



Part One BACKGROUND

Definition & Purpose of a Management Plan

Management Plans are required under the Reserves Act 1977, to outline a Council's general intentions for the use, development and maintenance of its reserves. The aim of this legislation is to ensure that park development and enjoyment are based on sound principles and that, through involvement, the needs of the public are clearly identified.

Park Management Plans are documents outlining a series of management objectives and policies for the development and operation of individual parks. Each Plan seeks to balance the protection of natural resources with the provision of recreational opportunities that are relevant to the needs of the City.

The process of writing these plans allows the public opportunities to have input and therefore to take part in the decision-making which will affect the future of the park. This Management Plan process is shown adjacent. The Plan, once adopted by the Council, is kept under continuous review so that it may be adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge.

The purpose of this Plan, therefore, is to provide for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and sensitive development of the reserve, in keeping with the existing character of the area and within the limits of the Council's resources.

To achieve this purpose, the Plan:

- Speeds up subsequent Council decision making by providing a common understanding in the community of how the reserve will be managed;
- Simplifies administration by providing clear Council policy statements with regard to the reserve, which are designed to encourage consistency in decision making;
- Ensures that these decisions will take into account the broad public interest, rather than being on an ad hoc basis;
- Contains management policies which can be readily understood and implemented;

- Is clear about general intentions and attitudes while retaining the flexibility to deal with matters of detail on their individual merits within the general framework;
- Provides a procedure for public involvement during its preparation and review.

The Management Plan

Process

The process followed in the production of this Management Plan is in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977. The steps involved in this process are shown below:





Statutory Context

RESERVES ACT 1997

The Reserves Act requires that every reserve has a Management Plan. Once adopted, the Plan is subject to continuous review, in order to adapt to changing circumstances or increased knowledge about the reserve. The intention of the 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.”

Te Henga Park has been classified as a Recreation Reserve. Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 defines the Recreation classification as:

“for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.”

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

The purpose of the Act is to:

“Promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources”.

In so doing, particular regard must be given to:

- “ (a) Kaitiakitanga
- (b) The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources
- (c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values
- (d) Recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places or areas
- (e) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.”

Under the Resource Management Act, Tangata Whenua should be involved in all resource management processes in ways which:

- Take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – i.e the concept of partnership between Maori and Pakeha and of biculturalism;
- Have particular regard to the practical expression of kaitiakitanga – i.e the obligation to act as guardians and stewards of the environment.

OPERATIVE DISTRICT PLAN – Waitemata Section

Objectives & Policies

The Operative District Plan contains the following Objectives and Policies, which relate to Te Henga Park.

The Landscape

- To recognise the topography and natural landform, the indigenous vegetation and the coastal margins of the city;
- Development of land adjacent to the coast should not jeopardise natural features such as cliffs, escarpments, headlands, bush areas, rock shelves and beaches;
- Recognition is given to the contribution of wildlife, wildlife habitats, plant communities and native flora to the amenities and character of the city, and that these be retained wherever possible.

Recreation and Open Space

- To provide, develop and manage open space for a variety of recreational purposes, as may be appropriate to the needs of the population and to the nature and location of the open space.

Zoning

The Operative District Plan (Waitemata Section) identifies Te Henga Park as Recreation 3 (Regional Protection), which recognises the regional significance of the Park, and the recreational opportunities that it provides.

WAITAKERE CITY PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN 1995

The Waitakere City Proposed District Plan has been prepared as a requirement of the Resource Management Act. The Proposed District Plan identifies Waitakere City’s parks as Open Space Environment, overlain by the Natural Area characteristics of those parklands. Areas of natural vegetation, wildlife habitat and potential habitat





Looking south from the Surf Club tower

(Restoration Areas) are part of a 'Green Network' that are afforded special protection under the policies and rules of the District Plan.

The District Plan rules are used to manage the 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.

The Management Plan will be used to manage impacts on the Reserves themselves. 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 parks. All proposed development and activities shall comply with all Policies, Objectives and Rules contained within the Proposed District Plan.

AUCKLAND REGIONAL PLAN – COASTAL

The Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal provides objectives and policies for the coastal environment, together with rules for the Coastal Marine Area.

The Proposed Plan identifies the coastal marine area adjoining Te Henga Park as "Coastal Protection Area 2". This is due to the diversity of habitats created by the

varied geology of the Muriwai – Te Henga coastline, with its cliffs, stacks, islands, and large sandy beaches. Of particular note, is the stretch of coastline from Te Henga to Piha, which is the only part of the region where bull kelp occurs. The dunes of Te Henga Park also support pingao, a threatened plant of mobile sand dunes.

The stretch of coastal environment that includes Te Henga Park is classified as "Outstanding Landscape" in the Regional Plan – Coastal. The implication is that the landscape values of the Park, as a backdrop to the coastal marine area, must be retained and enhanced in any management regime that is determined for the Park.

The Proposed Regional Plan – Coastal also presents regional rules for management of the coastal marine area. Aspects of people's behaviour which do not have an impact on the environment, but which may adversely affect other people, will be managed by way of by-laws formulated for the foreshore and coastal waters.

The by-laws for the coastal marine area are currently being reviewed by the Auckland Regional Council with assistance from Waitakere City Council. WCC administer By-laws to control some activities within WCC's territory on behalf of the ARC. It is important that a consistent approach is taken to people management above and below mean high water ordinary springs, being the interface between the Park and the coastal marine area.





COASTAL HAZARD STRATEGY/ COASTAL EROSION MANAGEMENT MANUAL

The Auckland Regional Council Coastal Hazard Strategy is a document that provides strategies and guidelines related to coastal hazards within the Auckland Region. The manual has been produced in recognition of

the range of coastal hazards which arise when natural coastal processes and human use, property or infrastructure interact.

