

# PART ONE:

## INTRODUCTION

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## AND BACKGROUND

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Te Atatu Peninsula Park

Te Atatu Peninsula Park is located off Matipo Road, Taikaka Road and Neil Avenue on the western side of Te Atatu Peninsula. Map 1 illustrates the location of Te Atatu Peninsula Park.

Te Atatu Peninsula Park is a Citywide Park and as such, benefits not only the local community but also the wider Waitakere area. The Park is extensively utilised for both summer and winter sports codes and demand on such space is increasing.

Te Atatu Peninsula Park is located within an urban residential context and forms an integral component of the wider neighbourhood reserve network. The Park is also near five different schools located within Te Atatu Peninsula, these being Matipo School, Peninsula Primary School, Te Atatu Intermediate, Rutherford College, and Rutherford Primary School.

The Park provides a range of facilities for the community including sports fields (used by a number of codes and sports clubs including Touch Waitakere, Waitakere Cricket, and Te Atatu Soccer), clubrooms, Trees for Babies, open passive space, a playground, carparking areas and public toilets.

This Reserve Management Plan will set out the Objectives and Policies for the management of Te Atatu Peninsula Park. The Plan has been produced within the framework of the Waitakere City Council Parks and Open Space Strategy.

### 1.2 Key Objectives and Policies

The following is a summary of the key Objectives and Policies for the Te Atatu Peninsula Park Draft Management Plan. The Objectives and Policies are more fully detailed in Part Two, Section 7.

#### **Objective 1**

To provide for and enhance the continued use and enjoyment of the Park by a range of City wide uses.

#### **Objective 2**

To ensure that the management and administration of Te Atatu Peninsula Park provides maximum benefit to the sporting codes.

#### **Objective 3**

To maintain and improve the vegetative structure of the Park to provide a more pleasant amenity for users.

#### **Objective 4**

To maximise the amount of on site car parking without compromising the recreation and amenity value of the park.



*View of Cricket Block on Park*

### 1.3 The Purpose of the Reserve Management Plan

The intention of the 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 of which it is classified.” Reserves Act 1977.*

### 1.4 How to use this Reserve Management Plan

This Management Plan is in three parts as outlined below:

Part 1 - contains the statutory nature and process involved in creating a Reserve Management Plan.

Part 2 - sets out a site analysis and description of the public consultation that was undertaken and includes a summary of submissions that were received as part of the consultation process. This part of the Plan also includes its Objectives and Policies, which in part have been based upon consideration of the submissions received.

Part 3 - consists of a Concept Plan that has been developed for Te Atatu Peninsula Park. The Concept Plan illustrates at a conceptual level what can be implemented and also contains a register of proposed works.

### 1.5 The Reserve Management Plan Process

Under Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, there are certain criteria and steps that must be undertaken before a Management Plan is created and adopted. The steps taken for this Plan are outlined below:

#### **December 2004**

City Development Committee approve proposal to

prepare and publicly notify Management Plan for Te Atatu Peninsula Park.

#### **February 2005**

Public notification of intention to prepare Management Plan. Submissions called for.

#### **January/February 2005**

Background research and initial discussions and contact with interest groups. Issues identified and evaluated and included in Draft Plan.

#### **March/April 2005**

Public Workshops/ Open Days on Management Plan issues and suggestions.

#### **April 2005**

Preliminary public submissions close.

#### **May/July 2005**

Preparation of Draft Management Plan.

#### **September 2005**

Advisory Board meeting held to determine content of Draft Plan and discuss issues.

#### **October 2005**

City Development Committee approve Draft Plan to be publicly notified for submissions for a two month submission period.

#### **December 2005**

Public submissions on Draft Plan to close.

#### **June 2006**

Hearing of submissions on Draft Plan by City Development Committee and decisions on submissions.

#### **July 2006**

Modification of Plan according to decisions and adoption of final Management Plan on behalf of Council.

#### **2006-beyond**

Plan kept under continual review by Waitakere City Council.



Map one location of Te Atatu Peninsula Park

## 2.0 STATUTORY AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### 2.1 The Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that every reserve has a Management Plan. The Council is currently undergoing a systematic programme of preparing these plans for all of its reserves. The process has been outlined in Section 1.4 of this Plan.

