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## Olympic Park Recreational Reserve

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### Draft Reserve Management Plan

This document is a Management Plan for the Olympic Park Reserve within Waitakere and Auckland Cities. The Plan has been developed as a guide for the protection, use and development of the Reserve, with an emphasis on managing its organised and informal recreation while recognising its cultural heritage and ecological rehabilitation opportunities.

The project team is appreciative of the interest shown by the users of the park and the residents Waitakere City throughout the development of this Management Plan and thanks all those who took the time to be involved.

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For

Waitakere City Council

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## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Part One</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.0 Context</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Olympic Park	2
1.2 Purpose of the Reserve Management Plan	2
1.3 The Management Plan Process	2
1.4 How to Use this Management Plan	4
<b>2.0 Statutory Requirements</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Reserves Act 1977	4
2.2 Resource Management Act 1991	4
2.3 Historic Places Act 1993	5
2.4 Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal	5
2.5 District Plans	5
<b>3.0 Titles and Administration</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.0 Strategic Context</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Greenprint	6
4.2 Green Network	6
4.3 Parks Strategy	7
4.4 Weed Strategy	8
4.5 Leisure Strategy	8
4.6 Te Kawerau A Maki Trust Resource Management Statement	8
4.7 Ngati Whatua	8
<b>5.0 Reserve Value Descriptions</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 History of Reserve	9
5.2 Natural Environment	12
5.3 Offsite Relationships and Views	13
5.4 Site Use	13
5.5 Community Buildings and Leases	15
<b>Part Two</b>	
<b>Objectives and Policies</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Part Three</b>	
<b>Concept Plan</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Design Guidelines</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Reference Material Consulted</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	
Summary of Submissions	
<b>Appendix 2</b>	
Leases	

# DRAFT

## PART ONE :

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### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

#### Summary

Olympic Park's principal purpose is to provide an integrated mix of organised sport and informal and passive recreation opportunities to attract local users, while enhancing the natural processes in the park in accordance with Waitakere City Council's Green Network Strategy.

This purpose recognises the historical sports and formal recreation uses of the park, while acknowledging the potential for the park to contribute to Waitakere City's green network strategy. Currently the main issue for the Park is the potential over development of the site in order to maintain a balance between formal recreation and informal recreation activities, while encouraging ecological rehabilitation. Parts of the reserve currently have, low amenity levels and personal safety issues.

This Management Plan offers an opportunity to outline a vision for the future of Olympic Park. The Concept Plan illustrates how this vision will enhance the parks amenity while allowing for continued recreation use.

**Key objectives of the draft Reserve Management Plan are outlined below:**

- To continue to allow use of the Park for organised and self-directed sport in a way that helps achieve the other objectives;
- To improve the amenity of the Park in order to make the reserve attractive and enhance its use for sports and informal recreation;
- To enhance the Park's environmental values through the establishment of Green Network corridors;
- To provide appropriate Council management for the Park to enable enjoyment of the City's asset by the local and regional community, both now and in the future;
- To ensure that the use and enhancement of the Park recognises and allows for the existing infrastructure and its unique environment.

# DRAFT

## 1.0 Context

### 1.1 Olympic Park

Olympic Park is a 7 hectare recreational reserve in New Lynn, Waitakere City. The park was established in 1918 as the New Lynn Domain, and was originally 2.8 ha in size. Additional property lots have been progressively added to the park during the last 70 years, the most recent addition being the Wolverton Land, originally a landfill adjacent to the park.

The park has a strong sporting history, and is currently the venue for a number of sports clubs, including athletics, soccer, gymnastics, indoor bowls and the Waitakere City 'Trusts' Brass Band. Cycling and athletics have been a major focus at Olympic Park since the late thirties. The Lynndale Athletics Club which is based at the park has produced a number of Olympic athletes.

It is considered that, the main issue for the Park is the potential over development of the site in order to maintain a balance between formal recreation and informal recreation activities, while encouraging ecological rehabilitation. Parts of the reserve currently have, low amenity levels and personal safety issues.

Other specific issues include:

- Olympic Park's role as a gateway to the city because it is located on the boundary of Waitakere and Auckland Cities;
- Development of the Wolverton Land and the integration of this area with the original Olympic Park; and
- There is potential to increase the ecological and environmental value of the reserve;

This Management Plan offers an opportunity to outline a vision for the future of Olympic Park. The Concept Plan illustrates how this vision will enhance the parks amenity while allowing for continued recreation use.

