

Media release

15 February 2021

Popular South Auckland track re-opens.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is set to re-open a popular South Auckland walking track, Mount William trackway.

The track is open to public from Monday 15 February and will feature a number of improvements immediately noticeable to regular users.

Located south of Bombay and near the Hunua Ranges, the track was closed in November for maintenance of the track surface and the walking bridge.

DOC Works Officer, Vicky Cheng says: “The project included the upgrade of 1km of the track; involving laying aggregate on the track, building boxing steps and edge boards, it also saw a 32-year-old bridge being replaced featuring safety ramps at both sides. Lumen Track products that illuminate in the dark are attached to the bridge structure to provide a safe guidance for the trampers.”

The popular walkway is divided into two parts - a day visitor section and backcountry section - and has an estimate of 11,000 visitors per year. The number of visitors is forecasted to increase significantly because of a new residential development south of the Bombay Hills and the closure of ten neighbouring tracks under Auckland Council, due to kauri dieback.

DOC Senior Ranger, Stefan Sebregts says: “Because of the predicted increase in visitor numbers it was important we make this track safe and reliable for people to enjoy.

“The maintenance project was a fast process, and we were able to re-open in four months ready for people to get out into nature.”

The track was opened temporarily during the Christmas holiday period when local trampers said they could not wait to see the new track and experience it for themselves.

Vicky Cheng says: “The project was completed ahead of time and within budget, and we are excited to see local communities and tourists experience the new track and get active in a natural environment.”

Mount William track is suggested for experienced walkers and dogs are strictly prohibited. For more information please visit here: [Mount William Walkway: Mount William area, Auckland region \(doc.govt.nz\)](https://www.doc.govt.nz/locations/south-auckland/mount-william-walkway/)

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