The purpose of the Reserves Act 1977 is set out as follows:

"Providing, for the preservation and management for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing:

- Recreational use or potential, whether active or passive; or
- Wildlife; or
- Indigenous Flora or Fauna; or
- Environmental and landscape amenity or interest; or
- Natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, or other special features or value.

The development and management of the Reserve should strive to achieve the purpose of the Reserves Act 1977.

### 2.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of this Act is to:

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

"Sustainable management" means managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which

enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.

As is the case for freehold land, the Resource Management Act 1991 also applies to the management of reserve land. The application of this Act is generally through the requirement under the District Plan to obtain resource consents for certain works to be undertaken.

### 2.3 Waitakere City Council Operative District Plan 2003

The Waitakere City Council's District Plan (the 'District Plan') is an instrument that is used everyday to guide and provide for development within the territorial authority's boundaries and to implement the Resource Management Act 1991. The District Plan provides zonings for various parts of the City. Te Atatu Peninsula Park is zoned Open Space for the Human Environment and General for the Natural Environment. Within each of the zones of the District Plan, certain activities and works are permitted and are listed in the District Plan. Any activity that is not permitted under the District Plan requires resource consent from the Council. This may include additions to buildings or the creation of sports fields. The resource consent process is used to assess the adverse effects on the environment and to avoid or mitigate these where possible.

### 2.4 Waitakere City Council draft Parks and Open Space Strategy

Waitakere City Council adopted a Parks Strategy in April 1999. At the time of this Management Plan being adopted this strategy is being reviewed. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide an overall framework for the management of all parks within Waitakere. The Strategy sets out a vision for the City's Parks, which has six elements. These are as follows:

Native ecosystems extend through all parks, and often connect to provide corridors for wildlife and people.

A network of City-wide parks are located throughout the City, with each one providing a variety of attractive settings for recreation.

At least one of each type of the City's different types of ecosystems are protected within the parks network.

Residents have easy access to neighbourhood and local parks where they can readily experience nature and play informal sports.

Local communities, Iwi and ethnic groups are actively involved in the design and management of parks.

In town centres where people live much closer together, there are plenty of green spaces, tree lined streets and vibrant civic places.

The document sets out Objectives and Policies for achieving this vision. It identifies parks that are suitable for improvement throughout the City and looks at an array of issues.

The objectives of the document as outlined below:

Increase the use and enjoyment of parks.

Extend and improve the City's natural ecosystems.

Increase the opportunities for people to enjoy nature in parks.

Parks are managed sustainably as part of the wider landscape.

Improve the use, range and quality of sports facilities within the City.

Protect the heritage values within parks and increase the awareness of the local area's heritage.

To provide quality local and neighbourhood parks that are within walking distance

throughout the City.

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.

To improve the management and administration of parks.

The Strategy identifies Te Atatu Peninsula Park as a City-wide park

City-wide parks are identified as large individual reserves or groups of reserves that combine to provide significant areas of open space, and a variety of landscapes and recreational opportunities.

The Strategy sets out a range of standards that a reserve is required to satisfy in order to qualify as a City-wide park. We have set out below how Te Atatu Peninsula Park compares to these standards.

Standard	Te Atatu Peninsula Park
Includes a flat, well-drained area of at least 5000m <sup>2</sup> for casual recreation.	8.3386 ha of flat land provided.
Road frontage is at least 100m, on two or more roads and has bollards or other suitable barriers.	Presently two road frontages at 31 and 33 metres.
Includes changing rooms and toilets where there are no club facilities.	Club facilities provided and also public toilets.
Includes play facilities for older children e.g. halfcourt, skate ramp.	None at present.

Independent offstreet carpark appropriate for type and level of usage.	Neil Ave carpark.
Comprehensive playground suitable for ages 3-12.	Suitable playground facilities are located at the park.
All weather internal path network linking accessways, playground and other facilities.	Limited path network.
Buildings are designed to integrate with the surrounding environment.	Buildings are in keeping with present surrounding built environment.

It is noted that the Parks Strategy is currently being rewritten.

## 2.5 Draft Leisure Strategy

The Waitakere City Council Draft Leisure Strategy is a companion document to the Waitakere Parks and Open Space Strategy. The Strategy focuses on leisure facilities such as playgrounds, courts, skate parks, cycle tracks, sports surfaces and larger built facilities. The focus is on how these assets are used by the community to achieve leisure objectives.

The Strategy 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, and 'community' and City identity.

The Strategy offers these 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.