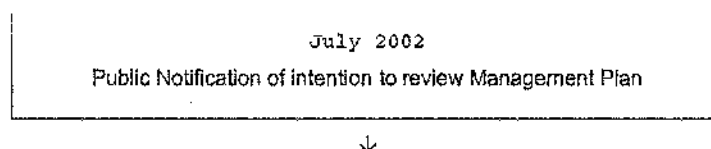
### 1.2 Purpose of the Reserve Management Plan

The aim of the Management Plan for Olympic Park is to provide for an integrated mix of organised sport, informal and passive recreation, and educative opportunities to attract local users, while enhancing natural environmental processes in the park in accordance with Waitakere City Council's Green Network Strategy.

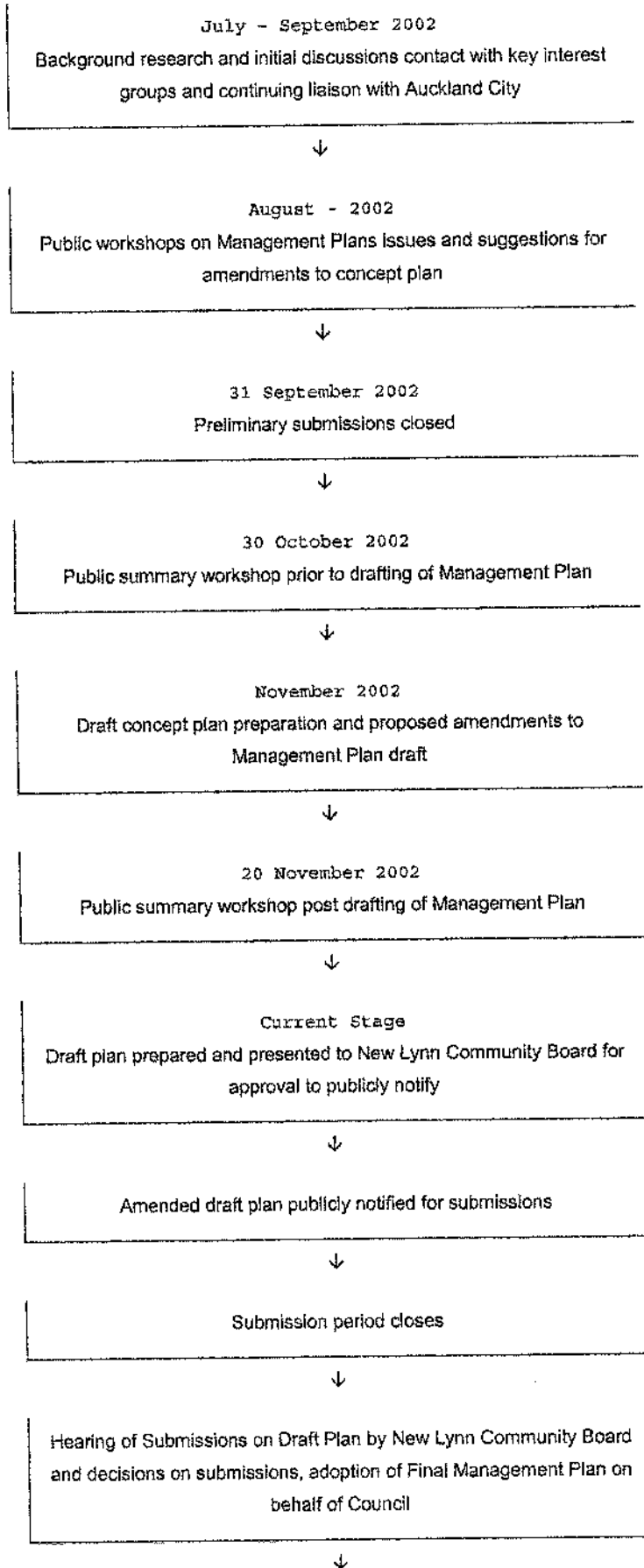
This Reserve Management Plan provides a framework for carrying out the future management of the Reserve in an integrated way. It sets out governing principles for management that can be readily understood by those whose actions or interests will be affected by the Plan. This Plan has also been created within the context of Council's Parks Strategy and Greenprint.

### 1.3 The Management Plan Process

The production of this plan was in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, and included public consultation. The steps involved in this process are shown below:



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Plan kept under continual review by Waitakere City

## 1.4 How to Use this Management Plan

This Management Plan (the Plan) is in three parts. Part One provides an introduction to the Reserve, its context and an explanation of the statutory nature and process of the Management Plan.

Part Two provides a background to and an outline of the issues associated with particular policy categories within the Plan and then outlines policy and implementation for each.

Part Three consists of the Concept Plan which has been developed for the Reserve.