A range of theoretical, philosophical and management approaches are identified which can be utilised in addressing the coastal hazard issues that may be encountered within the Manukau Foreshore Reserves.

Strategic Context

This Management Plan has been prepared within the framework of a number of strategic documents. These have been prepared by Waitakere City Council and the Department of Conservation and include:

Environmental Issues Overview and Background Papers	Sept 1993	WCC
City Futures, Strategic Directions	Dec 1993	WCC
Leisure Strategy	Sept 1994	WCC
Waitakere City Greenprint	Oct 1994	WCC
Parks Strategy	1994	WCC
Auckland Conservation Management Strategy	1995	DoC

COUNCIL'S LEISURE STRATEGY

The Waitakere City Council Leisure Strategy identifies several issues for the provision of recreation facilities and services within Waitakere City. The document highlights three major areas for action. They are:

1. Diversify Leisure Opportunities
Realising that different people have differing leisure needs. In particular recognising the needs of young people and the provision of playground opportunities.
2. Improve Natural Amenity
Essentially placing importance on the natural environment.
3. Develop Focal Points for Community Leisure
Focusing activities at key locations with a wide range of casual, low cost, low impact activities on offer.

These are:

Communities
City Form and Design
Transport and Communication
Economic Development
Taonga
City Well-being
Energy, Resources and Waste

WEST COAST PLAN

The West Coast Plan is a Strategic Plan for guiding the future management of the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges. The Plan contains a vision for the future of the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges, which is supported by more specific targets.

West Coast Plan Targets

Te Henga Park Mgt Plan Objectives and Policies

The West Coast Plan outlines specific targets to be met in the future management of the West Coast and Waitakere Ranges. The table below shows how the objectives and policies in the Te Henga Park Management Plan contribute to achieving the relevant targets in the West Coast Plan.

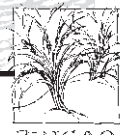
GREENPRINT DOCUMENT

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.





West Coast Plan Targets	Te Henga Park Management Plan Objectives/Policies
There is a continual reduction in pests and weeds in the forests, gardens, cliffs, parks, roadsides and streams.	<p>To ensure a maintenance regime is established which monitors and maintains the ecological integrity of the sand dune system.</p> <p>To encourage community involvement through the Waitakere River Valley Liaison Group and the Te Henga/Bethells Community Beach Care Group in any planting and weed management programmes.</p> <p>To implement the course of action outlined in Option 4 of the Dune Strategy Report with the addition of the long-term aim of re-establishing a native ecosystem along the dunes, avoiding the use of exotic species.</p>
Water quality in streams, lakes, lagoons and the sea is good enough to support the local ecosystems.	To ensure water quality standards are managed and monitored to ensure the enhancement of natural eco-systems in the Park.
Diverse native flora and fauna are supported by healthy natural ecosystems.	To use appropriate planting and design to enhance the natural environment of Te Henga Park.
People understand and care for the natural environment.	<p>To develop a programme for on-site interpretation including signage, community workshops and other material.</p> <p>To provide for educational opportunities when implementing other policies within this Plan.</p> <p>To seek the involvement of local groups in the revegetation of the Park.</p>
Restored native ecosystems.	To conserve and enhance the landscape, fauna, flora and natural environment of the reserve for the enjoyment and education of all visitors and residents.
New structures do not overwhelm the natural landscape.	To ensure that the design and appearance of buildings on the reserve are of the highest possible standard, and sensitive to their surroundings.
Replacement of old infrastructure, (e.g. roads, carparks, toilets, powerlines, drains), is done in a way that has the lowest impact on the surrounding environment.	To ensure that existing car parks, driveways and pathways at Te Henga Park are of a sufficient standard to enhance the enjoyment and protection of the Park.
Pedestrian movement is encouraged.	To ensure that all groups in the community find an acceptable and appropriate level of access to Te Henga Park.
Communities have a place to gather.	<p>The Park will remain as a freely available open space for the informal recreational use and enjoyment of all visitors.</p> <p>A location within the Park has been identified for a community 'fale' style structure that may be removable during the winter months. This will provide a community focus and a venue for local events and performances that provides shelter and shade.</p> <p>To encourage the multiple use of existing facilities on the Park. This will involve liaison with the Surf Club and community committee to establish the requirements each year for rooms and activities and how the groups can work together to accommodate those activities without conflict.</p>
The history and cultures of the area are recognised and valued.	To ensure that, where appropriate, local iwi concerns are addressed in the design of the Park, in particular to reflect the cultural significance of the landscape.





Coastal Walkway

PARKS STRATEGY

The Parks Strategy provides a framework for the management of parks within the City. Ten detailed objectives for the open space in the City have been developed. The objectives set out a programme for change and improvement of the 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 sustainably 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 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
10. To improve the management and administration of parks.

AUCKLAND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Department of Conservation has identified the coast between Te Henga and Muriwai as a Key Area in their Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.

Situated to the north of Te Henga Park are important geological features, including Miocene (17 million year old), exposed cliff and platform formations with ancient submarine canyons. There are also the best New Zealand examples of pillow lava.

Lakes Wainamu and Kawaupaka to the south are Regionally Significant examples of dune-dammed freshwater lakes. To the west is the 80-hectare Waitakere Swamp, the largest freshwater coastal swamp in the Auckland Conservancy.

Connecting Te Henga Park with these sites is the Te Henga – Goldie Bush Walkway, a section of the New Zealand Walkway, an increasingly popular coastal walk that is regularly accessed through the Park.