Develop community focal points near where people live and shop, with an atmosphere of enjoyment and availability of low-cost casual leisure activities.

## 3.0 TE ATATU PENINSULA

### 3.1 Physical

Te Atatu Peninsula is part of the Waitakeres Henderson Ward, which covers the areas of Te Atatu South, Te Atatu Peninsula, Henderson and Glendene.

Te Atatu Peninsula Park is located within an urban residential area and between several other reserves on the peninsula. Taipari Strand (on the edge of Henderson Creek) and Harbour View Reserve (on the edge of Waitemata Harbour) are two larger reserves in the area.

### 3.2 Demographic

The population of the Henderson ward at the 2001 Census was 40,086, with a projected population of 42,700 by the year 2002. Henderson is the slowest growing of all the wards in Waitakere City, with the population growing by 16% over a 10 year period. The Henderson ward has a high percentage of young people, with over one third (36%) of its residents under the age of 24.2 The census also reveals that nearly half of all families in the ward are couples with children.

Maori and Pacific Island people make up fifteen percent each of the Henderson Ward with Asian ethnicity making up twelve percent. The remaining population identifies themselves as New Zealand European.

### 3.3 Cultural Heritage and History

#### Maori Heritage and Archaeological Sites

The first peoples of the Auckland region were the Patupaiarehe or Turehu (the people “who arose from the Earth”, human in appearance with reddish hair, fair skin, musical voices and superhuman abilities. All tribes of the region today claim descent from the Turehu. The land between the west coast, Waitemata and Manukau Harbours and the Whau portage has seen more than a thousand years of Maori occupation and use. The Auckland Isthmus experienced many waves of Polynesian migration over the millennium with each new group to the area finding existing tribes within whom they would eventually mix.

The Kawerau A Maki have been a distinct tribal entity since the early 1600’s when their ancestor Maki and his people settled in the Waitakere area. However they have ancestral links with people occupying the area at least as early as the 14th century. Toi te Huatahi, an ancestor of Kawerau, was said to have visited Waitakere and some of his people settled in the area. From his niece Pare-ira comes the name Waiapeira or in full “Wai o pareira”. Ngati Whatua also have links to West Auckland. They established themselves on the Auckland Isthmus in the mid 17th century after defeating the Waiohua peoples under the leadership of Rangatira Tuperiri and Te Wahaakiaki. Due to the important marriages between themselves and Te Kawerau, the latter were left in peace in the Waitakere ranges and west Auckland.

The Ngapuhi excursions in the 1820’s had a severe effect on both Te Kawerau and Ngati Whatua and much of the Isthmus was abandoned until the 1830s when they returned under the protection of Te Wherowhero.

Maori settlement in west Auckland was largely based around the coast and the redhills soils that were suitable for growing kumara. Fishing and resource gathering settlements were numerous along the coastal edges. The harbours and adjacent land were used extensively, particularly during the summer months, for fishing camps

and the collection of resources from the forests and coasts, including timber, birds and plant fibres. The Whau Portage, Riverhead Portage, the Kaipara to Whau walking track and the Te Henga to Whau walking track formed the backbone of a comprehensive communications network through west Auckland.

Archaeological evidence shows a clear pattern of site distribution, with settlement particularly focussed on headlands jutting out into the harbour and at the entrance to major estuaries or creeks. These locations provided easy access to the harbour and inland sites, easy canoe landings, fresh water and land suitable for seasonal gardens and would have been visited year after year to keep the gardens and maintain fishing rights.

By the 1850’s, the Crown had purchased the Waitakere land east of the main ridge and, following the purchase of the land west of the ridge in 1854, the remaining Kawerau people were reduced to living in ‘Native Reserves’ near the west coast.

Ngati Whatua, who had occupied their Karangahape Pa at Cornwallis up until 1837, moved to their Orakei settlement as their estate was also rapidly alienated. Despite this, some traditional patterns of settlement continued well into the 20th century. There are records of local Maori who lived on campsites along the banks of the Taimata Creek (Te Atatu) and grew potatoes, kumara and other vegetables and dug kauri gum for a living. The ARC Cultural Heritage Inventory lists an archaeological site that is a shell midden, hidden and partly eroded, in Henderson Creek Esplanade Reserve below Waitakere Stadium. The following is the Heritage report as received from Te Kawerau a Maki which is included in its entirety as received.