## 2.0 Statutory Requirements

### 2.1 Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that every Reserve has a Management Plan. Once adopted, the plan is subject to continuous review to take account of changing circumstances or increased knowledge about the Reserve. The review process is outlined in the Reserves Act and provides for public notification and submissions.

The intention of a Management Plan is to:

*"provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, protection and preservation, as the case may require and to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the Reserve for the purposes for which it was classified."*

Olympic Park has been classified as a 'Recreation Reserve' under the provisions of the Reserves Act.

### 2.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is to:

*"Promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources..."*

Issues which are considered to be of national importance in the RMA are:

- a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development;
- b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development;
- c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
- d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers;
- e) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

# DRAFT

## 2.3 Historic Places Act 1993

Under Section 10 of the Historic Places Act 1993, all archaeological sites, whether recorded or not, are protected and may not be destroyed, damaged or modified without authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Considering the cultural history of the area it is likely that the site contains unknown cultural and archaeological sites, however, many of these could have been destroyed previously as a result of the Taylor Street Landfill.

## 2.4 Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal

Section 63(2) of the RMA states that the purpose of the preparation, implementation and administration of regional coastal plans is to assist a regional council, in conjunction with the Minister of Conservation, to achieve the purpose of the RMA in relation to the coastal marine area of the Auckland Region.

The Plan identifies areas of significant conservation value within the greater Auckland Region, which are classified as Coastal Protection areas (CPA). The Whau River that adjoins Olympic Park at the confluence of the Avondale Stream is identified as CPA 54, containing

*"substantial quantities of saline vegetation. There are around 40 ha of mangroves with the taller trees growing in the lower intertidal areas and mangroves of smaller stature growing in the firmer high intertidal regions. These in turn grade into fringe of saltmarsh lining the coast. The saline vegetation is an important habitat for threaten secretive coastal fringe birds particularly where it abuts terrestrial vegetation which provides roasts for the birds at high tide and potential nesting sites"* (Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal, Schedule 3).

## 2.5 District Plans

Both the Proposed Waitakere City District Plan and the Operative Auckland City District Plan: Isthmus Section apply to Olympic Park. The Avondale Stream that runs north south in approximately the centre of the park divides the jurisdiction of the two district plans.

### 2.5.1 Waitakere City

The Proposed Waitakere City District Plan identifies Waitakere City's parks as Open Space Environments, overlain by the Natural Area characteristics of those parklands. Areas of natural vegetation, wildlife habitat and potential habitat (Restoration Areas) are part of a 'Green Network' that are afforded special protection under the policies and rules of the District Plan. The western portion of Olympic Park is zoned Open Space Environment with acknowledgement of the two high voltage electricity lines (over 33 kV). In addition the western margin of the Avondale Stream has been recognised as having ecological linkage opportunities.

### 2.5.2 Auckland City

The Operative Auckland City District Plan: Isthmus Section identifies parks as Open Space Zones. There are five Open Space Zones, conservation, informal recreational, organised recreation, community, and leisure complexes. Additional limitation zoning is also applied to properties to manage land use and environmental effects specific to each site.

Under the provisions of the Operative Auckland City District Plan: Isthmus Section, the eastern portion of Olympic Park (Wolverton Land) is zoned Open Space 2 – Informal Recreation. Additional limitations apply to the site. A designation for a proposed public reserve, Wolverton Street Estuary, applies to the eastern margin of the Avondale River, and a significant portion of the site is identified as a Coastal Management Area.

# DRAFT

District Plan rules are used to manage effects of activities on surrounding areas, in particular, noise, lighting, traffic movements and the placement of structures at the boundary, together with effects on the natural environment with regard to earthworks, vegetation clearance and impermeable surfaces.

This Reserve Management Plan will be used to manage effects on Olympic Park. It also provides detailed management and planning for the placement of any buildings, paths and active play areas in relation to the specific qualities of the park.

## 3.0 Titles and Administration

Olympic Park comprises 7.0561 ha owned in fee simple by Waitakere City Council. Titles are listed in Appendix 2.

Olympic Park encompasses three former reserves:

- New Lynn Domain;
- Olympic Park; and
- Wolverton Land.

Part of the Wolverton Land is owned by Auckland City Council. This comprises Lots 81, 82, 83, 84 Section 2 Town of Whau. In addition, an unformed cul-de-sac area is owned by Auckland City Council.

Olympic Park is classified 'Recreation Reserve' in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, and the classification is notified in the N.Z Gazette. The classification dates are listed in Appendix 2.

The park is administered by the Waitakere City Council Parks Section.

## 4.0 Strategic Context

Waitakere City Council has a policy framework under which the Management Plan has been prepared.

