

Instructions for Malcolm St – Riverlea Rd walk, November 2012

This is a relaxed walk of about an hour, but may take longer if you choose to stop and inspect the second-hand shop in Riverlea Rd! There are several options for the return journey, all of which are easy to follow.

Park in Howell Avenue and meet at the junction of Howell and Johnsview.

Proceed to your right along Howell Ave, go down Louise Place and turn right into Malcolm St.

Go along Malcolm Street and at its T-junction, turn right and head down to the entrance to the river pathway.

Follow the river path along the concrete walkway. It enters Hammond Park part way along – there is an entrance with a sign explaining the significance of the area and the remnant native bush area it contains – famous for native bats and swamp maire.

Part way along, a path takes off to the left from the boardwalk. We will follow this up to Hudson St and come back down again to the main boardwalk.

The path goes through an open flat area of grass and a gravelled path heads upwards towards Riverlea Rd.

At the top of the rise the path divides. The section leading to the left emerges just opposite Riverlea Theatre, but we will take the branch leading to the right, which emerges at the cul-de-sac end of Riverlea Rd. We will walk back round the road, on the way passing one of Hamilton's few second hand shops at number 93A – feel free to take time to browse there. It is run by a couple who have used it as an opportunity to get two young men off the dole and learning useful skills in the repair and maintenance of all sorts of household gear. They also do inorganic rubbish collections in most suburbs of Hamilton throughout the year.

The footpath leads back round to the Riverlea Theatre. At this point you can choose to do either the short and scenic return to our starting point, or the slightly longer route by road. The scenic route starts just across the road from the theatre and starts with the short path that we didn't take on the way up. It rejoins the gravelled riverbank walkway at the top of the hill, and the return journey is a relaxed 15 to 20 minutes back along the original route, up Malcolm St, along Louise Place and into Howell Avenue.

If you would like a slightly longer return journey, continue on past the Riverlea Theatre on Riverlea Rd and turn left into Hudson St. At the bottom of the dip in Hudson St you can choose to take the path we explored on the way through, which will reconnect to the main riverbank path. Alternatively, you can continue up Hudson St, which will emerge directly into Howell Ave very close to the intersection with Johnsview Tce, or you can take a right turn into Chesterman Rd, which also emerges on Howell Ave a little further along from our starting point. A final option is to follow Riverlea Rd itself back to Cambridge Rd and follow Cambridge Rd back to the intersection with Howell Ave. This is probably the noisiest route, as it follows a main road for part of the time.