#### TE KAWERAU A MAKI HERITAGE ISSUES

The Maori place names of the Upper Waitemata foreshore and its environs reflect the area’s thousand-year history of human occupation. This area is well known by the iwi of Te Kawerau A Maki as Te Wairoa O Kahu or ‘the long stretch of water of Kahu’. This and many other names

not only describe the topography of the land, its natural resources and their usage, but they also commemorate specific ancestors, events and traditions. To those familiar with them and their historical associations, these names are landmarks that act as a constant reminder of the past. They act as tohu or symbols providing proof of traditional ownership to Te Kawerau A Maki people today, just as they did to their ancestors before them. Landmarks and their names are central to the identity of all Maori tribal groups. This is certainly the case with Te Kawerau A Maki, who continue to use the more famous place names in whaikorero or traditional speechmaking to establish their identity and to express their emotional ties with their ancestral home. This identity is expressed in the following pepeha:

Ko Puketotara te maunga  
Ko Waitakere te awa  
Ko Te Au o Te Whenua te tangata  
Ko Te Kawerau a Maki te iwi  
Puketotara is the mountain  
Waitakere is the river  
Te Au o Te Whenua is the person  
Te kawerau a maki is the tribe

Outlined below is a list of those wahi tapu in and around Te Atatu Peninsula Park that have a significant connection with Te Kawerau A Maki. The list identifies traditional names and some of the history associated with the name, however it must be noted that traditional Te Kawerau A Maki boundaries significantly differ to how the English 'grid-system' is viewed and used today. In this regard, some of the wahi tapu may extend beyond the boundary of the Harbourview site.

#### ORUKUWAI

Orukuwai or 'Te Rohe O Rukuwai' literally translated means 'the region of Rukuwai'. Rukuwai is an ancestor of Te Kawerau A Maki. The particular area for which Rukuwai was known is at the furthest point of the Te Atatu Peninsula.

#### ORANGIHINA

Te Atatu Peninsula is traditionally known to Te

Kawerau A Maki as Orangihina. 'O-Rangihina' or 'of Rangihina' refers to the ancestress Rangihina. She is an ancestor of Te Kawerau A Maki, known moreso as the wife of the great warrior Te Au O Te Whenua. Te Kawerau A Maki people moved over their tribal domain in a seasonal cycle of resource gathering. The natural resources of this area were rich and included the bounty of both the land and the sea. From the land the huge resource of the forest included fruit, medicine, birds, weaving materials, dyes and timber. The peninsula seacoast offered shellfish, fish, seaweeds such as karengo, birds, bird's eggs, and at times seal. It was indeed a place of plenty as is illustrated by the Kawerau proverb:

"He toka hapuku ki te moana, he kaihua ki uta"  
"A rock in the sea where hapuku abound, a tree where birds are speared on the land"

#### TE WHAU

Te Whau (the Whau River), which takes its name from the whau tree, is the Kawerau A Maki name for the tidal creek flowing into the Waitemata Harbour. It is also the name of a Kawerau A Maki headland pa off Blockhouse Bay, on the shores of the Manukau Harbour.

Te Whau is part of the vast area known as Te Wao Nui O Tiriwa (The Great Forest of Tiriwa) – the ancient Kawerau name for West Auckland. Kawerau used the Whau for centuries as an important transport route between the two harbours. The Whau was rich in food resources and large trees nearby also provided the locals with all that they needed to build canoes.

#### TE KOTUITANGA

The Kawerau name of a creek at the headwaters of the Whau on the eastern side. The area was particularly significant for the building and lashing of canoes in its halcyon days. In its simplest form, it means 'the dovetailing of canoes'.

#### TE HERU O UREIA

"Ureia's Comb". Ureia is known as the sacred taniwha of the upper Waitemata harbour.

## TE TAI AO THE ENVIRONMENT

For Te Kawerau A Maki, the physical and spiritual worlds are seen to be intimately linked. They are two sides of a coin and cannot be usefully separated. Ultimately, all elements of the physical world share the same spiritual parents, Ranginui and Papatuanuku. Therefore, in the Maori view, humanity is a part of, rather than apart from, the natural world in both a physical and spiritual sense.