### 4.1 Greenprint

This document contains the overall strategic framework within which Waitakere City operates. The Greenprint identifies key changes and actions required for Waitakere to become an eco-city and targets a number of key focus areas to realise this vision. These are :-

- Communities;
- City form and design;
- Transport and communication;
- Economic development;
- Taonga;
- City well-being; and
- Energy, resources and waste.

### 4.2 Green Network

The objective of the Council's Green Network is to link existing open space, streams and bush remnants into an ecologically continuous, vegetated, green network extending from the ranges, along the stream and road networks

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and across open spaces to the sea. Within this corridor, which includes both private and public land, the full natural progression of coastal to mountain vegetation, habitats and processes is able to take place.

The Green Network will be used:

- To protect significant natural vegetation and wildlife habitats;
- To develop ecological corridors which will allow for the movement of wildlife, and the slow migration of plants;
- To protect significant landforms;
- To protect water quality in streams and waterways bordered by the network;
- To make the city a more attractive place visually;
- Potentially to service households and business needs;
- As a flood protection tool;
- To provide public access to and along the coast, streams, lakes and other waterways;
- To help integrate the City's natural and urban environments; and
- To help create a new city form ... separated by the Green Network but also linked by means of walkways and cycle ways.

The Wolverton Land including the Avondale Stream, has the potential to reinforce ecological linkages and the City's green network. This is particularly relevant in the context of Olympic Park's role in providing for the Historical Whau Portage Route Walkway.

## 4.3 Parks Strategy

The Council's Parks Strategy provides a framework for the management of parks within the city. Ten detailed objectives of open space in the city have been developed. The objectives set out a programme for the change and improvement of open space areas within the city. The objectives are:

1. Increase the use and enjoyment of parks;
2. Extend and improve the City's natural ecosystems;
3. Increase the opportunities for people to enjoy nature in parks;
4. Parks are managed sustainability as part of the wider landscape;
5. Improve the use, range and quality of sports facilities within the City;
6. Protect the heritage values within the parks and increase the awareness of the local area's heritage;
7. To provide quality local and neighbourhood parks that are within walking distance throughout the City;
8. To provide in partnership with Iwi, and where relevant, the wider Maori community, the protection of waahi tapu and sites of significance found on parks;
9. Involve communities in the design and management of parks; and
10. To improve the management and administration of parks.

# DRAFT

City Wide Parks are seen as the key method of meeting the needs of Waitakere City in the future. Olympic Park is classed as a City Wide Park and is seen as providing a unique recreational and potential ecological function within the wider City Wide Parks network.

## 4.4 Weed Strategy

The goal of the WCC Weed Strategy is the "Protection of the quality, resilience, biodiversity and ecological integrity of Waitakere City's natural habitat from the impacts of environmental weeds".

The Strategy directs Council's approach to the management of environmental weeds. It describes Council's long term goals and objectives, and provides a framework to guide the Council in carrying out its roles and responsibilities with regard to identifying, prioritising and managing weed impacts.

## 4.5 Leisure Strategy

This document outlines the Council's goals for improving leisure opportunities in Waitakere in the future. The Council aims to improve the happiness and health of the City's people and communities by promoting:

- The enjoyment of life and leisure time that comes from taking part in fun activities which build self-confidence, skills, physical health or fitness;
- Opportunities for outdoor recreation in our abundant green natural settings; and
- A sense of belonging, 'community' and City identity.

The Strategy offers the following guidelines as a way of achieving the goals:

- Diversify leisure services to focus and improve provision for different groups and communities;
- Improve natural amenity by building on the unique 'green' and 'blue' images of Waitakere City; and
- Develop community focal points near where people live and shop, with an atmosphere of enjoyment and availability of low-cost casual leisure activities.

## 4.6 Te Kawerau A Maki Trust Resource Management Statement

The Resource Management Statement outlines the concerns and goals of the Kawerau a Maki Trust with regard to the sustainable management of the Taonga within the tribal area of Te Kawerau A Maki. Resource management issues are addressed by the Kawerau A Maki Trust within the context of achieving a balance between:

- The maintenance of spiritual and cultural values,
- Environmental and heritage protection and enhancement, and
- Social and economic development.

## 4.7 Ngati Whatua o Orakei Maori Trust

Ngati Whatua exercises kaitiakitanga over the material and non-material resources of their tribal area through their relationship with Council (see section 6 RMA). Ngati Whatua customary rights are sourced in the continued occupation and use of resources within this area. Implicit in the Maori resource management principle (kaitiakitanga) is reciprocity. Tangata Whenua are therefore obligated to protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the