Freedom Camping in the Manawatū District



The Country Road Scenic Routes



Londons Ford, Kimbolton



Hīmatangi Beach



The Manawatū District Council team is available by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Contact Us

If you notice something that requires attention, or wish to provide feedback on your visit, please contact us on 06 323 0000, email public@mdc.govt.nz or use the Antenno app.

In an emergency, always call 111 first.





Freedom Camping

Discover Freedom Camping in the Manawatū District

From rugged hills to the sandy coastline, the Manawatū District offers a range of places to freedom camp under the stars.

Freedom Camping Bylaw

Freedom camping is permitted in designated areas of the Manawatū District, in line with the Manawatū District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw. The bylaw sets out where you can camp and the conditions to follow to help protect our natural spaces.

Amenities

Each camping location within the Manawatū District offers its own range of amenities from picnic areas and public toilets to sports fields and river access. Campers can plan their journey based on the facilities and experiences that suit them best.

While dogs are an important part of many families, not all sites are dog-friendly, so it's important to check before you go.

Planning Your Trip

To assist with your planning, the interactive District camping map shows the camping locations, identifies whether each is a paid or freedom camping site, and outlines what is permitted at each. Freedom camping sites are a first come first served basis.



For full details, including maps, site information, and to start planning your trip, scan the QR code above or visit:

www.mdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping

Things To Keep In Mind

We want everyone to enjoy their time and stay safe while exploring the Manawatū District. Some camping areas have limited or no internet connectivity which is part of their natural charm, but something to be prepared for.

Before you travel, make sure you know your route, understand local conditions, and are familiar with basic safety practices in rural and coastal environments.

Rivers and Water Safety

The Manawatū and Rangitīkei Rivers flow through much of our District, offering some truly beautiful spots for swimming, picnicking, and relaxing by the water.

However, like all natural waterways, they can pose risks. These rivers are fed by hundreds of sources, which means water levels can rise quickly, even when it's calm and clear where you are.

Please stay alert to changing conditions and keep an eye on weather updates before and during your visit. MetService is the official weather source monitored by the Manawatū District Council's Civil Defence team.



Scan the QR code or visit www.metservice.com

Civil Defence Information

The Manawatū District is part of the Horizons Regional Council Civil Defence network, meaning our emergency response is managed as a coordinated regional effort.

In the event of an emergency, the best way to stay informed is through the official Civil Defence Manawatū-Whanganui Facebook page.



Scan the QR code to follow and monitor this channel for real-time updates and instructions.



Antenno is a free Council app that keeps you updated with local news, alerts, and community information. It's free to download and does not require a login or password. Your own local Council might also use the app!

While you're in the Manawatū District, you may wish to download Antenno to receive real-time notifications about important updates, including road closures, weather alerts, or local events.



For more information scan the QR code or visit: www.mdc.govt.nz/antenno