Ranginui and Papatuanuku are the male and female gods out of which all things are derived. Out of their union many offspring were born, including the gods of the sky, forest, sea, wind, and sun. Tane, the god of the forest, mated with several female personifications, none of whom were human, and produced many species of trees, birds, insects, rocks etc., but failed to produce human life. He asked Papatuanuku for guidance and she advised him to go to a particular beach and mould the red clay there into a figure. He did this with the help of his brothers and then breathed hau ora (life) into the figure, which came to life with a sneeze (tihe mauri ora). This first woman was named Hine-ahu-one, and the offspring of Tane and Hine were human. Thus, in the Maori world-view, humanity is linked by whakapapa (genealogy) to all other species.

These metaphysical beliefs are supported by the dependence the Te Kawerau A Maki have historically had upon the land, rivers and sea for their survival. This relationship is reflected in place names found throughout this area. Two place names provide reminders of the nature of land-use in pre-European times. On the Te Atatu peninsula was the settlement known as Ohapoko. In an area where cultivatable land was at a premium this fertile flat became an important settlement site. It was not only used as a gardening area, but being located in an inconspicuous and warm locality, it was used to store much of the kumera crop over winter. It is from this that its name Ohapoko, or 'the place of the food storage pits' originates.

On the Waitemata coast is a stream known as Manutewhau, however its correct Te Kawerau A Maki name is Maanu Te Whau. Maanu means 'float' and the name refers to the floats made from

the whau tree which were tied to nets. Although the name is now given to the Manutewhau Stream which flows into Lawsons Creek, it more appropriately applies to Lawsons Creek, as this is the area where the nets were mainly set. The name generally alludes to the fact that the wider upper Waitemata area provided an abundant source of food.

This knowledge of the workings of the environment and the perceptions of humanity as part of the natural and spiritual world is expressed in the concept of mauri and kaitiaki. Mauri can be described as the life force that is present in all things. Mauri generates, regenerates and upholds creation, binding physical and spiritual elements of all things together. Without mauri things cannot survive. Practices have been developed over many centuries to maintain the mauri of all parts of the world. Observing these practices involves the ethic and exercise of kaitiakitanga.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The following summarises matters set out in Te Kawerau a Maki's Resource Management Statement.

### WATER

Te Kawerau a Maki concerns include the protection of the mauri of all natural waterways, and that the food producing capacity of natural waterways is protected and enhanced, as is their life supporting capacity.

Te Kawerau A Maki advocates water conservation and efficient use of water, opposes the direct disposal of any waste into waterways and requires that waste pass through the soils before discharge. Te Kawerau A Maki prefers waterways to be managed to a level that ensures their use as a food source and supports active restoration programmes, including stream edge planting. Above all Te Kawerau A Maki require spiritual and cultural concepts to be recognised as key issues in water management.

### COASTAL MARINE AREA

Te Kawerau a Maki's insist protection of:

- All heritage sites (Pakeha and Maori)

- Water quality
  - The quality and availability of kaimoana (seafood)
- To limit the disposal of wastes from boats and to manage any development and use of coastal space to avoid adverse effects on water quality and coastal character.

In particular Te Kawerau a Maki has an interest in any increase in access to areas on the coast that may impact on significant heritage sites; ensuring that spiritual and cultural concepts are recognised as key issues in managing this area; supporting active programmes to enhance the coastal area, the ecology of the upper Waitemata Harbour, and the west coast area known as Nga Tai Whakatu A Kupe.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT

As stated above, direct disposal of wastes into waterways is opposed by Te Kawerau a Maki. Te Kawerau A Maki is also concerned that in the selection of sites for wastewater and solid waste treatment or disposal, cultural and spiritual values of the land water and air shall be maintained. Te Kawerau A Maki opposes the generation, entry or disposal of toxic or hazardous waste within their tribal area. More particularly, Te Kawerau A Maki advocates the treatment of stormwater before it is discharged into waterways.

#### LAND AND LANDSCAPE

Te Kawerau a Maki is concerned with the promotion of sustainable land management and the protection of its productive capacity ensuring that native bush and fauna are protected and that the cultural meaning, amenity and aesthetic values of the landscape are protected.

In terms of landscape, the protection of important sites and places associated with ancestors is of the utmost importance. Te Kawerau A Maki has as a pre-eminent concern, that a land-base and marae complex supporting Te Kawerau a Maki is re-established.

