return back to the carpark.

Southern Pegasus Bay Track to Broad Park:

3–4 hours return.

A popular multi-use track, it starts from the surf club carpark and follows through sand dunes and trees to Broad Park at North Shore. At several places you can cut onto the beach and return on the shoreline. Broad Park has toilets.

Brooklands Lagoon and Seafield Park: 3–4 hours return.

From the animal area, the track follows Brooklands Lagoon to a bird hide, and then onto Brooklands itself. Good views over the lagoon, with plenty of wildlife to be spotted.