#### FLORA AND FAUNA

Te Kawerau a Maki's key concerns in relation to native plants and wildlife are:

- Having access to flora and fauna for cultural harvest and craft

- Protecting and enhancing indigenous flora and fauna and their ecosystems

- Eradicating exotic plants and animals that are damaging, destroying or competing with native species or their ecosystems

Participating in decisions on the introduction of new plants and animals to the country; ensuring that property rights (patents, licenses) are not given to native species in breach of Treaty rights. Te Kawerau A Maki supports the protection of regenerating bush and regulations that limit native vegetation clearance during development to the minimum necessary for an allowed activity.

#### HERITAGE SITES

In terms of heritage, Te Kawerau A Maki wishes to: ensure protection without necessarily prohibiting all use and development in areas associated with the iwi's heritage; ensure recognition of and provision for, cultural and spiritual values in decision-making; to have opportunities to manage, enhance and monitor heritage concerns relating to waahi tapu.

Note: Te Kawerau a Maki have identified those areas on the Te Atatu peninsula that it sees as particularly significant in terms of cultural heritage and waahi tapu, and which it would wish to see acknowledged as areas that have a special significance in the iwi's relationship with their ancestral lands and other taonga. Any land within these areas has a general significance for the iwi, but in particular, Te Kawerau A Maki requires particular protection of significant sites (waahi tapu) found in those areas identified.

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The information shared in this analysis is significant particularly for purposes of maintaining the recognition, protection and promotion of Maori cultural and historical values in managing the Te Atatu Peninsula Park area. There is a level of expectation that this study offers some insight to the world of Te Kawerau A Maki and their historical associations with Te Atatu. This place remains a special part of the greater Wao nui a Tiriwa and although there has been many a face change to this area, there still exists today the tapu, mana, and ihi of former times. As is traditional, this dis-

cussion must end with a waiata. In this case it is a Kawerau lament pertaining to the upper Waitemata Harbour:

*Aue, aue,  
Kei nga wai karekare  
Taku huia kua riro e  
Haere ra a Mana, koutou ko o tupuna.  
Waiho ake au ki te tihi o Hinerangi,  
Kia kite au i nga tai whakatu a Kupe.  
Kei Te Kaiwhakaara te ipu a Pare, te toki a Nuku.  
Aku kuru pounamu, taku ipo kahurangi,  
Kua ngaro ki te po e, i.  
Alas, alas, my beloved chieftain has gone on beyond the waters of Waikarekare.  
Go on Mana, along with your ancestors.  
Leave me here, I will remain on the summit of Hinerangi.  
So that I may look out to the upraised seas of Kupe.  
There at Kaiwhakaara rests the sacred calabash of Pare, and the axe of Nuku.  
My treasured greenstone pendants, my beloved jewel, have been lost to the night.*

*Extract from John White, in Turtons Land Deeds of the North Is, HD 1186, Turtons part one. Epitome of Official Documents 1883 micro fiche no.9 page 58.*

*“When I was travelling over the land of the Kawerau in the company of thirteen chiefs from Waikato and three of the Kawerau, we came to a waahi tapu where the bones of the Kawerau ancestors have been deposited for many generations. By permission of the Kawerau chief I went alone into the cave, in the midst of which there was built a small house of the swamp reed ornamented with flax of variegated colours, in which were the bones of ariki’s of the tribe. At the doorway of the house, which measured altogether not more than about five feet, were the bones of a child, and near them a small canoe, his play thing, have been taken with him to his long rest. This house contained mats of different degrees of proper preservation, which I did not touch, and near to an old skull was an ancient Maori shark hook. On my return to our camp I requested to be allowed to take the canoe and the fishing hook, which the ariki of the Kawerau permitted, the only condition imposed on me being that in our future progress during the journey I should be the last man in the line of march, and should carry*

*the two curiosities myself. This was insisted on, lest the gods of the Kawerau should kill the Waikato chiefs if they followed after me with these things. Again, on the same journey, we caught an uncommonly large eel, measuring six feet nine inches long; and as we were the strangers on the Kawerau territory, I waited till the eel was cooked, to see if my friends, the Waikato chiefs, would render the tribute of mana of the land to the Kawerau chief. This, in time was done by them. It is an invariable custom amongst the hapu’s of tribes when they are on an eel fishing excursion, to give any eel of uncommon size to the principal owner of the land, and the heads of all the eels eaten. While the party is out are laid before the owners of the land, on which the eels are caught; this is their mana of the land, and in this instance, when the eel was cooked, the head was first taken off and laid before the Kawerau chief by one of the Waikato chiefs”.*

## European History



Henderson is named after Thomas Henderson, an early settler who established the timber mill industry in the area. He and partner John McFarlane also established the brickyard industry on the banks of the Whau and Henderson Creeks in Glendene as well as on Te Atatu Peninsula.<sup>4</sup> The Auckland Brick Co. was located on Te Atatu Peninsula pre 1900.

Early European settlers to the area included the Pauling family who purchased two blocks of land on the Peninsula between 1902 and 1904. The land was purchased for 10 pounds per acre and was used for farming. The Paulings grew a variety of crops including root vegetables, oats, tomatoes and tobacco. As the soil was prepared for planting, the kauri gum that surfaced was collected, cleaned

and sold.

Henderson Creek to the West of Te Atatu Peninsula Park was used to float kauri logs to where they were loaded onto barges at Taikaka. The first store in the area was opened in 1920 and was located on the corner of Taikaka and Te Atatu Road. Te Atatu School was opened in 1907.

There are historic gun emplacements located on Gunner Drive in the Harbour View Estate residential subdivision. These were constructed during World War II as protection against potential invasion by Japanese forces. The emplacements now form part of a reserve area.

Until the construction of the motorway in 1956, travel to the Peninsula had been by motor launch to Auckland or a muddy track to Henderson or New Lynn. A muddy track provided access to the Peninsula from Glendene corner.

The eastern shore area was identified as a possible deep-water port location by the Auckland Port Authority in 1958 and land acquired for this purpose. The building of the Auckland Harbour Bridge voided the project, which potentially could have changed the way the peninsula developed.

Te Atatu Peninsula experienced explosive growth after the new northwestern motorway was opened in 1956. The peninsula is dominated by houses built between 1945 and the 1960s, generally on lots of 600-800m<sup>2</sup>. The housing style on the peninsula is associated with "Group" houses, typically built of wood with low pitched roofs. Much of the peninsula retains this character to the present time.

With the construction of the motorway the population increased from barely 1,000 in 1950 to 8,000 in 1961, and 15,000 in 1970.

In 1962 the Te Atatu Ratepayers Association sought to align themselves with Auckland City through amalgamation as security against the scenario that the City of Waitakere would not be formed. The scheme to turn Waitakere into a city was aborted in 1964 with lack of elector support. Latterly the peninsula has come under some development pressure with new areas of more upmarket intensive housing being developed along the coastal fringe, particularly the eastern

shoreline with views across the harbour to the Central Business District. Much of the shoreline is given over to Reserve with wetlands and walking paths and the implementation of the Peoples Park is underway.

### 3.4 Vegetation

Historically the peninsula was covered in a variety of vegetation types with a large portion of kauri podocarp forest. The northern tip of the peninsula was a mangrove environment and remains so today. The Waitakere District Plan identifies the some vegetation types of the peninsula as Coastal glasswort-shore pimpernel herbfield and *Leptocarpus* rushland mangrove scrub in intertidal areas.

The peninsula is located within the Tamaki Ecological District. The mangrove area at the northern end of the Peninsula is identified as being 'Outstanding Vegetation' in the Policy section of the District Plan. Te Atatu Peninsula Park itself is not known to contain any ecologically significant vegetation.

### 3.5 Geological

The Peninsula is identified in the Policy Section of the District Plan as being of gentle slope with alluvial terraces. A strip of land to the east of the Peninsula is identified as comprising high fertility soils. The clay soils of the area were also used in pipe and brick manufacture.

### 3.6 Fauna

The Waitakere City District Plan - Policy Section identifies the Te Atatu Peninsula as containing bird habitat for estuarine swamp birds, particularly the wetland coastal areas. The mangrove area on the western side of the Peninsula is also identified in the Policy section of the District Plan as containing 'Outstanding Fauna' including Pukeko and Fern-bird.

Te Atatu Peninsula Park does not fall within this area and is not known to support any significant fauna.

## 4.0 TE ATATU PENINSULA PARK

### 4.1 Reserves Act Classification

Under the Reserves Act 1977 every reserve is classified according to the primary purpose it serves. Te Atatu Peninsula Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve. The main purpose of a recreation reserve is the provision of areas for recreation and sporting activities and for the protection of the natural environment.

### 4.2 Legal Description

The Te Atatu Peninsula Park is comprised of four lots. These are as follows:

<b>Legal Description</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Certificate of Title or Gazette Reference</b>	<b>Reserve Act Status</b>
Lot 1 DP 44347	6.8225	NZGZ 2000 p 4149	Recreation Reserve
Lot 2 DP 41997	0.5380	NZGZ 2000 p 4149	Recreation Reserve
Lot 47 DP 45411	0.5929	NZGZ 2000 p 4149	Recreation Reserve
Lot 89 DP 45192	0.3852	NZGZ 2000 p 4149	Recreation Reserve

### 4.3 Te Atatu Peninsula Park Leases

There are leases in place for the use of the grounds and facilities. These are currently issued to Te Atatu Association Football Club and to the Waitakere Cricket Club. However, it is noted that the Te Atatu Rugby League Club, the Te Atatu Roosters Softball Club and TouchWaitakere also use the Park for organised sport. The Park is suitable for these more formal sports groups using the Park's facilities. The Park is also used informally by other groups and local people.

### 4.4 Te Atatu Peninsula Park History

The Park was completed in 1960 when the Park was known as Holman Park. It then went on to be known as Te Atatu Park and is currently named Te Atatu Peninsula Park. More research to come regarding naming of the park.

### 4.5 Park Users

The primary function of the Park is for use as sports fields whilst also providing opportunities for family gathering, dog walking, children's play-ground and other passive recreation pursuits. Often the passive users are associated with the sports clubs and the sporting activities.

The predominant codes, which utilise the fields, are cricket during the summer season and soccer

and rugby league during the winter. The fields are also utilised by a number of other codes over the summer including summer soccer, softball training, frisbee associated games, kilikiti and touch rugby. There are presently four grass cricket wicket blocks and four artificial concrete cricket wickets. The northeastern corner also provides cricket training nets. The grass wicket blocks are demarcated over the winter period with perimeter fencing which precludes these areas from use over winter.

The winter codes of soccer and rugby league each have a training area with night lighting. Soccer is located adjacent to the clubrooms in the southeast corner and rugby league in the northwest corner. Rugby league presently has one sand slit pitch which is less than full regulation size. The field is located in the southwest corner. There is one full size sand slit soccer pitch at the southern end of the ground and a full size soccer pitch at the northern end of the Park. The training area is also used for junior grade soccer.

The clubs, which have an historical association with the Park, are:

- Te Atatu Rugby League (Roosters)
- Te Atatu Association Football Club
- Waitemata Cricket Club

Whilst both soccer and cricket currently have clubrooms on the park, the historical use of the park by Te Atatu Rugby League as the original code is recognised.

## Rugby League

The Te Atatu Rugby League Club has a history of use at the Park of 45 years. Between 1960 and 1964 they shared the use of the Park with Te Atatu Soccer. The Rugby League Club developed the land known as Jack Colvin Park, which became the Club's home. The Club has recently celebrated their 50th jubilee in 2005. The Club has produced several players of note, most recently including Sam Panapa, Mark Horo and Henry Paul.

## Soccer

Te Atatu Association Football Club have their clubrooms located in the south east corner of the Park.

The Club has been utilising the Park since 1960 and the clubrooms were built circa 1980.

## Cricket

The Waitakere Cricket Club has been present on the site since 1989 when they shared the soccer club facilities. The Club has been in existence since 1971/72 when an amalgamation between Te Atatu and Henderson Cricket Clubs took place. The Club has had several different names before settling on the present version.

The Club's building is located at eastern side of the Park and was opened in 1993/94 season. The Club has completed various championship victories and produced players of note including New Zealand internationals Trevor Franklin and Craig Spearman.



## 4.6 Reserve Summary

### Context :

Te Atatu Peninsula Urban / Residential

### Entry :

Visibility - Good

Legibility - Good

Accessibility - Good

Connectivity - Good

Number - Good

Signage - Good

**Carparks** :70

### Boundary :

Enclosed - Fences / Vegetation

### Paths

Type - Concrete, exposed aggregate

Condition - New

Width - Varies

Connection - Good from carpark

**Buildings** :Clubrooms (Waitakere Cricket Assn,

Te Atatu Assn Footbal

**Seats** :No

**Bins** :6 Stainless steel with logo

**Lights** :Yes

**Playground** : Ropes, climbing, overhead, Slide, hut,

supernova, hammock, 3 swings

Condition - New – excellent

### Security :

Outside - Limited, some views in

Inside - Good to fields

Entrapment - Not likely - behind buildings possible

**Contour** :Flat

